



Fall 2020 Student Experience Survey

Graduate Student Initial Results

November 20, 2020

Prepared by

Academic Technology Experience:

Marcio Oliveira, Megan Masters, Martyn Clark, Alia Lancaster, Bekzod Akramov

Division of Student Affairs: Sophie Tullier, Brooke Supple, Chetan Joshi, Yu-Wei Wang

Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment:

Sharon La Voy, Alan Socha, Danielle Glazer, Jamie Edwards

Teaching and Learning Transformation Center: Alice Donlan, Mit Patel

Fall 2020 Student Experience Survey - Initial Results

UMD - Graduate students

November 20, 2020

In October and November 2020, students at the University of Maryland, College Park were invited to complete the Fall 2020 Student Experience Survey. The survey was developed by staff in Academic Technology Experience; the Division of Student Affairs; the Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment; and the Teaching and Learning Transformation Center.

This report provides a summary of survey results. An analysis of students' open-ended comments is forthcoming. For each survey item, this report presents the percent of respondents who selected each response option and the number of responses for each individual question. Questions are grouped into the following sections:

1. Survey administration	3
2. Connection to campus and well-being	4
3. Academic experience.....	9
4. Access to technology and use of the ELMS-Canvas platform.....	18
5. Impact of COVID-19	22
6. Demographic information	34

We removed non-responses from the percentage calculations. Percentages may not always sum to 100%, due to rounding. All percentage figures are rounded to the nearest integer. The number of respondents is displayed either above or below each graphic.

1. Survey administration

Administration dates: October 29 - November 6, 2020. The survey was accessed through a link sent out by the Provost on October 29. Reminder emails were sent on November 3, November 5, and November 6.

Target population: All students enrolled at UMD during Fall 2020. The survey was administered through a DIT distribution list for students. 40,531 emails were sent. The number of recipients may differ slightly from official student counts.

Response rate: 1,307 UMD graduate students responded, out of 9,834 UMD graduate students enrolled in Fall 2020. The response rate was 13%.

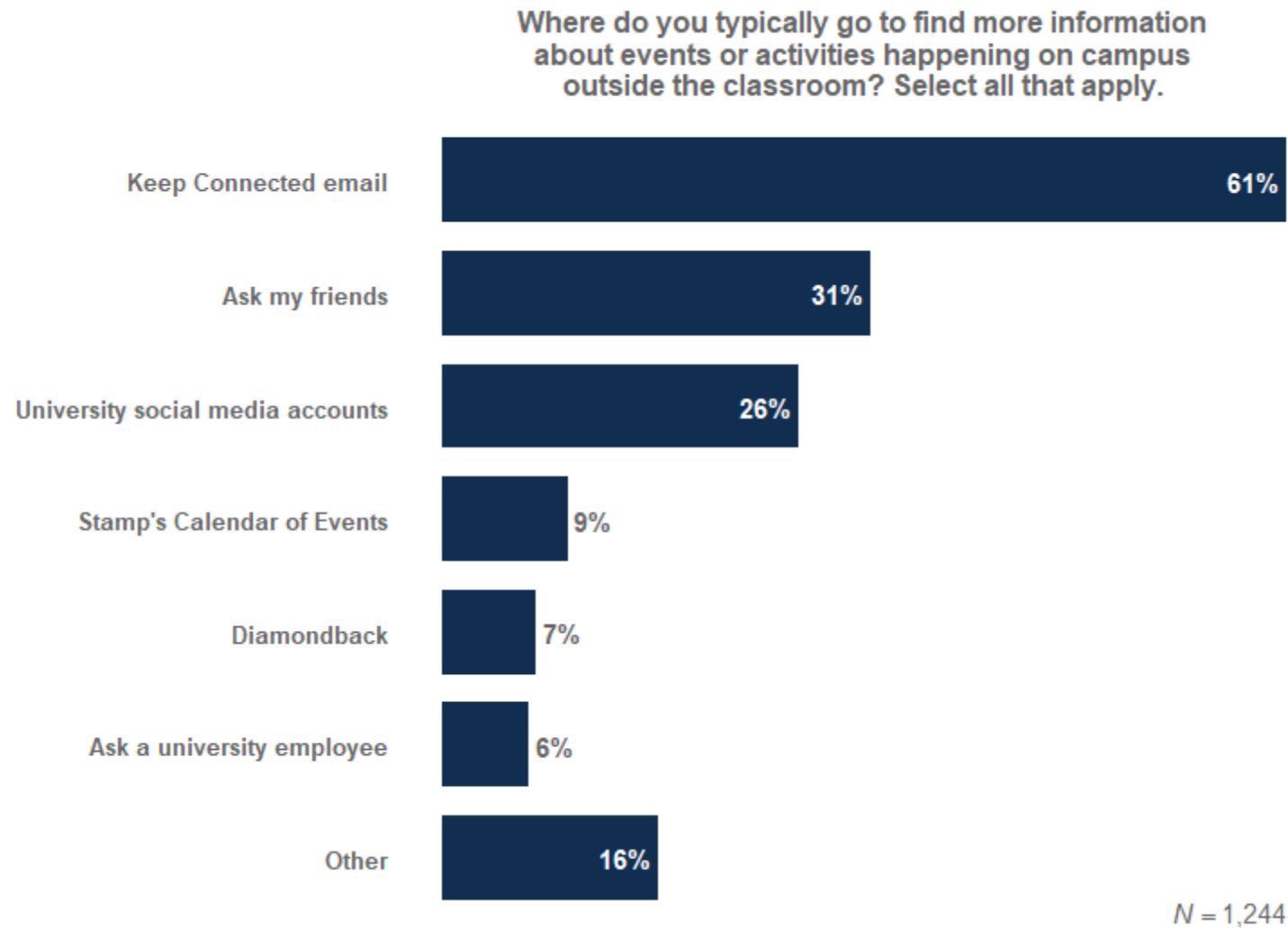
Completion rate: Of the respondents, 1,150 (88%) completed the entire survey. In this analysis, all responses are included on a per-question basis; as a result, the *n*-size per question may vary but is displayed for each item.

Duration: The median response time was 13 minutes.

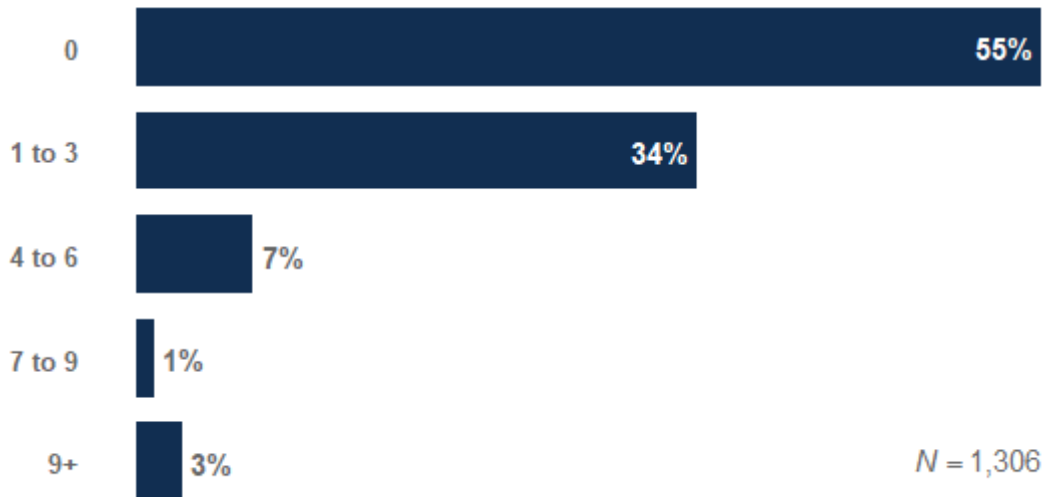
Note: On Thursday, November 5, UMD announced that all courses would transition to online instruction after the Thanksgiving break. Although the university transitioned to remote instruction the week of November 16, this announcement may have influenced students' responses.

2. Connection to campus and well-being

2.1. Engagement with activities outside the classroom

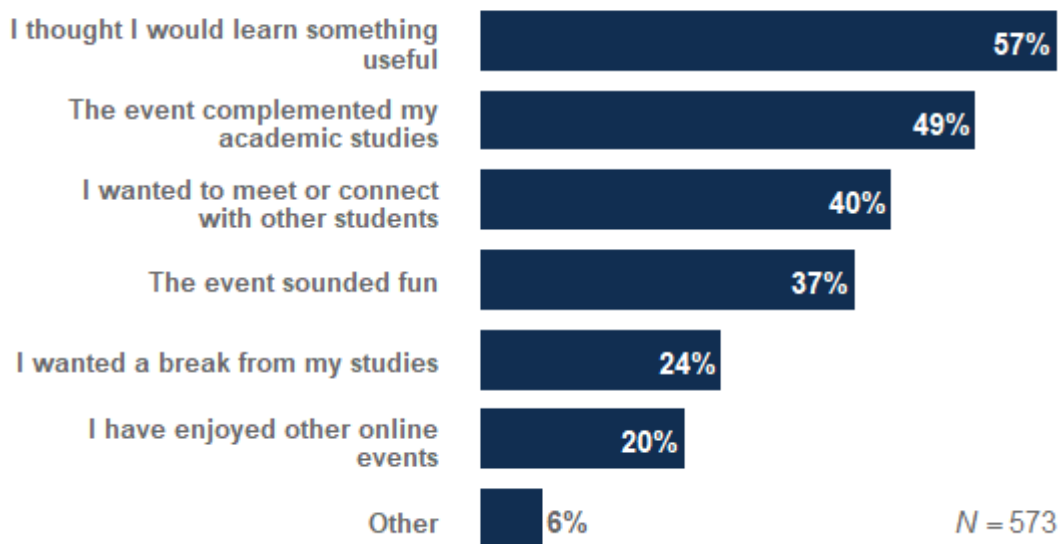


How many online campus events or social activities did you attend this semester that were not related to your academic coursework?

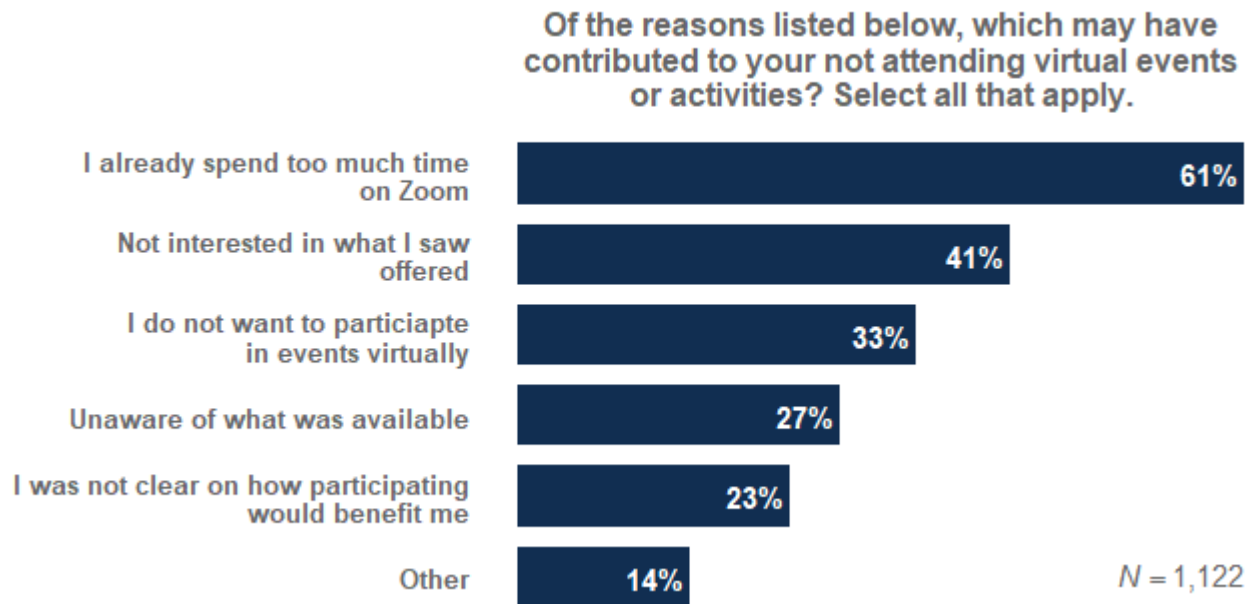


This item was only asked of respondents who said they attended at least one online event or activity.

Why did you attend online campus events and social activities? Select all that apply.

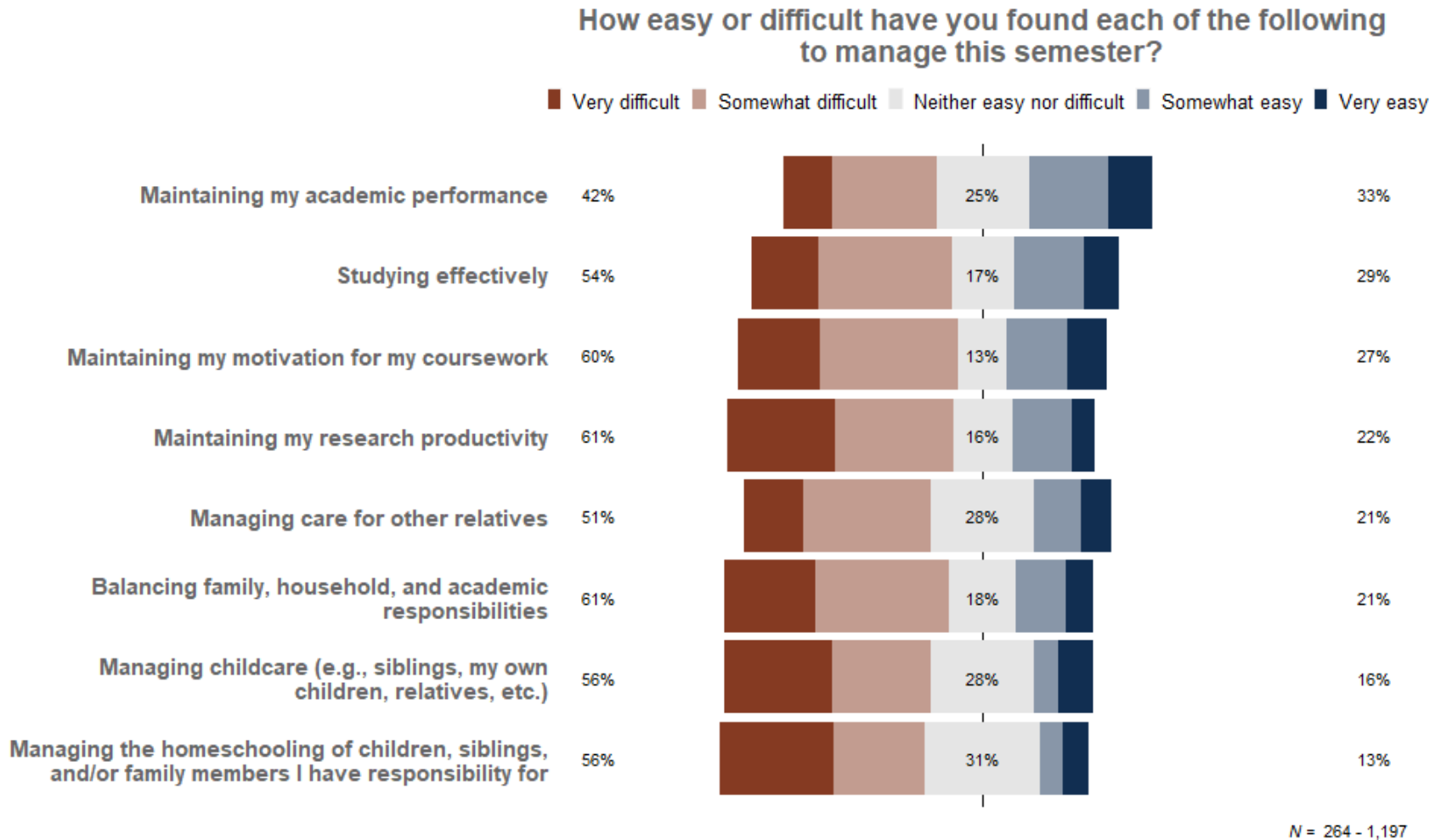


This item was only asked of respondents who said they attended 0 or 1-3 events.



