

Supporting Sophomore Student Success: Results from the 2014 National Survey of Sophomore-Year Initiatives

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Transition

USC Sophomore-Year Experience Working Group

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First Year

Orientation

Common Reading
Programs

First-Year
Seminars

Student
Engagement



Senior Year

Capstone
Experiences

Job Fairs

Professional
Licensing

Graduate and
Professional
School
Applications

Junior Year Internships
Study Abroad
Peer
Leadership



Sophomore Student (*Unmotivationus Middlechildibus*)

A black and white photograph of a rural landscape. A winding road curves through the scene, leading towards a large, leafless tree in the center. The background shows rolling hills and a small, distant tree on the left. The overall mood is contemplative and open.

Existential Questioning

What is the purpose of my life?

Why am I taking all these classes?

What should I major in?

What career should I choose?

Practical Questioning



**KEEP
CALM
AND
SURVIVE
SOPHOMORE YEAR**

Sophomore Year Matters

- Engagement
 - Focus
 - Sense of Direction
 - Sense of Belonging
 - Interactions with Faculty
-
- Lead to increases in motivation, academic success, self-authorship and thriving



What are Institutions (We) Doing About/For Sophomores?




- National Survey of
Sophomore-Year Initiatives

3rd Administration
(2005, 2008, 2014)

N = 778

Home - The Chronicle of Higher Education | Higher Education | U101-40-2014 - Members | 2014-2015 - Dropbox | NSSYI.htm

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NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE* AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

0% Complete

National Survey of Sophomore-Year Initiatives

2014 Administration

This survey is intended to gather information regarding sophomore-year initiatives on your campus. The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. While you may exit the survey at any time and your responses will be saved, we recommend completing the entire survey in one sitting.

Specifically, you will be asked questions regarding the following:

- General institutional information
- Institutional attention to sophomores
- Coordination of institutional efforts
- Types of programs offered to sophomores
- Characteristics of the predominant sophomore-year initiative
- Educationally effective practices
- Administration
- Assessment and evaluation

For the purposes of this survey, we offer the following definitions:

Campus or Institution: These terms, used interchangeably, refer to an individual campus that is either (a) an independent entity or (b) meaningfully distinct from other campuses in a system.

Sophomores: Students in their second year at the same campus (excluding transfer students). These students may not have attained official standing based on accumulated credits.

Sophomore-Year Initiative: Any educational offering specifically or intentionally geared toward sophomore students. You can find a list of examples of sophomore-year initiatives [here](#).

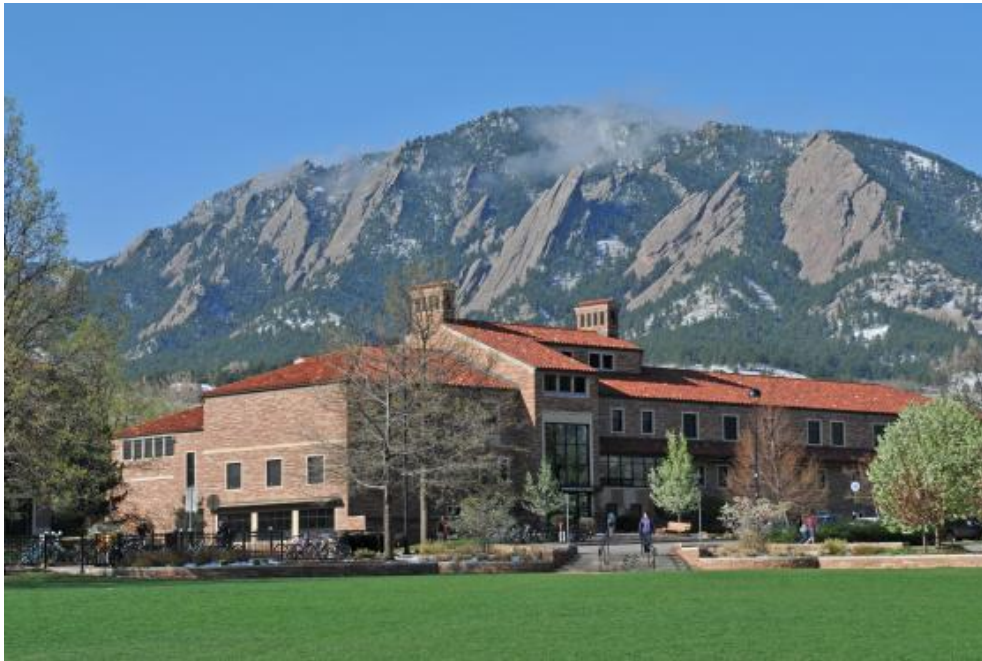
If you would like a copy of your responses, you will need to print each page of your survey before moving on to the next page.

