



The Student Perspective: DACCC Independent Accreditation Effort

Student Questionnaire Results

Spring 2007

The Student Perspective: DACC Independent Accreditation Effort

Introduction

We developed and administered a questionnaire to assess the perspectives of Doña Ana Community College (DACC) students regarding the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Independent Accreditation Effort. In Spring 2007, the questionnaire was administered to a large sample of DACC students. We solicited student opinions on DACC's Mission Statement, educational programs, technology options, and other topics.

Methods

The questionnaire was designed to gather information from students pertaining to the Criteria for Accreditation set forth by HLC (<http://dabcc.nmsu.edu/info/accreditation/pdf/HLCAccredHandbookCh3.pdf>). It consisted of eleven questions that required students to rate their perceptions about DACC on a Likert Scale and two open-ended questions regarding areas in which DACC excels and those that need improvement. The questionnaire was administered to students at the Spring Fling Celebration events at the Las Cruces, East Mesa, Sunland Park, and Gadsden campuses and during several academic courses near the end of the Spring 2007 semester. Students were asked to refrain from completing the questionnaire more than once.

Results and Conclusions

We received 596 completed surveys. Students rated DACC favorably on all questions involving a Likert Scale. In addition, students generally provided positive and constructive responses to the two open-ended questions regarding areas in which DACC excels and those that need improvement.

Table 1 provides a detailed summary of the mean responses for each of the Likert Scale questions. The mean score for the question, "How would you rate DACC's ability to meet this

Table 1. Means summary of student responses to HLC Independent Accreditation Student Questionnaire

Question	Mean	Std. Dev.	N	Scale
How would you rate DACC's ability to meet this mission?	3.69	0.50	587	1 = Not Able; 2 = Somewhat Not Able; 3 = Somewhat Able; 4 = Very Able
DACC offers the educational programs that I'm looking for.	3.20	0.67	596	0 = Don't Know; 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Strongly Agree
DACC provides me with access to technology.	3.43	0.55	592	0 = Don't Know; 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Strongly Agree
The DACC library provides access to the information I need to complete assignments.	3.28	0.64	525	0 = Don't Know; 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Strongly Agree
I know where to get the information I need to plan my education.	3.25	0.64	589	0 = Don't Know; 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Strongly Agree
There is up-to-date equipment in the classrooms and specialized laboratories in which I have classes or complete projects/assignments.	3.18	0.69	543	0 = Not Applicable; 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Strongly Agree
I know where to get financial aid.	3.30	0.67	528	0 = Not Applicable; 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Strongly Agree
I receive the help I need when trying to figure out what classes I should take in any given semester.	3.19	0.75	546	0 = Not Applicable; 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Strongly Agree
I have received valuable assistance from tutors at the DACC Student Success Center.	3.15	0.73	390	0 = Not Applicable; 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Strongly Agree
I have the opportunity to get involved in on-campus activities, if I wish to do so.	3.19	0.62	463	0 = Not Applicable; 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Strongly Agree
I have the opportunity to get involved in Student Government, if I wish to do so.	3.11	0.66	409	0 = Not Applicable; 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Strongly Agree

mission?” was 3.69 ± 0.50 (SD) on a scale in which 4 = *Very Able* and 1 = *Not Able*. In addition, the mean score for the statement, “DACC provides me with access to technology” was 3.43 ± 0.55 (SD) where 4 = *Strongly Agree* and 1 = *Strongly Disagree*.

Ninety-eight percent of students rated DACC as *Very Able* or *Able* to meet its mission (Figure 1). The majority of students (89%) indicated that they *Strongly Agree* or *Agree* that DACC provides the educational opportunities for which they are looking (Figure 2). Ninety-six percent of students selected *Strongly Agree* or *Agree* in response to the statement that DACC provides them with access to technology (Figure 3). The majority of students (80%) said that they *Strongly Agree* or *Agree* that the DACC library provides access to the information they need to complete assignments (Figure 4). Eighty-nine percent of students indicated that they *Strongly Agree* or *Agree* that they know where to obtain the information they need to plan their education (Figure 5). The majority of students (83%) selected *Strongly Agree* or *Agree* in response to the statement that DACC provides them with up-to-date equipment (Figure 6).

Eighty-five percent of students said that they *Strongly Agree* or *Agree* that they know where to get financial aid (Figure 7). The majority of students (83%) indicated that they *Strongly Agree* or *Agree* that they receive the help they need when deciding on courses to take (Figure 8). Fifty-nine percent of students selected *Strongly Agree* or *Agree* in response to the statement that they received valuable help from tutors at the Student Success Center, and 31% said that this question was not applicable, which may indicate that a large proportion of DACC students do not use this service (Figure 9). The majority of students (75%) said that they *Strongly Agree* or *Agree* that they are able to participate in on-campus activities (Figure 10), and 65% indicated that they *Strongly Agree* or *Agree* that they are able to participate in student government (Figure 11). In addition, students provided several useful and constructive responses

to the open-ended questions, “In your opinion, what does DACC do well,” and, “In your opinion, what changes does DACC need to make” (Appendix 1).

Figure 1. The percentage of DACC students who chose each of the available responses to the following question regarding the DACC Mission.

