2024 Kickstart Survey

The 2024 Kickstart Survey was administered from August 26, 2024- September 16, 2024, to all incoming students with a response rate of 45.6% for first-year students and 14.2% for transfer students.

Additional data can be found on the IP&A website: https://www.csusm.edu/ipa/surveys/kickstart_survey.html

Table of Contents

Decision Making Process……..2

Enrollment Process……..7

Sense of Belonging……10

Academic Journey……13

Mental Wellbeing & Basic Needs……27

Respondent Characteristics……29

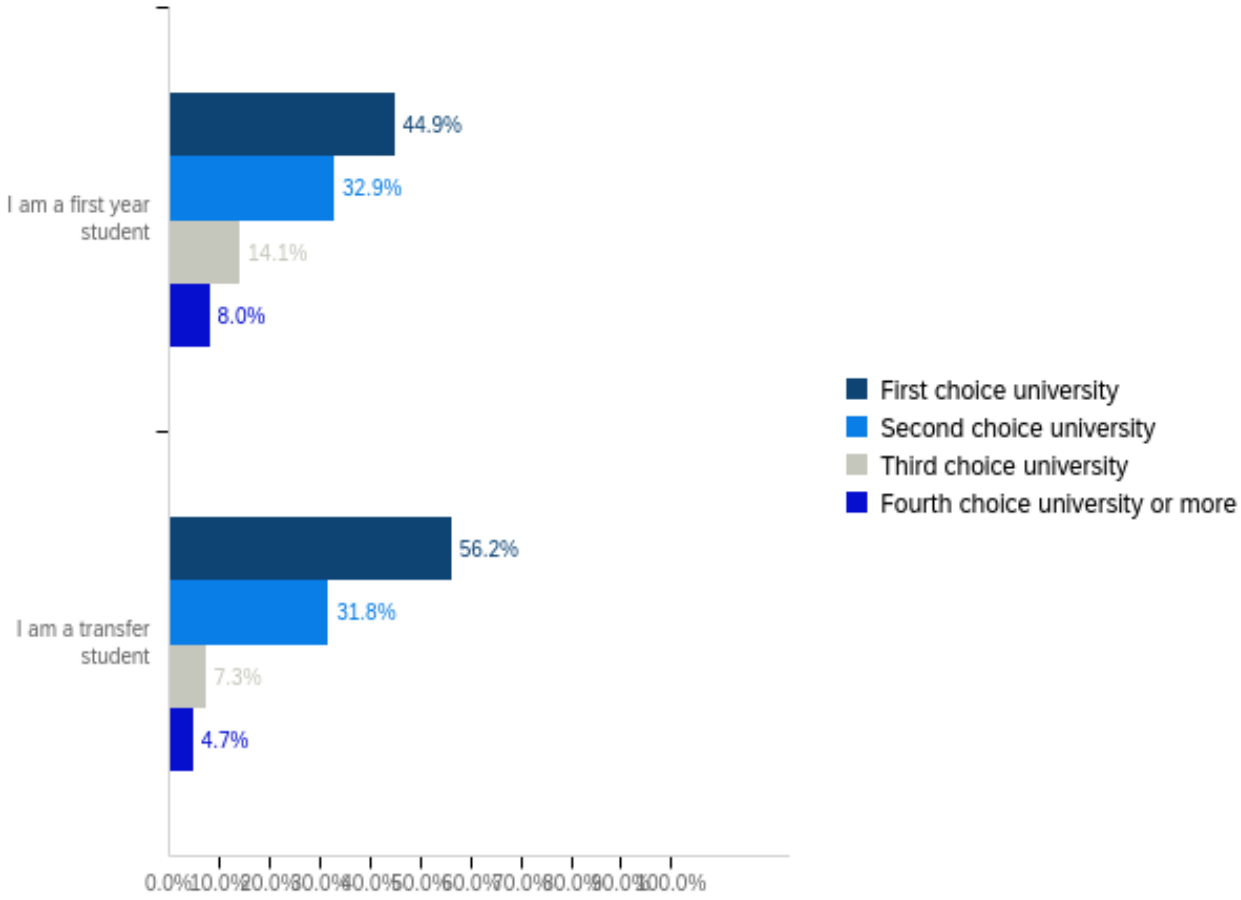
Decision Making Process

Questions from the survey that ask about students' decision to attend CSUSM.

Please select your top three (3) reasons for selecting CSUSM as your university.

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
The location of the university is near home	59.8%	670	63.1%	147
The major I'm interested in is offered here	48.0%	538	58.8%	137
This university if an affordable option	46.0%	516	43.3%	101
The location of the university is in a desirable area	33.5%	375	26.6%	62
Have family or friends that are attending/have attended this university	20.9%	234	24.5%	57
The campus feels physically safe	18.6%	208	13.7%	32
Financial aid package offered	17.5%	196	6.9%	16
Family wanted me to attend	9.8%	110	6.9%	16
I was only accepted to this university	9.6%	108	15.5%	36
The reputation of the university	9.3%	104	14.2%	33
The diversity of the campus community	7.0%	78	5.6%	13
Other: (please specify)	5.9%	66	6.0%	14
Teacher or Counselor advised me	4.6%	52	5.2%	12
Total	Total	1121	Total	233

Was CSUSM your:



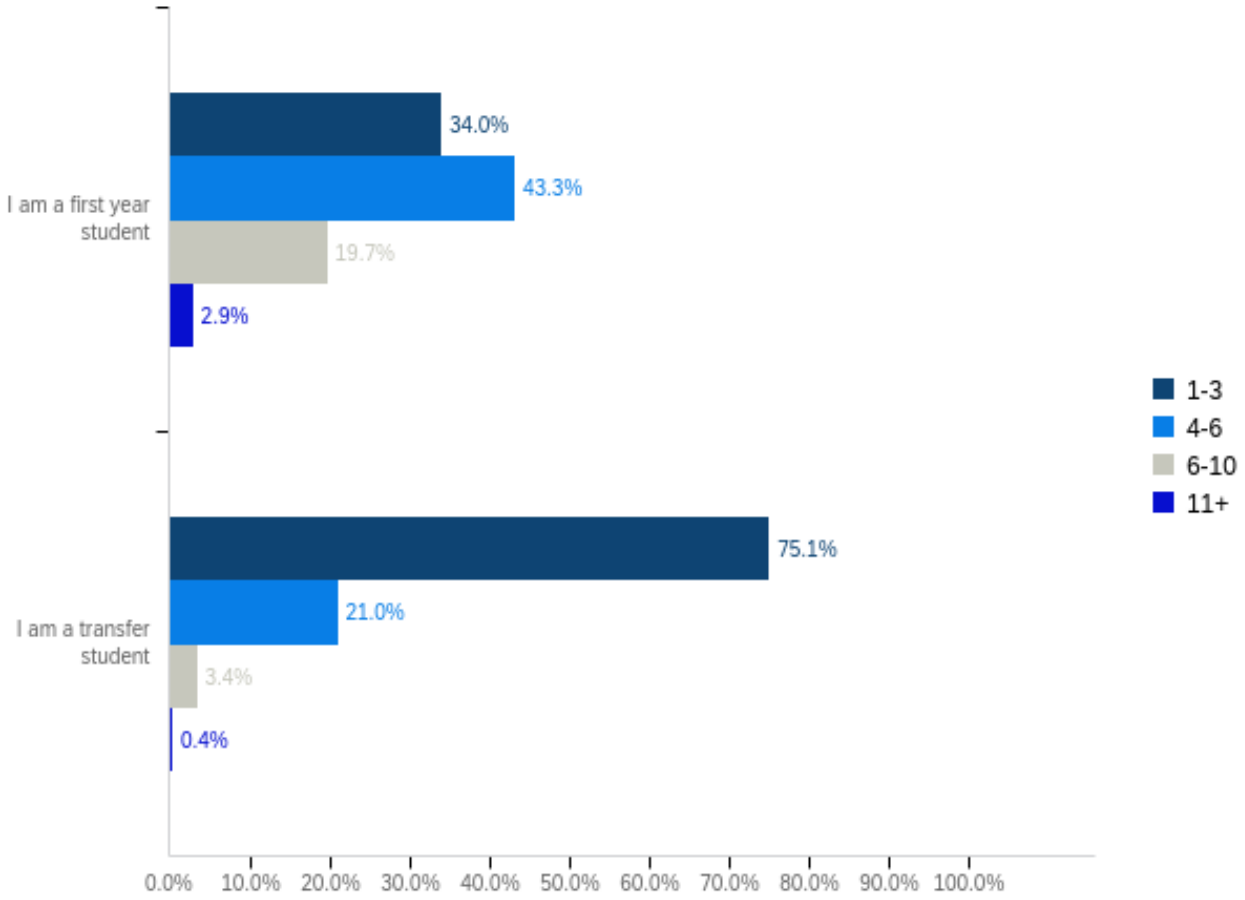
Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
First choice university	44.9%	503	56.2%	131
Second choice university	32.9%	369	31.8%	74
Third choice university	14.1%	158	7.3%	17
Fourth choice university or more	8.0%	90	4.7%	11
Total	Total	1120	Total	233

