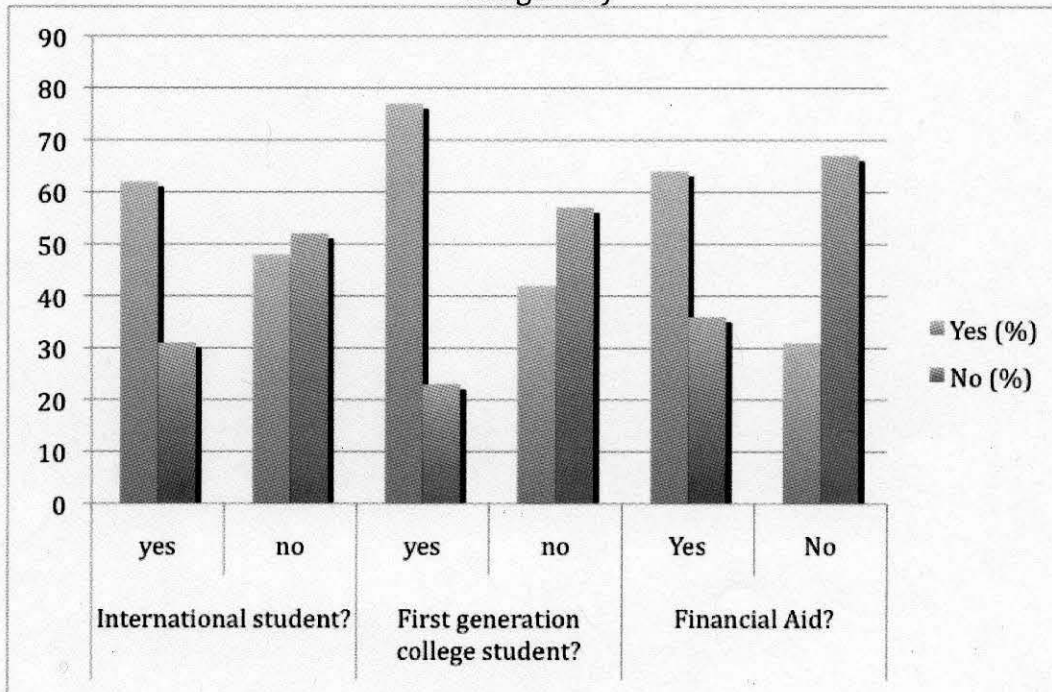


For the survey question, “In light of your experience at Swarthmore, do you feel that attending a summer program assisting your academic transition from high school to Swarthmore would have been helpful upon entering college?” data was differentiated based on whether students identified themselves as international students, first-generation college students, and/or students receiving financial aid.

In Figure 10, a significant percentage of international students, first-generation college students, and students receiving financial aid were in support of a summer bridge program being instituted at Swarthmore College. More specifically, 62% of international students, 77% of first-generation college students, and 64% of students receiving financial aid said “yes” to agreeing that a summer academic program would have been helpful before entering college, compared to 48% of non-international students, 42% of non-first generation college students, and 31% of students not receiving financial aid.

Figure 10. Students’ support for the implementation of a summer bridge program (by various categories)