Your responses are important to us, so please complete this survey by May 31st, 2014. Thank you.

NEXT

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11:55 AM
10/16/2014



Over-represented by:
Four-year institutions
Public institutions

Under-represented by:
Private, For-Profit
Institutions with fewer
than 1,000 students



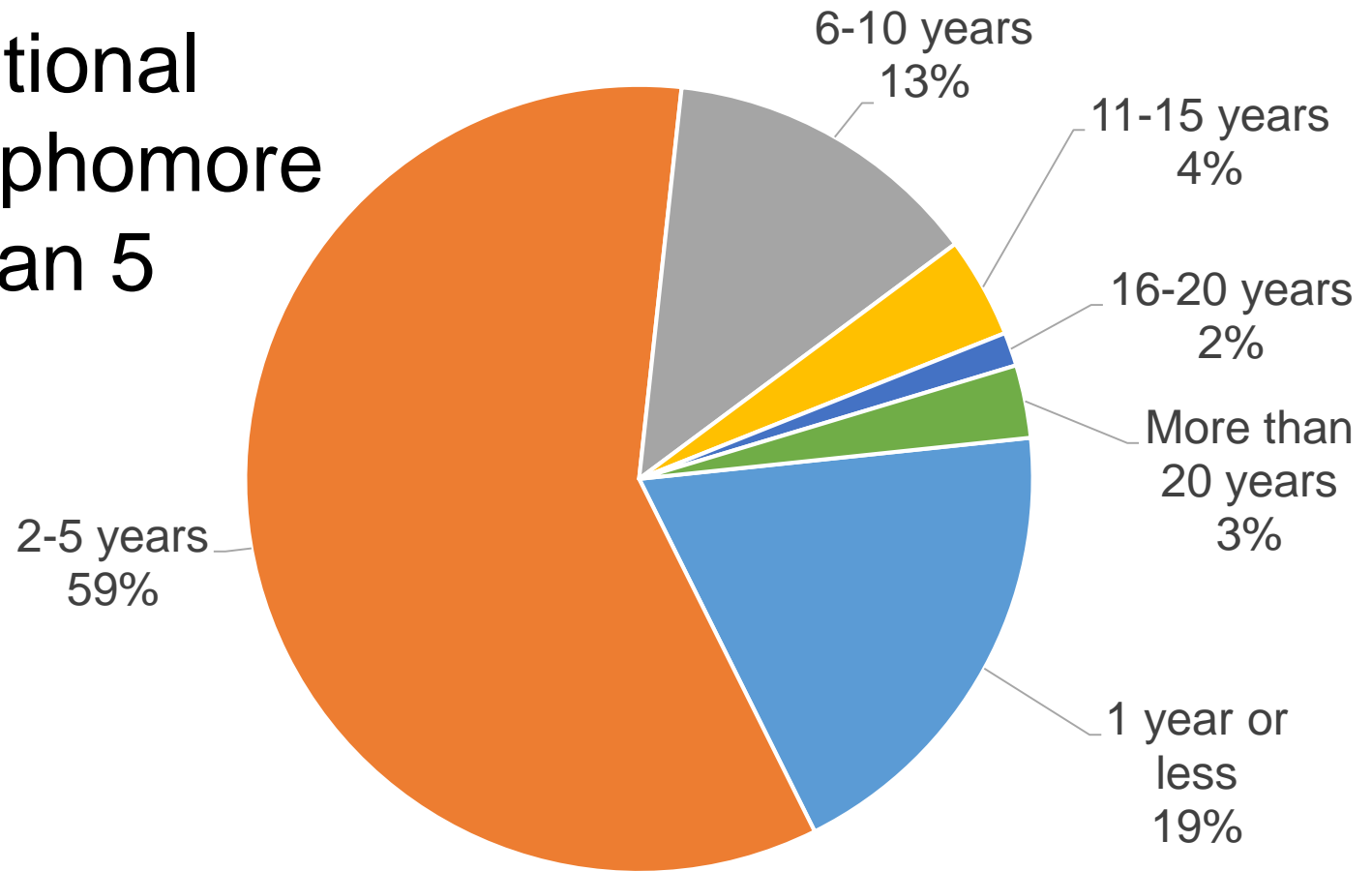
Institutional Efforts Specifically Focused on Sophomores

