The Modern Student Experience Survey

Quizlet

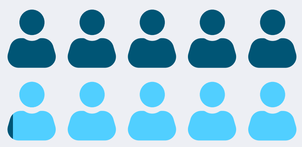
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The Modern Student Experience Survey

Quizlet, the global learning platform, understands Gen Z better than most as it serves millions of students on their own learning journeys. To challenge misconceptions of Gen Z's capability, Quizlet launched the "Modern Student Experience" survey, which uncovers the true potential of Gen Z, the reality of Gen Z's hustle culture, their dynamic skills for the workforce, and what older generations get wrong about them and their idea of success.

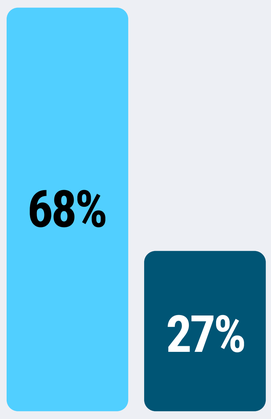
Hustling Beyond 9 to 5

Gen Z students are taking on more than our society realizes, from academics to side hustles and jobs to various hobbies and on-campus organizations.



55%

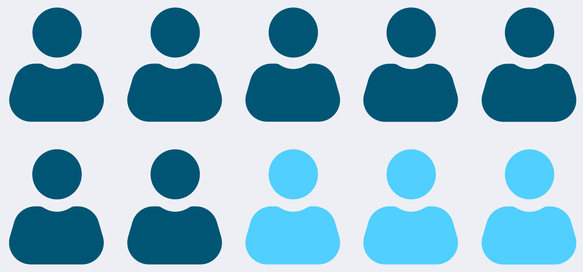
In addition to their coursework, more than half of Gen Z college students **have a job or side hustle** (55%).



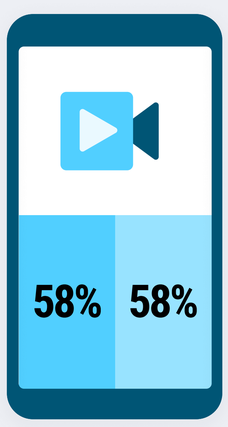
The majority of working college students only have one job (68%), but nearly one-third (27%) say that they hold **two jobs in addition to their coursework.**



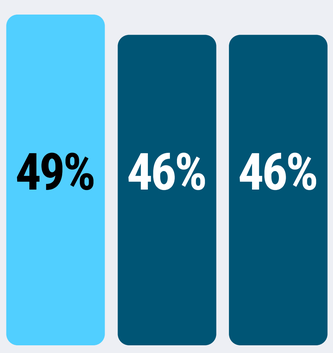
Nearly 60% of students who are involved in on-campus organizations (such as an honors society, sports, Greek life, etc) say they are involved in **2 or more** (58%).



7 out of 10 Gen Z college students who are involved in on-campus organizations say that they find their involvement with those organizations to be **more fulfilling than schooling** (70%).



When it comes to hobbies, the most enjoyed by Gen Z college students are **social media/ content creation** and **consuming media, like movies, music, or podcasts** (58% each).



Nearly half of Gen Z students enjoy creative activities like **reading, writing, or crafts** (49%), along with **cooking/baking, or physical activity** (46% each).

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An Influx of Skills Being Learned

Gen Z students have no shortage of capabilities, from creative to interpersonal to career-related skills.



Aside from academic skills, college students are actively trying to learn practical, life skills like **cooking, budgeting, time management (45%)**, and social/interpersonal skills like **leadership, teamwork, and communication (44%)**.



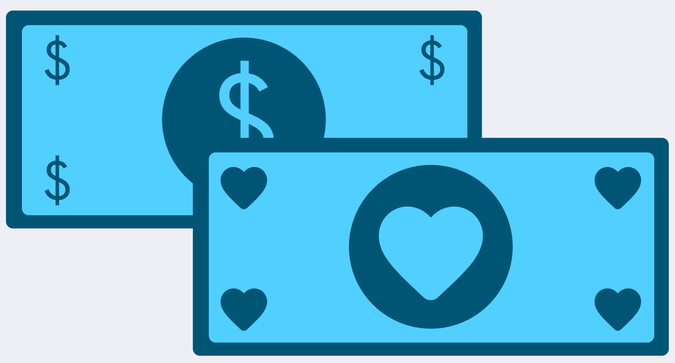
More than one-third of college students are actively working on career-related skills, such as **coding, public speaking, and networking** (37%).



Nearly three-fourths of Gen Z college students agree that the experiences and skills gained through **campus organizations** better prepare them for their professional career than their coursework (71%).

