

# **Preliminary Synthesis Results of Fall 2020 Student Survey**

## **Executive Summary**

In the fall semester of 2020, University of Houston-Clear Lake conducted a survey of the entire student body, N = 1252 responded (total student body was 9144 for a response rate of 13.7%). The survey addressed issues that have arisen for students regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. A team of faculty and staff representing both the divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs convened to analyze previously collected UHCL survey data, national discourse around the pandemic's impact on higher education, as well as qualitative accounts of student experiences as reported by faculty, advisors, counselors, and students themselves. The research process began by asking first: What data do we need to accurately capture the lived experiences of UHCL students during this pandemic? Questions were then developed to ensure data was collected associated with identifying who our students are; what personal, societal and learning variables were impacting the educational experiences of students; perceptions of supports and services; mental health considerations; access and utilization of technology; and ultimately, perceptions of learning contexts. Once questions were developed, representatives of faculty, student services, academic affairs staff and students reviewed the questions and provided suggestions for revisions prior to the survey being disseminated. The purpose of the research sought to explore the interrelated variables which can inform improvements in services, supports and the relationship of teaching and learning for students at UHCL during the pandemic and beyond.

## **Summary of Findings**

### **Demographics**

The respondents were overwhelmingly female (71%) and white (58%), while only 38% of the student body identifies as white. Also, 40% of respondents identified as Hispanic which matches the student body composition, the percentage of Black students responding also matched that of the student body ~ 9% but the Asian respondents in the survey 13% were greater than their

proportion of the student body (9%). The colleges were equally represented in the responses (COB 24%, COE 20%, HSH 28%, and CSE 25%). The student body is roughly 50% full time/part time but the respondents were overwhelmingly full-time students (70%). According to the literature (U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1996), traditional students are those 24 years and under and nontraditional are those 25 and over. The respondents were evenly split between these groups (50%).

## Findings

We present both descriptive and inferential statistics regarding the survey items below.

- Descriptively, everyone either strongly agreed or agreed with the items involving increased stress during the pandemic, with significant associations for both full time and part time students regarding home stress and feeling overwhelmed, and for traditional/non-traditional regarding feeling overwhelmed with work, school and home life.
- Across the three categories, Covid-19, political climate, and social issues, Covid-19 appears to be causing the highest levels of stress for students who are full/part time, traditional/non-traditional and across colleges.
- The main forms of communication between faculty and students are email and Blackboard, followed by Virtual office hours, then text and one-to-one meetings in class.
- Comparing their instruction to before the pandemic, students rated faculty's use of technology, their flexibility, their responsiveness, their maintenance of the schedule outlined in the syllabus and their organization as better than before the pandemic.
- The most frequently utilized campus services were rated from highest to lowest: Academic Advising, Counseling and Accessibility Support Center (tied), Student Success Center, Writing Center and Math Center.
- Though 69.98% students indicated that they strongly agree or somewhat agree with the perception instructors sincerely cared about student learning and related 69.45% indicated their instructors were supportive of student learning, 40.32% of students revealed a decrease in their level of effort demonstrated in courses during the fall 2020 semester.
- The average number of online courses students had experienced prior to COVID-19 was 3.44, and in Fall 2020 40% of students enrolled in 2 courses or less while 77% enrolled in 3 or more courses: 21.42% were enrolled in five or more courses.
- Only 14% of first semester students dropped 1 class with much smaller percentage dropping 2 or more classes.
- Notably, first semester students feel that their instructors care about their learning. They also feel like they have adequate access to technology yet also that the technology their instructors are using is unfamiliar or confusing.
- Students were asked their preferred method of communication from UHCL and reported that: Email (44%), BlackBoard Notices (21%) and Text Messages (21%) were the most preferred.

- Overall, first semester students rated *strongly agree* or *agree* to comments about all facets of their experience at UHCL (see table on page 9 of this document).

