

CUSC-Ryerson First Year Student Survey

Highlights of the
2019 Survey Results

Ryerson
University



About the Survey

- Every three years, Ryerson conducts a survey of first-year undergraduate students as part of the Canada University Survey Consortium.
- This student survey is conducted across the country by more than 45 universities. Ryerson has been a member of this group for the past 17 years.
- Students are asked about their **decision to attend Ryerson**, and their **experience upon arriving**.
- In 2019, over 2,000 Ryerson students were contacted, and 651 students completed the survey to an adequate degree – a response rate of 32.6%.
- These results will be posted online at <http://www.ryerson.ca/university-planning>

About the Survey

- Broadly, the respondent group is representative of the first-year undergraduate population in terms of Faculty and full-time or part-time enrolment. Females are somewhat over-represented in the sample.

Response	2019 CUSC Results	%	2019 Institutional Data*	%
Gender				
Male	271	42%	3,929	46%
Female	377	58%	4,604	53%
Other Gender Identity /Not Reported	3	<1%	95	1%
Full-Time/Part-Time				
Full Time	621	95%	8,367	97%
Part Time	30	5%	261	3%
Faculty				
Arts	94	14%	1,219	14%
Communication and Design	109	17%	1,380	16%
Community Services	79	12%	1,252	15%
Engineering and Architectural Science	109	17%	1,250	14%
Science	69	11%	847	10%
Ted Rogers School of Management	191	29%	2,680	31%
Total Respondents	651	100%	8,628	100%

*Figures include First Year Undergraduate Headcounts for Fall 2019 and exclude CE students.



First Year Student Profile

Age, Living and Family



Age: Ryerson first year students reported an average age of 17.8 years.

17: 29% | 18: 65% | 19: 5% | Older: 1%



Living: 74% of respondents lived with parents, guardians or relatives.

Living in: Rented Housing off Campus: 11% | With Parents, Guardians or Relatives: 74% | On-Campus Housing: 12% | Personally Owned Home: 1% | Other: <1%



Transportation: 77% of respondents indicated availability of public transportation was important to their selection of universities.



Family Educational Background: 77% of respondents had parents who attended post-secondary education.

High School or Less: 17% | Incomplete Post-Secondary: 9% | College/CEGEP: 17% | University or Professional School: 35% | Graduate Degree: 17% | Other/Don't Know: 5%

All Universities

18.2
Average Age

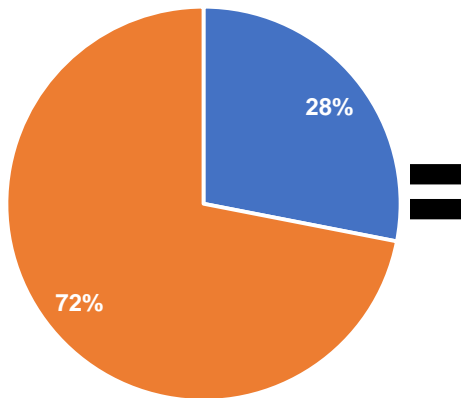
46%
Respondents living with Parents, Guardians, Relatives

50%
Indicated transportation was important.

78%
Had parents who have attended postsecondary

Diversity

- **72%** of undergraduate first year students in 2019 self-reported belonging to a racialized group.
- This compares with a rate of **44%** across Canadian universities participating in the survey.
- **3%** of respondents were international students.



■ Non-Racialized Group ■ Racialized Group

*Respondents could select multiple choices.

Disability and Mental Health

- **21%** of total survey respondents indicated that they had a disability. This approximates the Canada-wide survey average of **24%**. Disabilities can include mental health issues, learning disabilities, mobility impairments and vision impairments, in addition to chronic conditions.

37% of disabilities reported were related to a mental health condition – respondents could select multiple responses.

- The next most common responses were Vision (**17%**), Other (**11%**), and Learning/Memory disabilities (**10%**).
- **16%** of students reporting disabilities, representing **3%** of the overall sample, reported that their disabilities consistently limited their daily activities.

In-Study Employment & Credit Card Use

- **79%** of Ryerson first-year students received a scholarship, financial assistance, or bursary. Of these students, **32%** indicated they would not have been able to attend without it.
- First-year students at Ryerson were inclined to work during their studies, with **77%** of students either employed (37%) or looking for work (40%).
 - **33%** were employed off-campus;
 - **2%** were employed on-campus;
 - **1%** were employed both on- and off-campus;
 - **40%** were not employed, but looking for work; and
 - **23%** were not employed and not looking for work.
- Students who worked reported an average of **14.5** hours per-week, with **57%** reporting that work had a neutral, or positive impact on their academic performance.
- **64%** of Ryerson students reported having at least one credit card. **89%** of students with credit cards paid the full balance each month.

