

College Success Survey

University and Community College

April 2008



Content

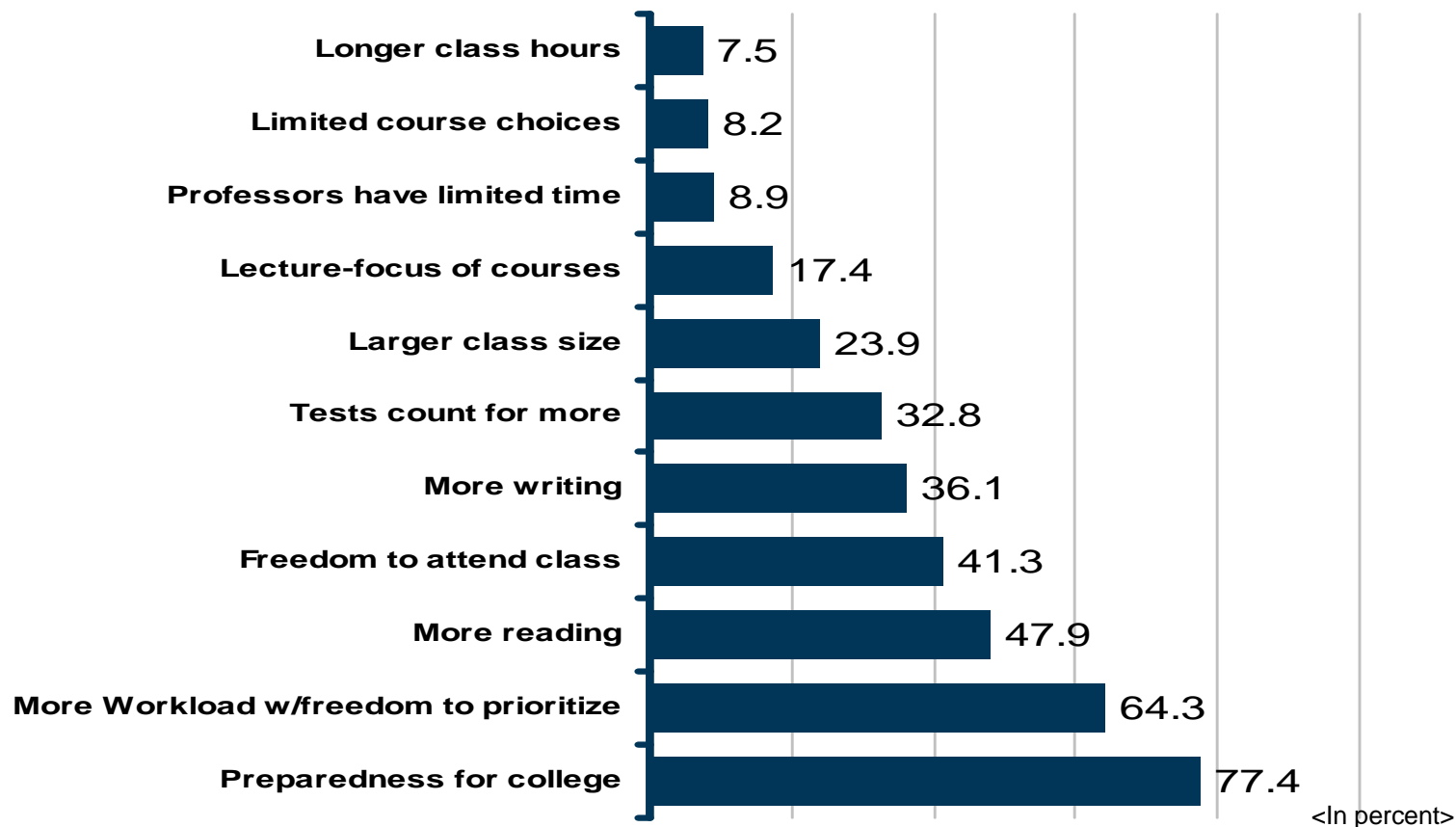
- **Four-Year College/University Survey**
 - Survey Pool
 - Highlights of the results
- **Two-Year College/Community College Survey**
 - Survey Pool
 - Highlights of the results
- **Comparing University and Community College Surveys' Key Findings**

Four-Year Colleges and Universities

University Survey Pool: Who Are They?

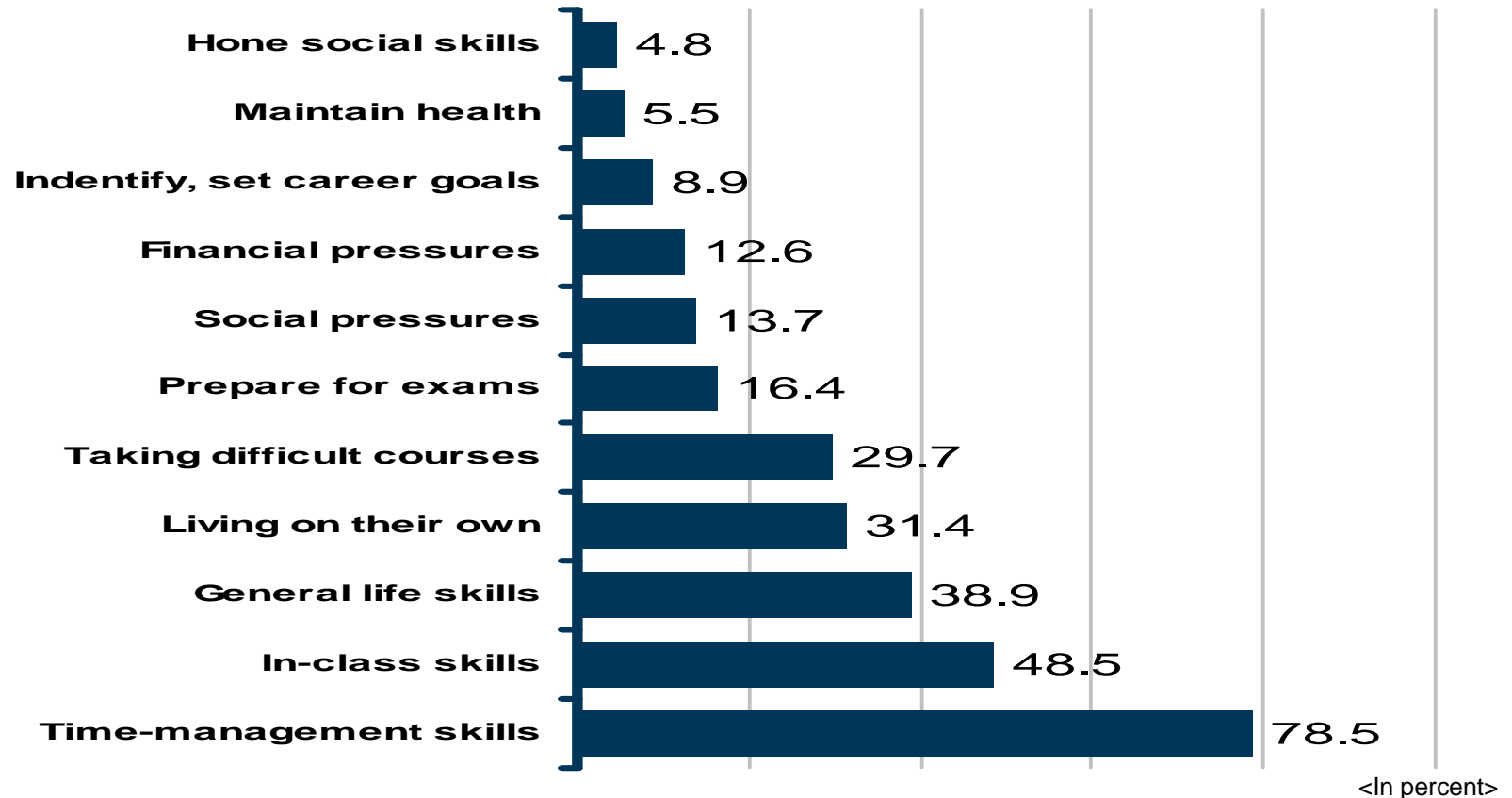
- 305 persons surveyed
- Nearly 96 percent are currently instructors or chairpersons of their departments and a little more than 2 percent surveyed were previously instructors
- Nearly all of them taught at a private or public college or university
- Nearly two-thirds of all surveyed have been teaching more than 10 years

In your opinion, which of the following factors provides the biggest challenge for first-year students when it comes to academics?



