

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 Center for Academic Excellence 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?

Assistant Vice President for Student Success and Institutional Effectiveness.

To whom are the results regularly distributed?

Results are available to the University community through this almanac and available by request from the Assistant Vice President for Student Success and Institutional Effectiveness.

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 for a better understanding of student demographics and expectations. In fall 2022, 205 students completed the survey giving a response rate of approximately 29%. Although 29% might be considered reasonable for a general survey, previous response rates for the First-Year Survey are typically much stronger (with nearly 100% of first year students completing the survey when Truman Week was a credit bearing activity). In fall 2021, a small prize incentive was utilized to entice students to complete the survey and a much higher response rate of 65% was achieved indicating that it might be advantageous to offer incentives for future surveys.

The following highlights some of the most relevant findings:

Choosing Truman

Prior to admission, approximately 75% of students had visited more than one college and 96% of respondents visited Truman State's campus at least once as part of the admission process. Although visit activities have not returned to pre-pandemic levels, the Fall 2022 cohort clearly visited more campuses than the Fall 2021 cohort. 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 but in general parent influence was positive.

Demographics

The 2022 entering class is similar in makeup to the 2021 first-year cohort but with a shift towards increased higher income level individuals. Approximately 17% identifying themselves as upper class, 30% as upper middle class, 28% as middle class, 15% as working class, and 9% as lower class. The biggest decrease from 2021 was in students identifying as working class (\$40-75K), while the largest increase was those identifying as upper middle class (\$100-150k). The general trend over the last 5 years is a decreasing number of students indicating income levels below \$75K. Approximately 18% of the incoming students indicate they are first generation (with neither parent having a bachelor's degree) while 49% of the incoming class indicate that both of their parents have a bachelor's degree. In general there has been a decreasing trend in self-reported first generation status over the last 5 years.

Connections within Truman Days

Approximately 97% 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, 98% of the students could identify at least one connection for mutual support. In comparing 2022 data to 2021, there is a clear improvement in perceived student interactions from 2021 with more students indicating strong bonds with multiple students (continuing to show the rebound from the low numbers found in Fall 2020 during the pandemic protocols).

Expectations

Over 96% of respondents expect to graduate Truman knowing at least one faculty member well enough to ask for a letter of recommendation and 48% 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 3.6% of students expect to average lower than a B during their first semester at Truman.

Attitude towards Truman

Approximately 90% 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, 91% of students indicated some commitment to returning to Truman for their second year (with 65% 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. The LGBTQ Dinner also scored highly (for those choosing to attend) for both Social and Civic purposes, while Bulldogs in Action scored highly for Civic Engagement. Attendance for various other activities varied substantially but rated success was similar for most programs.

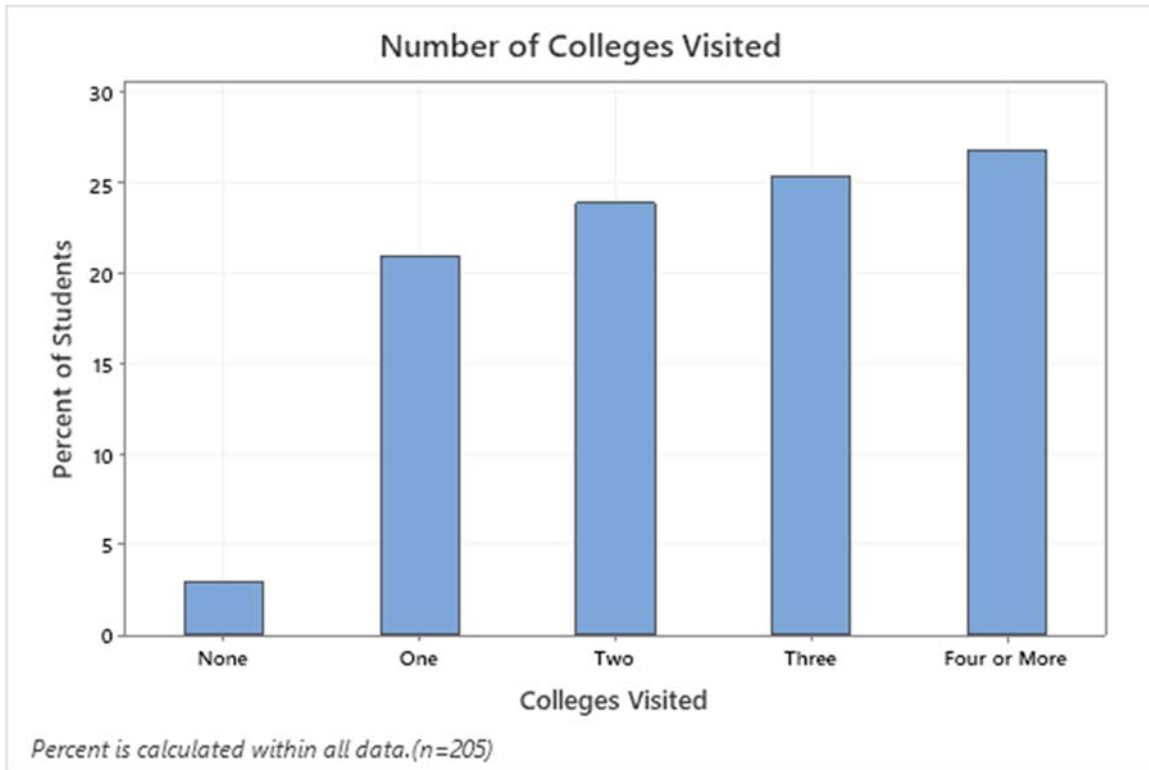


Figure 1 – “In selecting a college, how many colleges or university campuses did you visit?”

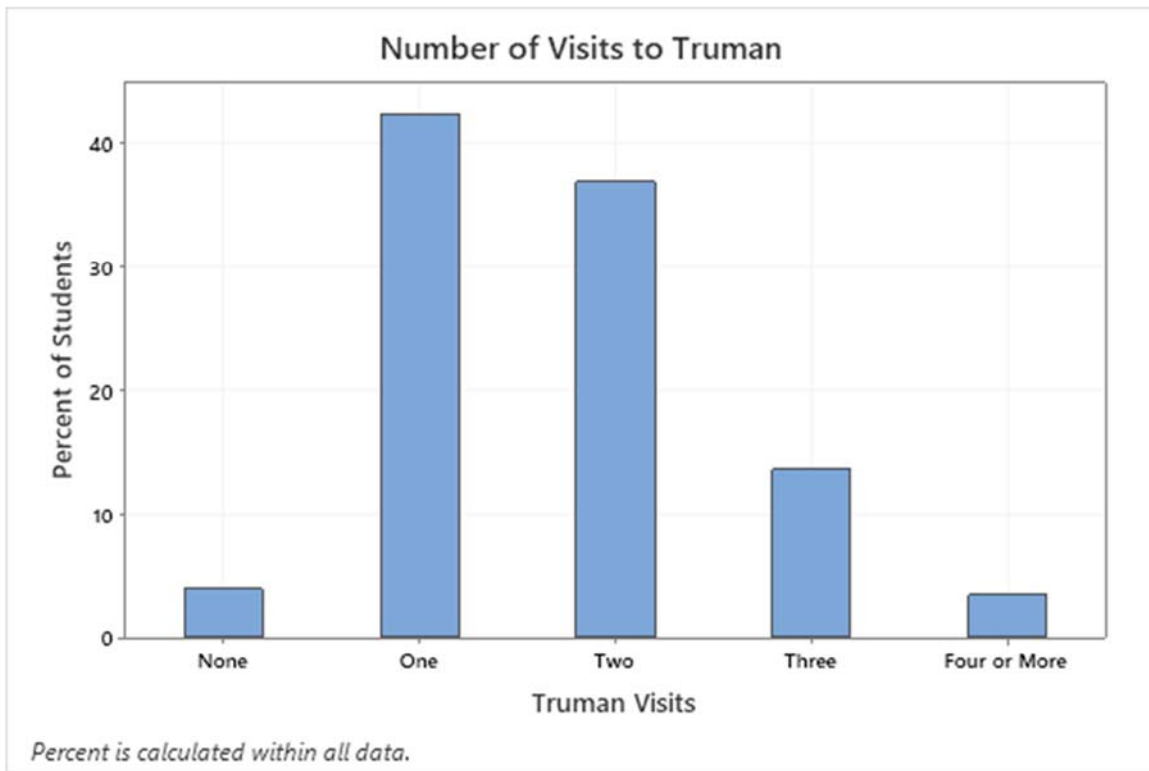


Figure 2 – “In making a college selection, how many times did you visit Truman State University?”

