UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Undergraduate Students' Perspective
Survey April, 2019

Results compiled by Fernando Marin,
CTL Research Coordinator

eClass is the centrally supported Learning Management System (LMS) at the University of Alberta. It is used to host fully online courses, as an online companion to face-to-face courses, and for a wide range of non-credit and collaborative purposes.
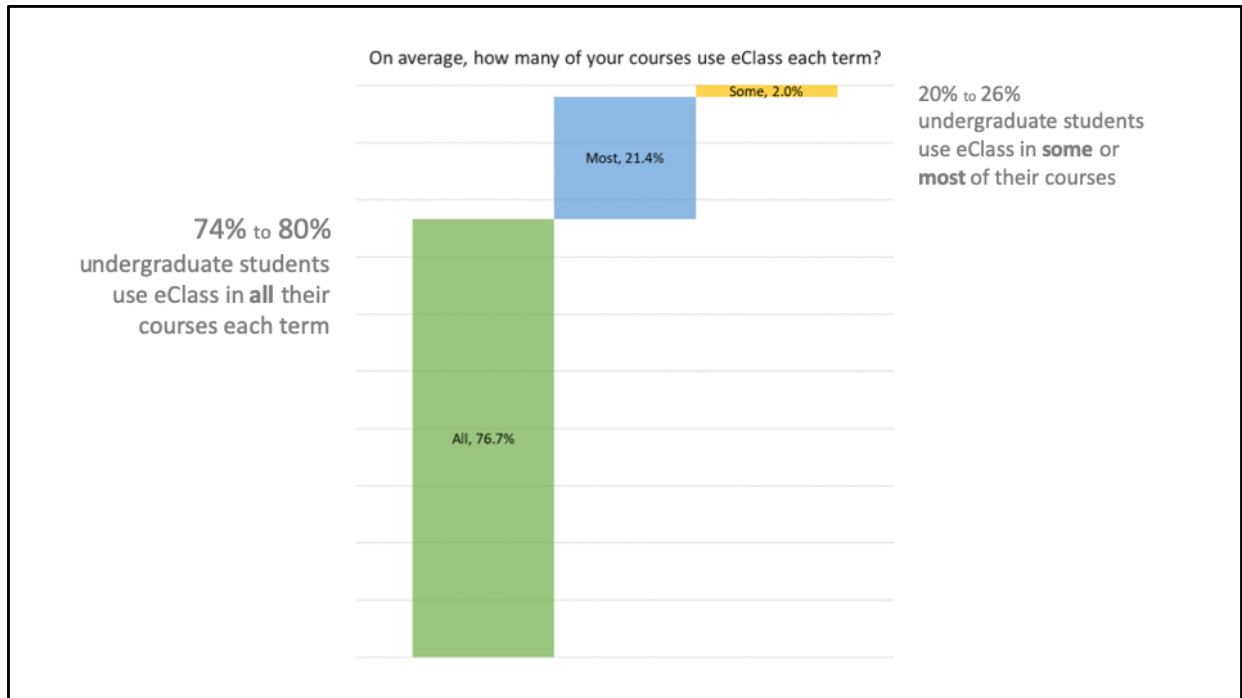
This survey was conducted by the Students' Union in collaboration with the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and Information, Services & Technology (IST). It was intended to obtain students' perspectives on how eClass was being used and how well it has met their needs.

The following results summarize 990 self-selected undergraduate and graduate participants' perspectives. 9 out of 10 respondents are undergraduate. Survey respondents represent 2.8% of undergraduates and 1.6% of graduates.

These results suggest specific instructional or design areas of strength and opportunity.

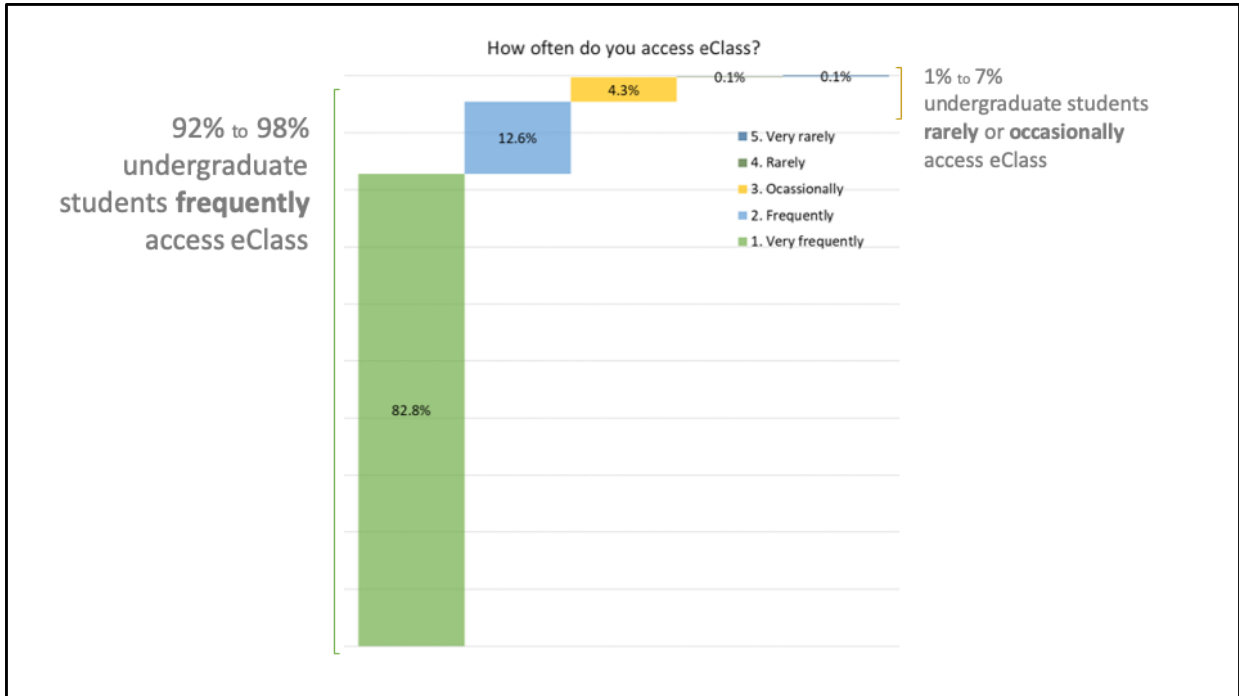# On average, how many of your courses use eClass each term?

Survey results

All undergraduate students use eClass each term. There is a small proportion of undergraduate students that only use eClass for *some* (yellow) of their courses.
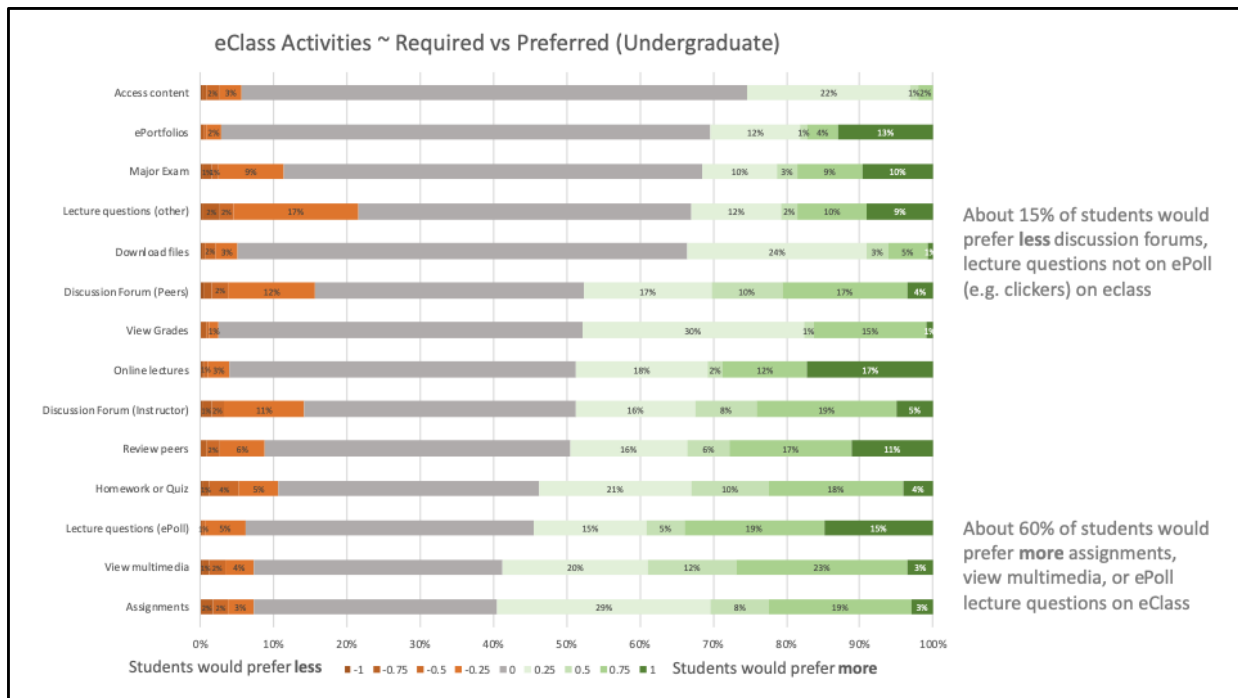
How often do you access eClass?

