

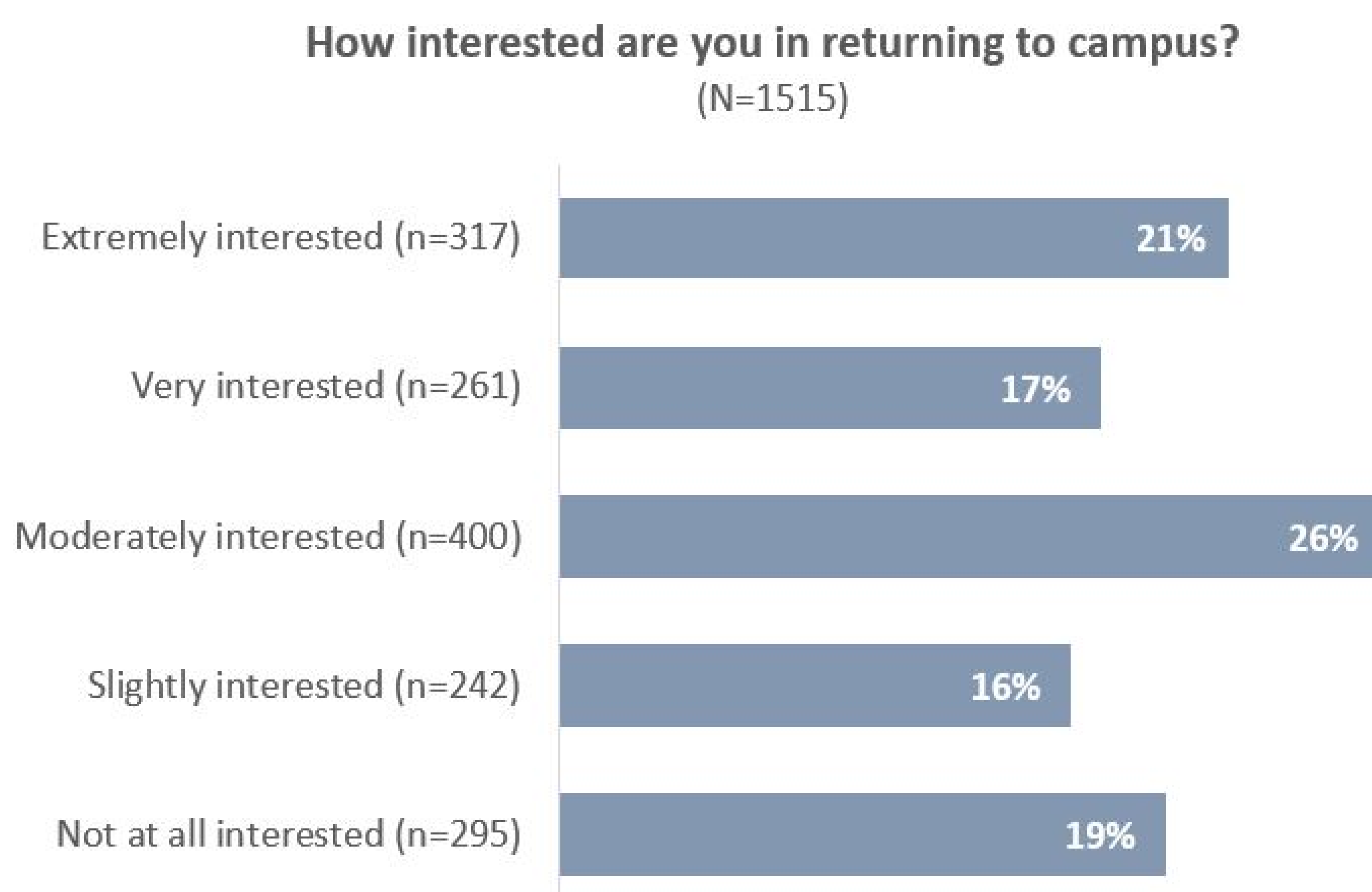
# RISC Survey Results

## Custom Questions Summary

The AVC community was given the opportunity to ask ten custom questions within the Revealing Institutional Strengths and Challenges (RISC) survey administration in Spring 2021. Students were asked several closed-ended questions about their most significant challenges, course type preferences, use of services, and their interest in returning to campus. Additionally, students were asked an open-ended question about their interest in returning to campus. This report presents the themes that emerged from the analysis the open-ended questions.

