




2-22-2019

How Students Information Literacy Skills Change Over Time: A Longitudinal Study

Veronica Wells

University of the Pacific, vwells@pacific.edu

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Recommended Citation

Wells, V. (2019). How Students Information Literacy Skills Change Over Time: A Longitudinal Study. Paper presented at Music Library Association Meeting in St. Louis, MO.

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How Students' Information Literacy Skills Change Over Time: A Longitudinal Study

Veronica A. Wells - University of the Pacific

Methodology

The SAILS Test was administered to 738 first-year students in 2014-15 and 368 senior students in 2017-18 at the University of the Pacific.

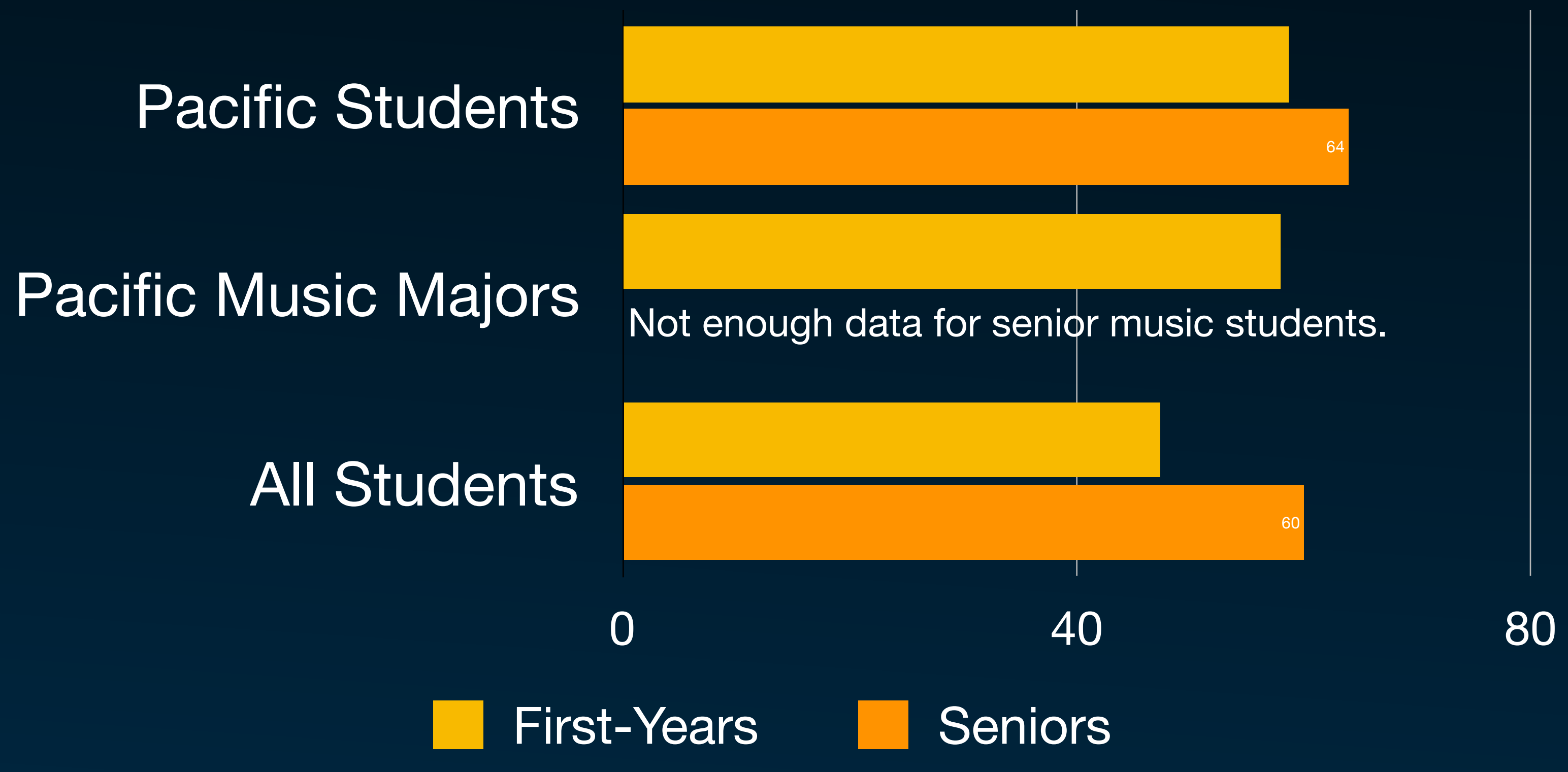
The SAILS Test

The SAILS Test is a knowledge-based multiple-choice test targeting a variety of information literacy skills.

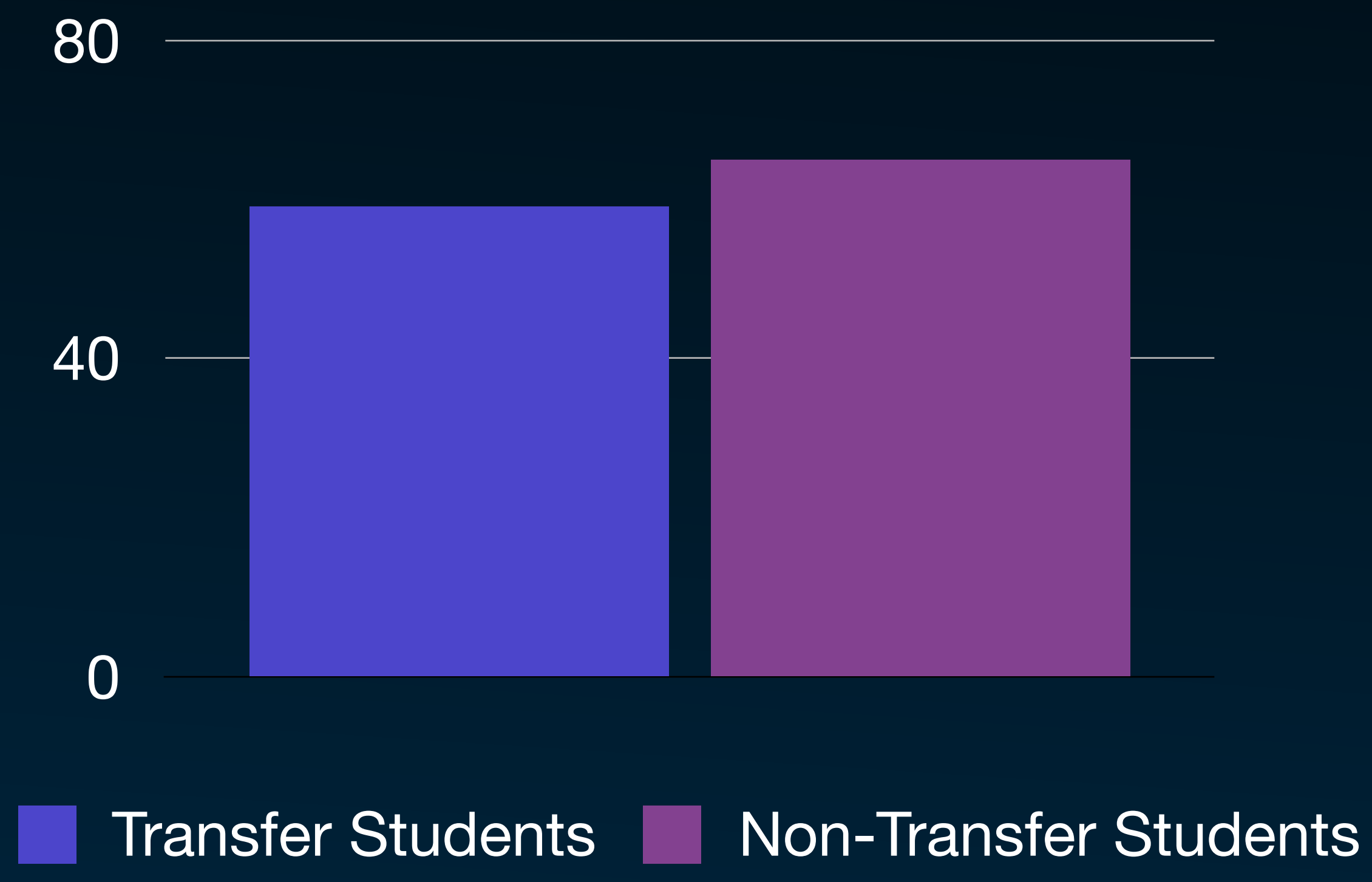
Key Findings

- Students' information literacy skills improved from their first year at Pacific to their senior year.
- First-year music majors scored higher than the overall average of first-year students.
- Senior transfer students scored significantly lower than non-transfer students.
- Students who reported completing more research papers scored higher on the test.
- Faculty are most interested in having their students learn about evaluating sources and developing search strategies.

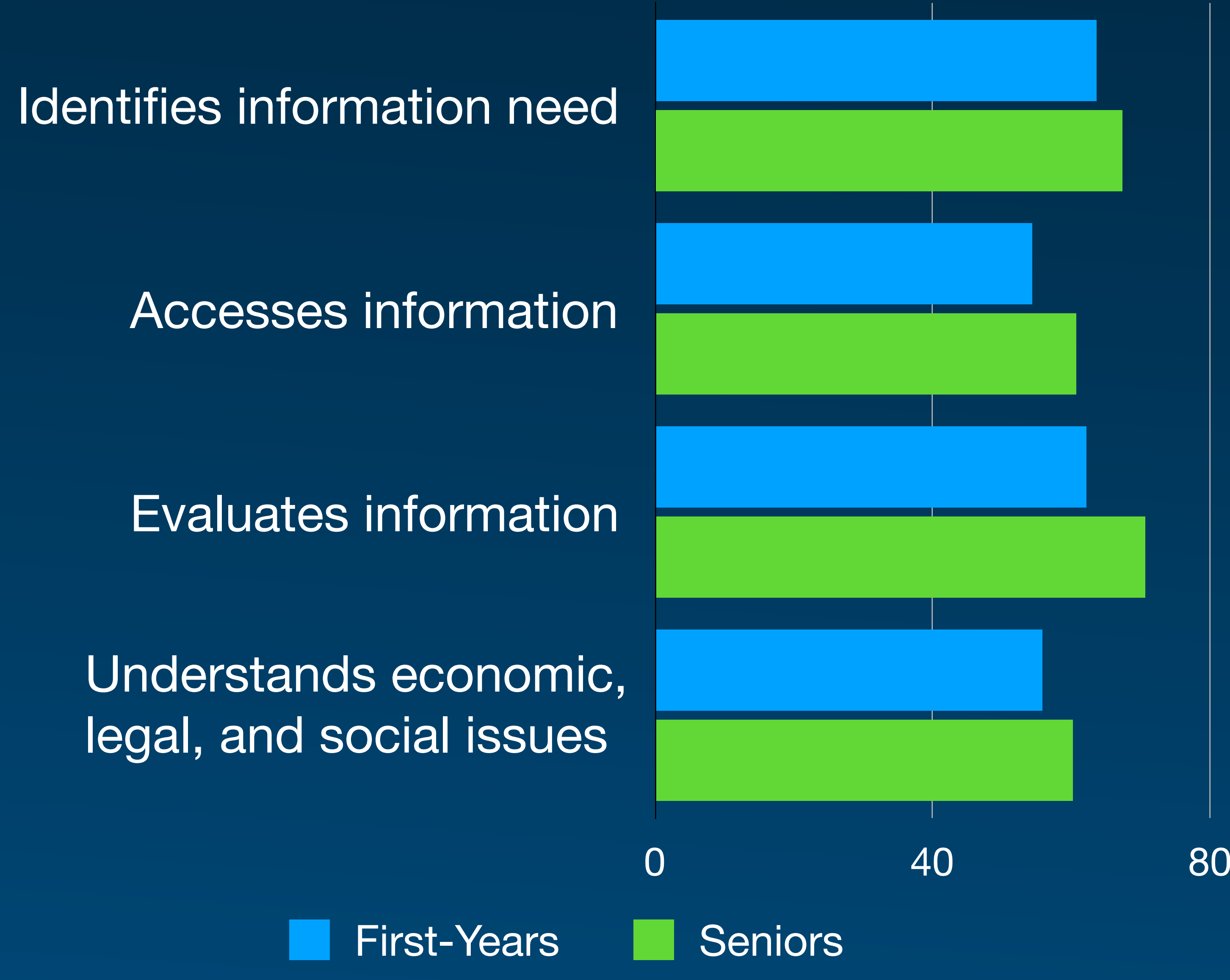
Overall Results



Senior Transfer Students



Results by Skill



Sharing the Results

- Assessment Roadshow: met with schools, departments, and campus committees.
- Core Competency Forum: 40 faculty, staff, and students discussed the results of the SAILS Test.

Next Steps

- Find ways to address the transfer student information literacy skills gap.
- Focus on more opportunities to develop students' abilities for evaluating sources and developing search strategies.
- Explore the Threshold Achievement Test for Information Literacy.