

**2019 New Student Survey Report –  
Transfer Students**

Prepared by Institutional Research and Decision  
Support Last Updated: December 6, 2019

**Administration:** The survey was administered between October 28, 2019 and November 26, 2019 to all incoming first year students (entering frosh and transfer students). No incentives were offered. Survey publicity and outreach was coordinated by IRDS, with help from School Assessment Managers, Academic Advising units, and Student Affairs staff. Promotion included email, social media posts, digital signage around campus, and classroom/LMS announcements. A survey landing page was used in publicity materials ([http://irds.ucmerced.edu/new\\_student\\_survey.html](http://irds.ucmerced.edu/new_student_survey.html)).

**Response Rate:** Of the 175 transfer students invited to complete the survey, 70 (40%) 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. Tables refer to the entire population, not just transfer students. These tables are static and cannot be filtered. The respondent sample was roughly representative of the invitee population with the following exceptions.

- Females were more likely to respond than males.
- Students whose first language was English Only were more likely to respond than students whose first language was English and another language or another language only.
- Students in Natural Sciences were less likely to respond than students in the other two schools and undeclared.

**Other Notes:**

- **Number of responses:** Unless otherwise noted, respondents could answer each question on the survey; however, only certain respondents could complete some questions based on their prior responses or characteristics. See the question notes for more information. Additionally, respondents could skip questions. Thus, there will be discrepancies between the overall number of respondents and the number of respondents that answered particular questions.
- **Free response questions:** Free response question responses are not included in this report for several reasons. They require response coding to analyze, and coding schemes are often developed with a research question in mind. Additionally, in some cases free response data can inadvertently identify particular respondents who completed the survey, thus violating confidentiality. Interested parties should request these data from IRDS so that individual requests can be evaluated.

# Table 1. Student Demographics

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2282 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 875 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
Entering Level					
Transfer Students	175	8%	70	8%	40%
Students Who Entered as Freshmen/Frosh	2107	92%	805	92%	38%
Gender					
Female	1184	52%	488	56%	41%
Male	1086	48%	384	44%	35%
Unknown	12	1%	3	<1%	25%
Race/Ethnicity					
International	178	8%	68	8%	38%
Hispanic	1326	58%	489	56%	37%
African American	89	4%	38	4%	43%
American Indian	1	<1%	0	0%	0%
Asian	409	18%	165	19%	40%
Pacific Islander	9	<1%	3	<1%	33%
White	188	8%	80	9%	43%
Multi-racial	70	3%	32	4%	46%
Unknown	12	1%	0	0%	0%

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

# Table 2. Student Demographics and Schools

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2282 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 875 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
First Generation Status					
First Generation	1713	75%	640	73%	37%
Non-First Generation	569	25%	235	27%	41%
Pell Eligibility Status					
Pell Grant Eligible	1475	65%	545	62%	37%
Non-Pell Grant Eligible	807	35%	330	38%	41%
First Language					
English Only as First Language	612	27%	262	30%	43%
English and Other Language or Other Language Only as First Language	1668	73%	613	70%	37%
Unknown	2	<1%	0	0%	0%
School					
Engineering	644	28%	259	30%	40%
Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts (SSHA)	819	36%	335	38%	41%
Natural Sciences	630	28%	205	23%	33%
Undeclared	189	8%	76	9%	40%

% 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 <sup>4</sup>	# Invited (of 2282 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 875 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
ANTH – Anthropology	14	1%	5	1%	36%
BENG – Bioengineering	67	3%	32	4%	48%
BIOS – Biological Sciences	463	20%	137	16%	30%
CHEM – Chemical Sciences	68	3%	25	3%	37%
COGS – Cognitive Science	42	2%	21	2%	50%
CRES – Critical Race & Ethnic Studies	6	<1%	1	<1%	17%
CSE – Computer Science & Engineering	283	12%	118	13%	42%
ECON – Economics	19	1%	7	1%	37%
ENG – English	32	1%	11	1%	34%
ENVE – Environmental Engineering	41	2%	20	2%	49%
ESY – Earth Systems Science	12	1%	6	1%	50%
GASP – Global Arts Studies	4	<1%	2	<1%	50%
HIST – History	25	1%	13	1%	52%
MATH – Mathematical Sciences	54	2%	22	3%	41%
MBE – Management & Business Economics	134	6%	54	6%	40%

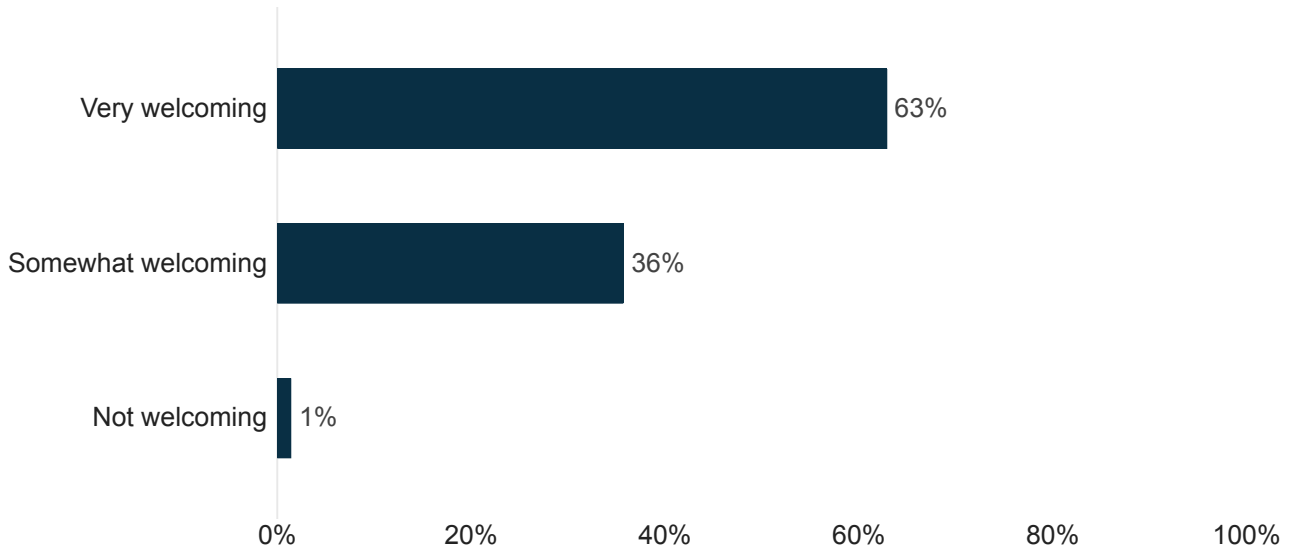
% values may not sum to 100 for a particular characteristic due to rounding error

Table 3. Student Majors (continued)

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2283 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 875 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
ME – Mechanical Engineering	195	9%	68	8%	35%
MSE – Materials Science & Engineering	20	1%	8	1%	40%
PH – Public Health	41	2%	17	2%	41%
PHIL – Philosophy	7	<1%	3	<1%	43%
PHYS – Physics	14	1%	6	1%	43%
POLI – Political Science	95	4%	44	5%	46%
PSY – Psychology	267	12%	97	11%	36%
SOC – Sociology	76	3%	33	4%	43%
SPAN – Spanish	12	1%	7	1%	58%
UENG – Undeclared Engineering	38	2%	13	1%	34%
UNS – Undeclared Natural Sciences	19	1%	9	1%	47%
USHA – Undeclared SSHA	45	2%	20	2%	44%
0000 - Undeclared	189	8%	76	9%	40%