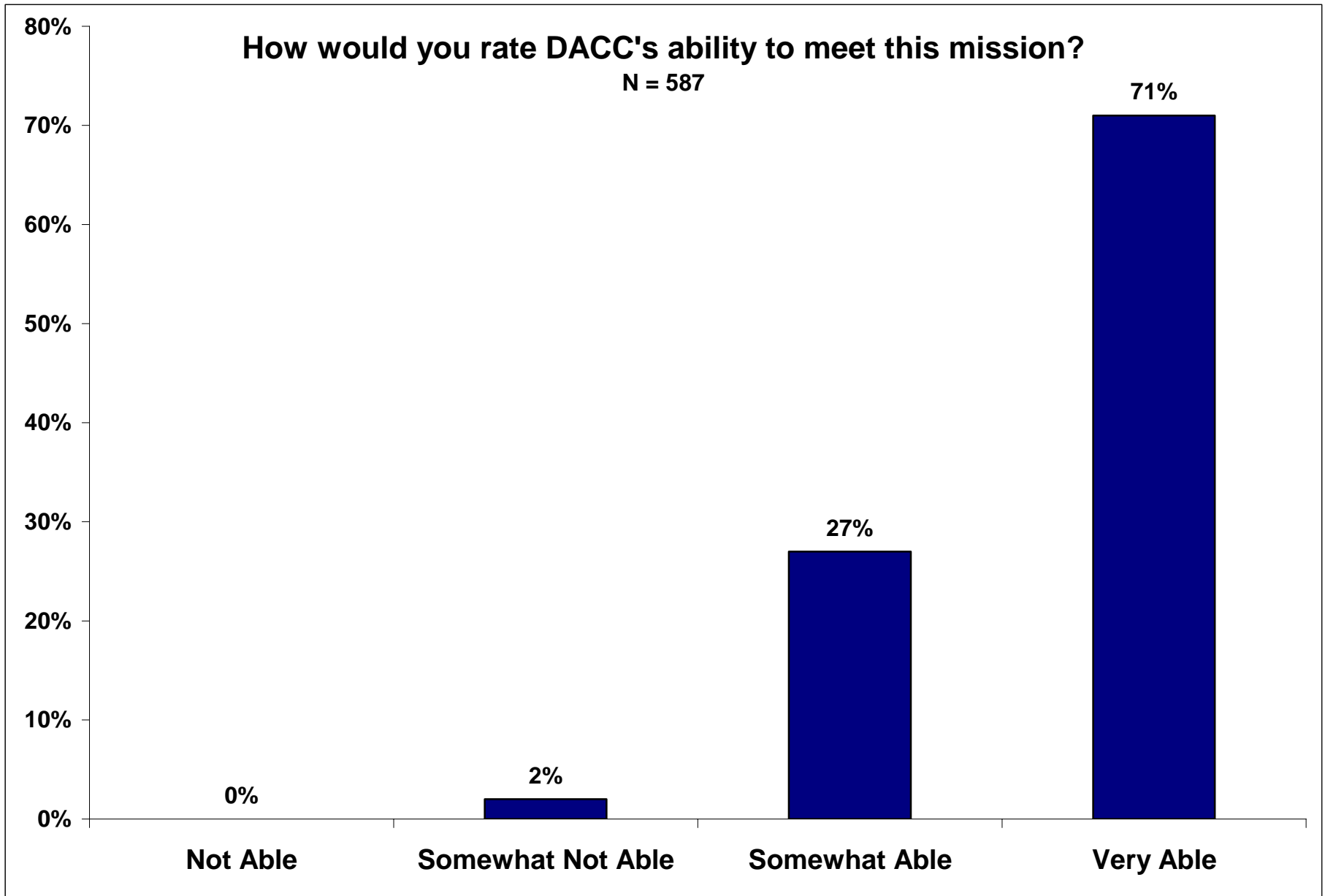


Figure 2. The percentage of DACC students who chose each of the available responses to the following question regarding DACC programs.

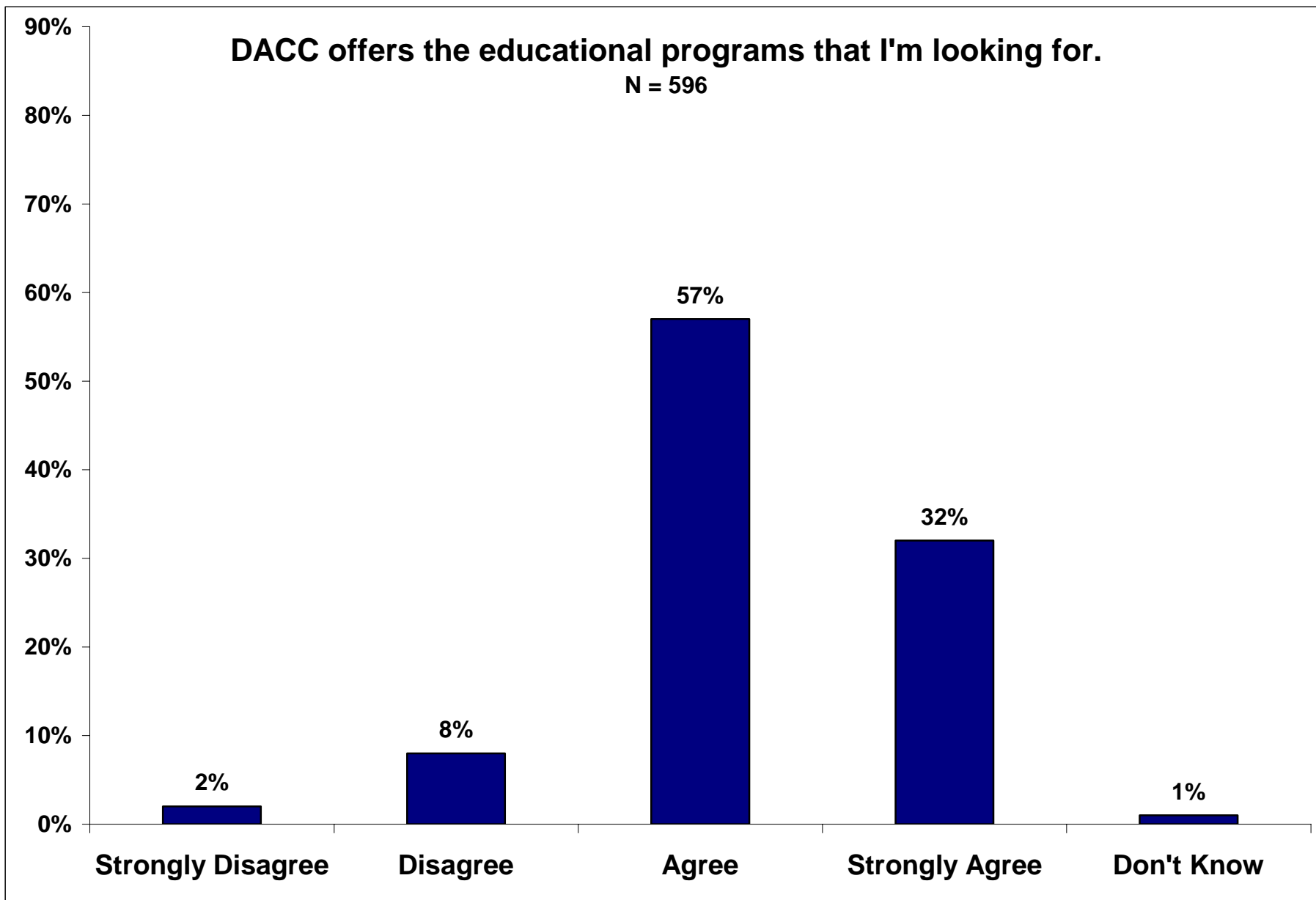


Figure 3. The percentage of DACC students who chose each of the available responses to the following question regarding access to technology at DACC.

