



2019-20 Senior Survey Results



**UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHWESTERN**
ST. PAUL

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of the University of Northwestern (UNW) Senior Survey administered to graduating seniors in December 2019 and May of 2020 as part of the pre-commencement procedures. The survey was completed by 268 (59.69%) students of the graduating classes using an online format.

Data is also provided to show comparison with previous senior classes where available.

Items for the survey were selected by the Assessment Steering Committee with input from a variety of campus offices and committees.

SATISFACTION WITH ACADEMIC LIFE

Faculty in Major

Seniors were asked to rate their agreement with statements related to faculty in their major field.

Strongly Agree = 4, Agree = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1

Table 1. Mean Score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Prepare carefully for their courses	3.49	51.9	45.5	2.7	.0
Are available and accessible	3.52	55.3	41.3	3.0	.4
Use teaching methods that promote learning	3.50	53.4	43.9	2.3	.4
Are interested in the welfare of students	3.68	70.5	33.7	1.9	.4
Are professionally competent	3.63	64.8	34.1	1.1	.4
Are role models of Christian maturity	3.57	61.7	34.1	3.8	.4
Have clearly stated expectations for students	3.49	53.0	43.2	3.4	.4
Evaluate fairly and appropriately	3.53	57.2	39.4	2.3	1.1
Are knowledgeable academic advisors	3.52	57.6	37.9	3.0	1.5
Create a safe space for questions and discussion of difficult topics	3.55	59.5	37.1	2.3	1.1

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 2. Percentage who selected "Strongly Agree" or "Agree"

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Prepare carefully for their courses	97.3	95.2	95.3	94.3	94.7
Are available and accessible	96.6	96.3	96.4	95.1	95.7
Use teaching methods that promote learning	97.4	96.1	96.7	95.4	95.7
Are interested in the welfare of students	97.7	96.1	97.0	96.7	98.7
Are professionally competent	98.5	96.7	96.4	97.7	98.0
Are role models of Christian maturity	95.8	96.7	97.3	97.2	97.5
Have clearly stated expectations for students	96.2	92.5	93.9	97.2	95.5
Evaluate fairly and appropriately	96.6	94.3	95.3	93.2	95.8
Are knowledgeable academic advisors	95.5	93.1	93.3	93.9	93.2
Create a safe space for questions and discussion of difficult topics	96.6	94.6	95.9	NA	NA

SATISFACTION WITH ACADEMIC LIFE

Academic Major

Strongly Agree = 4, Agree = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1

Table 3. Mean Score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My academic major is academically rigorous	3.50	55.7	39.4	4.6	.4
My academic major is relevant and appropriate for preparation in the field	3.53	59.1	35.6	4.9	.4
My academic major encourages critical thinking	3.64	65.5	33.3	1.1	.0
My academic major encourages integration of faith and learning	3.59	62.1	34.9	3.0	.0

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 4. Percentage who selected “Strongly Agree” or “Agree”

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
My academic major is academically rigorous	95.1	92.5	91.6	94.1	93.0
My academic major is relevant and appropriate for preparation in the field	94.7	95.2	95.0	95.6	95.9
My academic major encourages critical thinking	98.9	97.9	96.4	97.1	93.0
My academic major encourages integration of faith and learning	97.0	99.1	97.8	95.3	96.7

Overall Academic Experience

Table 5. Mean Score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Teaching methods promoted learning	3.50	53.4	43.9	2.3	.4
Overall quality of instruction	3.30	39.9	53.4	4.1	2.6
Overall UNW experience	3.28	45.3	43.8	4.9	6.0

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 6. Percentage who selected “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” excluding “Can’t Rate”

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Teaching methods promoted learning	97.4	96.1	96.7	82.2	83.1
Overall quality of instruction	93.2	88.9	86.9	83.9	89.9
Overall UNW experience	89.1	84.9	83.8	81.8	87.2

SATISFACTION WITH UNIVERSITY LIFE

Student Life Services

Seniors were asked to rate their satisfaction with student services and community life.

