



Freshman Survey Results

A Graphic Report

January 2021

The Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning (OIRAP) is the primary source for official campus statistics, complying with federal, state, and university reporting standards and requirements. OIRAP conducts student surveys and special research studies in support of university policy formation, assessment, and accountability. Every year since 2013, OIRAP administers the Freshman Survey. The survey is designed to learn more about our freshmen, and to understand their expectations for the coming year.

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More information: umb.edu/oirap.



Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, & Planning
University of Massachusetts Boston

Freshman Survey 2020

Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning (OIRAP) has been conducting the Freshman Survey since 2013. The survey is designed to learn about our first-year students, their high school experience, and their expectations from UMass Boston for the coming year.

The Survey was created in Qualtrics, an online survey platform. The first-time first-year students captured in our first day of class census were asked to take the survey during the second week of classes. The survey was closed in mid-October. The responses were weighted by gender and ethnicity.

2020 Freshman Survey response rate was 37 percent

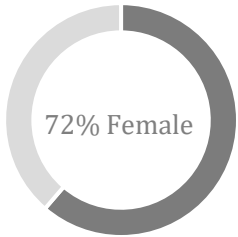






College	Survey Respondents		First-time First year Fall 2020		Response rate (unweighted)	Respondents' Gender (unweighted)
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	%	
Education and Human Dev.	28	3	66	3	42	 <p>72% Female</p>
Liberal Arts	333	40	850	38	39	
Management	80	10	260	12	31	
Nursing and Health Sciences	101	12	225	10	45	
Policy and Global Studies	-	-	1	>0	0	
School for the Environment	19	2	37	2	51	
Science and Mathematics	263	32	790	35	33	
Total	824	100	2229	100	37	

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First-generation College Students

Three out of five UMass Boston first-time first-year students are first-generation¹ college students.

More than three out of five first-time freshmen are first-generation college students

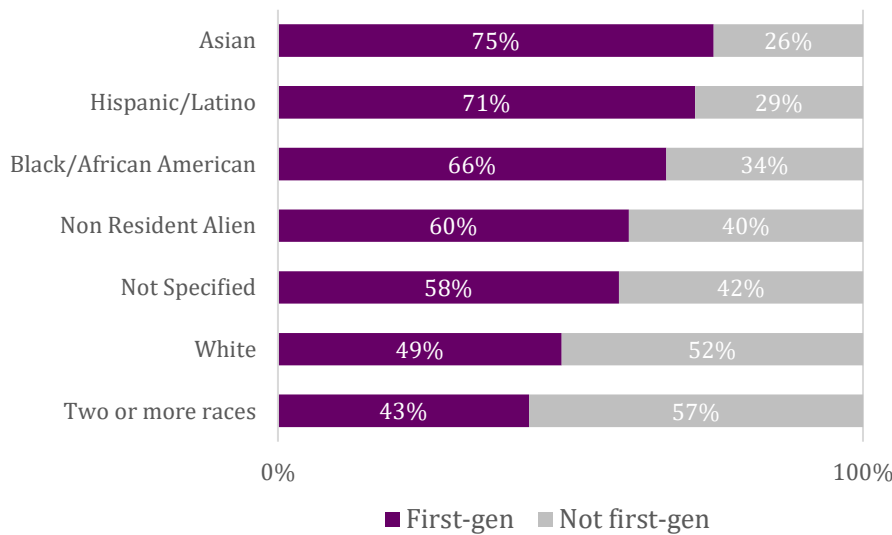
Freshman Survey 2020	61%
National*	36%

*Source: BCSSE 2020 entering class (n= 39,559)

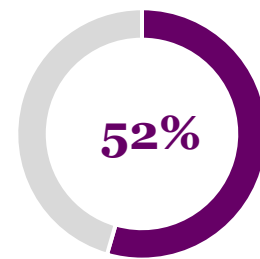
Percentage of first-generation students by gender



U.S. students of color are more likely to be a first-generation student



More than half of the students speak a language other than English at home



Students who participated in the survey reported **over 40** different languages spoken at home

First-generation students by college

	# of respondents*	# of first-gen*	% of first-gen**
Education & Human Dev.	19	11	63
Liberal Arts	239	144	59
Management	59	35	60
Nursing & Health Sciences	72	39	55
Environment	11	3	30
Science & Math	191	127	67
Total	592	363	61

