

2016 New Student Survey Report - Frosh Responses Only

Prepared by Institutional Research and Decision Support

Last Updated: December 13, 2017

Administration: The survey was administered between October 22, 2017 and November 20, 2017 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 2449 students invited to complete the survey, 1006 (41%) 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 a few exceptions:

- Females were 8% more likely to respond than males.
- There were some School and Major differences (e.g., students with a major in the School of Engineering or the School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts were somewhat more likely to respond compared to students with a major in the School of Natural Sciences or Undeclared students).

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.
- **Fee 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.
- **Frosh Respondents:** This report has been filtered to contain only survey responses from students who entered UC Merced as Frosh (non-transfer students), though Tables 1-3 contain information about all respondents regardless of entering level status.

Table 1. Student Demographics

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2449 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 1006 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
Entering Level					
Transfer Students	156	6%	80	8%	51%
Students Who Entered as Freshmen/Frosh	2293	94%	926	92%	40%
Gender					
Female	1276	52%	569	57%	45%
Male	1156	47%	431	43%	37%
Unknown	17	1%	6	<1%	35%
Race/Ethnicity					
International	191	8%	82	8%	43%
Hispanic	1388	57%	533	53%	38%
African American	113	5%	43	4%	38%
American Indian	4	<1%	1	<1%	25%
Asian	412	17%	197	20%	48%
Pacific Islander	14	1%	6	1%	43%
White	234	10%	105	10%	45%
Multi-racial	75	3%	32	3%	43%
Unknown	18	1%	7	1%	39%

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

Table 2. Student Demographics and Schools

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2449 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 1006 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
First Generation Status					
First Generation	1826	75%	738	73%	40%
Non-First Generation	623	25%	268	27%	43%
Pell Eligibility Status					
Pell Grant Eligible	1618	66%	664	66%	41%
Non-Pell Grant Eligible	831	34%	342	34%	41%
First Language					
English Only as First Language	705	29%	303	30%	43%
English and Other Language or Other Language Only as First Language	1742	71%	702	70%	40%
Unknown	2	<1%	1	<1%	50%
School					
Engineering	712	29%	309	31%	43%
Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts (SSHA)	815	33%	379	38%	47%
Natural Sciences	736	30%	247	25%	34%
Undeclared	186	8%	71	7%	38%

% 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 2449 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 1006 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
ANTH – Anthropology	13	1%	6	1%	46%
BENG – Bioengineering	72	3%	25	3%	35%
BIOS – Biological Sciences	555	23%	177	18%	32%
CHEM – Chemical Sciences	84	3%	35	4%	42%
COGS – Cognitive Science	35	1%	13	1%	37%
CRES – Critical Race & Ethnic Studies	1	<1%	1	<1%	100%
CSE – Computer Science & Engineering	302	12%	149	15%	49%
ECON – Economics	16	1%	6	1%	38%
ENG – English	22	1%	13	1%	59%
ENVE – Environmental Engineering	30	1%	21	2%	70%
ESS – Earth Systems Science	6	<1%	3	<1%	50%
GASP – Global Arts Studies	10	<1%	2	<1%	20%
HIST – History	26	1%	12	1%	46%
MATH – Mathematical Sciences	40	2%	12	1%	30%
MBE – Management & Business Economics	153	6%	53	5%	35%

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

Table 3. Student Majors (continued)

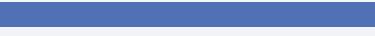
Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 2449 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 1006 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
ME – Mechanical Engineering	192	8%	77	8%	40%
MSE – Materials Science & Engineering	11	<1%	1	<1%	9%
PH – Public Health	55	2%	32	3%	58%
PHYS – Physics	25	1%	8	1%	32%
POLI – Political Science	96	4%	43	4%	45%
PSY – Psychology	274	11%	142	14%	52%
SOC – Sociology	70	3%	33	3%	47%
SPAN – Spanish	16	1%	7	1%	44%
UENG – Undeclared Engineering	105	4%	36	4%	34%
UNS – Undeclared Natural Sciences	26	1%	12	1%	46%
USHA – Undeclared SSHA	28	1%	16	2%	57%
0000 - Undeclared	186	8%	71	7%	38%

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

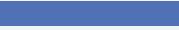
When you arrived at UC Merced, how welcoming did you find the campus environment?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Very welcoming		701	76%
2	Somewhat welcoming		214	23%
3	Not welcoming		11	1%
	Total		926	100%

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

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Very connected		94	10%
2	Connected		625	67%
3	Disconnected		173	19%
4	Very disconnected		34	4%
	Total		926	100%

When you applied to colleges, was UC Merced your:

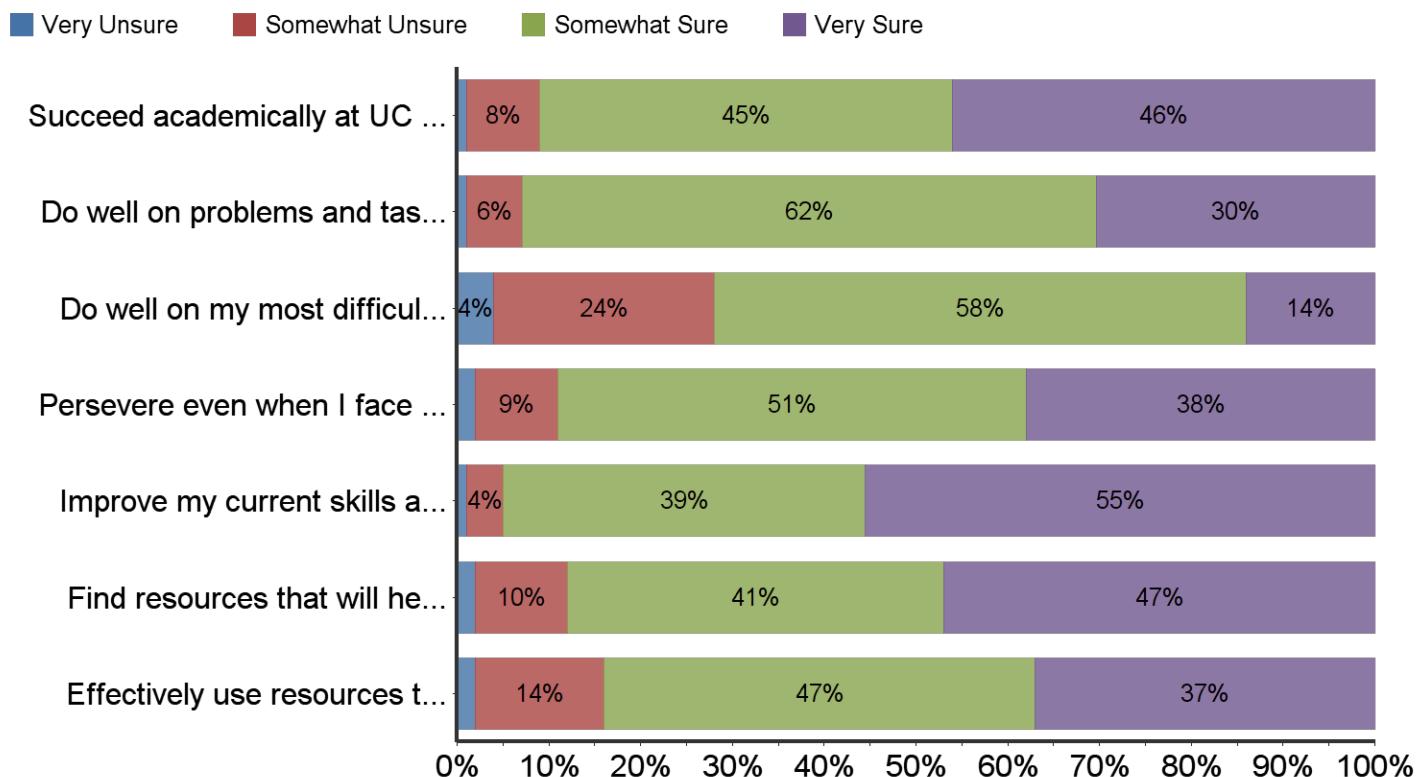
#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	First choice		129	14%
2	Second choice		261	28%
3	Third choice		231	25%
4	Lower than third choice		304	33%
	Total		925	100%

