

Division of Student Life
2015 Thompson Student Center Assessment Summary

Introduction

The Thompson Student Center provides a variety of services and events to meet the needs of students at Tarleton State University. The Thompson Student Center serves a multitude of purposes:

1. Student Engagement serves as a support system for all registered student organizations. Student Engagement, the umbrella area for this aspect of the Thompson Student Center hosts Risk Management sessions, Howdy Week, organizational luncheons, Homecoming events, and supports active student organizations as well as new organizations. The following opportunities are housed in this area:
 - a. The School Wide Activities Team (SWAT) is the University's official student programming board offering programs that provide opportunities for the students to build leadership skills, embrace new experiences, and develop through relationships.
 - b. The O-Zone (Organization Zone) responds to the needs of organizations and is the source for new students to get information on which organizations will best suit their needs. The O-Zone helps with publicity design, printing, paperwork, and other administrative services.
 - c. Tarleton L. E. A. D. S. is a prestigious two-semester leadership certification program that utilizes in-class and out-of-class experiences to develop student leaders.
 - d. Tarleton Serves assists members of the Tarleton State University community in finding meaningful volunteer experiences that enrich learning, teach civic responsibility and strengthen our community. Alternative Spring Break and Tarleton Round Up are a part of Tarleton Serves.
 - e. Strengths Quest is a program designed to help students, faculty, and staff identify talents to achieve success in the classrooms, on campus, and in relationships as well as planning beyond the Tarleton experience.
2. The Thompson Student Center houses a number of services including the University Post Office, the Texan Food Court, the University (Campus) Bookstore, the Student Health Center and Student Counseling Center as well as various Student Life offices such as the Office of Student Judicial Affairs, Rodeo Activities, and Transition and Family Programs.
3. In partnership with Academic Affairs, the Thompson Student Center houses the Student Success and Multicultural Initiatives area which includes the Office of Academic Advising, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and Career Services.

Summary of Key Findings

A majority of the respondents:

- Were female
- Had taken the Strengths Assessment
- Were not a member of a fraternity or sorority but were involved in a club or organization
- Prefer email as a communication tool
- Visit the Thompson Student Center to use the Food Court more than any other activity

Design and Methodology

Participants

An online survey was distributed to all Tarleton students. The survey was distributed on Monday, October 19, 2015 and available through Saturday, October 31, 2015.

Emails offering participation in the survey were sent to all Tarleton Students. Utilizing the Texan Facts reporting tool, on the twelfth class day of Fall 2015, there were 8,390 Tarleton students. In total, 283 surveys were started with 252 being completed. This 283 represents 3% of the total. This also provides a margin of error of +/-5.74%

Instrument

The instrument used in this assessment incorporated survey questions to address general satisfaction and students' preferences/habits. The locally assembled instrument consisted of fifteen broad areas. In one area participants were asked to rate statements using a Likert type scale with choices ranging from strongly agree (1) to strongly disagree (5). Another area asked students to indicate how frequently they visited the Thompson Student Center for various activities. Other areas questioned students regarding participation in Thompson Student Center services or programs and gathered demographics and information unique to Tarleton such as whether or not students have participated in the Strengths program.

The survey was sent to each student with a greeting from the Executive Director for Student Engagement.

