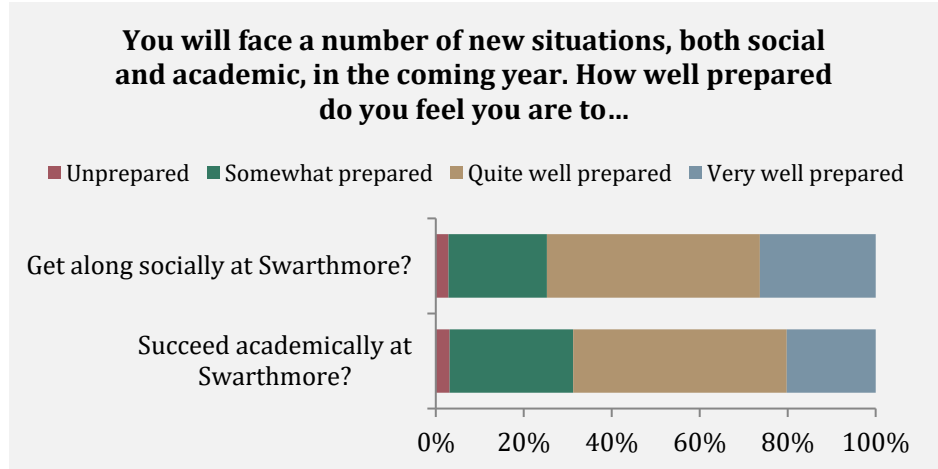




Summary: 2018 Survey of New Students

The Survey of New Students was sent to incoming Fall 2018 students in the summer before they entered Swarthmore College. The survey was sent to 447 students and was fully or partially completed by 395 for a **response rate of 88%**. The following is a brief overview of first year and transfer students entering in the Fall of 2018.

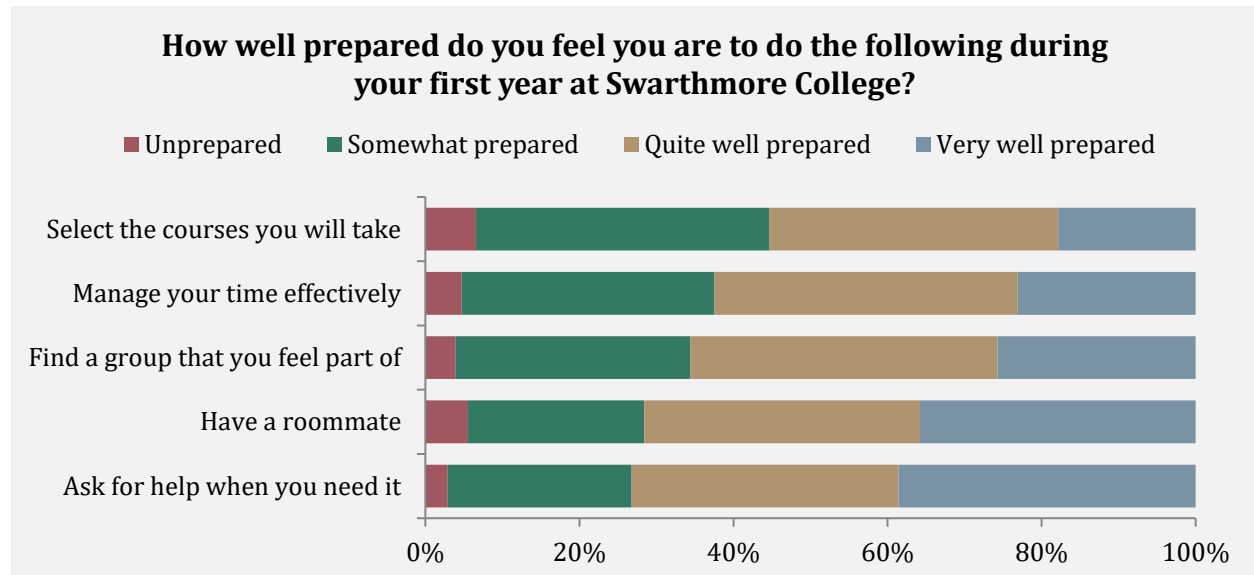
Figure 1



Preparation for College: The majority of students reported that they are either *Quite well* or *Very well* prepared to get along socially (75%) and to succeed academically (69%) at Swarthmore. However, a proportion report being only *Somewhat prepared* socially (22%) or academically (28%) (Figure 1). An additional 3% replied that they were *Unprepared* on each question.

