

# **Final Survey Data Report:** Students' Wants and Needs for a Learning Management System, *Westfield State University, 3/25/2024*

## ***Key Metrics:***

**388** responses

**5:55** minutes on avg.  
to complete

Data from **1/10- 3/14**

## ***Key Takeaways:***

- **Ease-of-use and consistent navigation are extremely important**
- **More videos incorporated into the platform and a visually appealing interface**
- **The functions that were most important to students' learning were assignments, feedback, and grading**
- **Accessibility is very important to students**

## ***Largest Concerns:***

- **Consistency across the platform (i.e submitting assignments, taking quizzes, weekly templates)**
- **Students would like to track their progress in a course easily**

## **I. Introduction**

### ***A. Background***

This survey aims to gather information regarding the wants and needs of students for their future LMS; it explores different facets such as current engagement and desired features.

## B. Methodology

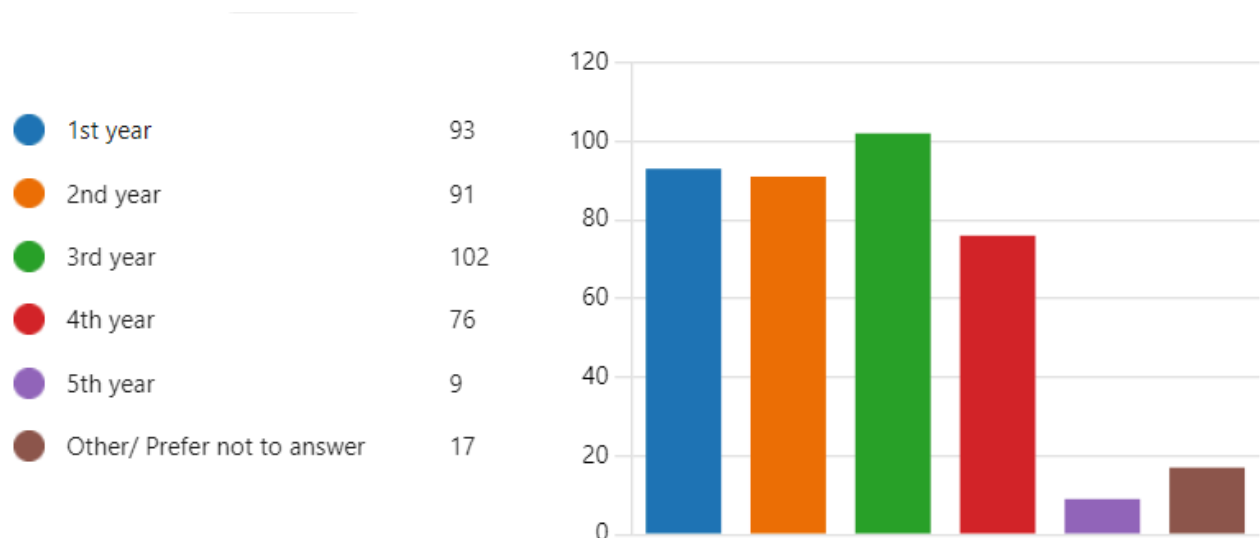
The survey was conducted online through email, targeting the Westfield State university student population. This was an anonymous survey and it received a total of **388 responses** in 65 days.

## C. Demographics

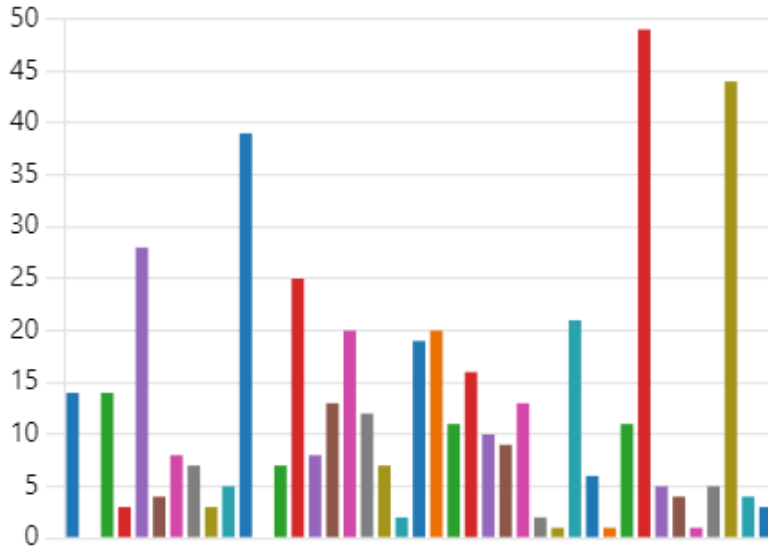
The majority of respondents were **undergraduate students (82%)**.