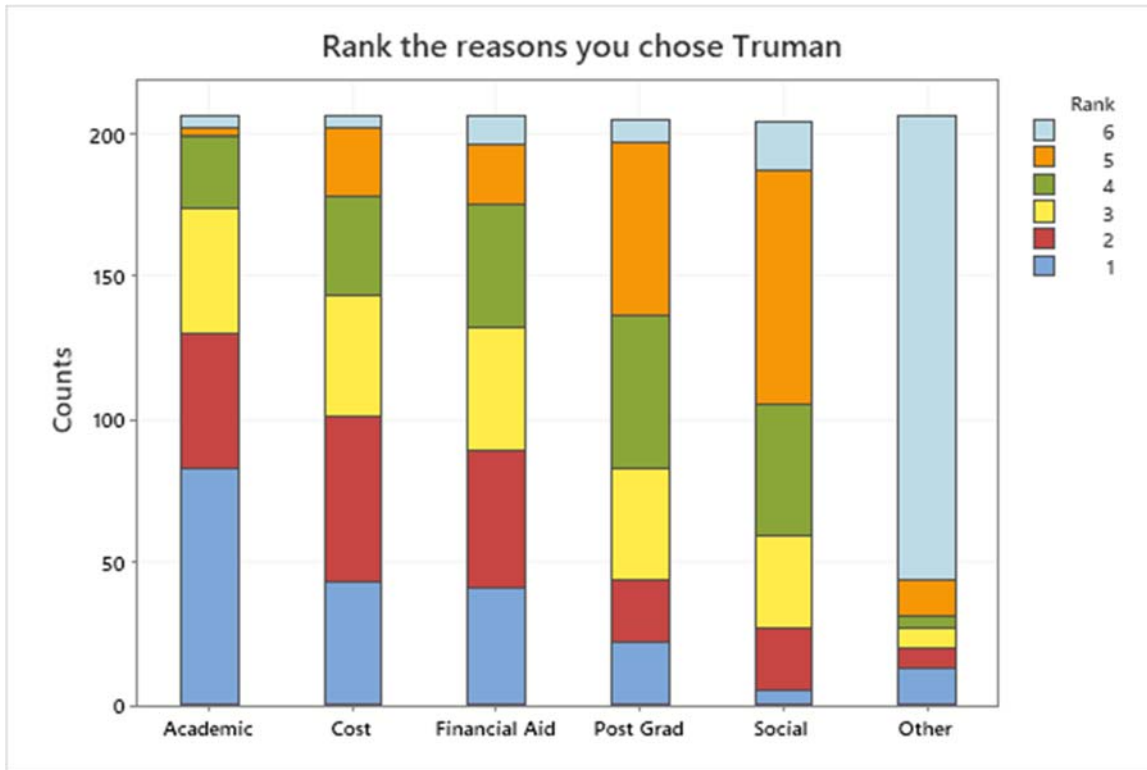


Figure 3 – “Please rank these reasons for choosing Truman. Assign the most important reason number 1, the second most important number 2, etc. until you have used all six ranks.

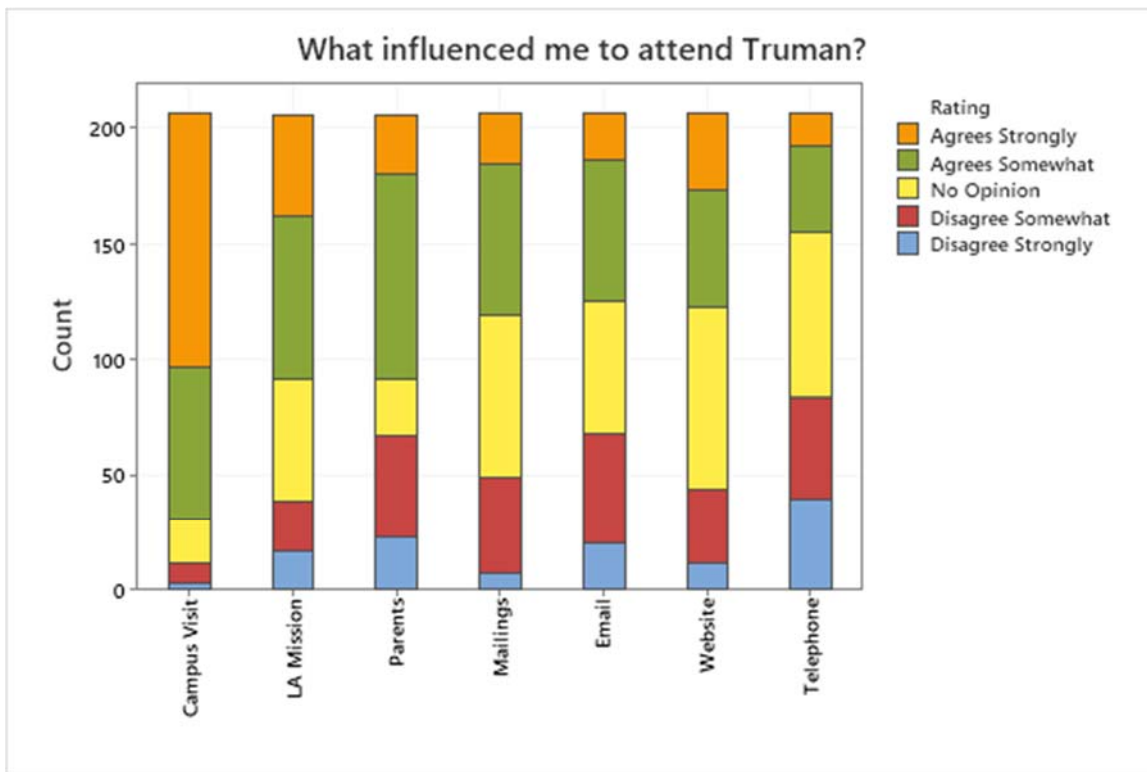


Figure 4a – “Please indicate your opinion (on the level of influence in attending Truman) by marking one response on each question”

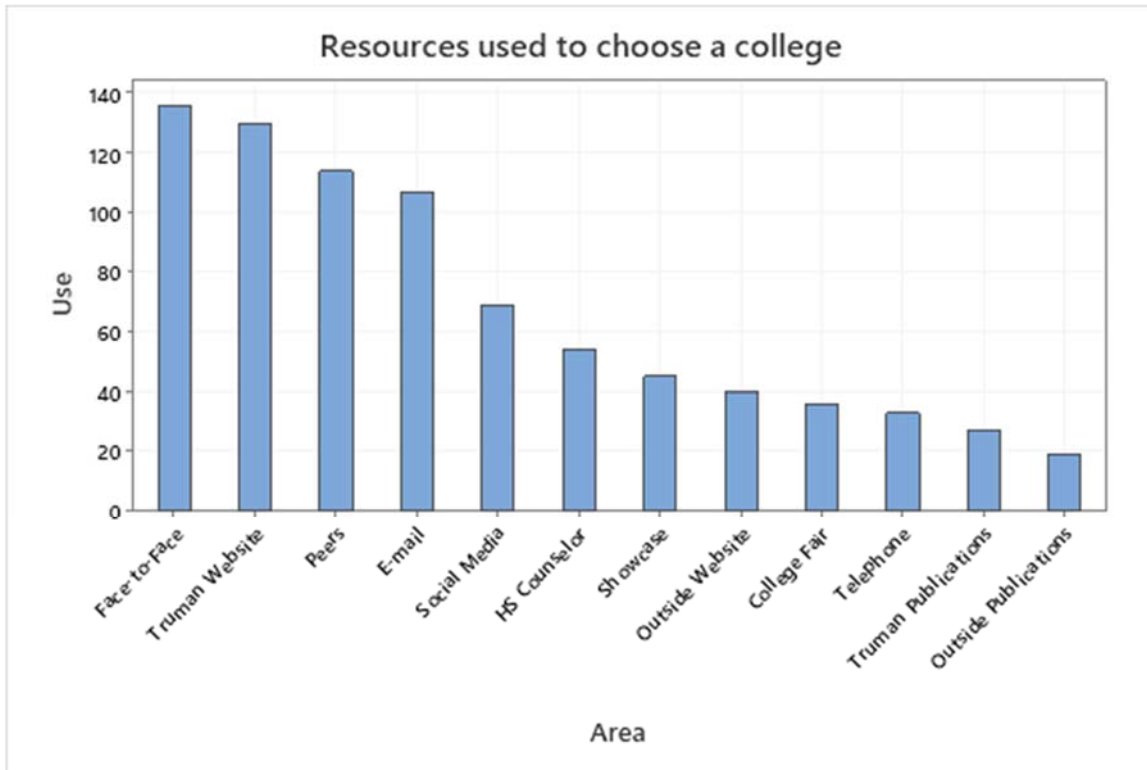


Figure 4b – “Which of these resources did you use to choose a college? (Check as many as apply)”