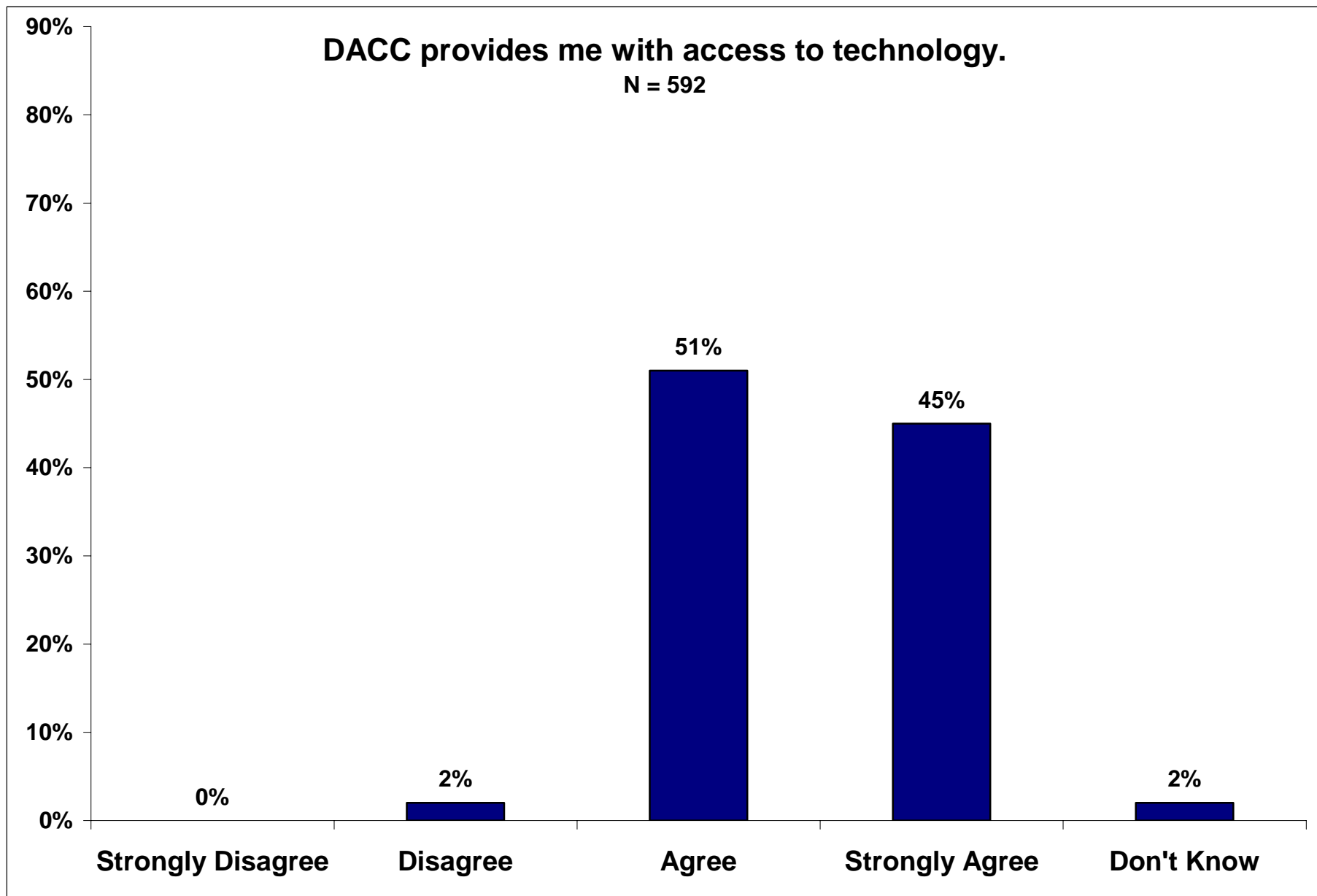


Figure 4. The percentage of DACC students who chose each of the available responses to the following question regarding the DACC Library.

