



# 2016 Student Experience Survey

## A survey of CUNY undergraduate students

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*The Instrument can be found here: [2016 SES Online](#)*

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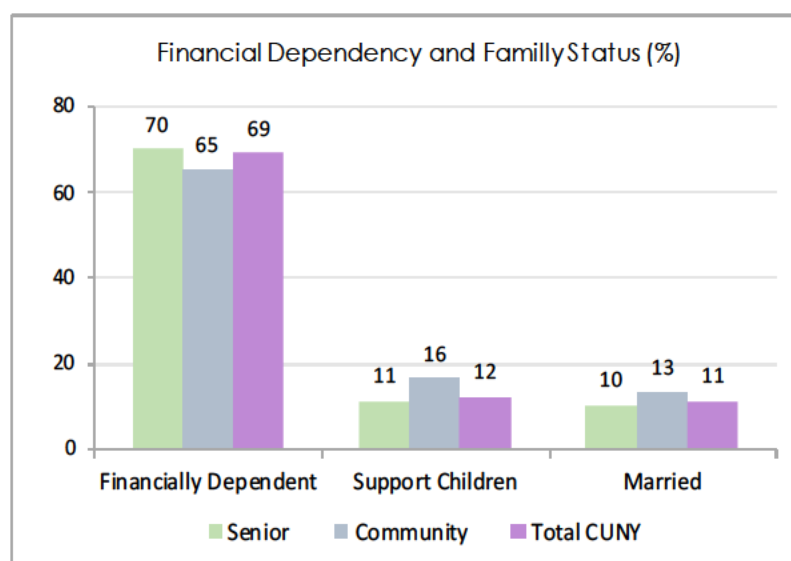
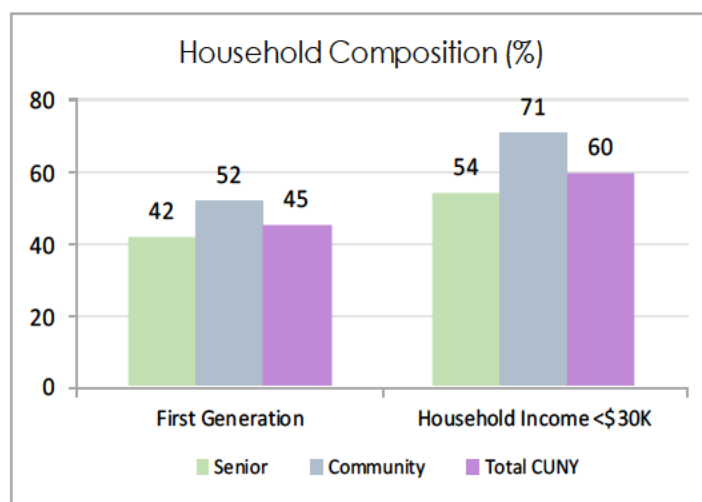
## Socio-economic Status



The majority of CUNY undergraduates, like college students nationally, are young and single. However, over 40% of CUNY students are among the first generation in their family to attend college and 60% report an annual household income of less than \$30,000.

CUNY-wide, 45% percent of students are among the first generation in their family to enroll in college. Students at community colleges are more likely to be the first generation than those at senior colleges (52% vs 42%).

About 60% of students report annual household income of less than \$30,000. Community college students are more likely to come from low-income families than their counterparts at senior colleges (71% vs 54%).



More than 2/3 of CUNY students fully or partially rely on their parents for financial support. Senior college students are more likely than students at community colleges to rely on parents financially (70% vs 65%).

