



**UTAH BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
TELECONFERENCE
Friday, October 29, 2021
1:00 PM**

Agenda

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Strategic Plan Update: Board Committee Priority Review | TAB A |
| • Review strategic plan priorities and plan for the upcoming five committee meetings | |
| 2. Public Education Equity Funding Evaluation (SB 142,2021) | TAB B |
| 3. Statewide Higher Education Advocacy and Awareness Campaign Update | TAB C |
| 4. Student Report | TAB D |
| • Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council and student member stipends – Policy R120 and R582 | |
| • Utah Student Association | |
| • Lauren’s Promise | |
| 5. Streamlining Admissions and Scholarships | TAB E |
| • Updated scope of effort of the Board Priority: “Simplify institutional admissions processes” | |
| 6. Voice of the Customer Report (USHE Non-Traditional Student in Utah) | TAB F |
| 7. Mental health update | TAB G |

Projected times for the various meetings are estimates only. The Board Chair retains the right to take action at any time. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during this meeting should notify ADA Coordinator, 60 South 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84180 (801-321-7124), at least three working days prior to the meeting. TDD # 801-321-7130.



October 29, 2021

Strategic Plan Update: Board Committee Priority Review

In 2020, Utah's two higher education systems merged, creating a single system of 16 higher education institutions. The Utah Board of Higher Education adopted a strategic plan in May 2021 to guide the newly-merged system for the next five years. The Board's strategic plan is built on six pillars:

- System Unification
- Access
- Affordability
- Completion
- Workforce Alignment
- Research

Two themes guide the strategic plan:

1. Alignment of measures between statewide postsecondary attainment goals and performance-based funding
2. Centering of educational equity and inclusion so that higher education opportunities exist for all Utahns

The Commissioner's office has assigned strategies from the strategic plan to specific Board committees. This does not mean a specific strategy will not impact other committees, but that an identified committee will be keeping an eye on the progress of its assigned strategies and actively work to advance them. (The Academic Education and Technical Education Committees share all of their strategies, as they impact both degree-granting and technical institutions.)

Strategic Goals pertaining to the Student Affairs Committee:

- **Access:** Increase the college-going rate of high school graduates by 3% in 5 years. Increase the college-going rate of underrepresented groups by 4% in 5 years.
- **Affordability:** Increase student ability to pay the cost of attendance.
- **Completion:** Increase timely completion of degrees and awards by 3% in 5 years. Increase the timely completion of underrepresented students by 4% in 5 years.
- **Workforce Alignment:** Increase completion rate of graduates in high-demand, high-wage programs by 7% in 5 years. Increase completion rate of underrepresented groups in programs aligned with high-wage, high-demand jobs by 8% in 5 years.

Strategies, Tactics, and Objectives of the Student Affairs Committee

	Strategy	Tactic(s)	Objectives
Access	Ensure high school students are meaningfully informed on scholarships, dual enrollment programming, financial aid, and higher ed pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate collaboration among college access partners such as UCAC, TRIO, GEAR UP, AVID, Latinos in Action, USHE CE Directors, CTE directors, institutions, and advisors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and package communications and training around USHE college access efforts Relationship building and inventorying at the state level with state college access partners and institutional partners Develop and implement strategy across UCAC coordinators and institutional partners that supports co-collaborative work in regions
	Simplify institutional admissions processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build out K-12/USHE data to inform access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructure partnership with Utah Data Research Center Develop a process for more inclusive measures Implement Statewide Student Identifier Taskforce with institution partners and state stakeholders focused on ROI analysis of transactional data system Longitudinal data for HS Feedback Report and other metrics
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplify applications and admissions for students from historically underserved populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the functionality of Keys to Success to integrate with institution admissions/enrollment platforms and processes Update USHE residency policy and practices Identify state policy/statute revisions to simplify admissions Simplify state access and college readiness platforms
	Ensure systemwide institutional supports for student basic needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help institutions establish a “standard of care” around basic needs, specifically technology, transportation, food, housing, childcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape analysis of institutional basic needs supports Train admissions and access personnel on state and institutional basic needs support
Affordability	Increase FAFSA completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify external partners that support increased FAFSA completion. Develop a statewide FAFSA completion strategy that focuses on specific student populations (military veterans, returning LDS missionaries, individuals from underserved communities, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review FAFSA Study and best practices Study impacts of requiring FAFSA completion to receive institution scholarships Develop alternative FAFSA for ineligible Title IV students Align internal FAFSA initiatives Align external FAFSA initiatives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data research of FAFSA trends, study other states’ strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete gathering and analyzing Utah-specific FAFSA application data to gain insights into Utah’s FAFSA completion rates, including the impact on LDS mission participation Review and compile best practices that substantially increase FAFSA completion in other states Establish ongoing data tracking to assess policy effectiveness Create policy proposals based on data insights and best practices research
	Evaluate and prioritize state student financial aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement, evaluate, and prioritize state scholarships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement updated state scholarships portal Streamline state financial aid program administration and reporting Clarify messaging on priority scholarships Update state scholarship policies Standardize financial aid award procedures

	Evaluate and prioritize state student financial aid (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamline citizenship affidavit processes (HB 144) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create one standard USHE sponsored HB-144 affidavit with accompanying instructions for awarding in-state tuition for all degree-granting institutions Create instructional one-pager for institutions collecting citizenship data and awarding state and private scholarship aid Review and update all policies to align with the revised statute Create guidelines for institutions to annually report HB-144 enrollment and completion data
Completion	Ensure systemwide institutional supports for student mental health and campus safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and implement system mental health strategies and policies in accordance with institution mental health strategic plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand JED partnership to Technical Colleges Partner with Huntsman Mental Health Institute Develop innovative workforce certifications in behavioral health in conjunction with Utah HHS Peer mentoring for all USHE students Increase SafeUT utilization Student health insurance availability for mental health services Coordinate confidential mental health histories Document roles/intersects with public and private providers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline expectations for campus safety for degree-granting /technical institutions. Support institutions in meeting baseline expectations. Facilitate collaboration on best practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council Implicit bias training of campus law enforcement Explore system partnerships with McCluskey Center Review of policies and best practices of system interventions for campus safety
Workforce Alignment	Increase higher ed participation rate of adults with/without a high school diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with stakeholders (DWS, USBE, UDOC) to support enrollment of adult learners in academic /technical education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the segmentation of groups within the category of adults with/without a high school diploma using the results from the Cicero Adult Education survey and other resources to determine messaging and connectivity through state stakeholders Partner with USBE to assess how USHE can achieve increased higher ed participation rate of adults without a high school diploma or equivalent. Study adult education outcomes and determine recommendations Partner with DWS to assess the success of entry points of DWS clients into the USHE system
	Ensure students are meaningfully informed on the value and ROI of higher ed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure funding for statewide expansion of the Utah College Advising Corps (UCAC) to every high school in the state. Evaluate program data to determine efficacy and best practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure funding for statewide expansion of the Utah College Advising Corps (UCAC) Determine best models for rural/remote advising through pilot programming Develop an overall data strategy for program effectiveness: IR/FAFSA/UCAC data/Keys to Success Aligning resources/training/materials with UCAC expansion

The Commissioner's office developed initial project plans for each tactic identified in the strategic plan and objectives for the ensuing 12-18 month timeline. The Commissioner's office presented the first progress report on the strategic plan at the September 2021 Board meeting. Progress reports will be updated monthly and available on www.ushe.edu.

Committee Discussion

The Student Affairs Committee is asked to review strategies and tactics to prioritize and verify efforts are moving in the right direction.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is a discussion item only; no action is required.

PRIORITY	SYSTEM UNIFICATION	ACCESS	AFFORDABILITY		COMPLETION	WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT	RESEARCH					
BOARD'S ROLE	Develop, strengthen and leverage a seamless and articulated system of higher education	Remove structural barriers to entry	Remove structural barriers to affordability	Remove structural barriers to graduation	Increase availability and stackability of high-demand, high-wage programs	Advocate for the role of research and support funding for research						
GOAL	Develop, strengthen, and leverage a seamless and articulated system of higher education.	<p>Increase the college-going rate of high school grads by 3% in 5 years.</p> <p>Increase the college-going rate of underrepresented groups by 4% in 5 years.</p>	<p>Increase student ability to pay cost of attendance.</p>	<p>Ensure institutional cost of attendance remains within the standard of affordability year over year.</p>	<p>Increase timely completion of degrees and awards by 3% in 5 years.</p> <p>Increase the timely completion of underrepresented students by 4% in 5 years.</p>	<p>Increase completion rate of graduates in high-demand, high-wage programs by 7% in 5 years.</p> <p>Increase completion rate of underrepresented groups in programs aligned with high-wage, high-demand jobs by 8% in 5 years.</p>	TBD					
STRATEGY	Align programs with institutional roles and minimize duplication among institutions	Train boards of trustees on delegated responsibilities	Ensure high school students are meaningfully informed on scholarships, dual enrollment programming, financial aid, and higher ed pathways	Ensure systemwide institutional supports for student basic needs	Develop an expanded standard of affordability	Expand shared services	Structure awards to facilitate completion and transfer	Ensure systemwide institutional supports for student mental health and campus safety	Increase higher ed participation rate of adults with/without a high school diploma	Increase student participation in work-based learning	Advocate for the role of research at degree-granting institutions in innovation, technology transfer, economic development /workforce, and community engagement and impact	Ensure institutions have needed support to conduct research
LEGEND:												
Academic Education/Technical Education												
Student Affairs												
Finance & Facilities												
Executive Committee												
Academic Education only												



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB B

October 29, 2021

Public Education Equity Funding Evaluation (SB 142, 2021)

In the 2021 General Legislative Session, SB 142 was adopted, directing the Utah State Board of Education to “complete an evaluation and make recommendations for future legislation regarding public education funding and addresses funding for students who are at risk.”

The primary objective of the evaluation is to “determine the extent to which current funding formulas meet their intended purposes and provide students reasonably equal educational opportunities” (Section 53F-2-103).

Tiffany Stanley, chief of staff to the state superintendent of public instruction, Syd Dickson, will provide the committee an update on the work of the Utah State Board of Education in relation to this legislation.

Committee Discussion

The committee could consider this evaluation in light of the Utah Board of Higher Education’s equity-focused efforts for possible exploration for future funding models of postsecondary education.

Commissioner’s Recommendation

This is an information item only; no action is required.



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB C

October 29, 2021

Statewide Higher Education Advocacy and Awareness Campaign Update

Fuel Marketing, the selected agency for Utah's statewide higher education advocacy and awareness campaign, will update committees on the progress of campaign development to this point. They will present a detailed campaign timeline outlining major launch and reporting dates, goals broken down by campaign phases, and the messaging approach and direction.

Both the Marketing/Communications workgroup and the Board/OCHE staff workgroups met prior to the October committee meetings and shared their feedback on the items outlined above, which was implemented into the materials presented to Board committees.

Next Steps

- Campaign workgroups will convene in November, prior to the launch, to review the campaign landing page, finalized messaging, and tracking mechanisms.
- An initial soft launch of phase one of the campaign is anticipated to take place in November 2021.
- We are looking at a spring 2022 launch of phase two of the campaign, which will focus on addressing misconceptions in higher ed and the value/ROI of higher ed. Phase two will require a baseline survey.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is a discussion item only; no action is required.



October 29, 2021

Student Report

Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council

The informally established Campus Safety and Equity Commission has been meeting monthly since July 2021. The commission is based on a recommendation of the USHE Campus Safety Study adopted in Fall 2020 to reduce communication barriers identified by students on state-level issues. The establishment of the commission was also initially part of campus safety legislation, SB 163, adopted by the Utah State Legislature. However, the provisions for the commission were ultimately dropped in the final passage in the 2021 General Session. In April 2021, the Utah Student Association, in coordination with student Board members, voted to create a Campus Safety and Equity Commission by appointing two members from each degree-granting institution. The following policy revisions seek to formalize the efforts of this group as the Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council to the Board of Higher Education:

Revisions to Board Policy R120: Establishes the Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council

The mission and purpose of the Campus Safety & Equity Advisory Council (CSEAC) is to represent the student voice in advising the Board at a statewide level on issues related to safety and equity at USHE institutions. CSEAC strives to organize feedback from diverse students from USHE institutions to ensure institutional and state-level safety and equity-related policies, procedures, and programs and hear and access the student perspective. The council will engage with state and local policymakers, institutional leaders, organizations partnered with USHE, and other student groups across the state. CSEAC provides regular feedback, recommendations, and student insight to the aforementioned groups and advocates for all students' well-being, safety, and equity across the state to the UBHE. The proposed changes to Board Policy R120 proposes to formalize the council's role.

Revisions to Board Policy R582: Stipends for Students Serving the Board

Revisions to Board Policy R582 formalize the Board's ability to provide a stipend to students who serve as student board members defined in R609-3 or as members of the Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council as defined in R120-3.10. The proposed policy revisions allow the Commissioner to determine the amounts of student stipends under this policy.

Utah Student Association Resolution: Lauren's Promise

The Utah Student Association (comprised of student presidents of the USHE degree-granting institutions) adopted a resolution on October 1, 2021, recommending Lauren's Promise be included in all syllabi at Utah universities and colleges. The Lauren McCluskey Foundation developed Lauren's Promise to promote greater safety on college campuses. Lauren McCluskey, a University of Utah student, was tragically murdered on October 22, 2018, on campus due to relationship violence. Dr. Jill McCluskey, Lauren's mother and professor at Washington State University, advocates for all professors to include a statement, Lauren's Promise, within their syllabi. The promise reads, "I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you," and is typically followed by emergency and university resource information. The promise has been adopted by the University of Utah, Utah State University, and Brigham Young University.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Student Affairs Committee approve the proposed revisions to Board Policies R120 and R582 and advance them to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Attachments

Campus Safety & Equity Commission
Utah System of Higher Education

Section 1: Mission & Purpose

The mission and purpose of the Campus Safety & Equity Commission (CSEC) are to capture the student voice on the state-wide level on issues related to safety and equity at USHE institutions. CSEC serves as an organized feedback group of diverse* students from USHE institutions to ensure institutional and state-level safety and equity-related policies, procedures, programs and hear and access the student perspective. The commission engages with state and local policymakers, institutional leaders, organizations partnered with USHE, and other student groups across the state. CSEC is committed to providing honest feedback, recommendations, and student insight to the aforementioned groups and advocates for all students' well-being, safety, and equity across the state.

Section 2: Membership & Organization

1. The Campus Safety & Equity Commission includes the following individuals and groups:
 - a. Chair and vice chair
 - i. The appointed academic student representative Board member shall act as chair.
 - ii. The appointed technical college student representative Board member shall act as vice chair.
 - iii. Both chair and vice chair will begin their service on July 1.
 - b. Institution student members
 - i. The CSEC will include 16-24 student members in addition to the appointed student representative Board members.
 - ii. Each USHE institution shall support the Commissioner's office in outreach for CSEC and in promoting and encouraging diverse students to apply. The Commissioner's office shall work with the student representative Board members to select commission members to be brought forward to the full Board for approval. Applications are due by June 15.
 - iii. Each institution student member will serve a one-year term with the opportunity to re-apply for one additional term for a maximum of two terms. Re-application is a signed form for incumbent members to indicate a continued commitment to the mission of the commission and associated responsibilities. Terms will begin on August 1.
 - c. Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) staff
 - i. The chief student affairs officer, assistant commissioner for diversity, equity & inclusion, and state aid and access manager shall be members of the CSEC. Other USHE staff members may act as consultants as described in Section 2, 1, b.
 - d. Others

- i. Outside experts in areas within the commission's scope may be invited to participate as consultants in commission meetings and reviews. Any commission member may bring forward experts to the commission leaders and members for a potential invitation to participate and consult.

Section 3: Scope

The CSEC has several areas connected to campus safety and equity within scope including, the following listed below. The list is not exhaustive, and other areas and associated policies may be pursued for discussion by the commission as the members see fit. The commission provides feedback and recommendations in these areas to ensure Utah students, including those who have historically been underserved or under-represented, such as undocumented, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and first-generation students, have a safe and equitable experience throughout their time within the USHE.

- Physical safety
- Campus law enforcement
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual assault
- Discrimination
- Emergency procedures and protocols
- Community involvement with safety
- Mental health
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Admissions
- Sports teams
- Student resources
- Scholarships, funding, and financial aid

Section 4: Responsibilities & Duties

1. Chair
 - a. Complete administrative tasks, meeting scheduling, email communications, etc.
 - b. Act as the liaison to the Utah Board of Higher Education and provide updates to associated Board committees
 - c. Provide updates to commission members on Board movements on safety and equity items
 - d. Confirm meeting agendas, including setting expectations for meeting preparation and applicable assignments
 - e. Assist in the selection of commission members to be brought forward to the full Board
 - f. Participate in all duties of institution student members
2. Vice chair
 - a. Consult with chair on meeting agendas and commission direction and work

- b. Bring specific insights related to USHE technical colleges into the commission discussions and efforts
- c. Participate in all duties of institution student members
- 3. Institution student members
 - a. Attend and contribute to commission meetings and conversations
 - b. Complete preparatory assignments, research, work, etc. as required prior to meetings
 - c. Engage in shared leadership by facilitating commission meetings and assisting in meeting preparation on a rotational basis
 - d. Engage with their institutional leaders, students, and staff, especially in the areas of campus safety and equity, to obtain feedback and their students' voices on commission topics
 - e. Bring forward ideas, recommendations, etc. for the commission to discuss
- 4. USHE staff
 - a. Consult regularly with commission chair and vice chair on potential agenda items and outside meeting attendees/organizations
 - b. Provide resources and recommendations for commission work and discussion items
 - c. Attend and contribute to commission meetings
 - d. Own and operate communication channels (Slack)

Section 5: Meetings & Procedures

1. The commission shall hold formal meetings at least once monthly at a day and time determined by the chair in consultation with the commission members
2. All commission members shall facilitate meetings on a rotational basis to encourage the principle of shared leadership and accountability to the commission
3. If the institution student members do not feel the chair and/or vice chair are fulfilling their duties or representing the voice of the commission accurately, they may request intervention from the commissioner of higher education and/or the chair of the Utah Board of Higher Education.

Section 6: Compensation – Details TBD

1. The student members of the CSEC shall receive compensation in the form of a scholarship from the scholarship fund controlled by the Utah Board of Higher Education.

*Below is language from the [USHE Equity Lens Framework](#) on how we define diverse and intersectional identities.

This lens considers the following emergent, fluid, and intersectional identities as part of the Board's efforts to value the perspective and knowledge that each student brings to higher education learning spaces; this list is neither comprehensive nor exhaustive:

- Age

- Gender identity and expression
- Sexual orientation
- Religious affiliation
- Socioeconomic status
- Citizenship status and country of origin
- Ability/disability
- Veteran status
- First-generation student status
- English language learners
- Geographic location (including rural, urban, sheltered, and unsheltered)

Meeting Date: 9.24.21

The following are core recommendations brought forward by the Campus Safety & Equity Commission on admissions and financial aid. These recommendations aim to create an equitable environment, increase accessibility for students, and enhance the student experience in Utah.

- **Re-evaluate application fees and consider fee waivers.** These fees/charges in applying for schools create a barrier for students and may discourage students from applying to several schools or completing an application altogether. At the very least, increasing transparency for how the fee is used and why it is deemed necessary would be progress.
- **Educate and inform high school counselors regarding college admissions, options, and eligibility.** Several undocumented persons have been told they could not apply or enroll in a state institution by high school counselors and others, which is not true.
- **Institutions should offer admissions applications in other languages, especially for English learning programs (i.e., Spanish).** While students generally speak English on campuses and in classes, for many just starting, especially non-traditional students, having an application in their native language ensures a better understanding and a faster application process.
- **Admissions applications should have more than "male" or "female" gender identities.** Students in Utah and everywhere identify in many ways, and applications should be more inclusive of this.
- **Re-evaluate scholarship applications and languages.** Scholarship applications may favor native English speakers and deter non-native speakers from applying due to difficulty in understanding.
- **Reconsider how admissions officials weigh and review high school extracurricular/club/etc. participation.** Some students may have been unable to participate in these activities due to financial, family, time, or other constraints. At the very least, students should be given the option to explain why they did not or were unable to participate in those things.
- **Scholarships should be more clear for the timeframe they cover.** Some students do not understand if an academic scholarship they receive is for one semester or one year and not for each year. For example, increasing clarity and specificity will help students understand their scholarship offerings and help them plan for what else they may need to do to fund their education.
- **Increase transparency of how tuition dollars are used.** More than just a long report somewhere on the institution's website. The tuition breakdown should be simple, clear, and understandable for students to see where their money is going (e.g., a pie chart with a percentage breakdown of primary spending/fund areas). As students/parents are being asked to fund an increasing percentage of the education budget, as the funding from government sources declines, they should have more clarity on how those dollars are used.

R120:

3.10 Advisory Councils

3.10.1 Industry Advisory Council: The Board shall establish an Industry Advisory Council that shall inform the committee for technical education; the committee for academic education; and the State Board of Education. The Industry Advisory Council shall include representation from (a) employers; (b) kindergarten through grade 12 representatives; (c) degree-granting institution faculty; and (d) technical college faculty.

3.10.2 Council of Presidents: The Board shall establish a Council of Presidents comprised of the presidents from each of the institutions and the commissioner. The commissioner shall serve as Council of Presidents chair.

3.10.3 Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council: The Board shall establish a Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council composed of a student from every USHE institutions to advise the Board on issues related to student safety and equity.

3.10.3 Other Advisory Councils: The Board may establish other advisory committees or councils as needed.

3.10.4 All matters requiring Board determination shall be addressed in a properly convened meeting of the Board or Executive Committee.

R582 Per Diem Compensation for Services

R582-3. Policy

3.1. Per Diem Rates Set by the Board: Per diem rates in effect for all other state boards and commissions are not applicable to Board of Higher Education and institutional Boards of Trustees members in the System of Higher Education until the Board of Higher Education takes affirmative action to authorize their application.

3.2. Similar Treatment for Higher Education Boards and Commissions: The public service on higher education boards requires both sacrifice and dedication which should be recognized, pursuant to express legislative intent, by a suitable per diem allowance. Such allowances should be similar to those received by the members of other appointed state boards and commissions.

3.3. Per Diem Rates the Same as Those Set by the State Director of Finance: Per diem rate changes determined by the State Director of Finance for appointed members of state boards and commissions shall automatically be placed in effect for members in attendance at official meetings of the Board of Higher Education, the several institutional Boards of Trustees, and the Board of Directors of the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (other than salaried state employees) in accordance with applicable Board policies, as of the effective dates of the Director of Finance's determinations.

3.4 Stipends for students providing service to the Board: The Board may award stipends to students who serve as student board members defined in R609-3 or as members of the Campus Safety and Equity

Advisory Council as defined in R120-3.10.3. The Commissioner shall approve the amounts and terms of any stipend identified under this section.



USA 2021-01

Committee: The Utah Student Association

Reading and Approval Date: October 01, 2021

Resolution Supporting the Inclusion of Lauren's Promise in Syllabi and Initiatives to Enhance Campus Safety

WHEREAS the Utah Student Association (USA) seeks to assist the McCluskey family and the Lauren McCluskey Foundation in their efforts to promote greater safety on Utah college and university campuses.

WHEREAS USA seeks to increase awareness of Lauren's Promise and help any person who may be in harm's way on our campuses.

WHEREAS the USA seeks to encourage individuals facing domestic abuse or dangerous relationship situations to reach out for help.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the USA encourages professors at colleges and universities in Utah to include Lauren's Promise in their syllabi.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the USA supports all efforts to ensure Lauren's light lives on and promote campus safety through initiatives and events on our specific campuses.

**History:**

Lauren McCluskey, a University of Utah student, was tragically murdered on October 22nd, 2018 on campus due to relationship violence. Dr. Jill McCluskey, Lauren's mother and professor at Washington State University, advocates for all professors to include a statement, Lauren's Promise, within their syllabi. The promise reads, "I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you," and is typically followed by emergency and university resource information. Professors at Washington State University, the University of Utah, Utah State University, Brigham Young University and many other universities across the country have adopted Lauren's Promise on their syllabi. At the University of Utah, ASUU passed Joint Resolution No. 6, encouraging the inclusion of Lauren's promise in syllabi and increasing overall campus safety.

Purpose:

This year, USA took on the initiative to promote Lauren's Promise considering the third anniversary of Lauren's death approaching, a recent reported increase in domestic violence, and October being national domestic violence awareness month. This resolution clearly manifests USA's position on professors including Lauren's Promise in their syllabi and initiatives to enhance campus safety. This resolution provides direction and support for our related efforts on our specific campuses.



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB E

October 29, 2021

Streamlining Admissions and Scholarships

The Commissioner's staff will provide the committee with an update since the discussions at the June and August Student Affairs Committee meetings.

Highlights

- New assistant commissioner for student affairs with professional background in recruitment, admissions, and strategic enrollment management at a USHE institution
- 12-month plan for USHE partnership with Keys to Success
- State scholarship programs update on consolidation, the launch of Opportunity Scholarship, and next steps
- Updated scope and timeline development of the Board's strategic priority: *Simplify Institutional Admissions Processes*

Discussion

The Student Affairs Committee and participants should openly discuss streamlining college admissions opportunities that can most benefit students from historically underserved populations. This includes exploring colleges, pre-application processes, recruiting, applications, financial aid awarding, and residency policies and practices.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is a discussion item only; no action is required.



UTAH SYSTEM OF
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MEMORANDUM

TAB F

October 29, 2021

Voice of the Customer Report (USHE Non-Traditional Students in Utah)

The presentation attached to this memo was shared at the July 2021 Committee of the Whole.

Committee Discussion

The Student Affairs Committee can review the presentation with the study author from the Cicero Group and discuss possible action steps.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is a discussion item only; no action is required.

Attachment



Cicero

Implementing Data-Driven Strategy

USHE

Non-Traditional Students in Utah

July 2021

WGU 



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION



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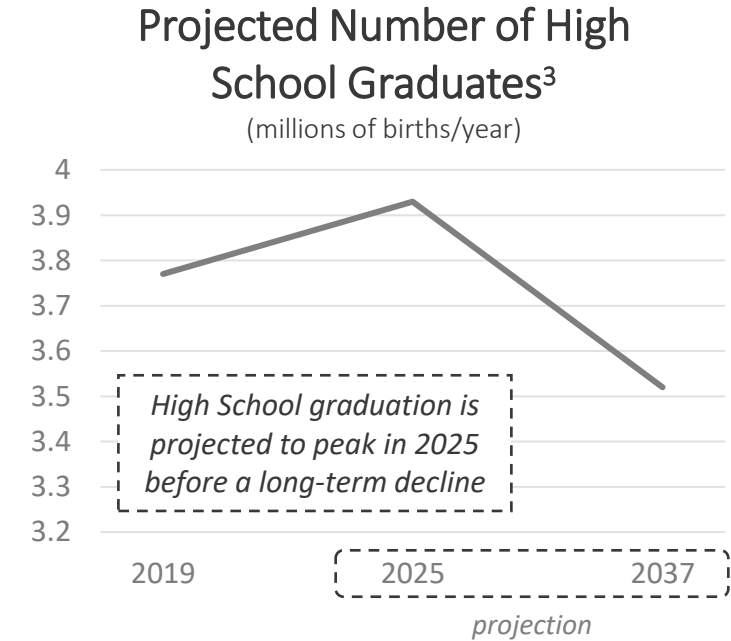
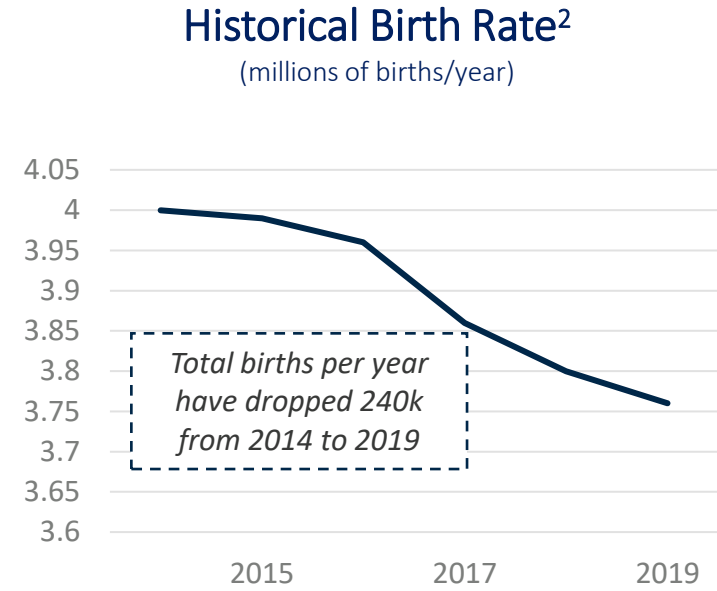
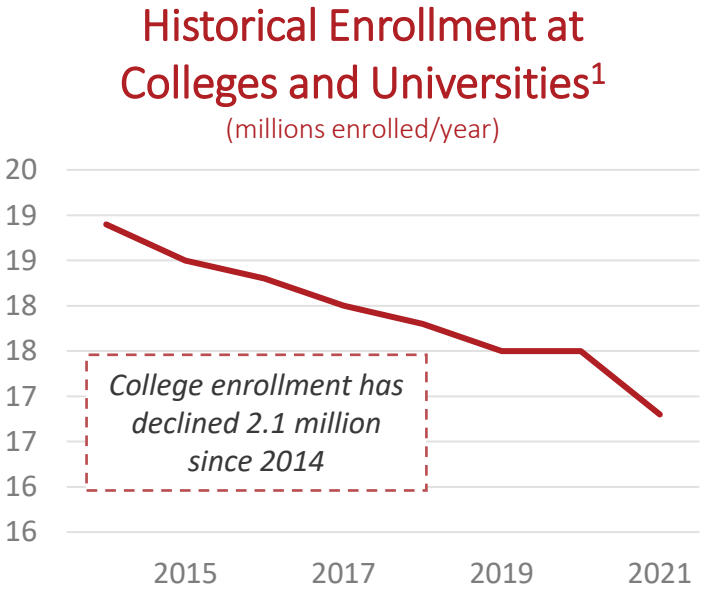
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Background Information and Justification of Need

Anticipated declines in traditional student enrollment are well documented. In the absence of attracting and retaining non-traditional students, Utah institutions of higher education will suffer...



Key Takeaways:

- Current demographics trends, exacerbated by COVID-19 implications, have dramatically impacted current and projected college enrollment rates
- This trend is expected to have long consequences for the education gap as low income and minority students are most significantly affected
- Higher education institutions have already begun to see the impacts of lower enrollment and face critical, long-term decisions

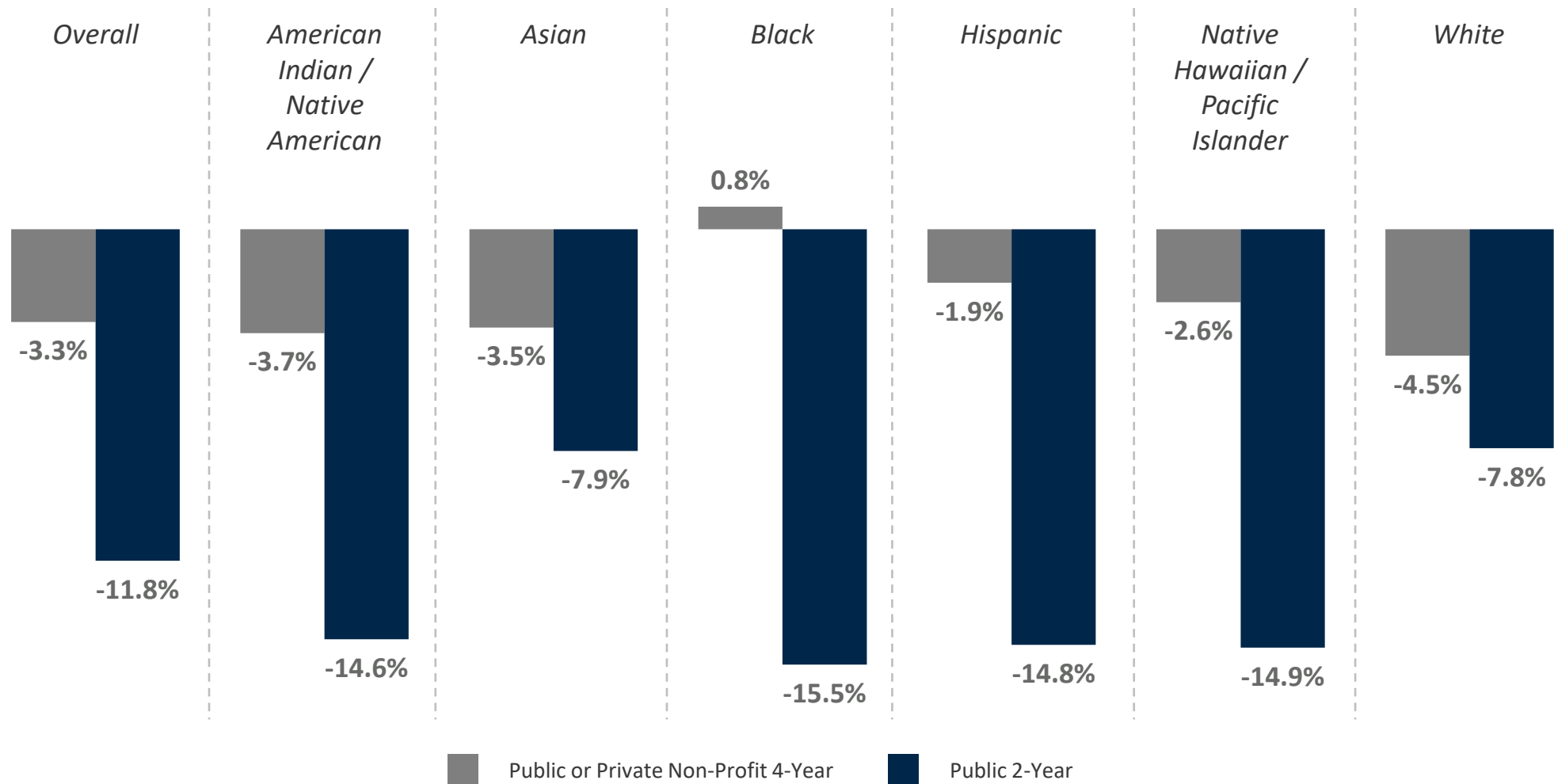
...but attracting non-traditional students is about much more than institutional survival; it is also a social imperative. Successfully serving non-traditional students will accelerate social justice for Utah's women and diverse ethnicities. Below is just one of many examples: 25–35-year-old women...

