SURVEY RESULTS:

MINNSTATE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Between September 23 and September 29, 2026, we asked students to fill out a survey about their academic experience at their MinnState Colleges. At the end of this week, 1,045 two-year students completed the survey. Overall, the survey suggests that two-year colleges are highly valued for access and opportunity, but students want a more organized, responsive, and connected experience to fully support their success.

QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION

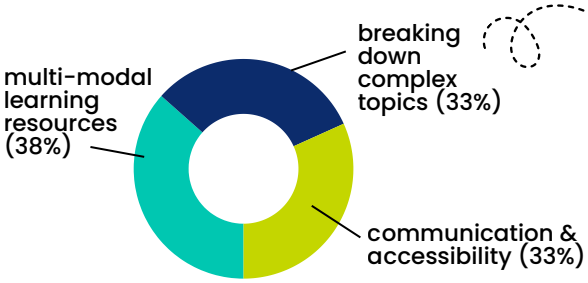
Overall instruction satisfaction: 4.38 out of 5 (1,045 responses)

Instructor knowledge: 4.61 out of 5 (1,045 responses)

9/10 students rated both overall education satisfaction & instruction quality at a 4 ot 5.

93% rated a 4 or 5

TOP RATED TEACHING STYLES THAT SUPPORT LEARNING



Providing Multi-Modal Learning Resources (38%)
Visual aids, PowerPoint slide decks, supplementary videos, guided notes, and hands-on activities or labs help accommodate different learning styles.

Breaking Down Complex Topics (33%)
Students appreciate instructors who explain material step-by-step, use plain language instead of jargon, and connect abstract concepts to real-world applications and personal stories.

Communication & Accessibility (33%)
Quick responses to emails, consistent availability during office hours, and welcoming attitudes make students feel comfortable asking questions without fear of judgment.

Learning supported by teaching styles: 4.2 out of 5 overall (1,045 responses)

WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED?

15% Clarity and Consistency in Instructions
Many students struggle with vague assignment prompts, scattered resources across online portals, or inconsistent deadlines between different classes.

12% Accommodation of Diverse Needs
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12% Pacing and Depth of Explanation
Some students feel rushed through heavy material, noting that instructors occasionally move too fast or rely too heavily on reading straight from slides or textbooks without sufficient explanation.

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

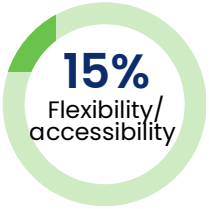
Overall satisfaction with quality of education was a 4.41 out of 5 (1,045 responses)

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO EDUCATION SATISFACTION



The biggest factor shaping satisfaction is clearly the quality of instruction and instructor support. Students repeatedly mention teachers who are helpful, responsive, clear, approachable, encouraging, knowledgeable, and willing to go above and beyond. When instructors explain material well and communicate quickly, satisfaction rises sharply.

Many students value online, hybrid, asynchronous, evening, and self-paced options which helps them balance school other responsibilities.





Students appreciate well-organized D2L pages, clear instructions, hands-on learning, relevant coursework, and classes that feel manageable and meaningful.

IN-PERSON, HYBRID, & ONLINE EDUCATION

In-person classes
Rating of 4.5 out of 5 from 759 responses

Hybrid classes
Rating of 4.2 out of 5 from 537 responses

Online classes
Rating of 4.1 out of 5 from 868 responses

41.6% feel they get the same quality of education in these formats

18.6% feel they get a different quality of education in these formats

29.1% have not taken a mix of online and in-person classes

28% feel online classes have a lack of interaction & engagement

GENERAL EDUCATION CLASSES

IN-PERSON VS. EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE ACCESS



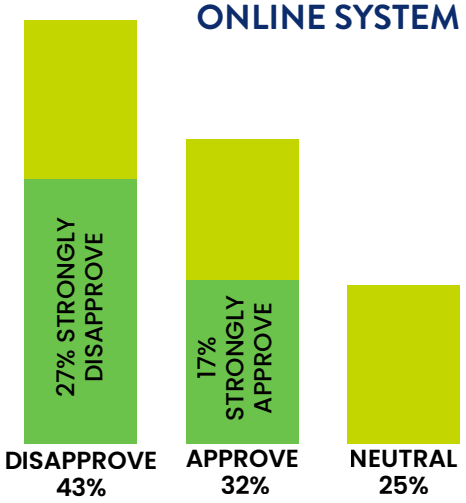
47% of students state that they would prefer to take or have access to general education courses on-campus.

