

Chapter 1: FIRST-YEAR SURVEY

Who takes it?

All first-year students who start in the fall semester are offered to take the survey.

When is it administered?

It was administered during Truman Week, which is the first three days of school for the first-year students.

How long does it take the students to complete the instrument?

15 to 25 minutes.

What office administers it?

The Student Success Center in conjunction with the Provost's Office administers the survey.

Who originates this survey?

The survey is a local instrument prepared by Truman faculty and administrators.

When are results typically available?

Late fall.

What type of information is sought?

The survey provides information on the student's perception of the admission process, summer orientation, and expectations of college. It also provides some basic demographic information on first-generation status and family income.

From whom are the results available?

The Director of Retention and Student Success.

To whom are the results regularly distributed?

Results are available to the University community through this almanac and available by request from the Director of Retention and Student Success.

Are the results available by department or discipline?

Neither.

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?

No.

The first-year survey is a short survey given to all students at the conclusion of Truman Week. It allows a better understanding of student demographics and expectations. In fall 2021, 509 students completed the survey giving a response rate of approximately 65%, which is better than fall 2020 but lower than the levels when Truman Week was a required credit bearing class. The following highlights some of the most relevant findings.

Choosing Truman

Prior to admission, approximately 68% of students had visited more than one college and 85% of respondents visited Truman State's campus at least once as part of the admission process. In ranking the reasons that they chose Truman, students overwhelmingly indicated academic reputation as the top reason for attending with cost and financial aid being the next most important reasons. When identifying influences, first-year students clearly indicate that their campus visit was the most influential reason for them choosing Truman. In general other potential factors were approximately equal and responses on parental influence were somewhat polarizing.

Demographics

The 2021 entering class is similar in makeup to the 2020 first-year cohort with approximately 16% identifying themselves as upper class, 24% as upper middle class, 24% as middle class, 24% as working class, and 11% as lower class. One noticeable shift in the demographics was the decrease in students indicating their family was upper middle class (\$100-150k) and an increase for students indicating working and lower classes. Approximately 23% of the incoming students indicate they are first generation (with neither parent having a bachelor's degree) while 51% of the incoming class indicate that both of their parents have a bachelor's degree.

Connections within Truman Days

Approximately 94% of students felt that Truman Days was helpful in introducing them to faculty and staff while more than 96% of students felt that Truman Days was helpful in meeting fellow students. Additionally, following Truman Days, 95% of the students could identify at least one connection for mutual support. In comparing 2021 data to 2020, there was a marked improvement in perceived connections from the students, which could be expected as 2020 connections decreased noticeably when pandemic protocols were installed on campus for fall 2020.

Expectations

Over 98% of respondents expect to graduate Truman knowing at least one faculty member well enough to ask for a letter of recommendation and 44% expect to know four or more faculty members that well upon graduation. The most common expectation for first semester grades was A-/B+ and fewer than 2.3% of students expect to average lower than a B during their first semester at Truman.

Attitude towards Truman

Approximately 88% of the first-year students reported having a positive or strongly positive attitude towards Truman at the time of the survey (with less than 1% indicating any type of negative attitude). Following Truman Days, 93% of students indicated some commitment to returning to Truman for their second year (with 60% being almost certain to return).

Experiences with Truman Days

The Majors Welcome activity was a clear favorite amongst first-year students being both well attended and strongly rated. Attendance for various other activities varied substantially but rated success was similar for most programs.

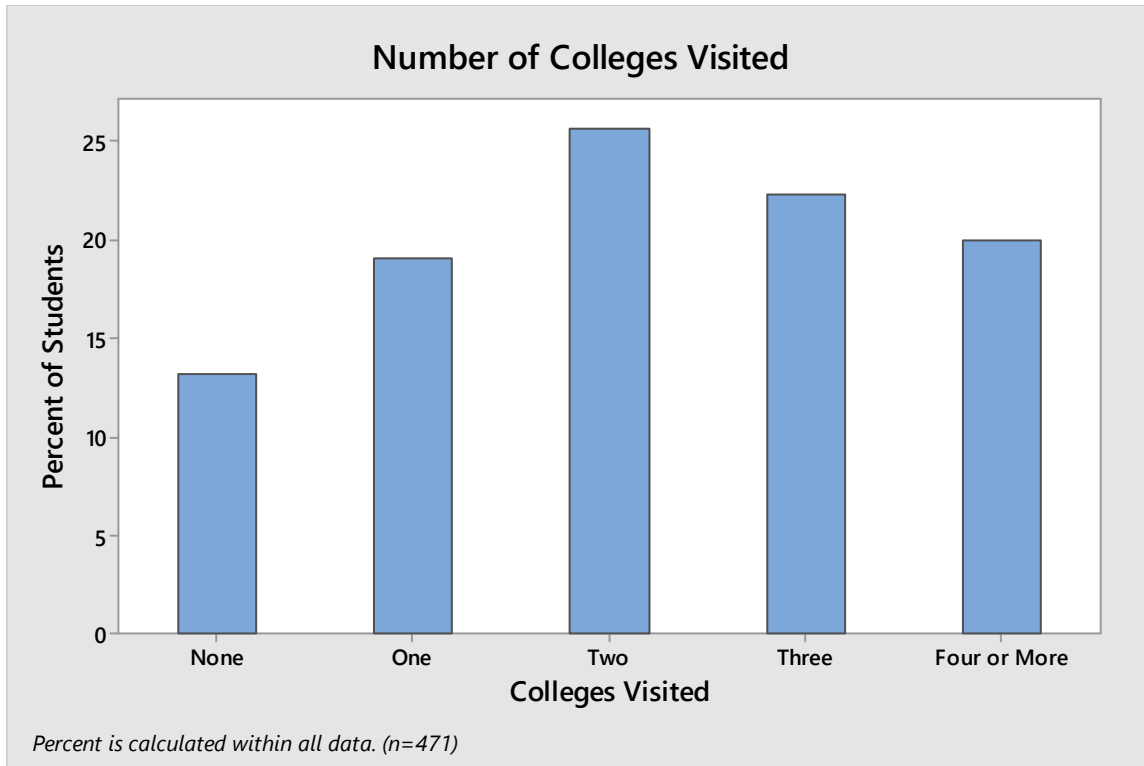


Figure 1 – “In selecting a college, how many colleges or university campuses did you visit?”

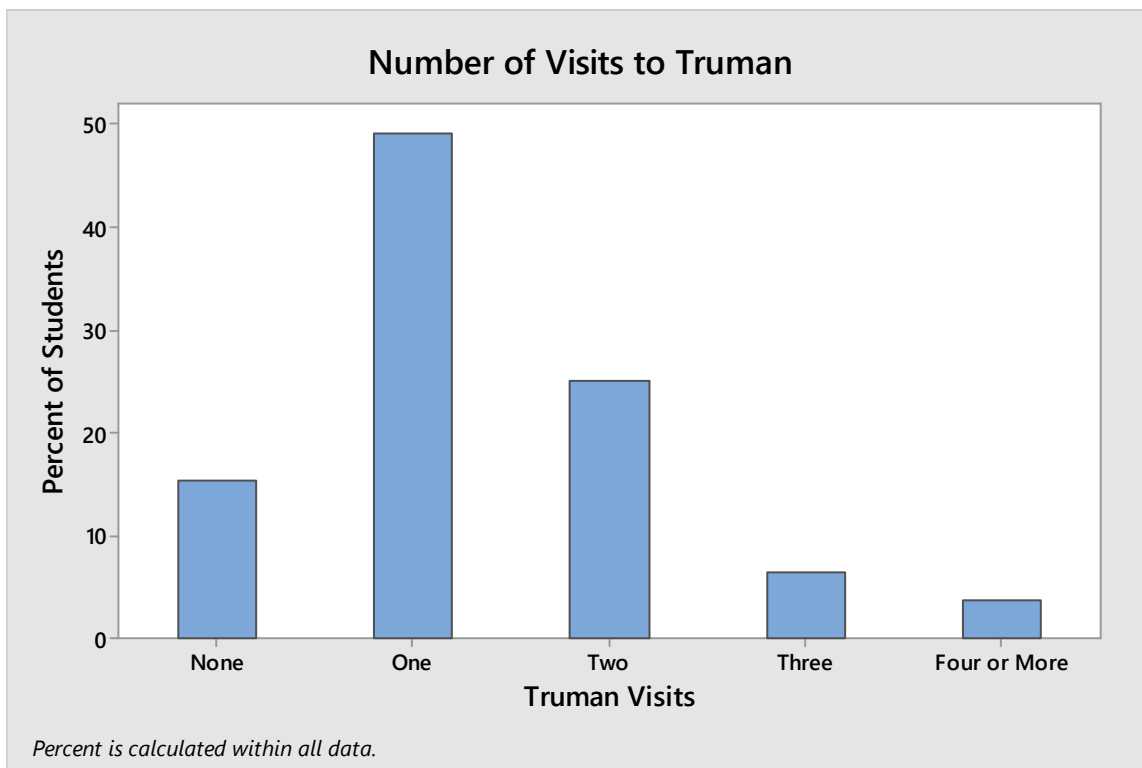


Figure 2 – “In making a college selection, how many times did you visit Truman State University?”