The survey had several thousand responses to the short-answer questions therefore, qualitative analysis is ongoing. High level themes that surfaced in early analyses include an appreciation for and at times challenges with:

- Communication: From faculty; Regarding available support services; From the institution as a whole; Consistency; etc.
- Organization: Course structure & BlackBoard Shells; Syllabi; Student time management/planning of time; etc.
- Flexibility: Faculty assistance with challenges; Technology utilization & availability; Resource access & availability; etc.

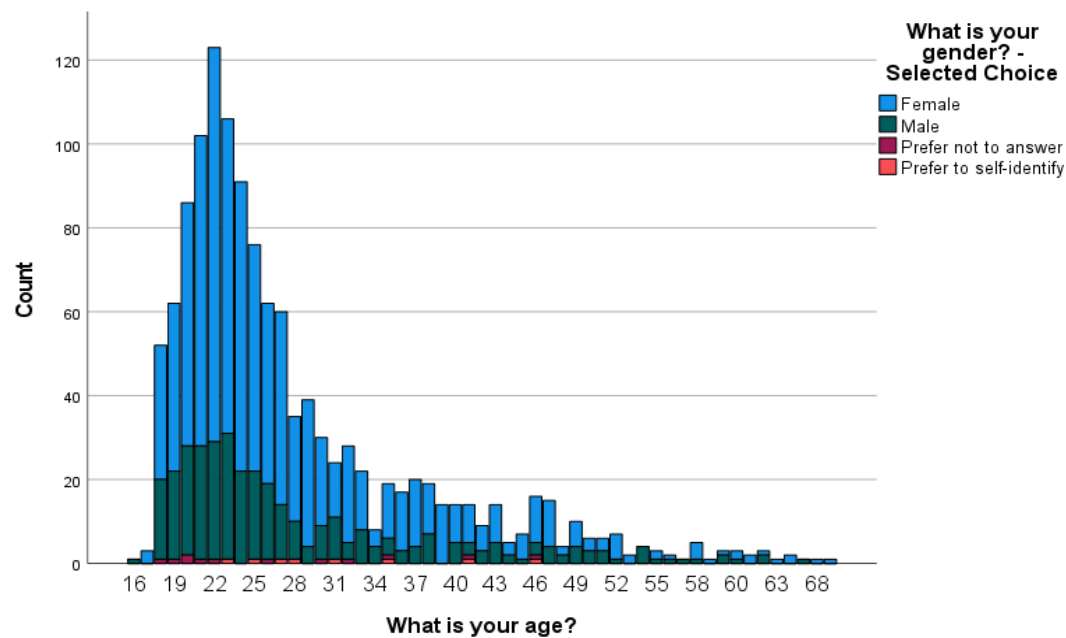
## Reference

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (1996), *Nontraditional Undergraduates*, Data Analysis System.  
<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs/web/97578.asp>.

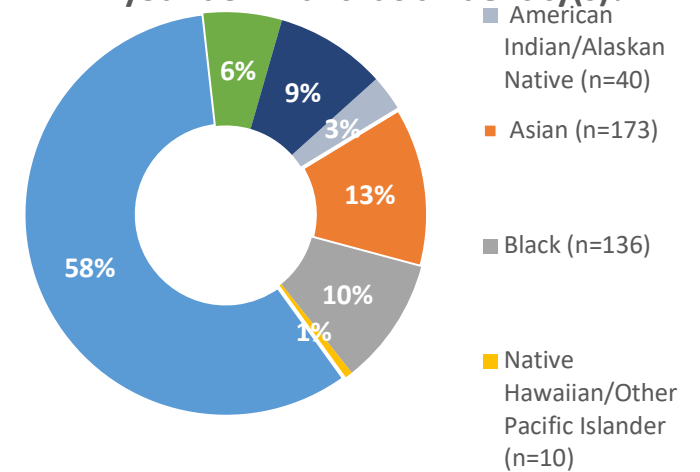
**Survey Team: Elizabeth Beavers, Cindy Cook, Heather Kanenberg, Angela Kelling, Renee Lastrapes, Chris McDavid, & Tim Richardson**

