

THE LOG

Divine Word College

November 22
2022

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

Vol. 42 No. 14

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THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Welcome the King

The semester is fast coming to a close. Just a few weeks left. The calendar year is also edging into the final weeks. This past Sunday, during the Feast of Christ the King, we considered the Second Coming of the Lord as the Church Year comes to a close; and then as December begins, with the First Sunday of Advent, we will start a new cycle of celebrations of the mysteries of faith, starting with the birth of the King.

The Feast of Christ the King reminds us of the final goal of human history, and of the universe itself. When the King, the Son of Man returns in glory, we expect a new dawn, new heavens and a new earth. This is the Kingdom for which we have been taught to pray and for which we hope so ardently. It will be:

- an eternal and universal kingdom,
- a kingdom of truth and life
- a kingdom of holiness and grace,
- a kingdom of justice and mercy
- a kingdom of compassion and peace,
- a new civilization of love.

We don't need to wait long years to catch a glimpse of this promised time. The Kingdom can be seen, at least partially, in our own lives, today. Jesus spoke about this when he told the story of the great judgment. He insisted that we can see the dawning of the Reign of

God:

- when the hungry and thirsty receive food and drink,
- when the naked are clothed,
- when the imprisoned receive compassion and mercy
- when the sick receive care
- and when strangers receive a welcome.



This evening, the College will present the Matthew 25 Award to some Epworth neighbors, Lloyd and Dianne McDermott. They have taken to heart Jesus' message, "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

continued next page

Strange, isn't it, that in his first coming in Bethlehem, the King appeared as a hungry baby, laid in the manger, a place for animals to eat? Thank God **Joseph and Mary were there, ready to welcome him.** At his second coming, at the end of time, the King appears among the hungry, the thirsty and the strangers. **Let us be ready to welcome him.**

Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass

The college was honored to host a Mass of remembrance for 4th Degree Knights of Columbus on Sunday November 20.

This was the first time the members and their families gathered for a memorial since before the pandemic.

At the end of Mass, the names of members who have passed were read and their family members received a candle.

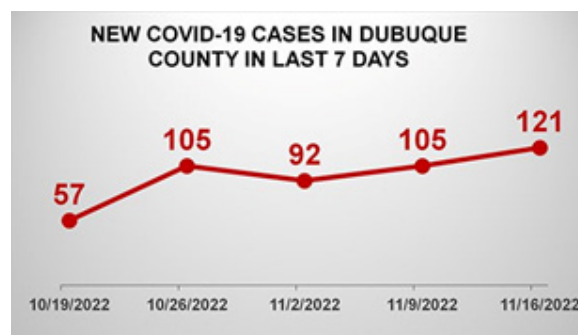
We pray for them and for all who have passed.



COVID-19 Guidance

In Dubuque County, 121 new positive cases were reported between November 9 and November 16. The County Health Department notes that this is the highest seven-day total of new cases since August.

In the past week at Divine Word College, COVID-19 infections were detected by five employees from off-campus, by one SVD and by two students. Currently, one SVD is isolated with a COVID infection.



Some questions about COVID-19 vaccines and boosters have come up following the publication of the revised DWC policy (i.e. students are required to be up-to-date with boosters, and employees are strongly encouraging to be up-to-date).

Do COVID-19 vaccines and boosters cause death?

For the three Covid-19 vaccines, (Pfizer, Moderna, J&J) the CDC has stated that there's no evidence from clinical data, death certificates or autopsies to confirm reports of them directly causing death. To date, more than 650 million doses have been administered! Compare that with Covid-19 infection, which leads to death in nearly 2 percent of cases in the United States. That means roughly 2 out of every 100 people who catch COVID-19 die from the infection. To date in the US, there have been 1,073,115 deaths due to COVID infections.

See:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/adverse-events.html>

Do COVID-19 vaccines and boosters cause memory loss, i.e., “brain fog”?

Recent studies show that there is a much greater risk of memory loss for those who are unvaccinated than for those who are vaccinated.

The National Institutes of Health have studied the problem of “brain fog” as it relates to vaccines and to long COVID.

