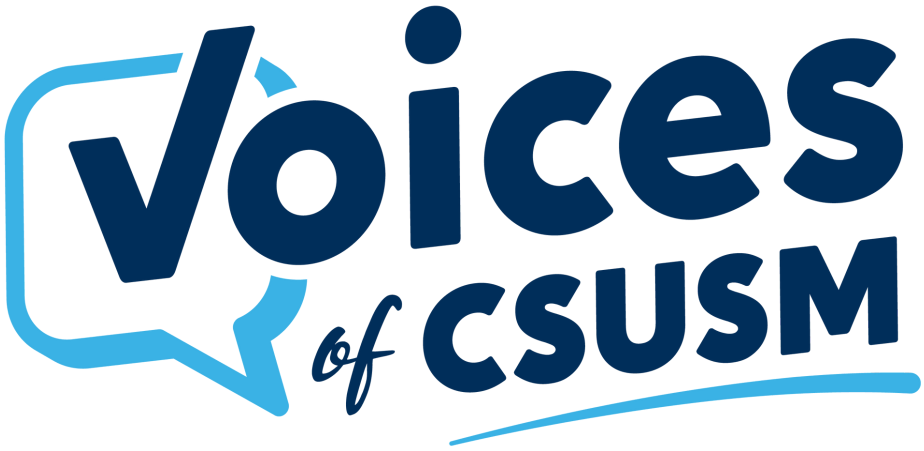


Fall 2023 CSUSM Kickstart Survey

First-Year Student Results

Report prepared by the Office of Institutional Planning & Analysis

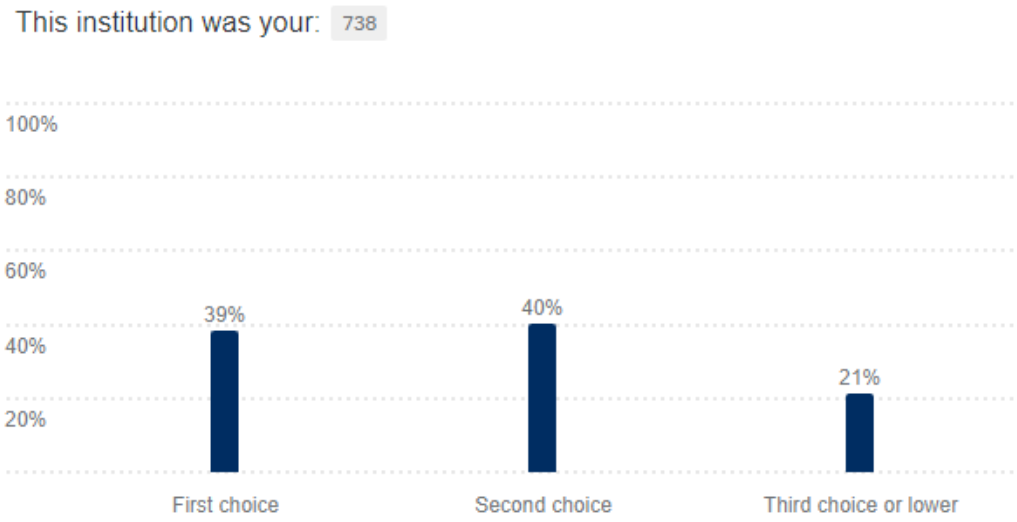
Survey Background

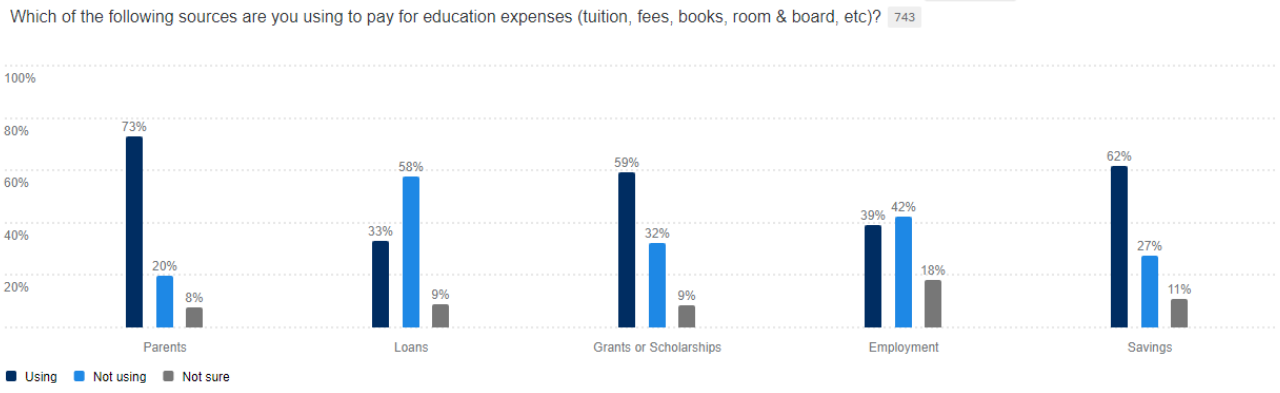
In Fall of 2023, California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) distributed the *Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE)* survey through the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis (IP&A) to new first-time freshman and newly admitted transfer students. The survey was rebranded to the *CSUSM Kickstart Survey* and evaluates the first-year experience with academic and co-curricular programs. The *Kickstart Survey* was administered virtually from August 28-September 11, 2023, and was promoted in partnership with Success Coaching and First Year & University Programs (FY&UP).

This report focuses on **first-year students** and selected survey items to gauge their key high school experiences and expectations for college. In the following 2024 spring semester, these same students will be encouraged to participate in the *National Student Survey of Engagement (NSSE)* to measure expectations and experiences. More information about CSUSM's participation in the NSSE can be found at https://www.csusm.edu/ipa/surveys/nsse.html.

