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**Spring 2021 Survey of LaGuardia Students:
Attitudes on Preferred Teaching Modality,
College Choice and Service Needs**

Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA)

April 2021

Spring 2021 Survey of LaGuardia Students: Attitudes on Preferred Teaching Modality, College Choice and Service Needs

In mid-March 2021, LaGuardia President Kenneth Adams sent a survey to LaGuardia's students asking about their goals for attending college, their reasons for choosing LaGuardia, and about how LaGuardia can serve them better. Students were also asked about the learning modalities they prefer for Fall 2021. Four out of the five survey questions were rank-order questions where students ranked their answers from the most important (1) to the least important (5), and could include as many or as few choices as they like.

1,014 students responded to the survey, a response rate of 9.1%. It should be noted, however, that while the modality question was answered by all 1,014 respondents, fewer (between 912 to 760) responded to the four rank-order questions.

Below are summaries of the survey results, including information about the representativeness of the survey respondents and overall responses, followed by an analysis of modality data by gender, race/ethnicity and enrolment status.

Respondent Representativeness

To gauge the representativeness of the respondents, their characteristics are compared to those of the overall population of surveyed degree students. Women, Asian, older students and those enrolled full-time are overrepresented, while men, Hispanics, students younger than 22 and those who enroll part-time are underrepresented.

- Considerably more women responded compared to their proportion in the surveyed population (73% vs. 60%), while fewer men responded (27% vs. 40%).
- The proportion of Hispanic respondents is 11 percentage point lower than their overall distribution, while the percentage of Asian respondents was 9 percentage points higher than their overall distribution.
- Student 21 or younger are underrepresented (21% of respondents vs. 33% of the population), while students older than 30 are overrepresented (41% of respondents vs. 25% of the population). Respondents' average age is 29.7 compared to 26.3 overall.
- Full-time respondents were overrepresented by 7 percentage points, compared to their overall distribution. The average of credits attempted was 13.4 for the respondents compare to 12.3 overall.
- The distribution of freshmen, transfers and continuing/readmitted students was similar for the respondents and overall.

| | Non-respondents | | Respondents | | Total | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------|--------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Number | 10,176 | | 1,014 | | 11,190 | |
| Response rate | | | 9.1% | | | |
| Gender | | | | | | |
| Women | 6,015 | 59.3% | 728 | 73.3% | 6,743 | 60.3% |
| Men | 4,141 | 40.5% | 285 | 26.7% | 4,426 | 39.6% |
| Other | 20 | 0.2% | 1 | 0.0% | 21 | 0.2% |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 2,235 | 22.2% | 323 | 32.1% | 2,558 | 22.9% |
| Black/African American | 1,957 | 19.2% | 187 | 18.3% | 2,144 | 19.2% |
| Hispanic | 4,734 | 46.2% | 354 | 34.7% | 5,088 | 45.5% |
| Native American | 90 | 0.9% | 6 | 0.7% | 96 | 0.9% |
| White | 1,029 | 10.2% | 130 | 13.0% | 1,159 | 10.4% |
| Unknown | 131 | 1.3% | 14 | 1.4% | 145 | 1.3% |
| Age | | | | | | |
| 19 or younger | 1,137 | 11.2% | 62 | 6.1% | 1,199 | 10.7% |
| 20 -21 | 2,349 | 23.1% | 152 | 15.0% | 2,501 | 22.4% |
| 22 - 24 | 2,086 | 20.5% | 191 | 18.8% | 2,277 | 20.3% |
| 25 - 29 | 2,212 | 21.7% | 198 | 19.5% | 2,410 | 21.5% |
| 30 - 39 | 1,784 | 17.5% | 246 | 24.3% | 2,030 | 18.1% |
| 40 or older | 608 | 6.0% | 165 | 16.3% | 773 | 6.9% |
| Average Age | 26.0 | | 29.7 | | 26.3 | |
| Enrollment Status | | | | | | |
| Freshmen | 650 | 6.4% | 88 | 8.2% | 738 | 6.5% |
| Transfer | 791 | 7.7% | 96 | 10.0% | 887 | 7.9% |
| Continuing/re-admits | 8,735 | 85.0% | 830 | 81.7% | 9,565 | 84.8% |
| Full or Part time | | | | | | |
| Full-time | 6,436 | 63.2% | 724 | 71.4% | 7,160 | 64.0% |
| Part-time | 3,740 | 36.8% | 290 | 28.6% | 4,030 | 36.0% |
| Average Credits attempted | 12.2 | | 13.4 | | 12.3 | |