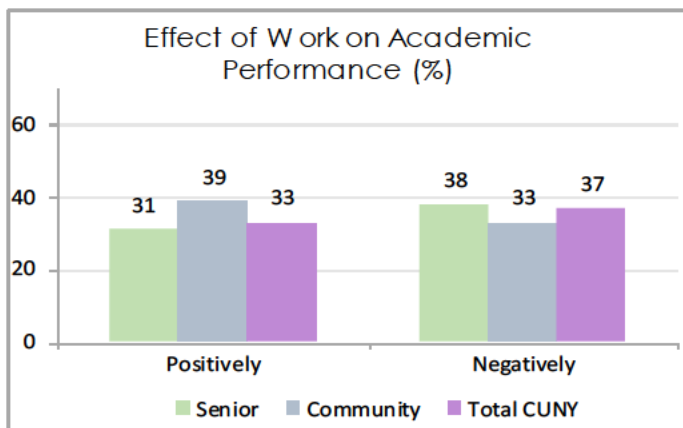
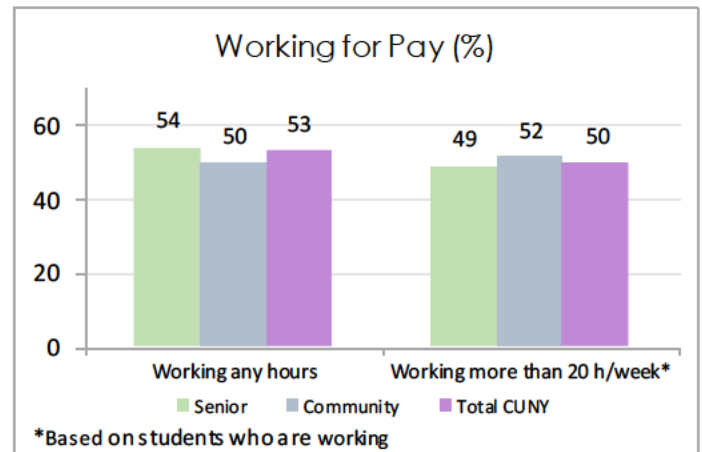
Eleven percent are married or have a domestic partner and 12% support their own children. Community college students are more likely to be married than students at senior colleges. Community college students are also more likely to provide financial support to their children than senior college students (16% vs 11%).

## Work Experiences



Over half of CUNY students worked for pay and over a third of those who work believe that employment negatively impacts their academic performance. Students worked primarily to pay for living expenses and tuition.

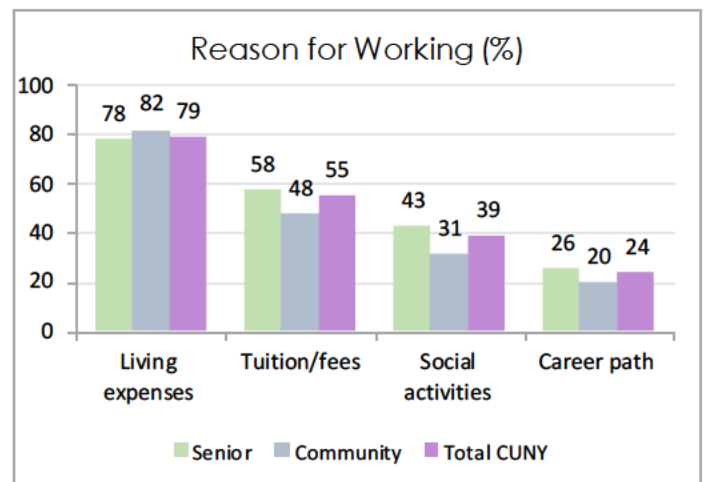
Fifty-three percent of CUNY students work for pay. A higher percentage of senior college students work for pay than community college students (54% vs 50%), but a slightly lower percentage of senior college students work more than 20 hours per week than community college students who work (49% vs 52%).



Senior college students were also more likely than community college students to report that employment negatively impacts their academic performance (38% vs 33%).

The reasons students work are similar across college sectors. Of working students, the majority (79%) work to pay for living expenses. More than half (55%) report that they work to pay tuition expenses.

Senior college students are more likely to report the need to pay tuition as a reason for working than their community college counterparts (58% vs 48%). A higher percentage of senior college students than of community college students work to pay for social activities (43% vs 31%) and to explore a career path (26% vs 20%).



## Course Availability & Offerings

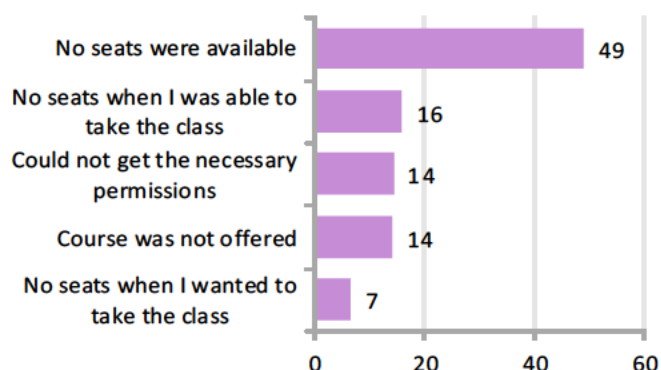


A third of CUNY students were unable to register for at least one course. Of those, almost half could not register for a course required for their major. Seat availability was the most often reported reason why students were unable to register for a course. Students also seek additional course type offerings.

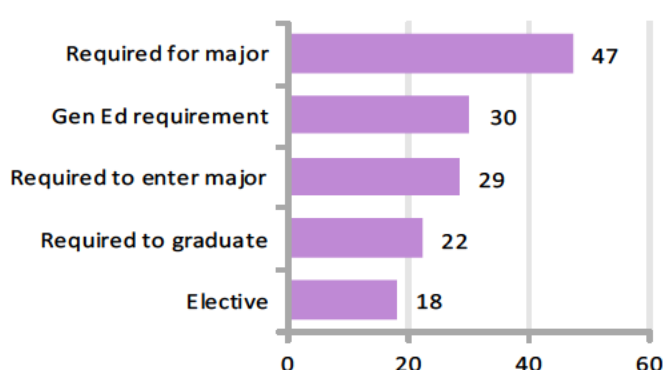
The major reason why a third of CUNY students were unable to register for a course was that no seats were available. Of those who were unable to register, half were unable to get into a course for their major. Other reasons students could not register were that the course was not offered (14%) or they could not get permission (14%).

Senior college students were more likely than community college students to report that they were unable to register for at least one course (34% vs 21%).

Reasons Students Could Not Register (%)



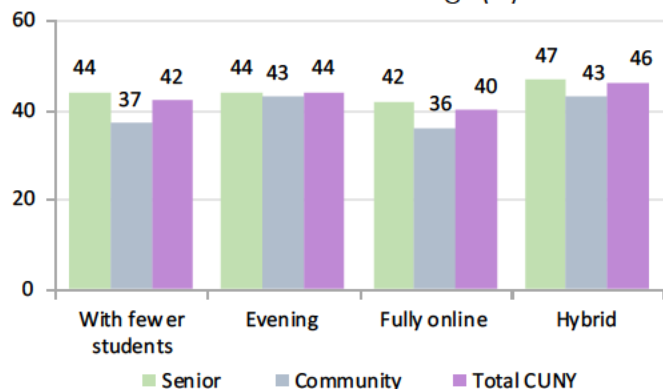
Types of Unavailable Courses (%)



Overall, 42% of students want smaller classes and 44% want evening course offerings. Senior college students were more likely to want courses with fewer students than students at community colleges (44% vs 37%).

At least 40% of all students would like fully online courses and 47% of senior and 43% of community college students want more hybrid class options.

Preferred Course Offerings (%)



