



Presentation on 2026 Middle-Years Student Survey

**Prepared for CUSC-CCREU
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Methodology

- This is the 32nd cooperative study undertaken by CUSC-CCREU.
- 2026 survey includes 20 universities from across Canada.
- Survey included 46,330 students, yielding responses from 8,397.
 - Overall response rate of 18.1%, ranging from 3.6% to 40.0%.
 - Response rate decreased slightly from 21.5% in 2023.
- Weighting was applied to results to match student populations from all participating universities.

Profile of Middle-Years Students



July 2026

Personal profile

6%

Have children



41%

Racialized person



81%

Canadian citizens



68%



32%

CUSC/CCREU



22.7

Average age



6%

Indigenous



68%

Single

Disabilities/impairments



44%

Disability/impairment

- Most common disability/impairment is mental health at 24%.
- However, just 15% say their disability/impairment impacts them daily, with most common being neurodivergence at 8%.

Living arrangements



42%

Live with family



11%

Rented housing on
campus



41%

Rented housing off campus



6%

Own a home

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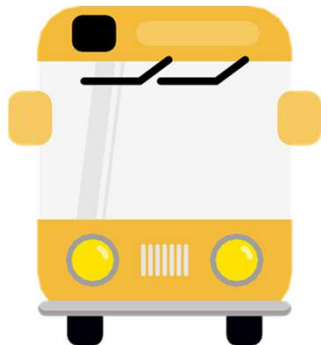
July 2026

Transportation to campus



48%

Use a vehicle

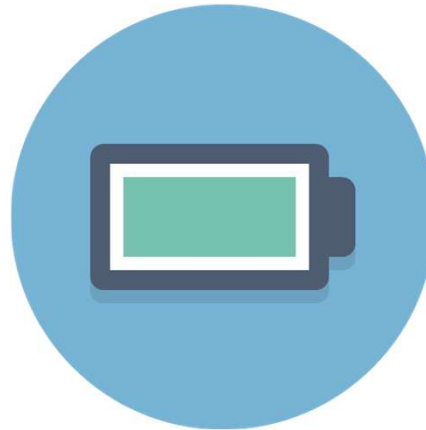


43%

Use public transit

Academic profile

Academic profile



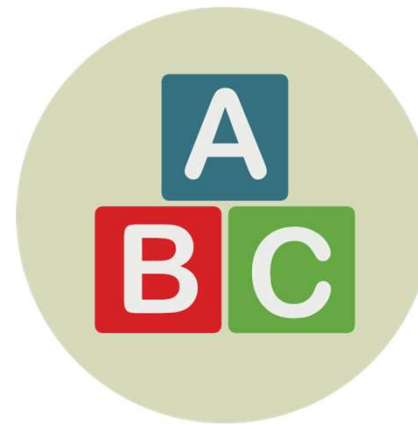
92%

Full-time



18%

Transferred from
other institution



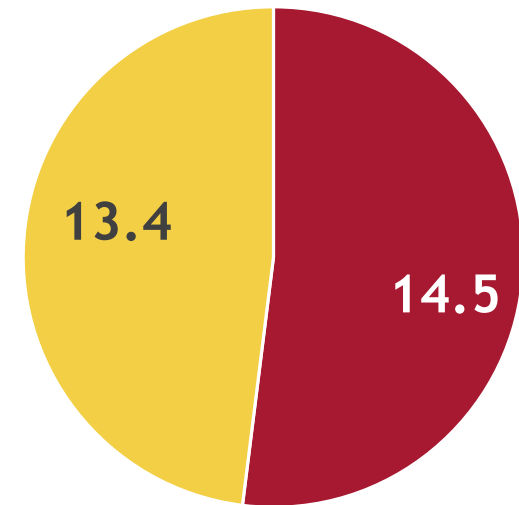
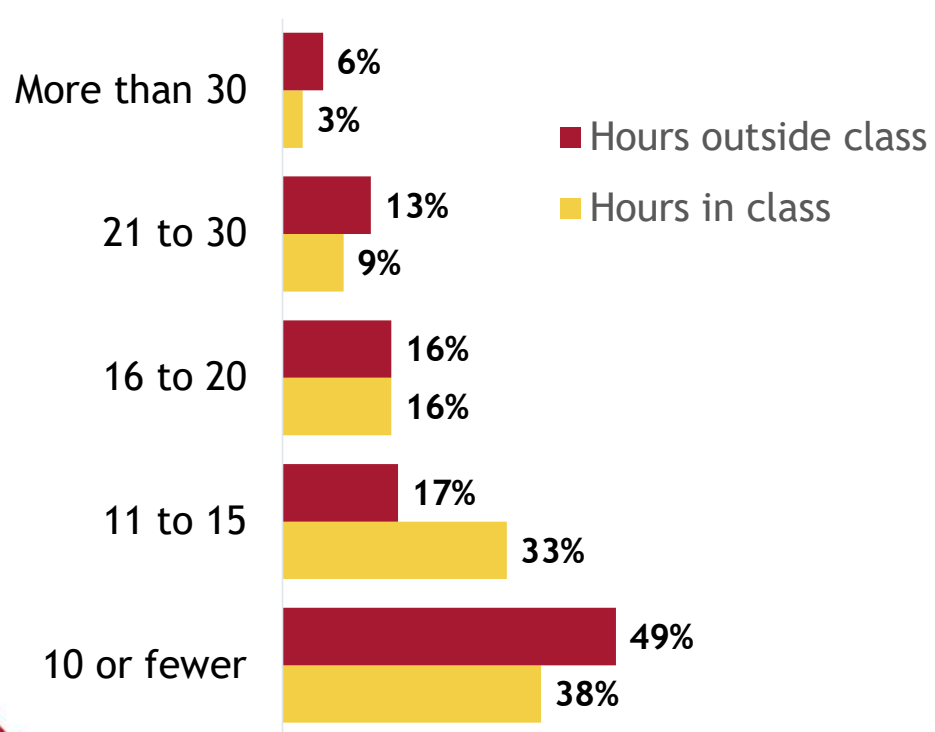
84%

