

From tuition to Trump, close to 2,000 faculty members weigh in on the current state of higher education

The teaching life is a complicated one, but there's a lot to be learned by sharing your frustrations, solutions and insights with your peers in higher ed. The 2018 Professor Pulse Survey is here to do just that.

Since we started the Prof Pulse three years ago, over 30,000 educators from all over the world have weighed in, helping us to develop a publicly-shared snapshot of the current state of higher ed. Year after year the Prof Pulse has shown professors how their ideas about higher ed stack up against their peers.

For the 2018 edition, nearly 2,000 faculty members across North America weighed in on the higher ed industry today. Their thoughts-on everything from active learning, to the current U.S. administration, to what they feel is a fair wage for the work they do-are all included in this detailed report.

Are you ready to find out how faculty really feel about the current state of higher ed?

Let's get started.

## METHODOLOGY

The Professor Pulse Survey is sponsored by Top Hat. The survey was conducted between May 12, 2018 and July 20, 2018. The 1,956 respondents currently teach at colleges and universities across North America. Fifty-eight percent identified as full-time faculty and 31 percent as part-time or adjunct faculty. For media inquiries about the survey, please contact press@tophat.com


How effective do you think the current higher educational system is in preparing students for their careers? Please rank on a scale of 1 to 10 [ 1 being 'not at all' and 10 being 'extremely']


Do you think that the cost of tuition is too high?


1,930 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

Do you think apathy among students has increased in the past decade?


[^0]Do you think students are more distracted now than ever before?


1,931 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

Do you agree that a postsecondary education is necessary to a person's success in life?


1,941 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

Do you think professors are overworked?


1,935 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

Do you think professors are underpaid?


What kind of impact do you think the current United States federal administration is having on the future of higher education?

POSITIVE 164 / $8 \%$

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NEGATIVE
1,443 / 74\%
```


## OTHER <br> 334/17\%

1,941 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

## LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATION

## Schools have issues. What are the biggest ones your institution is facing? [Select all that apply.]



1,926 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

How does your school's administration support you? [Select all that apply.]


1,930 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

# Please choose the three most important factors for you when choosing a university to work at: 

REPUTATION /
PRESTIGE



1,879 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION
Are you satisfied with your school's current administration?
Rank them on a scale of 1 to 10.
[ 1 = they're the worst; $10=$ they're the best]
6.04

## TECHNOLOGY MEETS THE CLASSROOM

Do you use in-class technology to reach students? If so, what do you use? [Select all that apply.]

LMS
[BLACKBOARD, CANVAS, MOODLE, ETC] 1,457 / 76\%

MOBILE DEVICES [TABLETS,
SMARTPHONES]
673 / 35\%
LECTURE
SLIDES
1,373 / 71\%
ATTENDANCE TRACKING TOOLS

357 / 19\% i


| OTHER |
| :--- |
| $3 / 4 \%$ |

83 / 4\%
CLICKERS
255 / 13\%

NONE
78 / 4\% i


1,927 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

THE DECISION IS MADE IN A GROUP,


I ULTIMATELY GET TO CHOOSE WHICH TECHNOLOGY I USE IN MY CLASSROOM. 1,294 / 68\%

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1,899 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION
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If you make the tech decisions, which of the following factors inform your final choice? [Select all that apply.]


1,912 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION
If you use tech in the classroom, what are you hoping to improve by doing so?


## LET'S TALK ABOUT THOSE STUDENTS OF YOURS

## What's your biggest in-class teaching challenge? [Select all that apply.]



1,899 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

## What's your biggest out-of-class teaching challenge?



1,758 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

## Which of the following is most important to you as an educator? [Select all that apply.]

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STUDENT COMPREHENSION AND SUCCESS 1,689 / 87%
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```
INCREASING STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT 1,390 / 72%
```

```
PREPARING STUDENTS TO ENTER THE WORKFORCE 1,048 / 54%
```

SPENDING AS LITTLE TIME AS POSSIBLE ON ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS [ATTENDANCE, GRADING, ETC.] 480 / 25\%
INCREASING STUDENT ATTENDANCE 397 / 20\%
GETTING GOOD COURSE EVALUATIONS AND PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK 339 / 17\%
OTHER 33 / 2\%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The majority of students buy the assigned text.