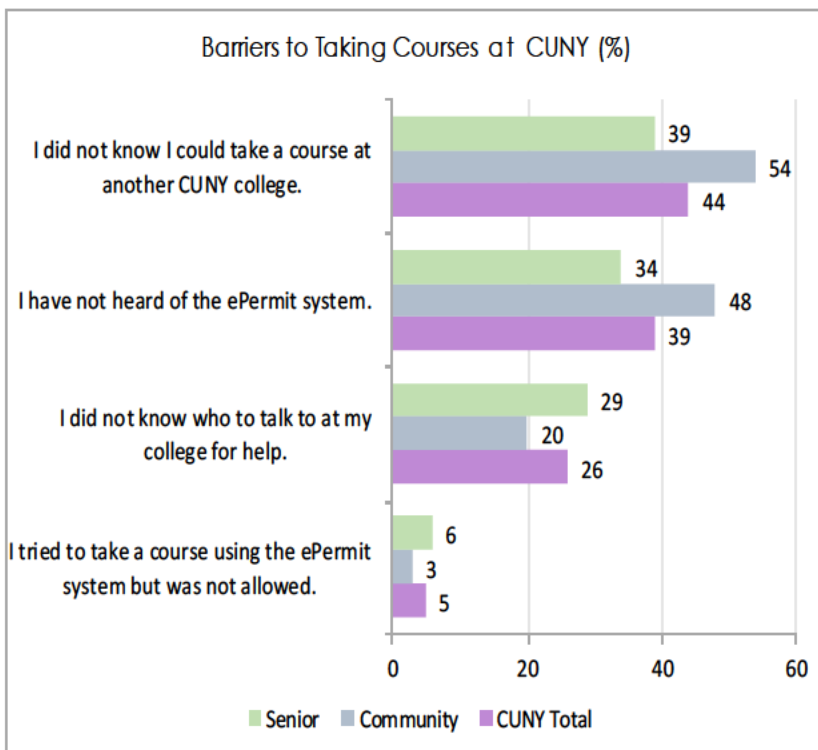
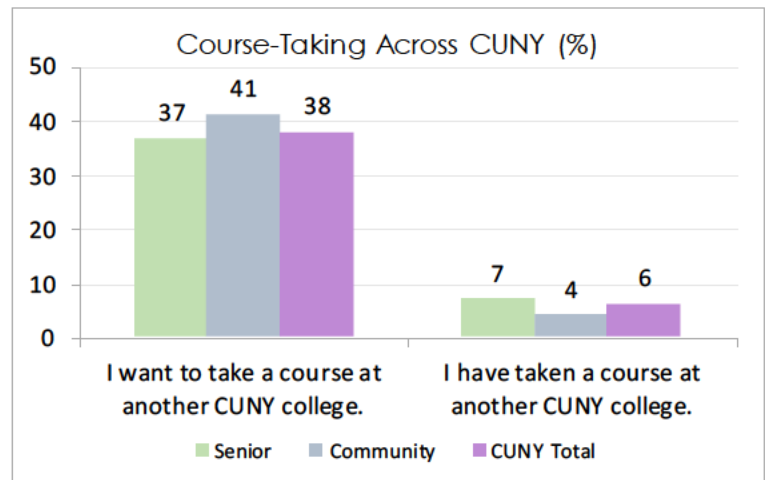
## Taking Courses across the University (ePermit)



Students were interested in taking courses across the CUNY system, but very few have done so. The biggest hurdle is a lack of communication and knowledge as opposed to difficulty with registration.

Thirty-eight percent of students wanted to take a course at another CUNY college, but only 6% have done so.

Community college students were slightly more interested than students at senior colleges in taking these courses, but were less likely to have taken one.



The major barriers indicated were that students did not know that they could take a course at a college other than their home college (44%) and that they had not heard of the ePermit system (39%).

The lack of communication on ePermit was more evident at community colleges where 48% of students reported that barrier. Senior college students were more likely than community college students to claim that they did not know who to speak with on campus (29% vs 20%). A small number of students reported that they were not allowed to take a course using ePermit (5%).

## Experiential Learning Opportunities

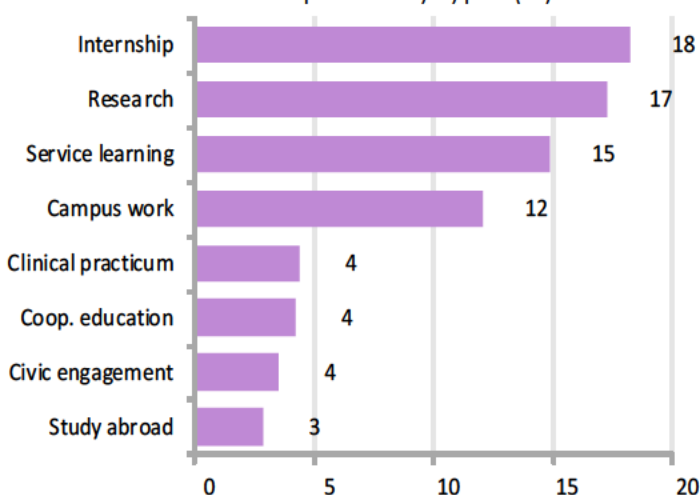


More than 40% of CUNY students participated in Experiential Learning Opportunities (ELO). Internships and research were the two most common ELO activities on CUNY campuses.

