

Community College Survey of Student Engagement

Northern Essex Community College

2015 Key Findings

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Key Findings: A Starting Point

The Key Findings report provides an entry point for reviewing results from your administration of the 2015 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). The report provides college-specific data in an easy-to-share format including benchmark comparisons between the college, top-performing colleges, and the CCSSE cohort. It also highlights aspects of highest and lowest student engagement at the college, as well as results from five CCSSE special-focus items. Select faculty survey data are also highlighted.

Promising Practices for Student Success

In each annual administration, CCSSE has included special-focus items to allow participating colleges and national researchers to delve more deeply into areas of student experience and institutional performance of great interest to the field. In the 2015 administration, some institutions opted to add special-focus items concentrated on community college students' participation in a defined collection of promising practices for which there is growing evidence of effectiveness in improving student outcomes such as course completion and persistence. The results of these findings are on pages 6-7 of this report.

Benchmark Overview by Enrollment Status

Figure 1 below represents your institution's CCSSE benchmark scores by students' enrollment status.

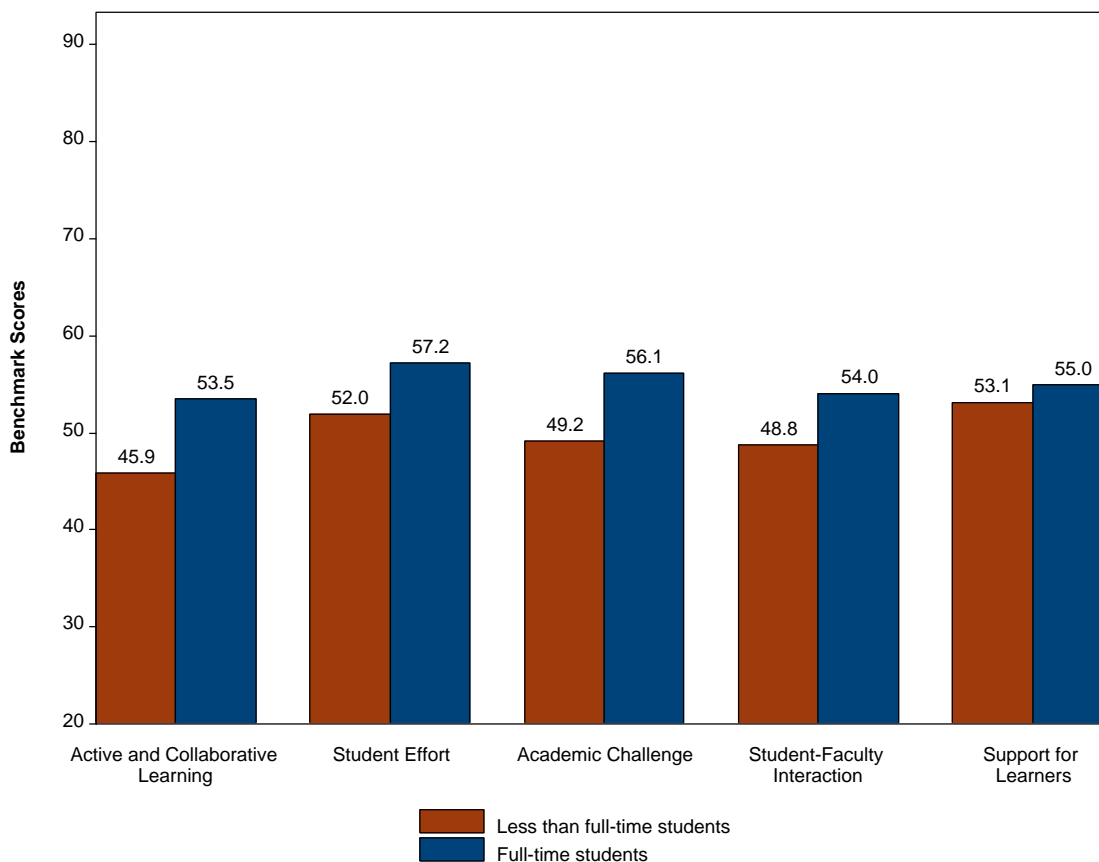


Figure 1

Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice

The *CCSSE* benchmarks are groups of conceptually related survey items that address key areas of student engagement. The five benchmarks denote areas that educational research has shown to be important to students' college experiences and educational outcomes. Therefore, they provide colleges with a useful starting point for looking at institutional results and allow colleges to gauge and monitor their performance in areas that are central to their work. In addition, participating colleges have the opportunity to make appropriate and useful comparisons between their performance and that of groups of other colleges.