“The long-term sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection are being increasingly recognized. These include cardiovascular disease, chronic lung disease, and proinflammatory-related neurological dysfunction that may lead to neurocognitive and psychological impairments. A major component of cognitive impairment is operationally classified as “brain fog”, which includes forgetfulness, difficulty concentrating, depression, fatigue and confusion. *Short-term memory loss caused by autoimmunity after vaccination is somewhat like “vaccine brain fog” but the symptoms subside faster and the impact is smaller.*”

“Since billions of people worldwide have been vaccinated, some cases of neurological conditions may occur post-vaccination simply by chance. Such cases included in our report should increase awareness of possible rare autoimmune reactions following this novel vaccination. In summary, short-term memory loss with autoimmune encephalitis is rare and its causes are still mostly unknown and are only now being determined. Autoimmune encephalitis is an under-recognized condition and has a favorable prognosis if treated promptly. *Furthermore, we still believe that the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the risks of ongoing vaccination programs.*”

See:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9319671/#:~:text=Although%20the%20adverse%20effect%20of,hyperactive%20acute%20encephalopathy%20following%20vaccination.>

In another set of studies on COVID-19 and brain health carried out at **Oxford University**, Wes Ely, a critical care physician at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and associate director for research for the VA Tennessee Valley Geriatric Research and Education Clinical Center, commented.

“What these data (from the Oxford studies) show in this very large cohort retrospectively analyzed is that the *mood disorders and anxiety problems* that are really, really prevalent in long COVID *tended to resolve in a matter of months*, which is great news for *patients with long COVID* who are not used to suffering in those ways... The other finding of this fascinating investigation is that the cognitive problems, the neurocognitive deficits that make people have *brain fog*, *do not resolve so quickly.*”

<https://www.statnews.com/2022/08/17/risk-of-brain-fog-and-other-conditions-persists-up-to-two-years-after-covid-infection/>



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD

Annual ESL Student Opinion Survey

The Intensive English Language Institute [IELI] recently conducted the annual ESL Student Opinion Survey, with 30 out of 33 current ESL students (91%) responding. The survey demonstrates overall very strong student satisfaction with various aspects of the English as a Second Language program, specifically regarding schedule, format, and achievement criteria.

- 87% of ESL students like the 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. schedule
- 87% of ESL students like the 20-23 hours of instruction per week (2 students wanted more class hours, 2 student wanted less class hours)
- 93% of ESL students like the distribution of class hours: 10 hours Grammar/Writing; 10 hours Communication; 3 hours Reading
- 87% of ESL students reported enough time to finish homework outside of classes
- ESL students expressed some interest in content-based courses (if offered) in the areas of American geography and culture (47%) and American film (43%)
- ESL students identified two tools most effective for assisting their learning: Pronunciation Power (70%) and ESL vocabulary handbooks (60%)
- 83% of ESL students think the promotion policy is clear and okay (students' understanding of the ESL promotion policy has improved over previous years due to clear academic advising, publication of ESL student achievement reports, and ESL-specific orientation for new students).

Congratulations to Dr. Seo Hyun Park—IELI Director—and all ESL instructors for their continued hard work and dedication in providing students with an excellent ESL program of which Divine Word College can be proud! These survey results document very strong and consistent student satisfaction with DWC's ESL program. The complete numerical survey results are appended to this issue of the LOG.



Congratulations Winners!

Fr. Raymond, Fr. Telesphore and Sr. Hiep were the lucky raffle winners at the Queen of the Americas banquet!

Click the link below to view more photos from the celebration.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/sed4PJQyL7LSSExj8>

Assessment Bites from Dr. Yasmin Rioux

Where are we in our assessment plan and schedule?

I am currently working on uploading all Fall 2022 signature assignments into the OAP system, so they're ready to go for the upcoming faculty evaluations of signature assignments phase in January/February! The dates for our three evaluation rounds are as follows:

- Round 1: January 16 to January 21
- Round 2: January 23 to January 28
- Round 3: January 30 to February 3

A (tentative..but close to final) list of "Faculty Evaluators for Fall 2022" has been uploaded to "Important Docs" in our Assessment at DWC group. A training for OAP will take place on January 11 @ 12:45 pm in room 143. Please let me know if you're interested, so I can prepare accordingly.

For any other questions, comments, or concerns...please contact me!