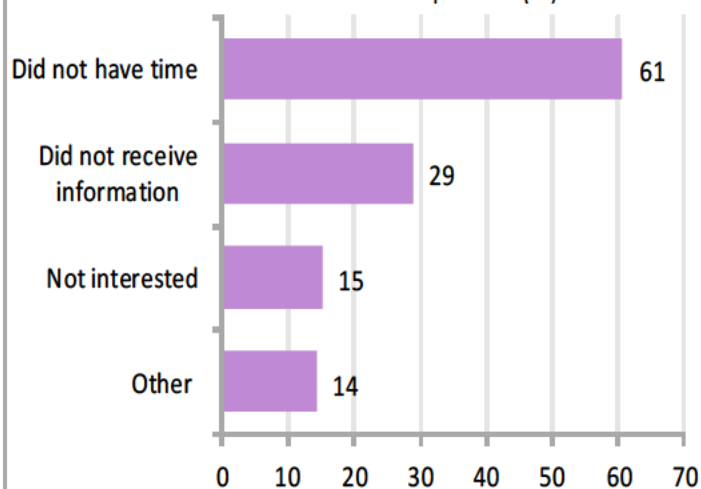
CUNY-wide, 43% percent of students participated in at least one ELO activity. Among eight common types of ELO, internships and research/field study were reported most often; civic engagement and study abroad were reported less frequently.

Students who did not participate in ELO cited lack of time as the most common barrier. Lack of information about ELO was a reason cited by almost a third of those who did not participate.

ELO Participation by Type (%)



Barriers to ELO Participation (%)



More than half of students (55%) agreed that their college encourages them to participate in ELO.

Students preferred to learn about educational opportunities through campus email over personal email (53% vs 27%); for career opportunities, they showed the same preference for campus over personal email (43% vs 38%).

For all types of ELO opportunities, texting, phone, social media, and Blackboard were among the least popular modes of communication (1% - 4% of all responses).