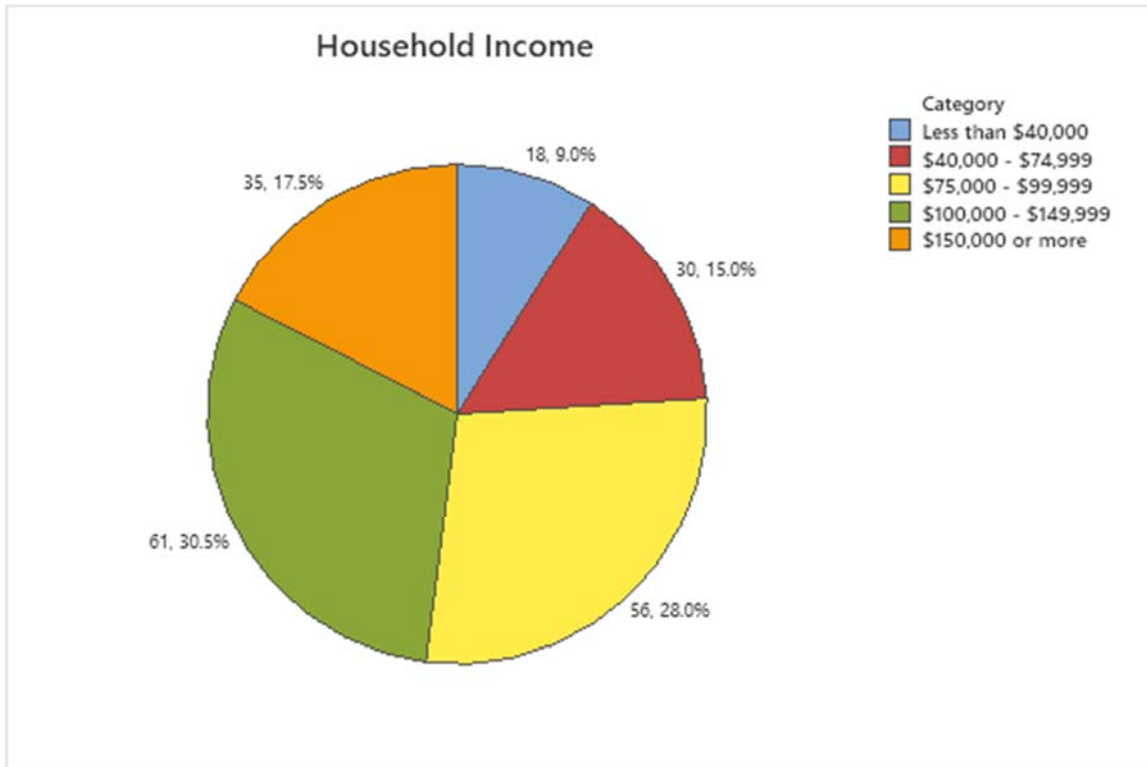


Figure 5 – “What is your best estimate of your parent's total income last year? Consider income from all sources before taxes.”

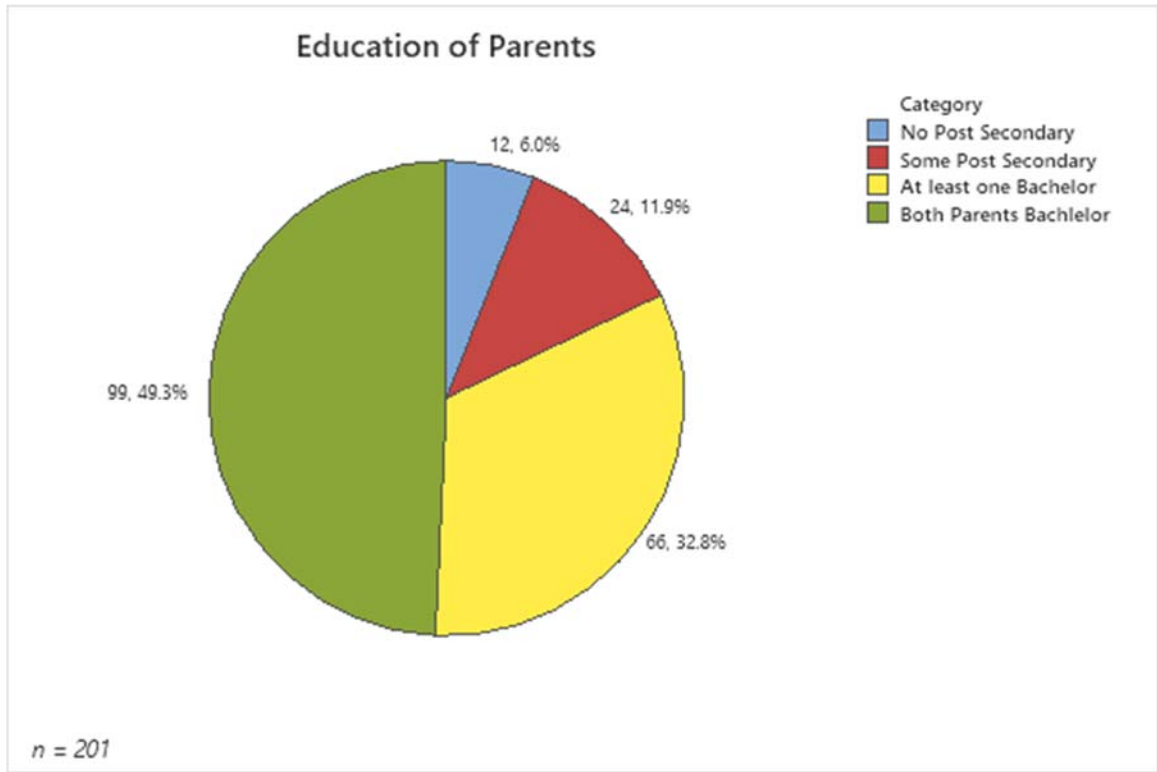


Figure 6 – “What is the highest level of formal education obtained by your parents?”

