

2022
Sophomore Survey
Report

**NAU 2022 SOPHOMORE SURVEY
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Executive Summary	1
Methods	2
Key Results	3
Summary of Responses by Content Area	5
Experiences at Northern Arizona University	5
Skills and Abilities	6
University Environment and Advising	8
Liberal Studies	10
Diverse Learning Environment	11
Results from Historical Surveys	11
Overall Satisfaction Ratings	11
Skill Development	12
Appendix A: Sample and Population Demographics	A-1
Appendix B: Mean Value Rating Comparisons	B-1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Northern Arizona University has conducted a survey of sophomore students for more than 10 years, dating back to 2002. The survey assesses student satisfaction and opinions about their experiences at the University. The following report focuses on the results from the Spring 2022 administration of the sophomore survey and calls out key similarities and differences from previous years. NAU did not conduct sophomore surveys in 2020 and 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consistent with prior years, the 2022 survey respondents were highly satisfied with their overall experience at NAU. Physical facilities, availability of faculty, and campus safety were among the areas of greatest satisfaction. Students reported that NAU had facilitated their development in a variety of skill areas, such as learning effectively on one's own and using technology for learning or working in one's discipline. Based on the averages, students indicated most success in abilities for *self-reliance* and *performing academically*, while *making friends* and *making connections on campus* were rated the lowest. Compared to the prior years, the 2022 results showed higher ratings for the Louie/PeopleSoft registration system and for technology integration into the learning environment. In addition, the 2022 respondents reported strong support for the statement that instructors encourage students from diverse backgrounds to work together and that instructors value individual differences in the classroom.

METHODS

The 2022 Sophomore Survey was administered via a web-based application open to all sophomore students. The Office of Strategic Planning, Institutional Research, and Analytics surveyed all students whose academic level was flagged as sophomore (students with 30-59 cumulative units completed) on March 20, 2022¹.

All eligible students were notified of the survey through electronic mail. The survey was available online for students to respond to for a period of two weeks in Spring 2022. The sampling error² associated with a 465-person sample drawn from a population of 4,166 is ± 4.28 percent. As expected, the survey sample was similar to the overall population of sophomores on most characteristics examined, except for gender. Appendix A shows the characteristics of the survey sample compared to the sophomore population at NAU at the time the sample was drawn.

The survey consisted of multiple-choice and open-ended questions in an electronic format. Questions addressed satisfaction in key areas, perceived development of certain essential skills, time management, success in social areas, and opinions about the university environment and services.

A longitudinal comparison of results across all years of the study is only available for select student evaluation areas. The survey instrument underwent a significant revision in 2007, then again in 2011 and 2019. Appendix B summarizes select evaluation results from the 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2022 surveys. (The 2013 administration was a shortened version of the complete survey with only selected items asked.)

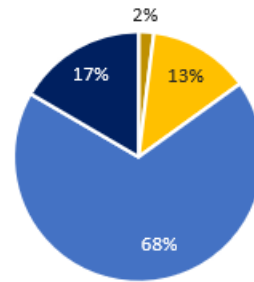
¹ For survey administrations in 2004, 2005, and 2006 the population was based upon sophomore students who had between 40 and 59 total cumulative earned hours and greater than 29 cumulative NAU earned hours. The survey administrations after 2007 mark a slight change in the definition of choosing the sophomore population.

² The sampling error describes the probable difference between interviewing everyone in the population versus interviewing a sample drawn from this population. For example, if 80 percent of the sophomore sample indicated satisfaction in a specific content area, the actual population parameter falls in the range of 76% - 84% (80% +/- 4%) satisfaction.

KEY RESULTS

NAU sophomores remain positive in rating their satisfaction with their *overall experience at NAU* to this point in their academic careers. Eighty-five percent (85%) of sophomores surveyed said they are either “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied.” Ninety-five percent (95%) indicated that they **plan on completing their bachelor’s degrees at NAU**, while 79 percent **would still choose to attend NAU** if they could start over.

In general, how satisfied are you with your overall undergraduate experience?



■ Very Dissatisfied ■ Dissatisfied ■ Satisfied ■ Very Satisfied

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total Responses
In general, how satisfied are you with your overall undergraduate experience so far?	2%	13%	68%	17%	100%
	9	60	313	76	458

Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding
458 out of 465 students responded.

	Definitely no	Probably no	Probably yes	Definitely yes	Total Responses
Do you plan to complete your bachelor’s degree at NAU?	2%	2%	29%	66%	100%
	9	8	109	244	370

Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding
370 out of 465 students responded.

	Definitely no	Probably no	Probably yes	Definitely yes	Total Responses
If you could start over, would you choose NAU again?	4%	18%	50%	29%	100%
	15	65	184	106	370

Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding
370 out of 465 students responded.

The Top Box below looks at all thirty-three questions from the survey related to NAU’s affect on student satisfaction, success, and educational experience and summarizes the top and bottom five topics where students rated the question with the highest ratings, indicating a greatly positive response.

The percentages below reflect the amount of students that responded “9” or “10” on a scale of 1-10, “5” on a scale of 1-5, or “4” on a scale of 1-4.

