The following presentation was delivered to the Graduate Welfare Committee in 2019. Please note that the slides may not provide the full context of the content presented. More information can be provided upon request.

SA Graduate and Professional Student Survey

Presentation to the Graduate Welfare Committee

February 7th 2019

Kristen McKinney, PhD, Director

Student Affairs Information and Research Office

Survey Context

All currently enrolled graduate & professional students invited

26%
Response Rate

Administered online during Spring/Summer 2017

Covers a variety of topics, including climate, academic experiences, wellness, and engagement

Respondent Demographics

3089 Total Respondents

Degree Type	%
PhD	62.4%
Masters	37.6%
Total	*100.%*

Sex	%
Female	54.2%
Male	45.8%
Total	*100%*

Marital Status	%
Single	67.4%
Married/Living with a domestic/committed partner	30.9%
Divorced/Separated	1.5%
Widowed	0.1%
Total	*100%*

Race/Ethnicity	%
Asian/Asian American	19.2%
Black/African American	3.1%
Hispanic	11.4%
Native American/Alaskan Native	0.4%
Pacific Islander	0.2%
White Non-Hispanic	37.1%
Two or More Races	4.5%
International	17.5%
Unknown	6.6%
Total	*100%*

Health and Wellbeing

Rating: Overall Physical Health

Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
2	14	34	34	16

Rating: Overall Mental Health

6	19	33	28	14

■ Poor ■ Fair ■ Good ■ Very good ■ Excellent

Rating: Average Stress Level
Since the beginning of the academic year

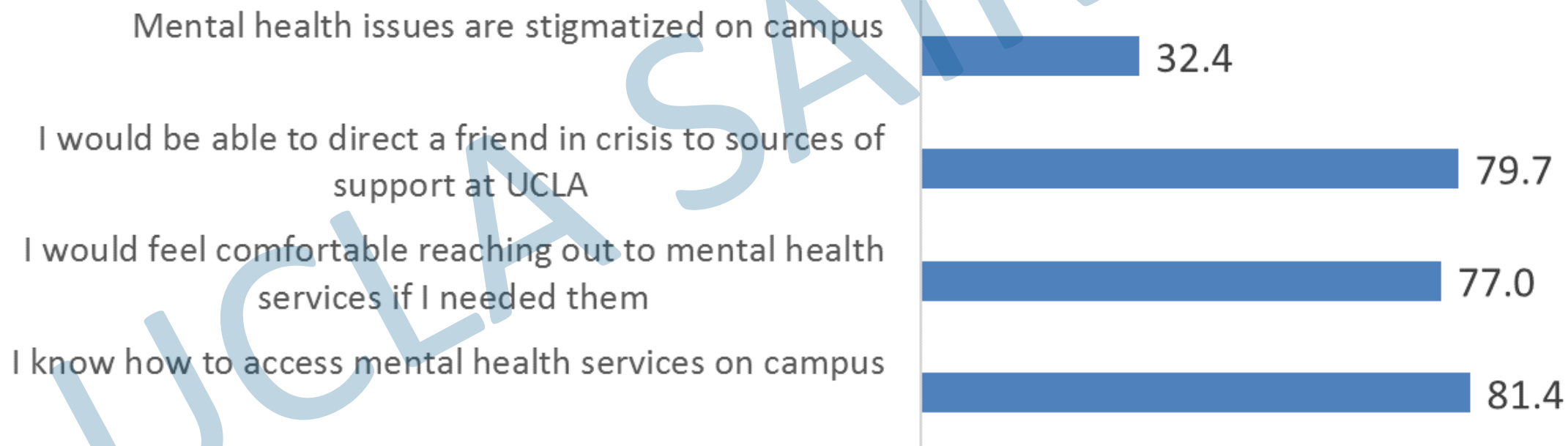**52% High Stress or Very High Stress**

| 1 | 7 | 39 | 38 | 14 |

- ■ Very low stress
- ■ Low stress
- ■ Moderate stress
- ■ High stress
- ■ Very high stress

General comfort with accessing mental health services

% agree and strongly agree

Mental health issues are stigmatized on campus	32.4
I would be able to direct a friend in crisis to sources of support at UCLA	79.7
I would feel comfortable reaching out to mental health services if I needed them	77.0
I know how to access mental health services on campus	81.4

Aggregate Food Security Measure

Food Insecure 30%

Food Secure 70%

I was worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.

In the past 12 months

| 71 | 22 | 7 |

■ Never true　　■ Sometimes true　　■ Often true
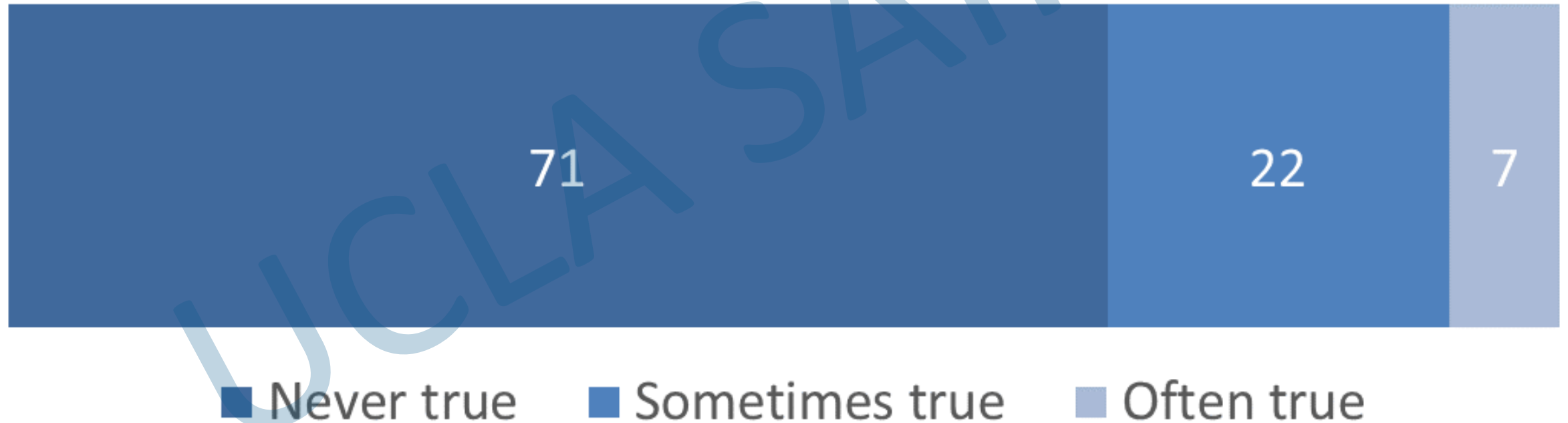
The food that I bought just didn't last, and I didn't have money to get more.

