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# Implementation and effectiveness of an animal sciences transfer student orientation course at NDSU & ISU

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# First-Year Orientation

- Part of many college curriculums
- Meant to ease transition into college
- Is it important beyond freshmen students?



# The Problem

- Rise in education costs and changing needs of students
  - Increased number of transfer students at 4-year universities
- Transfer students placed into freshmen class or no orientation class at all
  - Possible lack of engagement and connections
  - Transfer Shock?

# Transfer Shock

- Defined as, “the temporary dip in grades and academic performance that some students experience during the first or second semester after transferring”

(Hills 1965, Townsend 1993, Jackson & Laanan 2015)

- What resources are in place to assist students with their transition?
  - Is it enough?



# Transfer-Specific Course

- Fall of 2018, ISU & NDSU created an orientation course specifically for transfer students
- Some topics included:
  - Degree plan
  - Internships
  - Involvement
  - Resumes & cover letters
  - Finances
  - Major information, course substitutions, degree audits

# Survey

- Survey at the end of semester:

*Please rate your level of agreement with each statement.*

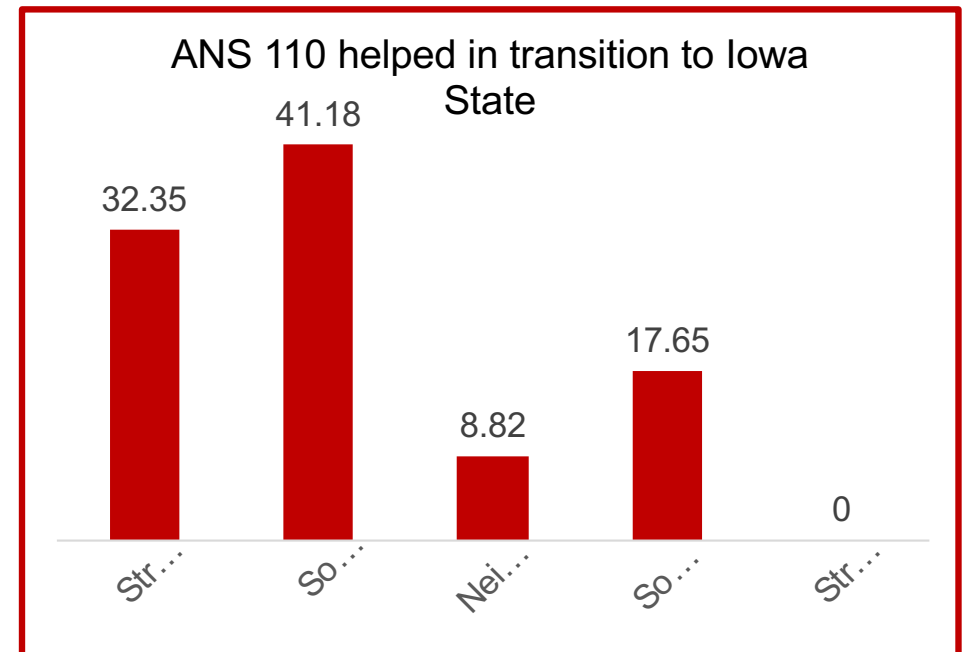
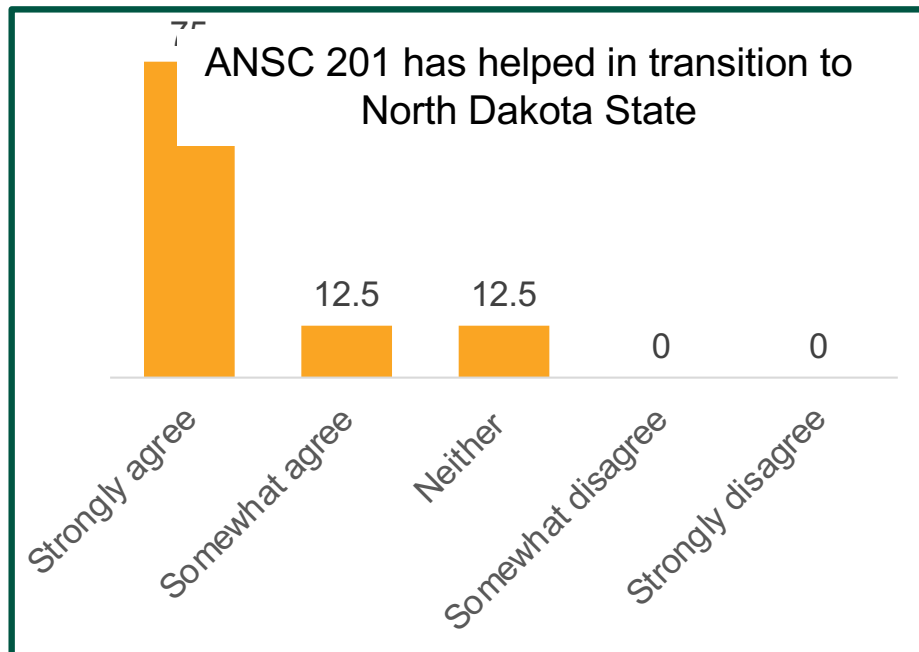
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither agree or disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
<b>This course has helped my transition</b>					
<b>I would recommend this course to future transfer students</b>					
<b>Overall, the material covered was relevant to me</b>					
<b>The material covered has already been covered by courses at my previous institution</b>					
<b>Transfer shock has affected my adjustment</b>					

# Survey Continued

- What factors contributed to transfer shock?
- What on and off campus resources have you used to overcome transfer shock?
- Most and least useful topics
- Topics not covered in enough detail
- Topics to add

# Results

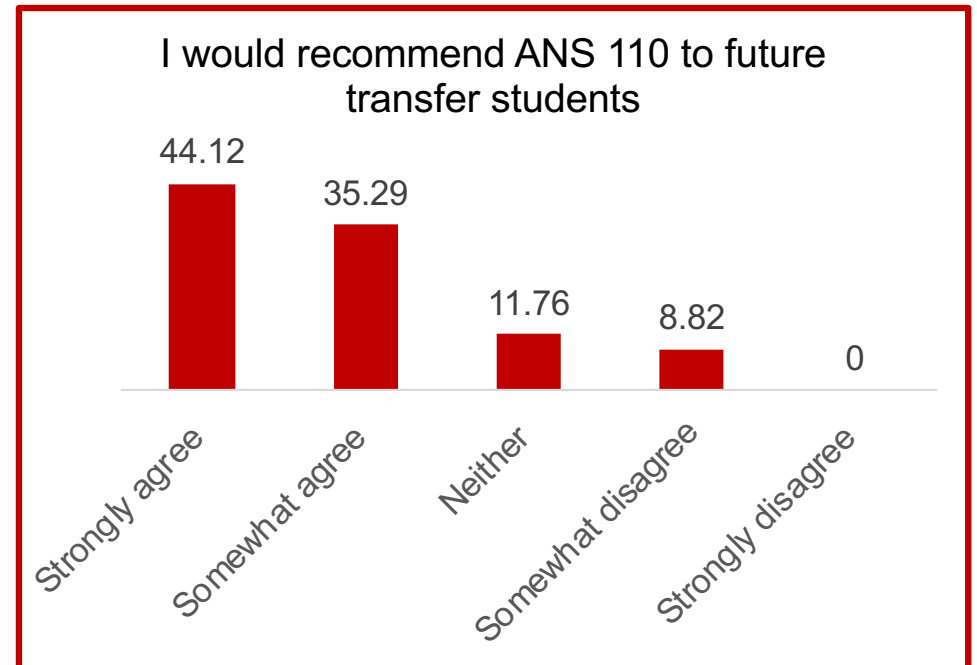
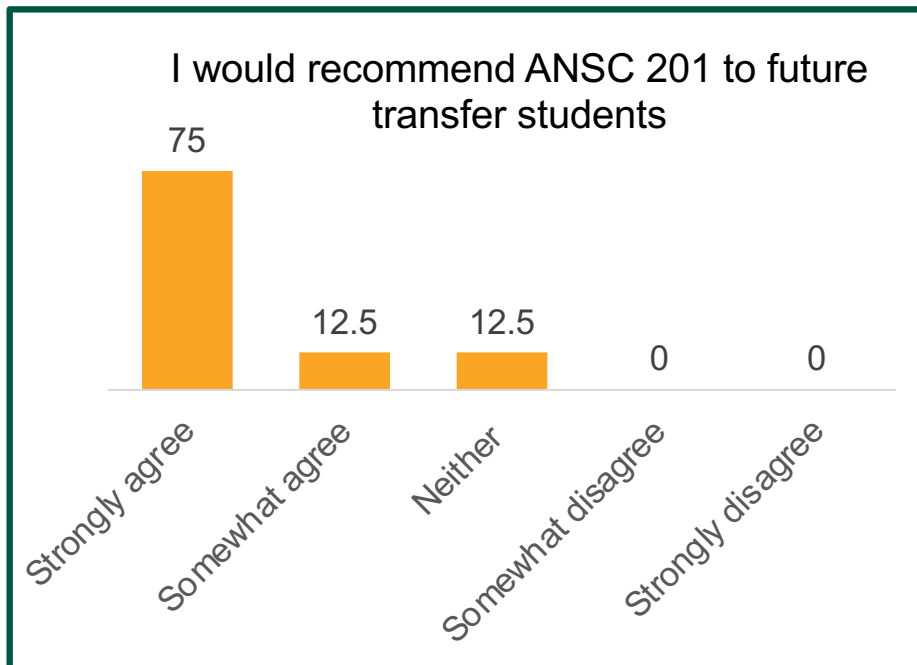
- NDSU (n=8) & ISU (n=34)