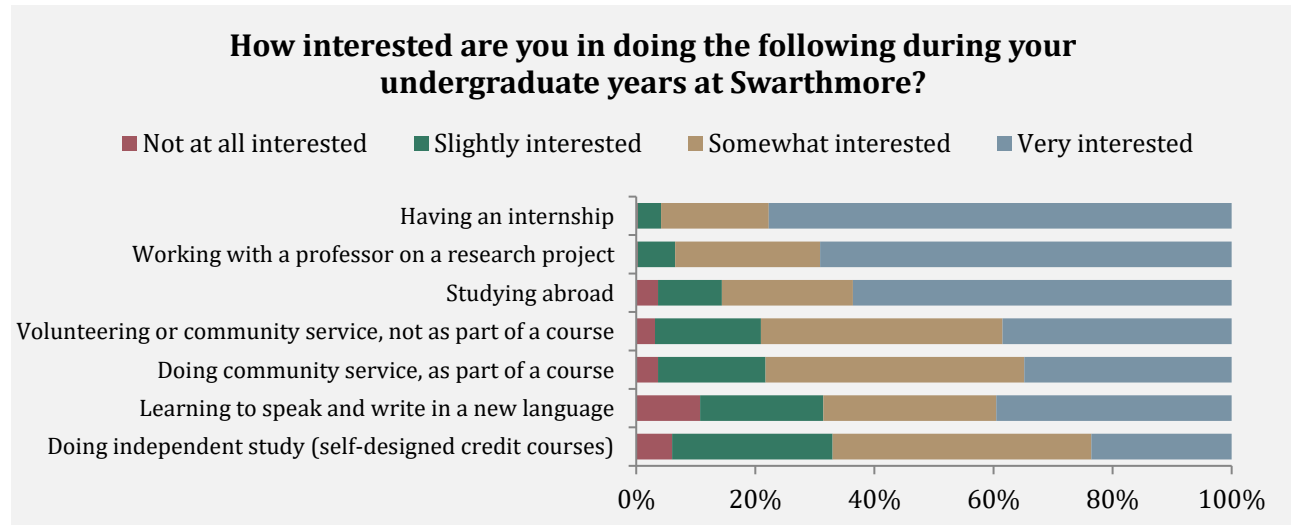
Figure 2 details how well prepared incoming students feel they are for particular activities. Over 20% of respondents said that they were only *Somewhat prepared* or *Unprepared* for these particular activities. Course selection seemed to be of particular concern, with nearly 45% of respondents saying that they were only *Somewhat prepared* or *Unprepared* to select their courses.

Figure 2



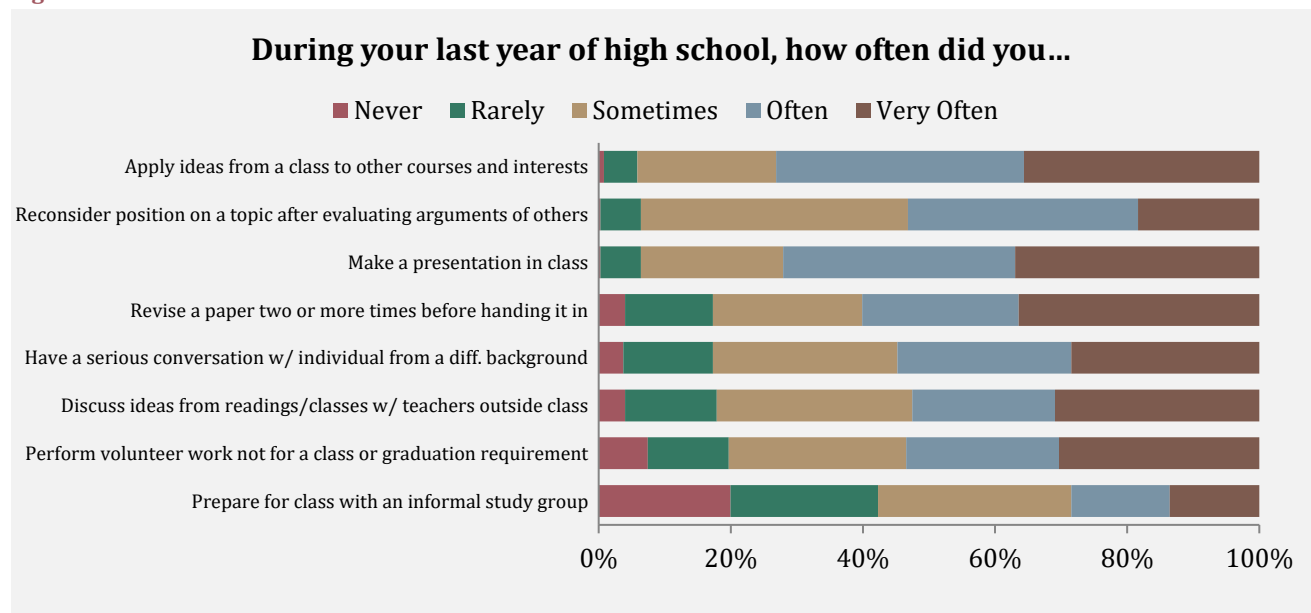
Interest in Activities: As seen in Figure 3, over 95% of respondents said that they are *Very interested* or *Somewhat interested* in having an internship and in working with a professor on a research project. Over 65% of respondents said that they were *Very interested* or *Somewhat interested* in the rest of the activities in Figure 3.

Figure 3



High School Experiences: Students were asked how often they performed select activities in high school (Figure 4). Forty-two percent of respondents said that they *Never* or *Rarely* prepared for class with an informal study group. More than 15% said that they *Never* or *Rarely*: Revised a paper two or more times before handing it in; Had a serious conversation with an individual from a different background (e.g., politically, religiously, economically, ethnically); Discussed ideas from readings or classes with teachers outside of class; or Performed volunteer work not for a class or graduation requirement.

Figure 4



Paying for College: Incoming students were also asked how concerned they are about their family’s ability to pay for their college education. The responses to this question were examined by whether or not the student had received financial aid from Swarthmore (those receiving financial aid from Swarthmore includes those who received any level of aid) (Figure 5).

Thirty-eight percent of those receiving any financial aid from Swarthmore said that they were *A great deal* or *Quite a bit* concerned about their family’s ability to pay for their college education, and 19% of those who did not receive financial aid from Swarthmore said the same.¹