- Retention Study < Four Year
- Institutional Assessment
- Strategic Planning
- Program Self-Study
- National Survey < Four Year
- Accreditation < Two Year
- Grant-Funded Project

• 42% Reported “None of These”

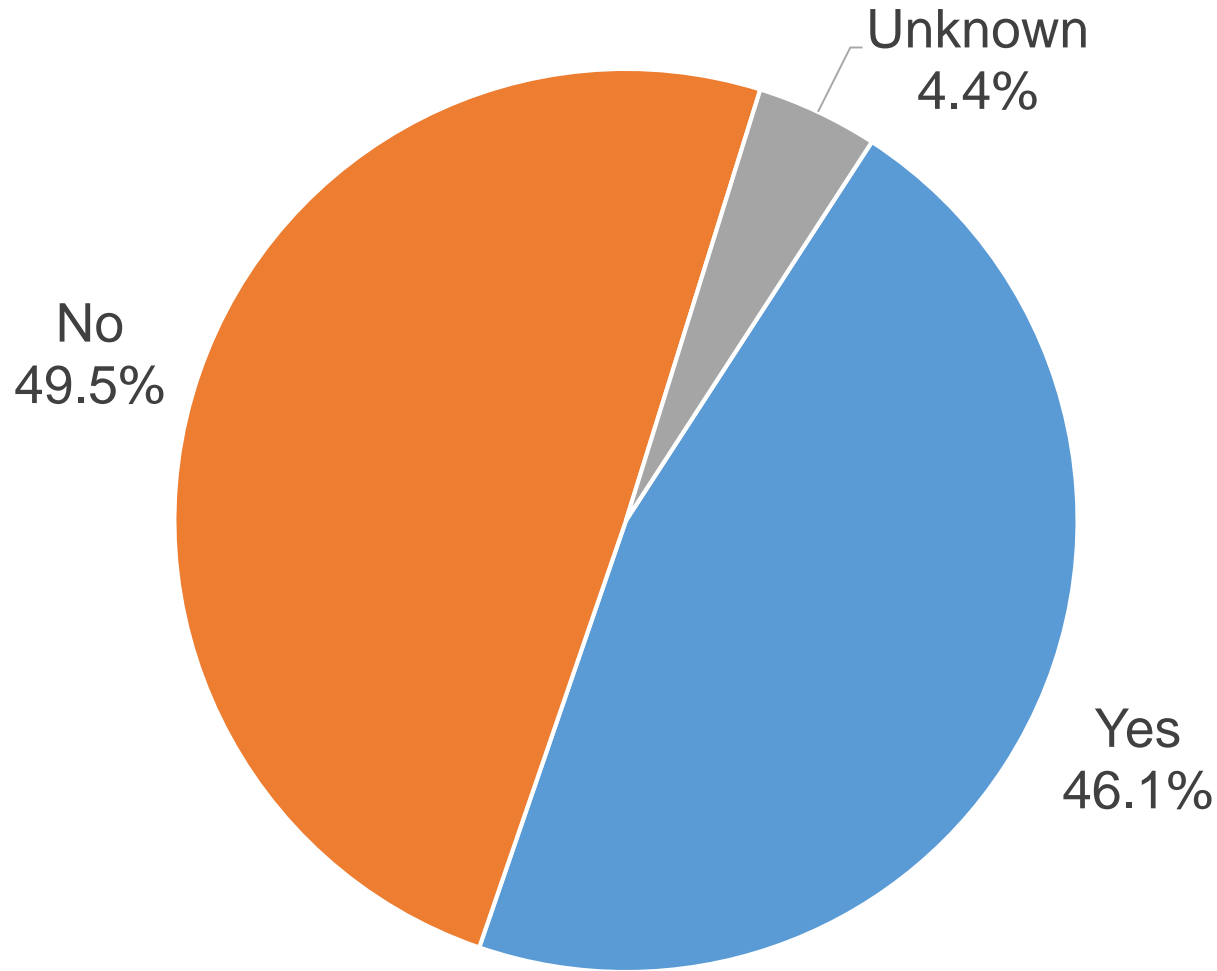


Nearly 80% of institutional efforts that include an intentional focus on the Sophomore Year are less than 5 years old