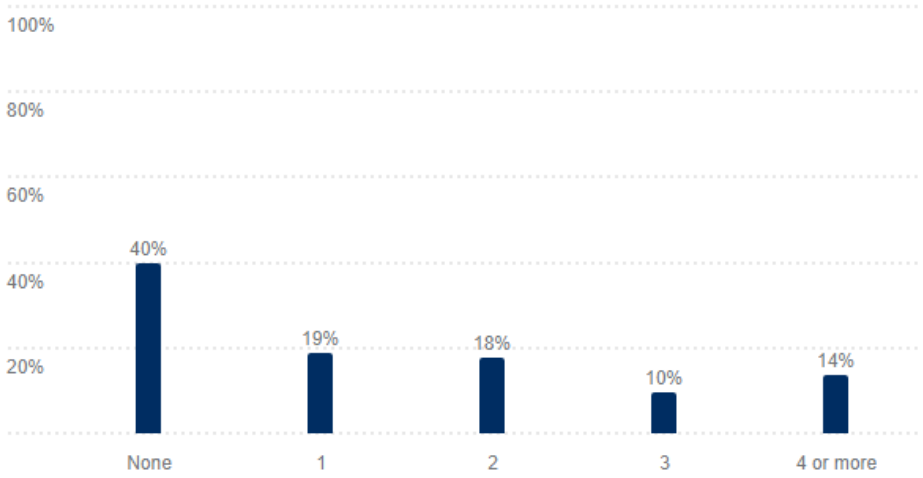
For further insight on the Transfer experience, please see the *Kickstart Survey Transfer Student Qualitative Report.*

Incoming Student Characteristics

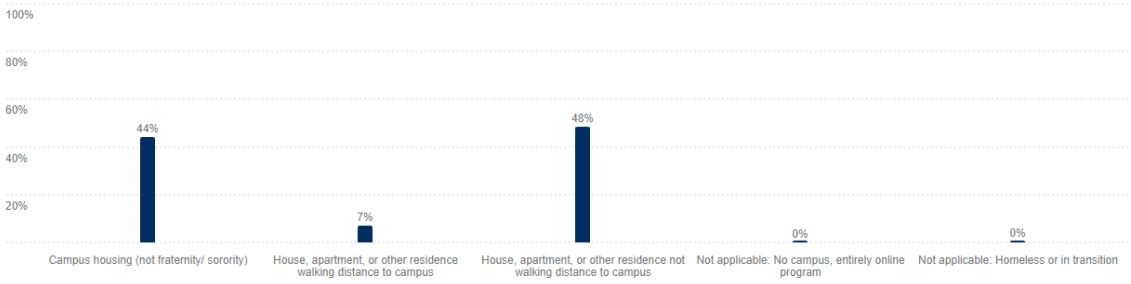




How many of your close friends will attend this institution during ... 739



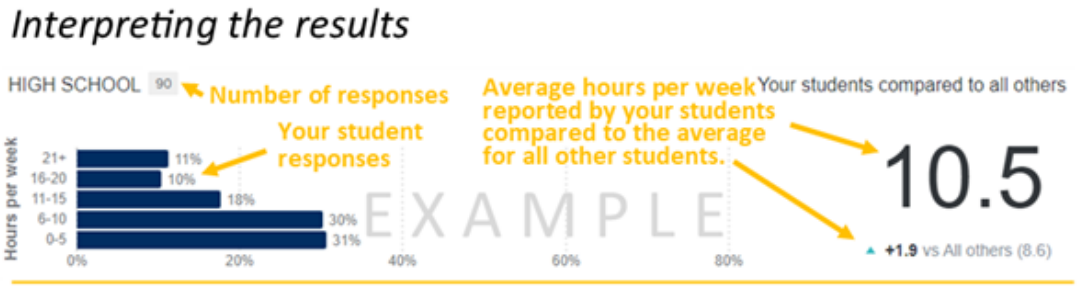
Which of the following best describes where you will be living while attending college? 731



Results and Comparisons- How to Read the Report

The bar graphs below*—grouped by the BCSSE Scales—represent the item-level results for CSUSM by specific themes within the Kickstart Survey.

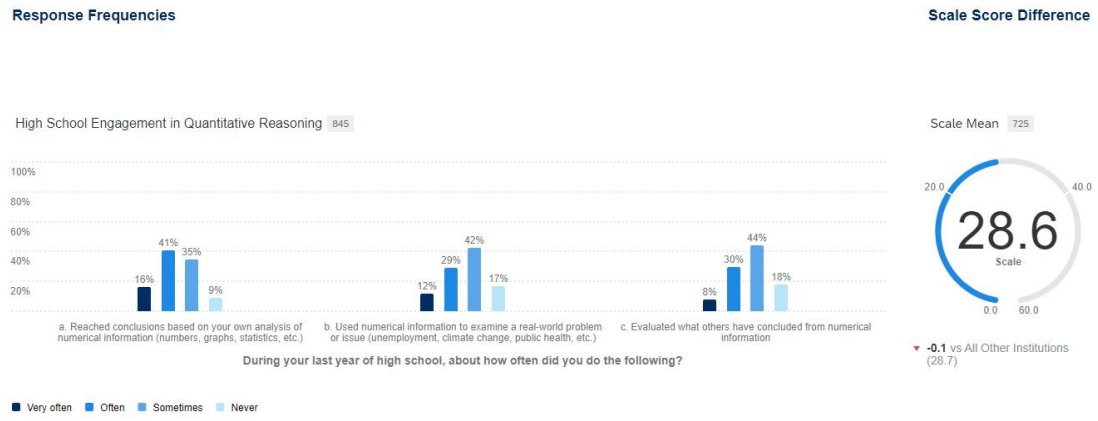
Below the BCSSE Scale score is the mean difference between CSUSM students' score and the mean score of students at other participating institutions.

