

# NSSE 2021

## Student Comments

### Northern Michigan University

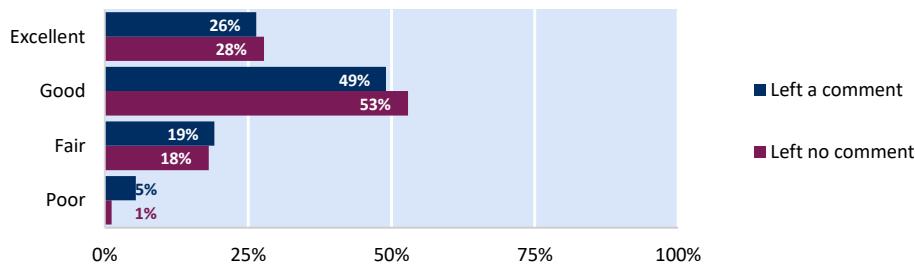
This report displays confidential comments your students provided in response to up to three open-ended questions. Six such questions appear in Topical Modules (Academic Advising; Career and Workforce Preparation; Civic Engagement; Coping with COVID; Experiences with Online Learning; First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions) and the survey ended with one final question (NSSE provided four options, or your institution could customize this prompt). This file contains separate tabs for each source, as appropriate, with end-of-survey comments in separate tabs for first-year and senior students. Each tab contains the wording of the corresponding question.

Module and consortium comments are sorted by class, enrollment status, and sex. End-of-survey comments are sorted by overall satisfaction, enrollment status, and sex. Information for variables other than satisfaction was provided by your institution.

#### How Satisfied Were Student Commenters with Their Educational Experience?

Figure 1 displays your students' responses to the item "How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?" (variable name *evalexp*) by whether they left an end-of-survey comment. These results indicate whether students who provided a comment were more or less satisfied than those who left no comment. Student-level responses to this item are included in the End-of-Survey tabs under the heading "*Response to evalexp*."

**Figure 1. How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution? (*evalexp*)**



#### Identified Data Also Provided

Because the comments are confidential, student identifiers are not given in this report but are provided in a separate SPSS data file named "NSSE21 Student Comments (NMU).sav".

#### Important

These comments appear exactly as the students entered them and **may not be suitable for distribution without prior review**. Faculty members, administrators, or other students may be mentioned by name, and comments were not edited for grammar, offensive language, excessive length, or otherwise questionable content. For this reason, please use discretion when using, storing, and disseminating this report and the Student Comments data file.

102 seniors responded to the following question in the Senior Transitions module:

**Is there anything your institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or further education?**

**Please describe.**

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Senior	Full-time	Female	Actually care about there student, my advisor has talked 2 me maybe 2 times and I had to reach out to him and I still got no help.
Senior	Full-time	Female	There are little to no opportunities related to coursework that receives a grade that is not penalized in some way for making mistakes or taking risks. The fear of failure outweighs any desire to take risks in coursework or "think outside the box" at the chance you will fail it could seriously affect your grade and overall GPA.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Require students to meet with their advisors! Regularly!
Senior	Full-time	Female	Give me an advisor that cares to help me out.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Clarify the major's more. Have faculty members explain what their major entails more specifically at an earlier start in the major.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The English capstone class should be more geared towards job applications and other job searching activity. NOW is the time that soon-to-be college grads should be looking for employment, and our class hasn't even touched on it yet. The capstone should be a prep for our after college transition, not another literature class.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I feel like only one of my majors, communication studies, touched on career exploration, and it just started within one of my classes (my capstone) within the last semester. I am glad it is happening because within german studies it isn't taking place. I don't believe many other majors even do this.
Senior	Full-time	Female	More hands on experience, better professors
Senior	Full-time	Female	I think it is imperative for students to network with faculty and administrators to optimize their college experience and better prepare them for the workforce. It was not until my third year that I realized how important it was for me to reach out to professors for personal research projects, individualized learning of equipment, and personal help with resume/skill building/future career preparation. I would encourage the university to push students even more to pursue and inquire about opportunities to learn and develop skills outside of classes; I feel as though some students are not aware of how much they can gain simply by networking with their professors. This final year of my undergraduate degree has been the most rewarding year of my academic career solely to working closely with professors and career service workers outside of class hours. Thank you!
Senior	Full-time	Female	No
Senior	Full-time	Female	Allow freshmen with a declared major to be directly assigned an advisor in their declared academic department, then maybe have the assigned departmental advisor check in with a central advisor to verify that the students are still in a good place for them and are on the right track to succeed. Having to visit the central advising center was a waste of my assigned central advisor's time and my time, and the way our program is set up, the folks at ACAC do not always make sure incoming students have the prerequisites and course plan laid out properly, so I lost several peers to avoidable missing supporting pre-requisites. I was fortunate to be able to come in and already have been speaking with a professor who became my academic advisor, but a couple folks who started taking courses for my primary major simply disappeared and I think having a better advising system would have that be a smaller number of students.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Perhaps more emphasis on field-related skills, or assistance with securing internships/employment.
Senior	Full-time	Female	More specific help with applying for Masters and Licensing
Senior	Full-time	Female	More field experience
Senior	Full-time	Female	Our response to covid was a bit underwhelming in relations to students being irresponsible off campus...
Senior	Full-time	Female	More real-world experiences
Senior	Full-time	Female	Having that sense of just wanting to learn and practice. I hate the feeling of tests and exams. I would much rather have a school that is either hands-on experience or homework or just quizzes every week. Exams are proven to cause more stress and we just memorize instead of actually learning so that we can pass. NMU tells the professors they have to give a final exam and that is sad because most hate giving them and wish they could teach their own way.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Offering more courses/electives specifically for my concentration (graphic design) instead of a freshmen seminar maybe a "senior" seminar where you learn more about after graduation.

102 seniors responded to the following question in the Senior Transitions module:

**Is there anything your institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or further education?**

**Please describe.**

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Senior	Full-time	Female	My advisor never did her best to help me through college in a way that helped me get to my desired career. The faculty needs to care more about the students intentions after school when those intentions do not include more school. I have had a rough time navigating this because all they wanted to discuss was a masters degree. I have been taking classes in a different discipline this semester and it is shocking how bland and cookie-cutter the biology department is. I feel that although some of the knowledge from those classes will help me post-college, I learned zero hands-on skills.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I could have been better prepared for the MCAT. Some of the critical thinking skills required for that exam were not taught well and it made some sections of the exam difficult.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I feel that my department has done a great job with my education.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Internship placement
Senior	Full-time	Female	Better outline of senior timeline (including graduation projects, internships, student teaching, and transition services)
Senior	Full-time	Female	The whole reason to prepare for a career is to get a career and start making money. I have taken 3 English classes, a world geography class, and a quantitative literacy class. However, I have no idea how to deal with the money once I start getting it. I don't know anything about finances, taxes, retirement, or paying back loans.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Could help more with real-life situations, we did a lot of hypotheticals.
Senior	Full-time	Female	More practical hands-on education going through physically what I need to know to do a job.
Senior	Full-time	Female	actually helped guide me to what major is best instead of how to make the most money.
Senior	Full-time	Female	At the end of the survey most of the questions were on whether or not the institution, and specifically within my classes, provided opportunities for me to try other methods without penalty. I feel like this is the one thing I really wanted out of my science education that I didn't get. A lot of what I was graded on was accuracy and precision, which is very important within this field, but I wish that I would've had more space to think. I wish I would've had more opportunities to think and apply what I was learning rather than just learning and turning in assignments. Especially during the pandemic, the workload has been ridiculous, in my opinion. I especially feel now, more than ever, I'm just turning in assignments and barely learning anything because of the increased workload every professor has done (that was definitely different from pre-pandemic). I feel like this would've better prepared me for my future careers and education.
Senior	Full-time	Female	No. My university needs to give me an education. Everything else is a bonus. I think this survey puts importance on irrelevant categories.
Senior	Full-time	Female	More hands on equipment with the advanced lab techniques and equipment.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Required resume builders & hands on activities to build networking, job interview prep, job things
Senior	Full-time	Female	N/A
Senior	Full-time	Female	More real-life experiences
Senior	Full-time	Female	None
Senior	Full-time	Female	NMU provides little to no effective support for those of the BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities, often alienating members of those communities from the broader NMU campus community. NMU also provides little effective support for students with disability services not related to physical and visible illnesses (i.e. mental illness and how it relates to course work.) If I had any other feasible opportunity to attend college near me, I would likely transfer; however, due to limitations financially and physically, I am unable to attend a different university. I very much feel stuck at NMU. Most of the issues I have with NMU are with the administration, and not with the staff of the departments with which I am associated.
Senior	Full-time	Female	No
Senior	Full-time	Female	Improve the advising in the biology department. Particularly with zoology students.

# NSSE 2021 Student Comments

## Senior Transitions Topical Module

Northern Michigan University

102 seniors responded to the following question in the Senior Transitions module:

### Is there anything your institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or further education?

Please describe.

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Senior	Full-time	Female	-require ANY kind of professional prep for biology students (none currently required)  -require professors to put more effort into transitioning to online format when necessary (I was told to "expect just not to do well online because the classes don't translate well to online) aka maybe perform reviews of online content and not just leave it up to individual professors since they may not be trained properly how to teachonline
Senior	Full-time	Female	I feel there's been a lack of professional skills like programming that I was not offered that would have benefitted me greatly
Senior	Full-time	Female	No
Senior	Full-time	Female	More networking skills and opportunities
Senior	Full-time	Female	It's a great University :)
Senior	Full-time	Female	Better career services and financial aide
Senior	Full-time	Female	Have better professors who actually have experience in the K-12 schools
Senior	Full-time	Female	Actually help get me a job, this is so far been the worst part and my entire degree is general knowledge. It's super focused on the law enforcement aspect and I hate that, criminal justice isn't just about be a police officer. Also having more programs to get in the community where people that are in criminal justice are going to be, would be the most beneficial thing to do. I hate housing, specifically Andrew the apartment coordinator. Most of my professors aren't good at teaching because they are there for research.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Care more about your students. Especially during a pandemic. It is easy to tell professors don't care about students actually learning and succeeding.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Financial aid being better.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Better services
Senior	Full-time	Female	The classes that are project/hw based as opposed to testing heavy always make me feel as if I have learned and applied the concepts significantly more than just memorizing to take an exam.
Senior	Full-time	Female	There isn't a ton of direct engagement about jobs/internships. The school has programs, but they are rarely mentioned, and they're only really useful if you a) happen to catch them in Jamrich between classes and b) are looking for a temporary volunteer position immediately or need to look at a sample resumé. So I would say for employment prep having that be part o If your senior capstone, maybe, so you're getting direct advising and assistance from someone. In terms of graduate education prep the experience and what you learn during your undergrad is whats most helpful. It would be nice to have some standardized system for things like letters of recommendation, or a college fair style thing for graduate school, but it seems like less of an issue than being thrown into the employment world basically blind.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Had more diverse clinic placement, but this was difficult with Covid
Senior	Full-time	Female	Better general academic advisors. The one's that undeclared freshman talk to mess up a lot of people's classes as freshmen.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Explain all the options to gain your CPA even if some of the options don't require education.
Senior	Full-time	Female	NMU's Bachelor's of Science in Nursing program has been amazing in preparing me to start work as an RN BSN immediately following graduation.
Senior	Full-time	Female	No, they did good
Senior	Full-time	Female	I wish there was more of a direct connection between my undergrad work and clinical experiences and direct prep for my career. I feel like there are no experienced advisors for those going into occupational therapy and I had to plan most of my graduate prep by myself. More opportunities for internships would be great. More emphasis on learning about other cultures and cultural competency. More diversity incorporated into course requirements, general eds, and sprinkled into all classes in general.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Some professors were not as accommodating about COVID-related uneasiness as others. Some really pushed group work side by side every class.
Senior	Full-time	Female	N/a

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Please describe.