Which school was your first choice?*

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
University of California San Diego	15.9%	98	23.8%	24
University of California Riverside	2.3%	14	2.0%	2
Another institution in the UC system: (please specify)	11.2%	69	6.9%	7
San Diego State University	34.5%	213	37.6%	38
CSU Fullerton	3.9%	24	3.0%	3
CSU San Bernardino	1.6%	10	2.0%	2
CSU Long Beach	5.2%	32	7.9%	8
Another university in the CSU system: (please specify)	7.5%	46	7.9%	8
Palomar College	1.1%	7	0.0%	0
Another university: (please specify)	16.9%	104	8.9%	9
Total	Total	617	Total	101

*Question shown to respondents who selected if CSUSM was their Second, Third or Fourth choice university.

How many universities did you apply to for Fall 2024?



Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
1-3	34.0%	381	75.1%	175
4-6	43.3%	484	21.0%	49
6-10	19.7%	221	3.4%	8
11+	2.9%	33	0.4%	1
Total	Total	1119	Total	233

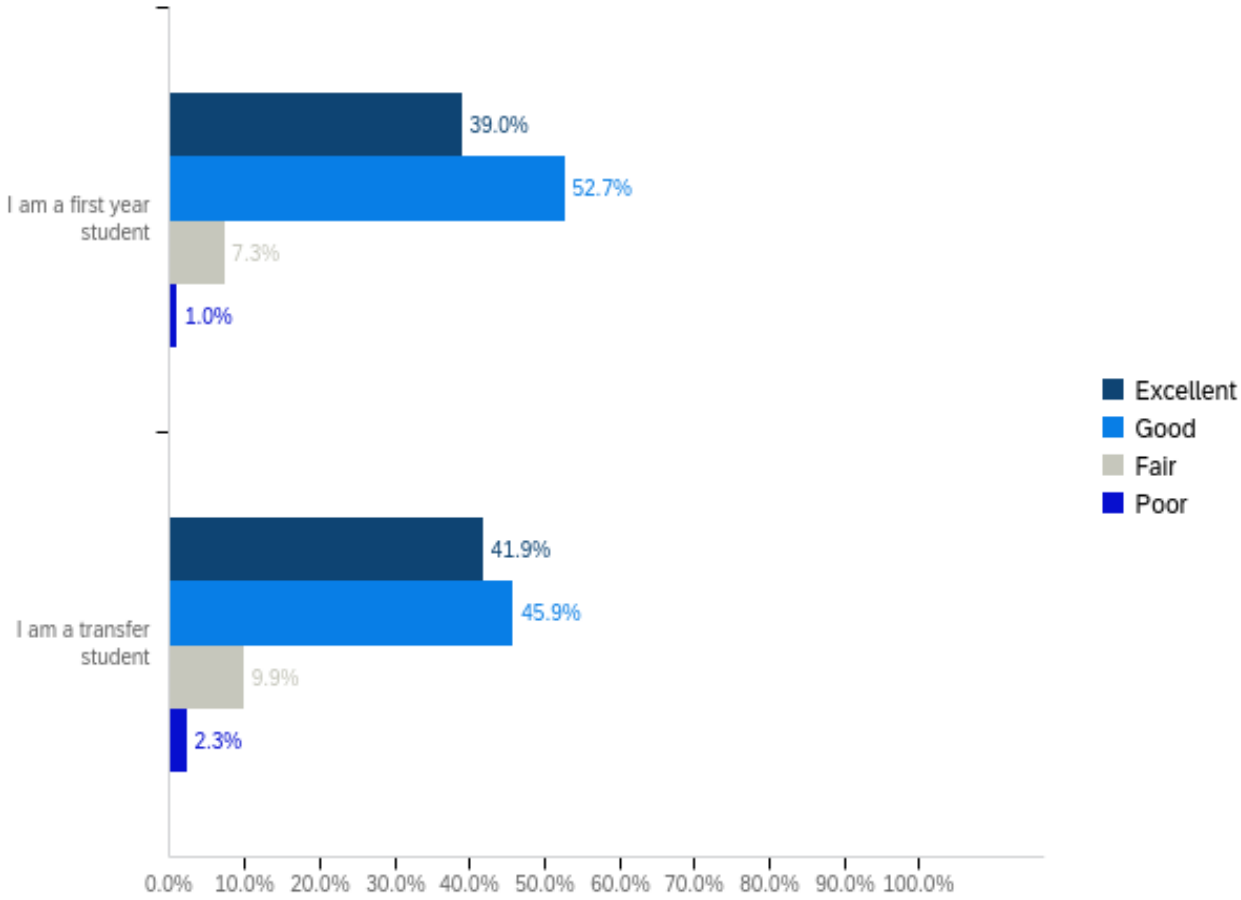
What were your top three (3) most helpful sources of information when making your decision to attend CSUSM?

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Campus visits	66.0%	738	47.2%	110
Community college counselor or professor	8.6%	96	43.3%	101
Emails	25.4%	284	25.3%	59
Friends or relatives	48.7%	544	45.1%	105
High-school counselor or teacher	35.8%	400	6.0%	14
Parents/guardians	34.6%	387	19.3%	45
Social Media	27.2%	304	14.6%	34
CSUSM website	34.2%	382	42.9%	100
Transfer center from your previous institution	0.0%	0	28.3%	66
Videos	6.2%	69	5.2%	12
Other websites (please specify):	2.2%	25	3.9%	9
Total	Total	1118	Total	233

