

# First Year & Senior Student Experiences

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) 2011

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Office of Institutional Research  
and Policy Studies

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# Results from the 2011 National Survey of Student Engagement

- Student Characteristics ([Slide 3](#))
- Academic and Intellectual Experiences ([Slide 8](#))
- Mental Activities ([Slide 31](#))
- Reading and Writing ([Slide 38](#))
- Problem Sets ([Slide 44](#))
- Examinations ([Slide 46](#))
- Additional Collegiate Experiences ([Slide 48](#))
- Enriching Educational Experiences ([Slide 55](#))
- Quality of Relationships ([Slide 64](#))
- Time Usage ([Slide 71](#))
- Institutional Environment ([Slide 80](#))
- Educational and Personal Growth ([Slide 88](#))
- Academic Advising ([Slide 105](#))
- Satisfaction ([Slide 107](#))

# STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

# 2011 UMass Boston Respondent Characteristics\*

## First Year Students

- 332 respondents  
(26% response rate)
- 91% full-time students
- 58% female/42% male
- 12% international students
- 10% “non-traditional”  
(24 or older)
- 12% transfers

## Senior Students

- 778 respondents  
(25% response rate)
- 74% full-time students
- 60% female/40% male
- 14% international students
- 66% “non-traditional”  
(24 or older)
- 75% transfers

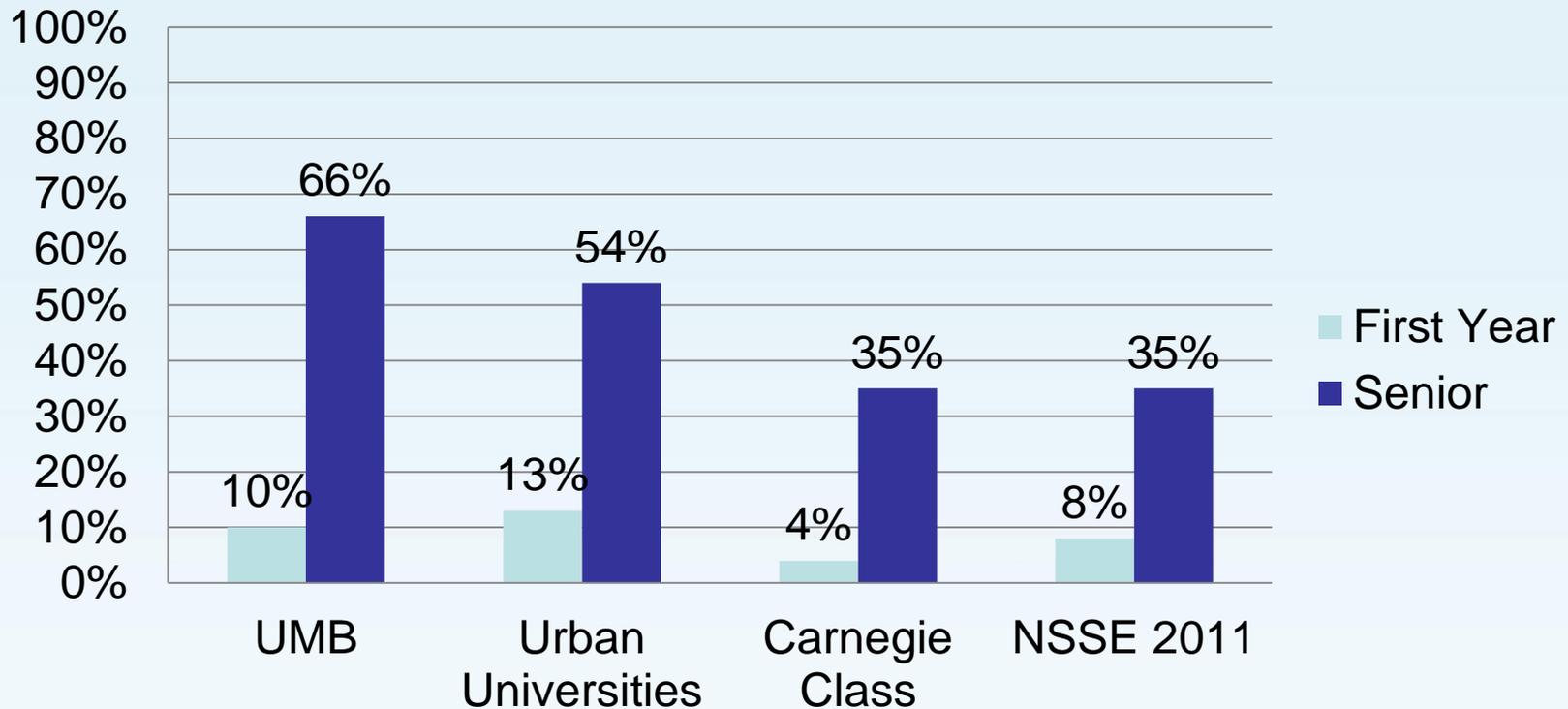
*\* Please note: These characteristics are self-reported.*

# Student Race/Ethnicity

	First Year	Senior
American Indian/Native American	1%	0%
Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander	23%	14%
Black/African American	9%	17%
White (non-Hispanic)	41%	45%
Mexican/Mexican American	0%	1%
Puerto Rican	2%	1%
Other Hispanic or Latino	9%	6%
Multiracial	3%	4%
Other	5%	5%
I prefer not to respond	6%	8%

# A greater percentage of UMB senior students were considered “non-traditional” than those in the comparison groups\*

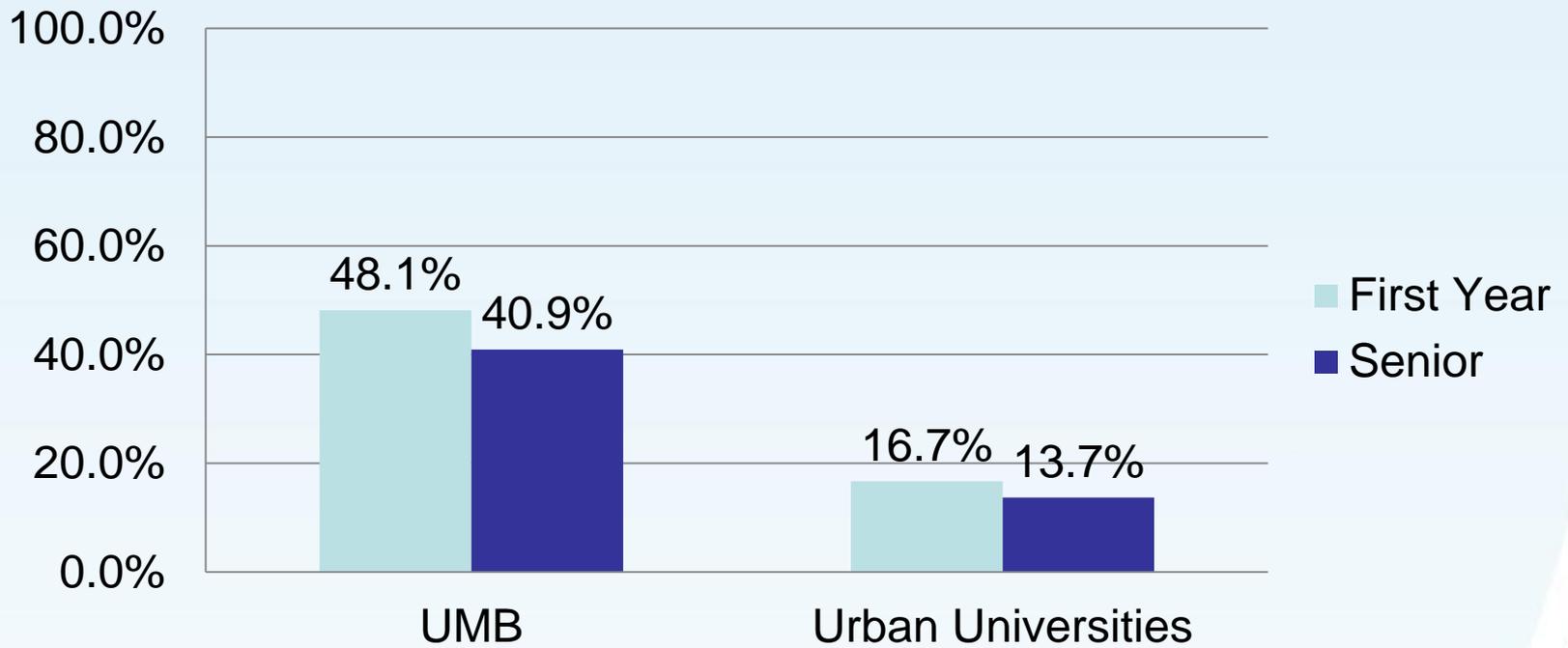
## Percent of Non-Traditional Students (24+)



\*except when UMB first year students were compared to first year students at urban universities.

# UMB Students are More Likely to Speak a Language Other than English at Home than Students at other Urban Universities

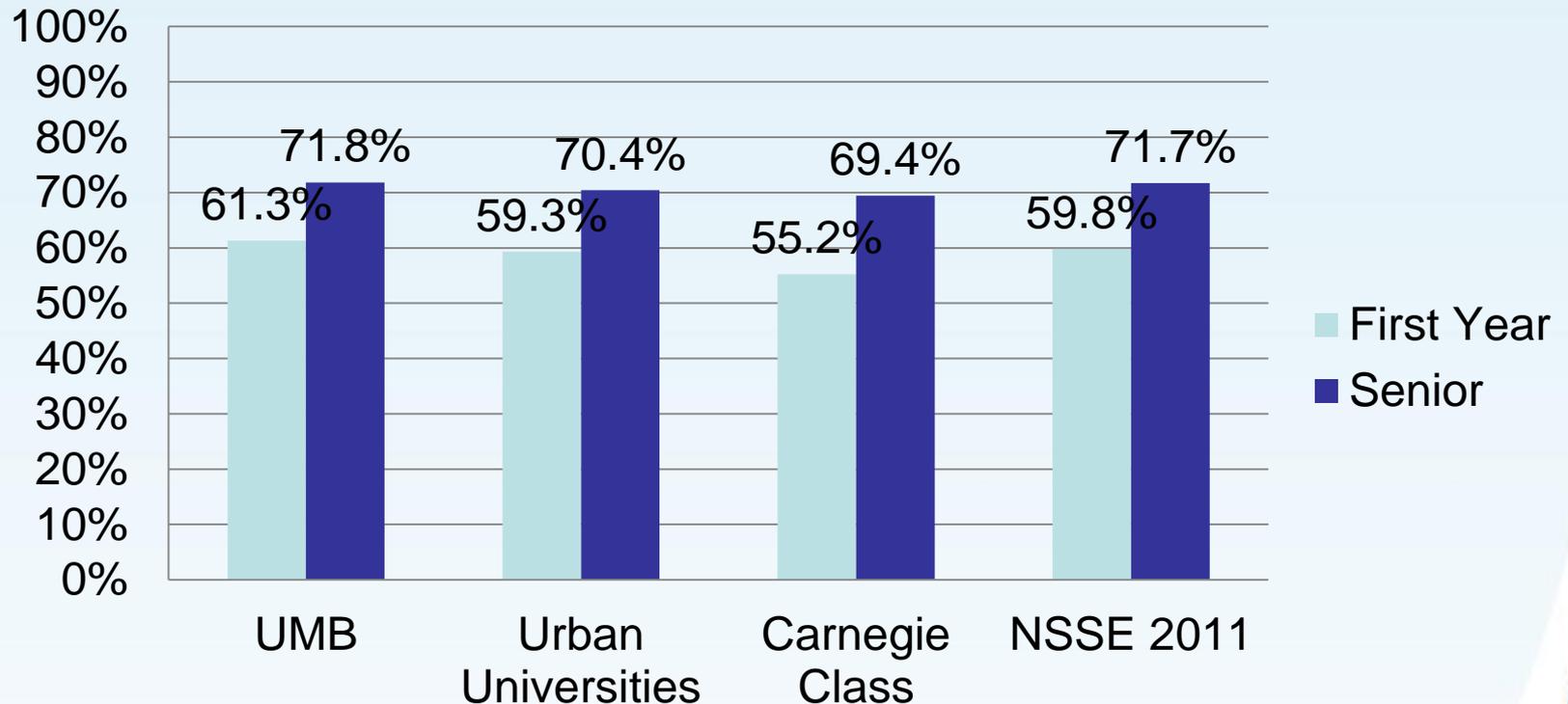
## Percent of Students Who Speak a Language Other than English at Home



# ACADEMIC AND INTELLECTUAL EXPERIENCES

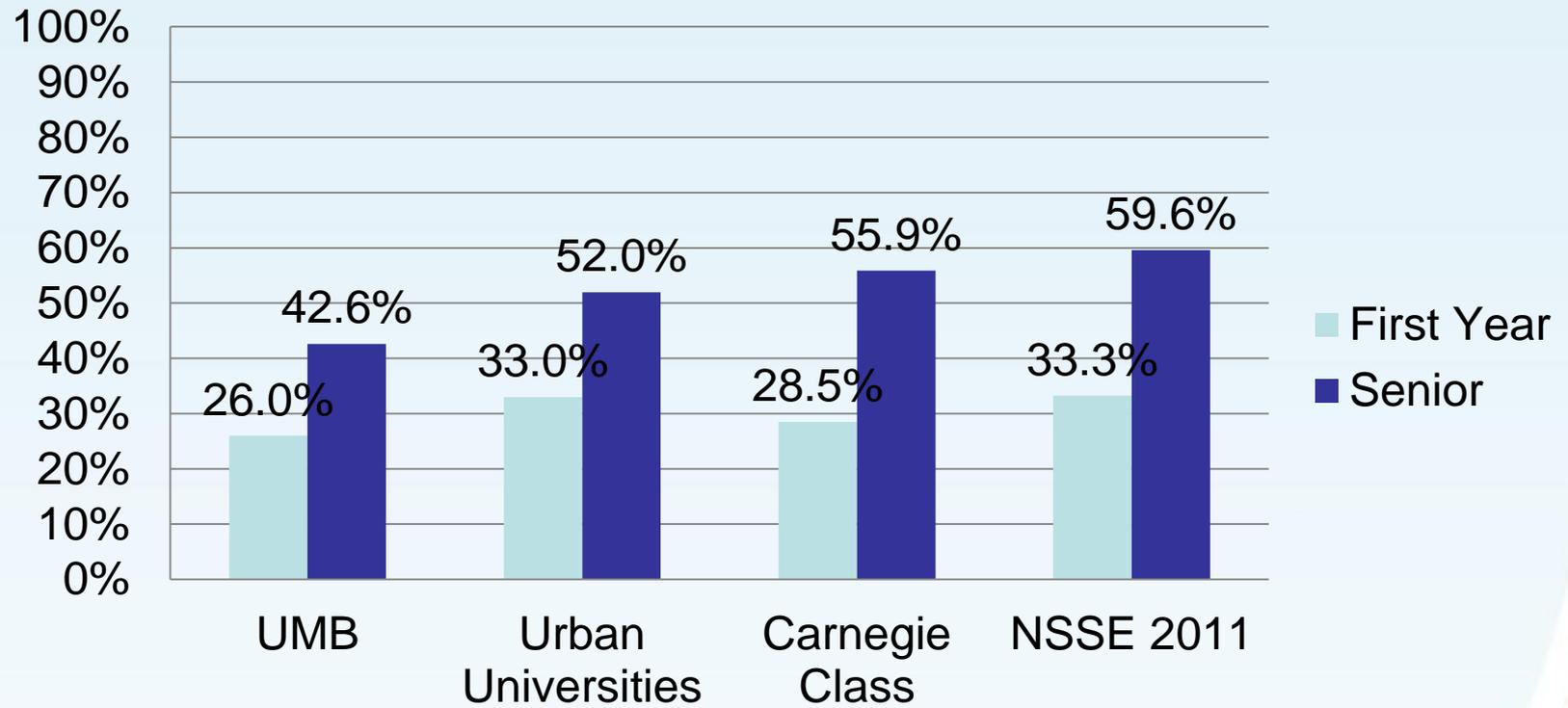
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions?

**% Responding Often or Very Often**



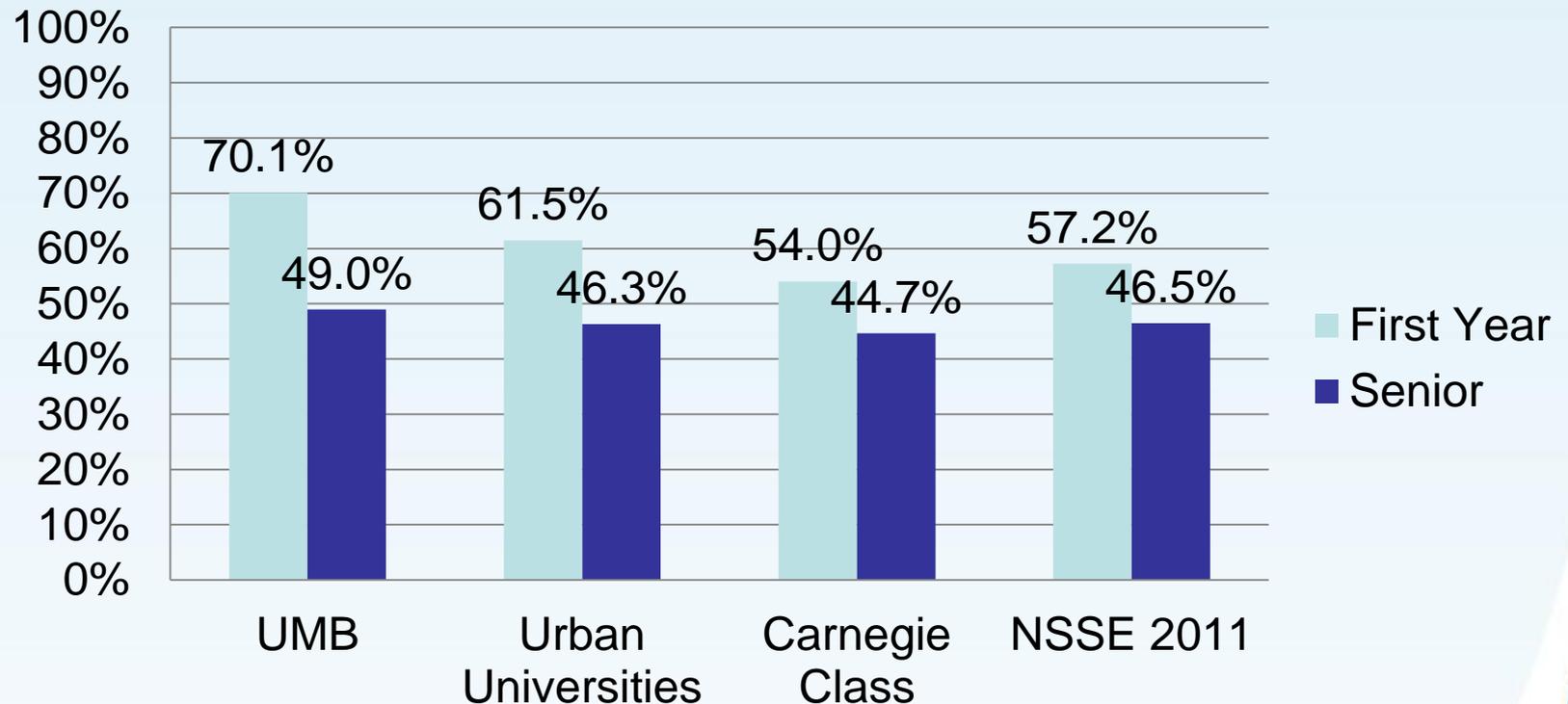
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you made a class presentation?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



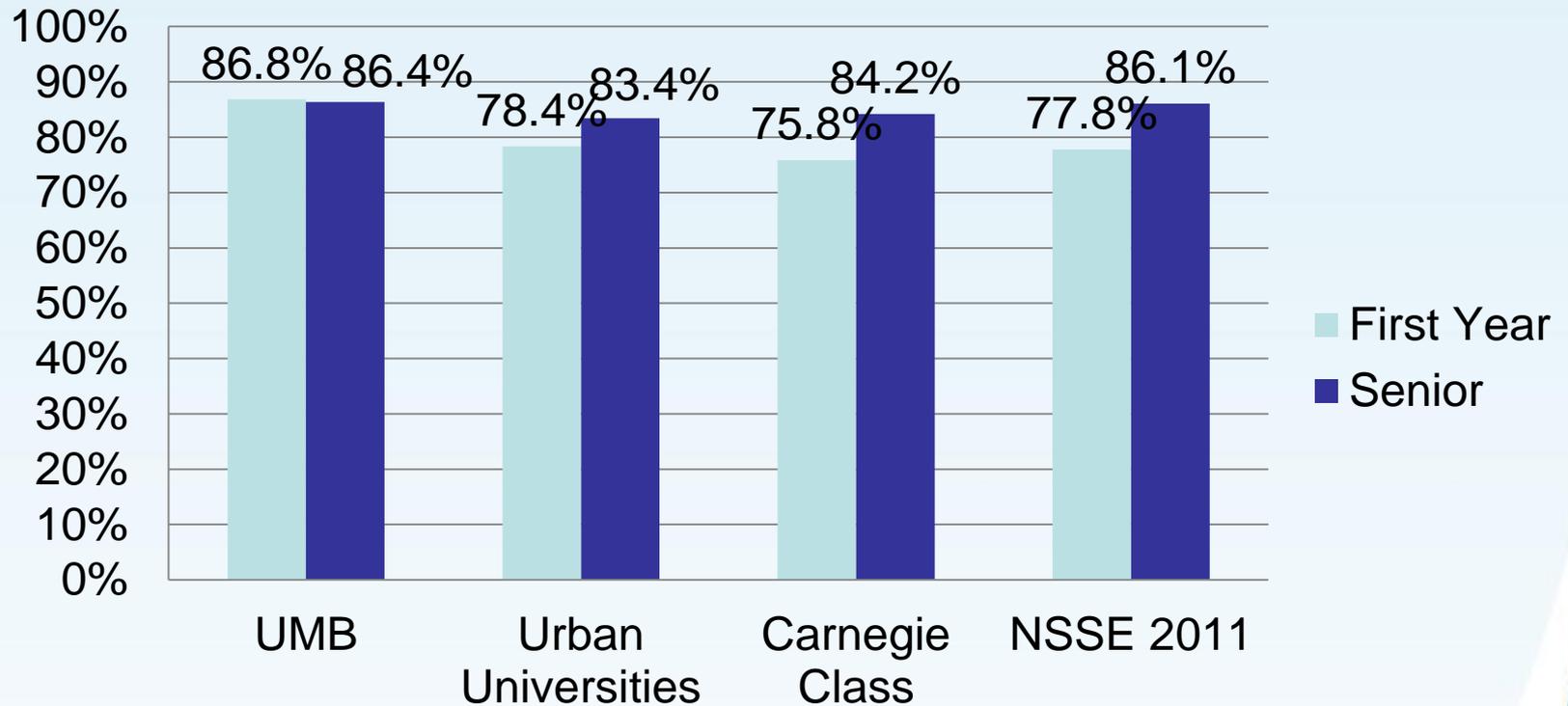
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in?

**% Responding Often or Very Often**



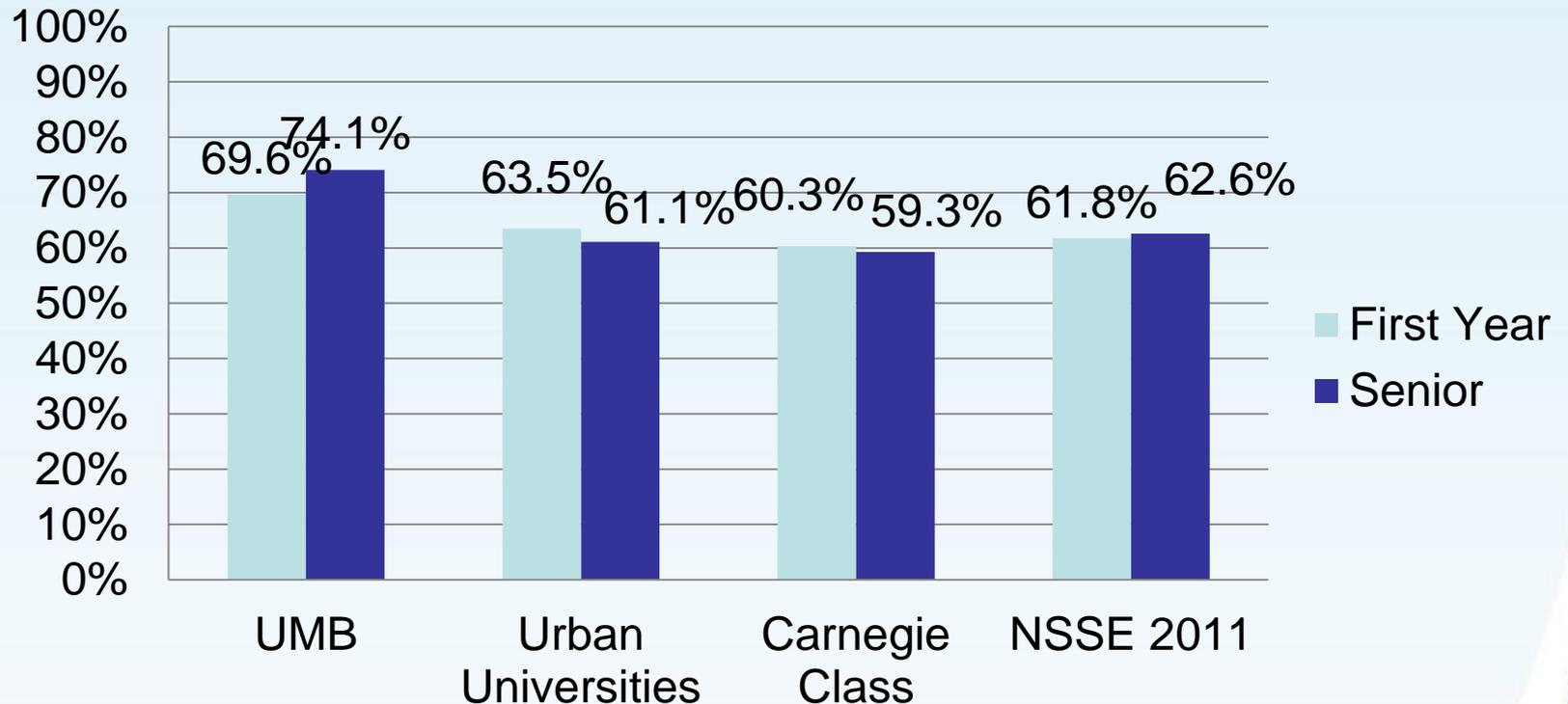
**In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources?**

**% Responding Often or Very Often**



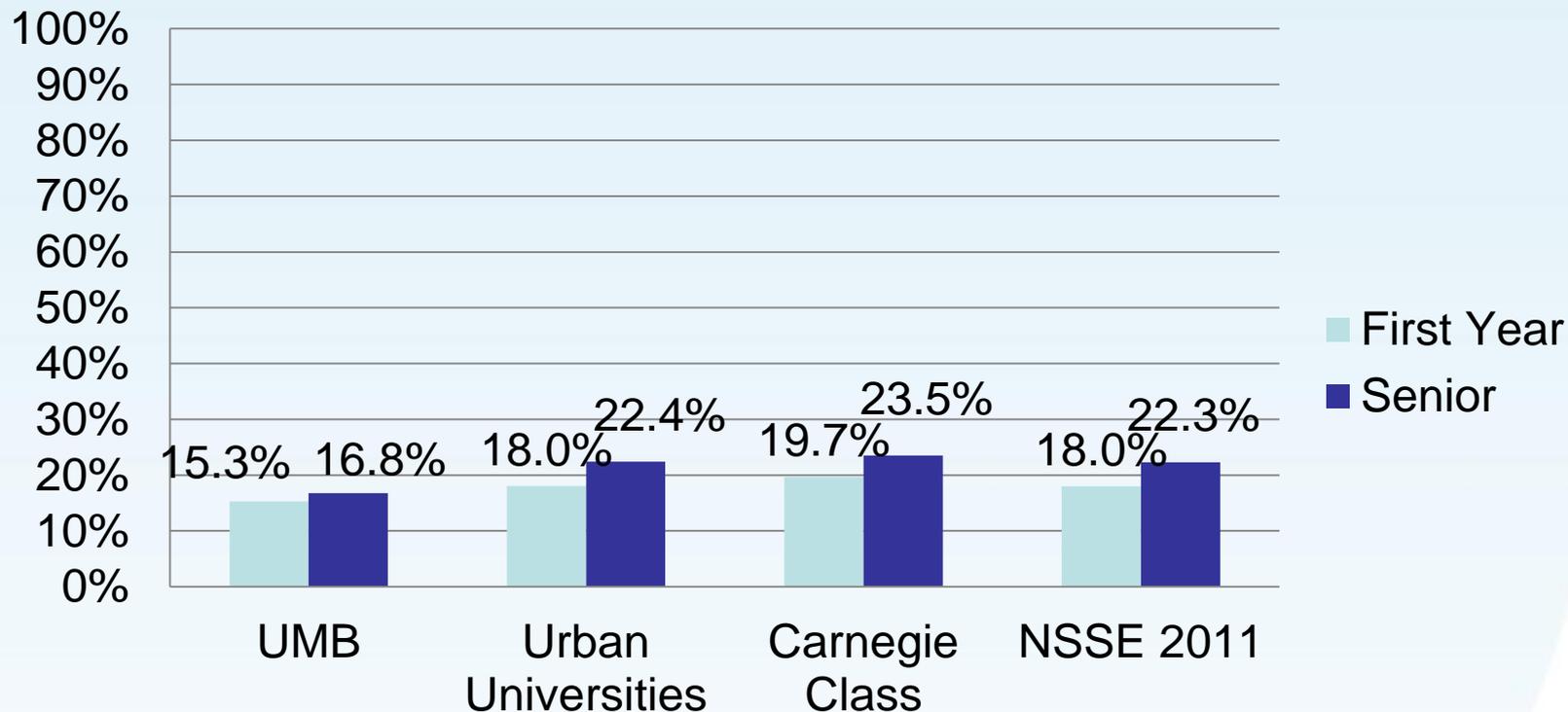
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments?

**% Responding Often or Very Often**



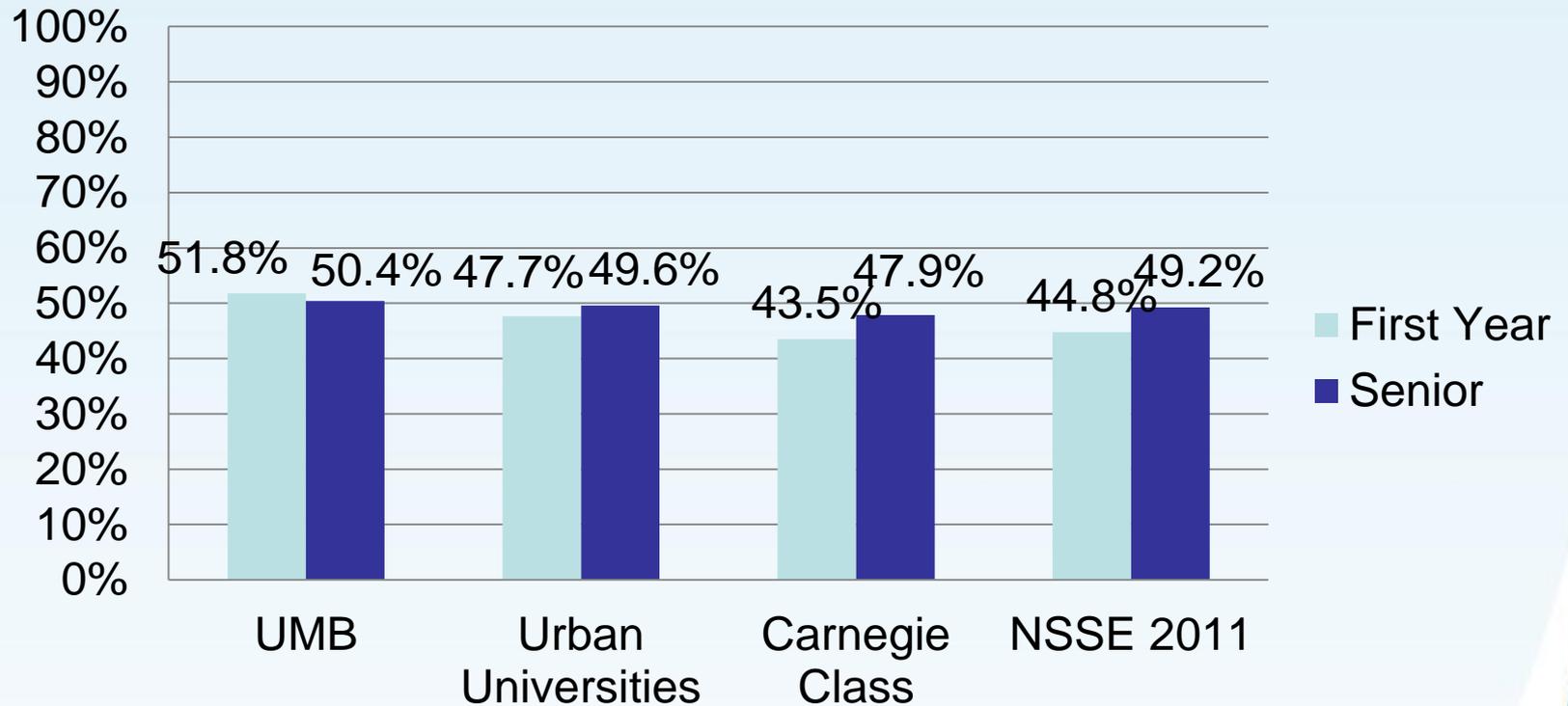
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you come to class without completing readings or assignments?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



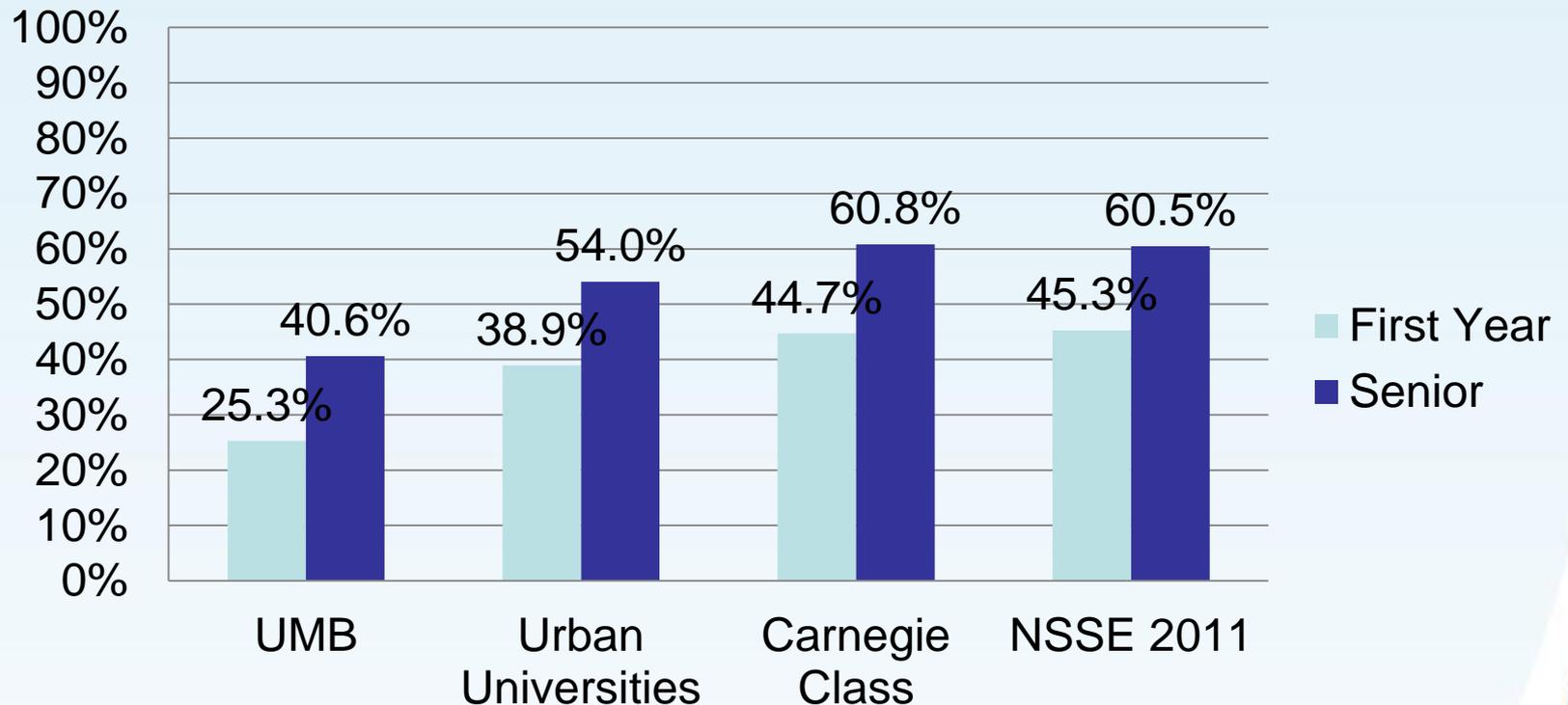
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you worked with other students on projects during class?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



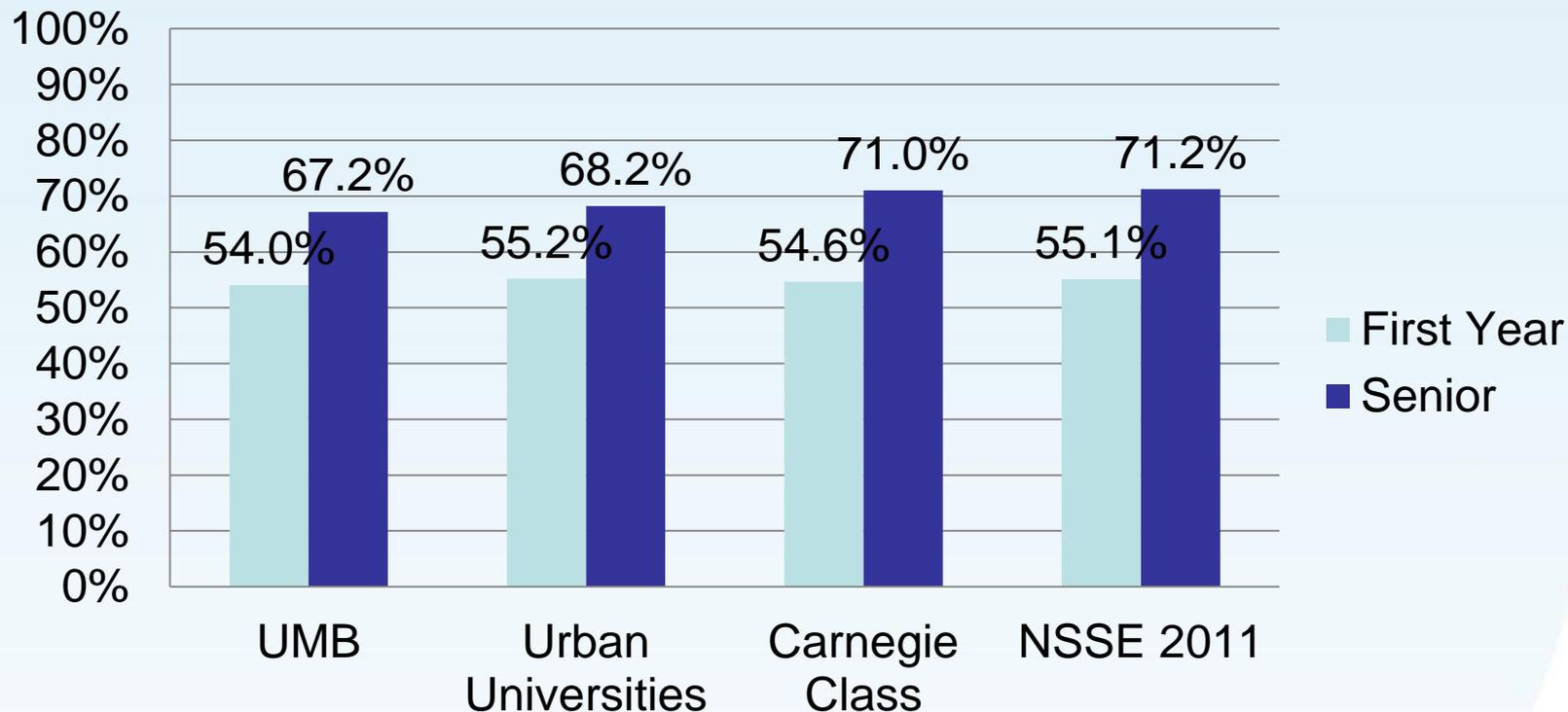
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



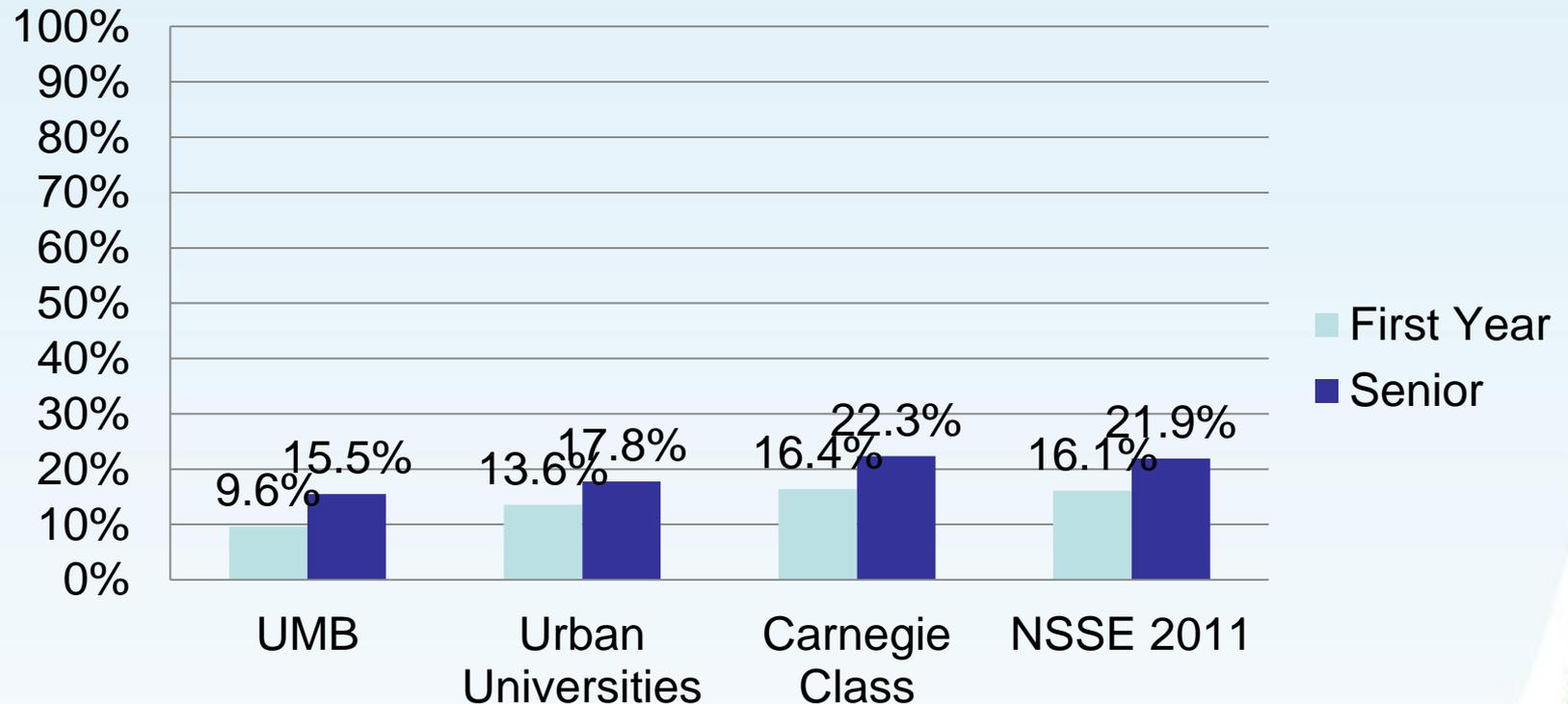
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions?