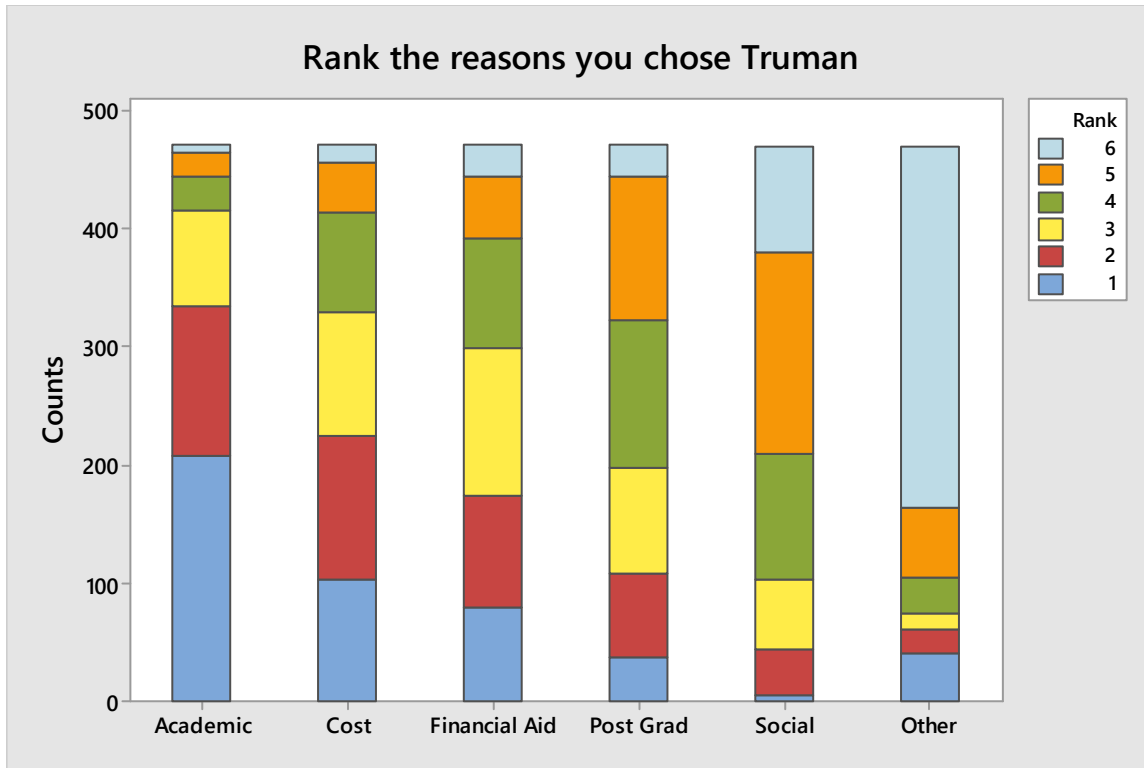


Figure 3 – “Please rank these reasons for choosing Truman. Assign the most important reason number 1, the second most important number 2, etc. until you have used all six ranks.

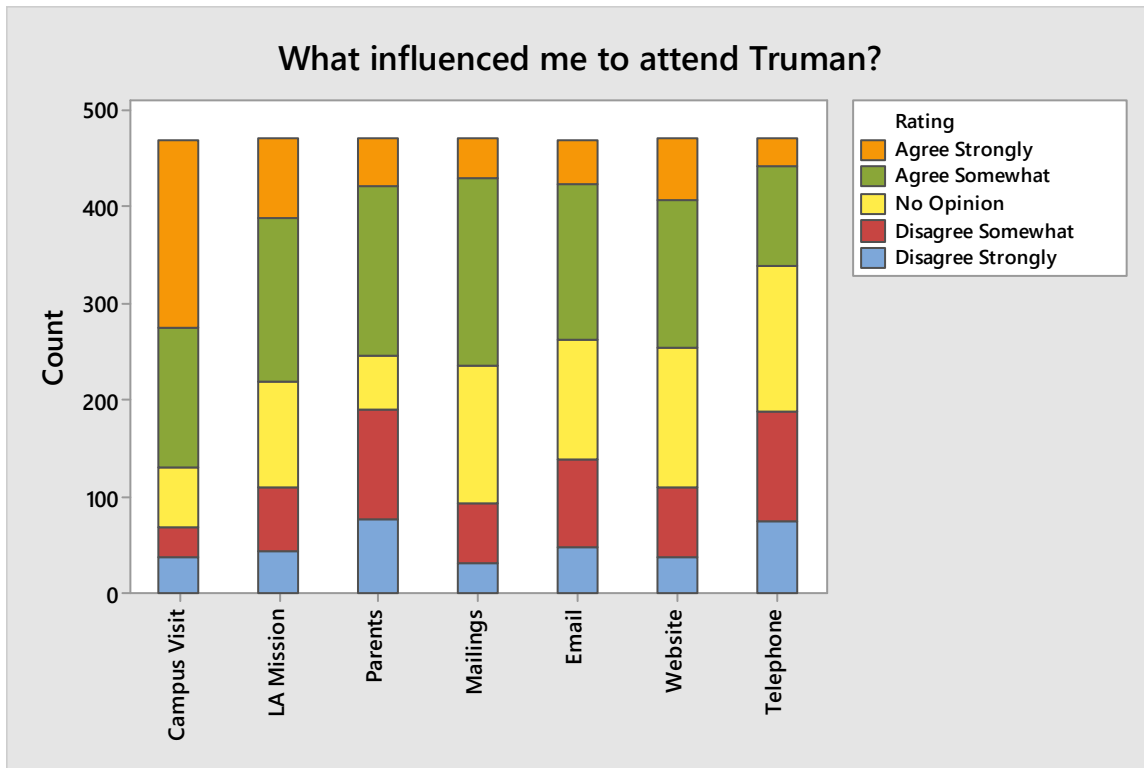


Figure 4a – “Please indicate your opinion (on the level of influence in attending Truman) by marking one response on each question”