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Happy Thanksgiving

Johannes A. Gaertner says, "To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven." I wish you all a very happy time with friends and family. For those traveling, I wish you a safe trip and protect yourself as much as possible. Enjoy the turkey, the sweet potatoes, and the pumpkin pie and in everything give thanks.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Mr. Len Uhal

The Word Among Us

The next issue of The Word Among Us begins with the First Sunday of Advent, which is this coming weekend. The vocation office staff will distribute copies of the new edition tomorrow (Wednesday) so that you have it before the Thanksgiving break. Students, watch your mailboxes! A few additional copies will be available in the vocation office as well as some issues in Spanish. Please pray for the benefactor that makes this resource available to us.

Gratitude

According to Psychology Today, 'gratitude is an emotion that makes a person feel happier. Gratitude and happiness are correlated. Research shows that gratitude is one of the ingredients of happiness. People who generally are happy are those who are able to be grateful no matter what life deals them.

The problem is that we are naturally not disposed to be happy. Why is that so? We live in a fast paced culture. We are mostly focusing on our problems that occur along the way. We are anxious to solve those problems. For example: why would we focus on a negative opinion about us or what we do rather than on a positive one. By being grateful, our focus is not on ourselves, but we start to give attention to the good things that come to us.

Practicing gratitude is a lifestyle that promotes well-being. It is a conscious choice, to recognize the gifts in life and give thanks. To cultivate it, we need to practice it consistently. Below are some tips to practice gratitude daily:

1. Write down the blessings you have received during the day
2. Notice and appreciate the beauty of nature or pieces of art.
3. Notice your own well-being and there will be no room for complaints
4. Connect regularly with your loved ones
5. Think about someone who has inspired and influenced you and give thanks for them
6. Be generous with your time and talents because they are given to you freely

We are called to go deeper in saying 'thank you' – a superficial thank you we often say. If we allow ourselves to be more reflective then, it becomes a 'thanksgiving' from 'within'.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Mr. Steve Winger

COVID vaccination status

This is a friendly reminder that you should report your COVID vaccine status to the Vice President for Operations. Per the Board of Administration, any employee who has not received the updated bivalent (Omicron) vaccine will need to use PTO or vacation time if they become infected. If you are not going to receive the bivalent vaccine please let me know. This policy begins on November 28, 2022. Simply send me an email to indicate the day you received the bivalent vaccine.

See overview of COVID-19 vaccines here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/overview-COVID-19-vaccines.html>

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION COUNCIL

Not Because Our Tables Are Full

Lord of all,
We look up to you and give thanks—
Not because our tables are full
Our harvests are robust
Or our homes resound with laughter and joy.

Though these things may indeed be true,
Too often we have looked upon want—
We see times of dryness
and lives of loneliness and despair.

Even then, we thank you nonetheless
Because it is in times such as these
That we see hands that share,
We see feet that walk in solidarity with the outcast,
We see arms that open up to embrace the broken-hearted
And we see the sinner weep to know of your forgiveness.

And whatever the joys and comforts of our homes, great and small,
It is in the blessings of these times that our cup truly overflows.
And so we bless you and thank you
Not because our tables are full
Because your love is everlasting
And your mercy endures forever.

Amen



Prayer provided by:



MICHELLE VARGO INSTRUCTOR - ESL

TIME TRAVEL TO
Nowhere. I can't change the
past and want to live my future

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT
Raising a well-balanced
and successful son



WHAT WOULD YOU RATE 10/10

Sitting on the beach in Port Austin, Michigan
with Logan & Dennis watching the sun set

FAVORITE SONGS

Seasons in the Sun, Rescue,
and How Great Thou Art

HAWAII OR ALASKA?