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Senior	Full-time	Female	I think most of the limitations in what I've been able to learn and participate in have been because of the pandemic not my institution. Because I am graduating in three years, almost half of my time here has been negatively impacted by COVID-19
Senior	Full-time	Female	I feel like I wasn't challenged as much as I thought I would be in college. I'd like to see more rigor in the higher level Spanish and English classes. Also, this semester students need mental health days. A lot of other universities have them and without a Spring Break, many of us are burned out with nothing to look forward to.
Senior	Full-time	Female	No
Senior	Full-time	Female	The education department is an amazing group of people; they have prepared me well for my future post-graduation!
Senior	Full-time	Female	The only things I am concerned about as I leave this institution are finances based and some of that is unavoidable. I am in debt and I still do not know how to file my taxes myself.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Northern has been a joke. There were multiple classes where I was doing nothing but wasting my time and money while a professor, who didn't care about anyone's future, let half the class fail. When I started in my actual education classes I could not have been wasting my time more. They didn't teach me anything useful. They wasted my time with common sense material while not teaching me many aspect that I still don't understand. Luckily my mother is a teacher otherwise I'd have no idea what it is to buy years, or know anything about retirement, or how furthering my education is suppose to work while teaching. It was not all bad though. I did have a few great professors for some of my science classes but for my education professors wasted my time and money. I would have never come to NMU.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Told you how useless a biochemistry degree is if you plan to not go on to further schooling. I am going to tradeschool after I graduate in May so I can have actual profitable useful skills to raise a family.
Senior	Full-time	Male	No
Senior	Full-time	Male	I plan on working a job that is IT and or security related. I wish the degree options had more classes relative to IT and security instead of a lot of business classes. I feel like I could have more experience that way.
Senior	Full-time	Male	severe lack of career service engagement. Job fairs are inadequate. I have never met with anyone to personally help me plan for the future, help find me a job, etc. Other universities are way ahead of NMU in this area.
Senior	Full-time	Male	My major is relatively new here at this school. The concept of secondary metabolites is integral to the material we study and is introduced pretty late into the program. My chemistry background has prepared me well but my knowledge on secondary metabolites is lacking and has made it difficult to come up with projects for my capstone research course
Senior	Full-time	Male	Offered more sources for undeclared students.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Better Pre-Med Advising
Senior	Full-time	Male	Excel should be emphasized more. Relate things more to business. Better companies at job fairs. Strong alumni networks.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Offer official TA positions or paid internships in the Anthropology department, and specifically in Archaeology related positions.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Not really
Senior	Full-time	Male	This institution could have provided more in person classes and less structural shift into this COVID-19 world. This institution could stand to educate their students on what is really going on in the world. The biggest wealth transfer in history is currently occurring, and most of the people in charge at NMU probably aren't even aware of this. Everything going online is making education HORRIBLE. It is now more obvious than ever that educational systems are distractions of the mind. The system and the many institutions have failed and scammed a great proportion of the bright future minds of Amerikkka. Before the pandemic school seemed like something that actually mattered and meant something, but that veil has certainly been lifted. If education continues down this path the many profit driven institutions that make up this educational system will crumble and deteriorate like the minds of the millions of amerikkkan students who mindlessly scroll tiktok and instagram while their cameras are turned off during their classes.

102 seniors responded to the following question in the Senior Transitions module:

**Is there anything your institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or further education?**

**Please describe.**

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Senior	Full-time	Male	No.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Create dendrology and habitat management courses
Senior	Full-time	Male	Northern Michigan University needs to stop creating programs without the faculty, facilities, or budget to support them. Academic advising is absolutely terrible and the student is left to their own devices after their first year.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Better Networking enviroment
Senior	Full-time	Male	No a lot of what has been taught to me in school I would not change.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Better guidance on 421
Senior	Full-time	Male	More involvement from academic advisors. They could take a more active role in scheduling appointments, sending emails, etc so students are kept more in the loop. That's all! Love NMU and our community!!
Senior	Full-time	Male	In my opinion, every student receiving a BA in cybersecurity is ill-prepared. NMU is a joke. How can most students graduate without knowing any code or Linux. You take one coding class, and one linux class. Both taught by instructors that are absolute garbage. You will get zero direction from most instructors at NMU. This opinion is not coming from a student who has failed. This opinion comes from a deans list student. I am so angry that I give them money. I'm too close to graduating. My children are not allowed to attend NMU.... They are going to go somewhere where they get something for all the money they have to spend.
Senior	Full-time	Male	The institution could have a better administration which would create a superior learning environment.
Senior	Full-time	Male	This isn't worth a potential 5 dollar gift card. This Institution all but scams it's students and should be ashamed.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Offering opportunities to engage with the nontraditional, global applications of my degree - teaching abroad in international schools, for example
Senior	Full-time	Male	The engineering department should have actually taught the design process, not just thrown us head first into senior design projects
Senior	Full-time	Male	Fritz could resign and move away
Senior	Full-time	Male	N/A
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I am satisfied with this program and the requirements that are involved.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	We deserve an in-person graduation. People are traveling regardless. The dome is huge, and there's no reason why we can't have a safe in-person graduation. I've been looking forward to this for four years and now it's been taken from me and my friends. We can still have sports happening, but no ceremony? It doesn't make any sense to me, and I feel like I don't matter.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	There needs to be better real-world experiences. It's easy to give a problem from a textbook, but it's another to ask a question with no right or wrong answer.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	They never should have closed campus. Over a 99% survival rate for those under 30 years old, and yet we as students can't even meet and speak to one another out side of video chatting. Half the purpose of college is to develop social skills by meeting new people and building new social structures for real world occupations and communication. Learning how to work with others, and communicate our ideas effectively. Be able to debate, and listen to those whom we disagree, to understand the perspectives of others, show them ours in order to grow as individuals and in our generation together. That has been completely removed. Its extremely sad and disappointing.... but hey, it costs the same. So that counts? Right?
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I tried the counseling center, saw several different counsellors and one counsellor for about a year. I have felt very alone in my pursuit for mental health. I registered my depression as a disability on my own volition with a doctor's diagnosis. Some teachers have been very kind but some teachers have been unreasonably strict. I often find myself overwhelmed by prompts and assignments, I'm not sure what the cure for this is or if the university could be more involved. It's frustrating because I know I'm very smart and hard working but I'm having a hard time completing assignments.

## NSSE 2021 Student Comments

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102 seniors responded to the following question in the Senior Transitions module:

**Is there anything your institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or further education?**

**Please describe.**

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Senior	Not full-time	Female	More assistance in clarifying where transfer students stand and the best way for us to approach, and complete, our degrees. Especially if we are completing a degree that combines two different departments (such as Art Education).
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I already have an Auctioneer business, a small online sales store and work fulltime at a community college. I also have a small farm. I'm 65 and may retire someday. I've been in management for years however experience is not recognized without degrees, so here I am. I would ask you what else they could do?
Senior	Not full-time	Male	More directly applicable knowledge. I came to learn about Cannabis, as that's how the program was marketed. I wanted to learn how to grow the, extract the material for commercial use, and understand how to start a business. There was none of that. It's nothing more than your basic chemistry courses, 3 semesters of worthless seminars, just to be blindsided with a ridiculously tough senior project that we dont even design. You make a grow tent from a cheap shelf and black plastic. You could learn more about the cannabis industry in 4 hours on YouTube then you could in 4 years at NMU.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	I learned more about broadcasting from my on campus jobs and my off campus job than I did in any of my classes combined. Practical experience is so important, I really can't stress that enough. Seriously, for a major like mine, the classes felt almost completely irrelevant. If I could've gotten my degree as some type of apprenticeship, as opposed to taking classes on top of all the work I do, I would've easily chosen the former without a second thought.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	Hire more staff in our major so I don't have the same professor for every class
Senior	Not full-time	Male	the institution could've provided me with a more clear outline of majors and minors and reached out much more.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	I don't believe college is meant to prepare you for a career. In my experience, college just gives you the knowledge of how to do your career. Those are very different things.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	None so far. NMU has been a great institution for learning.

## NSSE 2021 Student Comments

### End-of-Survey: First-Year Students

Northern Michigan University

Institutions had the option to select one of four comment prompts to be given at the end of the survey (including after all module and consortium questions), or provide their own prompt. 147 first-year students responded to the following:

#### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Excellent	Full-time	Female	I would never change amazingly we have here. Everyone is so kind and accepting. However, I think events shuttles be advertised far more
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Creating a better transition for incoming freshman who have never experienced college before. I felt very lost and didn't really understand the new challenges that college has. I wouldn't change all the different places to study and opportunity they have to receive help with studying if need be.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Everything is great, no changes necessary!
Excellent	Full-time	Female	This is presently a difficult question. My go-to response would be to allow for more interaction between students in a class, but because of COVID-19, that is not possible at the moment. Coming in as a freshman this year, I understand that this school year has been vastly different than it would be under "normal" circumstances. I think that NMU does a great job of encouraging different perspectives and ideas around campus. The speakers that they bring in come from diverse backgrounds and don't seem to have a problem having difficult conversations about race or identity. Same with professors. Additionally, when going over the syllabus, every professor that I have had has gone over expectations when it comes to discrimination in the classroom, making it very clear that it will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The only reason that I would be leaving NMU is to be closer to my home in New Hampshire. If I decide to make that change, I will definitely miss this institution.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	To go back to in person classes and activities and no masks
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Because of the ongoing COVID crisis, I would like to see more adaptions to online learning. For instance, it would be nice if more materials (such as textbooks) were made available online. Also, I graduated from a virtual high school, where the teachers were rather adept at using the online format. Since I have physical disabilities that limit my mobility, I would like to see more classes being made online. I have been fortunate to have been able to take only online classes thus far - some were meant to be in person but were adapted to be online. In this case of adapted classes, I would like to see more people that are skilled in using the online format effectively. As far as what I don't think should be changed is the ease of access to advising and counseling resources. It is extremely easy to get in touch with the people that you need or want to talk to and these people are always helpful. I really like this overall, but I do have one suggestion of an option that's only partially utilized. In the Starfish program, it allows me to set up a meeting with my advisor online - this makes getting help easy and scheduling is available anytime. I would like to see this option used more in regards to making appointments in general.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	a easier way for us to talk about mental illness without going face to face.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	none
Excellent	Full-time	Female	I would change the way student to student communications work
Excellent	Full-time	Female	This semesters course load has been very stressful and without any sort of spring break, we should have set mental health days where students know they won't miss anything and can de-stress.  COVID sucks so events are kinda out of the picture which has made my first year kinda dull, so it's nobody's fault there, but y'all are doing great with COVID
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Currently, a change would be to switch back to in-person learning. However, this would not be possible until the pandemic is under control. I do believe the University does a good job in supporting the LGBTQ+ community and that should not be changed.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	The faculty and staff are very supportive and helpful, and they should most definitely stay. This school also does a great job accepting people of all different backgrounds and does not discriminate, which is important. Personally, I get social anxiety living in the dorms, and I think the two year requirement for living in them is a little extreme, but that's just me. Overall, the institution is doing a wonderful job.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	I think that a focus on mental health would be lovely. However, I think that the initiative that most faculty take to be involved with students is wonderful
Excellent	Full-time	Female	I do wish that it was more open and welcoming to people of color, because you barely see any people of color here. I do wish that housing would be more flexible about issues involving covid and mental health awareness. One thing that should not be changed is my professors in my department because they are absolutely wonderful and great to learn from. They make it a welcoming atmosphere and I care about what work I put in.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	I think we are able to understand the real world and real world problems when we enter college from some of the classes we are taking. I think there is nothing I would change. I strongly believe that they providing the right information to the students here.