Overall Results

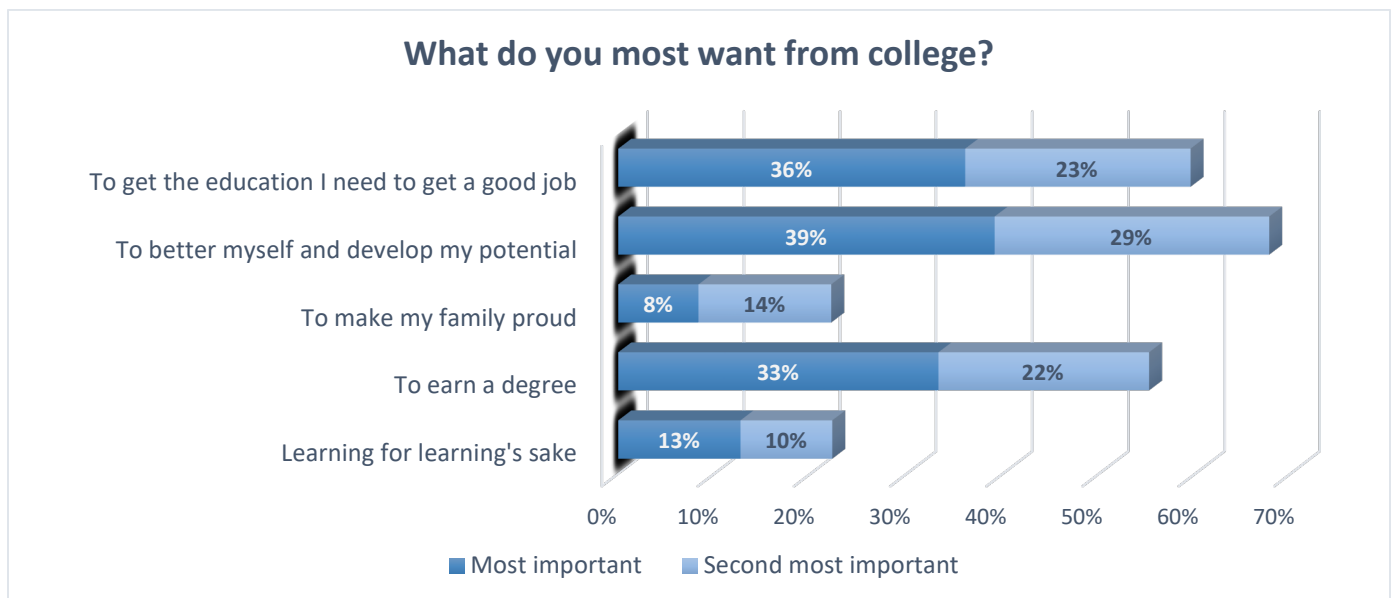
Students were asked four questions about their goals and reasons for attending college in general and LaGuardia in particular, and what LaGuardia can do better for them, and ranked their answers in order of importance from most important (#1) to least important (#5). Students could select as few or as many responses as they liked, and some tied their answers - selecting "1" more than once. In addition, the students were asked one multiple-choice question about their preferred learning modality in Fall 2021

What do you most want from college?

Students ranked their goals for what they want from college. As noted above, some students selected more than one goal as the most important (for example, in a question with only 912 respondents, there were 1,152 #1 selections).

