

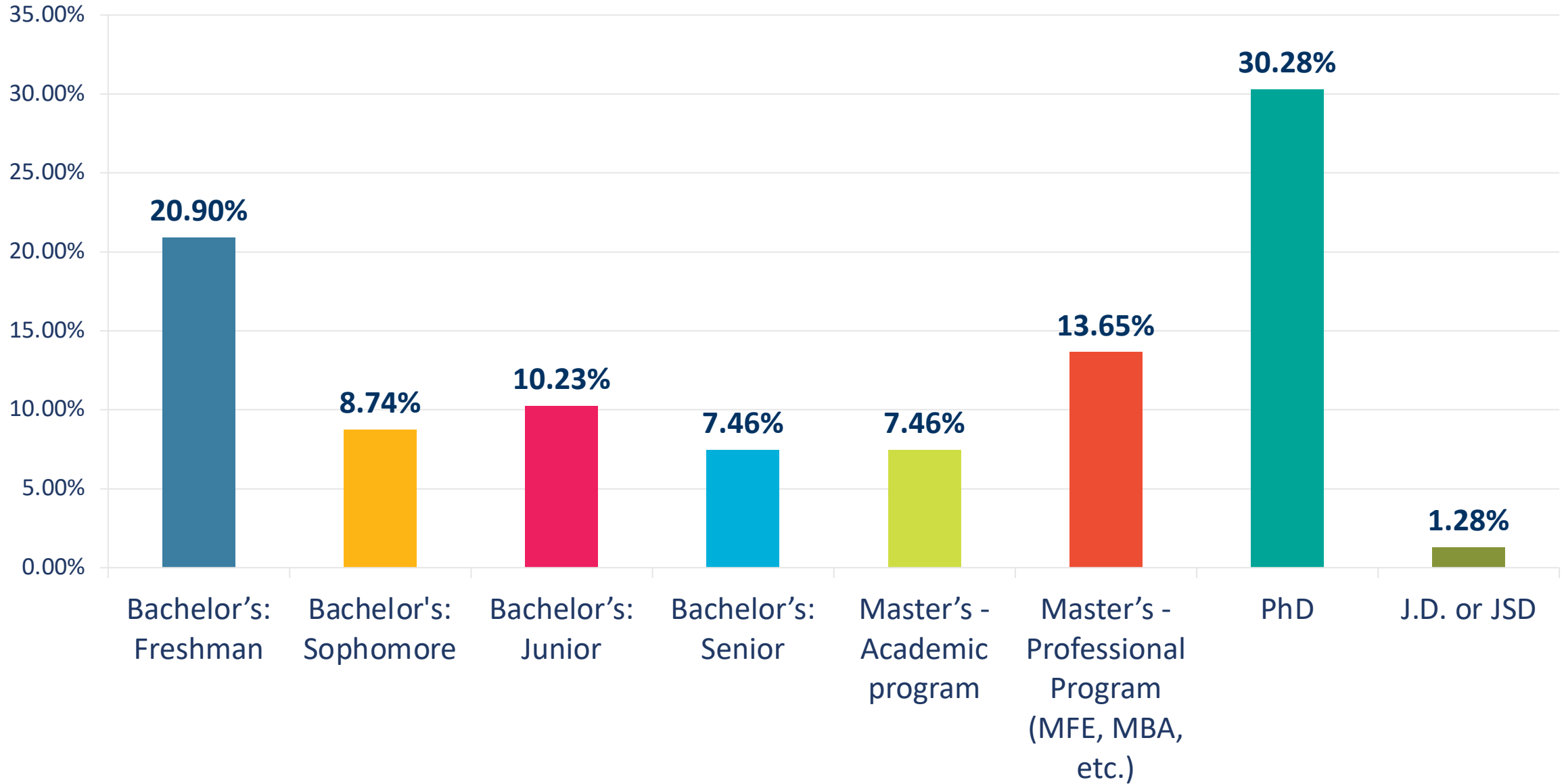
BIO Spring 2021 International Student Experience Survey

March 2021

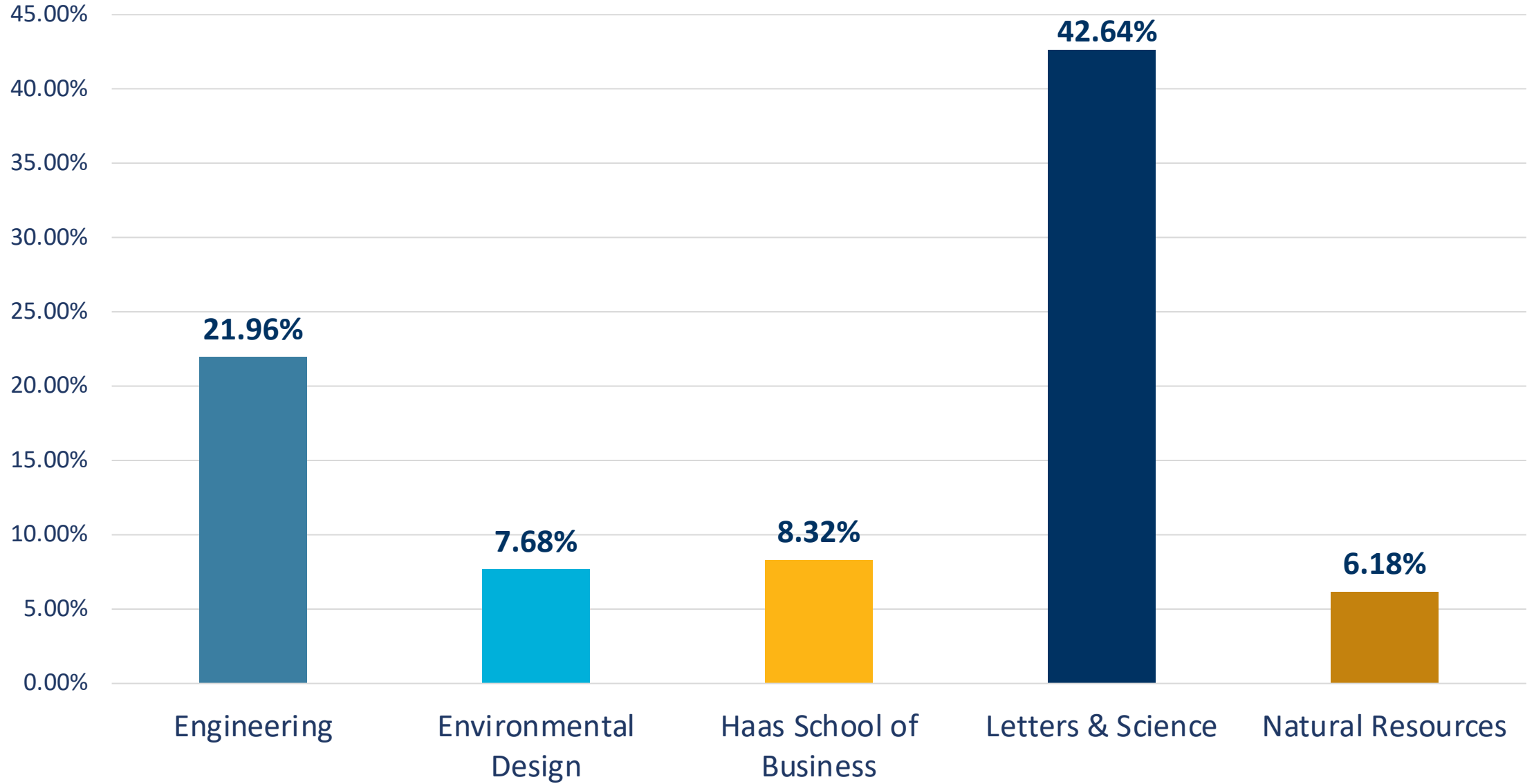
Survey Details

- A survey was sent to all 5,233 UCB Spring 2021 enrolled international students on Wednesday, March 3
- Our goal was to learn about their personal, social and academic concerns
- A total of 469 responses were received, resulting in an approximately 8.9% response rate
- This survey was conducted in collaboration with the Chair of the Academic Senate and ASUC student leaders