Highest "Top Box" Positive Responses

Development With Learning Effectively On My Own	43%
Development With Using Technology For Learning Or Working In A Discipline	39%
Satisfaction With Physical Facilities	38%
Improving Personal Understanding Of Cultures Is Important To Students	38%
Satisfaction With Availability Of Faculty	35%

Lowest "Top Box" Positive Responses

Development With Speaking Clearly And Effectively	17%
Satisfaction With The Louie/Peoplesoft Class Registration System	17%
General Satisfaction With Overall Undergraduate Experience	17%
Satisfaction With Internship Opportunities	16%
Students Able To Explore Own Background Through Class Projects	15%
NAU Has Made You Aware Of The Goals/Purpose Of The Liberal Studies Program	14%

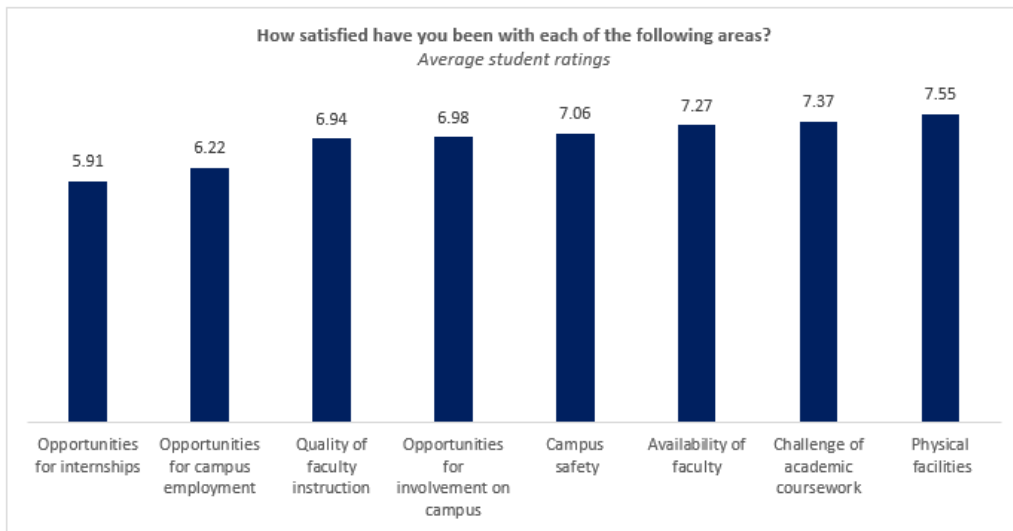
SUMMARY OF RESPONSES BY CONTENT AREA

EXPERIENCES AT NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

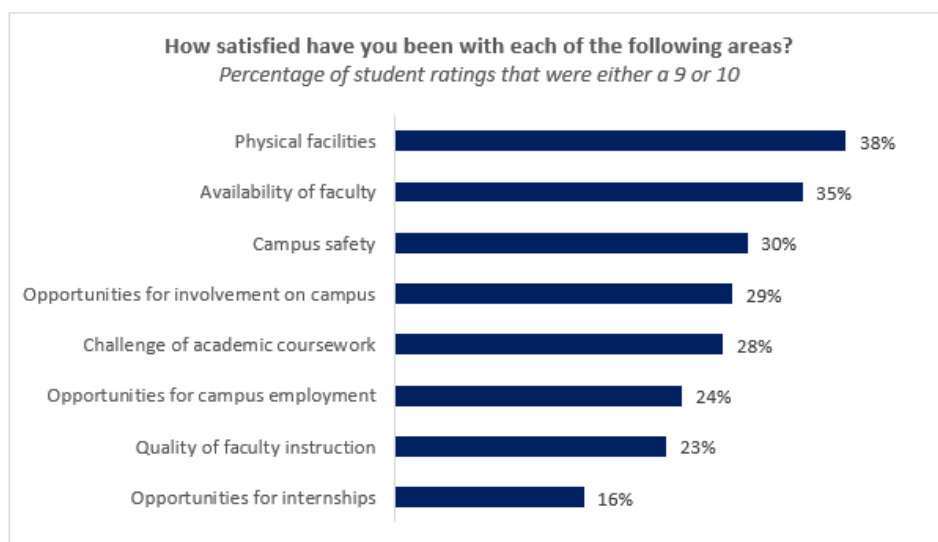
Students were asked to rate their satisfaction with eight specific content areas on a scale of 1-10 (1 = “Very Dissatisfied,” 10 = “Very Satisfied”). The top three greatest average satisfaction among the areas in question were reported for the **physical facilities** (7.55), **challenge of academic coursework** (7.37), and the **availability of faculty** (7.27).

The bottom three average satisfaction ratings came from **opportunities for internships** (5.91), **opportunities for campus employment** (6.22), and the **quality of faculty instruction** (6.94).

The following graph displays the average student ratings for each area of satisfaction out of a possible 10.



A considerable number of NAU students responded on the positive extreme (either a 9 or 10 out of 10) to many areas of satisfaction. The following graph displays the percentage of students that responded with a 9 or 10 rating to each area of satisfaction, indicating they were very satisfied.



