

Community College Transfer Student Experiences at Iowa State University

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Office of Community College Research and Policy (OCCRP)

- The OCCRP at Iowa State University is focused on creating, sharing, and applying knowledge in the context of community college education.
- The mission of OCCRP is to articulate and analyze the issues affecting policy and practice by conducting rigorous research that impacts students, faculty, administrators, and policymakers.
- Current Sponsored Research:



- ✓ Pathway to a STEM Baccalaureate (Research on Gender in Science and Engineering)
- ✓ Student and Organizational Learning: Preparing the 21st Century Technician (Advanced Technological Education)



- ✓ Vocational Education Accountability (Iowa Department of Education)

Background and Context

- Transfer student enrollment from Iowa Area Community Colleges to ISU from 1994 to 2006 yielded a **+14% change**
- Position ISU to be the ***“transfer destination and transfer university of choice”*** among students from Iowa Area Community Colleges
- Community College and ISU Collaboration:
 - ✓ Role of the Transfer Function in Community Colleges; Transfer students’ access to the baccalaureate and beyond
 - ✓ Increase student diversity and representation of women and minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors
- Strategies to foster a “transfer friendly” institution at ISU:
 - ✓ Conduct ongoing research on transfer students
 - ✓ Increase student success (role of Learning Communities)
 - ✓ Facilitate academic and social engagement

Role of Community Colleges in Education of Recent S&E Graduates

TABLE 1. 1999 and 2000 S&E bachelor's and master's degree recipients, by attendance at community college and field of highest degree: 2001

Degree field	All recipients	Attended		Did not attend	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All degree fields	903,400	394,200	44	509,200	56
Computer and math sciences	115,000	47,900	42	67,100	58
Life and related sciences	172,300	78,900	46	93,400	54
Physical and related sciences	41,100	15,100	37	26,000	63
Social and related sciences	423,700	192,600	45	231,200	55
Engineering	151,200	59,800	40	91,400	61

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, National Survey of Recent College Graduates: 2001.

Role of Community Colleges in Education of Recent S&E Graduates

TABLE 2. Attendance at two-year community colleges for 1996–2000 S&E doctorate recipients who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, by race/ethnicity: 2001

Race/ethnicity	All recipients	Attended	Did not attend	Percent attending
All races/ethnicities	86,896	7,273	79,623	8
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	420	71	349	17
Asian/Pacific Islander	10,989	267	10,722	2
Black	3,012	243	2,769	8
Hispanic	3,143	346	2,797	11
Puerto Rican	733	26	707	4
Mexican American	864	156	708	18
Other Hispanic	1,546	164	1,382	11
White	65,319	5,924	59,395	9
Other	870	76	794	9
Unknown	637	45	592	7

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Doctorate Records File, 1996–2000.

Role of Community Colleges in Education of Recent S&E Graduates

TABLE 3. 1999 and 2000 S&E bachelor's and master's degree recipients who have attended community college by field of degree and whether they received an associate's degree: 2001

Degree field	All recipients	Received degree		Did not receive degree	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All S&E degree fields	394,200	110,100	28	284,100	72
Computer and math sciences	47,900	18,300	38	29,600	62
Life and related sciences	78,900	15,400	20	63,400	80
Physical and related sciences	15,100	3,500	23	11,600	77
Social and related sciences	192,600	59,900	31	132,700	69
Engineering	59,800	13,000	22	46,800	78

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, National Survey of Recent College Graduates: 2001.