B- or higher
average

39%

A- or higher average

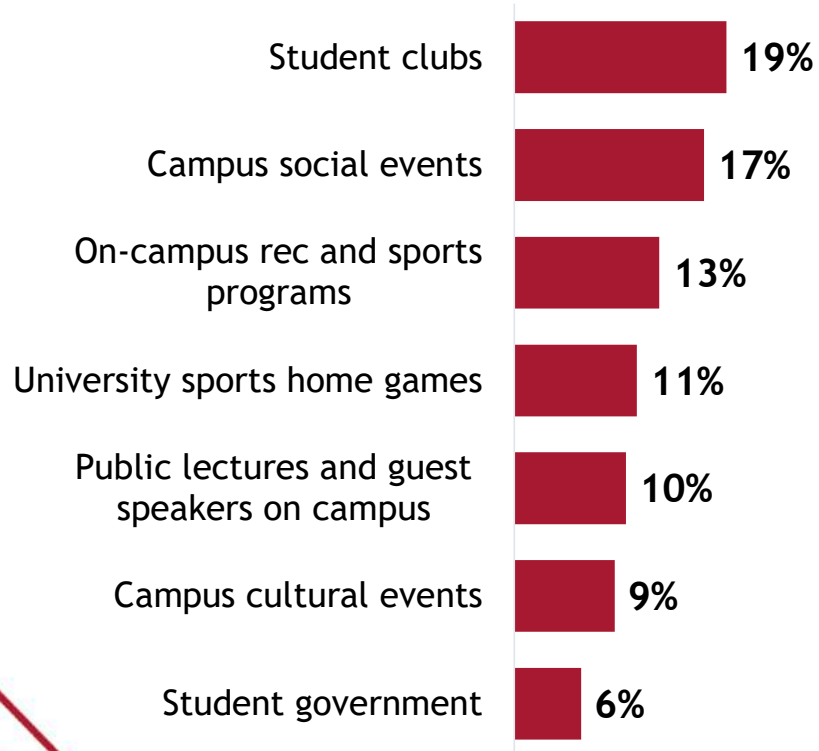
Weekly study patterns



■ Hours outside of class on academics
■ Hours in class on academics

Activities

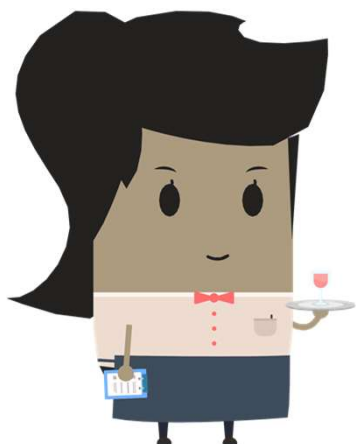
Activities



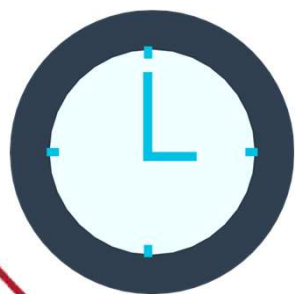
20%
Volunteer on
or off campus

Current employment

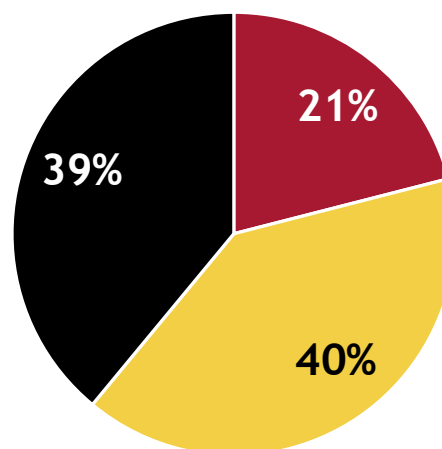
Employment



57%
Employed



17.6
Hours per week



- Positive impact
- No impact
- Negative impact

Educational experiences



July 2026

Perceptions of professors

TOP 5 PERFORMANCE

Seem knowledgeable

Treat genders the same

Treat races the same

Encourage discussions

Accessible outside of class

TOP 5 MOST IMPORTANT

Communicate well → 6th

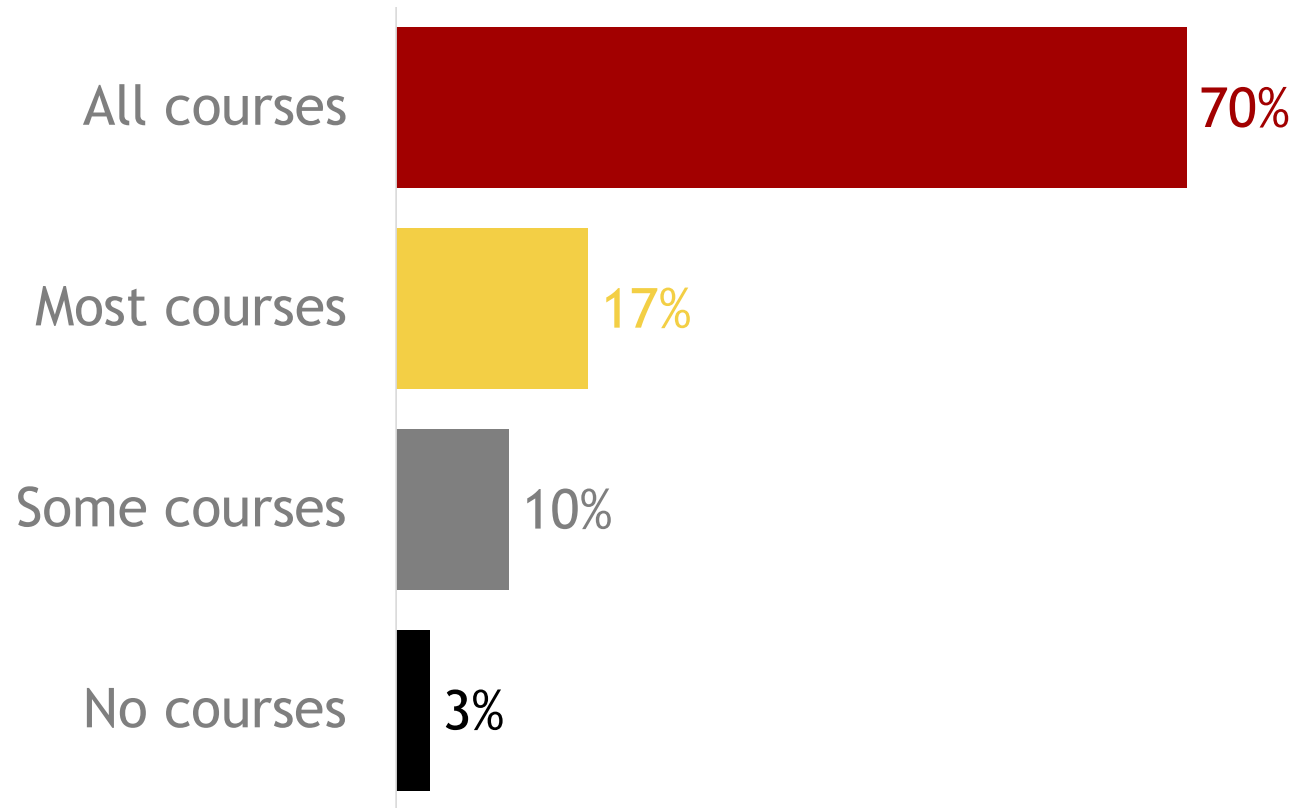
Intellectually stimulating → 10th

Seem knowledgeable

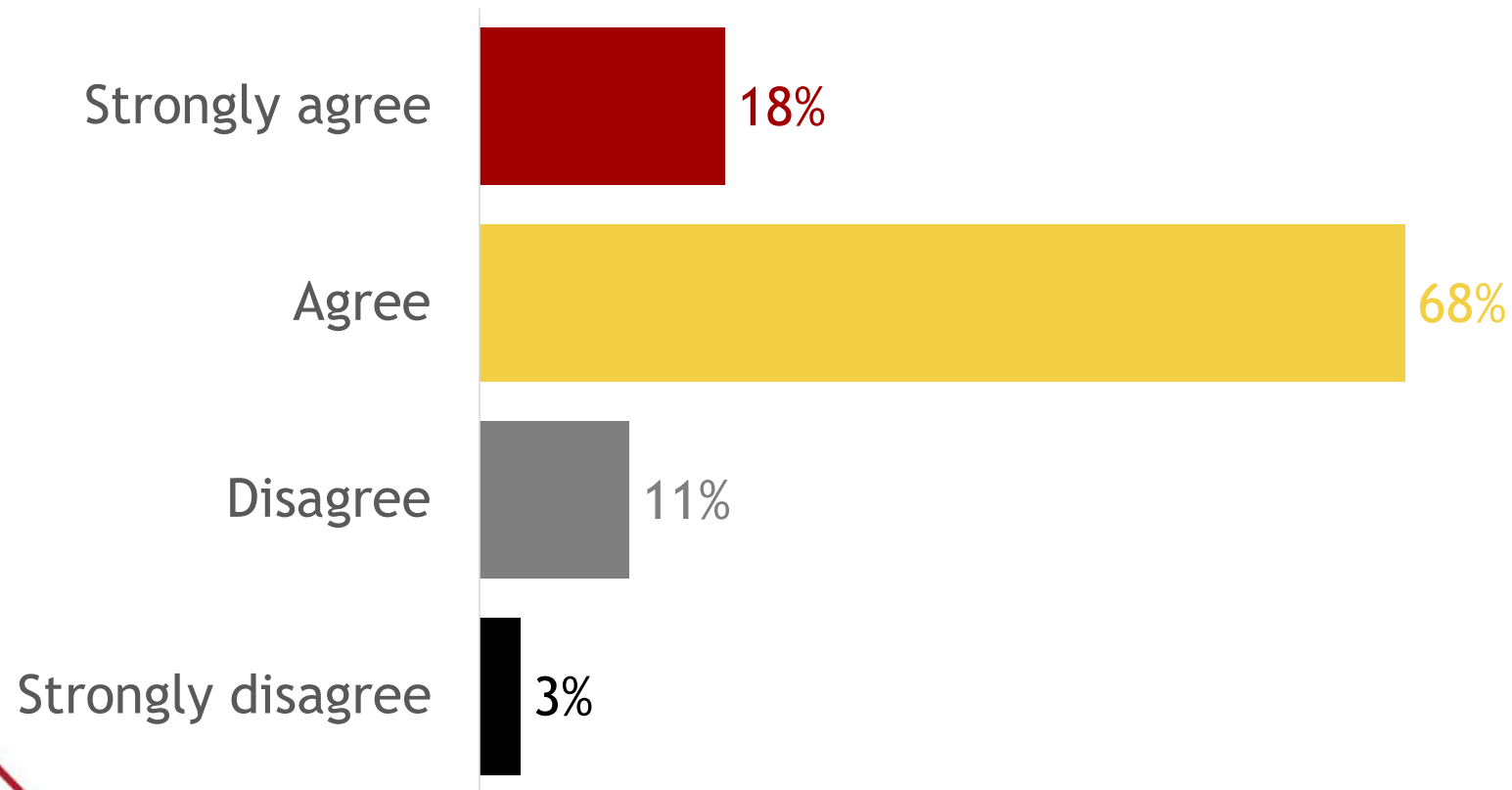