To this point in your NAU education, how satisfied have you been with each of the following areas?
On a scale of 1 (Very Dissatisfied) to 10 (Very Satisfied)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Physical facilities	2%	1%	1%	6%	7%	7%	18%	19%	17%	22%
Availability of faculty	2%	3%	3%	4%	8%	12%	14%	19%	17%	17%
Campus safety	3%	2%	4%	6%	10%	11%	16%	18%	12%	18%
Opportunities for involvement on campus	3%	1%	4%	9%	9%	12%	18%	17%	13%	16%
Challenge of academic coursework	2%	0%	1%	4%	10%	10%	21%	24%	13%	15%
Opportunities for campus employment	6%	5%	7%	8%	16%	9%	13%	12%	9%	15%
Quality of faculty instruction	3%	2%	3%	5%	10%	12%	21%	21%	11%	12%
Opportunities for internships	5%	5%	6%	12%	17%	13%	14%	12%	8%	8%

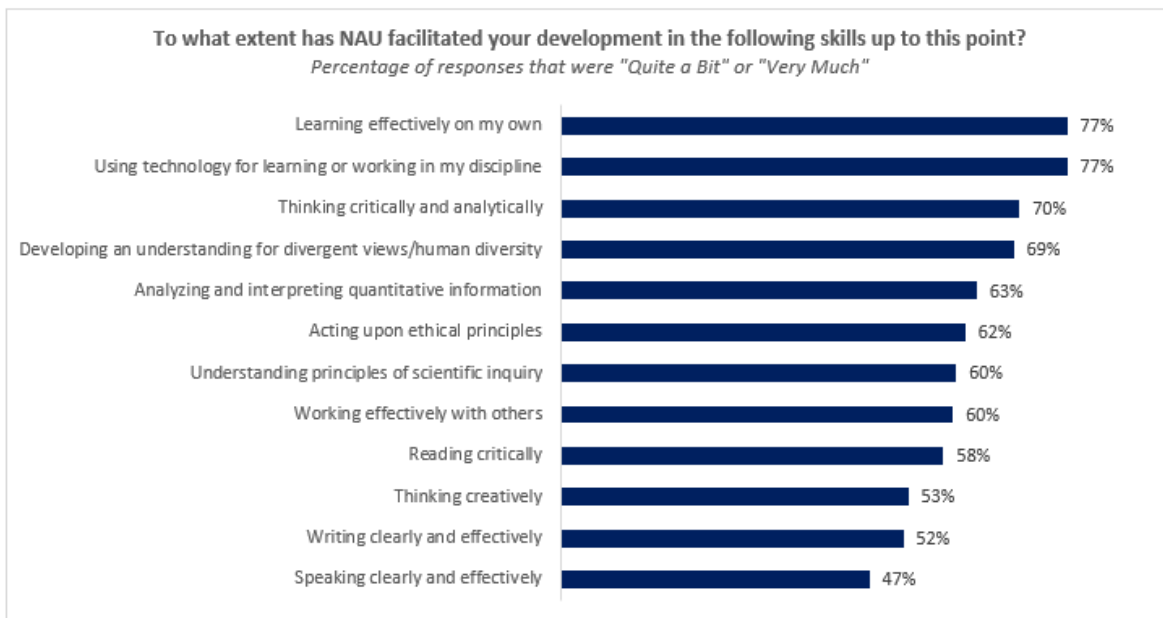
Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Skills

Sophomores were asked to evaluate the extent that NAU has facilitated their development in a variety of skill areas. Response categories included “Very Little,” “Some,” “Quite a Bit,” and “Very Much.” The proportion of sophomores indicating their NAU education has contributed significantly (“Quite a Bit” or “Very Much” responses) to their development of specific skills varies from a low of 47 percent for *speaking clearly and effectively* to a high of 77 percent for *learning effectively on my own* and 77 percent for *using technology for learning or working in my discipline*. Please note these are respondents who, on average, have two to three years of courses still to take at NAU. Yet, many of these skill categories are the objectives of the liberal studies curriculum taken by first-year and sophomore students.

A substantial number of NAU students responded positively to many skillsets. The following graph displays the percentage of students who responded with “Quite a Bit” or “Very Much” to each area of satisfaction, indicating they felt NAU facilitated their development with the skills in question.



To what extent has NAU facilitated your development in the following skills up to this point?