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### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Allow mental break days, especially with no spring break. we need a break, however small. Continue with flexible course delivery methods, remote, hybrid, and in person
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Having in person classes would be nice but I understand that's not possible at this point in time.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	more diversity
Excellent	Full-time	Female	To change: allow more interactive classes (probably would be different without COVID)
Not change: the exception of diversity			
Excellent	Full-time	Male	Improving mental health services and advertising where to go for help is the only thing that could be improved
Excellent	Full-time	Male	-
Excellent	Full-time	Male	What should change: As a freshman, it's hard to get a feel for this question. I'm still new to campus and my college experience has been very different than a "normal" one since most things have been closed, altered, or online. I hope to reopen as soon as possible.
What shouldn't change: The friendly professors always willing to lend a hand and help, even when I'm really struggling or need lots of help.			
Excellent	Full-time	Male	Make the English gen eds Non political
Excellent	Full-time	Male	Change the amount of on-campus restaurants, more culinary diversity would be appreciated. Don't change the food in the dining hall, the menu is great!
Excellent	Full-time	Male	I believe my current campy experiment is nothing short of amazing. I wouldn't change anything.
Excellent	Full-time	Male	Making learning more engaging by relating it to how it will be helpful for the students. One thing that should not be changed is the professors are very open to help study in all ways like academically and mentally.
Excellent	Full-time	Male	One of the main reasons for me choosing NMU, was that it is a substance free campus. Which I found to be not true at all. There are signs everywhere, but hardly anyone listens. Sometimes the smell of pot is so present in the dorms it feels like a Bob Marley concert. The RA's chose to do nothing because of the paperwork involved. However, I love the teachers here, very nice faculty.
Good	Full-time	Female	One thing that would most improve the education experience would be having professors not teach to a major the class is mainly for, despite my major requires it (SL150).One thing that shouldn't change is the wide selection of courses offered
Good	Full-time	Female	I don't really have one change that would most improve the educational experience. The one thing that has bothered me the most is that one of my professors never answers his emails. One thing that should not be changed is how most classes are offering either online classes or in person classes every time the class meets.
Good	Full-time	Female	More wellness days should be implemented. Going 3-4 months with no break is exhausting especially with no spring break and depending on how rigorous your course load is.
Good	Full-time	Female	One thing that should not be changed is how the institution is doing their learning, they are doing a very good job at it.
Good	Full-time	Female	I would like to see more diversity in the students in my classes. I wouldn't change how accessible and helpful all the faculty and staff is.
Good	Full-time	Female	As of right now, I think teachers being more understanding of the way the pandemic is playing a roll on mental health of students and being more accepting of the fact that many students are struggling simply because of their mental health.
Good	Full-time	Female	Nothing, I like the option to be remote or be in person
Good	Full-time	Female	Changed the behavior against black and white. Have a neural relationship with everyone be fair in judgements especially against black students
Take out complaints seriously			
Good	Full-time	Female	One good change would be to have more clubs available. As far as I could find, there were no clubs I have been interested in that were available this year. One thing that should not be changed is the range of in person and online classes. I think students should have a choice if they want to do in person or online classes, and also have a choice to do a hybrid class of in person and online material.

## NSSE 2021 Student Comments

End-of-Survey: First-Year Students

Northern Michigan University

Institutions had the option to select one of four comment prompts to be given at the end of the survey (including after all module and consortium questions), or provide their own prompt. 147 first-year students responded to the following:

### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Good	Full-time	Female	I would love if there was more encouragement to join clubs and organizations. In the fall, when the organizations were on the grass outside of Jamrich I was in class the whole time and didn't even know it was happening, so I never really got to explore them and I haven't seen any other information on how to join any. One thing I wouldn't change is the academic advisors. They have been very helpful for me this year.
Good	Full-time	Female	The way that instructors interact with students
Good	Full-time	Female	A spring break would be nice, not even for vacationing purposes (because COVID-19 of course), but just to decompress for a week. Having no breaks this semester is rough. The atmosphere and community feel of Northern is wonderful.
Good	Full-time	Female	The dining hall could use some work. The professors shouldn't change
Good	Full-time	Female	Change: make it more clear what grade is needed to meet prerequisites.
Don't Change: Student activities			
Good	Full-time	Female	I think my college does a good job of encouraging diversity, however, the actual makeup of students is fairly homogenous/white and I think I would enjoy my experience more if I was able to run into those of different backgrounds without having to seek them out in specific student groups. I do appreciate the willingness of my professors to talk to me and respond quickly via email to any questions I may have, even if I am not in their class.
Good	Full-time	Female	I am not sure what I would change. Educational wise I think Northern is doing a good job. They offer a lot of resources to help people and all the professors always express that they want to help out the best they can and see us succeed.
Good	Full-time	Female	In my opinion, I think as a white female it would be nice to have maybe a safety class or maybe something run by the RA's that talk about safety on and off-campus. Also, I think it would be nice to have more in-person class opportunities (if that's even possible) since a lot of people work better that way and there is less cheating.
Good	Full-time	Female	I believe an increase in appreciation for academically excelling students would be a change. Other than the honors program, having academic housing or some sort of recognition beyond an email saying you made the Dean's List may be nice. I believe that the focus of classes (heavy on material) should not change into a inter-disciplinary type of style until higher level courses (it would be too much for undergraduates).
Good	Full-time	Female	I love my school and the professors are amazing. The location is amazing and I love that they are always trying to get students involved. However, I think they should offer a long weekend or some sort of break/mental health help to students who are going to be burnt out from going straight for an entire semester. They also should be more interested in how teachers are regulating online classes.
Good	Full-time	Female	I think the one change would be reopening campus and showing a bigger commitment to being an ally for students of a race other than white and for the LGBT community. What should not be changed is the academic resources available.
Good	Full-time	Female	One thing that should not be changed is the hands-on experience in labs of different majors. One thing I think should change is having more classes offered during both semesters rather than just one semester.
Good	Full-time	Female	I would not change much with this university. Due to this being a strange year, things were thrown out of wack and I believe that I did not get the full experience as one normally would. Because of this, I don't know how everything normally is and this year could just have been a fluke year.
Good	Full-time	Female	I think the biggest "improvement" that could be made right now would be related to COVID restrictions, which unfortunately we can do nothing about. I think NMU is stellar about sending students resources for different issues (ex. the mandatory sexual harassment training), and I think continuing to disperse information in that fashion would be largely beneficial. It's very nice that the institution tries to be actively involved with the students. It absolutely sets it apart from larger institutions where it might be easy for students to feel overlooked.
Good	Full-time	Female	Change tuition or give more compensation for the fact we are not getting a full learning experience but we are still paying for that. We should not change food being take out.
Good	Full-time	Female	My first semester was kind of hard at first because I didn't exactly understand that there were assignment lists on the courses, but once you start going it is easy to catch on. I love that my institution makes sure if you need help with anything you can contact them.

# NSSE 2021 Student Comments

End-of-Survey: First-Year Students

Northern Michigan University

Institutions had the option to select one of four comment prompts to be given at the end of the survey (including after all module and consortium questions), or provide their own prompt. 147 first-year students responded to the following:

## What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Good	Full-time	Female	Going back to fully in person classes would really change things for the better.
The one thing the university shouldn't change is meeting with your advisor virtually.			
Good	Full-time	Female	I Wish you would be forced to go to lectures, cause I find myself and my roommates skipping them if there virtual. However, I would not change the shortened labs, because longer labs really can drain a person.
I like how northern emphasizes their close proximity to the natural beauty that the UP has to offer, and that we as students should take advantage of that. I wish that northern would emphasize academics more and challenge all of their students academically.			
Good	Full-time	Female	Being able to easily interact with classmates would improve my experience immensely.
The ability to Zoom-in to classes. It's helpful if I have to go out of town or something but still want to attend class.			
Good	Full-time	Female	More engagement between faculty and students, should be changed. One thing that shouldn't be changed is the size of classes
Good	Full-time	Female	I would completely change the way that the advising office is run. The people there don't know what they're talking about and have made it very difficult seek help through them. I am no longer interested in asking career and major guidance advice from the advising office because I know they will be of no help. I really could use some people to talk to at the moment because I am really struggling with what major to declare but I will not talk to people who don't know what they're saying.
I like NMU overall and I think that there isn't much to be changed.			
Good	Full-time	Female	There should be more ways to help students that are struggling with mental health especially during this time.
NmU should continue to enforce masks and social distancing throughout this pandemic.			
Good	Full-time	Female	One thing to be changed? For the Deans of the school, specifically the Dean of Arts and Sciences to take reports of his students being verbally and emotionally harassed by the Music Department Head seriously instead of caring about money and worrying about finding someone else to fill the position. That is ridiculous that individuals at this school, individuals in charge are purposefully ignorant and uncaring about the emotional wellbeing of their students.
On the other hand, the housing communities on campus are great. All of the RAs I have interacted with are wonderful and deserve the entire world.			
Good	Full-time	Female	I believe that this university could improve on promoting information to get students involved in various activities.
Good	Full-time	Female	Understanding that students are being put through ONLINE college. College is already hard for most students but to be put online with less instruction does not make it any easier.
Good	Full-time	Female	One thing to change would be some more communication over all with Covid-19 along with being more lenient on attendance with in person classes because of Covid-19. One thing I wouldn't change is all the extra help with course outside of class time.
Good	Full-time	Female	Nothing.
Good	Full-time	Female	One thing that could be improved is having professors make sure students are understanding the course material, the online learning can be a struggle for lots of students. One thing that shouldn't change is how accepting everyone is, it is a very welcoming community
Good	Full-time	Female	The in campus environment is highly inclusive, and should not be changed. Although the one thing I would change is the availability of advisor/academic office hours. While many have them, they're by appointment only and often not disclosed to students unless we ask. Those office hours should be an open period of time where students can just pop in and ask their questions

## NSSE 2021 Student Comments

End-of-Survey: First-Year Students

Northern Michigan University

Institutions had the option to select one of four comment prompts to be given at the end of the survey (including after all module and consortium questions), or provide their own prompt. 147 first-year students responded to the following:

### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Good	Full-time	Female	Well the most pressing thing is online classes. It's nice to just join ZOOM when I'm not feeling mentally up for in person, but it's hard to connect to completely remote courses. Granted, this is due to the pandemic. If this wasn't such an unfortunate time, I feel like my college experience would be normal.
Good	Full-time	Female	Finding ways to meet new people, once covid is settled more events at the center of campus.
Good	Full-time	Female	The dining hall is really bad
Good	Full-time	Female	Make sure that both political parties are welcomed instead of just having one
Good	Full-time	Female	I would add more options for forming study groups, and keep chemistry discussions!
Good	Full-time	Female	If some of the professors would actually teach instead of just posting a video. They have had 3 semesters to figure this out. Students do not learn by simply watching a video. I am paying thousands of dollars to teach myself because certain professors at this institution choose to barely teach and continue to make money knowing they aren't doing their best.
Good	Full-time	Female	1 Thing to Change: create more financial aid opportunities
1 Thing to keep the same: creating a community between students, especially in the dorms.			
Good	Full-time	Female	I have not really had a bad experience at this institution. There have been some classes that have been harder for me, but that just means that I have to apply myself more. All of my professors and financial advisor have been so kind and helpful to me. They have helped me find my career path and get it all planned out. No complaints.
Good	Full-time	Female	We need to open up more events for everyone to go to.
Good	Full-time	Female	I would change the dorms and how people can meet others. I feel that I do not know anyone at this school.
Good	Full-time	Female	Give students more learning method varieties in class. Most of my classes have been just lectures and quizzes. Keep the socially distanced in-person class options.
Good	Full-time	Female	A change that I think could be made to make learning here better is a more understanding from faculty, mostly professors, that there is more going on in students' lives than their class. Mental health recognition needs to be better, and there needs to be resources for students that are more easily accessible and higher quality. I wouldn't want to change the emphasis we have in recognizing cultural centers and students.
Good	Full-time	Female	One thing that should change is better finding out which major could fit you and which majors are out there. What should not be changed is how the professors teach each class and how we can express ourselves.
Good	Full-time	Female	covid ending, my roommate not making me as depressed then the location and kindness of staff
Good	Full-time	Female	It's very hard to think about what could change safely with covid still around and still a threat, but I hope that soon when the weather breaks or vaccines get rolled out that there will be more activities on campus throughout the week so I will be able to go out and do things because I compete almost every weekend on the track team, which means I don't really get a weekend to relax and do things on campus. The positive attitude/mindset of the students, faculty, and administration have been comforting in these times so that's something I hope won't change especially since we are now through a rough winter.
Good	Full-time	Female	Having a better understanding, especially in the housing department, with how mental health is a serious issue for some of us especially during covid times. NMU should not change its appreciation for the nature around us and the necessary preservation of that.
Good	Full-time	Female	I believe that with it being my first year here it is hard to say what I would change since I have not attended NMU when I regular year is going on. But if I had to change one thing it would be having a better system for online/hybrid classes. I feel like many students are teaching themselves when it comes to online courses and not getting much support from their teachers. So training teacher on better methods on how to teach online. As for the one thing I wouldn't change I would not get rid of the option to have online classes but just a better organization of them. Some teachers do know and do a wonderful job teaching online but others I feel could do a little better.
Good	Full-time	Female	More communication between students and the faculty and administration. Better options for the Graduate assistants during the pandemic.
Good	Full-time	Male	Try to make all classes in person.
Good	Full-time	Male	What shouldn't change is the feeling of support that some of the professors give, even when it is an online class.

## NSSE 2021 Student Comments

End-of-Survey: First-Year Students

Northern Michigan University

Institutions had the option to select one of four comment prompts to be given at the end of the survey (including after all module and consortium questions), or provide their own prompt. 147 first-year students responded to the following:

### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Good	Full-time	Male	Just not having to deal with Covid, I moved here completely by myself and with all the regulations we had to follow, which were great measures, were just isolating so I felt pretty lonely for most of first semester. I've met a few people this semester but it is just another hurdle that first year college students have before.
Good	Full-time	Male	I think that adjusting to covid could have been handled much better, especially for helping freshman become acclimated to college life. I thought while I was on campus that the dining hall was pretty good.
Good	Full-time	Male	Lower cost on credits, as taking any more than 16 a semester is incredibly expensive.
Good	Full-time	Male	to improve I'd say to lower the credit hours on general education courses to 3 credit hours, and to not change the resources available to students.
Good	Full-time	Male	For me the LGBTQ+ community is very small and the food is tough to get past when you have a very restrictive diet so I think I would've enjoyed myself far more in an apartment than living in a dorm room.
Good	Full-time	Male	Having covid restrictions being removed would work the most change, but it's also the one thing as of right now that shouldn't be changed...unless we did a complete 3 week isolation as a whole entire country.
Good	Full-time	Male	k
Good	Full-time	Male	Push people out of their comfort zones a bit, encourage talking amongst classmates, no shotcalling and understanding the fears a student has with public speaking.
Good	Full-time	Male	Take better focus on those students who are supporting themselves and working full time, putting themselves through college because they wanted to come to NMU. But NMU does not accommodate for someone trying to survive poverty and retain course material.
Good	Full-time	Male	More in person classes
Good	Full-time	Male	Change: the online course learning procedures and standards
			Keep: the in person classes.
Good	Full-time	Male	The one thing that could lost improve, is making sure the professors are here to help us and teach, and not indoctrinate.

Even though I've noticed professors pushing their political agenda harder than others, I still believe that I can share my views through assignments and still be graded fairly.

Good	Full-time	Male	I just want to be able to have more people in my dorm room. To "improve the educational experience" at this college, I'd like to see better to navigate websites. They're a pain sometimes.
Good	Full-time	Male	To be honest, everything is pretty decent here so I guess maybe make the internet even faster.
Good	Full-time	Male	Reopen Melted and never change the snow removal system, works great.
Good	Full-time	Male	More group work and student to student interaction in the classroom. Yes the Covid-19 pandemic has been hard but I do believe we could use more interaction between one another. A lot of classes are dead silent, lecture halls which are "fine" but I believe we could really benefit from more discussion.
Good	Full-time	Male	The only thing that I'd change would be rules on Covid-19, but that won't happen until the pandemic is over. I enjoy the time I spend here at Northern Michigan University.
Good	Full-time	Male	increase the political diversity of events as if you are not of a certain political faction it feels anti-you or you dont feel represented
Good	Full-time	Male	Obviously there out standing circumstances this year, but moving forward, having at least a portion of classes taught in person should be prioritized to increase face to face interactions and communication between professors and their students in order to create a more engaging experience with the course topic.
Good	Full-time	Male	Covid 19 has forced my classes online, and I can not do online schooling. I would not pay the amount I did for my education if I knew I was going to be entering simple search terms and forcing myself to learn the information through my own research.
Good	Full-time	Male	I am personally a huge fan of NMU, I think it is the hidden gem, there is very little I would change about nmu, except maybe the dining hall food
Good	Full-time	Male	At the moment, with COVID-19, it's hard to say. I would obviously like to get back in the classroom, be able to join clubs, and socialize more. But I can't. This is no fault of the institution. They've handled the pandemic very well.
			On thing I don't want changed is how accessible the faculty is, even in the midst of a pandemic.

# NSSE 2021 Student Comments

## End-of-Survey: First-Year Students

Northern Michigan University

Institutions had the option to select one of four comment prompts to be given at the end of the survey (including after all module and consortium questions), or provide their own prompt. 147 first-year students responded to the following:

### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Good	Not full-time	Female	One thing that would be nice would be better communication I feel.
Good	Not full-time	Female	I wish the school did more to help financially support their students, I know so many students who have had to drop out because they couldn't afford it
Good	Not full-time	Male	The price for tuition should be lower and cost to come should be lower because we are experiencing about half of what Northern has to offer and it's just not fair
Fair	Full-time	Female	Covid doesn't help our situation but I don't feel like I go the real college experience, but I've never really interacted with anyone in some of my classes except for the people next to me.
Fair	Full-time	Female	I would change the way hybrid and fully online courses function in day to day work. It can be quite difficult to focus and stay motivated when completely online.
Fair	Full-time	Female	Maybe doing more social actives across the whole building instead of just by hallways so you are able to meet new people.
Fair	Full-time	Female	I think this year was extremely hard on everyone's mental well being, and I think the lack of breaks was really hard. I wish the school would make it up to us with something to take our minds off school for a day.
Fair	Full-time	Female	I wish there would be easier access to group studies as well as an easier way to make contacts and friends during the pandemic. I also find the average cost of books we don't end up needing ridiculous. I enjoy the effort put into class layout for being online by most of my professors.
Fair	Full-time	Female	More faculty involvement in students' academics and performance would be beneficial. The student groups and activities should not be changed.
Fair	Full-time	Female	Getting responses from instructors in an appropriate time frame. I wouldn't change the online formatting of coursework.
Fair	Full-time	Female	Perhaps it's because I am a freshman, but I felt very lonely this year. I felt scared to join a club because I was in quarantine when the clubs were out in the academic mall. I guess creating an easier way of connecting people with similar interests would be nice.
I liked most of my teachers, and I enjoy being able to learn from my dorm room and not have to worry about getting sick.			
Fair	Full-time	Female	In person classes, and not advertising that our institution is in person when it is not.
Fair	Full-time	Female	Make education easier to use, how quiet the library is
Fair	Full-time	Female	if we were totally in person and the professors
Fair	Full-time	Female	One thing that should be changed is how much professors talk about politics in class and how much they push their opinions on you and try to shove it down your throat.
Fair	Full-time	Female	try harder to make campus more inviting during covid
Fair	Full-time	Female	I hope that the students could become more friendly.
Fair	Full-time	Female	More TA's, I honestly doubt if I'll ask a professor for help, but I'd ask a TA and frequently ask other students for help. One thing that shouldn't change is online options for class work. I am honestly holding on by a thread but working online instead of on paper I think has really helped when I simply don't have the energy to write.
Fair	Full-time	Female	One thing that should change is giving me a break because I am so burnt out and struggling in everything. There is nothing that should not be changed.
Fair	Full-time	Male	The one thing that I would change would be the overall environment here on campus. Physically and spiritually. There needs to be more effort put in how we treat the earth and the people throughout it. One thing I would not change are the teachers and how much they care about their students.
Fair	Full-time	Male	Being a first year here I'm still learning stuff about this institution but I'm just stating the obvious but COVID really negatively impacted not only my learning experience but a lot of students and in getting to know many people so I don't know much in how things used to be before COVID. I know there's only so much you can do with COVID out but I hope this helped
Fair	Full-time	Male	I would change the Covid policy not being aloud to have open doors sucks makes it hard to meet anyone
Fair	Full-time	Male	The lack of many Friday classes is good for moral and should not be changed. The university should offer better counseling for those with long term mental illnesses.

