

Strada Public Viewpoint: COVID-19 Work and Education Survey

Interview Dates: March 24-October 29, 2020

Audience: National online survey of Americans ages 18 and above excluding retirees. Quotas based on the U.S. Census were used to ensure results that are nationally representative by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and region. Sample size for entire survey: n=21,137. Sample size varies per question as questions were rotated throughout the survey period.

1. **Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: If I were to lose my job because of coronavirus (COVID-19) events, I will need additional education or training to find a job with the same wages or income.**

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| a. Strongly agree | 13% |
| b. Agree | 22% |
| c. Neither agree nor disagree | 30% |
| d. Disagree | 21% |
| e. Strongly disagree | 14% |

Base: Individuals who were in the workforce (employed full-time or part-time, self-employed, or unemployed looking for work), n=12,762.

2. **How challenging would each of the following be for you, personally, in pursuing education or training?**

The cost of tuition, books, and other expenses

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|---------------------------|-----|
| a. Extremely challenging | 25% |
| b. Very challenging | 20% |
| c. Somewhat challenging | 22% |
| d. Not very challenging | 11% |
| e. Not at all challenging | 22% |

Fear that I've been out of school for too long

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| a. Extremely challenging | 20% |
| b. Very challenging | 18% |
| c. Somewhat challenging | 23% |
| d. Not very challenging | 12% |
| e. Not at all challenging | 27% |

Fear that I won't be able to succeed

a. Extremely challenging	16%
b. Very challenging	16%
c. Somewhat challenging	23%
d. Not very challenging	15%
e. Not at all challenging	30%

Schedules and times when courses are available

a. Extremely challenging	14%
b. Very challenging	17%
c. Somewhat challenging	26%
d. Not very challenging	15%
e. Not at all challenging	27%

Balancing school and work

a. Extremely challenging	15%
b. Very challenging	16%
c. Somewhat challenging	22%
d. Not very challenging	13%
e. Not at all challenging	33%

Time away from work/earning less money

a. Extremely challenging	17%
b. Very challenging	17%
c. Somewhat challenging	22%
d. Not very challenging	13%
e. Not at all challenging	31%

Balancing school and childcare

a. Extremely challenging	11%
b. Very challenging	12%
c. Somewhat challenging	16%
d. Not very challenging	10%
e. Not at all challenging	51%

Uncertainty about what education path to pursue

a. Extremely challenging	16%
b. Very challenging	17%
c. Somewhat challenging	26%
d. Not very challenging	13%
e. Not at all challenging	28%

Loss of time with family/friends

a. Extremely challenging	14%
b. Very challenging	17%
c. Somewhat challenging	24%
d. Not very challenging	17%
e. Not at all challenging	28%

Transportation

a. Extremely challenging	12%
b. Very challenging	13%
c. Somewhat challenging	19%
d. Not very challenging	18%
e. Not at all challenging	39%

Personal health concerns

a. Extremely challenging	15%
b. Very challenging	16%
c. Somewhat challenging	24%
d. Not very challenging	17%
e. Not at all challenging	28%

Reliable access to internet

a. Extremely challenging	10%
b. Very challenging	12%
c. Somewhat challenging	17%
d. Not very challenging	20%
e. Not at all challenging	42%

Reliable access to a computer

a. Extremely challenging	11%
b. Very challenging	10%
c. Somewhat challenging	17%
d. Not very challenging	19%
e. Not at all challenging	43%

Base: Americans age 18 and older, n=4,035.

