Welcome to the 11th Annual
Quality of Life Survey
Town Hall
April 29, 2022

COLUMBIA ENGINEERING
The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
1. Survey Design and Analysis
2. Overview
3. Academics
4. Professional Development
5. Health and Safety
6. Student Life
7. Facilities
8. Panel Q&A
Survey Design & Analysis
Survey Design

- Open from March 23 - April 6
- Comprised of 110 Questions
  - Mixture of Multiple Choice and Comment Boxes
  - Likert Scale (1-5) → Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree
- Logic-based coding and fewer mandatory questions to shorten survey experience
- Completion Prizes and Raffle Prizes offered as incentive to participants
Overview
Survey Participation

33% Response Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Body Size</strong></td>
<td>2,681</td>
<td>4,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% MS Students</strong></td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% PhD Students</strong></td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1271 respondents
We observe a response breakdown that closely resembles the true SEAS population.
Participation by Semesters at Columbia

Over 70% of respondents have been enrolled at Columbia for 2 semesters or less.
Participation by Identity

Gender

- Male, 57%
- Female, 38%
- Prefer not to say, 4%
- Non-binary, 1%

LGBTQ+

- No, 95%
- Yes, 1%
- Prefer not to say, 4%
Overall Satisfaction

Over 71%* of students report being satisfied with their experience at Columbia

**Average Likert Score**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>3.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral</td>
<td>3.87</td>
<td>3.81</td>
<td>3.68</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*78% in 2019
Overall, Students are more satisfied with academics than previous years.
Importance of Academic Features

Most Important Features Overall

1. Course Content (4.41)
2. Instruction (4.37)
3. Course Delivery Method (4.23)
Satisfaction with Program Resources

Of all resources, **PDL** had the highest overall satisfaction rate of **68%**
93% of students are satisfied with Canvas as a platform for accessing and submitting learning materials.
Satisfaction with SSOL Features

80% of students are satisfied with SSOL’s Billing functionality, but its course registration functionality is a pain-point for many students.
When are Students Taught about the Code of Honor?

- Introduced to incoming students at Orientation
- All students required to complete Academic Integrity Module online

Passed in 2014 by COI, EGSC and ESC:

“We, the engineering graduate students of Columbia University, pledge to uphold the values of integrity, honesty, and dignity in the pursuit of common scholastic goals, both at Columbia and beyond.”
Perception of Academic Integrity Policies

Students more strongly believe that Academic Integrity policies are both enforced and followed relative to past years.
Academic Integrity Violations

Of 146* students that became aware of an academic integrity violation:

- 22% Reported to Professor
- 8% Reported to TA
- 6% Reported to TA & Professor
- 64%** did not report

*compared to 166 in 2019
** 57% in 2019
Academic Integrity Violations

Why did the 64% students that became aware of an academic integrity violation not report:

- 15% Didn’t want to report classmate
- 15% Didn’t feel it was warranted
- 18% Didn’t want to report friend
- 10% Other
  - “Didn't have tangible evidence.”
  - “Didn’t wanna get involved.”
  - “TA and the professor already saw it and did nothing.”
  - “Just didn’t care……”
Of 438 TAs that took part in the survey, 74% became aware of academic integrity violations.

**How were they handled?**

- 24% Student warned by TA
- 23% Did Nothing
- 9% Student warned by GSA
- 44% Student warned by Professor
Academic Integrity Violations

47 students* admitted to violating Academic Integrity Policies, why did they do it?

- 46% Heavy Workload
- 22% Policy Misunderstanding
- 32% Classmates weren’t reprimanded for the same

*(compared to 184 in 2019)
52% of students perceive that hybrid learning has impacted the number of violations.

Only 38% believe that peer-reporting should play a role in enforcing policies.

Hybrid Learning’s Impact

- 35% Neutral
- 34% Agree
- 18% Strongly Agree
- 9% Disagree
- 4% Strongly Disagree
Professional Development
Over 73% of students are satisfied with the PDL modules available to them.
Skills Developed at Columbia

- Proficiency and expertise in my field: 84% agree, 11% neither agree nor disagree, 5% disagree
- Keeping up with latest advances in my field: 74% agree, 18% neither agree nor disagree, 8% disagree
- Working in a team: 72% agree, 20% neither agree nor disagree, 8% disagree
- Facilitating conversations and discussions: 72% agree, 21% neither agree nor disagree, 8% disagree
- Time management: 69% agree, 21% neither agree nor disagree, 9% disagree
- Presentation skills: 64% agree, 25% neither agree nor disagree, 11% disagree
- Technical writing skills: 64% agree, 25% neither agree nor disagree, 11% disagree
- Leadership skills: 58% agree, 29% neither agree nor disagree, 13% disagree
- Interacting with Industry professionals: 58% agree, 26% neither agree nor disagree, 17% disagree
- Non-technical writing skills: 48% agree, 34% neither agree nor disagree, 18% disagree

84% of students feel they've increased their proficiency and expertise in their field.
The 73% of students are currently or will be soon seeking employment were asked which resources were the most helpful in their job search.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal contacts</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company Information Sessions</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department administration/Career placement officer</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department-sponsored career events</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni networking events</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGSC career related events</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personal contacts were deemed the most helpful in the job search.
Of the **73%** of students are currently or will be soon seeking employment, **51%** found VMock helpful in their job search.
Student Job Search - Outcome

38% of students that were actively searching secured a job/internship offer.