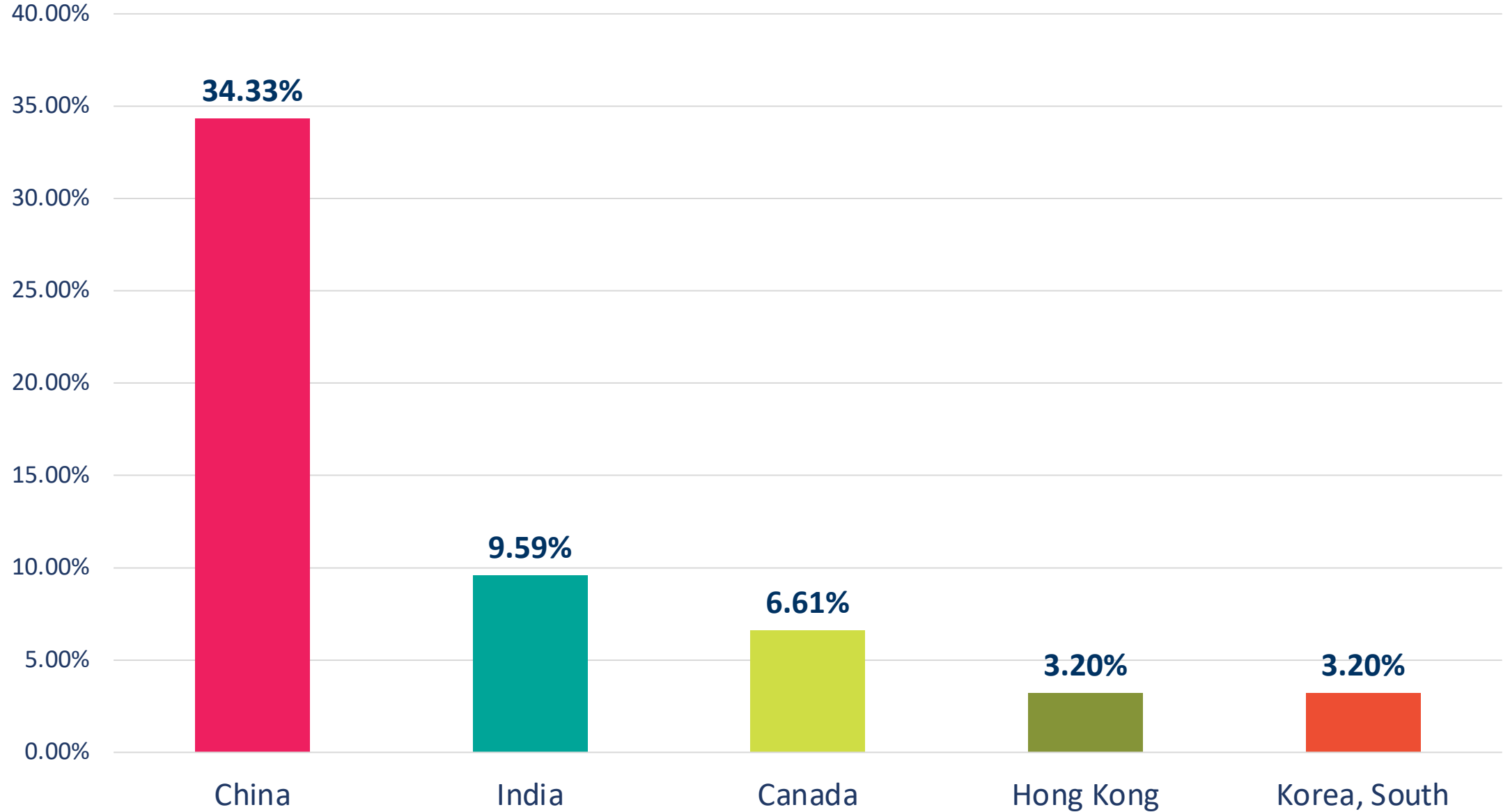
What is your current level of study?



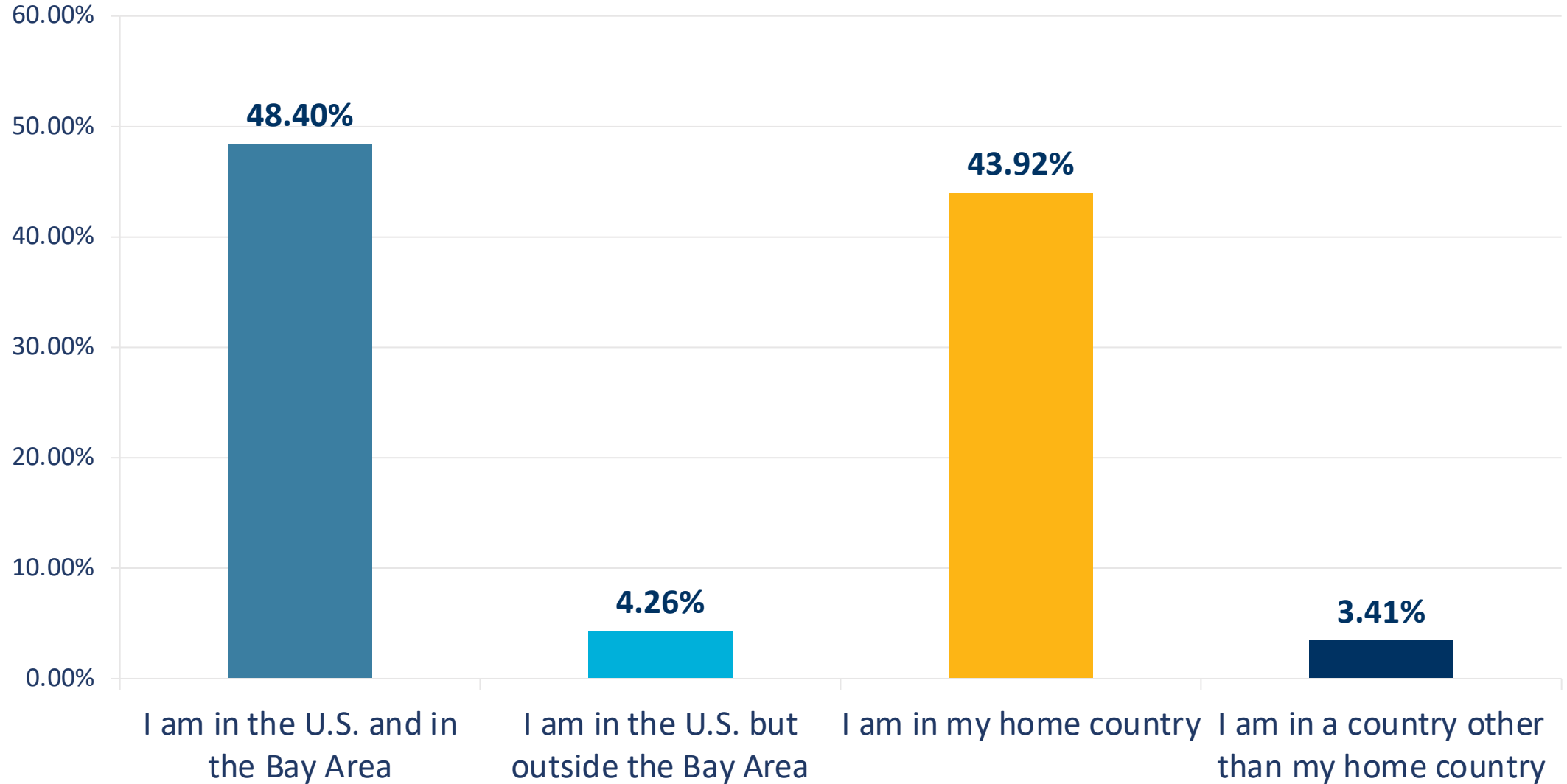
What is your College or School? (Top 5 Colleges)



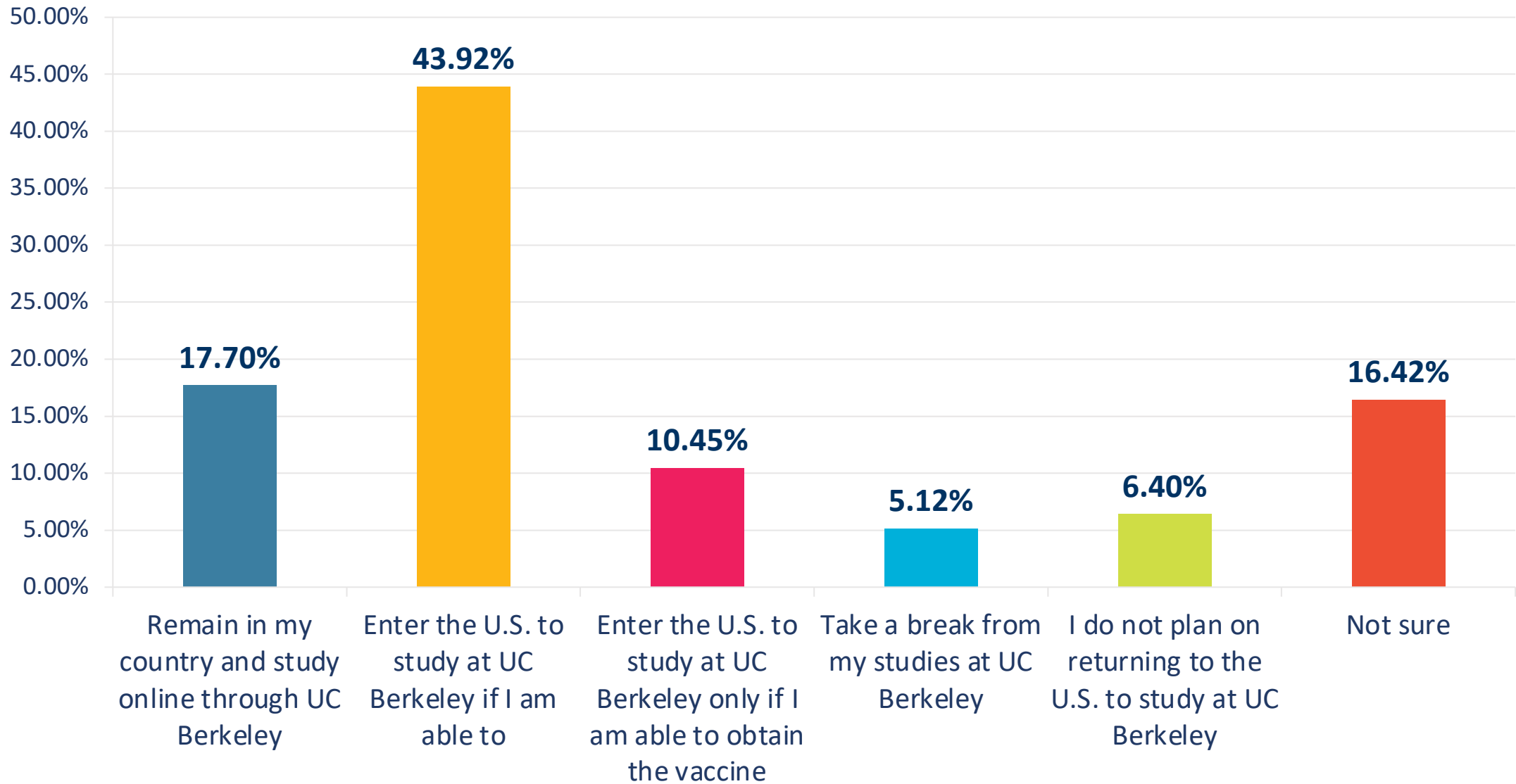
What is your country of permanent legal residence? (Top 5 Countries)