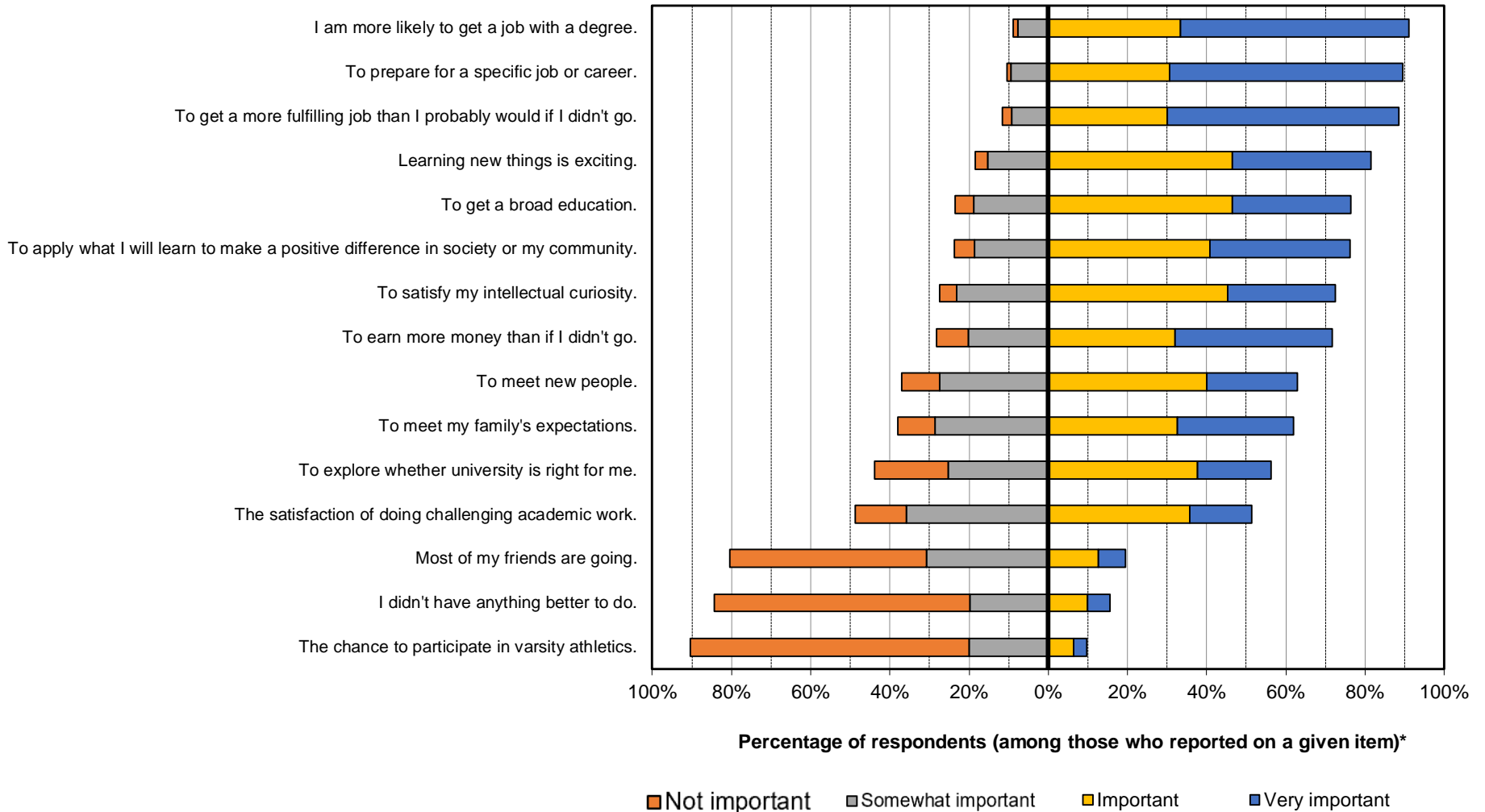


Why They Came

Reasons for Attending University

- Generally, first year students at Ryerson chose a university degree pathway due to a perception that it would advantage them in the labour market.
- Students were most likely to select the following reasons as their top choice for selecting a university pathway:
 - **28%** to prepare for a specific job or career;
 - **17%** to get a more fulfilling job than I probably would if I didn't go;
 - **16%** because I am more likely to get a job with a degree;
 - **9%** to apply what I will learn to make a positive difference in my community;
 - **8%** to earn more money than if I didn't go.
- Friendships and opportunities to participate in varsity athletics were less likely to be selected by students.

Figure A: Reasons for Attending University



NOTE: *100 percent of respondents reported on each item.

Reasons for Choosing Ryerson

- First year students at Ryerson were most likely to select Ryerson due a particular academic program of interest, the reputation of the university, or the city in which it's located.
- Of note, Ryerson first year students were significantly more likely than those at other institutions to cite factors related to the city's urban location, and experiential education.

I chose Ryerson because....



