

Report

GBO student survey Fall 2021

November, 2021

Golden Bear Orientation welcomed new students during an uncertain time

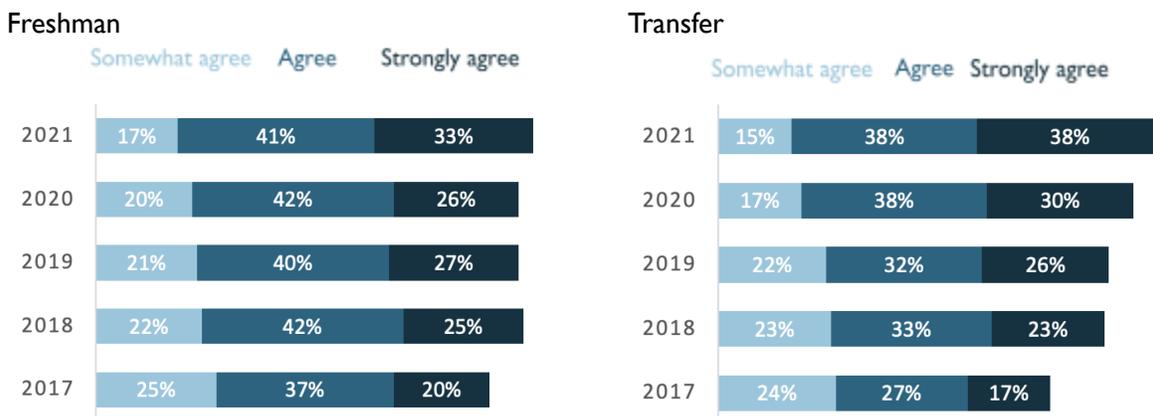
UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES

Fall 2021 Golden Bear Orientation (GBO) was offered in a hybrid format, remote large-scale programming and in-person small-group programming, with a fully virtual option for a small population of students. Ninety-five percent (n = 9,084) of the 9,606 new students in Fall 2021 engaged in GBO. Of those, 62% (n = 5,602) responded to the survey evaluating their GBO experience.

OVERALL SATISFACTION

Student satisfaction with GBO overall was exceptionally high for both freshman and transfer students. As shown in the graph below on the left, one-third of Fall 2021 freshman entrants strongly agreed with the statement, “I was satisfied with the overall experience of GBO,” compared to 20-27% in the previous years. Compared to past years, a much higher percentage of transfer students agreed that they were satisfied with the overall experience of GBO.

“I was satisfied with the overall experience of Golden Bear Orientation”



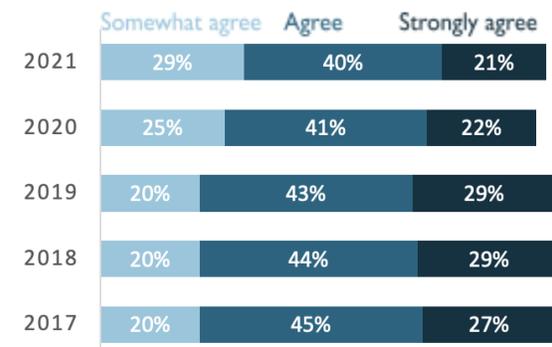
For freshman entrants, 91% (n = 2,990) of those who attended some in-person events (N = 3,290) at least somewhat agreed that they were satisfied with their overall experience, compared to 85% (n = 235) of those who attended GBO virtually (N = 275). For transfer

students, there was no difference in satisfaction with overall experience for students who attended GBO in a hybrid format compared to those who attended a fully virtual format.

