



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Engineering

Communication among Undergraduate Students in Texas A&M: An Ethnography Study

Presented by *Elyas Al-Amri*



ORQ:

"To what extent do engineering students develop communication skills at university?"



Problem Statement

Most TAMU students seem to be reluctant to speak and interact with others both face-to-face and virtually which would negatively affect their future professions.



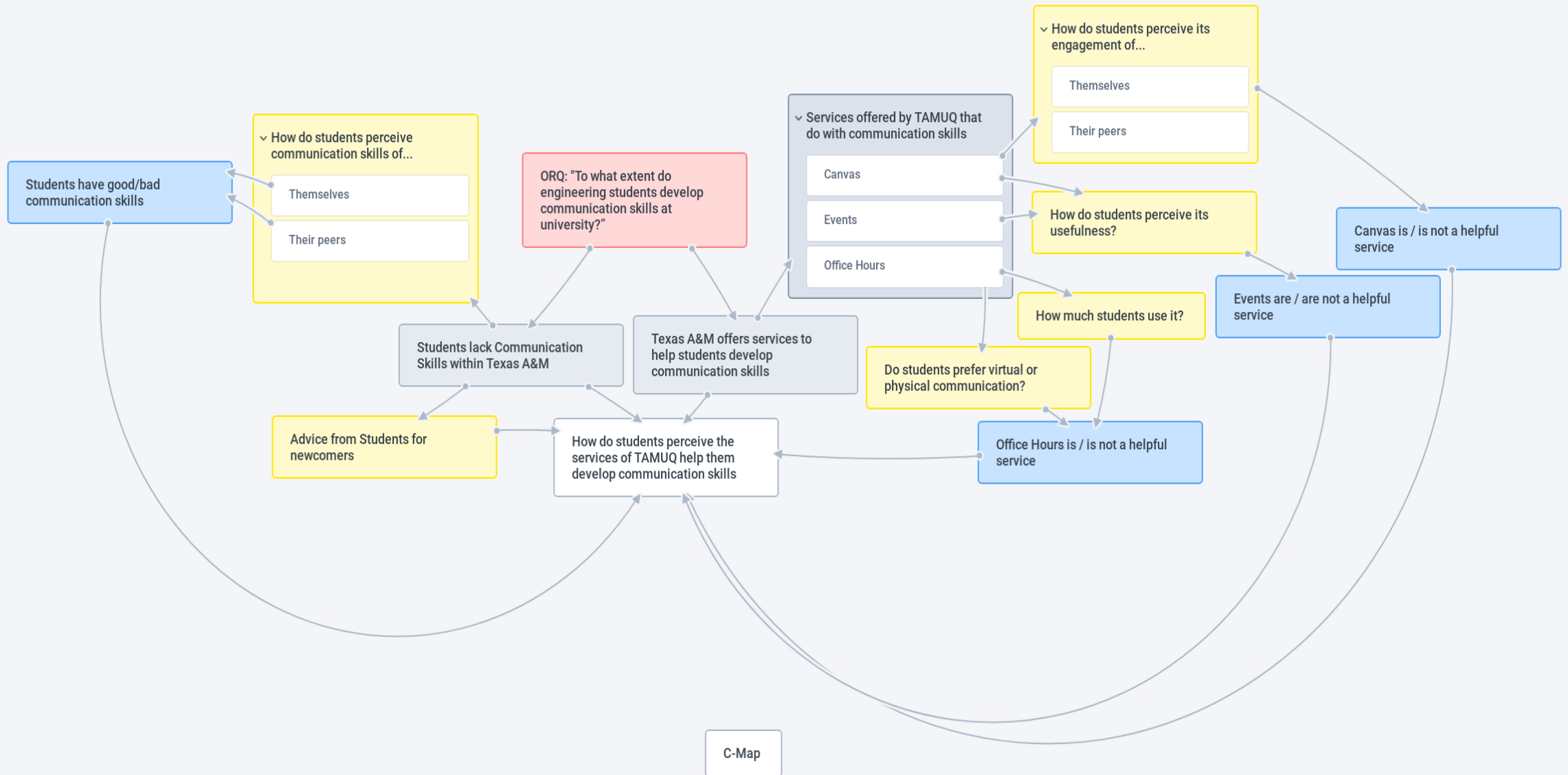
Objectives

1. Explore the development of students communication skills during college years
2. Find out the role of university services in developing communication skills.