Suggested Reading

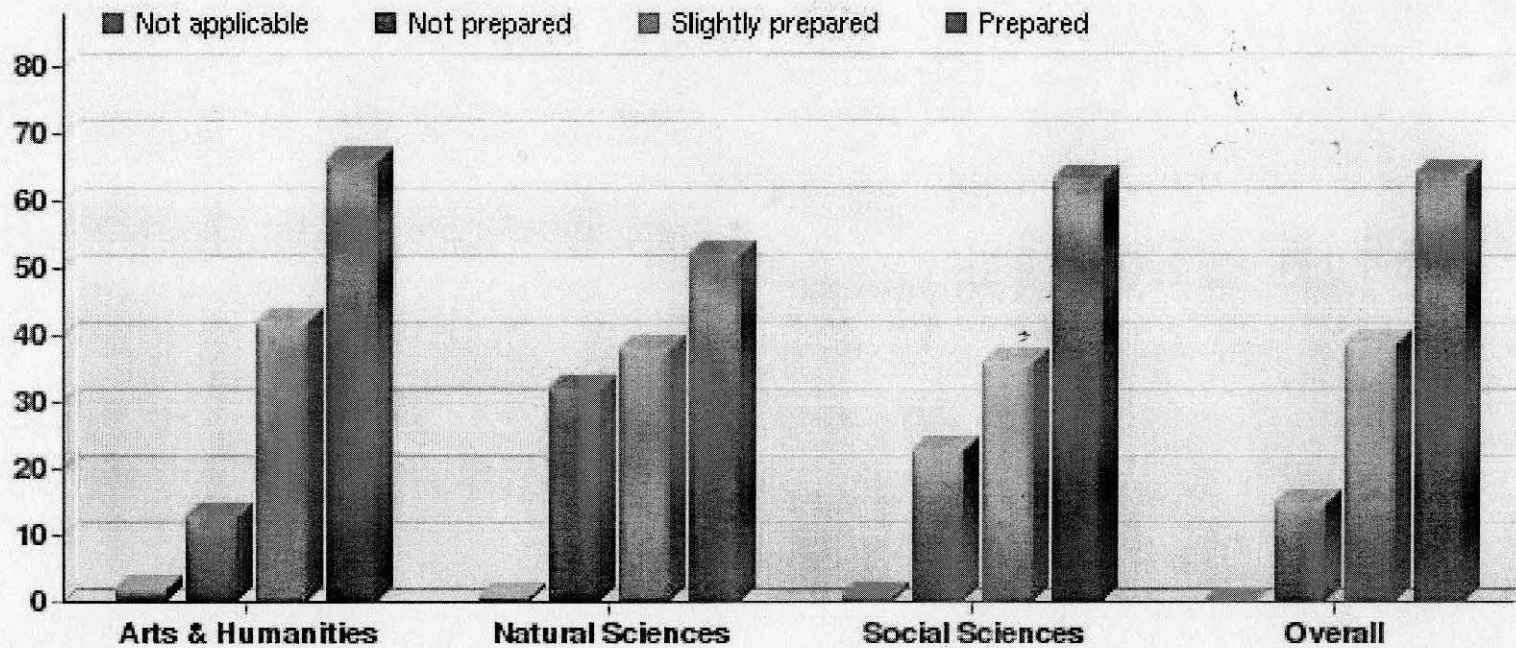
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Initial Bridge Program Survey Results

Last Modified: 05/20/2010

1. How prepared:



#	Question	Not applicable	Not prepared	Slightly prepared	Prepared	Responses	Mean
1	Arts & Humanities	2	13	42	66	123	3.40
2	Natural Sciences	1	32	38	52	123	3.15
3	Social Sciences	1	23	36	63	123	3.31
4	Overall	0	15	39	64	118	3.42

2. Comments

Arts & Humanities

Answer 1

Came from an arts school, academics off ballance

I went to boarding school

I have not taken many classes like this, but I know that I have absolutely no background in them. My writing skills were great in high school and bad here. I still can not write a critical analytical academic essay.

Natural Sciences

Answer 1

I was significantly behind my peers in all natural science courses I took. Both the structure of classes and the material itself was more rigorous than I was ready for.

at least for Astro 1

which is a chance that not many get

My math and science classes at my private high school were definitely *not* rigorous enough for me to have any clue what was going on as I attempted to fulfill my NS distribution requirements.

although not at all prepared in chemistry

I took everything that was offered but I found that I was still behind. Most of my knowledge of ecology and Bio 2 came from just being a farm kid.

