

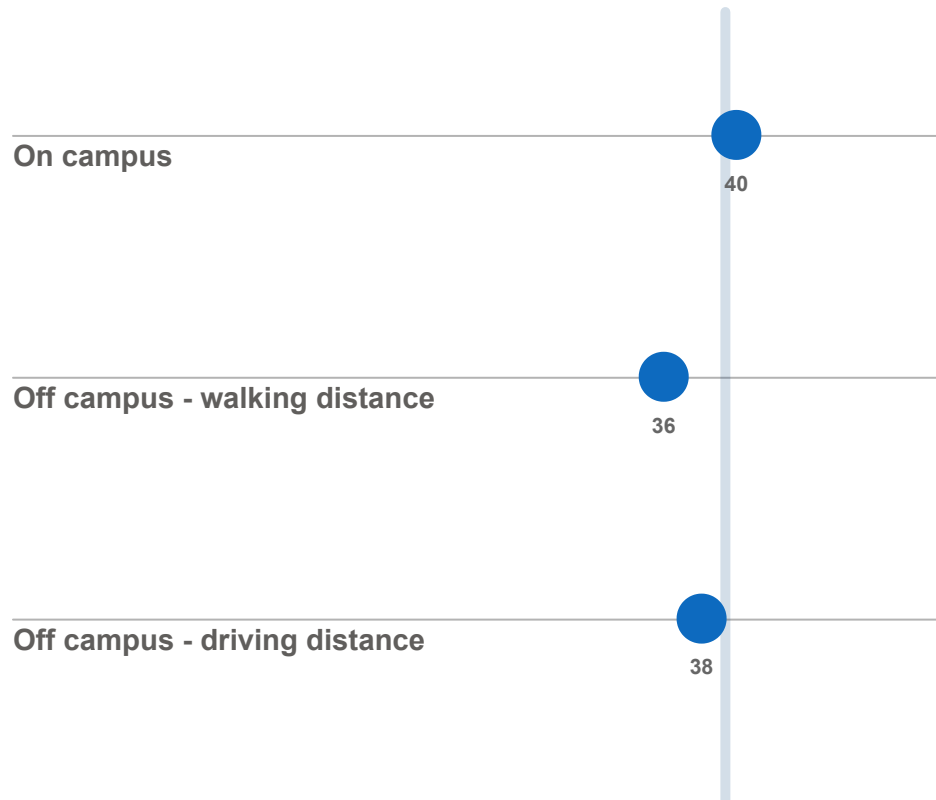
**First-year students** who live on campus report higher belonging. On campus **seniors** report less belonging. There are implications for belonging for students who commute to campus.

Off-campus students who spend **more than 15 hours per week** commuting [report less belonging](#). These students may be [overextended](#) with work and other obligations, which impacts their ability to form a sense of belonging with ISU.

### First-year students

0-60 point belonging scale

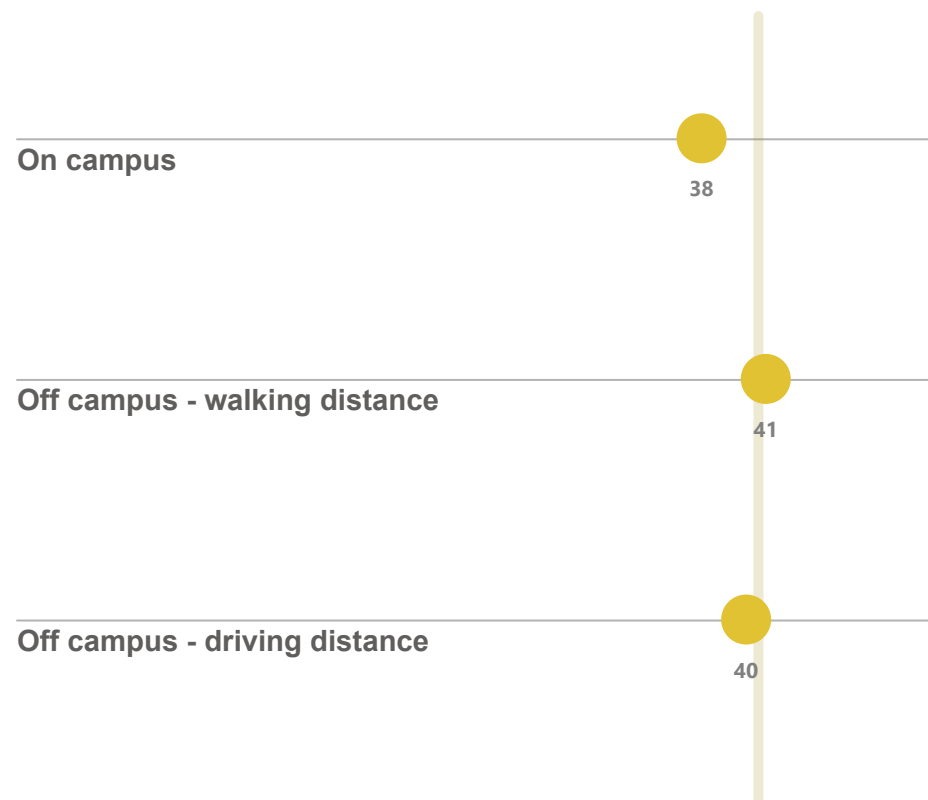
First-year benchmark



### Seniors

0-60 point belonging scale

Senior benchmark



### Three simple things that enhance belonging and student success

1. Create physical spaces for commuters who have **gaps in their schedules**.
2. **Awareness of signals** of communications and marketing materials and the signals they may convey about belonging.
3. **Recognize commuting challenges**, including the weather and parking.

Note: Data from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), spring 2023, [University Assessment Services](#), Illinois State University. Score derived from a 4-point likert scale converted to a 0-60 point scale. Questions based on feeling like a part of the community, being valued by ISU, and comfort being oneself. See also: [ISU Binary Logistic Regression Retention Model](#) and [Sense of Belonging and Identity Groups at ISU](#).