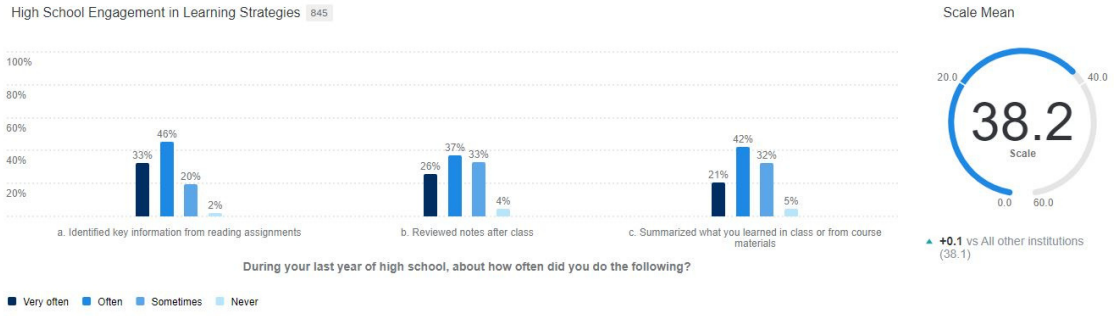


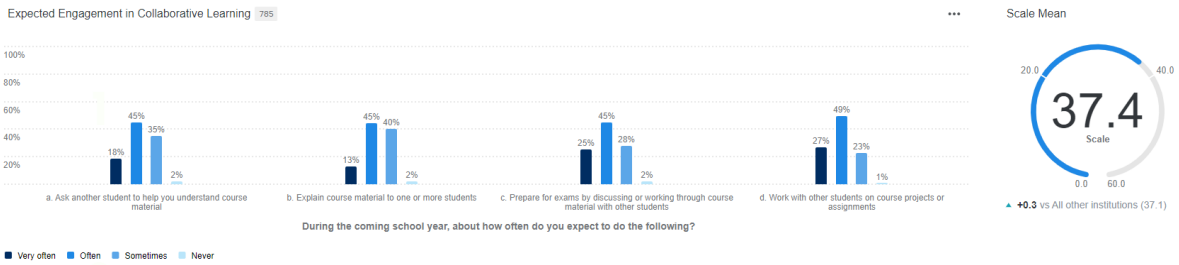
**Bar graphs generated by the BCSSE User Portal and copy and pasted into the report. This process may have compromised the clarity of specific graphs, please contact IP&A if issues arise with viewing the charts.*

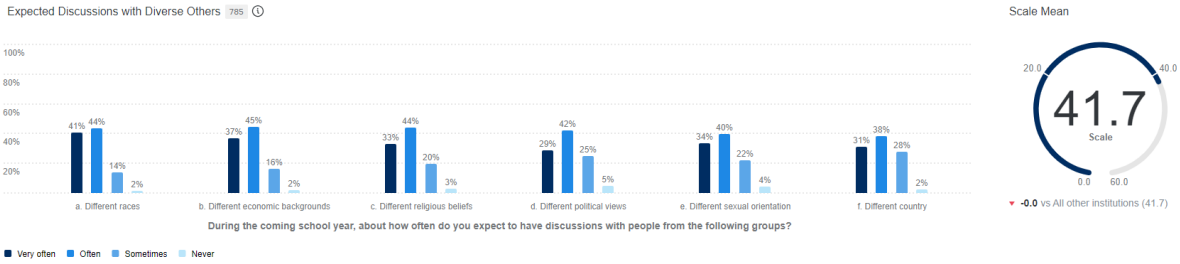
BCSSE Scales Snapshots

BCSSE Scales and their constituent items offer valuable information about distinct aspects of student engagement. The results below contain item- and scale-level results for CSUSM by student characteristics and by comparison with other participating institutions. Several of the BCSSE Scales correspond with **NSSE Engagement Indicators**, and all are scored in the same way—from 0 to 60.

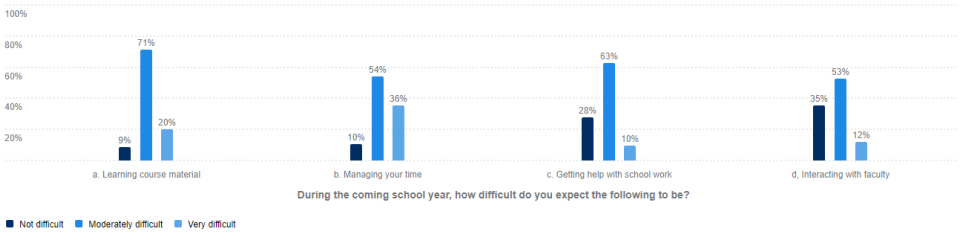



High School Engagement in Learning Strategies 845
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
33%
46%
20%
2%
26%
37%
33%
4%
21%
42%
32%
5%
a. Identified key information from reading assignments
b. Reviewed notes after class
c. Summarized what you learned in class or from course materials
During your last year of high school, about how often did you do the following?
Very often
Often
Sometimes
Never
Scale Mean
20.0
40.0
38.2
Scale
0.0
60.0
+0.1 vs All other institutions (38.1)

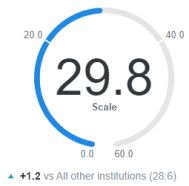

Expected Engagement in Collaborative Learning 785
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
18%
45%
35%
2%
13%
45%
40%
2%
25%
45%
28%
2%
27%
49%
23%
1%
a. Ask another student to help you understand course material
b. Explain course material to one or more students
c. Prepare for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students
d. Work with other students on course projects or assignments
During the coming school year, about how often do you expect to do the following?
Very often
Often
Sometimes
Never
Scale Mean
20.0
40.0
37.4
Scale
0.0
60.0
+0.3 vs All other institutions (37.1)