Students from **every enrollment year** responded, with the most responses from third years.



The majors with the most responses were the **criminal justice, psychology, and social work** majors, with **39 different majors** chiming in.



- Criminal Justice 30
- Psychology 29
- Social Work 31

Most respondents are enrolled in **in-person classes (77.6%)**, then online courses.

- In-person 301
- Hybrid 52
- Remote Synchronous 37
- Online 135



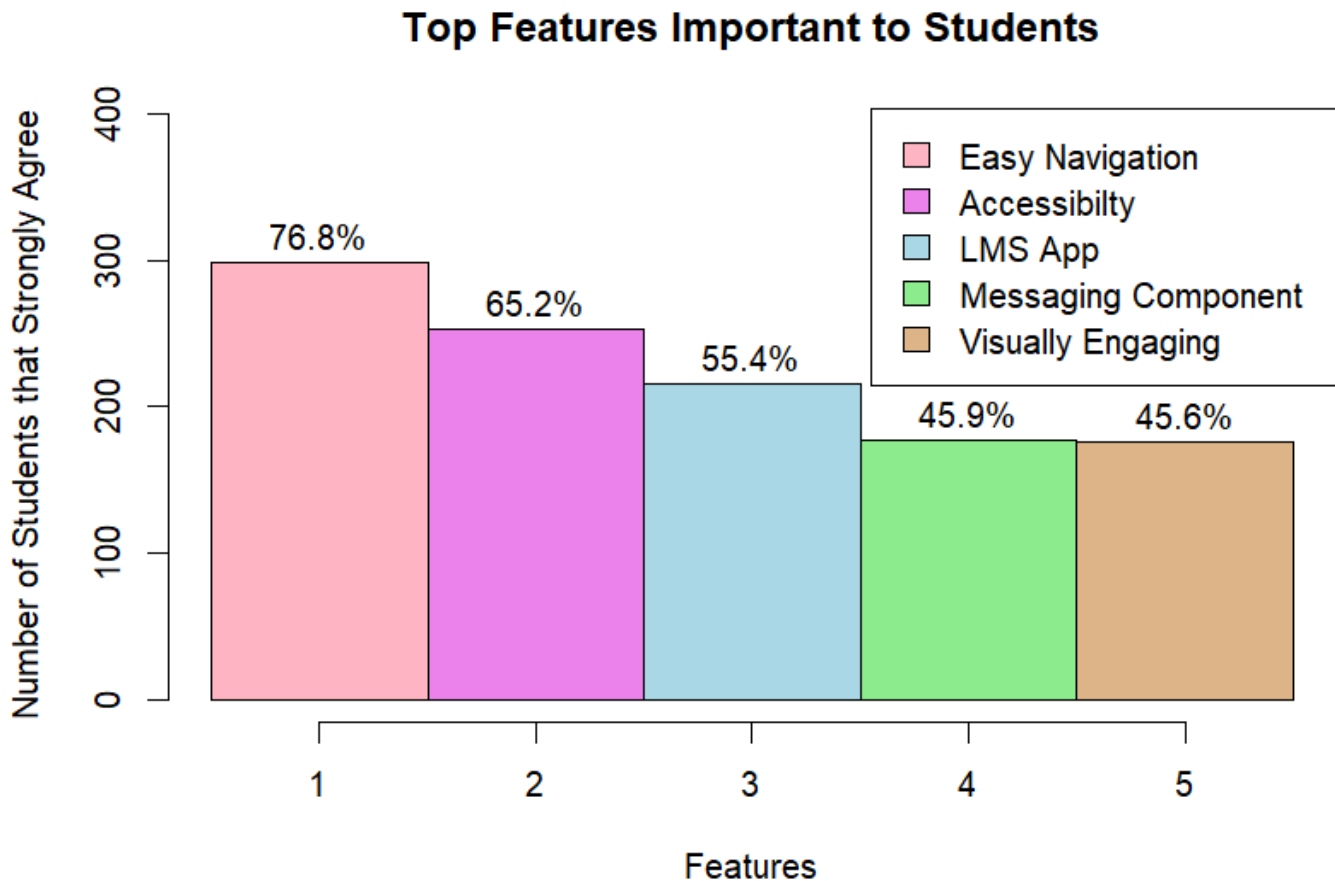
## II. Survey Results

### A. Key Findings

#### 1. Functions and Features

General LMS features that were most important to students:

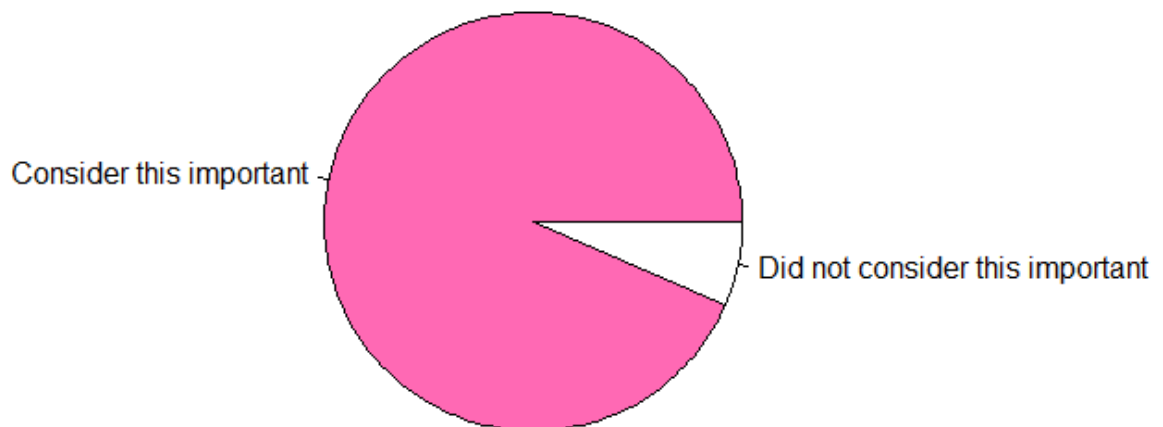
- **Easy to Navigate** (76.8 % strongly agree)
- **Accessibility** (65.2 % strongly agree)
- **LMS app** (55.4 % strongly agree)



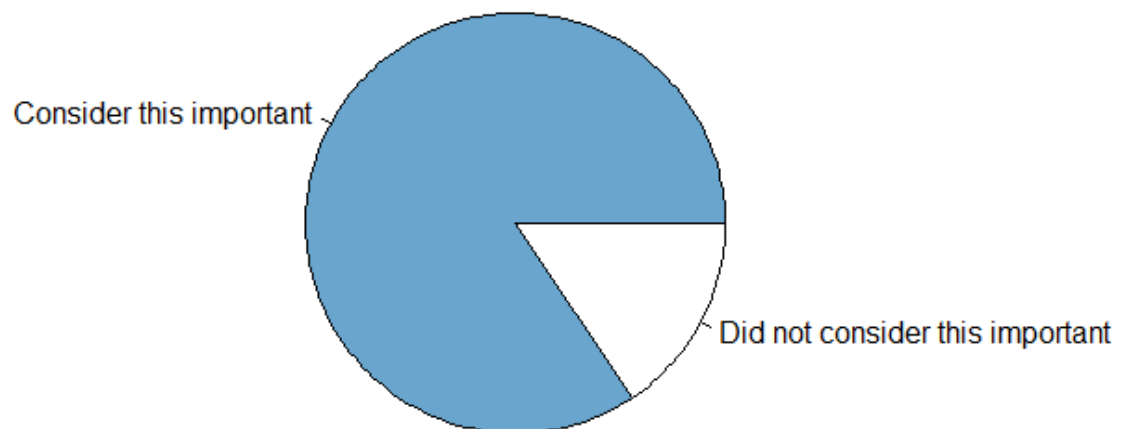
Additional desired features were:

- **Track their progress** throughout a course easily and reliably (**93.3 % participants chose this**)
- **Consistent navigation and experience** when submitting assignments, quizzes, and discussions (**81.7 % participants chose this**)