Performing as well as the national average or a peer-group average may be a reasonable initial aspiration, but it is important to recognize that these averages are sometimes unacceptably low. Aspiring to match and then exceed high-performance targets is the stronger strategy.

Community colleges can differ dramatically on such factors as size, location, resources, enrollment patterns, and student characteristics. It is important to take these differences into account when interpreting benchmark scores—especially when making institutional comparisons. The Center for Community College Student Engagement has adopted the policy “Responsible Uses of *CCSSE* and *SENSE* Data,” available at www.ccse.org.

CCSSE uses a three-year cohort of participating colleges in all core survey analyses. The current cohort is referred to as the 2015 *CCSSE* Cohort (2013-2015) throughout all reports.

CCSSE Benchmarks

★ Active and Collaborative Learning

Students learn more when they are actively involved in their education and have opportunities to think about and apply what they are learning in different settings. Through collaborating with others to solve problems or master challenging content, students develop valuable skills that prepare them to deal with real-life situations and problems.

★ Student Effort

Students' own behaviors contribute significantly to their learning and the likelihood that they will successfully attain their educational goals.

★ Academic Challenge

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. These survey items address the nature and amount of assigned academic work, the complexity of cognitive tasks presented to students, and the rigor of examinations used to evaluate student performance.

★ Student-Faculty Interaction

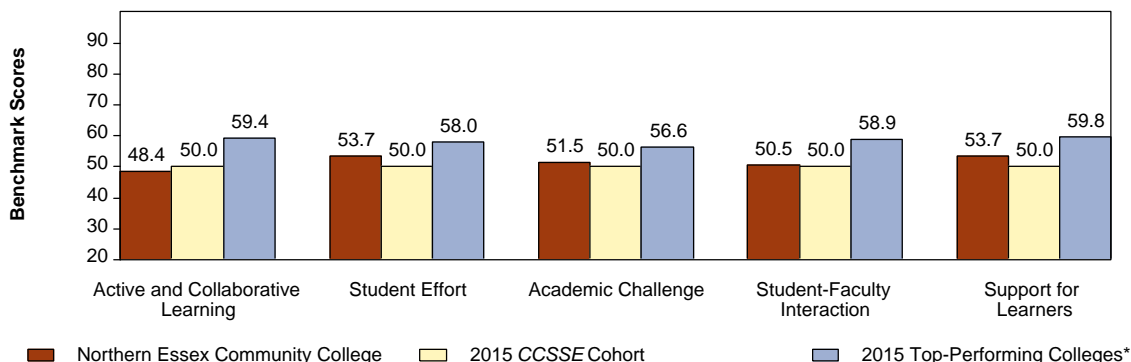
In general, the more contact students have with their teachers, the more likely they are to learn effectively and to persist toward achievement of their educational goals. Through such interactions, faculty members become role models, mentors, and guides for continuous, lifelong learning.

★ Support for Learners

Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that provide important support services, cultivate positive relationships among groups on campus, and demonstrate commitment to their success.

For further information about *CCSSE* benchmarks, please visit www.ccse.org.

Figure 2



*Top-Performing colleges are those that scored in the top 10 percent of the cohort by benchmark.

Notes: Benchmark scores are standardized to have a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of 25 across all respondents. For further information about how benchmarks are computed, please visit www.ccse.org.

Aspects of Highest Student Engagement

Benchmark scores provide a manageable starting point for reviewing and understanding *CCSSE* data. One way to dig more deeply into the benchmark scores is to analyze those items that contribute to the overall benchmark score. This section features the five items across all benchmarks (excluding those for which means are not calculated) on which the college scored highest and the five items on which the college scored lowest relative to the 2015 *CCSSE* Cohort.