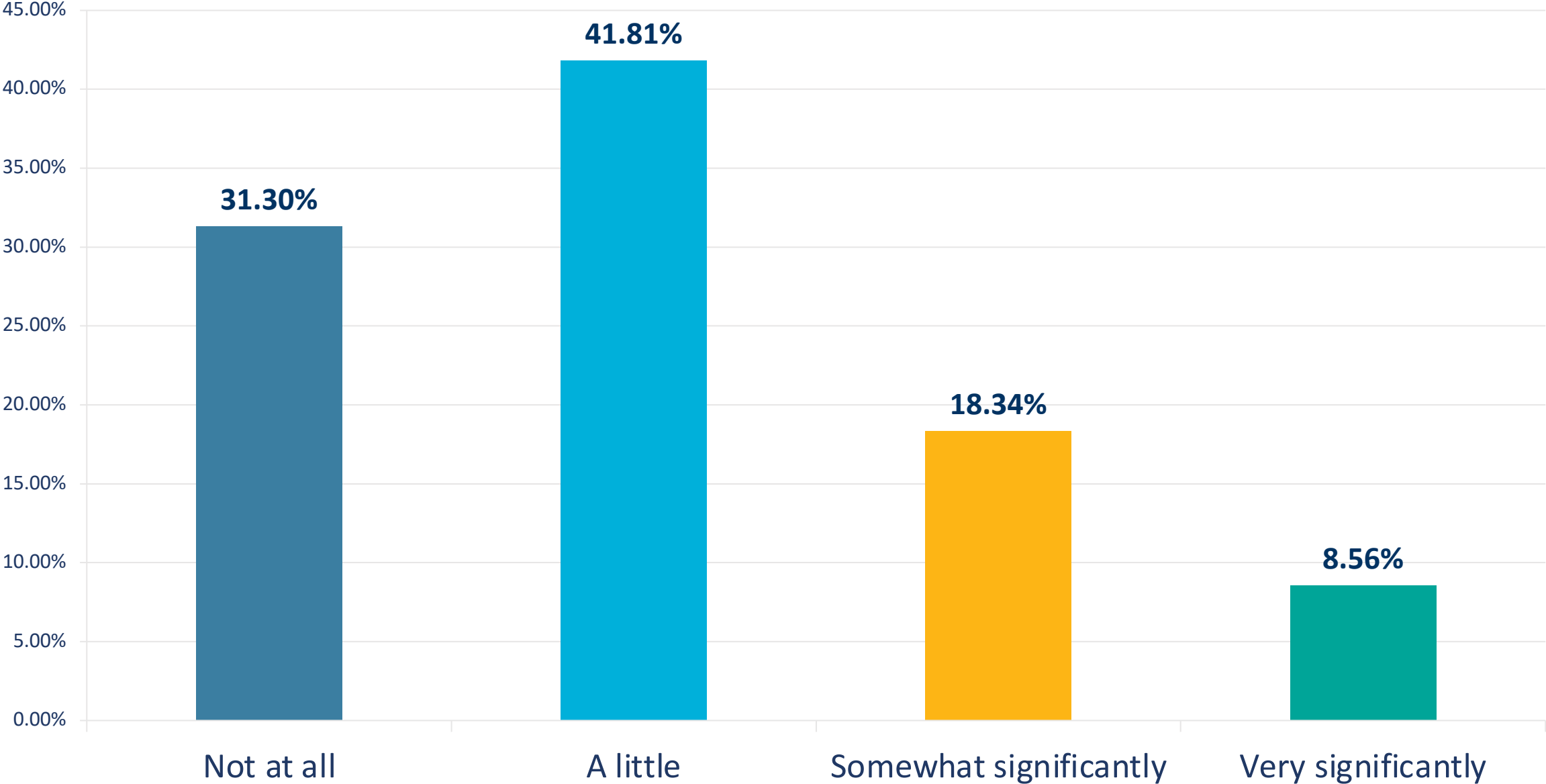
Please provide information about your current location:



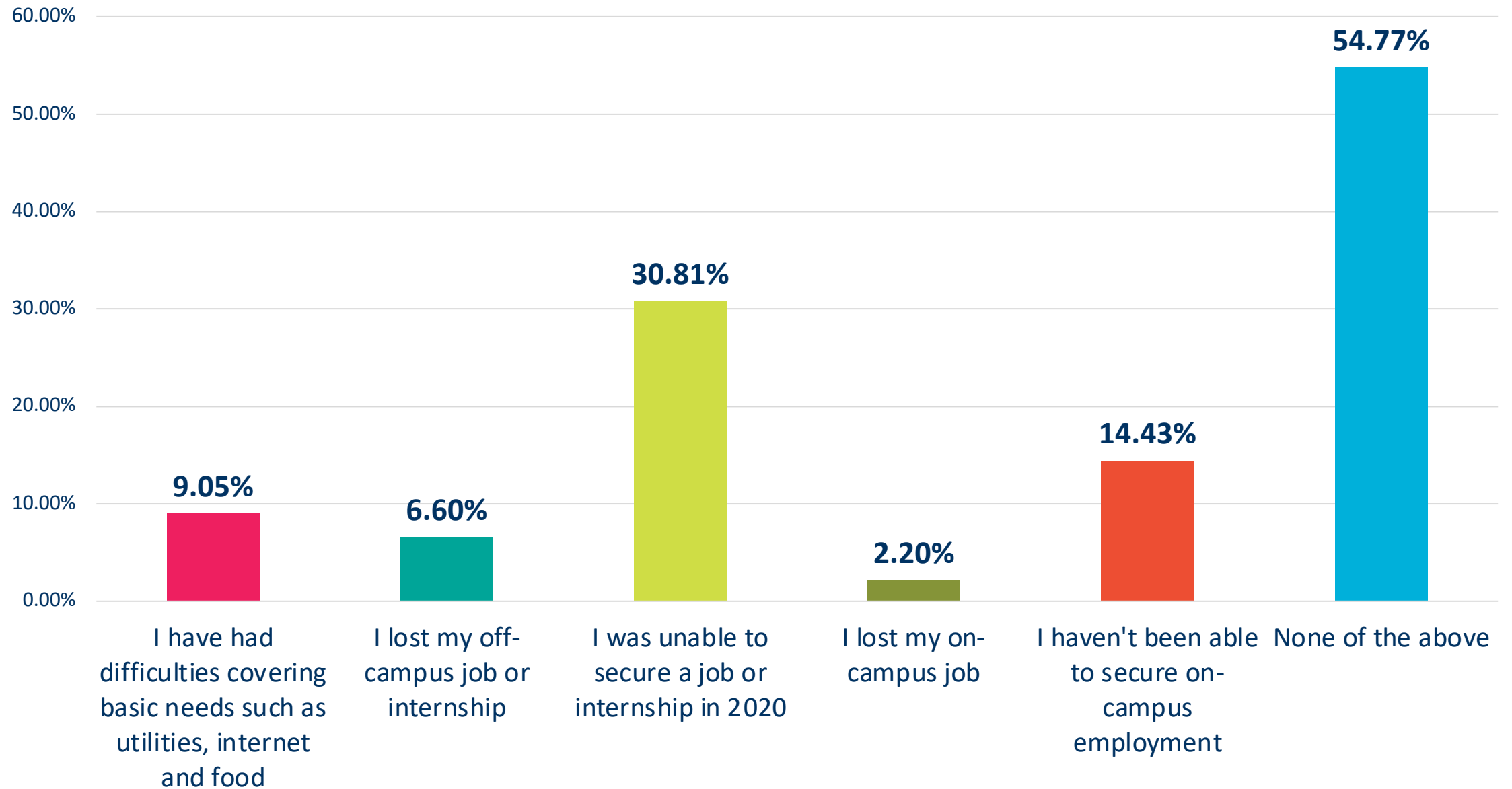
If classes are not mostly in person in Fall 2021 I will (choose one):



