

Speed Friending

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview -

Speed Friending was an I Belong grant funded program put on in the first-year residential communities at UNCG.

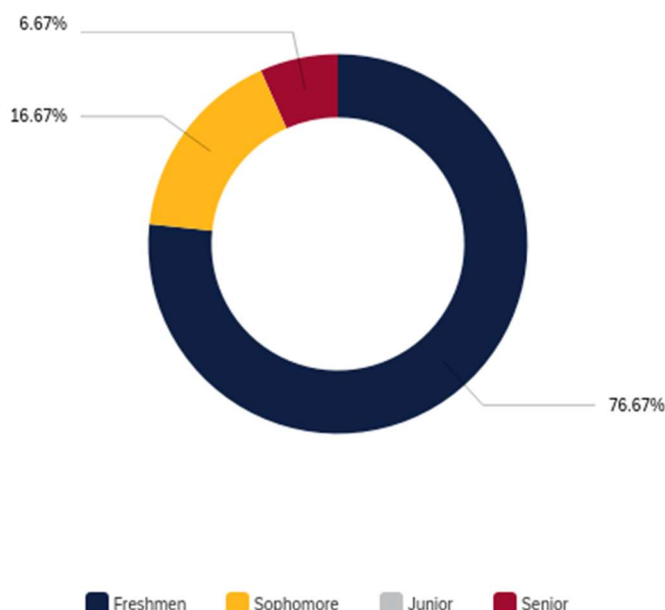
IE: With Covid-19 creating a challenge for many students to connect during the 2020-2021 school year, many students without roommates or new students to UNCG, struggled to make connections and meet others. Without the plethora of student programs that usually encourage social bonding, some students really struggled to connect with others. Speed Friending was designed to help fill this gap, and specifically target students without as many opportunities to bond with other students. The program's goals were:

- Using targeted and specific marketing, reach out to student populations that have been identified as potentially having barriers to creating social connections with other students.
- Provide a safe environment for students to network and get to know each other, opening the door for future social engagement as well as developing a sense of belonging within their communities.
- Provide opportunities for all students in the community to get out of their room and engage with their peers.

By the Numbers

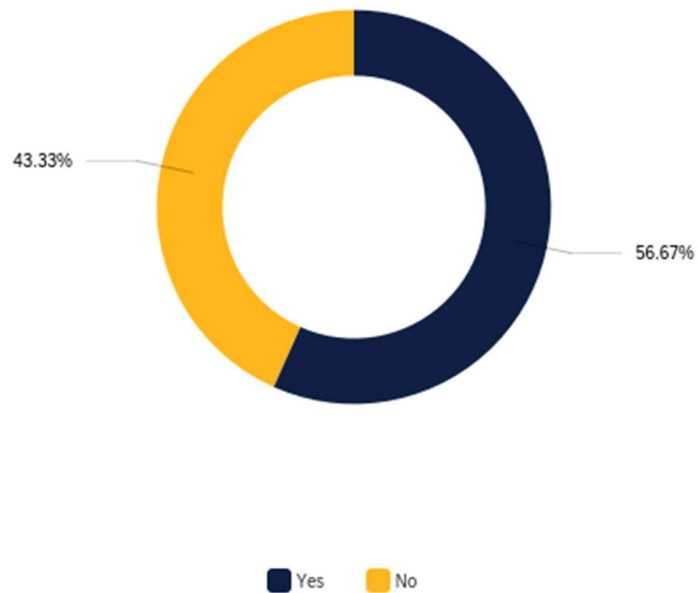
Total Students Engaged:	Total Programs Held:	Avg. # of Students per Program:	Total Connections Made:	Surveys Completed:
75	8	9.5	≈360	30

Attendees by Classification



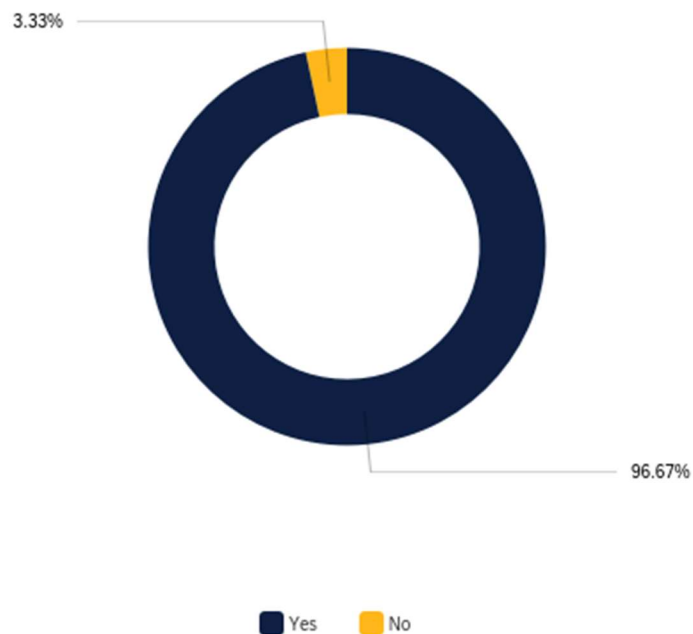
Most of the attendees (76.67%) were in the targeted population of Freshmen. As these programs were held in the majority first year communities, this was expected.

Do You Currently Have a Roommate?



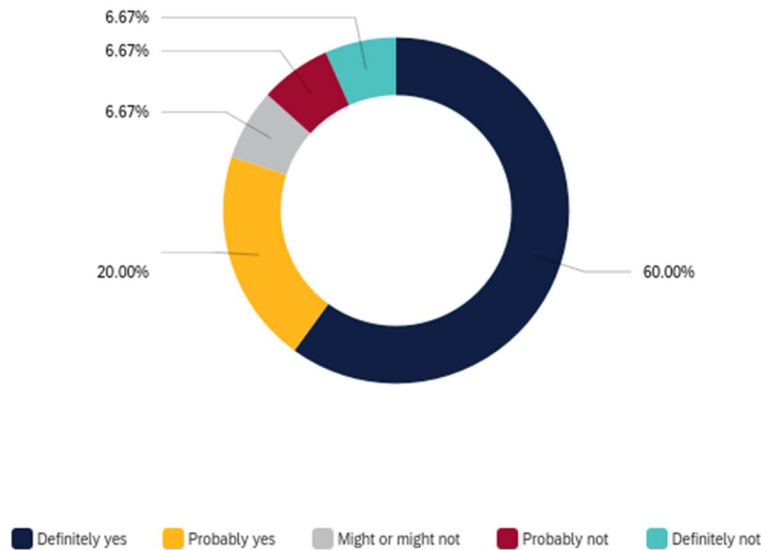
A little less than half of the attendees (43.33%) were in our targeted population of not having a roommate. While we were specifically targeting students with no roommate, we also targeted students with marketing who were new to UNCG in the Spring as well as sending out marketing to all students immediately preceding the event.

Did you meet anyone you didn't know prior to the event?



Almost all the attendees (96.67%) who attended reported meeting someone they did not know prior to the event.

Did you meet anyone you intend to socialize with in the future?



A large portion of the students (80%) affirmed that they intend to socialize with someone that they met at the event, in the future.

Qualitative Feedback (edited for grammar/relevancy)

Do you have any thoughts on how to make this program better in the future? Please share below.

I feel like this was a great way to get to know people in the building and make friends. I feel like this should happen more often, so more people can join.

Put out more info. I didn't know it was happening until minutes before because of a last-minute email.

It was well planned! I wish others joined in on the fun!

I think it was a quality experience.

More time for the event would be better

It would be nice if we had a certain amount of time to talk to one person so we can have time to get to know everyone.

Nothing really! I really enjoyed it overall.

Maybe allow us to meet more people. I'm pretty sure I didn't get to talk to two people at it because we ran out of time.

Future Implications

Though successful overall, some individual programs suffered from low attendance due to lack of marketing or planning.

Overall, the program's success indicates that there was a need that was met by holding these programs. Hopefully, moving forward we can put the Covid-19 pandemic behind us and there will be other opportunities for students to engage. However, there are always students that may struggle to make connections with others in their hall. Being able to have an opportunity to meet people is always positive, particularly during the first-year residential experience.