

Online Learning and the Geosciences

Results of a September 2012 Survey of Geoscience Faculty

State of Online Learning in the Geosciences

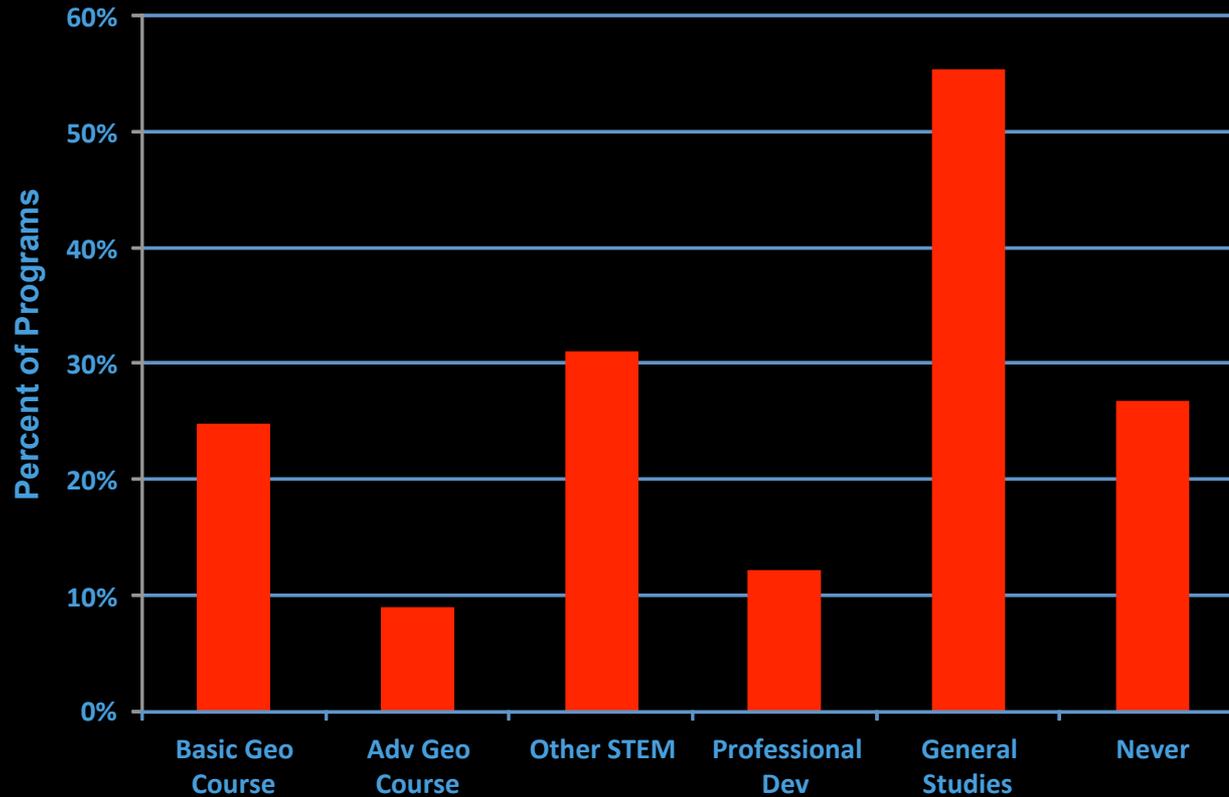
- **Anecdotal strong opposition to online learning**
- **Survey to ~8700 US-based teaching faculty in the geosciences.**
- **458 responses – 0.5% response rate**
- **Representing 291 Campuses**
- **Bias towards faculty favorable to online learning**
 - **Early responses more favorable in comments**
 - **Favorable institutions tended to have multiple responders**

Levels of Penetration

- **51% of campuses have online-only degree programs**
- **81% report online learning is in their institution's strategic direction**
- **5.5% of respondents offer online degree/certificate program**
 - MS in Earth Science Education (5)
 - GIS certificates (3)
 - Applied/broadcast meteorology (2)
 - Geoscience and policy being planned.
- **11% expect to have a degree program in 3 years**