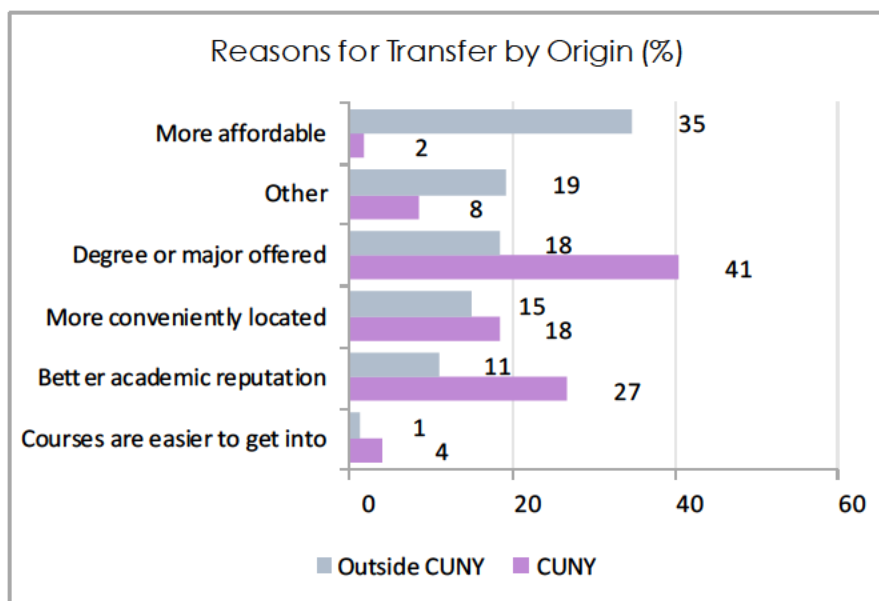
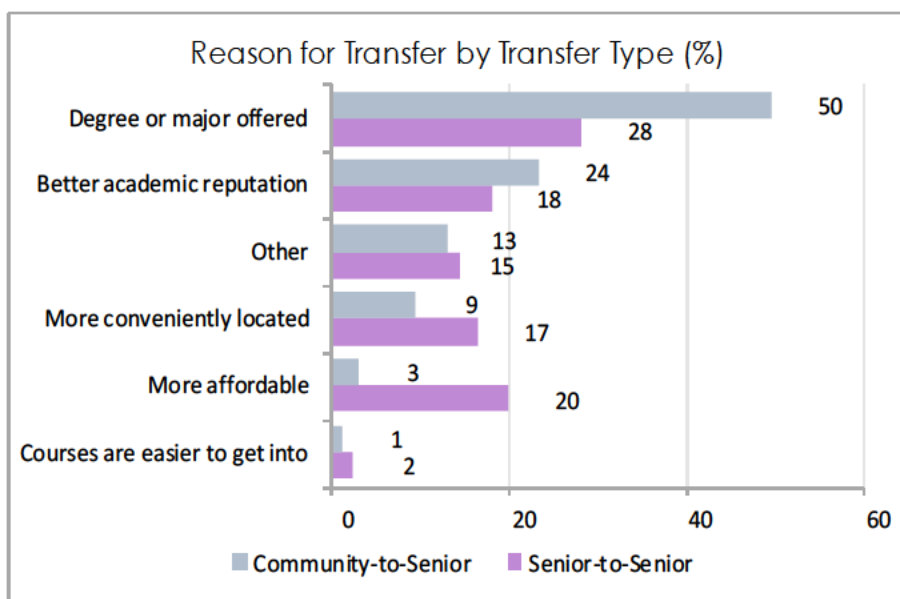
## Reasons for Transfer



Most transfers within CUNY were motivated by a change of major or the degree sought. Transfers from outside of CUNY were largely motivated by affordability.

The two most common reasons for transfer from a community college to a senior college was a degree or major offering (50%), followed by the desire for a better academic environment (24%).

Among senior-to-senior transfers, seeking a different degree or major was also the main reason for transfer (28%).



When senior-to-senior transfers were segmented by origin, transfers from outside of CUNY were predominately motivated by cost while the degree and major offered remained the predominate reason for within-CUNY transfers.



## Administration and Analysis

The Student Experience Survey population was all CUNY undergraduates enrolled in a degree/certificate program in the spring 2016 semester who were 18 years of age or older. The survey was administered through campus email between March and May, including an invitation and several reminders.

This report is based on the completed surveys of 25,242 students; a response rate of 12.3%. The responses are weighted by college, based on logistic regression modeling that included age, race, gender and full- or part-time status. All figures in the report are percentages based only on those who responded to the specific question.

Additional tables with breakdown by college and sector are available online: please visit our Tableau site [here](#). Please note that due to rounding, there may be small (up to 1%) differences between the numbers presented in this document and those published on the Tableau site.





## Response Rate

College	Population N	Completed N	Response Rate %
Baruch	14,490	2,649	18.3
BMCC	24,509	2,131	8.7
Bronx	10,189	1,024	10.1
Brooklyn	12,586	713	5.7
City	11,719	1,648	14.1
Guttman	693	132	19.0
Hostos	6,459	847	13.1
Hunter	14,858	2,526	17.0
John Jay	11,678	1,714	14.7
Kingsborough	9,436	668	7.1
LaGuardia	11,739	1,597	13.6
Lehman	9,805	1,622	16.5
Medgar Evers	5,960	405	6.8
NYCCT	14,601	2,369	16.2
School of Professional Studies	1,473	229	15.5
Queens	14,657	1,368	9.3
Queensborough	12,936	1,839	14.2
Staten Island	11,441	744	6.5
York	6,748	1,017	15.1
Total University	205,977	25,242	12.3