

# 2024 CONTINUING STUDENT SURVEY

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PRELIMINARY DATA BRIEF

## Continuing Student Survey (CSS)

The Continuing Student Survey (CSS) is used to gain a better understanding of the student experience and is administered to all sophomores and juniors with 45-70 credit hours. The survey tool allows current JMU students share their perceptions and degree of satisfaction with JMU, and their self-perceptions, attitudes, values, and beliefs. Students completed the survey online during the spring semester. As of March 1 2024, 3,457 students have completed the survey.

Students were randomly assigned to complete one of four versions of the survey. While certain questions are consistent across versions, each version has specific questions only that sub-sample of students receive. For these questions, the total sample size reported will be less than the total number of responses to the survey overall.

This brief provides preliminary data<sup>1</sup> from a selection of questions from the CSS focusing on satisfaction, engagement and interest in high impact practices, sense of belonging, and learning opportunities at JMU and perceived growth. Final data will be available in June 2024.

## Preliminary Summary of Findings

- Students' satisfaction with JMU remains high, with a slight increase from 2022 (93.1%)<sup>2</sup>.

# 94%

of 2024 respondents indicated they were **satisfied or very satisfied** with JMU.

# 88%

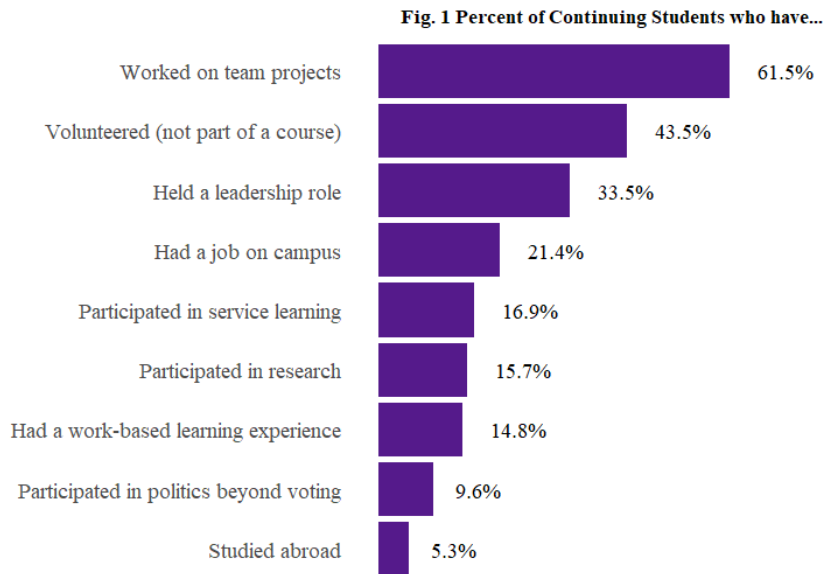
of 2024 respondents said, if they had to start over, **they would choose JMU again.**

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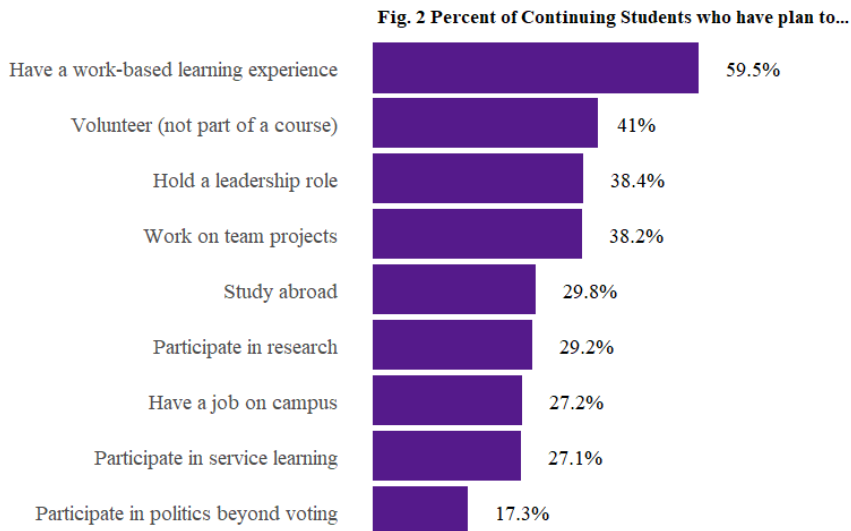
<sup>1</sup> Additional students may complete the survey through the end of April. Final numbers may be slightly different from those presented in this report as more students complete the survey.

<sup>2</sup> The survey methodology has changed since the last CSS was administered. The 2022 CSS included students of all levels, while the 2024 CSS only included those with 45-70 credits (sophomores and juniors).

- The majority of respondents (79.6%) reported engaging in at least one high impact practice (HIP) during their time at JMU. Working on team projects was the most frequently reported HIP.



- Among students who had not yet engaged in the following high impact practices, many students expressed they had plans to do so prior to graduation.

