

Report

Golden Bear Orientation survey results overview

March, 2019

Golden Bear Orientation improved already-high participant ratings in its second year

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Golden Bear Orientation (GBO) provides a common foundation for new undergraduate students and incoming University of California Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) exchange students. This report highlights the assessment of the student experience during Fall 2018 GBO in comparison to Fall 2017. GBO has improved since its inaugural year, and this feedback will continue to inform future programming.

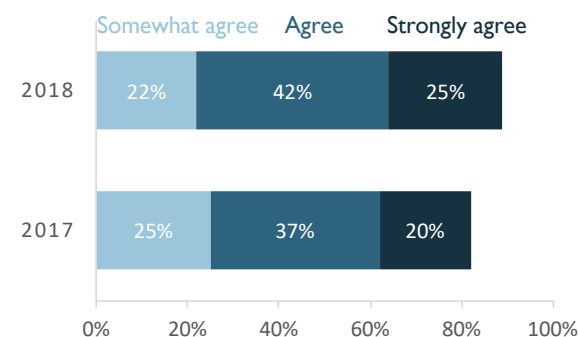
OVERALL SATISFACTION

Student satisfaction with GBO overall increased for both freshman and transfer students. As shown in the graphs below on the left, a larger proportion of freshman entrants somewhat agreed, agreed, or strongly agreed with the statement, “I was satisfied with the overall experience of GBO” in Fall 2018 (88%, n = 3,975) than in Fall 2017 (82%, n = 3,758). Similarly, a higher percentage of transfer students agreed that they were satisfied with the overall experience of GBO in Fall 2018 (78%, n = 1,409) compared to Fall 2017 (68%, n = 1,299).

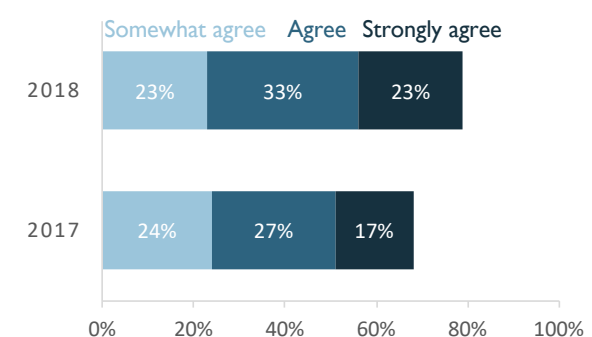
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“Golden Bear Orientation made entering a large university a lot easier, since it helped me get to know some of my peers and how to get around campus. It helped me realize that not only are there resources to help me succeed, but there are plenty of students that I can connect with and call my friends.”

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

Freshman

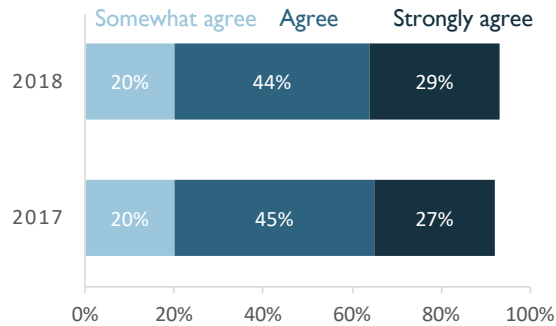


Transfer

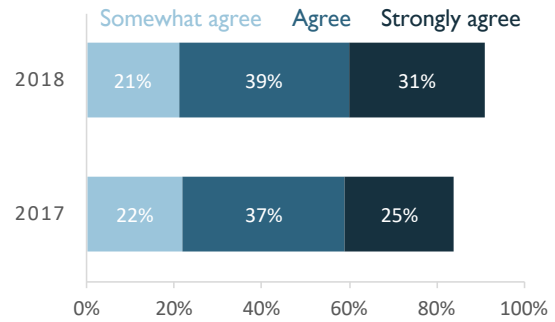


“My transition to UC Berkeley has been smooth”

Freshman



Transfer



Ninety-three percent (n = 4,148) of freshmen in Fall 2018 somewhat to strongly agreed with the statement, “My transition to UC Berkeley has been smooth.” The graph above on the right shows that a significantly greater proportion of transfer students agreed to this statement in Fall 2018 (90%, n = 1,589) than in Fall 2017 (85%, n = 1,605).

