

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Industrial and Management Systems Engineering
Faculty Publications

Industrial and Management Systems Engineering


4-2007

2007 Survey of Summer Sessions Students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Paul Savory

University of Nebraska at Lincoln, psavory2@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/imsefacpub>

 Part of the [Educational Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Commons](#), [Marketing Commons](#), [Operations Research, Systems Engineering and Industrial Engineering Commons](#), and the [Other Education Commons](#)

Savory, Paul, "2007 Survey of Summer Sessions Students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln" (2007). *Industrial and Management Systems Engineering Faculty Publications*. 35.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/imsefacpub/35>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Industrial and Management Systems Engineering at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Industrial and Management Systems Engineering Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

2007 SURVEY OF SUMMER STUDENTS

FlexEd
SummerSessions
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN



Contact: Dr. Paul Savory
Director, Summer Sessions

OVERVIEW

During Summer 2007, UNL Summer Sessions (FlexEd) surveyed summer students to learn about their experience in taking a summer course(s). The survey results will offer confirmation of what we are doing well and will provide guidance on areas of improvement and better strategies for marketing UNL summer opportunities.

SURVEYED STUDENTS

A total of 227 students completed the survey. Fifteen summer classes were selected to complete a paper-based or electronic version of the survey. The classes were from three different summer sessions and used different delivery mechanisms (on-campus, studio, distance education). Surveyed courses included:

FIRST FIVE WEEK

ADVT 332: PRINC&PROMO WRITING
ADVT 438: GLOBAL ADVERTISING (and 838)
ADVT 460: MEDIA PLANNING & STRAT
ARCH, ARTP, IDES, TXCD 141B: SPECULATIVE DRAWING → studio course
HIST 120: WORLD HISTORY
EDPS 859: STATISTICAL METHODS → online distance course

EIGHT WEEK

SPED 861: INFANT: DISABILITIES → online distance course

SECOND FIVE WEEK

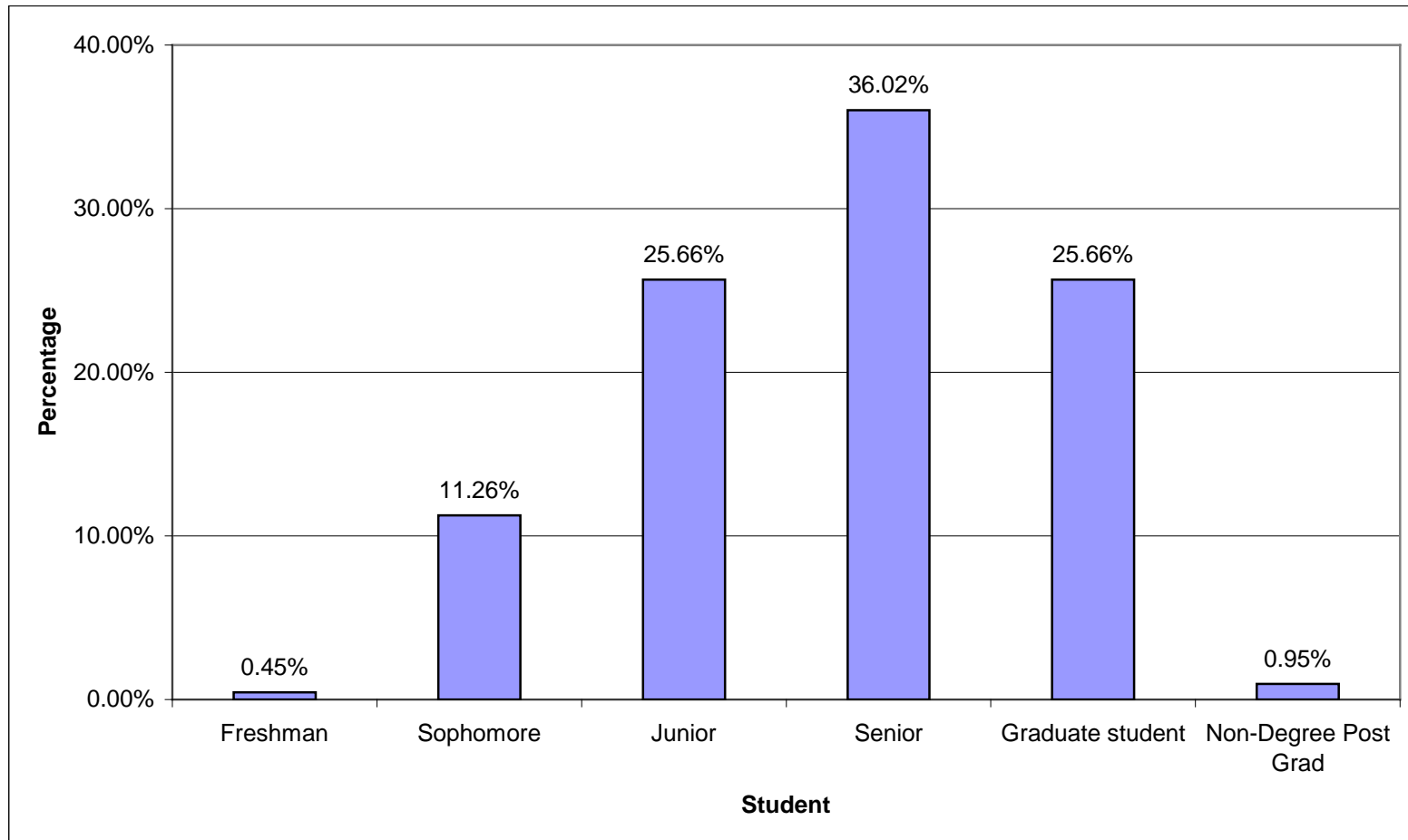
ACCT 202: INTRO ACCOUNTING II
ACCT 309: ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS
PSYC/BIOS 373: BIOPSYCHOLOGY
FACS 474: ASSMNT: EARLY CHILD
GRDC 900A: FUTURE FACULTY I
IMSE 206: ENGINEERING ECONOMY
ENGL 373: 1950s Pop Culture & Film
JGEN 120: BASIC BUSINESS COMM → online distance course

SURVEY LIMITATION

Surveyed student and courses were not randomly selected. As such, the accompanying results only offer a useful “snapshot” of student perceptions and opinions.

QUESTION

What year are you in school?

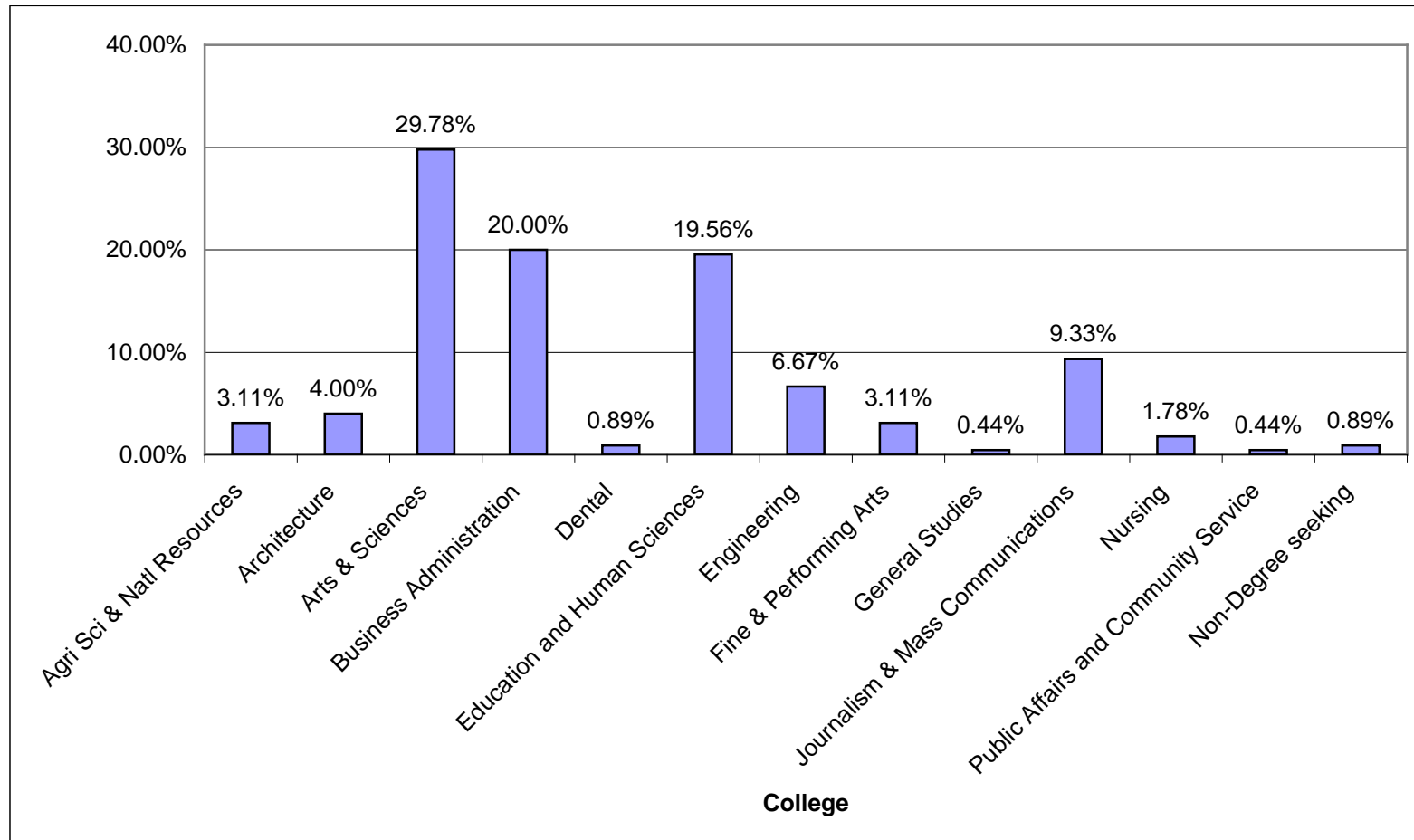


COMMENT:

- Even though three 100-level and two 200-level courses were included in the FlexEd survey, there are very few freshman.
- The results do compare to the 2007 enrollment percentages: Freshmen (4.6%), Sophomore (8%), Juniors (18.7%), Seniors (30.4%), Graduate Students (37.9%)