Survey results

Most undergraduate students *frequently* (blue) or *very frequently* (green) access eClass. A small proportion of students *rarely* (dark blue and green) or *occasionally* (yellow) access eClass.

Select how many of your courses **require** the following activities and which you would **prefer**
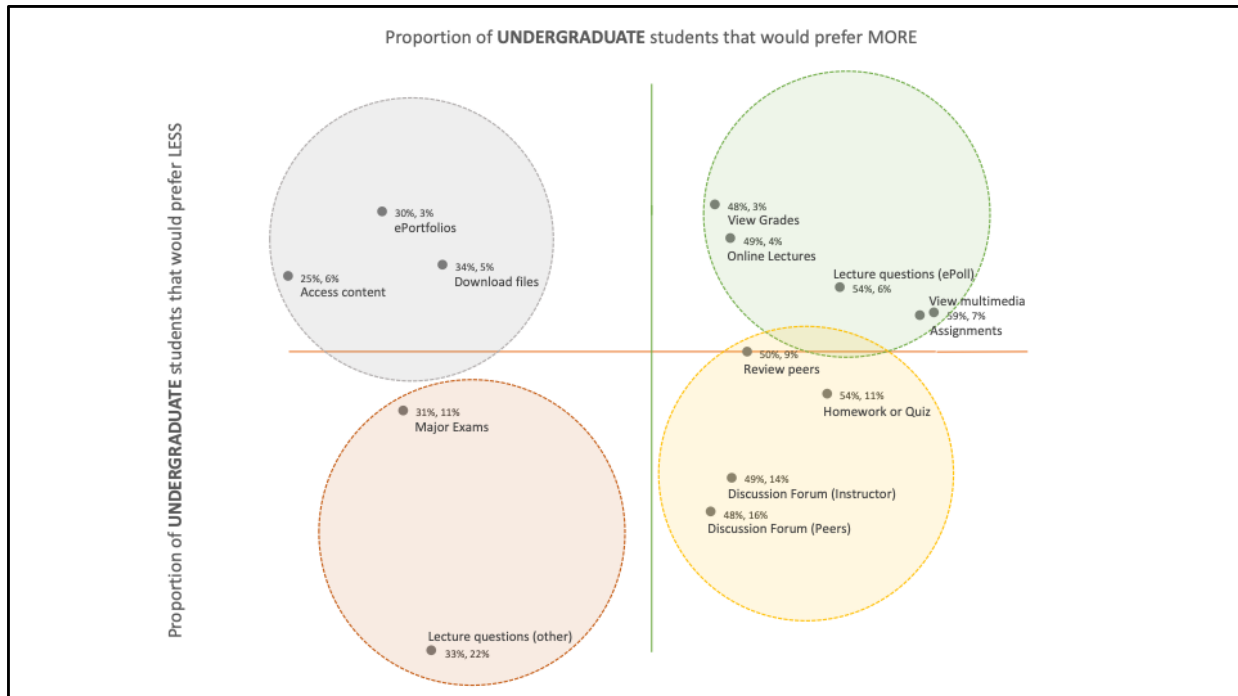
Compared survey results

eClass Activities ~ Required vs Preferred (Undergraduate)

About 15% of students would prefer **less** discussion forums, lecture questions not on ePoll (e.g. clickers) on eclass

About 60% of students would prefer **more** assignments, view multimedia, or ePoll lecture questions on eClass

Proportion of students that are enthusiastic (would prefer) or oppose (would not prefer) the idea of having more of these eClass activities or resources.

