HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student Campus Climate Survey Results

Fall 2024

Office of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness

Executive Summary

Hagerstown Community College's Student Campus Climate Survey was developed to gather valuable data to enhance the understanding of students' perceptions and experiences at the institution as they relate to campus climate and diversity. The content of the survey encompasses student experiences at HCC, engagement in the campus community and with campus services, and self-perception and stressors. The survey was administered to credit students in Fall 2024 who met the criteria for participation. Over 3,000 students were invited to participate and 857 completed the survey for a response rate of 29%. Respondents were asked to provide information about their HCC enrollment as well as demographics. The survey contained multiple choice questions as well as open-ended questions about the HCC community.

"The campus and community are calming, peaceful and positive."
"I feel safe and I think that says more than anything else."
"I am an older, non-traditional student, and I have always felt embraced at HCC."

Campus Climate and Student Experience – Respondents agreed most strongly that the HCC environment facilitates learning and personal growth, HCC works to create a supportive environment, and that they would recommend HCC to others. Additionally, respondents agreed that HCC professors empower students to learn and believe in their potential and that they feel safe on campus. Open-ended questions regarding the HCC community had a variety of responses, many of which indicated positive feelings toward the community in general (such as "Welcoming" and "Comfortable"). Many respondents also provided suggestions for changes that would improve the sense of community in their view, including more or different activities, modifications to physical facilities, and extended open hours.

Student Engagement and Activity – Respondents were asked to report the frequency of their participation in various inter- and intra-personal activities related to campus climate. Respondents most frequently applied concepts from coursework to real life situations and felt challenged to think more broadly about important issues. The least frequent activities were participation in conversations challenging discrimination and taking steps to educate others about social issues. Student utilization of HCC services was also measured, and respondents reported that Registration & Student Support was the most frequently utilized service, followed by Financial Aid Advising.

Self-Perception and Stressors – When comparing themselves to the average person their age, respondents rate their interpersonal traits (such as ability to work cooperatively with diverse people) higher than personal traits (such as drive to achieve). Respondents rate themselves as average or above average on most traits in both groups. Finances, personal mental health, and the ability to complete graduation requirements as planned were identified as the most significant sources of stress.

Purpose

HCC's Student Campus Climate Survey was developed to gather valuable data to enhance the understanding of students' perceptions and experiences at the institution as they relate to campus climate and diversity. The content of the survey encompasses student experiences at HCC, engagement in the campus community and with campus services, and self-perception and stressors. The results of this survey will assist the HCC community in continuing to foster an inclusive and welcoming college environment while nurturing a culture of collaboration and respect among all members of the campus community. HCC aspires to be an encouraging, diverse, and supportive college community. The Student Campus Climate Survey plays a crucial role in assessing progress in meeting goals and supporting the college mission.

Data from this survey will:

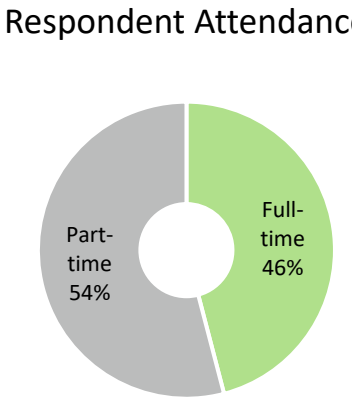
- Set a baseline to measure overall progress on campus climate.
- Identify the college's strengths and areas for improvement.
- Shape our future campus climate goals and programming.

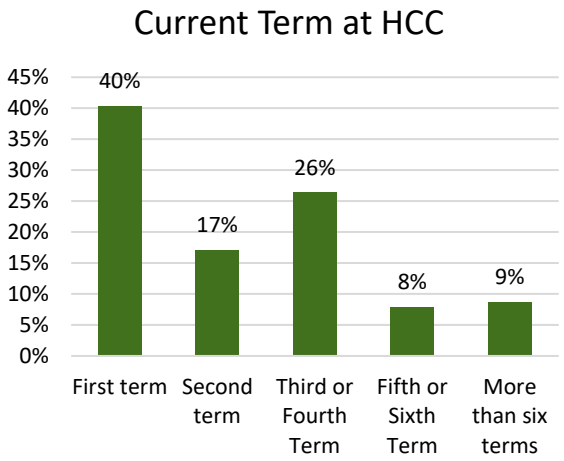
The survey development, administration, and reporting processes were overseen by the Office of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness. Development of the survey instrument and administration plan were completed in conjunction with representatives from Student Affairs and the Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

