

RSP 2: Student Perception of Academic Success Summarized Report

Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association
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Introduction

The Representative Survey Platform (RSP) survey on Academic Success, aiming to learn about student's academic experience, received a total of 660 responses. The main goals of this survey were to:

- Learn how students define academic success.
- Explore barriers students face to achieving academic success.
- Understand what students need to be successful in achieving academic success.

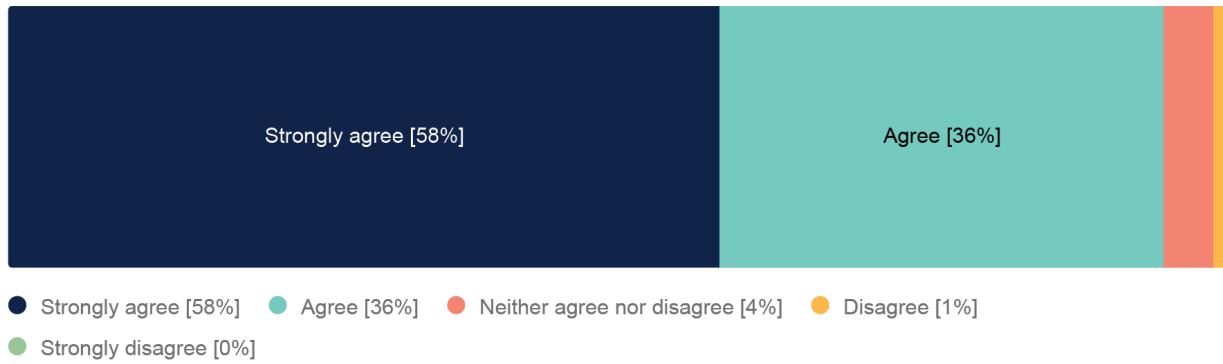
Due to an error in survey design, respondents were asked to select their top four from a list of options in a few survey questions. Since they were required to select four options to continue the survey, this may have resulted in respondents selecting options even though not all were relevant to their experience. Questions where this question design was utilized are denoted using an asterisk (*) reference.

Key Findings

Feelings About Academic Success

- Most students either strongly agreed (58%) or agreed (36%) that achieving academic success was important to them (Figure 1)

Figure 1. Responses to the statement “Achieving academic success is very important to me”



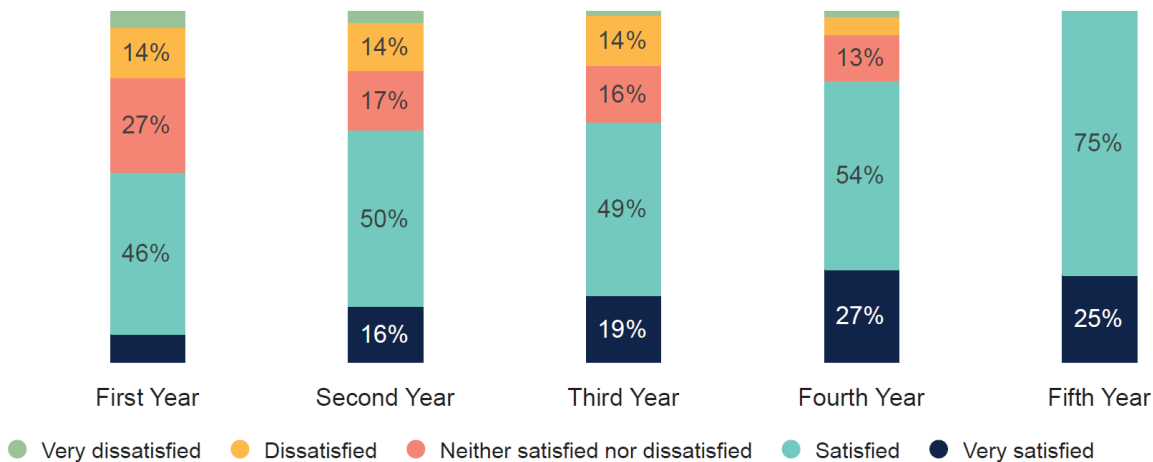
- Most students are either very satisfied (18%) or satisfied (50%) with the level of academic success they have achieved (Figure 2)

Figure 2. Satisfaction with the level of academic success respondents have achieved



- First-year students are the least satisfied, with 8% selecting very satisfied and 46% selecting satisfied (Figure 3)
- Fourth-year students are the most satisfied, with 27% selecting very satisfied and 54% selecting satisfied (Figure 3)

Figure 3. Satisfaction with the level of academic success respondents have achieved separated by respondent academic level



Factors Impacting Academic Success

The tools and strategies that students found most helpful in achieving academic success were*:



76% Attending Class Regularly



50% Taking Notes in Class



64% Practice Question Sets



64% Studying Alone

48% of students either strongly agreed or agreed that they rely on used and/or reduced cost textbooks to support their academic success (Figure 4)

Figure 4. Agreement with the statement “I rely on used and/or reduced cost textbooks to support my academic success”



- Strongly agree [22%]
- Agree [26%]
- Neither agree nor disagree [23%]
- Disagree [15%]
- Strongly disagree [13%]

The *academic factors* that make it most difficult for students to succeed in their courses were*:



68% Teaching Style



66% Difficult Content



60% Unengaging Instructor



57% Unclear Expectations

The *personal factors* that make it most difficult for students to succeed in their courses were*:



86% Balancing Schoolwork and other Responsibilities



53% Mental Health Concerns

as well as lack of motivation (**78%**) and time management (**73%**).