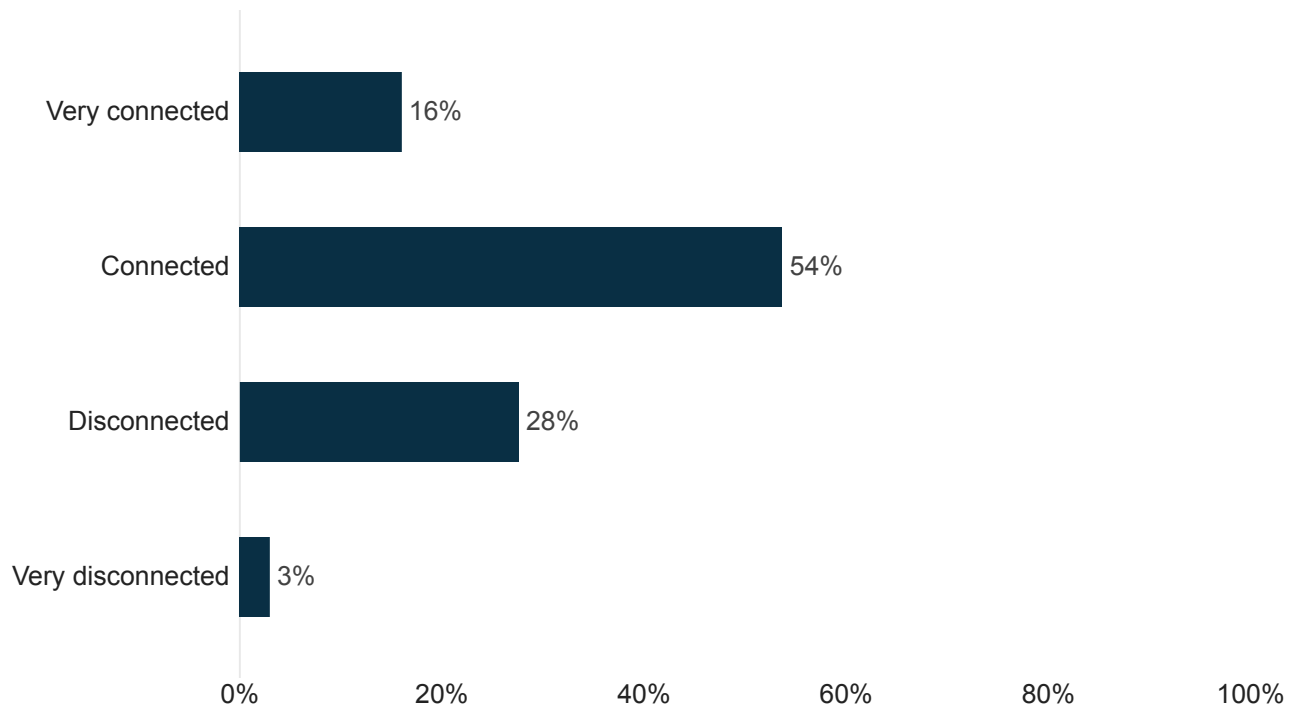
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When you arrived at UC Merced, how welcoming did you find the campus environment?



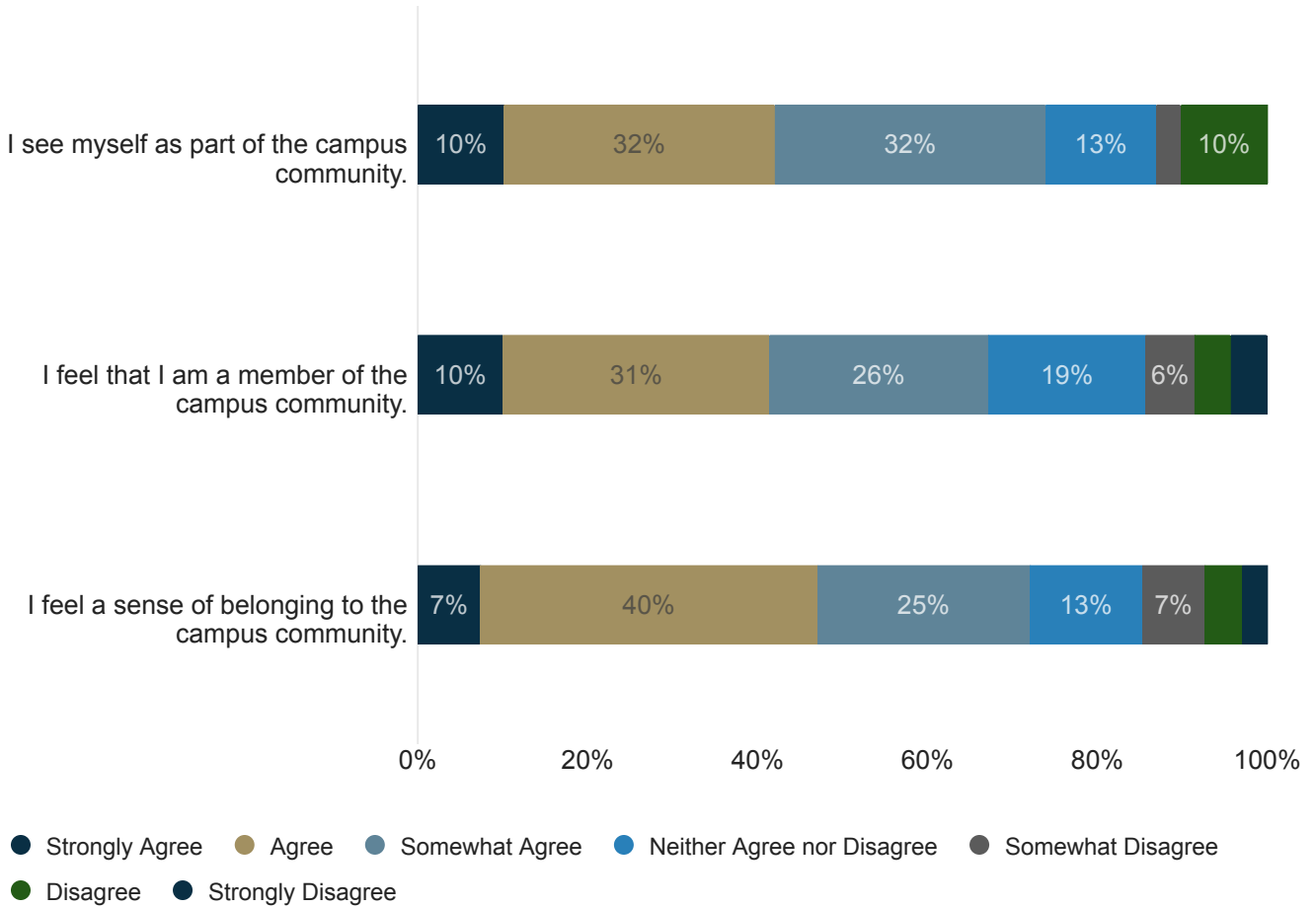
Field	Choice Count
Very welcoming	44
Somewhat welcoming	25
Not welcoming	1
Total	70

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



Field	Choice Count
Very connected	11
Connected	37
Disconnected	19
Very disconnected	2
Total	69

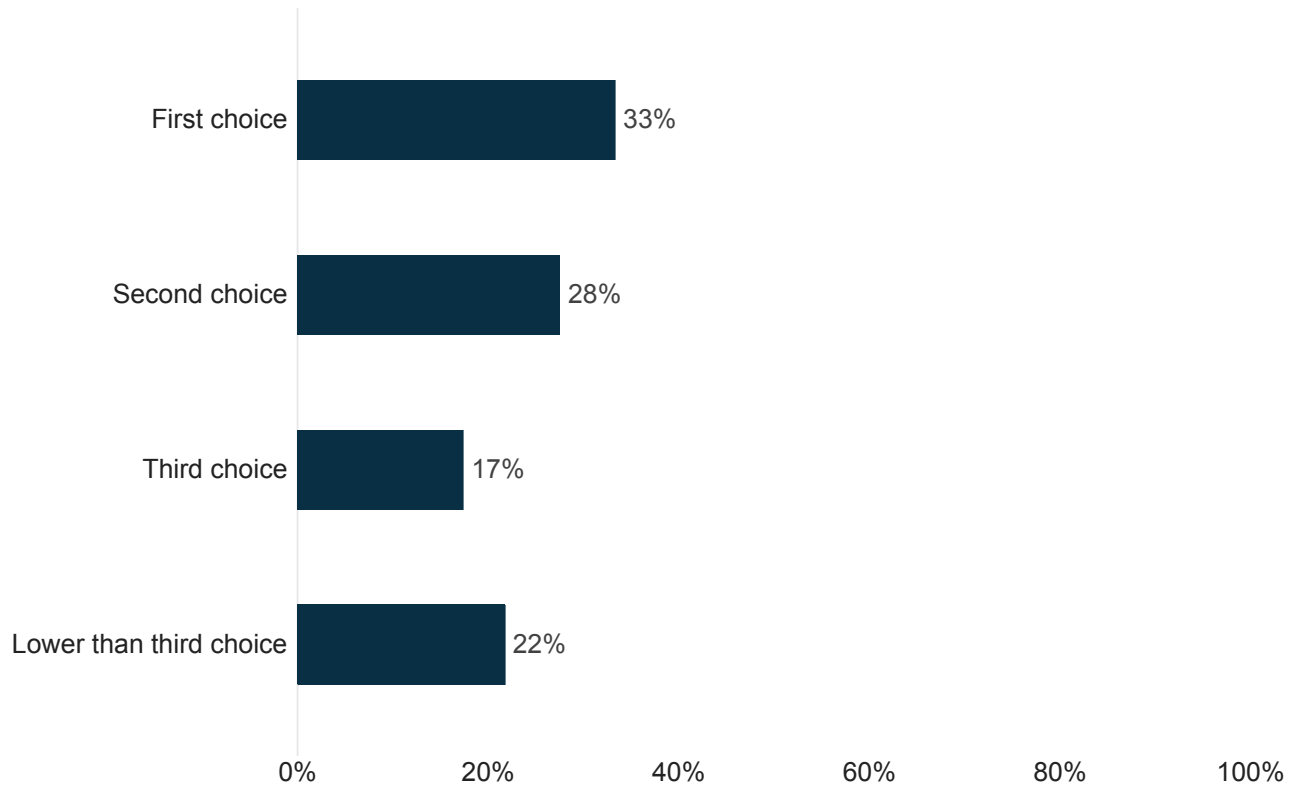
To what extent do you agree or disagree with each statement about your experience on the UC Merced campus.