*unweighted **weighted

Nearly half of the students who speak another language are equally comfortable speaking in that language as well as English



Top majors pursued by the first-generation students in Fall 2020

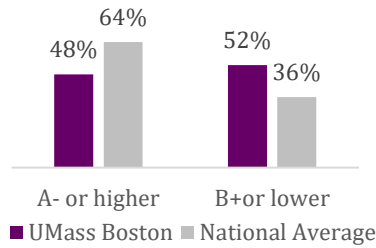
1. Biology	16%	4. Computer Science	6%
2. Management	11%	5. Nursing	5%
3. Criminology & Criminal Justice	8%	6. Exercise & Health Science	4%

¹ Neither parent or anyone who raised them holds a bachelor's degree

High School Experience: Activities and Involvement

Sixty-five percent of our first-time first-year students were involved in community service or volunteer work during their last year in high school.

UMass Boston Freshmen are less likely to have received (most often) A- or higher in high school compared to their national peers



Source for national data: BCSSE 2020 summary tables

Percentage of first-time first-year students involved in an activity during high school years



Community service or volunteer work

65%



Athletic teams (varsity, JV, club sport, etc.)

52%



Academic clubs or honor societies

48%



Performing or visual arts programs

40%



Vocational clubs (business, technology, etc.)

25%



Religious youth groups

17%



Student government

16%



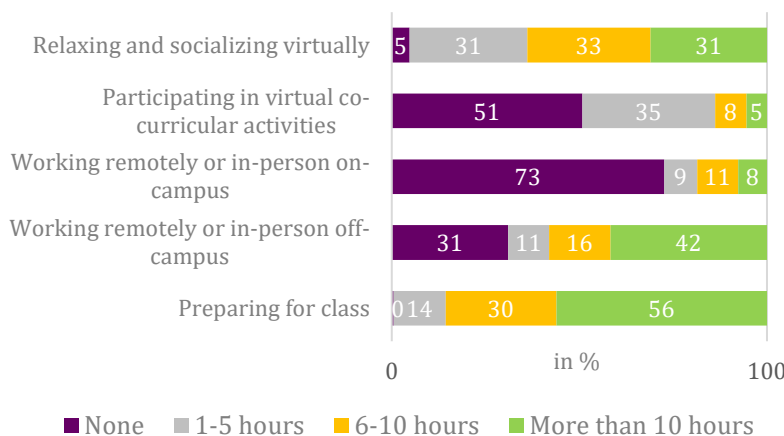
Publications (student)

15%

Average hours expected to spend in the freshman year 2020 Freshmen

Activities	2020 Freshmen
Preparing for class	12
Working for an off-campus job	9
Working for an on-campus job	2
Participate in co-curricular activities	3
Relaxing and socializing	9

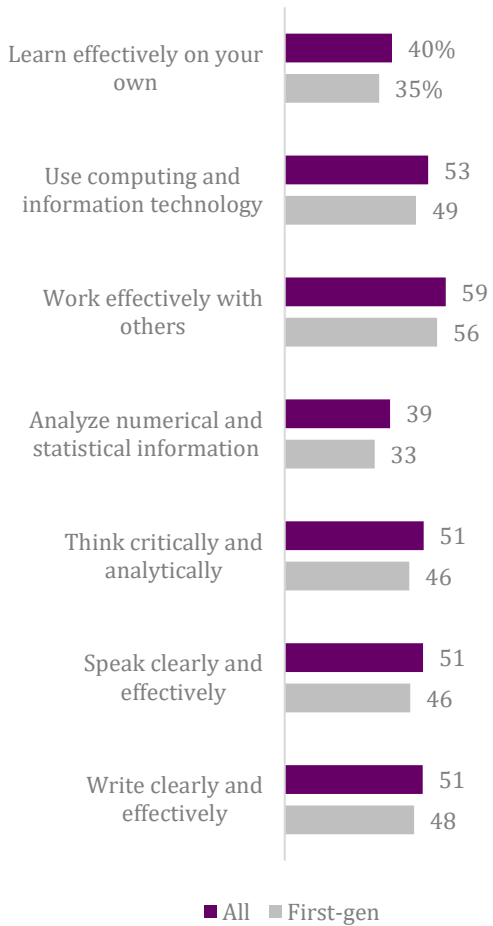
Forty-two percent students plan to work for pay off-campus for more than 10 hours a week in their freshman year