## NSSE 2021 Student Comments

### End-of-Survey: First-Year Students

Northern Michigan University

Institutions had the option to select one of four comment prompts to be given at the end of the survey (including after all module and consortium questions), or provide their own prompt. 147 first-year students responded to the following:

#### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Fair	Full-time	Male	NMU would be greatly improved if students were friendlier and reached out to each other in class. In all of my classes this year, there was virtually no community. Despite significant efforts to cultivate relationships with others, there was not one time when I studied or did homework with another student in any of my classes. Students in NMU classes do not speak with each other and entering class will typically be on their phones or laptops. I previously thought this was normal until I visited my friends at other universities. At these other schools, students will actually participate in class and study together.
I had some great teachers this year at NMU who really did their best. Hopefully this does not change.			
Fair	Full-time	Male	Nothing
Fair	Full-time	Male	Certain faculty that are not professors could be better educated on how to effectively educate. One thing that should never change is the level of field-engagement in science-related courses.
Fair	Not full-time	Female	The professors should be taught how to use educat
Fair	Not full-time	Female	More diversity in the students. How classes are taught.
Fair	Not full-time	Female	The faculty at this university having “ask your family for more money” as an answer to me not being able to afford the tuition that changed after a tuition amount was already given to me. Understanding privilege among the mostly white faculty and staff.
Fair	Not full-time	Female	For the online portion to not have professors bank off breakout rooms to have students teach each other. And the understanding when it comes to Covid and assignments, its super nice to have a little bit of sympathy when you're in college and after covid is gone I hope the sympathy remains.
Poor	Full-time	Female	Most of the issues that I've had at this University has been because of a lack of care for the Arts students computers working with the programs that the University uses.
Poor	Full-time	Female	A better sense of community so folks can feel comfortable communicating and participating.
Poor	Full-time	Female	Making online classes better for people with learning disabilities.
Poor	Full-time	Female	If i could change one thing about this institution it would be not charging full price for maybe .05% of the college experience I was after. I know no one can control the pandemic but I got absolutely nothing out of this year, a total waste absolutely not worth it, and theyre still going to put me under mountains of debt. No promises were kept and very safety measures followed, as well as total isolation with no covid safe social life at all. on top of all that i have done poorly academically, mostly in part due to the total lack of communication and state of confusion it has been dealing with online/hybrid classes, and they threaten to remove my financial aid, as if its entirely my own fault that im crippling under the stress of trying to exist in this nightmare place with no help. The whole thing is a mess and if i could go back i would have simply gone for community college or online learning, the like of which id actually get what i pay for. when it comes to what i wouldnt change there is not much. the entire experience is lacking in almost every respect and i am so disappointed words cannot describe my displeasure at the turn of evens here. 0/10 would never wish this hellish nightmare experience onto anyone, and i know for a fact that most other freshmen here feel similarly on the subject.
Poor	Full-time	Male	Be consistent with policies within and outside of class. Don't change the location, everything else is variable. Don't raise tuition again to preferably even though they definitely will. Jokes on them I won't stay long enough to see the day.
Poor	Full-time	Male	I don't care about what they do, they don't care about me lmao.
Poor	Full-time	Male	Diversity in students and culture
Poor	Full-time	Male	Northern Michigan University needs to hold professors more accountable for the course work that they assign. While some classes have excellent professors and materials, others are absolutely pointless and is due to pure laziness on the professor's side. This needs to change. I do not pay 5,000\$+ a semester for a high school level education.
Poor	Not full-time	Female	Listen to your students and when they tell you there is a severe problem with one of your professors, actually do it. I can not express how disgusted I am at who this excuse of a university chooses to employ. I wish I never came here.

## NSSE 2021 Student Comments

End-of-Survey: Seniors

Northern Michigan University

Institutions had the option to select one of four comment prompts to be given at the end of the survey (including after all module and consortium questions), or provide their own prompt. 168 senior students responded to the following:

### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Excellent	Full-time	Female	One change that would most improve the educational experience would be to explain the majors and research opportunities in a given field more clearly. Have them more known. The faculty themselves are great and I wouldn't change the way they have to teach. They've done an amazing job.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	I feel that my educational experience has been full of wonderful experiences over the years. I am very pleased that my courses were relevant to my career path, but would love more education classes focused specifically on lesson planning.

I am student teaching in middle school science, and have not learned this specific material in years. I feel like there should be some basic classes for education that include classes like life science and physical science. Maybe education students could practice presenting lessons to classmates based on real middle school courses.

Excellent	Full-time	Female	Taking into account how the students are doing with current events, there is a wellness day that was announced to happen this week so that's a step. Something that shouldn't be changed is the flexibility of the types of courses that can be taken (in person/online/hybrid).
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Note to the NSSE: I am a triple major in physics, French, and math. Since we can only indicate two majors and have radio buttons for answering questions about our coursework, I averaged my responses to the questions over my coursework for all three majors. This means that my answers do not reflect well the content of individual programs (e.g. very analytical thinking in math, problem-solving in physics, interpretation and creation of texts in French, etc.).

One change: Have some way to meet everyone in your major(s). It would really help to get introduced to at least some people you will be in courses with and/or could go to with questions. Everyone I have met has been through courses, and I would have loved to meet folks in my majors at a beginning-of-the-semester cookie hour or something.

One thing NOT to change: Letting departments work with each other to figure out scheduling. Being able to have my academic advisors all discuss course times meant that I could always find something that I needed to take for my degrees that would fit in my schedule, and sometimes this involved one or more professors specifically getting times for set courses in another department in advance, so that they could ask their department to offer a course I had to take at a time that worked for me. Also, the laptop lending program is very useful -- I have been using mine daily for school and research, and it has been a boon.

Excellent	Full-time	Female	I'm not too sure. Maybe more events and socials? Something that brings everyone together. And something that should be changed is offering more scholarships.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	One change would be placing students in more diverse situations. I would not change the support I have from my teachers
Excellent	Full-time	Female	n/a
Excellent	Full-time	Female	I would not change the emphasis the faculty, students and institution in general puts on the importance of the outdoors
Excellent	Full-time	Female	There could be more diversity training. I know we have improved a lot this year with trying to have more discussions about race, but I think there is still a lot more we could do.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	More effective academic advising.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	I love how dedicated my teachers have been to my course work and how they want me to succeed.

I would change that when you apply for the social work program it's only open in the winter semester. This put me behind two semesters.

Excellent	Full-time	Female	I like how my university informs students about outdoor activities there are to do around our school. I would like to receive less emails.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	I am a non traditional, older (29) student. I feel 99% a lot of activities on campus are geared towards traditional students and I think NMU could do a better job supporting, creating events, orgs, providing resources for non traditional students

# NSSE 2021 Student Comments

End-of-Survey: Seniors

Northern Michigan University

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## What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Excellent	Full-time	Female	I would like to see more interaction between the under and upperclassman within my major.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	The A and D department need work. There are teachers who treat you differently if you transfer in with previous art courses taken at a different college. The department head, Derrick, doesn't listen when it is brought to his attention. Derrick also doesn't listen to the students period, no matter the topic. It would be helpful if there were at least 2 teachers per department, i.e. two different painting/drawing teachers, so that if one bullies a student they have another option other than to switch concentrations or even degrees all together.

The English department is fantastic. All the teachers are wonderful and WANT their students to succeed. Dr. Domina, Jennifer Howard, Lesley Larkin, and Sandra Burr have made a huge impact on my time here at Northern.

Excellent	Full-time	Female	One thing that would most improve my educational experience here would be better access to mental health care services. One thing I would not change is the support that faculty/staff provides for their students. You can tell they genuinely help and are concerned with the futures of their students.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Encouraging to go outside!
Excellent	Full-time	Female	All of my answers are based on the NMU School of Nursing only. Before entering the Nursing program I would not speak so highly of NMU. The Nursing School is the most top notch and effective thing about NMU. The school itself should look to its own Nursing School for standards of education.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Improve : COVID response/financial support
What should not be changed : community events			
Excellent	Full-time	Female	I loved it
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Northern does a great job making students feel comfortable at school and confident to express themselves in any capacity. The services they have available should not be changed because the vast offerings they have may not be utilized by the majority of the student population, but they are very important.
One thing I would change to improve the educational experience at Northern would be to encourage more service learning/practical experience learning outside the classroom. There are a lot of programs that do practical application learning, but specifically in my departments, I do not have a lot of coursework that includes experience outside the classroom.			
Excellent	Full-time	Female	The only thing I can think of to improve is that I know some colleges have childcare services. This would be a massive, expensive undertaking so I understand why it's not offered. I am a widowed single mother, and finding childcare is hard, especially with Covid. Most of my sitters are friends who are seniors; they are understandably not up for watching children in these times. Most of my classes have been online but I have had two in-person classes.
One thing that should not be changed is NMU's continual forgiveness of students' mess-ups. I made it through 5 years of college as an alcoholic, and was allowed to stay when my grades improved. And I got a "Use of Marijuana" charge on campus while in school the first time. I attended a second time as a drug addict, but stopped going to classes. This is my third time, and I was allowed to come back and granted financial aid (after some appeals and repayments of debts) and got a 3.9 GPA last semester despite being hospitalized for MS. I love that NMU gave me more chances so that I could eventually be successful this time.			
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Staff being flexible
The educational values			

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### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Excellent	Full-time	Female	NMU needs to attract students from more diverse backgrounds. as a white female, I am in no place to answer the questions on how NMU treats people of color or those from different religious backgrounds. All I know is this school is hella white and there are a ton of different bible study groups. It was a bit of a culture shock to see the extremely limited diversity at this school after going to a community college for four years. I understand that a good part of this is regional demographics, the UP is mostly of Scandinavian descent. If I didn't travel and study abroad, taking my intercultural experiences and learning into my own hands, it would have been nearly non-existent during my time at NMU.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Unsure
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Having a clear line of communication with professors, and a better understanding of who to talk to about advising and things of that nature. How accessible professors are is basically a case-by-case situation, and if you end up with a professor that doesn't respond to emails, you've basically hit a dead end and there is no other avenue of connection. Especially during this last year with covid. One thing that should stay just as it is is the student government and the culture surrounding it. It very much feels like that body has a lot of governing force behind it at NMU, which is a nice feeling for the students who are elected to it, and those who do the electing.
Excellent	Full-time	Female	Change: tuition (come from two-person household that makes less than \$20,000/ yr. with both my mom and I having jobs)

Not change: NMU has a LOT of extracurricular groups, anyone can find one that they're into.

Excellent	Full-time	Female	Change the general education courses, I should have better options of classes that actually interest me because there are so many topics they could be on. Also change how often classes are available because it is very difficult to get into classes when there are time conflicts and they are only offered certain semesters.
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Don't change the biology department it's awesome.

Excellent	Full-time	Female	I believe that one general education course on diversity should be required for every student (i.e., Women's studies; Black history, Native American studies).
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I would not change anything else

Excellent	Full-time	Female	Change the credit limit before we have to pay for extra credits. Anyone who is a science major and has to take chemistry or physics has to automatically pay for at least one extra credit if they are taking 4 classes and the other three are 4 credits which is normal and its really annoying and inconvenient. Should not change the diversity of majors and classes, if anything expand what is offered. But the variety of classes is pretty good. I've heard talks of getting rid of the Neuroscience major and I think that is a terrible idea.
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Excellent	Full-time	Female	The biggest help would be someone who understands the specifics of advancement in my career path and providing strong advising and facilitating experiences that help with grad school opportunities.
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The Center for Student Enrichment is awesome and should keep up the great work. They work hard to accommodate COVID restrictions and still provide great events and opportunities for students.

Excellent	Full-time	Female	One change that would improve my experience most at N.M.U. is to have transfer students be required to meet with their advisor, and maybe someone else from their major. One thing I would keep is the openness to most topics (racism, ableism, LGBTQ+ issues..)
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Excellent	Full-time	Female	There were a few classes that felt like a bit of a waste of time, like genetics (BI 312) and Evolution (BI 215) because they weren't in depth enough to be useful in the real world and mostly just emphasized concepts that had already been hammered into me in other biology classes. If these classes had been more challenging, in depth, and related to their real-world fields they would have taught me a lot more.
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I'm not sure what one thing shouldn't be changed... I enjoyed almost everything else.