- *To better myself and develop my potential* was selected as the most important goal by the largest proportion of respondents (by 39% as goal #1, and by 68% as one of the top two goals).
- *To get the education I need to get a good job* was the second most important goal (by 36% for goal #1, and 60% as one of the top two goals). *To earn a degree* was selected as the third most important goal (33% for #1, and 55% as their top two goals).
- By a large margin, *learning for learning's sake* and *make my family proud* were the least important goals for most respondents.

| What do you most want from college? | Rank order | | | | | Total respondents |
|---|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| To better myself and develop my potential | 357 | 261 | 182 | 88 | 24 | 912 |
| % of the respondents | 39.1% | 28.6% | 20.0% | 9.6% | 2.6% | 100.0% |
| To get the education I need to get a good job | 328 | 213 | 168 | 129 | 71 | 909 |
| % of the respondents | 36.1% | 23.4% | 18.5% | 14.2% | 7.8% | 100.0% |
| To earn a degree | 298 | 196 | 206 | 135 | 60 | 895 |
| % of the respondents | 33.3% | 21.9% | 23.0% | 15.1% | 6.7% | 100.0% |
| Learning for learning's sake | 100 | 75 | 91 | 190 | 330 | 786 |
| % of the respondents | 12.7% | 9.5% | 11.6% | 24.2% | 42.0% | 100.0% |
| To make my family proud | 69 | 114 | 174 | 216 | 253 | 826 |
| % of the respondents | 8.4% | 13.8% | 21.1% | 26.2% | 30.6% | 100.0% |
| Total Responses | 1152 | 859 | 821 | 758 | 738 | |



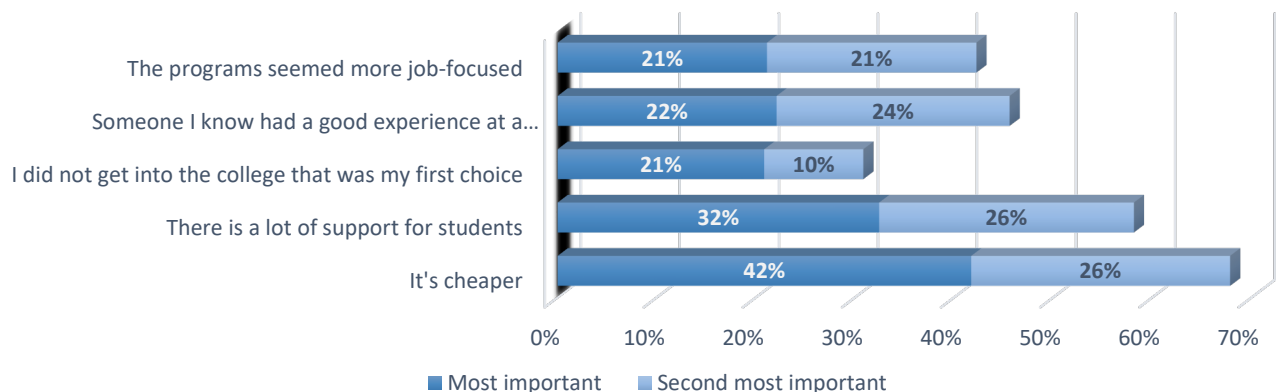
Why did you choose a community college instead of a four-year school?

Price and support for students were the most important reasons that respondents chose community college instead of a four-year college.

- The most important reason was that a community college is cheaper – 42% of the respondents chose it as their most important reason, and 68% chose it as either their first or second most important reasons.
- *There is a lot of support for students* was the second reason selected by most students, with a third choosing it as the most important reason and 58% as the first and second top reasons.
- The last three reasons listed were ranked by about fifth of the respondents as the most important, with over 40% selecting them as the two top reasons (*someone I know had a good experience at a community college* (46%) and *the programs seemed more job-focused* (42%)).
- Only 31% ranked *not getting into the college* of their first and second top choice.