Social Sciences

Answer 1

Had I attended public school

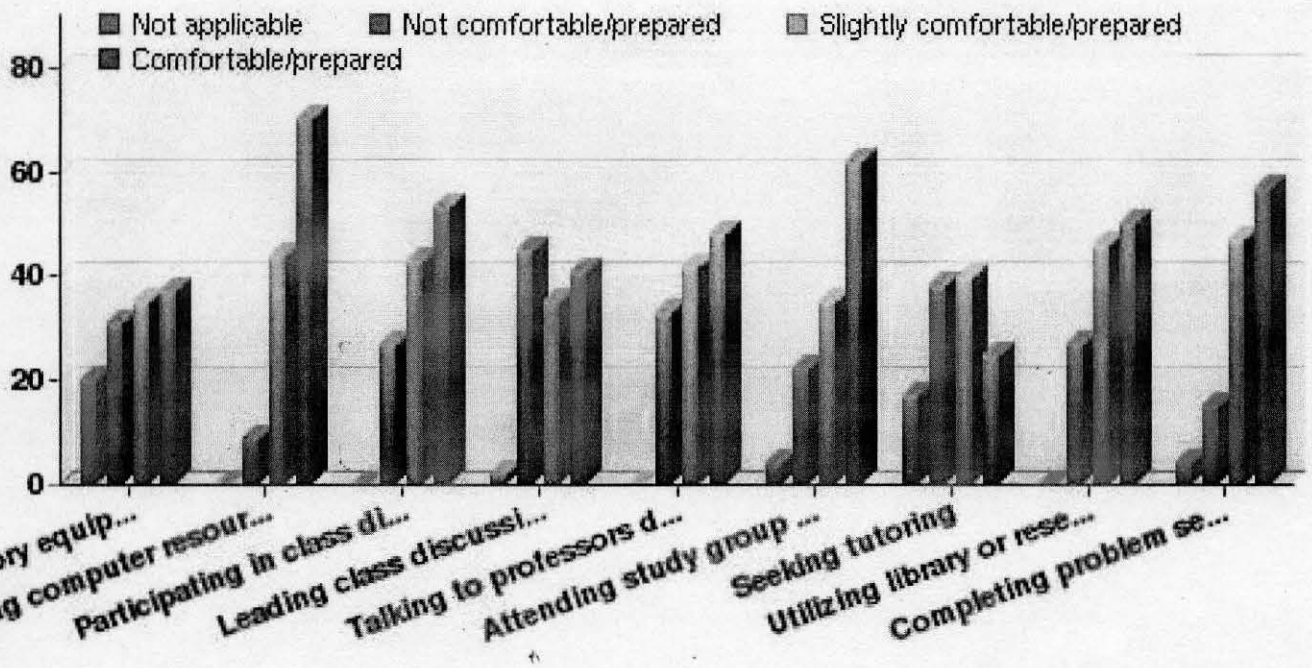
Overall

Answer 1

I would have felt unprepared

went to a public school...even though I took AP classes in high school, the teachers weren't motivated and didn't prepare us adequately for the exam, much less the content of their subject

Statistic	Arts & Humanities	Natural Sciences	Social Sciences	Overall
Total Responses	3	7	1	2



Activity	Not applicable	Not comfortable/prepared	Slightly comfortable/prepared	Comfortable/prepared	Response
laboratory equipment	20	31	35	37	1%
Using computer resources	0	9	44	70	1%
Participating in class discussions	0	27	43	53	1%
Leading class discussions	2	45	35	41	1%
Talking to professors during their hours	0	33	42	48	1%
Attending study groups	4	22	35	62	1%
Seeking tutoring	17	38	40	25	1%
Utilizing library or research resources	0	27	46	50	1%
Completing problem sets	0	0	0	0	1%

4. Comments

Using laboratory equipment

Answer 1

I received a very bad evaluation after my first lab here because I was totally unprepared for what we were doing.

