

Worries as signals of commitment:

Reflections from University of Luxembourg Students in the time of COVID-19



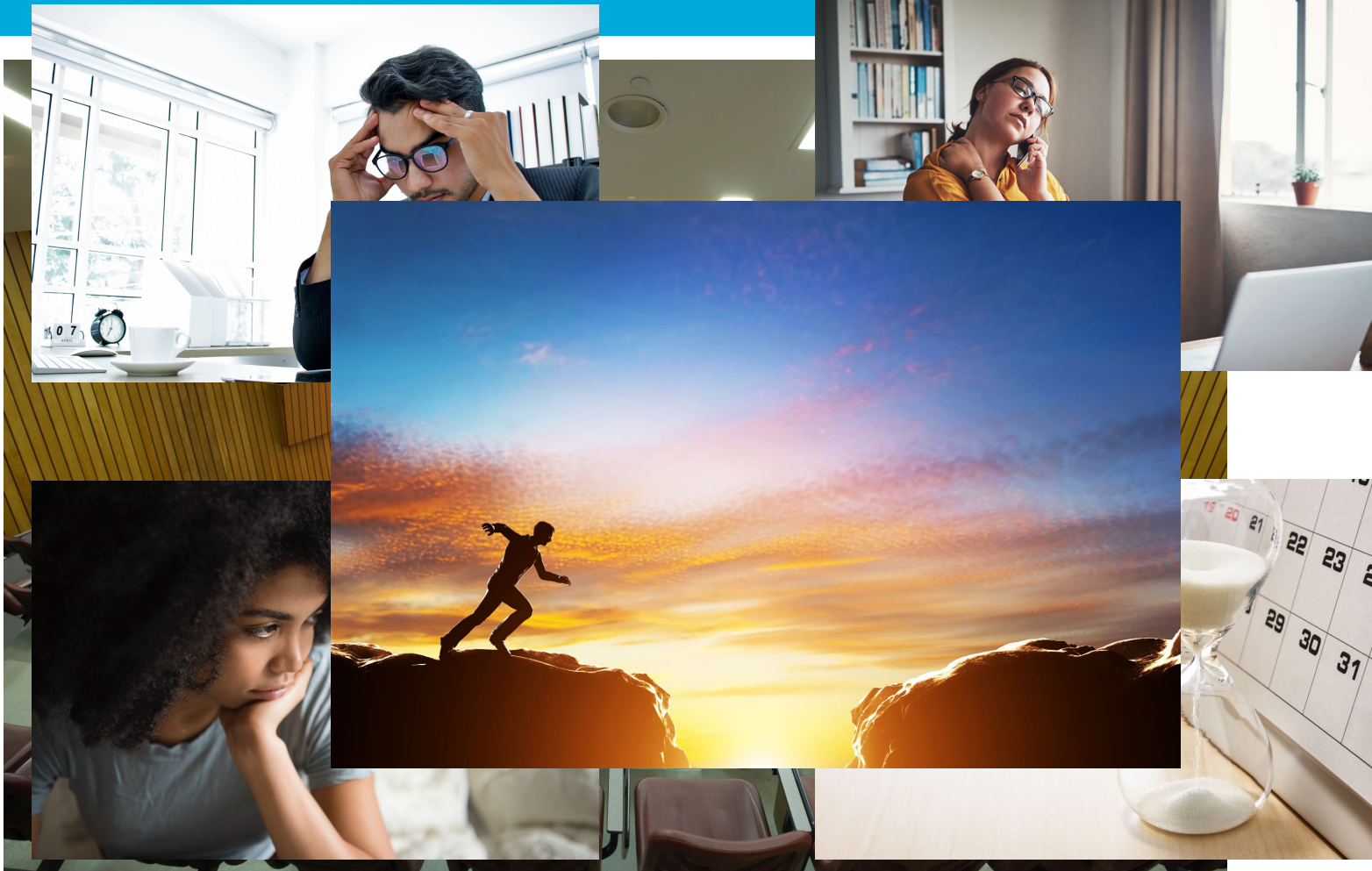
Overview

Inspiration: “What worries you, masters you.”
– often attributed to John Locke

- Terminology: Worry vs Stress vs Anxiety
- Context & Data
- Quantitative Findings
- Qualitative Support
- Closing Remarks

How many of you (as instructors) were ready for the pandemic?

Terminology: Worry vs Stress vs Anxiety



Worry : is the cognitive component of anxiety; it only happens in the mind, not the body.

Stress : is a physiological response to external events; happens in body.

Anxiety : is the culmination of both worry and stress.

