

Fall 2020 Faculty Survey

Quarterly Meeting of the Tennessee Board of Regents

December 2020

Fall 2020 Faculty Survey

Key Themes

1

Concerns about student engagement

2

Student technology access challenges

3

Hands-on training in online courses

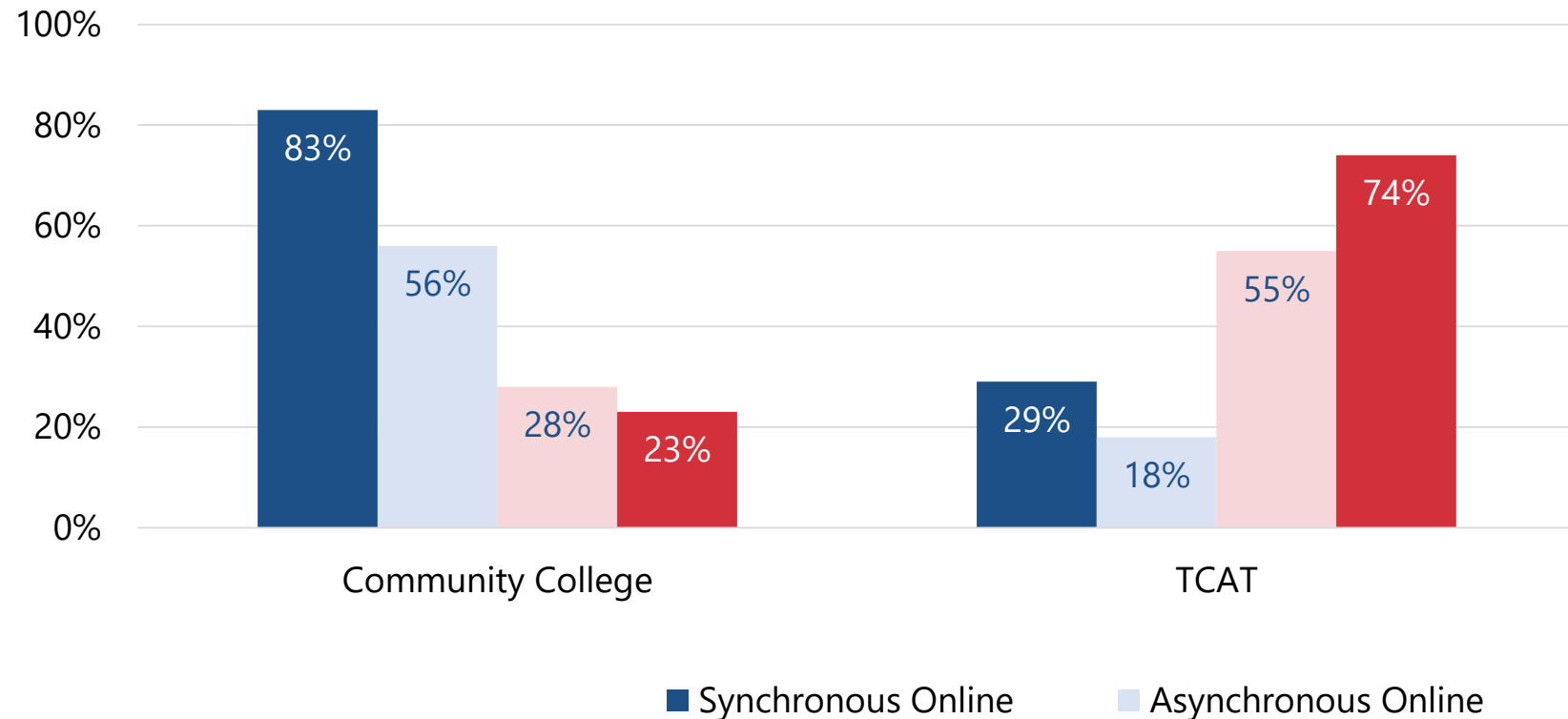
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Students' health and safety

More than 1,500 faculty participated in a November 2020 faculty survey.