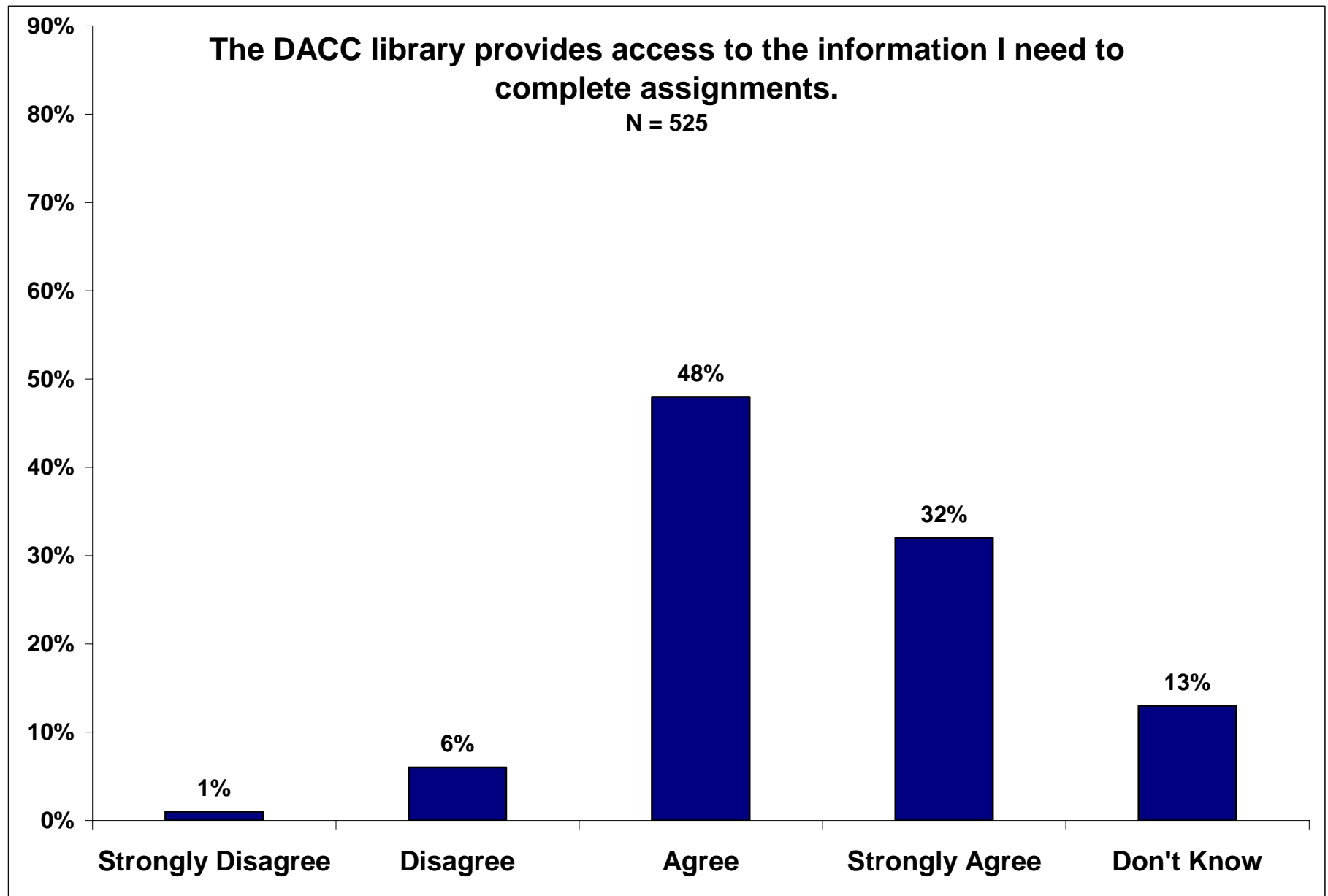


Figure 5. The percentage of DACC students who chose each of the available responses to the following question regarding obtaining information at DACC.

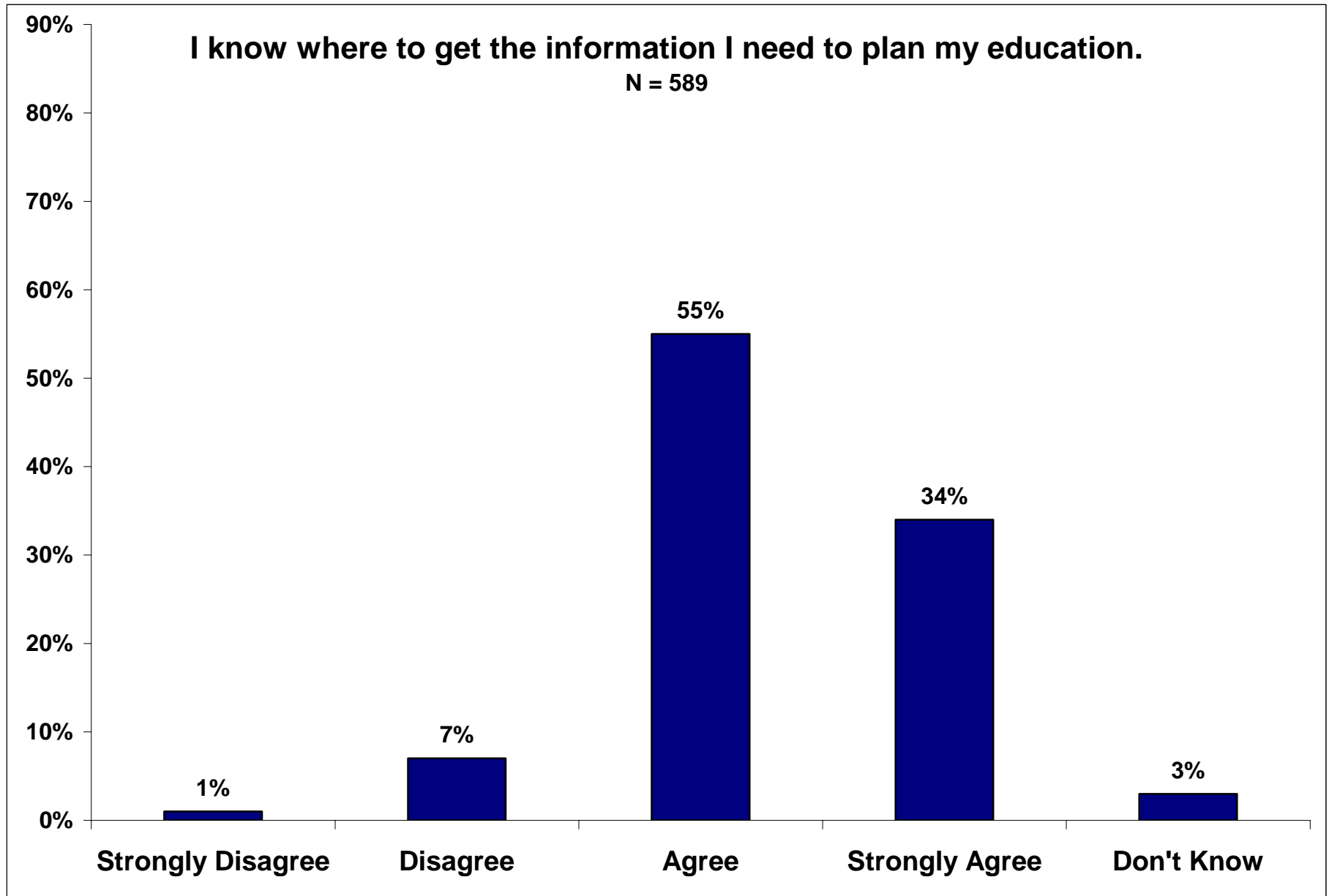


Figure 6. The percentage of DACC students who chose each of the available responses to the following question regarding equipment at DACC.