Self-perceived Academic Preparedness

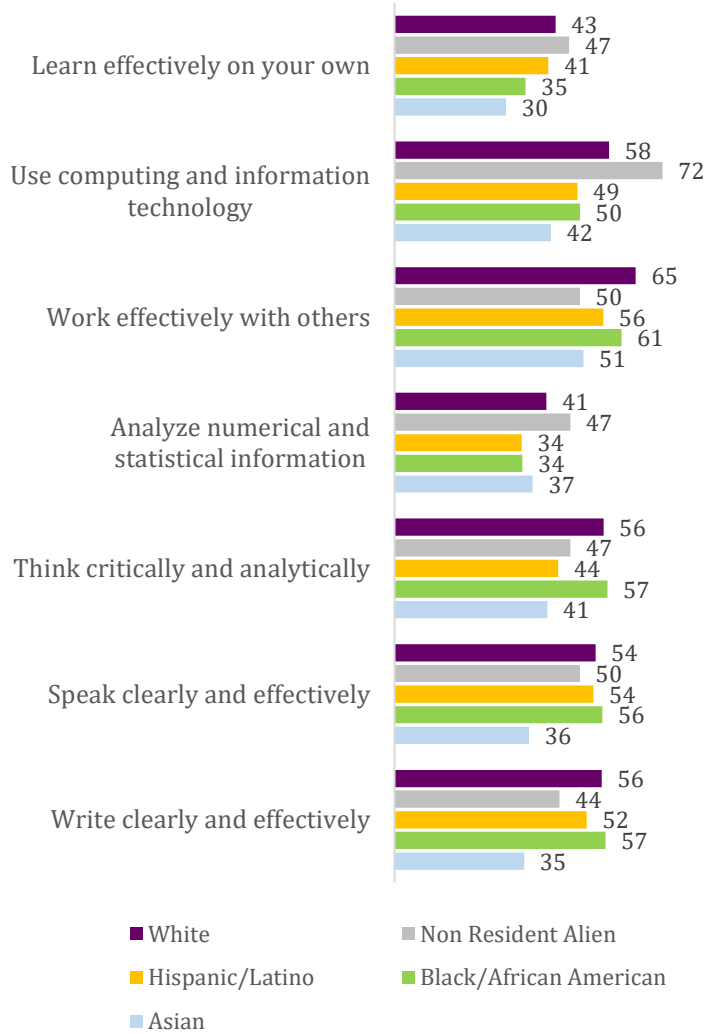
First-generation students are behind their peers in all categories of self-assessed preparedness.

Percentage of freshman who are *very prepared* to do the following in their academic work



Note: *Very prepared* are the responses of 5 and 6 on the scale of 1 to 6, 1 being not at all prepared and 6 being very prepared.

Percentage of freshman who are *very prepared* to do the following, by ethnicity



Percentage of freshman who are *very prepared* to do the following in their academic work, by college

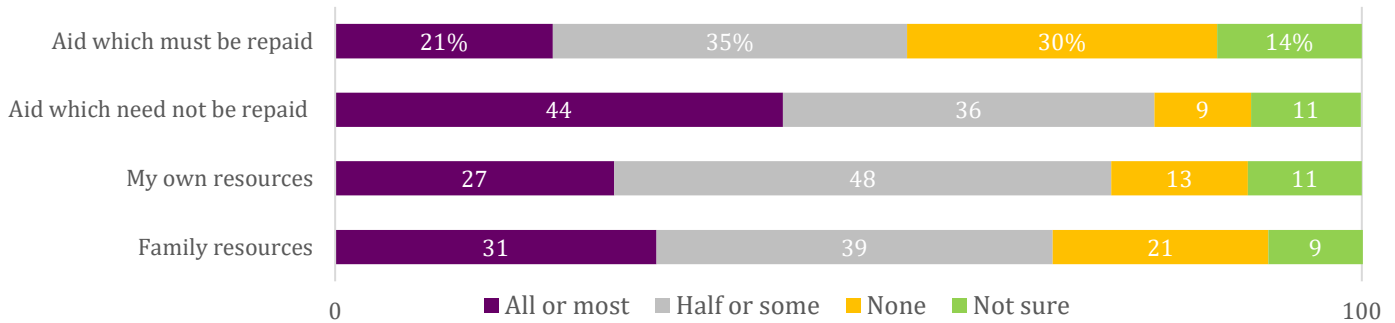
	Education	Liberal Arts	Management	Nursing	Science & Math.
Write clearly and effectively	39	50	49	45	54
Speak clearly and effectively	35	52	46	53	54
Think critically and analytically	29	52	51	45	54
Analyze numerical and statistical info.	22	31	38	29	51
Work effectively with others	41	59	43	77	61
Use computing and information tech.	39	51	38	50	62
Learn effectively on your own	22	36	39	33	47