2.2. Challenges this semester

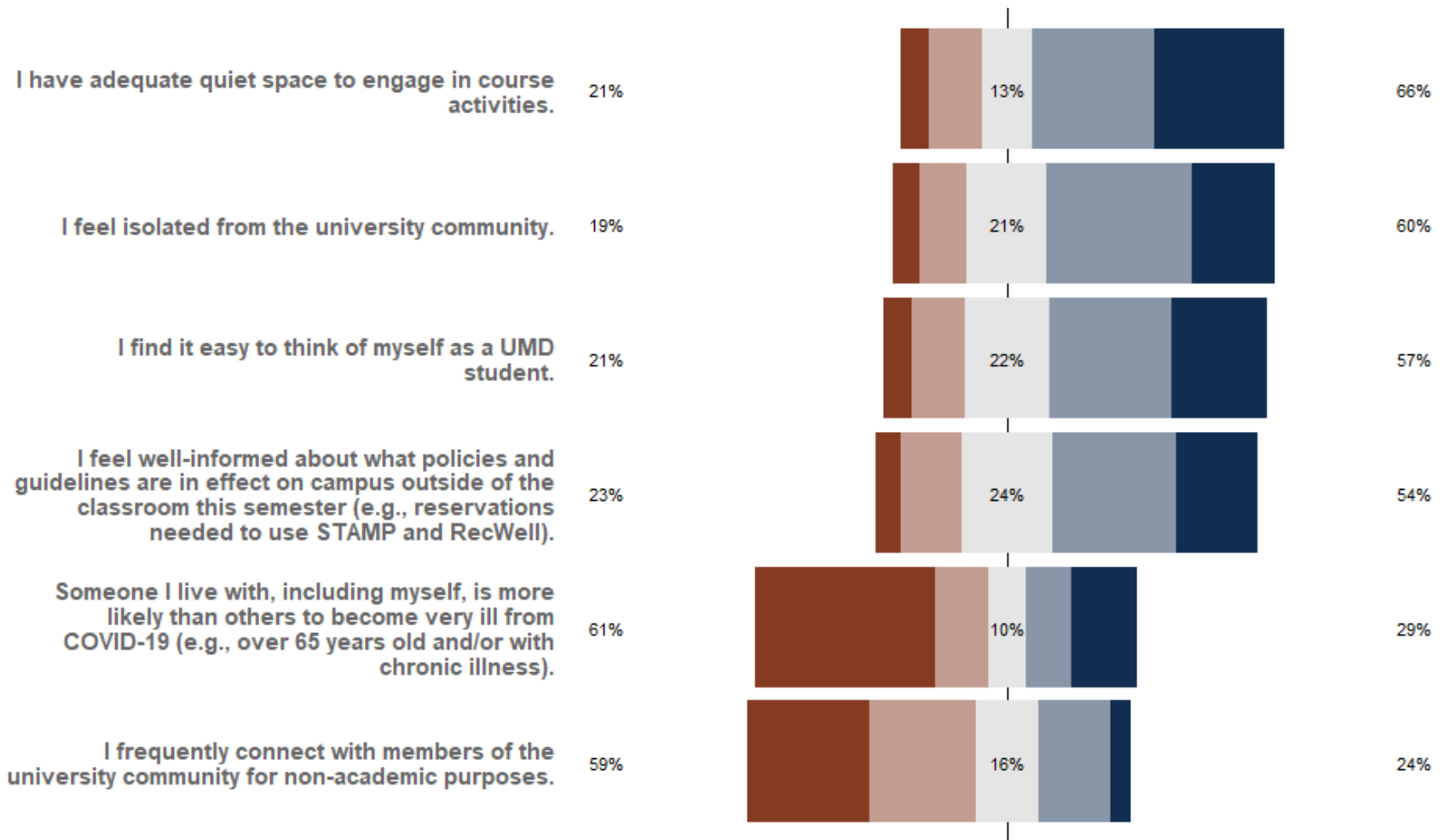
Respondents who selected “not applicable” are not shown below.



In the bar chart above, and others like it in this report, the percent on the left indicates the percent of responses depicted in the dark **and** light red bars (“very difficult” plus “somewhat difficult” in this case) and the percent on the far right indicates the percent of responses depicted in the light **and** dark blue bars (in this case, “somewhat easy” plus “very easy”).

Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. This semester:

Strongly disagree Somewhat disagree Neutral Somewhat agree Strongly agree

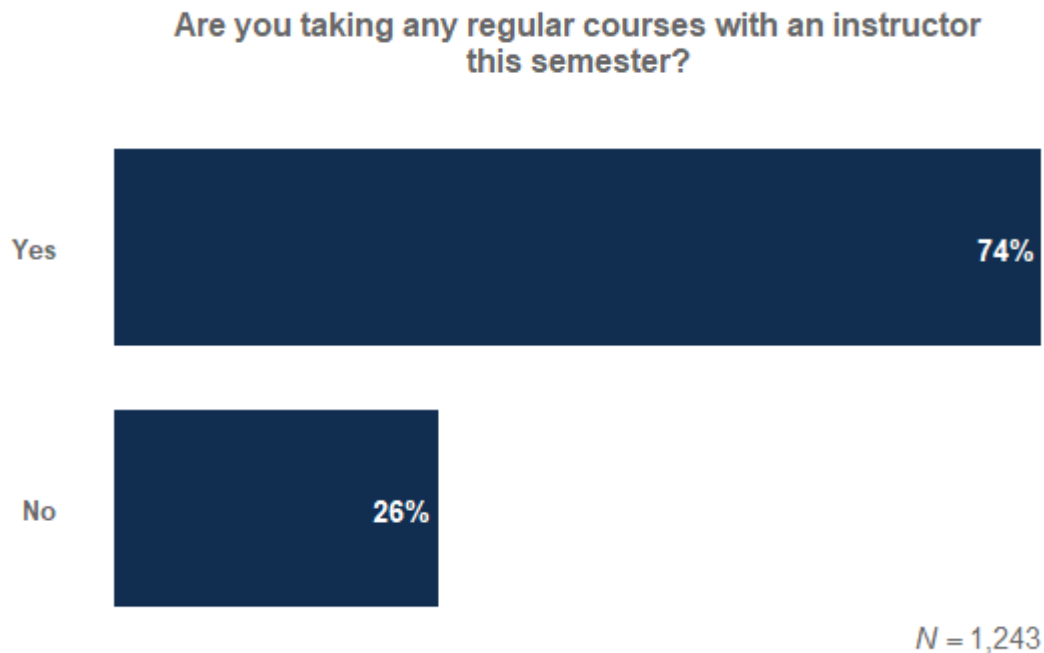


N = 1,234 - 1,237

3. Academic experience

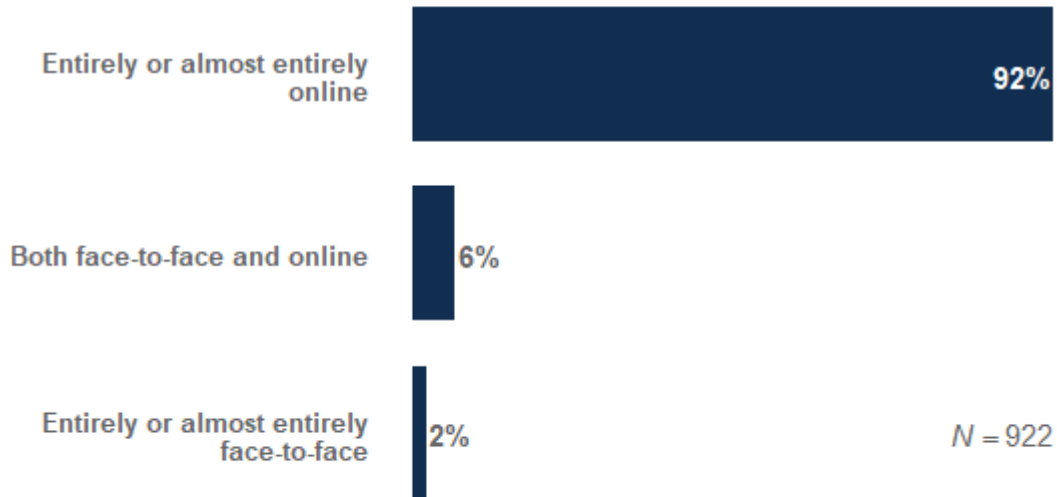
3.1. Course modality

Note: On Tuesday, November 3, this item was edited to read: Are you taking any regular courses, either online or in-person, with an instructor this semester (not individual instruction, research credits, etc.)? The survey team changed this wording because students were interpreting the question differently than how it was intended.



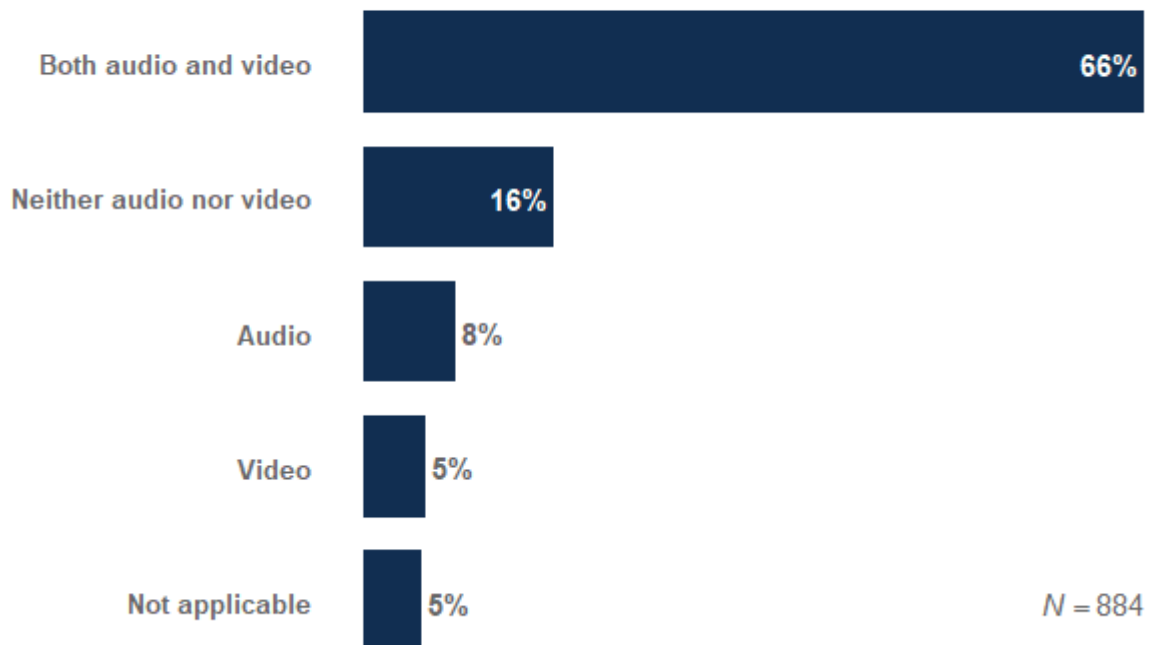
The remaining items in this section were only asked of respondents who said they are taking regular courses with an instructor this semester.

Overall, how would you describe the delivery of your course content this semester?

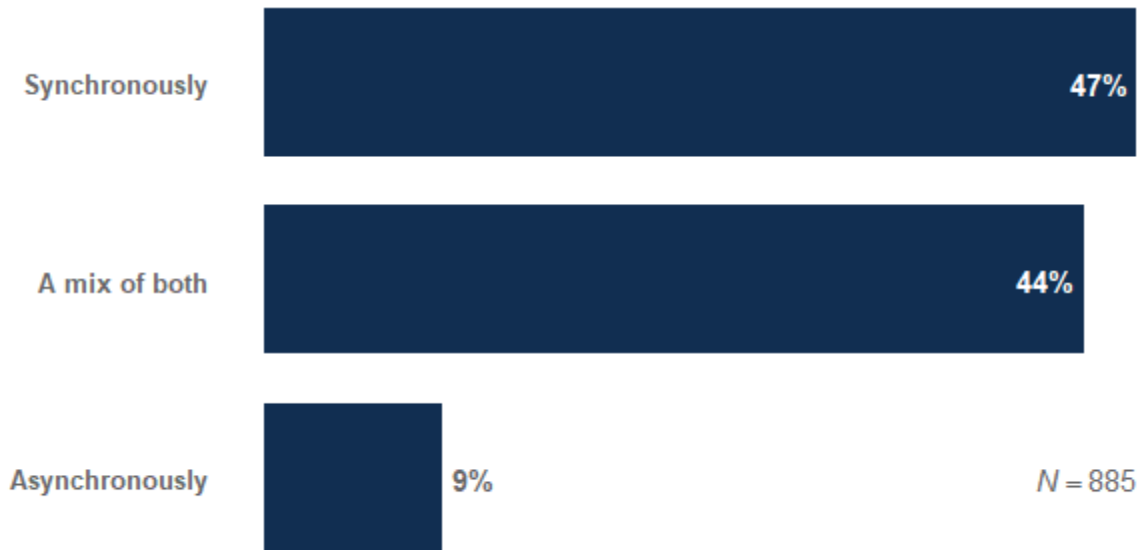


The two items below were only asked of respondents who reported that their coursework had an online component.

While engaging in online instruction this semester, were you asked by your instructors to enable web-based audio or video connections?

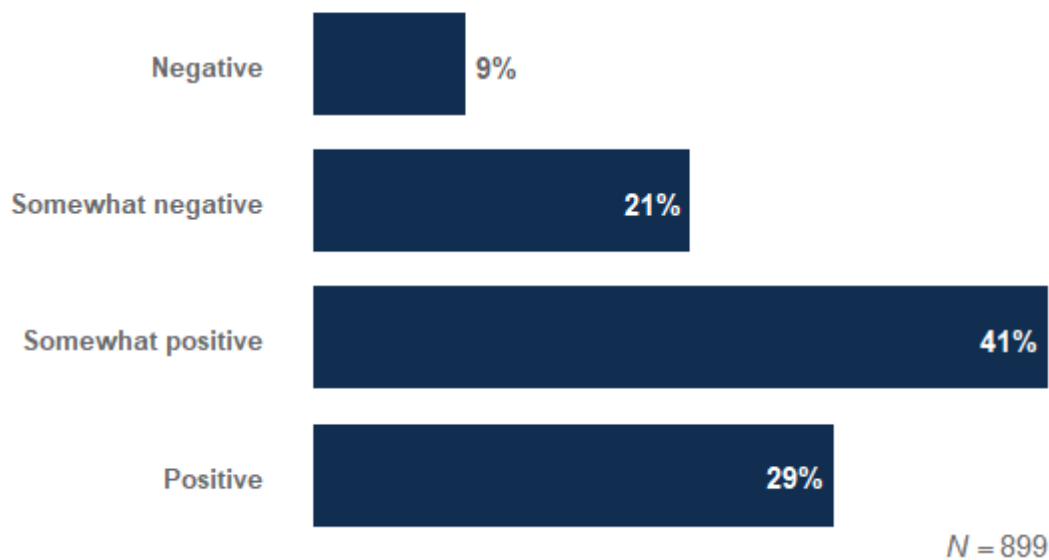


For the courses offered online, in general, are your courses held synchronously (where all students were required to log-in at the same time) or asynchronously (where students could log-in and complete coursework on at different times)?



