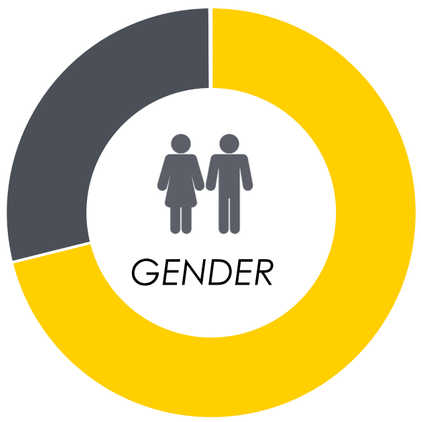
Senior Survey 2022: Highlights

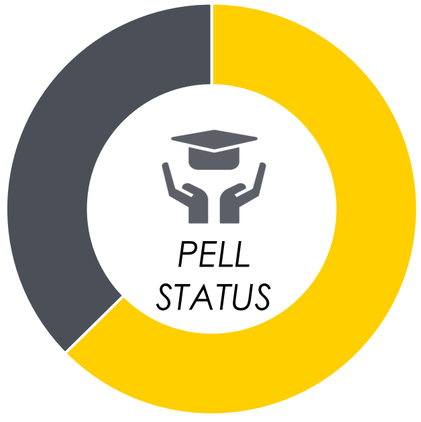
OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Who Are Our Senior Participants?

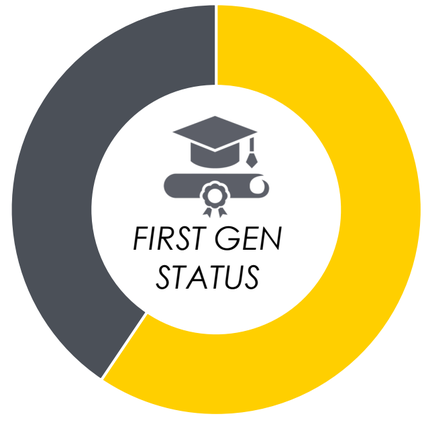
***N* = 1,666**



71%
Female



63%
Pell Recipient



59%
First
Generation

RACE

- Hispanic 69%
- Asian 13%
- International 6%
- White 5%
- Black 4%
- Other* 4%

*Other includes More than One Race, Pacific Islander, and Unknown Race

COLLEGE

- HHS 37%
- NSS 22%
- AL 14%
- BE 13%
- ECT 12%
- ED 2%

Note: 0.3% of respondents were from the College of Ethnic Studies

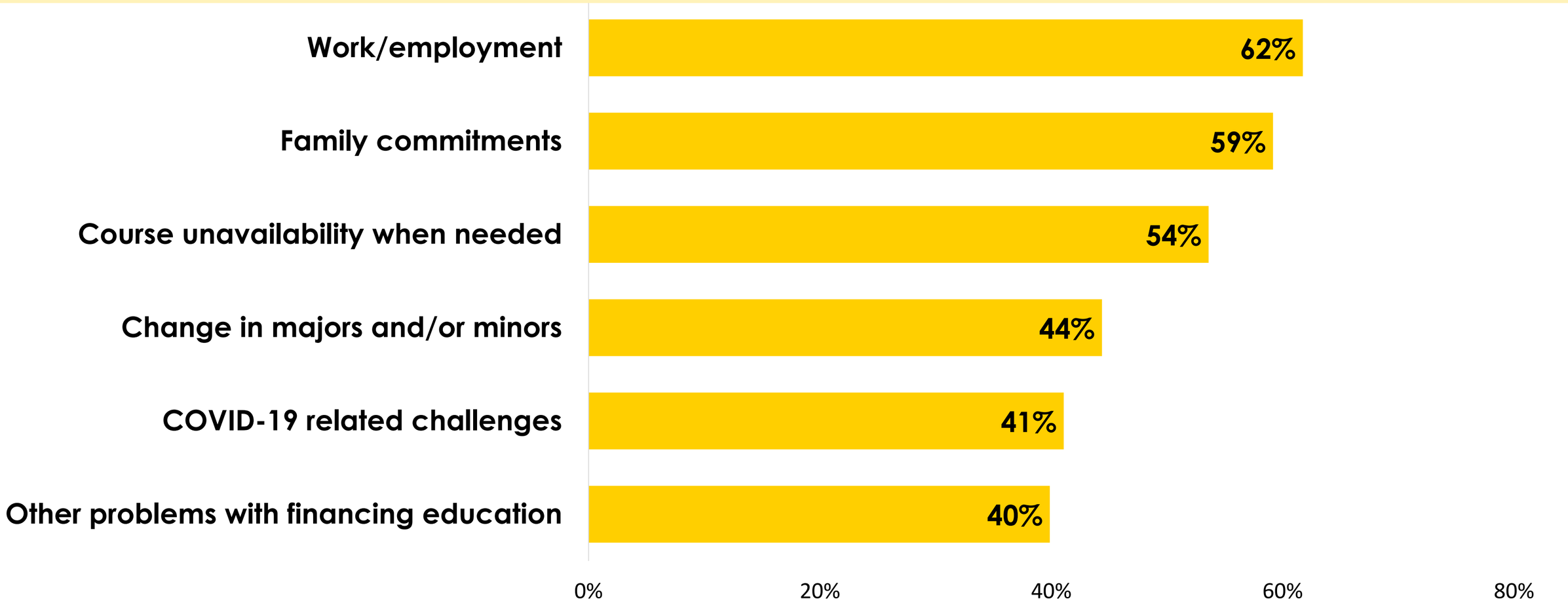
CAL STATE LA

Time to Earn Degree

ABOUT 40% OF SENIORS FELT THAT IT TOOK LONGER THAN EXPECTED FOR THEM TO EARN A DEGREE



HOW INFLUENTIAL WERE THE FOLLOWING FACTORS IN INCREASING THE TIME IT TOOK TO EARN DEGREE?
% of students who indicated these factors had moderate to major influence