**% Responding Often or Very Often**



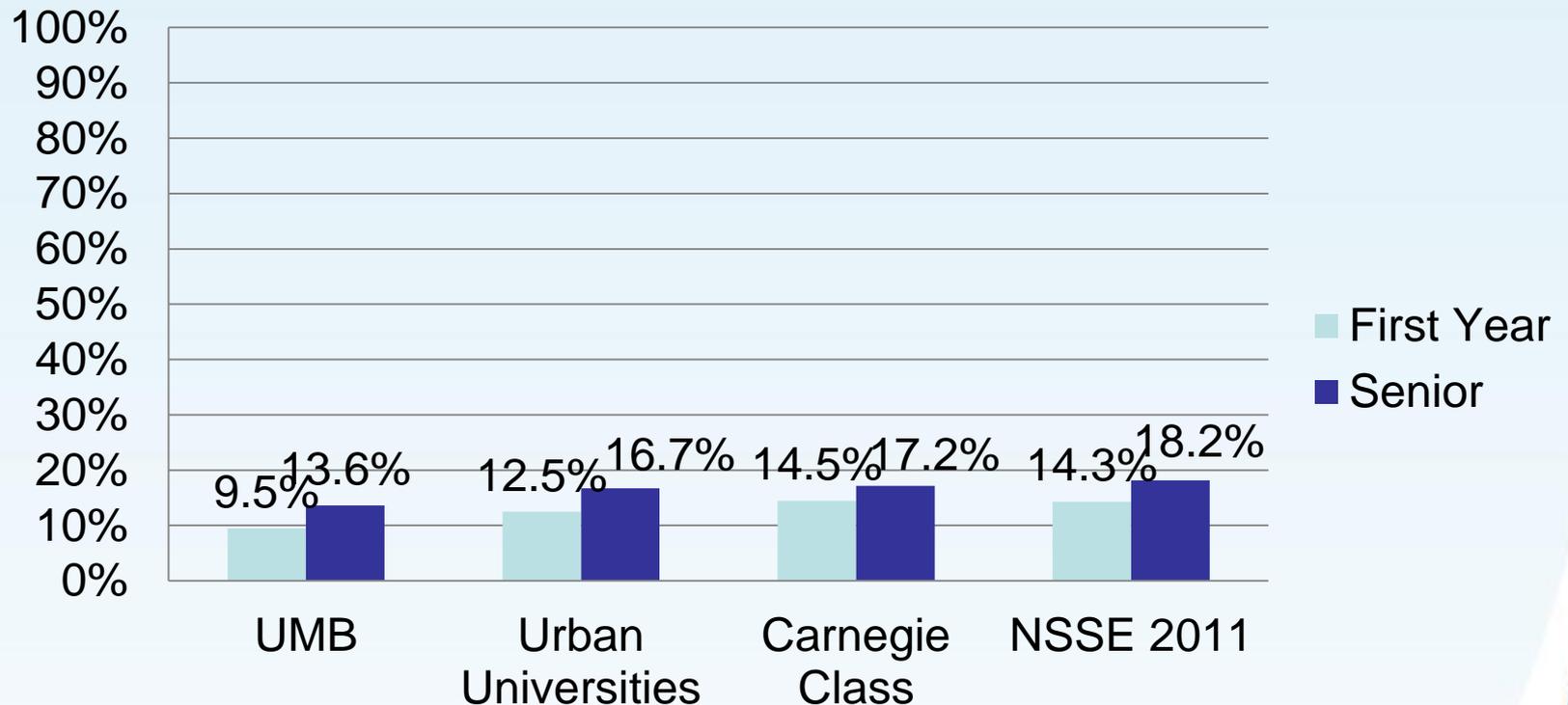
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



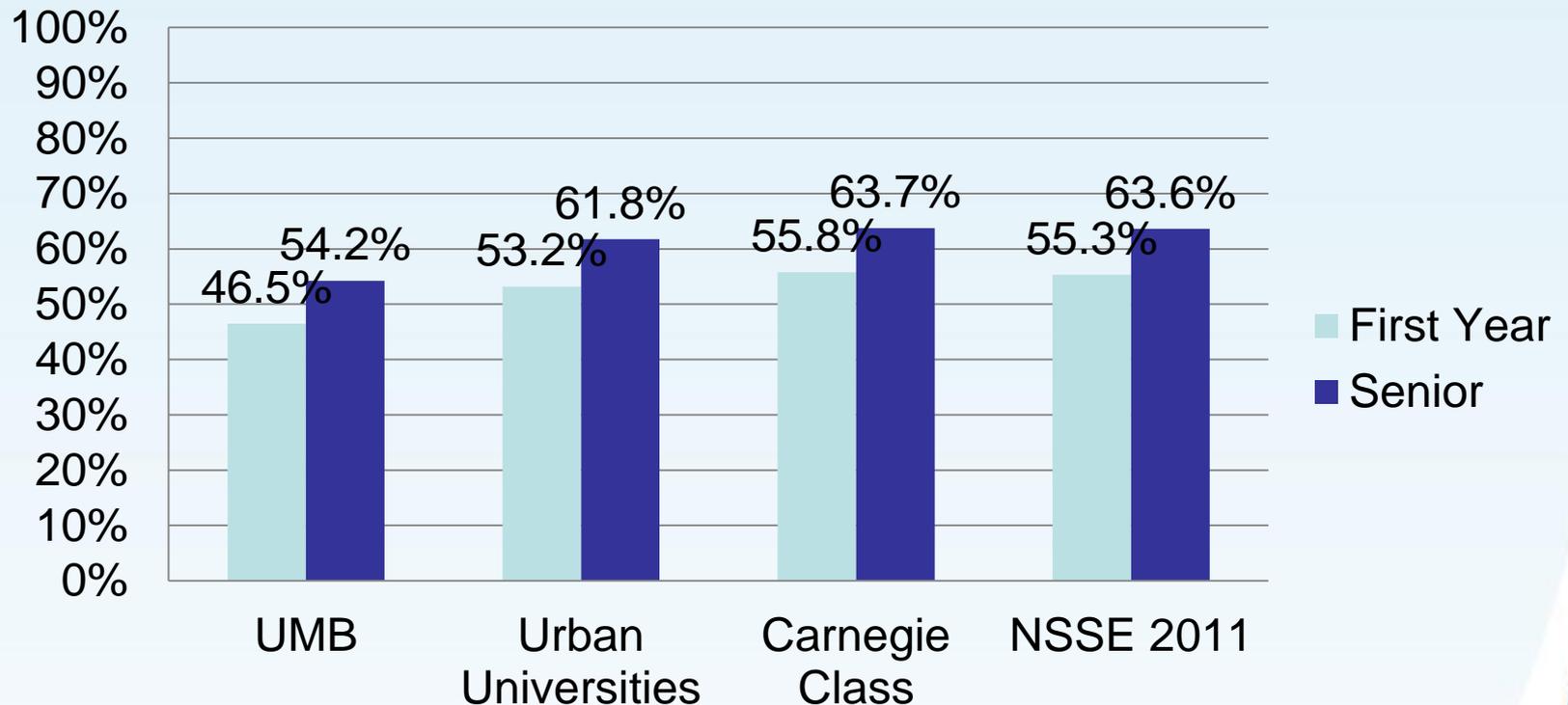
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you participated in a community-based project (e.g. service learning) as part of a regular course?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



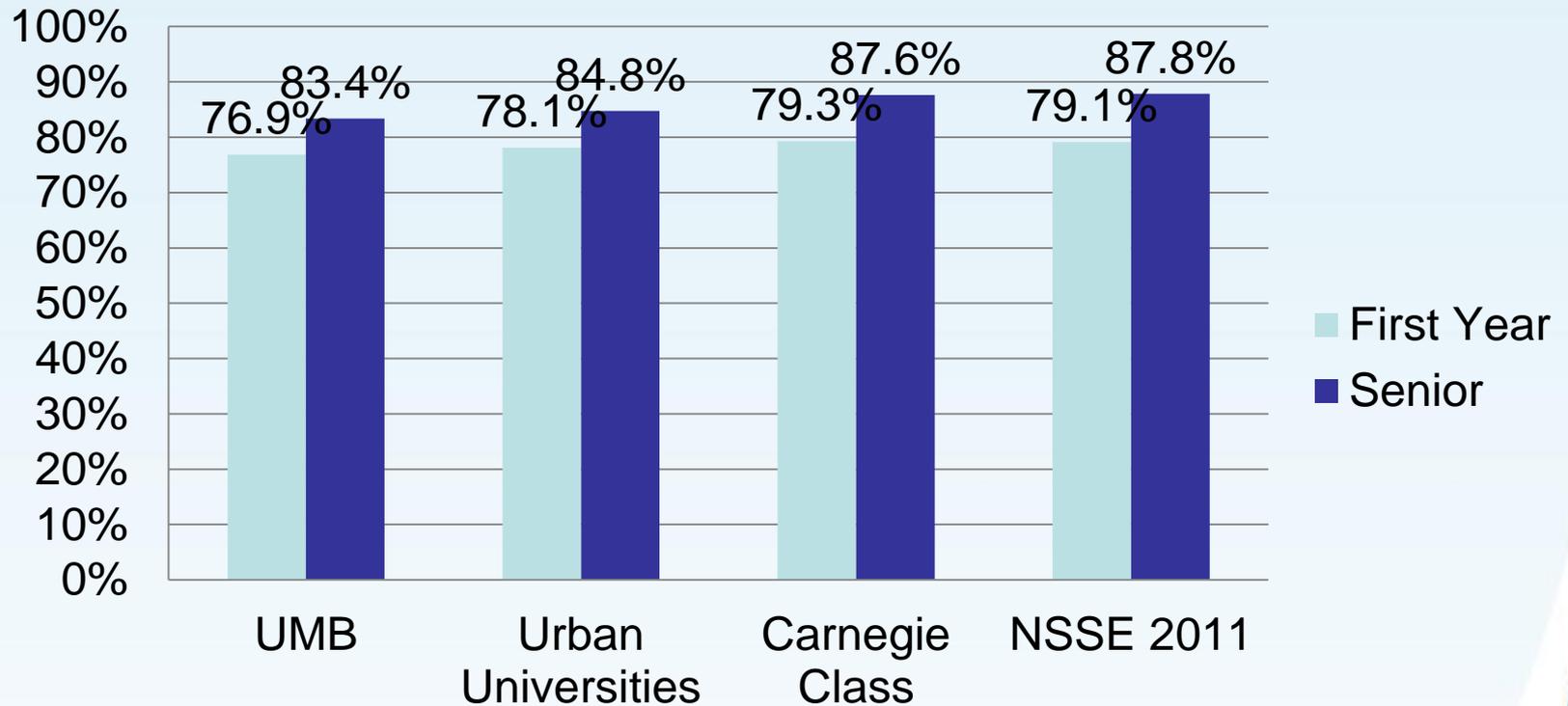
**In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you used an electronic medium (listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment?**

**% Responding Often or Very Often**



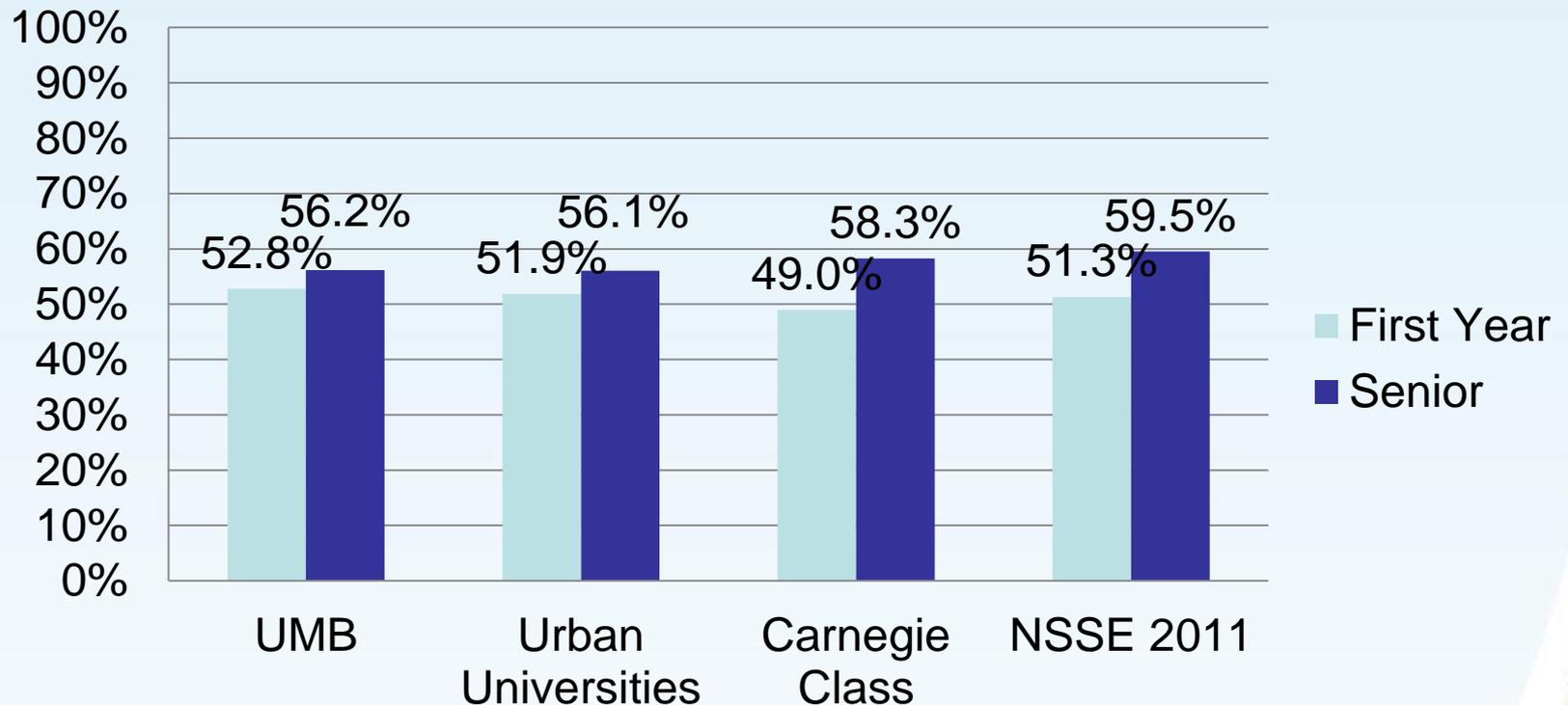
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you used e-mail to communicate with an instructor?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



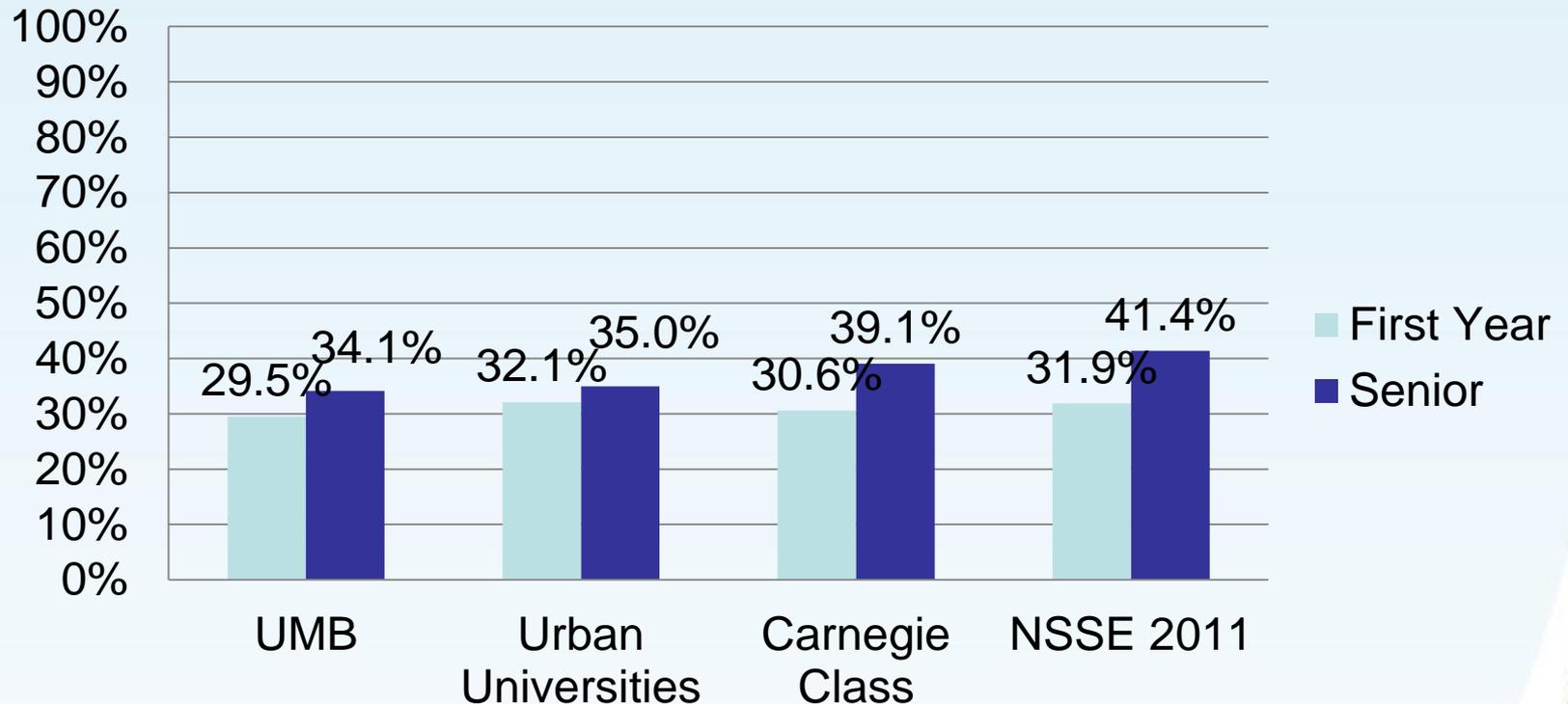
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you discussed grades or assignments with an instructor?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



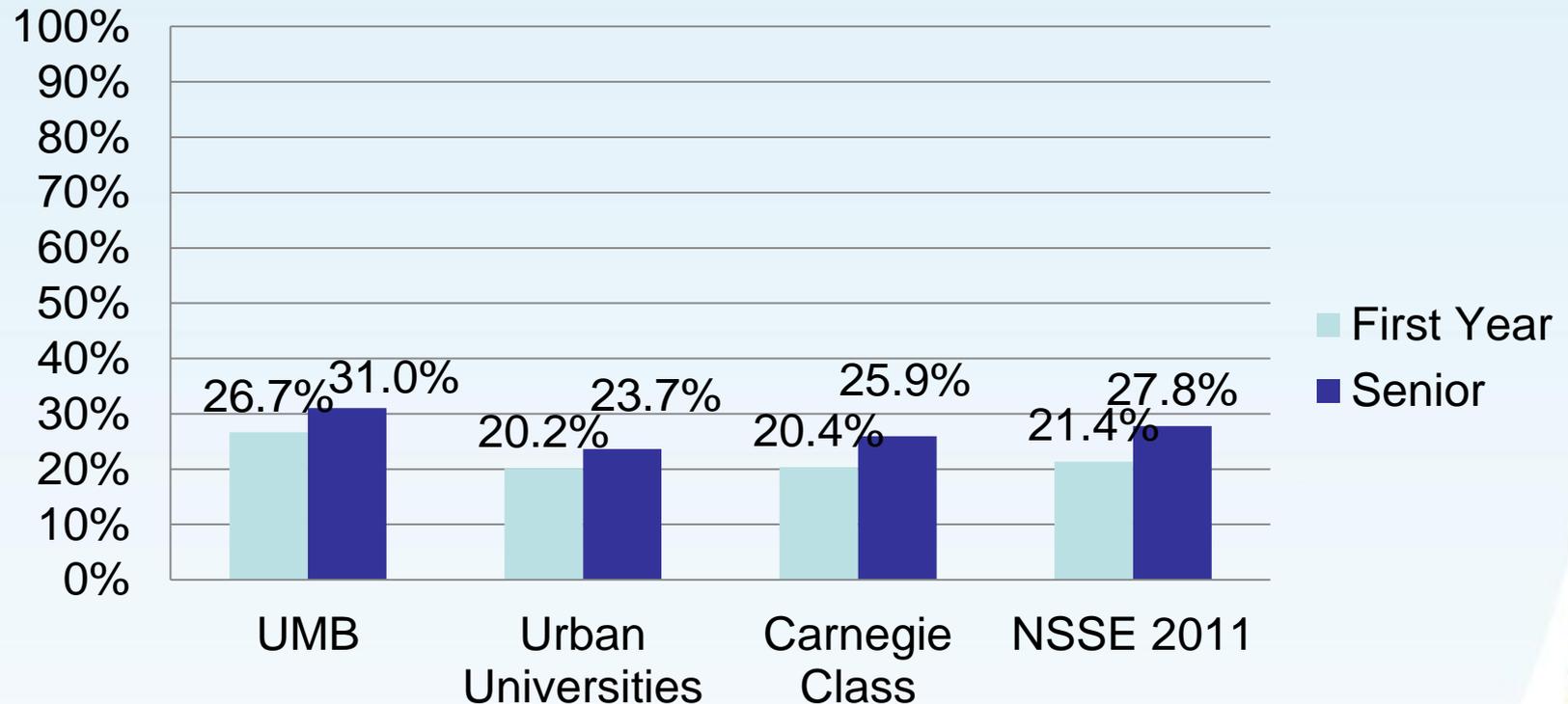
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



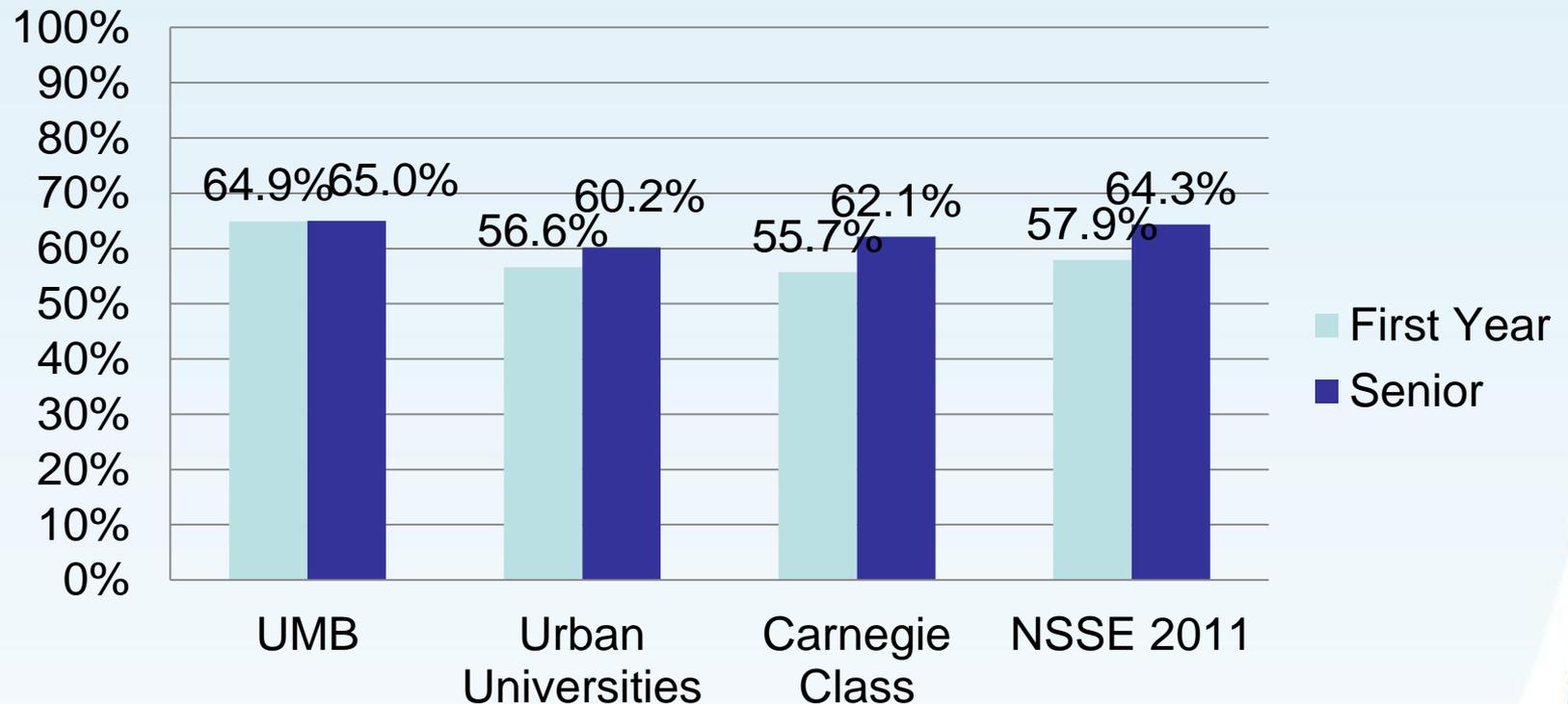
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



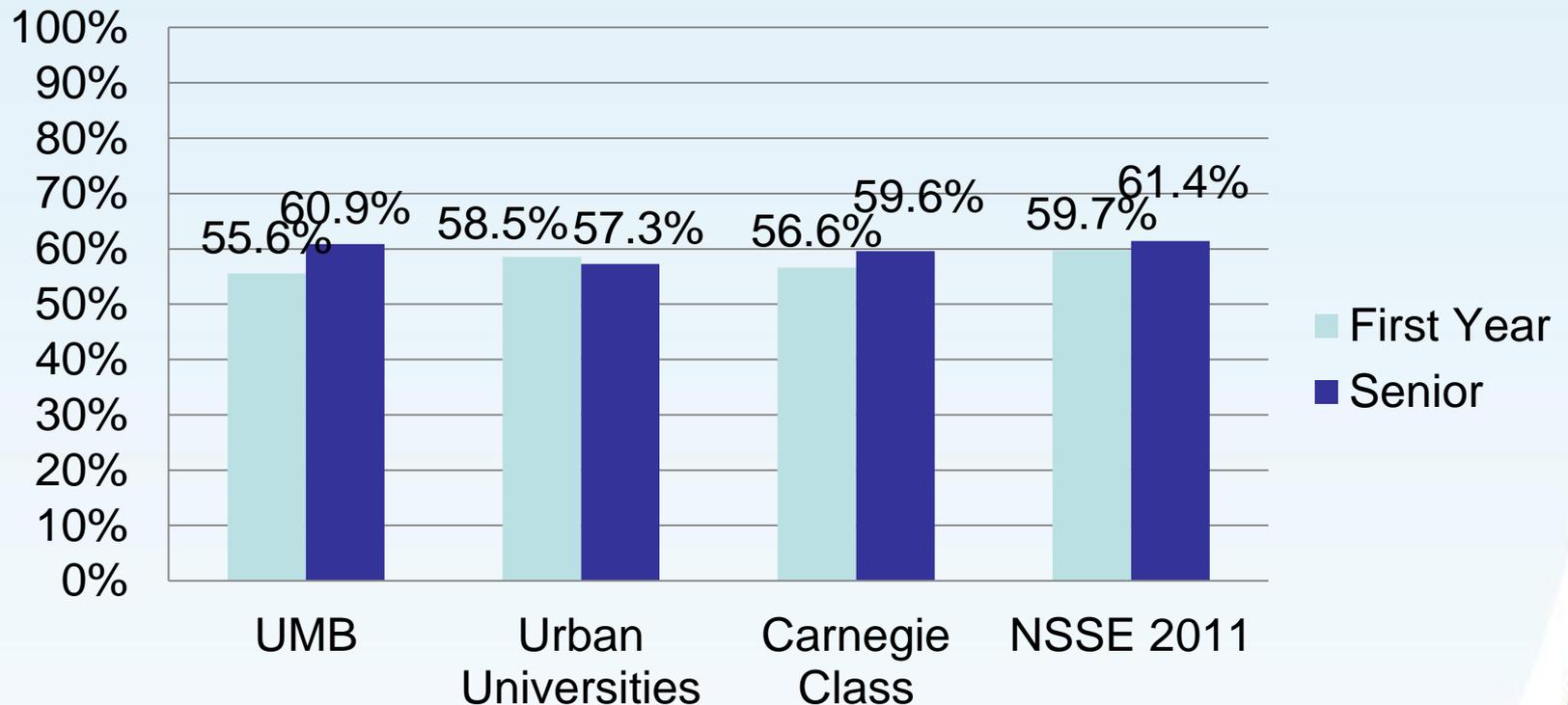
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



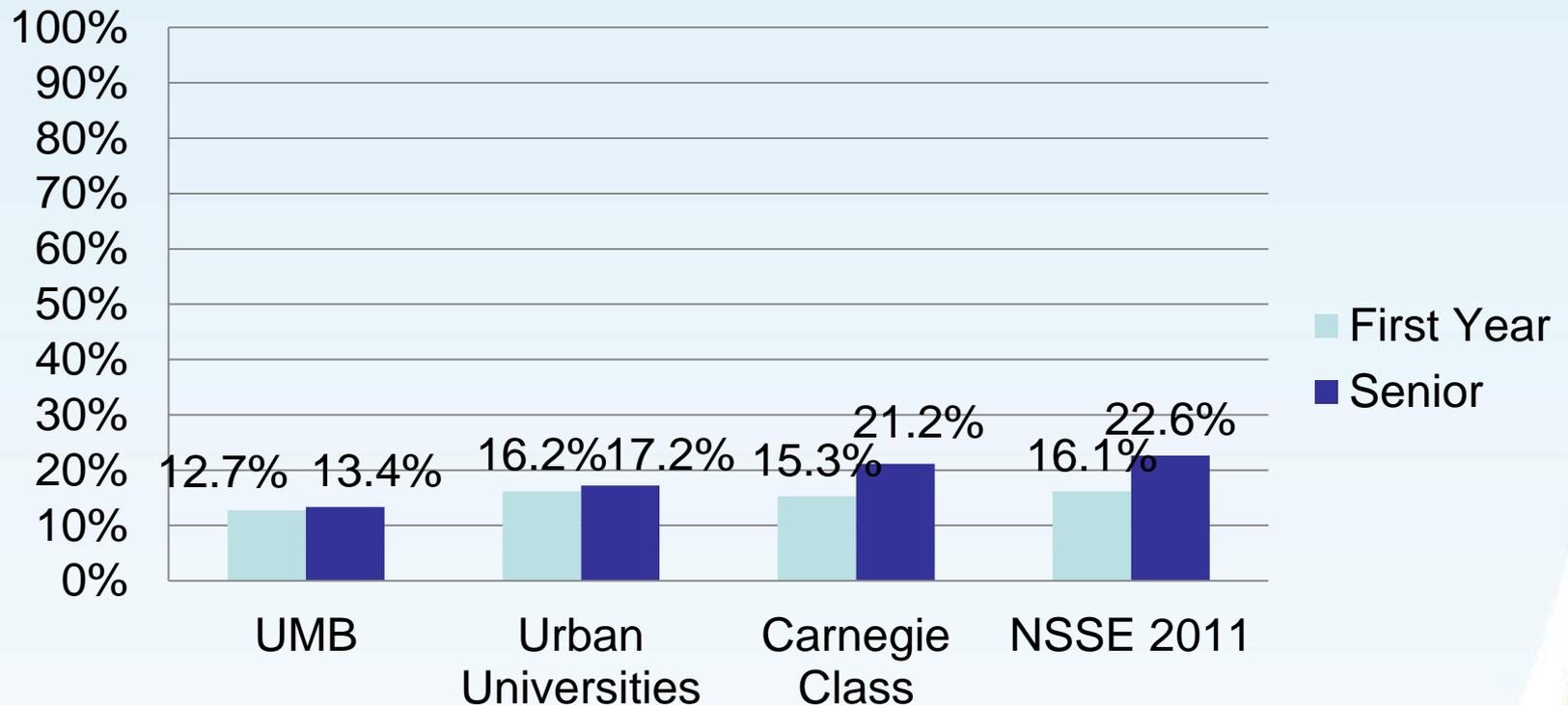
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



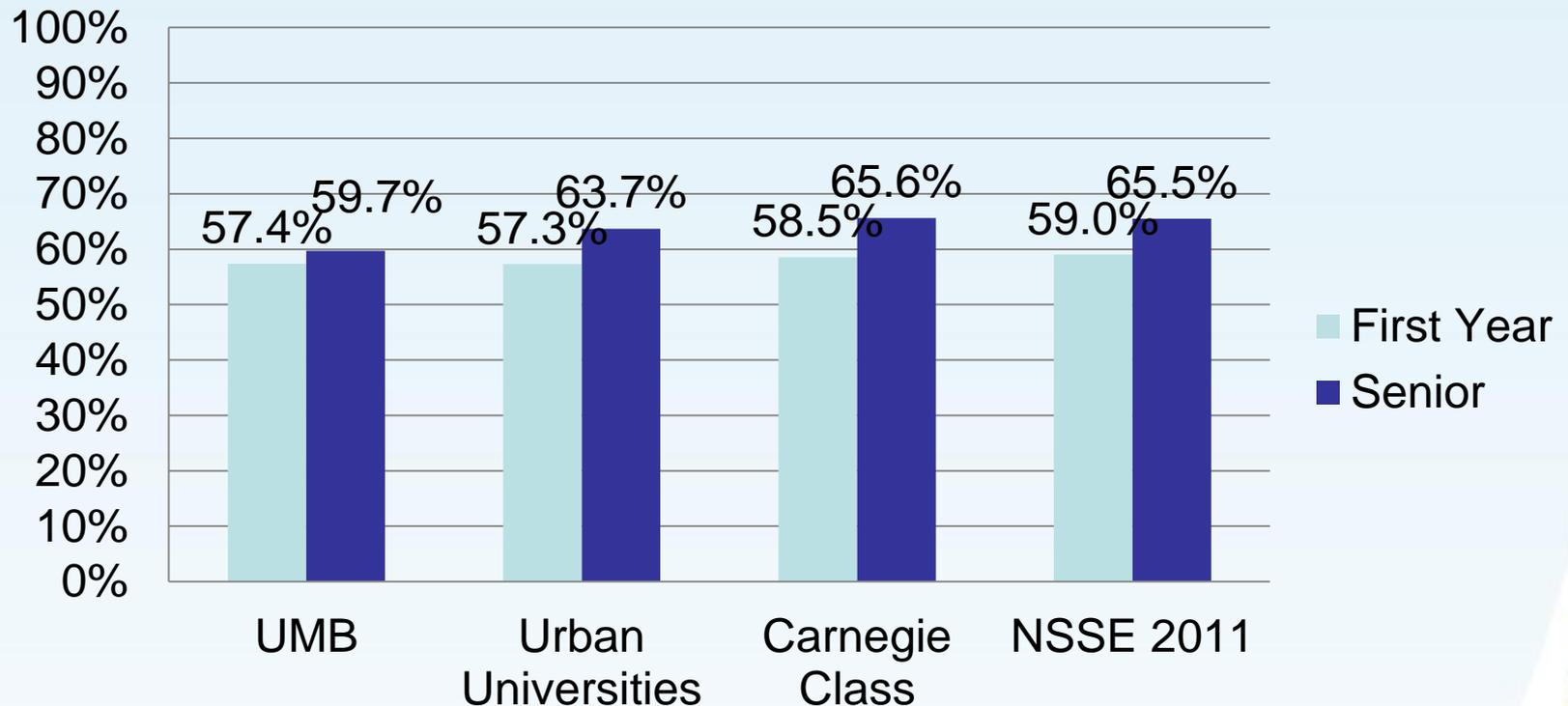
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)?

