

Student Voice Summit Report

Spring 2021



FSW students participated in FutureMaker’s first Student Voice Summit focused on college students. This spring, 61 students shared their perspectives and experiences by completing the Student Voice Summit survey, and 32 students attended the virtual event held on February 23, 2021. This report shares insights gained from both the survey and feedback gained at the Student Voice Summit.

82% of students “agreed” and “strongly agreed” with the statement, “I am hopeful for the future” throughout the pandemic.

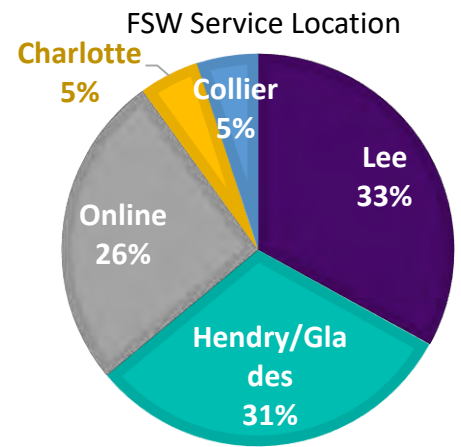
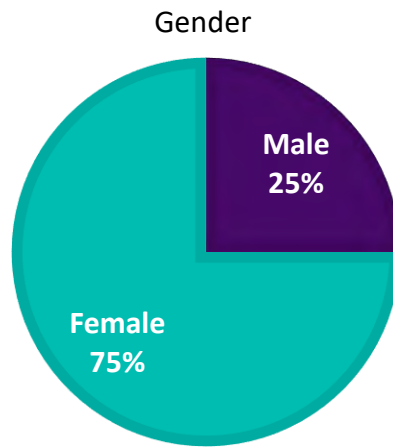
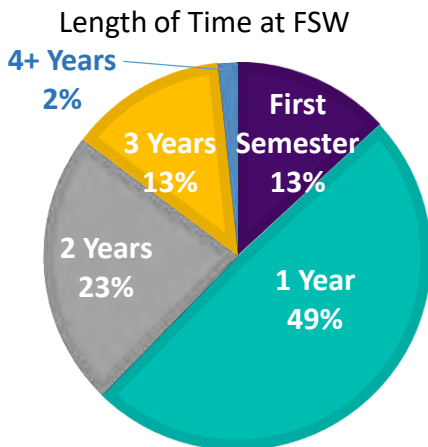
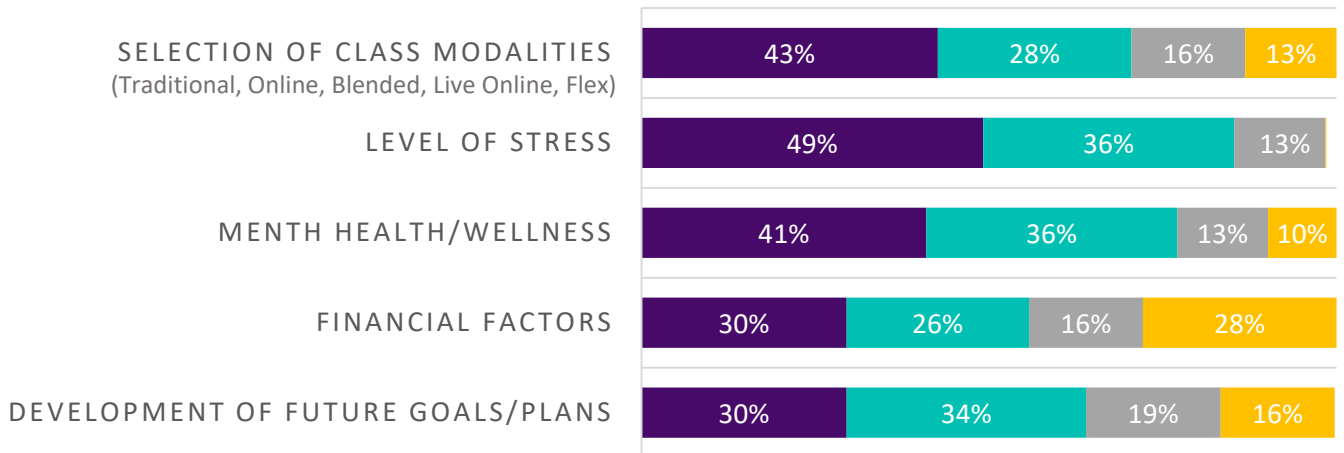


70% of students feel supported by FSW and 59% of students feel supported by their community throughout the pandemic.

Students felt the impact of the pandemic across their personal and academic lives. 100% of students noted feeling some stress from the pandemic, and 78% of students felt “a lot” or “some” impact on their mental health and wellness. The table below shows to what extent the pandemic impacted students across five areas.



■ A lot ■ Some ■ A little ■ None





Florida SouthWestern State College, a FutureMakers Coalition partner, is committed to our regional goal to transform the workforce of SWFL through education. Participants of the collegiate Student Voice Summit were asked to share their thoughts on equity in education, degree completion challenges, and solutions and ideas for change. The text below represents the participants' qualitative narrative captured during the summit.



Support and Guidance

Students emphasized appreciation for consistent communication from the institution (faculty, weekly events email, etc.). Students stated the desire for regular personalized check-ins from the college staff and faculty.

Mental health was a theme that emerged within each breakout topic, whether the conversation focused on equity, degree completion challenges, solutions, or engagement. Students noted the need for mental health resources.



Connection & Engagement

A common theme throughout the summit was the importance of community and connection. Students commented that the decrease in on-campus activity and events due to the COVID-19 pandemic is a barrier to engagement. Students miss the dynamics of being in a classroom with their peers and instructor. Students desire the conversation and camaraderie. Students recognized the difficulty in building a sense of community, making friends, and connecting to campus with fewer opportunities to interact in person.



Academic Pathways

Students found meeting with their academic advisors helpful but still noted feeling stressed about selecting a major and program of study.

Students noted the need for help in understanding how many careers are available to them. One student said, *“Understanding different pathways would help me figure out what I want to do.”* Another student commented that *“I know what my goal is, but I don’t exactly know the path to get there.”*



Motivation

Students appreciated the enthusiasm of instructors and connection with college faculty as being key to staying motivated and successful.

When asked about challenges to earning a degree, students noted the increased expectations of college-level coursework, sustainable motivation challenges, working independently, and time management - especially in an online learning environment.