



Southeastern Illinois College
COVID-19 Institutional Response Study
July 6, 2020

Report Prepared for the Board of Trustees

Executive Summary

Given the unprecedented worldwide outbreak of COVID-19, and the subsequent closure of Southeastern Illinois College's campus; including the conversion of all coursework moved to remote, online learning, the Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research along with the Executive Dean of Student Services, conducted a student-wide survey. The purpose of the survey was two-fold. First, capture the historic moment. The sediment, the impact, even the uncertainty of the situation was unparalleled in modern history and needed to be recorded. Secondly, and just as important, measure the impact on our students and student learning as well as measure SIC's response to the crisis.

Method

A mixed methods approach was utilized for this study. An anonymous electronic survey was used for data collection along with two qualitative focus groups. Both collection instruments yielded valuable data for the College. Informed consent was given by all participants.

The electronic survey consisting of 24 questions was designed employing the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium (HEDS) template that was adapted to meet the unique needs of SIC. Prior Informed consent was given by all participants. A link to the survey was placed online in the student learning platform visible when a student logged-in remotely to their courses. A direct link to the survey was also emailed to every registered student. The survey was conducted online May 4-14, 2020. Survey responses totaled 277 (n=277).

The two focus groups consisted of two Zoom meetings with two separate student groups. The first group were baccalaureate transfer students and the second group consisted of Career Technical Education and Allied Health students. Both groups were

asked the same set of questions and gave prior informed consent. The two focus groups were directed by Chris Barr and Dr. Tyler Billman and were conducted on May 4, 2020 and May 15, 2020 respectively.

Results

This study took into account two different collection instruments, electronic survey and focus group. Both yielded very important results and analysis. For the purpose of this report, results will be presented separately so as to correctly identify the proper collection method.

Overall, students gave the College high marks for its response to the COVID-19 crisis, and for the concern shown for students. Data from the survey and focus groups clearly indicated students were aware of the great strides made by the college and numerous times noted the quickness and ease the college was able to move to fully online. Yet, students felt a great amount of apprehension about the technology required for online learning, and about being able to pay their bills and keeping their loved ones safe. The fear that this might continue forever was also resounding throughout. Capturing such raw data, real-time during the pandemic was one of the purposes to fully understand our response and the impact it had on our students. That is what this study was able to accomplish. There will always be a before and an after. This was to capture the during.

Survey Summary (n=277)

- **94.51% Agree-Strongly Agree** the staff and administration have done a good job protecting students from COVID-19.
- **81.86% Agree-Strongly Agree** the staff and administration have done a good job helping students adapt to the changes forced by COVID-19.
- **84.39% Agree-Strongly Agree** the staff and administration have shown care and concern for students during the crisis.
- **77%** report feeling more stress than usual.
- **59.53%** stated that they planned on attending SIC in the fall.
- **51% sometimes-very often** worry about paying their bills due to COVID-19.
- **50% sometimes-very often** worry about technology required for online learning.
- **50% sometimes-very often** worry about losing friendships and social connections

Focus Group Summary (n=19)

- Overwhelming positive response by students at the speed and ease with which the College was able to switch everything to online.

- Students were overwhelmingly appreciative of the care taken by SIC to ensure students were kept up-to-date on the daily changes.
- Students responded with a resolute affection for how their instructors rose to action and answered their calls/emails/texts during unprecedented chaos.
- “I felt like my instructors truly cared...” was most outspoken phrase.
- “My instructor went out of their way to help.”
- “I don’t know what else the college could have done...they’ve been at every step.”
- “I can’t see how welding can happen next semester online.”
- “Nursing is so hands on, we do everything in groups. Not everything can be online.”

Impact on student learning will continue to be our most vital statistic. As such, the college will continue to monitor and collect student feedback regarding the institution’s COVID-19 response. As we transition into this coming fall semester and what that may entail, please consider the work already done a continuing project that will help us better understand our current reality and how we can better prepare for the future of student learning.

Chris

Chris Barr
Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness

Special acknowledgments:

Bre Richardson, Web Services Administrator, for her quick turnaround in preparation of the electronic survey and her swift help with the analysis.