Very Satisfied = 4, Satisfied = 3, Neutral = 2, Dissatisfied = 1, Can't Rate = 0 (not included in Mean Score)

Table 7. Mean Score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Can't Rate
Sense of community on campus	3.10	31.06	54.92	6.82	7.20	0.00
Campus spiritual climate	2.94	27.17	51.70	9.43	11.32	0.38
Values of Declaration of Christian Community (DCC)	2.85	20.08	58.69	8.49	11.20	1.54
Expectations of the Declaration of Christian Community (DCC)	2.66	18.22	51.16	10.08	18.99	1.55
Student employment	3.02	39.09	43.03	4.12	4.94	7.82
Opportunities to serve in leadership	2.81	27.71	47.39	11.65	4.82	8.43
Food Service	2.48	13.85	46.54	13.85	25.77	0.00
Attitudes of UNW employees toward students	3.28	42.26	48.68	4.53	4.15	0.38
Services for students with disabilities	1.51	12.95	29.02	5.18	1.55	51.30
Academic Achievement tutor and writing center	2.20	20.38	42.65	4.27	2.37	30.33
Opportunities for study abroad	1.97	20.79	30.69	8.91	3.96	35.64
Academic advising	2.98	30.92	48.85	9.92	8.40	1.91
Career development services	2.72	28.10	45.45	8.68	5.79	11.98
Library services	3.21	37.07	54.05	4.63	1.54	2.70
Registrar's office services	3.24	38.40	52.09	6.08	1.90	1.52
Degree Audit as an academic planning tool	3.34	44.83	47.51	4.98	1.92	0.77
Resident life experience	2.76	21.57	54.51	9.02	8.24	6.67
Resident hall policies	2.15	9.68	38.71	15.73	29.03	6.85
Campus housing facilities	2.73	21.74	52.57	9.88	8.30	7.51
Commuter Life experience	2.18	12.61	44.12	14.29	7.14	21.85
Counseling services	2.23	30.04	29.15	5.83	3.59	31.39
Campus health services	2.66	33.33	38.82	6.33	3.80	17.72

SATISFACTION WITH UNIVERSITY LIFE

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 8. Percentage who selected "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied", excluding "Can't rate"

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Sense of community on campus	86.0	74.8	74.7	72.0	78.4
Campus spiritual climate	79.2	72.8	72.6	63.3	77.6
Values of Declaration of Christian Community (DCC)*	80.0	66.8	64.5		
Expectations of the Declaration of Christian Community (DCC)*	70.5	57.0	58.0		
Student employment*	90.2	79.1	78.9		
Opportunities to serve in leadership	82.0	68.8	62.7	70.0	77.9
Food Service	60.4	57.8	57.7	63.3	68.7
Attitudes of UNW employees toward students	91.3	89.5	86.0	86.6	89.1
Services for students with disabilities	86.2	70.3	68.4	60.1	68.7
Academic Achievement tutor and writing center	90.5	81.0	80.3	18.38	35.93
Opportunities for study abroad	80.0	47.3	53.3	66.5	69.4
Academic advising	81.3	77.4	71.9	73.8	76.5
Career development services	83.6	71.2	73.0	67.0	71.4
Library services	93.7	90.1	86.7	86.9	89.3
Registrar's office services	91.9	88.0	86.2	87.9	85.6
Degree Audit as an academic planning tool*	93.1	87.7	79.4		
Residence life experience*	81.5	67.4	63.3		
Residence hall policies*	52.0	45.5	48.0		
Campus housing facilities	80.3	69.9	70.8	73.4	74.7
Commuter life experience	72.6	56.6	54.9	43.6	40.6
Counseling services	86.3	76.9	68.5	72.7	71.6
Campus health services	87.7	78.5	77.3	79.7	78.8

*New question for 2018

SATISFACTION WITH UNIVERSITY LIFE

Spiritual Formation and Growth

Table 9. *Strongly Agree = 4, Agree = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1*

	Mean Score	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My relationship with God grew during my time at UNW.	3.47	57.2	35.8	4.3	2.7
My capacity to love people grew during my time at UNW.*	3.50	56.8	38.1	3.5	1.6
I met in a mentoring relationship with an UNW employee (faculty or staff).*	2.84	30.4	33.5	26.5	9.7

*New question in 2018

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 10. Percentage who selected "Strongly Agree" or "Agree"

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
My relationship with God grew during my time at UNW.	93.0	89.8	91.0	89.7	91.5
My capacity to love people grew during my time at UNW.*	94.9	93.4	88.2		
I met in a mentoring relationship with an UNW employee (faculty or staff).*	63.8	61.7	55.7		

*New question for 2018

Spiritual Life Activities

Seniors were asked how frequently they engaged in spiritual life activities.

Table 11. Percentage who selected each option.