Utah Women Aged 25-35 in Higher Education

- **40% less likely** to be enrolled in post secondary education compared to men
- When married, **79% less likely** to be enrolled in post secondary education compared to married men
- With children under 5, **31% less likely** to be enrolled in post secondary education compared to men with children under 5

While Utah has relatively similar enrollment and degree completion rates for men and women in the “traditional student” demographic, there is a **significant discrepancy between men and women in the 25-35 age range**. Additional factors such as marriage status widen this gap even further.

...One more example of the social imperative in serving non-traditional students is the fact that nationally, students of color saw a precipitous drop in college enrollment during the last year, particularly at two-year colleges



We know from research conducted for Utah in 2011 that post-secondary degrees and certificates have meaningful positive economic, social and personal / familial impact in Utah...

Economic

- Mean personal **annual compensation** is **75% greater** among those with a degree or certificate.
- Degree or certificate holders are **2.6 times more likely to work in salaried jobs** (rather than hourly).
- One quarter (23%) of those without a postsecondary degree or certificate have experienced more than two years of total post-high school unemployment, compared to 9% of those with a degree or certificate.

Social

- Postsecondary degree or certificate holders are **11% more likely to report happiness with their life** than those without a degree or certificate.
- Individuals who completed degrees or certificates are **9% more likely to indicate that they have great marriages** and are **6% more likely to characterize themselves as having a good family life**.
- Degree or certificate holders are **11% more likely to report good health** than non-degree or certificate holders.
- Individuals without a degree or certificate are more than twice as likely to have utilized Medicaid, WIC, and CHIP in the last five years, and over **three times as likely to have utilized food stamps**.

Personal & Familial

- Individuals with **at least one parent with a degree or certificate** are **50% more likely to complete a degree themselves**.
- **If a sibling has completed a degree or certificate**, individuals are **twice as likely to complete a degree themselves**.

...and according to research conducted in 2018 we know some of the observable variables that best predict whether a non-traditional student will succeed and complete a degree or certificate

Strong predictors of success are:

Academic Background

- Students who have taken more English, Math and STEM courses
 - The number of credits that will be accepted by the institution
 - Students who have been out of school for longer
-

Attitude and Perceptions

- A higher degree of confidence in their personal abilities and likelihood to succeed academically
 - A belief in the value and brand of the institution
-

Educational Experience

- Interest to actively participate in a learning community or student mentor group
- A clear understanding of their motivations for pursuing a higher education

Finally, research from 2012 is very compelling surrounding the primary process obstacles non-traditional students encounter as they attempt to complete a degree or certificate

Non-Traditional Student Top 5 Pain-Points Not Adequately Addressed by the Institution

Pain points listed chronologically, not in priority order.

- 1 Navigating the application and financial aid process
- 2 Transferability of past credits earned, and competency obtained
- 3 Course scheduling flexibility
- 4 The quality of online courses (student learning vs. cost-savings for the institution)
- 5 Selecting the right major and classes that result in the best possible job

Additional Pain Points Include:

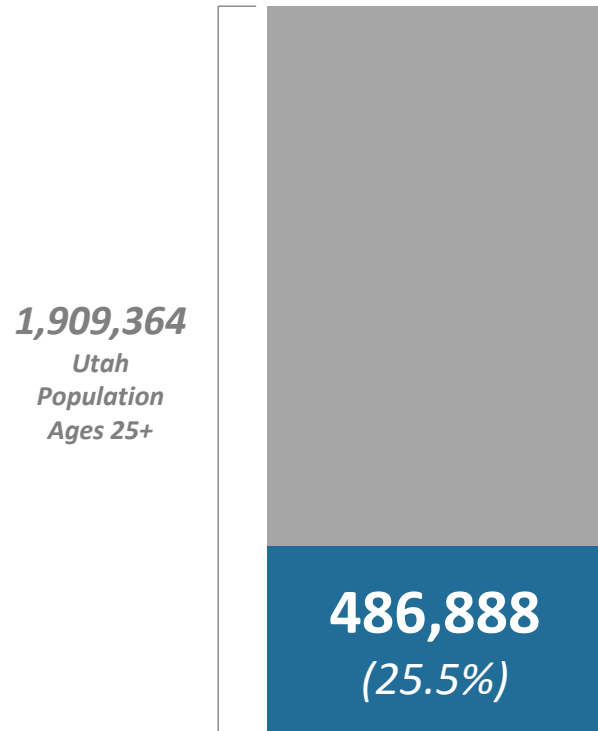
...Academic support and mentoring

...Parking accessibility

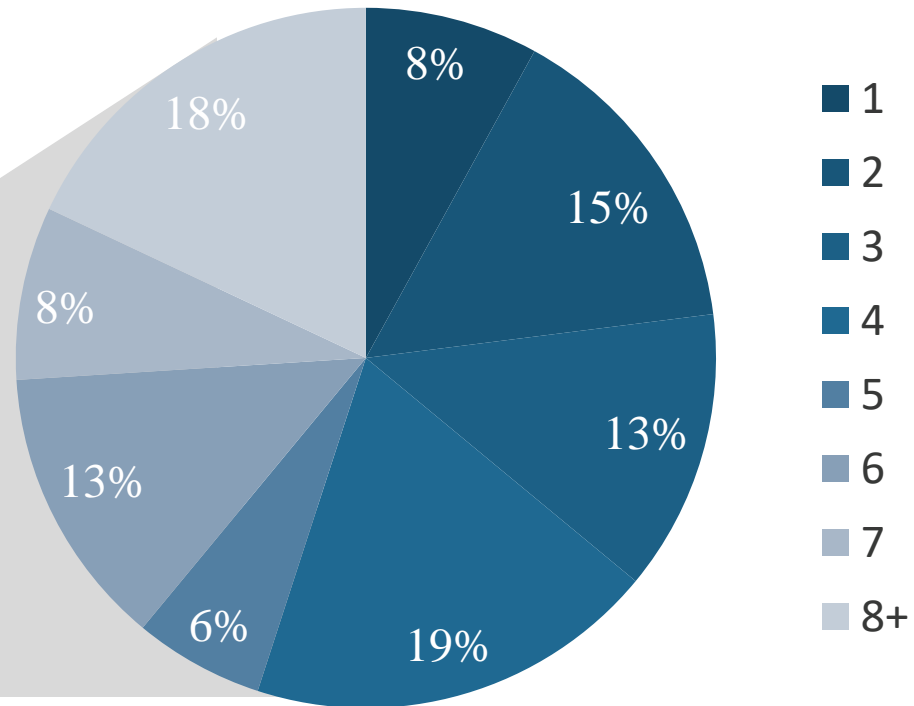
Institutions are aware of these priorities. **The discrepancy lies in what students view as adequate vs. what the institutions view as adequate.** The gap in these areas is severe. Significantly more hands-on support and guidance is required.

Overlaying data from the 2019 American Community Survey with findings from the 2011 statewide study, SUGGESTS that there may be ~220,000 individuals in Utah who have five or more semesters completed without a degree or certificate

Portion of Utah Population with College Credits but No Degree (Ages 25+)



Semesters Enrolled in College or Vocational Program Without Receiving a Degree



Key Takeaways:

- Nearly 20% of students with some college and no degree completed four years (eight semesters) of college
- 25% of individuals who attended 8 or more semesters but did not complete a degree or certificate listed balancing work with school as the leading cause for non-completion

Best Practices for Supporting Non-Traditional Students

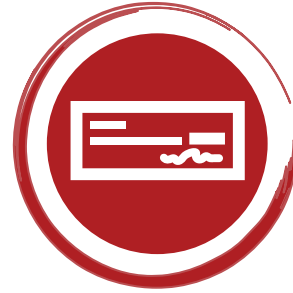
Peer-reviewed studies provide evidence-based practices for how institutions can customize financial aid to propel non-traditional students

Financial Aid Best Practices for Supporting Non-Traditional Students



Affordability Requirements

Require that low-income students not pay more than a predetermined percentage of their discretionary income



Method of Aid

Experiment with providing aid equivalent to 125% of the needed time to finish; accrue funding as courses are completed



Simplify Application

Base the awarding of grants on documents and information more easily obtainable for non-traditional students; three-year average income verified by tax returns; lock in candidate's data for entirety of program with one simplified annual form to update if income has changed in prior year



Incentivize

Experiment with offering students small “bonuses” when they accomplish milestones or goals

“When students see evidence that people at their university care about them, students feel more motivated than when they perceive stakeholders only care about students identified as the majority.”

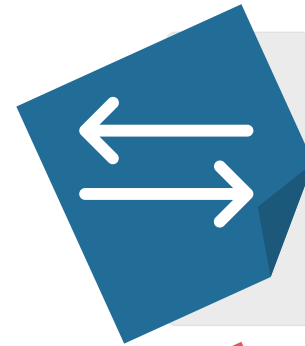
Similarly, peer-reviewed studies provide guidance on process and service-related best practices helping non-traditional students succeed

Process and Service-Related Best Practices for Supporting Non-Traditional Students



Simplify the Path

Create a defined degree plan prior to student's enrollment. Provide a narrower selection of course pathways to eliminate confusion, simplify scheduling, and to improve the quality of classes focused on non-traditional students



Improve Transfer Processes

Improve the ease and personalization of transferring credits, offer competency-based assessments for credit, and liberally expunge negative performance in academic history



Intense Support

Significantly increase support systems and personnel to provide application support, financial aid hand-holding, academic guidance, advocacy, mentorship, and career coaching



Workforce Alignment

Generously credit experiential and workplace-related learning already achieved; illustrate skill and knowledge alignment and stackability with high-demand jobs to demonstrate compelling ROI



Belongingness

Organize non-traditional students into cohorts and sections where they will make up the majority of the classroom; minimize the size of cohorts to engender feelings of belongingness



Equitable Access

Provide non-traditional students privileges for scheduling, parking, transportation, child-friendly study rooms, campus resources, and even day-care facilities

Survey Results & Alignment with USHE Strategic Pillars

To gather more meaningful information about the perceptions of the survey participants, Cicero segmented them into four groups to evaluate different demographics and their specific needs

Background

- Understand the **needs, perceptions, and obstacles** of prospective non-traditional students in Utah
- Collect information around the **structural barriers** for these students to **starting or returning** to complete their degree / certificate
- Provide insight to USHE / WGU on how to **best attract and support** non-traditional students

About Survey Respondents

- N=830
- Variety of Education Levels
- Aged 25+
- 60% Female
- 86% White
- Average Income: \$75K



Age

Three segments based on age: Young Adult (25-34 years old), Middle Aged (35-49 years old), and Older Adult (50+ years old)



Education

Segmented into three groups depending on their highest education level achieved: High School / Technical College, College Stopout, and College Degree



Minority

Segmented into two groups based on race: Minority (Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, and Native Hawaiian) or Non-Minority (White)



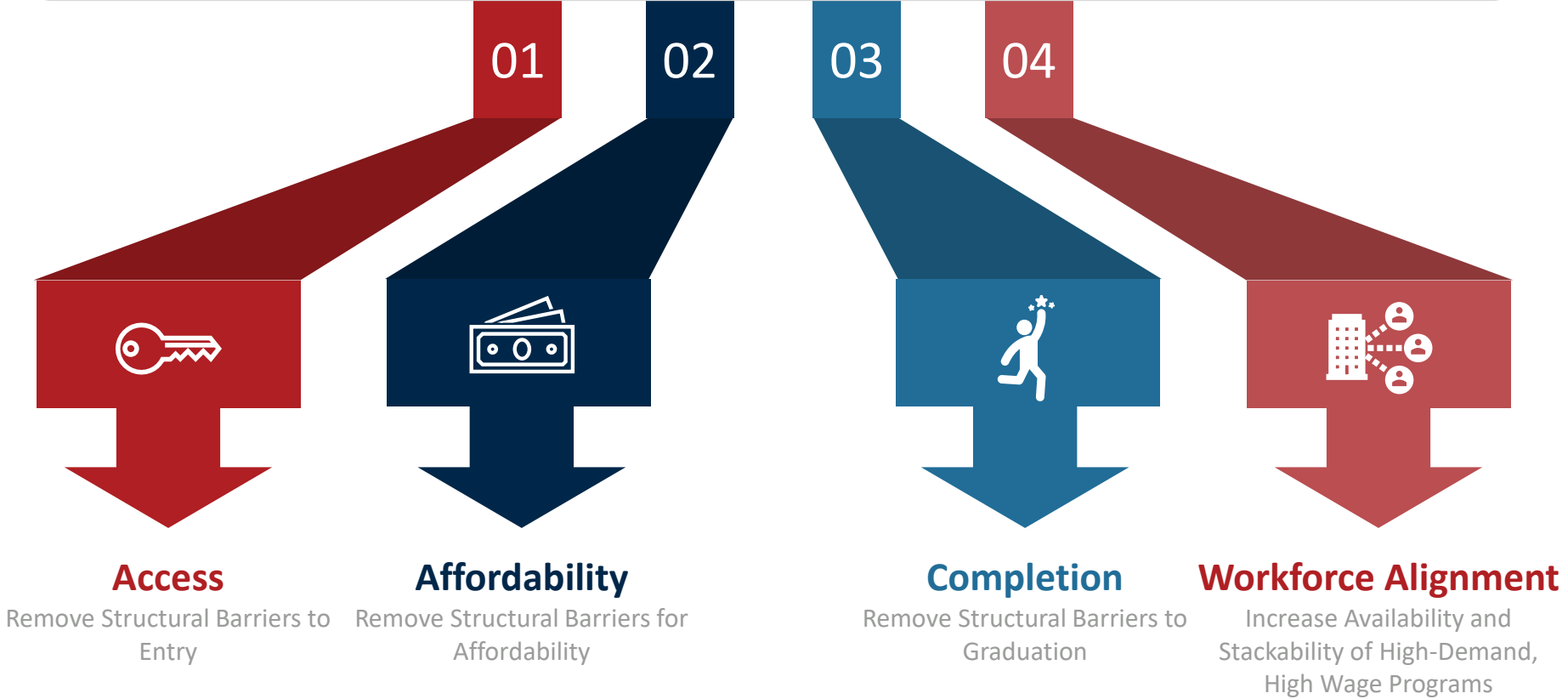
Socioeconomic Status (SES)

Four segments based on SES, which was determined by income level, marital status, and having children under 18 years old

To better understand the implications and outcomes of the research, we have bucketed key findings into the four pillars of the USHE 2021 Strategic Plan

We have all this information.. NOW WHAT?

Aligning with four of USHE's Pillars from the 2021 Strategic Plan, let's look through the lens of each of the four demographic segments exploring key takeaways, similarities, differences, and supporting data from the survey.



ACCESS | Remove Structural Barriers to Entry



AGE

1. Cost:

- Nearly 40% of each age group **worries about cost**
- **Over 60%** of Young Adults believe cost will be \$20K+

2. Time:

- Middle-Aged adults are the most concerned about **finding time for a degree**

3. Perception of Obstruction:

- Older Adults expressed **least** concern overall—indicating **actual concerns are vague**



EDUCATION

1. Cost:

- ~60% of people think education cost will be <\$20K **yet cost is still primary barrier**
- College Stopouts have **higher perception of cost** than other education backgrounds—likely because of types of degrees pursued

2. Financial Aid Process:

- Those without college experience are **most deterred by financial aid processes**



MINORITY

1. Cost:

- Minority groups are **more likely** to believe the cost is **>\$20K** compared to Non-Minorities

2. Acceptable Grades:

- Notable concern of Minorities: **confidence in maintaining acceptable grades**

3. Language Barrier:

- English **as a non-primary language** impacts 15% of Minority individuals; for 7% of Minority individuals, it is the #1 barrier



SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

1. Knowing Where to Begin:

- Lower SES groups **know less where to begin their journey** (36%) compared to the Upper SES groups (5%)

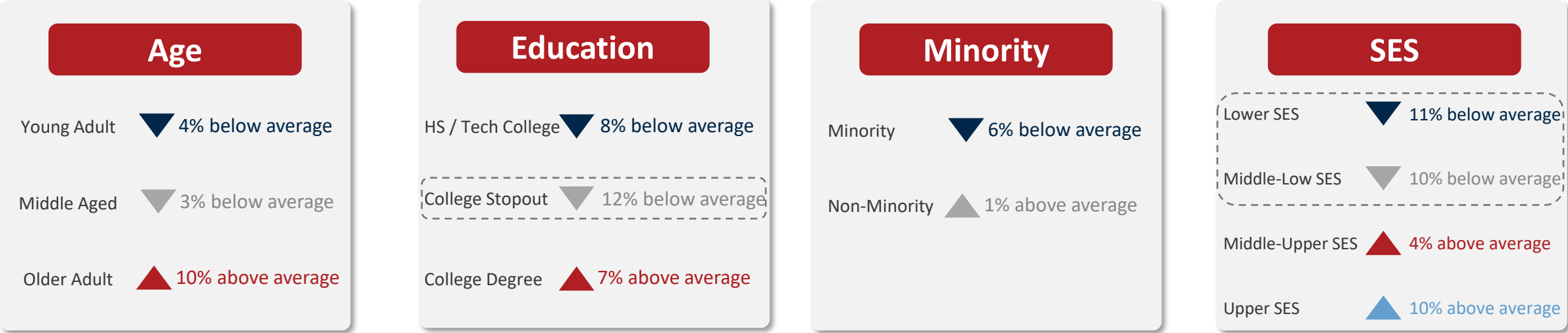
2. Rigor of Program:

- Students in Upper SES have more confidence in their ability to handle the rigor of the program; 16% of Upper SES expressed concern compared to 30% of Lower SES

AFFORDABILITY | Remove Structural Barriers for Affordability

Perception of Value

62% of all respondents said they agree or strongly agree that the value of an education is greater than the cost



Cost

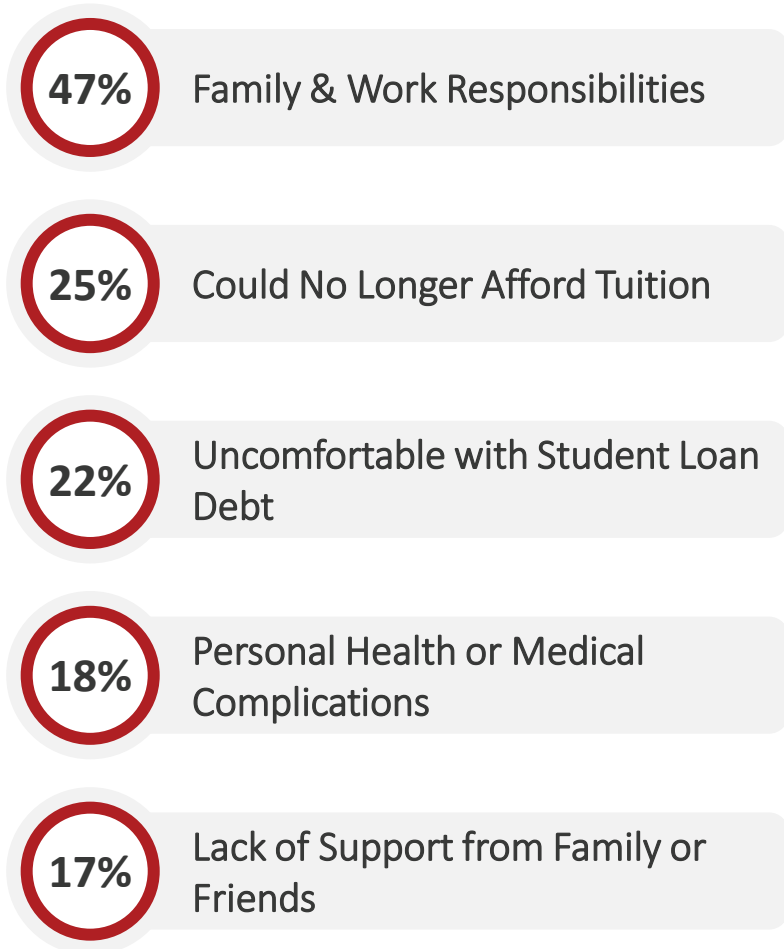
- 89% of College Stopouts say cost is an obstruction to pursuing higher education
- 65% of Older Adults, compared to 38% of Young Adults, believe the cost will be under \$20K
- Individuals in the Middle-Low SES subsection had the highest proportion of respondents who believed the cost of their program would be greater than \$50k

Financial Aid

- 72% of Minority individuals listed navigating the financial aid process as a primary barrier in pursuing their program
- 73% of individuals with High School / Technical College experience also listed navigating the financial aid process as a primary barrier in pursuing their program

COMPLETION | Remove Structural Barriers to Graduation

College Stopouts say the following prevented them from completing their degree / certificate



Other Barriers

Age

- 43% of Middle-Aged Adults are worried about how to pay for their program and the time commitment that their program requires

Education

- 51% of College Stopouts don't know how they would pay for a college program or certificate
- Only 16% of HS / Tech College reported disrupting their current employment as a barrier for working on a degree or certificate

Minority

- For both Minorities and Non-Minorities, the time commitment to complete a program and the difficulty in maneuvering through the financial aid process were consistently both meaningful obstacles

SES

- Consistent concerns across all groups include time commitment and managing demand of work responsibilities while enrolled in a program
- 30% of Lower SES are concerned about rigor of program compared to 16% of Upper SES

WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT | Increase Availability and Stackability of High-Demand, High Wage Programs



Important Factors in Choosing a School

- Older and Middle-Aged Adults expressed the importance of an education with a **customizable pace** and **online coursework**
- **59% of College Stopouts** reported a college's **ability to customize the pace** of their degree as important
- **Minority students** rank **reputation** as most important factor when selecting a school
- Flexibility with pace and platform is most important factor for Lower SES when selecting a school



Degree/Certificate Preference

- 55% of **Middle-Aged candidates prefer to attend an online college** or university, while **49% of Young Adults want a 4-year university**
- 47% of **Minority** students prefer to attend an **online college or university**
- 46% of **Lower SES** students prefer to attend school at a **traditional 4-year university**



Type of Program & Mode of Study

- Young, Middle-Aged, and Older Adults **all prefer schooling that is part time with hybrid learning**
- Those with **High School / Technical College** prefer **online school** compared to hybrid
- Non-Minorities are not as concerned about having the option to choose between online and in-person options as minorities
- Members of each **socioeconomic status prefer part-time and hybrid modes of study**



Preferred Program/Major

- **Business and Computer & Information Sciences** majors are the most popular across age groups and SES statuses
- Those with a High School / Technical College degree or certificate are likely to pursue certificates for personal services (nail artist, esthetician, etc.)
- **Minorities prefer to study healthcare** and medicine compared to **Non-Minorities** who are more likely to go into **education**

A Voice of the Customer study encompassing postsecondary students of all ages, with focus on institutions and students specific to Weber and Davis counties, has been commissioned by Alan Hall and will be presented at a future USHE meeting.

Preliminary findings on specific ways to better serve non-traditional students from this study include:

Schedule Flexibility

- Schools that offer a **variety of class times and formats** can better serve the range of needs expressed by non-traditional students
- This is a key consideration for students identifying and **selecting a program** that works for them

*“As a non-traditional student, I chose Weber State because of the **flexible schedule**. The available class times allowed me to complete my studies and **be there for my kids** at home.”*

Admissions

- Non-traditional students with relevant work experience would benefit from **modified admission criteria** and processes
- Employers cite **prior work experience** as very helpful for both graduates and prospective students who may benefit from additional education

*“I have a lot of caregivers (employees) that would make excellent nurses but have **lower grades**. Schools are very competitive, and **if they’d consider relevant work experience** it’d really help these students.”*

Application through Enrollment

- The application through enrollment process can be complex and having a **single point of contact** is helpful
- **Reducing anxiety** and providing proactive assistance is important for non-traditional students who are unsure about navigating an unfamiliar system

*“Davis Tech had a **pre-admission advisor** who walked me through everything I needed to do before school started – it was so nice. I **didn’t feel any anxiety** that I was going to miss something.”*

Mentorship

- Professors and other school personnel who take a **mentorship** role with students can have a big impact
- This is especially true for non-traditional students navigating challenges outside the classroom

*“I talked with my instructor about **family issues** I was facing, but he didn’t work with me. If he’d helped me better **understand the school’s system**, I wouldn’t have had to pause my studies.”*



Cicero

Thank you!

Questions?

Age Segmentation

AGE GROUPS | The following three groups are segmented based on age to better understand non-traditional students' preferences and challenges depending on how old they are



**Young
Adults**

Young Adults are most interested in a traditional, 4-year program. They are the least likely to say there are too many obstacles to getting an education, but struggle most with learning about scholarships and grants. They could use help knowing where to start and discovering what they want to 'be'.

Ages 25 to 34
260 Respondents



**Middle
Aged**

Middle Aged Adults are most impacted by work and personal commitments. College Stopouts in this age group were more likely due to family responsibilities than other groups. While they are less likely to start their education, those that do are more likely to follow through. They could use the flexibility to go at their own pace to enable them to keep commitments to work and family life.

Ages 35 to 49
357 Respondents



**Older
Adults**

Older Adults are mostly seeking education to gain new skills and feel personal satisfaction. Roughly half have started the process of looking for a program but are less likely to actually apply than other age groups. This group is the least likely to have student debt. They could use help getting motivated to take their aspirations from just a dream to tangible action.

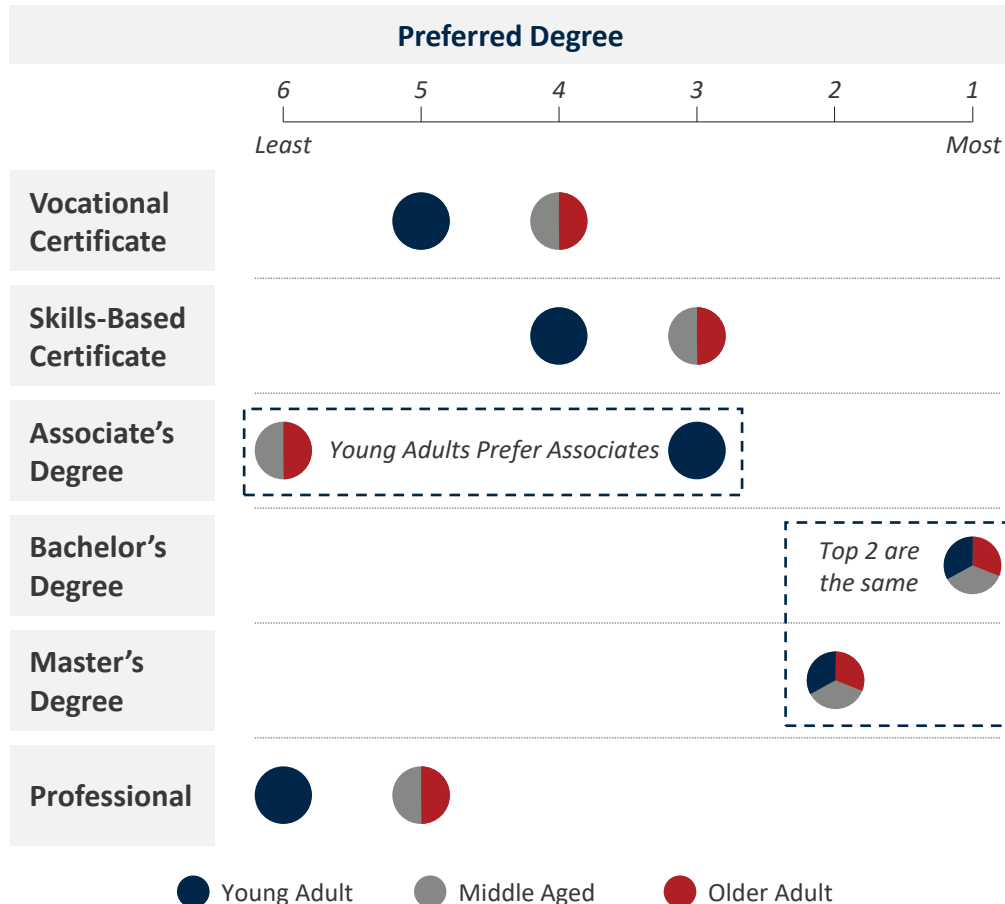
Ages 50+
213 Respondents

Groups segmented based on age alone. Differences called out for this segmentation are significant to a 95% confidence interval.