### Returning to Campus

Students were asked about their interest in returning to campus. While the majority of survey participants said they were moderately interested in returning, students were somewhat evenly distributed in the other categories. The following sections will go into further detail about what might keep students returning to campus.

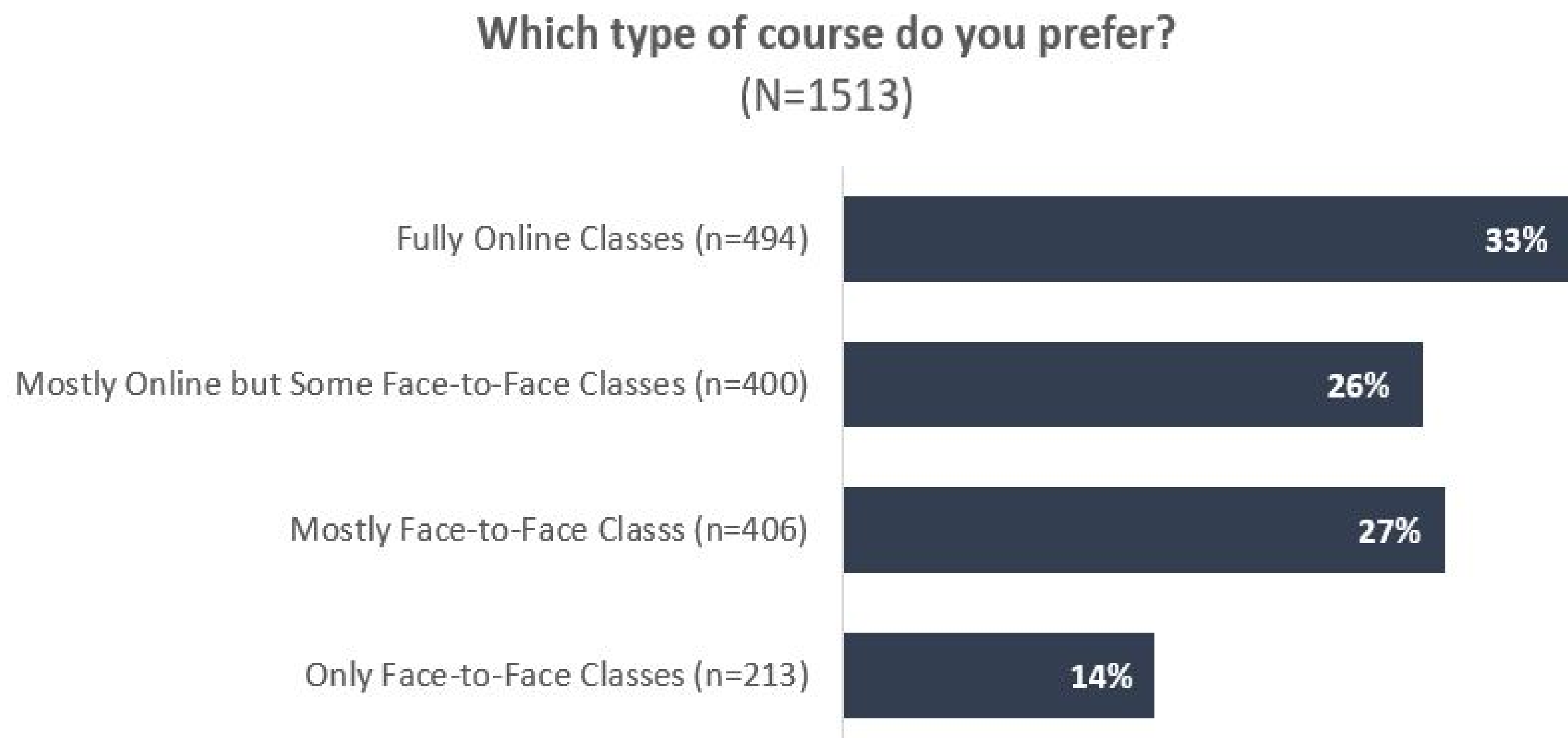


# Campus Concerns

## Online Preference

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At the time of the survey, the majority of students preferred taking online or a combination of online and face-to-face courses. The breakdown of students' preferred modality is presented below:



The comments from the open-ended portion are presented below. Students gave us more details on why having the option to take online courses is important to them.

### Online learning allows more flexibility

"I think I perform better online vs going into a classroom and learning in person. It is also convenient to be able to take more courses online and time is more flexible due to going to class is just a click away for Zoom and I can get my work done and be better focused."