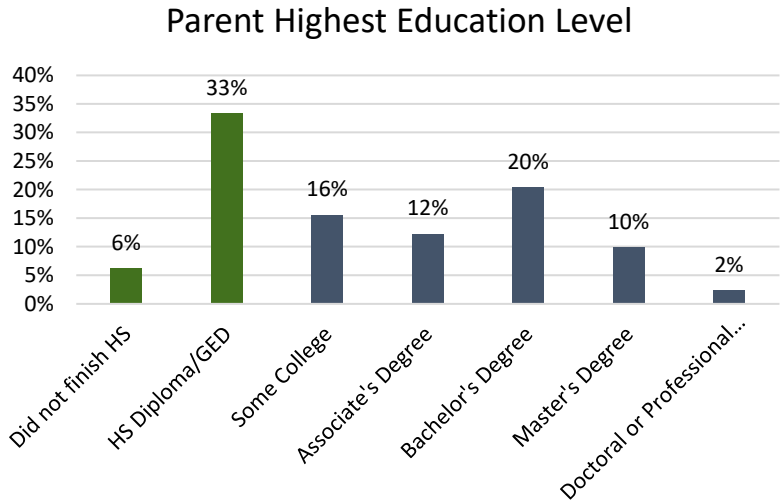
Survey Administration and Respondents

The Student Campus Climate Survey was administered in Fall 2024 to actively enrolled credit students who were 18 years or older at the time of administration and not concurrently enrolled in high school. In total, 3,003 students were invited to participate via email and LMS link, and 857 completed the survey for a response rate of 29%.

Most respondents attend classes primarily or entirely on campus (48%), and more respondents are part-time (54%) than full-time (46%). The largest group of respondents was in their first term at HCC at the time of this survey (40%). Thirty-nine percent of respondents are first-generation college students (parents did not attend any college). The respondents represented the overall credit student population in regard to course location, first term of enrollment, and parent education. Respondents were more likely than the overall credit student body to be full-time.

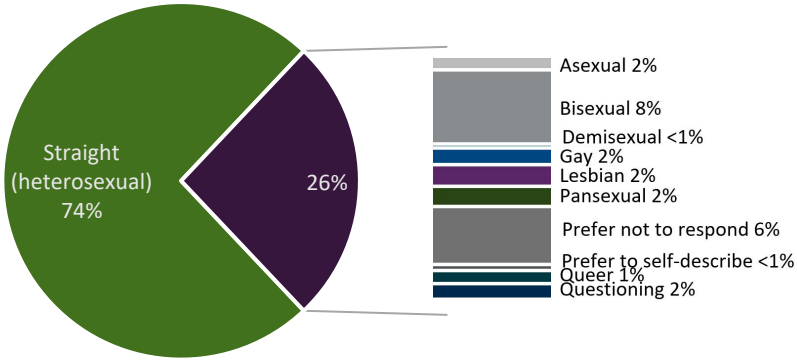




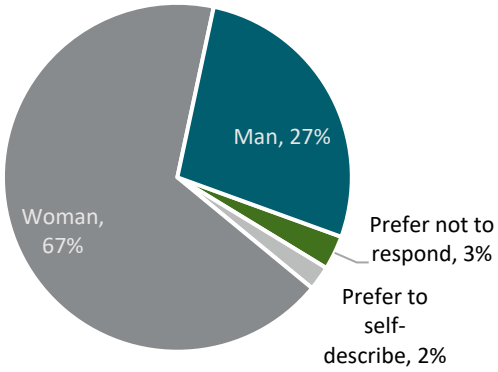


Two-thirds of respondents identified as women, and about three-quarters identified as straight (heterosexual). The majority of respondents (63%) are 18-24 years old. Most respondents (68%) identify as White (alone or with another race or ethnicity). Two-thirds of respondents provided their political view, and most described themselves as middle-of-the-road while the remaining were similarly distributed between the left and right sides of the spectrum. Gender and age distributions of respondents were representative of the credit student population.