MOTIVATIONS | Young Adults and Middle Aged are focused on creating a better life by pursuing further education, while Older Adults are more focused on personal satisfaction through earning a degree

Key Takeaways:

- Bachelor's and Master's are most preferred for all groups, with YA preferring Associate's much more than MA/OA
- Gaining new skills is a top motivator for all students
- Over 50% of students have researched, but have not completed an application for their program of choice



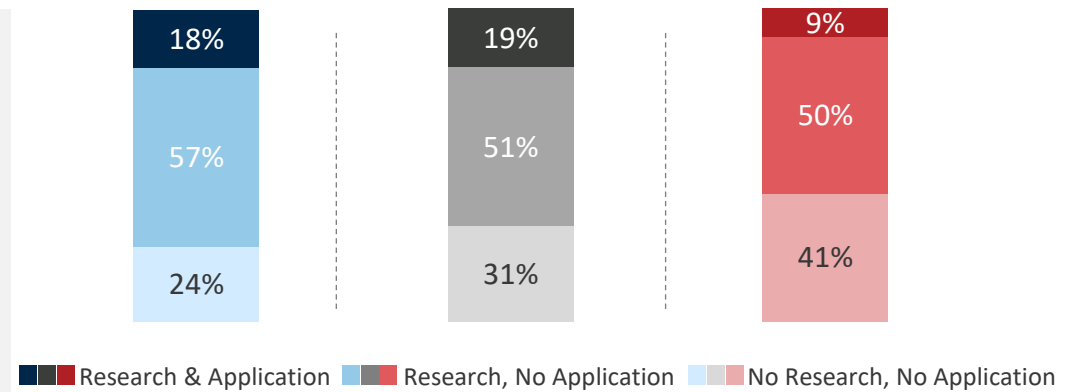
Top Motivations for Pursuing Further Education

Young Adult	Middle Aged	Older Adult
① Create a Better Life (26%)	① Create a Better Life (17%)	① Develop New Skills (26%)
② Develop New Skills (13%)	② Develop New Skills (15%)	② Personal Satisfaction (25%)

Differentiating Perspective on the Value of Pursuing Education

Young Adult	Middle Aged	Older Adult
• 58% believe the value of school is higher than the cost	• 59% believe the value of school is higher than the cost	• 72% believe the value of school is higher than the cost
▼ 4% below average	▼ 3% below average	▲ 10% above average

Progress Towards Application



Consistent Factors

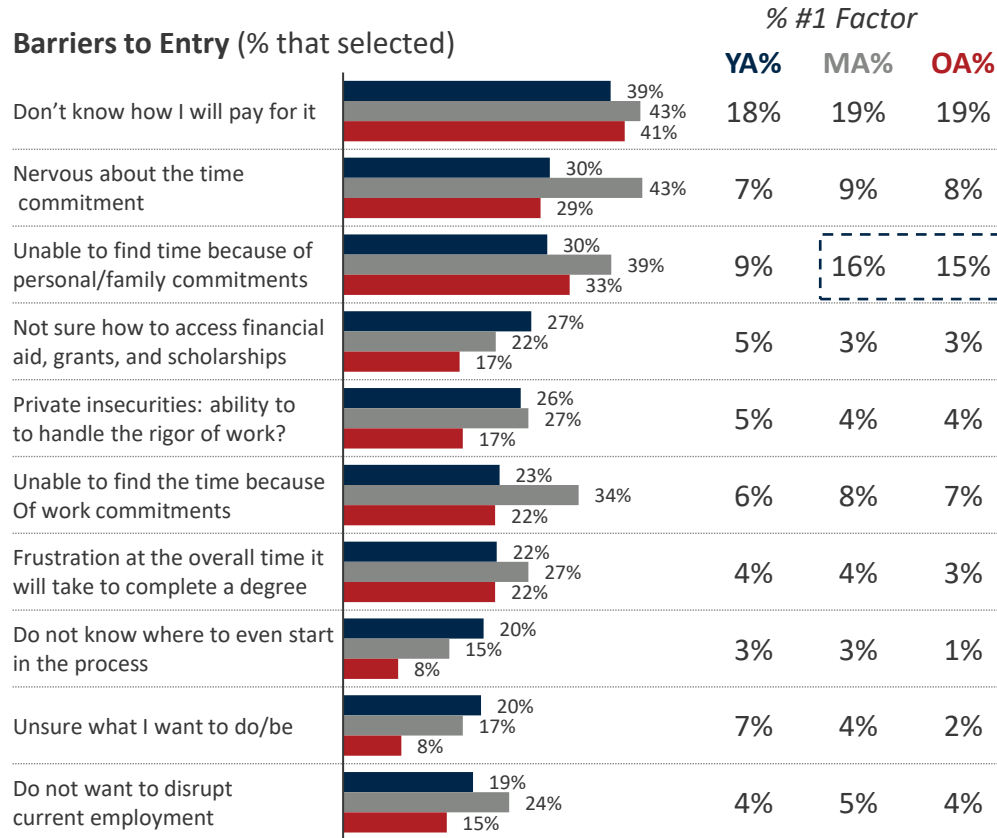
- Bachelor's is the most sought-after degree
- Belief that anyone can complete a degree or certification (65%)
- Belief that one needs a degree for their dream job (75%)

BARRIERS | All age groups are concerned with how they will pay for their education, but Young Adults (YA)/Middle Aged (MA) believe the program will cost more than Older Adults (OA)

Key Takeaways:

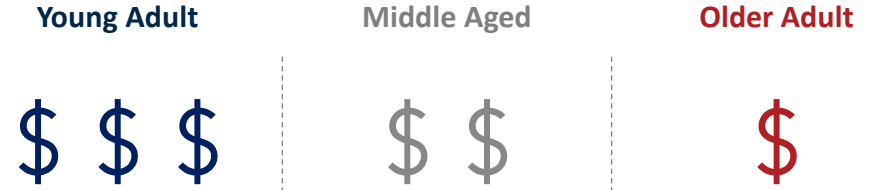
- Nearly 20% of each age group is concerned about how they will pay for their degree or certification
- YA have a higher perception of the cost of their program relative to MA/OA
- MA is the most concerned about finding the time for their education
- OA have lower ratings for most obstructions showing their fears are vague

Barriers to Entry (% that selected)

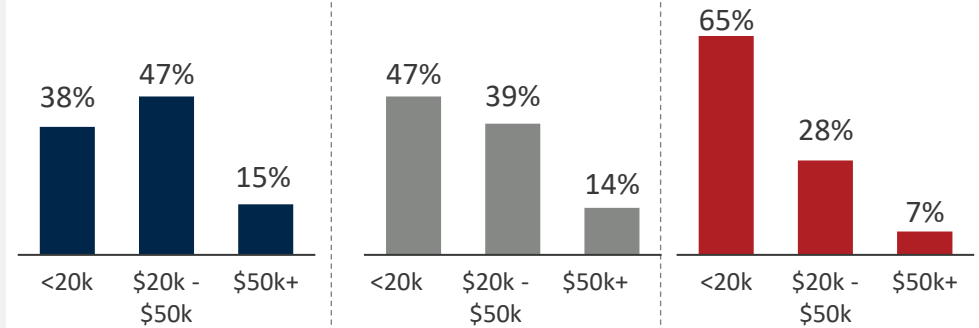


■ Young Adult ■ Middle Aged ■ Older Adult

Cost Expectations



Estimated Cost



Differentiating Perspective on the Obstructions to Pursuing Higher Education

- Struggles the most with deciding on a program (61%) and navigating the financial aid process (74%)
- Struggles the most to manage work demands while enrolled (80%) and personal commitments (83%)
- Least worried about ability to maintain acceptable grades (40% concerned)
- Least concerned about language barriers (6%)

Consistent Factors

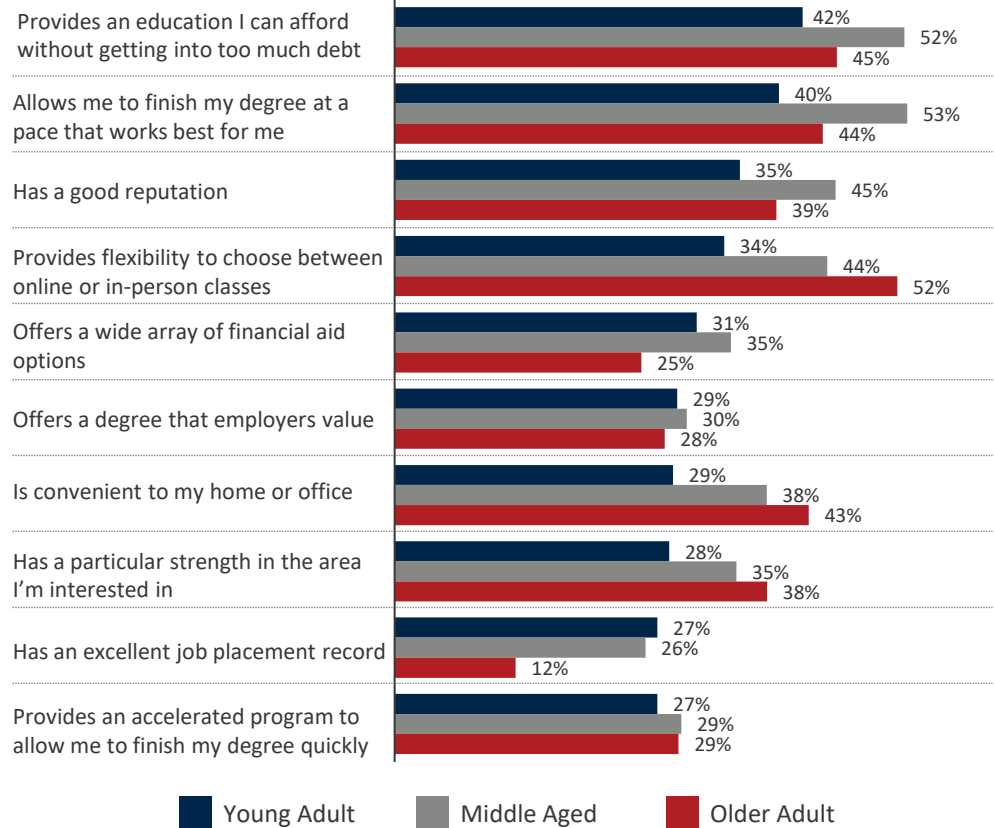
- All groups are concerned with the ability to pay for their education

SOLUTIONS | Finding a school or program that allows the student to go at a self-selected pace and not incur too much in debt is preferred by each age group, with over 50% of Middle Aged focused on finding this

Key Takeaways:

- YA are interested in healthcare as an area of study, while MA/Oa are more interested in studying education
- MA/OA prefer an online experience, while YA want the traditional, 4-year program
- All groups prefer part-time programs that are hybrid


Important Factors when Selecting a School



	Young Adult	Middle Aged	Older Adult
Top Areas of Study / Interest	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Business (35%) 2 Computer & Information Sciences (20%) 3 Healthcare/ Medicine General (16%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Business (31%) 2 Computer & Information Sciences (18%) 3 Education (18%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Business (25%) 2 Computer & Information Sciences (15%) 3 Education (13%)
Type of School Preference	49% Traditional 4- year university	55% Online college or university	46% Online college or university
Mode of Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% Hybrid • 50% Part-Time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55% Hybrid • 61% Part-time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55% Hybrid • 75% Part-Time
Consistent Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most popular degrees are business and computer/information sciences • Similar expectations for time to complete • Personal income/savings and federal student loans are most common source of payment for all groups 		

Education Segmentation

EDUCATION GROUPS | All individuals want to pursue a degree or certificate to gain more skills; College Stopouts care deeply about personal satisfaction, whereas the others focus on bettering their life




High School / Technical College

Even though these individuals don't currently have a university degree, they overwhelmingly selected a Bachelor's to be their first choice. They are not as interested in pursuing a Masters or Professional degree. This group struggles more than others with language barriers and cost. They want help understanding the available financial options.

High School Diploma, or has started or completed a vocational / technical / skill-based certificate

166 Respondents




College Stopout

College Stopouts likely gained some skills while in school they find valuable, making their desire to pursue a degree more about personal satisfaction and creating a better life. For many, life has gotten in the way of them completing their degree, whether that be personal reasons, work, or health. They could use help learning what is required of them to go back to school.

Has completed some college, but had no degree

165 Respondents



College Degree

Individuals who have college degrees see a greater value in education than the expense. They are not as concerned about their ability to succeed in the program nor getting into their preferred program. They could use help finding programs that are part-time and would result in tangible new skills gained.

Has an Associate's, Bachelor's Master's or Professional Degree

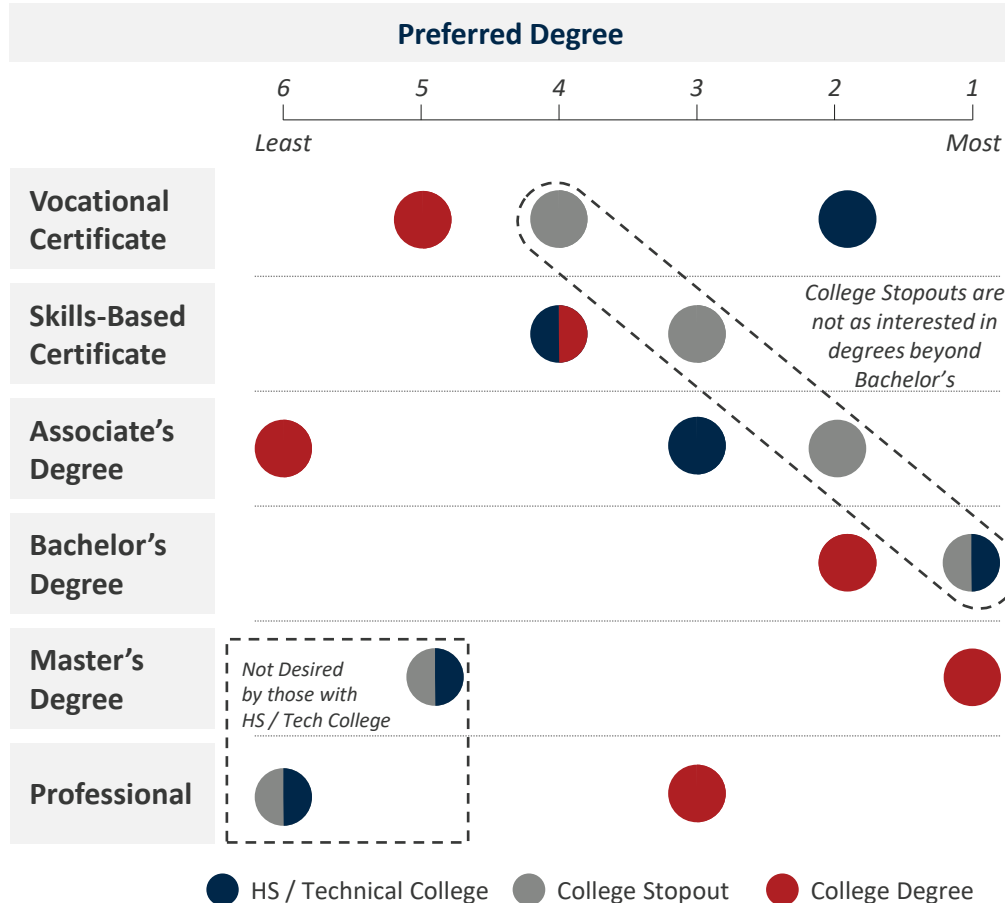
499 Respondents

Groups segmented based on age alone. Differences called out for this segmentation are significant to a 95% confidence interval.

MOTIVATIONS | While all students are motivated by the possibility of improved quality of life, College Stopouts are also motivated by the desire to feel satisfied on a personal level

Key Takeaways:

- Stopouts are more likely to be motivated by internal personal satisfaction
- Those who have not yet secured a college degree have little interest in progressing to a Master's or PhD
- Students who have already secured their Associate's degree have a more optimistic view on the value of college



Top Motivations for Pursuing Further Education

HS / Technical College

- 1 Create a Better Life (24%)
- 2 Develop New Skills (13%)

College Stopout

- 1 Create a Better Life (22%)
- 2 Personal Satisfaction (19%)

College Degree

- 1 Develop New Skills (20%)
- 2 Create a Better Life (14%)

Differentiating Perspective on the Value of Pursuing Education

- 54% believe the value of school is higher than the cost

▼ 8% below average

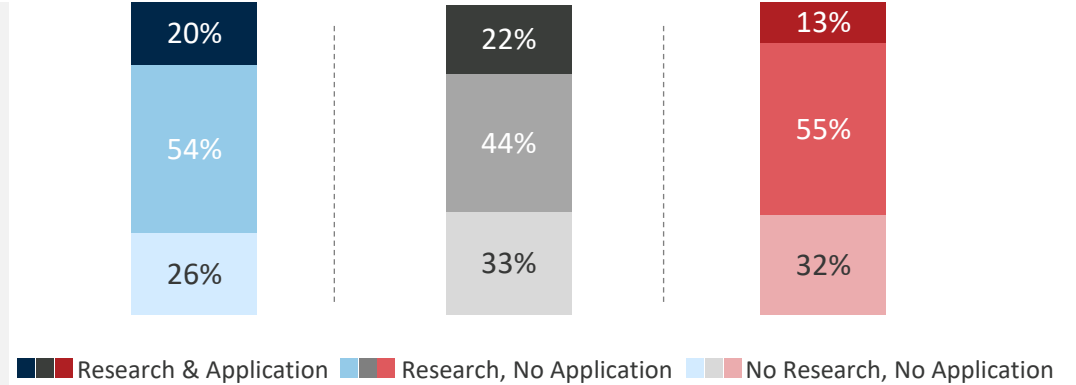
- 50% believe the value of school is higher than the cost

▼ 12% below average

- 69% believe the value of school is higher than the cost

▲ 7% above average

Progress Towards Application



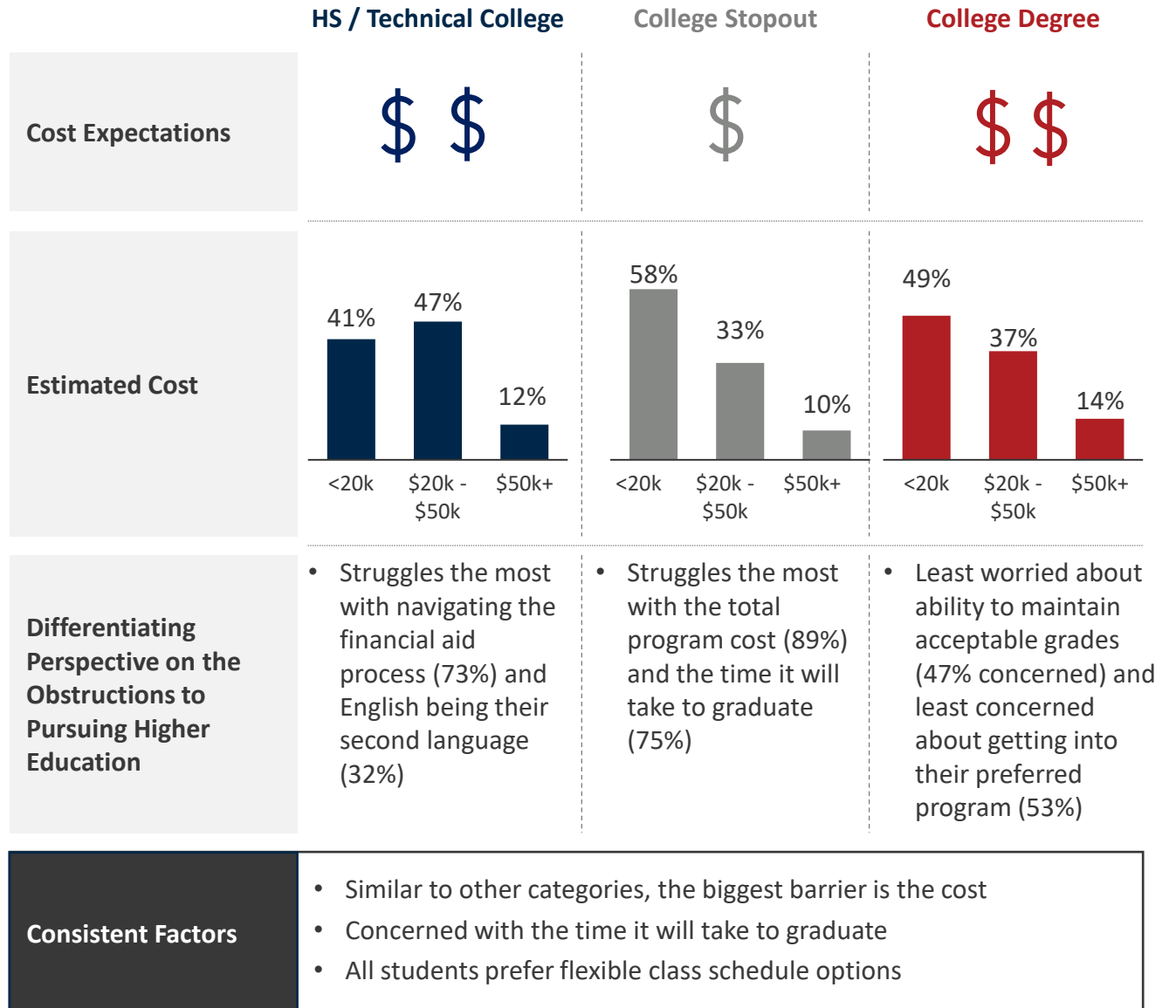
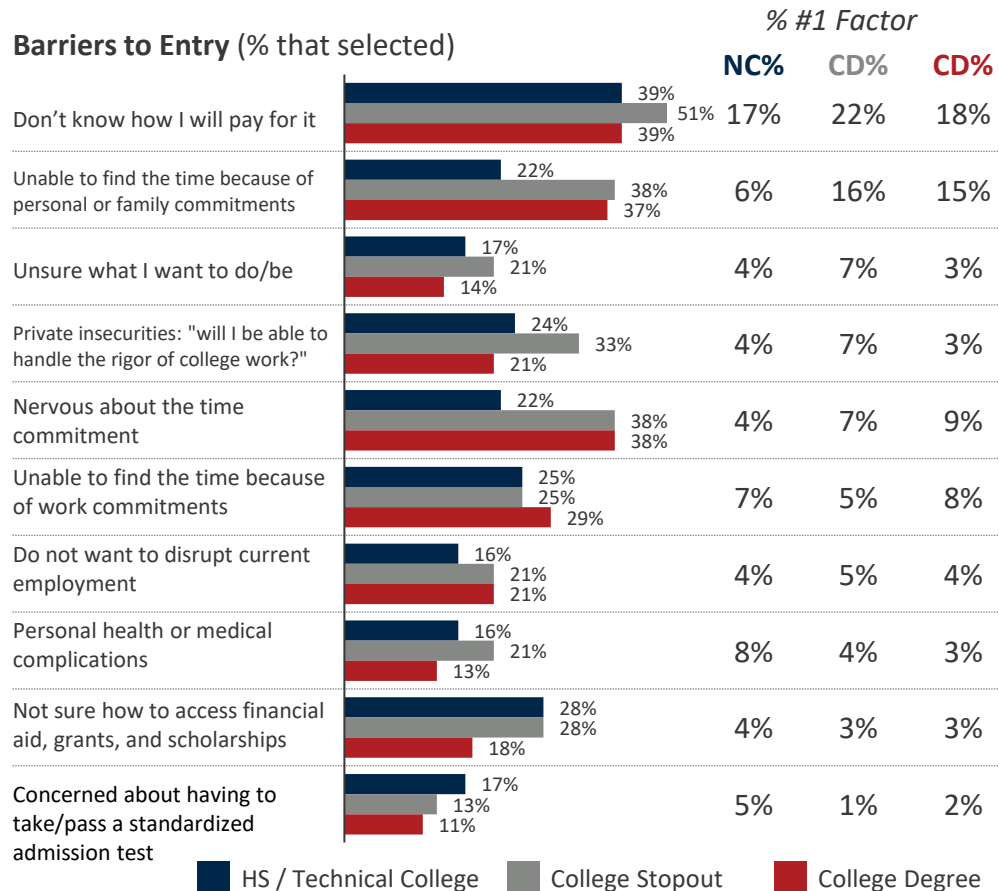
Consistent Factors

- All groups are looking to better their standing in life through education
- All groups highly value completing their Bachelor's degree

BARRIERS | HS/ Tech College is disproportionately concerned with the barrier of English being their non-primary language and College Stopout and College Degree are much more likely to be concerned with finding time

Key Takeaways:

- HS / Tech College and College Degree both perceive that the cost of their education will be more than the perception of College Stopouts; this is likely because of the types of degrees pursued
- 21% of College Stopouts state that health concerns kept them from completing their degree, which was the biggest barrier for 8% of the group

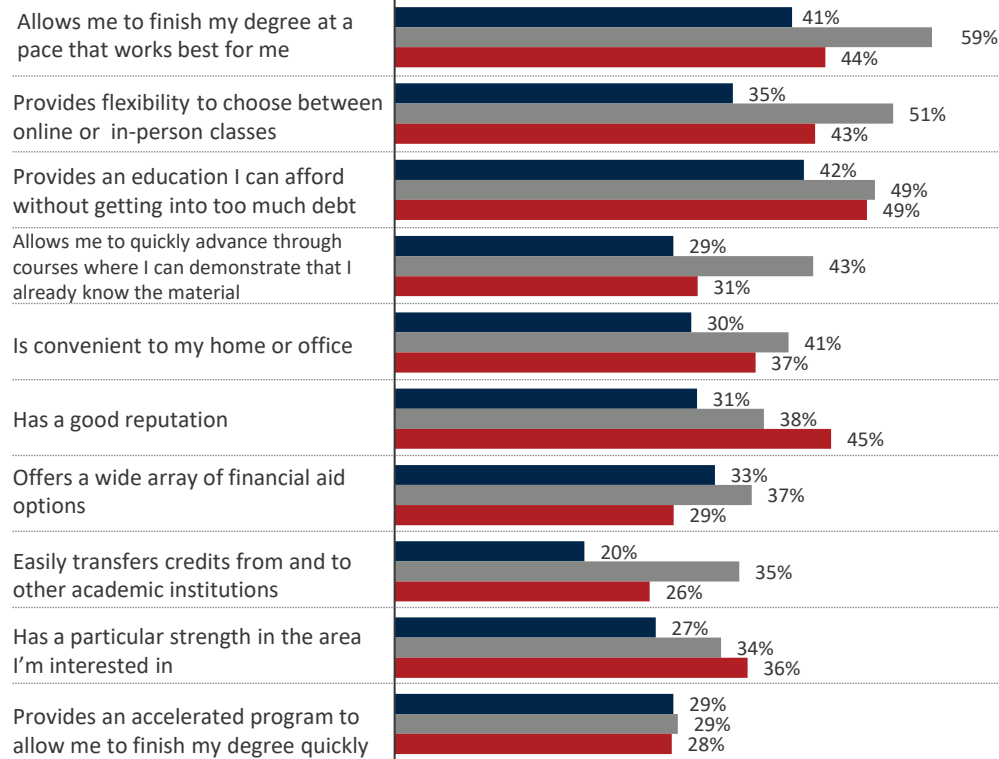


SOLUTIONS | Nearly 60% of College Stopouts are looking for schools that allow flexibility in the pace that the program is completed. 51% value the option to choose between in-person and online classes

Key Takeaways:

- Those with HS / Tech College degree or certificate, are likely to pursue certificates for personal services (nail artist, esthetician, etc.)
- Those who already have a college degree see the importance of a good reputation (45%) compared to HS / Tech College (31%)
- HS/Tech College prefer online school compared to hybrid

Important Factors when Selecting a School



■ HS / Technical College ■ College Stopout ■ College Degree

Top Areas of Study / Interest

HS / Technical College

- 1 Business (34%)
- 2 Computer & Information Sciences (23%)
- 3 Personal Services (17%)

College Stopout

- 1 Business (39%)
- 2 Computer & Information Sciences (16%)
- 3 Psychology (15%)

College Degree

- 1 Business (27%)
- 2 Computer & Information Sciences (17%)
- 3 Education (17%)

Type of School Preference

55%
Online college or university

46%
Online college or university

51%
Online college or university

Mode of Study

- 48% Online
- 46% Part-Time

- 52% Hybrid
- 60% Part-time

- 56% Hybrid
- 67% Part-Time

Consistent Factors

- Part-time school schedule
- Business and Computer & Information Sciences are the top degree choices

Minority Segmentation

MINORITY GROUPS | Minorities are not as likely as Non-Minorities to believe that the value of an education trumps the cost of the degree



Minority

Minorities indicate many have researched (and some have applied) to programs and schools. Reasons holding them back from going for it include the cost, English being a second language, and concerns about maintaining strong grades. They are more confident in their abilities to succeed in a program than Non-Minorities. They could use help from a program by allowing them to finish their degree quickly.

Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, Native Hawaiian
113 Respondents



Non-Minority

The most important factor to Non-Minorities is getting an education they can afford without getting into too much debt. They see the value an education can bring to their life, and they believe it outweighs the cost. They could use help with understanding the best option to balance their other commitments and pursue a degree at the same time.

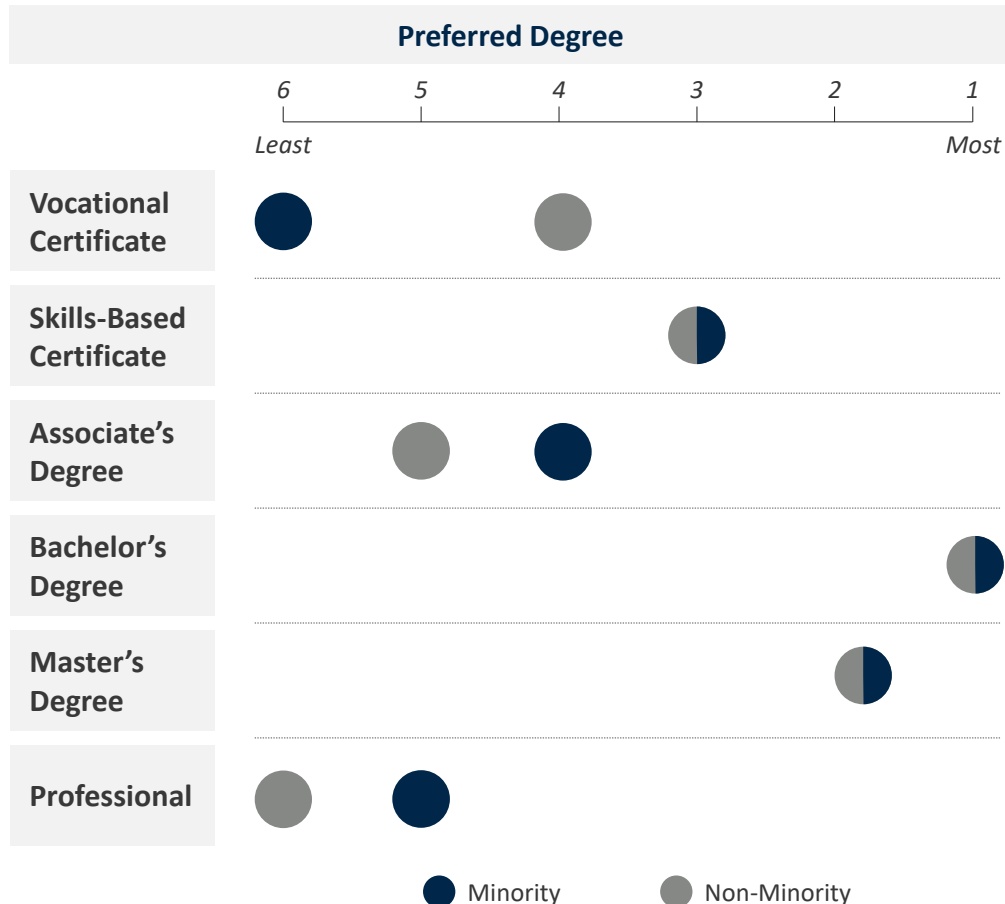
White
717 Respondents

Groups segmented based on age alone. Differences called out for this segmentation are significant to a 95% confidence interval.