**% Responding Often or Very Often**



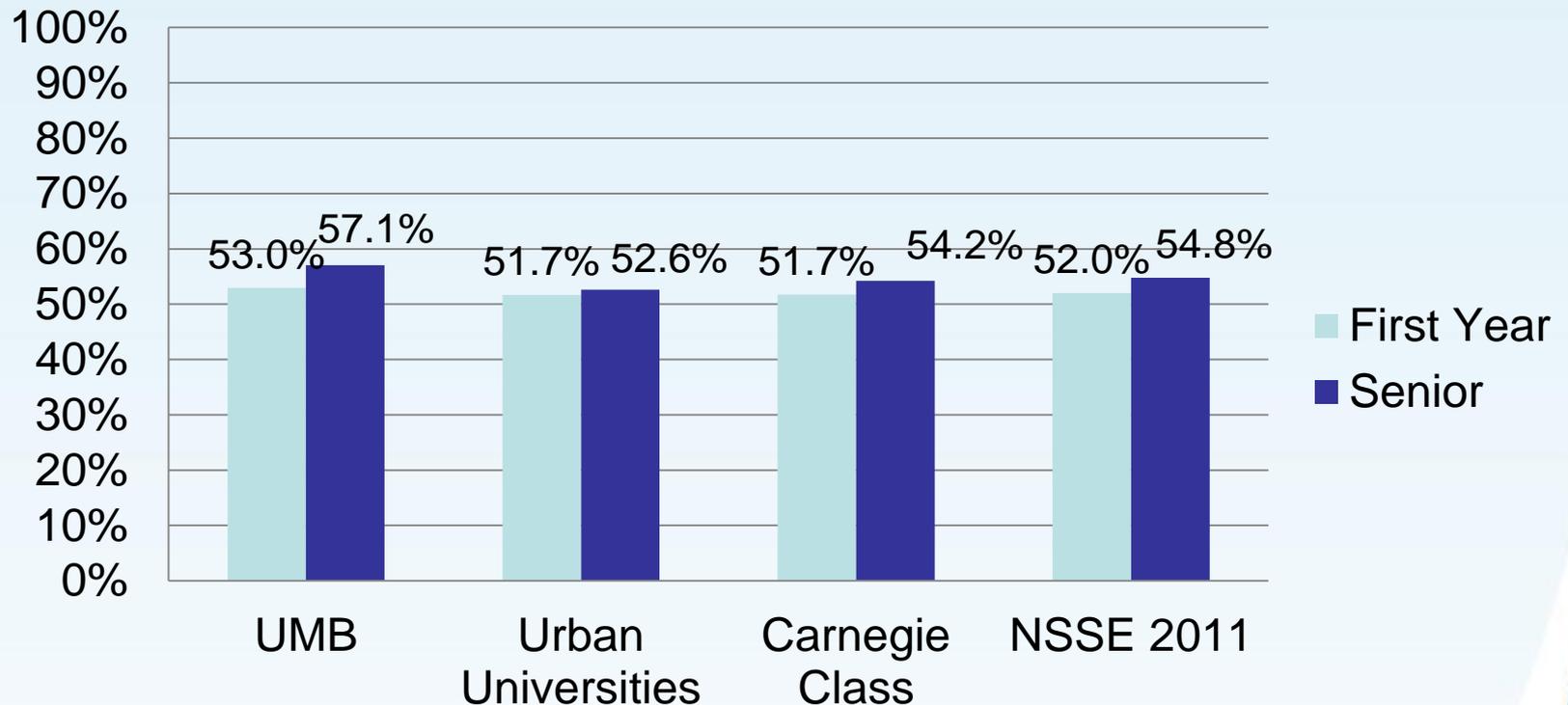
**In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)?**

**% Responding Often or Very Often**



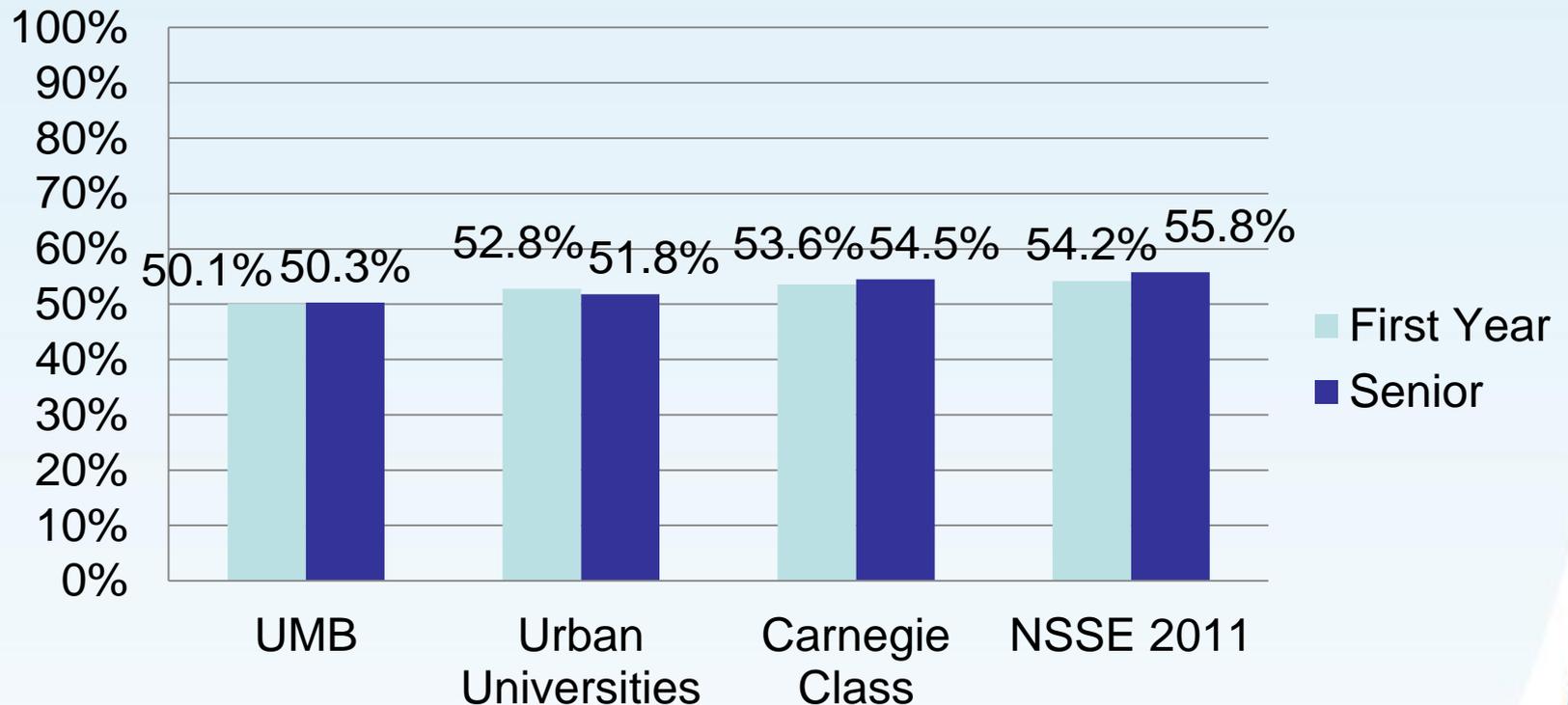
# In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own?

## % Responding Often or Very Often



**In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values?**

**% Responding Often or Very Often**

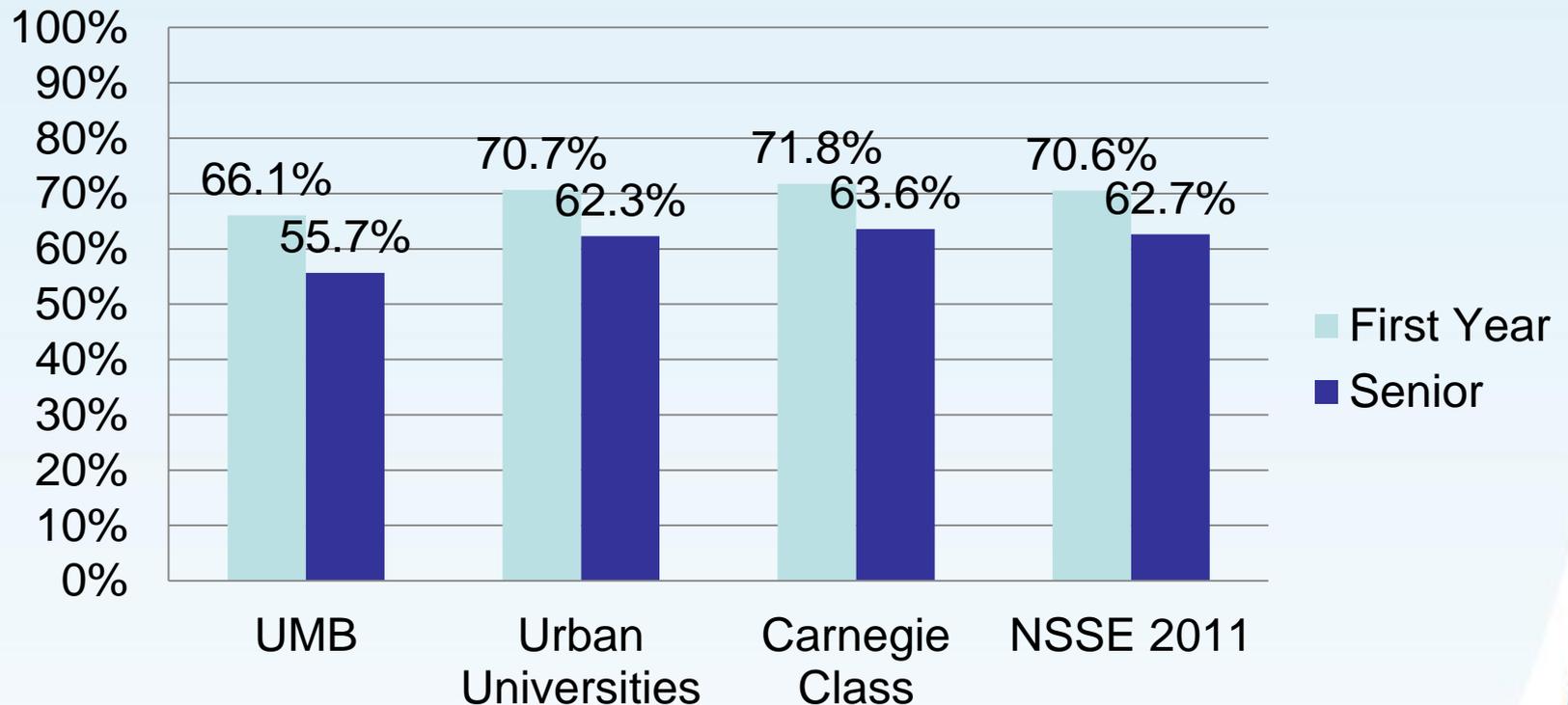


# MENTAL ACTIVITIES

**During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following mental activities?**

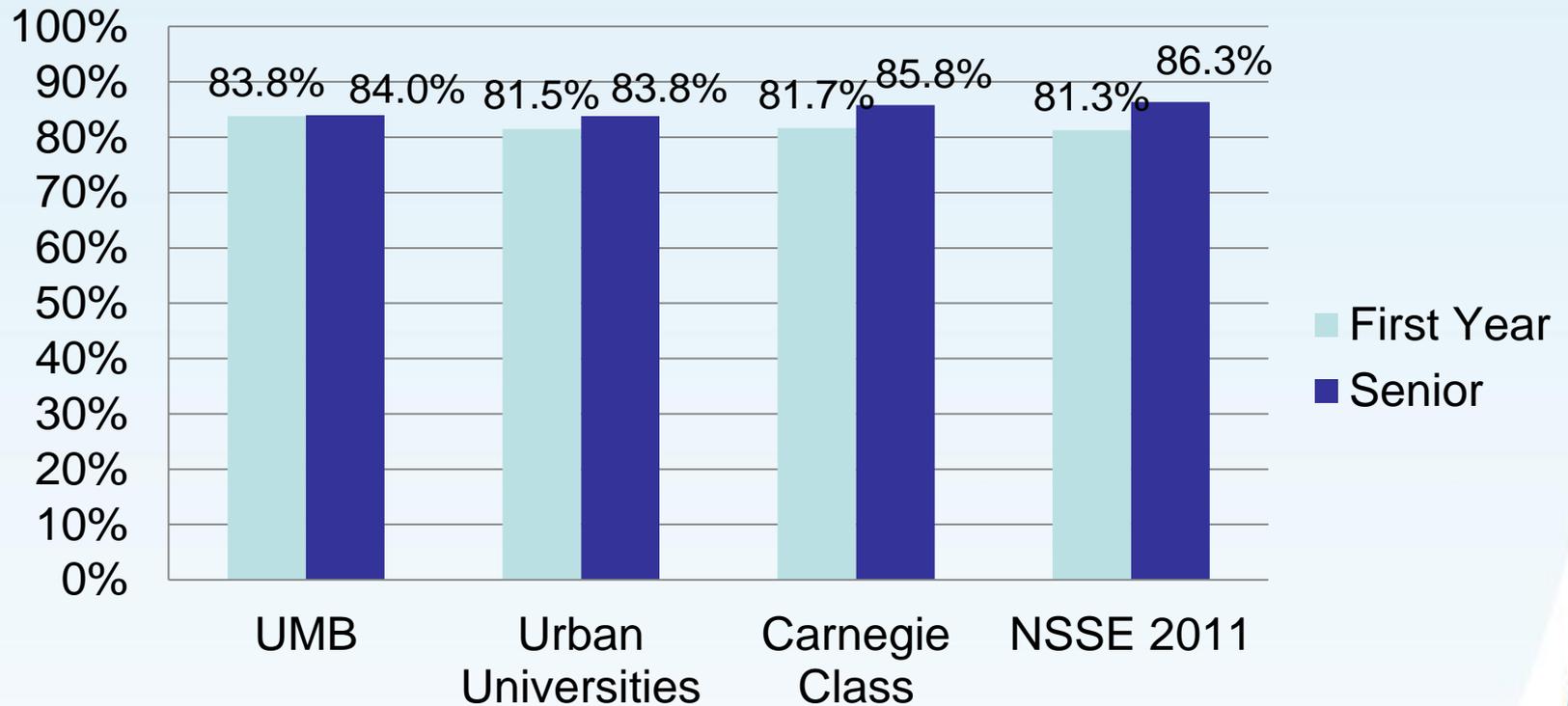
# Coursework emphasizes: Memorizing facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



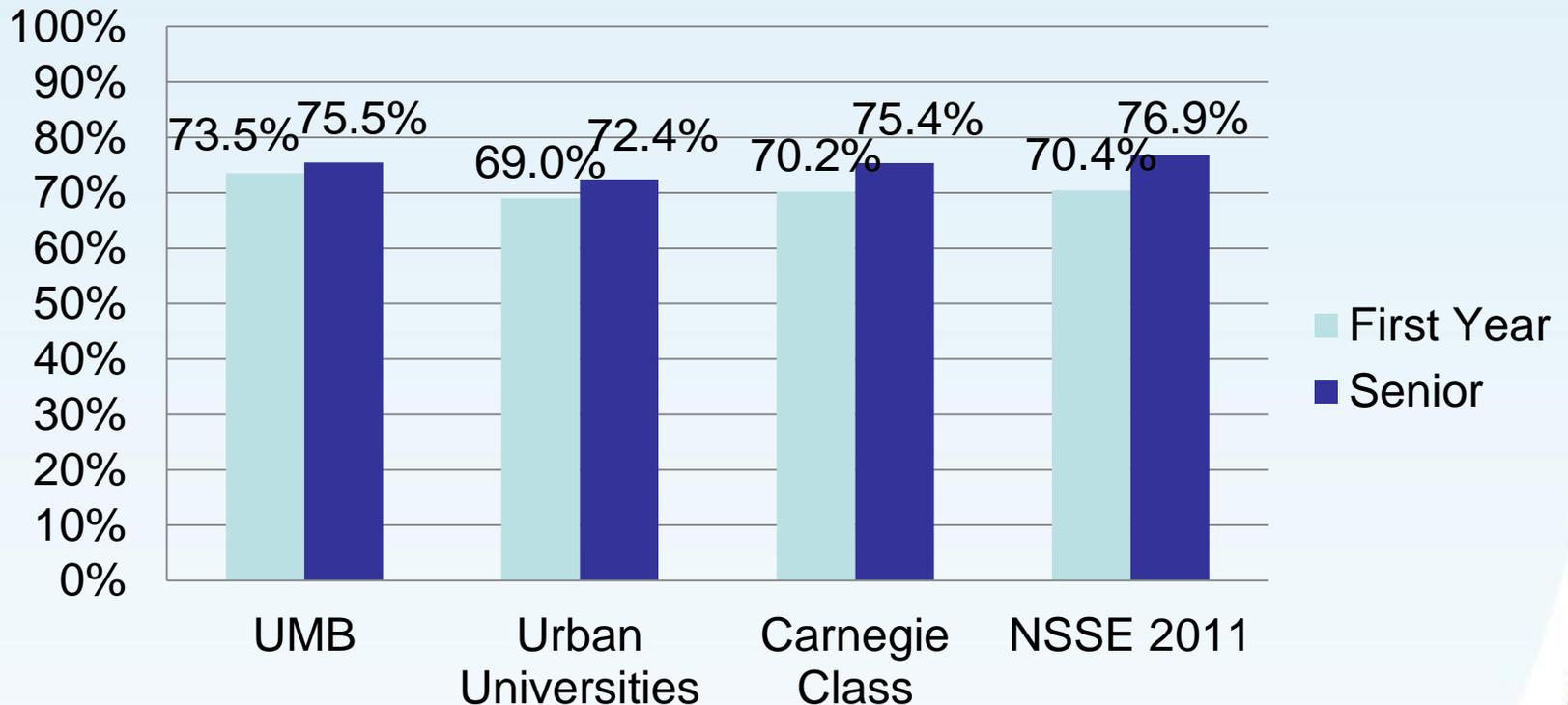
# Coursework emphasizes: Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



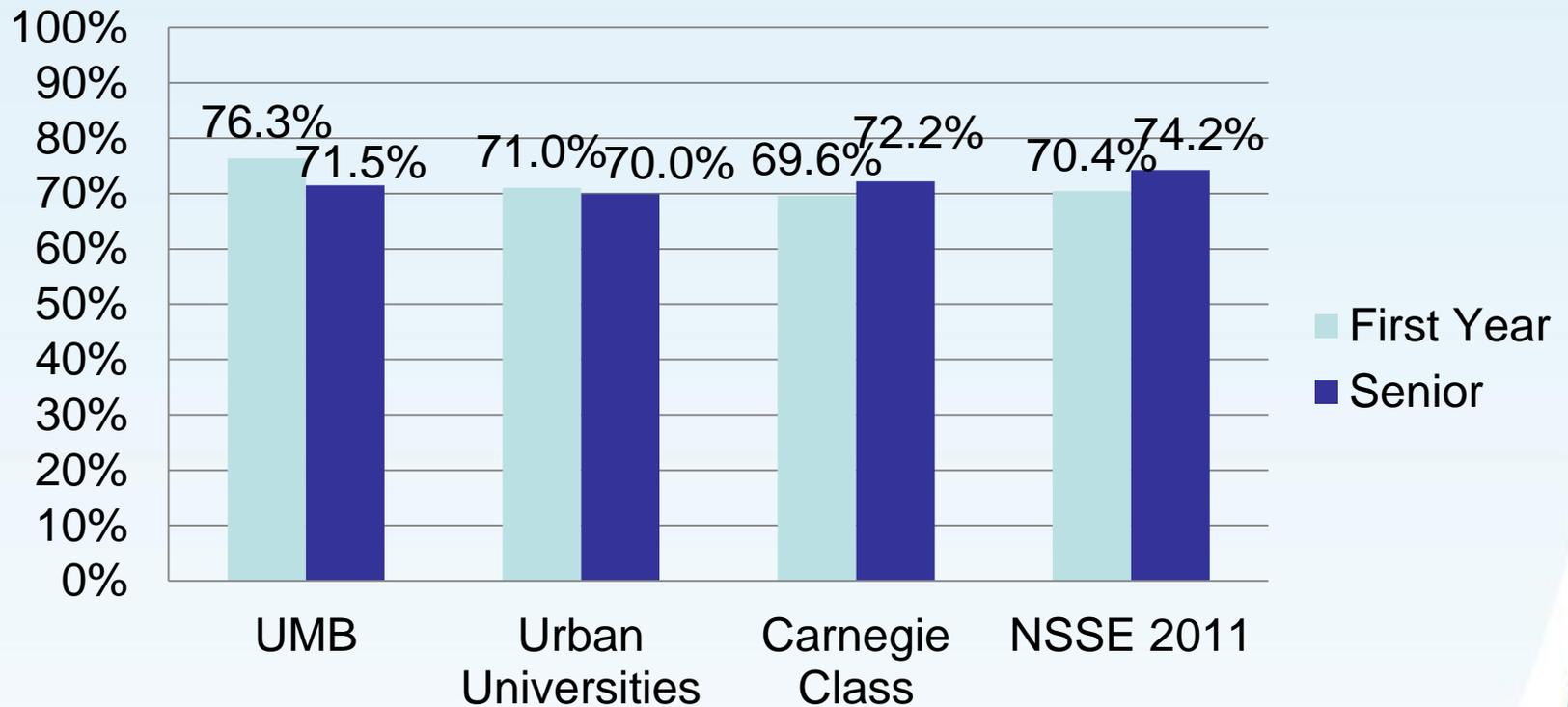
# Coursework emphasizes: Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



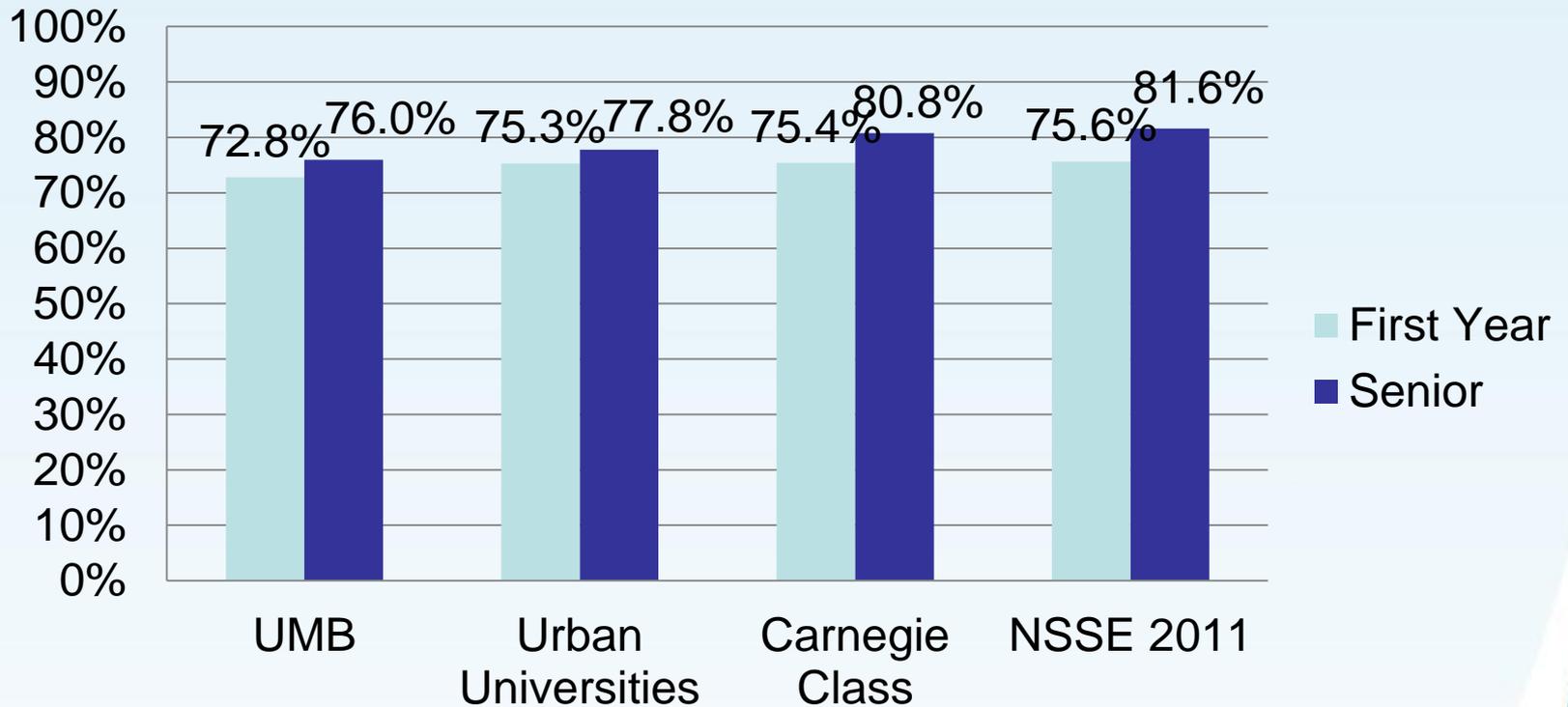
# Coursework emphasizes: Making judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



# Coursework emphasizes: Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much

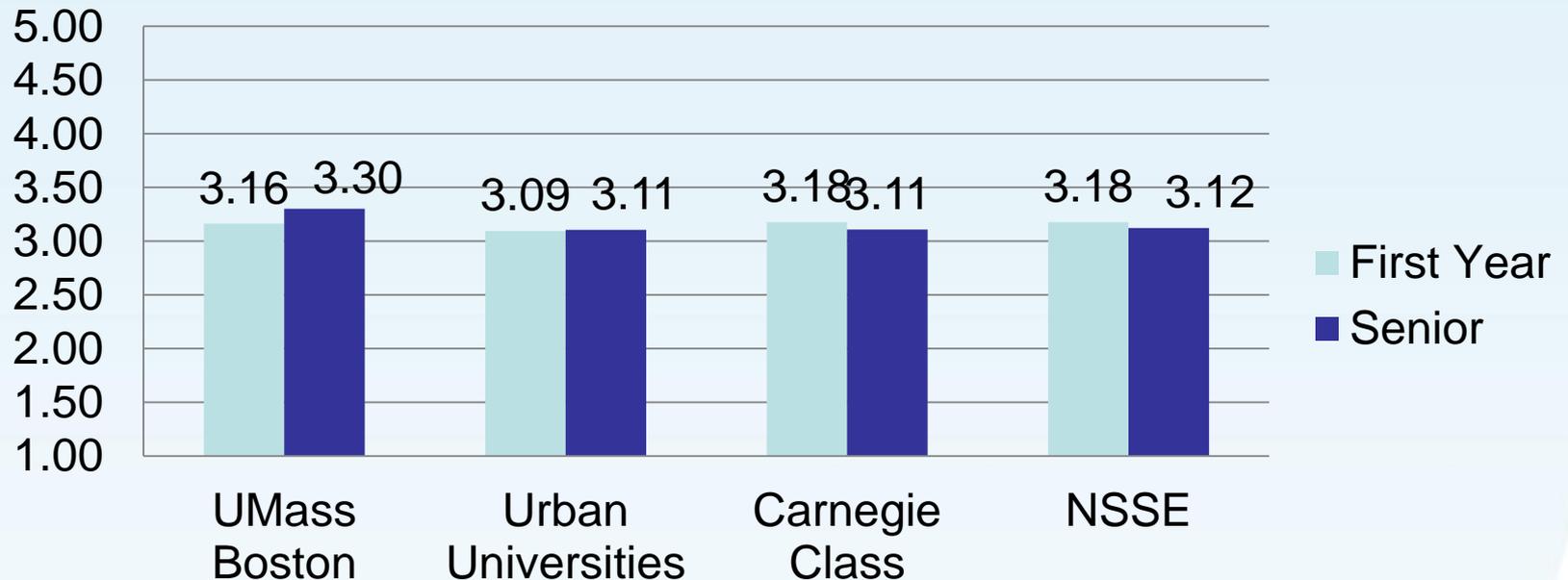


# READING AND WRITING

# Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings during the current school year.

*1=None, 2=1-4, 3=5-10, 4=11-20, 5=More than 20*

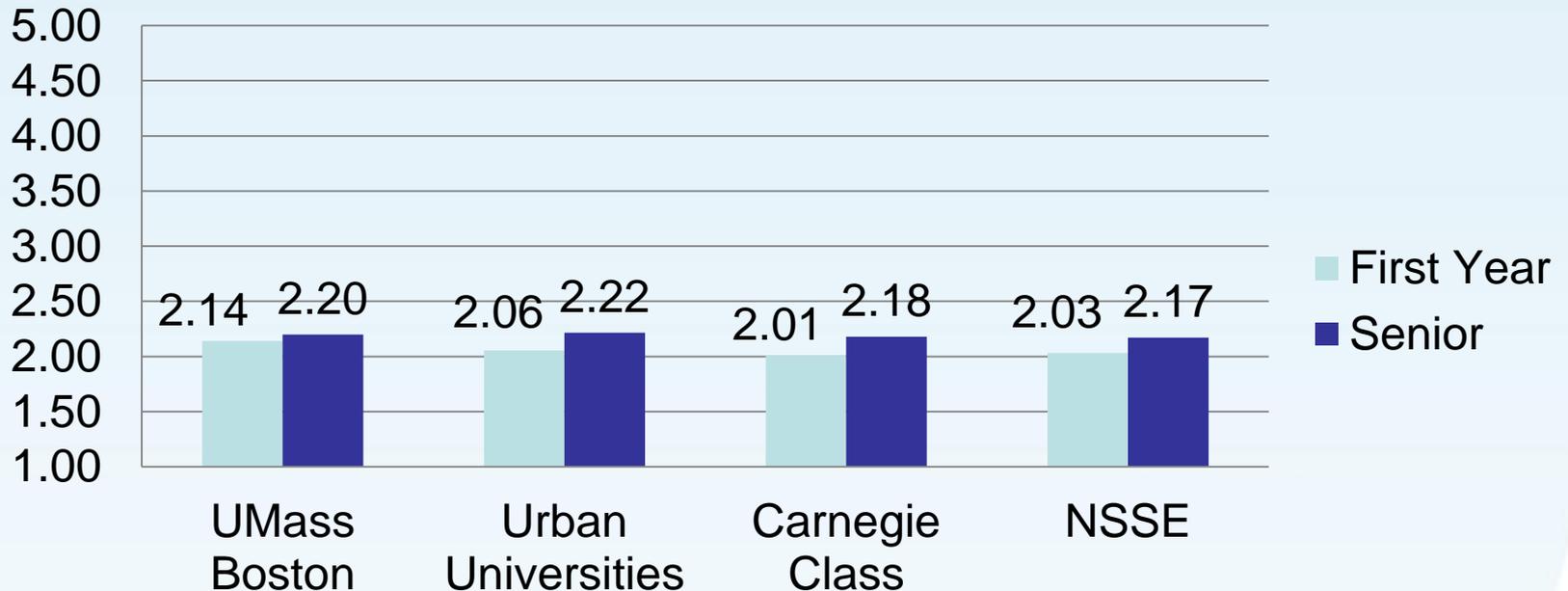
## Mean Value of Student Responses



# Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment during the current school year.

*1=None, 2=1-4, 3=5-10, 4=11-20, 5=More than 20*

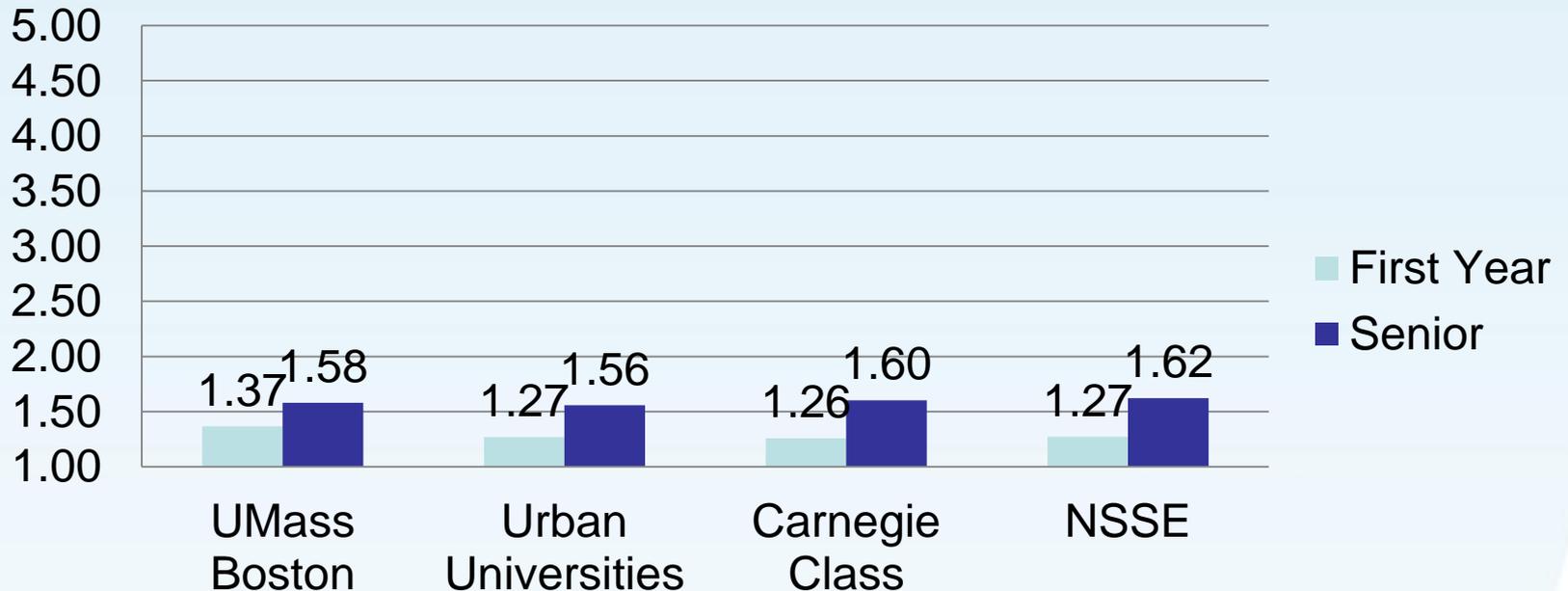
### Mean Value of Student Responses



# Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more during the current school year.

*1=None, 2=1-4, 3=5-10, 4=11-20, 5=More than 20*

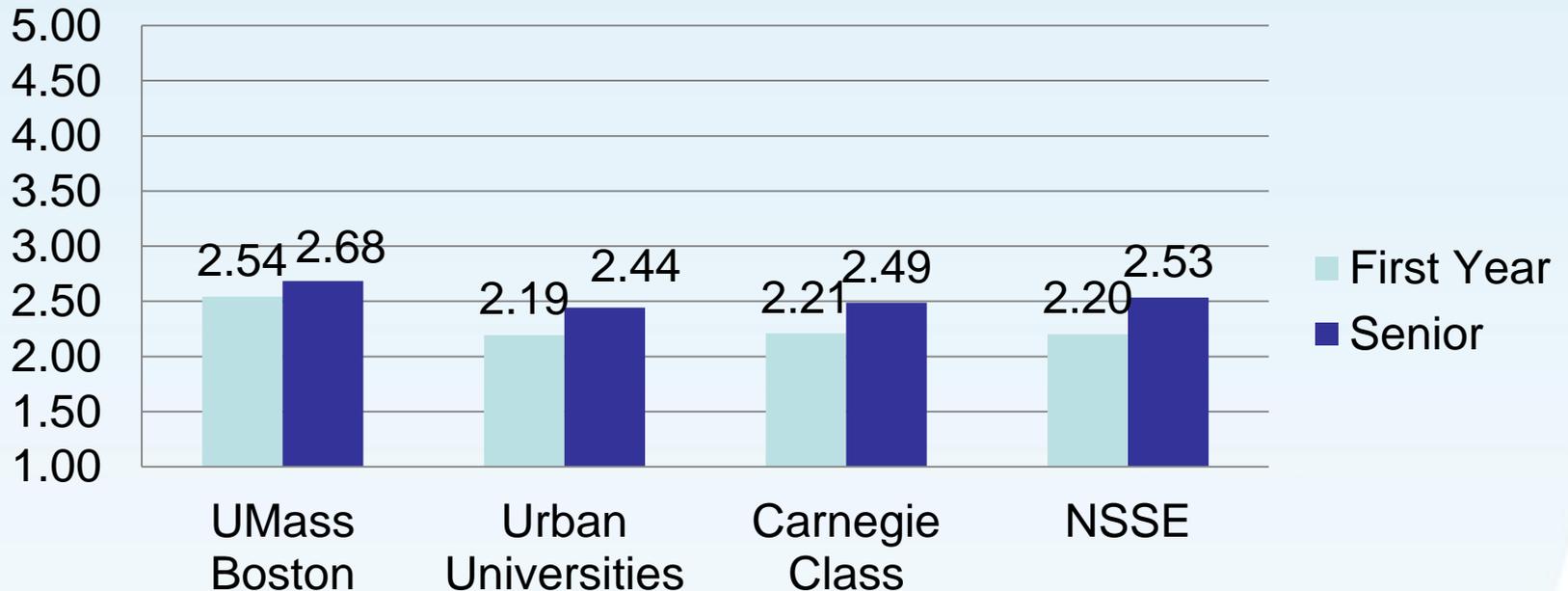
### Mean Value of Student Responses



# Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages during the current school year.

1=None, 2=1-4, 3=5-10, 4=11-20, 5=More than 20

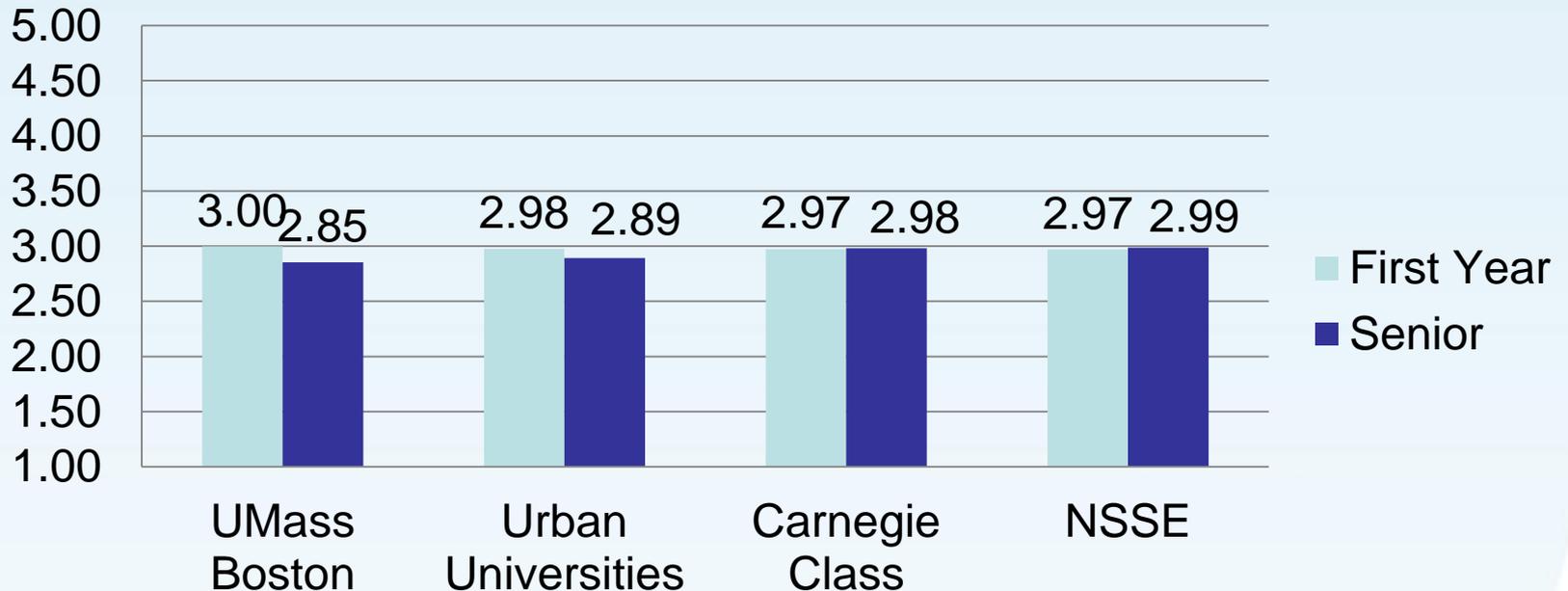
### Mean Value of Student Responses



# Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages during the current school year.

1=None, 2=1-4, 3=5-10, 4=11-20, 5=More than 20

### Mean Value of Student Responses

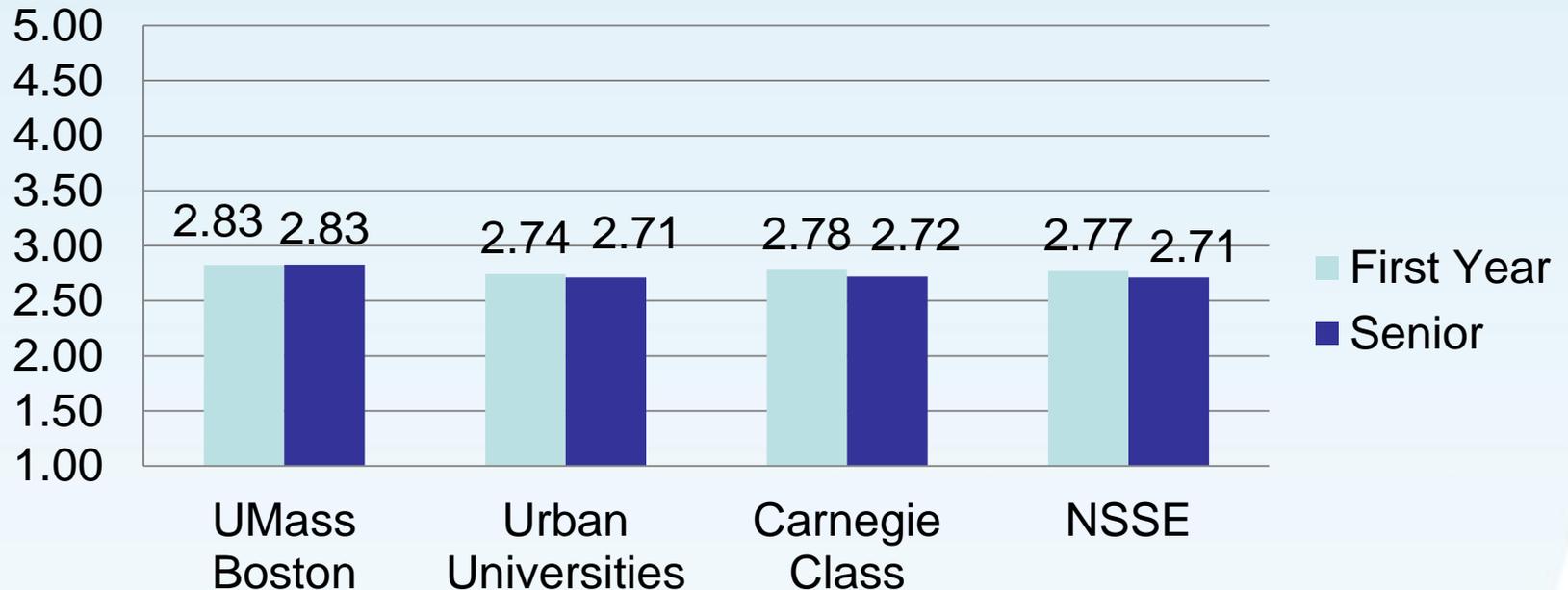


# PROBLEM SETS

# In a typical week, how many homework problem sets do you complete that take you more than an hour to complete?

*1=None, 2=1-2, 3=3-4, 4=5-6, 5=More than 6*

### Mean Value of Student Responses

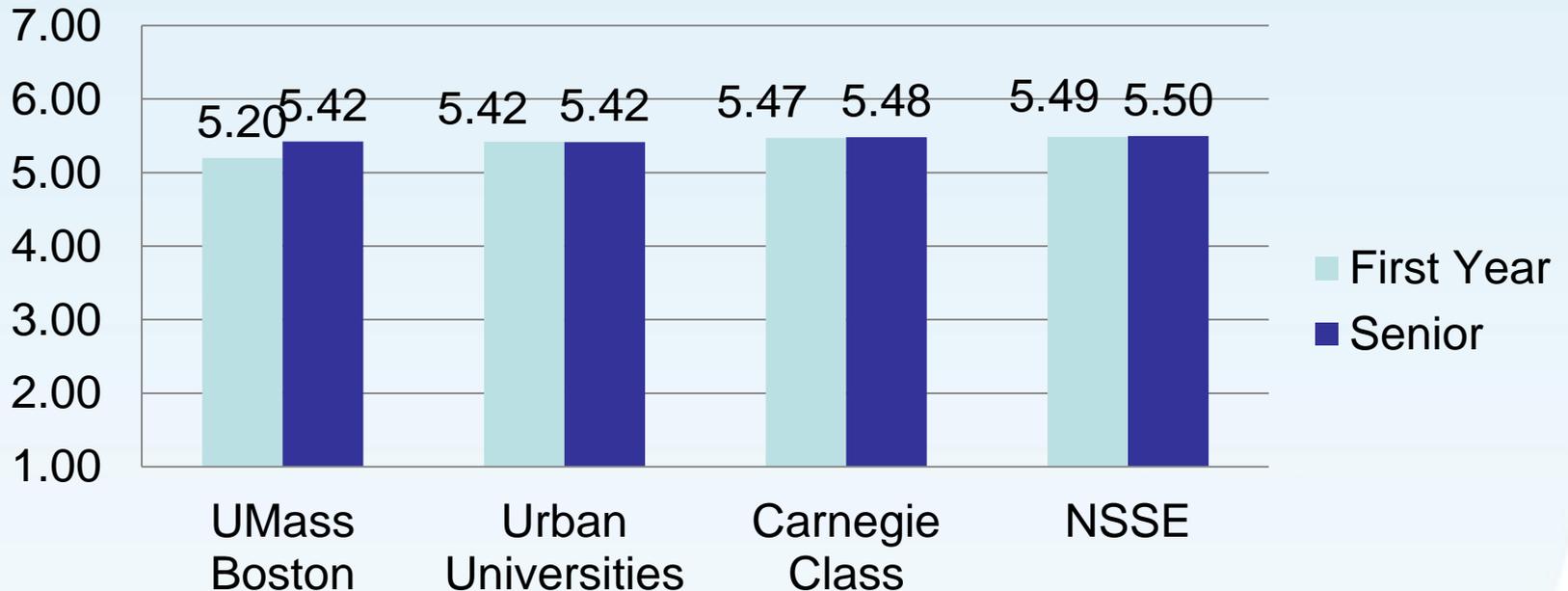


# EXAMINATIONS

# To what extent did your examinations during the current school year challenged you to do your best work.?

*1=Very little to 7=Very much*

### Mean Value of Student Responses

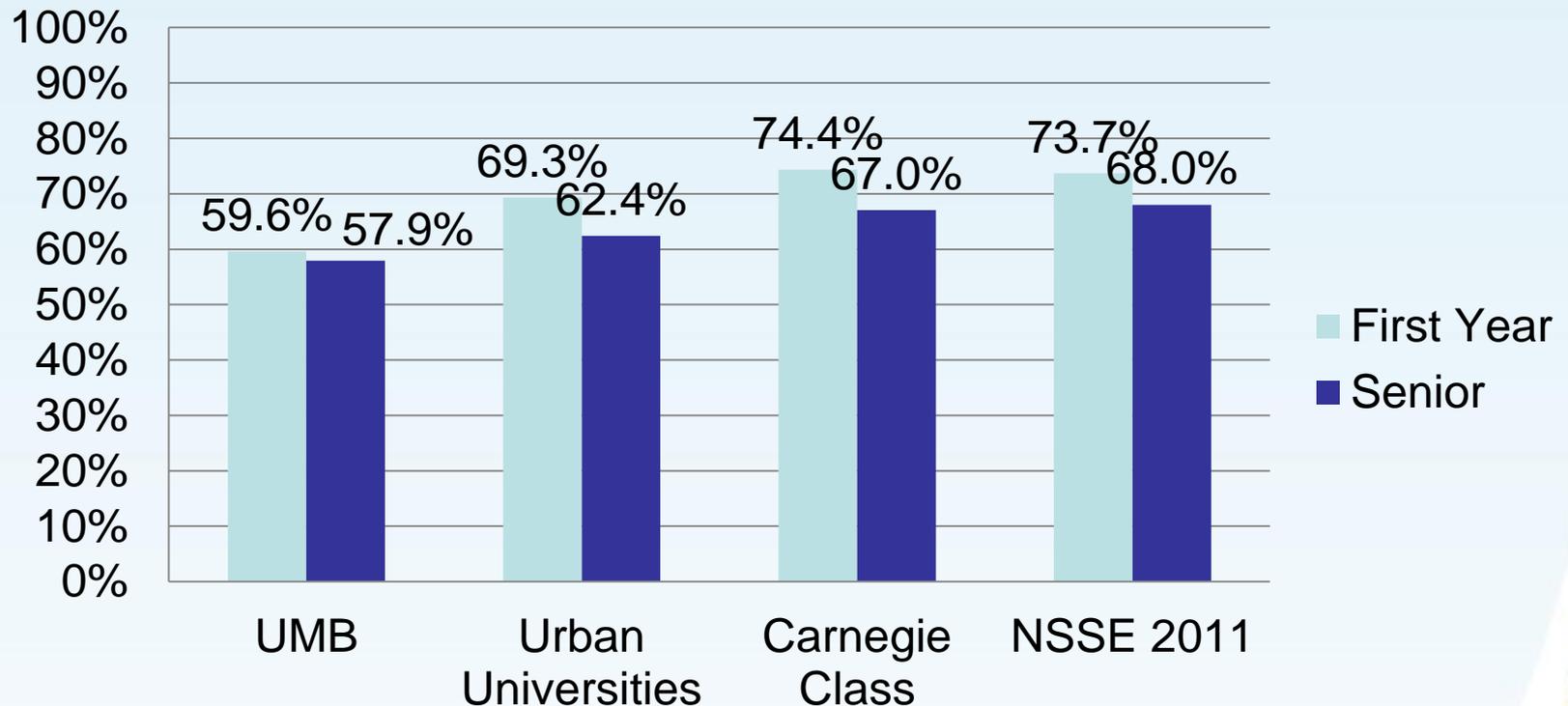


# ADDITIONAL COLLEGIATE EXPERIENCES

*During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?*

**Attended an art exhibit, play, dance, music, theater, or other performance**

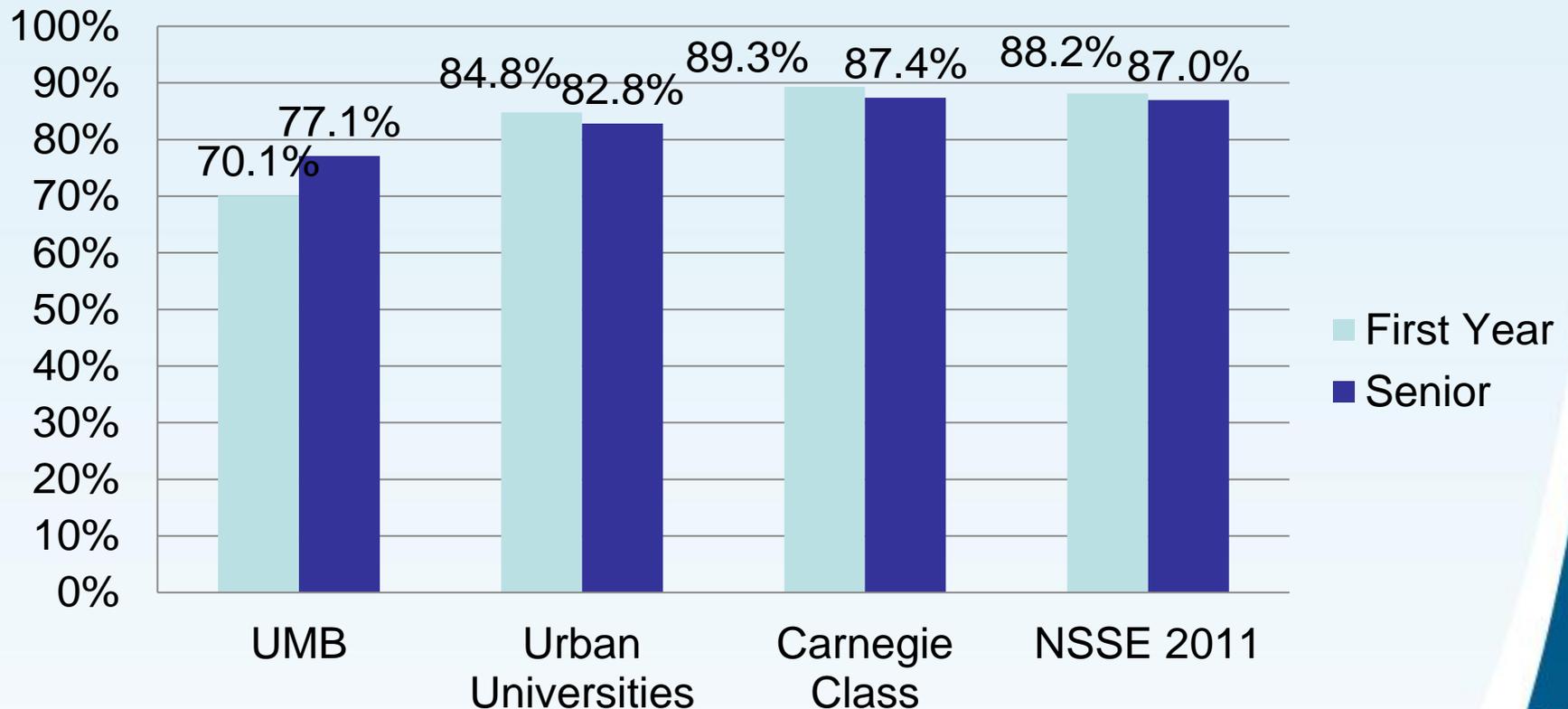
**% Sometimes, Often, or Very Often**



*During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?*

## Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities

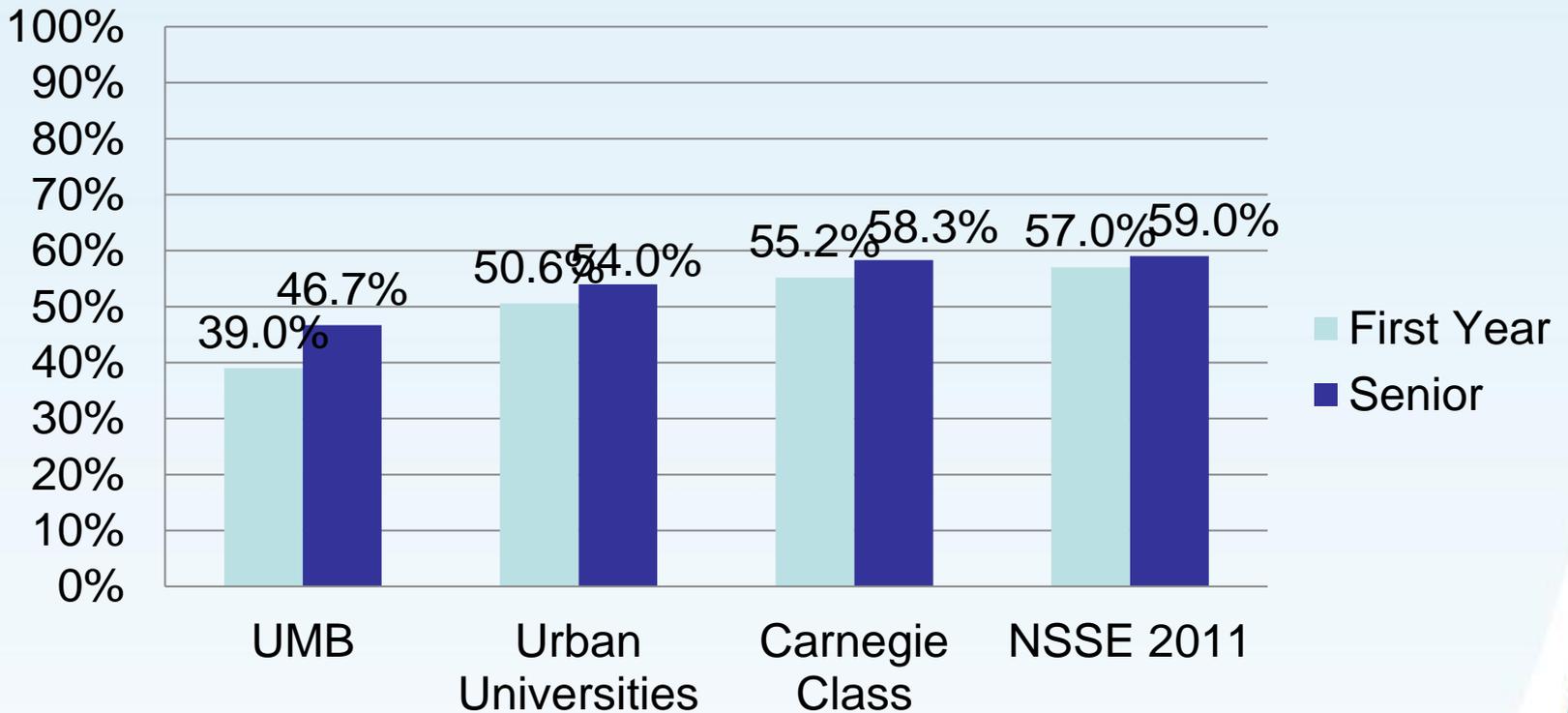
**% Responding Sometimes, Often, or Very Often**



*During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?*

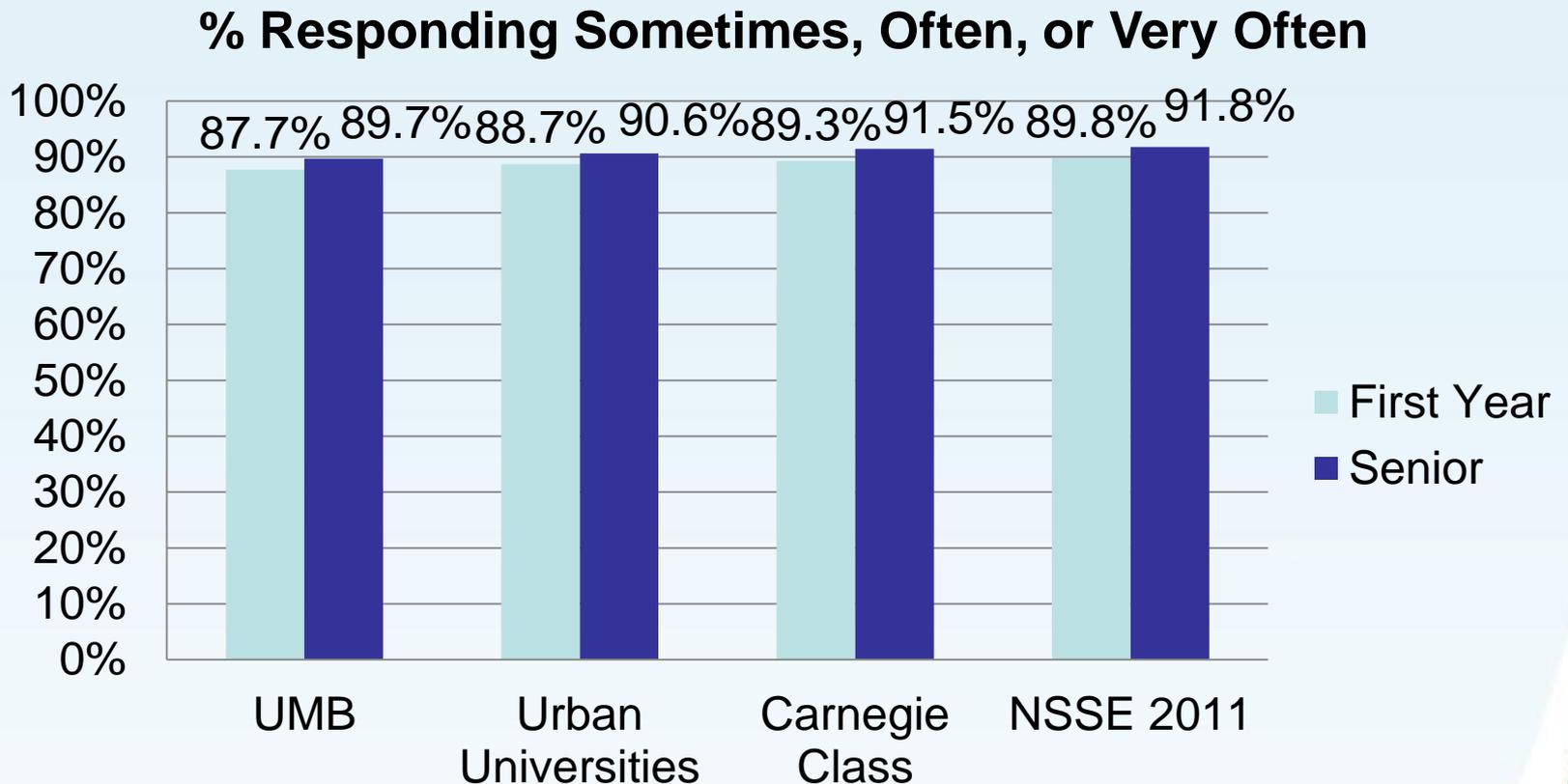
**Participated in activities to enhance your spirituality (worship, meditation, prayer, etc.)**

**% Responding Sometimes, Often, or Very Often**



*During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?*

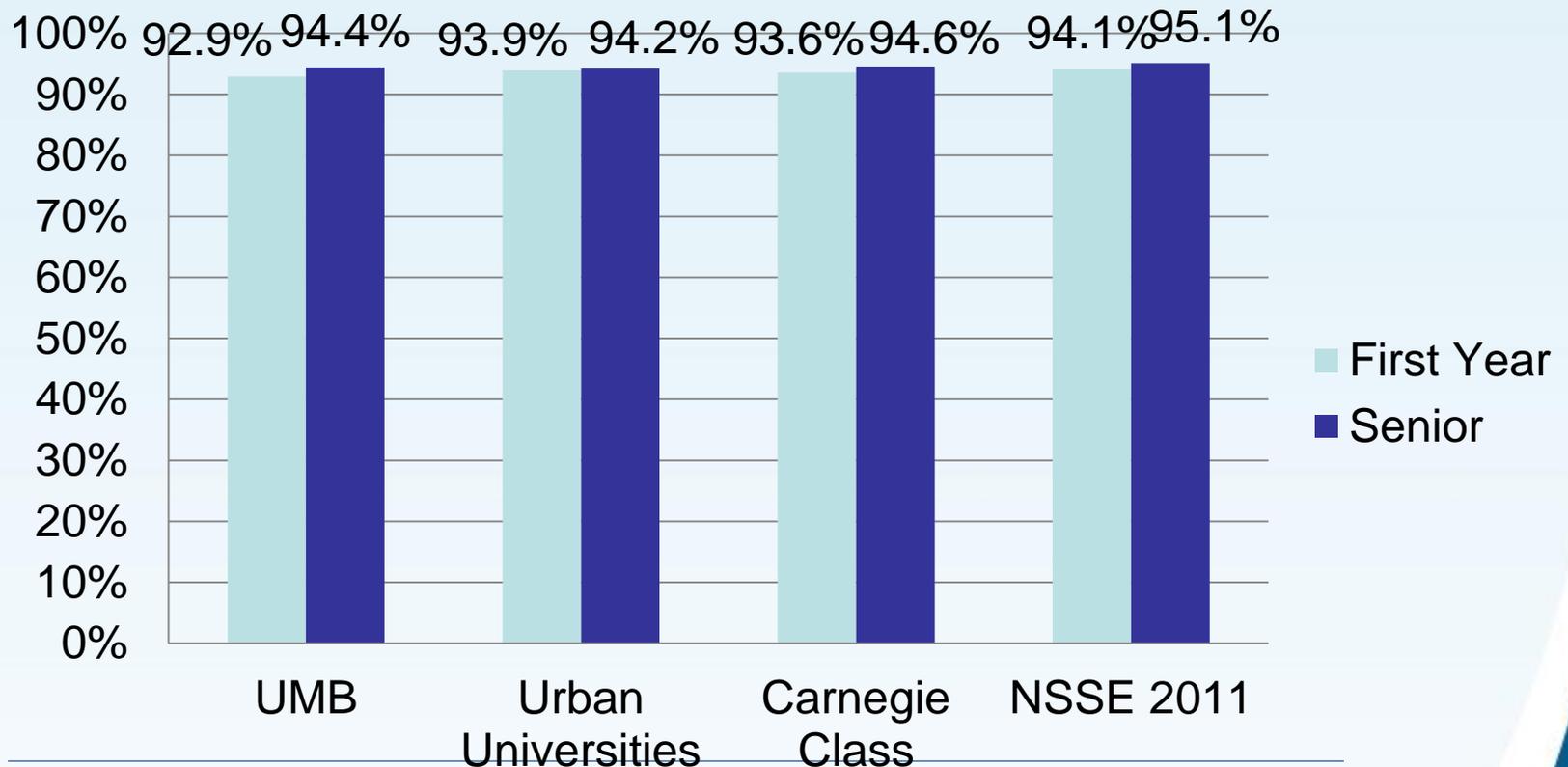
**Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue**



*During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?*

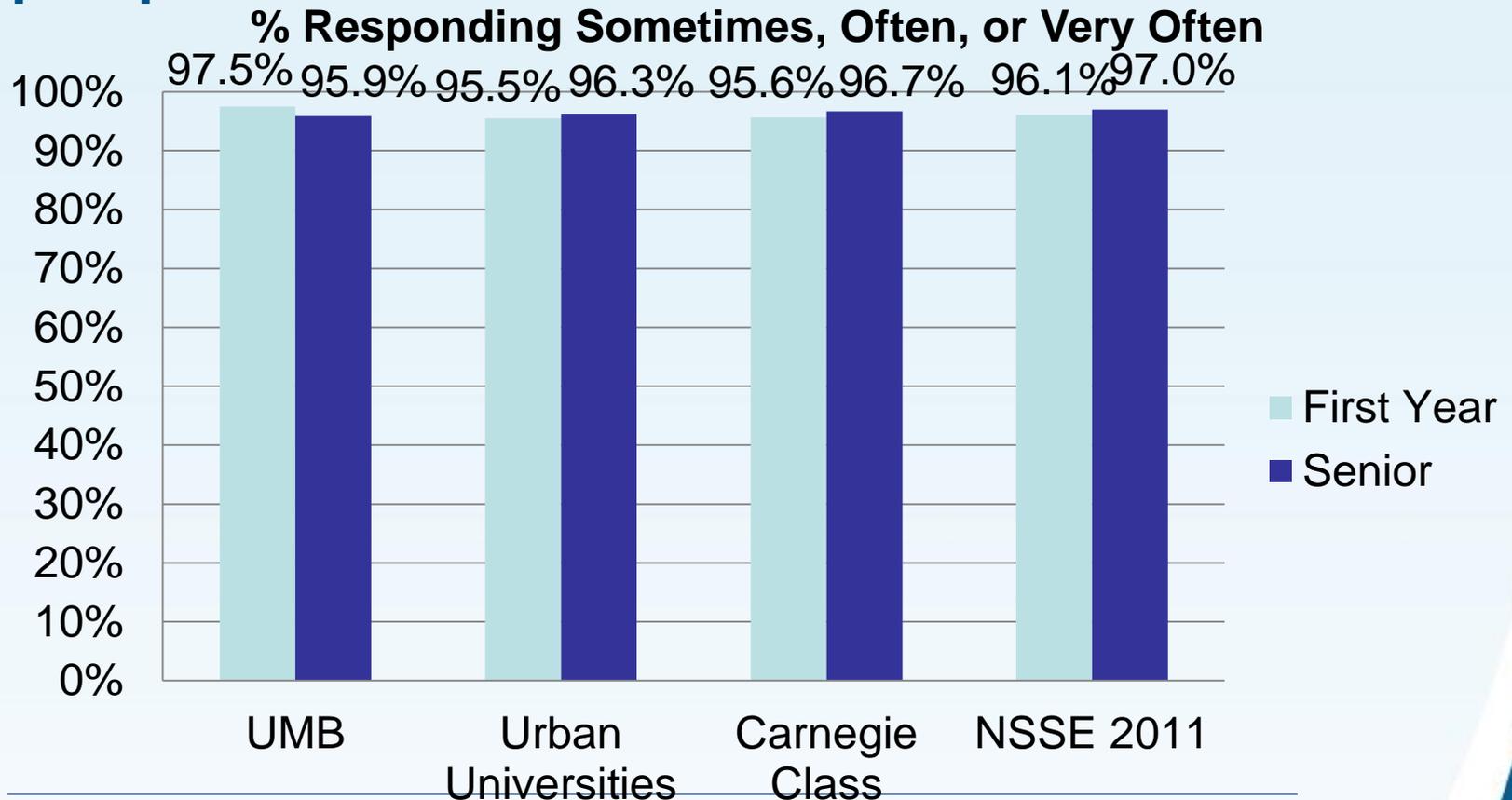
**Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective**

**% Responding Sometimes, Often, or Very Often**



*During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?*

**Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective**

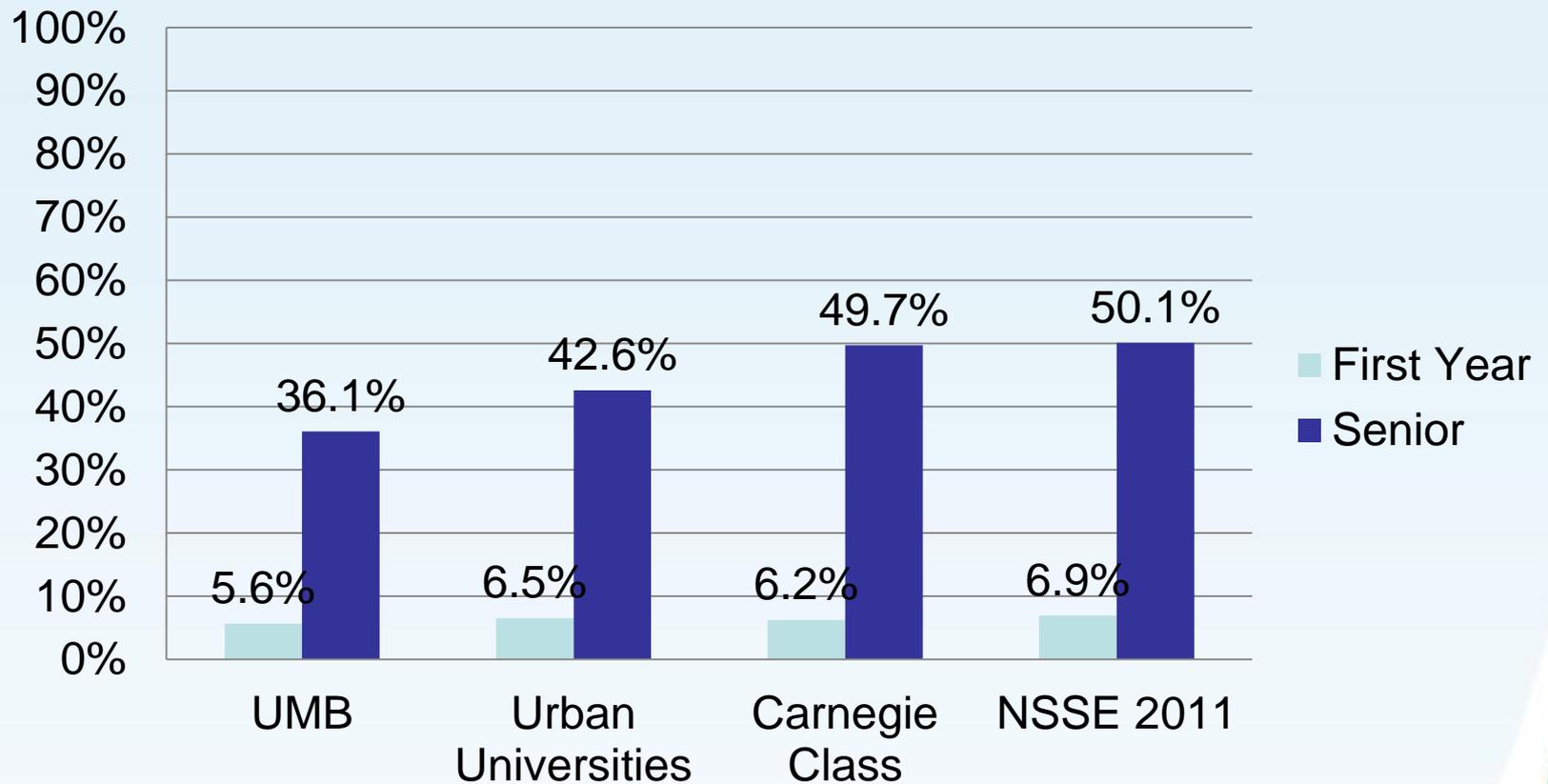


# ENRICHING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

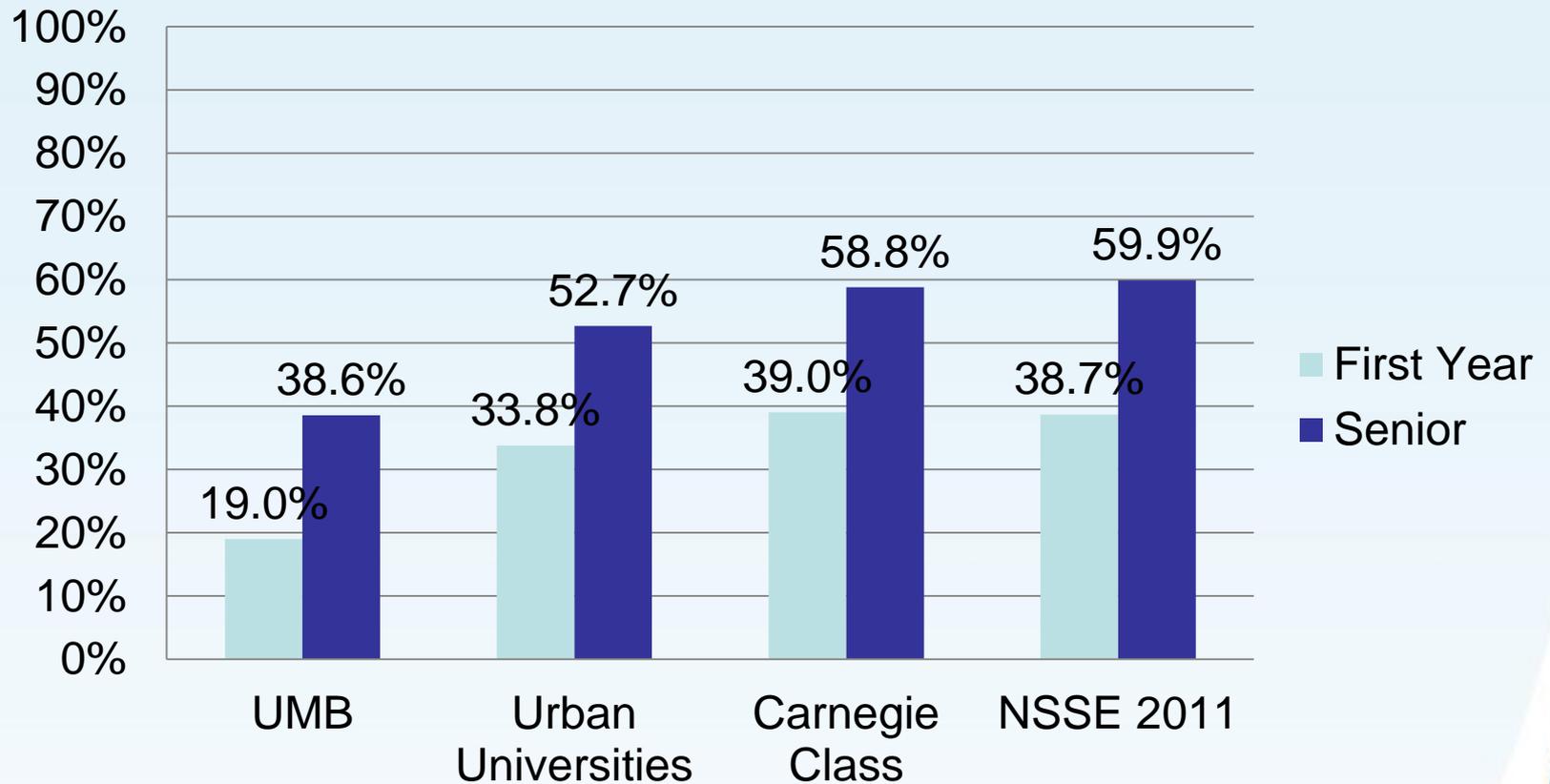
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Office of Institutional Research and Policy Studies

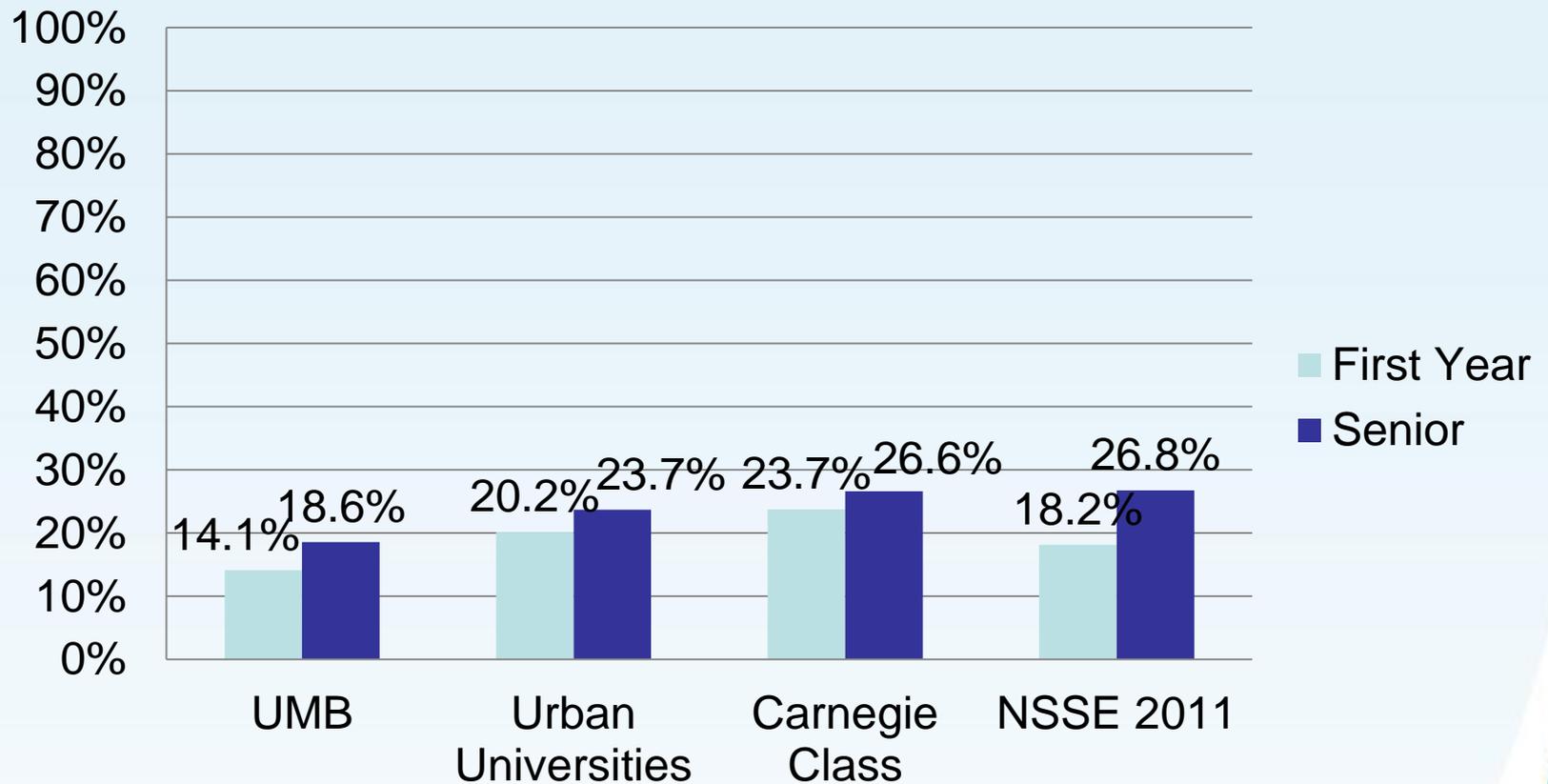
# Percent of students who have done a practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment at UMass Boston



