



# A Look at Transfer and Campus Change Students

## Results from the 2019 Student Life Survey

Center for the Study of Student Life

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**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

## INTRODUCTION

Many factors influence the student experience, including where students started their educational journey and any transitions they have made during that journey. This report explores how college transitions influence students' involvement and experiences at The Ohio State University. This report compares students who transferred to Ohio State from another college or university, changed from an Ohio State regional campus to Ohio State's Columbus campus and those who started their education at Ohio State. The data analyzed here are from the 2019 Student Life Survey, which was administered to a random sample of 4,000 undergraduate students at Ohio State's Columbus campus in January 2019. A total of 747 undergraduate students completed the survey for a response rate of 18.7%. Since all transfer or campus change students were beyond their first year in college, and the first-year is unique in many ways, first-year students have been excluded from the analysis to allow for more comparable experiences. The final sample size used for analysis was 537 undergraduate students. Please note that not all students answered each question.

Students' college transitions are defined as follows:

Educational Route Description	Classification
Started and have continued their education at Ohio State's Columbus campus	Continuing
Started at an Ohio State regional campus and now enrolled at Ohio State's Columbus campus	Campus Change
Started at another college/university and transferred to Ohio State's Columbus campus	Transfer

## KEY FINDINGS

- **88.0%** of continuing students reported that they felt like they have developed as a leader during their time at Ohio State compared to **67.8%** of campus change students and **65.5%** of transfer students.
- **81.3%** of continuing students participated in Ohio State traditions compared to **64.4%** of campus change students and **65.5%** of transfer students.
- Campus change students (**37.1%**) and transfer students (**33.9%**) were significantly more likely *not* to participate in any on-campus activity compared to continuing students (**7.0%**).
- **62.4%** of continuing students have held or currently hold a leadership position in the on-campus activity they participate in compared to **43.6%** of campus change students and **43.8%** of transfer students.
- **76.3%** of campus change students reported feeling like a member of the Ohio State community compared to **92.7%** of continuing students and **80.9%** of transfer students.
- **74.6%** of campus change students reported feeling a sense of belonging at Ohio State compared to **91.0%** of continuing students and **80.0%** of transfer students.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Of the 537 undergraduate respondents, 66.9% of students reported that they had started their education at Ohio State's Columbus campus, 11.5% had changed from an Ohio State regional campus to the Columbus campus and 21.6% had transferred to Ohio State from another college or university.

Demographics	Continuing ( <i>n</i> = 359)		Campus Change ( <i>n</i> = 62)		Transfer ( <i>n</i> = 116)	
	<i>n</i>	Percent	<i>n</i>	Percent	<i>n</i>	Percent
<b>Gender Identity</b>						
Man	124	34.5%	31	50.8%	36	31.0%
Woman	228	63.5%	30	49.2%	77	66.4%
Preferred identity not listed	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.9%
Prefer not to disclose	4	1.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.9%
Other gender identity <sup>1</sup>	3	0.9%	0	0.0%	1	0.9%
<b>Racial/Ethnic Identity</b>						
African American/Black	13	3.6%	7	11.3%	10	8.6%
Asian/Asian American	32	8.9%	2	3.2%	17	14.7%
Hispanic/Latinx	7	1.9%	2	3.2%	2	1.7%
Middle Eastern/Arab American	3	0.8%	0	0.0%	3	2.6%
White or European American	278	77.4%	47	75.8%	74	63.8%
Prefer not to answer	4	1.1%	0	0.0%	3	2.6%
Two or more races	22	6.1%	4	6.5%	7	6.0%
<b>Academic Level</b>						
Second-year	123	34.3%	24	38.7%	31	26.7%
Third-year	116	32.3%	16	25.8%	38	32.8%
Fourth-year	100	27.9%	17	27.4%	34	29.3%
Fifth-year or beyond	20	5.6%	5	8.1%	13	11.2%
<b>Citizenship Status</b>						
International Student	15	4.2%	1	1.6%	13	11.2%
Domestic Student	344	95.8%	61	98.4%	103	88.8%
<b>First-Generation Student Status</b>						
First-Generation	64	17.8%	22	35.5%	28	24.1%
Continuing Generation	295	82.2%	40	64.5%	88	75.9%

Note: *n* sizes may vary because students did not have to answer all demographic questions.