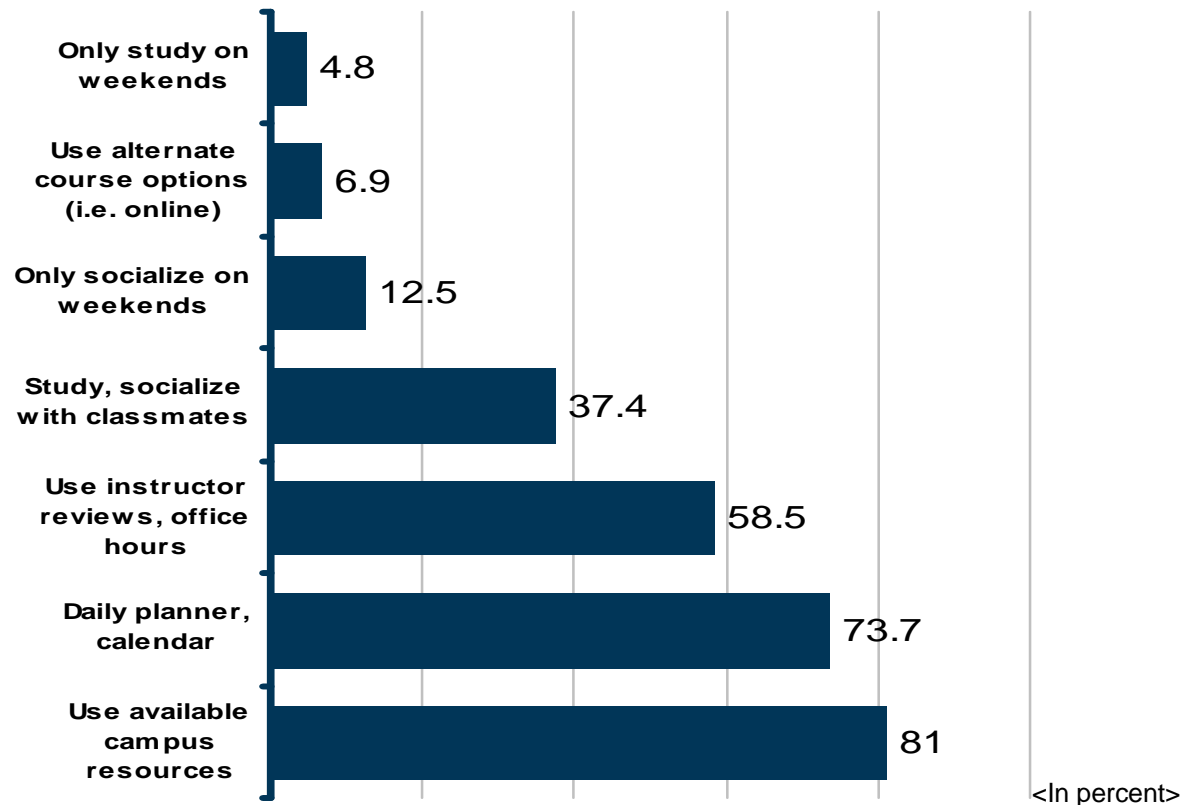
Key Take-Away: More than three-fourths of those surveyed said students find academics challenging at the college level because they were not properly prepared at the high school level. Nearly two-thirds said the heavier workload and many responsibilities are also challenges, combined with the freedom to decide priorities.

In your experience, what are the three greatest challenges facing first-year students?



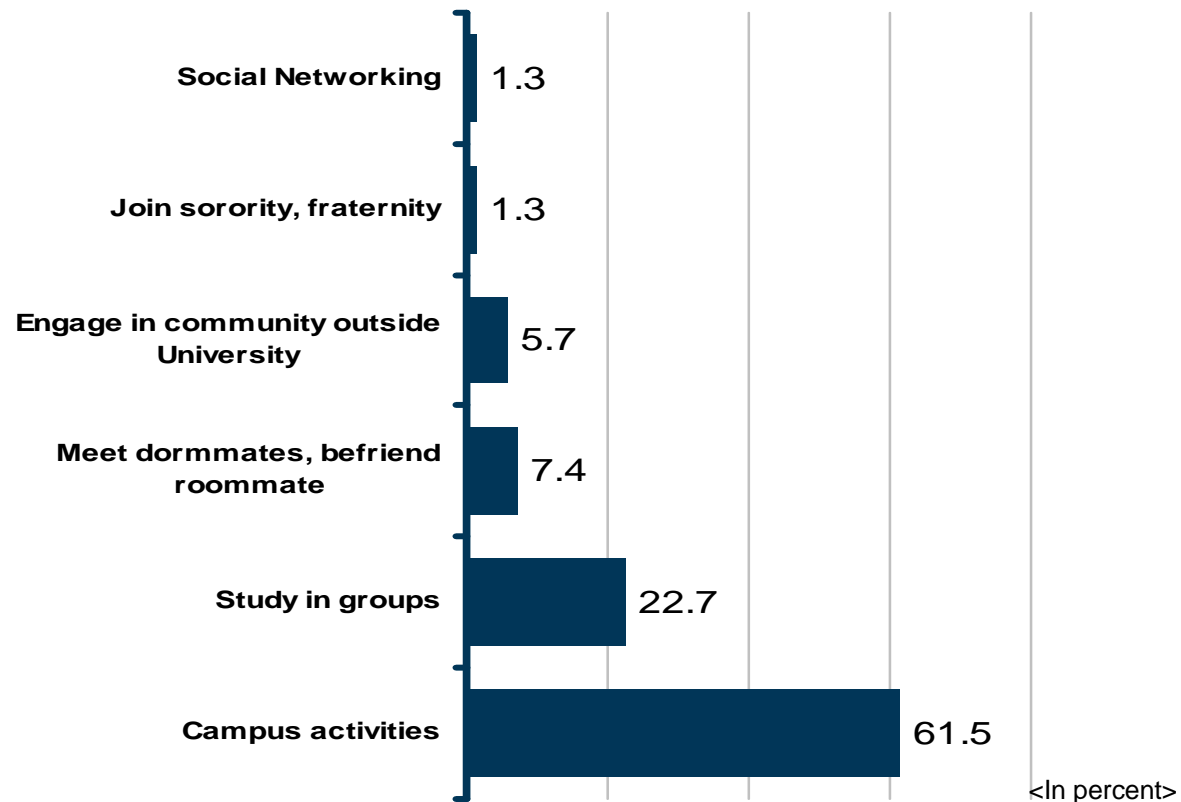
Key Take-Away: Respondents thought the three greatest challenges for first-year students were developing time-management skills, in-class skills (note-taking, listening, participating, working with other students), and general life skills and facing new responsibilities. All three of which address developing or honing specific skills to deal with academic pressures.

What strategies or skills do you feel are most needed for success in college and life?



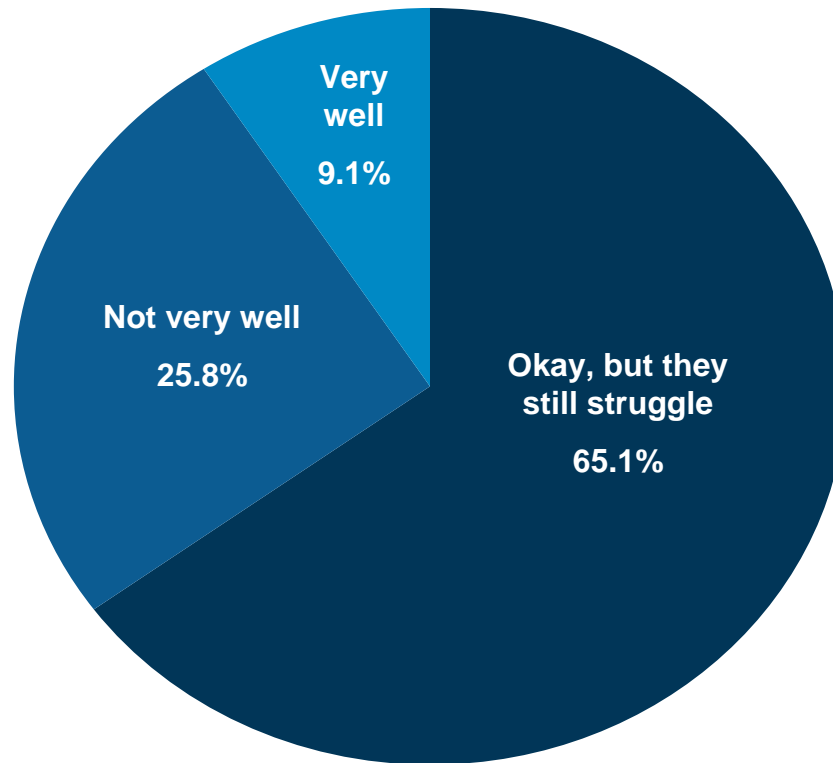
Key Take-Away: More than 80 percent of respondents recommend students use available campus resources, such as libraries, computer rooms and tutorial services, in order to succeed. Nearly three-fourths of respondents recommended students to use a daily planner or calendar to prioritize/plan their day/week and carry out.

When speaking with first-year students about how best to create a rich social life, which of the following do you recommend?



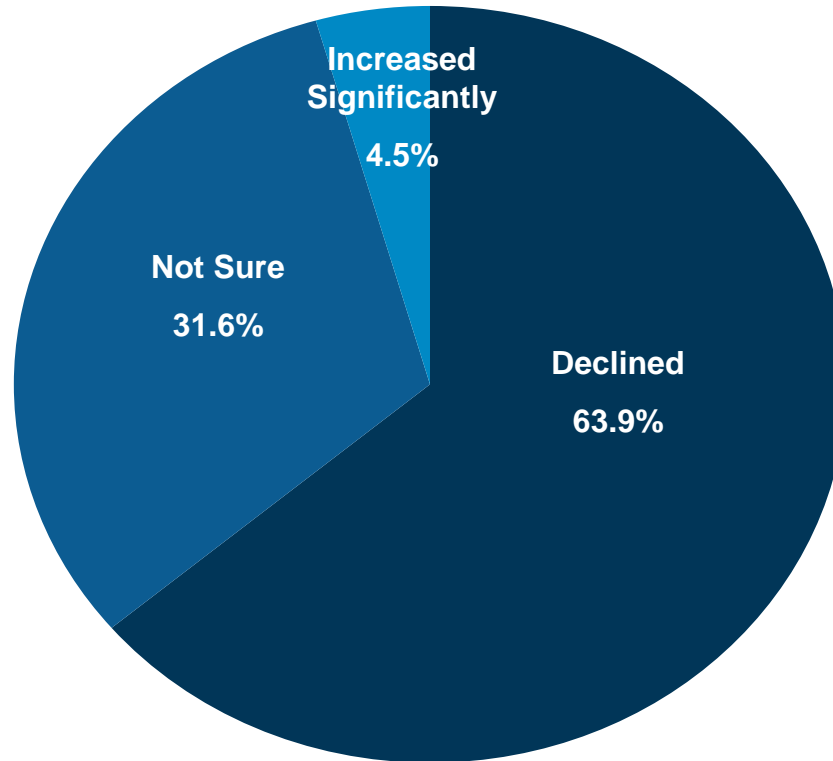
Key Take-Away: Respondents said they most often recommended students get involved in campus activities in order to have a successful social life. Very few respondents recommended students join a sorority or fraternity and four respondents recommended they use social networking sites.