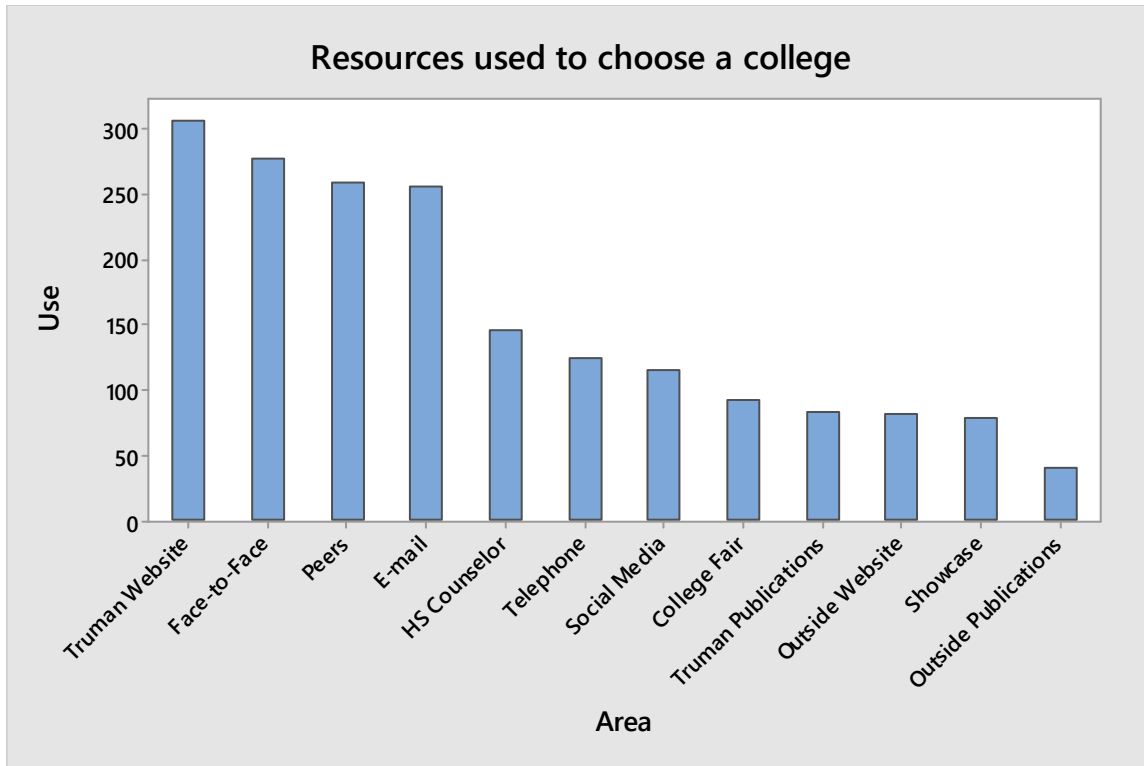


Figure 4b – “Which of these resources did you use to choose a college? (Check as many as apply)”

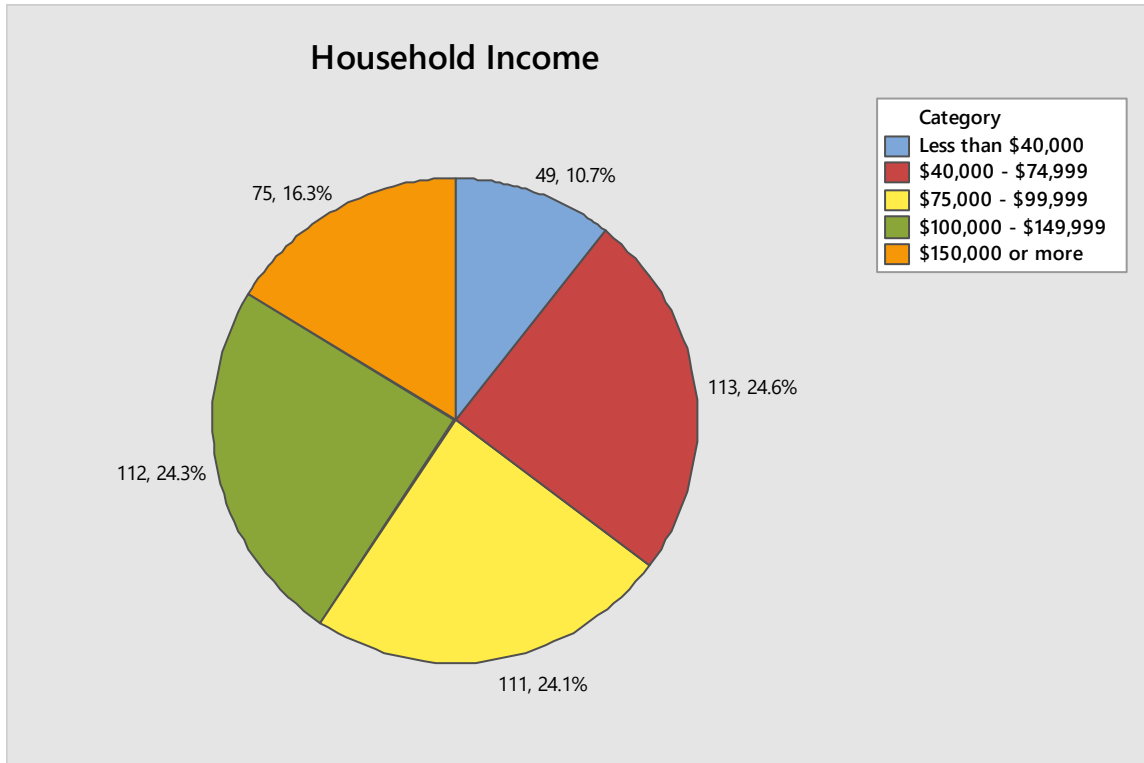


Figure 5 – “What is your best estimate of your parent's total income last year? Consider income from all sources before taxes.”

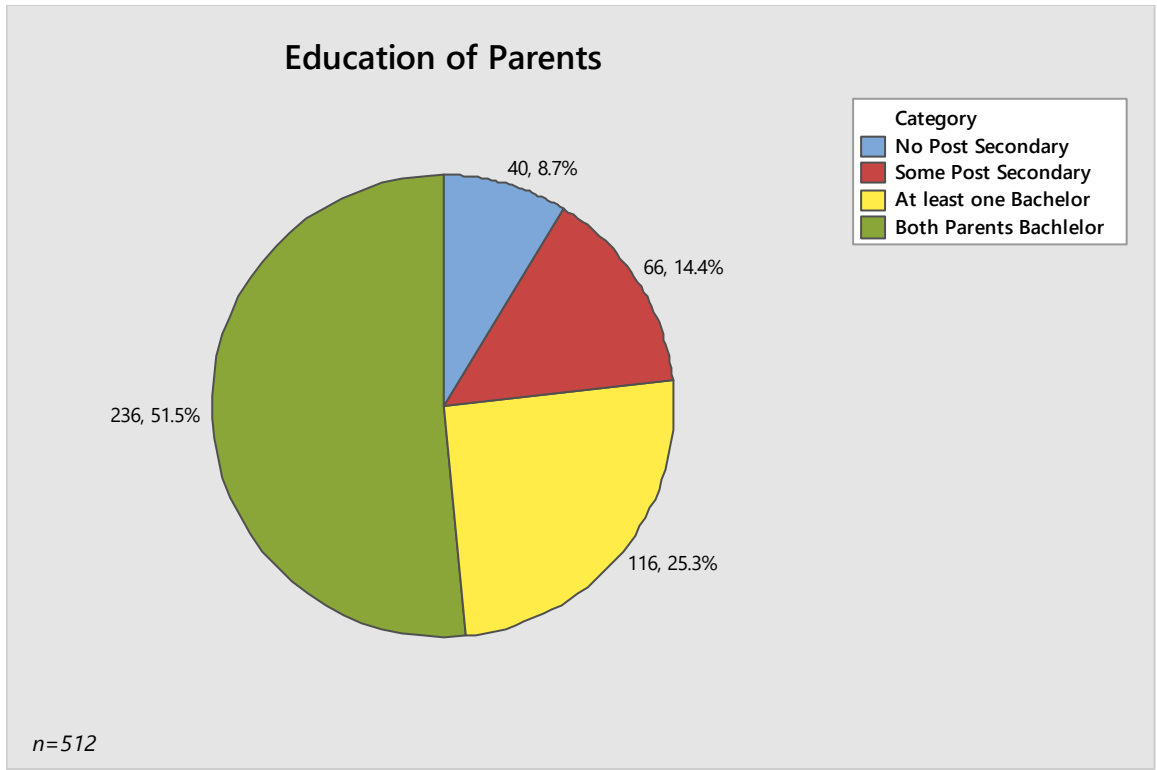


Figure 6 – “What is the highest level of formal education obtained by your parents?”