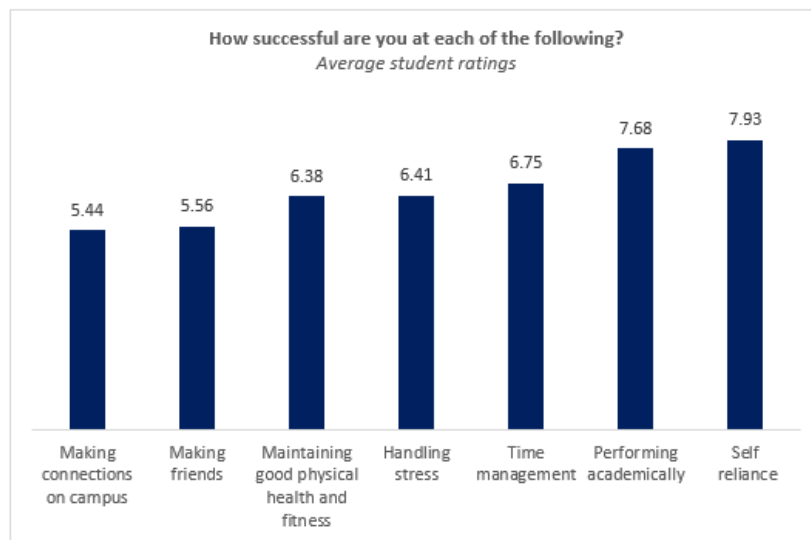
	Very Little	Some	Quite a Bit	Very Much
Learning effectively on my own	7%	16%	34%	43%
Using technology for learning or working in my discipline	7%	16%	38%	39%
Thinking critically and analytically	5%	25%	41%	29%
Developing an understanding for divergent views/human diversity	7%	24%	38%	31%
Analyzing and interpreting quantitative information	8%	28%	39%	25%
Acting upon ethical principles	11%	27%	38%	24%
Understanding principles of scientific inquiry	13%	27%	38%	22%
Working effectively with others	10%	30%	35%	25%
Reading critically	11%	30%	37%	21%
Thinking creatively	11%	36%	34%	19%
Writing clearly and effectively	13%	34%	33%	19%
Speaking clearly and effectively	20%	33%	30%	17%

Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

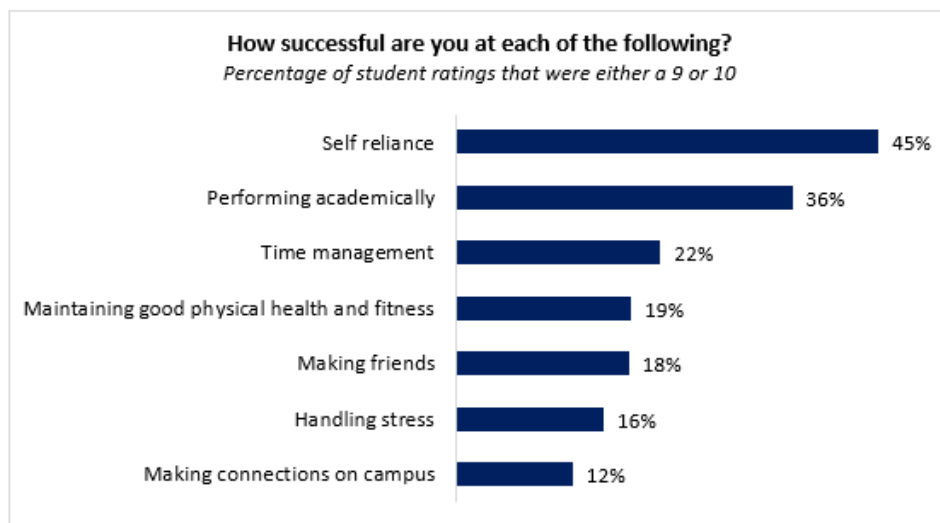
Abilities

Students were asked to rate how successful they were, on a scale of 1-10, on a variety of abilities indicative of academic success (1 = "Very Unsuccessful," 10 = "Very Successful"). Based on the averages, students indicated most success in abilities for *self-reliance* (7.93) and *performing academically* (7.68), while *making friends* (5.56) and *making connections on campus* (5.44) were rated the lowest.

The following graph displays the average student responses for success in each ability out of a possible 10.



A significant number of respondents responded with extremely positive ratings. The following chart shows the percentage of ratings that were extremely positive (either a 9 or 10 out of 10), indicating students found much success in that ability.



How successful are you at each of the following?
On a scale of 1 (Very Unsuccessful) to 10 (Very Successful)

