



## THE PRINCETON REVIEW SUMMER 2021 COLLEGE ADMINISTRATOR SURVEY

### ABOUT THE SURVEY

[The Princeton Review](#)® conducted the survey online from July 22 to August 5, 2021. It was sent to college administrators at 655 institutions including schools in the company's "best colleges" guide, *The Best 387 Colleges: 2022 Edition* (August 31, 2021), and its 2022 [Best Regional Colleges](#) website feature.

The 14-question survey asked administrators about their school's fall reopenings, COVID protocols, enrollment forecasts, and admission test requirements. It also asked them to rank four topics based on which they expect will be the key concerns among their school's students, and which they expect to be the key concerns among their fellow administrators in the 2021-22 school year.

The findings are based on responses from administrators at 266 institutions (a response rate of approximately 41%). The majority of respondents answered every question. The response rate on a per question basis ranged from 82% to 99%.

Seventy-one percent of the respondents were from private colleges; 29% were from public colleges. By region, 37% of the respondents were from institutions in the Northeast, 25% in the Southeast, 22% in the Midwest, 11% in the Southwest, and 5% in the Northwest.

This report shows the survey questions, answer choices, and percentages of respondents—by all respondents, by school type (private/ public) and by region (NE, SE, MW, SW and NW)—choosing each answer.

An optional question on the survey invited respondents to comment on survey topics and provide information about their colleges that The Princeton Review could share in its survey report. Administrators at dozens of colleges provided information about their schools. A selection of excerpts from administrators at 15 of the colleges is included at the end of this report.

#### Reporter Resources:

The Princeton Review release on the survey findings is posted in the Media Center on the company's website at <https://www.princetonreview.com/media>. The release has a link to a downloadable infographic illustrating some of the survey's key findings.

Available for interviews on the survey as well as findings of the company's Summer 2020 College Administrator Survey are [Rob Franek](#), Editor-in-Chief and David Soto, Director of Content Development, The Princeton Review.

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## **ABOUT THE PRINCETON REVIEW**

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## **SURVEY FINDINGS**

This report lists the survey's 14 questions, answer choices, and percentages of respondents choosing each answer. The answer choices selected by the highest percentage of respondents are underlined.

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### **1) Is your institution a public or a private one?**

71% Private

29% Public

### **2) In which region of the U.S. is your institution located?**

37% NE (CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)

25% SE (AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV)

22% MW (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI)

11% SW (AZ, CA, CO, HI, NM, NV, OK, TX, UT)

5% NW (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY)

### **Fall Course Formats**

### **3) How will the majority of your fall 2021 undergraduate courses be conducted?**

ALL RESPONDENTS

95% In-person

3% Hybrid

2% Online

## PRIVATE COLLEGES

98% In-person

1% Hybrid

1% Online

## PUBLIC COLLEGES

91% In-person

6% Hybrid

3% Online

## NE COLLEGES

96% In-person

1% Hybrid

3% Online

## SE COLLEGES

97% In-person

3% Hybrid

0% Online

## MW COLLEGES

97% In-person

3% Hybrid

0% Online

## SW COLLEGES

93% In-person

4% Hybrid

3% Online

## NW COLLEGES

93% In-person

7% Hybrid

0% Online

## **Enrollment Forecast**

**4) As of July 2021, how has your fall 2021 undergraduate enrollment changed (or not) in comparison with that of fall 2020? (We understand that final enrollment data will not be available until after your census date.)**

## ALL RESPONDENTS

24% Significantly up (5% or more)

19% Somewhat up (2 to 4%)

35% About the same

14% Somewhat down (2 to 4%)

8% Significantly down (5% or more)

### PRIVATE COLLEGES

27% Significantly up (5% or more)  
21% Somewhat up (2 to 4%)  
34% About the same  
13% Somewhat down (2 to 4%)  
5% Significantly down (5% or more)

### PUBLIC COLLEGES

18% Significantly up (5% or more)  
11% Somewhat up (2 to 4%)  
38% About the same  
18% Somewhat down (2 to 4%)  
15% Significantly down (5% or more)

### NE COLLEGES

28% Significantly up (5% or more)  
25% Somewhat up (2 to 4%)  
27% About the same  
15% Somewhat down (2 to 4%)  
5% Significantly down (5% or more)

### SE COLLEGES

25% Significantly up (5% or more)  
15% Somewhat up (2 to 4%)  
37% About the same  
18% Somewhat down (2 to 4%)  
5% Significantly down (5% or more)