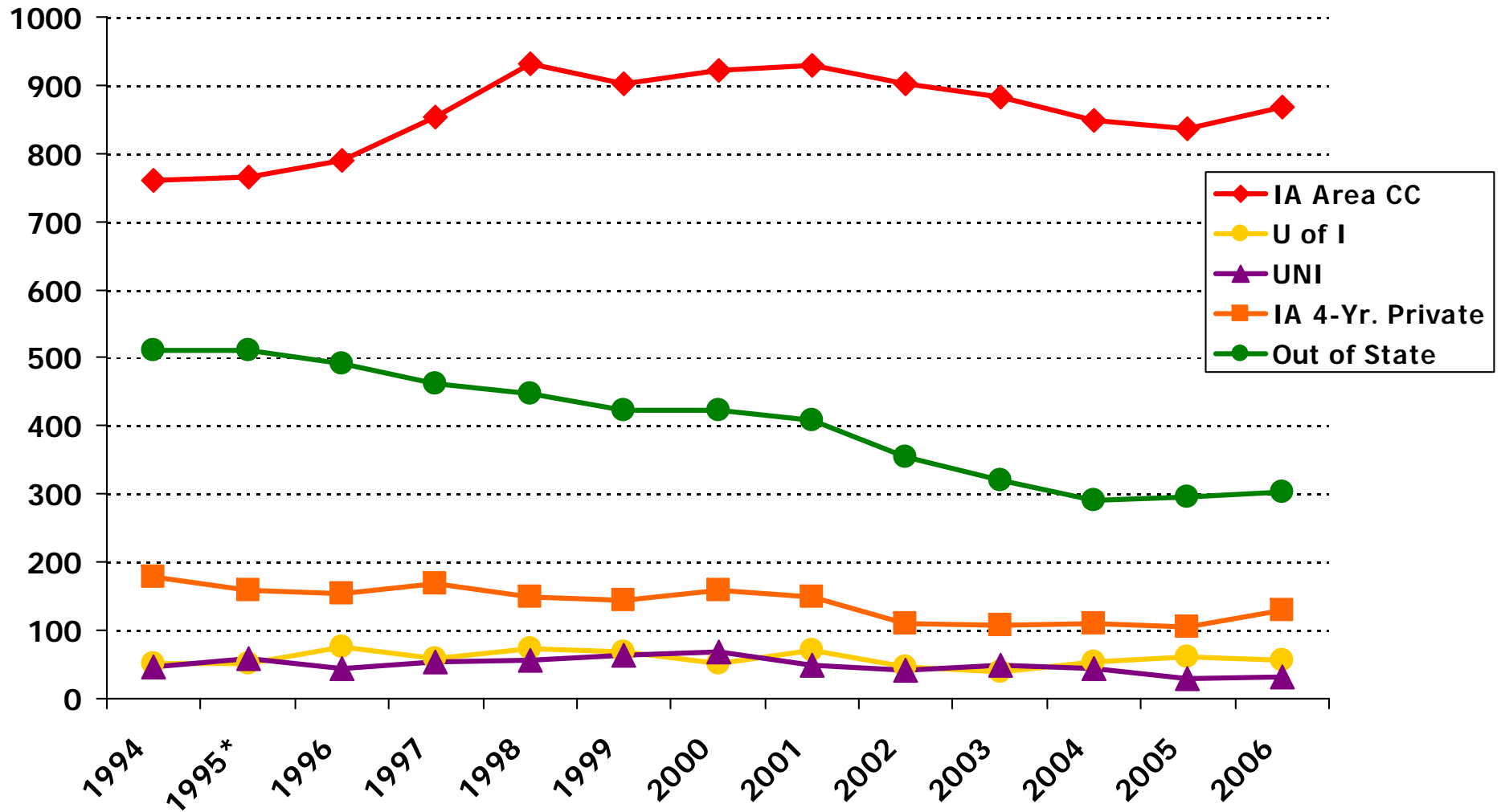
Enrollment at a Glance at ISU

- A total of 25,462 students enrolled at Iowa State University (ISU) in fall 2006.
- In fall 2006, ISU enrolled 5,726 new undergraduate students. The class includes:
 - 3,938 (69.6%) direct from high school.
 - 1,461 (25.5%) transfers.
 - 282 (4.9%) specials.
- Minority enrollment for fall 2006 is 2,154, up from 2,123 in 2005, and makes up 8.5% of ISU's total fall enrollment.
- In fall 2006, ISU enrolled more Iowa community college transfer students than any other 4-year institution in Iowa.

Student Enrollment: Fall Semester, 1997-2006

Year	Undergraduate	Transfer	Iowa CC Transfer
1997	20,717	1,718	854
1998	21,035	1,770	932
1999	21,503	1,724	902
2000	22,087	1,753	922
2001	23,060	1,724	930
2002*	22,999	1,537	903
2003	22,230	1,444	883
2004	21,354	1,429	848
2005	20,732	1,388	835
2006	20,440	1,461	869

Transfer Admissions: Fall Semester New ISU Transfer Students by Type of Transfer College (1994-2006)



New Undergraduate Transfer Students by Type of College

2006 Undergraduate Students		
	#	%
Iowa area community colleges	869	59.48
Iowa 4-year public universities	88	6.02
University of Iowa	57	3.90
University of Northern Iowa	31	2.12
Iowa 4-year private colleges & universities	130	8.90
Iowa 2-year private colleges	6	0.41
Outside Iowa (U.S.) – public & private	303	20.74
Foreign colleges & universities	65	4.45
Total	1,461	

Student Characteristics: Fall 2006

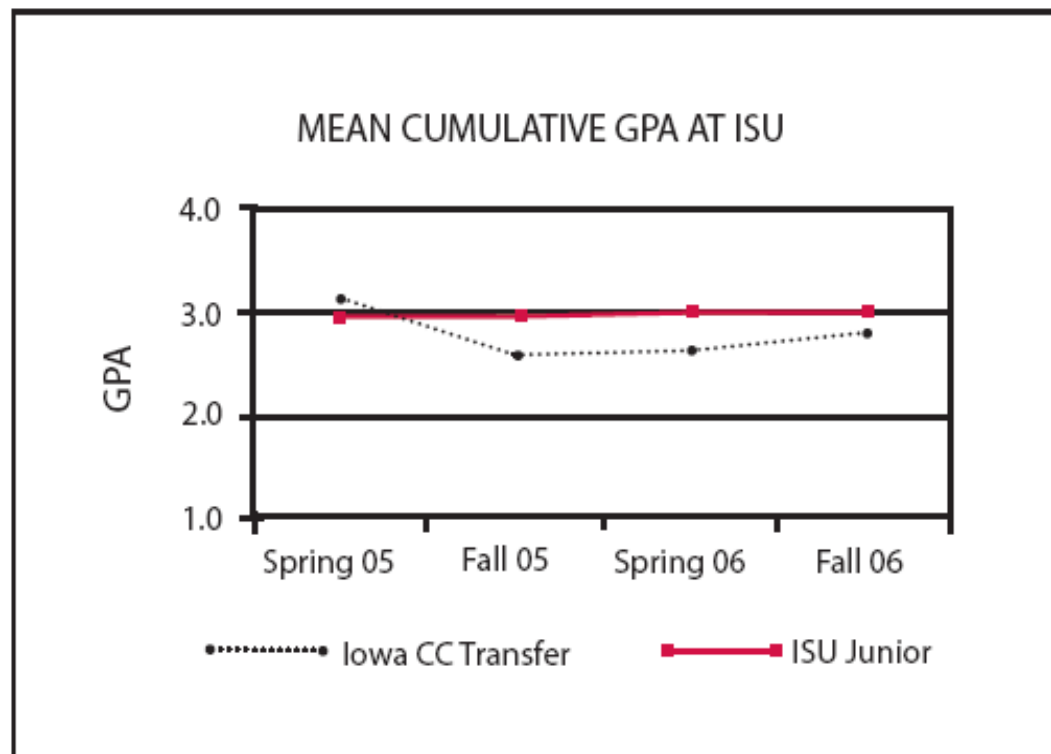
	Undergraduate		Iowa CC Transfer
Gender			
% Female	43.5		40.64
Race/Ethnicity			
African American	2.7		1.69
American Indian/Alaskan	0.3		0.12
Asian	3.5		2.53
Hispanic	2.5		2.53
White	87.9		88.5
International	3.1		-
Age			
Under 21	52.5		57.33
21-24	40.4		32.30
25-29	4.5		7.25
30-39	1.8		2.26
40 & older	0.8		0.83

Top 15 Departments/Programs with Highest Iowa CC Transfer Enrollment, Fall 2006*

Business – General **	87
Agricultural Education & Studies	42
Psychology	30
Health & Human Performance	26
Art & Design	26
History	25
Natural Resource Ecology & Management	25
Curriculum & Instruction	24
Liberal Arts & Sciences – Open Option	24
Mechanical Engineering	23
Animal Science	21
Ecology, Evolution, & Organismal Biology	20
Greenlee School of Journalism & Communication	20
Interdisciplinary Studies	20
Apparel, Education Studies & Hospitality Management	19

Mean Cumulative GPA of Fall 2005 Junior Cohorts at ISU

Mean Cumulative GPA of Fall 2005 Junior Cohorts at ISU		
	Iowa CC** Transfer	ISU Junior
Spring 05*	3.09	2.96
Fall 05	2.55	2.96
Spring 06	2.56	3.00
Fall 06	2.72	3.00



*The Spring 05 mean GPA for Iowa CC transfer students represents their transferred GPA from the Community College to ISU. Fall 05, Spring 06, and Fall 06 cumulative GPA for Iowa CC transfer students only includes ISU cumulative GPA.

**The cohort of Iowa CC transfer students were classified as junior status at the 10th day of fall 2005 semester.

One-year Retention Rates of Transfer Students (by sector) to Regent Universities for the Entering Class of 2004

	University of Iowa (SUI)	Iowa State University (ISU)	University of Northern Iowa (UNI)
Iowa 2-year Public AA degree	77.4	85.4	83.2
Iowa 2-year Public, No AA Degree	77.8	73.4	75.3
All Iowa 2-year Public	77.6	77.0	79.2
Iowa Private 2-year	0.0	50.0	69.2
Iowa Private 4-year	81.9	78.3	77.1
Iowa Public 4-year	84.5	77.7	80.0
Colleges Outside Iowa	76.5	78.4	71.9
Total	78.3	77.4	78.0

Source: Iowa Board of Regents, Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates, February 2006.

Four Year Graduation Rates of Transfer Students (by sector) to Regent Universities for the Entering Class of 2001

	University of Iowa (SUI)	Iowa State University (ISU)	University of Northern Iowa (UNI)
Iowa 2-year Public AA degree	64.4	71.4	75.4
Iowa 2-year Public, No AA Degree	51.9	50.9	47.6
All Iowa 2-year Public	57.7	65.2	64.2
Iowa Private 2-year	80.0	53.8	58.3
Iowa Private 4-year	57.8	62.9	62.9
Iowa Public 4-year	67.9	63.0	59.7
Colleges Outside Iowa	63.0	58.7	65.6
Total	60.7	57.9	63.9

Source: Iowa Board of Regents, Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates, February 2006.

Study of Iowa Community College Transfer Students at ISU

- Conducted in the spring of 2007.
- A study of transfer students from Iowa community colleges at ISU using the Laanan-Transfer Student Questionnaire (L-TSQ)© online survey.
- A sample of this study (n=1,512) included transfer students in fall 2005, spring 2006, and fall 2006 identified by the Office of the Registrar.
- A total of 606 surveys were recorded, for a response rate of 40.3%.

Table 1: Background Characteristics of Transfer Students from Iowa Area Community Colleges to ISU (N=606)

Gender	
% Female	50.7
Racial/Ethnic Background	
African American/Black	1.8
Asian American/Pacific Islander	1.5
Hispanic or Latino(a)	1.0
Native American/Alaskan Native	1.3
White (non-Hispanic)	91.3
Other	1.8
Age	
19-20	20.2
21-23	59.3
24-29	9.5
30+	7.1

Parental Education Level

	Mother	Father
Some high school or less	2.1	4.3
High school graduate	24.9	32.7
Some college	21.0	16.9
Associate's degree	20.8	11.7
Bachelor's degree	19.0	19.0
Some graduate school	1.8	1.2
Graduate degree	7.6	8.1
Don't know	0.8	2.0

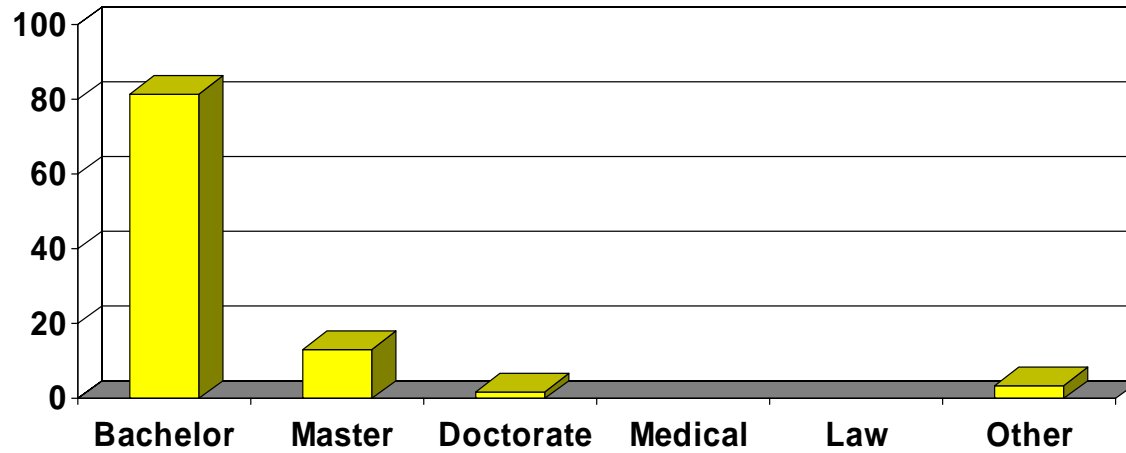
Estimate of Parents' Income (last year)

< \$20,000	19.8
\$20,000 - \$39,999	16.7
\$40,000 - \$59,999	23.6
\$60,000 - \$79,999	17.7
\$80,000 or more	19.0

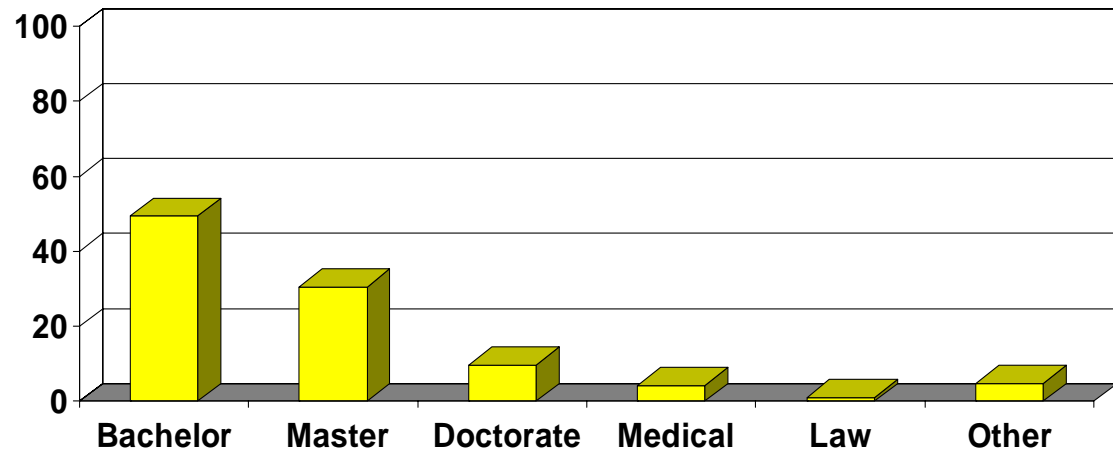
Current place of residence	%
Residence hall or university housing	25.6
Fraternity or sorority house	2.8
Private apt w/in walking distance to ISU	13.0
House, apt away from campus	53.1
With parents or relatives	4.8

Highest academic degree intended to obtain...