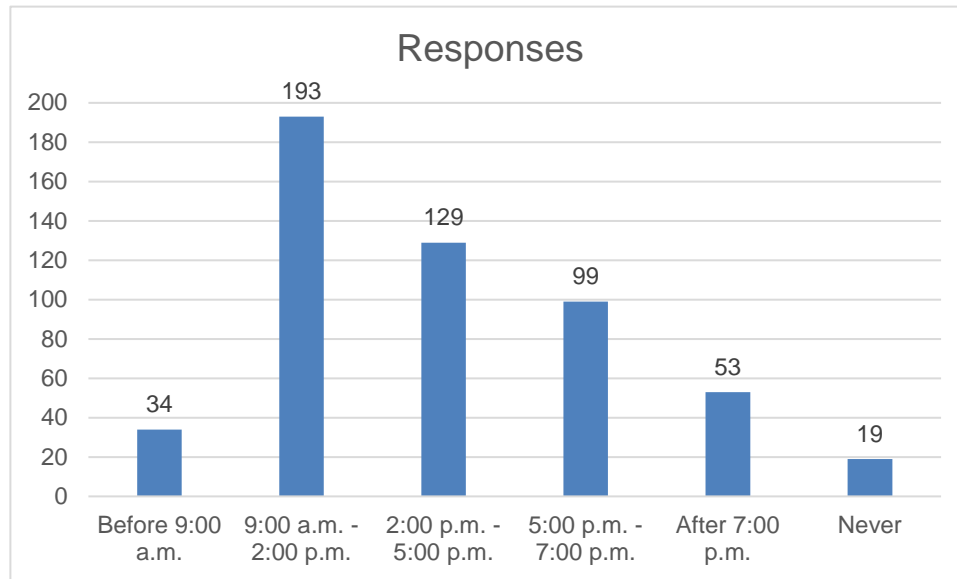
A copy of the greeting may be found here: [Invite](#)

The informed consent statement advised potential participants of their rights while ensuring the confidentiality of their responses. A copy of the instrument may be found here:

https://tarleton.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cGt9Wimgw64NwaN&Preview=Survey&Q_CHL=preview&BrandID=tarleton

Survey Findings

During which time periods do you usually go to the Thompson Student Center (Select all that apply) (527 total responses)



For the table below, survey participants were instructed to indicate the frequency of their visit(s) to the Thompson Student Center for the activity noted. Each statement was given a rating based on the 7-point scale as follows: More than 9 times per week (1), 8-9 times per week (2), 6-7 times per week (3), 4-5 times per week (4), 2-3 times per week (5), Once a month (6), Never (7). The table that follows presents the number of responses

How often do you usually go to the Thompson Student Center to:

<i>Going to Food Court (n=255)</i>	4.85
<i>Just hang out (n=251)</i>	5.40
<i>Visit the Campus Bookstore (n=255)</i>	5.66
<i>Attend a meeting (n=256)</i>	5.89
<i>Attend a program (n=248)</i>	5.96
<i>Attending a schedule appointment (Health Center, Counseling Center, Judicial Affairs, Career Services, SSMI, etc.) (n=253)</i>	6.15
<i>Other (n=106)</i>	6.18
<i>Study (n=248)</i>	6.20
<i>Visiting Academic Advising (n=250)</i>	6.39
<i>Use a computer (n=249)</i>	6.44
<i>Watch TV (n=250)</i>	6.47

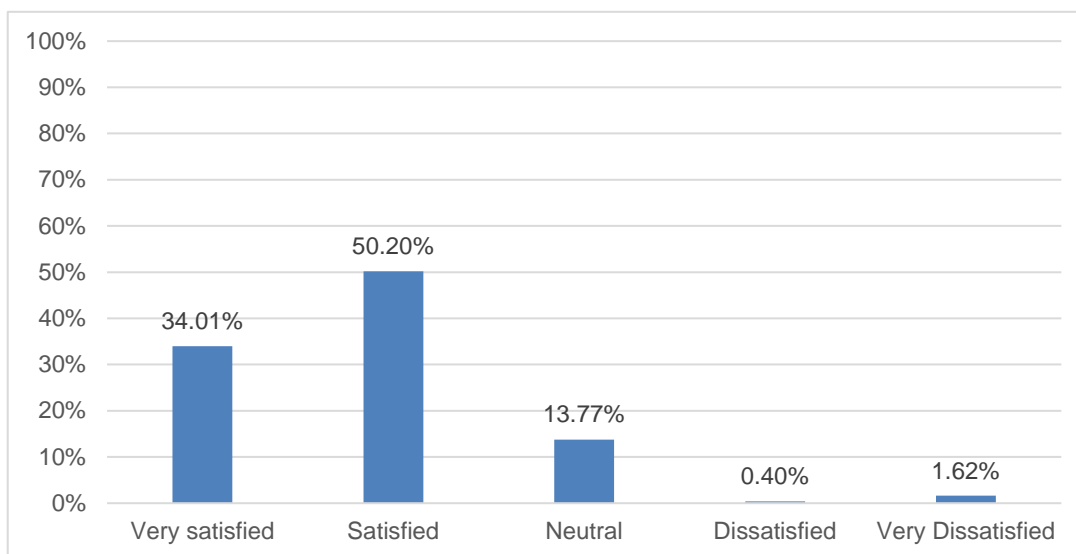
For the table below, survey participants were instructed to rate each of the statements with either Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree or Disagree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree. Each statement was given a rating based on the 5-point Likert scale as follows: Strongly Agree (1), Agree (2), Neither Agree nor Disagree (3), Disagree (4), Strongly Disagree (5). The table that follows is presented in highest average value order to lowest average value order.

