

Survey Data Interim Report: Students' Wants and Needs for a Learning

Management System, *Westfield State University, 2/5/2024*

Key Metrics:

274 responses

5:49 minutes

Open 1/10-1/25

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**

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.

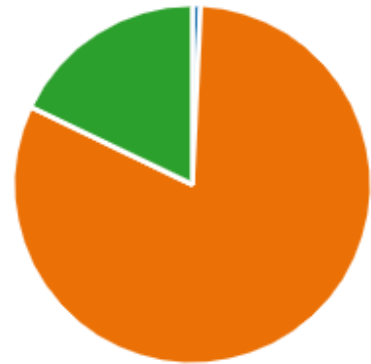
B. Methodology

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 **274 responses** in the listed time frame.

C. Demographics

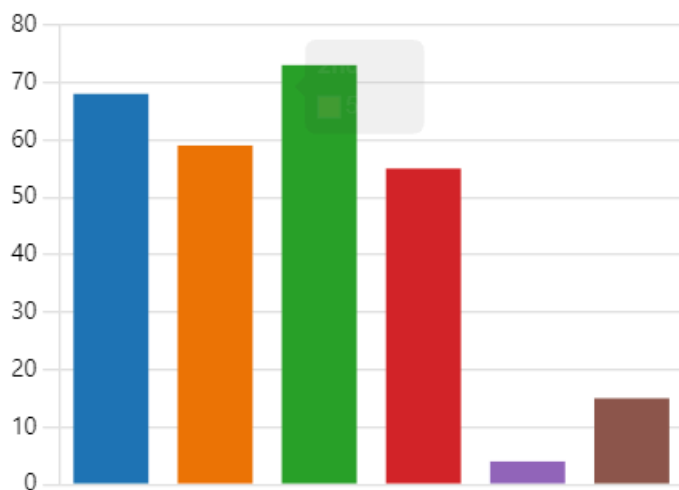
The majority of respondents were **undergraduate students (81.4%)**.

Some classes (no matriculated d...	2
Undergraduate degree	223
Graduate Degree	49
Certificate/ Professional Develop...	0

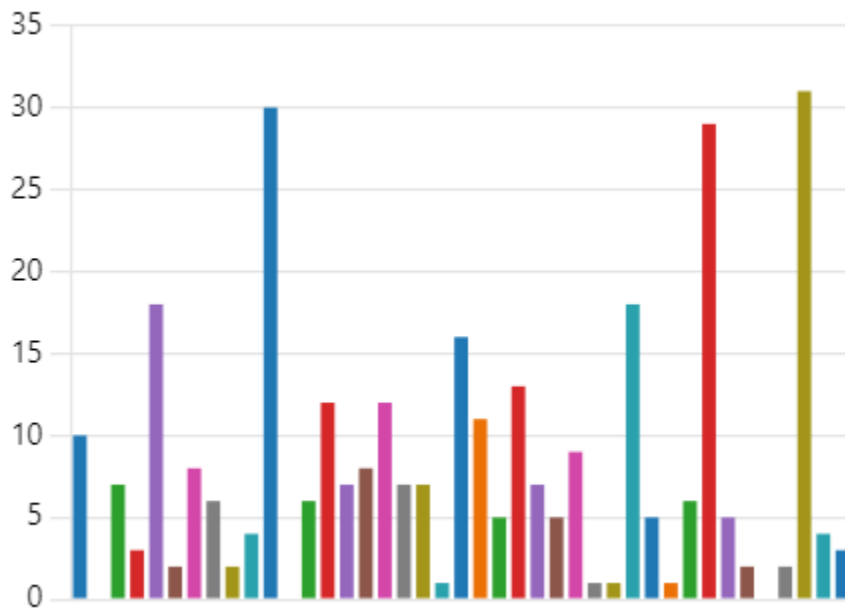


Students from **every enrollment year** responded, with the most responses from third years.

1st year	68
2nd year	59
3rd year	73
4th year	55
5th year	4
Other/ Prefer not to answer	15



The majors with the most responses were the **criminal justice, psychology, and social work** majors, with **38 different majors** chiming in.



- Criminal Justice 30
- Psychology 29
- Social Work 31

Most respondents are enrolled in **in-person classes (76.6 %)**, then online courses.