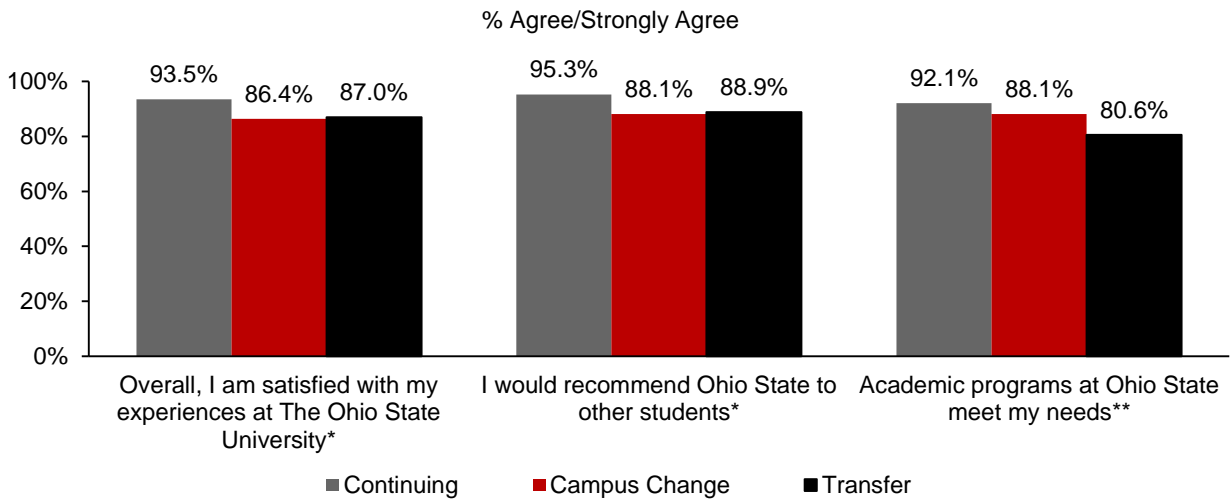
<sup>1</sup>Gender other than Man or Woman has been recoded into the "Other gender identity" category to protect anonymity due to small *n* sizes. Other gender identity response options included agender, genderqueer or gender fluid, trans man, trans woman and more than one gender identity.

## FINDINGS

### SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

The following chart shows the percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed to statements regarding their overall experiences at Ohio State. There were statistically significant differences between continuing, campus change and transfer students.

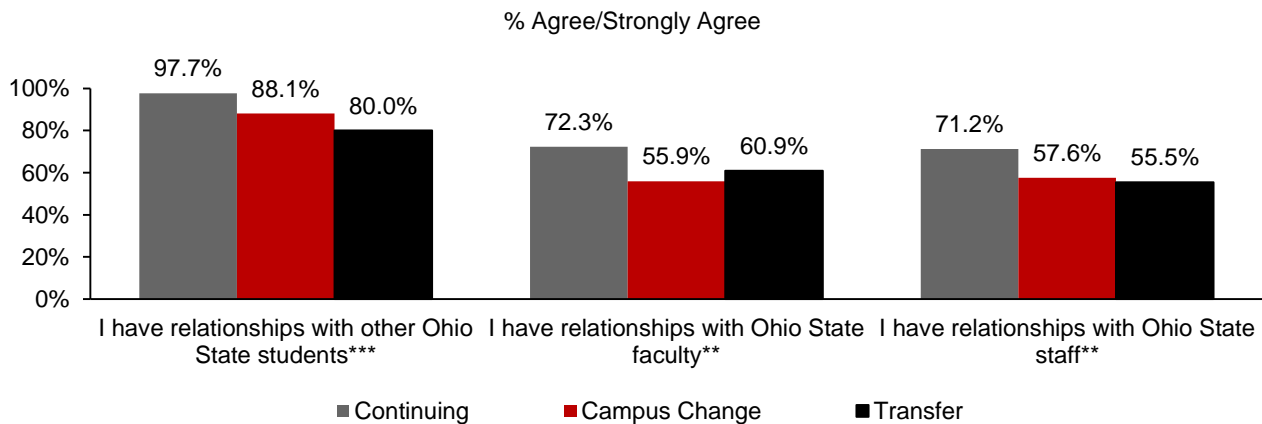
#### Overall Evaluations of Ohio State Experiences



### CONNECTIONS WITH OTHERS AT OHIO STATE

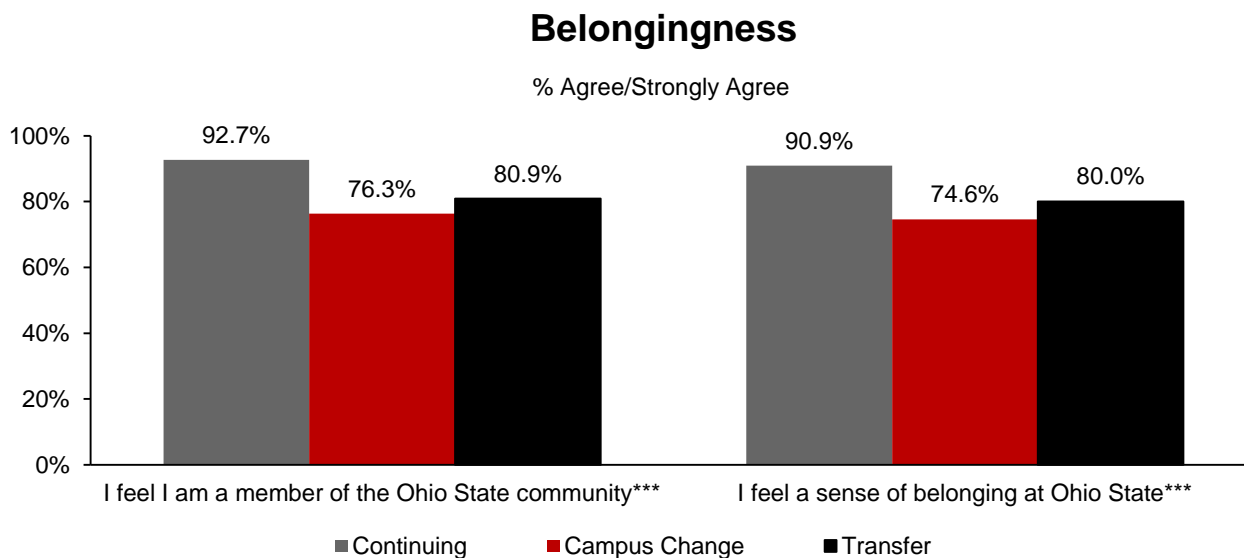
The following chart shows the percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed with statements regarding their connections with other individuals at Ohio State. There were statistically significant differences between the three groups; campus change students were the least likely to report having relationships with Ohio State faculty while transfer students were the least likely to report having relationships with Ohio State staff. Across all measures, continuing students showed a higher level of connectivity with others on campus.