Of the city and/or town it's in

Ryerson	All Universities
75%	60%



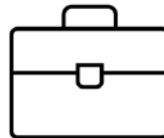
Availability of public transportation

Ryerson	All Universities
77%	50%



I wanted to live close to home

Ryerson	All Universities
59%	45%

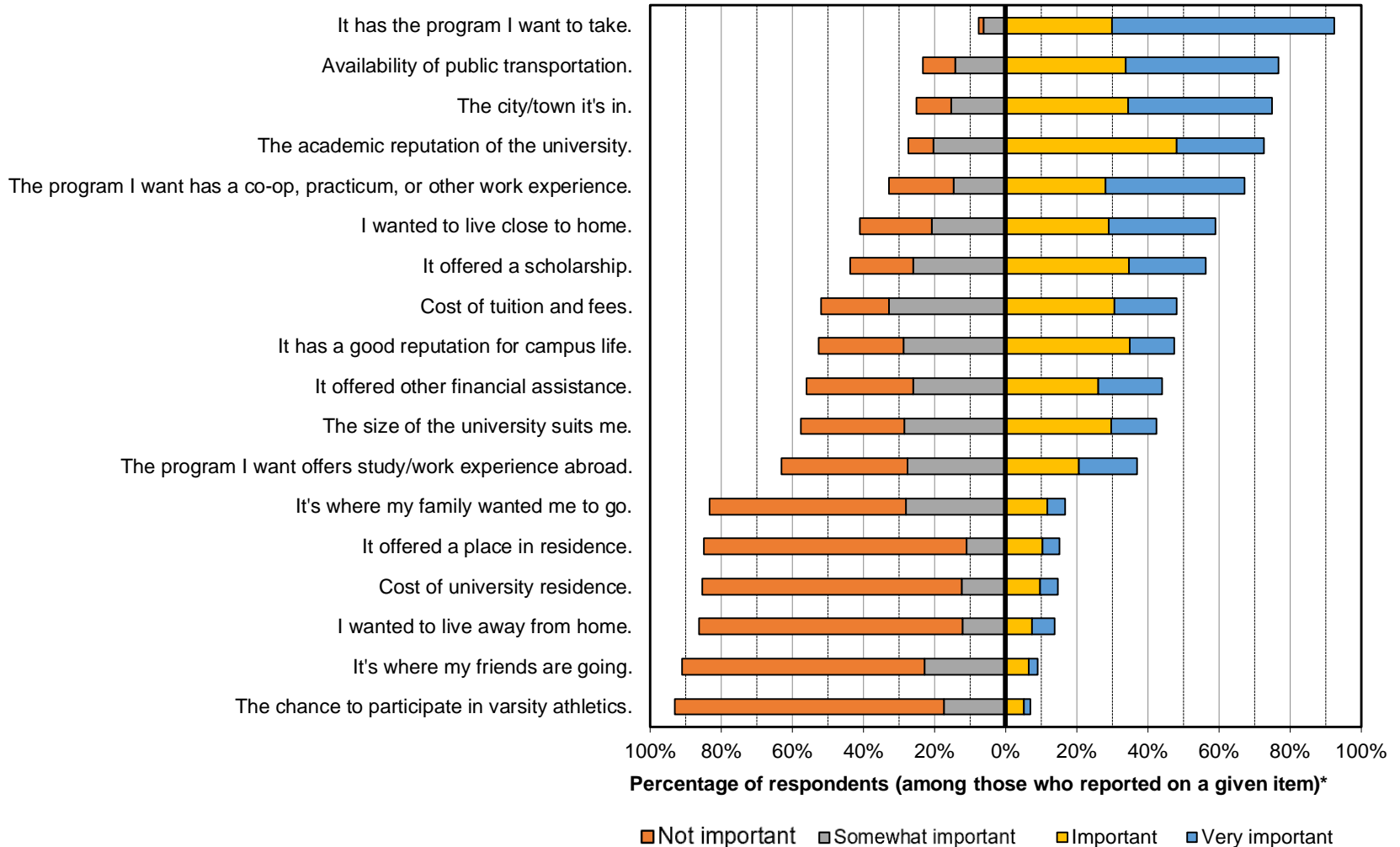


The program I want has co-op, practicum or other work experience

Ryerson	All Universities
67%	51%

- Students were less likely to come to Ryerson relative to other institutions because they wanted to move away from home, they were offered a spot in residence, or for study abroad opportunities.