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Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Excellent	Full-time	Female	With COVID during this school year it is obvious that more events were not able to happen, but NMU could potentially host more events to encourage more of a community among the students. This is not a big issue at the university, but more connections and opportunities for students to expand their friend groups, the better. NMU should not change how they go about educating the students. I feel that NMU offers great courses and all the professors I have been in contact with throughout my education have been amazing!
Excellent	Full-time	Female	I think more opportunity for scholarships and financial aid would improve the experience. Every semester, I was more stressed about how I would come up with tuition (which increased every year I attended) than I was about my classes.  Personally, I think the education department is beautifully intact and is a strong program to prepare us to be teachers. I think they are the one thing I would say I could go without change.
Excellent	Full-time	Male	None
Excellent	Full-time	Male	More instructors and lab space. The chemistry department has grown a lot and needs more resources
Excellent	Full-time	Male	As a conservative, I feel out numbered on most issues. It is hard to have discussions with liberal students without getting cancelled. Instead of pushing solely for diversity, my institution needs to start pushing for healthy conversations between individuals with different points of view.
Excellent	Full-time	Male	One change that personally would have improved my education experience was for classes not intertwine in different years. As a transfer student I experienced some confusion at times in classes as certain assignments and resources were carried over from the previous semesters class. The instructors were very helpful to get me up to speed but it presented some confusion initially. One thing that I think should not be changed is the focus on diversity/inclusion. Not only did it make me feel more welcomed at NMU but it also made me think more critically about different perspectives and society.
Excellent	Full-time	Male	I think NMU is not a very strong institution when it comes to careers internationally. I feel like NMU's administration focuses more on the programs it is known for (business, nursing, etc.) and doesn't do too much to support their smaller programs. However, my professors in my program have given me good advice which makes up for this, and the small size really makes it a family environment. The professors here truly care about you being successful after you graduate. Therefore, I loved my experience at NMU.
Excellent	Full-time	Male	One change that would improve my educational experience at this institution would be changing the pep band's name from twisted whiskers back to the NMU Pep Band.
			One thing that should not be changed is the sense of community created by living on campus created by staff and through events.
Excellent	Full-time	Male	Well. I think that the most helpful aspect of NMU is honestly how willing the faculty are to help you, not only with their courses, but also with other courses and advising matters. Dr. Compton went out of his way to help me graduate on time, and he's really only one example, Dr. Rebertus, Dr. Joy, Dr. Ulland, Prof. Orf—all were incredible instructors that honestly seemed to care about my personal learning. And there were definitely more than them.
			As far as a change, I dunno. I mean, make it less cold in the winter. In seriousness, I think it would be nice if the university made more of an effort to work with local business to get students a discount rate at stuff, i.e. the ski hill. We're fucking broke, man. But, the uni was pretty good about financial aid so I wouldn't criticize it too harshly.

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Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Excellent	Full-time	Male	My primary complaint involves the Covid-19 response, and course registration.

The school took a long time to make a decision public on what the Covid semesters would look like. The lack of quick decision making meant there was a great number of indecision.

With course registration, there are mandatory classes that fill up nearly instantly that are not offered every term. I can think of a dozen ways to fix this, but man was it frustrating and resulted in one semester having no classes at the beginning of the semester until the first week where teachers added me as students dropped.

Excellent	Full-time	Male	Cut this survey in half. Way to long
Excellent	Full-time	Male	More involvement from Academic advisors. And I would not change anything else!
Excellent	Full-time	Male	Higher Standards, hold tenured teachers to a better standard, many run away free reign and think they can get away with not teaching.
Excellent	Full-time	Male	I think providing much more of an open forum for discussions surrounding any and all ideas would be incredibly helpful for students. One thing that should not be changed is just how much of a community the campus and the classes can feel like.
Excellent	Full-time	Male	The current environment of student socialization is incredible. I've never felt like I had to go out of my way or expend effort to find great friends since day one. Something to change might be increasing the transparency of financial resources (scholarships, grants, loans, etc) available to lessen the load of tuition.
Excellent	Full-time	Male	N/A
Excellent	Not full-time	Female	Keep on line programs available for students. One thing to improve would be the ability to review test exams to see what areas you may not have done well in.
Excellent	Not full-time	Female	Change: Lower cost of online classes

### Non-Change: Involve Global Students in decision making

Excellent	Not full-time	Female	Stated previously
Excellent	Not full-time	Male	The expenses
Excellent	Not full-time	Male	I would amend the out of state tuition rules to not exclude every possible proof of residency a person can get from being considered proof of residency. My car is titled here, my license is in this state, my permanent address is in this state, I work in this state, vote in this state, pay taxes in this state, and have no other home. None of those things count. To everywhere but NMU, I'm a resident of Michigan.

I wouldn't change the instructors in the chemistry department. Their wealth of knowledge and willingness to work with students through challenging situations is second to none.

Excellent	Not full-time	Male	I think my opinion is biased due to covid-19. It wasn't a normal year so I'm not sure.
Excellent	Not full-time	Male	I think that just continuing to improve promoting differences between people, but also concentrate on our similarities and how both can create a better world. What should not be changed is the dedication NMU displays towards the students receiving a positive experience and supporting the Marquette community.
Good	Full-time	Female	have graduation would improve the experience and having better advisors would also help

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### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Good	Full-time	Female	The professors at my institution should be more closely monitored to ensure they are providing instruction that is at or above the standards that the institution has set. The institution provides a good amount of resources for students in the business school (which I attend).
Good	Full-time	Female	NMU is an extremely welcoming and inclusive university, but whether due to geographical location or other factors it is not a diverse student body. Other students or majors may deal more with inclusivity or diversity, but the sciences do not. Northern does require a certain amount of classes for these majors that would help them become well rounded individuals, but the limited input from any academic advising I received made it my own desire to learn the rationale of choosing these courses.
Good	Full-time	Female	I think that instead of taking high figure bonuses while his students suffer financially from COVID-19, President Fitz should have put more funding towards student support. I wouldn't change Career Services though, they do an excellent job preparing students for their job searches (something the entire institution should aim to do).
Good	Full-time	Female	More emphasis on helping the current students not the future ones, especially during a pandemic. Not charging a higher tuition for a worse education during a pandemic. Very little support was provided.
Good	Full-time	Female	Continue to develop the MEDP program.
Good	Full-time	Female	I think it would be nice if advising was handled by people who were hired specifically for advising rather than professors. I feel that a lot of students need someone who specializes solely in advising rather than a faculty member who also has other work to do, such as teaching, grading, etc. A large problem I have personally run into and heard many stories about are people receiving inadequate advising which results in delayed graduation or having to retake courses. If there were advisors whose main job was to help students plan their schedules, I think this could alleviate problems. I don't think that much else needs to be changed.
Good	Full-time	Female	Having more events on campus to bring students together would have helped me educational experience. I would not change the class sizes. Smaller classes have helped me know my professors well enough for them to write me letters of recommendation.
Good	Full-time	Female	I had a good experience, but this is a PWI. I can easily imagine this last section of this survey has good responses, coming from students that aren't discriminated against by their peers. Inherently students don't always know how to confront situations that happen to administration. Even when it's as serious as white classmates practically chasing another student with their truck that's a minority. Decades ago students that are black would feel that they were being shot at when another student would argue they were trying to hit a squirrel. Same aggressions still happen to this day just in another form. I believe there's some many resources on-campus for students to use. But safety is not always felt present for those that aren't white on-campus and it's really important to recognize and begin a transition so that it is felt.
Good	Full-time	Female	Creating better acceptance towards different political groups. I feel ostracized and shamed for being a conservative woman, even though I am very accepting and welcoming towards people of different beliefs.
Good	Full-time	Female	i would like to see my institution make an effort to increase diversity in staff and in students in order to create a more diverse and well rounded educational experience.
Good	Full-time	Female	More opportunities for gaining internships
Good	Full-time	Female	NMU should not change the way they view the community.
NMU should change the way we have to be tested in classes and the random fees we have to pay all the time. Like how graduation we pay a fee for covid and graduation was virtual and lasted 40 minutes. Student Services is not nice to me EVER and I feel like that office should be better toward the students. I have heard this from many students and it's concerning. All other offices have been great and have helped me in my time here and learning.			
Good	Full-time	Female	Giving bigger projects and more responsibility to undergrad students is something that I would change. One thing I would not is the campus and class layout.

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Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Good	Full-time	Female	<p>In today's world at least for me, being a science major absolutely sucks. My mental and physical health is so bad and that is making me fail as a student, but if I take the time for me to help me I fear that I won't get my school work done. I need to feel comfortable with using resources the school has to offer but I have already tried the counseling services 3 times and that didn't do too much for me because they just made me feel like everything I was feeling was because I was stressed, I needed to breath and everything would be okay.</p> <p>The counseling services here are so surface based, which they say is just because they have so many people to care for, that you get like 5 sessions at most and then they send you on your way with barely a nudge in the right direction, it's a waste of time, they have so many people that they are trying to help because students are desperately coming back to different counselors bouncing all around looking for help that they just aren't getting. I want to feel like me being there matters instead of just being another college student face where their only problem must be anxiety and stress and that causes depression, and there is simple day to day things that could fix that. They tell me things I can get for myself on the internet. I want a person to talk to, someone that will listen to what I have to say and then decide what to do/say, not slap a label and assume and send me on my way. Counseling in college needs to do better.</p> <p>On a better note the career services here is great and so so helpful.</p>

Good	Full-time	Female	I would change the ability for students voices to be heard and I would keep the university's willingness to impact the environment less.
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Good	Full-time	Female	I am a single mother and was pregnant while attending NMU. There were extreme winter conditions during the semester I was pregnant and I had zero accommodations from the University. I actually slipped and fell on a sidewalk once, even though I had fancy non-slip shoes. At that time the parking lots were packed and sometimes I had to park very far away. Additionally, I am currently 41 years old, (39 when I was pregnant) and there were no resources for me through the campus. I contacted the dean and every office I could. When I returned to class (when my baby was 3 months old), there were no adequate accommodations for breast pumping and it really made my life harder. A barren room in the library is simply not enough. Further more, there were zero resources for new mothers, etc. This is a huge issue that I feel needs to be addressed immediately.
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Good	Full-time	Female	Help your seniors - fund the Medicinal Plant Chemistry Degree in terms of equipment. Help those that are about to finish CH 421 but cannot graduate due to one or two course shortage because of NMU scheduling.
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Good	Full-time	Female	The education platform NEEDS to be updated and reorganized to help professors set their class page up and for students to easily find class assignments, grades, semester schedule)
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Good	Full-time	Female	Hiring faculty that are involved professionally with what they are teaching
Good	Full-time	Female	I wish there was more support for balancing academic work/family/work for pay. I know very few students who are not working outside of school or who do not have other obligations, but we are often treated as though our degrees are the only thing we are responsible for and all our time should be available. I do not know what the answer would be, or if there even is one, because obviously, academics need to be a priority when attending university. My perspective is most likely skewed because I am an older single parent, and although I have excellent grades overall, I feel like I have been treading water for years to get it done. When I speak to other students, however, I hear the same thing. We are often "gaming the system" or putting in less time per class/assignment simply because we run out of hours in the day. We often find ourselves pitting work/family/academic obligations against one another and rotating which area suffers the most.

Overall, I found the teachers at NMU to be passionate in their field and interested in their student's success overall. I can pick several that have had a lasting positive influence on me. I've met many incredibly intelligent and admirable people teaching at NMU and they have vastly enriched my learning experience.

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Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Good	Full-time	Female	Since everything is online for me and I work I would change the online classes not be set times. That way students who do have other responsibilities can do their school work/class when they have the time to. I have classes at such weird hours and that restricts me from working.
Good	Full-time	Female	Listen to what your students say when they fill out professor ratings at the end of the semester!!
Good	Full-time	Female	<p>One change: A board of directors and president that is actually committed to diversity and inclusion and listening to the students. This would make the educational experience better because I would feel like I actually belonged here, and that I'm not just a body with a dollar sign above my head.</p> <p>One thing that should not be changed: The student body. I have very rarely met someone on this campus who wasn't an awesome human. I love that everything is lively and the extracurricular activities (and usually the faculty involved in those) are awesome and inviting individuals. They have been the sole reason I've stayed at Northern.</p>
Good	Full-time	Female	They do a good job offering campus activities.
Good	Full-time	Female	<p>One thing that could change is the decline in house culture within housing. Before the new Woods dorms were built, everyone I knew loved the house they were in. I was in Jungle in West Hall and there was a great amount of camaraderie and friendship. When we moved to the Woods the following semester, it was like someone flipped a switch. It was harder to connect with each other in the new buildings and house culture and hall culture really fell apart in my opinion.</p> <p>One thing that should not change is the Career Services office staff. Katie Korpi has shown me and other students an immense amount of respect. She very clearly cares about the future of every single student that walks into the office.</p>
Good	Full-time	Female	<p>Change: Stop requiring people to have a buddy in order to participate in an event. There's a pandemic on, I am not hanging out with other people but I still want to paint a picture six feet away from anyone.</p> <p>Do not change: Continue to provide grants allowing students to visit the Marquette Regional History Center free of charge. It's a cool place.</p>
Good	Full-time	Female	If professors could please stop making fun of Mormons, Jehovahs Witness, Catholics, Christians and stop saying comments and forming conclusions about these people groups as uninformed, ignorant, and ridiculous. There have been several classes from various departments where professors share inaccurate information or make individuals from these groups feel unwelcome in their classes.
Good	Full-time	Female	I think no race/ethnicity of people should be marginalized or made to look like the enemy. Diversity training should be inclusive - the portions of my education that involved diversity training were very informative and helpful.
Good	Full-time	Female	Nothing
Good	Full-time	Female	Nothing
Good	Full-time	Female	The one change that could be made would be updating the entire NMU website. Some webpages have been updated, but not all of them yet.
			<p>One thing that should not be changed is the accessibility of professors. Currently, professors do an excellent job being available to help students if needed.</p>
Good	Full-time	Female	Change - At NMU, everyone is expected to have the same political views. This needs to change.
			Keep - Great professors who push inquiry thinking.
Good	Full-time	Female	Force your faculty to "get with the times" and not treat students like they're less because of gender or sexual orientation.
Good	Full-time	Female	Care about mental health and give us breaks. We just go go go and there isn't concern for how we are doing or what we need besides an occasional visit to the counseling center.
			Should not change the opportunities for involvement.

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Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Good	Full-time	Female	<p>One change that would most improve the educational experience at NMU would be to expand the counseling and consultation center to allow for more students to get the help they need. The "virtual therapy" that is provided with an app sponsored by NMU is not enough and cannot replace real people. There are many students who need help and are on a waitlist because there are an insufficient amount of counselors to help.</p> <p>One thing that should not change is the faculty-to-student ratio. Smaller class sizes promote better learning than lecture halls full of students. It is much easier to stay on task and have thought-provoking conversations in a smaller class.</p>
Good	Full-time	Female	<p>I would change how much you base professors work solely off of their ability to complete research and proposals. Students want to learn and comprehend the information, and having professors not actually care about the learning and only doing research is not helping.</p>
Good	Full-time	Female	<p>if northern could actually make the men's sports teams take accountability for their actions that would be great</p>
Good	Full-time	Female	<p>Having an entire 15 week semester without a single day off is a little ridiculous. Students are burnt out and tired. Even halfway through the semester without a break students are transitioning to a stay afloat mode instead of active learning which does nothing. Other Michigan universities found plenty of ways to give students breaks throughout the semester and NMU could have just as easily. It feels like you care for our physical well-being with covid but not our mental well-being. Course loads with online classes are worse and not having a break just makes that more exhausting. We are expected to perform at a higher than normal function even though we are living through major historical events and a once in a lifetime pandemic. NMU has done little to understand the toll of everything that is happening. Saying empty words of understanding the struggle in an email does nothing.</p>
<p>For something that should not be changed is project based learning. NMU and its small class sizes allow for engaging discussions and group work which allows for a much more enjoyable and effective education. The in classroom experience is truly well done.</p>			
Good	Full-time	Female	<p>Limiting the amount of courses not related to your major, a lot of money and time was spent taking classes that were irrelevant and expensive.</p> <p>The class sizes should not be changed, having closer relationships with professors and other students is what made the experience so great</p>
Good	Full-time	Female	<p>One thing that would be beneficial to change, at least from the coursework I have taken, is to have a greater focus on just gaining knowledge rather than doing a lot of homework and papers. I do think that we have a great sense of community here though.</p>
Good	Full-time	Female	N/a
Good	Full-time	Female	<p>Develop a higher sense of rigor for the upper level humanities classes. I appreciate the sense of community and welcoming attitude of my professors. The classes weren't daunting because the professors genuinely care about their students (at least in my experience) and that's a huge reason why I came and stayed here.</p>
Good	Full-time	Female	Not sure
Good	Full-time	Female	Better communication and commitment to change, NMU values its appearance to the public more than its students and refuses to do anything to help, all the school wants to do is take money and waste time while promoting themselves to be caring and diverse when they aren't.
Good	Full-time	Female	Re-evaluate some of the professors that are teaching.
Good	Full-time	Female	<p>For one thing, I wish Covid was not a thing, because the trauma and stress of that crisis overtook a lot of my stress from normal classes. It has angered me so much I was not able to have the "college experience" I had dreamed about, let alone not being able to be 100% in all of my classes. I like the option of virtual classes but I find it a lot harder to focus on the material then.</p> <p>I would never change the community aspect of NMU. It is such an exceptional place with astounding people that made me feel like home so much as soon as I visited the campus. NMU is so welcoming and a great place to be able to learn and grow as a young adult. I am so happy I found Northern because I would choose it again and again.</p>

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Northern Michigan University

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### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Good	Full-time	Female	More open to non-liberal based point of views, in the classroom, events held, through professors, etc.  The sense of community is good, but I believe that comes from the city of Marquette, it's locals, the small businesses, and the beautiful nature that surrounds it - not from the university.
Good	Full-time	Female	I am really not sure.
Good	Full-time	Male	This was a great school when I came here back in 2017. Sense then it has changed a lot and not for the better. Mostly from the types of students they have attending now the the facility they are hiring. They are putting to much effort into making sure they are diverse and welcoming. I have noticed that the weed degree has not been a good thing for the university, it brings in people that wouldn't usually live up here, and they have a different culture then the our little UP community here, and they end u dropping out. It seems to me that northern has been getting more students from big city's, and this creates a split of what student ideas, as a lot of us students come from smaller towns and like the atmosphere of a small town, and having a bunch of students from a big city makes this a split school that students cant get along at.
Good	Full-time	Male	More money back to the students that have been here. I see a lot of money back for transfer students but not for people that have been here for 4 years
Good	Full-time	Male	One thing that could be changed is more focus on a variety of foods at the dining halls.  One thing that is really good is the amount of on campus activities offered.
Good	Full-time	Male	Better advising
Good	Full-time	Male	One thing to improve on the institution behalf, is more accountability and repercussions towards individuals whom encountered sexual assaults/harassments regardless of their role through the university and community. With that said, increasing more resources regarding mental health and abuse of all sorts. One thing not to be changed is the NMU dining dollars for on campus students.
Good	Full-time	Male	More government funding would improve the experience, and the academic experience should stay (mostly) the same.
Good	Full-time	Male	none
Good	Full-time	Male	Keeping the cost of classes down. Especially when alot of courses are offered remotely.
Good	Full-time	Male	Should not be changed: teachers  Should be changed : CH421
Good	Full-time	Male	The thing that shouldn't change is the interaction from professors
Good	Full-time	Male	I think some of the events could be advertised more (as there is a lot of things to get involved with at this University but only if you pay attention to the pamphlets tacked to the announcement boards). One thing that should not change is allowing students to choose for themselves to what degree they are involved with extra-curricular activities.
Good	Full-time	Male	Cant think of anything
Good	Full-time	Male	At this institution there needs to be a more progressive administration, especially concerning the board, who would not recognize Indigenous Peoples Day in place of Columbus day until alarmingly recently. They are a bunch of backwards thinking old codgers who need to be changed.
 I would not change the way student clubs and organizations operate, it's a fantastic culture here.			
Good	Full-time	Male	Generally, an increase in opportunities for students to learn more about racial/ethnic inequities would be helpful to increasing community and accountability all over campus. Something that should not be changed is the emphasis on open-mindedness, tolerance, and respect that I have experienced and appreciated during my time here.

## NSSE 2021 Student Comments

### End-of-Survey: Seniors

Northern Michigan University

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#### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Good	Not full-time	Female	Promoting diversity more would be really beneficial to the student population here. The student body seems to be primarily white, so they might have very little experience with people of color. Promoting diversity will give students the opportunity to meet someone from a different background and learn how to be accepting and understanding, which is one of the most important skills someone can have.
One thing that should not be changed is the small class sizes! Being able to personally connect with instructors and faculty members was one of the most beneficial parts of my time here.			
Good	Not full-time	Female	I'd love to see the virtual option continue post COVID-19. It has allowed me to come back to finish my degree after many years.
I wish we had a break during this semester. There are students in some of my classes traveling during the semester because we didn't get a spring break. We are all exhausted and frustrated with the amount of work being thrown at us this semester. Not having a spring break hadn't stopped people from traveling, and it's ridiculous to think that it would. The only people that are being hurt by this are the students who can't travel and are stuck watching other schools getting breaks. Even a long weekend would have been nice. Something. Anything. We are tired.			
Good	Not full-time	Female	Have my university understand that we are still in a pandemic and run the school as such. Including pass or fail options since we are still in a pandemic and students do not learn well online.
Good	Not full-time	Female	"Schools teach us to pass, not to learn." I think this quote applies to most institutions, including my own. After I take exams, the information I memorized for the exam is out of my head. Maybe if we could apply them to the real world instead of having so much information crammed into our heads, without learning how these topics apply to a bigger picture. The only classes that I actually seem to learn from are the ones that teach us how to apply what we learn to things outside of the class.
Good	Not full-time	Male	This question is extremely broad, but I would say the best thing that would improve the educational experience would be to direct as much attention as possible to practical experience in your field/major. The University should do more to actively help students land internships and work opportunities in the field- my work experience has helped me more than any of my coursework ever will. I would also lower the amount of credits required to complete a bachelors degree, because of the 120 required, probably at least half, if not more, of mine have gone towards nonsense completely unrelated to what I came to this university hoping to do.
Good	Not full-time	Male	I like the small town focus and I never want to see Northern become too big or sell-out simply for enrollment numbers. The President seems to be very concerned about image but doesn't make an effort to address concerns such as EAN issues. Giving back \$34 to students seems like a waste of funds when that amount doesn't equate to much when divided could have helped in other ways if it was applied entirely or in larger portions. I would have liked to see that money go towards grad assistant programs or mental health awareness.
Good	Not full-time	Male	integrate with nature, and stop conforming to other colleges architecture, corporate bars and book stores... this is not michigan state, this is northern michigan and nobody likes the direction our college is heading in terms of architecture and sustainability ; we want nature and ecosystem to be an integral part of our college campus and curriculum.
Fair	Full-time	Female	It's very obvious the institute only cares about money and has numerous times shown to fail its students. Northern needs to stop trying to be "innovative" and go back to what northern used to represent which was community and home
Fair	Full-time	Female	I think NMU really does need to make more changes to valuing diversity, equity and inclusion on our campus. It was kind of strange that the MERC disbanded, and I wish that free printing was offered this year- especially during COVID. Printing is expensive and professors are still requiring printing.
I think housing and residence life does a really great job at valuing students. Marketing does great as well.			
Fair	Full-time	Female	As a straight white American, I did not feel accepted. I know this seems a little backwards, but it almost felt like if you were anything but straight and white, you get first pick of everything and special treatment, and because I was not "different" in any way, I was put at the back of the crowd and my views and values were not appreciated. It felt like everyone else's views were forced on me, and I was ignored. They made me feel like my views were worth less than everyone else.
Fair	Full-time	Female	spending the money on the students and not a pay raise.

