

UBC Okanagan TA Training Credential

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Background

The TA Foundational Training Program at UBC Okanagan is a 10-hour micro-credential program for TAs, which teaches foundational knowledge and skills to support academic courses through learner-centered strategies for engagement and feedback.

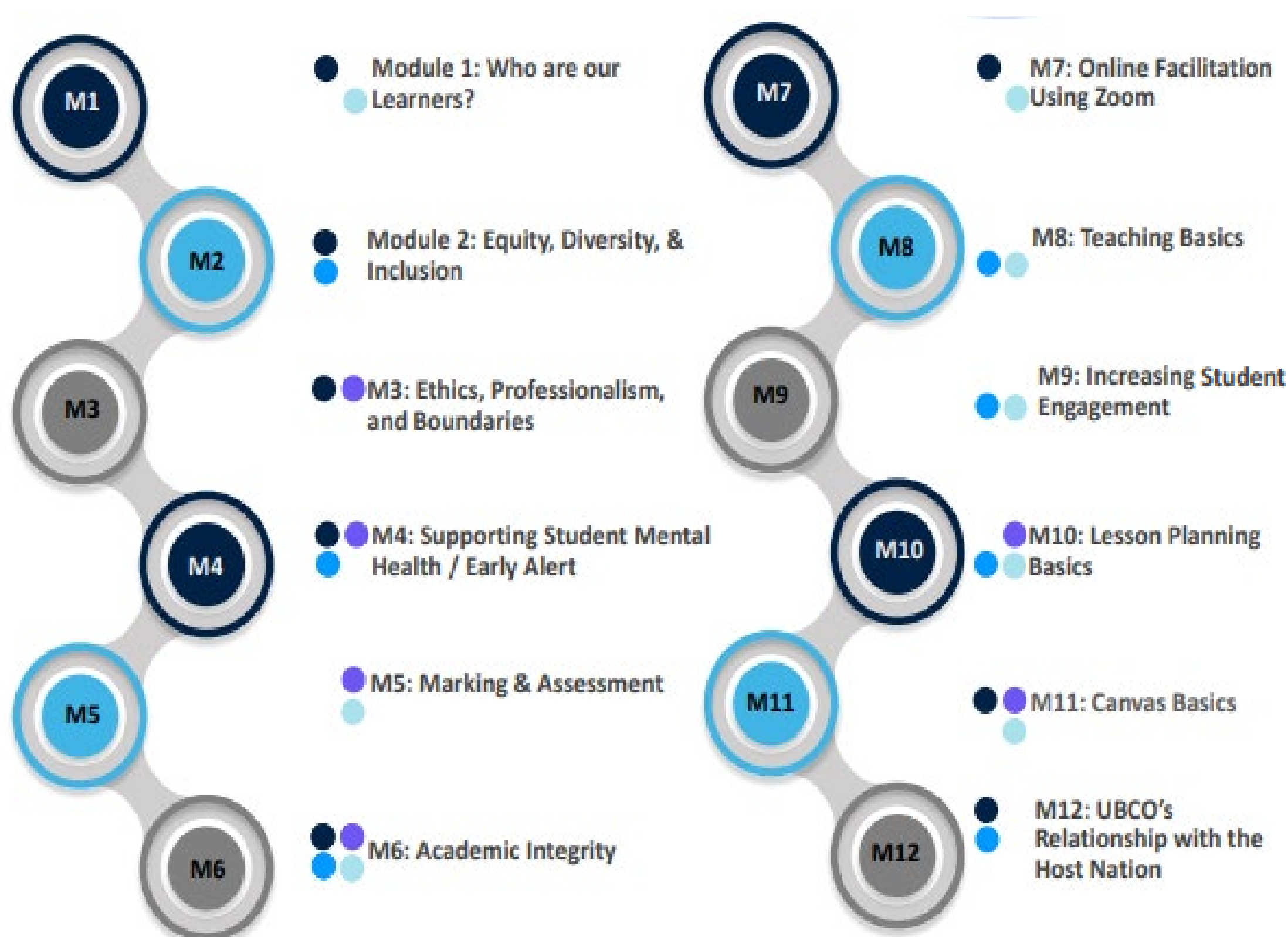
366 TAs completed the program between September 2022 and March 2023.

Rationale

Centralizing TA training ensures consistent training and equitable access to foundational training, regardless of position level or program.

Program Format

To fulfil the full requirements of training and receive compensation for the full 10 hours, TAs needed to complete 6 core modules and 2 electives of their choosing.