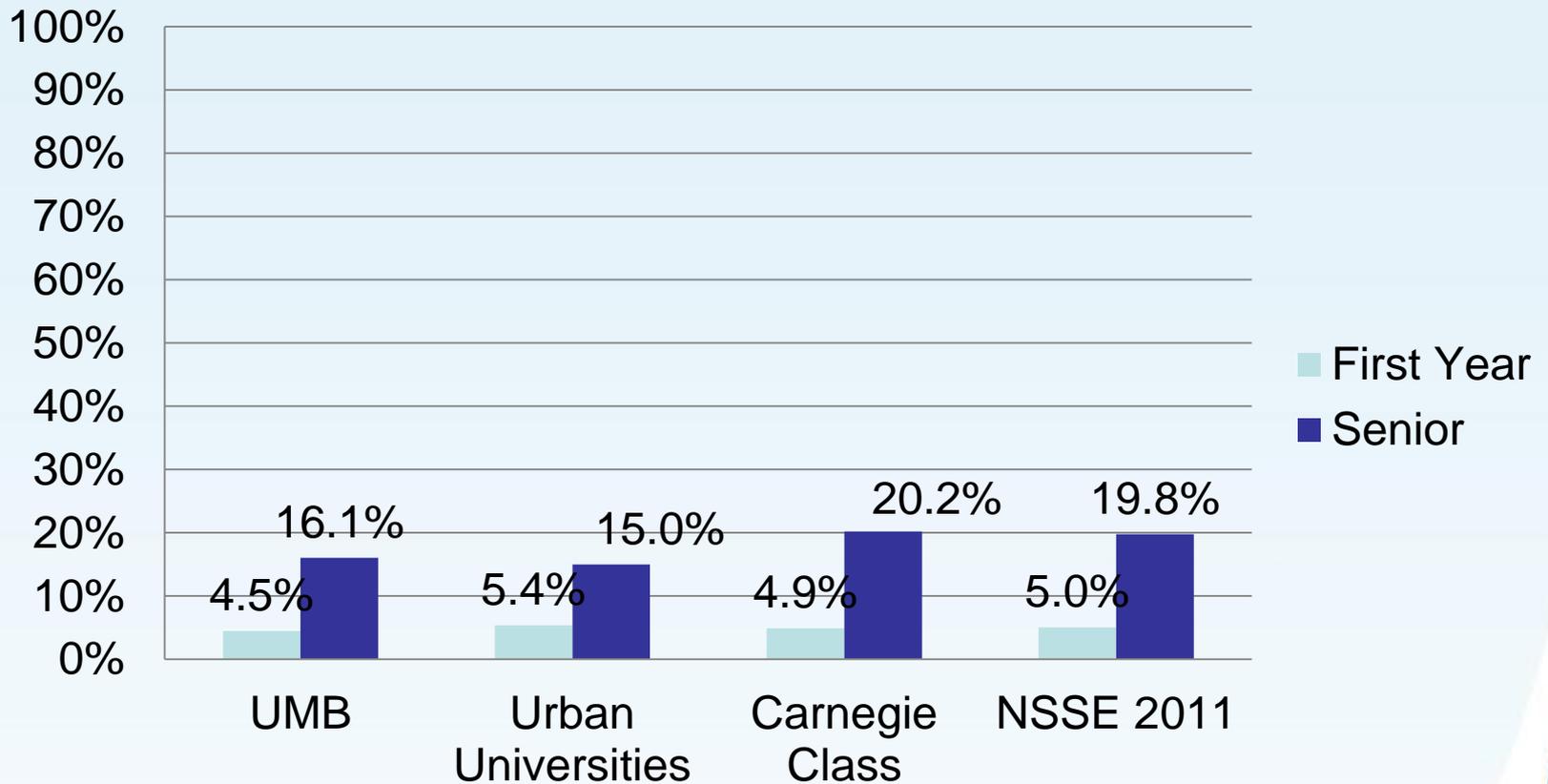
# Percent of students who have done community service or volunteer work while at UMass Boston



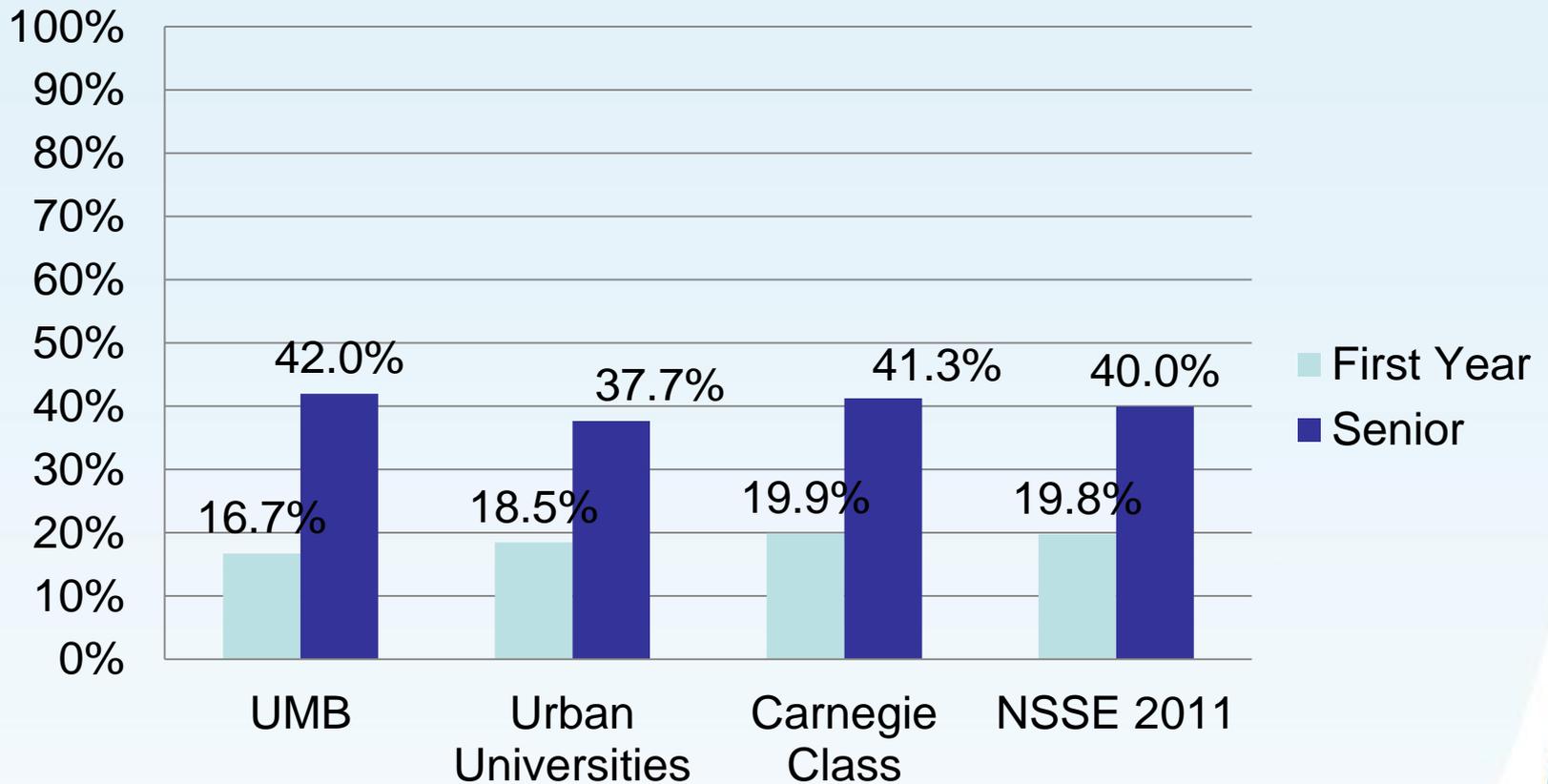
# Percent of students who have participated in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together while at UMass Boston



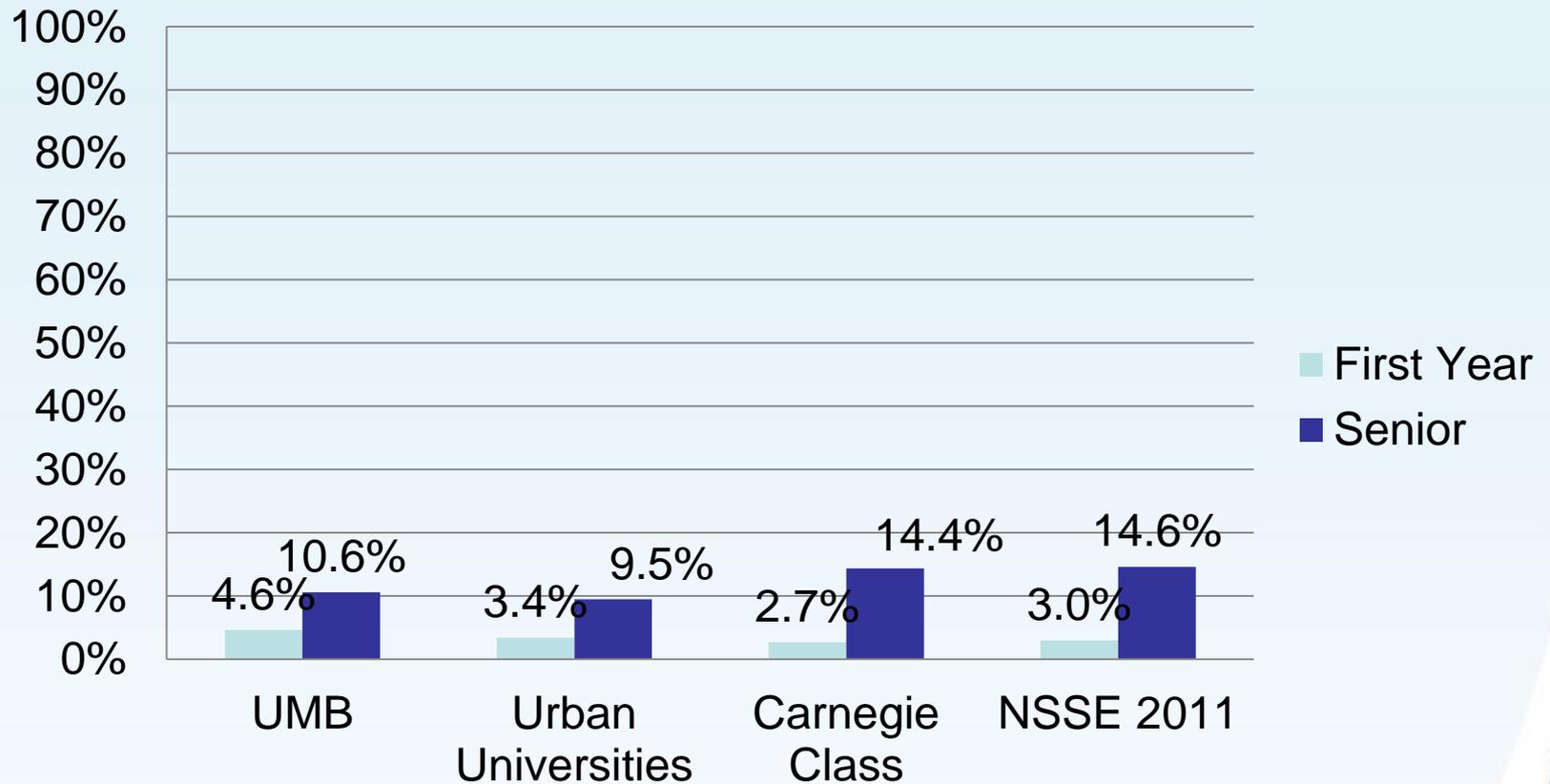
# Percent of students who have worked on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements while at UMass Boston



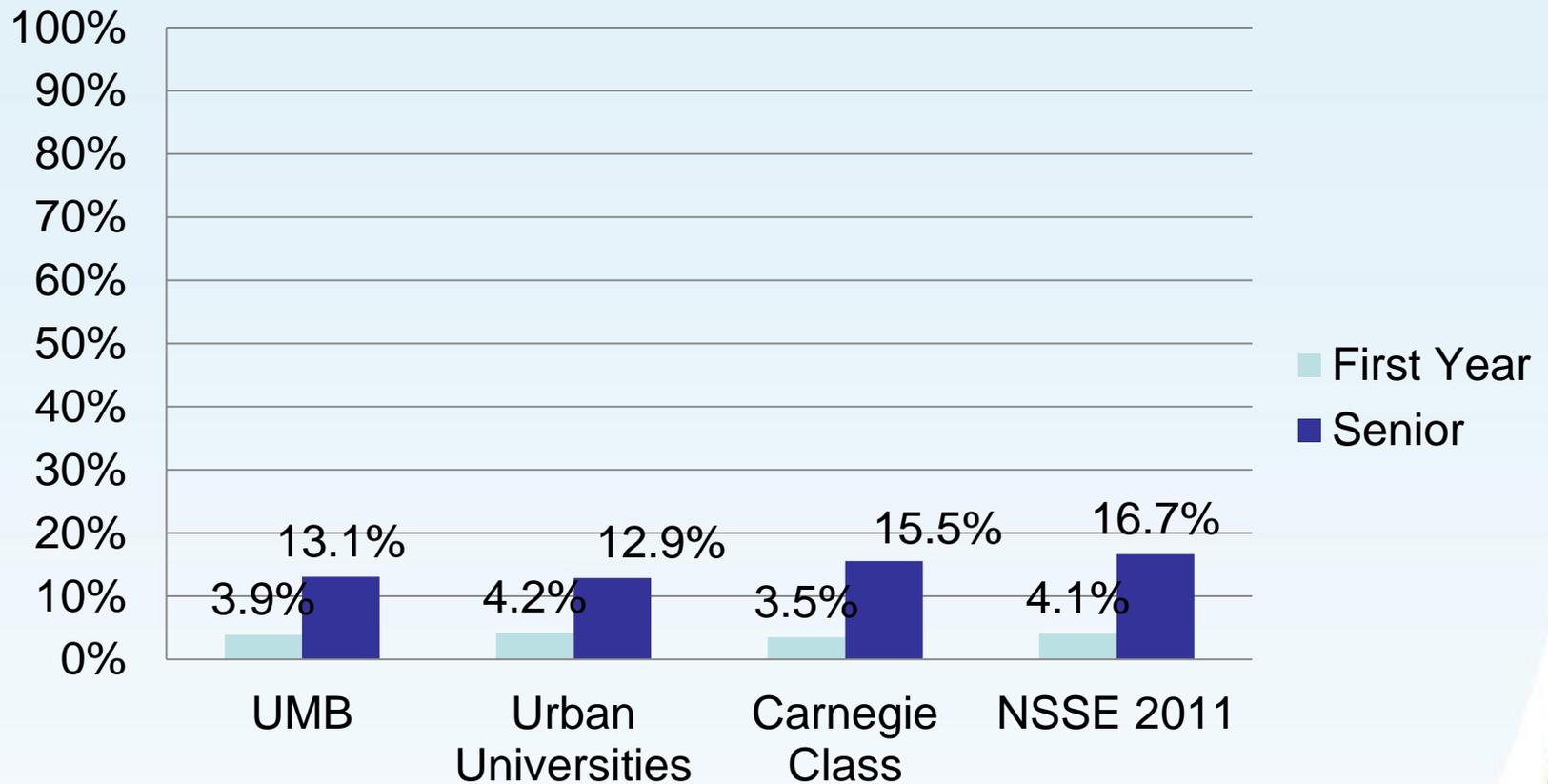
# Percent of students who have done foreign language coursework while at UMass Boston



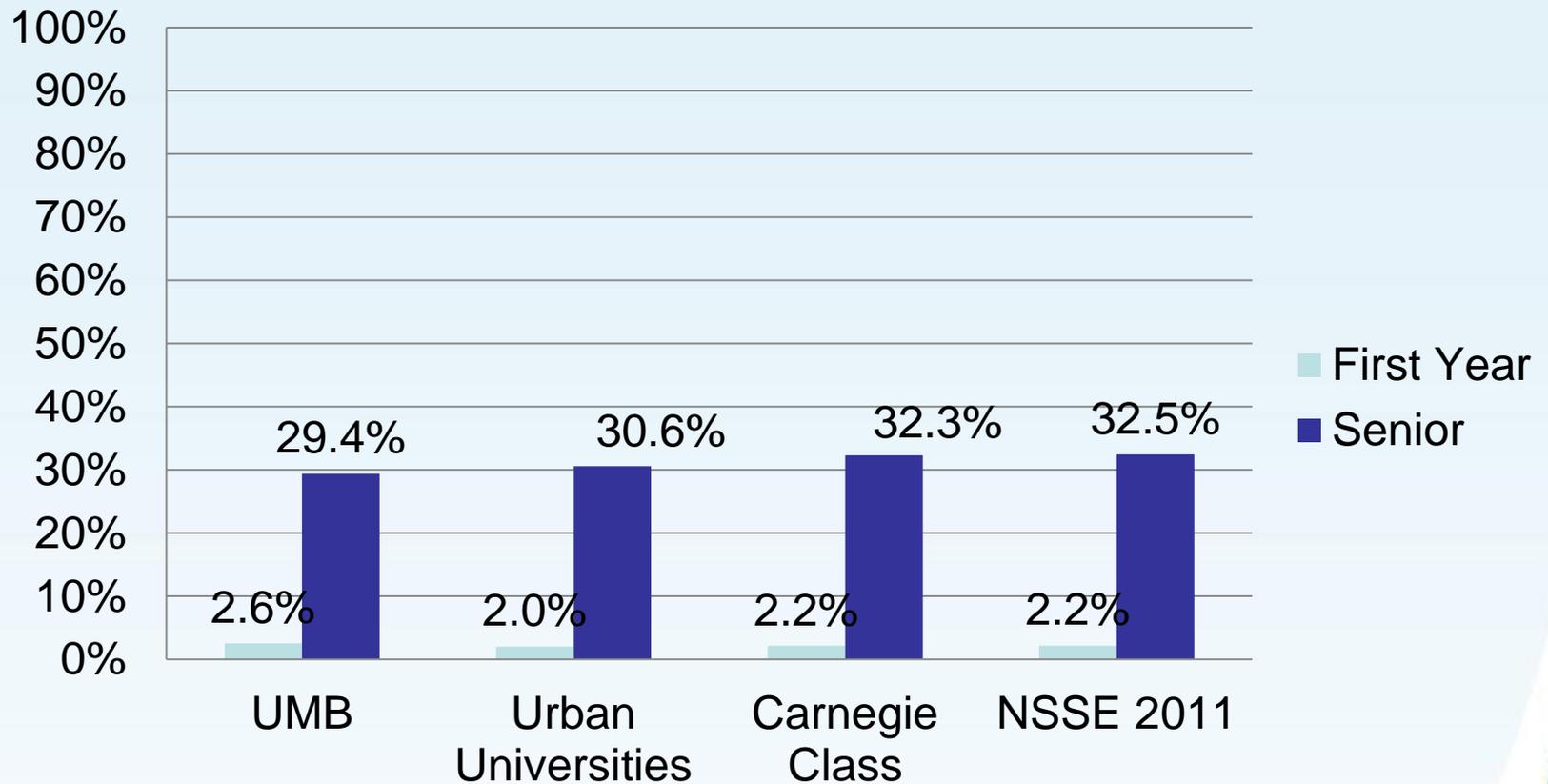
# Percent of students who have participated in study abroad while at UMass Boston



# Percent of students who have done an independent study or self-designed major while at UMass Boston



# Percent of students who have done a culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.) while at UMass Boston



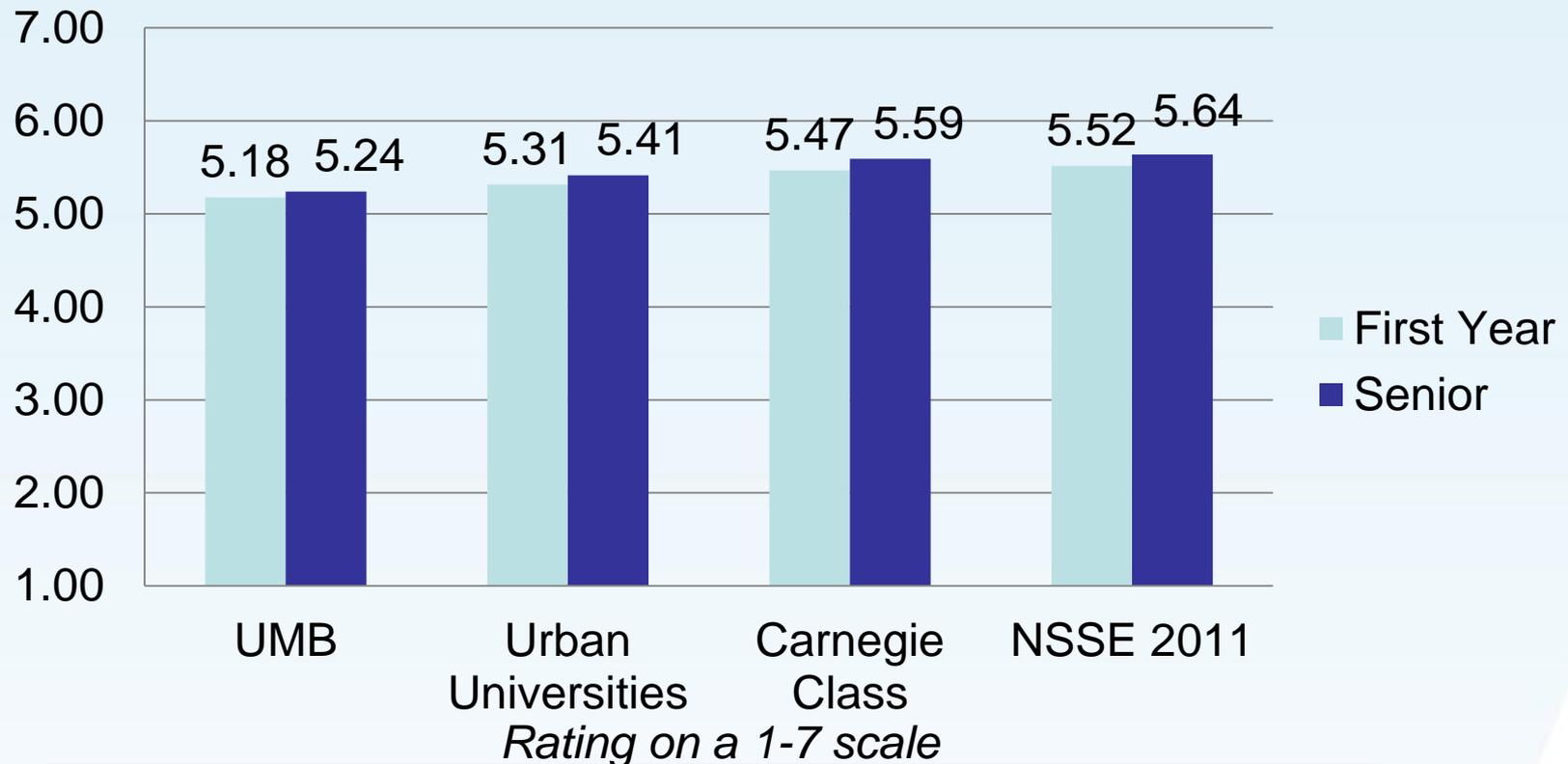
# QUALITY OF RELATIONSHIPS

# Quality of Relationships

- Students were asked to rate their relationships with various members of the campus community from 1 to 7:
  - **Students**
    - ▶ 1=Unfriendly, Unsupportive, Sense of alienation
    - ▶ 7=Friendly, Supportive, Sense of belonging
  - **Faculty Members**
    - ▶ 1=Unavailable, Unhelpful, Unsympathetic
    - ▶ 7=Available, Helpful, Sympathetic
  - **Administrative personnel and offices**
    - ▶ 1=Unhelpful, Inconsiderate, Rigid
    - ▶ 7=Helpful, Considerate, Flexible

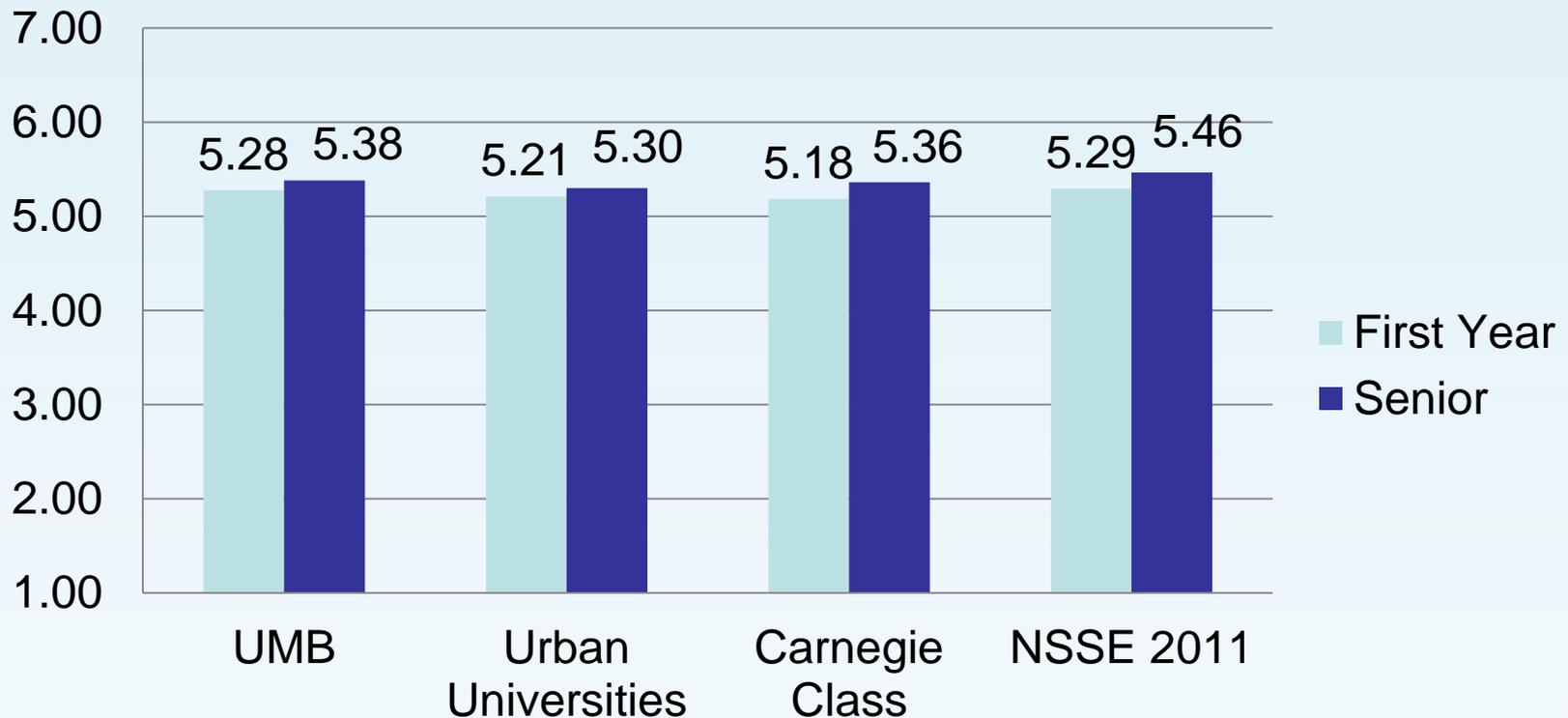
# UMB Students have a lower mean rating of relationships with other students than students in comparison groups.

## Mean Rating of Relationships with Other Students



# UMB Students rank quality of relationships with faculty higher than urban universities and universities in the same Carnegie Class, but not as high as ranked nationally.

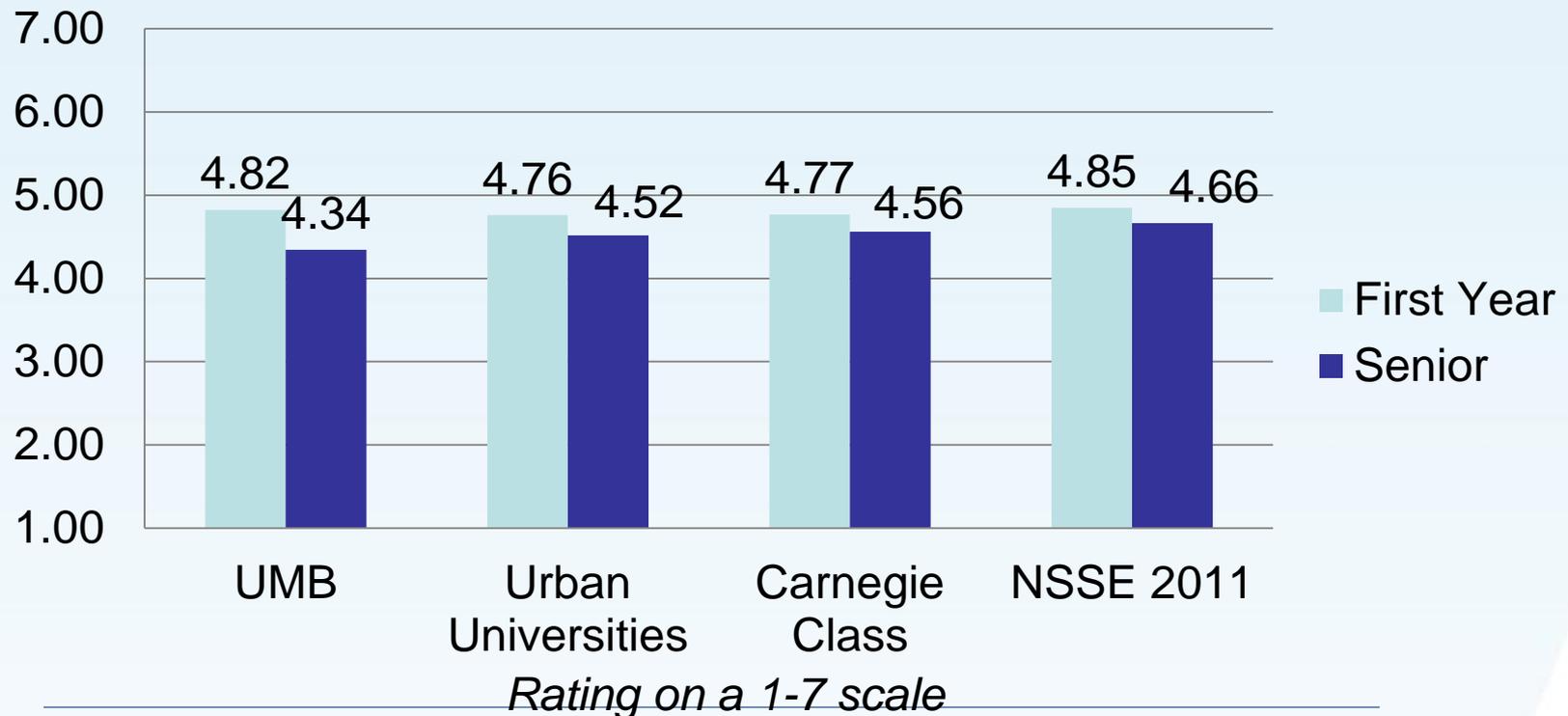
Mean Rating of Relationships with Faculty Members



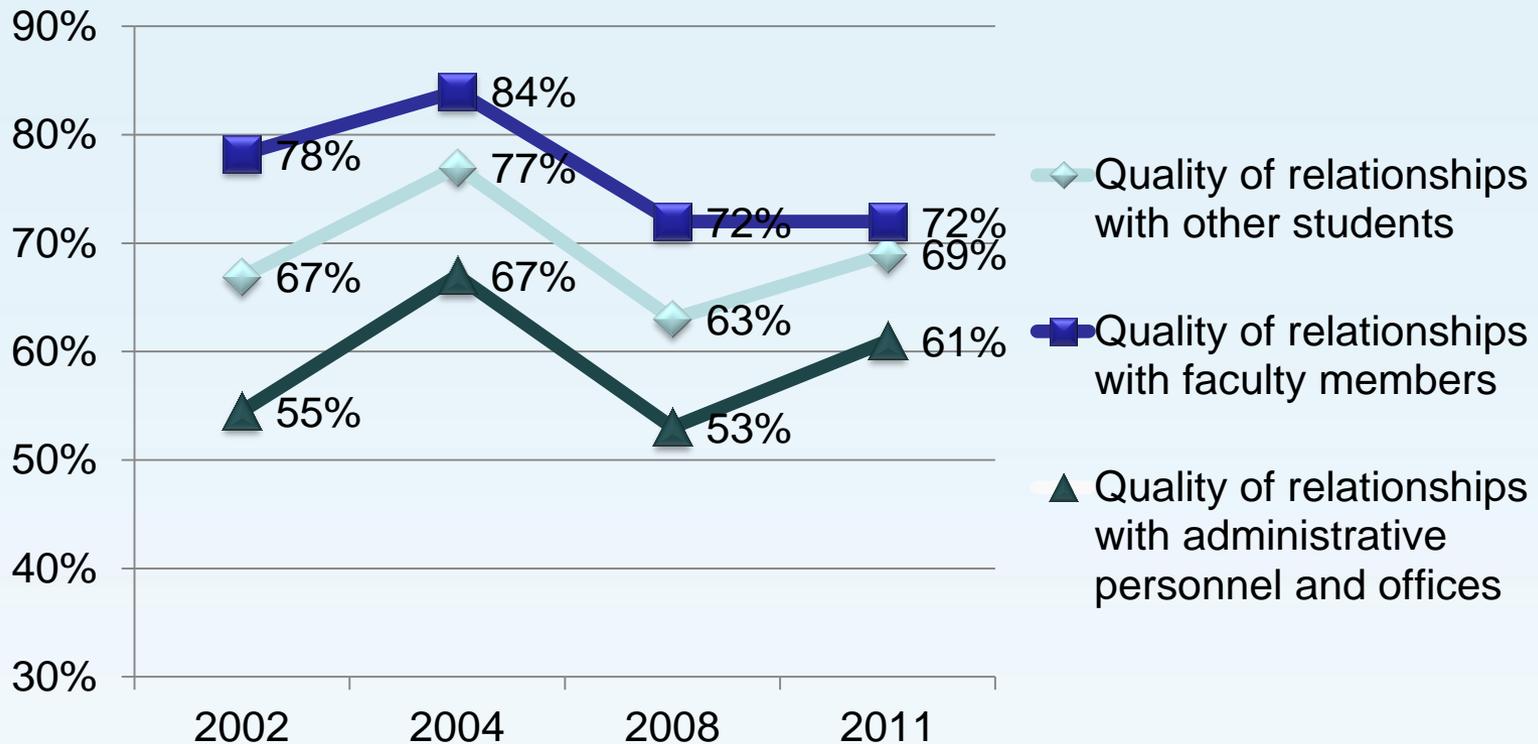
*Rating on a 1-7 scale*

# Among all groups, Seniors had lower mean ratings than First Year students and UMB Seniors had the lowest.

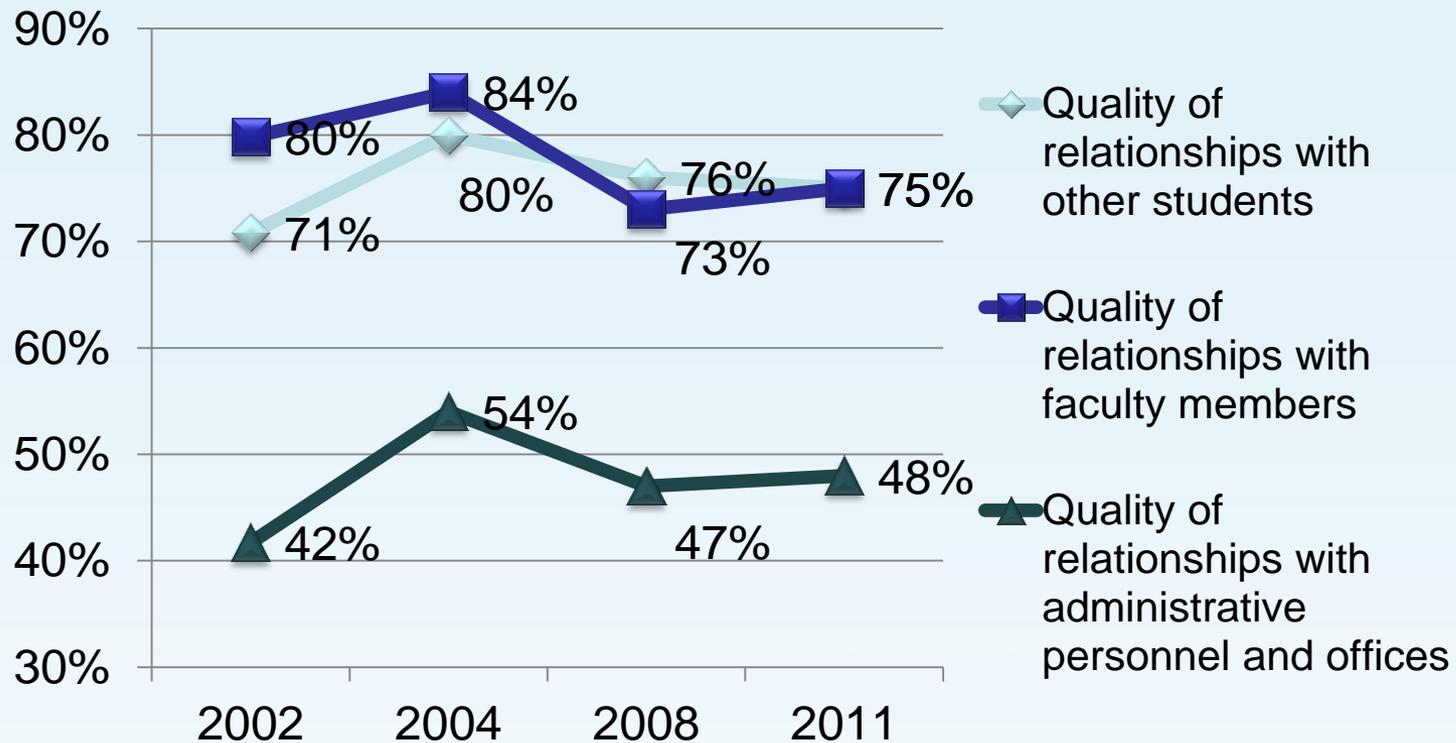
## Mean Rating of Relationships with Administrative Personnel and Offices