Note: excludes colleges that has less than 10 responses.

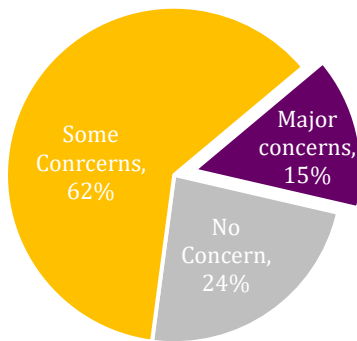
Financing College Education

Sixty-two percent of first-time first-year students reported having “some” concerns and 15 percent having “major” concerns about their ability to finance a college education.

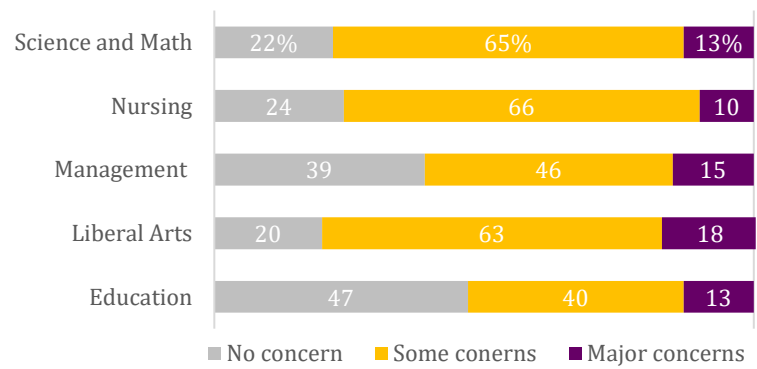
Percentage of first year's educational expenses from expected sources



Percentage of freshman concerned about their ability to finance their college education

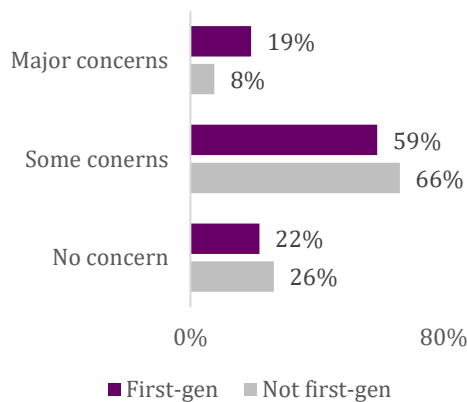


Financial Concern by College

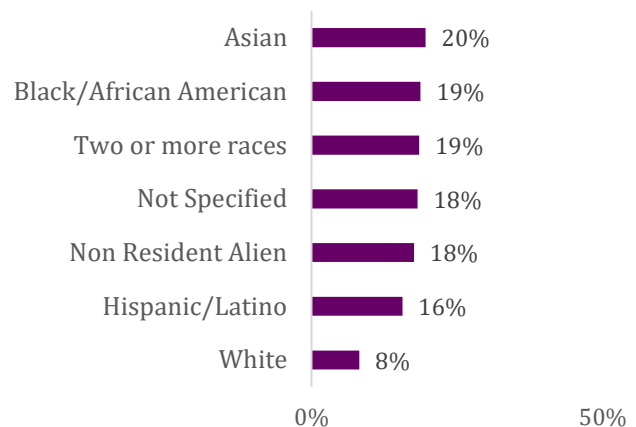


Note: exclude colleges with n<15

First-generation students are more likely to have financial concerns than their peers



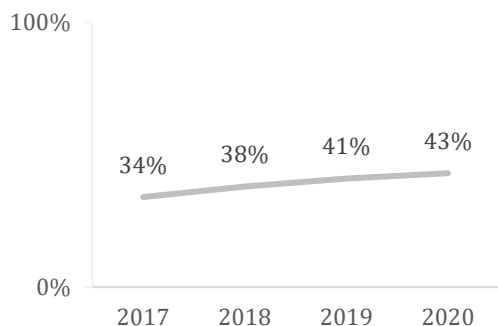
Asian students were more likely to report having major financial concerns



Choosing UMass Boston

More than two out of five of the first-time first-year students reported UMass Boston as their first choice.