In your experience, generally speaking, how do first-year students balance social life and academics?



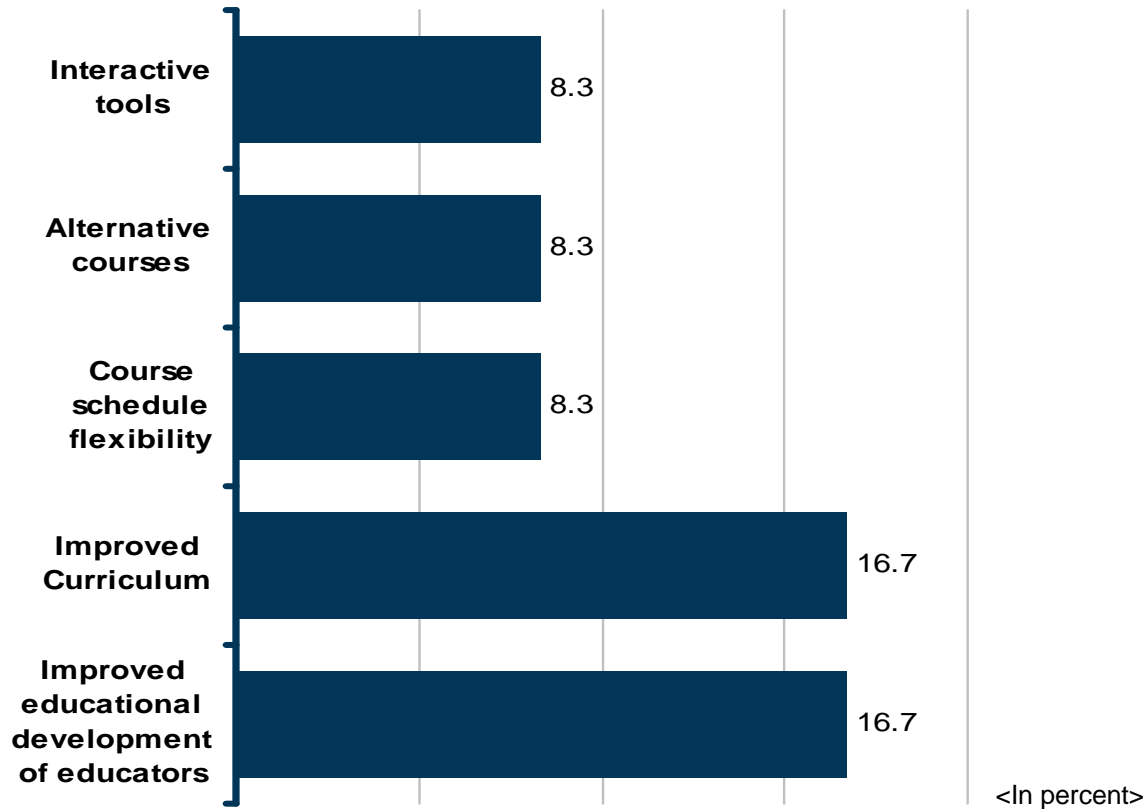
Key Take-Away: More than 90 percent of respondents thought first-year students are either struggling to balance social life and academics, or not balancing well at all.

In your opinion, has preparedness of first-year students changed over the last 10 years?



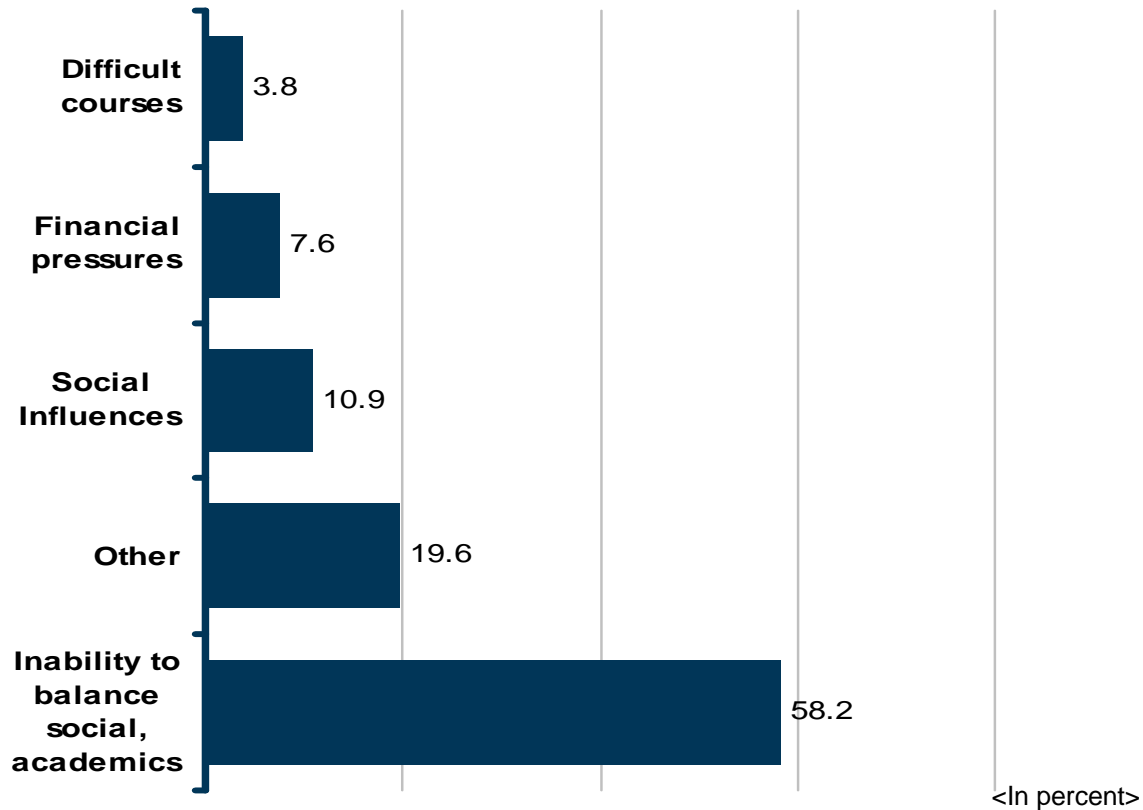
Key Take-Away: Nearly two-thirds of respondents said first-year students' preparedness has declined during the last 10 years.

What contributes most to the increased success of college students?



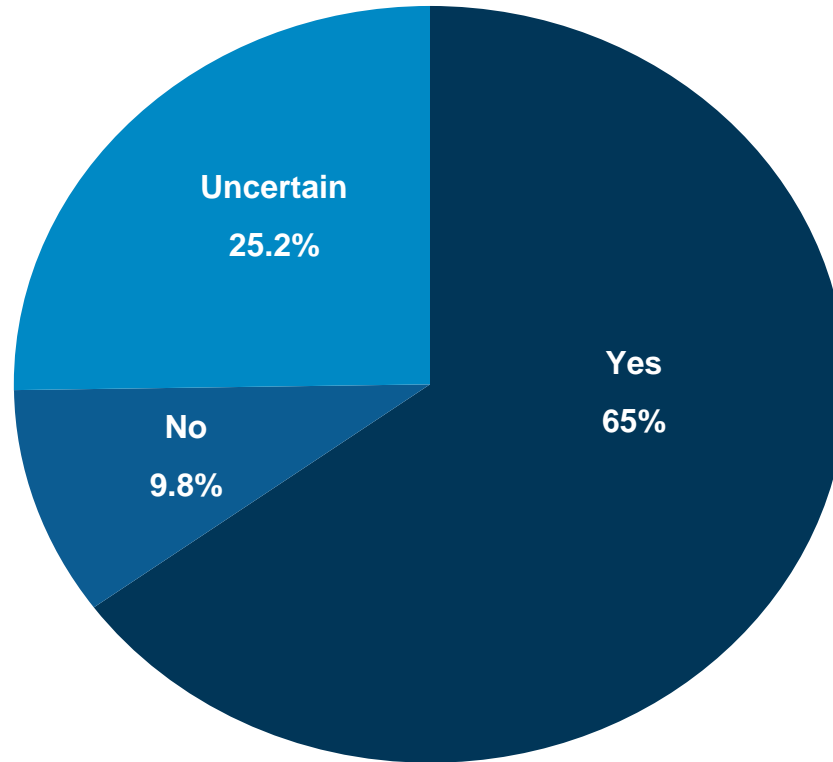
Key Take-Away: Among respondents who answered their first-year students balance social life and academics, improved educational development of educators and improved curriculum are considered contributed more to the increased success of college students.