Expected Discussions with Diverse Others 785
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
41%
44%
14%
2%
37%
45%
16%
2%
33%
44%
20%
3%
29%
42%
25%
5%
34%
40%
22%
4%
31%
38%
28%
2%
a. Different races
b. Different economic backgrounds
c. Different religious beliefs
d. Different political views
e. Different sexual orientation
f. Different country
During the coming school year, about how often do you expect to have discussions with people from the following groups?
Very often
Often
Sometimes
Never
Scale Mean
20.0
40.0
41.7
Scale
0.0
60.0
-0.0 vs All other institutions (41.7)

Expected Academic Difficulty 784

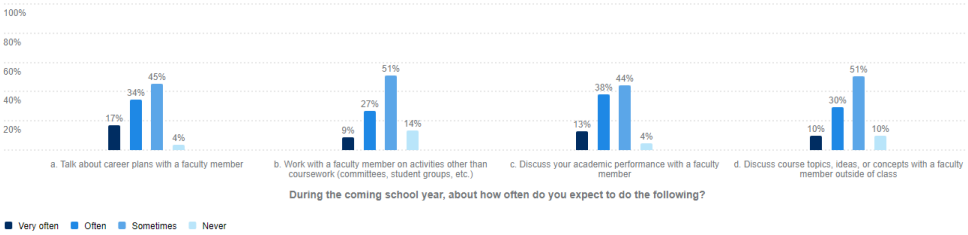


Scale Mean

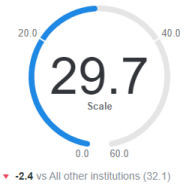


▲ **+1.2** vs All other institutions (28.6)

Expected Engagement with Faculty 785

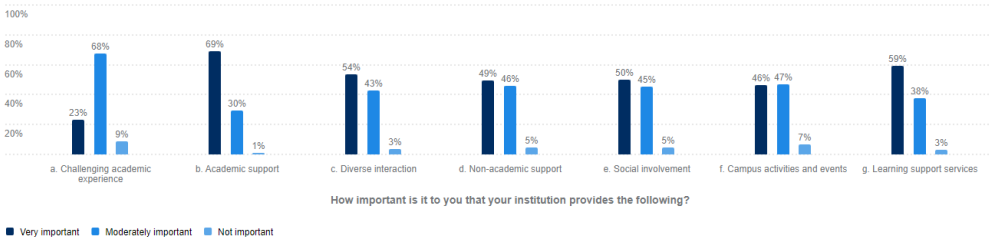


Scale Mean 731



▼ **-2.4** vs All other institutions (32.1)

Importance of Campus Environment 743

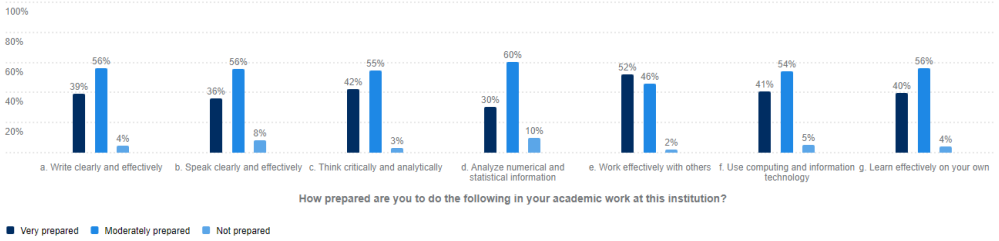


Scale Mean

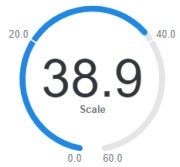


▼ **-0.9** vs All other institutions (43.2)

Perceived Academic Preparation 743



Scale Mean

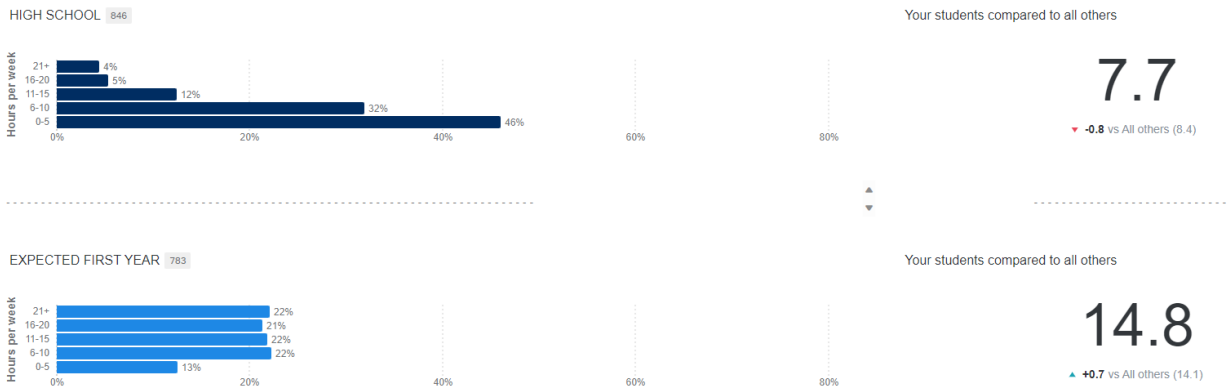


▼ **-1.6** vs All other institutions (40.5)

How Students Spend Their Time

The results below show how much time CSUSM students spent in various activities during their last year of high school and their expected engagement in the same activities during their first year on campus. On the right is the average hours per week for each activity in high school and expected during the first year of college compared to all other BCSSE responses.