### MW COLLEGES

21% Significantly up (5% or more)  
17% Somewhat up (2 to 4%)  
44% About the same  
9% Somewhat down (2 to 4%)  
9% Significantly down (5% or more)

### SW COLLEGES

21% Significantly up (5% or more)  
21% Somewhat up (2 to 4%)  
37% About the same  
14% Somewhat down (2 to 4%)  
7% Significantly down (5% or more)

### NW COLLEGES

15% Significantly up (5% or more)  
8% Somewhat up (2 to 4%)  
38% About the same  
8% Somewhat down (2 to 4%)  
31% Significantly down (5% or more)

## **Admission Test Requirements**

### **5) What was your institution's policy regarding admission test (SAT/ACT/IB) scores for degree-seeking, first-time applicants for admission for fall 2021?**

#### ALL RESPONDENTS

87% Did not require scores but were test optional (and considered them)

9% Test blind or test free

4% Required admission test scores

#### PRIVATE COLLEGES

91% Did not require scores but were test optional (and considered them)

7% Test blind or test free

2% Required admission test scores

#### PUBLIC COLLEGES

78% Did not require scores but were test optional (and considered them)

13% Test blind or test free

9% Required admission test scores

#### NE COLLEGES

91% Did not require scores but were test optional (and considered them)

6% Test blind or test free

3% Required admission test scores

#### SE COLLEGES

88% Did not require scores but were test optional (and considered them)

6% Test blind or test free

6% Required admission test scores

#### MW COLLEGES

94% Did not require scores but were test optional (and considered them)

3% Test blind or test free

3% Required admission test scores

#### SW COLLEGES

76% Did not require scores but were test optional (and considered them)

24% Test blind or test free

0% Required admission test scores

#### NW COLLEGES

57% Did not require scores but were test optional (and considered them)

36% Test blind or test free

7% Required admission test scores

### **6) What do you expect the policy to be for degree-seeking, first-time applicants for admission for fall 2022?**

## ALL RESPONDENTS

78% Will not require scores but will be test optional (and consider them)

9% Test blind or test free

4% Require admission test scores

9% Have not decided on policy

## PRIVATE COLLEGES

83% Will not require scores but will be test optional (and consider them)

8% Test blind or test free

2% Require admission test scores

7% Have not decided on policy

## PUBLIC COLLEGES

66% Will not require scores but will be test optional (and consider them)

13% Test blind or test free

9% Require admission test scores

12% Have not decided on policy

## NE COLLEGES

83% Will not require scores but will be test optional (and consider them)

7% Test blind or test free

2% Require admission test scores

8% Have not decided on policy

## SE COLLEGES

78% Will not require scores but will be test optional (and consider them)

6% Test blind or test free

8% Require admission test scores

8% Have not decided on policy

## MW COLLEGES

81% Will not require scores but will be test optional (and consider them)

4% Test blind or test free

5% Require admission test scores

10% Have not decided on policy

## SW COLLEGES

66% Will not require scores but will be test optional (and consider them)

24% Test blind or test free

0% Require admission test scores

10% Have not decided on policy

## NW COLLEGES

57% Will not require scores but will be test optional (and consider them)

36% Test blind or test free

7% Require admission test scores

0% Have not decided on policy

## **COVID Protocols**

**7) Is your institution mandating that students attending classes or living on campus be vaccinated against coronavirus (not including those with religious or medical exemptions)?**

ALL RESPONDENTS

64% Yes

36% No

PRIVATE COLLEGES

73% Yes

27% No

PUBLIC COLLEGES

40% Yes

60% No

NE COLLEGES

88% Yes

12% No

SE COLLEGES

48% Yes

52% No

MW COLLEGES

40% Yes

60% No

SW COLLEGES

61% Yes

39% No

NW COLLEGES

79% Yes

21% No

**8) Is your institution mandating that staff and faculty be vaccinated against coronavirus (not including those with religious or medical exemptions)?**

ALL RESPONDENTS

41% Yes

59% No

PRIVATE COLLEGES

48% Yes

52% No

PUBLIC COLLEGES

23% Yes

77% No

NE COLLEGES

55% Yes

45% No

SE COLLEGES

26% Yes

74% No

MW COLLEGES

28% Yes

72% No

SW COLLEGES

45% Yes

55% No

NW COLLEGES

64% Yes

36% No

**9) Is your institution requiring non-vaccinated individuals to wear masks, observe social distancing, and engage in other pandemic-related precautions while on campus?**