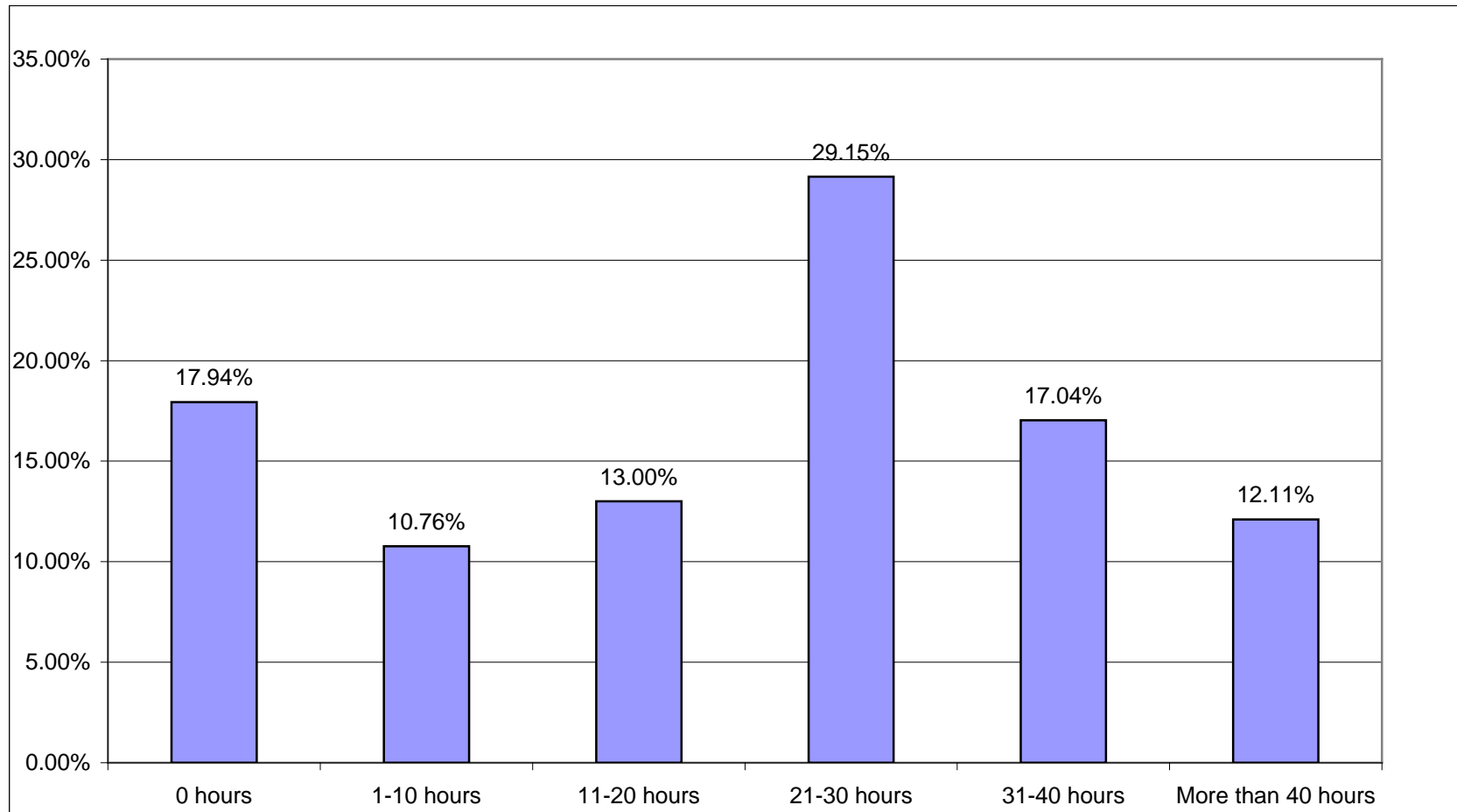
QUESTION

In which college is your major?



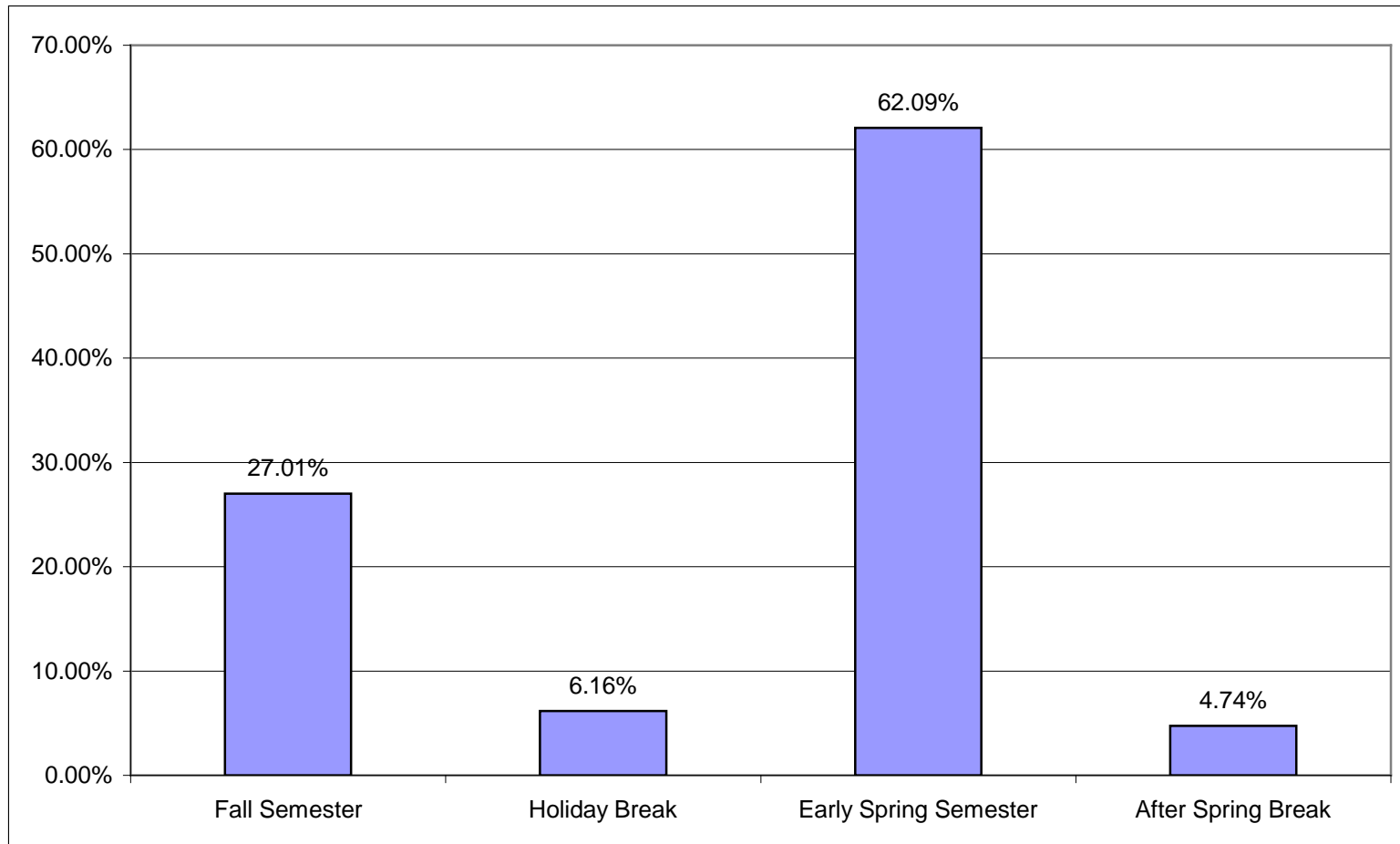
QUESTION

How many hours per week are you working this summer?



QUESTION

When did you start thinking about taking a summer course?