In the past 12 months
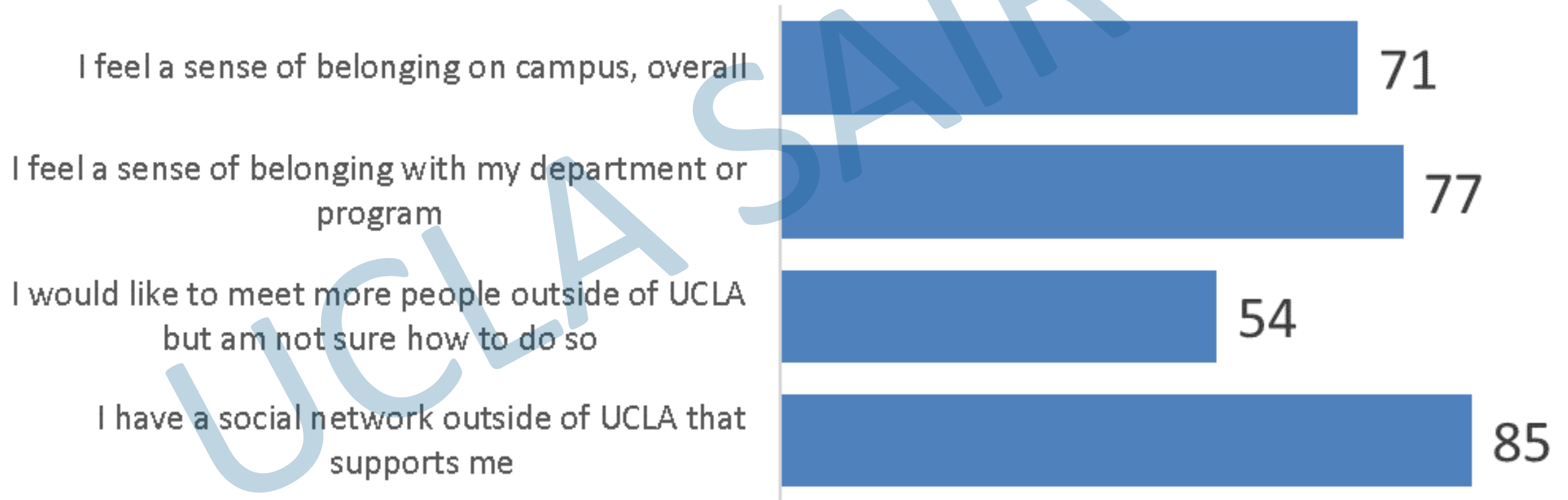

| 80 | 15 | 4 |

■ Never true   ■ Sometimes true   ■ Often true
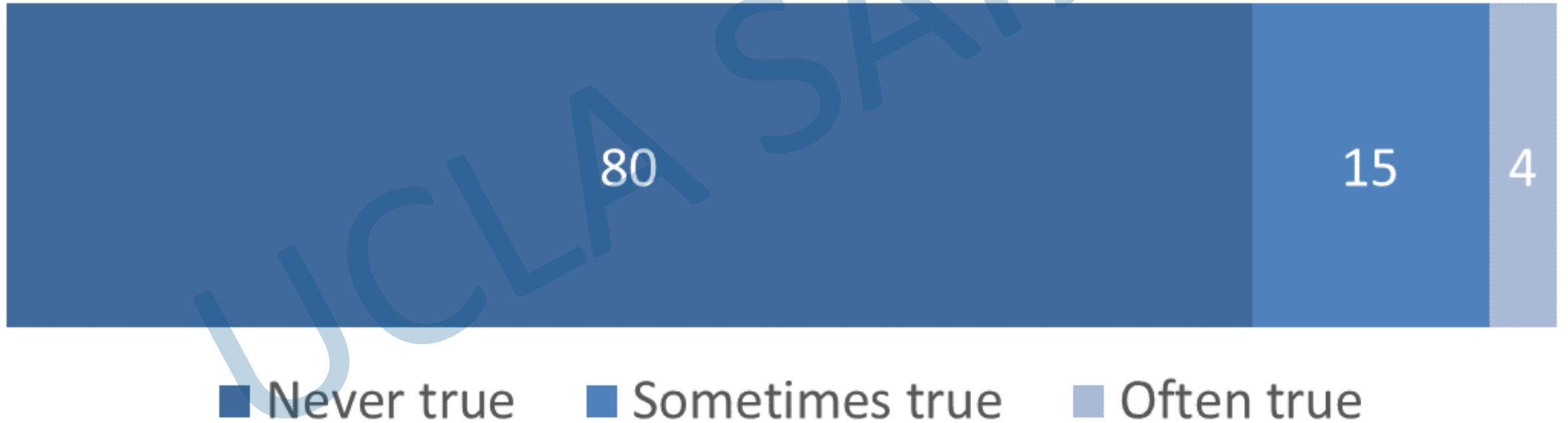
Engagement and Connection

Overall good levels of connection; but room for improvement
% reporting "agree" or "strongly agree"

I feel a sense of belonging on campus, overall	71
I feel a sense of belonging with my department or program	77
I would like to meet more people outside of UCLA but am not sure how to do so	54
I have a social network outside of UCLA that supports me	85

More satisfaction with opportinites to interact within department than outside

% reporting "agree" or "strongly agree" that they have "sufficient opportunity to"...