# Student Fall Semester 2020 Survey

## Demographics



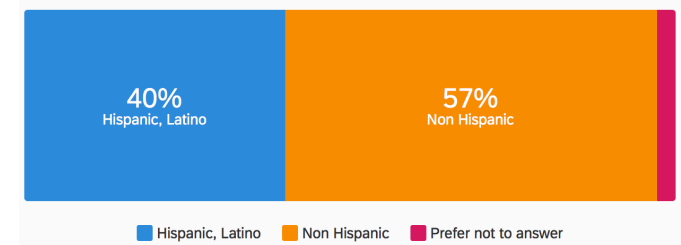
## Which of the following best matches your dominant racial identity(s)?



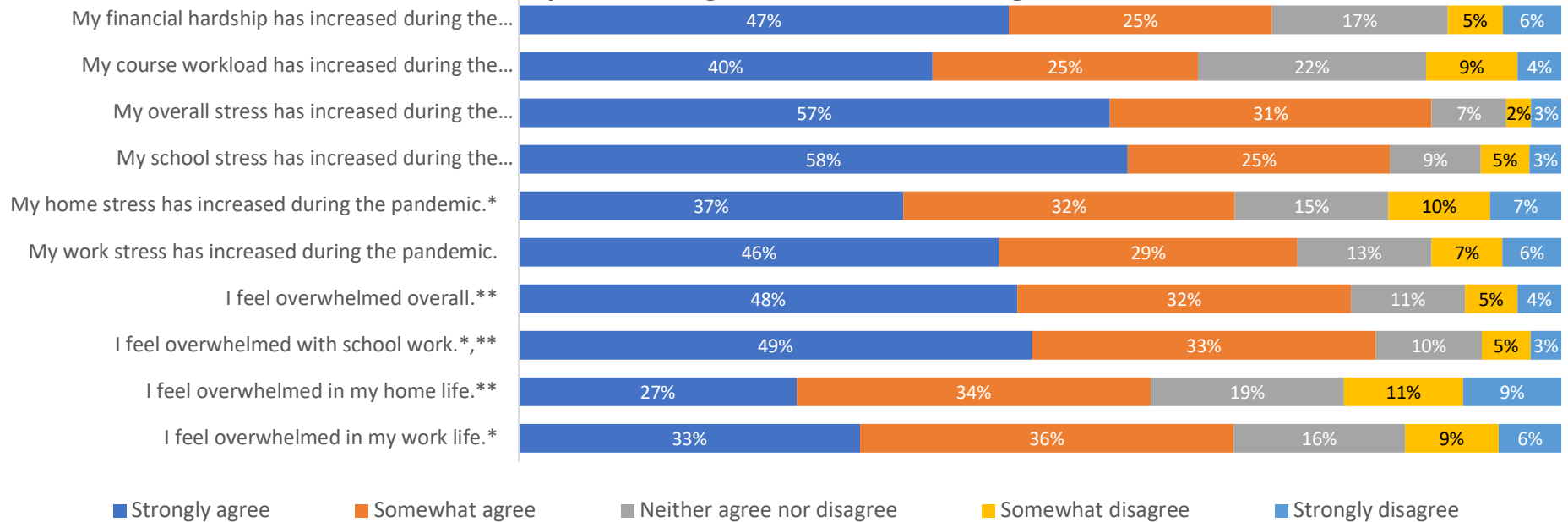
## What is your gender?



