

NMT Fall 2022 New Student Survey Executive Summary

Division of Student Life

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INTRODUCTION

The Division of Student Life and New Mexico Tech has made strategic efforts to enhance the new student experience by integrating holistic growth & development enrichment opportunities through its extracurricular activities during New Student Orientation, The Kelly Mine Camp, and Weeks of Welcome. The intent of these events were to help new NMT students

- a. Gain access to tools and resources that support students' transition and success at the university;
- b. Develop a sense of self and belonging; and
- c. Engage and get involved.

We designed the initial New Student Survey (NSS) to establish base-line data on new students' perception of their transition to NMT. In the survey, we ask students about their experience with various support services, available information, resources, and events offered through the above programming. The NSS also asked participants for feedback on ways to provide continual improvement of our support services for future new student cohorts.

While incoming first-time undergraduate students are the primary focus of the NSS, we invited all new students (first-time, transfers, and graduates students) to participate in this survey. We distributed the NSS to all 404 new full-time, on-campus, degree-seeking students on October 13, 2022, after the Weeks of Welcome (WoW). The survey closed October 31, 2022. One-hundred twenty (120) students participated in the survey for a response rate of 29.7 percent of which 52.5 percent were first-time students.

Note: Survey data included information for departments like Financial Aid, Registrar, New Student Orientation, Advising and Registration not in the Division of Students Life. Data was provided to those areas and the information about those responses is not included in this summary.

The information below includes highlights from baseline data collected from the initial New Student Survey (NSS). The complete survey with all responses is housed in the Division of Student Life and is available upon request.

- Students primarily heard about WoW events through electronic sources including Guidebook and email announcements.
- Top three things students hoped to gain from attending WoW events:
 - Fun/Entertainment 81.0%
 - Learning way around campus 77.8%
 - Make new friends 66.7%
- Students decided to attend events based on two primary factors
 - Free food 52.4%
 - Timing of event 30.2%
- The majority of students 23.8% attend with a small group of friends or residence life community members

- Overall students were satisfied with the number of events in all categories. There are two area where students would like more events:
 - Academic department or major sponsored events
 - Events scheduled over the weekend
- 60.4% of respondents stated WoW assisted to ease their academic transition to NMT
- 68.2% of respondents stated WoW assisted to ease their personal/social transition to NMT
- When asked how often times is spent with specific groups of people outside of class respondents stated sometimes or often to each group
 - People met in class 45.4%
 - People met at Tech 63.5%
 - Friends met before Tech 74.6%
 - Family 52.3

The Student Agreed or Strongly Agreed to the following statements

- | | |
|--|--------|
| • I am able to really be myself at Tech | 88.90% |
| • I feel a part of the Tech campus community | 79.30% |
| • I can talk with fellow students about my interests and activities | 77.80% |
| • It has been easy for me to make friends at Tech | 66.60% |
| • I am interested in my fellow students | 79.40% |
| • I find it easy to join study groups with other students if I wanted to | 61.90% |
| • I discuss events which happen outside of class with my classmates | 68.20% |
| • I believe that a faculty/staff member at my university cares about me | 87.30% |
| • I feel connected to a faculty/staff member at Tech | 66.70% |
| • I feel that a faculty/staff member has appreciated me | 82.50% |
| • I feel that a faculty member has valued my contributions in class | 80.90% |
| • I tend to associate myself with Tech | 80.90% |
| • When I meet someone for the first time, I like to tell people about Tech | 52.40% |
| • I take pride in wearing my Tech colors | 66.60% |
| • I have Tech-branded material that others can see | 61.90% |
| • I feel a sense of pride when I meet someone from Tech off-campus | 71.50% |
| • I attend university sporting events to support Tech | 49.20% |
| • I hardly know anyone in my courses | 42.90% |

Student engagement at the time of the survey

- Member of at least one student organization or club 61.9%
- Involved in one intramural group, sport club fitness activity 39.7%

Student Well-Being since arriving at NMT based on Sometimes, Often and Constantly

- Excited 98.40%
- Confident 93.60%
- Connected 93.60%
- Supported 98.40%
- Homesick 71.40%
- Lonely 71.40%
- Anxious 80.90%
- Overwhelmed 90.50%