Interact academically and make connections	
With people at UCLA outside of my department/program	47
With people in my department/program	87

Interact socially and make connections	
With people at UCLA outside of my department/program	49
With people in my department/program	84

"I feel a sense of belonging within my department or program"
School/Division with Significant Mean Comparison (p<.05)
1 = "Strongly Disagree" to 4 = "Strongly Agree"

Overall Mean 2.92

L&S: Life Sciences — 2.79
L&S: Social Sciences — 2.62
Management — 3.16
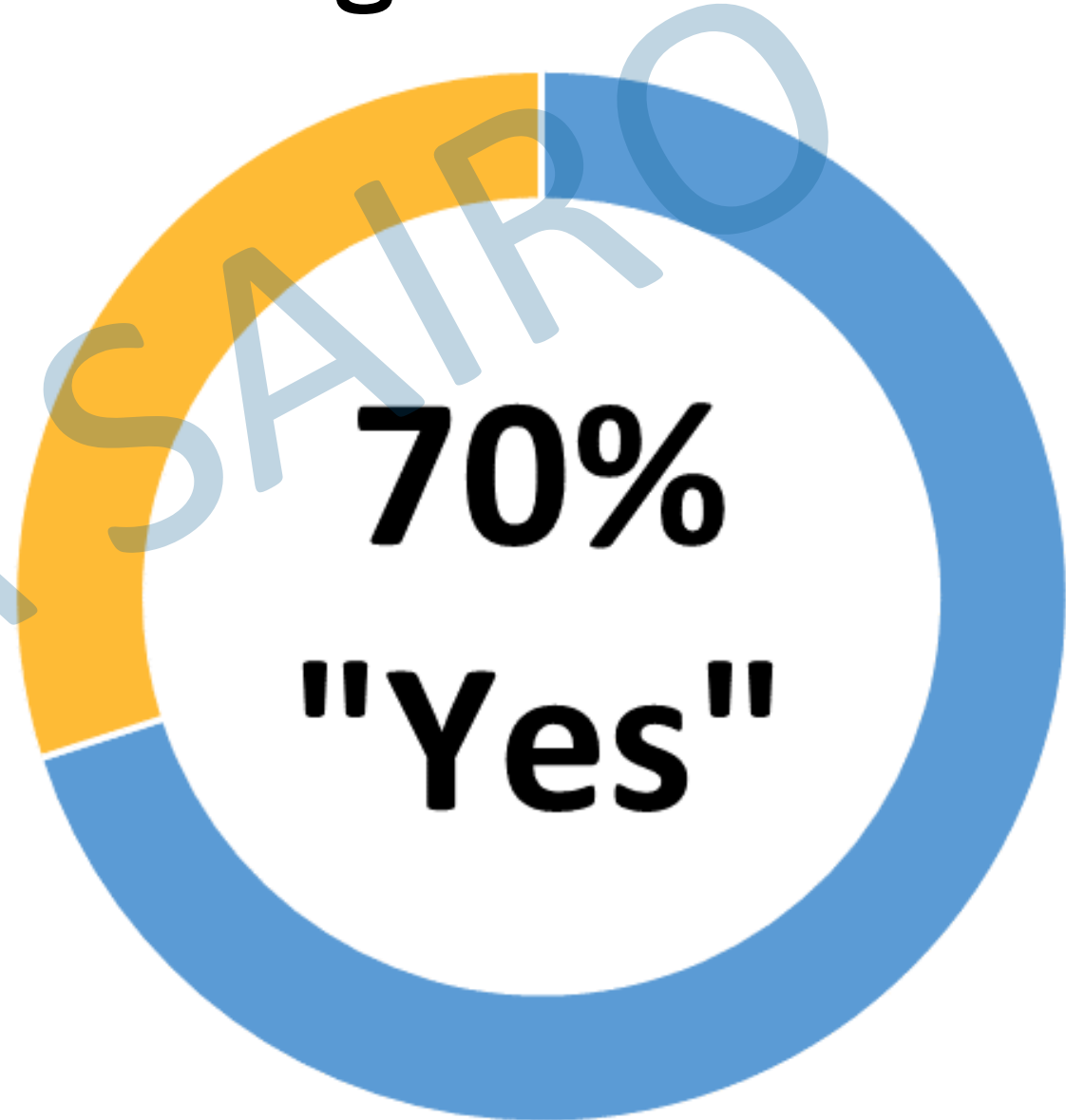Medicine — 3.06
Music — 3.27
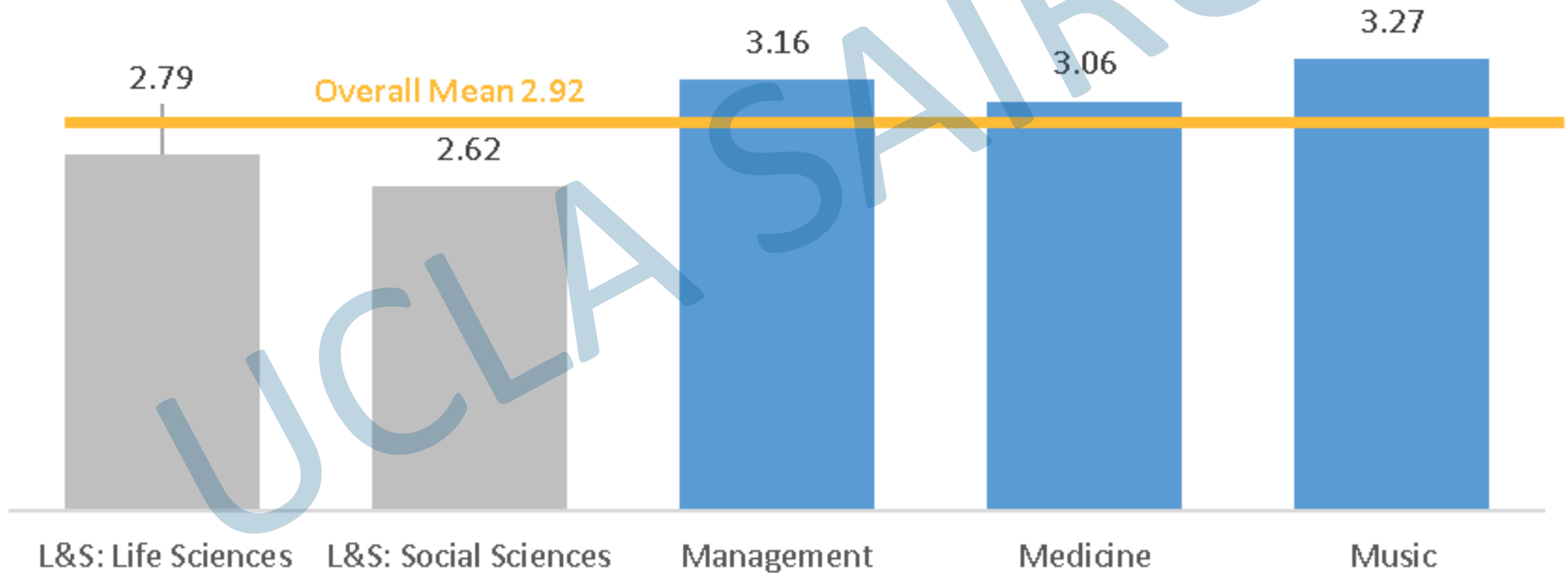
Advising Support

Most students report having an advisor.