3.2. Overall experience

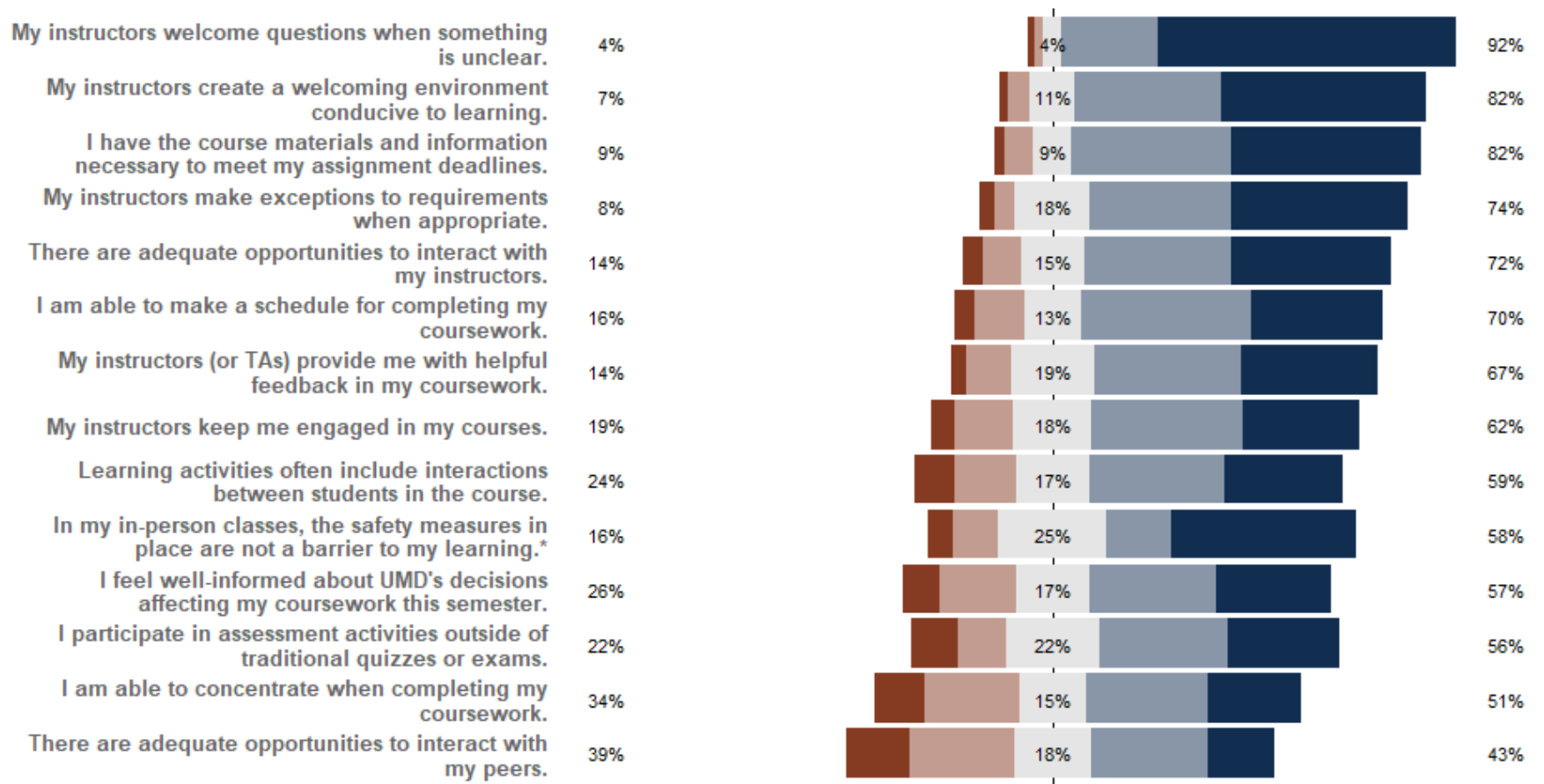
Overall, my experience in my courses this semester has been:



Items with an asterisk (*) were only asked of respondents who said they had in-person classes.

When thinking about your current learning experience, please indicate the extent you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Strongly disagree Somewhat disagree Neutral Somewhat agree Strongly agree

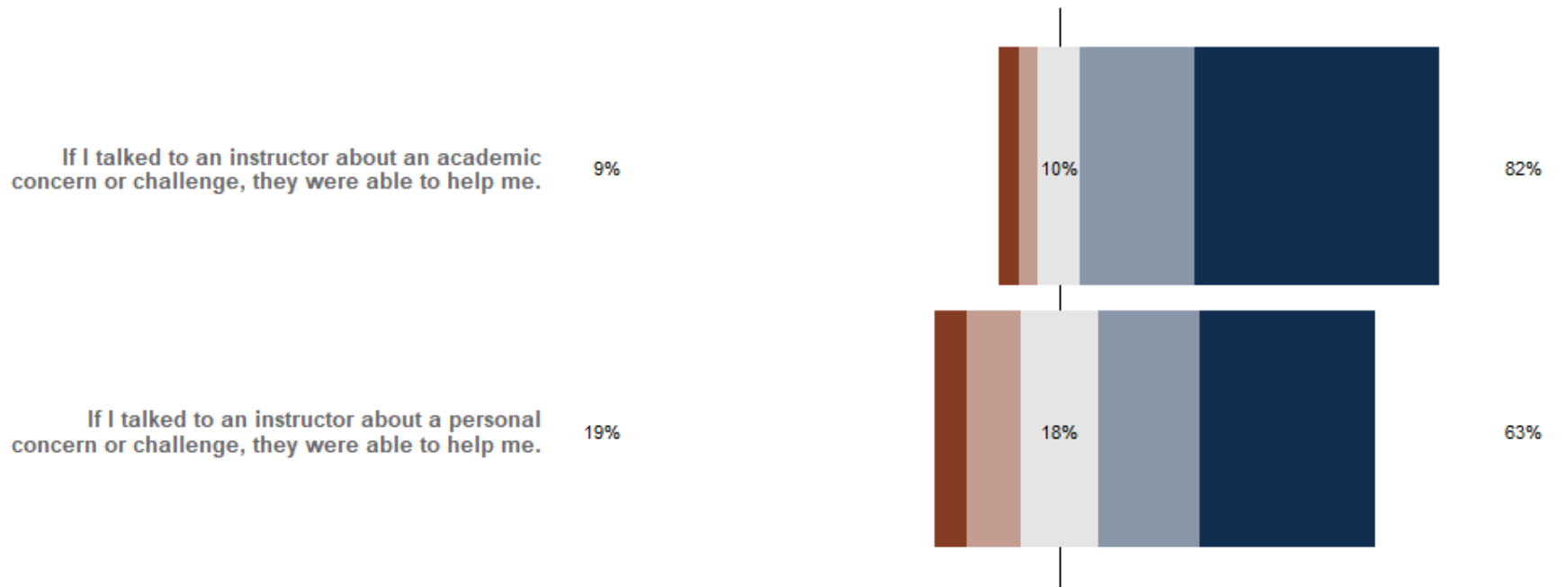


N = 67 - 901

Respondents who selected “I did not talk to an instructor about this” are not shown below.

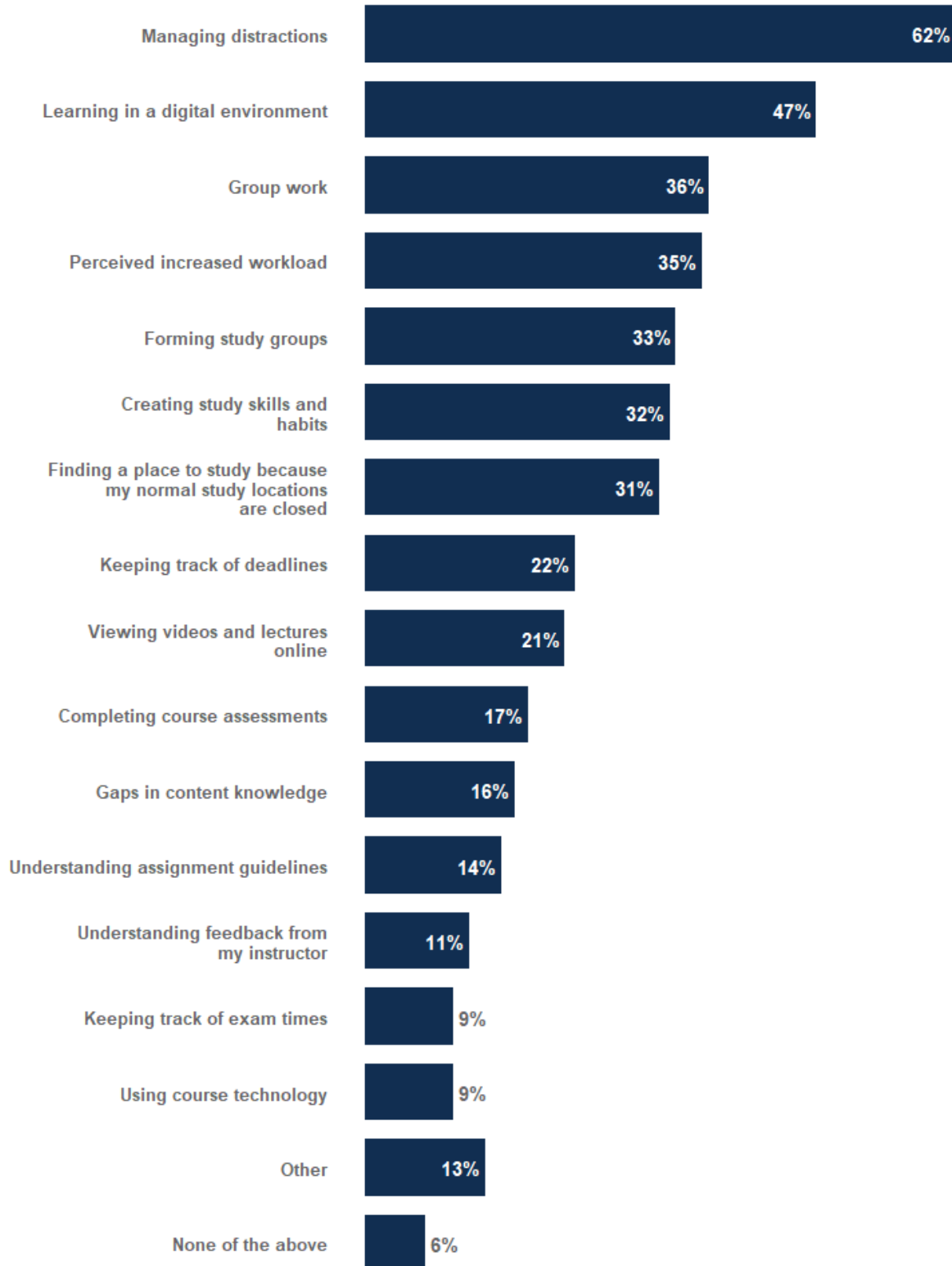
Please indicate the extent to which you disagree or agree with the following statements.

Strongly disagree Somewhat disagree Neutral Somewhat agree Strongly agree



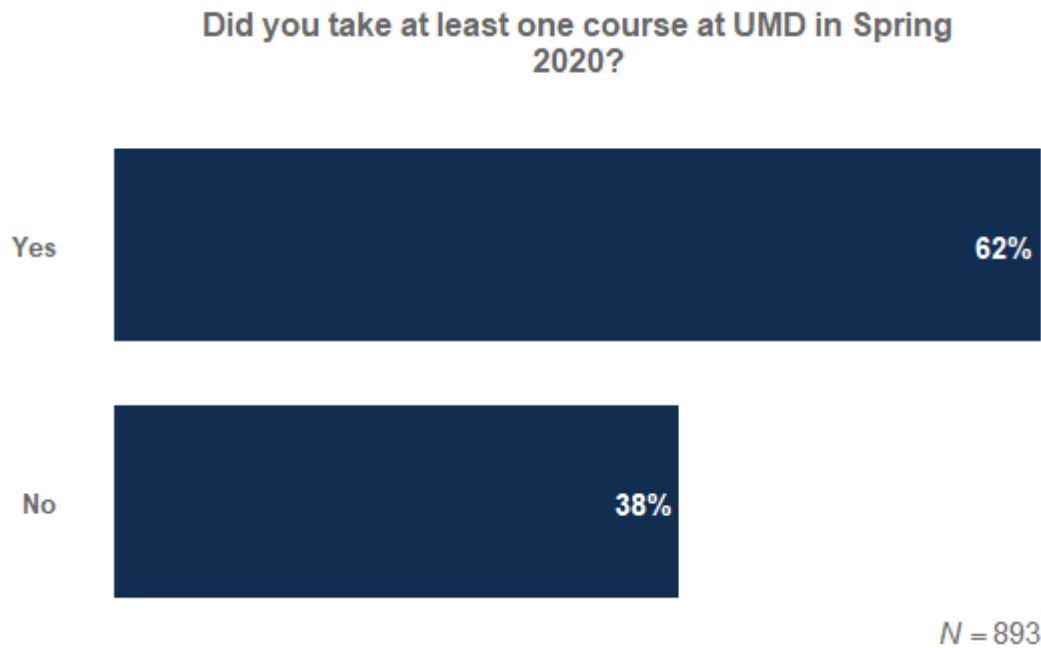
N = 440 - 630

Overall, please indicate which aspect(s) of instruction, if any, seemed to present the greatest challenges for you this semester. Select all that apply.