Using computer resources

Answer 1

Participating in class discussions

Answer 1

Leading class discussions

Answer 1

Talking to professors during their office hours

Answer 1

It took me a long time to realize the importance of this, as opposed to viewing it as a last resort for failing students.

my highschool was very into teacher student relationships

I don't think my previous education had anything to do with the fact that I found approaching professors in their office hours *incredibly* intimidating - I never knew exactly what one was supposed to talk about with them if there wasn't a specific reason.

Attending study group meetings

Answer 1

Seeking tutoring

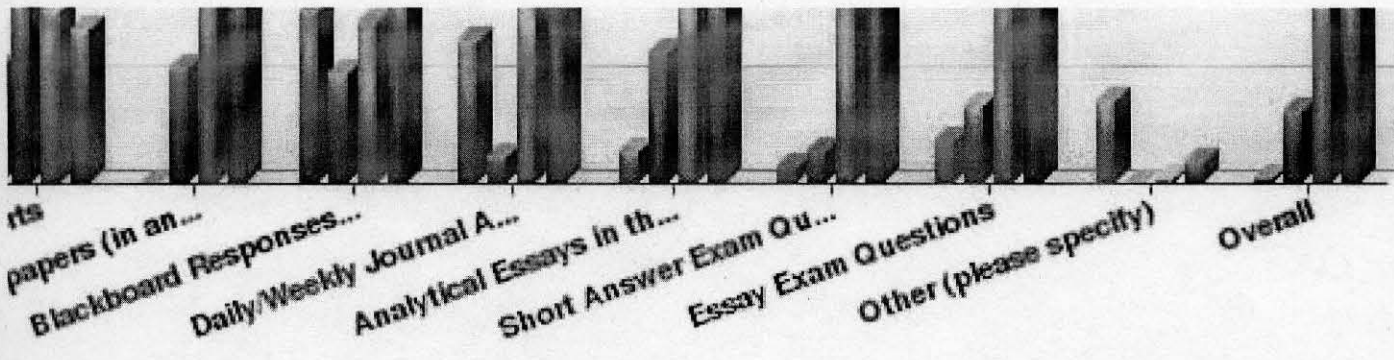
Answer 1

Utilizing library or research resources

Answer 1

Completing problem sets (in any discipline)

Answer 1



Question	Not applicable	Not comfortable/prepared	Slightly comfortable/prepared	Comfortable/prepared	Response
Lab Reports	22	39	33	29	
Research papers (in any field)	0	22	55	45	
Blackboard Responses	33	21	31	37	
Daily/Weekly Journal Assignments	27	5	37	54	
Analytical Essays in the Humanities (i.e. Film, Theatre, etc.)	6	25	45	46	
Short Answer Exam Questions	3	6	46	67	
Essay Exam Questions	8	15	38	60	
Other (please specify)	16	0	1	4	
Overall	1	14	37	39	

Other (please specify)

essays in the social sciences

Lab Reports	Research papers (in any field)	Blackboard Responses	Daily/Weekly Journal Assignments	Analytical Essays in the Humanities (i.e. Film, Theatre, etc.)	Short Answer Exam	Essay Exam Questions	Other (please specify)
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6. Comments

Lab Reports
Answer 1
Research papers (in any discipline)
Answer 1
Blackboard Responses (ie blogs)
Answer 1
Daily/Weekly Journal Assignments
Answer 1
Analytical Essays in the Humanities (i.e. Film, literature, music)
Answer 1
Short Answer Exam Questions
Answer 1
I felt extremely prepared for these
Essay Exam Questions
Answer 1
I felt extremely prepared for these
Other (please specify)
Answer 1
Overall
Answer 1
I did not have a significant amount of writing my first year at Swarthmore.