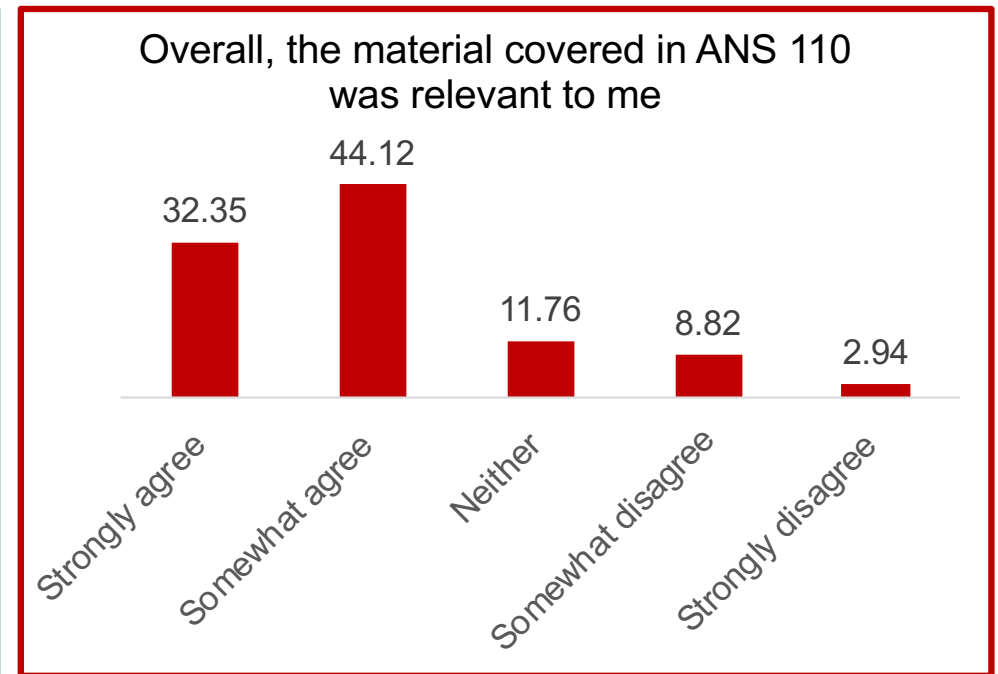
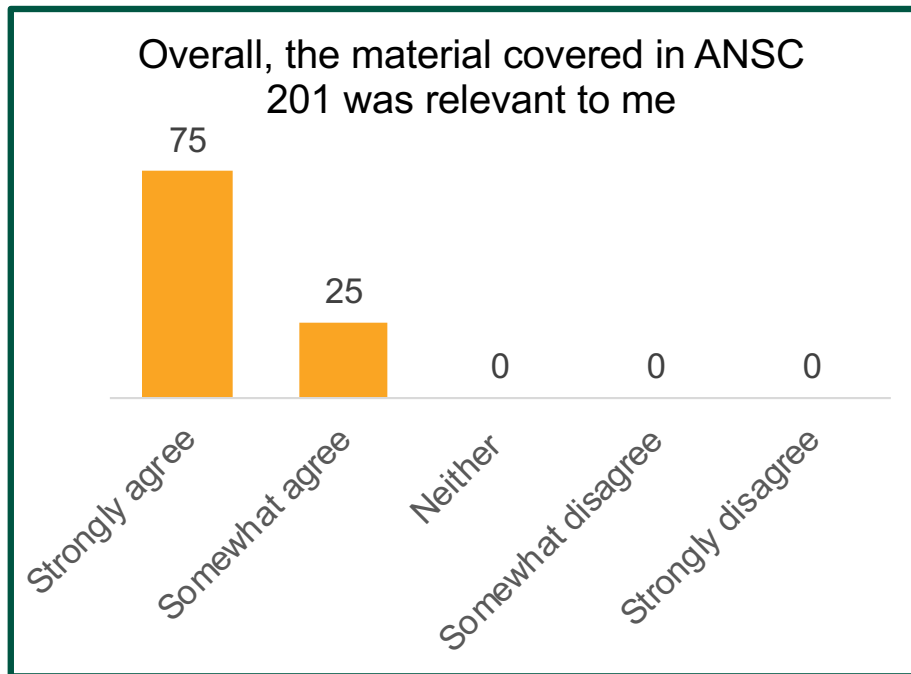
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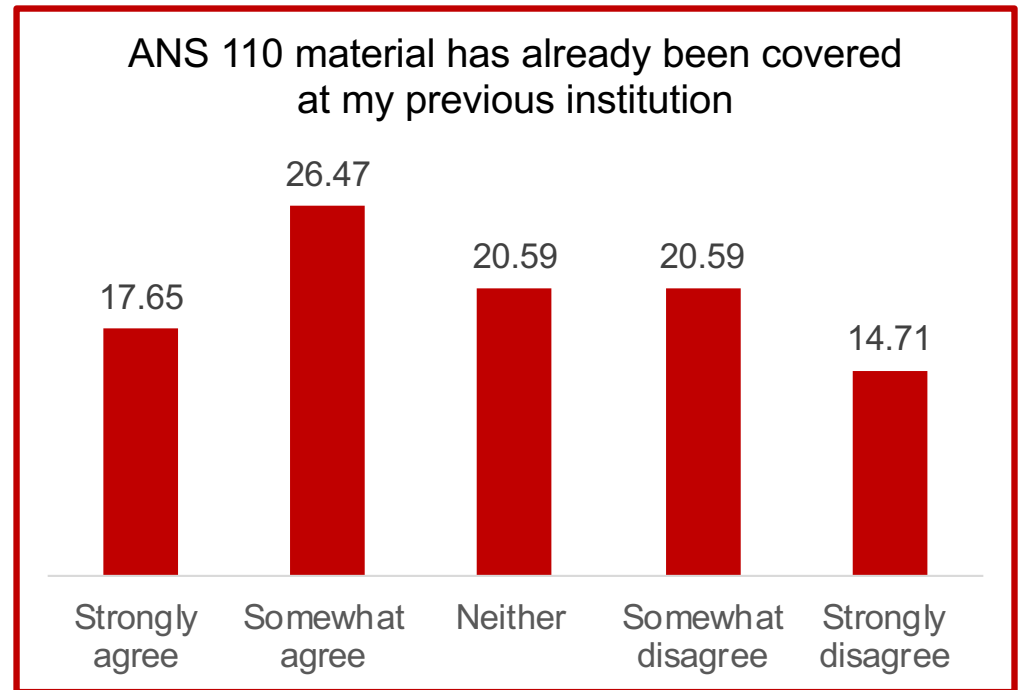
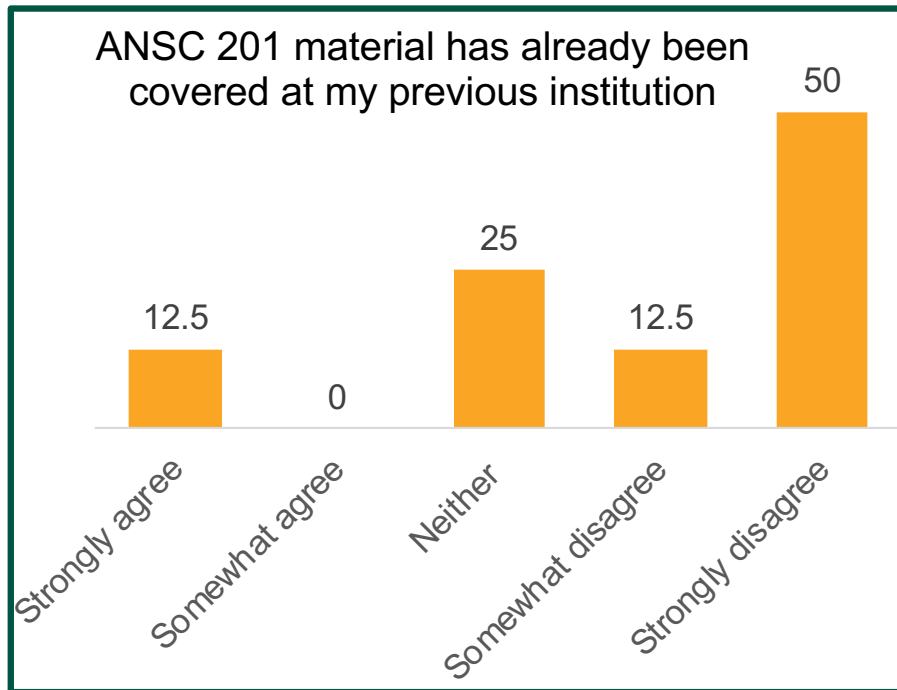
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- NDSU (n=8) ISU (n=34)



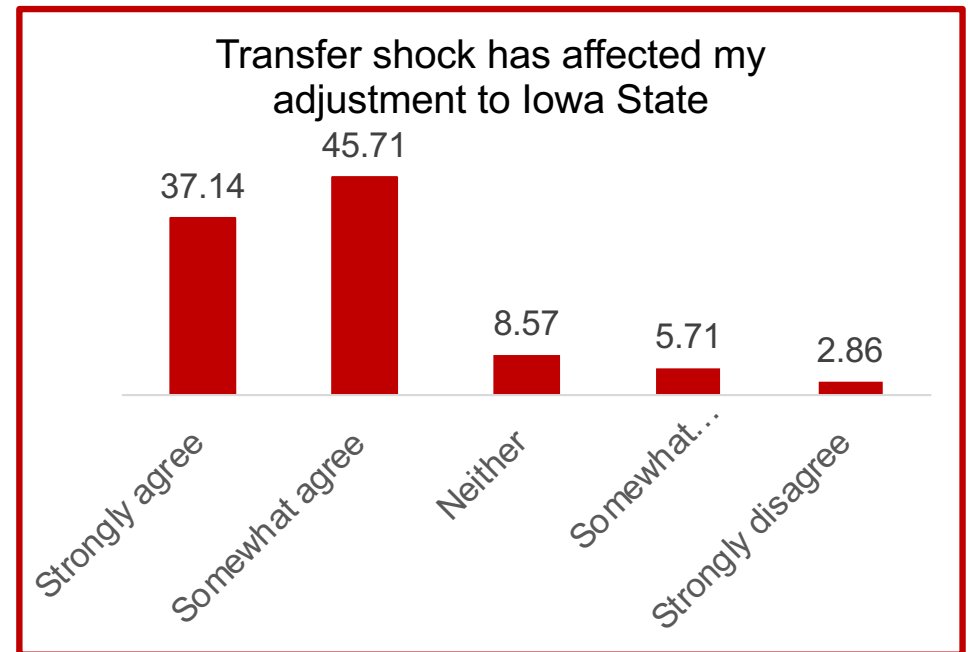
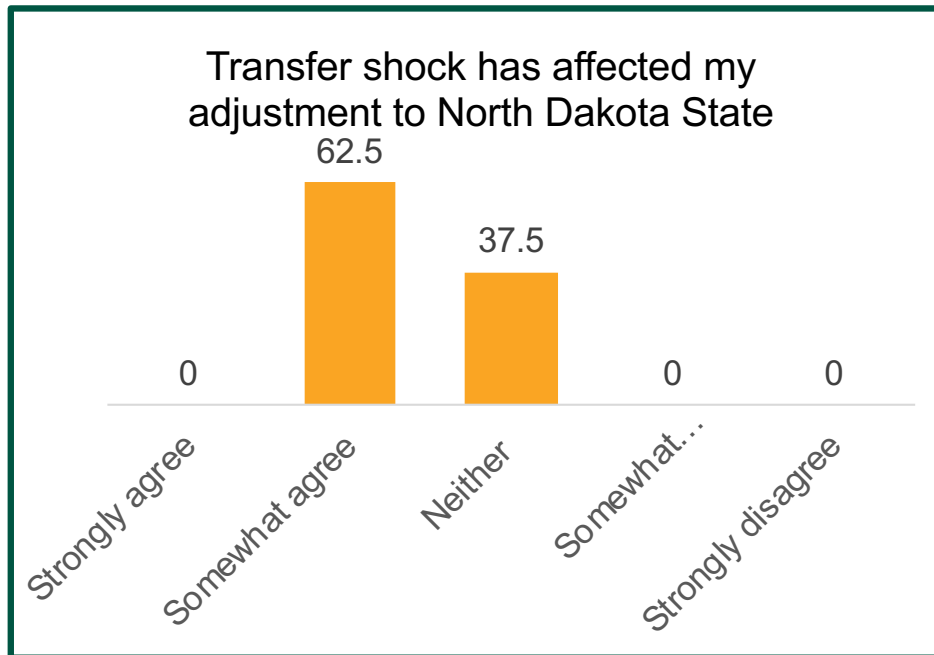
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- ***Over half of students were not familiar with the term “transfer shock” at both NDSU & ISU***

# Results

- Most useful topics:
  - **NDSU:** clubs, resumes, NDSU resources, pre-vet requirements
  - **ISU:** 2-year plan, course sub/degree audit, resumes, financial planning
- Topics to add:
  - **NDSU:** left 3 class periods open for students to choose; chose study habits, pre-vet requirements, upperclassmen “tips and tricks”
  - **ISU:** study habits, making a schedule, interviews

# Summary

- The majority of students had never heard of transfer shock
- Many students said transfer shock affected their transition
- Overall, students found the class to be helpful and would recommend to future students

# Future Directions

- Continue to develop curriculum:
  - **NDSU:** time management, more about transfer shock, give more opportunities for students to help determine curriculum
  - **ISU:** study habits, time management, strengths-based leadership
- **Facilitate collaboration with other interested institutions**