



UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

CHANGE THE WORLD FROM HERE

NSSE / ACUHO-I STUDENT HOUSING SURVEY REPORT

Office of Assessment and Accreditation Support
26 November 2018

About the ACUHO-I Housing Survey

As a part of the 2018 administration of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), the ACUHO-I Foundation introduced a 15-item measure to investigate the relation between students living environment, engagement, and persistence. Seventy-six colleges and universities, including USF, participated in the survey in its inaugural year. Although NSSE surveys first year and seniors only, the ACUHO-I Housing Survey included a sample of USF sophomores. In the 2018 NSSE administration, 257 first years, 230 sophomores, and 221 seniors participated.

About This Report

This report outlines the basic housing characteristics and trends of USF students and how these characteristics and trends compare to other institutions that participated in the ACUHO-I Housing Survey. (See Appendix for a list of participating institutions.) This report organizes the results of the survey around the following factors: basic housing characteristics, social connectivity, financial, and health and wellness. Some survey items are presented to participants depending on their year in school. The item presentation is noted in the heading for each question that is not presented to all participants (FY = first year, SO = sophomores, SR = seniors).

SUMMARY

- USF first years, sophomores, and seniors reported a significantly longer commute time from where they live to campus than the overall ACUHO-I sample.
- USF sophomores and seniors reported moving more frequently since the beginning of the school year compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample. USF first years, however, did not.
- USF seniors reported that their current living situation made it more difficult to shop for food, live with others, study or prepare for class, get to class, and access on campus resources compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample. (This survey item was presented to seniors only.)
- USF seniors provided a less favorable view of on-campus housing than seniors from the overall ACUHO-I sample. (This survey item was presented to seniors only.)
- USF seniors reported that proximity to work, ability to focus on academics, cost, safety, and access to transportation to campus were especially important factors in deciding their current living situation compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample. (This survey item was presented to seniors only.)
- The cost of living has the potential to impact the thoughts and behaviors of USF students. In particular USF sophomores and seniors worry about paying for college more than the overall ACUHO-I sample and seniors report skipping meals due to lack of funds more frequently than the overall ACUHO-I sample.
- The climate of USF students' living situation emerges as a particular concern. Depending on their year in school, USF students reported feeling less free from harassment and discrimination, feeling less comfortable being themselves, feeling less valued, feeling less of a sense of community, and less able to resolve conflicts compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample.
- Depending on their year in school, USF first years and sophomores reported less positive impact of their living situation on their ability to succeed academically, physical well-being, overall emotional or mental well-being, and ability to make friends in college.

IMPLICATIONS

The ACUHO-I Housing Survey provides a further understanding of the impact of housing and cost of living on USF students. In many circumstances, the differences that emerged between the USF sample and the ACUHO-I sample point to some key issues of importance for the academic success, as well as financial, physical, and mental health, of USF students. Some notable challenges include the longer commute time, financial concerns (e.g., paying for college, skipping meals), the climate of their living situation, and feeling that their living situation impacts them less favorably than students at other institutions that participated in the 2018 administration of the ACUHO-I Housing Survey.

BASIC HOUSING INFORMATION

The section looks at basic housing characteristics, including where students live (on- or off-campus), the length of their commute to campus, the type of residence in which they live, the number of roommates with whom they live, the number of times that they have moved in the current academic year, and how they perceive their living situation.

Living On- or Off-campus and with Family

Participants reported if they lived on- or off-campus (0 = *Off-campus*, 1 = *On-campus*).

- A significantly **greater proportion** of USF first year students (88%) reported living on-campus compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample (74%).
- 42% of USF sophomores reported living on-campus compared to 51% of the overall ACUHO-I sample.
- A significantly **smaller proportion** of USF seniors (9%) reported living on-campus compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample (19%).

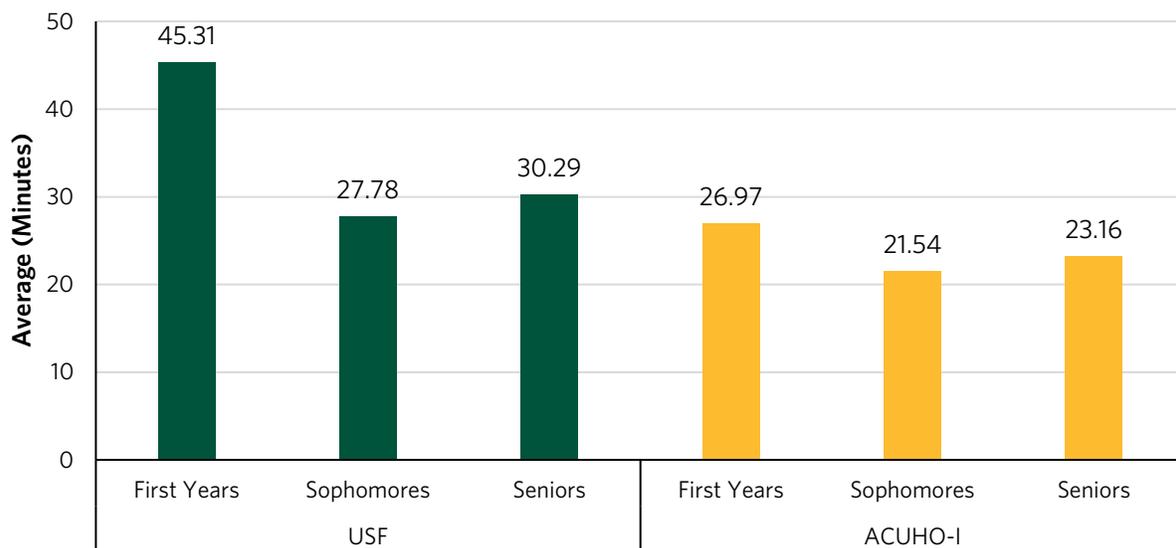
Participants who indicated that they lived off-campus were then asked if they lived at home with their families (0 = *No*, 1 = *Yes*).

- 79% of USF first years who reported they live off-campus reported living at home with family compared to 73% of the overall ACUHO-I sample.
- 36% of USF sophomores who reported they live off-campus reported living at home with family compared to 42% of the overall ACHUO-I sample.
- A significantly **smaller proportion** of USF seniors (26%) who reported they live off-campus reported living at home with their families compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample (37%).

Commute Time

Participants reported the length of their commute using the following response options: 0-5 minutes, 6-10 minutes, 11-20 minutes, 21-30 minutes, 31-45 minutes, 46-60 minutes, and Over 60 minutes.

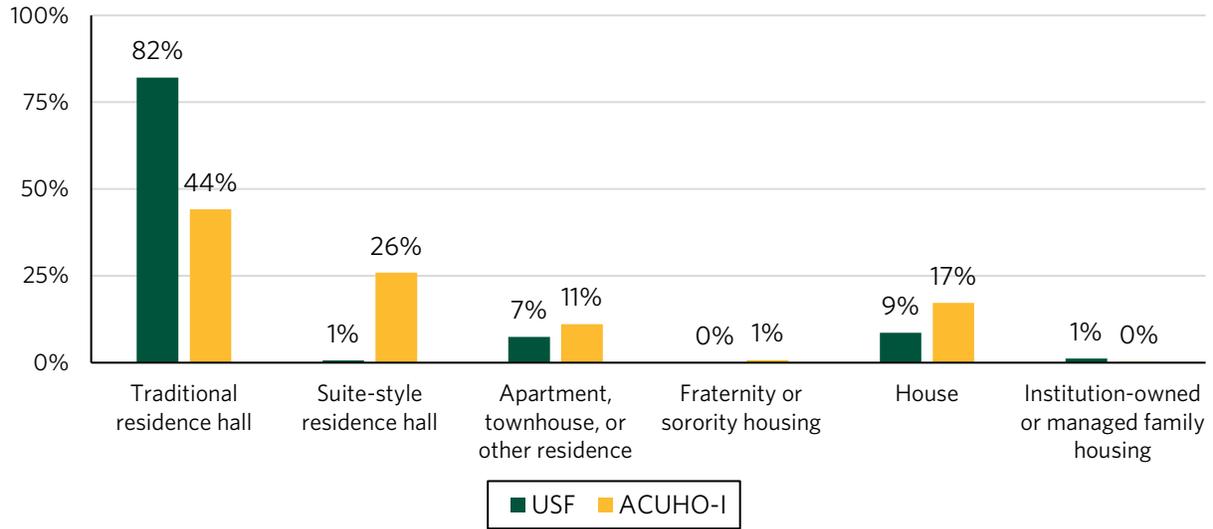
- USF first year students reported a significantly **longer commute time** ($M = 45.31$ minutes) than the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 26.97$ minutes).
- USF sophomores reported a significantly **longer commute time** ($M = 27.78$ minutes) than the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 21.54$ minutes).
- USF seniors reported a significantly **longer commute time** ($M = 30.29$ minutes) than the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 23.16$ minutes).