What most impedes the success of college students?



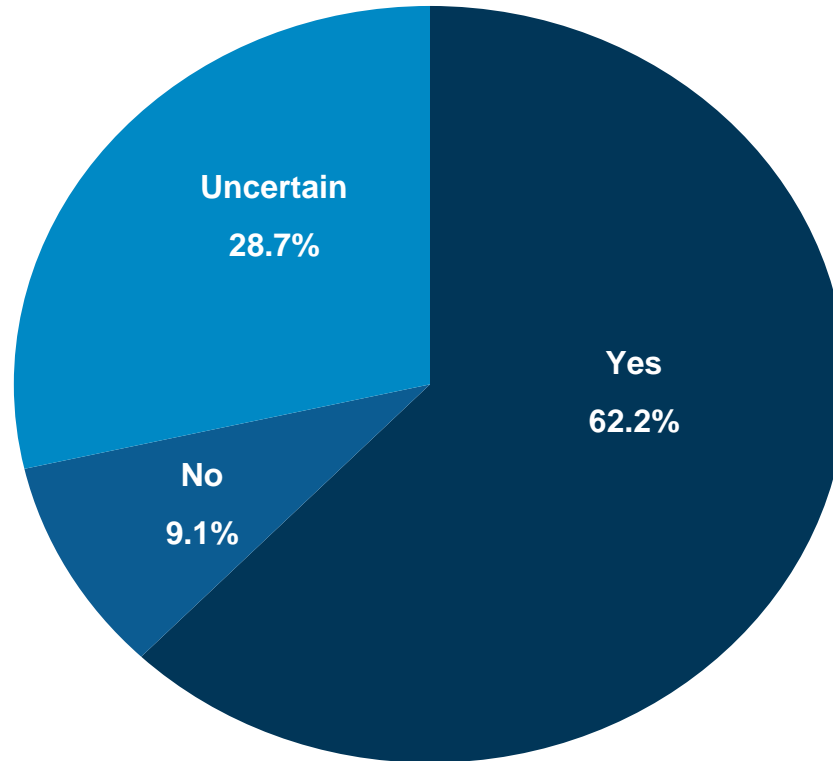
Key Take-Away: More than half of respondents said students' inability to balance their social life with academic responsibilities was most impeding their success in college. Nearly 20 percent of respondents selected "Other," most of which specified a lack of preparedness academically from high school.

Do you think first-year students feel pressure from on-campus peers to socialize?



Key Take-Away: Nearly two-thirds of respondents said on-campus students likely feel pressure from their peers to socialize.

Do you think first-year students feel pressure from on-campus peers to drink alcoholic beverages?



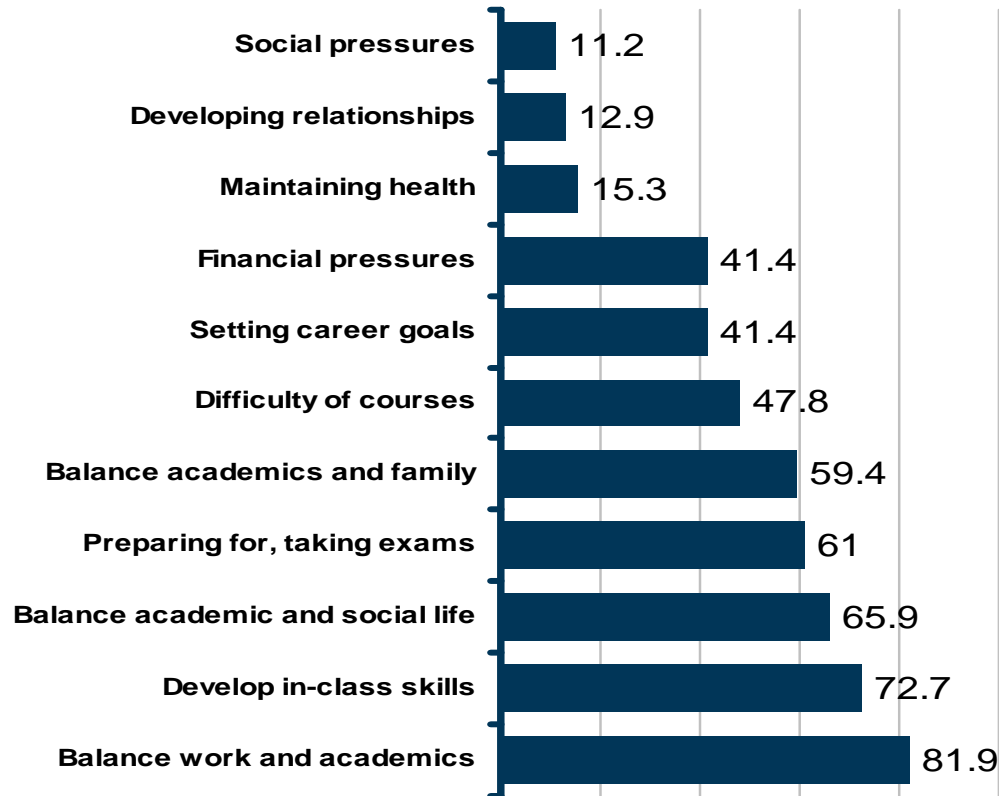
Key Take-Away: More than 60 percent of respondents said on-campus students likely feel pressure from their peers to drink alcoholic beverages.

Community Colleges

Community College Survey Pool: Who Are They?

- 249 persons surveyed
- More than 96 percent are currently instructors or chairpersons of their departments and nearly 2 percent surveyed were previously instructors
- Nearly two-thirds of all surveyed have been teaching more than 10 years

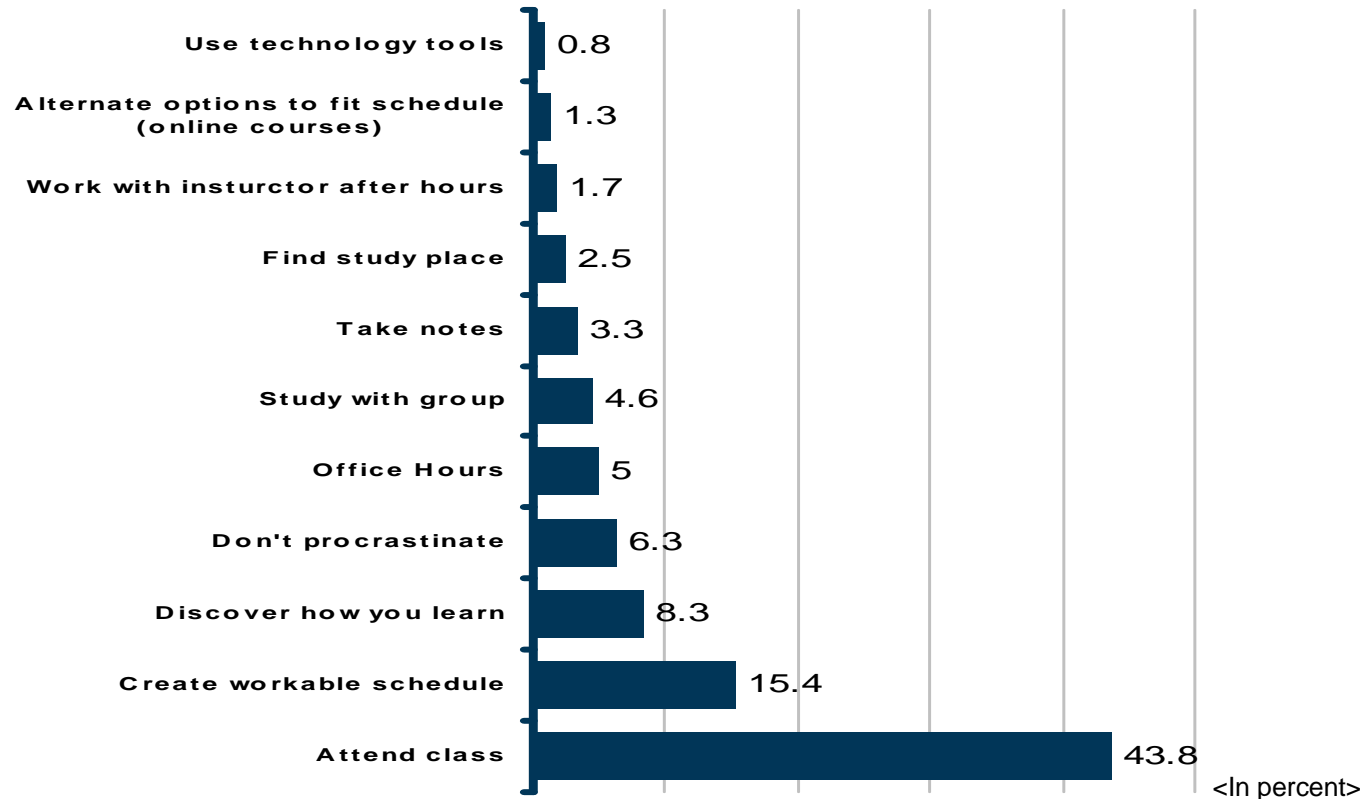
In your experience, what are the most difficult challenges facing first-year students?



