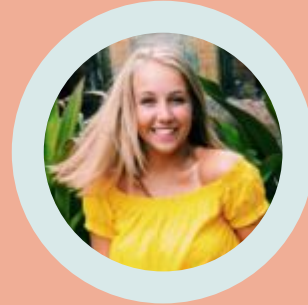# Student Experience Project 2020

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Background

In March of 2019, the University of Arizona made an emergency transition to remote learning as a result of COVID-19. It required adapting quickly to a new situation on the part of the students as well as the professors.

This project was developed to take advantage of the unique learning experience this opportunity presented.

Overview

01
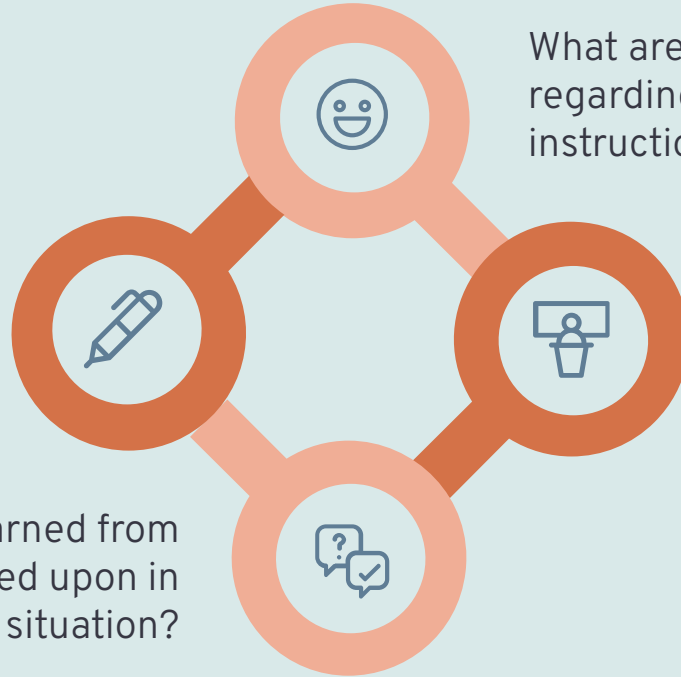Research Questions

02
Methodology

03
Results Analysis

04
Conclusion/What's next?

Research Questions

What are students' feelings regarding emergency remote instruction?

What were some of the successes/drawbacks of emergency remote learning?

What are students' perceptions of the digital tools being used?

What can be learned from and improved upon in this unique situation?

Methodology

1. **Data Collection:** Collected through a Google forms survey
2. **Dissemination:** Distributed the survey to classmates or professors, who in turn distributed the survey to their class.
3. **Analysis:** Analyzed the survey responses (grouped by question) and noted themes in a separate Google document.
4. **Harmonization:** Harmonized their findings in a subsequent meeting. Each party presented her findings on a collaborative document, and findings with resounding agreement were noted.
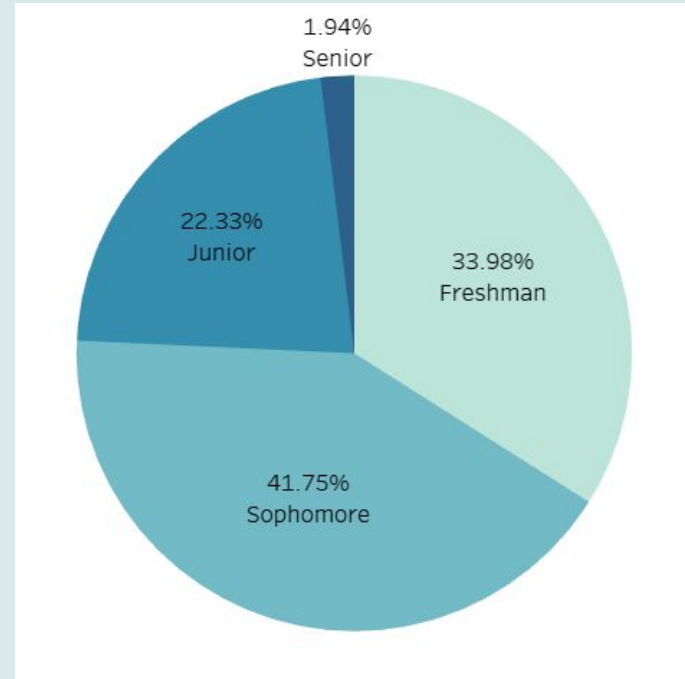
Results: Demographics

103

total respondents

4.9%

international students

71.8%

have taken at least one
college-level
online/hybrid course

1.94%
Senior

22.33%
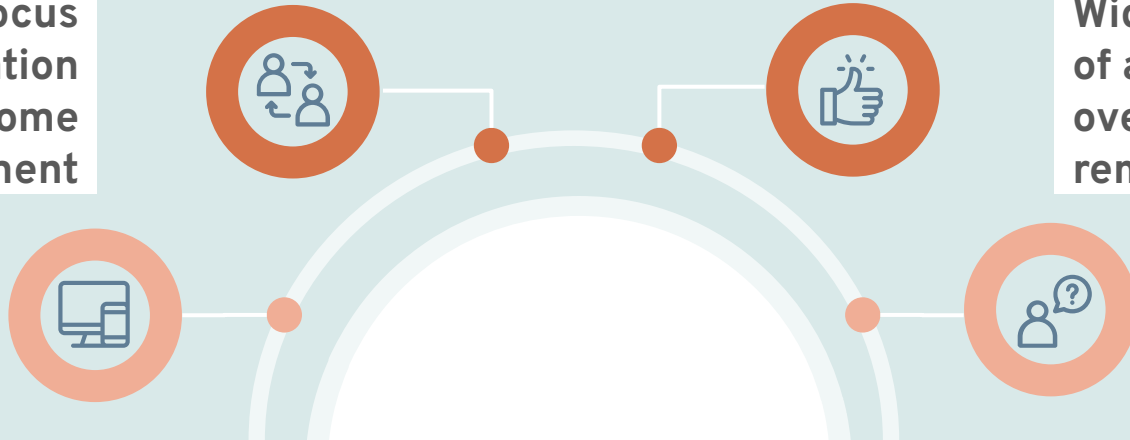Junior

33.98%
Freshman

41.75%
Sophomore

Results
Main Themes

Feelings of isolation, lack of community

Positive views on Zoom for emulating in-person learning

Lack of focus and motivation in home environment

Wide spectrum of attitudes overall towards remote classes

Lack of Motivation in Home Environment

"I missed the focus provided by being in a classroom setting rather than in my own workspace with others in my household." - Sophomore

"I think in person courses allow for a better understanding of the material and provide more motivation towards school. I find it to be difficult to complete my assignments promptly when at home because of the various distractions. I miss campus and actually walking to class with a set schedule." - Sophomore

"I realized how much the environment affected my motivation to learn. It is hard to be immersed in learning with so many distractions at home." - Sophomore

"I think that teachers should have taken into account the distractions that come with being home and taking all online classes." - Sophomore

Feelings of isolation, lack of community

"I missed being able to study with peers in order to figure out more difficult aspects of certain classes. I also struggled with online lectures because it was harder to stay engaged." - Sophomore

"I miss being able to ask questions when they come up and have almost instant feedback." - Freshman

"Collaboration with classmates, speaking face to face with professors and other students." - Sophomore

"Building strong relationships with my friends and professors. I missed out on a lot of club and career fair opportunities as well." - Sophomore

Results: Common Sentiments

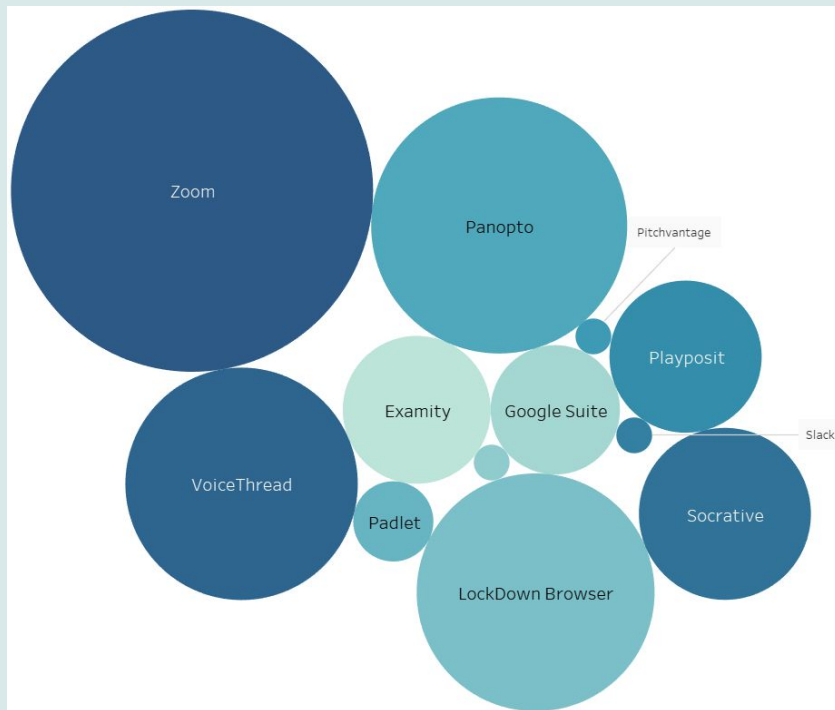**"What aspects, if any, of in-person classes did you miss this spring?"**

Results: (Mostly) Positive Towards Zoom

"Voicethreads or Zoom recordings seemed to work the best for learning the class material rather than reading the textbook. It is the most similar to being in person."
- Junior