Enrollment Process

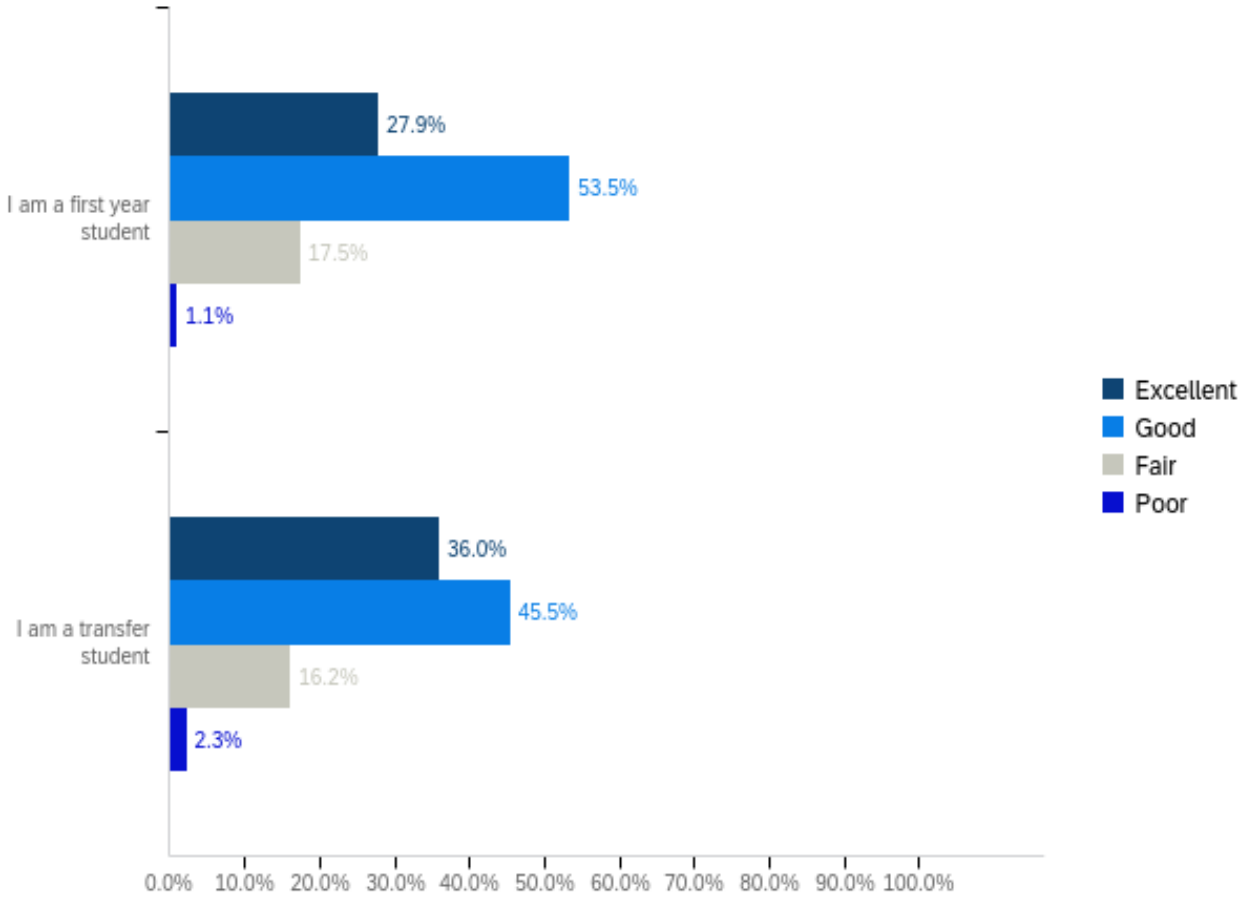
Questions asking about students' experiences applying to and enrolling at CSUSM.

Overall, my experience applying to CSUSM was:



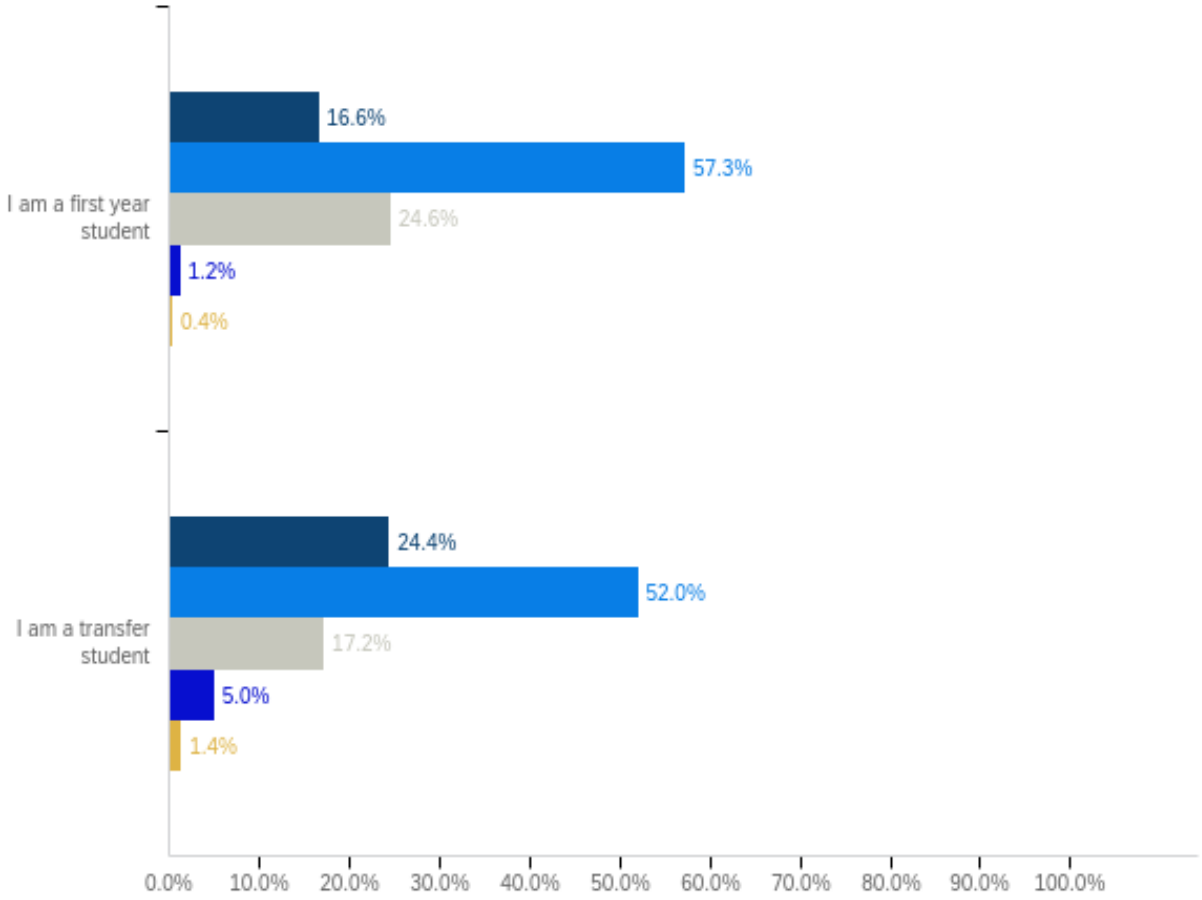
Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Excellent	39.0%	428	41.9%	93
Good	52.7%	579	45.9%	102
Fair	7.3%	80	9.9%	22
Poor	1.0%	11	2.3%	5
Total	Total	1098	Total	222

Once admitted, my experience becoming a CSUSM student was:



Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Excellent	27.9%	306	36.0%	80
Good	53.5%	587	45.5%	101
Fair	17.5%	192	16.2%	36
Poor	1.1%	12	2.3%	5
Total	Total	1097	Total	222

Please reflect on your experiences for the following statements: Throughout the admission and enrollment process, I was able to find answers to my questions.