"Nothing would stop me, but I prefer the classes online and feel that I've been able to learn better than I ever did in person."

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### Online courses accommodate current work schedule

"I have a full-time job and taking the rest of my classes online would benefit me so that I can obtain my diploma. My schedule conflicts with a lot of the classes given on campus and it would benefit me more to take my classes online."

"Also, at this time in my life, I would much prefer an online course than one that requires going to campus especially since the need to drive to campus for classes would additionally hinder my availability to take courses due to a hectic work schedule."

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### Improved school-life balance

"...I'm more comfortable learning from home, it helps me concentrate more without distractions or unnecessary things, keeping my life balanced, and able to feel comfortable."

"During this year, I got more used to taking online classes. I enjoyed how I can balance my online classes and life. I can manage my time well and more flexibly."

## Campus Concerns (Continued)

Additionally, students identified a few roadblocks that might be keeping them from enrolling at AVC:

### **Class availability / scheduling**

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"Schedules aren't flexible and there won't be any class recording or PowerPoints, notes available. I love online classes."

"...Courses for my degree are currently not being offered anymore...need instructors to teach these courses."

"Not enough class time range therefore it's harder to work into my schedule, that was one of the reasons I had to drop one of my classes for spring semester.."

### **Feelings of anxiety about reintegration**

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"COVID restrictions it's too much to go through. Social interactions may be hard on many due to not being in big crowds for almost a year so that can be big on us."

"My anxiety has gotten worse over COVID-19. If I don't go, it'll be because I can't handle the socializing."

### **On-campus parking**

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"Convinced of staying home and doing online courses. Not having to look for parking then walking to my car in dark parking lot, due to having to take evening courses due to work schedule."

"It's not safe to return, and parking is a nightmare. The commute to campus from where I live is also far. Online is great."

### **In-person preference**

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"Face to face classes are more effective to me, it's easier to have contact with other students and professors."

"Face to face courses, SI tutoring sessions and using the library to work on hw/study."

### **Concerns of hate crimes towards Asian community**

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"As an Asian American, I fear returning to campus due to my ethnicity because of how people treat Asians during Covid19. I also fear returning to campus due to Covid 19 and the lack of health and safety concerns on campus."