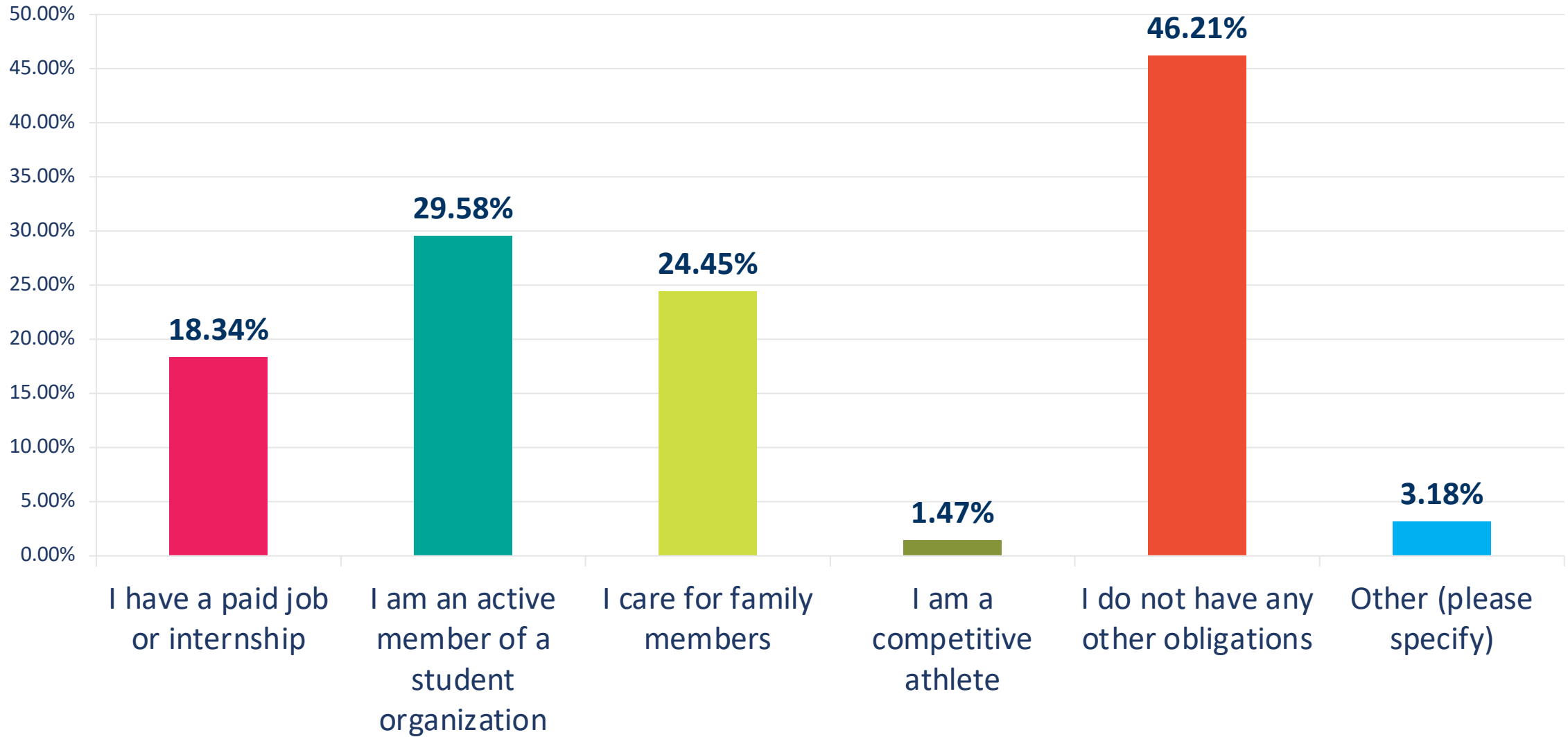
My personal or family income has been impacted by the pandemic (choose one):



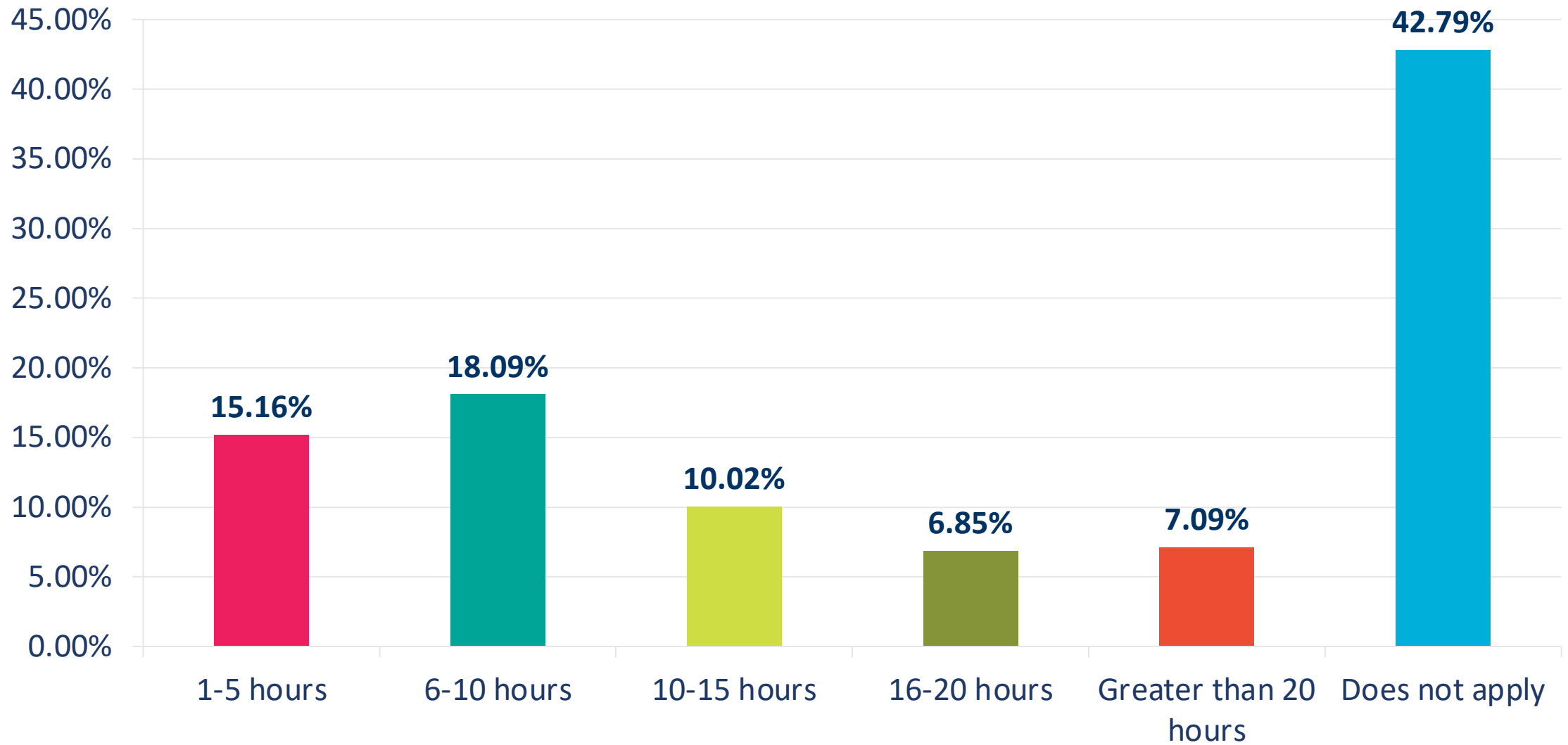
Have you been affected by the pandemic in any of the following ways? (check all that apply)



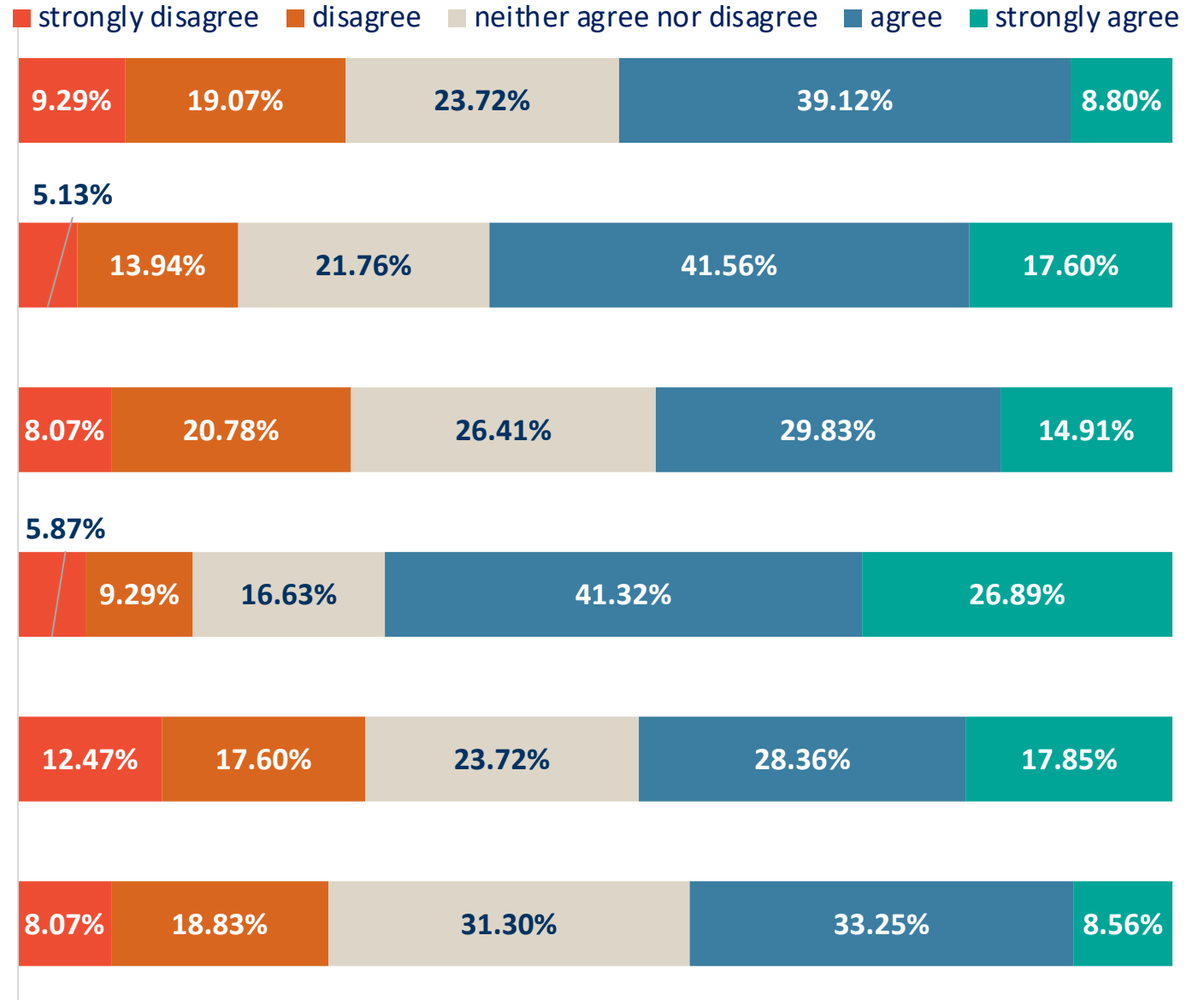
What obligations do you have right now outside of school? (check all that apply)