Responses that are equal to zero (**grey**) mean that there is no difference between what is required and what students prefer.

Responses in negative (tones of **red**), represent proportion of students that would prefer LESS than what is currently required.

Responses with positive values (tones of **green**), represent proportion of students that would prefer to have MORE than what is currently required or offered.

The darker the tone (red or green), the stronger the preference.

Proportion of **UNDERGRADUATE** students that would prefer MORE

Proportion of **UNDERGRADUATE** students that would prefer LESS

- 30%, 3% ePortfolios
- 25%, 6% Access content
- 34%, 5% Download files
- 48%, 3% View Grades
- 49%, 4% Online Lectures
- 54%, 6% Lecture questions (ePoll)
- 59%, 7% View multimedia Assignments
- 50%, 9% Review peers
- 54%, 11% Homework or Quiz
- 31%, 11% Major Exams
- 49%, 14% Discussion Forum (Instructor)
- 48%, 16% Discussion Forum (Peers)
- 33%, 22% Lecture questions (other)

Horizontal values represent proportions of students that would prefer **more**. A vertical green line indicates the average proportion of students.

Vertical values represent proportions of students that would prefer **less**. A horizontal red line indicates the average proportion of students.

Opportunity (green area): Activities with the largest proportion of students that would prefer to have them more and smallest that would not prefer them: view grades, online lectures, lecture questions (ePoll), assignments, and view multimedia.

Mixed Reactions (yellow area): High proportion of students that would prefer more but *ALSO* above average proportion of students that would prefer less or oppose the idea of more: review peers, homework or quiz, discussion forum with instructor or peers.
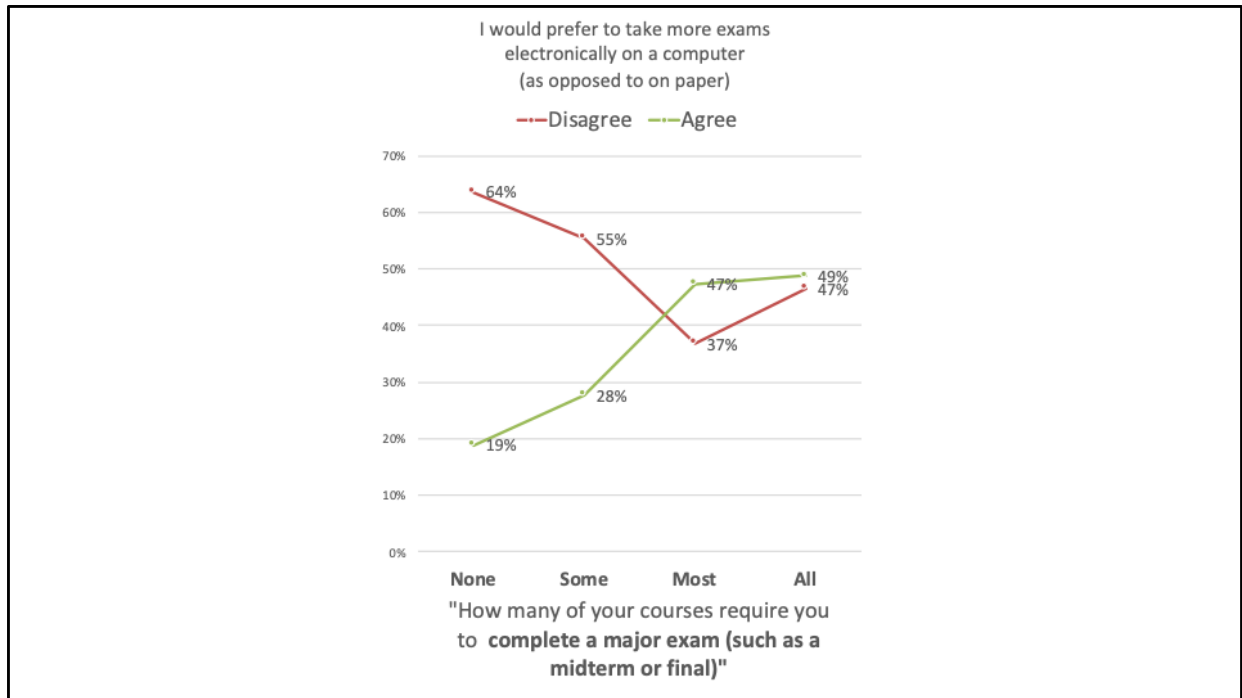
Status Quo (grey area): Lowest enthusiasm and lowest resistance for these activities: ePortfolios, access content or download files.