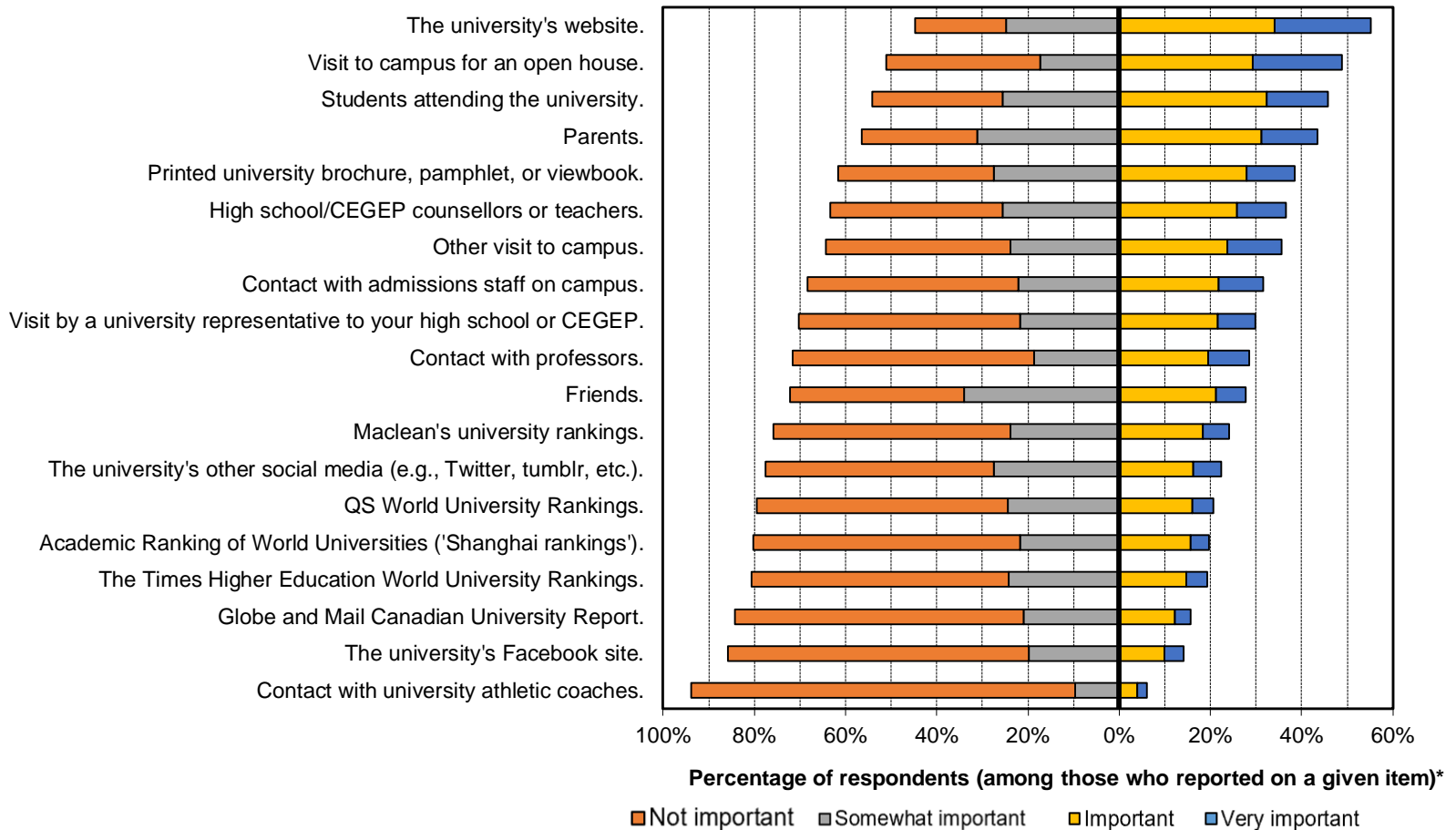
Reasons for Choosing Ryerson



NOTE: *100 percent of respondents reported on each item.

Factors that Influenced Student Decisions to Attend

- In making their decision to attend Ryerson, first-year students tended to use university resources (e.g., the website, a campus visit, or a piece of promotional material), or figures in their own lives (e.g., parents, teachers, contacts currently attending Ryerson).



NOTE: *100 percent of respondents reported on each item.



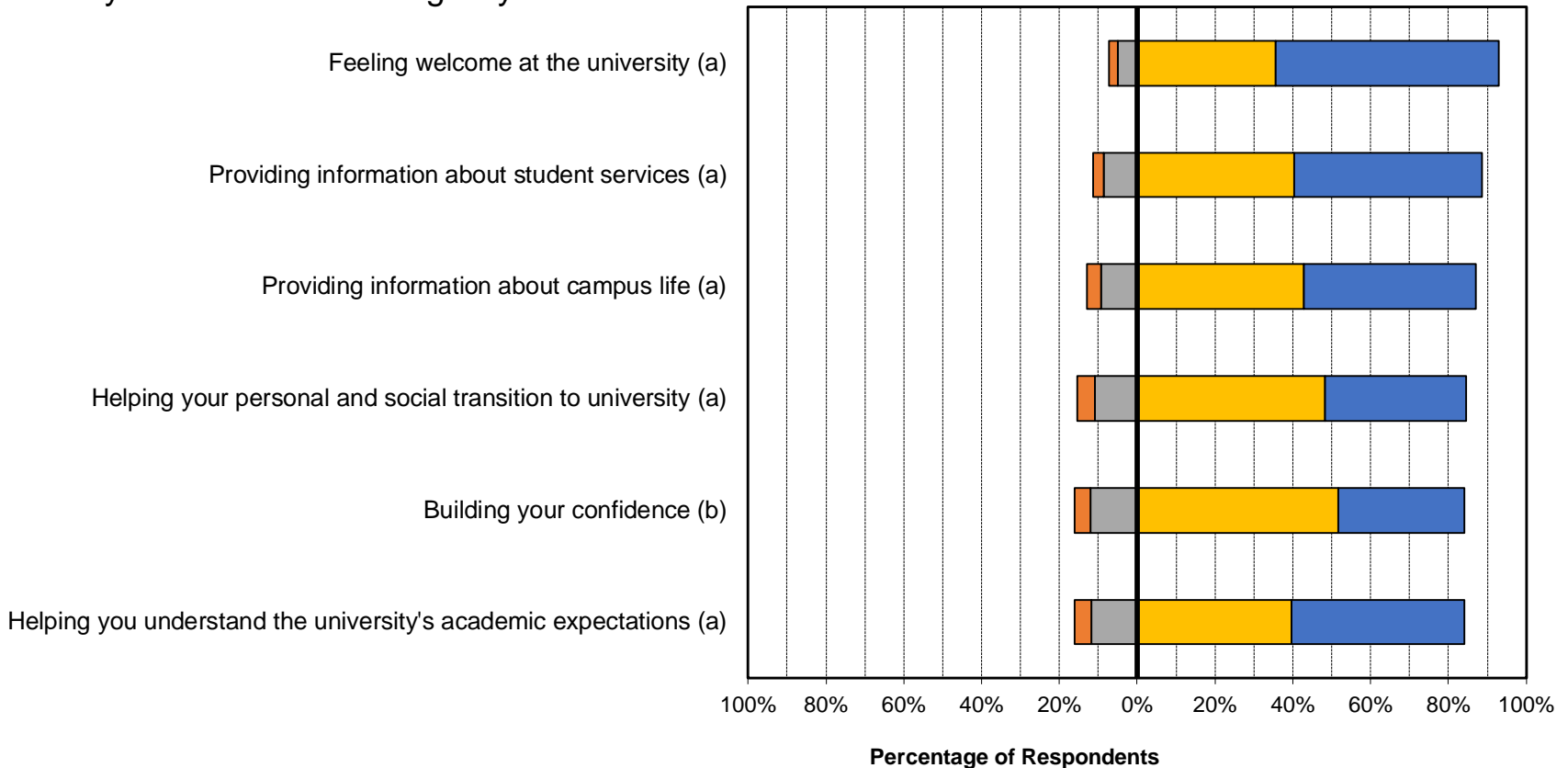
Transition to University

Transitioning to University

- Most respondents reported a successful transition to Ryerson, with comfort finding their way around campus, choosing programs, and more.
- **94%** of students indicated they were satisfied with the degree to which they felt welcomed at orientation.
- **81%** of students indicated they were able to get into all the courses they wanted.
- Broadly, **nearly all** survey respondents were willing to put in a lot of effort into their university experience. Over **8 in 10** indicated that they went to all their classes most of the time, felt their classes were interesting, and that their course load was manageable.
- While a majority of students indicated that they could deal with stress and felt like they had good study habits, greater numbers of students expressed doubt about these statements than other transition factors.