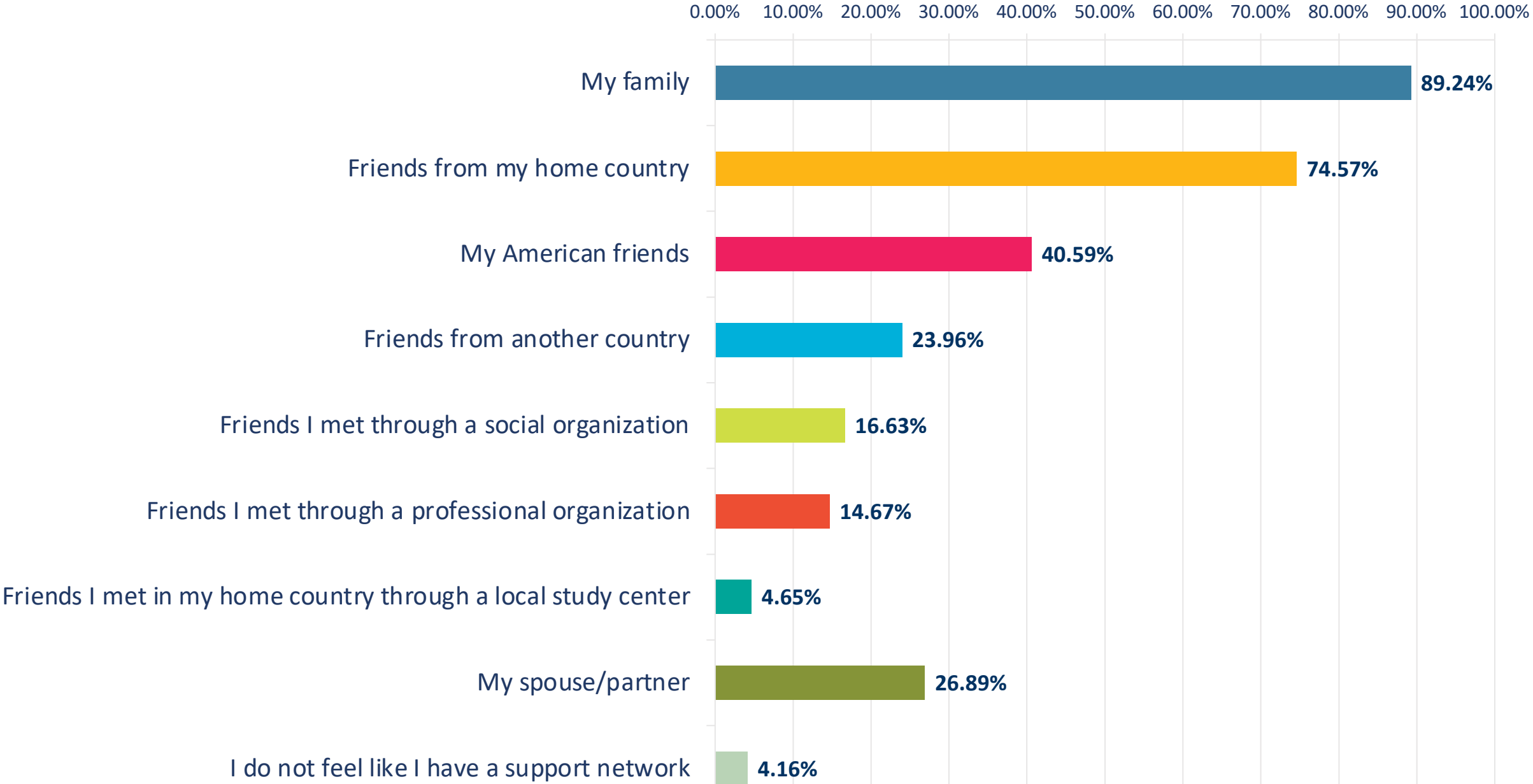
If any, how many hours per week do your obligations outside of school take you?



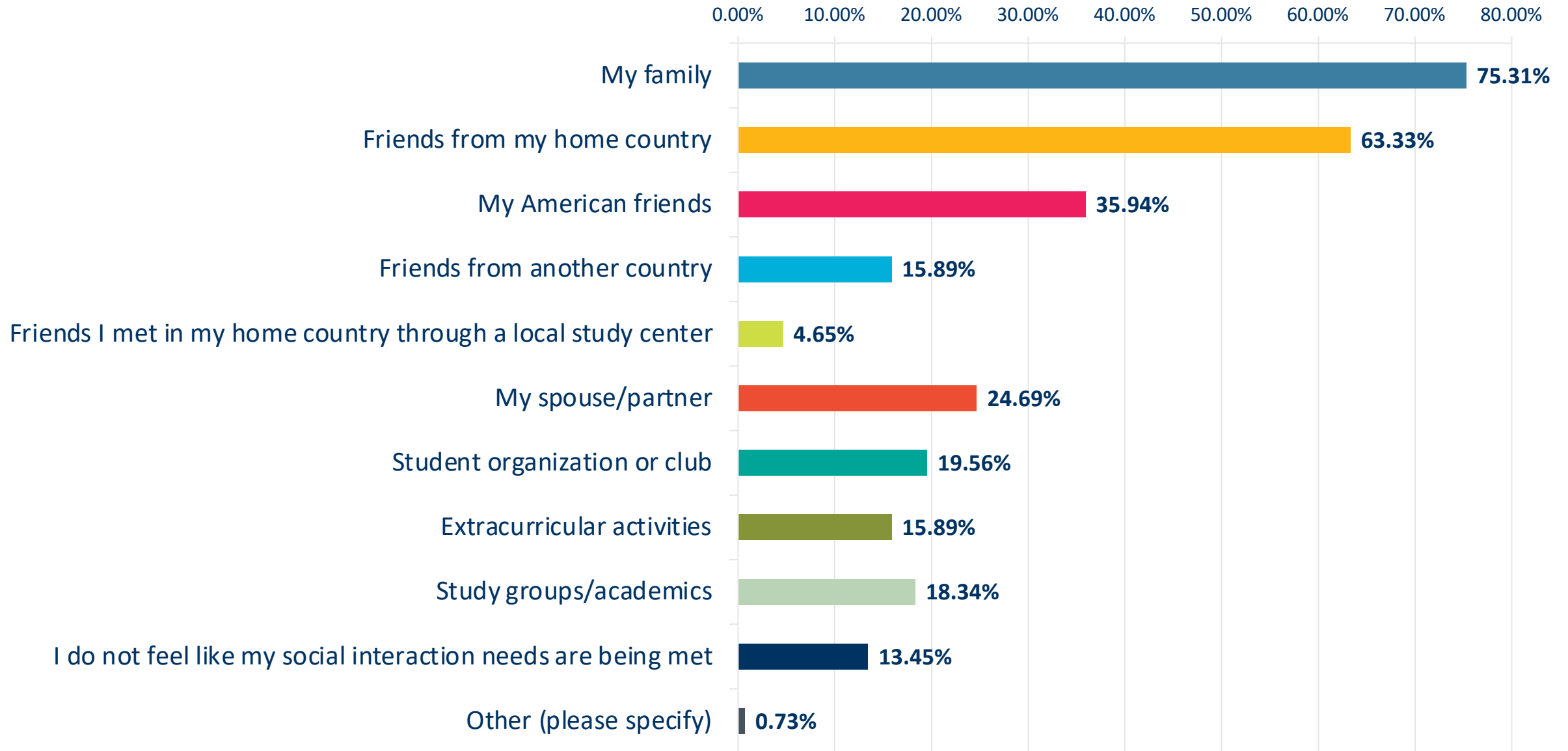
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding your general feeling of well-being:



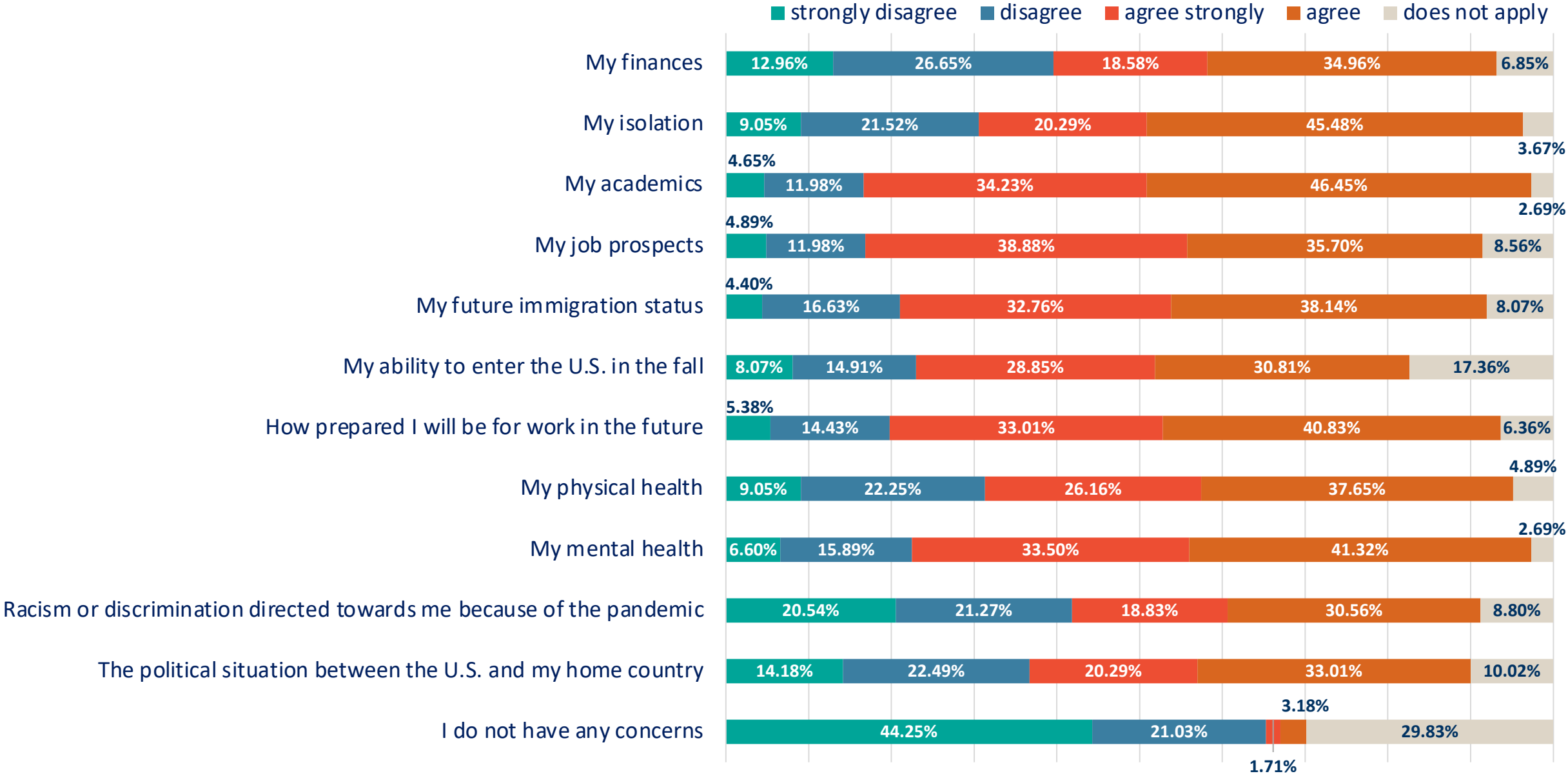
The following are part of my present support network (choose all that apply):