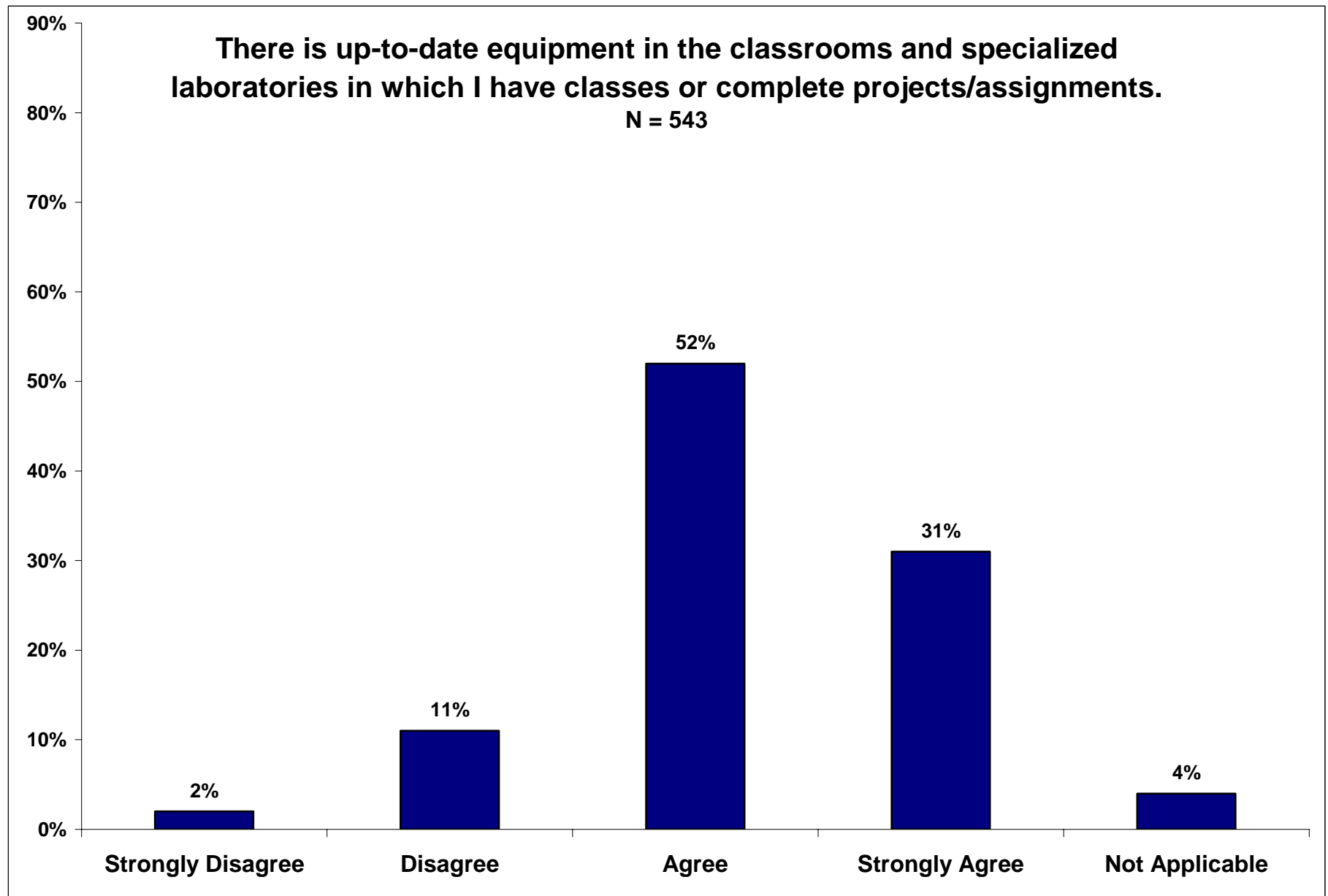


Figure 7. The percentage of DACC students who chose each of the available responses to the following question regarding financial aid at DACC.

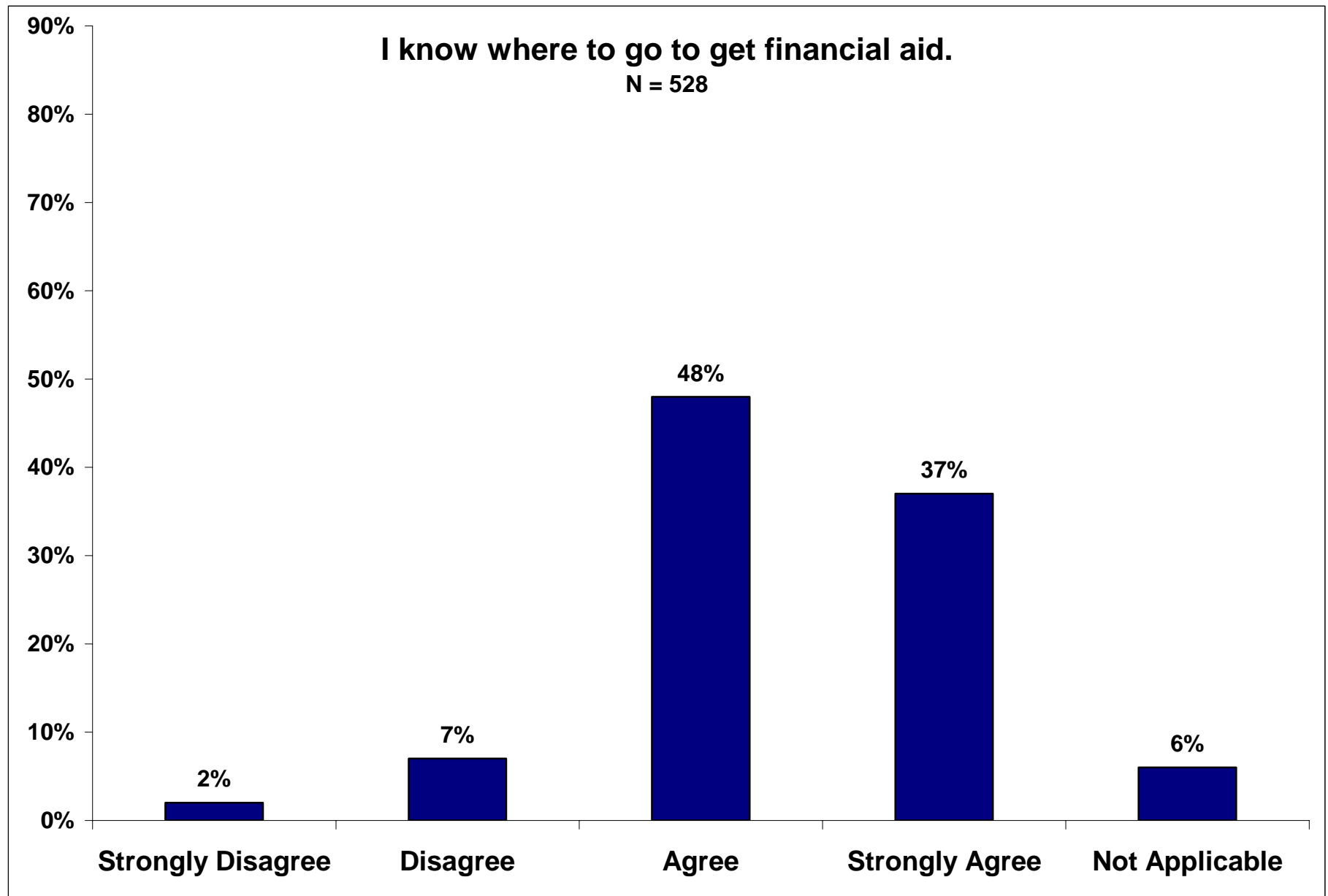


Figure 8. The percentage of DACC students who chose each of the available responses to the following question regarding advising at DACC.