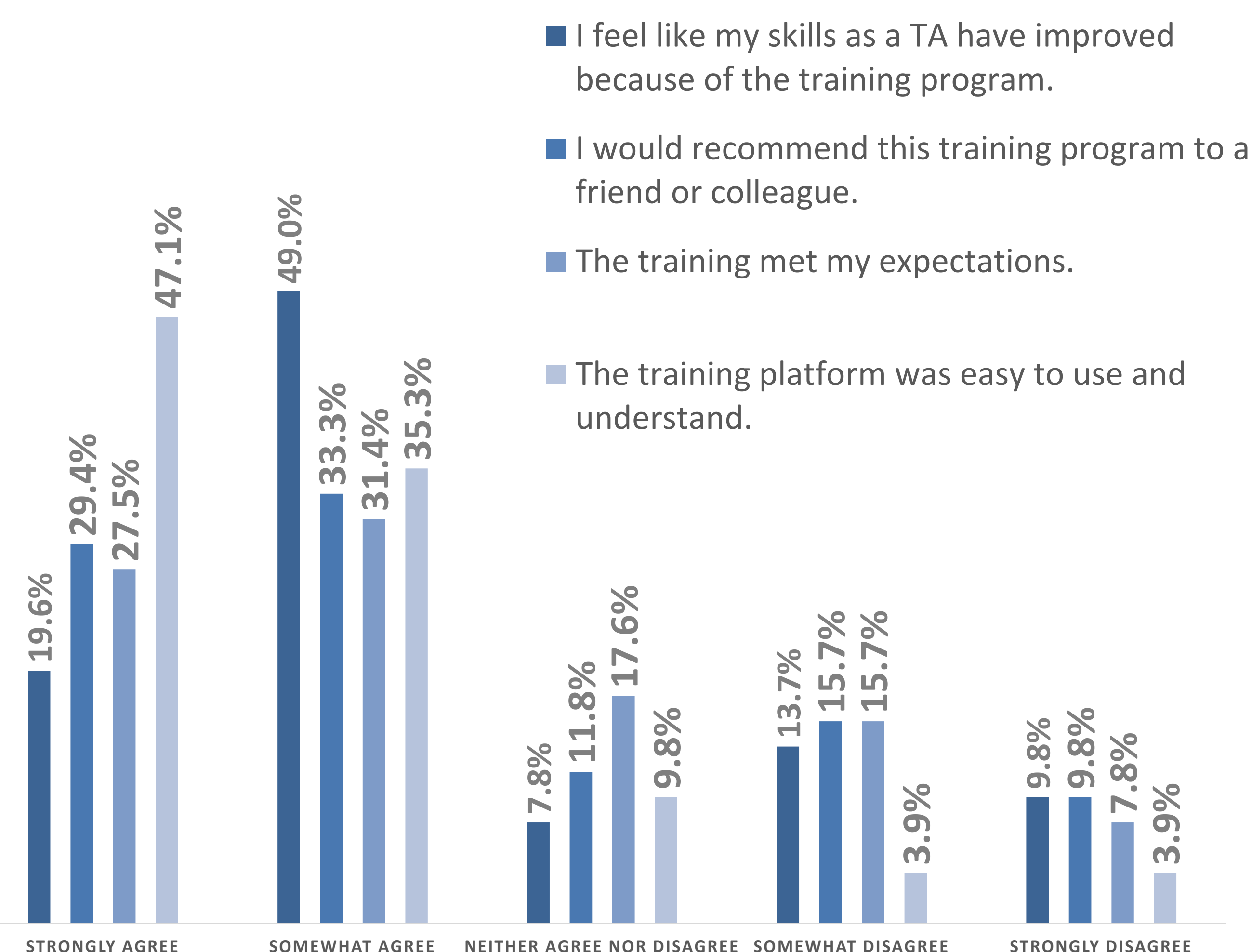
Student Response

A post-training survey was sent to all 366 TAs and 63 TAs responded.