<In percent>

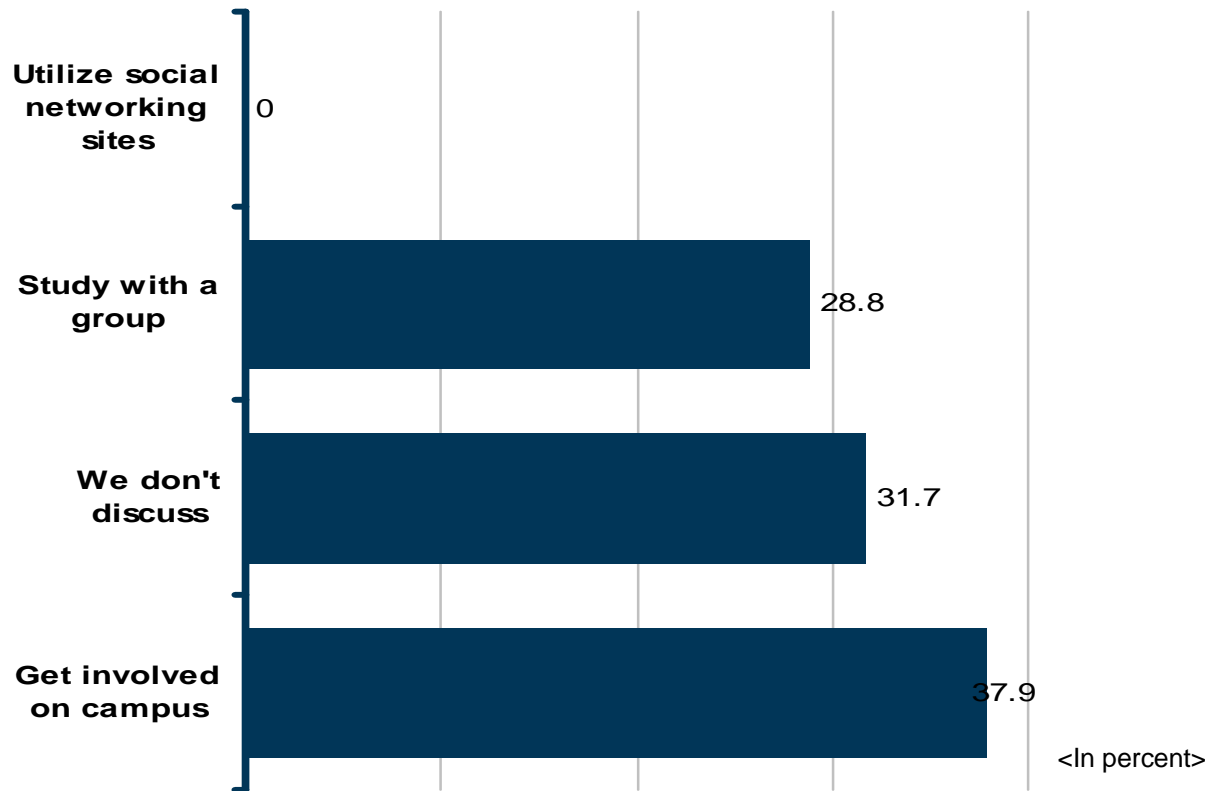
Key Take-Away: According to those surveyed, community college students have a difficult time balancing academics with work (nearly 82 percent), social life (nearly 66 percent), and family (nearly 60 percent). They also said students have a difficult time with basic academic in-class skills, including listening, note-taking, participating and working with other students (nearly 73 percent) and preparing for and taking exams (61 percent).

Which of the following do you recommend most to first-year students for developing successful study habits?



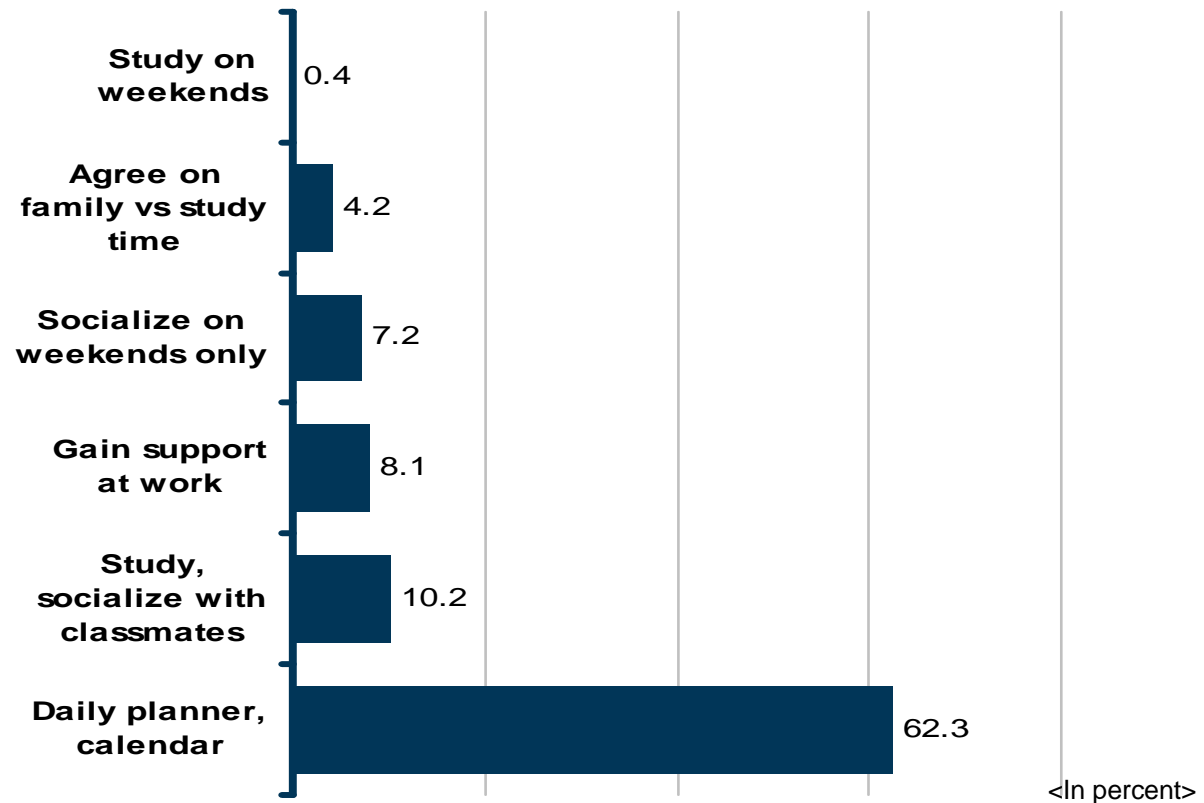
Key Take-Away: Nearly half of those surveyed said attending class regularly is the best means to successful study habits.

Which of the following do you recommend most to first-year students to meet new people and network?



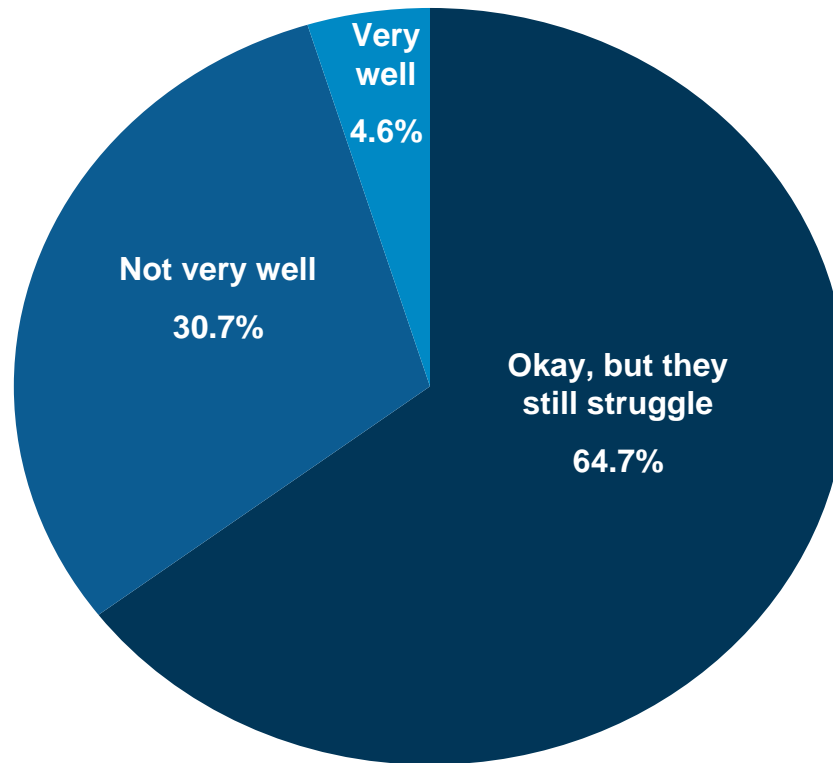
Key Take-Away: Nearly one-third of respondents said they do not discuss with students how best to meet new people and network. No respondents recommended students utilize a social networking site, such as MySpace or Facebook, in order to meet new people and network.

Which of the following do you recommend in order to have a balanced social and academic life?