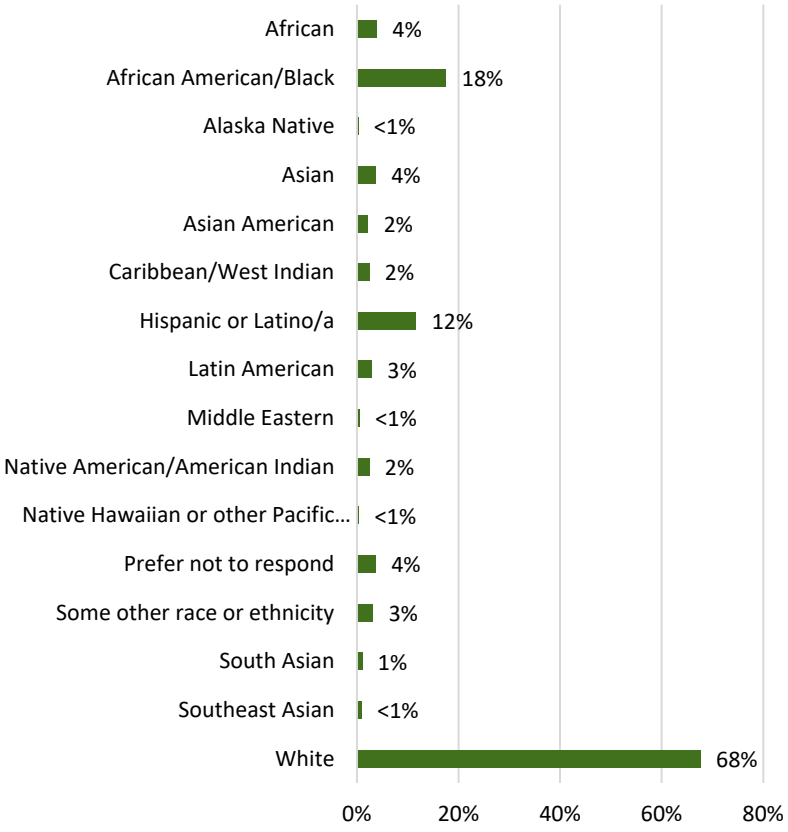
Sexual Orientation of Respondents



Gender of Respondents

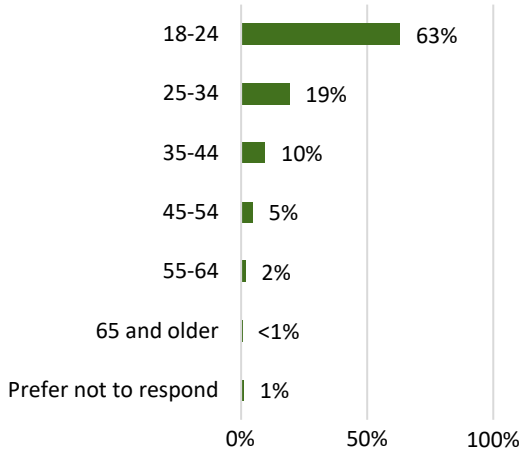


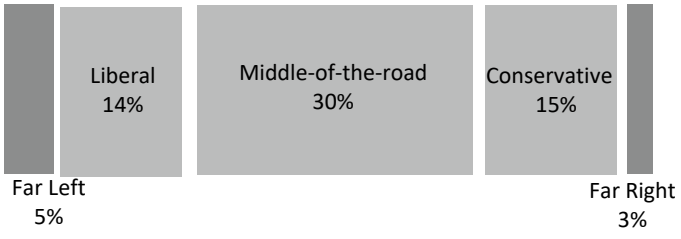
Ethnicity and Race of Respondents



Multiple Selection Option. 18% of respondents selected more than one category. Percentages add to more than 100%.

