

2018 New Student Survey Report - Frosh

Prepared by Institutional Research and Decision

Support Last Updated: December 14, 2018

Administration: The survey was administered between October 21, 2018 and November 19, 2018 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, Facebook 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).

Response Rate: Of the 2408 students invited to complete the survey, 933 (39%) 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. These tables are static and cannot be filtered. The respondent sample was roughly representative of the invitee population with one exception - females were more likely to respond than males.

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.

If you have questions about this report, please contact Andrea Hall-Cuccia (ahallcuccia@ucmerced.edu) in Institutional Research and Decision Support. This report and more information about this survey can be found on the IRDS New Student Survey webpage: http://irds.ucmerced.edu/new_student_survey.html

Table 1. Student Demographics

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2408 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 933 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
Entering Level					
Transfer Students	191	8%	72	9%	38%
Students Who Entered as Freshmen/Frosh	2217	92%	861	92%	39%
Gender					
Female	1293	54%	560	60%	43%
Male	1103	46%	371	40%	34%
Unknown	12	<1%	2	<1%	2%
Race/Ethnicity					
International	162	7%	66	7%	41%
Hispanic	1379	57%	542	58%	39%
African American	98	4%	30	3%	31%
American Indian	5	<1%	2	<1%	40%
Asian	447	19%	162	17%	36%
Pacific Islander	8	<1%	4	<1%	50%
White	209	9%	88	9%	42%
Multi-racial	87	4%	36	4%	41%
Unknown	13	1%	3	<1%	23%

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

Table 2. Student Demographics and Schools

	# Invited (of 2408 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 933 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
First Generation Status					
First Generation	1759	73%	691	74%	39%
Non-First Generation	649	27%	242	26%	37%
Pell Eligibility Status					
Pell Grant Eligible	1527	63%	597	64%	39%
Non-Pell Grant Eligible	881	37%	336	36%	38%
First Language					
English Only as First Language	656	27%	263	28%	40%
English and Other Language or Other Language Only as First Language	1752	73%	670	71%	38%
Unknown	0	0%	0	0%	-
School					
Engineering	696	29%	262	28%	38%
Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts (SSHA)	845	35%	359	38%	42%
Natural Sciences	682	28%	251	27%	37%
Undeclared	185	8%	61	7%	33%

% 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

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Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2408 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 933 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
ANTH – Anthropology	16	1%	9	1%	56%
BENG – Bioengineering	63	3%	22	2%	35%
BIOS – Biological Sciences	513	21%	182	20%	35%
CHEM – Chemical Sciences	72	3%	26	3%	36%
COGS – Cognitive Science	35	1%	16	2%	46%
CRES – Critical Race & Ethnic Studies	11	<1%	2	<1%	18%
CSE – Computer Science & Engineering	318	13%	118	13%	37%
ECON – Economics	24	1%	13	1%	54%
ENG – English	31	1%	19	2%	61%
ENVE – Environmental Engineering	25	1%	14	2%	56%
ESS – Earth Systems Science	11	<1%	7	1%	64%
GASP – Global Arts Studies	11	<1%	1	<1%	9%
HIST – History	21	1%	8	1%	38%
MATH – Mathematical Sciences	46	2%	18	2%	39%
MBE – Management & Business Economics	133	6%	46	5%	35%

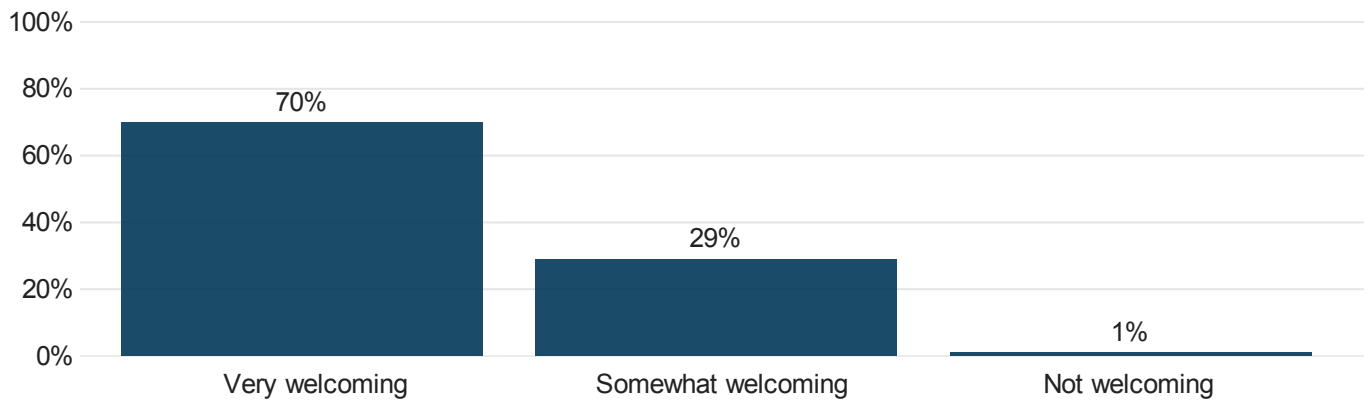
% values may not sum to 100 for a particular characteristic due to rounding error

Table 3. Student Majors (continued)

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2408 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 933 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
ME – Mechanical Engineering	220	9%	88	9%	40%
MSE – Materials Science & Engineering	6	<1%	0	0%	0%
PH – Public Health	55	2%	25	3%	45%
PHYS – Physics	14	1%	6	1%	43%
POLI – Political Science	113	5%	43	5%	38%
PSY – Psychology	249	10%	113	12%	45%
SOC – Sociology	81	3%	37	4%	47%
SPAN – Spanish	16	1%	8	1%	50%
UENG – Undeclared Engineering	64	3%	20	2%	31%
UNS – Undeclared Natural Sciences	26	1%	12	1%	46%
USHA – Undeclared SSHA	49	2%	19	2%	39%
0000 - Undeclared	185	8%	61	7%	33%

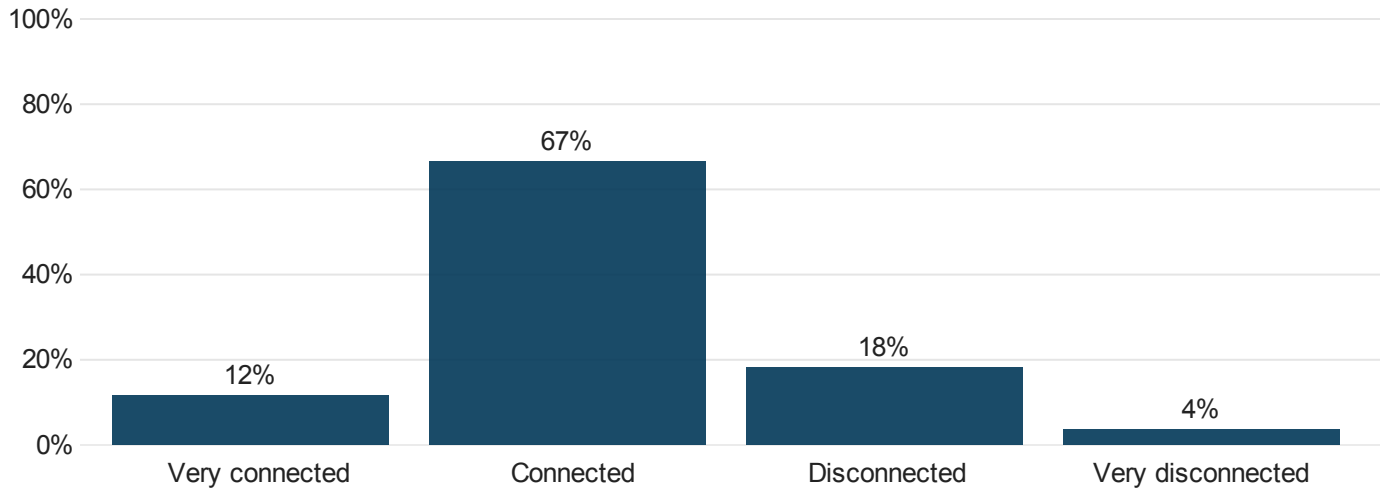
% values may not sum to 100 for a particular characteristic due to rounding error

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



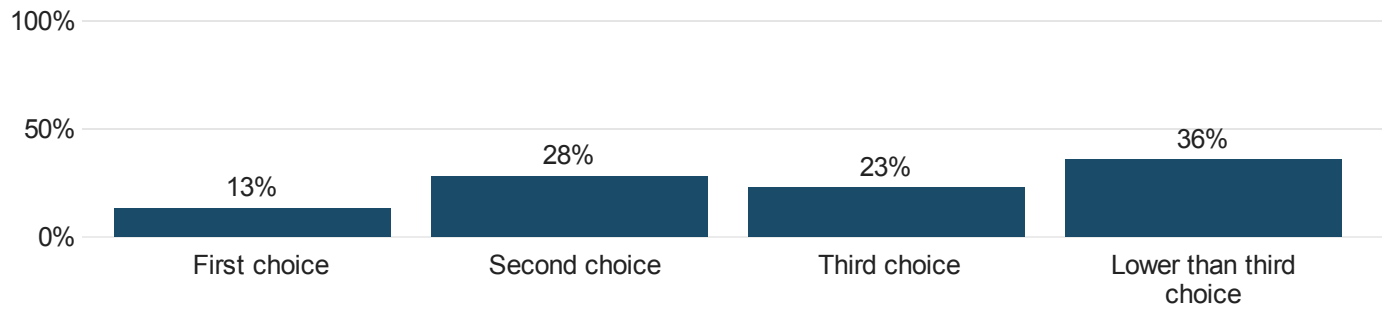
Field	Choice Count
Very welcoming	601
Somewhat welcoming	249
Not welcoming	10
Total	860

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



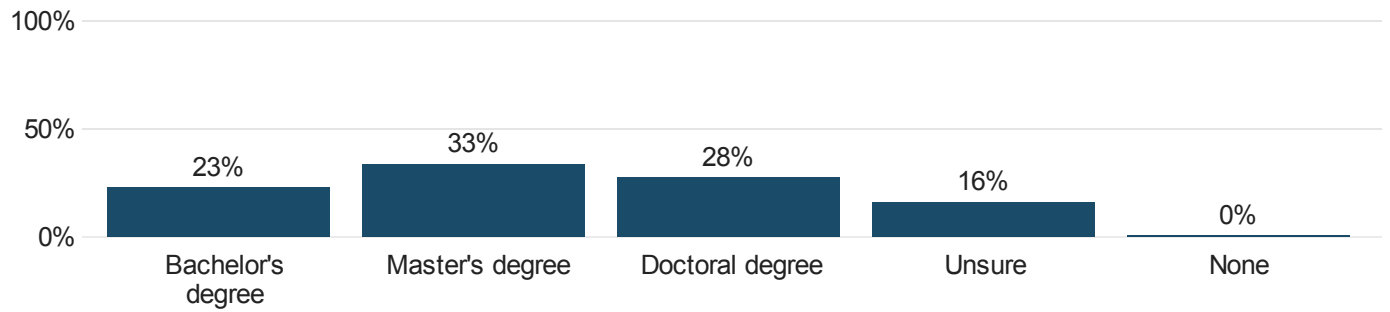
Field	Choice Count
Very connected	100
Connected	572
Disconnected	156
Very disconnected	31
Total	859

When you applied to colleges, was UC Merced your:



Field	Choice Count
First choice	113
Second choice	242
Third choice	196
Lower than third choice	307
Total	858

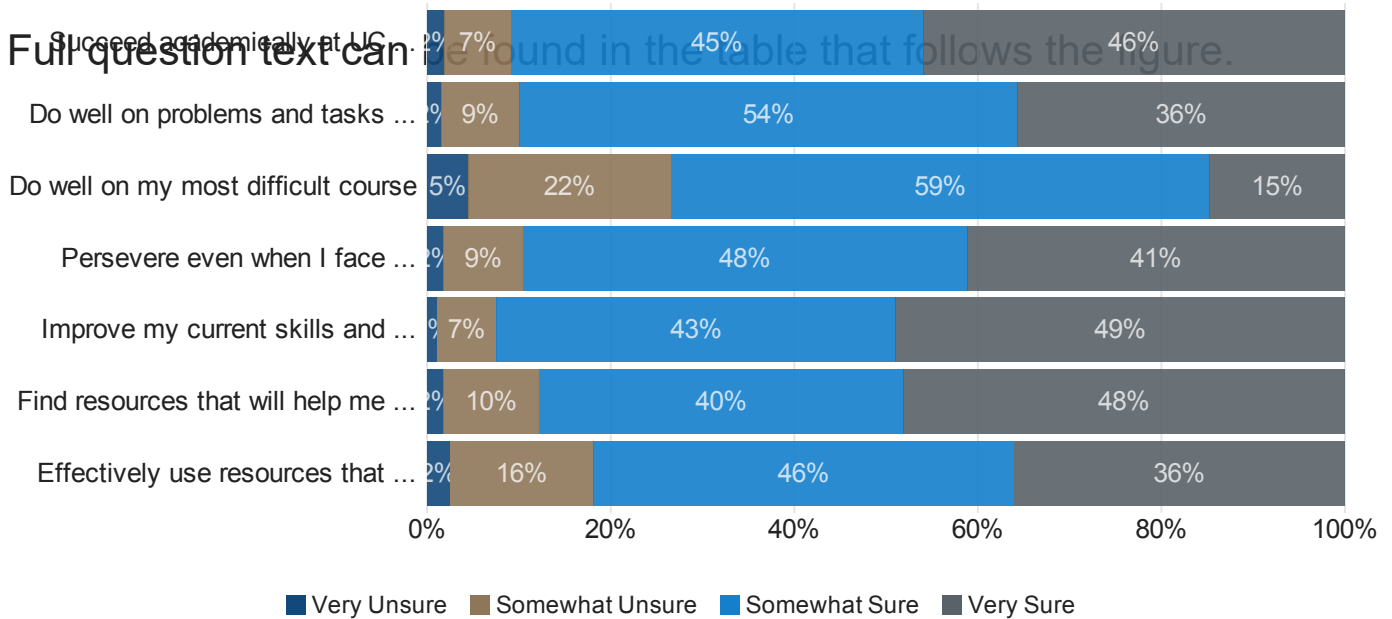
What is the highest degree you intend to eventually obtain?



Field	Choice Count
Bachelor's degree	196
Master's degree	287
Doctoral degree	238
Unsure	138
None	0
Total	859

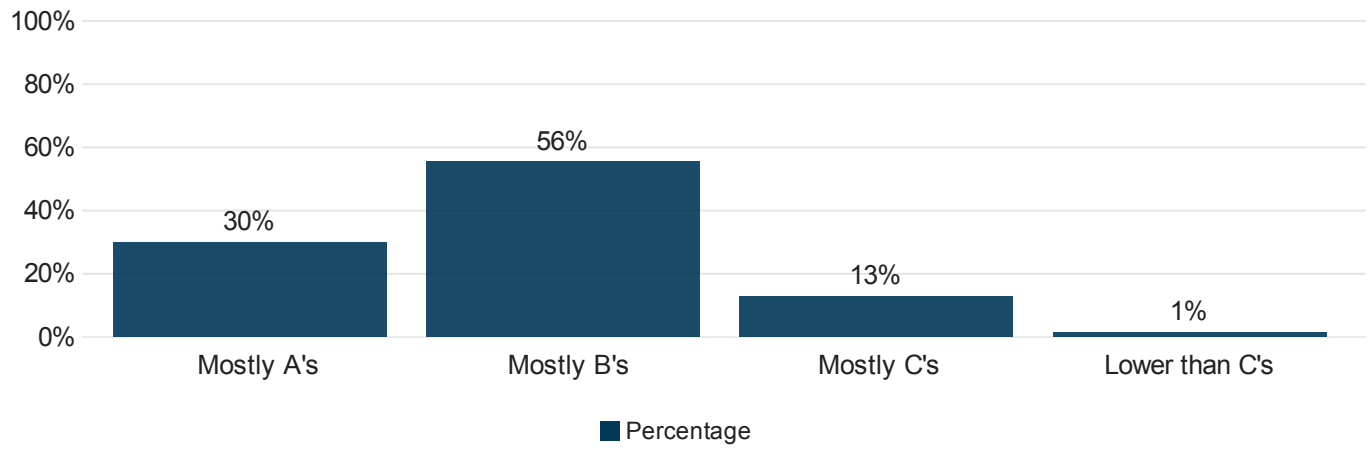
10 How sure are you that you can do each of the following:

Note: To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure.



Field	Very Unsure	Somewhat Unsure	Somewhat Sure	Very Sure	Total
Succeed academically at UC Merced	16	61	379	388	844
Do well on problems and tasks assigned in my courses	13	72	457	300	842
Do well on my most difficult course	38	186	494	124	842
Persevere even when I face academic challenges and obstacles	15	73	407	346	841
Improve my current skills and abilities	9	55	367	413	844
Find resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors)	15	88	335	406	844
Effectively use resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors)	21	132	386	304	843

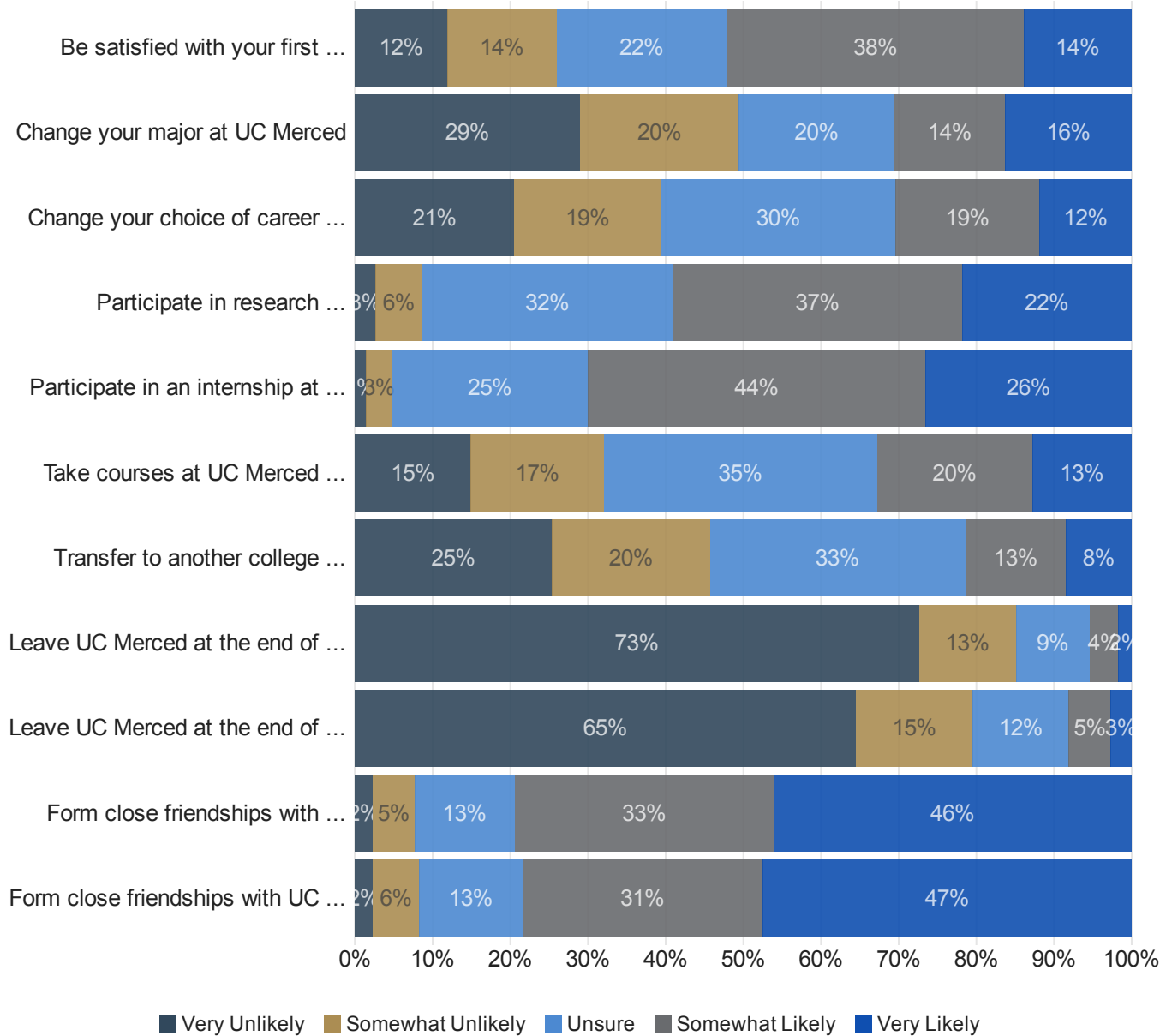
What do you think your final course grades will be this semester?



Field	Choice Count
Mostly A's	248
Mostly B's	460
Mostly C's	107
Lower than C's	12
Total	827

12 **How likely are you to:**

Note: To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.



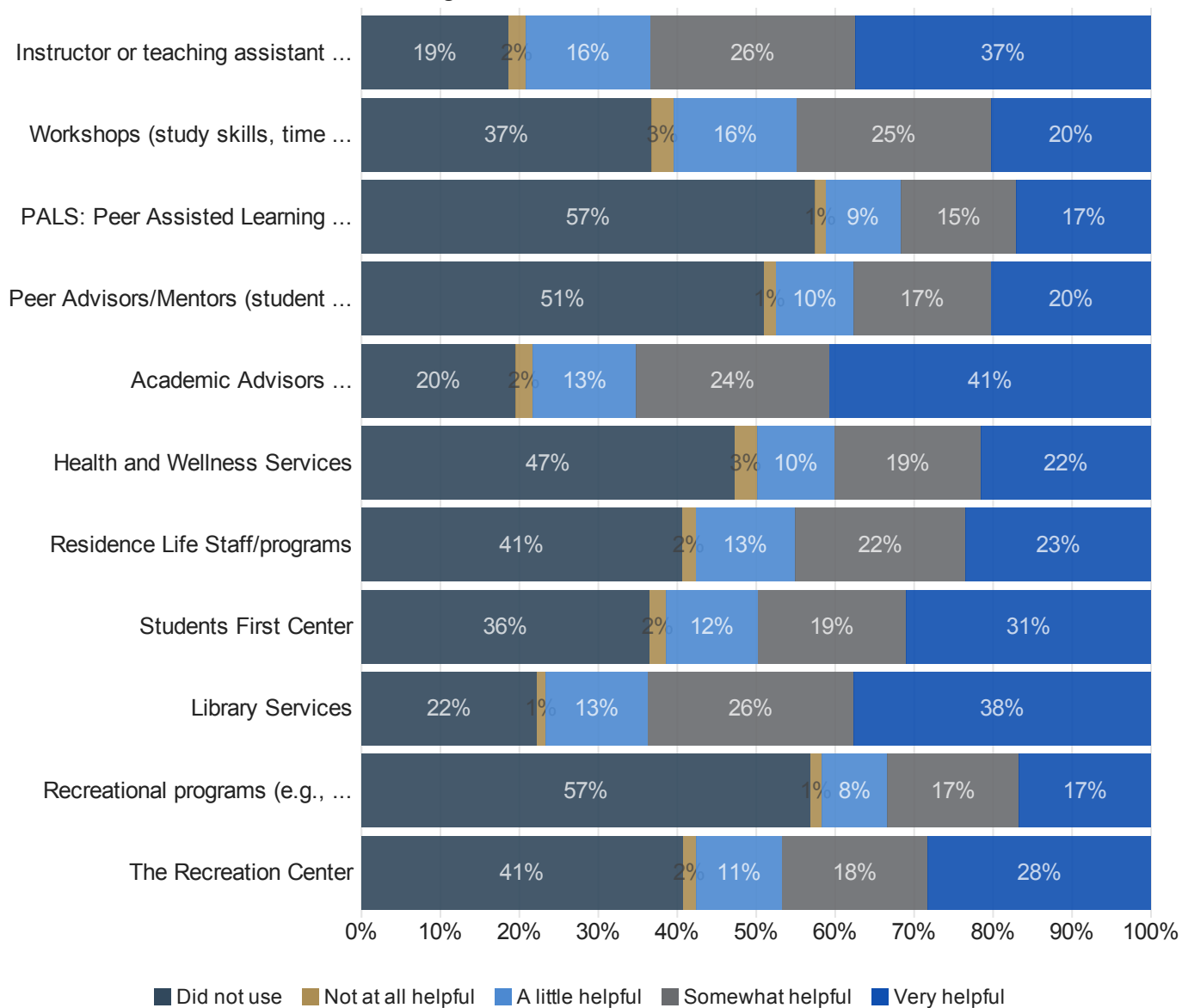
13 **How likely are you to:**

Note: This data is presented as a figure (percentages) on the previous page.

Field	Very Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Unsure	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely	Total
Be satisfied with your first semester GPA at UC Merced	99	117	182	318	115	831
Change your major at UC Merced	241	170	166	119	135	831
Change your choice of career while at UC Merced	170	157	250	154	98	829
Participate in research activities with a faculty member at UC Merced	22	50	268	310	181	831
Participate in an internship at UC Merced	12	28	209	362	220	831
Take courses at UC Merced next summer	124	142	292	166	106	830
Transfer to another college before graduating	211	169	273	108	70	831
Leave UC Merced at the end of this semester	602	104	78	31	14	829
Leave UC Merced at the end of this academic year	536	125	103	45	22	831
Form close friendships with other UC Merced students	19	45	107	277	383	831
Form close friendships with UC Merced students that are not from the same racial or ethnic group as me	19	50	110	257	394	830

14 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.

Note: To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.



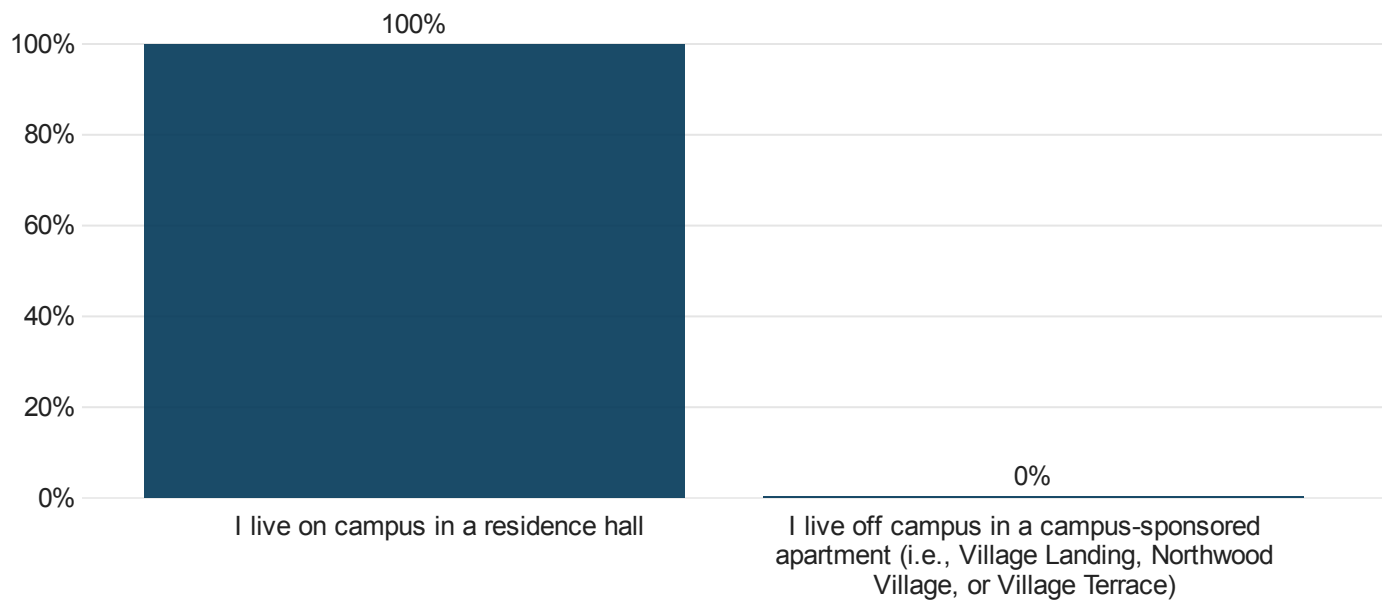
For each UC Merced campus resource below, please let us know how helpful that resource has been in your transition to UC Merced. Select "did not use" if you didn't use a resource.

Note: This data is presented as a figure (percentages) on the previous page.

Field	Did not use	Not at all helpful	A little helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	Total
Instructor or teaching assistant (office hour, appointment, etc.)	45	6	39	71	90	251
Workshops (study skills, time management, writing)	97	9	43	55	47	251
PALS: Peer Assisted Learning and Support (Tutoring)	162	3	18	30	38	251
Peer Advisors/Mentors (student advisor/mentor in your School)	137	4	23	41	46	251
Academic Advisors (professional advising staff in your School/Bobcat Advising Center)	57	5	30	63	95	250
Health and Wellness Services	129	9	20	48	44	250
Residence Life Staff/programs	117	4	32	52	45	250
Students First Center	103	5	28	43	69	248
Library Services	57	4	27	67	95	250
Recreational programs (e.g., outdoor trips, intramural sports)	145	2	23	42	38	250
The Recreation Center	109	2	21	47	72	251

16 Which of the following describes your living situation?

Note: Only respondents who live in campus sponsored housing could answer this question.



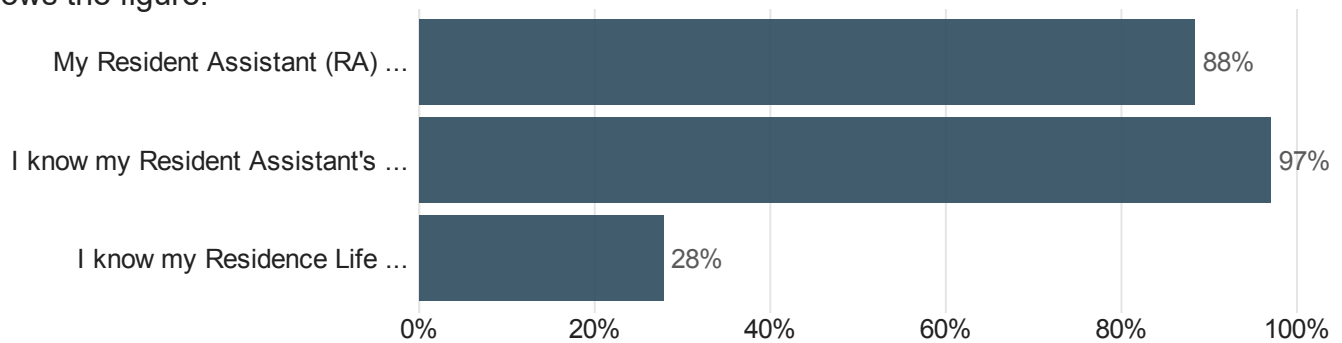
17 **Which of the following describes your living situation?**

Note: Only respondents who live in campus sponsored housing could answer this question.
This data is presented as a figure (percentages) on the previous page.

Field	Choice Count
I live on campus in a residence hall	668
I live off campus in a campus-sponsored apartment (i.e., Village Landing, Northwood Village, or Village Terrace)	0
Total	668

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.

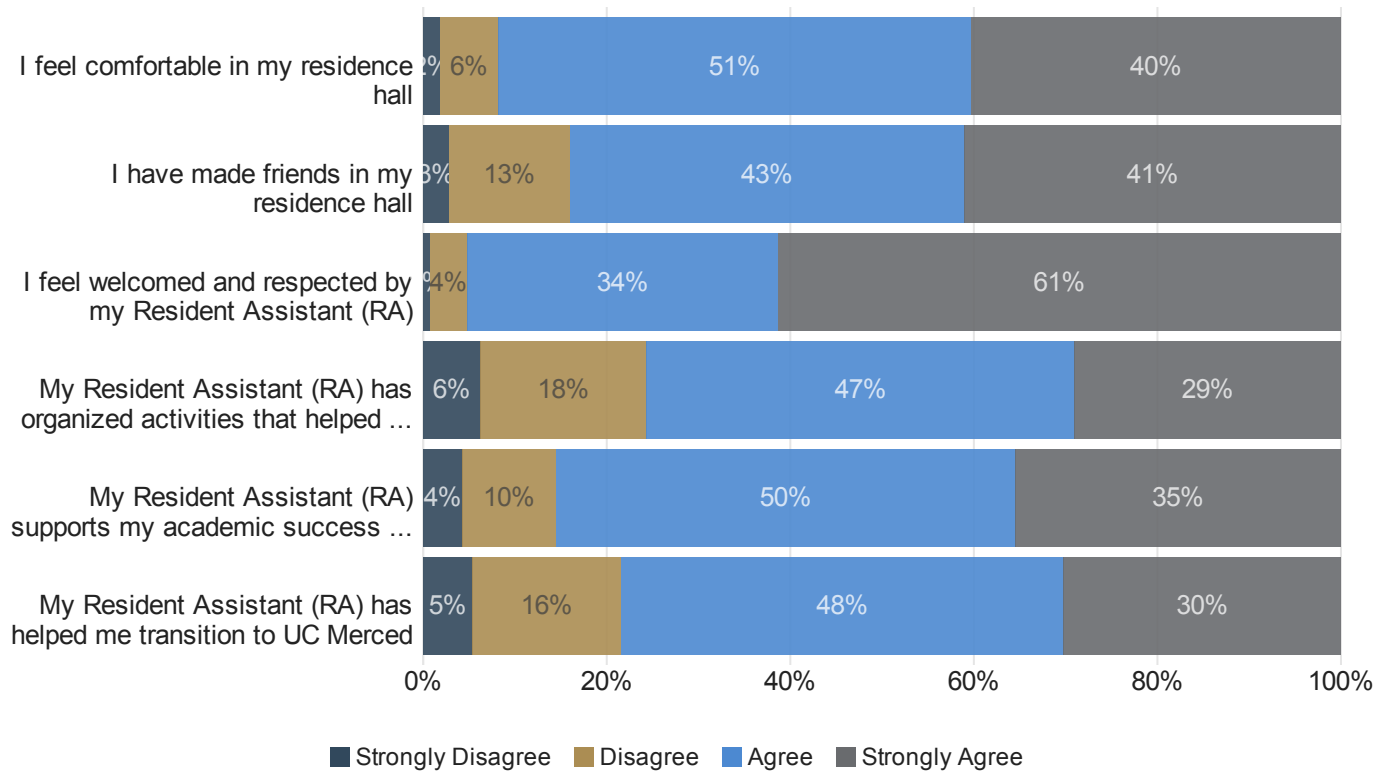
Note: Only respondents who live in campus sponsored housing could answer this question. To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.



Field	No	Yes	Total
My Resident Assistant (RA) knows my name	82	623	705
I know my Resident Assistant's (RA's) name	21	685	706
I know my Residence Life Coordinator's name	509	196	705

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of 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.

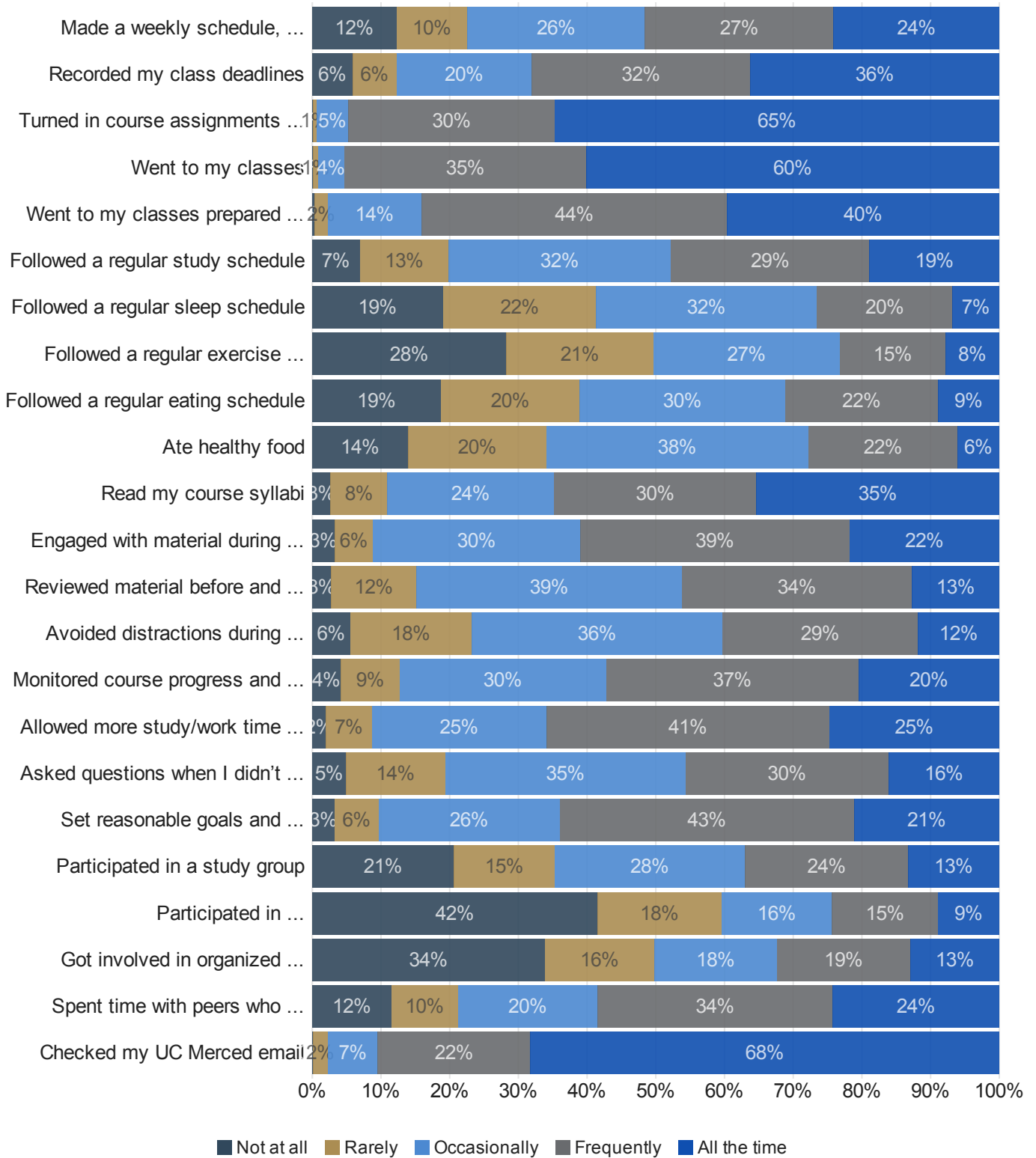
Note: Only respondents who live in campus sponsored housing could answer this question.



Field	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
I feel comfortable in my residence hall	13	45	364	285	707
I have made friends in my residence hall	20	93	304	290	707
I feel welcomed and respected by my Resident Assistant (RA)	5	29	239	433	706
My Resident Assistant (RA) has organized activities that helped me get to know other students	44	128	330	205	707
My Resident Assistant (RA) supports my academic success (e.g., shares resources/advice)	30	72	353	250	705
My Resident Assistant (RA) has helped me transition to UC Merced	38	114	340	213	705

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

Note: To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.



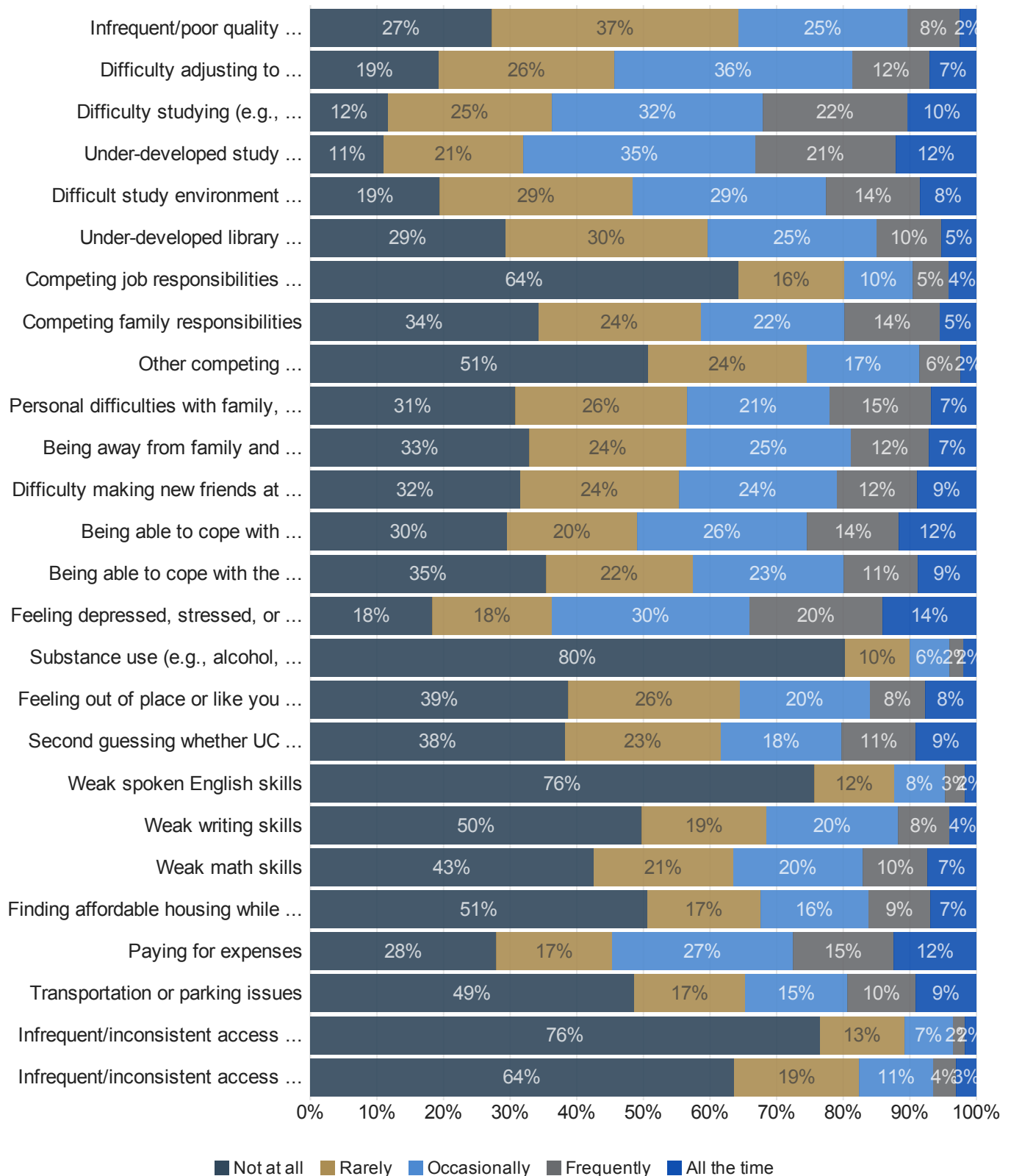
How often have you done each of the following this semester?

Note: This data is presented as a figure (percentages) on the previous page.

Field	Not at all	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	All the time	Total
Made a weekly schedule, including weekends, to help manage my time	98	82	206	219	192	797
Recorded my class deadlines	47	51	157	254	289	798
Turned in course assignments on time	1	4	37	239	515	796
Went to my classes	1	6	30	280	477	794
Went to my classes prepared (e.g., having read assignments)	3	15	109	355	316	798
Followed a regular study schedule	55	103	257	230	150	795
Followed a regular sleep schedule	152	178	256	158	54	798
Followed a regular exercise schedule	225	171	216	123	62	797
Followed a regular eating schedule	149	161	238	177	71	796
Ate healthy food	111	160	303	173	48	795
Read my course syllabi	21	66	192	234	280	793
Engaged with material during study sessions (i.e., I didn't just skim)	26	44	240	311	173	794
Reviewed material before and after class	22	99	308	267	101	797
Avoided distractions during study sessions (e.g., texting friends, checking Facebook)	44	141	290	227	94	796
Monitored course progress and made changes when needed	33	68	238	292	162	793
Allowed more study/work time for difficult classes and assignments	16	53	203	328	197	797
Asked questions when I didn't understand something	39	115	278	235	128	795
Set reasonable goals and expectations for myself	26	51	210	342	168	797
Participated in a study group	164	116	220	189	105	794
Participated in major/academic-related clubs, organizations, or activities	331	144	128	123	71	797
Got involved in organized activities outside the classroom (e.g., athletics, clubs, work)	270	127	142	155	103	797
Spent time with peers who support my academic success	92	77	162	273	193	797
Checked my UC Merced email	1	17	58	177	543	796

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: To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.

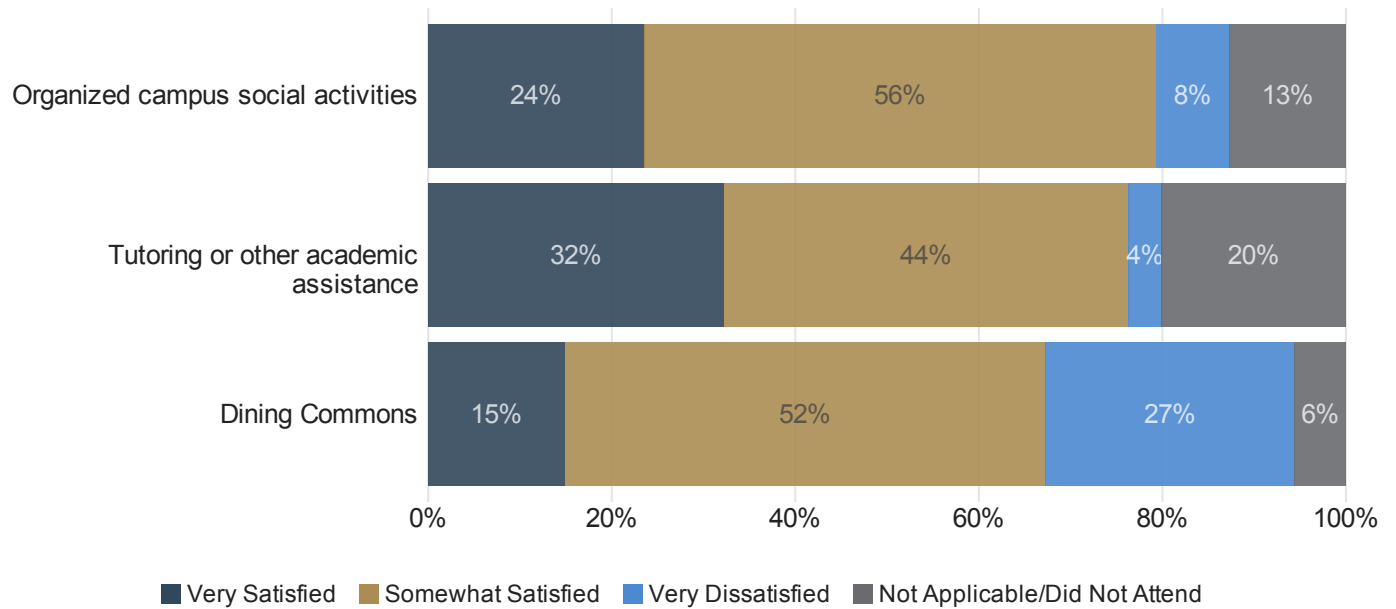


During your first semester at UC Merced, how often have each of the following been obstacles to your school work or academic success?

Note: This data is presented as a figure (percentages) on the previous page.

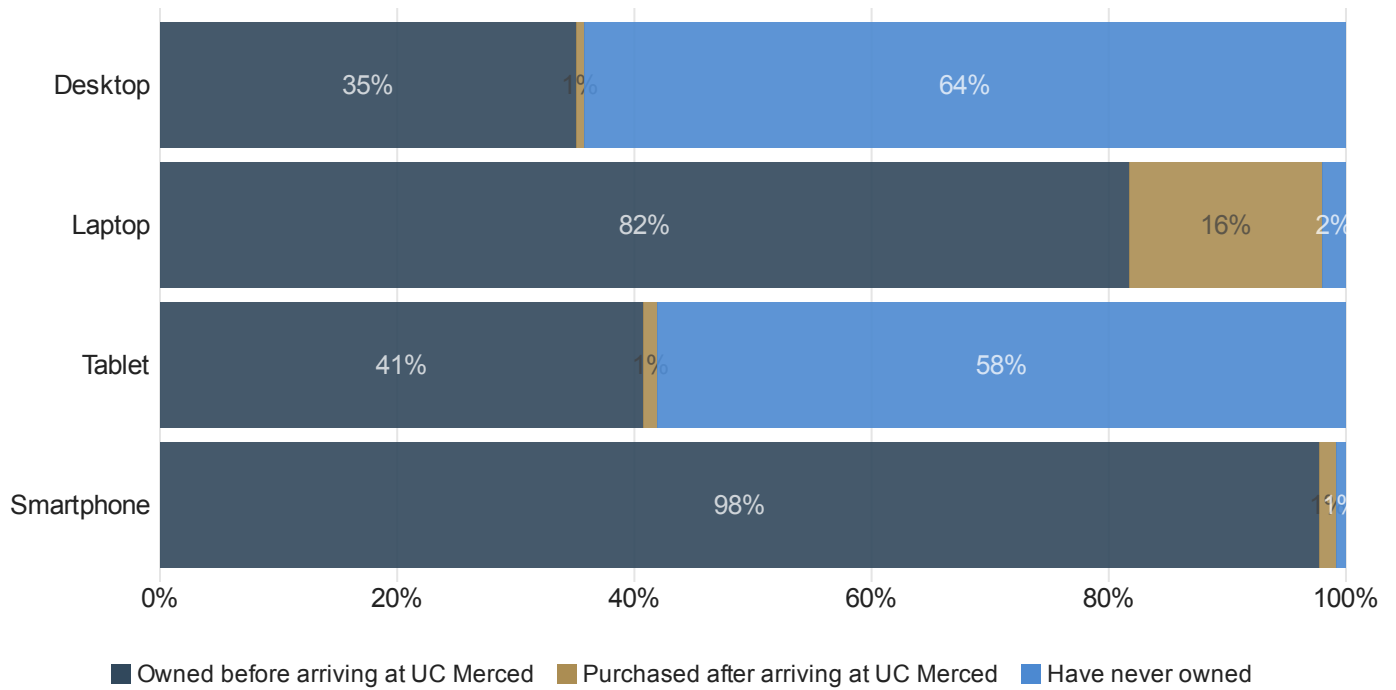
Field	Not at all	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	All the time	Total
Infrequent/poor quality feedback from instructors	210	285	195	61	19	770
Difficulty adjusting to college-level work (e.g., coursework, exams, papers)	149	204	276	90	54	773
Difficulty studying (e.g., knowing how to start, how to get help, organize material)	90	190	245	167	80	772
Under-developed study behaviors (e.g., wait until last minute, easily distracted, too much social time, too much web surfing)	85	162	268	163	93	771
Difficult study environment (e.g., noisy roommate, poor Internet access, inadequate computer/software)	150	223	224	109	65	771
Under-developed library research skills	225	234	195	75	40	769
Competing job responsibilities (i.e., paid employment)	491	121	79	41	32	764
Competing family responsibilities	263	187	166	110	42	768
Other competing responsibilities (e.g., athletics, clubs, internship)	390	183	130	48	18	769
Personal difficulties with family, intimate relationships, or friends	237	199	164	118	52	770
Being away from family and friends: being "homesick"	253	181	190	90	55	769
Difficulty making new friends at UC Merced	242	183	182	93	68	768
Being able to cope with expectations of parents and family	227	150	196	106	89	768
Being able to cope with the values and expectations of friends when they differ from your own	272	169	174	86	67	768
Feeling depressed, stressed, or upset	141	138	228	154	108	769
Substance use (e.g., alcohol, other drugs)	617	75	46	16	15	769
Feeling out of place or like you just don't fit on campus	298	198	150	64	59	769
Second guessing whether UC Merced was the right choice for you	295	180	140	86	70	771
Weak spoken English skills	583	92	59	23	13	770
Weak writing skills	382	143	152	59	31	767
Weak math skills	327	161	150	75	56	769
Finding affordable housing while a student at UC Merced	390	131	125	72	53	771
Paying for expenses	214	133	208	116	95	766
Transportation or parking issues	374	128	118	79	70	769
Infrequent/inconsistent access to a computer	589	98	56	14	13	770
Infrequent/inconsistent access to the Internet/web	489	145	85	27	23	769

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



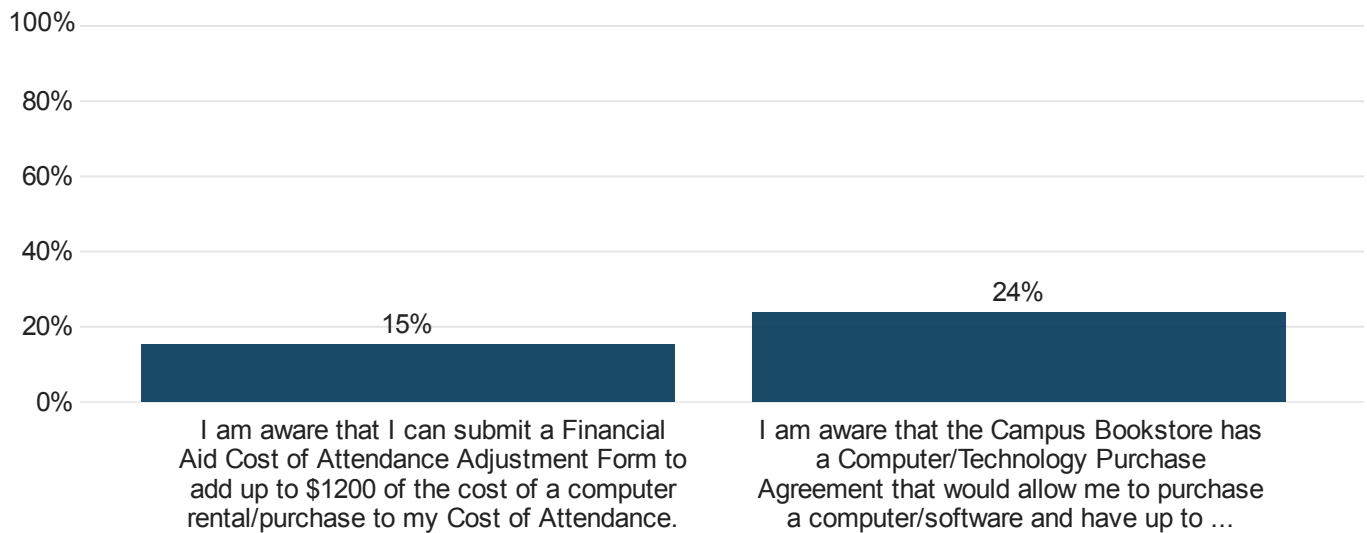
Field	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable/Did Not Attend	Total
Organized campus social activities	182	431	62	98	773
Tutoring or other academic assistance	249	341	28	155	773
Dining Commons	115	405	210	43	773

Please indicate whether you own each device below.



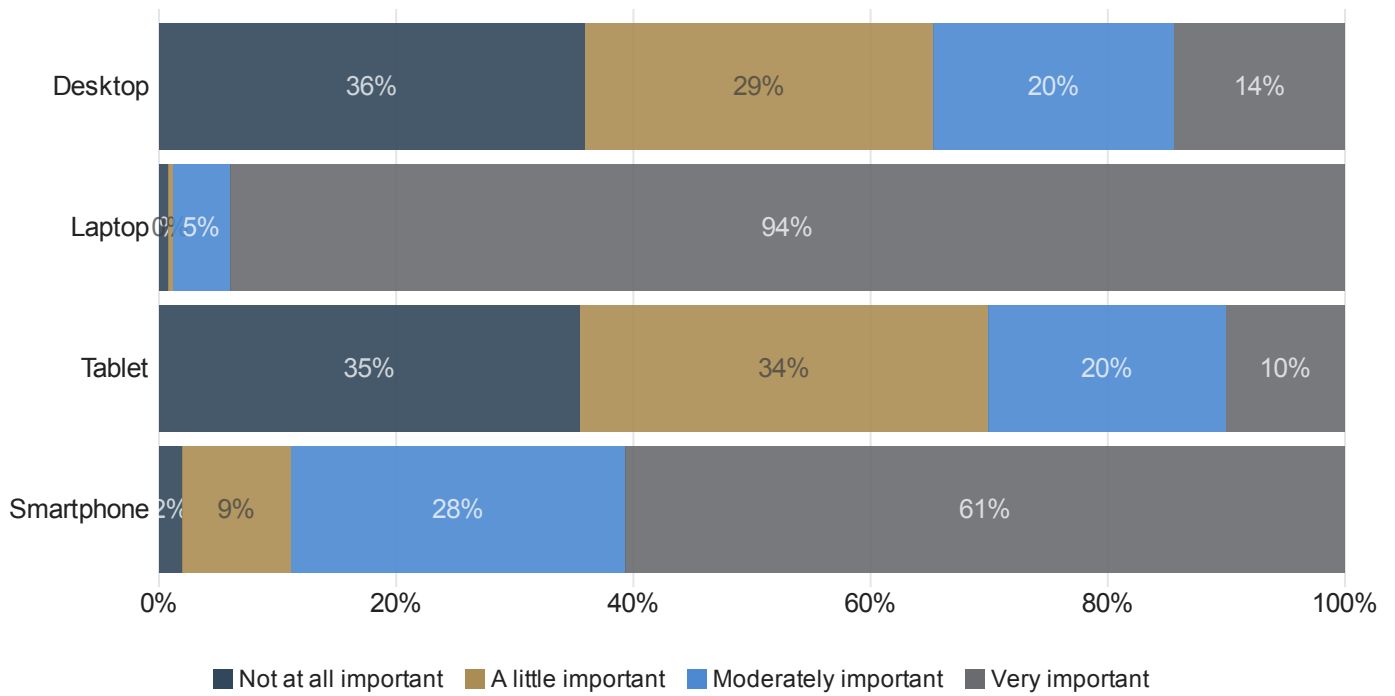
Field	Owned before arriving at UC Merced	Purchased after arriving at UC Merced	Have never owned	Total
Desktop	253	5	463	721
Laptop	628	125	15	768
Tablet	300	9	427	736
Smartphone	744	11	6	761

Please indicate your awareness of each of the following resources purchasing a personal computer while a student at UC Merced.



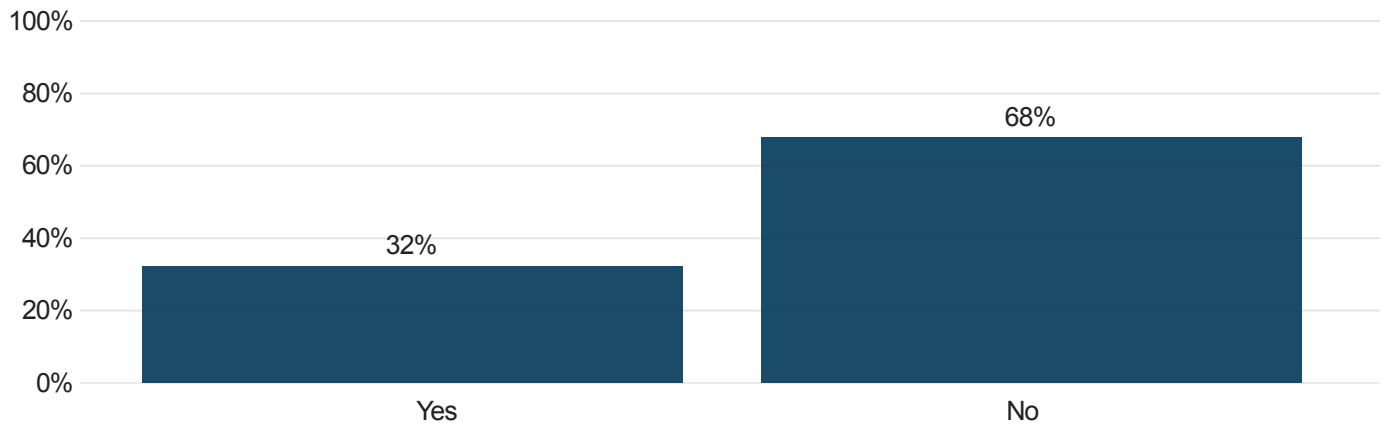
Field	Yes, I am aware of this resource	No, I was not aware of this resource	Total
I am aware that I can submit a Financial Aid Cost of Attendance Adjustment Form to add up to \$1200 of the cost of a computer rental/purchase to my Cost of Attendance.	116	649	765
I am aware that the Campus Bookstore has a Computer/Technology Purchase Agreement that would allow me to purchase a computer/software and have up to \$1500 charged to my student account.	182	582	764

27 How important do you think owning each device is for academic success at UC Merced? Please respond with your perceptions even if you do not own a particular device.



Field	Not at all important	A little important	Moderately important	Very important	Total
Desktop	272	223	154	109	758
Laptop	6	3	37	721	767
Tablet	269	261	152	76	758
Smartphone	15	70	216	464	765

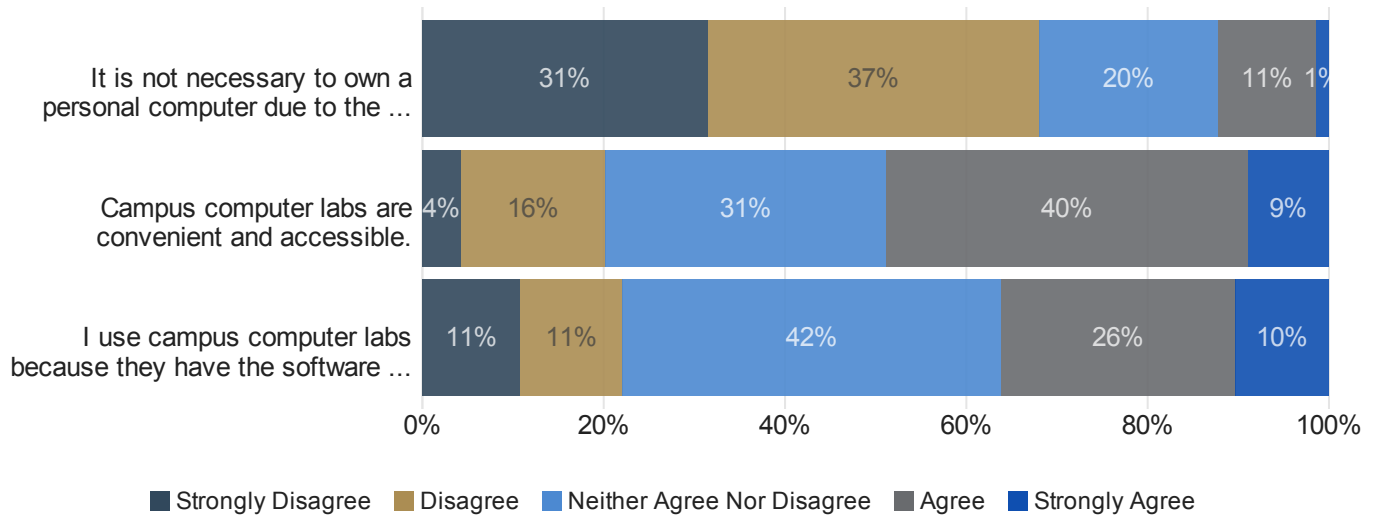
Have you ever used a computer lab UC Merced?



Field	Choice Count
Yes	248
No	521
Total	769

29 Please indicate your agreement with each statement about campus computer labs.

Note: Only respondents who used a campus computer lab 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.

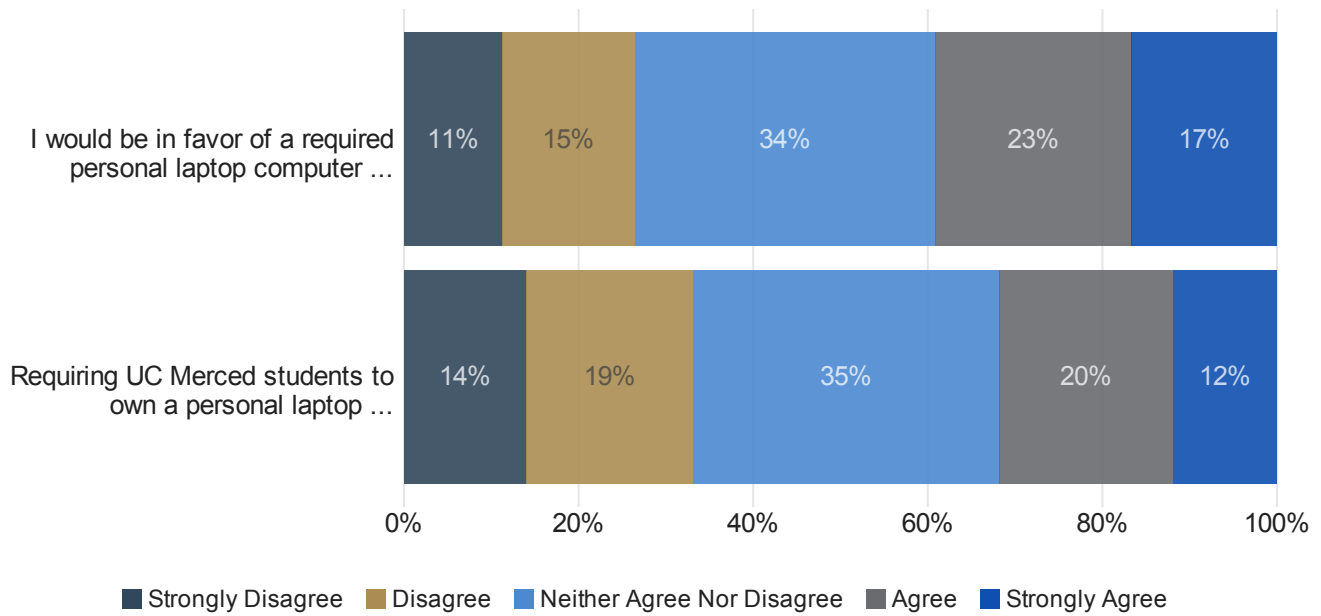


Please indicate your agreement with each statement about campus computer la...

Field	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
It is not necessary to own a personal computer due to the availability of campus computer labs.	67	78	42	23	3	213
Campus computer labs are convenient and accessible.	9	34	66	85	19	213
I use campus computer labs because they have the software I need.	23	24	89	55	22	213

30 UC Merced is considering a requirement that students own a personal laptop computer. Please indicate your agreement with each statement below.

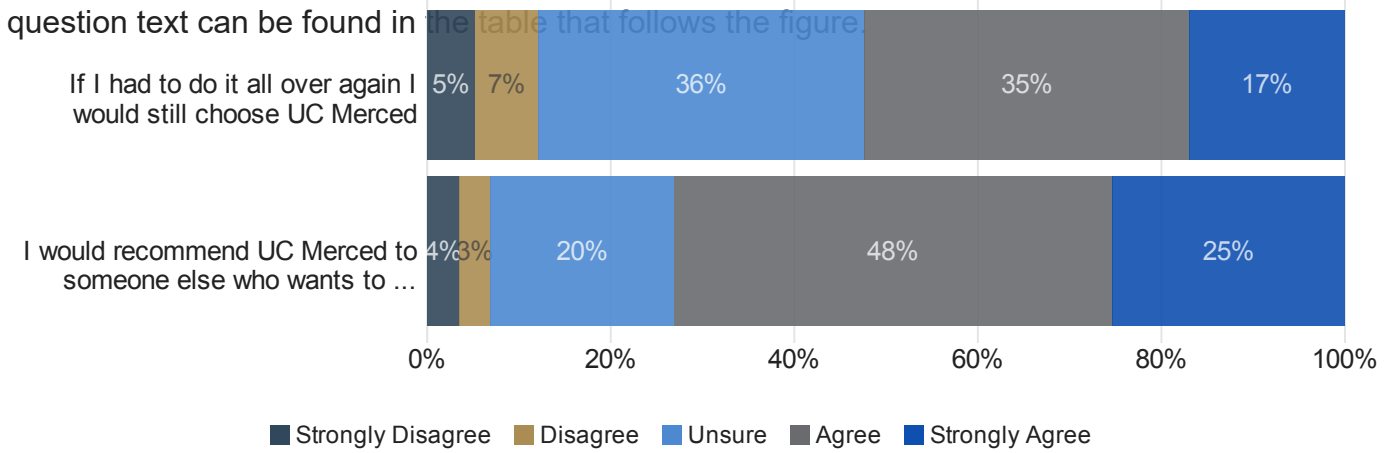
Note: To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.



Field	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
I would be in favor of a required personal laptop computer policy at UC Merced.	86	116	263	172	127	764
Requiring UC Merced students to own a personal laptop computer would be a significant financial challenge for me and my family.	107	146	268	152	91	764

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

Note: 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	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
If I had to do it all over again I would still choose UC Merced	40	53	273	272	130	768
I would recommend UC Merced to someone else who wants to attend college	27	26	153	366	194	766