10 Most Frequent Campus-wide Objectives for Sophomores

<i>Objective</i>	<i>% of Institutions</i>
Retention	62.1%
Career Exploration	53.5%
Career Preparation < Two Year	45.4%
Academic Assistance	45.1%
Selection of a major < Four Year	44.9%
Leadership Opportunities	43.5%
Student Engagement	43.1%
Connection with institution < Four Year < Private	34.5%
Academic Skills	31.7%
Graduation Rates < Two Year < Public	31.3%



46% of
Institutions
report offering at
least one
initiative
specifically
geared toward
sophomores

What Sophomore-Specific Initiatives are Most Frequent?

- Academic Advising (57.6%)
- Career Exploration (52.7%)
- Career Planning (48.7%)
- Early Alert (42.7%)
- Leadership (40.3%)
- Major Exploration (33.1%)



Initiatives More Frequently Offered by Institution Type:



Two-Year

- Internships
- Financial Aid



Four-Year

- Major Exploration



Public

- Academic Advising
- Internships

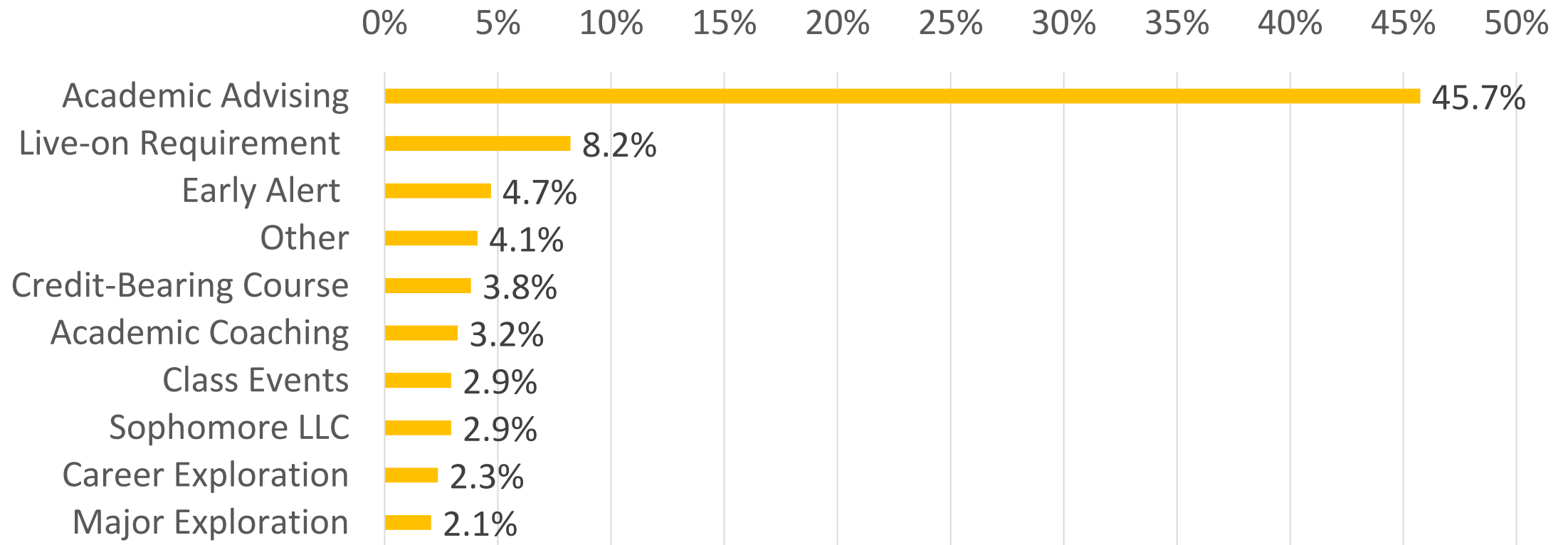


Private

- Leadership Development
- Class Events
- Live-on Requirement

Primary Sophomore-Year Initiative (Initiative That Reaches Highest % of Sophomores)

10 Most Frequent Primary Sophomore-Year Initiative



Primary Initiatives More Frequently Offered by Type:



Two-Year

- Early Alert
- Internships



Four-Year

- Live-on Requirement



Public

- Early Alert



Private

- Live-on Requirement

Primary Sophomore-Year Initiative: Categories

- Academic Advising
- Residential Initiatives
- Major and Career-Focused Initiatives
- High-Impact Practices
- Academic Support
- Curriculum or Course-Based
- Communication to Sophomores
- Campus-Based Events
- Away-from-Campus Events
- Transition-Focused Initiatives
- Financial Aid & Scholarships
- Leadership Development
- Comprehensive Sophomore-Year
- Early Alert

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- Early Alert

Required to Participate in Primary Sophomore-Year Initiative?