ALL RESPONDENTS

84% Yes

16% No

PRIVATE COLLEGES

88% Yes

12% No

PUBLIC COLLEGES

74% Yes

26% No

NE COLLEGES

98% Yes

2% No

SE COLLEGES

81% Yes

19% No

MW COLLEGES

72% Yes

28% No

SW COLLEGES

69% Yes

31% No

NW COLLEGES

86% Yes

14% No

**10) Will your institution conduct periodic testing of students, faculty and staff for coronavirus?**

ALL RESPONDENTS

71% Yes

29% No

PRIVATE COLLEGES

77% Yes

23% No

PUBLIC COLLEGES

57% Yes

43% No

NE COLLEGES

81% Yes

19% No

SE COLLEGES

69% Yes

31% No

MW COLLEGES

67% Yes

33% No

SW COLLEGES

67% Yes

33% No

NW COLLEGES

45% Yes

55% No

**11) Will the following areas of your campus have more, the same, or fewer coronavirus-related modifications (e.g., social distancing zones, plexiglass barriers) this year as last year?**

Residence Halls

ALL RESPONDENTS

71% Fewer

24% Same

5% More

PRIVATE COLLEGES

73% Fewer

22% Same

5% More

PUBLIC COLLEGES

68% Fewer

29% Same

3% More

NE COLLEGES

83% Fewer

15% Same

2% More

SE COLLEGES

67% Fewer

28% Same

5% More

MW COLLEGES

68% Fewer

32% Same

0% More

SW COLLEGES

56% Fewer

20% Same

24% More

NW COLLEGES

60% Fewer

40% Same

0% More

Dining Halls

ALL RESPONDENTS

70% Fewer

25% Same

5% More

PRIVATE COLLEGES

71% Fewer

24% Same

5% More

PUBLIC COLLEGES

68% Fewer

28% Same

4% More

NE COLLEGES

81% Fewer

18% Same

1% More

SE COLLEGES

64% Fewer

24% Same

8% More

MW COLLEGES

65% Fewer

35% Same

0% More

SW COLLEGES

56% Fewer

24% Same

20% More

NW COLLEGES

80% Fewer

20% Same

0% More

Classrooms, labs, offices and service/recreational centers

ALL RESPONDENTS

74% Fewer

21% Same

5% More

PRIVATE COLLEGES

75% Fewer

20% Same

5% More

#### PUBLIC COLLEGES

71% Fewer

25% Same

4% More

#### NE COLLEGES

83% Fewer

15% Same

2% More

#### SE COLLEGES

67% Fewer

24% Same

9% More

#### MW COLLEGES

74% Fewer

26% Same

0% More

#### SW COLLEGES

56% Fewer

24% Same

20% More

#### NW COLLEGES

90% Fewer

10% Same

0% More

### **Campus Community Priorities**

**12) Please rank the following topics in terms of issues you expect will matter most among your students this school year. Number them from 1 to 4 with 1 being the most important, 4 the least (comparatively). Note: Findings were tallied based on weighted averages.**

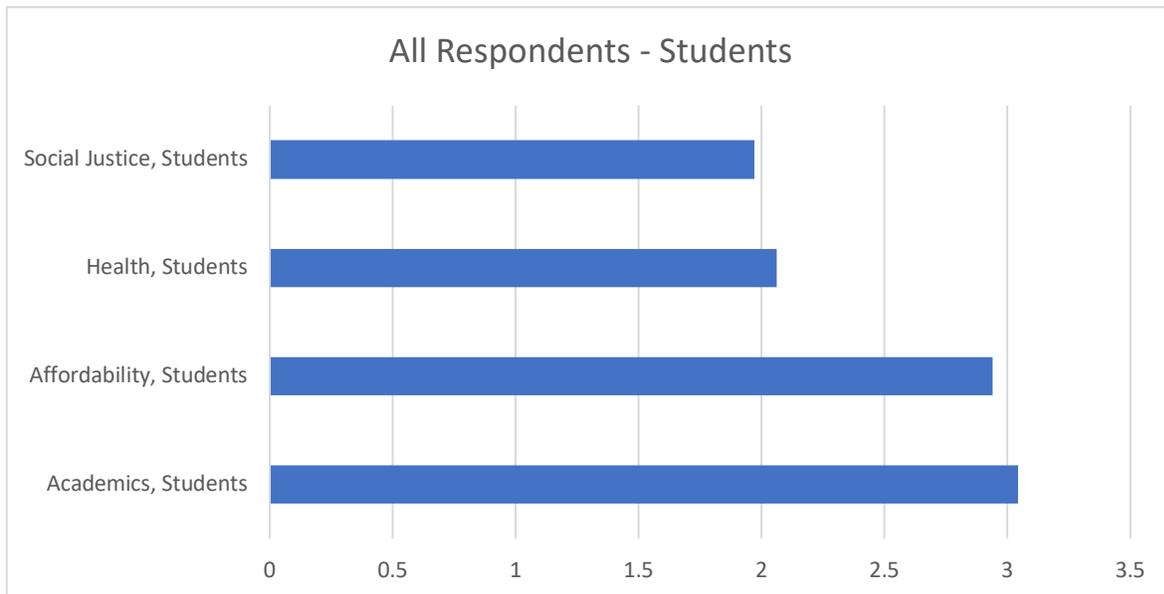
#### ALL RESPONDENTS

#1 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings

#2 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students

#3 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services

#4 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination



#### PRIVATE COLLEGES

**#1 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings**

**#2 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students**

**#3 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination**

**#4 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services**

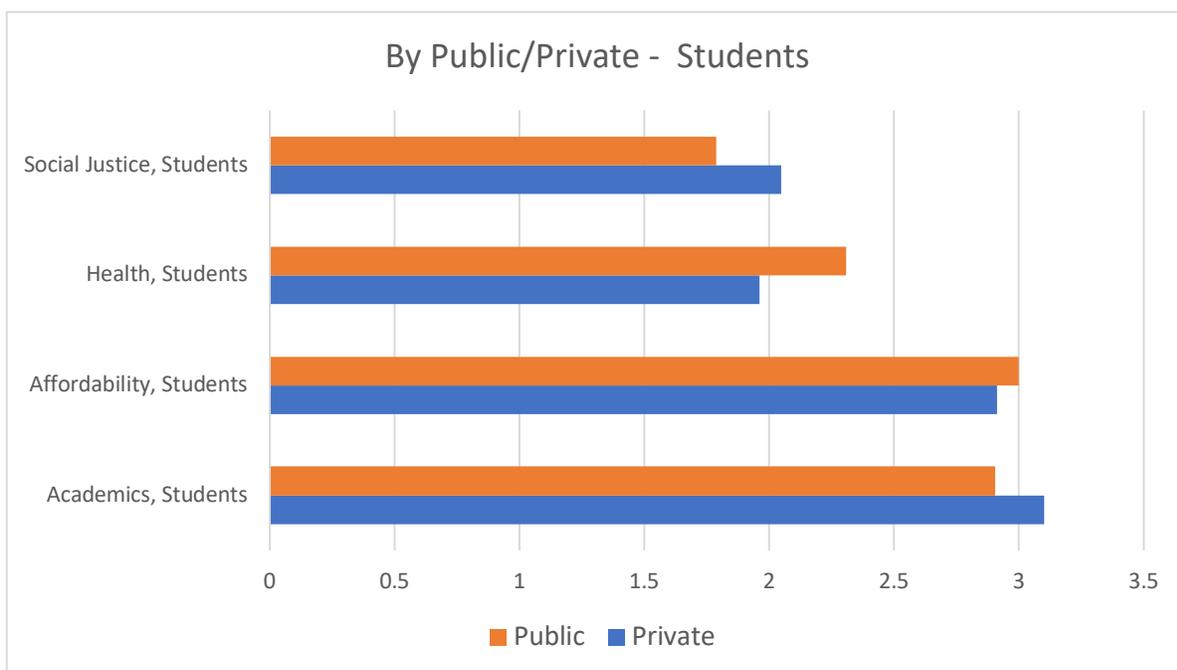
#### PUBLIC COLLEGES

**#1 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students**

**#2 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings**

**#3 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services**

**#4 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination**



## NE COLLEGES

#1 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings

#2 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students

#3 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services

#4 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination

## SE COLLEGES

#1 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings

#2 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students

#3 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination

#4 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services

## MW COLLEGES

#1 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings

#2 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students

#3 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services

#4 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination

## SW COLLEGES

#1 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students

#2 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings

#3 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services

#4 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination

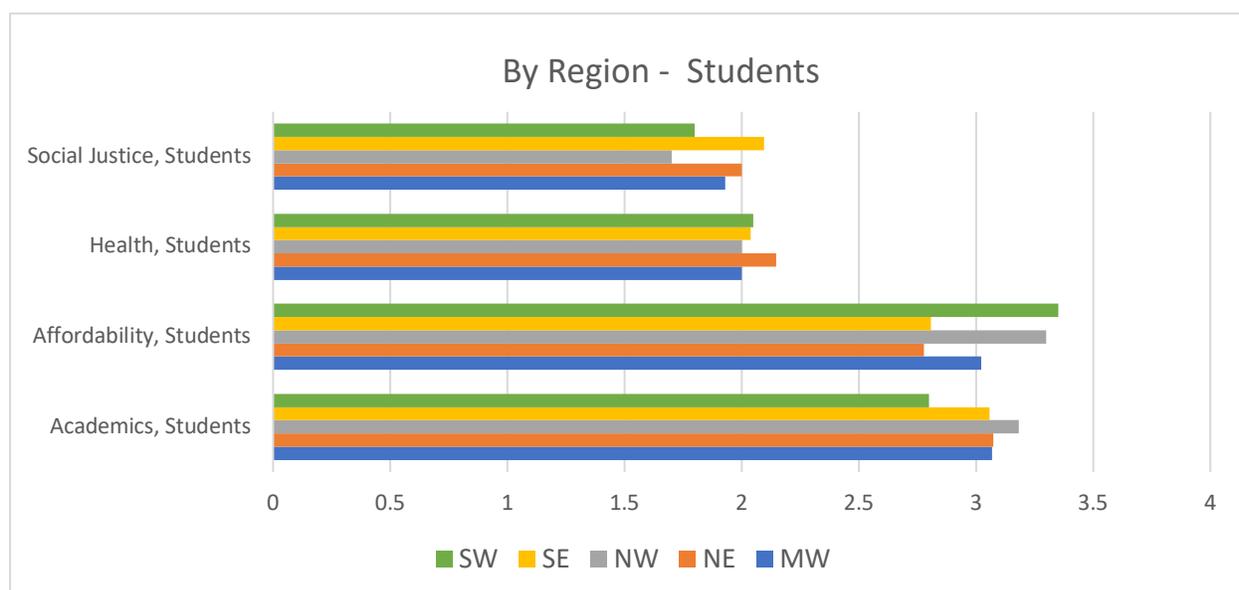
## NW COLLEGES

#1 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students

#2 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings

#3 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services

#4 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination



**10/ Please rank the same list in terms of issues you expect will matter most among your institution's administrators and faculty this school year. Number them from 1 to 4 with 1 being the most important, 4 the least (comparatively). Note: Findings were tallied based on weighted averages.**

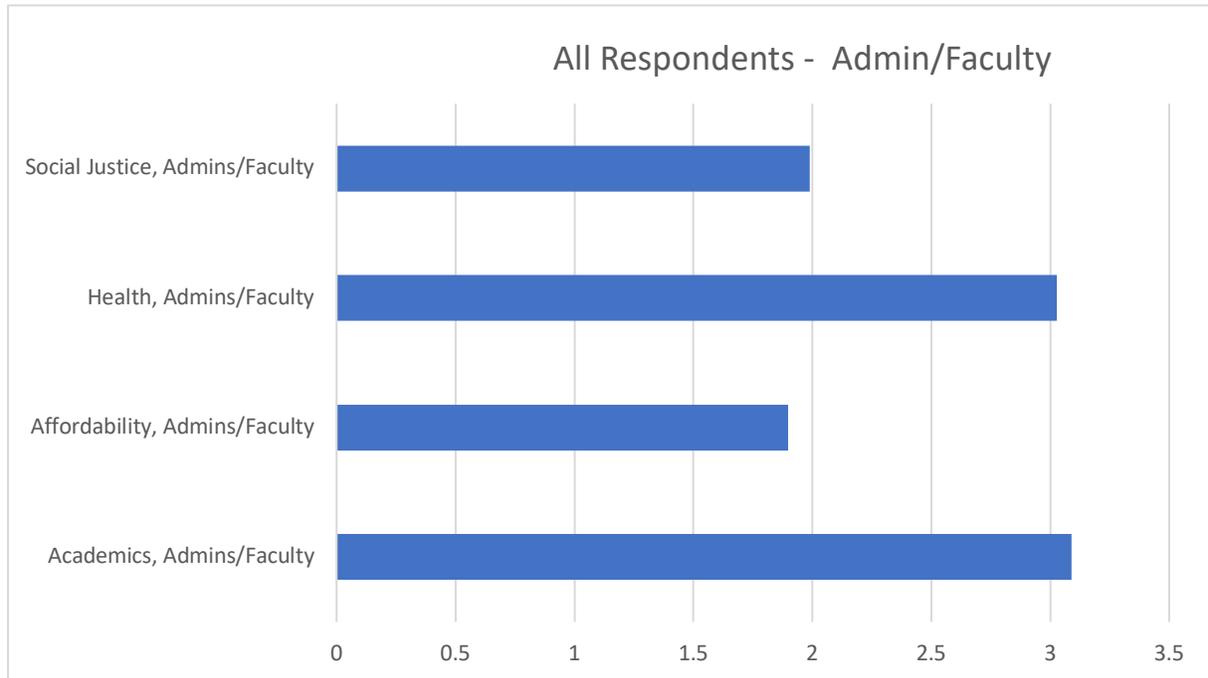
**ALL RESPONDENTS**

**#1 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings**

**#2 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services**

**#3 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination**

**#4 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students**



**PRIVATE COLLEGES**

**#1 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings**

**#2 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services**

**#3 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination**

**#4 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students**

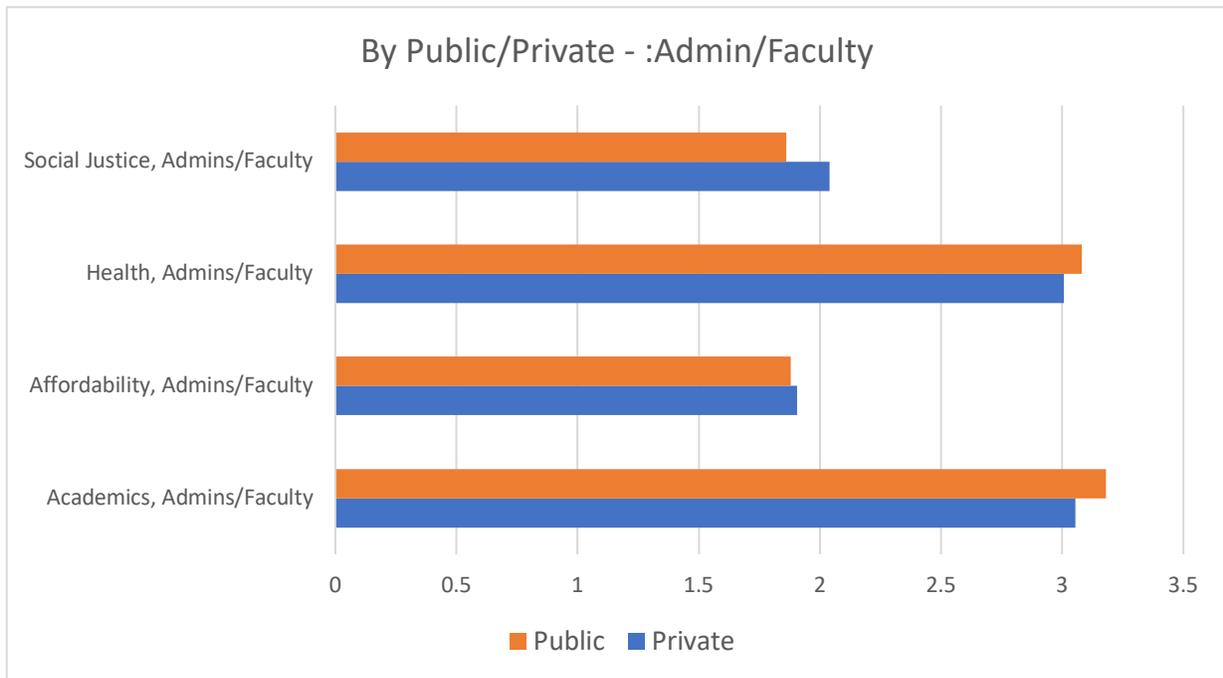
**PUBLIC COLLEGES**

**#1 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings**

**#2 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services**

**#3 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students**

**#4 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination**



### NE COLLEGES

- #1 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services
- #2 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings
- #3 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination
- #4 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students

### SE COLLEGES

- #1 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings
- #2 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services
- #3 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination
- #4 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students

### MW COLLEGES

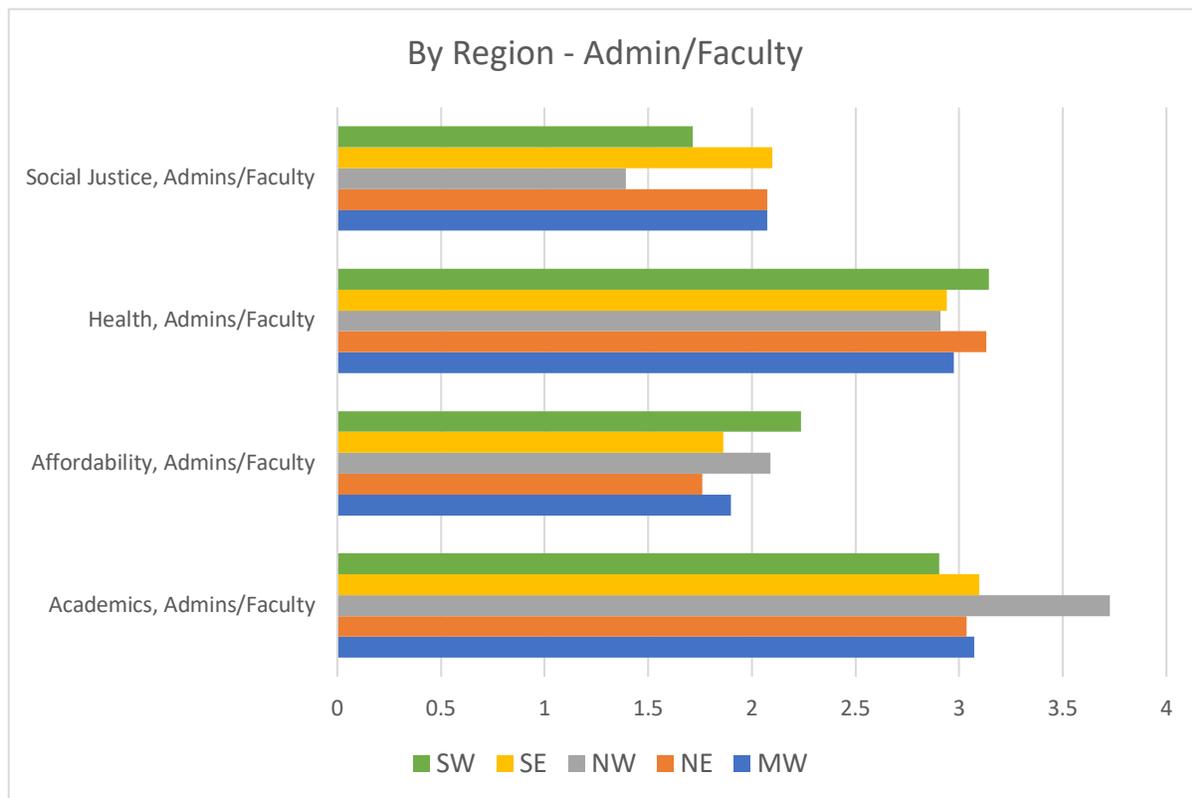
- #1 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings
- #2 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services
- #3 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination
- #4 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students

### SW COLLEGES

- #1 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services
- #2 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings
- #3 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students
- #4 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination

### NW COLLEGES

- #1 Academics / quantity/quality of course offerings
- #2 Health / protocols to prevent spread of COVID and meet needs for medical services
- #3 Social justice / commitments to promoting diversity and addressing discrimination
- #4 Affordability / cost of attendance and level of financial aid for students



**14) (Optional) What would you like us to know about your institution as this school year begins? Please describe any programs, protocols, or statistics we might cite in reporting our survey findings.**

Below are comments from administrators at 15 of the dozens of colleges that submitted information about their schools in response to this optional question of the survey.

Cornell College (Mount Vernon, IA)

“Cornell College is expecting its largest first-year class in the past decade with expectations of seeing more than 350 new students move to our beautiful Hilltop campus in August. It’s about 27% higher than the previous year. The numbers are just one way we show how Cornell College became stronger than ever during a tough year and demonstrated the power of the One Course At A Time calendar.”

Elon University (Elon, NC)

“Elon students expressed strong support for in-person classes last year, with the large majority of students completing the academic year on-campus. Students were also eager to get vaccinated. Even without a vaccine mandate last spring, more than 80 percent of undergraduates had received a vaccination shot by the end of spring semester. Elon has instituted a vaccination requirement for fall semester and 90 percent of undergraduates had met the requirement by the end of July 2021, with the remainder of students working to comply with the requirement by the start of classes in August.”

Ithaca College (Ithaca, NY)

“College students across the country have been calling on their institutions to diversify the curriculum and include more varied perspectives and experiences, especially those from marginalized communities. Ithaca College’s major in Race, Power and Resistance is designed to do just that. Housed within the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and

Ethnicity, the new major will complement the center's existing minors in African Diaspora Studies, Asian American Studies, Latino/a/x Studies, and Native American and Indigenous Studies.”

Pace University (New York, NY)

“Pace is committed to providing its community with a safe learning, working, and living environment. Our 30+-member COVID-19 task force, along with the Return to Campus Community group, comprising health-expert faculty members, University leadership, faculty, staff, and students have developed this comprehensive plan to ensure the safety of every member of our community. All students, staff, and faculty will be required to complete a mandatory online training and education module prior to the start of the fall semester.”

Reed College (Portland, OR)

“Reed provided testing twice weekly for students and select staff and faculty. This regimen, in addition to the additional of safety protocols, outdoor learning spaces and singles campus wide resulted in incredibly low rates of COVID transmission. This year almost all of Reed faculty and staff have voluntarily been vaccinated and we'll be moving to largely in person classes after a year of being hybrid.”

Rochester Institute of Technology (Rochester, NY)

“RIT is well poised to come out of the pandemic with momentum. We are enrolling the two largest classes in our history (2020 and 2021) as we set enrollment records. We also have some of the largest construction projects in our history. We feel we have made huge progress during the pandemic.”

Salisbury University (Salisbury, MD)

“Salisbury University students and faculty are looking forward to their academic settings returning to normal this fall....We expect lessons learned during the first year and a half of the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance not only virtual and hybrid classes, but those held in-person, as well. Returning students, as well as many freshmen who had to adapt to a virtual experience during their final years of high school, will be well equipped for enhanced classroom discussion and independent study outside of class hours, while faculty have new virtual tools with which to reach out to students that may not have been part of their skillset prior to 2020.”

State University of New York at Geneseo

“We will not require the vaccine of students unless the vaccine gains FDA approval. Once approved, we will require all students to show proof of vaccination or demonstrate a religious or medical exemption.”

University of Alaska (Fairbanks, AK)

“Quoting our Executive Vice Chancellor, Dr. Anupma Prakash, ‘The last year and half has taught us a lot, and among other things we grew our capacity to offer high quality distance delivery of academic courses. Our rural community campuses already provide many courses by a variety of synchronous distance delivery methods, and some followed by in-person intensives. This fall, UAF eCampus will continue to offer more than 500 fully asynchronous online courses. These courses are designed to serve students with busy schedules and life commitments.’”

#### University of California—Santa Barbara

“It goes without saying that the health and safety of our community (students, faculty, and staff) remains the highest priority. We've put great effort into preparing for a return to campus. Academics will always be a high priority but given that we have two cohorts of students (F21 and F21) who have never been to campus, we are implementing many new academic support initiatives to ensure they feel supported as they resume a full schedule of in-person courses.”

#### University of Mary Washington (Fredericksburg, VA)

“During the 2020-2021 school year, UMW proudly maintained one of the lowest positivity rates for COVID tests among public institutions of higher education in Virginia. During the COVID-19 crisis, UMW faculty members stepped up to create a three-credit COVID-19 in Context course, tackling coronavirus from all disciplines, and offered to incoming and other students, the community - and anyone interested - for free. Professors also teamed up to create Compelling Courses, working together to build learning experiences to educate students in each of UMW's 40-plus majors and to provide exceptional and unforgettable remote education experiences. Post-pandemic, Mary Washington will continue to use virtual communications, offer more hybrid/online classes, rethink our environment (more outdoor spaces, better ventilation in buildings, etc.), and overall strive to be more nimble, flexible and accessible.”

#### University of New Haven (West Haven, CT)

“We were among the first US universities to pull our students safely from abroad in February 2020 (Italy); had a full in person commencement with guests, all tested or vaccinated; designed an in-house testing enterprise with capacity to test residential and commuter students, employees and contractors; and housed first responders from the greater New Haven area in our dorms during the early stages of the pandemic as not to infect their families; and we successfully managed a surge of cases in Fall 2020 by pausing in person operations for two weeks, dramatically reducing new cases and allowing us to complete the term.”

#### University of North Carolina-Greensboro

“We had the lowest per-capita COVID-19 positivity rate among all schools in the UNC System. This allowed us to offer more in-person instruction than any other UNC System school. More than 100 pre-licensure nursing students gained hands-on experience working at our COVID-19 vaccine clinic. Thanks to their help, we vaccinated more 7,000 students, faculty, and staff, and community members over the course of two weeks.”

#### University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND)

“Our campus was open in a hybrid format all of last year with pretty strict guidelines in place, such as students not having roommates, so when we say that our university has fewer restrictions than last year, it's not that we're throwing all pre-cautions out the window. We are approaching the upcoming fall with a sense of optimism for a more normal campus experience, but also doing what we can to encourage safe behaviors, so we don't see a spike in cases.”

#### University of Rochester (Rochester, NY)

“Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Rochester expects the largest first-year class in history, we believe partially because of the expert of our guidance from our medical center which kept the campus healthy and safe through in-person instruction in 2020-21”.

-End-