CAL STATE LA

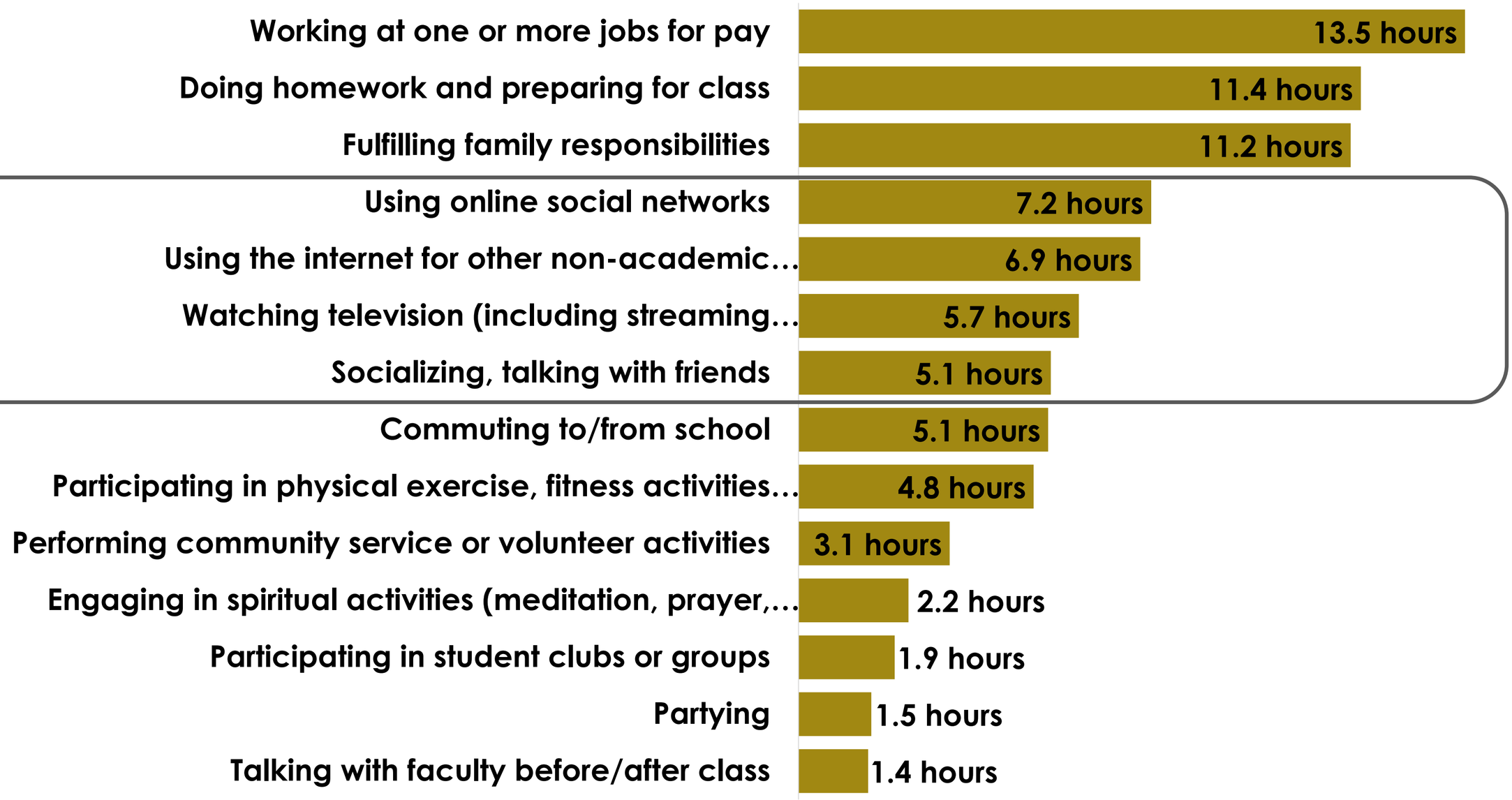
How Did Seniors Spend Their Time Each Week?

THE MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS' TIME EACH WEEK WAS SPENT ON ACADEMIC OR PERSONAL OBLIGATIONS…



How Did Seniors Spend Their Time Each Week?

…BUT SENIORS FOUND WAYS TO UNWIND AND SOCIALIZE.



Student Learning Experience

ALTHOUGH HYBRID COURSES WERE THE MOST PREFERRED COURSE DELIVERY METHOD (35%), THE GREATEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS REPORTED THAT IN-PERSON COURSES WERE THE MOST EFFECTIVE FOR THEIR LEARNING (31%).

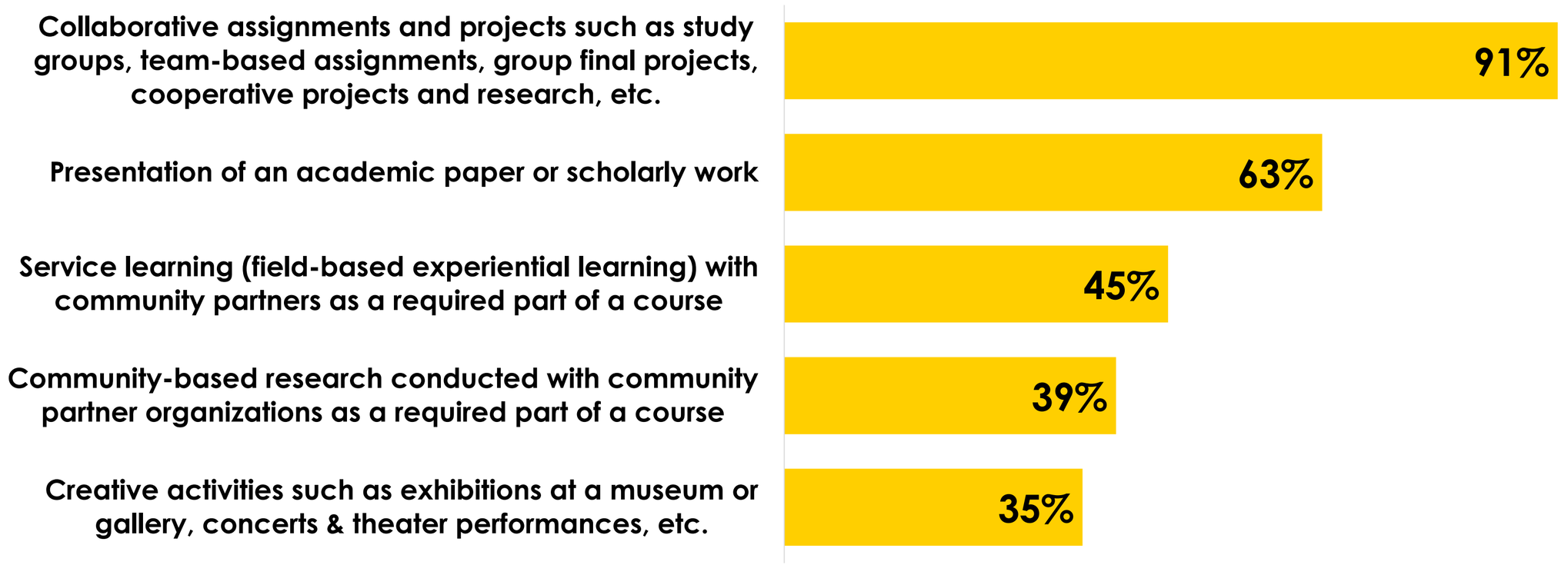
What is your preferred method of course delivery?



What course delivery was the most effective for your learning?