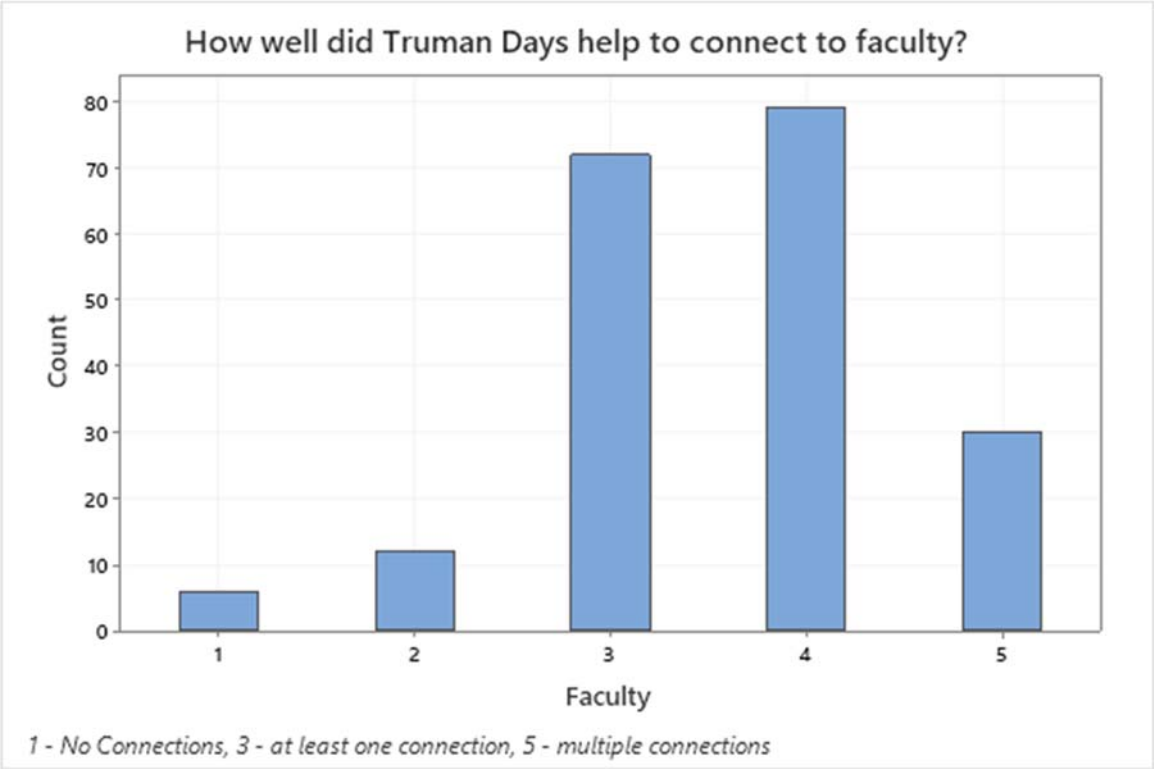


Figure 7 – “How well did Truman Days do at introducing you to faculty and staff?”

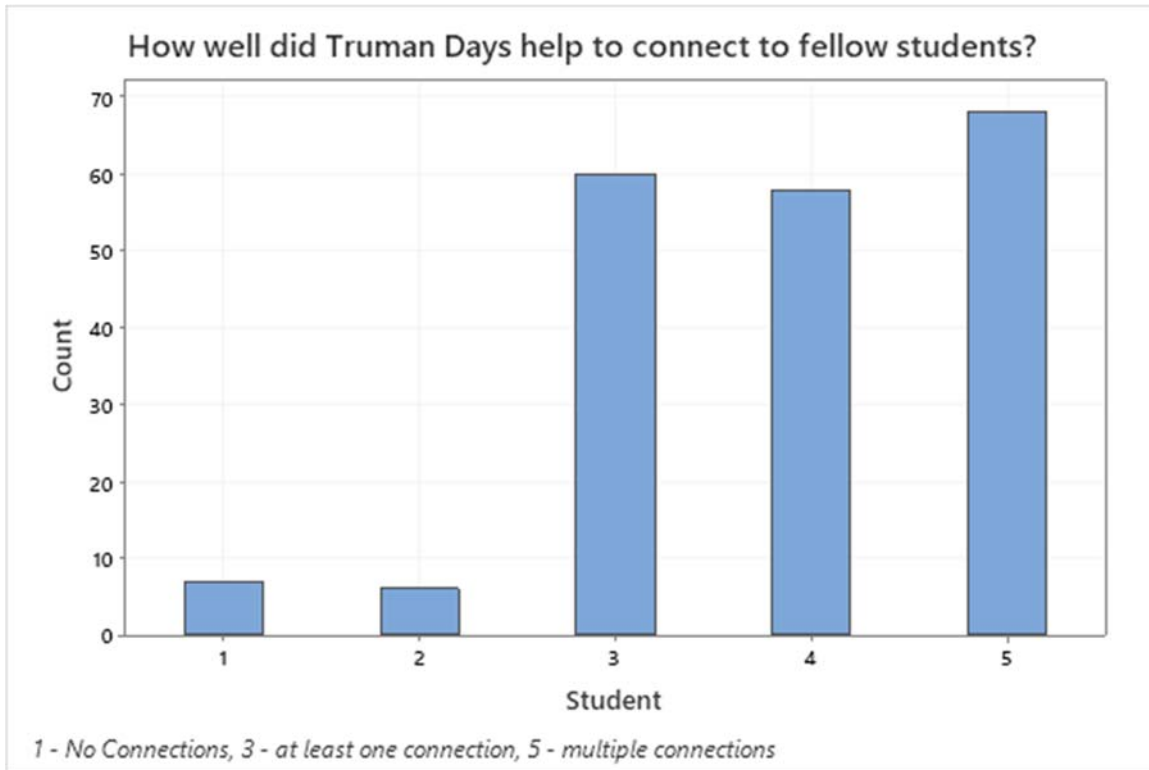


Figure 8 – “How well did Truman Days help you get connected to your fellow students?”

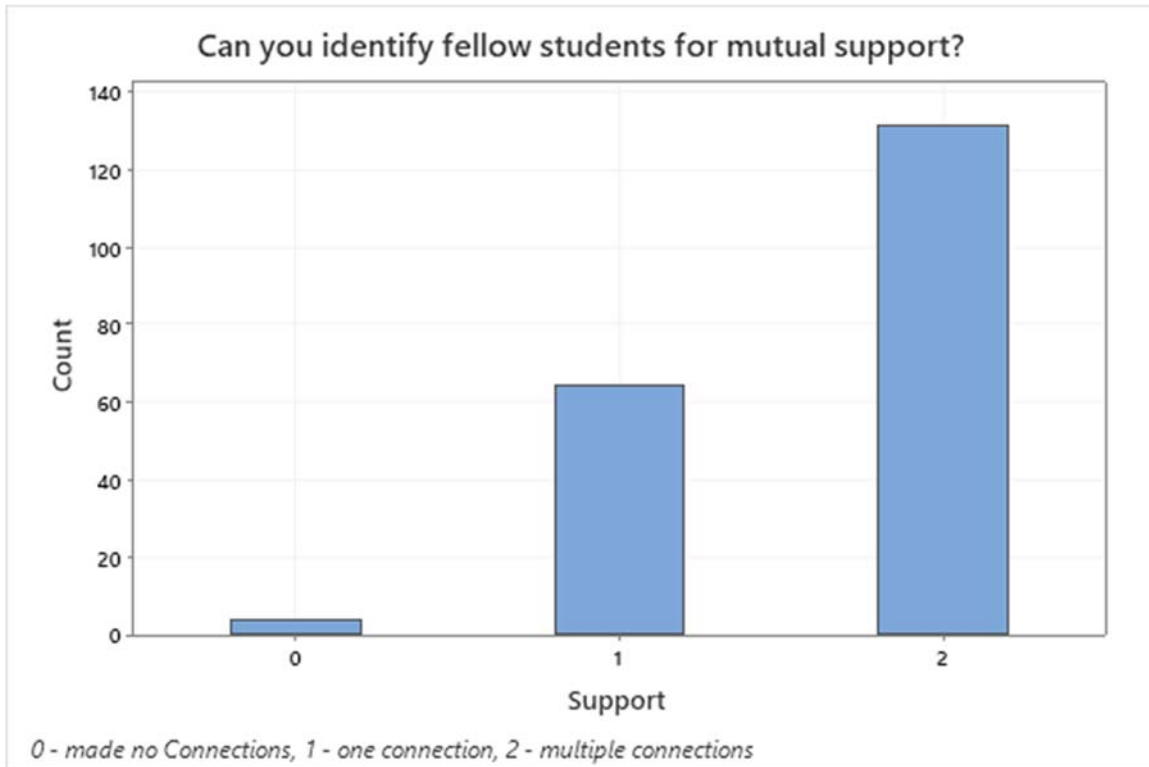


Figure 9 – “Can you identify fellow students that can help support you and that you can help support?”