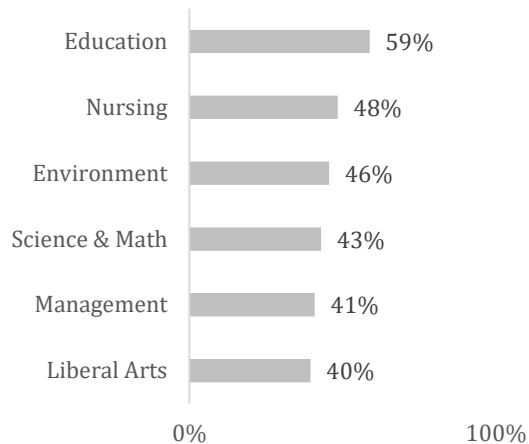
Percentage of students who ranked UMass Boston as their first choice since 2017



Of those who reported UMass Boston as their first choice-

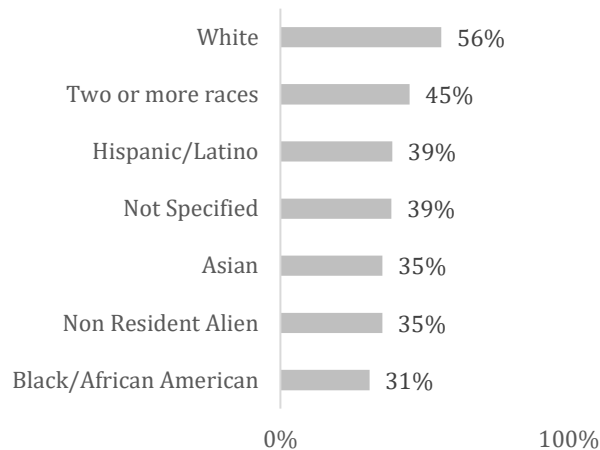


Percentage of freshman reporting UMass Boston as their first choice, by college

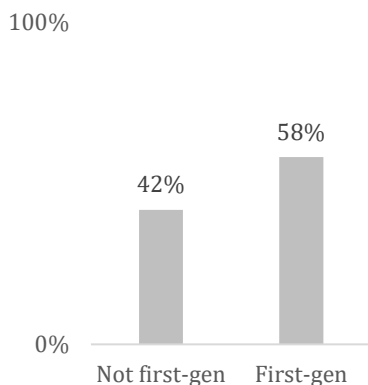


Note: does not include colleges with $n < 10$

Percentage of freshman reporting UMass Boston as their first choice, by ethnicity



Of those students who reported UMass Boston as their first choice, the majority were first-generation students