Satisfaction with Orientation

- 72% of Ryerson first-year students participated in orientation, and the vast majority of these participants were satisfied with their overall experience. Among those participating in orientation activities, respondents indicated that the experience helped their transition to Ryerson in the following ways:



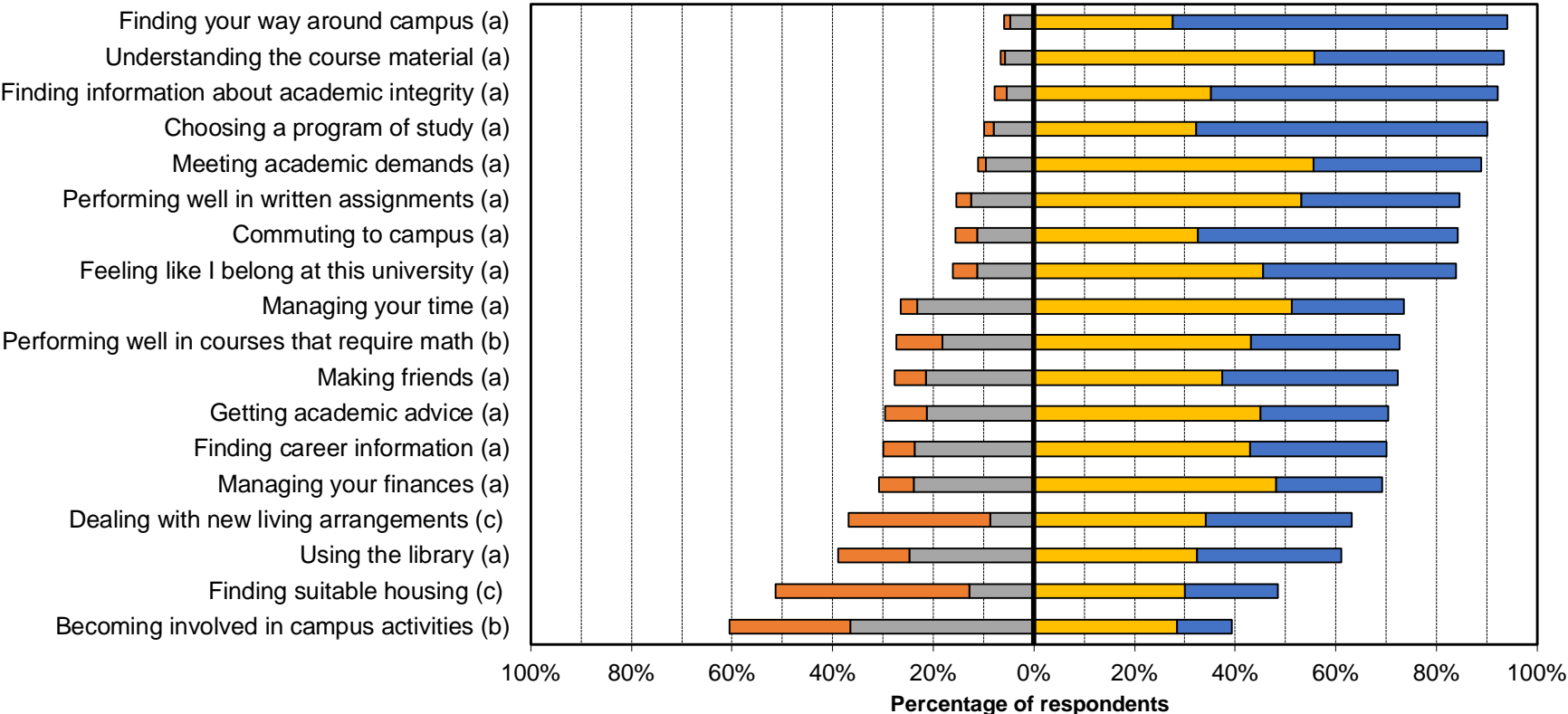
(a) Approximately 3% of respondents did not report on this item

(b) Approximately 7% of respondents did not report on this item

■ Very dissatisfied
 ■ Somewhat dissatisfied
 ■ Somewhat satisfied
 ■ Very satisfied

Success in Transitioning to

- Students rated their success in transition to various aspects of university life. At Ryerson, first-year students were successfully able to navigate campus and understand course material, but reported less success with finding affordable housing and becoming involved in campus activities.