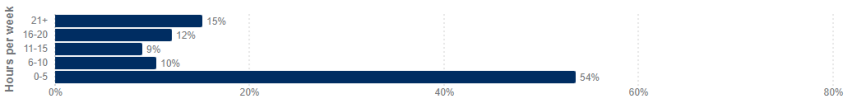
Hours per week *studying and preparing for class*



Hours per week *working*

↑ Back to top

HIGH SCHOOL 839

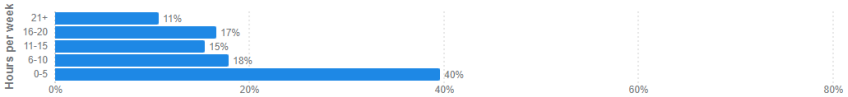


Your students compared to all others

8.5

▼ **-1.5** vs All others (9.9)

EXPECTED FIRST YEAR 780



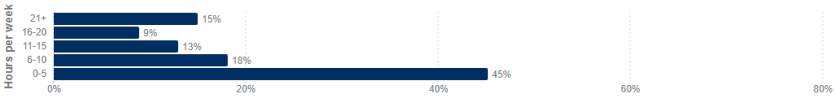
Your students compared to all others

9.5

▼ **-1.0** vs All others (10.5)

Hours per week participating in *co-curricular activities*

HIGH SCHOOL 844

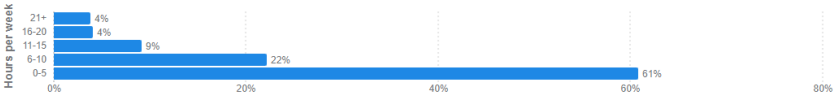


Your students compared to all others

9.9

▼ **-0.5** vs All others (10.4)

EXPECTED FIRST YEAR 785



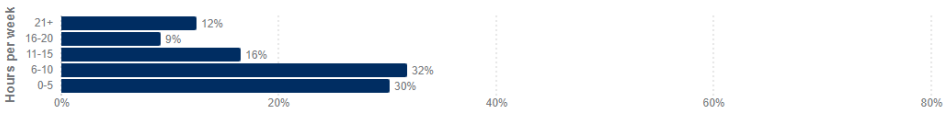
Your students compared to all others ⓘ

6.0

▼ **-2.3** vs All others (8.3)

Hours per week *socializing and relaxing*

HIGH SCHOOL 845

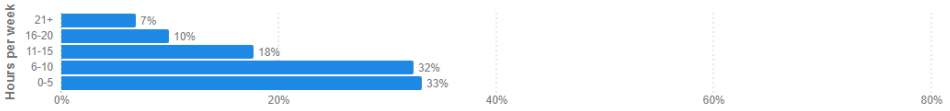


Your students compared to all others

10.8

-1.0 vs All others (11.8)

EXPECTED FIRST YEAR 785



Your students compared to all others

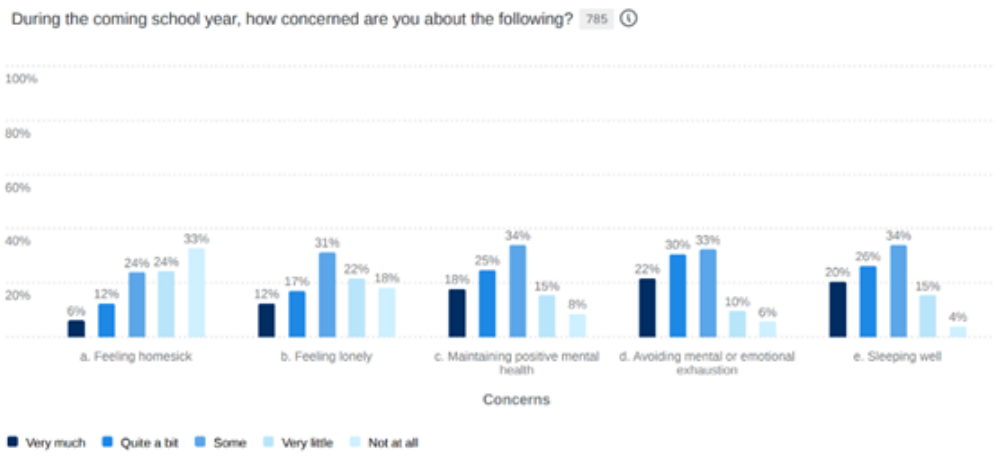
9.6

-1.2 vs All others (10.8)

Students Help-seeking and Concerns for the First Year

Almost all students need academic help at some point. Some will seek out campus resources while others look to family and friends. The following survey items ask where students intend to search for these resources. New in 2023, BCSSE also added survey questions to gauge student concerns. It is important to understand student concerns so that CSUSM can know where to best direct resources and assistance.





. . . how certain are you that you will do the following?

Expected Academic Perseverance ↑	Mean	St Dev	Very certain (6)	5	4	3	2	Not at all certain (1)
a. Study when there are interesting things (EXP_PER)	3.9	1.09	9%	15%	38%	30%	7%	2%
b. Find additional information (EXP_PER)	4.4	1.11	20%	24%	35%	18%	3%	1%
c. Participate in course discussions (EXP_PER)	3.8	1.18	10%	15%	32%	32%	9%	2%
d. Ask instructors for help (EXP_PER)	4.4	1.18	22%	26%	31%	16%	4%	1%
e. Finish what have been started (EXP_PER)	4.4	1.12	19%	26%	32%	19%	3%	1%
f. Stay positive (EXP_PER)	3.8	1.26	13%	17%	27%	31%	9%	3%

Experimental Questions- Expected Sense of Belonging and Topics of Concern

The items below were added to the 2023 BCSSE administration by the vendor to explore issues around sense of belonging and current topics to test potential questions for future BCSSE administrations. The items below parallel the sense of belonging items on the NSSE survey instrument.