- Research adopts qualitative/ quantitative approach.
- A survey was carried out on students in TAMUQ with closed/open ended questions.
- 50 responses were recorded.
- Data is analyzed by grouping results in terms of year of study.



C-Map

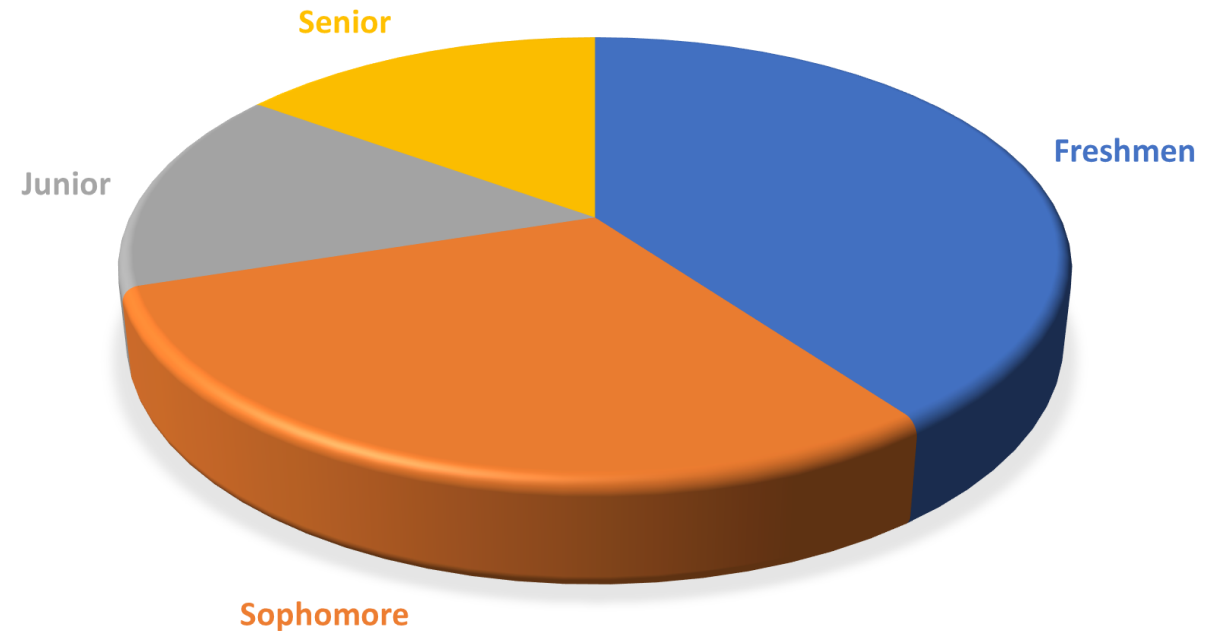
Results - Participants



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- Most of the responses were from Freshmen and Sophomores, and relatively fewer responses from Seniors and Juniors
- Analyzing this data could give some insights into the extent to which students are developing social skills in the first two years
- Need more responses from Seniors and Juniors to confidently present an overall picture

YEAR OF STUDY RESPONSES

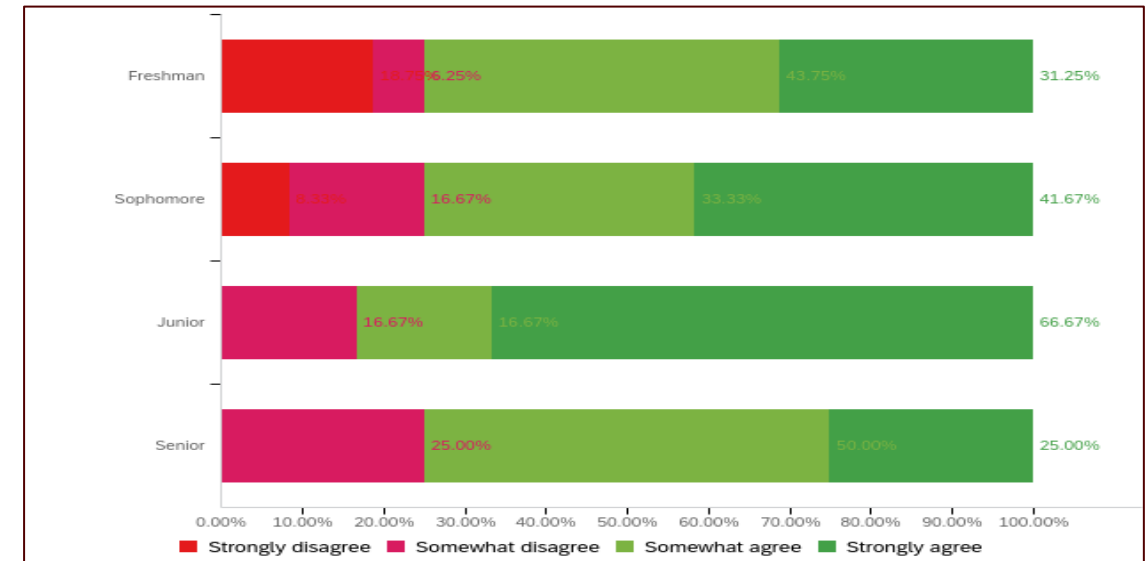


Results- Communication skills



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Results show that my perception of students' lack of social skills is shared by many students in the university.

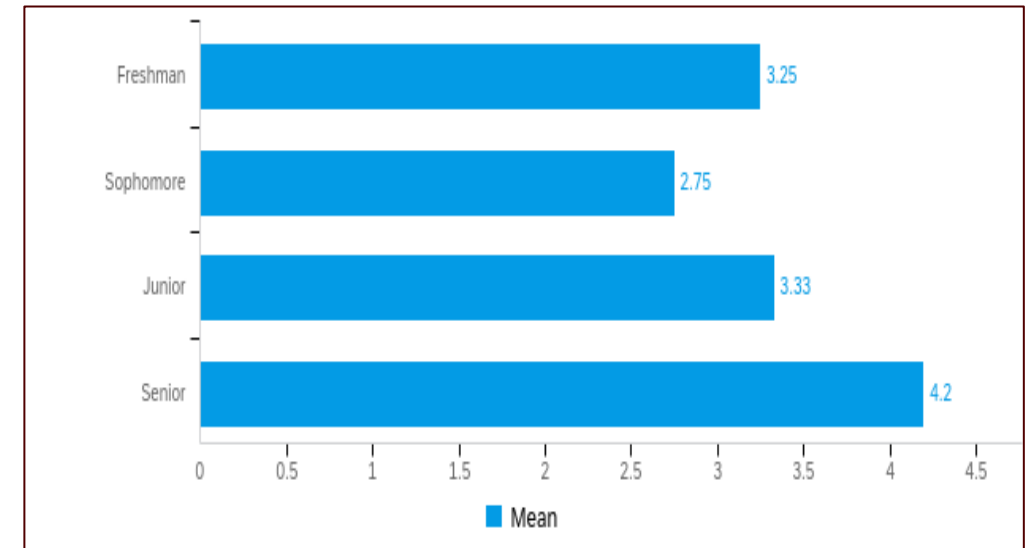


Results- Communication skills



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- Students rated their ability to communicate with someone who has an unfamiliar accent with decent positivity.
- A slight pattern of improvement in that ability can be noticed over the course of students' college years.
- The university somehow helps improve this skill for students.

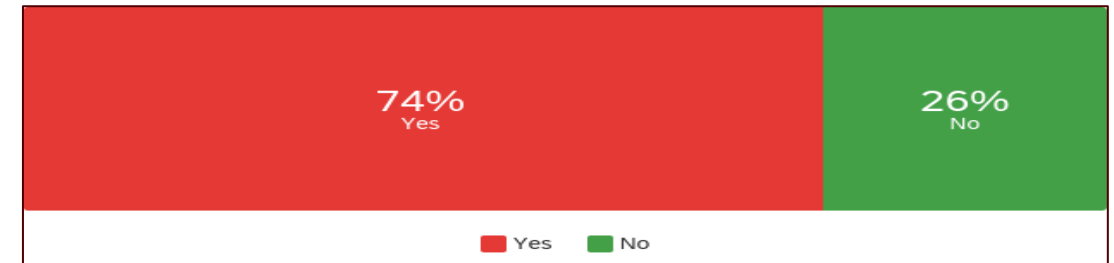


Results- Communication skills



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Three-quarters of students pointed out that many times they would use their phones to avoid face-to-face conversation with others which indicates students' unwillingness to interact and communicate.



