Learning from Changes in Course Modality Through the COVID-19 Pandemic to Practice Servingness

AHSIE Best Practices Conference 2022 March 29, 2022

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UNM-Taos Overview



Branch campus of The University of New Mexico

2-Year, Public, Rural

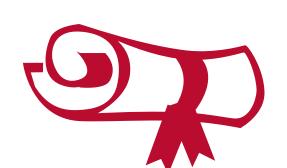
Headcount: 1,280

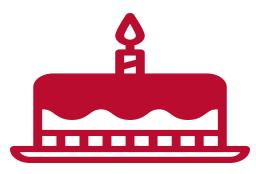
SCH: 6,640

UNM-Taos F21 Demographics

Female Degree-seeking Avg. Age







66%

64%

27

Headcount by Race and Ethnicity





Hispanic (53.52%) White (27.89%)

American Indian (8.59%) Unknown (3.28%)

Two or More Races (2.58%) Asian (1.72%)

Non-Resident Alien (0.94%) Black or Afro-American (1.41%)

Native Hawaiian (0.08%)

VISITING
STUDENTS

43%

HOME* STUDENTS

Concurrent

47%

Degree-seeking

40%

Non-degree

13%





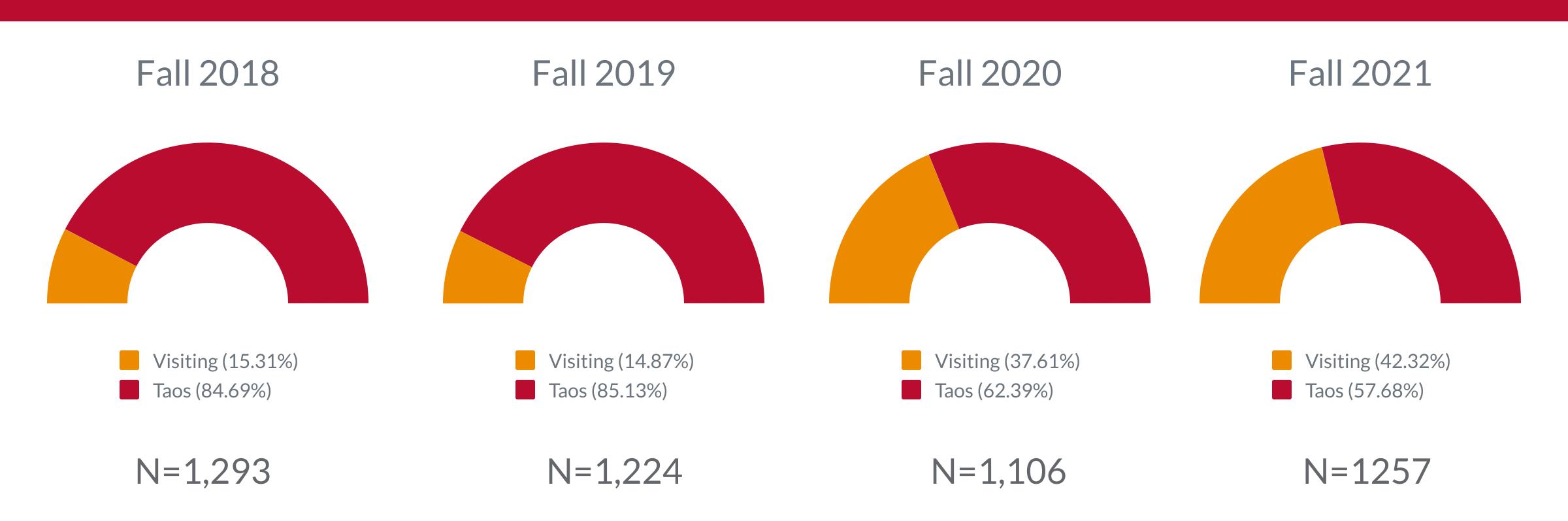


PELL Eligible



58%

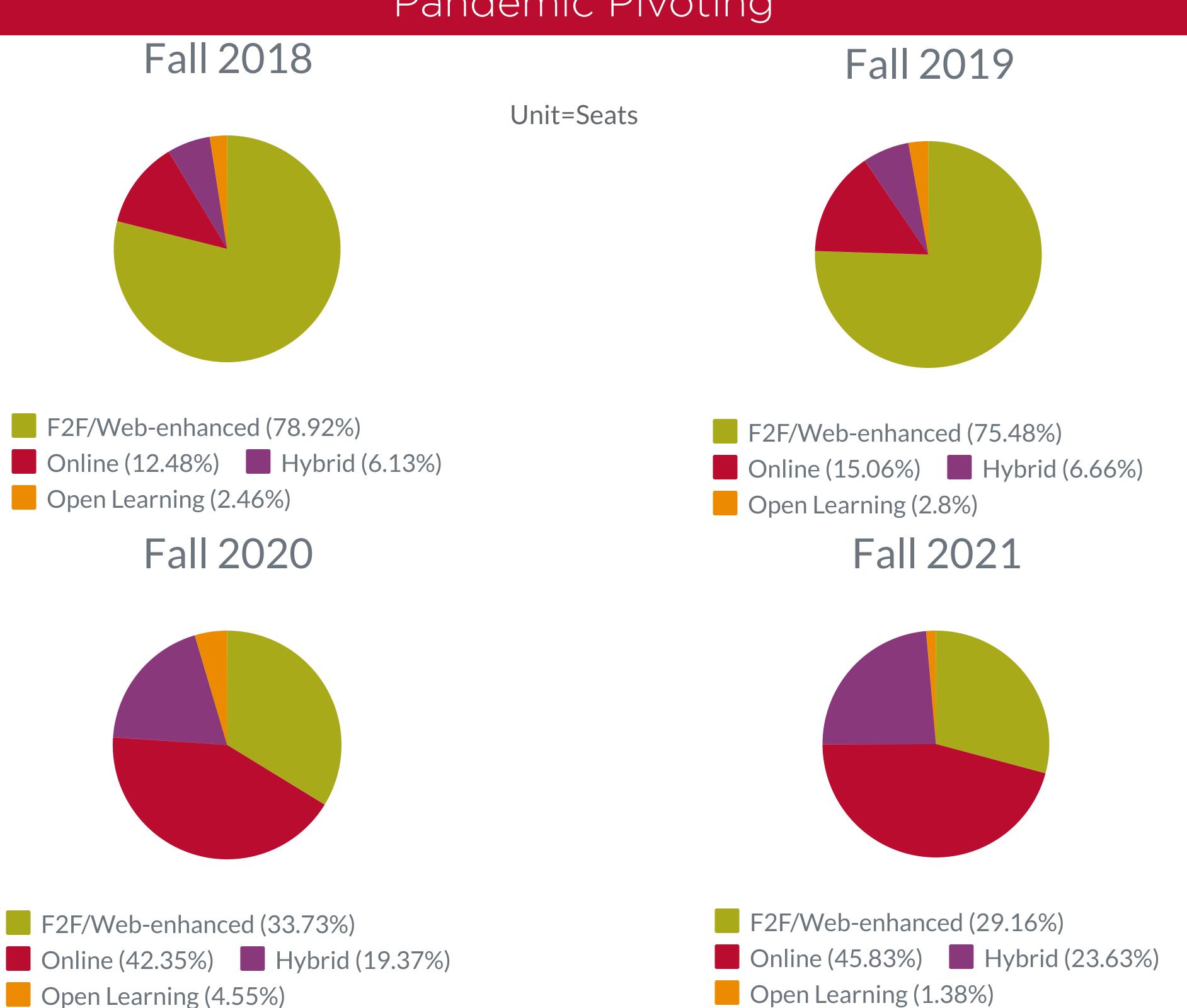
Pandemic Impact in Student Population Composition