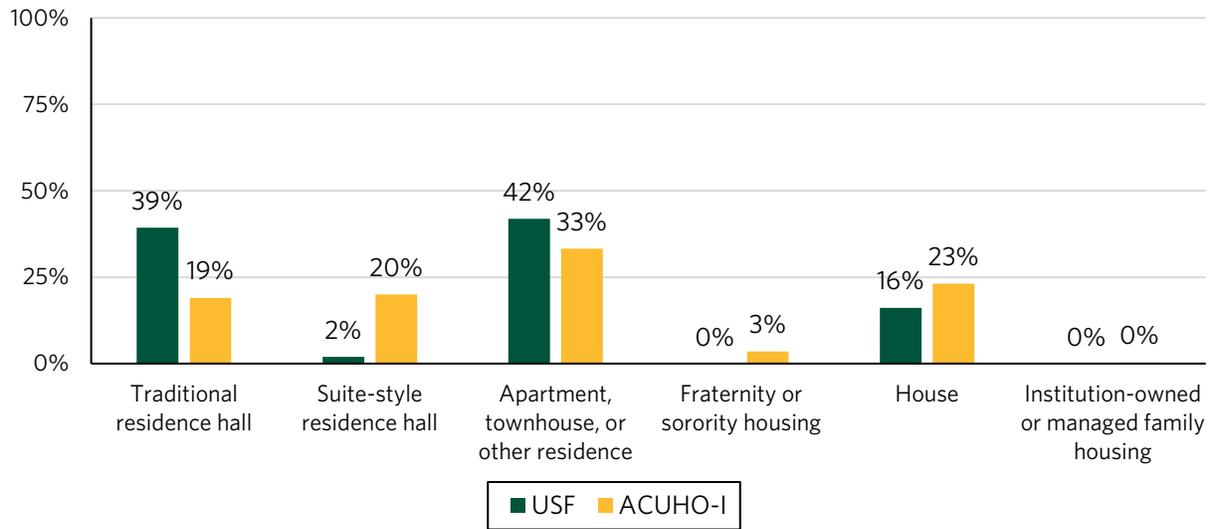
Type of Residence

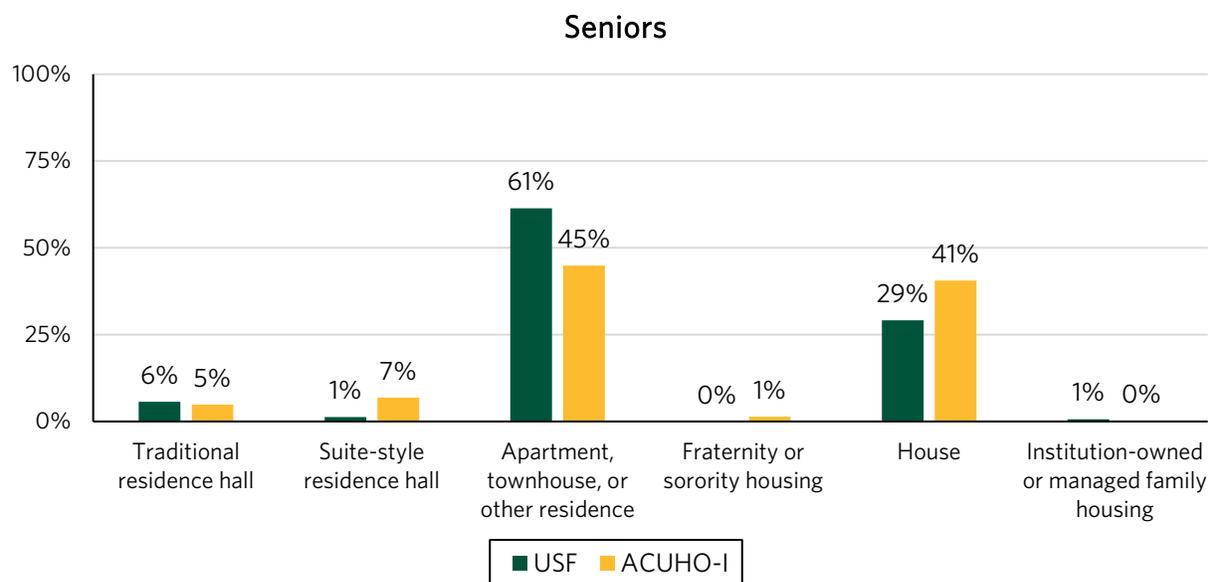
Participants indicated which of the following best describes their living situation while attending college: *Traditional residence hall (shared bathroom with a wing or floor)*, *Suite-style residence hall (shared bathroom with suitemates)*, *Apartment, townhouse, or other apartment-style residence*, *Fraternity or sorority housing*, *House*, *Institution-owned or managed family housing*, or *Other*. The figures on pp. 5 - 6 depicts participants' responses to these options, broken down by year in school.

First Years



Sophomores





Number of Times Moved

Participants reported the number of times they moved since the beginning of the school year using the following response options: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 or more.

- USF first year students reported moving **about the same number of times** since the beginning of the school year ($M = .17$) as the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = .16$).
- USF sophomores reported moving significantly **more times** since the beginning of the school year ($M = .31$) than the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = .17$).
- USF seniors reported moving significantly **more times** since the beginning of the school year ($M = .44$) than the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = .23$).

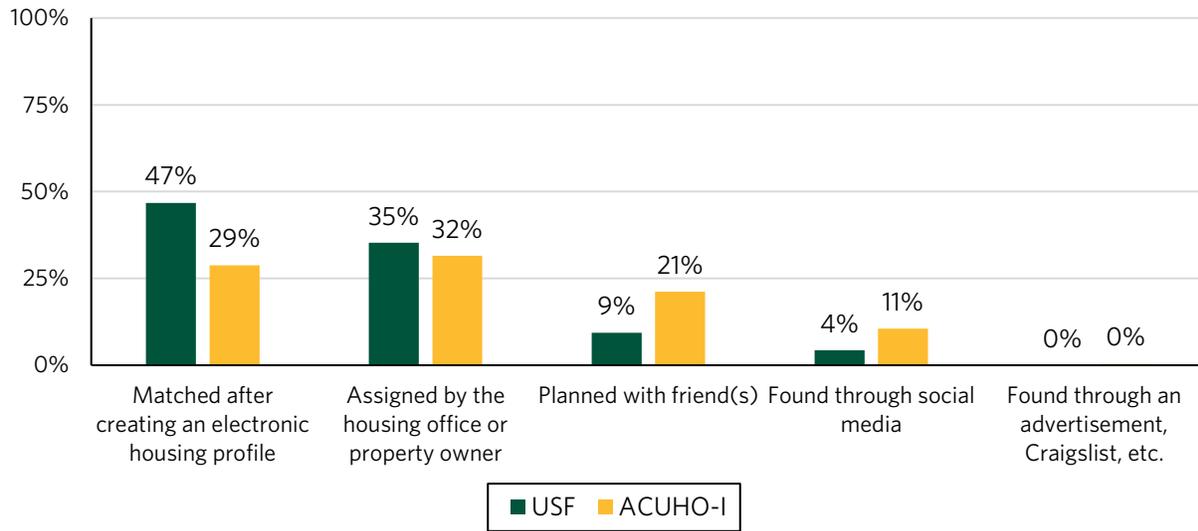
Roommates

Participants reported the number of roommates or housemates with whom they live using the following response options: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 or more. In addition, participants reported if any of their roommates or housemates attend the same institution as they do.

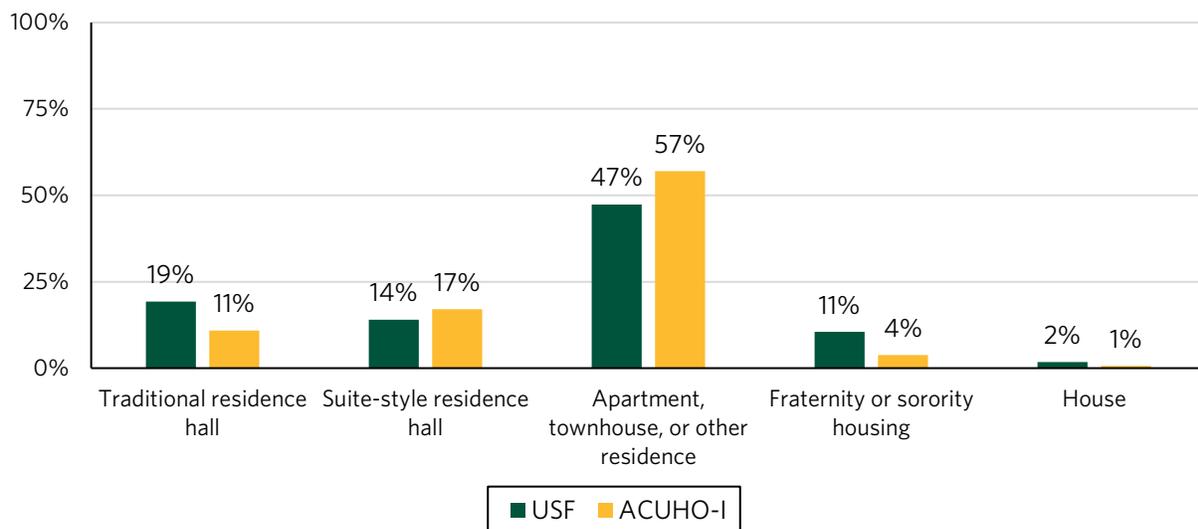
- USF first year students reported having **about the same number** of roommates or housemates ($M = 1.80$) as the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 1.87$). A significantly **greater proportion** of USF first year students (89%) reported attending the same institution as their roommates or housemates compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample (80%).
- USF sophomores reported having **about the same number** of roommates or housemates ($M = 2.01$) as the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 2.10$). 80% of USF sophomores reported attending the same institution as their roommates or housemates compared to 76% of the overall ACUHO-I sample.
- USF seniors reported having **about the same number** of roommates or housemates ($M = 2.01$) as the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 2.03$). 56% of USF seniors reported living attending the same institution as their roommates or housemates compared to 61% of the overall ACUHO-I sample.

First year and sophomore participants indicated how they met their roommates or housemates using the following response options: *Matched through an electronic housing profile, Assigned by housing office/property owner, Planned with friend(s), Found people through social media, Found through an advertisement, Craigslist or something similar, and Other.* The figures below depict participants' responses to these options, broken down by year in school.

First Years



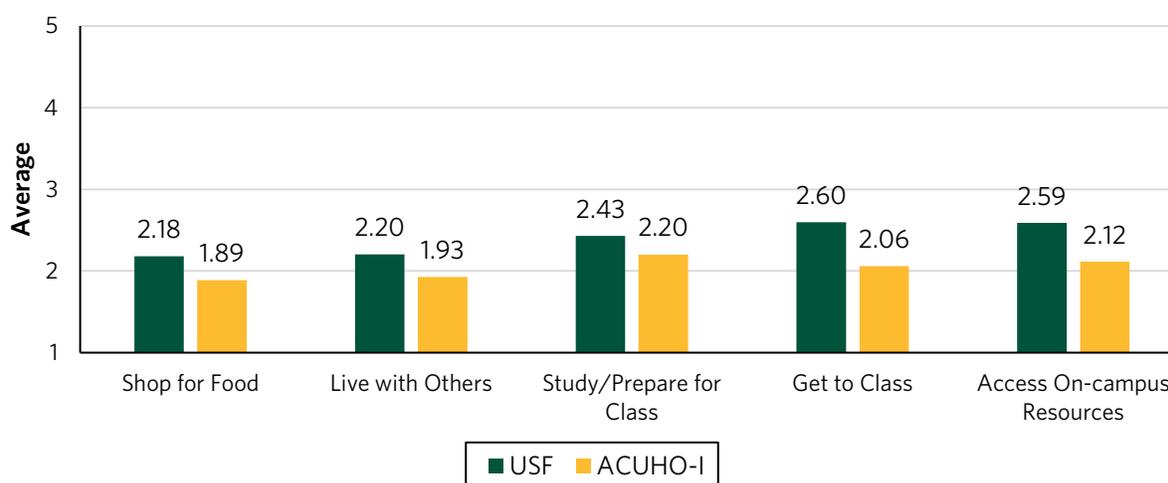
Sophomores



Housing Difficulties (SR only)

Senior participants reported their level of difficulty in performing the following tasks in their current living situation using a 6-pt. scale (1 = *Not at all Difficult*, 6 = *Very Difficult*): *Shop for food*, *Live with others*, *Study or prepare for class*, *Get to class*, and *Access on-campus resources (advising, library, etc.)*.

- USF seniors reported significantly **more difficulty** in performing each of these tasks compared to seniors in the overall ACUHO-I sample.



Views on Housing (SR only)

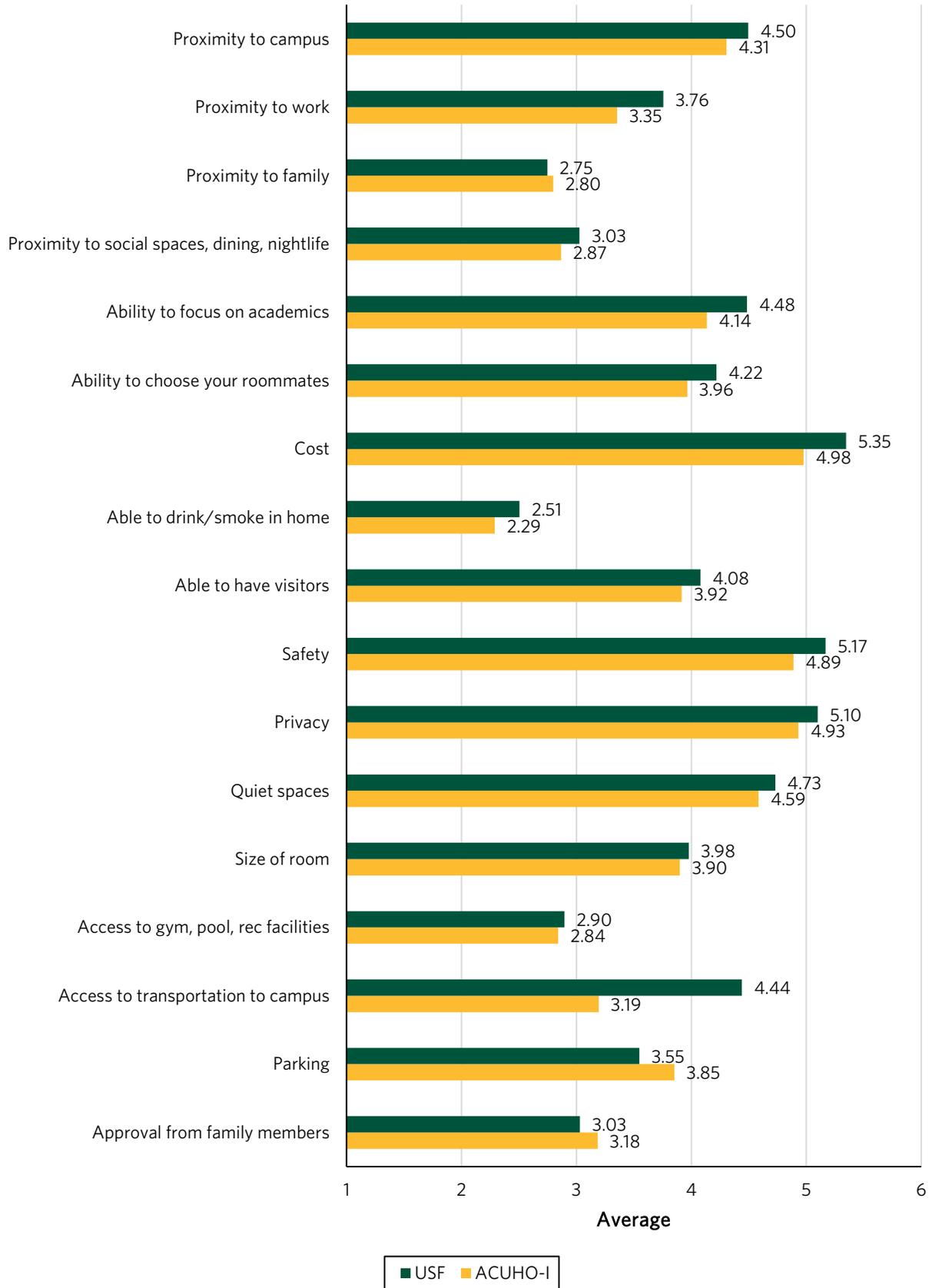
Senior participants rated the quality of on-campus housing at the institution in which they attend, whether or not they ever lived on campus on a 6-pt. scale (1 = *Poor*, 6 = *Excellent*).

- USF seniors provided a significantly **less favorable view** of on-campus housing ($M = 3.38$) compared to seniors from the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 3.72$).

Factors in Housing Selection (SR Only)

Senior participants reported the importance of the following factors in selecting their housing using a 6-pt. scale (1 = *Not at all Important*, 6 = *Very Important*): *Proximity to campus*, *Proximity to work*, *Proximity to family*, *Proximity to social spaces, dining options, or nightlife*, *Ability to focus on academics*, *Ability to choose roommates*, *Cost*, *Ability to drink or smoke in house*, *Ability to have visitors*, *Safety*, *Privacy*, *Quiet spaces*, *Size of room*, *Access to gym, pool, or recreational facilities*, *Access to transportation to campus*, *Parking*, and *Approval of family members*.

- Of the 17 factors, five emerged as statistically significant: proximity to work, ability to focus on academics, cost, safety, and access to transportation to campus.
- In each case, USF seniors reported these factors to be significantly **more important** in selecting their housing than seniors in the overall ACUHO-I sample.