Well organized → 7th

Useful feedback → 11th

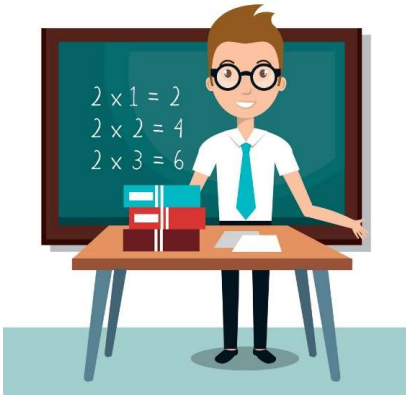
Opportunity to evaluate teaching



Satisfied with quality of teaching



Perceptions of staff



79%

Teaching assistants are helpful



88%

Support staff are helpful

Inclusivity (% quite a bit or very much)



90%

Interacting with
friends on campus



86%

Attending class



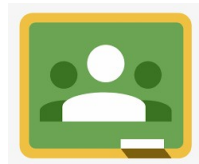
78%

Interacting with
instructors/professors



75%

Interacting with university
staff



74%

Participating in class
activities



56%

Participating in
extracurricular activities



55%

Interacting with students you
don't know well



52%

Attending campus social
events



49%

Actively participating in
campus social activities

CUSC/CCREU

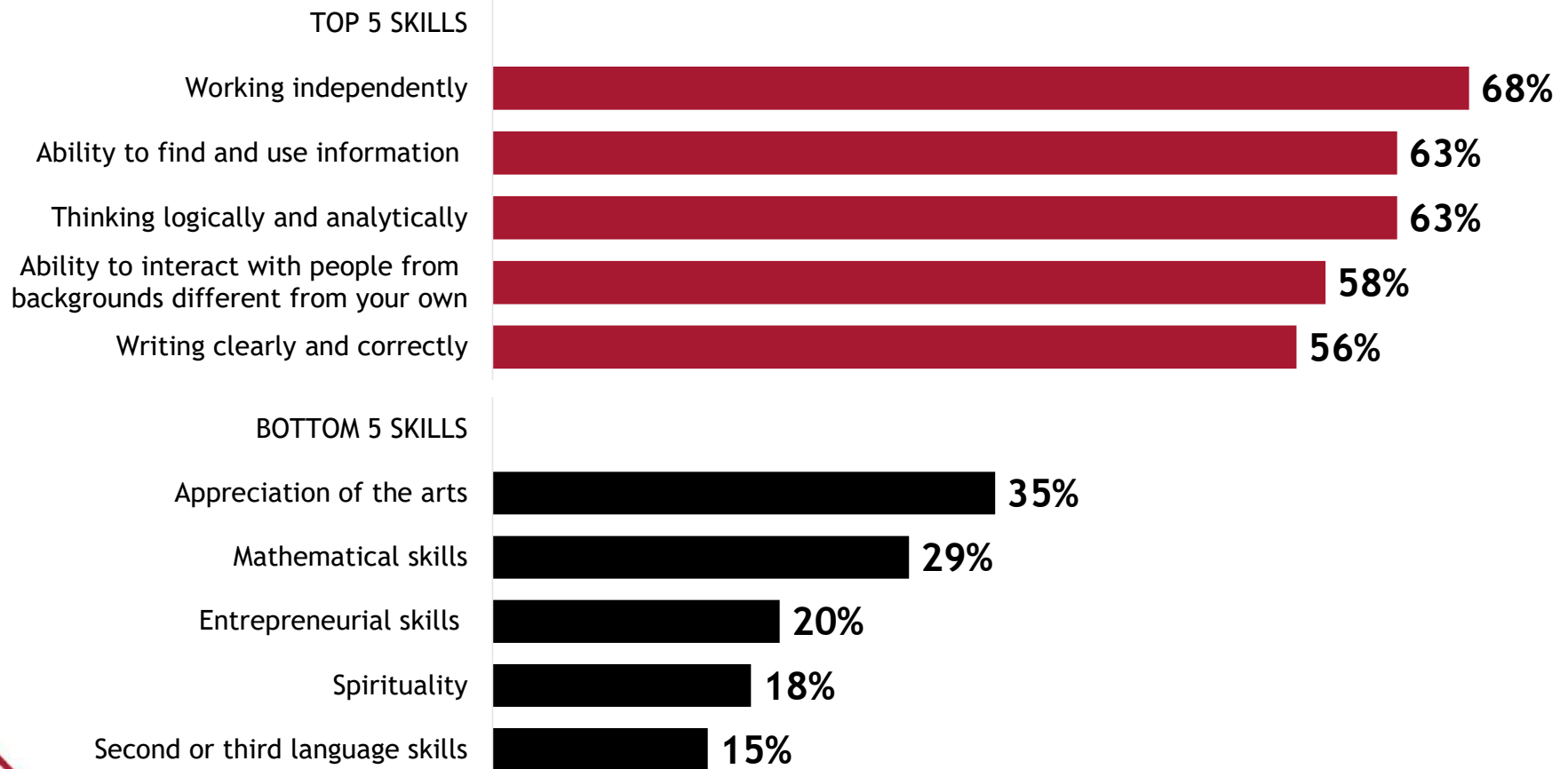
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Growth and development



