



Institutional Research and Decision Support

2016 New Student Survey Report - All Students
Prepared by Institutional Research and Decision Support
Last Updated: February 3, 2017

Administration: The survey was administered between October 23, 2016 and November 21, 2016 to all incoming first year students (entering freshmen and transfer students).

Response Rate: Of the 2222 students invited to complete the survey, 1071 (48%) provided partial or complete responses. Because students could skip questions, response rates varied by question.

Respondent Characteristics: Please refer to Tables 1-3 below for respondent characteristics, including information about the representativeness of the respondent sample relative to the invitee population. The respondent sample was roughly representative of the invitee population with a few exceptions:

- Females were 6% more likely to respond than males.
- There were some School differences, but none greater than 3% (e.g., students with a major in the School of Engineering were somewhat less likely to respond compared to students with a major in the School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts).

Table 1. Student Demographics

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2222 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 1071 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
Entering Level					
Transfer Students	173	8%	80	7%	46%
Students Who Entered as Freshmen/Frosh	2049	92%	991	93%	48%
Gender					
Female	1143	51%	615	57%	54%
Male	1073	48%	451	42%	42%
Unknown	6	<1%	5	<1%	83%
Race/Ethnicity					
International	172	8%	88	8%	51%
Hispanic	1215	55%	589	55%	48%
African American	111	5%	45	4%	41%
American Indian	0	0%	0	0%	N/A
Asian	398	18%	196	18%	49%
Pacific Islander	13	1%	3	<1%	23%
White	233	10%	112	10%	48%
Multi-racial	68	3%	31	3%	46%
Unknown	12	1%	7	<1%	58%

Table 2. Student Demographics and Schools

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2222 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 1071 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
First Generation Status					
First Generation	1683	76%	827	77%	49%
Non-First Generation	539	24%	244	23%	45%
Pell Eligibility Status					
Pell Grant Eligible	1465	66%	711	66%	49%
Non-Pell Grant Eligible	757	34%	360	34%	48%
First Language					
English Only as First Language	606	27%	265	25%	44%
English and Other Language or Other Language Only as First Language	1615	73%	806	75%	50%
Unknown	1	<1%	0	0%	0%
School					
Engineering	589	27%	258	24%	44%
Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts (SSHA)	630	28%	332	31%	53%
Natural Sciences	619	28%	289	27%	47%
Undeclared	384	17%	192	18%	50%

% values may not sum to 100 for a particular characteristic due to rounding error; undeclared students in a particular School are included in their respective Schools

Table 3. Student Majors

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2222 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 1071 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
ANTH – Anthropology	19	1%	11	1%	58%
BENG – Bioengineering	58	3%	27	3%	47%
BIOS – Biological Sciences	417	19%	198	18%	47%
CHEM – Chemical Sciences	78	4%	34	3%	44%
COGS – Cognitive Science	19	1%	13	1%	68%
CSE – Computer Science & Engineering	245	11%	108	10%	44%
ECON – Economics	27	1%	10	1%	37%
ENG – English	28	1%	11	1%	39%
ENVE – Environmental Engineering	29	1%	14	1%	48%
ESS – Earth Systems Science	12	1%	6	1%	50%
GASP – Global Arts Studies	3	<1%	0	0%	0%
HIST – History	16	1%	11	1%	69%
MATH – Mathematical Sciences	30	1%	15	1%	50%
MBE – Management & Business Economics	81	4%	40	4%	49%

% values may not sum to 100 for a particular characteristic due to rounding error

Table 3. Student Majors (continued)





Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2222 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 1071 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
ME – Mechanical Engineering	178	8%	72	7%	40%
MSE – Materials Science & Engineering	14	1%	5	<1%	36%
PH – Public Health	54	2%	36	3%	67%
PHYS – Physics	25	1%	10	1%	40%
POLI – Political Science	65	3%	36	3%	55%
PSY – Psychology	199	9%	107	10%	54%
SOC – Sociology	68	3%	36	3%	53%
SPAN – Spanish	10	<1%	3	<1%	30%
UENG – Undeclared Engineering	65	3%	32	3%	49%
UNS – Undeclared Natural Sciences	57	3%	26	2%	46%
USHA – Undeclared SSHA	41	2%	18	2%	44%
0000 - Undeclared	384	17%	192	18%	50%

% values may not sum to 100 for a particular characteristic due to rounding error





When you arrived at UC Merced, how welcoming did you find the campus environment?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Very welcoming		815	76%
2	Somewhat welcoming		242	23%
3	Not welcoming		12	1%
	Total		1069	100%





Today, how connected to or disconnected from UC Merced do you feel?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Very connected		133	12%
2	Connected		738	69%
3	Disconnected		174	16%
4	Very disconnected		25	2%
	Total		1070	100%

When you applied to colleges, was UC Merced your:

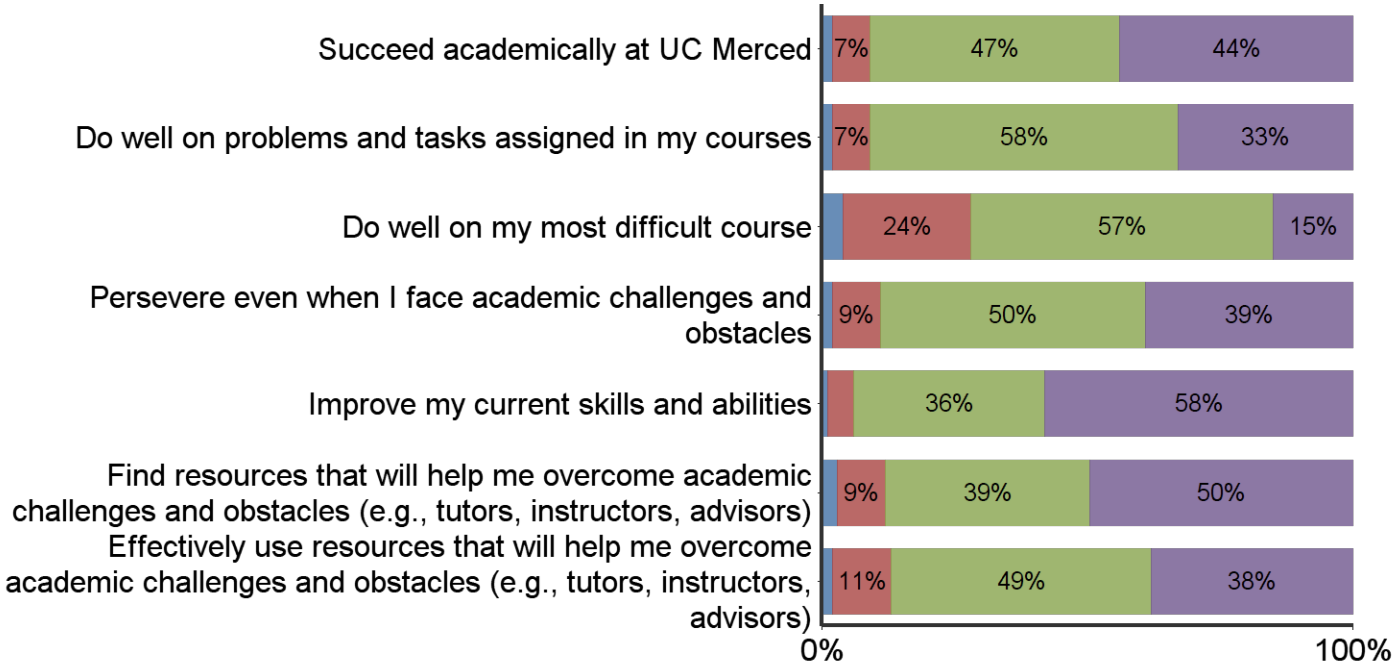
#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	First choice		170	16%
2	Second choice		332	31%
3	Third choice		268	25%
4	Lower than third choice		300	28%
	Total		1070	100%