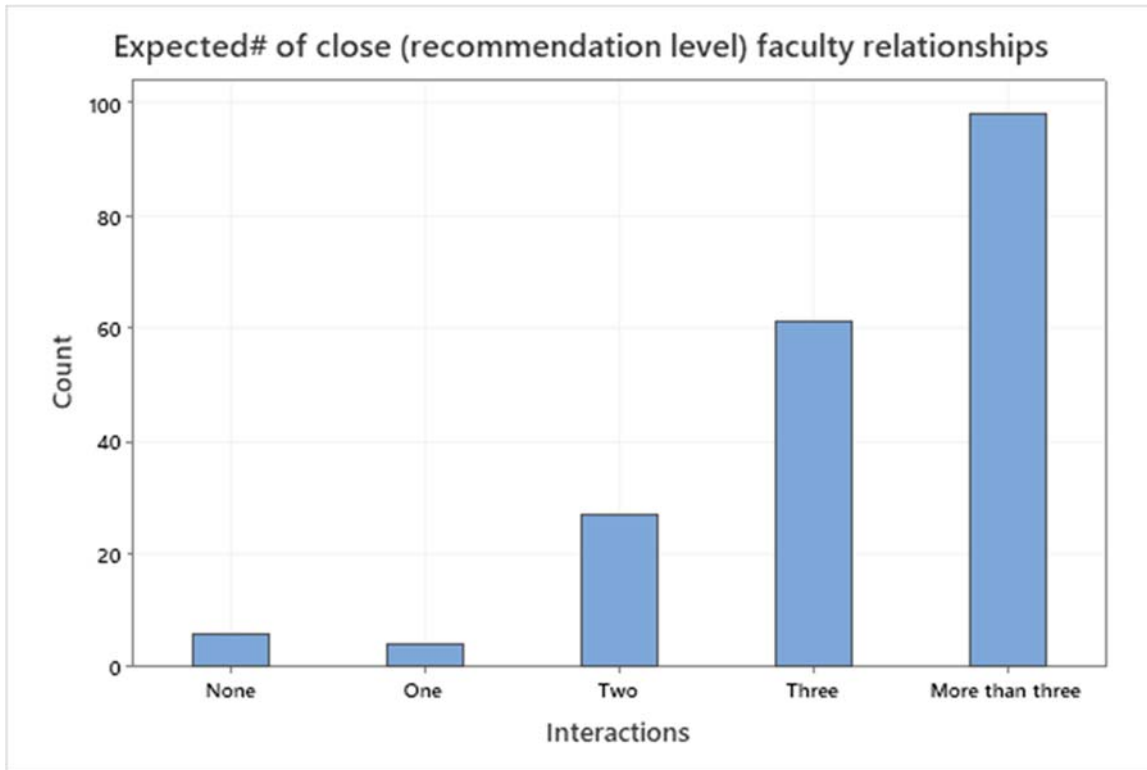


Figure 10 – “Upon graduation from Truman, how many faculty members do you expect to know well enough that you would ask them for a letter of recommendation?” (Figure 13 in F18)

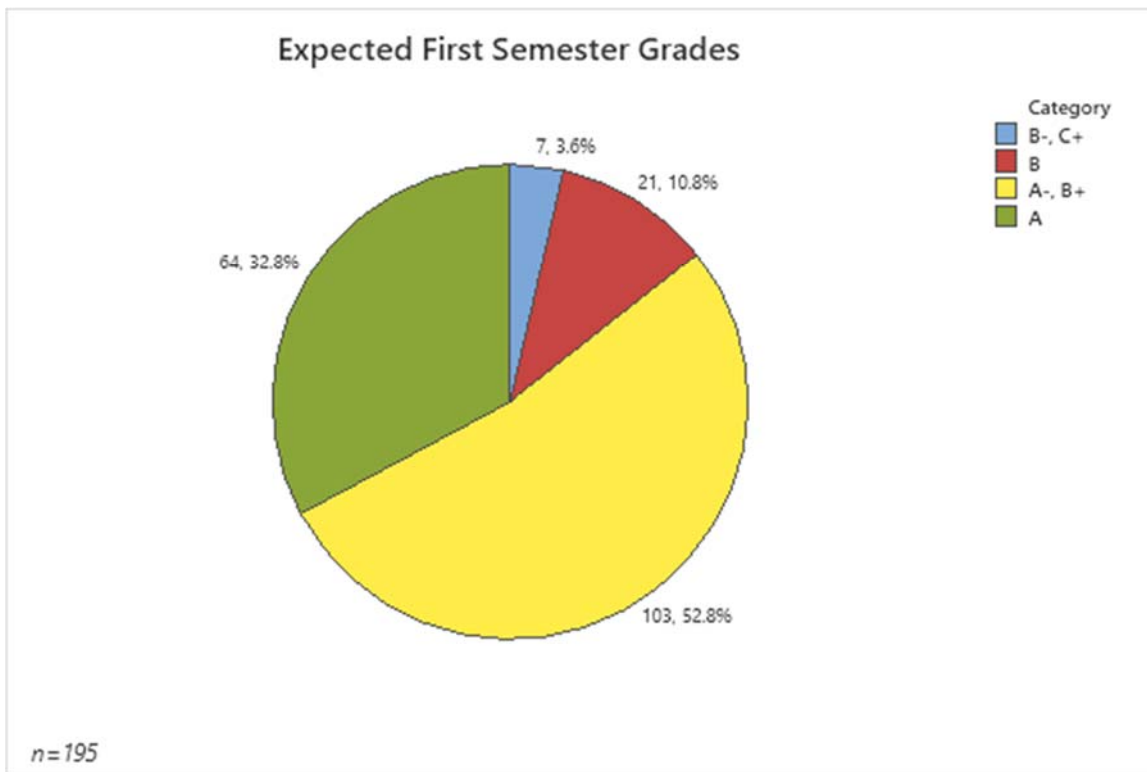


Figure 11 – “What do you expect most of your first semester grades at Truman to be?” (Figure 14 in F18)

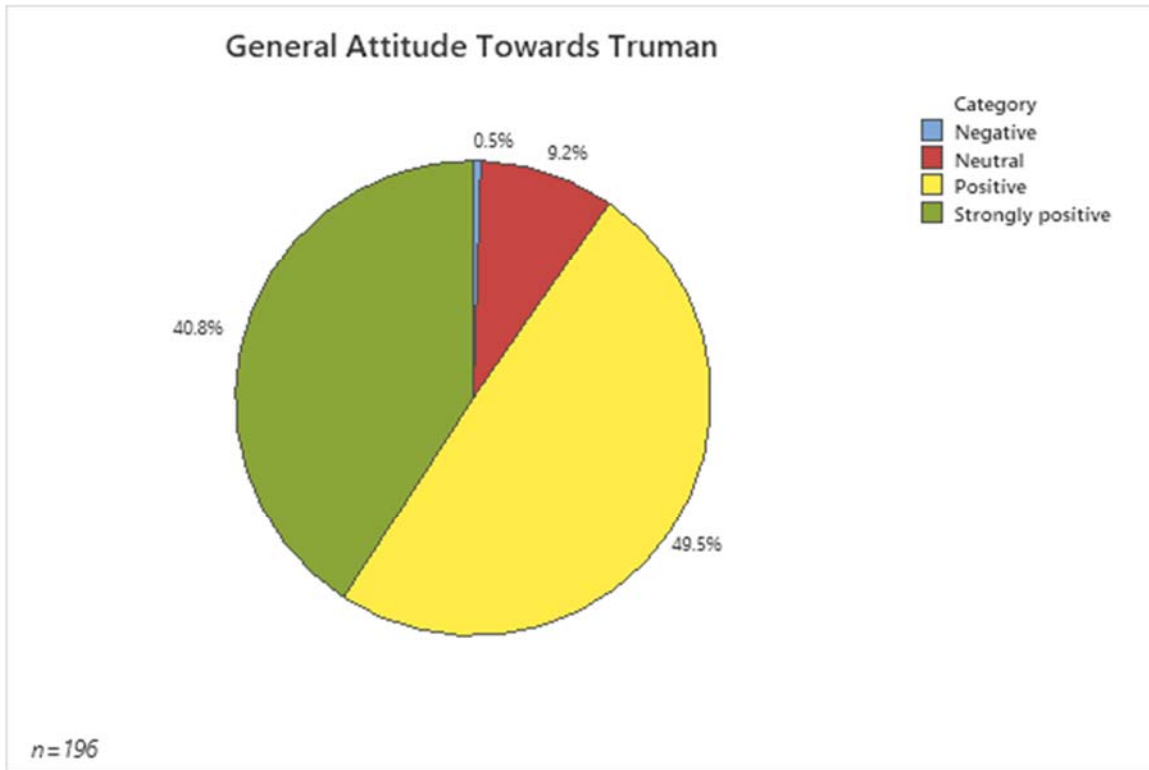


Figure 12 – “At the present time, your general attitude toward Truman is?” (Figure 15 in F18)