July 2026

Growth and development (% much or very much)



Commitment to completion



July 2026

Perceptions of education (% agree or strongly agree)



85%

In right program for me



83%

Most courses are interesting



83%

Course load is manageable



70%

Had adequate info about program before enrolling

Perceptions of effort (% agree or strongly agree)



95%

Willing to put in a lot of effort into being successful



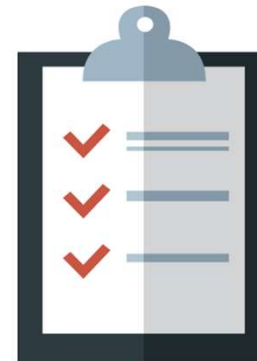
78%

Can deal with stress



90%

Normally go to all of my classes



71%

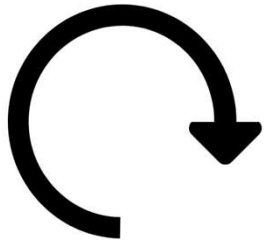
Have good study habits

Perceptions of persistence (% agree or strongly agree)



93%

Plan to complete their degree at their university



88%

Plan to come back to their university next year



14%

Plan to go to college next year



7%

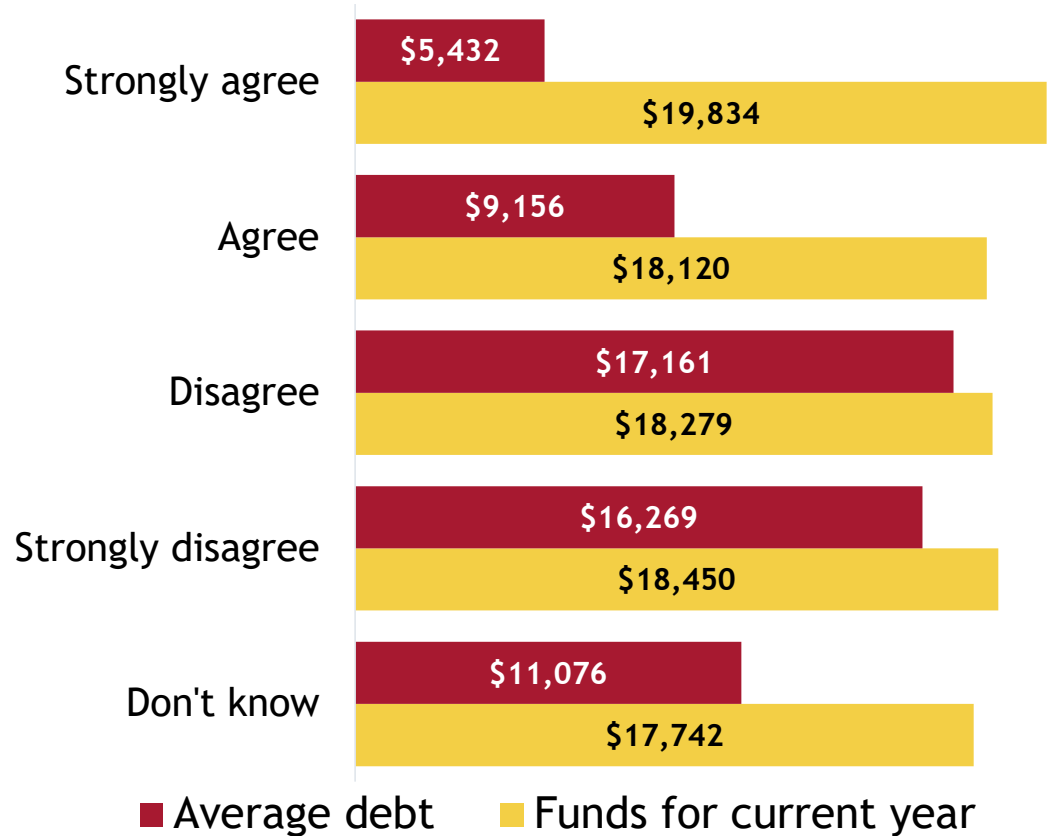
Plan to transfer to another university next year