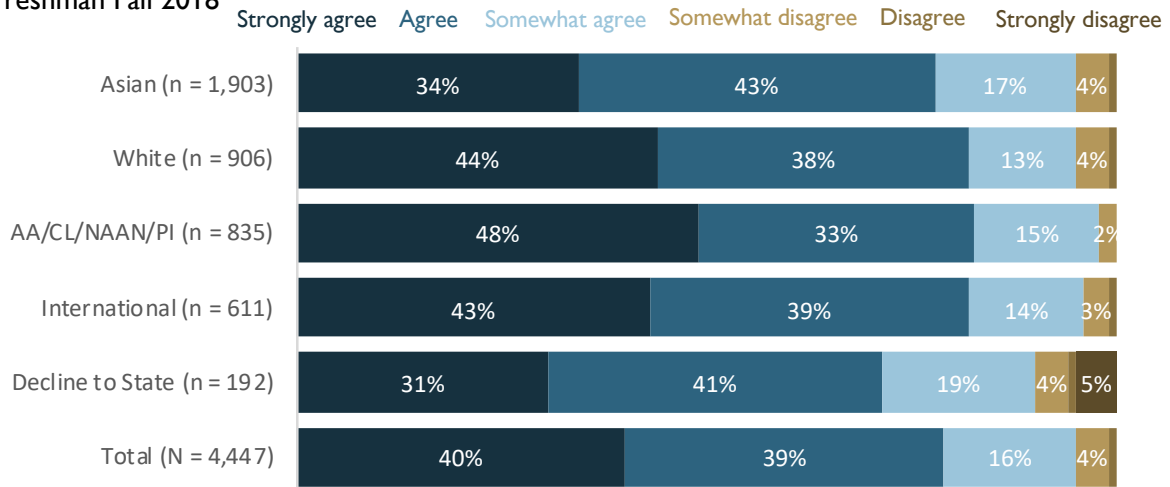
BUILDING COMMUNITY

As with the previous year, Fall 2018 freshman entrants overwhelmingly agreed (strongly agreed, agreed, and somewhat agreed) with the prompt, “I belong at UC Berkeley” (2017 [results not graphed], 95%, n = 4,298; 2018, 95%, n = 4,229). Sense of belonging improved for underrepresented minority students (including African American, Chicano / Latino, Native American / Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander) who entered as freshman (in 2017 [results not graphed], 94%, n = 731 agreed; in 2018, 97%, n = 808 agreed).

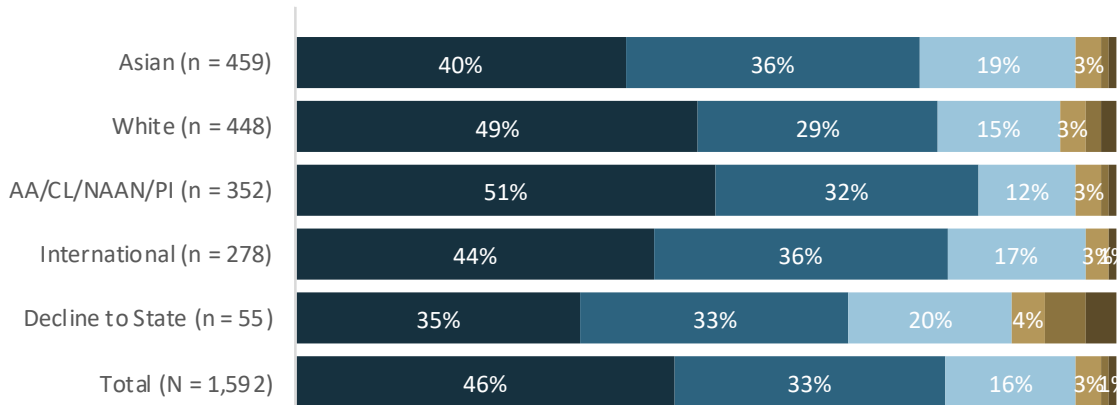


“I feel I belong at UC Berkeley”

Freshman Fall 2018



Transfer Fall 2018

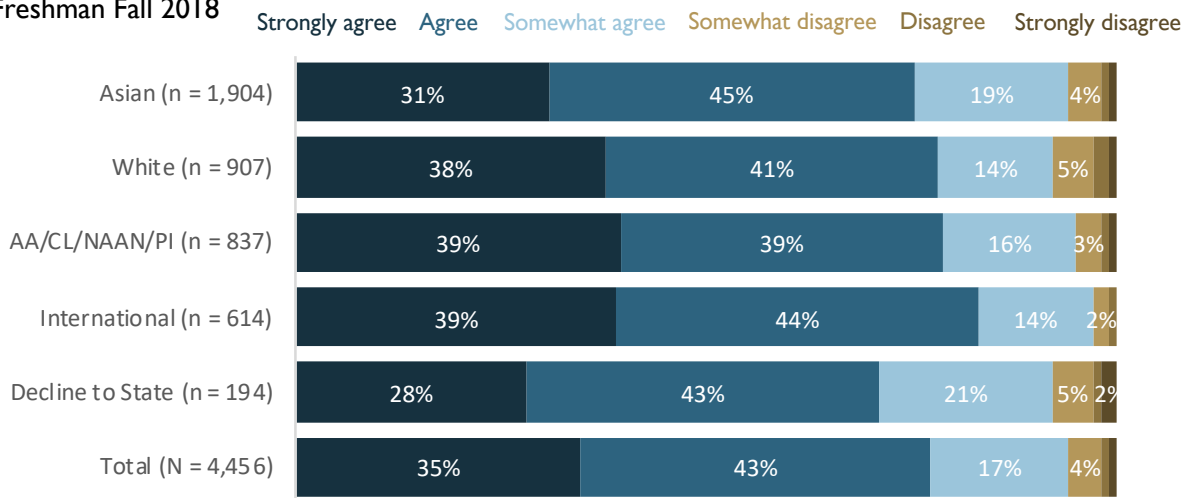


Sense of belonging improved for all transfer students (in 2017 [results not graphed], 91%, n = 1,718 agreed; in 2018, 94%, n = 1,657 agreed) and in particular, Asian, underrepresented minority students, and international students, whose percent agreement (strongly agree, agree, and somewhat agree) increased from Fall 2017 by 4, 5, and 6 points, respectively.

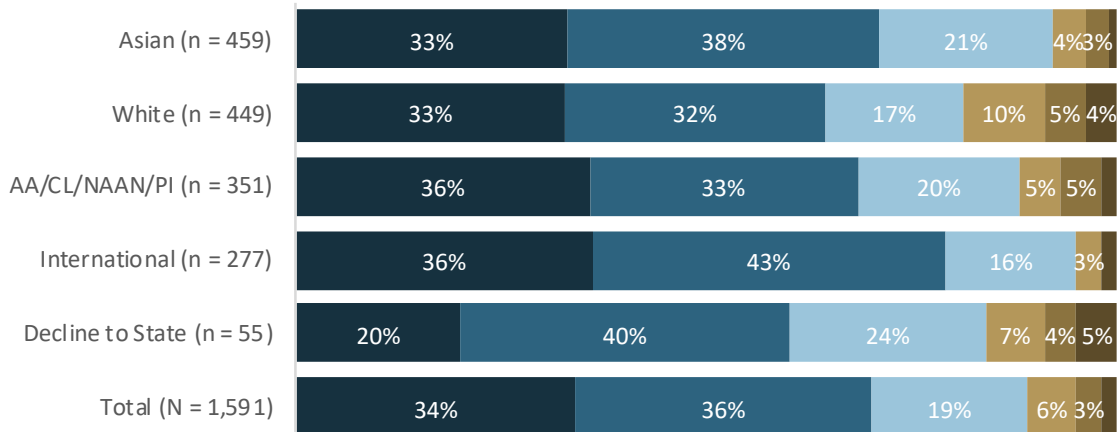
When asked if they had a group of peers to which they feel connected, a higher proportion of freshmen agreed in Fall 2018 (94%, n = 4,210) than in Fall 2017 (92%, n = 4,183). This increase was statistically significant within Asian (2-point increase), underrepresented minority (5-point increase), and international (3-point increase) student groups.