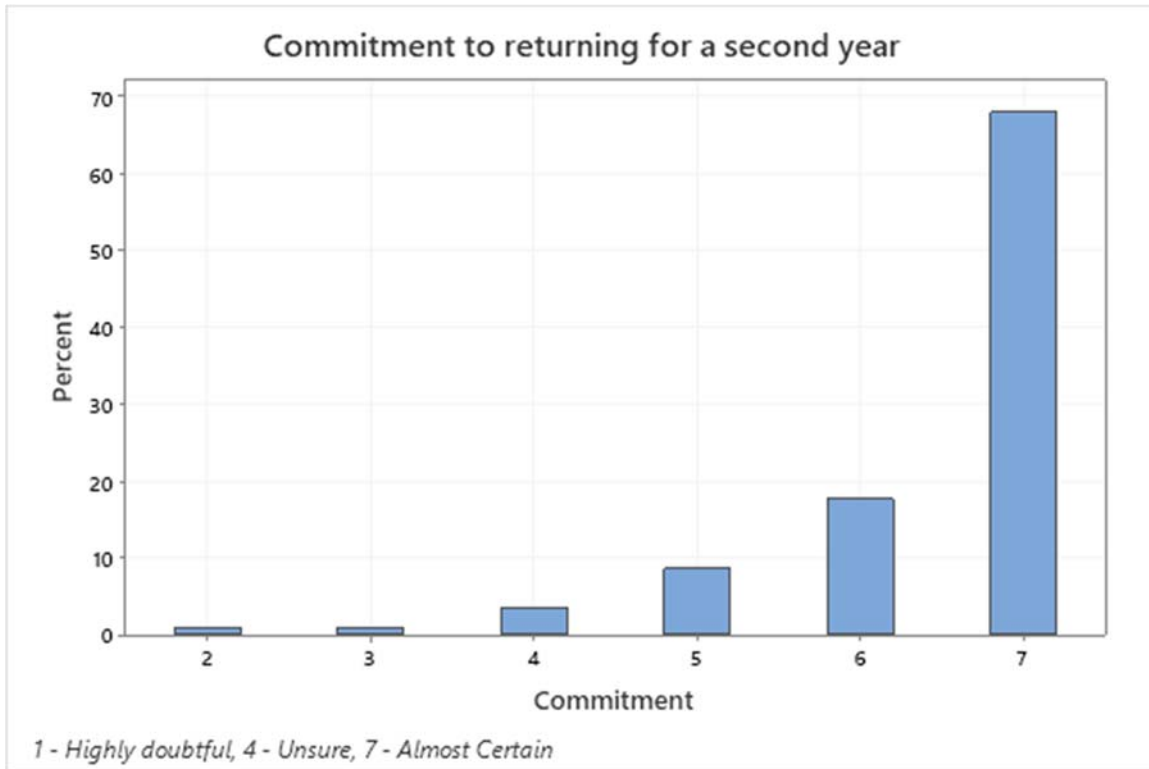


Figure 13 – “Now that Truman Week is over, how committed are you to staying to Truman for a second year and beyond?”

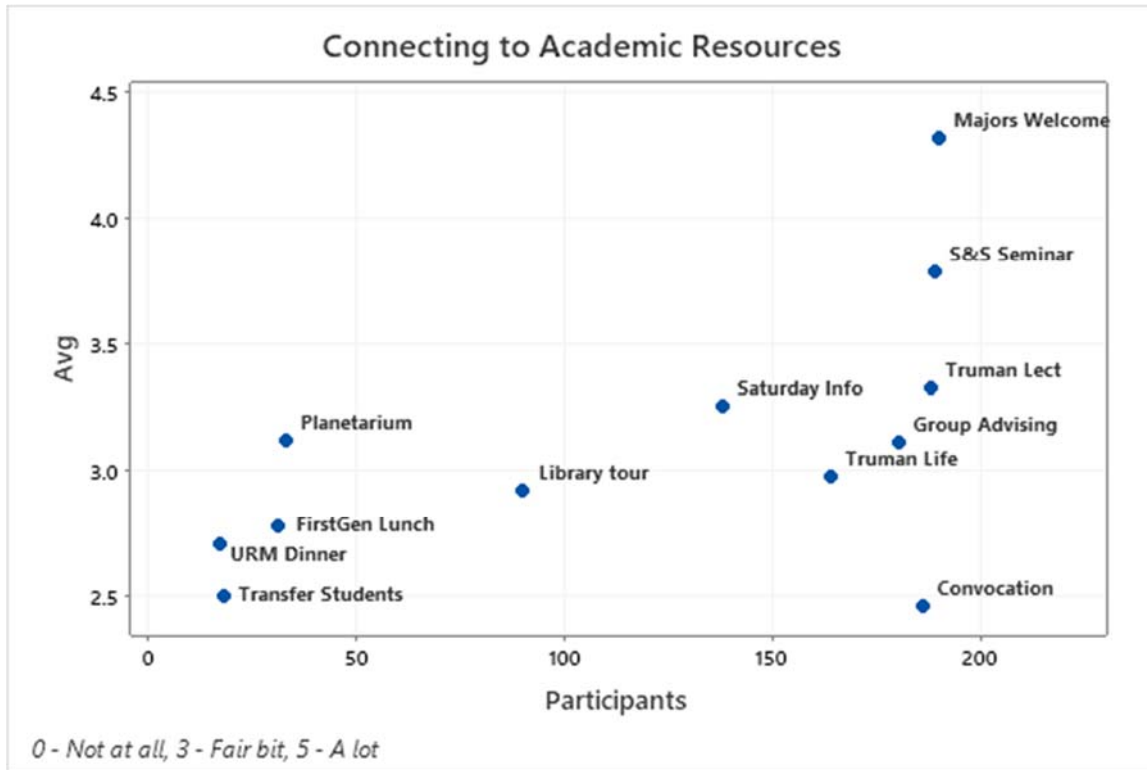


Figure 14 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help connecting you with relevant Academic Resources?”

Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	Participants
Convocation	11	40	59	62	12	13	2.5	186
Truman Life	32	15	35	65	37	12	3.0	164
FirstGen Lunch	166	9	3	11	2	6	2.8	31
Group Advising	17	14	40	62	40	24	3.1	180
Saturday Info	59	11	27	37	42	21	3.3	138
Library tour	107	13	18	32	17	10	2.9	90
Majors Welcome	9	5	8	18	49	110	4.3	190
Planetarium	164	7	5	8	3	10	3.1	33
S&S Seminar	9	4	21	45	60	59	3.8	189
Transfer Students	179	8	1	4	2	3	2.5	18
Truman Lect	7	14	34	53	51	36	3.3	188
URM Dinner	180	7	2	2	1	5	2.7	17