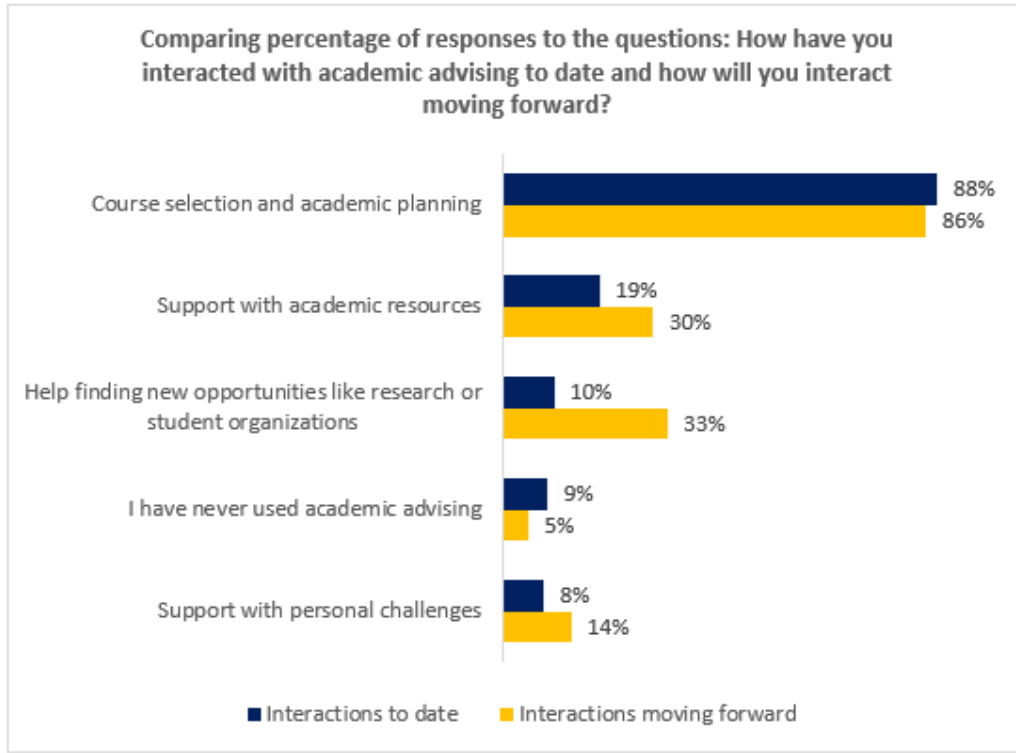
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Self reliance	2%	1%	2%	1%	5%	8%	15%	20%	17%	28%
Performing academically	0%	1%	2%	3%	8%	10%	16%	24%	14%	21%
Time management	2%	4%	3%	5%	13%	16%	18%	17%	9%	13%
Maintaining good physical health and fitness	3%	4%	6%	9%	14%	12%	19%	15%	8%	11%
Making friends	10%	7%	8%	11%	13%	13%	12%	7%	7%	11%
Handling stress	4%	3%	6%	8%	9%	15%	22%	18%	6%	10%
Making connections on campus	9%	6%	8%	12%	16%	12%	15%	9%	4%	8%

Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT AND ADVISING

Academic Advising Interaction

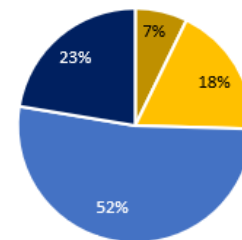
Students were asked to select the types of interaction they have engaged in with academic advising and their plans to interact with academic advising to date and in the future. Of the responses, 88 percent of students indicated that they have asked academic advising to help with **course selection and academic planning**, followed by **support with academic resources** (19%), and 33 percent hope to use academic advising for **help finding new opportunities like research or student organizations** (33%).



Academic Advising Satisfaction

Academic advising had historically been identified as an area in need of improvement on a variety of surveys conducted at NAU over the past several years. In the 2022 administration of the Sophomore Survey, nearly 75 percent indicated they were “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with academic advising.

To this point in your NAU career, how satisfied have you been with your academic advising experience?



Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Satisfied Very Satisfied

LOUIE/PeopleSoft

Students rated **NAU’s LOUIE/PeopleSoft registration** on a scale of 1-10. Of the respondents, 58 percent provided a rating from 7-10, and 13 percent rated the system on the low end (1-3). The remaining students (29%) gave the system an average rating (4-6).

How would you rate NAU's Louie/PeopleSoft class registration system?

On a scale of 1 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5%	3%	5%	6%	11%	12%	21%	20%	10%	7%

****Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.****

Technology

When asked **how successful NAU has been in integrating technology into the learning environment** on a scale of 1-10, most of the students rated favorably on the high-end of the scale with 68 percent responding from 7 to 10.

How successful has NAU been in integrating technology into the learning environment?

On a scale of 1 (Very unsuccessful) to 10 (Very successful)

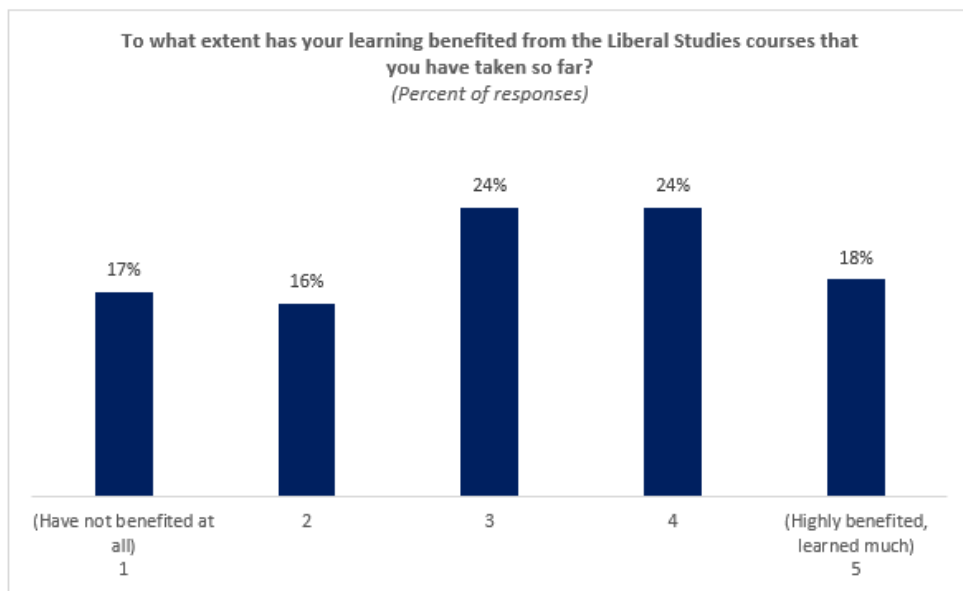
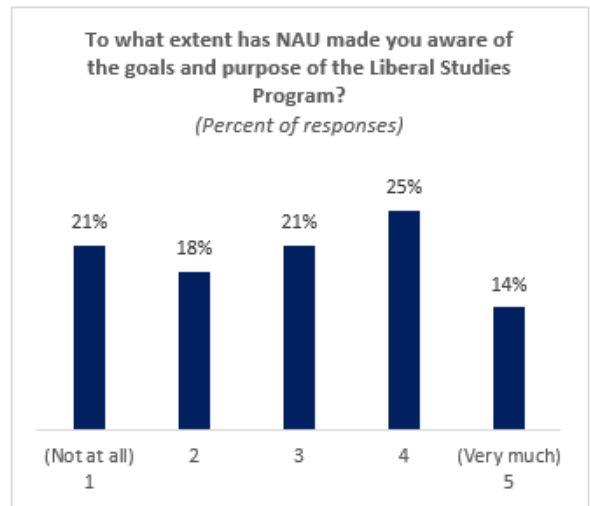
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2%	2%	3%	5%	8%	13%	20%	20%	13%	15%

****Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.****

LIBERAL STUDIES

Sophomores were surveyed with two questions about the Liberal Studies program. On a scale of 1-5, students were asked **to what extent NAU made them aware of the goals and purpose of the Liberal Studies program**. The responses indicate 39 percent were aware of the goals and purpose (rating either 4 or 5).

When asked **to what extent their learning has benefited from Liberal Studies courses taken so far**, 42 percent (rating 4 or 5) believed they have benefited from the courses.



DIVERSE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Sophomore students were asked to rate the presence of diverse learning in seven key areas on a scale of 1-4 (1 = “Strongly Disagree,” 4 = “Strongly Agree”). Students who “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” with the diverse-related statements ranged from 91 percent for *improving my understanding of other countries and cultures is important to me*, to 66 percent for *I often discuss ideas and concepts from class with other students*. The following questions were derived from the *2010 Diverse Learning Environments Survey* administered by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA and implemented beginning with the 2011 Sophomore Survey.

Indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following related to instruction in class.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Improving my understanding of other countries and cultures is important to me	2%	7%	52%	38%
Instructors encourage students to contribute different perspectives in class	4%	10%	58%	29%
Instructors value individual differences in the classroom	5%	12%	58%	25%
Instructors encourage students from diverse backgrounds to work together	5%	18%	57%	20%
I feel comfortable sharing my own perspective and experiences in class	6%	19%	56%	20%
I often discuss ideas and concepts from class with other students	9%	25%	49%	18%
I am able to explore my own background through class projects	9%	24%	52%	15%

Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

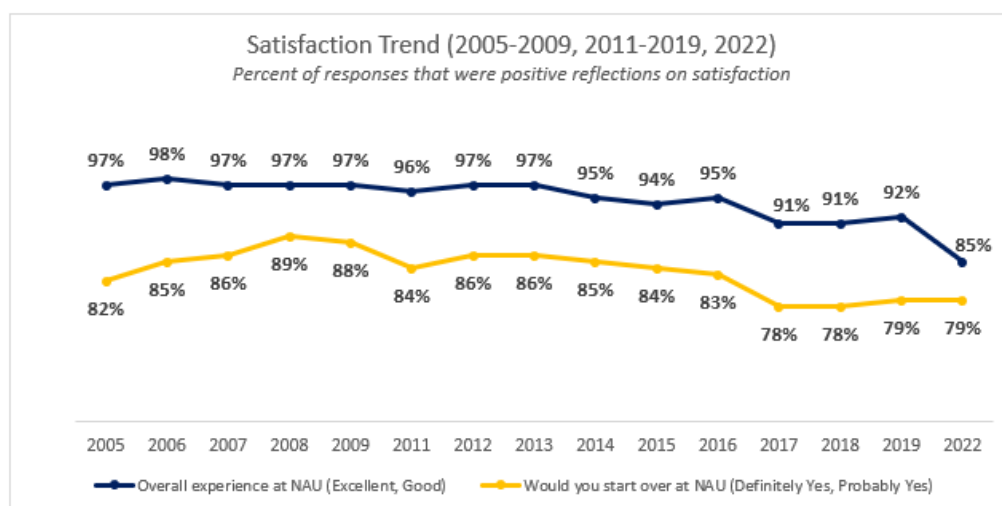
RESULTS FROM HISTORICAL SURVEYS

The Sophomore Survey underwent major revisions beginning with the 2007 administration, and again in 2011, which prohibit the comparison of all results across all years of the study. However, several questions and answer sets have remained consistent since the first administration of the survey in 2002. The results summarized below provide a comparison for the years of study 2005-2009, 2011-2019, 2022.

In 2022, a minor change was made to the third question regarding students’ overall satisfaction with their undergraduate experience. In the 2022 administration, the question was, *in general, how satisfied are you with your overall undergraduate experience so far?* compared to, *how would you rate your overall experience at NAU so far?* in prior administrations. Students evaluate this question on a scale of “Very Satisfied to “Very Dissatisfied.”