At ISU

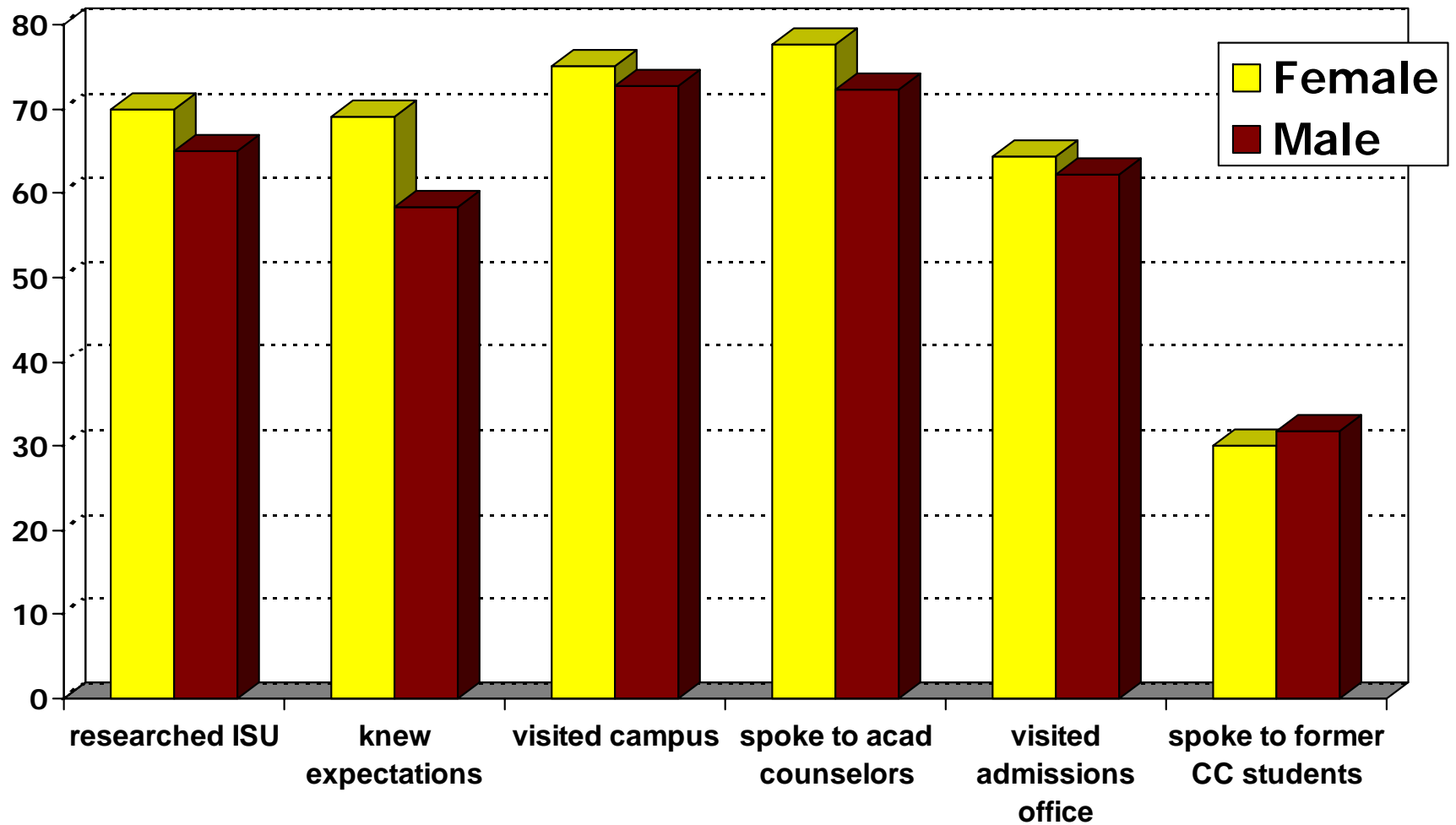


At Any College



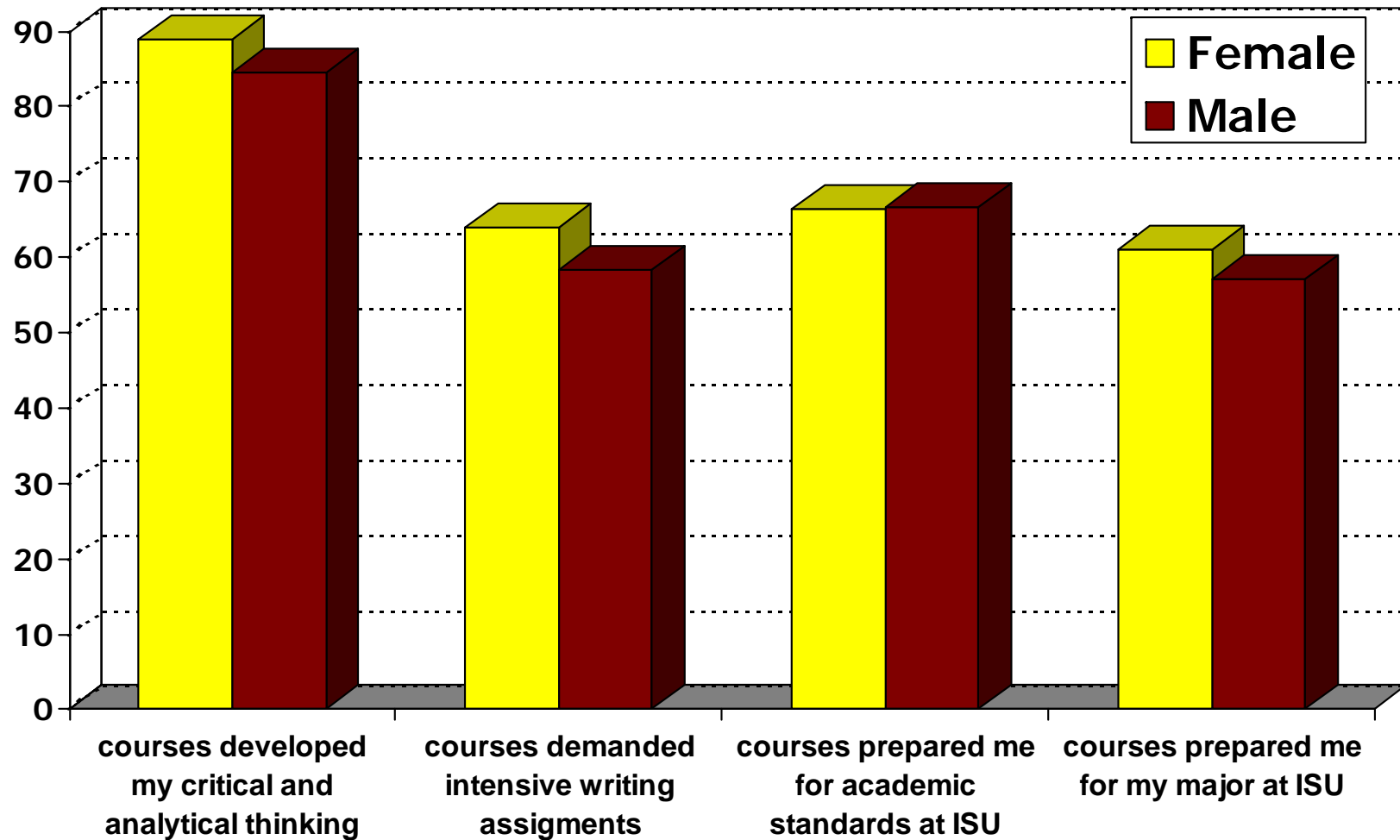
Transfer Process

Percent responding "somewhat agree / strongly agree"