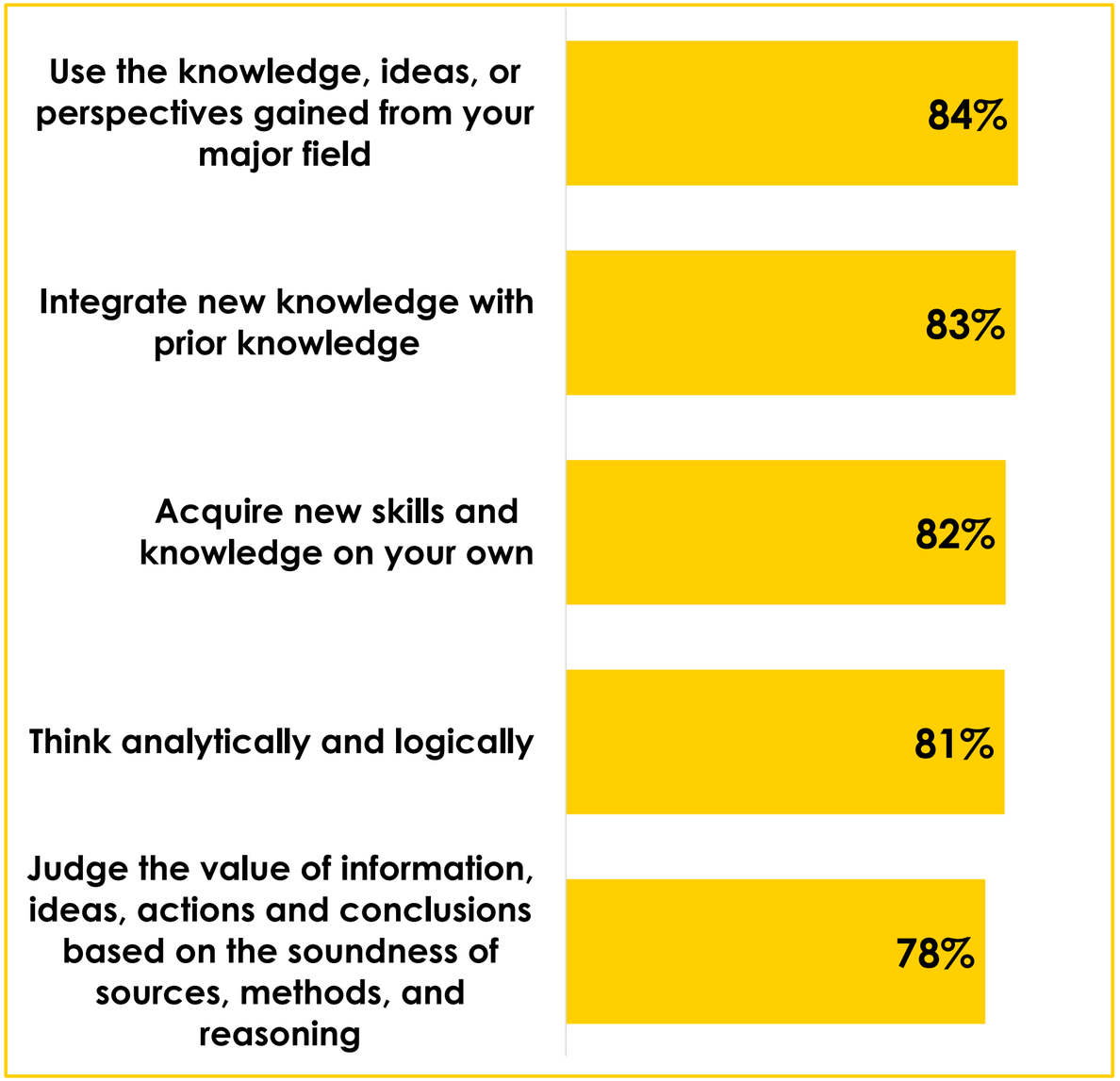
SENIORS ENGAGED IN VARIOUS LEARNING ACTIVITIES DURING THEIR TIME AT CAL STATE LA:



Knowledge and Skill Development

STUDENTS AGREED THAT CAL STATE LA PREPARED THEM IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

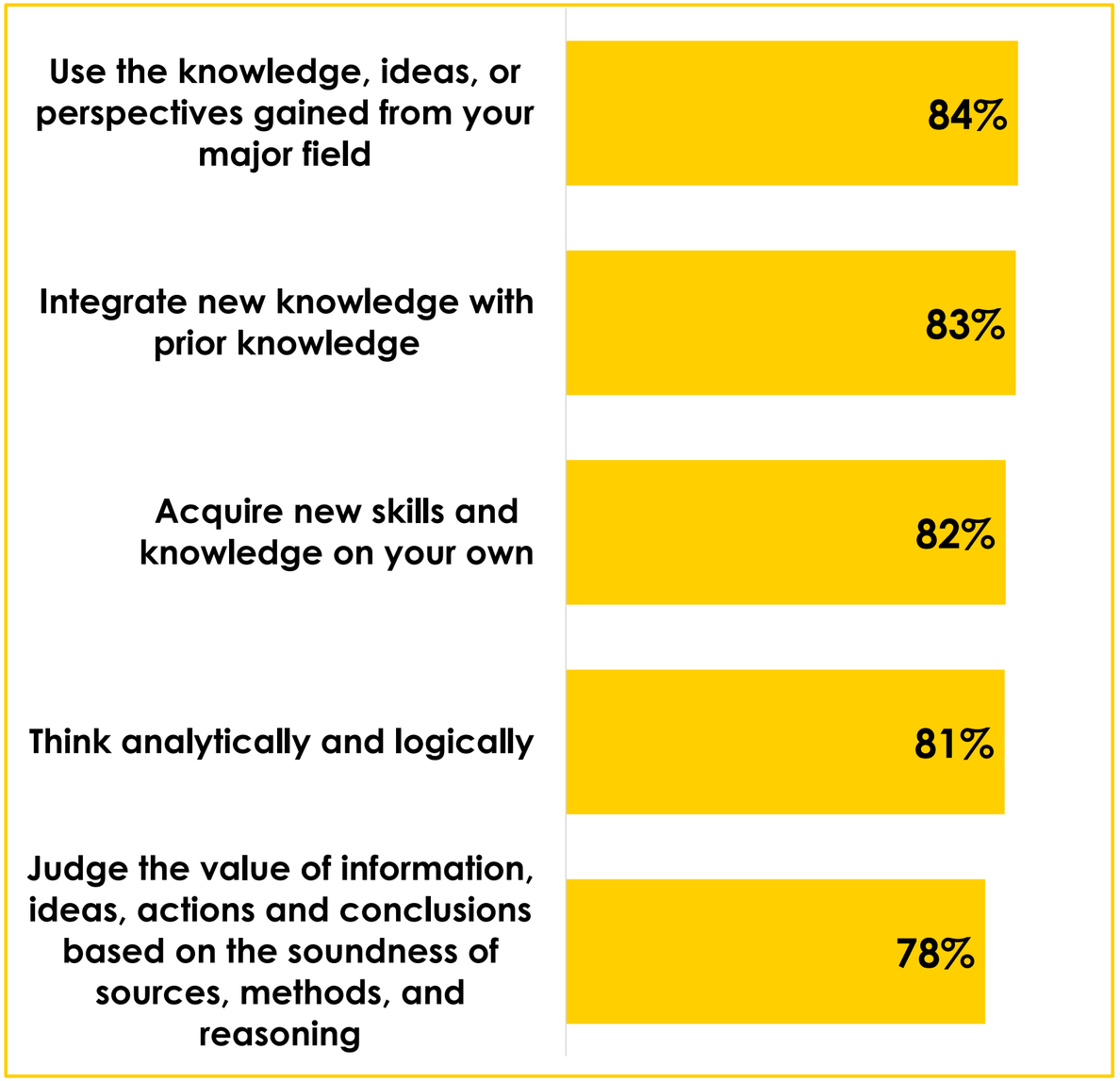
ACADEMIC GAINS



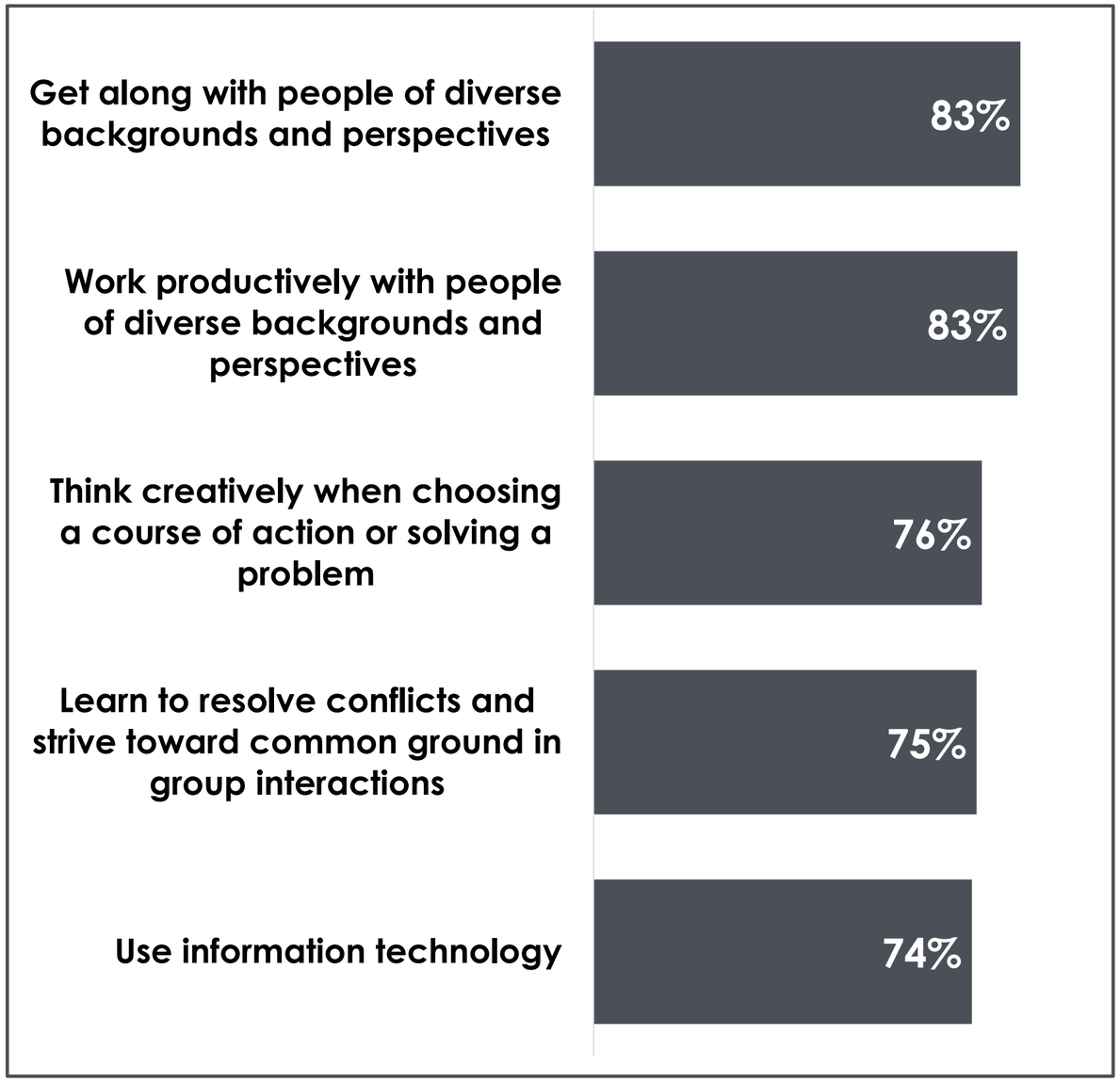
Knowledge and Skill Development

STUDENTS AGREED THAT CAL STATE LA PREPARED THEM IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

ACADEMIC GAINS

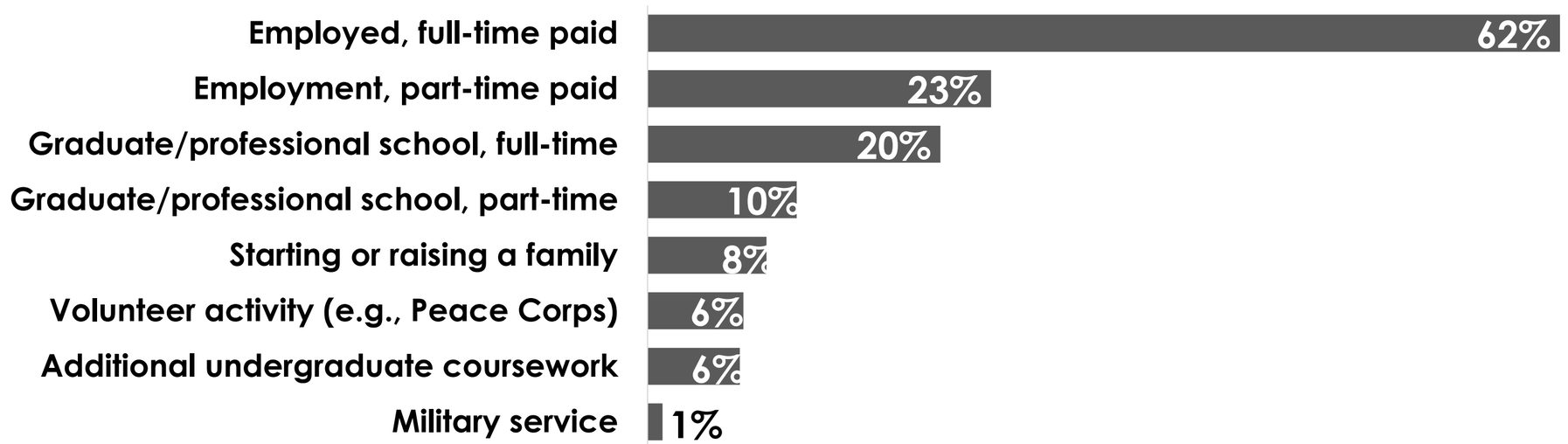


PROFESSIONAL & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

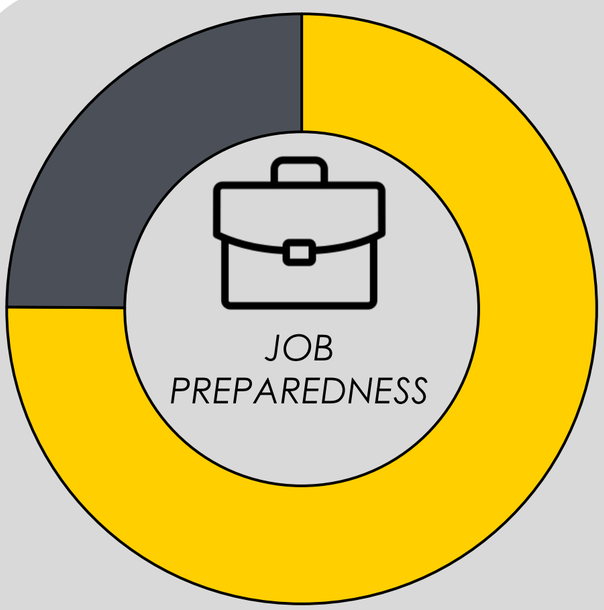


Post-Graduation Plans

THE MOST LIKELY PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION WAS EMPLOYMENT (FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME), FOLLOWED BY GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL (FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME).

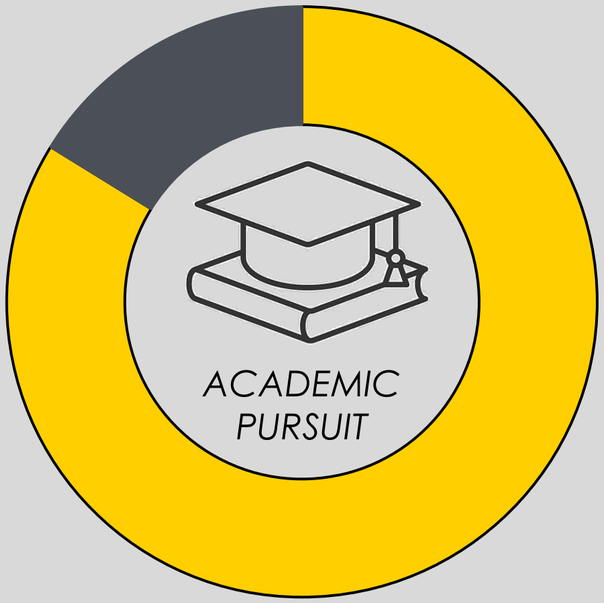


SENIORS CREDIT CAL STATE LA WITH PREPARING THEM FOR THEIR POST-GRADUATION PURSUIT(S).



n = 1,398

75%
Thought Cal State LA prepared them to enter the job market moderately to extremely well.



n = 537

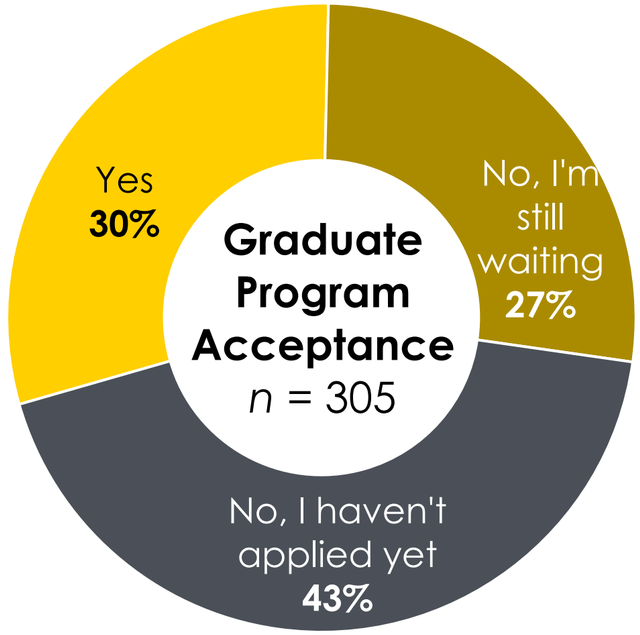
84%
Thought their overall undergraduate experience positively influenced their plans for graduate or professional studies.

Post-Graduation Plans: Additional Degrees

THE GREATEST PERCENTAGE OF SENIORS PLANNED TO PURSUE A MASTER'S DEGREE AND/OR DOCTORATE DEGREE.

- Master's Degree, **27%**
- Doctorate Degree, **12%**
- Post-Baccalaureate, **9%**
- Training, **7%**
- Law, **7%**
- Other Medical, **5%**
- Medicine, **4%**

30% OF RESPONDENTS REPORTED THAT THEY WERE ACCEPTED INTO A GRADUATE PROGRAM. ANOTHER 27% WERE WAITING TO HEAR BACK.



THE MAJORITY OF THE RESPONDENTS INDICATED THAT THEY ARE PURSUING GRADUATE PROGRAMS RELATED TO THEIR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE.

- Same field as major, **73%**
- Different field related to major, **22%**
- Different field unrelated to major, **2%**
- Same field as minor, **2%**
- Other, **2%**

TOP 3 GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS STUDENTS PLAN TO ATTEND:

1. **Cal State LA**
2. **Other CSU Campuses**
3. **University of Southern California**

Post-Graduation Plans: Employment

TOP 5 CURRENT PLANS FOR EMPLOYMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER GRADUATION INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Currently working but looking/applying for position related to my education, **33%**
- Not currently working but searching or waiting for offers, **28%**
- Did not start looking, **13%**
- Accepted a position, **8%**
- Currently working in a position and plan to keep it, **7%**

THE GREATEST PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WILL BE WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT OR OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTION/AGENCY.

- Government or other public institution/agency, **43%**
- Private for-profit corporation/company/ group-practice, **34%**
- Private non-profit (school, college, arts/cultural organization), **11%**
- Self-employed, **7%**
- Other, **5%**

THE GREATEST PERCENTAGE OF THE POSTITIONS WERE REPORTED TO BE IN THE SAME FIELD OR RELATED TO MAJOR OR MINOR (IF APPLICABLE):

*Is the position related to your **undergraduate field(s) of study**?*

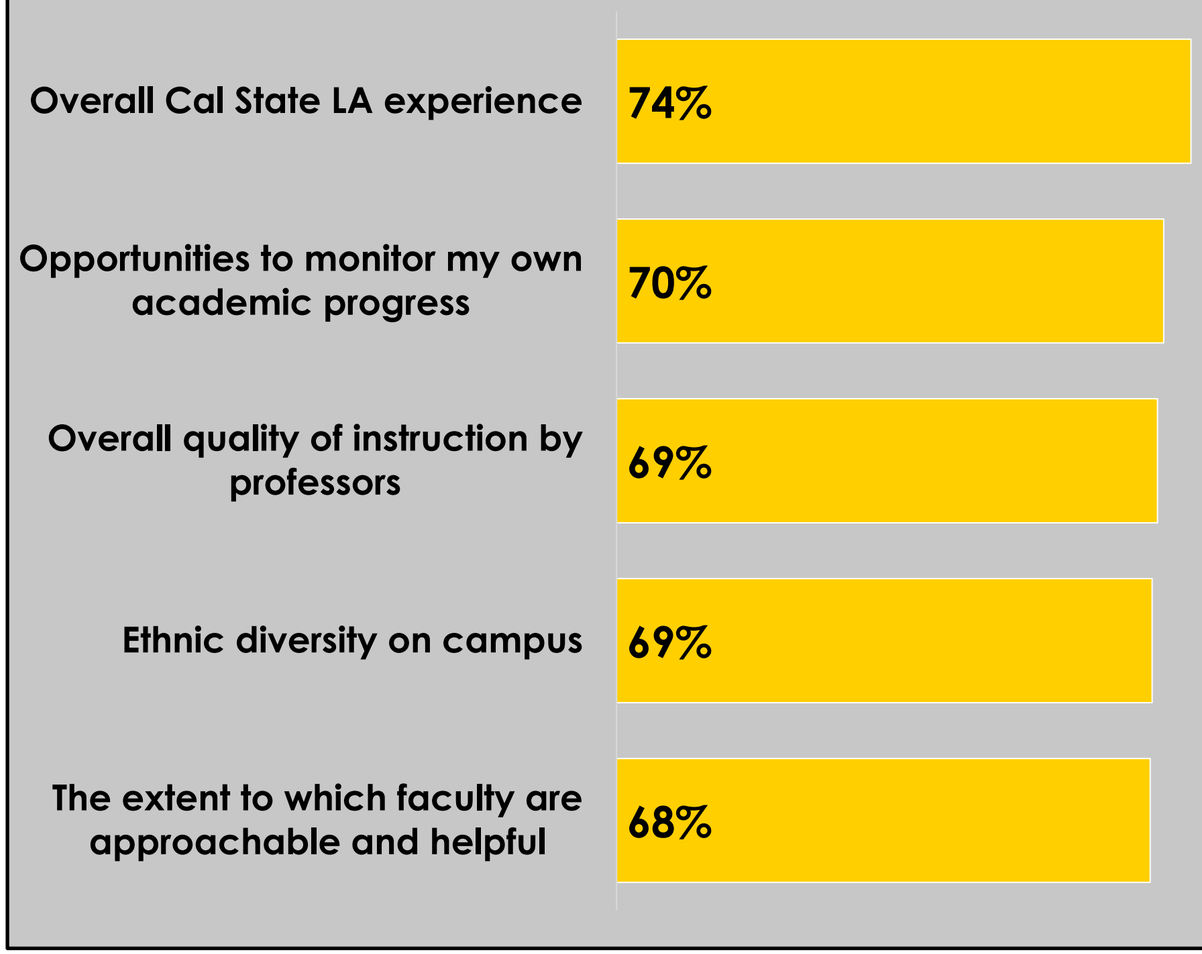
- Same field as major, **42%**
- Related to Major, **40%**
- Not related, **9%**
- Unsure of its relatedness, **9%**

*Is the position related to your **undergraduate minor(s)**?*

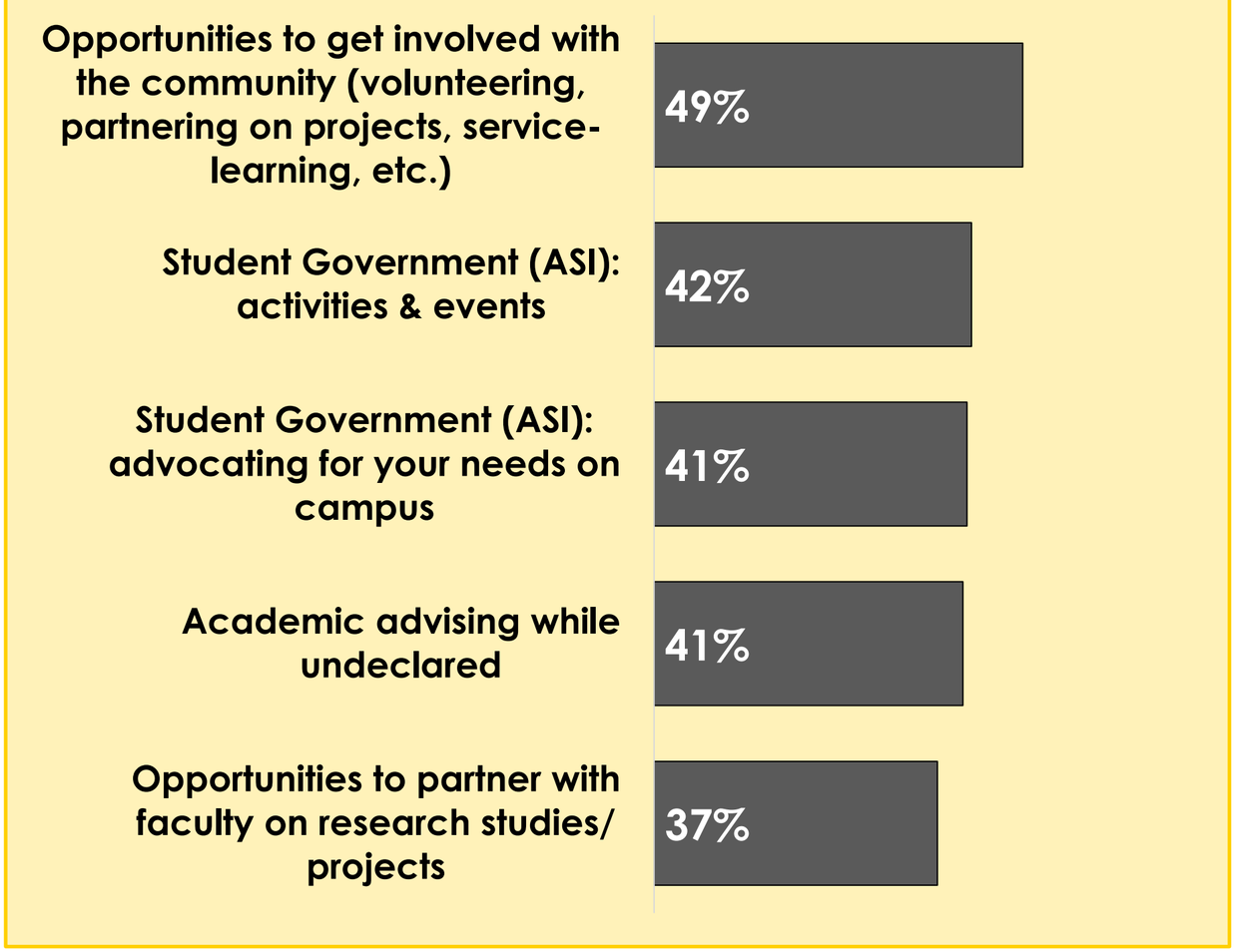
- Related to minor(s), **18%**
- Not related to minor(s), **14%**
- Unsure of its relatedness, **9%**
- Not applicable (no minor, etc.), **59%**

Overall Sense of Satisfaction

GREATEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH:



FEWEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH :



QUALITATIVE FINDINGS

Methodology

- Responses excluded from analysis if “N/A”, “None”, or not related to prompt.

  Content analysis through inductive coding

  - Themes identified and utilized if at least five responses were coded into those themes.

- Findings for each question highlight five most common themes for each:
  - Best thing about being a student at Cal State LA
  - Difficult or challenging experience at Cal State LA
  - Suggested ways that Cal State LA can help students experiencing similar challenges

Qualitative Findings

What was the best thing about being a student at Cal State LA?

1. **Sense of Community/Belonging (29%)**

2. **Faculty (26%)**

3. **Educational Opportunities & Experiences(17%)**

4. **Diversity (11%)**

5. **Location/Proximity to Home (10%)**



Qualitative Findings

What was the best thing about being a student at Cal State LA?

1. **Sense of Community/Belonging (29%)**
2. Faculty (26%)
3. Educational Opportunities & Experiences(17%)
4. Diversity (11%)
5. Location/Proximity to Home (10%)

Cal State LA promoted a sense of belonging wherein students felt welcome and were able to develop meaningful and supportive relationships with peers, faculty, staff, and administrators.

"I was only here for 1 semester but it felt great to be part of something bigger than myself. Part of a community of young adults who are working toward constructing a better tomorrow."

"The best part about being a student at CSULA for me, was meeting and connecting with some individuals who inspire me."

"…am able to continue to be apart of my community and give back. Cal State LA is home to me"

Qualitative Findings

What was the best thing about being a student at Cal State LA?

1. Sense of Community/Belonging (29%)

2. Faculty (26%)

3. Educational Opportunities & Experiences(17%)

4. Diversity (11%)

5. Location/Proximity to Home (10%)

Faculty helped students learn and feel supported throughout their time at the university.

"The best thing about being a student at CSULA was meeting wonderful professors who make sure you are getting the best learning outcome."

"Feeling that I was always able to communicate with my Professors when life didn't go as planned for me. I've had several very helpful and understanding professors over my time at CSULA."

"…The instructors that made the extra effort to help my education as well as my professional path."

Qualitative Findings

What was the best thing about being a student at Cal State LA?

1. Sense of Community/Belonging (29%)
2. Faculty (26%)
3. **Educational Opportunities & Experiences(17%)**
4. Diversity (11%)
5. Location/Proximity to Home (10%)

The university offered positive and meaningful educational experiences for students through course curriculum and various learning opportunities.

"The best thing was getting to study what I enjoyed and being able to study something else that I did not think I would be interested in before taking more courses."

"...Some of the material I learned im my class I keep with me as i move forward..."

"Engaging in thought-provoking and controversial conversations."

Qualitative Findings

What was the best thing about being a student at Cal State LA?

1. Sense of Community/Belonging (29%)
2. Faculty (26%)
3. Educational Opportunities & Experiences(17%)
4. **Diversity (11%)**
5. Location/Proximity to Home (10%)

Cal State LA is a diverse environment that allowed students to meet and engage with many new people from whom they learned.

"Was able to interact with many students with different backgrounds. Along with it is a school within the community."

"The diversity of faculty and students on campus was exceptional…"

"The best thing is that is a diverse cultural campus, it feels good to be part of people and not just part of one race…"

Qualitative Findings

What was the best thing about being a student at Cal State LA?

1. Sense of Community/Belonging (29%)
2. Faculty (26%)
3. Educational Opportunities & Experiences(17%)
4. Diversity (11%)
5. **Location/Proximity to Home (10%)**

The campus's location within Los Angeles made the university close to home and/or work and allowed for an easy commute. The DTLA campus was also a convenient location for students.

"How local It was, it is an honor to graduate from a college in the city i was born and raised in LA."

"The brief commute back and forth from where I live to CSULA."

"I'm born and raised in East LA so it's very refreshing to be able to be a part of an alma mater that's so close to home. It's close to home so there was absolutely no traffic"

Qualitative Findings

Please describe a difficult or challenging experience at Cal State LA.

1. **Lack of Guidance/Support (25%)**
2. **Faculty (14%)**
3. **COVID (12%)**
4. **Course Availability/Offerings (12%)**
5. **Campus Environment/ Campus Life (11%)**



Qualitative Findings

Please describe a difficult or challenging experience at Cal State LA.

1. **Lack of Guidance/Support (25%)**
2. Faculty (14%)
3. COVID (12%)
4. Course Availability/Offerings (12%)
5. Campus Environment/ Campus Life (11%)

Students report receiving inconsistent information, spending insufficient time with counselors/advisors, or being unaware of the types of support available to them.

"Having misdirection when seeking counsel as well as having to go from one department to another when they kept sending me to different people that had nothing to do with my issues..."

"As a transfer student I found it hard to know how to make an appointment with an advisor. When I first got to CSULA in 2020 i did not know how to get an appointment with an advisor to go over my schedule."

"Not knowing where to apply for internships or learning where resources are. I personally had to find out from friends or faculty about certain opportunities"

Qualitative Findings

Areas for Improvement

1. Lack of Guidance/Support (25%)
2. **Faculty (14%)**
3. COVID (12%)
4. Course Availability/Offerings (12%)
5. Campus Environment/ Campus Life (11%)

Some faculty members did not provide students with adequate support, both personally and academically, which had an impact on their learning experience. This had an even greater impact on students particularly during the pandemic.

"…During the pandemic I felt as some professors were not as understanding/ caring of all the issues we had going on around us."

Most of the teachers don't have the patience to give students detailed assignment questions. In most cases, we are given the work and expected to teach ourselves.

"…It was also tough having professors who were super strict and vague when teaching."

Qualitative Findings

Please describe a difficult or challenging experience at Cal State LA.

1. Lack of Guidance/Support (25%)
2. Faculty (14%)
3. **COVID (12%)**
4. Course Availability/Offerings (12%)
5. Campus Environment/ Campus Life (11%)

COVID presented various challenges for students, such as concern for health and well-being of their families and themselves, having to transition from face-to-face to online learning, and inability to fully experience college due to the lockdown.

"I would say the most challenging experience would have to be the overall experience surrounding the pandemic. It was a very sad and confusing time, life took a complete turn. It was a time we all had to learn a new way of managing what we already knew."

"The challenge I experienced at Cal State LA was Covid-19 getting sick and still worried about assignments and keeping up with the class course."

"The pandemic really took a toll on everyone's momentum and studies."

Qualitative Findings

Please describe a difficult or challenging experience at Cal State LA.

1. Lack of Guidance/Support (25%)
2. Faculty (14%)
3. COVID (12%)
4. **Course Availability/Offerings (12%)**
5. Campus Environment/ Campus Life (11%)

Students found it difficult to find required classes that fit their schedules or were offered in the modality that they wanted. This was particularly critical for students who are working or live further away from the campus.

"The only difficulty I experienced is that I couldn't register in a class I really needed and had to wait 2 semesters until I was able to due to high command of that class."

"The difficulty that I had was lack of class, I almost got delayed a year because of it, it put me on stress."

"As a full-time employee, I would've liked to have seen more evening class availability or even on the weekends."

Qualitative Findings

Please describe a difficult or challenging experience at Cal State LA.

1. Lack of Guidance/Support (25%)
2. Faculty (14%)
3. COVID (12%)
4. Course Availability/Offerings (12%)
5. **Campus Environment/ Campus Life (11%)**

Campus environment was not conducive to an enjoyable campus life experience for various reasons (e.g., not enough campus activities or events to join, outdated buildings, poor lighting at night, difficulty navigating the campus).

"What I found difficult was just having such an underwhelming campus experience. Everything seems to be outdated and just makes the campus life so boring. But I guess we are going to school to learn not to have fun…"

"I think a challenge is that there is not much student life. I feel that our school should have more student life and activities. I also think school spirit should be encouraged more by letting students know on campus when sports events are taking place. I have been at Cal State LA for two years, and I have not once seen our mascot."

"Finding what organizations, clubs, and activities to get involved with. Especially if you're abt to expand your social network for personal or school/major related"

Qualitative Findings

What are ways that Cal State LA can help students going through similar challenges?

1. **Transparency & Communication (23%)**
2. **Student Support/Resources (22%)**
3. **Course Availability & Offerings (16%)**
4. **Improved Advising & Guidance (14%)**
5. **Campus Environment/ Campus Life (13%)**



Qualitative Findings

What are ways that Cal State LA can help students going through similar challenges?

1. **Transparency & Communication (23%)**
2. Student Support/Resources (22%)
3. Course Availability & Offerings (16%)
4. Improved Advising & Guidance (14%)
5. Campus Environment/ Campus Life (13%)

Students emphasize the importance of transparency and communication between students and the campus

"Have a system or a team that regularly reaches out to students regarding their well being, their satisfaction in regard to their classes and mode of education."

"Always reminding them through announcements, emails, etc., that help like tutoring are available for any subject they may be having a hard time in."

"I suggest listening to students and actually taking action because ultimately the purpose of this institution is to deliver the best quality of education possible."

Qualitative Findings

What are ways that Cal State LA can help students going through similar challenges?

1. Transparency & Communication (23%)
2. **Student Support/Resources (22%)**
3. Course Availability & Offerings (16%)
4. Improved Advising & Guidance (14%)
5. Campus Environment/ Campus Life (13%)

Offer emotional support and understanding through curiosity and responsiveness as well as support services that could help address needs of specific students. Additionally, extend service hours to ensure working and commuting students could utilize them.

"Keep office and other resources open until 7pm so that working students are able to enjoy some of the resources the campus has to offer…"

"like give free snacks along the way during midterm week just for students like myself who could not have money to eat or were always in a rush from job to job then practice can get a quick snack."

"the school can help students by being being more aware of the different things students may be going through…"

Qualitative Findings

What are ways that Cal State LA can help students going through similar challenges?

1. Transparency & Communication (23%)
2. Student Support/Resources (22%)
3. **Course Availability & Offerings (16%)**
4. Improved Advising & Guidance (14%)
5. Campus Environment/ Campus Life (13%)

Students desire greater availability of courses they need for timely graduation, both in terms of times and modality in which courses are offered.

"Offering more asynchronous courses to help people with family obligations and people with unstable work schedules in completing their degrees…"

"…Have more courses available in the evening, on weekends, and or online."

"Add more evening classes"

Qualitative Findings

What are ways that Cal State LA can help students going through similar challenges?

1. Transparency & Communication (23%)

2. Student Support/Resources (22%)

3. Course Availability & Offerings (16%)

4. **Improved Advising & Guidance (14%)**

5. Campus Environment/ Campus Life (13%)

Provide all students clear and accurate guidance that ensures students feel supported and confident in their progress toward their degrees.

"Improve feedback from undeclared advisors. Guide them to career advisors."

"I feel that department counselors (like HHS) should reach out more to the freshman and sophomores and increase their office availabilities or methods of communication. If it wasnt for EOP my first two years, i probably would not have graduated in time."

"Have mandatory counseling meetings during semester"

Qualitative Findings

What are ways that Cal State LA can help students going through similar challenges?

1. Transparency & Communication (23%)
2. Student Support/Resources (22%)
3. Course Availability & Offerings (16%)
4. Improved Advising & Guidance (14%)
5. **Campus Environment/ Campus Life (13%)**

Create a campus environment that is inviting, fosters a sense of safety and belonging, and creates a positive learning experience. Also, provide a means for students to come to and navigate the campus more easily.

"…Having a space where people can network, congregate, and socialize. I found that difficult on campus and always had to search for a place."

"…Having a space where people can network, congregate, and socialize. I found that difficult on campus and always had to search for a place."

"Keep the bookstore open for longer as well as the food court. Have alternative ways that handicap students can get to their classes."

Questions?

Thank you!