About the Participants	
1,557	Number of Survey Responses
41%	of Full-Time Community College Faculty Participated
13%	of Adjunct Community College Faculty Participated
47%	of TCAT Faculty Participated

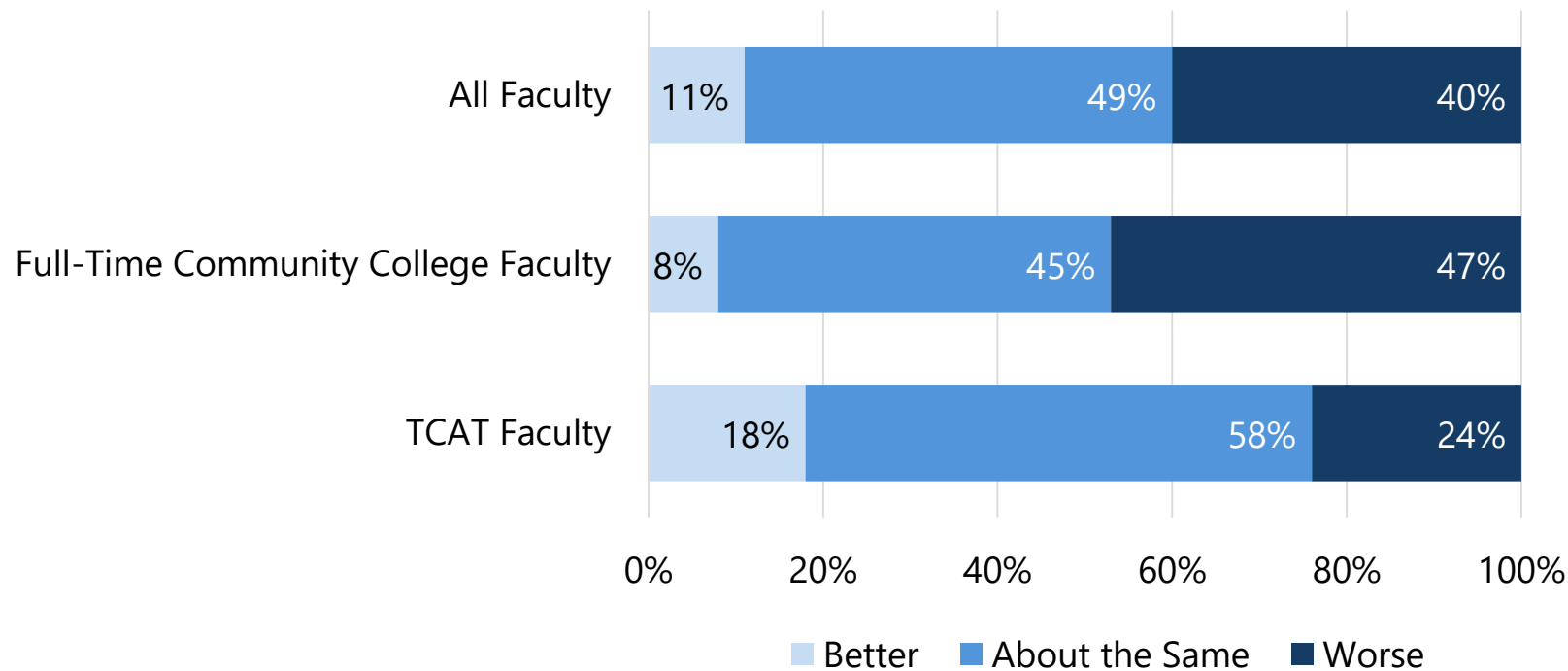
What methods of instruction did you use in fall 2020?



*Faculty were invited to participate in an online, anonymous survey from November 2-December 1, 2020. All full-time and adjunct faculty at community colleges and TCATs were invited to participate in the survey.