Age of Respondents





Campus Climate and Student Experience

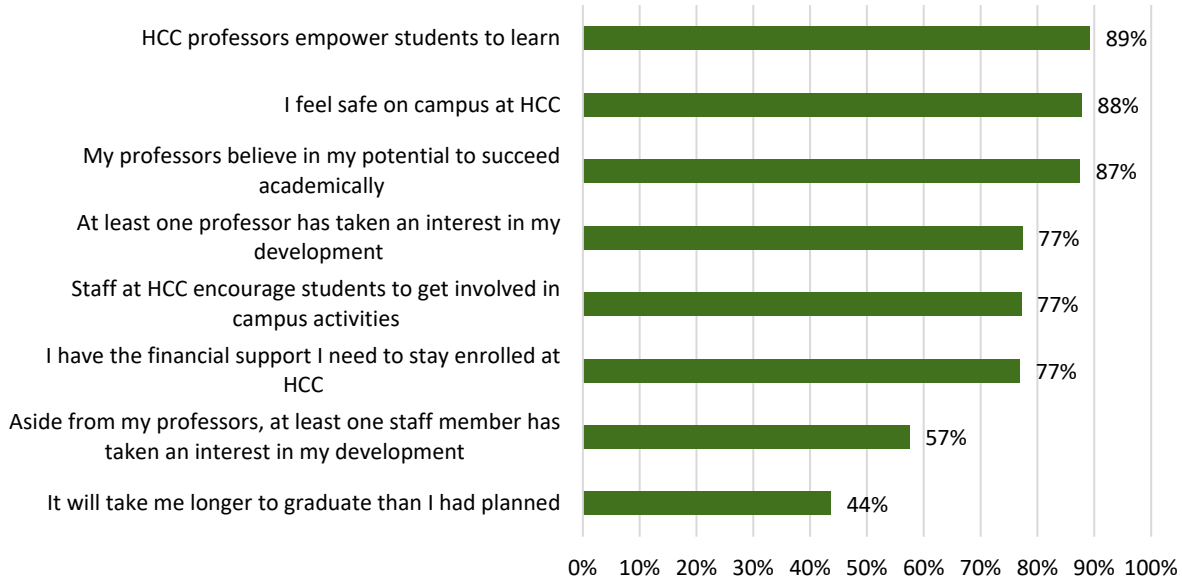
The campus climate at HCC was evaluated through a series of statements that respondents rated on a scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (5). On this scale, the statements with the highest agreement (percent of agree or strongly agree responses) were "I experience an environment that facilitates learning and personal growth at HCC", "HCC works to create a supportive environment", and "I would recommend this college to others". All average agreement scores were between 4 and 5, indicating the average level of agreement with the statement is between "agree" (4) and "strongly agree" (5).

Agreement with Campus Climate Statements

Statement	Percent Agreement	Average Agreement
I experience an environment that facilitates learning and personal growth at HCC	90%	4.43
HCC works to create a supportive environment	90%	4.42
I would recommend this college to others	89%	4.46
Individuals at HCC respect one another	87%	4.32
HCC works to create an inclusive environment	86%	4.33
I am satisfied with the general campus climate at HCC	85%	4.33
HCC actively promotes the appreciation of cultural differences	85%	4.34
Campus diversity enhances experiences and interactions both in the classroom and throughout the community	80%	4.24
I experience a sense of inclusion as an HCC student	79%	4.18
Publications and marketing materials accurately represent the diversity of the HCC student body (e.g., brochures, website)	79%	4.21
I experience a sense of community or belonging as an HCC student	77%	4.13
I feel comfortable expressing my views on diversity and equity at HCC	75%	4.14

Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with a series of statements about their experiences at HCC on a scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (5). On this scale, the statements with the highest agreement (percent of agree or strongly agree responses) were “HCC professors empower students to learn”, “I feel safe on campus at HCC”, and “My professors believe in my potential to succeed academically”.