Reasons why students felt anxious or overwhelmed

- Academics 61.1%
- Social life 11.1%
- Personal challenges 24.1%

Respondent Identity breakdown

Gender

- Cisgender 95.2% [61.9% male, 33.3% female]
- Transgender 1.6%
- Other or prefer not to say 3.3%

Race

- White 84.1%
- Asian 7.9%
- Black or African American 4.8%
- American Indian/Alaska Native 3.2%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 3.2%
- Other 4.8%

Hispanic 49.2% [Hispanic students may also identify in one or more of the other racial categories]

Other Demographics

- 58.7% of students come from families where at least one parent has an associate's degree or higher
- Only 1.6% of student were current or had previous military experience however, 6.3% are military dependents.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

For an overview of survey methods, a copy of the survey instrument with exact question wording, see the “NMT New Student Survey Fall 2022, Table of Contents.”

Weeks of Welcome (WoW)

This was the first year New Mexico Tech implement Weeks of Welcome (WoW) to new incoming students effectively navigate their college transition. The WoW events ran for five-weeks (Friday, Aug. 12th to Friday, Sept. 16th, 2022). Due to new students wanting to make new friends with their peer cohort as well as with returning students, all students were able to engage in WOW activities. Events were strategically categorized into a) gain access to tools and resources that support their success at the university, b) develop a sense of self and belonging, and c) to engage and get involved.

Communications

In addition to our standard event marketing and promotions, Tech integrated Guidebook and its app. According to the NSS results, 76.2% of the students utilize the NMT Event Guidebook (i.e. Guidebook App) to navigate and plan for attending the events. To get a more comprehensive look at our various WoW promotional pieces, Table # shows that students effectively leveraged the NMT Event Guidebook (74.6%), NMT Email (68.3%), Miner Weekly Blast (42.9%), and New Student Orientation (39.7%) to stay informed.

Table : How did you learn about the events(s)? #4

	%	N
NMT Events Guidebook	74.6%	47
Email Announcement	68.3%	43
Miner Weekly Blast	42.9%	27
New Student Orientation	39.7%	25
Housing & Residence Hall Floor Meetings with RAs	19.0%	12
Faculty/Staff Recommendation	19.0%	12
Other	7.9%	5
Social Media (e.g. Facebook)	6.3%	4

Survey question # 14 also indicated 71.5% of students felt the amount of publicity/marketing efforts for WoW events was Just right, while 14.3% reported it was Too little and 6.3% said it was Too much.

Understanding Student Intent

In an effort to better understand the needs of our incoming students, this survey incorporated a question to ask them what they hoped to gain from attending WoW events. This information will assist the Student Life Division plan future Wow events as well as see how students’ preferences and perceptions change over time. Table # below shows this cohort’s response to this question. In this table the responses are reported in descending order for your convenience. As expected, having fun (81.0%), learning their way around campus (77.8%), and making friends (66.7%) were the top three responses.

Table : What did you hope to gain from services and engagement opportunities out-of-classroom during this transition time? [Check all that apply] #24

	%	N
Fun/Entertainment	81.0%	51
Learning my way around campus	77.8%	49
Making new friends	66.7%	42
Resources available on campus to help achieve academic goals	54.0%	34
Resources available on campus to help achieve social/life goals	50.8%	32
Knowing my academic workload	41.3%	26
Understanding Tech's expectation of me as a student	39.7%	25
Identifying the skills needed to be successful as a college student	38.1%	24
Professional support services available at Tech (such as health and wellbeing)	28.6%	18
Opportunity to set educational goals	25.4%	16

Through our continual improvement efforts, we wanted to gather information to be more informed regarding our students' preferences and those deciding factors that lead to their choices. Looking at Table #, if we combined the Considerably and A Great Deal columns, we see that Free Food (73.0%), Timing of the event (63.5%), and to meet new people (42.9%) were the top consideration when making a decision on which events to attend.