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

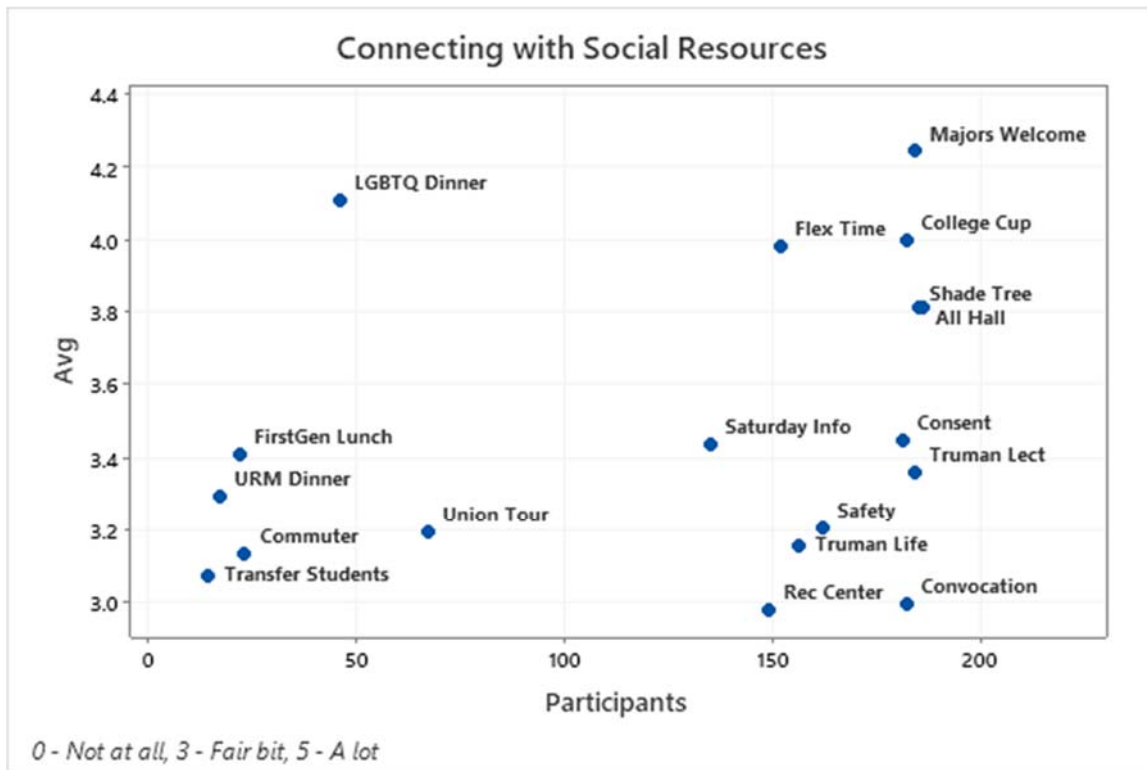


Figure 15 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help connecting you with relevant Social Resources?”

Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	Participants
All Hall	8	4	18	49	53	62	3.8	186
Safety	33	15	33	46	40	28	3.2	162
College Cup	13	5	13	38	47	79	4.0	182
Commuter	168	4	5	5	2	7	3.1	23
Consent	14	17	28	42	45	49	3.4	181
Convocation	11	23	38	63	33	25	3.0	182
Truman Life	34	11	30	59	36	20	3.2	156
FirstGen Lunch	173	4	1	6	4	7	3.4	22
Flex Time	42	2	10	38	41	61	4.0	152
Saturday Info	60	6	23	39	40	27	3.4	135
LGBTQ Dinner	147	2	1	8	14	21	4.1	46
Majors Welcome	11	3	5	32	48	96	4.2	184
Rec Center	44	16	42	41	29	21	3.0	149
Shade Tree	9	5	17	41	67	55	3.8	185
Transfer Students	180	4	2	2	1	5	3.1	14
Truman Lect	8	11	34	52	52	35	3.4	184
URM Dinner	176	6	0	2	1	8	3.3	17
Union Tour	126	7	8	29	11	12	3.2	67

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

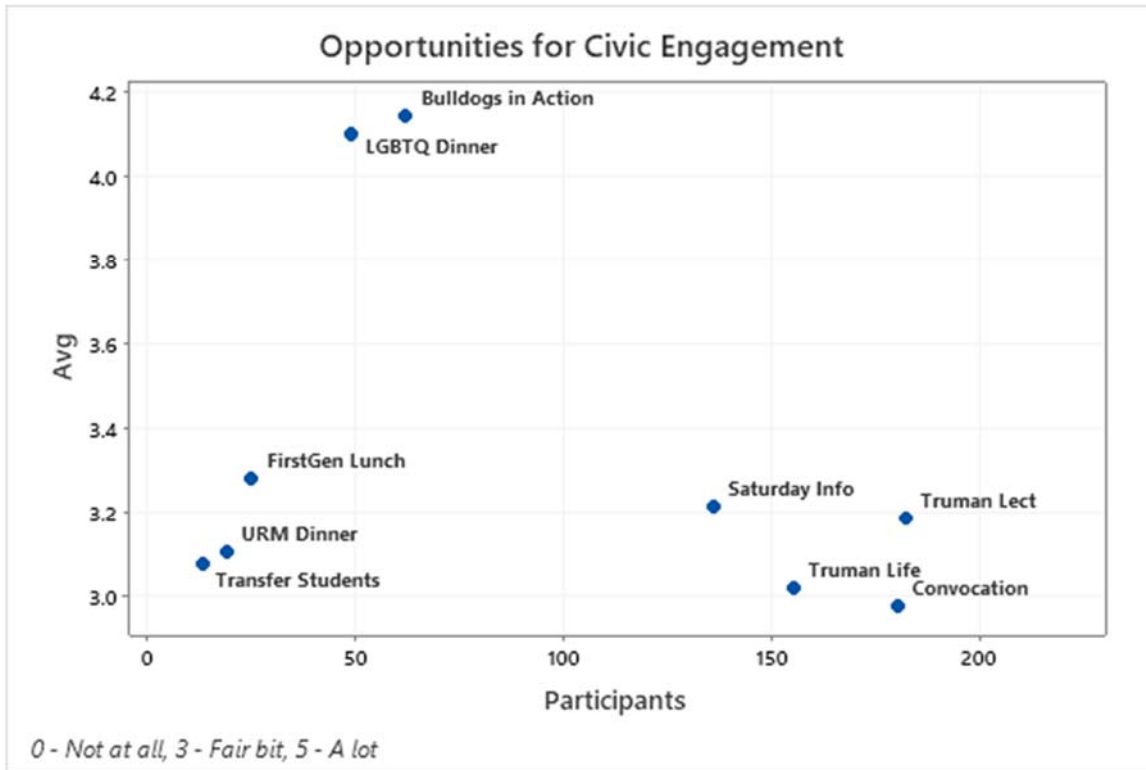


Figure 16 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help identify opportunities for Civic Engagement and its role in the Truman Culture?”

Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	Participants
Bulldogs in Action	130	6	2	7	9	38	4.1	62
Convocation	12	22	40	61	34	23	3.0	180
Truman Life	35	12	35	63	28	17	3.0	155
FirstGen Lunch	168	4	2	8	5	6	3.3	25
Saturday Info	57	9	20	59	29	19	3.2	136
LGBTQ Dinner	146	3	3	4	15	24	4.1	49
Transfer Students	179	4	0	4	1	4	3.1	13
Truman Lect	9	15	35	58	49	25	3.2	182
URM Dinner	175	7	0	3	2	7	3.1	19

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)