What is the highest degree you intend to eventually obtain?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Bachelor's degree		248	23%
2	Master's degree		333	31%
3	Doctoral degree		280	26%
4	Unsure		207	19%
5	None		2	0%
	Total		1070	100%


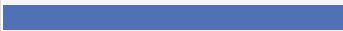


How sure are you that you can do each of the following:

■ Very Unsure
 ■ Somewhat Unsure
 ■ Somewhat Sure
 ■ Very Sure



#	Question	Very Unsure	Somewhat Unsure	Somewhat Sure	Very Sure	Response
1	Succeed academically at UC Merced	26	70	493	470	1059
2	Do well on problems and tasks assigned in my courses	16	79	615	345	1055
3	Do well on my most difficult course	44	257	597	158	1056
4	Persevere even when I face academic challenges and obstacles	19	97	530	409	1055
5	Improve my current skills and abilities	13	56	379	609	1057
6	Find resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors)	27	98	407	522	1054
7	Effectively use resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors)	25	117	516	398	1056

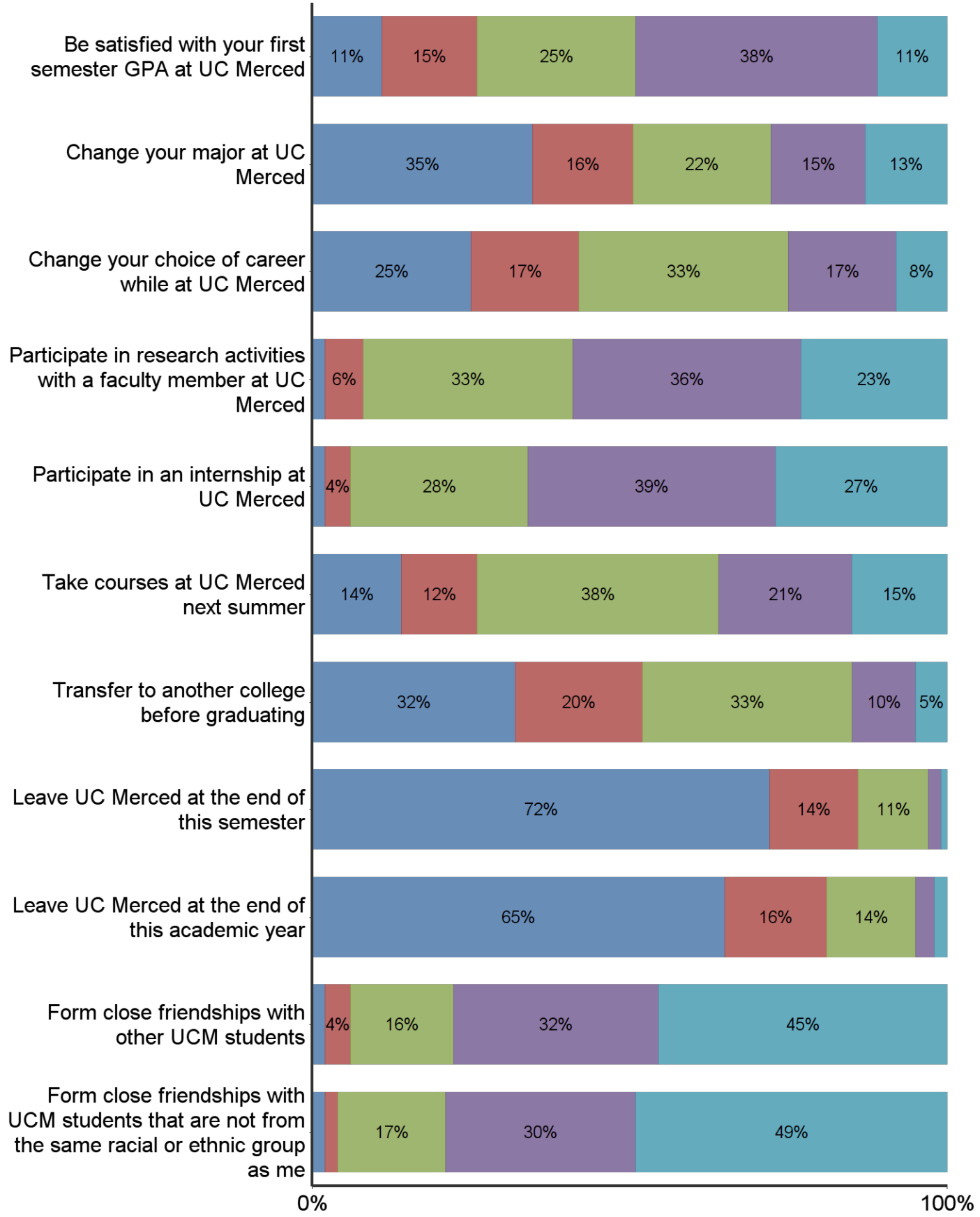
9 What do you think your final course grades will be this semester?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Mostly A's		216	21%
2	Mostly B's		624	60%
3	Mostly C's		191	18%
4	Lower than C's		13	1%
	Total		1044	100%

How likely are you to:

Note: This data is presented as a table (counts/frequencies) on the next page.

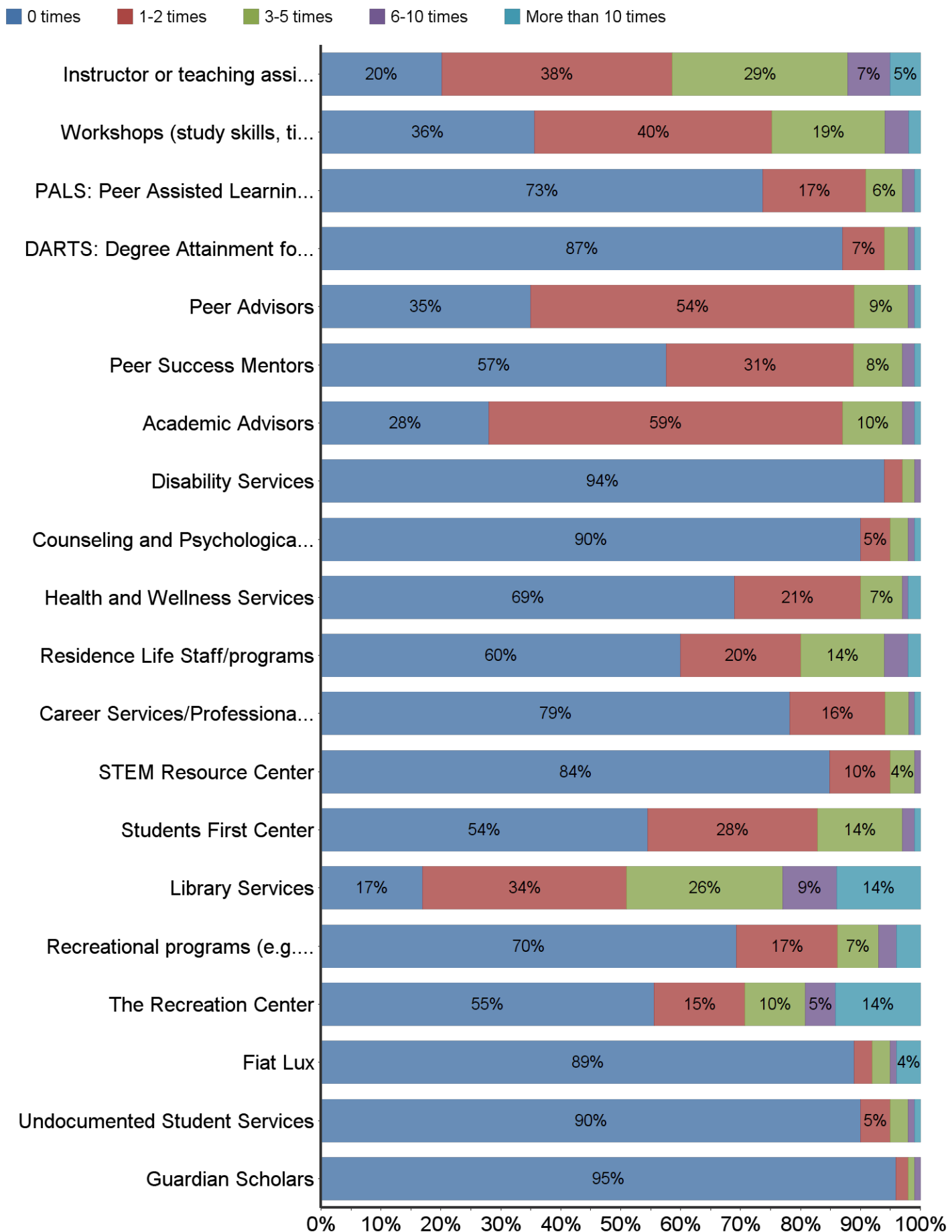
Very Unlikely Somewhat Unlikely Unsure Somewhat Likely Very Likely