Percent Agreement with HCC Experience Statements



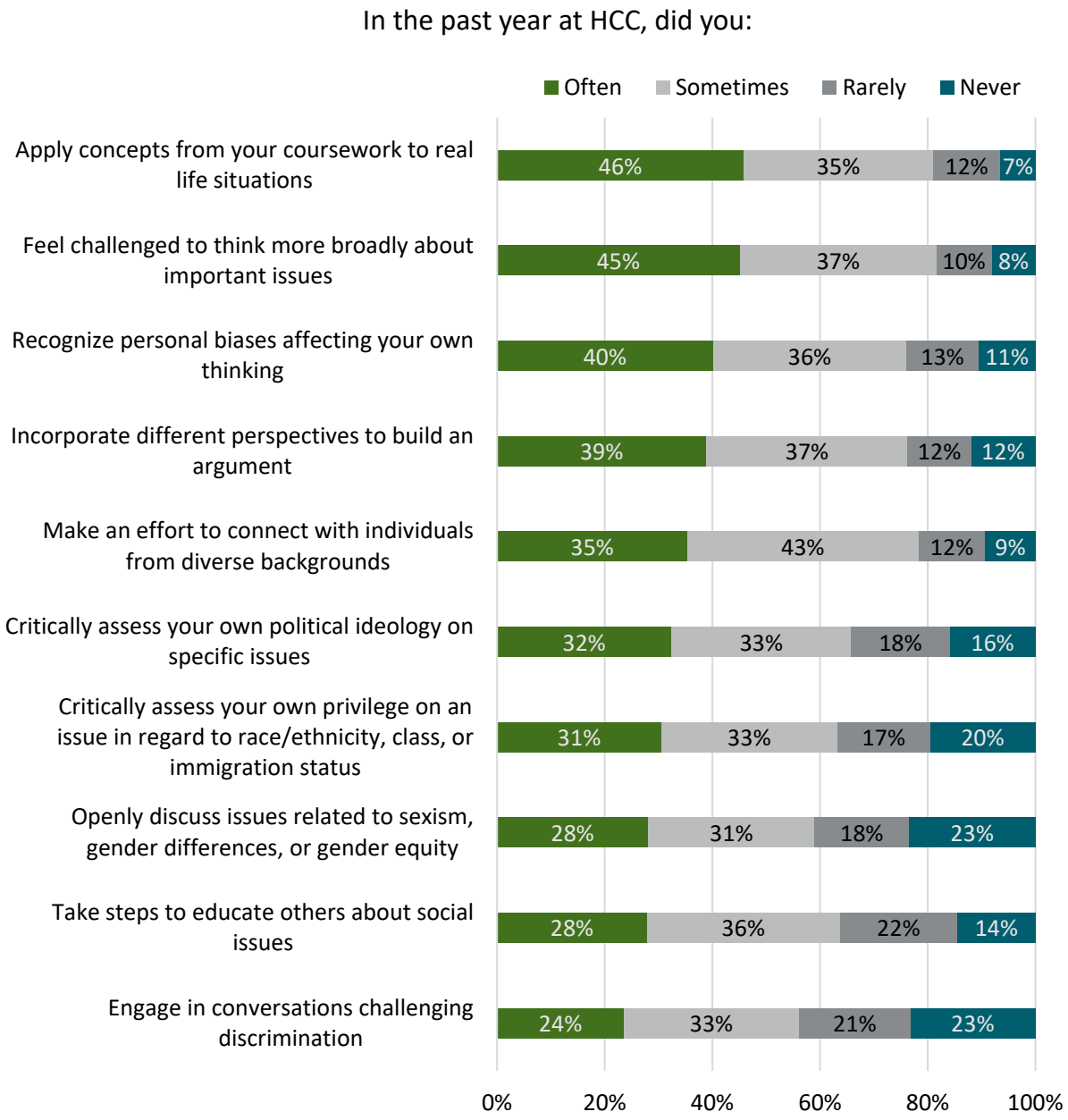
There were two open-ended questions in this section: “What word or sentence would you use to describe the sense of community you feel at HCC?” and “What one change would you make to impact the sense of community at HCC?”. There were hundreds of responses to both questions, and answers varied widely. Most responses to describe the sense of community were positive, including words like supportive, welcoming, and comfortable. The suggestions for change included club or event programming ideas, modifications to physical spaces, extending hours for services, and more.