#### Connection with Others



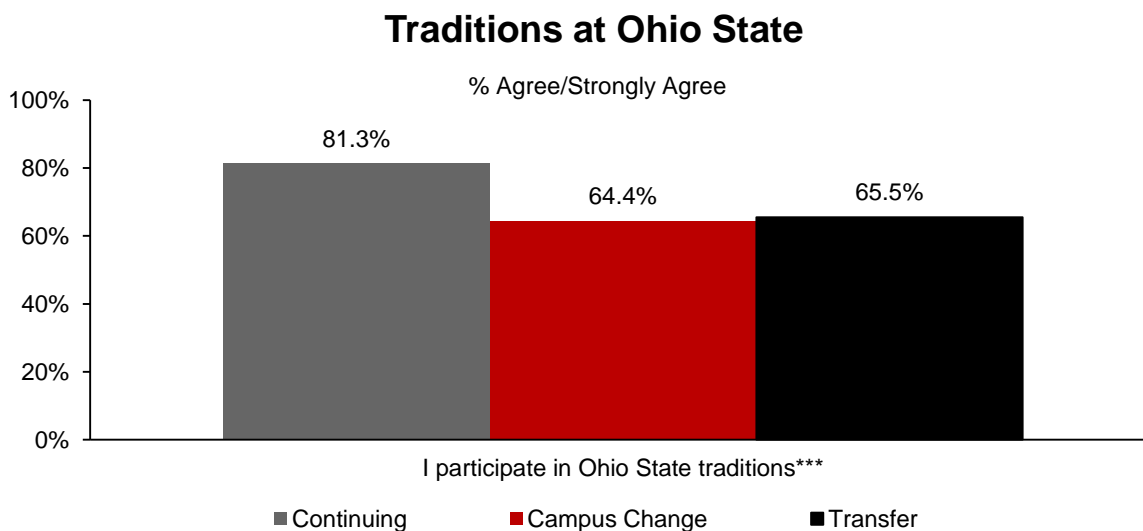
## SENSE OF BELONGING

The following chart shows the percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed with statements regarding their sense of belonging at Ohio State. Campus change students were the least likely to report feeling like a member of the Ohio State community as well as feeling a sense of belonging at Ohio State.



## OHIO STATE TRADITIONS

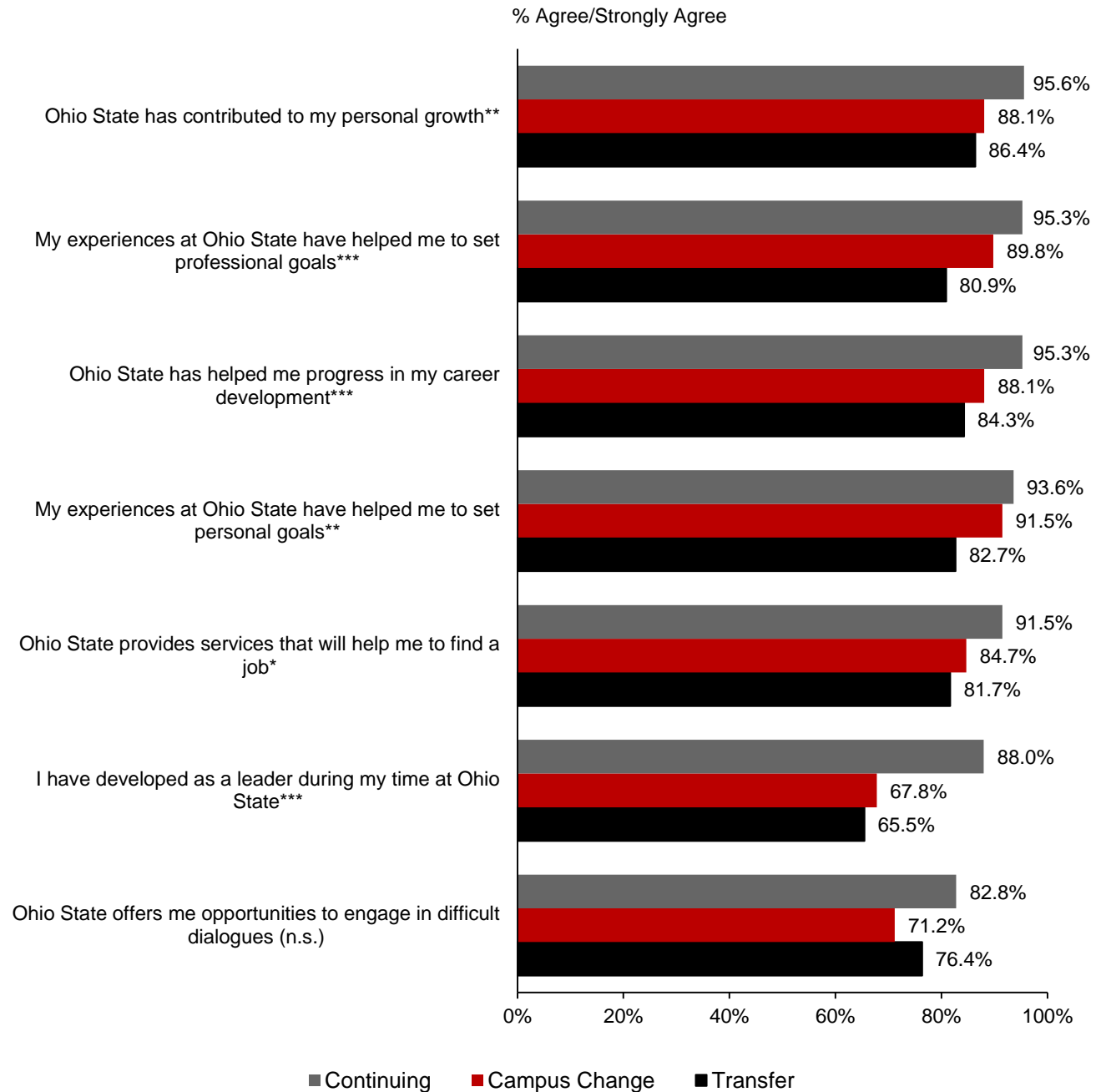
The following chart compares the percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed that they participate in Ohio State traditions. There were significant differences in student participation in Ohio State traditions based on where a student started school. Transfer students were slightly more likely to report participating in traditions as compared to campus change students while continuing students were the most likely to report participating in Ohio State traditions.



## PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Continuing students consistently reported higher levels of agreement across all items related to personal and professional growth compared to campus change and transfer students.

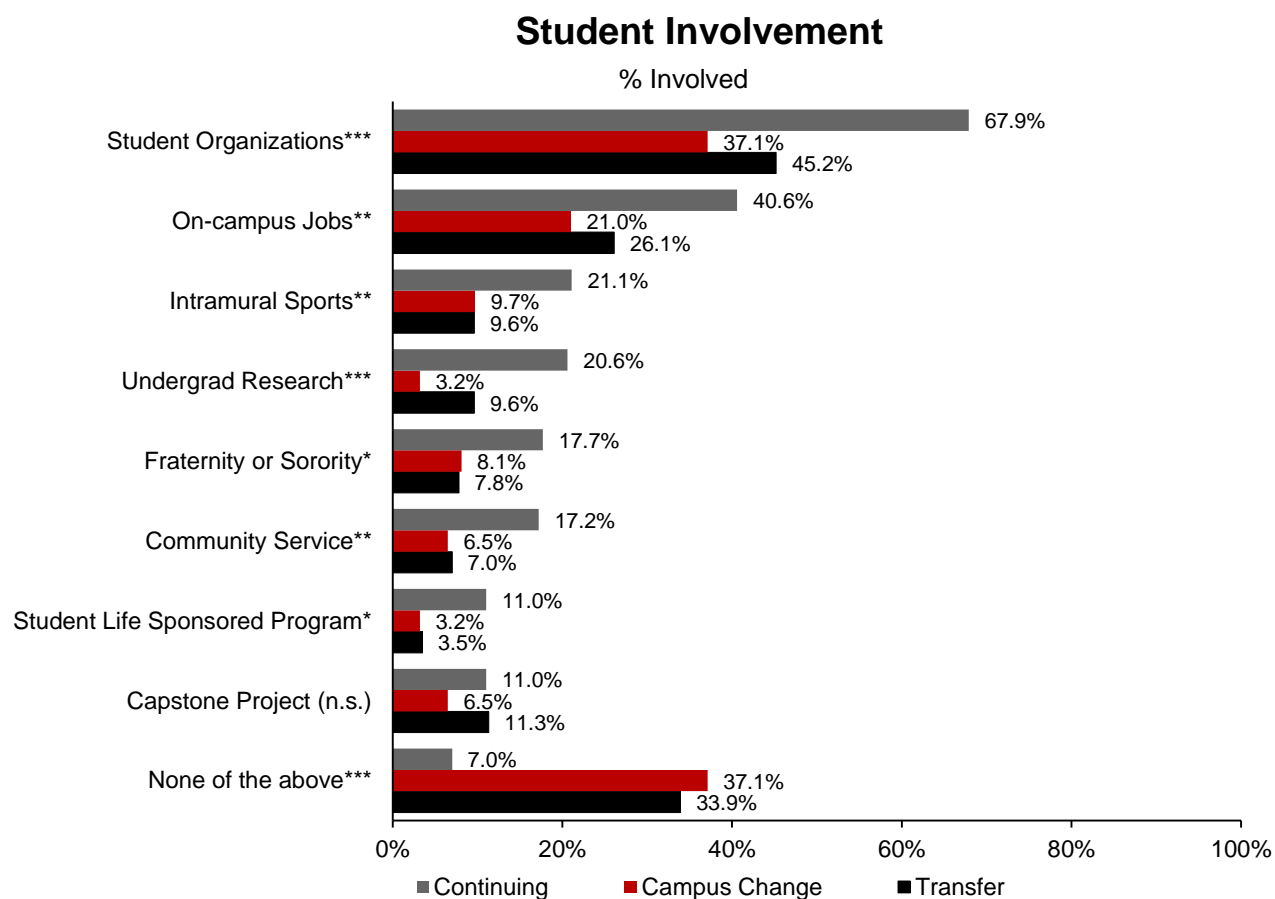
### Self-Reported Personal and Professional Growth