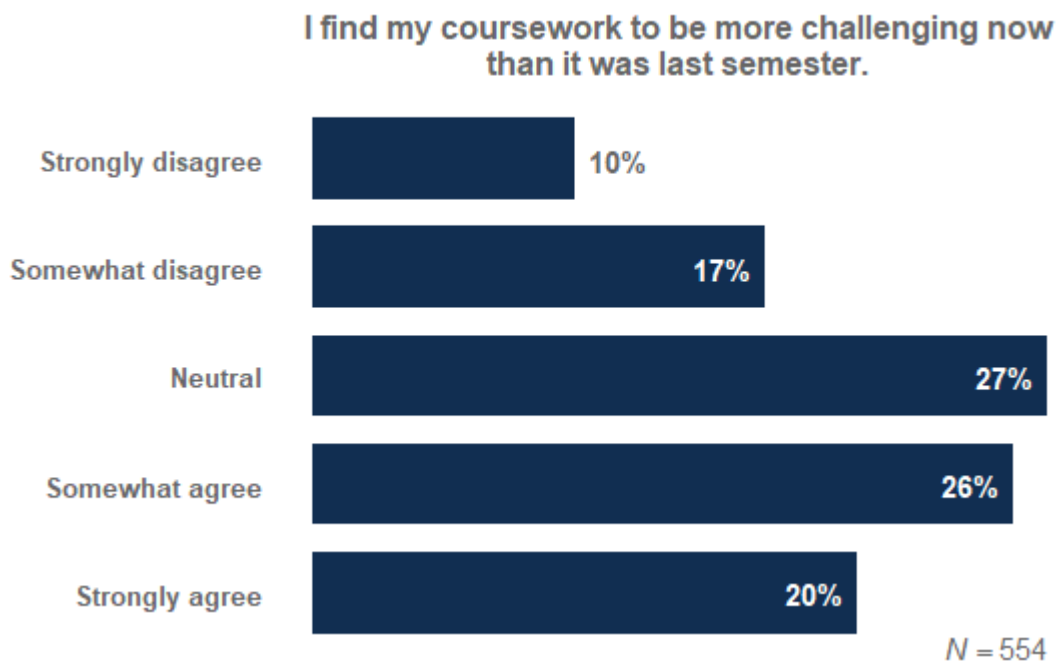


N = 885

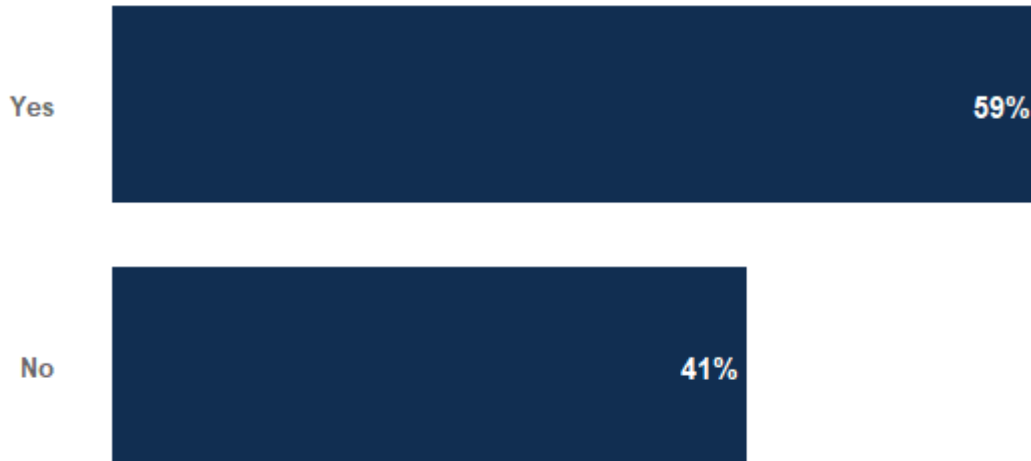
3.3. Experience compared to previous semesters



This item was only asked of respondents who said they took at least one course at UMD in Spring 2020.



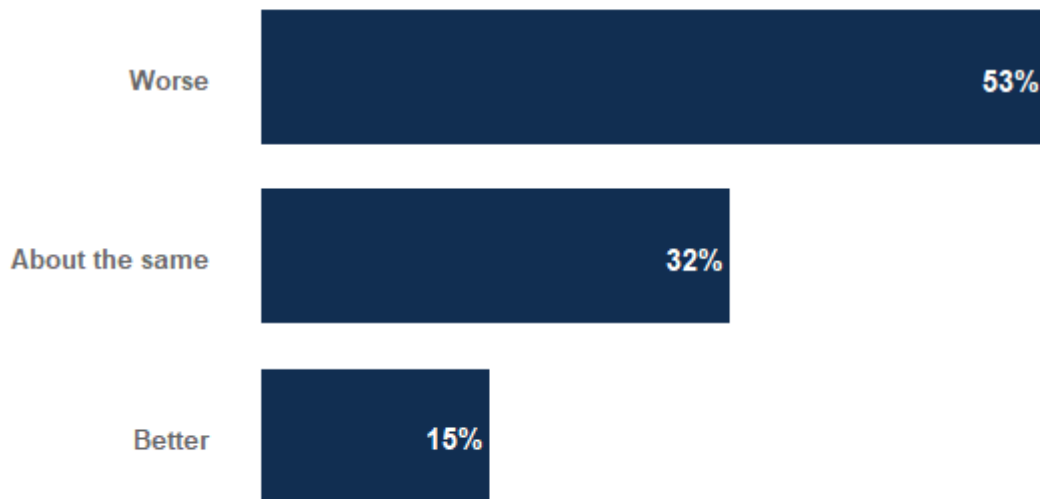
Did you take at least one course at UMD in Fall 2019?



N = 893

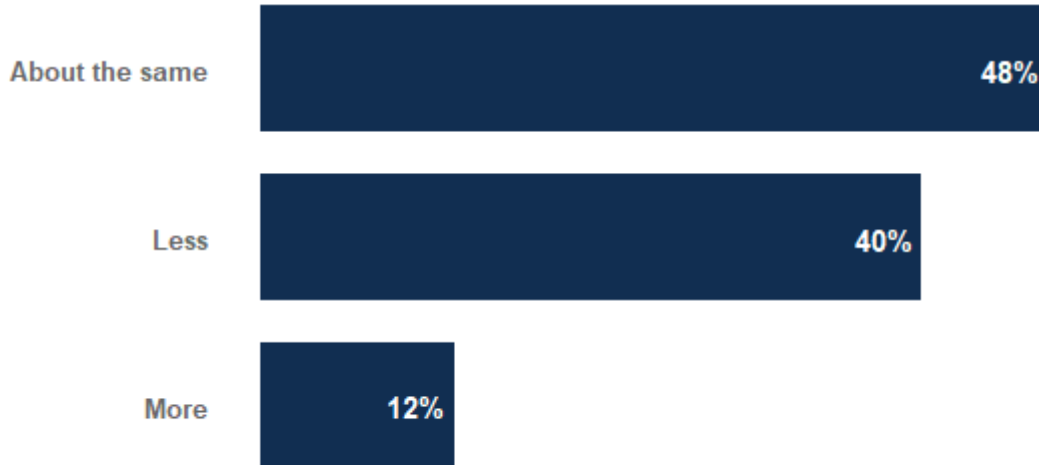
These two items were only asked of respondents who said they took at least one course at UMD in Fall 2019.

Compared to last fall, my academic experience this semester is:



N = 525

Thinking specifically about your academic experience, how much do you feel you are learning in your classes this semester compared to last fall?



N = 526

3.4. Technology needs

Is there any essential software that you need access to while learning remotely this semester to which you do not have access?

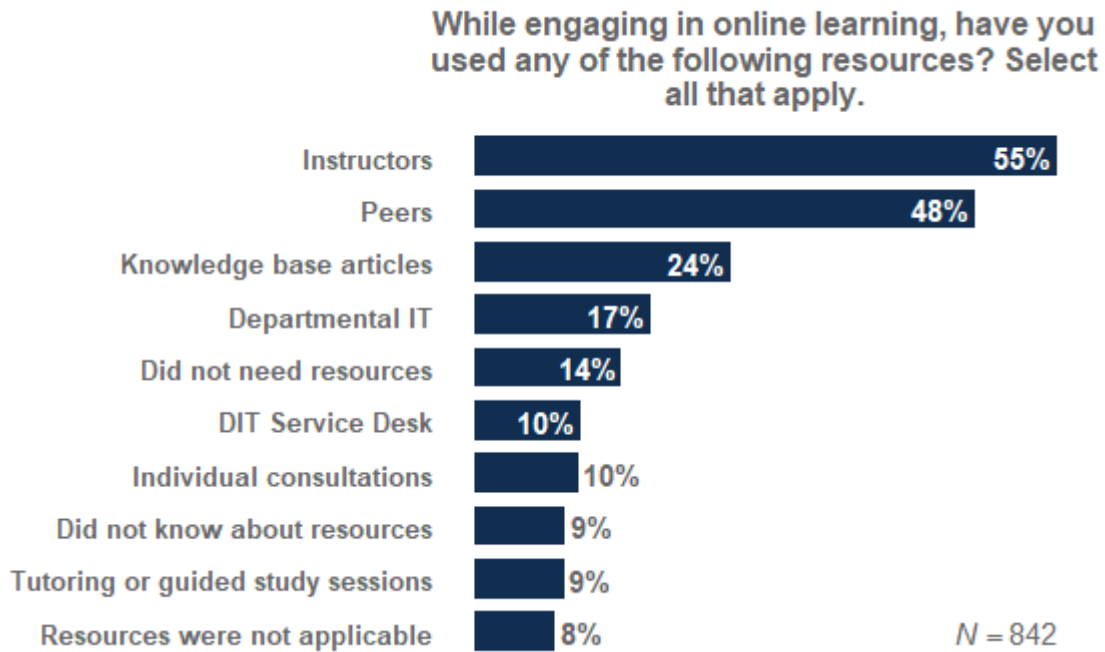


N = 891

4. Access to technology and use of the ELMS-Canvas platform

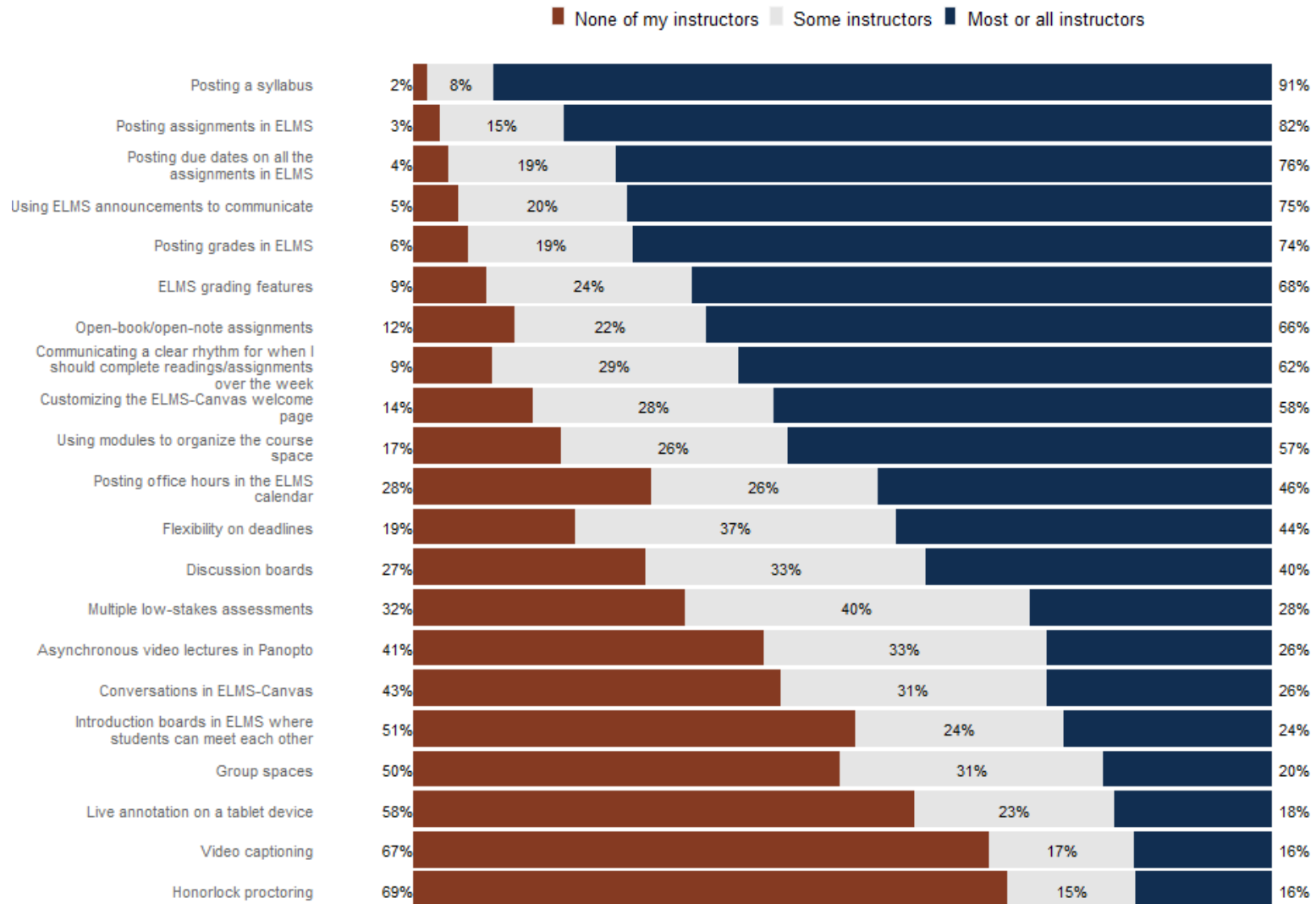
Items in this section were only asked of respondents who said they are taking regular courses with an instructor this semester.

4.1. Resources



4.2. Instructional practices

How many of your instructors are using the instructional practices listed below this semester?

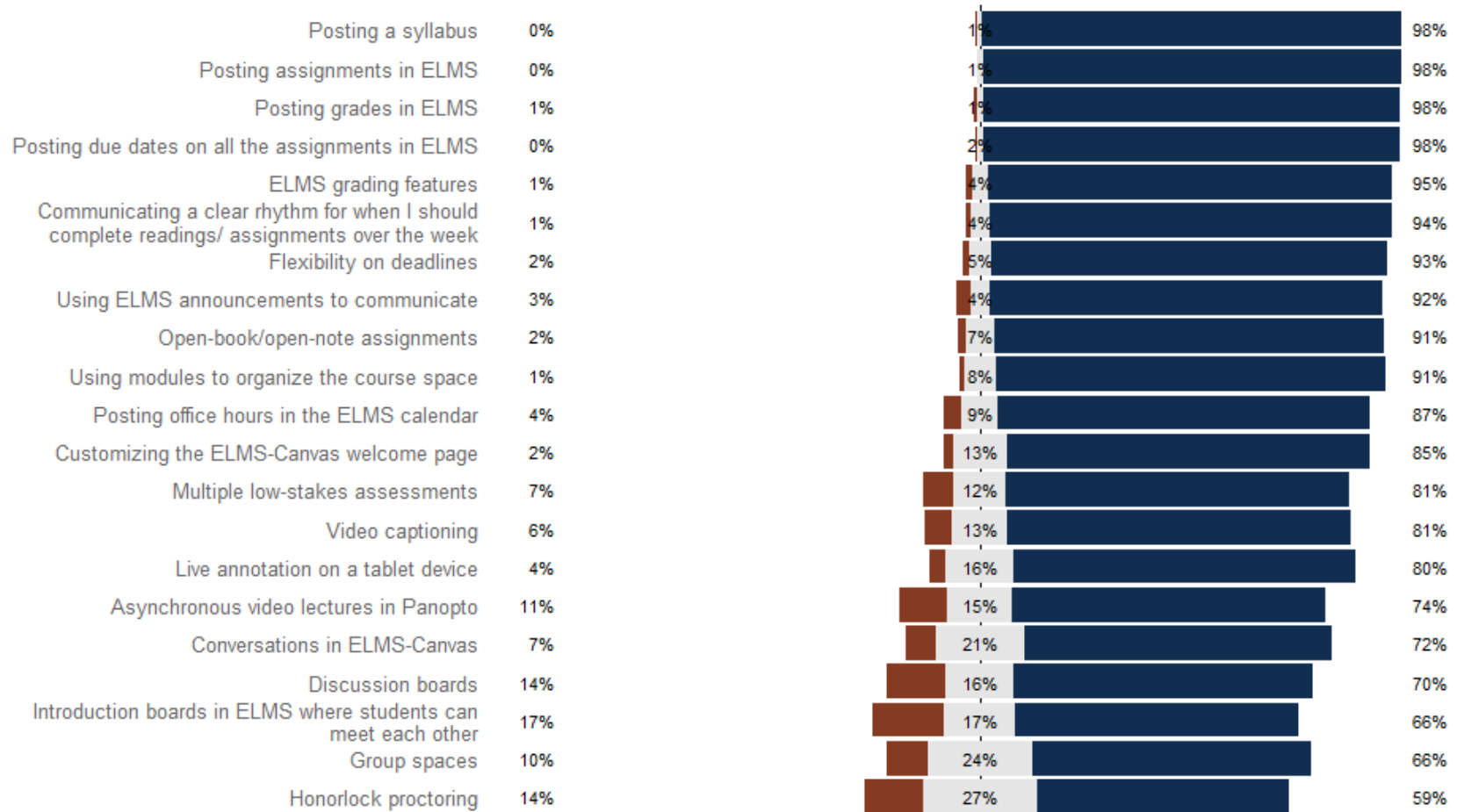


N = 830 - 853

The items below were only asked of respondents for each instructional practice they said some or all their instructors used.