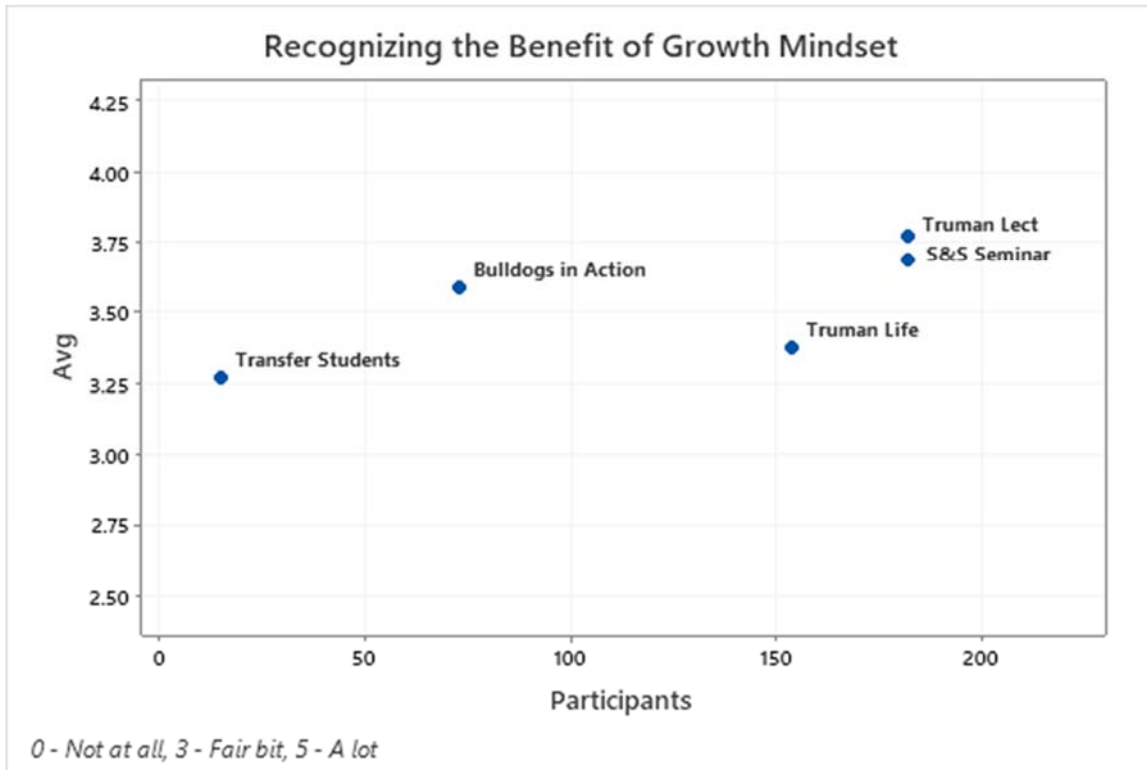


Figure 17 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you to recognize the benefits of a growth mindset and the value of failure as data in the pursuit of success?”

Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	Participants
Bulldogs in Action	116	9	8	14	15	27	3.6	73
Truman Life	37	8	26	48	44	28	3.4	154
Transfer Students	176	4	0	4	2	5	3.3	15
Truman Lect	8	7	17	44	56	58	3.8	182
S&S Seminar	10	9	16	52	51	54	3.7	182

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)

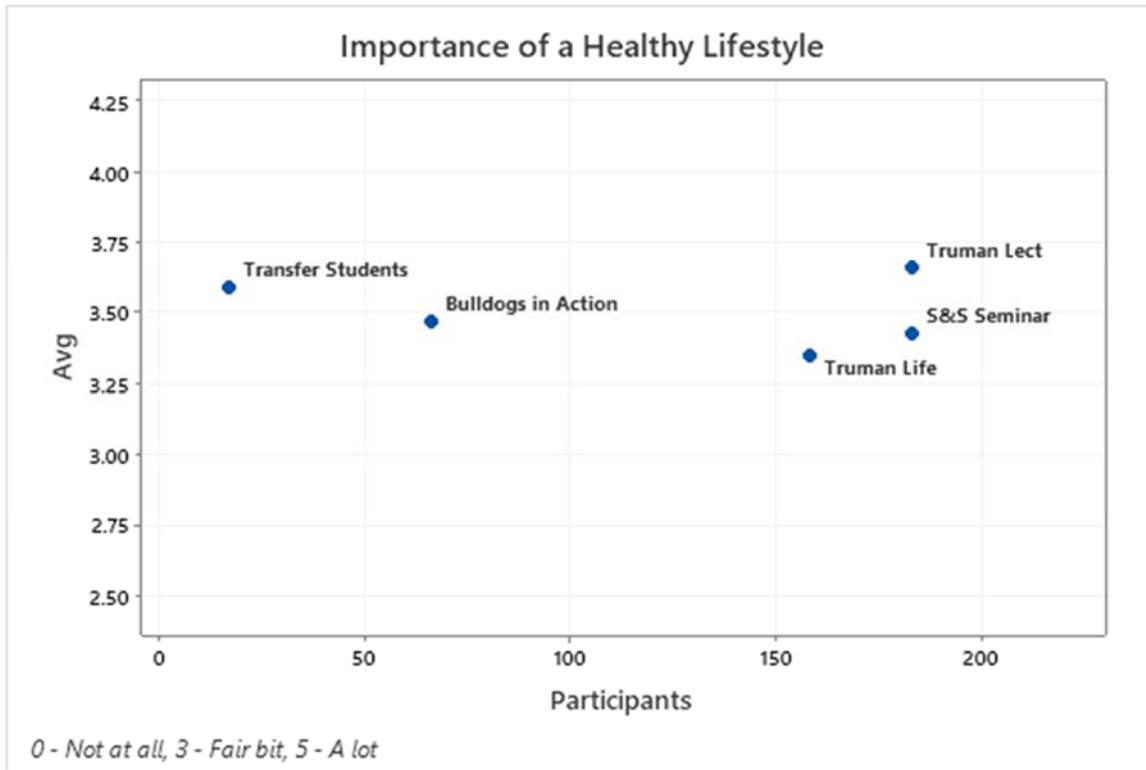


Figure 18 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you understand the importance of a balanced, healthy life habits?”

Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	Participants
Bulldogs in Action	126	8	6	21	9	22	3.5	66
Truman Life	33	11	23	51	46	27	3.3	158
S&S Seminar	9	13	26	57	44	43	3.4	183
Transfer Students	174	3	1	3	3	7	3.6	17
Truman Lect	8	11	27	36	48	61	3.7	183

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)

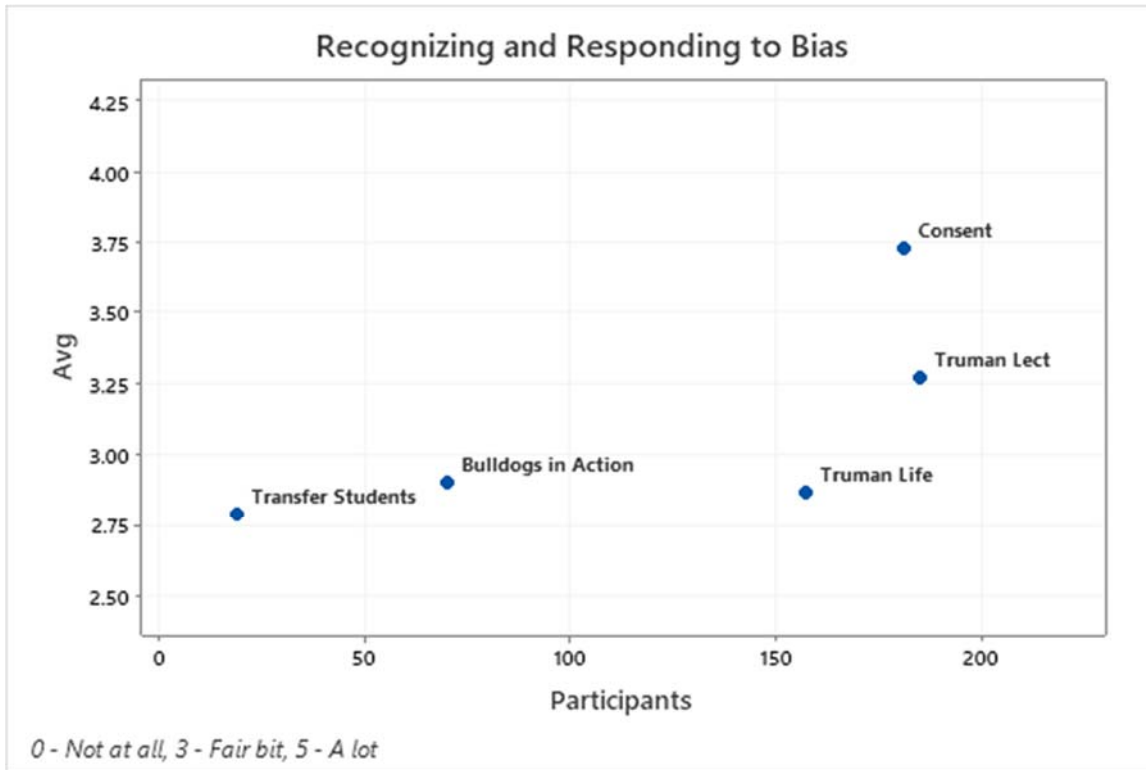


Figure 19 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you recognize bias and unconscious bias and develop strategies to respond and/or intervene?”

Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	Participants
Bulldogs in Action	124	16	15	14	10	15	2.9	70
Consent	13	11	18	38	56	58	3.7	181
Truman Life	37	20	42	50	29	16	2.9	157
Transfer Students	174	7	1	4	3	4	2.8	19
Truman Lect	9	21	29	54	41	40	3.3	185

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)