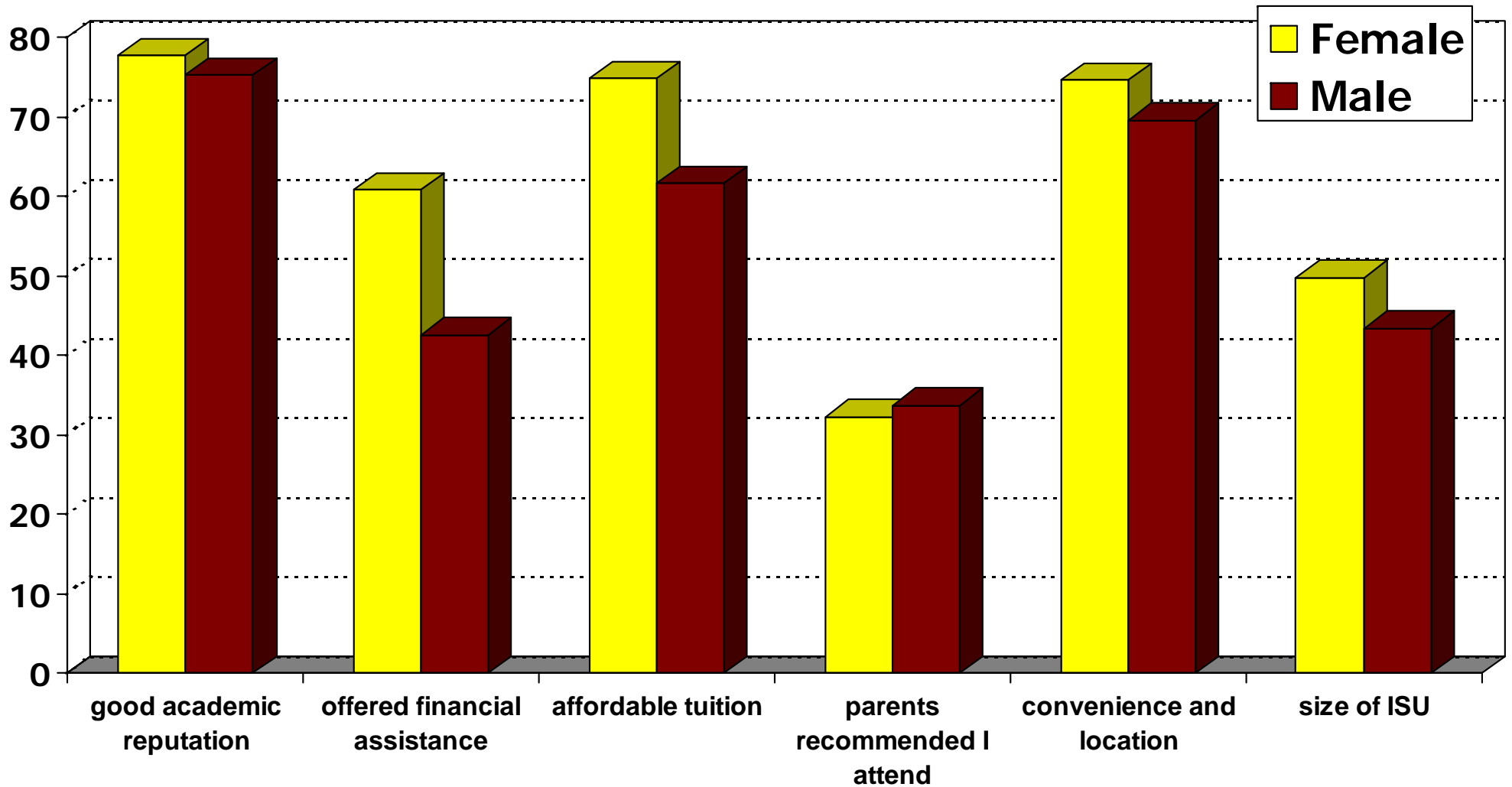
General Courses taken at Iowa Community Colleges

Percent responding "somewhat agree / strongly agree"



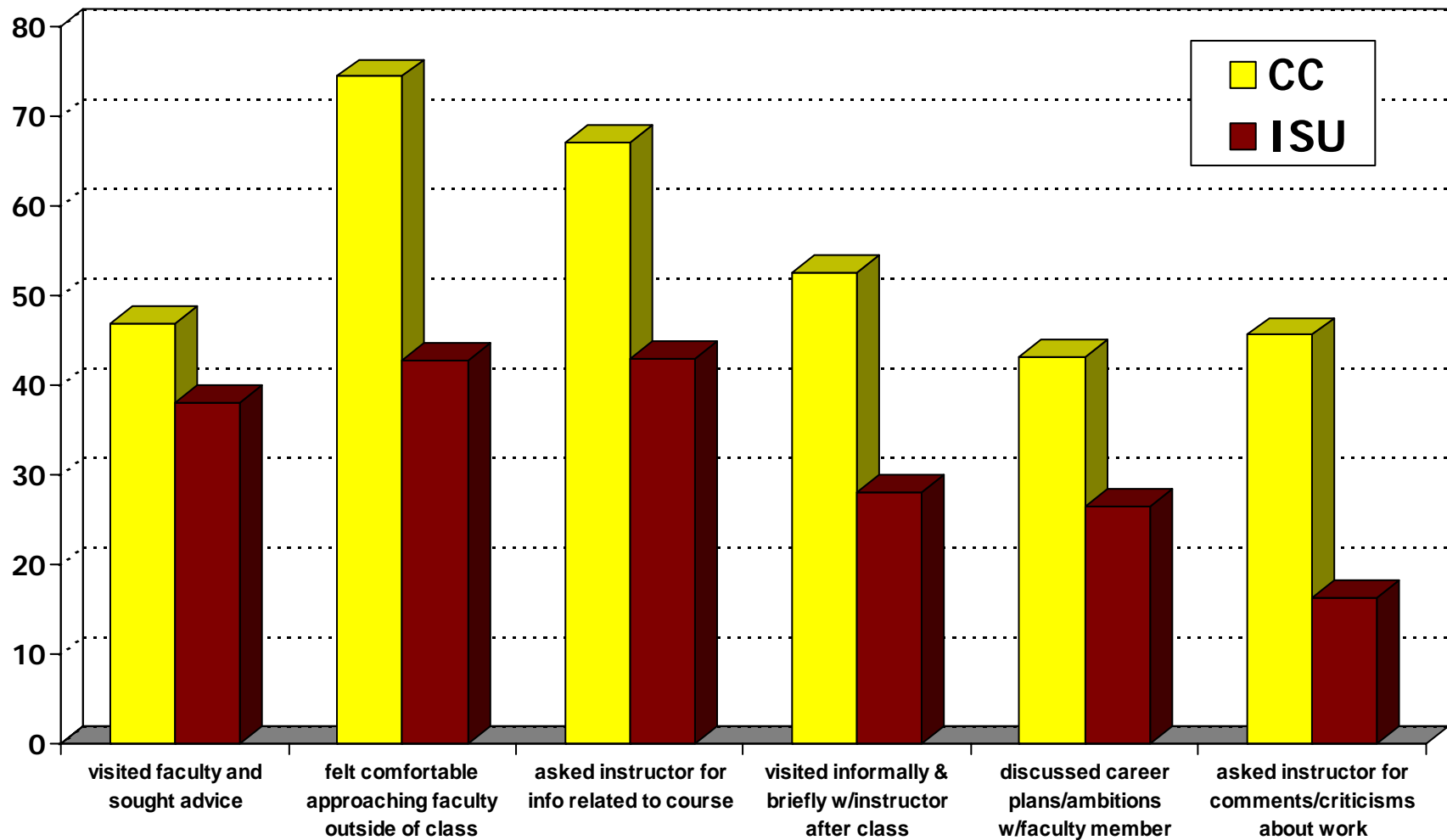
Reasons for Attending ISU

Percent responding "important / very important"



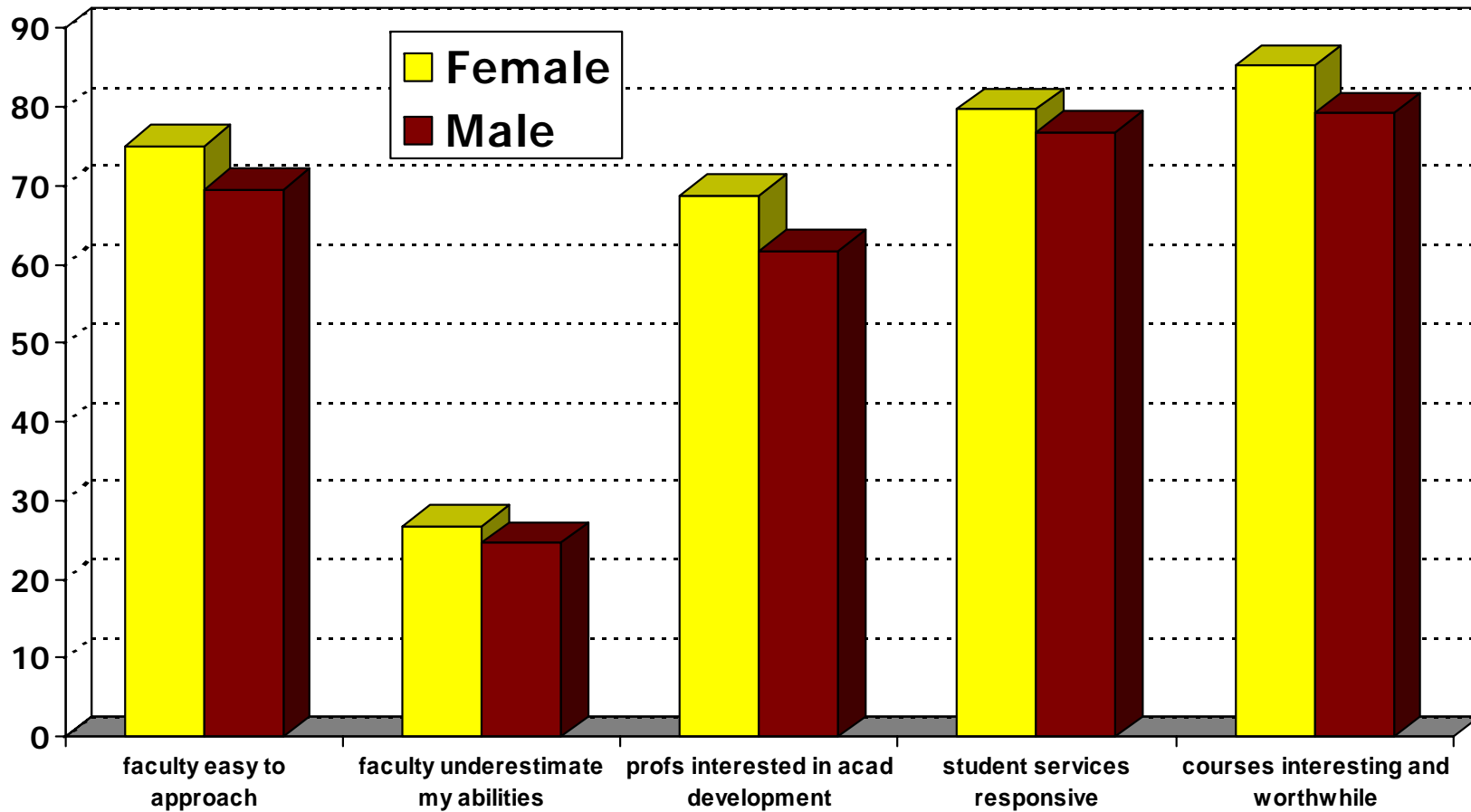
Experiences with Faculty at CC and ISU

Percent responding "often / very often"