Note. Non-significant results are labeled with (n.s.)

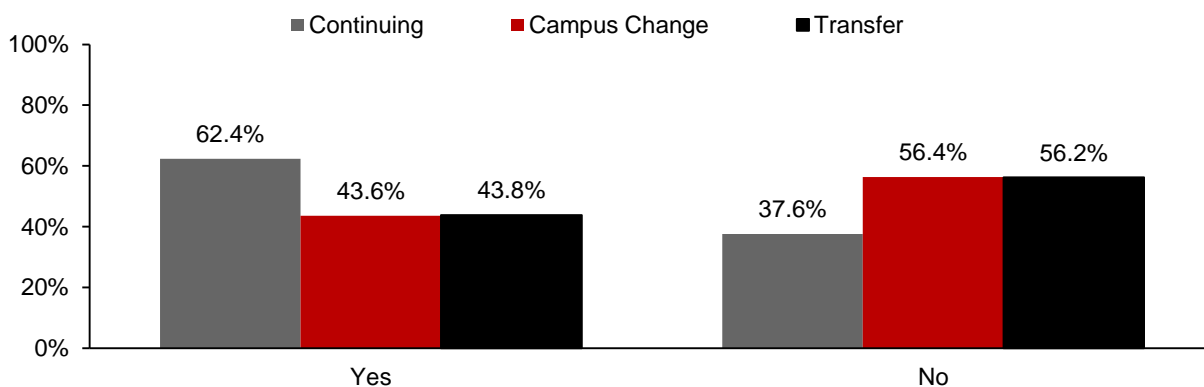
## INVOLVEMENT

The following chart shows the percentage of students who are involved in a series of on-campus activities. Continuing students consistently reported higher levels of involvement in a variety of on-campus activities when compared to campus change and transfer students. Campus change and transfer students were significantly more likely to report *not* participating in any on-campus activity.



Note. Non-significant results are labeled with (n.s.)