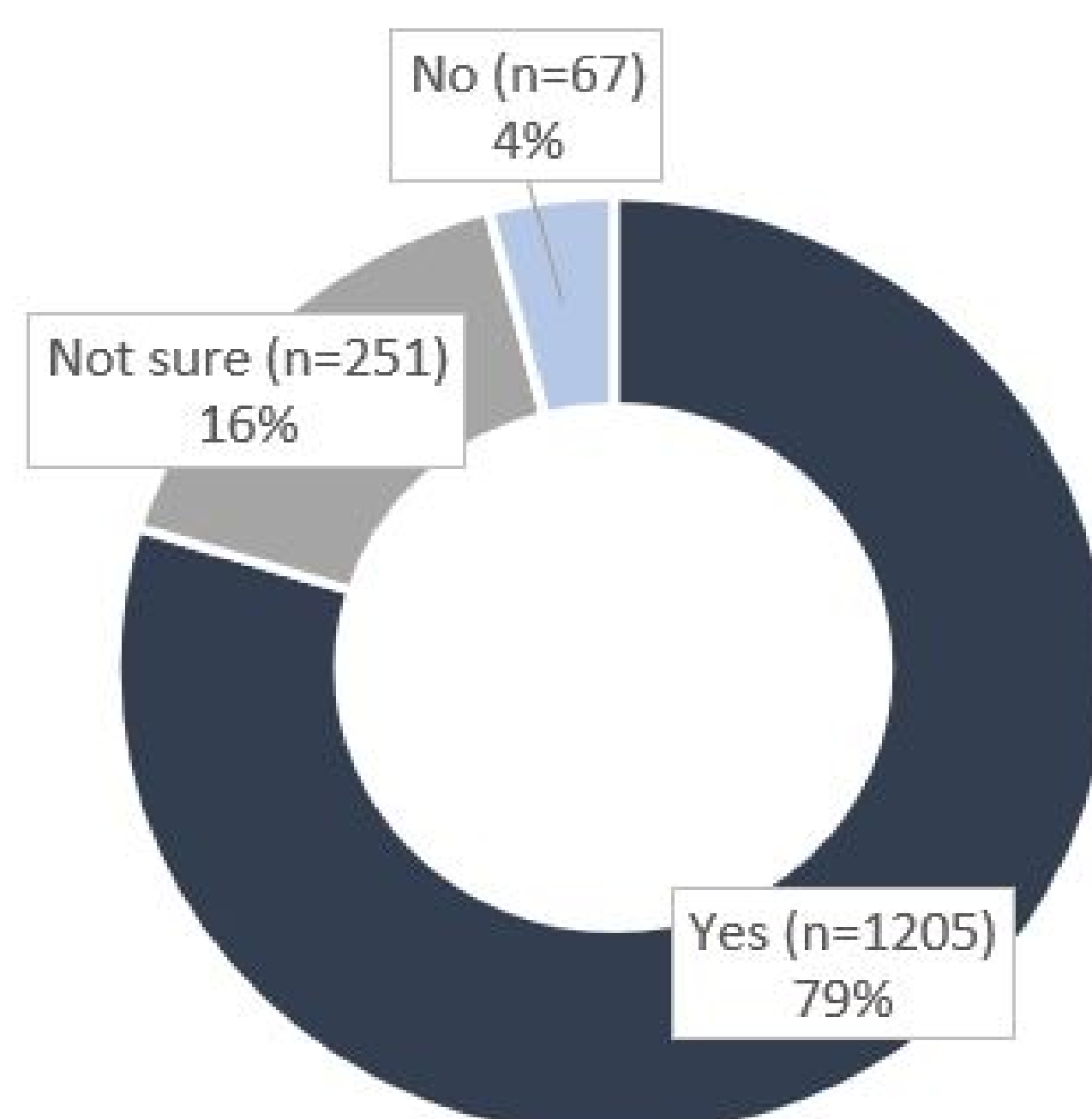
# Health Concerns

## COVID related concerns on campus

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The majority of students stated that they knew where to find AVC's latest COVID-19 information:

Do you know where to get the latest AVC COVID-19 information? (N=1523)



However, students revealed they continued to have concerns about COVID-19 on campus in their open responses. Presented are the themes that emerged in their responses related to campus:

### COVID-19 cases

"Another big spike or wave of Covid-19 might keep me from returning to campus."

"The increase in COVID cases in addition to the lack of accurate info about it."

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### Vaccinations on campus

"Allowing students to roam around without mask and not making it required to get the vaccine before when its allowed for all of us to get it."

"I need Safety, social distancing, and 100 percent vaccination and negative covid test from everyone in campus. Not having this will keep me from returning to campus."

"Requirements of a vaccination. There is NO way I am getting a shot..."

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### Safety protocols on campus

"Continued emergence of COVID cases, Inadequate health and safety procedures, Safety concerns, time and home-life restrictions."

"At this moment is the pandemic and not knowing to well how the school plans on setting up safety standards."

# Health Concerns (Continued)

## Concerns of exposure to COVID-19

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Students also revealed that they preferred taking online courses due to possible exposure on campus. Additionally, students said they did not want to risk their own health or their family members' if exposed to COVID-19.

### Exposure concerns

"I am now pregnant with my first child. As safety purposes not to be exposed, I rather have online classes. And I feel good about having time here at home to take my courses."

"The worry of infected students and bringing it home."

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### Risking the health of their family members

"The possible exposure to COVID 19. I have immunocompromised family members that I would not want to possibly infect."

"I have a very big family that I live with, and risking my their health will prevent me from returning to campus."

"I'm trying to protect myself from covid as much as I can. It's not a good idea to be back on campus because Some people have old people in their houses, and they don't want to lose it. I already lose 3 family members, I dont want to lose more."

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### Other health concerns

"I am immunocompromised and I do not want to take the risk of getting sick. I'd prefer to stay taking online classes. AVC should still have fully online classes available for students with disabilities that way we don't have to feel forced to go back to campus and be around people that could possibly get us sick."

"I have an autoimmune disease and will not return until things with the virus have come down more than they have already."

# Personal Hardships

The pandemic has further revealed the multitude of hardships our students face. Students identified the following challenges of returning back to campus:

## Commute to campus / transportation

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### Commute is too far

"My commute because I live approximately 40 minutes away from campus, and I only have my instructional driving permit at the moment."

"Commute - lot of gas to pay."

### Does not have adequate transportation to campus

"The only thing that would keep me from being able to return to campus is if I don't have reliable transportation."

"That I have no transportation because we only have one car and my mom needs it to drive to work."

## Financial / housing insecurity

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"I have financial problems due to Covid-19 because where I work have been cutting hours. I work for 11 hours a week..."