100% of sophomores required to participate:

- Academic Advising - 60%
- High-Impact Practices - 26%

No sophomores required to participate:

- Major and Career-focused - 73%
- High-Impact Practices - 30%



Most Important Objectives for Primary Initiative:

Academic Advising



- Academic Assistance
- Retention
- Selection of a Major
- Graduation
- Student-Faculty Interaction

Most Important Objectives for Primary Initiative:

Residential Initiatives



- Connection with Institution
- Student Engagement
- Retention
- Support Network
- Self-Exploration

Most Important Objectives for Primary Initiative:

High-Impact Practices



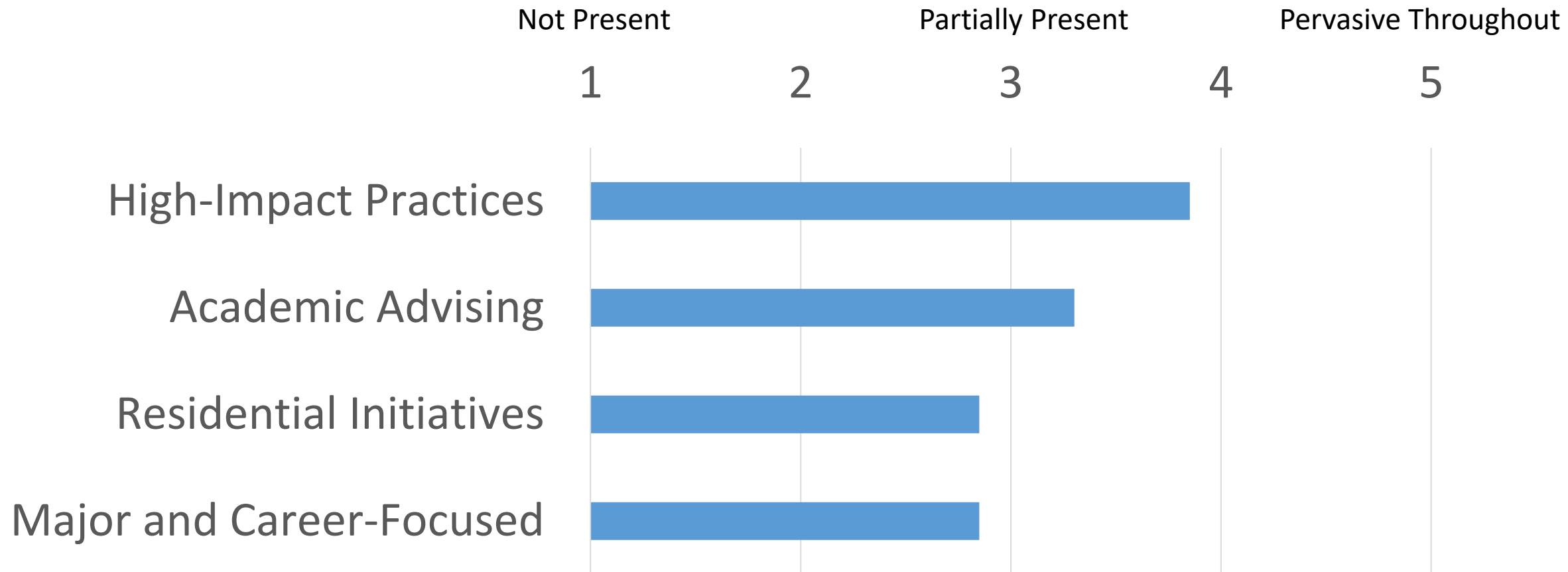
- Student Engagement
- Intercultural Competence
- Civic Responsibility
- Leadership Opportunities
- Career Preparation and Exploration
- Critical-thinking Skills