Online courses in Geo Programs

Online Course Taking in Geoscience Programs



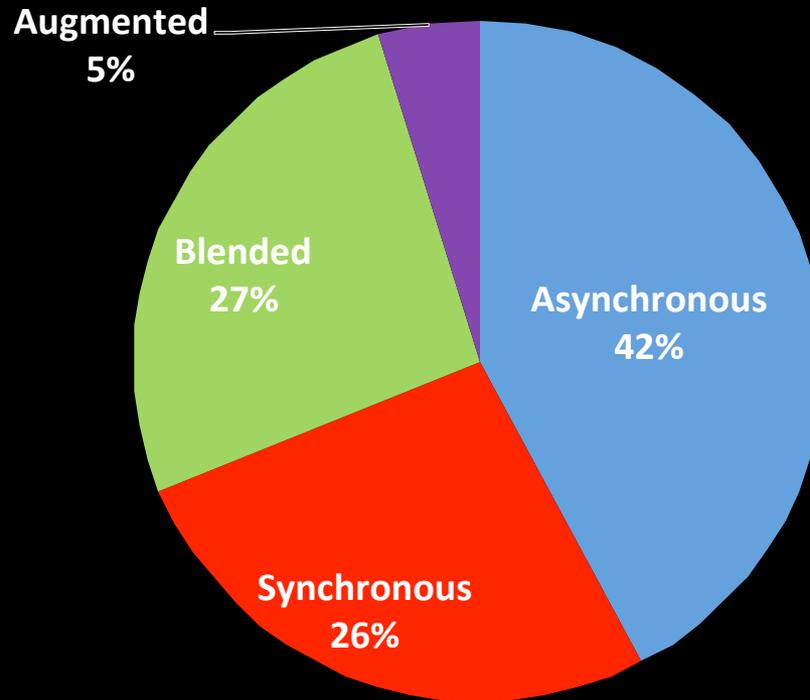
Faculty teaching online

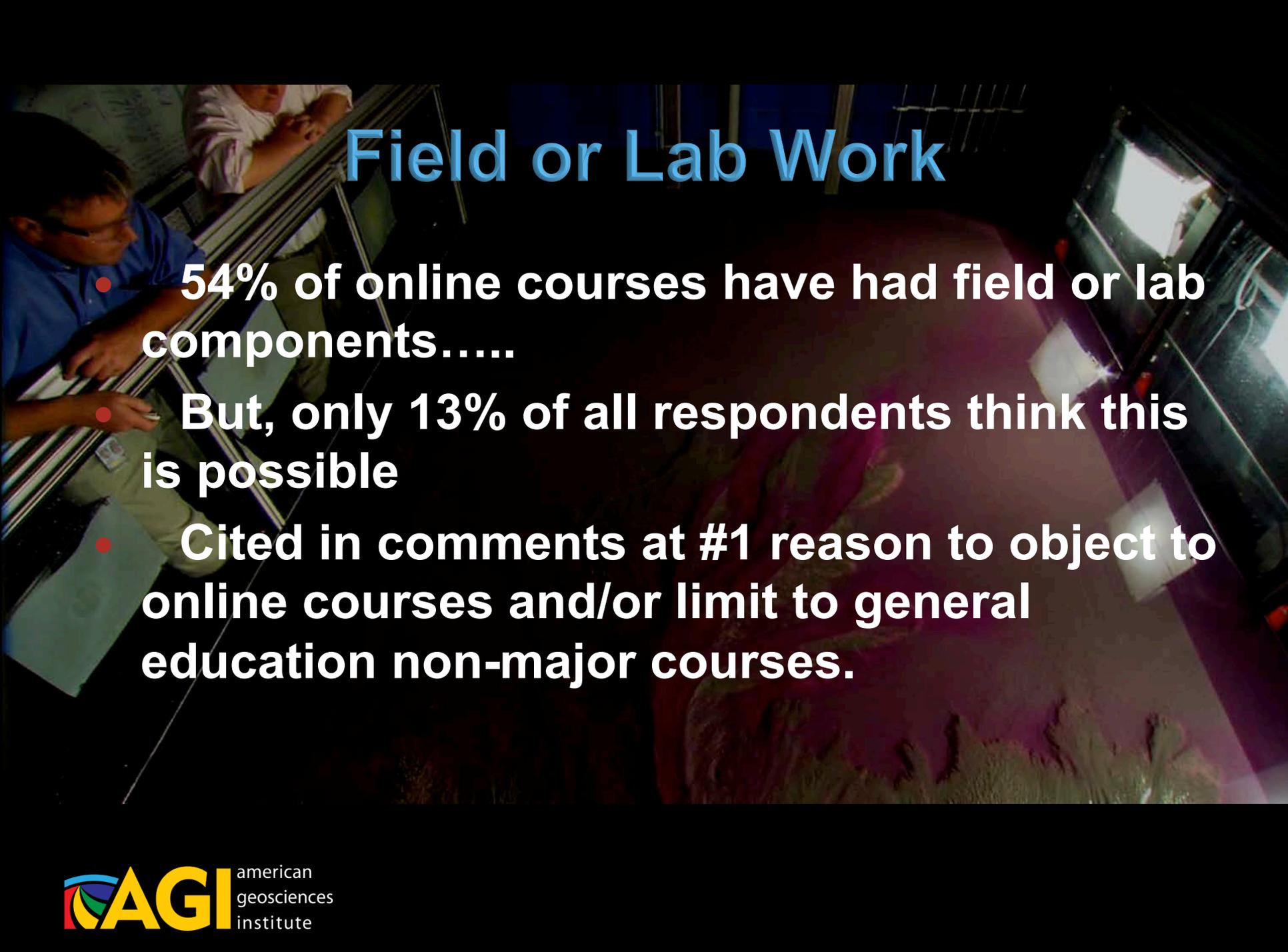
- **28% report teaching online at least once in the last 2 academic years**
- **9% report teaching online each semester of the last 2 academic years**
- **8 of 194 courses were advanced technical topics**

Are they fully engaged?

- **Only 2.9% of online teaching geoscience faculty are aware of Sloan-C or Merlot**

What is their mode?





Field or Lab Work

- **54% of online courses have had field or lab components.....**
- **But, only 13% of all respondents think this is possible**
- **Cited in comments at #1 reason to object to online courses and/or limit to general education non-major courses.**