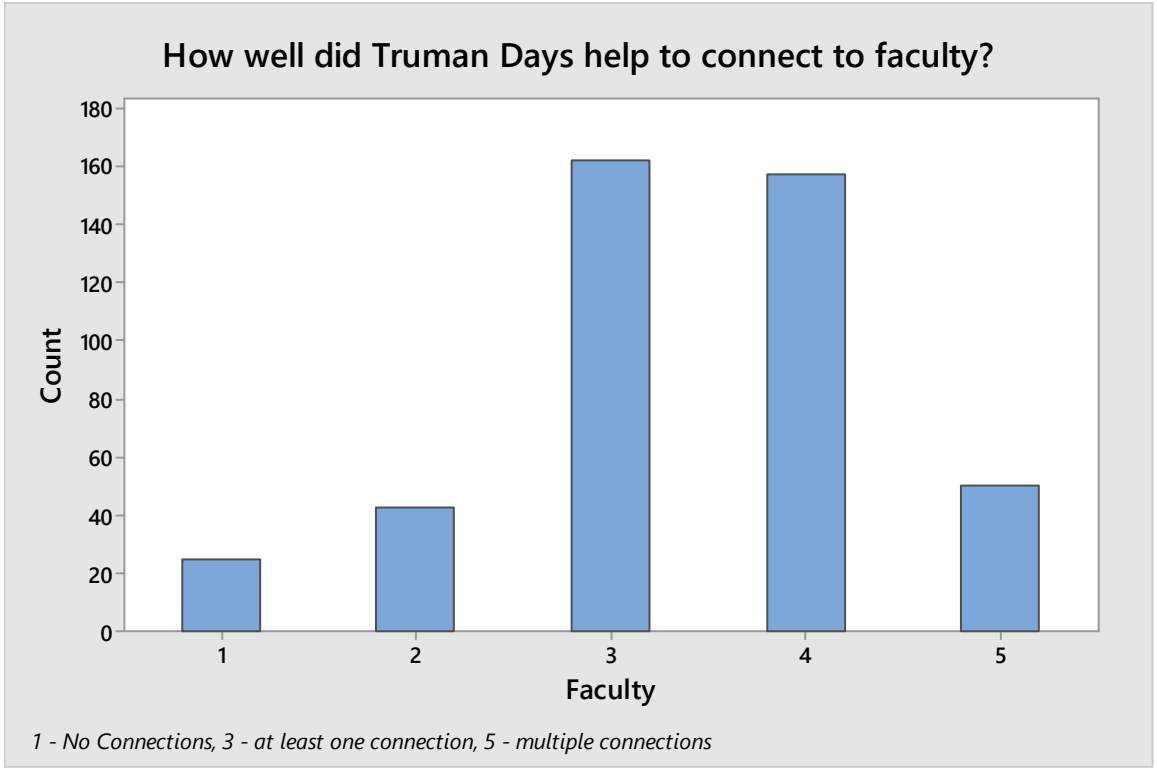


Figure 7 – “How well did Truman Days do at introducing you to faculty and staff?”

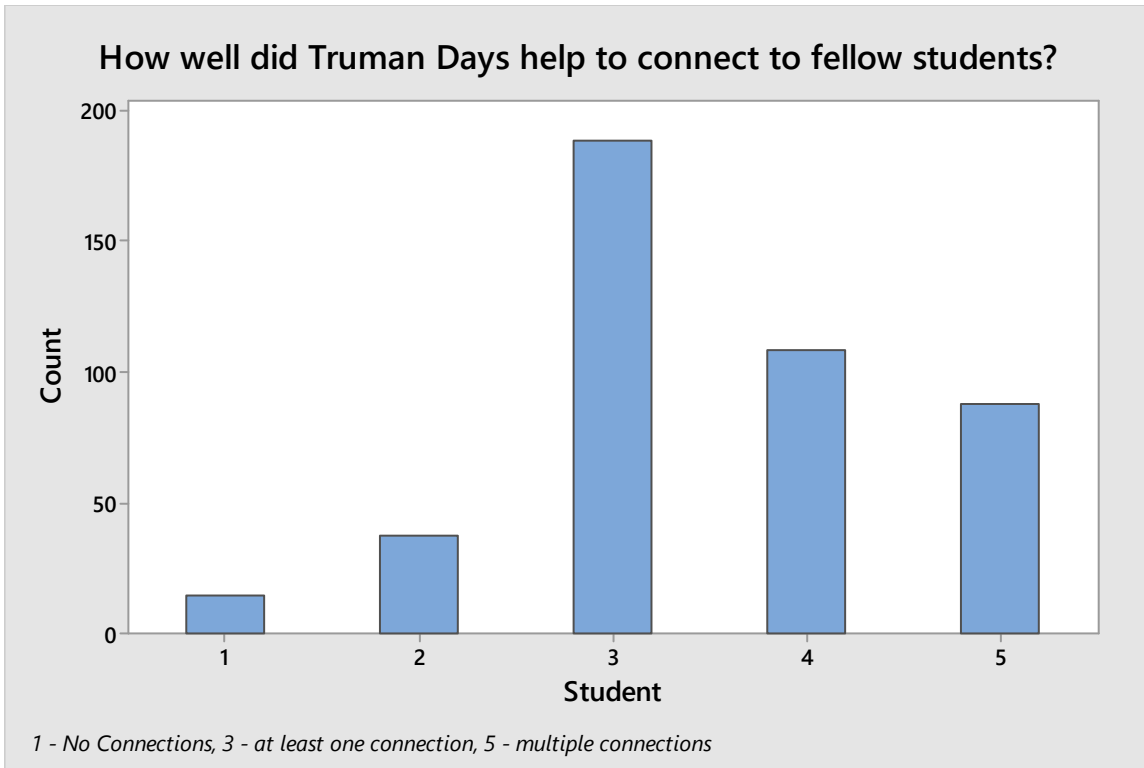


Figure 8 – “How well did Truman Days help you get connected to your fellow students?”

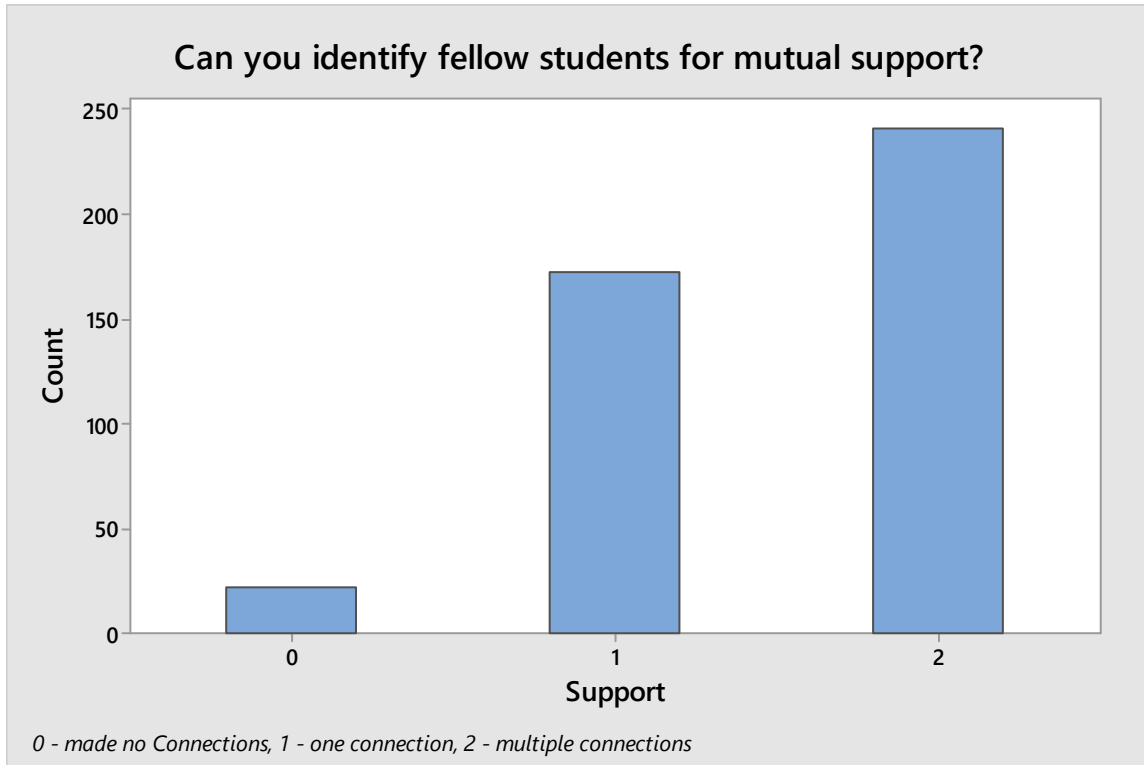


Figure 9 – “Can you identify fellow students that can help support you and that you can help support?”