Risk (red area): Lower preference for and larger opposition to major exams and lecture questions (using other systems than ePoll, e.g. clickers).

I would prefer to take more exams electronically on a computer (as opposed to on paper)
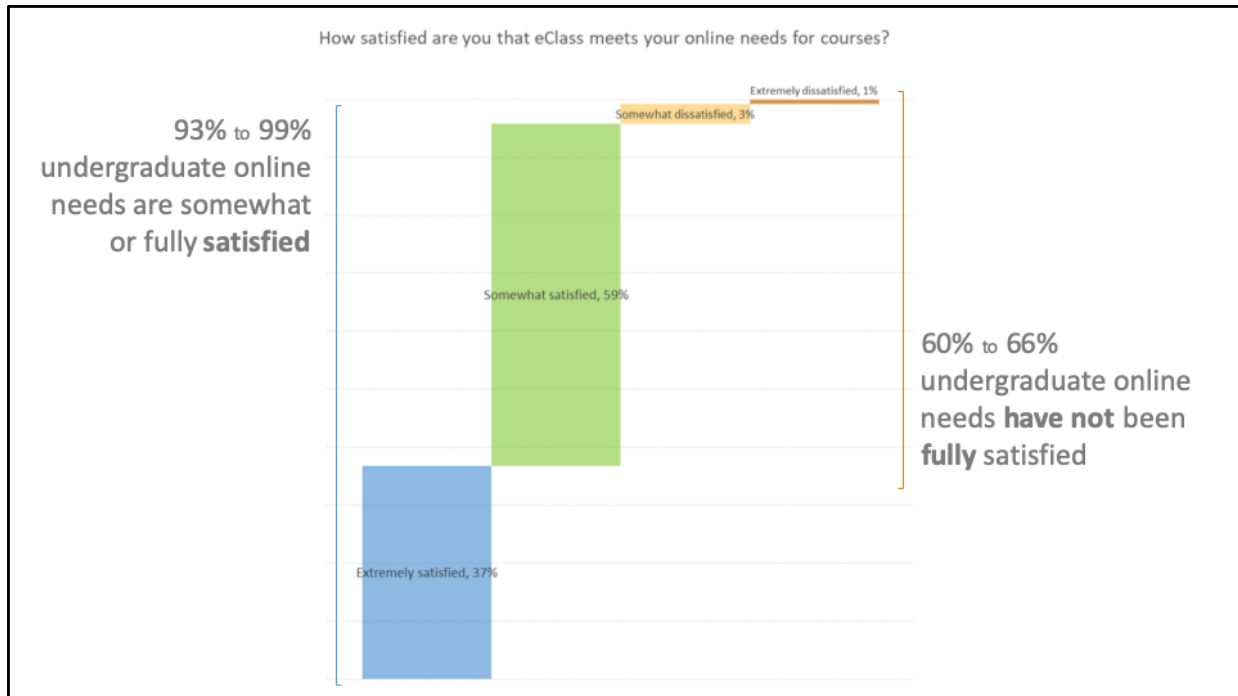
Compared survey results

I would prefer to take more exams electronically on a computer (as opposed to on paper)

Disagree values: None 64%, Some 55%, Most 37%, All 47%

Agree values: None 19%, Some 28%, Most 47%, All 49%

"How many of your courses require you to **complete a major exam (such as a midterm or final)**"

Fear of the unknown? As students experience with electronic exams **increases** (is required in courses / horizontal categories "none, some, most, all"), resistance to taking more exams electronically **decreases** (would prefer more / vertical values)

How satisfied are you that eClass meets your online needs for courses?

Survey results

How satisfied are you that eClass meets your online needs for courses?

93% to 99% undergraduate online needs are somewhat or fully **satisfied**

Extremely dissatisfied, 1%

Somewhat dissatisfied, 3%

Somewhat satisfied, 59%

60% to 66% undergraduate online needs **have not** been **fully** satisfied

Extremely satisfied, 37%

Since 33% to 40% undergraduate students' online needs have been *fully satisfied* (blue), there are opportunities to better understand and meet 60% to 66% students' online needs (green, yellow, red) that *have not* been *fully satisfied*.