Figure 5

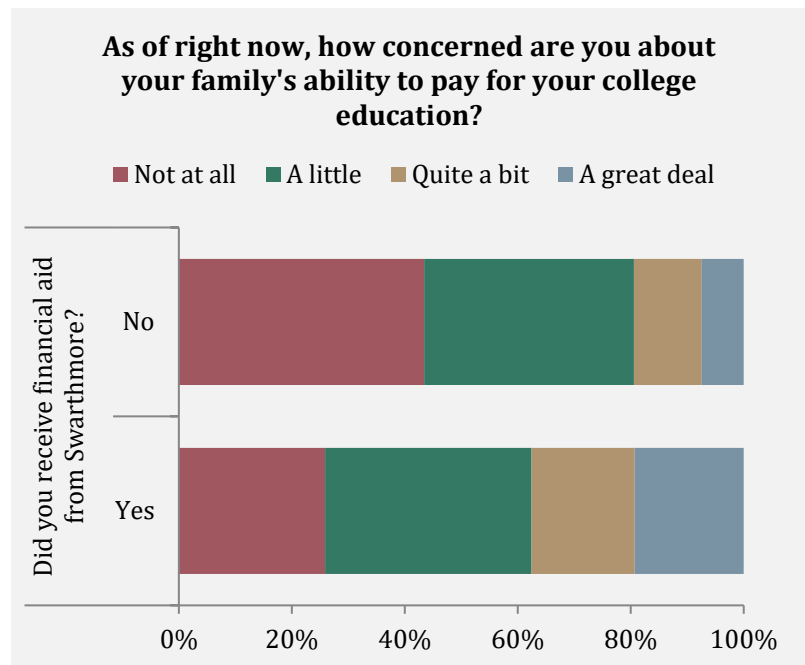
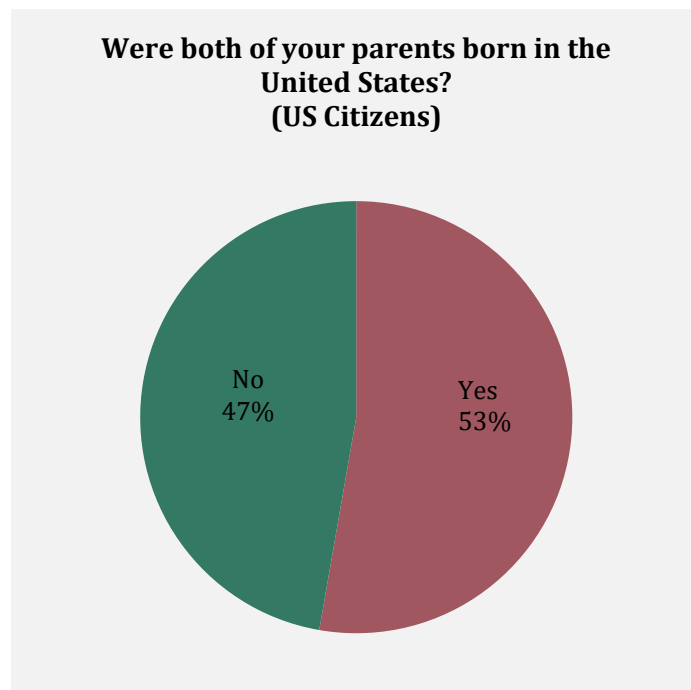


Figure 6

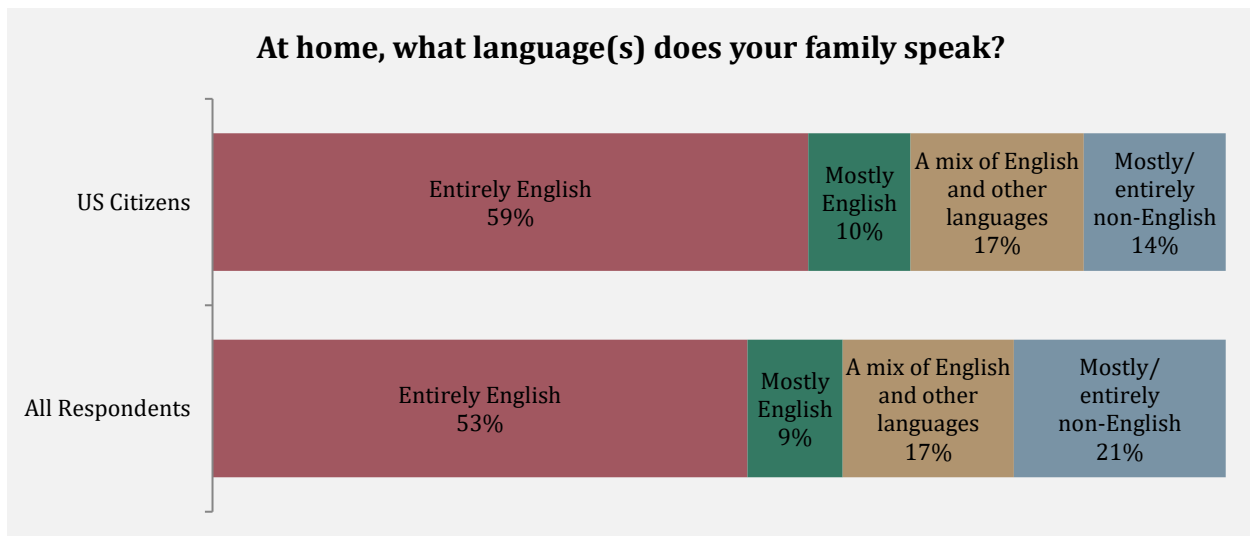


Citizenship and Language: In their survey responses, 53% of US Citizens said that both of their parents were born in the United States and 47% indicated that at least one parent was born outside of the United States (Figure 6).