| Why did you choose a community college instead of a four-year school? | Rank order | | | | | Total respondents |
|---|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| It's cheaper | 331 | 207 | 111 | 85 | 59 | 793 |
| % of the respondents | 41.7% | 26.1% | 14.0% | 10.7% | 7.4% | 100.0% |
| There is a lot of support for students | 245 | 194 | 177 | 104 | 35 | 755 |
| % of the respondents | 32.5% | 25.7% | 23.4% | 13.8% | 4.6% | 100.0% |
| Someone I know had a good experience at a community college | 156 | 166 | 174 | 147 | 63 | 706 |
| % of the respondents | 22.1% | 23.5% | 24.6% | 20.8% | 8.9% | 100.0% |
| The programs seemed more job-focused | 149 | 149 | 154 | 176 | 77 | 705 |
| % of the respondents | 21.1% | 21.1% | 21.8% | 25.0% | 10.9% | 100.0% |
| I did not get into the college that was my first choice | 123 | 59 | 45 | 57 | 306 | 590 |
| % of the respondents | 20.8% | 10.0% | 7.6% | 9.7% | 51.9% | 100.0% |
| Total Responses | 1004 | 775 | 661 | 569 | 540 | |

Choosing a community college instead of a four-year school



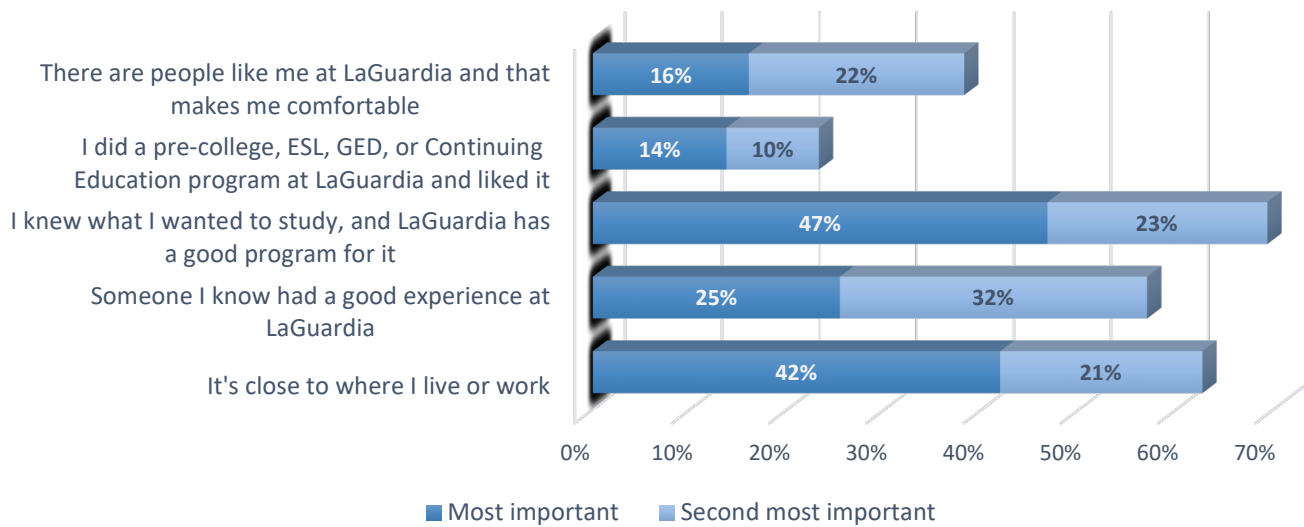
Why did you choose LaGuardia over other CUNY colleges?

The most important reason respondents selected LaGuardia is the quality of the programs.

