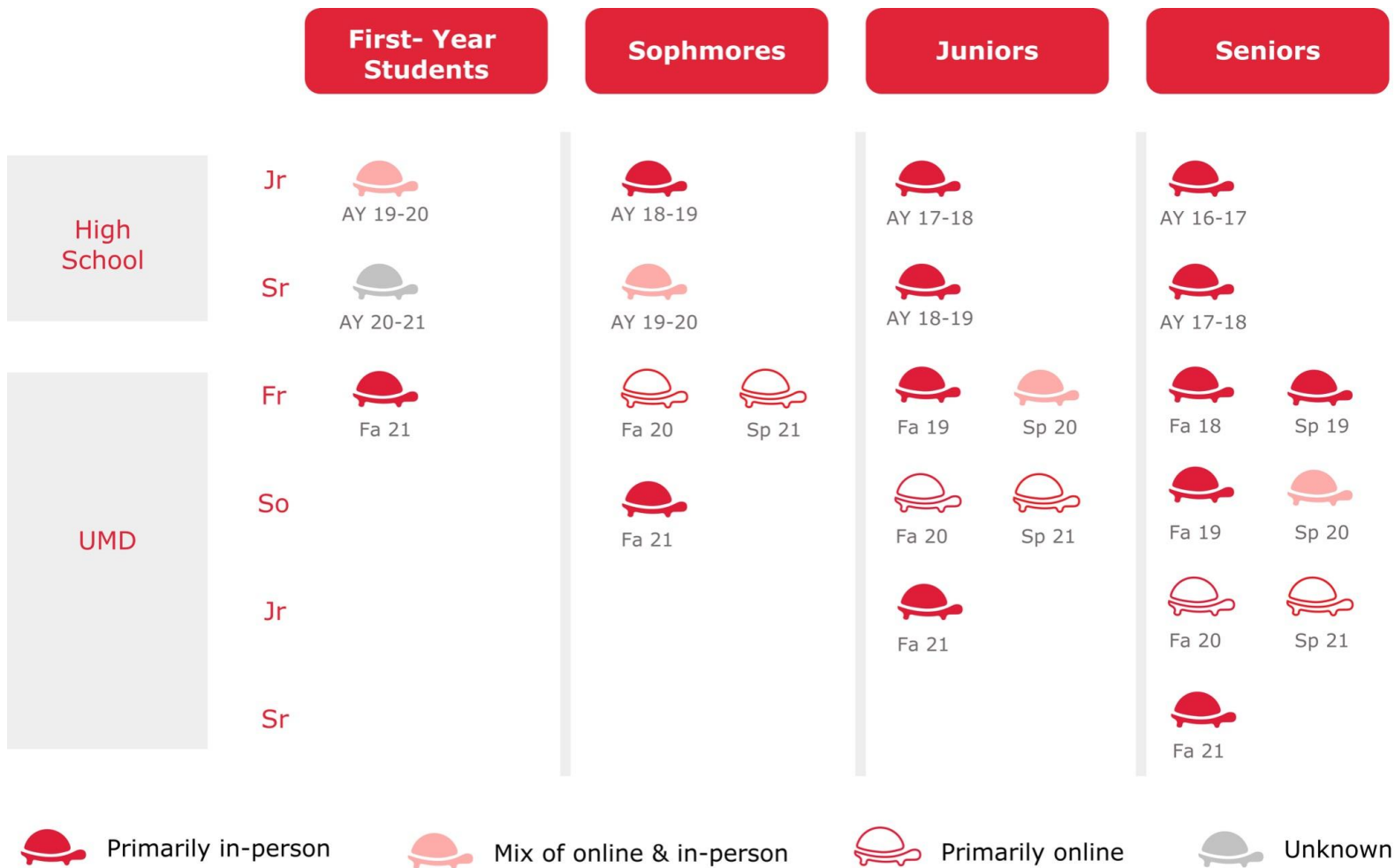


Lessons worth keeping: How has COVID-19 impacted perceptions of academic preparedness?

The Fall 2021 cohorts of students had very different experiences with learning.