3. Thinking about the future, please indicate if and when you are likely to enroll in courses or training offered through the following:

Four-year college or university

- a. Within 1 month 3%
- b. Within 3 months 2%
- c. Within 6 months 3%
- d. Within 1 year 4%
- e. Within 2 years 4%
- f. Within 5 years 6%
- g. Currently enrolled 6%
- h. Will not enroll 73%

Community college

- a. Within 1 month 1%
- b. Within 3 months 3%
- c. Within 6 months 4%
- d. Within 1 year 5%
- e. Within 2 years 5%
- f. Within 5 years 6%
- g. Currently enrolled 6%
- h. Will not enroll 70%

Trade Schools/Programs

- a. Within 1 month 2%
- b. Within 3 months 3%
- c. Within 6 months 4%
- d. Within 1 year 5%
- e. Within 2 years 5%
- f. Within 5 years 7%
- g. Currently enrolled 4%
- h. Will not enroll 71%

Employer

- a. Within 1 month 3%
- b. Within 3 months 4%
- c. Within 6 months 4%
- d. Within 1 year 6%
- e. Within 2 years 6%
- f. Within 5 years 6%
- g. Currently enrolled 7%
- h. Will not enroll 63%

Online only community colleges, colleges or universities

- a. Within 1 month 2%
- b. Within 3 months 3%
- c. Within 6 months 5%
- d. Within 1 year 7%
- e. Within 2 years 6%
- f. Within 5 years 7%
- g. Currently enrolled 5%
- h. Will not enroll 65%

Other online non-academic courses, trainings, or certifications

- a. Within 1 month 3%
- b. Within 3 months 4%
- c. Within 6 months 6%
- d. Within 1 year 7%
- e. Within 2 years 6%
- f. Within 5 years 7%
- g. Currently enrolled 5%
- h. Will not enroll 64%

Apprenticeship or internship with a local employer

- a. Within 1 month 2%
- b. Within 3 months 4%
- c. Within 6 months 5%
- d. Within 1 year 5%
- e. Within 2 years 5%
- f. Within 5 years 6%
- g. Currently enrolled 4%
- h. Will not enroll 69%

Base: Americans age 18 and older, n=15,110.

4. How would you rate your college or university's support for helping students connect their education to a meaningful career?

- a. Excellent 7%
- b. Very good 28%
- c. Fair 48%
- d. Not very good 13%
- e. Poor 4%

Base: National online survey of college students currently enrolled at bachelor's degree-granting institutions. Quotas based on the U.S. Census were used to ensure results that are nationally representative by age, gender, and race/ethnicity. Sample size n=4,007.

5. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: My education will be worth the cost.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| a. Strongly agree | 16% |
| b. Agree | 34% |
| c. Neither agree nor disagree | 23% |
| d. Disagree | 19% |
| e. Strongly disagree | 8% |

Base: National online survey of college students currently enrolled at bachelor's degree-granting institutions. Quotas based on the U.S. Census were used to ensure results that are nationally representative by age, gender, and race/ethnicity. Sample size n=4,007.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Pursuing more education or training will help me get a good job.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| a. Strongly agree | 19% |
| b. Agree | 29% |
| c. Neither agree nor disagree | 31% |
| d. Disagree | 12% |
| e. Strongly disagree | 9% |

Getting more education or training would be worth the cost.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| a. Strongly agree | 16% |
| b. Agree | 26% |
| c. Neither agree nor disagree | 33% |
| d. Disagree | 16% |
| e. Strongly disagree | 10% |

Base: Individuals who were in the workforce (employed full-time or part-time, self-employed, or unemployed looking for work), n=7,081.

7. If you were to enroll in additional education or training sometime within the next 6 months, what would be your goal?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| a. One or more courses to get some skills I need for work | 22% |
| b. One or more courses for personal interests or hobbies | 17% |
| c. A certificate, certification, or license | 24% |
| d. An associate degree | 12% |
| e. A bachelor's degree | 15% |
| f. A graduate degree | 11% |

Base: Individuals planning to enroll in education or training, n=8,911.

8. Thinking about different ways of accessing education or training, please indicate your preferences:

If I were to enroll in education or training within the next six months, I would prefer:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| a. Face to face/In-person | 25% |
| b. Hybrid (mix of in-person and online) | 31% |
| c. Online education | 44% |

If COVID-19 was not a threat, when it comes to education and training, I would prefer:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| a. Face to face/In-person | 41% |
| b. Hybrid (mix of in-person and online) | 31% |
| c. Online education | 28% |

Base: Americans ages 18 and older, n=1,009.