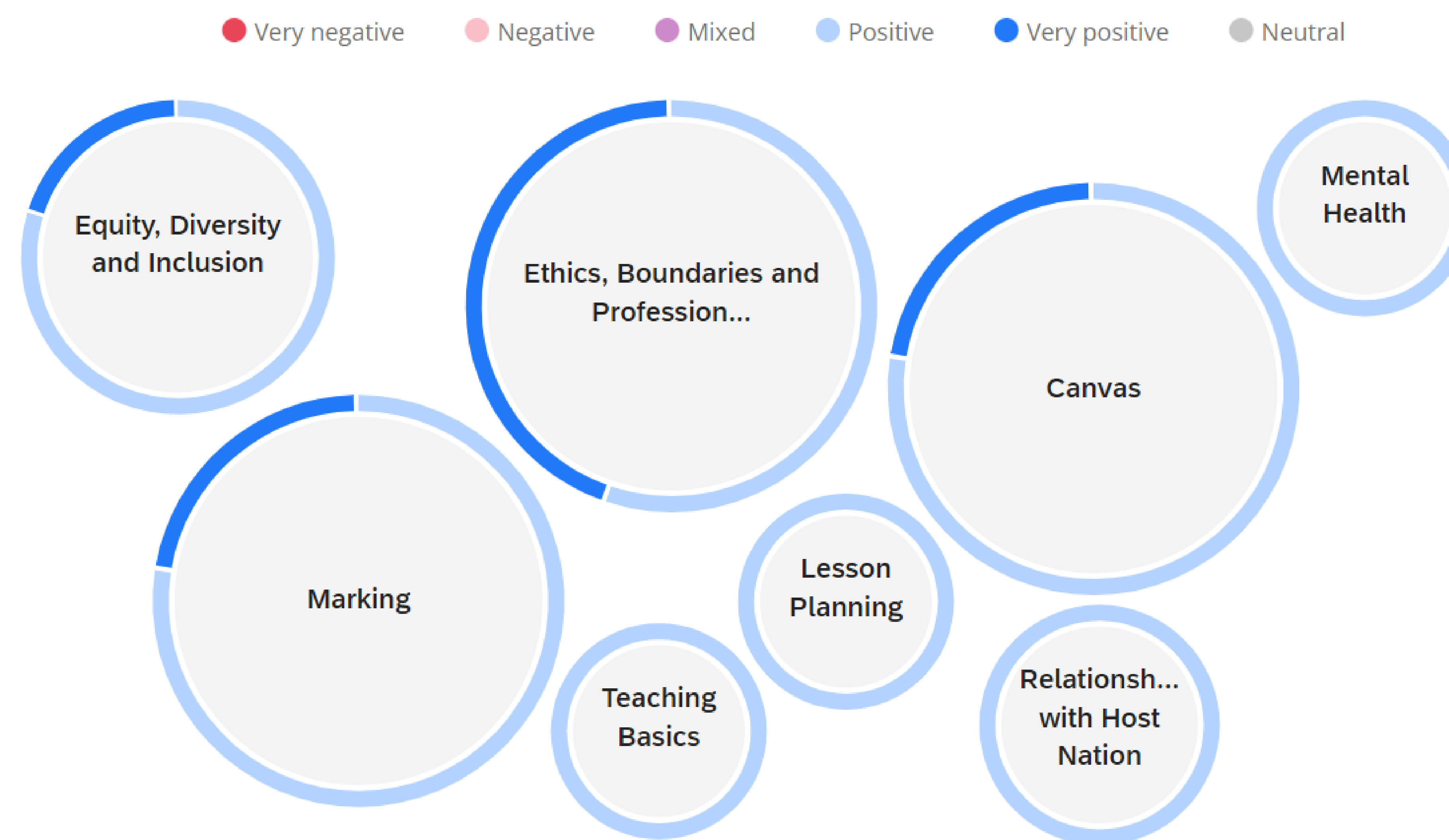
The survey asked TAs to respond to statements about their experience with the program, including whether it improved their skills as a TA, whether they would recommend it to others and whether it met their expectations.

Respondents were also asked which modules were most helpful and what else they would have found helpful.

Overall, 68.6% of respondents felt that their TA skills had improved after completing the program, and 62.7% would recommend the program to others.



Student Response (Continued)



The most beneficial modules according to TAs. Bubble size shows the number of respondents who chose that module and colors indicate the emotional tone of written responses analyzed by an AI tool.

TA Feedback

- “Grading lengthy exams/assignments 1 question at a time has been helpful and allowed me to grade more consistently”
- “During marking, I enjoyed using the “sandwich” method. I also appreciated learning about how to use Canvas.”
- “Learning to communicate effectively with students was definitely a key skill that helped me teach the students.”
- “Other modules should have been mandatory, as such Teaching basics and Increasing student engagement; these help a lot.”

Future Directions

- Include more Indigenous initiatives, anti-bullying and anti-racism content.
- Expand the professionalism module to cover sick leave and vacation policies.
- Rework modules based on feedback from TAs, including the mental health and equity, diversity and inclusion modules.

Acknowledgements

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