

# Ultra Faculty Feedback

Spring 2019

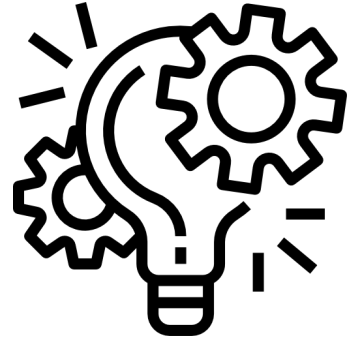
*Presented to UMBC Faculty Ambassadors & Blackboard Ultra Developers*



# Innovation & change

Faculty must perceive value in Ultra:

- Ultra itself is easy to use
- It is a reliable and stable platform
- It offers enhanced work processes to improve teaching & learning
- It can support improved outcomes for student engagement & assessment



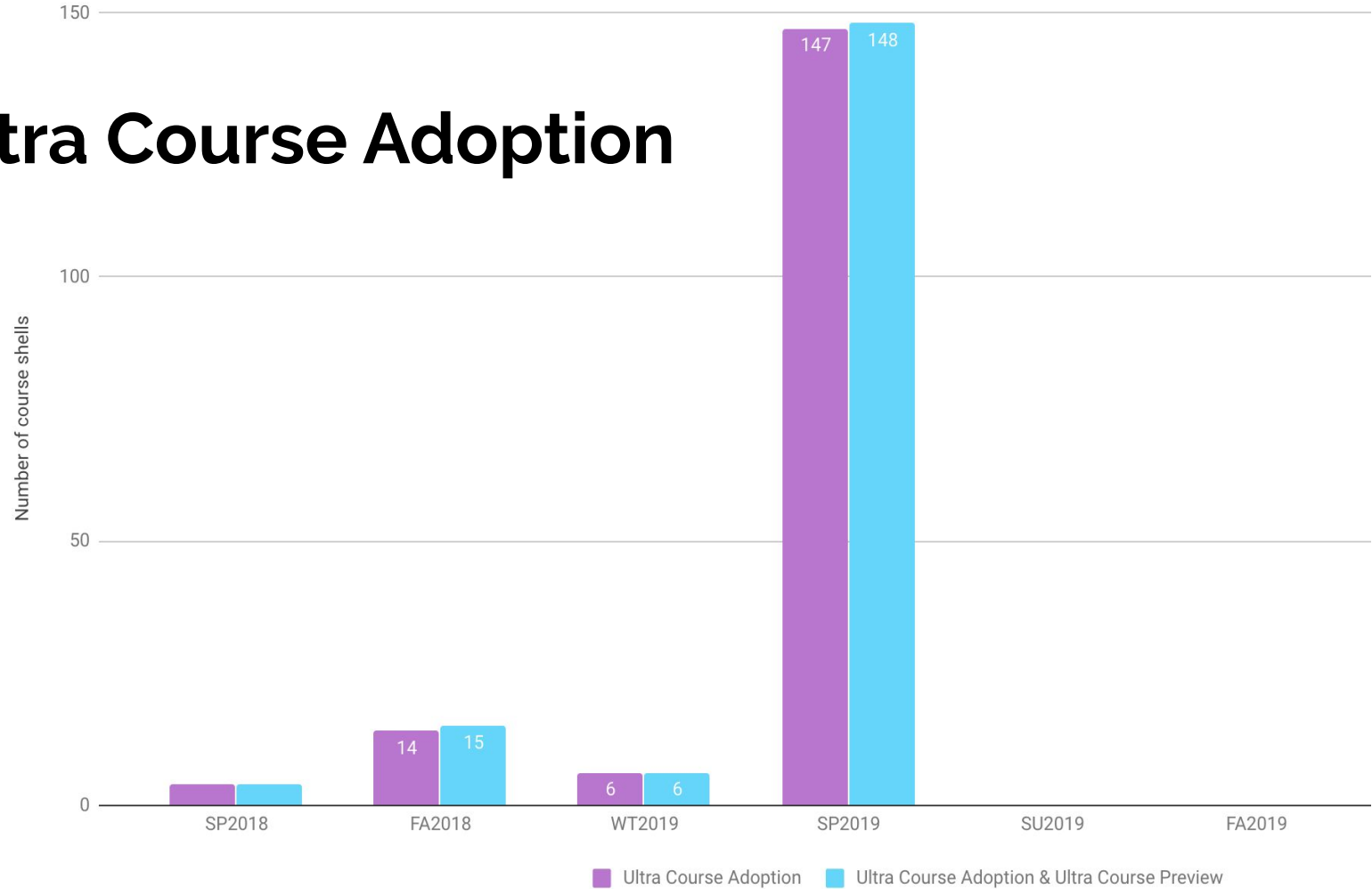
(Davis, 1989; Davis, Bagozzi, & Warshaw, 1989)

# Ultra adoption goals

Course Archetype	Characterized by	FA2018 # of courses	UMBC %	Compare to Bb %	10% Ultra Goal	15% Ultra Goal	20% Ultra Goal
Supplemental	Content-heavy. Low interaction.	62	4.22%	53%	6	9	12
Complementary	1-way communication through content, announcements, gradebook	222	15.11%	24%	22	33	45
Social	High P2P interaction through discussion board	134	9.12%	11%	13	20	27
Evaluative	Heavy use of assessments	306	20.83%	10%	30	46	61
Holistic	High LMS activity with balanced use of assessments, content, discussion	267	18.18%	2%	27	40	53
<b>991</b>					<b>98</b>	148	198

[Link to data](#)

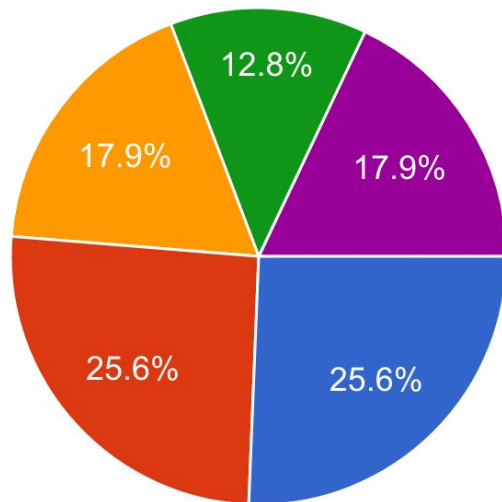
# Ultra Course Adoption



**Survey**

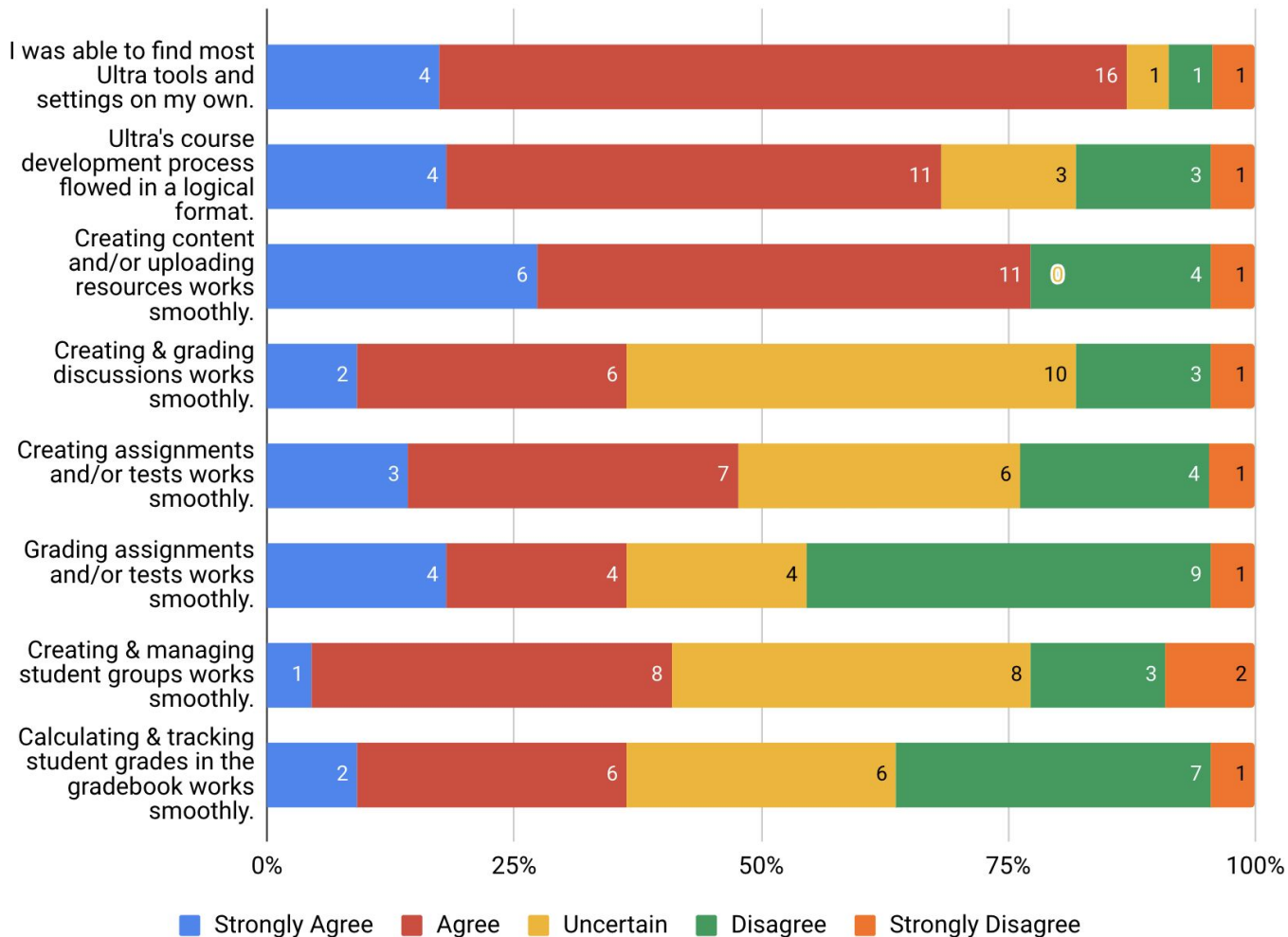
# How did Ultra compare with the original Blackboard course?

39 responses

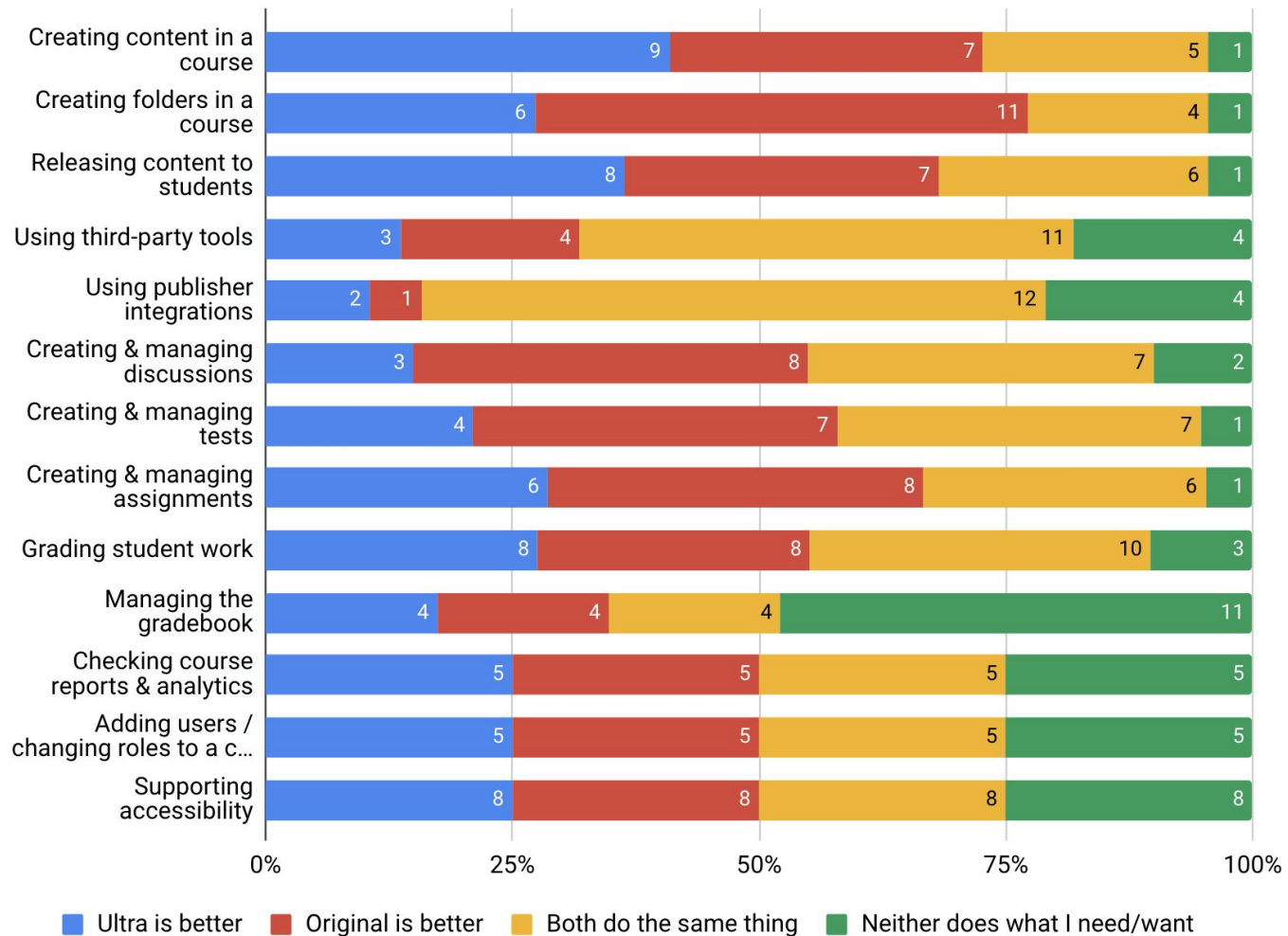


- I liked it a lot.
- I liked it a little.
- I'm not sure yet how I feel about it.
- I'll get used to it.