Expected Sense of Belonging

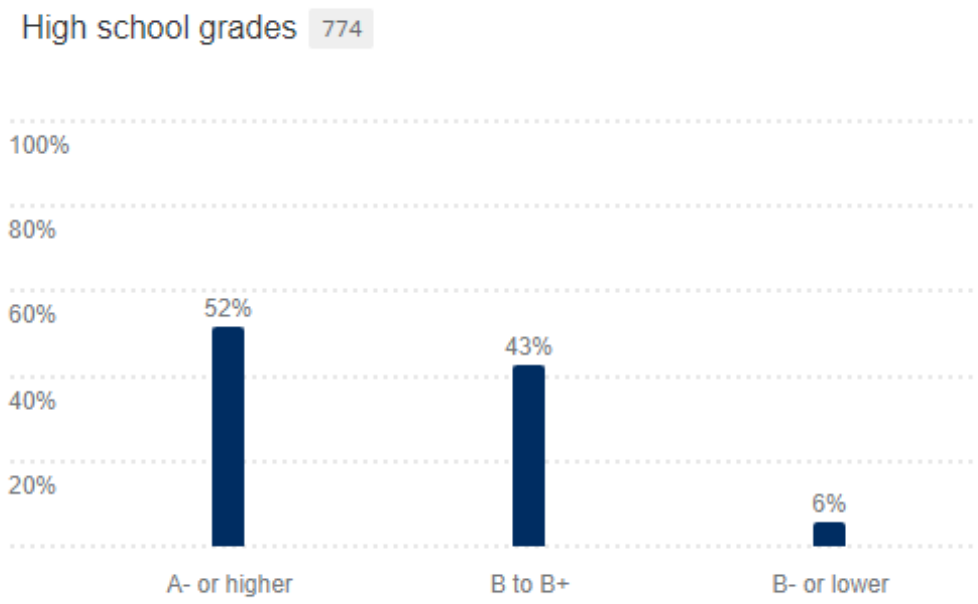
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

I expect to feel:	Count	Mean	Strongly agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly disagree (1)
a. comfortable being myself at this institution	720	3.3	31%	65%	3%	1%
b. valued by this institution	714	3.2	24%	69%	6%	1%
c. like part of the community at this institution	719	3.2	24%	68%	6%	1%

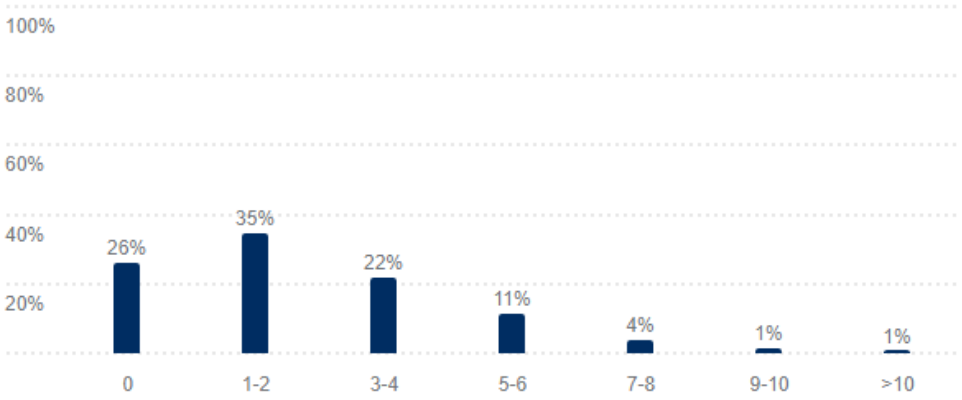
In general, how concerned are you about the following?

	Count	Mean	Very much (4)	Quite a bit (3)	Some (2)	Very little (1)	Not at all (0)
a. Climate change and environmental issues	720	2.4	20%	26%	34%	14%	6%
b. Affordable health care	716	2.7	30%	31%	28%	7%	4%
c. Access to reproductive health care	719	2.7	31%	30%	27%	7%	5%
d. Economic inequality	719	2.7	25%	32%	31%	7%	4%
e. Racial equity	717	2.9	39%	29%	20%	6%	6%
f. LGBTQ+ equity	717	2.4	27%	22%	28%	12%	10%
g. Gender equity	715	2.7	32%	25%	26%	9%	8%
h. Gun-related crime	717	2.7	32%	28%	26%	7%	6%
i. Political turmoil	715	2.2	14%	21%	41%	16%	8%
j. Free speech rights	717	2.7	30%	29%	27%	8%	6%
k. Religious freedom	716	2.6	29%	26%	27%	11%	7%
l. Immigration reform	714	2.6	31%	24%	30%	8%	8%

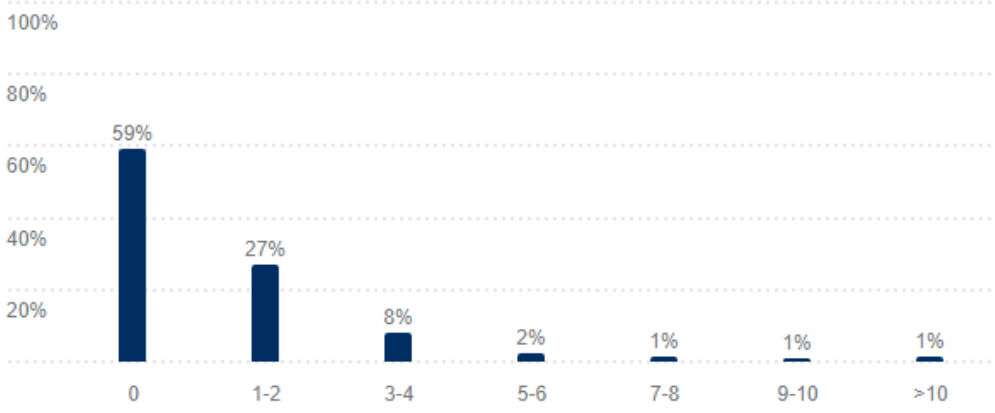
Demographic and Background Characteristics of Respondents