How are your present social interaction needs being met? (choose all that apply)

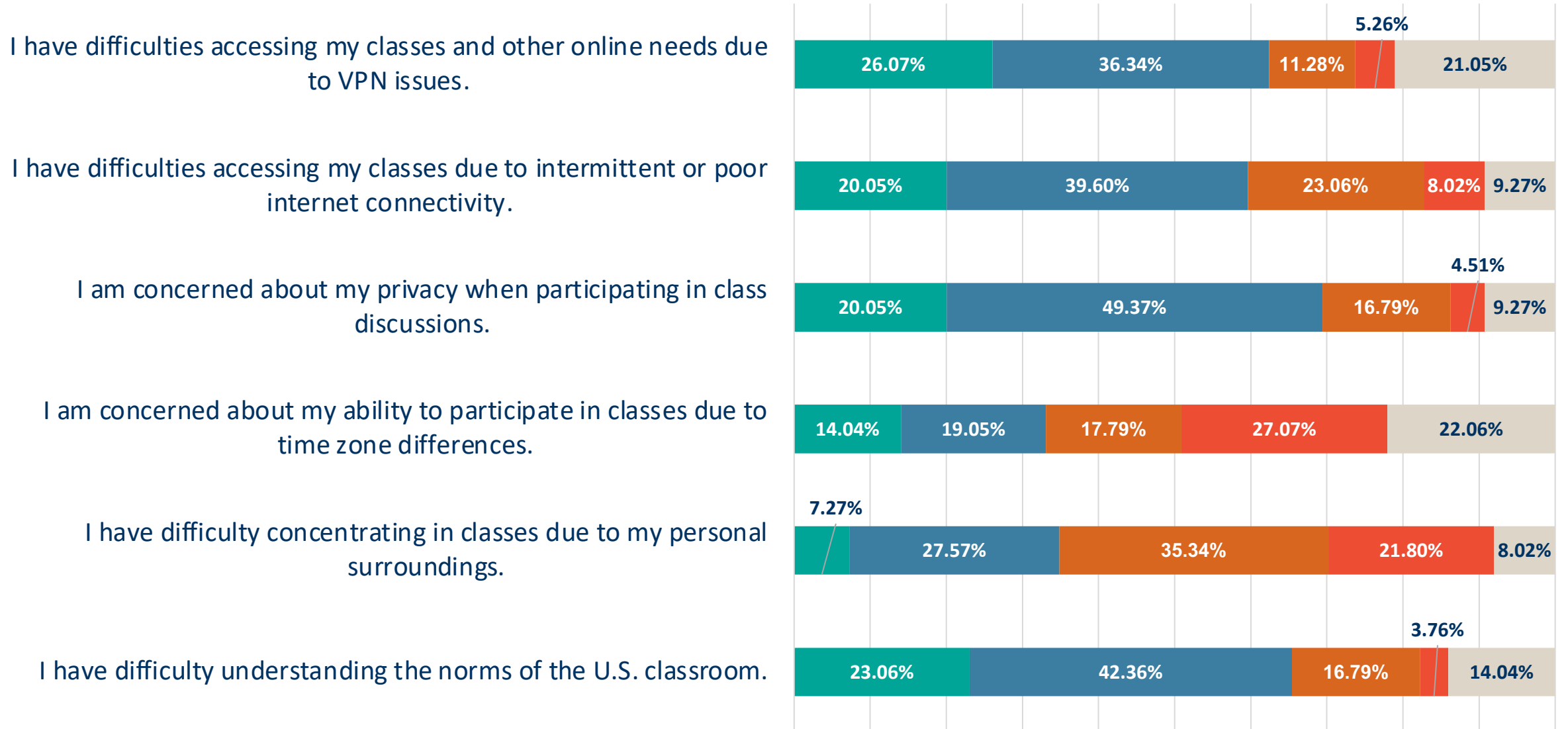


Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements. I am concerned about:

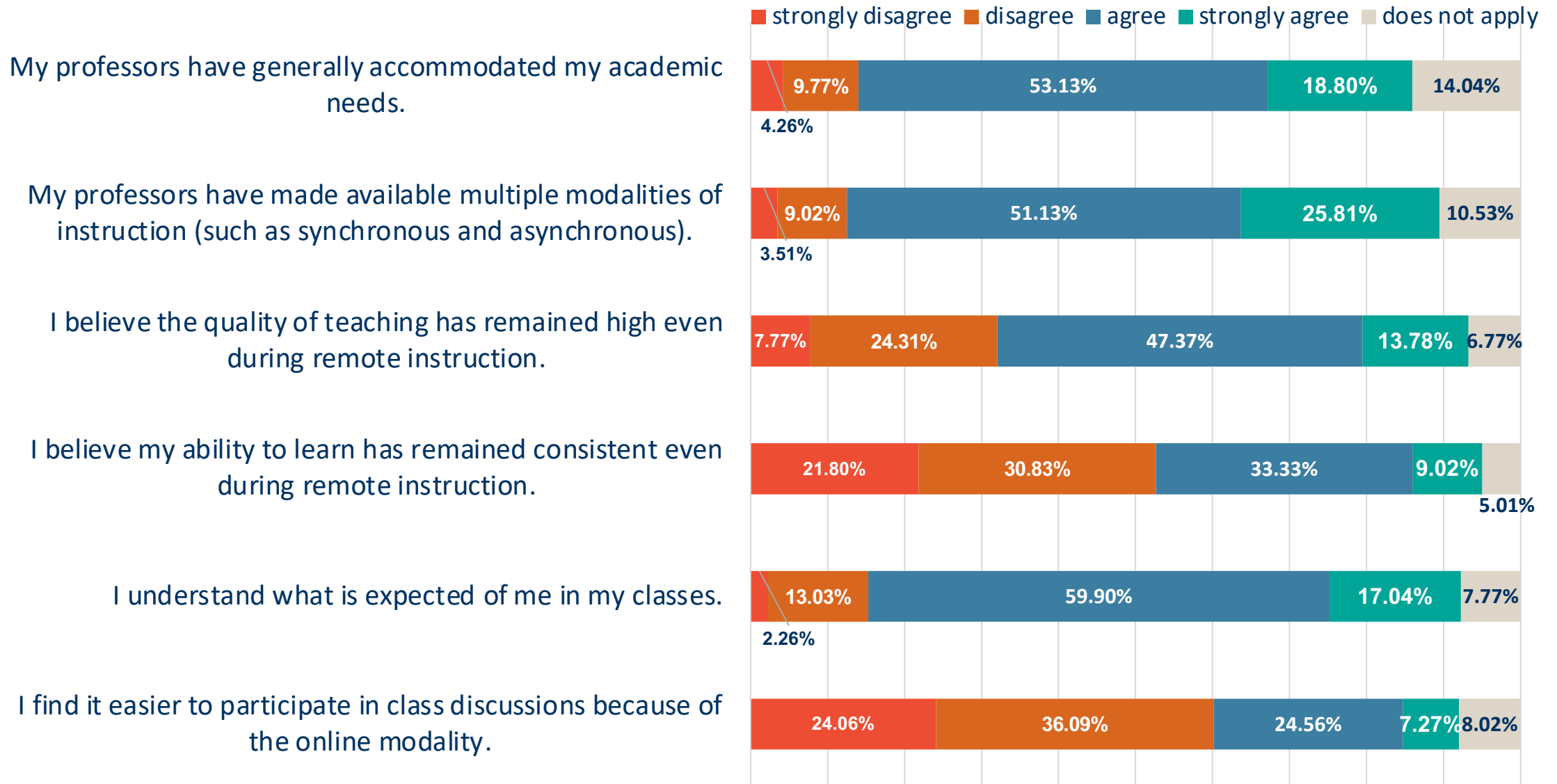


Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

■ strongly disagree
 ■ disagree
 ■ agree
 ■ strongly agree
 ■ does not apply



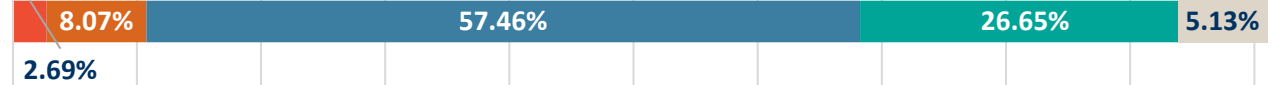
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:



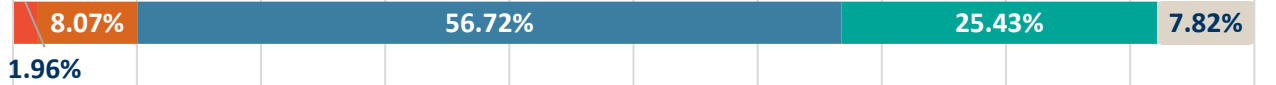
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

■ strongly disagree
 ■ disagree
 ■ agree
 ■ strongly agree
 ■ does not apply

I feel respected in the classroom as an international student.



