

Fall 2021 Reopening Survey Report: Graduate/Postbacc Respondents

June 1, 2021

The Fall 2021 Reopening Survey opened on March 10, 2021, and closed on March 19, 2021. The survey population included all state- and self- supported students currently enrolled in Spring 2021 and not currently enrolled but active/eligible to enroll in Fall 2021.

A modified second Fall 2021 Reopening Survey opened on May 17, 2021, and closed on May 30, 2021. The survey population included all state- and self-supported students currently enrolled in Spring 2021, students not currently enrolled but active/eligible to enroll in Fall 2021, and incoming Summer/Fall 2021 students.

The following survey frequency distributions compare the final results of the first reopening survey administered in March 2021 with the final results of the second reopening survey administered in May 2021, where applicable. Survey responses in this report are filtered for graduate and postbaccalaureate students (i.e., credential, certificate, master's, doctoral, and all other postbaccalaureate students, including students seeking a second bachelor's degree). Online MBA respondents are excluded from the survey results.

Response Rates

	Survey Population	Survey Respondents*	Response Rate (%)
First Fall 2021 Reopening Survey	1,738	529	30.43%
Second Fall 2021 Reopening Survey	2,499	584	23.37%

*Completed and partially completed surveys

The Reopening Survey was adapted from Fresno State's reopening survey and was used with permission.

Q1 - How comfortable would you feel coming to campus for each of the following:

Face-to-face instruction

#	Tier	Extremely uncomfortable		Moderately uncomfortable		Slightly uncomfortable		Slightly comfortable		Moderately comfortable		Extremely comfortable		Total
1	Red-1 st survey	38.29%	201	16.38%	86	9.52%	50	7.43%	39	13.90%	73	14.48%	76	525
2	Orange-1 st survey	23.90%	119	22.09%	110	12.65%	63	7.43%	37	14.26%	71	19.68%	98	498
3	Yellow-1 st survey	11.59%	57	16.26%	80	14.84%	73	11.59%	57	17.28%	85	28.46%	140	492
4	No Tier-2 nd survey	21.42%	124	16.41%	95	8.46%	49	19.00%	110	24.18%	140	10.54%	61	579
	Percentage Point Diff. (#4 - #2)*	-2.48		-5.68		-4.19		11.57		9.92		-9.14		

*Difference between May results and March results based on the orange tier scenario (mid-range). Items #1-3 are the final results from the 1st reopening survey; item #4 is the final results from the 2nd reopening survey. See the tier descriptions below. As of June 15, California will no longer use the tier system to guide activities.

Using study spaces

#	Tier	Extremely uncomfortable	Moderately uncomfortable	Slightly uncomfortable	Slightly comfortable	Moderately comfortable	Extremely comfortable	Total
1	Red-1 st survey	35.31% 185	15.84% 83	12.98% 68	9.73% 51	10.69% 56	15.46% 81	524
2	Orange-1 st survey	22.09% 110	22.09% 110	15.06% 75	8.43% 42	13.86% 69	18.47% 92	498
3	Yellow-1 st survey	11.38% 56	15.04% 74	17.07% 84	13.41% 66	15.65% 77	27.44% 135	492
4	No Tier-2 nd survey	18.92% 109	13.54% 78	13.37% 77	19.27% 111	23.26% 134	11.63% 67	576
	Percentage Point Diff. (#4 - #2)*	-3.17	-8.55	-1.69	10.84	9.40	-6.84	

Attending/participating in campus events

#	Tier	Extremely uncomfortable	Moderately uncomfortable	Slightly uncomfortable	Slightly comfortable	Moderately comfortable	Extremely comfortable	Total
1	Red-1 st survey	49.05% 257	13.93% 73	10.69% 56	8.02% 42	7.25% 38	11.07% 58	524
2	Orange-1 st survey	29.52% 147	22.29% 111	13.05% 65	9.84% 49	9.64% 48	15.66% 78	498
3	Yellow-1 st survey	15.92% 78	17.14% 84	16.33% 80	14.49% 71	14.08% 69	22.04% 108	490
4	No Tier-2 nd survey	29.14% 167	12.39% 71	12.74% 73	14.49% 83	18.15% 104	13.09% 75	573
	Percentage Point Diff. (#4 - #2)*	-0.38	-9.90	-0.31	4.65	8.51	-2.57	