What Success Truly Means to Gen Z (and What They're Willing to Do for It)

Gen Z has their own interpretations of what success looks like for them, and the results aren't as unrealistic as you'd think.



Success more often means having enough **money to live comfortably** (54%), though 43% say success means being **happy and stress-free.**



In addition, 41% of respondents say success means **building a career that they are proud of**, and an equal share say success is **growing and improving as a person.**



Despite social media being the top hobby among Gen Z college students, more than one-third of Gen Z respondents would **give up social media for guaranteed future success** (35%), increasing to 39% among Gen Z graduates now employed full-time.

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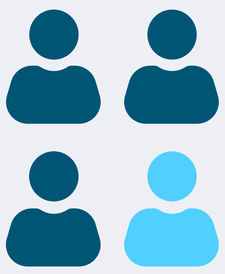
34% among current Gen Z college students would **give up sex or dating for guaranteed future success.**



64% of the Gen Z respondents believe that being **involved on campus outside of coursework** directly correlates with **professional success.**

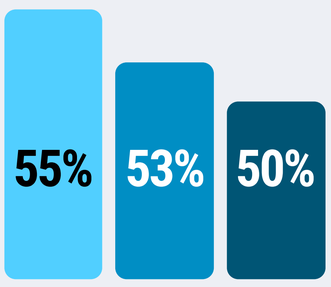
What The Workplace Gets Wrong About Gen Z Workers

We commonly hear about Gen Z not being suitable for the workplace, but this is what Gen Z thinks about those narratives and how they plan to prove them wrong.

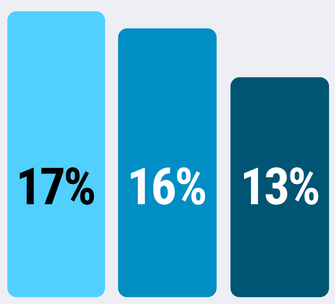


Nearly three-fourths of Gen Z college students and recent graduates believe that older generations have **wrong or unfair assumptions about their generation** (71%).

When asked what specifically they believe that older generations get wrong about Gen Z, respondents most commonly said **“lazy” or “not willing to work hard”** (65%), **“only care about social media or trends”** (53%), **“overly sensitive or entitled”** (48%), and **“avoids responsibilities or commitments”** (47%). The consensus was the same between current students and Gen Z employees, suggesting that what college students believe to be true is reinforced in the workforce.



Respondents believe that older generations have these misconceptions because they are **comparing Gen Z to themselves at the same age** (55%), **media stereotypes exaggerate Gen Z traits** (53%), and **differences in values or priorities**, such as work-life balance or social responsibility (50%).



When asked to select the most important thing that Gen Z brings to the workforce, respondents most frequently selected **tech-savvy/digital fluency** (17%), **open-mindedness or willingness to challenge the status quo** (16%), and **creativity and innovation** (13%).



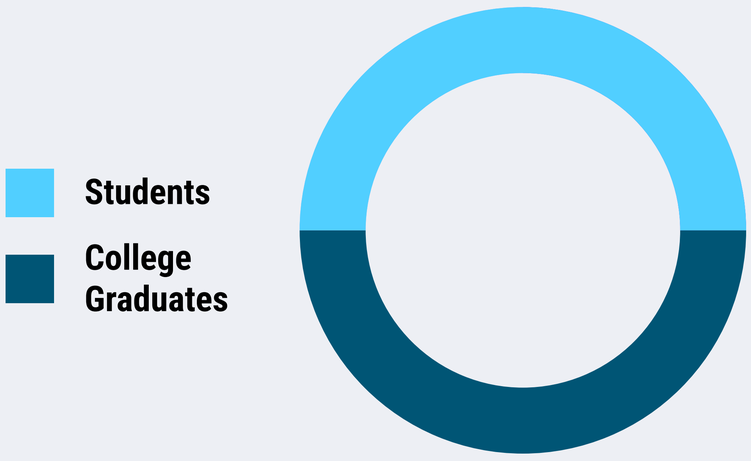
As the next generation of leaders, 20% of the respondents said that the number one thing they hope to change about the workforce is a **better work-life balance**. This is followed most closely by higher pay or pay transparency (15%) and more opportunities for career growth (13%).



Two-thirds of Gen Z students would **prioritize a professional opportunity over a social activity** if the two conflicted (64%).

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Methodology



Allison's Performance + Intelligence team surveyed 2,000 U.S. respondents between the ages of 18 and 28. 1,000 of the respondents are students currently enrolled in college and 1,000 have graduated from college within the last five years and are now working full time. The survey was fielded using Forsta and panel was sourced from RepData. Fielding took place in August and September 2025.

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