The items highlighted on pages 4 and 5 reflect the largest differences in mean scores between the institution and the the 2015 *CCSSE* Cohort. While examining these data, keep in mind that the selected items may not be those that are most closely aligned with the college’s goals; thus, it is important to review all institutional reports on the *CCSSE* online reporting system at www.ccse.org.

Figure 3 displays the aggregated frequencies for the items on which the college performed most favorably relative to the 2015 *CCSSE* Cohort. For instance, 62.3% of Northern Essex Community College students, compared with 51.0% of other students in the cohort, responded *often* or *very often* on item 4c. It is important to note that some colleges’ highest scores might be lower than the cohort mean.

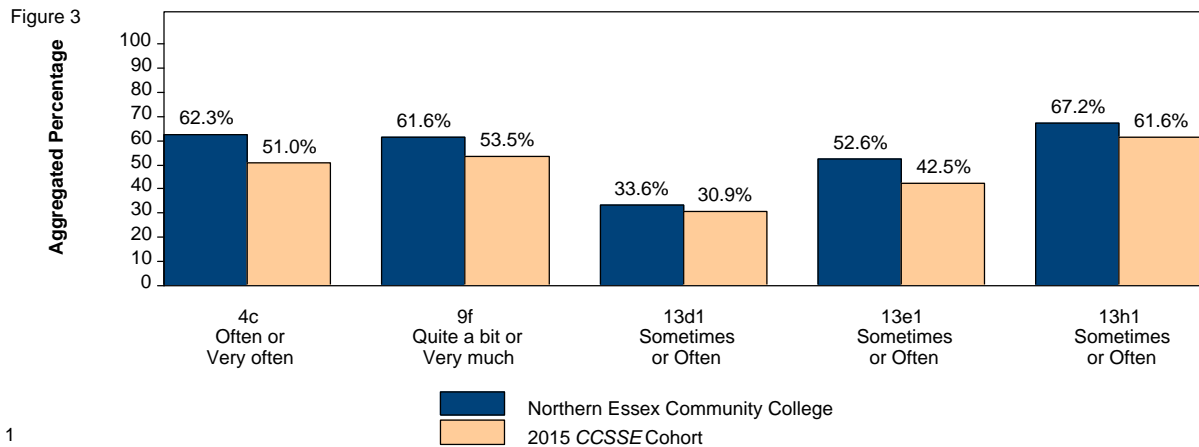


Table 1

| Benchmark | Item Number | Item |
|----------------------|-------------|---|
| Student Effort | 4c | Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in |
| Support For Learners | 9f | Providing the financial support you need to afford your education |
| Student Effort | 13d1 | Frequency: Peer or other tutoring |
| Student Effort | 13e1 | Frequency: Skill labs (writing, math, etc.) |
| Student Effort | 13h1 | Frequency: Computer lab |

Notes:

For Item(s) 4 (except 4e), *often* and *very often* responses are combined.

For Item(s) 9, *quite a bit* and *very much* responses are combined.

For Item(s) 13, *sometimes* and *often* responses are combined.

Aspects of Lowest Student Engagement

Figure 4 displays the aggregated frequencies for the items on which the college performed least favorably relative to the 2015 CCSSE Cohort. For instance, 16.6% of Northern Essex Community College students, compared with 24.8% of other students in the cohort, responded *often* or *very often* on item 4g. It is important to note that some colleges' lowest scores might be higher than the cohort mean.