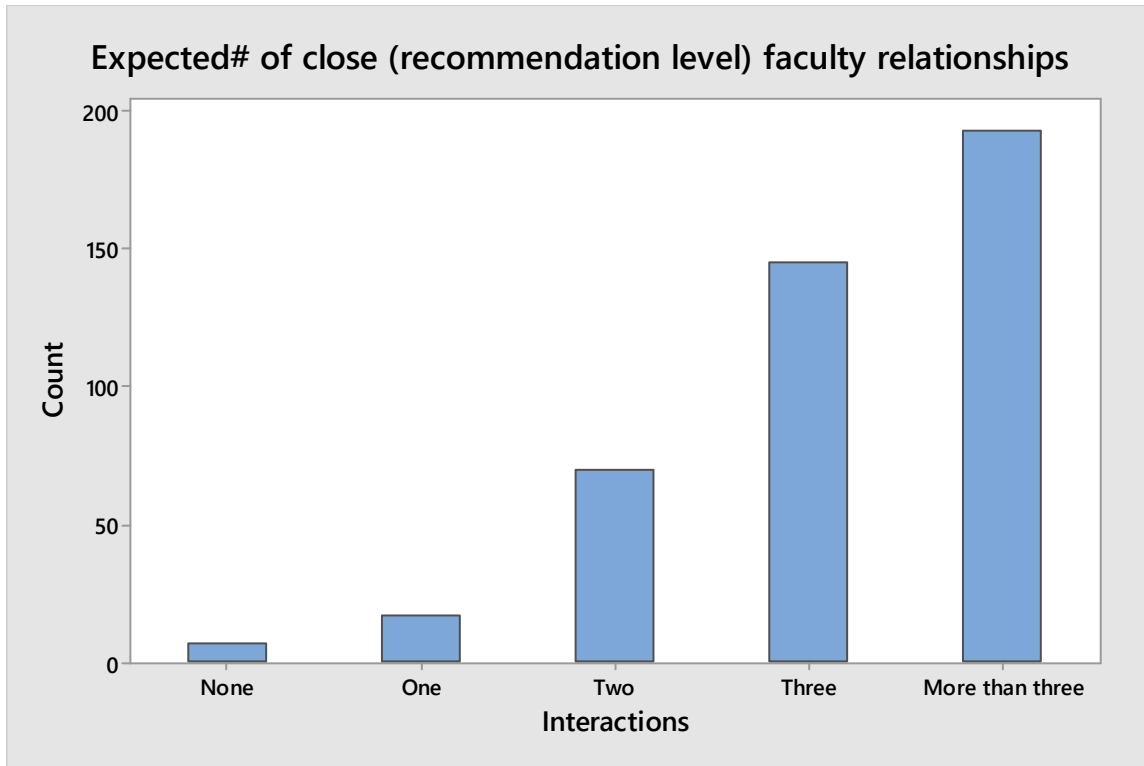


Figure 10 – “Upon graduation from Truman, how many faculty members do you expect to know well enough that you would ask them for a letter of recommendation?” (Figure 13 in F18)

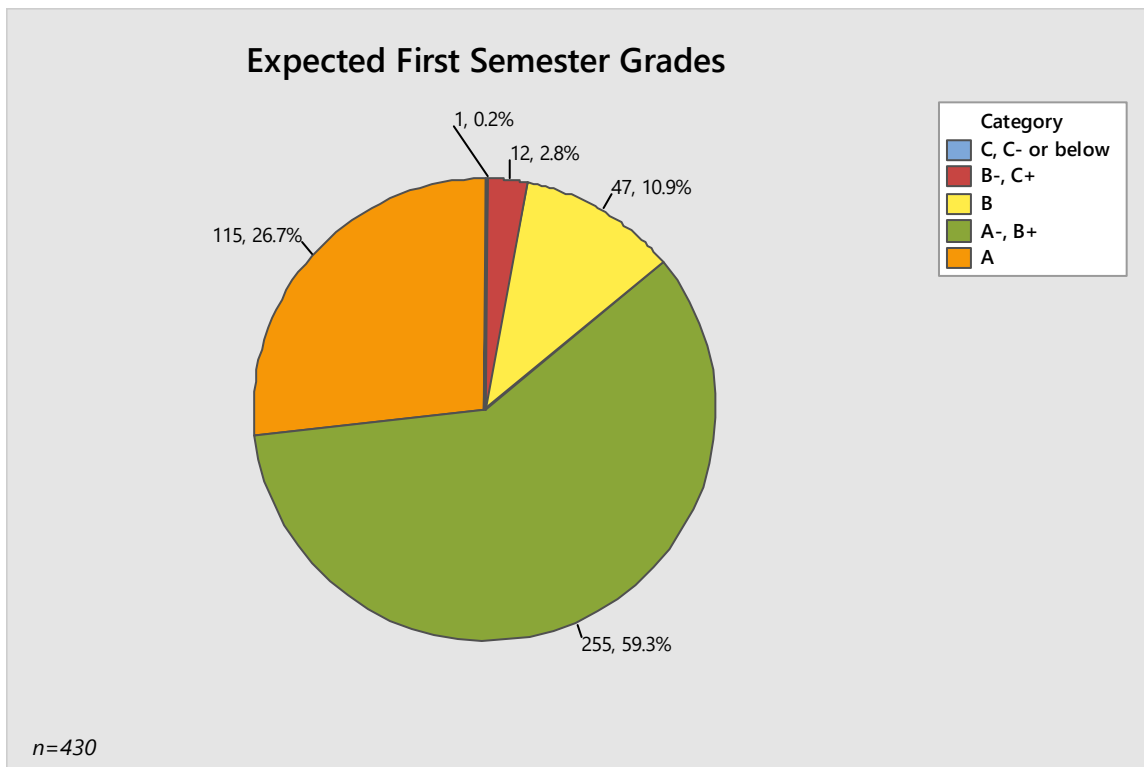


Figure 11 – “What do you expect most of your first semester grades at Truman to be?” (Figure 14 in F18)

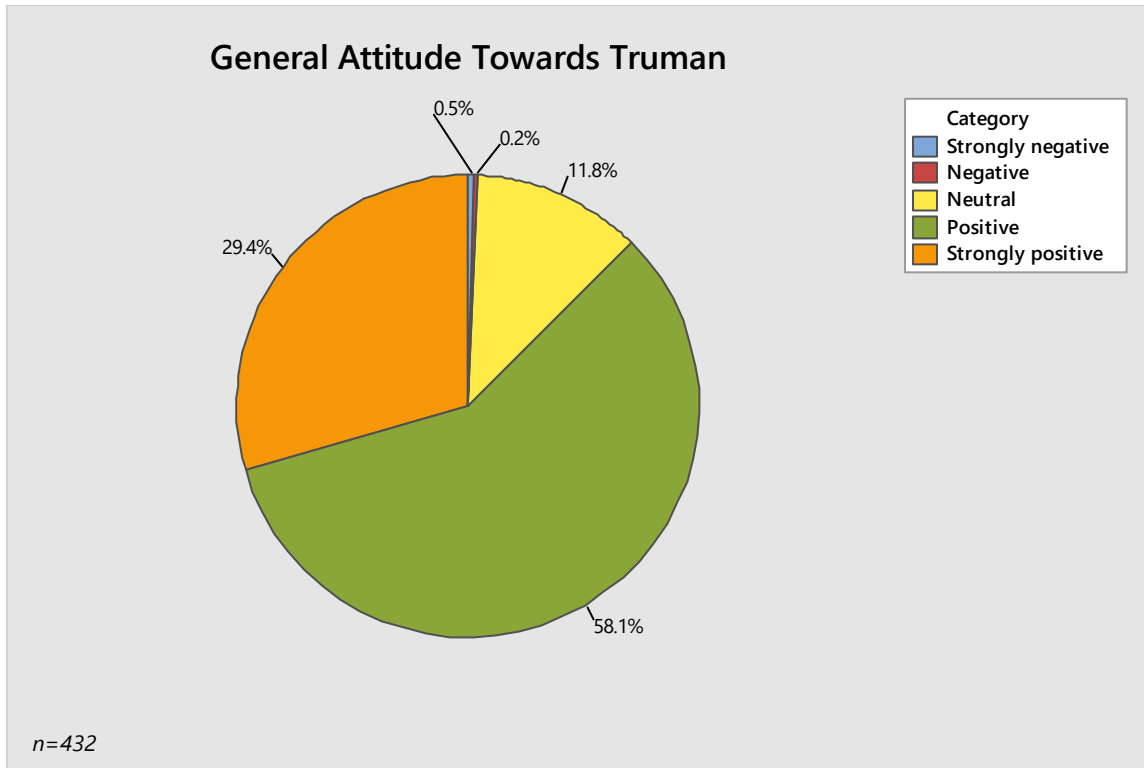


Figure 12 – “At the present time, your general attitude toward Truman is?” (Figure 15 in F18)

