Shifting expectations

Planning for the fall has been disrupted multiple times since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Institutions have had to be flexible with changing realities.

- My institution is planning mostly in-person classes in the fall. 40% in June, 35% in August.
- My institution is planning hybrid teaching and learning opportunities. 82% in June, 76% in August.

New models to serve students

After the spring’s rapid move to emergency remote teaching, students and faculty are expecting more from the digital and hybrid learning experience in the fall. Institutions are making changes that give students more choices. They also are working on adding sophistication and efficiency to their business practices.

- Respondents say their institutions’ offering of hybrid courses is motivated first and foremost by students. 76% student health and safety, 70% student needs and preferences.
- Auburn University is planning to use AR to connect students with physical campus spaces, including labs and theaters.
- Ohio University is using video conferencing and active learning room technology to bring the classroom experience to students’ screens.
- Harvard Business School Online gives students opportunities to present in pitch competitions and network in virtual coffee breaks using video chat.

Implementation and progression

To achieve the goals of meeting students’ needs and desires while undergoing transformative change, institutions must overcome strained finances and staffing and inefficient or inadequate solutions. These challenges also open accelerated opportunity for digitalization and faculty development. After the spring term’s rapid move online, institutions are ready to improve the quality of the learning experience in the fall.

- No additional effort needed: Operational and administrative services (IT support), Human resources
- More effort needed: Labs, Student food and housing support, Co-curricular activities, Student services

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