Finances to complete program



69%

Agree they have financial
resources to complete
program

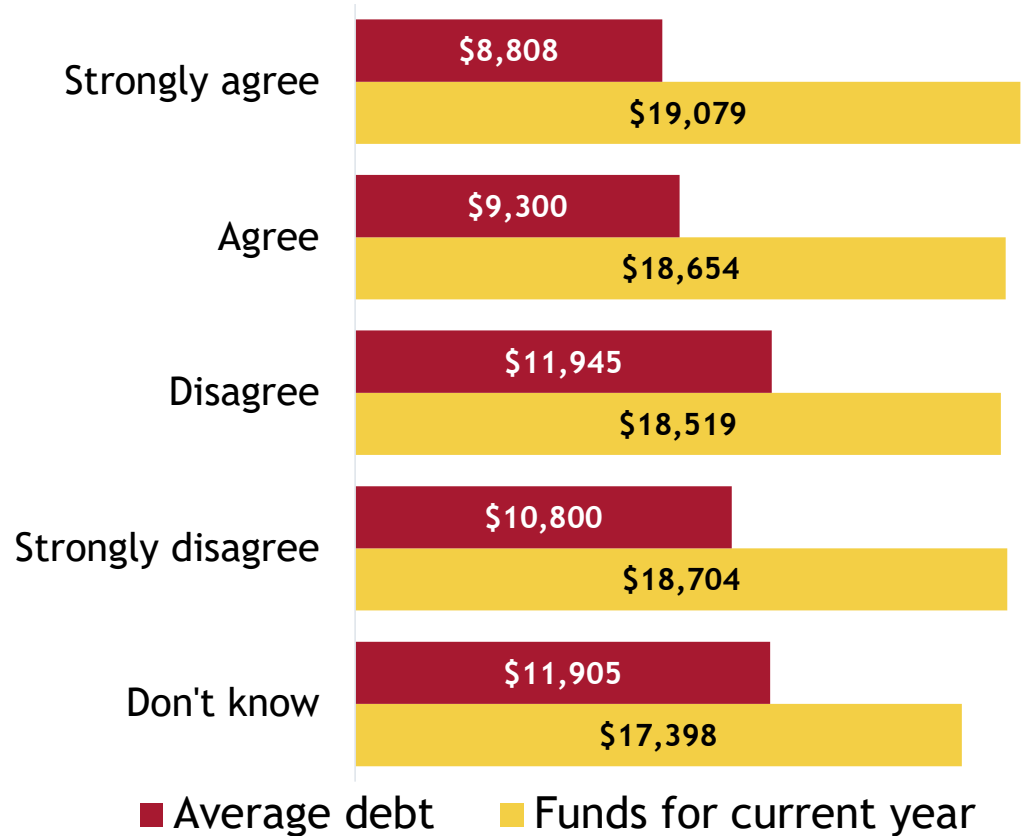


University is worth the cost



57%

Agree that a university degree is worth the cost



Meeting expectations



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Expectations



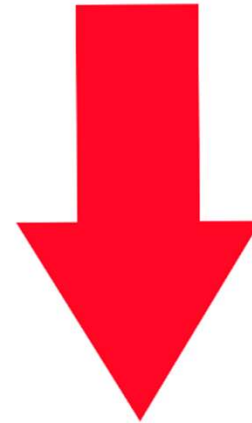
19%

Expectations
were exceeded



62%

Expectations
were met



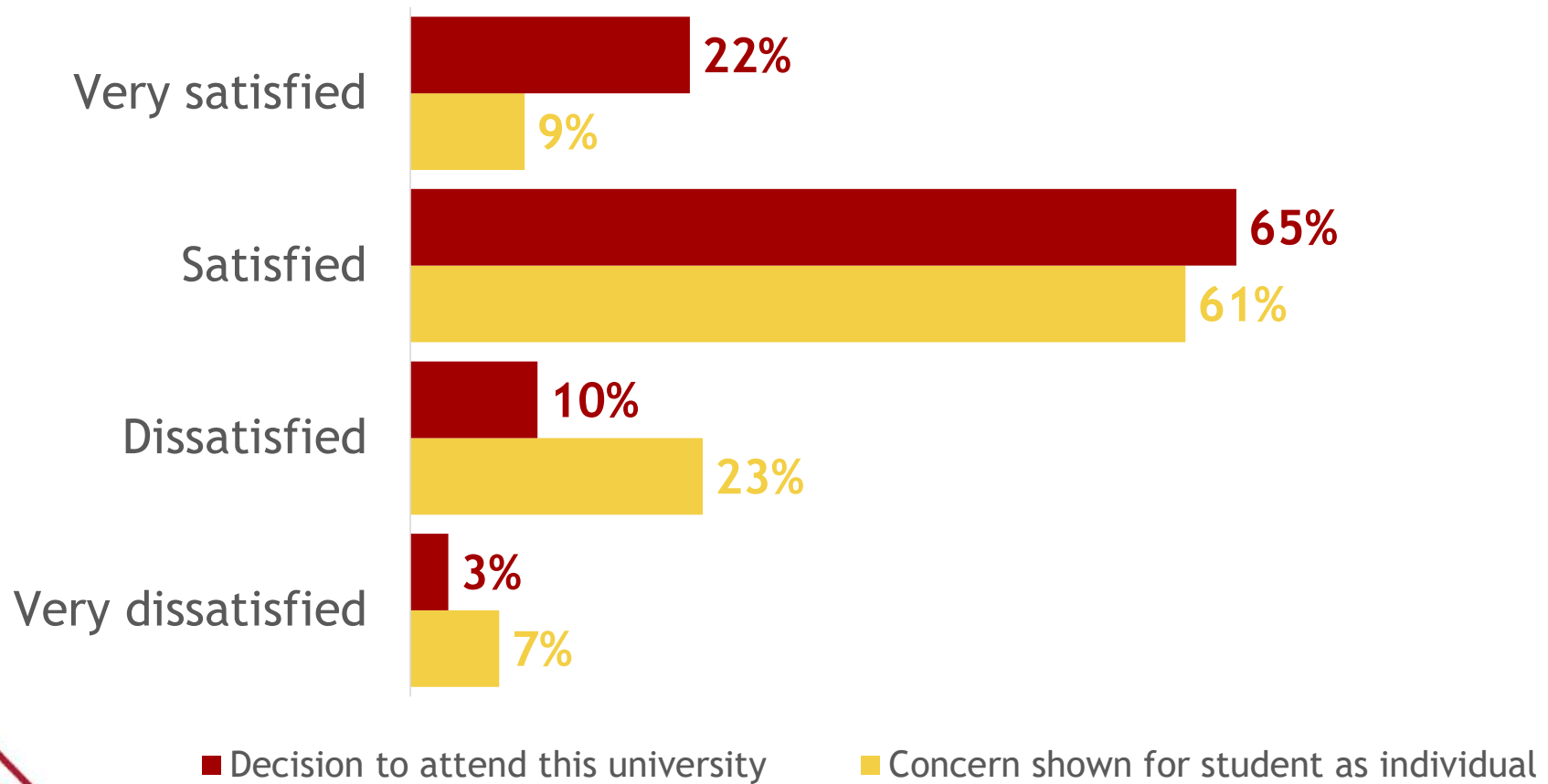
19%

Expectations
fell short



Overall evaluation

Satisfaction with university



Recommend university

- Results are based on a 'Net Promoter Score' (NPS) question.
- Asked on an 11-point scale from 0 to 10.
- Grouped into three categories to assess commitment to brand/organization.



24%
Promoters



43%
Passives



33%
Detractors

Goal development



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Goal development



84%

Chosen their major



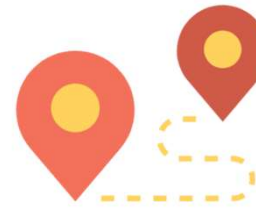
36%

Specific career in mind
32% several possible careers



29%

Apply to professional program



21%

Know career options very well

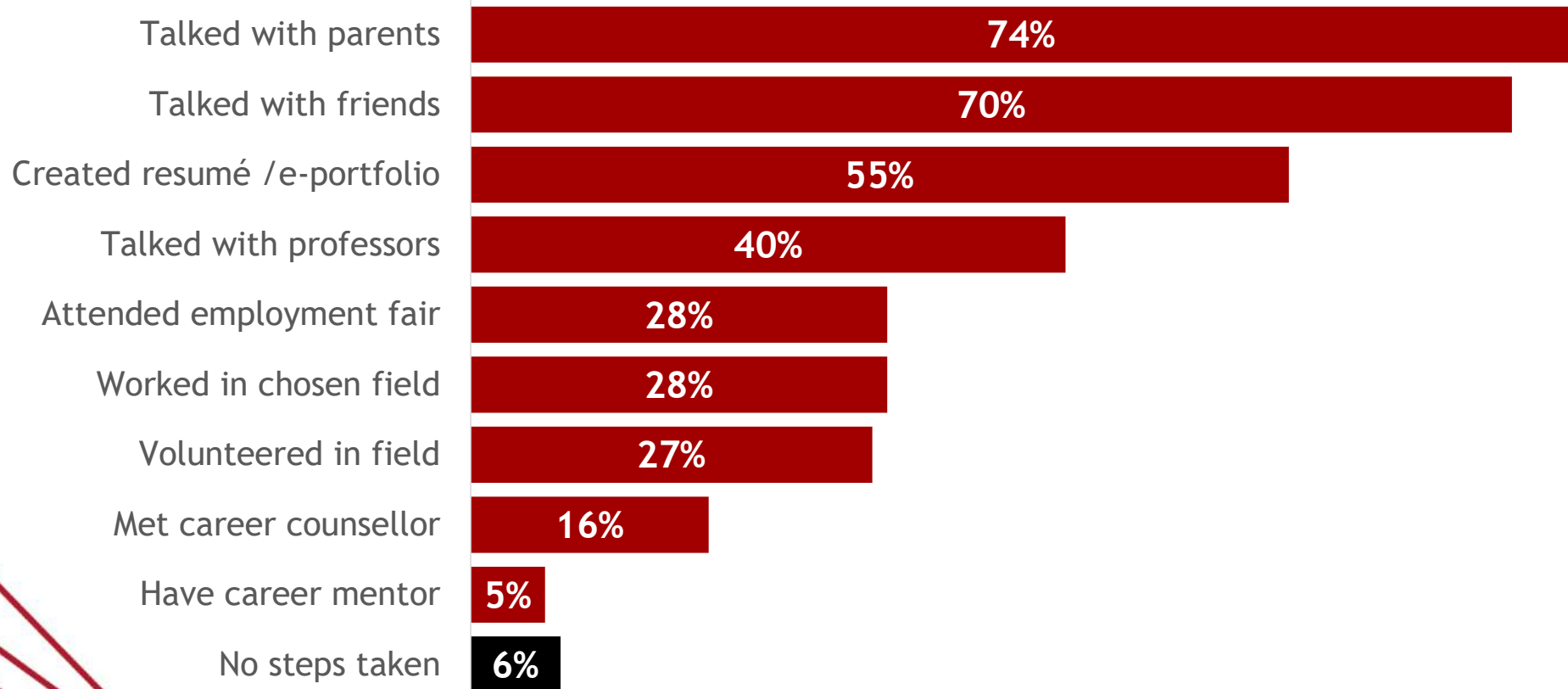


33%

Apply to grad school

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Steps taken to prepare for employment



Facilities and services

Most used services on campus

- Survey asks about use and satisfaction with 27 different services.



