

2015 Online Enrolled Student Survey Benchmark Report Valdosta State University

In collaboration with the Dewar College of Education and Human Services, a survey was distributed in April 2015 to all fully online students attending Valdosta State University (VSU) during the Spring 2015 term. Coordination of this survey, including distribution and benchmark development, was conducted by Eduventures (<http://www.eduventures.com>). Approximately 27,000 students completed the survey from numerous institutions across the country of which 267 respondents were attending VSU (0.97%). Thus, out of the 1,769 students who were fully online and enrolled Spring 2015 at VSU, 15.1% participated in this survey.

Note: Percentages are calculated by column totals. Response choices with a statistically significant percentage difference between VSU and non-VSU respondents are identified in bold. Only response choices greater than 0% for VSU respondents are reported. Caution should be taken when drawing conclusions using data from responses within "Other Colleges" due to the small sample size. Two respondents self-identified as enrolled in a 100% on-campus program. These two respondents have been excluded from college-level results but included in overall VSU responses in order to report statistical significance based on data obtained from Eduventures. Because of this, the total obtained from adding up all college respondents may not equal the reported total for overall VSU respondents.

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Key:

- Students majoring in a program located within the College of Arts and Sciences = CAS
- Students majoring in a program located within the Langdale College of Business Administration = COBA
- Students majoring in a program located within the Dewar College of Education and Human Services = COEHS
- Students majoring in a program outside of the above colleges or in an unknown college are listed under the "Other Responses" section of this report.

Demographic and Enrollment Information

Note: Percentages are calculated by column totals. Response choices with a statistically significant percentage difference between VSU and non-VSU respondents are identified in bold. Only response choices greater than 0% for VSU respondents are reported.

How many classes have you completed at Valdosta State University so far?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=267)	Non-VSU Responses (N=27,288)
1 - 2	8%	10%	12%	27%	11%	11%
3 - 4	8%	19%	14%	18%	12%	11%
5 - 6	6%	14%	9%	0%	8%	10%
7 - 10	20%	14%	23%	45%	22%	15%
11 - 15	16%	14%	13%	0%	13%	13%
16 - 20	14%	5%	1%	0%	5%	9%
More than 20	14%	14%	8%	0%	10%	22%
Don't know / unsure	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
I am taking classes currently but have not completed any yet	13%	10%	21%	9%	17%	5%

What degree level are you currently pursuing?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=153)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=266)	Non-VSU Responses (N=27,295)
Just one or two college credit courses	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Non-credit course or certificate	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%
Undergraduate certificate giving college credit	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%	1%
Bachelor's degree	43%	71%	10%	73%	28%	51%
Graduate certificate giving college credit	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%
Master's degree	25%	29%	63%	9%	46%	28%
Doctoral degree	30%	0%	3%	0%	11%	4%
Professional degree (e.g., MD, JD)	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%
Other (please specify): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist (9%) • Post-Master's Certification or Endorsement (2%) 	1%	0%	18%	9%	11%	2%

What subject area are you pursuing?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=264)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,407)
Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	0%	95%	0%	0%	8%	24%
Communications Technologies / Technicians and Support Services	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%
Construction Trades	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Criminal Justice	6%	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%
Education	0%	0%	52%	0%	30%	10%
English Language and Literature / Letters	6%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Health Professions and Related Programs	0%	0%	0%	50%	2%	13%
History	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Legal Professions and Studies	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Library Science	0%	0%	35%	0%	20%	0%
Multi / Interdisciplinary Studies	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Personal and Culinary Services	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	0%
Physical Sciences	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	52%	0%	0%	0%	16%	1%
Science Technologies / Technicians	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Social Sciences	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Other (please specify):	22%	5%	13%	40%	16%	13%

What subject area within Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services are you pursuing?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=0)	COBA Responses (N=20)	COEHS Responses (N=0)	Other Responses (N=0)	Overall VSU Responses (N=20)	Non-VSU Responses (N=6,143)
Business/Commerce, General	0%	5%	0%	0%	5%	3%
Business Administration, Management and Operations	0%	80%	0%	0%	80%	52%

What subject area within Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services are you pursuing?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=0)	COBA Responses (N=20)	COEHS Responses (N=0)	Other Responses (N=0)	Overall VSU Responses (N=20)	Non-VSU Responses (N=6,143)
Finance and Financial Management Services	0%	5%	0%	0%	5%	3%
Management Information Systems and Services	0%	5%	0%	0%	5%	2%
Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services, Other	0%	5%	0%	0%	5%	7%

What subject area within Health Professions and Related Programs are you pursuing?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=0)	COBA Responses (N=0)	COEHS Responses (N=0)	Other Responses (N=4)	Overall VSU Responses (N=5)	Non-VSU Responses (N=3,409)
Health and Medical Administrative Services	0%	0%	0%	20%	20%	34%
Registered Nursing, Nursing Administration, Nursing Research and Clinical Nursing	0%	0%	0%	60%	60%	24%
Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences, Other	0%	0%	0%	20%	20%	8%

What subject area within Education are you pursuing?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=0)	COBA Responses (N=0)	COEHS Responses (N=79)	Other Responses (N=0)	Overall VSU Responses (N=79)	Non-VSU Responses (N=2,518)
Education, General	0%	0%	6%	0%	6%	22%
Curriculum and Instruction	0%	0%	34%	0%	34%	13%
Educational Administration and Supervision	0%	0%	9%	0%	9%	13%
Educational/Instructional Media Design	0%	0%	4%	0%	4%	1%
Special Education and Teaching	0%	0%	13%	0%	13%	13%
Student Counseling and Personnel Services	0%	0%	3%	0%	3%	5%
Teacher Education and Professional Development, Specific Levels and Methods	0%	0%	5%	0%	5%	5%
Teacher Education and Professional Development, Specific Subject Areas	0%	0%	4%	0%	4%	5%
Teaching English or French as a Second or Foreign Language	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Education, Other	0%	0%	22%	0%	22%	19%

What subject area within Criminal Justice are you pursuing?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=4)	COBA Responses (N=0)	COEHS Responses (N=0)	Other Responses (N=0)	Overall VSU Responses (N=4)	Non-VSU Responses (N=1,583)
Criminal Justice and Corrections	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	62%

What subject area within Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services are you pursuing?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=1)	COBA Responses (N=0)	COEHS Responses (N=0)	Other Responses (N=0)	Overall VSU Responses (N=1)	Non-VSU Responses (N=1,218)
Computer/Information Technology Administration and Management	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	28%

Had you previously taken online courses before you enrolled at Valdosta State University?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,406)
Yes	63%	62%	55%	91%	60%	43%
No	37%	38%	45%	9%	40%	57%

What types of online courses have you taken prior to enrolling at Valdosta State University? Please select all that apply.						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=50)	COBA Responses (N=13)	COEHS Responses (N=85)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=158)	Non-VSU Responses (N=11,301)
Online courses offered in high school	2%	15%	1%	0%	3%	4%
Free online courses offered by colleges	6%	8%	5%	0%	5%	9%
For-credit college courses at another college	86%	100%	88%	100%	89%	85%
Online training courses offered by an employer	36%	31%	35%	10%	34%	26%
Other (please specify):	10%	0%	11%	0%	9%	9%

Why did you decide to return to school? Please select all that apply.						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,400)
A degree will enable me to earn more money	58%	62%	64%	36%	61%	46%
Strongly recommended by my employer	5%	14%	10%	9%	9%	6%
I want to change careers	28%	10%	20%	36%	22%	28%
I want to deeply engage with my chosen subject of study	33%	19%	31%	36%	31%	29%
To finish a degree I previously started	28%	57%	7%	9%	17%	24%
To advance in my profession, I have to go back to school	34%	62%	71%	45%	58%	37%
For personal enrichment only	24%	14%	12%	36%	17%	26%
To explore new ideas and opportunities	48%	24%	30%	36%	35%	37%
Other (please specify):	8%	10%	4%	0%	5%	10%