Alaska

FAVORITE MOVIE

V is for Vendetta:
Great Social Commentary



2022 ESL Student Opinion Survey

QUESTION SUMMARIES

DATA TRENDS

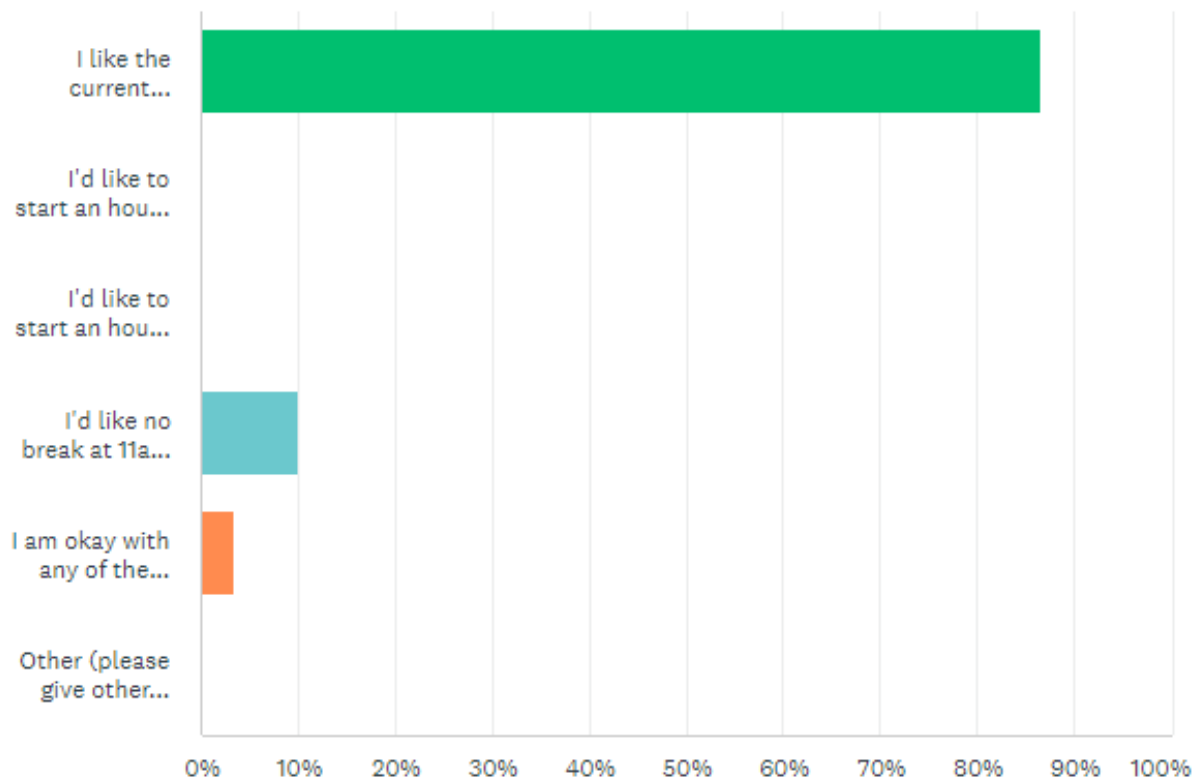
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

Q1



What is the best ESL schedule for you? Choose one.

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

I like the current schedule: 9-11am class, 11am-2pm lunch break (or reading class), and 2-4pm class.

86.67% 26

I'd like to start an hour late: 10am-12pm class, 12-3pm break (or reading class), and 3-5pm class.

0.00% 0

I'd like to start an hour early: 8-10am class, 10-1pm break (or reading class), and 1-3pm class.