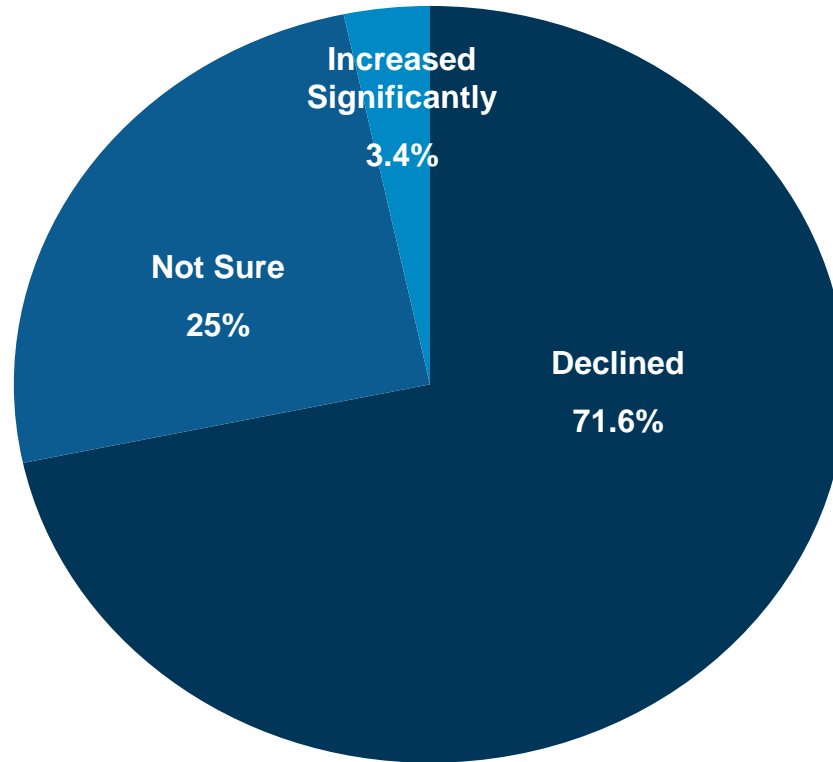
Key Take-Away: More than 60 percent of respondents said they would recommend students keep a daily planner or calendar in order to maintain a successful social and academic life balance.

In your experience, generally speaking, how do first-year students balance social life and academics?



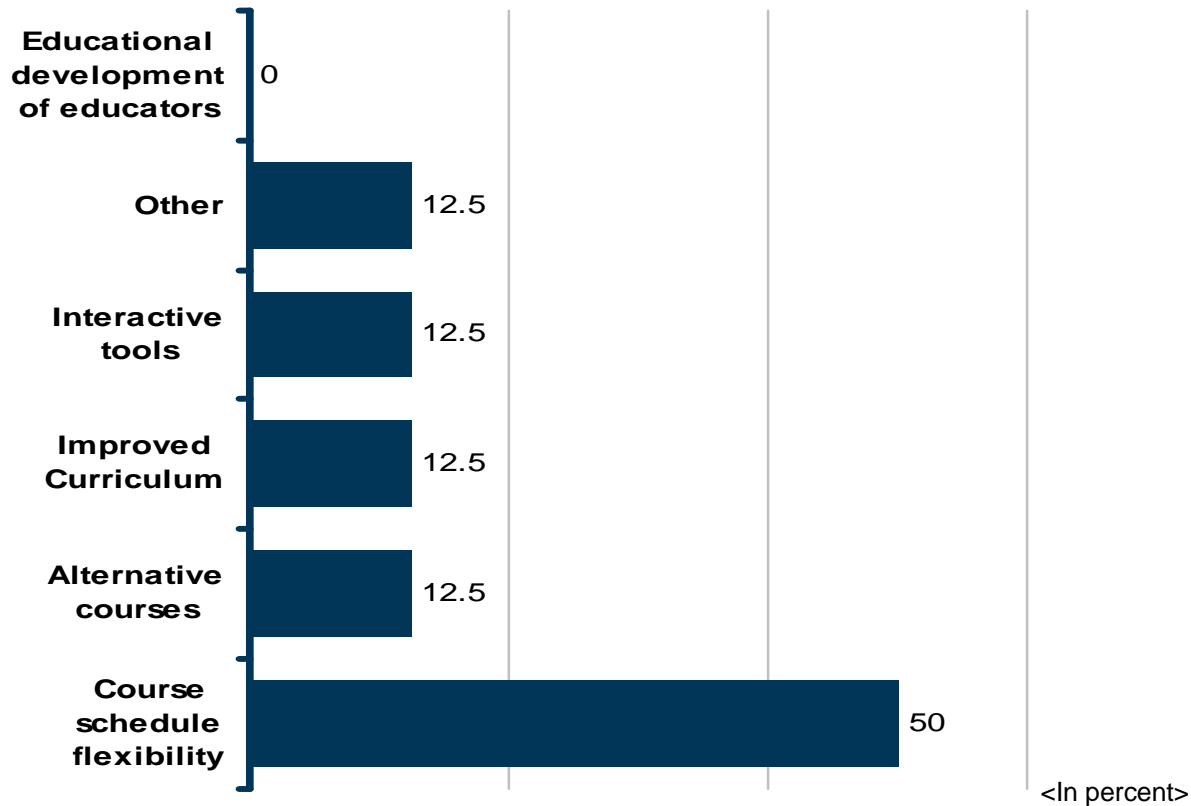
Key Take-Away: Nearly two-thirds of respondents said students have an okay time balancing social life and academics, but they still struggle. Thirty percent said they do not handle it well at all.

In your opinion, has preparedness of first-year students changed over the last 10 years?



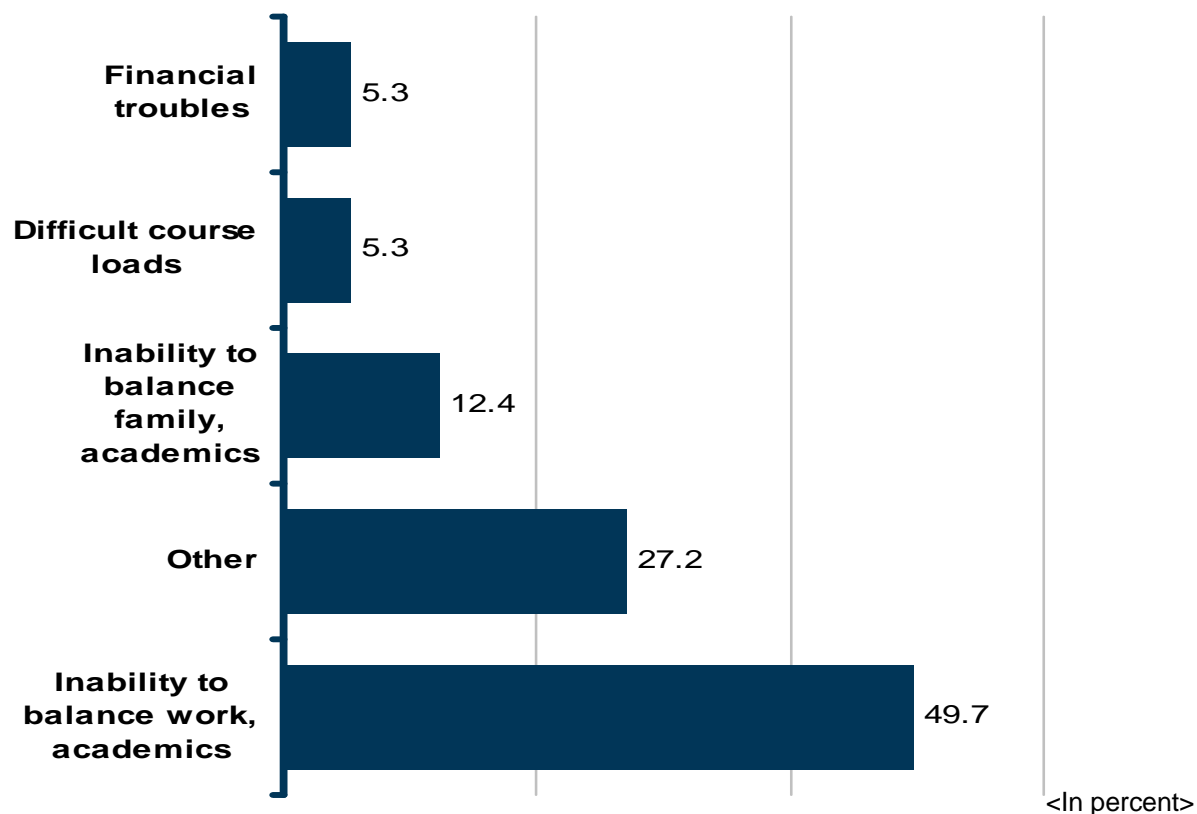
Key Take-Away: More than 70 percent of respondents said preparedness has declined during the last 10 years.

What contributes most to the increased success of college students?