Please indicate the extent to which you either agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

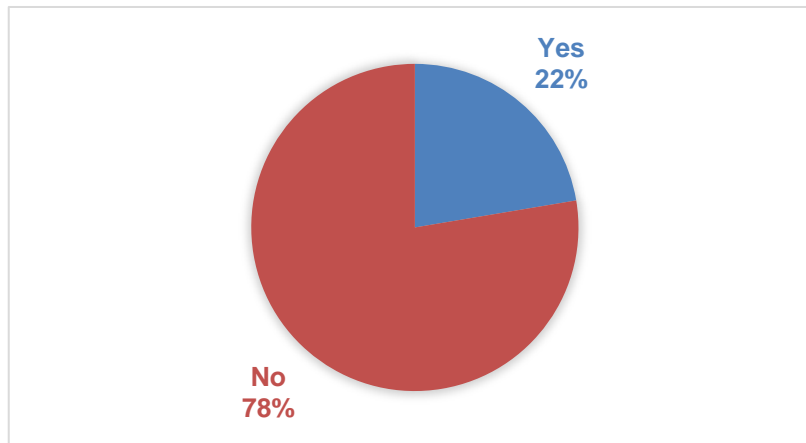
The Thompson Student Center:

<i>Fulfills its mission as the center of Tarleton's community life (n=243)</i>	1.98
<i>Serves as a community center (n=246)</i>	1.84
<i>Is open convenient hours (n=249)</i>	1.80
<i>Is a place where I feel welcome (n=249)</i>	1.74
<i>Is a central meeting place for students (n=247)</i>	1.74
<i>Provides a variety of services (n=243)</i>	1.64
<i>Is a safe place (n=247)</i>	1.58

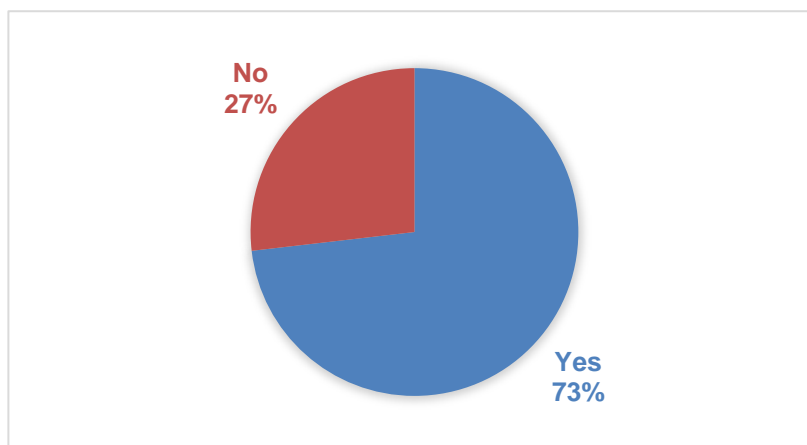
In general, how would you rate your overall satisfaction with the Thompson Student Center?
(n=247)



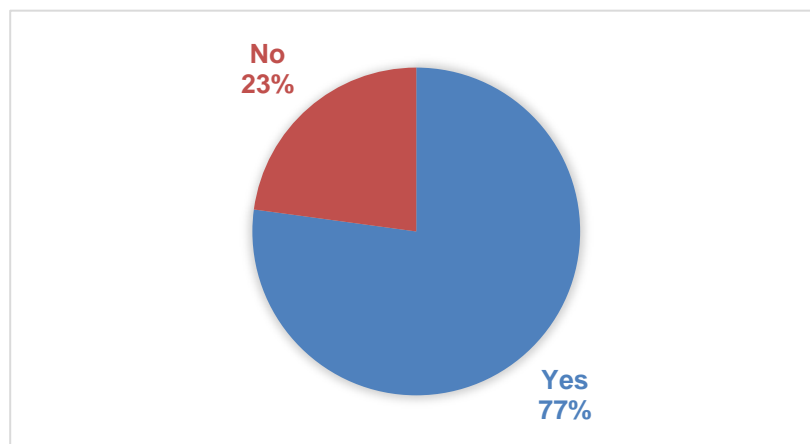
Are you a member of a fraternity or sorority? (n=246)



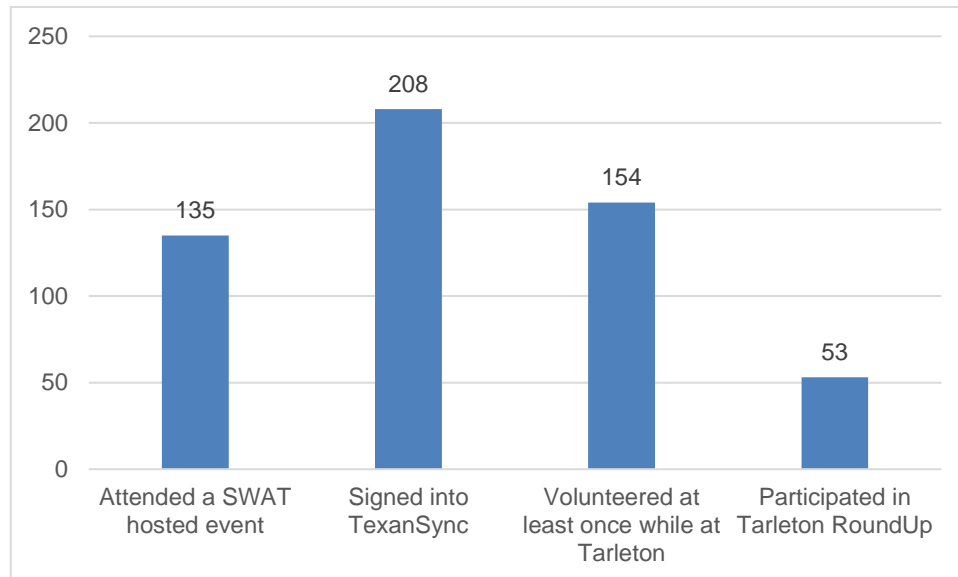
Do you participate in a Tarleton club or organization? (n=246)