Field	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
I see myself as part of the campus community.	7	22	22	9	2	7	0	69
I feel that I am a member of the campus community.	7	22	18	13	4	3	3	70
I feel a sense of belonging to the campus community.	5	27	17	9	5	3	2	68

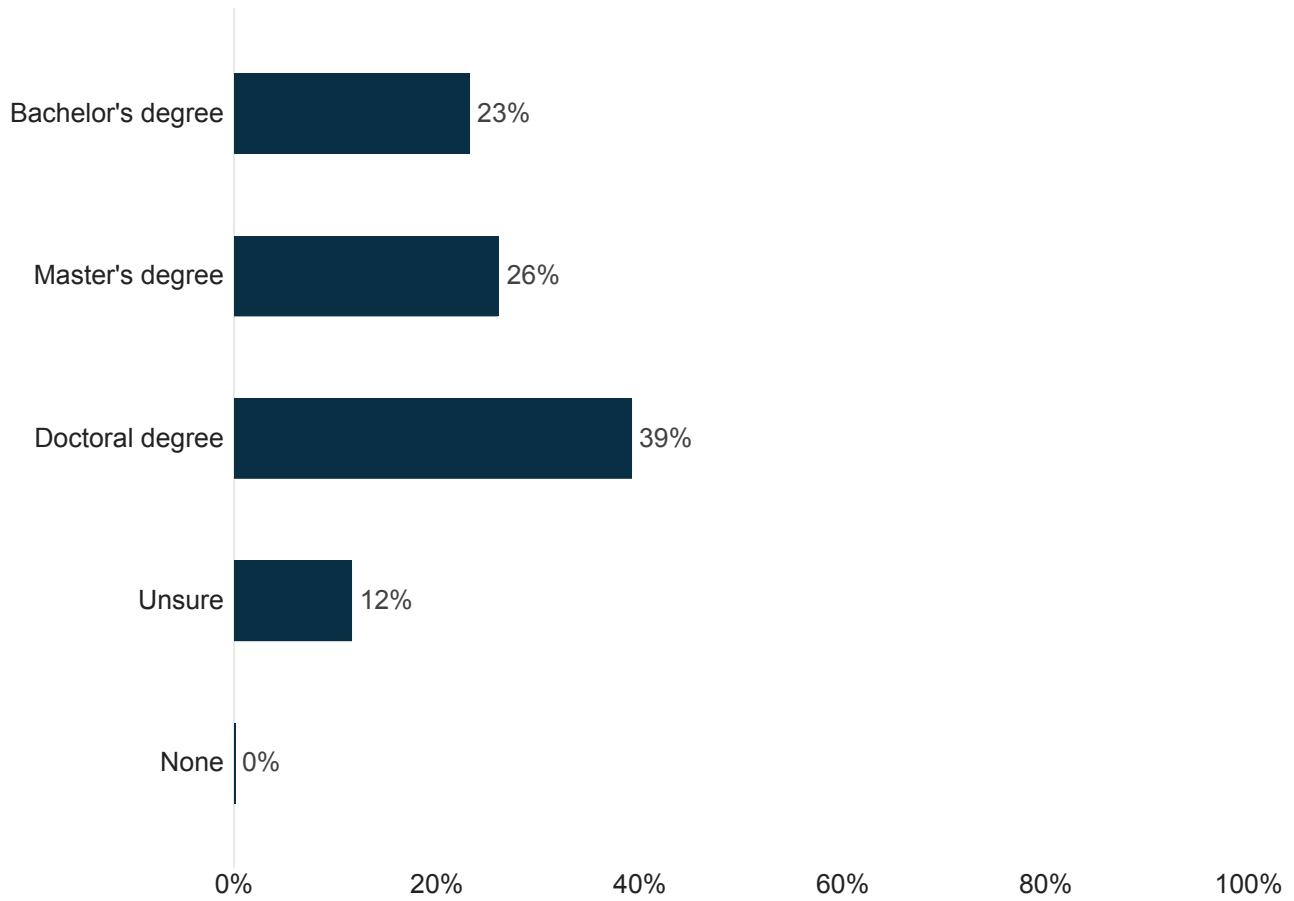


## When you applied to colleges, was UC Merced your:



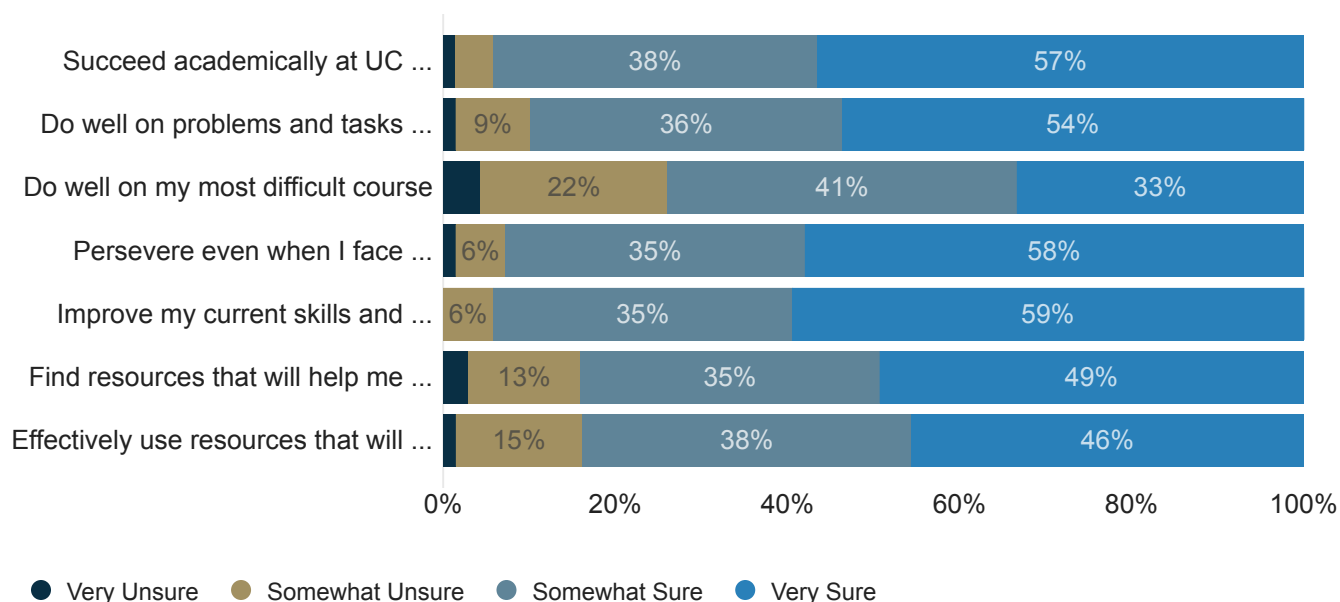
Field	Choice Count
First choice	23
Second choice	19
Third choice	12
Lower than third choice	15
Total	69

## What is the highest degree you intend to eventually obtain?



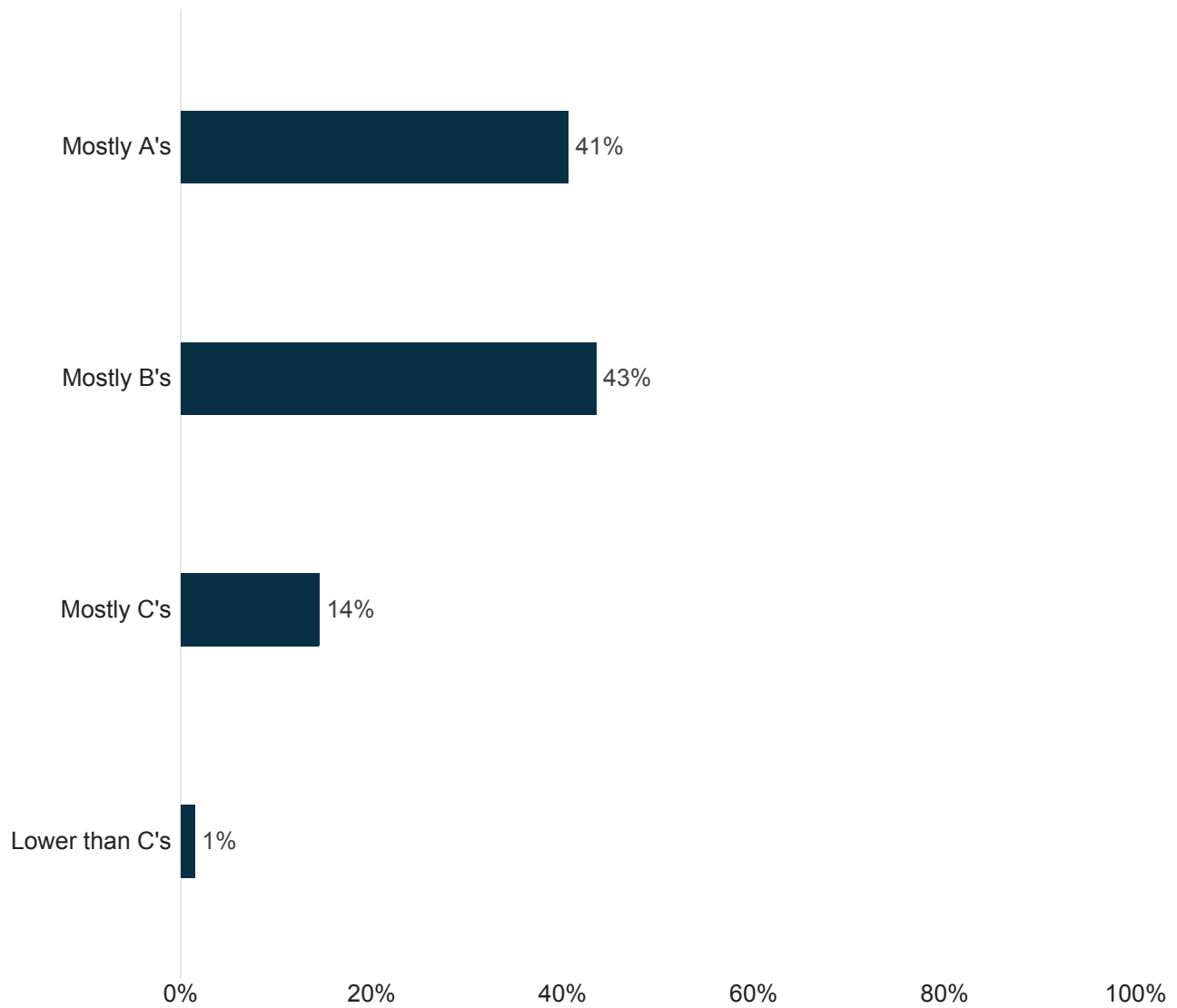
Field	Choice Count
Bachelor's degree	16
Master's degree	18
Doctoral degree	27
Unsure	8
None	0
Total	69

How sure are you that you can do each of the following: Note: Only students in campus housing 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.



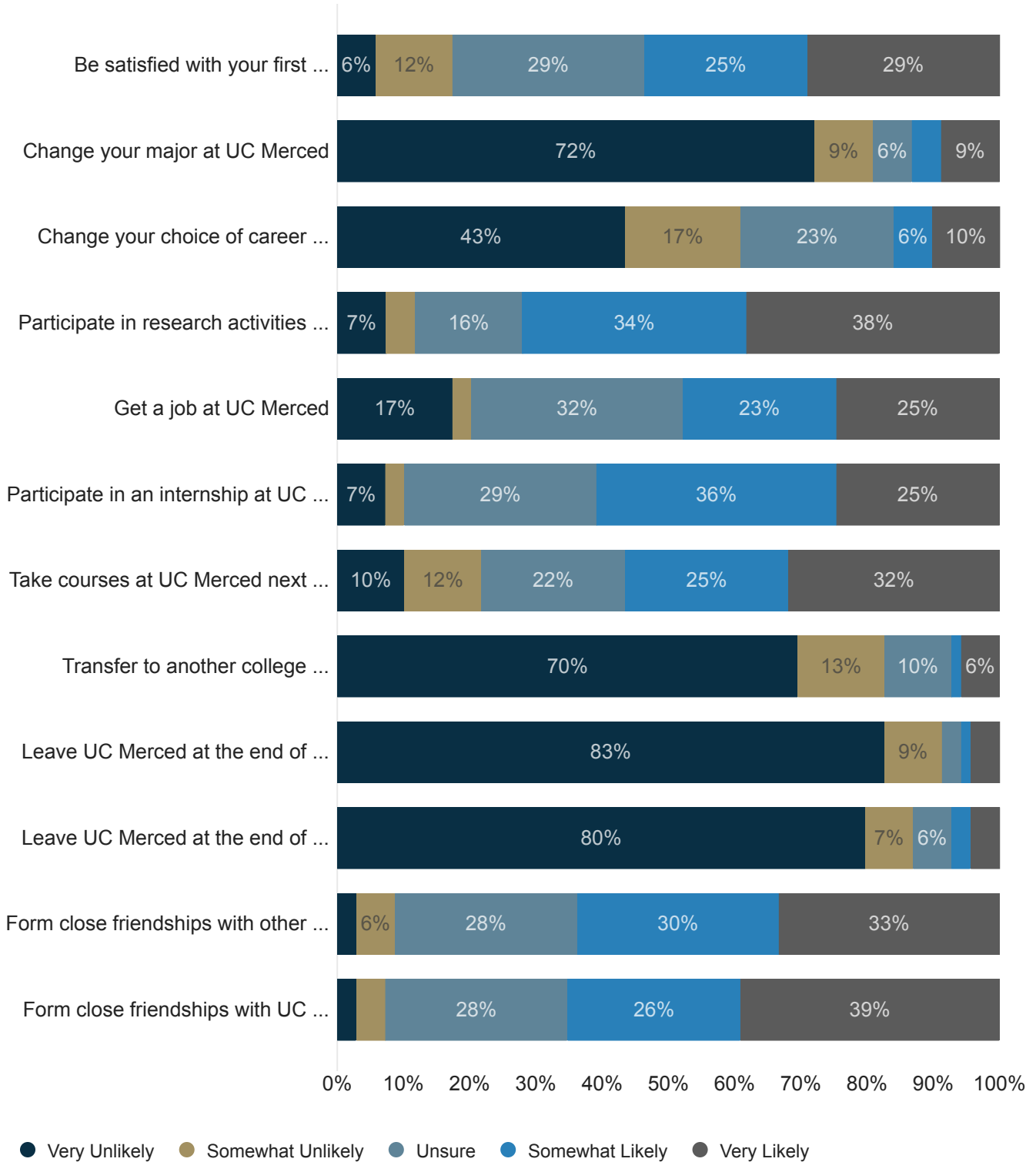
Field	Very Unsure	Somewhat Unsure	Somewhat Sure	Very Sure	Total
Succeed academically at UC Merced	1	3	26	39	69
Do well on problems and tasks assigned in my courses	1	6	25	37	69
Do well on my most difficult course	3	15	28	23	69
Persevere even when I face academic challenges and obstacles	1	4	24	40	69
Improve my current skills and abilities	0	4	24	41	69
Find resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors)	2	9	24	34	69
Effectively use resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors)	1	10	26	31	68

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



Field	Choice Count
Mostly A's	28
Mostly B's	30
Mostly C's	10
Lower than C's	1
Total	69