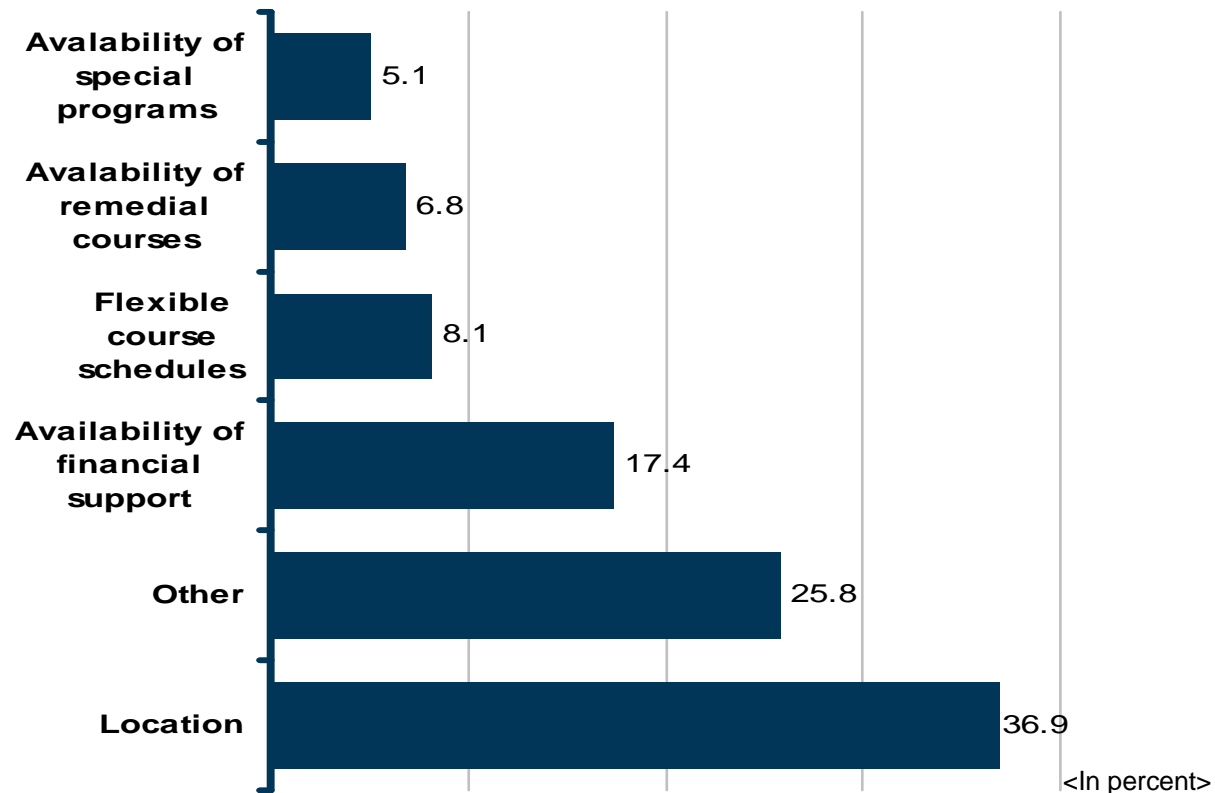
Key Take-Away: Among respondents who said their first-year students balance social life and academics well, majority of them consider flexible course schedule contributes most to the increased success of college students. Unlike respondents from the 4-year college/university survey, on one considered improved educational development of educators as a contributor (see Slide 11).

What most impedes the success of college students?



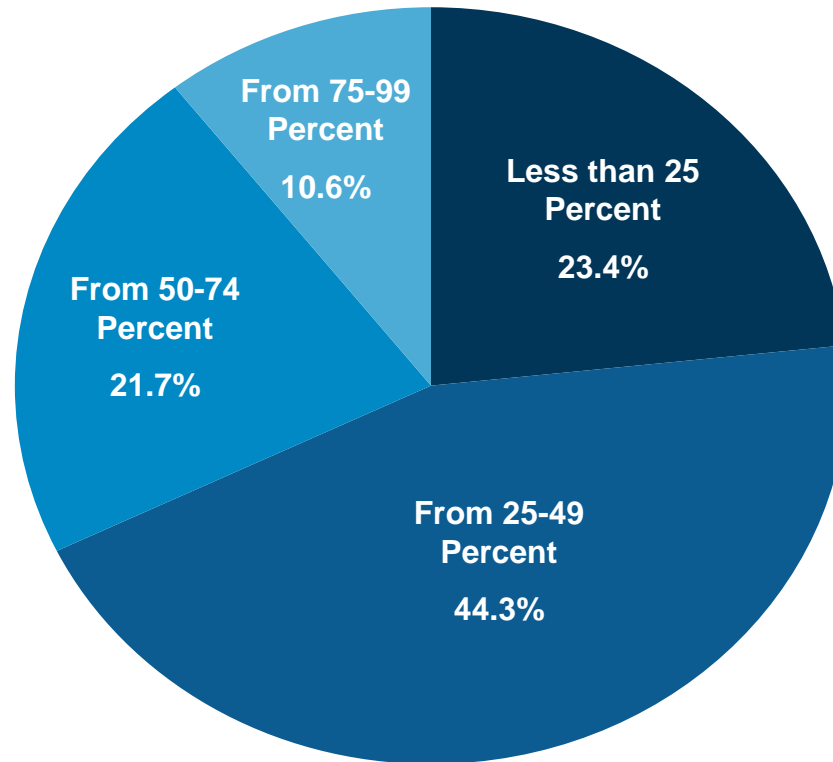
Key Take-Away: Nearly half of respondents said a student's inability to balance work with their academic responsibilities most impeded their success in college. Nearly 30 percent of respondents selected "Other," most of which specified a lack of preparedness academically from high school and lack of commitment.

In your opinion, what contributes most to students' decision to attend a 2-year college?



Key Take-Away: More than one-third of respondents said location was the main factor for students choosing a two-year institution. More than a quarter selected “Other,” the majority of which specified low tuition cost as a main reason.

In your experience, approximately what percentage of your students transfer to a 4-year college?

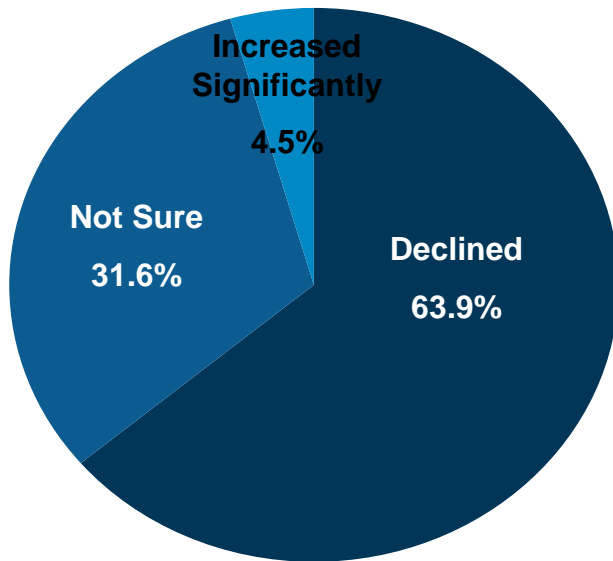


Key Take-Away: Most (44.5 percent) said that 25-49 percent of students will transfer to a 4-year college.

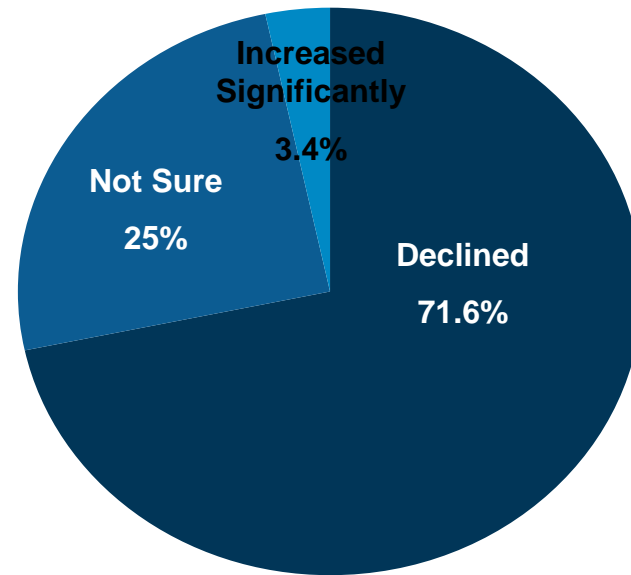
Comparing University and Community College Surveys' Key Findings

Has preparedness of first-year students changed over the last 10 years?

University Survey



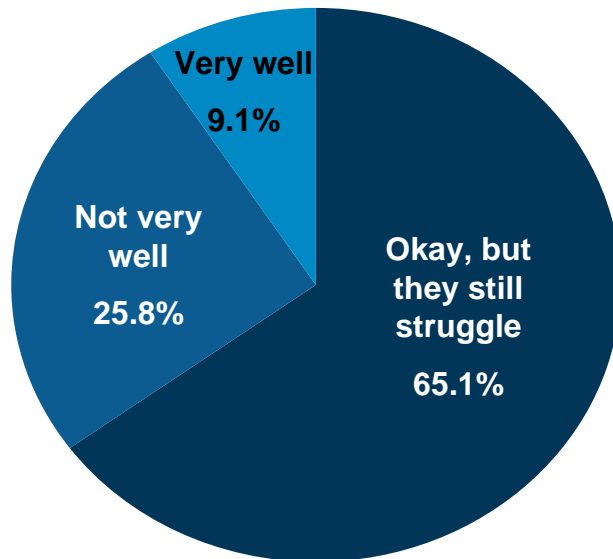
Community College Survey



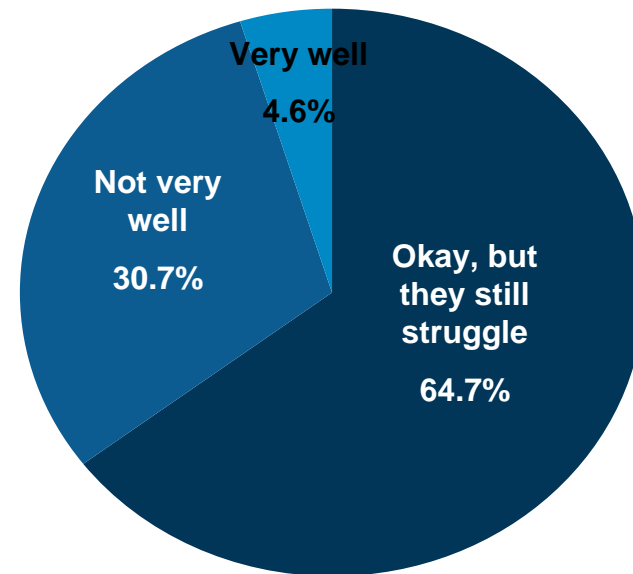
Both surveys indicate that respondents feel preparedness for college of their first-year students has declined in the past 10 years.