Meeting with student support staff

#	Tier	Extremely uncomfortable	Moderately uncomfortable	Slightly uncomfortable	Slightly comfortable	Moderately comfortable	Extremely comfortable	Total
1	Red-1 st survey	23.24% 122	15.43% 81	13.33% 70	12.76% 67	17.52% 92	17.71% 93	525
2	Orange-1 st survey	15.29% 76	17.91% 89	14.49% 72	11.67% 58	18.91% 94	21.73% 108	497
3	Yellow-1 st survey	7.96% 39	13.88% 68	11.43% 56	13.88% 68	20.82% 102	32.04% 157	490
4	No Tier-2 nd survey	14.11% 81	12.20% 70	13.94% 80	21.08% 121	29.79% 171	8.89% 51	574
	Percentage Point Diff. (#4 - #2)*	-1.18	-5.71	-0.55	9.41	10.88	-12.84	

*Difference between May results and March results based on the orange tier scenario (mid-range). Items #1-3 are the final results from the 1st reopening survey; item #4 are the final results from the 2nd reopening survey. See the tier descriptions below. As of June 15, California will no longer use the tier system to guide activities.

Highlights

- Students reported higher comfort levels in the second reopening survey when asked about participating in campus-related activities in person.
- In comparison to the orange tier scenario in the March survey, there was about a 20 percentage point increase in May among students who reported *slightly* or *moderately* comfortable attending face-to-face instruction, using study spaces, and meeting with student support staff; the percentage point increase was lower for attending/participating in campus events at about 13 percentage points.

Red Tier:

<p>SUBSTANTIAL</p> <p>Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed</p>	<p>4.0 – 7.0</p> <p>Daily new cases (per 100k)</p>	<p>5.0 – 8.0%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>	<p>5.3 – 8.0%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>
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Orange Tier:

<p>MODERATE</p> <p>Some indoor business operations are open with modifications</p>	<p>1.0 – 3.9</p> <p>Daily new cases (per 100k)</p>	<p>2.0 – 4.9%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>	<p>2.2 – 5.2%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>
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Yellow Tier:

<p>MINIMAL</p> <p>Most indoor business operations are open with modifications</p>	<p>Less than 1.0</p> <p>Daily new cases (per 100k)</p>	<p>Less than 2.0%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>	<p>Less than 2.2%</p> <p>Positive tests</p>
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Q2 - What would be your preferred method for course delivery in Fall 2021?

#	Answer	Final March results		Final May results*	
		%	Count	%	Count
1	Face-to-Face	23.49%	117	N/A	N/A
2	Virtual/Online	50.80%	253	N/A	N/A
3	Hybrid (e.g., class meets M,F in-person but W online)	10.24%	51	N/A	N/A
4	HyFlex (e.g., class meets Face-to-Face, online, or hybrid) - all 3 modalities	13.25%	66	N/A	N/A
5	No preference	2.21%	11	N/A	N/A
	Total	100%	498	N/A	N/A

**Not applicable; question removed from second reopening survey*

Highlight

- Of those that responded, 50.8% preferred virtual/online courses and 23.5% preferred face-to-face instruction for Fall 2021. This question was not included in the second reopening survey.

Q3 - If you returned to campus for a face-to-face course or courses in Fall 2021, how would you prefer to access student services? Services such as health services, counseling, advising, career services, tutoring, etc.

#	Answer	Final March results		Final May results		Percentage Point Diff.
		%	Count	%	Count	Count
1	I would prefer to access these services virtually in Fall 2021.	41.34%	198	35.16%	205	-6.18
2	I would prefer to access some of these services virtually and access others face-to-face in Fall 2021.	37.37%	179	36.19%	211	-1.18
3	I would prefer to access all student services face-to-face in Fall 2021.	16.91%	81	22.81%	133	5.90
4	I have no preference.	4.38%	21	5.83%	34	1.45
	Total	100%	479	100.00%	583	

Highlights

- Over 37% of respondents in the first reopening survey and 36% of respondents in the second reopening survey stated they would prefer to access some student services virtually and access others face-to-face in Fall 2021.
- About 23% of respondents in May stated they would prefer to access all student services face-to-face in Fall 2021, an increase of 5.9 percentage points compared to respondents in March.

Q4 - What factors would potentially deter you from returning to campus in Fall 2021? (Select all that apply.)

#	Answer	Final March results		Final May results		Percentage Point Diff.
		%	Count	%	Count	Count
1	I do not foresee any factors that would deter me from returning to campus	4.88%	77	8.90%	144	4.02
2	Concern about my personal health related to COVID-19	19.71%	311	15.45%	250	-4.26
3	Concern about the health of someone close to me related to COVID-19	20.09%	317	16.93%	274	-3.16
4	Responsibility to care for a child, family members, or other	9.82%	155	9.33%	151	-0.49
5	Employment hours/scheduling	7.86%	124	9.46%	153	1.60
6	Transportation	3.87%	61	5.13%	83	1.26
7	Distance from campus	7.22%	114	7.85%	127	0.63
8	Preference for online instruction	8.87%	140	9.77%	158	0.90
9	Lack of motivation	1.58%	25	1.48%	24	-0.10
10	Fear of bias/harassment/discrimination	2.03%	32	1.92%	31	-0.11
11	Campus safety measures/protocols related to COVID-19	12.80%	202	10.63%	172	-2.17
12	On or off campus housing availability*	0.13%	2	0.62%	10	0.49
13	Other	1.14%	18	2.53%	41	1.39
	Total	100%	1578	100%	1618	

*Response option revised in second reopening survey to include off-campus housing availability

Highlights

- The top factors respondents indicated that would deter them from returning to campus are concern about the health of someone close to them related to COVID-19, and concern about their personal health related to COVID-19.
- The percentage of respondents who indicated they do not foresee any factors that would deter them from returning to campus increased by over four percentage points compared to March.

Q5 - Which of the following statements best describes your overall feeling about returning to campus in Fall 2021?

#	Answer	Final March results*		Final May results	
		%	Count	%	Count
1	I will return to campus in person under any circumstances.	N/A	N/A	19.79%	113
2	I will return based on whatever safeguards the campus has in place in accordance with CDPH or CDC guidelines.	N/A	N/A	60.95%	348
3	I will not return to campus in person under any circumstances	N/A	N/A	19.26%	110
	Total	N/A	N/A	100.00%	571

**Not applicable; revised question and response options in second reopening survey*

Highlight

- About 8 out of 10 respondents would return to campus in Fall 2021. About 61% would return based on whatever safeguards the campus has in place in accordance with California Department of Health (CDPH) or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, and about 20% would return under any circumstances.

Q6 - Please tell us about your COVID-19 vaccine status:

#	Answer	Final March results*		Final May results	
		%	Count	%	Count
1	I am fully vaccinated	N/A	N/A	62.72%	360
2	I plan to get fully vaccinated before the Fall 2021 semester	N/A	N/A	8.01%	46
3	I have a possible medical or religious reason for exemption	N/A	N/A	4.53%	26
4	I do not plan to get vaccinated	N/A	N/A	10.28%	59
5	I prefer not to respond	N/A	N/A	12.54%	72
6	Other, please specify	N/A	N/A	1.92%	11
	Total	N/A	N/A	100.00%	574

**Not applicable; new question in second reopening survey*

Highlight

- Nearly 63% of respondents indicated they are fully vaccinated and 8% plan to get fully vaccinated before the Fall 2021 semester. About 15% of respondents do not plan to get vaccinated due to medical, religious or personal reasons.