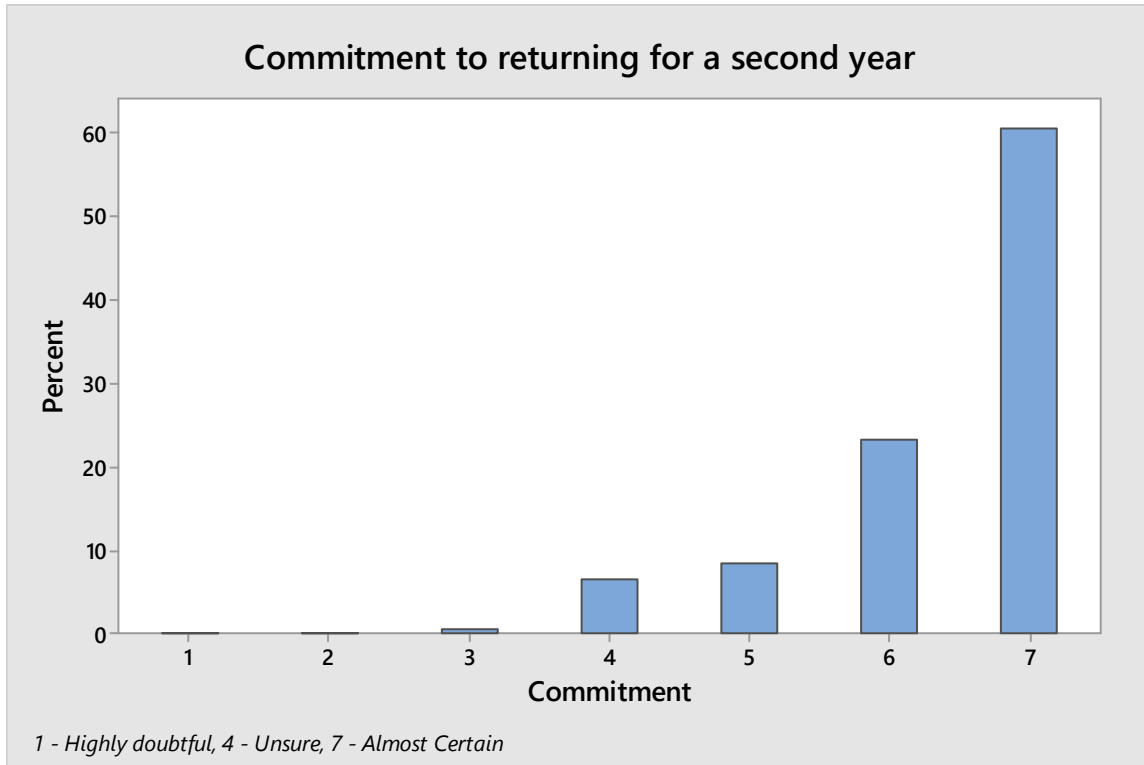


Figure 13 – “Now that Truman Week is over, how committed are you to staying to Truman for a second year and beyond?”

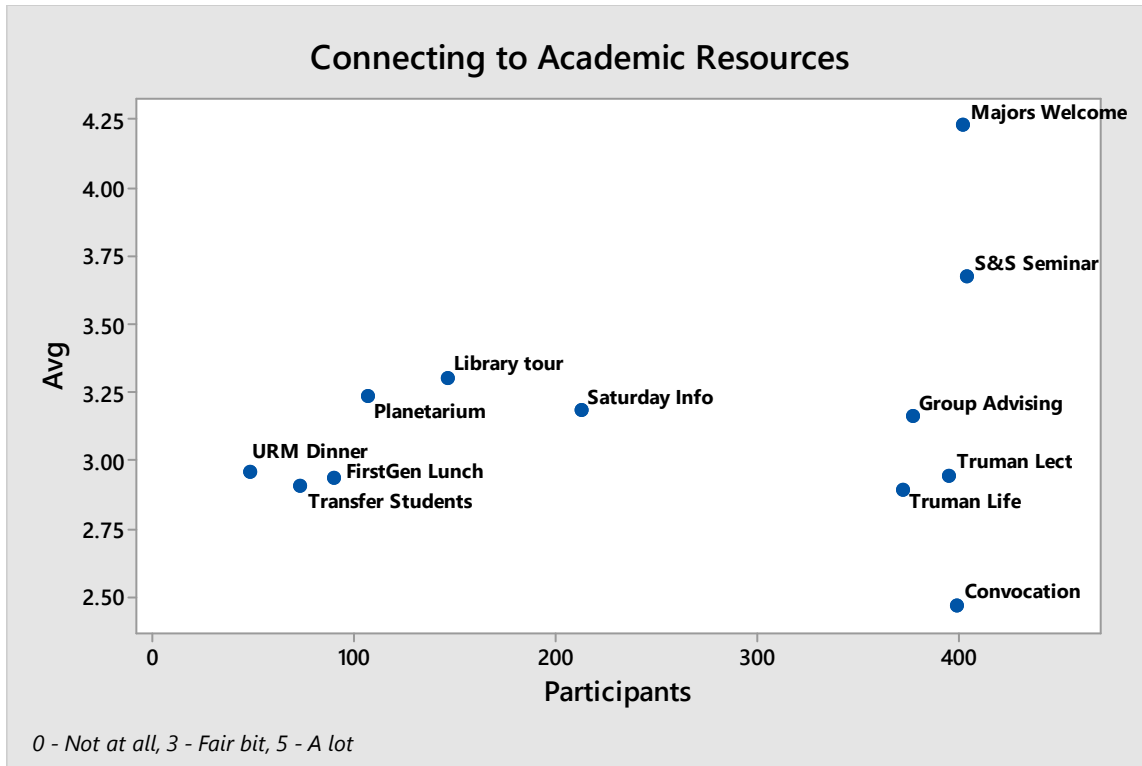


Figure 14 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help connecting you with relevant Academic Resources?”

Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	Participants
Convocation	36	94	116	117	52	20	2.5	399
Truman Life	62	43	83	139	85	22	2.9	372
FirstGen Lunch	344	19	15	22	21	13	2.9	90
Group Advising	53	29	67	139	100	42	3.2	377
Saturday Info	216	23	29	78	51	31	3.2	212
Library tour	288	18	16	46	36	30	3.3	146
Majors Welcome	32	10	21	51	107	213	4.2	402
Planetarium	327	17	10	34	21	24	3.2	106
S&S Seminar	29	21	36	105	136	106	3.7	404
Transfer Students	357	16	8	24	17	8	2.9	73
Truman Lect	35	48	73	160	82	32	2.9	395
URM Dinner	385	12	4	15	8	9	3.0	48

Table 1 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help connecting you with relevant Academic Resources? (0 = did not participate)”