Female (n = 906)  
Male (n = 346)  
Prefer not to answer (n = 14)  
Prefer to self-identify (n = 8)

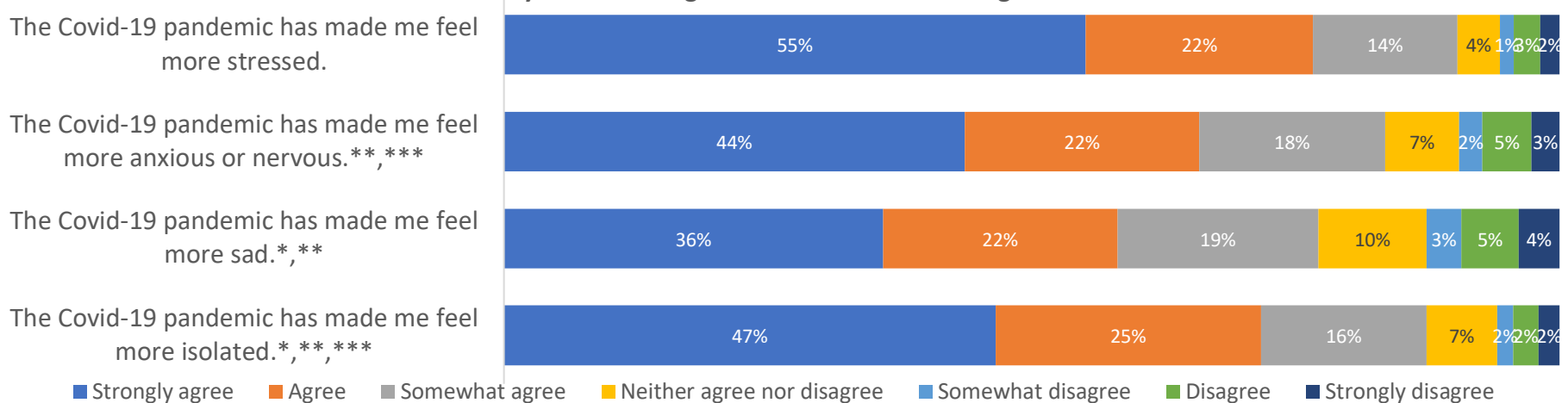


**Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:**



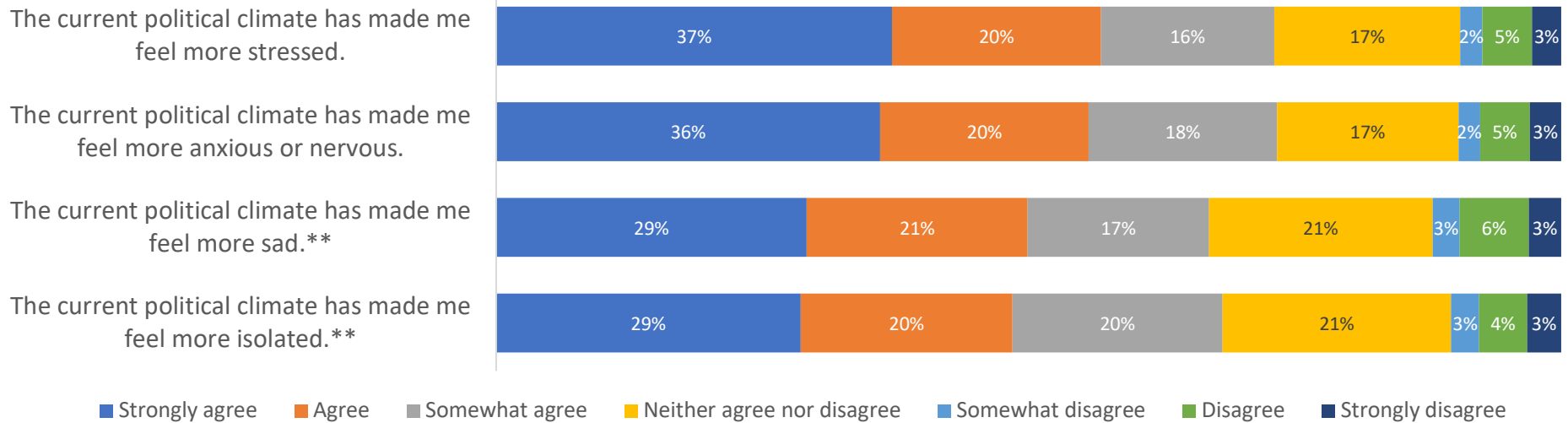
Note: No sig. difference found across colleges; \*Sig. difference between Full-time and Parttime Students; \*\*Sig. difference between Traditional and Nontraditional Students

**Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:**



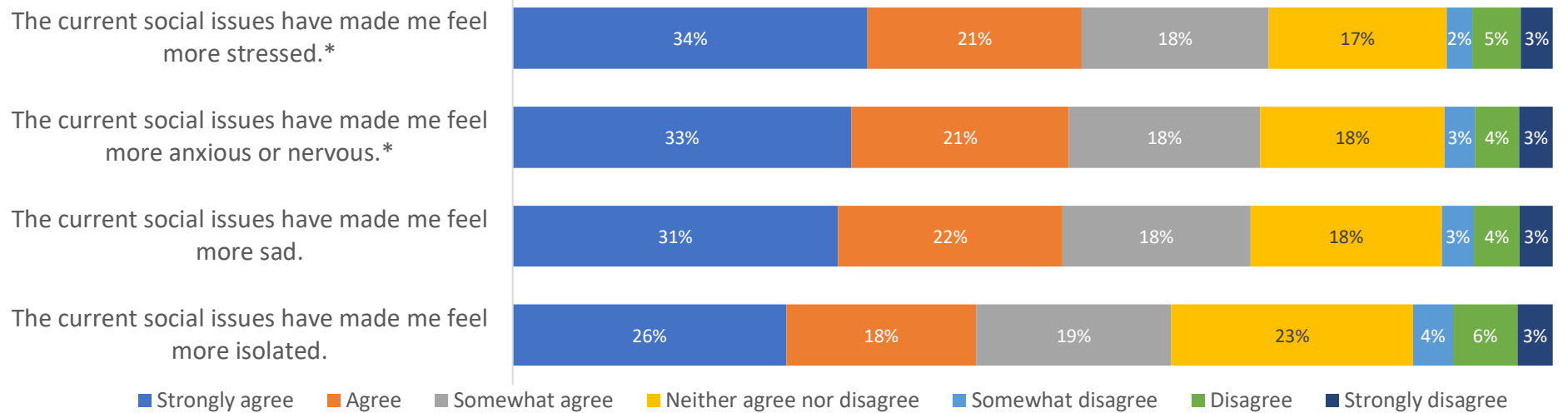
Note: \*Sig. difference between Full-time and Parttime Students, \*\*Sig. difference between Traditional and Nontraditional students, \*\*\*Sig. difference across colleges