- The two top reasons were *it had a good program I wanted to study* (47% as the top reason; 69% as one of the top two reasons), and *because it is close to where I work or live* (42% as the top reason; 63% as one of the top two reasons).
- The other three reasons were notably less important.

| Why did you choose LaGuardia over other CUNY colleges? | Rank order | | | | | Total respondents |
|--|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| I knew what I wanted to study, and LaGuardia has a good program for it | 368 | 178 | 128 | 89 | 24 | 787 |
| % of the respondents | 46.8% | 22.6% | 16.3% | 11.3% | 3.0% | 100.0% |
| It's close to where I live or work | 310 | 154 | 89 | 101 | 86 | 740 |
| % of the respondents | 41.9% | 20.8% | 12.0% | 13.6% | 11.6% | 100.0% |
| Someone I know had a good experience at LaGuardia | 165 | 205 | 139 | 93 | 47 | 649 |
| % of the respondents | 25.4% | 31.6% | 21.4% | 14.3% | 7.2% | 100.0% |
| There are people like me at LaGuardia and that makes me comfortable | 100 | 138 | 189 | 150 | 46 | 623 |
| % of the respondents | 16.1% | 22.2% | 30.3% | 24.1% | 7.4% | 100.0% |
| I did a pre-college, ESL, GED, or Continuing Education program at LaGuardia and liked it | 71 | 49 | 58 | 60 | 278 | 516 |
| % of the respondents | 13.8% | 9.5% | 11.2% | 11.6% | 53.9% | 100.0% |
| Total Responses | 1014 | 724 | 603 | 493 | 481 | |

Why did you choose LaGuardia over other CUNY colleges?



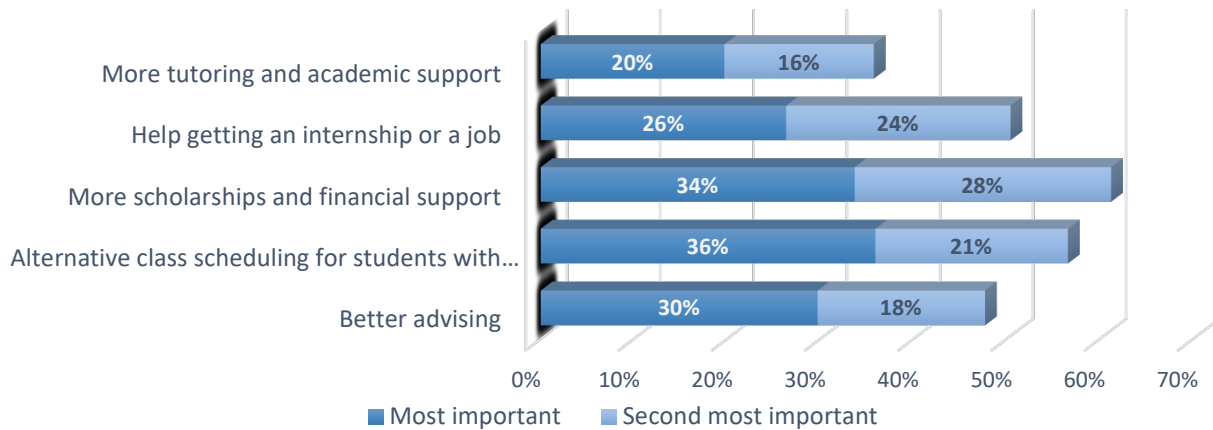
How can LaGuardia serve you better?

Flexible class scheduling and more financial aid were the most important ways that respondents said LaGuardia can serve them better.

- Respondents selected *alternative class scheduling for students with jobs* and *more scholarships and financial support* as the two most important ways in which LaGuardia can serve them better. While slightly more respondents indicated that *alternative class scheduling* is most important, when the first and second choices are combined, *more scholarships and financial aid* are selected by a slightly higher proportion of respondents (61% vs. 57%)
- Similar proportions selected *better advising* and *getting an internship or a job*, with close to 20% selecting them as most important and about 50% selecting them as the two most important.
- *More tutoring and academic support* was selected by a relatively small proportion of the respondent, with 20% ranking it as the most important and 36% ranking it as one of the top two.