## AGREE

1,222 / 63\%
DISAGREE
710/37\%

1,932 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The majority of students come to class prepared.

DISAGREE AGREE
1,368 / 71\% 560 / 29\%

1,928 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The majority of students show up to class.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The majority of students read the assigned text.

DISAGREE
1,263 / 67\%

1,883 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The majority of students care about learning.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
The majority of students participate in class.

DISAGREE
1,120 / 58\%

Do you think the cost of textbooks to students is too high?

1,939 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

Do you incorporate interactive, digital learning materials into your course content?


1,937 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

Have you ever had to assign supplementary textbooks to make up for problems with the main course textbook [e.g. out of date, doesn't address certain topics]?

YES 1,096/57\%

Do you allow personal devices [laptops, tablets, smartphones, etc] in your classroom?


1,909 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being 'none at all' and 10 being 'a lot', how much influence do you feel you have on your students' learning?

## OKAY, TIME FOR THE JUICY QUESTIONS: CAREER AND MONEY

## What's your current annual salary?

LESS THAN \$20K 258 / 14\%

```
$20-40K 221/12%
```

\$41-60K 391 / 20\%

```
$61-80K 368 / 19%
```

\$81-100K 282 / 15\%
\$101-120K 177 / 9\%
\$121-\$140K 79 / 4\%
\$140K+ 133 / 7\%

1,909 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

What do you think a fair salary would be for the work that you do?

## LESS THAN \$20K 58 / 3\%

\$20-40K 144 / 8\%
\$41-60K 185 /10\%
\$61-80K 382 / 20\%
\$81-100K 404 / 21\%
\$101-120K 305 / 16\%
\$121-\$140K 185 / 10\%

```
$140K+ 226 / 12%
```

1,889 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

How long have you been teaching at the higher education level?


On average, how many hours a week do you work?


1,929 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

## How much time off do you get every year?

| 7 WEEKS+ | $3-4$ WEEKS | $1-2$ WEEKS | $5-6$ WEEKS |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $709 / 37 \%$ | $501 / 26 \%$ | $365 / 19 \%$ | $322 / 17 \%$ |

## The majority of your work week is spent [select all that apply]:

```
TEACHING 1,684 / 87%
COURSE PLANNING 1,091/56%
MEETING WITH STUDENTS 987 / 51%
ON ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS 984 / 51%
RESEARCHING 634/33%
IN DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE MEETINGS 621/32%
BOOSTING MY INSTITUTION'S PROFILE 114 / 6%
SPEAKING AT CONFERENCES 98 / 5%
```

1,932 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

In a perfect world, your work week would be focused on [select all that apply]:

## TEACHING 1,757 / 91\%

## MEETING WITH STUDENTS 1,170 / 61\%

## RESEARCHING 1,099/57\%

## COURSE PLANNING 844 / 44\%

SPEAKING AT CONFERENCES 383 / 20\%
ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS 137 / 7\%
BOOSTING MY INSTITUTION'S PROFILE 130 / 7\%
DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE MEETINGS 116 / 6\%

1,929 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

You are a:


[^1]
## In what state, territory or province do you currently teach?