Please indicate your gender:						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,296)
Male	41%	38%	14%	9%	23%	28%
Female	58%	62%	84%	73%	74%	70%
Prefer not to answer	1%	0%	3%	18%	3%	2%

Please indicate your race/ethnicity: Please select all that apply.						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=264)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,297)
Asian / Pacific Islander	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	2%
Black, non-Hispanic	16%	29%	19%	20%	19%	24%
White, non-Hispanic	70%	57%	69%	60%	68%	60%
Hispanic / Latino	3%	0%	1%	0%	2%	6%

Please indicate your race/ethnicity: Please select all that apply.						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=264)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,297)
Native American	4%	0%	0%	10%	2%	2%
Multi-ethnic	3%	0%	2%	0%	2%	3%
Other	0%	5%	1%	0%	1%	2%
Prefer not to answer	9%	10%	8%	20%	9%	6%

Please indicate your age:						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=77)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=150)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=258)	Non-VSU Responses (N=25,875)
24 or younger	8%	5%	7%	20%	8%	8%
25 - 34	26%	52%	44%	10%	38%	27%
35 - 44	31%	14%	25%	10%	25%	27%
45 - 54	21%	19%	17%	20%	18%	24%
55 or older	6%	10%	5%	10%	6%	11%
Prefer not to answer	8%	0%	3%	30%	5%	3%

What is your current employment status?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=153)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=263)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,234)
Employed full time	71%	76%	82%	70%	78%	58%
Employed part time	11%	0%	14%	10%	12%	12%
Unemployed	15%	14%	4%	10%	8%	20%
Other (please specify):	3%	10%	1%	10%	2%	10%

What is your family's annual household income (combined income of all workers in your household)?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=74)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=148)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=253)	Non-VSU Responses (N=25,374)
Less than \$20,000	11%	5%	4%	0%	6%	15%
\$20,000-\$39,999	14%	24%	14%	10%	15%	20%
\$40,000-\$59,999	18%	14%	20%	10%	19%	16%
\$60,000-\$79,999	8%	10%	18%	20%	14%	11%
\$80,000-\$99,999	8%	19%	12%	10%	11%	7%
\$100,000-\$119,999	14%	5%	7%	20%	9%	6%
\$120,000-\$139,999	5%	0%	2%	0%	3%	3%
\$140,000-\$159,999	3%	5%	1%	0%	2%	2%
\$160,000-\$179,999	7%	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%
\$180,000-\$199,999	0%	5%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Prefer not to answer	14%	14%	20%	30%	18%	17%

Which of the following levels of tuition assistance are you taking advantage of from your current employer?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,189)
100% reimbursement of my tuition and fees	11%	0%	4%	0%	6%	10%

Which of the following levels of tuition assistance are you taking advantage of from your current employer?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,189)
Between 50-99% reimbursement of my tuition and fees	18%	14%	13%	18%	15%	7%
Reimbursement for less than half (50%) of my tuition and fees	5%	10%	3%	0%	4%	7%
No tuition assistance	48%	57%	66%	36%	58%	42%
Not applicable	14%	19%	11%	36%	14%	26%
Don't know / not sure	4%	0%	4%	9%	4%	8%

How far away from your home is Valdosta State University's closest on-ground location (e.g., home campus, branch campus)?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,251)
Less than 25 miles	16%	14%	10%	27%	13%	13%
25-49 miles	6%	19%	5%	0%	6%	6%
50-74 miles	3%	14%	6%	36%	7%	4%
75-99 miles	11%	10%	6%	9%	8%	3%
100 or more miles	62%	43%	73%	27%	65%	63%
I don't know where Valdosta State University is located	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	11%

Are you a part-time or full-time student?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=153)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=264)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,237)
Full-time	39%	38%	41%	36%	40%	69%
Part-time	61%	62%	59%	64%	60%	31%

Please select your domestic status:						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=77)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=153)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=262)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,211)
Married with children / dependents living at home	38%	29%	36%	27%	35%	39%
Married, no children / dependents living at home	17%	14%	20%	9%	18%	12%
Single with children / dependents living at home	9%	10%	8%	18%	9%	17%
Single, no children / dependents living at home	26%	38%	27%	27%	27%	18%
Other	5%	0%	5%	9%	5%	9%
Prefer not to answer	5%	10%	5%	9%	5%	5%

Please indicate the state of your permanent residence:						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=78)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=153)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=262)	Non-VSU Responses (N=25,799)
Alabama	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	3%
California	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	6%
Colorado	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Connecticut	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Florida	5%	5%	2%	0%	3%	7%
Georgia	79%	95%	84%	100%	84%	6%
Illinois	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	3%
Indiana	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Kentucky	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Maryland	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Minnesota	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
New Hampshire	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
New Jersey	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%
New York	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	3%
North Carolina	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%
Ohio	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%
Oklahoma	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Oregon	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%
Tennessee	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%
Texas	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	7%
Utah	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Virginia	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	7%

Selecting Valdosta State University

Note: Percentages are calculated by column totals. Response choices with a statistically significant percentage difference between VSU and non-VSU respondents are identified in bold. Only response choices greater than 0% for VSU respondents are reported.

What search tools were most useful in helping you evaluate which school to attend? Please select all that apply.						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=20)	COEHS Responses (N=152)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=261)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,317)
Communication with admissions staff	27%	15%	16%	40%	20%	29%
The colleges' social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube)	5%	0%	1%	0%	2%	6%
The colleges' websites	57%	50%	61%	70%	59%	44%
The colleges' publications (viewbooks, brochures, course catalogue)	24%	5%	11%	10%	15%	13%
College comparison websites (CollegeBoard, CollegeNavigator)	13%	10%	11%	10%	11%	15%
College guides (Princeton Review, US News & World Report)	14%	0%	5%	10%	8%	8%
Google searches	44%	35%	34%	10%	36%	39%
College fairs	6%	0%	3%	0%	3%	2%
Presentations / sessions with admissions officers	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%	5%
Campus-hosted visit (tours, overnight stays, open house, class visit)	0%	0%	5%	10%	3%	3%
Campus visit not organized by school (visiting a friend / family member, athletic event)	9%	0%	4%	20%	6%	3%

What search tools were most useful in helping you evaluate which school to attend? Please select all that apply.						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=20)	COEHS Responses (N=152)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=261)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,317)
Events for admitted students	3%	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%
Meeting with faculty	9%	0%	5%	0%	5%	3%
Review of faculty's research	4%	0%	4%	0%	3%	3%
Alumni testimonials	13%	15%	15%	10%	14%	12%
Current student testimonials	15%	20%	20%	20%	18%	21%
Recommendation from my employer	8%	5%	13%	20%	11%	6%
Other (please specify):	22%	30%	34%	20%	30%	19%

Approximately how many schools did you seriously consider enrolling in aside from Valdosta State University?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=78)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=153)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=262)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,059)
Mean Response	2.0	2.5	1.9	1.3	1.9	2.1

When you were looking for programs to attend, approximately how much money in loans did you expect to need in order to earn an online degree?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=30)	COBA Responses (N=11)	COEHS Responses (N=56)	Other Responses (N=5)	Overall VSU Responses (N=102)	Non-VSU Responses (N=11,472)
None – I did not think I would need any loans	40%	9%	29%	0%	28%	19%
\$1,000 - \$4,999	3%	9%	2%	20%	4%	2%
\$5,000 - \$9,999	10%	0%	13%	20%	11%	4%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	20%	0%	23%	0%	19%	7%
\$15,000 - \$19,999	10%	18%	9%	20%	11%	7%
\$20,000 - \$24,999	0%	18%	7%	0%	6%	9%
\$25,000 - \$29,999	3%	9%	0%	0%	2%	8%
\$30,000 or over	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	21%
Do not recall / unsure	13%	36%	16%	40%	19%	24%

To what extent did going to a for-profit or non-profit school influence your decision-making of which college or university to attend?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=78)	COBA Responses (N=20)	COEHS Responses (N=153)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=262)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,144)
I intentionally only considered non-profit schools	38%	15%	27%	0%	29%	6%
I strongly preferred non-profit schools, but I considered for-profits	14%	5%	3%	0%	6%	9%
I somewhat preferred non-profit schools, but it was not a major factor	3%	5%	1%	0%	2%	6%
I had no preference at all	42%	75%	67%	100%	62%	77%
I somewhat preferred for-profit schools, but it was not a major factor	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
I strongly preferred for-profit schools, but I considered non-profits	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
I intentionally only considered for-profit	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%

To what extent did going to a for-profit or non-profit school influence your decision-making of which college or university to attend?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=78)	COBA Responses (N=20)	COEHS Responses (N=153)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=262)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,144)
schools						

Which other colleges or universities did you consider attending before deciding to attend Valdosta State University? Please list up to three in order of preference from most preferred to least preferred.						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=67)	COBA Responses (N=17)	COEHS Responses (N=142)	Other Responses (N=7)	Overall VSU Responses (N=233)	Non-VSU Responses (N=22,946)
Alabama State University	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
American University	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Arizona State University-Tempe	0%	6%	0%	14%	1%	2%
Armstrong Atlantic State University	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Auburn University	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%	1%
Capella University	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%	5%
Clarion University of Pennsylvania	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Clayton State University	1%	6%	2%	0%	2%	0%
Clemson University	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Colorado Technical University-Online	1%	6%	0%	0%	1%	2%
Columbus State University	4%	6%	4%	0%	4%	0%
[A] Community College	7%	24%	2%	14%	6%	19%
Dalton State College	3%	6%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Drexel University	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Emory University	1%	12%	1%	0%	2%	0%
Emporia State University	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Florida State University	4%	0%	6%	0%	5%	1%
Georgia College and State University	1%	0%	6%	29%	5%	0%
Georgia Gwinnett College	1%	6%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus	6%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%
Georgia Southern University	7%	18%	17%	14%	14%	0%
Georgia State University	28%	24%	13%	14%	18%	1%
Indiana State University	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Kennesaw State University	10%	18%	9%	29%	11%	0%
Liberty University	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%
Mercer University	0%	6%	1%	14%	2%	0%
Nova Southeastern University	0%	0%	3%	0%	2%	1%
Park University	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Rutgers University-New Brunswick	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
San Jose State University	0%	0%	4%	0%	3%	0%
Southern Connecticut State University	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Troy University	0%	6%	1%	0%	1%	1%
University of Alabama	0%	0%	4%	0%	2%	1%
University of Arizona	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
University of Central Florida	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
University of Florida	3%	0%	2%	0%	2%	1%
University of Georgia	15%	6%	16%	0%	15%	0%
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
University of Maryland-College Park	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
University of North Texas	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
University of Phoenix-Online Campus	4%	18%	1%	0%	3%	12%

Which other colleges or universities did you consider attending before deciding to attend Valdosta State University? Please list up to three in order of preference from most preferred to least preferred.						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=67)	COBA Responses (N=17)	COEHS Responses (N=142)	Other Responses (N=7)	Overall VSU Responses (N=233)	Non-VSU Responses (N=22,946)
University of South Carolina-Columbia	0%	0%	4%	0%	2%	1%
University of South Florida-Main Campus	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
University of Southern California	3%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
University of Washington-Seattle Campus	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
University of West Florida	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
University of West Georgia	7%	0%	8%	0%	7%	0%
Walden University	4%	0%	2%	0%	3%	3%
Wayne State University	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Western Governors University	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%

**Note: Selection choices of 'Not Applicable' and 'Other' have been removed from this table because some respondents selected these options more than once, producing results that are inaccurate. Also, institutions with <1% (when rounded) for 'Overall VSU Responses' and Valdosta State University have been excluded from this table.*

Online Preferences

Note: Percentages are calculated by column totals. Response choices with a statistically significant percentage difference between VSU and non-VSU respondents are identified in bold. Only response choices greater than 0% for VSU respondents are reported.

Which of the following statements best describes your willingness to enroll in online or hybrid programs?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,394)
I only seriously considered online / hybrid programs	56%	76%	69%	36%	64%	59%
I preferred online / hybrid programs, but I also considered on-campus programs	20%	5%	14%	55%	17%	21%
I had no preference for online / hybrid or on-campus education	11%	5%	5%	9%	7%	6%
I preferred a fully on-campus program, but I could not find one that worked for me	13%	14%	11%	0%	11%	10%
Do not recall / unsure	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	5%

If your program weren't offered in an online / hybrid format at Valdosta State University, would you have enrolled at another institution?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,365)
Definitely would NOT	10%	0%	5%	9%	6%	5%
Probably would NOT	8%	5%	3%	0%	4%	8%
Might or might not / unsure	16%	10%	14%	27%	15%	17%
Probably would	15%	24%	16%	18%	17%	23%
Definitely would	51%	62%	62%	45%	58%	47%

Which of the following best describes your view on the quality of online education?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,254)
Online education is worse than that of campus-based education	9%	5%	8%	9%	8%	6%

Which of the following best describes your view on the quality of online education?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,254)
Online education is better than that of campus-based education	8%	5%	8%	0%	7%	16%
Online education is equal to that of campus-based education	27%	19%	27%	27%	26%	27%
It depends on the individual online or campus-based degree / certificate / course	56%	71%	56%	64%	58%	46%
Don't know / unsure	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	5%

Valdosta State University Perceptions and Resources

Note: Percentages are calculated by column totals. Response choices with a statistically significant percentage difference between VSU and non-VSU respondents are identified in bold. Only response choices greater than 0% for VSU respondents are reported.

At the time you were deciding where to enroll, how did you perceive Valdosta State University in the following areas compared to [Other Selected School]?					
Response Choices	Far Weaker	Somewhat Weaker	About the Same	Somewhat Stronger	Far Stronger
Academic strength / rigor	2%	16%	47%	19%	16%
Affordability / cost	2%	4%	26%	23%	45%
Career opportunities for graduates	2%	9%	55%	16%	18%
Ability to learn at one's own pace	2%	5%	52%	19%	23%
It is a local institution / located near home	24%	7%	23%	12%	34%
Extent of online options	2%	6%	32%	27%	33%
Offering the specific program you wanted	2%	3%	33%	23%	40%
School reputation	6%	24%	36%	16%	18%
Value-for-the-cost	1%	3%	28%	26%	41%
Use of cutting edge technology	4%	10%	51%	19%	16%
High level of personal interaction from faculty	1%	11%	42%	24%	22%
Innovation and creativity	3%	8%	52%	23%	14%
The feeling that I would fit in with classmates	3%	10%	55%	15%	17%
Quality and visual appeal of website	5%	12%	44%	23%	16%
Support and personal attention	4%	5%	40%	29%	22%
Ease of getting program-related information	2%	7%	45%	25%	21%
Ease of application process	3%	3%	42%	25%	27%
Ability to earn credit for what I already know	6%	9%	51%	14%	21%

For the following five question tables, Eduventures converted each response choice into a numerical value in order to report a mean response for each question. The five response choices the respondents chose from were: Very Poor (numerical value=1), Below Average (numerical value=2), Average (numerical value=3), Good (numerical value=4), and Excellent (numerical value=5).

Please rate Valdosta State University in the following areas:						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=varies)	COBA Responses (N=varies)	COEHS Responses (N=varies)	Other Responses (N=varies)	Overall VSU Responses (N=varies)	Non-VSU Responses (N=varies)
Online tools and resources to support my learning	4.3	4.3	4.3	3.6	4.3	4.4
Online technology used to support my learning	4.3	4.4	4.3	3.7	4.3	4.4
Class environment	4.1	4.3	4.2	3.2	4.2	4.2
Course content and amount I am learning	4.3	4.1	4.3	3.8	4.3	4.4

Please rate the following aspects of your experience at Valdosta State University:						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=varies)	COBA Responses (N=varies)	COEHS Responses (N=varies)	Other Responses (N=varies)	Overall VSU Responses (N=varies)	Non-VSU Responses (N=varies)
Relevance of course content to my interest and goals	4.4	4.2	4.4	3.5	4.3	4.4
Courses challenging me to do my best work	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.5
Feeling like part of a community	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.4	3.8	3.9
Being adequately informed of what it would take to succeed in online classes before I enrolled	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.1
Being allowed to learn at my own pace	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.1

Please rate Valdosta State University in terms of tools and resources it makes available to you:						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=varies)	COBA Responses (N=varies)	COEHS Responses (N=varies)	Other Responses (N=varies)	Overall VSU Responses (N=varies)	Non-VSU Responses (N=varies)
Access to online library materials and research tools	4.5	4.4	4.6	3.8	4.5	4.4
24/7 technical support	4.3	4.1	4.2	3.8	4.2	4.4
Academic advising	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.2
Career coaching and planning	3.5	3.6	4.0	3.3	3.8	3.9
Tutoring support	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.1

Please rate the quality of the online learning technology you have used at Valdosta State University in the following areas:						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=varies)	COBA Responses (N=varies)	COEHS Responses (N=varies)	Other Responses (N=varies)	Overall VSU Responses (N=varies)	Non-VSU Responses (N=varies)
Ease of navigation	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3
Ease of interacting with instructors and classmates	4.3	4.1	4.3	3.9	4.3	4.3
Availability of important information	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.3
Ability to access on a mobile device	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.8
Overall look and feel	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.3

Please rate the typical online class environment you have experienced at Valdosta State University in the following areas:						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=varies)	COBA Responses (N=varies)	COEHS Responses (N=varies)	Other Responses (N=varies)	Overall VSU Responses (N=varies)	Non-VSU Responses (N=varies)
Exposure to new ideas or creative thinking	4.2	4.0	4.2	3.7	4.2	4.3
Classmates' level of engagement	3.9	3.7	4.2	3.6	4.0	4.0
Faculty level of engagement with students	4.0	3.7	4.1	3.6	4.0	4.2
Faculty ability to teach material online	4.1	3.9	4.1	3.7	4.0	4.2
Size of classes	4.3	4.1	4.4	3.5	4.3	4.3

When you need help in your online course, which of the following resources do you use? Please select all that apply.						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=78)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=153)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=262)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,207)
Online videos and tutorials available for free on the web (e.g., Khan Academy, eHow, Podcasts, and YouTube)	47%	57%	25%	40%	35%	44%
Courses or webinars that you pay for that are not required	3%	10%	6%	0%	5%	7%
Wikipedia	17%	14%	12%	10%	14%	11%
Search engines (Google, Bing)	65%	62%	55%	70%	59%	64%
Websites recommended by faculty or your peers	46%	19%	48%	40%	45%	51%
Conversations with friends or mentors	28%	33%	46%	30%	39%	32%
Conversations with a boss or supervisor	4%	10%	25%	10%	17%	9%
Conversations with co-workers	13%	24%	44%	20%	32%	13%
Social media (e.g., reaching out to others through Facebook, Twitter)	9%	5%	11%	0%	10%	9%
Interacting with profession[al]s already working in the field who you did not know beforehand	10%	5%	13%	10%	11%	13%
Books / articles not required as part of my course	50%	33%	46%	30%	46%	48%
Outside professional networks or events	10%	19%	14%	0%	13%	10%
Other (please specify):	10%	0%	3%	0%	5%	5%
Tutoring or workshops offered by your University or college	8%	14%	6%	0%	7%	21%
Conversations with fellow classmates	45%	62%	68%	20%	59%	34%
Conversations with your instructor	60%	52%	73%	60%	67%	61%

Compared to your expectations prior to enrolling, how rigorous has your program been?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,319)
Much more rigorous than I expected	9%	5%	16%	0%	12%	19%
Somewhat more rigorous than I expected	30%	29%	35%	36%	33%	34%
About what I expected	46%	52%	38%	36%	41%	37%
Somewhat less rigorous than I expected	11%	10%	10%	18%	11%	5%
Much less rigorous than I expected	4%	5%	2%	0%	3%	2%
Don't know / unsure	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%	2%

How would you describe the length of time it takes to complete online courses at Valdosta State University on average?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,330)
Courses are far too long	5%	0%	4%	0%	4%	2%
Courses are somewhat too long	18%	14%	13%	36%	15%	7%
Course length is about right	72%	81%	79%	45%	75%	77%
Courses are somewhat too short	3%	0%	1%	0%	1%	9%
Don't know / unsure	3%	5%	4%	18%	4%	3%

Based on your experiences and your peers' experiences, how do you feel your online education at Valdosta State University compares to other schools?

Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=153)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=264)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,285)
An online education from Valdosta State University is much higher quality	22%	14%	19%	0%	19%	29%
An online education from Valdosta State University is somewhat higher quality	29%	24%	23%	18%	25%	23%
An online education from Valdosta State University is about the same as other institutions	28%	48%	33%	36%	33%	24%
An online education from Valdosta State University is somewhat lower quality	4%	0%	5%	9%	4%	4%
An online education from Valdosta State University is much lower quality	1%	0%	2%	9%	2%	1%
Don't know / unsure	16%	14%	18%	27%	18%	19%

How likely is it that you would recommend Valdosta State University to a friend or colleague?

Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,230)
0 Not at All Likely	0%	0%	1%	9%	1%	2%
1	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
3	1%	5%	1%	18%	2%	1%
4	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%
5	10%	10%	5%	0%	6%	5%
6	6%	5%	6%	0%	6%	4%
7	11%	14%	10%	18%	11%	9%
8	19%	29%	17%	0%	18%	13%
9	10%	10%	13%	0%	11%	11%
10 - Extremely Likely	42%	29%	45%	55%	43%	51%
Promoters (9-10)	52%	38%	58%	55%	55%	62%
Passives (7-8)	30%	43%	27%	18%	29%	22%
Detractors (0-6)	18%	19%	14%	27%	16%	15%

How likely is it that you would recommend learning online to a friend or colleague?

Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,295)
0 Not at All Likely	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
1	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
2	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	1%
3	1%	5%	3%	9%	3%	1%
4	0%	0%	4%	0%	2%	1%
5	3%	5%	6%	9%	5%	5%
6	5%	0%	2%	0%	3%	4%
7	14%	0%	12%	18%	12%	9%
8	23%	33%	18%	9%	20%	13%
9	10%	10%	14%	18%	13%	12%
10 - Extremely Likely	44%	43%	40%	36%	42%	52%
Promoters (9-10)	54%	52%	55%	55%	54%	64%
Passives (7-8)	37%	33%	30%	27%	32%	22%

How likely is it that you would recommend learning online to a friend or colleague?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,295)
Detractors (0-6)	9%	14%	16%	18%	14%	14%

What would improve the quality of your student experience at Valdosta State University? Please select all that apply.						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=77)	COBA Responses (N=19)	COEHS Responses (N=151)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=258)	Non-VSU Responses (N=25,679)
Allow me to do more class activities through a mobile device (e.g., smartphone, tablet)	26%	11%	19%	27%	21%	29%
Allow me to mix online study with face-to-face classes	9%	16%	14%	9%	12%	13%
Allow me to take a program / course at my own pace	23%	53%	36%	36%	33%	31%
Allow me to take an exam to get college credit for my life and work experience	45%	47%	38%	45%	41%	38%
Allow me to test out of courses so I can show what I know and complete faster	39%	63%	36%	45%	40%	36%
Faculty with current work experience in their field	14%	21%	19%	18%	18%	12%
Greater use of high-tech course materials (e.g., simulations, games)	18%	42%	16%	9%	18%	22%
Lower tuition and fees	47%	68%	50%	82%	52%	59%
Make it possible to complete my degree / certificate / course faster	38%	37%	40%	64%	40%	31%
More full-time faculty	27%	11%	13%	9%	17%	10%
More interaction with faculty during the program	42%	32%	36%	9%	36%	27%
More social interaction with other students	10%	11%	15%	0%	12%	15%
More study interaction with other students	5%	21%	11%	9%	10%	16%
Offer a free trial course	8%	37%	11%	9%	12%	19%
Offer evidence of the career value of my program of interest	26%	32%	22%	9%	23%	25%
Other (please specify):	16%	5%	9%	0%	10%	14%

Please indicate your likelihood of making a gift to Valdosta State University as a graduate:						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=26)	COBA Responses (N=3)	COEHS Responses (N=37)	Other Responses (N=2)	Overall VSU Responses (N=68)	Non-VSU Responses (N=7,423)
Will make a gift	38%	0%	0%	50%	16%	13%
Unsure	54%	100%	81%	50%	71%	73%
Will not make a gift	8%	0%	19%	0%	13%	14%

Study Habits and Program Performance

Note: Percentages are calculated by column totals. Response choices with a statistically significant percentage difference between VSU and non-VSU respondents are identified in bold. Only response choices greater than 0% for VSU respondents are reported.

How much time do you devote to your studies during the week, both during and outside of class?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,384)
Fewer than 5 hours per week	6%	0%	2%	0%	3%	2%
5-10 hours per week	19%	19%	36%	9%	28%	21%
10-19 hours per week	30%	38%	33%	36%	33%	31%
20-29 hours per week	33%	38%	21%	36%	27%	28%
30-39 hours per week	6%	0%	5%	18%	5%	11%
Over 40 hours per week	4%	0%	1%	0%	2%	6%
Don't know / unsure	1%	5%	2%	0%	2%	2%

What times of day do you typically complete the work required of you for your online courses? Please select all that apply.						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=77)	COBA Responses (N=20)	COEHS Responses (N=152)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=260)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,201)
Early Morning (4am-8am)	14%	15%	11%	27%	13%	19%
Late Morning (8am-12pm)	34%	25%	26%	27%	28%	29%
Afternoon (12pm-4pm)	35%	20%	30%	18%	30%	30%
Early Evening (4pm-8pm)	53%	25%	60%	45%	55%	46%
Evening (8pm-11pm)	64%	70%	72%	64%	69%	65%
Late Night (11pm-3am)	30%	40%	34%	45%	33%	34%

What do you typically use to access your online coursework? [Please select all that apply.]						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,340)
Desktop computer	56%	29%	48%	73%	50%	38%
Laptop Computer	78%	100%	88%	82%	86%	85%
Tablet (iPad, Samsung Galaxy)	30%	5%	24%	36%	25%	19%
Mobile Smartphone (iPhone, Android)	23%	14%	20%	18%	20%	22%
Mobile Reading Device (Kindle, Nook)	4%	0%	2%	0%	2%	3%

How would you assess your academic performance at Valdosta State University this semester?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=79)	COBA Responses (N=21)	COEHS Responses (N=154)	Other Responses (N=11)	Overall VSU Responses (N=265)	Non-VSU Responses (N=26,361)
Great - I couldn't do any better	42%	24%	51%	45%	46%	34%
Good - I could do better, but I am doing well overall	53%	67%	43%	55%	48%	50%
Okay - I have significant room to improve, but I am not in danger of failing	3%	10%	4%	0%	4%	11%
Poor - I am in danger of failing classes	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%
Very poor - I am failing or not completing classes	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Don't know / prefer not to answer	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%

Why do you feel your performance is poor or not as good as it could be? [Please select all that apply.]						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=3)	COBA Responses (N=2)	COEHS Responses (N=9)	Other Responses (N=0)	Overall VSU Responses (N=14)	Non-VSU Responses (N=3,644)
It goes too fast / can't keep up	0%	0%	11%	0%	7%	20%
Not enough faculty interaction	0%	0%	56%	0%	36%	14%
Distracted by family / personal obligations	67%	100%	67%	0%	71%	65%
I don't feel prepared to succeed at this level	0%	0%	11%	0%	7%	7%
Lack of peer-to-peer interaction	0%	0%	22%	0%	14%	10%
Technology is confusing / hard to use	33%	0%	0%	0%	7%	8%
Lack of interest / motivation	0%	0%	11%	0%	7%	18%
Unclear course objectives / expectations	0%	0%	22%	0%	14%	17%
Other (please specify):	33%	50%	22%	0%	29%	31%

Please identify the factors that you believe significantly contribute to your academic success (aside from your own academic skill and discipline). Please select all that apply.						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=75)	COBA Responses (N=18)	COEHS Responses (N=143)	Other Responses (N=10)	Overall VSU Responses (N=246)	Non-VSU Responses (N=22,191)
Courses are the right pace	52%	78%	50%	60%	53%	54%
Being able to apply what I learn in my job	43%	44%	65%	40%	56%	35%
Attention from faculty	40%	17%	50%	50%	44%	44%
Peer-to-peer interaction	31%	22%	25%	20%	26%	27%
Academic advising services	17%	28%	26%	50%	24%	30%
Tutoring	5%	6%	2%	0%	3%	11%
Easy-to-use technology	67%	72%	56%	70%	61%	64%
Clear course objectives / expectations	68%	67%	65%	80%	67%	70%
Format matches my learning style	48%	44%	31%	20%	37%	44%
Other (please specify):	7%	0%	7%	0%	6%	7%
Don't know / unsure	1%	0%	2%	10%	2%	3%

How many hours per week do you do coursework for your program while you are at work?						
Response Choices	CAS Responses (N=22)	COBA Responses (N=7)	COEHS Responses (N=61)	Other Responses (N=4)	Overall VSU Responses (N=94)	Non-VSU Responses (N=11,406)
None	27%	57%	33%	25%	33%	33%
1-2 hours per week	27%	14%	36%	0%	31%	19%
3-5 hours per week	23%	14%	20%	50%	21%	15%
6-10 hours per week	5%	0%	5%	0%	4%	6%
More than 10 hours per week	0%	0%	5%	0%	3%	5%
I am not currently employed	18%	14%	2%	25%	7%	21%

Comments Received from VSU Respondents

College of Arts and Sciences

- “Being a part of the VSU Online MPA Program has been a great experience for me. Along the way to completing my degree, I endured a few difficulties. I was blessed to overcome them and move forward to where I am now. I am graduating from VSU in a few weeks. Since it is unlikely that I will make it to graduation, I want to send out kudos to a few people who helped make this experience great for me. Dr. Bonnie Peterson and Dr. Greg Rabidoux are awesome teachers!! I am so thankful and grateful for them. Also, much appreciation to my advisor, Dr. Napoleon Bamfo. Thanks VSU Online!”
- “Honestly, I would have preferred a fully online program with UGA or GA State. I completed the first third of my program online through Georgia Southern before transferring to Valdosta. There's is the only fully-online program in my state. I absolutely can

only do online programs right now because I work full-time and have two little kids. Spending evenings/weekends with my kids is infinitely more important to me than being in a classroom to finish my masters.

I strongly feel there are students in my program who should NOT be. They don't participate or post really inadequate responses to assignments. That would be my biggest complaint is that the peer-to-peer interactions are not as high of quality as I think I would get in a more competitive program like UGA or GA State.

All that being said, though, I've been fairly pleased with my Valdosta experience. Being fully online is a BIG deal and that's what sold me. Also, that it's accredited. Also a big deal. I was also pleased to see the variety of professorial research in the MPA program, and I hope I will get to interact with many of the profs as I finish up the program. I do plan to finish my degree at Valdosta."

- "I chose to enroll at VSU for the online (eMajor) program. I have been disappointed with how faculty/staff handle online learners. I have an overall sense that I am burdening some by living an hour and a half away. When I sought help, I was told that 'it would be easier if I could physically come to campus'. I wish VSU was more 'online-learner' friendly. I have had great experiences with my advisor and most faculty, but the staff have been less than helpful in several matters."
- "I have enjoyed all of my online classes and all my instructors since enrolling at the University."
- "I have heard that there is a lack of regard for the online students by the faculty. This would bear out in my opinion. Insufficient faculty to handle the workload complicates the matter, however. They need more full time faculty in my area to handle the committees. Additionally, I question the consistency of the quality of admitted students. Some in my cohort were so dreadfully unprepared it was painful. In online education, they can't hide: their inability is out there for everyone to see. I don't understand the acceptance policies for this degree."
- "I have really enjoyed my attendance in the MPA program. I believe modmesters (8 week course offerings, would be an excellent alternative)."
- "I have taken classes online and in a classroom setting. Some the online courses have too much work to complete and if I could I would rather be in a classroom."
- "I love being able to take my classes online. Without online classes I would not be able to attend school."
- "I love it. The quality is enhanced by the GRE requirement for Grad School. The additional benefit of having full time, experienced, doctoral level professors is head and shoulders above the quality of instruction at a for profit institution."
- "I love the MAESLAT program. I am already teaching in the field so I find it highly applicable to my work. Granted I wish it was cheaper; I'll end up with about \$5000 in loans after completion and have paid a lot already. I wish there was more financial aid for graduate programs. However, I know these costs are much lower than I could have encountered. I love the BlazeView software; it is better than any online environment that I have experienced. I really enjoy when the instructors make us of the online environment to post audio/video lectures or interact on discussion boards. However, there are some disadvantages as well when instructors ask us to read a section and then complete a given exercise without any clear instruction or direction. But, overall I feel that I am learning a lot and it is highly practical."
- "I really like the university. It has been an exceptional experience attending courses."
- "I sometimes am frustrated by the assumption that all students are in-person. Valdosta has one of the few online programs that doesn't require an in-person component, which is one of the reasons (along with cost and the ability to specialize in local government management) that I chose Valdosta. But, getting faculty to reply to emails outside of class is difficult, and my advisor only wants me to send an email during specific weeks, essentially not making him truly an advisor. I would also like the ability to opt out of the emails for campus activities, housing and alerts, which are not relevant and fill my inbox. Because I work 50+ hours and am a professional already working in the field, I can only take 1 class at a time, and it has taken me 6 years to get through grad school. Allowing credit for professional experience and shortening the online classes would help reduce the time (and burn out!)"
- "I'm thankful VSU offers a Doctoral Program online. The program has worked well with my full-time job. Also, I'm proud to be enrolled in a traditional, not for profit institution for my Doctoral program."
- "I'm very grateful to be able to attend VSU."
- "I've met some incredible people at VSU, teachers and students alike, as well as some professors with incredibly low emotional IQ who let their personal lives vastly reduce their teaching proficiency. It's okay though—they have tenure, and students and their emotional well-being are expendable.

On a related note, students with emotional issues should not be handed out Xanax and similar drugs. The psychiatrist who prescribes students drugs should be the same one who psychologically screens them in order to both safeguard the liability of the

school and the lives and livelihoods of the students therein. Two psychiatrists licensed, able, and willing to dispense medicine as soon as therapeutic counseling are better than one.

I have highly enjoyed the many guest readings/lectures I've attended on campus and the writing conferences school funding has enabled me to attend. The funding process, however, could be greatly streamlined and the readings/events much better publicized.

I also wish there were more and better-disseminated resources on how to make a living/find jobs/build a portfolio/resume as a writer for English/Creative Writing majors. This would be a much better purpose for, say, English Senior Seminar than merely writing, researching, and presenting another paper. Not every English-related major wants to or should continue on to a higher degree, toxic debt, and an over-crowded and under-funded teaching field.

That said, I am highly thankful I graduate in May and wholly grateful to everyone who helped me along the way. I'm glad I went to VSU, and all my suggestions are more for future students. Realistically, these issues no longer affect me personally. Further, I hope the school administration finds greater stability and success in the future. There are a lot of people at VSU who changed my life for the better."

- "Low level courses so they were pretty easy."
- "My experience has been great so far, though I wish VSU would find ways to allow online students to participate in some of the on-campus activities and even clubs. Skype or video conferencing would go a long way to engender a stronger sense of connection."
- "My experience while attending VSU has been nothing but great. I'm excited about graduating soon and continuing my education on a graduate level! I love VSU!!!"
- "Of all the professor I have had online at any institution Prof. Bonnie Peterson is by far one of if not the best when it come to making online education feel like a real life campus experience. She is always present, encouraging, engaging, accessible, innovative and most of all fair. She deserves an award for the work she has done with the students and for the success of this program. One of the weakest area of Valdosta States Online Learning is it advisor/counselor. They are the worst I have experienced out of three other Universities within the USG that I have attended. There is much room for improvement, but overall I think VSU is well ahead of the other institution in USG."
- "Offering more online classes and making it easier to find online classes when registering would be helpful."
- "Online education has had a stigma attached to it for a long time and I believe that was caused by the for-profit institutions and their media advertisements. Many people myself included has/had the impression that online education is easy and basically you pay the money and get a diploma.
That may be the case for some schools, but not for Valdosta State University. My professors have stressed that online classes are generally more difficult than in person classes. The classes offered by the University of Georgia system are all taken very seriously and are rigorous. I have been able to richly develop my writing and communication skills as well as my critical thinking skills. I long for some face-to-face classroom instruction, but unfortunately it does not fit into my schedule. Dr. Rivers schedules Blackboard Collaborative meetings to review for exams and I treasure those! I can see his face and hear his voice and kind of feel like I am back in a real classroom. I really cannot say enough about how wonderful my experience has been as an eMajor at Valdosta State. I am so thankful for the faculty, staff and students."
- "Prefer quicker response back from Professor's after posting a question in go-view. Clearer explanations and/or additional help if student doesn't understand a problem. More support for students who travel for work and are on a different time zone while completing assignments. I was penalized on several assignments because my the time ended for the assignment based on EST while I was working on Pacific Coast Time during the assignment. If a school is truly an on-line school as well then they would need to accommodate all US time zones for students who travel or perhaps choose to go to VSU on-line from another time zone."
- "Professors should be well-versed in online applications. Not all students will know intricate details of new software and applications. Professors should familiarize themselves with the tools they use for instruction."
- "Statistics about our porgram would be very good to know (acceptance rate as an example). As of now we have no idea how our program compares to other schools."
- "The DPA program is excellent!"
- "The online program fits my geographic limitations; however, the DPA program is not as strong academically as it could be. The first year, I felt was hard and I learned a lot. After the first year, faculty do not engage as much; the assignments and reading materials are easier. It seems that faculty expect very little of the students. I can always learn on my own, but that is not the point

of enrolling in a degree program, so I highly recommend greater engagement between faculty and students, and just a more rigorous approach.”

- “The only thing that I do not agree with online learning is that the institute will not help us fund our books for online classes. I have to pay out of pocket for books when I have the Hope Scholarship and the Pell Grant. I should not have to pay for books out of my own pocket when I have financial aid to fund that for me. This is the only concern that I have and I hope that you all will recognize this and change this for online students at Valdosta State University. Thank You.”
- “The site maintenance taking place at 10:00 pm on a Friday is very inconvenient for non-traditional students who work full time. The weekend is when we get a chance to do our work. It might not seem like a big deal but when all you have is Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday losing Friday night is a BIG deal.
The other issue I have is absentee faculty. I have taken electives in Social Work, Education, and Public Administration, by far, education was the worst. I took an ethics class (note the irony) where I submitted 7 legal briefs, participated in weekly discussions, and submitted a paper and there was zero acknowledgement from the professor who took a cruise to Alaska. My papers were never opened, let alone read. The online tests had incorrect answers but since we could attempt them twice, I copied down the wrong answers and scored 100 on all my second attempts. I emailed the professor with the errors, as did several others in the class. Some of my classmates got wise to the fact that the Professor wasn't engaged at all and posted blank documents to the discussions, this allowed them to receive credit for participating in a discussion group without doing any work.
The most engagement I received was in social work. Their courses had the best structure and engaged faculty. The Public Administration faculty was hit and miss. Some classes were very well designed with actively engaged faculty and others felt more like correspondence courses but all were better than Education.”
- “The university ought not to offer a City Manager track unless it has the faculty and resources to support such.”
- “The website is terrific! As is Teresa from the Graduate School, Emily Rogers in the library, communication from the Registrar, the President, etc. Did not enjoy the level of engagement by the adjunct instructors in my coursework, although several full-timers were equally unengaged. Many did a marvelous job. Others were absolutely absent, silent partners. The profs who engaged with the students bridged the gap between the on-line and f2f experience. The ones that didn't were truly awful.”
- “There aren't enough faculty to support the number of dissertations in Public Administration”
- “Thus far, I believe I have made the right decision in continuing my education through this prestigious university. Every semester I feel as though I have gained an extremely amount of knowledge that will ensure, put me on an absolute career path that will allow me to make a difference and be a positive pillar in my community.”
- “Valdosta has a lot of potential, but while I do not expect hand-holding in a graduate program, I would like to see a bit more interaction with students from an advising standpoint. I've 'broken in' online programs at several schools, so while I know there is a shakedown period, I'd prefer to think that the quality of my education is not at risk of compromise.”
- “While I truly enjoy the majority of my classes, and am learning - and utilizing the knowledge, there are some classes where it is very obvious the professor does not even care enough about their students to create a decent course of study. For instance I have a class now where the professor consistently does not bother posting on discussion boards, does not grade anything, her assignments have terrible grammar and poor spelling. Quite frankly, VSU should be embarrassed to have her on their faculty. In addition to this, I believe the professors who simply utilize a pre-made course structure from a textbook publisher (like Pearson) show their disinterest in the class. They could at least open a discussion board so the students can interact with each other.”
- “Valdosta is the only college offering the degree in which I am interested the MA in English Studies for Language Arts teachers.”

Langdale College of Business Administration

- “Continually I was being told you can't do X because you haven't done Y. When you try and call an office on campus a student that can't answer that question answers the phone and naturally, the person you need to talk to is unavailable. I can't help you is NOT customer service. At least say I will connect you with the right person. Overall customer service sucks at Valdosta State and I'm an employee and see this every day. We're lucky to keep the students we have. Thankfully, once actually in the MBA program the College of Business has been the most professional and most helpful part of the process.”
- “I'm really enjoying the experience. I so appreciate that VSU gave me credits for classes that other schools were going to make me repeat because they were over 20 years old. I have experience with 4 online classes thus far and 3 have been great as far as interaction with students and the professor. Only 1 class has been disappointing in that the professor is MIA. It is completely independent study and he seems completely disengaged. I am thrilled that this online option exists and I will be successful in completing my degree and I'm even considering continuing to pursue my Masters.”

- “Program could have offered many more learning opportunities if repetitive classes with very similar course content were eliminated. Technology classes should not be offered or should be modified if the course materials do not match the software.”
- “The experience has been good overall so far. The intent of a few of the instructors has been beyond my reach with the difficulty of coursework, especially considering a virtual environment.”

Dewar College of Education and Human Services

- “Admittedly, I chose VSU for my MLIS because of the price while still being an ALA-accredited program. My perception is that the courses are not as rigorous as some other institutions, but I don't know that for sure. In the library world, a degree is a degree, and where it comes from is not as important. I have enjoyed my courses and instructors, I have learned an amazing amount about my new profession, and I appreciate the availability of this program online. If I had it to do over, I would make the same choice, and have already recommended VSU to other potential students.”
- “Again, I loved earning my BSEd and MEd at VSU. MEd had some hybrid classes. The interaction with professors was important to me and furthered my learning. I actually learned. All online for the EdS is awful. The professors are very nice and will eventually answer questions, but maybe they have too many things to do? It's not as academic. It's more like a ton of busy work, pay your money & you get the degree. I miss classes and the networking from face to face lessons. I realize I am probably in the minority.”
- “Awesome so far!”
- “Classes are very informative and have helped to develop best practices in the classroom but the work is extremely rigorous and intense.”
- “Dr. Most has been a significant asset for me. She has been very valuable to my experience. I could not imagine the program without her.”
- “Everything has been great so far. The professors are demanding and the work is difficult, but I am advancing my knowledge and I am happy to be learning.”
- “Going to school online has been the best school experience of my entire life. It works really well for people who learn best while learning at their own pace. It's also a great option for people who work full-time or are older and don't want to be in classes filled with younger students.”
- “Graduate admissions personnel and my advisor were extremely helpful during enrollment. My professors are attentive and respond quickly to questions. Courses are set at an appropriate pace, with all due dates evenly spaced and communicated at the beginning of the semester. My experience this semester has been very positive. I have already recommended the program to several colleagues. My only wish is that there was an option for some face-to-face classes.”
- “I am very pleased with my classes thus far. One of the main reasons I chose the MLIS program at Valdosta was because I wasn't required to take the GRE! That was just one less thing to be stressed about! I was also impressed with the ease of the application process and quick response time when I had questions.”
- “I don't know if this has anything to do with the online learning aspect, but the teachers' professionalism when it comes to explaining our assignments with care is poor because they often have typos in their sentences.”
- “I feel that Valdosta state does not hire faculty that are sufficiently qualified to teach the courses they do. I am constantly astonished by how ignorant some of the faculty are on many topics related to the field. There is no teaching that actually occurs only the assignment of readings that are often very outdated and/or no longer relevant. Thankfully I currently work in the field I'm getting my degree in and so I have a lot of first hand experience. I feel that this program would never really prepare a student to work in a library. I'm amazed that it stays accredited. The only reason I continue to attend this program is that it is the only one in the state and I receive TAP.”
- “I have a lot that I would like to share and I like having this opportunity. Responding in a way that is beneficial would take a lot more than a few sentences here, where I have no idea if anyone would take it serious. I think that getting student feedback is very important and it would be better to reach out to students and sit down with them to hear them out, especially in the higher degree programs that are taken when the student is employed fulltime and trying to advance in their careers. Does the program really help with the career, or is it just a hoop to jump through to get a pay raise? I felt like i was just jumping through a long series of hoops. It is more complicated than that because I did learn a lot, but that hoop-jumping was totally exhausting!!!”
- “I have been impressed with the school. I thought the campus was beautiful and I think the Library Science faculty works very hard to improve the program and make it rigorous. It is so affordable that I cannot complain about tuition costs, though I am paying for them myself. Also, the program offers several scholarships to students in the program, so that is a great opportunity. I have

already encouraged two friends at my library to consider VSU instead of other online library programs because of the affordability and great quality-- both did end up choosing it over the other schools based on my suggestion. I think the program is great. I have not been happy with the professor assigned as my academic advisor, as he gives me never answers my questions on email and his responses to me seem to suggest he thinks I am an idiot. My management professor is so engaged, so I suppose you get some good ones and some bad ones.”