Most Important Objectives for Primary Initiative: *Major and Career-Focused*

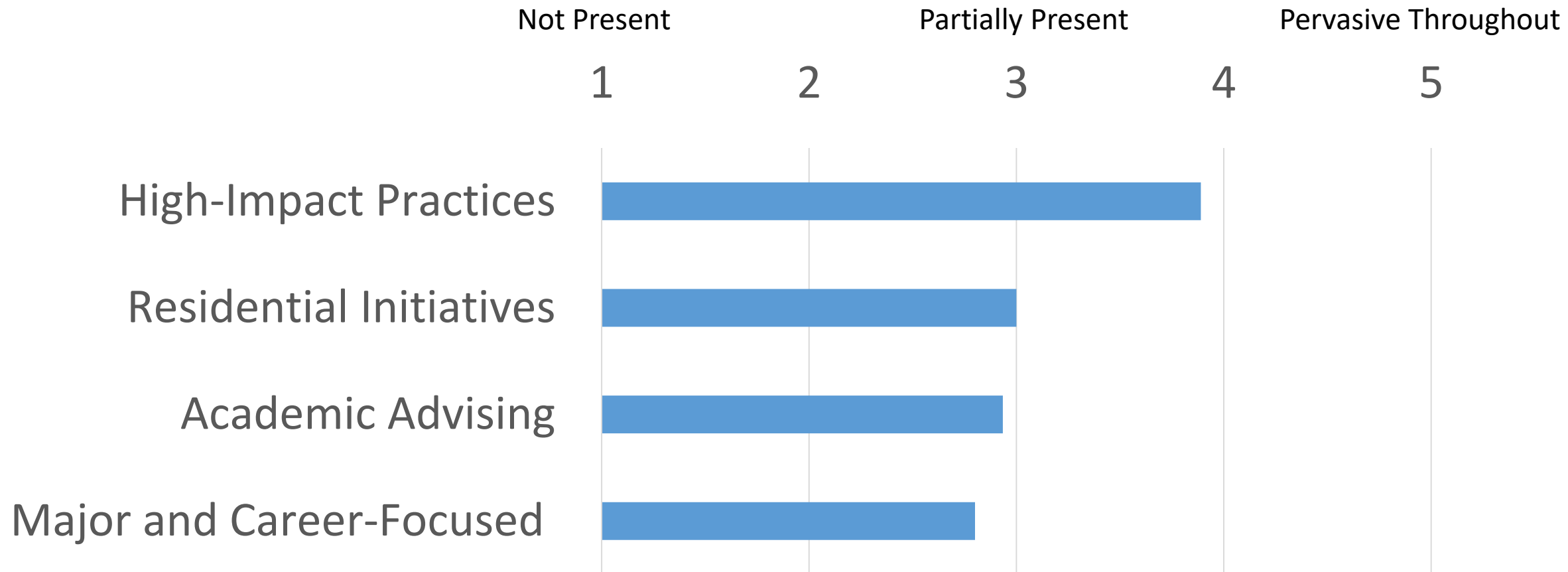


- Career Exploration
- Career Preparation
- Selection of a Major
- Retention
- Graduation