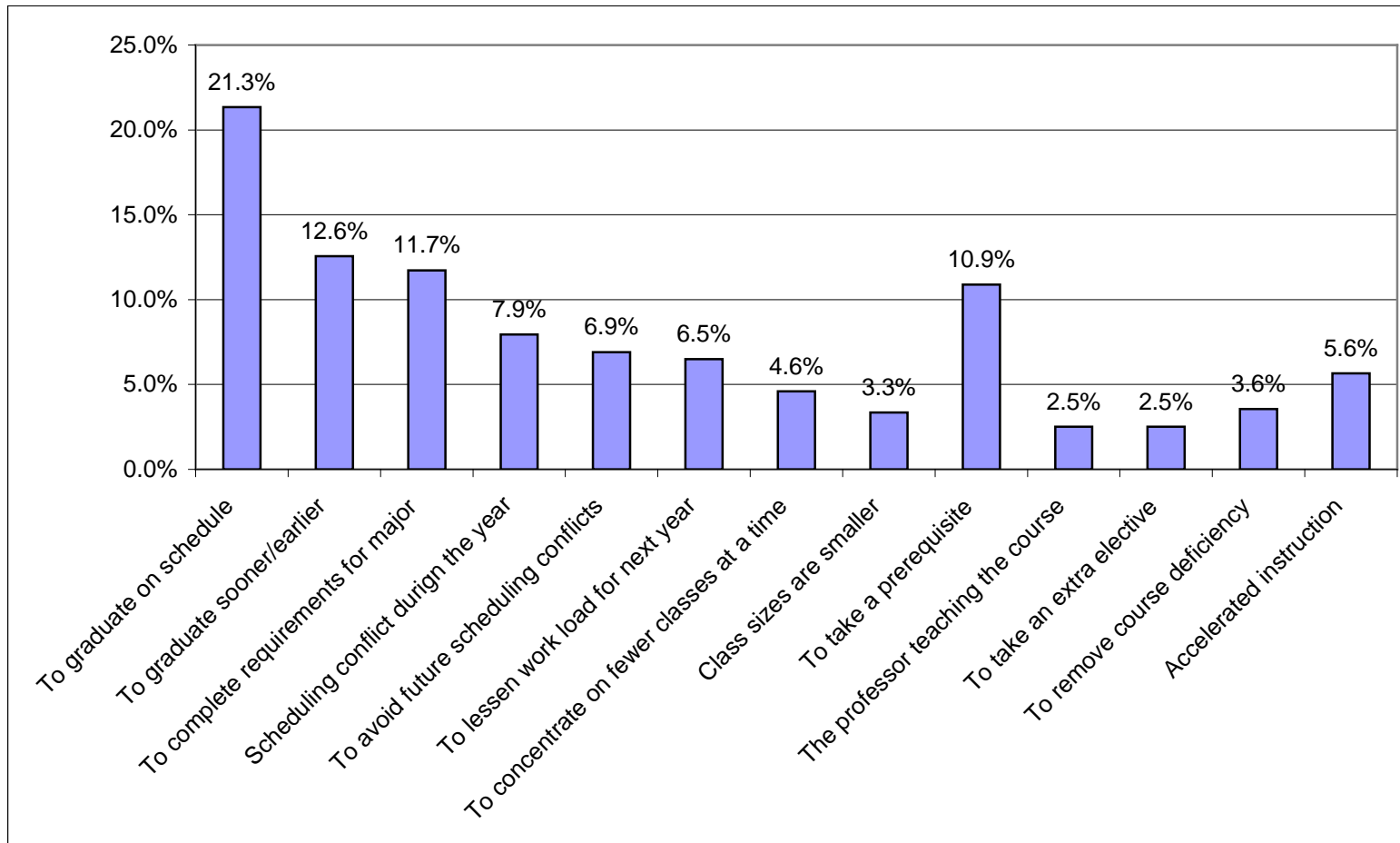


COMMENT:

- *Interesting:* large percentage of students start thinking about summer sessions in the fall term
- It appears a decision to take a summer course is made by spring break

QUESTION

Why did you decide to take a summer course? *(check all that apply)*



Specific “other” responses included:

- flexible class times
- summer courses are easier
- course only offered in summer
- graduate assistanceship requirement

QUESTION

Rate how much you know about each of the following UNL summer programs

	None	Little	Some	Much	Great Deal
On-Campus Summer Courses (FlexEd)	23.8%	14.3%	29.6%	22.4%	9.9%
Summer Reading Courses (SRC)	45.3%	30.5%	16.1%	4.9%	3.1%
World Campus Courses	78.4%	18.9%	2.3%	0.0%	0.5%
College Independent Study	36.2%	28.6%	22.3%	10.3%	2.7%
Field Courses	69.5%	21.5%	7.2%	0.9%	0.9%
For-credit Workshops	78.5%	17.5%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%

COMMENT:

- Few students know about World Campus Courses, Field Courses, and For-Credit Workshops
- *Interesting:* 37% of students enrolled in an on-campus summer course indicate none or little knowledge of this opportunity

QUESTION

Rate how effective each of the following is in your learning about UNL summer opportunities

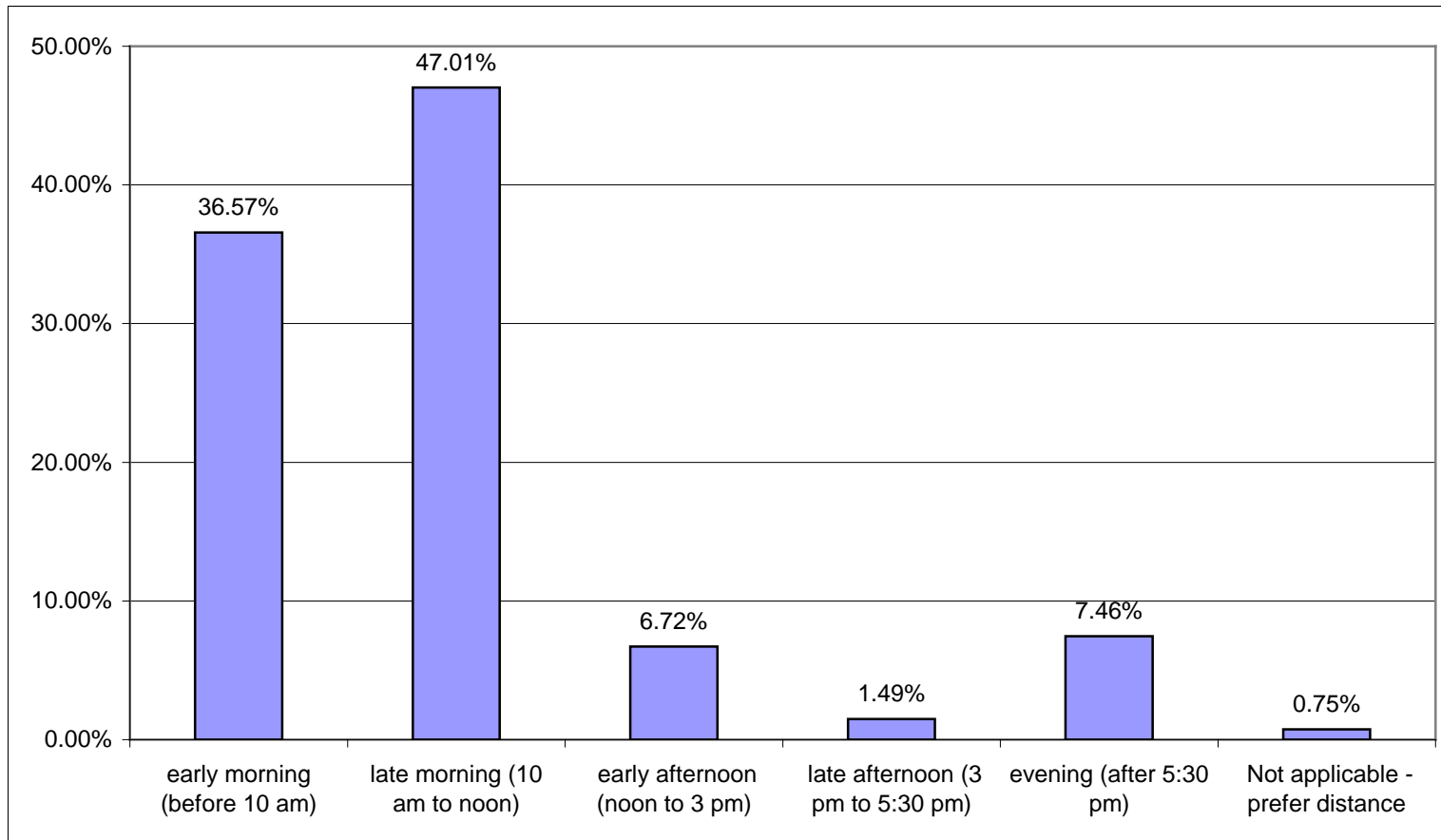
	Weighted Average (smaller value = higher effectiveness)	None	Little	Some	Much	Great Deal
Academic Advisor	3.19	21.4%	19.1%	27.3%	21.8%	10.5%
Summer Session Bulletin/catalog	3.04	16.4%	19.6%	27.9%	23.7%	12.3%
UNL Website	2.67	7.7%	13.6%	33.2%	28.6%	16.8%
Something I receive in the mail	4.13	46.8%	29.4%	15.6%	6.4%	1.8%
Poster/display on campus	4.15	44.2%	32.3%	18.4%	4.6%	0.5%
Herbie Husker	4.73	80.6%	14.7%	2.3%	1.8%	0.5%
E-mail message	4.03	45.9%	25.2%	18.8%	6.0%	4.1%
Table tents in student union or cafeteria	4.54	66.7%	23.1%	7.9%	2.3%	0.0%
Advertisement in Daily Nebraskan	4.38	59.3%	24.1%	12.5%	4.2%	0.0%
Insert in Daily Nebraskan	4.42	60.4%	24.9%	11.1%	3.7%	0.0%
Advertisement in the Schedule of Classes	3.96	41.9%	25.6%	20.9%	9.8%	1.9%
Facebook ad	4.52	68.1%	19.9%	8.8%	2.3%	0.9%
Radio Advertisement	4.72	77.9%	16.6%	5.1%	0.5%	0.0%

COMMENT:

- *Most effective:* UNL website, summer sessions bulletin, academic advisor
- *Least effective:* Herbie Husker, radio Announcement, and table tents in cafeteria and student union
- *Interesting:* good ranking of Advertisement in the Schedule of Classes

QUESTION

What time of the day is your top preference for an on-campus summer course?



QUESTION

Rank the order of summer session in which you prefer to take courses (1 = highest rank, 5 = lowest)

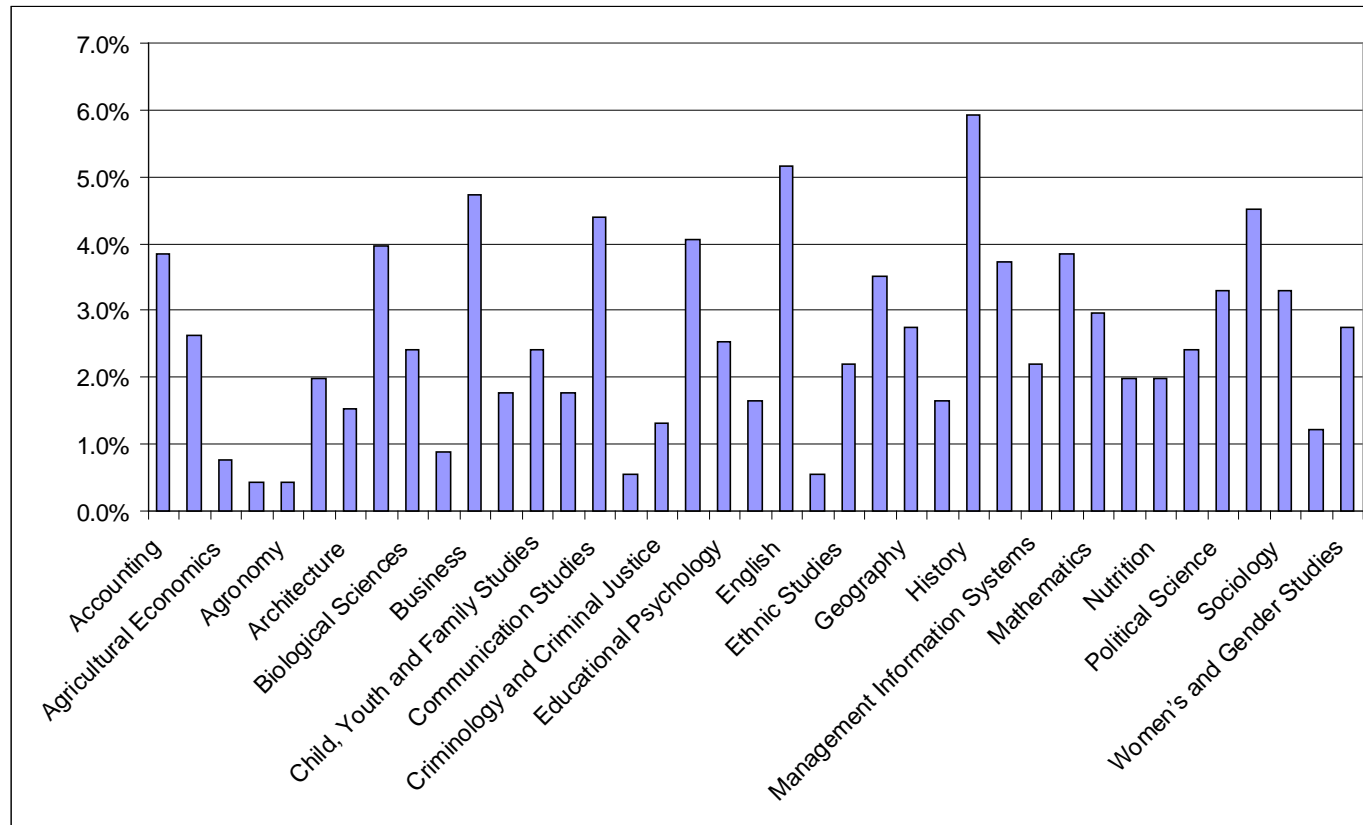
	Weighted Average (smaller value = higher preference)	PERCENTAGE (1 = highest rank, 5 = lowest)				
		1	2	3	4	5
3-week pre-session	2.8	27.6%	8.9%	28.5%	24.4%	10.6%
8 week session	3.6	7.3%	6.5%	27.6%	39.8%	18.7%
first five-week session	1.7	47.2%	40.0%	11.2%	0.8%	0.8%
second five-week session	2.3	19.2%	44.8%	25.6%	8.0%	2.4%
special workshop (2 weeks or less)	4.3	1.2%	4.7%	7.0%	33.7%	53.5%

COMMENT:

- *Preference order:* 1st five week → 2nd five week → 3-week pre-session → 8-week session → special workshops
- *Interesting:* Surprised at how poorly special workshops were ranked. One would have thought students would prefer the flexibility of a shorter summer time frame. A drawback of workshops (unknown if students took this into account) is that they are many hours per day, thus offer few opportunities for students to work outside of taking a course.

QUESTION

What courses would you like to see offered in the summer? (*check all that apply*)



Specific “other” responses included:

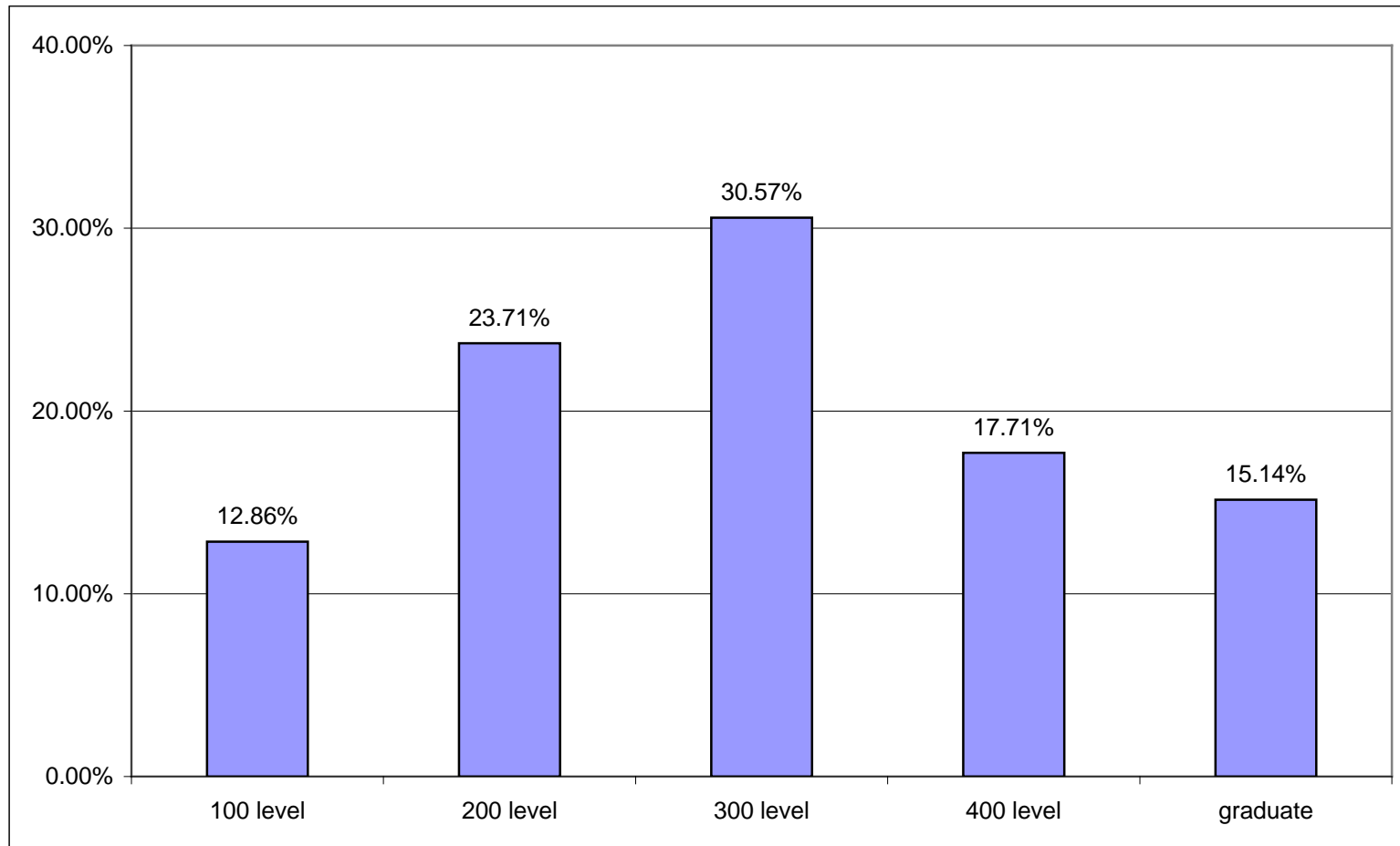
- modern languages
- religious studies
- honors courses
- journalism
- Spanish - upper division
- statistics

COMMENT:

- Responses to this question are very biased based on the course/student being surveyed. For example, students in an accounting class would give a preference for business-types of courses.
- It appears students selected topics from their perspective of what they want/need and did not account for what is already offered. For example, student indicate a high preference for English and History courses even though there are a large number of course taught in each of these areas
- *Interesting:* Women’s and Gender Studies ranks well, especially since they currently offer no summer courses.

QUESTION

What level of courses would be most helpful to have offered during the summer?

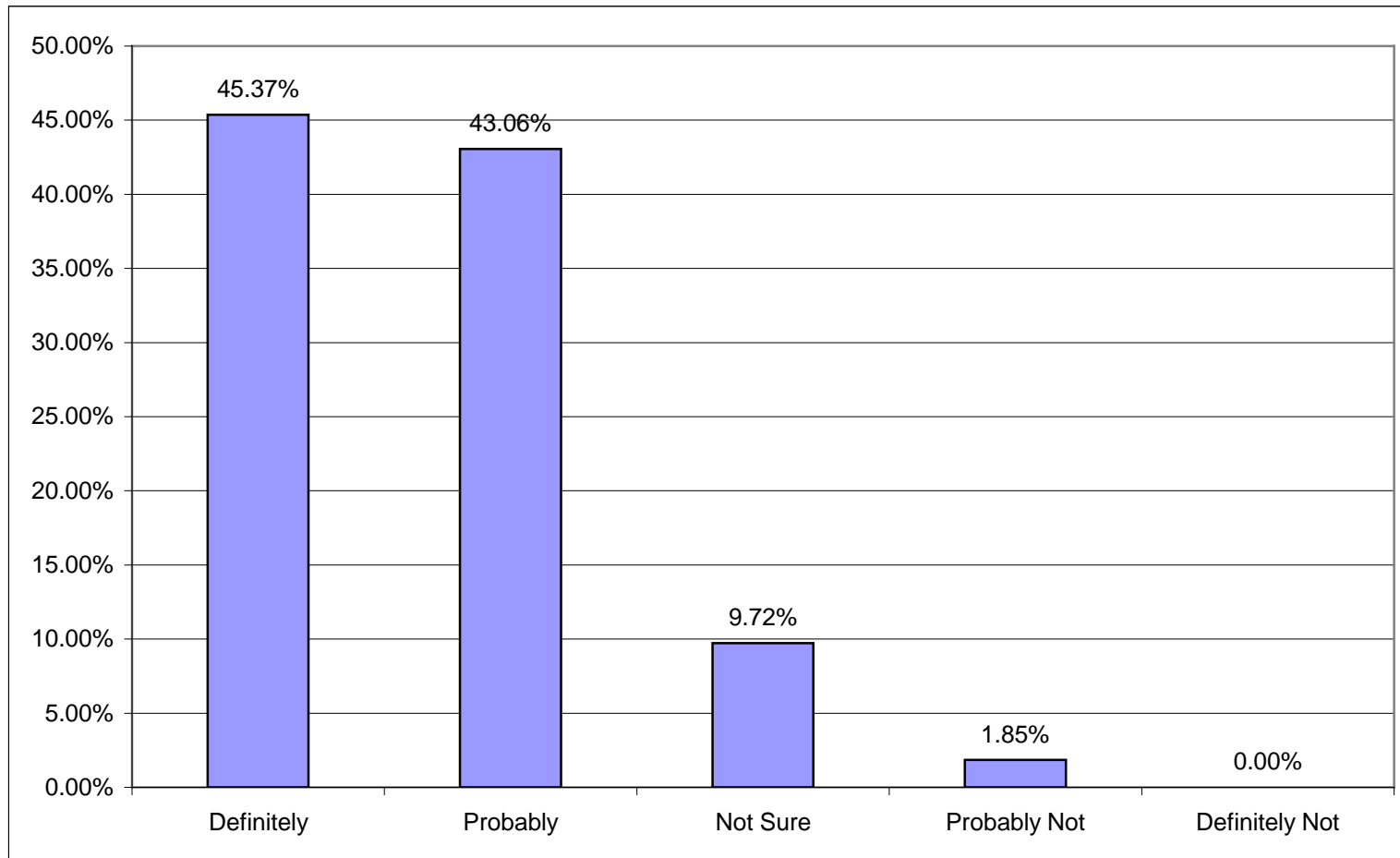


COMMENT:

- Responses to this question are somewhat biased based on the course/student being surveyed. For instance, graduate students indicated a preference for graduate courses and juniors indicated preference for 300-level courses.
- *Interesting:* there is a preference for 100-level courses in comparison to the low number of freshman who competed the survey.

QUESTION

Would you encourage a friend to take a summer course?



COMMENT:

- Over 88% of students indicate that they would recommend a friend take a summer course

QUESTION

Would you encourage a friend to take a summer course? *Please comment on why or why not?*

NOTE 1: Many students commented – below is an edited list of the relevant and useful comments

NOTE 2: No student offered negative comments

- “Summer courses move quickly and they give you the opportunity of graduating sooner”
- “Taking a summer course (or two) is a great way to get ahead!”
- “Summer courses allow you to focus on only on a limited number of classes”
- “Summer sessions creates an opportunity to focus on courses that are more demanding and challenging”
- “I have experienced greater success during summer sessions”
- “Taking summer courses will help me graduate in four years”
- “Summer courses are a great way to get classes accomplished and stay on track to finish in four years”

QUESTION

Below is a list of terms that might appear in future advertisements highlighting UNL summer opportunities. Please rate your agreement with the following statement: ***"The presence of this term in an advertisement would increase my interest in exploring future UNL summer opportunities."***

	Weighted Average (smaller value = more agreement)	Percentages				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Accelerated	2.42	6.6%	9.4%	22.6%	42.0%	19.3%
Accessible	2.34	3.8%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Balanced	2.78	3.8%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Challenging	2.96	8.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Convenient	1.98	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
Excellence	2.48	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Fast-Paced	2.50	5.7%	12.7%	29.7%	29.7%	22.2%
Flexible	2.20	5.7%	5.2%	17.6%	46.2%	25.2%
Full-Time Faculty	2.53	5.7%	8.6%	37.6%	29.0%	19.0%
Inspiring	2.81	6.2%	13.8%	44.3%	26.7%	9.0%
Intensive	2.85	6.6%	20.4%	36.0%	25.1%	11.8%
Opportunity	2.35	4.2%	5.2%	29.7%	42.9%	17.9%
Options	2.37	4.3%	2.9%	34.1%	42.8%	15.9%
Part-Time	2.45	5.7%	5.7%	30.0%	44.8%	13.8%
Personal Attention	2.39	3.8%	8.6%	29.0%	39.5%	19.0%
Quality	2.29	3.4%	2.9%	32.7%	41.8%	19.2%
Self-paced	2.44	4.3%	11.5%	27.3%	37.3%	19.6%
Small classes	2.16	4.7%	1.9%	22.8%	46.0%	24.7%
Student-focused	2.21	3.3%	3.7%	24.8%	47.2%	21.0%
Success	2.25	2.8%	3.3%	31.1%	41.5%	21.2%

COMMENT:

- *Most agreement:* convenient, small classes, flexible, student-focused
- *Least agreement:* challenging, intensive, inspiring, balanced, full-time faculty

QUESTION

Please provide 1 or 2 practical suggestion on ways to improve summer opportunities at UNL?

NOTE: Many students commented – below is an edited list of the relevant and useful comments

- “Have more graduate level courses available”
- “Offer a course in more than one course sessions”
- “Encourage students to attend summer events (jazz in June and movies on the green)”
- “Have advisors encourage summer school”
- “Provide better details on summer financial aid and when students get assistance”
- “Offer different times for classes - too many conflict”
- “Reduce parking costs for summer”
- “Free breakfast”

COMMENT:

- While the “free breakfast” comment was probably written as a joke, it does highlight that summer sessions has less of a campus atmosphere, versus the traditional year, and that possibly a campus event or two should be added. Example: free donuts one morning in the summer.

2007 UNL Summer Opportunities Quality Improvement Survey

UNL Summer Sessions and Extended Education & Outreach is looking to improve summer opportunities on the UNL campus. The objective of this survey is to learn about your experience in taking a summer course(s). The survey takes approximately five minutes to complete. Individual responses will remain confidential. *If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Paul Savory – Director of UNL Summer Sessions and Flexible Programs (Phone: 472-8953)*

1. What year are you in school?

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Graduate student
- Other (please specify): _____

2. In which college is your major?

- Agri Sci & Natl Resources
- Architecture
- Arts & Sciences
- Business Administration
- Dental
- Education and Human Sciences
- Engineering
- Fine & Performing Arts
- General Studies
- Journalism & Mass Comm
- Nursing
- Public Affairs and Community Service
- Other (please specify): _____

3. How many hours per week are you working this summer?

- 0 hours
- 1-10 hours
- 11-20 hours
- 21-30 hours
- 31-40 hours
- More than 40 hours

4. When did you start thinking about taking a summer course?

- Fall semester
- Holiday break
- Spring semester
- After spring break

5. Why did you decide to take a summer course?

(check all that apply)

- To graduate on schedule
- To graduate sooner/earlier
- To complete requirements for major
- To avoid future scheduling conflicts
- To lessen work load for next year
- To concentrate on fewer classes at a time
- Class sizes are smaller
- To take a prerequisite
- The professor teaching the course
- To take an extra elective
- To remove course deficiency
- Accelerated instruction
- Other: (please specify): _____

6. Rate how much you know about each of the following UNL summer programs:

	None	Little	Some	Much	Great deal
On-Campus Summer Courses (FlexEd)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer Reading Courses (SRC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
World Campus Courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
College Independent Study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Field Courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For-credit Workshops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Rate how effective each of the following is in your learning about UNL summer opportunities:

	None	Little	Some	Much	Great deal
Academic Advisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer Session Bulletin/catalog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
UNL Website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Something I receive in the mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poster/display on campus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Herbie Husker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E-mail message	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Table tents in student union or cafeteria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertisement in Daily Nebraskan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insert in Daily Nebraskan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertisement in the Schedule of Classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facebook ad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radio Advertisement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. What time of the day is your top preference for an on-campus summer course?
- early morning (before 10 am)
 - late morning (10 am to noon)
 - early afternoon (noon to 3 pm)
 - late afternoon (3 pm to 5:30 pm)
 - evening (after 5:30 pm)
 - Not applicable – prefer off-campus distance courses

9. Rank the order of summer session in which you prefer to take courses
(1 = highest rank, 5 = lowest)
- 3-week pre-session: _____
- 8 week session: _____
- first five-week session: _____
- second five-week session: _____
- special workshop (2 weeks or less): _____

10. What courses would you like to see offered in the summer? (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Community and Regional Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Management Information Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Criminology and Criminal Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agronomy | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Psychology | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anthropology | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Entomology | <input type="checkbox"/> Political Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Sciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broadcasting | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Geography | <input type="checkbox"/> Textiles and Clothing Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's and Gender Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child, Youth and Family Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classics | | |

11. Below is a list of terms that might appear in future advertisements highlighting UNL summer opportunities. Please rate your agreement with the following statement:
"The presence of this term in an advertisement would increase my interest in exploring future UNL summer opportunities."

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Accelerated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Balanced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Challenging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Convenient	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Excellence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fast-Paced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-Time Faculty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspiring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intensive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Options	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal Attention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-paced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student-focused	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Success	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. What level of courses would be most helpful to have offered during the summer?
- 100 level
 - 200 level
 - 300 level
 - 400 level
 - Graduate

13. Would you encourage a friend to take a summer course?
- Definitely
 - Probably
 - Not sure
 - Probably not
 - Definitely not

Please comment on why or why not? _____

14. Please provide 1 or 2 practical suggestion on ways to improve summer opportunities at UNL?

THANK YOU for your time and consideration!