



Maximizing Office Hours at TnTech



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Instructional Designers

Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning



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Session Resources:

- Session will be recorded.
- **Slide deck** will be shared.
- We will be in the chat to answer any questions.
- Book a [consultation](#) with your instructional designer!



Poll Question:

How well-attended
are your office hours?



Agenda

- Why office hours?
- Why don't students attend?
- What are some ideas from the literature? From our peers?

1

Why office hours?

The emphasis on faculty–student interaction (FSI) came in the 20th century when research began showing faculty–student engagement positively impacted student satisfaction and retention.



Grades & office hours visits are positively correlated.

(Guerrero & Roc, 2013)

And yet

66%

of undergraduates
have never visited.

Griffen et al., 2014



Why do office hours matter?

**Increases
faculty-
student
interaction
(FSI)**

**Build
relationships
for future
benefit**

**Provide a
low-stakes
environment
to work on
course
material**



How many office hours should I provide?

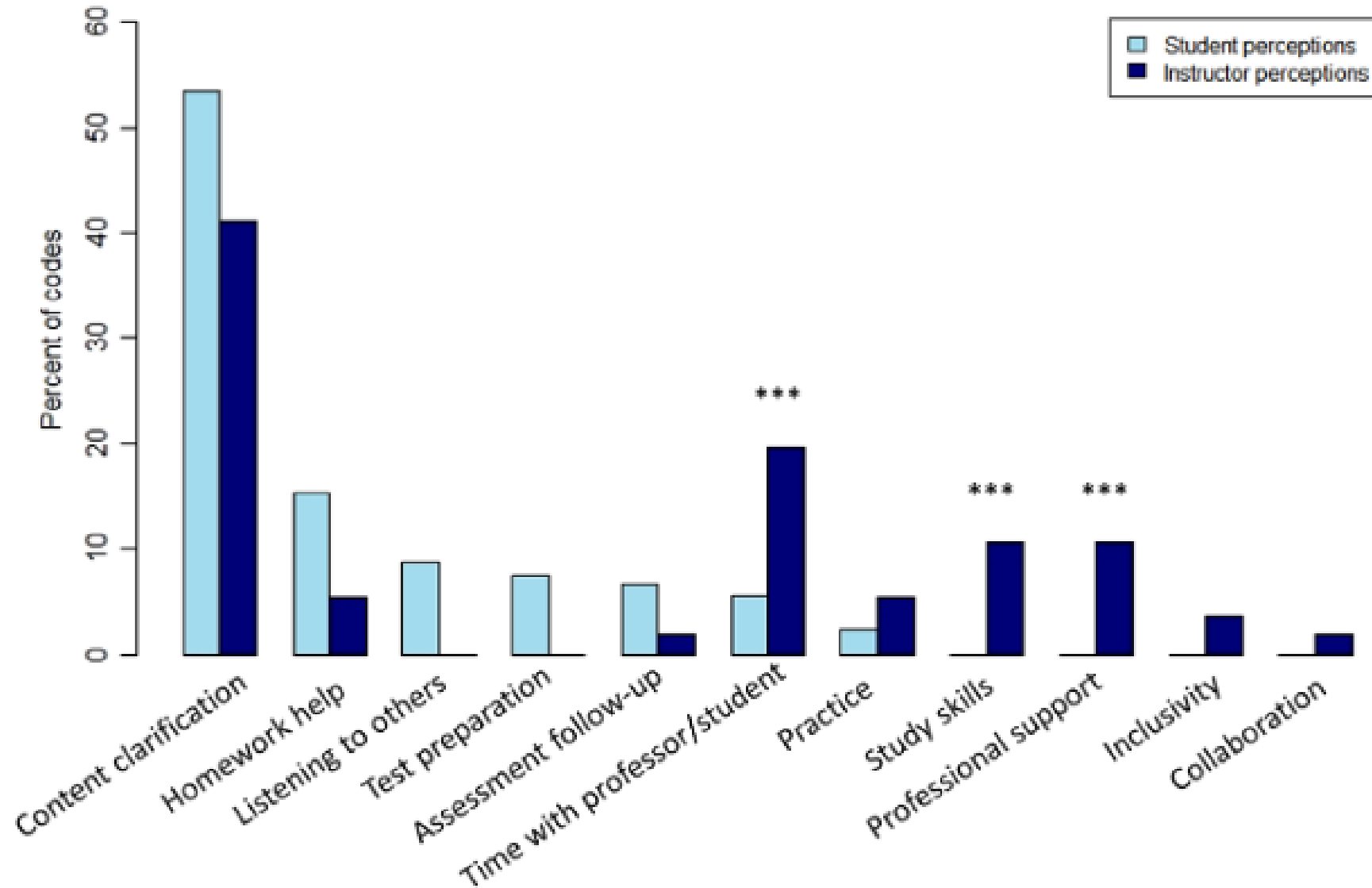
Typical guideline is 1 office hour per section per week.

- F2F in office
- F2F on campus (beyond office)
- Virtual
- Group sessions (F2F or virtual)

**Check with
your
department
chair!**



Benefits of Office Hours





Poll Question:

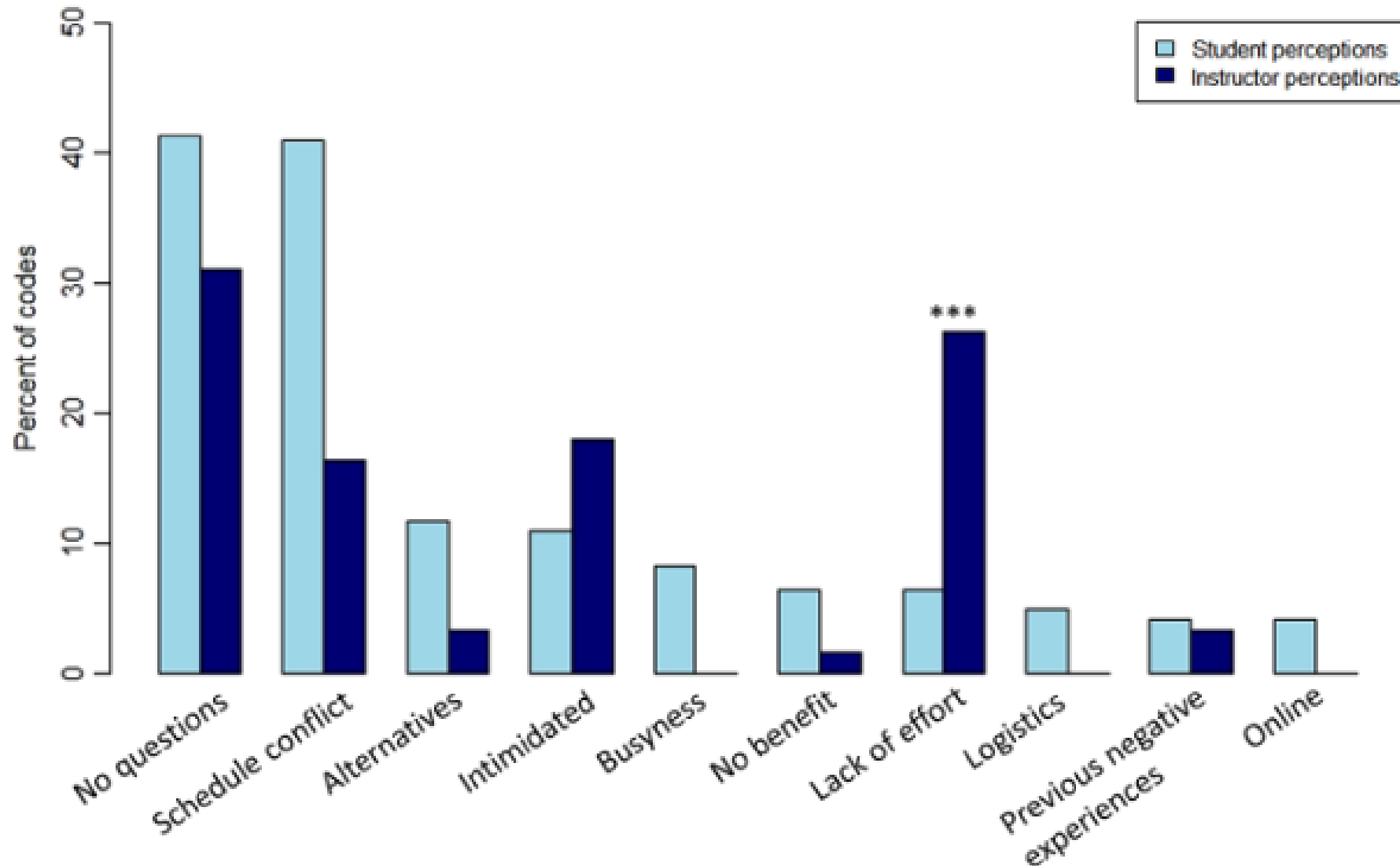
Why don't students
attend office hours?

2

Why don't students attend office hours?

Studies reflect what our own TnTech students said about utilizing office hours. A big response was **time.**

Barriers to Office Hours





TnTech students want you to know...

"I rely heavily on quick email responses because I work during office hours and have responsibilities outside schoolwork."

"I wish faculty would give us a time that works best for email interactions as well as in person meetings."

"It would be helpful to have office hours after working hours, for example after 4:30 p.m. We're people with complex lives and lots of things to juggle."

"Just having office hours listed on a syllabus is not enough. As a student it is important to know the professor is willing to meet outside of class time to go over additional questions/content."

3

What are some things we can try?

Rebranding office hours is a hot topic in higher education literature and blogs, and we have some people on campus here at TnTech who are being innovative.



What's in a name?



Connection Hours



Student Hours



Learning Hours



But we can take it further

Available

Poll students to see when & what kind of office hours they'd utilize

Focused

Have topics and prompts available for students to choose from

Welcoming

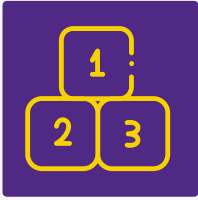
Professors who use active learning strategies in the classroom are perceived as more welcoming

Public

Starbucks, Au Bon Pain/library, and Einstein Bros are just a few options on our campus

Interactive

Group visits help students articulate questions and learn from each other



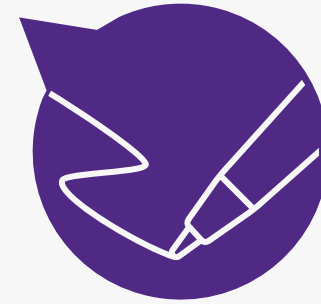
Additional ideas that have worked at TnTech



**Keep your door
open**



**Utilize a Teams or
social media site
(Discord,
GroupMe)**



**Use a scheduler
like Bookings,
Doodle, or
YouCanBookMe**



Remember

- Some things are out of your control.
- Your boundaries are important.



Respond in the chat:

What's one thing you
might try with your
office hours?



References

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Thank you!

Comments, Questions,
Concerns?

[Feedback Survey](#)

Next Week's Session

Decluttering the Online Classroom:
Making Course Design Work for
Students (11/14)

[Register](#)