I feel respected for my individual identity that I bring to the classroom.



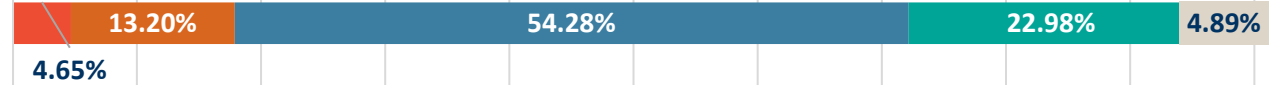
I feel that the contributions I bring to campus as an international student are respected.



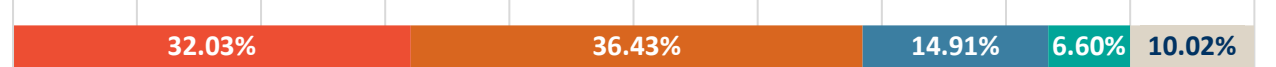
I feel valued by the university.



I feel welcomed by the university.



I feel I was accepted because of my money, not because I am actually good enough to be at UC Berkeley.



I believe I am receiving a good value for my tuition during remote instruction.



I feel that the investment my family has made in my education at UC Berkeley is worthwhile.



I feel a sense of belonging to the university in spite of the pandemic.



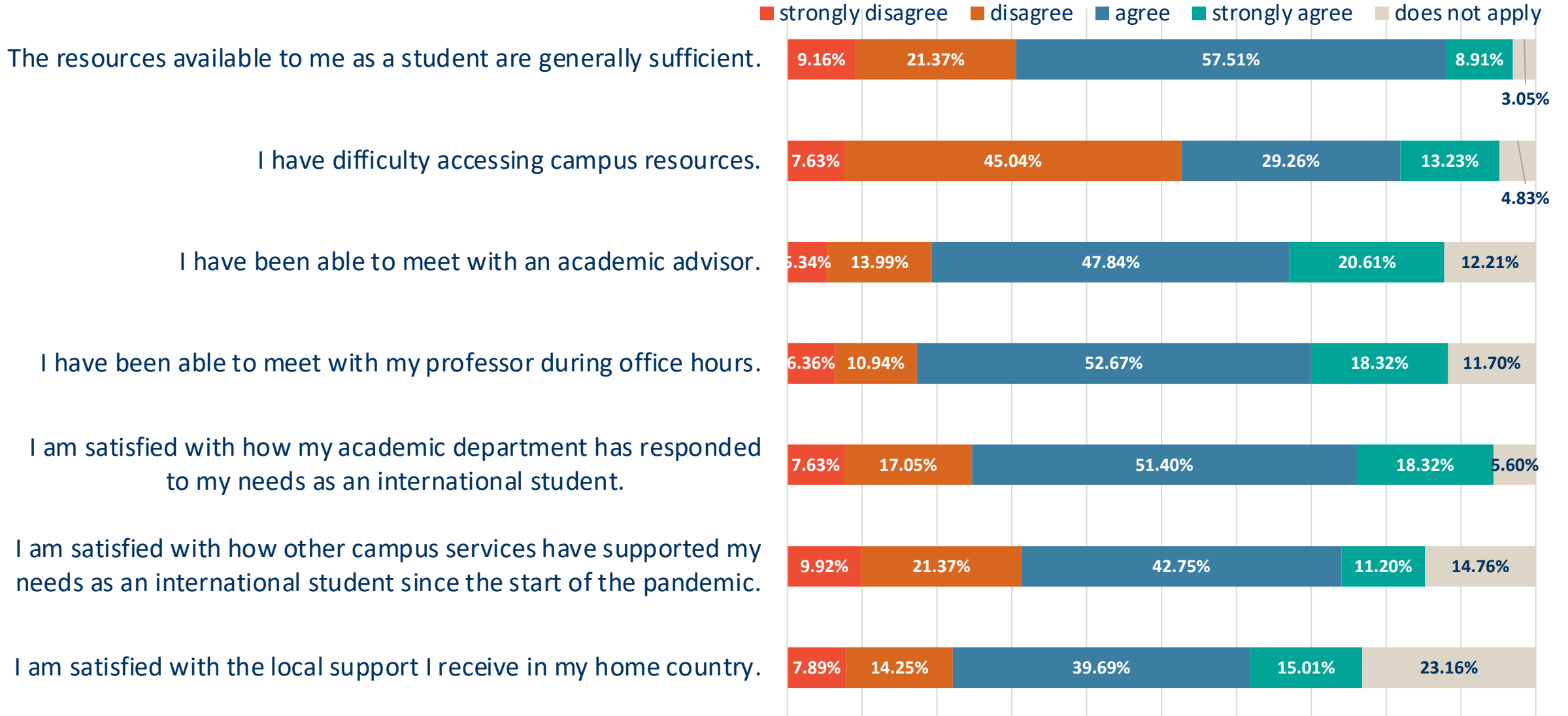
I feel optimistic about my future.



I feel optimistic about my future work opportunity in the U.S.