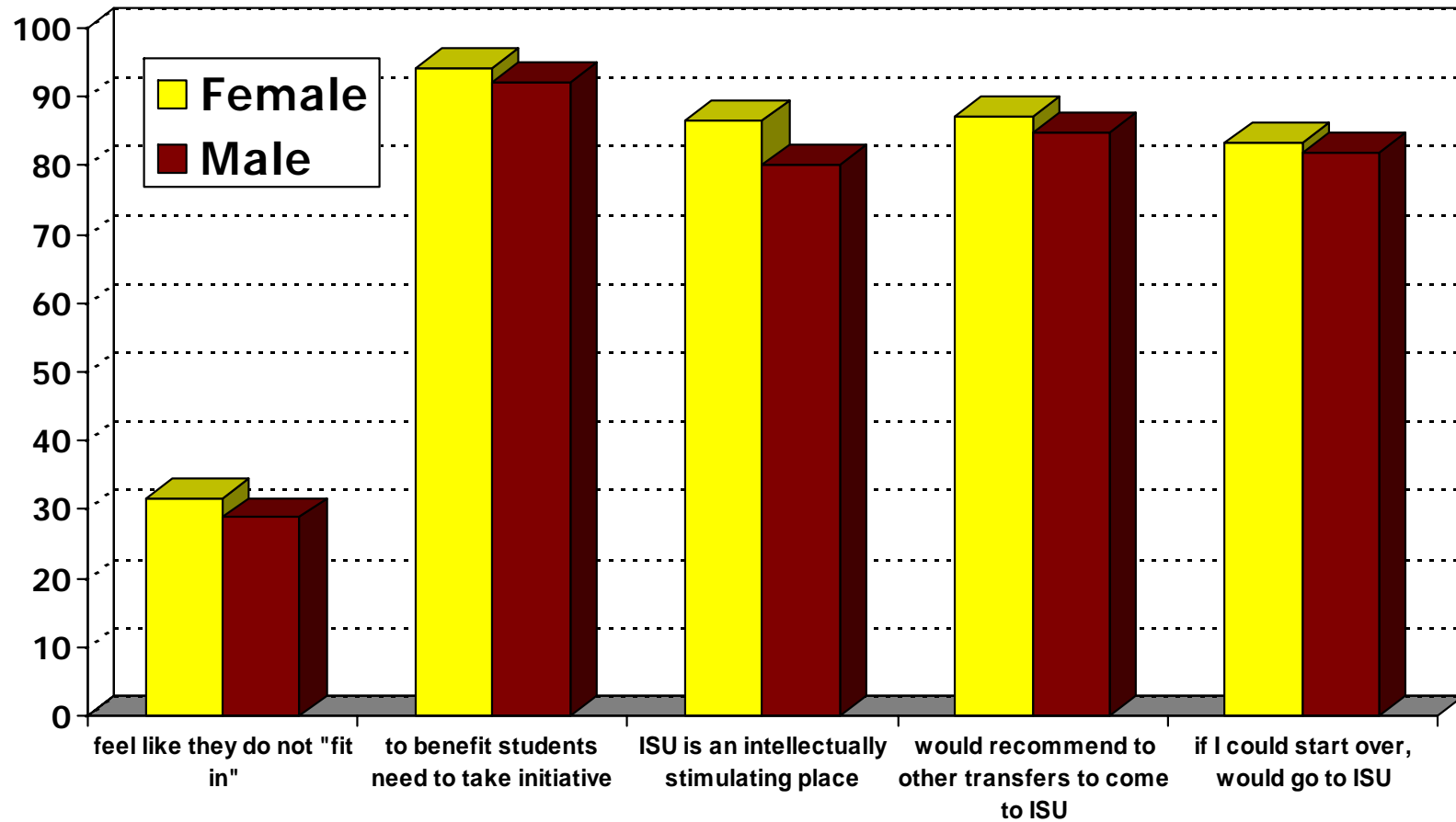
General Perceptions of ISU

Percent responding "somewhat agree / strongly agree"