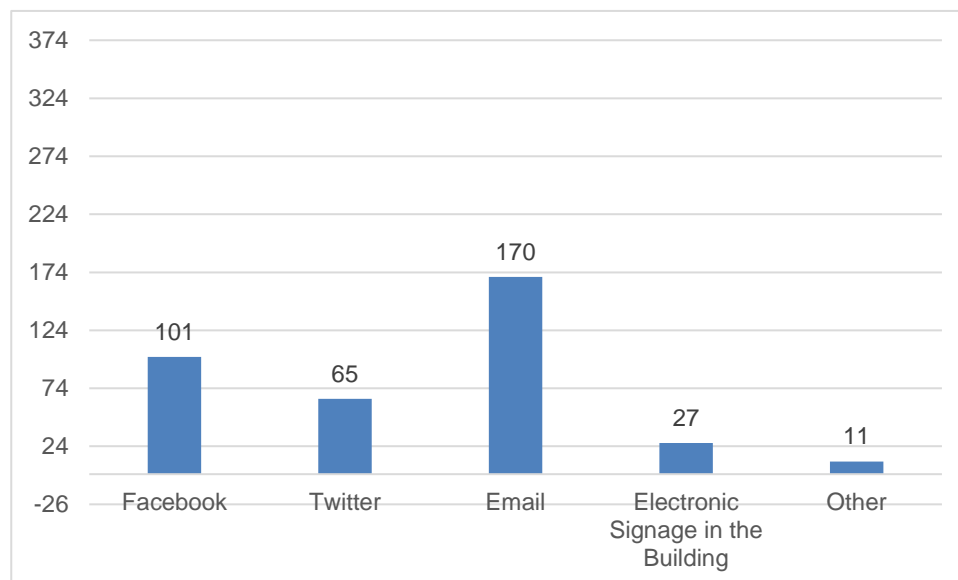
Have you taken the Strengths Assessment? (n=245)



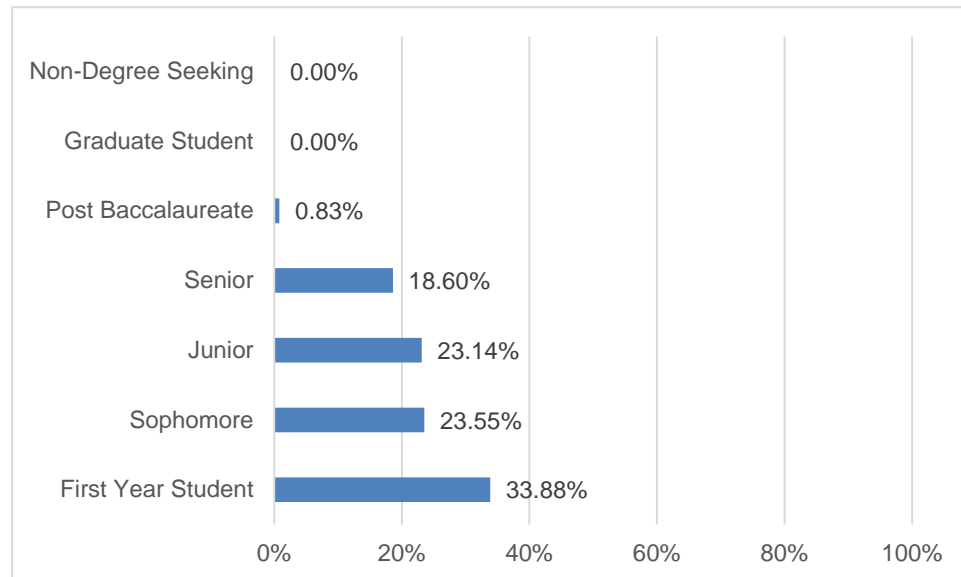
I have: (check all that apply) (550 responses)