Table : To what extent did the following factors play into your decision to attend events? #8

	Mean	Not at All	Slightly	Moderately	Considerably	A Great Deal	N
Timing of event	3.76	3.2%	11.1%	22.2%	33.3%	30.2%	63
Catching up with friends	2.84	20.6%	23.8%	22.2%	17.5%	15.9%	63
To meet new people	3.08	14.3%	22.2%	20.6%	27.0%	15.9%	63
Event topics are relevant to my academic needs	2.87	17.5%	17.5%	30.2%	30.2%	4.8%	63
Event topics are useful to my wellbeing as a college student	3.16	4.8%	19.0%	39.7%	28.6%	7.9%	63
Free Food	4.08	6.3%	4.8%	15.9%	20.6%	52.4%	63
Prizes	2.71	25.4%	17.5%	33.3%	7.9%	15.9%	63

Having more information on why they attend the activities, plus how and with whom they attend activities will provide us a better understanding of our current student body. Table # provides us more insight on their preference of how and with whom they attend events. It appears that 60.3% of our students, Often (36.5%) and Always (23.8%) prefer going to events in small groups of

friends or with residence hall community members. 74.6% of the students never attend events in larger, more formal, groups. Table # also indicated that 36.5% of the students stated they never go alone; they preferred to be with others. Perhaps it was too early in their first semester at college to be engaged in larger groups.

Table : When you attended WoW events, how often did you attend #9

	Mean	Never	Occasionally	Often	Always	N
By myself (more than happy to do so)	2.00	38.1%	33.3%	19.0%	9.5%	63
By myself (would have preferred to be with others)	1.97	36.5%	36.5%	20.6%	6.3%	63
With a small group of friends or residence hall community members	2.68	15.9%	23.8%	36.5%	23.8%	63
With a larger, more formal, group such as a residence hall floor or student organization	1.30	74.6%	22.2%	1.6%	1.6%	63

Also, it is important for us to know what type of programs and the amount of each that our students prefer or need. Table # illustrates our degree of effectiveness during the first 5-weeks of the fall 2022 semester. More than 74% of the students felt we hit the mark by offering just the right amount of Academic support and success programs. We were also success with just the right amount of “Fun and social events sponsored by student organizations and groups (71%)”. Unfortunately, it appears we missed the mark with not enough # of programs by “Academic departments or major sponsored social programs (34%)”, Events scheduled over the weekend (28.6%) and Events available in the evening hours (25.4%).

Table : Rate the number of programs and the variety of programs offered in the following categories #15

	Not enough # of programs	Just right amount of programs	Too many programs	I do not know	N
Academic support and success programs	11.1%	74.6%	0.0%	14.3%	63
Institution-wide social programs	19.0%	57.1%	4.8%	19.0%	63
Academic departments or major sponsored social programs	34.9%	47.6%	1.6%	15.9%	63
Health and wellness programs	12.7%	60.3%	1.6%	25.4%	63
Fun and social events sponsored by student organizations and groups	14.3%	71.4%	3.2%	11.1%	63
Events scheduled over the weekend	28.6%	49.2%	4.8%	17.5%	63
Events available in the evening hours	25.4%	58.7%	3.2%	12.7%	63

Survey question #11 (Overall, would you recommend WoW events to others?) revealed 96.8% of the students would recommend WoW events to others (57.1% Probably yes & 39.7% Definitely

yes).

Tracks Attended

As stated in the introduction, Tech wanted to encourage students to a) gain access to tools and resources that support their transition and success at the university, b) develop a sense of self and belonging, and c) engage and get involved. All campus-wide activities during WoW were strategically assigned under at least one of these categories for tracking purposes. Events were also promoted by their track to help incoming student understand the intended benefits of our various WoW events. Table # shows if students were aware of these track of the of events did they attended. The students still attended events, but we believe they are more effective when students also understand the purpose behind the various events and they can actively select those track they believe they need or want.

Table : What tracks of events did you attend? (Check all that apply) #7

	%	N
I do not remember	49.2%	31
Involvement & Engagement	44.4%	28
Self & Belonging	28.6%	18
Tools & Resources	27.0%	17

Since this was the first year implementing WoW and the new NMT Event Guide, staff and students were still learning the new app so not all hosts leveraged all app features (e.g. taking event attendance, deploying post-event surveys). Hopefully, more of this will be done in future longitudinal studies.