40% of faculty expressed concerns about student engagement.

Compared to a typical term, how would you rate student engagement in fall 2020?



Nearly half of full-time community college faculty said student engagement in fall 2020 was worse than in previous semesters. **Only a quarter** of TCAT faculty said the same.

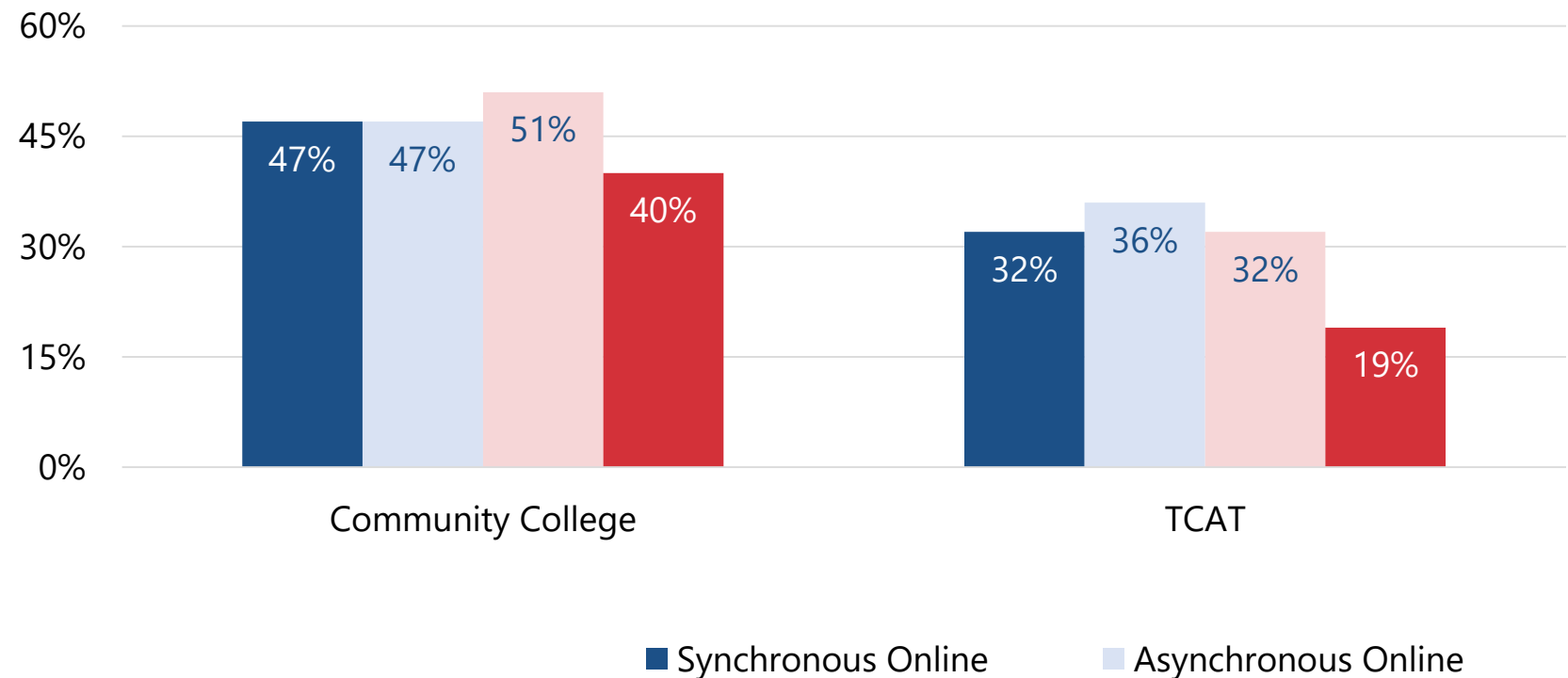
In a prior survey from spring 2020, community college faculty and TCAT faculty provided similar assessments of student engagement. In that survey, 47% of faculty said that student engagement declined after the shift to online learning.