OVERALL SATISFACTION RATINGS

Overall satisfaction, assessed by asking students **how they would rate their overall experience at NAU** thus far, has remained consistently high (averaging 95% of respondents stating they were “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied”) across the last fifteen years of this study. In 2022, 79 percent of students reported they would “**Definitely**” or “**Probably**” start over again at NAU given the opportunity.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT

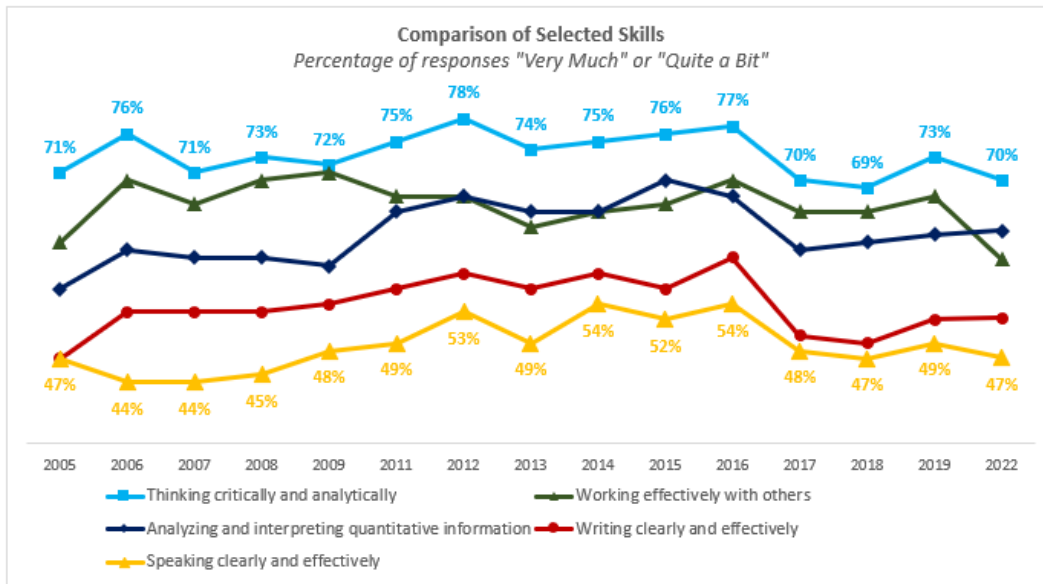
Students are asked to report to what extent NAU has facilitated their development in a variety of key skills (listed below). **Learning effectively on their own** and **using technology for learning or working in my discipline** ranked among the highest skill development (77%), followed by **thinking critically and analytically** (70%).

Evaluation of Skill Development at NAU
Percentage of responses "Very Much" or "Quite a Bit"

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022
Learning effectively on my own	69%	75%	73%	75%	75%	76%	76%	75%	75%	77%	77%	72%	76%	81%	77%
Using technology for learning or working in my discipline	62%	65%	64%	62%	66%	74%	73%	70%	75%	75%	74%	72%	72%	76%	77%
Thinking critically and analytically	71%	76%	71%	73%	72%	75%	78%	74%	75%	76%	77%	70%	69%	73%	70%
Developing an understanding for divergent views/human diversity	62%	71%	63%	66%	67%	68%	69%	64%	70%	73%	72%	70%	66%	69%	69%
Working effectively with others	62%	70%	67%	70%	71%	68%	68%	64%	66%	67%	70%	66%	66%	68%	60%
Analyzing and interpreting quantitative information	56%	61%	60%	60%	59%	66%	68%	66%	66%	70%	68%	61%	62%	63%	63%
Acting upon ethical principles	51%	59%	59%	60%	61%	61%	62%	59%	61%	63%	64%	61%	56%	58%	62%
Thinking creatively	60%	65%	63%	64%	62%	64%	67%	63%	63%	66%	65%	57%	54%	57%	53%
Understanding principles of scientific inquiry	50%	57%	63%	59%	55%	60%	58%	62%	62%	61%	61%	56%	58%	59%	60%
Reading critically	56%	67%	61%	59%	62%	61%	64%	60%	61%	63%	65%	56%	54%	55%	58%
Writing clearly and effectively	47%	53%	53%	53%	54%	56%	58%	56%	58%	56%	60%	50%	49%	52%	52%
Speaking clearly and effectively	47%	44%	44%	45%	48%	49%	53%	49%	54%	52%	54%	48%	47%	49%	47%

Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

The following five skills were selected and analyzed over time as they overlap with the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) which sends a survey to First-Year and Senior students to gauge their satisfaction with the characteristics and quality of their undergraduate education.



APPENDIX A: SAMPLE AND POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

The 2022 survey sample was similar to the overall population of sophomores on most characteristics examined. As is common in survey research, females are overrepresented as survey respondents.