Your primary formal advisor is the one faculty member who serves in an official capacity as your academic advisor or research supervisor.
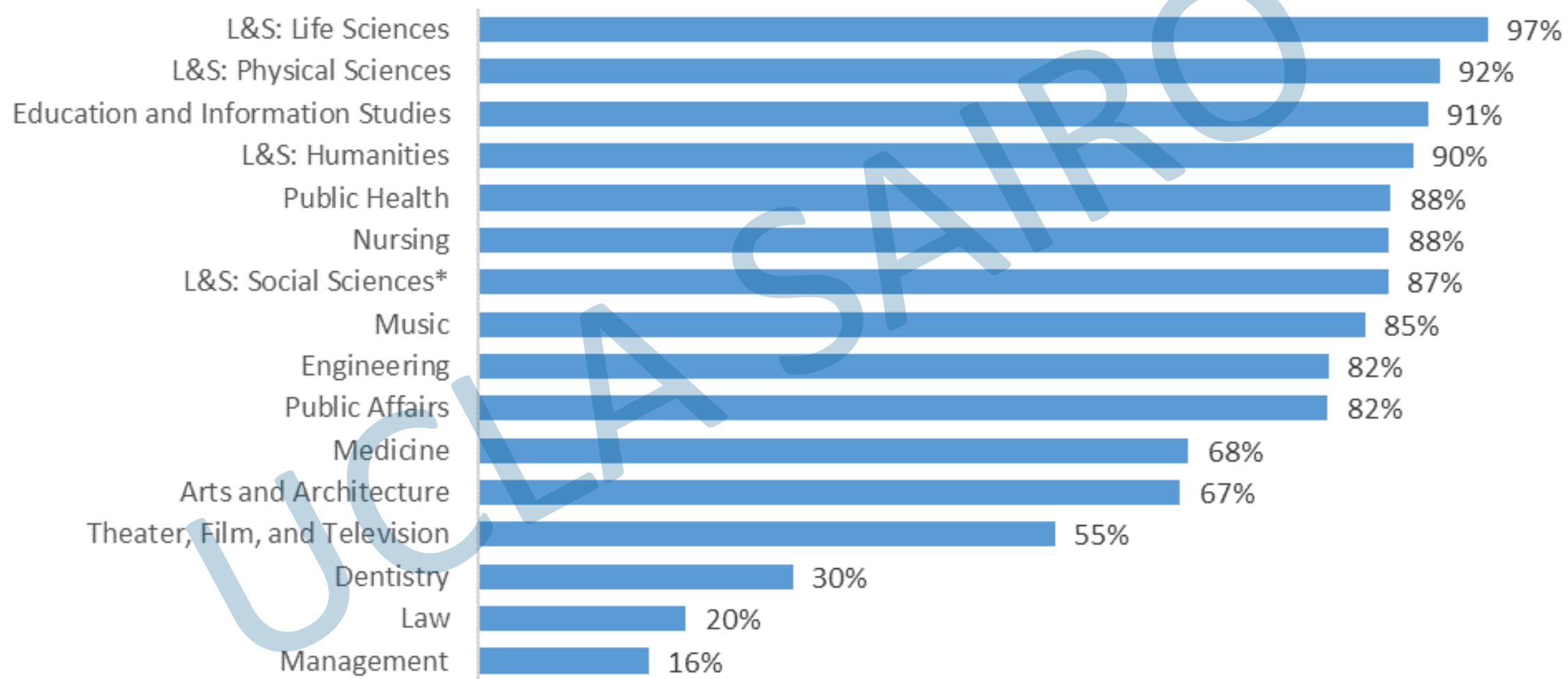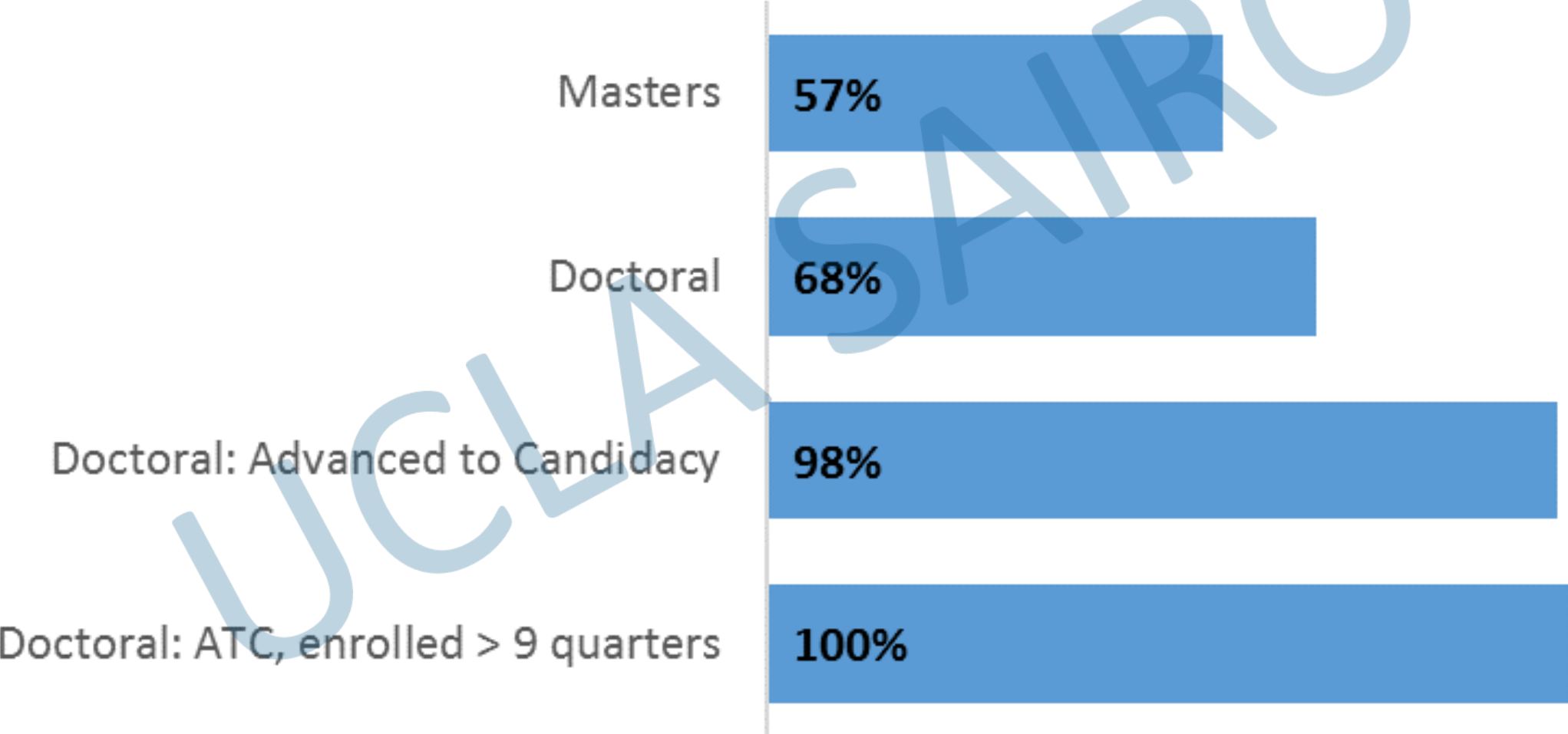
Do you have a formal advisor?

