

**2008-
2009**



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GRADUATING SENIOR SURVEY

Survey Administration

This survey was given to all University of Northern Iowa (UNI) graduates prior to the UNI commencement exercises in December 2008 and May 2009.

The survey was completed by 431 students from the December 2008 commencement and 1,150 from the May 2009 graduation, for a total of 1,581 respondents (see Table 1 for an illustration of response rates).

Table 1. Response Rates for Undergraduate Graduation Sessions

	Survey Respondents	All Graduating Seniors	Response Rate (%)
December 2008	431	747	57.7
May/Aug 2009	1150	1508	76.3
Total	1581	2255	70.1

Distribution of Graduates by College

Figure 1 shows the distribution of graduates by college. Student identification numbers are self reported. Over the past several years, students have been reluctant to list their student number, which is illustrated by the large percentage of missing college data in Figure 1.

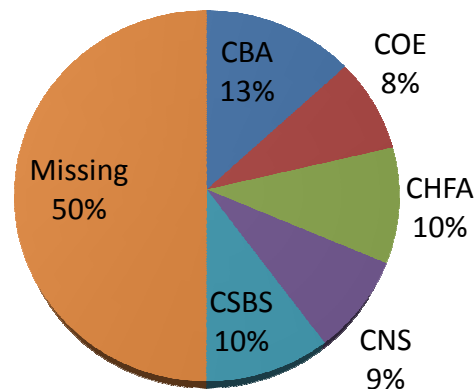


Figure 1. Distribution of Graduates by College

Plans Following Graduation

Students were asked to indicate their plans following graduation. As Figure 2 indicates, 68.0% of the respondents indicated they were employed upon graduation. An additional 19% of respondents indicated they would be furthering their education by pursuing graduate study. A comparison of plans by college (see Figure 3) illustrates that the College of Business had the highest percentage of graduates employed upon graduation (87.9%) while the College of Natural Sciences had the highest number of graduates enrolled in a graduate or professional program (34.4%).

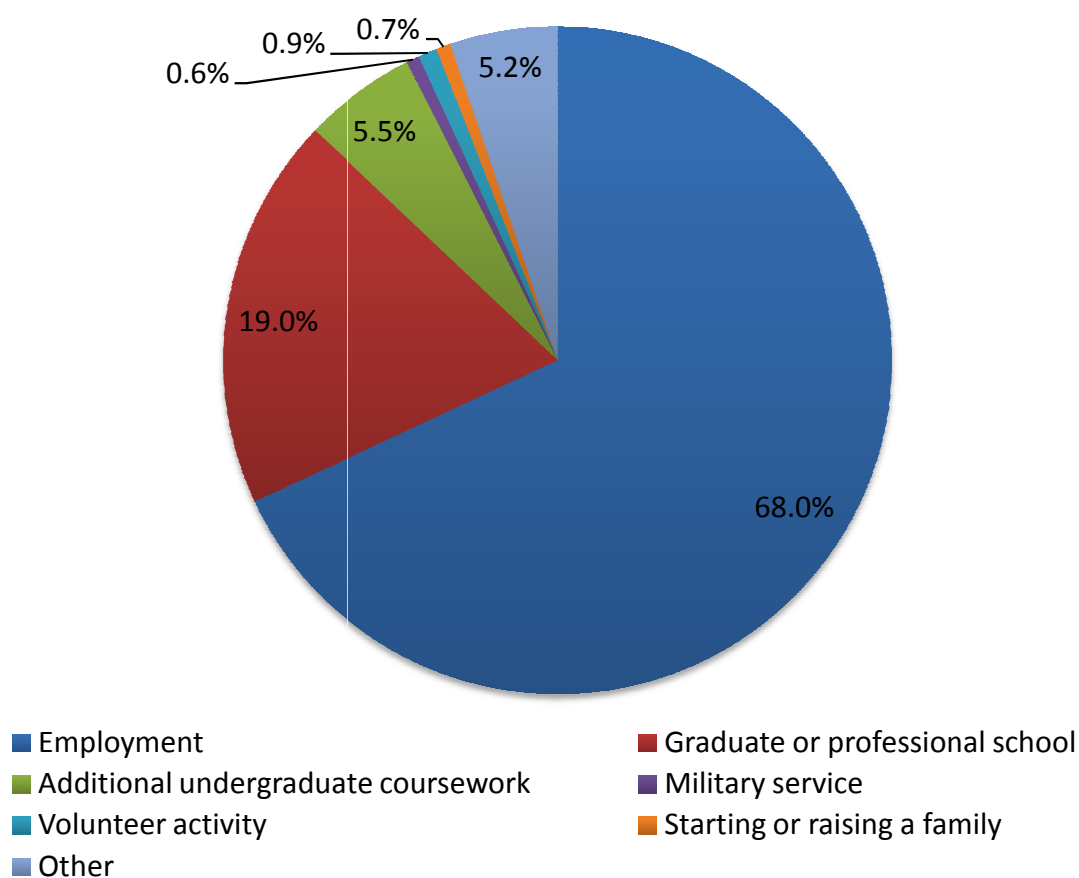
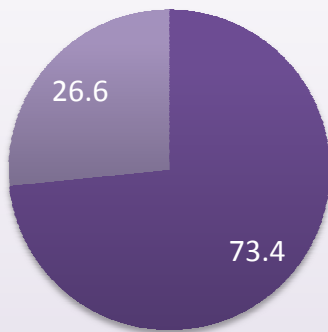


Figure 2. Plans Following Graduation

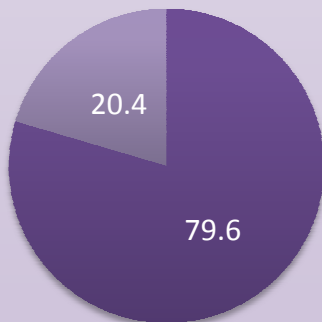


Is your current job/
accepted job offer in the
State of Iowa?

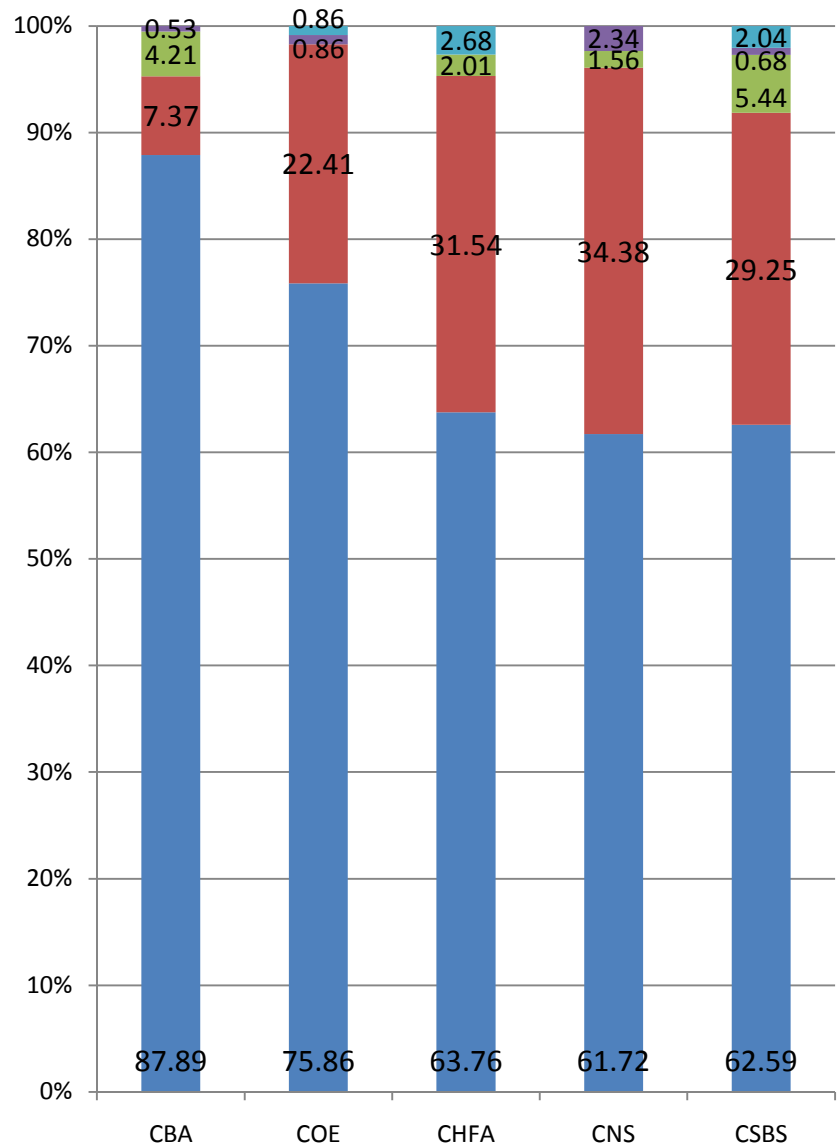


- Employed in Iowa
- Employed out of state

If employed outside of
Iowa, would you return if
given the chance?



- Would Return
- Would Not Return



- Employment
- Graduate or professional school
- Additional undergraduate coursework
- Military service
- Volunteer activity

Figure 3. Plans Following Graduation by College

Characteristics of Respondents

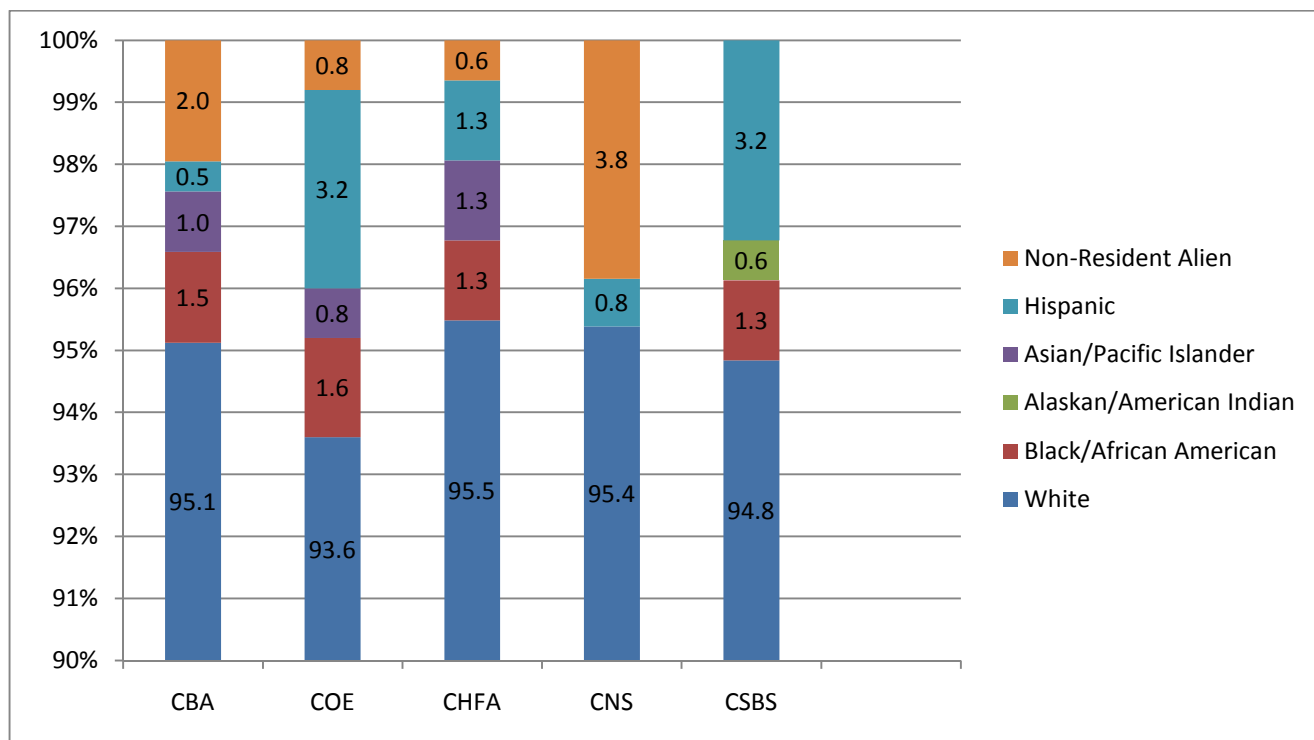


Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity of Respondents by College

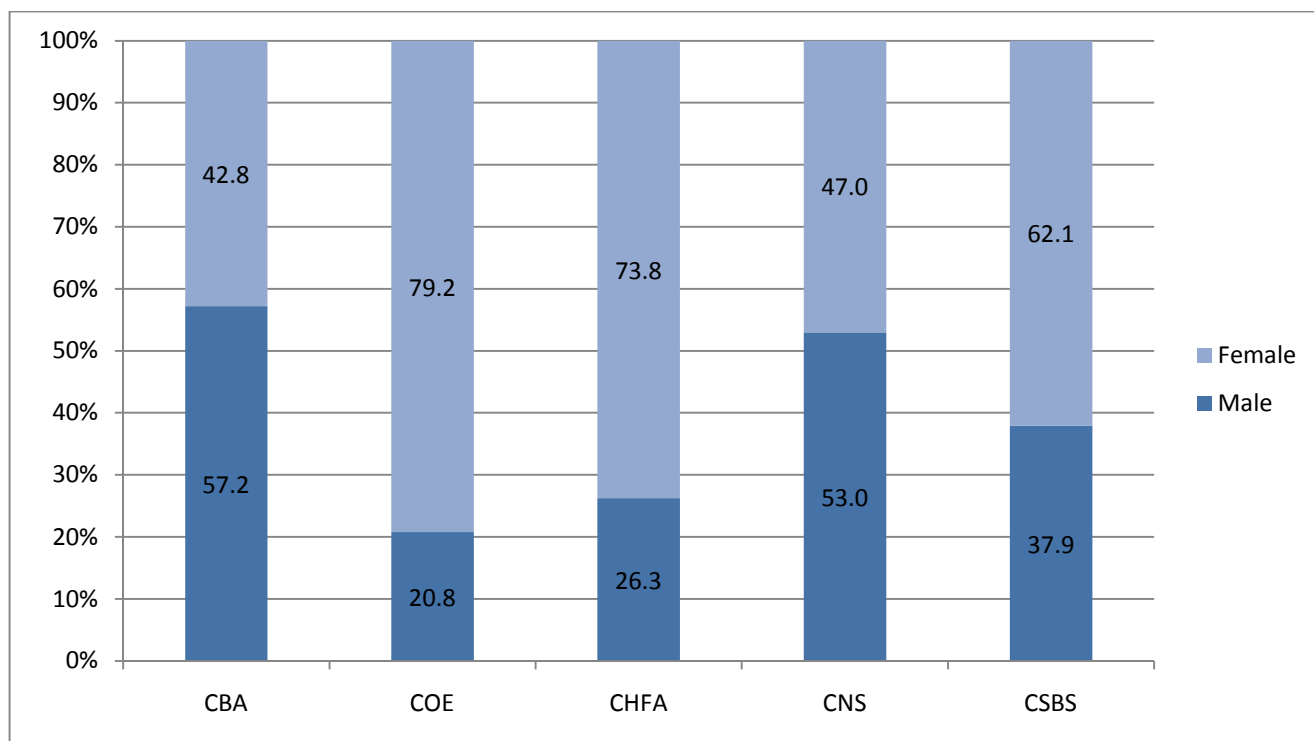


Figure 5. Gender of Respondents by College

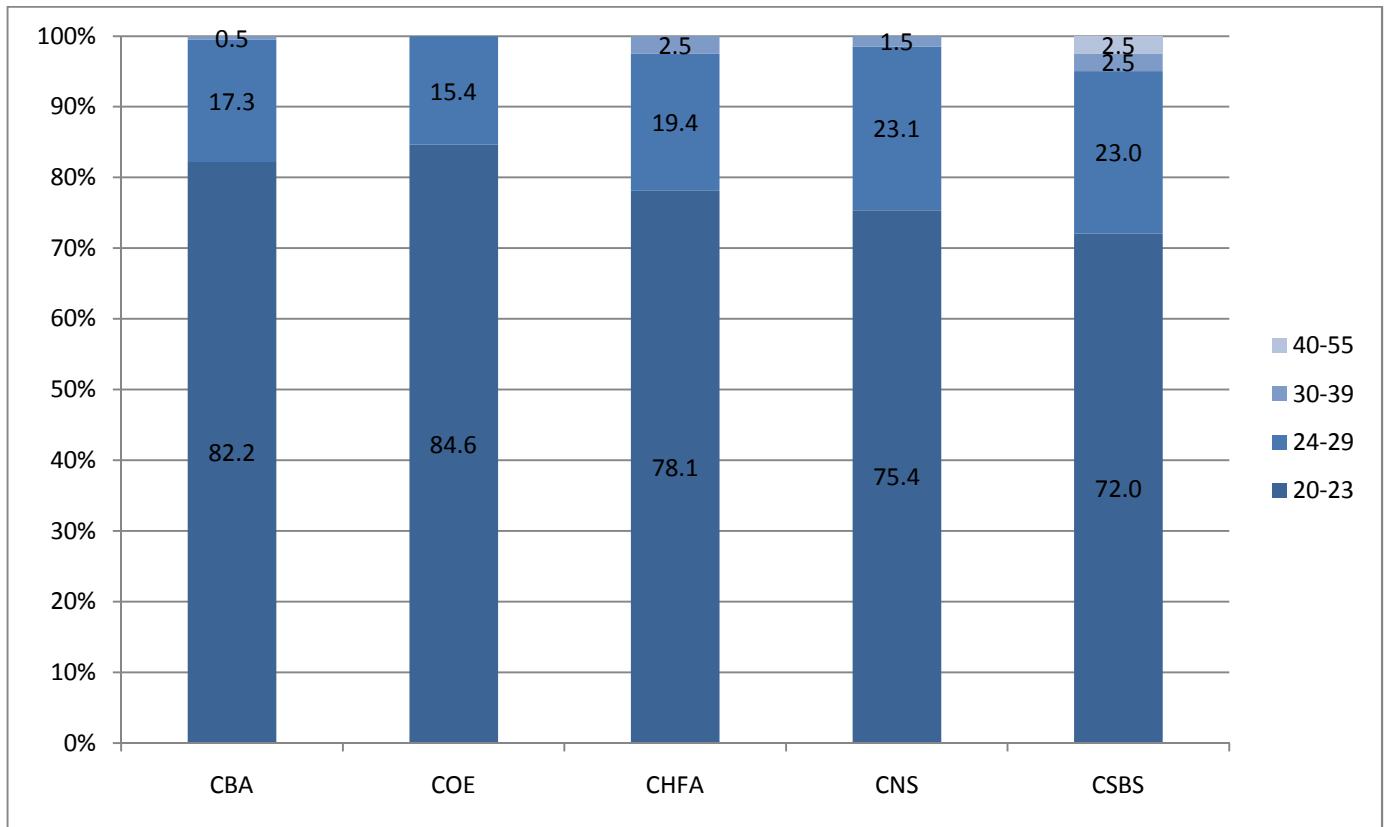


Figure 6. Age of Respondents by College

Institutional Summary of Results

Respondents were asked to indicate how well UNI prepared them for 23 different critical skills and experiences on a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). A “cannot evaluate” option was also available. They were also asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed to 27 statements regarding the academic and social environment at UNI on a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree), with a “not sure” category available in addition to the other options. A summary of these responses is seen in the tables below.

Educational Experience and Skills

	N	Cannot evaluate	Poor (1)	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent (5)	Mean
Speaking effectively	1,395	0.6	0.5	1.9	12.7	54.0	30.3	4.10
Communicate through writing	1,361	0.4	0.2	1.7	9.3	52.3	36.1	4.21
Understanding written communication	1,357	0.6	0.5	1.9	11.9	52.1	33.0	4.13
Listen effectively	1,319	0.2	0.4	1.4	11.0	48.7	38.3	4.22
Basic computer skills	1,343	0.7	1.0	4.4	17.0	38.9	38.0	4.06
Making basic calculations	1,312	1.8	0.6	4.7	18.9	41.5	32.4	3.95
Foreign language skills	1,368	30.9	14.2	15.2	18.3	12.6	8.8	1.94
Planning projects	1,342	0.9	0.5	3.4	15.4	46.9	32.9	4.05
Defining problems	1,286	0.5	0.3	1.6	16.7	50.3	30.6	4.08
Solving problems	1,251	0.4	0.3	1.2	13.3	51.2	33.6	4.15
Learn new things	1,253	0.2	0.2	0.9	9.7	44.1	44.9	4.32
Creative thinking	1,308	0.2	0.8	2.4	13.5	44.7	38.3	4.17
Bringing information together	1,287	0.5	0.4	1.9	12.2	48.3	36.8	4.18
Using research skills	1,253	0.4	0.5	2.7	13.9	45.6	37.0	4.15
Conducting self in prof. manner	1,245	0.5	0.3	1.1	8.3	40.2	49.6	4.36
Uphold ethical standards	1,233	0.6	0.6	0.9	10.8	41.8	45.2	4.28
Adapt to change	1,229	0.4	0.3	1.1	13.6	45.2	39.4	4.21
Work under pressure	1,206	0.2	0.2	1.1	9.3	43.4	45.8	4.33
Making decisions	1,279	0.2	0.3	0.7	10.5	48.5	39.8	4.26
Work independently	1,239	0.2	0.3	0.6	9.0	42.4	47.6	4.36
People of diverse backgrounds	1,226	0.6	1.7	4.1	16.7	36.5	40.4	4.08
Working as a team	1,202	0.2	0.7	0.7	11.2	42.8	44.5	4.29
Leading others	1,174	0.4	0.5	2.0	14.3	42.1	40.6	4.19

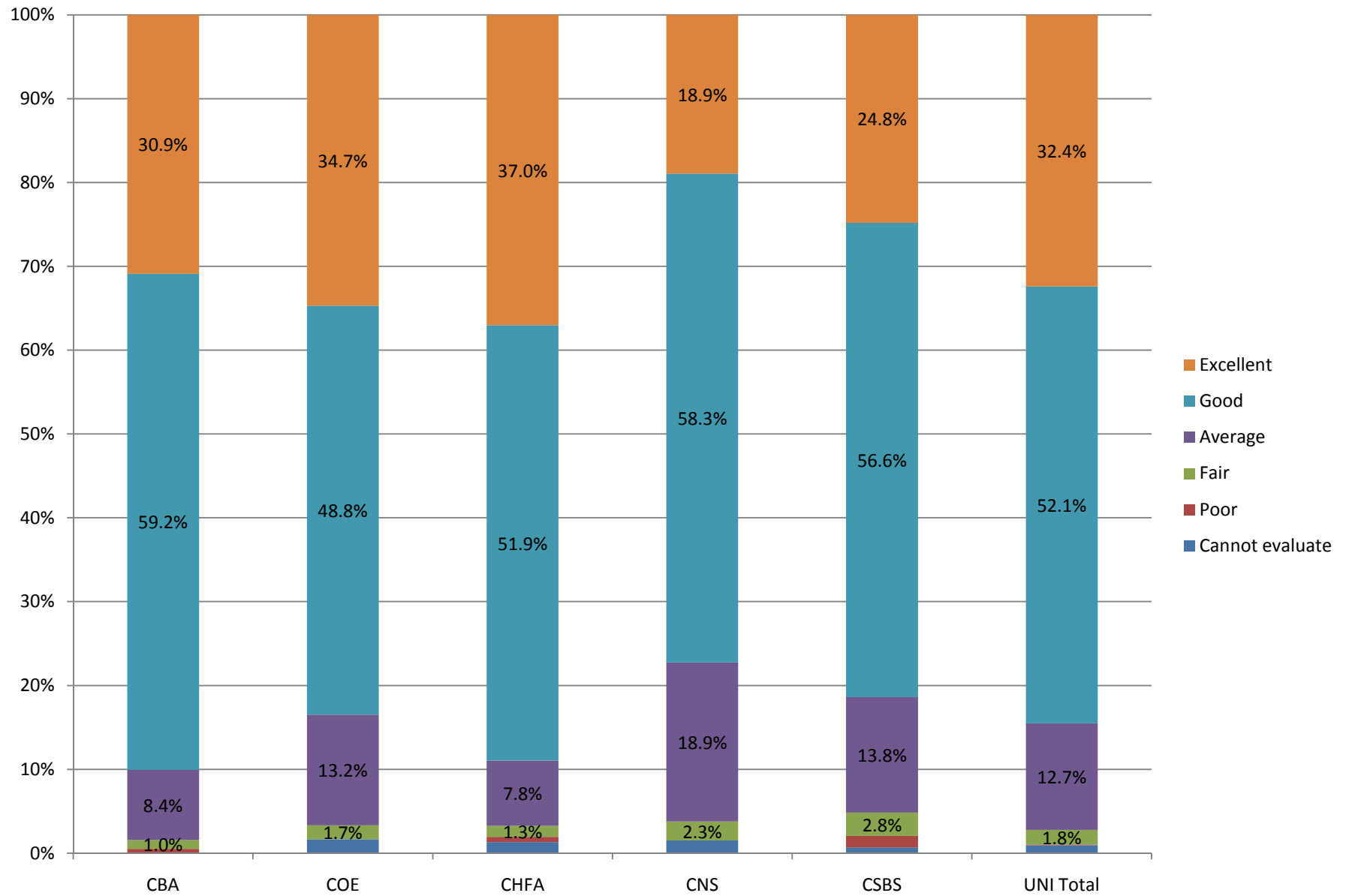
Academic and Social Environment

	N	Not Sure	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree (4)	Mean
Courses intellectually demanding	1,417	0.9	0.8	5.9	72.5	19.8	3.09
Instructors intellectually stimulating	1,397	0.7	0.5	7.4	70.2	21.2	3.11
Integrated subject matter	1,385	1.2	0.5	9.1	67.1	22.1	3.08
Cumulative learning	1,388	0.6	0.4	4.0	63.5	31.5	3.25
Lifelong learner	1,370	3.1	1.3	6.8	54.8	34.0	3.15
Peers valued achievement	1,362	2.3	0.7	9.5	63.5	24.0	3.06
Excellent teaching quality at UNI	1,352	1.3	0.7	5.8	66.5	25.7	3.14
Courses in major available	1,372	0.7	3.5	10.7	56.4	28.6	3.09
LAC quality excellent	1,338	9.3	3.1	14.5	58.5	14.6	2.66
LAC purposes clear	1,345	8.7	4.2	19.5	52.8	14.9	2.61
LAC intellectually demanding	1,356	7.3	4.0	19.0	55.6	14.1	2.65
LAC teaching excellent	1,330	8.7	2.8	14.8	59.5	14.2	2.68
LAC important	1,366	8.1	5.4	17.5	50.9	18.2	2.66
Faculty committed to learning	1,364	1.0	0.4	3.3	58.4	36.9	3.30

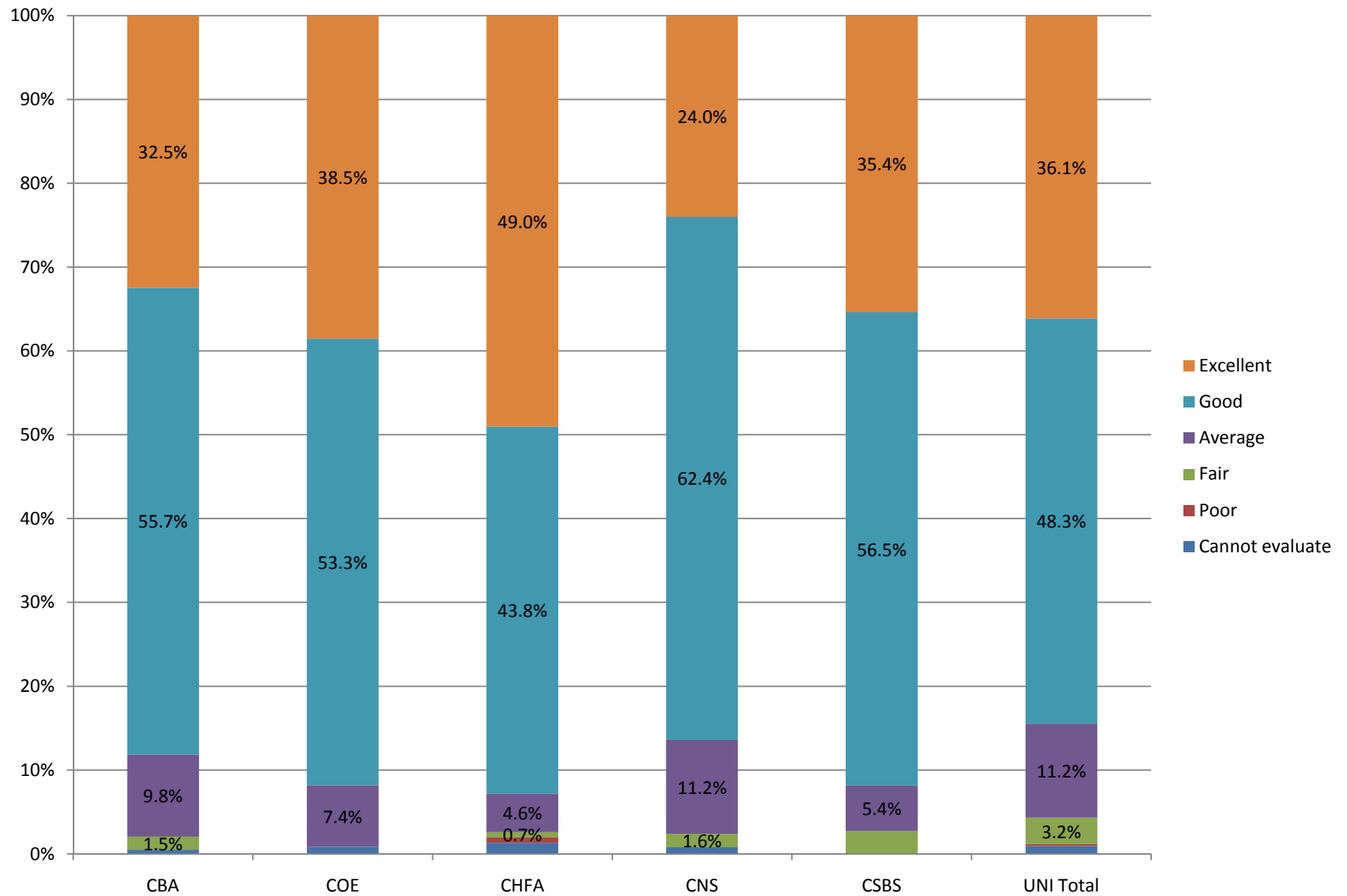
	N	Not Sure	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree (4)	Mean
Faculty interest in goals	1,357	0.7	0.4	3.1	42.6	53.3	3.47
Close relationships w/ students	1,332	1.0	0.5	5.0	46.8	46.8	3.38
Off campus social activities	1,309	1.3	1.8	9.2	46.8	41.0	3.24
On campus activities	1,329	1.8	4.5	20.9	47.3	25.4	2.90
Alcohol abuse a problem	1,381	10.4	11.8	43.4	24.6	9.8	2.12
Students tolerant of differences	1,372	3.7	2.4	8.8	67.5	17.6	2.93
Sexual harassment a problem	1,362	13.2	23.3	42.6	14.9	5.9	1.77
UNI values excellence	1,342	3.3	0.5	5.2	67.0	24.0	3.08
UNI values intellectual vitality	1,325	3.5	0.5	3.8	67.3	24.8	3.09
Examines diverse ideas	1,347	3.8	0.7	7.5	64.5	23.5	3.03
High quality education at UNI	1,314	1.1	0.1	2.4	52.3	44.2	3.39
Recommend major to student	1,315	1.7	1.1	4.2	43.2	49.8	3.38
Recommend UNI to student	1,307	1.4	0.3	1.5	43.9	52.9	3.47

Summary of Responses by College

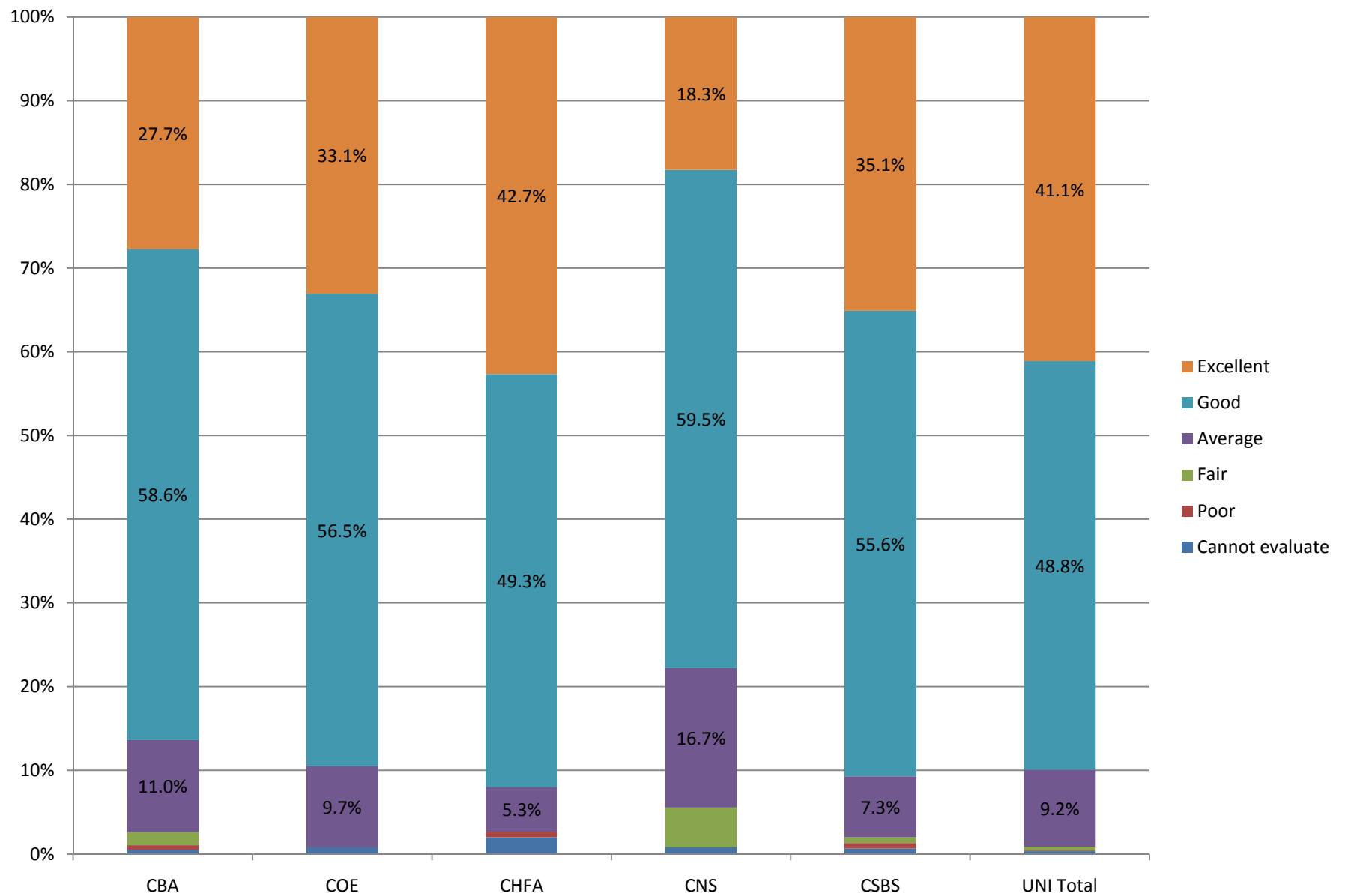
Speaking effectively



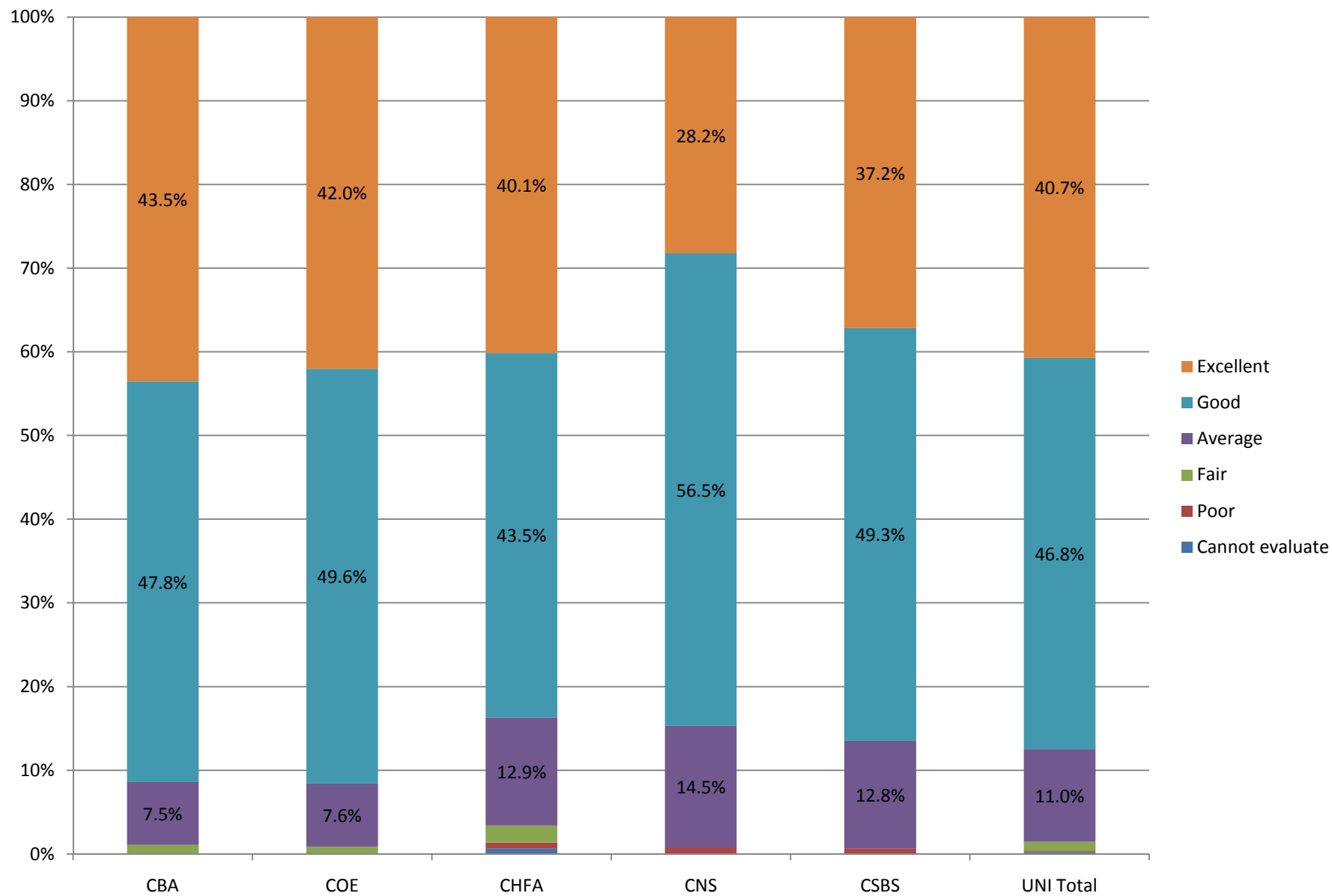
Communicating through writing



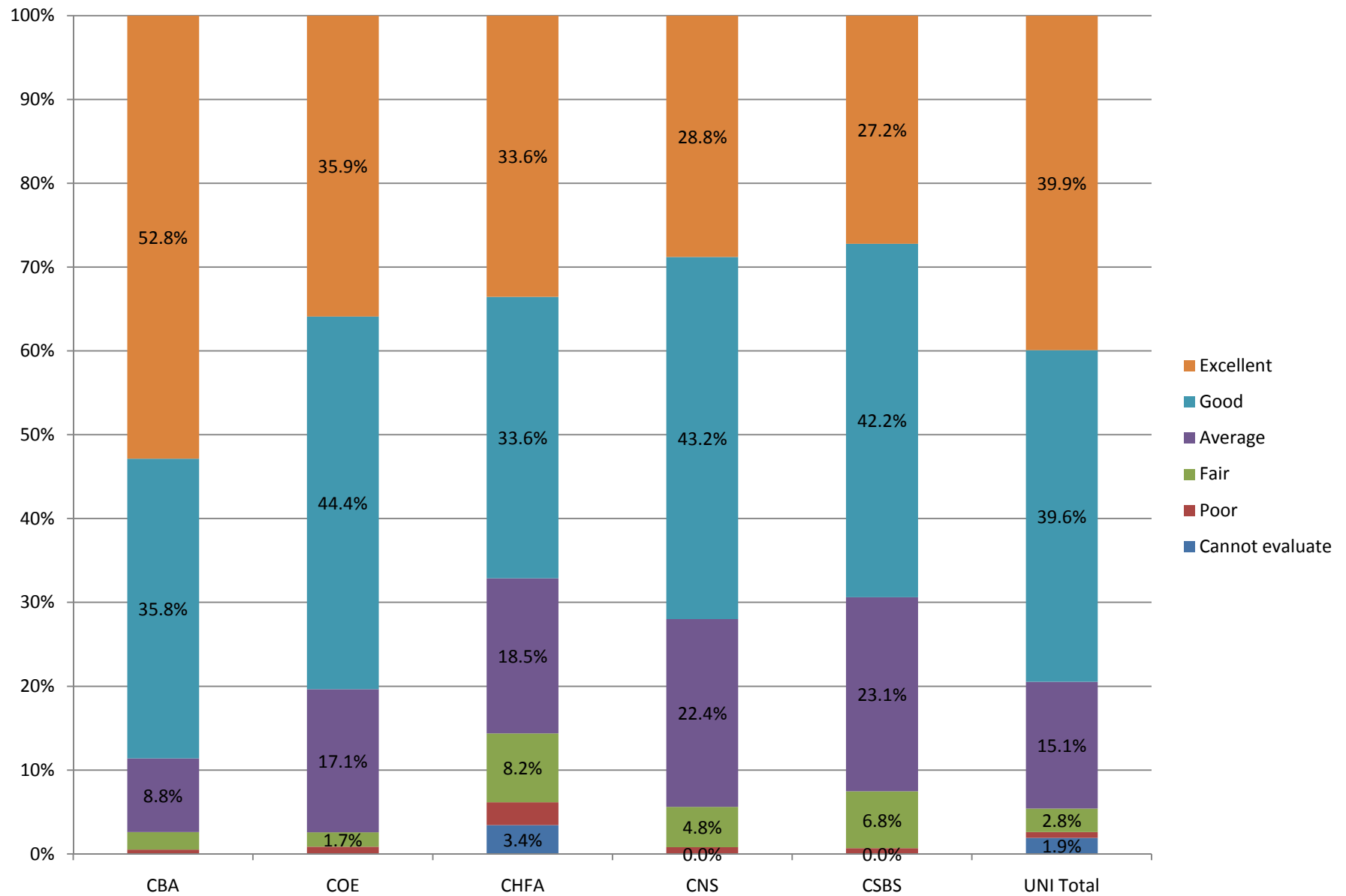
Understanding written communication



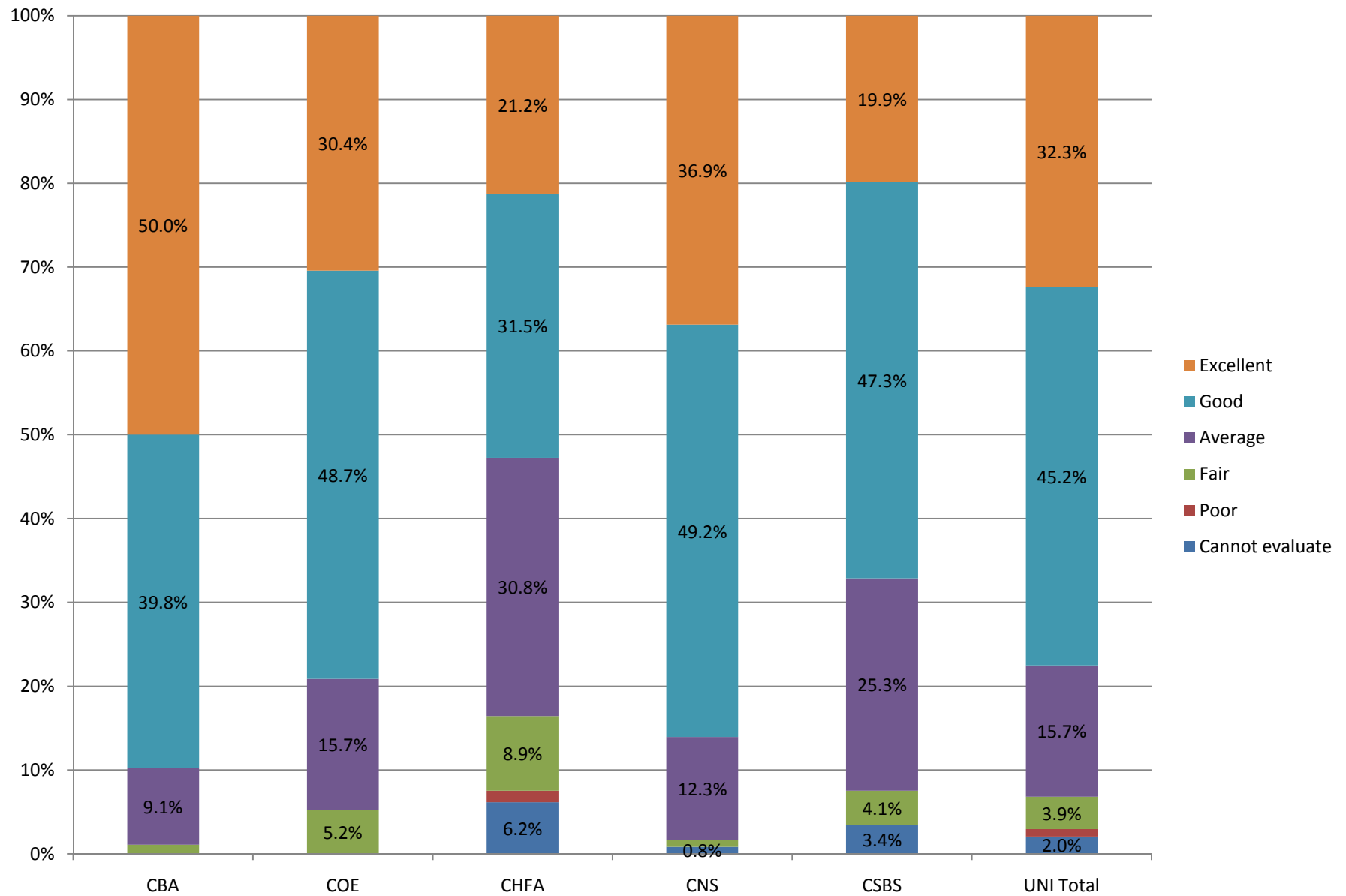
Listening effectively



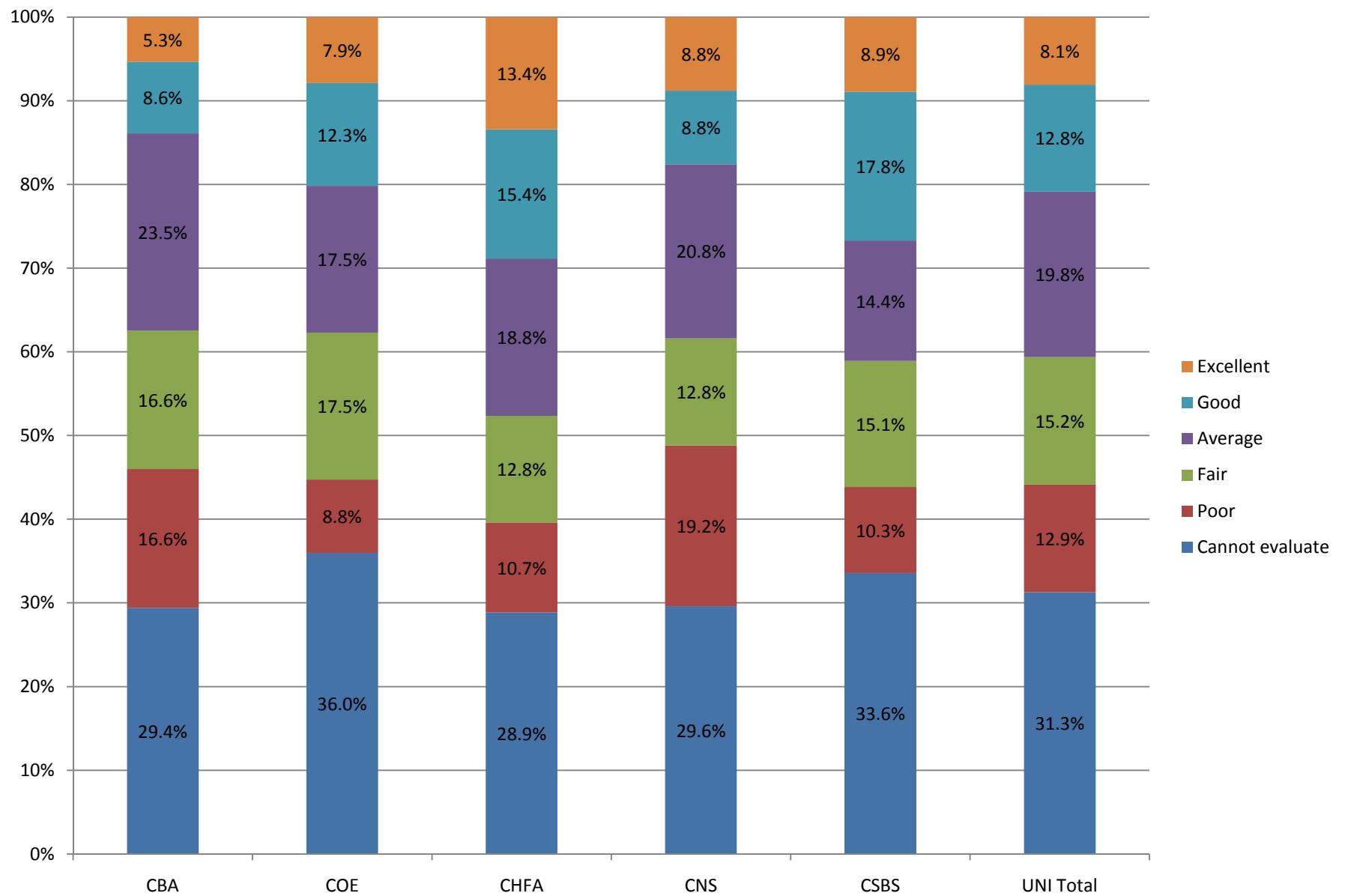
Using basic computer skills (word processing, spreadsheets, etc.)



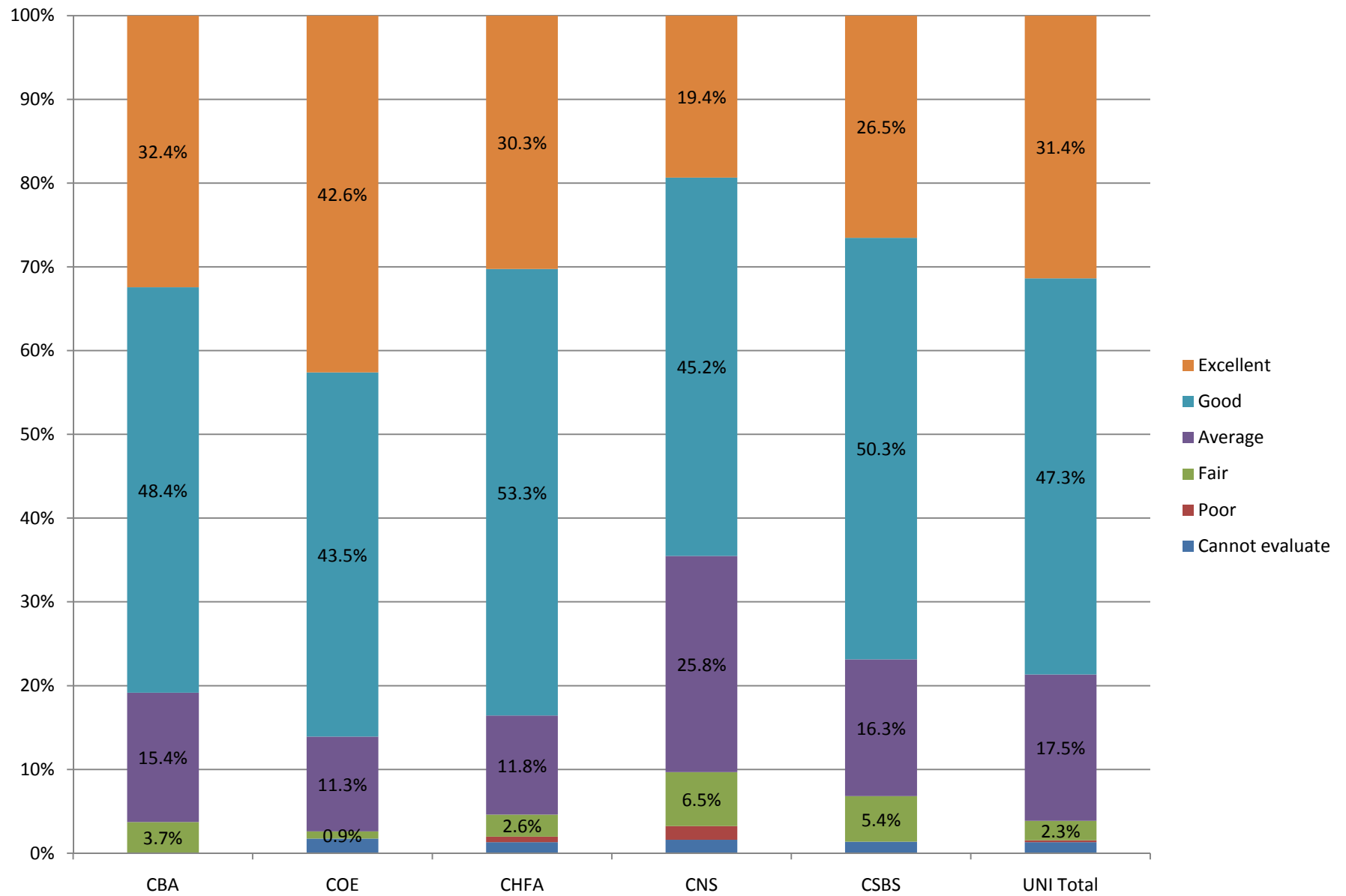
Making basic calculations and computations



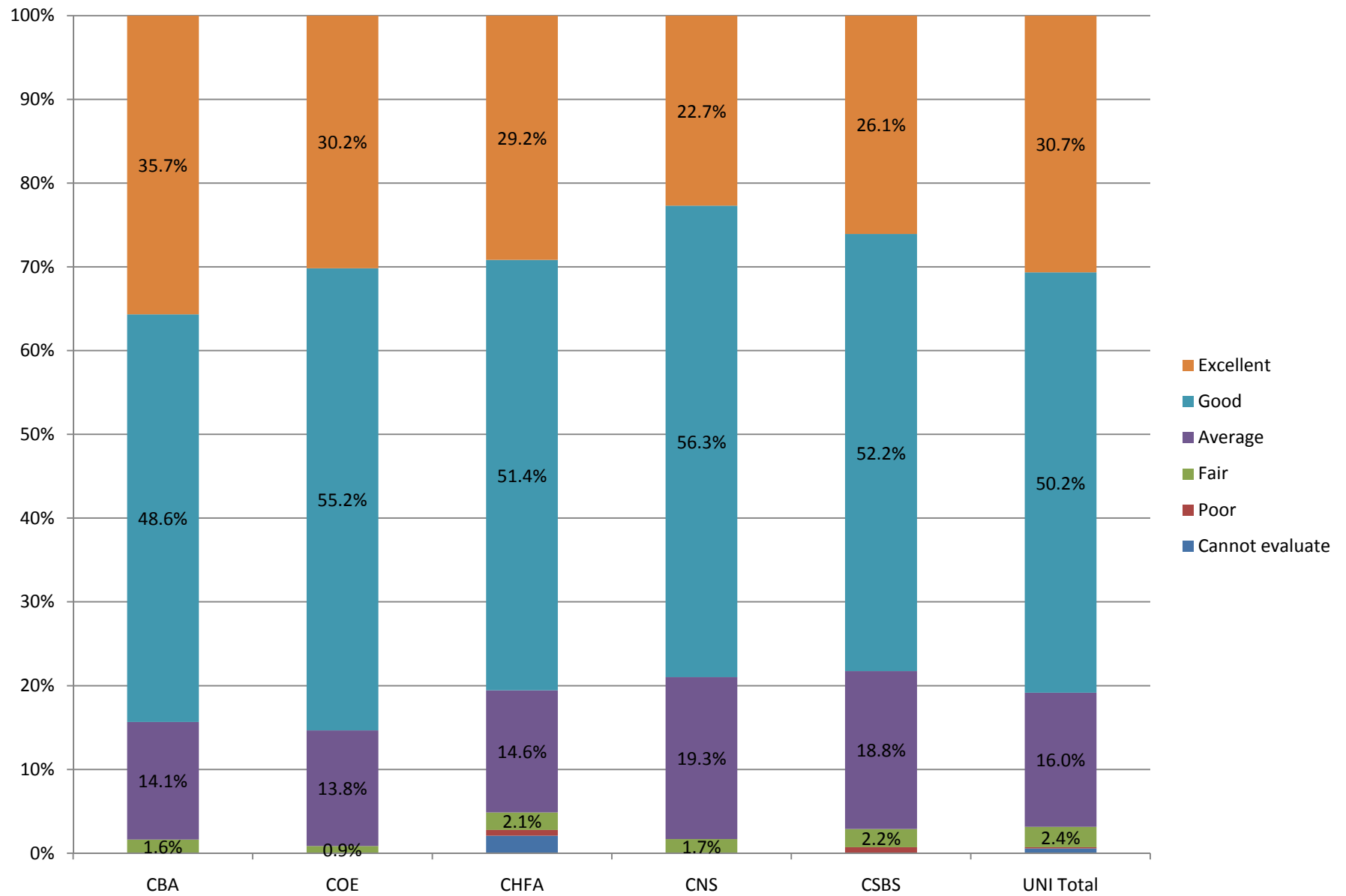
Using foreign language skills



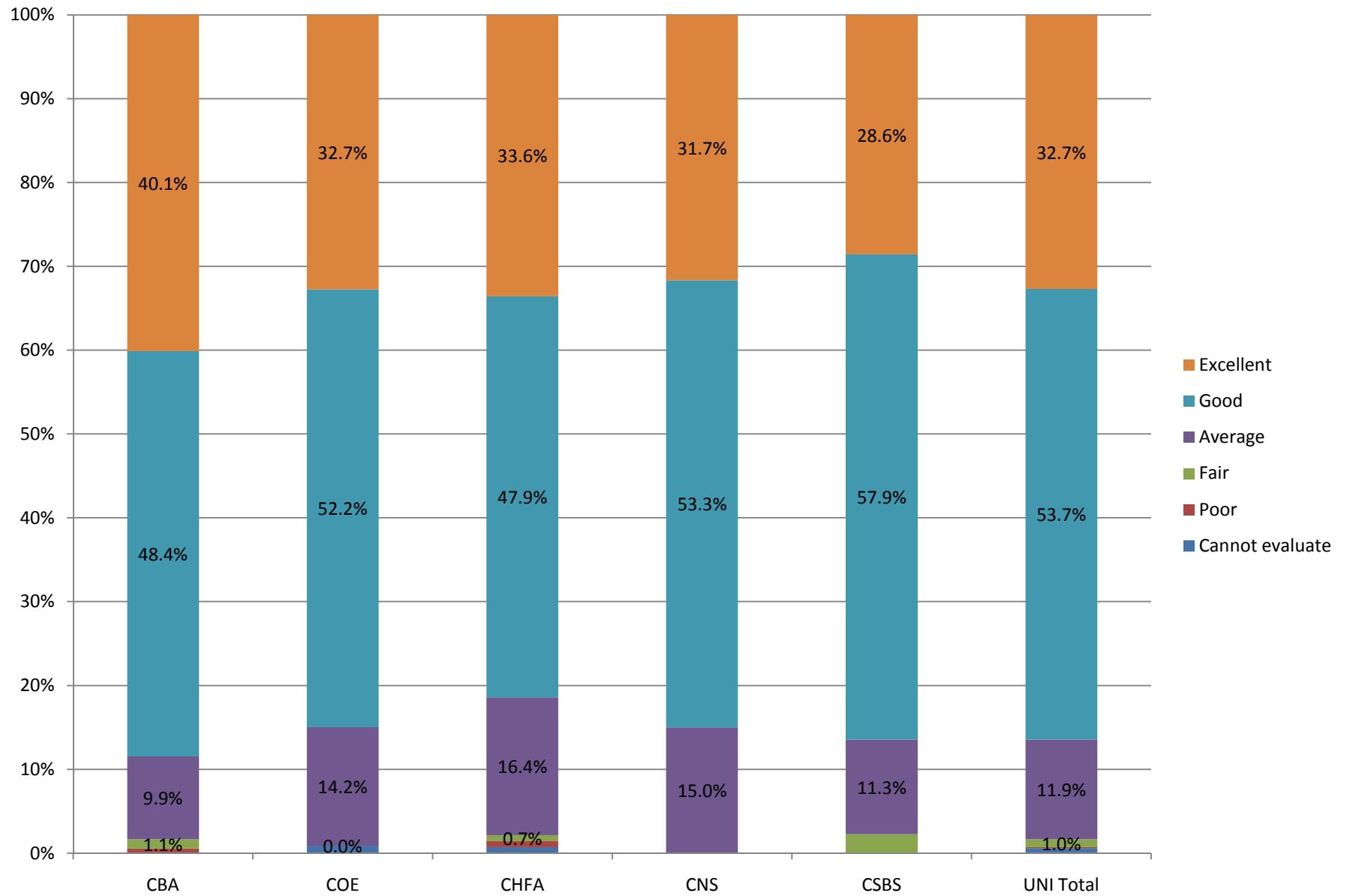
Planning projects

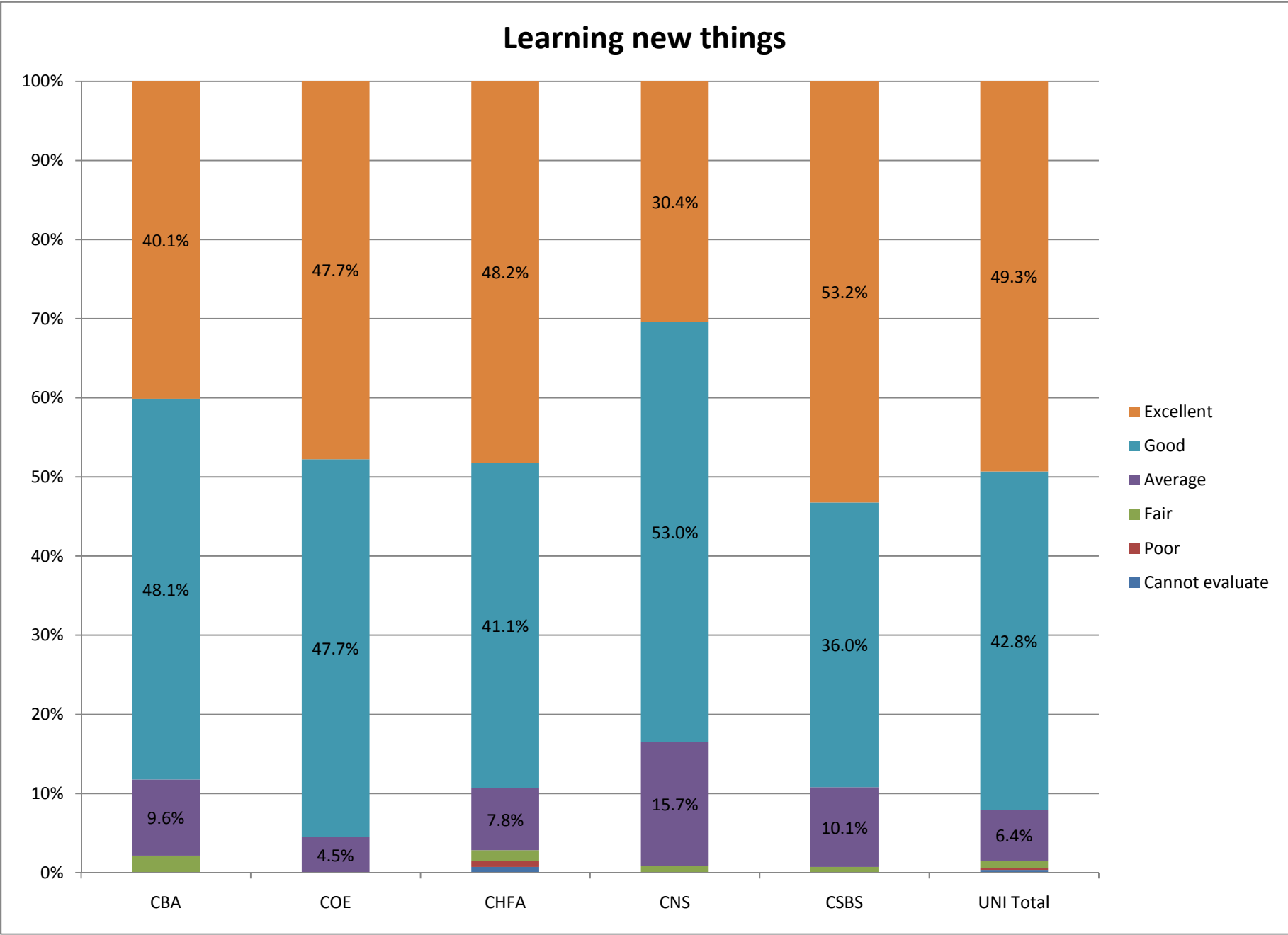


Defining problems

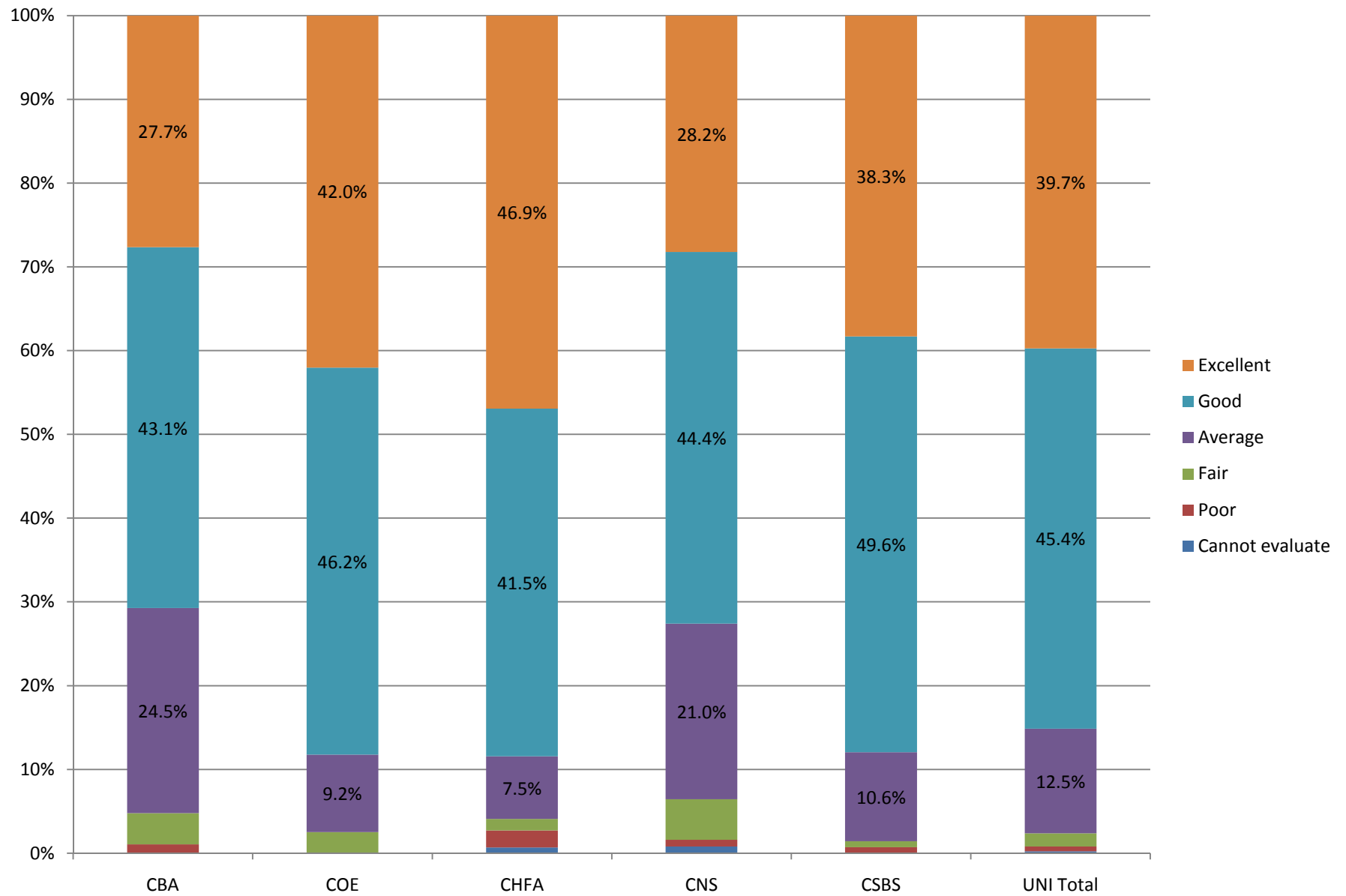


Solving problems

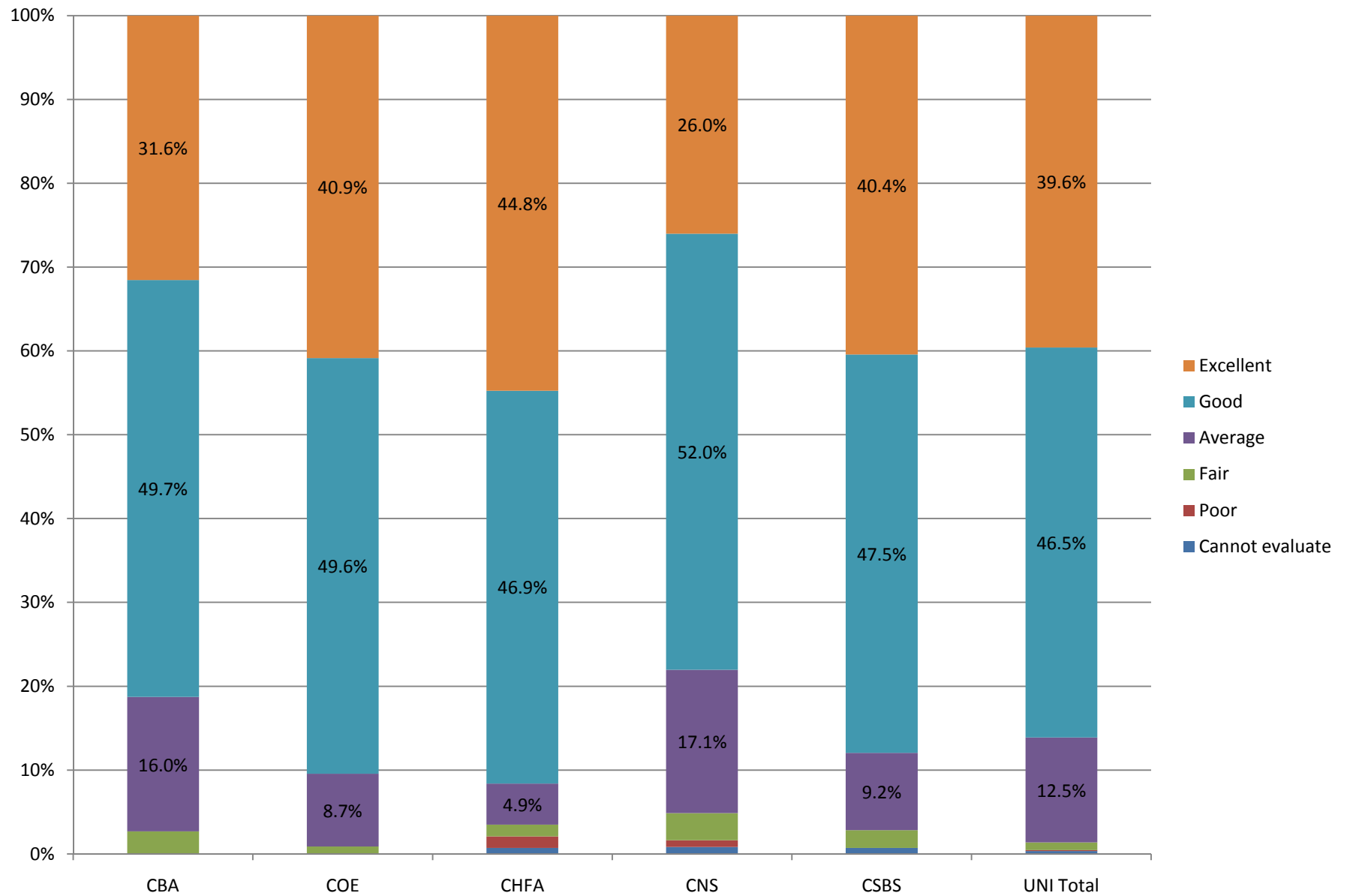




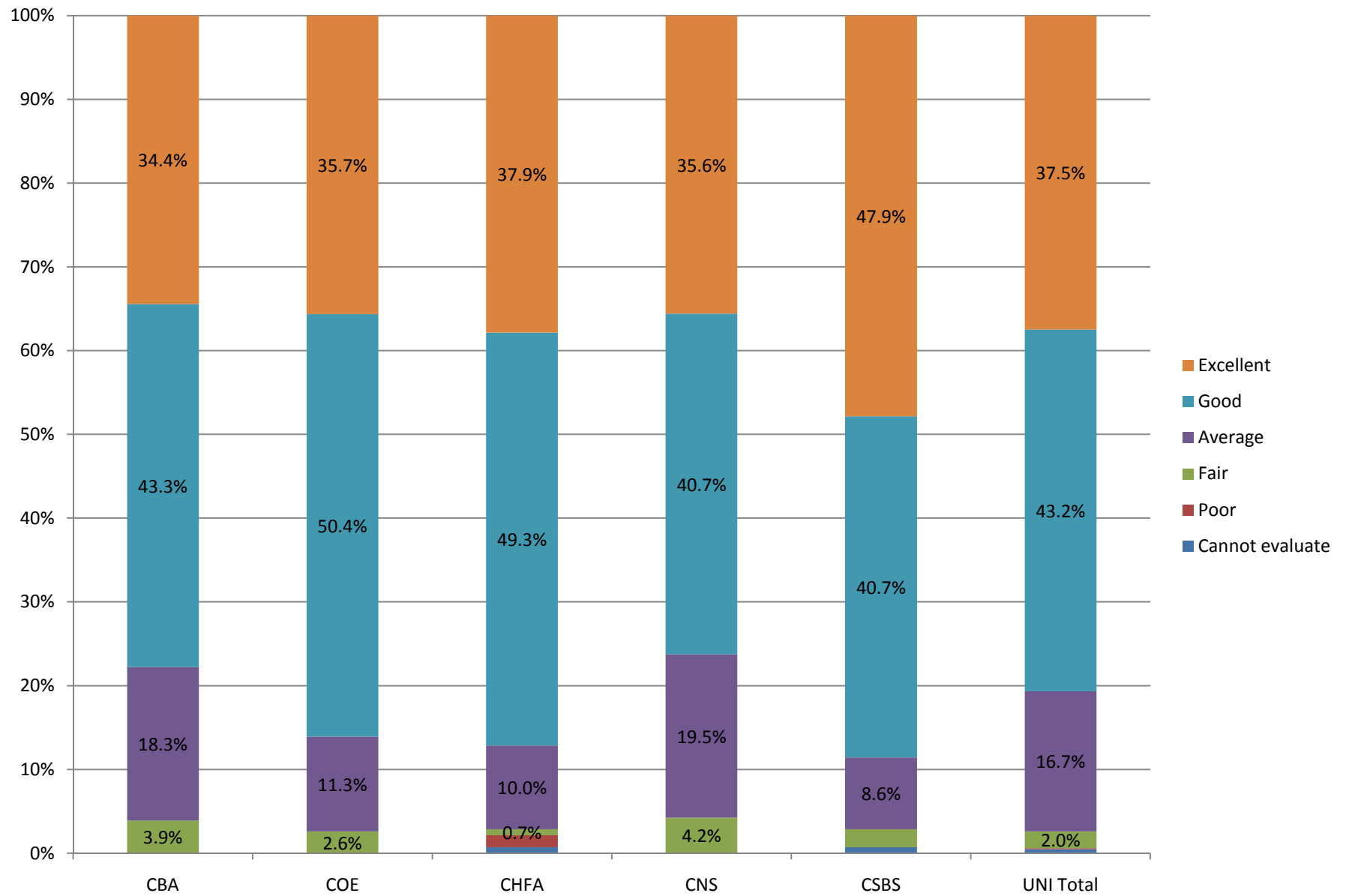
Thinking creatively



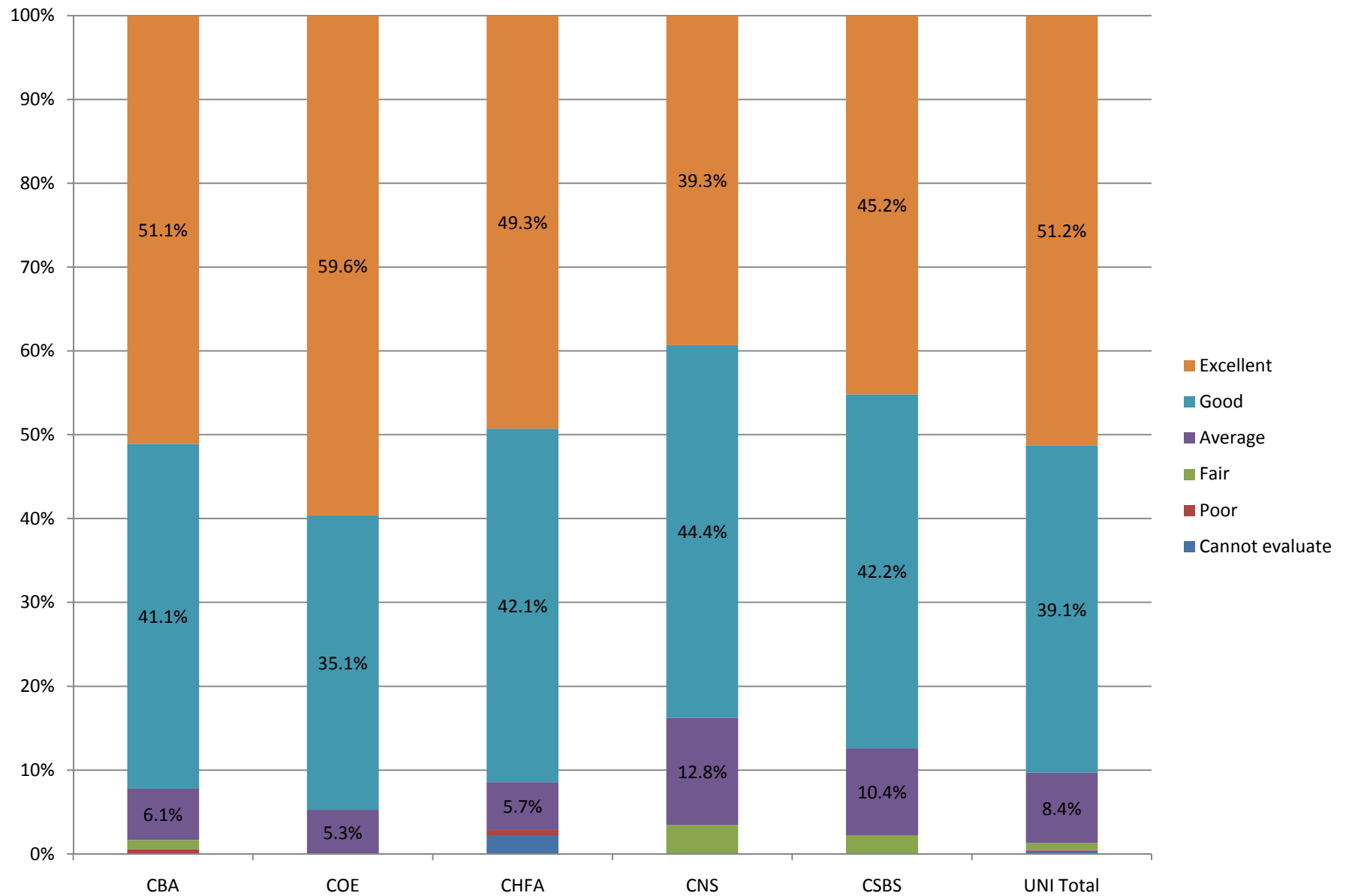
Bringing information/ideas together from different areas



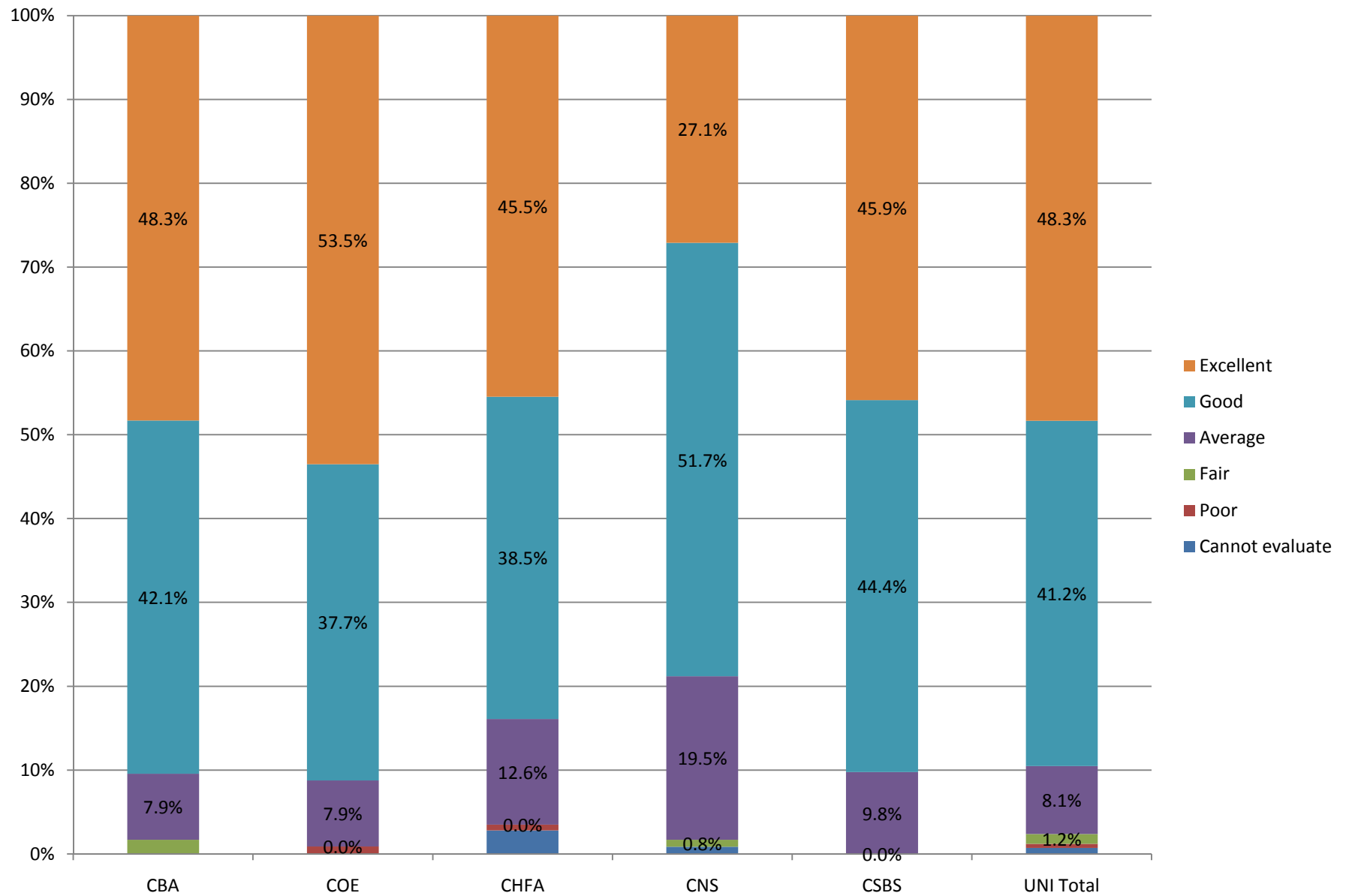
Using research skills



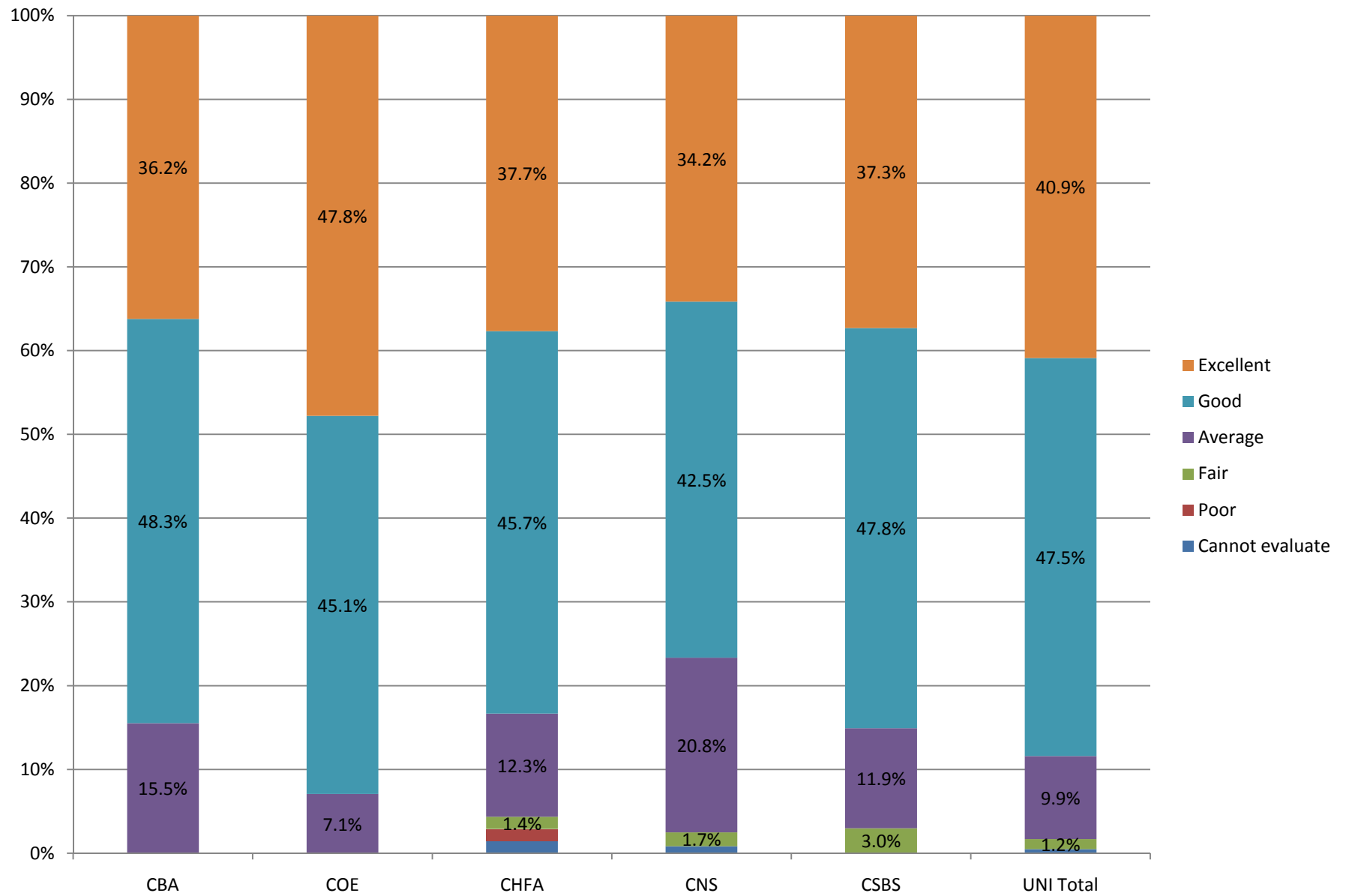
Conducting yourself in a professional manner



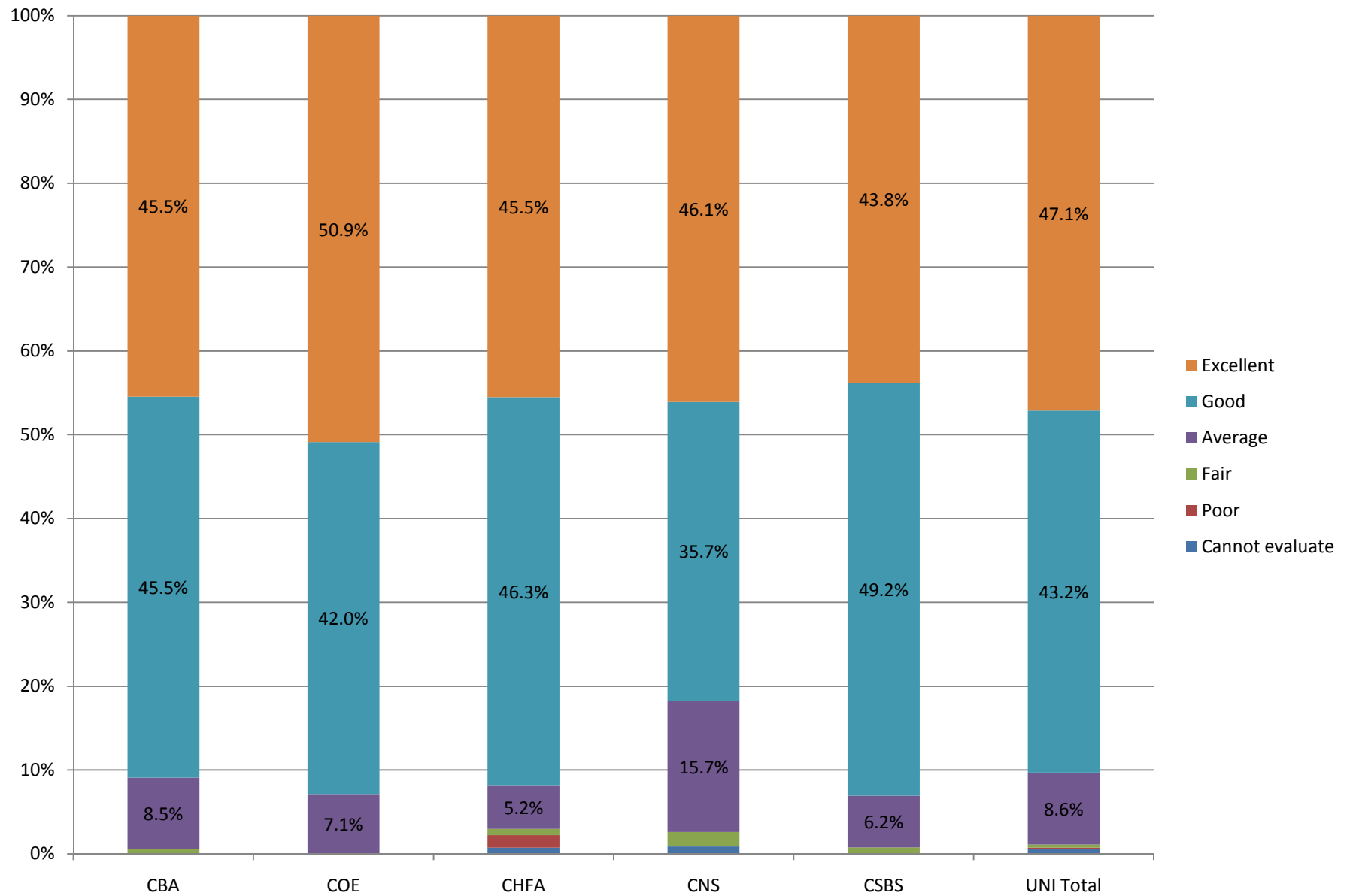
Upholding ethical standards



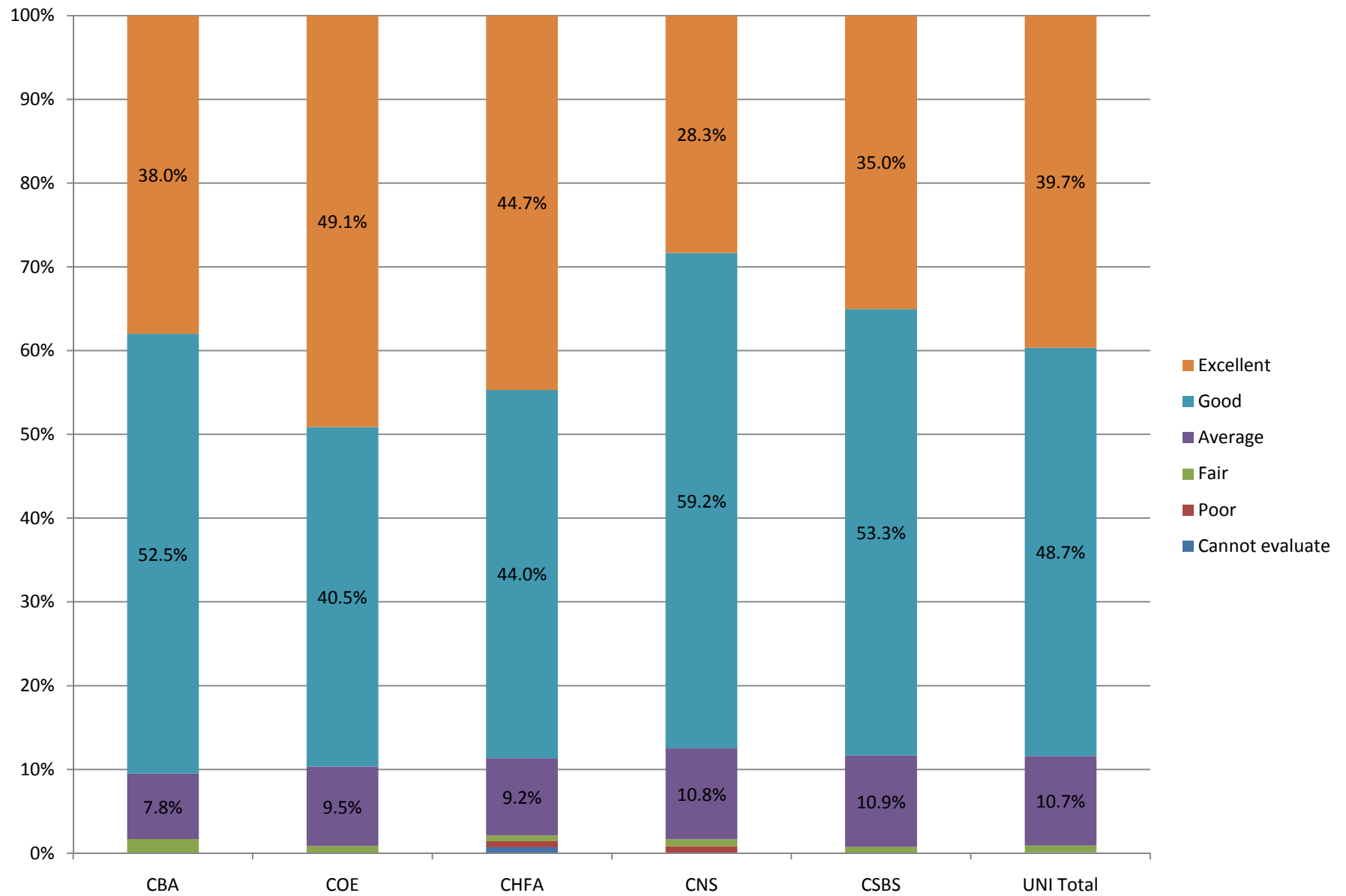
Adapting to change



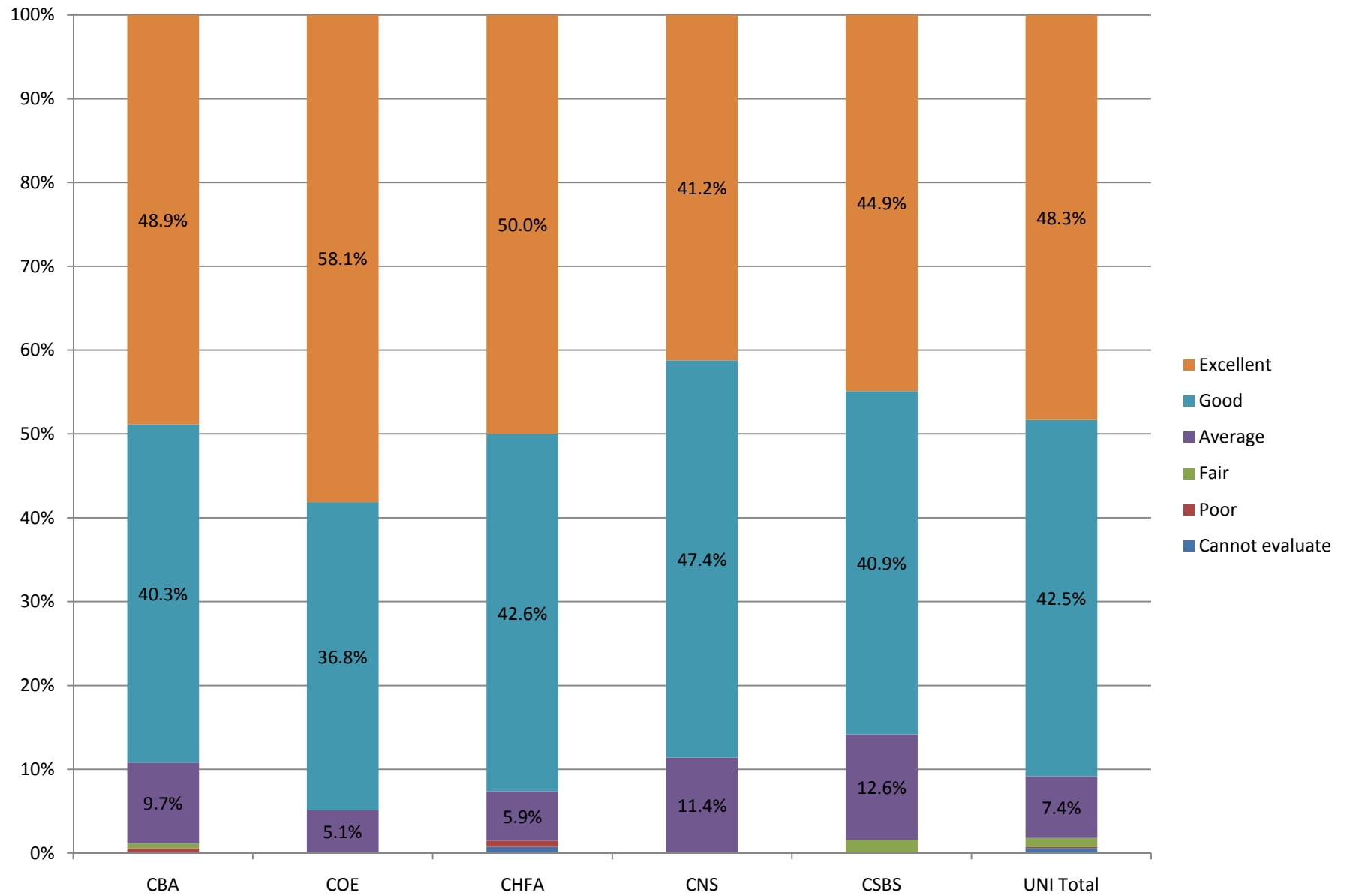
Working under pressure



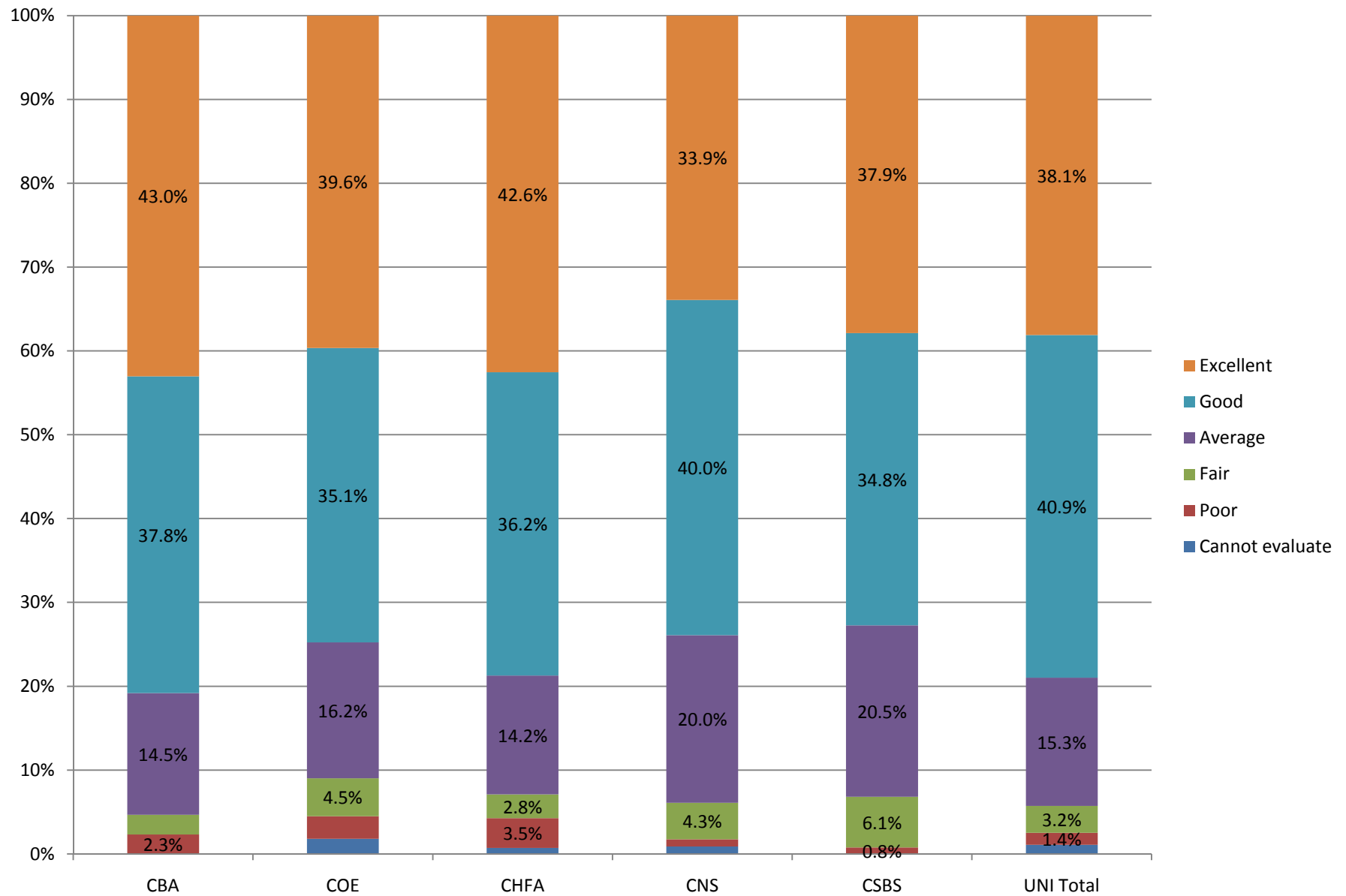
Making decisions



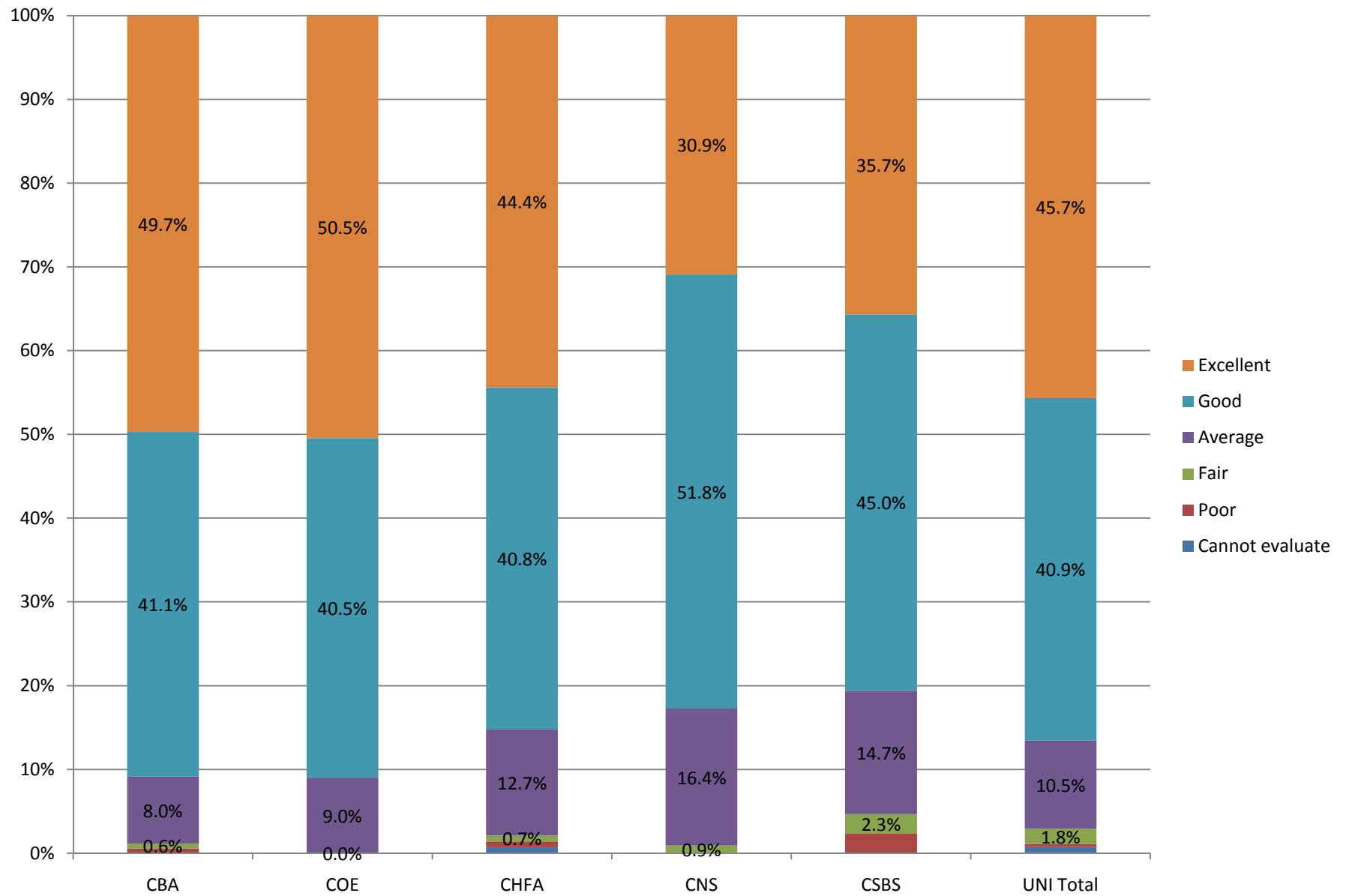
Working independently



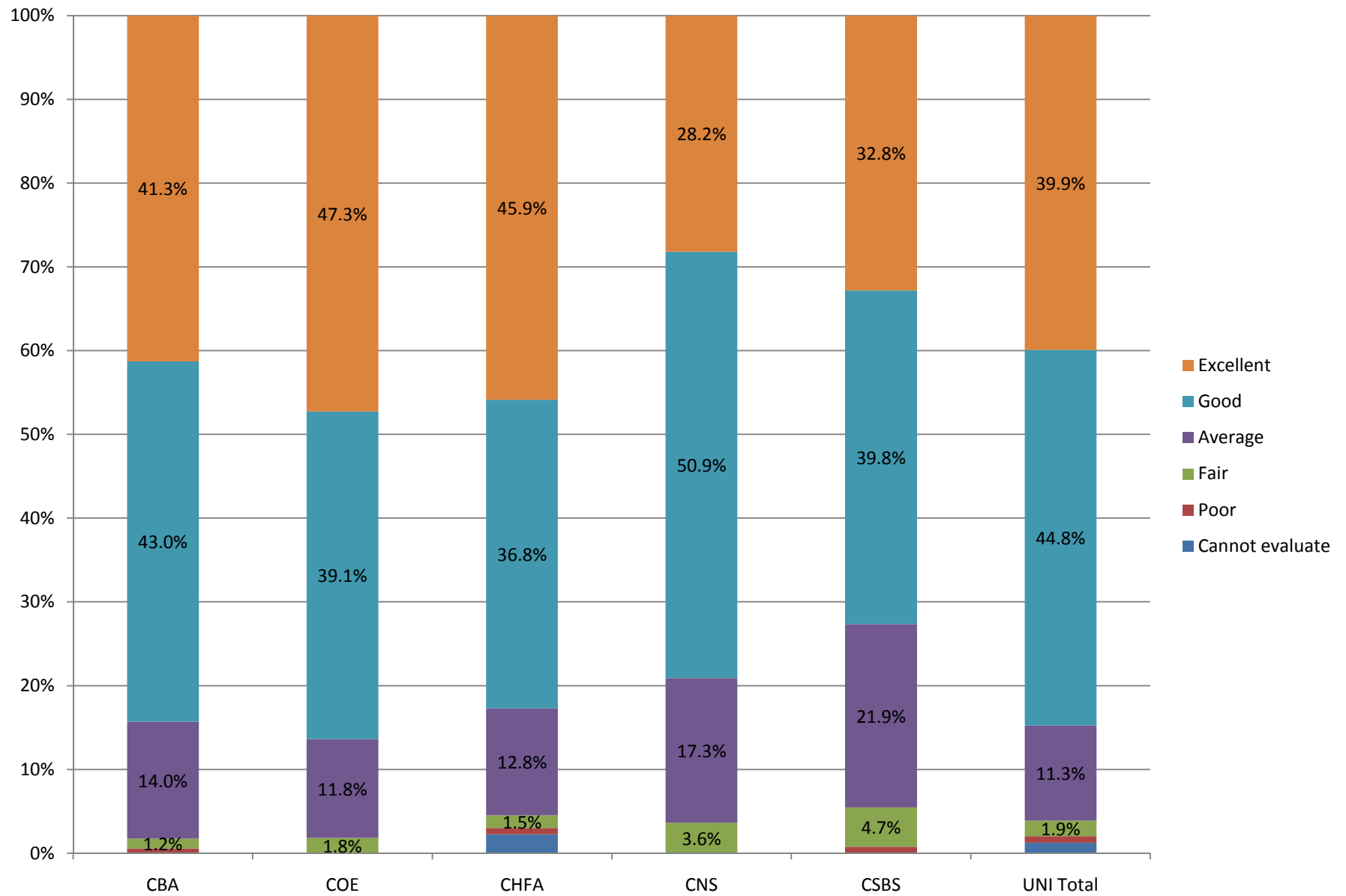
Working with people of diverse backgrounds



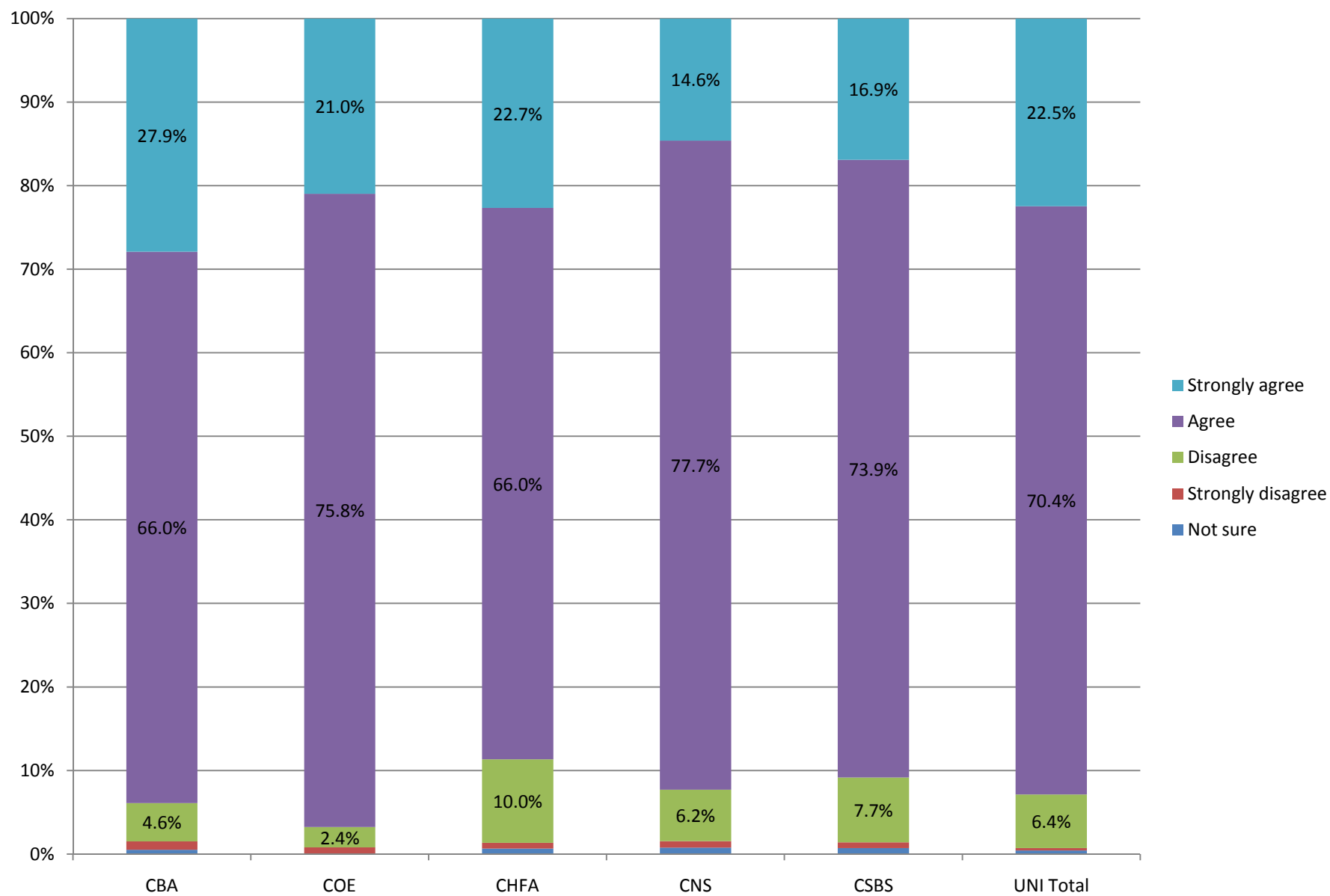
Working as a team



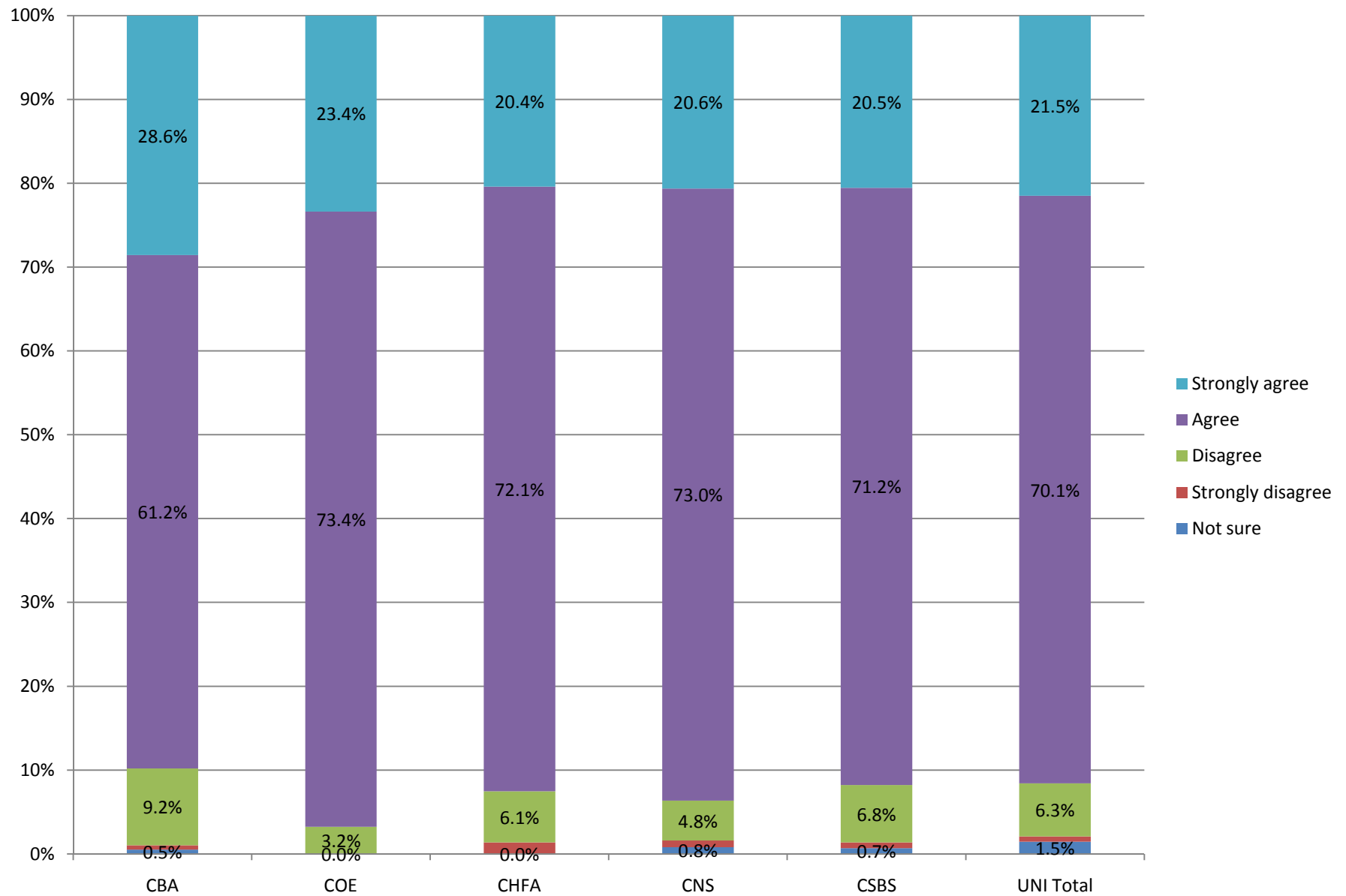
Leading others



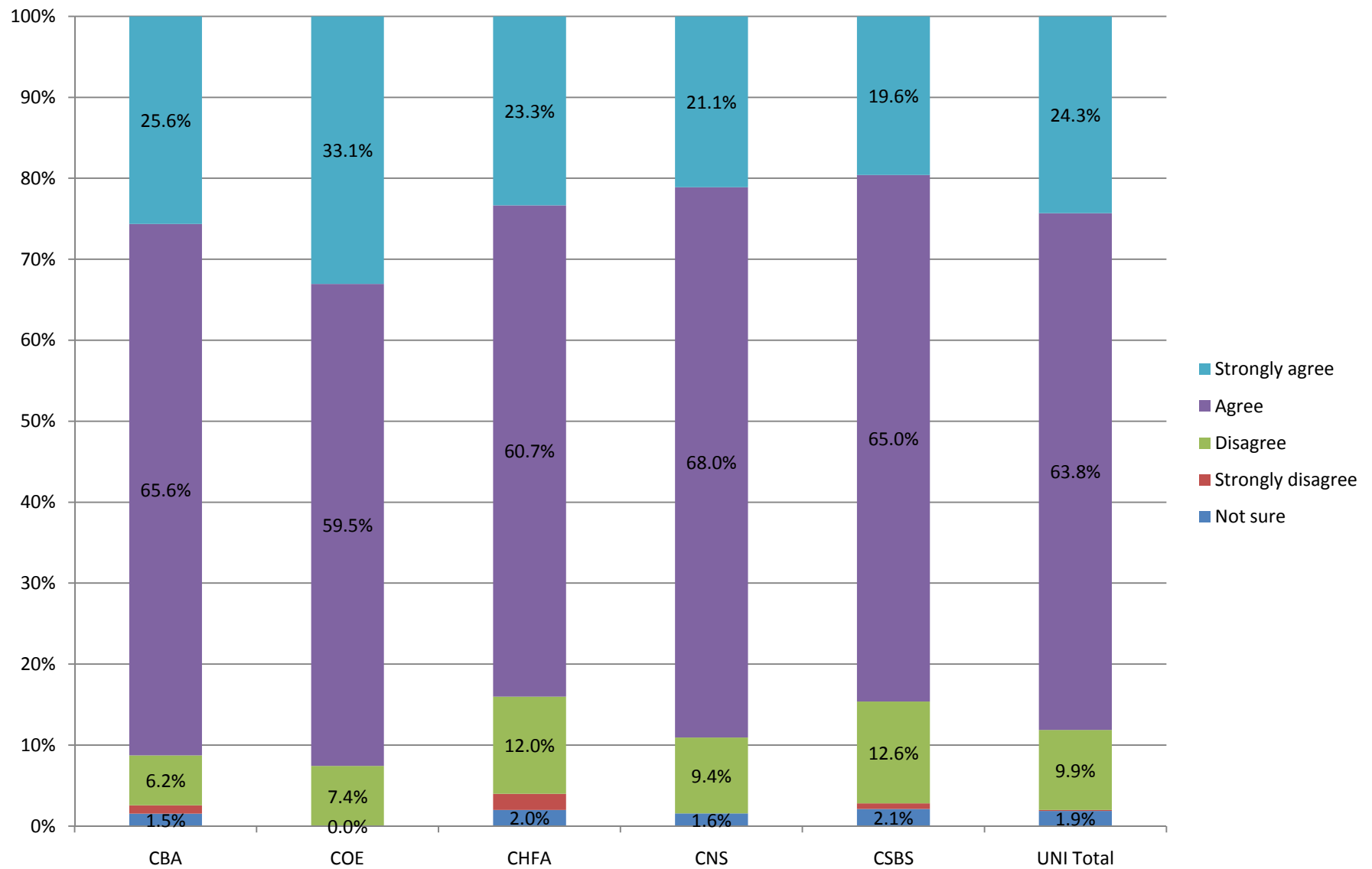
Most of the courses I took at UNI were intellectually demanding



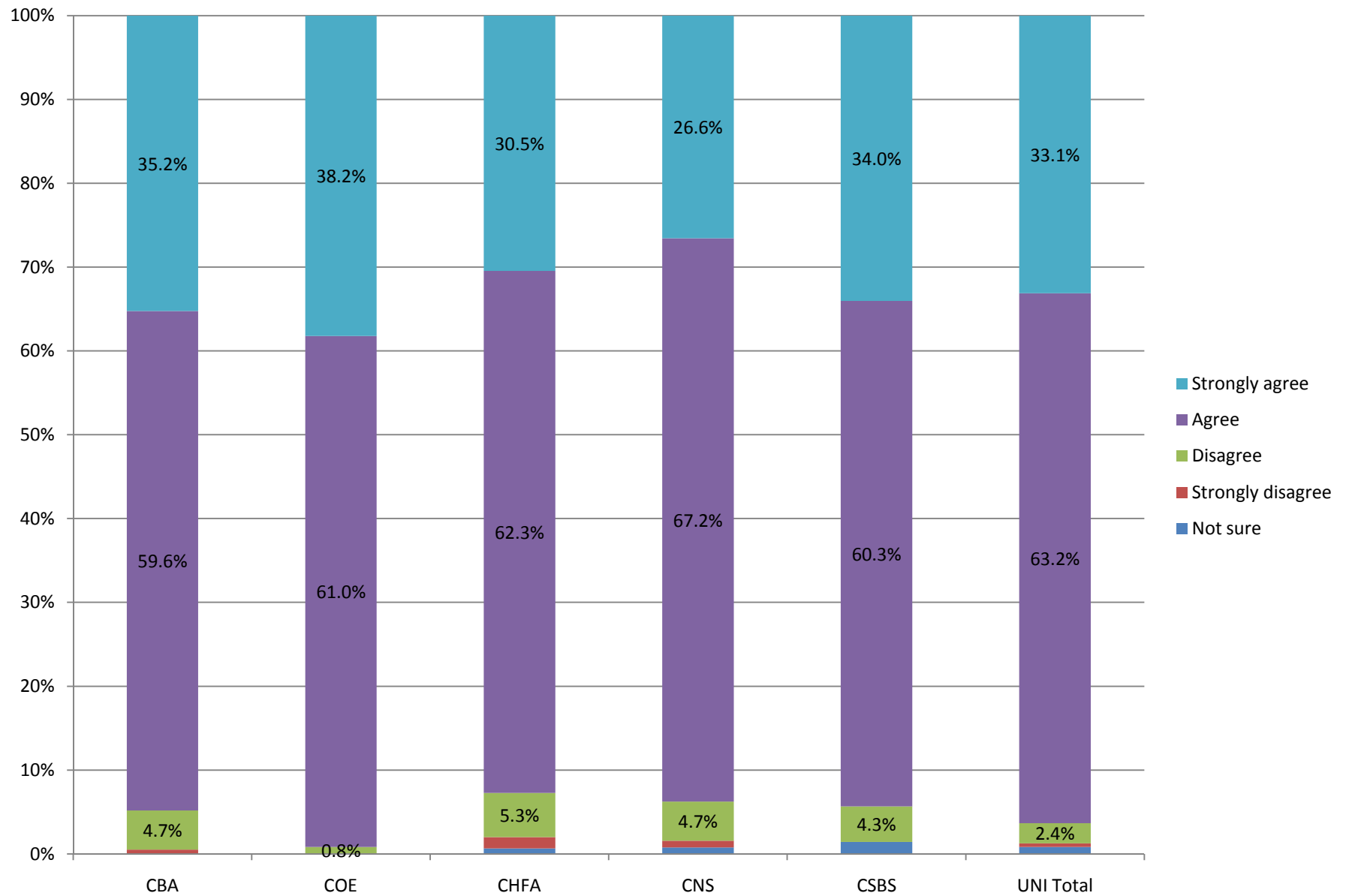
Most of my instructors were intellectually stimulating



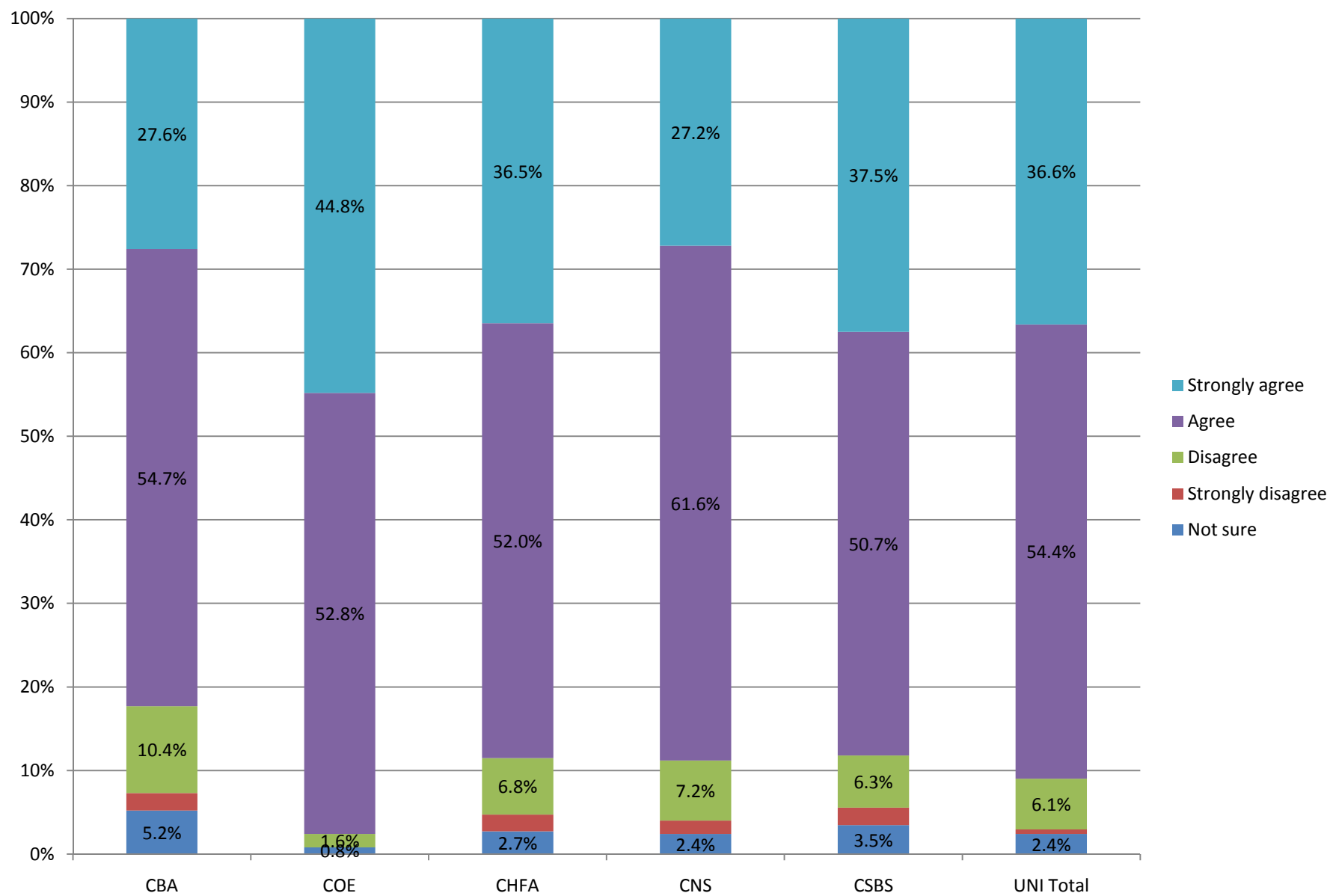
Most of my courses required integration of subject matter from several academic areas



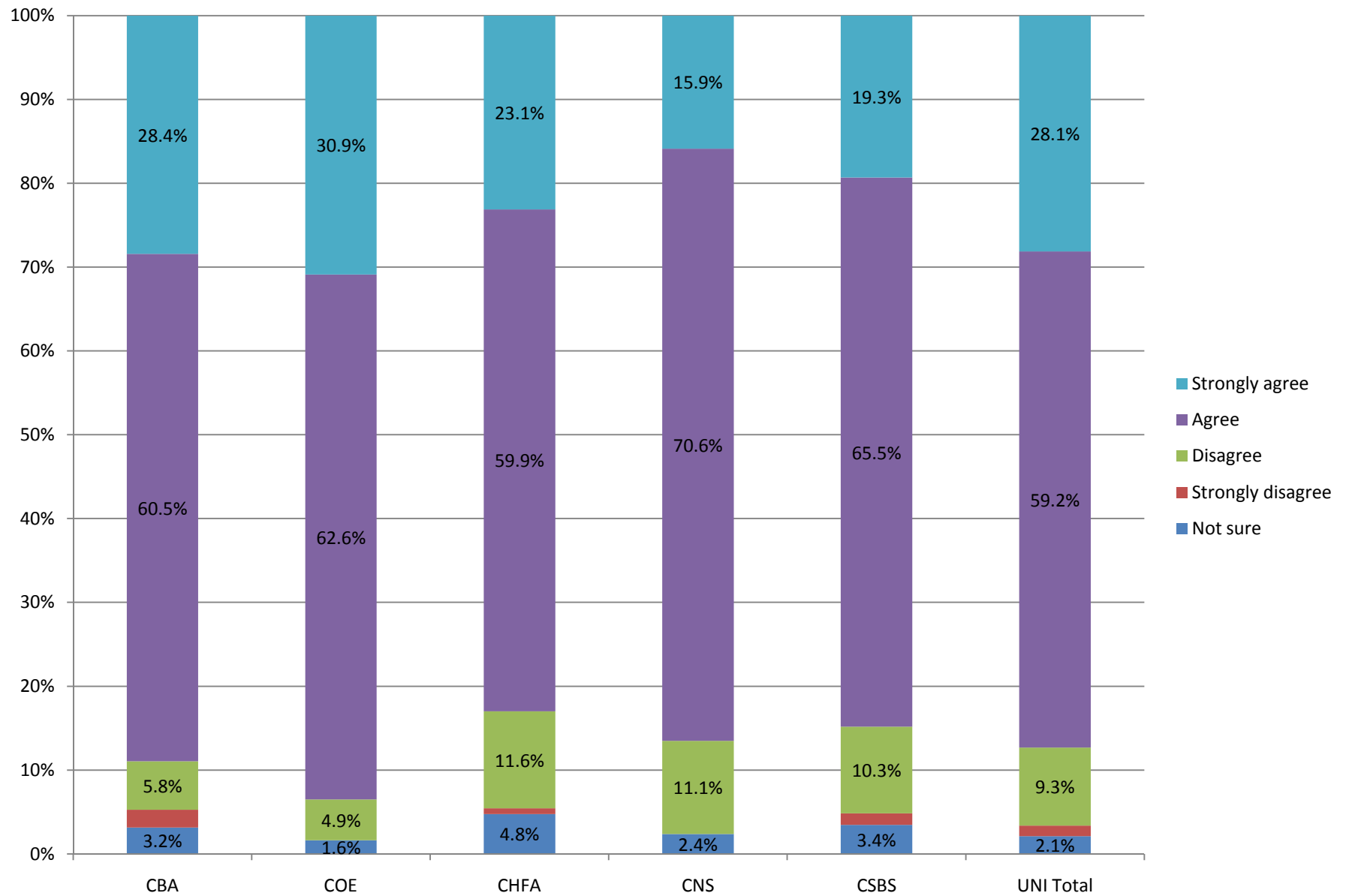
My learning experience was cumulative over a series of courses



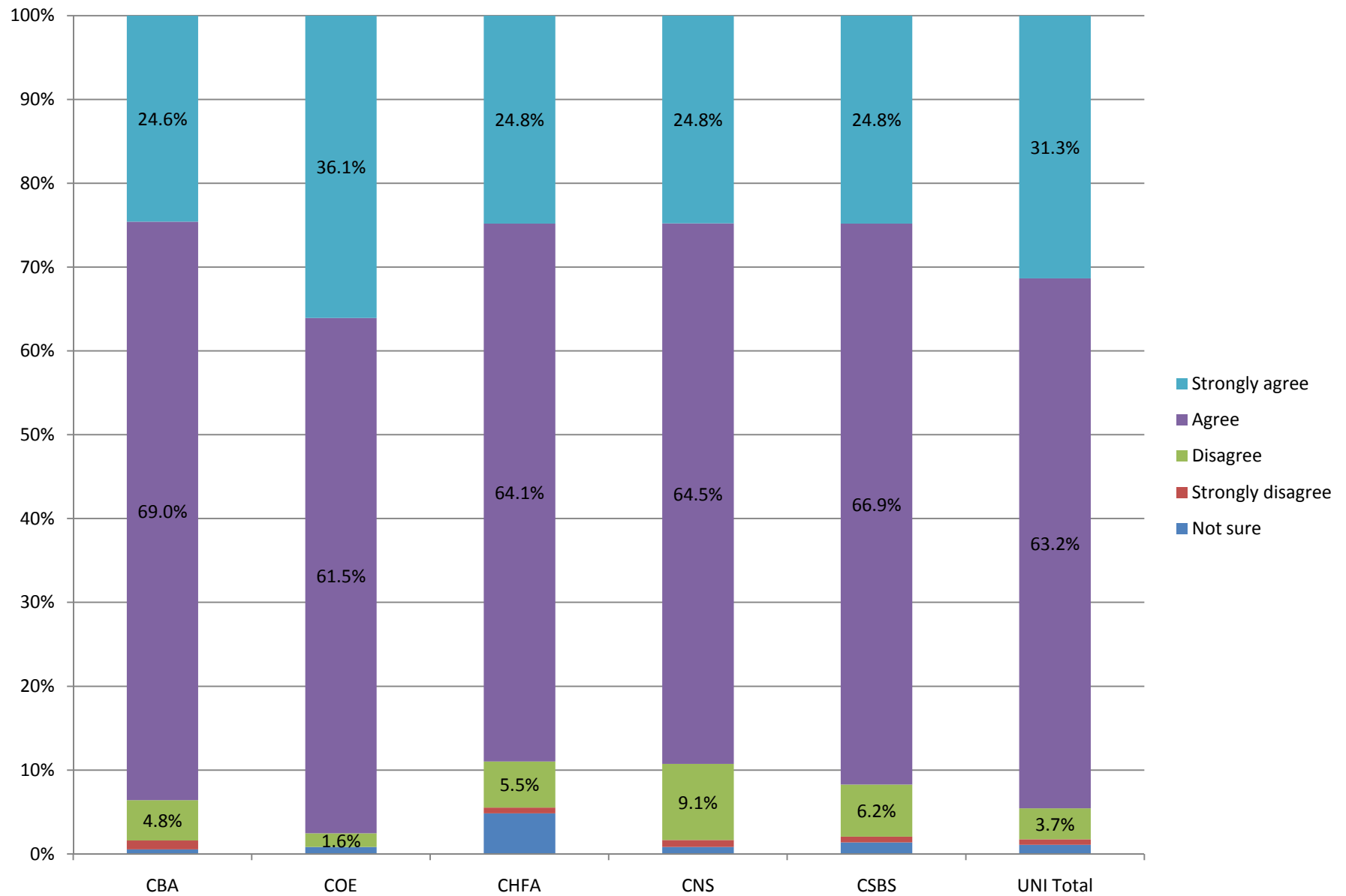
My academic experience at UNI made me want to be a lifelong learner



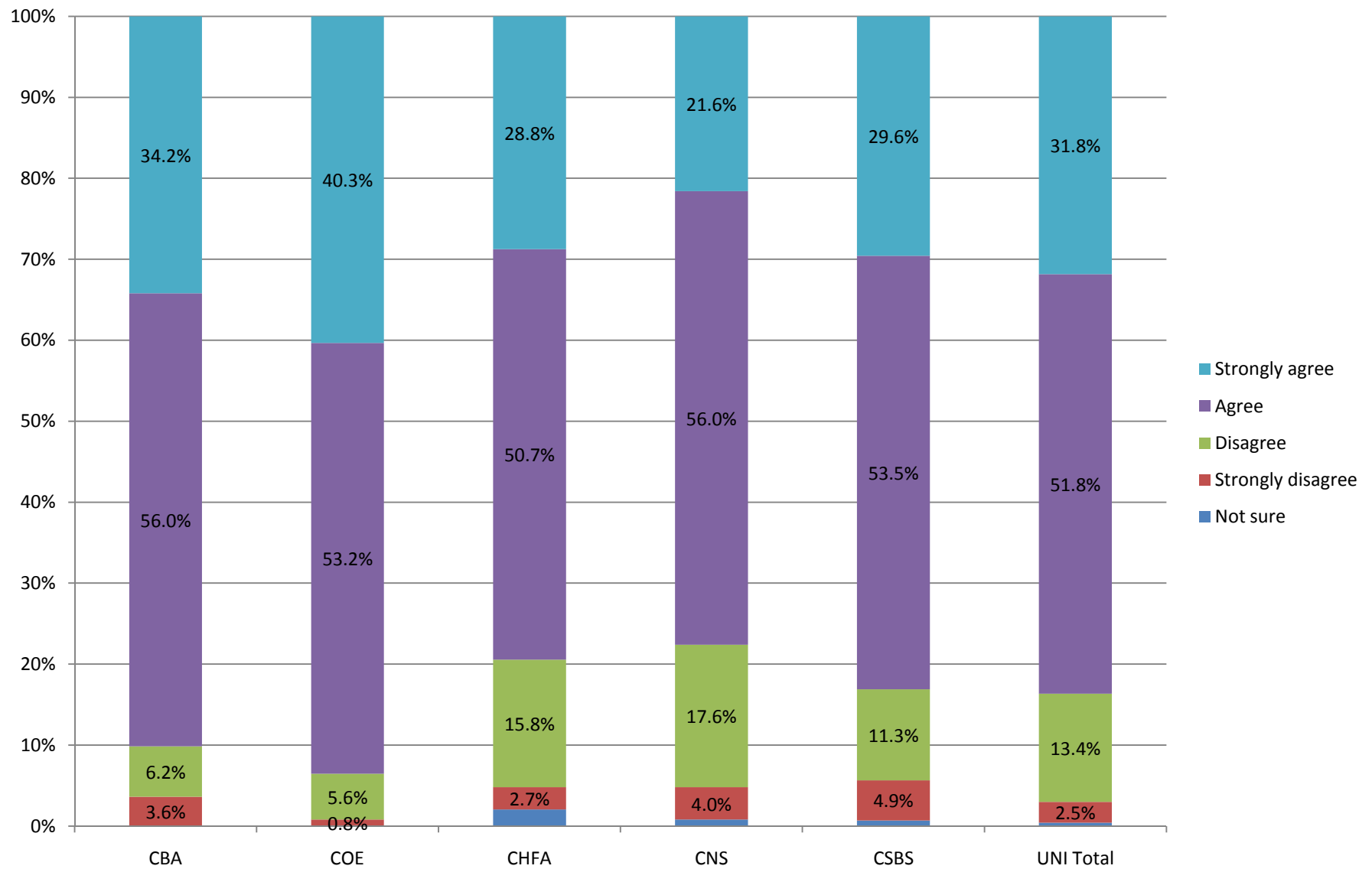
Most of my students peers valued high academic achievement



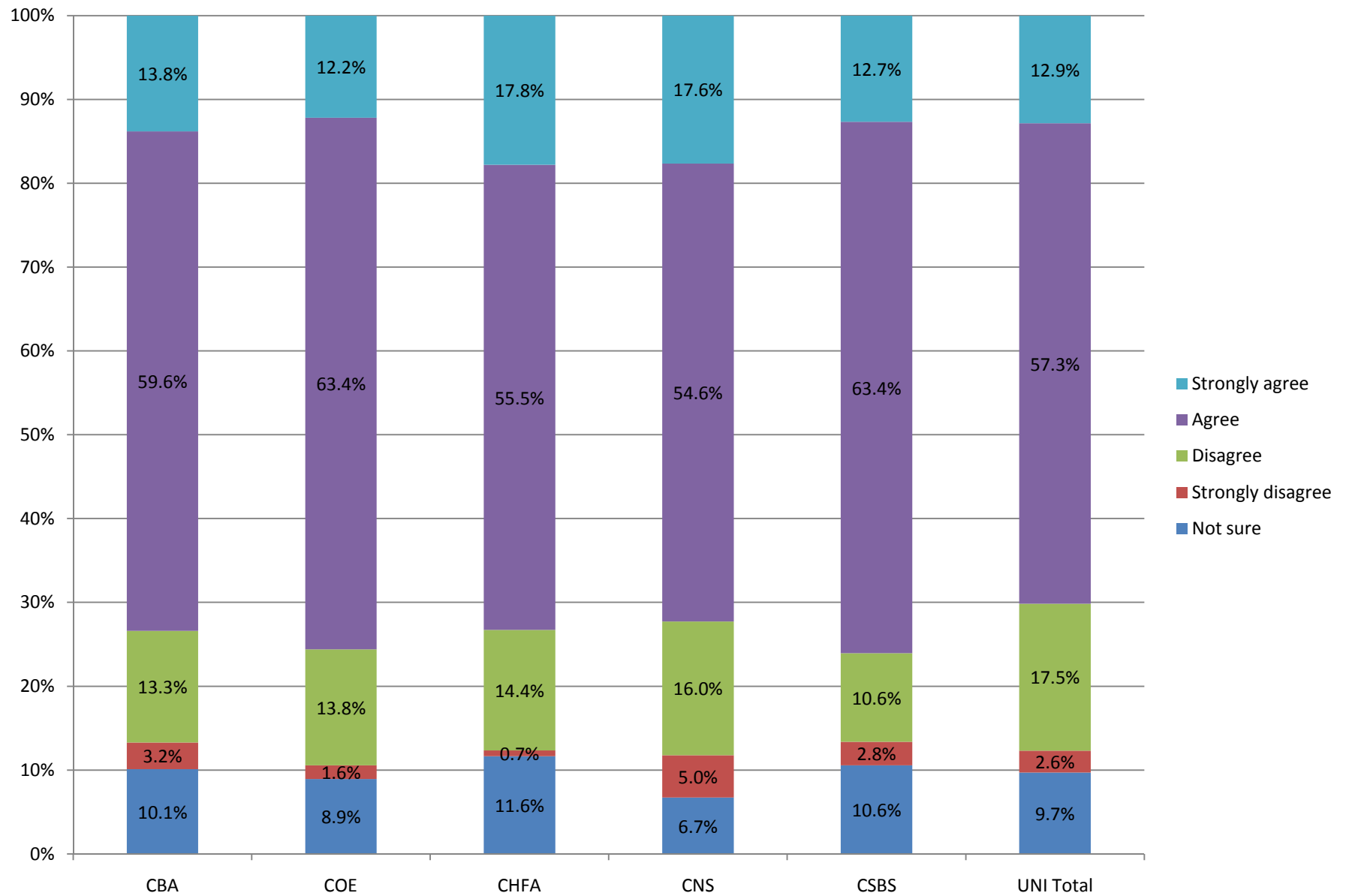
The overall quality of teaching at UNI is excellent



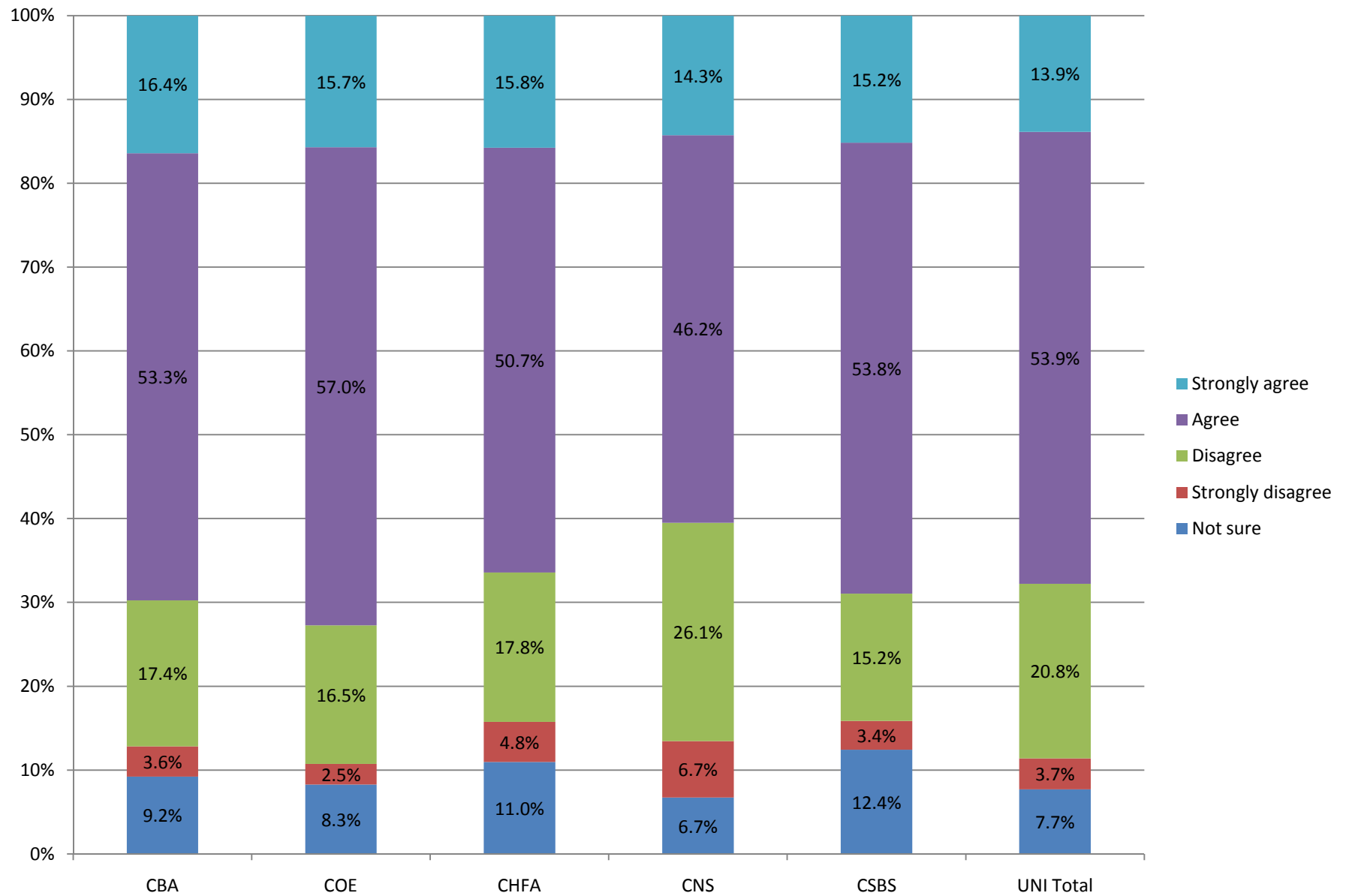
Most of the courses in my major were readily available when I wanted to take them



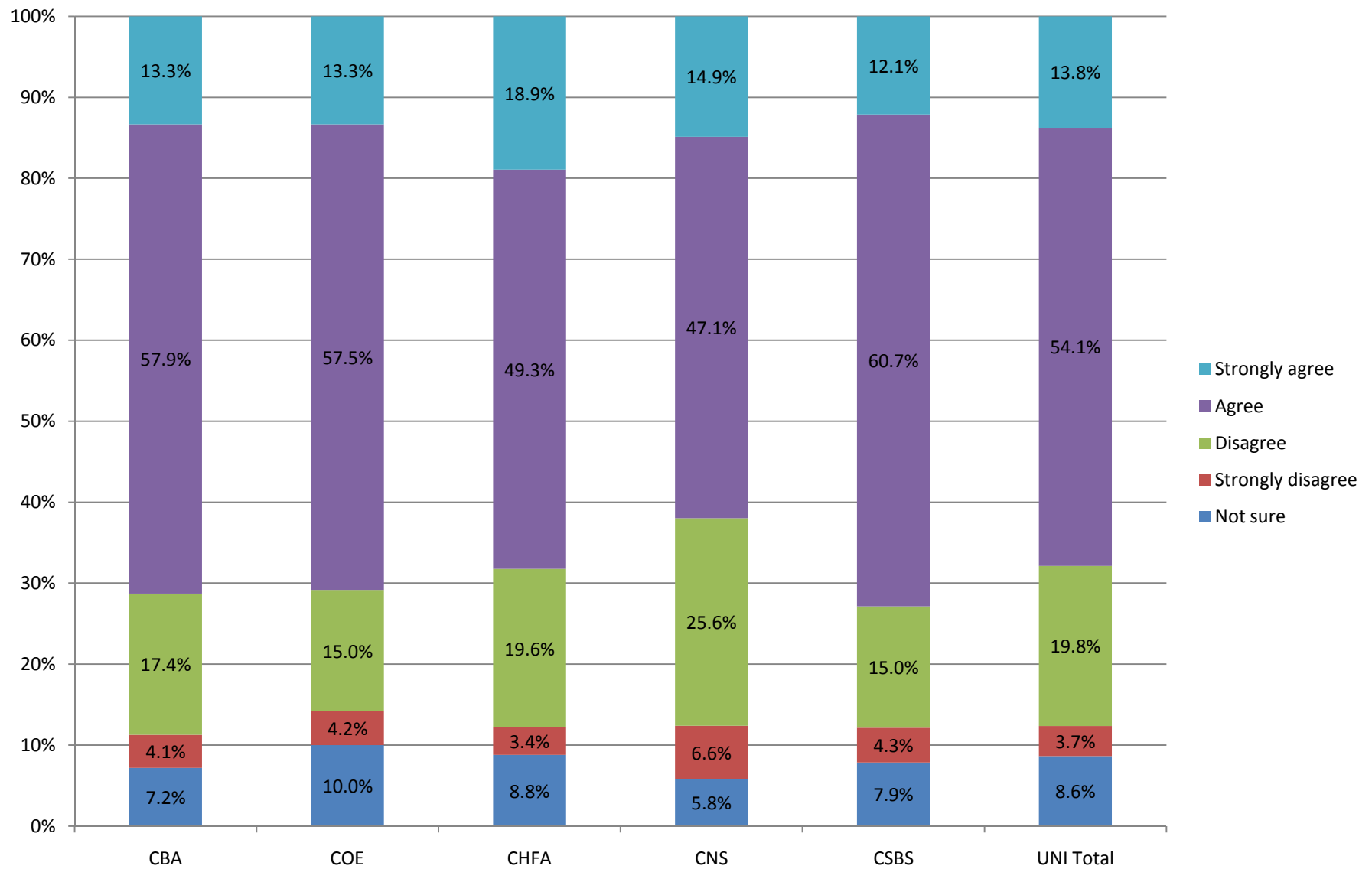
The overall quality of most Liberal Arts Core courses is excellent



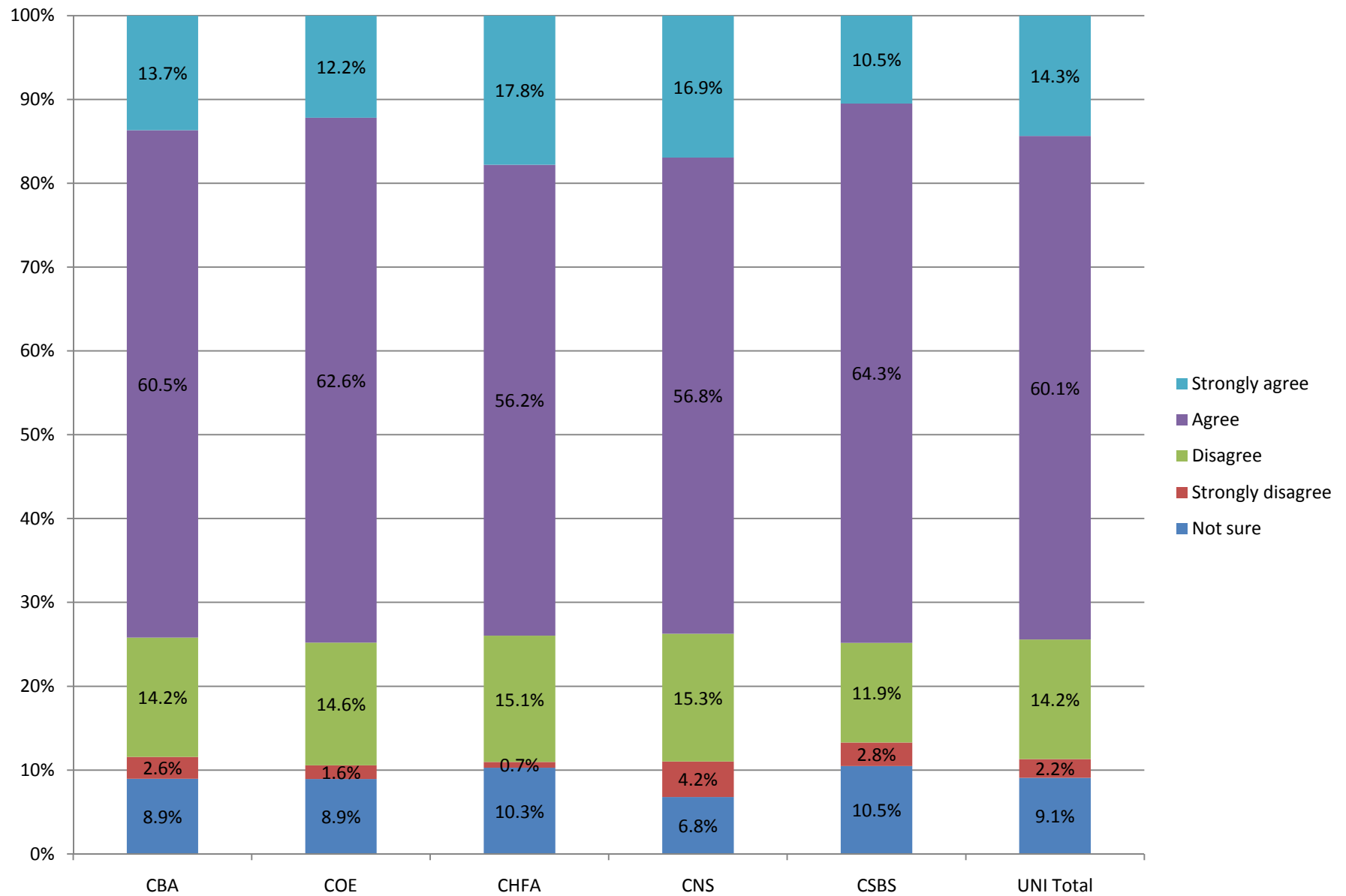
The purposes of most Liberal Arts Core courses are very clear



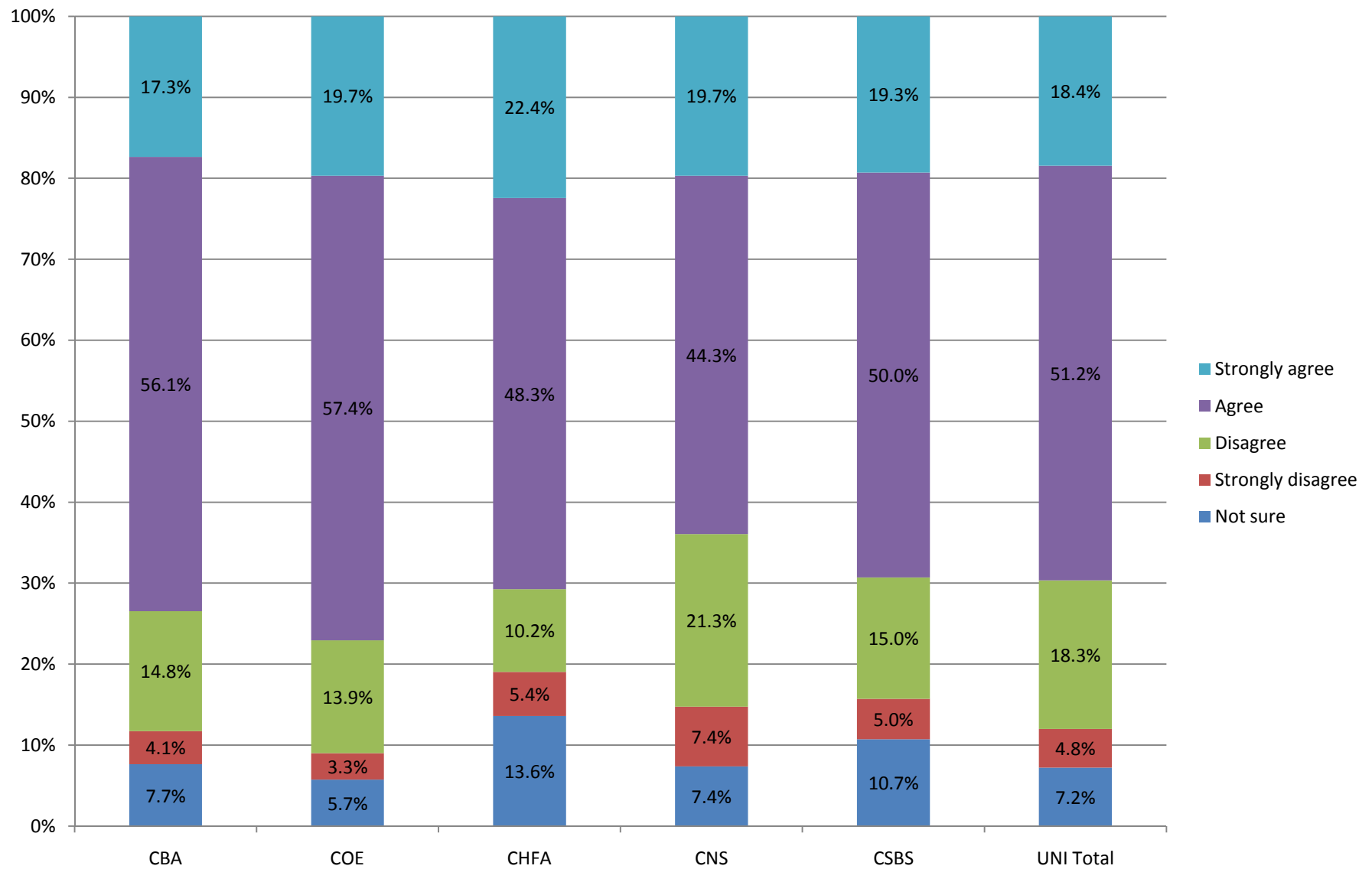
Most of the Liberal Arts Core courses I took at UNI were intellectually demanding



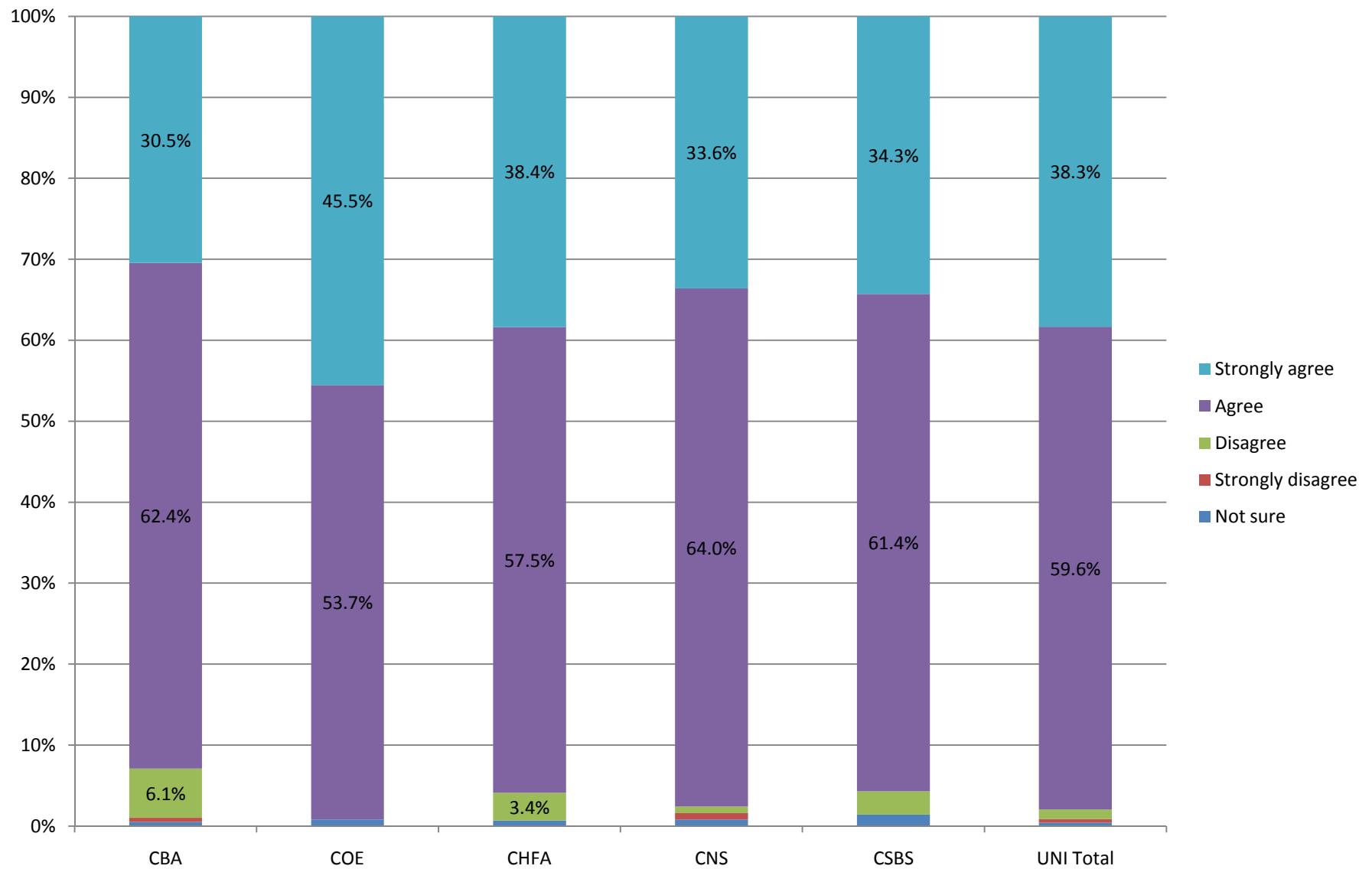
The overall quality of teaching in the Liberal Arts Core at UNI is excellent



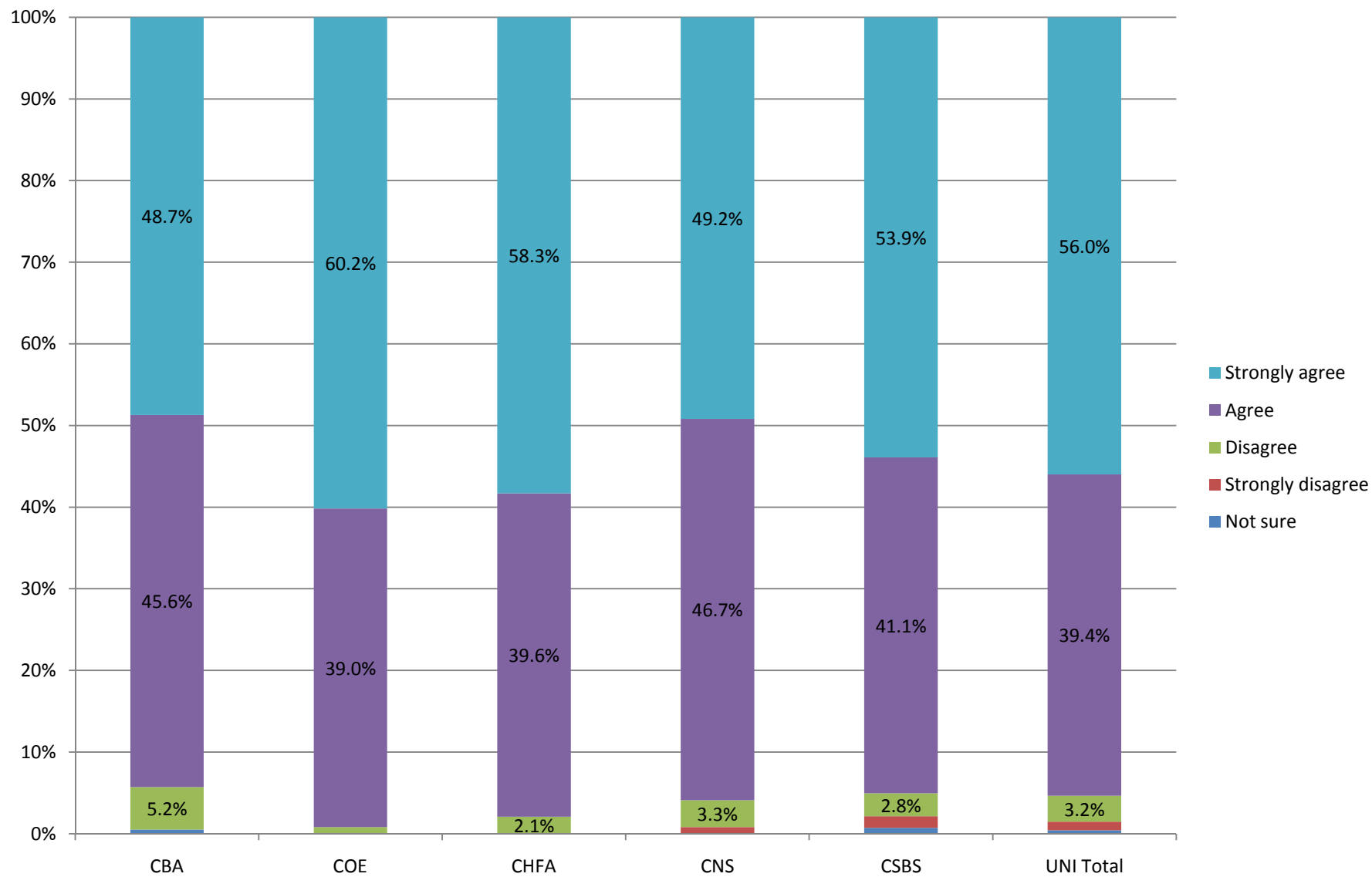
I believe the Liberal Arts Core has been an important part of my education



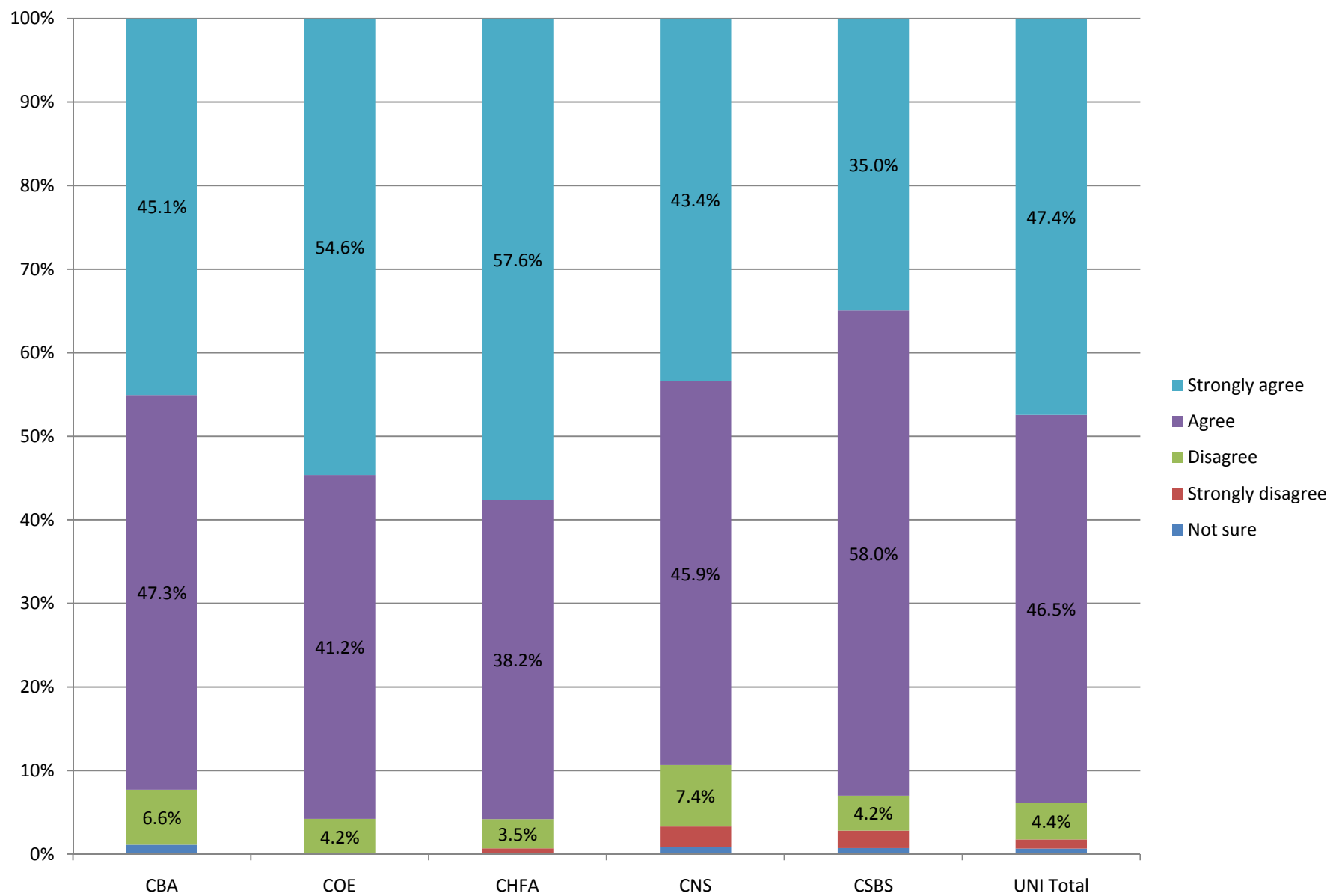
The faculty I had contact with were very committed to advancing student learning



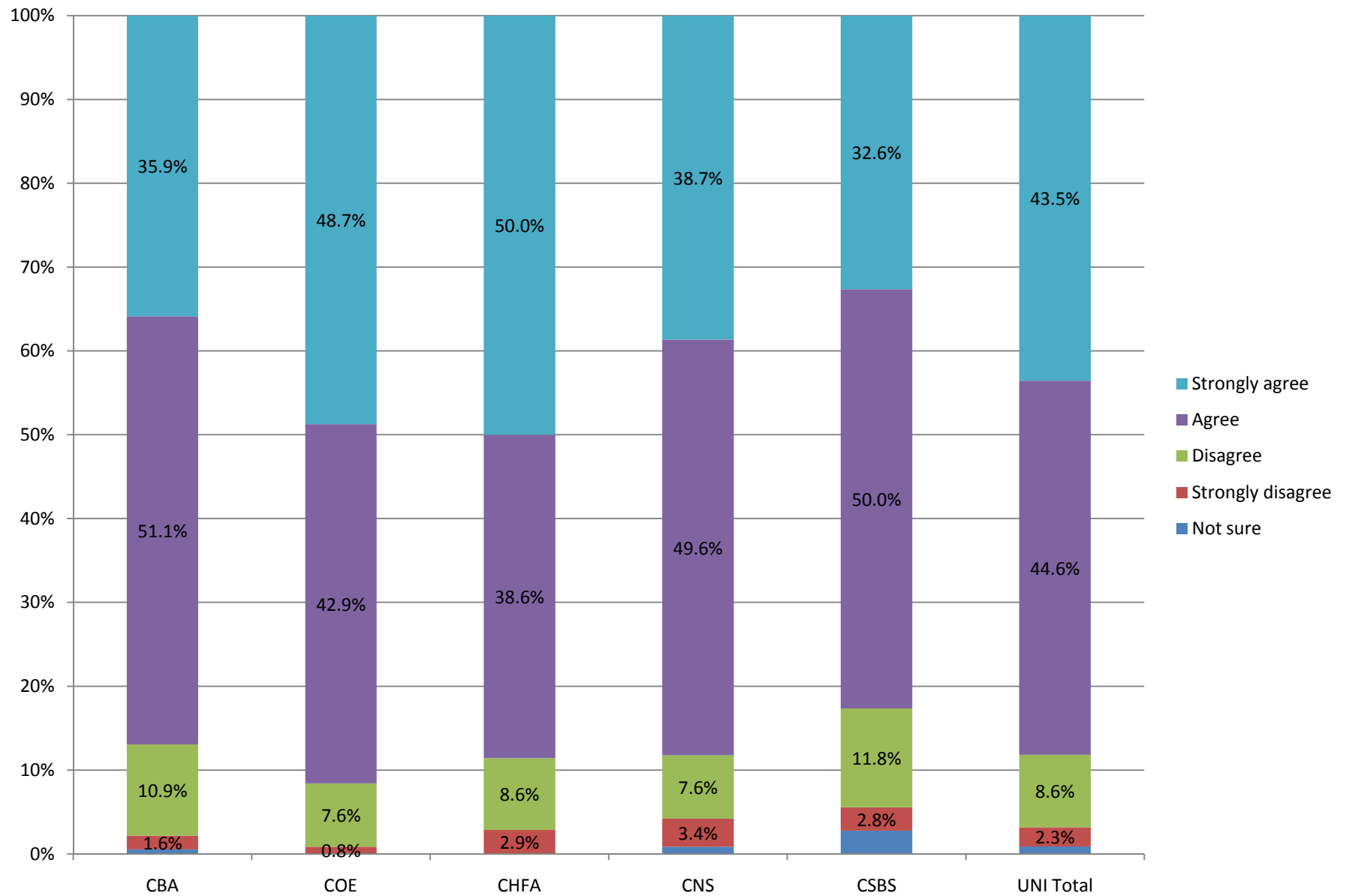
At least one faculty member showed an active interest in my educational/career goals



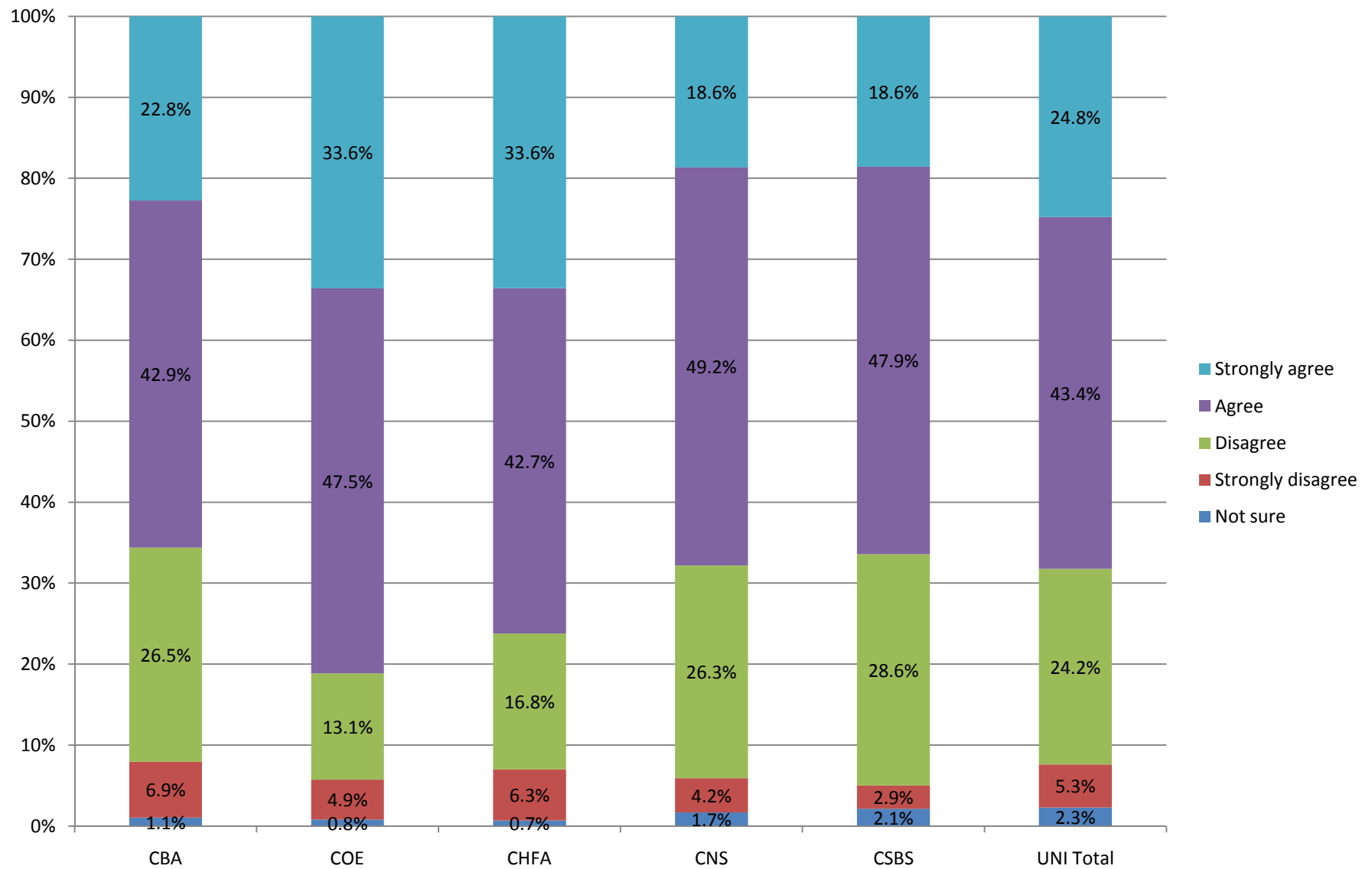
I developed close relationships with other students



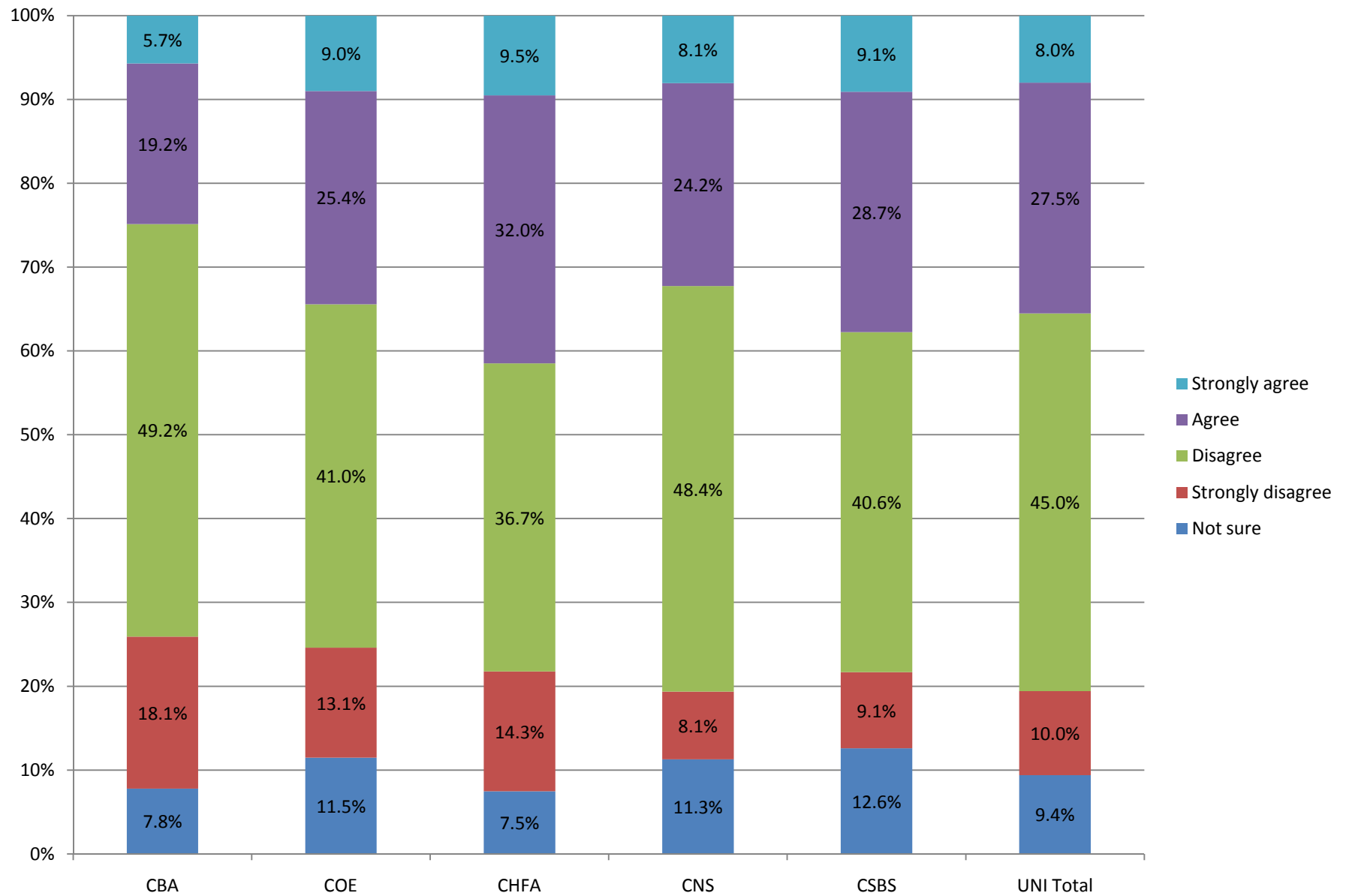
I often engaged in social activities with other students off campus



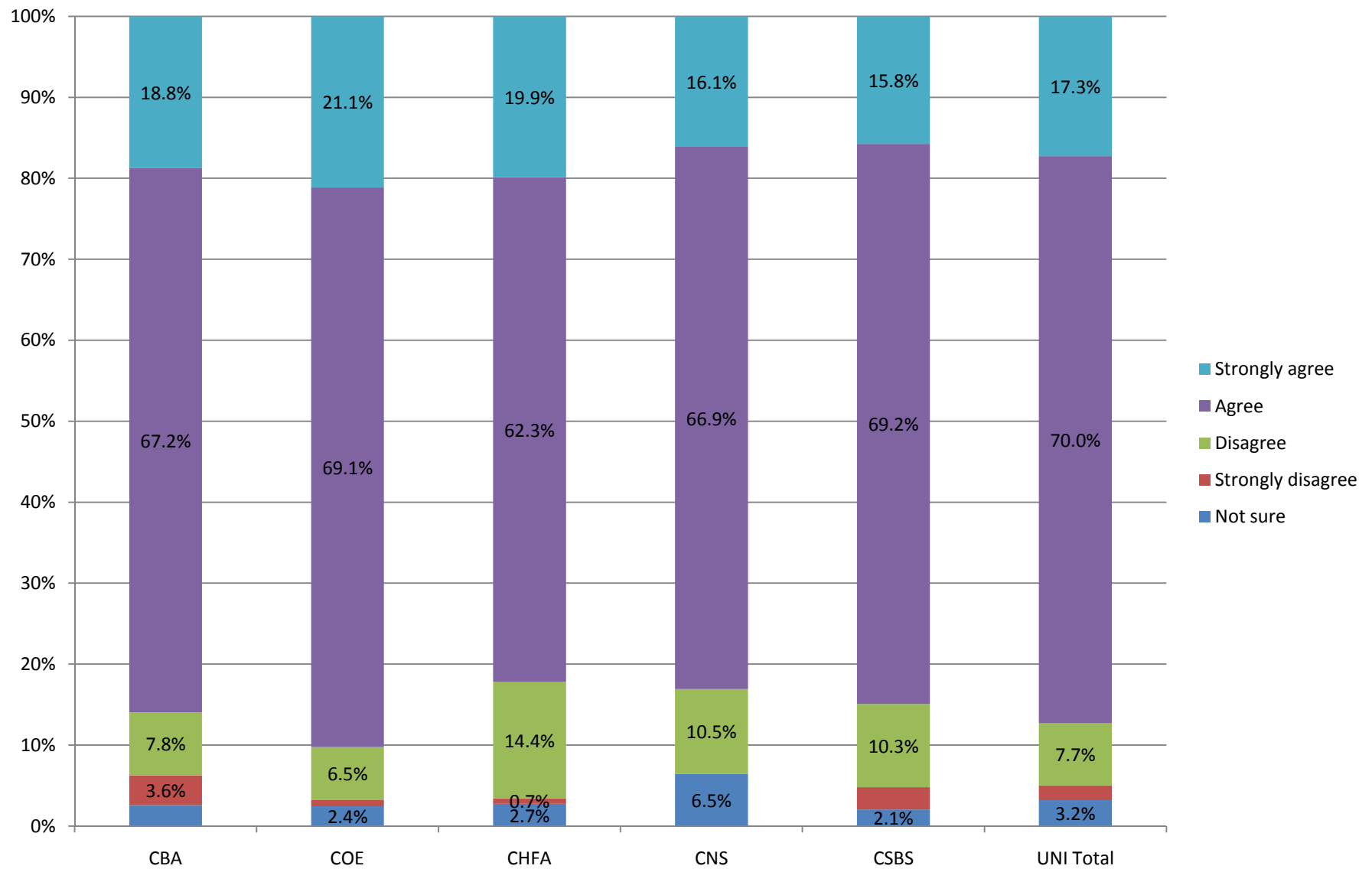
I often participated in University or student sponsored activities on campus



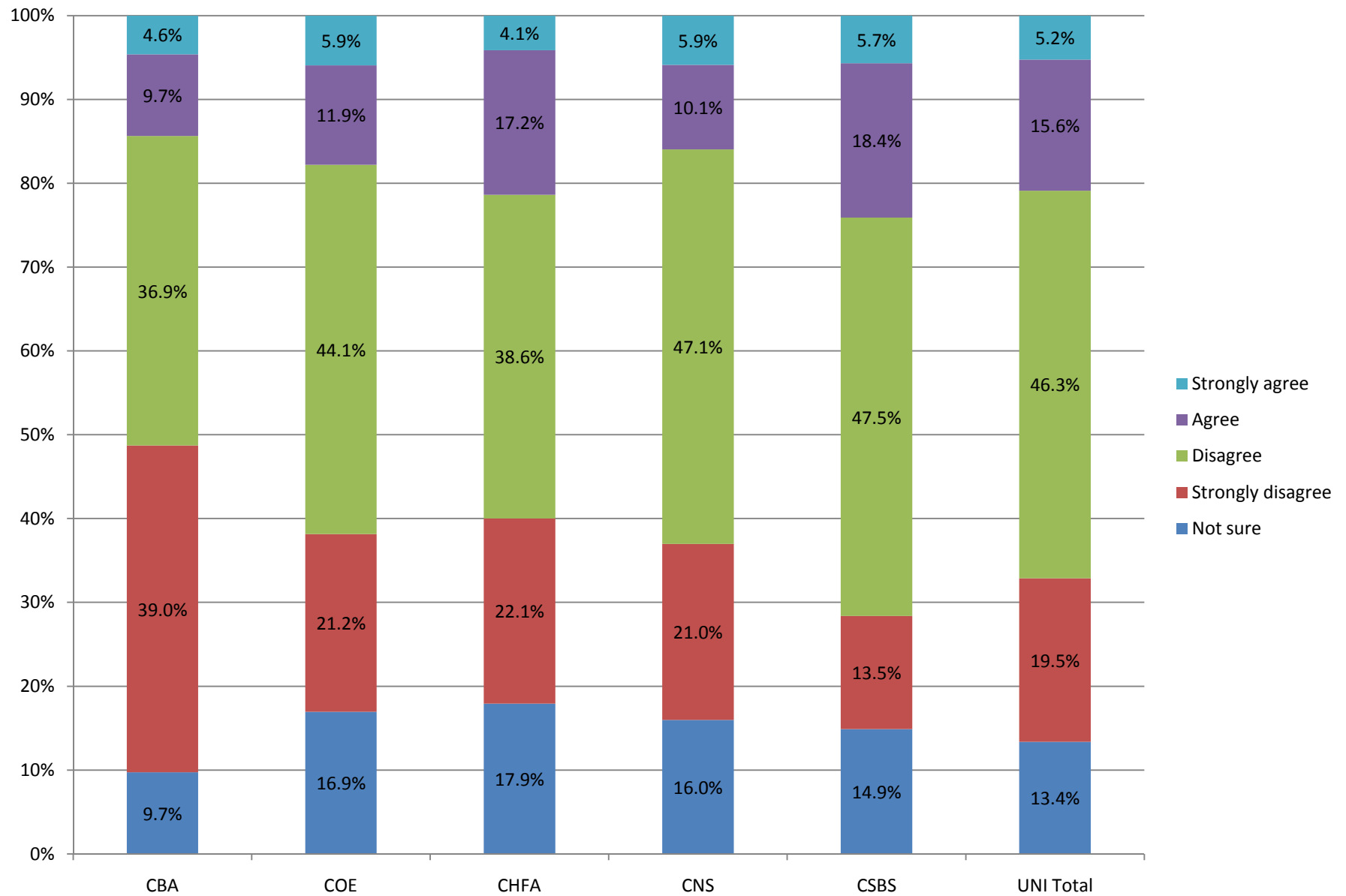
Alcohol abuse is a major problem among students at UNI



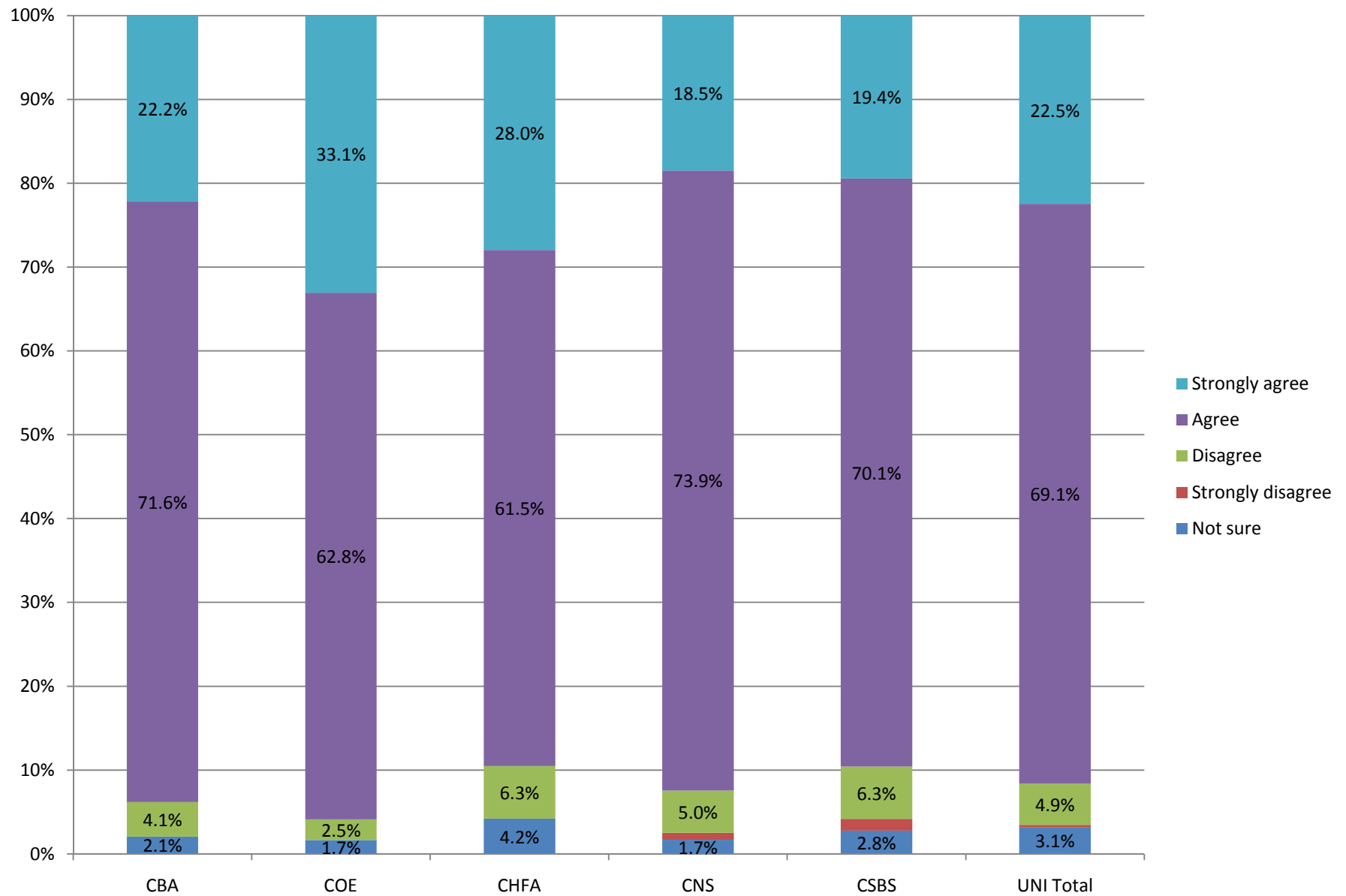
Most UNI students are tolerant of people whose lifestyles are different from their own



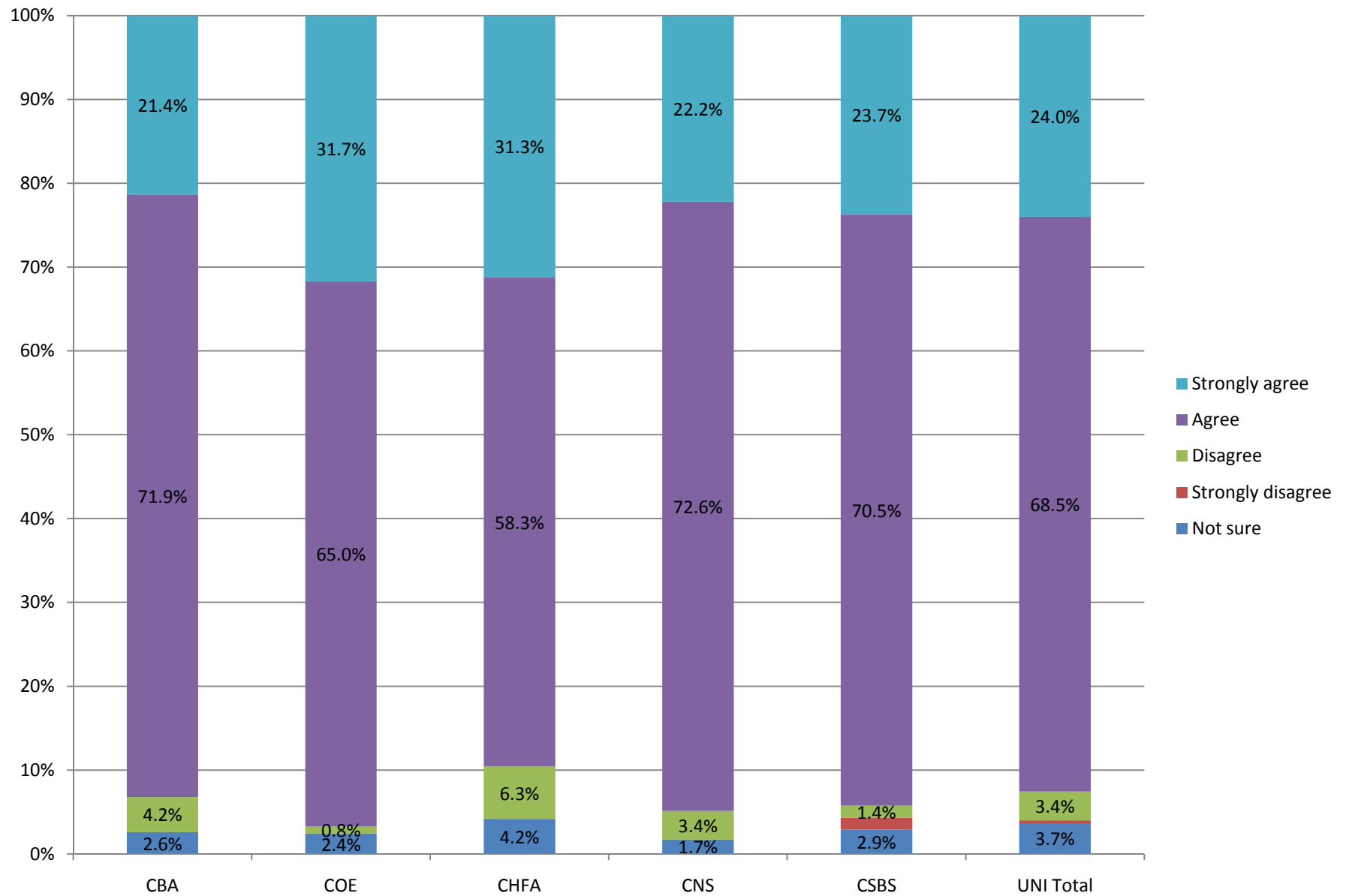
Sexual harassment is a problem at UNI



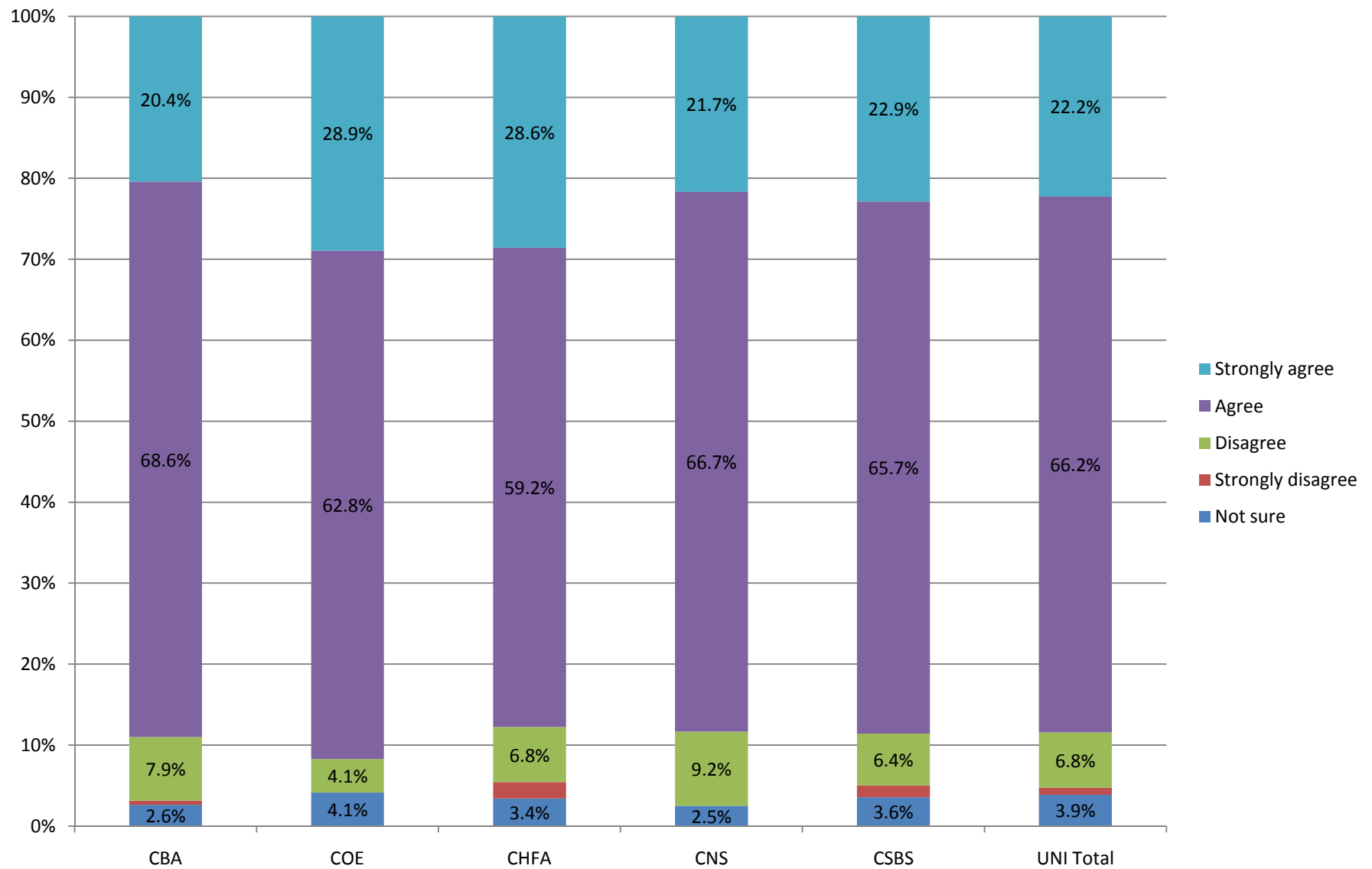
The UNI community values excellence in all of its endeavors



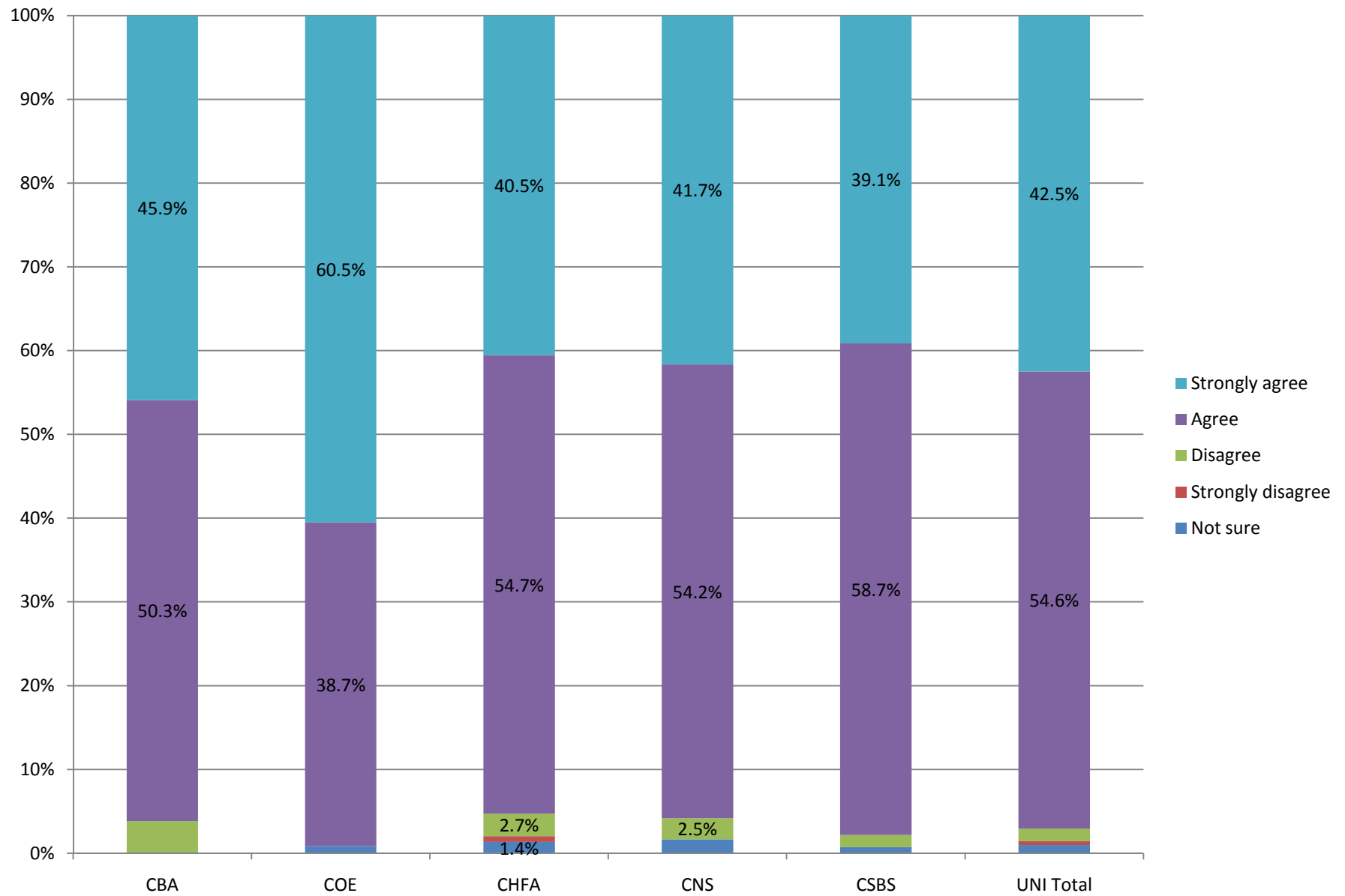
The UNI community values intellectual vitality



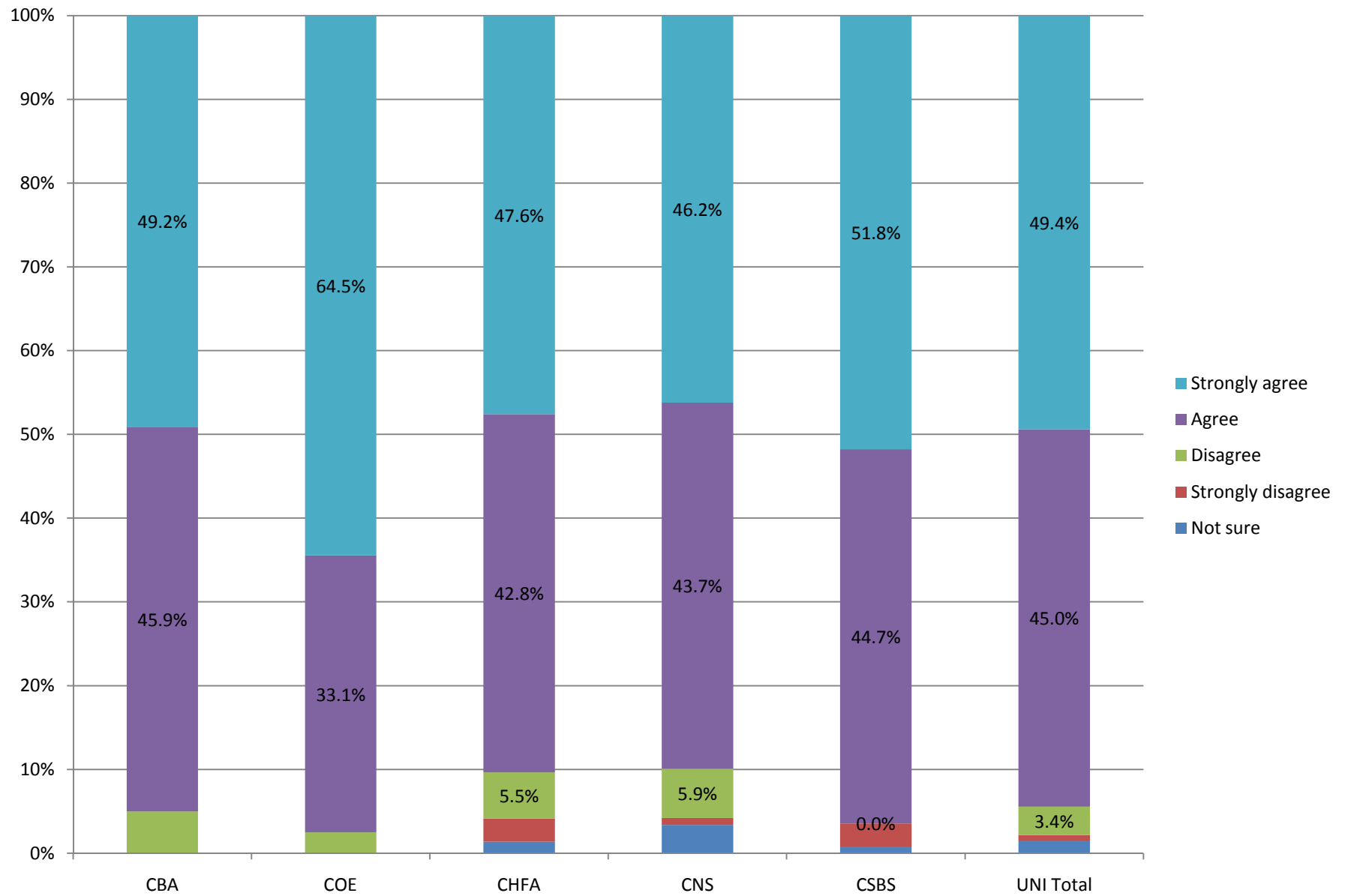
The UNI community encourages the examination of diverse and controversial ideas



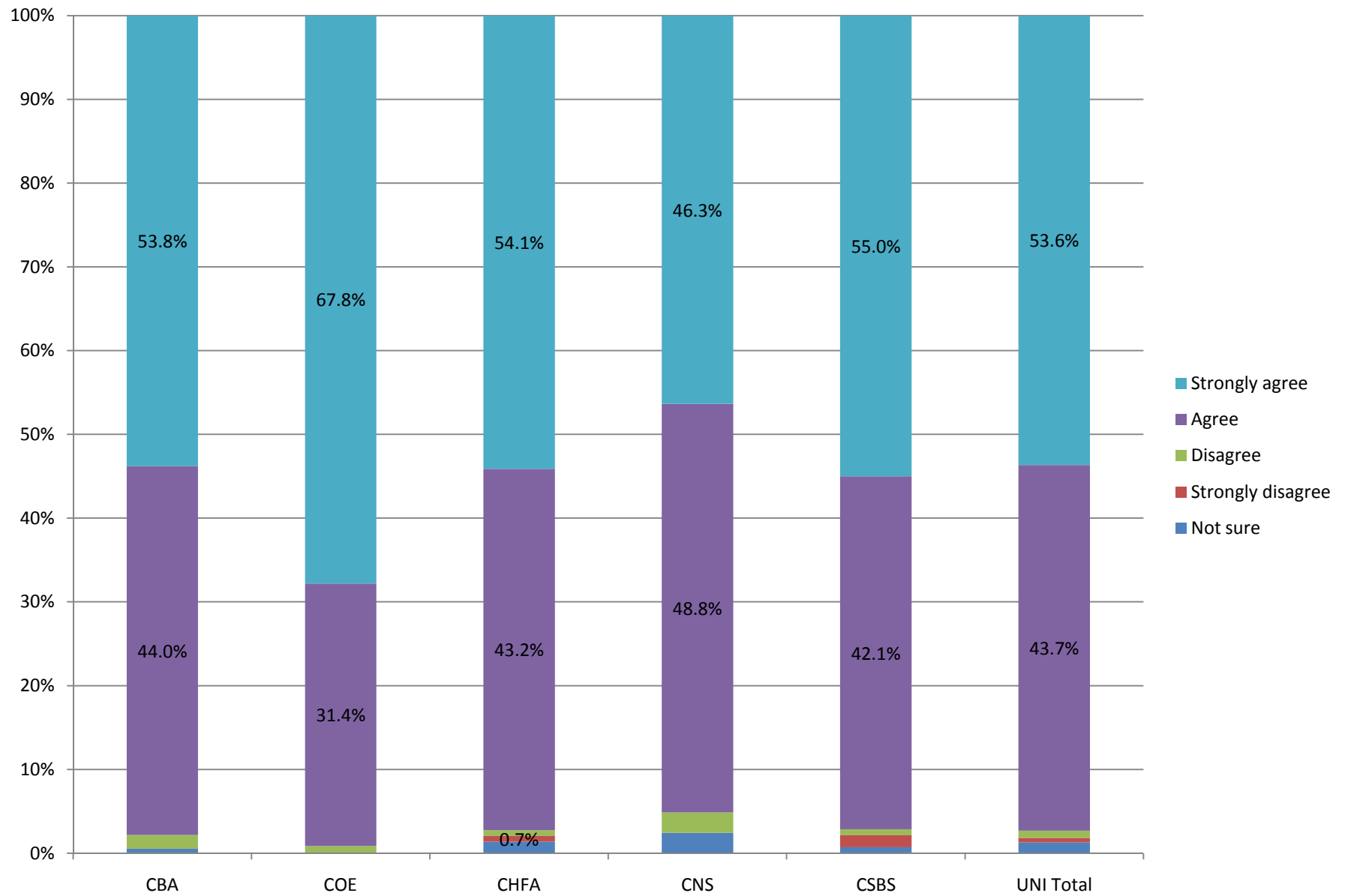
I believe I have received a high quality education from UNI



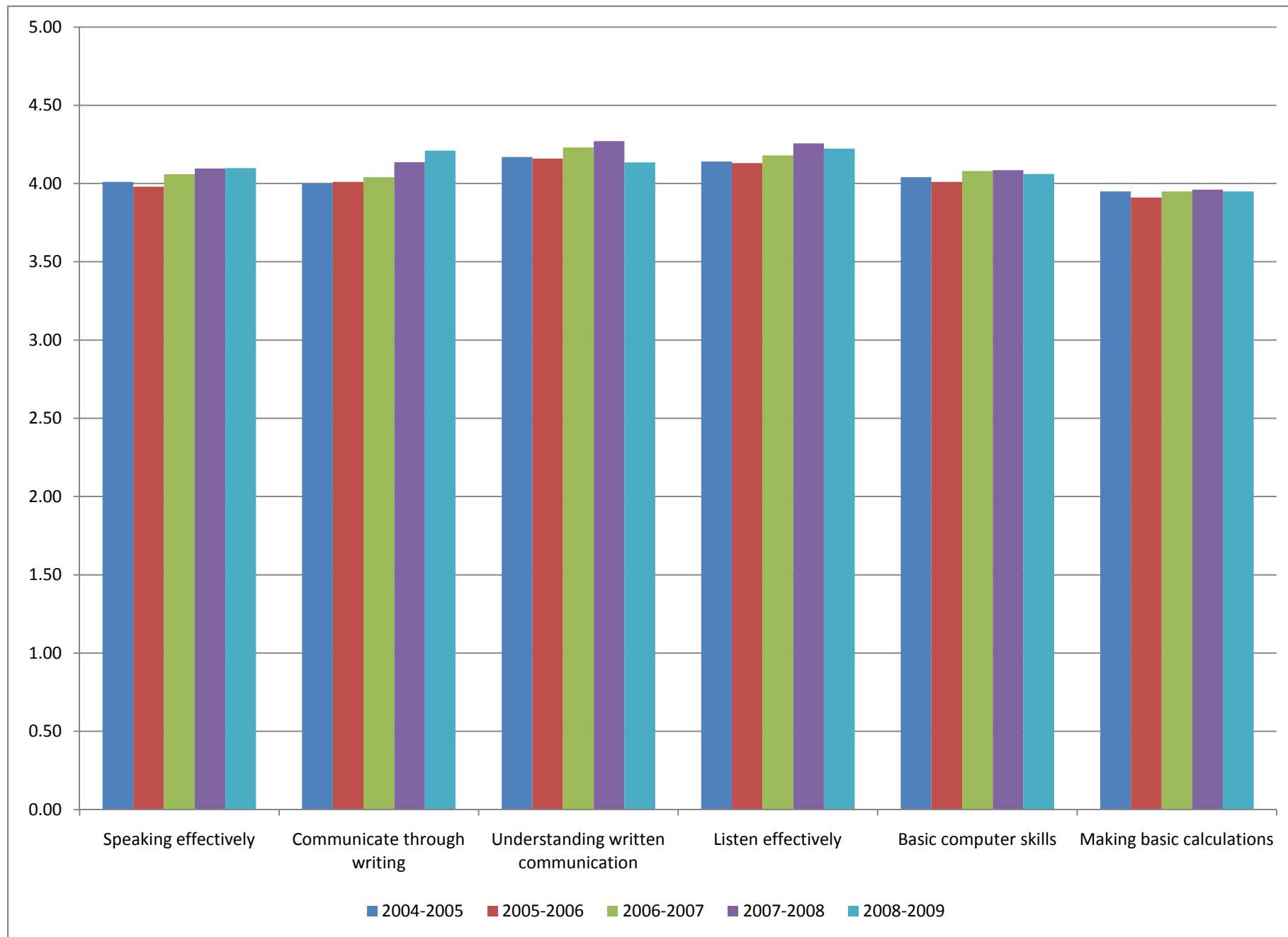
I would recommend my major to a prospective student

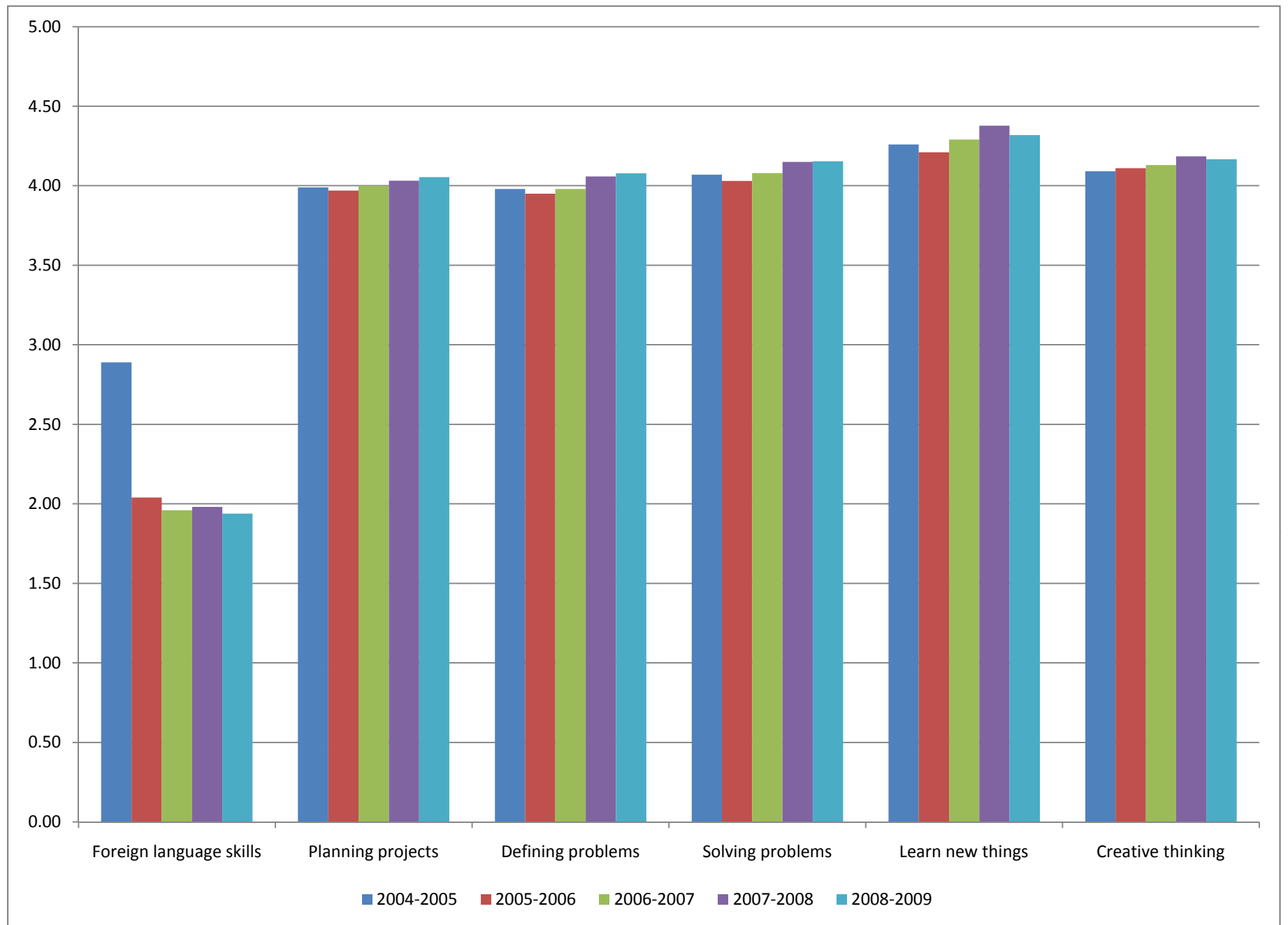


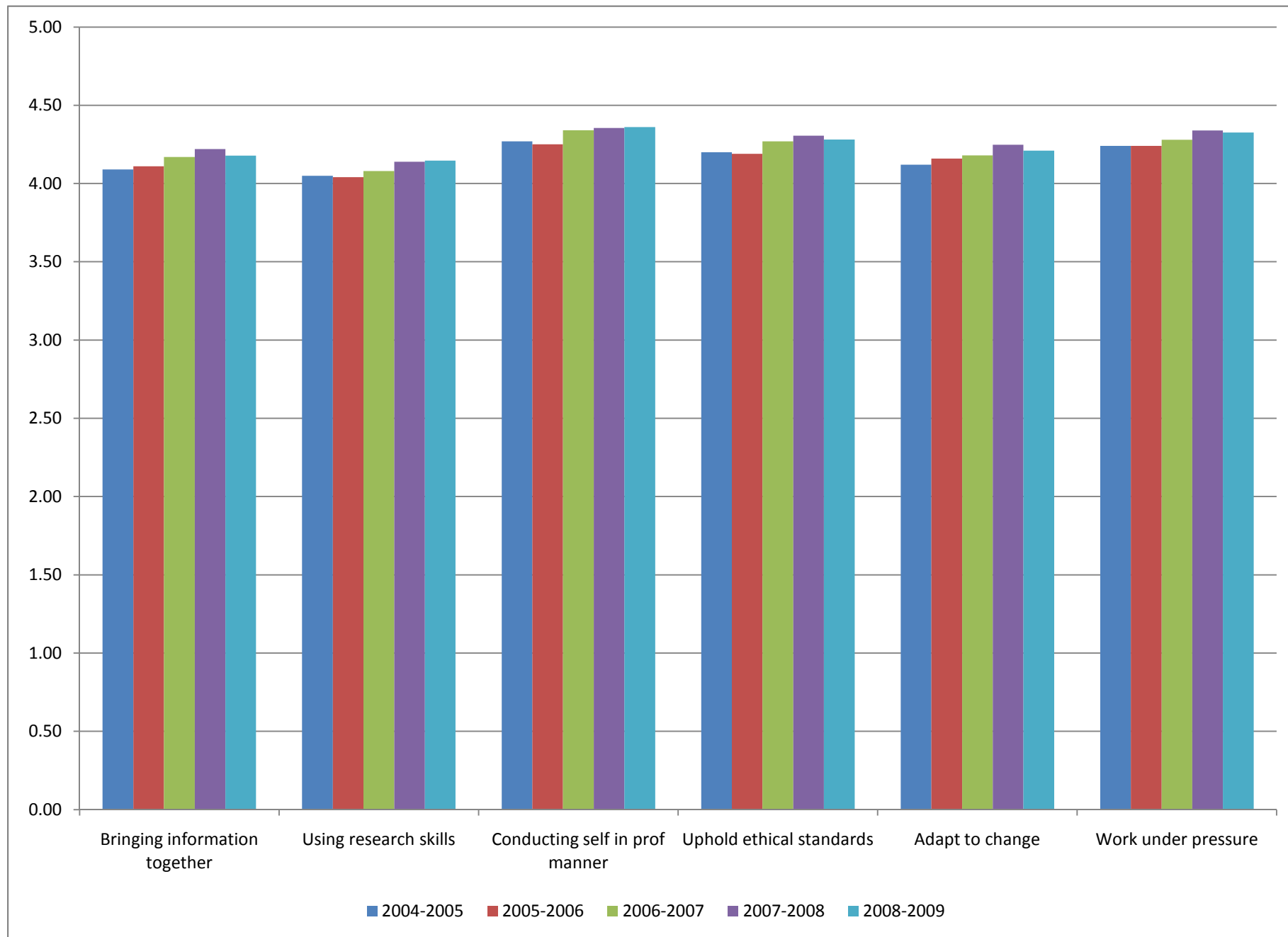
I would recommend UNI to a prospective student

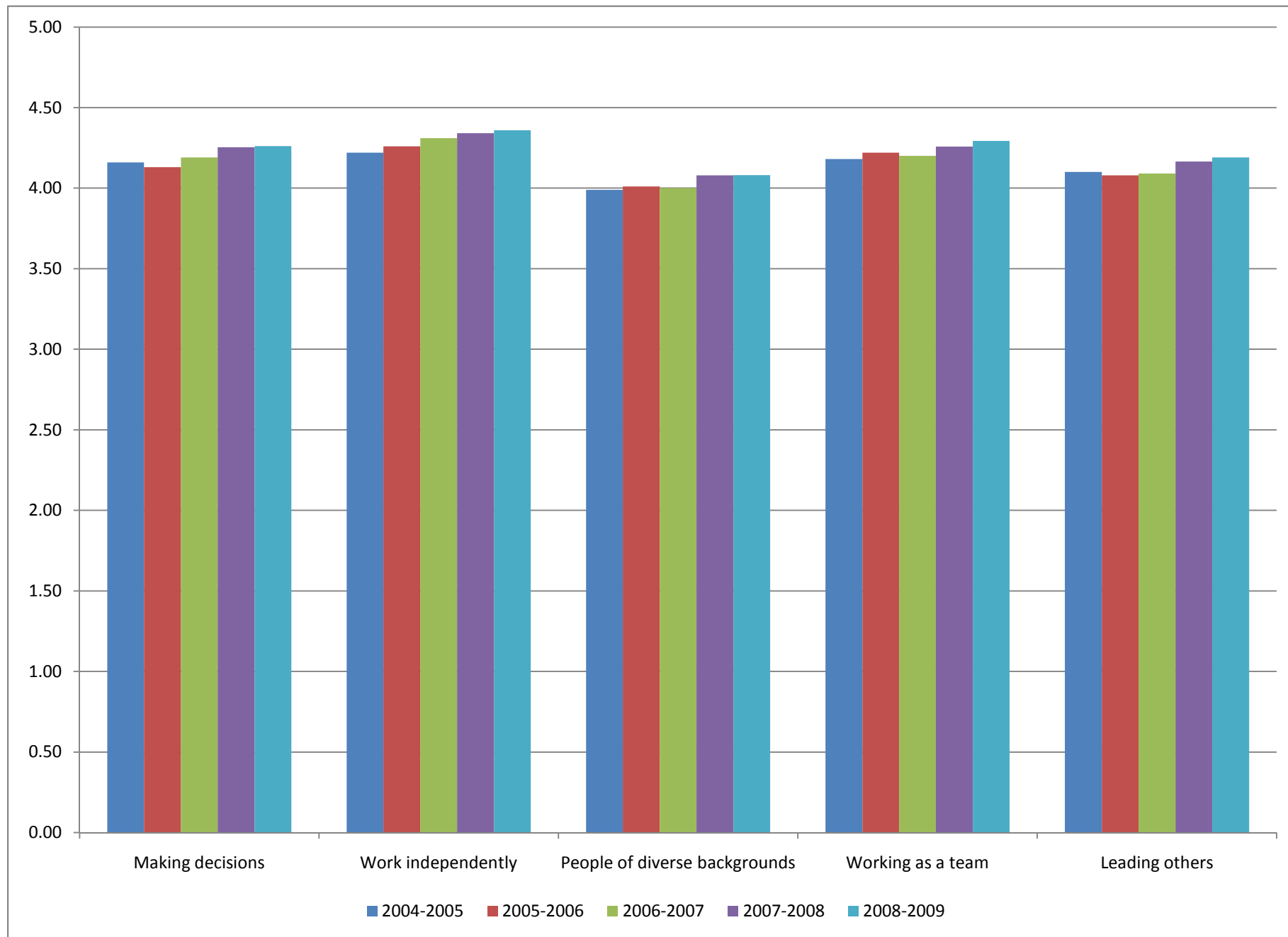


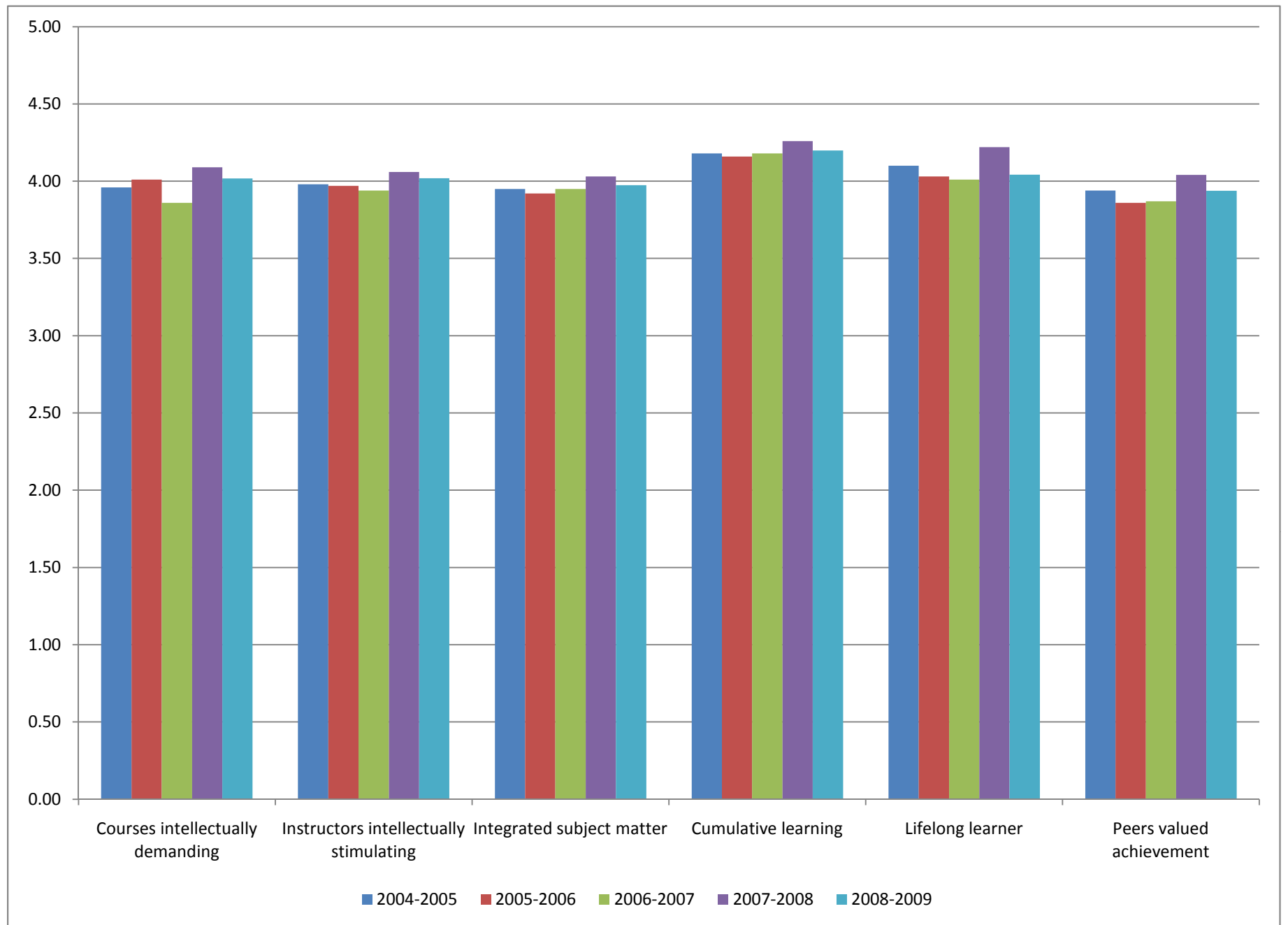
Multiple Year Comparison of the UNI Graduating Senior Survey: 2004-2009

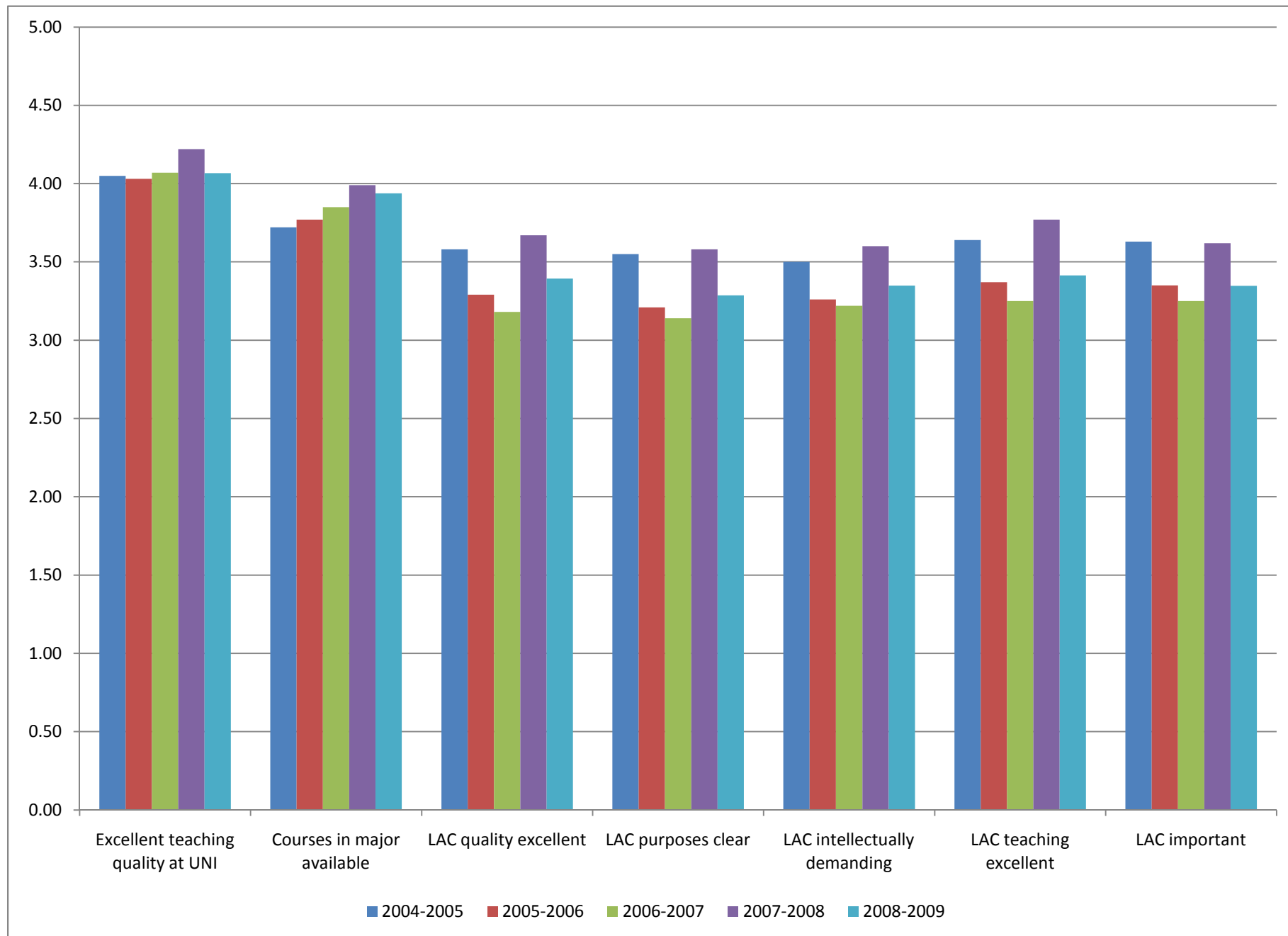


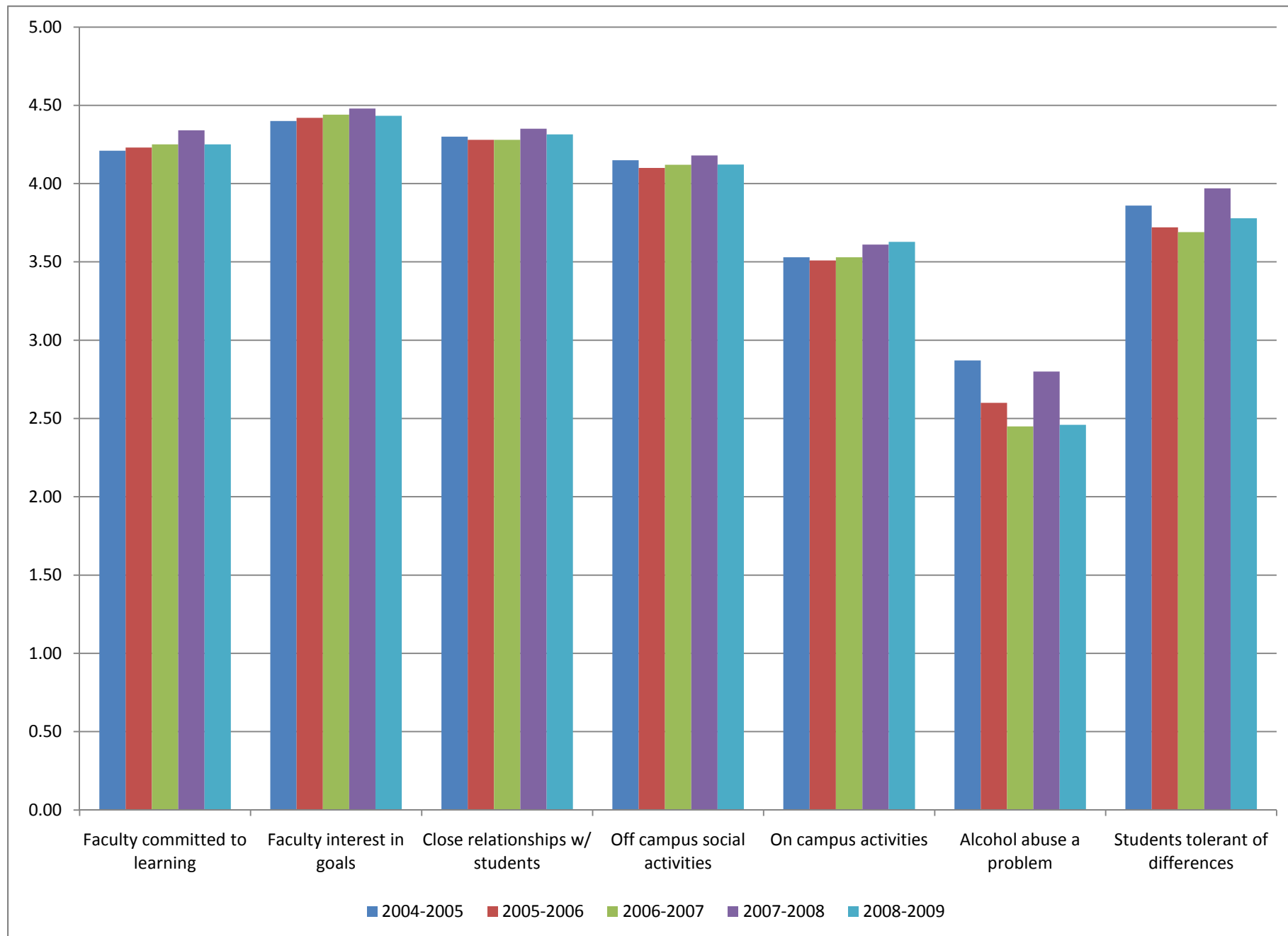


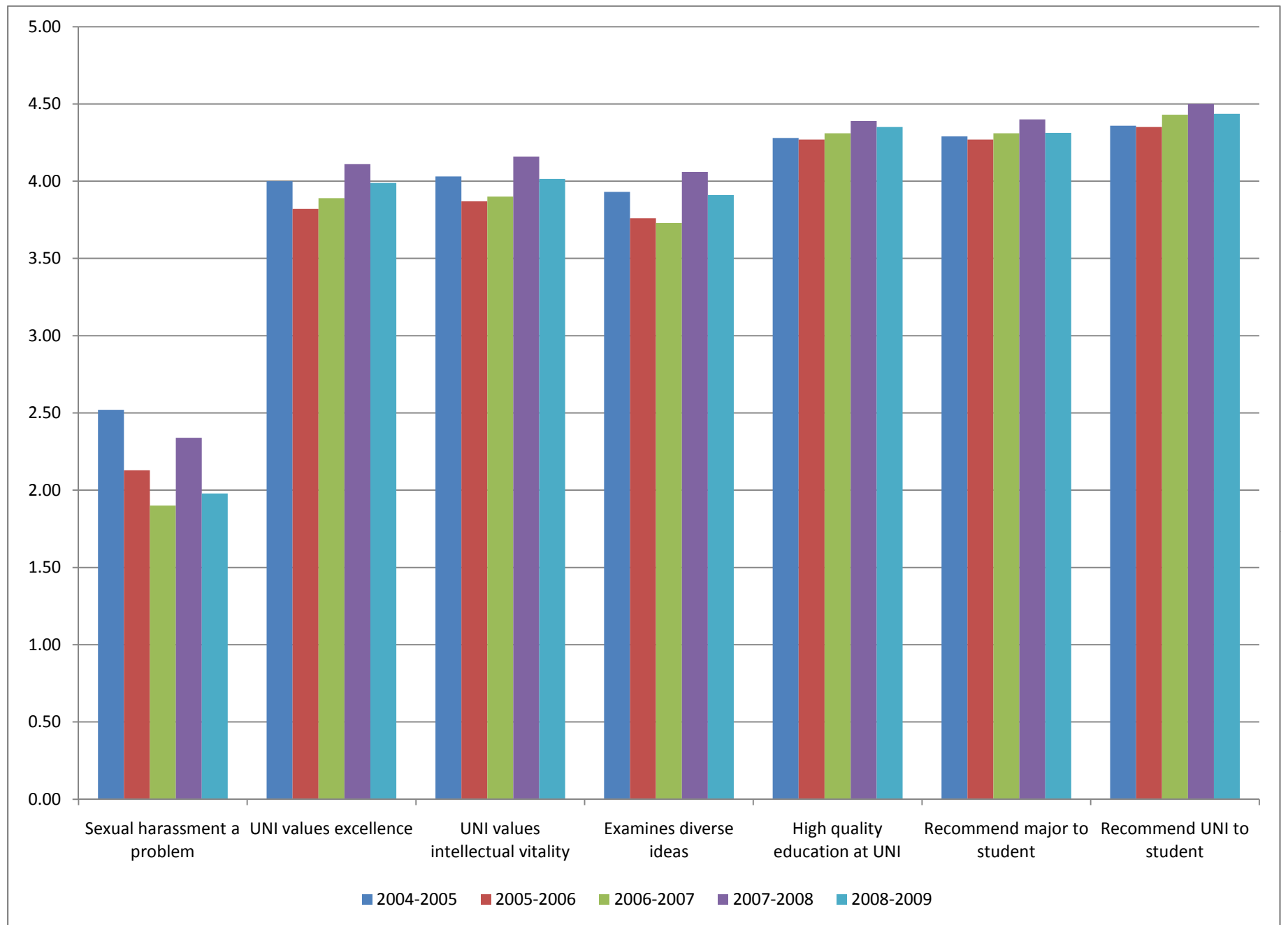












Appendix A

UNI Graduating Senior Survey Instrument

May 2009

PLEASE USE NO. 2 PENCIL

RIGHT	WRONG
	
	
	
	

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9

Non-UNI E-mail address:

What is MOST LIKELY to be your PRINCIPAL activity upon graduation?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Employment, full-time paid |
| 2 | Employment, part-time paid |
| 3 | Graduate or professional school, full-time |
| 4 | Graduate or professional school, part-time |
| 5 | Additional undergraduate coursework |
| 6 | Military service |
| 7 | Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps) |
| 8 | Starting or raising a family |
| 9 | Other, please specify |

Job title: _____

Name of employing organization:

City: _____ State: _____

Annual Salary (\$): _____ (will be kept confidential)

Start date:

Is your current job / accepted job offer in the state of Iowa?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If your job after graduation is outside of Iowa, would you return to Iowa if given the opportunity?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Think about your future/career goals. Using the scale on the left, please rate how well UNI has prepared you for...

[illegible]

- Speaking effectively
- Communicating through writing
- Understanding written communication
- Listening effectively
- Using basic computer skills (word processing, spreadsheets, etc.)
- Making basic calculations and computations

Using foreign language skills
Planning projects
Defining problems
Solving problems
Learning new things

- Thinking creatively
- Bringing information/ideas together from different areas
- Using research skills
- Conducting yourself in a professional manner
- Upholding ethical standards
- Adapting to change
- Working under pressure

- Making decisions
- Working independently
- Working with people of diverse backgrounds
- Working as a team
- Leading others

***Please turn over
to complete
other side.***

[illegible]

I believe I have received a high quality education from UNI.
I would recommend my major to a prospective student.
I would recommend UNI to a prospective student.