8	Subject-Specific Tutors (please specify what subject)	72	3	4	4	9	92	1.6
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Departmental Help Programs (Ninjas, Pi-rates, Science Associates/SA's, Wizards, etc.) (please specify which program)	Subject-Specific Tutors (please specify what subject)
Bio SAs, Wizards, Pi-rates, Jedis, Chem elfs	
SA's and Pi-rates	
Ninjas	
Wizards	
Pi-rates and Science Associates	Biology
SA, Chem Clinicians	
Science Associates/SA's	
Bio tutors	
Ninjas, Pirates	
Ninjas	Econ
Pi-rates & SA's	Biology, Chemistry
SAs in physics, bio, and chem	
Stat Clinic	
PI-RATES, SA	
SA's	
Pi-rates, SA's	Chemistry
SA's	
SA's	
Pirates, SAs	
Pi-rates	
Ninjas	
Student Group Mentors (Bio 2)	
Pi-rates, SA's	
Economics TAs	
Ninja	
Ninjas, SAs, Jedis, Chem TAs	Chemistry
Ninjas	
SA's	

reappointed...

Writing Associates (WA) Program

Please Elaborate

Writing Associates Mentoring (WAM) Program

Please Elaborate

Was not given one

Deans/Administrators

Please Elaborate

Working with Dean Smaw, my advisor, and Dean Anderson figuring out an unconventional study abroad plan has been a wonderful experience.

Faculty/Professors

Please Elaborate

I have had professors tell me that my previous work has not prepared for Swarthmore and that I would need to work extra hard. I also have had a professor who I met with weekly because my work was poor - this was not helpful at all.

Assigned Advisers

Please Elaborate

After having a high school advisor who had weekly check ins and advisor outings, I have been very dissatisfied with the Swat advisor program, and my advisor has been useless in terms of academic advice.

The Engineering Faculty knows nothing about the rest of the departments.

Departmental Help Programs (Ninjas, Pi-rates, Science Associates/SA's, Wizards, etc.) (please specify which program)

Please Elaborate

credit...

One-on-one mentoring with an upperclassman during my first months at Swarthmore.

more tutors

PREPERATION FOR WRITING DIFFERENT ASSIGNEMENTS

English tutor

none

study groups, departmental help programs for every class

More organized study groups or help for higher level math and stat courses

I wish I had more preparation in science, I had, I would have been a physics major.

Personally I've been pretty happy. Trying to utilize all the resources we are given access too has been a more relevant (though much lesser) problem...

Sort sort of basic math course - though my private high school was of a fine calibre and prepared me well for Swarthmore, I struggled in math and choose not to take Precalculus and upper level math courses. This lack of background has prevennted me from taking many courses needed as prerequisites for courses I am interested in taking in the future

More one-on-one tutoring on how to research and approach school in general

peer mentors for first generation college students -- this support group is highly necessary and would have made helped me transition to Swat a lot better.

Individual tutors in math/science disciplines

I wish I had a study group at all times, not just when there's a midterm or exam to worry about.

more knowledgeable advising

I just felt all of my freshman and sophomore years that I was floundering, no idea what I was doing. But because I wasn't doing badly and because I didn't have a learning disability, there were no resources for me to go to to find out how to just feel more on top of my academics and get better at the math I needed for econ.

I think they do a pretty good job.

more access to the art department outside of the major... there should be a minor, and the photography program and darkroom should have more support. it's way too expensive to study film photography here...



Bridge Program!

information about funding individual projects

I honestly think that i dont have time to utilize most of the ones now. I attend chem clinic at least once a week though.

Someone who can help with test-taking

10. 6a. Did you ever approach a faculty member with the concern that you felt academically unprepared for a course?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		39	32%
2	No		83	68%
	Total		122	

to complete paper. Chemistry. Help with the way to approach studying for exams and writing papers.

Mathematics. I was told to consider taking a different level of the same course, keeping in mind that doing so would make me less eligible for a major/minor.

Usually this was in cases where I wanted to take a course but was unsure whether or not I met the prerequisites.

Math

Math 15. I only received advice on things that I already knew (ie: help sessions, tutoring, etc.) and felt that the professor could have been more truthful about my lack of improvement in the subject earlier in the semester.

Math 026. The faculty member assured me that I was prepared, but I decided that a different course was better for my major.