"The only thing that could keep me from returning would be because of financial problems."

"Daycare for my toddlers. Possibly homelessness. Financial help."

## Familial responsibilities / childcare

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"...not having a reliable baby sister, classes online have made things less stressful for me. I am able to do school from home and take care of my family at the same time, it has made it much easier for me to manage things at home."

"Well first off my family owns their own business which I then am obligated for some reason to help which then leads to me having to help out people and work while in class trying to do a presentation."

"Having to provide for my family and care for them, because I am the oldest."

## Balancing work and school schedule

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"I don't live in AV. Santa Clarita is where I live. I'm a little hesitant to make a drive all the way out there. I feel like online classes have helped me balance out work and school."

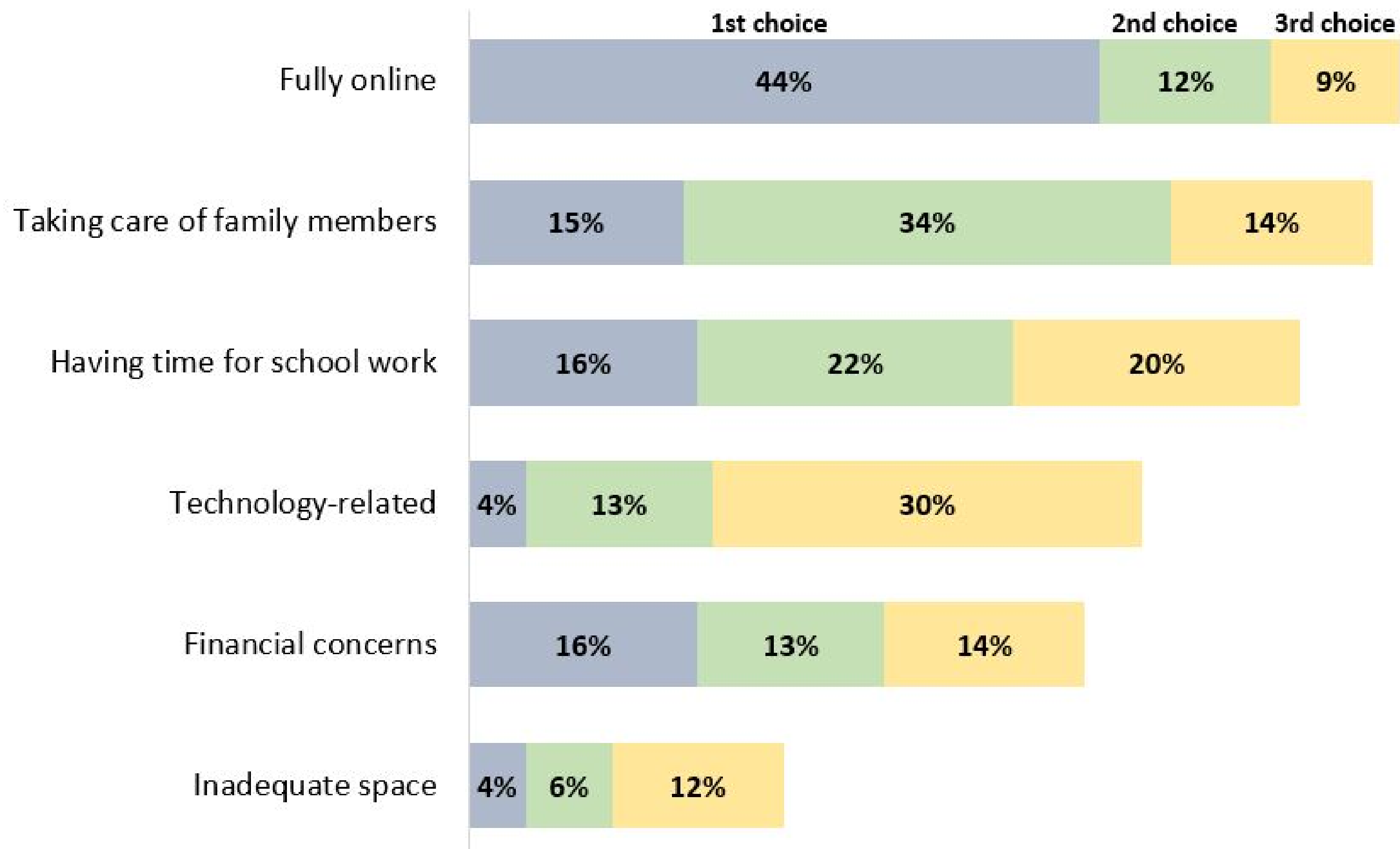
"...Also, at this time in my life, I would much prefer an online course than one that requires going to campus especially since the need to drive to campus for classes would additionally hinder my availability to take courses due to hectic work schedule."