How likely are you to:**Note: This data is presented as a figure (percentages) on the previous page.**

#	Question	Very Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Unsure	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely	Response
1	Be satisfied with your first semester GPA at UC Merced	120	159	262	398	114	1053
2	Change your major at UC Merced	365	163	227	157	137	1049
3	Change your choice of career while at UC Merced	260	177	342	183	87	1049
4	Participate in research activities with a faculty member at UC Merced	22	58	345	381	246	1052
5	Participate in an internship at UC Merced	24	38	299	410	282	1053
6	Take courses at UC Merced next summer	146	129	399	218	162	1054
7	Transfer to another college before graduating	334	207	348	108	54	1051
8	Leave UC Merced at the end of this semester	759	142	118	22	10	1051
9	Leave UC Merced at the end of this academic year	683	166	151	30	20	1050
10	Form close friendships with other UCM students	24	45	172	335	476	1052
11	Form close friendships with UCM students that are not from the same racial or ethnic group as me	26	20	175	310	518	1049

12 How often have you connected with each of the following UC Merced campus resources this semester?
 Note: This data is presented as a table (counts/frequencies) on the next page. To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.






How often have you connected with each of the following UC Merced campus resources this semester?
Note: This data is presented as a figure (percentages) on the previous page.

#	Question	0 times	1-2 times	3-5 times	6-10 times	More than 10 times	Response
1	Instructor or teaching assistant (office hour, appointment, etc.)	210	397	300	76	56	1039
2	Workshops (study skills, time management, writing)	371	412	194	43	17	1037
3	PALS: Peer Assisted Learning and Support (Tutoring)	758	179	63	21	15	1036
4	DARTS: Degree Attainment for Returning and Transfer Students	895	71	38	15	15	1034
5	Peer Advisors	364	556	94	13	8	1035
6	Peer Success Mentors	590	320	81	25	14	1030
7	Academic Advisors	291	609	105	23	9	1037
8	Disability Services	971	30	24	6	5	1036
9	Counseling and Psychological Services	930	54	34	8	9	1035
10	Health and Wellness Services	718	215	70	12	19	1034
11	Residence Life Staff/programs	618	210	146	42	16	1032
12	Career Services/Professional Advancement	807	161	46	8	6	1028
13	STEM Resource Center	870	105	44	10	4	1033
14	Students First Center	557	291	148	25	11	1032
15	Library Services	177	355	267	89	148	1036
16	Recreational programs (e.g., outdoor trips, intramural sports)	718	172	74	28	40	1032
17	The Recreation Center	570	154	108	52	147	1031
18	Fiat Lux	912	32	27	10	45	1026
19	Undocumented Student Services	937	50	28	12	9	1036
20	Guardian Scholars	986	25	15	8	1	1035




Have you read the "Weekly Success" emails sent to you each week?

Note: Only respondents who entered UC Merced as freshmen could answer this question.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	No		217	23%
2	Yes		559	58%
3	Unsure		187	19%
	Total		963	100%



Have you found these "Weekly Success" emails helpful?

Note: Only respondents who said they read these emails could answer this question.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Not at all helpful		17	3%
2	Somewhat helpful		420	76%
3	Very helpful		119	21%
	Total		556	100%

16 Which of the following describes your living situation?

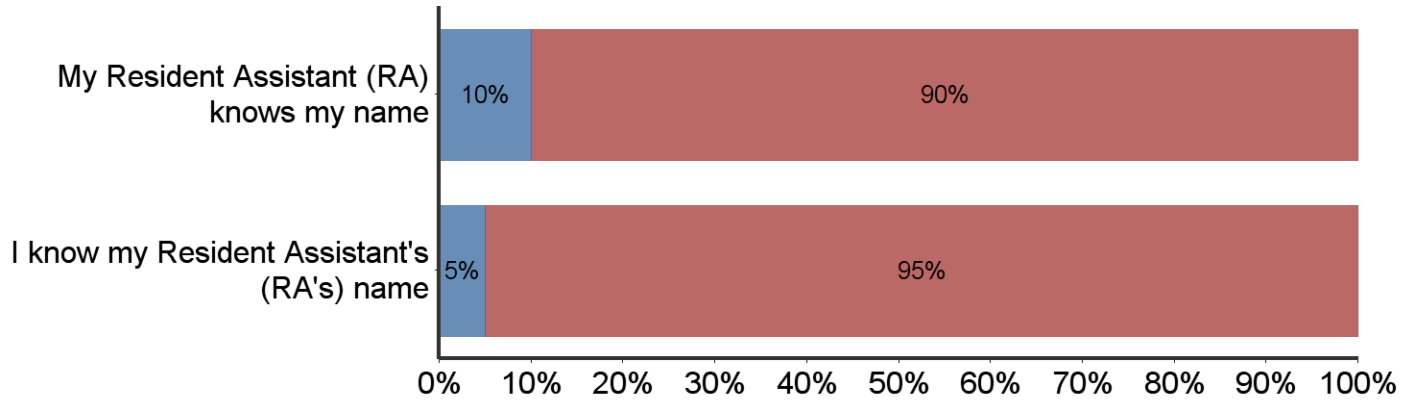
Note: Only respondents who live in a campus sponsored dorm or apartment could answer this question.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	I live on campus in a residence hall		738	97%
2	I live off campus in a campus-sponsored apartment (i.e., Village Landing, Northwood Village, or Village Terrace)		20	3%
	Total		758	100%

Please indicate your agreement with the following statements about your experience so far living in a residence hall on campus. If you live off campus in a campus-sponsored apartment, please answer regarding that experience.

Note: Only respondents who live in a campus sponsored dorm or apartment could answer this question.