66%

On-campus
study spaces



61%

Food services



51%

Academic advising



48%

Library e-resources



45%

University bookstores (online)



44%

University bookstore (physical)



43%

Parking

Satisfaction with services

- Amongst those who use, satisfaction is typically 82% or higher, with a few exceptions:



79%

University
residences



74%

Food
services



40%

Parking

Finances

Credit cards



83%

Have at least one credit card

\$0

76%

Do not carry a monthly balance



\$3,936

Average debt for those carrying a balance

Debt



41%

Any education debt



36%

Government loans



9%

Loans from family



7%

Loans from banks



4%

Other sources

Debt amounts



\$24,944

Average debt
(those with debt)



\$21,807

Government loans



\$14,136

Loans from banks



\$11,926

Loans from family



\$7,054

Other sources

Financing current year

\$18,564

Funds required
for one year



51%

Parents and family

\$8,885



45%

Government loan

\$10,517



42%

Summer work

\$6,212



42%

Scholarships

\$3,501



41%

Current work

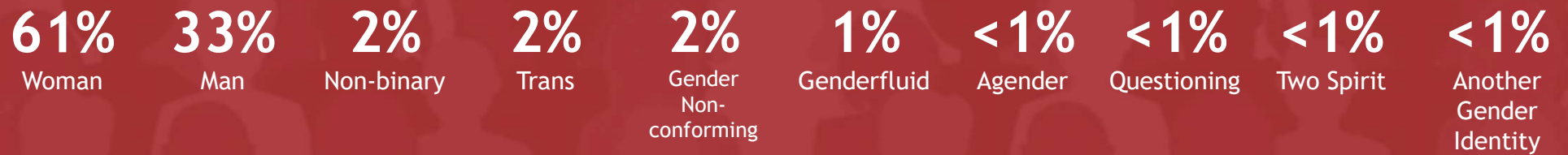
\$6,365

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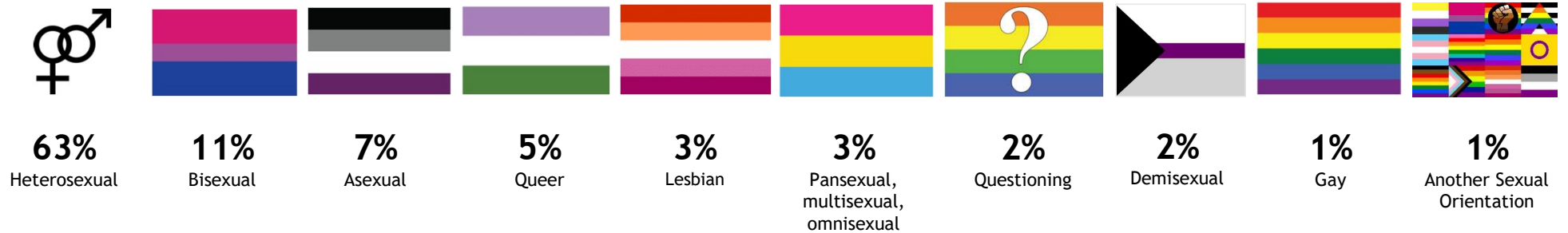
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Equity and diversity

Gender identity



Sexual orientation





2026 Food Accessibility Module



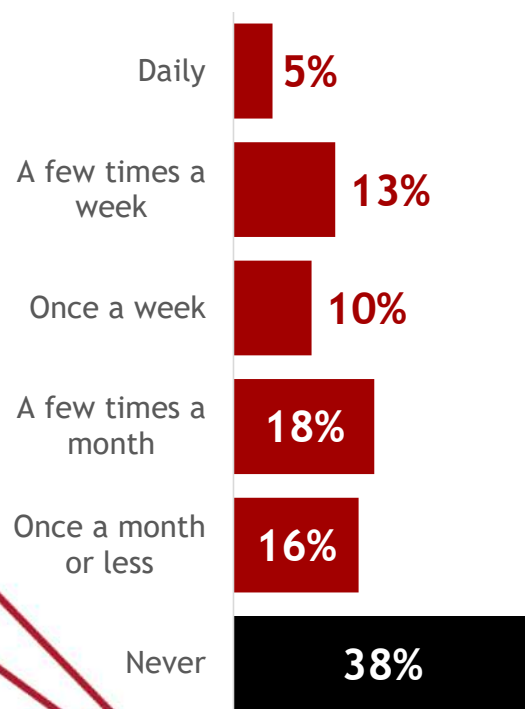
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Module overview

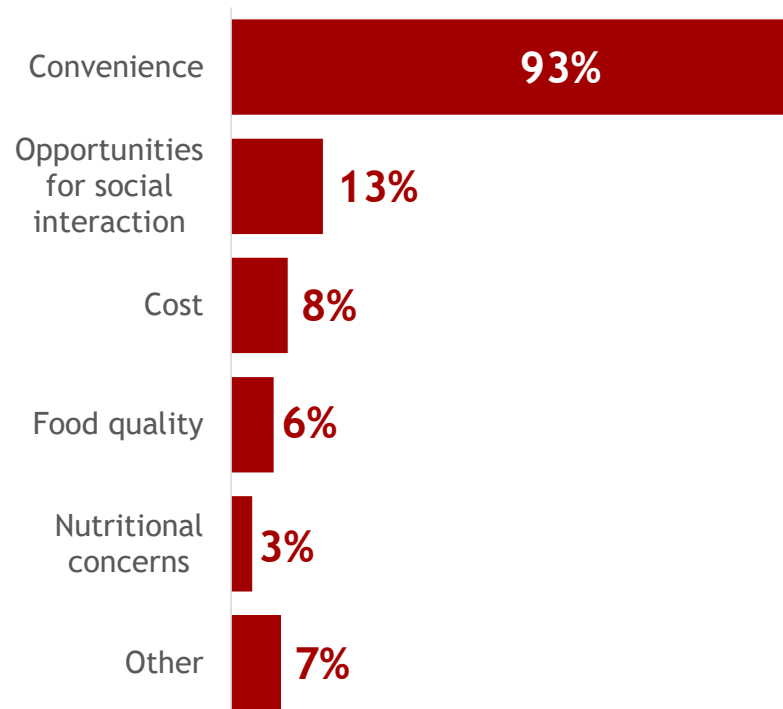
- For the 2026 survey, CUSC-CCREU offered an optional module on food accessibility.
- 17 universities participated in the module questions.
- The findings presented are based on responses from middle-year students at these 17 participating universities.