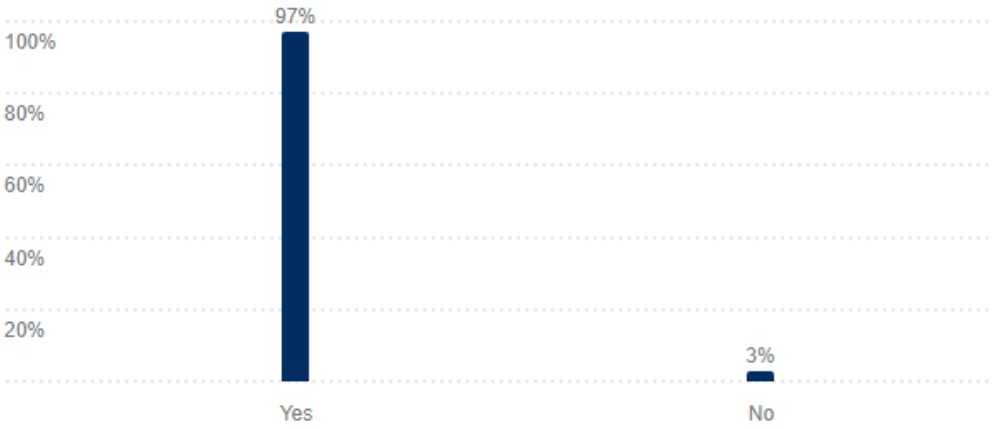
Advanced Placement courses completed 845



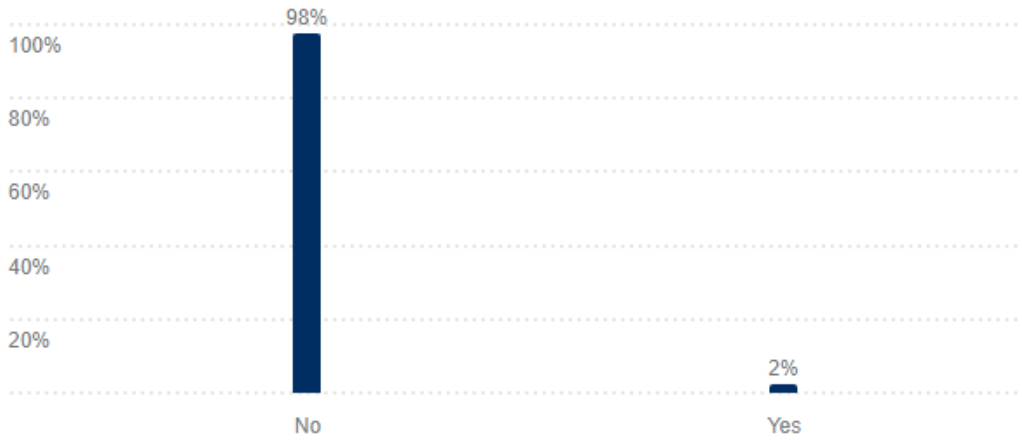
Dual credit courses completed 842



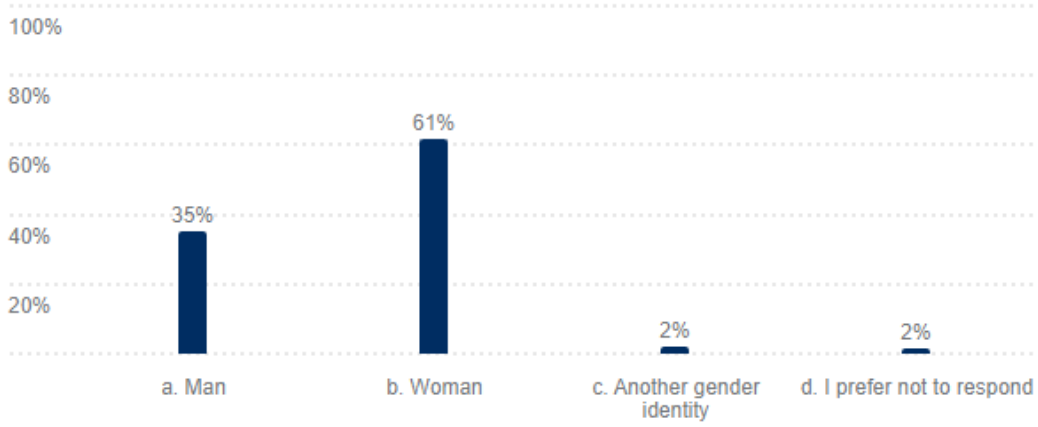
Full-time student at this institution 739