This survey did help us evaluate the effectiveness of our WoW tracks academic and extracurricular programming. Table # shows that almost 97% of students reported WoW helped them (Fair, Good, and Excellent) ease their academic transition to Tech; while 93.6% (Fair, Good, and Excellent) reported these events helped to ease their personal/social transition to Tech.

Table : How would you rate Weeks of Welcome (WoW) in assisting to #16

	Mean	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	N
Ease your academic transition to Tech	2.75	3.2%	36.5%	42.9%	17.5%	63
Ease your personal/social transition to Tech	2.94	6.3%	25.4%	36.5%	31.7%	63

Engagement

Being engaged with one’s peers and community are an important part of a student’s holistic growth and development. Providing and encouraging various engagement opportunities with help to enrich the student experience. Table # provides us data to see how we did this past semester and where we need to do to improve. Approximately 62% of our students reported (Sometimes, Often) they spent time outside of class with their classmates and 63.5% with people they met at Tech. However, they spent 74.6% of their time outside class with friends they met before coming to Tech and 52.3% with their family. Having 60 of the 63 respondents from New Mexico may account for the close proximity of their family and previous friend engagement.

Table : Since your arrival at Tech, how often do you spend time outside of class with the following groups of people?

	Mean	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	N
People I have met in my class	2.56	11.1%	36.5%	38.1%	14.3%	63
People I have met at Tech (other than classes)	2.79	19.0%	17.5%	28.6%	34.9%	63
Friends I met before coming to Tech	3.10	11.1%	14.3%	28.6%	46.0%	63
My Family	2.57	14.3%	33.3%	33.3%	19.0%	63

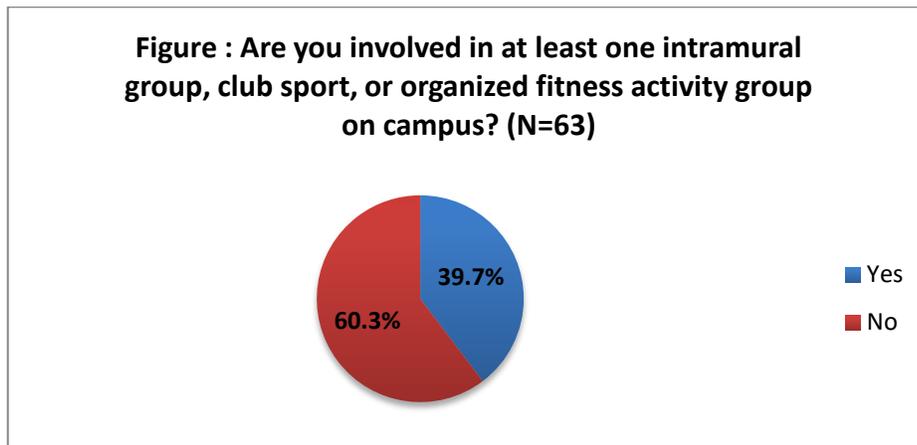
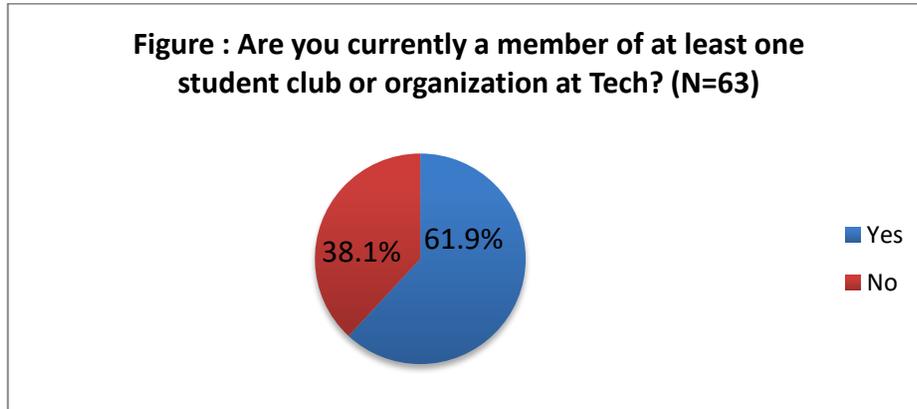
* Note: Student checked one response for each item

Being engaged and having a sense of belong is also important to a student’s success and persistence in higher education. Table # provides us with some insight into these new students’ sense of belong and how they feel about being at Tech. Looking at their Strongly Agree and Agree responses together, 79.3% feel to be part of the Tech community, 87.3% believe that a faculty/staff member at the university cares about them, 82.5% feel that a faculty/staff member has appreciated them, and 80.9% tend to associate them self with Tech. There were 88.9% of students reported (Strongly Agree and Agree) they are able to really be them self at Tech.