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Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Fair	Full-time	Female	More diversity. I come from California where I'm very accustomed to seeing people of different colors. I know there are non-white students, but you never see them bc they're such a minority and they mostly stick to themselves.
Fair	Full-time	Female	I am lucky enough to be working with the fantastic professors in the International Studies, TESOL, and English departments. These faculty and staff members are very open and accepting individuals; however, I feel that they are the minority when considering the vastness of study topics at NMU.
Fair	Full-time	Female	Taking human rights issues seriously. This school and its president Fritz Erickson have openly displayed their negligence and ignorance about diversity and inclusion policy. It seems like they might publicly make the right diversity statements, but as a student we do not see much positive impact of those. I heard Fritz himself in a meeting with graduate students pleading for healthcare who were forced to teach in-person at the beginning of the pandemic say that he was "personally offended" that the idea was brought up that not paying well or giving healthcare had greater effects on minorities who might be first-generation (among other jaw-dropping statements). I was verbally attacked by a professor because of a Black Lives Matter sticker I had, who repeatedly found me and verbally attacked me more than once. That professor is still here and I believe faced little consequences. I was part of a small, peaceful protest for black lives matter on campus that had police cars follow us around, but when a trump rally flying confederate flag started on campus there was no opposition. I was forced to hide from a social justice group I was in on campus because a department head used open threats to try to stop people from contacting him to talk about a large blue lives matter flag that is flying in one of the busiest buildings on campus. This is a campus where speaking out openly against racism comes with fear, and I envy my peers at other schools who can take part in change with the support of the school to fight for positive change. Michigan is in sore need of reform in terms of support for minorities and college campuses is just one place where it could start, but places like NMU I doubt will ever really see impactful change.
Fair	Full-time	Female	The institution failed me when I transferred to NMU. I was given no guidance and it was especially unhelpful being a first generation students. There really needs to be some kind of organization set to help transfer students find their place here and to gain support in this environment. Having received adequate support in the beginning would have prevented a lot of anxiety.
Fair	Full-time	Female	Not going broke trying to get my degree
Fair	Full-time	Female	The diversity. NMU is severely white washed, all of us from the city always comment about how we love going home and seeing people that finally aren't white. I think it would help expand the minds of all of the small town mid-westerners that come to this school and never saw a black person growing up. I think it would help the racist locals as well.
			One thing NMU should keep is the price. This school gives opportunity to so many that otherwise can't afford it. this school's yearly cost of attendance is cheaper than a single semester at an instate college back in my home state.
Fair	Full-time	Female	Not sure
Fair	Full-time	Female	Checks and balances- inappropriate staff/leadership relationships/friendships
Fair	Full-time	Female	One thing to be improved change whoever is control of finances. One thing that should remain is Donald Korpi
Fair	Full-time	Female	Financial aid services are terrible and need to be improved greatly. The institution itself keeps raising tuition without further financial services. It has been very hard to continue my education. I have to live paycheck to paycheck thanks to the continuous raised tuition and lack of financial support.
Fair	Full-time	Female	Care more for the students and not about the bottom line. Update jacobetti. Improve disability services
Fair	Full-time	Female	Nuring program would promote working class to go to school and cliniclas on weekends
Fair	Full-time	Male	The Medicinal Plant Chemistry program needs a reevaluation, otherwise, the people at this school (not the education itself) was absolutely amazing.
Fair	Full-time	Male	Focus more on career services. NMU really has no structured career services that I've ever seen. Most universities are taking this head on from day one, setting students up for success on day one of graduation.

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### What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Fair	Full-time	Male	Stop pushing politics. Students don't need political opinions shoved down their throat by an incredibly biased institution. Most classes do not need to have any connection to politics and many professors take it upon themselves to "educate" students on their own political ideals which they are just pushing onto impressionable kids. It is one thing to discuss critical thinking and suggest people look at their actions, but to simply guilt students into thinking a certain way because it aligns with your own political agenda is the problem this and many universities face. Education should be about the topic, such as math, science, writing, technical skills. Unless the class is supposed to be about culture or politics, quit wasting time in class focusing on them.
Fair	Full-time	Male	Make everything harder. The university is too easy. I have to go above and beyond to be challenged.
Fair	Full-time	Male	I believe the courses could be more rigorous. Graduation requirements and course loads should not be reduced.
Fair	Full-time	Male	I change to improve: Better Parking. Running outside to get to class for 10 minutes when it is -10 degrees outside definitely does not make me appreciate any experience.
1 thing not changed: Commitment to excellence: Keep growing, Refurbishing, and Remodeling all aspects of the institution. NMU has done great at this.			
Fair	Full-time	Male	More guidance from the get go, make things easier to understand.
Keep the faculty, especially in PR, they need a raise.			
Fair	Full-time	Male	Seriously?
Fair	Full-time	Male	Refine the engineering department, make it actually useful
Fair	Full-time	Male	Fritz should be fired or resign. He's only worried about himself, and the size of his paycheck. Not a person who should be responsible for the molding of young minds even a little bit. Art and Design staff is amazing and probably the most consistent group of professors at NMU. Fire Fritz, and expand Art and Design
Fair	Not full-time	Female	I love my professors at NMU, and they do a great job working with students, for the most part. However, the higher ups do a terrible job at making their decisions understood and providing the best resources for students. The counseling and mental health resources here are overloaded and need more resources if they are going to help the students succeed. The lack of care NMU shows its students is the reason I would go to a different university if given the chance.
Fair	Not full-time	Female	The education process doesn't need to change, but the environment around learning at this university needs to change. Many classes that I have had had terrible classroom auras. There have been many professors that don't take into account the fact that everyone learns differently and teach it the way they think is best without getting feedback on how the students feel.
Fair	Not full-time	Female	Campus should have opened this semester, or they should have lowered tuition for the lack person to person contact with other students & staff - the most important part of attending college and of building communication skills.
The professors are amazing and truly care about you. Regardless of the campus being closed, they understand and try their best to insure you comprehend the concepts of their course and try to prepare you for the real world.			
The issue is with the establishment, not the professors who teach there.			
Fair	Not full-time	Female	I have felt shamed by professors several times. Professors implying you are lazy or inadequate if you don't follow deadlines. I've witnessed condescending nature from Professors and general toxic ideation that hits my self-hatred nerve. Of course I want to work hard and get work in on time but I work 4 jobs and have mental illness. If professors could be more empathetic and considerate to students I think that would go a long way. There have certainly been instances of compassion from Professors but I have also been in therapy for 10+ years and have learned to speak up about mental illness. There have been times where I would suspect that someone who is ashamed and stuck would not be able to reach out to their professor like I was able to do. I always feel like I am paying a disgusting amount of money, shouldn't I be the client?

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Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Fair	Not full-time	Female	The largest change that would improve the educational experience would be more financial assistance due to the Covid-19 crisis. Thirty dollars is simply not enough in "leftover funds from the CARE act", especially with the art students being hit with higher share fees and those who are already in financial troubles. I cannot think of a specific example though for something that should not be changed.
Fair	Not full-time	Male	<p>One thing? Where do i start?</p> <p>Good luck being a conservative at this university. They are inclusive to every idea as long as it isn't conservative. NMU would rather you be affairs or Marxist than a conservative. I have written countless papers against my personal beliefs out of fear I will be marked down by professors.</p> <p>I have heard of several female students being raped by student athletes and the university has been notified and turned a blind eye because they are at athletes. Seems like NMU cares more about the color of your skin than if you have been raped.</p> <p>The effort by NMU through COVID has been horrendous. From paying the same for a significantly worse education to taking away a spring break from students, which we need for a mid semester reset. Rumors have circulated the campus about how administration would be generous with snowday because of the lack of spring break, but when it is -30 outside the campus remains open. Even the public area HS was closed because of how cold it was. Students are more stressed than ever but facility doesn't seem to care. Again more diversity training, less about mental health of their students. Diversity is important, but the campus is inclusive and every student i have ever talked with, even students of color, us more concerned with the rape allegations, mental health of students, and lack of facility youth than the diversity is above all narrative. I personally know two students who have been raped by athletes and are scared to come forward because they think the school will punish them for speaking out against an athlete.</p>
Fair	Not full-time	Male	NMU needs to evaluate their management of services such as registrar and the financial office. Whether it be that they are understaffed, mismanaged, or incapable, my fiancé and I have had very poor experiences with most if not all campus offices. We have dealt with mistakes regarding financial aid and when we inquired about it we were told to go away only to have them reach out to us later to tell us in fact they had realized the mistake. Additionally, when I sought assistance from registrar after all three of my professors quit last semester, a staff member raised her voice at me over the phone and told me I wasn't special. The one thing I wouldn't change is the tech services because they have always been polite and helpful.
Poor	Full-time	Female	Explored more political stances that went beyond the liberal ideologies and approaches to every topic that was brought up. Not degrading students with differing opinions would promote a better environment for discussion and seeing the bigger picture but that doesn't happen at this institution.
Poor	Full-time	Male	Stop stressing this over compensation on politics and one sided societal views. The professors push their views so hard I've had to fake a view point on multiple papers to get a good grade. The professors need to stop pushing their views on society and students privilege. Teach what you are meant to teach.
Poor	Full-time	Male	The tutor should not continue to go up
			P
Poor	Full-time	Male	I would improve in person offerings and attendance. I wouldn't change the mascot
Poor	Full-time	Male	I do not know.
Poor	Full-time	Male	Quality of instructors.

Price from going up.

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**What one change would most improve the educational experience at this institution, and what one thing should not be changed?**

Response to evalexp	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Poor	Full-time	Male	Most professors here are just showing up for work and really don't care to teach. They have 10 year old PowerPoints and are so lazy that they STILL do no edit out the mistakes even after a decade. They come to work, lecture, then go home. And get annoyed when you tell them you don't understand what they lectured about. Often times, in my chemistry courses, when I ask, "why does it go this way? why do we do it that way?", the professors (two different ones) would say something like "that's just how it is". They don't bother to teach. I have so much respect for all of the chemistry students because the ones who graduate are the ones who completely learned the concepts themselves. The professors won't teach one the concepts, they will just read them and say learn it. THE BIGGEST WASTE OF MONEY IN MY LIFE
Poor	Not full-time	Male	The one thing that has to change is the professionalism of the professors. They have to be able to inspire us to be chemists or entrepreneurs or whatever. I do not want faculty to be my friend, they should strive to be a mentor, and show us how to apply the concepts they're teaching as opposed to just testing our memorization, or even worse not challenging us at all. The one thing the University should try to sustain is it's on going support through non-academic measures. The food pantry, bike rentals, and free wifi for commuters are a testament the University does in fact care about your success.
	Full-time	Male	Put the students first, not the administrators