

RIBN Student Survey Report – First Year Students (2013-14)

The Foundation for Nursing Excellence created this survey to gather input from first year RIBN students about their first-year experiences. Topics included how students heard about and became interested in the program, the helpfulness of their Student Success Advocate and orientation, and their experiences with registration, financial aid, and dual-enrollment. Responses will help Student Success Advocates understand the needs of first year students and improve the experiences of future cohorts.

Response Information:

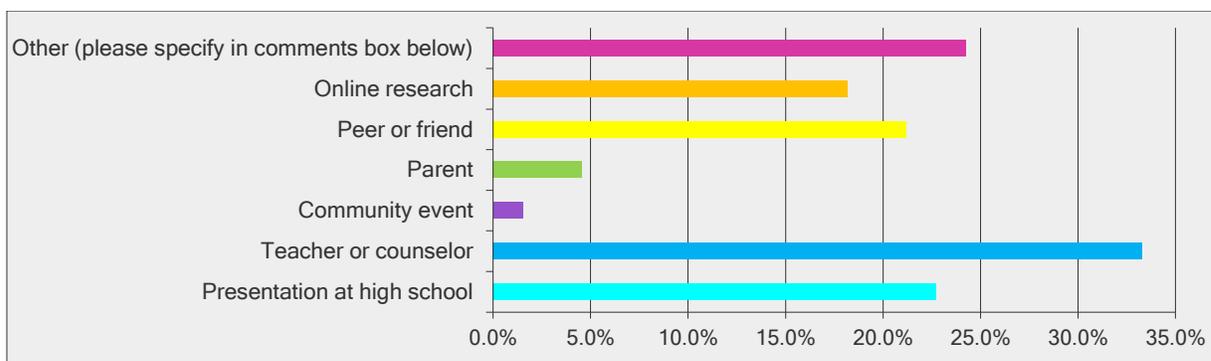
During the 2014 fall semester, 154 second year RIBN students were sent a student survey regarding their experience as a first year RIBN student. Sixty-six second year RIBN students responded to the survey. All students answered each question except as noted below.

General Summary of Responses:

- Teachers and counselors were the main resource for providing information to students about the RIBN program. Many students also commented hearing about the program through a presentation at their school.
- The primary reason students chose the RIBN program over a traditional BSN was related to the affordability of the program. The secondary reason students chose RIBN was due to the guaranteed acceptance to completion of the BSN degree as long as they maintain the RIBN program requirements.
- Most of the students stated they plan to pursue higher education after attaining the baccalaureate degree.
- Nearly all students found their Student Success Advocate (SSA) as very helpful. Students reported the support from SSA help alleviate major stressors with the transition into collegiate studies allowing for a great overall experience.
- The Orientation process ranked equally “very helpful” to “somewhat helpful” for most students.
- Financial aid process responses ranged from somewhat easy to somewhat difficult for many students with the majority of comments stating more financial aid needed for nursing careers.
- Most students are taking online classes at the university and are very satisfied with dual-enrollment.
- Most students felt equally connected to the university as the community college.
- Most students found the personal relationships they have formed in the program as the most rewarding thing about being a RIBN student.

Responses by Question:

1. How did you hear about the RIBN Program? (Choose all that apply.)

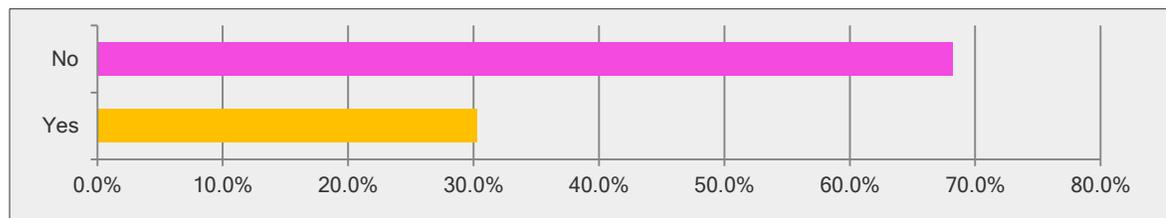


Ten students checked “Other” commenting that they learned about RIBN from a presentation at their school by the SSA or a college representative. Four students checked “Other” commenting that they heard about the program from their peers or a family member. The last two students checked “Other” commenting they learned about it from the newspaper.

2. Why did you choose the RIBN Program instead of a traditional BSN program?

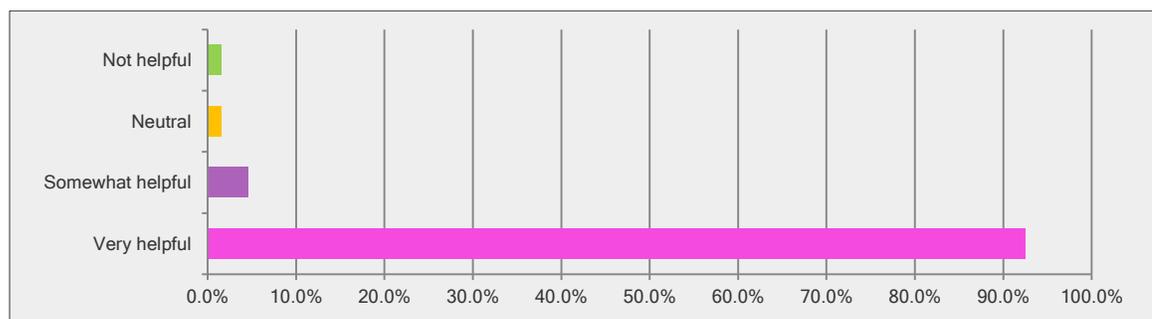
This question allowed students to write their responses. The majority of the students cited cost of the program was the appealing factor for why they chose RIBN. The secondary reason students chose RIBN was due to the guaranteed acceptance to completion of the BSN degree as long as they maintain the RIBN program requirements. Other responses included the support received from the SSA and the prestige of being in a new program that offers opportunities for networking outside of region.

3. Are you the first person in your family to go to college?



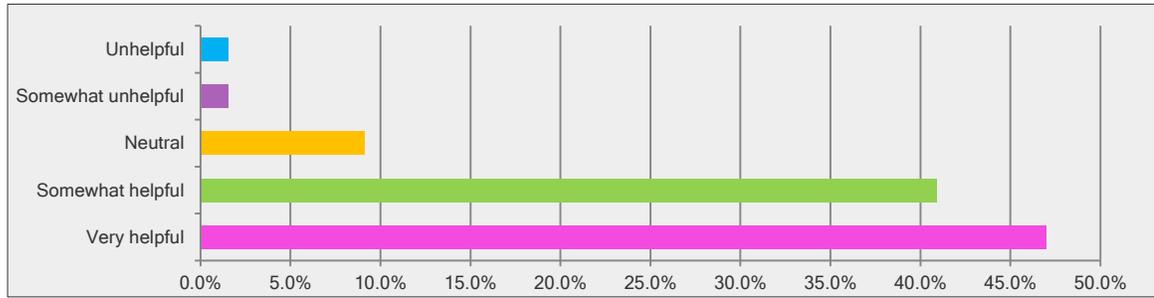
Nine of the twenty students that are first in their family to go to college stated their parent was the most influential person encouraging them to go to college. One cited their grandparent and nine did not elaborate on the most influential person that encouraged them to go to college. The last individual stated they were self-motivated.

4. How helpful was your Student Success Advocate (RIBN Advisor) during the enrollment process?



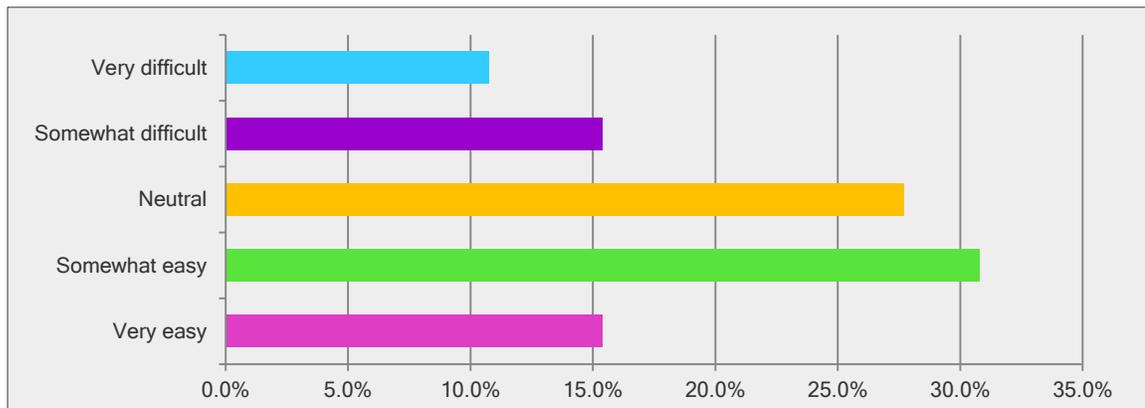
Only one student, out of sixty-six respondents, indicated that the Student Success Advocate was not helpful. The student stated they utilized the assistance of their parent more than the SSA.

5. How helpful was the orientation process at your community college?



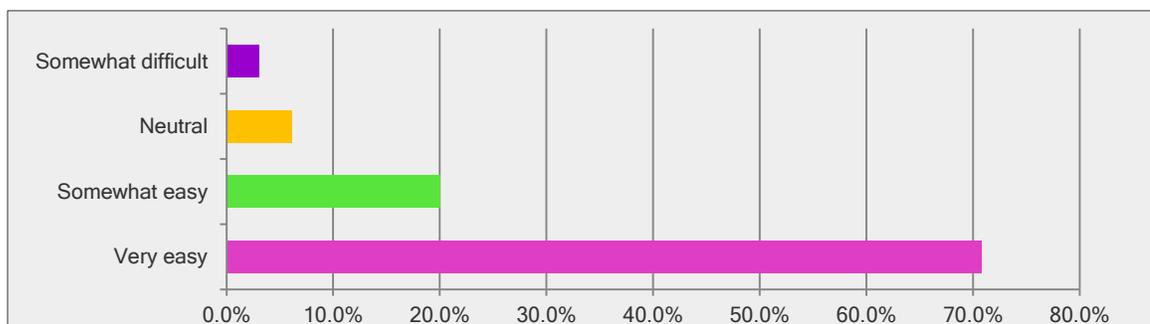
Thirty-one students indicated that the orientation process was very helpful. Twenty-seven students indicated the orientation process was somewhat helpful. Six students responded neutral regarding the orientation process at the community college. One student each responded the orientation process was somewhat unhelpful or unhelpful. No additional comments or explanations accompanied this question.

6. How easy or difficult was your financial aid experience during the enrollment process?



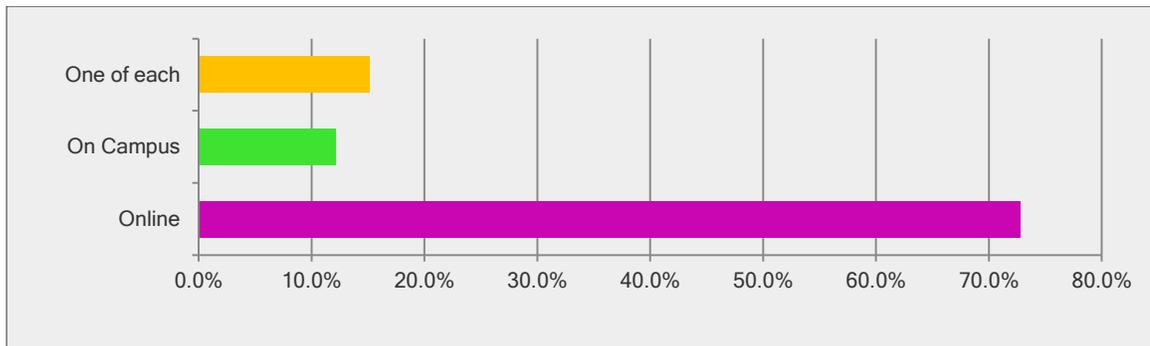
Students that commented on the difficulty of the financial aid experience indicated that if they were ineligible for federal scholarships, additional paperwork needed to be submitted in order to apply for loans at certain institutions. Balancing two different school's financial aid processes (university versus community college) made the process challenging and students were many times required to pay out of pocket for courses at the secondary school until loans or refunds were completely processed.

7. How easy or difficult was the registration process at your community college?



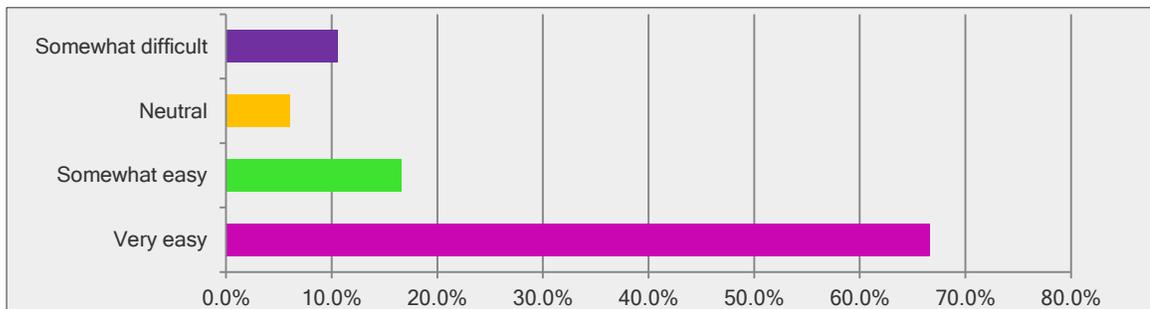
No students indicated that the registration process was very difficult.

8. Are the classes you are taking this year from the university online or seated classes on campus?



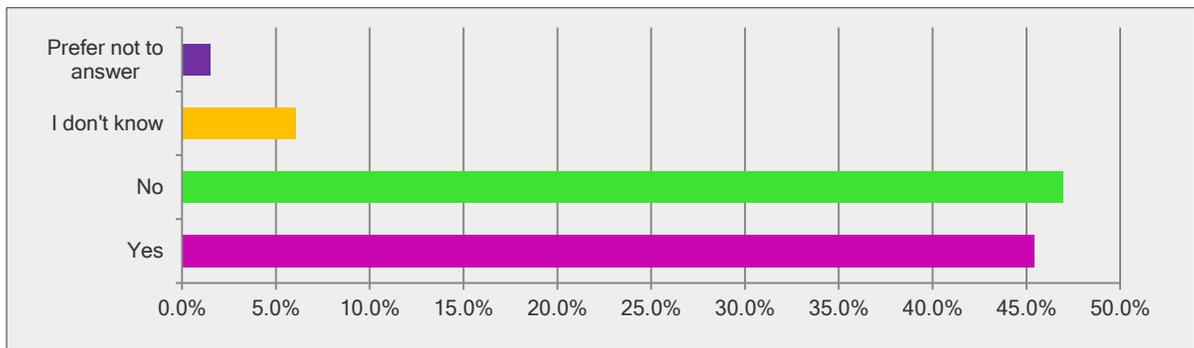
Several students that commented said they did not have a choice to take an on campus class or they did not explore the option of taking an on campus class.

9. How easy or difficult was it to register for one course either online or seated at the university each semester?



No students indicated it was very difficult to register for one course either online or seated at the university. Seven students indicated it was somewhat difficult to register for courses at the university due to courses being full during the time they were able to register. Students commented the only way to ensure they would get the course needed, if it was full during the initial registration period, was to consistently check on whether or not someone had dropped the needed course.

10. Do you feel connected to the university community?

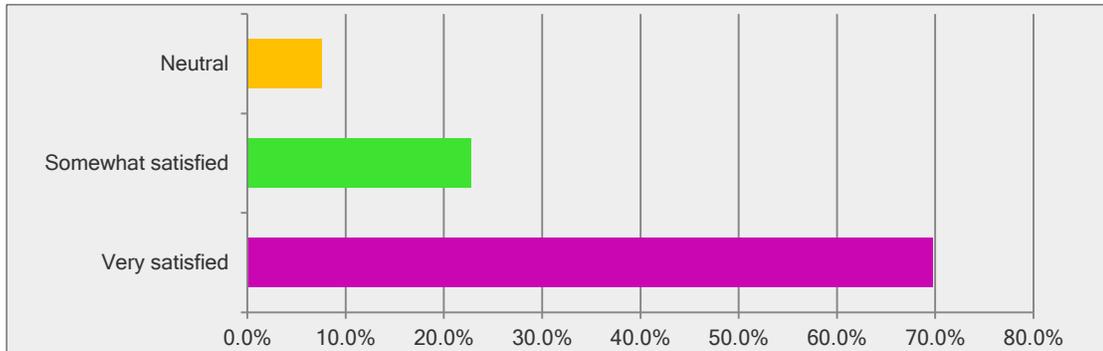


Almost an equal number of students commented they felt/did not feel connected to the university community, thirty and thirty-one respectively.

If not, would you like to feel more connected to the university? If so, how?

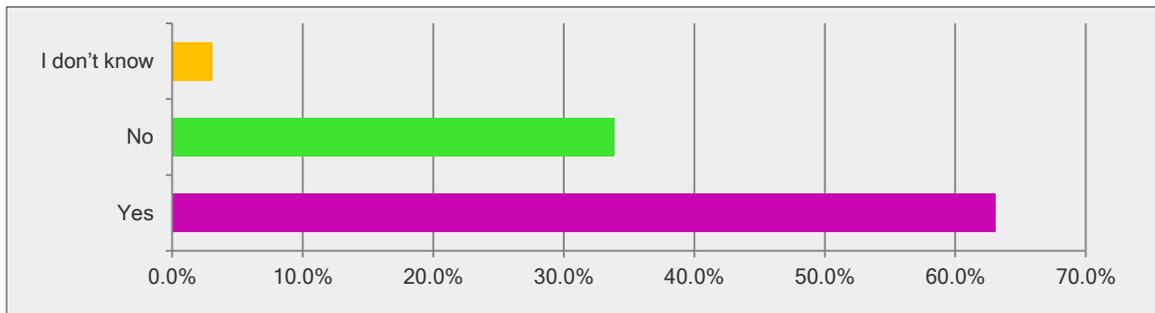
Students commented they don't have time to be more connected with the heavy coursework as a RIBN student.

11. Overall, how satisfied are you with dual-enrollment at the community college and college/university?



No students indicated that they were somewhat or very dissatisfied. Five students indicated they were neutrally satisfied with dual-enrollment. One student commented they weren't eligible for scholarships due to being considered a distance education student at the university. Three students said they felt exiled from other students and that's it's hard to combine the two different worlds. One student felt their financial aid would be increased if they only took coursework at the university level. One student said s/he is forced to take additional courses and spend extra money for credits that aren't needed.

12. Do you feel that being a RIBN student is any different than being a regular student at the community college?



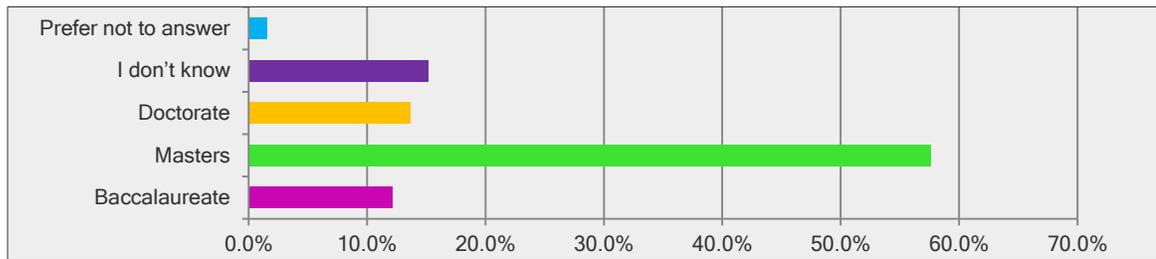
A variety of comments were received regarding students feeling different as a RIBN student versus being a regular student. One said s/he felt more dedicated. One said s/he had more support. One said people tend to perceive him/her as more forward acting and thinking. Two students felt more respected by the teacher. Four students said they had more of a workload or requirements/expectations than other students.

13. What is the most rewarding experience you have had in the RIBN Program so far?

This question allowed students to write their responses. A summation of responses is listed below:

- Academic improvement
- Connection with upper class to inquire about their experiences
- Advantage of automatic acceptance into the program of choice, i.e. nursing
- Ability to juggle schedules from two schools shows time management skills
- Additional support from faculty

14. What is the highest degree in nursing that you hope to attain in your career?



Forty-six students hope to attain a Masters or Doctorate in their career. Eight plan to stop after attaining their BSN. Ten students responded they didn't know and one student did not answer the question.

15. Please share any other comments or concerns about your first year experience as a RIBN student that might be helpful.

There were thirty-three responses to this question which are summarized below.

- Early registration for university courses
- Advice from upper class about the importance of time management, organization study skills
- Availability of course offerings during summer to lighten the load during fall and spring semesters
- Improve communication between two institutions, especially regarding financial aid process
- Clarify structure and expectations of program