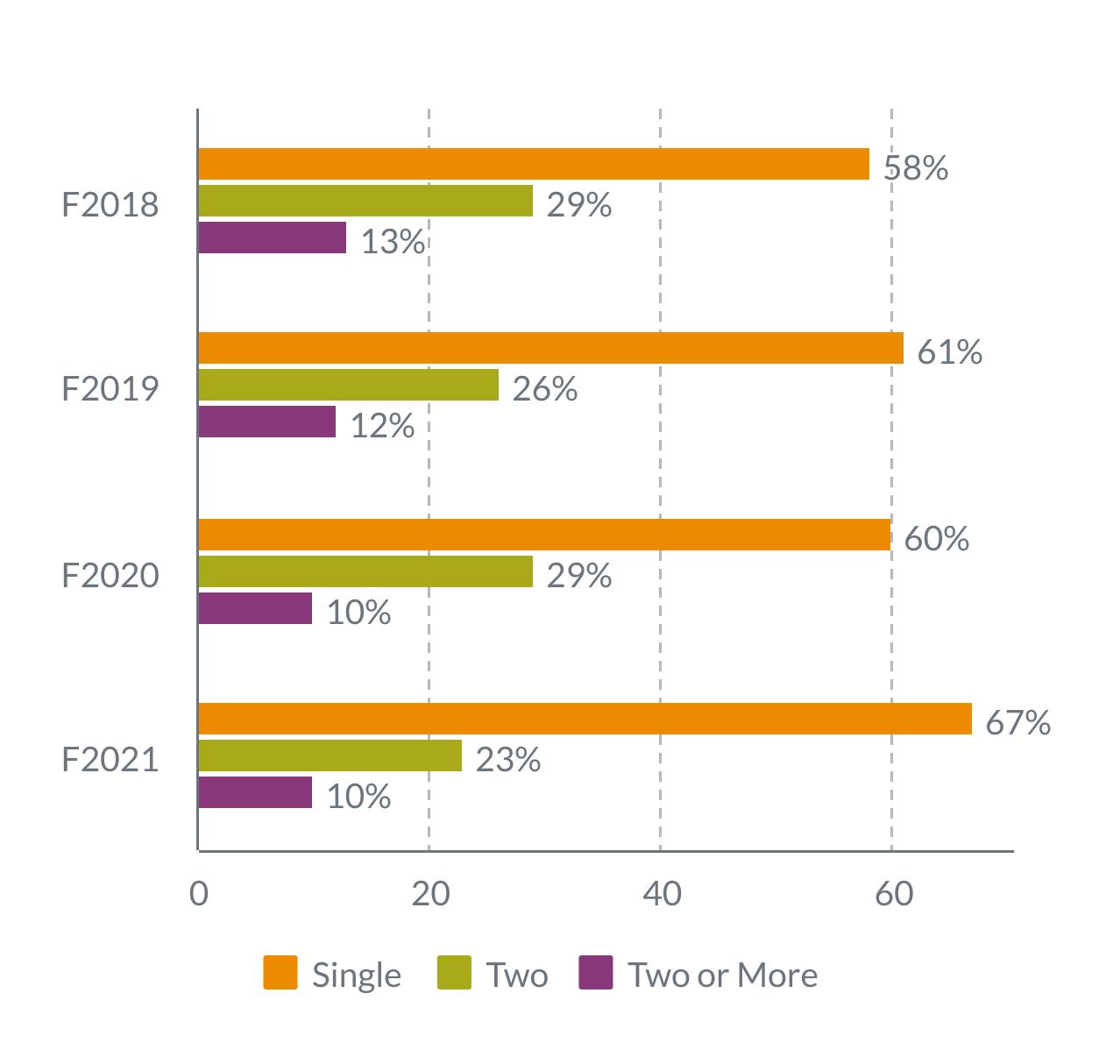
- Pivot to "emergency remote teaching" during the pandemic
- Greater online offerings resulted in a shift in the student population