How well do first-year students balance social life and academics?

University Survey



Community College Survey

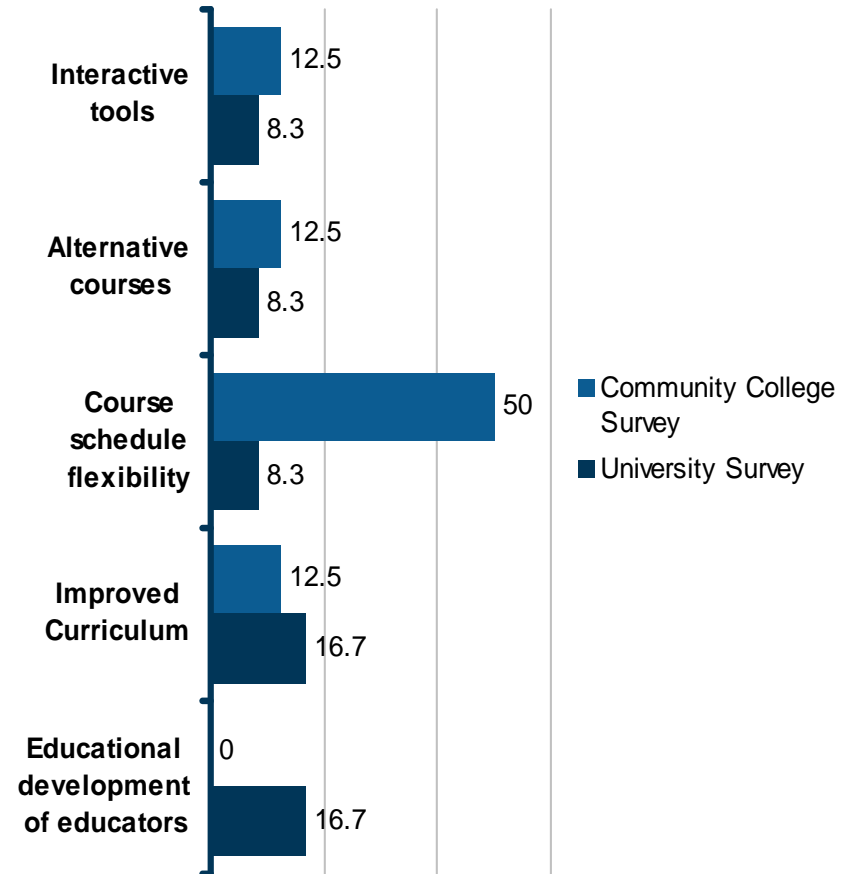


Both surveys indicate that majority of respondents see their first-year students are having difficult time to balance social life and academics.

Factors contributing to the increased success of college students

While more than 16 percent of University Survey respondents thought the educational development of educators was contributing to college students' increased success, no Community College respondents agreed.

Further, half of Community College Survey respondents said course flexibility most contributed to increased success levels, while less than 10 percent of University respondents agreed.

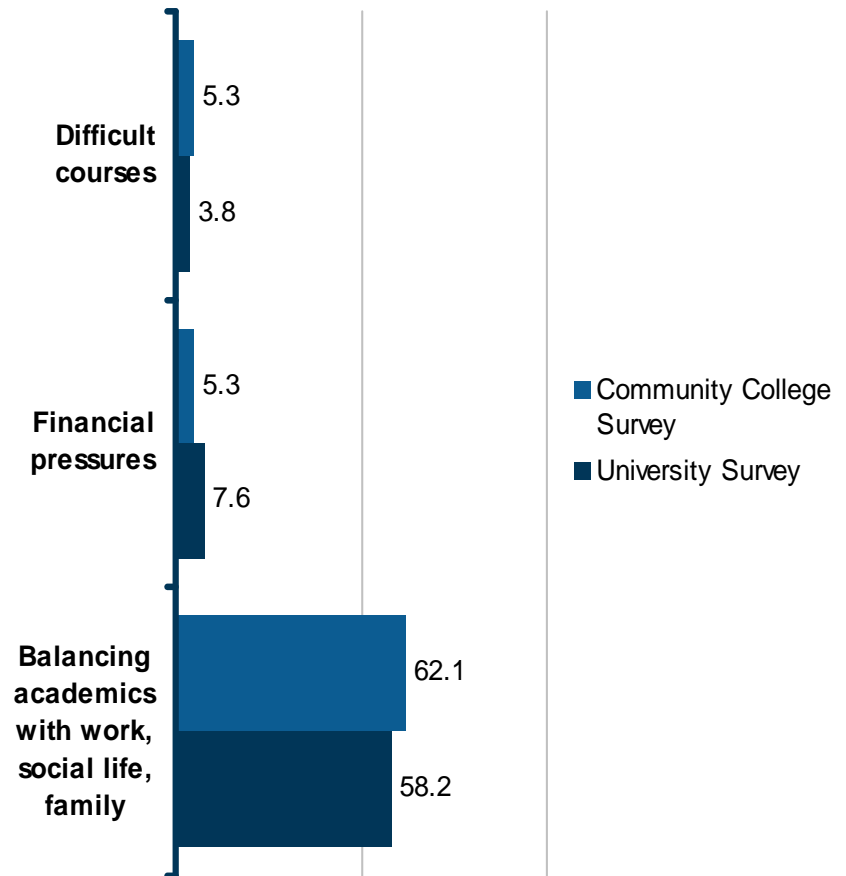


Factors impeding the success of college students

Both surveys indicate that balancing between academics and personal life (social life, family and/or work) is the most important key to be successful in college and toughest to manage.

More than 58 percent of University Survey respondents said balancing academics with social life most impeded students' success.

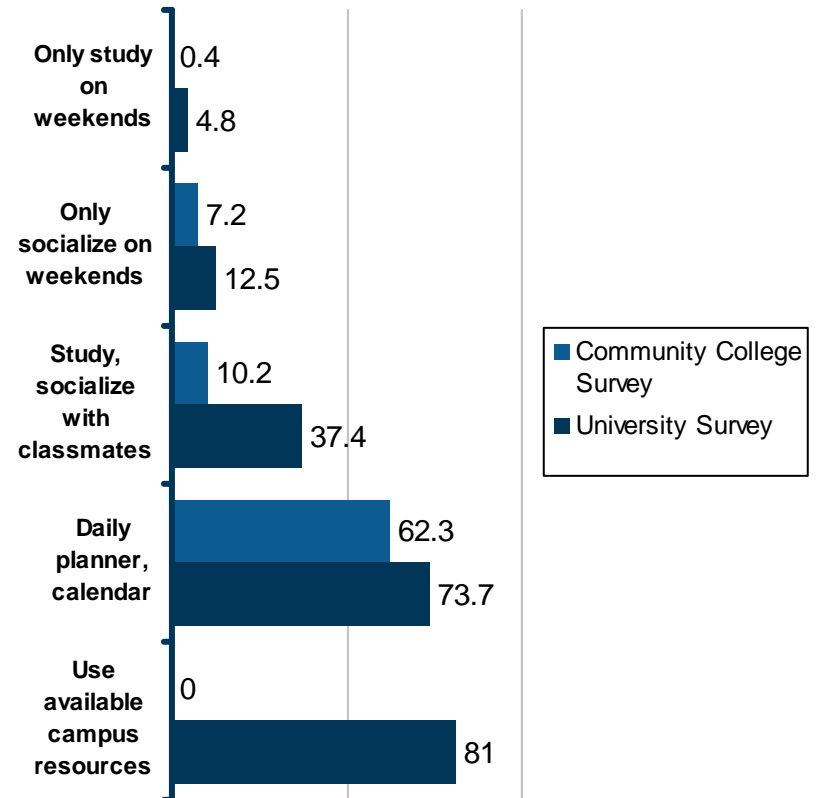
More than 62 percent of Community College Survey respondents said balancing academics with family and work most impeded students' success.



Recommendations for developing successful study habits

Majority of respondents from both surveys agreed that they would recommend a daily planner or calendar as one of the best means to develop successful study habits.

More than 80 percent of University Survey respondents recommended students use available campus resources, such as libraries, computer rooms and tutorial services as one of the best means to develop successful study habits. No Community College Survey respondents chose as the best means.



Recommendations for a rich and successful social life in college

Both majority of University Survey respondents (more than 61 percent) and majority of Community College Survey respondents (nearly 38 percent) said they would recommend students get involved in activities on campus to benefit their social life.

While popularity of social networking sites is strong among college students, respondents from both surveys would not consider one of the best means to develop successful social life in college.