28% of students were neutral

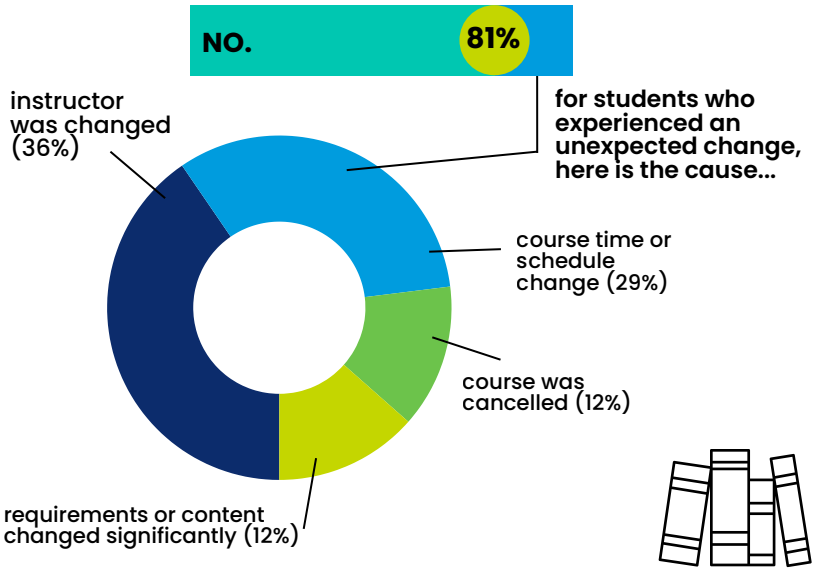
25% of students state that they would be fine with taking gen-ed courses exclusively online.

These results are far more mixed than students' overall satisfaction with their education, which points to the importance of how general education courses are delivered.

STATEWIDE CONSOLIDATED ONLINE SYSTEM

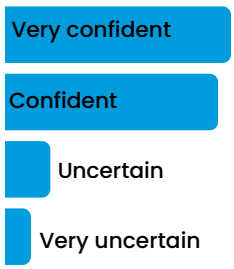


COURSE CHANGES



TRANSFERRING CREDITS AND COURSES

Confidence in credits transferring as expected



Ease of understanding courses needed to transfer

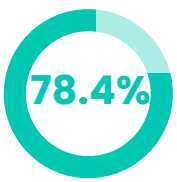


BIGGEST CHALLENGES

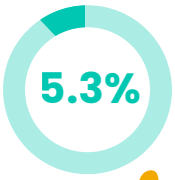
30% Credits not transferring at all, or only partially transferring

20% Transfer rules being unclear

COMMUNICATION & LISTENING

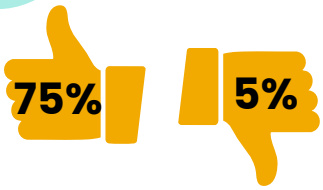


Of respondents feel their college communicates changes that effect student courses, schedules, or graduation/transfer plans *well to very well*



Of respondents feel that communication from their college is not good to very not good.

Students feel that their college listens to and responds to students when making decisions that effect their education.



MAKING COLLEGE BETTER



THEMES



CONCLUSIONS

The survey presents a generally positive picture of the academic experience, especially regarding instructor expertise, overall education quality, and in-person course experiences.

The most important areas of variation are course modality and general education delivery. Students value knowledgeable and supportive instructors, while seeking clearer communication, stronger organization, greater flexibility, and more consistent support across course formats.

BREAKDOWN OF RESPONDENTS BY COLLEGE

REGION 1: NORTH = 198 RESPONDENTS (18.9%)

Minnesota North College: Hibbing Community College, Itasca Community College, Mesabi Range College - Eveleth and Virginia, Rainy River Community College, Vermilion Community College = 48 respondents (4.6%)

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College = 15 respondents (1.4%)

Lake Superior College = 28 respondents (2.7%)

Northland Community and Technical College: East Grand Forks and Thief River Falls = 22 respondents (2.1%)

Minnesota State Community and Technical College: Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead, and Wadena = 72 respondents (6.9%)

Northwest Technical College = 13 respondents (1.2%)

REGION 2: CENTRAL = 167 RESPONDENTS (16%)

Ridgewater College: Hutchinson and Willmar = 45 respondents (4.3%)

Central Lakes College: Brainerd and Staples = 32 respondents (3.1%)

Pine Technical and Community College = 17 respondents (1.6%)

St. Cloud Technical and Community College = 47 respondents (4.5%)

Alexandria Technical & Community College = 26 respondents (2.5%)

REGION 3: SOUTH = 155 RESPONDENTS (14.8%)

Minnesota West Community and Technical College - Canby, Granite Falls, Jackson, Luverne, Pipestone, and Worthington = 19 respondents (1.8%)

Riverland Community College: Albert Lea, Austin and Owatonna = 31 respondents (3%)

Minnesota State College Southeast: Red Wing and Winona = 17 respondents (1.6%)

South Central College: North Mankato and Faribault = 29 respondents (2.8%)

Rochester Community and Technical College = 59 respondents (5.6%)

REGION 4: WEST METRO = 169 RESPONDENTS (16.2%)

Normandale Community College = 132 respondents (12.6%)

Hennepin Technical College: Brooklyn Park and Eden Prairie = 7 respondents (3.5%)

REGION 5: EAST METRO = 116 RESPONDENTS (11.1%)

Inver Hills Community College = 30 respondents (2.9%)

Century College = 60 respondents (5.7%)

Dakota County Technical and Community College = 26 respondents (2.5%)

REGION 6: THE CITIES = 127 RESPONDENTS (12.2%)

Minneapolis College = 51 respondents (4.9%)

Saint Paul College = 76 respondents (7.3%)

REGION 7: NORTHWEST METRO = 113 RESPONDENTS (10.8%)

Anoka-Ramsey Community College: Cambridge and Coon Rapids = 51 respondents (4.9%)

Anoka Technical College = 18 respondents (1.7%)

North Hennepin Community College = 44 respondents (4.2%)

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 1,045