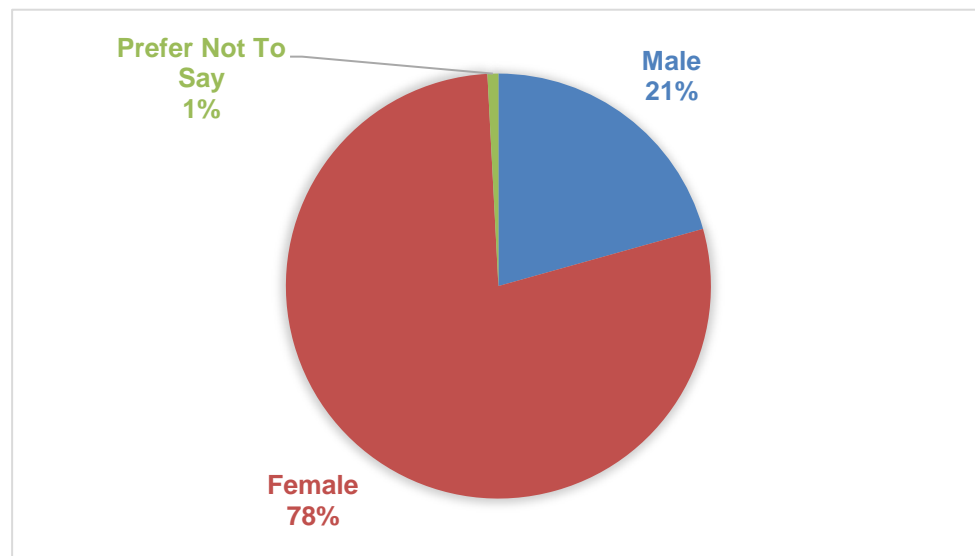
Which social media option do you prefer for learning about activities in the Thompson Student Center? (n=374)



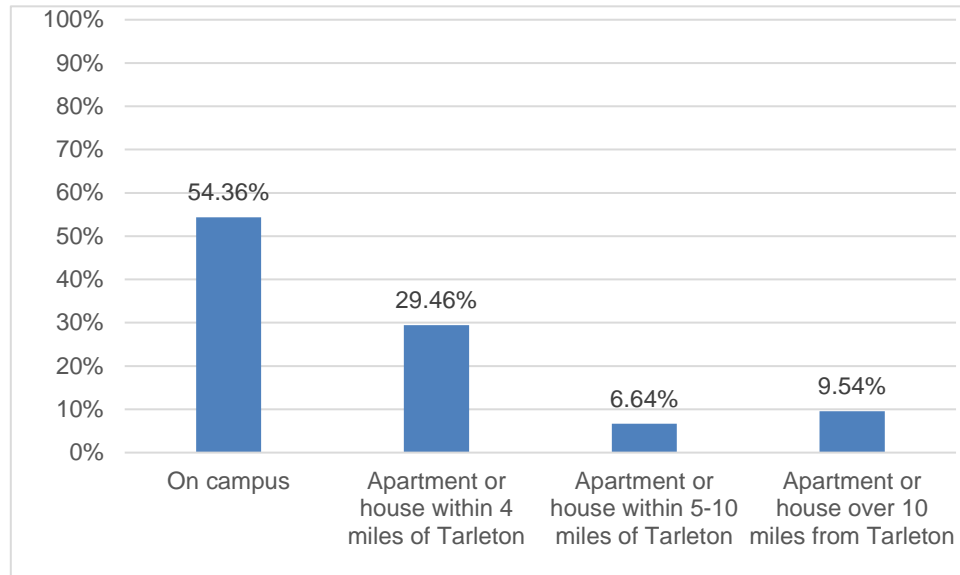
What is your classification? (n=242)



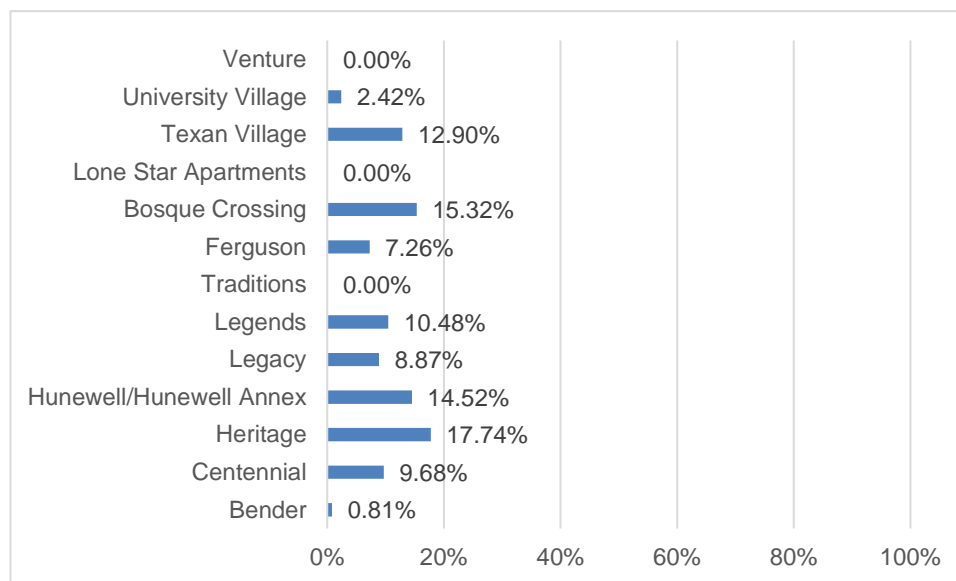
What is your gender? (n=242)