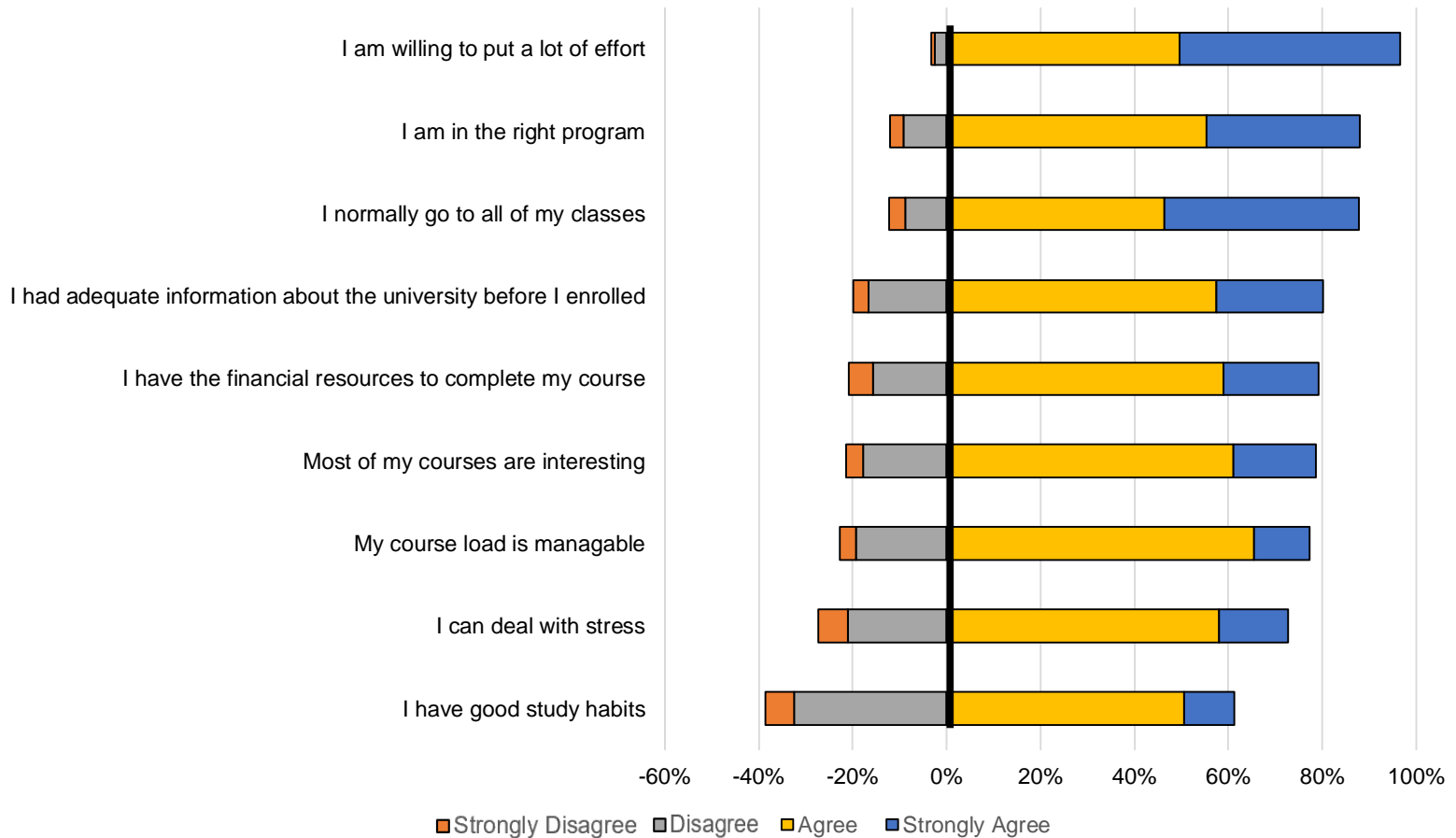


(a) 90.0 to 100.0% of respondents reported on this item.
 (b) 80.0 to 89.9% of respondents reported on this item.
 (c) 50.0 to 59.9% of respondents reported on this item

None Very little Some Very Much

Student Engagement and Personal Resources

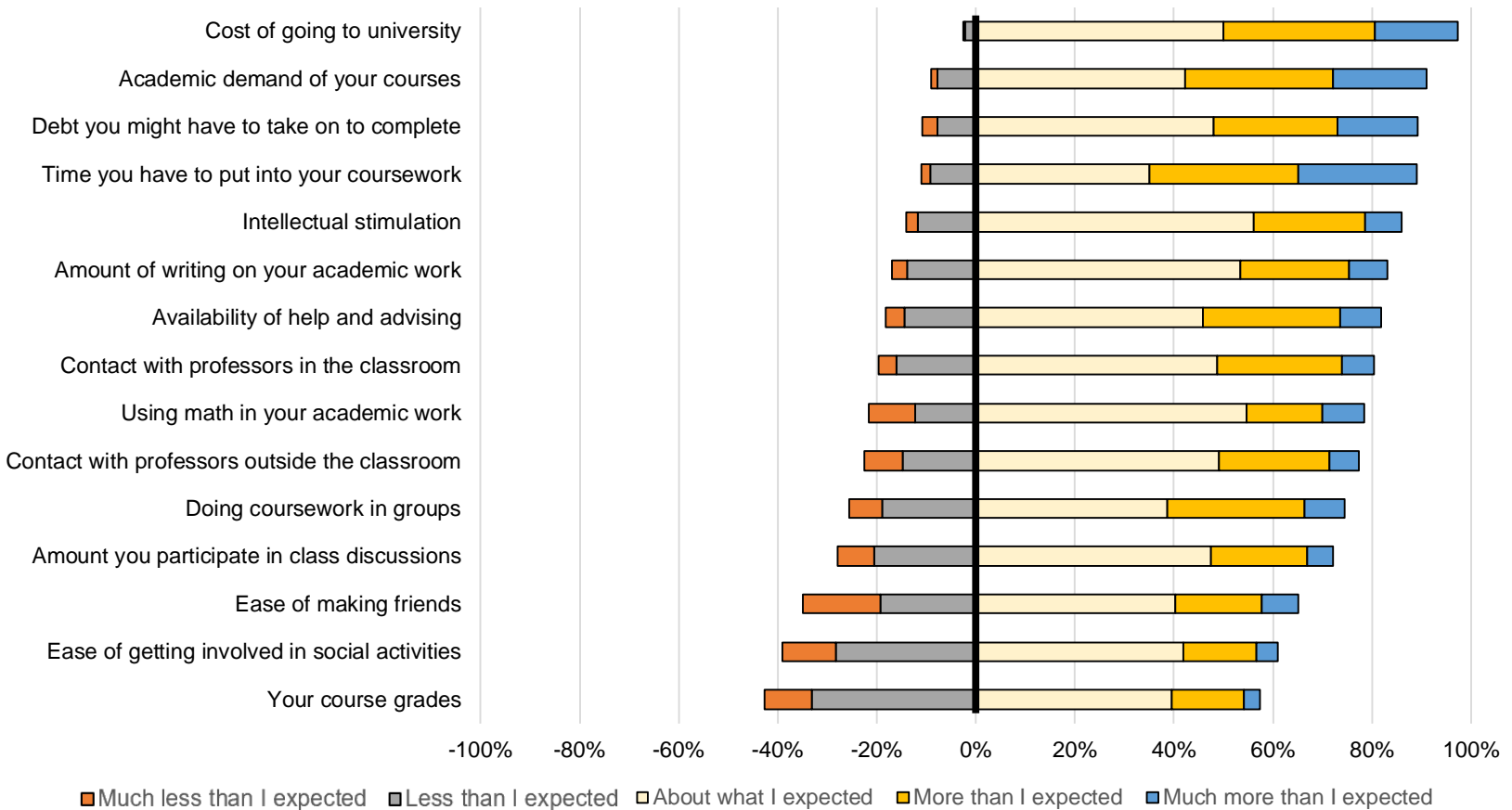
- Students were asked to rate their level of agreement with various statements about their experience at Ryerson.



NOTE: *100 percent of respondents reported on each item.

Expectations vs. Reality

- Students were asked to rate what they expected of campus life compared to the reality they experienced in their first year. Costs, debt, and academic rigour all exceeded expectations, while grades and ease of social involvement fell short of expectations.



NOTE: *100 percent of respondents reported on each item.



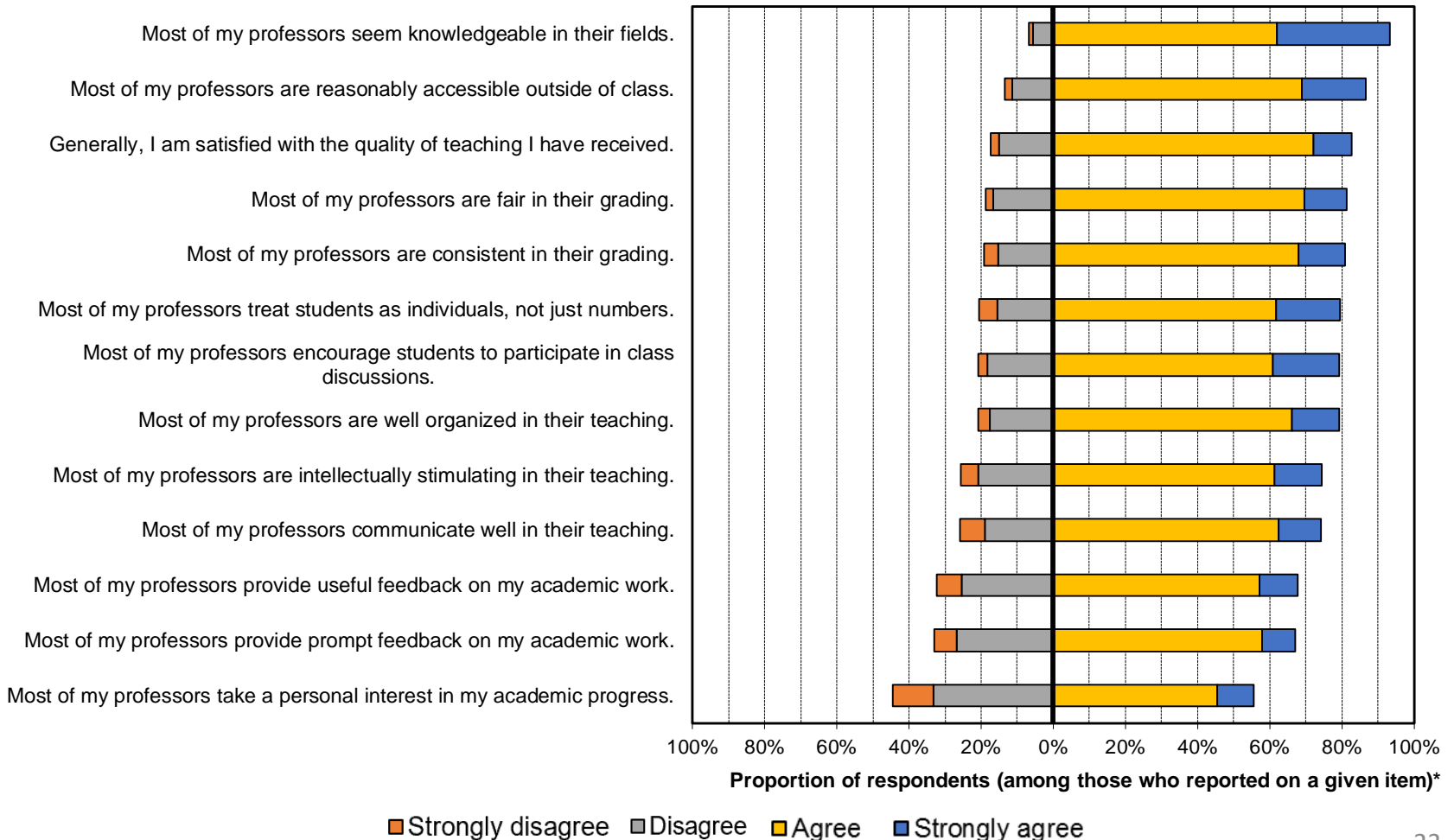
Evaluation of Experience

Satisfaction with the Ryerson Experience

- **90%** of first year students indicated they were satisfied with their decision to attend Ryerson, with **80%** of students indicating they would be willing to recommend Ryerson to others.
- **80%** of students felt that they had the right amount of information about the university before they enrolled.
- **91%** of students indicated they planned to return next year, and about **7 in 10** students felt that their degree was worth the cost.
- Students were broadly satisfied with teaching at Ryerson, giving high marks the qualifications, knowledge, and availability of teaching faculty.
- Compared to other items, fewer first-year students felt that professors took a personal interest in their academic progress, although the proportion of students agreeing with this statement was more than half.

