

The Student Survey is a newly designed and implemented survey beginning in 2020, succeeding the 38 surveys conducted through 2019. This second survey was created and conducted from June 25 to July 16, 2021 in both English and Japanese using an online survey tool (Qualtrics). The target population was all Waseda University students (45,884), and the total number of respondents was 10,835 (response rate: 23.6%).

This report first summarizes the changes in academic training and student life at COVID-19 pandemic through a comparison with the previous survey conducted in 2020. We also analyzed the items of the Admission Policy (AP) for students admitted in 2021.

The results of the comparative analysis with the previous year showed higher positive responses for each experience item in the educational experience and academic behavior. In particular, in terms of academic behavior (Figure-Overview), positive responses increased for “I asked friends about things I didn’t understand” (from 54.9% to 65.3%), “I created and presented materials” (from 62.6% to 69.8%), and “I actively asked questions during class” (from 36.9% to 43.3%). These results may be attributed to the resumption and expansion of face-to-face classes, the enhancement of online class infrastructure, and the accumulation of experience in online classes by both faculty and students, which led to the practice of more interactive and dialogue-based classes.

Regarding the AP questions for students who enrolled in 2021, 64.7% of the students confirmed AP, 16.0% did not confirm AP, and 19.3% did not know AP. AP itself was recognized by about 80% of the students. Recognition of AP differed by department, admissions category, region, and university/faculty aspirations. In the Faculty of Human Sciences (e-learning courses), the percentage of students who were aware of AP was high at 94.7%, and this was attributed to the fact that students were required to write about AP when applying.

The highest percentage of positive responses in the group of AP-related experience questions was “I was able to sympathize with other’s point of views and ways of thinking.” (91.5%). The relationship between educational and academic experiences while in school and academic outcomes will continue to be examined in future surveys.