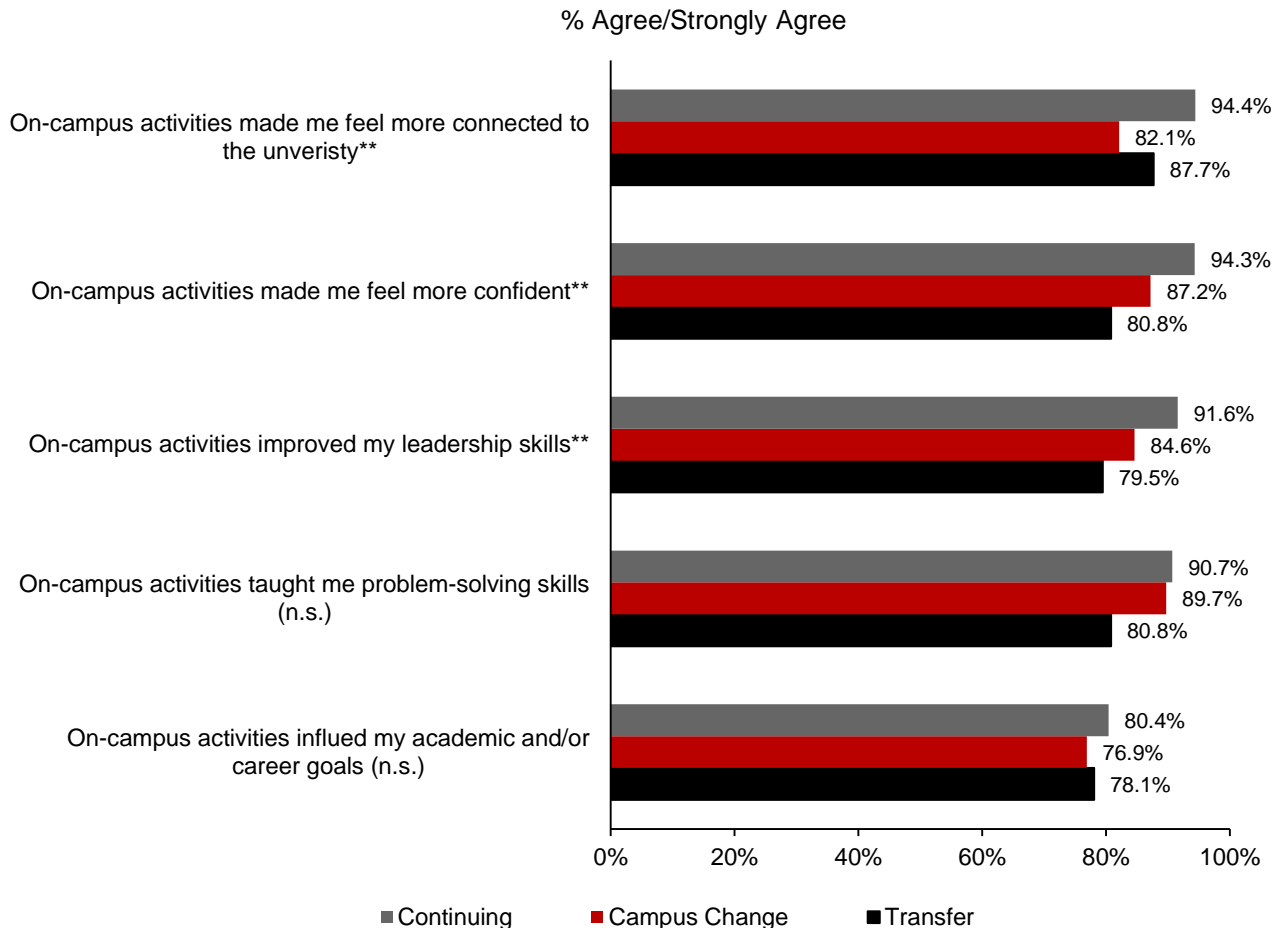
### Have you ever or do you currently hold a leadership position in the on-campus activity you participate in outside of the classroom? \*\*



## ON-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES OUTCOMES

The following section examines results only for those students who reported participating in one of the on-campus student activities presented in the previous section. There were statistically significant differences between the three groups in terms of outcomes related to on-campus activity participation.

### On-Campus Activities Outcomes



Note. Non-significant results are labeled with (n.s.)

## CONCLUSION

Transfer and campus change students are significantly less satisfied with their experiences at Ohio State when compared with students who started and continued their education at Ohio State's Columbus campus. Transfer and campus change students are also less likely to recommend Ohio State to other students. Transfer and campus change students reported lower levels of sense of belonging and feeling like a part of the Ohio State community compared to continuing students. Finally, transfer and campus change students are significantly less likely to be involved in on-campus activities compared to continuing students.