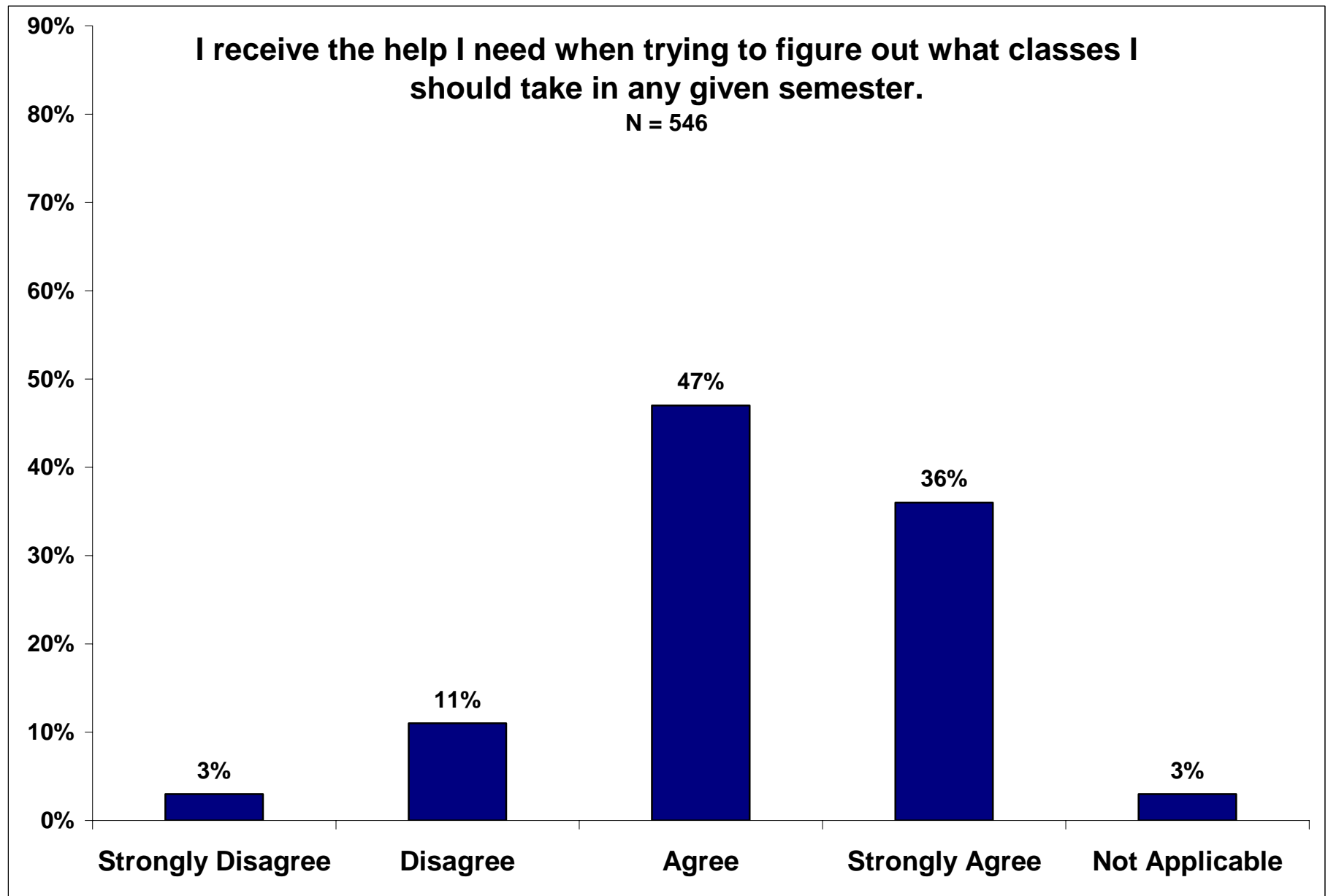


Figure 9. The percentage of DACC students who chose each of the available responses to the following question regarding the Student Success Center at DACC.