Table : Based on your current experience at NMT, indicate how you feel about each item below using the following response options. #27

	Mean	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N
I am able to really be myself at Tech	3.16	30.2%	58.7%	7.9%	3.2%	63
I feel a part of the Tech campus community	2.95	19.0%	60.3%	17.5%	3.2%	63
I can talk with fellow students about my interests and activities	2.98	25.4%	52.4%	17.5%	4.8%	63
It has been easy for me to make friends at Tech	2.76	19.0%	47.6%	23.8%	9.5%	63
I am interested in my fellow students	2.89	15.9%	63.5%	14.3%	6.3%	63
I find it easy to join study groups with other students if I wanted to	2.67	14.3%	47.6%	28.6%	9.5%	63
I discuss events which happen outside of class with my classmates	2.70	11.1%	57.1%	22.2%	9.5%	63
I hardly know anyone in my courses	2.52	17.5%	25.4%	49.2%	7.9%	63
I believe that a faculty/staff member at my university cares about me	3.10	25.4%	61.9%	9.5%	3.2%	63
I feel connected to a faculty/staff member at Tech	2.75	15.9%	50.8%	25.4%	7.9%	63
I feel that a faculty/staff member has appreciated me	2.97	20.6%	61.9%	11.1%	6.3%	63
I feel that a faculty member has valued my contributions in class	2.97	19.0%	61.9%	15.9%	3.2%	63
I tend to associate myself with Tech	2.97	20.6%	60.3%	14.3%	4.8%	63
When I meet someone for the first time, I like to tell people about Tech	2.56	12.7%	39.7%	38.1%	9.5%	63
I take pride in wearing my Tech colors	2.83	22.2%	44.4%	27.0%	6.3%	63
I have Tech-branded material that others can see (pens, notebooks, bumper sticker, etc.)	2.70	20.6%	41.3%	25.4%	12.7%	63
I feel a sense of pride when I meet someone from Tech off-campus	2.88	17.5%	54.0%	22.2%	6.3%	63
I attend university sporting events to support Tech	2.51	9.5%	39.7%	42.9%	7.9%	63

Students were asked two (2) additional questions related to engagement and getting involved. Question #35 asked, “Are you currently a member of at least one student club or organization at Tech?” and question #36 asked, “Are you involved in at least one intramural group, club sport, or organized fitness activity group on campus?” Figure # and Figure #, respectively shows that 61.9% (N=39) of our students responded yes to being involved in at least one student club or organization at Tech and 39.7% (N=25) indicated they were involved in at least one intramural group, club sport, or organized fitness activity group on campus.



Well-being

Our students’ well-being is important to us. This survey was an opportunity to gather well-being information, including in areas of mental health from our incoming students. Table # helped us to see that 50.8% had been Often (42.9%) or Constantly (7.9%) excited during WoW. However, 44.4% of our students reported to be Anxious (23.8% Often & 20.6% Constantly) and 38.1% Overwhelmed (23.8% Often & 14.3% Constantly).

Table : Overall Well-being since arriving at Tech how often have you felt #28

	Mean	Never	Sometimes	Often	Constantly	N
Excited	2.57	1.6%	47.6%	42.9%	7.9%	63
Confident	2.52	6.3%	44.4%	39.7%	9.5%	63
Connected	2.48	6.3%	46.0%	39.7%	7.9%	63
Supported	2.62	1.6%	41.3%	50.8%	6.3%	63
Homesick	2.10	28.6%	44.4%	15.9%	11.1%	63
Lonely	2.16	28.6%	39.7%	19.0%	12.7%	63
Anxious	2.46	19.0%	36.5%	23.8%	20.6%	63
Overwhelmed	2.43	9.5%	52.4%	23.8%	14.3%	63

Those students who indicated this level (i.e. Often, Constantly) of anxiety and being overwhelmed were asked a follow-up question regarding the potential source of those feelings. Table # reflects those responses, with Academics being the most frequent response (61.1%).