MOTIVATIONS | Despite feelings of skepticism around the value of further education, Minorities are more likely to make progress in their application process than are Non-Minorities

Key Takeaways:

- Minorities are more likely to begin researching and actually apply for their program of choice
- Minorities have more doubts about the value of further education
- The top three degree choices are the same, but differ on others



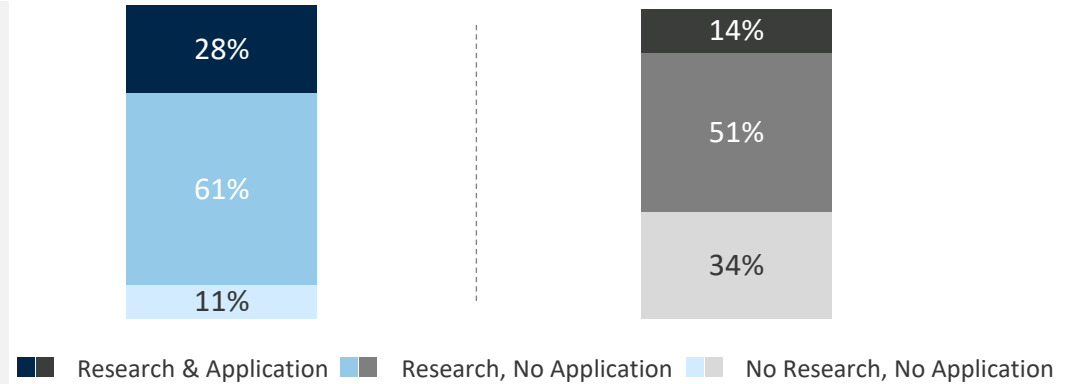
Top Motivations for Pursuing Further Education

- | Minority | Non-Minority |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ① Create a Better Life (19%) | ① Create a Better Life (17%) |
| ② Develop New Skills (17%) | ② Develop New Skills (17%) |

Differentiating Perspective on the Value of Pursuing Education

- | Minority | Non-Minority |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56% believe the value of school is higher than the cost <p>▼ 6% below average</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 63% believe the value of school is higher than the cost <p>▲ 1% above average</p> |

Progress Towards Application



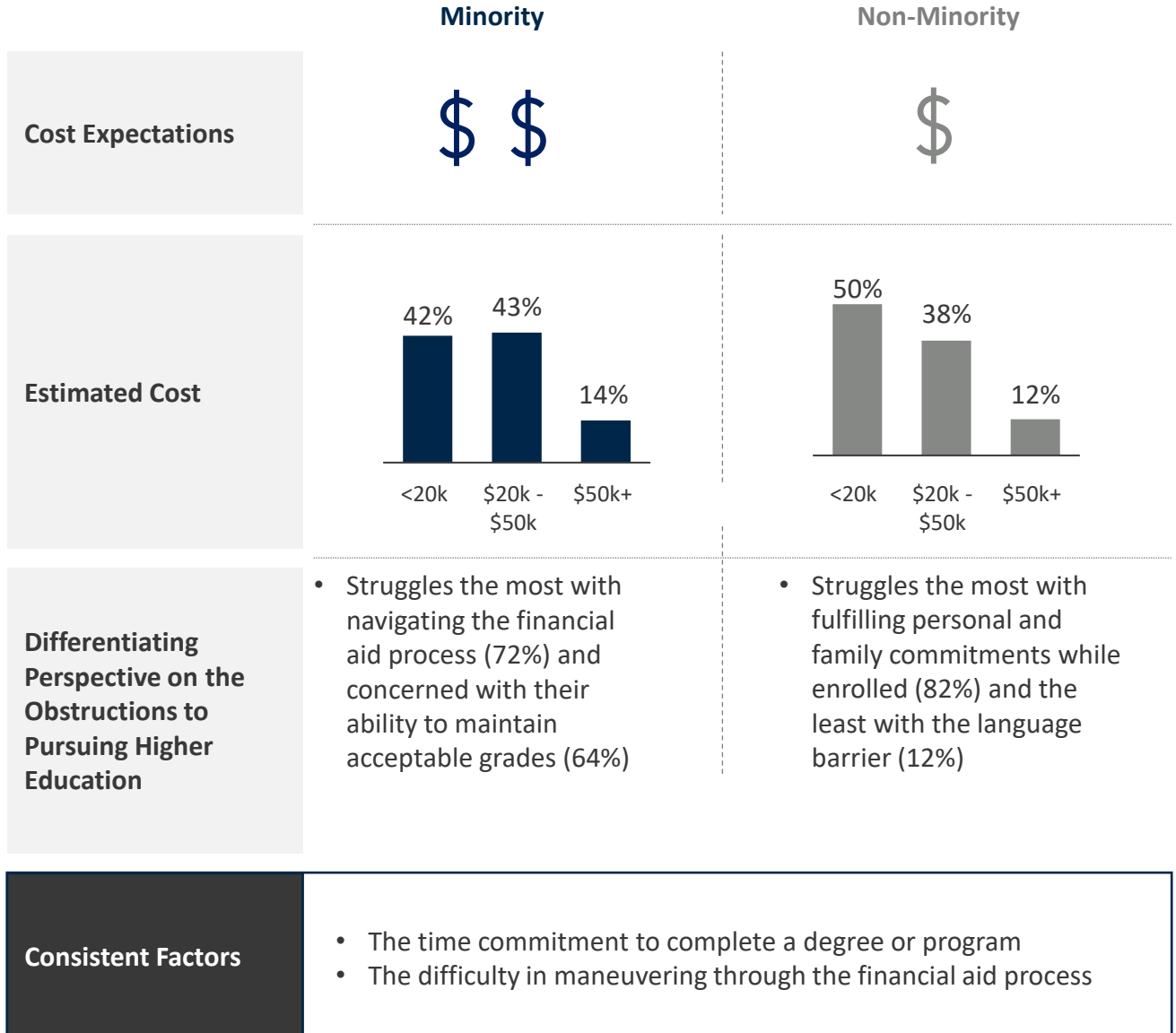
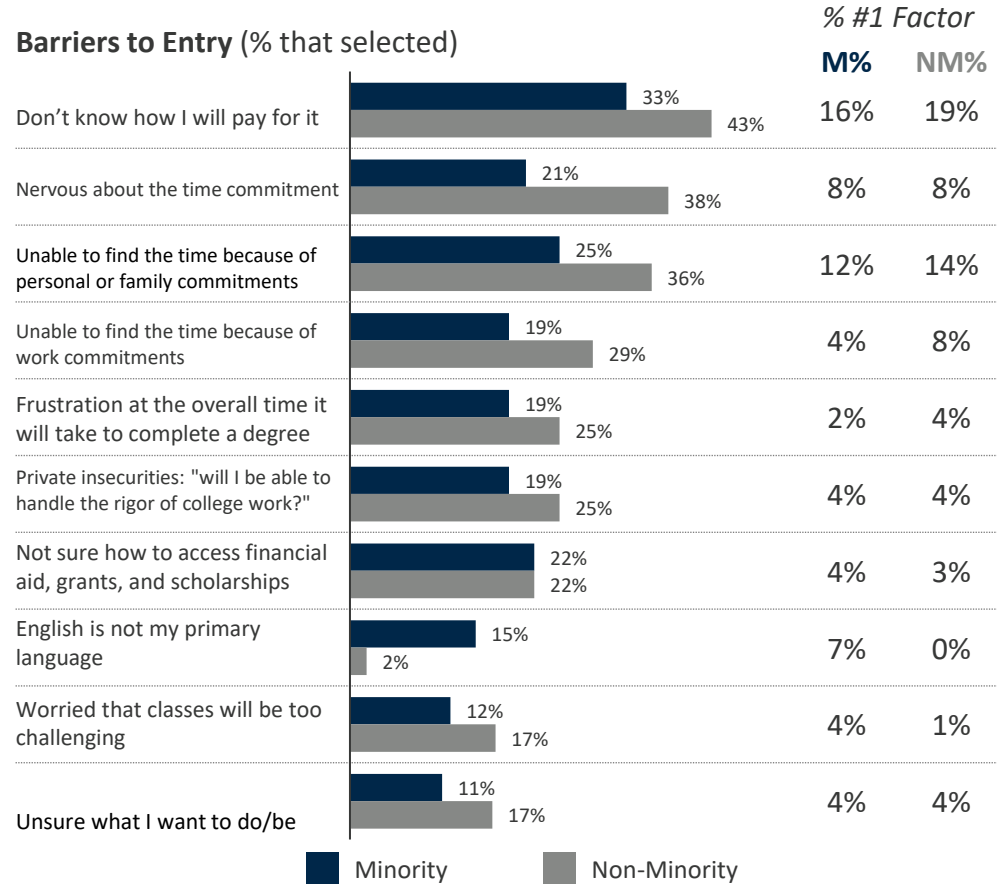
Consistent Factors

- Minorities and Non-Minorities have similar motivations to pursue higher education
- Minorities and Non-Minorities are seeking similar degree types

BARRIERS | Both groups struggle with time management between personal and work commitments, as well as their perceived timeline of how long getting their degree will take

Key Takeaways:

- Minority groups are more likely to believe the cost of their education is over \$20K compared to Non-Minority individuals
- English not being their primary language impacts 15% of Minority individuals and 2% of Non-Minority participants
- Non-Minorities are more likely to see a barrier of private insecurities

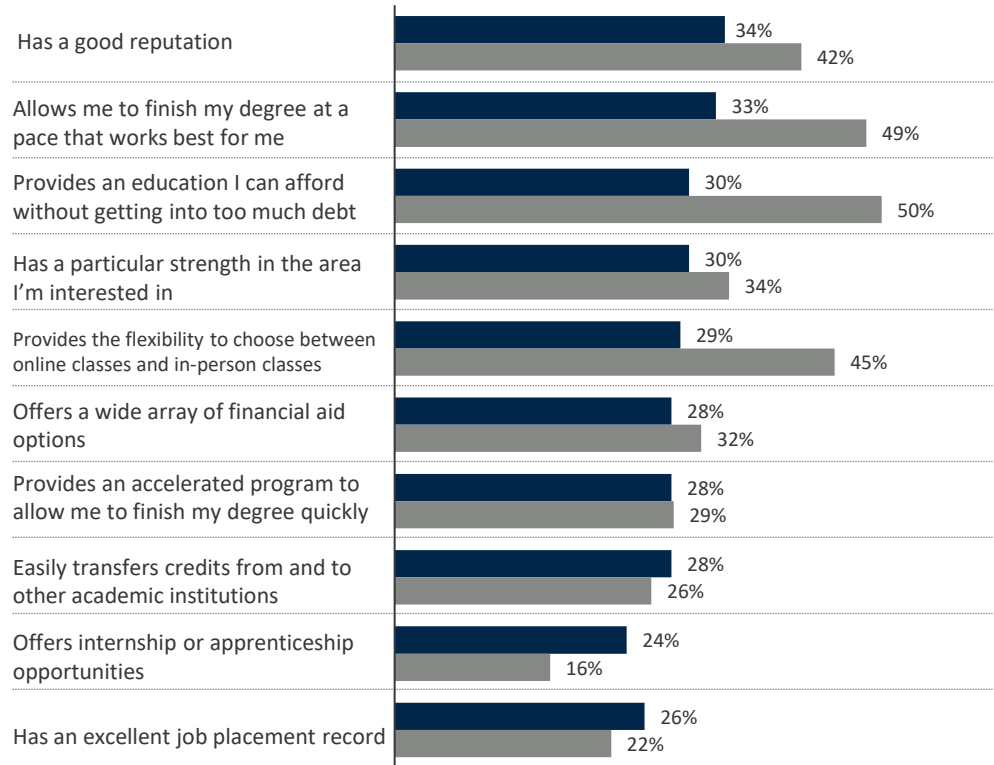


SOLUTIONS | Non-Minorities care greatly about the reputation of a school/program, avoiding debt, and completing the program at their own pace compared to their Minority counterpart

Key Takeaways:

- Minorities prefer to study healthcare and medicine compared to Non-Minorities who are more likely to go into education
- Minorities are more concerned with the job placement record (26%)
- Non-Minorities are not as concerned about having the option to choose between online and in-person options

Important Factors when Selecting a School



■ Minority ■ Non-Minority

Top Areas of Study / Interest

- Minority**
- ① Business (28%)
 - ② Computer & Information Sciences (22%)
 - ③ Healthcare/ Medicine General (21%)

- Non-Minority**
- ① Business (31%)
 - ② Computer & Information Sciences (17%)
 - ③ Education (16%)

Type of School Preference

47%
Online college or university

51%
Online college or university

Mode of Study

- 51% Hybrid
- 48% Part-Time

- 54% Hybrid
- 63% Part-time

Consistent Factors

- The second most common type of school preference is a traditional, 4-year university
- Prefer a hybrid and part-time learning model

Socioeconomic Status Segmentation

SOCIOECONOMIC GROUPS | The Lower Socioeconomic groups are more focused on finding the right programs specific to their interest, while the Upper Socioeconomic groups seek programs with great reputations



Lower Socioeconomic Status (SES)

The Lower SES groups wants to pursue an education to gain new skills that they can apply to their work and make more money. Right now, they don't see the value that an education could bring because they are so concerned about the troubles paying for school. They could use help understanding the best program for their situation.

Under \$50K with 50% married and 43% have kids under 18
167 Respondents



Middle-Low Socioeconomic Status (SES)

The Middle-Low SES group is the most-likely group to have researched and applied to their degree. Their main concern is how they will pay for the education. They could use help from a school that has great financial aid options.

Under \$100K, not married, 43% have kids under 18
92 Respondents



Middle-Upper Socioeconomic Status (SES)

The Middle-Upper SES group greatly values a flexible schedule as they are the most likely to be concerned about the time commitment of a degree. These individuals care a lot about the reputation of the school they are attending and want the experience to be conveniently located. They could use help to understand how a degree could further develop their career.

\$50-\$150K, 88% married, 62% have kids under 18
461 Respondents



Upper Socioeconomic Status (SES)

The Upper SES group's intentions of further education, beyond what they have already achieved, is for the hope of gaining new skills and personal satisfaction. They are most concerned with the time commitment, which may be why they are the least likely to have applied to a program. They could use help seeing how they could manage school and other commitments.

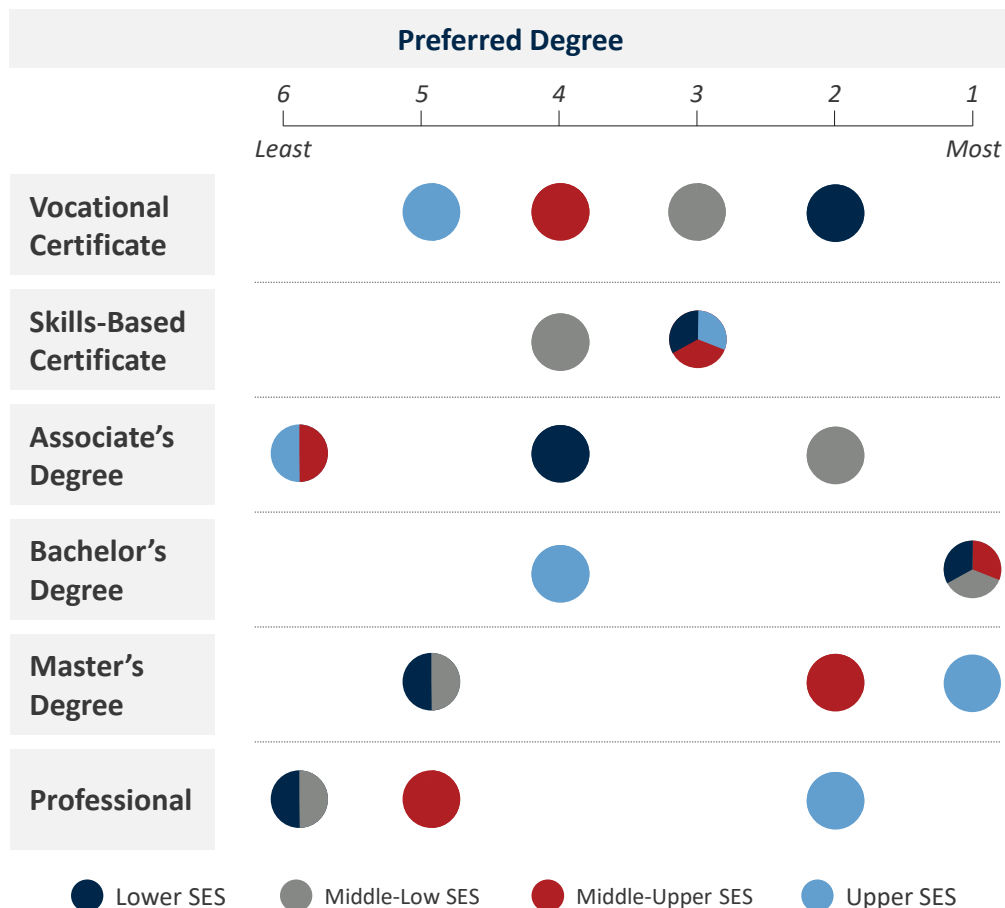
\$150K+, 88% married, 55% have kids under 18
110 Respondents

Groups segmented based on age alone. Differences called out for this segmentation are significant to a 95% confidence interval.

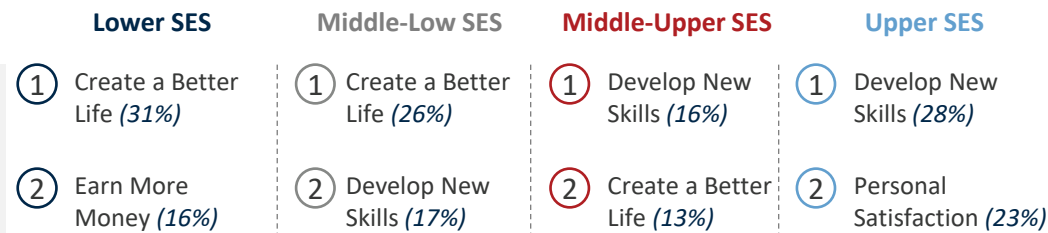
MOTIVATIONS | The Lower SES Group is less likely to believe that the value of an education is worth the cost that it requires to complete and shows a 20-percentage point gap compared to the Upper SES Group

Key Takeaways:

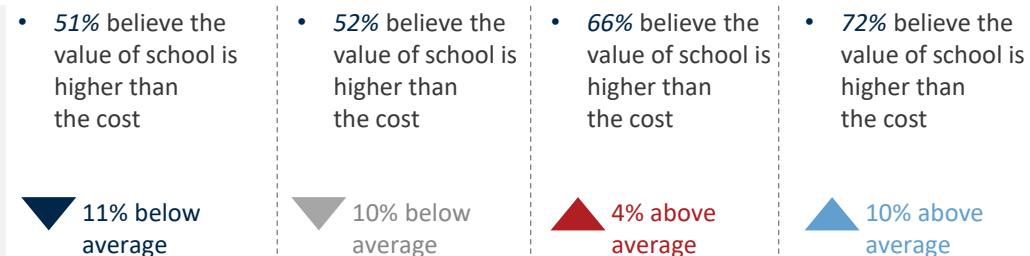
- Lower SES Group values Vocational Certificates and Associates Degrees more than the Upper SES groups, which values Master's Degrees
- Upper SES is the most likely to have researched and not applied to their preferred programs compared to Lower SES, who has a greater percentage that have not researched, nor applied



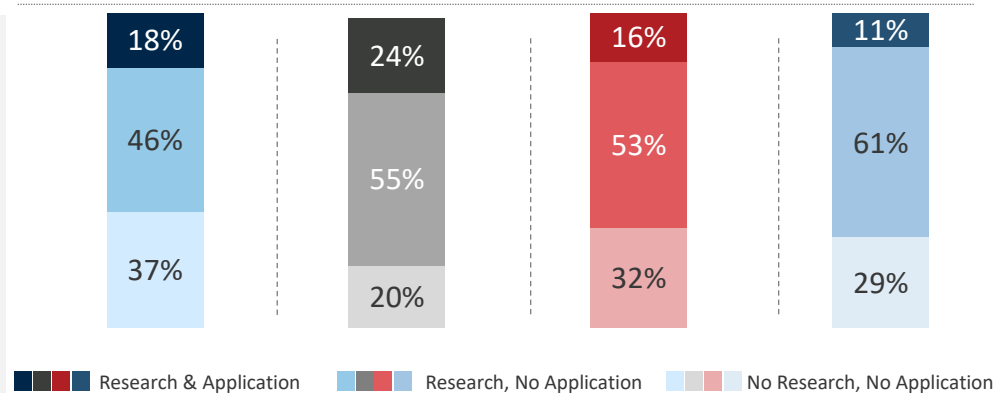
Top Motivations for Pursuing Further Education



Differentiating Perspective on the Value of Pursuing Education



Progress Towards Application



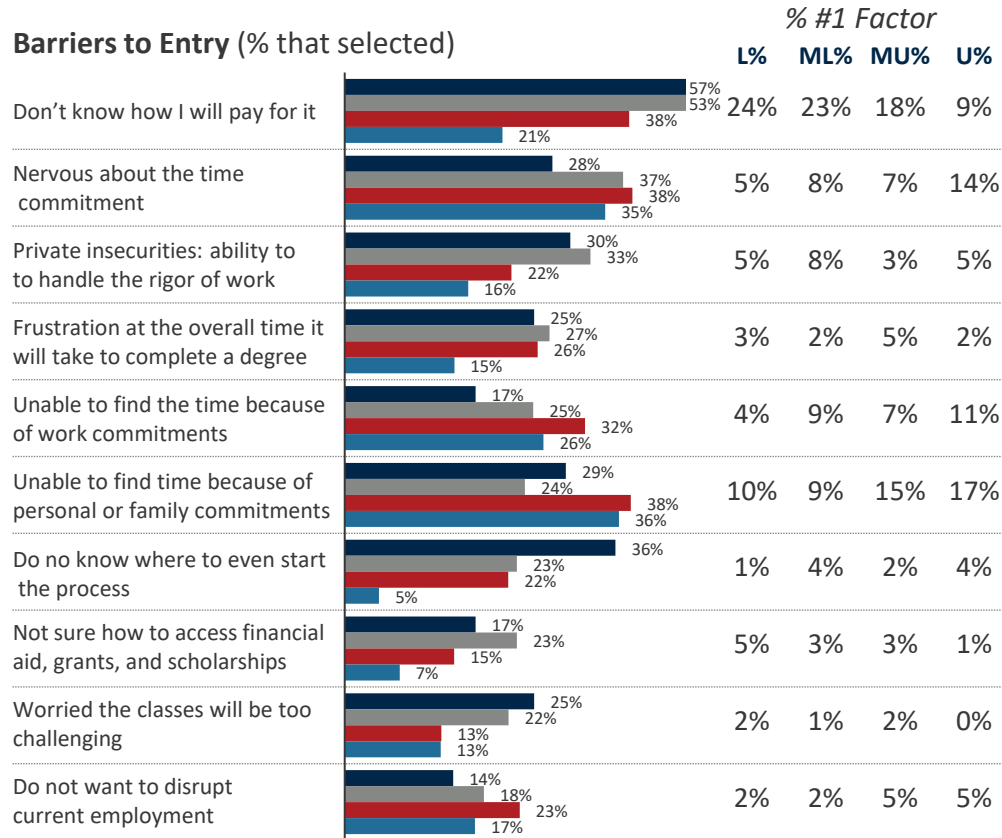
Consistent Factors

- Desire to create a better life
- Desire to develop new skills
- Bachelor's and Master's are most sought-after

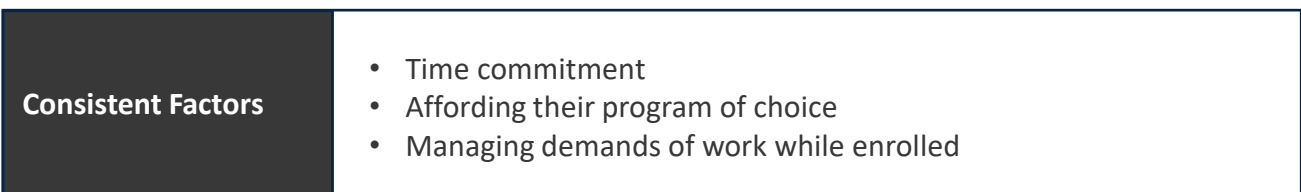
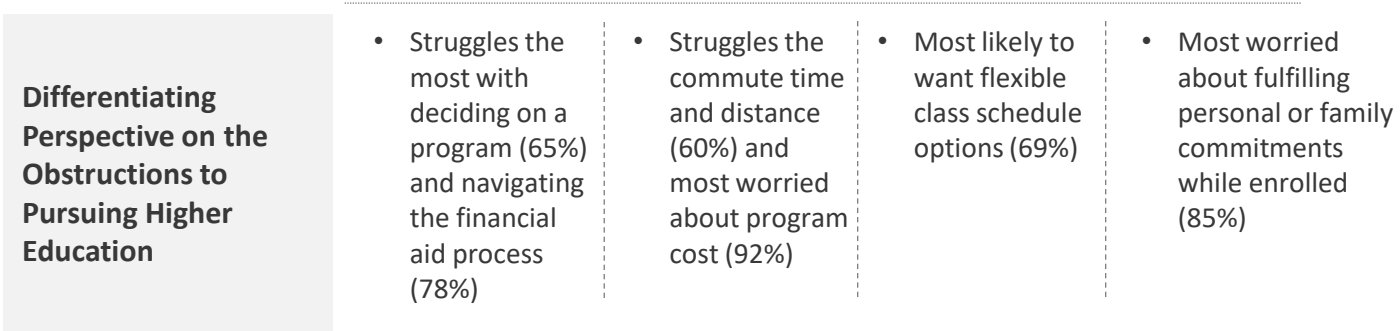
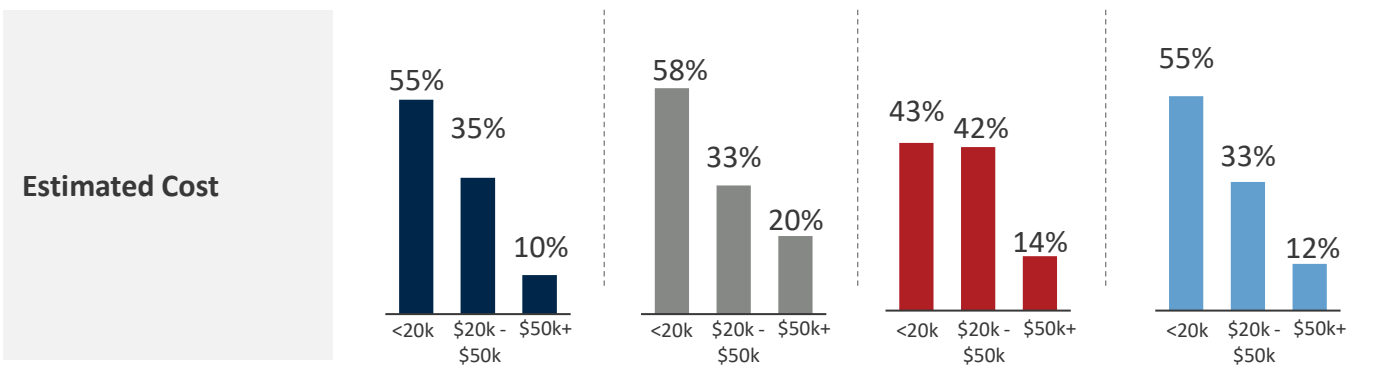
BARRIERS | Those in the Lower SES groups experience a large barrier of knowing where to begin their journey (36%) compared to the Upper SES groups (5%)

Key Takeaways:

- Being accepted to a preferred program is more of an obstruction for the Lower SES groups (65%) compared to the Upper SES groups (49%)
- Maintaining acceptable grades is less of a challenge for the Upper SES group (39%) compared to the Lower SES Group (66%)



■ Lower SES
 ■ Middle-Low SES
 ■ Middle-Upper SES
 ■ Upper SES

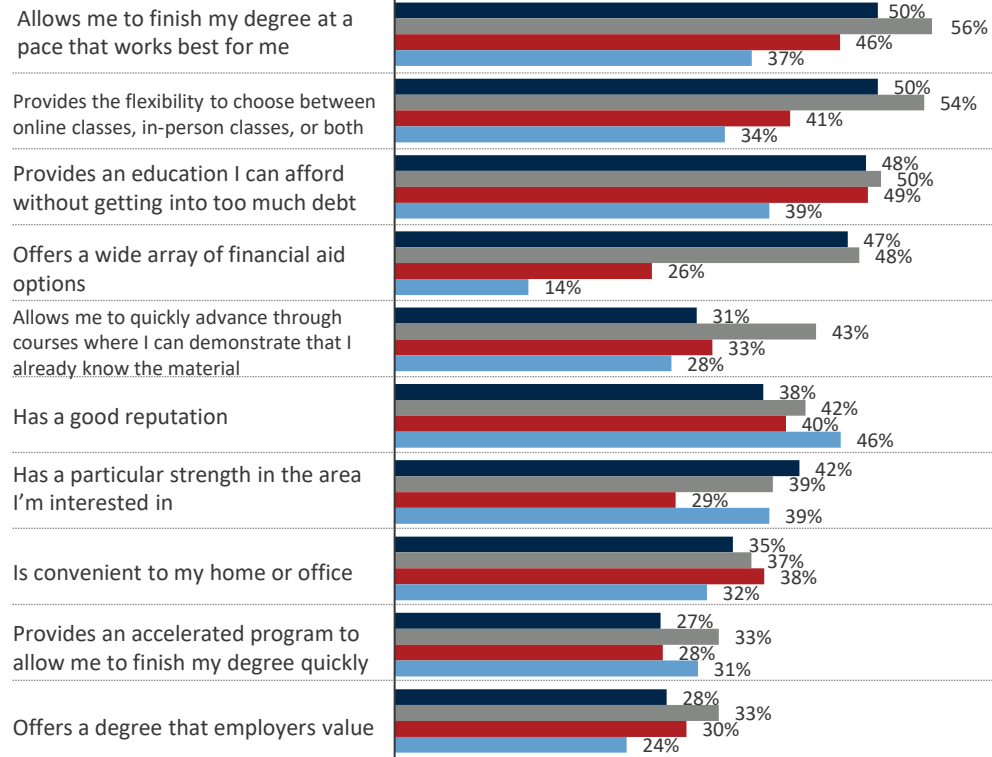


SOLUTIONS | All SES groups truly prefer a flexible, part-time and hybrid learning schedule that allows them to complete their degrees at their own pace

Key Takeaways:

- The Lower SES group prefers a traditional four-year program and looks for a degree that allows them to finish a degree at their own pace, differing from the Upper SES group, who prefers online and is not as concerned with time
- The Upper SES group cares most about the reputation of the program, while the Lower SES group is more focused on the strength of the specific program

Important Factors when Selecting a School



Lower SES Middle-Low SES Middle-Upper SES Upper SES

Top Areas of Study / Interest

Lower SES	Middle-Low SES	Middle-Upper SES	Upper SES
① Business (32%)	① Business (32%)	① Business (31%)	① Business (29%)
② Computer & Information Sciences (20%)	② Psychology (23%)	② Computer & Information Sciences (18%)	② Healthcare/ Medicine General (15%)
③ Healthcare/ Medicine General (16%)	③ Computer & Information Sciences (18%)	③ Education (18%)	③ Computer & Information Sciences (14%)

Type of School Preference

Lower SES	Middle-Low SES	Middle-Upper SES	Upper SES
46%	54%	53%	52%
Traditional 4- year university	Online college or university	Online college or university	Online college or university

Mode of Study

Lower SES	Middle-Low SES	Middle-Upper SES	Upper SES
54% Hybrid 48% Part-Time	54% Hybrid 54% Part-time	53% Hybrid 64% Part-Time	54% Hybrid 73% Part-Time

Consistent Factors

- Prefer a hybrid learning model
- Part-time school versus full-time
- Avoid going into too much debt

Best Practices for Supporting Non-Traditional Students

Multiple peer-reviewed studies provide helpful guidance for empowering non-traditional students to navigate situational and dispositional barriers

Best Practices for Supporting Non-Traditional Students



Affordability Requirements

Require that low-income students not pay more than a predetermined percentage of their discretionary income



Improve Confidence

Organize non-traditional students into cohorts and sections where they will make up the majority of the classroom



Method of Aid

Experiment with providing aid or grants in the form of an account with all funding determined prior to enrollment



Make Aid Accessible

Base the awarding of grants process off easily obtainable documents and information and the averages of yearly income



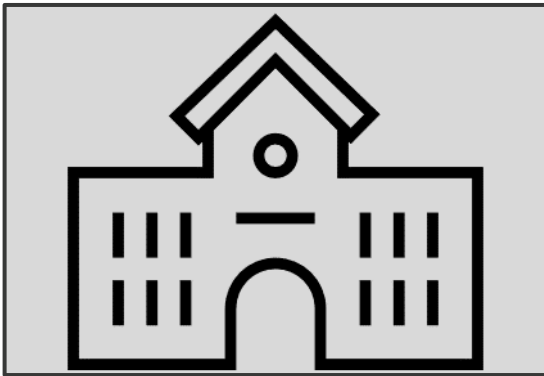
Incentivize

Experiment with offering students small “bonuses” when they accomplish milestones or goals

“When students see evidence that people at their university care about them, students feel more motivated than when they perceive stakeholders only care about students identified as the majority.” – Holy Family University

Multiple peer-reviewed studies provide helpful guidance for empowering non-traditional students to navigate situational, institutional, and dispositional barriers

Best Practices for Supporting Non-Traditional Students

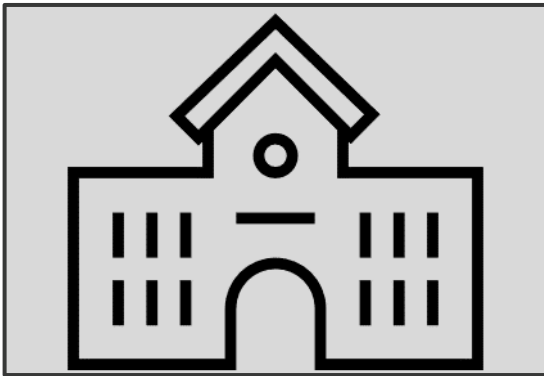


- **Improve Confidence:** Organize non-traditional students into cohorts and sections where they will make up the majority of the classroom
- **Simplify:** Improve the ease of transferring credits in based on past courses completed and on competency-based assessments; when students start with a base of credits, they are more likely to complete the program
- **Organize:** Provide students with a narrow selection of course pathways to eliminate confusion and simplify the scheduling/enrollment process
- **Pace:** Allow students to progress through courses at a **customizable pace** wherever possible
- **Incentivize:** Experiment with offering students small “bonuses” when they accomplish milestones or goals

“When students see evidence that people at their university care about them, students feel more motivated than when they perceive stakeholders only care about students identified as the majority.” – Holy Family University

These same peer-reviewed studies provide guidance on best practices helping non-traditional students navigate institutional barriers

Best Practices for Supporting Non-Traditional Students



- **Prioritize:** Grant non-traditional students **priority or privileges** for scheduling, parking, transportation, and wherever else appropriate
- **Cater to Unique Needs:** Develop support systems/personnel that cater specifically to non-traditional students
- **Make Financial Aid Accessible:** Base the **awarding of grants process** off easily obtainable documents and information
- **Assist in Planning:** Create a binding degree plan prior to each student’s enrollment so that students can visualize a charted path forwards
- **Build Affordability Requirements:** Require that low-income students not pay more than a predetermined percentage of their discretionary income

“There is a difference between a coherent set of options and an overwhelming number of choices.”