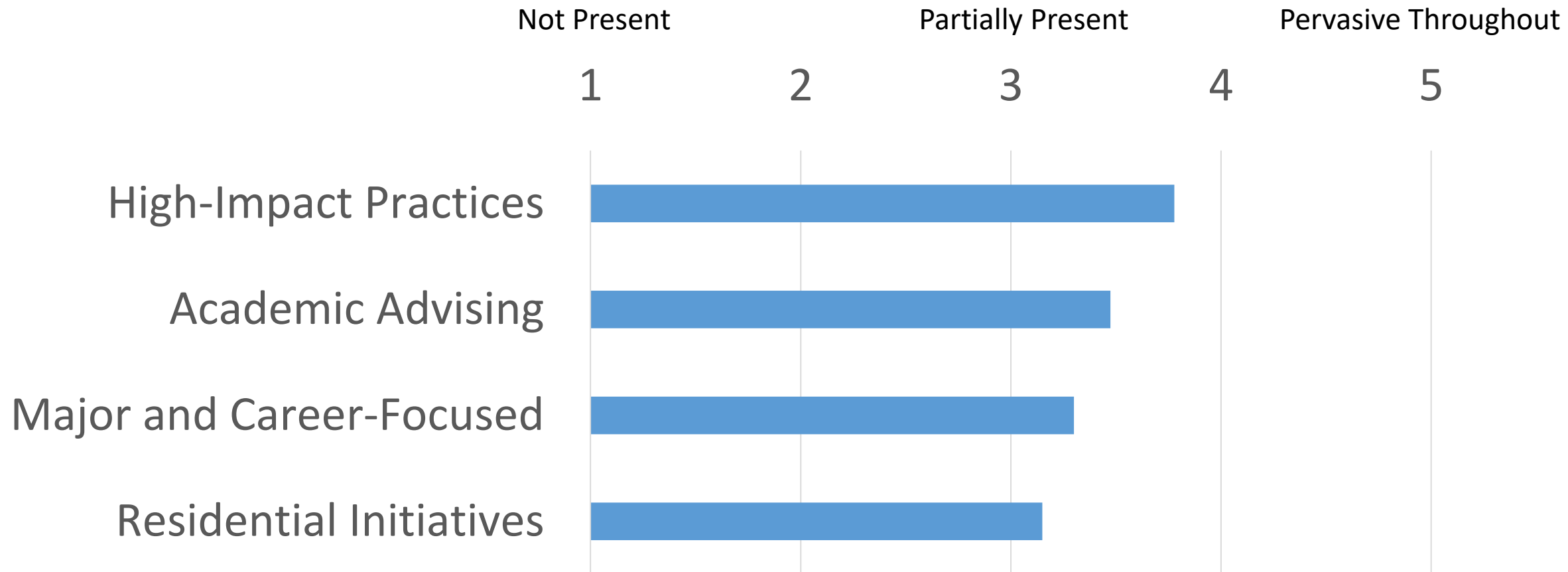
Educationally Effective Practices in Primary Initiative: *Performance Expectations at Appropriately High Levels*



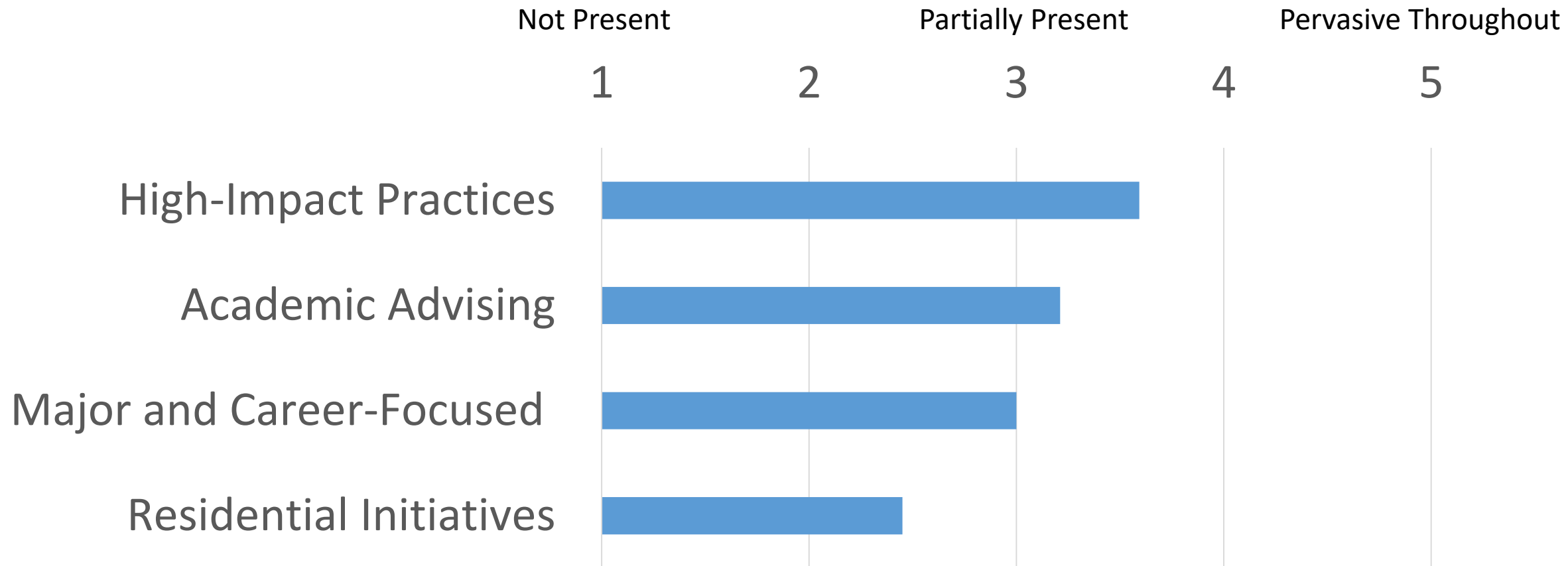
Educationally Effective Practices in Primary Initiative: *Significant Investment of Time and Effort by Students*