Dr. Chad Flannery, Executive Dean of Student Services, for the many reviews of the survey questions.

Dr. Tyler Billman, Executive Dean of Academic Services, for his entire help with the focus groups and designing the questions.

The full report along with copies of the survey questions will be posted online,
<http://www.sic.edu/accountability/office-of-institutional-research>

SIC COVID-19 Institutional Response Survey



COVID-19 Institutional Response Survey was administered May 4, 2020 thru May 15, 2020 to all students enrolled for SP20 semester. Below is a summary of the responses.

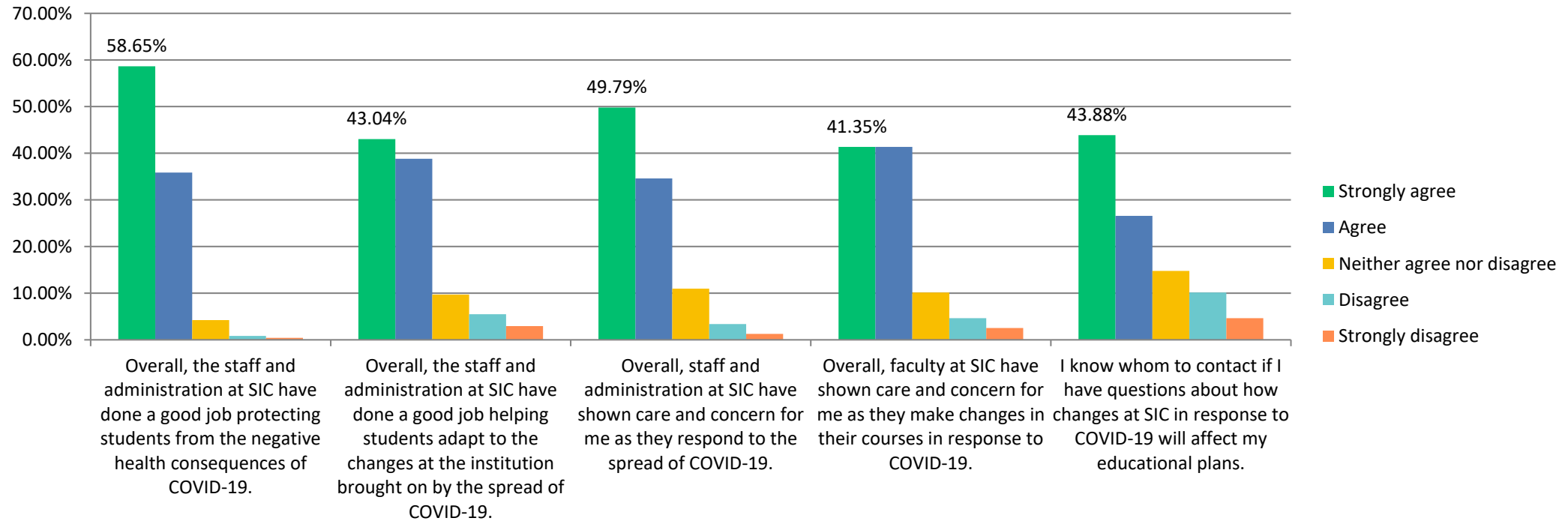
	Number	Percent
Total Responses	277	100.00%
Gender		
Female	192	69.31%
Male	85	30.69%
Age Range		
Under 17	14	5.05%
18-24	181	65.34%
25-39	67	24.19%
40-54	12	4.33%
55+	3	1.08%
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.00%
Asian	9	3.25%
Black or African American	11	3.97%
Hispanic	9	3.25%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0.00%
White	239	86.28%
Other	9	3.25%
Enrollment Type		
Freshman	110	39.71%
Sophomore	61	22.02%
Continuing Student	74	26.71%
Other (please specify)	32	11.55%

Notable Responses

Question	Response Rate	Question #
Overall, the staff and administration at SIC have done a good job protecting students from the negative health consequences of COVID-19.	94.51% Strongly Agree-Agree	9a
Overall, the staff and administration at SIC have done a good job helping students adapt to the changes at the institution brought on by the spread of COVID-19.	81.86% Strongly Agree-Agree	9b
Overall, staff and administration at SIC have shown care and concern for me as they respond to the spread of COVID-19.	84.39% Strongly Agree-Agree	9c
Do you intend to return to SIC next fall to continue and/or complete your education?	59.53% YES	20

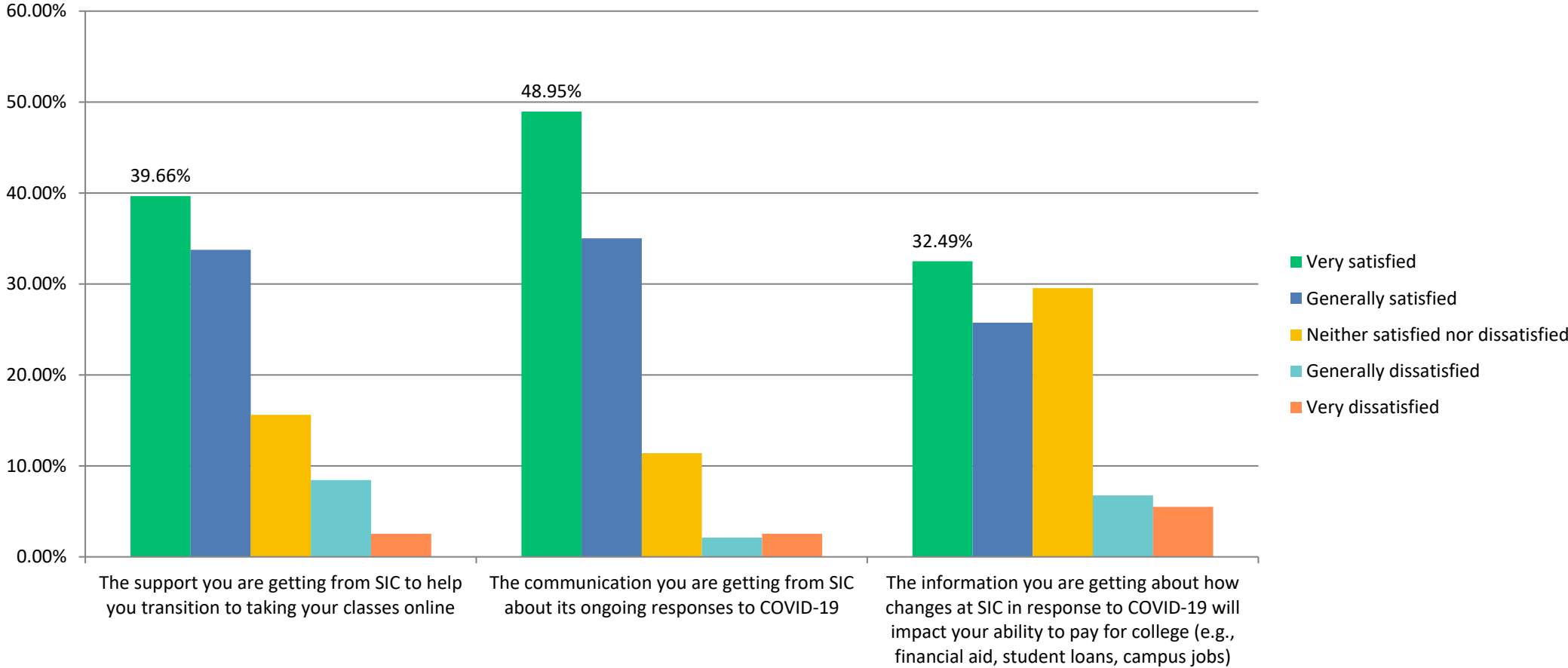
Question 9

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements about SIC.