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

Freshman Fall 2018



Transfer Fall 2018



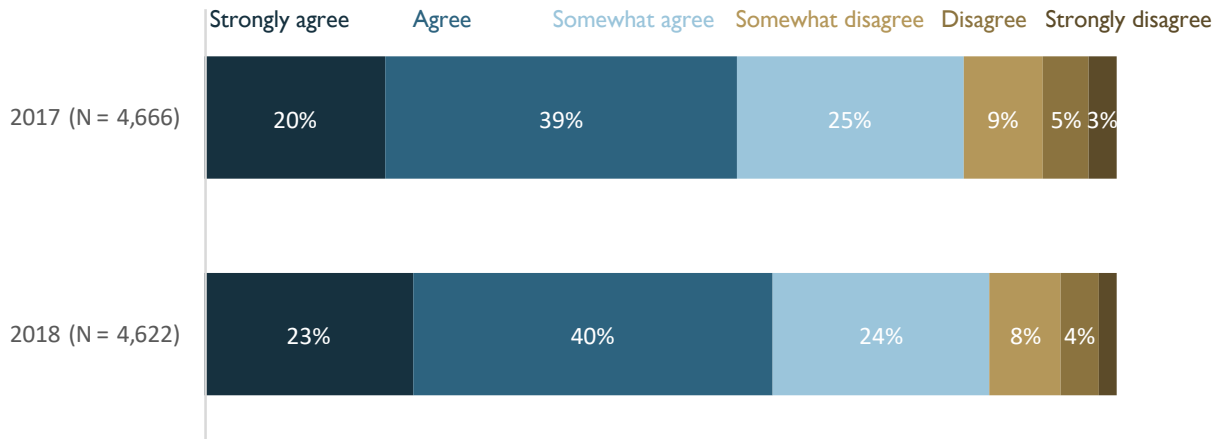
As with the freshmen, a higher proportion of transfer students in Fall 2018 (89%, n = 1,556) said they had a group of peers to which they felt connected, compared to Fall 2017 (85%, n = 1,606). Particular gains were made by Asian (8-point increase) and international (5-point increase) students. For Fall 2018, freshman students had a significantly higher rate of agreement than transfer students.

ACADEMIC COMPONENTS

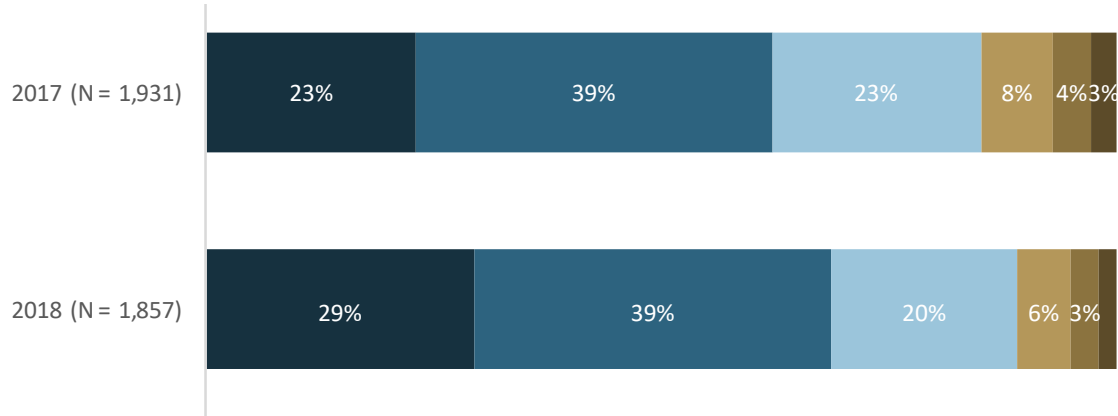
Satisfaction with first-term schedule was higher in Fall 2018 than Fall 2017. Eighty-six percent (n = 3,995) of freshmen expressed satisfaction with their first-term schedule in Fall 2018, a three-point increase over Fall 2017 (83%, n = 3,881). For transfer students, 89% (n = 1,648) were satisfied in Fall 2018, compared to 85% (n = 1,644) in Fall 2017.