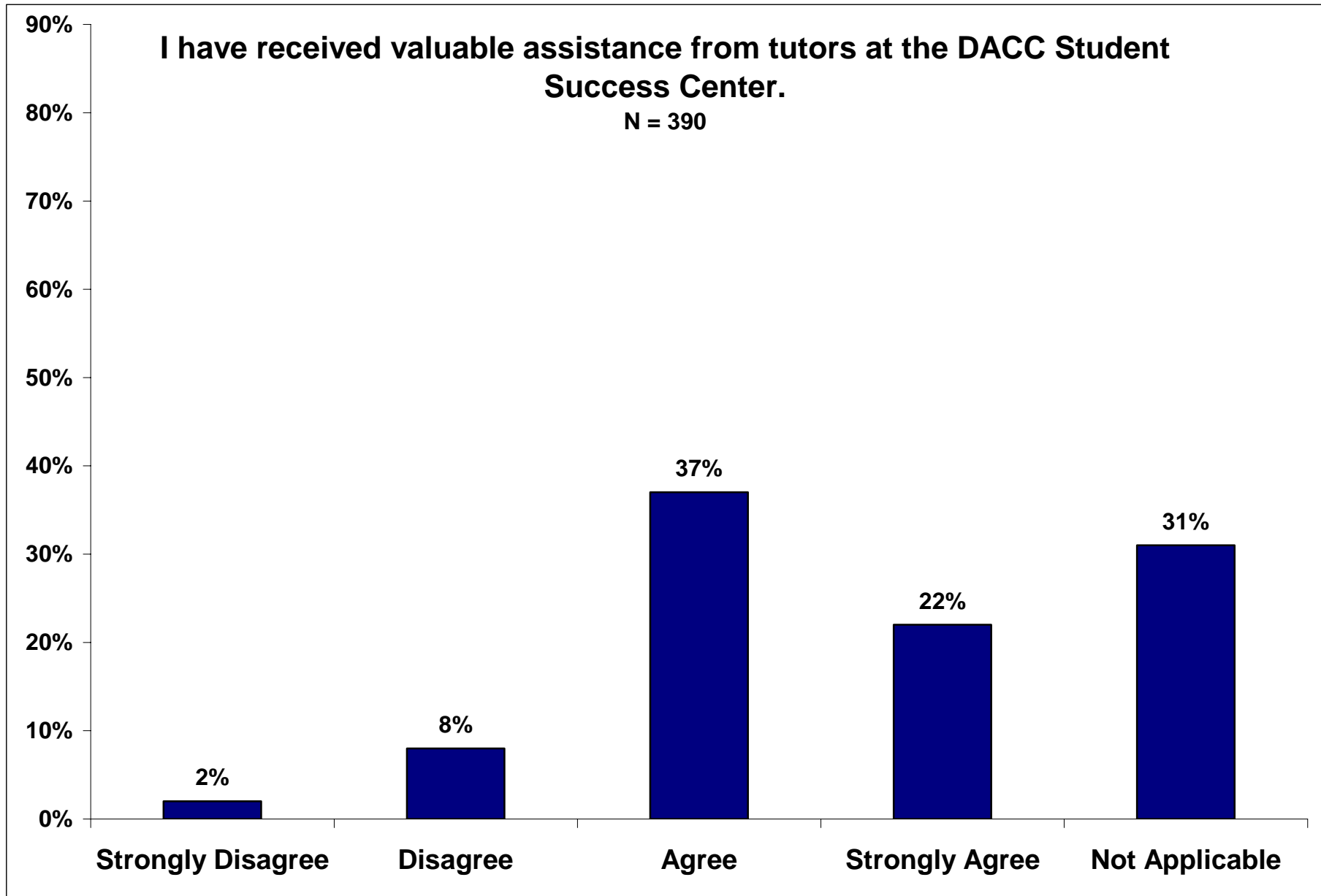


Figure 10. The percentage of DACC students who chose each of the available responses to the following question regarding on-campus activities at DACC.

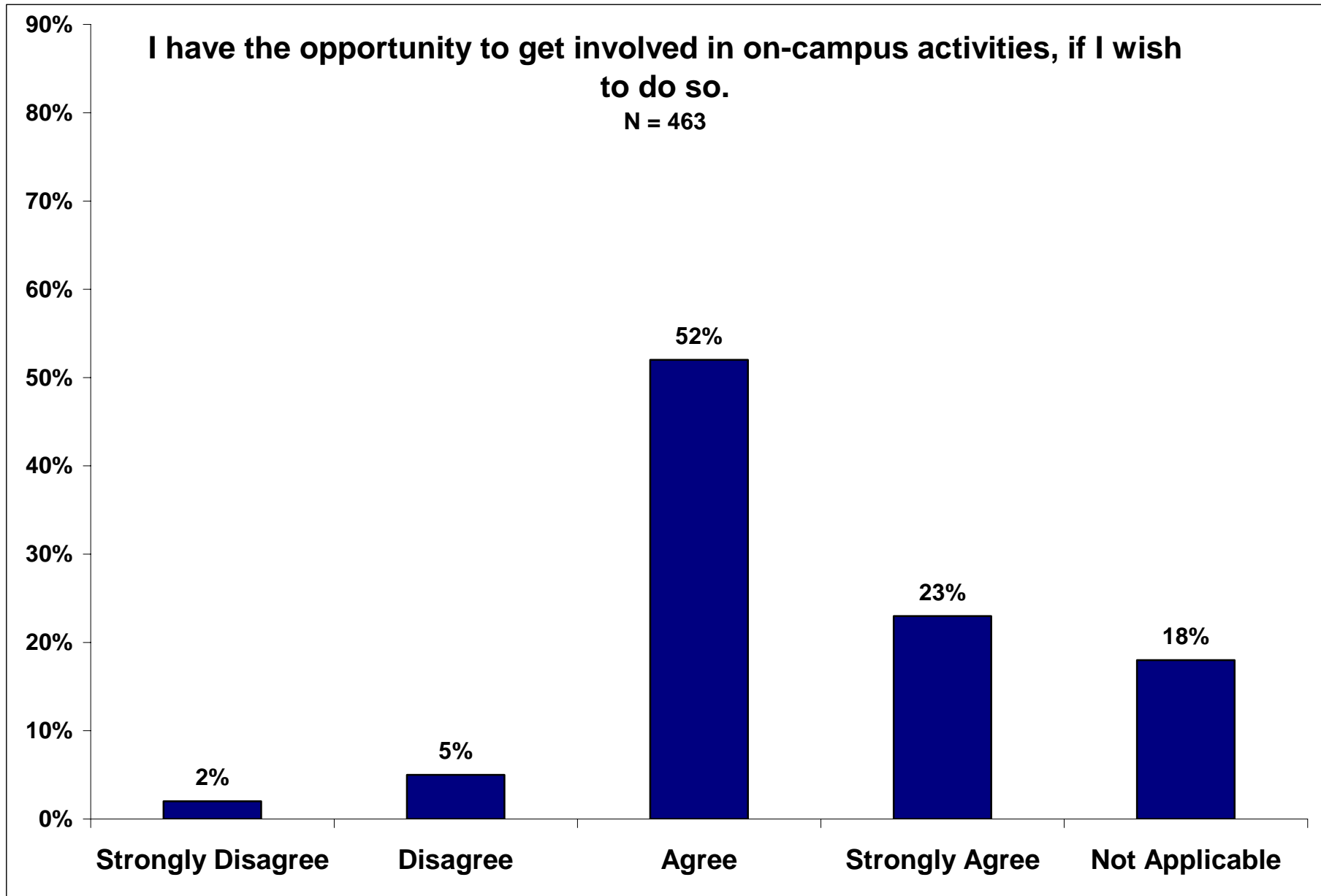
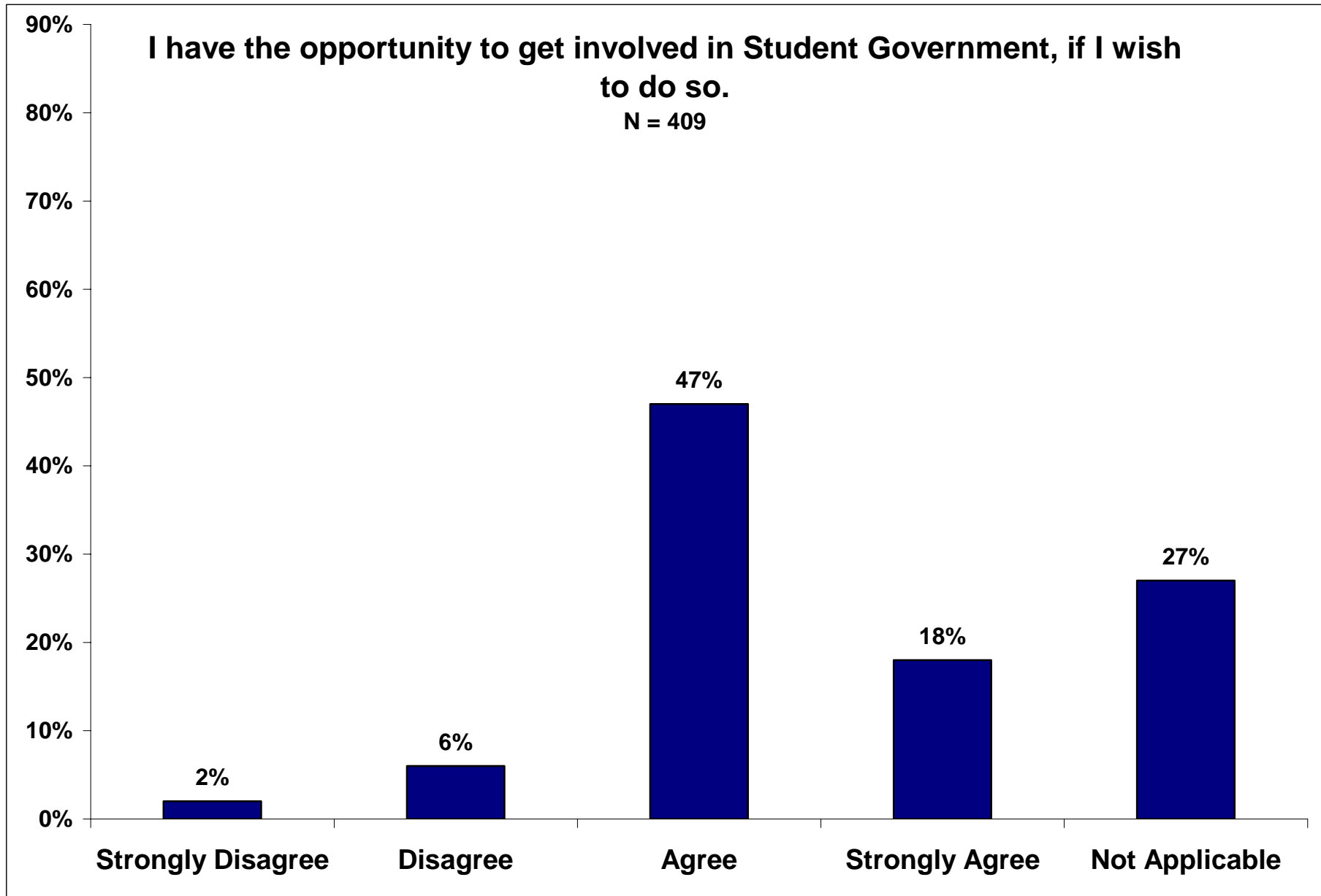


Figure 11. The percentage of DACC students who chose each of the available responses to the following question regarding Student Government at DACC.



In your opinion, what does DACC do well?
Provide you with education you need to succeed.
Provide flexible schedules. Night/weekend classes. Helpful, knowledge, instructors.
DACC's Student Success Center has been very helpful to me since I began school here.
Good learning in diverse situations (webct) (night classes).
In my opinion DACC staff are performing there job very well.
Activities.
Helps students in questions they have or just in general any concerns that we have.
Help students with their academic needs.
Get students involved.
Prepare students for NMSU.
Provide more student focused education.
Most teachers are friendly and helpful.
Provide affordable quality education.
Good teachers; small classes.
DACC offers great classes that will help me in my career.
Teach core classes in a very interesting and educational way. This campus has some the best professors I've met.
Make you feel welcome and do their best to get me the education that I need and/or want.

In your opinion, what does DACC do well?
Helps students of an older age achieve higher education.
Have excellent, knowledgeable instructors and professors.
Give affordable education.
Make learning easy, all resources are easy to find. All staff are helpful and nice. Gives everyone a chance to learn and at their own pace.
They provide us with well educated professors, which allows students to receive valuable education.
In general I believe everything is done well.
The staff and instructors make our learning environment pleasant. I really like the way the instructors are so encouraging.
Have the lab and library available with plenty of computers for us. The friendliness of our staff and assistance.
Student and instructor relationships are close.
Takes care of their students, more one on one instruction.
Strongly supports all students. The older student is really appreciative.
DACC has great instructors who take time to meet with students before or after class to work with them if there are questions in regards to the material being covered in class.
Provide professors who then provide quality and unique styles of learning to their students.
Communication with the students. Everyone always tries to help.
Great student/teacher interaction, small classes.
Offers a diverse selection of classes for both individuals looking for a profession and those looking for personal growth.

In your opinion, what changes does DACC need to make?
Advisors need to help you get classes better and plan you classes.
More English classes, creative writing, journalist classes. More classes available at each campus instead of spread out at different campuses.
More classes available at each branch and not so spread out, and also make more classes available online for students that work fulltime and take care of their family.
More advisors.
Better parking, more activity for the DACC.
Better parking, better attention in financial aid (they don't allow us to talk to the advisor when needed) & better healthy food in the cafeteria.
New air conditioning in the old buildings.
Integrate NMSU more with DACC, students opinions are not requested or required ever for anything, no means of communications.
More student events.
More parking; take debit/credit cards at the snack bar; make it available for branch students to go to the health center with the same benefits as main campus students.
Better parking, better advertising for activities.
More up to date or current equipment for nursing labs.
More transferable classes; more tech classes at main campus.
More class options!
I think that either book prices need to be reduced or more money bet given on the book buy back program.
Provide better qualified tutors there are approximately 4 student tutors that provide adequate tutoring and the rest seem to slack off and not familiar in the area they tutor.
More technology in classrooms. Make EMC more student friendly. More common areas or places for students to meet and talk, couches, TVs, food choices. More school spirit.

In your opinion, what changes does DACC need to make?
Offer more courses in the morning.
Offer more science summer classes.
More security and new computers.
Have more classes at DACC, like Biology available.
Need a food court at Eastern Campus. Need more of a variety of classes.
More diverse programs.
Consider having more classes available at the Gadsden Center.
Hire more staff for the nursing program, its my major, and I don't think its fair that only a few students get accepted each semester.
More parking at central campus.
More tutoring for Math.
Help people with disabilities.
Get more people or students involved in clubs. Send emails to students about the clubs that are opened.
You need to have your labs open later hours to help students at that time. The lab computers need to coordinate with other campuses with same keyboarding programs.
Four year degree plans.
More computer hours.
Hold students more accountable.
The advisors need to be more connected with the students, my advisor had me take a class that was not required of me.