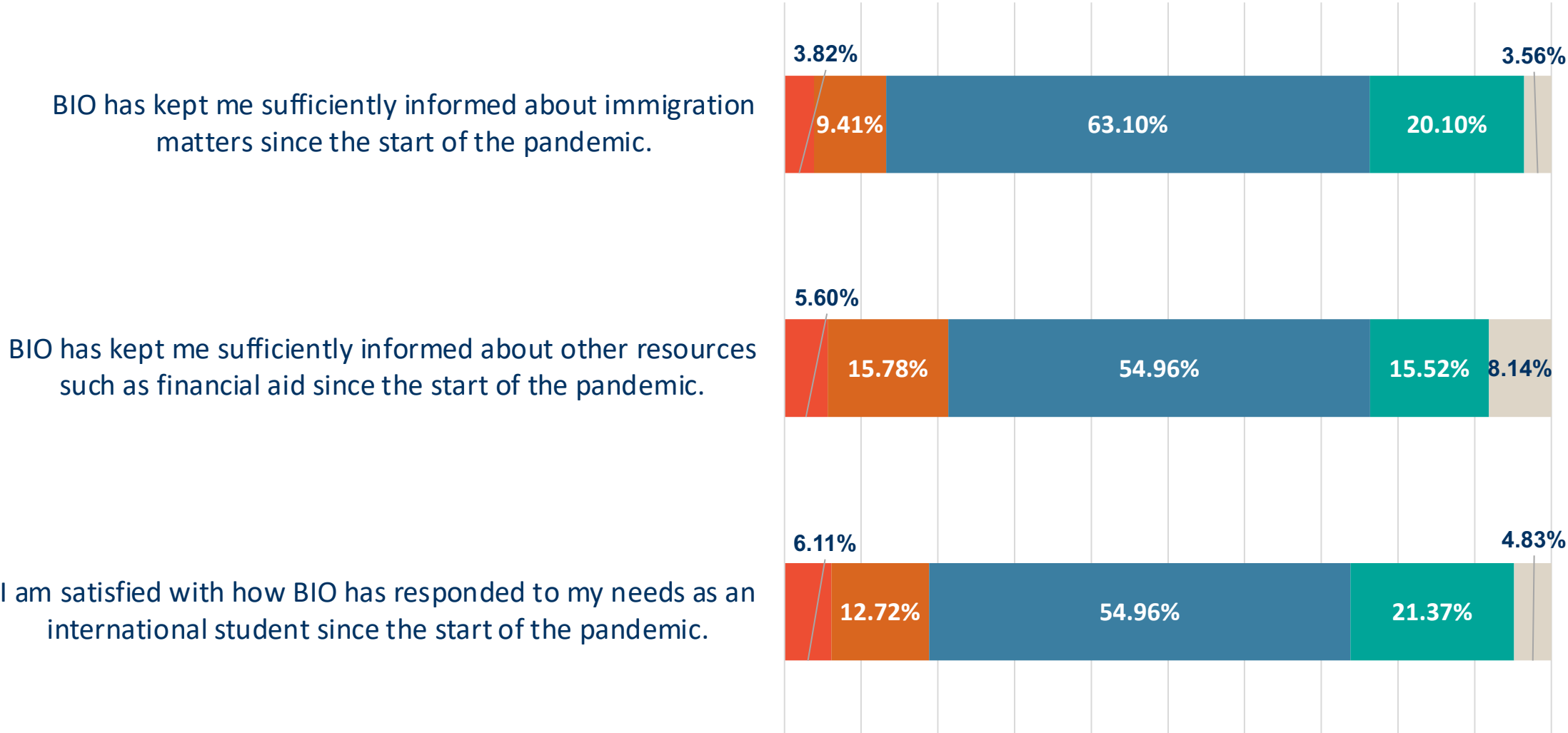


Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

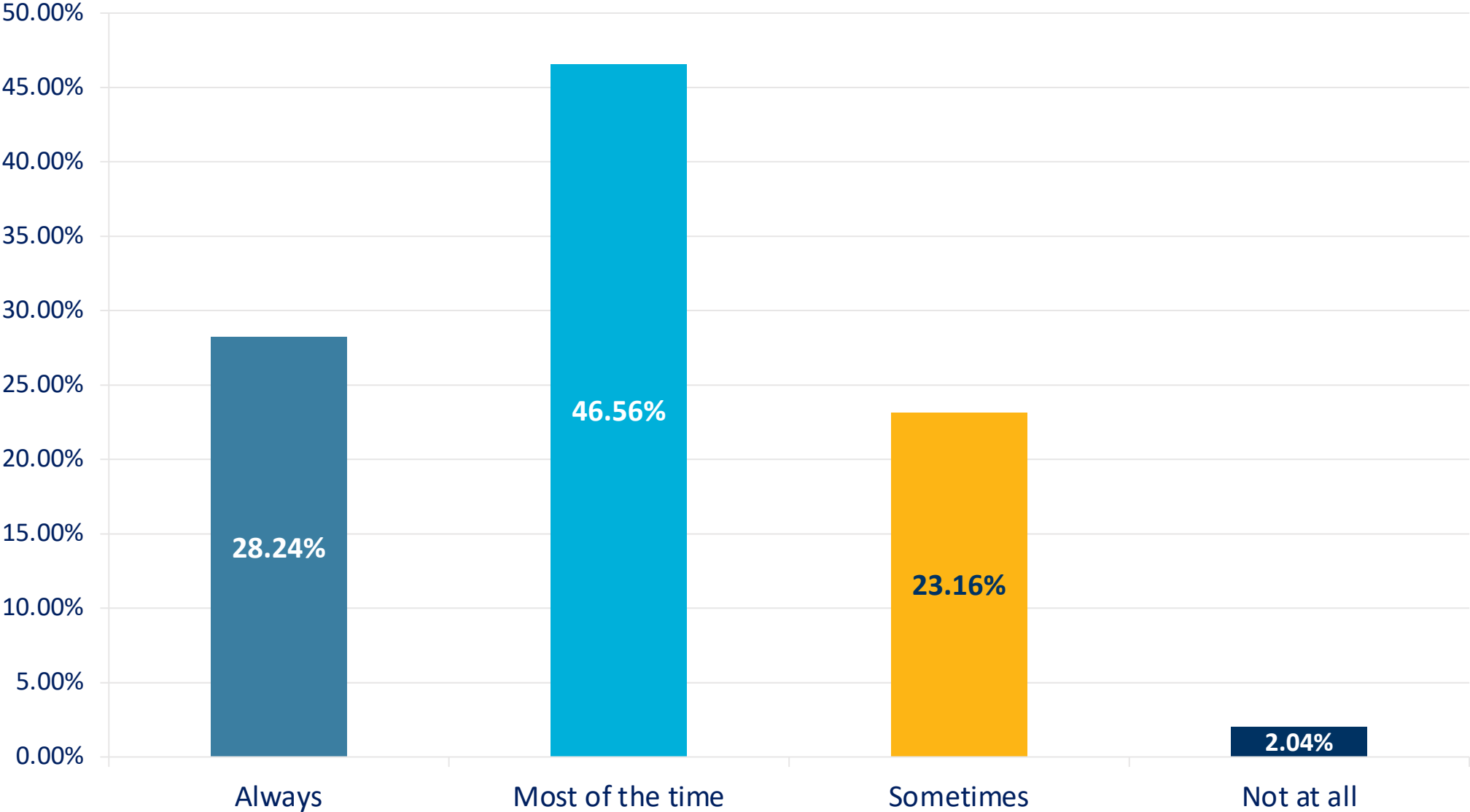


Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

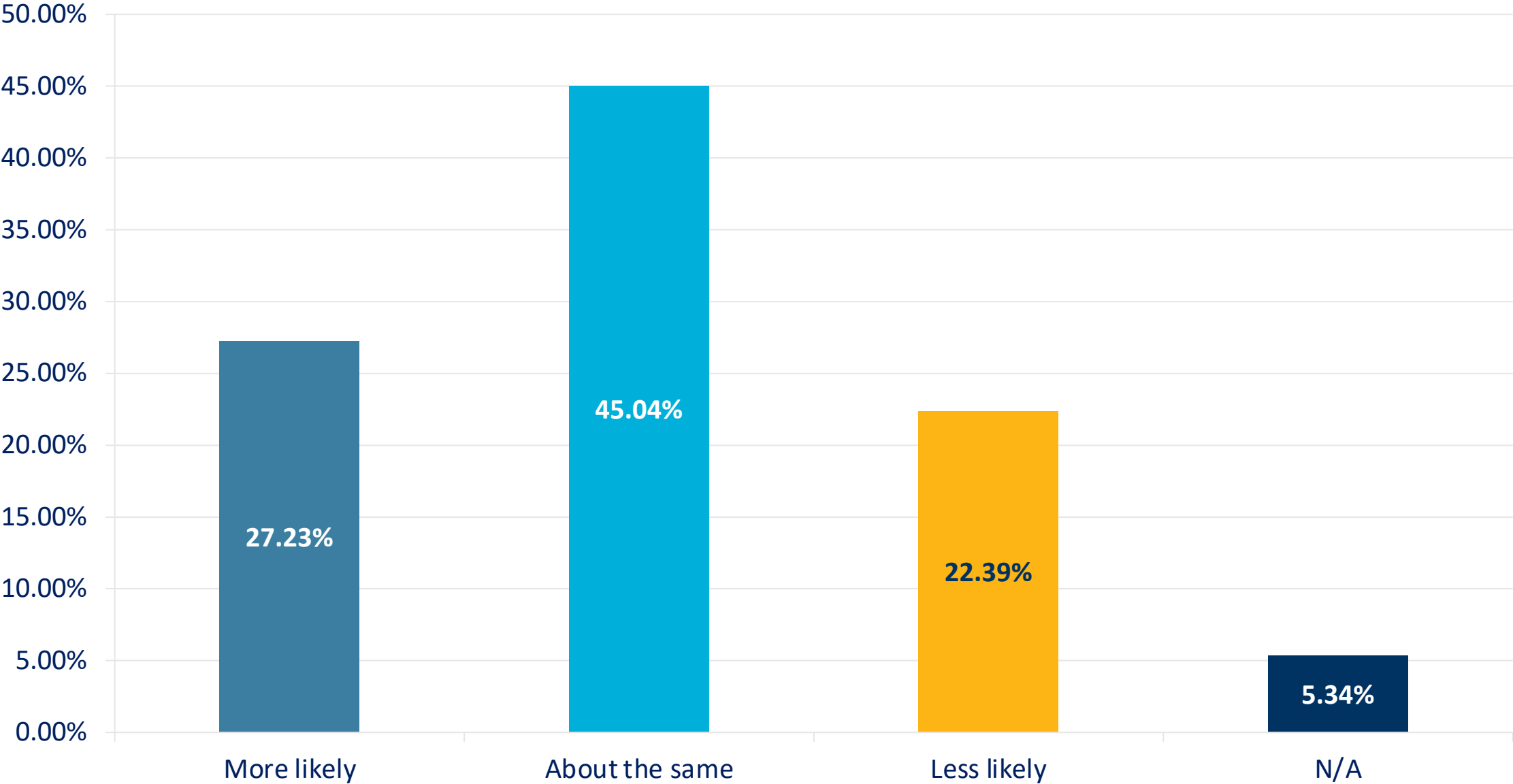
strongly disagree disagree agree strongly agree does not apply



Since the shift to online services, BIO has been accessible to me:



In light of the shift to online services, how likely are you to access BIO online services such as Virtual Student Advising post pandemic?



Student Comments

While the respondents provided a number of comments, no clear pattern emerged other than one recurring theme — students' frustration with the absence of accommodations related to time differences. It is clear that this concern has taken a toll on their general well being. The following excerpts best illustrate that:

“I am unable to attend a number of courses due to time zone difference and the course not allowing attending asynchronously because of class participation requirement. Some professors and staff are not sensitive about time zone differences when scheduling events, meetings and deadlines, and fail to accommodate the time zone needs of international students. Basically, the needs of international students are unattended to throughout my study.”

“Why do I have to fight my professors for alternate exam times? Why couldn't you have reached out to the university and asked for that option to be mandatory? I am exhausted by it.”

“My biggest concern is how my sleep schedule is affecting my physical and mental health and how difficult it is for me to be able to go to Office Hours or get any other form of help due to the timezone difference. It's been difficult to ask for helpful accommodations and I really wish I was able to go to campus so I wouldn't have to worry about being nocturnal just to take classes at Berkeley.”

“UC Berkeley doesn't give a s— about their international students, we have been living like an animal getting up in the middle of the night to take classes that could be simply transformed into fully asynchronous mode. We need ALL classes to be transformed into fully asynchronous mode, otherwise if only one section is synchronous we would still be compelled to fully adopt PST to ensure consistency. We need better VPN. I'm literally breaking domestic law to use VPN to access class materials. I know students from other schools have been arrested for the use of VPN and I'm in constant fear of these things happening to me. Despite these facts, the campus VPN is a disaster and it takes 5 minutes to load google. I'm already paying 300\$ for another stable VPN, where has my 40000+ tuition gone? We need psychological support. We are unable to use urgent drop in services at Tang Center because we do not have a US phone number and are unable to call. It's my last semester in Berkeley. I hope campus officials do a better job in the future and better support subsequent international students.”

Next Steps

BIO will:

- Work in collaboration with the Chair of the Academic Senate to address the instructional needs of students
- Engage with IST regarding latest VPN concerns
- Reach out to the ASUC to collaborate in jointly meeting some of the social needs of students
- Work with CAPS to address the mental health needs of students
- Review current programs and services to see how we can be more responsive to the needs that have been identified
- Collaborate with other campus units to better support the international student experience