History, that it would be ok.

physics and economics because I was missing pre-reqs---both said it would be fine.

Spanish and Arabic

psychology

NEurobio, and that i was fine

Russian literature. My professor advised me to be more focused and less formal.

Read more, be confident

Chemistry

Stat 61, The professor offered many personal office hours that helped me through the class.

I had never written a lab report before, approached the lab assistant, and met with her multiple times to receive advice and guidance on how to write a lab in general and to describe the specific experiments we had been working on.

Philosophy. None

Contemporary Women's Poetry. It wasn't an issue.

Chemistry, Physics - To seek out private tutors, attend the study sessions, do more problems

Chemistry; did not really receive helpful advice, just had a very hand-wavy conversations/pep talk...

Spanish, general help with the subject

political theory, he was very helpful

Calculus, economics

Biology, Literature

Math, advice was useless.

4	Deans/Administrators	63	36	19	1	1	120
5	Faculty/Professors	3	15	52	36	16	122
6	Assigned Advisers	18	67	26	7	2	120
7	Departmental Help Programs (Ninjas, Pi-rates, Science Associates/SA's, Wizards, etc.) (please specify which program)	51	10	14	24	14	113
8	Subject-Specific Tutors (please specify what subject)	80	4	5	8	1	98

Departmental Help Programs (Ninjas, Pi-rates, Science Associates/SA's, Wizards, etc.) (please specify which program)	Subject-Specific Tutors (please specify what subject)
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SA's, Pirates, and Wizards	Math, Orgo I and II
Chem elfs, Jedis, Pi-rates, Wizards, bio SAs	
SA's and Pi-rates	
Wizards	
Pi-rates and Science Associates	Biology (my tutor hasn't been to meet with me.....)
SAs, Chem Clinicians	
Bio tutors	
Ninjas, Pirates	
Ninjas	Economics, Math
SAs in chem, bio, and physics	
SA, PI-RATES	
SA's	
SA's	
SA's	
SA's	
SAs, Pirates	
Student Group Mentors (Bio 2)	
Economics TAs	
Ninja	

; once a month last semester

Writing Associates Mentoring (WAM) Program

Deans/Administrators

Deans as a student group leader

Faculty/Professors

count?

Assigned Advisers

for class selection

Departmental Help Programs (Ninjas, Pi-rates, Science Associates/SA's, Wizards, etc.) (please specify which)

Subject-Specific Tutors (please specify what subject)

	which kind)			
2	No		88	72%
	Total		123	

Yes (please specify which kind)

WA

TA

SAM, WA, Jedis, Wizards, chem elfs, bio SAs, pi-rates

Ninja

WA

Bio 2 TA

Chem Clinician

Tutor

subject tutor, Mathematics

Tutor

SA in bio, TA in econ, tutor in bio and econ

WA

orgo clinician/tutor

economics

SAM, Chinese tutor

Physics

WA

WA & WAM

French tutor

SAM, Pi-rate, math tutor

WA

SAM

Ninja



SAM, Chem TA

SAM

WA



WA

15. 9. We would appreciate if you could provide the following information regarding your background and identity so that we can better understand student needs. Are you a first generation college student?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		26	21%
2	No		99	79%
	Total		125	

Statistic	Value
Mean	1.79
Variance	0.17
Standard Deviation	0.41
Total Responses	125



16. 10. Are you an international student?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes (please specify which country)		13	10%
2	No		112	90%
	Total		125	

Yes (please specify which country)
Peru
Palestine
China
Thailand
China
Korea
EU
Turkey
Germany
Many
China
Hong Kong SAR
Malaysia

Statistic	Value
Mean	1.90
Variance	0.09
Standard Deviation	0.31
Total Responses	125

17. 11. Are you a U.S. citizen living abroad?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		5	4%
2	No		120	96%
	Total		125	

Statistic	Value
Mean	1.96
Variance	0.04
Standard Deviation	0.20
Total Responses	125