70% "Yes"

Advising levels vary across schools and divisions

% reporting having a formal advisor

School/Division	%
L&S: Life Sciences	97%
L&S: Physical Sciences	92%
Education and Information Studies	91%
L&S: Humanities	90%
Public Health	88%
Nursing	88%
L&S: Social Sciences*	87%
Music	85%
Engineering	82%
Public Affairs	82%
Medicine	68%
Arts and Architecture	67%
Theater, Film, and Television	55%
Dentistry	30%
Law	20%
Management	16%

*Includes International Institute

Likelihood of having an advisor increases with degree level

Degree Level	Percentage
Masters	57%
Doctoral	68%
Doctoral: Advanced to Candidacy	98%
Doctoral: ATC, enrolled > 9 quarters	100%

90% of students who reported having an advisor met with them at least once per quarter.

Category	Percentage
0 times	10
1-2 times	34
3-4 times	16
5-6 times	10
More than 6 times	29
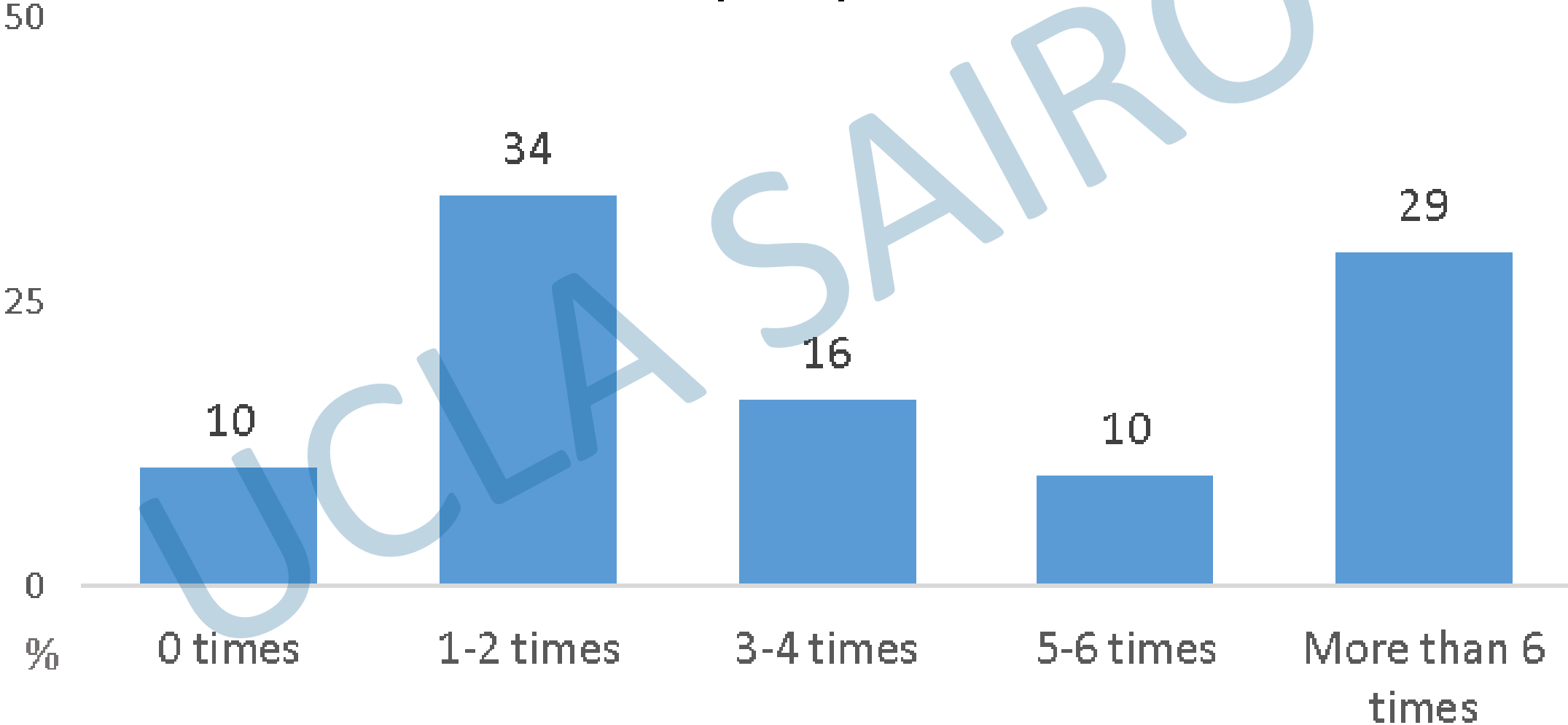
Students are most likely to agree that their advisor supports them in academically focused compared to personal arenas.