Sample Comments

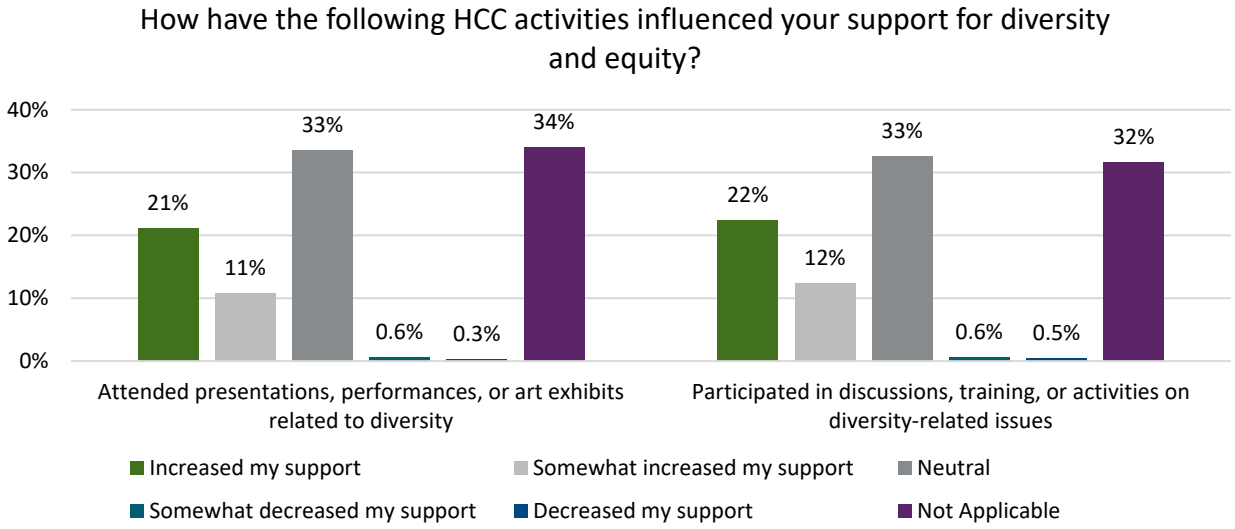
Describe the sense of community	*What change would you make?*
The campus and community are calming, peaceful and positive.	Encourage open dialogue between the students and faculty.
HCC has a sense of safety and community	More mental health resources.
Open to everyone	More events in the morning and evening for students who are busy all day to attend.
Welcoming and positive!	More campus life on weekends would be wonderful.
It's there but needs more work from both students and the school.	More activities in class/ on campus
I feel safe and I think that says more than anything else.	more elevators
Home	Make more shared spaces to create more opportunities for students to interact with each other
Everyone respects one another	Longer hours to come in to study or use a website without it being a certain limit
I am an older, non-traditional student, and I have always felt embraced at HCC.	