Satisfaction with Teaching

- Students were asked to rate their level of agreement with various statements about teaching, and indicated broad levels of satisfaction.



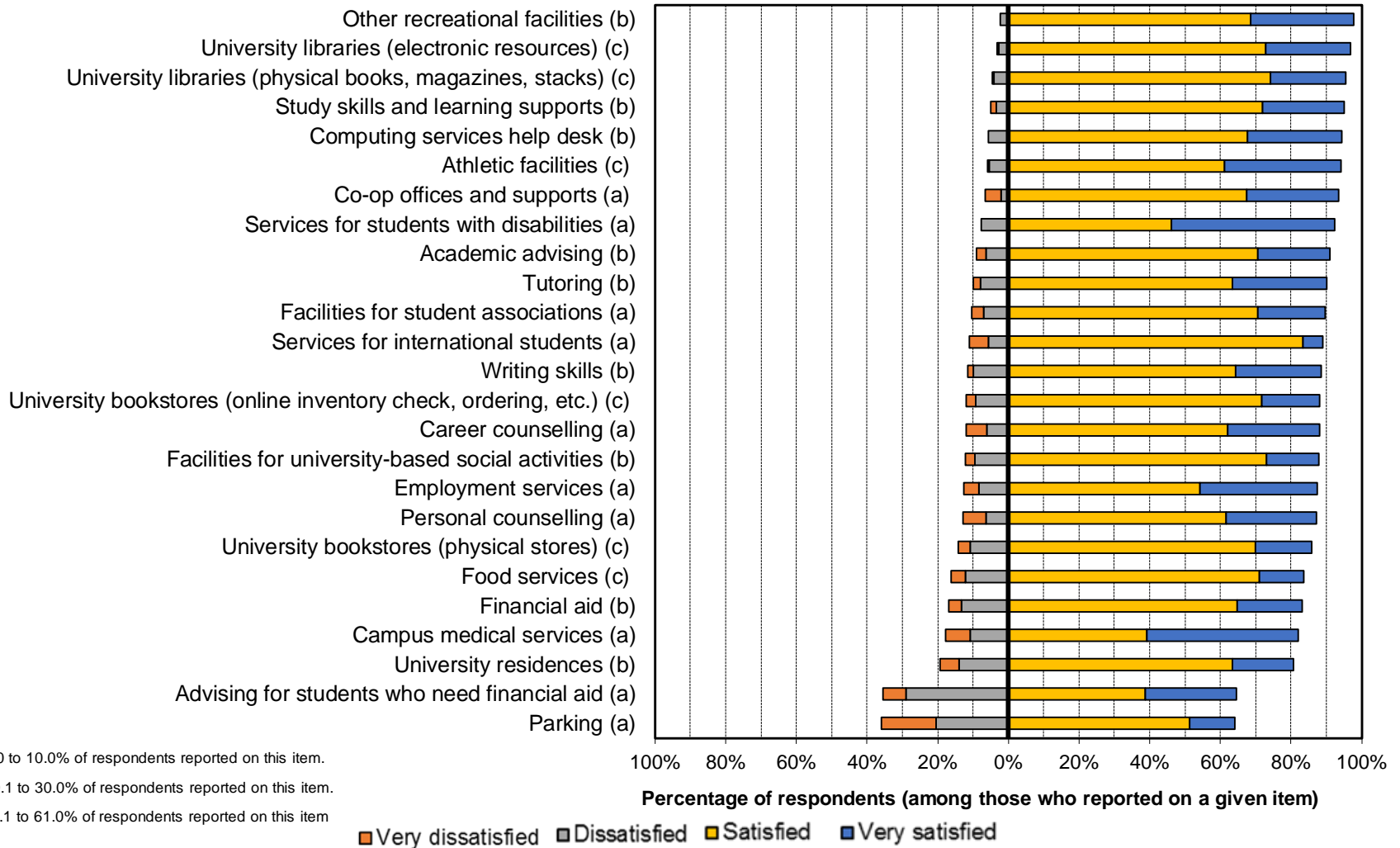
NOTE: *100 percent of respondents reported on each item.

Services For Students

- The most utilized campus services were the bookstore (**61%**), digital library resources (**45%**), and food services (**40%**).
- Employment services and campus medical services were used by only **4%** of survey respondents.
- Users of various services were generally satisfied with their experience, with 80% or more reporting satisfaction with almost all services.

Satisfaction with Student

- Students were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with various student services on campus.





Conclusions

Conclusions

- In 2019, Ryerson first year students were a diverse group, who are broadly satisfied with their experience at Ryerson so far.
- Ryerson's urban location poses benefits and challenges. Students were more likely to choose Ryerson because of its location, and proximity to transit, than other universities. However, they also faced challenges getting involved on-campus and finding affordable housing.
- Students were satisfied with the teaching, learning environments, opportunities for experiential education, and student services offered at Ryerson.

Further Information

- Questions and comments on these survey results can be directed to the University Planning Office
 - Phone: 416-979-5033
 - Email: upo@ryerson.ca