

# Confidence, classroom preferences, and future plans among Informatics students

November 17, 2020

## *About the Survey*

This survey was written, designed, and conducted by the polling design team of the Polling and Open Data Initiative at the University of Washington (PODUW). We are a nonpartisan registered student organization at the University of Washington dedicated to polling volunteer participants and creating data visualizations for the university community.

The goals of this survey are to help iSchool students and the general public understand what Informatics majors value in their informatics classes, the opportunities that they have experienced, their future plans, and their specific areas of interest, and particularly how these aspects vary by class year and gender.

## *How were survey questions written?*

The questions aim to employ simple, unambiguous and concrete language to minimize wording bias and answer choices were designed to be exhaustive to anticipate a wide variety of responses. All questions were reviewed and approved by the polling design team and an Informatics major PODUW member.

## *How was this survey conducted?*

All undergraduate Informatics students on the iSchool mailing list received an email containing a link to the survey. They will not be contacted again regarding this specific survey.

All survey responses are collected using the Catalyst WebQ interface, the officially sanctioned survey tool provided by the University of Washington. Catalyst WebQ is configured to require a UW NetID login to ensure that all respondents are enrolled UW students and are only able to submit up to one response.

## *What is recorded?*

When respondents submit a response, their responses, name, and NetID will be submitted. No other student data, apart from the NetID they voluntarily submit, is collected.

Catalyst WebQ also informs us when visitors open the survey to give us the:

- abandon rate
- average time spent

- submitted/viewed/not viewed percentage

#### *How will this data be used?*

Responses collected using the Catalyst survey will be analyzed so that we can publish summary visualizations & analysis online. Respondent names and NetIDs will not be visible in any visualizations or publications. Our data analytics and publishing teams will aim to represent the data in a way that is precise, fair, and in the best interest of the community. The data collected from the survey will not be weighted. Raw data may be made available for use, but if so, names, NetIDs, and demographic data (gender, transfer status) will be stripped to protect respondent privacy.

Our visualizations will be published at the website [www.poddata.org](http://www.poddata.org) and made publicly available under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (more information at [poddata.org/license](http://poddata.org/license)).

#### *How do I opt-out?*

The email containing the survey link also contains an option to opt-out of our future emails. The email addresses of students who opt-out will be recorded and will not be contacted by PODUW in the future.

#### *Limitations*

Due to the design of this survey and chance variation, we recognize that the data has significant limitations. Survey participation was voluntary, therefore the sampled population may not accurately reflect the Informatics major student population as a whole and responses will likely be affected by nonresponse bias. Additionally, we recognize that certain barriers, such as little to no access to the internet, may also impact our ability to contact an individual and/or receive a response.