	Received	Provided	Mutual	Not Involved
Met in an intentional accountability/care relationship with a peer	18.9	17.7	38.3	25.1

	Attender	Serving	Was not involved
Involved in a church community	61.1	26.2	12.7

Table 12.

I Learned to spend time with God through spiritual disciplines/practices (select all that apply):	%
I learned to spend time with God through Bible study	21.7
I learned to spend time with God through Scripture meditation/devotional scripture reading	21.8
I learned to spend time with God through prayer practices	19.7
I learned to spend time with God through solitude	17.9
I learned to spend time with God through on-campus small group/community	12.5
I did not learn to spend time with God through spiritual disciplines/practices	1.7
I learned to spend time with God through other means	4.7

ATTAINMENT OF UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

University Outcomes

Very Much = 5, Much = 4, Average = 3, Little = 2, None = 1

Table 13. Mean score & percentage who selected each option - UNW influence on attaining the outcome.

	Mean	Very Much	Much	Average	Little	None
Becoming competent in my major	4.32	45.4	42.7	10.4	1.5	.0
Cultivating the practice of life-long learning	4.29	47.3	36.9	13.1	2.7	.0
Acquiring the skills and knowledge to pursue a career	4.32	48.1	38.1	11.5	1.9	.4
Realizing my individual strengths, talents, and gifts	4.25	48.5	32.3	15.8	2.7	.8
Acquiring knowledge of the Bible and Christian doctrines	4.27	47.7	35.4	13.9	2.7	.4
Developing a Christian Worldview	4.23	49.6	29.2	16.5	3.9	.8
Engaging in the process of spiritual growth	4.15	44.6	33.1	15.8	6.2	.4
Relating the Christian faith to my major field	4.34	54.2	29.6	12.7	2.7	.8
Interpreting intercultural experience by comparing and contrasting my culture with that of others	3.84	33.5	32.7	20.8	10.8	2.3
Developing the ability to use Bible study methodologies effectively	3.88	33.1	33.9	23.9	6.5	2.7
Applying scientific knowledge	3.95	36.9	32.7	20.0	9.2	1.2
Developing problem-solving skills	4.34	49.6	36.5	12.3	1.5	.0
Expressing ideas clearly in writing	4.29	48.9	34.2	14.2	2.3	.4
Speaking clearly and effectively	4.29	47.3	38.5	10.8	2.7	.8
Developing openness to new ideas	4.16	42.3	39.6	11.9	4.2	1.9
Developing the ability to find, evaluate, and use information effectively	4.32	46.9	40.8	10.0	2.3	.0
Developing ability to efficiently and effectively perform research	4.26	46.5	36.5	13.6	3.1	.4
Developing an appreciation for the arts	3.93	36.9	31.2	22.7	6.9	2.3
Acquiring knowledge of social institutions and human behavior	3.98	35.0	36.9	20.8	6.2	1.2
Developing principles and practices for maintaining health and wellness	3.92	36.5	32.3	20.0	9.2	1.9
Learning to think critically and reason well	4.30	47.7	38.9	9.2	3.9	.4
Using technology effectively and ethically	4.14	41.5	38.9	13.1	5.0	1.5
Applying mathematical principles	3.59	26.5	29.6	24.2	15.4	4.2
Acquiring knowledge of the historical roots of western civilization	3.62	24.2	32.7	28.9	9.2	5.0
Respecting cultural and ethnic differences	3.98	36.5	34.2	22.3	4.2	2.7
Acting with integrity, humility and understanding toward individuals and groups	4.20	45.0	35.8	15.4	2.3	1.5
Developing leadership skills	4.20	45.8	35.0	13.5	5.0	.8
Developing intellectual curiosity and creativity	4.26	47.3	35.4	13.1	4.2	.0
Listening in order to understand others' perspectives	4.22	43.9	39.6	11.9	4.2	.4
Being open to having my ideas challenged	4.11	41.2	36.9	15.4	4.6	1.9

Reading with comprehension	4.03	37.3	37.3	18.5	5.4	1.5
Applying intercultural competence strategies when interacting with others	3.84	30.8	35.8	23.1	7.3	3.1
Identifying practices to experience God	4.08	39.2	36.9	18.5	3.1	2.3
Growth in self-awareness	4.30	47.3	39.2	9.6	3.5	.4

ATTAINMENT OF UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 14. Mean scores compared with previous years.