What is the highest degree you intend to eventually obtain?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Bachelor's degree		225	24%
2	Master's degree		295	32%
3	Doctoral degree		237	26%
4	Unsure		166	18%
5	None		3	0%
	Total		926	100%

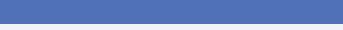
8 **How sure are you that you can do each of the following:**

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.



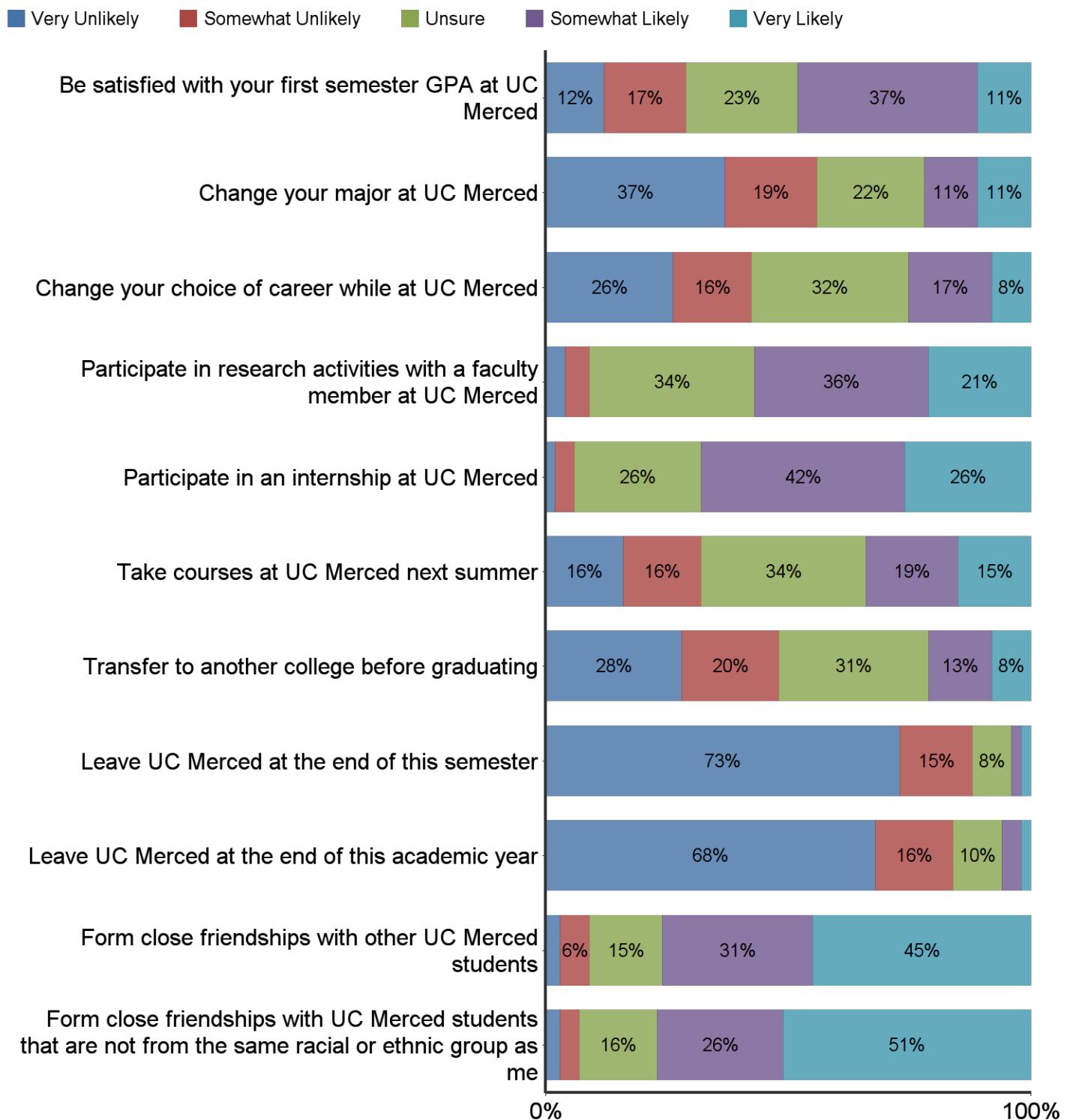
#	Question	Very Unsure	Somewhat Unsure	Somewhat Sure	Very Sure	Response
1	Succeed academically at UC Merced	12	71	416	417	916
2	Do well on problems and tasks assigned in my courses	13	57	571	273	914
3	Do well on my most difficult course	41	221	527	124	913
4	Persevere even when I face academic challenges and obstacles	14	86	467	345	912
5	Improve my current skills and abilities	11	41	359	501	912
6	Find resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors)	16	91	377	430	914
7	Effectively use resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors)	21	129	429	335	914

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

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Mostly A's		191	21%
2	Mostly B's		557	62%
3	Mostly C's		137	15%
4	Lower than C's		14	2%
	Total		899	100%

How likely are you to:

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

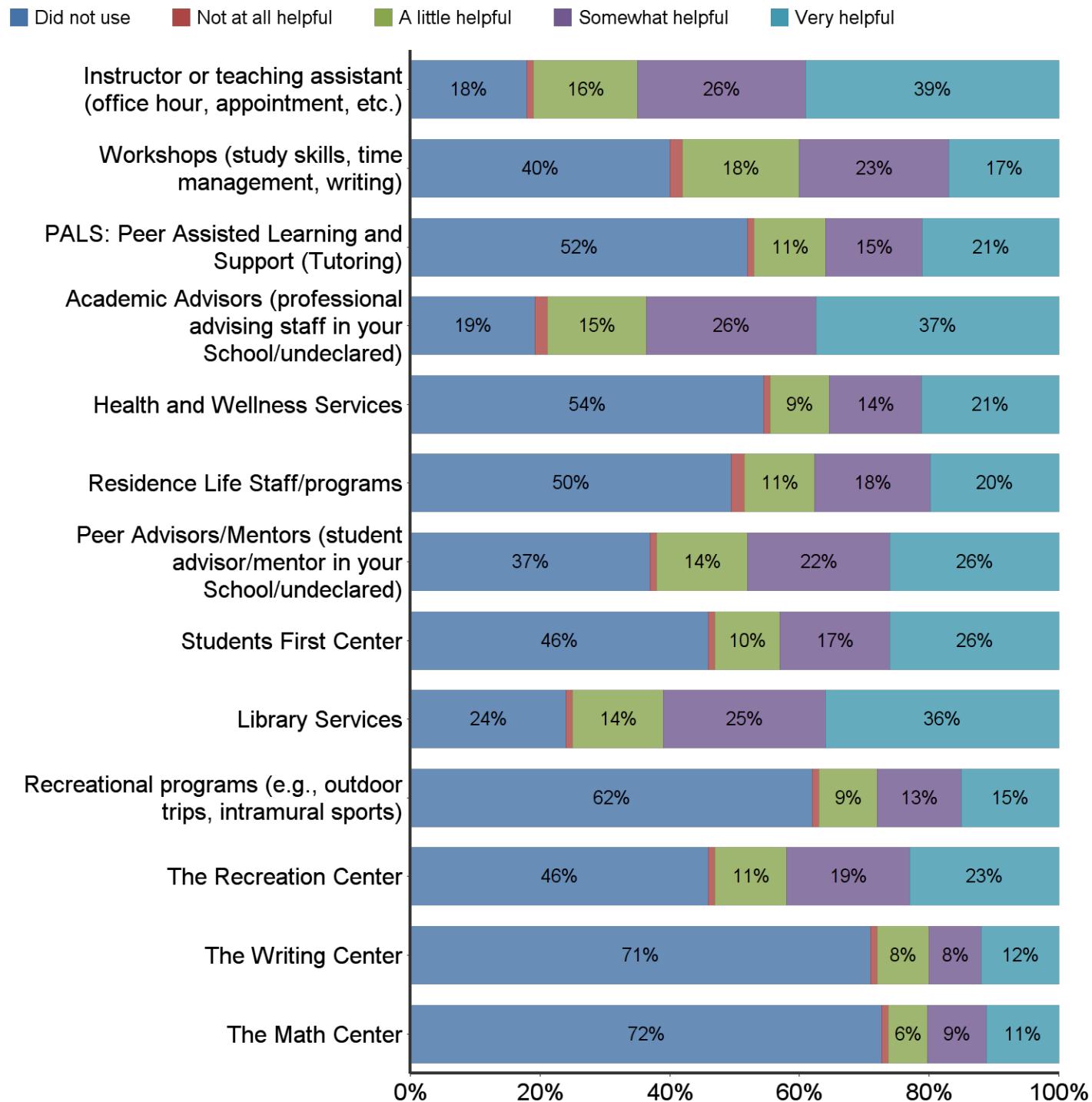


How likely are you to:**Note: This data is presented as a figure (percentages) on the previous page.**

#	Question	Very Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Unsure	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely	Response
1	Be satisfied with your first semester GPA at UC Merced	110	151	206	330	102	899
2	Change your major at UC Merced	333	171	193	102	98	897
3	Change your choice of career while at UC Merced	235	145	286	155	74	895
4	Participate in research activities with a faculty member at UC Merced	35	45	308	320	189	897
5	Participate in an internship at UC Merced	17	36	234	382	230	899
6	Take courses at UC Merced next summer	143	143	303	170	139	898
7	Transfer to another college before graduating	253	182	277	117	68	897
8	Leave UC Merced at the end of this semester	652	137	69	21	16	895
9	Leave UC Merced at the end of this academic year	609	139	88	37	20	893
10	Form close friendships with other UC Merced students	24	58	131	277	405	895
11	Form close friendships with UC Merced students that are not from the same racial or ethnic group as me	28	35	140	233	457	893

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 table (counts/frequencies) on the next page.



¹³ 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.

#	Question	Did not use	Not at all helpful	A little helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	Response
1	Instructor or teaching assistant (office hour, appointment, etc.)	154	13	136	229	335	867
2	Workshops (study skills, time management, writing)	345	18	157	203	143	866
3	PALS: Peer Assisted Learning and Support (Tutoring)	452	8	95	129	179	863
7	Academic Advisors (professional advising staff in your School/undeclared)	168	20	130	229	319	866
10	Health and Wellness Services	467	12	82	125	179	865
11	Residence Life Staff/programs	431	14	93	152	174	864
13	Peer Advisors/Mentors (student advisor/mentor in your School/undeclared)	317	11	120	193	223	864
14	Students First Center	393	8	89	148	224	862
15	Library Services	209	5	121	215	311	861
16	Recreational programs (e.g., outdoor trips, intramural sports)	535	7	77	111	133	863
17	The Recreation Center	397	11	91	161	202	862
18	The Writing Center	613	6	70	70	103	862
20	The Math Center	626	7	56	78	98	865

Please list any other resources that have been helpful in your transition to UC Merced.

Note: n = 98 valid responses; however, some respondents listed more than one response such that there were more total responses than respondents. Numbers in parentheses indicate frequencies for responses given by more than one respondent. This table is static and cannot be filtered.

Resource	Frequency mentioned
Peers (friends, study groups, upperclassmates, mentors, room/housemate)	16
Bright Success Center (mentors, Fiat Lux, Gateway Scholars, PALS, undocumented student services)	13
Clubs and Organizations	10
Athletics (gym, sports team, SALA, OEP)	9
Residence Life (RA, floor activities)	6
DARTS	5
Office hours/TA	5
Coursework (Engineering Service Learning, USTU10)	4
No resources have been helpful	4
Campus outreach/information (Emails from campus and advisors, UCM website)	3
CAPS	3
Events to meet people (in and out of res halls)	3
General staff/faculty helpfulness	3
CARE	2
Career Center (CCPA)	2
Dining Center/Market Place	2
IT/IT Help Desk	2
Leadership programming (Bobcat Leadership Series, YLP)	2
Relaxed campus environment/city	2
STEM resource center	2
Summer Bridge Program	2
Advisors	1
Disability Services	1
Excel training	1
Game room	1
High School advisor	1
Lake Yosemite	1
Library	1
Music Room	1
Planner	1
Relaxation station	1
Students First Center	1
Writing Center	1

Which of the following describes your living situation?