Enrollment by Instruction Delivery

Pandemic Pivoting



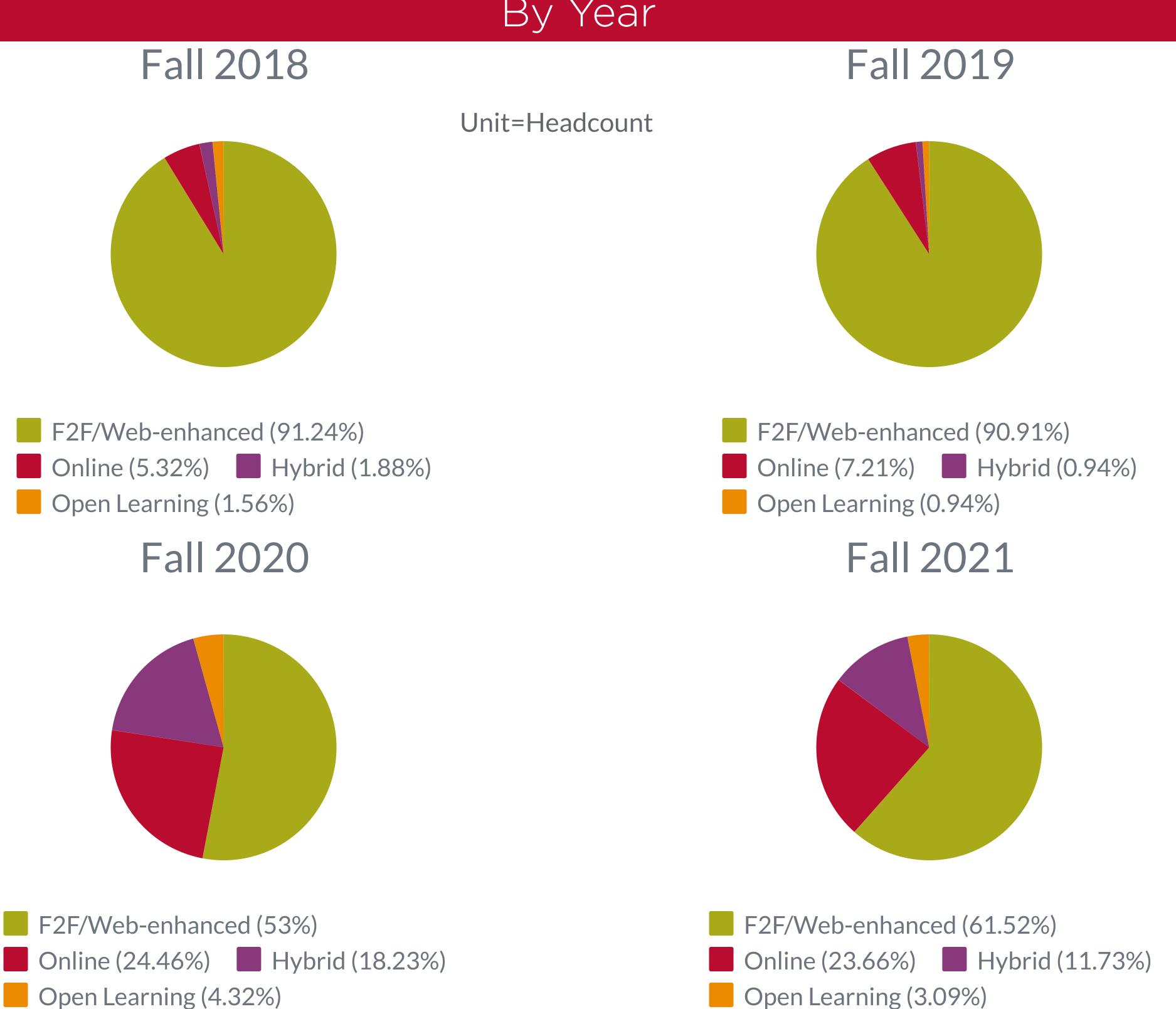
Home Student Headcount per Instructional Method