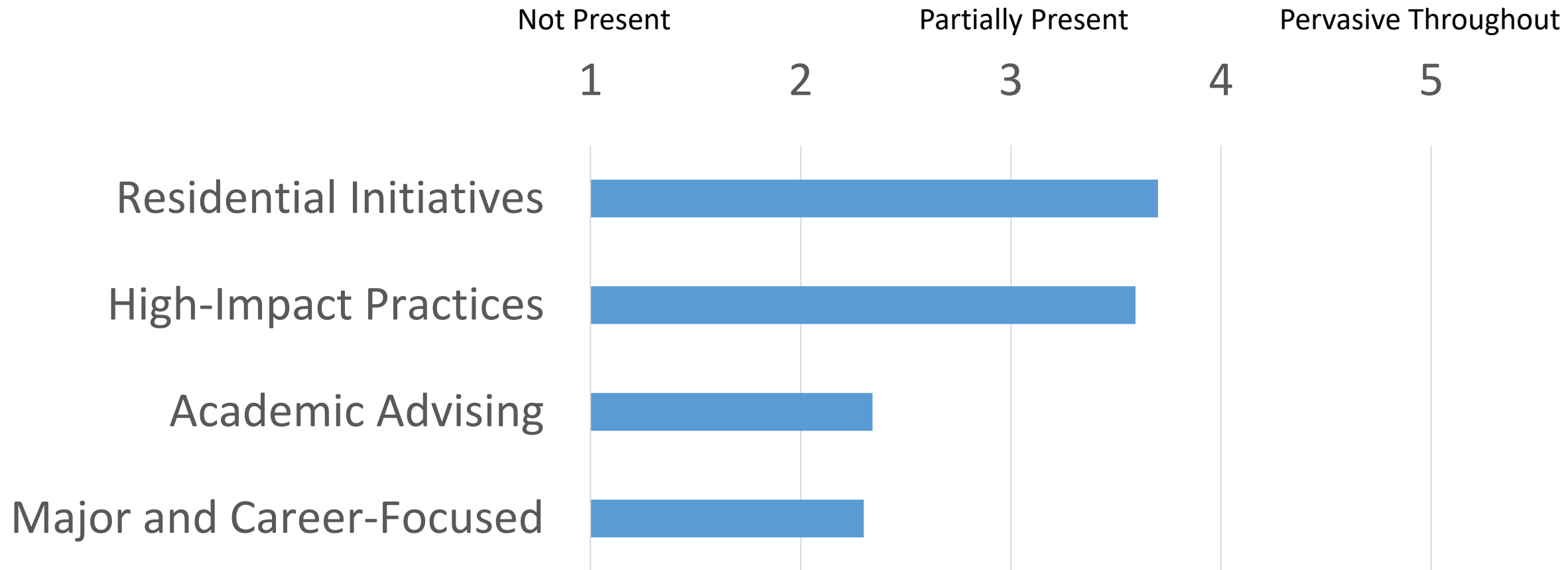
Educationally Effective Practices in Primary Initiative: *Interactions with Faculty and Peers about Substantive Matters*



Educationally Effective Practices in Primary Initiative: *Frequent, Timely, & Constructive Feedback*



Educationally Effective Practices in Primary Initiative: *Experiences with Diversity*



Sophomores' satisfaction with advising significantly predicts:

- ✓ Their overall satisfaction with their college experience
- ✓ Their satisfaction with faculty
- ✓ Their perception of tuition as a worthwhile investment



Observations and Lingerings Questions

- Sophomore programs slowly becoming more prevalent
- Sophomore programs becoming more diffuse
 - Tend to emerge in different areas on campus first
 - Collaboration and coordination happen on campus later
- Academic advising a cornerstone for sophomore-year support on campus
 - Less frequently include elements of high-impact practice
- Can a “high-impact integrated experience” be conceived and delivered across multiple initiatives in the sophomore year?
 - Issues with coordination

Thank You!

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