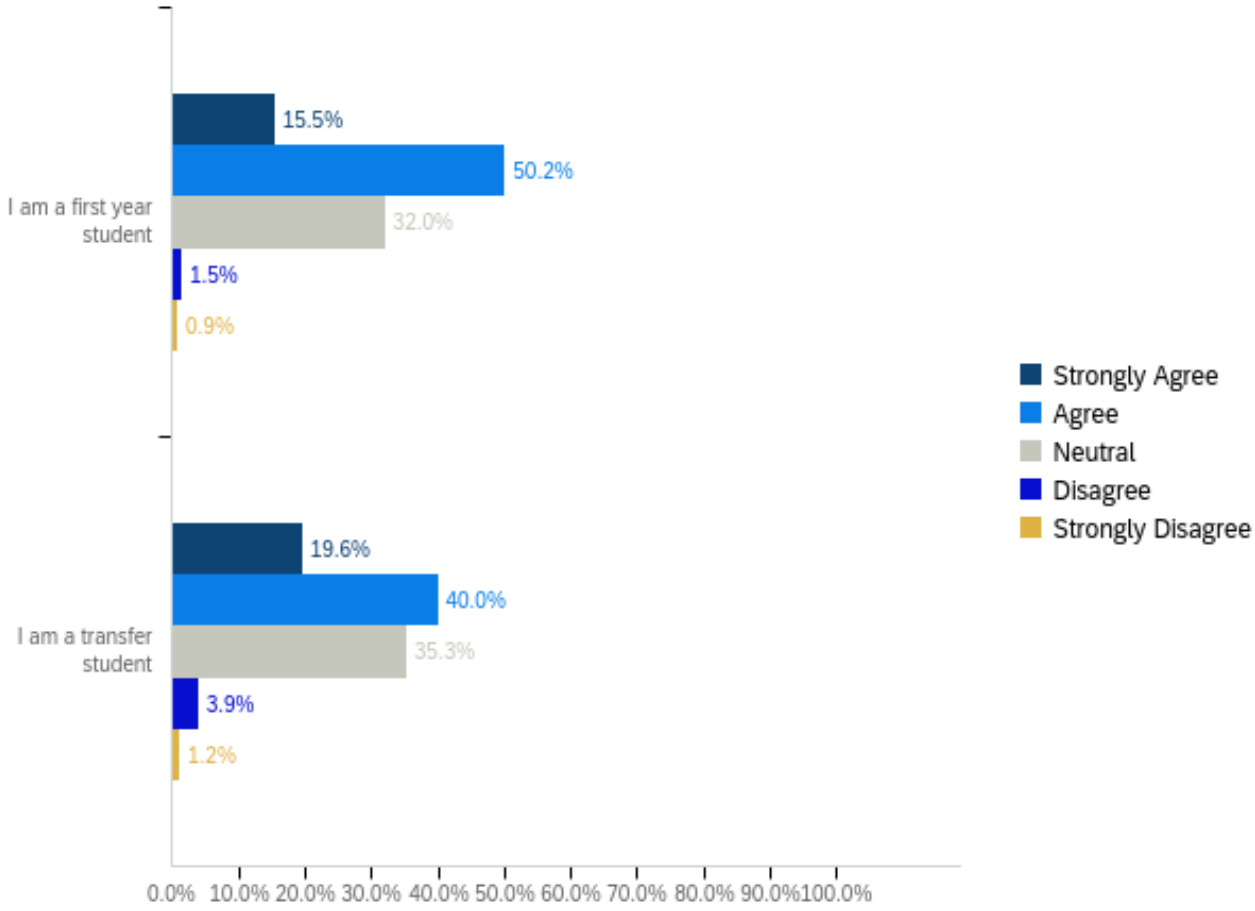
Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Strongly Agree	16.6%	182	24.4%	54
Agree	57.3%	629	52.0%	115
Neutral	24.6%	270	17.2%	38
Disagree	1.2%	13	5.0%	11
Strongly Disagree	0.4%	4	1.4%	3
Total	Total	1098	Total	221

Sense of Belonging

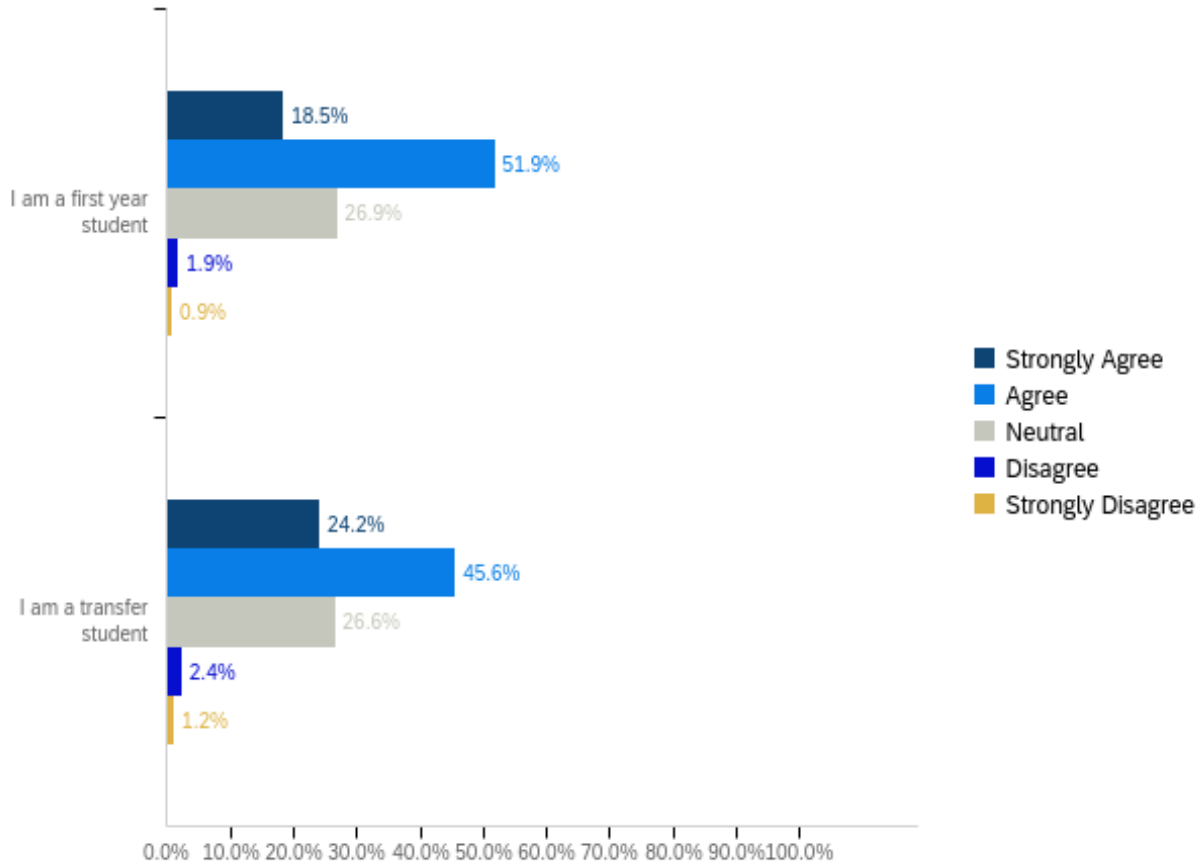
Questions asking students about their sense of belonging at CSUSM.

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

I feel that I am a member of the CSUSM community.



I feel like I belong at CSUSM.



I feel that I am a member of the CSUSM community.

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Strongly Agree	15.5%	180	19.6%	50
Agree	50.2%	584	40.0%	102
Neutral	32.0%	373	35.3%	90
Disagree	1.5%	17	3.9%	10
Strongly Disagree	0.9%	10	1.2%	3
Total	Total	1164	Total	255