Satisfaction with first-term schedule

Freshman



Transfer

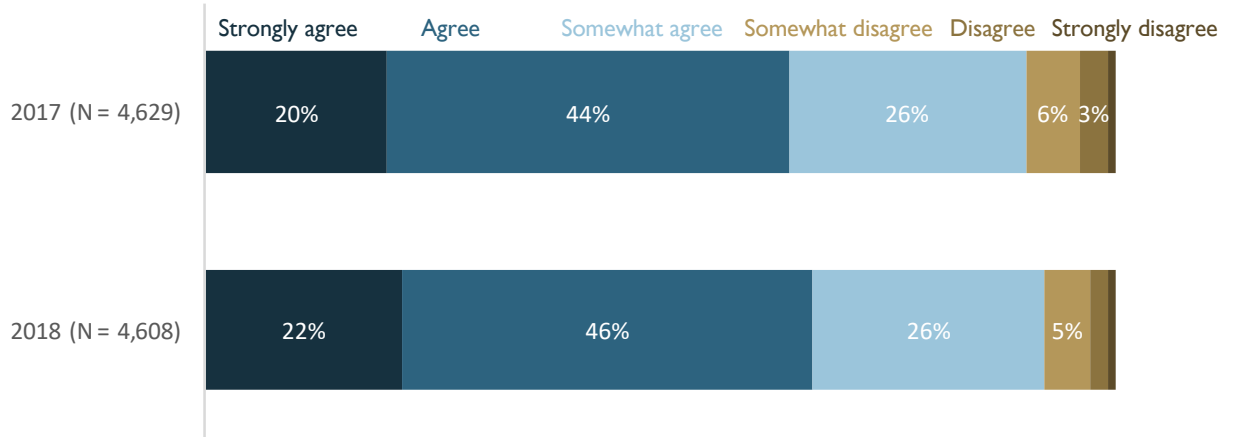


Overall, a higher proportion of transfer students were satisfied with their first-term schedule in Fall 2018 (89%, n = 1,648) than Fall 2017 (85%, n = 1,644). The gain was driven by the five-percentage point increase for transfer students in the College of Letters & Science (analysis not shown). As with the previous year, in Fall 2018, a significantly larger proportion of freshman entrants (93%, n = 4,288) than transfer students (90%, n = 1,518) agreed with the prompt, “I feel like a member of my college community.”

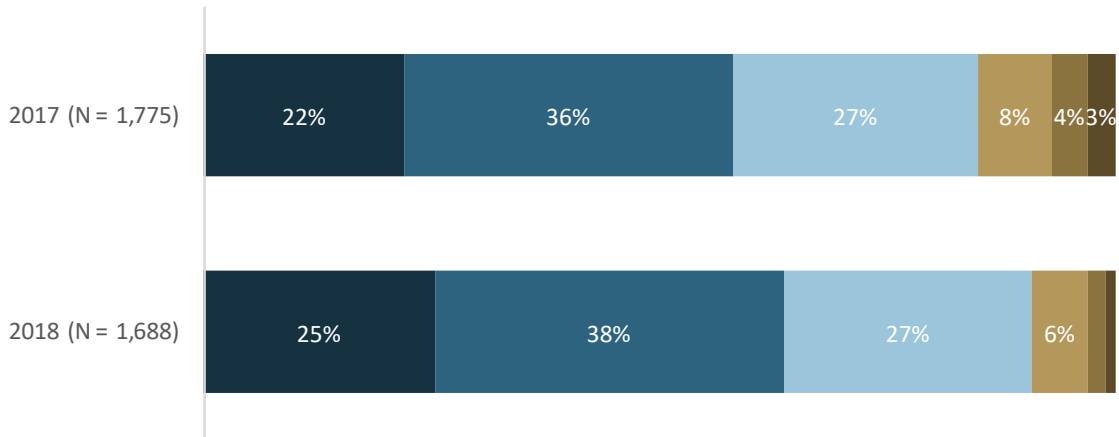
A greater proportion of new students in Fall 2018 felt like members of their college communities compared to Fall 2017. Ninety percent (n = 4,176) of freshman entrants agreed that they felt like members of their college community in Fall 2017. This increased to 93% (n = 4,288) in Fall 2018.

“I feel like a member of my college community” by entry status

Freshman



Transfer



Among transfer students, 90% (n = 1,518) agreed that they felt like a member of their college community, compared to 85% (n = 1,508) in Fall 2017. This increase was largely due to gains in the College of Letters & Science which saw a seven-point increase from the previous year (analysis not shown).

Methodology and response rates

The GBO survey was administered from August 22 to September 27, 2018. Ethnicity data were sourced from Cal Answers. The group of students categorized as AA/CL/NAAN/PI students comprises African American, Chicano / Latino, Native American / Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander students.

Response rates by select categories

	Count	Rate
Entry status		
Freshman	4,807	81%
Transfer student	1,927	80%
Gender		
Female	3,709	84%
Male	2,793	78%
Decline to state	232	71%
Ethnicity		
Asian	2,551	83%
AA/CL/NAAN/PI	1,284	82%
International	966	81%
White	1,477	79%
Decline to state	272	76%
College		
Chemistry	245	83%
Natural Resources	466	84%
Letters & Science	4,310	82%
Fall Program for Freshmen	532	81%
Engineering	804	78%
Environmental Design	140	80%
Haas	63	72%
UCEAP	174	70%

Of the 8,330 GBO attendees who were invited to participate in the survey, 81% (n = 6,734) completed or partially completed the survey. This was a significant improvement over Fall 2017's already-high 77% response rate. Women had a higher response rate than men. University of California Education Abroad Program students visiting UC Berkeley had a significantly lower response rate than other students.

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