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Becoming competent in my major	4.32	4.28	4.12	4.12	4.20
Cultivating the practice of life-long learning	4.29	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.22
Acquiring the skills and knowledge to pursue a career	4.32	4.30	4.15	4.10	4.18
Realizing my individual strengths, talents, and gifts	4.25	4.29	4.16	3.99	4.18
Acquiring knowledge of the Bible and Christian doctrines	4.27	4.32	4.19	4.13	4.25
Developing a Christian Worldview	4.23	4.27	4.24	4.10	4.31
Engaging in the process of spiritual growth*	4.15	4.15	4.03		
Relating the Christian faith to my major field	4.34	4.31	4.27	4.08	4.32
Interpreting intercultural experience by comparing and contrasting my culture with that of others*	3.84	3.82	3.75		
Developing the ability to use Bible study methodologies effectively	3.88	3.84	3.79	3.73	3.80
Applying scientific knowledge	3.95	3.73	3.70	3.52	3.64
Developing problem-solving skills	4.34	4.28	4.18	4.02	4.10
Expressing ideas clearly in writing	4.29	4.21	4.11	4.00	4.12
Speaking clearly and effectively	4.29	4.22	4.16	4.04	4.16
Developing openness to new ideas	4.16	4.17	4.10	3.94	4.09
Developing the ability to find, evaluate, and use information effectively	4.32	4.27	4.16	4.04	3.92
Developing ability to efficiently and effectively perform research	4.26	4.23	4.02	4.00	4.03
Developing an appreciation for the arts	3.93	4.04	3.77	3.70	3.79
Acquiring knowledge of social institutions and human behavior	3.98	3.89	3.83	3.79	3.82
Developing principles and practices for maintaining health and wellness	3.92	3.83	3.67	3.48	3.49
Learning to think critically and reason well	4.30	4.25	4.18	4.08	4.13
Using technology effectively and ethically	4.14	4.07	3.94	3.86	3.82
Applying mathematical principles	3.59	3.48	3.25	3.36	3.28
Acquiring knowledge of the historical roots of western civilization	3.62	3.54	3.33	3.42	3.36
Respecting cultural and ethnic differences	3.98	3.97	3.85	3.72	3.94
Acting with integrity, humility and understanding toward individuals and groups	4.20	4.24	4.13	3.72	3.81
Developing leadership skills	4.20	4.15	4.01	3.95	3.97
Developing intellectual curiosity and creativity*	4.26	4.25	4.19		
Listening in order to understand others' perspectives	4.22	4.28	4.20	4.03	4.10
Being open to having my ideas challenged	4.11	4.22	4.12	4.00	4.05
Reading with comprehension*	4.03	4.10	4.38		

Applying intercultural competence strategies when interacting with others*	3.84	3.90	3.80		
Identifying practices to experience God*	4.08	4.14	4.03		
Growth in self-awareness*	4.30	4.37	4.29		

*New question for 2018

PARTICIPATION WHILE ATTENDING UNW

Events Since Entering UNW

Seniors were asked to indicate whether they had participated in events or activities while at UNW.

Table 15. Percentage who responded positively to the item.

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Have a part-time job off-campus.	63.8	70.2	67.5	74.6	83.4
Have a part-time job on-campus.	73.9	72.0	71.1	74.2	78.3
Work 30 or more hours per week during the school year	31.9	31.6	37.9	35.7	32.0
Participate in an internship for college credit	54.5	57.0	61.6	67.3	66.8
Participate in a non-credited internship	30.7	27.1	30.3	59.5	62.4
Utilize the Career Development Center	58.0	56.0	52.7	66.0	66.8
Conduct informal interviews/networking meetings with professional in you field of interest	59.1	58.4	57.0	63.7	61.0
Create a professional resume*	90.7	90.1	57.0		
Create a LinkedIn account*	65.8	65.4	65.8		
Took honors courses	28.8	23.5	23.3	24.6	27.0
Participate in volunteer/service activities*	77.8	80.7	80.6		
Participate in university-sponsored student life or athletic mission or service trip**	25.7	25.3	31.9	12.0	16.9
Participate in an academic-sponsored educational cross-cultural experience***	35.0	34.3	27.1	23.2	31.2
Apply for graduate school	14.8	12.1	16.0	19.1	14.1
Utilize Counseling Services	45.5	43.1	38.3	46.0	37.5
Utilize Health Services	65.4	71.4	64.9	66.0	66.8

*New question for 2018

**Wording changed from "Participate in a UNW-sponsored missions trip" in 2018

***Wording changed from "Participate in an educational cross-cultural experience"