0.00% 0

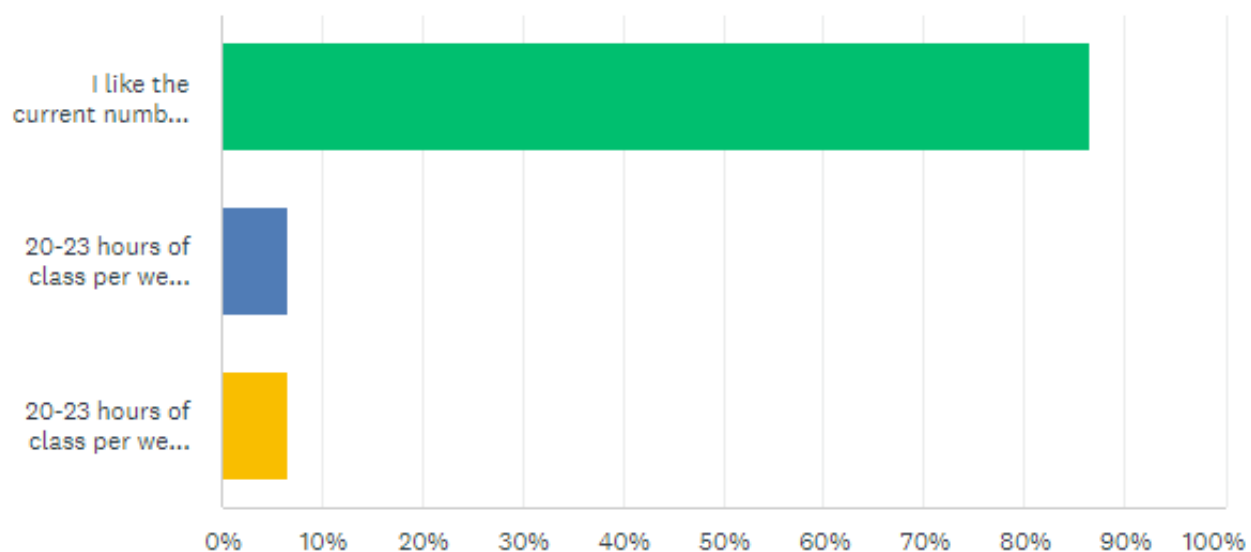
I'd like no break at 11am or 1pm: 9am-12pm class, 12-1pm lunch break, and 1-3pm class.	10.00%	3
I am okay with any of the above.	3.33%	1
Other (please give other ideas)	Responses	0.00% 0
TOTAL		30

Q2



How many hours of English classes per week are best for you?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

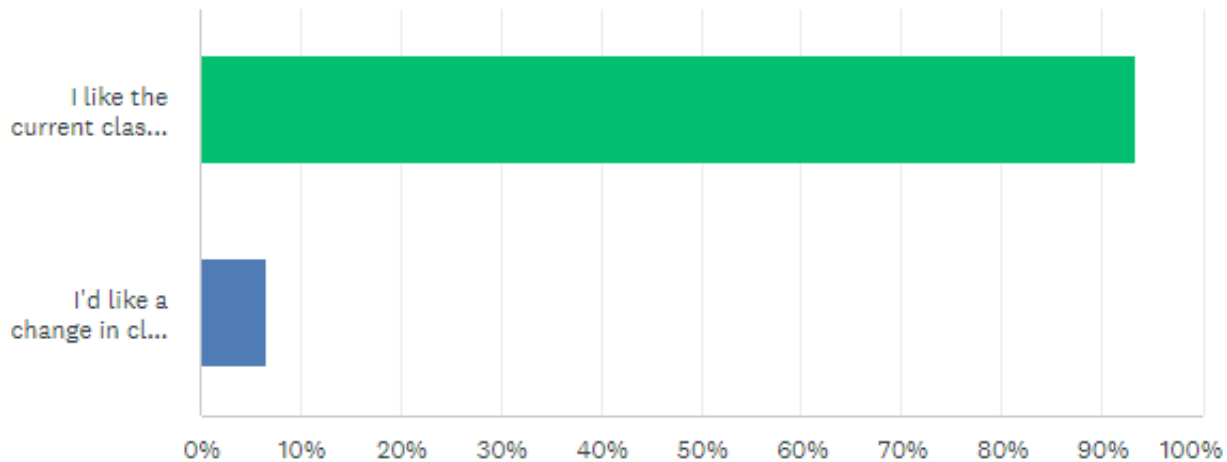


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I like the current number (23 hours per week).	86.67%	26
20-23 hours of class per week is not enough. I want more class hours.	6.67%	2
20-23 hours of class per week is too much. I want more free time.	6.67%	2
TOTAL		30



Do you like the current number of hours you spend in different classes?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
I like the current class hours: 10-hour Writing, 10-hour Communication, and 3-hour Reading.		93.33%	28
I'd like a change in class hours (please give ideas):		6.67%	2