US Citizens were also asked if English was their native/first language. While 84% said that English is their native/first language, 16% of US Citizens said that it is not. Additionally, 31% of US Citizens and 38% of all incoming students (Citizens plus non-Citizens) reported speaking *A mix of English and other languages* or *Mostly/entirely non-English* at home (Figure 7).

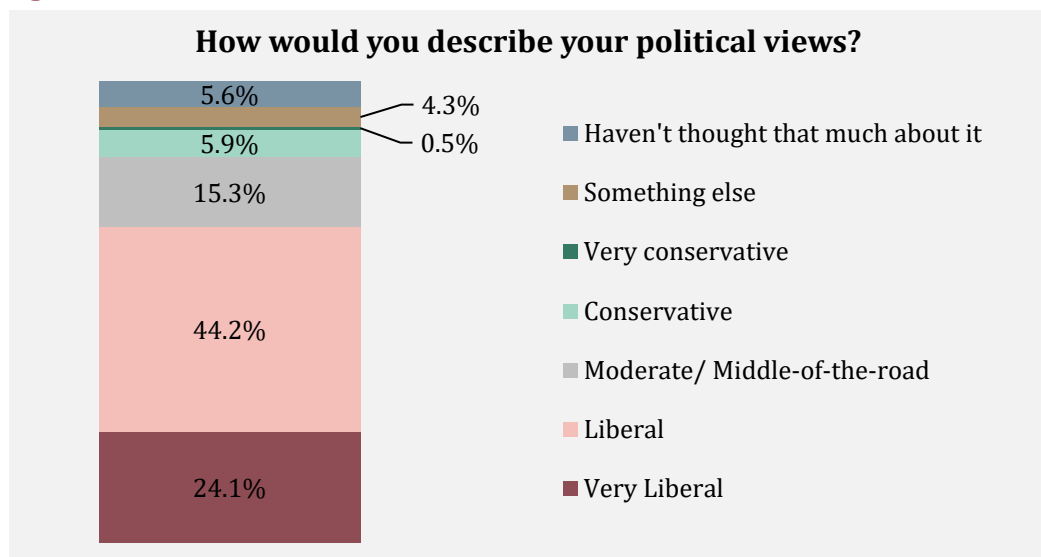
¹ This is statistically significant based on a chi-square test with $p < .001$.

Figure 7



Other Diversity: When asked to describe their political views, 68% said *Liberal* or *Very Liberal*. While only a small percentage identify as *Conservative* or *Very Conservative*, a total of 32% identify as something other than *Liberal* or *Very Liberal* (Figure 8).

Figure 8



Incoming students were also asked about their sexual orientation, and responded:

- 71% Straight
- 5% Gay/Lesbian
- 9% Bisexual
- 3% Queer
- 9% Unsure
- 4% Other (write in results included one or more of the following responses: asexual; pansexual; biromantic heterosexual; demisexual; prefer not to answer)

When asked which religious, spiritual, or philosophical traditions they currently practice (Figure 9), 58% of incoming students replied that they currently practice or identify with a religious, spiritual, or philosophical tradition (42% replied None or Atheist).

Figure 9

Which religious, spiritual, or philosophical tradition do you practice or identify with?	Percent
None	25%
Atheist	17%
Roman Catholic	13%
Protestant	10%
Jewish	9%
Other Christian tradition (Orthodox, LDS, etc.)	7%
Other	6%
Buddhist	5%
Spiritual but do not identify with a religious tradition or group	3%
Muslim	2%
Hindu	1%
Some other religious, spiritual, or philosophical tradition	1%
Total	100%

Future: When asked how important certain activities/items are as they think about their life and future (Figure 10), respondents highly valued diverse experiences with more that 75% saying that Getting to know people from diverse backgrounds, Learning about other cultures and nations, and Traveling abroad are *Essential* or *Very important*. Other measures with higher percentages of *Essential* or *Very important* responses include Being a leader in your field (76%), Working for social and political change (70%), and Being well-off financially (70%). Interestingly, while 58% of incoming students replied that they currently practice or identify with a religious, spiritual, or philosophical tradition (see above), 60% of respondents said that Participating in religious activities is *Not important at all*.

Figure 10