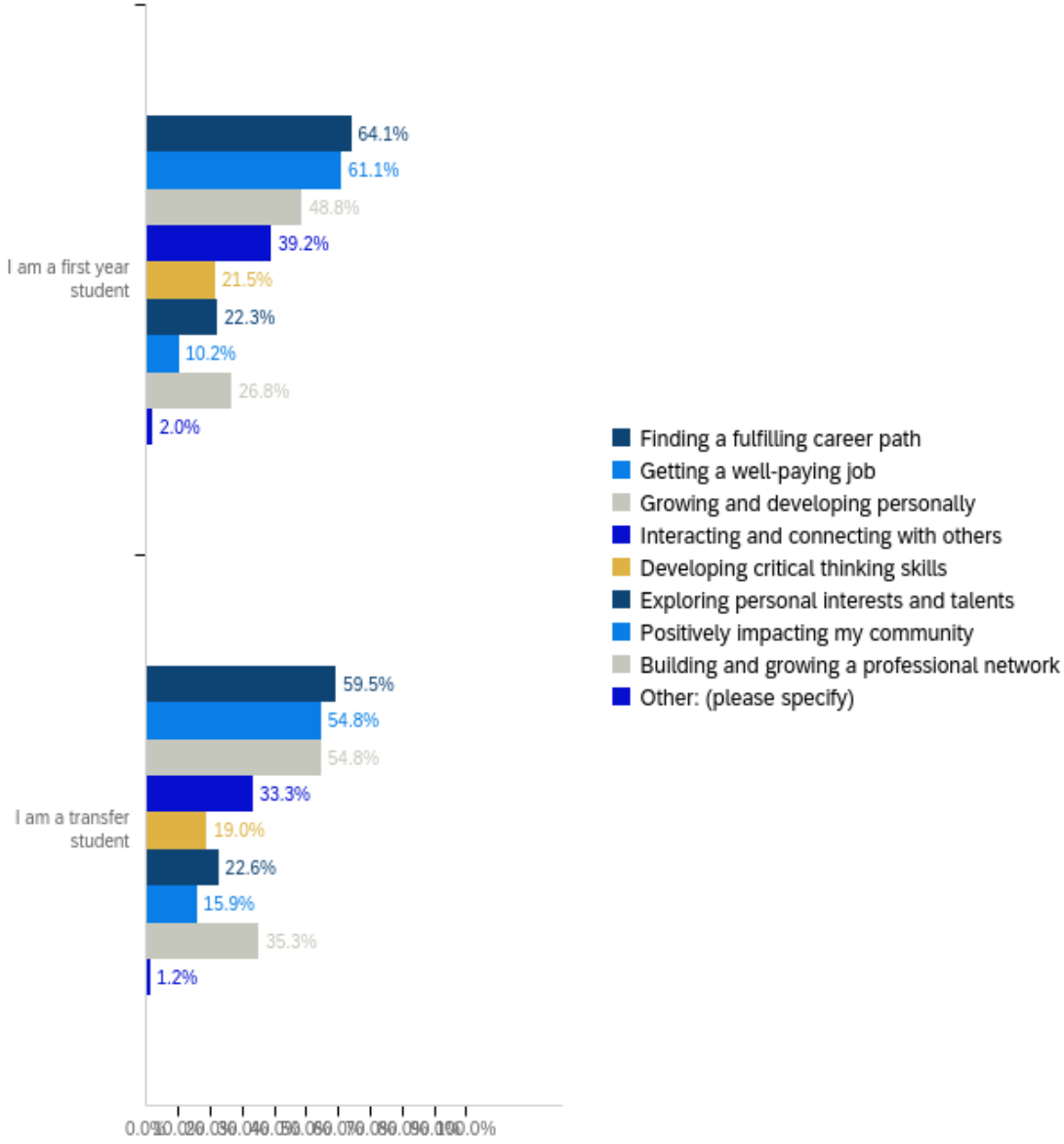
I feel like I belong at CSUSM.

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Strongly Agree	18.5%	214	24.2%	61
Agree	51.9%	601	45.6%	115
Neutral	26.9%	312	26.6%	67
Disagree	1.9%	22	2.4%	6
Strongly Disagree	0.9%	10	1.2%	3
Total	Total	1159	Total	252

Academic Journey

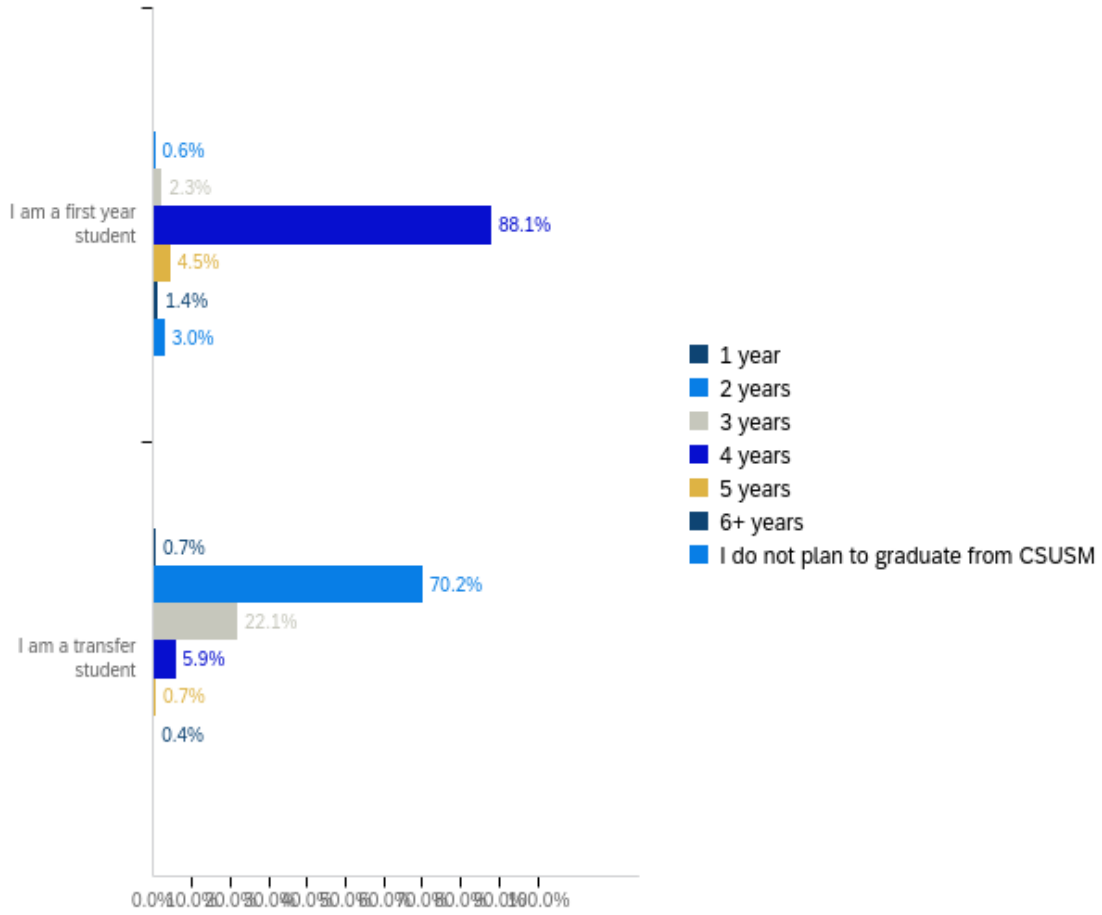
Questions asking students about their plans for their academic journey at CSUSM.

Please select the top three (3) outcomes that are the most important to you right now:



Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Finding a fulfilling career path	64.1%	745	59.5%	150
Getting a well-paying job	61.1%	710	54.8%	138
Growing and developing personally	48.8%	567	54.8%	138
Interacting and connecting with others	39.2%	455	33.3%	84
Developing critical thinking skills	21.5%	250	19.0%	48
Exploring personal interests and talents	22.3%	259	22.6%	57
Positively impacting my community	10.2%	118	15.9%	40
Building and growing a professional network	26.8%	311	35.3%	89
Other: (please specify)	2.0%	23	1.2%	3
Total	Total	1162	Total	252

How long do you expect it will take you to graduate from CSUSM?



Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
1 year	0.0%	0	0.7%	2
2 years	0.6%	7	70.2%	191
3 years	2.3%	28	22.1%	60
4 years	88.1%	1070	5.9%	16
5 years	4.5%	55	0.7%	2
6+ years	1.4%	17	0.4%	1
I do not plan to graduate from CSUSM	3.0%	37	0.0%	0
Total	Total	1214	Total	272

Why don't you plan to graduate from CSUSM?*

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
I plan to transfer to another university.	100.0%	37	0.0%	0
I am not sure whether I will be able to finish college.	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Something else: (please specify)	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Total	Total	37	Total	0

*Question shown to repondents who selected *I do not plan to graduate from CSUSM*

Please rate how likely it is that you will do the following while at CSUSM:

Change majors

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	21.1%	255	51.5%	140
Unlikely	35.2%	425	31.6%	86
Neutral	26.7%	322	11.4%	31
Likely	11.9%	144	4.0%	11
Very Likely	5.1%	61	1.5%	4
Total	Total	1207	Total	272

Participate in student government (e.g., ASI/Associated Students Inc.)