In a recently published, peer-review study, three categories of non-traditional student barriers were defined: situational, institutional, and dispositional barriers



Situational Barriers

Barriers arising from one's situation in life at any given time

Examples:

- Costs
- Home responsibilities
- Job responsibilities
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Lack of support from family or friends
- Limited time



Institutional Barriers

Practices and procedures that exclude or discourage working adults from participating in educational activities

Examples:

- Credit transfer difficulties
- Required seat-time vs. competence assessments
- Inconvenient schedules and locations
- Full-time fees for part-time study
- Inappropriate courses of study
- Lack of information about course offerings
- Arduous enrollment processes
- Lack of clear pathway to earn credits or degree



Dispositional Barriers

Ever-present barriers left to the individual to address in isolation

Examples:

- Motivation
- Ageist attitudes
- Lack of self-esteem
- Fear of failure

According to the same study there are four primary pillars to best support the success of non-traditional students

The Four Pillars Theoretical Framework



Personal Motivation

Students' self-beliefs about academic capabilities play a vital role in their motivation to achieve.



Family Support

Decisions for non-traditional students to enter college programs are largely based on support from family.



Institutional Support

When institutional support is poorly provided, students are likely to quit, leave, or never enroll in courses.



Community Support

Being a part of a harmonious and welcoming community is integral to student success.

Of these four pillars, universities and state systems are best equipped to directly strengthen institutional support

Best Practices for Creating Institutional Support



- Improve the **ease of transferring credits** in based on past courses completed and on competency-based assessments; when students start with a base of credits, they are more likely to complete the program
- Organize non-traditional students into cohorts and sections where they will make **up the majority of the classroom**
- Minimize the size of these cohorts as to engender a **feeling of belongingness**
- Provide students with a narrow selection of course pathways to eliminate confusion and **simplify the scheduling/enrollment process**
- Allow students to participate in the organization of classes and curriculum so that resources are **efficiently allocated to underdeveloped skills**
- Allow students to progress through courses at a **customizable pace** wherever possible
- Grant non-traditional students **priority or privileges** for scheduling, parking, transportation, and wherever else appropriate
- **Develop support systems/personnel** that cater specifically to non-traditional students
- Base the **awarding of grants process** off easily obtainable documents and information

Quote: “When students see evidence that people at their university care about them, students feel more motivated than when they perceive stakeholders only care about students identified as the majority.” – Holy Family University

Multiple peer-reviewed studies provide helpful guidance for empowering non-traditional students to navigate situational, institutional, and dispositional barriers

Best Practices for Creating Institutional Support

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Quote: *“When students see evidence that people at their university care about them, students feel more motivated than when they perceive stakeholders only care about students identified as the majority.”* – Holy Family University

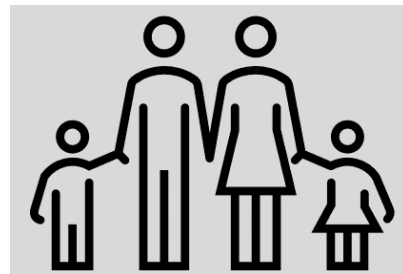
Similarly, universities and state systems can play a passive role in strengthening personal motivation, family support, and community support

Best Practices for Supporting Motivation, Families, and Communities



Personal Motivation

- Workforce – institute alignment to demonstrate the ROI of the program
 - Create an infrastructure of support and resources that will **affirm confidence and supply help** to students throughout their coursework
 - **Establish a system** where instructors provided **one-on-one feedback and consultation** throughout coursework
-



Family Support

- Validate the **deep experiential and workplace-related learning** that non-traditional students bring to the classroom
 - Construct a **family-friendly environment** to help parents support children in the form of libraries, study rooms, or even day-care facilities
 - Host events that give family members the chance to **interact with and experience life on campus**
-



Community Support

- Construct a positive outlook on institutions by **undertaking partnership initiatives** such as students **volunteering in neighborhood schools** and faculty **conducting research** to support local evaluation efforts
- **Partner with local corporations** to build skillsets and networks specific to local industries
- Share resources with local government agencies to **promote overall welfare within the community**

Another primary obstacle for non-traditional students is financial aid. In 2015, Lumina Foundation conducted a national study on the changes necessary to better serve non-traditional students...

State-Level Recommendations for Financial Aid to Cater Education to Non-Traditional Students

Improve Application and Awarding of Aid

- Rewarding of financial aid leans on formulas to gauge the amount of resources needed by individuals or families for postsecondary education
 - Current formulas err by requiring lots of information that may not be accessible to non-traditional students and yet fails to sift out fraudulent applicants
-

Change Institutional Behavior

- Holding enrollment slots for non-traditional students does not sufficiently provide those students with access to the institution
 - Offering students too many choices for course studies is often more overwhelming than helpful
-

Improve Personal Responsibility

- Non-traditional students frequently lack the incentive to take their education seriously during the beginning of their education

...At the institution level, Lumina recommended standardizing affordability requirements, creating degree plans prior to enrollment, and creating competency-based remedial programs...

Require Colleges to Meet Affordability Requirements

Practices:

- For at least low-income individuals, colleges should determine tuition **based off needs**
- Require that low-income students **not pay more** than a predetermined percentage of their discretionary income

Goal:

- Paying for college is **not financially burdensome** to the point of driving away non-traditional students

Create a Binding Degree Plan for Each Student Prior to Enrollment

Practices:

- As colleges, offer students the choice between a **selection of programs** or paths rather than courses
- Work with incoming students to structure a **degree plan** before the student officially enrolls at the institution

Goal:

- Students are not **overwhelmed** and **efficiently accomplish** their education because of an organized path

Allow for Competency-Based Remedial Programs

Practices:

- **Remove barriers** to competency-based education for remedial coursework and development
- **Establish programs** tailored to students' needs that allow students to progress quickly through courses

Goal:

- Ensure students have **the skills necessary** to be successful at the college level

QUOTE: "There is a difference between a coherent set of options and an overwhelming number of choices."

...Further recommendations include financial aid based on multi-year income averages and the idea of experimenting with grants awarded in the form of an account...

Base Aid on Multi-Year Income Average

Practices:

- In financial aid applications, request information based on a **three-year average** verified by tax returns from the previous year
 - Send **renewal form annually** to see if student income has significantly changed
- Lock in the candidate's data for the **entirety of the program** they are planning to complete
- Base decisions **off information and documents** that are likely to be accessible to students of all backgrounds and circumstances

Goals:

- Students have a consistent understanding of their **grant amounts** the whole time they work in their programs
- Redirect resource allocation towards a **case-by-case process** and away from **formulaic measurements**

Experiment with Awarding Grant in Form of Account

Practices:

- Experiment with grants by awarding students financial aid equivalent to **125% of the needed time** to finish their program
- Accounts should be **school- or state-controlled** rather than student-controlled
- Accrue the needed funding to the student account **as they complete their courses**
- Scrutinize and **tweak experiment** as needed throughout its course

QUOTE: "The varied life circumstances of non-traditional students mean that they may not follow a typical enrollment pattern."

Goals:

- Incentivize students to complete their educations **promptly and effectively**
- **Eliminate confusion** around when/how students will receive financial aid

...Lumina's financial aid areas of improvement also included “bonuses” for students who hit certain progress milestones...

Experiment with “Bonuses” for Students Passing Through Certain Progress Milestones

Practices:

- **Supply aid** to students who hit their federal grant ceiling in the later semesters of their education
- Experiment with offering students **small “bonuses”** for attaining different milestones along their educational journey
 - Students who complete X credits could receive a **one-time award** of \$XXX
 - **Assign** students to different experimental groups and **study how students respond** to being awarded different amounts at different momentum points

Goals:

- Incentivize non-traditional students to **diligently complete their programs** while helping assuage financial burdens
- **Gather data** on incentivizing non-traditional students with grants

...Finally, at the federal level, Lumina recommended improving access to FAFSA and altering legislation concerned with grants

Base FAFSA on Multi-Year Income Average

Practices:

- Instead of requiring students in need of FAFSA to reapply annually, require **only one form** at the start of the student's postsecondary career
- Request information based on a **three-year average** verified by tax returns from the previous year.
 - **Send renewal form annually** to see if student income has significantly changed
- Lock in the candidate's data for the **entirety of the program** they are planning to complete

Goals:

- Students have a **consistent understanding** of their FAFSA amounts the whole time they work in their programs
- Students are **less likely to be delayed or turned away** due to inaccessible or missing documents

Best practices for the federal government are provided for information purposes only.

Experiment with Emergency Fund for Non-Traditional Pell Grant Recipients

Practices:

- Experiment with providing a **small pot of emergency funds** to colleges with significant non-traditional student enrollment and studying its effects on enrollment periods and number of credits taken
- If successful, **revisit financial aid formulas** to incorporate additional funding per-Pell-student that colleges already receive for administrative purposes

Goals:

- **Efficiently allocate dollars** to persons and programs who would otherwise be poorly catered to due to rigid formulas and calculations
- Study effects of **increased administration budget** based on number of students

Appendix

Frequency Analysis: all the survey responses in aggregate

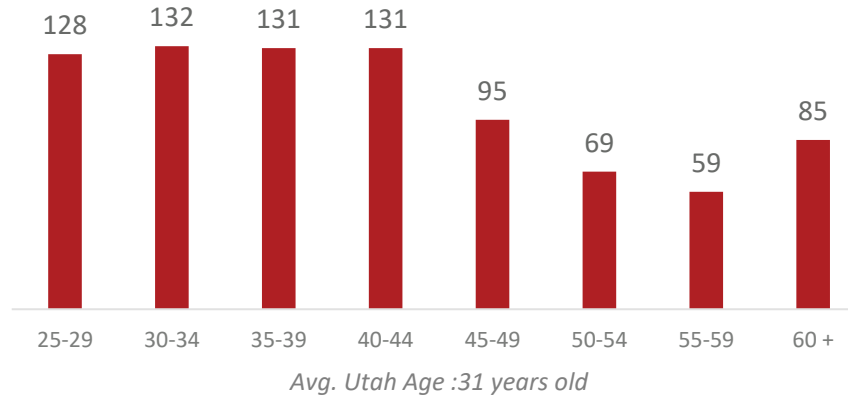
The study captured information from representative individuals ranging in age, income, and education level, as well as race, which align closely with Utah's averages

830 total
survey completes

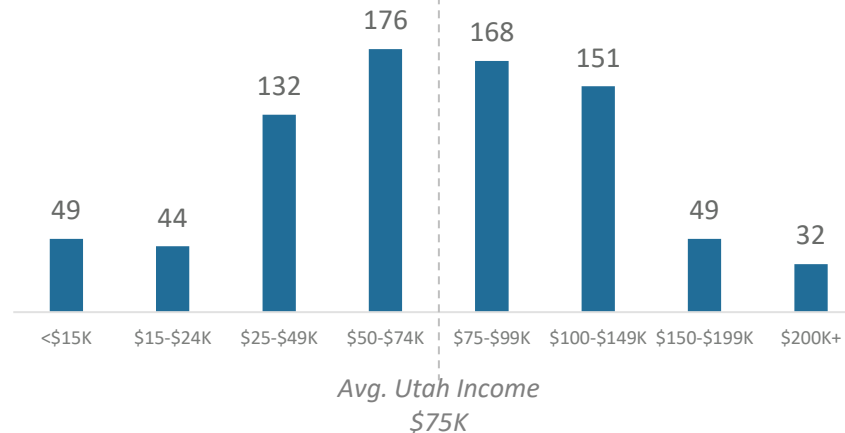
Levels of Education Including...

- High School Diploma or GED (65)
- Some College, but No Degree (165)
- Started a Vocational / Technical / Skill-Based Certificate, but Never Finished (22)
- Vocational / Technical / Skill-Based Certificate or Diploma (79)
- Associates Degree (113)
- Bachelor's Degree (264)
- Master's Degree (107)
- Professional Degree or Doctorate (15)

From individuals ranging from ages 25 to 60+



With total household incomes ranging from <\$15K to \$200K+

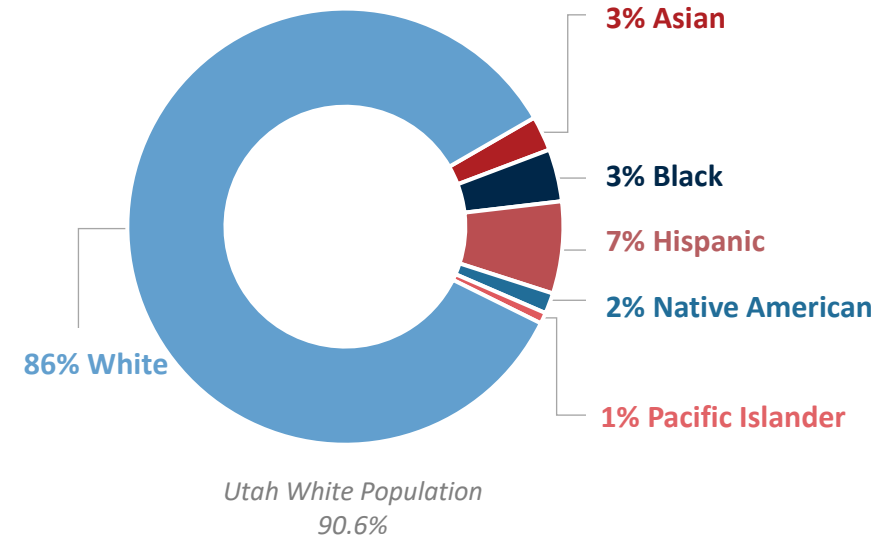


Gender Identity

59% Female
40% Male
1% Non-Binary

Utah Gender Breakdown: 49.6% Female

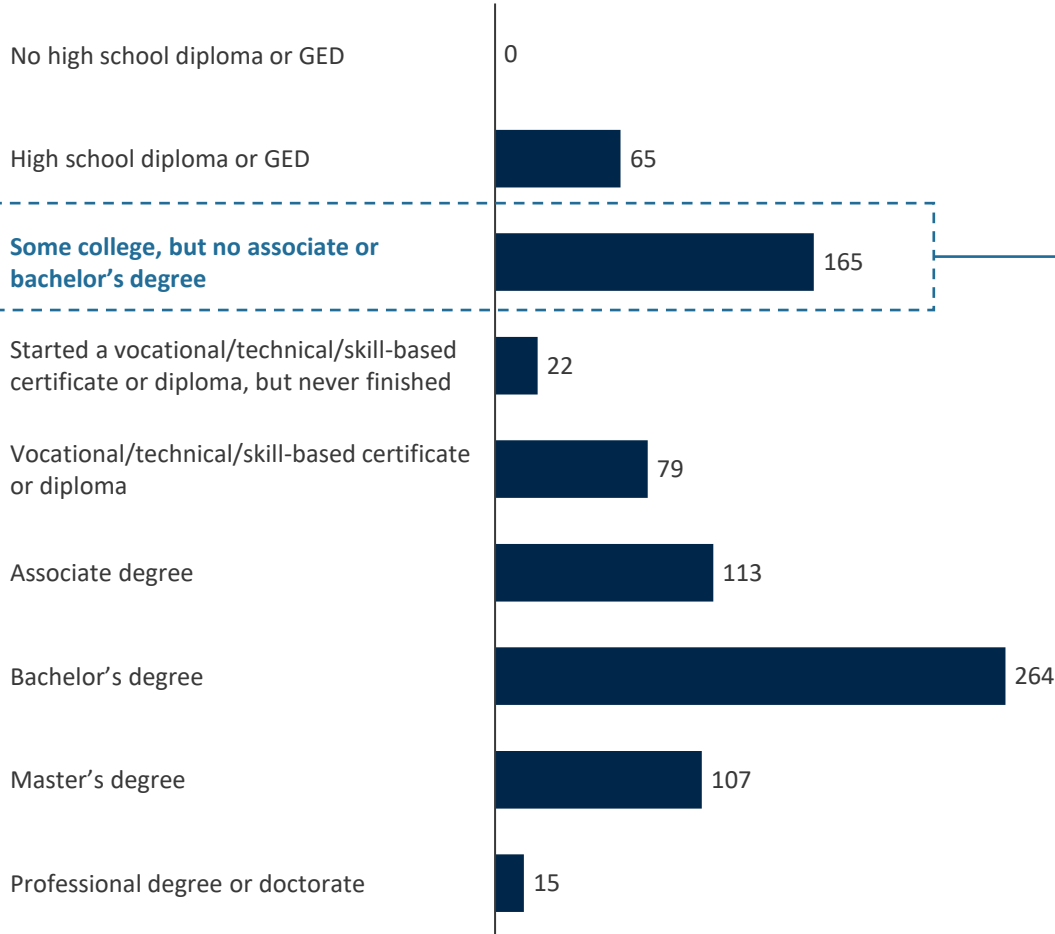
Race



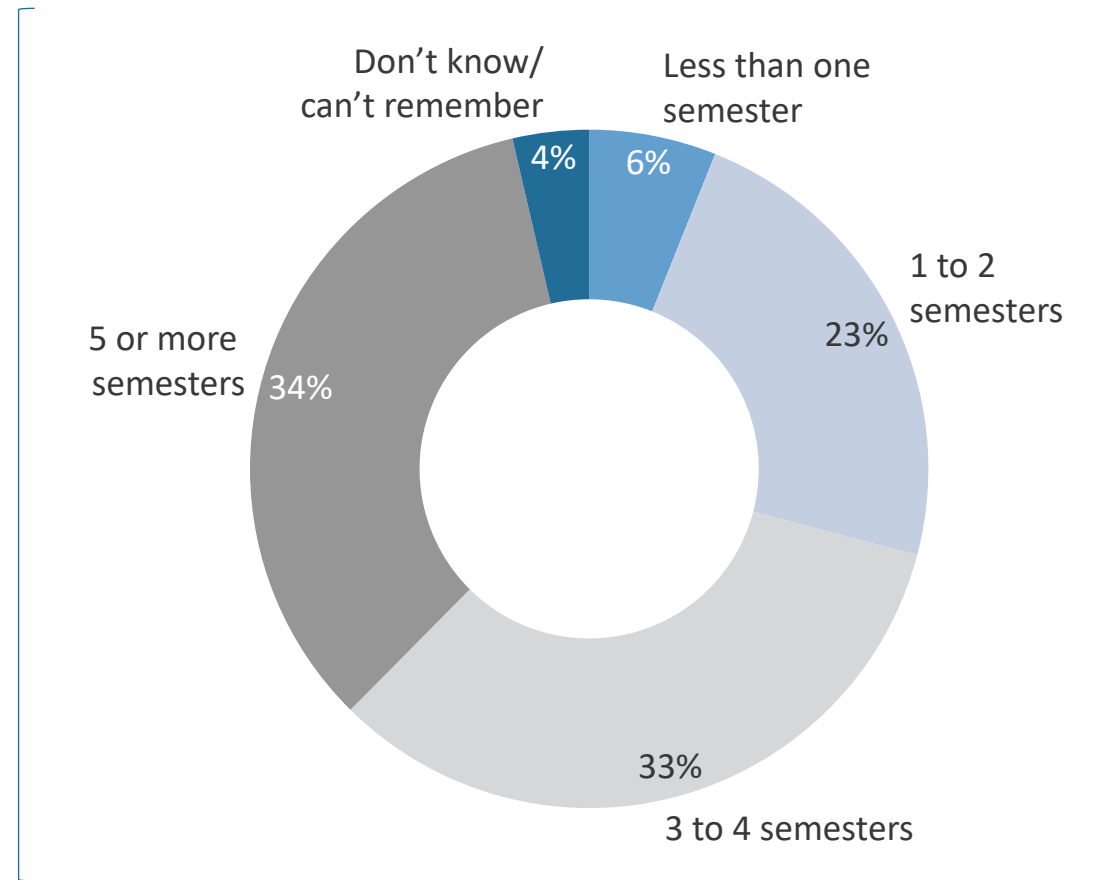
EDUCATION HISTORY | Highest Level of School Previously Completed

Highest level of school previously completed

N=830



Some college, but no associate or bachelor's degree: Semesters of college previously completed N=165



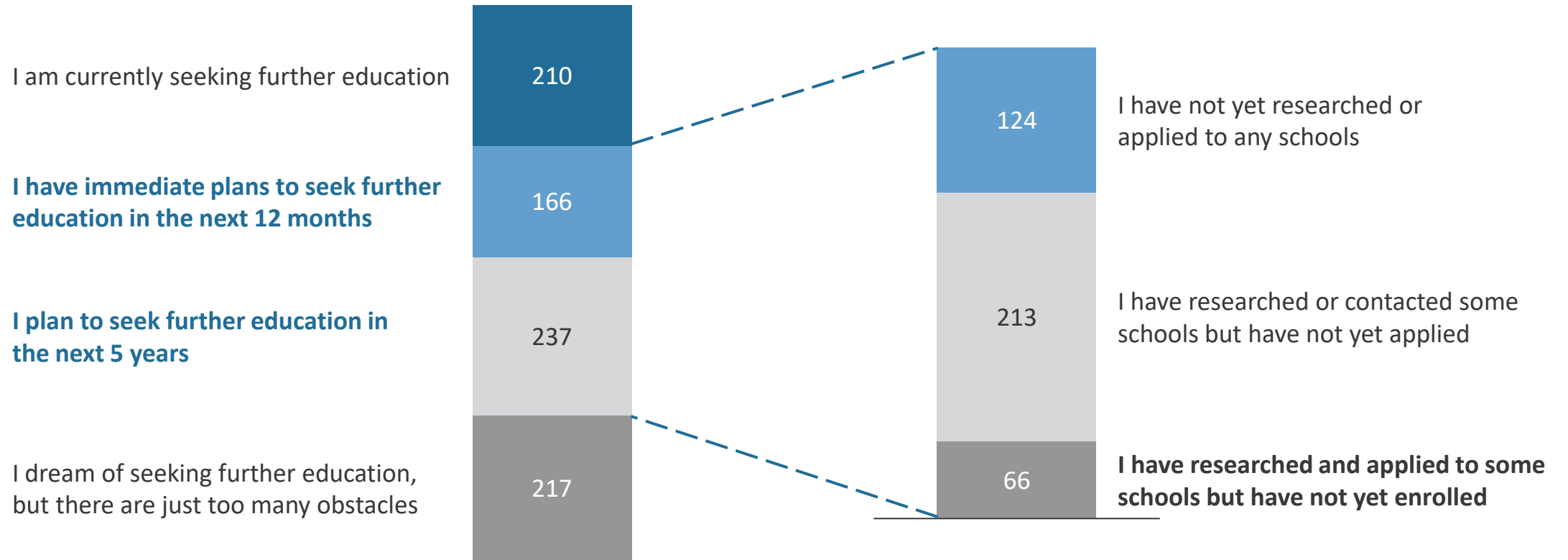
EDUCATION HISTORY | Personal Goals for Education

Personal educational goals (technical/vocational school, college, or university)

N=830

Educational Plan Progress

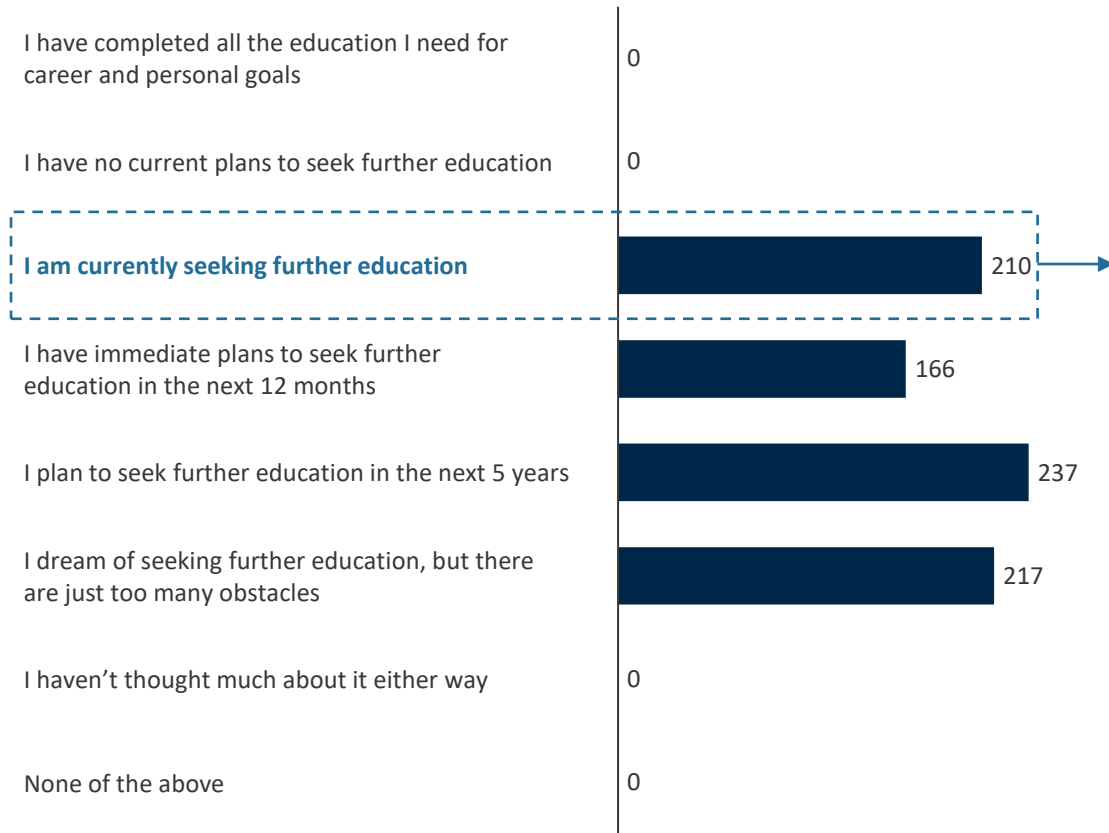
N=403



EDUCATION HISTORY | Personal Goals for Education

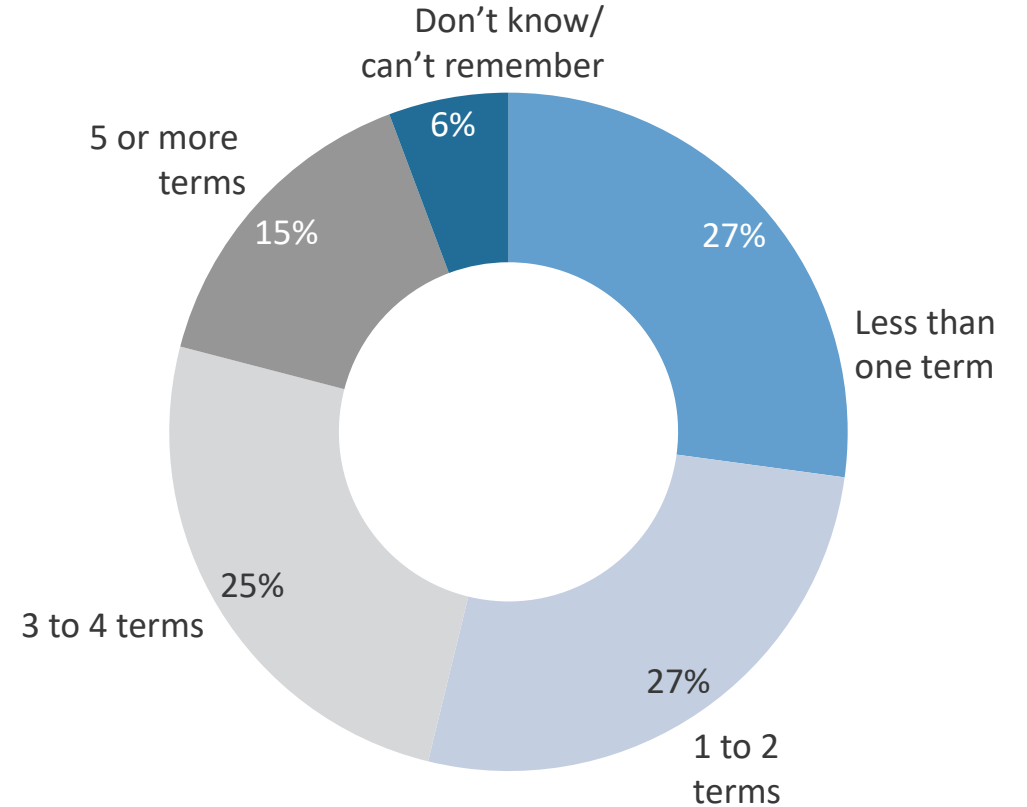
Personal goals for education (technical/vocational school, college, or university)

N=830



Current Program Completion Progress

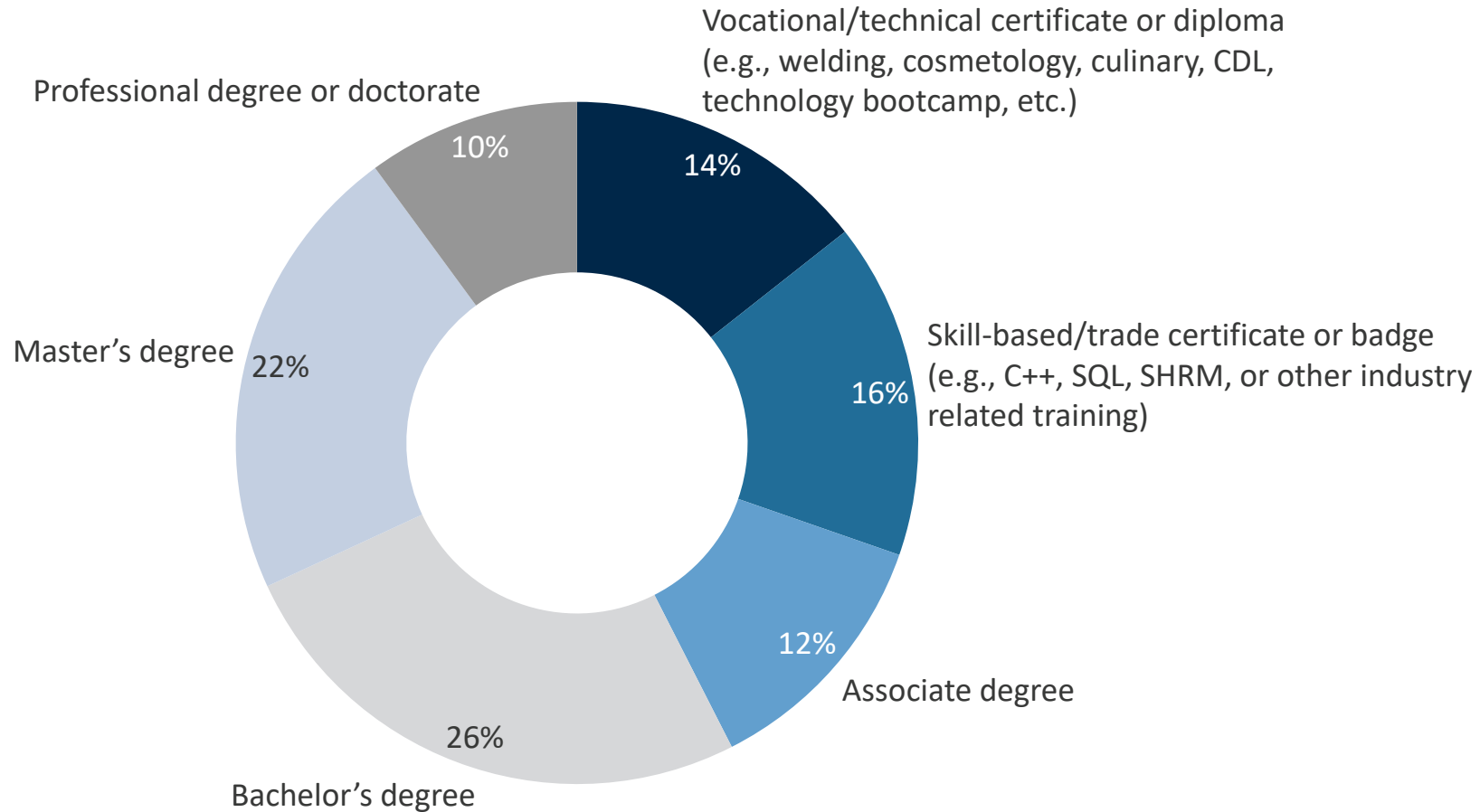
N=210



EDUCATION HISTORY | Pursued Type of Education

Type of education or training certification considering or seeking

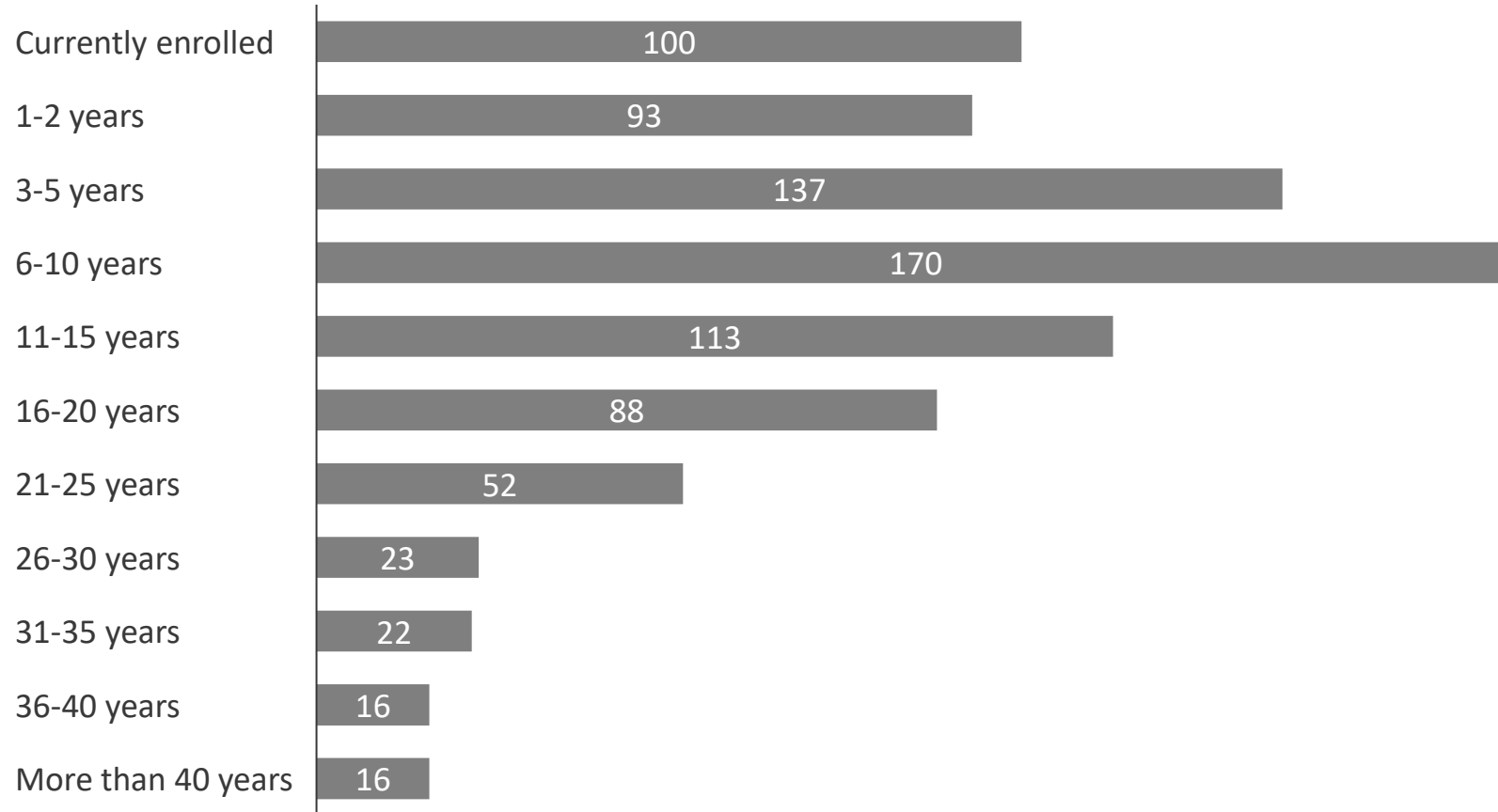
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EDUCATION HISTORY | Length of Time Since Last Enrolled in Post-High School Education