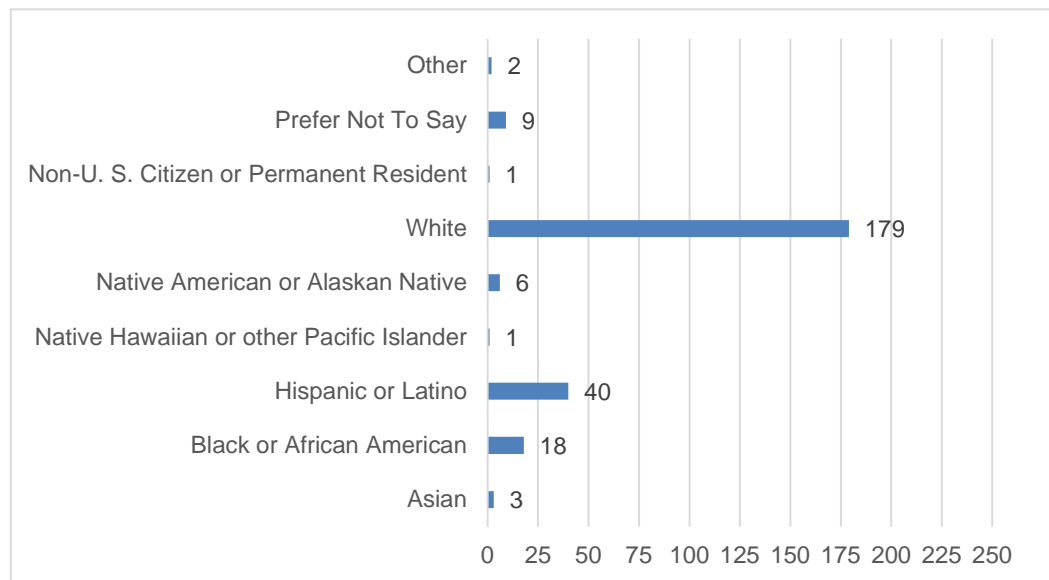
Where do you live? (n=241)



If living in an on campus residential facility, which residential facility do you live in? (n=124)



Please indicate those racial or ethnic groups that apply to you. (Select all that apply) (259 responses)



Please add any general suggestions on how the Thompson Student Center can improve its services:

Too much going on with the colors and chairs
have some study rooms
more commuter parking closer, allowing more students to use facilities such as the OZone
More Bingo nights and game nights in general to win free stuff (FOOD, GIFT CARDS, T-SHIRTS)
invest in chalk for pool tables, better pool sticks, refelt the pool tables. Get more than one ping pong ball
Bathrooms and hallways downstairs need to be cleaned, for a month a month now the bathroom downstairs has been dirty no clean floors
Having a shop in it for food and drinks like Common Grounds. I do not like Chick Fil a as much as others and like Common Grounds.
Put in a vending machine for scantrons so we can buy them when the bookstore is closed. Replace the 2 food places next to chickfila with fast food that everybody will want
A general suggestion would be to provide more games for students and a more private study area.
More study corners