	Survey Participants	All Sophomores on April 3, 2022
GROUP SIZE	465	4,166
SAMPLING ERROR		4.28
GENDER		
Male	25%	37%
Female	75%	63%
ETHNICITY		
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	2%
Asian	3%	2%
Black/African American	1%	3%
Hispanic/Latino	18%	25%
International	1%	1%
Native Hawaiian/Oth Pac Island	<1%	<1%
Not Specified	1%	1%
Two or More Races	5%	6%
White	70%	60%
CUMULATIVE GPA	3.31	3.20
CAMPUS		
Flagstaff Mountain Campus	96%	94%
Community Campuses	<1%	1%
Online ¹	4%	5%

¹Online includes Personalized Learning as of the 2019 report.

APPENDIX B: MEAN VALUE RATING COMPARISONS

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

(based on a scale of 1-10)

	2011			2012			2014			2015			2016			2017			2018			2019			2022		
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
To this point in your NAU education, how satisfied have you been with each of the following areas?																											
Quality of faculty instruction	1223	7.57	1.8	905	7.53	1.9	880	7.45	2.1	587	7.49	2.0	487	7.46	2.0	547	7.33	2.1	968	6.95	2.2	632	7.24	2.1	456	6.94	2.2
Availability of faculty	1206	7.87	1.9	894	7.80	2.0	882	7.80	2	588	7.90	2.0	486	7.90	2.0	542	7.8	1.9	961	7.41	2.2	632	7.58	2.1	451	7.27	2.3
Challenge of academic coursework	1224	7.91	1.7	894	7.97	1.8	876	7.75	1.9	589	7.92	1.9	485	7.89	1.9	545	7.75	1.9	970	7.57	1.9	632	7.57	1.9	456	7.37	1.9
Opportunities for involvement on campus	1130	7.72	2.1	844	7.98	2.0	880	8.03	2.2	590	8.18	2.1	453	7.90	2.2	511	7.52	2.2	911	7.41	2.2	632	7.19	2.3	419	6.98	2.3
Opportunities for campus employment	1036	5.66	2.7	801	5.94	2.8	880	6.96	2.9	588	7.30	2.9	438	6.57	2.8	477	6.27	2.6	854	5.86	2.7	632	6.01	2.6	390	6.22	2.7
Campus safety	1154	8.05	1.9	858	8.03	1.9	878	8.18	2	590	8.32	1.9	463	7.94	2.0	519	7.22	2.4	940	6.85	2.4	632	7.49	2.2	438	7.06	2.3
Physical facilities	1198	6.92	2.3	877	7.67	2.0	881	7.69	2.1	589	7.60	2.1	476	7.60	2.2	529	6.75	2.4	950	7.33	2.2	632	7.16	2.3	441	7.55	2.2
Opportunities for internships	857	6.18	2.4	678	6.39	2.4	876	7.42	2.9	586	7.39	2.9	384	6.33	2.6	424	5.92	2.5	776	5.65	2.5	632	5.84	2.4	350	5.91	2.4
How successful are you at each of the following?																											
Time management	1231	6.97	2.2	907	7.17	2.2	877	7.12	2.3	589	7.09	2.2	491	7.26	2.2	547	6.98	2.3	881	6.96	2.2	632	7.07	2.1	395	6.75	2.21
Handling stress	1232	7.05	2.2	909	7.09	2.2	880	6.96	2.4	588	6.69	2.3	491	6.78	2.4	549	6.39	2.6	884	6.77	2.3	632	6.77	2.2	395	6.41	2.3
Making friends	1231	7.23	2.4	908	7.37	2.4	879	6.98	2.5	587	6.94	2.5	490	6.97	2.7	547	6.62	2.6	882	6.40	2.6	632	6.47	2.6	397	5.56	2.75
Maintaining good physical health and fitness	1234	7.25	2.2	909	7.37	2.2	879	7.14	2.2	588	6.85	2.4	490	6.95	2.4	548	6.58	2.4	880	6.50	2.3	632	6.44	2.4	397	6.38	2.33
Performing academically	1232	7.82	1.9	911	7.88	1.9	879	7.90	2.0	587	7.75	2.0	489	8.02	1.9	547	7.83	2.0	882	7.67	2.0	632	7.8	1.9	397	7.68	1.91
Self reliance	1231	8.16	2.0	907	8.29	1.9	875	8.19	2.0	588	8.00	2.1	491	8.27	2.0	545	8.15	2.0	885	8.25	1.9	632	8.19	1.8	396	7.93	2.03
Making connections on campus	1230	6.82	2.4	905	6.90	2.3	875	6.56	2.5	589	6.63	2.4	490	6.74	2.6	549	6.37	2.5	880	6.15	2.4	632	6.17	2.3	395	5.44	2.54
How would you rate NAU's LOUIE/PeopleSoft registration system?	1224	6.68	2.4	908	6.67	2.3	877	6.70	2.3	589	3.72	2.3	491	6.77	2.3	550	6.44	2.4	806	5.74	2.7	632	6.34	2.5	392	6.49	2.28
How successful has NAU been in integrating technology into the learning environment?	1232	7.26	2.0	907	7.18	2.0	874	7.03	2.1	590	7.10	2.1	492	7.18	2.1	548	6.87	2.3	808	6.55	2.2	632	7.06	2.0	392	7.17	2.14

In the 2019 survey, four sets of questions were removed which were previously asked in prior years. For the purposes of this analysis, since the four questions did not return in the 2022 survey, they were not included in this rating comparison.