

Education Abroad Network

Fall 2014

LEARNING ABROAD CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Parents Today

- Why are parents involved
 - Technology
 - Finances
 - Students go to parents for advice
- Top concerns
 - Safety
 - Careers
 - Finances

Theories

- Student Development Theories
 - Students need independence for success
- Family Systems Theory
 - Families are all interconnected
- Attachment Theory
 - Family support provides freedom to explore

FERPA

- How does the U interact with parents?
 - Messages from different offices
 - Assess underlying messages
 - FERPA
 - Student and family demographics.

Messages from the LAC

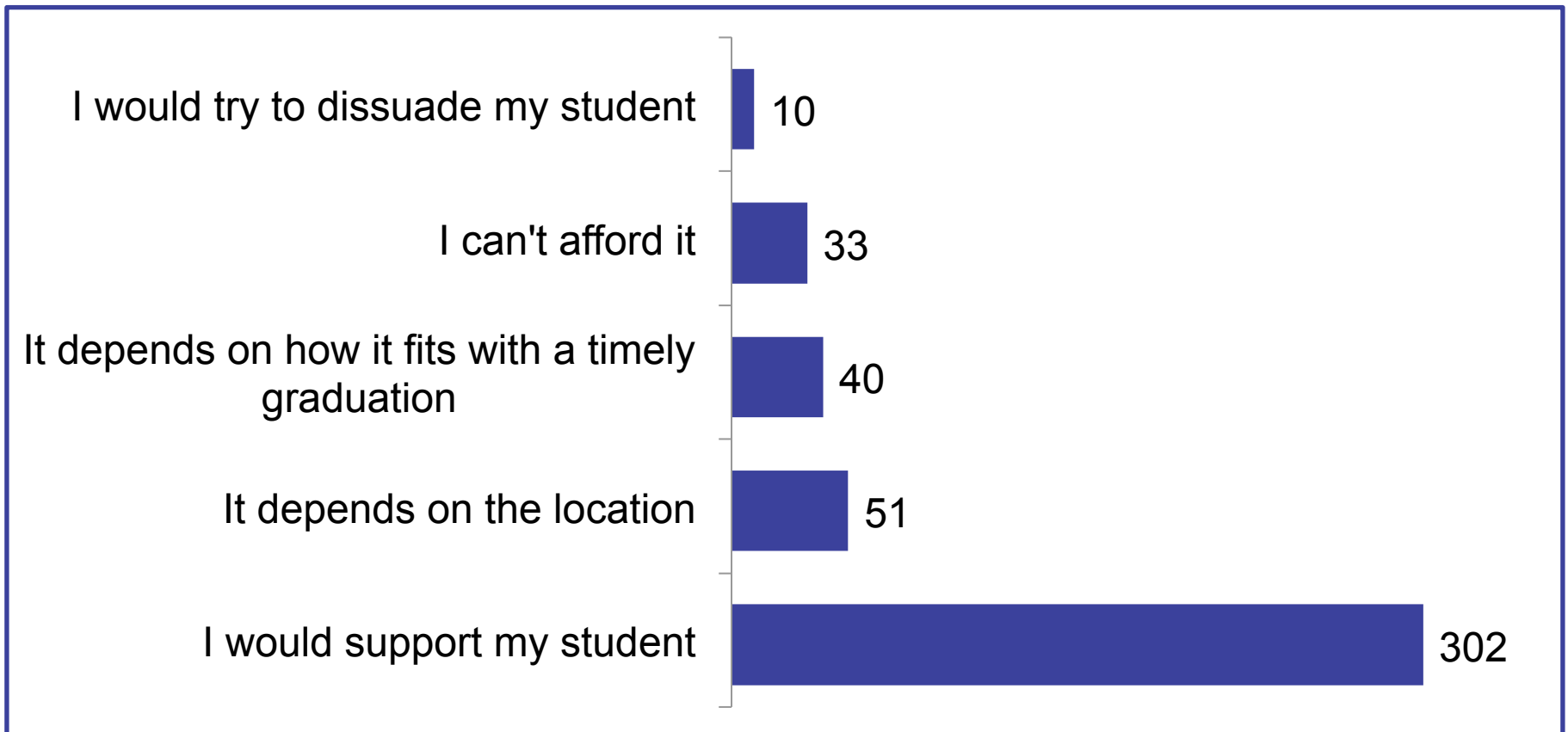
- Lead with support services that are available to students abroad
- Value of study abroad
 - Curriculum integration
 - Language a/o intercultural aptitude
 - Student development
 - Career integration
 - Resume builder
 - Campus career center

Messages from the Parent Program

- Print newsletter articles
 - “Parents can help make study abroad successful”
 - “Students benefit from off-campus programs”
- Email newsletter messages
 - Learning Abroad Fair
 - May term courses
- Parents Weekend participation
 - Workshops; information table
- Online website polls