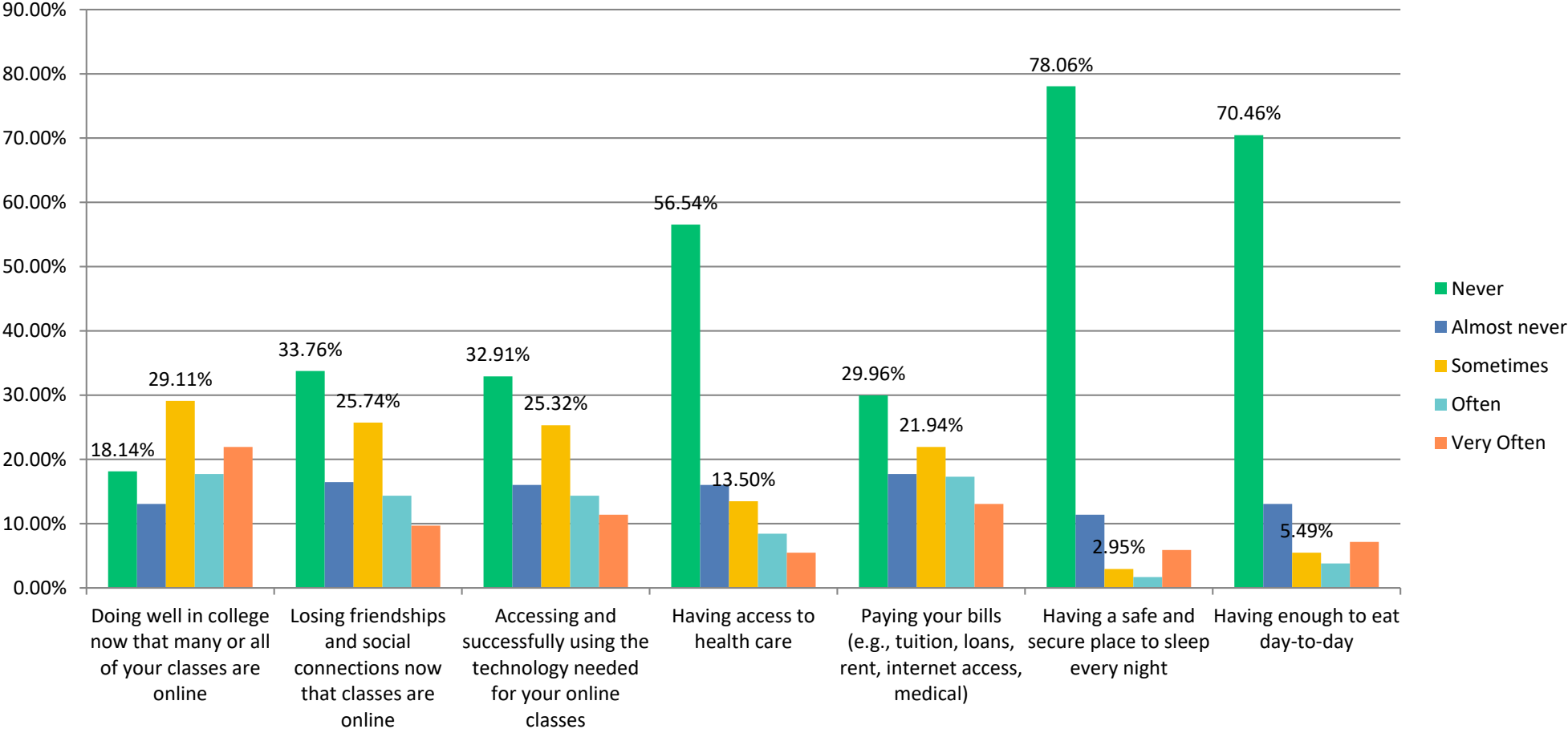
Question 10

Please indicate your level of satisfaction with SIC about the following:



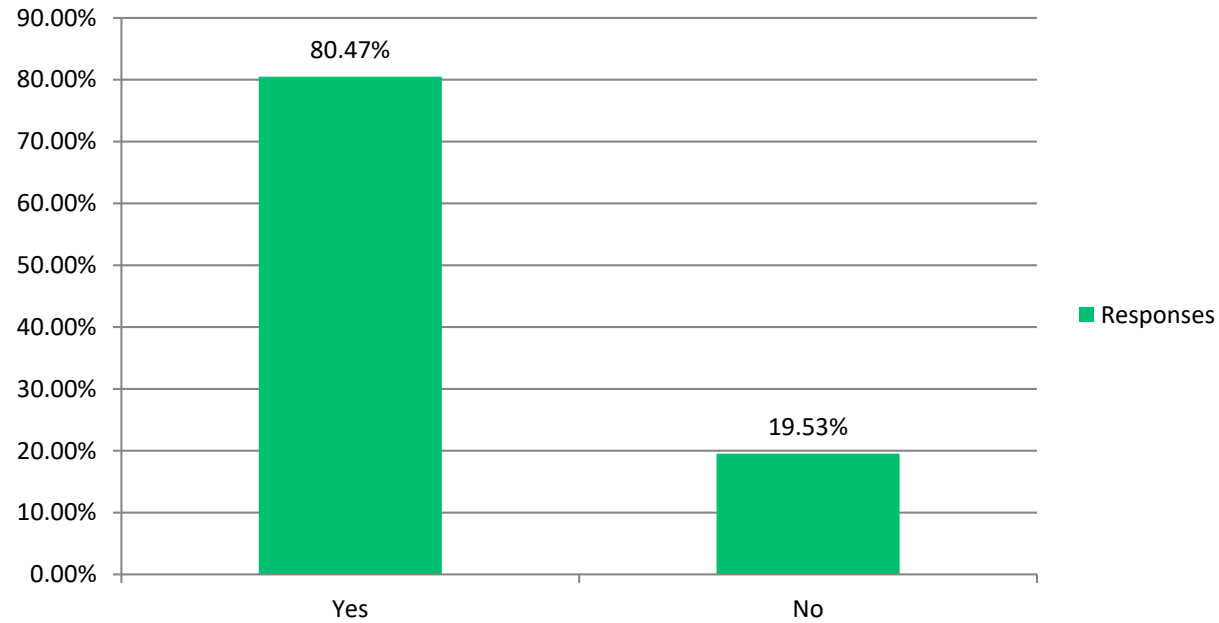
Question 11

Given the changes at SIC caused by the spread of COVID-19, how often do you worry about the following?