Challenges with student engagement were especially common in online courses.

Across all methods of instruction, many community college faculty said student engagement was worse in 2020.

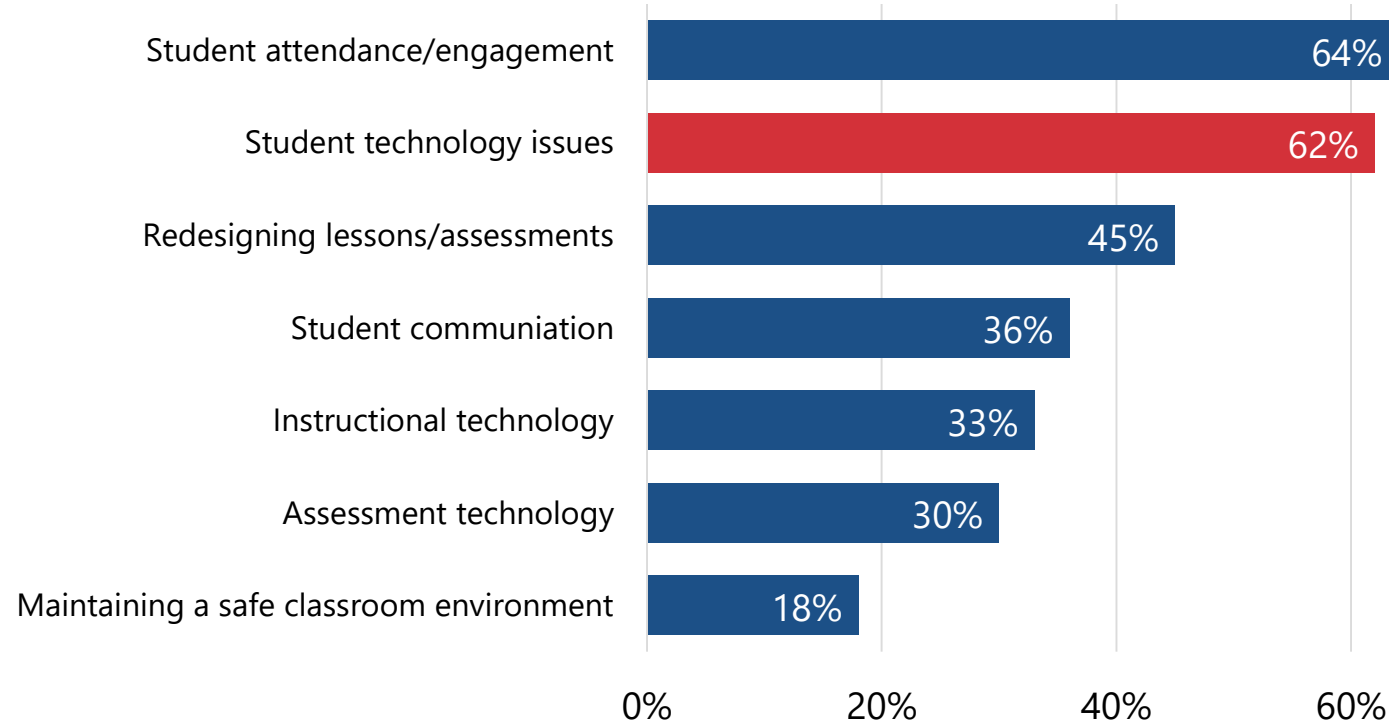
When asked about the new challenges they faced in fall 2020, **41%** of community college faculty said that student engagement/attendance was the **most difficult challenge** to overcome.

Percent of Faculty Who Rated Student Engagement in Fall 2020 as *Worse* than in Previous Terms



62% of faculty reported challenges due to student technology issues.

In which of the following areas have you faced new challenges in fall 2020?



Student technology issues were listed as a common challenge for faculty. For faculty who taught fully online courses, these challenges were more significant.

Among faculty teaching fully online courses,

- 76% of Chattanooga faculty,
- 84% of Cleveland faculty,
- 81% of Dyersburg faculty, and
- 72% of Southwest faculty

listed student technology issues as a key challenge in fall 2020.

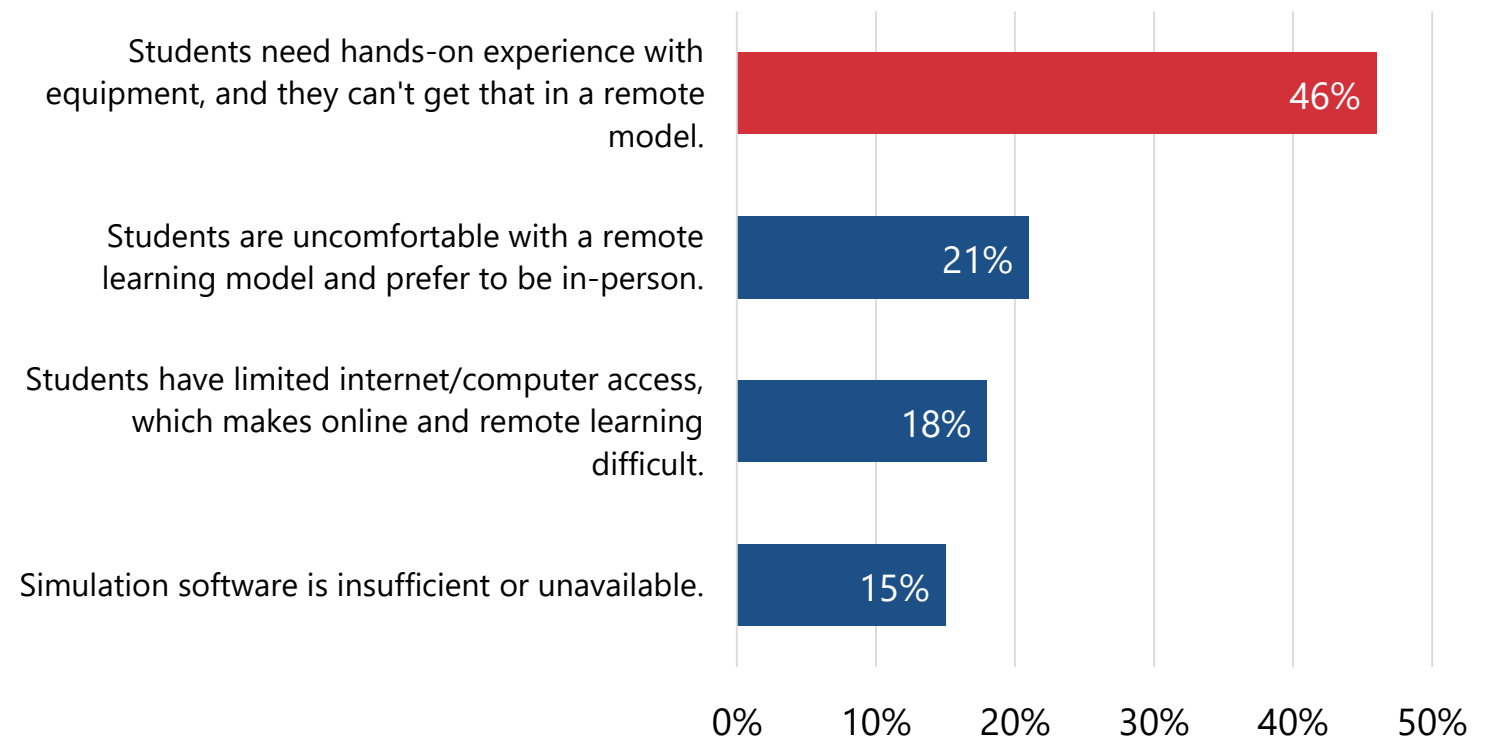
Some faculty faced challenges with providing hands-on training in online courses.

