SPRING 2015 UHWO SCHEDULING SURVEY

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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Executive Summary

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness surveyed all 2,661 University of Hawai`i West O`ahu (UHWO) undergraduate students about their scheduling needs. There were 433 respondents, giving a response rate of 16.3 percent. Findings of this survey include the following:

- UHWO students have work and family obligations on top of coursework. The majority of students who answered the survey work at least part-time hours and all students are obligated to take care of family members for some time during their week.
- Respondents want to see more classes available, both online and on campus. They have difficulty enrolling in courses and are often waitlisted. Students worry they cannot graduate on time because of the limited course offerings and class times.
- The majority of students prefer classes in the morning. The afternoon and evening were second and third choice. Over half of the students said they were available between 9:30am and 1:50pm.
- About half of students surveyed are available for online courses only.
- Of the choices given, the majority of students prefer classes offered Tuesdays and Thursdays or Mondays and Wednesdays.
- 75 percent of respondents would be interested in accelerated courses.

Student Work and Obligations

According to the survey, over half of the students work more than 20 hours a week, with a third of respondents working full-time (35+ hours per week). Nearly a quarter of respondents were not currently working (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Student Employment

Q1 Please indicate if you are currently employed full-time or part-time on or off-campus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time (35+ hours per week)</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time (20 to 34 hours)</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time (10 to 19 hours)</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am not currently employed</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beyond formal work, students also have obligations to their family and spend time taking care of family members. All students responded that they care for someone, either their own children or other family member at least 10 hours per week. Over half the students reported spending 10 to 19 hours per week providing care for another while 28 percent spend over 35 hours a week doing so (see Figure 2).

*Figure 2. Hours Spent Each Week Caring for Family*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours per Week</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-19 hours</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-34 hours</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35+ hours</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preferred Class Times and Class Availability**

A little over half (53.8 percent) of the students chose morning, from 8am to 11am, as their first choice for classes (see Figure 3). Only 24.8 percent chose afternoon (12pm-4pm) and 21.7 percent chose evening (5pm-10pm) as their first choice. Nearly 60 percent chose the afternoon as their second choice, and 63 percent chose the evening as their third choice.

More than half of the students said they were available to meet between the times of 9:30am and 1:50pm, showing that the late morning to early afternoon has the most availability of the students surveyed (see Figure 4). About 40 percent said they were available at 8am and 45 percent were available from 2pm to 3:20pm. About a third of respondents said they were available in the late afternoon and evening from 3:30pm and later. Also important to note is that almost half of the students (49.2 percent) said that they were available online only.

More students said they were available on Tuesdays and Thursdays (78.2 percent) and Mondays and Wednesdays (67.2 percent) than the other options given (see Figure 5). A third of students said they were available three times a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) and 23.2 percent were available on the weekends (Friday evening and Saturday morning).
Figure 3. Time of Day Preference

Q2 Please rank the preferred time of day that you like to take classes.

Answered: 435  Skipped: 8

- Morning (8a-11a): 53.8%
- Afternoon (12n-4p): 50.0%
- Evening (5p-10p): 63.3%

Figure 4. Time of Day Available

Q3 Please indicate the times that you are available to take classes

Answered: 431  Skipped: 2

- 8:00am - 9:20am: 40.4%
- 9:30am - 10:30am: 49.2%
- 11:00am - 11:50pm: 64.3%
- 12:30pm - 1:30pm: 56.1%
- 2:00pm - 3:00pm: 45.0%
- 3:30pm - 4:50pm: 36.0%
- 5:00pm - 6:20pm: 36.9%
- 6:30pm or later: 33.2%
- Online only: 49.2%
- Hybrid only - meet weekly: 30.9%
We also asked students their interest in taking accelerated courses, or courses that meet less than 15 weeks. About 75 percent of students responded that they were interested, with about a quarter (25.1 percent) saying that they were not interested (see Figure 5).

**Additional Comments Regarding Scheduling**

Students were given the opportunity to voice additional comments about scheduling at UHWO. The major themes of these comments were more online classes, more classes in general, more on campus courses and more variety in class time. There were groups of students that requested more of classes at certain times such as weekends or at night or for more hybrid and accelerated courses.
More online courses: Students want more courses to be offered online; however, specific courses were also mentioned such as writing intensive courses, business, and history. Several students commented that they need to take online courses because of their work or family commitments but there are limited classes available online, the classes fill quickly, and priority is given to neighbor island students. Seven students brought up priority for online classes as an issue. These students suggested offering more of the same course online, creating courses for neighbor island or Oahu students only, and giving priority based on number of credits and standing over geographic location. A few of the students requesting more online courses also asked for more night, weekend, or hybrid class options because they cannot attend courses during the workday.

More classes in general: Students commented that scheduling is not the problem but class availability. Required courses are full, and oftentimes these courses are not offered every semester, so student graduation plans are pushed back. Students specifically commented about their worries of graduating on time due to lack of class availability. They suggested adding more of the same course, allowing larger class sizes, and offering core/required courses every semester and not just seasonally. Several students commented about the difficulty in getting into PUBA and writing intensive courses.

More on campus classes: Students want more classes offered in person on campus rather than online. Some of these students commented there were too many online courses and requested to have less online classes. A few mentioned they prefer in person courses because they can learn more effectively. A few business students want on campus classes for their major and specifically upper level courses offered in person.

More variety in class times: Students offered several suggestions to class availability and scheduling including having sections for courses offered at different times, offering classes back to back thus eliminating gaps, and offering classes on different days. A few students mentioned traffic as a deterrent and suggested to offer additional class options around peak traffic times.

More weekend/night courses: Students asked for more weekend courses or late afternoon/night courses to accommodate their job schedules. Some clarified that although online options are available, they prefer to meet in person and so need in-class options available to them outside of the regular work week. One student requested for required lab courses to be offered after 4pm or on Saturdays. Another student requested weekend classes that weren’t always in the mornings because of other commitments.

More specific requests for course types/times: Five students requested more hybrid classes or once a week courses. Four students expressed their preference for accelerated courses, particularly if these courses were offered back to back to maximize the time. Three students requested more classes in the summer whether online or in class. Two students requested for the library and No’eau center to be open later.

More information about class availability: A few students requested more information about class scheduling, class availability, and specifics about course types such as accelerated courses. Some students want more information about class times, class sizes, and wait lists before they register so they can plan accordingly.