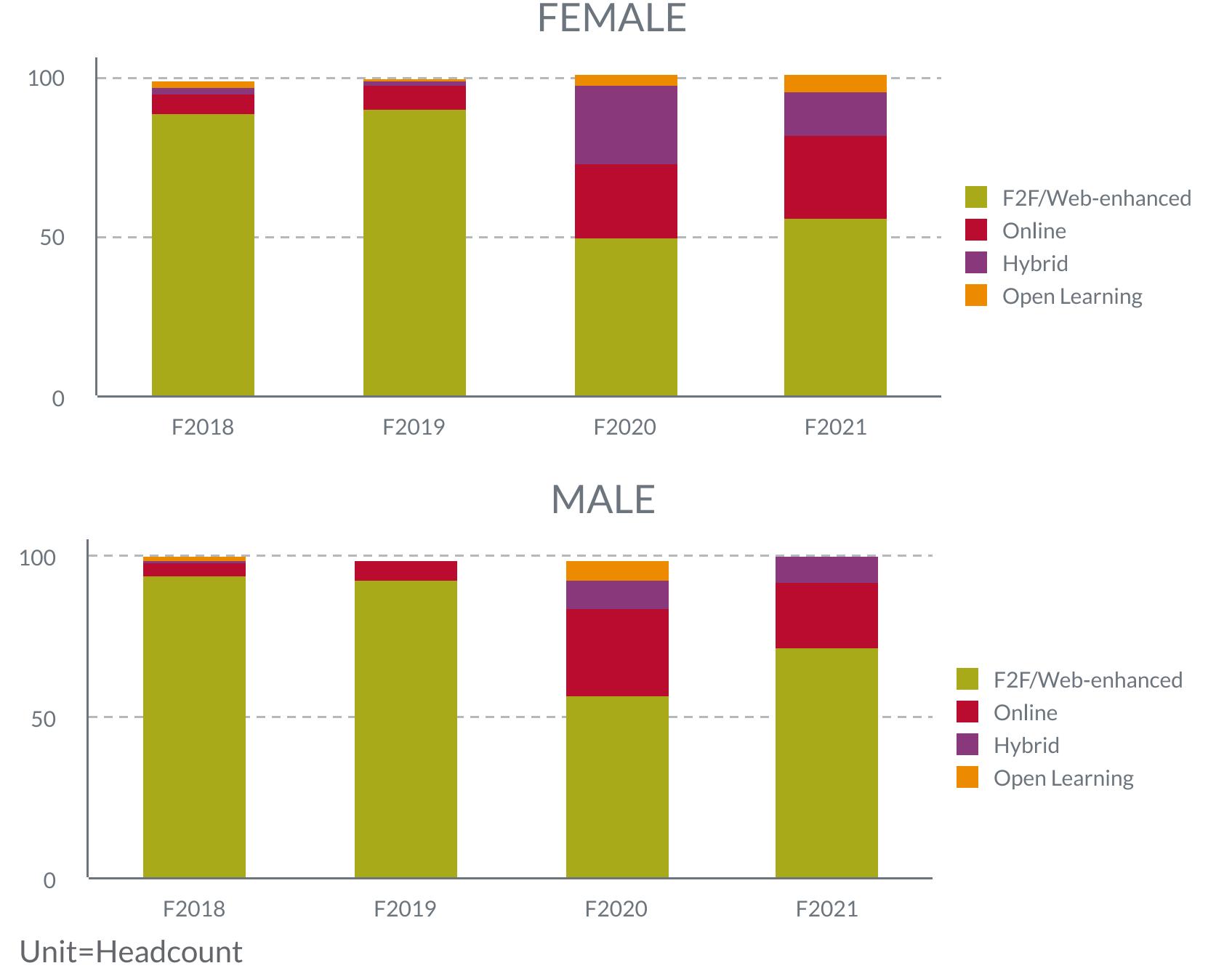
Highlights

- Most students do not diversify their course schedule by instructional method.
- Most of our students only enroll for one or two courses per term, in part explaining the monomethod phenomenon.
 (F21 Mean Load=6 SCH)
- Share of mono-method enrollment increased during in F21.

By Year



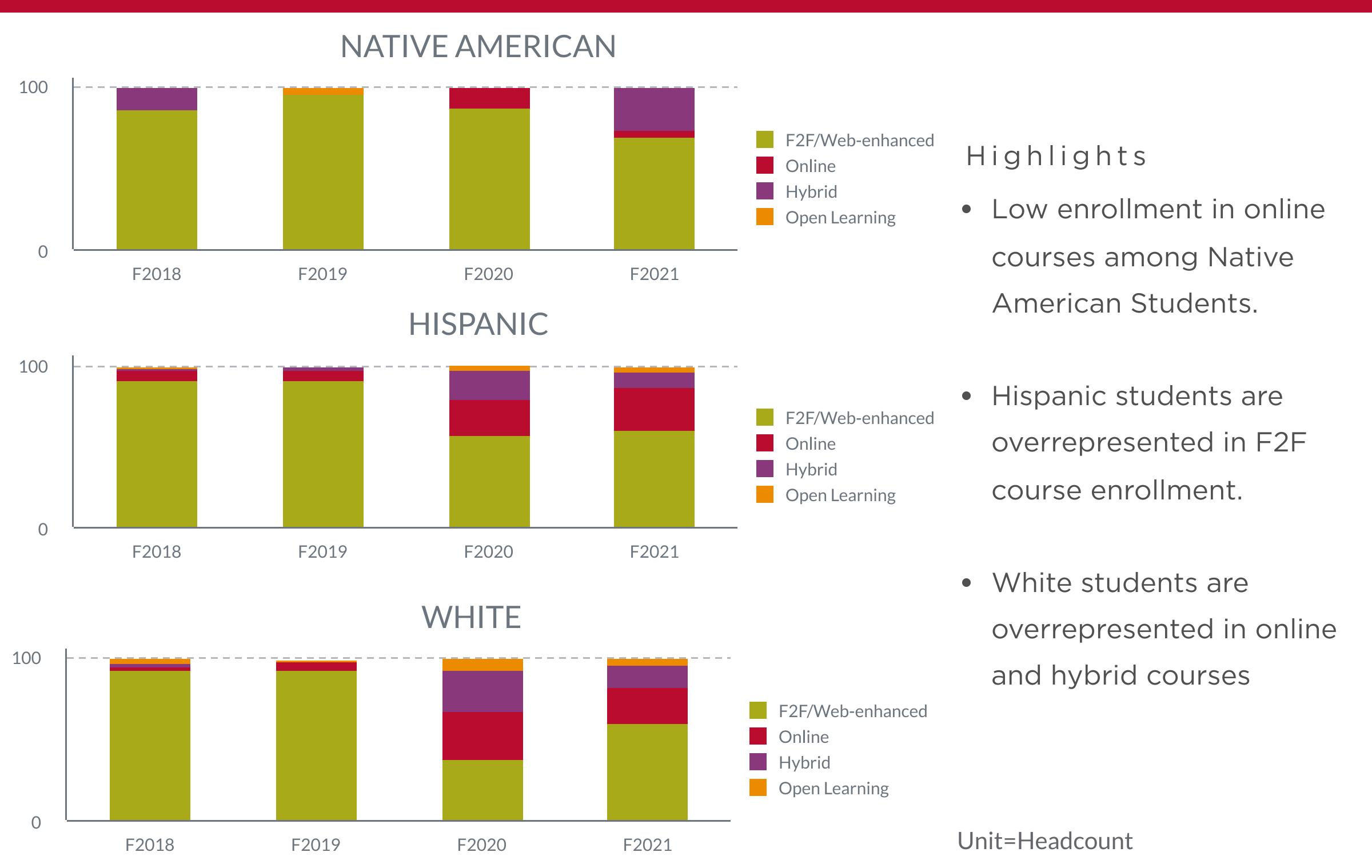
By Gender



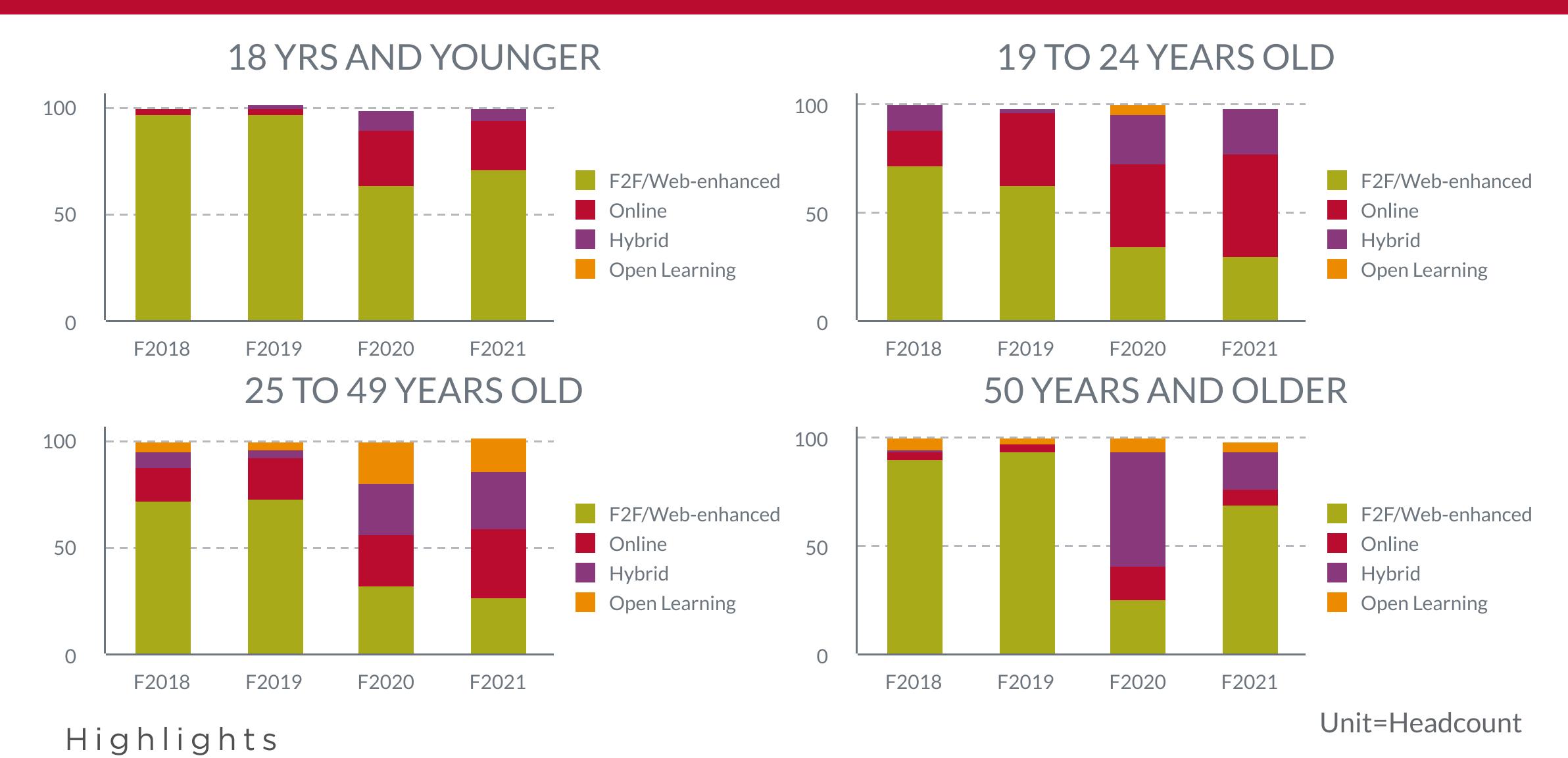
Highlights

- Females were overrepresented in courses with flexible modalities.
 This was exacerbated during the pandemic.
- After re-opening males are over-represented in F2F and shift away from online and hybrid.
- In F21, among the students
 who enrolled in online
 courses, 70% are female
 and 30% are male; for
 hybrid, the distribution is
 75% female and 25% male.

By Ethnicity/Race



By Age Group



- Online and hybrid course enrollment is more common among young and middle-age adults with increasing shares over the last four years.
- Youngest and oldest students returned to F2F in F21, but the return was stronges among the oldest students.

Students in their own words F20

"I appreciate all the school has done for us during this time. With the friendly emails and updates and the questionnaires. These are trying times and I can't imagine being at any other school or living anywhere else through all of this. I'm proud to be a Lobo and live in New Mexico!"

"It's hard to allocate time at home to do my school work with the kids also home. I have been able to get away and do Zoom in peace. Finding study time has been hard... Overall not being on campus has made me a worse student. I am passing classes and absorbing some material, but I am speeding thru to get only the info I need to pass the class. I feel I am retaining less knowledge then the first part of the semester.

"It has been so hard to focus while dealing with the stress of losing my job and being far away from my family. Also dealing with a family member existing health problems during this time has been a tragedy that takes my focus away from classes. I share a studio apartment with my partner which makes it so hard to find personal space for school."