| TEXAS | SOUTH CAROLINA |
| :--- | :--- |
| 142/8\% | $37 / 2 \%$ |
| CALIFORNIA | ARIZONA |
| 104/6\% | $31 / 2 \%$ |
| NEW YORK | INDIANA |
| 96/5\% | $31 / 2 \%$ |
| FLORIDA | KENTUCKY |
| $91 / 5 \%$ | $30 / 2 \%$ |
| OHIO | WASHINGTON |
| $87 / 5 \%$ | $30 / 2 \%$ |
| GEORGIA | MARYLAND |
| $84 / 5 \%$ | $26 / 1 \%$ |
| ILLINOIS | OREGON |
| 75/4\% | $22 / 1 \%$ |
| PENNSYLVANIA | ALABAMA |
| 67/4\% | $21 / 1 \%$ |
| MISSOURI | LOUSISNA |
| $58 / 3 \%$ | $18 / 1 \%$ |
| VIRGINIA | OKLAHOMA |
| $55 / 3 \%$ | $18 / 1 \%$ |

MASSACHUSETTS
54 / 3\%
ONTARIO
52 / 3\%
TENNESSEE
52 / 3\%
MICHIGAN
47 / 3\%
COLORADO
46 / 3\%
WISCONSIN
45 / 3\%
NORTH CAROLINA
43/2\%
NEW JERSEY
40/2\%
CONNECTICUT
37 / 2\%

18 / 1\%
ARKANSAS
15 / 1\%
QUEBEC
13/1\%
RHODE ISLAND
13 / 1\%
IOWA
12 / 1\%
KANSAS
12 / 1\%
NEVADA
12 / 1\%
UTAH
12 / 1\%
MISSISSIPPI
11/1\%
NEW HAMPSHIRE
11 / 1\%

NEW MEXICO
10 / 1\%
MINNESOTA
9/1\%
NORTH DAKOTA
8 / 1\%
NEBRASKA
7/ ~1\%
WEST VIRGINIA
7/~1\%
NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR
6 / 1\%
BRITISH COLUMBIA
5 / ~1\%
DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA
5/ -1\%

MONTANA
5/ -1\%
NOVA SCOTIA
4 / ~1\%
WYOMING
4 / ~1\%
ALASKA
3/~1\%
DELAWARE
3 / 1\%
IDAHO
3/~1\%
MAINE
3 / ~1\%
MANITOBA
3 / ~1\%
SASKATCHEWAN
3 / ~1\%

ALBERTA
2 / ~1\%
HAWAII
2 / ~1\%
PUERTO RICO
2/~1\%
VERMONT
2/~1\%
AMERICAN SAMOA
1/~1\%
NEW BRUNSWICK
1/~1\%

## What are your professional goals for the year? [Select all that apply.]



What resources do you use to learn more about higher education teaching techniques/methods? [Select all that apply.]


1,928 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

## Do you feel that you have job security in your current role?

```
YES
```

YES
NO
NO
1,309 / 68%
608 / 32%

```

\section*{What is the primary motivation for you to continue a career in higher ed?}


On a scale of 1 to 10 , how satisfied are you with your career in higher education? [ \(1=\) not at all; \(10=\) extremely].

THANK YOU!


Thanks for taking the time to sift through the findings of the 2018 Professor Pulse Survey. We hope you found the insights in this report to be as interesting as we did. And if you'd like to learn a bit more about what Top Hat has to offer, we'd love to show you more in a personalized demo-just click the link below:


\section*{ABOUT TOP HAT}

Top Hat's interactive, cloud-based teaching platform enables professors to engage students inside and outside the classroom with compelling content, tools and activities. Millions of students at 750 leading North American colleges and universities use the Top Hat teaching platform. To learn more, visit www.tophat.com

\section*{Make Active Learning Come to Life}

Top Hat helps thousands of college and university instructors boost student engagement, build comprehension and accelerate student success both inside and outside the classroom


BEFORE CLASS


TOP HAT
Textbook
Adopt and customize affordable, interactive textbooks, or create your own


TOP HAT

\section*{Classroom}

Leverage students' devices to increase in-class engagement and get real-time feedback

AFTER CLASS


TOP HAT
Assignment
Create and personalize homework to build student comprehension


TOP HAT
Test
Securely administer exams and quizzes directly on students' devices```


[^0]:    1,932 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

[^1]:    1,892 OUT OF 1,956 PEOPLE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION