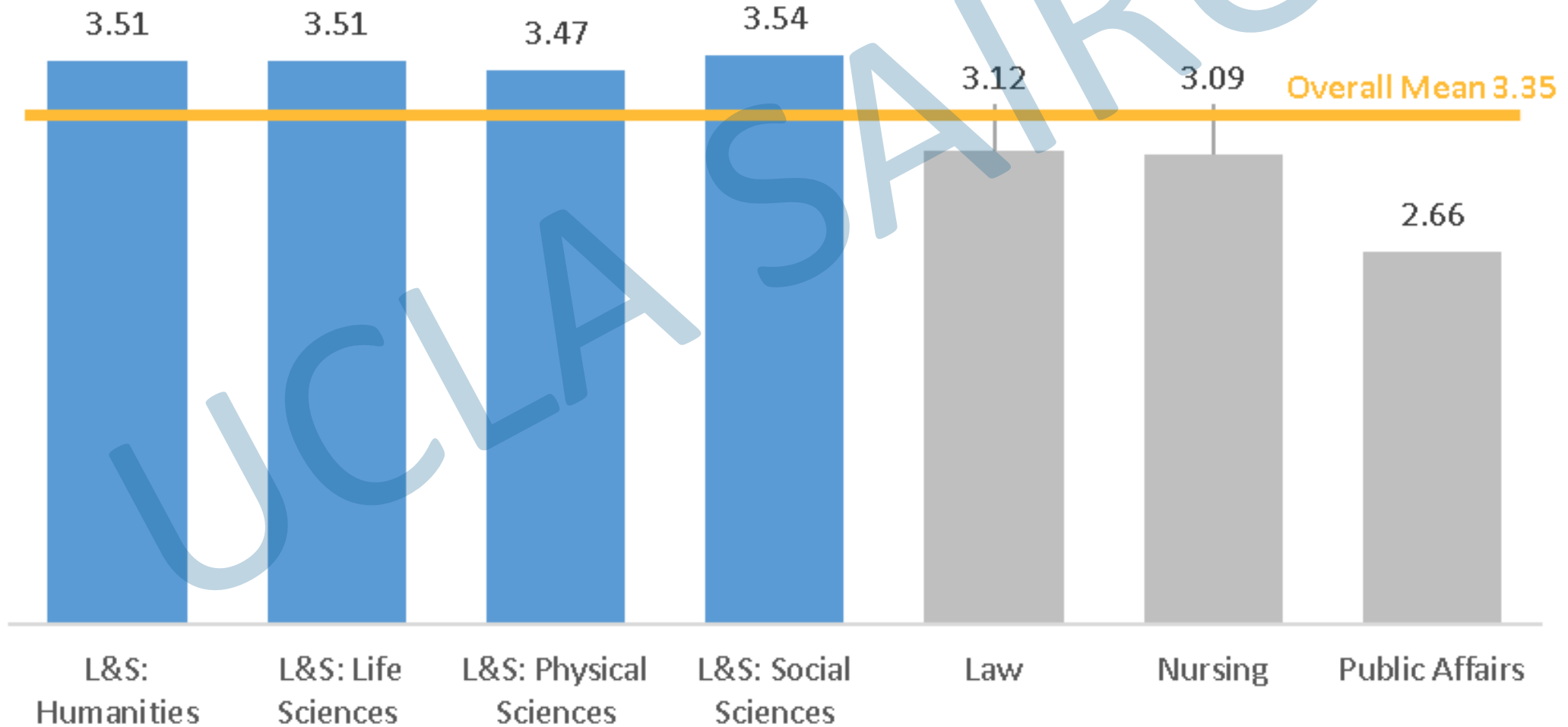% reporting "agree" and "strongly agree"

Statement	%
Advocates for me and supports me in completing my degree	90
Supports my professional/career goals	89
Is focused on helping me gain the professional skills needed to be successful in my field	83
Seems genuinely interested in my personal well-being	80
Helps me establish a timetable for the tasks of my graduate training	68
Is aware of and supportive of my financial well-being	66

"My advisor advocates for me and supports me in completing my degree" School/Division with Significant Mean Comparison (p<.05)
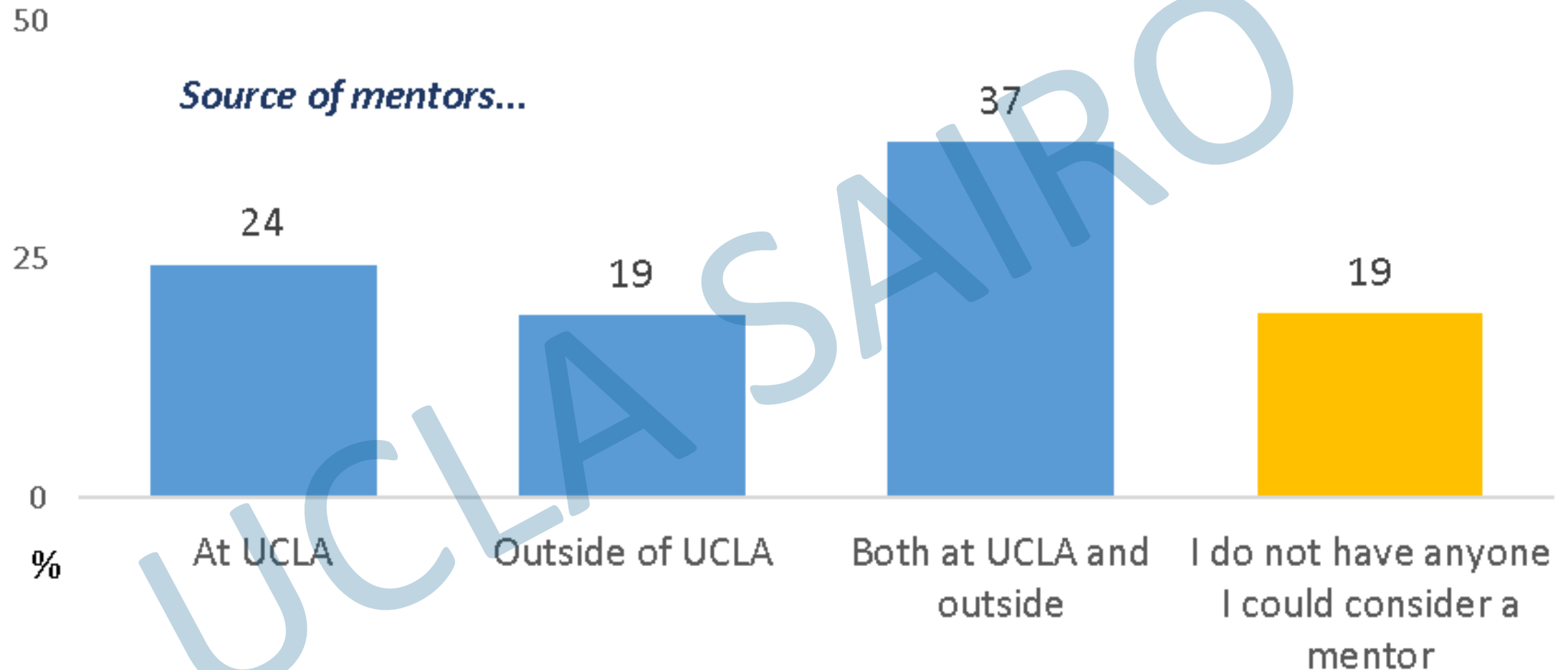
1 = "Strongly Disagree" to 4 = "Strongly Agree"

Overall Mean 3.35

L&S: Humanities	L&S: Life Sciences	L&S: Physical Sciences	L&S: Social Sciences	Law	Nursing	Public Affairs
3.51	3.51	3.47	3.54	3.12	3.09	2.66

Mentors

One in five students reported NOT having a mentor

Source of mentors...