Faculty teaching in technical programs were asked about how much of their instruction can be taught online successfully:

- None of the instruction: **5%**
- Some: **53%**
- A majority: **27%**
- All of the instruction: **15%**

For faculty who could not deliver all their instruction in an online format, the lack of hands-on training was reported as the most significant challenge.

Which factors influence your ability to deliver technical courses in an online or remote format?

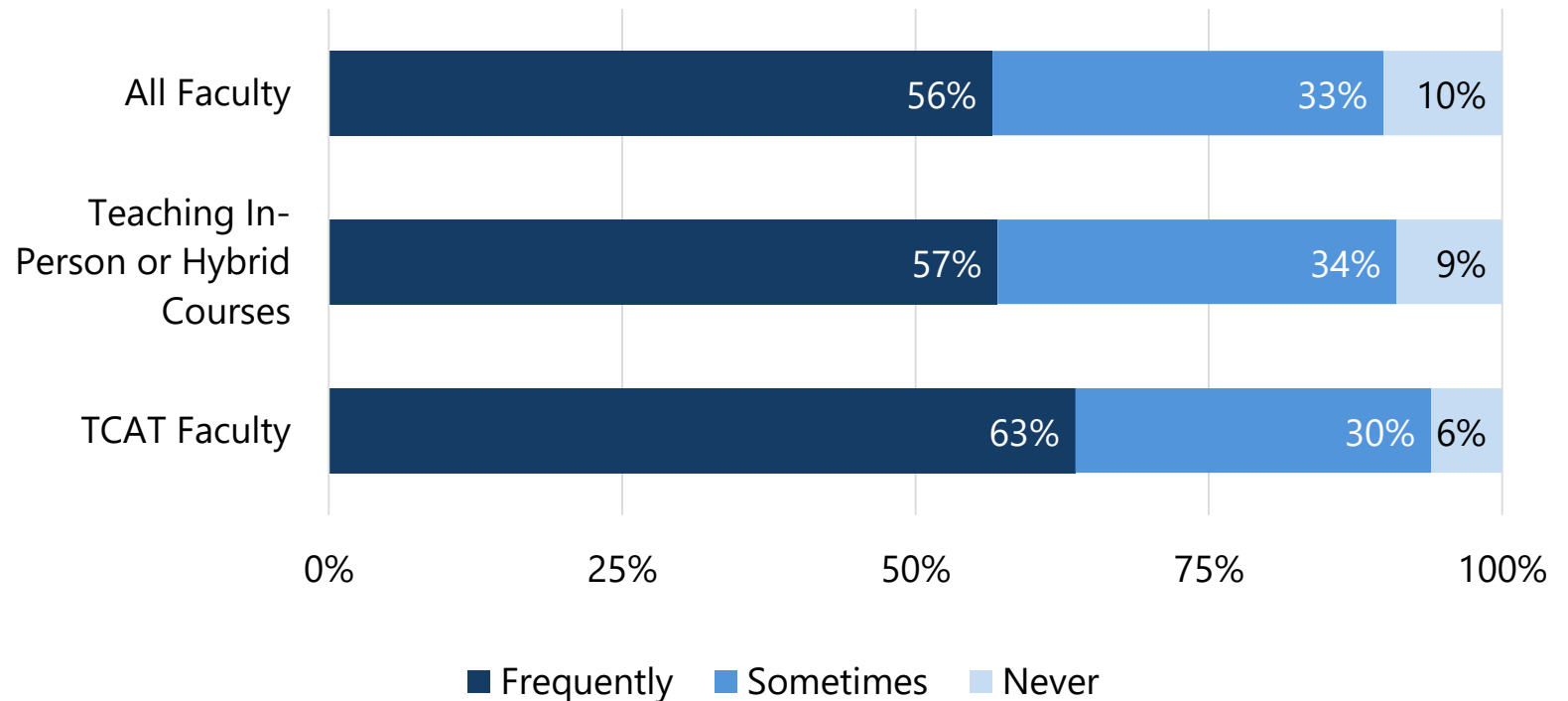


Most faculty believe students felt safe in the classroom, but faculty worried about their students' health.