Of the instructional practices your instructors have used this semester, are there any that you hope they keep doing in future courses?

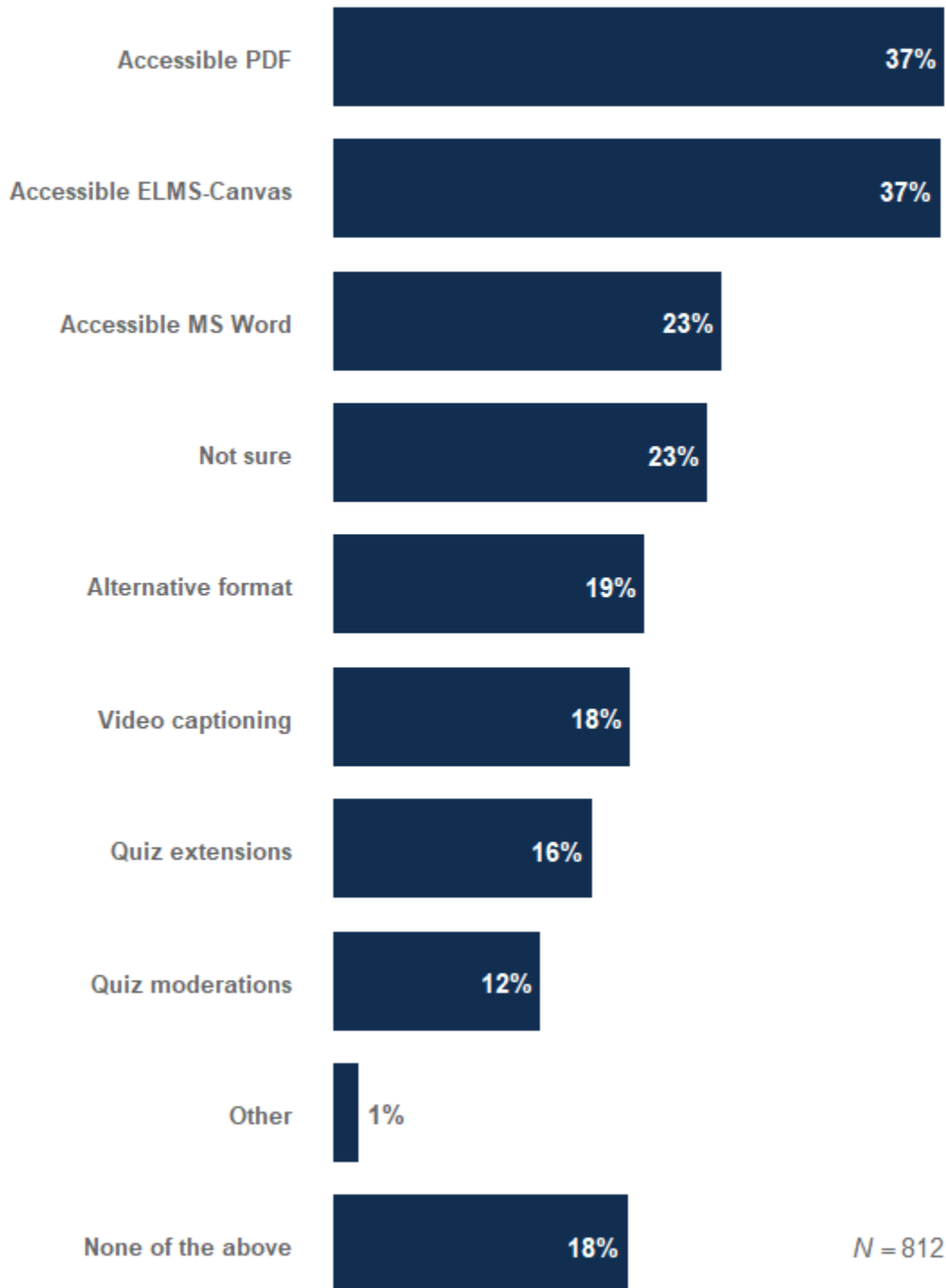
■ No ■ Unsure ■ Yes



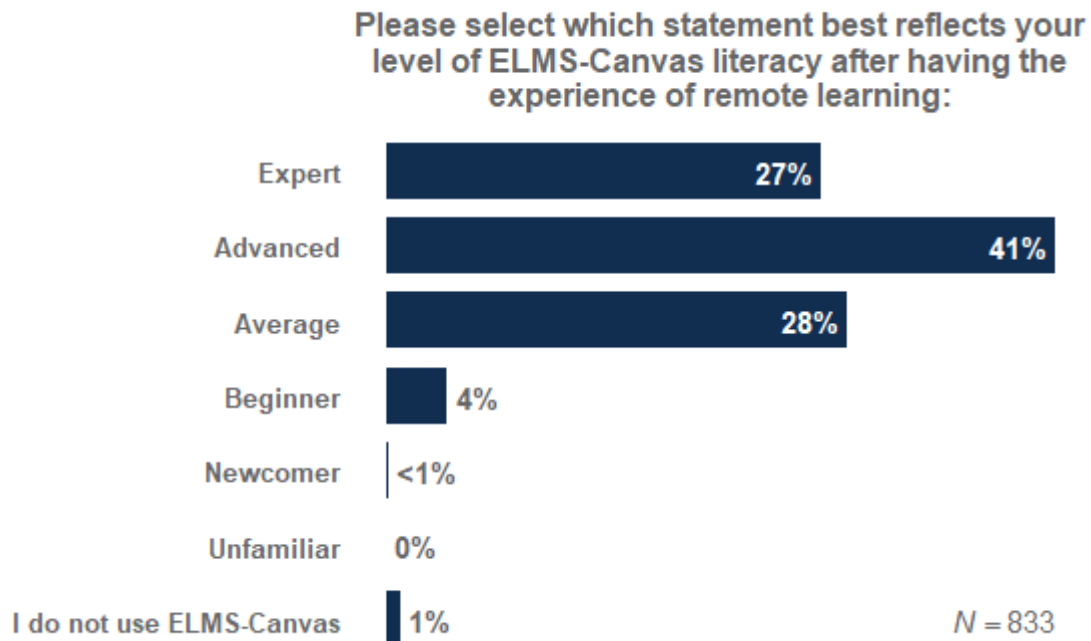
N = 244 - 797

4.3. Accessibility in ELMS-Canvas

Which compliance tools did you or your instructors use to enhance the accessibility of your courses?
Select all that apply.

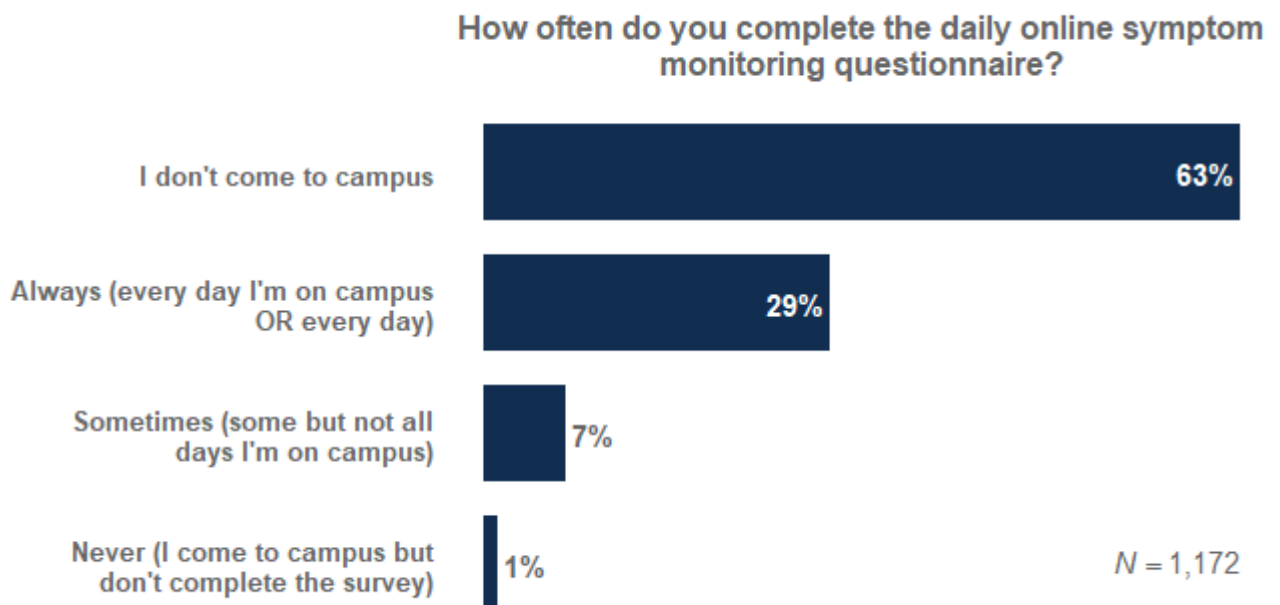


4.4. ELMS-Canvas Literacy

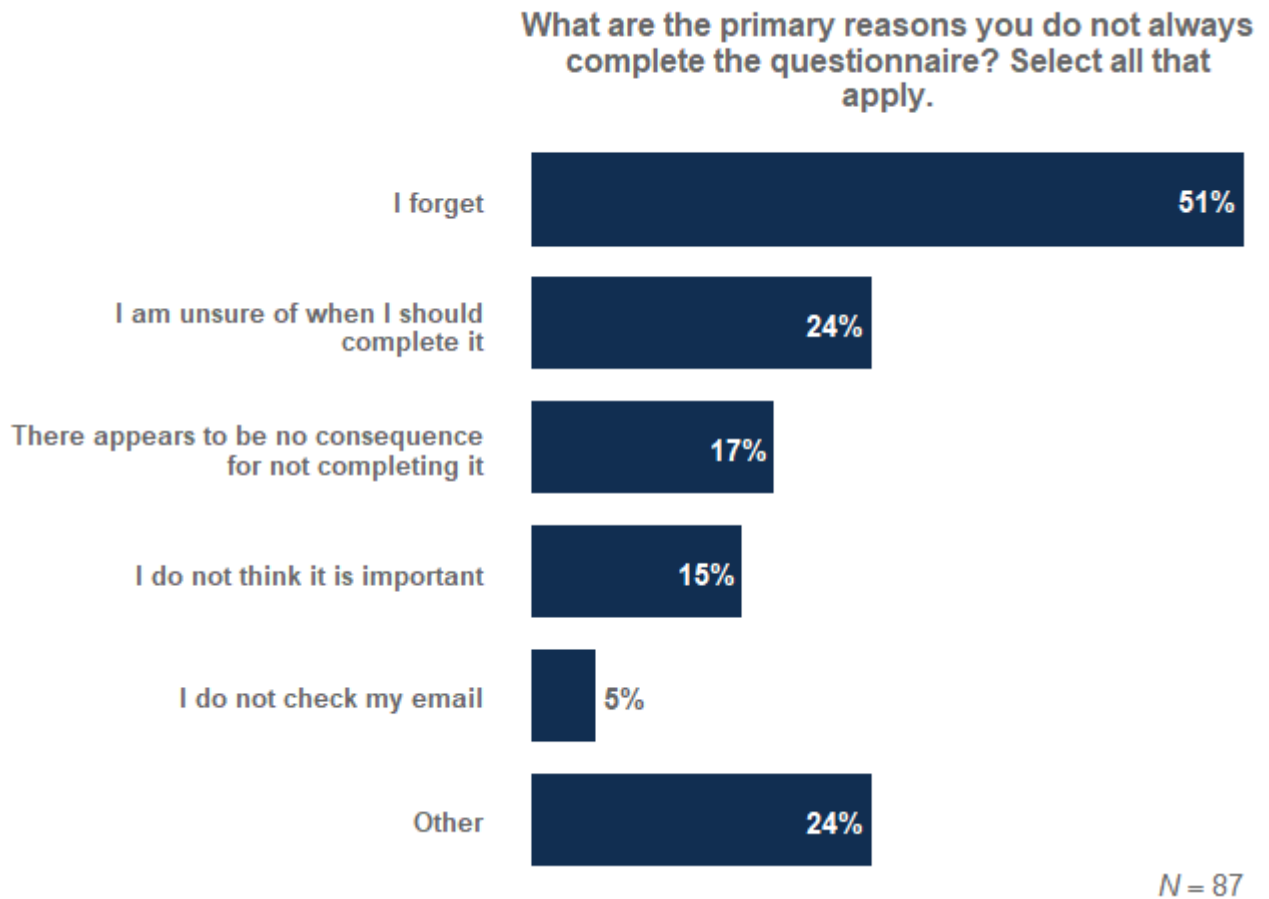


5. Impact of COVID-19

5.1. Daily online symptom monitoring questionnaire



This item was only asked of respondents who said they sometimes or never complete the questionnaire.



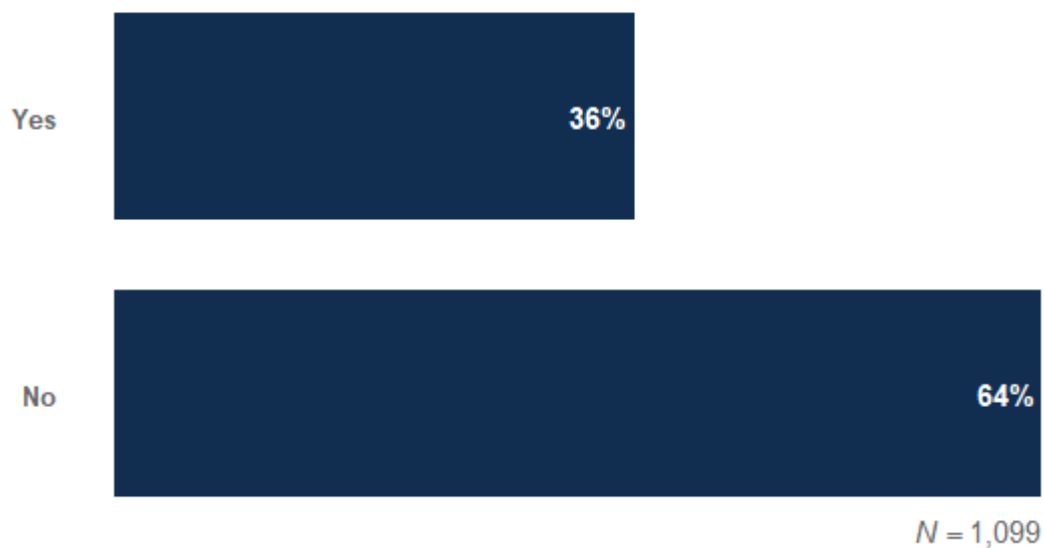
5.2. Experience with COVID testing

Overall, 782 respondents said they were tested for COVID-19, either on campus, off campus, or both.

I have been tested for COVID-19 on campus.