Student Engagement and Activity

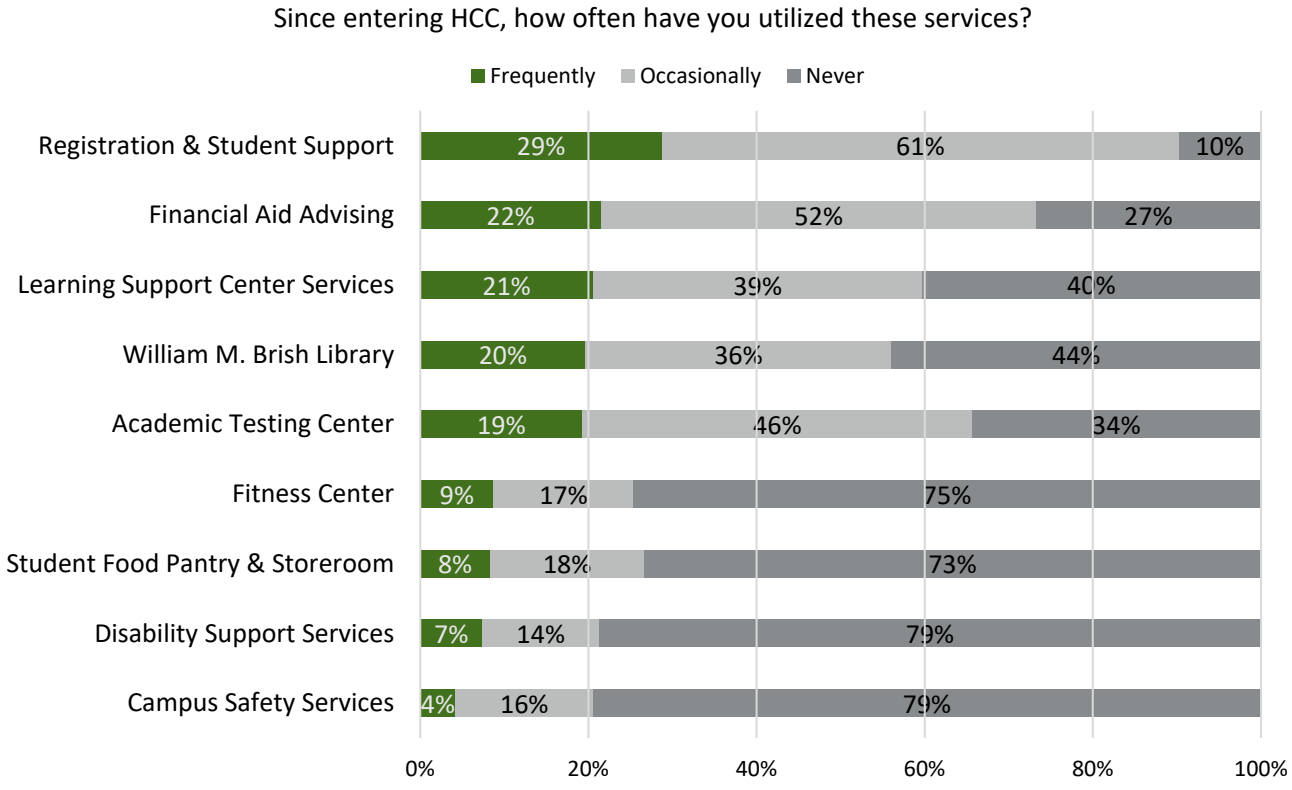
One purpose of the survey was to measure respondent engagement in intrapersonal and interpersonal activities related to campus climate. Respondents were asked to report how often in the past year they participated in various activities at HCC, both with others and within themselves. Respondents most frequently applied concepts from coursework to real life situations (46% responded "often") and felt challenged to think more broadly about important issues (45% responded "often"). The least frequent reported activities were participation in conversations challenging discrimination (24% responded "often") and taking steps to educate others about social issues (28% responded "often").



Respondents were asked how certain HCC diversity-related activities influenced their support for diversity and equity. For both questions, about a third reported that their support increased, a third were neutral, and a third responded “not applicable”.