- “I have enjoyed receiving my education from Valdosta State University. Every professor I have had during my college career at Valdosta have been very professional and knowledgeable.”
- “I have enjoyed the classes in education but feel some of the materials and articles in a few classes are outdated and not based on current trends in education. I also think that Banner is much harder to navigate than Goview”
- “I have had a great experience so far!”
- “I have taken numerous courses through different colleges. This college, by far, is the most respectful, affordable, and understanding of any college I have attended. The work load is very manageable for a full time working wife. I have suggested VSU to numerous other colleagues. Thank you!”
- “I have too much homework/school work every day and it never ends, I get overwhelmed with the workload and I can't make the grades I want to make. I make good grades but I am so stressed and overwhelmed that I just can't expend any more effort without quitting my job to have more time for school work. For instance: every week I have a discussion question to answer/discuss then I have at least three responses due to others posted discussions, then a blog, then an assignment and often a quiz as well. the blog and discussion are redundant and time consuming-it is just toooooo much.”
- “I live overseas. I really do not like when courses require us to work with peers, as I am in a completely different time zone and have to do things in the middle of the night.”
- “I strongly dislike LiveText. It is antiquated and I have dropped a course because of technical difficulties I encountered using LiveText.”
- “I was on campus for 3 years but with my program started in the distance learning. We used Blue Jeans for class where people can skype into class, and honestly I wish my other classes were like this for online/hybrid. If we could have a skype session with our instructor for actual instruction would be most helpful. Rather than reading lectures or just reading the book. I liked the ones that would put up youtube videos of their lectures. But I think more classes should use this Blue Jeans system for students that don't live in Valdosta.”
- “If online students taking a fully online degree are part of the school, we need to be made to FEEL like part of the school and not second rate. By that I mean I do not want to get all of the emails about on campus activities, I do not want to hear about on campus crime, I want an advisor who cares, I want teachers who can perform the duties of teaching an online class, and I also want content that actually adds to the knowledge I have. And, I would like the option (master's level) to get credit for what I have learned in my career verses having to write trite papers and answer trite questions in order to get a grade that says I have the knowledge.”
- “I'm very happy with my decision to take classes here. TAP is a wonderful benefit that's helping me advance my career, and overall I'm very happy with the faculty and courses I've taken in the MLIS program. GREAT value for what I'm paying. Even for those paying full tuition, it's still affordable and very good quality for the cost.”
- “In an online environment where students and professors are often nowhere near to each other and will likely never meet face to face, it's important that students and faculty communicate frequently, or at least be able to. Often, I have experienced that professors do not check their email over the weekend -- when I do most of my school work, as I too have a full-time job -- and often do not answer until several days after the question has been asked (or, in this semester, days after the assignment was due). However, there are a number of professors who are not guilty of this. Additionally, some professors are quick to assume graduate students do not want to do the work of an assignment on their own -- if we ask a question, it is not because we are lazy, it is because your directions, instructions, guidelines, or rubrics were not clear. We desire clarity, or at the very least elaboration. Because we cannot ask you in person, email or the discussion board is the next best thing, although it is certainly not its equal.”
- “In general, I do not tend to think of online programs as being suited to my learning style, but I have found that the program I am in at VSU is aimed at helping the students succeed, and I have been very pleasantly surprised.”
- “In terms of personal safety, I would only recommend VSU to people interested in online classes. Campus have been basically invaded with political mayrters who are only interested in their own media spot light than student safety or student education.”
- “I've had a wonderful experience with supportive and caring Instructors.”

- “My advisor has been fantastic, probably the best advisor I have ever had at any higher institution (Dr. Julia McKissack). Her advising and quick replies to inquiries I have made have made my experience much more positive. I would have been completely lost without the excellent information she has provided me. I appreciate her very much, she is truly fantastic.”
- “My experience at Valdosta State University has been great.”
- “Online courses are sort of a Catch 22. It's great to do your school work in your pajamas and slippers at any time of day, but the biggest negative factor is that the teachers do not respond to e-mails fast enough. Also, some of the projects in some of my classes were not really described well. It's not like I can raise my hand and get an immediate answer. That's what I miss. If I have a project do in 2 days and I all of a sudden have a very important questions I may not get an answer before the assignment is due. That's happened to me a couple of times.”
- “Online courses need to include some type of personal interaction. Anything from pre-recorded podcasts to Wimba sessions to be more engaging.”
- “Overall, highly satisfied with quality & format of my studies. Expectations & goals for each course are clear. Deadlines are challenging but reasonable. Materials needed to complete assignments are provided. I'd like more feedback on my assignments from professors & faster turn-around in receiving grades. I think a 30-member combined course prevents this.”
- “Overall, the online experience has been positive. I have colleagues who scoff at the idea that an online degree program can be effective and rigorous, but I completely disagree.
I think that there were aspects to certain courses that were redundant. I've answered so many questions and completed so many projects on diversity that I am becoming intolerant of the topic. That however, is a matter of curriculum and not online access.”
- “Professors inconsistent”
- “Professors understand that balancing personal, professional and student life can be difficult at times. All of my professors have been very understanding and accommodating this semester as I am adjusting as a full time working, new mother. “
- “So far very pleased with my experience!”
- “Some of the ideas and texts used by the online classes/instructors are not relevant to real-life classroom needs. I feel that the classes should be geared more towards making sure we know the content of middle grades classes instead of higher level content. Since VSU is in GA, it also seems that the classes would gear towards the standards that must be taught in the classroom.”
- “Teacher should engage with students online”
- “The faculty assistance of VSU's MLIS program is atrocious. Not only did some of the professors NEVER respond to my personal emails, but it took far too long for them to reply to discussion board posts on the VSU site. The faculty's instruction was so vague and not helpful at all. I would never recommend this program to anyone looking for the LIS degree.”
- “The faculty is responsive to student requests and needs. The course I am currently taking would have been easier to understand in a traditional classroom setting. None of of previous courses were like this, however, and my experience overall has been good.”
- “The program has been good so far. The work is appropriately challenging. My only complaint is that a few of the teachers are not practicing what they teach. Feedback was very slow for one class and she kept making excuses about why she did not have assignments graded. Another teacher is modifying the course as we go. The assignments do not match the syllabus and the rubrics are given out close to the due date. Overall, I am pleased with my decision to attend VSU.”
- “The program is a joke. It is really insulting to see the poor education level of the other students in my program. The lowered admission standards are very visible when I see my classmate's work and input in my classes. This will have a negative impact on the value of my degree.”
- “There needs to more focus on making this a student-centered campus and less of a business. I know that is hard when we are currently facing the challenges we do with enrollment, but I think that is only pushing more students away. We need to start building more campus traditions and spirit to start attracting more students. I think it is also important we are able to build up more student services over the weekend. A lot of people say it is a ‘suitcase campus’ but it only like that because students have two dining options and barely anything is happening. If we start to combat this culture, we could do so much more to make students happier rather than push them out the door each weekend.”
- “This is a great program for the cost compared to the exponentially expensive programs elsewhere. I would love it if the resources were more mobile friendly, but Blazeview is slow and crashes often.”
- “This program is really not very good, and people actually wince when I tell them where I go to school. I wish I had done more research on reputation, but truthfully, it was about the lowest tuition. And the degree grantor is not that important in my field -

public librarianship - compared to just having the ALA-accredited degree. Regarding online vs. FTF, I think online education is a joke. There's no real interaction - it's just correspondence school. There's no real growth or learning happening.”

- “Valdosta State University's Master of Library and Information Science is very affordable compared to other programs. Also- Valdosta does not require the GRE which made admittance seamless and more cost effective.”
- “VSU has been great! Not only is it the only MLIS program in Georgia, but it's completely online. I'd highly recommend the program.”
- “VSU was a great learning experience for me and I'm proud to say I've had a wonderful advisor to assist me. I've also gained some friendships through some of the ladies that have graduated before me. Everything about this school was on point and the transition from ASU to VSU was like music to my ears. I would recommend everyone to attend VSU because it's a great school and you can learn a lot.”

Other Colleges

- “I am impressed with the ease of online learning and with the amount of knowledge I am gaining working at my own pace.”
- “Terrible university with a horrible reputation. I will never recommend anyone spend a penny going to this school.”
- “The registration process is extremely difficult and complicated and comes with ZERO instructions. Once you've submitted your application, you have no clue as to what the next steps are. In the case of eCore classes, it is very difficult to register for courses, yet extremely easy to withdraw. Both processes should be simple. Proctored exam fees should be included in the course fees as they are REQUIRED (not meaning fees should increase). Students should not have to pay extra to take a required exam. Online students should be allowed to exempt themselves from such fees as gym, health, and activities, etc. Professors of online programs should do more than just facilitate the courses they are ‘teaching’. Right now VSU has exactly THREE online degree programs through eCore. There should be at least triple that, if not more. Not everyone wants to be a business major. VSU needs online learning support math classes to be available for those that are required to take such in order to move forward. On-campus classes are not acceptable for online-only students. Advisers and faculty need to be aware of the differences between Blazeview, eCore and eMajor, and be able to advise as such.”