Using food services on campus

Frequency of using food services on campus



Reasons for using food services on campus*



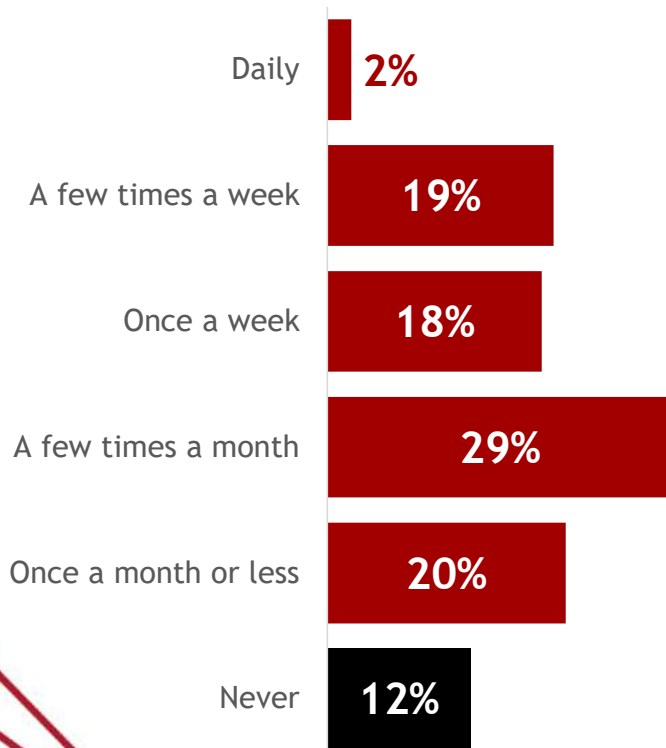
72%

Satisfied /
very satisfied
with on campus
meeting dietary
restrictions

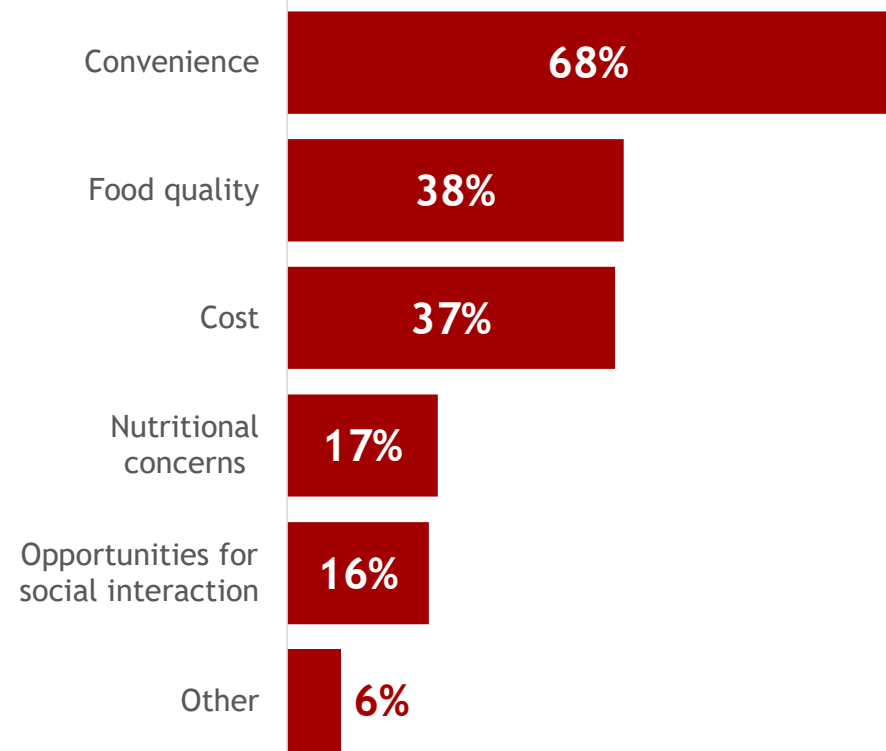
* Only those who used food services on campus since September are included.

Using food services off campus

Frequency of using food services off campus



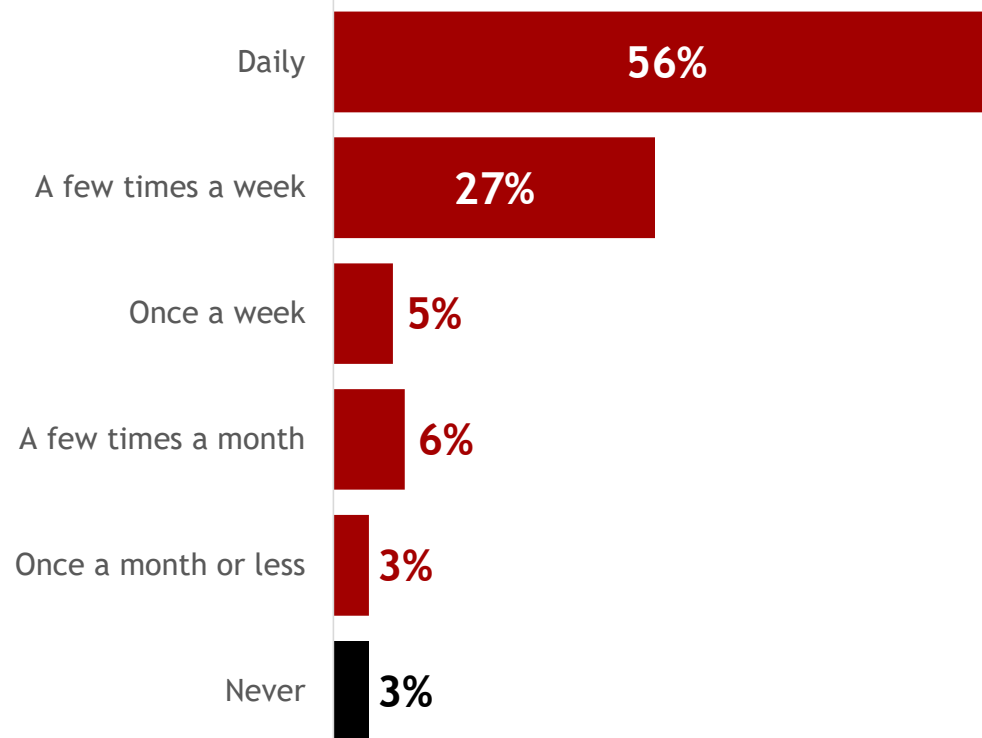
Reasons for using food services off campus*



* Only those who used food services off campus since September are included.