Quantitative

mean score of ten 5-point Likert-type items:
none / < half / half / > half / All

- By how many courses contacted?
 - Instructions for...
 - continuing progress?
 - submit assignments?
 - preparing final exam (if applicable)?
- Feeling supported:
 - academically?
 - technically? (internet/computing)
 - emotionally?
- Social Relations:
 - instructors?
 - classmates?
 - non-Uni / personal friends?
- Reliable access to computer? (y/n)
- Reliable access to internet? (y/n)
- Personally know of any classmate(s) without computer/internet? (y/n)
 - Please contact Dean's Office
- **Overall rating of our teaching?** (VeryPoor→VeryGood)

How did we get here?

COVID-19 → Lockdown

- Tuesday (March 10th)
- Thursday morning (March 12th)
- Thursday evening (March 12th)
- Sunday (March 15th)
- Monday (March 16th)
- **April 20 – May 1, 2020**

Qualitative

(open-text comments for 2 questions)

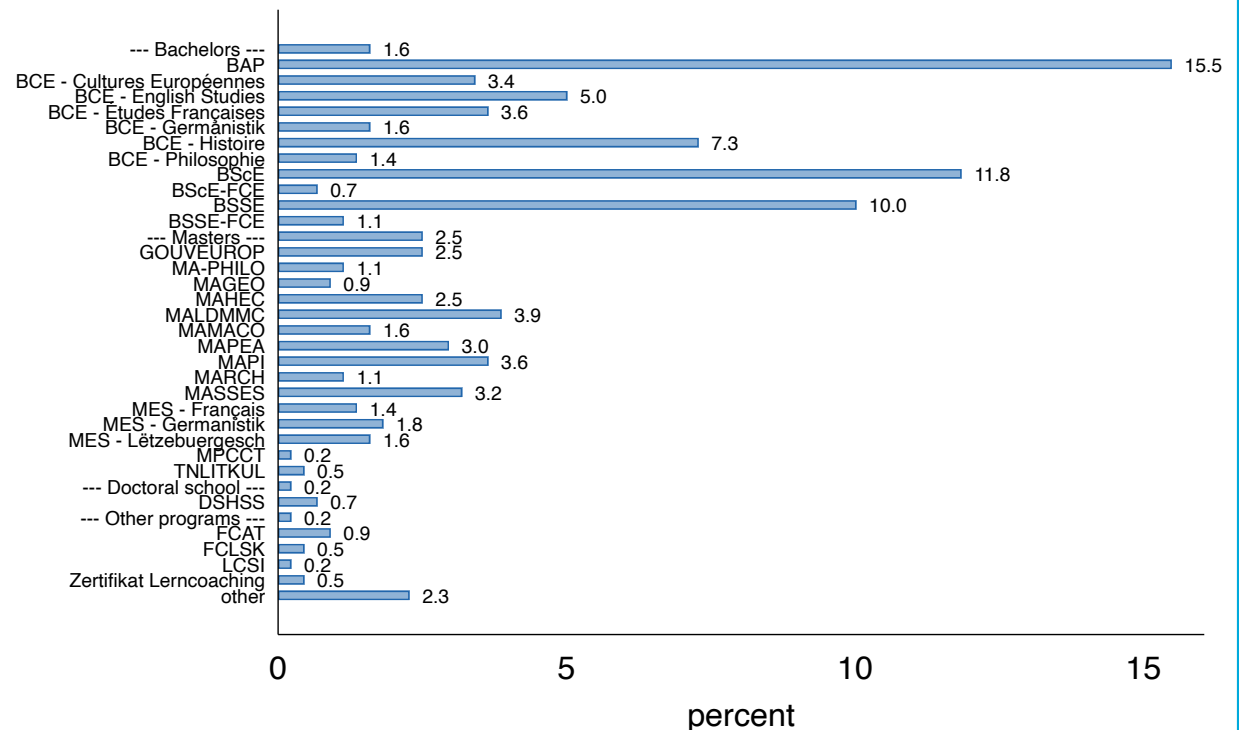
- OTQ1: “Looking forward to the rest of the semester, **what is your biggest worry, or concern**, in regard to your own courses, coursework or assignments?”
- OTQ2: “Any other comments or suggestions?”
- Supported by MAXQDA & Stata
 - via [coin]cidence analysis package
- **2641 student addresses** (440 respondents ~ 16%)
 - 75% completeness
 - 272 participants responded to open-text questions
- Quantitative Results using Ordinal Regression on overall rating, w/robust std.errs
- Stata v.17

Quantitative Findings

Q1: programme membership

- While only 16% of registered students participated;
- All of the study programmes were represented

In which programme are you currently enrolled?



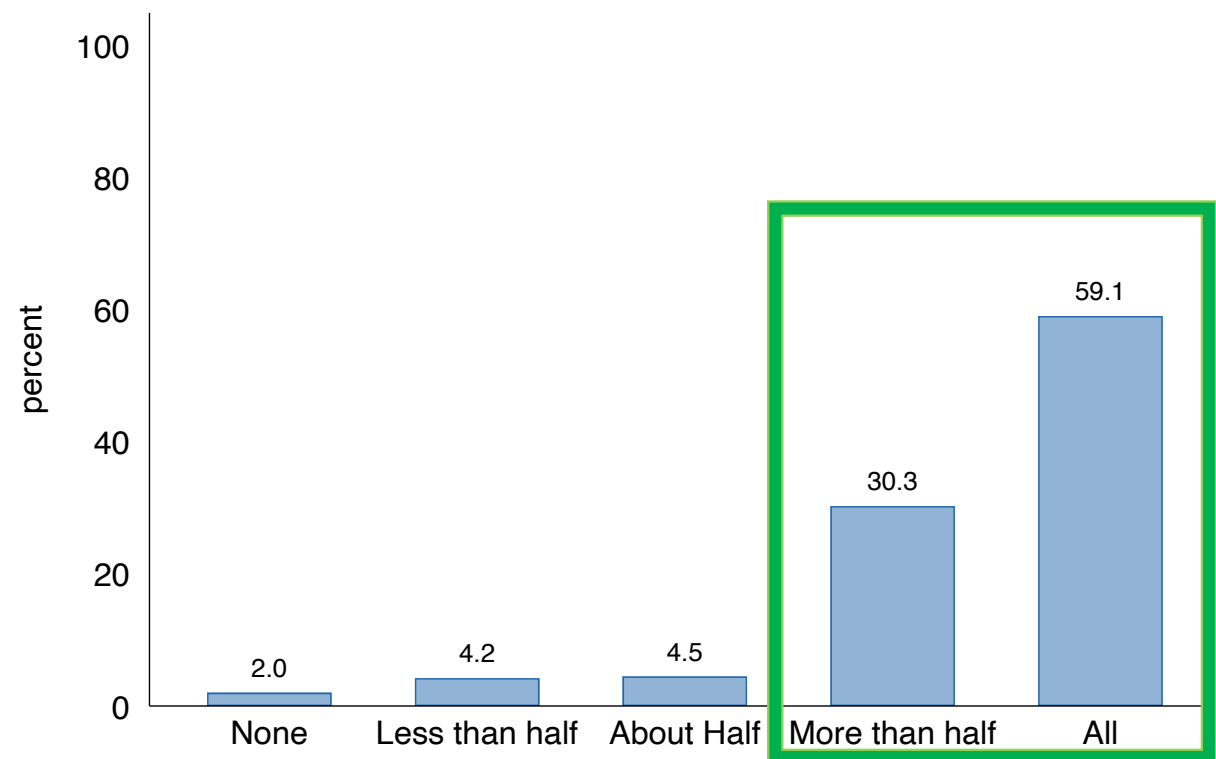
Source: FHSE Student Questionnaire: Education in the Time of COVID-19 (N = 439)
as of April 29, 2020

Q2: outreach

~ 90% of participants responded that > Half (50%) of their courses had reached out to them;

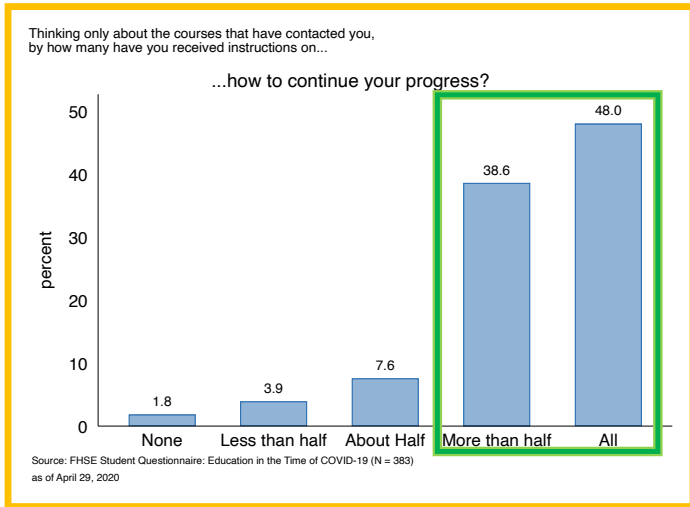
~ 59% reported that ALL of their courses had been in contact

By how many of your courses have you been contacted?

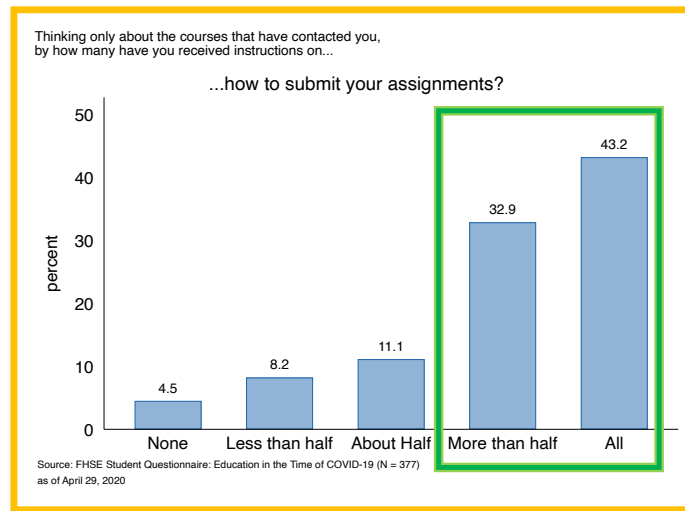


Source: FHSE Student Questionnaire: Education in the Time of COVID-19 (N = 403)
as of April 29, 2020

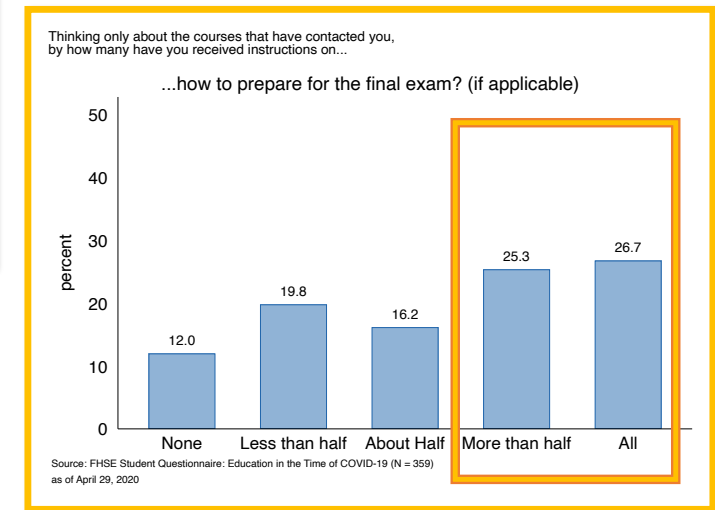
Q3: receiving instructions



~ 86%

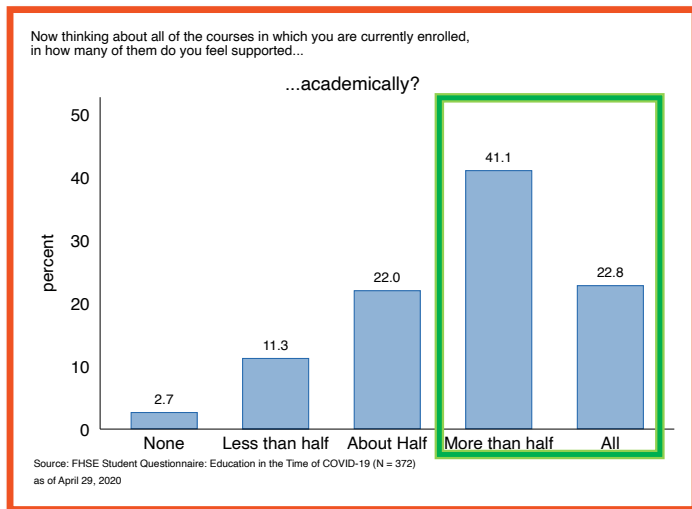


~ 76%

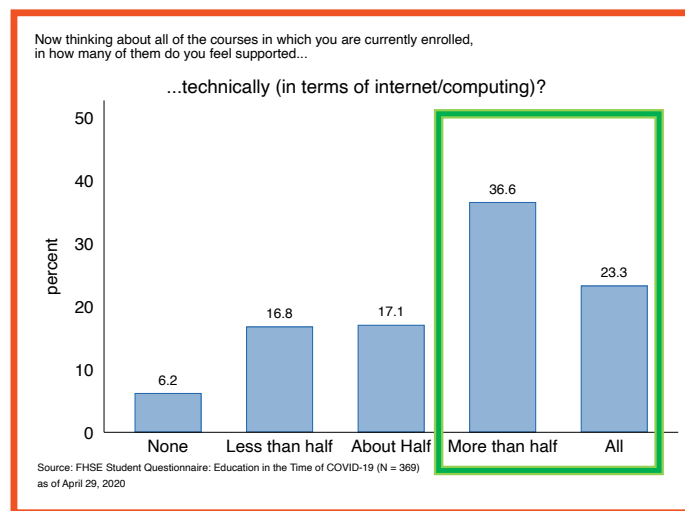


~ 52%

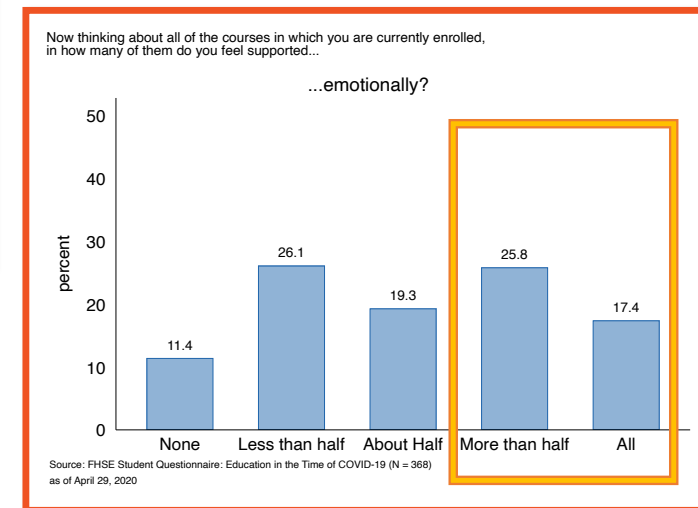
Q4: receiving support



~ 64%

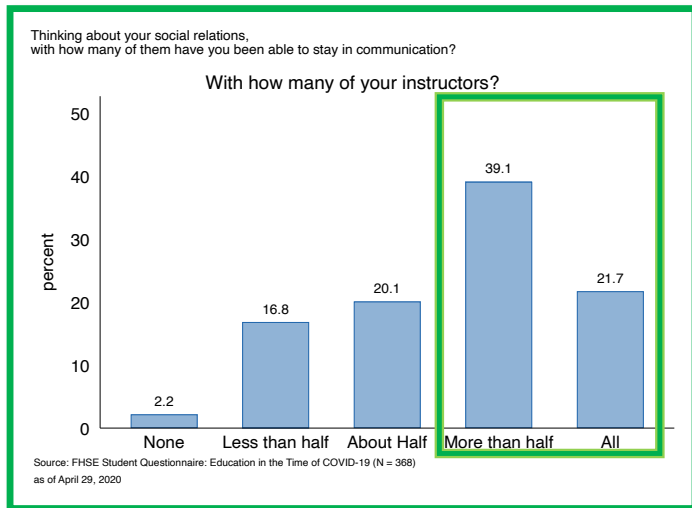


~ 60%

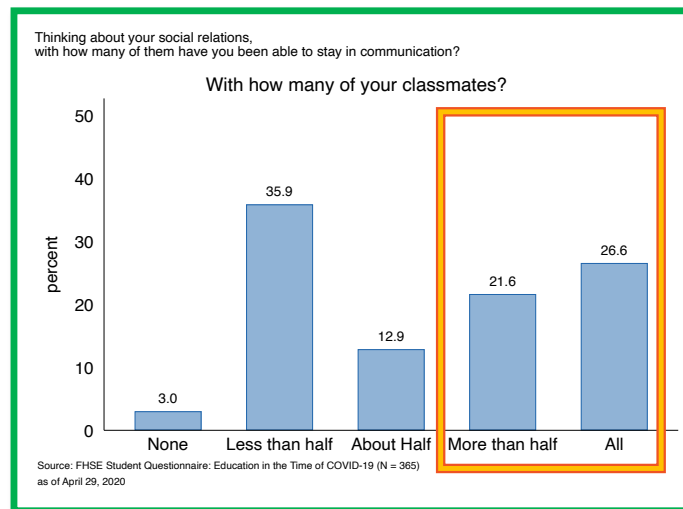


~ 43%

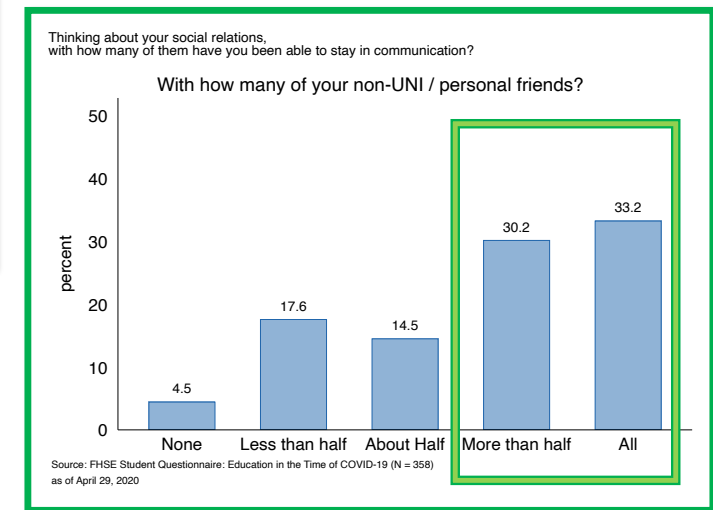
Q5: social relations (staying in communication with...)



~ 61%



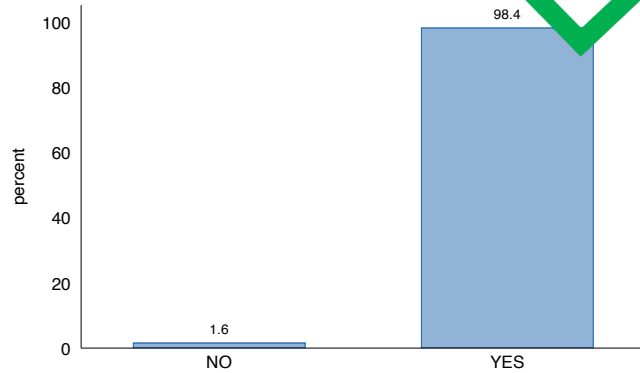
~ 48%



~ 63%

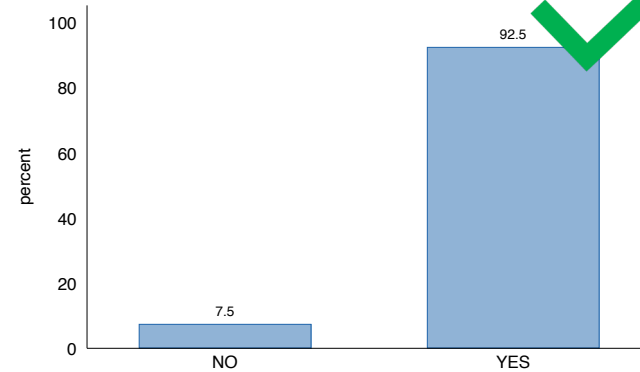
Q6-Q8: computer & internet access

Do you have reliable **access to a computer** to complete your coursework/assignments?



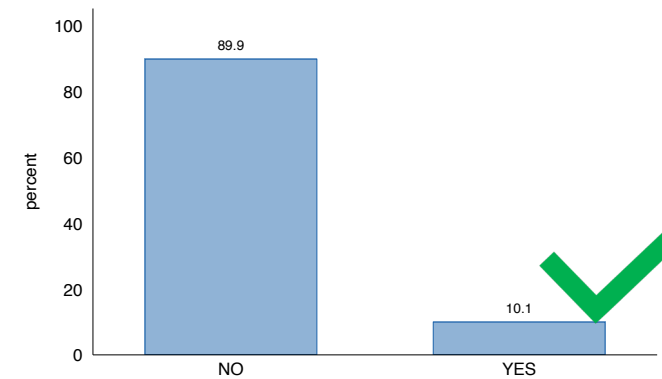
Source: FHSE Student Questionnaire: Education in the Time of COVID-19 (N = 368) as of April 29, 2020

Do you have reliable **internet access** to complete your coursework/assignments?



Source: FHSE Student Questionnaire: Education in the Time of COVID-19 (N = 361) as of April 29, 2020

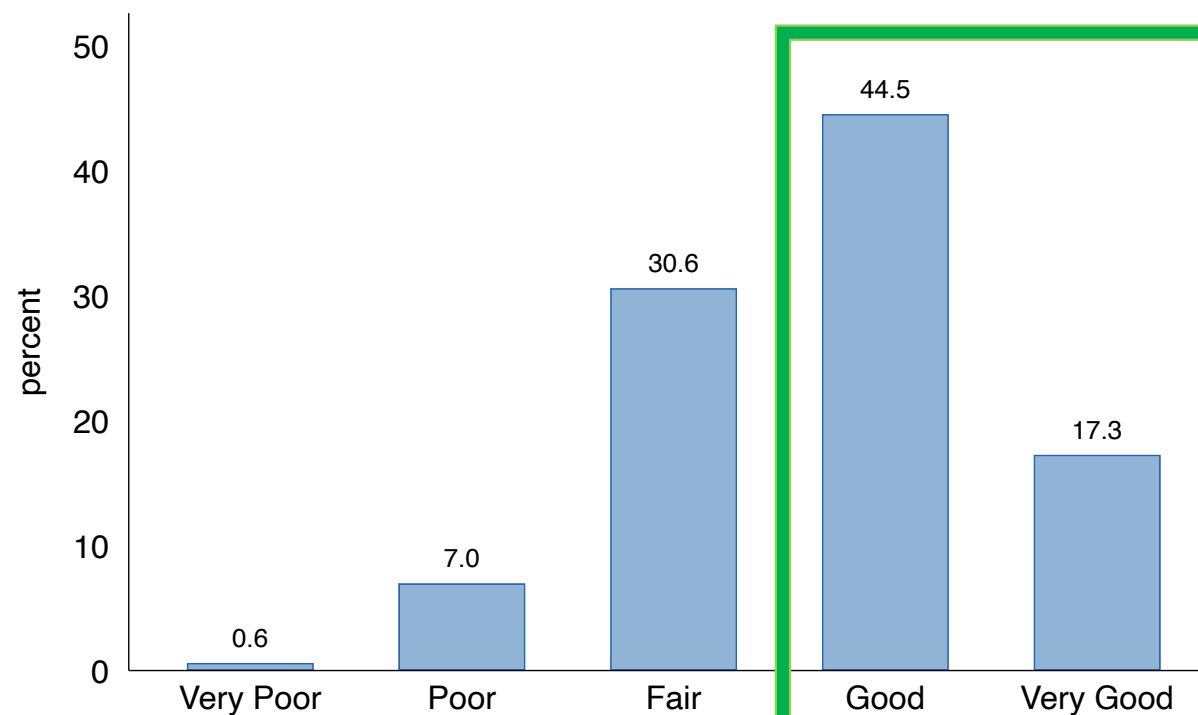
Do you **personally know a classmate** that does not have a computer and/or reliable internet access to complete their coursework/assignments?



Source: FHSE Student Questionnaire: Education in the Time of COVID-19 (N = 368) as of April 29, 2020

Q10: overall

Overall, given the current COVID-19 crisis situation,
how would you **rate our teaching** during these last few weeks?



Source: FHSE Student Questionnaire: Education in the Time of COVID-19 (N = 330)
as of April 29, 2020

2 = Very Poor
23 = Poor
101 = Fair
147 = Good
57 = Very Good

330 = Total Resp.

~ 60%
204 of 330

Estimating Overall Rating (ordinal regression results)

Overall Rating:

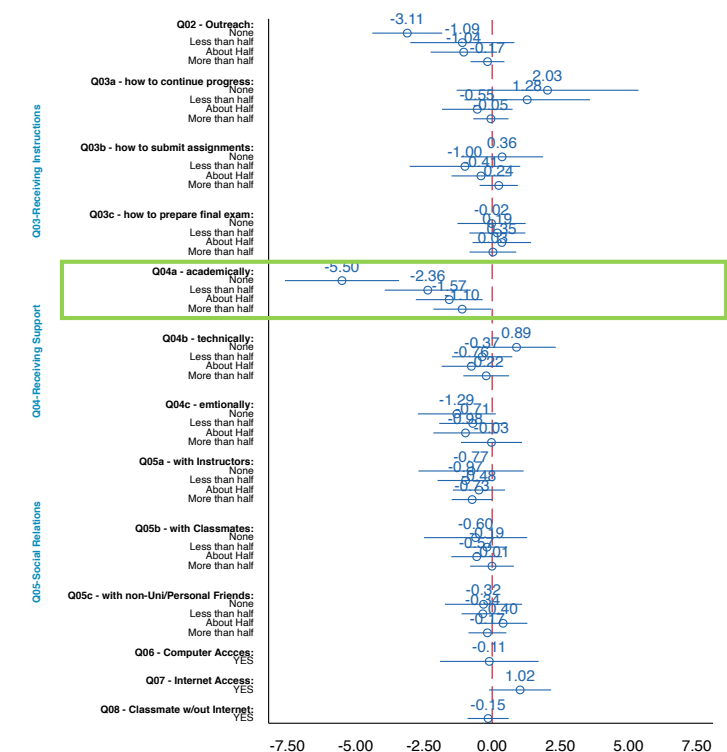
- VeryPoor → VeryGood (ref.category)

Receiving Support:

- “academically” was most predictive of a positive overall rating, controlling for other variables in the model

Estimating Overall Rating (Q10)

(ordinal regression results)