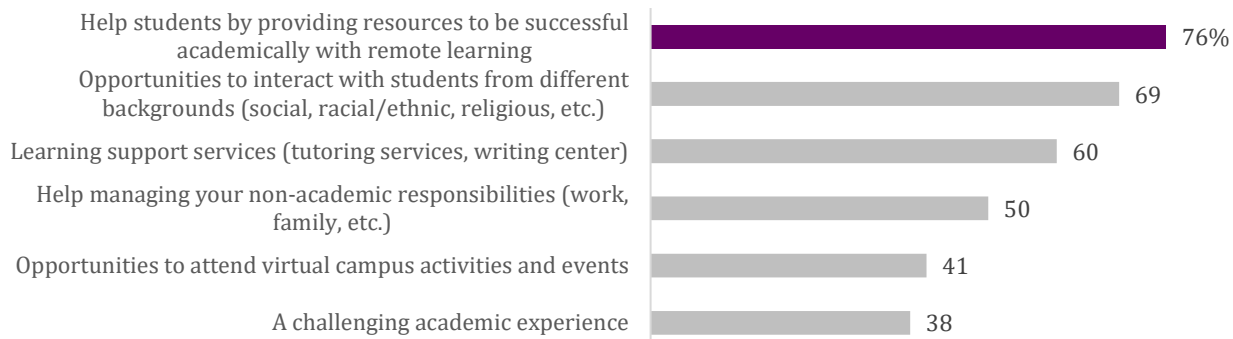


69% of the freshman have at least one close friend who will attend UMass Boston

Expectations for the First Year at UMass Boston

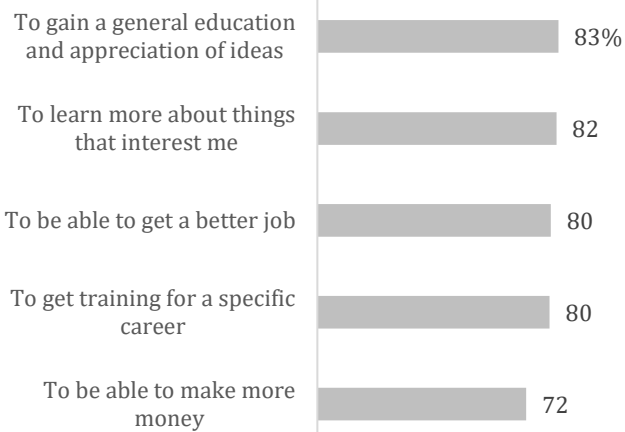
During the coming school year, 57 percent of the freshmen would find making friends *very difficult*.

Percentage of freshman reporting the features that are very important for an institution to provide



Note: very important are the responses of 5 and 6 on a scale of 1 to 6, 1 being not important and 6 being very important.

Top five reasons for going to college



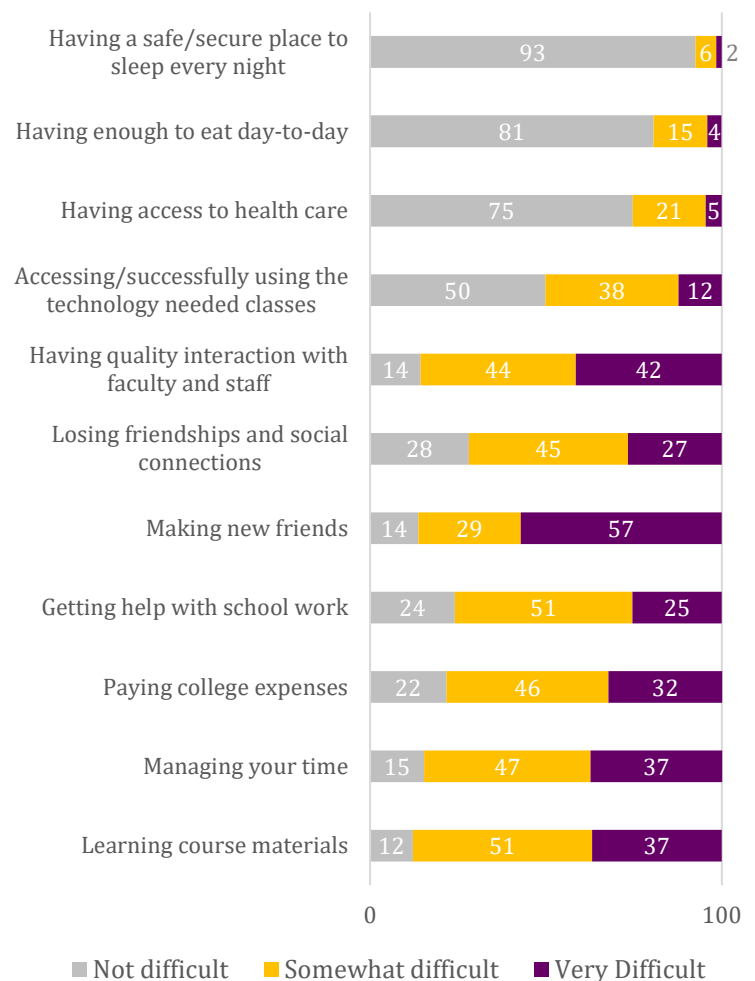
Note: %indicating *very important* to "In deciding to go to college, how important to you was each of the following reasons?"

More than 2 out of 5 will be living with their family members in 2020-21



Note: student had an option to select multiple categories.

Expected *very difficult* activities during coming school year



■ Not difficult ■ Somewhat difficult ■ Very Difficult