# UMass Boston First Year Students Rating Campus Relationships 5 or Above on 7 Point Scale



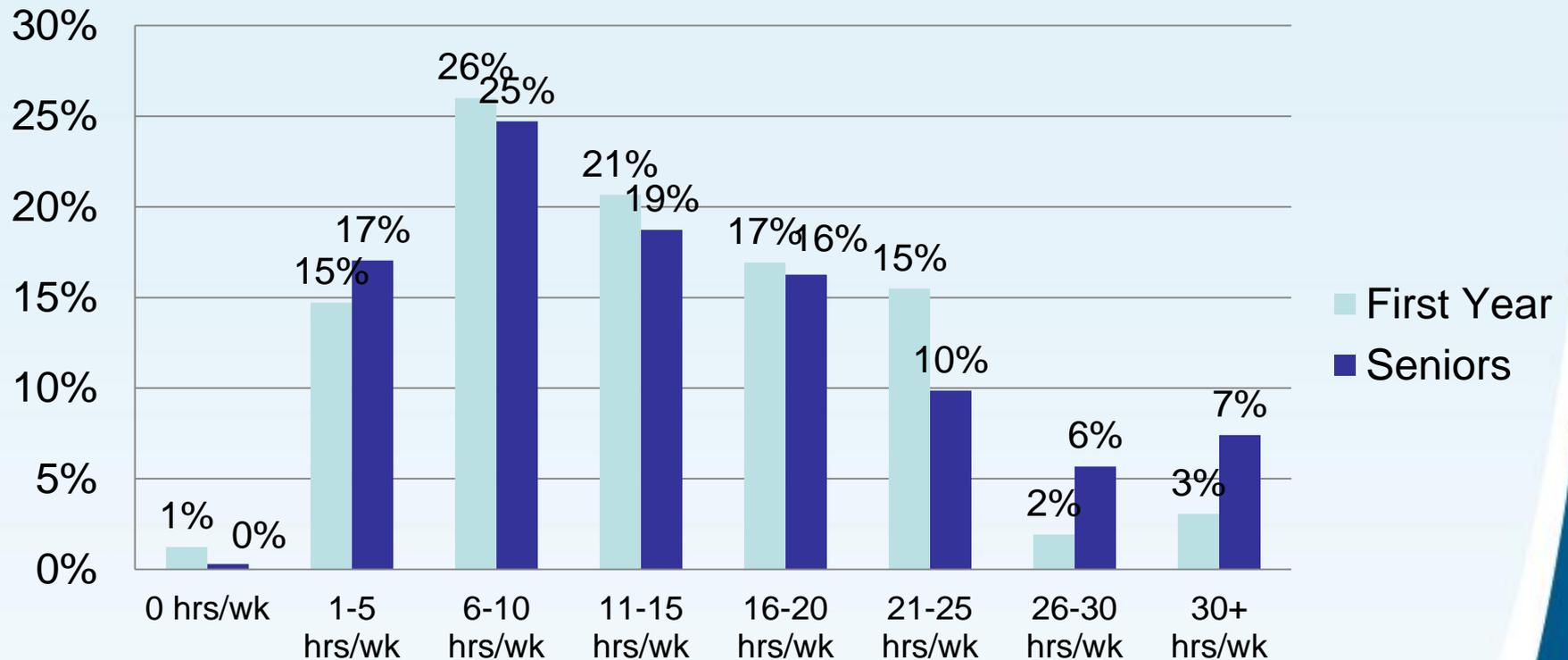
# UMass Boston Seniors Rating Campus Relationships 5 or Above on 7 Point Scale



# TIME USAGE

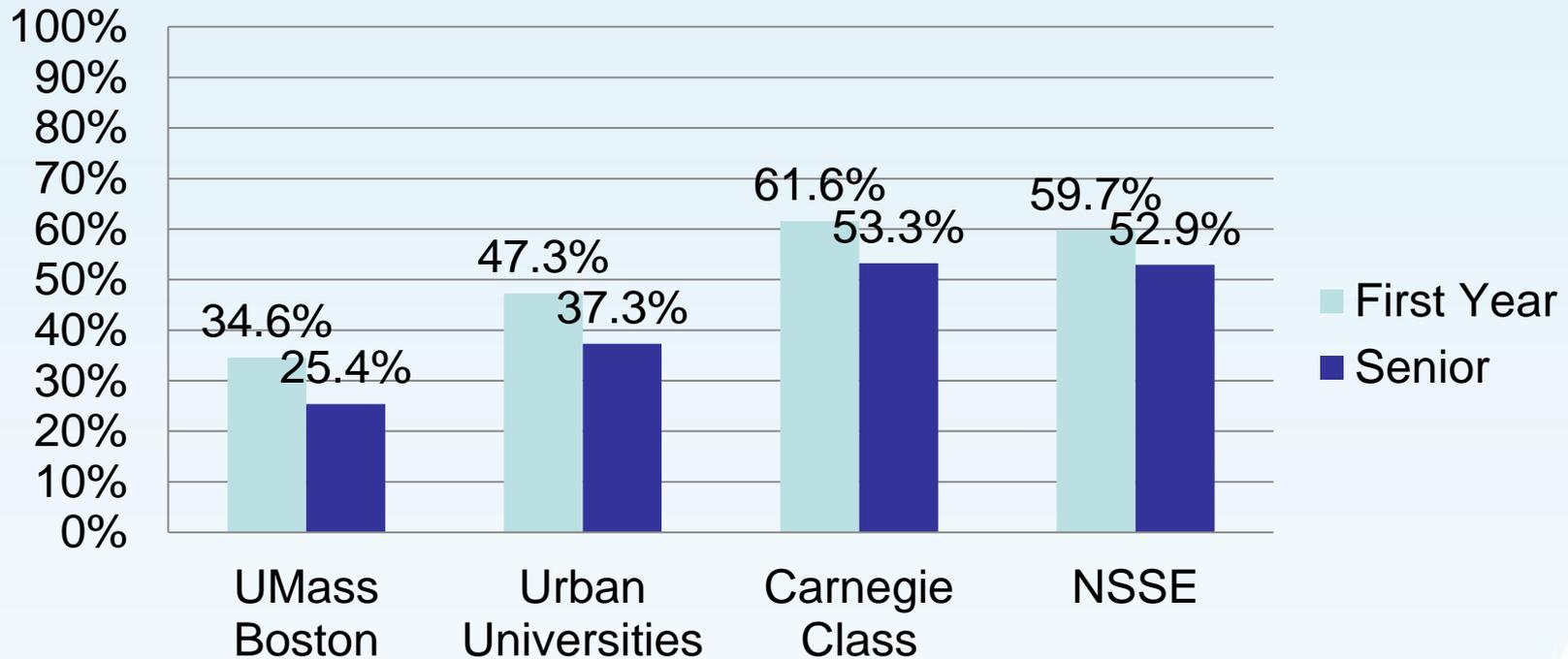
# Time spent preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)

## Time Spent per Week by UMass Boston Students



# Larger Percentages of the Comparison Groups Spent Any Time Participating in Co-Curricular Activities than at UMass Boston

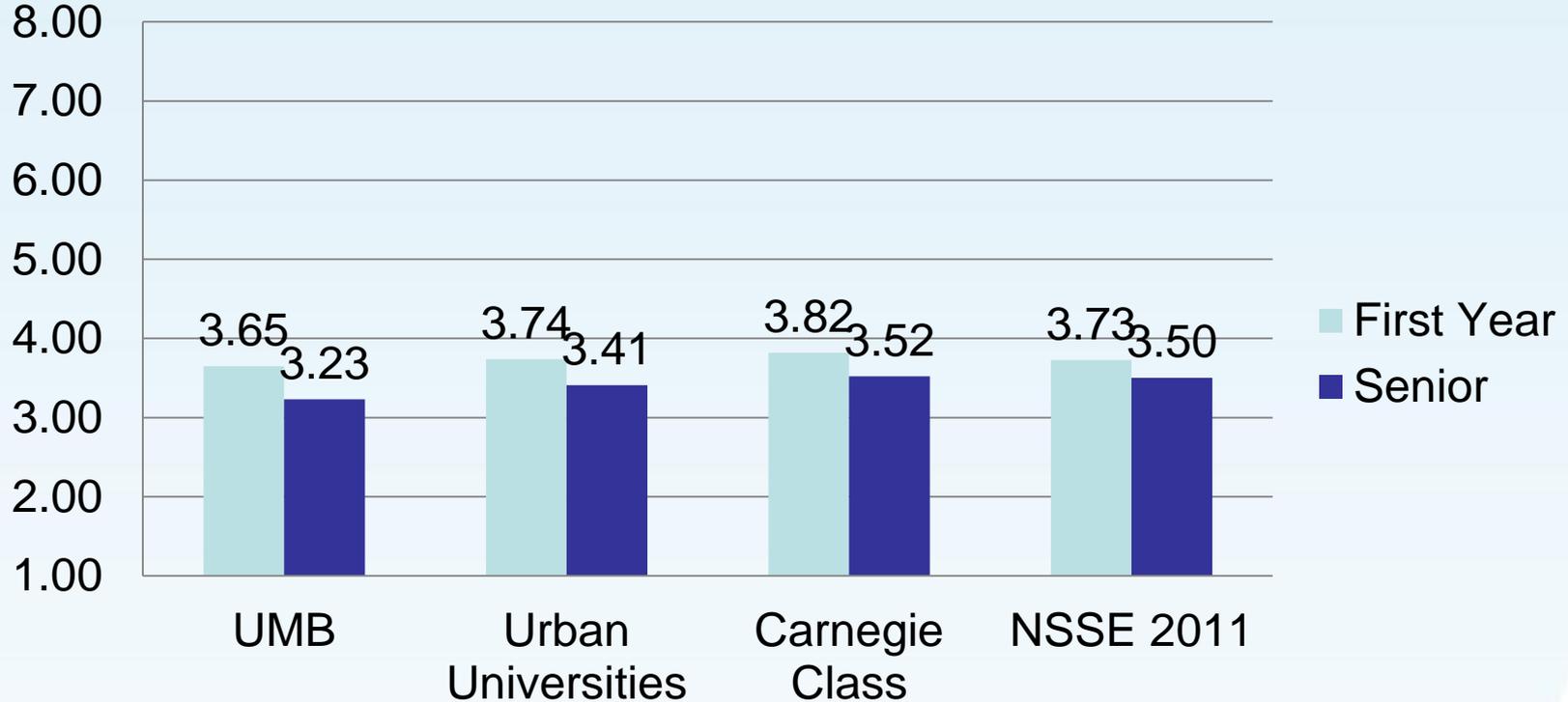
**% of Respondents Who Reported Spending Any Time Each Week Participating in Co-curricular Activities**



# Mean Number of Hours Per Week Spent Relaxing and Socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)

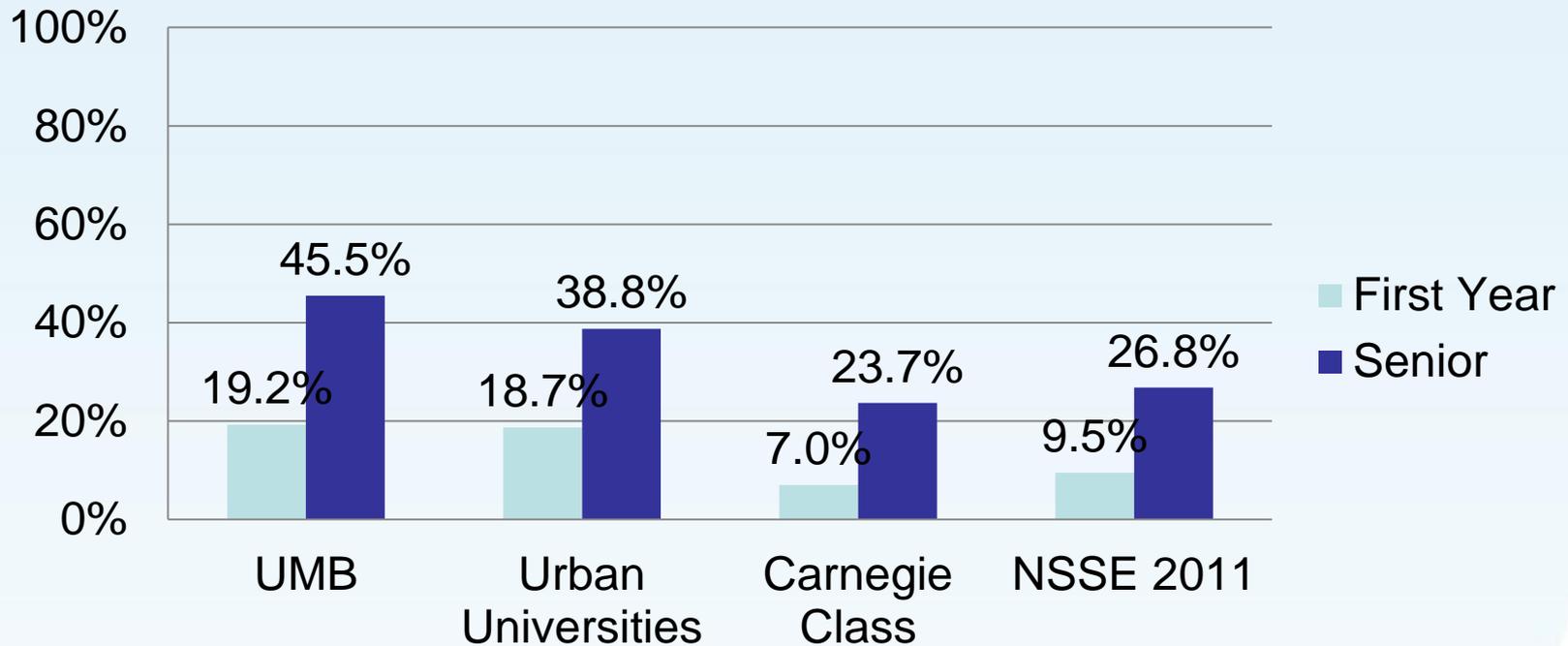
1=0 hrs/wk, 2=1-5 hrs/wk, 3=6-10 hrs/wk, 4=11-15 hrs/wk, 5=16-20 hrs/wk, 6=21-25 hrs/wk, 7=26-30 hrs/wk, 8=More than 30 hrs/wk

## Mean of Student Responses



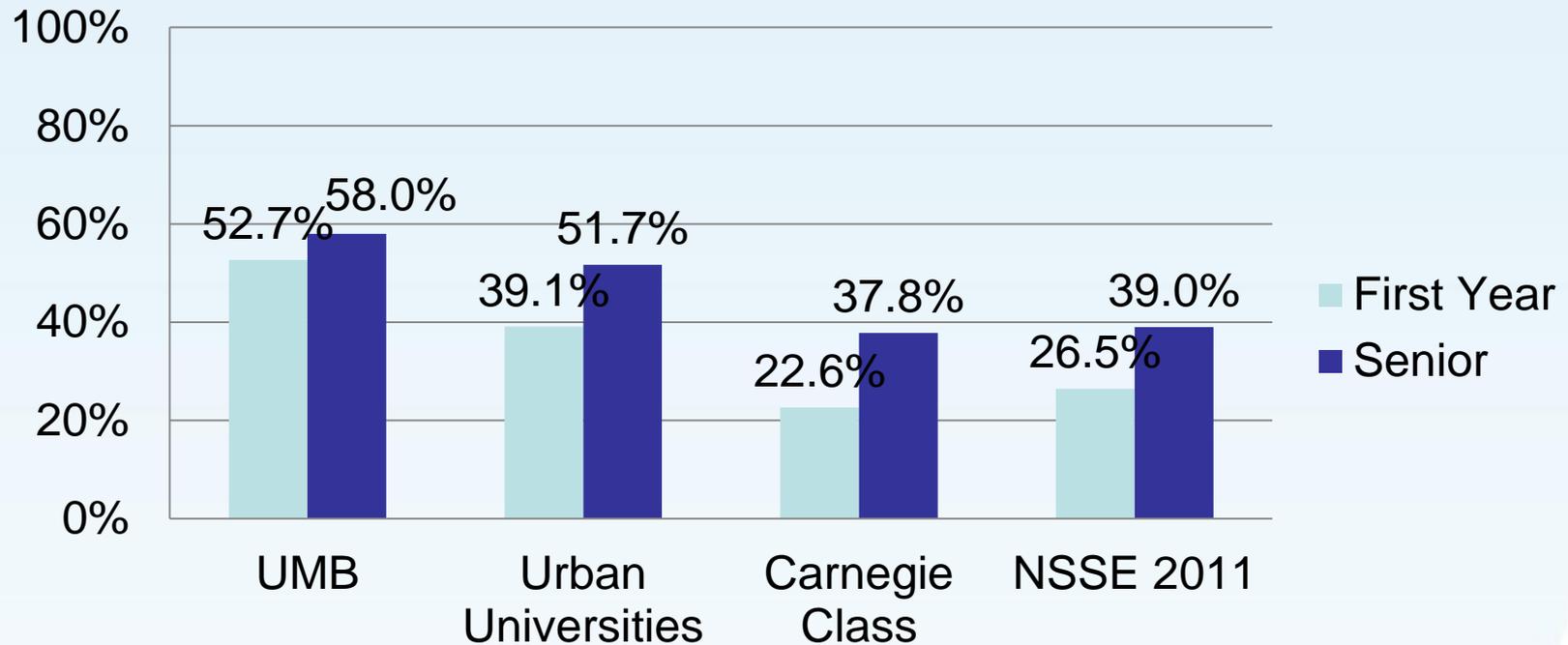
# A greater percentage of UMB students reported working more than 20 hours per week than those in the comparison groups

## % of Respondents Who Reported More than 20 Hours Working Per Week Off Campus for Pay



# A Greater Percentage of UMass Boston Students Reported Spending Time Caring for Dependents than Did Comparison Groups

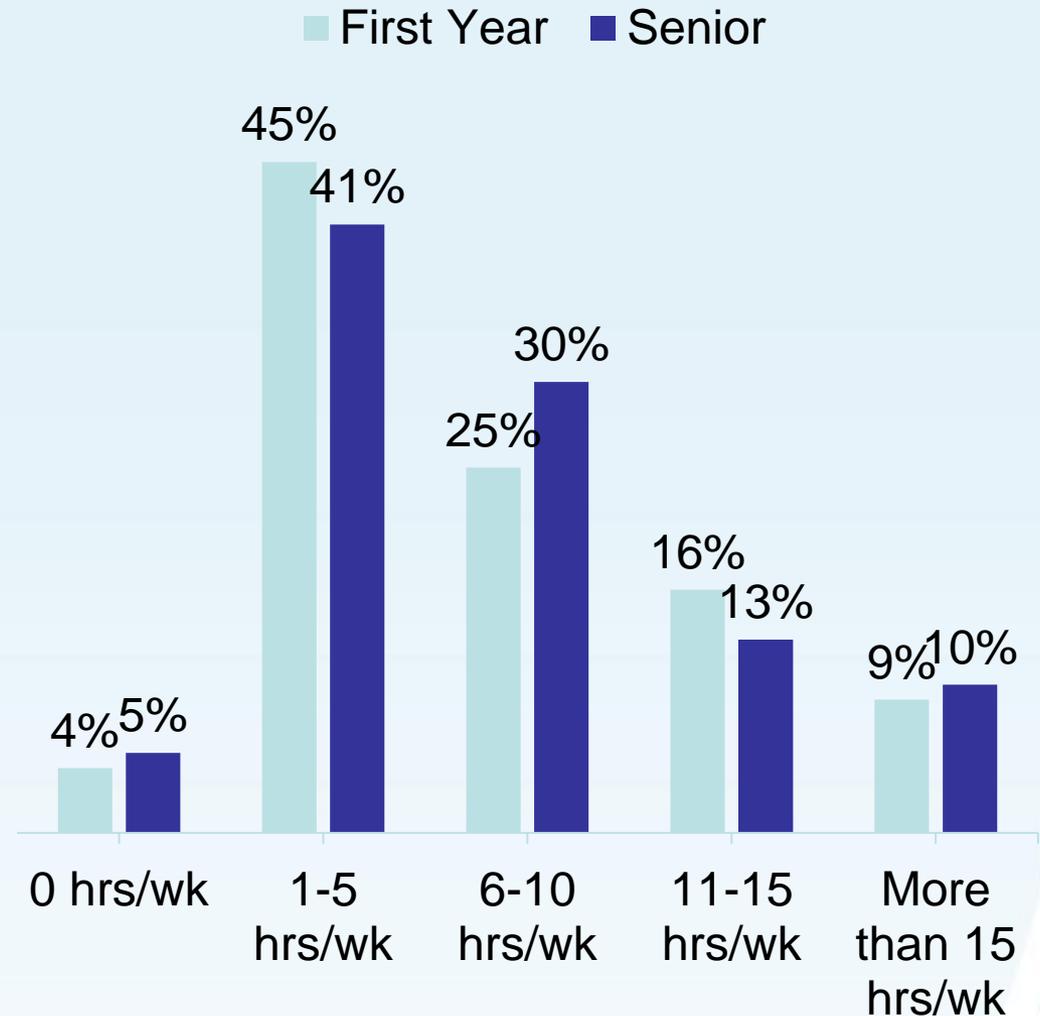
## % of Respondents Who Reported Spending Some Time Each Week Caring for Dependents



## Time Spent Commuting to Class

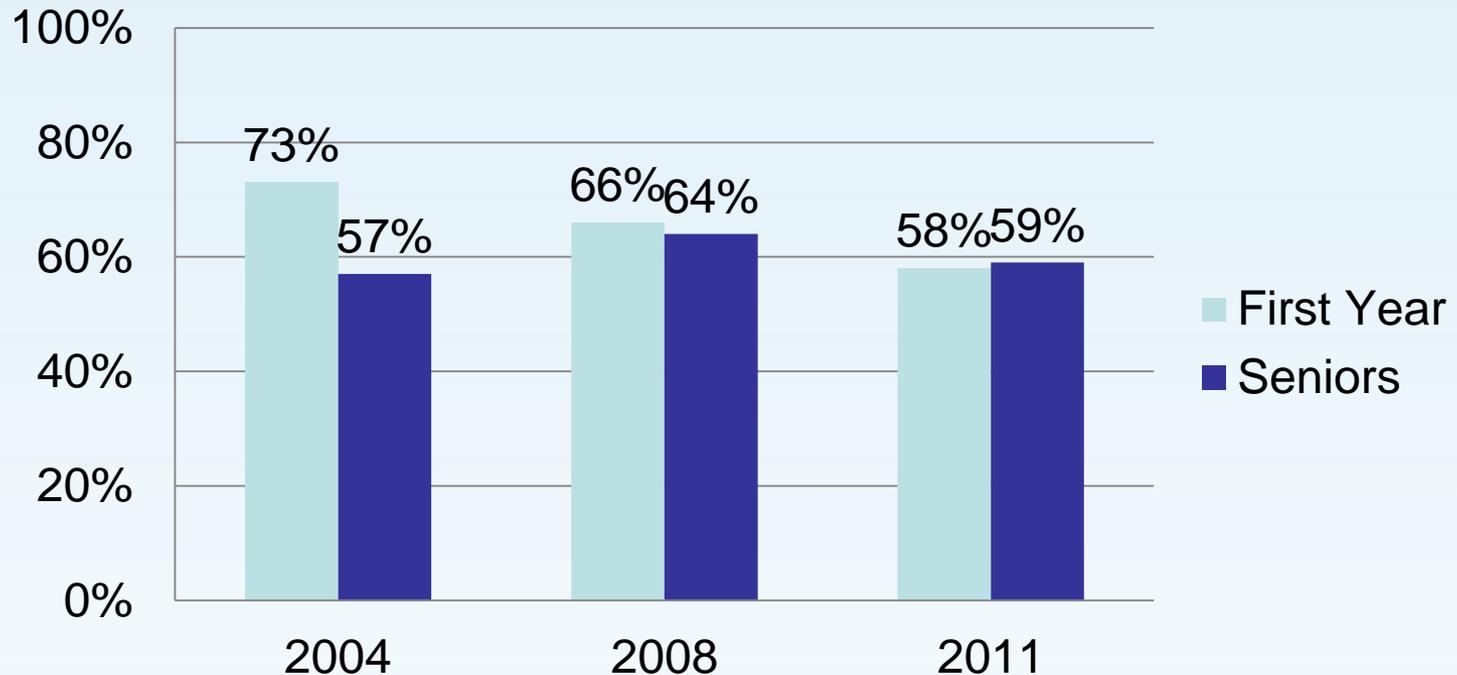
- Many first year (45%) and senior (41%) students reported spending 1 to 5 hours per week commuting to class.
- This was consistent with the comparison groups.

## Number of Hours Spent Commuting to Class Per Week



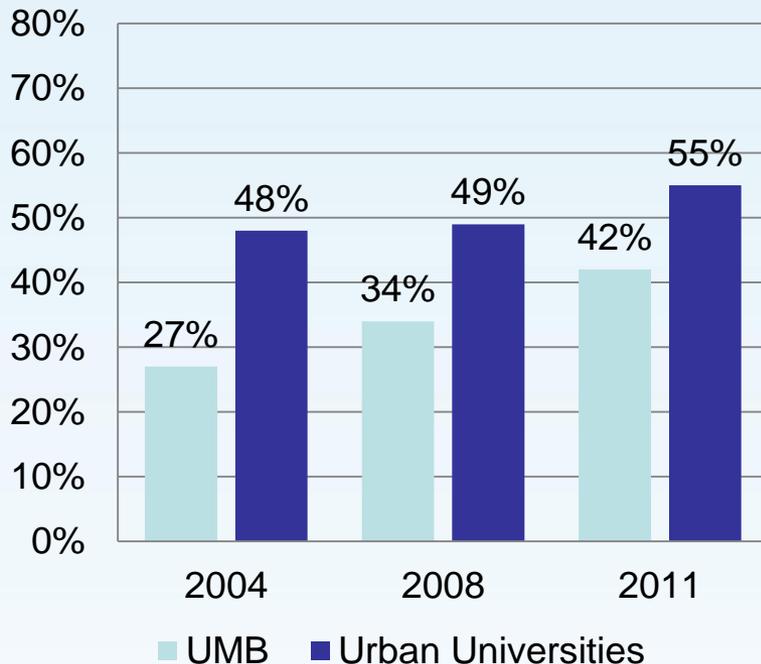
# The Percent of Students Spending 5 Hours or Less on Campus Outside of Class per Week Has Decreased.

**% of UMB Students Spending 5 hrs or less on campus each week outside of class**

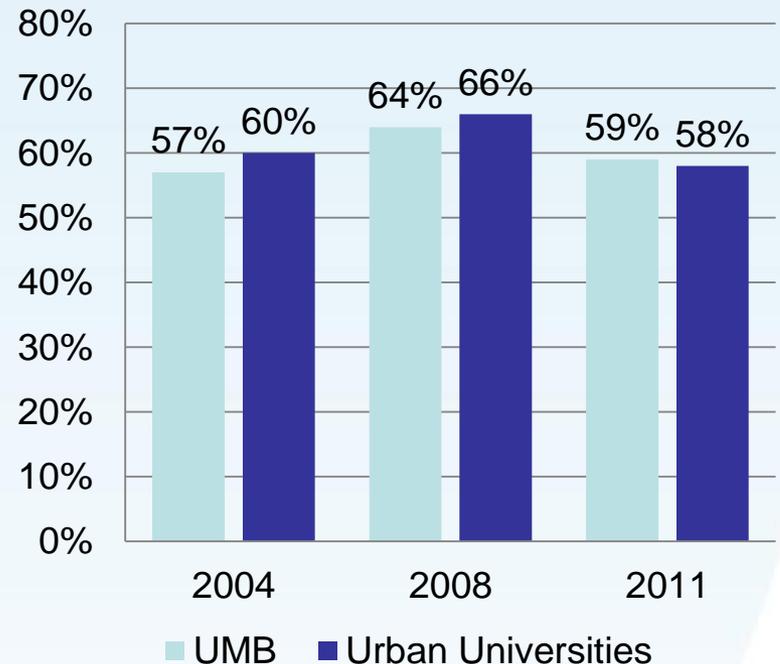


# A Higher Percentage of Senior Students Spend More Than 5 Hours on Campus Outside of Class than First Year Students.

**% of First Year Students Spending more than 5 hrs on campus each week outside of class**



**% of Senior Students Spending more than 5 hrs on campus each week outside of class**



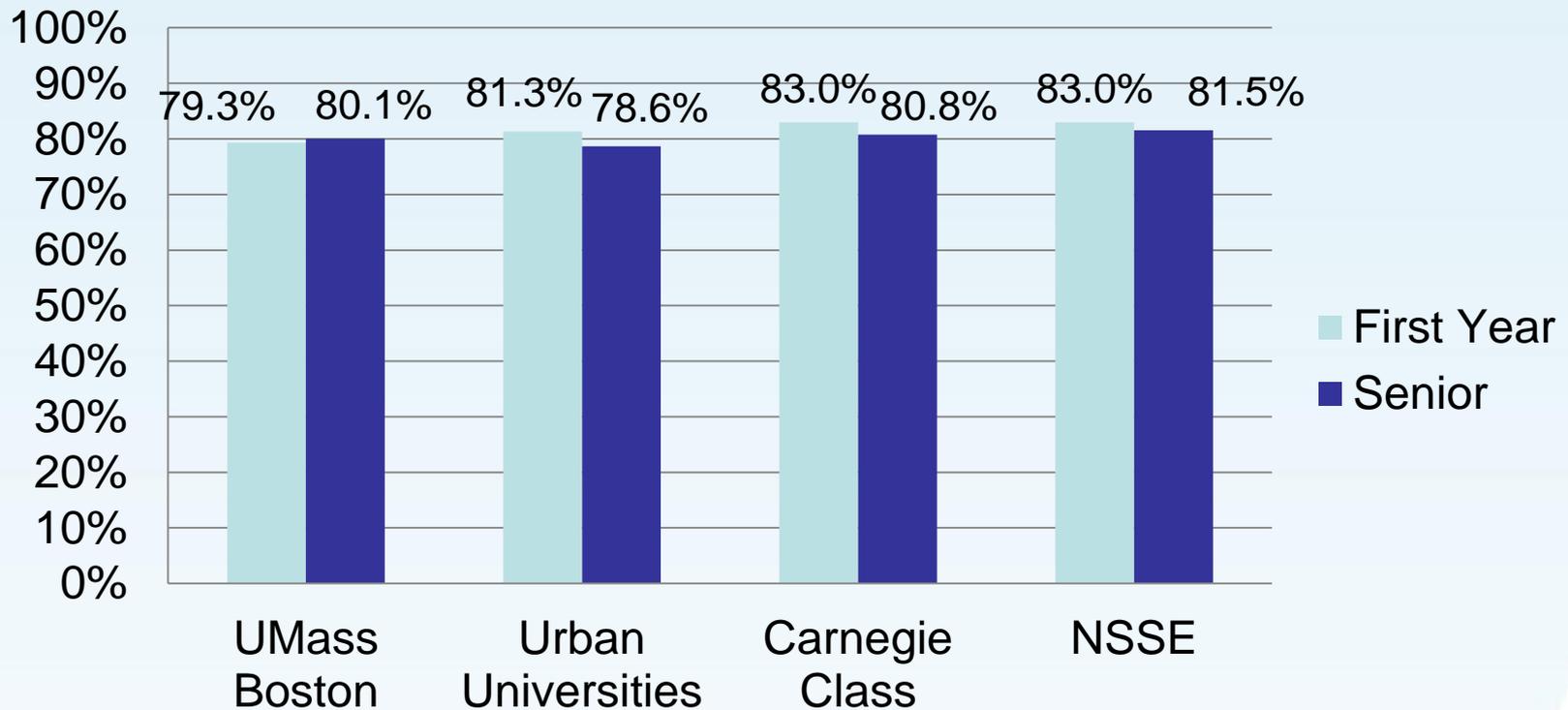
# INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

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Office of Institutional Research and Policy Studies

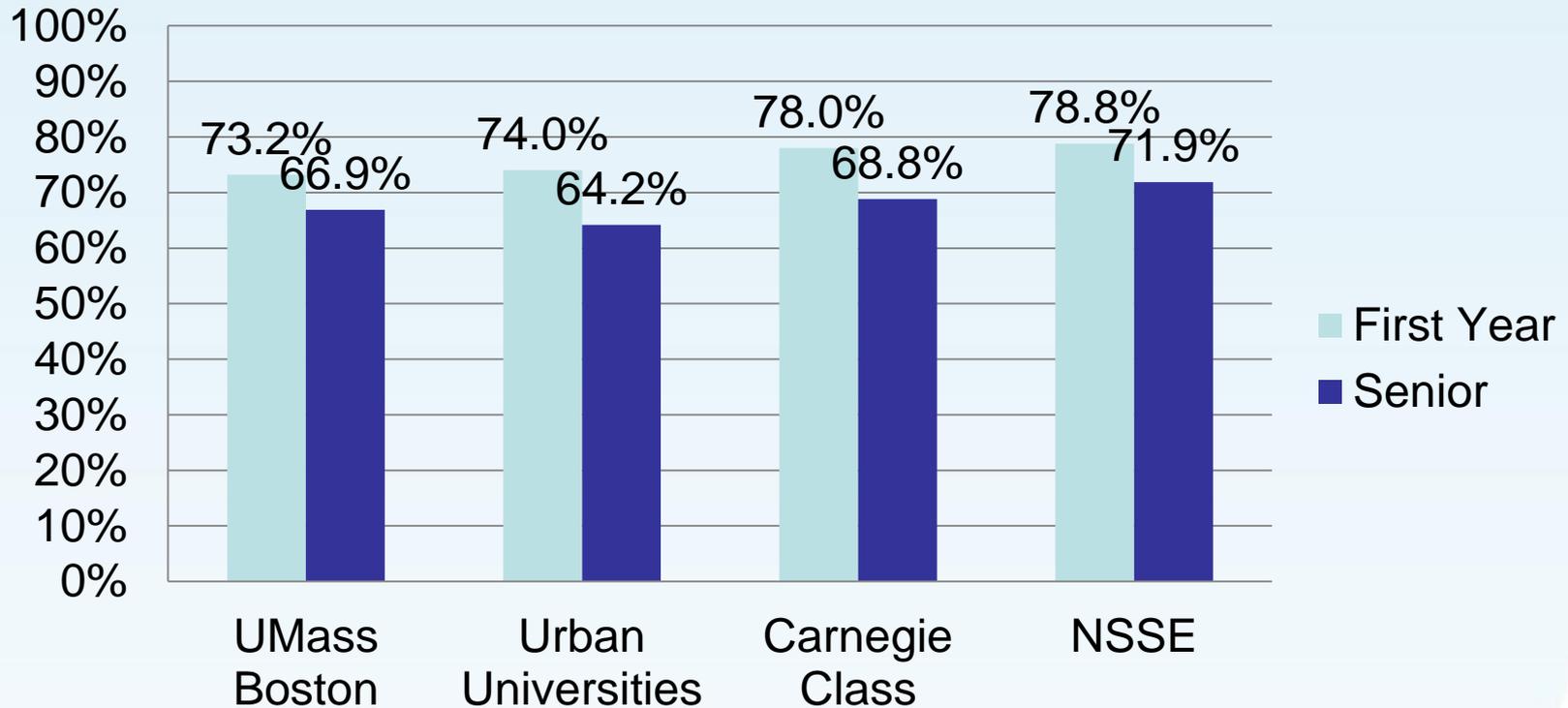
# To what extent does your institution emphasize spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



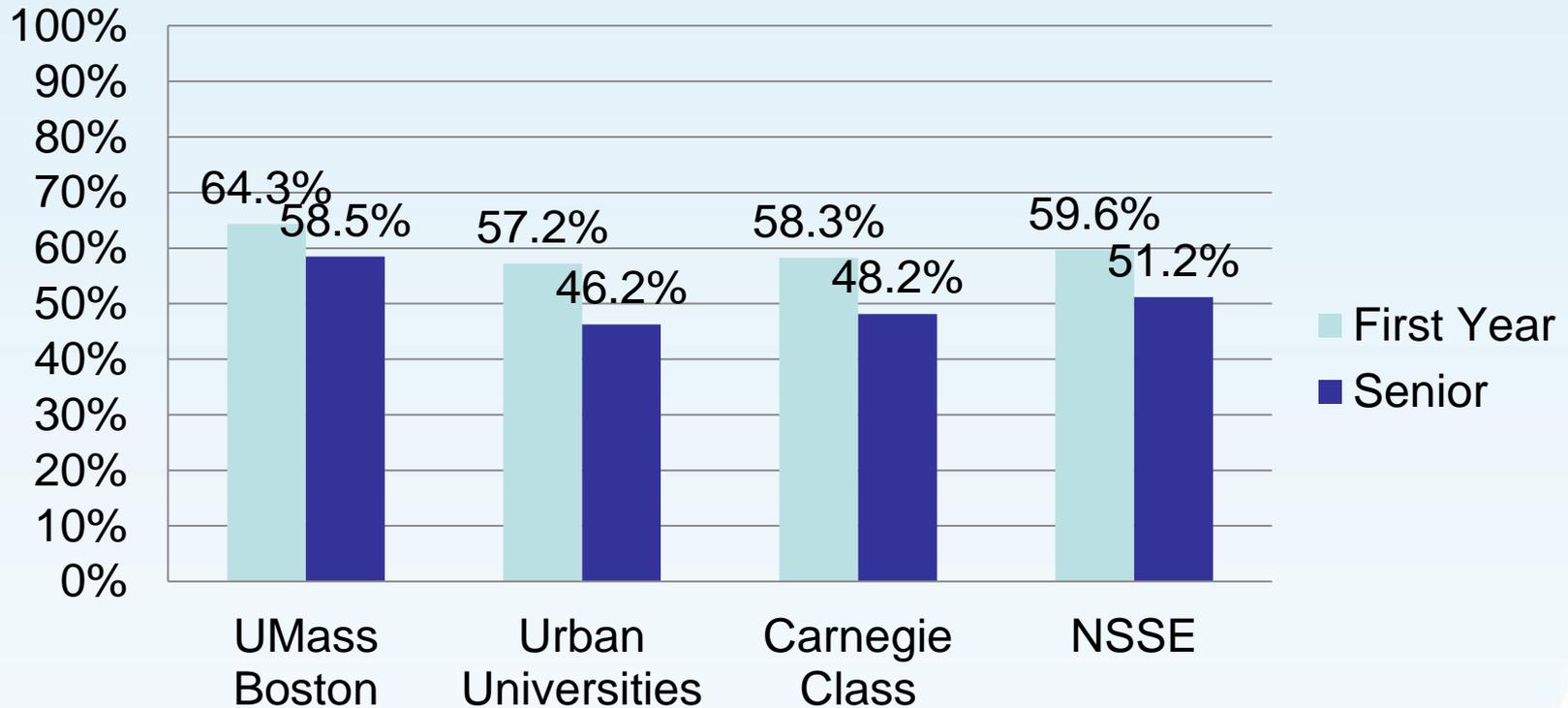
# To what extent does your institution emphasize providing the support you need to help you succeed academically?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



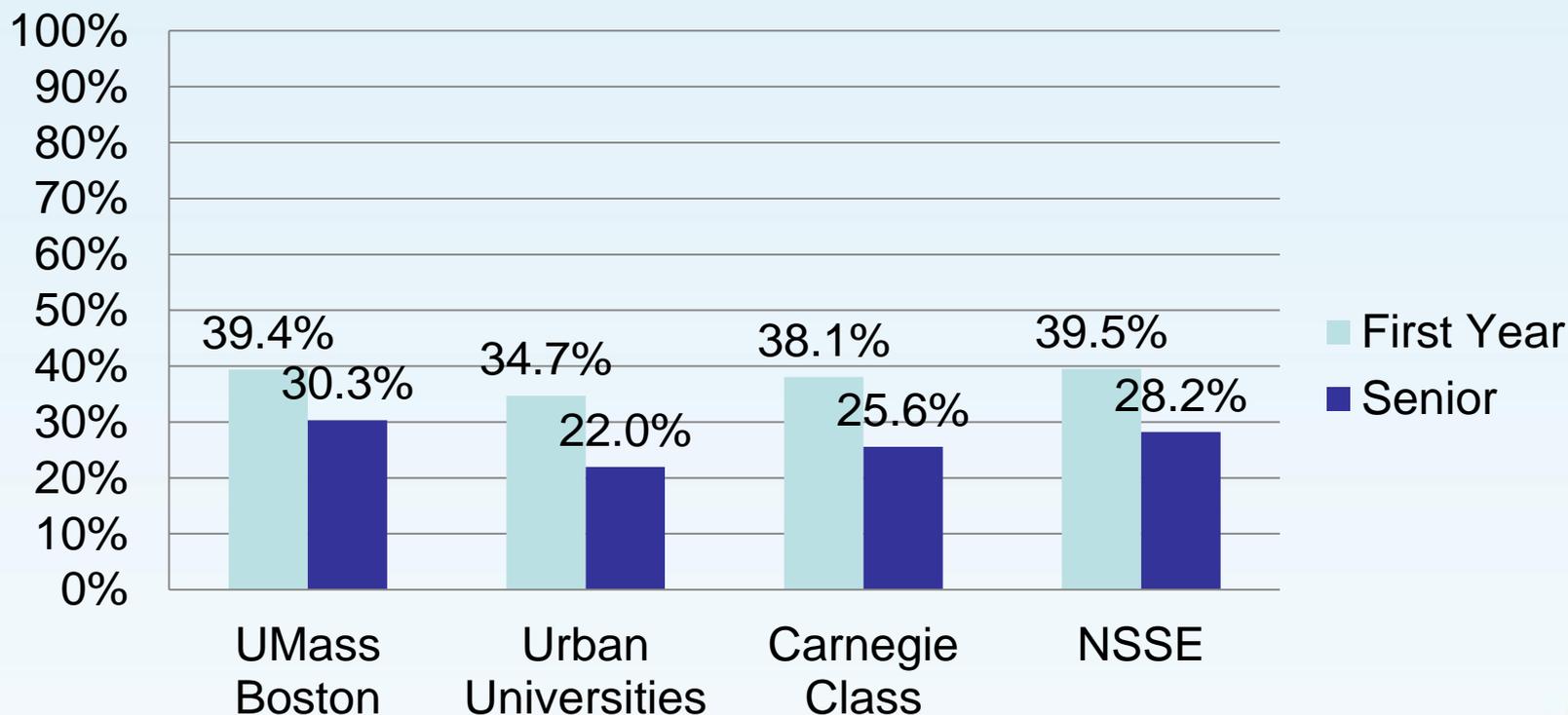
# To what extent does your institution emphasize encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



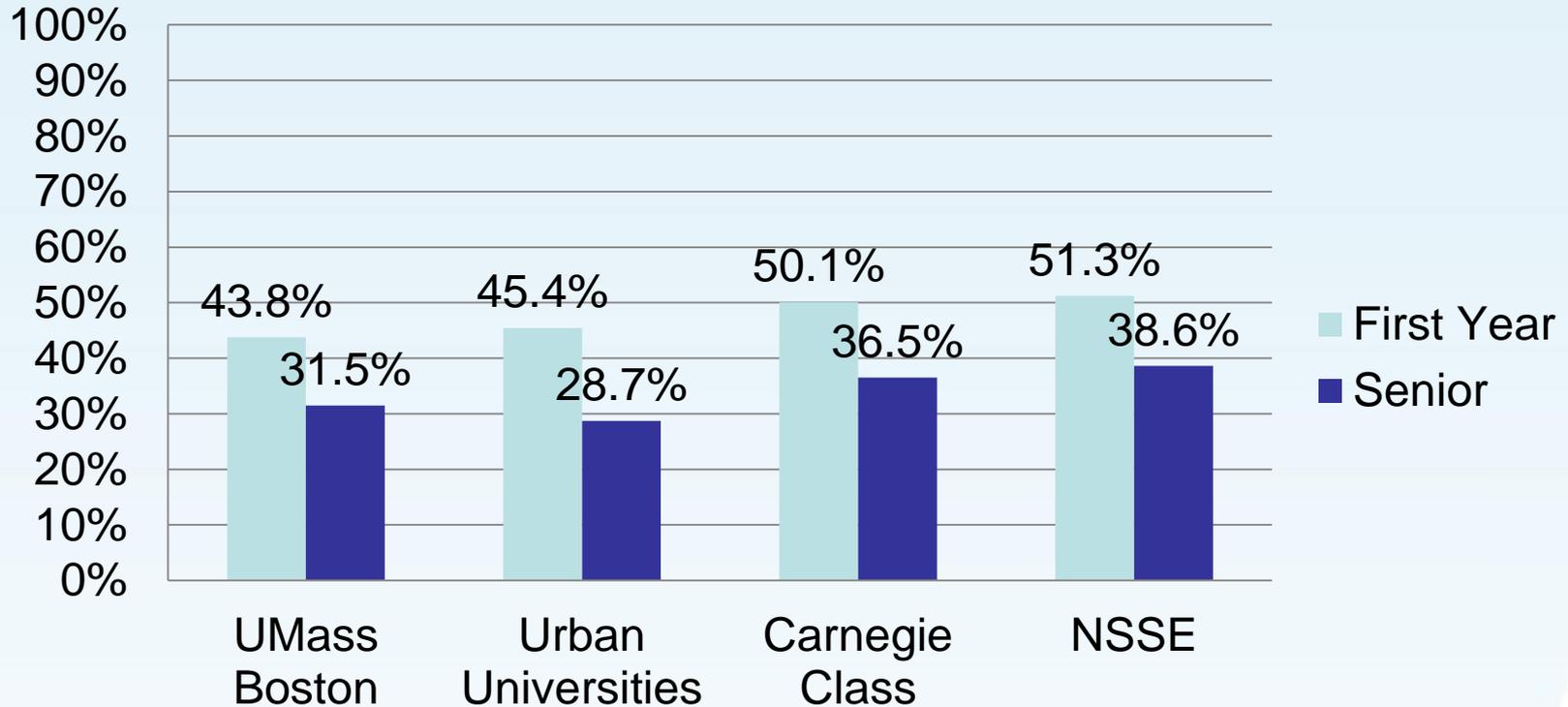
# To what extent does your institution emphasize helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



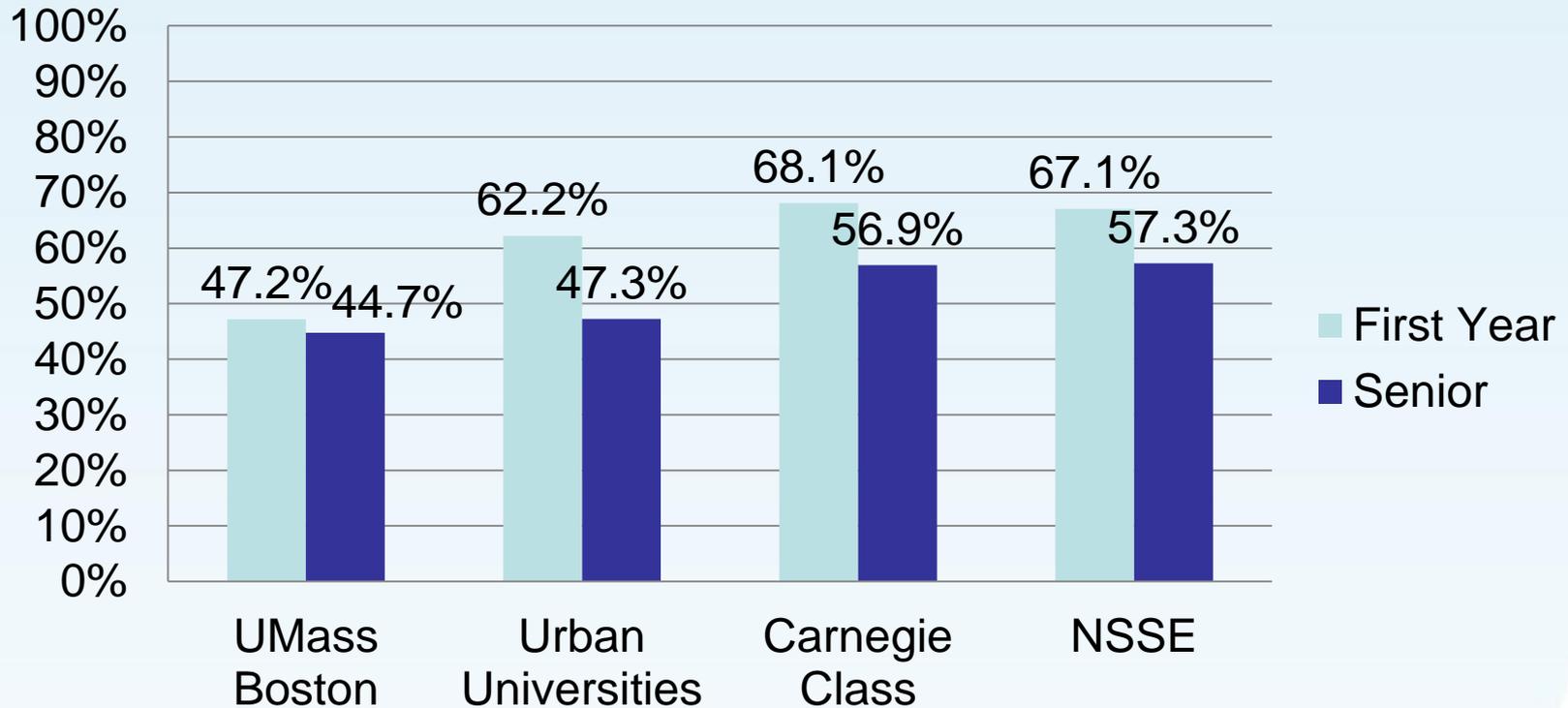
# To what extent does your institution emphasize providing the support you need to thrive socially?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



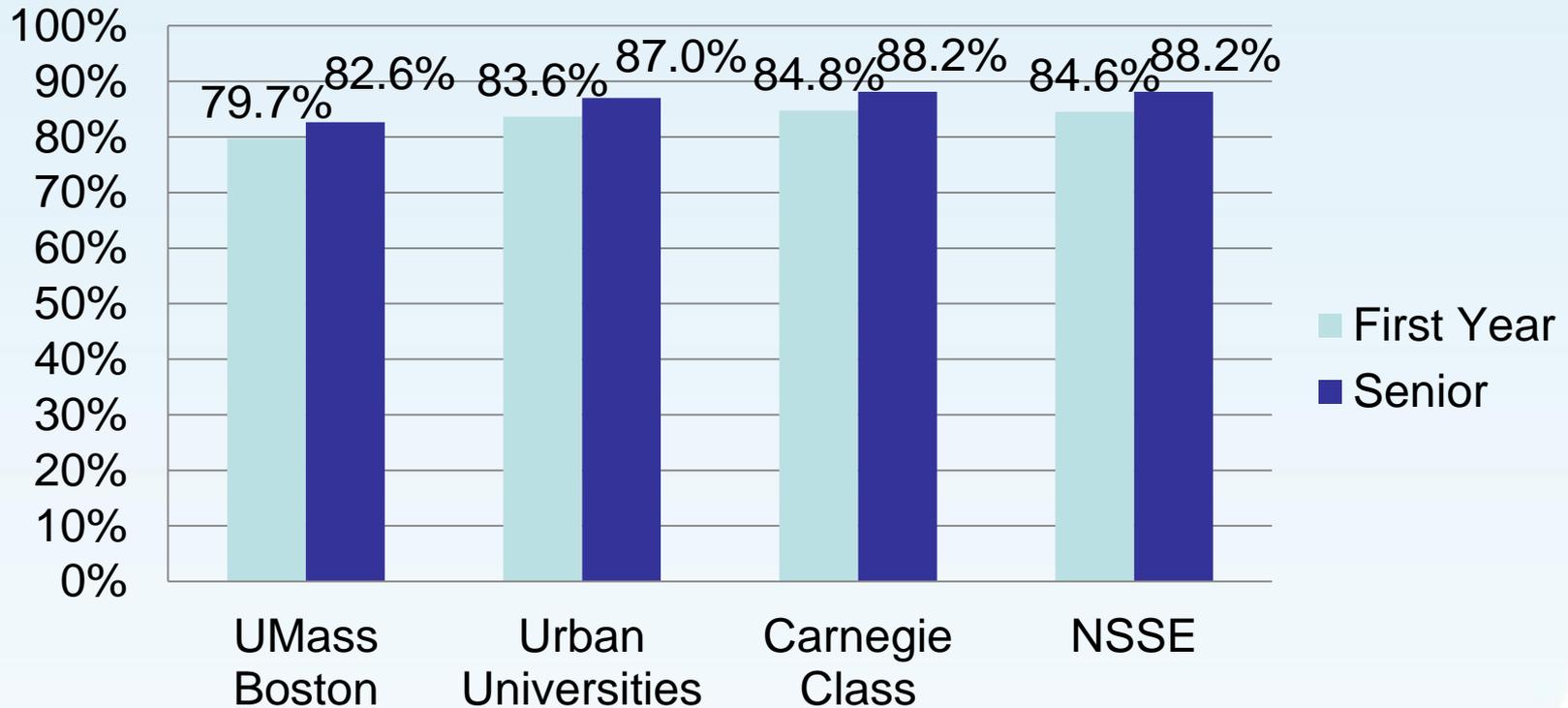
# To what extent does your institution emphasize attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.)?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



# To what extent does your institution emphasize using computers in academic work?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



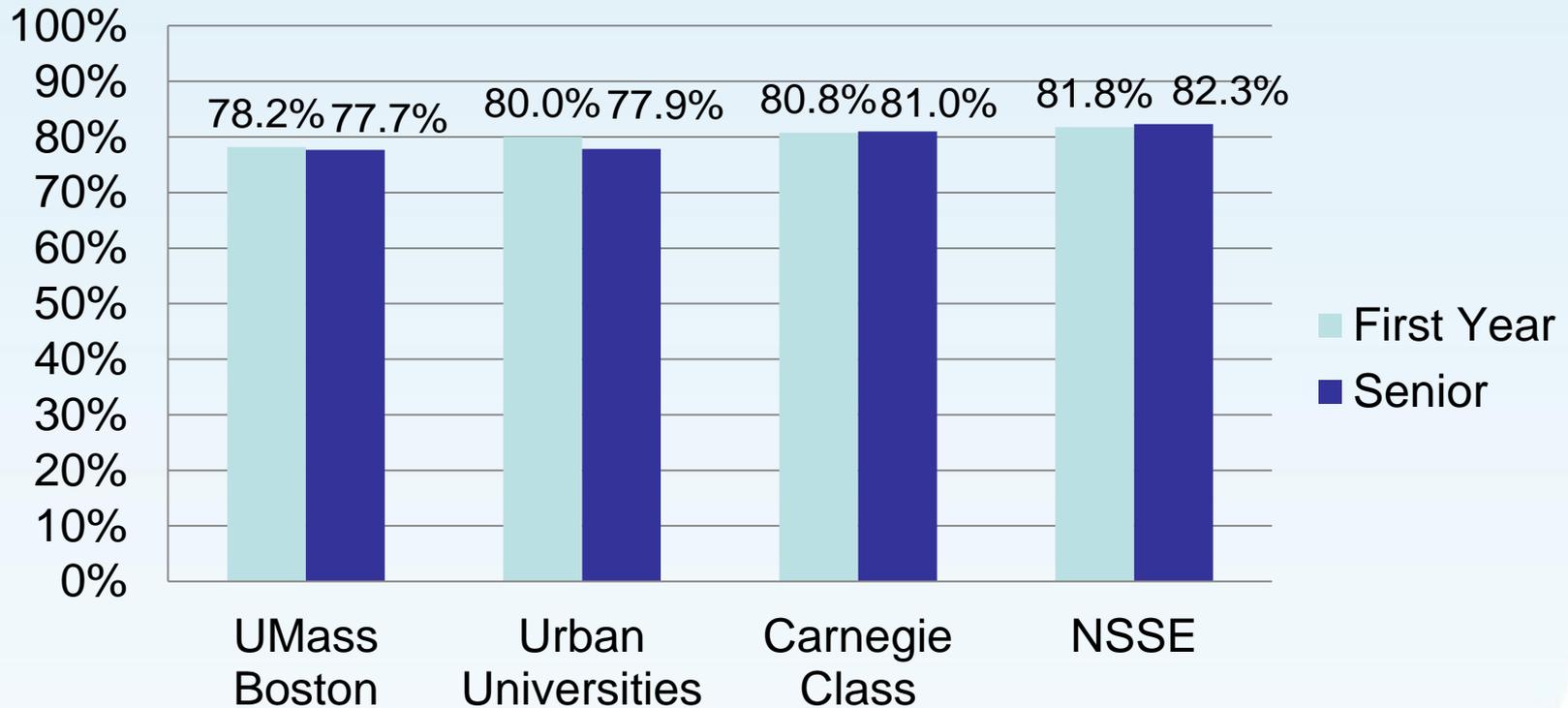
# EDUCATIONAL AND PERSONAL GROWTH

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Office of Institutional Research and Policy Studies

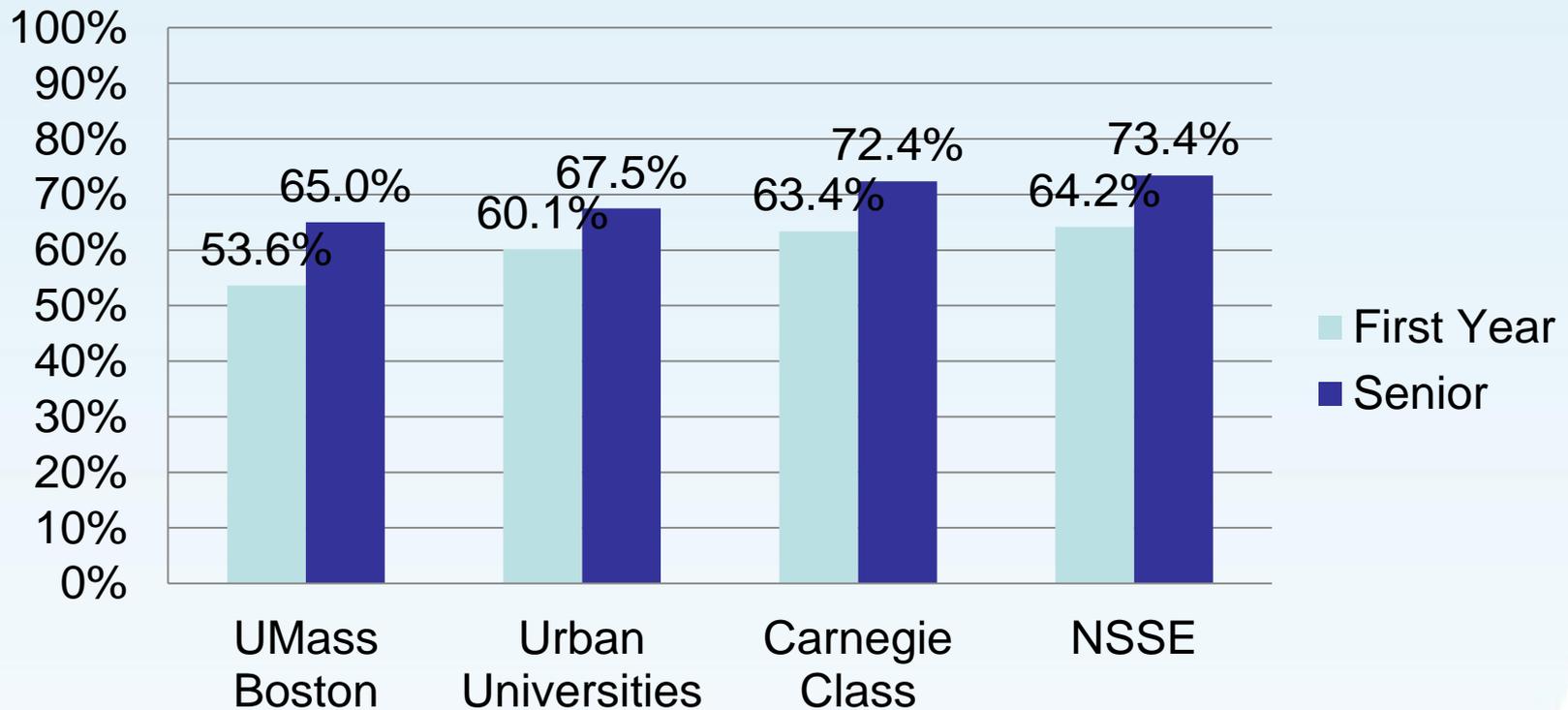
# To what extent does your institution emphasize acquiring a broad general education?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



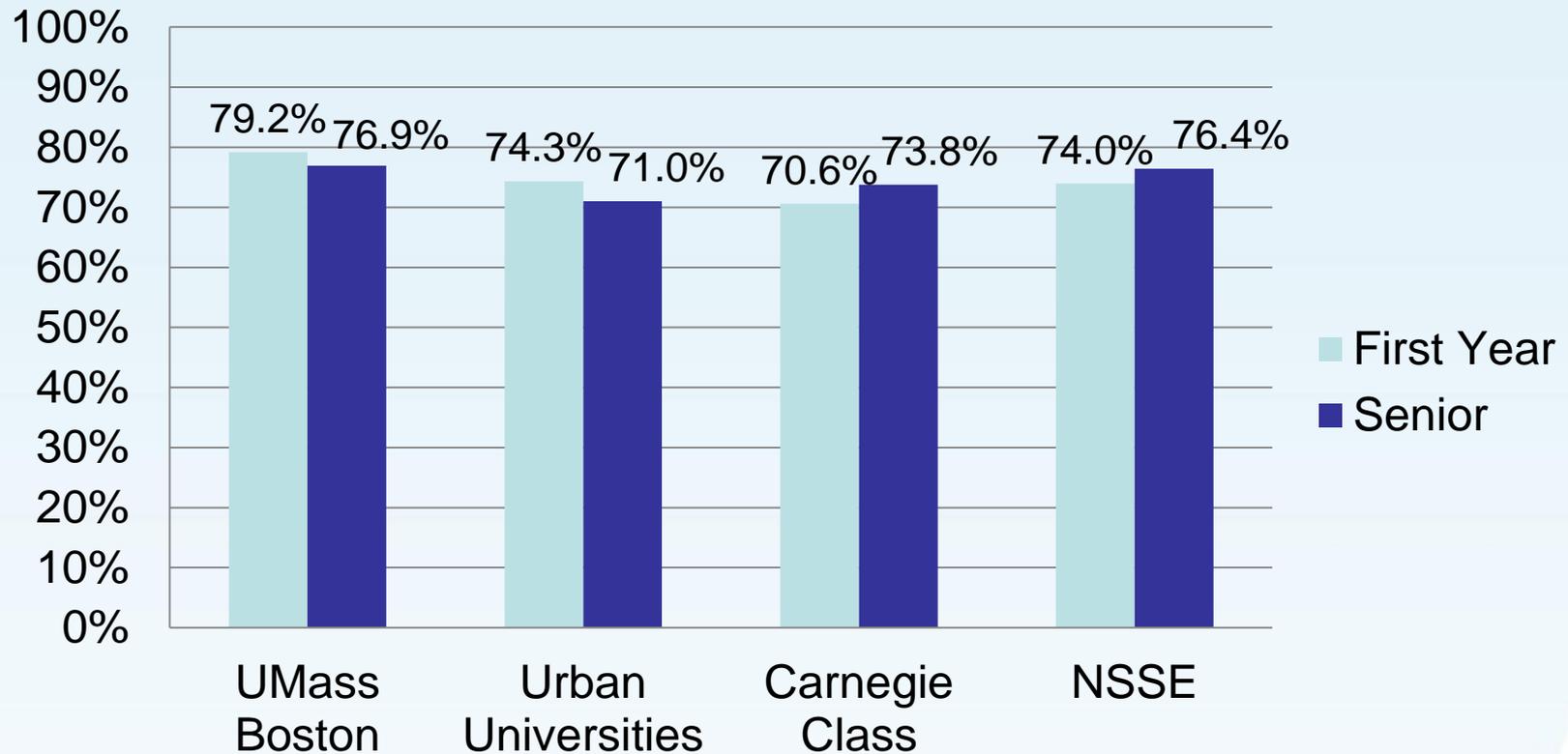
# To what extent does your institution emphasize acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



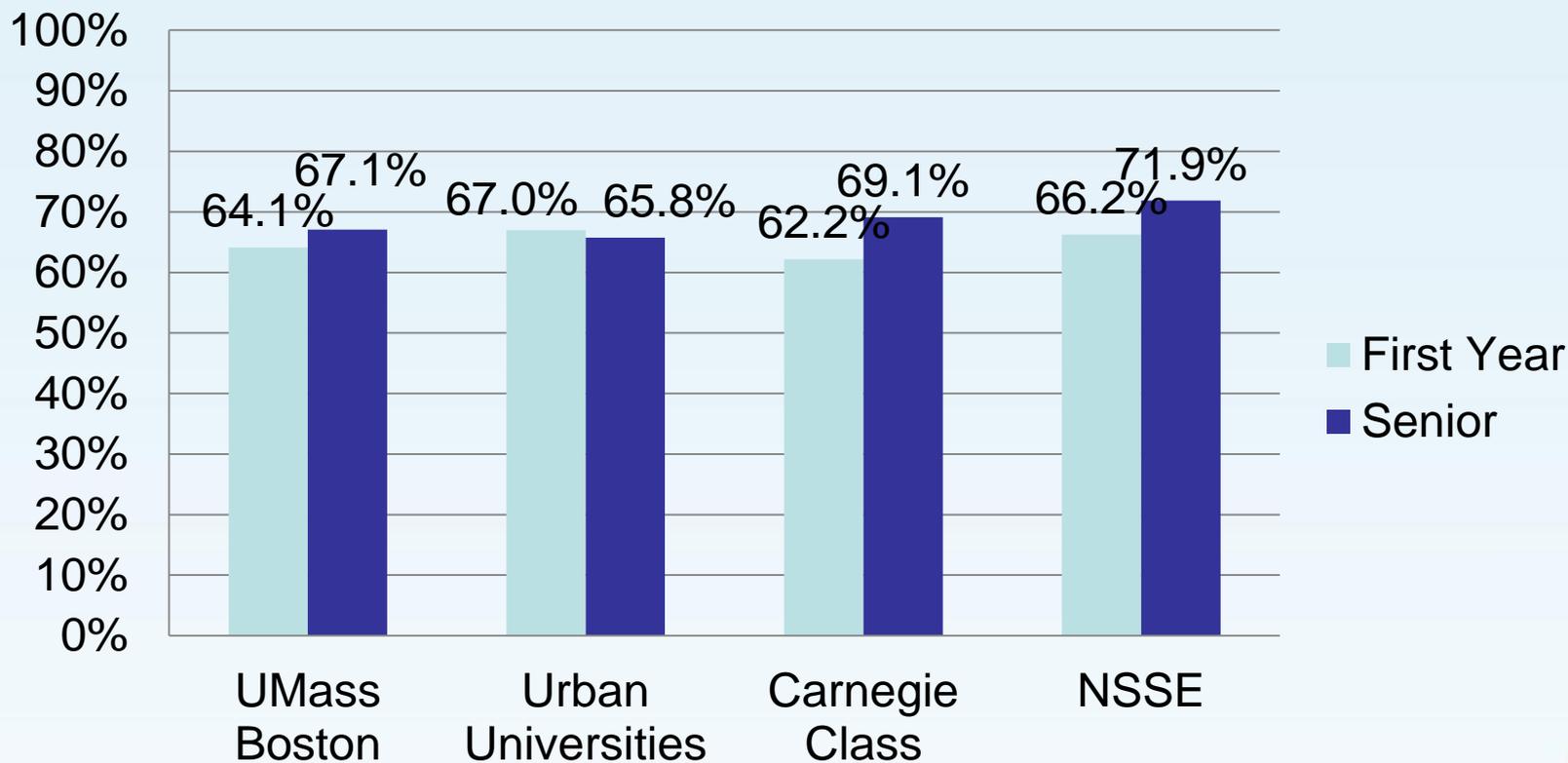
# To what extent does your institution emphasize writing clearly and effectively?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



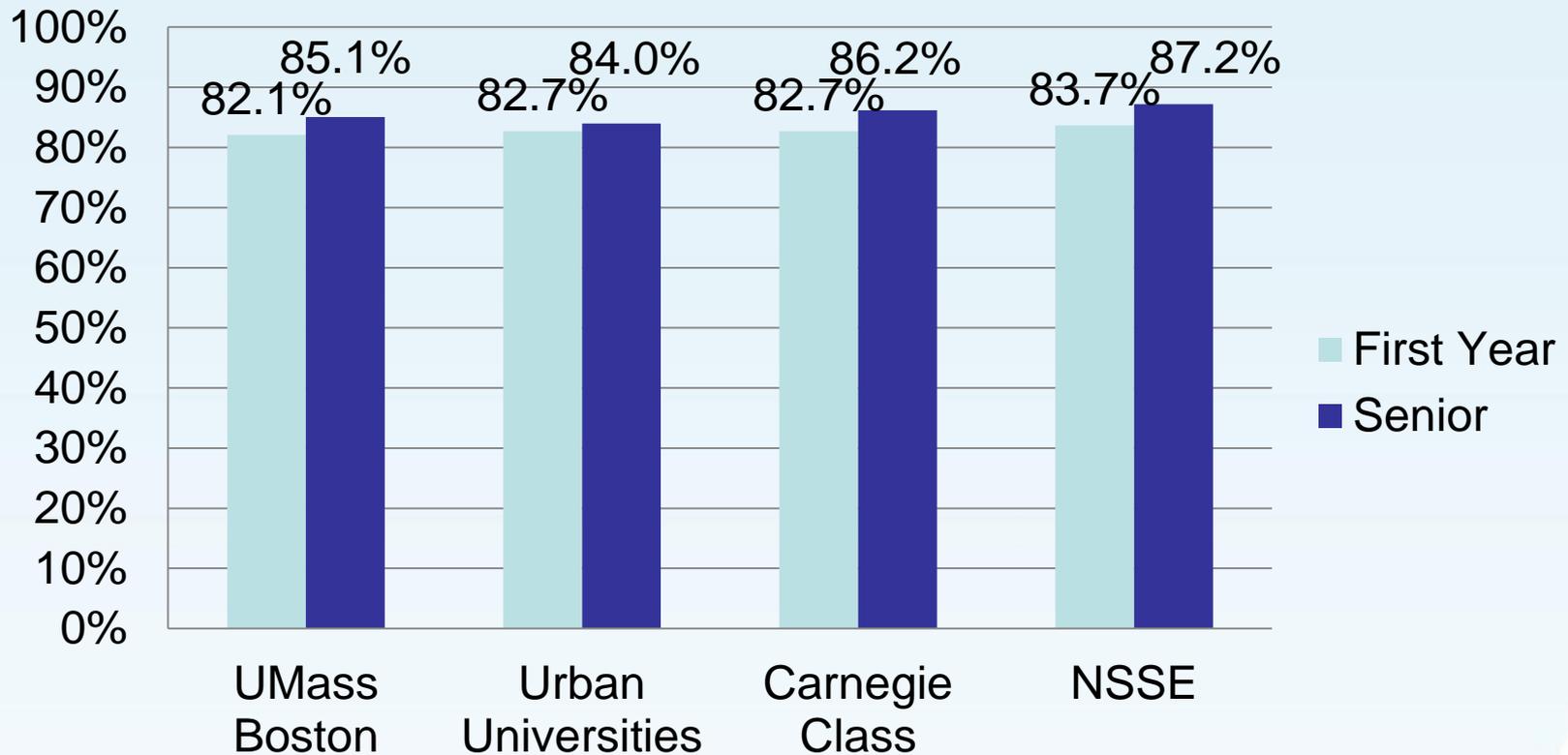
# To what extent does your institution emphasize speaking clearly and effectively?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



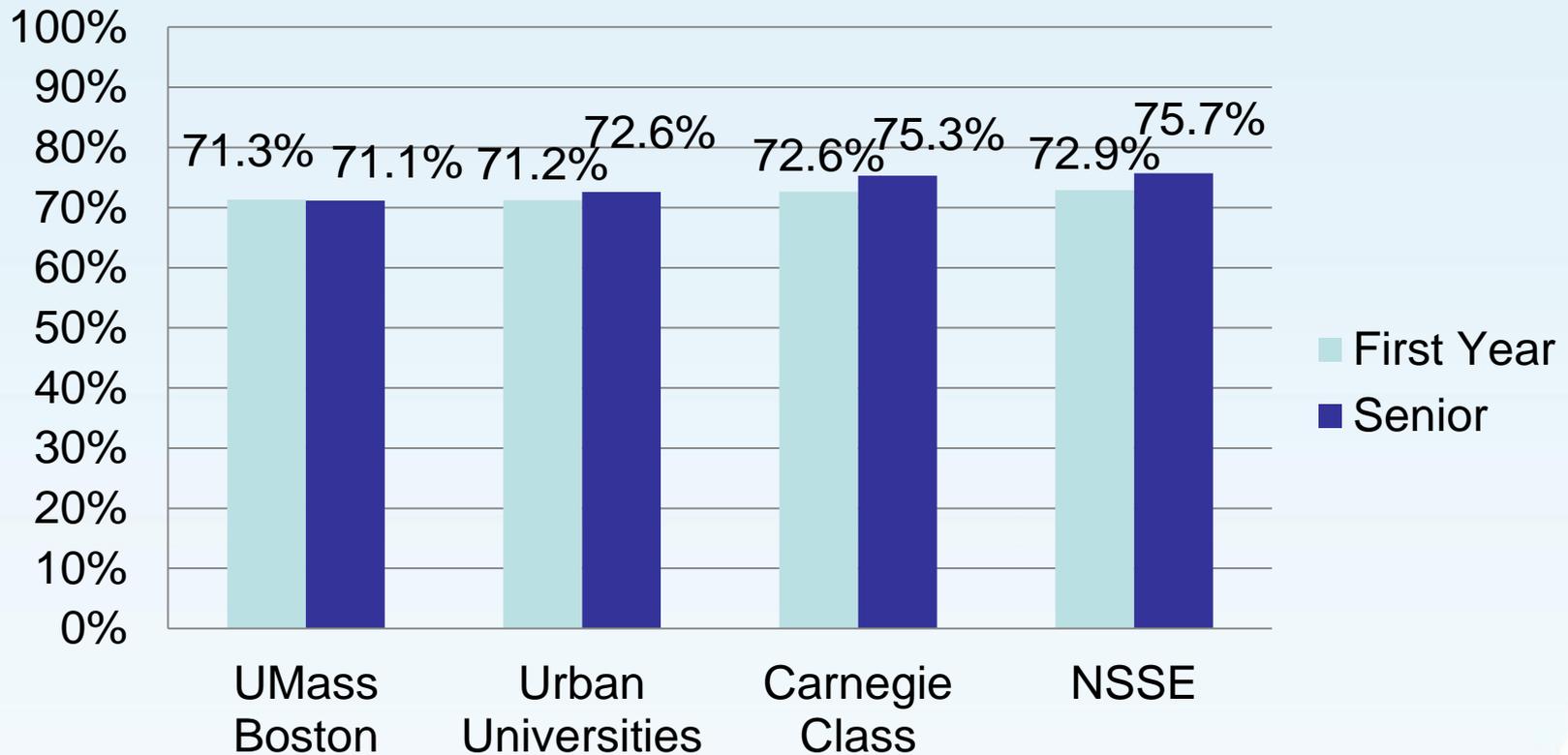
# To what extent does your institution emphasize thinking critically and analytically?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



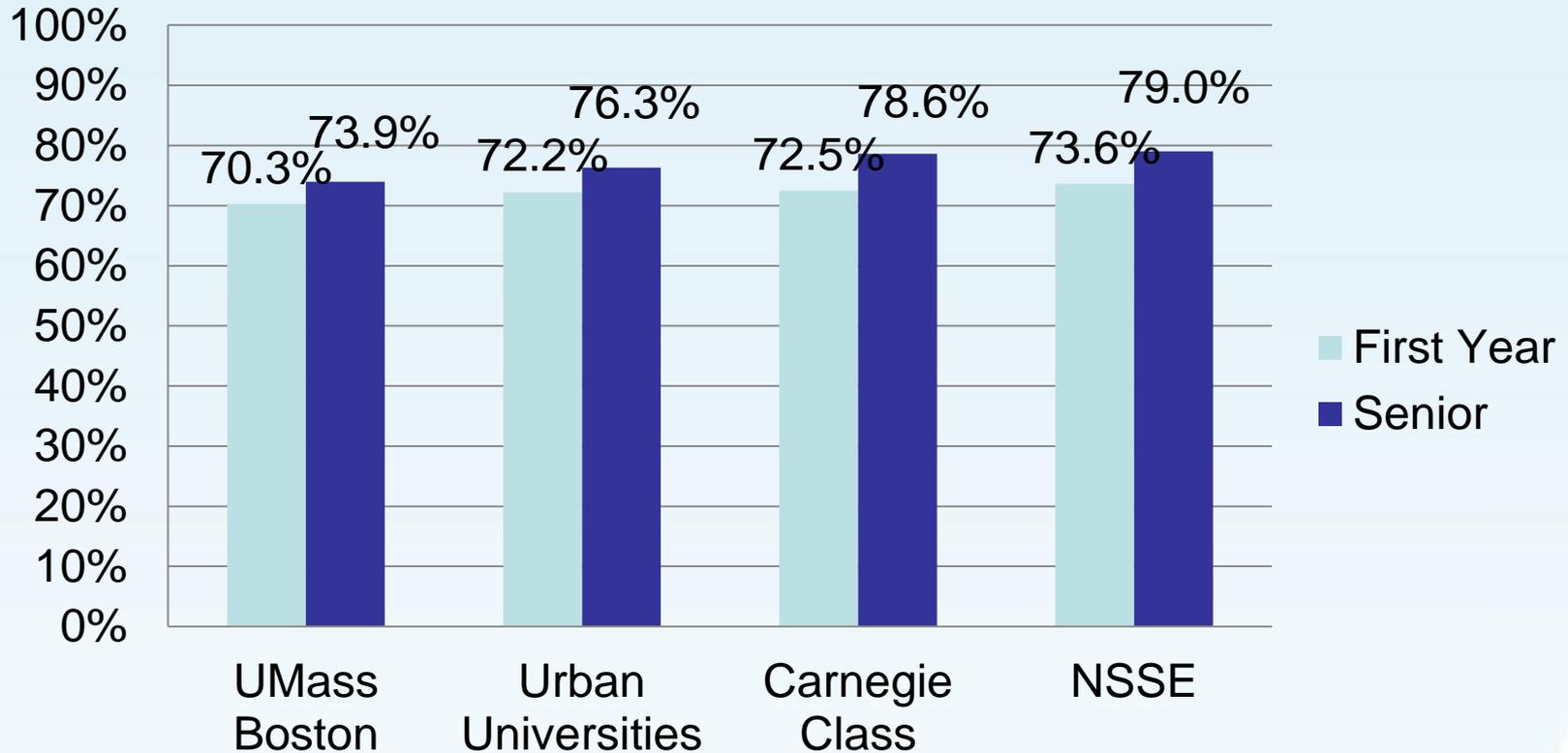
# To what extent does your institution emphasize analyzing quantitative problems?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