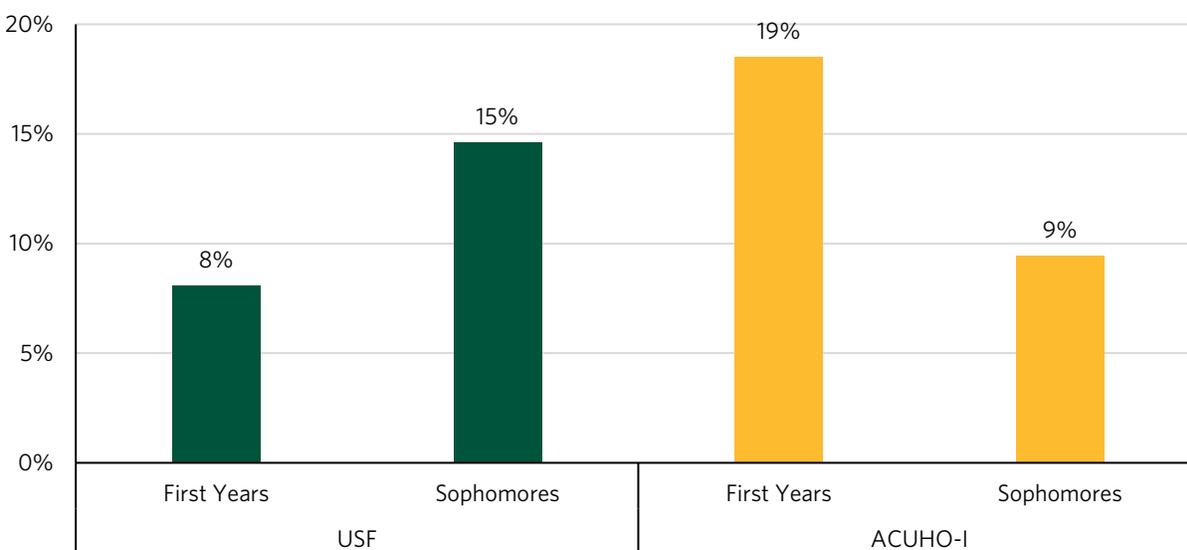
SOCIAL CONNECTIVITY

This section outlines a series of questions associated with social connectivity, including participant in living-learning communities and available opportunities at the residence.

Living-Learning Communities (FY & SO only)

First year and sophomore participants reported if they participated in a living-learning community (0 = No, 1 = Yes).

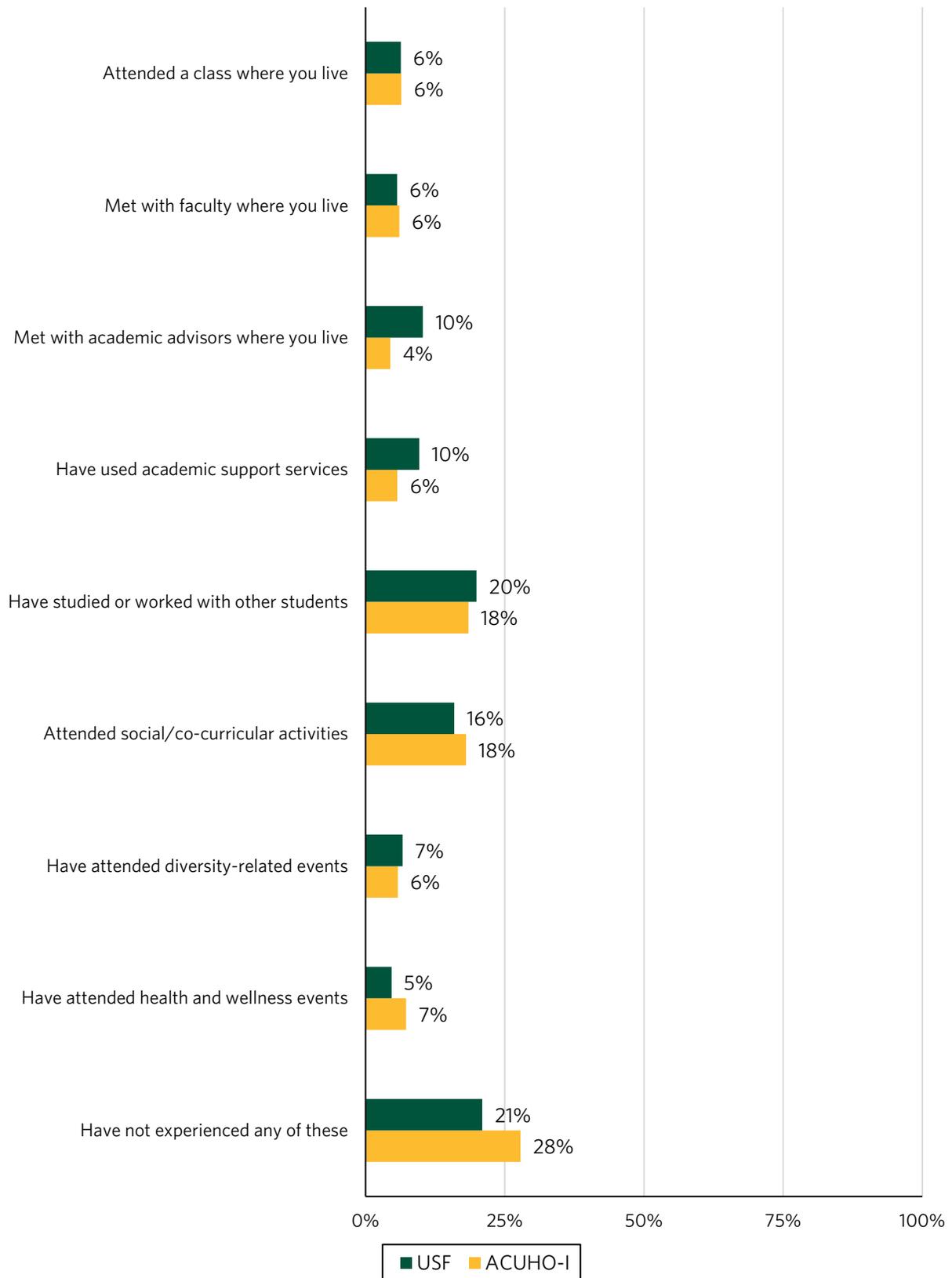
- A significantly **smaller proportion** of USF first year students (8%) reported participating in living-learning communities compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample (20%).
- A significantly **higher proportion** of USF sophomores (19%) reported participating in living-learning communities compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample (9%).



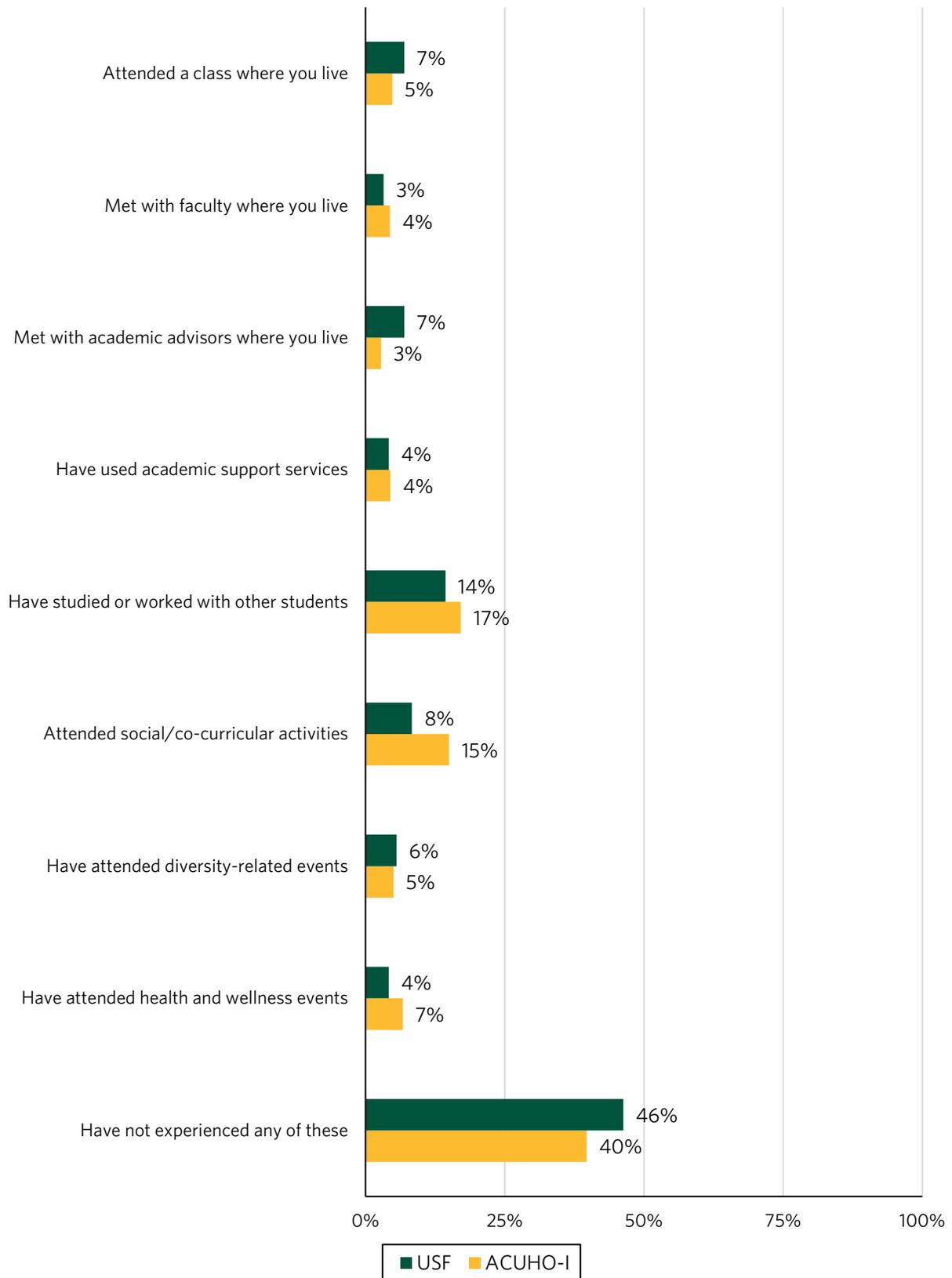
Opportunities at Residence (FY & SO only)

First year and sophomore participants reported if any of the following opportunities were provided to them while living there: *Attended a class where you live (not online), Met with a faculty member, Met with an academic advisor, Used academic support services, Studied or worked on a project with other students, Attended social or co-curricular activities, Attended diversity-related activities, Attended health and wellness activities, or None of these.* Participants were encouraged to select all that applied to them. The figures on pp. 11 – 12 depict participants' responses to these options, broken down by year in school.

First Years



Sophomores



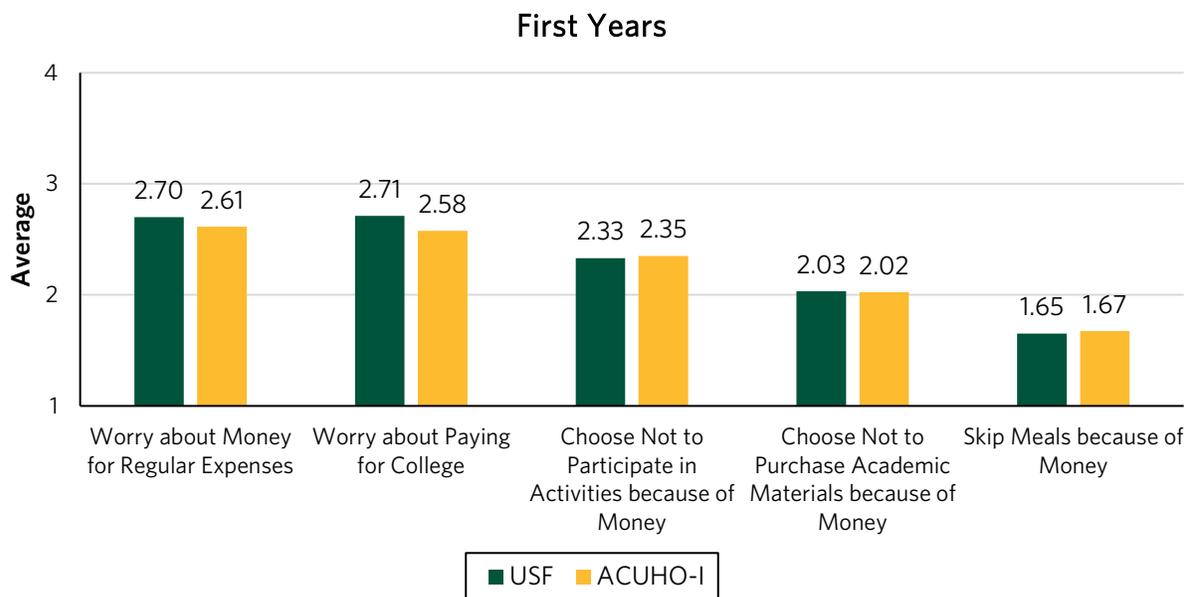
FINANCIAL

The section outlines how the impact of the cost of living and if it affects students' ability to pay bills.

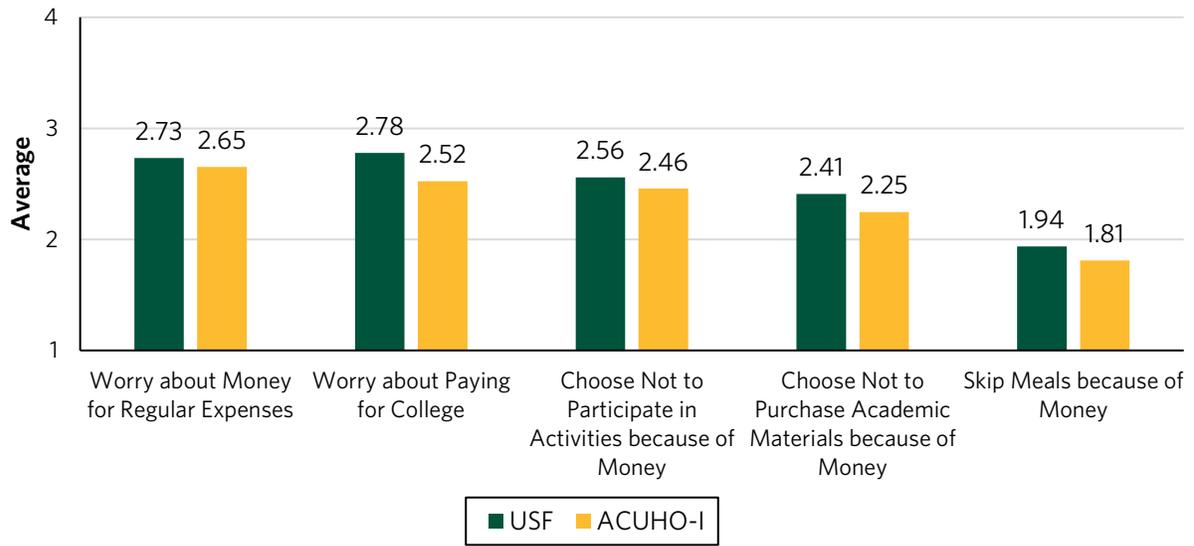
Impact of Cost of Living

Participants reported how frequently the cost of living affected them in each of the following ways using a 4-pt. scale (1 = *Never*, 4 = *Very Often*): *Worried about having enough money for regular expenses*, *Worried about paying for college*, *Chosen not to participate in an activity due to lack of money*, *Chosen not to purchase required academic materials due to their cost*, and *Skipped meals due to lack of funds*.

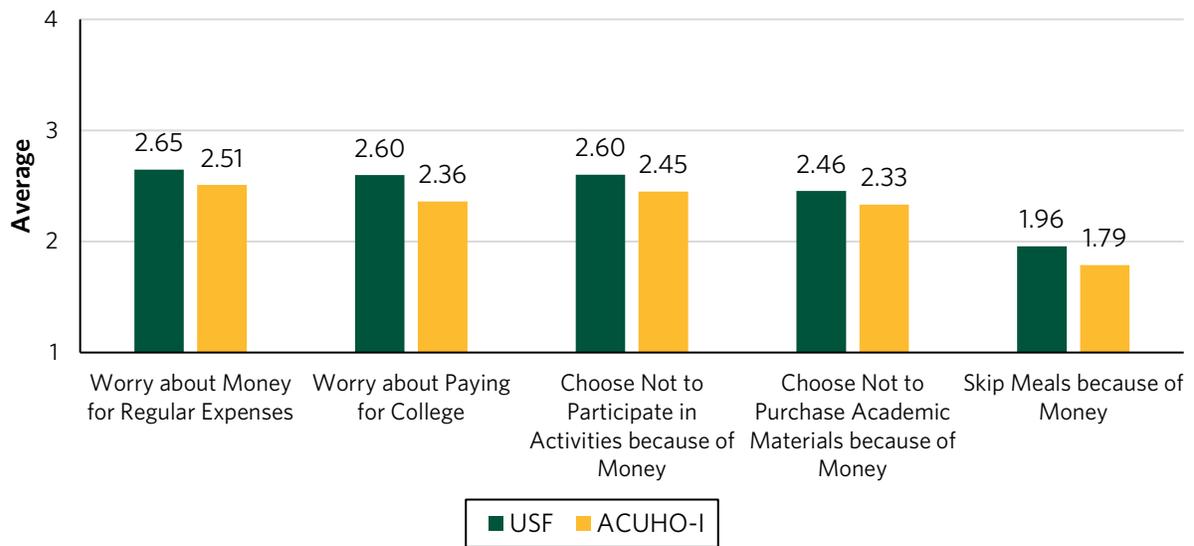
- USF first years reported that the cost of living affected them in each of these ways with **about the same frequency** as the overall ACUHO-I sample.
- USF sophomores reported significantly **more worry** about paying for college ($M = 2.78$) than the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 2.52$). Otherwise, USF sophomores reported that the cost of living affected them in each of the remaining ways with **about the same frequency** as the overall ACUHO-I sample.
- USF seniors reported significantly **more worry** about paying for college ($M = 2.60$) than the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 2.36$). In addition, USF seniors reported skipping meals significantly **more frequently** ($M = 1.96$) than the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 1.79$). Otherwise, USF seniors reported that the cost of living affected them in each of the remaining ways with about the same frequency as the overall ACUHO-I sample.



Sophomores

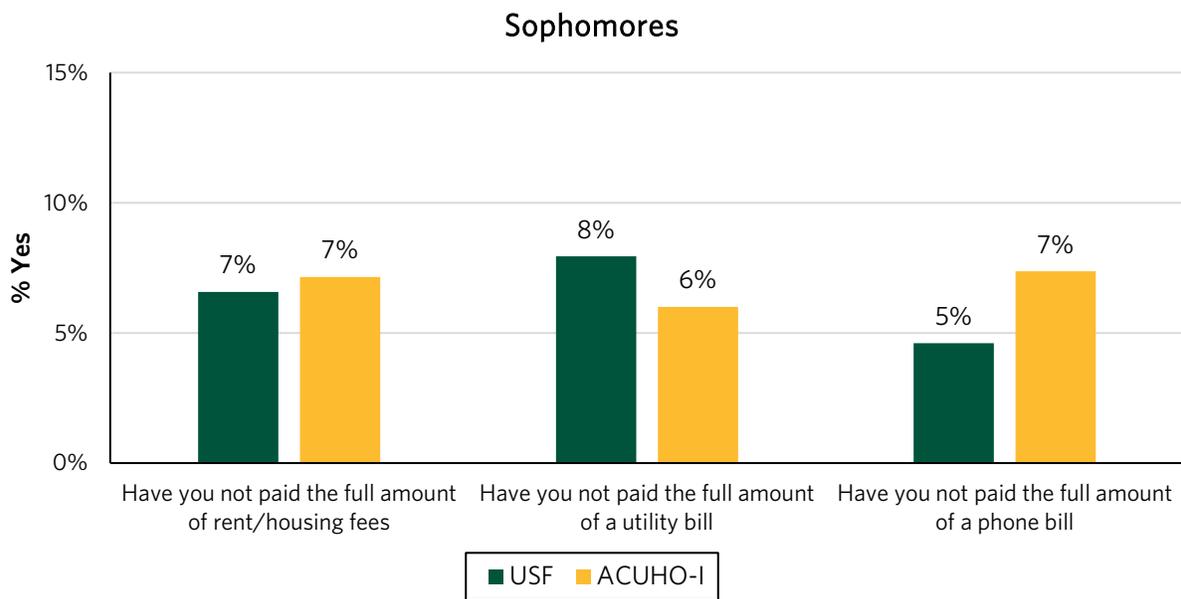
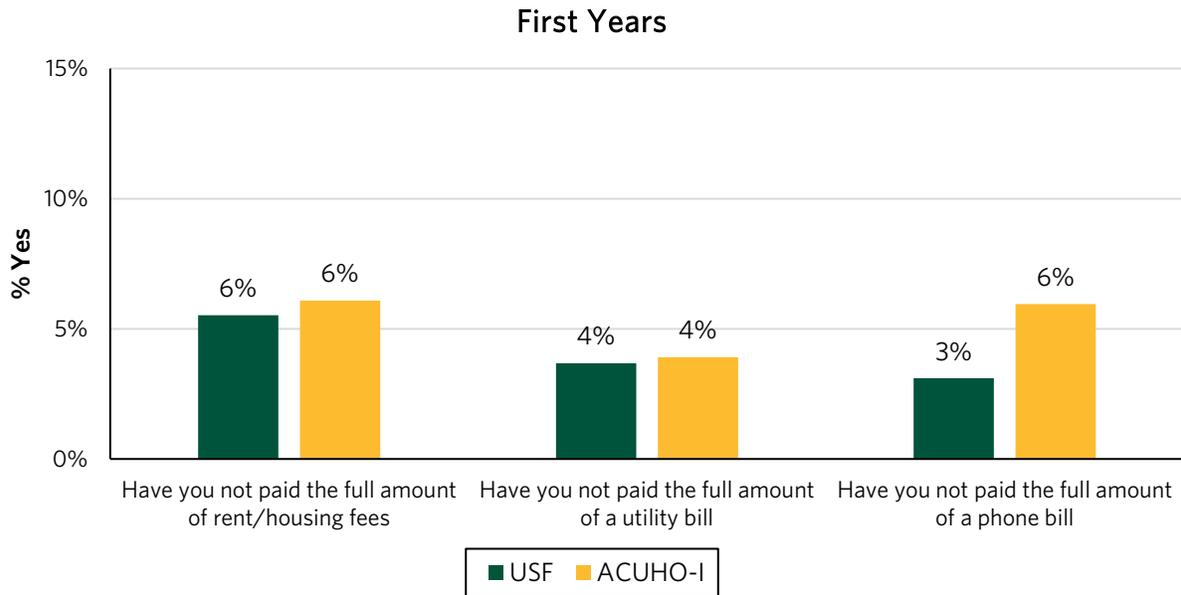


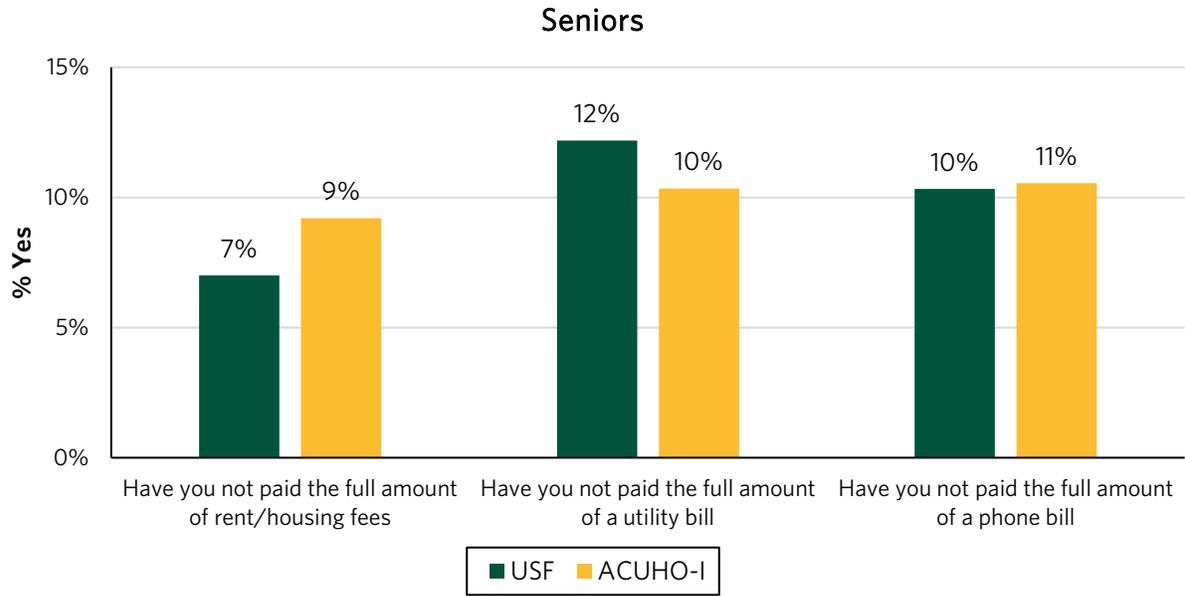
Seniors



Not Paid Bills

Participants reported if the cost of living had caused them to do any of the following in the current school year (0 = No, 1 = Yes): *Not paid the full amount of their rent, mortgage, or housing fees, Not paid the full amount of a utility bill, and Not paid the full amount of a phone bill.* The figures below and on pp. 16 depict the percentage of participants who responded Yes to these statements broken down by year in school.





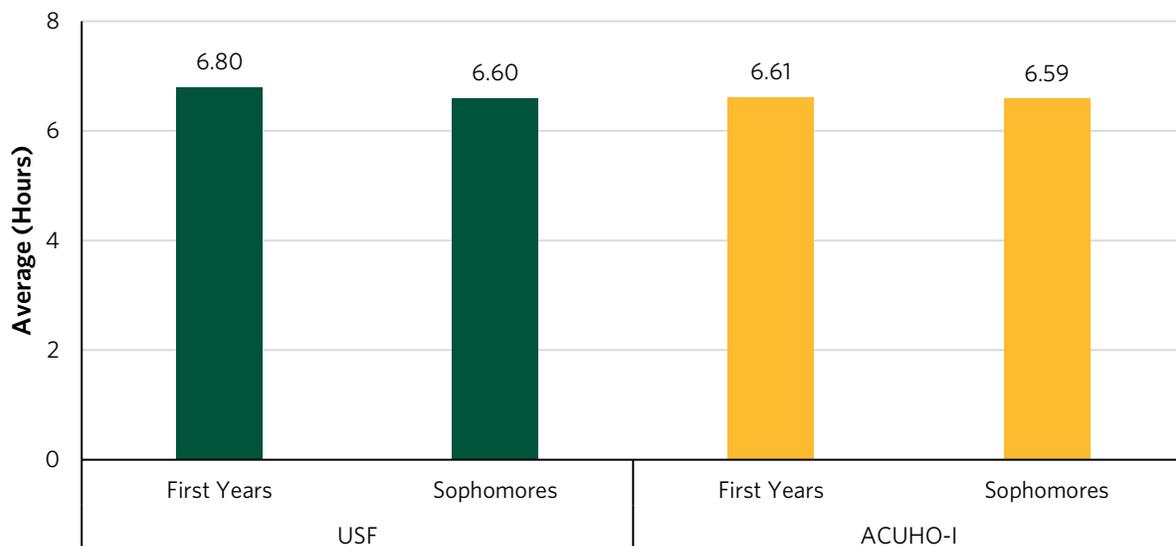
HEALTH & WELLNESS

This section outlines a series of questions associated with health and wellness, including the number of hours slept per night, the frequency of feeling homesick, attitudes toward the climate of the residence, and the impact of the residence on their attitudes and behaviors.

Hours of Sleep (FY & SO only)

First year and sophomore participants reported the number of hours of sleep they get on a typical night.

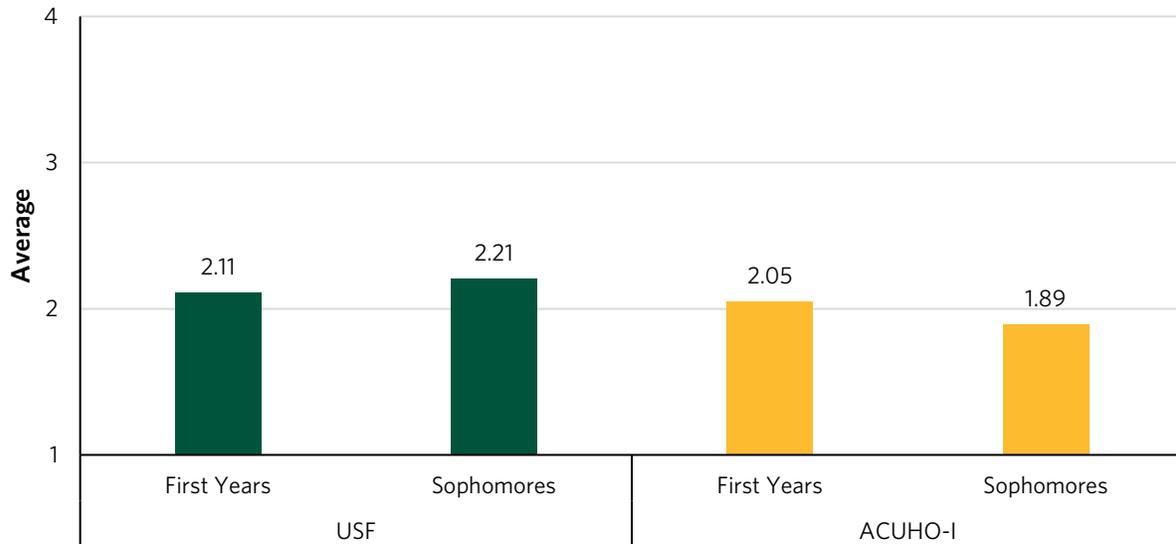
- USF first years reported significantly **more hours** of sleep ($M = 6.80$) than the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 6.61$).
- USF sophomores reported **about the same number of hours** of sleep ($M = 6.60$) as the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 6.59$).



Frequency of Homesickness (FY & SO only)

First year and sophomore participants reported how frequently they felt homesick during the current school year on a 4-pt. scale (1 = *Never*, 4 = *Very Often*).

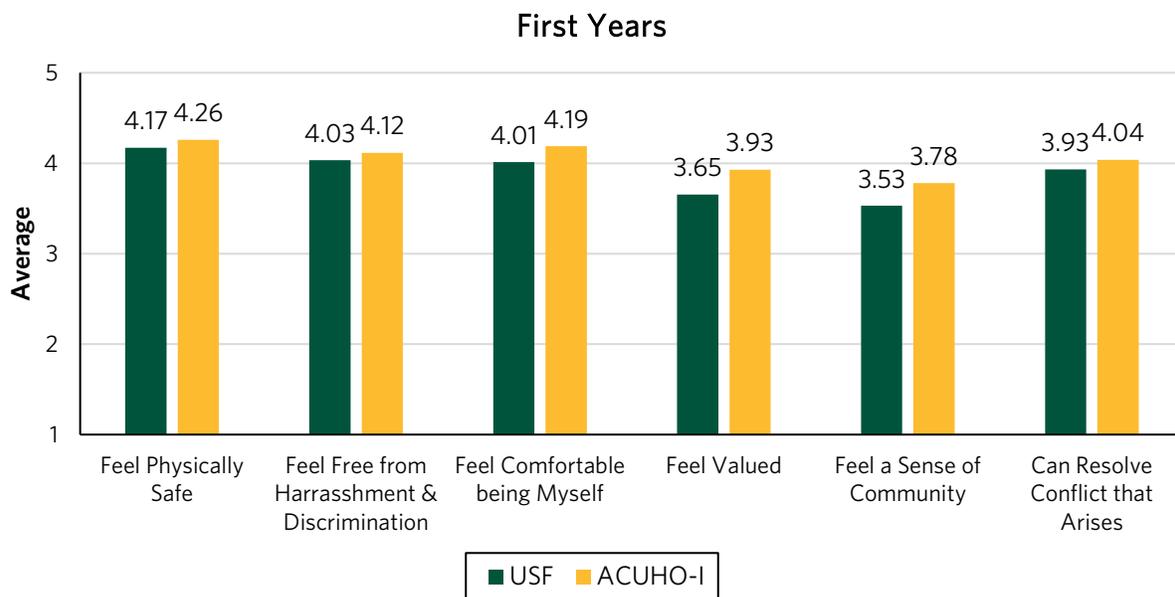
- USF first years reported feeling homesick **about as frequently** ($M = 2.11$) as the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 2.05$).
- USF sophomores reported feeling homesick significantly **more frequently** ($M = 2.21$) than the overall ACUHO-I sample ($M = 1.89$).



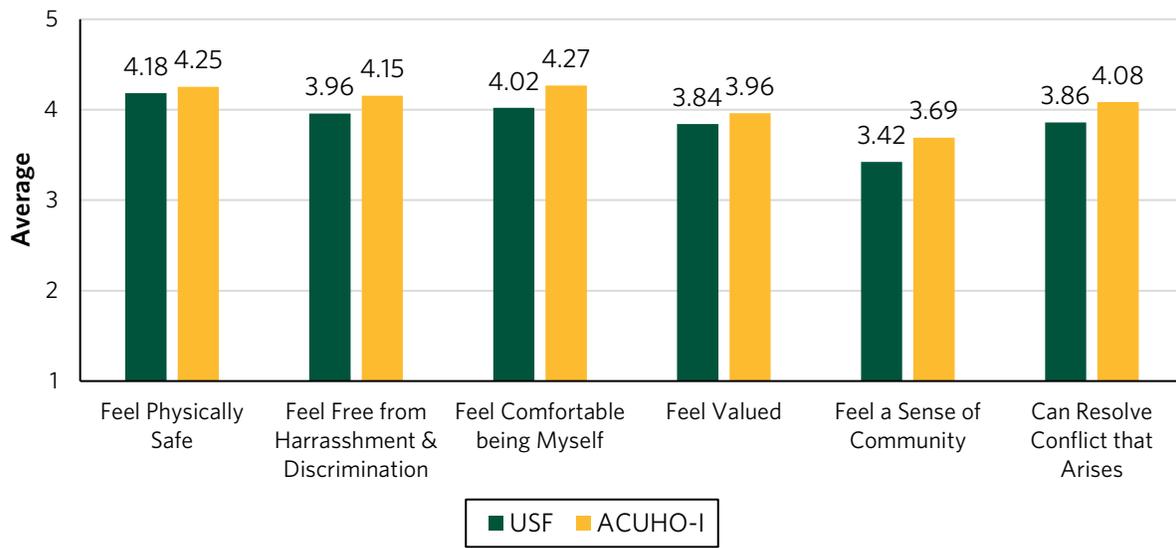
Attitudes towards Residence’s Climate

To gain a sense of the feeling their residence provides them, participants reported how much they agreed or disagreed with each of the following statements on a 5-pt. scale (1 = *Strongly Disagree*, 5 = *Strongly Agree*): *I feel physically safe where I live, I feel free from harassment and discrimination where I live, I feel comfortable being myself where I live, I feel valued where I live, I feel a sense of community where I live, and I can resolve conflicts that might arise within my living arrangement.*

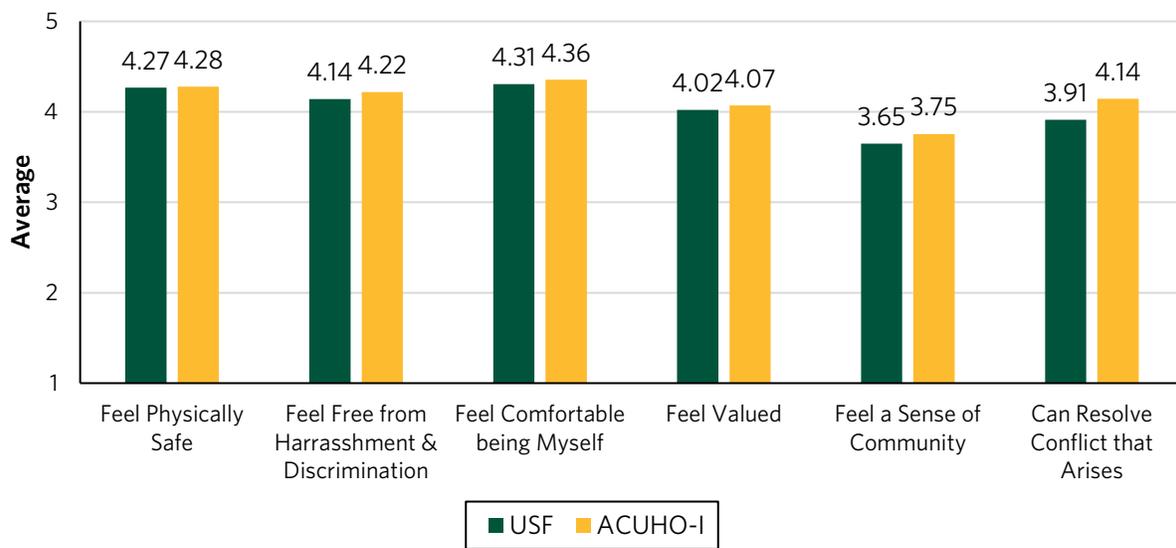
- Compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample, USF first years agreed significantly **less strongly** with the following statements: I feel comfortable being myself where I live, I feel valued where I live, and I feel a sense of community where I live. Otherwise, USF first years agreed to the same extent with the remaining three statements compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample.
- Compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample, USF sophomores agreed significantly **less strongly** with the following statements: I feel free from harassment and discrimination where I live, I feel comfortable being myself where I live, I feel a sense of community where I live, and I can resolve conflicts that might arise within my living arrangements. Otherwise, USF sophomores agreed to the same extent with the remaining two statements compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample.
- Compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample, USF seniors agreed significantly **less strongly** with I can resolve conflicts that might arise within my living arrangements. Otherwise, USF sophomores agreed to the same extent with the remaining five statements compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample.



Sophomores



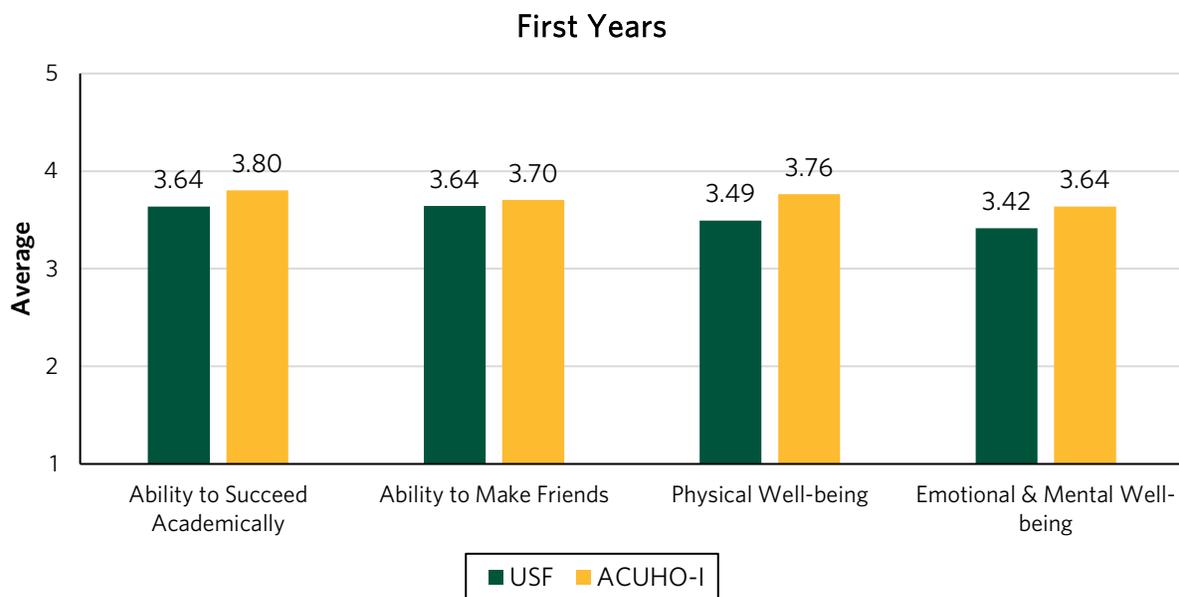
Seniors

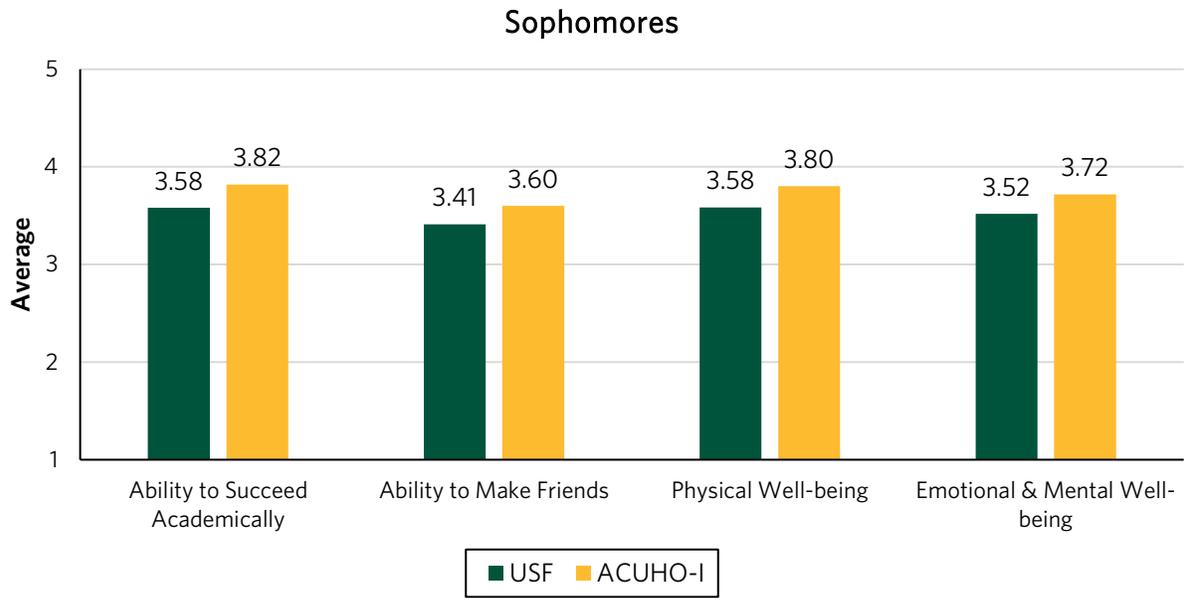


Impact of Residence (FY & SO only)

First year and sophomore participants rated the impact of their residence on each of the following a 5-pt. scale (1 = *Strong Negative Impact*, 5 = *Strong Positive Impact*): *Ability to succeed academically, Ability to make friends in college, Overall physical well-being, and Overall emotional and mental well-being.*

- Compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample, USF first years reported significantly **less positive impact** of the current living situation on the following statements: *Ability to succeed academically, overall physical well-being, and overall emotional or mental well-being.* USF first years reported about the same amount of impact of their current living situation on *ability to make friends in college.*
- Compared to the overall ACUHO-I sample, USF sophomores reported significantly **less positive impact** of the current living situation on all four statements.





APPENDIX

List of Participating Institutions

Alfred University	Syracuse University
Auburn University	Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Austin Peay State University	Texas State University
Bard College	University of Central Arkansas
Benedictine College	University of Charleston
Benedictine University	University of Colorado-Colorado Springs
California State University-San Marcos	University of Kansas
California State University-San Bernardino	University of Louisiana-Lafayette
Capital University	University of Minnesota Duluth
Central Christian College of Kansas	University of New Haven
Chowan University	University of North Carolina-Charlotte
Clemson University	University of North Carolina-Greensboro
College of Mount Saint Vincent	University of Northern Iowa
College of Our Lady of the Elms	University of Richmond
Curry College	University of Tennessee Martin
Dean College	University of Texas at Arlington
Delta State University	University of the Cumberland
Earlham College	University of the Virgin Islands
Eckerd College	University of Utah
Evergreen State College	University of Wisconsin-River Falls
Governors State University	Wayne State College
Hanover College	Wheaton College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Willamette University
Howard University	Wingate University
Jacksonville State University	Winthrop University
Jacksonville University	Worcester State University
Jefferson (Philadelphia University & Thomas Jefferson University)	
Le Moyne College	
Lee University	
Louisiana State University	
Loyola University Chicago	
Lyon College	
Millikin University	
Mississippi State University	
New York University	
Niagara University	
Northern Illinois University	
Oglethorpe University	
Pitzer College	
Quinnipiac University	
Rochester College	
Rockford University	
Rutgers University-Newark	
Seattle University	
Siena Heights University	
Southeast Missouri State University	
St. John's University-New York	
Stockton University	
Susquehanna University	