Table : You noted that you sometimes or more frequently felt anxious, nervous, or overwhelmed since arriving at NMT. What is the source? #29

	%	N
Academics	61.1%	33
Social life	11.1%	6
Personal challenges	24.1%	13
Other (please describe)	3.7%	2

Employment

Working while in college is a necessity for some students. It is also a source of good skill acquisition and work ethics. These jobs can also affect the amount of dedicated time students have to apply to their academic endeavors. This survey asked related questions about their work during their first semester of college. Table # shows that nearly one-third (31.8%) of our students work on or off-campus or both. It also indicates that another third (33.3%) are not looking for work.

Table : Are you currently employed? #37

	%	N
Yes, I work on campus	15.9%	10
Yes, I work off-campus	12.7%	8
Yes. I work both on and off-campus	3.2%	2
No, but I am looking for work	34.9%	22
No, and I am not looking for work	33.3%	21

To get a better look at who is working, Table # was create to show a cross tabulation for Q37: Are you currently employed (x-axis) with questions Q46: Resident Classification - Selected Choice, Q40: Choose one or more races that you consider yourself to be, and Q41: Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin that are along the y-axis. In-state students made up 95.2% of the survey respondents. Of that instate population, 71.6% of them were not working with 33% of them not wanting or looking for work. Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino students accounted for 49.2% of the survey participants. Of this population, 66.6% (20 of 30) did not work, with 29.0% not wanting or looking for work.

Table : Cross Tabulations with Are you currently employed? (Q37 with Q46, Q40 & Q41)

		Q37: Are you currently employed?					
		Total	Yes, I work on campus	Yes, I work off-campus	Yes. I work both on and off-campus	No, but I am looking for work	No, and I am not looking for
Q46: Resident Classification - Selected Choice	Total Count (Answering)	63.0	10.0	8.0	2.0	22.0	21.0
	In-state (i.e. from New Mexico)	60.0	9.0	7.0	2.0	22.0	20.0
		95.2%	90.0%	87.5%	100.0%	100.0%	95.2%
	Out-of-State	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
		4.8%	10.0%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%
	International (not U.S. Citizen)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
	Other (please specify)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Q40: Choose one or more races that you consider yourself to be: - Selected Choice	Total Count (Answering)	63.0	10.0	8.0	2.0	22.0	21.0
	White	53.0	9.0	6.0	2.0	19.0	17.0
		84.1%	90.0%	75.0%	100.0%	86.4%	81.0%
	Black or African American	3.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
		4.8%	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
		3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%
	Asian	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	3.0
	7.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	14.3%	
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	
	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	4.8%	
Other (specify)	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	
	4.8%	10.0%	12.5%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%	
Q41: Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin?	Total Count (Answering)	63.0	10.0	8.0	2.0	22.0	21.0
	Yes	31.0	5.0	4.0	2.0	11.0	9.0
		49.2%	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%	50.0%	42.9%
No	32.0	5.0	4.0	0.0	11.0	12.0	
	50.8%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	57.1%	

New Student Orientations

New Mexico Tech encourages all incoming students to attend one of the face-to-face New Student Orientation (NSO), but this is not a requirement at this time. To accommodate the number of incoming students, Tech tries to make sure they are evenly distributed among the three (3) scheduled summer New Student Orientation (NSO) sessions. We encourage students to attend earlier sessions to minimize the number of students last minute advising and registration on the Friday before the start of classes (Aug. 12). The first two sessions are usually at capacity. Table # shows that the more than a third attended each of the first two (2) sessions. It appears all survey recipients attended one of the NSO sessions with the lowest percentage (25.4%) attending the last session.

Table : Which 2022 New Student Orientation did you attend? #48

	%	N
June 10	38.1%	24
July 22	36.5%	23
August 12	25.4%	16

Using the same cross tabulation template as Table # and replacing the x-axis with NSO dates, we can drill down deeper to determine if different student populations selected a specific. However, Table # indicates the In-state students (95.2%), Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino students (49.2%) and race, all these demographic populations were evenly distributed among the three (3) NSO sessions.