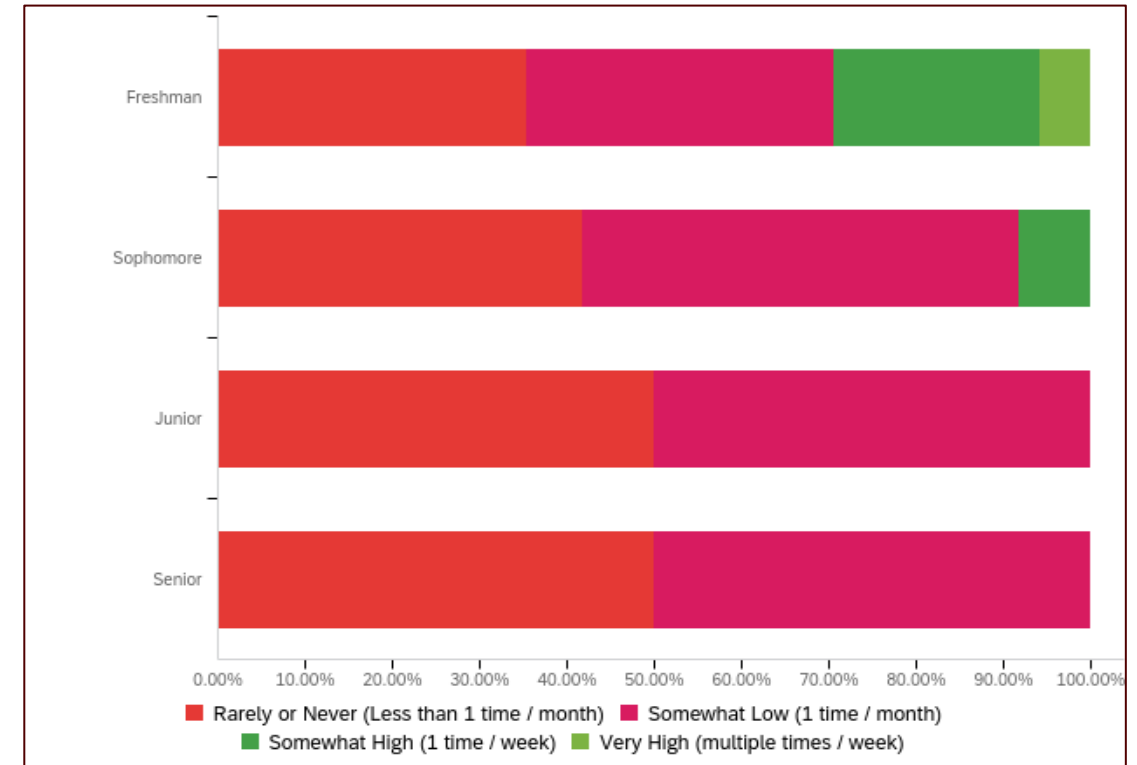
Results- Office hours



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Most students say they prefer to speak with instructors in office. Yet, there is a relatively low frequency of students' visits to professors' offices during office hours.

This highlights that students are not incentivized to communicate with their professors. It could be that they are not encouraged to approach them, or students find this communication not useful.