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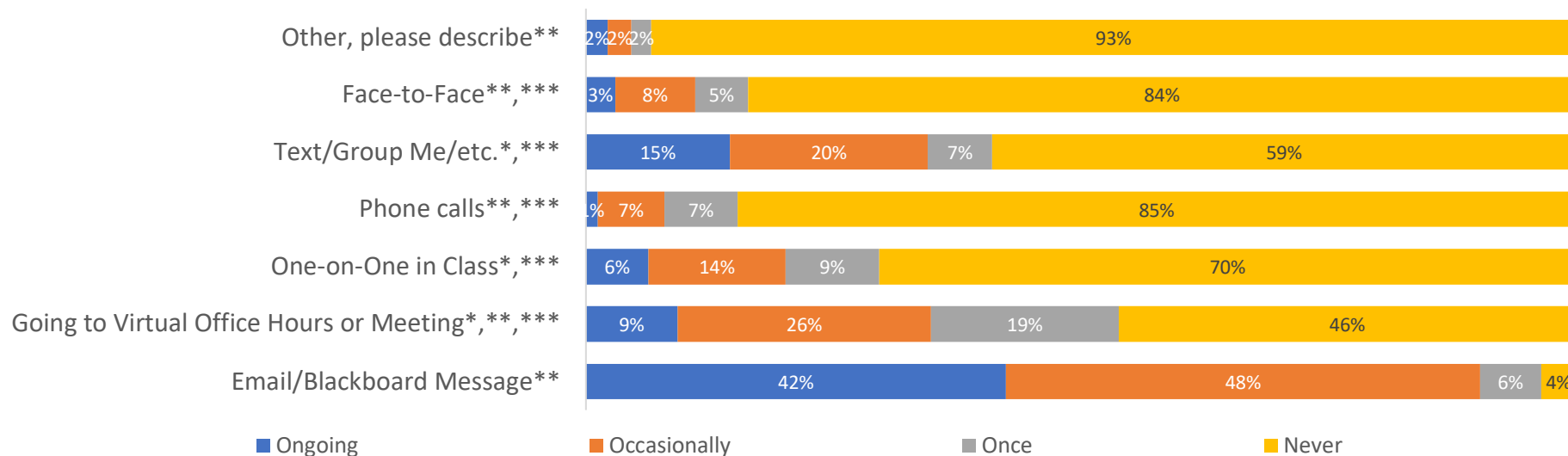
Note: \*Sig. difference between Traditional and Nontraditional students, No sig. difference found between Full-time and Part-time students or across colleges

**Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:**



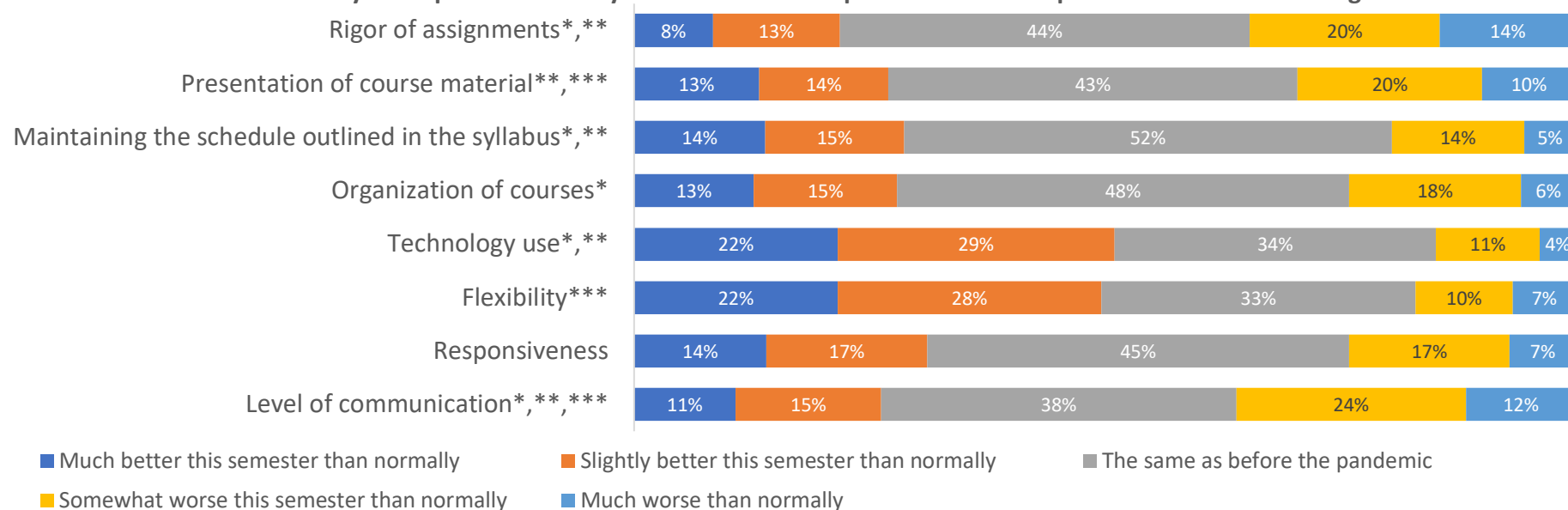
Note: \*Sig. difference between Full-time and Part-time Students, No sig. difference found between Traditional and Nontraditional Students or across colleges