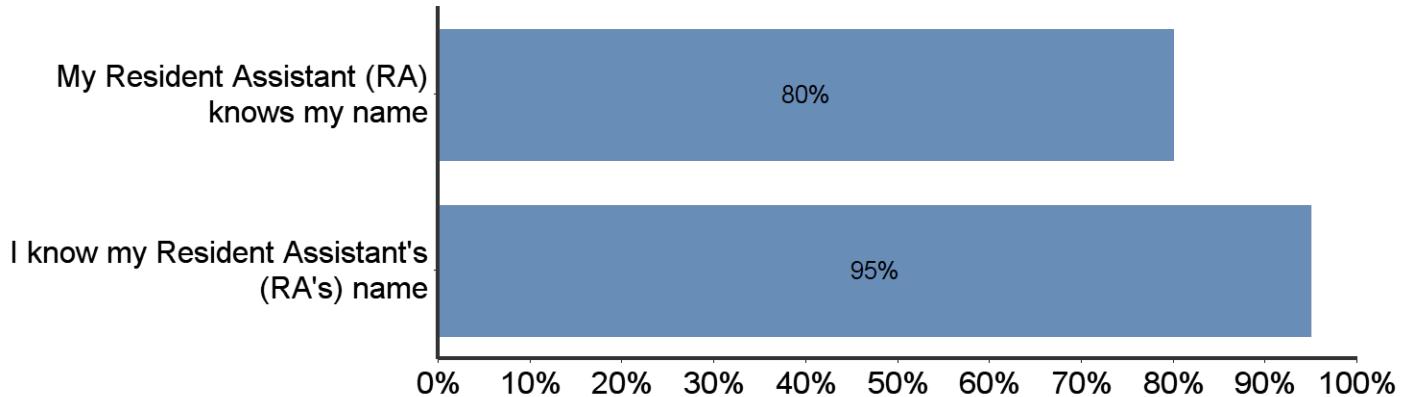
Note: Only respondents who live in campus sponsored housing could answer this question.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	I live on campus in a residence hall		743	100%
2	I live off campus in a campus-sponsored apartment (i.e., Village Landing, Northwood Village, or Village Terrace)		3	0%
	Total		746	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 campus sponsored housing could answer this question.

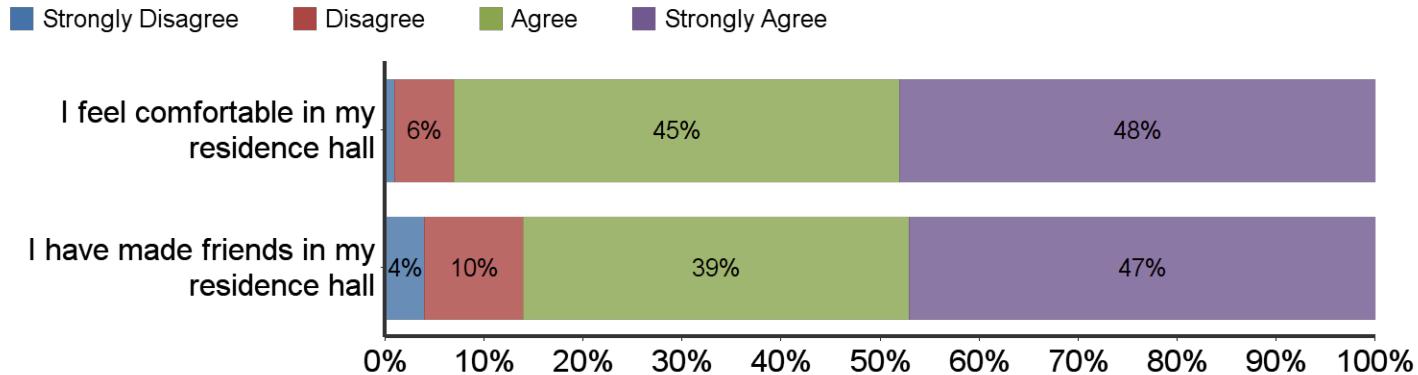
■ Yes



#	Question	No	Yes	Response
1	My Resident Assistant (RA) knows my name	154	606	760
2	I know my Resident Assistant's (RA's) name	38	722	760

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.

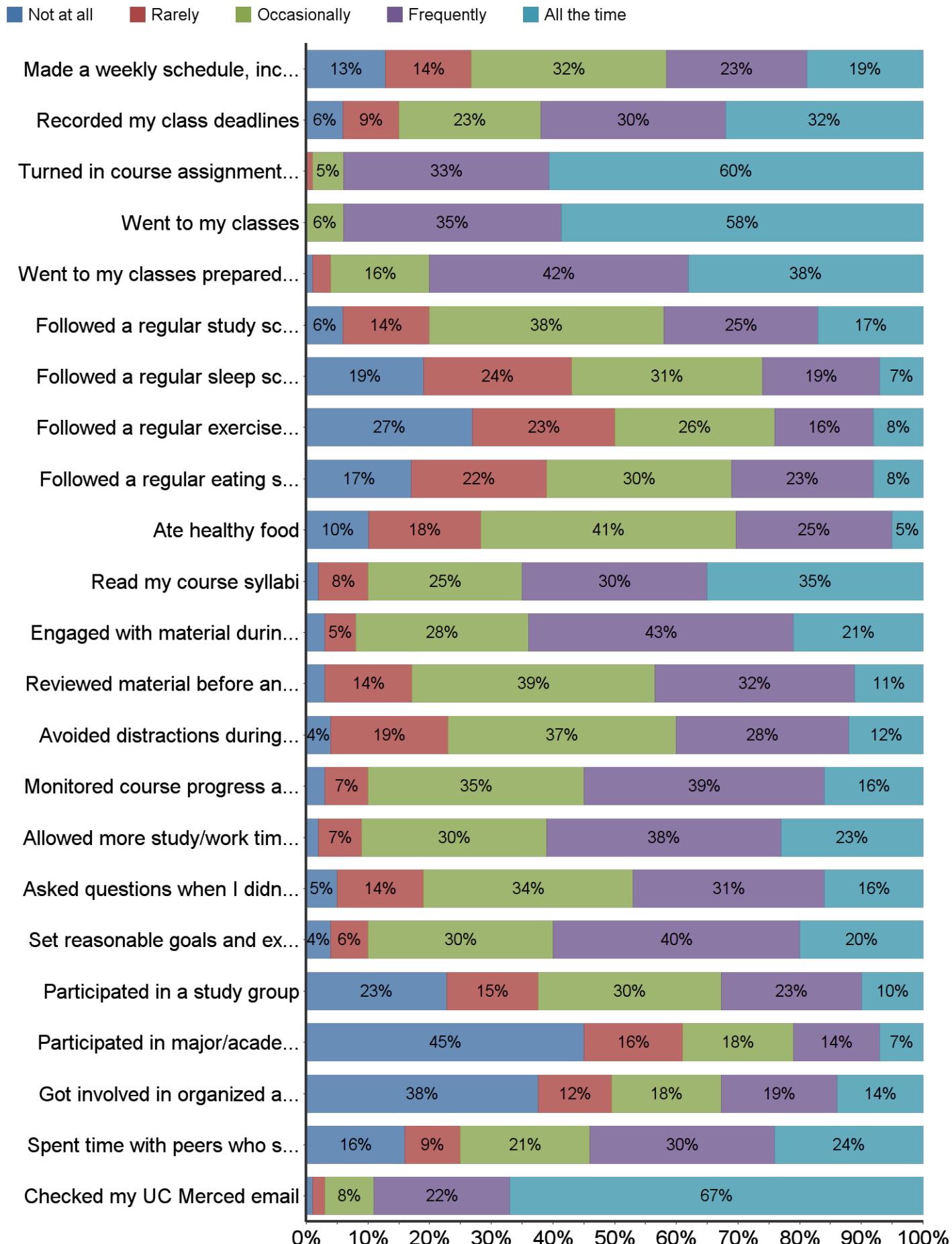
Note: Only respondents who live in campus sponsored housing could answer this question.



#	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response
2	I feel comfortable in my residence hall	11	43	345	363	762
16	I have made friends in my residence hall	28	78	296	360	762

18 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.



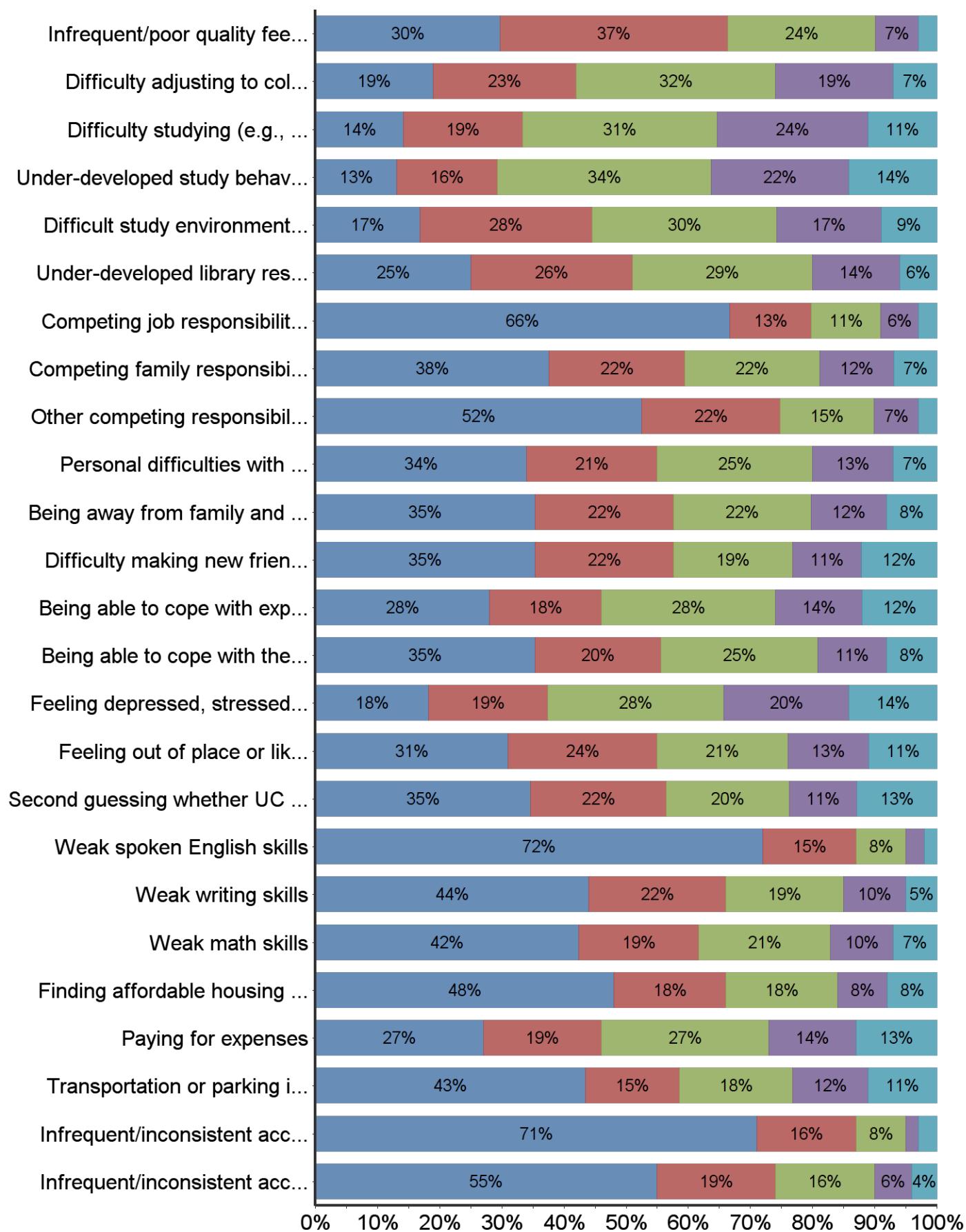
19 **How often have you done each of the following this semester?****Note: This data is presented as a figure (percentages) on the previous page.**

#	Question	Not at all	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	All the time	Response
1	Made a weekly schedule, including weekends, to help manage my time	106	117	267	192	164	846
2	Recorded my class deadlines	51	78	194	255	266	844
3	Turned in course assignments on time	4	5	45	282	510	846
4	Went to my classes	2	4	54	295	490	845
5	Went to my classes prepared (e.g., having read assignments)	6	27	133	354	324	844
6	Followed a regular study schedule	52	120	317	208	146	843
7	Followed a regular sleep schedule	162	204	260	163	56	845
8	Followed a regular exercise schedule	225	198	220	137	65	845
9	Followed a regular eating schedule	146	184	250	195	71	846
10	Ate healthy food	88	154	347	213	41	843
11	Read my course syllabi	18	70	208	249	295	840
12	Engaged with material during study sessions (i.e., I didn't just skim)	23	45	239	359	178	844
13	Reviewed material before and after class	28	118	332	273	94	845
14	Avoided distractions during study sessions (e.g., texting friends, checking Facebook)	37	160	310	235	99	841
15	Monitored course progress and made changes when needed	26	61	297	328	132	844
16	Allowed more study/work time for difficult classes and assignments	21	56	254	319	195	845
17	Asked questions when I didn't understand something	42	121	284	261	137	845
18	Set reasonable goals and expectations for myself	31	51	255	335	170	842
19	Participated in a study group	194	125	251	190	84	844
20	Participated in major/academic-related clubs, organizations, or activities	381	133	151	115	63	843
21	Got involved in organized activities outside the classroom (e.g., athletics, clubs, work)	318	98	151	162	116	845
22	Spent time with peers who support my academic success	134	76	175	256	202	843
23	Checked my UC Merced email	6	21	70	182	565	844

20 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.

Not at all Rarely Occasionally Frequently All the time

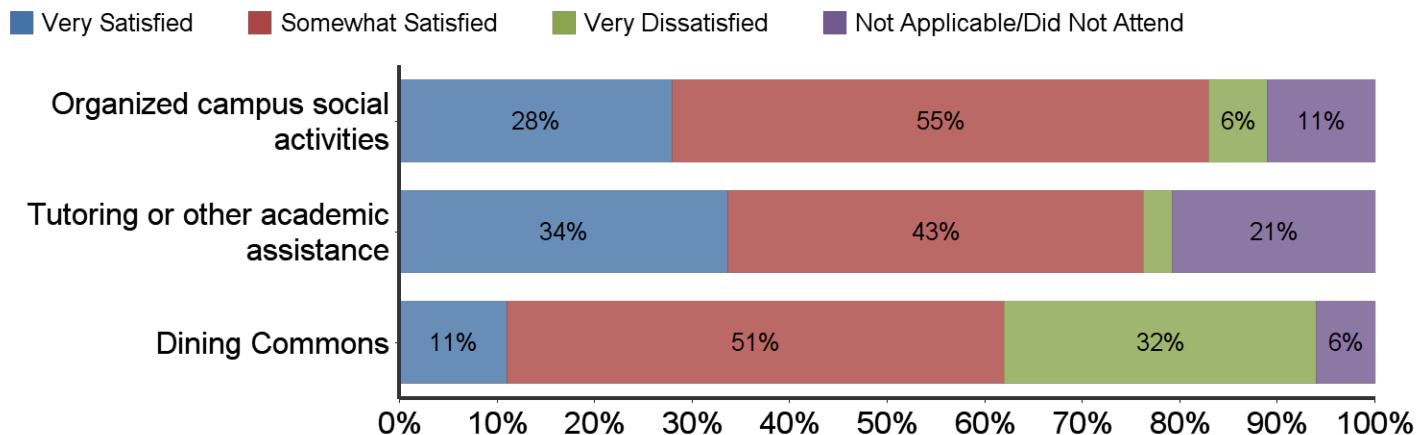


During your first semester at UC Merced, how often have each of the following been obstacles to your school work or academic success?