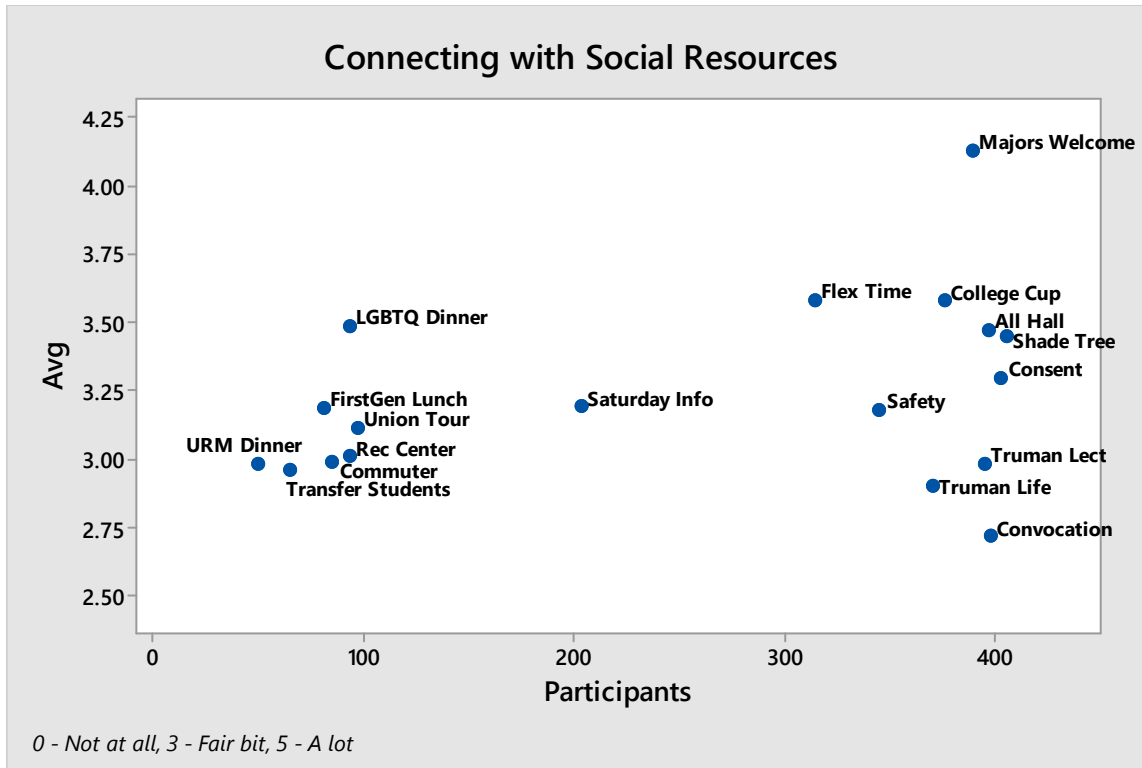


Figure 15 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help connecting you with relevant Social Resources?”

Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	Participants
All Hall	36	22	59	116	112	88	3.5	397
Safety	87	25	61	133	81	45	3.2	345
College Cup	54	19	39	108	127	83	3.6	376
Commuter	347	14	13	28	20	10	3.0	85
Consent	30	29	66	130	113	65	3.3	403
Convocation	34	64	109	126	75	24	2.7	398
Truman Life	61	42	84	134	88	22	2.9	370
FirstGen Lunch	350	15	8	21	21	16	3.2	81
Flex Time	114	11	39	98	90	76	3.6	314
Saturday Info	228	18	27	81	53	24	3.2	203
LGBTQ Dinner	332	17	6	15	25	30	3.5	93
Majors Welcome	38	8	17	69	119	176	4.1	389
Rec Center	333	15	13	35	16	14	3.0	93
Shade Tree	22	30	55	114	117	89	3.4	405
Transfer Students	360	12	10	21	13	9	3.0	65
Truman Lect	33	39	77	161	89	29	3.0	395
URM Dinner	375	12	4	15	11	8	3.0	50
Union Tour	328	13	10	39	23	12	3.1	97

Table 2 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help connecting you with relevant Social Resources?” (0 = did not participate)

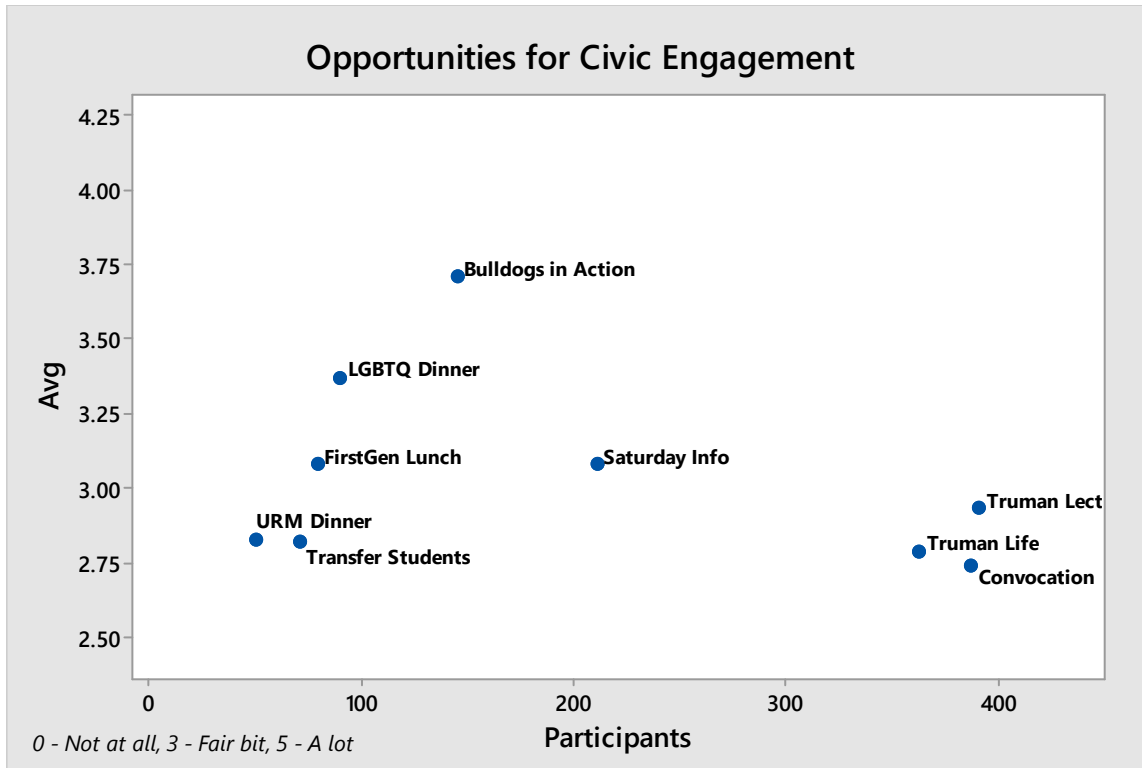


Figure 16 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help identify opportunities for Civic Engagement and its role in the Truman Culture?”

Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	Participants
Bulldogs in Action	281	13	9	36	37	50	3.7	145
Convocation	38	62	93	139	71	22	2.7	387
Truman Life	60	46	85	153	60	19	2.8	363
FirstGen Lunch	348	13	14	20	18	14	3.1	79
Saturday Info	212	18	37	88	47	21	3.1	211
LGBTQ Dinner	333	13	10	20	25	22	3.4	90
Transfer Students	353	15	12	23	13	8	2.8	71
Truman Lect	32	45	76	157	88	25	2.9	391
URM Dinner	374	11	8	15	11	5	2.8	50

Table 3 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help identify opportunities for Civic Engagement and its role in the Truman Culture?” (0 = did not participate)

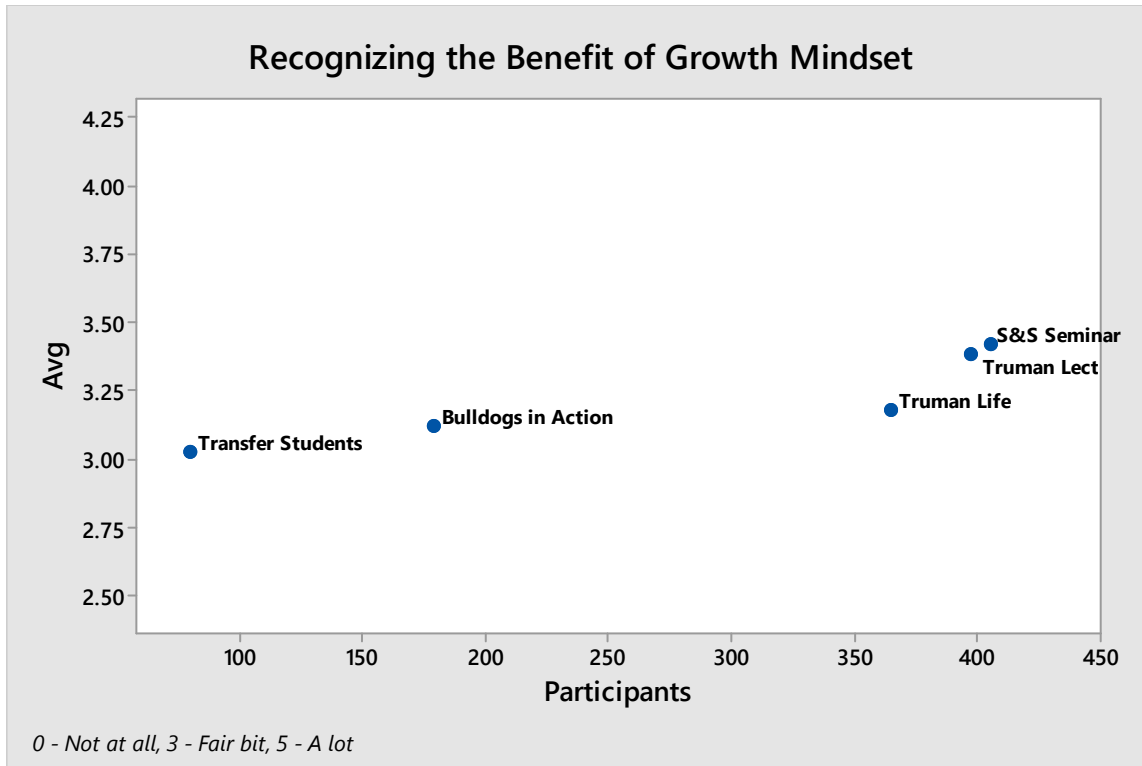


Figure 17 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you to recognize the benefits of a growth mindset and the value of failure as data in the pursuit of success?”

Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	Participants
Bulldogs in Action	248	24	28	56	45	26	3.1	179
Truman Life	58	32	61	131	93	48	3.2	365
Transfer Students	341	10	15	27	19	9	3.0	80
Truman Lect	27	34	50	127	103	83	3.4	397
S&S Seminar	21	26	56	120	128	75	3.4	405

Table 4 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you to recognize the benefits of a growth mindset and the value of failure as data in the pursuit of success?” (0 = did not participate)

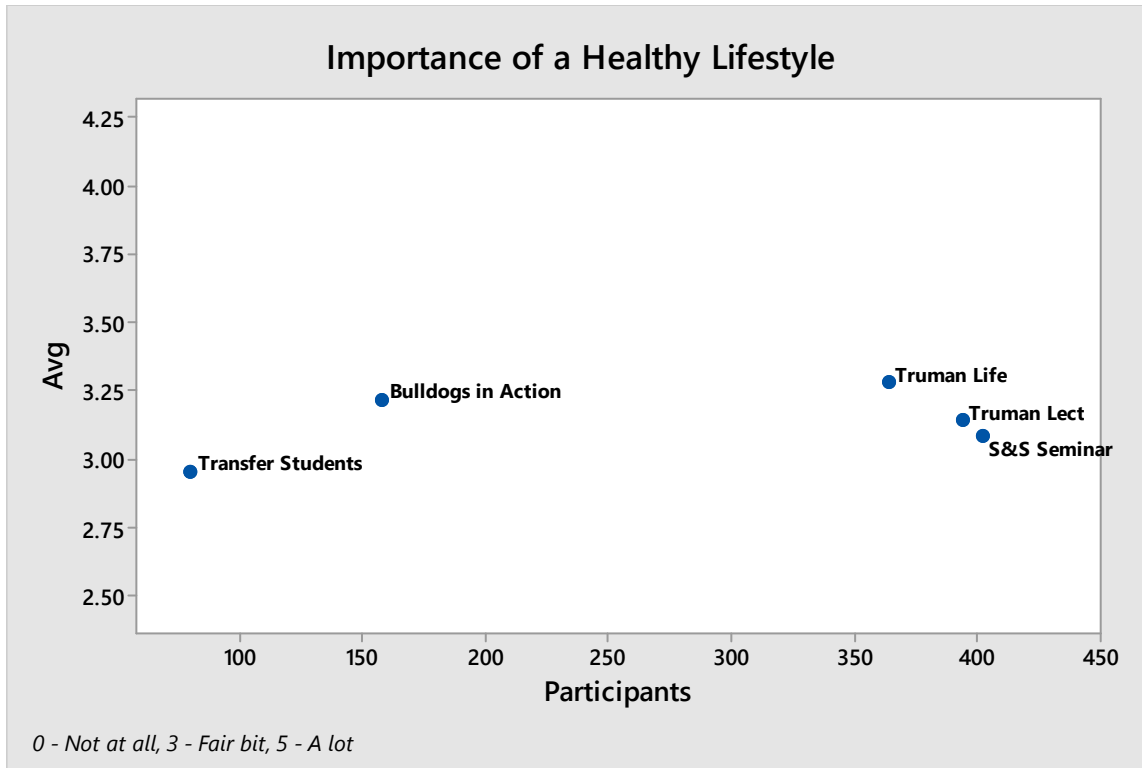


Figure 18 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you understand the importance of a balanced, healthy life habits?”

Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	Participants
Bulldogs in Action	266	27	16	44	38	33	3.2	158
Truman Life	59	28	52	131	98	55	3.3	364
S&S Seminar	23	37	86	134	98	47	3.1	402
Transfer Students	340	13	13	27	19	8	3.0	80
Truman Lect	28	35	69	135	117	38	3.1	394

Table 5 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you understand the importance of a balanced, healthy life habits?” (0 = did not participate)

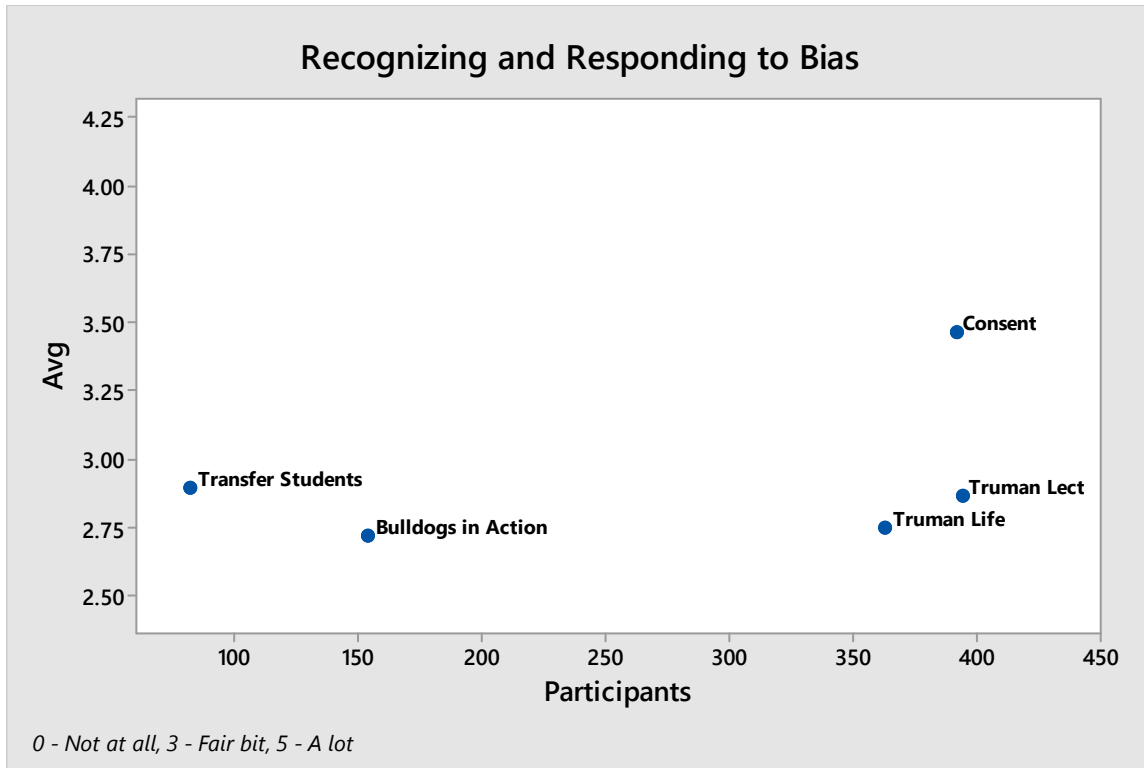


Figure 19 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you recognize bias and unconscious bias and develop strategies to respond and/or intervene?”

Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	Participants
Bulldogs in Action	269	32	37	42	29	14	2.7	154
Consent	33	28	46	120	113	85	3.5	392
Truman Life	60	61	85	124	71	22	2.7	363
Transfer Students	339	14	12	32	17	7	2.9	82
Truman Lect	27	58	82	140	83	31	2.9	394

Table 6 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you recognize bias and unconscious bias and develop strategies to respond and/or intervene?” (0 = did not participate)