| How can LaGuardia serve you better? | Rank order | | | | | Total respondents |
|---|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Alternative class scheduling for students with jobs | 273 | 157 | 122 | 99 | 109 | 760 |
| % of the respondents | 35.9% | 20.7% | 16.1% | 13.0% | 14.3% | 100.0% |
| More scholarships and financial support | 251 | 205 | 145 | 94 | 50 | 745 |
| % of the respondents | 33.7% | 27.5% | 19.5% | 12.6% | 6.7% | 100.0% |
| Better advising | 225 | 136 | 138 | 120 | 138 | 757 |
| % of the respondents | 29.7% | 18.0% | 18.2% | 15.9% | 18.2% | 100.0% |
| Help getting an internship or a job | 187 | 171 | 122 | 119 | 111 | 710 |
| % of the respondents | 26.3% | 24.1% | 17.2% | 16.8% | 15.6% | 100.0% |
| More tutoring and academic support | 139 | 113 | 150 | 147 | 156 | 705 |
| % of the respondents | 19.7% | 16.0% | 21.3% | 20.9% | 22.1% | 100.0% |
| Total Responses | 1075 | 782 | 677 | 579 | 564 | |

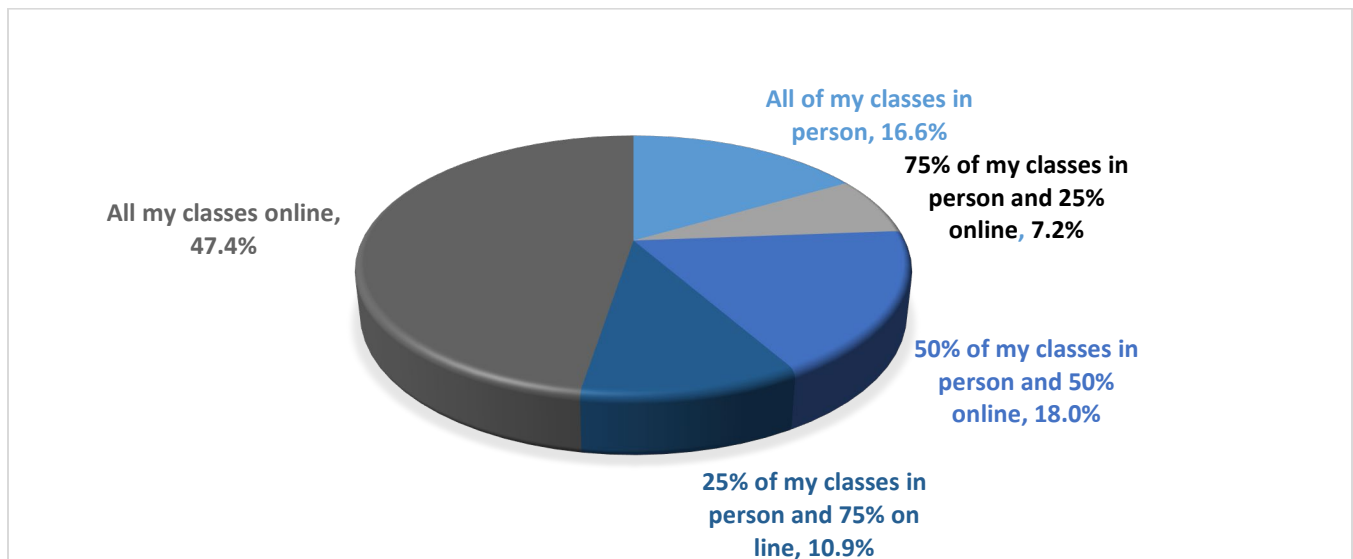
How can LaGuardia serve you better?



Preference for Course Teaching Modality in Fall 2021

Students were asked what type of classes they want for the Fall 2021 semester, with options ranging from *all in-person* to *all online*. Close to half of the students preferred having all their classes online, while 17% preferred having all classes in-person. The rest preferred hybrid courses, ranging from 25% to 75% online.

| Type of classes for the Fall 2021 Semester | Number | Percent |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| All of my classes in-person | 168 | 16.6% |
| 75% of my classes in-person and 25% online | 73 | 7.2% |
| 50% of my classes in-person and 50% online | 182 | 17.9% |
| 25% of my classes in-person and 75% on line | 110 | 10.8% |
| All my classes online | 481 | 47.4% |
| Total | 1014 | 100.0% |



Demographics

More women than men, and more Black respondents than those of other race/ethnic groups, prefer online classes in Fall 2021.