- I didn't like it.

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each statement.



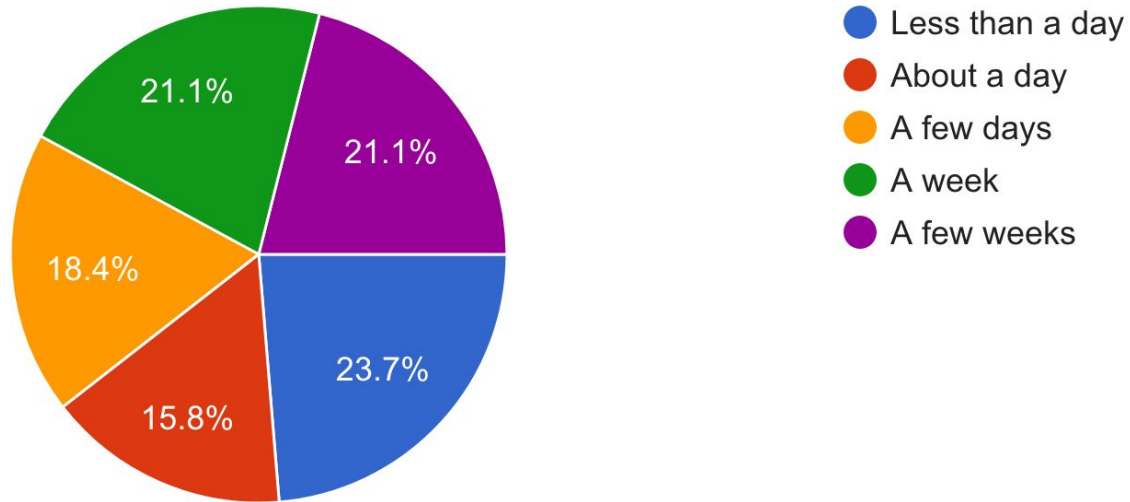
# Compare Ult to Original for these tasks:





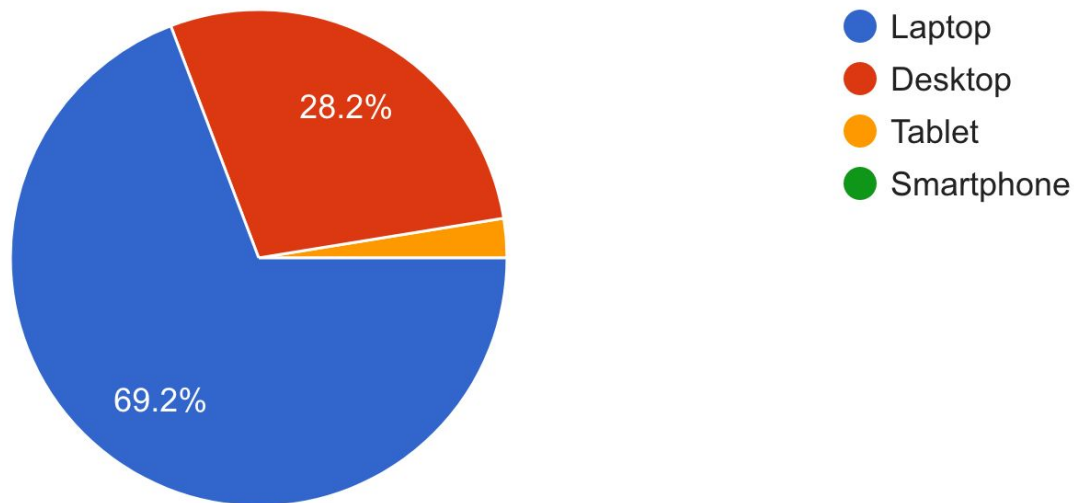
# How much time did you need to adapt your course for Ultra?

38 responses



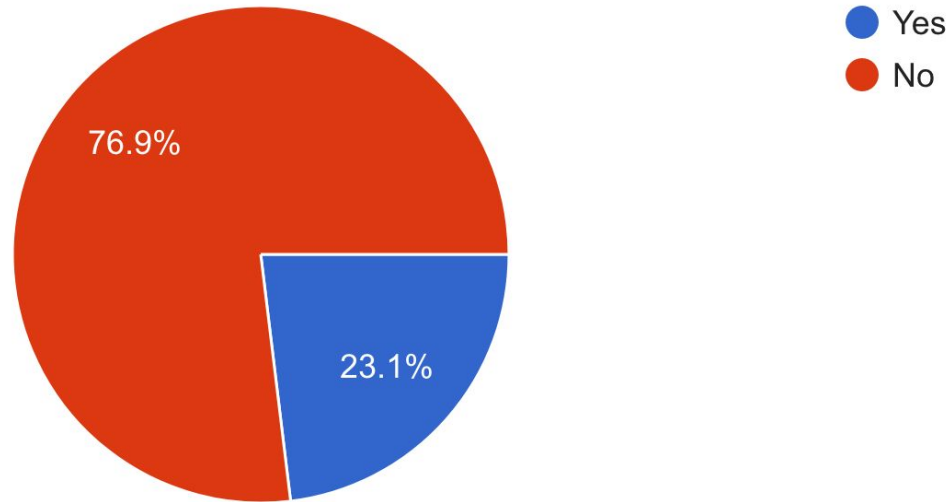
# What kind of device did you use most often to access the Ultra environment?