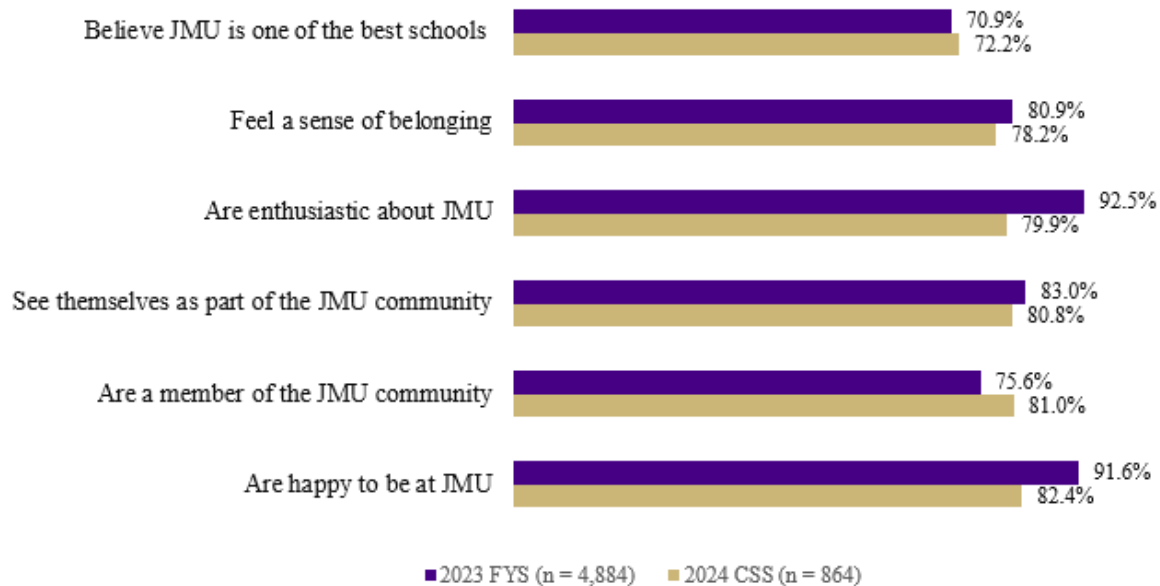


This is excluding students who reported already completing each respective activity

- Overall, sense of belonging is high. When compared with responses to the First Year Survey<sup>3</sup> given to the 2023 incoming class, sense of belonging was slightly lower. However, more continuing students than first year students saw themselves as part of the JMU community.

**Fig. 3 Comparison of Continuing and First Year Responses to Sense of Belonging**

Percent who agree/strongly agree that they...



- Students perceive JMU is contributing to their growth and development, and providing valuable opportunities.

JMU has contributed to my development in:

1. Functioning effectively as a team member (75.6%)
2. Understanding myself (strengths, abilities, limitations; 75.1%)
3. Thinking critically (74.9%)

JMU has provided me with:

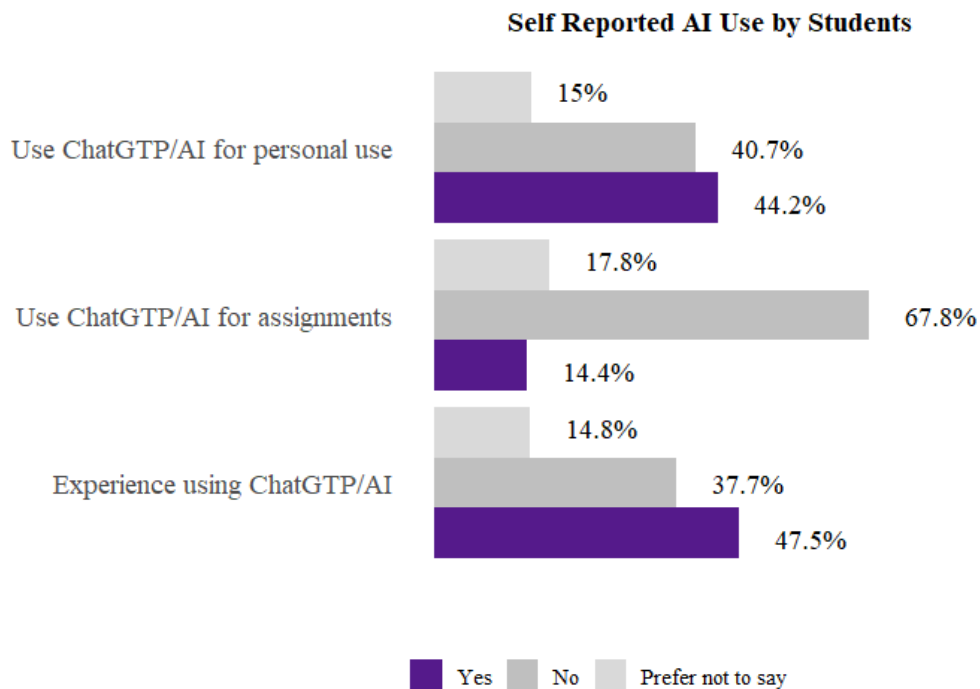
1. Skills for lifelong learning (76.3%)
2. Opportunities for applying critical thinking (75.9%)
3. A sense of community (73.9%)

<sup>3</sup> More information about the First Year Survey can be found [here](#).

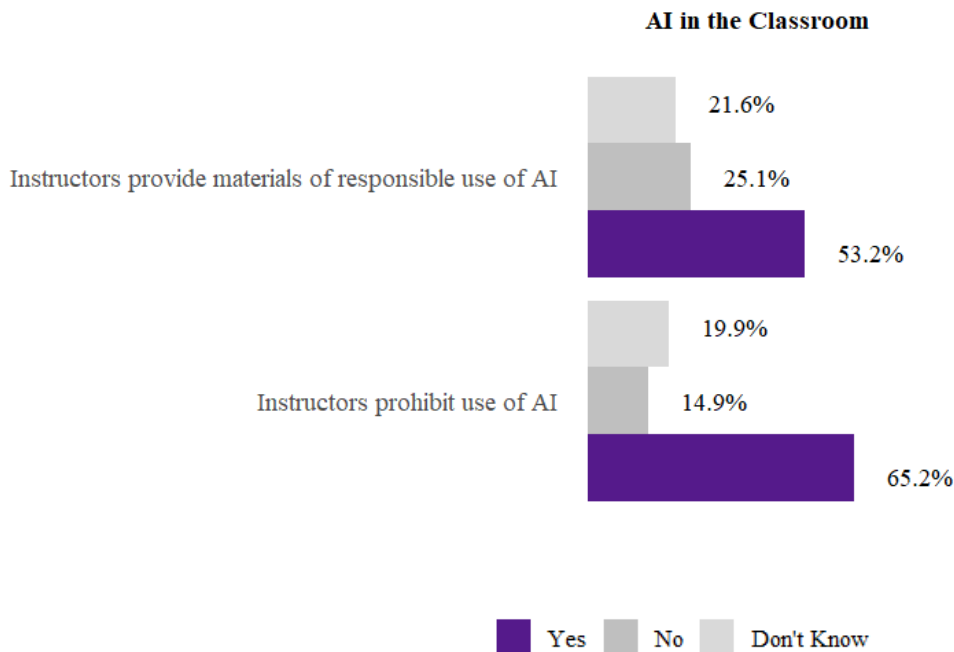
## Special Topics Research: AI Use and Perceptions

One of the versions of the CSS contained several questions pertaining to students' use and perceptions of ChatGPT and other similar AI applications. A total of 864 students responded to these questions.

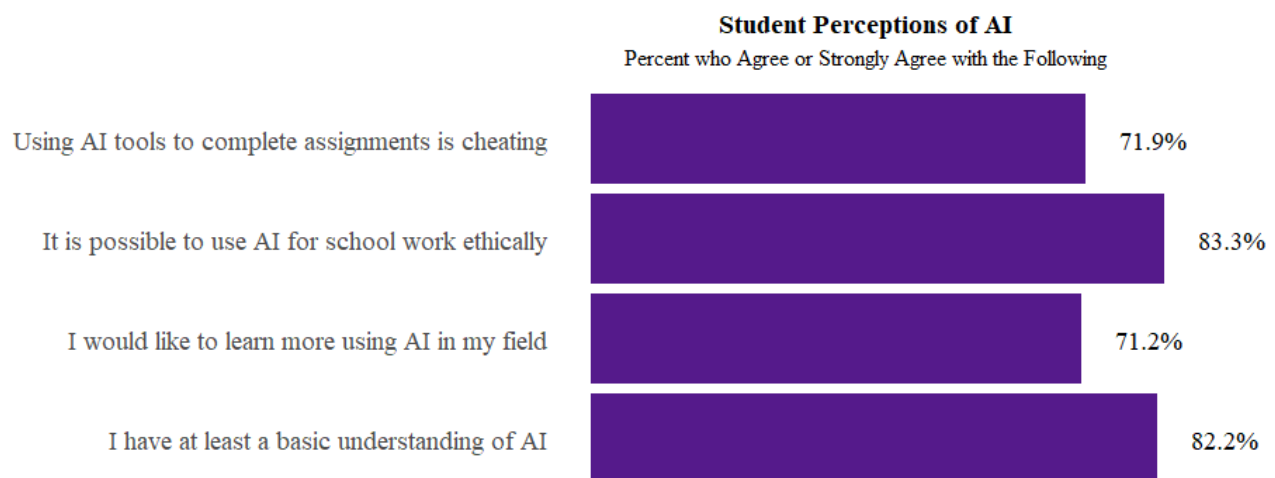
- **Slightly less than half of respondents have reported having experience using ChatGPT. The majority reported not using ChatGPT for assignments, and almost one-fifth indicated they preferred not to answer.**



- **Approximately half of respondents indicated their instructors provide information of ethical and responsible use of AI. Nearly two-thirds of respondents noted having instructors who prohibit AI for coursework.**



- **The majority of students feel they have a basic understanding of AI and are interested in learning more about AI in their field. Additionally, there is a consensus that using AI to complete school assignments constitutes cheating, but it is possible to use AI to help with school work in an ethical manner.**



- The majority of students report being at least “a little worried” about the impact of AI on their education and potential career.

**How Students Feel about the Impact of AI on their:**

