



**Inside
Higher
Ed**

Belonging to Succeed: Creating Community in the Online Classroom

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Webcast| Belonging to Succeed: Creating Community in the Online Classroom

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Panelists:

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Research Associate with the Learning
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University of Pittsburgh and Director of
Learning Innovation at WGU Labs

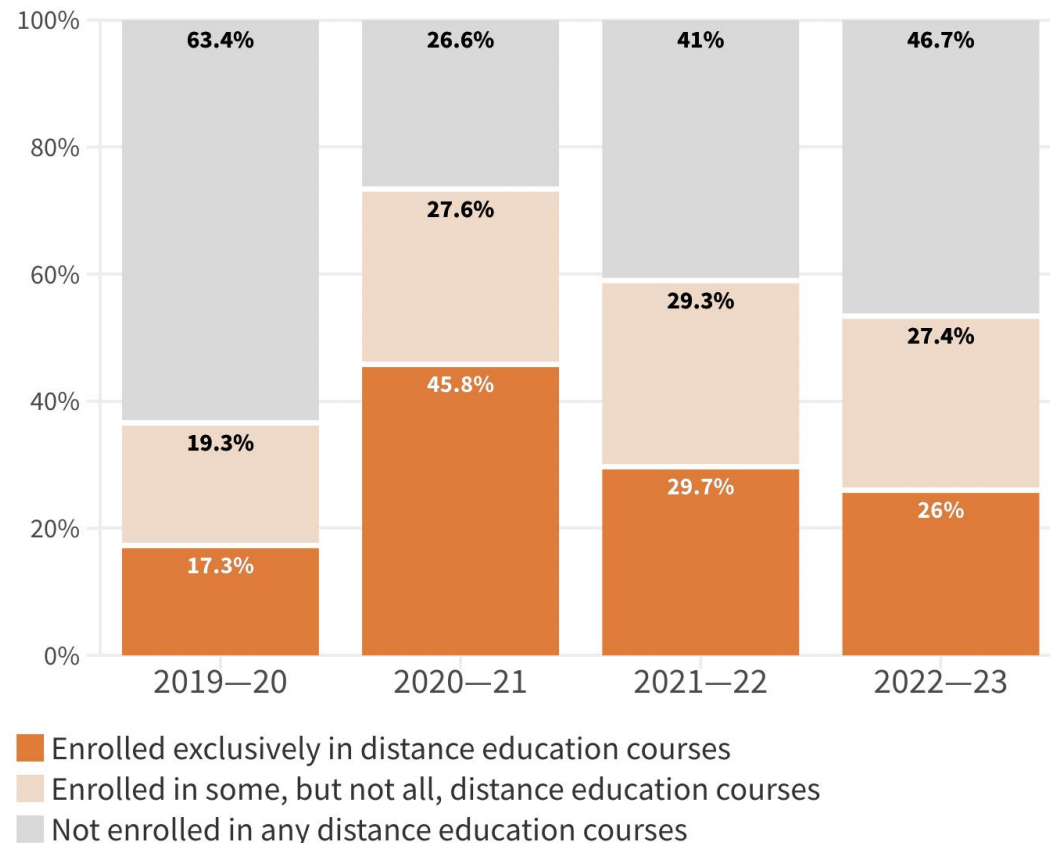
Rae Mancilla,
Executive Director of Online Learning at
the University of Pittsburgh's School of
Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Laurie Poklop,
Senior Associate Director of the Center
for Advancing Teaching and Learning
Through Research at Northeastern
University

Online Learners by the #s

Online Enrollment on Decline Post-COVID

Online enrollment is seeing a dip post-COVID but will likely never return to pre-pandemic numbers.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics

53%:

Share of college students taking some or all of their classes online (NCES, 2024)

69%:

Share of chief online learning officers who say creating online versions of on-campus courses is an institutional priority (CHLOE 9 report, Eduventures Research, Quality Matters and EDUCAUSE, 2024)

58%:

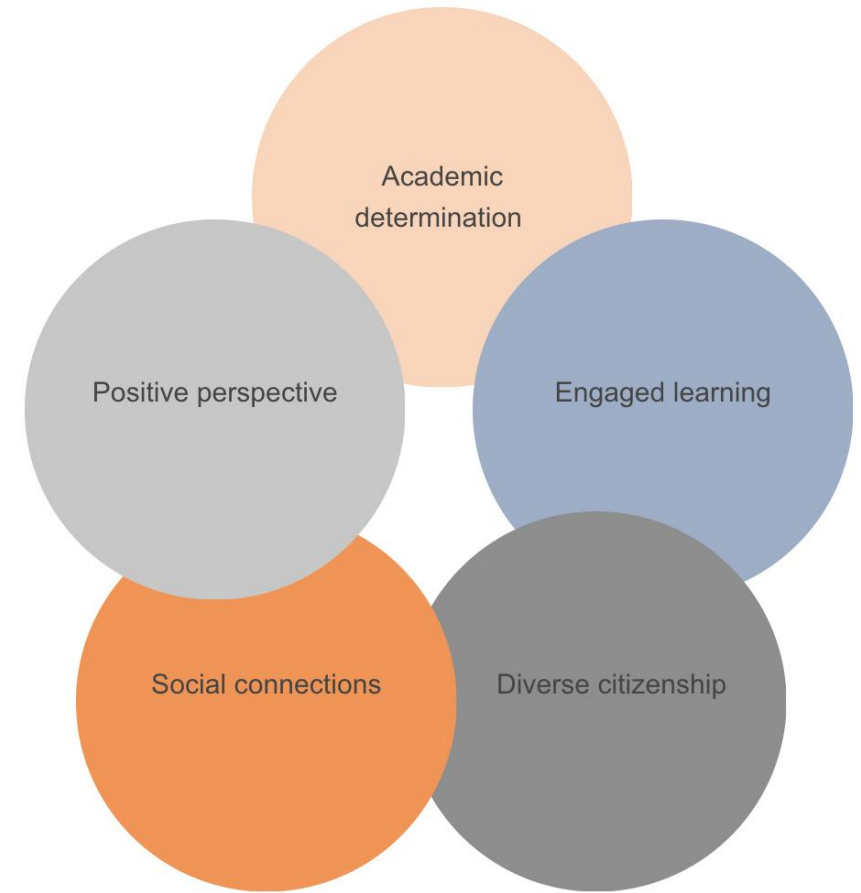
Share of online students who work full-time (Online College Students 2024 report, Education Dynamics)

