



## 2025 Dorm Student Nandagikendan (Seek to Learn) Academy



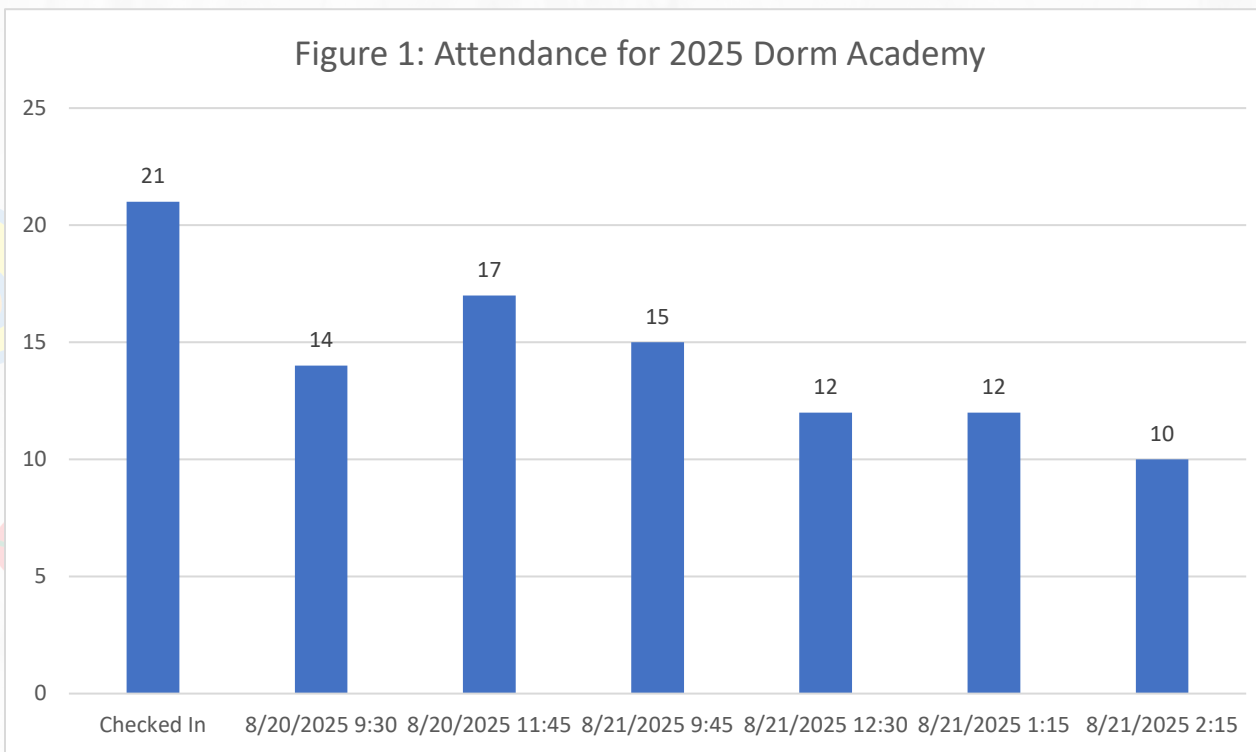
Ariel Johnson

2025 DORM STUDENT NANDAGIKENDAN (SEEK TO LEARN) ACADEMY

The format of the 2025 Dorm Academy was modified to be shortened where students moved in during the afternoon of Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and attended sessions from August 20<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was also only one schedule, catered to new students, that returning students could attend, as most of the dorm students are new students and often only new students register for the Dorm Academy. August 20<sup>th</sup> focused on welcoming students and having them reflect on their educational and career pathways by participating in the Dream Navigator Curriculum. The afternoon was used to introduce them to staff members who provided resources and services to support student success. Students also had time to do “housekeeping” where they were provided a list of tasks that should be completed to best be prepared for the semester, such as purchasing their books or accessing Brightspace/D2L. The morning of August 21<sup>st</sup> provided students with a fun opportunity to explore campus and its resources through a Goosechase scavenger hunt event. After lunch, students learned about how to prevent sexual harassment and ways

to stay safe on campus through a presentation. Students attended a hands-on learning session on how to use their Degree Audit Report, Graduation Planner, and Schedule Builder before having a more informal session that provided them support in accessing their campus accounts. The last day, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, was the Fall Meet and Greet for new students, housing orientation, and Dorm Academy team building event of whitewater rafting. Of the 21 students that registered and/or checked in, there was an average of 63% attendance throughout the Dorm Academy events. Participation declined slightly throughout the three days, but much less in comparison to past years after COVID. This suggests that the shortened Academy schedule may be beneficial for increasing participation.