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	13.1%	159	19.2%	52
Unlikely	33.8%	410	29.5%	80
Neutral	35.8%	435	37.3%	101
Likely	13.9%	169	11.4%	31
Very Likely	3.4%	41	2.6%	7
Total	Total	1214	Total	271

Work on-campus

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	7.0%	85	15.2%	41
Unlikely	14.2%	172	17.0%	46
Neutral	28.7%	347	33.3%	90
Likely	34.8%	421	27.8%	75
Very Likely	15.4%	186	6.7%	18
Total	Total	1211	Total	270

Work off-campus

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	2.4%	29	6.6%	18
Unlikely	7.1%	86	2.2%	6
Neutral	18.9%	229	14.0%	38
Likely	41.3%	499	30.9%	84
Very Likely	30.3%	366	46.3%	126
Total	Total	1209	Total	272

Earn at least a 3.0 GPA

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	0.7%	9	0.4%	1
Unlikely	0.6%	7	0.7%	2
Neutral	12.5%	152	9.9%	27
Likely	52.5%	637	42.3%	115
Very Likely	33.6%	408	46.7%	127
Total	Total	1213	Total	272

Need extra time to complete degree

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	9.6%	117	8.1%	22
Unlikely	36.0%	437	25.5%	69
Neutral	41.5%	504	40.6%	110
Likely	11.4%	139	21.4%	58
Very Likely	1.5%	18	4.4%	12
Total	Total	1215	Total	271

Be satisfied with the university

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	0.6%	7	1.5%	4
Unlikely	0.9%	11	1.5%	4
Neutral	18.8%	228	16.2%	44
Likely	54.6%	662	49.3%	134
Very Likely	25.1%	304	31.6%	86
Total	Total	1212	Total	272

Participate in community service learning

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	1.6%	20	4.4%	12
Unlikely	9.1%	111	11.8%	32
Neutral	46.5%	565	38.2%	104
Likely	34.2%	416	33.1%	90
Very Likely	8.5%	103	12.5%	34
Total	Total	1215	Total	272

Participate in an internship

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	0.5%	6	4.4%	12
Unlikely	4.6%	56	3.3%	9
Neutral	21.2%	257	19.9%	54
Likely	45.6%	553	41.5%	113
Very Likely	28.2%	342	30.9%	84
Total	Total	1214	Total	272

Participate in study abroad

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	15.6%	189	23.2%	63
Unlikely	25.9%	314	24.0%	65
Neutral	29.1%	352	27.3%	74
Likely	18.3%	222	17.7%	48
Very Likely	11.1%	134	7.7%	21
Total	Total	1211	Total	271

Work with a faculty member on a research project

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	3.2%	39	4.8%	13
Unlikely	12.4%	151	8.5%	23
Neutral	46.0%	558	41.5%	113
Likely	28.8%	350	28.7%	78
Very Likely	9.6%	116	16.5%	45
Total	Total	1214	Total	272

Complete a culminating senior experience/capstone project

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	3.1%	38	2.2%	6
Unlikely	12.6%	153	8.8%	24
Neutral	53.6%	651	44.9%	122
Likely	22.2%	269	24.3%	66
Very Likely	8.5%	103	19.9%	54
Total	Total	1214	Total	272

Please rate how likely it is that you will do the following while at CSUSM:

Seek counseling for mental health & wellness

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	5.9%	69	7.1%	18
Unlikely	22.6%	263	16.6%	42
Neutral	38.6%	448	35.6%	90
Likely	24.2%	281	29.2%	74
Very Likely	8.7%	101	11.5%	29
Total	Total	1162	Total	253

Seek academic support (e.g., tutoring)

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	0.7%	8	2.0%	5
Unlikely	2.1%	24	2.3%	6
Neutral	16.5%	192	20.7%	53
Likely	54.0%	627	45.7%	117
Very Likely	26.8%	311	29.3%	75
Total	Total	1162	Total	256

Develop close friendships with peers

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	0.5%	6	1.6%	4
Unlikely	1.5%	17	6.3%	16
Neutral	13.1%	152	21.1%	54
Likely	45.3%	525	45.7%	117
Very Likely	39.6%	458	25.4%	65
Total	Total	1158	Total	256

Communicate with professors outside of class

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	0.9%	10	1.2%	3
Unlikely	2.8%	33	4.3%	11
Neutral	17.0%	197	19.1%	49
Likely	54.2%	629	44.1%	113
Very Likely	25.2%	292	31.3%	80
Total	Total	1161	Total	256

Socialize with other racial/ethnic groups outside of your own

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	0.6%	7	0.4%	1
Unlikely	1.5%	17	2.0%	5
Neutral	9.8%	114	14.1%	36
Likely	40.8%	474	35.9%	92
Very Likely	47.3%	549	47.7%	122
Total	Total	1161	Total	256

Participate in student organizations and/or clubs

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	1.5%	17	1.2%	3
Unlikely	6.2%	72	5.1%	13
Neutral	27.6%	320	27.3%	70
Likely	41.5%	481	40.6%	104
Very Likely	23.2%	269	25.8%	66
Total	Total	1159	Total	256

Join a fraternity or sorority

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	27.5%	319	50.0%	128
Unlikely	29.2%	339	26.2%	67
Neutral	25.4%	295	16.4%	42
Likely	10.3%	119	3.9%	10
Very Likely	7.6%	88	3.5%	9
Total	Total	1160	Total	256

Attend campus events and programs

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	1.4%	16	2.7%	7
Unlikely	4.0%	46	3.9%	10
Neutral	23.9%	277	23.8%	61
Likely	50.9%	589	44.9%	115
Very Likely	19.8%	229	24.6%	63
Total	Total	1157	Total	256

Visit a student life center (e.g., Cross-cultural center, Latinx Center, Black Student Center, Pride Center, etc.)

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	4.9%	57	6.3%	16
Unlikely	14.9%	173	10.9%	28
Neutral	36.5%	423	28.9%	74
Likely	27.8%	322	32.0%	82
Very Likely	15.9%	185	21.9%	56
Total	Total	1160	Total	256

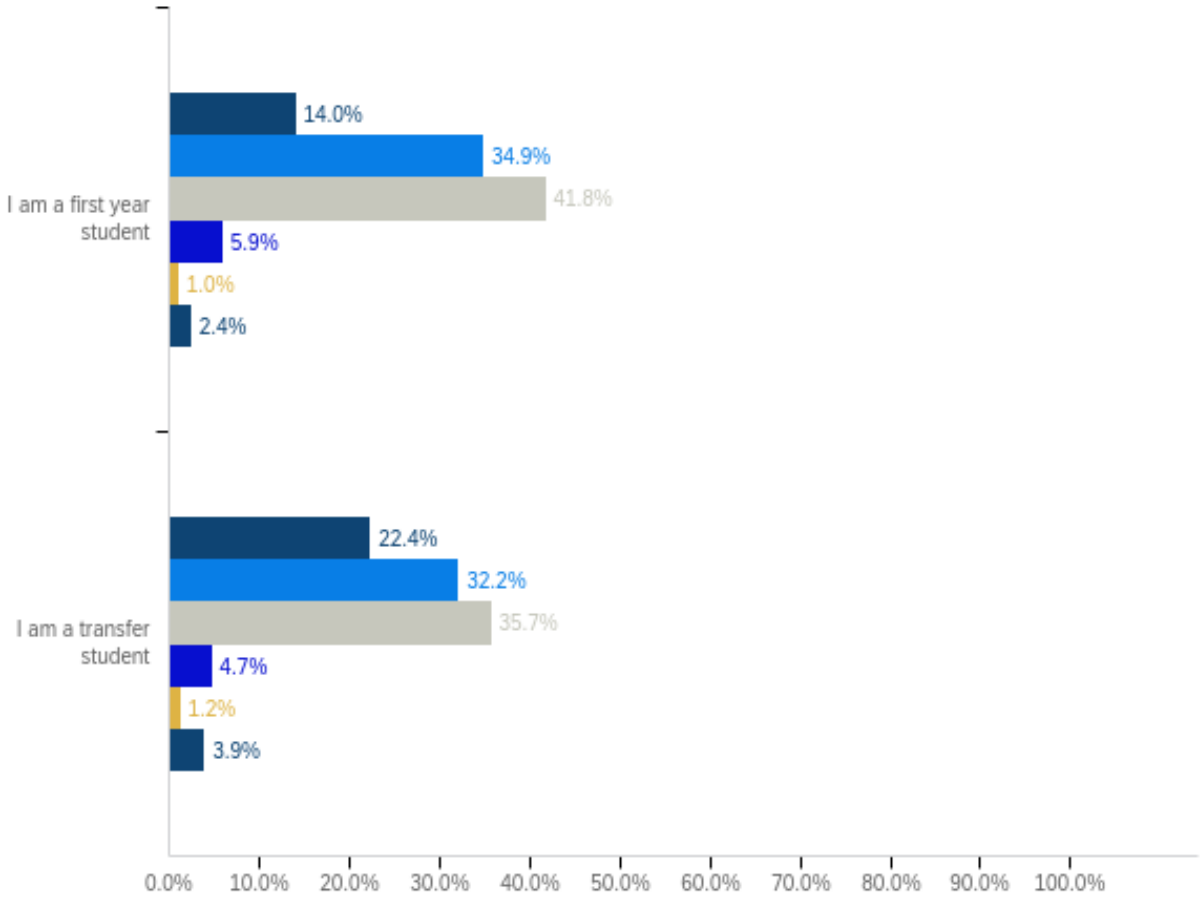
Use facilities at the Clarke Field House (e.g., fitness center)