Figure 4

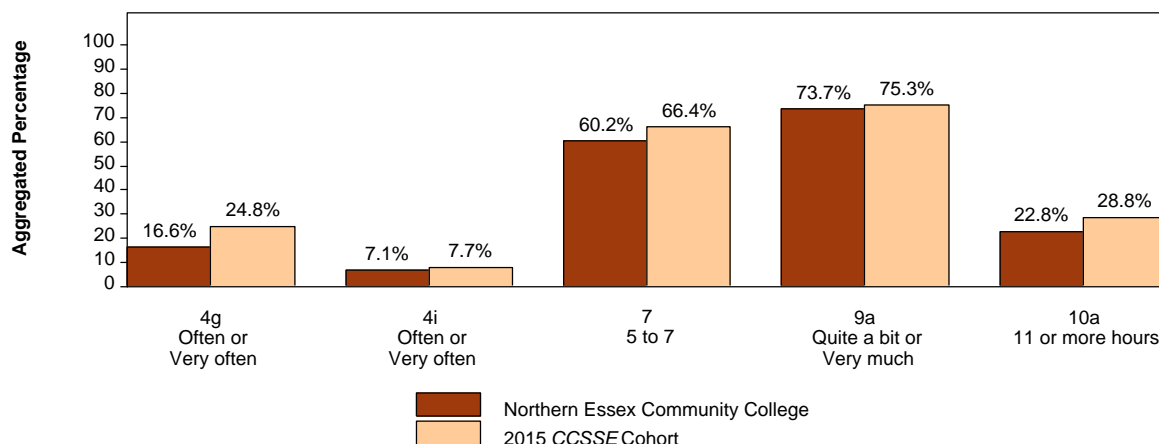


Table 2

| Benchmark | Item Number | Item |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Active and Collaborative Learning | 4g | Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments |
| Active and Collaborative Learning | 4i | Participated in a community-based project as a part of a regular course |
| Academic Challenge | 7 | Mark the box that best represents the extent to which your examinations during the current school year have challenged you to do your best work at this college |
| Academic Challenge | 9a | Encouraging you to spend significant amounts of time studying |
| Student Effort | 10a | Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, rehearsing, doing homework, or other activities related to your program) |

Notes:

- For Item(s) 4 (except 4e), *often* and *very often* responses are combined.
- For Item 7, 5, 6, and 7 responses on the 1 - 7 challenge scale are combined.
- For Item(s) 9, *quite a bit* and *very much* responses are combined.
- For Item 10a, 11 - 20, 21 - 30, and *more than 30* responses are combined.

2015 CCSSE Special-Focus Items

The Center adds special-focus items to *CCSSE* each year to augment the core survey, helping participating colleges and the field at large to further explore fundamental areas of student engagement. The 2015 special-focus items continue to elicit new information about students' experiences associated with promising educational practices such as early registration, orientation, freshman seminars, organized learning communities, and student success courses. Frequency results from the first five promising practices items for your college and the *CCSSE* Promising Practices item-set respondents are displayed across pages 6 and 7.

Figure 5: During the current term at this college, I completed registration before the first class sessions(s).

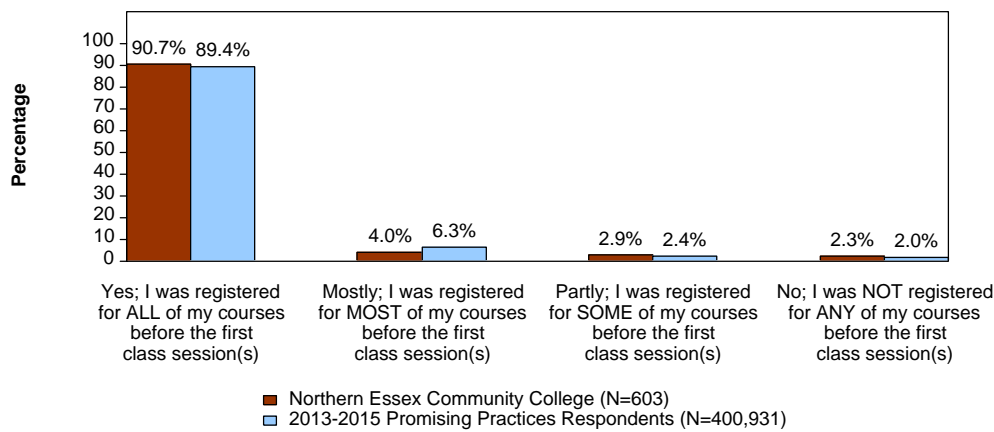


Figure 6: The ONE response that best describes my experience with orientation when I first came to this college is:

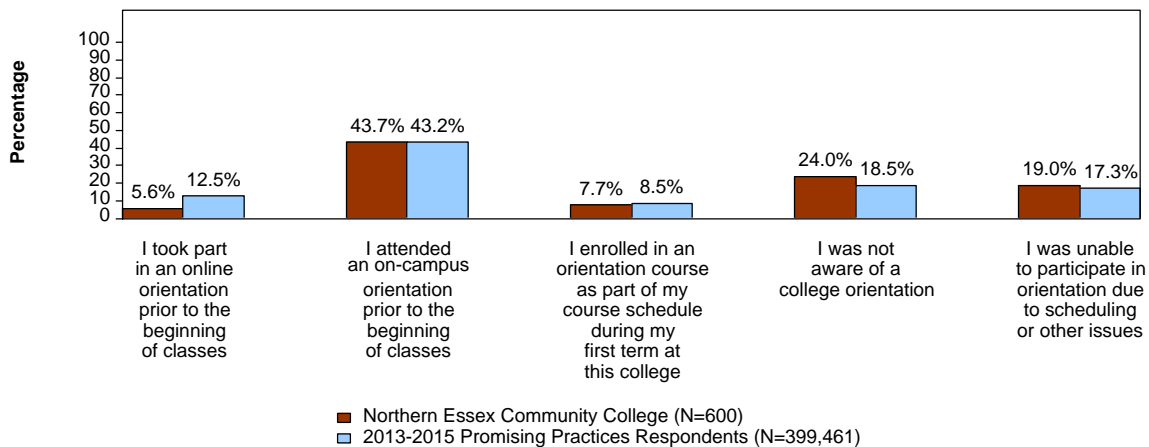


Figure 7: During my first term at this college, I participated in a structured experience for new students (sometimes called a "freshman seminar" or "first-year experience").

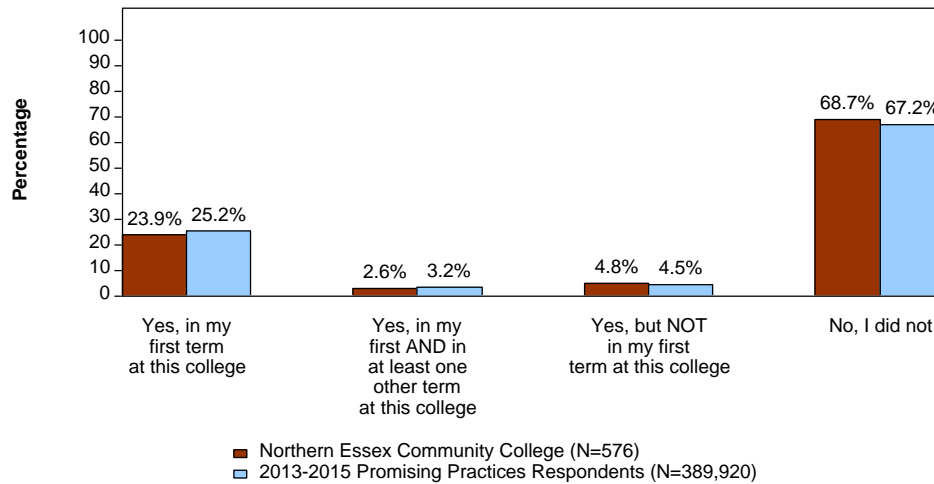


Figure 8: During my first term at this college, I enrolled in an organized "learning community" (two or more courses that a group of students take together).