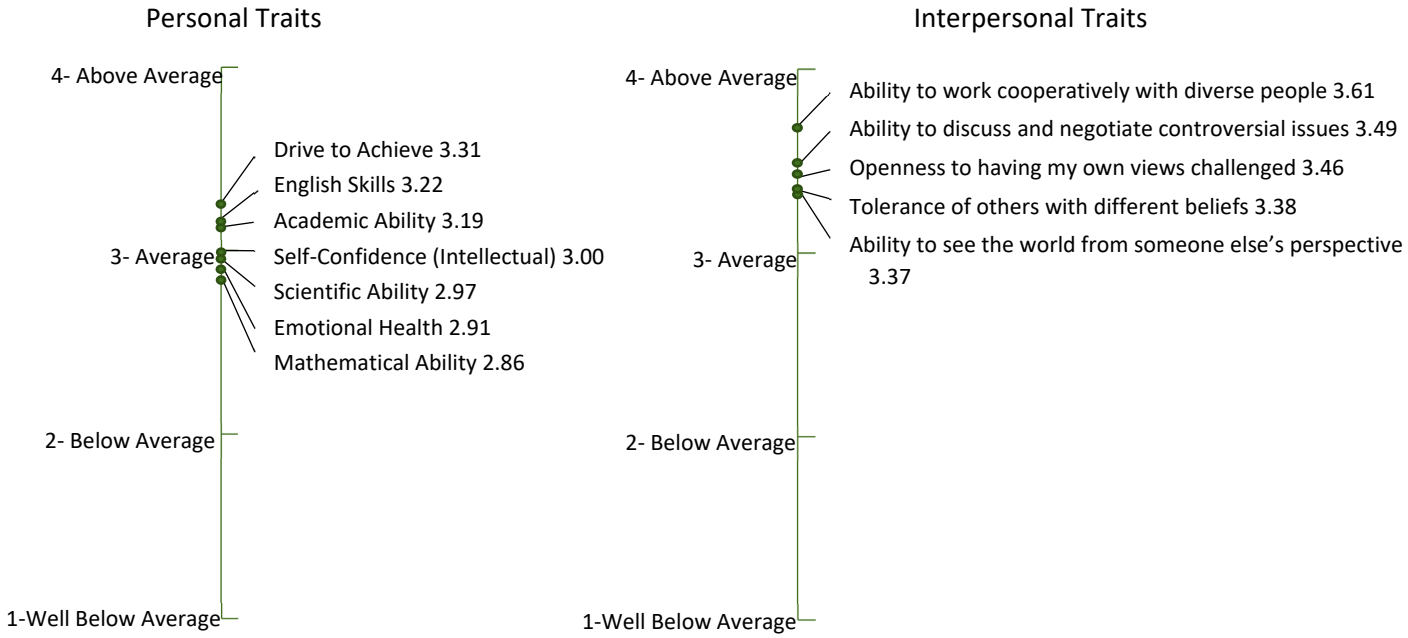
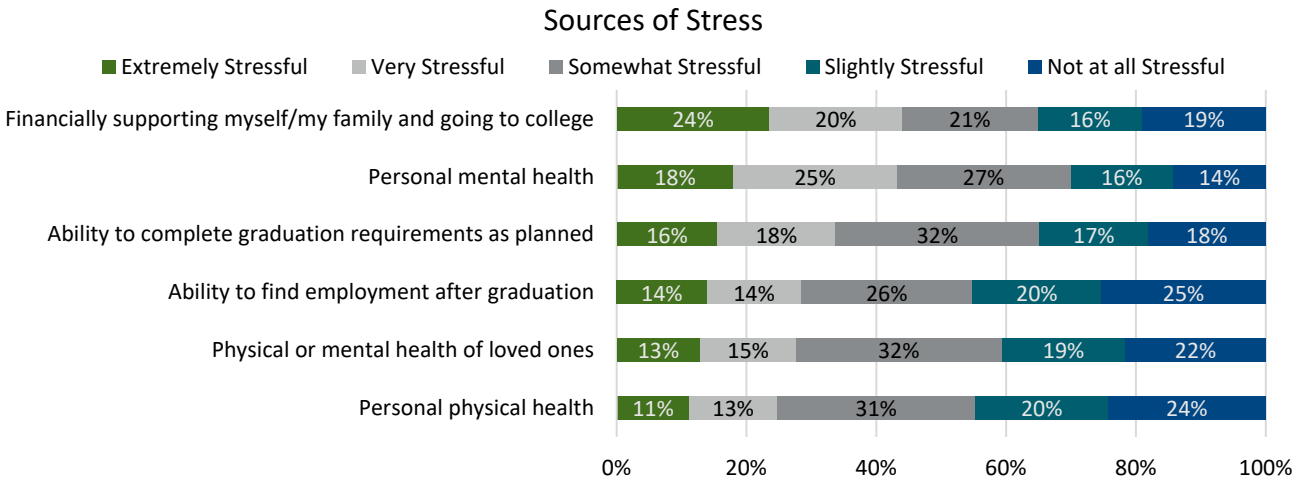


Respondents reported their frequency of use for nine services available at HCC. Registration & Student Support is the most frequently utilized service, followed by Financial Aid Advising. The least frequently used services are Campus Safety Services and Disability Support Services.



Self-Perception and Stressors

To understand the respondents' perception of themselves, the survey presented two groups of traits, Personal and Interpersonal. Respondents rated themselves compared to the average person their age on a scale of 1-4, with 1 being "Well Below Average" and 4 being "Above Average". Overall, respondents rated themselves at or above average on most traits. Interpersonal Traits are more closely grouped together and are all rated higher than the Personal Traits. In the Personal Traits grouping, "Drive to Achieve" was rated the highest overall at 3.31, while "Mathematical Ability" was rated the lowest at 2.86, and the total spread was 0.45. In the Interpersonal Traits grouping, "Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people" was rated the highest at 3.61, while "Ability to see the world from someone else's perspective" was rated the lowest at 3.37, and the total spread was 0.24.



Respondents were asked to rate potential sources of stress related to their personal and academic lives. Finances, personal mental health, and the ability to complete graduation requirements as planned were rated as the most stressful.