The UMD undergraduate student body was, for all intents and purposes, composed of three classes of “first-year” students. The current first-year class participated in their first semester of a traditional, residential on-campus experience; yet their high school experiences were anything but typical, likely involving a wide variety of remote and in-person instruction. Sophomores have had little to no in-person instruction at UMD and disruptions to their senior year of high school. Juniors’ last time on campus was during their freshman year, which they finished remotely. This variety of experiences in high school and at UMD is likely to affect perceptions of academic preparedness for Fall 2021.

Our student body is composed of three cohorts of “first-year” students, with a range of academic experiences.



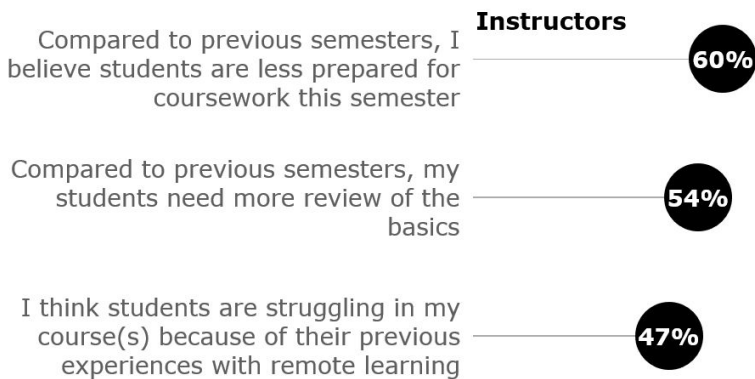
"I taught one class online and one class that mixed online and in person sessions. The 40 person fully online synchronous session worked very well, students were well prepared, did excellent work. I allowed accommodations leniently and about 1/4 of the students took advantage of that -- for reasons of health, needing to work a full-time job in order to afford school, family issues they had major responsibility for, etc."
 - Instructor (representative of 156 comments)

Instructors and students had a general sense that disruptions in learning affected students' academic readiness for Fall 2021.

Approximately half of instructors (47%) thought students were struggling due to remote learning and half or more of students agreed that the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted their readiness for the academic year.

Instructors sensed that something has been lost due to remote learning prior to Fall 2021.

% Somewhat Agree & Strongly Agree



The majority of students thought their readiness for the academic year was negatively impacted by COVID-19.

% Somewhat Agree & Strongly Agree

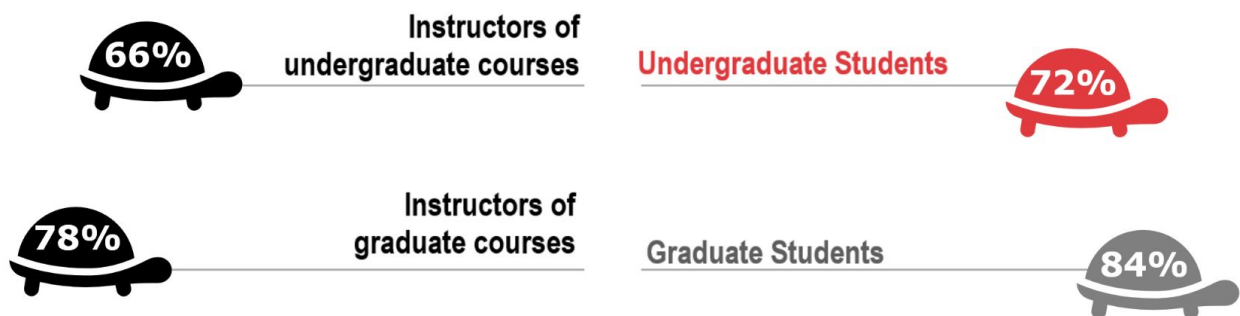


Two-thirds or more of instructors and students felt students were prepared in their classrooms.

Despite the general perception of unpreparedness, when asked about specific instances rather than a general feeling, both instructors and students felt that students were academically prepared.

The majority of students and instructors felt that previous coursework had prepared students for their specific courses in Fall 2021.

% Somewhat Agree & Strongly Agree



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Survey administration and reporting conducted by teams within the Division of IT (Academic Technology Experience), Division of Student Affairs, Institutional Research, Planning, & Assessment, and the Teaching Learning Transformation Center



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