

Understanding Student Expectations and Experiences in Large Classes

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Survey Item [R denotes reverse-coded items]	Pre Survey		Post Survey	
	M	SD	M	SD
<i>Thinking ahead to/about your experience in this class this semester, how much will/did you..."</i>				
Attend class regularly	4.87	0.33	4.56	0.60
Want to skip class [R]	1.76	0.84	2.04	0.90
Look forward to class	4.12	0.78	3.83	0.87
Find it difficult to do well [R]	2.59	0.77	2.26	0.74
Feel motivated to do well	4.47	0.70	4.49	0.68
Be successful in course	4.13	0.72	3.86	0.74
Feel bored during class meetings [R]	2.35	0.81	2.30	0.84
Learn about career options in child development	3.89	0.77	3.12	0.91
Feel class discussions will be a waste of time [R]	1.78	0.78	1.76	0.81
Think critically about child development	4.17	0.72	3.87	0.74
Find lectures interesting	4.13	0.67	4.21	0.76
Feel there is too much instructor-led lecture in class [R]	2.29	0.81	2.20	0.93
Benefit from whole-class (large group) discussions	3.71	0.95	3.70	1.02
Feel satisfied with quality of teaching in this class	4.36	0.58	4.61	0.67
Feel the instructor loses attention of students [R]	2.16	0.78	2.08	0.91
Feel that you are just "one of many" in class [R]	3.22	0.87	2.96	1.00
Interact with your fellow-classmates	3.54	0.74	3.47	0.89
Feel a sense of community with your classmates	3.23	0.83	3.12	0.94
Make friends with other students in the class	3.37	0.87	2.96	1.02
Get to know the names of your classmates	2.96	0.82	2.75	0.93
Feel uncomfortable speaking out loud in this class [R]	3.15	1.05	2.74	1.15
Feel class discussions will be dominated by one/few students [R]	2.89	0.85	2.86	1.03
Feel valued as a student in this class	3.69	0.93	3.76	0.92
Feel comfortable asking questions in class	3.07	1.01	3.19	1.13
Be referred to by your name by your instructor	2.83	1.08	2.76	1.31
Feel your individual performance matters to your instructor	3.78	0.97	3.83	0.96
Receive individualized feedback from your instructor	3.12	0.89	3.43	1.11
Receive academic support from your instructor	3.69	0.91	3.52	1.14
Feel the instructor won't know if you are falling behind work [R]	2.86	0.87	2.24	1.05
Feel comfortable approaching your instructor with a question	3.86	1.05	3.99	1.08

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Key Study Findings

- ❖ The student experience in large classes is multi-faceted (e.g., Instructor, Large Class, Motivation, Community)
- ❖ Student expectations change over the course of the semester
- ❖ Student motivation starts high and dips ("beginning optimism")
- ❖ Students don't expect or report a sense of community in large classes
- ❖ Interventions may target students' sense of community and belongingness

References

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"[She] engaged many students to participate - produced a great learning environment."

"...[helped] make the students feel like they are part of a community."

"I liked how she made us talk to people we sat around - now I know someone in class which helps."