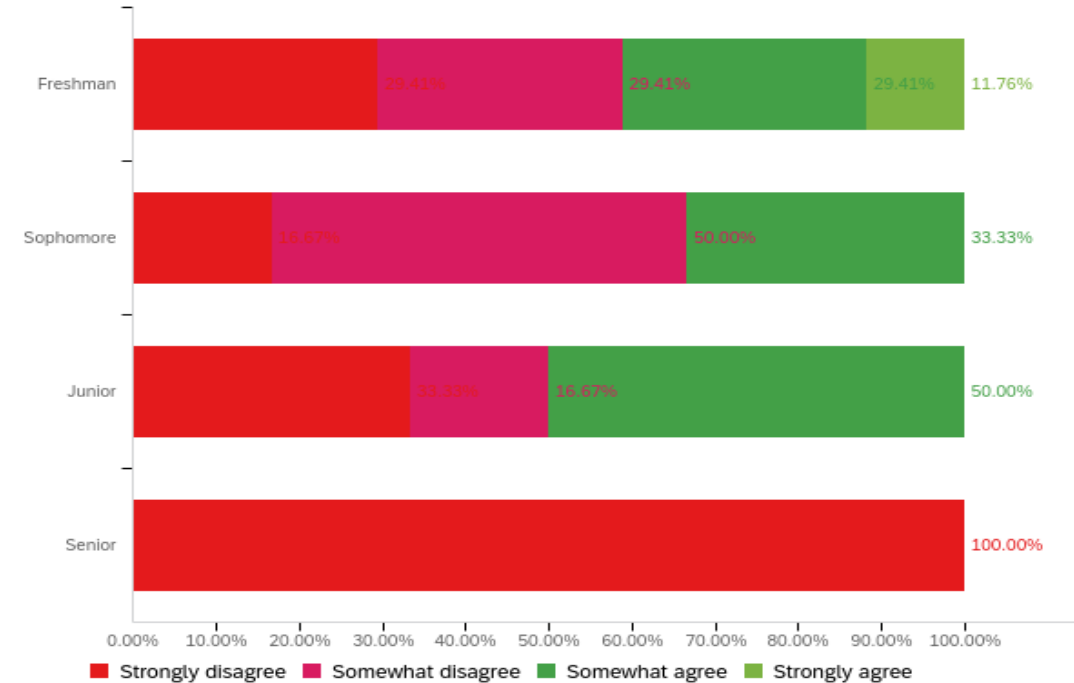


Results- Canvas



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- A majority of students perceive Canvas not to be helpful.
- All seniors see Canvas not useful.
- Either this service is not helpful, is not being promoted enough, or is too complex for students and they do not know how to use it.
- More investigation is needed to explore relevant reasons.



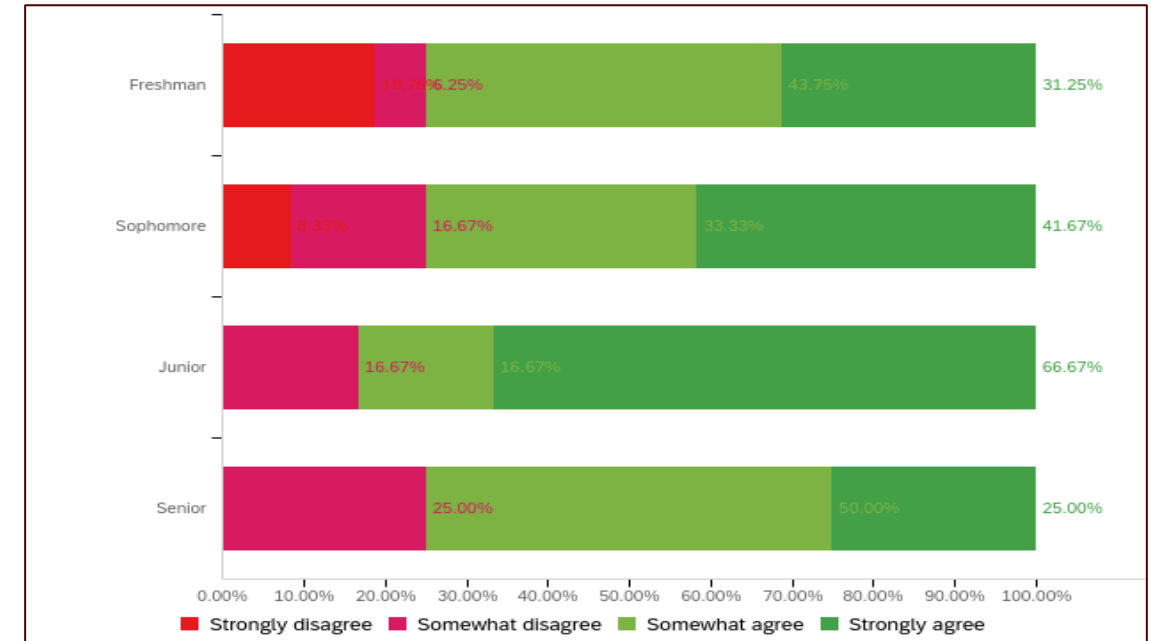
Results- University events



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Most students agree that university events help them establish good communication skills.

This confirms that events are a prominent feature of campus services that help students with their communication skills.



Results- Advices



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Word cloud show that the most common response from students about advice for newcomers is that they should talk to people.

Therefore, it seems that students believe that the reason behind the lack of communication skills is that students are used to being alone and do not interact with others.



- Put yourself out there and make fun of the situation.
- Everyone is as confused as you are, even seniors and juniors.
- Try to join more group related projects as they can help you engineer your social skills.
- Get involved in every event.





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Thank you for listening

This was a presentation by
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