"Zoom was extremely beneficial!! They implemented lots of one on one activities in breakout rooms… It was very daunting at first, but I got used to it and loved it!"
- Freshman

"Zoom was alright, but many people struggled with accessing the features– not being able to work out breakout rooms, share computer audio, etc." - Sophomore

Results: Other Digital Tools

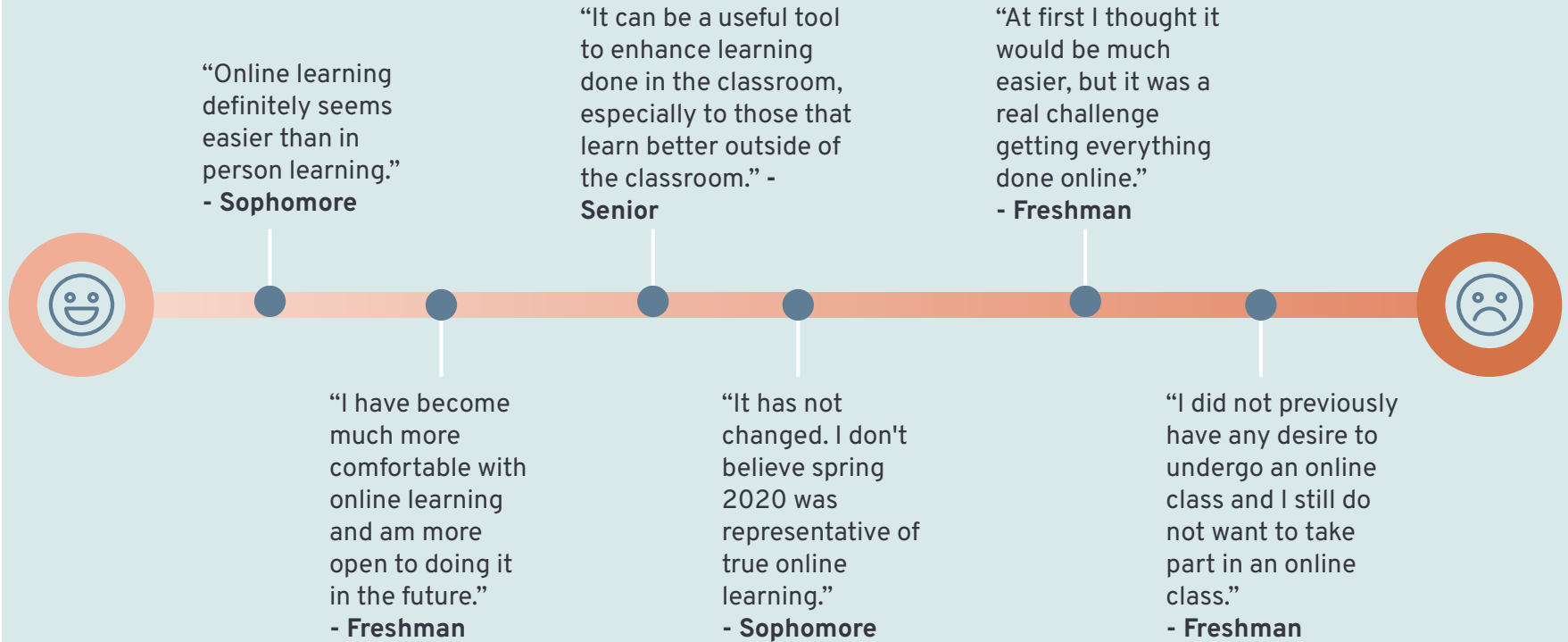"I feel like I got more out of [having] everyone come together and freely express their thoughts through our Slack channel." - Junior

"I didn't enjoy the test taking software because it felt a bit invasive, specifically Examity." - Sophomore

"For every class that transitioned online, all of them had different methods of delivering lectures. If it could be standardized, it would alleviate some of the stress." - Junior

Results: Wide Spectrum of Sentiments

"Online learning definitely seems easier than in person learning."
- Sophomore

"It can be a useful tool to enhance learning done in the classroom, especially to those that learn better outside of the classroom." **- Senior**

"At first I thought it would be much easier, but it was a real challenge getting everything done online."
- Freshman

"I have become much more comfortable with online learning and am more open to doing it in the future."
- Freshman

"It has not changed. I don't believe spring 2020 was representative of true online learning."
- Sophomore

"I did not previously have any desire to undergo an online class and I still do not want to take part in an online class."
- Freshman

What's Next?

Lack of Motivation in Home Environment
- Keeping content and course sites interactive and immersive
- Work with professors to make modules organized and concise

Feeling of isolation, lack of community
- Continue to incorporate opportunities for interaction with classmates and professors

Digital Tools
- Outreach to spread the word for workshops and troubleshooting help

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Q&A

Ask away!