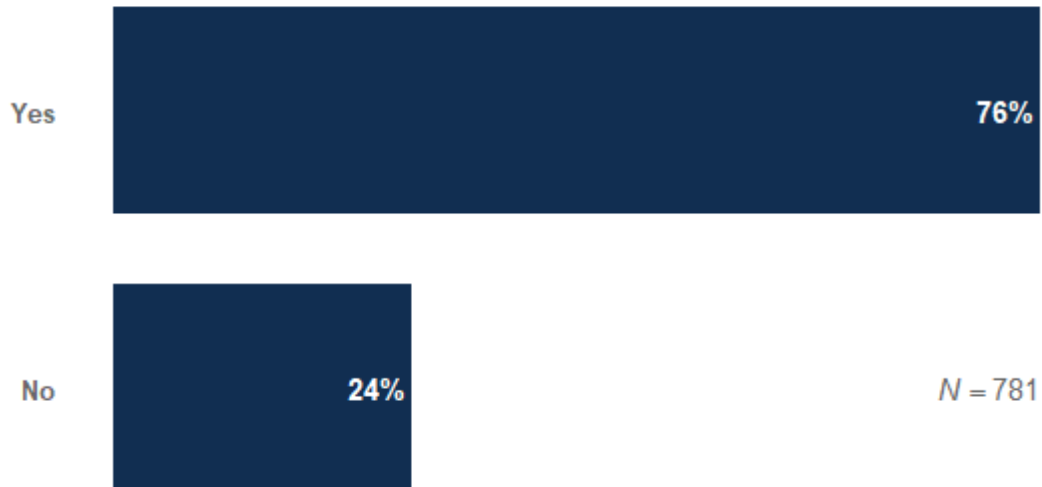


I have been tested for COVID-19 off campus.

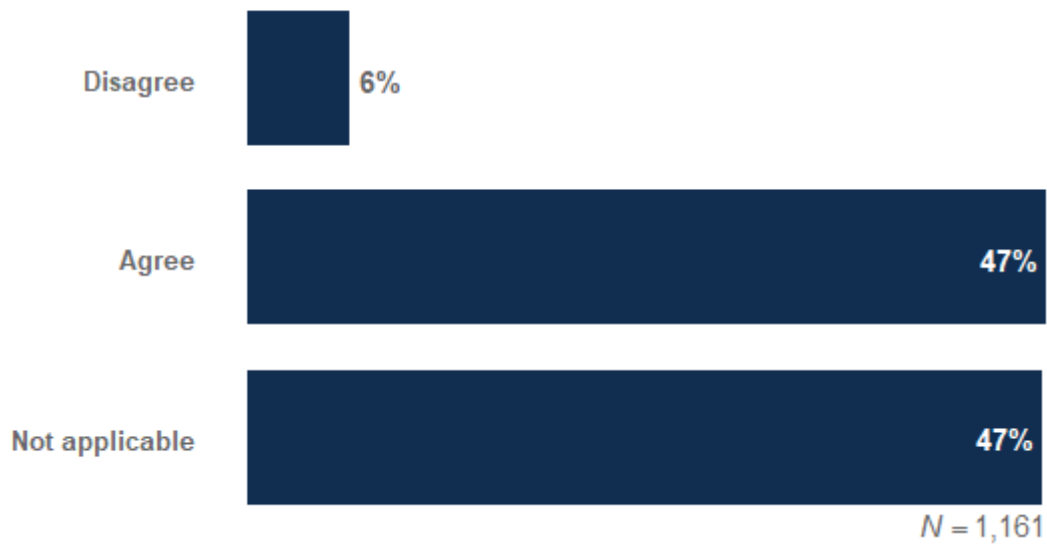


This item was only asked of respondents who said they had been tested for COVID-19 on campus, off campus, or both.

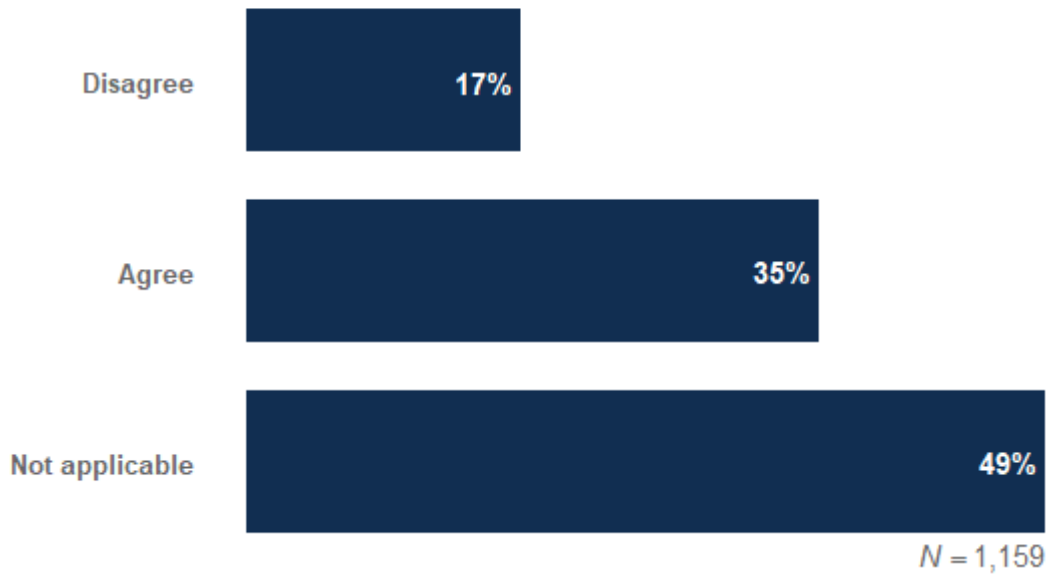
Did you report your results on return.umd.edu?



I find it easy to make a testing appointment on campus.

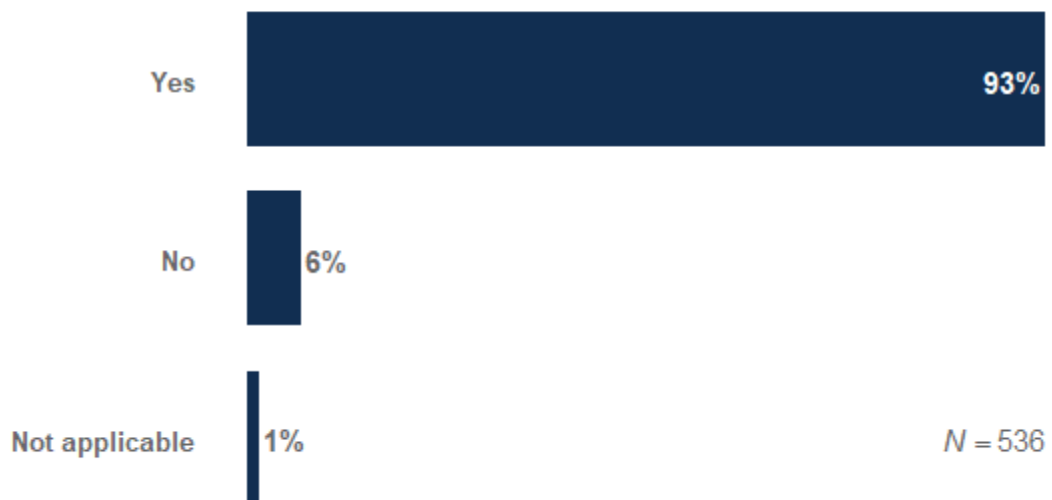


The campus has enough testing appointments.

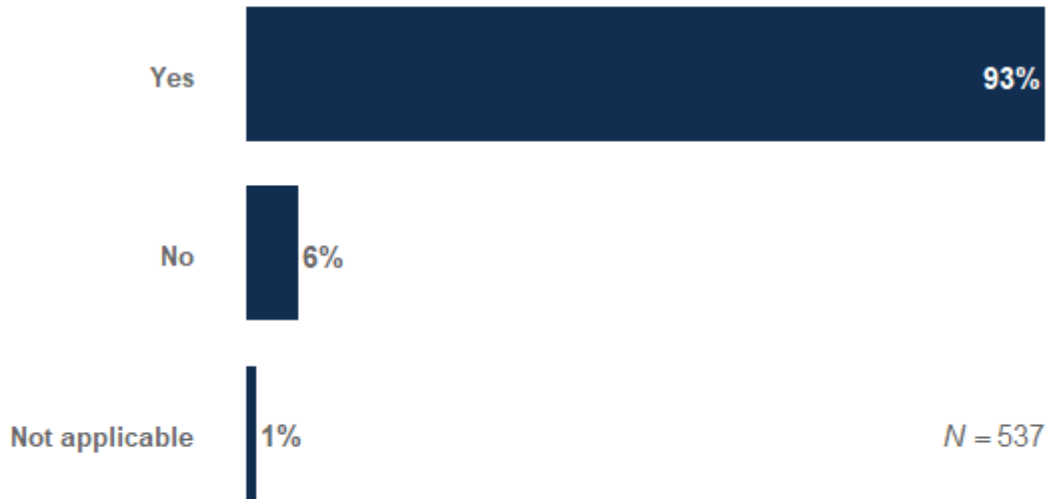


The four items below were only asked of respondents who said they had been tested for COVID-19 on campus.

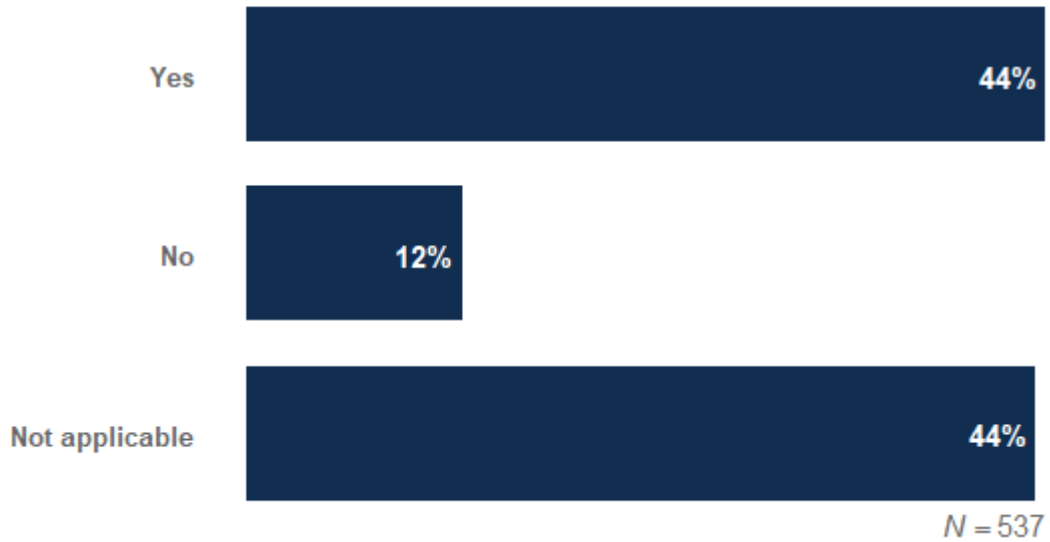
I find it easy to access the testing sites on campus.



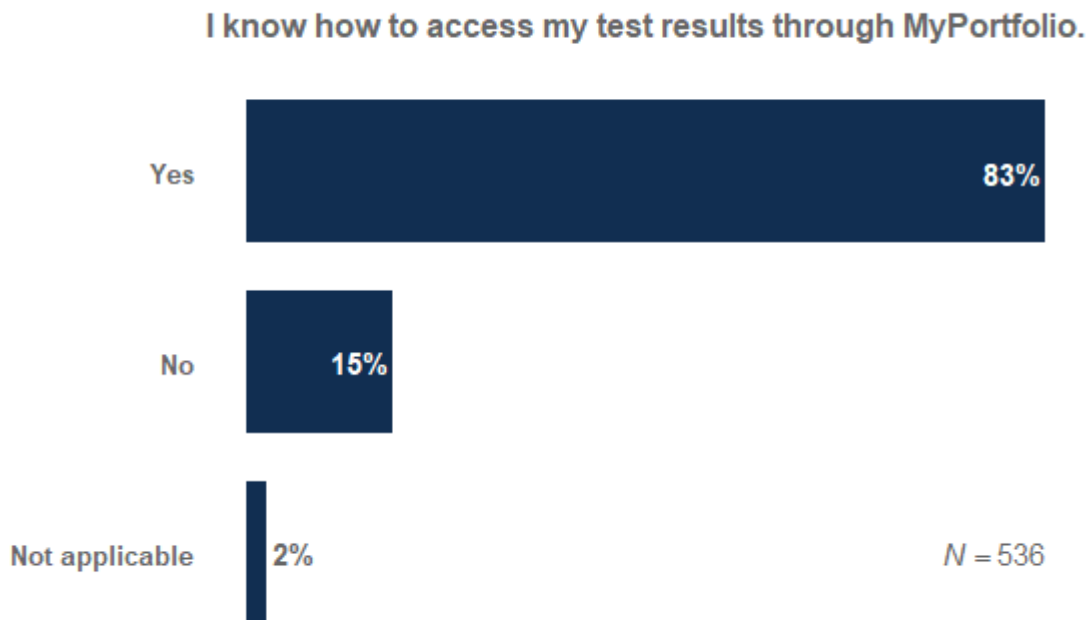
I feel safe getting tested on campus at the Maryland Stadium.



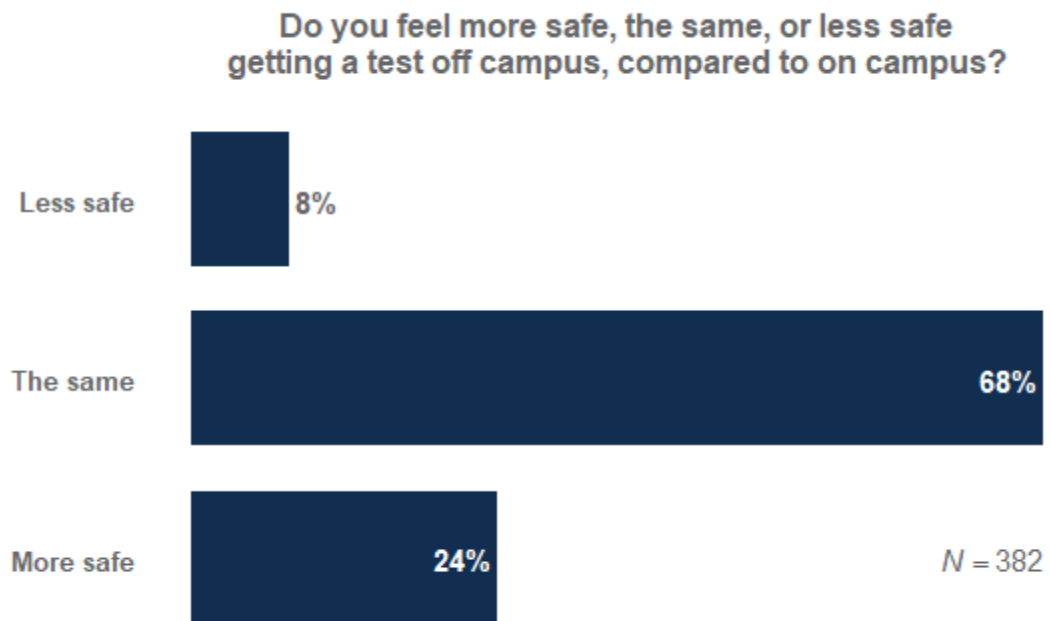
I feel safe getting tested on campus at the Stamp Student Union.