The *aspects of courses* that students struggle with the most were*:



67% Keeping up with Assignment Workload

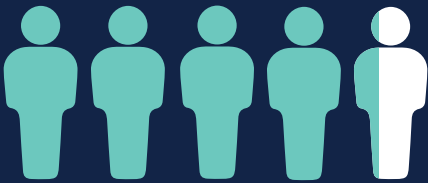


47% Good Exam Prep Strategies

as well as studying for tests and exams (**59%**) and balancing assignment deadlines (**51%**).

Supports for Academic Success

Students were most aware of these academic resources:



89% Academic Advisors



56% Student Success Office

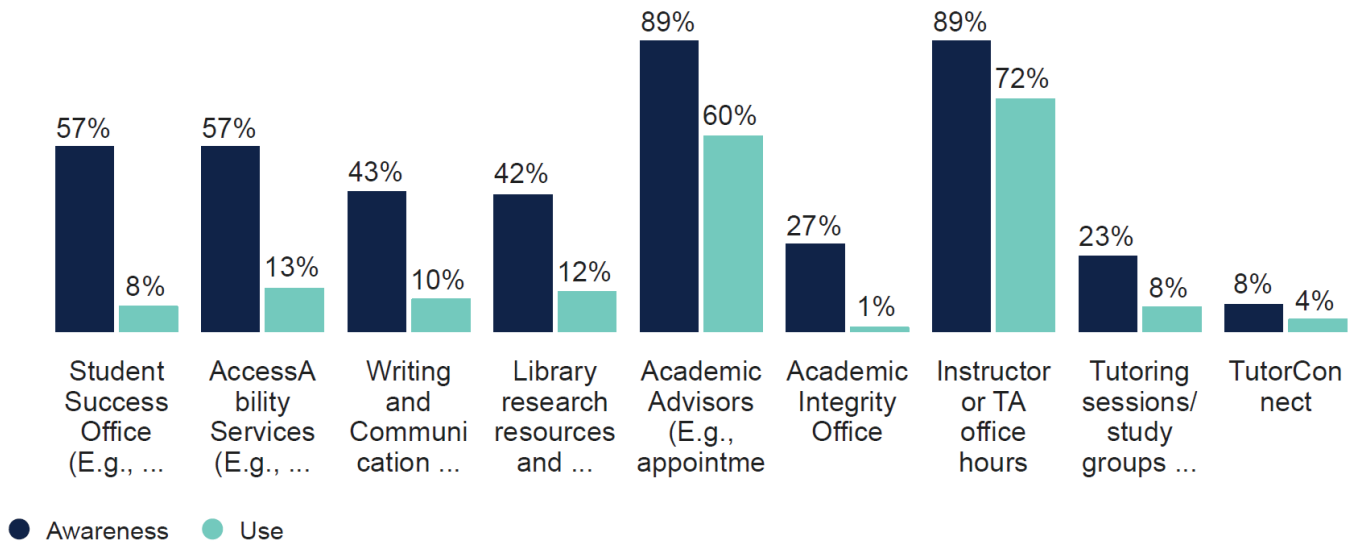
as well as Instructor/TA Office Hours (**89%**) and AccessAbility Services (**56%**).

In comparison to student's awareness of services, students:

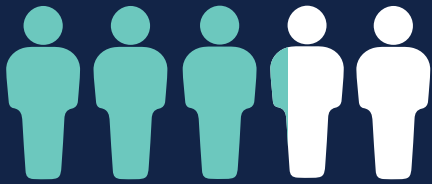
Top differences between student awareness and access of services (Figure 5):

- **49%** Student Success Office
- **44%** Accessibility Services
- **33%** Writing and Communication Center
- **30%** Library Research Resources
- **29%** Academic Advisors

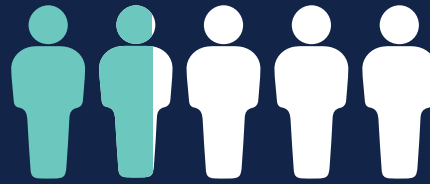
Figure 5. Respondent awareness vs. use of academic support resources on campus



Factors preventing students from accessing academic supports:



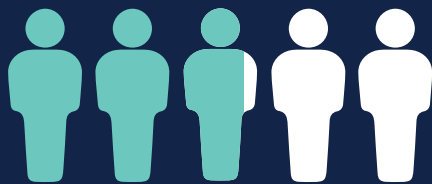
63% Lack of Time



37% Service Hours not Aligning with their Availability

as well as not thinking they would help (**42%**).

Most positive supports impacting student academic success*:



58% Understanding Content



47% Learning Better Time Management

as well as learning better study habits (**51%**).

Further Insights

The full RSP 2: Academic Success Survey Report can also be found on wusa.ca, complete with the expanded key findings and corresponding recommendations.