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	241	299	195	57	22	814
2	Difficulty adjusting to college-level work (e.g., coursework, exams, papers)	154	191	260	151	58	814
3	Difficulty studying (e.g., knowing how to start, how to get help, organize material)	117	157	254	194	92	814
4	Under-developed study behaviors (e.g., wait until last minute, easily distracted, too much social time, too much web surfing)	106	134	277	180	116	813
5	Difficult study environment (e.g., noisy roommate, poor Internet access, inadequate computer/software)	142	225	240	134	71	812
6	Under-developed library research skills	207	212	236	113	46	814
7	Competing job responsibilities (i.e., paid employment)	533	107	87	52	28	807
8	Competing family responsibilities	305	176	176	97	57	811
9	Other competing responsibilities (e.g., athletics, clubs, internship)	423	182	123	58	24	810
10	Personal difficulties with family, intimate relationships, or friends	276	173	200	103	59	811
11	Being away from family and friends: being "homesick"	284	179	180	99	68	810
12	Difficulty making new friends at UC Merced	284	182	156	93	96	811
13	Being able to cope with expectations of parents and family	225	149	225	112	97	808
14	Being able to cope with the values and expectations of friends when they differ from your own	288	165	202	88	69	812
15	Feeling depressed, stressed, or upset	149	154	231	162	116	812
16	Feeling out of place or like you just don't fit on campus	254	195	174	102	87	812
17	Second guessing whether UC Merced was the right choice for you	281	179	162	87	102	811
18	Weak spoken English skills	583	120	62	25	20	810
19	Weak writing skills	358	179	158	79	37	811
20	Weak math skills	337	155	173	82	60	807
21	Finding affordable housing while a student at UC Merced	385	145	146	64	67	807
22	Paying for expenses	218	158	221	113	103	813
23	Transportation or parking issues	351	122	149	97	93	812
24	Infrequent/inconsistent access to a computer	577	129	66	20	21	813
25	Infrequent/inconsistent access to the Internet/web	445	158	127	48	36	814

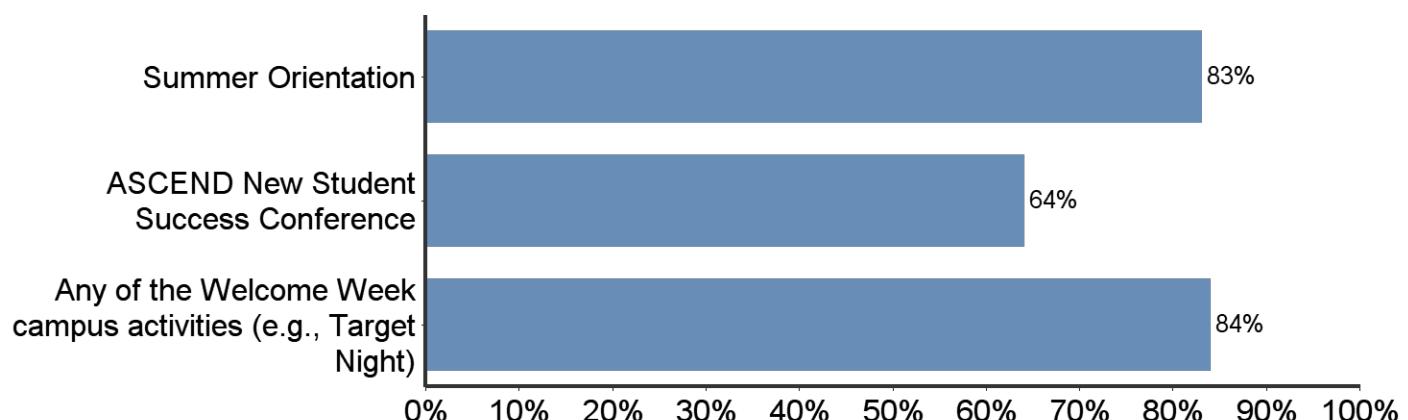
How satisfied are you so far with the following at UC Merced?



#	Question	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable/Did Not Attend	Response
1	Organized campus social activities	226	446	49	93	814
2	Tutoring or other academic assistance	274	346	26	168	814
3	Dining Commons	88	416	259	48	811

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

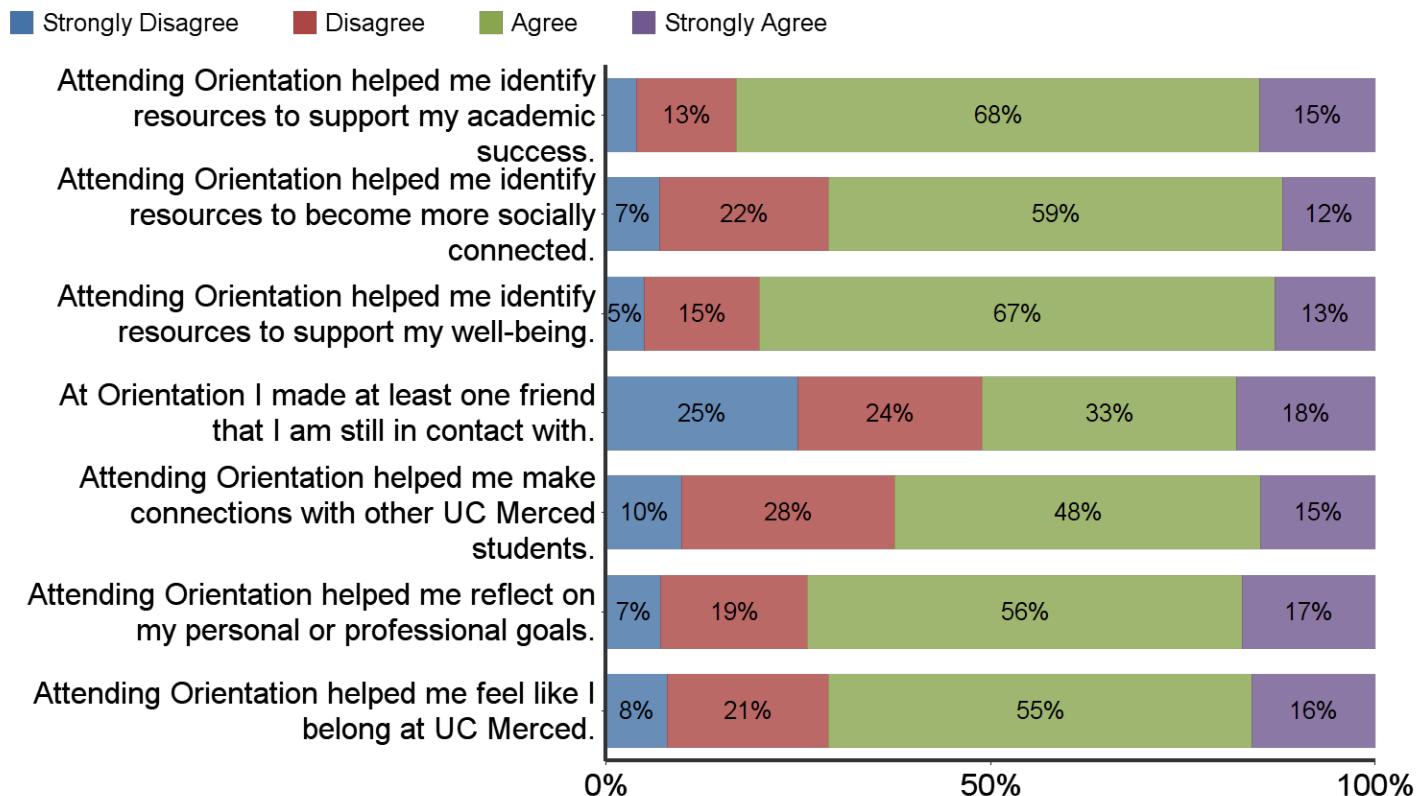
■ Yes



#	Question	No	Yes	Response
1	Summer Orientation	137	680	817
2	ASCEND New Student Success Conference	289	522	811
3	Any of the Welcome Week campus activities (e.g., Target Night)	132	684	816

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.



#	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response
1	Attending Orientation helped me identify resources to support my academic success.	26	87	461	101	675
2	Attending Orientation helped me identify resources to become more socially connected.	45	148	400	82	675
3	Attending Orientation helped me identify resources to support my well-being.	34	98	451	89	672
4	At Orientation I made at least one friend that I am still in contact with.	166	162	223	123	674
5	Attending Orientation helped me make connections with other UC Merced students.	67	186	322	98	673
7	Attending Orientation helped me reflect on my personal or professional goals.	50	130	375	117	672
8	Attending Orientation helped me feel like I belong at UC Merced.	55	143	368	107	673

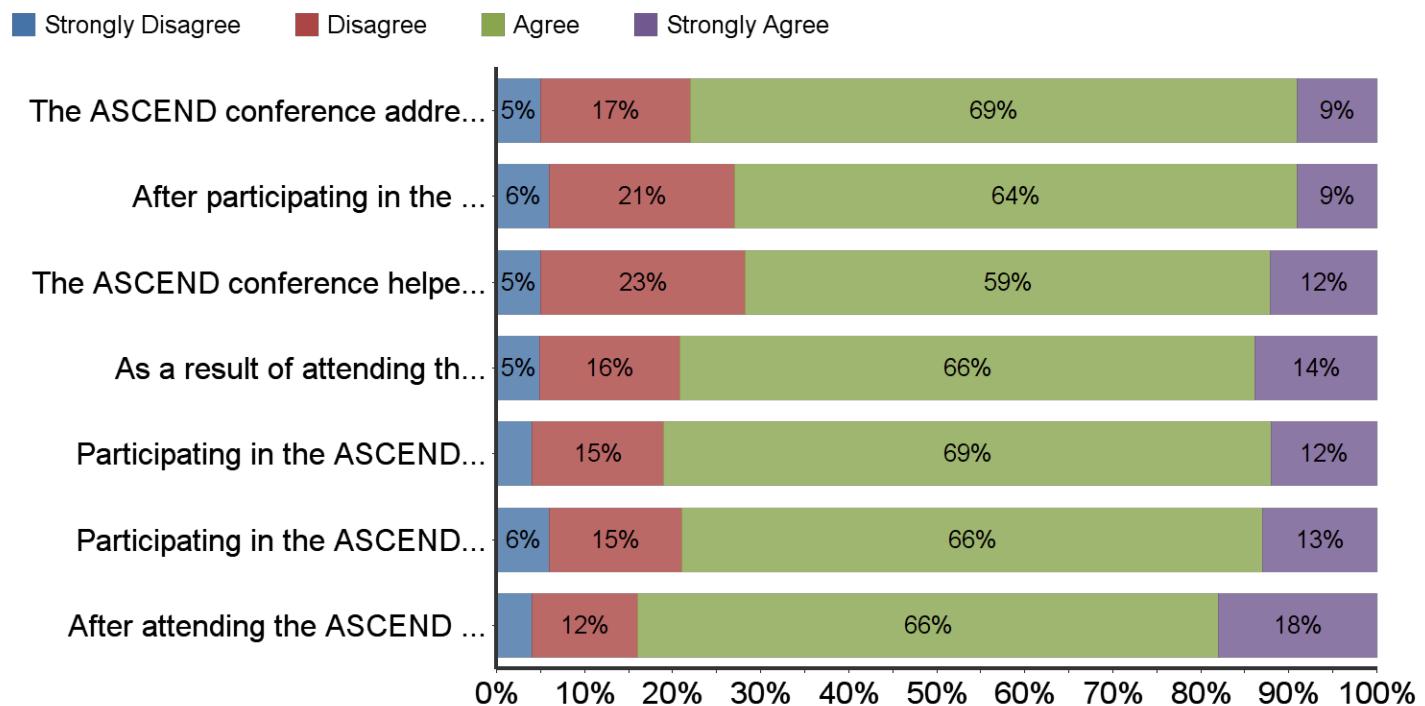
Think back to a personal or professional goal you reflected on at Orientation. Have you made progress toward achieving this goal?

Note: Only respondents who attended Orientation and agreed (agree or strongly agree) that it helped them reflect on personal/professional goals could answer this question.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
2	No, no progress yet		36	7%
3	Yes, a little progress		337	69%
4	Yes, a lot of progress		28	6%
1	I'm not sure		89	18%
	Total		490	100%

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 UC Merced.	26	85	352	44	507
2	After participating in the ASCEND conference, I felt more prepared to begin classes at UC Merced.	31	107	323	47	508
3	The ASCEND conference helped increase my confidence about connecting with UC Merced personnel (e.g. staff, faculty, TAs).	26	119	301	61	507
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.	23	81	334	69	507
5	Participating in the ASCEND conference helped me identify specific actions I could take to be academically successful.	19	74	351	62	506
6	Participating in the ASCEND conference helped me understand how personal choices and decisions can impact both the individual and the community.	28	78	333	68	507
7	After attending the ASCEND conference, I better understand the academic expectations of UC Merced.	22	61	332	90	505