At UCLA	Outside of UCLA	Both at UCLA and outside	I do not have anyone I could consider a mentor
24	19	37	19

A mentor is an individual, who may or may not be your advisor, to whom you turn for advice; information on the academic discipline; general, emotional, or professional support; career guidance; help with a paper; a model of ethical behavior and values; opportunities to collaborate; and introduction to others in the field.
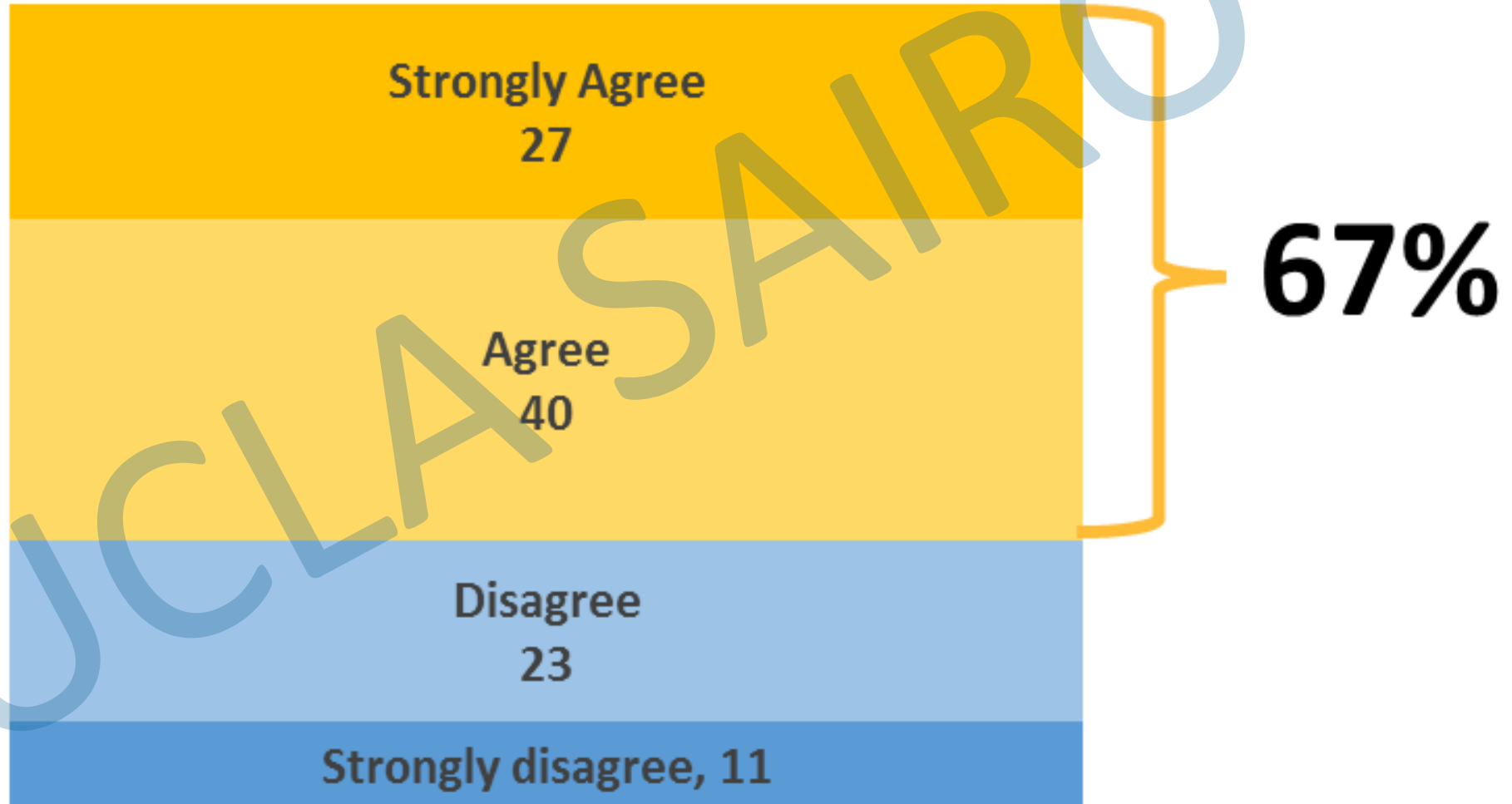
"I have difficulty finding mentors at UCLA with whom I identify"

When compared to students overall...

Black/African American students significantly more likely to agree

White students significantly less likely to agree

"I feel a sense of belonging with my department or program"

When compared to students overall...

Black/African American and Native American/Alaskan Native students significantly more likely to disagree