"Trying to make time to go to classes while working fulltime and taking care of my family."

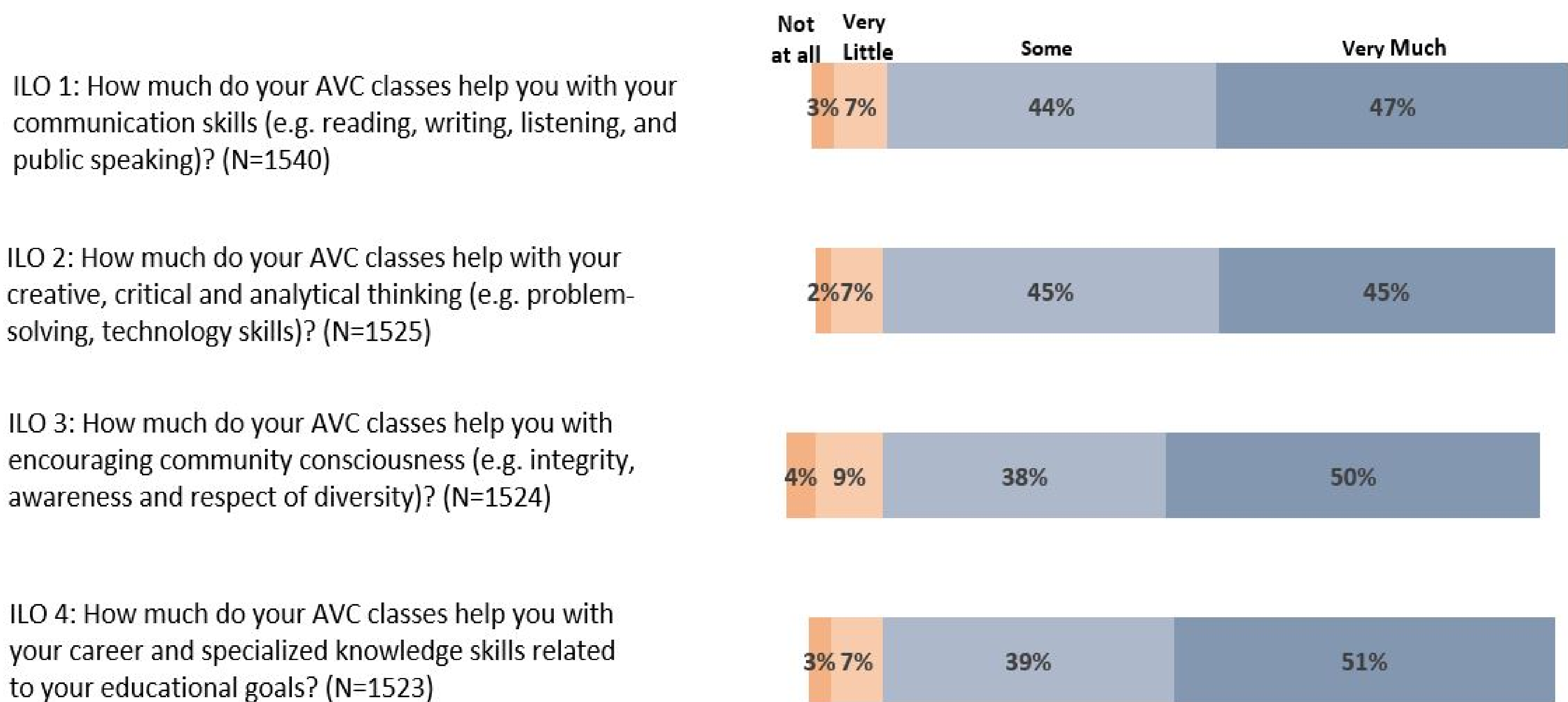
# Closed-ended Responses

Students were asked to rank the greatest challenges they faced in the past year. The following table displays their greatest challenges.

During the past year, what were your greatest challenges? Please rank the challenges listed below with the most challenging at the top. (N=1532)



Despite the challenges that arose, most students said their classes have helped develop the skills needed to succeed, as identified by AVC's Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs).



## Closed-ended Responses (Continued)

Students were also asked about the services they were using at AVC. Presented are the services students are using:

