



Arch Survey Results and Recommendations

By the Student Senate Arch Task Force

Acknowledgements



Jade Felder - Director of the Arch

Diamond Jackson - Assistant Director of the Arch

Louis Trzepacz - Dean of Student Success

Curt Breneman - Dean of the School of Science

Travis Apgar - Dean of Students

Peter Konwerski - Vice President of Student Life

Charlie Potts - Director of the Union



Arch Task Force

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	TIME & LOCATION
Semester Away Experience	Working to enable and improve study abroad	Student Government Suite Tuesdays @ 7pm
Community & Housing Engagement	Improving housing and advocating for Greeks & Union-affiliated clubs	Student Government Suite Wednesdays @ 8pm
Arch Task Force Open Hours	Open hours for clubs, Greeks, and individuals to get help with Arch	Student Government Suite Wednesdays, Sundays @ 1pm
Arch Task Force General Meeting	General meeting of the task force for committee updates and discussion	Student Government Suite Saturdays @ 2pm
Professional Experience	Improving professional development with the CCPD for students	Student Government Suite Saturdays @ 3pm
Recreational Living & Learning	Collaborating with Greeks, clubs, and students to host recreational events	Student Government Suite Saturdays @ 3:30pm
Summer Arch Improvement	Gathering student opinion and improving Arch	Student Government Suite Saturdays @ 6pm

CONTACT THE ATF CHAIRPERSON AT IFC.RPI.SENATOR@GMAIL.COM

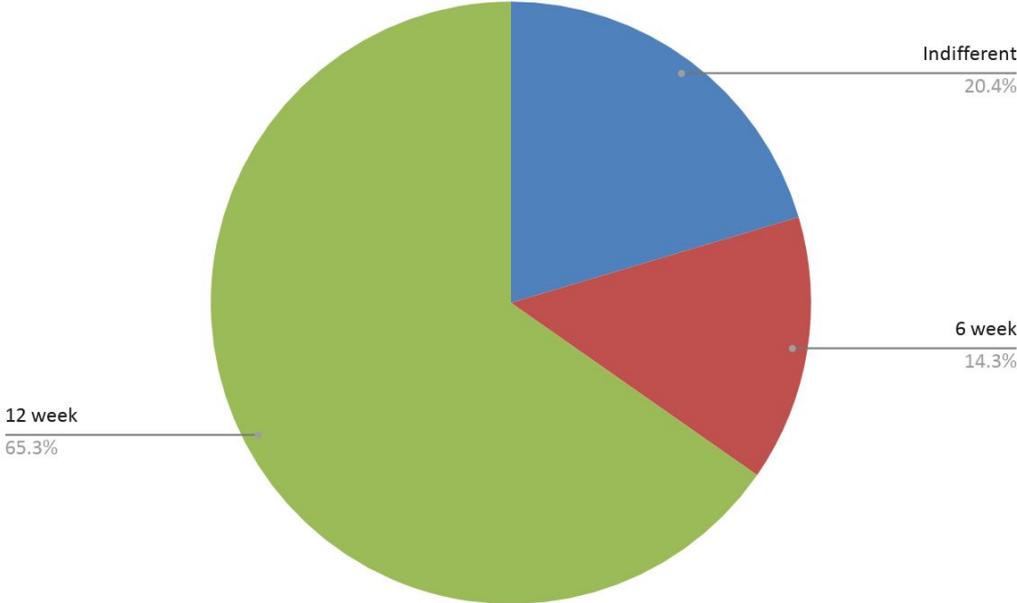
Arch Survey Results

Survey Metadata



- » We had 196 responses.
- » 182 of responders say they participated in Arch
- » 14 respondents did not participate in Arch

Student Preference: 6 week or 12 week classes



What classes specifically should be 12 weeks?



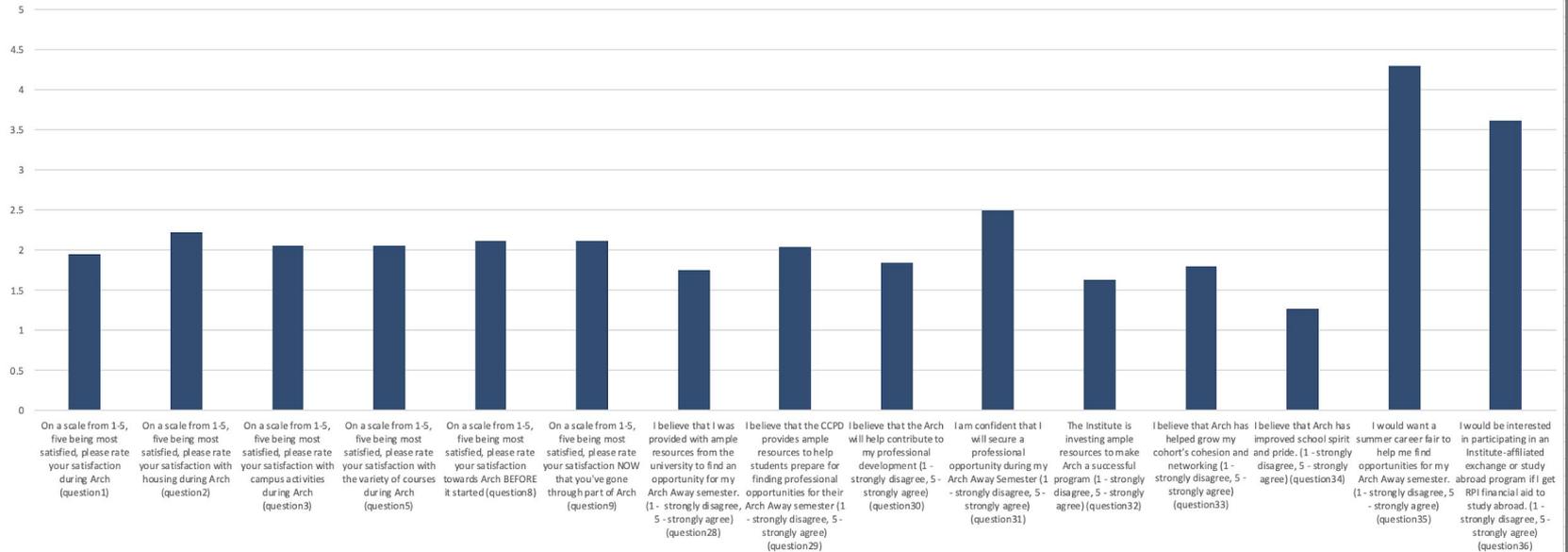
Common responses include:

- PHYS1200 - Physics II
- ECSE2010 - Electric Circuits
- ENGR2300 - Electronic Instrumentation
- ENGR2350 - Embedded Control
- ECSE2410 - Signals and Systems
- CHME4010 - Transport Phenomena I
- MATH4150 / CSCI4260 - Graph Theory
- CSCI4800 / MATH4800 - Numerical Computing