On Belonging (and Thriving)

“Our findings suggest that faculty and staff relationships, university support and acceptance, teaching presence, cognitive presence, and social presence are pivotal contributors to students' sense of belonging.”

—Li Xu and Sheena Brown, “A Sense of Belonging in Online Post-Traditional Students: What Matters?”

Source: *Online Learning*, 2024 (left) ; “Measuring and Promoting Thriving in College,” *Inside Higher Ed*, 2023 (right)



Schreiner's Thriving Quotient Pathways:

1. Campus involvement, including peer interaction
2. Quality and frequency of student-faculty interaction
3. Spirituality
4. Sense of community

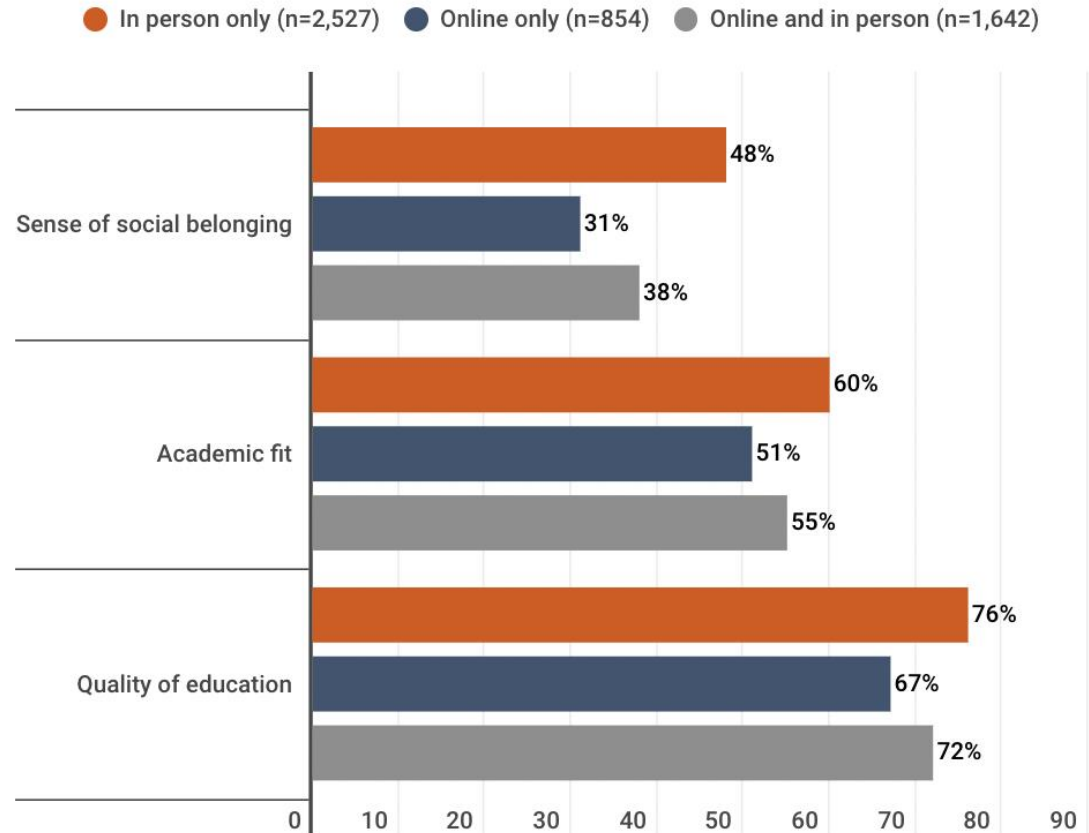
Student Voice

37% vs. 47%:

Student Voice 2024 respondents taking all their courses online who trust their professors “a lot,” compared to respondents taking all their courses in person who say the same (42% for respondents taking a mix of online and in-person course)

Online Students and Belonging

Student Voice respondents who rate the following good or excellent, by course setting



Source: Student Voice main annual survey, 2024 • n=5,025 • Inside Higher Ed x Generation Lab

Belonging, Community and Engagement

September 19, 2023

Academic Success Tip: Create Stronger Online Course Engagement

Many students and professors prefer online learning, but optimizing the digital classroom experience for engagement and active learning requires some thought. Here are four student success-focused ways to tweak online learning.

By [Ashley Mowreader](#)



Professors can help boost engagement in their online courses with strategic measures like optimizing class organization.

Facilitate active learning in classes

- Polling
- Think-pair-share
- Minute paper
- “Gallery walk”

Add asynchronous activities

- E.g., digital badging

Implement strategic course design

- E.g. flexibility

Create community outside of class

- E.g. digital learning communities

Source: *Inside Higher Ed*

Panel Discussion



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Sponsor Chat



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Sara Custer,
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Audience Q & A

Thank you!



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<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success>