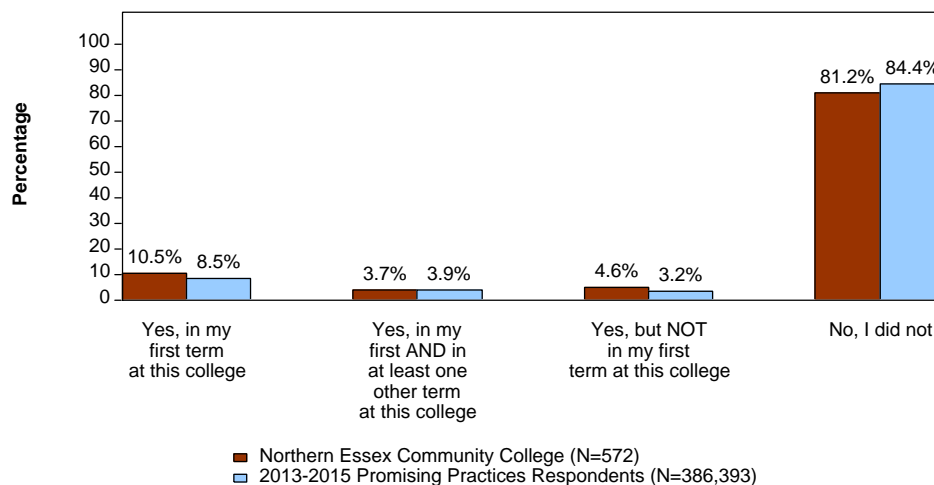
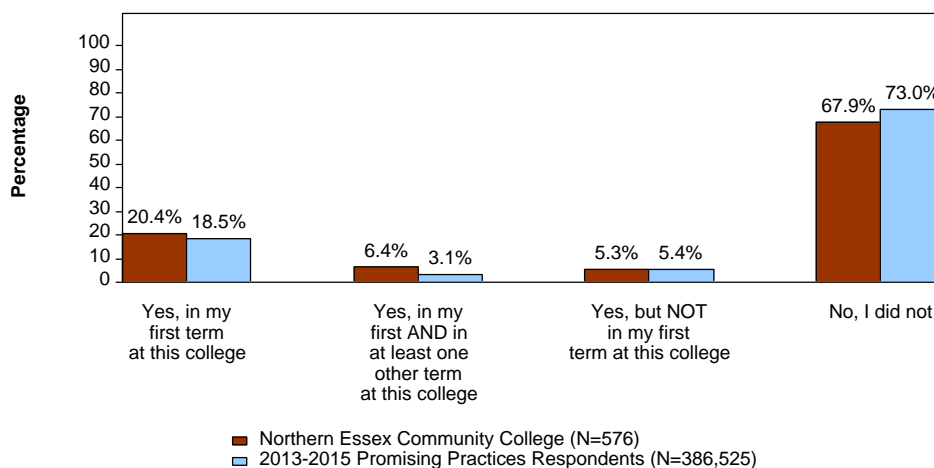


Figure 9: During my first term at this college, I enrolled in a student success course (such as a student development, extended orientation, student life skills, or college success course).



CCFSSE

The Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE), designed as a companion survey to CCSSE, elicits information from faculty about their teaching practices; the ways they spend their professional time, both in and out of class; and their perceptions regarding students' educational experiences. Many of these results can be viewed alongside the corresponding CCSSE item results to reveal interesting differences between students' reported experiences and faculty members' perceptions of those experiences—and can serve as an excellent starting point to engage faculty in conversations about engagement. For colleges that did not administer CCFSSE, cohort respondent data are provided.