Financial Concerns

Financial Concern

53%

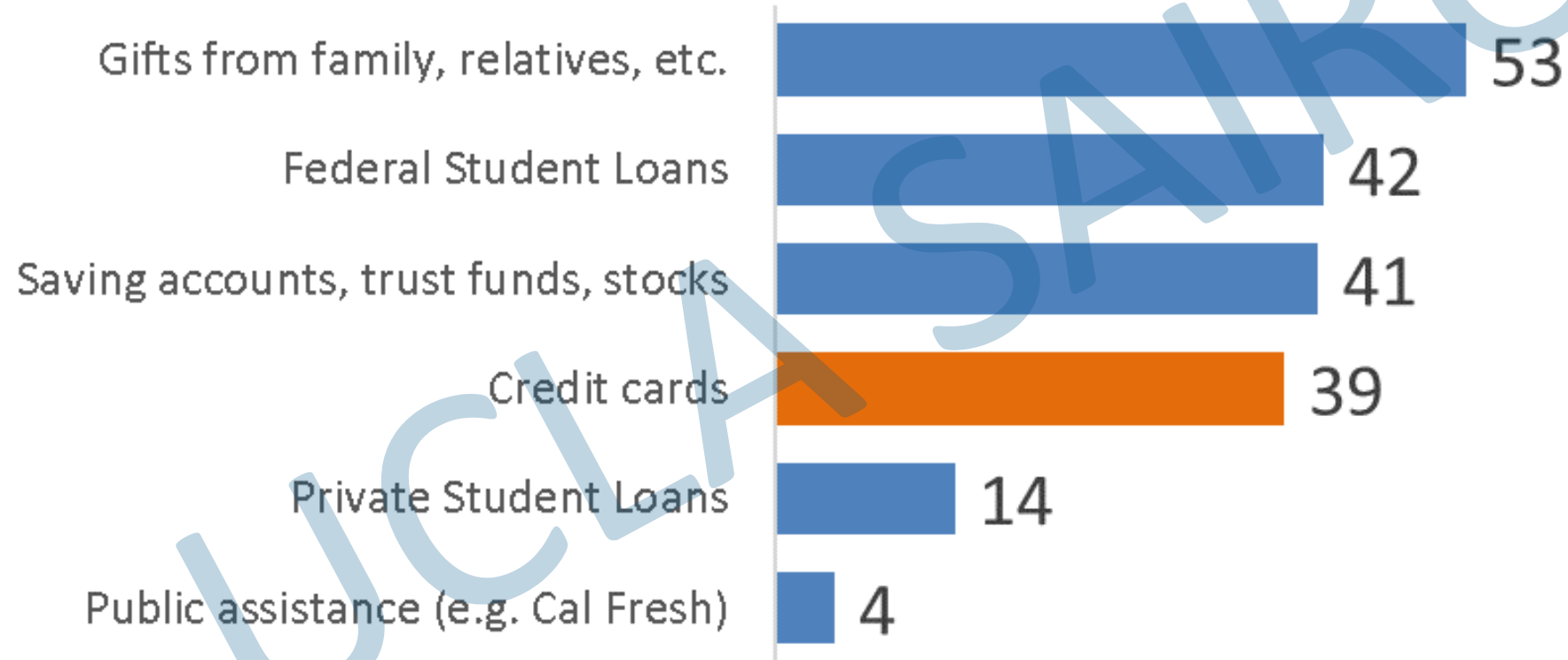**"Disagree" or "Strongly Disagree"**
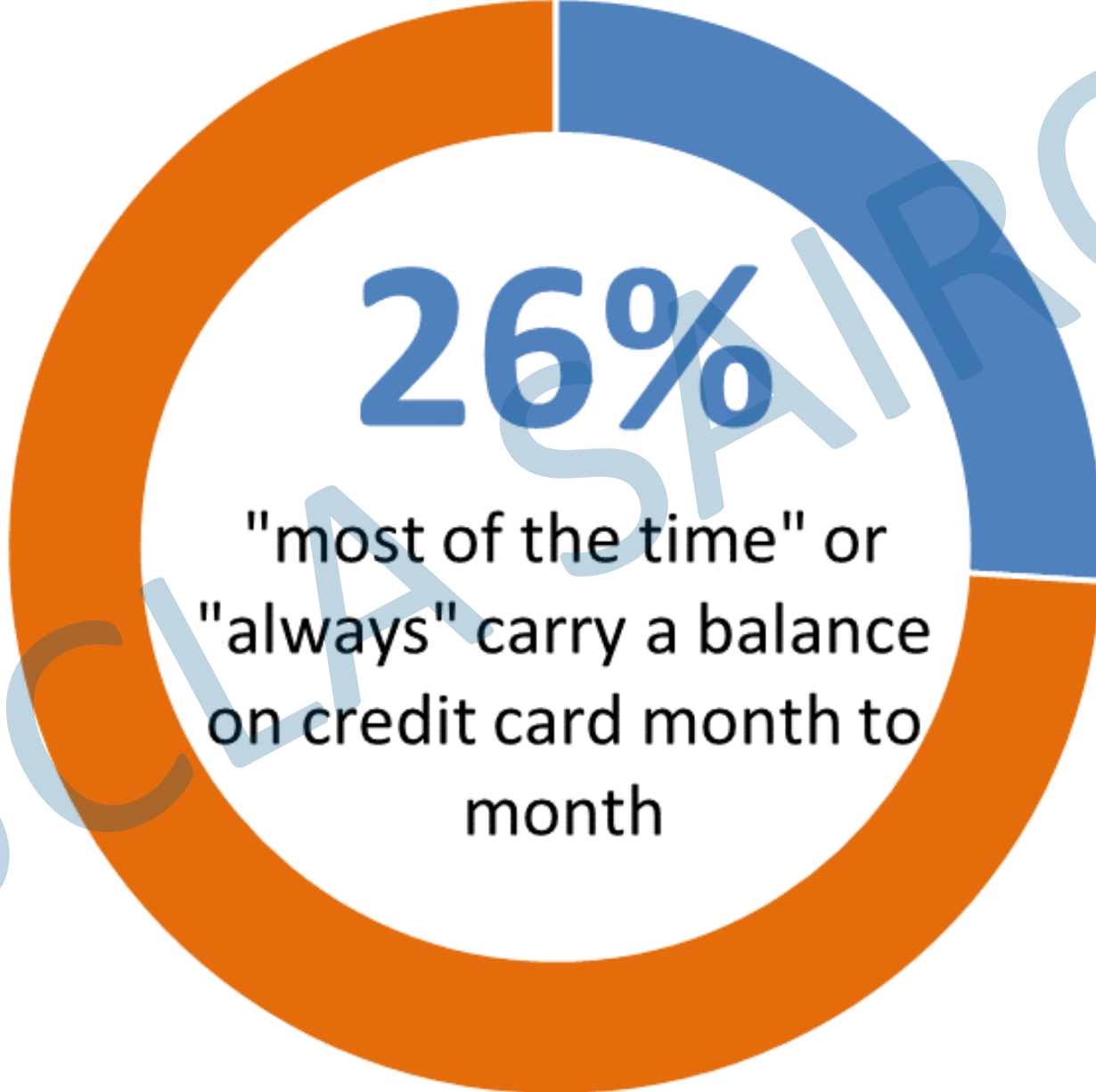
The cost to attend UCLA is manageable.

47%

Report that their

total income is not sufficient

to cover expenses.

Methods for resolving the gap between income and expenses
% reporting

Gifts from family, relatives, etc. — 53
Federal Student Loans — 42
Saving accounts, trust funds, stocks — 41
Credit cards — 39
Private Student Loans — 14
Public assistance (e.g. Cal Fresh) — 4

26%

"most of the time" or "always" carry a balance on credit card month to month

Skills and Abilities

Self-Ratings of Skills and Abilities
% reporting above average or highest 10%

Skill	%
Interviewing	40
Professional networking	26
Give a formal oral presentation	57
Creating an inclusive classroom	51
Analysis and synthesis of data	53
Intellectual self-confidence	46

https://www.sairo.ucla.edu/2017-GPSS-Skills-Development