39 responses



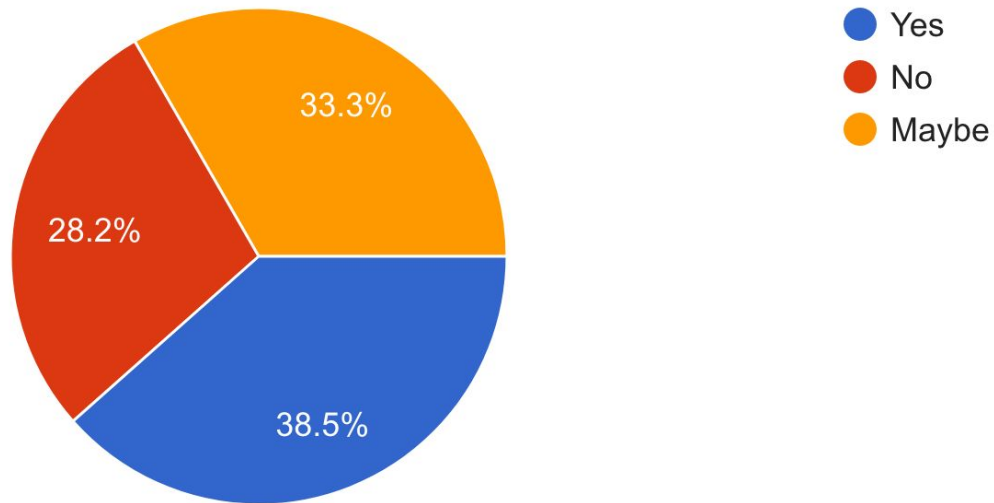
# Did you use the Blackboard Instructor mobile app to access Ultra?

39 responses



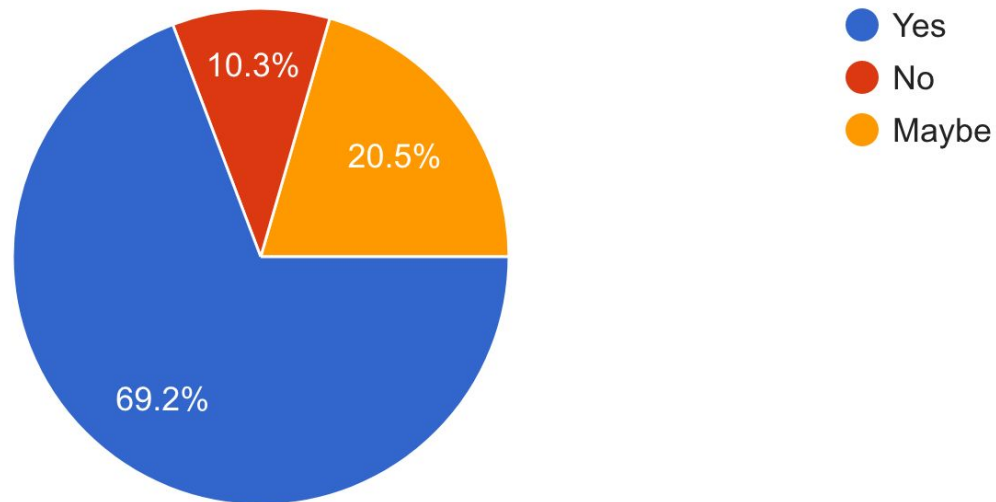
# Would you recommend Ultra to a colleague?