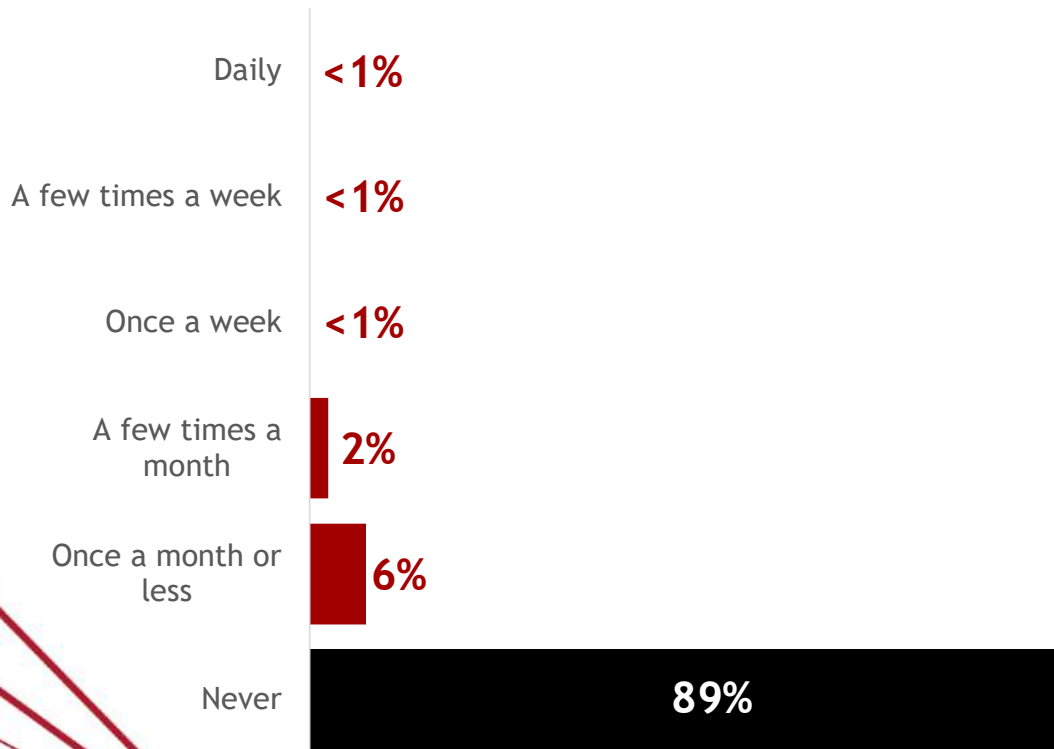
Preparing food at home

Frequency of preparing food at home

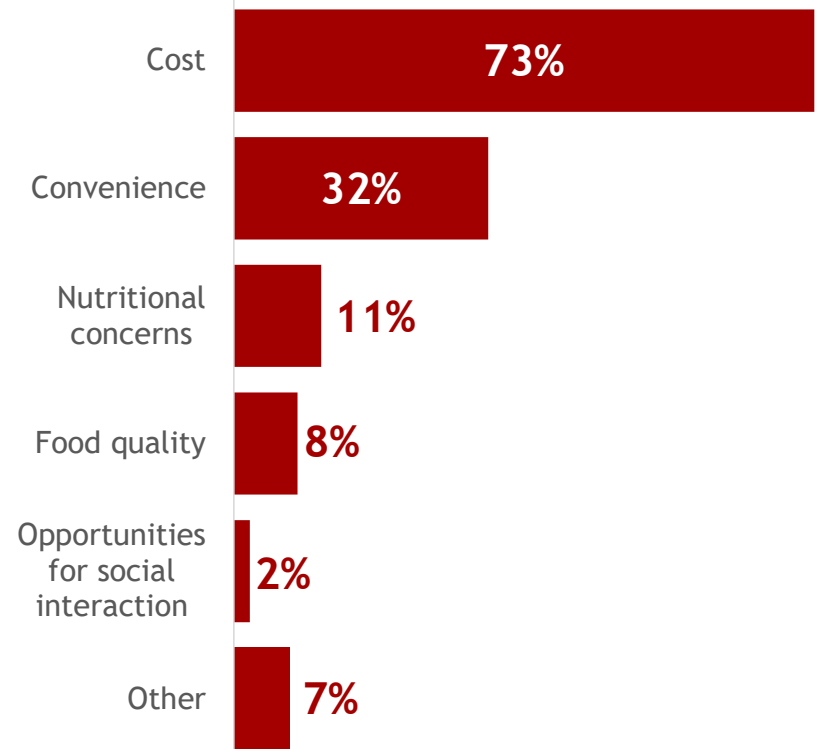


Use of food banks

Frequency of using food banks

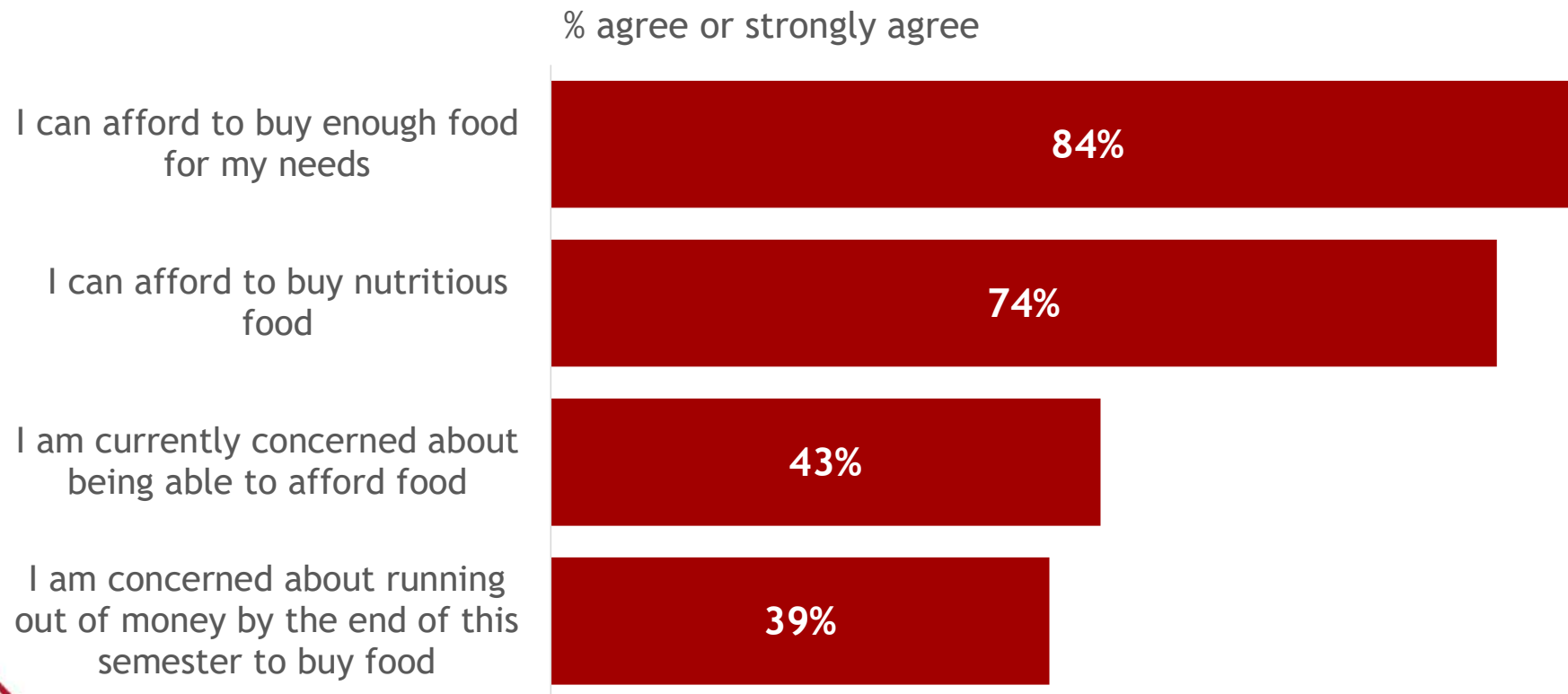


Reasons for using food banks*



* Only those who used food banks since September are included.

Perceptions of current food situation



Closing remarks

Join us for 2027

- 2027 Survey of Graduating Students
- Registration opens in early December 2026.
- Focuses on items such as:
 - Satisfaction with services, professors, etc.
 - Perceptions of growth and development
 - Student finances and debt
 - Post-graduation education and employment plans
 - Evaluation of overall educational experience
- Recording of this presentation will be posted to CUSC-CCREU's YouTube channel in September.
- 2026 Annual General Meeting to be held virtually on Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 12 noon Eastern.
- Stop by CUSC's exhibitor booth at the 2026 CIRPA Conference in Hamilton in October.



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Student insights with a different perspective.

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