"...I feel that UNM-Taos has really stepped up in providing services, communication about services available and updates on Covid19. My professors have been amazing with regards to lectures, office hours and straight up support..."

Students in their own words F21

"Due to being immunecompromised like most of my
family members, I am still slightly
nervous about returning to
campus. I am fully vaccinated but
am a little worried about
potentially catching something
and bringing it home to my family.
I am also slightly overwhelmed
with work and personal
circumstances, so I am very happy
UNM-Taos offers courses online. I
hope they will continue in the
future."

"I feel very disconnected from campus life because so many of my classes have been online. I'll have completed my program entirely during COVID & my experience of campus has been minimal."

"I love it [returning to campus] but I also love how classes are hybrid and you only have to come once a week and the work is online. It works with my schedule very well because I know on a specific day I have class and can't make any plans."

"Everyone is always so nice and willing to help."

"UNM-Taos always
makes me feel like part
of a family. Online
courses have made it
easier to achieve my
goals."

"All my professors work as a team to support me!"

"What I like best about UNM-Taos is having the opportunity to attend a university close to home. This is the reason me and my spouse moved from Colorado back to Taos Pueblo."

"Need homework support. Working full time and being a single mom has made it somewhat difficult to find time to complete homework on time especially since we all had COVID and I was still trying to do all the things I normally do."