39 responses



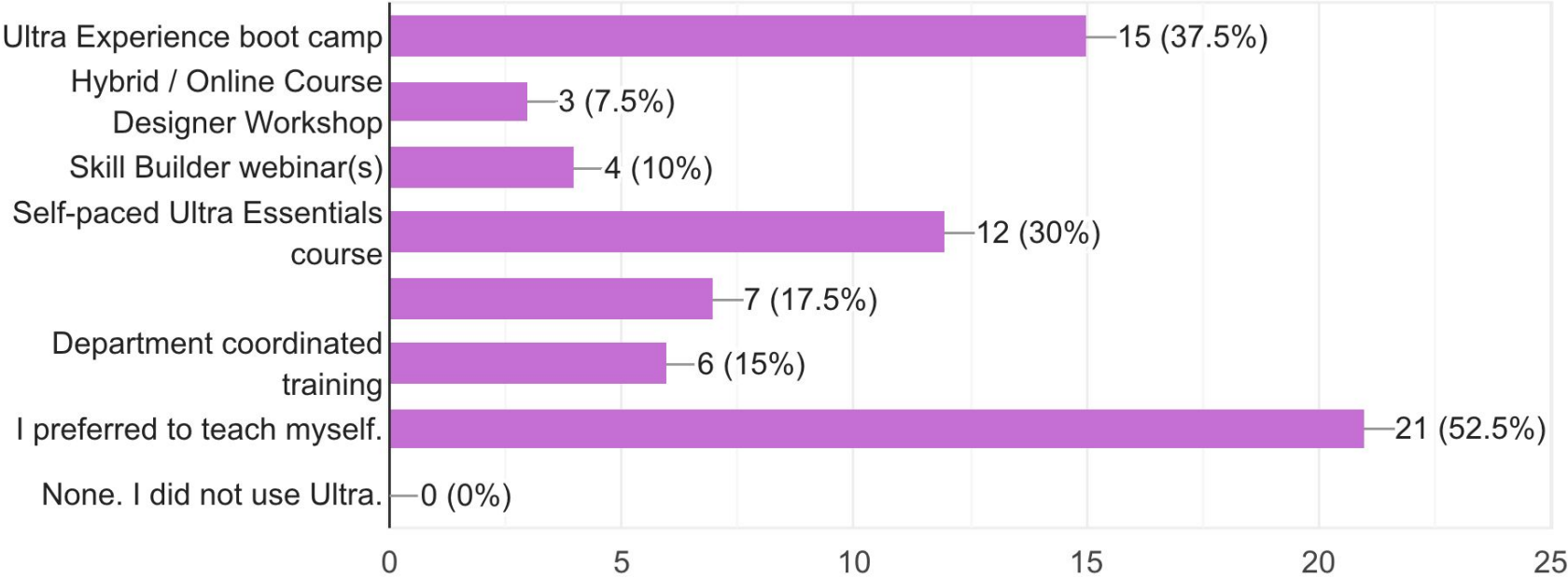
# Would you use Ultra again in your course?

39 responses



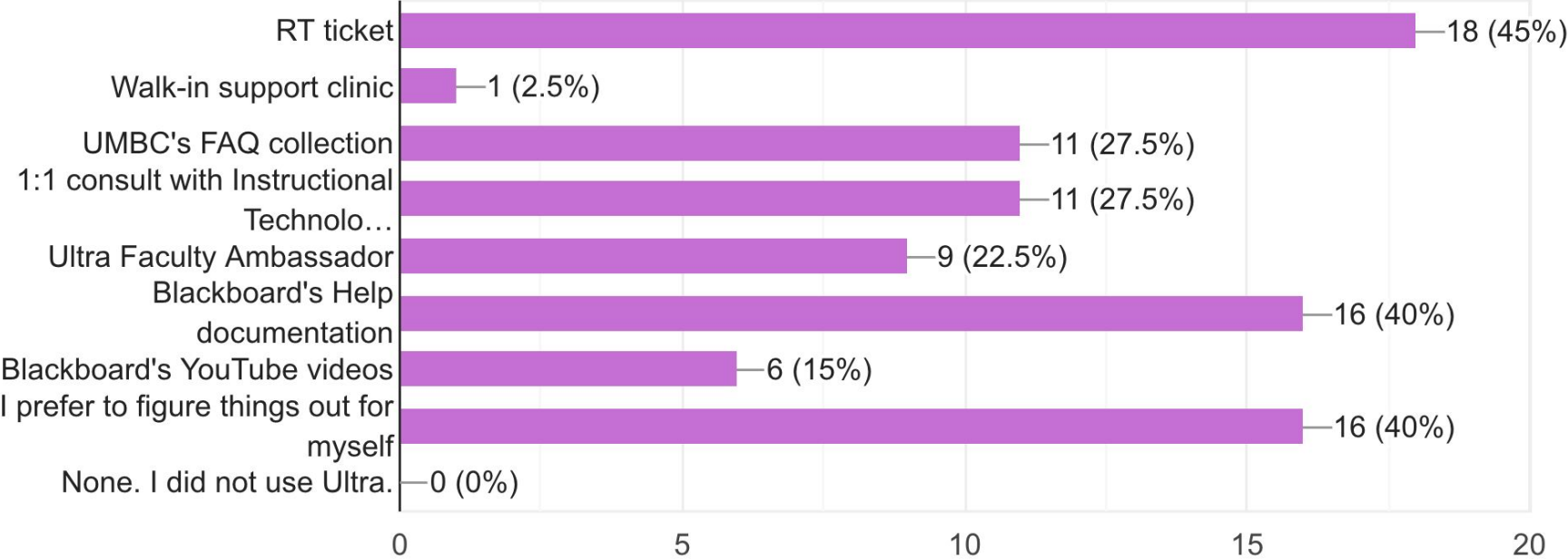
# What kind of Ultra training did you attend?

40 responses



# What kind of Ultra support have you used?

40 responses



**Feedback**





# What they liked

- Student feedback is that it is easy to use. **It made me rethink how the course was organized** (never hurts to refresh).
- I like that there are new options for assignments and that **you can kind of combine elements of assessment with assignments.**
- With its cleaner design, it **feels less overwhelming and confusing**
- Everything is on one page. Students have to view announcements. I appreciate **the ability to post all grades simultaneously.** Internal messaging works well. It feels intuitive.
- It seems a bit **more streamlined** in terms of usage. Not quite so "clunky."

# What they didn't like

Main concerns - Gradebook, Groups, Tests

- Gradebook - overall functionality, calculations, what students see
- Groups - bulk creation, reusing group sets for gradable activities
- Tests - what students see, releasing grades/feedback

Additional concerns - Announcements, Messages, Content Creation/Management

- Announcements - formatting, sending as email or message, archive or list
- Messages - Subject line, notifications, overall functionality
- Content - drag & drop issues, course links, copy content within course

# Grading / Gradebook: What they didn't like

I can't **track what students are looking at**. The **gradebook is confusing**.

There are some old features missing such as **link to plagiarism software** [SafeAssign Direct Submit] and you can no longer **upload supporting documents to student feedback** in the gradebook.

There is virtually **no usable support for team-based activities and grading**.

I want to be able to **download all student submissions** for one assignment

The [top navigation] **buttons need more labels and visibility**. It took me forever to find the grades section and then how to add a grade.

# Grading / Gradebook: What they didn't like

**Gradebook and adaptive release... are not useful for the things that we need to do** in order to run our classes effectively.

Many of the features I use to counter cheating and support online tests and assignments are gone. There is **no way to hold answers until the class has taken tests** or **randomize attempts with question sets**, and therefore nothing to stop students looking over each others' shoulders to find out what's on the test.

I think setting up the **grade book could be easier** to manipulate.

Attachment file to announcements, **grading set up is not simple**

# Creating & Managing Content: What they didn't like

**Moving segments of resources around is difficult** sometimes such as moving a doc from one area to another. This has resulted in **accidentally moving a file into a folder and not being aware that it slipped into the wrong location.**

I don't see **how to link to a discussion board in more than one module** and I can't seem to **copy content into another module** in the same course.

**Fewer clicks to navigate**, please. Deep links, please.

**Documents from Box or Drive can't be previewed**, they have to be downloaded, which is like "what's the point?"

# Announcements & Discussions: What they didn't like

the **announcements**... seem to come out to be **big, unformatted blurbs**

Discussion board interface is horrible. Difficult to find new messages, difficult to figure out which you've answered. **Too many layers of clicking to get to any single message** [on the discussion board].

Messaging is a problem. You cannot store emails, **You cannot "Title" emails [messages]** among other things.

The **email system is not as flexible** as working with normal gmail.

# Discussion