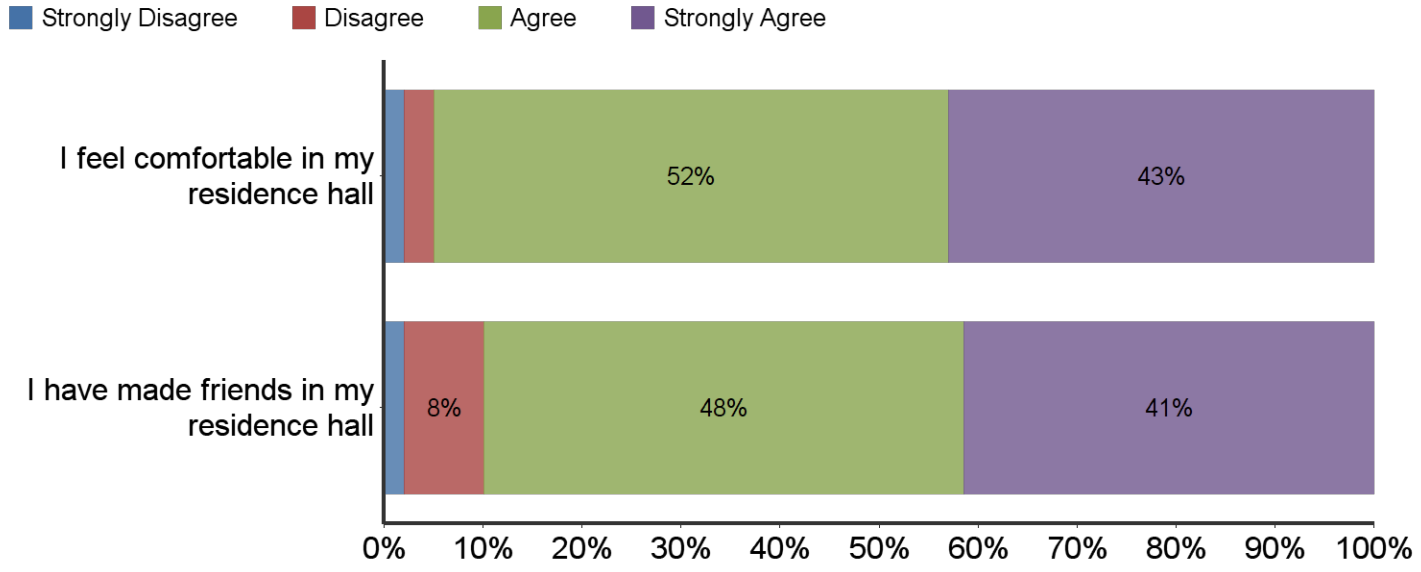
■ No ■ Yes



#	Question	No	Yes	Response
1	My Resident Assistant (RA) knows my name	78	694	772
2	I know my Resident Assistant's (RA's) name	37	733	770

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your experience so far living in a residence hall? If you live off campus in a campus-sponsored apartment, please answer regarding that experience.

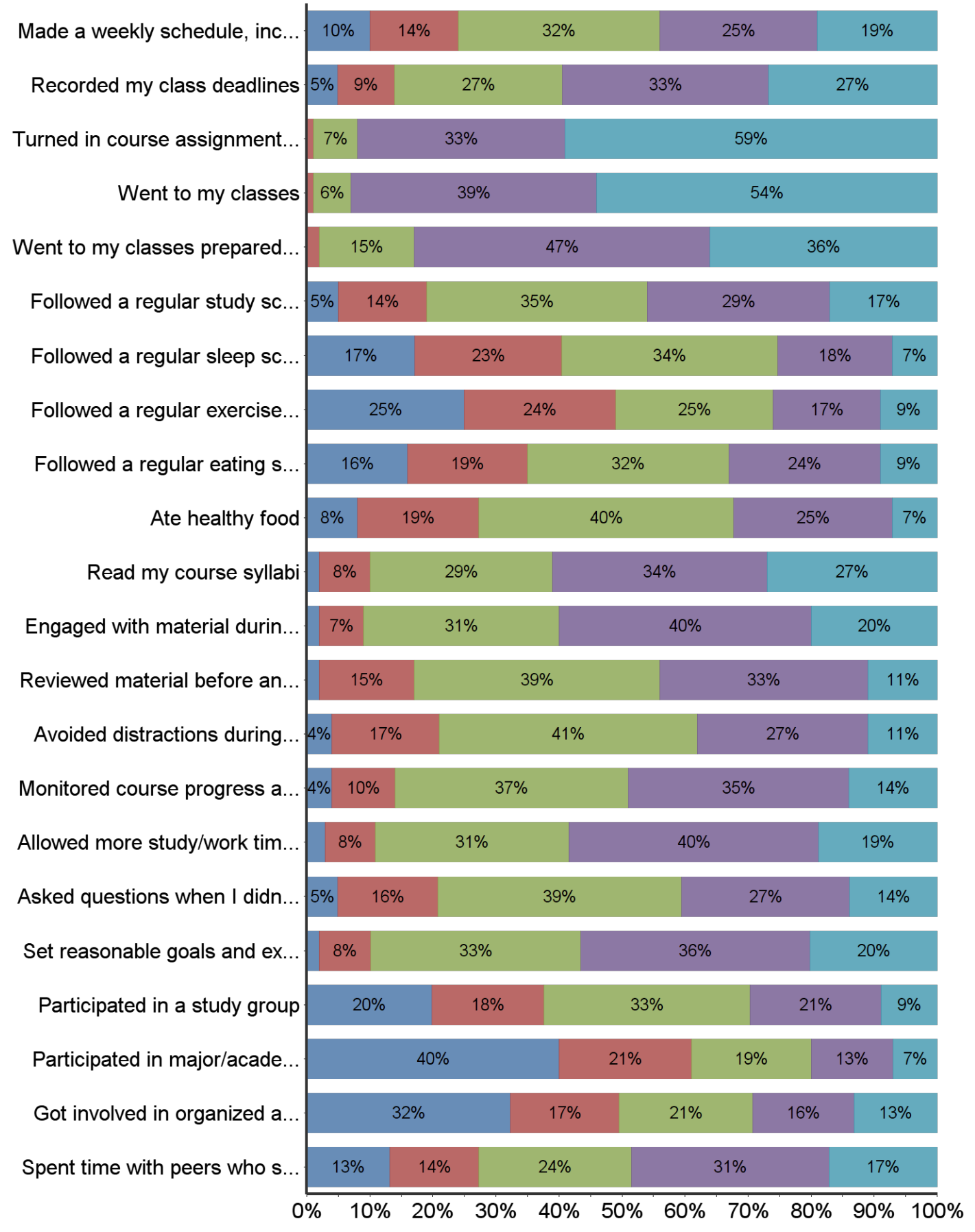
Note: Only respondents who live in a campus sponsored dorm or apartment could answer this question.



#	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response
2	I feel comfortable in my residence hall	15	22	400	334	771
16	I have made friends in my residence hall	18	65	372	316	771

How often have you done each of the following this semester?
 Note: This data is presented as a table (counts/frequencies) on the next page. To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.