Figure 1: Attendance for 2025 Dorm Academy



*Figure 1: Attendance for the 2025 Dorm Academy shows higher consistency and participation than past years following COVID. Students can choose to participate, and those that engage in sessions are more likely to be retained and be successful at FDLTCC. Educational sessions occurred in blocks and some students had to miss sessions due to other obligations such as medical appointments.*

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Figure 2: Pre-Survey Results to Yes/No Questions

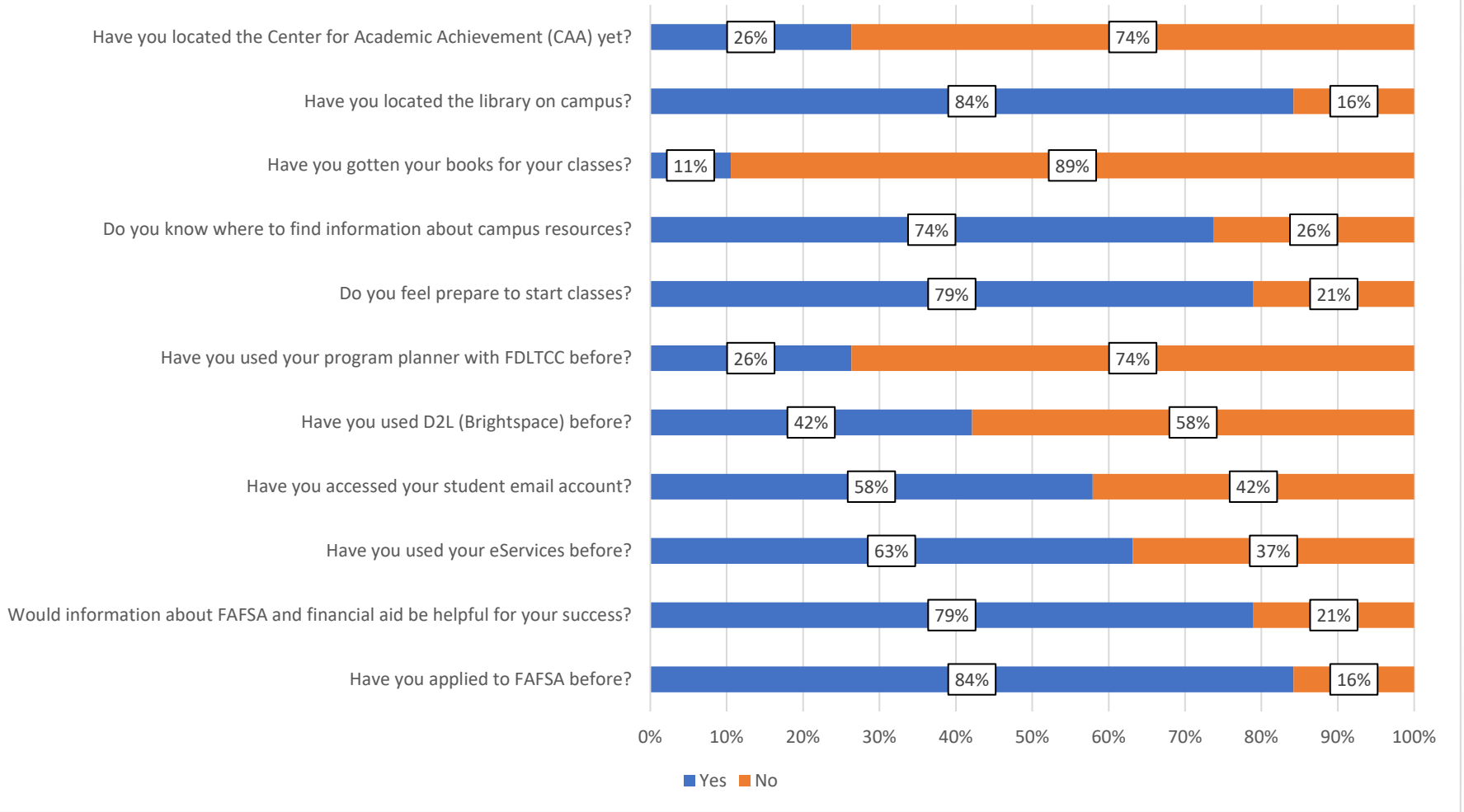


Figure 2: Students completed a Pre-Survey the morning of August 20<sup>th</sup> when they attended the first educational session. The results highlight the importance of the Dorm Academy, as the Yes/No questions illustrate the skills or resources that the Academy supports and provides to participants. It also presents skills and resources that students may not initially consider when first entering college. Although the Online Orientation provided by FDLTCC informs students of all campus resources, students will have needed to access D2L/Brightspace to access the Orientation, and as seen in Figure 2, less than half of students had accessed D2L before participating in the Academy.

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Figure 3: Pre-Survey Question  
 What is one concern or thing you would like more information or assistance with regarding college life and how to be successful in college?

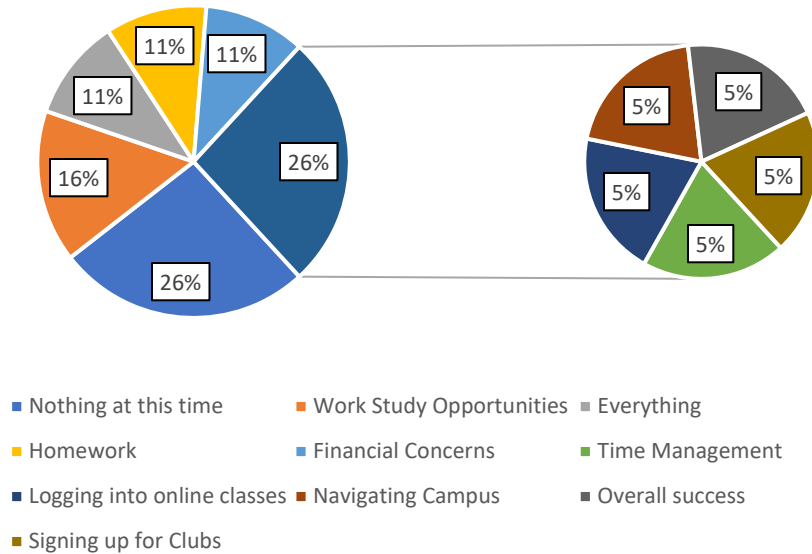


Figure 3: Students expressed a variety of concerns for being successful in college in the Pre-Survey for the Academy. Although 26% expressed not having concerns, 16% expressed Work Study opportunities as something they wanted to know more about. Homework, Financial Concerns, and Everything each had 11% of student focus for concerns. All the concerns students expressed were topics covered by the Academy sessions and students had opportunities to seek one-on-one assistance to address concerns with staff and faculty.

Figure 4: Pre-Survey Question  
 What made you decide to participate in the Dorm Academy?

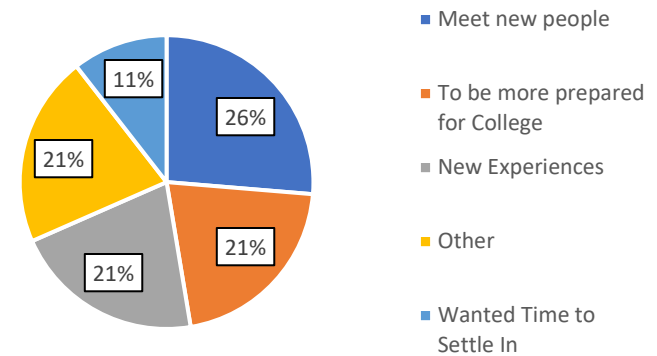


Figure 4: In the Pre-Survey for the Academy, 26% of students expressed that the opportunity to meet new people was the primary reason for them choosing to participate in the Academy. Engaging in new activities and wanting to be more prepared each had 21% of students convinced to attend the Academy. Other reasons for participation included wanted to get a jump start on being away from home and being on their own to thinking it would be fun to participate in the Academy.

Figure 5: Post-Survey Results to Yes/No Questions

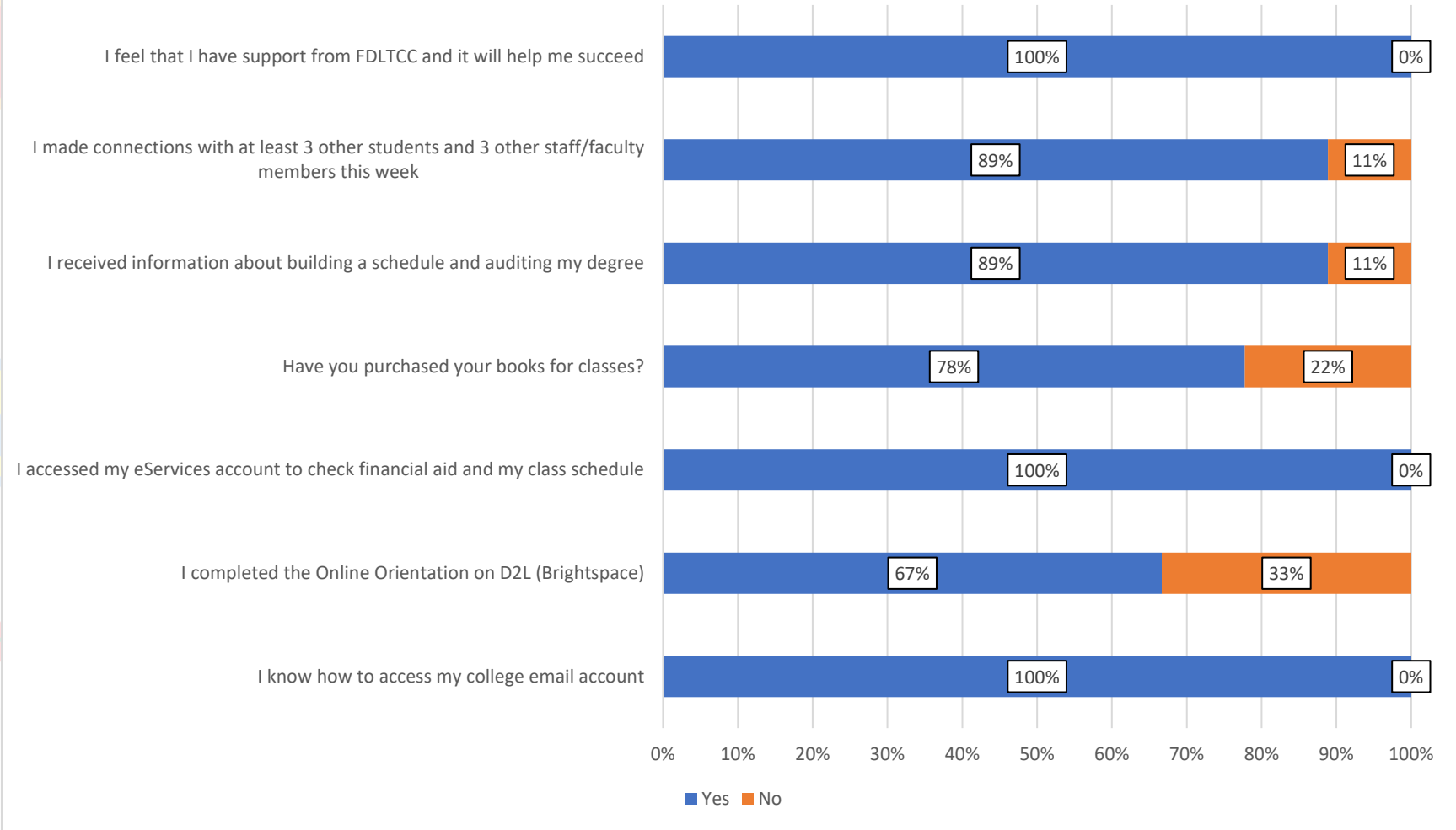


Figure 3: Students noted being better prepared for the start of the semester in the Post-Survey by highlighting the tasks they completed during the Academy that they had not done prior to the Academy. Due to Duty Days, students may not have met with faculty during the Academy but did have the chance to meet staff. Some books may not have been available in the bookstore, which may account for the students who have not purchased their books. Lastly, students were not required to finish the Online Orientation in D2L to provide them time to meet with staff to address concerns about financial aid or TRIO applications.

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This year, a Goosechase scavenger hunt was created to have students explore campus and learn about campus resources. The application for the Goosechase can be downloaded onto students' phones and submissions can include text or picture answers to questions or objectives. For example, one objective was to take a picture of the food pantry on campus to help students locate the food pantry. As seen in Figure 6, students noted the Goosechase as being one of the most helpful sessions. As seen in Figure 7, students felt that having more time to process the information or to connect with more staff/peers would have better supported them during the Academy. Two thirds of the respondents noted that there was nothing more that could have been added to the Academy to support them. Figure 8 shows responses for how students felt about their success in college after attending the Academy and all the students expressed positive feelings such as "Good," "Hopeful," "Confident," and "Ready."

Figure 6: Post-Survey Question  
What was the most helpful session from this week?

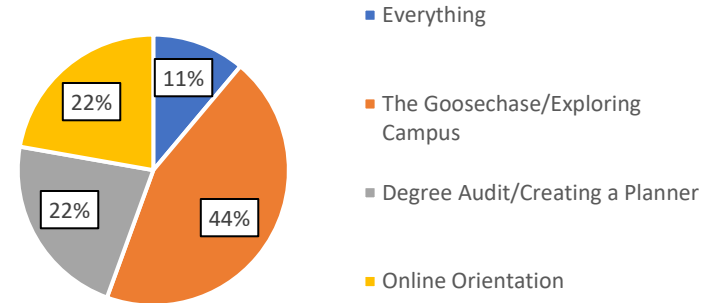


Figure 6: Students expressed what sessions were most helpful for them and noted that the Goosechase was the most important session.

Figure 7: Post Survey Question  
What could have been added to the Academy to better support you?

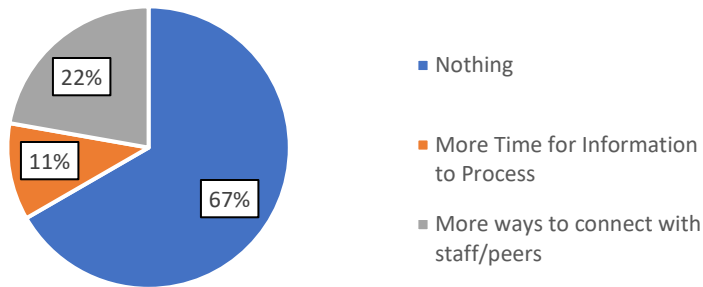


Figure 7: Students provided feedback on what would have helped support them in the Academy. Some noted having more time and opportunities to meet staff and peers.

Figure 8: Post Survey Question  
How do you feel about your success in college after attending the Academy?

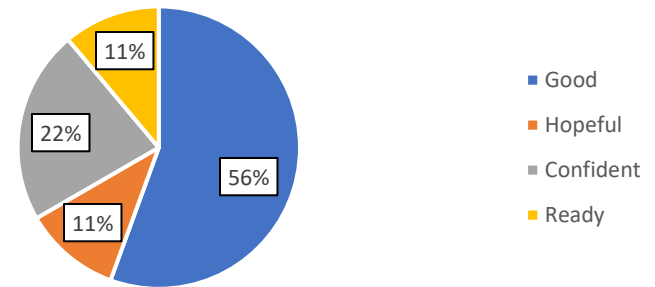


Figure 8: Students expressed having positive feelings after completing the Academy, such as feeling "good," "hopeful," "confident," and "ready."