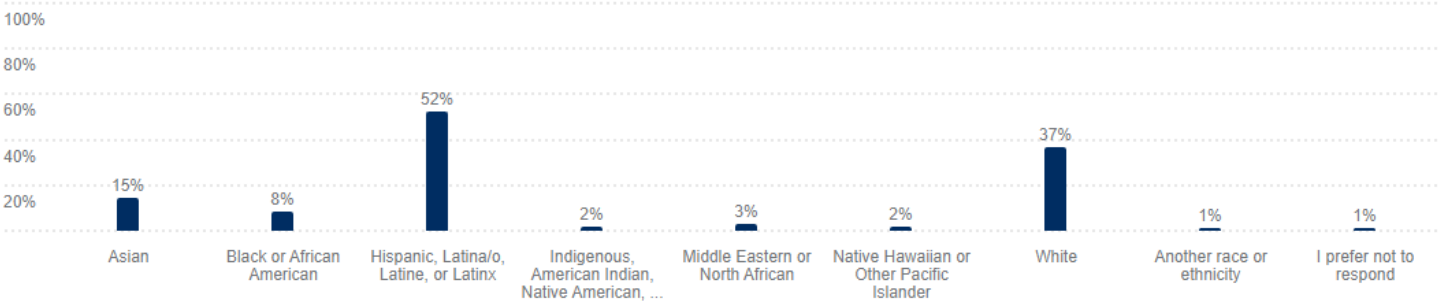
International student 739



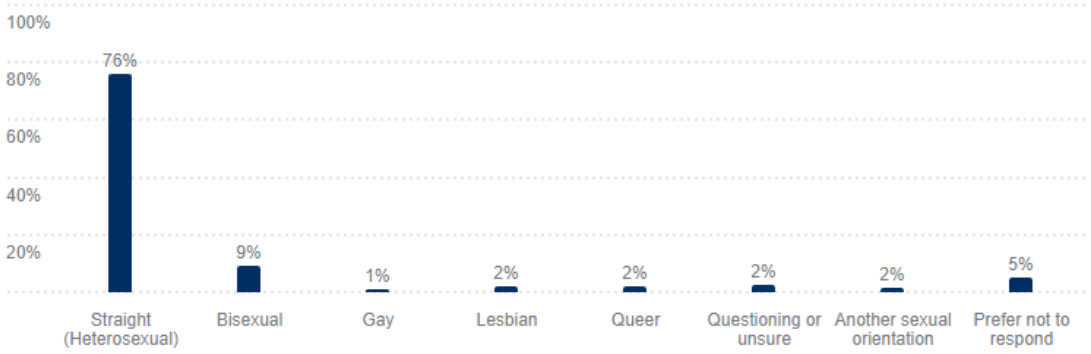
Gender identity 740



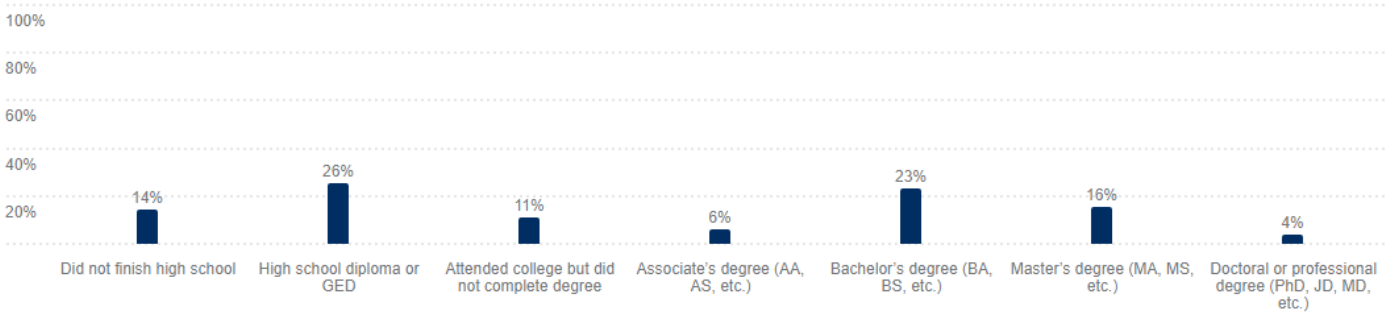
Race or ethnicity 739



Sexual orientation 729



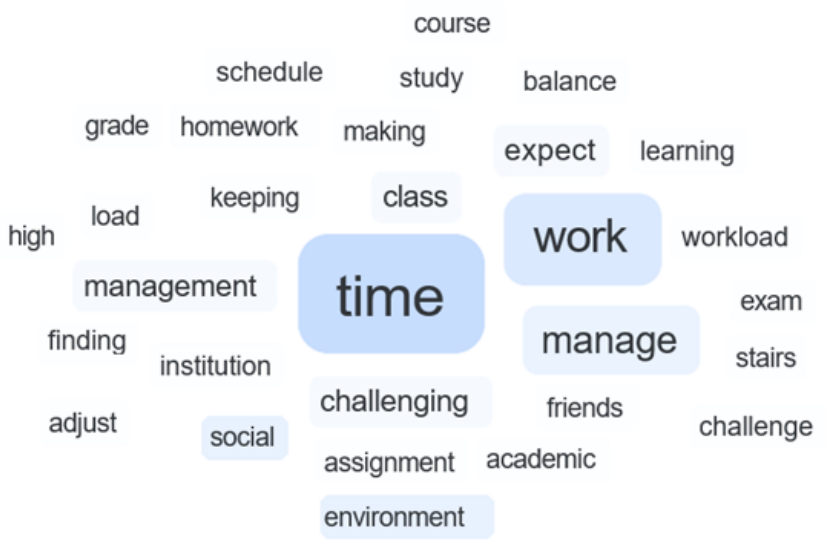
Parents' highest level of education 732



Open-ended Comments

At the end of the survey students were asked to provide open-ended responses to the following question: "What do you expect will be most challenging at this institution?"

The following word cloud was created by the BCSSE User Portal to reflect students' responses to the prompt:



More information about the CSUSM *Kickstart Survey* including further insight to the Transfer Student experience can be found on the IP&A website.

If you have any questions, please contact Institutional Planning & Analysis at survey@csusm.edu.