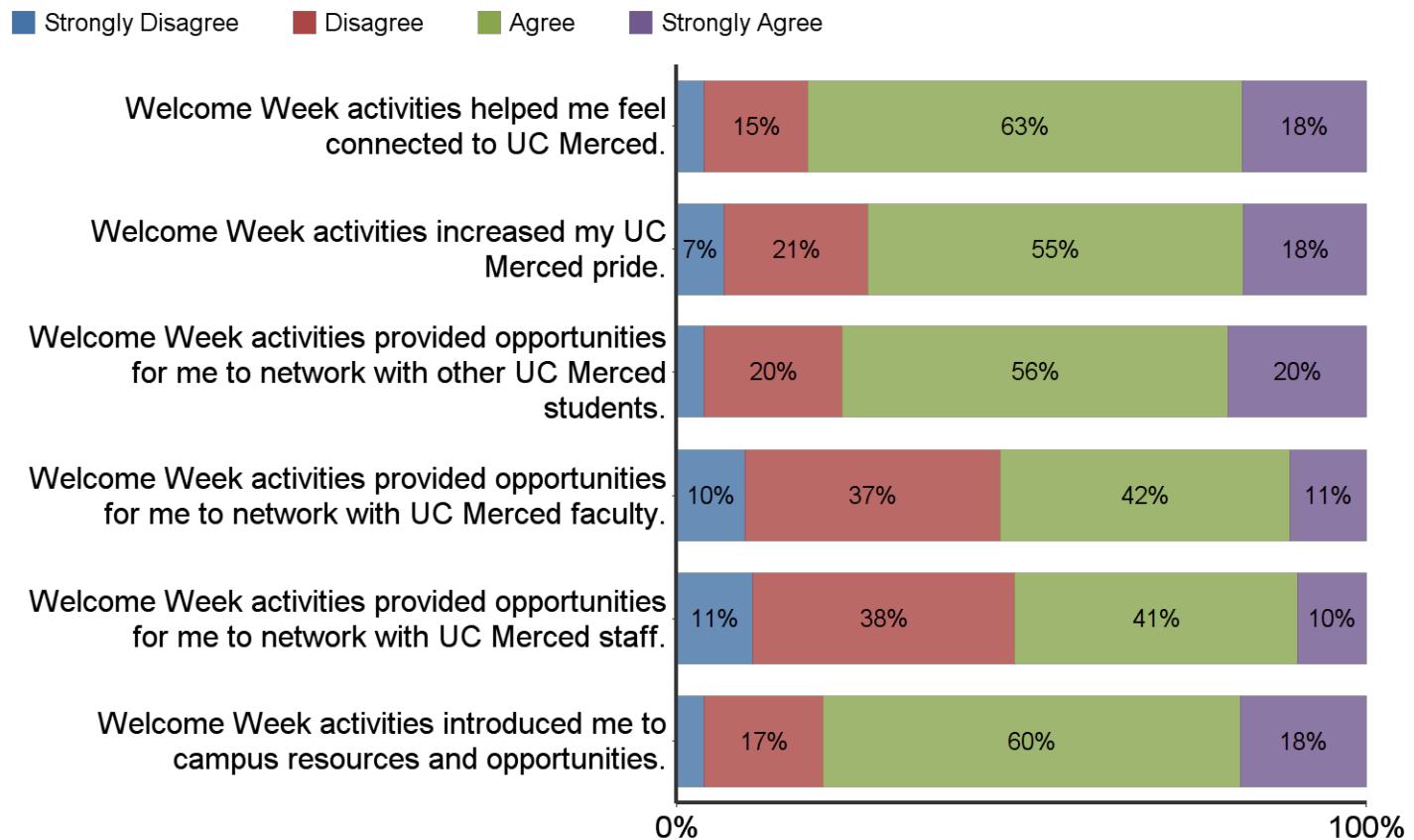
How many Welcome Week events did you attend (e.g., Target Night)?

Note: Only respondents who said they attended any Welcome Week event(s) could answer this question.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Not sure		88	13%
3	1-3 events		390	58%
4	4-6 events		177	26%
5	7 or more events		21	3%
	Total		676	100%

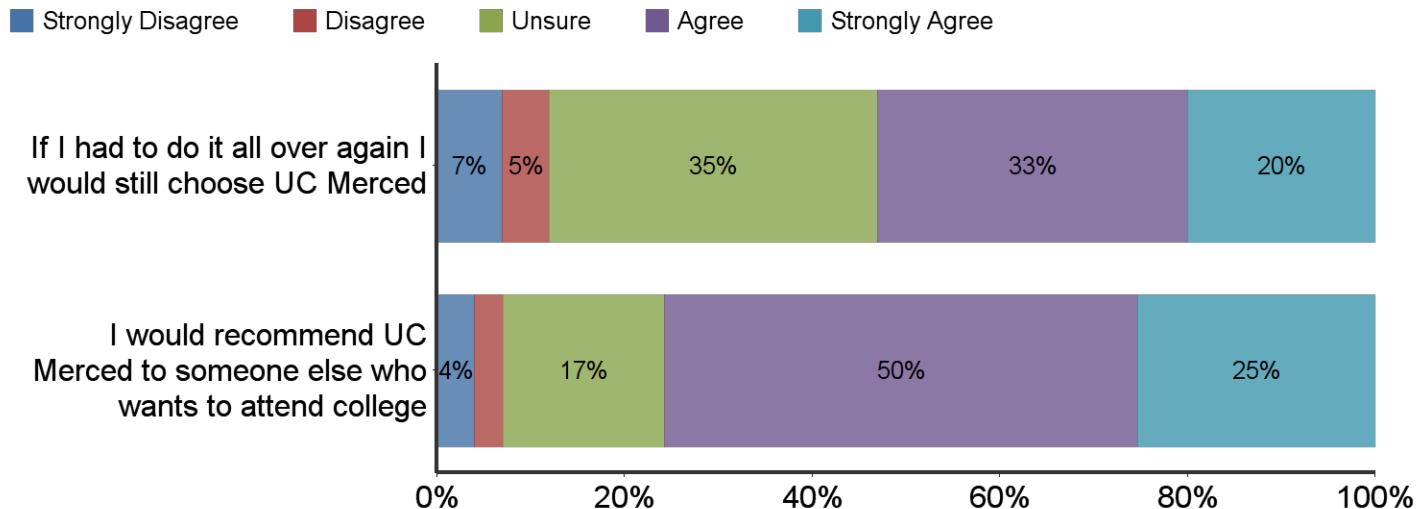
To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the Welcome Week campus activities you attended?

Note: Only respondents who said they attended any Welcome Week event(s) could answer this question.



#	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response
1	Welcome Week activities helped me feel connected to UC Merced.	26	101	427	121	675
2	Welcome Week activities increased my UC Merced pride.	44	141	369	121	675
3	Welcome Week activities provided opportunities for me to network with other UC Merced students.	24	134	380	137	675
4	Welcome Week activities provided opportunities for me to network with UC Merced faculty.	67	248	284	73	672
5	Welcome Week activities provided opportunities for me to network with UC Merced staff.	72	257	276	67	672
6	Welcome Week activities introduced me to campus resources and opportunities.	29	117	405	121	672

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	59	44	281	265	158	807
2	I would recommend UC Merced to someone else who wants to attend college	31	25	141	404	205	806