■ Not at all ■ Rarely ■ Occasionally ■ Frequently ■ All the time

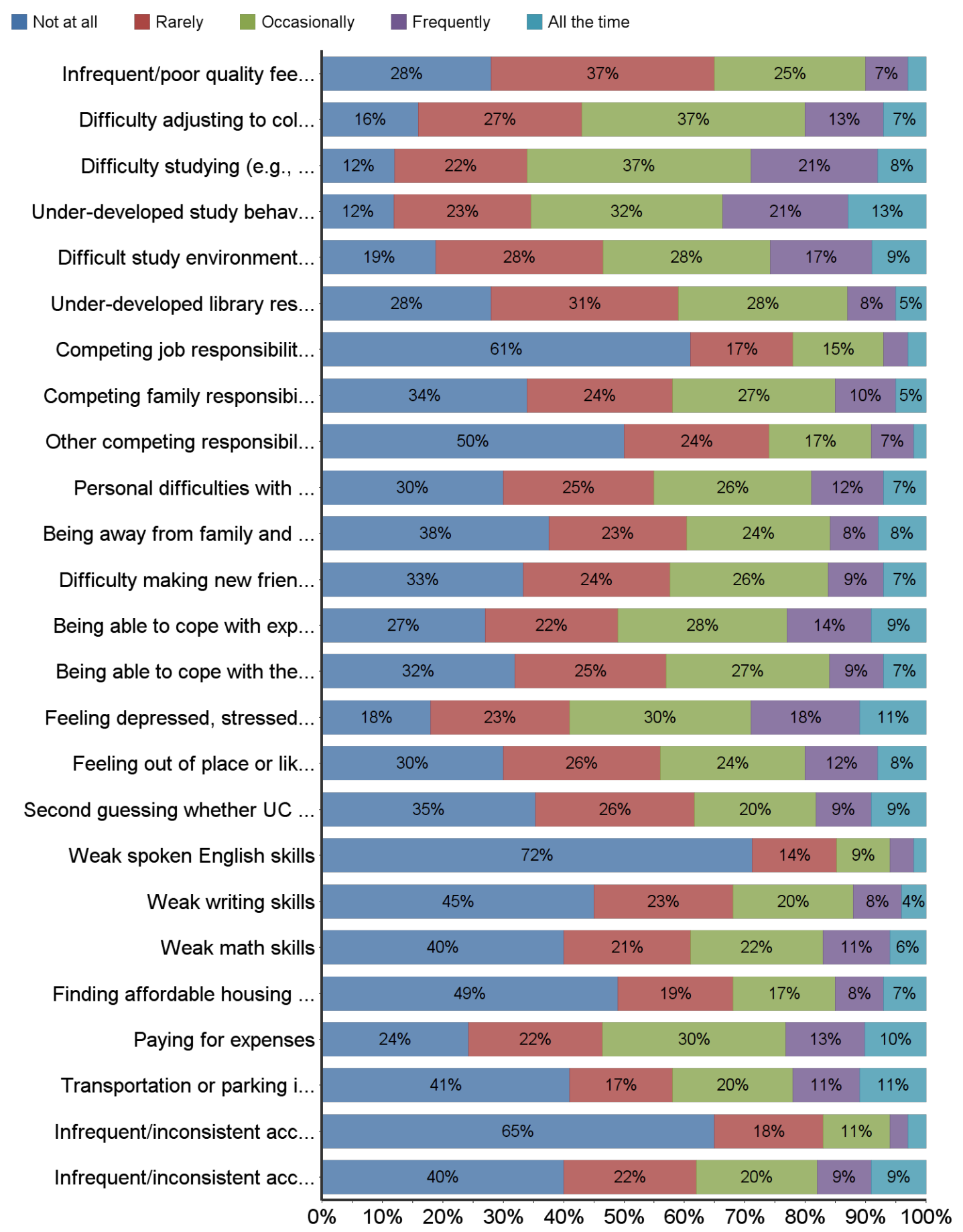


How often have you done each of the following this semester?**Note: This data is presented as a figure (percentages) on the previous page.**

#	Question	Not at all	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	All the time	Response
1	Made a weekly schedule, including weekends, to help manage my time	102	144	329	260	193	1028
2	Recorded my class deadlines	47	91	272	338	278	1026
3	Turned in course assignments on time	3	8	73	340	601	1025
4	Went to my classes	1	11	64	400	550	1026
5	Went to my classes prepared (e.g., having read assignments)	4	22	149	477	372	1024
6	Followed a regular study schedule	48	148	359	293	179	1027
7	Followed a regular sleep schedule	175	240	354	182	76	1027
8	Followed a regular exercise schedule	254	251	256	174	93	1028
9	Followed a regular eating schedule	164	195	331	241	94	1025
10	Ate healthy food	82	197	414	260	70	1023
11	Read my course syllabi	25	82	294	345	273	1019
12	Engaged with material during study sessions (i.e., I didn't just skim)	19	74	316	408	206	1023
13	Reviewed material before and after class	24	150	400	340	112	1026
14	Avoided distractions during study sessions (e.g., texting friends, checking Facebook)	46	172	419	281	108	1026
15	Monitored course progress and made changes when needed	38	105	375	363	142	1023
16	Allowed more study/work time for difficult classes and assignments	28	80	315	409	193	1025
17	Asked questions when I didn't understand something	48	165	395	275	141	1024
18	Set reasonable goals and expectations for myself	21	85	341	373	205	1025
19	Participated in a study group	202	186	335	214	88	1025
20	Participated in major/academic-related clubs, organizations, or activities	412	212	191	137	73	1025
21	Got involved in organized activities outside the classroom (e.g., athletics, clubs, work)	332	173	219	169	133	1026
22	Spent time with peers who support my academic success	133	146	246	320	179	1024

21 During your first semester at UC Merced, how often have each of the following been obstacles to your school work or academic success?

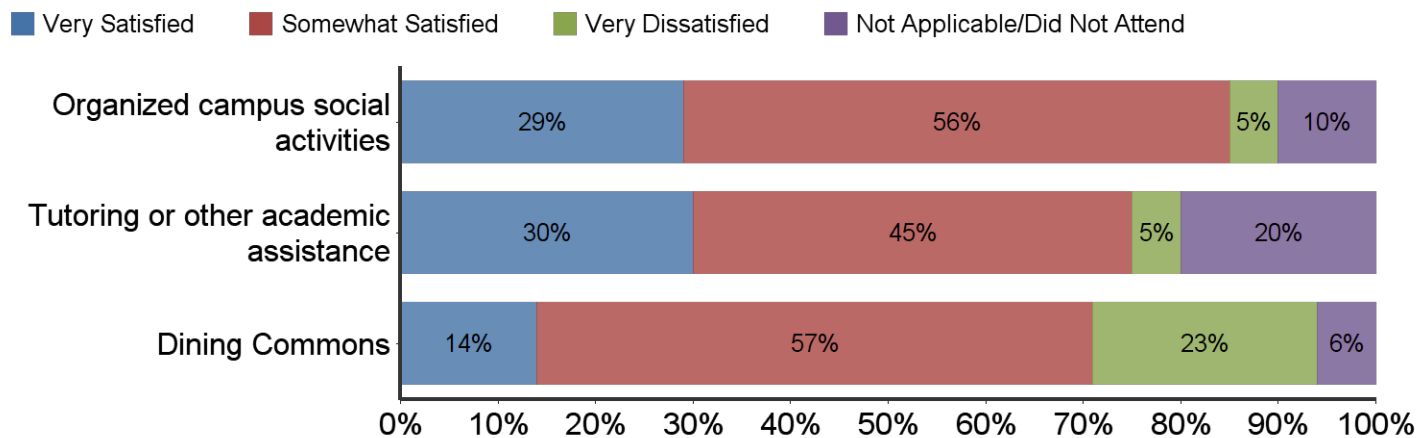
Note: This data is presented as a table (counts/frequencies) on the next page. To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.



**22 During your first semester at UC Merced, how often have each of the following been obstacles to your school work or academic success?
Note: This data is presented as a figure (percentages) on the previous page.**

#	Question	Not at all	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	All the time	Response
1	Infrequent/poor quality feedback from instructors	282	373	249	70	26	1000
2	Difficulty adjusting to college-level work (e.g., coursework, exams, papers)	161	268	370	134	66	999
3	Difficulty studying (e.g., knowing how to start, how to get help, organize material)	116	222	367	211	84	1000
4	Under-developed study behaviors (e.g., wait until last minute, easily distracted, too much social time, too much web surfing)	118	226	315	214	125	998
5	Difficult study environment (e.g., noisy roommate, poor Internet access, inadequate computer/software)	186	281	280	168	86	1001
6	Under-developed library research skills	280	310	277	83	50	1000
7	Competing job responsibilities (i.e., paid employment)	605	170	148	42	31	996
8	Competing family responsibilities	344	242	266	97	49	998
9	Other competing responsibilities (e.g., athletics, clubs, internship)	500	240	171	65	23	999
10	Personal difficulties with family, intimate relationships, or friends	299	251	256	124	69	999
11	Being away from family and friends: being “homesick”	378	230	236	76	77	997
12	Difficulty making new friends at UC Merced	332	242	263	93	68	998
13	Being able to cope with expectations of parents and family	274	219	279	135	90	997
14	Being able to cope with the values and expectations of friends when they differ from your own	316	247	275	90	73	1001
15	Feeling depressed, stressed, or upset	180	227	300	184	110	1001
16	Feeling out of place or like you just don’t fit on campus	303	262	241	117	76	999
17	Second guessing whether UC Merced was the right choice for you	350	263	204	94	85	996
18	Weak spoken English skills	713	142	89	37	15	996
19	Weak writing skills	444	232	197	80	44	997
20	Weak math skills	398	212	219	106	60	995
21	Finding affordable housing while a student at UC Merced	486	184	173	83	68	994
22	Paying for expenses	244	222	304	130	99	999
23	Transportation or parking issues	407	168	202	112	108	997
24	Infrequent/inconsistent access to a computer	649	182	106	30	30	997
25	Infrequent/inconsistent access to the Internet/web	396	217	204	93	90	1000

How satisfied are you so far with the following at UC Merced?

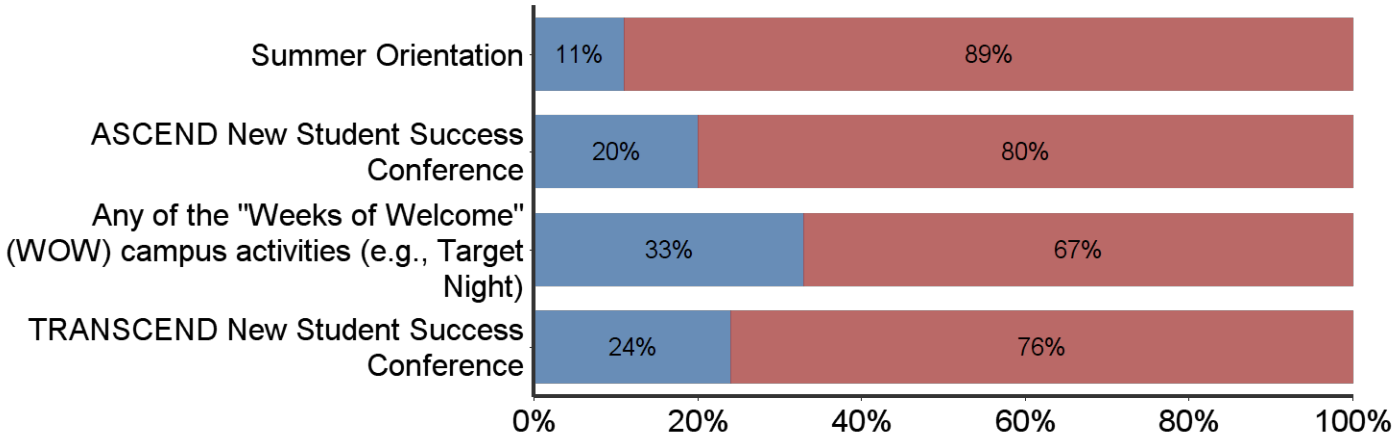


#	Question	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable/Did Not Attend	Response
1	Organized campus social activities	286	564	48	104	1002
2	Tutoring or other academic assistance	303	449	49	197	998
3	Dining Commons	139	568	229	62	998

Did you attend the following welcome and social activities at UC Merced?

Note: Only students who entered as freshmen could answer the question about ASCEND, and only transfer students could answer the question about TRANSCEND.

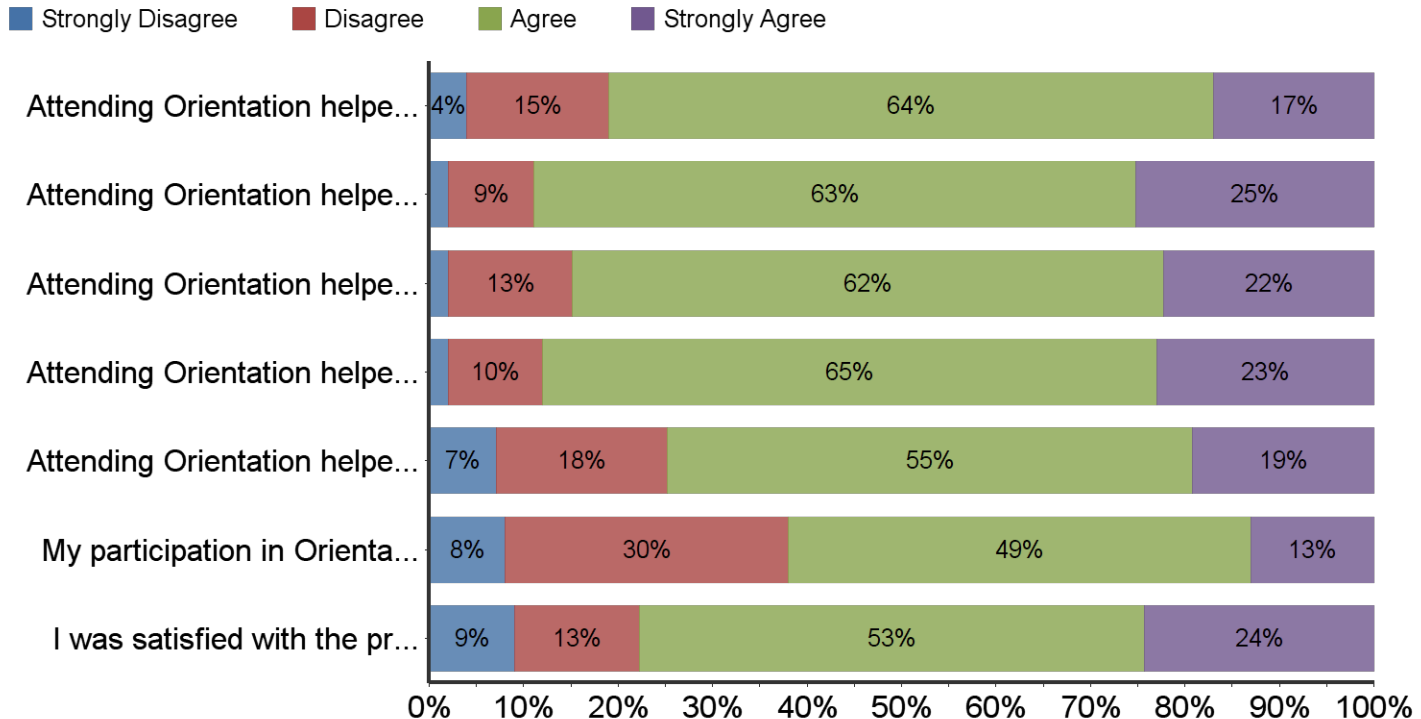
■ No ■ Yes



#	Question	No	Yes	Response
1	Summer Orientation	112	890	1002
2	ASCEND New Student Success Conference	183	743	926
3	Any of the "Weeks of Welcome" (WOW) campus activities (e.g., Target Night)	326	674	1000
4	TRANSCEND New Student Success Conference	18	57	75

25 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Summer Orientation?

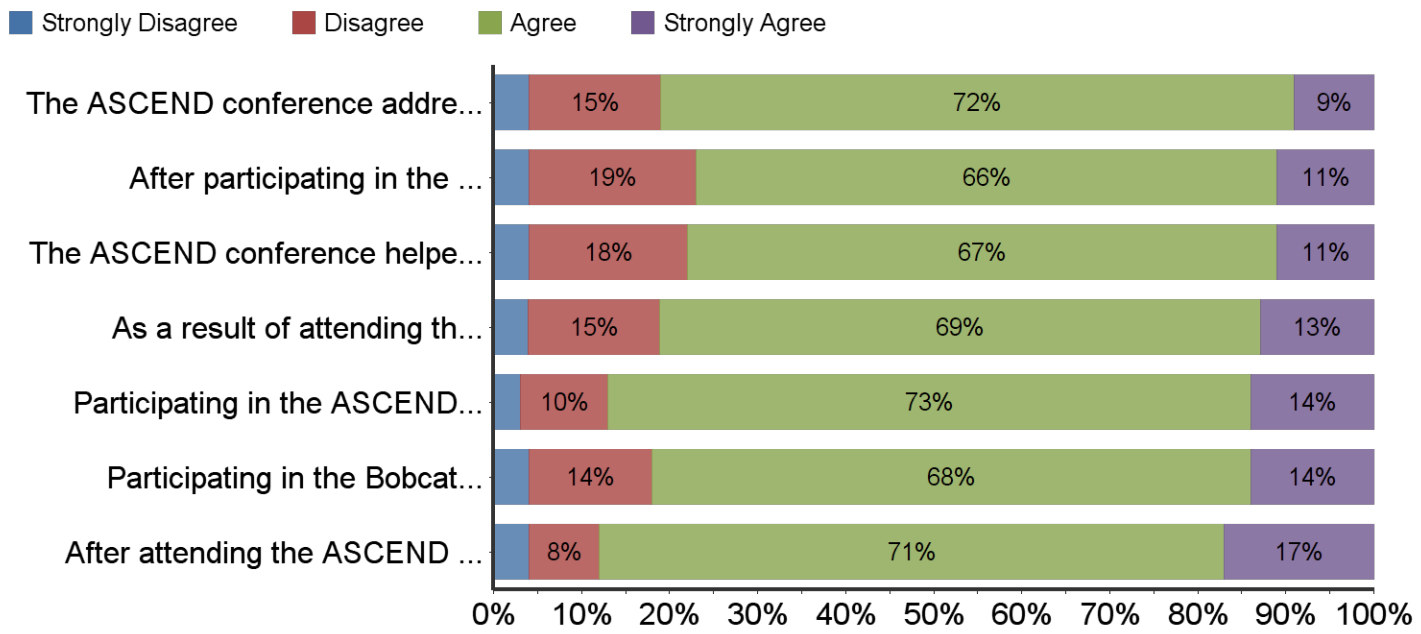
Note: Only respondents who said they attended Orientation could answer this question. To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.



#	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response
1	Attending Orientation helped me understand the differences between the school I previously attended and UC Merced.	37	130	570	148	885
2	Attending Orientation helped me understand the importance of using campus resources to support my academic success.	22	78	558	225	883
3	Attending Orientation helped me understand the importance of using campus resources to become more socially connected.	22	118	547	198	885
4	Attending Orientation helped me understand the importance of using campus resources to support my well-being.	18	87	579	201	885
5	Attending Orientation helped me make connections with other UC Merced students.	65	160	489	169	883
6	My participation in Orientation encouraged me to meet regularly with my academic advisor.	67	268	433	116	884
7	I was satisfied with the process of registering for classes during Orientation.	81	119	472	211	883

26 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the ASCEND New Student Success Conference.

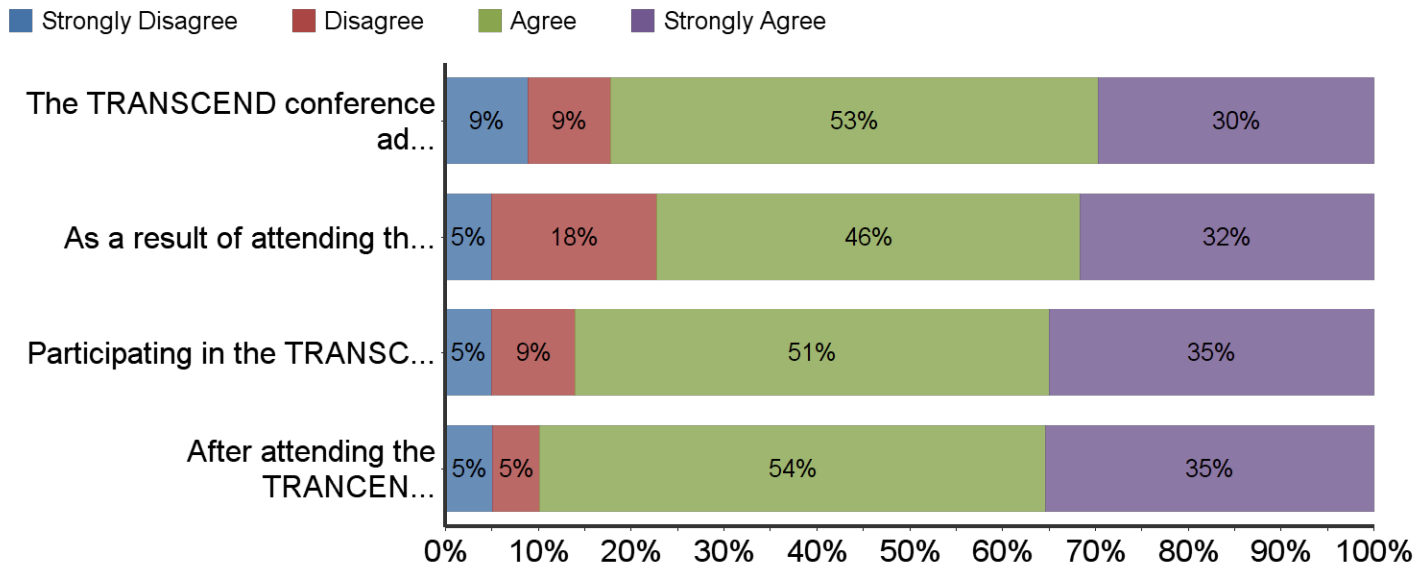
Note: Only respondents who said they attended ASCEND could answer this question. To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.



#	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response
1	The ASCEND conference addressed questions I had about college.	28	113	524	65	730
2	After participating in the ASCEND conference, I felt more prepared to begin classes at UC Merced.	28	136	481	83	728
3	The ASCEND conference helped increase my confidence about connecting with UC Merced personnel (e.g. staff, faculty, TAs)	32	132	487	79	730
4	As a result of attending the ASCEND conference, I know how to access the campus resources (e.g. tutoring, financial aid, job search) available to support my success at UC Merced.	27	108	500	94	729
5	Participating in the ASCEND conference helped me identify specific actions I could take to be academically successful.	24	73	531	100	728
6	Participating in the Bobcat Ready workshop helped me understand how personal choices and decisions can impact both the individual and the community.	30	99	495	101	725
7	After attending the ASCEND conference, I better understand the academic expectations of UC Merced.	28	58	519	122	727

27 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the TRANSCEND New Student Success Conference.