### Track their Progress through a Course

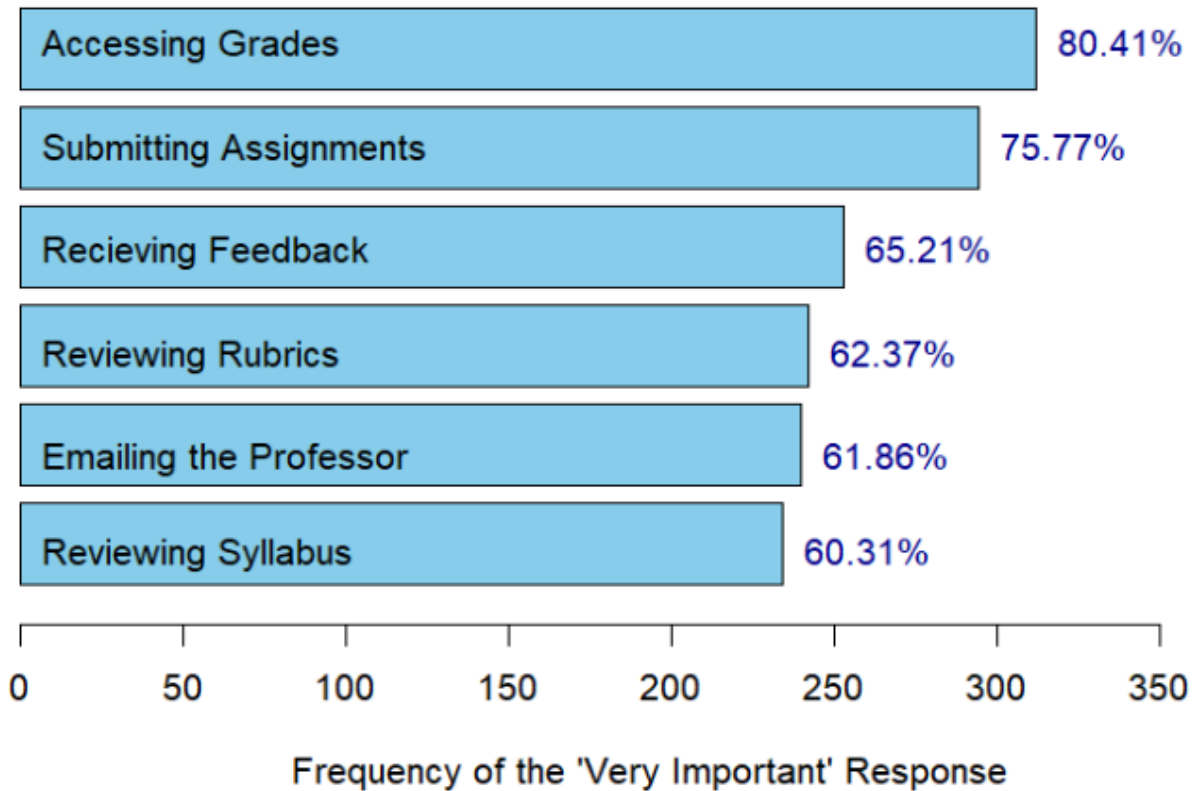


### Consistent Navigation and Experience



The specific functions that were most important to students' learning were:

### What functions are most important to students?



### 2. Engagement and Proficiency

Most students use Plato every day (72.6%) or often.

Never	3
Rarely	0
Sometimes	10
Often	93
Every Day	282



The majority of students describe themselves as **advanced at using an LMS (45%)**, such as Plato.

● Complete Novice	9
● Novice	21
● Intermediate	142
● Advanced	175
● Power User	41



Similarly, most students describe their **overall expertise with digital technologies as advanced (44%)**.

● Complete Novice	6
● Novice	27
● Intermediate	134
● Advanced	170
● Power User	51



### 3. Defining an LMS

Most students agree that the **primary function of an LMS** is:

- As one part of a teaching and learning ecosystem that connects students, instructors, and technologies in one space that is easily expandable as needed (32%)

#### **4. Additional Feedback and Highlights**

Parsing the other comments, the major themes for a future LMS for students were:

- Uniformity in the LMS across different courses
- A visually appealing platform with more visual elements incorporated

#### **5. Takeaways**

In choosing the next Learning Management System (LMS), WSU should prioritize a platform with ease-of-use and seamless navigation. The survey results show that there is an emphasis on accessibility (ADA compliance) and integrating more videos to enhance the platform's visual appeal. The LMS should also primarily concentrate on features related to assignments, feedback, and grading, and the LMS app is very important to students. Additionally, the largest concerns revolve around ensuring consistency across the platform, particularly in areas such as submitting assignments, taking quizzes, and utilizing weekly templates. Lastly, addressing students' desire for an easy method to track their progress within a course should be taken into account.