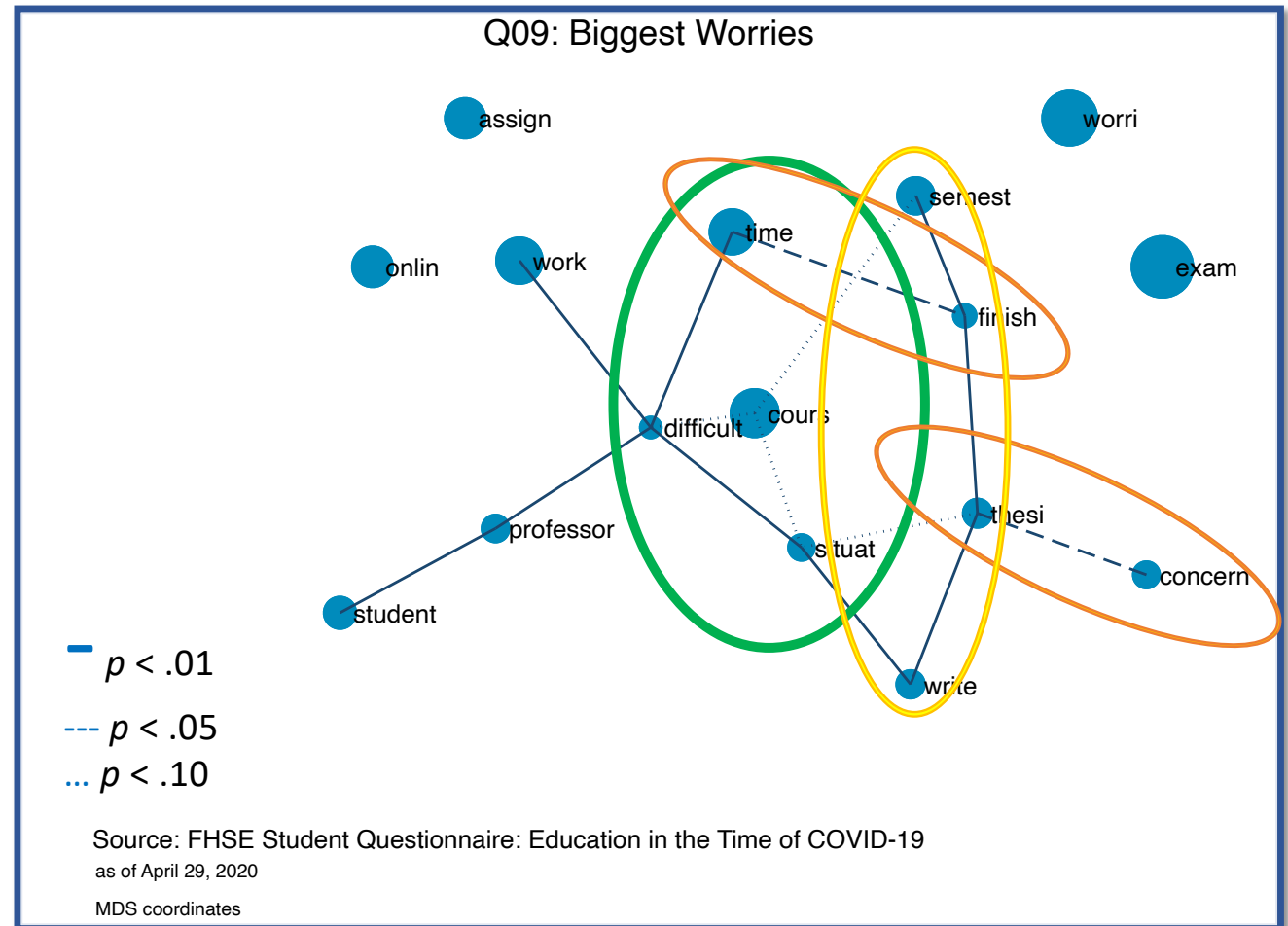
Source: FHSE Student Questionnaire: Education in the Time of COVID-19 (N = 288)
as of April 29, 2020

Qualitative Support

Text-analysis (using most salient stemmed words)

Using Coincidence Analysis (Escobar 2015), to analyze open-text responses we find the following clustering of keywords.

- course, difficult, time and situation
- semester, finish, thesis, write
- time + finish
- thesis + concern



What can we do, as instructors, to alleviate student worries and concerns?

- Clear and transparent communication
(e.g., Moodle forums, course management platform)
- Roadmap / Signposting (i.e., Syllabus)
 - Nielsen, L. (2016). *Teaching at its best: A research-based resource for college instructors.*
- Positive feedback, encourage engagement and sense of belonging.
 - Anderman, L. H., & Freeman, T. (2004). *Students' sense of belonging in school.*
- **...and WORRYING is ok, but too much!**

How many of us feel ready for
the next pandemic?

~ I ~~think~~ hope we're better
prepared.
👉



Thank you!

- for additional comments or suggestions please email me at:
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