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Honors Project 1

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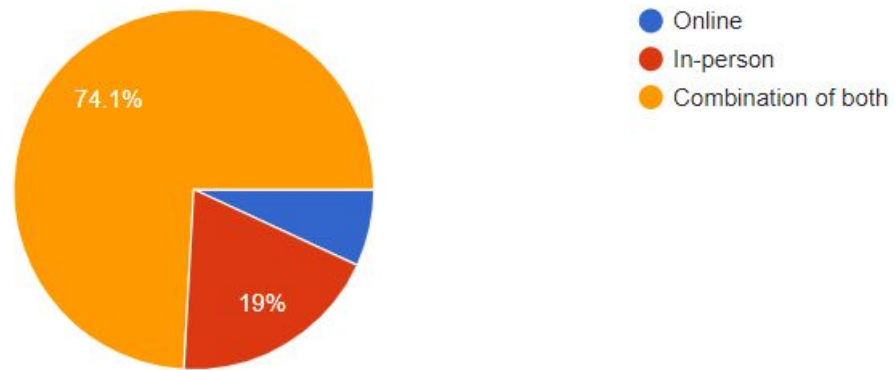
Teaching during the pandemic

2020 was a challenging year for the majority of people, including students and teachers. Due to the pandemic, schools had to switch to remote learning. Many teachers are teaching remotely for the first time. As an honors student, I decided to do a research project with my computer science instructor on how teachers of the Jamestown area schools received training for remote teaching. I asked teachers from five schools (Jamestown High School, Falconer Central School, Lincoln Elementary School, Randolph Central School, Frewsburg Central School, and Southwestern Central School) to participate in a survey that grades the quality and time of the received training for remote teaching. We had 58 participants in the survey, equally divided into elementary, middle, and high school teachers. The survey's main objectives were to determine if teachers received proper training, and ask if they would participate in training if JCC would offer training in an online solution of their choosing. The first thing we wanted to know is how many teachers are teaching online, in-person, or a combination of both. 74.1% (43 people) of participants responded that they are teaching a combination of online and in-person teaching. 19% (11 people) responded they are teaching in-person and only 6.9% responded they are teaching online only. This gave us an understanding that 81% of the teachers are teaching online

in one way or another.

Do you teach online, in-person, or a combination of both?

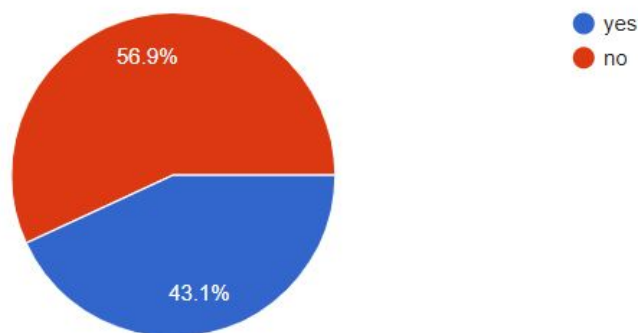
58 responses



The next thing we asked was if they received adequate training during the summer to sufficiently prepare them for their online teaching. To this question, more than half of the participants answered that they didn't receive adequate training during the summer.

If any part of your classes are online, did you receive adequate training during the summer to adequately prepare you for online teaching?

58 responses

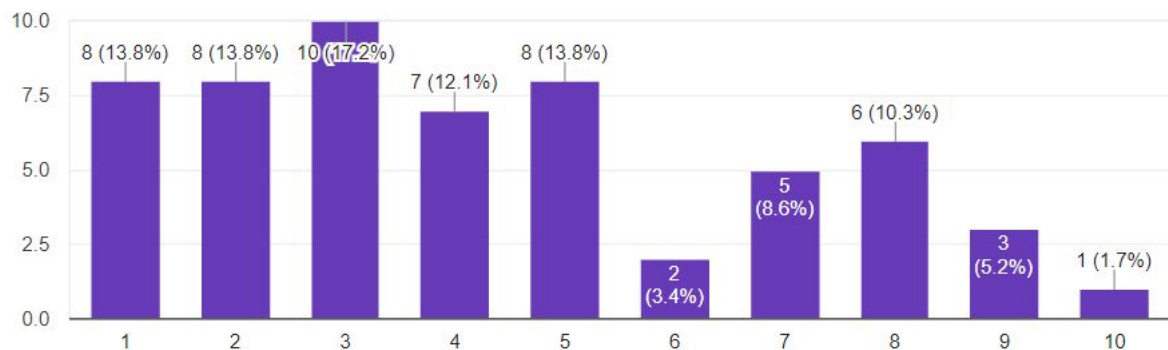


On the next two questions, we wanted participants to rate the amount of time they received in training and the quality of the training, on a scale of 1 to 10, with one being the lowest rating and ten being the highest. The average rate was 4.37 for the time they received,

which is below the average point, and 5.1 for the quality of the training. We can conclude that teachers didn't get an adequate amount of time and quality in the summer training.