Figure 10

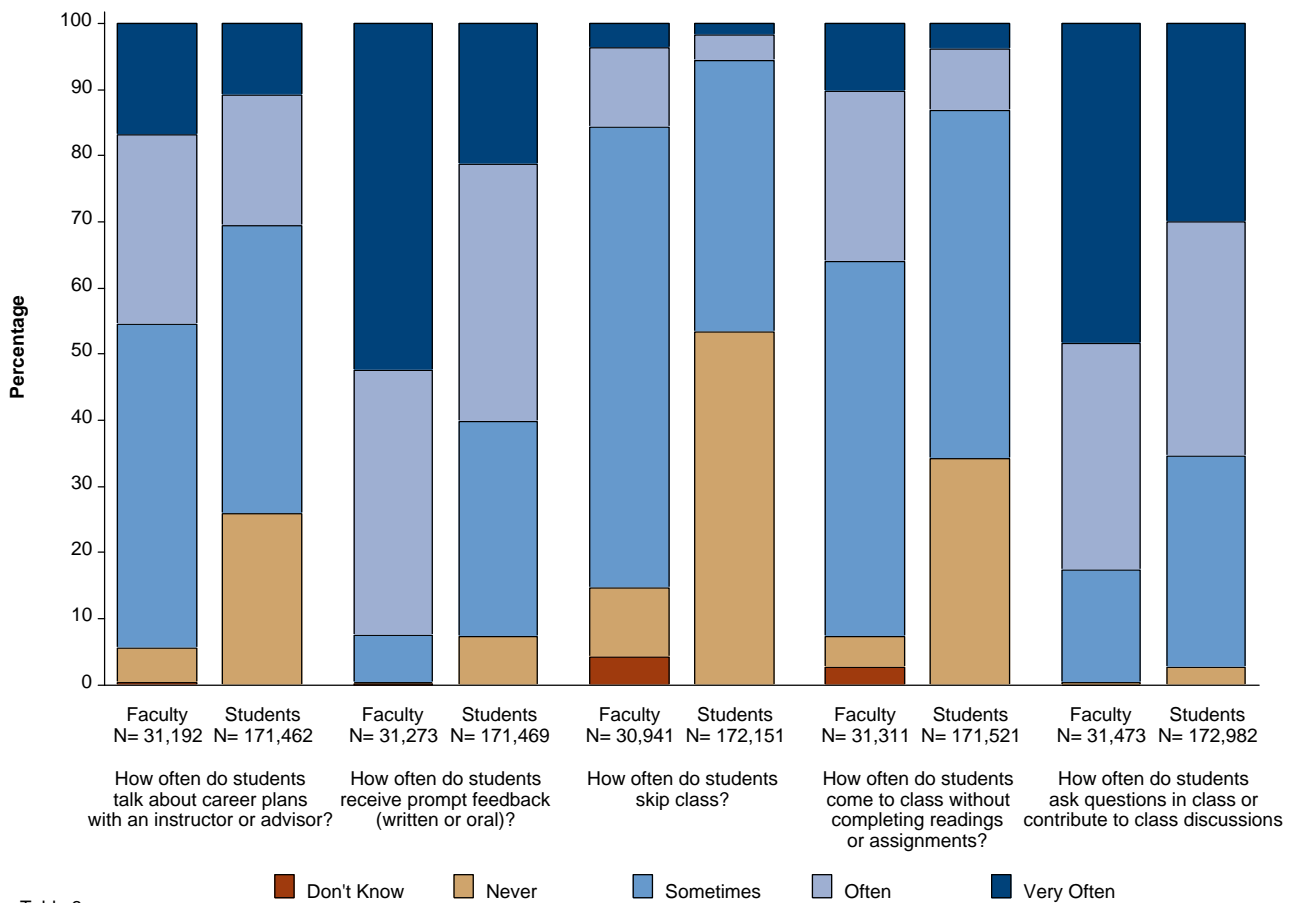


Table 3

| Response | How often do students talk about career plans with an instructor or advisor? | | How often do students receive prompt feedback (written or oral)? | | How often do students skip class? | | How often do students come to class without completing readings or assignments? | | How often do students ask questions in class or contribute to class discussions? | |
|------------|--|---------|--|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|---|---------|--|---------|
| | Faculty | Student | Faculty | Student | Faculty | Student | Faculty | Student | Faculty | Student |
| Don't Know | 0.3% | N/A | 0.1% | N/A | 4.2% | N/A | 2.6% | N/A | 0.0% | N/A |
| Never | 5.2% | 25.9% | 0.3% | 7.2% | 10.5% | 53.3% | 4.7% | 34.3% | 0.2% | 2.7% |
| Sometimes | 49.0% | 43.6% | 7.2% | 32.7% | 69.6% | 41.2% | 56.7% | 52.6% | 17.2% | 32.0% |
| Often | 28.7% | 19.8% | 39.9% | 38.7% | 12.0% | 3.9% | 25.6% | 9.4% | 34.1% | 35.3% |
| Very Often | 16.7% | 10.8% | 52.5% | 21.3% | 3.7% | 1.6% | 10.3% | 3.8% | 48.5% | 30.1% |

Faculty responses reference a selected course. Student responses are weighted and reference the entire year.