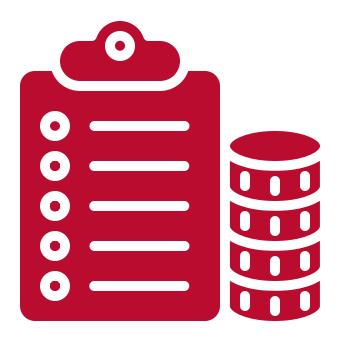
Serving Students

comprehensive supports & all student services available online/remotely and in-person

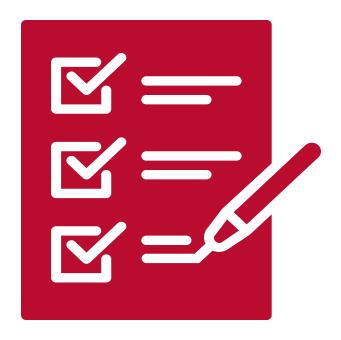
Student Resource Navigator



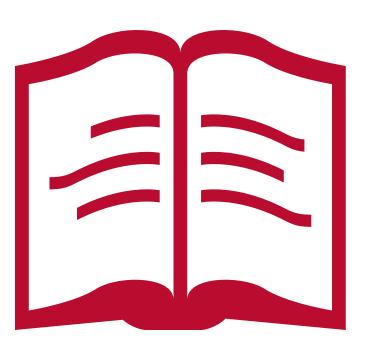
Financial Aid



Admissions



Tutoring



In context: National survey

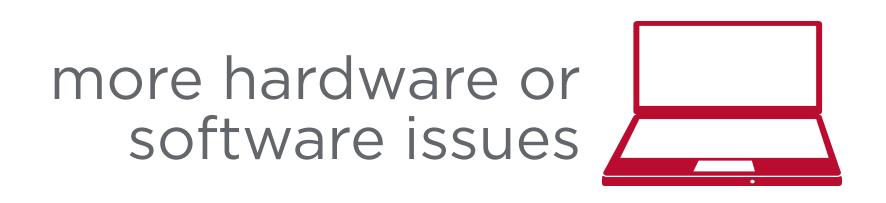
"Hispanic students reported a greater number of challenges to their continued course participation after instruction went online."











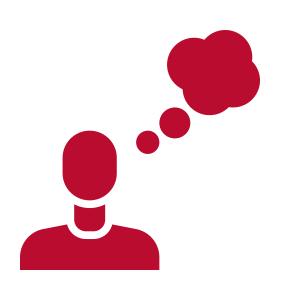
In context: National survey

Practices contributing to more effective online teaching and learning

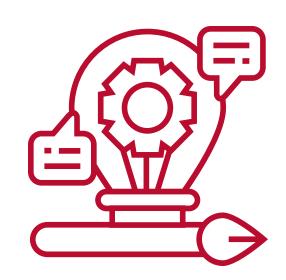
Personal messages



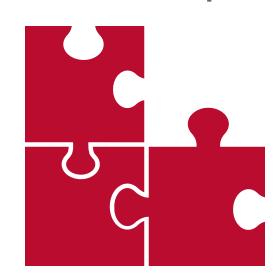
Reflection



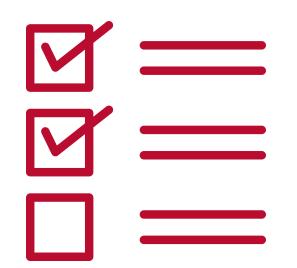
Using real-world examples



Breaking up class activities into shorter pieces



Frequent assessments





Group work outside course meetings

Live question/ discussion sessions

Breakout groups

Means, B., Neisler, J., & Langer Research Associates. (2020). Suddenly Online: A National Survey of Undergraduates During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Digital Promise. https://doi.org/10.51388/20.500.12265/98

Discussion

ONGOING PANDEMIC

The ongoing pandemic and structural social changes will continue to challenge educators and administrators. Flexibility, empathy, and frequent communication with students and active listening are crucial.

EQUITY IMPLICATIONS

There are measurable differences in course instructional method-choice across demographic characteristics (gender, ethnicity, age group). This analysis did not evaluate student academic outcomes. Further research needs to identify potential outcome differences among different student populations.

ESTABLISHING A NEW "NORMAL"

Flexible structures
Instructional modality fluidity and hybrids
Instructional delivery improvement informed by students' diversity