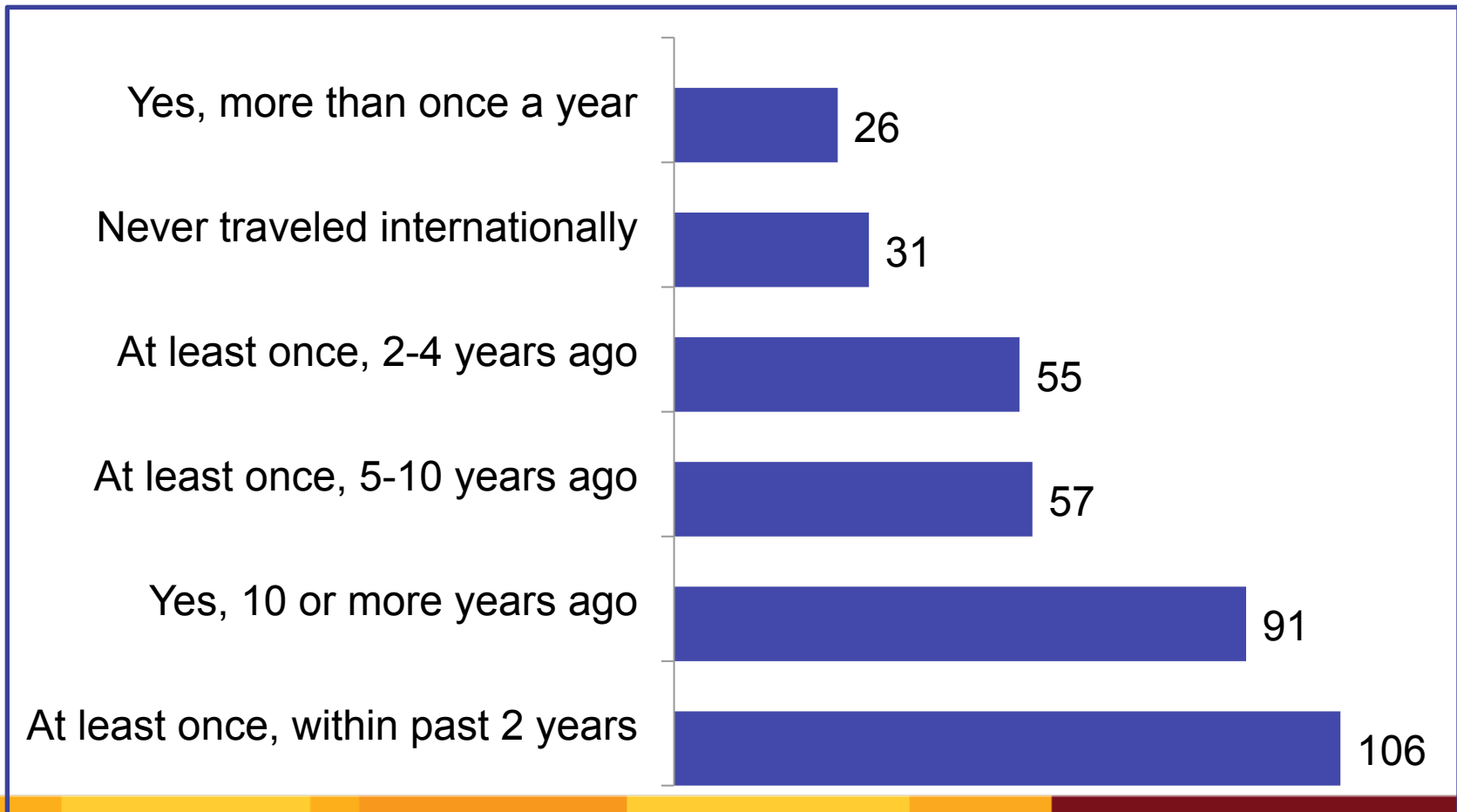
Parent Program Polls

If your student expressed an interest in learning abroad, what would your response be? (October 2013)



Parent Program Polls

Have you ever traveled internationally? (July 2013)



Global Initiatives for Parents

- Service-learning trip for families
 - Use trusted provider
 - Affordable and short term
 - Collaborative
 - Community service
 - Global vision
- School supply drive
 - Asked parents to bring school supplies to Parents Weekend to go towards educational programming in Guatemala

Targeted Messages

- Comfort levels with learning abroad range
- Parents are as diverse as our students
 - Transfer
 - Commuter
 - First-generation
 - International
 - Low-income

Messages to Students

- Talking to Your Parents online resource
- Talk to parents about:
 - Country choice
 - Program type
 - Length of program
- Participation of academic advisers
 - Recognize how parents can help
 - Encourage student to have conversations

Including Parents in Learning Abroad

- National College Fair
- Prospective student campus events
- Section of website devoted to parents

Learning Abroad Center Programming for Parents

- Learning Abroad Center
 - Host parent orientation session during student pre-departure orientation
 - Invite Parent Program to present during biannual resident staff workshop
 - Programming teams foster open communication with parents

Learning Abroad Center Programming for Parents

- Parents as education abroad allies
 - Pre-departure
 - During the study abroad program
 - After the student returns home

Learning Abroad Center

Positive Parental Involvement

- They can reinforce our messages
- When a real crisis arises, they will call EA office
- Empowering them early leads to semester-long efficient communication