- Slightly more men prefer in-person teaching compared to women, while more women prefer classes that are either 75% online or completely online.
- Similar proportions of Asian, Hispanic and White respondents prefer to have all of their classes in-person (17%-18%). However, only 13% of the Black respondents prefer in-person only classes.
- Similar proportion of respondents from all race/ethnic groups prefer to have all their classes online (47%-48%).
- Slightly more Black respondents prefer hybrids courses (39%), while 35% respondents from other groups selected this option.

| | Women | Men | Asian, PI | Black | Hispanic | White |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| All of my classes in-person | 110 15.1% | 58 20.4% | 58 18.0% | 24 12.8% | 59 16.7% | 23 17.7% |
| 75% of my classes in-person and 25% online | 51 7.0% | 22 7.7% | 26 8.0% | 8 4.3% | 25 7.1% | 11 8.5% |
| 50% of my classes in-person and 50% online | 130 17.9% | 52 18.2% | 50 15.5% | 41 21.9% | 64 18.1% | 24 18.5% |
| 25% of my classes in-person and 75% on line | 86 11.8% | 24 8.4% | 37 11.5% | 23 12.3% | 35 9.9% | 11 8.5% |
| All my classes online | 351 48.2% | 129 45.3% | 152 47.1% | 91 48.7% | 171 48.3% | 61 46.9% |
| Total | 728 100.0% | 285 100.0% | 323 100.0% | 187 100.0% | 354 100.0% | 130 100.0% |

Enrollment status

- There is hardly any difference in the preference of full-time and part-time students with regard to their course modality.
- Considerably fewer transfers prefer to have all their classes in-person (5%) compared to freshmen and continuing students. However, a larger proportion of transfers prefer hybrid classes compared to the other groups.
- The majority of freshmen (55%) prefer all online classes compared to 47% of the continuing students and 44% of the transfers.

| | Full-time | Part-time | Freshmen | Transfers | Continuing |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| All of my classes in-person | 115 15.9% | 53 18.3% | 13 14.8% | 5 5.2% | 150 18.1% |
| 75% of my classes in-person and 25% online | 51 7.0% | 22 7.6% | 5 5.7% | 11 11.5% | 57 6.9% |
| 50% of my classes in-person and 50% online | 135 18.6% | 47 16.2% | 15 17.0% | 23 24.0% | 144 17.3% |
| 25% of my classes in-person and 75% on line | 77 10.6% | 33 11.4% | 7 8.0% | 15 15.6% | 88 10.6% |
| All my classes online | 346 47.8% | 135 46.6% | 48 54.5% | 42 43.8% | 391 47.1% |
| Total | 724 100.0% | 290 100.0% | 88 100.0% | 96 100.0% | 830 100.0% |

Conclusion

Slightly less than half of all respondents prefer classes that are fully online, while only 17% prefer classes that are fully in-person and the rest prefer hybrid classes.

- Fewer women than men, and fewer Black respondents prefer that all their classes be in-person. However, while the preference for all online classes is similar, more Black respondents prefer hybrid classes compared to the other groups.
- Transfer students prefer more hybrid classes and fewer in-person or online classes compared to freshmen and continuing students, while over half of the freshmen prefer all online classes

While respondents pick as the top reasons to attend college *developing their full potential* and *getting a good job*, their top reasons for attending a community college were *cost* and *support*. Students' top reasons for selecting LaGuardia in particular were practical – it has good program for what they wanted to study, and its location (close to where they live or work).

Finally, students wanted LaGuardia to offer more flexible scheduling to accommodate their work schedule, and more scholarships and financial aid. However, better advising and help in getting internships or jobs were almost as important.