94% of faculty teaching in-person or hybrid courses said students seemed to feel safe in the classroom with social distancing measures.

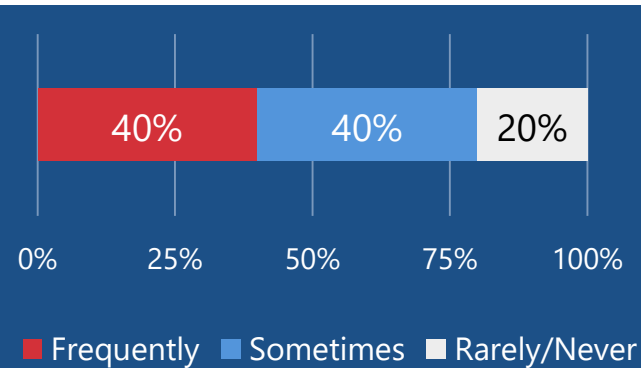
However, **56% of faculty** said they frequently worried about the health and well-being of their students.

Given the changes caused by COVID-19, how often do you worry about the health and well-being of your students?

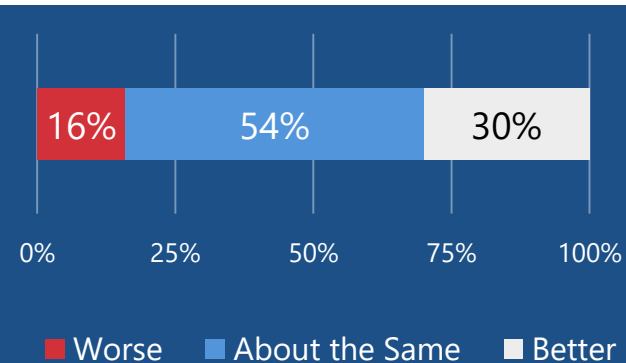


Many faculty feel overwhelmed by new challenges, but they reflected positively on campus support.

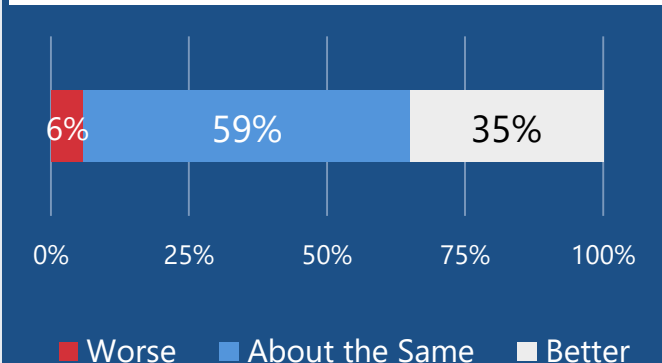
Since the changes brought about by COVID-19, how often have you felt **overwhelmed by responsibilities and new challenges?**



Compared to a typical term, how would you rate the **quality of campus support** available to students in fall 2020?



Compared to a typical term, how would you rate the **quality of teaching technology/resources** available to you?



Key Findings

- Many faculty shared concerns about **student engagement** during fall 2020. Concerns about student engagement were especially prevalent among faculty who taught fully online courses.
- Two-thirds of faculty said **student technology issues** were a challenge. These challenges were especially common in Southeast and West Tennessee.
- Faculty in technical programs continue to express concerns about how to provide **hands-on training** in online or remote courses.
- Most faculty believe students felt safe in the classroom, even if faculty worried about their **students' health** and well-being.