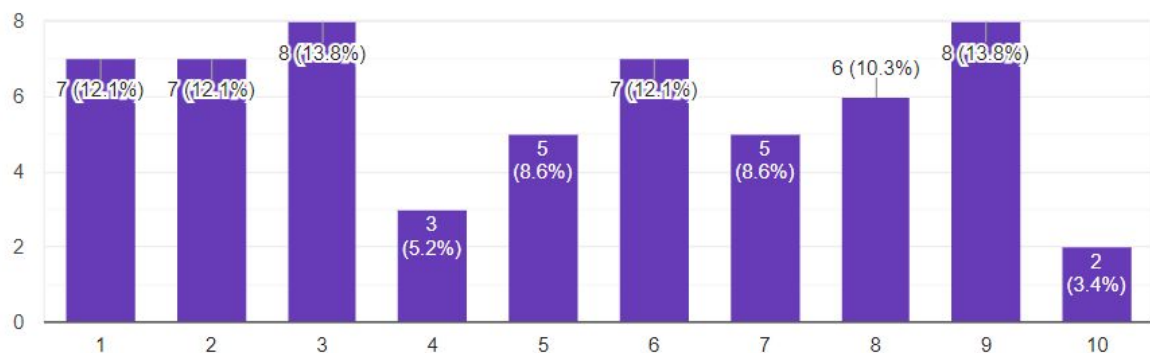
On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being the least and 10 being the most, how would you rate the amount of time that you received in training?

58 responses



On a scale from 1 to 10 with 1 being the least and 10 being the most, how would you rate the quality of the training that you received?

58 responses

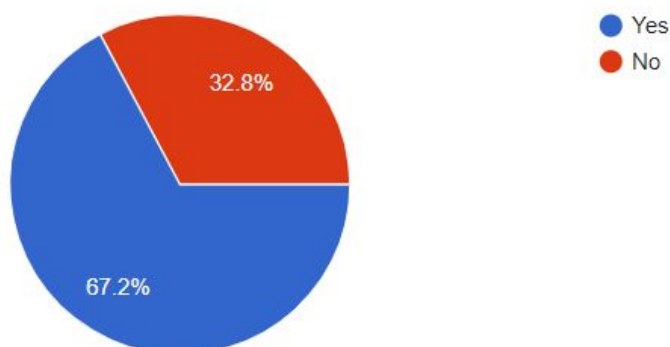


Then we asked what software they are using to connect with students. The main software that teachers are using are Zoom, Google Apps, Schoology, ClassDojo, Seesaw, and Microsoft Teams. All 58 participants said they are using the zoom to connect with students, which is the leading software to connect with students.

As we can see below, 67.2% of participants said JCC's training for online teaching would be beneficial.

Since Jamestown Community College has years of experience offering online learning, would it be advantageous to you if the college offered targeted training for your online classes?

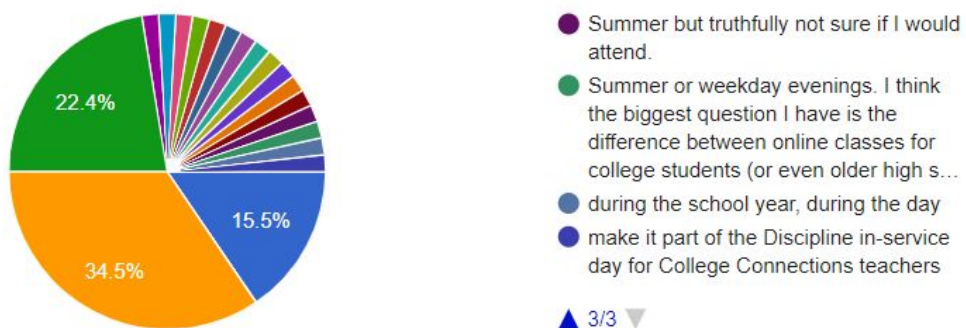
58 responses



We then asked when would be the best time to deliver the training. 34.5% of participants said summer, 15.5% of participants said during the school year, in the evenings, 22.4% said they would not attend the training, and 27.6% of participants offered other times or ideas. One of the participants commented that elementary and middle school students' online classes are different from high school and college students' online classes. She stated that high school teachers could get more benefit from JCC's training.

If such training were available, when would be the best time to offer such training?

58 responses



Ultimately, this survey revealed that teachers didn't receive adequate training for online teaching. Additionally, more than half of the participants responded that if JCC offered a training program, it would be beneficial for teachers. According to the survey, the best time to offer the training would be summer. However, we need to keep in mind that it is going to be different training for elementary, middle, and high school teachers. JCC's training can be more beneficial for high school students since their program is the closest to the college program.

As the results of the survey would indicate, this is an opportunity for Workforce Readiness at JCC to think about contacting area schools administrators to start to think and plan for ways that JCC could assist local schools in their efforts to offer high quality online learning to students in the public school system. Additionally, this would raise the visibility of JCC with the local school systems as they advise senior high school students about college opportunities. In the spring of 2020 when the public schools were thrown into online learning and were wholly unprepared. They received little or no training then, and it improved only marginally over the summer; clearly not enough to satisfy many of the teachers as they got ready for the new school year to begin the new school year in the fall of 2020. There is no guarantee that online learning in the public school setting will go away any time soon. We can hope that we return to "normal" but perhaps planning for the worst and hoping for the best would be a prudent course of action.