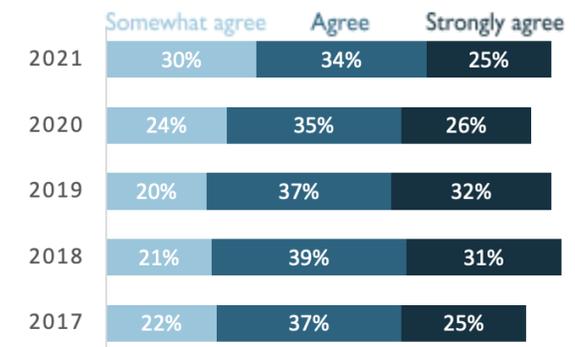
Compared to pre-pandemic years (27-29%), a lower proportion of freshman entrants (21%) strongly agreed with the statement, “My transition to UC Berkeley has been smooth.” This may be due to transitioning to being on campus and having in-person classes after mostly remote instruction in new students’ previous institutions. Even so, the majority of freshman entrants (90%, n = 3,225) and transfer students (92%, n = 1,101) somewhat agreed, agreed, or strongly agreed that they had a smooth transition.

“My transition to UC Berkeley has been smooth”

Freshman



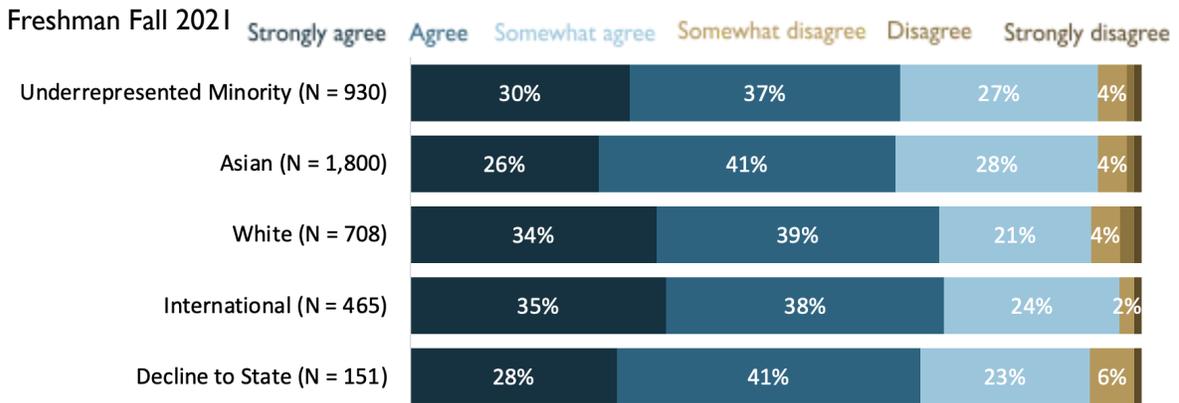
Transfer



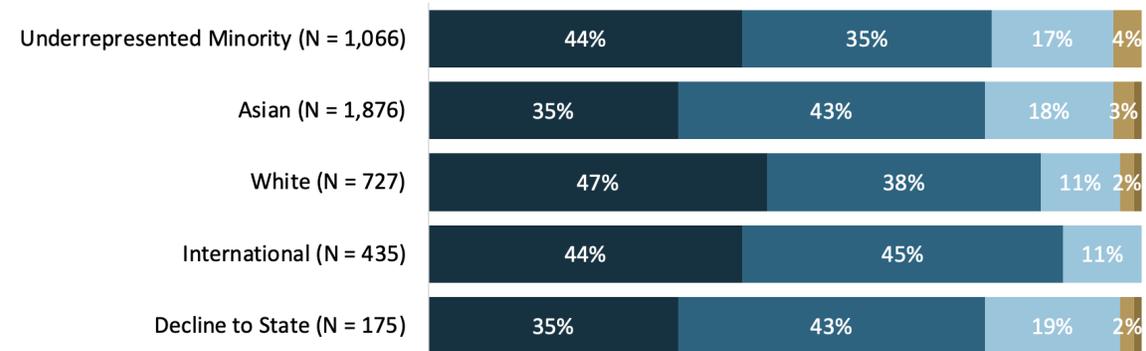
BUILDING COMMUNITY

Sense of belonging among new freshman entrants has been at or above 95% since the first GBO in Fall 2017. Fall 2021 freshman entrants overwhelmingly agreed (94%, n = 3,828) with the prompt, “I feel I belong at UC Berkeley.” Although the overall sense of belonging remains high, the percent who strongly agree fell from 40% (n = 1,722) in Fall 2020 to 29% (n = 1,193) in Fall 2021. The “strongly agree” category is smaller within each racial/ethnic group in Fall 2021 compared to Fall 2020.

“I feel I belong at UC Berkeley”



Freshman Fall 2020

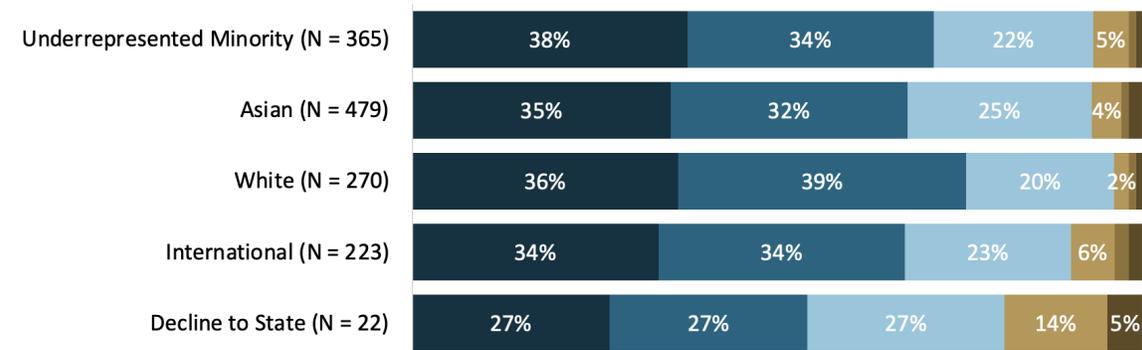


Fall 2021 transfer students overwhelmingly agreed (93%, n = 1,263) with the prompt, “I feel I belong at UC Berkeley.” Although the overall sense of belonging remains high, the percent who strongly agree fell from 43% (n = 671) in Fall 2020 to 36% (n = 487) in Fall 2021. The “strongly agree” category is smaller within each racial/ethnic group in Fall 2021 compared to Fall 2020.

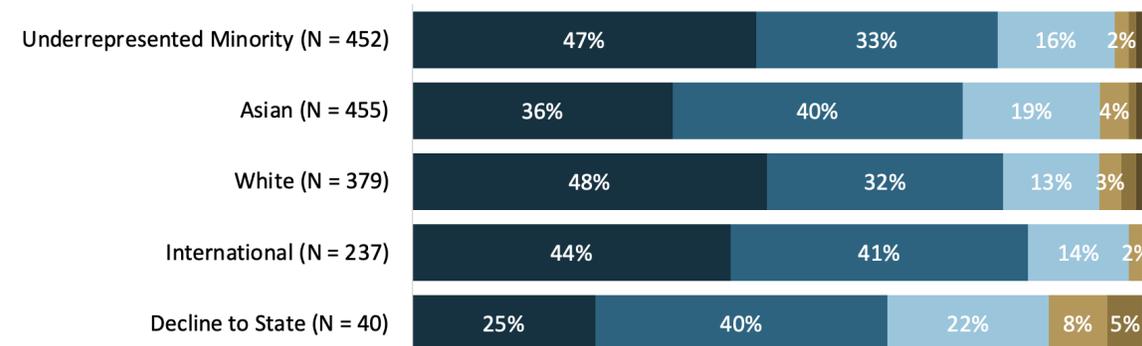
“I feel I belong at UC Berkeley”

Transfer Fall 2021

Strongly agree Agree Somewhat agree Somewhat disagree Disagree Strongly disagree



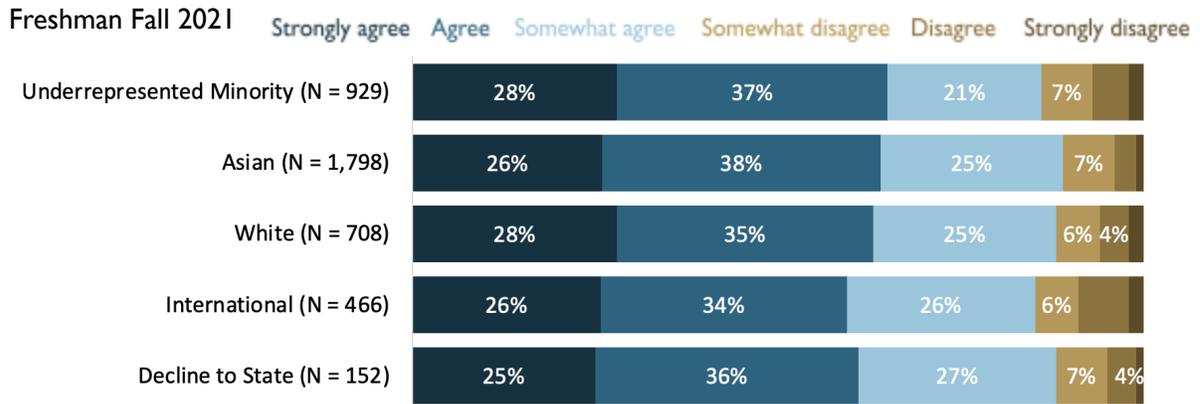
Transfer Fall 2020



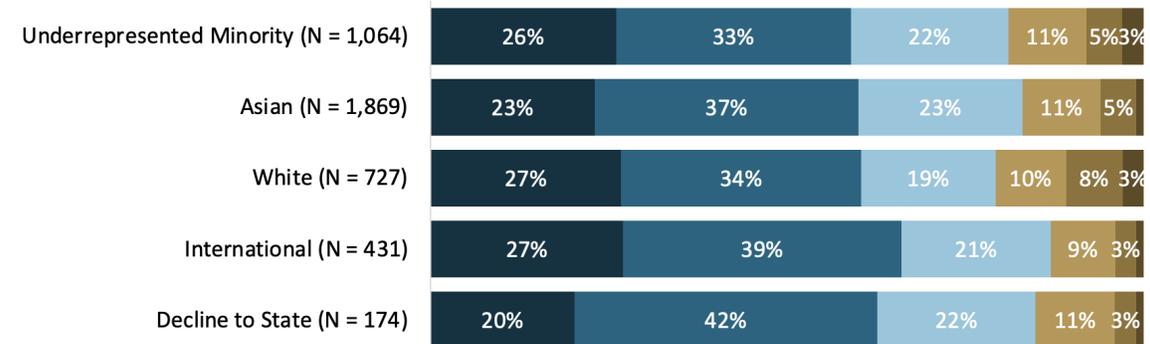
For both freshman entrants and transfer students, there was no difference in sense of belonging for students who attended GBO in a hybrid format compared to those who attended a fully virtual format.

When asked if they had a group of peers to whom they feel connected, 88% (n = 3,559) of Fall 2021 freshmen agreed, compared to 82% (n = 3,506) in Fall 2020 when GBO was virtual.

“I have a group of peers I feel connected to”



Freshman Fall 2020

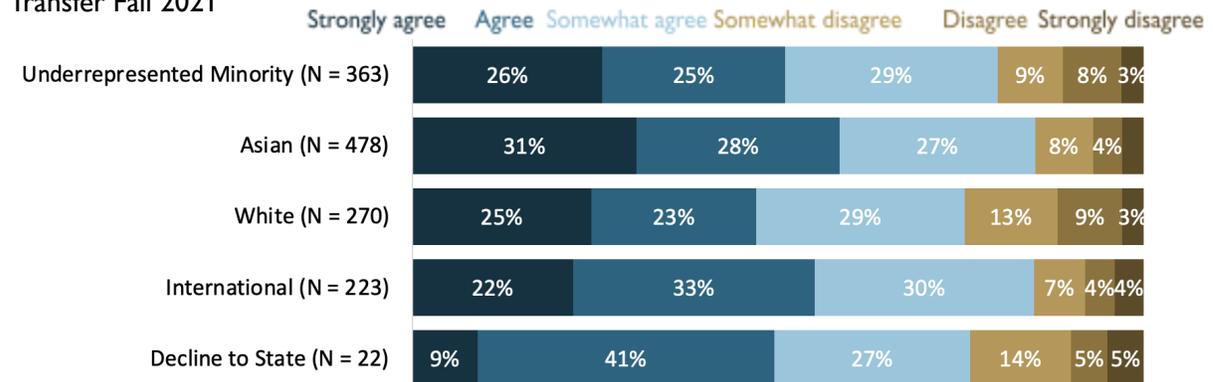


Freshman entrants who attended Fall 2021 GBO virtually had similar findings to the Fall 2020 GBO, which was virtual. Eighty-two percent (n = 267) of those who attended virtually at least somewhat agreed that they had a group of peers to whom they felt connected, compared to 88% (n = 3,292) of those who attended some in-person events (N = 3,726).

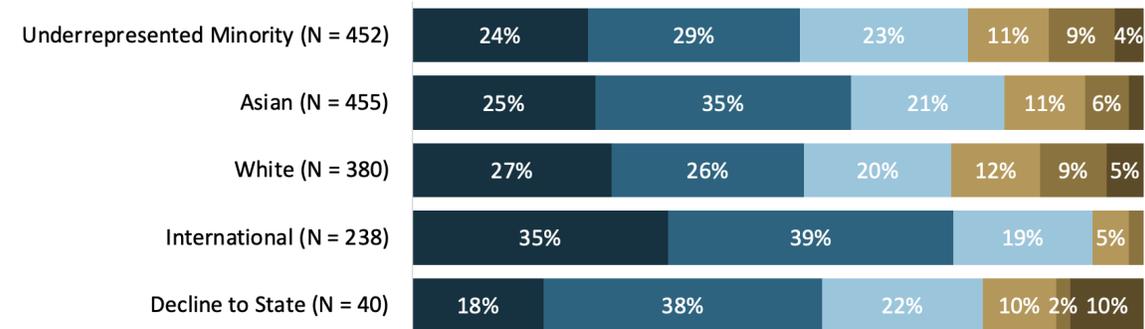
Although a similar percentage of transfer students in Fall 2021 (82%, n = 1,114) and Fall 2020 (80%, n = 1,244) said they had a group of peers to whom they felt connected, this figure is down from pre-pandemic Fall 2019 (88%, n = 1,461).

“I have a group of peers I feel connected to”

Transfer Fall 2021



Transfer Fall 2020



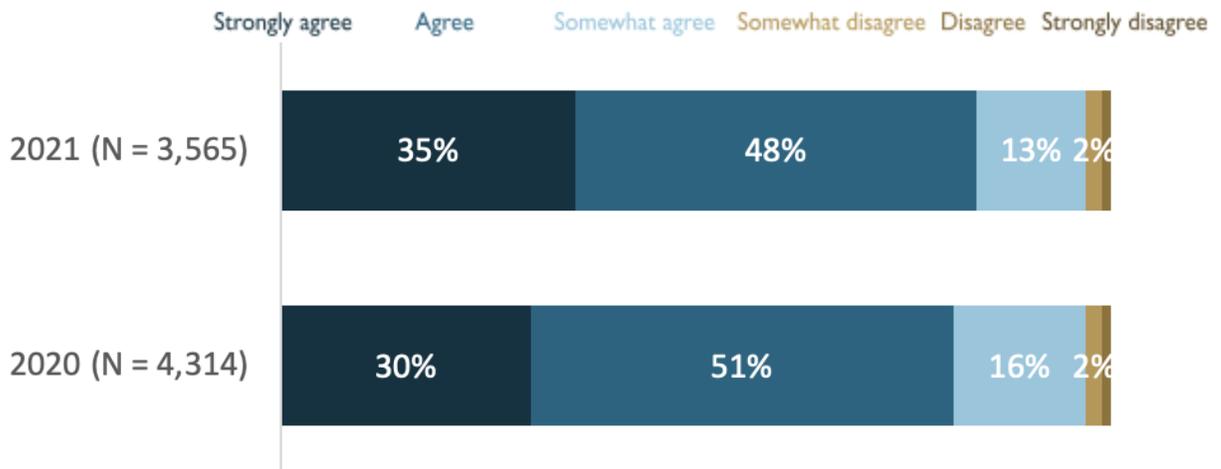
For transfer students, there was no difference in feeling a connection with peers for students who attended GBO in a hybrid format compared to those who attended a fully virtual format.

ACADEMIC COLLEGE PROGRAMMING

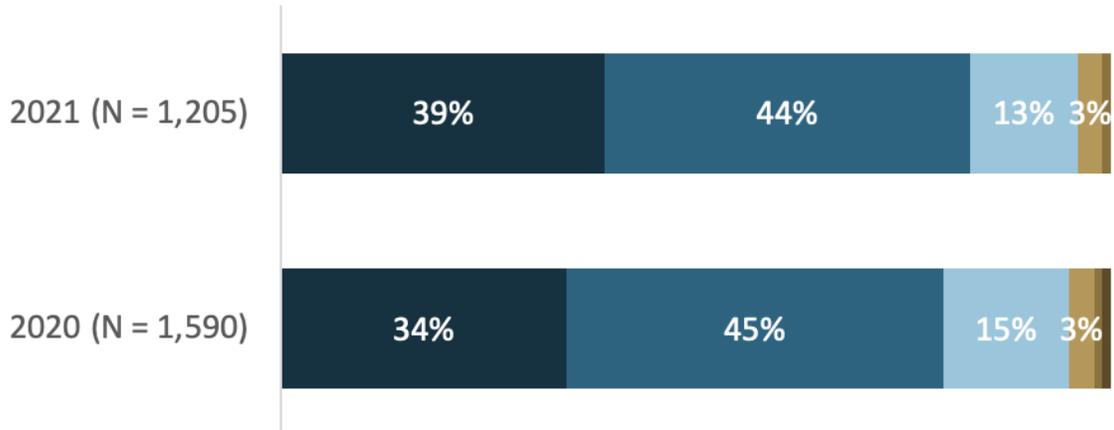
Satisfaction with the GBO experience provided by academic colleges remained extraordinarily high in Fall 2021. Ninety-six percent (n = 3,435) of freshman entrants expressed satisfaction with their academic college programming, on par with 97% (n = 4,171) in Fall 2020. Additionally, 35% strongly agreed that they were satisfied in Fall 2021 compared to 30% in Fall 2020.

Satisfaction with academic college, by entry status

Freshman



Transfer



Among transfer students, 96% (n = 1,156) were satisfied with their academic college's GBO programming, similar to Fall 2020 (94%, n = 1,504). As with freshman entrants, the percent who strongly agreed increased from the previous year.

Methodology and participation rates

The GBO survey was administered from August 27 to September 17, 2021. Of the 9,084 new students invited to participate in the survey, 62% (n = 5,602) completed or partially completed the survey. Ethnicity data were sourced from Cal Answers. The group underrepresented minority comprises students who identify as African American, Chicano / Latino, Native American / Alaskan Native, or Pacific Islander.

Participation rates by select categories

	Invited	Responded	Percent responded
Entry status			
Freshman	6,724	4,199	62%
Transfer student	2,360	1,403	59%
Gender			
Female	5,013	3,118	62%
Male	3,899	2,382	61%
Nonbinary	87	53	61%
Decline to state	85	49	58%
Ethnicity			
Underrepresented minority	3,560	2,355	66%
Asian	1,176	720	61%
International	2,242	1,321	59%
White	1,793	1,018	57%
Decline to State	313	188	60%
College			
Chemistry	342	221	65%
Rausser Natural Resources	739	444	60%
Letters & Science	6,520	4,010	62%
Engineering	1,147	734	64%
Environmental Design	213	130	61%
Haas	123	63	51%
Format			
Hybrid (some in-person)	8,201	5,066	62%
Virtual	883	536	61%

Immediate Office - Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
New Student Services
GBO Steering Committee