Approximate time since enrollment in post high school education

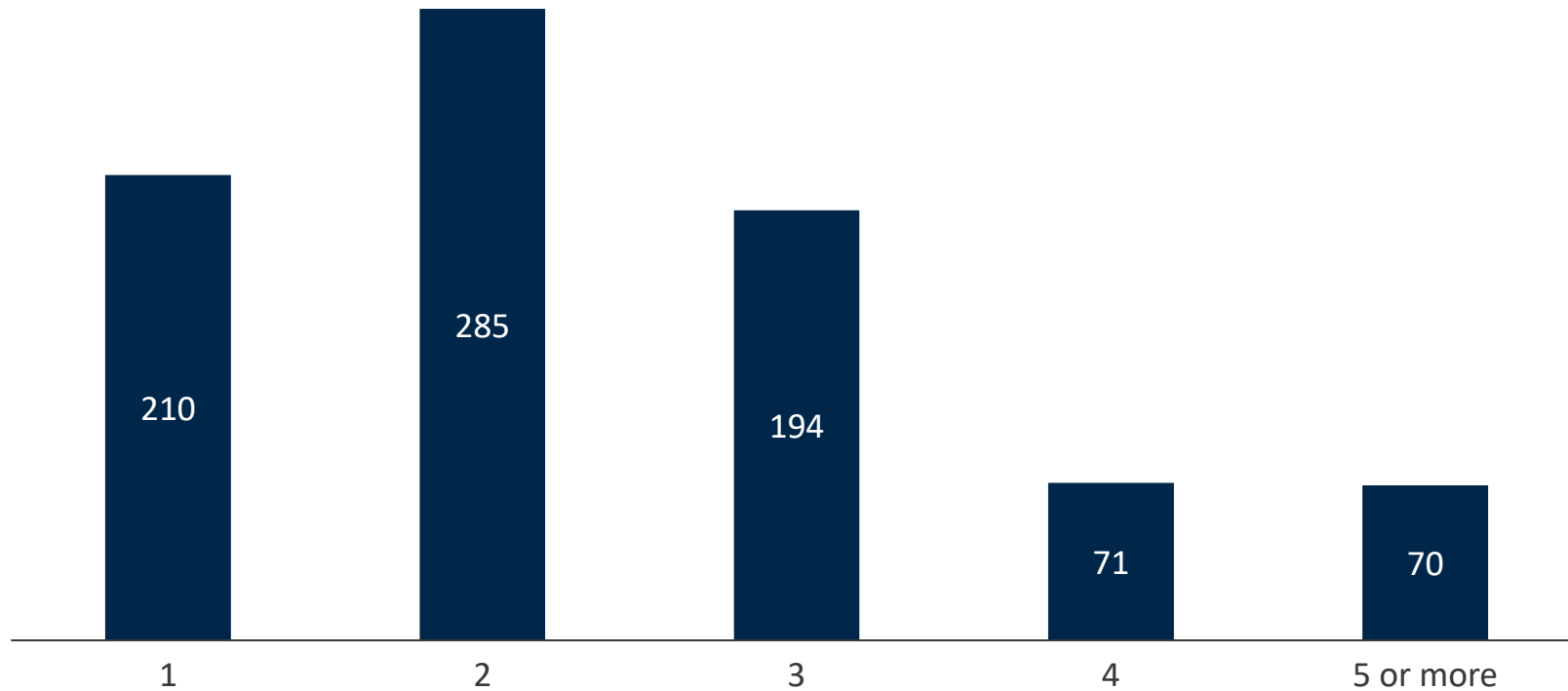
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EDUCATION HISTORY | Number of Attempts to Enroll in School

Number of enrollments since completing high school to seek additional education or training?

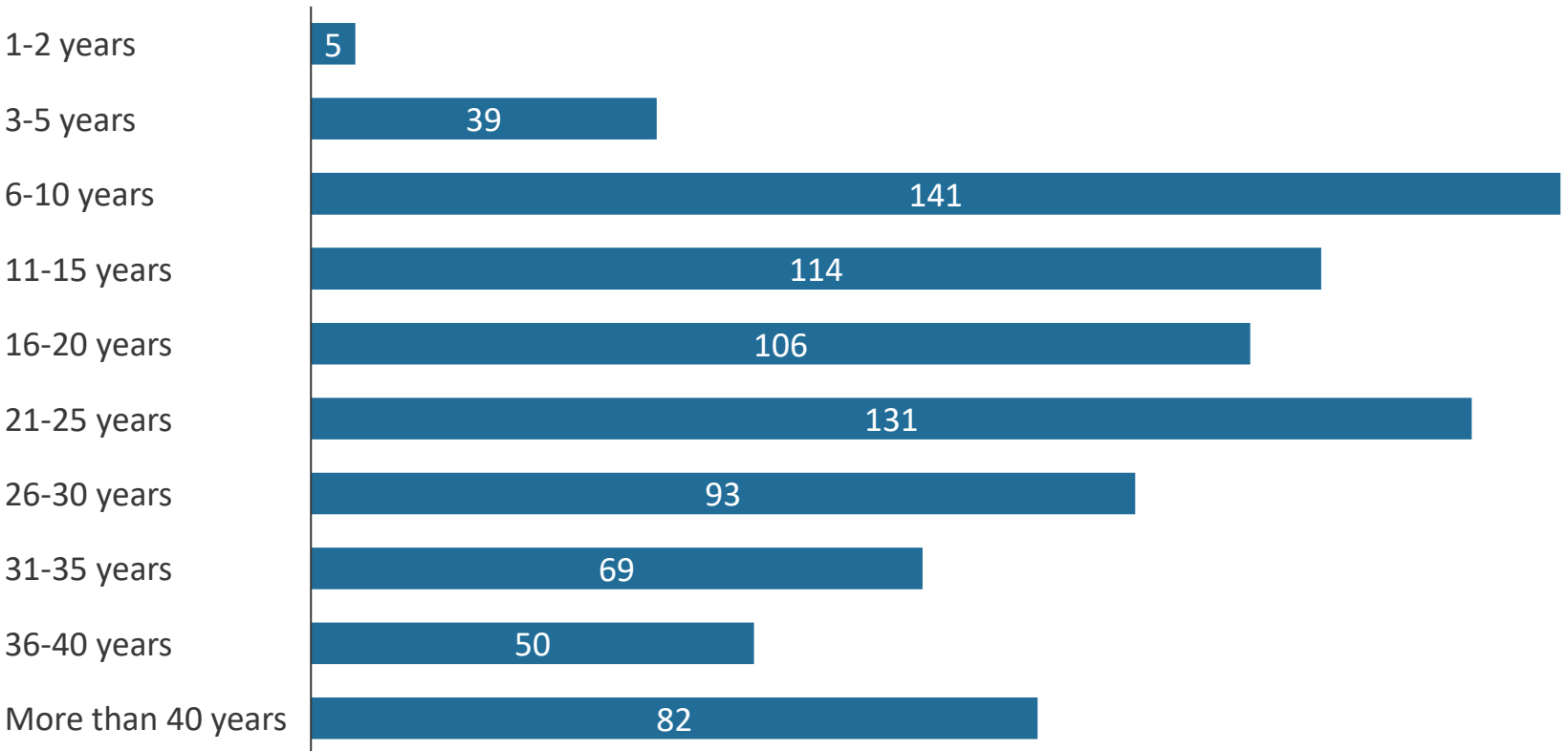
N=830



EDUCATION HISTORY | Length of Time Since High School or GED Completion

Approximate time since completing high school or GED

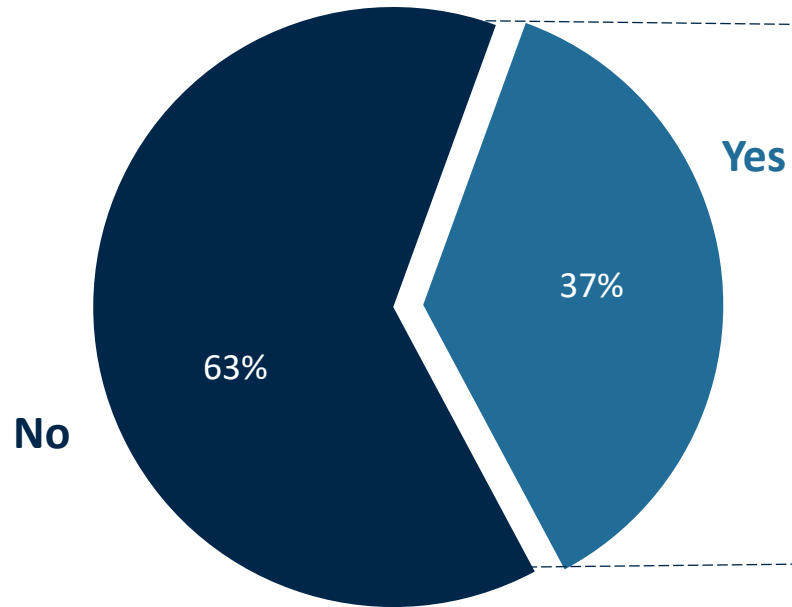
N=830



EDUCATION HISTORY | Participation in Military, Religious, & Humanitarian Service Under Age 25

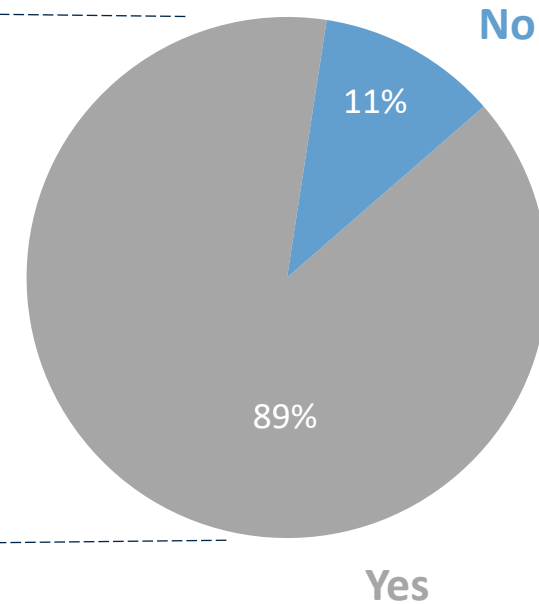
Participation in full-time military, religious, or humanitarian service (between high school and the age of 25)

N=830



Attempted to enroll at a school for additional education after completing religious, military, or humanitarian service

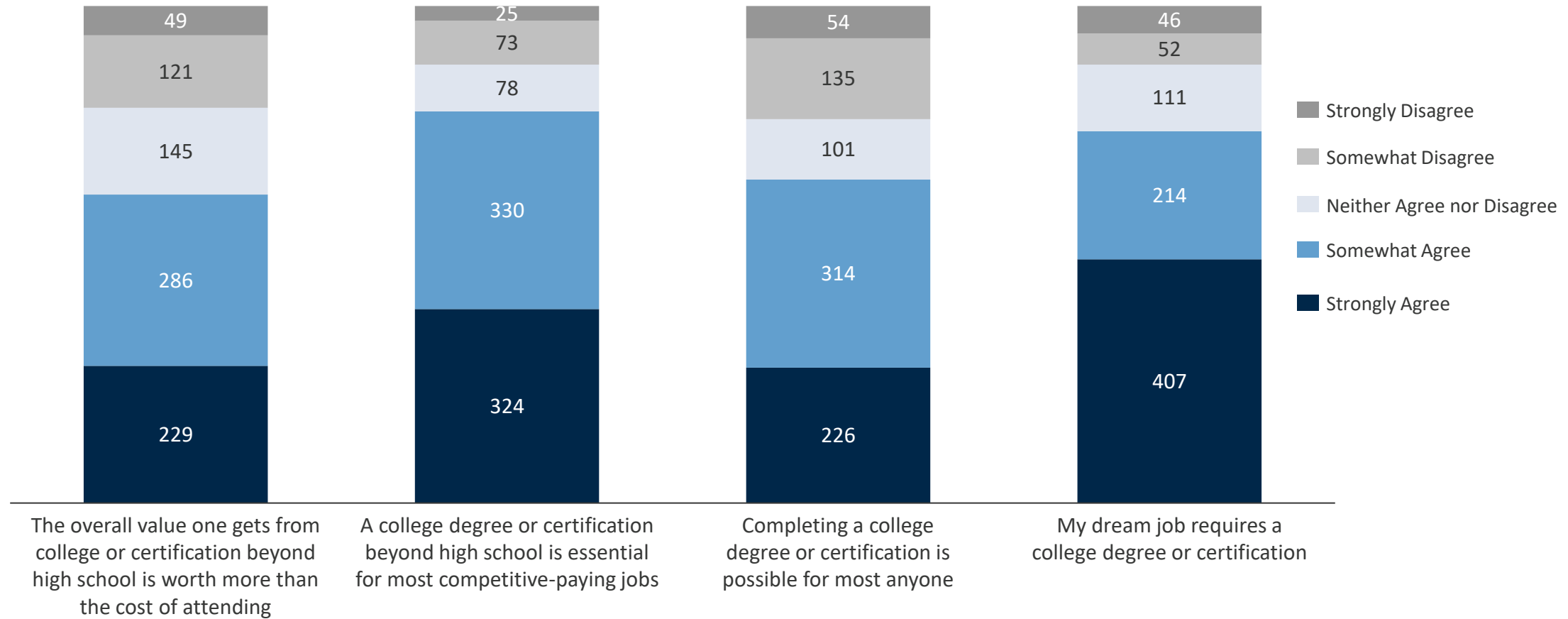
N=304



MOTIVATIONS | Valuing Higher Education

Perceptions on the value and importance of college

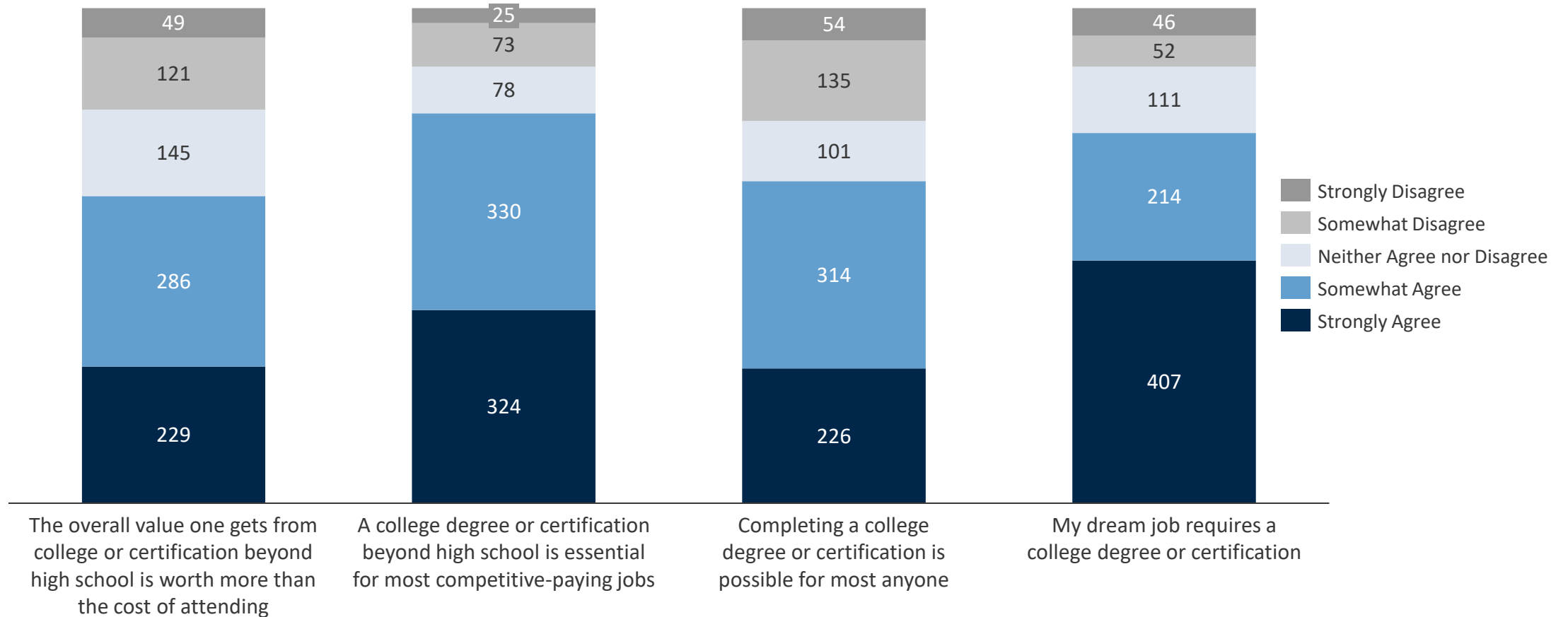
N=830



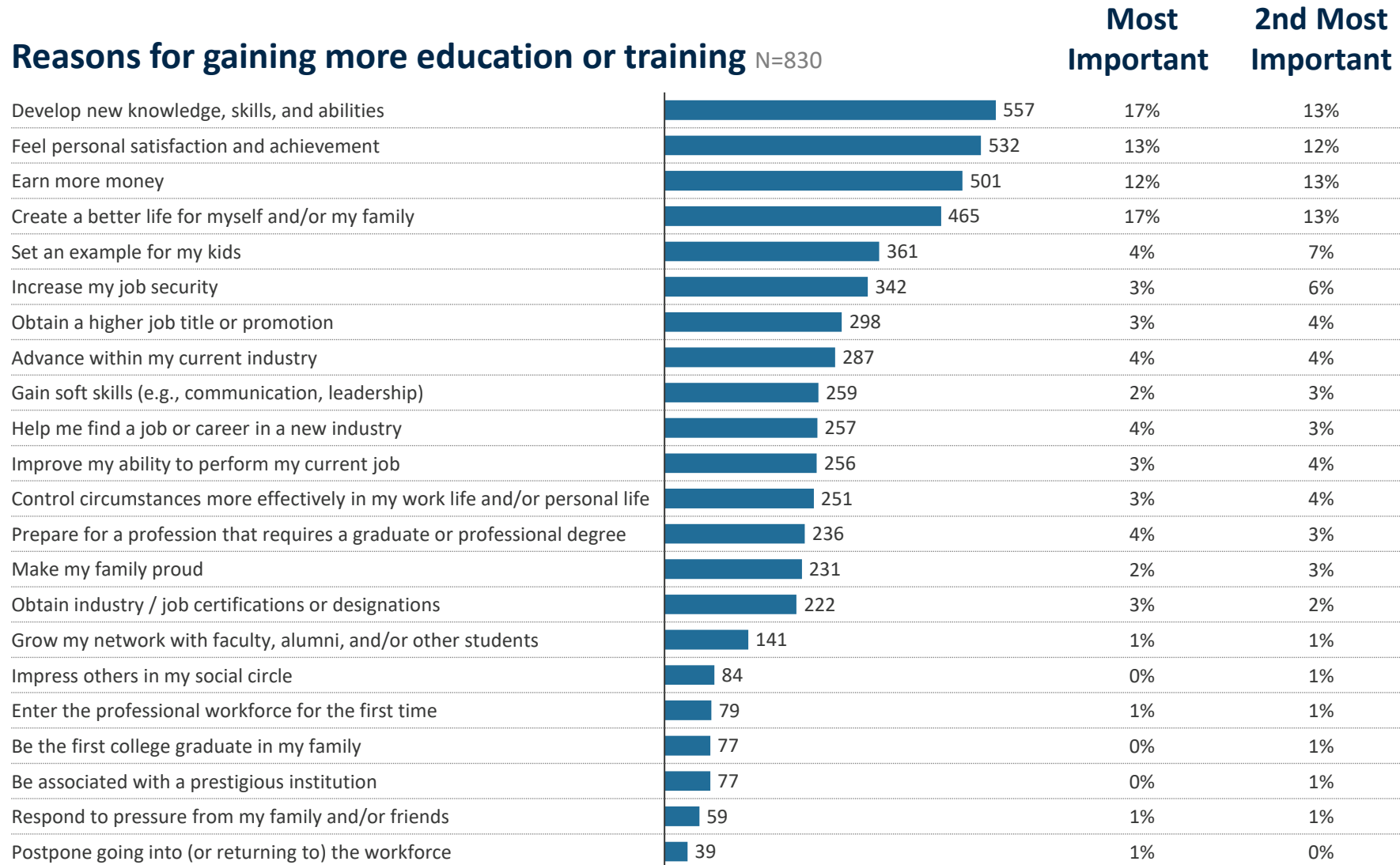
MOTIVATIONS | Valuing Higher Education

Perceptions on the value and importance of college

N=830



MOTIVATIONS| Personal Goals for Pursuing Additional Education



BARRIERS| Challenges and Concerns

Concerns or challenges relative to personal educational journey

N=830

		Most Important	2nd Most Important
Don't know how I will pay for it	342	19%	12%
Nervous about the time commitment	294	8%	9%
Unable to find the time because of personal or family commitments	286	13%	10%
Unable to find the time because of work commitments	228	7%	7%
Frustration at the overall time it will take to complete a degree	201	4%	5%
Private insecurities: "will I be able to handle the rigor of college work?"	200	4%	5%
Not sure how to access financial aid, grants, and scholarships	186	3%	4%
Do not want to disrupt current employment	167	4%	5%
Unsure what I want to do/be	132	4%	3%
Personal health or medical complications	127	4%	5%
Do not know where to even start in the process	125	2%	3%
Comfortable with overall financial situation	123	3%	4%
Not sure which school or schools to consider	114	2%	2%
Concerned about learning online	107	1%	2%
Concerned about having to take/pass a standardized admission test	102	2%	2%
Have poor or inadequate grades from the past	81	1%	2%
Bad experience with school previously	79	1%	1%
Transportation or distance issues	75	2%	2%
Concerned about learning in-person	66	2%	2%
Lack of support from family or friends	63	1%	2%
Work does not require it for promotion	59	1%	1%
Other, please specify:	41	3%	2%
None of the above	34	4%	4%
English is not my primary language	32	1%	1%
Worried that classes will be too challenging	14	2%	3%

Q15 - Which of the following factors, if any, are concerns or challenges for you personally, relative to your personal educational journey?

Q16 - Which of the following from the items you previously selected is the SINGLE MOST impactful challenge relative to your educational journey?

Q16a - Which of the following from the items you previously selected is the SECOND MOST impactful challenge relative to your educational journey?

BARRIERS | Obstructing Factors

Obstructing factors from finishing an already started program

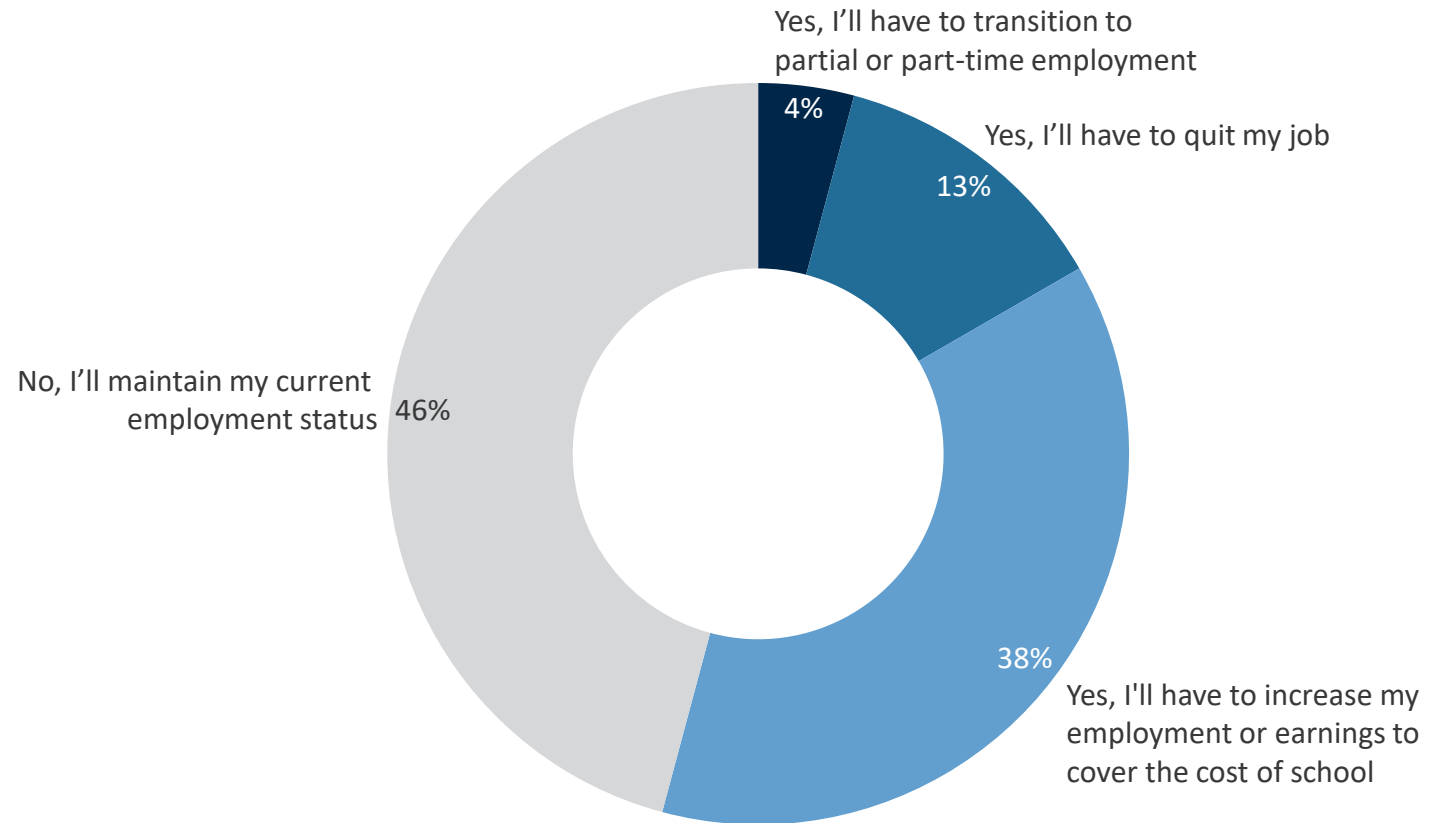
N=187

		Most Important	2nd Most Important
Family responsibilities	88	20%	14%
Could no longer afford the tuition cost	46	7%	10%
Could not participate fully due to family or work obligations	46	6%	8%
Wasn't comfortable with student loan debt	41	2%	5%
Work responsibilities were too demanding	35	8%	5%
Personal health or medical complications	34	8%	8%
Lack of support from family or friends	32	4%	2%
Transitioned to being a stay-at-home parent	32	6%	4%
Moved to new city or state	31	5%	5%
Frustration at the overall time it would take to complete the program	29	3%	4%
Difficulty finding classes that fit my schedule	22	1%	2%
Couldn't decide on the right degree or program	22	2%	4%
Had unexpected expenses after starting school	21	1%	2%
Assumed caregiver responsibilities for a loved one	19	2%	5%
Lost financial aid and/or scholarships	19	3%	1%
Could not access financial aid and/or scholarships	18	1%	2%
Transitioned to a new job that did not require a degree or certificate	17	4%	3%
Transportation or distance issues	16	1%	3%
General lack of academic interest	16	5%	4%
Poor experience with faculty and/or staff	11	2%	1%
Poor grades	11	2%	1%
Poor experience with school policies or processes	10	1%	3%
Other, please specify:	10	5%	2%
Voluntary service (military, religious, etc.) and I did not return afterwards	6	1%	2%
Did not fit in with other students	5	10%	1%
None of the above	2	1%	1%

BARRIERS | Impact to Employment Status

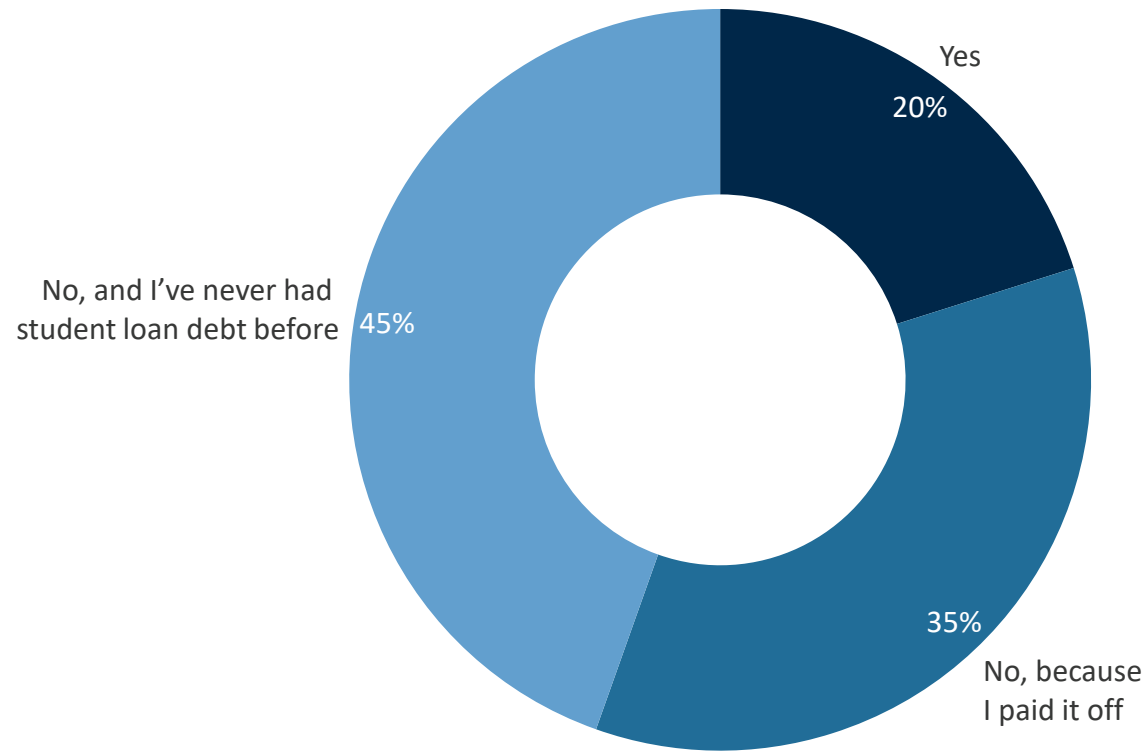
Impact of returning to school on employment status