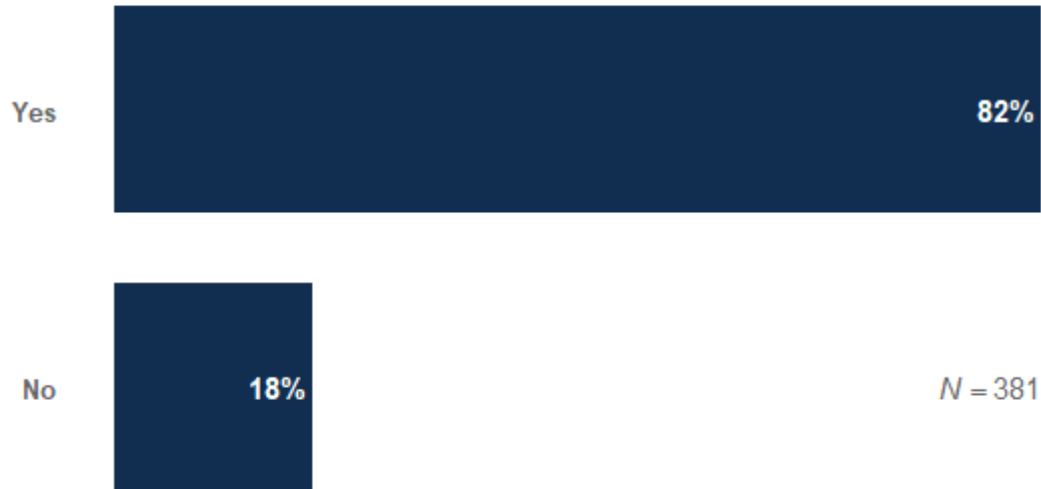
Note: After the survey launched, the university stopped using MyPortfolio to share test results. Students now access test results through the University Health Center portal.



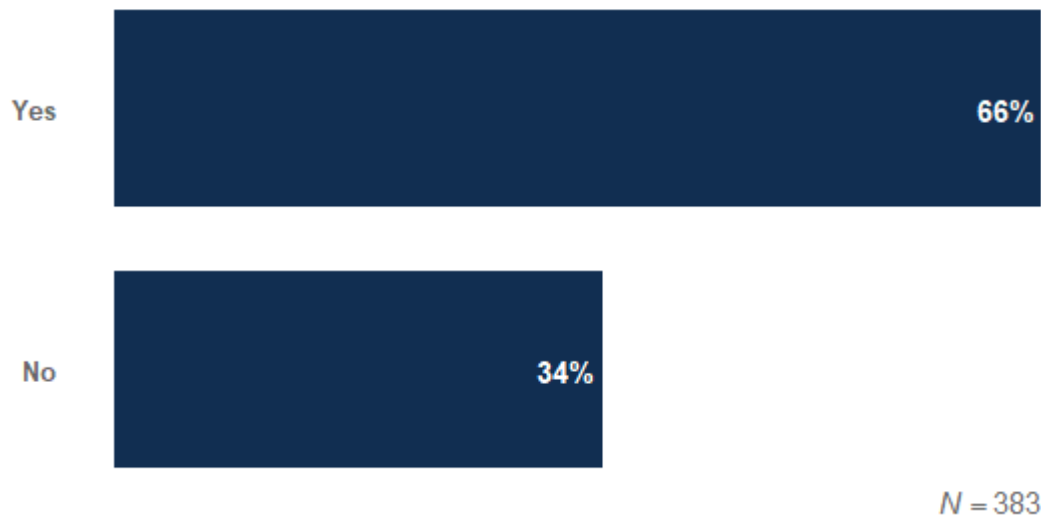
The five items below were only asked of respondents who said they had been tested for COVID-19 off campus.



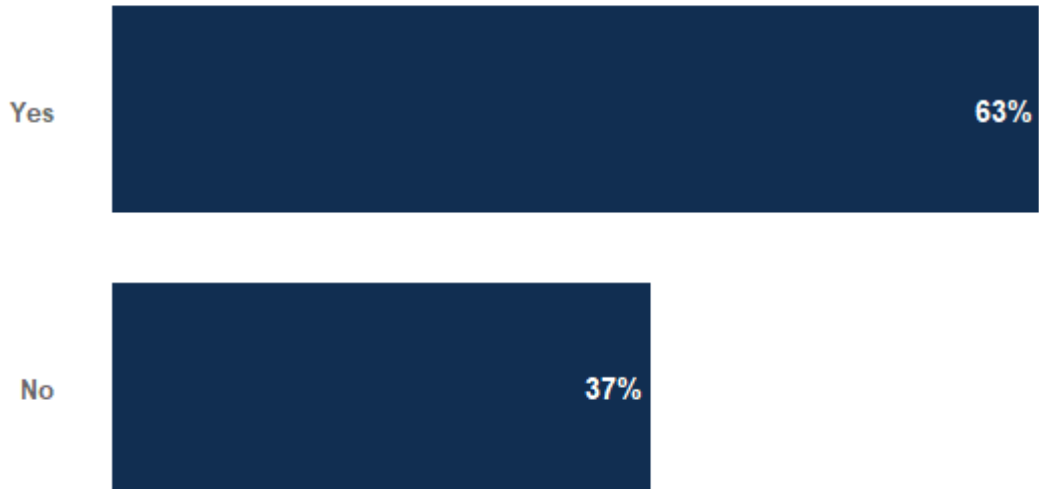
I find it easy to get tested off campus.



I know I am supposed to report positive test results to the HEAL Line.



I know how to report my test results online.



N = 384

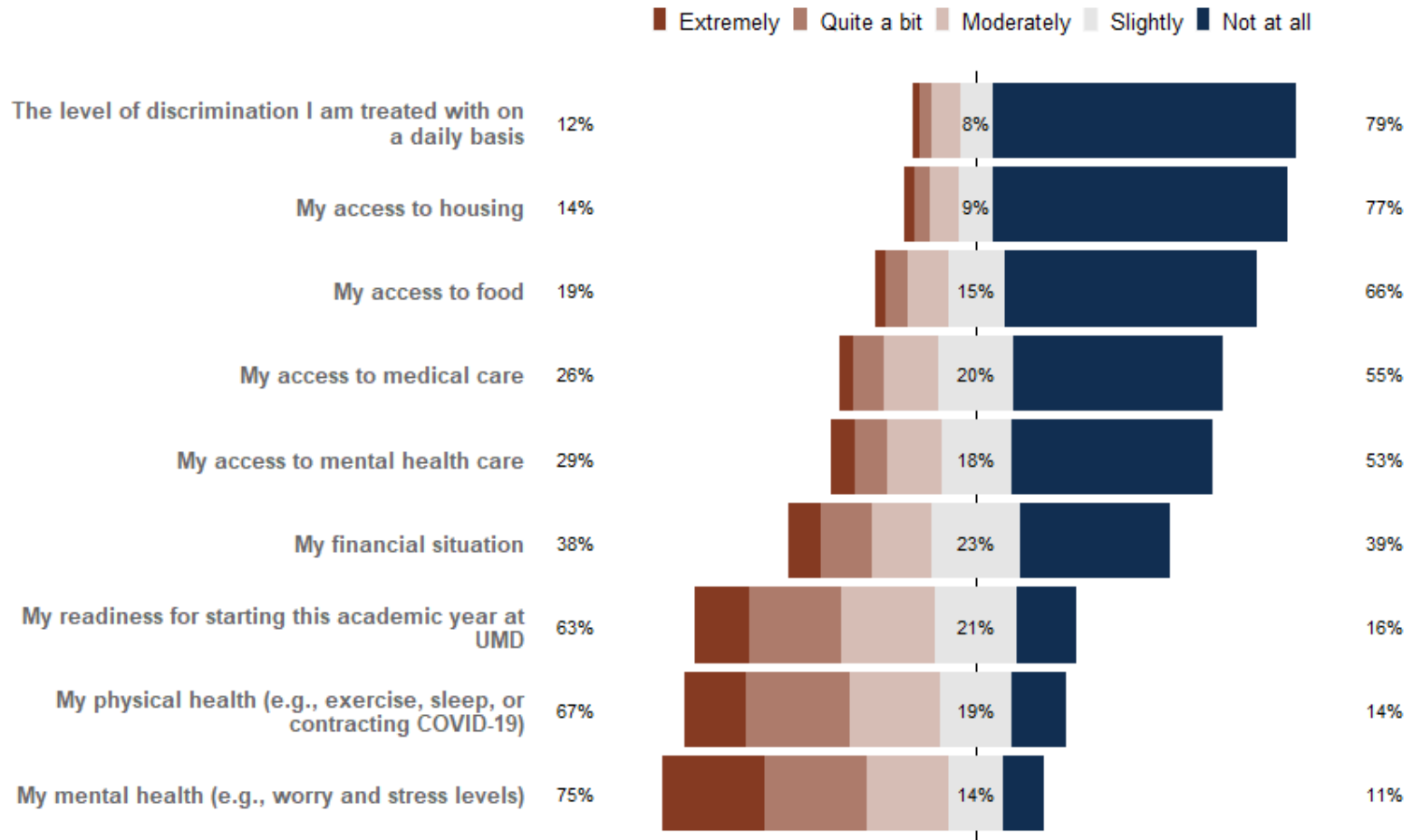
I do report my off-campus test results online.



N = 378

5.3. Negative impacts of COVID-19

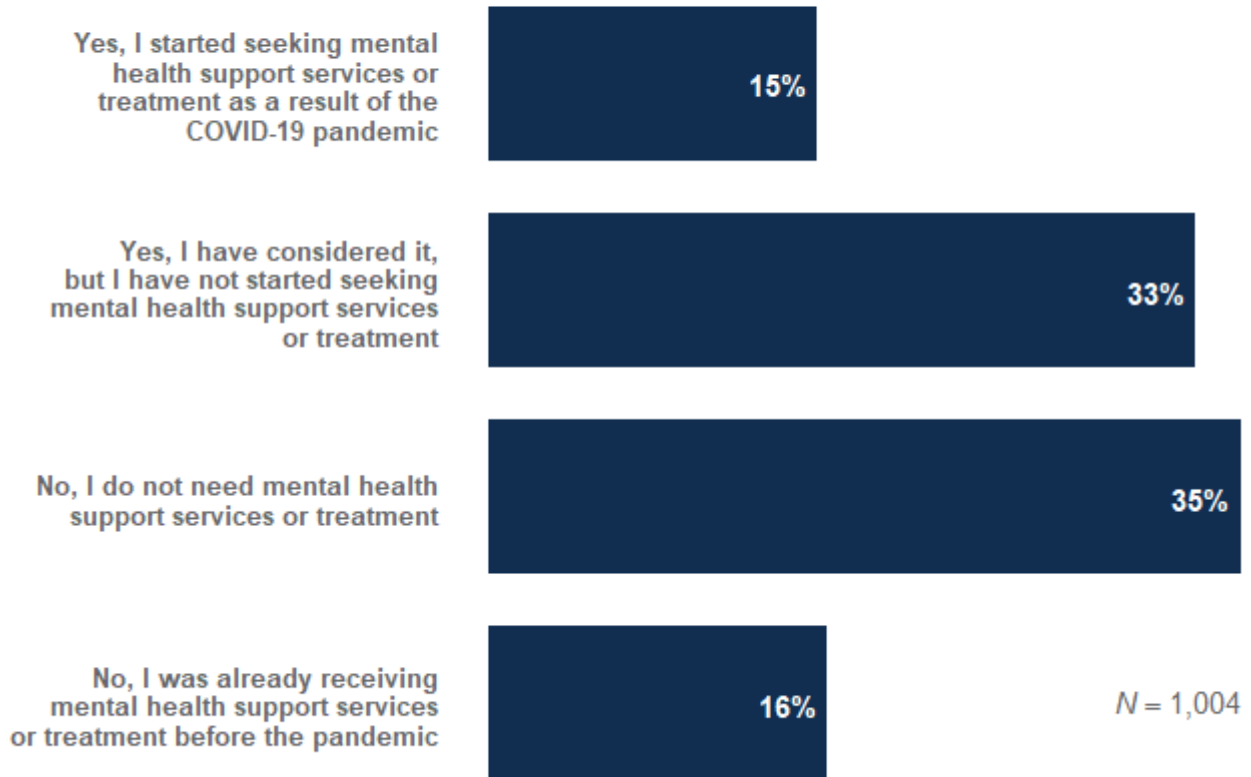
Please indicate the level of negative impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on each of the following aspects of your life:



N = 1,123 - 1,130

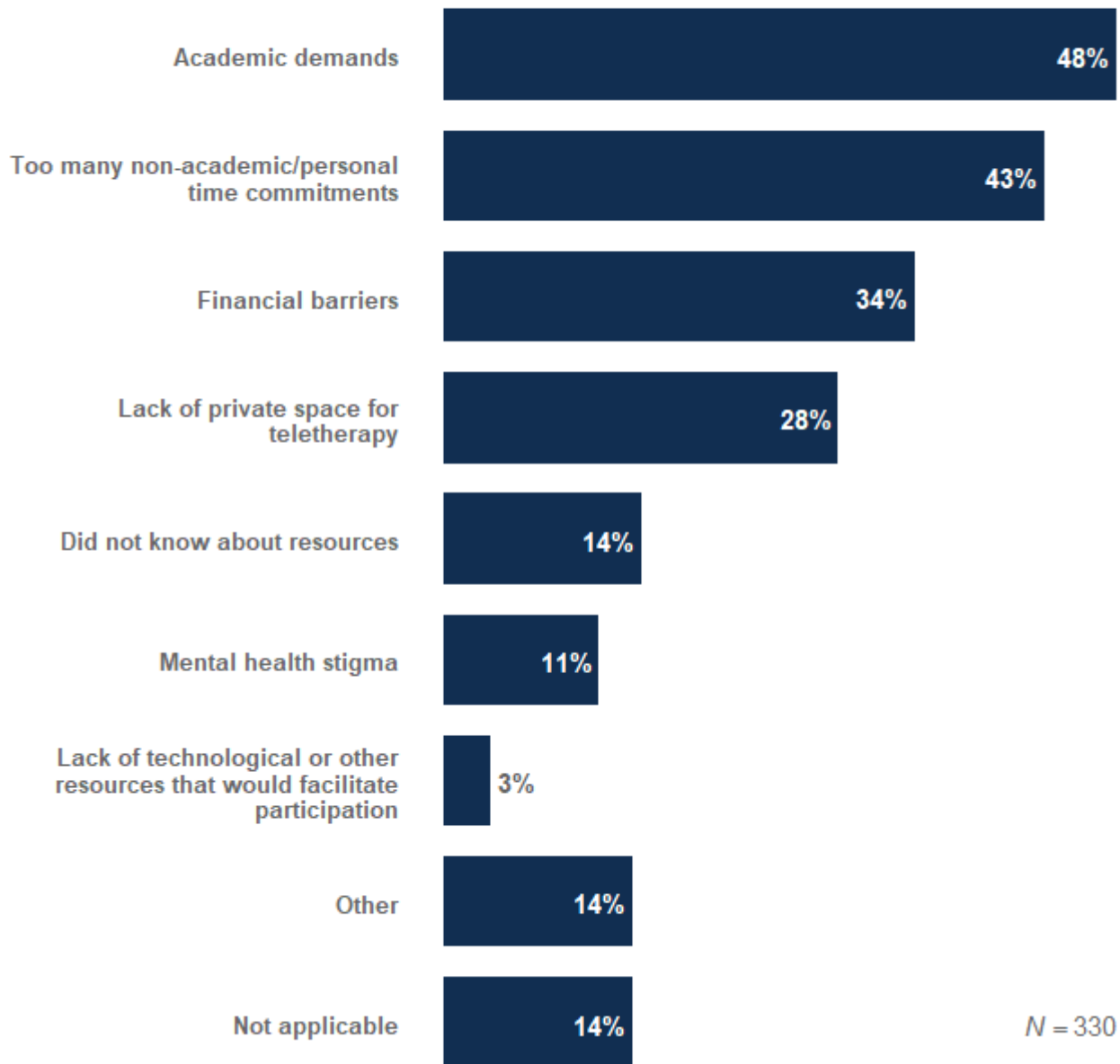
This item was only asked of respondents who said their mental health had been negatively impacted by COVID.

You indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected your mental health and well-being. Have you considered seeking mental health treatment or support in response to this?



This item was only asked of respondents who said they had considered seeking mental health resources as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic but have not yet.

Please indicate if any of the following barriers have influenced your ability or willingness to seek mental health support services or treatment.

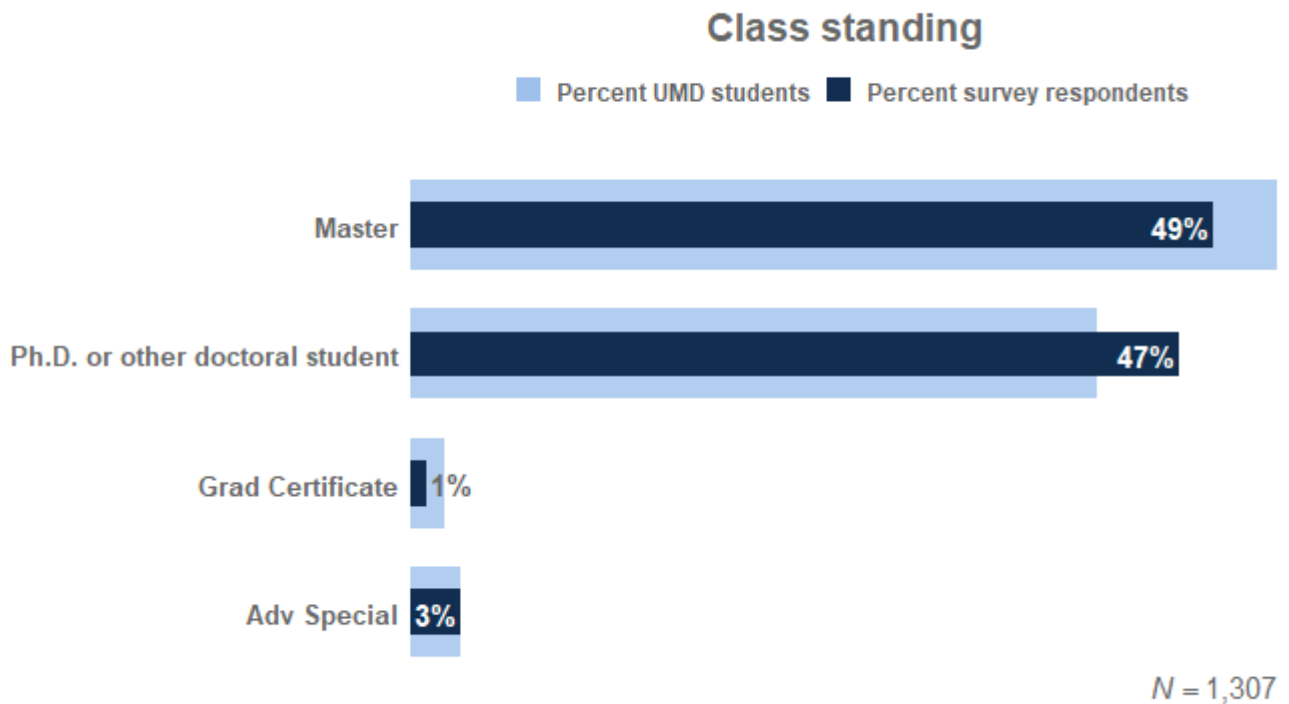


6. Demographic information

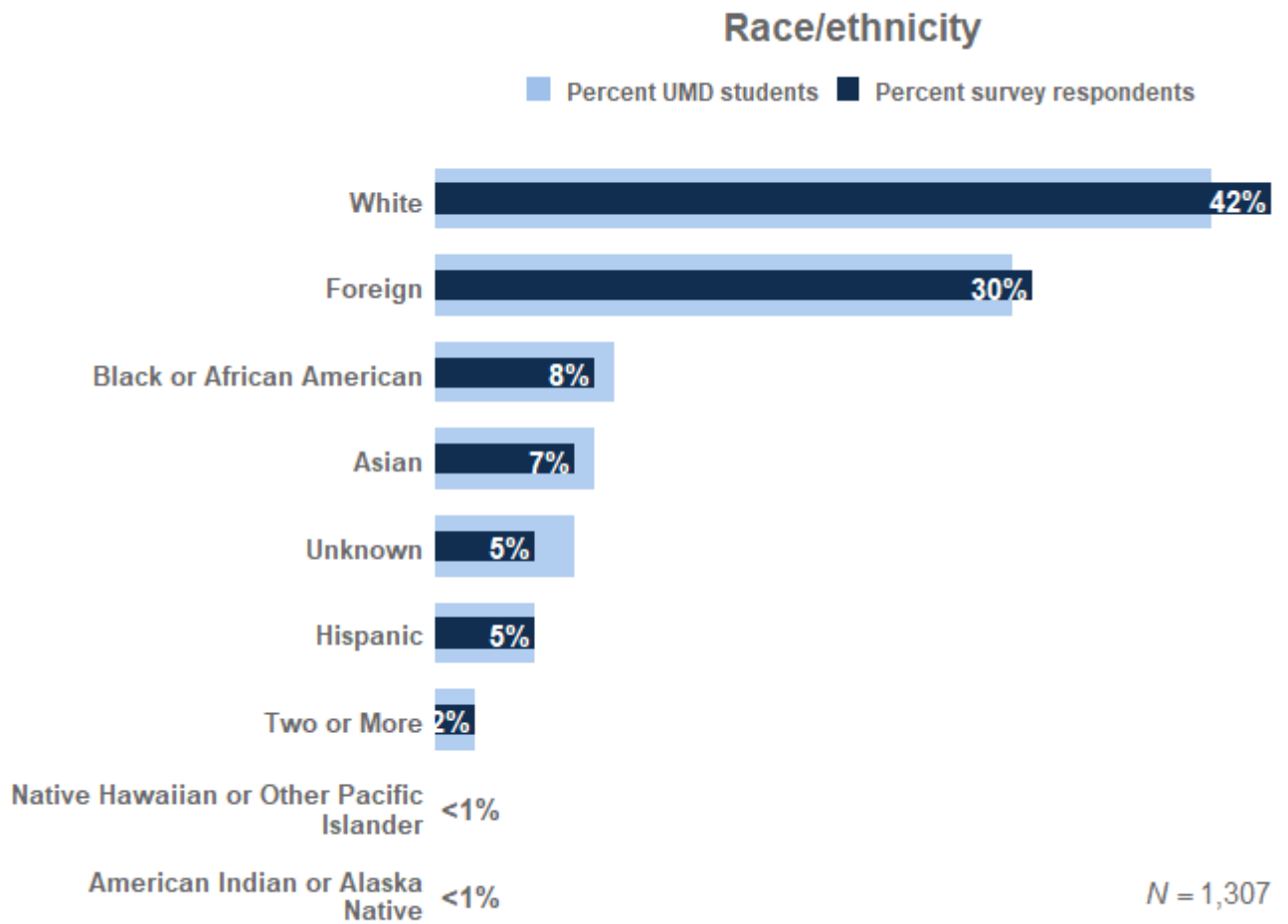
Demographic information about student respondents is presented here. Student demographic data on class standing, race/ethnicity, and college of primary major come from the UMD Frozen Warehouse. When applicable, we also present the UMD graduate population statistics for comparison so that it is possible to see how representative the survey sample is to the population. For instance, for student class standing, we display the number and percentage of respondents in each class (e.g., Freshman) in addition to the percentage of all UMD graduate students who were in each class during the same academic year. The purpose of this information is to compare the percentages of the survey sample with the UMD graduate population, with the hope that the survey percentages are similar to those in the population. Note that there may be some categories in the survey sample for which no population information exists, and vice versa, and will be represented by a blank cell in the graph. The population information was pulled from the UMD’s Office of Institutional Reporting, Planning, and Assessment at reports.umd.edu. Student population information is for Fall 2020.

6.1. Class standing

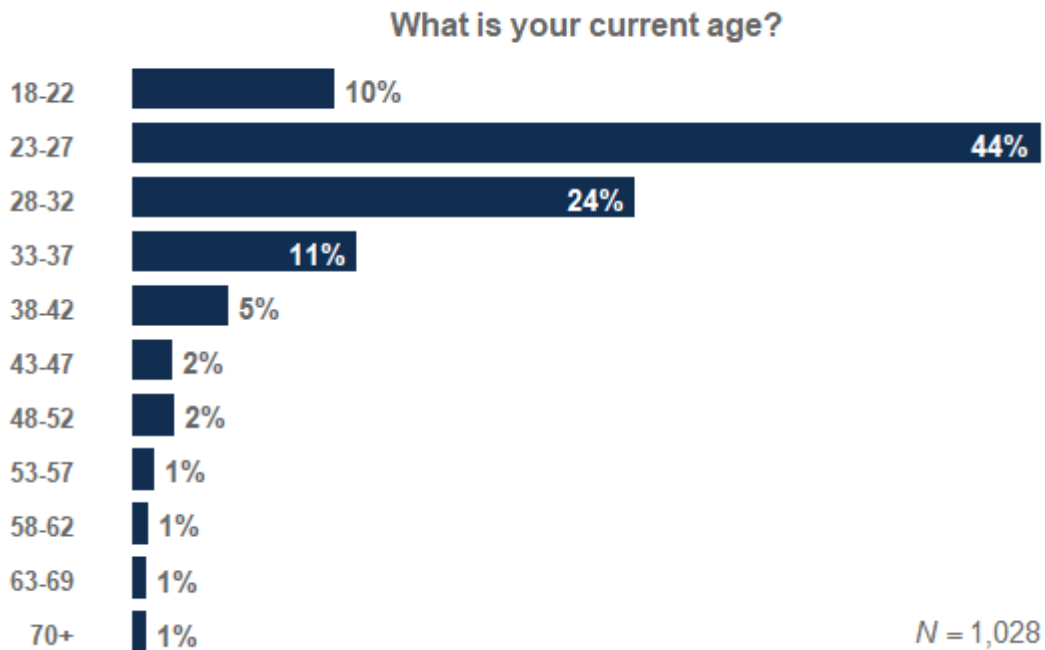
The lighter blue bars represent the percentage of all UMD graduate students in each class standing, while the darker blue bars represent the percentage of students who completed the survey in each class standing. If the darker and lighter blue bars are generally the same length, then the survey respondents represent, or mirror, the UMD graduate students in terms of class standing. If a darker blue bar is longer than a lighter blue bar, then the survey respondents *over represented* that class standing. If the darker blue bar is shorter than the lighter blue bar, then the survey respondents *under represented* that class standing. Students who are “non-credit” are excluded from this graph.



6.2. Race/ethnicity

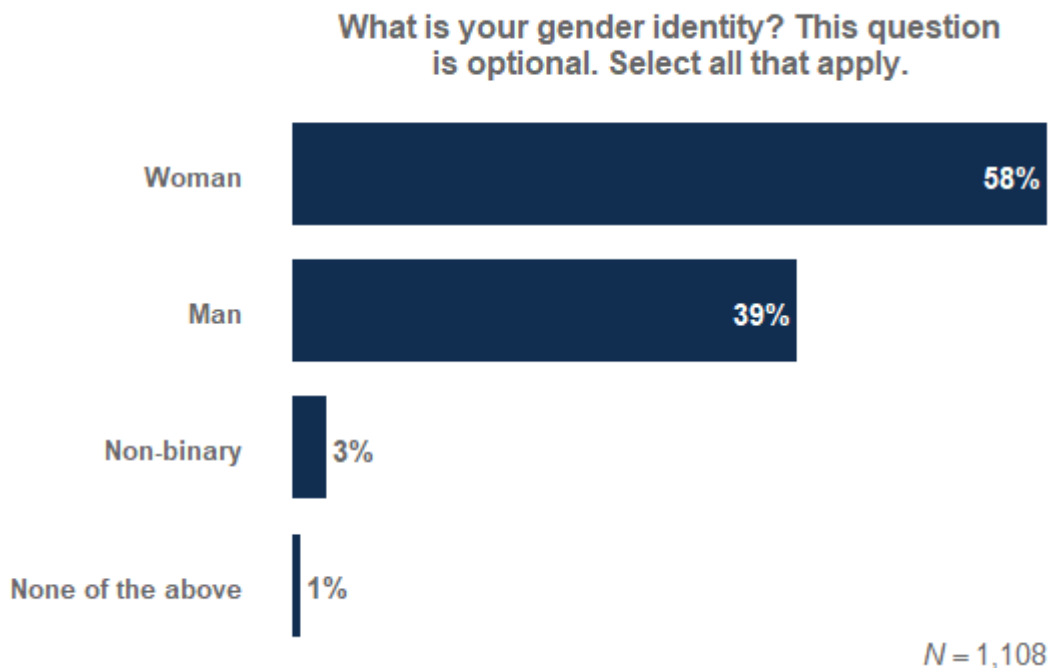


6.3. Age



6.4. Gender

UMD currently reports only Male and Female as gender categories. In Fall 2020, 50% of UMD graduate students were female and 50% were male.



6.5. Living-learning and other special programs participation

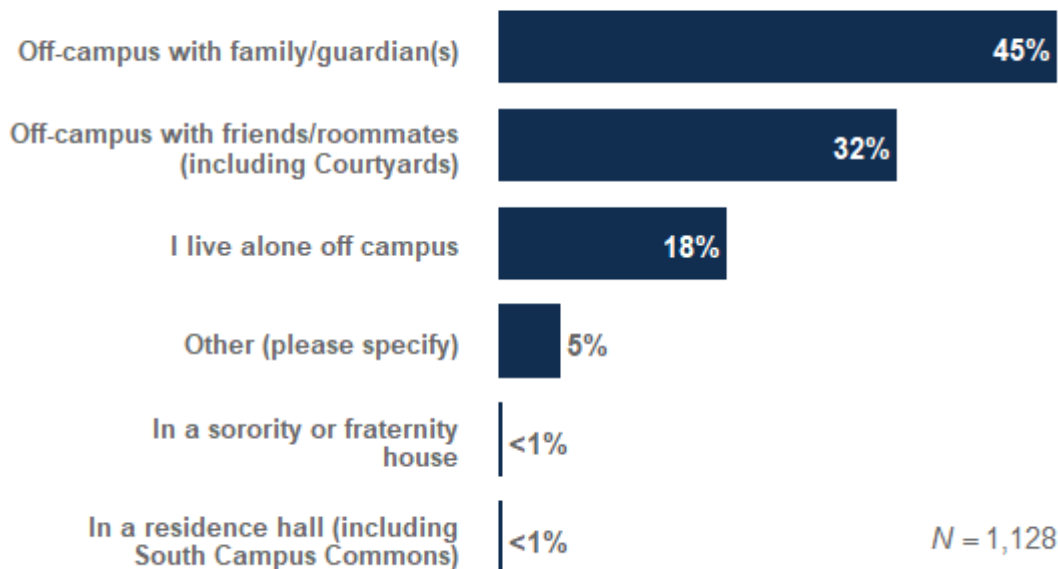
Are you currently part of a living-learning program (e.g., Honors, College Park Scholars, FIRE, bioFIRE, etc.)



N = 1,129

6.6. Current location

Where do you live?



N = 1,128

Are you in a different time zone than the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) while completing the majority of your coursework? UMD is in Eastern Standard Time (EST).



6.7. College or School of primary major