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	2.0%	23	3.9%	10
Unlikely	7.3%	84	10.2%	26
Neutral	27.2%	315	28.1%	72
Likely	33.9%	392	35.9%	92
Very Likely	29.7%	344	21.9%	56
Total	Total	1158	Total	256

Identify a mentor

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Very Unlikely	2.2%	26	2.4%	6
Unlikely	9.2%	107	10.3%	26
Neutral	52.5%	609	50.0%	126
Likely	28.4%	329	27.8%	70
Very Likely	7.6%	88	9.5%	24
Total	Total	1159	Total	252

What do you expect your average grade will be while at CSUSM?



Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
A	14.0%	163	22.4%	57
A-	34.9%	406	32.2%	82
B	41.8%	486	35.7%	91
B-	5.9%	69	4.7%	12
C	1.0%	12	1.2%	3
I'm worried about passing my classes.	2.4%	28	3.9%	10
Total	Total	1164	Total	255

Please indicate the areas you think may be challenging as you begin your studies at CSUSM.

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Navigating the Degree Planner	32.0%	364	37.0%	91
Identifying study areas	21.3%	243	23.6%	58
How to find a tutor	30.3%	345	23.6%	58
Navigating public transportation to campus	11.2%	127	11.4%	28
How to get involved on campus	40.0%	456	43.1%	106
Understanding the financial aid process	33.5%	381	36.2%	89
Identifying other sources of financial support	34.2%	389	48.0%	118
How to communicate with professors	25.9%	295	21.1%	52
How to connect with other students	33.3%	379	43.1%	106
Navigating Cougar Courses (Canvas)	12.5%	142	6.9%	17
Finding the classes I need for my degree	53.5%	609	44.3%	109
Balancing personal life with classes/schoolwork	73.6%	838	76.0%	187
Total	Total	1139	Total	246

Mental Wellbeing & Basic Needs

Questions that ask about mental wellness and basic needs.

Please indicate how often did you do each of the following in the last 60 days.

Felt depressed or hopeless

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Not at all	60.9%	659	45.1%	97
Occasionally	33.4%	361	43.3%	93
Frequently	5.7%	62	11.6%	25
Total	Total	1082	Total	215

Did something positive for my mental wellness

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Not at all	7.7%	83	5.6%	12
Occasionally	51.2%	553	51.4%	110
Frequently	41.2%	445	43.0%	92
Total	Total	1081	Total	214

Felt connected to others

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Not at all	7.0%	76	10.3%	22
Occasionally	49.6%	536	52.8%	113
Frequently	43.3%	468	36.9%	79
Total	Total	1080	Total	214

Felt hungry because there wasn't enough money for food

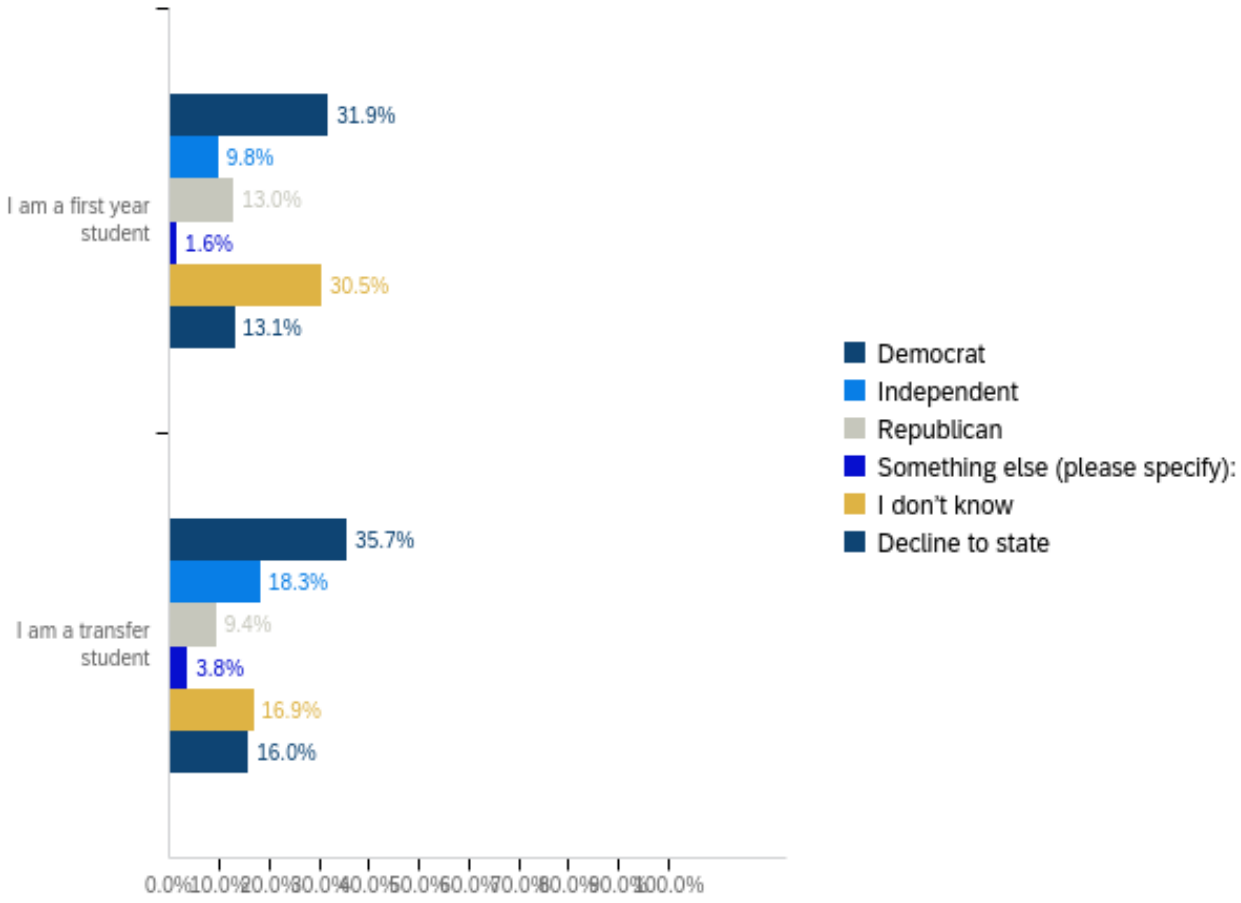
Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Not at all	80.0%	866	71.8%	153
Occasionally	17.1%	185	22.1%	47
Frequently	2.9%	31	6.1%	13
Total	Total	1082	Total	213

Felt uncertain about where you were going to sleep/stay overnight

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Not at all	93.4%	1011	89.2%	190
Occasionally	5.2%	56	7.5%	16
Frequently	1.4%	15	3.3%	7
Total	Total	1082	Total	213