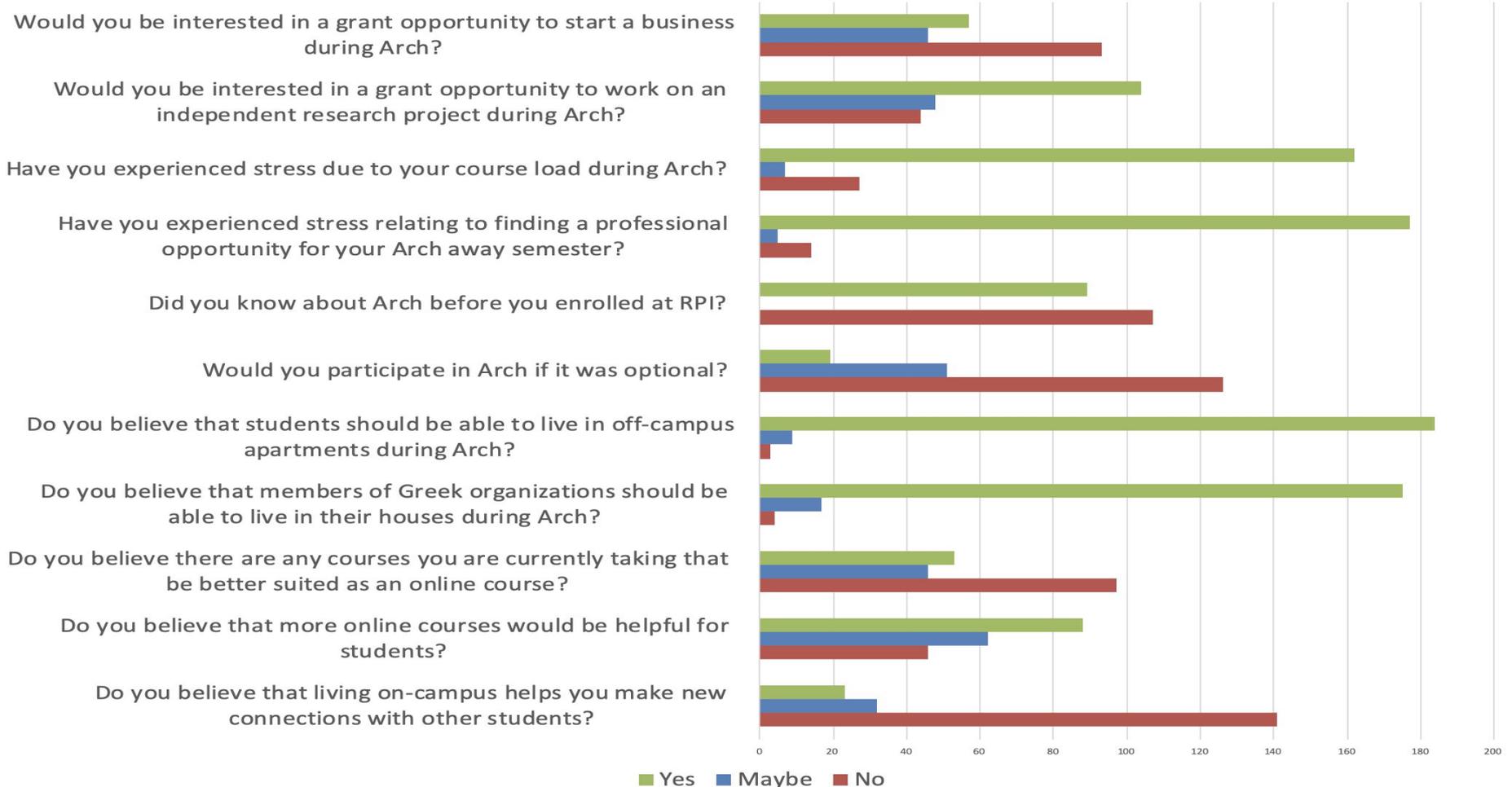
Average Responses



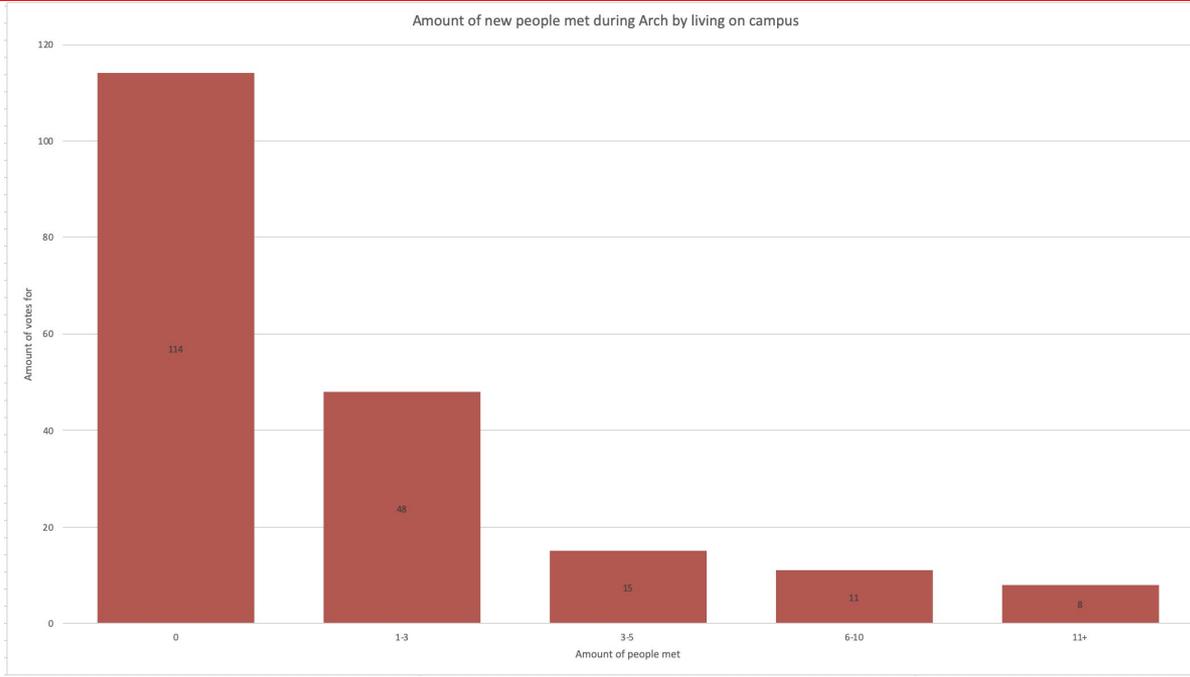
Average answers to rate on scale of 1-5 questions



Yes no or maybe questions



How many new people did students meet?



Student Sentiments

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I had to pay for both a dorm and an apartment over the summer, when the reason I got the apartment was because it was cheaper. I had planned the move with a group when I was under the impression that I could become exempt from living in the dorms. When I discovered this wasn't the case, I still decided to move into the apartment because otherwise my group of friends (most of whom aren't on Arch) would've had their living arrangements for next year ruined.



Make it optional, do not force students to stay in RPI housing, do not force students to pay for overpriced meal plans, make more effort to help students find internships and co-ops, don't force us to interact with the school during our semester off and leave us to our semester away in peace, and make more of an effort to reach out to students and put resources into things students actually want. Increase the size of the FIXX team and housekeepers, there are too few. We should have more staff in the health center for physical and mental ailments, I need to schedule health appts weeks in advance during the school year and have given up using the counseling center for the fall because their availability doesn't work with my schedule, they're overbooked.



First of all, story time:

One day I was waiting in Prof. Anderson's office while another student was speaking to Matt Oehlschlager, whose office is adjacent to professor Anderson's. The student was speaking to Oehlschlager about how usually he and his parents take the summer to work and make money to pay for school, but that 4 semesters in a row would make continuing to be at RPI financially unfeasible. I felt bad for the kid and thought that if anyone should get out of Arch it was him. Lo and behold, Oehlschlager's direct quote was "well, everyone has financial hardships sometimes". This infuriated me. Oehlschlager had no sympathy for this kid whatsoever. He demonstrated everything the student body believes about the administration not caring about the students and only caring about money. It was deplorable. I really wish I was making this up but I will swear it with my hand on a bible if you want me to.

Remove it. It will be hated and adversely affect the school for as long as it exists. "Dartmouth did it" is not a good reason for RPI to do it, because Dartmouth is a liberal arts university and we are not.



PLEASE READ THE WHOLE THING. I FEEL LIKE STUDENT'S HAVE BEEN IGNORED WHEN WE SAY THIS SO HEAR ME OUT. Make it optional. Being forced into this has made the process ultimately more difficult to navigate everything from classes to clubs to careers. It does seem beneficial to some people but requiring all students to participate is just ignorant because not all students are the same. PLEASE READ THIS because I do believe Arch could be very beneficial but for a portion of the school, not everyone. The regular system doesn't always work which seems to be the reason Arch was implemented so it's hypocritical to assume the Arch system would then work for everyone.

Student Recommendations



Give more resources to the career counselor staff at the CCPD. Their work is essential to the students' Arch program success, since the student's semester away and gaining valuable experience is really what this program was designed for. As a work study student at the CCPD, I've seen that workshops and engaging students in informal, out-of-the-office events is the best way to keep students on track in terms of their search for opportunities. Many programs have been held by the office this summer, but advertising for these events and even more programs could be offered to students with additional funding.



The library should not be closed at all or should be the same as a regular semester. Students are studying really hard in a 6-week course and the students need a place to study, everyone has a different study habit/place, for example I can't study where I sleep meaning I need to be out of my room, when I do that there are limited places where I can study; the union, OCC, library. Union is the only place that is 24 hours open, if I were someone who can't study in a public place then I have nowhere to go past 11pm(library close time on weekdays) or 3pm(on weekends). With the amount of workload students have, the amount of students that are going to sleep past 1am is too many and there isn't anywhere they can study.



Improve communication and break down barriers between different administrative and staff offices within the university as a whole. Much confusion has been caused by emails sent out by several offices with incorrect information relating to critical deadlines for students, and even such details as to whether the dining halls would be open during the 4th of July break. It just seems messy and unprofessional when students call an office with a simple question about, say, how to register one's semester away opportunity in SIS, and are sent from office to office with little help.



Extend the library hours

Better housing options-more of the normal Junior housing options (Poly)

More shuttles

More dining halls/more than one lunch period since everyone is trying to eat at the same time it is often time consuming and hard to find a place to eat

The ability to have control over the AC (Summer allergies and humidity cause difficulty for sleeping)

Provide opportunities for students for their semester away because it is very stressful to look for a job and keep up with classes.

Task Force Recommendations

Professional Excellence



Insight: The CCPD held events, but there was low student attendance and many students did not believe they were provided ample support to find opportunities for their Away semester.

Recommendations:

- Weekly Application Workshops that are public and in a common area (mcNeil room, etc.)
 - Wednesday Brown Bag Lunches With Companies
 - May help draw more students to CCPD events since they are already in the vicinity
- Summer Career Fair
 - Available specifically for Arch students to find co-ops and internships
 - Can be implemented and organized by the administration over the new few years
- Encouraging partnerships with local, state, and federal government for internships and opportunities

Action: Collaboration with CCPD and the Arch office to enable these events to happen in the future.

Community Engagement



Insight: Many students are doing ILEs, with many remaining in the Capital Region during their away semester since they could not get a shorter lease term.

Recommendations:

- Partner with local non-profit groups and the City of Troy/possibly seek funding to allow students to remain in their apartments in the area during their Arch away semester, but do community service work in the Capital District
 - Examples of groups could include local schools, Troy Boys & Girls Club, soup kitchens, habitat for humanity, etc.
 - Potential state and local grant sources may be available for this kind of project to offer stipends to students, but would not be a requirement for this project.

Action: Collaboration with the Institute to explore the viability of forming an Arch Away volunteer corps.

Academic Support



Insight: Many students felt that taking their most rigorous courses in 6 weeks and, additionally, felt that this made the program stressful.

Recommendations:

→ Schools should work collaboratively with professors to offer courses in 12 weeks that students feel are too strenuous to take in 6 weeks.

→ For courses offered in multiple sections, students should have the option between taking the course in 6 weeks or 12 weeks.

→ If professors are unwilling to teach the course for the entire summer, multiple professors can team up to teach the course and do different lectures.

Action: Collaboration with deans of each school to ensure “high stress” 6 week courses are converted to 12 week courses or students have the option between taking the course in 6 weeks or 12 weeks.

Intellectual Agility



Insight: Many students felt that not enough variety of courses were offered during the Arch. Some departments did not offer courses at all or did not offer core graduation requirements.

Recommendations:

- Greater variety of courses and more core classes should be offered during Arch based on demand and the availability of faculty
- Online courses should be considered as an option given positive student responses

Action: Collaboration with schools to ensure more core courses and electives are offered during Arch that contribute to students graduating on time.

Communiversality



Insight: Students enjoyed and would like to see more class field trips during Arch. Many students felt overwhelmed by the number of activities, many of which were not of interest to the general student population.

Recommendations:

- Consolidate Arch field trips and make them larger so 100-200 students can go at a time
 - Popular events such as river tubing would be great candidates
 - Student government can help administration decide on social field trips
- Professors should be encouraged and funding should be potentially made available for students to go on class field trips during Arch
 - Examples include Positive Psychology doing yoga this summer to learn about personal enrichment or Grassroots Science in the STS department went to a farm to learn about sustainable agriculture.

Action: Collaboration with administration to restructure Arch programming based on student feedback.

Global View



Insight: Students that currently want to student abroad during their Arch away semester must pay full price without financial aid from RPI. These students also will not be necessarily granted an exemption from Arch to study abroad, limiting opportunities for when RPI students can study abroad. Hundreds of Arch exemptions were given, but very few if any were to enable students to study abroad.

Recommendations:

- Expand Arch exemptions to allow students to study abroad in the Fall or Spring
 - Creates more opportunities for students to expand their global view and engage with other cultures
 - Enables students from working and middle class backgrounds to afford a study abroad experience

Action: Collaboration with administration to expand Arch exemptions for students that way to study abroad.

Business Development



Insight: Many students expressed interest in a grant program to enable them to start a business, travel to a professional conference, or conduct a personal research project during their Arch Away semester.

Recommendations:

→ Arch Away Microgrant program

→ Collaboration with alumni shareholders to raise funds for a microgrant program for ILE students and students of financial need to expand opportunities for Arch

→ Examples could include using funds to travel to a research center abroad, buying a suit, starting a business, or buying equipment for a research project.

Action: Collaboration with administration to engage alumni through a crowdfunding campaign to fund Arch microgrant opportunities for students.

Facilities & Services



Insight: Students noticed rodent and pest issues on campus during Arch. Many students also expressed issues relating to food quality. RPI and Sodexo maintain active pest control contracts and the administration has stated to ATF that they are committed to dealing with these issues as they arise.

Actions:

- Collaboration with Sodexo stakeholders to improve the quality of food during Arch
 - Arch Task Force will set up meeting with Sodexo managers with possibly Hospitality Services Committee (HSAC) to discuss food quality and variety during Arch
- Collaboration with administration to develop a reporting form for food quality and pest control issues



RENSSELAER UNION

STUDENT SENATE

Arch Task Force

Any Questions?





Pepper (Arch Task Force Mascot)

Jeremiah (Pepper's fiancé)