Note: Only respondents who said they attended TRANSCEND could answer this question. To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.



#	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response
2	The TRANSCEND conference addressed questions I had about UC Merced.	5	5	30	17	57
3	As a result of attending the TRANSCEND conference, I know how to access the campus resources (e.g. tutoring, financial aid, job search) available to support my success at UC Merced.	3	10	26	18	57
4	Participating in the TRANSCEND conference helped me identify specific actions I could take to be academically successful.	3	5	29	20	57
5	After attending the TRANSCEND conference, I better understand the academic expectations of UC Merced.	3	3	31	20	57

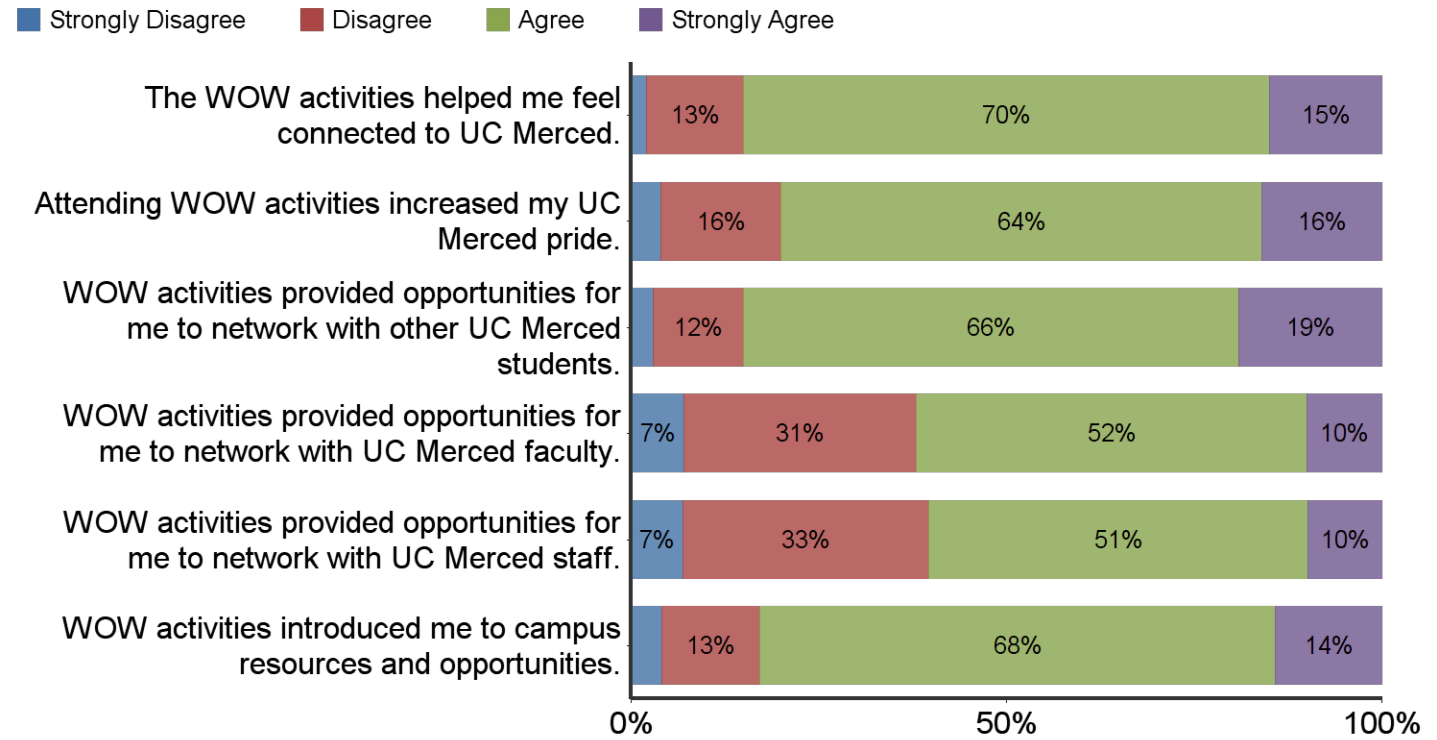
How many Weeks of Welcome events did you attend (e.g., Target Night)?

Note: Only respondents who said they attended WOW could answer this question.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Not sure		130	20%
3	1-3 events		365	55%
4	4-6 events		148	22%
5	7 or more events		22	3%
	Total		665	100%

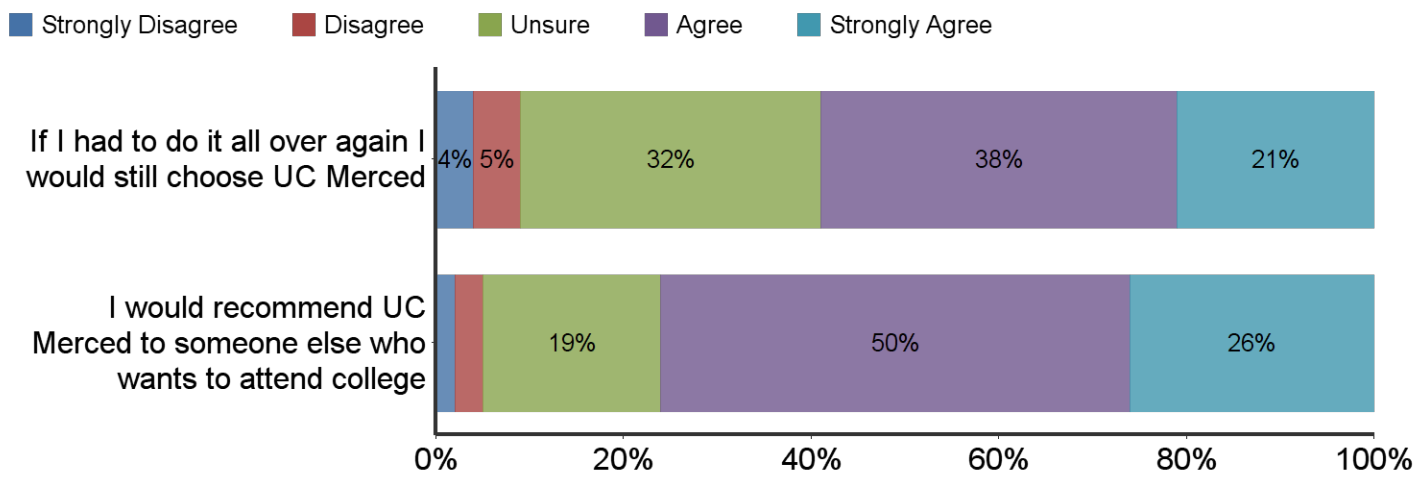
29 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the “Weeks of Welcome” (WOW) campus activities you attended?

Note: Only respondents who said they attended WOW could answer this question. To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.



#	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response
1	The WOW activities helped me feel connected to UC Merced.	13	86	468	99	666
2	Attending WOW activities increased my UC Merced pride.	28	104	426	108	666
3	WOW activities provided opportunities for me to network with other UC Merced students.	21	80	436	126	663
4	WOW activities provided opportunities for me to network with UC Merced faculty.	45	206	348	64	663
5	WOW activities provided opportunities for me to network with UC Merced staff.	47	216	337	64	664
6	WOW activities introduced me to campus resources and opportunities.	28	89	454	94	665

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?



#	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response
1	If I had to do it all over again I would still choose UC Merced	41	49	318	383	205	996
2	I would recommend UC Merced to someone else who wants to attend college	22	29	193	492	257	993