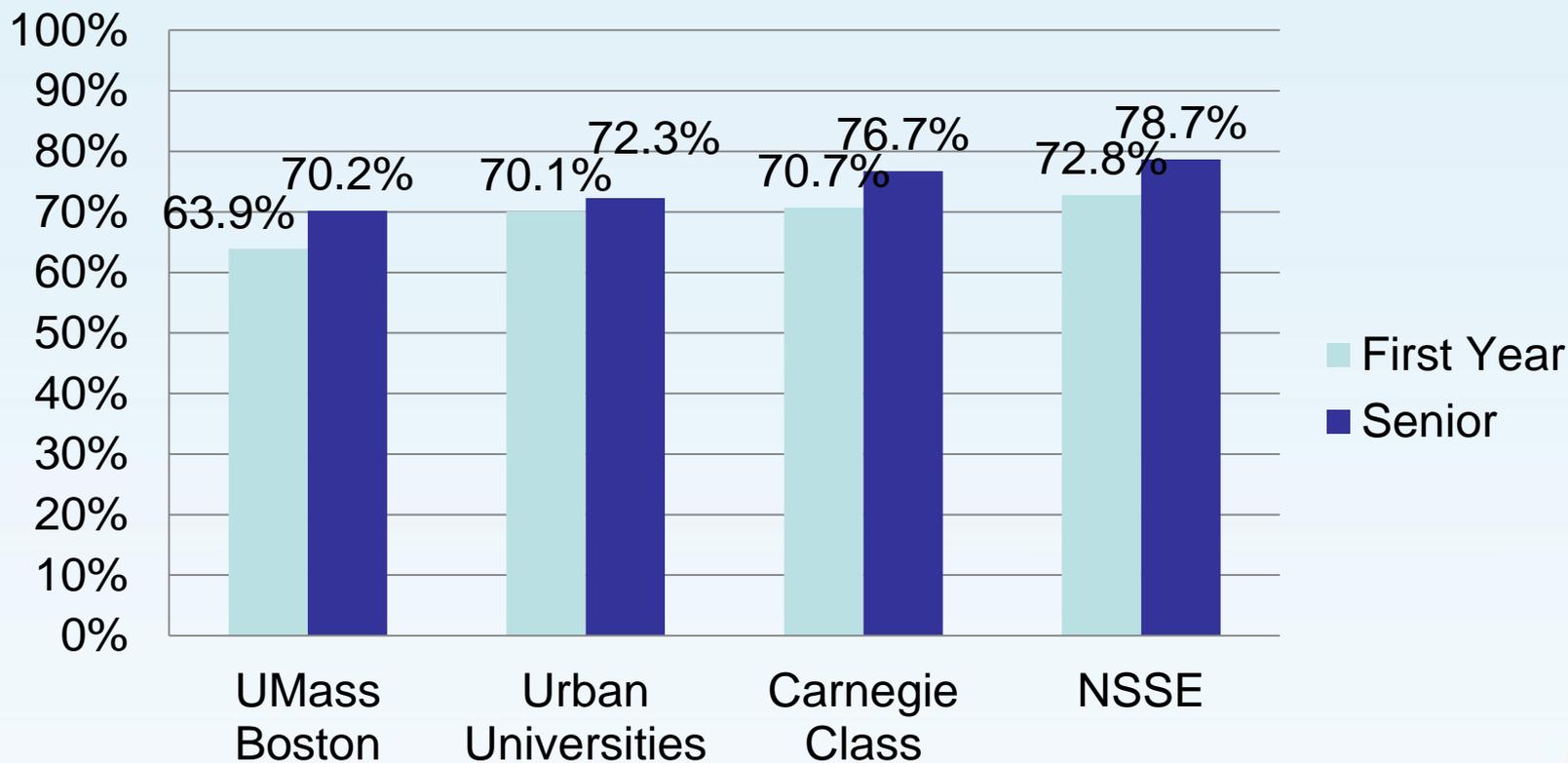
# To what extent does your institution emphasize using computing and information technology?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



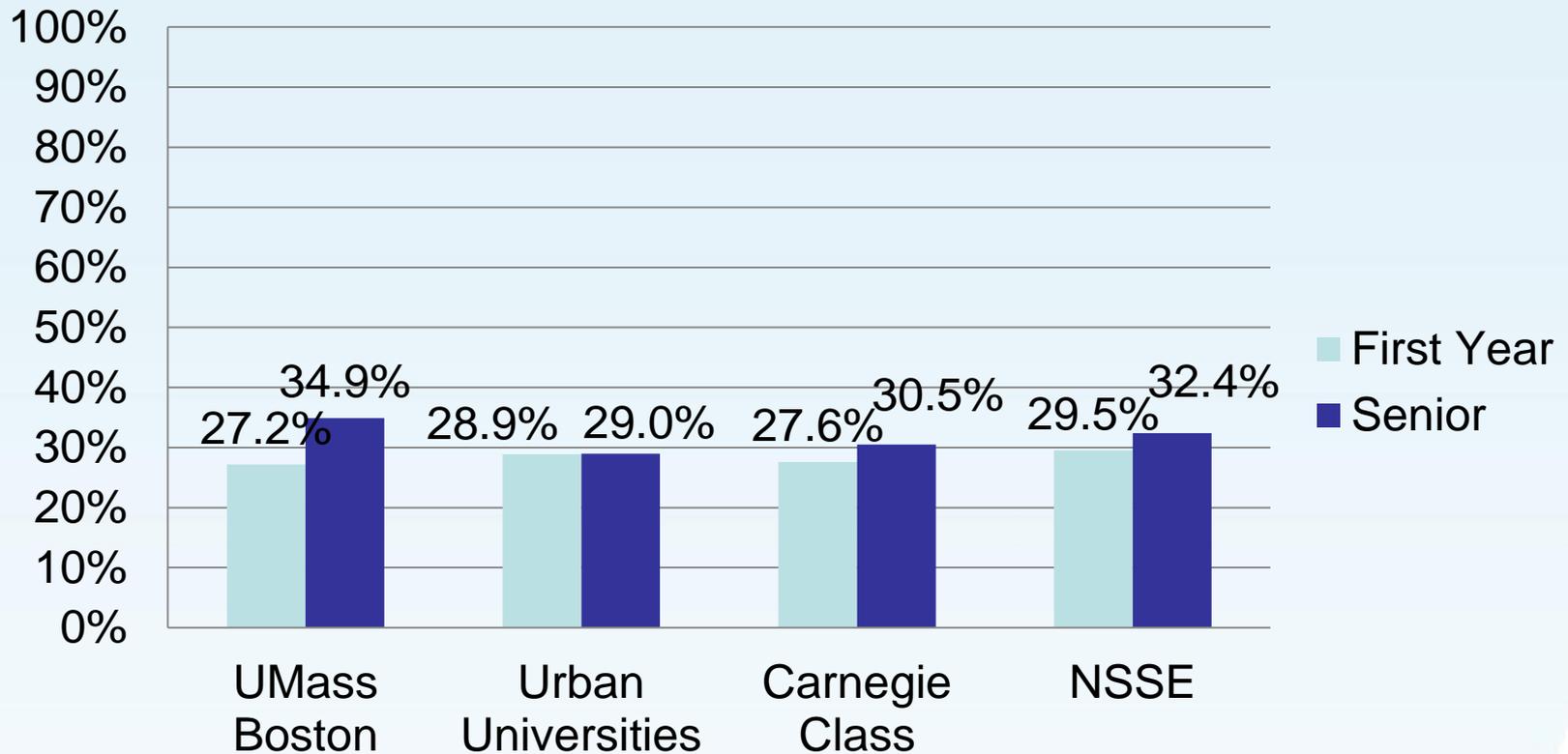
# To what extent does your institution emphasize working effectively with others?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



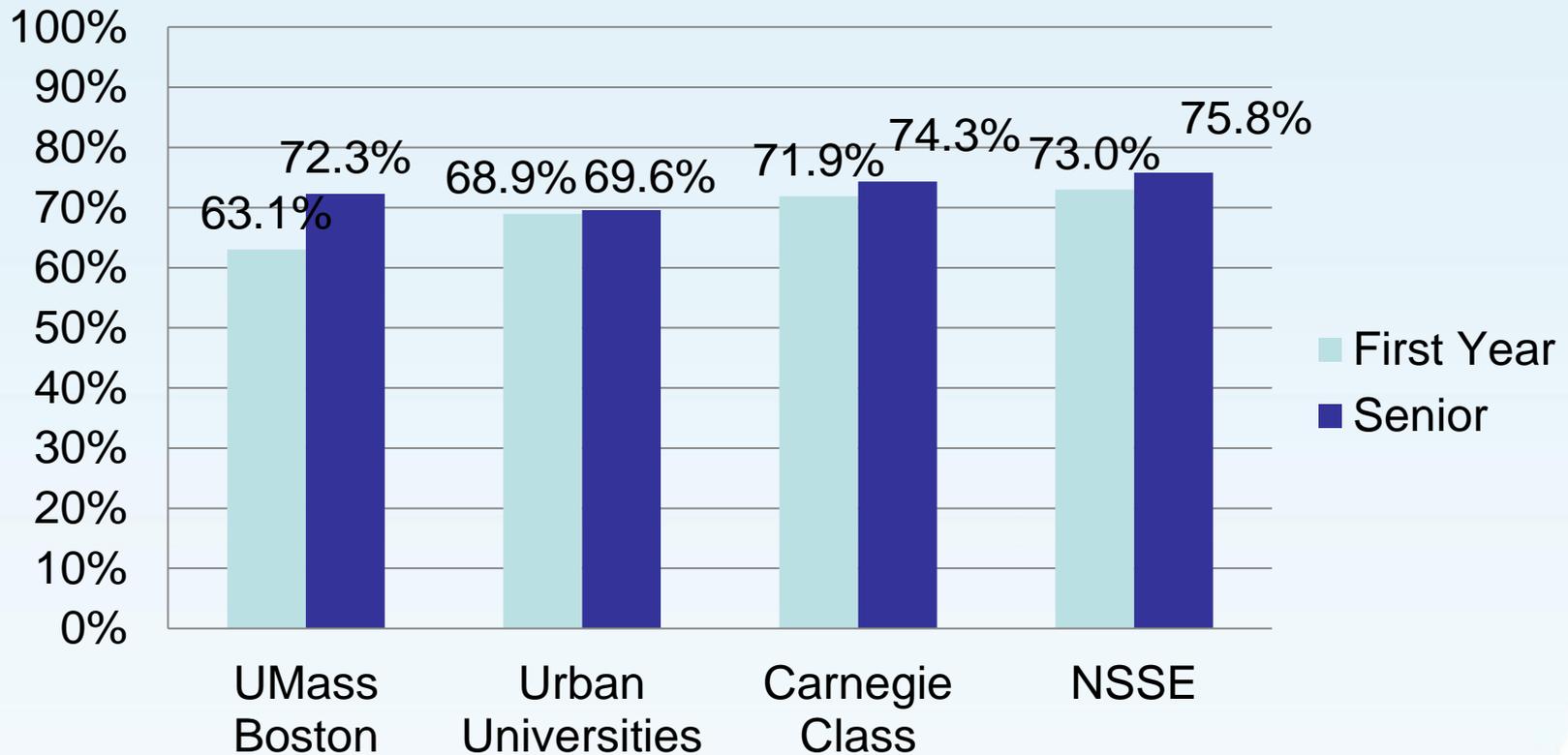
# To what extent does your institution emphasize voting in local, state, or national elections?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



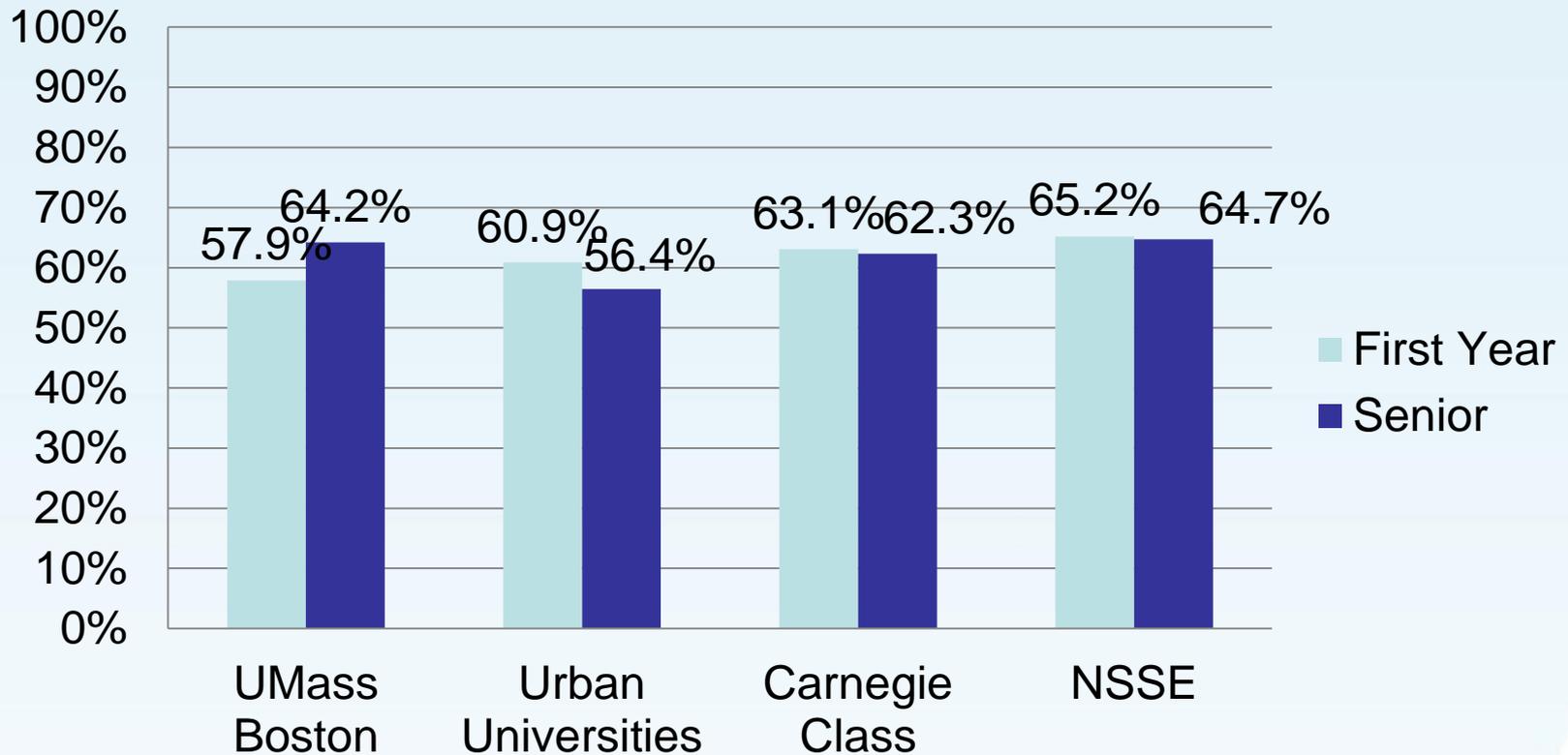
# To what extent does your institution emphasize learning effectively on your own?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



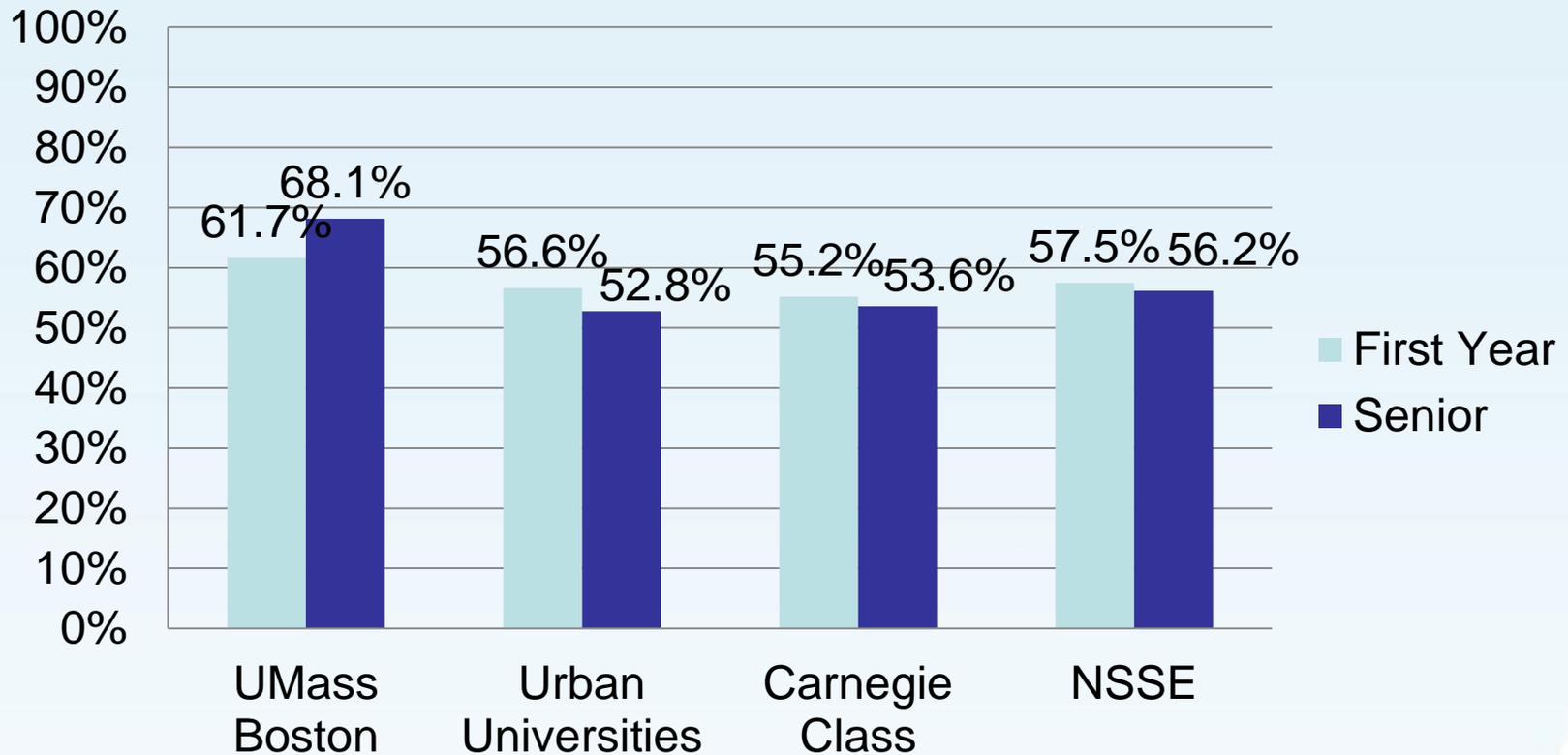
# To what extent does your institution emphasize understanding yourself?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



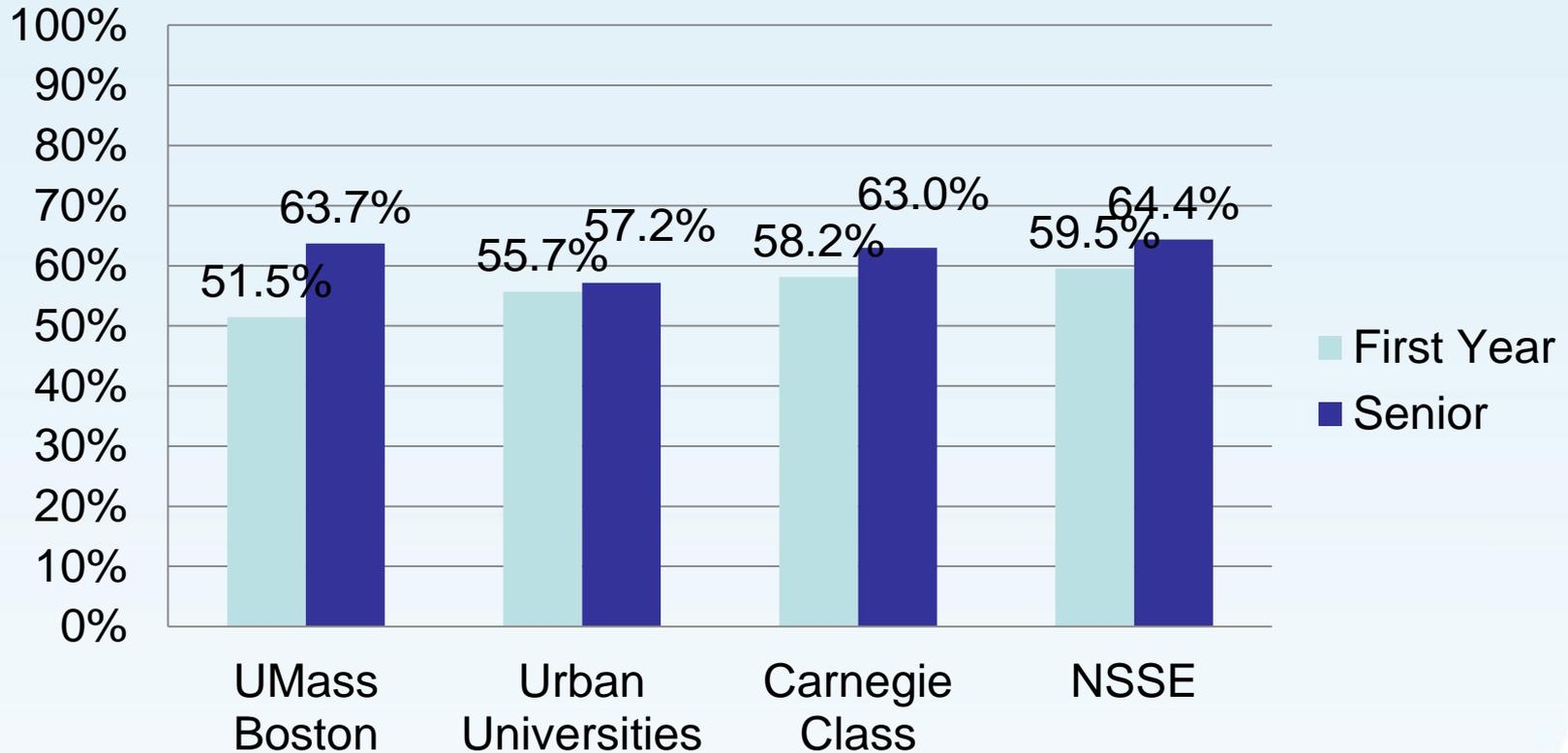
# To what extent does your institution emphasize understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



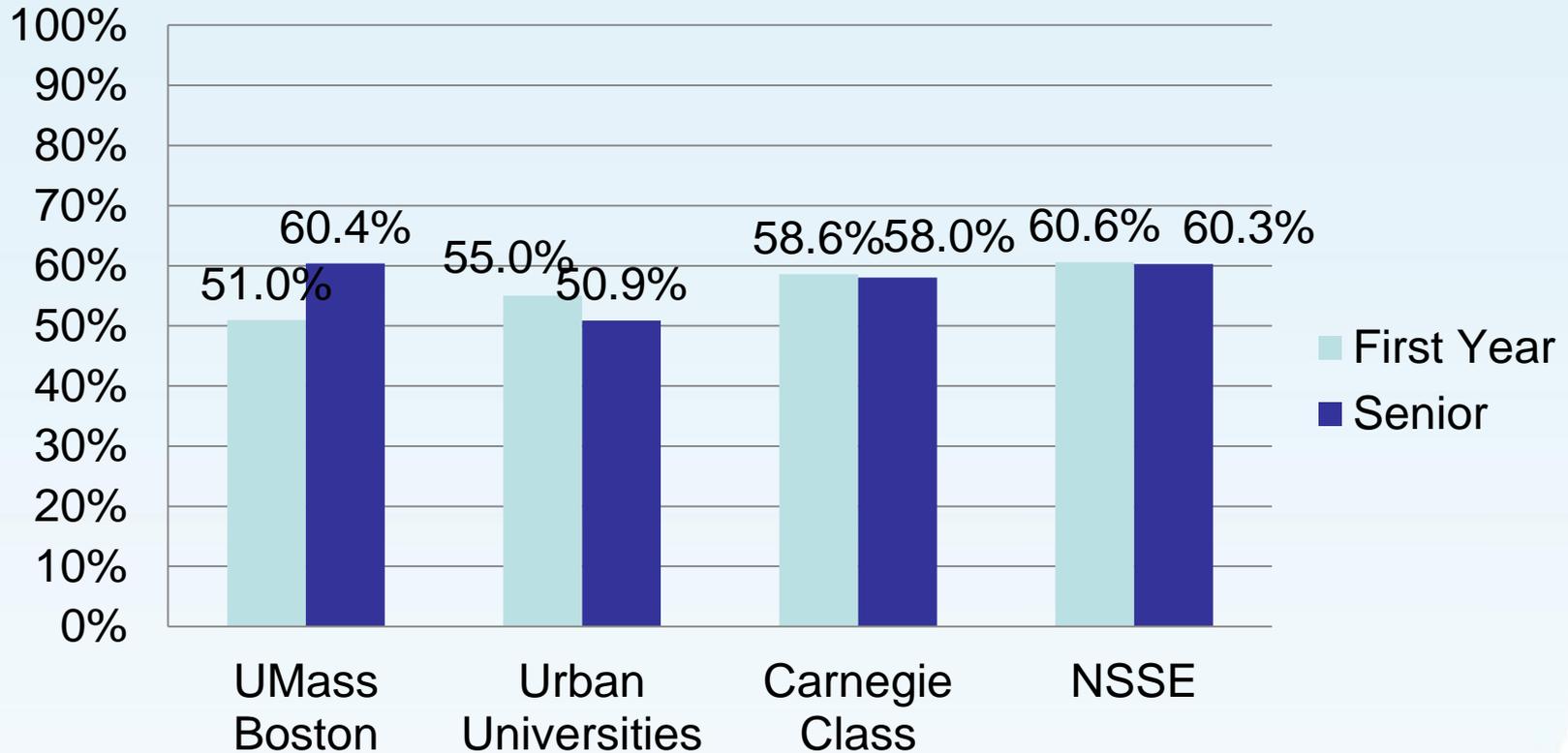
# To what extent does your institution emphasize solving complex real-world problems?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



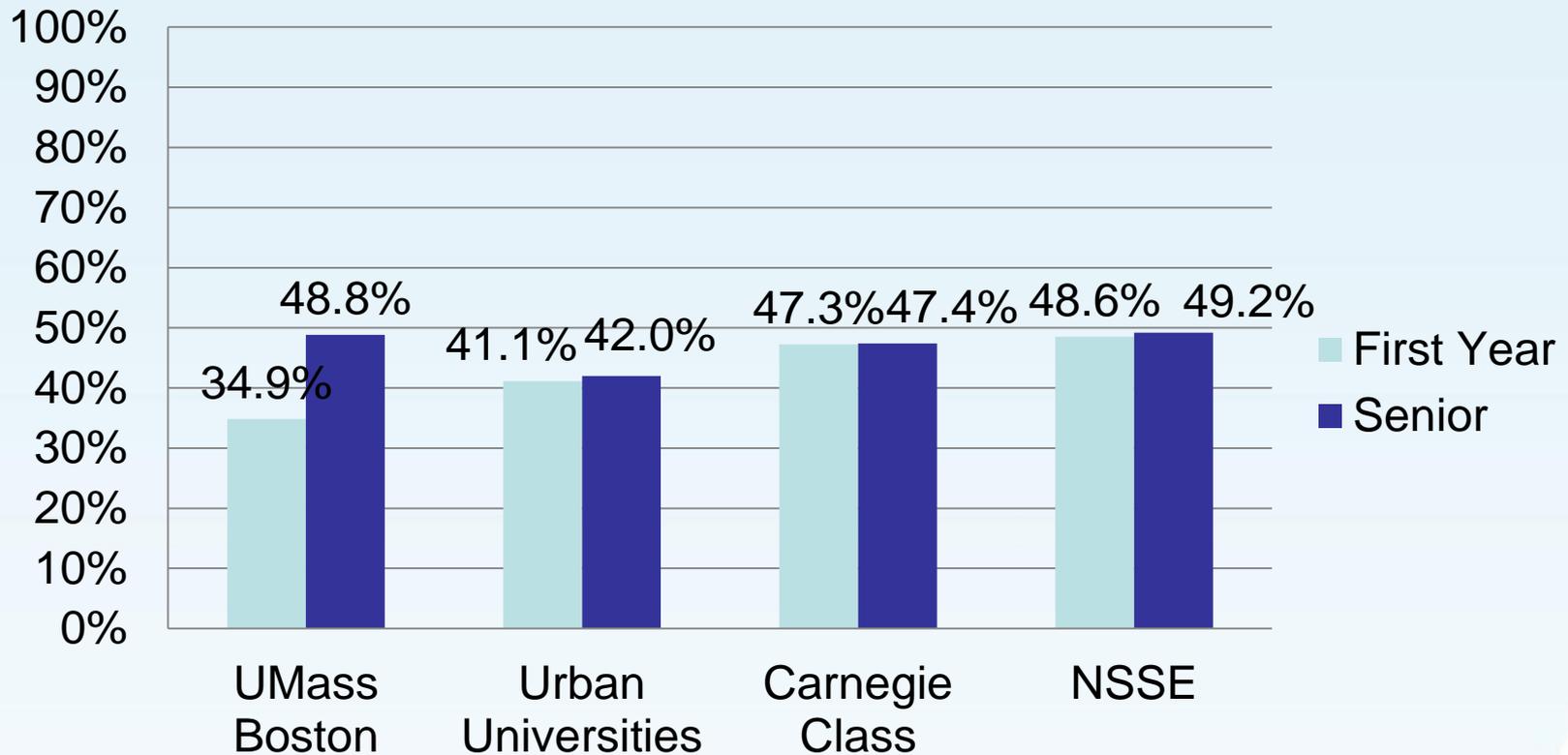
# To what extent does your institution emphasize developing a personal code of values and ethics?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



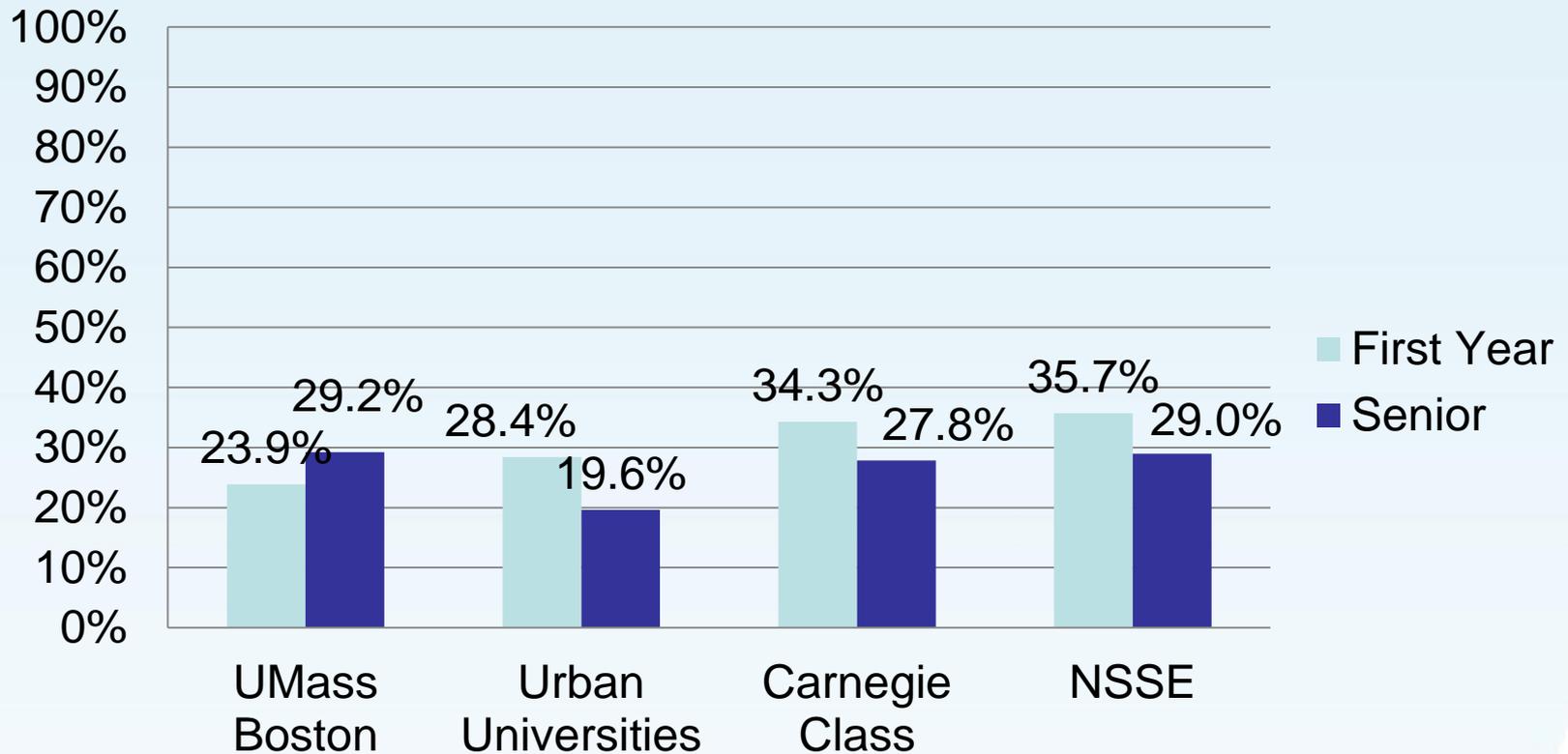
# To what extent does your institution emphasize contributing to the welfare of your community?

## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



# To what extent does your institution emphasize developing a deepened sense of spirituality?

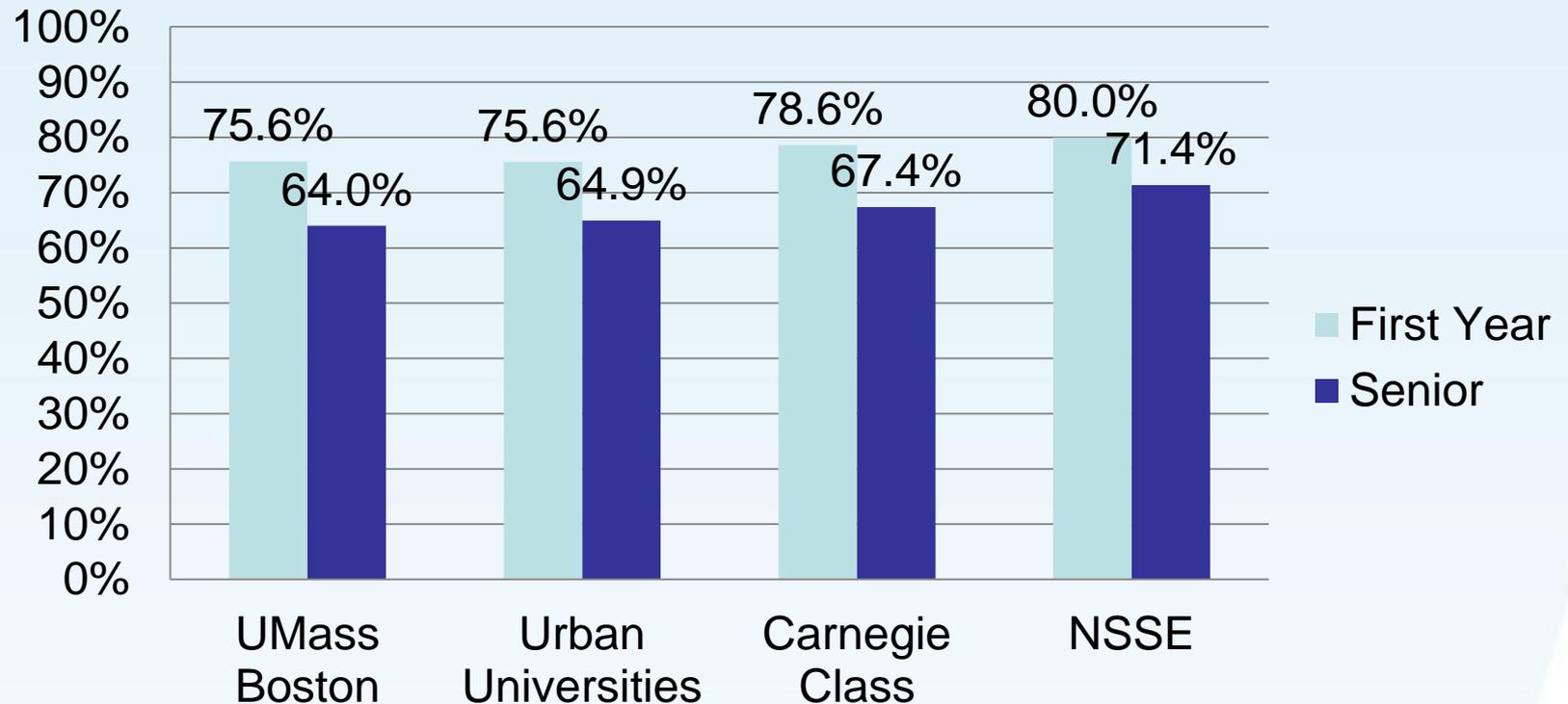
## % Responding Quite a Bit or Very Much



# ACADEMIC ADVISING

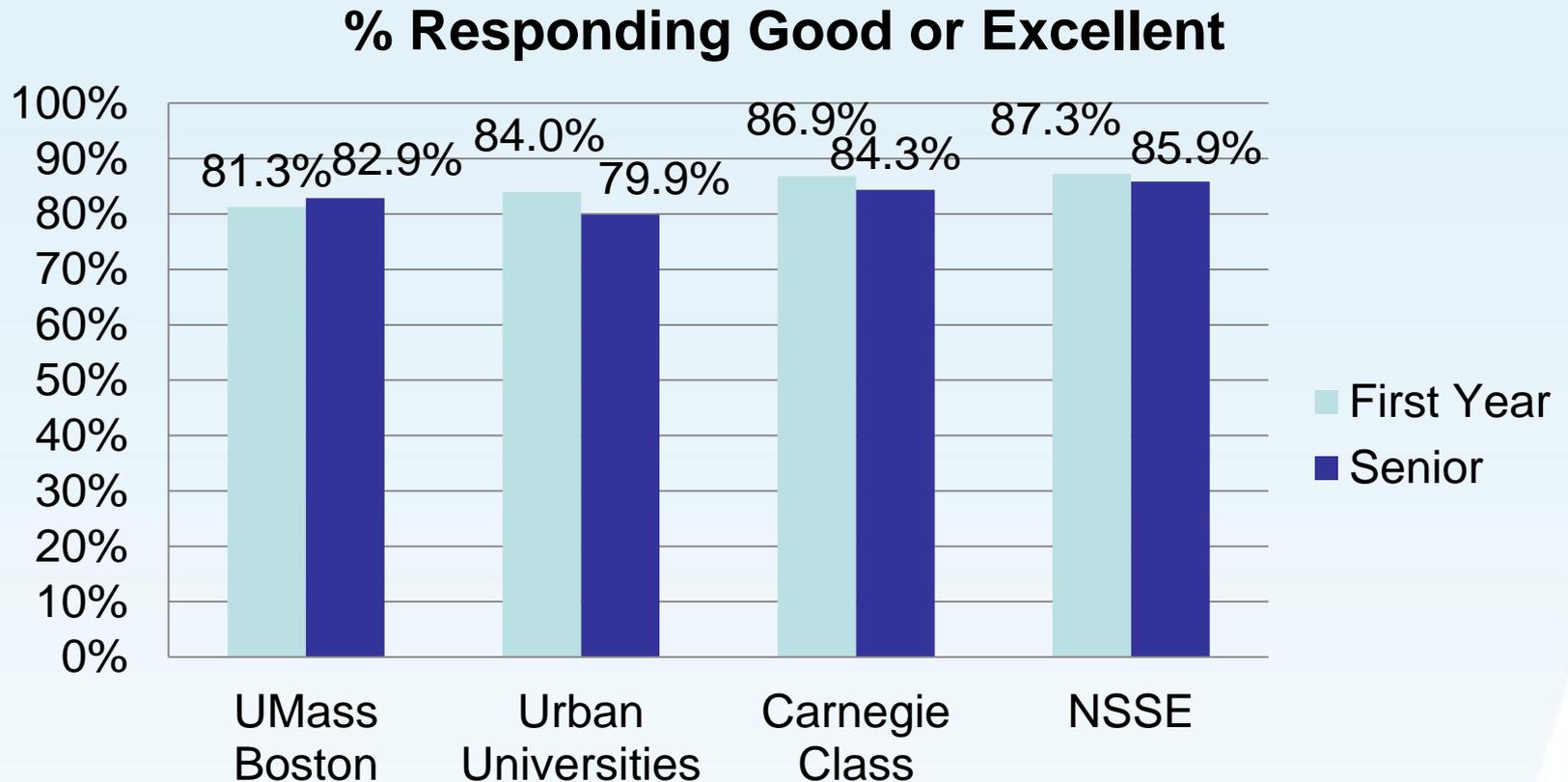
# Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution?

## % Responding Good or Excellent



# SATISFACTION

# How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?



# If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?

**% Responding Probably Yes or Definitely Yes**