Where did you find out about the role?

Summer 2022 Internship: 371
Full-time Employment: 171
Fall/Spring Internship: 24

68% of these students found the role through LinkedIn or the company’s website.
When asked whether they would be willing to participate in online or in-person networking events with Columbia after graduation:

- **53% Likely**
- **21% Neutral**
- **26% Unlikely**

**Why?**

- **53% Events are Unappealing**
- **19% Relocation**
- **22% Unaware of Opportunities**
- **6% Other**
Health and Safety
Among 99 students who feel unsafe or strongly unsafe:

- 41 students are female.  
  8.5% of all female respondents feel unsafe on campus.

- 46 students are male.  
  6.5% of all male respondents feel unsafe on campus.
While students find Medical Services consistently useful, they do not find the resource through Go Ask Alice as useful as in the past.
Use of Counseling and Psychological Services

Have you used CPS?

- 20% Yes
- 80% No

Why not?

- No need: 569
- Too busy: 217
- Unhelpful: 90
- Unaware: 85
- Unsure of Confidentiality: 34
- Embarrassment: 25
While we see that around 60% of students are satisfied with events, there are a fair number of students that are expressing dissatisfaction as well.
Satisfaction with Community Building Efforts

- Pricing of Tickets for EGSC/GSA Events: 2022 - 3.6, 2019 - 3.35
- Capacity/Number of Tickets Available for EGSC/GSA Events: 2022 - 2.9, 2019 - 3.21
- Diversity of Student Groups within SEAS: 2022 - 3.52, 2019 - 3.38
- Diversity of Social Events and Programs within SEAS: 2022 - 3.59, 2019 - 3.53
- Number of Social Events and Programs within SEAS: 2022 - 3.49, 2019 - 3.54
Students primarily get their event information from **GSA emails**, followed by **Instagram**.
Student Life - Feedback

Social events:

- “I love the social events. They make me very happy and provide more adequate networking than any other alumni or networking event.”
- “A calendar that is constantly being updated with events would be helpful.”
- “I think the mentor-mentee event is super great and it helped me find one good friend here.”
- “The events are organized at an extremely limited capacity. There is always a sense of hurry and unnecessary tension to book tickets.”

Orientation:

- “Make there be a campus tour, I had no idea where anything was when I got here. I felt so disoriented.”
- “Provide more suggestions on course selections to them.”
- “Please have a makeup orientation for students who miss the original one for any reason.”
- “Some small group and departmental activities would be helpful for meeting people.”
- “Please include details about various student groups in details in orientation.”
Facilities
While the majority of students are still choosing to study outside of libraries, for those that do, **Butler** is the most frequently used, while **Avery** is the least.
66% of students are satisfied with the **individual** study and work space provided by the libraries.
Facilities Satisfaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither Agree nor Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab Equipment Quality</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software in Library</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Computing</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software for PC</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makerspace</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Study Space</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comp Lab at Terrace</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservable Group Space</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport to CUIMC Sat/Sun</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Gym</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

66% of students are satisfied with available lab Equipment. Improvements desired for group study space and the fitness facilities.
Students are overall very satisfied with Engineering Buildings. However, the elevators and access to department lounge space are notably lower.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither Agree nor Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WiFi Coverage</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WiFi Speed</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleanliness of Classrooms</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wired Internet Speed</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleanliness of Labs/Offices</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekend Access</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUIT Support</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carleton Commons</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevators</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Lounge</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Housing
Residence Location

68% of students live Off-Campus

- 8% Ph.D.
- 3% M.S. to Ph.D.
- 89% M.S.

29% of students live in Columbia Residential Housing

- 13% M.S. to Ph.D.
- 38% Ph.D.
- 49% M.S.
While **52%** of students are satisfied with the **Application Process**...

...Only **19%** were satisfied with the **Transfer Process**
We asked if students felt **physically safe** while commuting to campus:

- 42% Agree
- 20% Disagree
- 21% Neutral
- 6% Strongly Disagree
- 11% Strongly Agree

Among 322 students who feel unsafe or strongly unsafe commuting:

- 142 students are female.
  → 30% of females feel unsafe commuting.

- 151 students are male.
  → 21% of male feel unsafe commuting.

- 244 students live off-campus.
  → 28% of the students living off-campus feel unsafe.

- 151 students live in Columbia Residential.
  → 21% of the students in Columbia Residential feel unsafe.
Housing Comments

Off-Campus Housing

● “There is very little transparency with housing. Nowhere else do you have to commit to a unit without even seeing pictures of the place let alone seeing a unit.”

● “I am hoping that Via could expand its south reach range more to 100th street or 96th street.”

● “Maybe provide more housings for graduate students.”

● “I am very grateful for Via's evening shuttle service.”

● “I wish there could be help from columbia in finding reliable real estate companies and brokers.”

About Columbia Housing

● “Hope the university adds doormen to all dormitory buildings.”

● “I hope there is a market for buying and selling used furniture or A/C when moving in and out.”

● “The furnishing provided in furnished apartments should be of better quality.”

● “Satisfied with housing and services provided.”
Q&A with Panelists