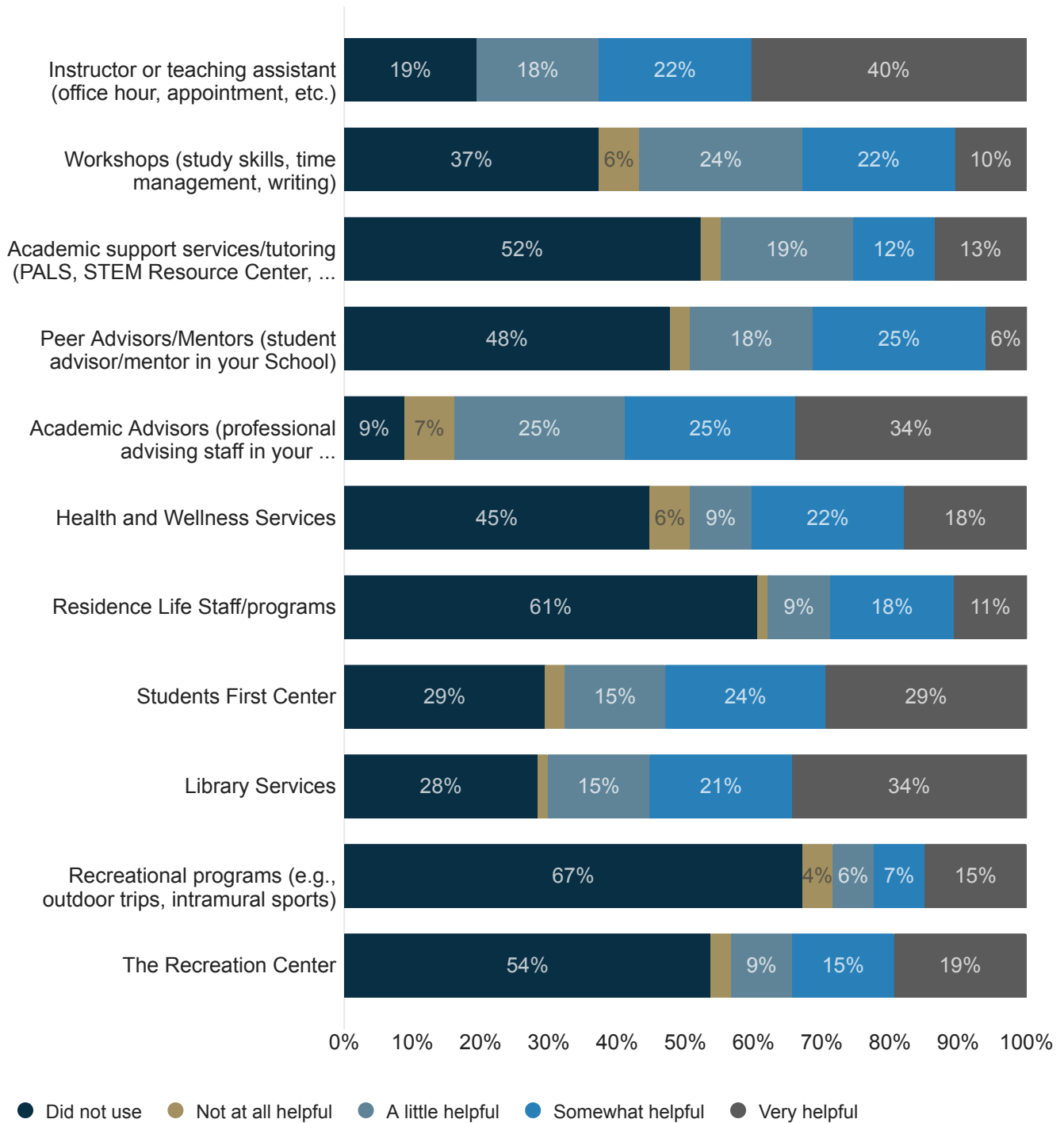
### How likely are you to:



## How likely are you to:

Field	Very Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Unsure	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely	Total
Be satisfied with your first semester GPA at UC Merced	4	8	20	17	20	69
Change your major at UC Merced	49	6	4	3	6	68
Change your choice of career while at UC Merced	30	12	16	4	7	69
Participate in research activities with a faculty member at UC Merced	5	3	11	23	26	68
Get a job at UC Merced	12	2	22	16	17	69
Participate in an internship at UC Merced	5	2	20	25	17	69
Take courses at UC Merced next summer	7	8	15	17	22	69
Transfer to another college before graduating	48	9	7	1	4	69
Leave UC Merced at the end of this semester	57	6	2	1	3	69
Leave UC Merced at the end of this academic year	55	5	4	2	3	69
Form close friendships with other UC Merced students	2	4	19	21	23	69
Form close friendships with UC Merced students that are not from the same racial or ethnic group as me	2	3	19	18	27	69

For each UC Merced campus resource below, please let us know how helpful that resource has been in your transition to UC Merced. Select "did not use" if you didn't use a resource.

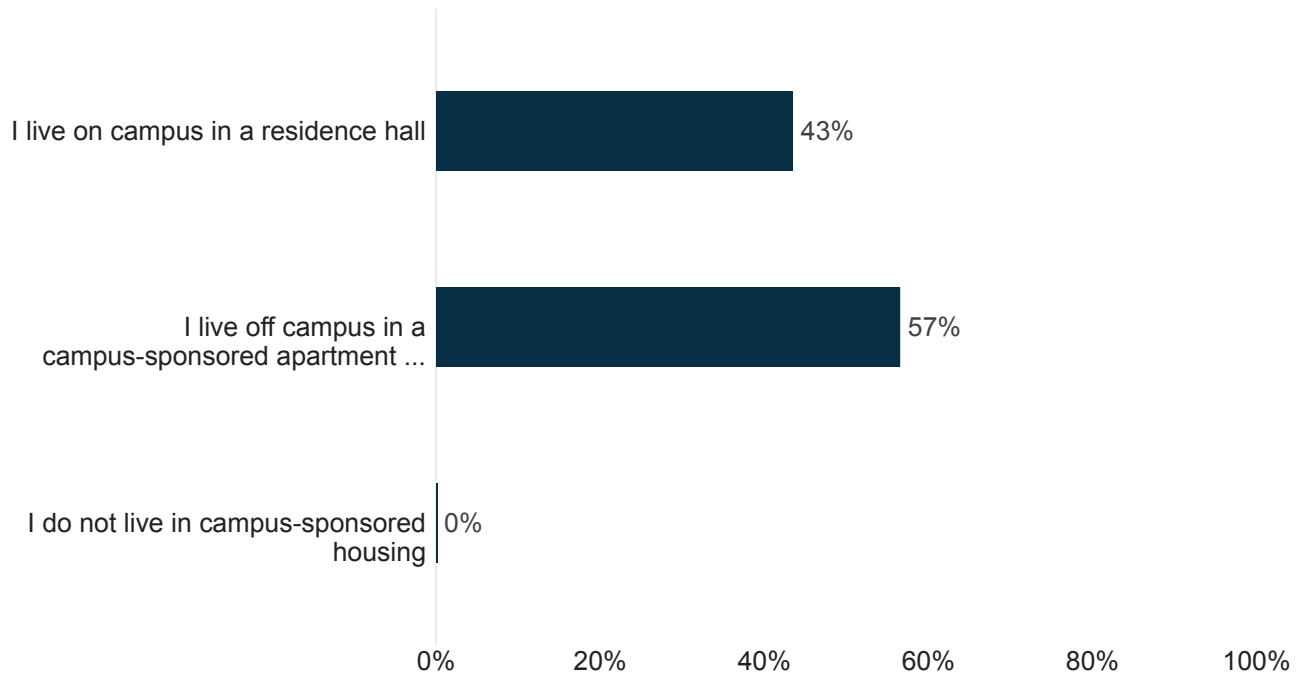


For each UC Merced campus resource below, please let us know how helpful that resource has been in your transition to UC Merced. Select "did not use" if you didn't use a resource.