N=29



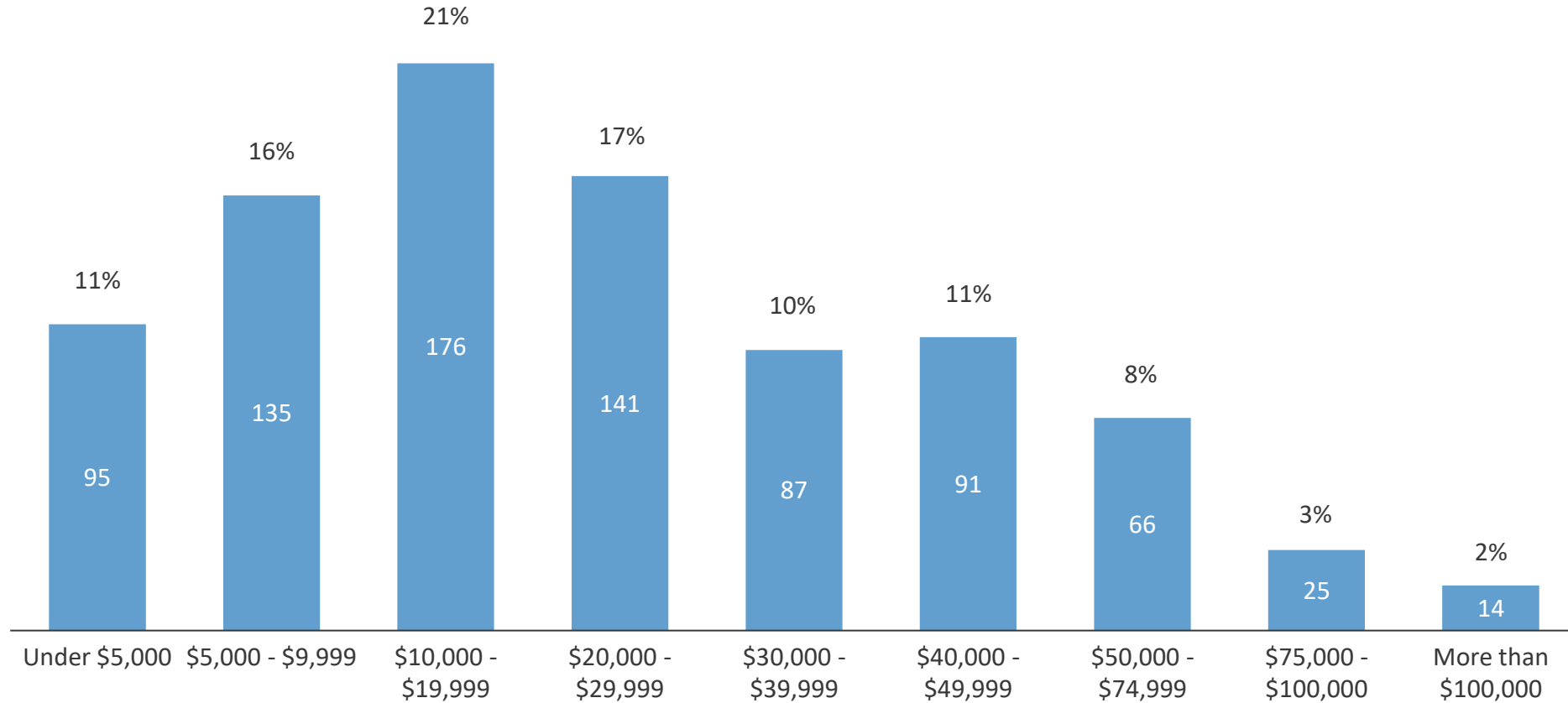
BARRIERS| Outstanding Student Debt

Amount of outstanding student loan debt originating from past education efforts N=810



BARRIERS| Cost to Complete Certificate or Degree

Anticipated cost to complete the specific sought-after certificate or degree N=830



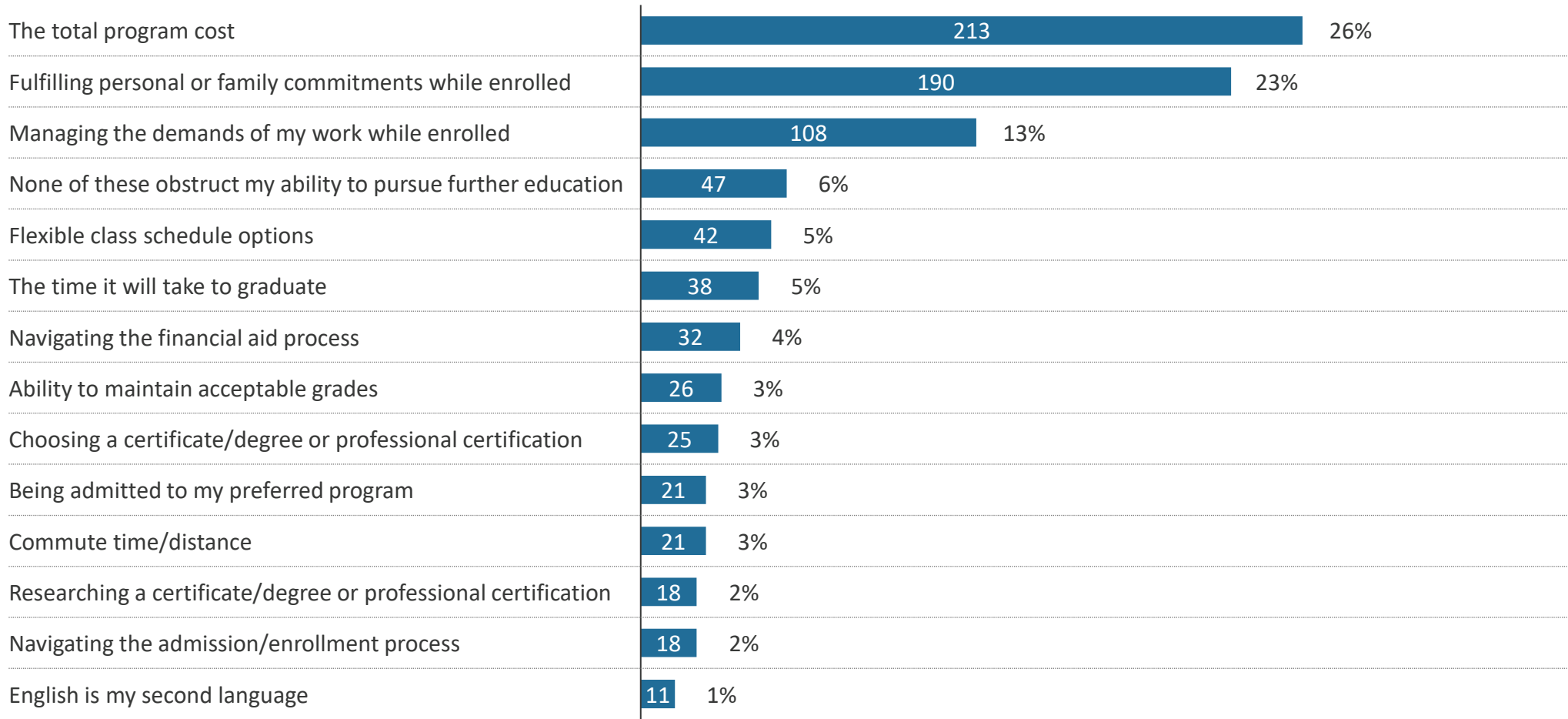
BARRIERS | Degree of Obstruction

	Impact on Obstructing Ability to Further Education (N=810)			
	Significant	Some	Modest	None
<i>Knowing what is the right program for me to seek</i>	7%	17%	36%	40%
<i>Navigating the admission/enrollment process</i>	4%	12%	37%	46%
<i>Being admitted to my preferred program</i>	5%	13%	38%	44%
<i>The total program cost</i>	27%	26%	30%	17%
<i>Navigating the financial aid process</i>	11%	19%	33%	36%
<i>The time it will take to graduate</i>	10%	22%	40%	28%
<i>Ability to maintain acceptable grades</i>	4%	13%	38%	46%
<i>Flexible class schedule options</i>	8%	18%	41%	32%
<i>Managing the demands of my work while enrolled</i>	17%	23%	35%	25%
<i>Fulfilling personal or family commitments while enrolled</i>	19%	27%	34%	20%
<i>Commute time/distance</i>	6%	15%	34%	46%
<i>English is not my primary language</i>	2%	6%	7%	84%

BARRIERS | Obstruction Factors

Obstructing factors of pursuing further education

N=830



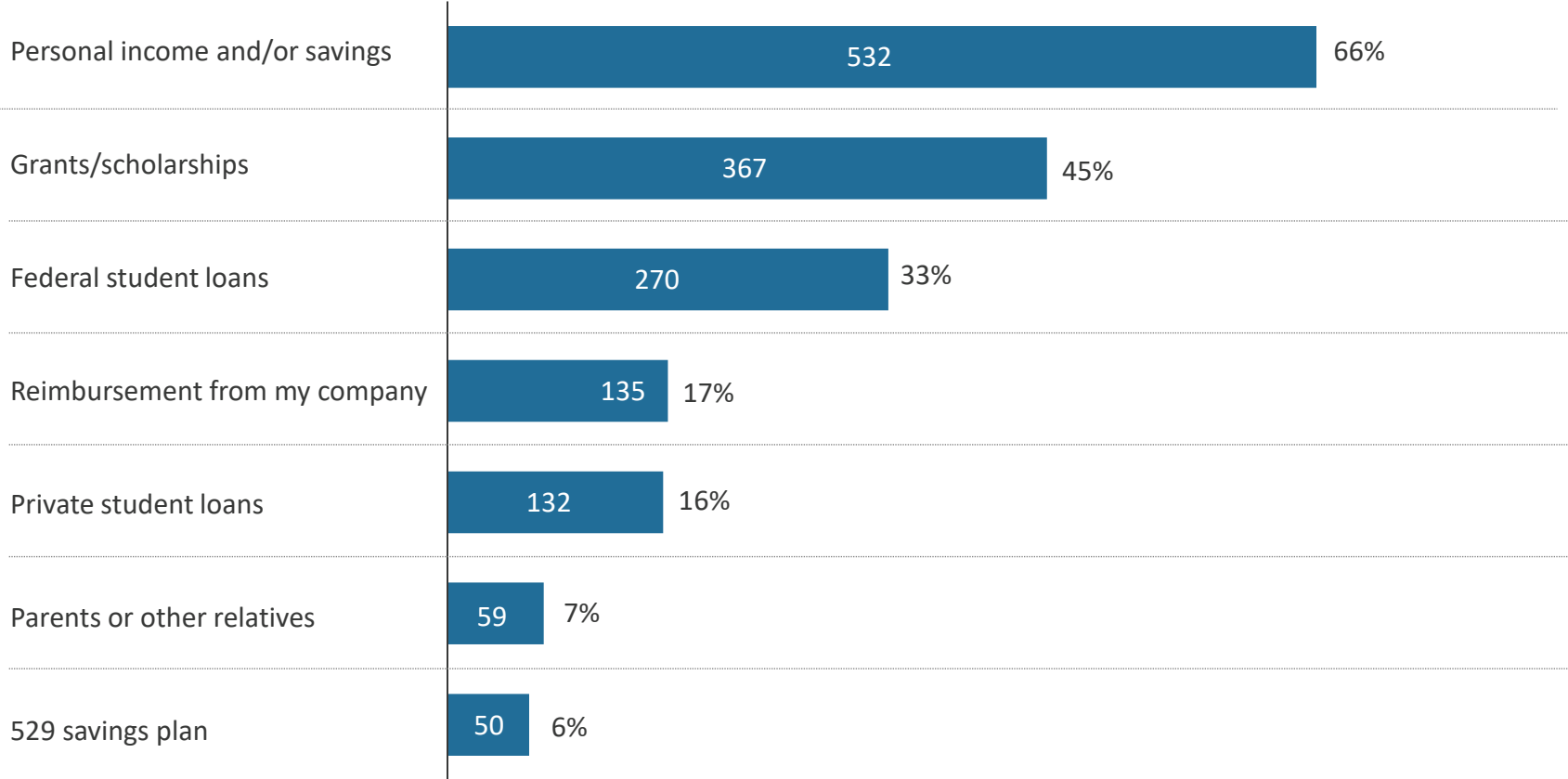
BARRIERS | Confidence in Overcoming Obstacles

	Confidence Level (N=810)			
	NOT Confident	Unsure	Confident	Not an Obstacle
<i>The total program cost</i>	14%	36%	33%	18%
<i>Navigating the financial aid process</i>	4%	21%	42%	33%
<i>The time it will take to graduate</i>	3%	22%	49%	26%
<i>Ability to maintain acceptable grades</i>	2%	15%	47%	35%
<i>Flexible class schedule options</i>	3%	20%	47%	30%
<i>Identifying and enrolling in courses I need</i>	2%	11%	50%	37%
<i>Navigating school policies and requirements</i>	2%	9%	37%	52%
<i>Managing the demands of my work while enrolled</i>	6%	27%	43%	23%
<i>Fulfilling personal or family commitments while enrolled</i>	7%	30%	46%	17%
<i>Solving issues as they arise while being able to continue to attend school</i>	3%	22%	56%	19%
<i>Commute time/distance</i>	3%	15%	38%	44%

SOLUTIONS| Paying for Education

Sources planned to use to pay for education

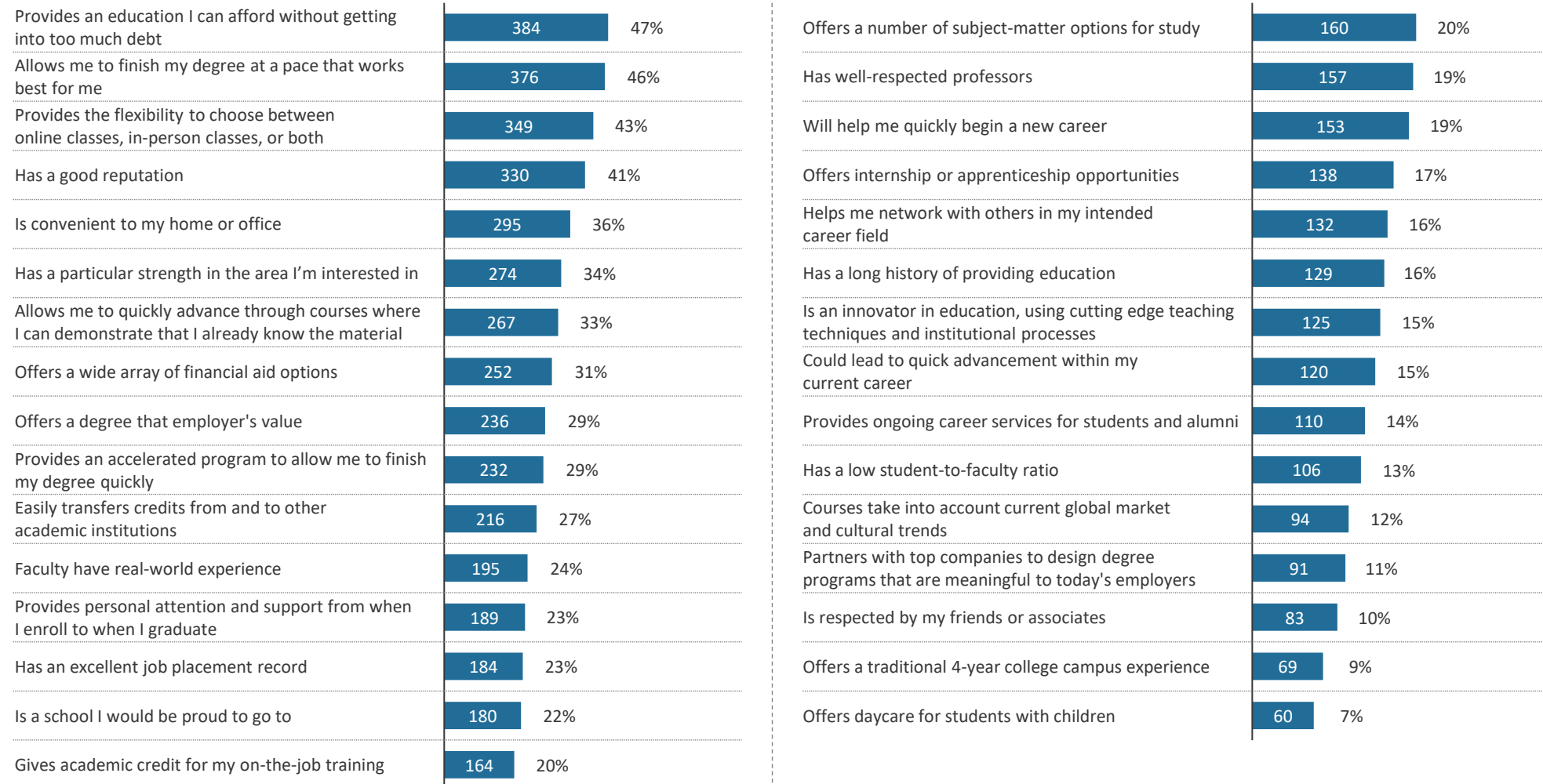
N=810



SOLUTIONS | Important Factors when Choosing a School

Most significant factors when deciding on a school or program

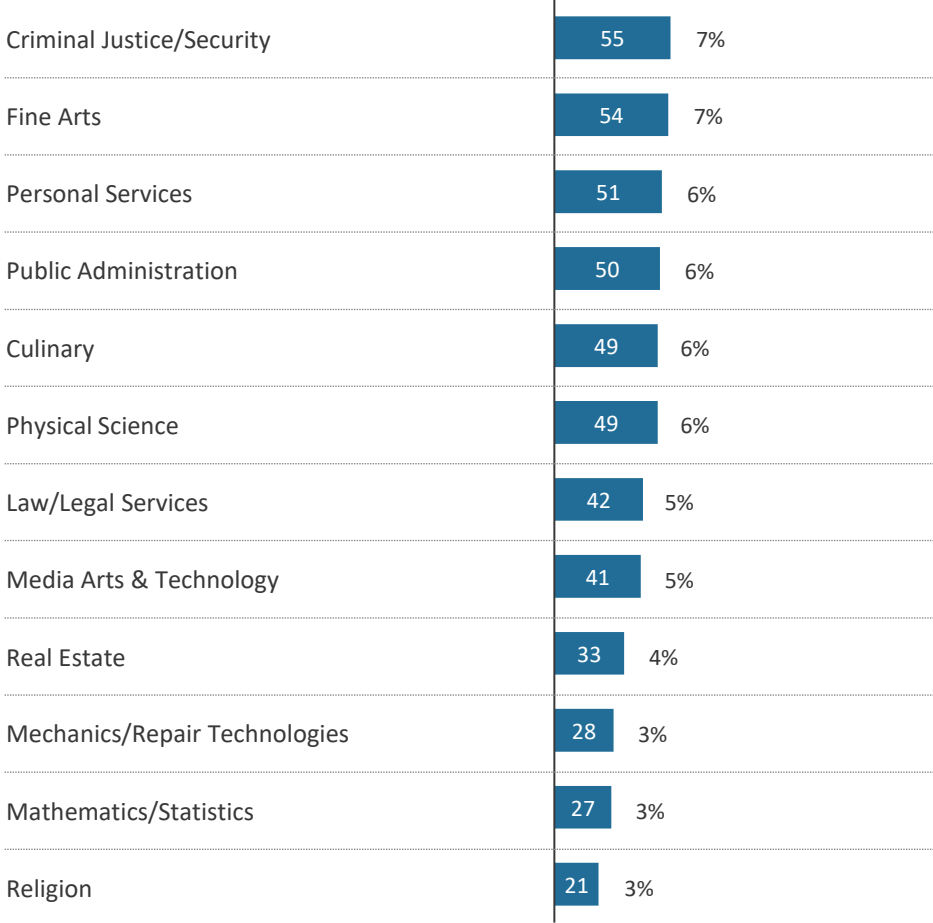
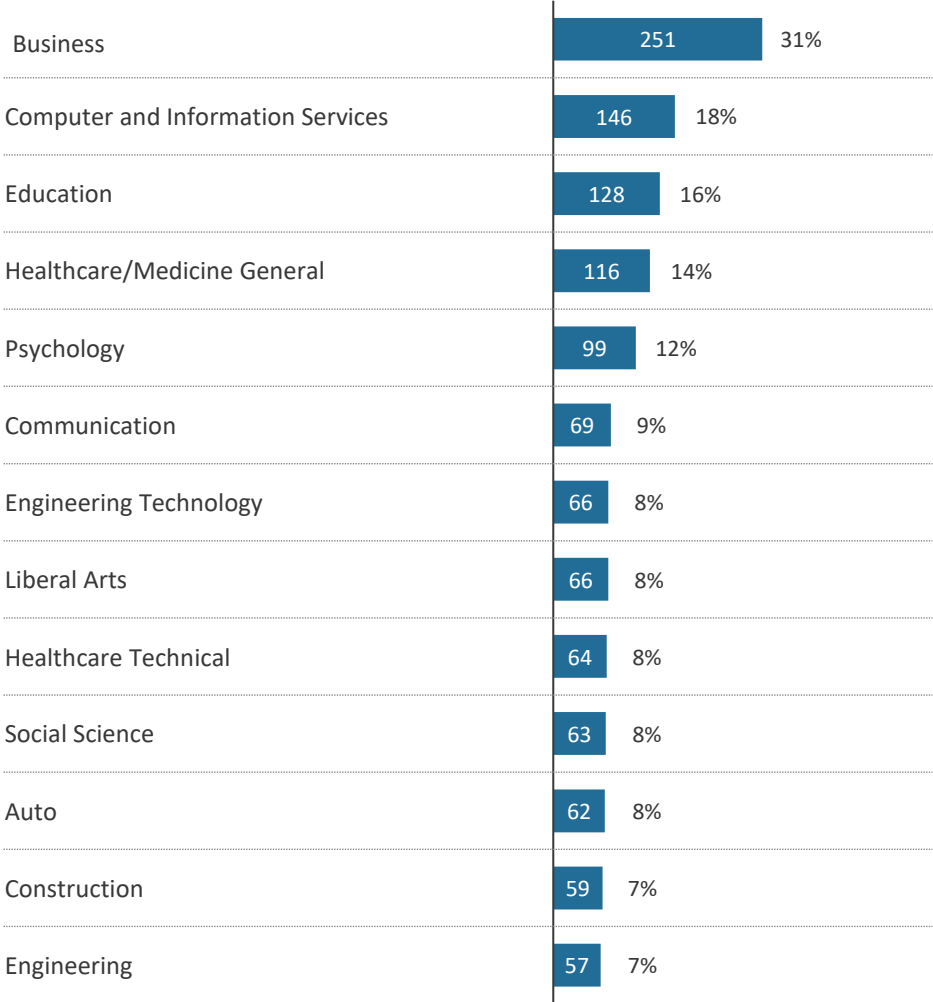
N=810



SOLUTIONS| Sought After Degrees/ Certificates

Type of educational areas

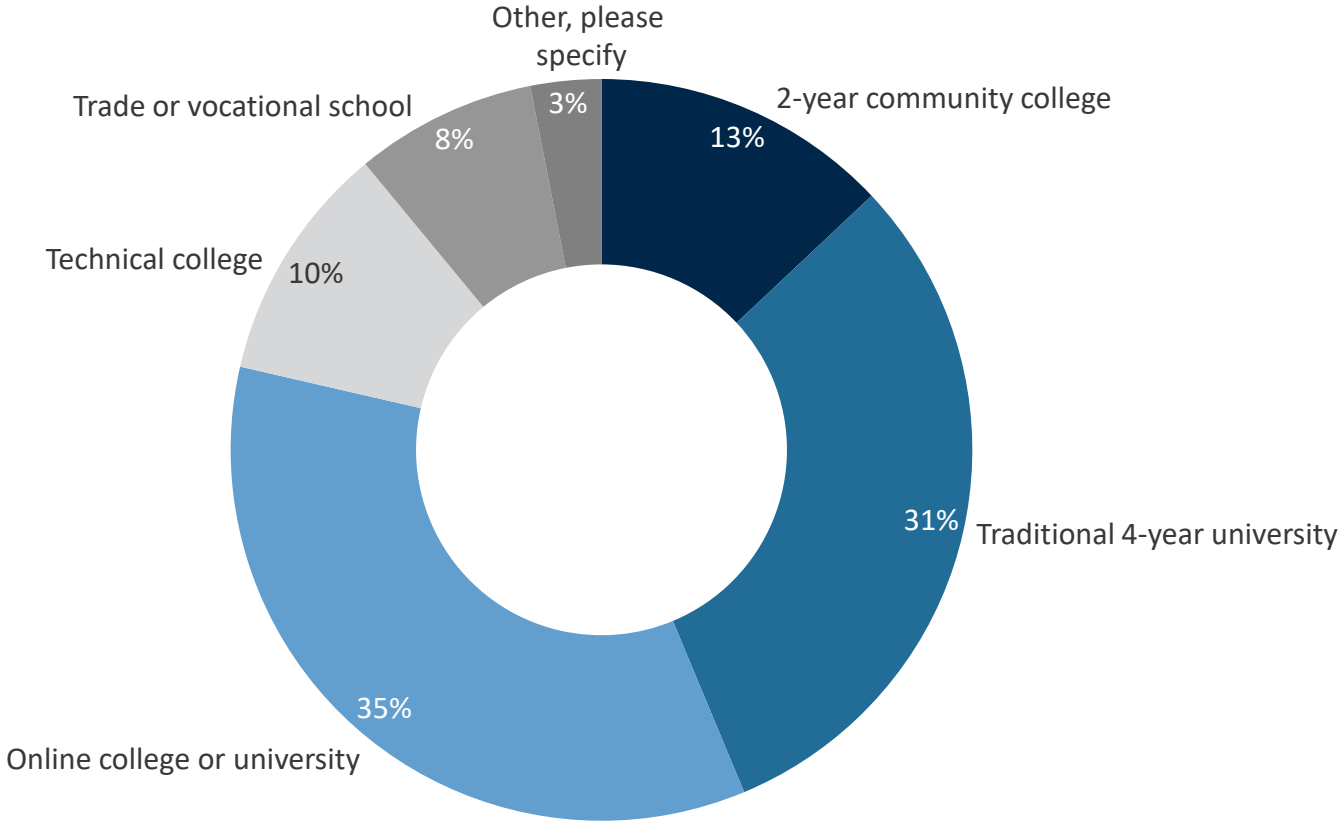
N=810



SOLUTIONS| Type of School

Type of School

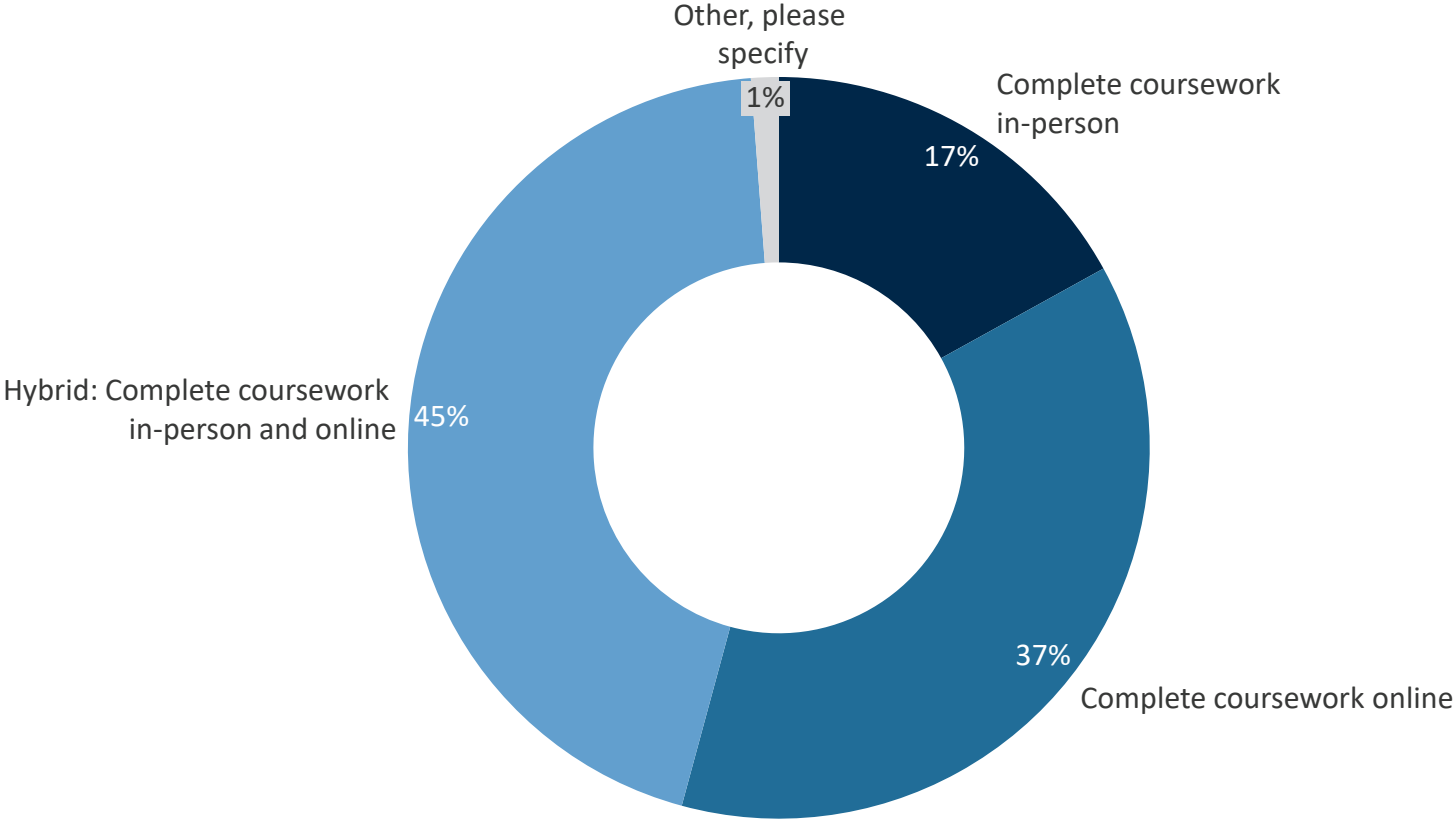
N=830



SOLUTIONS| Mode of Education

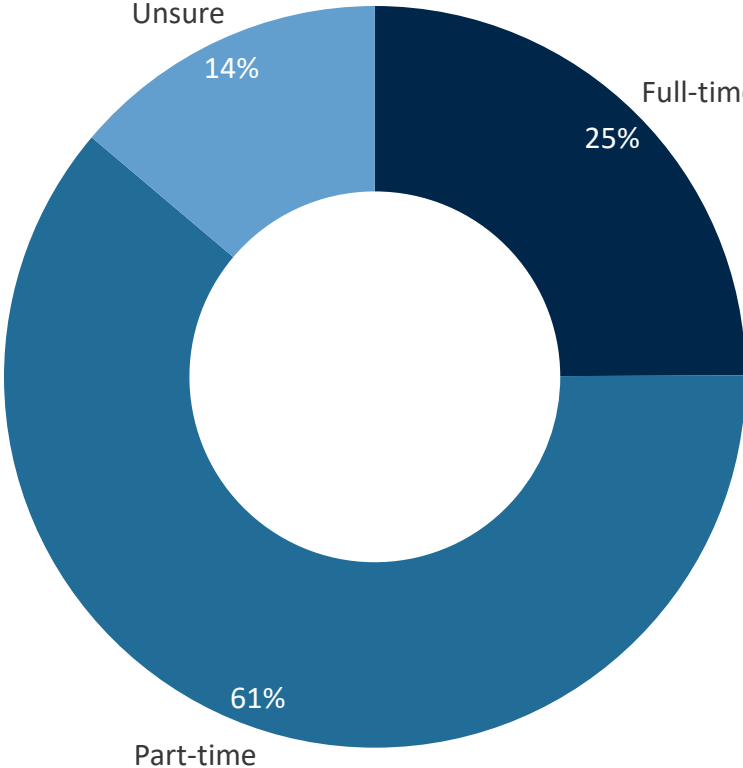
Preference on type of learning/engagement

N=810



Ideal School Schedule

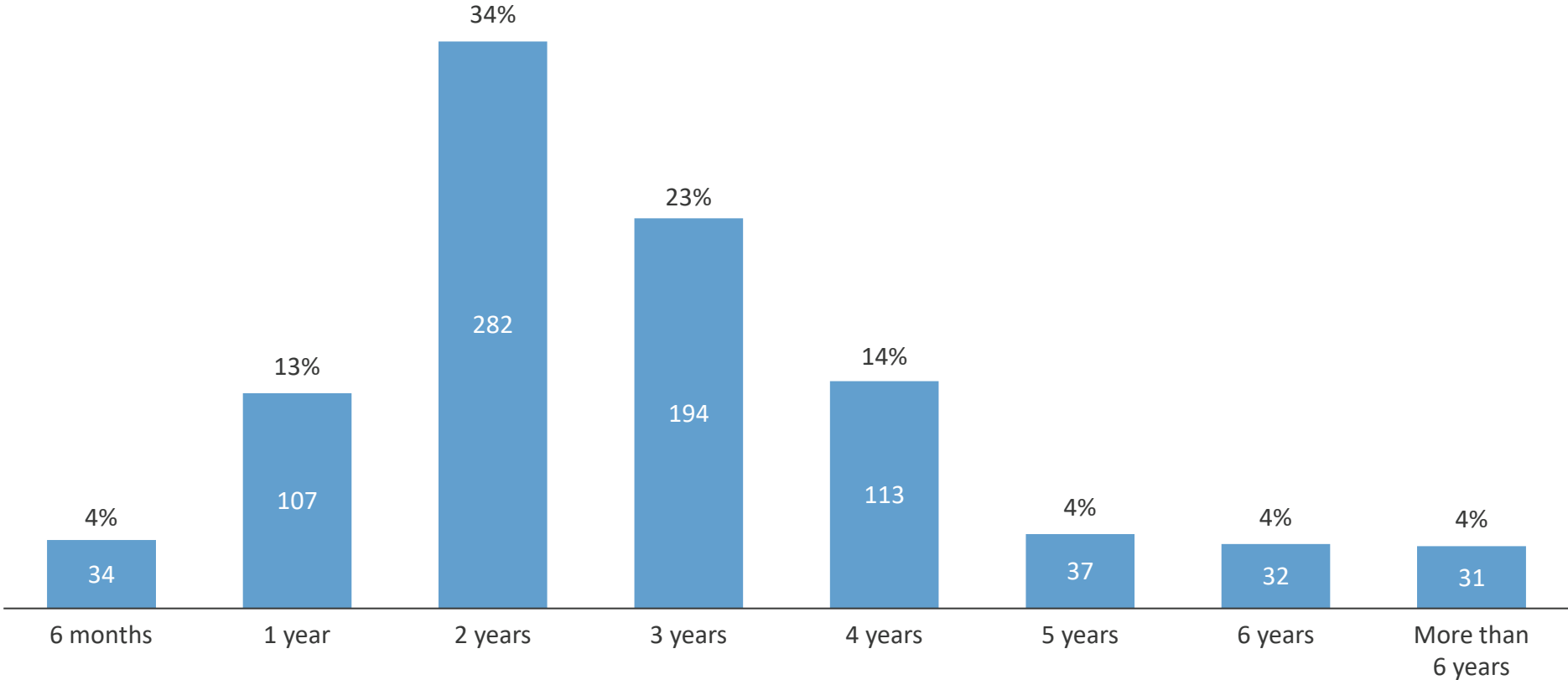
N=810



SOLUTIONS| Time to Complete Educational Experience

Expected length to complete educational experience

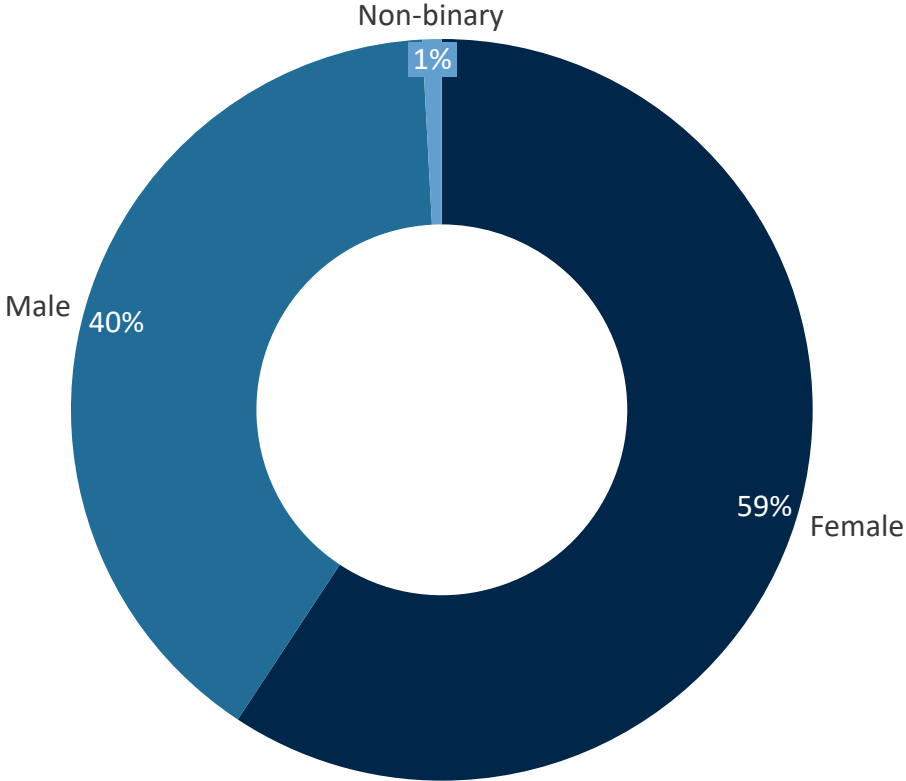
N=830



DEMOGRAPHICS | Gender

Gender Identity

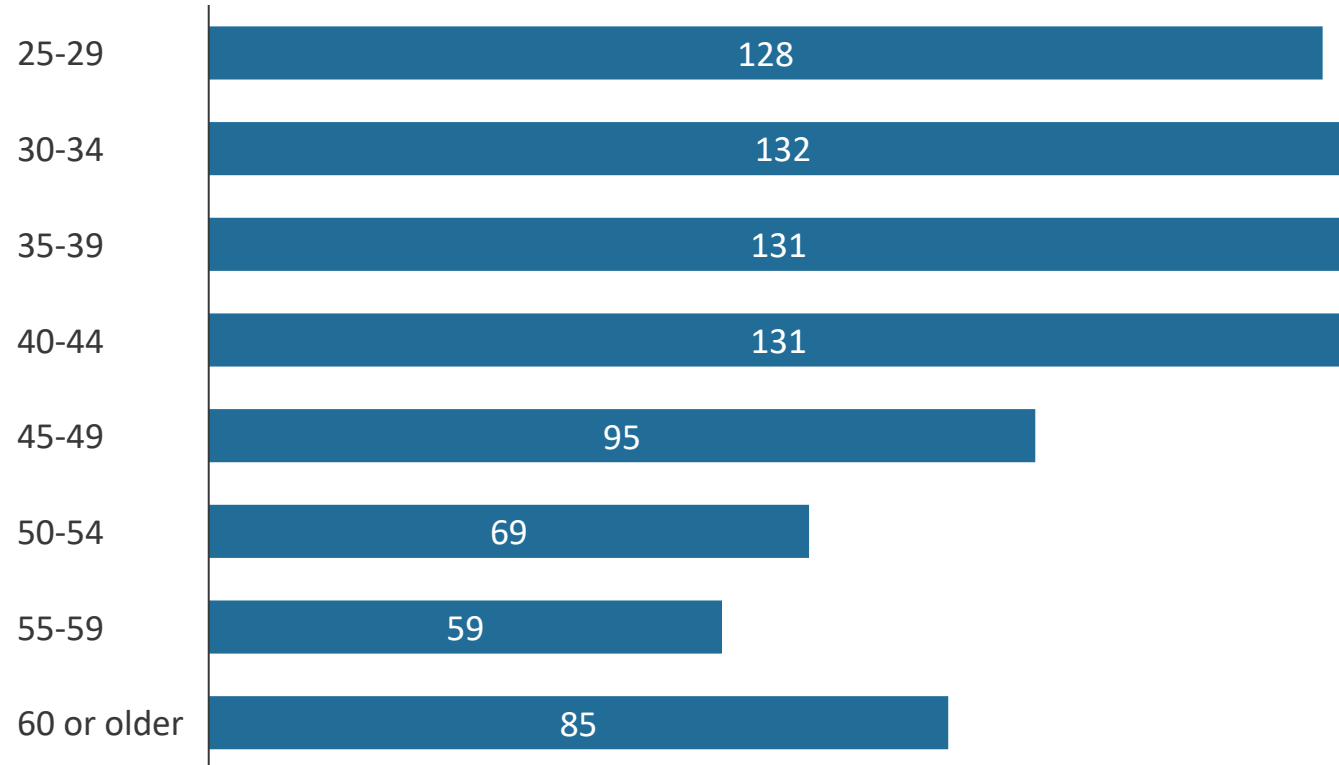
N=830



DEMOGRAPHICS | Age

Age category

N=830

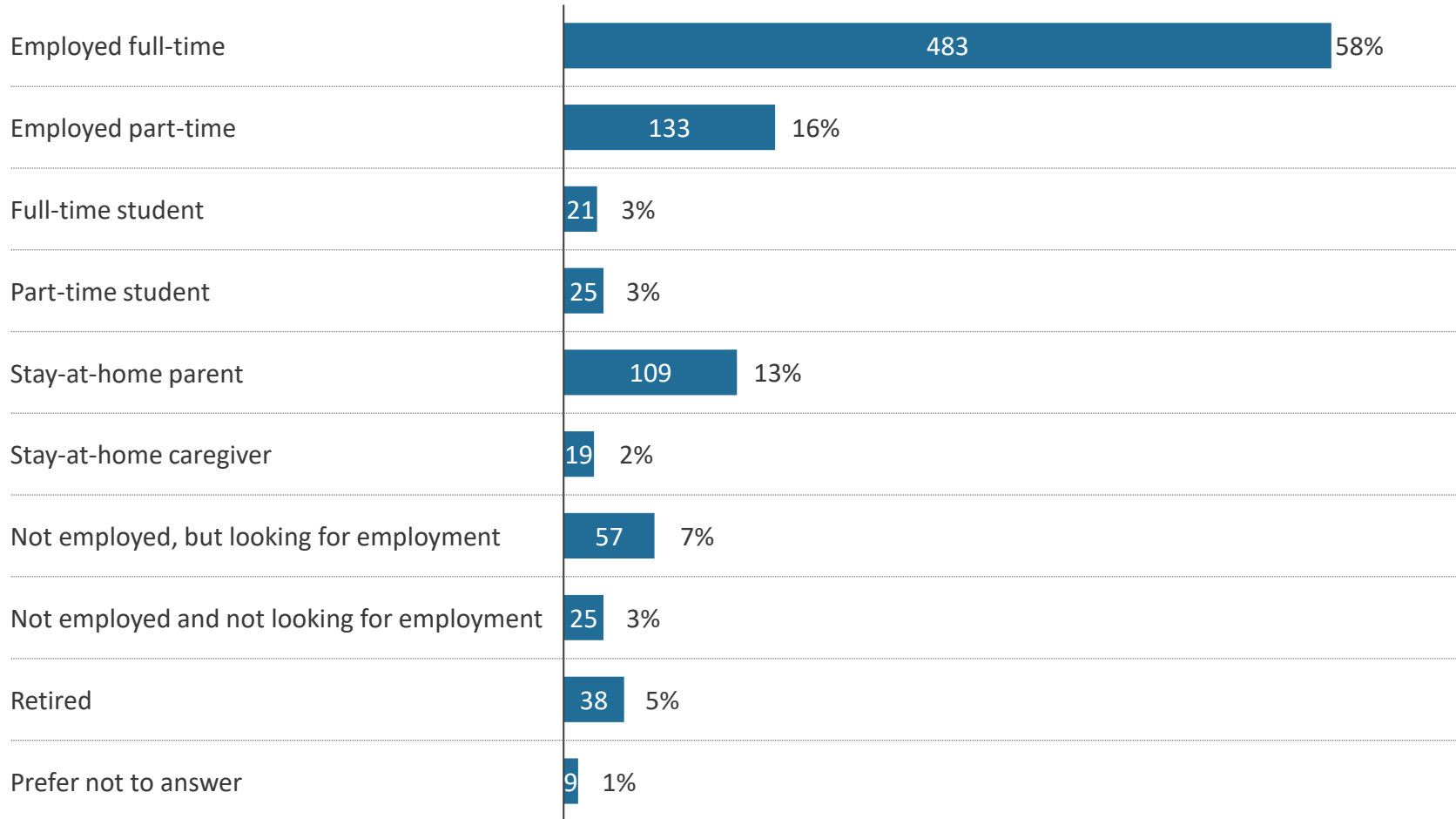


** The survey was focused on individuals over 25, which is why there is no data for ages under.*

DEMOGRAPHICS | Employment Status

Current employment status

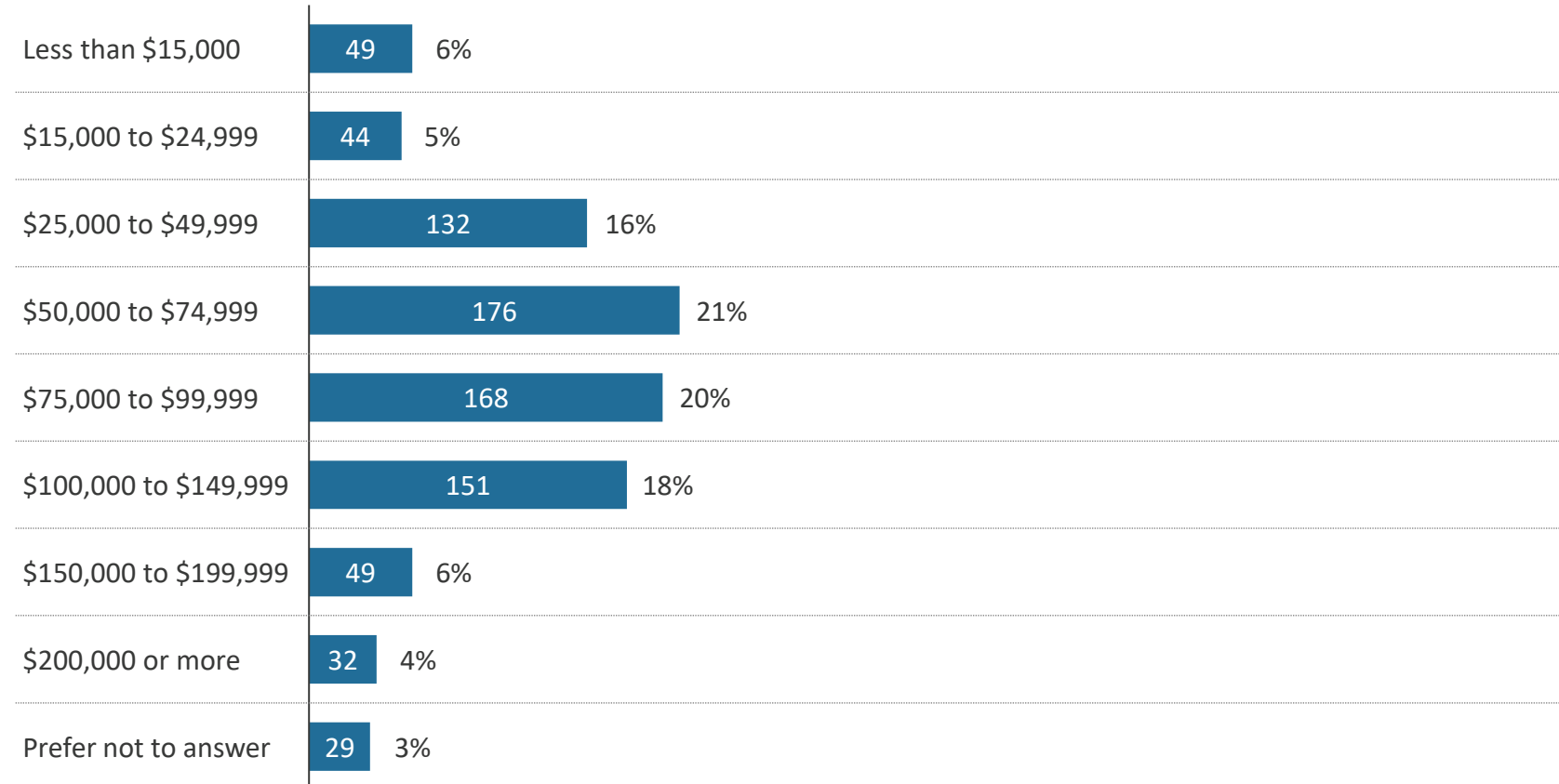
N=830



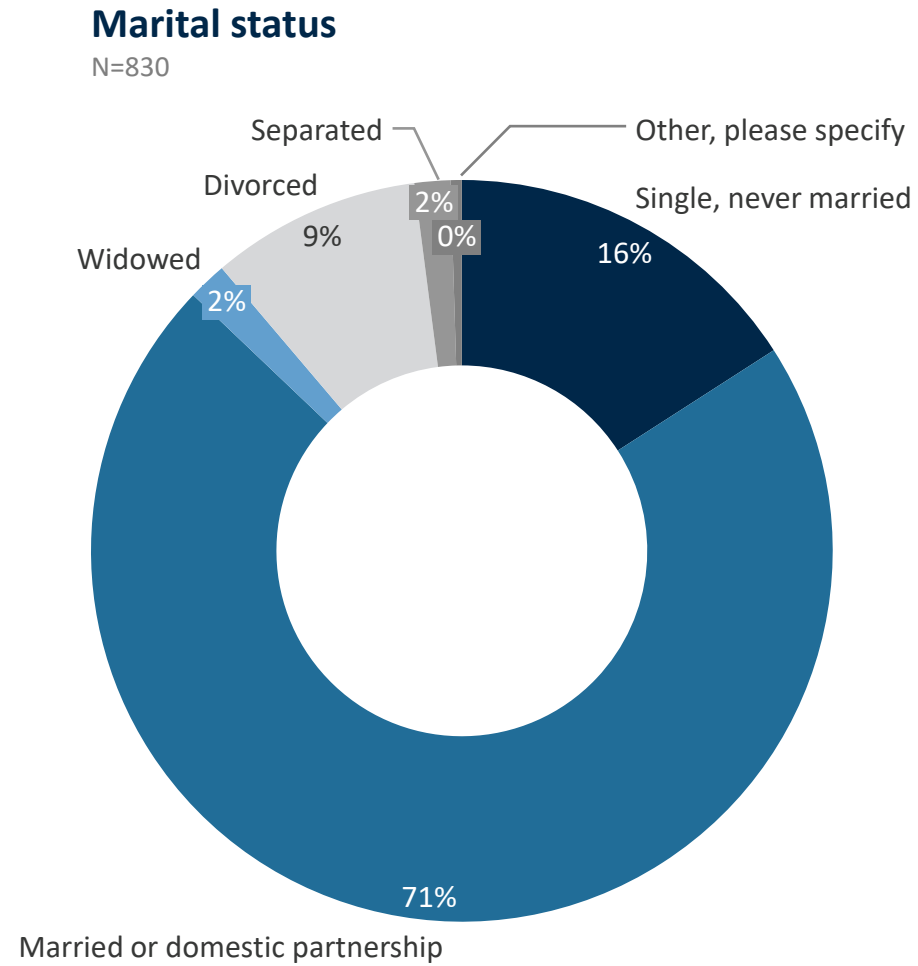
DEMOGRAPHICS | Total Household Income

Total household income

N=830



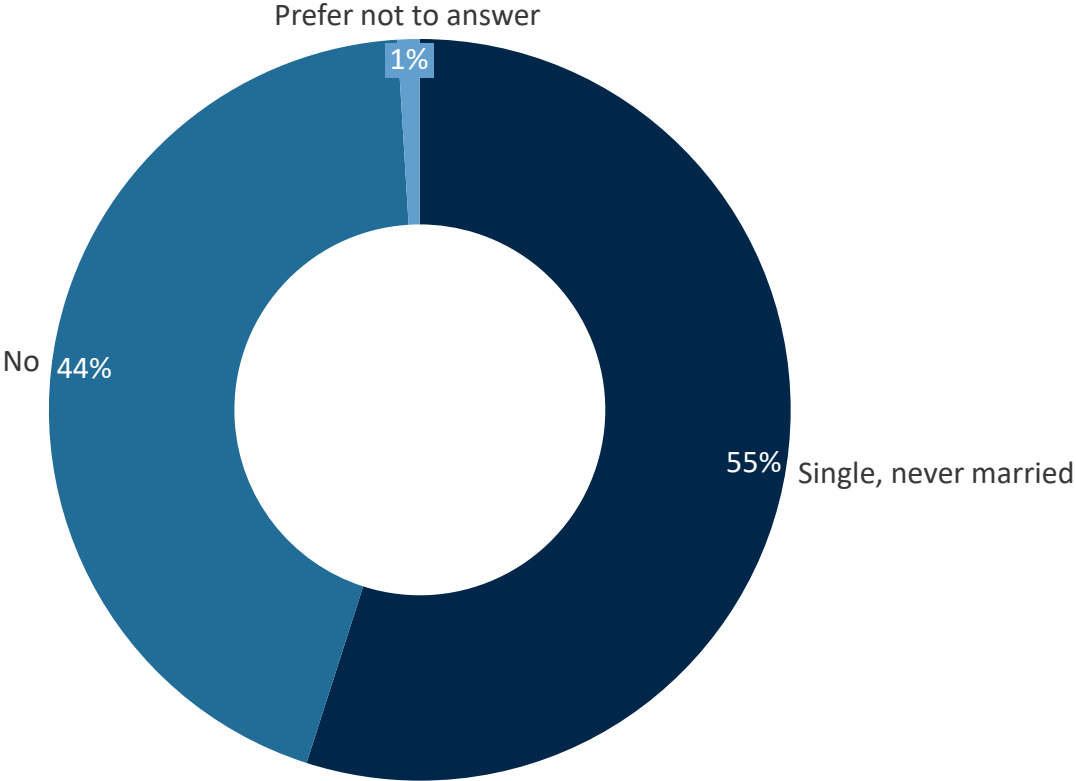
DEMOGRAPHICS | Marital Status



DEMOGRAPHICS | Children Under 18

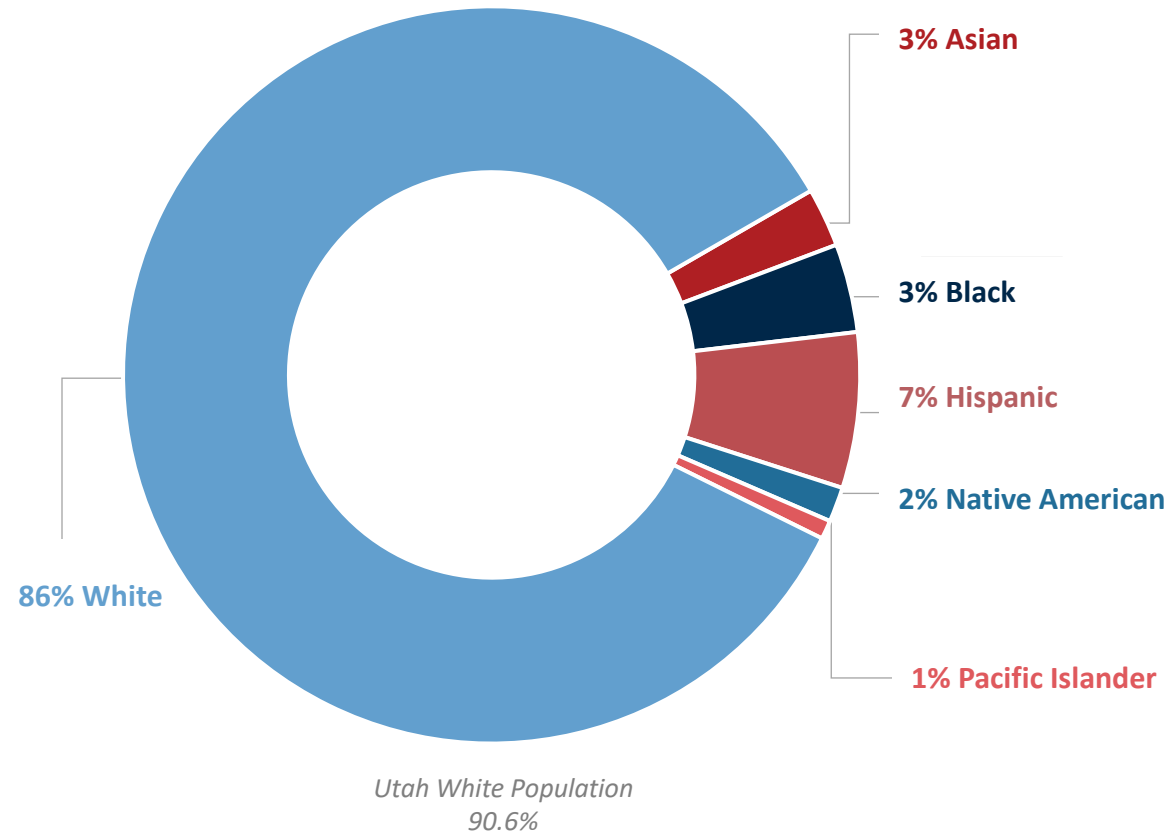
Children under the age of 18 living in household

N=830



DEMOGRAPHICS | Race

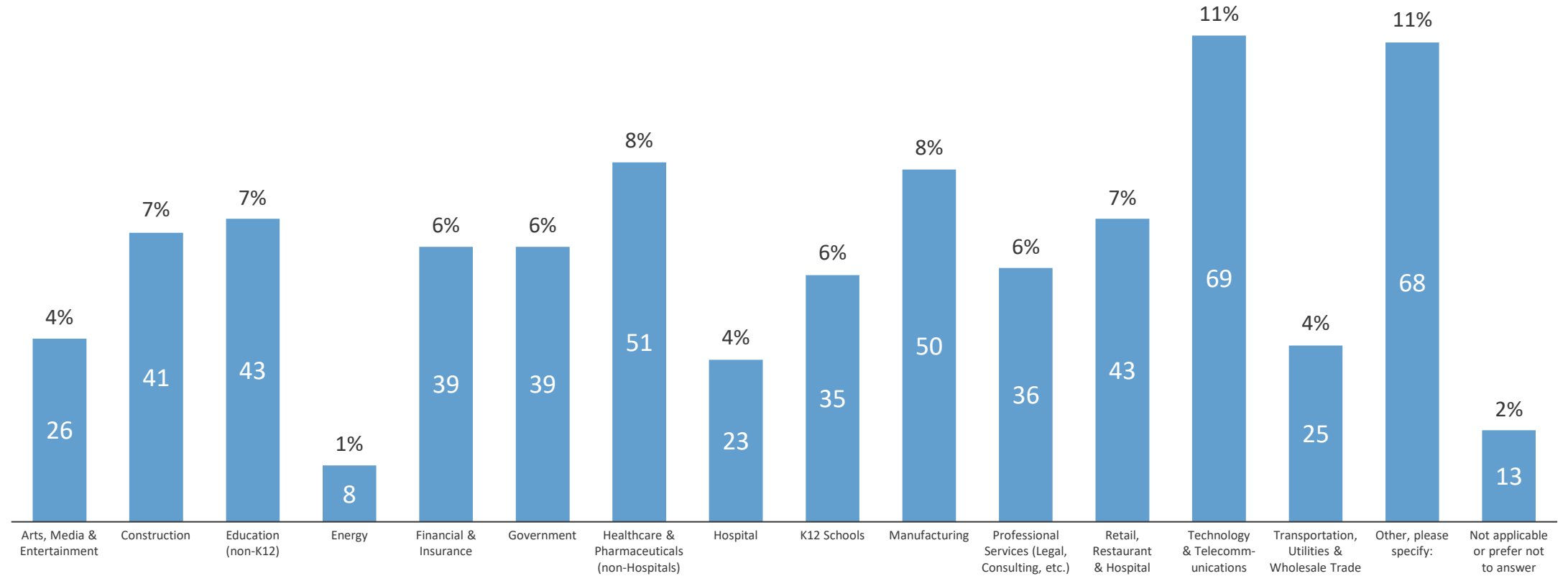
Race
N=830



DEMOGRAPHICS | Current Industry

Current industry

N=609





October 29, 2021

Mental Health Update

Below are updates to activities related to the tactic “*Identify and implement system mental health strategies and policies in accordance with institution mental health strategic plans*” in support of the Board’s priority to “*Ensure system-wide institutional supports for student mental health and campus safety.*”

Education and Mental Health Coordination Council

Established via legislation adopted during the 2021 Legislative Session, the council has three objectives:

1. Generate a common framework for preventing and addressing behavioral health concerns among youth
2. Clarify roles among LEAs, local mental health authorities, local substance abuse authorities, and other behavioral health partners
3. Facilitate joint development of state and local plans

The efforts of this council could help answer questions members of the Student Affairs Committee have raised in recent meetings regarding the coordination of behavioral health services between USHE institutions and neighboring public and private behavioral health providers. The council is comprised of leaders from public and private behavioral health providers, expert practitioners, and the Utah Department of Health and Human Services. The first activity of the council is to develop a landscape analysis of all behavioral health services supporting education entities throughout the state.

JED Foundation

The JED Foundation has now engaged with all but one technical college, in addition to the eight degree-granting institutions. JED is also coordinating a statewide climate survey on mental health via *Healthy Minds*, an annual web-based survey of over 500,000 college students examining mental health, service utilization, and related issues.

Huntsman Mental Health Institute

Initial meetings were held with Southern Utah University and Utah State University representatives to discuss the expansion of the mobile mental health response teams.

Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage

Commissioner Woolstenhulme met with the Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Council to discuss coordination of their legislative request to expand a scholarship for graduates in behavioral health who commit to work for public health providers for a period after college. Demand for licensed clinical behavioral health workers has increased significantly statewide. This program, currently in pilot, is focused on increasing the pipeline of college graduates going into behavioral health careers.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is an information item only; no action is required.


Attachment

Mental Health Overview



UTAH
SYSTEM OF
HIGHER
EDUCATION

USHE Mental Health – pre-2015



Advocacy &
Awareness

Prevention


Crisis Triage

- Counseling centers

Urgent Care &
Rehab

- Clinical treatment
- Hospitalization
- Rehabilitation
- Community partners

USHE Mental Health – 2015



Advocacy &
Awareness

Prevention

- SafeUT


Crisis Triage

- Counseling centers

Urgent Care &
Rehab

- Clinical treatment
- Hospitalization
- Rehabilitation
- Community partners

USHE Mental Health – 2020



Advocacy & Awareness

- Student advocacy and equitable implementation
- Climate survey

Prevention

- SafeUT
- Group support

Crisis Triage

- Counseling centers
- Non-specialist intervention training

Urgent Care & Rehab

- Clinical treatment
- Hospitalization
- Rehabilitation
- Community partners

USHE Mental Health – 2021...and beyond

Advocacy & Awareness

- Student advocacy and equitable implementation
- Climate survey

Prevention

- SafeUT
- Group support
- Peer coaching

Crisis Triage

- Counseling centers
- Non-specialist intervention training
- Mobile response

Urgent Care & Rehab

- Clinical treatment
- Hospitalization
- Rehabilitation
- Community partners



Jed Foundation/Huntsman Mental Health Institute



2022 Legislative Request

Peer Coaching

- USHE currently partners with Trula Foundation
- Students on campus can connect with a trained peer mentor for coaching sessions
- Peer Coaches receive training, a Certified Health & Wellness Coach mentor and a scholarship
- Sessions offered via text, phone, or video
- Diversity among coaches

Peer Coaching Experience

Inbound Referrals

- Student referrals
- Social medial
- Campus departments (wellness center, faculty, staff, etc.)

Escalation & Outbound Referrals

- Campus resources
- Community resources
- SafeUT

Governance & Oversight

- Chief Wellness Officer with PhD, LCSW, Certified Health & Wellness Coach, & industry expert
- Direct supervision by Certified Wellness Coach Coordinator