

“TAYLOR Your Life” (TYL) Spring 2021 Assessment Report

Purpose of Report

This report shares data from 150 students who participated in the TYL course in the Spring 2021 semester and outlines curricular triumphs and challenges, as well as changes to course materials and future directions for the TYL course.

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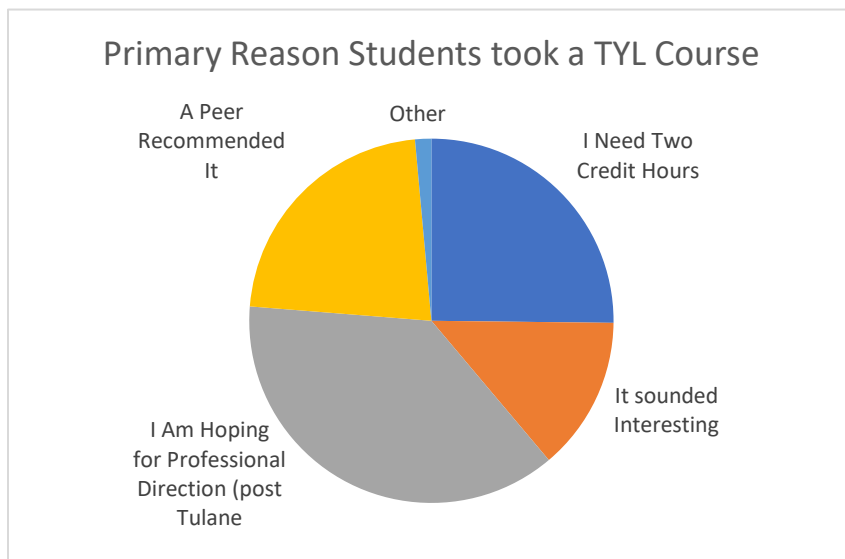
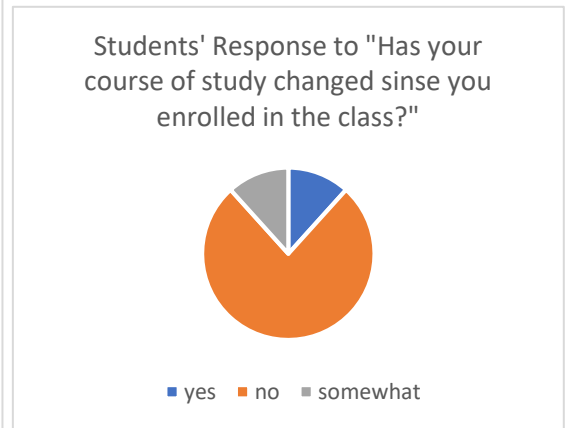
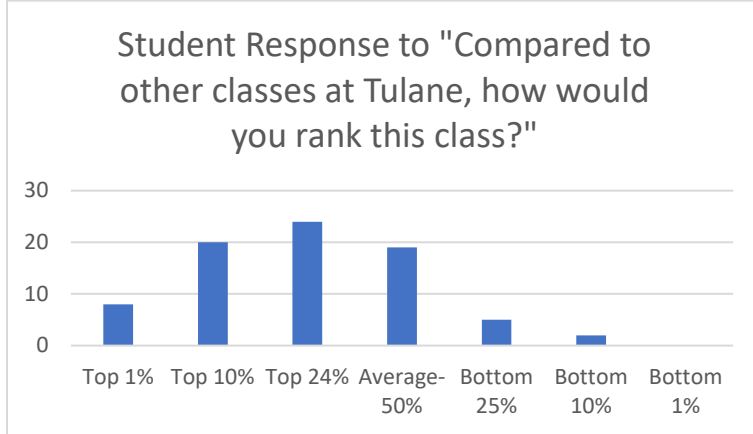
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i. Course Description

Course Description

Taylor Your Life (TYL) is a 2 credit 14-week social impact career development lab for undergraduate and graduate students to “Taylor” their life course by applying methods and mindsets of design thinking (human centered design) to career development. In the TYL journey, students identify multiple life paths, clarify their interests, focus and target their search, prototype and test changemaking careers, learn how to market and brand themselves to stand out from the crowd, map their community to effectively join the network of movers and shakers in their field, and design a life that makes a positive difference in the world and is “TAYLORed” to their unique life and personality.

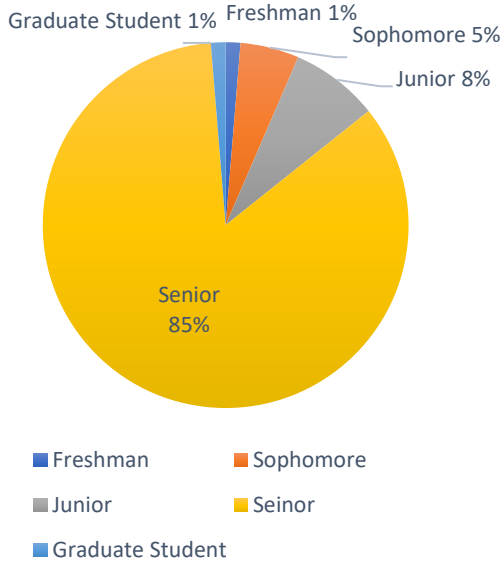
Course Rating + Course of Study + Primary Reason for Taking a TYL Course



Summary: The primary reason students decided to take a Taylor Your Life course was to gain professional development and a stronger sense of professional direction before leaving Tulane (37%). Taylor Your Life courses ranked highly among other Tulane course offerings. Coming in above the 50th percentile with (66%) of Spring 2021 participants reporting they would rank TYL above the average course offered at Tulane. This is also reflected in the figure that (22%) of students reported taking a TYL class because a peer recommended it. Being such an impactful and popular class, it is interesting that while the majority of students did not change their course of study (77%), some (12%) found that a change in study was the best plan of action after taking TYL.

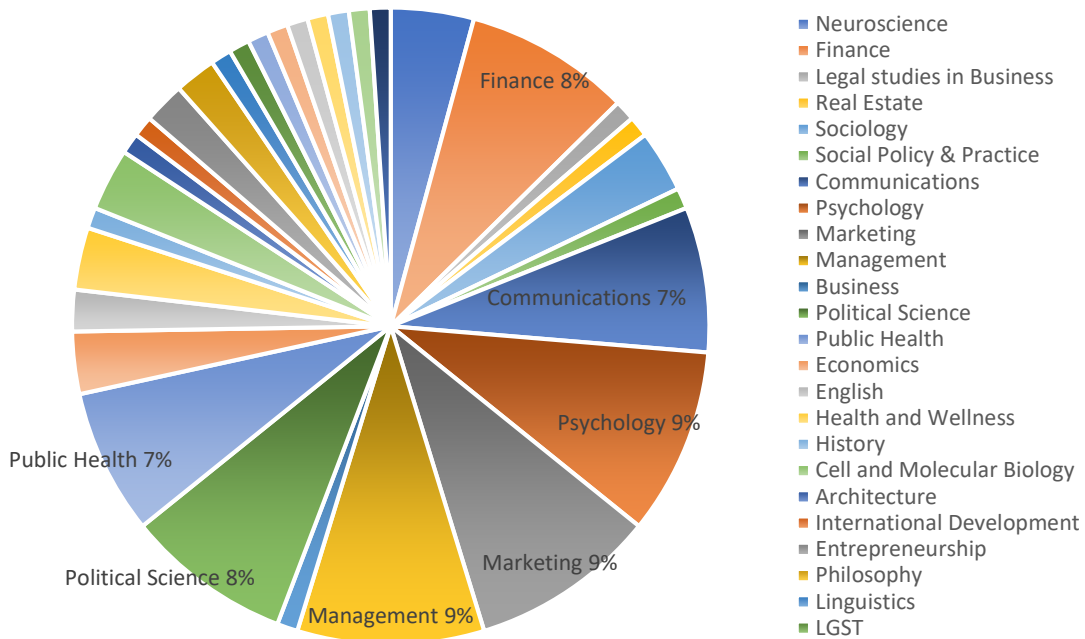
ii. Academic Sanding + Major

Academic Standing of TYL Students



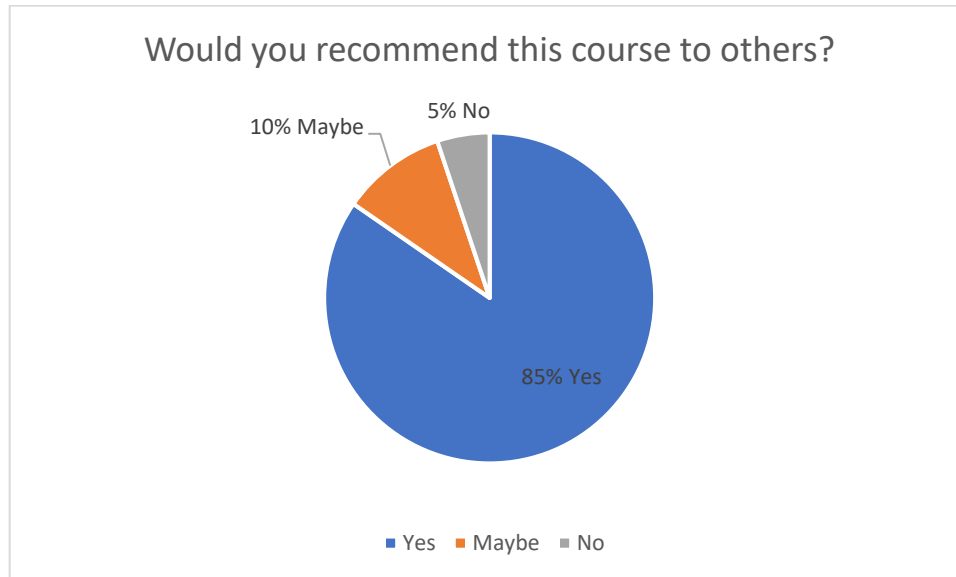
Summary: Most students in Spring 2021 TYL course were seniors (**85%**). Followed by Juniors (**8%**), Sophomores (**5%**), and Freshman and Graduate Students both at (**1%**). The most popular major for TYL students in the Spring 2021 semester was a tie between Marketing, Management, and Psychology.

TYL Student Majors



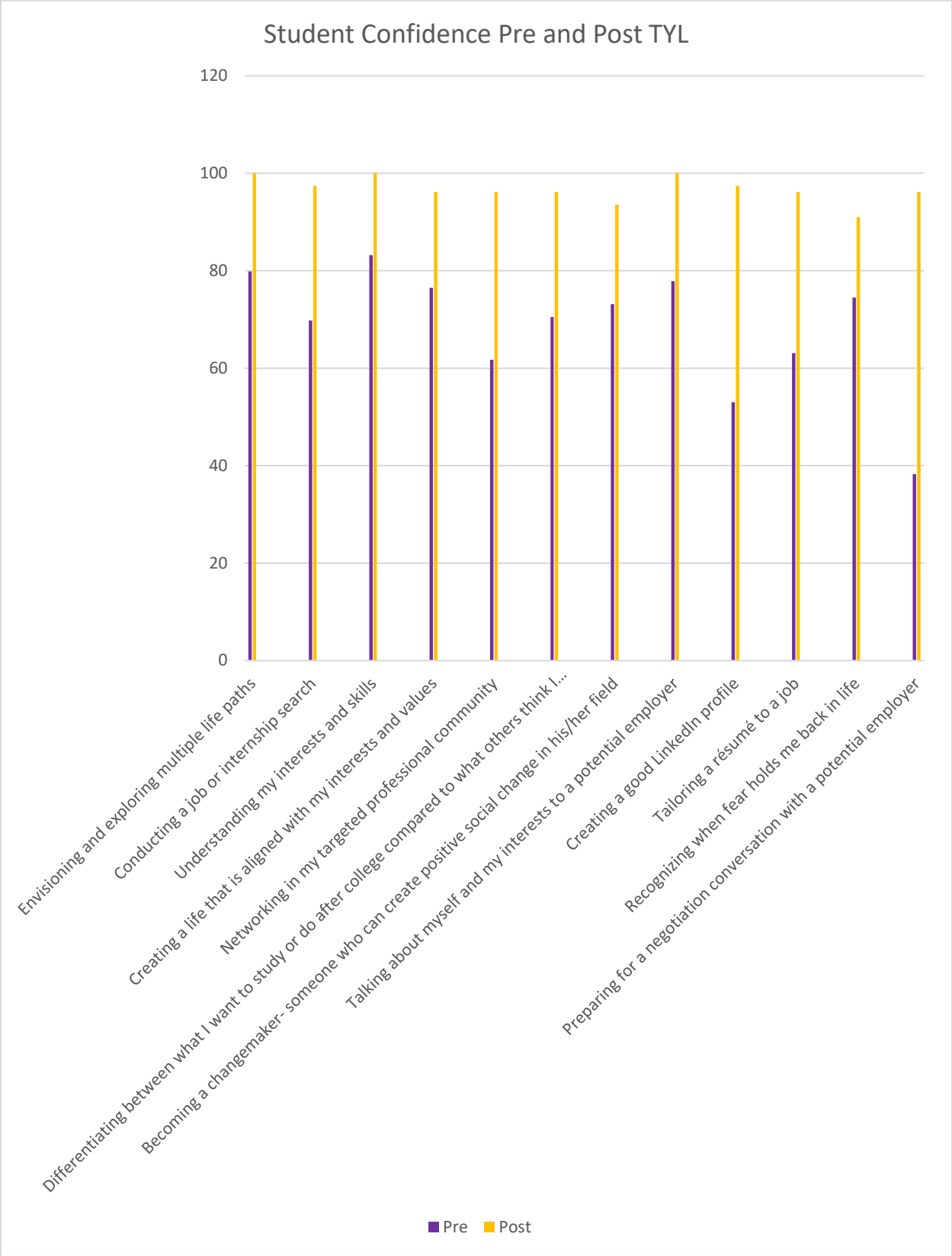
iii. Student Feedback Snapshot

Summary: 85% of the students reported they would recommend this course to others.



Summary: Survey report demonstrated that TYL course helped students (as expressed by students reporting that they were not confident, confident, or very confident with different areas of life design) with being able to envision and explore multiple life paths (100%), understanding their interests and skills (100%), understanding their interests and skills (100%), and becoming a changemaker- someone who can create positive social change in his/her field (93%). The details are shown below.

iv. Student Confidence Levels



Envisioning and exploring multiple life paths	Pre TYL	Post TYL
	% Confidence	% Confidence
Not Confident	24%	0%
Confident	56%	47%
Very Confident	20%	53%
Overall Confidence (Confidence + Very Confident)	76%	100%
Conducting a job or internship search		
Not Confident	30%	2%
Confident	49%	48%
Very Confident	21%	50%
Overall Confidence (Confidence + Very Confident)	70%	98%
Understanding my interests and skills		
Not Confident	17%	0%
Confident	51%	42%
Very Confident	32%	58%
Overall Confidence (Confidence + Very Confident)	83%	100%
Creating a life that is aligned with my interests and values		
Not Confident	23%	4%
Confident	51%	42%
Very Confident	26%	54%
Overall Confidence (Confidence + Very Confident)	77%	96%
Networking in my targeted professional community		
Not Confident	38%	4%
Confident	45%	41%
Very Confident	17%	55%
Overall Confidence (Confidence + Very Confident)	62%	96%
Differentiating between what I want to study or do after college compared to what others think I should do		
Not Confident	29%	4%
Confident	42%	36%
Very Confident	29%	60%
Overall Confidence (Confidence + Very Confident)	71%	96%
Becoming a changemaker- someone who can create positive social change in his/her field		
Not Confident	27%	7%
Confident	45%	47%
Very Confident	28%	46%
Overall Confidence (Confidence + Very Confident)	73%	93%
Talking about myself and my interests to a potential employer		
Not Confident	22%	0%

Confident	50%	46%
Very Confident	28%	54%
Overall Confidence (Confidence + Very Confident)	78%	100%
Creating a good LinkedIn profile		
Not Confident	47%	3%
Confident	32%	26%
Very Confident	21%	71%
Overall Confidence (Confidence + Very Confident)	53%	97%
Tailoring a résumé to a job		
Not Confident	37%	4%
Confident	40%	28%
Very Confident	23%	68%
Overall Confidence (Confidence + Very Confident)	63%	96%
Recognizing when fear holds me back in life		
Not Confident	25%	9%
Confident	52%	38%
Very Confident	23%	53%
Overall Confidence (Confidence + Very Confident)	75%	91%
Preparing for a negotiation conversation with a potential employer		
Not Confident	62%	4%
Confident	25%	55%
Very Confident	13%	41%
Overall Confidence (Confidence + Very Confident)	38%	96%

Summary: The graph and corresponding table above demonstrate the TYL course’s overall positive impact on student’s confidence when it comes to employment preparedness and overall comfortability utilizing life design skills. Notably, each qualifier tested returned an increase in overall confidence. It is clear that the Spring 2021 cohort feels confident in their TYL skills.

v. General Course Feedback

The student testimonials extracted from the post TYL survey are as follows:

My greatest takeaway from this class was expanding and combining various interests to discover other fields I am interested in pursuing. The biggest takeaway I received was actually **changing the initial career path** I came into this class with which is something I did not think I would do.

I feel that this course truly helped me in terms of **networking and searching for jobs**. I really feel that this course was one of the most helpful and beneficial classes that I have ever taken at Tulane.

I have so much **more direction in my life** now than I did before. I feel much more **confident** in my skills, interests, and path. My greatest takeaways are that **anyone can build a good life** for themselves and that a lot of times we are too hard on ourselves when thinking about our futures and our accomplishments.

This course was actually incredibly helpful in **developing my confidence** in the professional world. I learned so much about how to explore different paths and I feel **super prepared** to use what I've learned out in the real world.

I thought this course gave me a great structure for how to work on the job search as a senior. **I would recommend that all seniors take this course.** My biggest takeaways were that I can reach out for informational interviews without being scared, and that I can approach building my life as a whole with my job being an aspect of that whole life.

I feel I was able to get a better understanding of what choosing a career path is like. **I've realized there's not one perfect career path** for me and I am now more open to exploring things out of my initial plans. I've also gained networking skills that have opened opportunities for me and have allowed me to be more **open to studying other topics.**

I figured out what kind of person I want to be when I grow up. I don't know exactly what I want to do, which is something that'd make me anxious in the past, but I know that things will work out **and I can evolve with obstacles**

This class **significantly de-stressed me!** Going into the course, I was extremely scared about my future, but this class showed me plenty of new ways to navigate those anxieties.

vi. Quality of Course Curriculum and Instructor Feedback

TYL Class Activities and Homework Assignments

Summary: The TYL class activities and homework assignments received mostly positive reviews in the post-TYL survey. Testimonies are listed below.

Student comments about activities/homework

Professionally, because of the **life design interviews**, I have made some really great connections that I will definitely stay in contact with.

The **budgeting, negotiating, and savings classes** were so helpful, as was the **action plan homework assignment.**

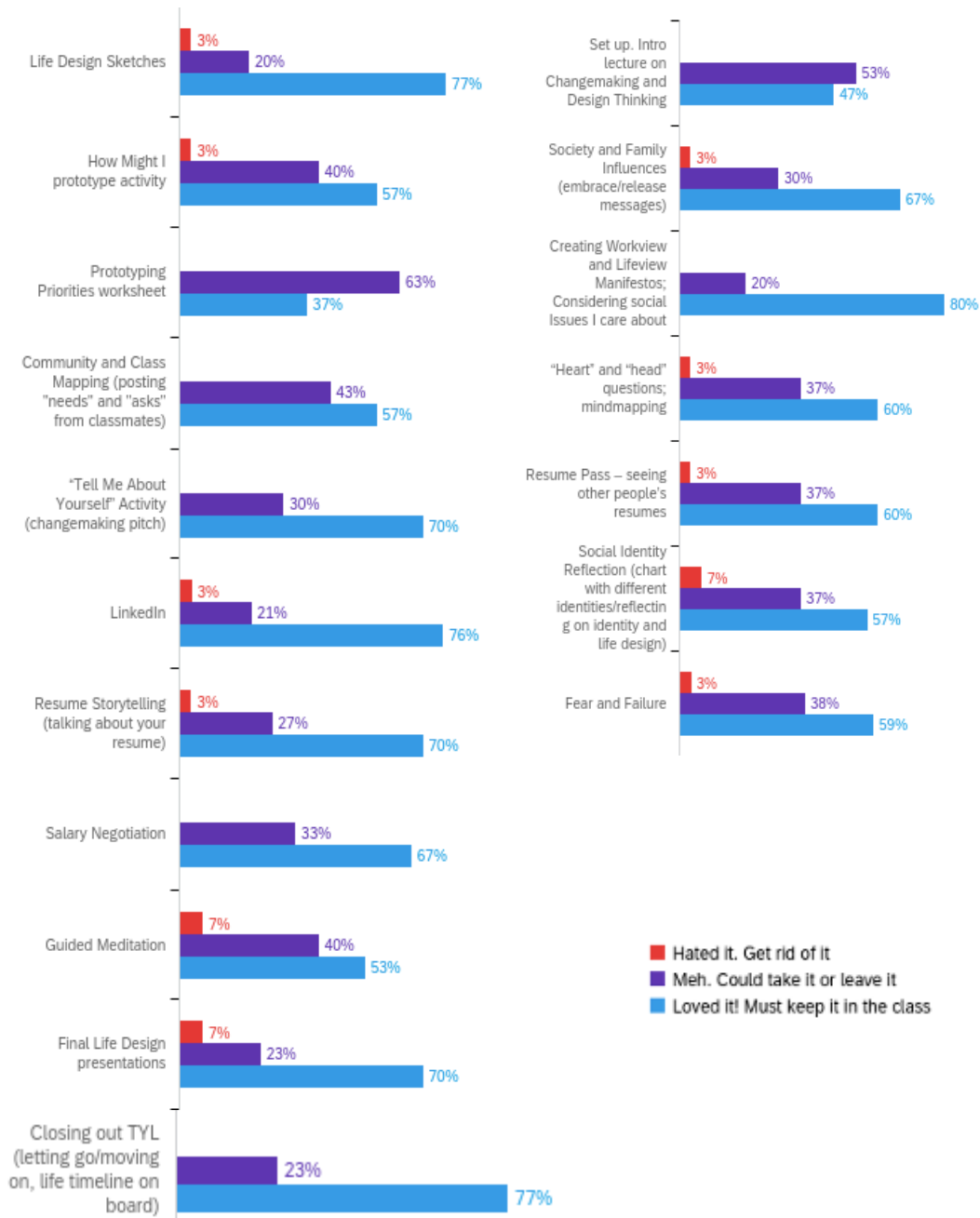
I learned networking skills, practical job search and application skills, got feedback on my ideas and goals. I developed an **elevator pitch** and had the opportunity to talk to people about their life paths through **life design interviews.**

I think the course was a great way to understand my goals professionally, and I really enjoyed **receiving tips and advice that I then had to bring into my work assignments.** My greatest takeaways are to **prototype** and sneak up on the future. I feel confident and prepared with my resume, writing a cover letter and interviewing. I learned so much about **networking.**

I loved all the assignments including **worldview worldview, LinkedIn profile, and tailored resumes.**

I really enjoyed the **informational interviews**; they were a great way to practice talking to new people and asking interesting questions.

Student feedback on specific TYL activities and homework assignments:

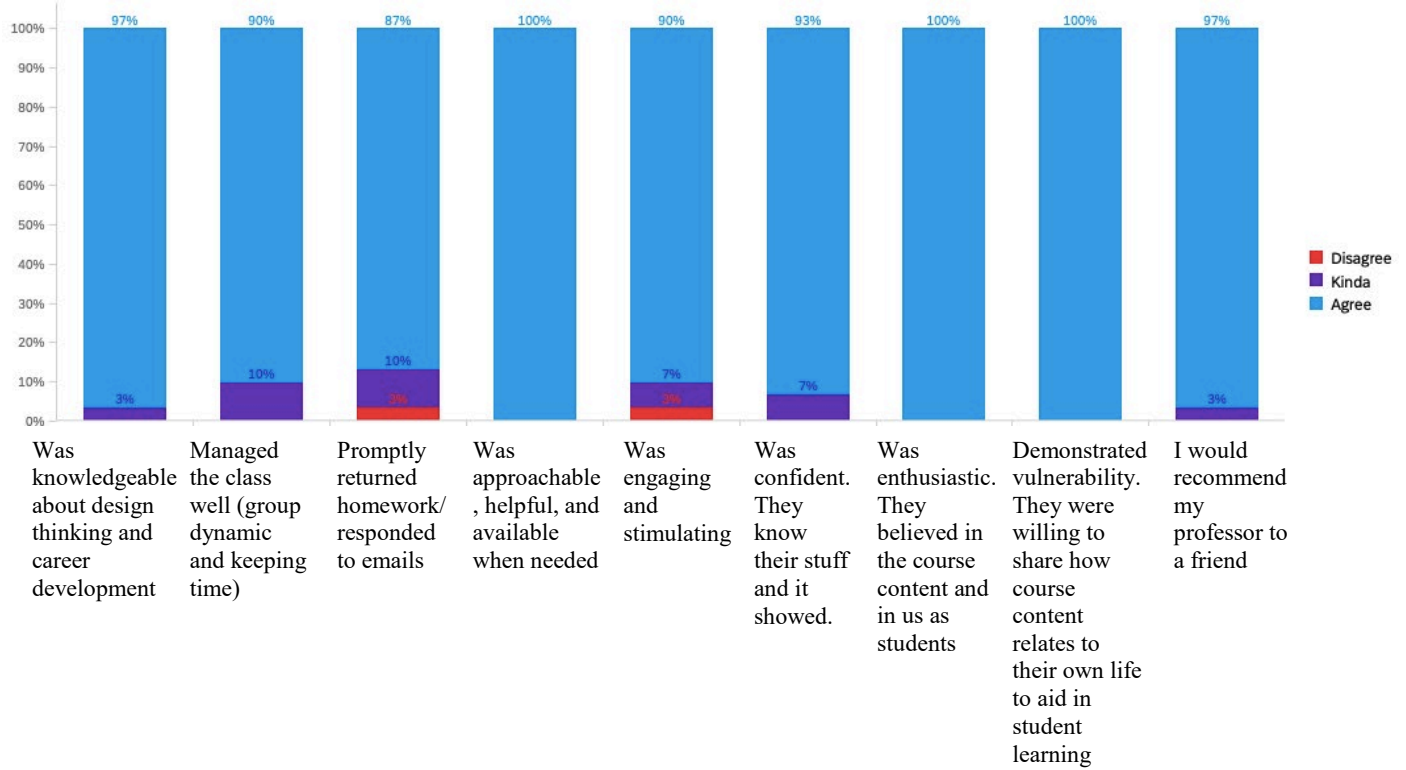


Summary (What % of Students Loved an Activity)

Most Popular Activities + HW	Least Popular Activities + HW
- Wokview Worldview (80%)	- Prototyping Priorities Worksheet (37%)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life Design Sketches (77%) - Closing out TYL (77%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up intro lecture on Changemaking and Design Thinking (47%) - Guided Meditation (53%)
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TYL Instructor Feedback



Summary: Most students found their TYL instructor to be approachable, helpful, and available when needed (100%). Similarly, students felt that their TYL instructors were enthusiastic and believed in the course materials they were teaching (100%). Finally, students were unified in their experience that TYL professor demonstrated vulnerability and were willing to share how course content related to their own lives (100%).

Instructor Highlights

Instructor	Feedback
Kayla Smith	<p>I enjoyed Kayla Smith's lectures and found the readings to be helpful.</p> <p>Kayla was super helpful and had interesting lectures.</p>
Cynthia Washington	<p>I loved having Cynthia as my professor, she was positive, encouraging, and always there to enlighten the class.</p> <p>I absolutely loved her. She was so sweet and helpful and she really inspired me to become my best self and put myself out there.</p> <p>She was so sweet! She made a very scary topic much less intimidating! An awesome professor!</p>

<p>Myron Shaffer</p>	<p>Myron is a really nice guy, definitely the best professor to have for this class. He knows what he's talking about and actually got me more on top of my search</p>
<p>Samantha Fleurinor</p>	<p>LOVE SAM SO MUCH! Our class was not the most responsive, but Sam was very vulnerable and willing to discuss personal information with us about her identity and background. She made this class so great! Thank you!</p> <p>I loved Samantha! I think she truly was such a huge part of what made the course as great as it was</p>
<p>Abigail Lukens</p>	<p>She was the best professor! So helpful, nice, and truly seemed passionate about what she was teaching!</p> <p>Abby is the best! She always made herself available to questions and concerns, and offered help even after the last day of class. She genuinely cares about her students, and I really appreciate that.</p> <p>BEST TEACHER EVER !!!!!!! Recommending her to all of my younger friends who still have time to take this class</p> <p>Created a super safe space where everyone felt comfortable sharing and was a judgment free zone.</p> <p>Professor Lukens was one of my favorite professors at Tulane. I could really tell how much she cared about all of her students and wants to see us succeed. She really helped guide me through a difficult semester and align my career path the way I believe will be most successful.</p>
<p>Wendy Leblanc and Jada Buckner</p>	<p>I really appreciated how honest they were about their own life experiences, and I enjoyed how there was no judgement in the class. Also anytime I would answer a question in class they would give great feedback and were very enthusiastic.</p>
<p>Tiye Jones</p>	<p>I love Tiye - she takes an individual interest in each of her students and it shows. She provided extremely helpful feedback and was such a bright spot in my week. Never change queen we will miss u</p> <p>Tiye was amazing! I felt so respected and comfortable with her.</p>
<p>Shaina Spector</p>	<p>She put in a lot of effort to make this late Tuesday class engaging and fun and it paid off. Thank you!</p> <p>Professor Spector was awesome! She truly cared about us and genuinely wanted to help. She was very understanding and did a good job of making class enjoyable.</p>

vii. Constructive Feedback for Future Sections

Summary: The key concerns that appeared in student’s comments and feedback are summarized below.

- 1) Online Instruction:** Having this course taught online actually made it easier in my opinion as it allowed for quick transitions into projects, videos, presentations, etc.
- 2) Class Pace:** Allow time to breathe between activities! It's hard to think meaningfully about some of these ideas when jumping quickly from activity to activity.
- 3) Resources:** They should provide more resources (i.e. links or handouts) to help students figure out job options, career paths, job requirements, salaries, list of jobs that are categorized in terms of demand forecast, list of jobs that people can get with different majors, major hubs (cities) for various fields, etc.

viii. Future Direction

Summary: Key future development for TYL are as follows:

- 1. Consider keeping one TYL course online:** Having one online TYL section will allow students who feel more comfortable with online instruction the option to continue in that fashion. Some students reported feeling that online “people were able to be more open and honest about their passions because we aren't all awkwardly staring at each other”.
- 2. Class Pace:** Consider scheduling more breaks in the TYL course schedule.
- 3. Resources:** One pagers with resources could be generated to help students with job searches and career paths.