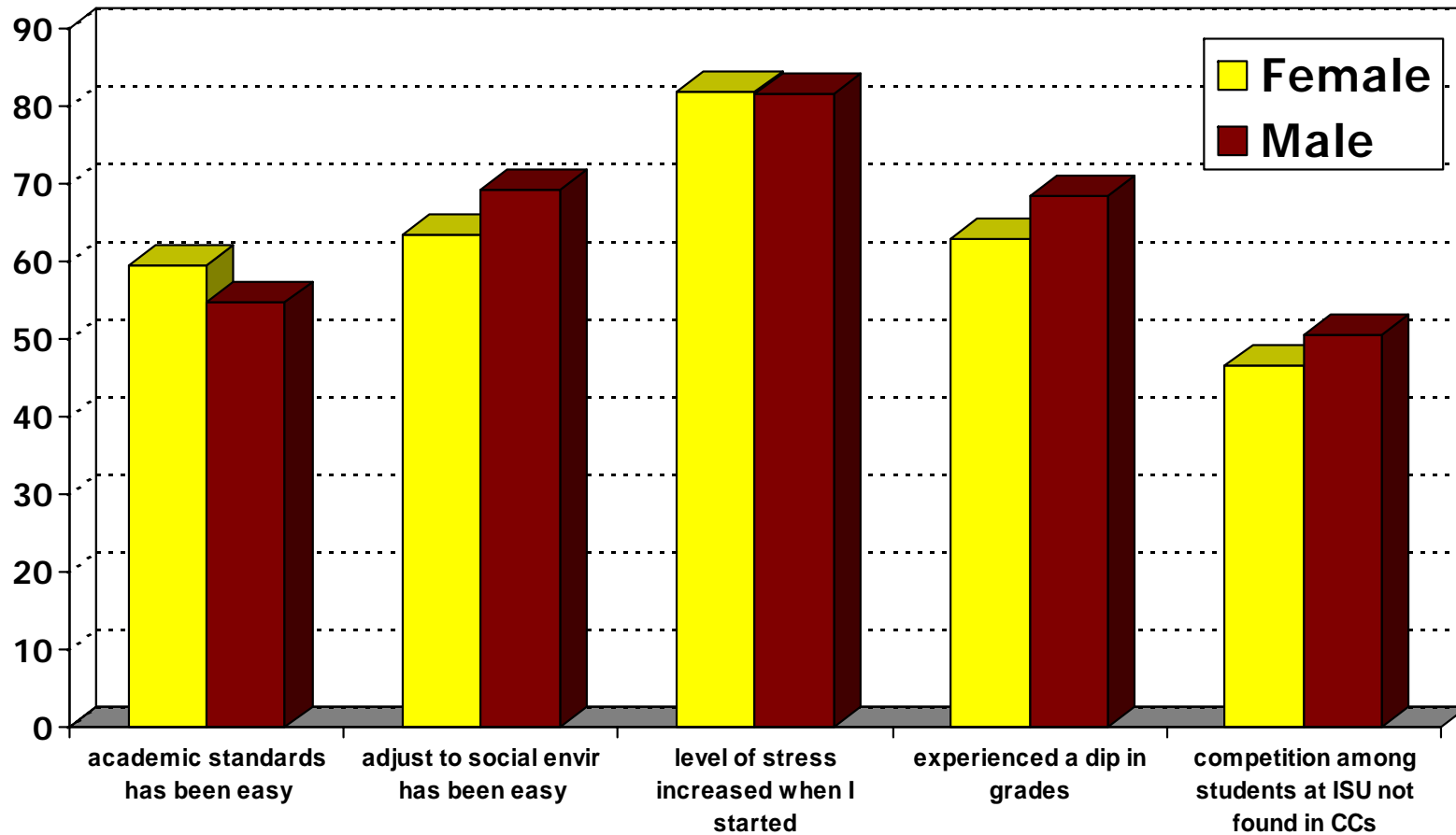
General Perceptions of ISU

Percent responding "somewhat agree / strongly agree"



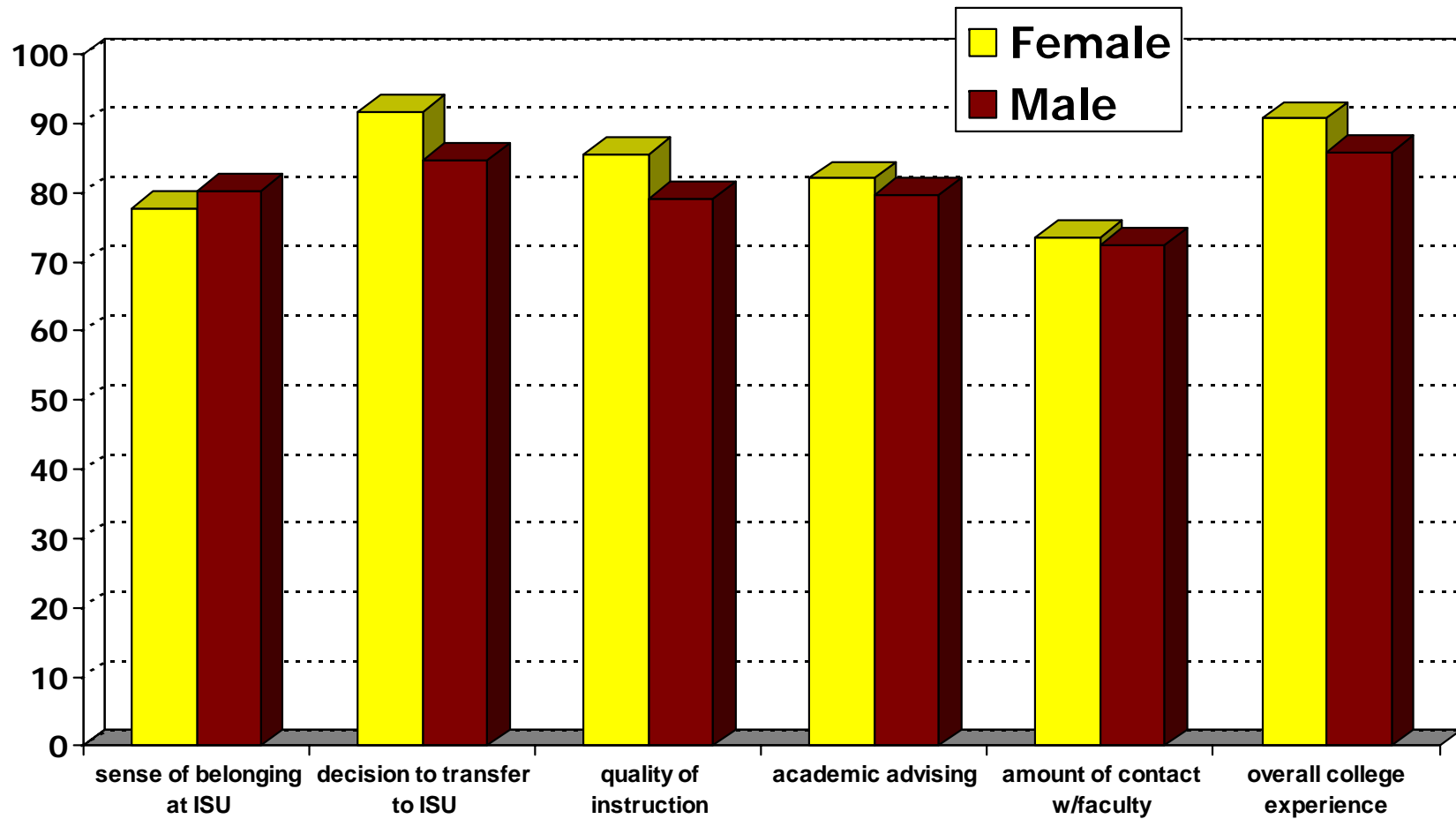
Adjustment Process at ISU

Percent responding "somewhat agree / strongly agree"



College Satisfaction

Percent responding "satisfied / very satisfied"



Observations

- Community College Experiences
 - ✓ Transfer Process Activities
 - ✓ Experiences with Faculty
 - Very engaged at CC; Less engaged at ISU
- ISU Experiences
 - ✓ Factors influencing ISU attendance
 - High: affordable tuition, reputation, convenience
 - Low: offered financial assistance
 - ✓ Adjustment issues (culture shock)
 - ✓ Overall high levels of satisfaction

Future Directions

- Track transfer students' academic performance and degree completion over time (longitudinal).
- Investigate differences in transfer experiences based on students' major.
- Conduct focus groups to gain real-life insight about the community college student transfer experience at ISU.
- Investigate predictors of adjustment (“transfer shock”) and other relevant outcomes (e.g., satisfaction, etc.).

Contact Information

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