**Please rate the frequency that you have used the following methods to reach out to your Instructors?**



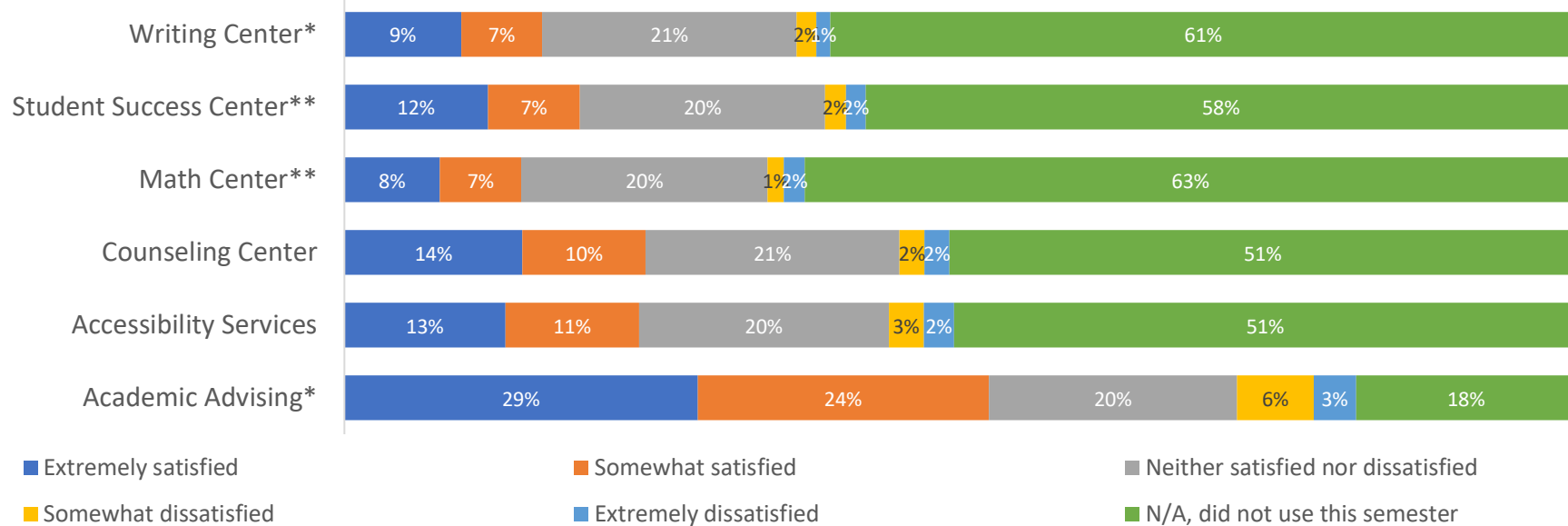
Note: \*Sig. difference between Full-time and Part-time Students, \*\*Sig. difference between Traditional and Nontraditional Students, \*\*\*Sig difference across colleges