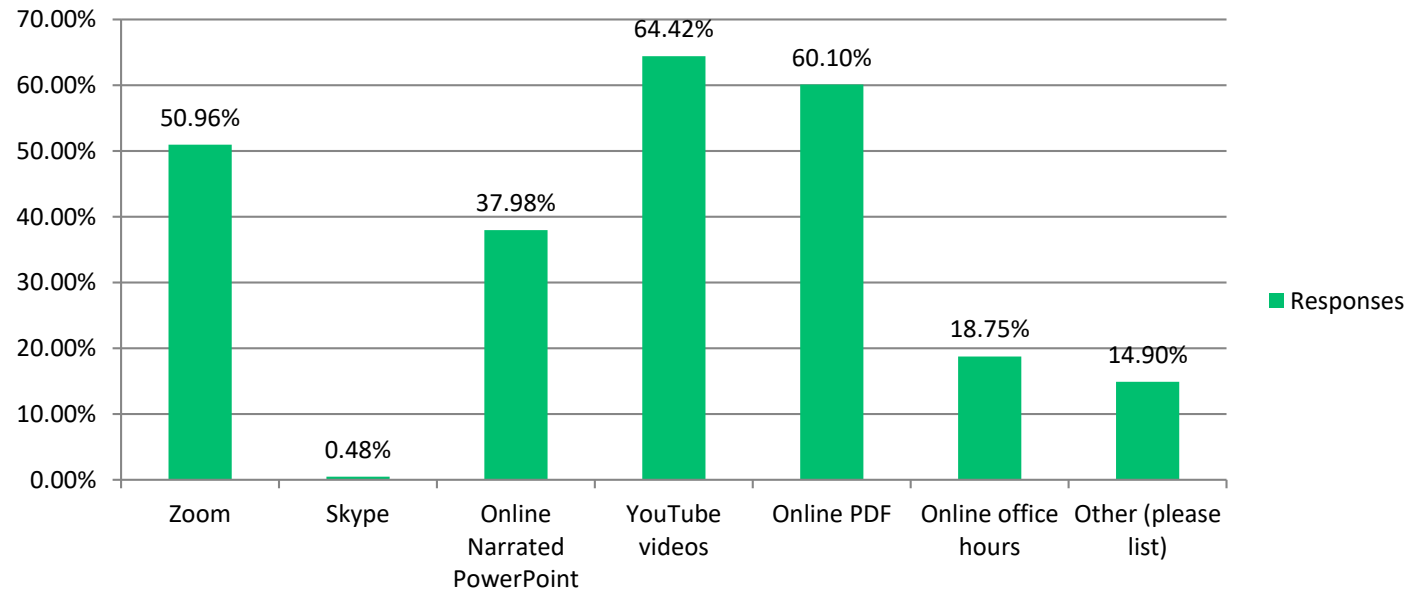
Question 13

Do you feel that your current internet service is adequate for your online course needs?



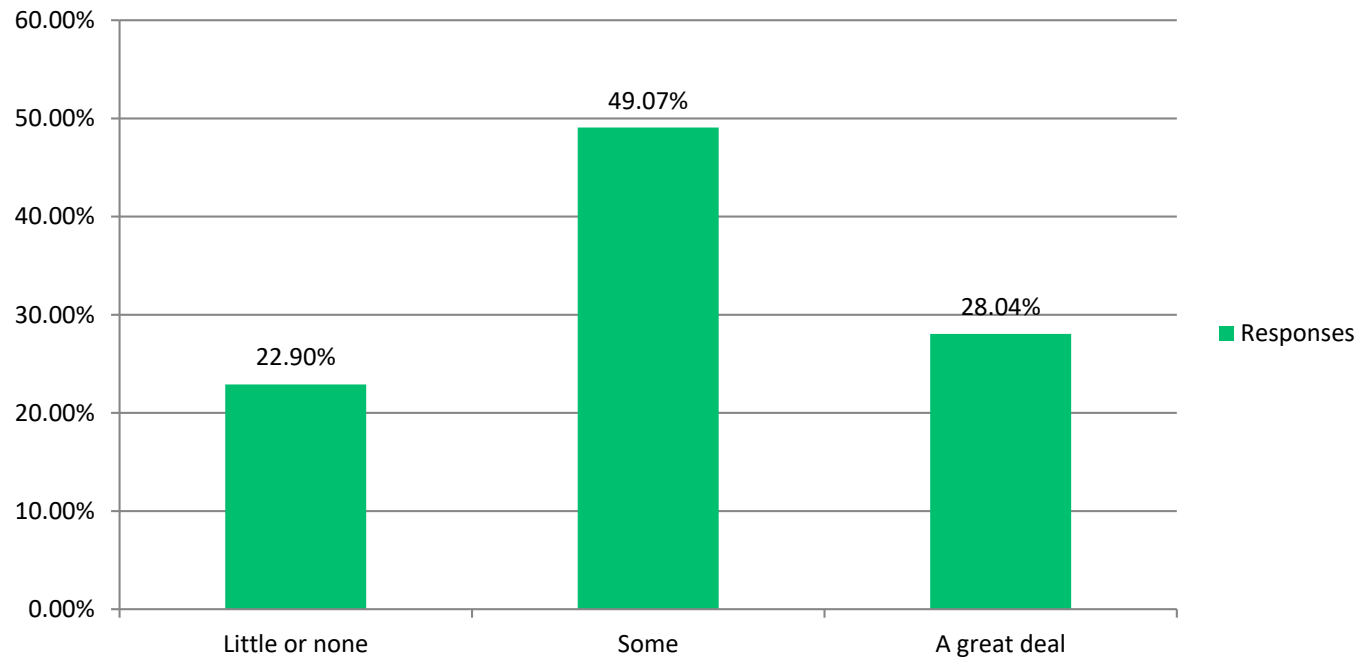
Question 14

For your current term online courses, please list which instructional methods have been used. (Select all that apply)



Question 19

Overall, how much stress are you feeling about the potential consequences of the spread of COVID-19?



Question 20

Do you intend to return to SIC next fall to continue and/or complete your education?