Field	Did not use	Not at all helpful	A little helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	Total
Instructor or teaching assistant (office hour, appointment, etc.)	13	0	12	15	27	67
Workshops (study skills, time management, writing)	25	4	16	15	7	67
Academic support services/tutoring (PALS, STEM Resource Center, Writing/Math/Chem Center)	35	2	13	8	9	67
Peer Advisors/Mentors (student advisor/mentor in your School)	32	2	12	17	4	67
Academic Advisors (professional advising staff in your School/Bobcat Advising Center)	6	5	17	17	23	68
Health and Wellness Services	30	4	6	15	12	67
Residence Life Staff/programs	40	1	6	12	7	66
Students First Center	20	2	10	16	20	68
Library Services	19	1	10	14	23	67
Recreational programs (e.g., outdoor trips, intramural sports)	45	3	4	5	10	67
The Recreation Center	36	2	6	10	13	67

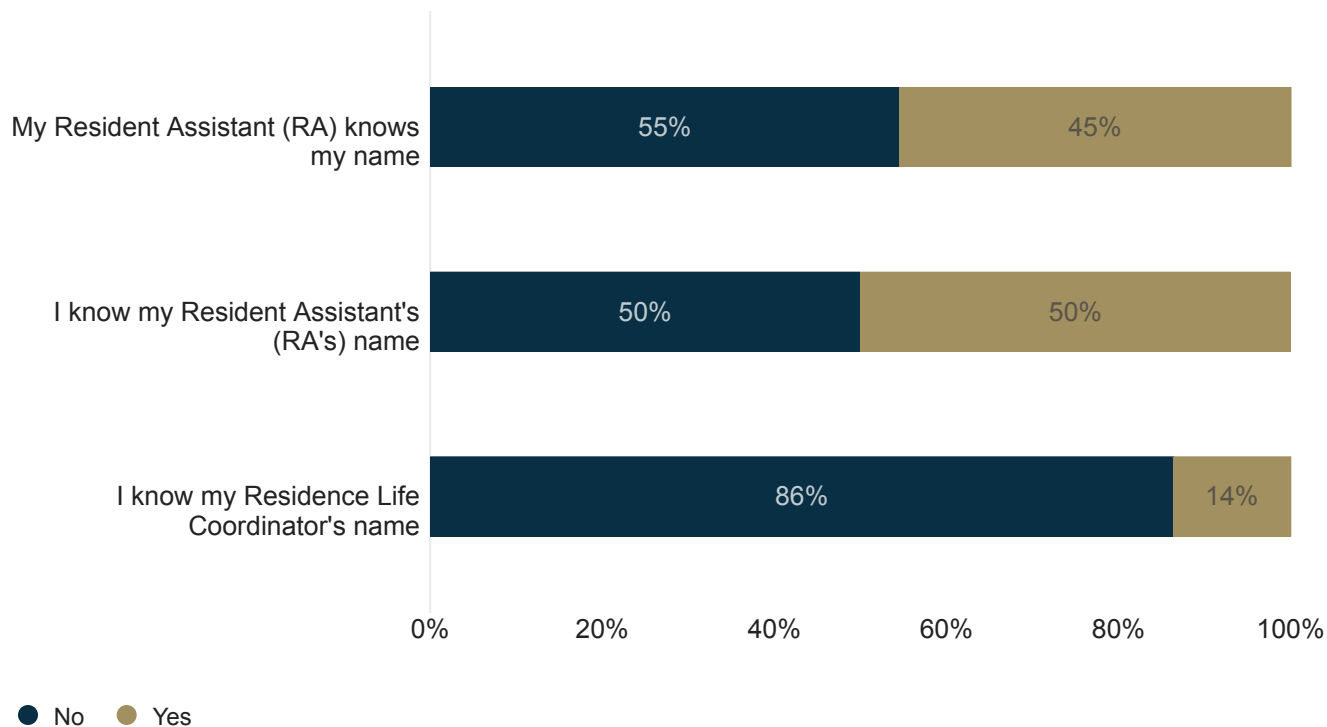


Which of the following describes your living situation? Note: Only students in campus housing could answer this question. To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.



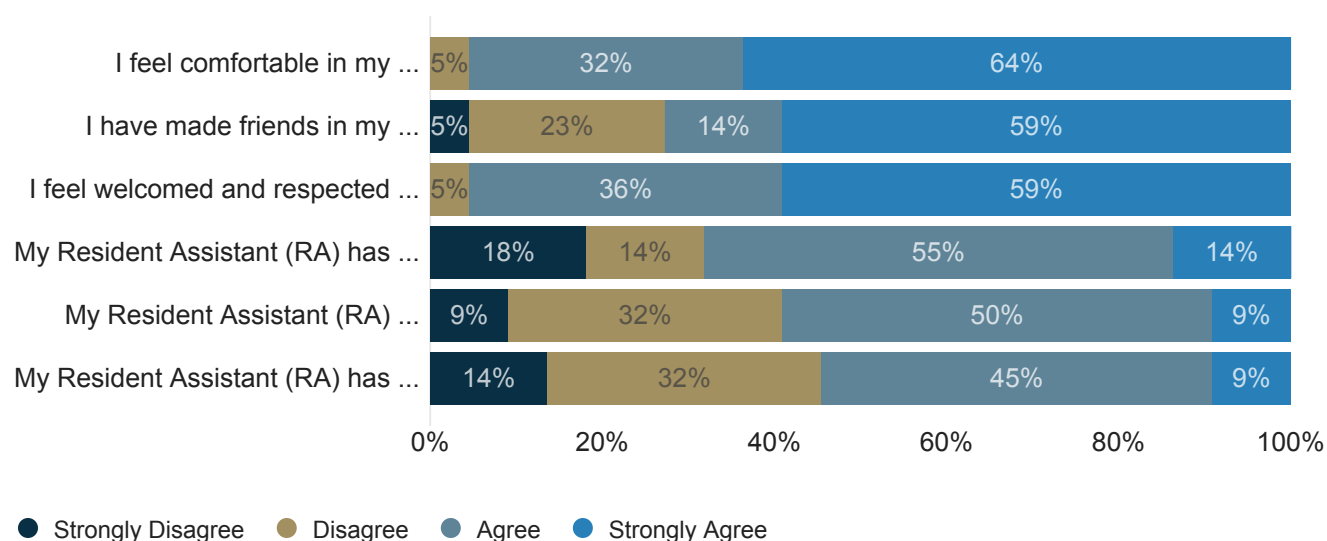
Field	Choice Count
I live on campus in a residence hall	10
I live off campus in a campus-sponsored apartment (i.e., Village Landing, Northwood Village, or Village Terrace)	13
I do not live in campus-sponsored housing	0
Total	23

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 students in campus housing could answer this question.



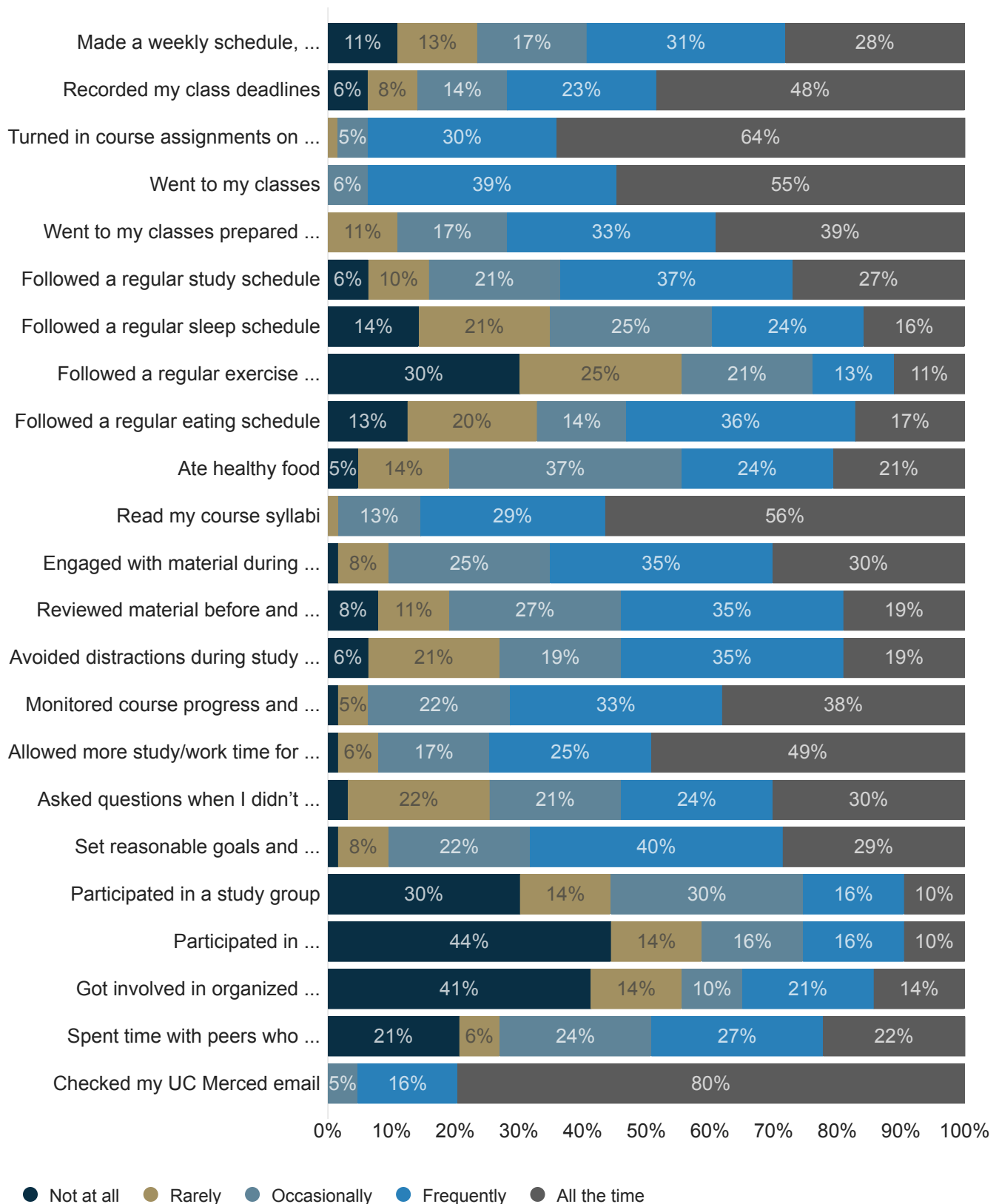
Field	No	Yes	Total
My Resident Assistant (RA) knows my name	12	10	22
I know my Resident Assistant's (RA's) name	11	11	22
I know my Residence Life Coordinator's name	19	3	22

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 students in campus housing 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.



Field	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I feel comfortable in my residence hall	0	1	7	14
I have made friends in my residence hall	1	5	3	13
I feel welcomed and respected by my Resident Assistant (RA)	0	1	8	13
My Resident Assistant (RA) has organized activities that helped me get to know other students	4	3	12	3
My Resident Assistant (RA) supports my academic success (e.g., shares resources/advice)	2	7	11	2
My Resident Assistant (RA) has helped me transition to UC Merced	3	7	10	2

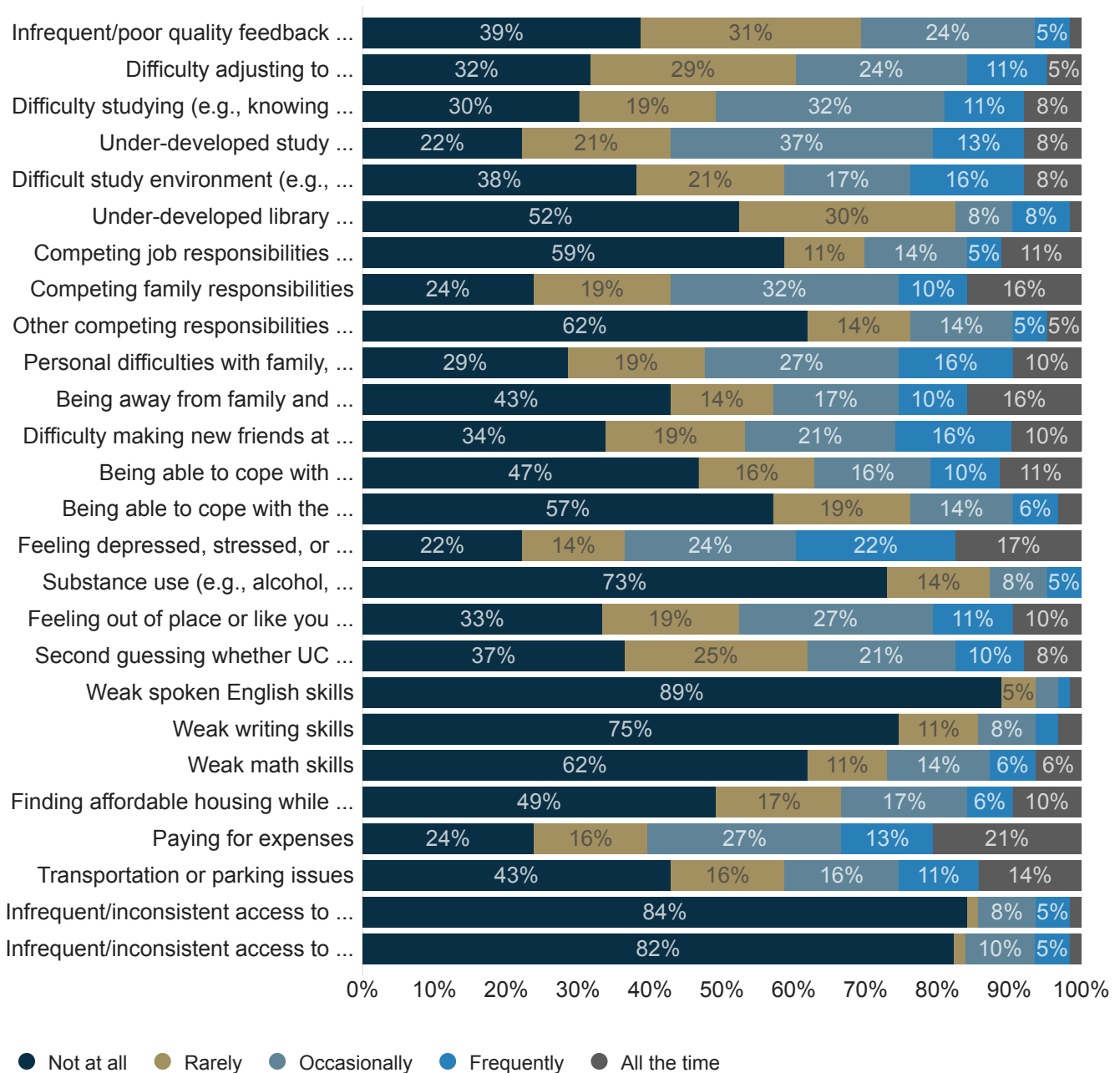
## How often have you done each of the following this semester?



## How often have you done each of the following this semester?

Field	Not at all	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	All the time	Total
Made a weekly schedule, including weekends, to help manage my time	7	8	11	20	18	64
Recorded my class deadlines	4	5	9	15	31	64
Turned in course assignments on time	0	1	3	19	41	64
Went to my classes	0	0	4	25	35	64
Went to my classes prepared (e.g., having read assignments)	0	7	11	21	25	64
Followed a regular study schedule	4	6	13	23	17	63
Followed a regular sleep schedule	9	13	16	15	10	63
Followed a regular exercise schedule	19	16	13	8	7	63
Followed a regular eating schedule	8	13	9	23	11	64
Ate healthy food	3	9	23	15	13	63
Read my course syllabi	0	1	8	18	35	62
Engaged with material during study sessions (i.e., I didn't just skim)	1	5	16	22	19	63
Reviewed material before and after class	5	7	17	22	12	63
Avoided distractions during study sessions (e.g., texting friends, checking Facebook)	4	13	12	22	12	63
Monitored course progress and made changes when needed	1	3	14	21	24	63
Allowed more study/work time for difficult classes and assignments	1	4	11	16	31	63
Asked questions when I didn't understand something	2	14	13	15	19	63
Set reasonable goals and expectations for myself	1	5	14	25	18	63
Participated in a study group	19	9	19	10	6	63
Participated in major/academic-related clubs, organizations, or activities	28	9	10	10	6	63
Got involved in organized activities outside the classroom (e.g., athletics, clubs, work)	26	9	6	13	9	63
Spent time with peers who support my academic success	13	4	15	17	14	63
Checked my UC Merced email	0	0	3	10	51	64

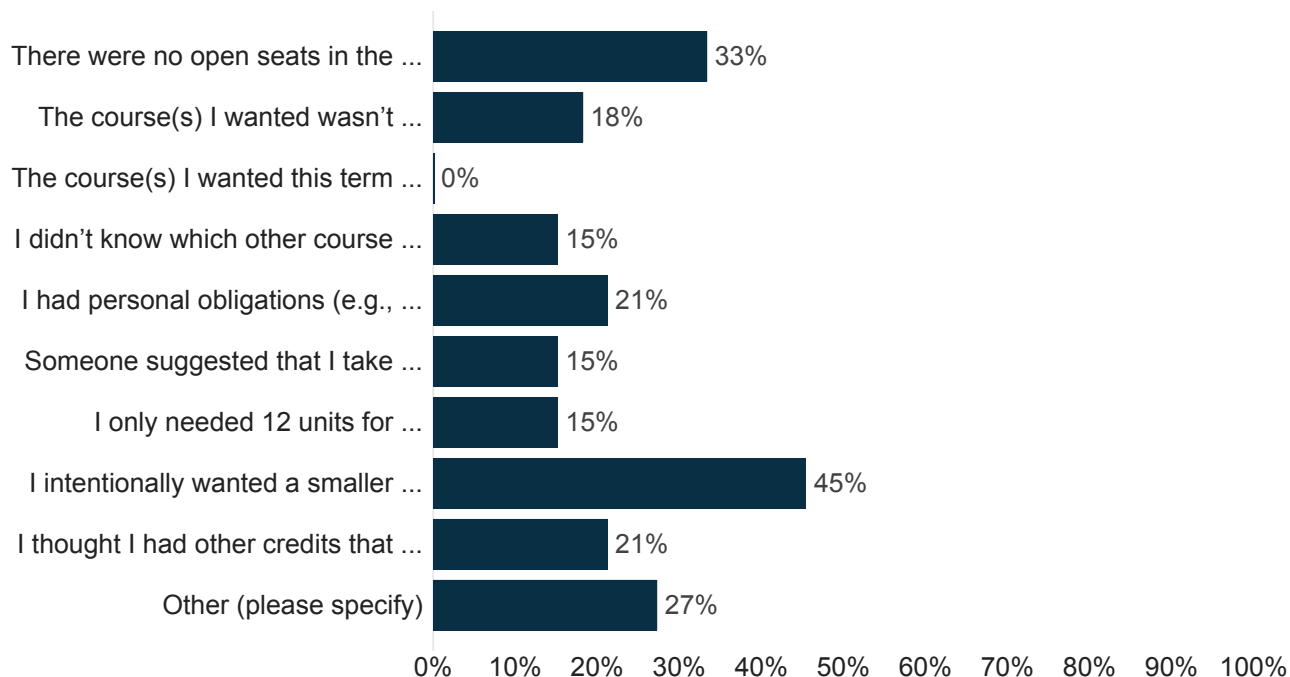
During your first semester at UC Merced, how often have each of the following been obstacles to your school work or academic success? To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.



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

Field	Not at all	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	All the time	Total
Infrequent/poor quality feedback from instructors	24	19	15	3	1	62
Difficulty adjusting to college-level work (e.g., coursework, exams, papers)	20	18	15	7	3	63
Difficulty studying (e.g., knowing how to start, how to get help, organize material)	19	12	20	7	5	63
Under-developed study behaviors (e.g., wait until last minute, easily distracted, too much social time, too much web surfing)	14	13	23	8	5	63
Difficult study environment (e.g., noisy roommate, poor Internet access, inadequate computer/software)	24	13	11	10	5	63
Under-developed library research skills	33	19	5	5	1	63
Competing job responsibilities (i.e., paid employment)	37	7	9	3	7	63
Competing family responsibilities	15	12	20	6	10	63
Other competing responsibilities (e.g., athletics, clubs, internship)	39	9	9	3	3	63
Personal difficulties with family, intimate relationships, or friends	18	12	17	10	6	63
Being away from family and friends: being "homesick"	27	9	11	6	10	63
Difficulty making new friends at UC Merced	21	12	13	10	6	62
Being able to cope with expectations of parents and family	29	10	10	6	7	62
Being able to cope with the values and expectations of friends when they differ from your own	36	12	9	4	2	63
Feeling depressed, stressed, or upset	14	9	15	14	11	63
Substance use (e.g., alcohol, other drugs)	46	9	5	3	0	63
Feeling out of place or like you just don't fit on campus	21	12	17	7	6	63
Second guessing whether UC Merced was the right choice for you	23	16	13	6	5	63
Weak spoken English skills	56	3	2	1	1	63
Weak writing skills	47	7	5	2	2	63
Weak math skills	39	7	9	4	4	63
Finding affordable housing while a student at UC Merced	31	11	11	4	6	63
Paying for expenses	15	10	17	8	13	63
Transportation or parking issues	27	10	10	7	9	63
Infrequent/inconsistent access to a computer	53	1	5	3	1	63
Infrequent/inconsistent access to the Internet/web	51	1	6	3	1	62

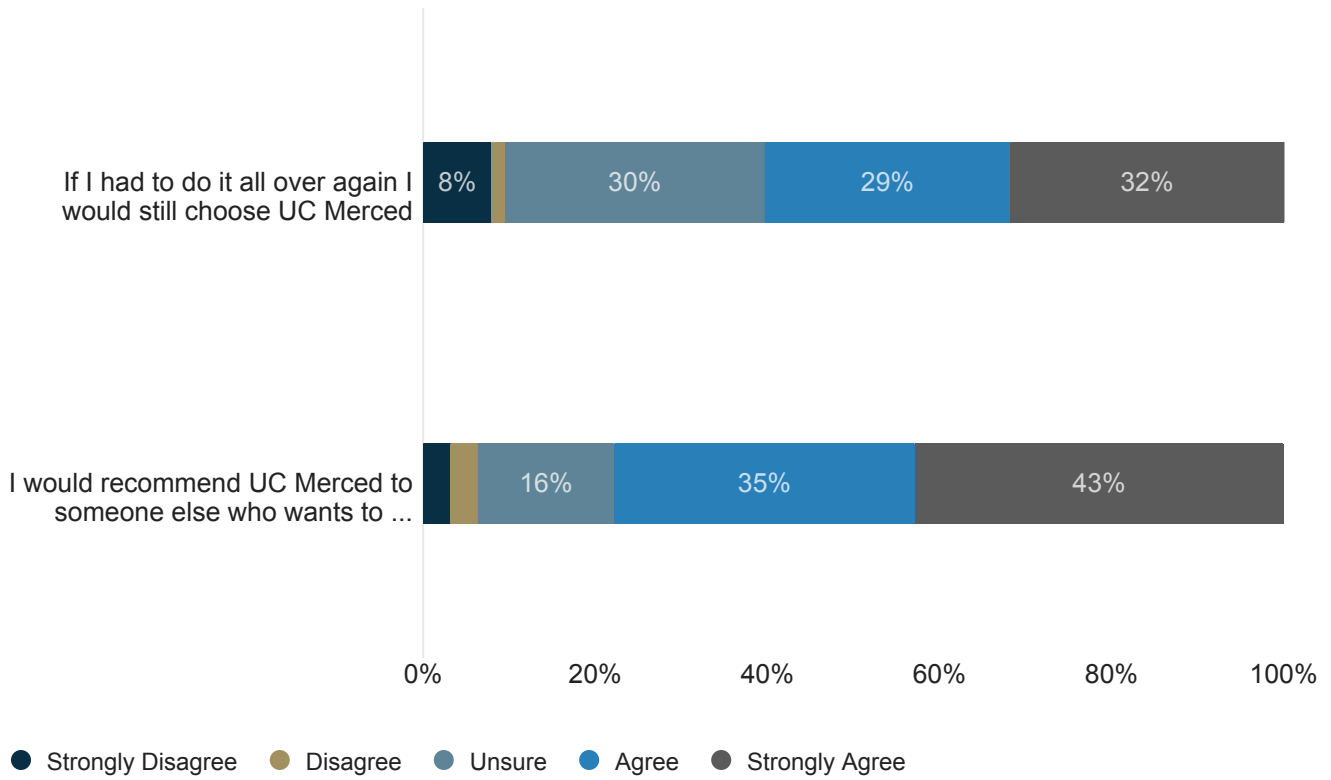
Our records indicate you are not enrolled in 15 units this term. Please let us know why by selecting from the reasons below (select all that apply).



Field	Choice Count
There were no open seats in the section(s) I needed.	11
The course(s) I wanted wasn't offered this term.	6
The course(s) I wanted this term was cancelled.	0
I didn't know which other course to take.	5
I had personal obligations (e.g., work, family) and so needed a smaller course load.	7
Someone suggested that I take 12 units.	5
I only needed 12 units for Financial Aid.	5
I intentionally wanted a smaller course load.	15
I thought I had other credits that would transfer (e.g., AP/IB, community college, etc.).	7
Other (please specify)	9
Total	70



## To what extent do you agree with the following statements?



Field	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
If I had to do it all over again I would still choose UC Merced	5	1	19	18	20	63
I would recommend UC Merced to someone else who wants to attend college	2	2	10	22	27	63