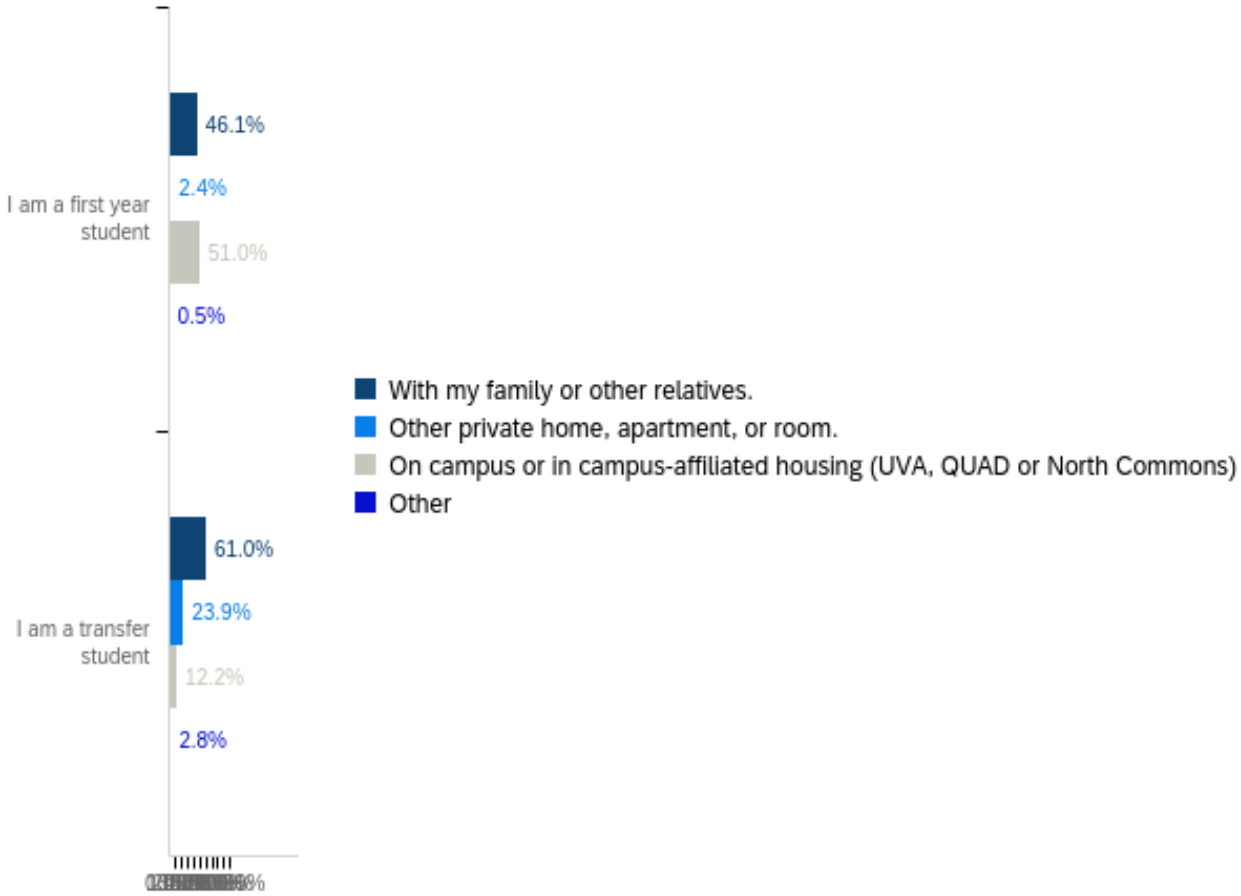
Respondent Characteristics

Please select which political view you most closely identify with:



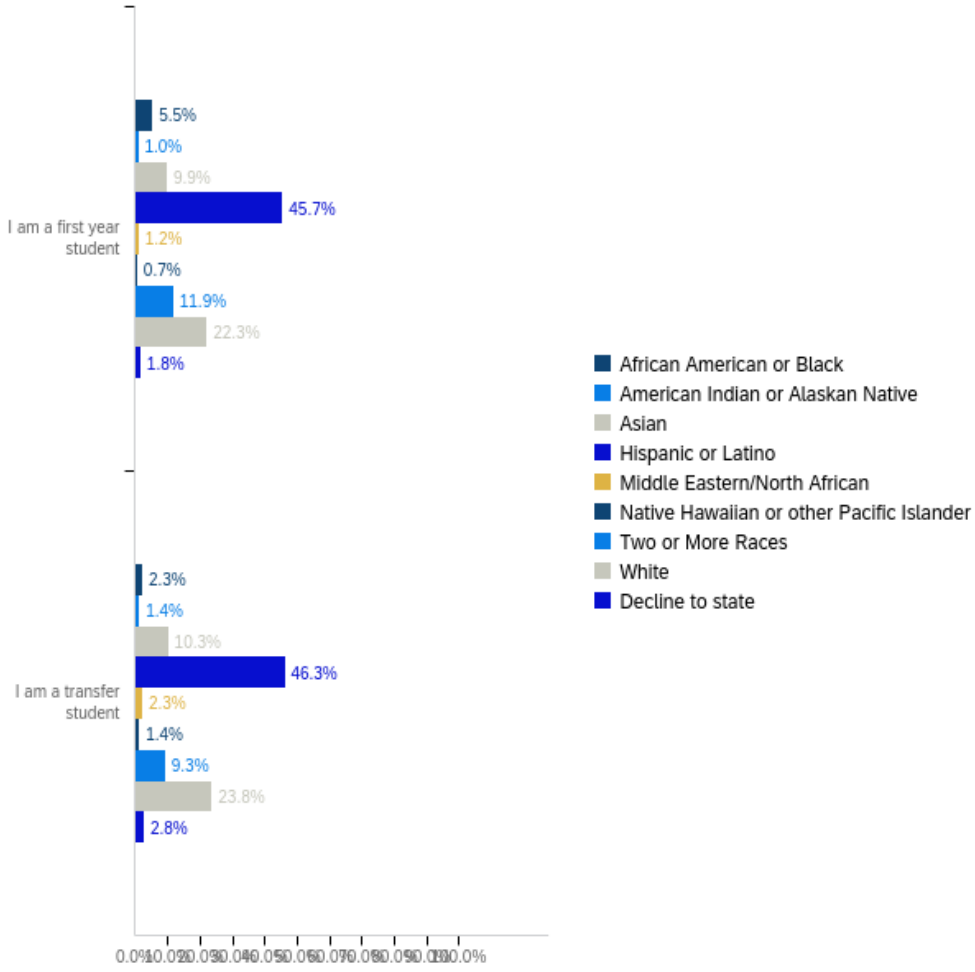
Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Democrat	31.9%	344	35.7%	76
Independent	9.8%	106	18.3%	39
Republican	13.0%	140	9.4%	20
Something else (please specify):	1.6%	17	3.8%	8
I don't know	30.5%	329	16.9%	36
Decline to state	13.1%	141	16.0%	34
Total	Total	1077	Total	213

Where do you currently live?



Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
With my family or other relatives.	46.1%	497	61.0%	130
Other private home, apartment, or room.	2.4%	26	23.9%	51
On campus or in campus-affiliated housing (UVA, QUAD or North Commons)	51.0%	549	12.2%	26
Other	0.5%	5	2.8%	6
Total	Total	1077	Total	213

What is your Race/Ethnicity?



Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
African American or Black	5.5%	59	2.3%	5
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1.0%	11	1.4%	3
Asian	9.9%	107	10.3%	22
Hispanic or Latino	45.7%	492	46.3%	99
Middle Eastern/North African	1.2%	13	2.3%	5
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.7%	8	1.4%	3
Two or More Races	11.9%	128	9.3%	20
White	22.3%	240	23.8%	51
Decline to state	1.8%	19	2.8%	6
Total	Total	1077	Total	214

Please indicate your gender identity (select all that apply):

Question	I am a first year student		I am a transfer student	
Woman	61.2%	659	57.5%	123
Man	37.1%	400	36.0%	77
Transgender	0.6%	7	2.8%	6
Non-binary/non-conforming	1.0%	11	4.2%	9
Prefer to identify as:	0.2%	2	0.0%	0
Decline to state	1.1%	12	2.8%	6
Total	Total	1077	Total	214