- In-person 210
- Hybrid 42
- Remote Synchronous 30
- Online 95



II. Survey Results

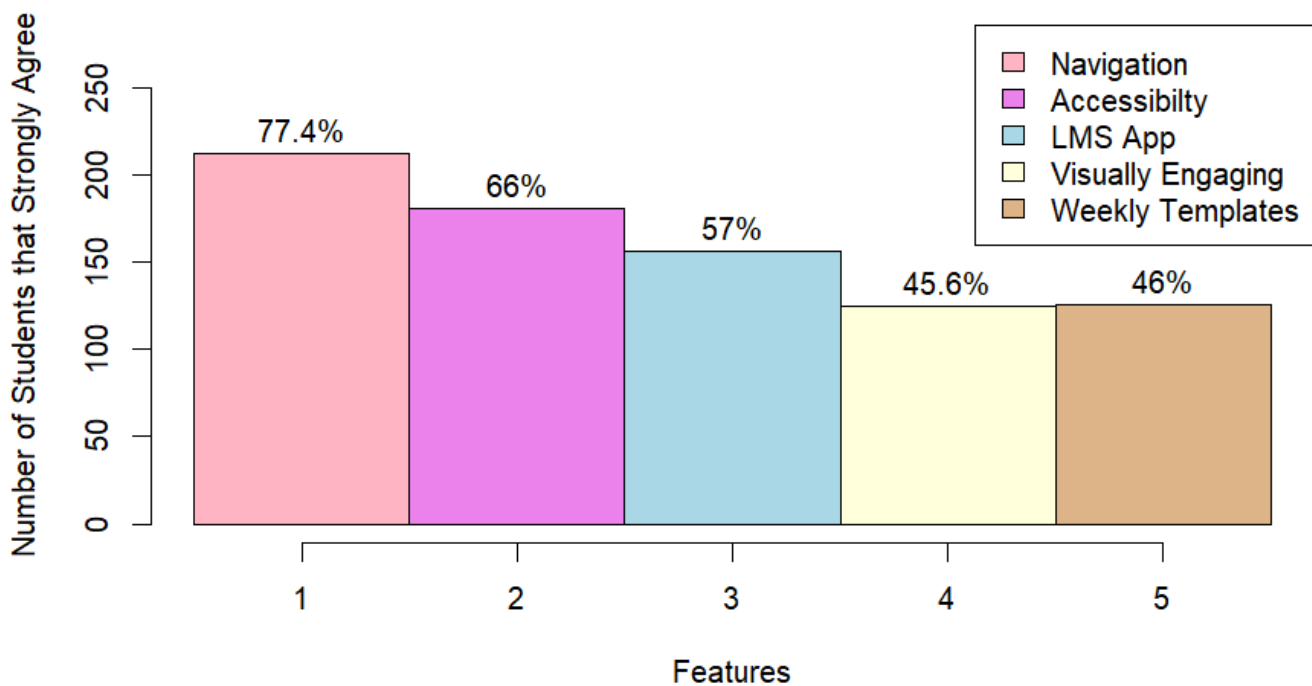
A. Key Findings

1. Functions and Features

General functions that were most important to students:

- **Easy to Navigate** (77.7 % strongly agree)
- **Accessibility** (66.4 % strongly agree)
- **LMS app** (57.3 % strongly agree)

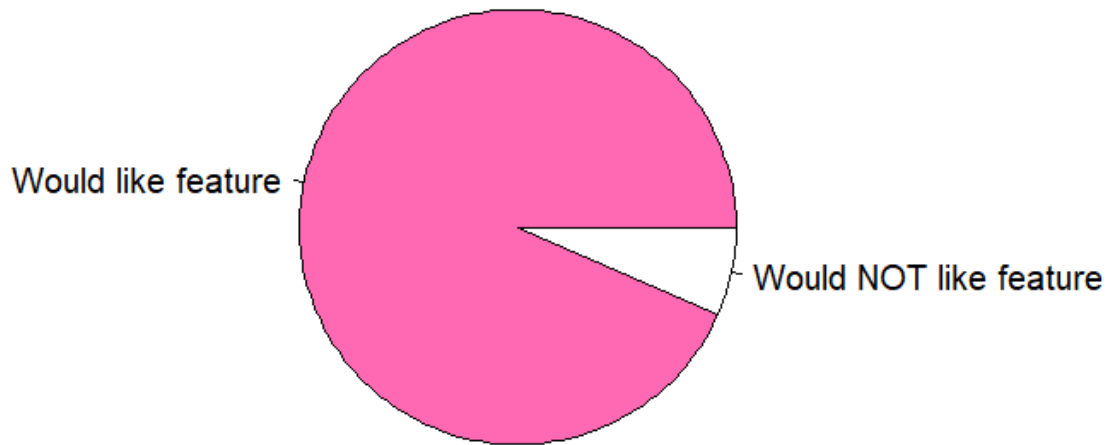
Top Features Important to Students



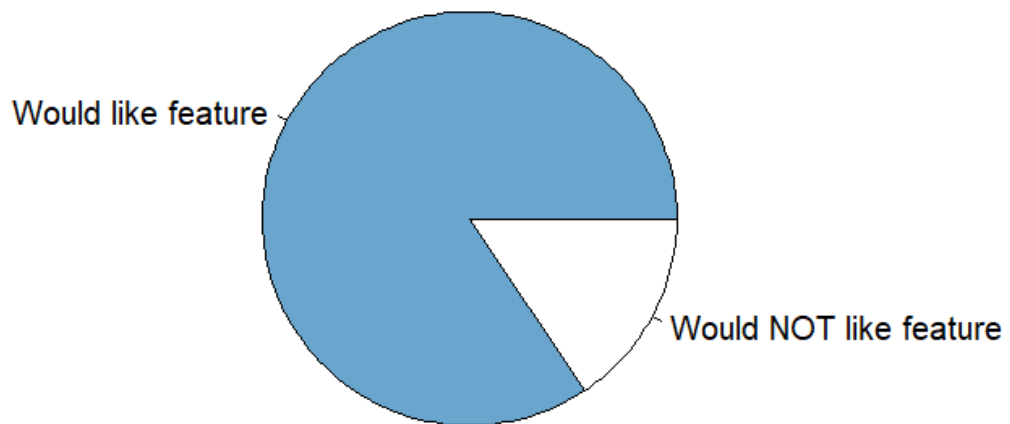
Desired features were:

- **Track their progress** throughout a course easily and reliably (**93.4 %**)
- **Consistent navigation and experience** when submitting assignments, quizzes, and discussions (**84.3 %**)

Track their Progress through a Course

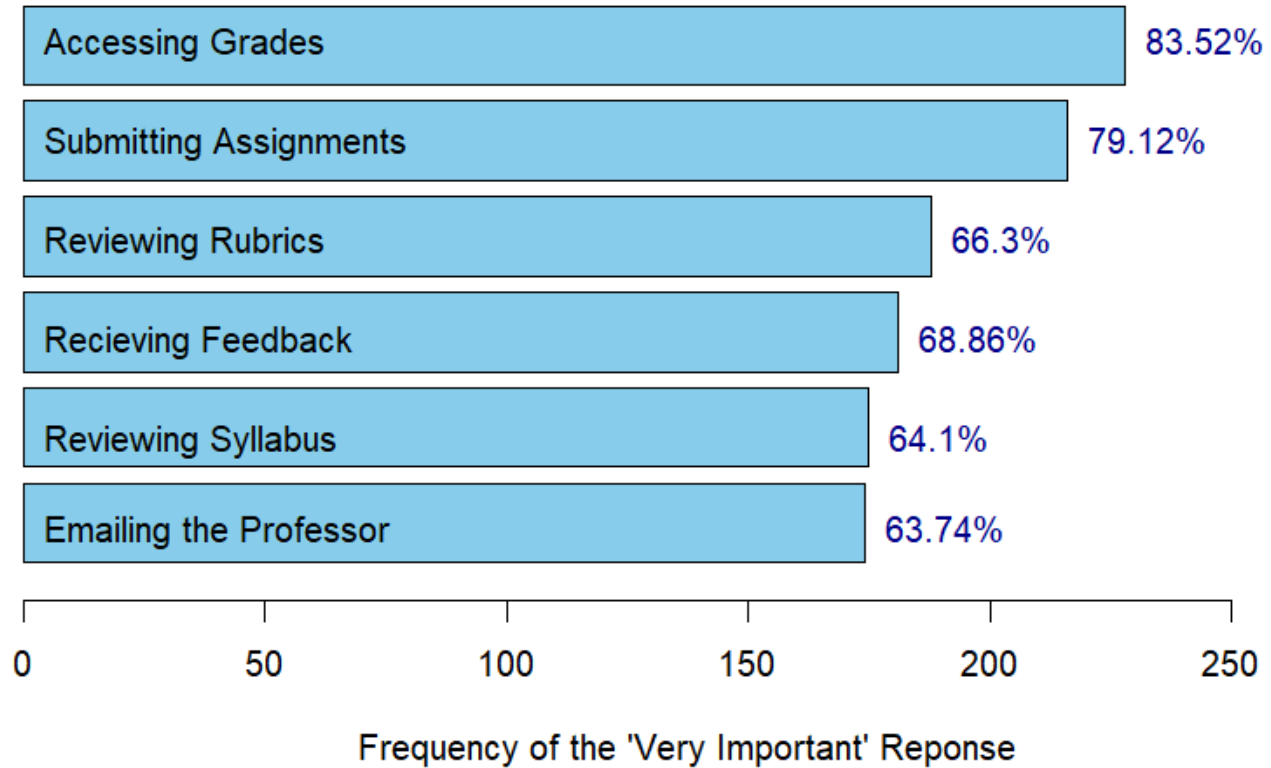


Consistent Navigation and Experience



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

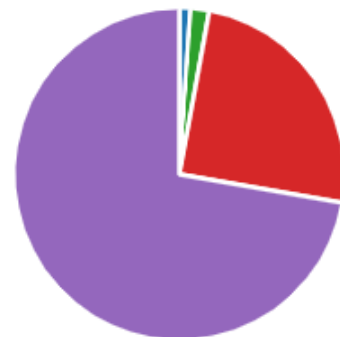
What functions are most important to students?



2. Engagement and Proficiency

Most students use Plato every day (72.3%) or often.

Never	3
Rarely	0
Sometimes	5
Often	68
Every Day	198



The majority of students describe themselves as **advanced at using an LMS (47.8%)**, such as Plato.

Complete Novice	5
Novice	15
Intermediate	99
Advanced	131
Power User	24



Similarly, most students describe their **overall expertise with digital technologies as advanced (69.5%)**.

Complete Novice	5
Novice	19
Intermediate	93
Advanced	121
Power User	36



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 (30%)

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 videos 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 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.