[Responses](#)

reading class need more time

11/8/2022 09:56 PM

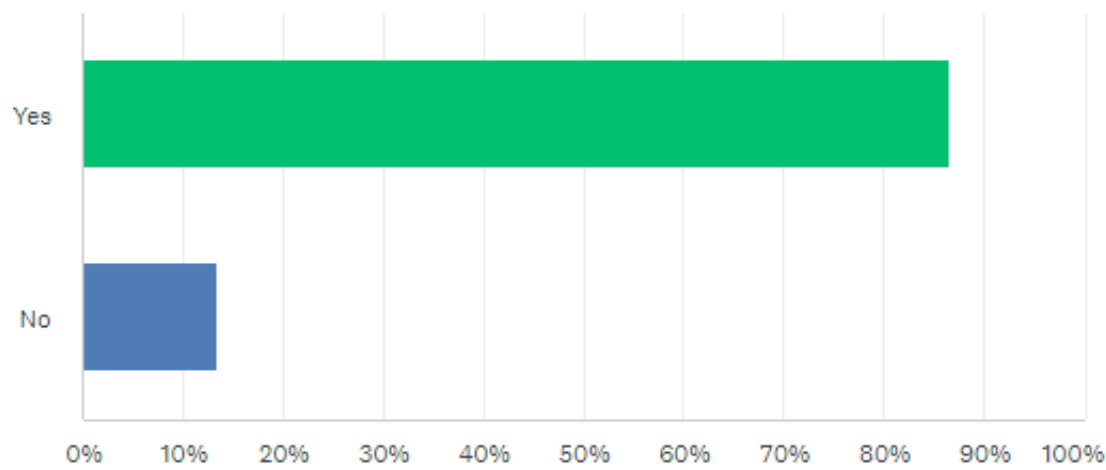
I would like More hours on the reading class

11/4/2022 04:36 PM



Do you have enough time to finish homework outside of classes?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

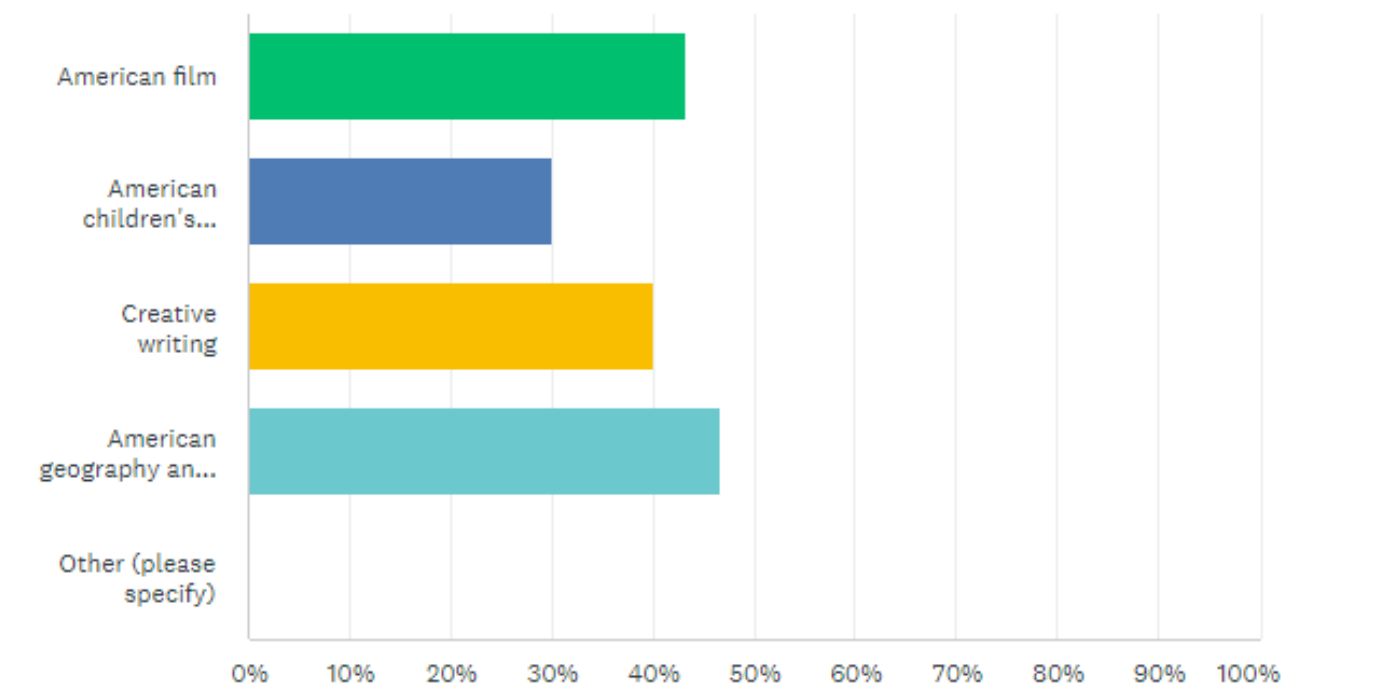


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		86.67%	26
No		13.33%	4
TOTAL			30



If a content-based course is offered, what topic would you be interested in? Choose all.

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



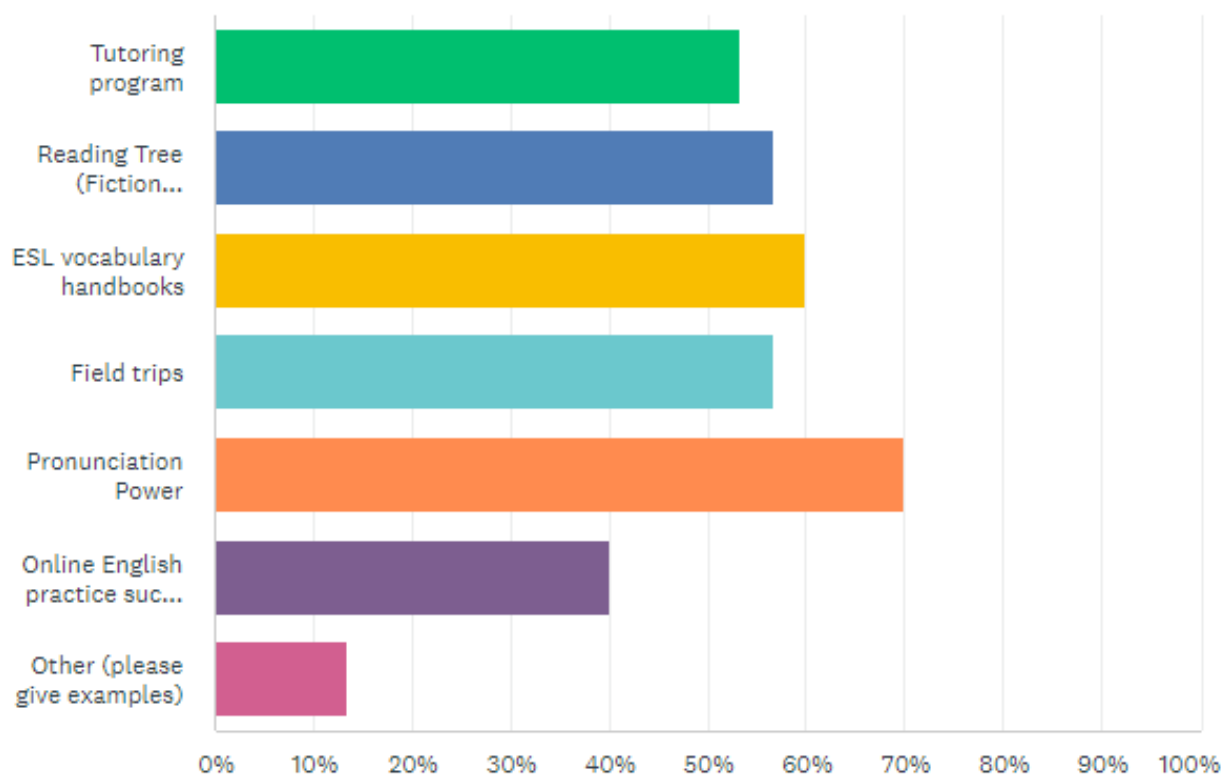
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
American film		43.33%	13
American children's literature		30.00%	9
Creative writing		40.00%	12
American geography and culture		46.67%	14
Other (please specify)		Responses0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 30			

Q6



What ESL activities outside classes help you learn English more? Choose all that help you.

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Tutoring program		53.33%	16
Reading Tree (Fiction reading for fun)		56.67%	17
ESL vocabulary handbooks		60.00%	18
Field trips		56.67%	17
Pronunciation Power		70.00%	21
Online English practice such as MyELT		40.00%	12
Other (please give examples)	Responses	13.33%	4

Yes

11/8/2022 10:06 AM

Go out of school to practice with other person, family etc.

11/5/2022 07:42 PM

Qskill,elllo, website learning english, cloze homework

11/2/2022 03:01 PM

Q.skills, populli exercise, cloze exercise, Ello, websites for Learning English

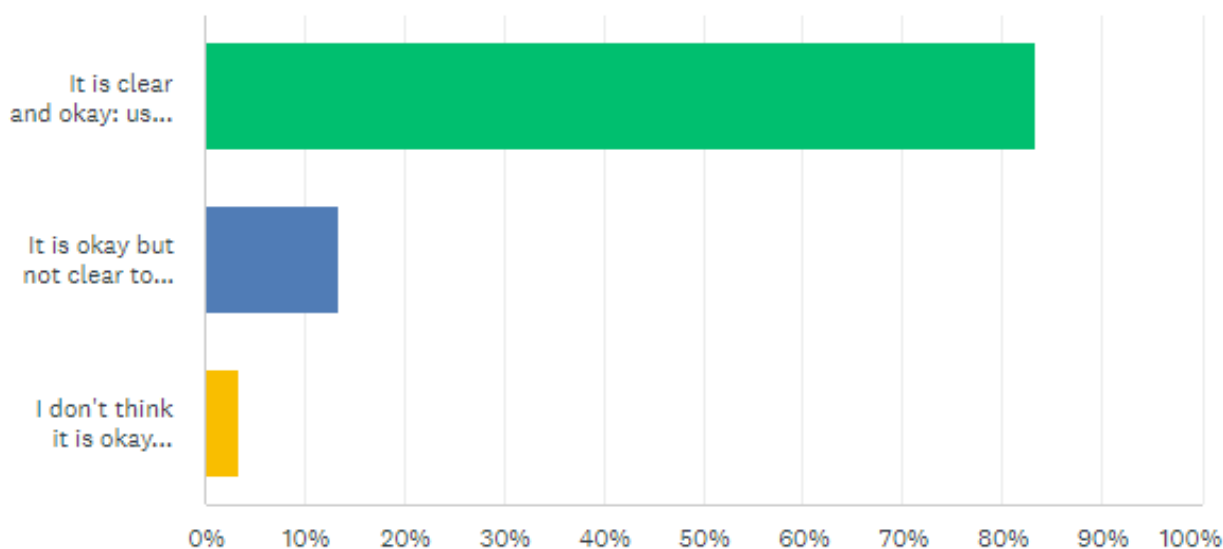
11/2/2022 02:57 PM

Q7



Do you think the ESL policy of promotion to the next level is clear and okay?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
It is clear and okay: using course grades (80% or higher), English Writing Test, English Speaking Test, and CaMLA as references.		83.33%	25
It is okay but not clear to me yet; I want to understand it better.		13.33%	4
I don't think it is okay (please explain why):	Responses	3.33%	1

Because we don't have Enough time for CAMLA

11/5/2022 07:42 PM

Q8



Do you have any additional comments, questions or concerns about the IELI?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 16

It's helpful and important for the future

11/8/2022 09:56 PM

No

11/8/2022 10:06 AM

More time for CAMLA

11/5/2022 07:42 PM

No, I don't

11/5/2022 01:00 PM

No, thanks

11/4/2022 08:15 PM

No, I don't have any idea

11/4/2022 05:14 PM

Thank you IELI for improving my English better day to day. Thank you for the teachers who always support and provide great instruments

11/4/2022 04:45 PM

Sometimes I feel under pressure with ESL program, but I think it is a good chance to improve my English.

11/4/2022 01:42 PM

Lack time for speaking

11/4/2022 01:35 PM

I find CaMLA test too difficult for students

11/3/2022 08:00 PM

No. I don't.

11/2/2022 10:51 PM

If get grades test CaMLA for students pass level I think it isn't true. because knowledge in CaMLA is different from what we learn in real life.

11/2/2022 09:39 PM

No, I do not.

11/2/2022 09:17 PM

Could you make the program of reading tree more than onces?

11/2/2022 02:57 PM