**Please rate how your experiences with your Instructors compare to before the pandemic on the following areas:**



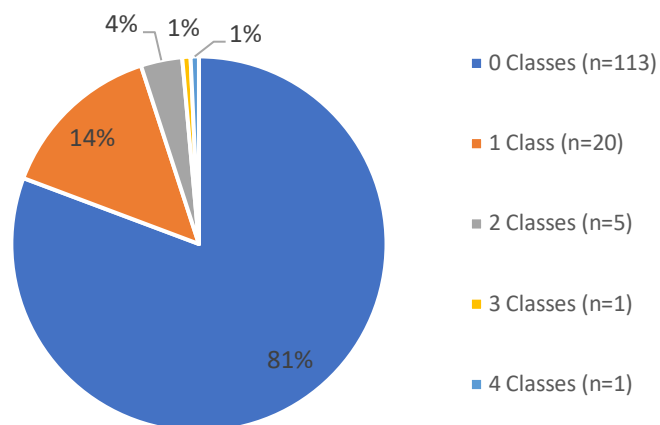
Note: \*Sig. difference between Full-time and Part-time Students, \*\*Sig. difference between Traditional and Nontraditional Students, \*\*\*Sig difference across colleges

Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following resources on campus this semester:



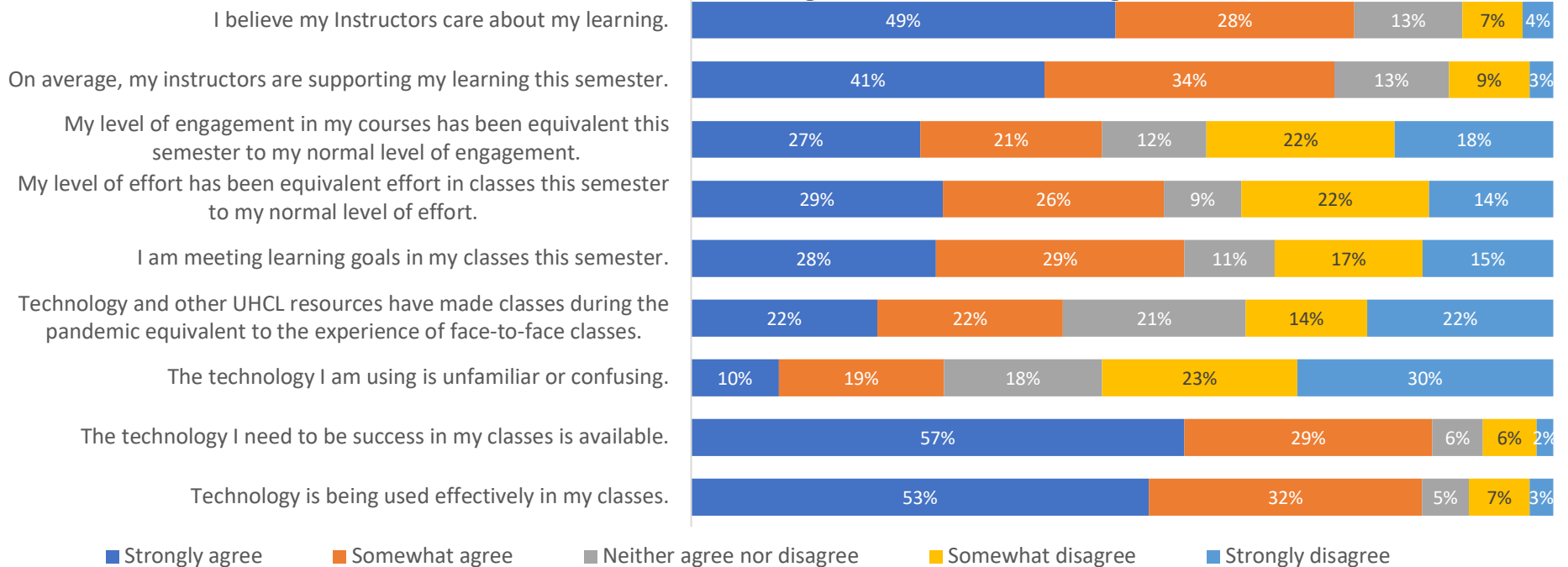
Note: No sig. difference between Full-time and Parttime Students, \*Sig. difference between Traditional and Nontraditional students, \*\*Sig. difference across colleges

Number of classes dropped by first semester students





### First semester students rated their level of agreement with the following statements:



### First semester students rated their experiences with instructors on the following areas:

