THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

Results from Graduate Follow-up Survey
Completed by Seniors who Graduated in 2016 and 2017

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Why the Graduate Follow-up Survey?

- The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires each District to administer an exit survey to seniors. The primary purpose is to capture students' intentions after high school—specifically, whether they are planning to obtain additional education, employment, or to pursue other activities.

- In recent years, Senior Exit Survey respondents were asked to volunteer their contact information (email and/or cell phone number) for the purposes of receiving a follow-up survey one year after graduation (92.9% of those surveyed provided contact information).

- For the first time, the Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) had the means to contact students *after* they graduated.

What is the Graduate Follow-up Survey?

- In the winter of 2018-2019, ORE administered a newly designed Graduate Follow-up Survey.

- The Graduate Follow-up Survey was designed to:
  - Better understand education and career pursuits of recent SDP high school graduates.
  - Learn about obstacles students faced in achieving post-graduation plans as initially indicated on the Senior Exit Survey.
  - Understand whether students who intended to work post-graduation have made smooth transitions to the workforce.

Graduate Follow-up Survey Methods

- The survey was sent to members of the graduating Classes of 2016 and 2017 who had previously completed the Senior Exit Survey and provided contact information.

- This means that some of the respondents were one year removed from their time at SDP, while others were two years removed.

- Graduate Follow-up Survey responses were linked with student's Senior Exit Survey responses. Students who had previously intended education were asked education related questions and those who had previously intended work were asked work related questions.

- Graduate Follow-up Survey responses were also linked to college matriculation data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC).

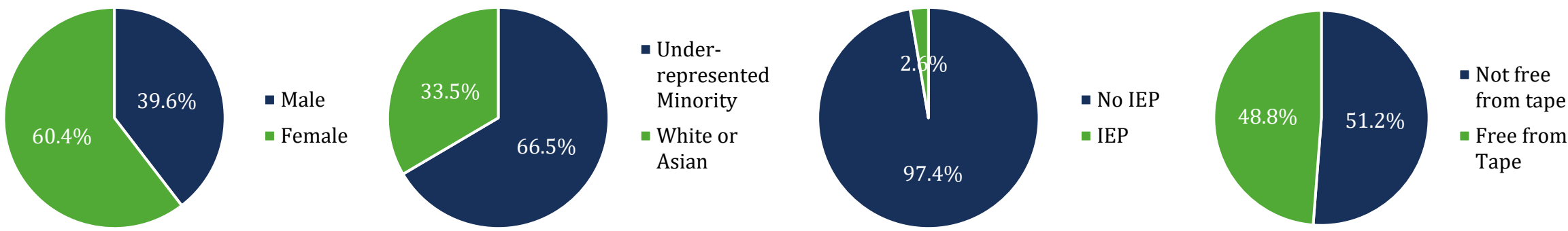# Survey Completion and Representativeness

Overview: Graduate Survey Completion

- The survey opened November 30, 2018 and closed February 1, 2019

- In total, 5,491 students from the class of 2016 who provided their contact information in the Senior Exit Survey were contacted by phone, email, or both. 12.9% (710) of those contacted completed the survey.

- In total, 5,241 students from the class of 2017 who provided their contact information in the Senior Exit Survey were contacted by phone, email, or both. 15.3% (801) of those contacted completed the survey.

- For both graduating classes, more students responded to the survey via email than by phone.

	Overall Completion	Email Completion*	Phone Completion*
Class of 2016 n= 5,491	710 (12.9%)	549 (10.0%)	161 (5.8%)
Class of 2017 n=5,421	801 (15.3%)	449 (8.6%)	352 (7.4%)

*Percentage is out of total number of invitations sent via each method.

Graduate Follow-up Survey Respondent Characteristics

39.6% Male
60.4% Female

33.5% White or Asian
66.5% Under-represented Minority

2.6% IEP
97.4% No IEP

51.2% Not free from tape
48.8% Free from Tape

1,511 Total completed responses from class of 2016 and class of 2017 seniors.

9.0% Percent of class of 2016 and 2017 seniors who responded to the Graduate Follow-Up Survey.

Class of 2016: 8,353 # Seniors; 5,744 # SES Respondents; 710 # Grad Survey Respondents

Class of 2017: 8,372 # Seniors; 5,275 # SES Respondents; 801 # Grad Survey Respondents
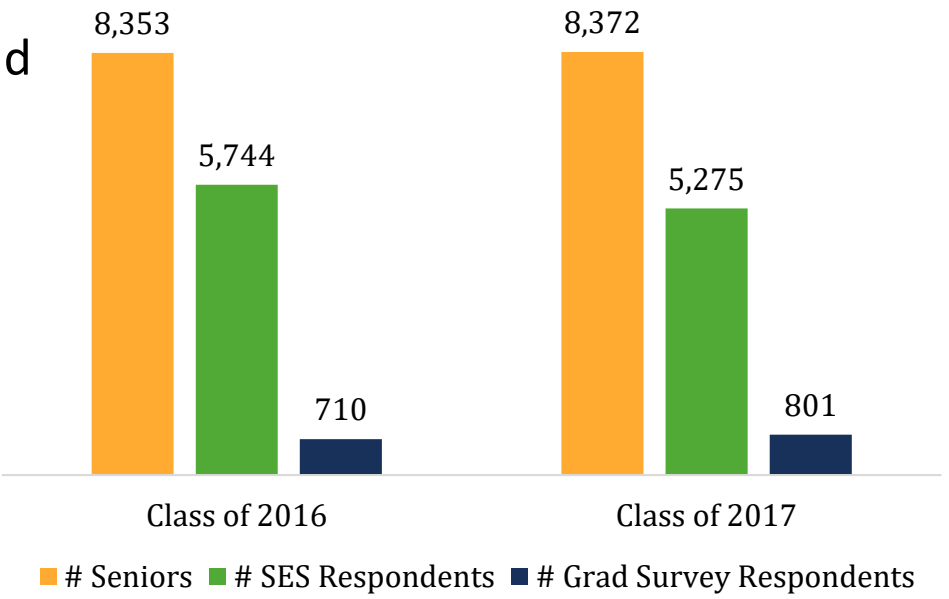
Female students represented about half of the seniors, but about 60% of those who took the follow-up survey

Class of 2016

50.9%

49.1%

39.7%

60.3%

Male

Female

■ All Respondents (n=710) ▬ District Seniors (n=8,353)

Class of 2017

50.1%

49.9%

39.5%

60.5%

Male

Female

■ All Respondents (n=801) ▬ District Seniors (n=8,372)
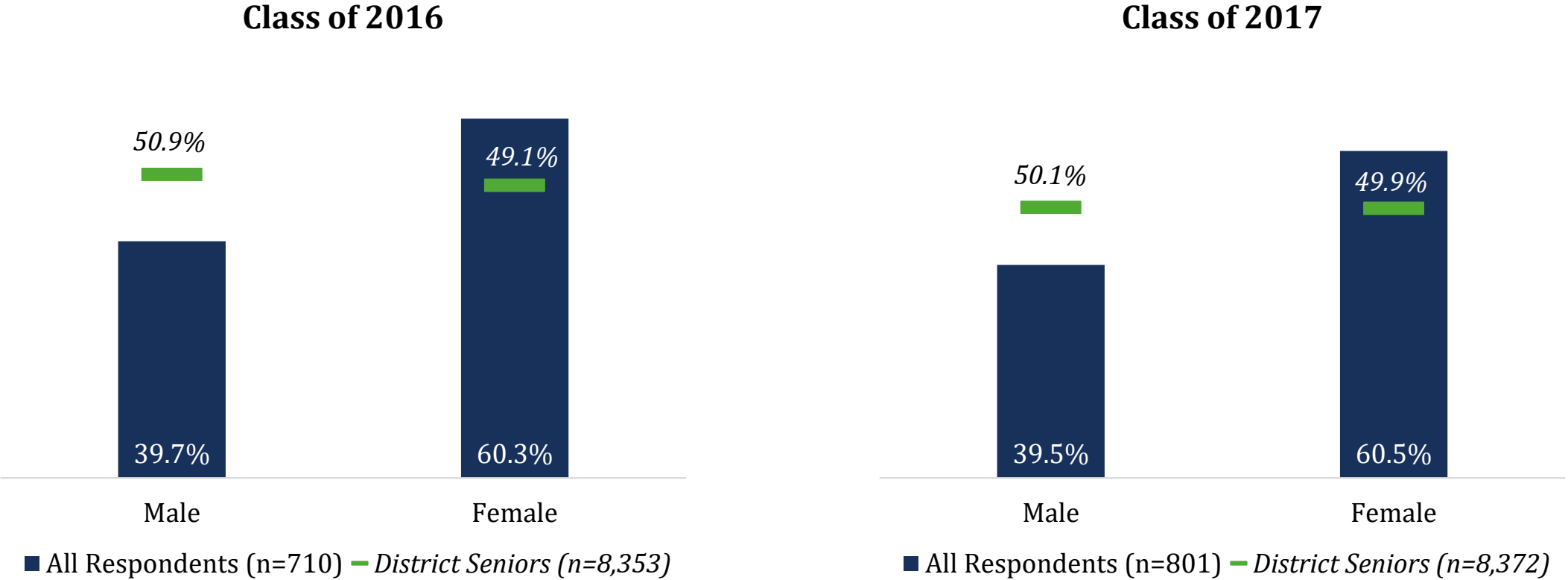
For both the Class of 2016 and Class of 2017, African American and Hispanic respondents were underrepresented, while White and Asian respondents were overrepresented.

Class of 2016

- Black/African American: 48.5% (All Respondents), 56.8% (District Seniors)
- White: 20.4% (All Respondents), 14.0% (District Seniors)
- Asian: 15.5% (All Respondents), 10.1% (District Seniors)
- Hispanic/Latino: 13.8% (All Respondents), 16.7% (District Seniors)
- Multiracial/Other: 1.8% (All Respondents), 2.3% (District Seniors)

■ All Respondents (n=710) — District Seniors (n=8,353)

Class of 2017

- Black/African American: 48.6% (All Respondents), 55.4% (District Seniors)
- White: 18.9% (All Respondents), 13.5% (District Seniors)
- Asian: 12.5% (All Respondents), 10.6% (District Seniors)
- Hispanic/Latino: 15.1% (All Respondents), 17.0% (District Seniors)
- Multiracial/Other: 5.0% (All Respondents), 3.5% (District Seniors)

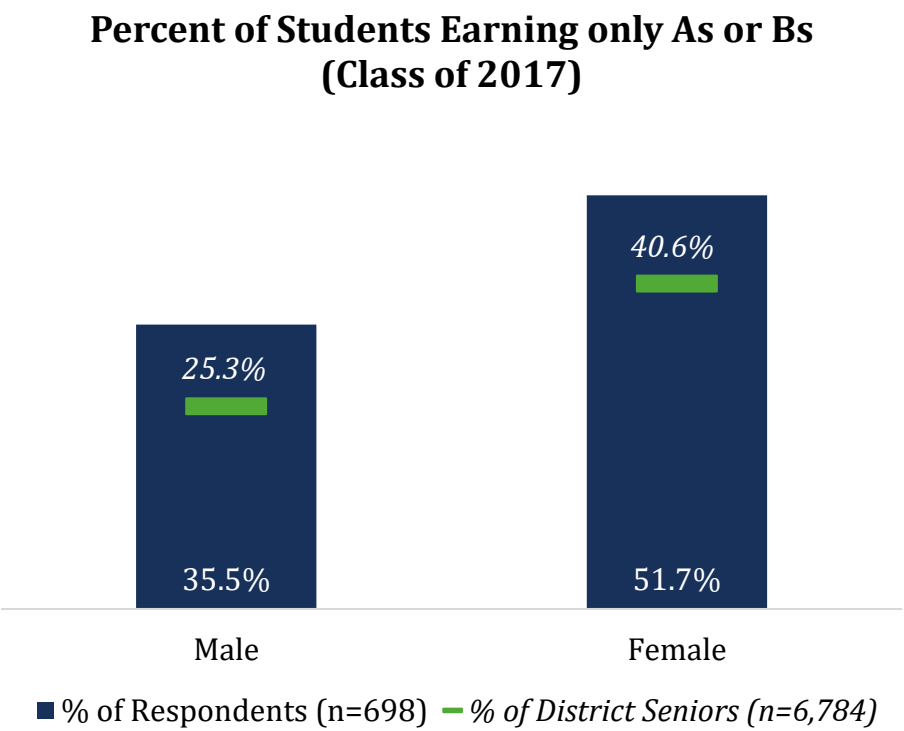■ All Respondents (n=801) — District Seniors (n=8,372)

Students that earned only A's or B's during their senior year were over-represented among respondents.

Percent of Students Earning only A's or B's
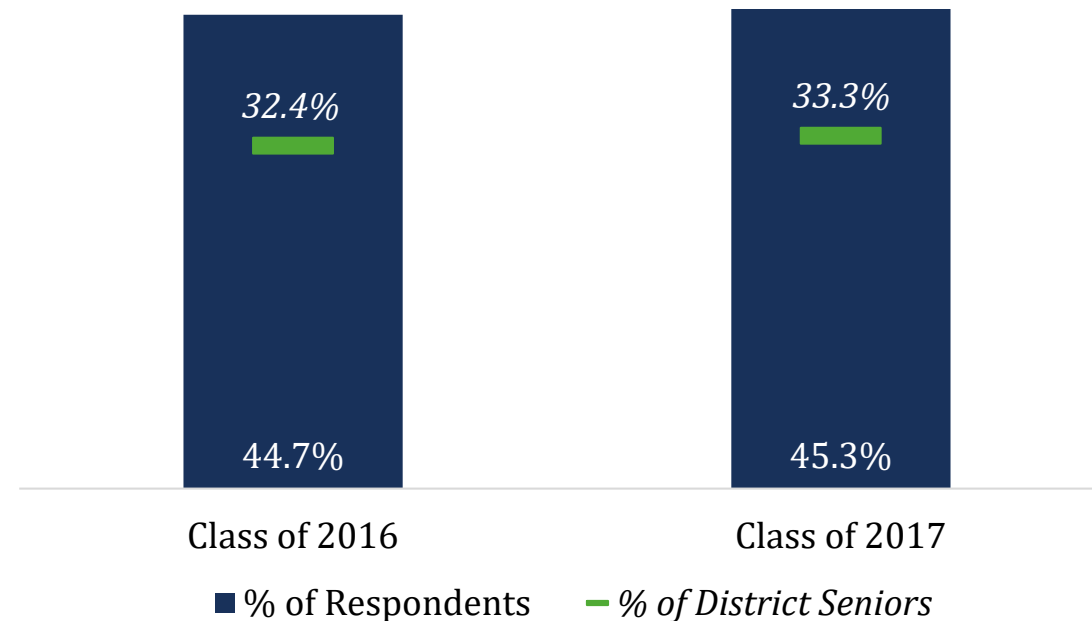
32.4%

33.3%

44.7%

45.3%

Class of 2016

Class of 2017

■ % of Respondents — % of District Seniors

*Includes students who earned only A's B's or P's (Passing) in core subject areas (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies) during their 12th grade year, independent of number of core courses taken.

Male students were under-represented overall, but those with As and Bs as seniors were over-represented.
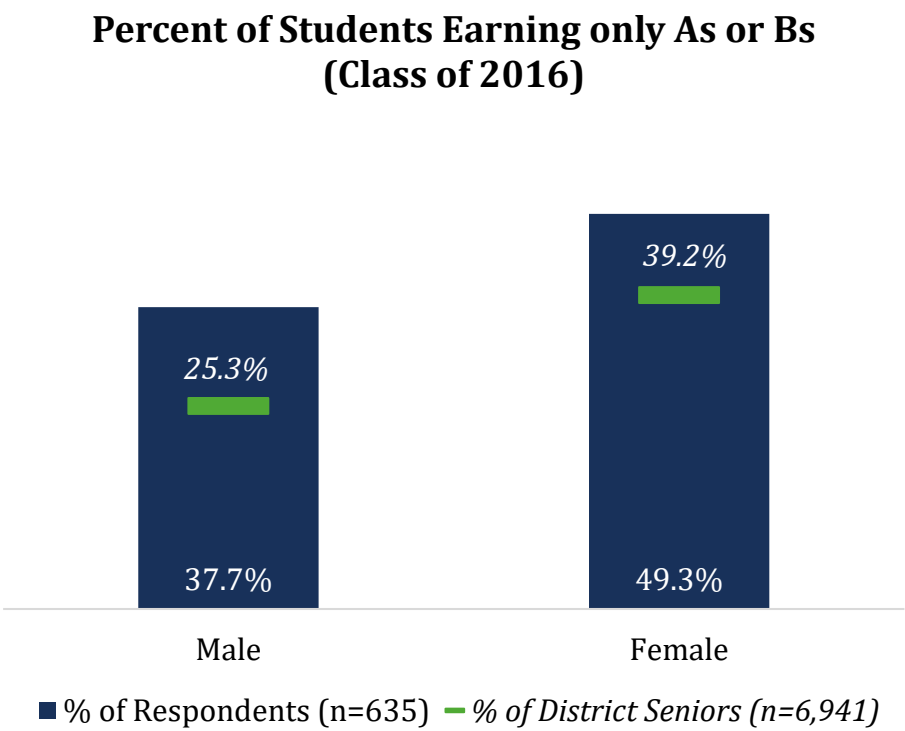
Percent of Students Earning only As or Bs (Class of 2016)

	Male	Female
% of District Seniors	25.3%	39.2%
% of Respondents	37.7%	49.3%

■ % of Respondents (n=635) — % of District Seniors (n=6,941)

Percent of Students Earning only As or Bs (Class of 2017)

	Male	Female
% of District Seniors	25.3%	40.6%
% of Respondents	35.5%	51.7%

■ % of Respondents (n=698) — % of District Seniors (n=6,784)
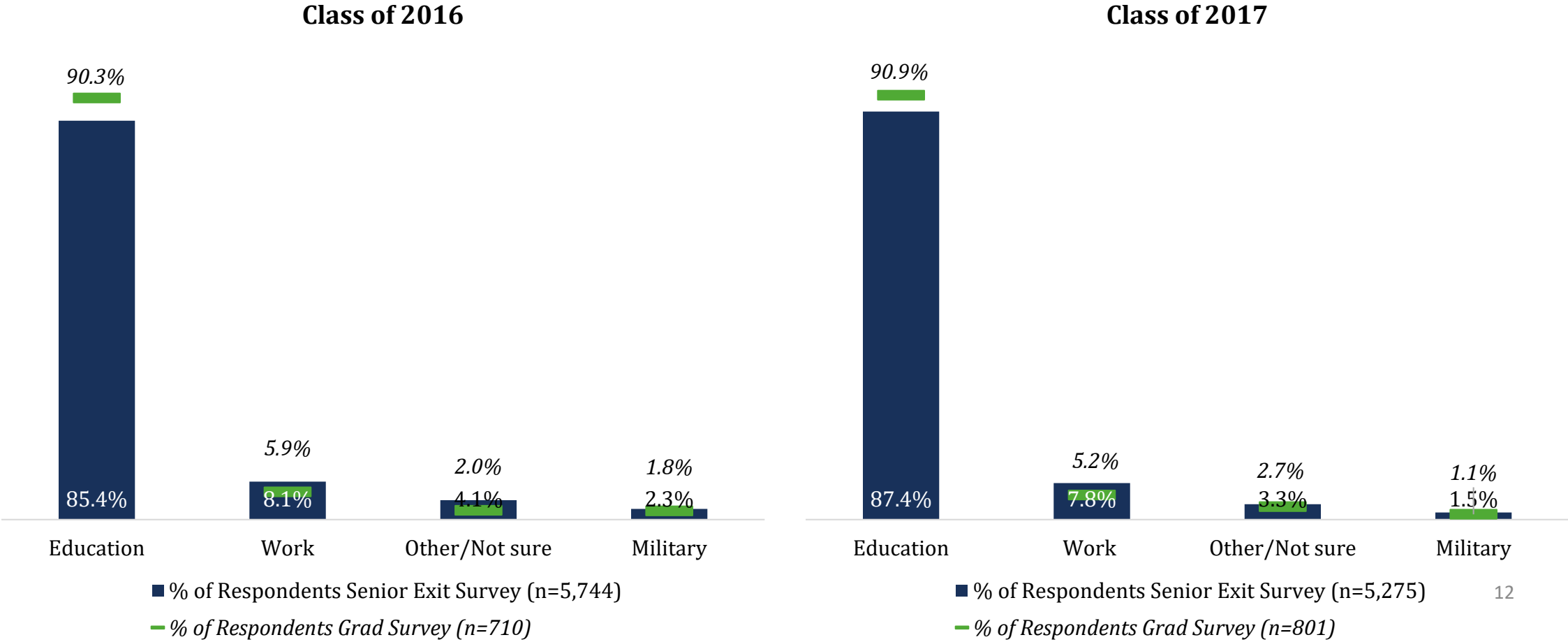
*Includes students who earned only A's B's or P's (Passing) in core subject areas (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies) during their 12th grade year, independent of number of core courses taken

Respondents who reported intent to pursue postsecondary education on the Senior Exit Survey were over-represented on the Graduate Survey.

Class of 2016

90.3%

85.4%

5.9%
8.1%

2.0%
4.1%

1.8%
2.3%

Education | Work | Other/Not sure | Military

■ % of Respondents Senior Exit Survey (n=5,744)
— % of Respondents Grad Survey (n=710)

Class of 2017

90.9%

87.4%

5.2%
7.8%

2.7%
3.3%

1.1%
1.5%

Education | Work | Other/Not sure | Military

■ % of Respondents Senior Exit Survey (n=5,275)
— % of Respondents Grad Survey (n=801)

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Class of 2016 College Enrollment

- Class of 2016— (In Third Year After Graduation)
  - According to the NSC Data:
    - 59.2% (6,572) of Seniors had a college enrollment record as of November, 2018.
    - 40.1% of Seniors did not have a college enrollment record.
    - Of the 5,491 students who received the Graduate Follow-up Survey, 3,584 (65.2%) were enrolled in school at some point.
    - Of the 710 Class of 2016 Graduate Follow-up Survey respondents, 74.6% were enrolled in school **at some point**.

Class of 2017 College Enrollment

- Class of 2017—(In Second Year After Graduation)
  - According to the NSC Data:
    - 59.4% (6,611) of Seniors have a college enrollment record as of November, 2018.
    - 40.6% of Seniors did not have a college enrollment record.
    - Of the 5,241 students who received the Graduate Follow-up Survey, 3,562 (68%) enrolled in school at some point.
    - Of the 801 Class of 2017 Graduate Follow-up Survey respondents, 75.4% were enrolled in school **at some point**.
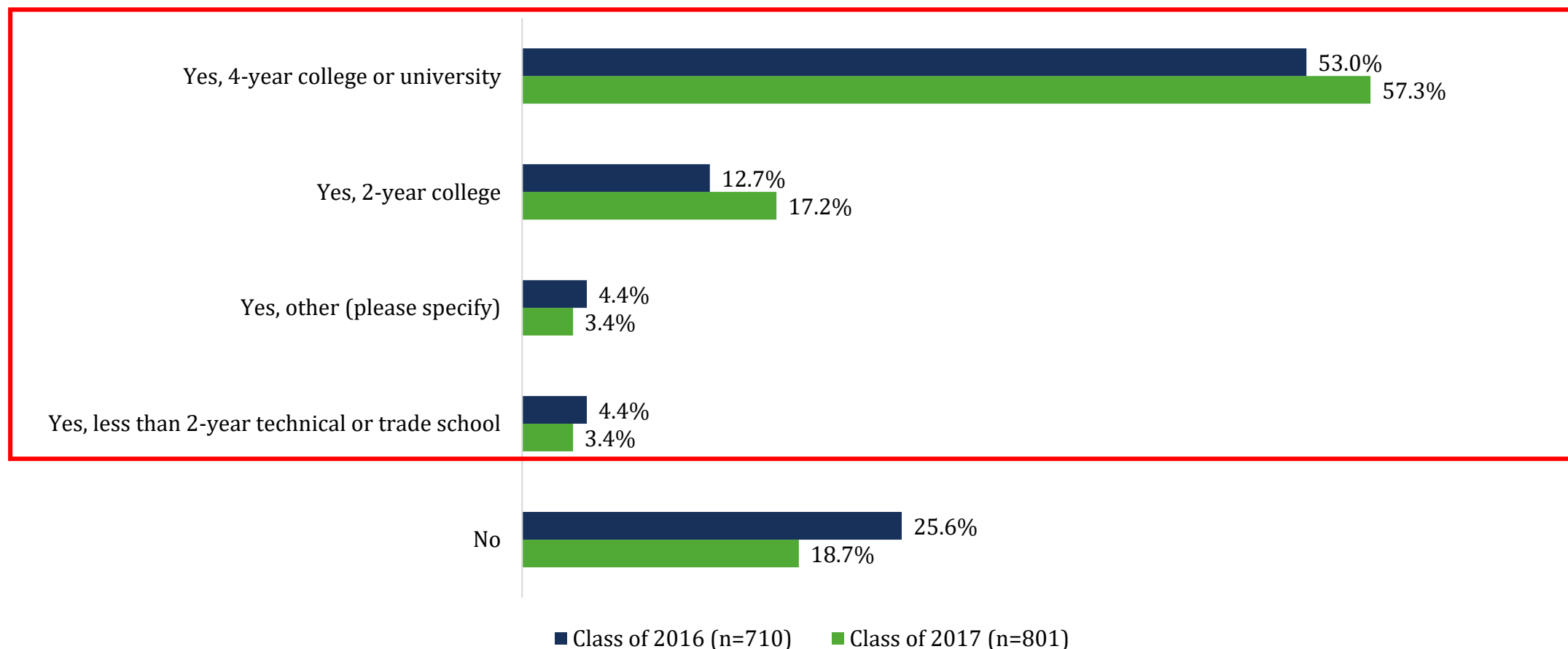
Summary- Representativeness

- The Graduate Follow-up survey sample is probably not representative of the full pool of seniors.

- For the Class of 2016, 8.5% of seniors completed the survey, and for the Class of 2017 it was 9.6%.

- Compared to the full pool of seniors, survey respondents were more likely to:
  - Be Female
  - Be White or Asian
  - Have earned As and Bs as a senior
  - Have reported intent to pursue postsecondary education on the Senior Exit Survey
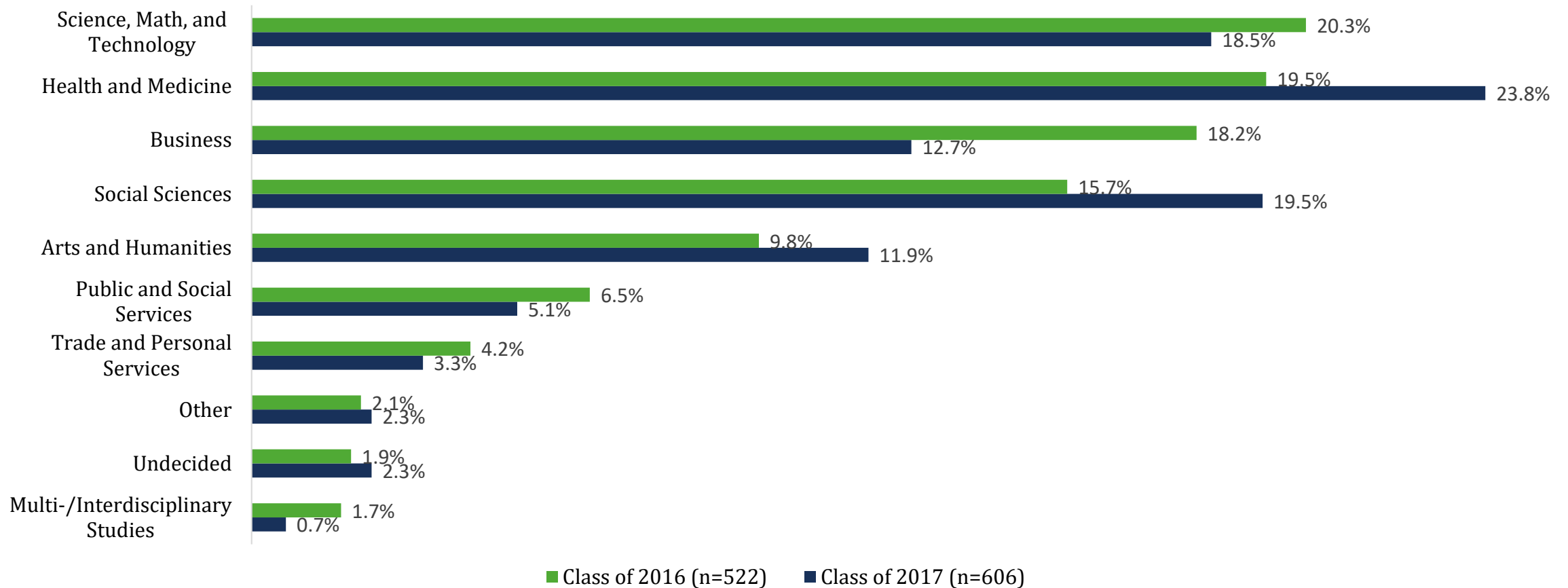 - Have enrolled in college after graduating high school

Education and Employment After High School

Are you currently enrolled in school?

Among all survey respondents from the Class of 2016, 74.4% indicated that they were **currently** enrolled in school. Among all survey respondents from the Class of 2017, 81.3% indicated that they were **currently** enrolled in school.

	Class of 2016	Class of 2017
Yes, 4-year college or university	53.0%	57.3%
Yes, 2-year college	12.7%	17.2%
Yes, other (please specify)	4.4%	3.4%
Yes, less than 2-year technical or trade school	4.4%	3.4%
No	25.6%	18.7%

■ Class of 2016 (n=710)   ■ Class of 2017 (n=801)

Which of the following best describes your major field of study?

Major Field of Study	Class of 2016 (n=522)	Class of 2017 (n=606)
Science, Math, and Technology	20.3%	18.5%
Health and Medicine	19.5%	23.8%
Business	18.2%	12.7%
Social Sciences	15.7%	19.5%
Arts and Humanities	9.8%	11.9%
Public and Social Services	6.5%	5.1%
Trade and Personal Services	4.2%	3.3%
Other	2.1%	2.3%
Undecided	1.9%	2.3%
Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies	1.7%	0.7%

Note: Only asked of students who reported they were currently enrolled in school.

Job Status While in School

In addition to school, which option best describes your current job status?

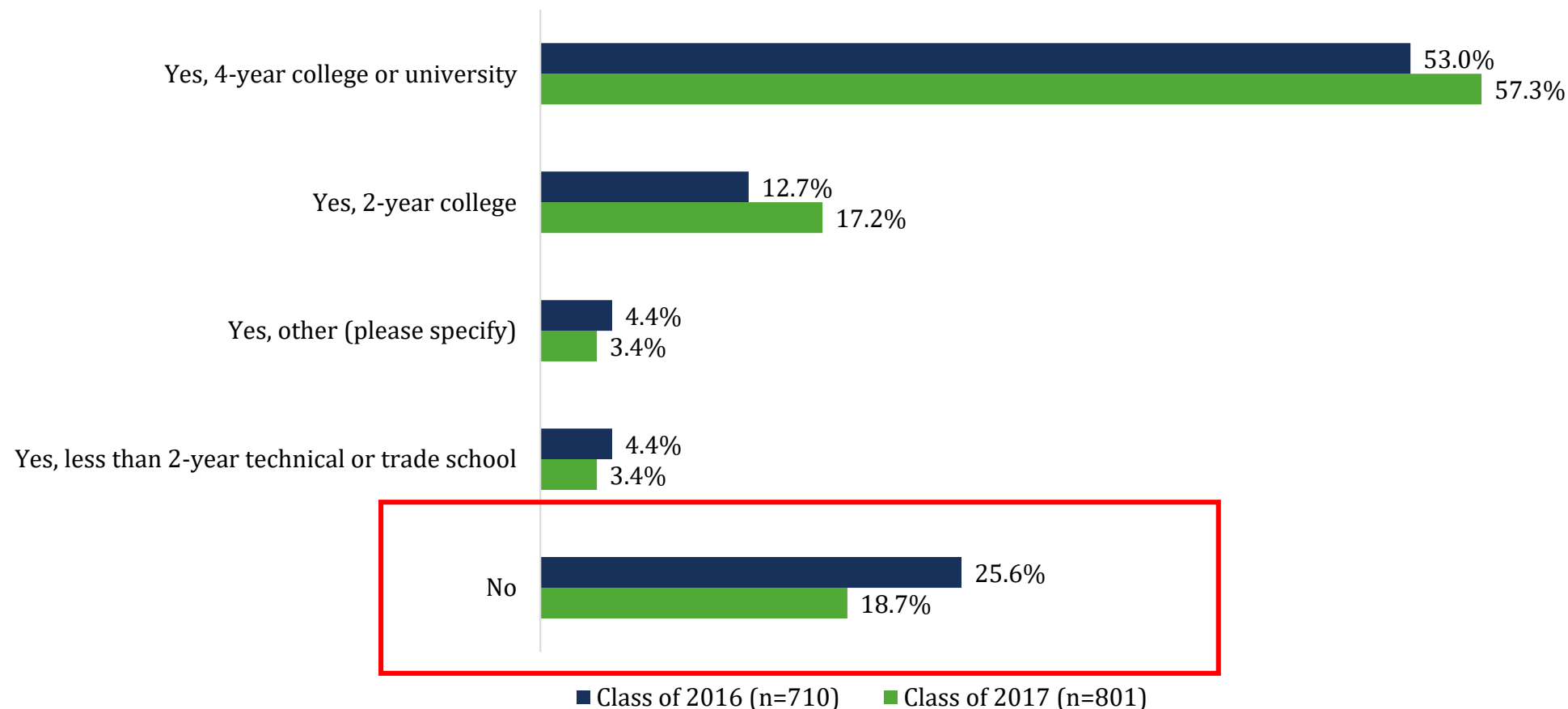|	Part-time work, less than 35 hours each week	Not working but looking for work	Full-time work, 35 hours or more each week	Not working and not looking for work	Part-time military	Full-time military
Class of 2016 (n=528)	51.1%	20.3%	18.9%	8.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Class of 2017 (n=616)	53.4%	20.9%	12.7%	11.9%	0.3%	0.8%
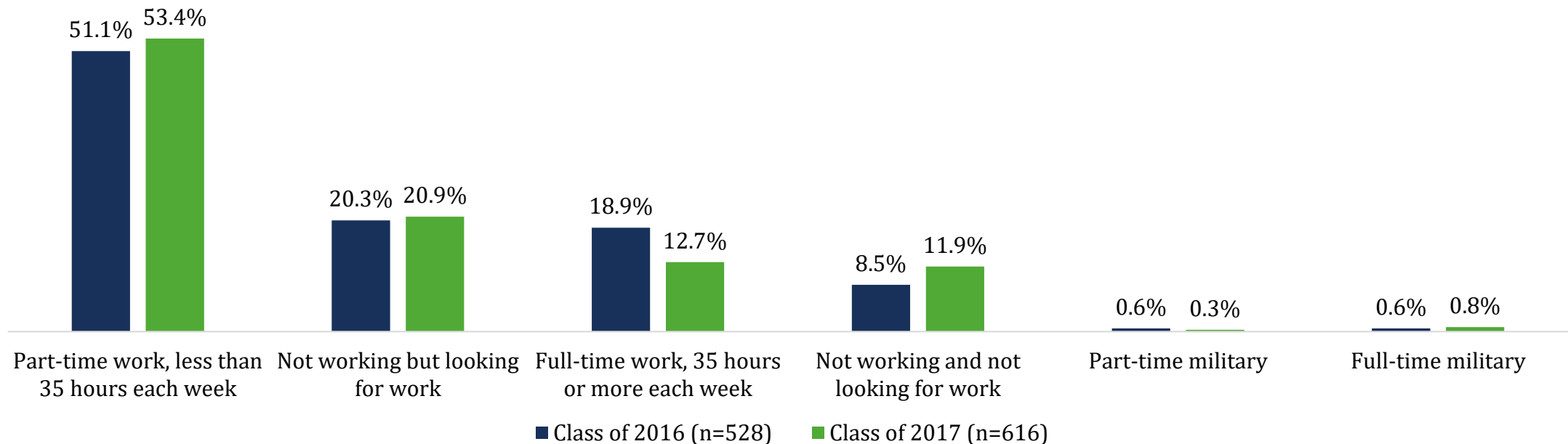
- Among respondents currently enrolled in school, over half reported they are working at least part-time.
- 18.9% of Class of 2016 respondents and 12.7% of 2017 respondents reported working full-time while enrolled in school.

Note: Only asked of students who reported they were currently enrolled in school.
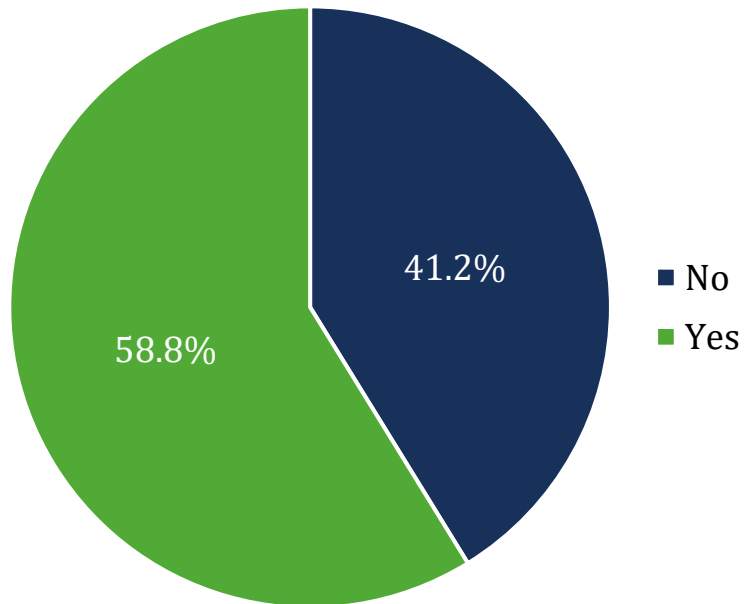
Are you currently enrolled in school?

Among all survey respondents from the Class of 2016, 25.6% indicated that they were **not currently** enrolled in school. Among all survey respondents from the Class of 2017, 18.7% indicated that they were **not currently** enrolled in school.


Bar chart:

Category	Class of 2016 (n=710)	Class of 2017 (n=801)
Yes, 4-year college or university	53.0%	57.3%
Yes, 2-year college	12.7%	17.2%
Yes, other (please specify)	4.4%	3.4%
Yes, less than 2-year technical or trade school	4.4%	3.4%
No	25.6%	18.7%

■ Class of 2016 (n=710)   ■ Class of 2017 (n=801)

If not currently enrolled in school: Do you plan on beginning any post-high school education, such as college, technical training, or an apprenticeship, within the next year?
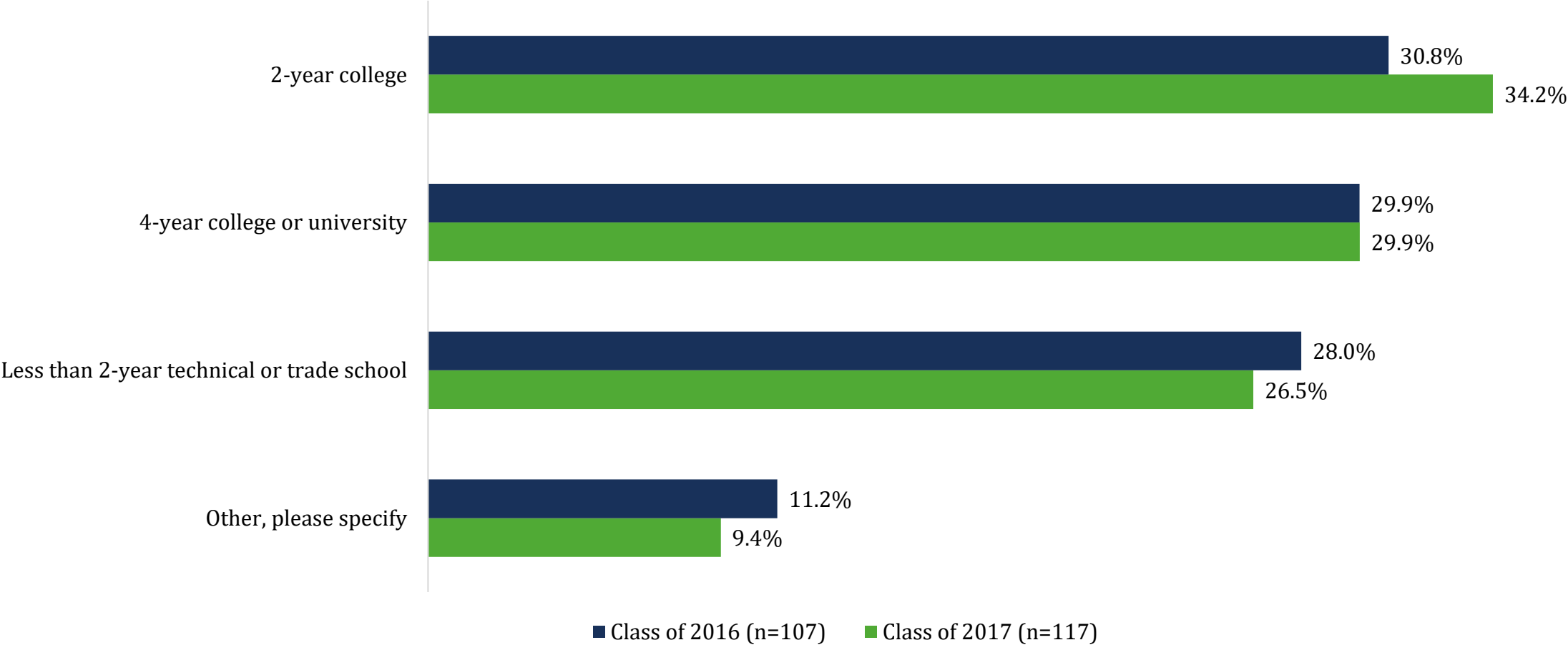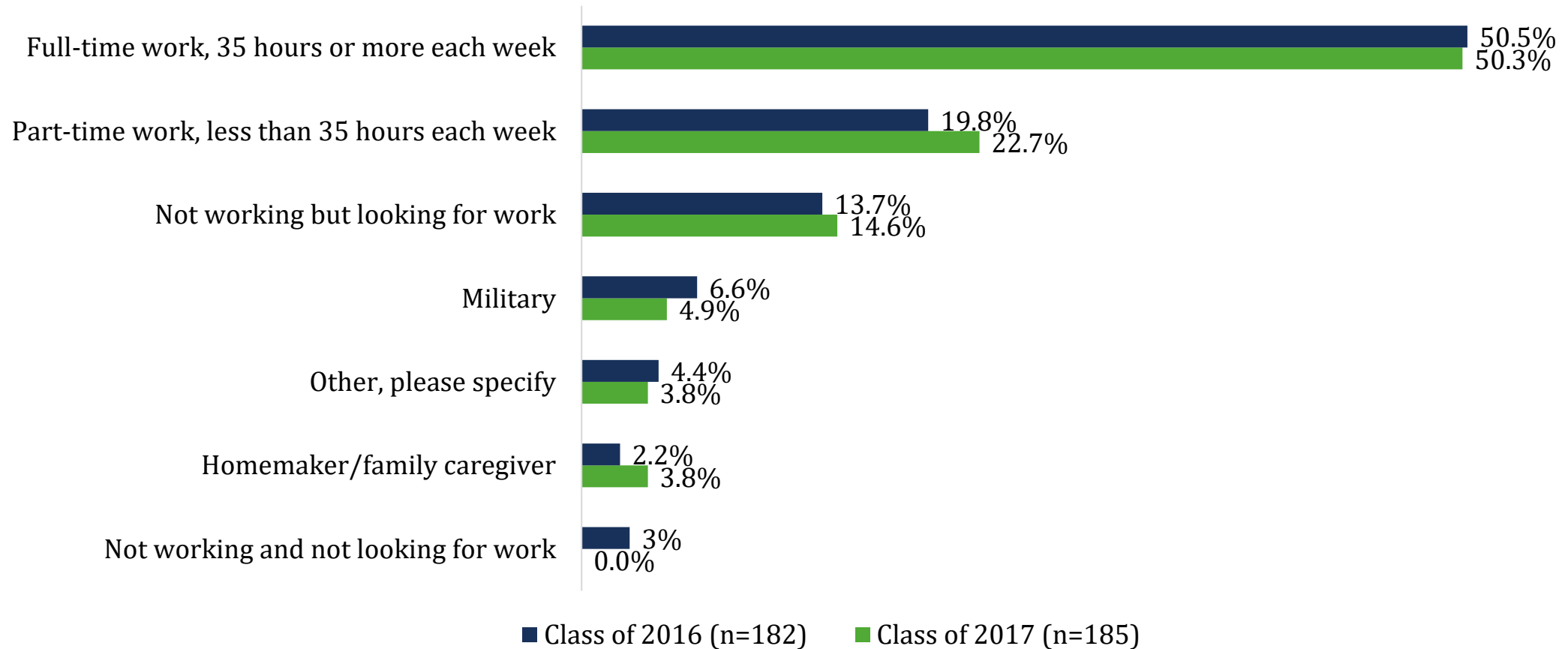
Class of 2016 (n=182)

41.2% No
58.8% Yes

Class of 2017 (n=185)

36.8% No
63.2% Yes
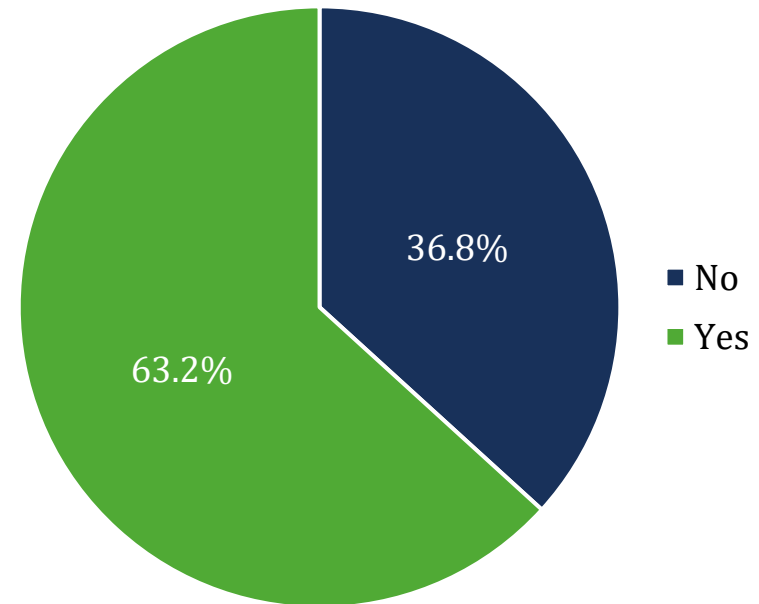
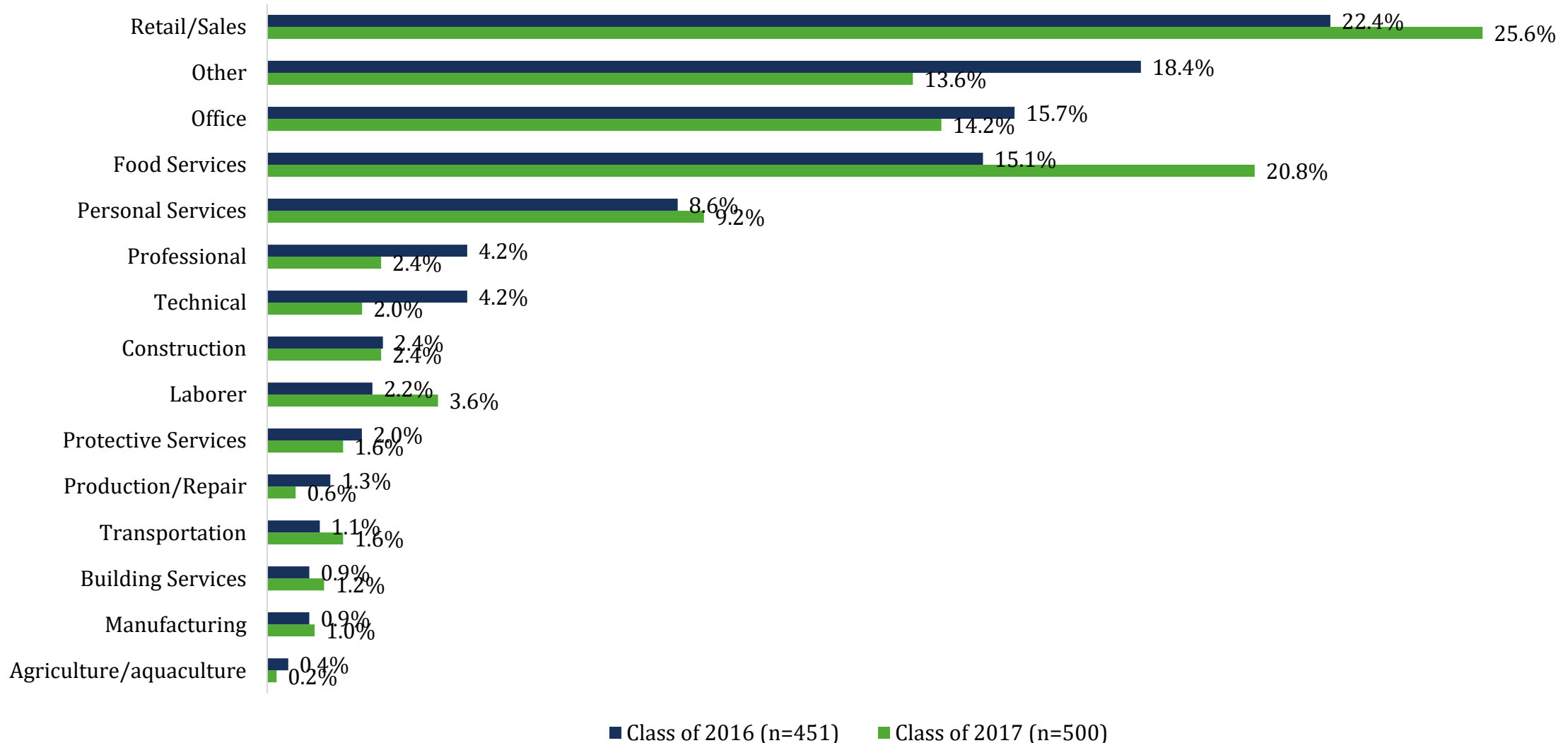# *If not currently enrolled in school:* Which of the following best describes the type of school you plan to attend?

Type	Class of 2016 (n=107)	Class of 2017 (n=117)
2-year college	30.8%	34.2%
4-year college or university	29.9%	29.9%
Less than 2-year technical or trade school	28.0%	26.5%
Other, please specify	11.2%	9.4%

If not currently enrolled in school: Current Work Status

Category	Class of 2016 (n=182)	Class of 2017 (n=185)
Full-time work, 35 hours or more each week	50.5%	50.3%
Part-time work, less than 35 hours each week	19.8%	22.7%
Not working but looking for work	13.7%	14.6%
Military	6.6%	4.9%
Other, please specify	4.4%	3.8%
Homemaker/family caregiver	2.2%	3.8%
Not working and not looking for work	3%	0.0%

■ Class of 2016 (n=182)   ■ Class of 2017 (n=185)

Which of the following best describes your work?

Category	Class of 2016 (n=451)	Class of 2017 (n=500)
Retail/Sales	22.4%	25.6%
Other	18.4%	13.6%
Office	15.7%	14.2%
Food Services	15.1%	20.8%
Personal Services	8.6%	9.2%
Professional	4.2%	2.4%
Technical	4.2%	2.0%
Construction	2.4%	2.4%
Laborer	2.2%	3.6%
Protective Services	2.0%	1.6%
Production/Repair	1.3%	0.6%
Transportation	1.1%	1.6%
Building Services	0.9%	1.2%
Manufacturing	0.9%	1.0%
Agriculture/aquaculture	0.4%	0.2%

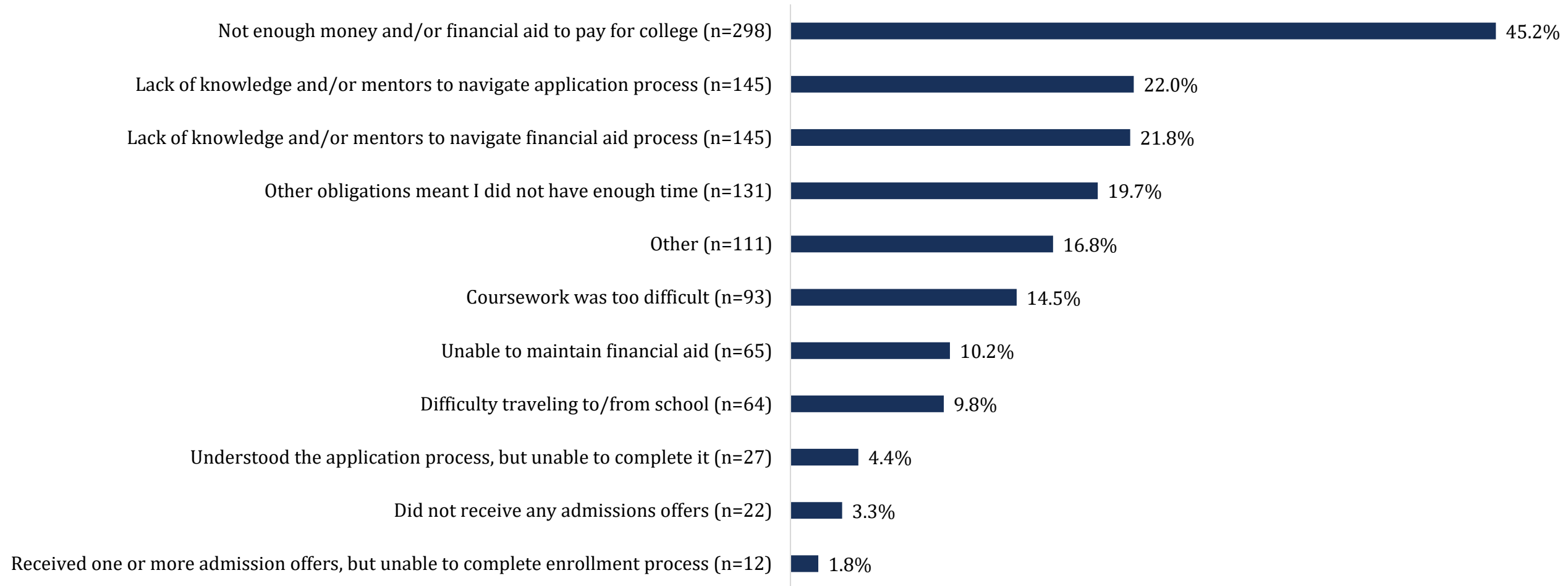■ Class of 2016 (n=451) ■ Class of 2017 (n=500)

*Includes responses from all students who work, including part-time work and students also enrolled in school
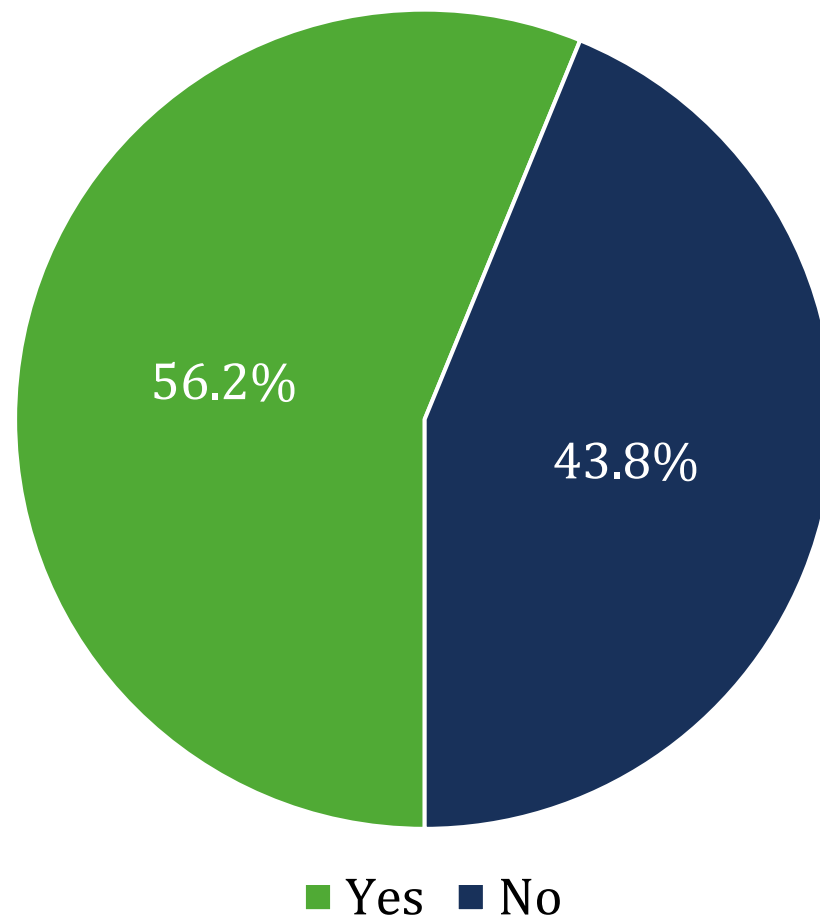
Postsecondary Obstacles

Did you experience any obstacles after high school that made it more difficult for you to achieve your original plans of pursuing your educational field? (n=1,369)

■ Yes ■ No

47.8%   52.2%
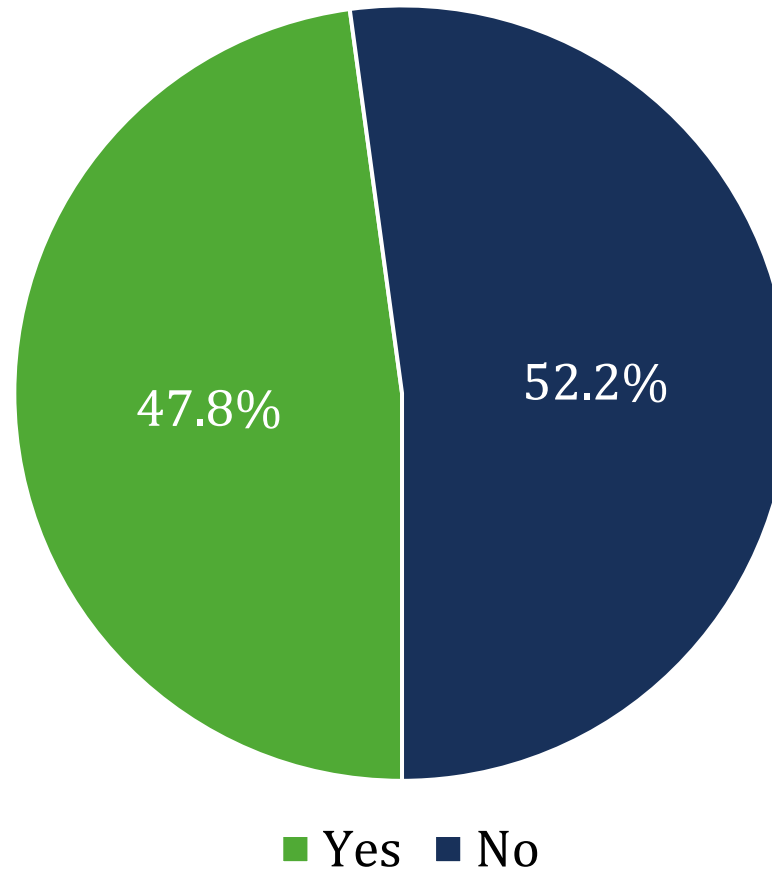
Which of the following best describe the obstacle(s) you faced in pursuing education after high school? (*Respondents could select more than one*)


Obstacle	Percentage
Not enough money and/or financial aid to pay for college (n=298)	45.2%
Lack of knowledge and/or mentors to navigate application process (n=145)	22.0%
Lack of knowledge and/or mentors to navigate financial aid process (n=145)	21.8%
Other obligations meant I did not have enough time (n=131)	19.7%
Other (n=111)	16.8%
Coursework was too difficult (n=93)	14.5%
Unable to maintain financial aid (n=65)	10.2%
Difficulty traveling to/from school (n=64)	9.8%
Understood the application process, but unable to complete it (n=27)	4.4%
Did not receive any admissions offers (n=22)	3.3%
Received one or more admission offers, but unable to complete enrollment process (n=12)	1.8%

Class of 2016 Respondents Only:
## Did you apply for any college scholarships? (n=710)

■ Yes ■ No

*Corresponds to response on 2015-16 Senior Exit Survey.

Financial obstacle was prevalent regardless of whether or not students applied for college scholarships during their senior year.

**Reported Financial Obstacle, Applied for College Scholarships (n=197)**

46.2% 53.8%

■ Yes ■ No
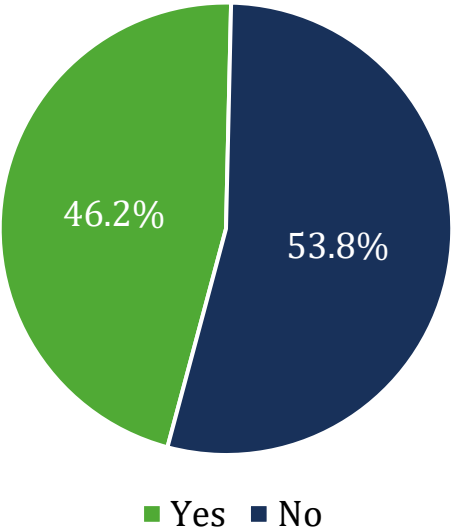
Reported Financial Obstacle, Did not apply for College Scholarships (n=124)

44.4% 55.6%

■ Yes ■ No
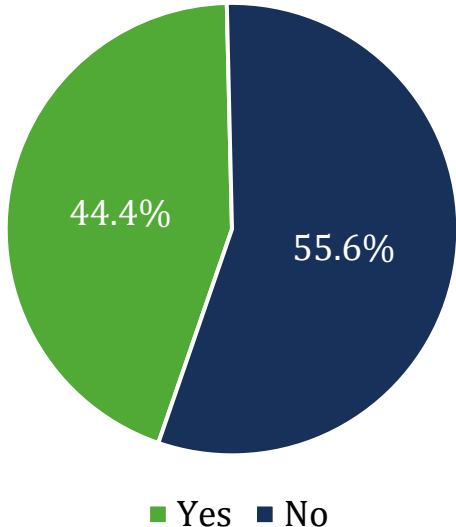
- Among Class of 2016 graduates who reported that they applied for college scholarships in the Senior Exit Survey AND reported experiencing obstacles in achieving education plans, 46.2% reported that not having enough money and/or financial aid to pay for college was an obstacle in pursuing education after college. Among those who did not apply for scholarships, 44.4% reported this as being an obstacle.

Did you experience any obstacles after high school that made it more difficult for you to achieve your original plans of working in your chosen field (n=81)?

Yes: 43.2%
No: 56.8%
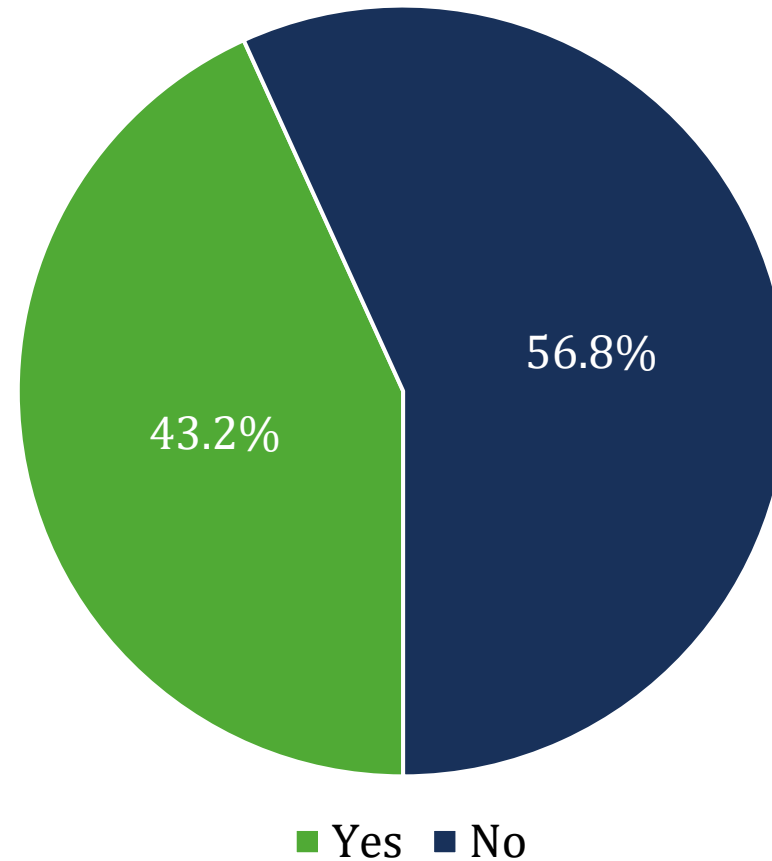
Student Responses to Obstacle Questions:

Family Matters

"Pregnancy"

"Became a mother"

"Death in family"

Health

"Mental health"

"I don't want to go to college but I'm having problems getting a job because of my disability."

"My brain injury directly interfered with my plans."

Academics

"Wasn't fully prepared for the college curriculum"

"School shut down"

"Indecisive about coursework"

"Lack of guidance through my first 2 years in college"

Summary of Survey Results

Conclusions

- 710 Students from the Class of 2016 completed the Graduate Follow-Up Survey, representing 12.9% of those contacted and 8.5% of the graduating class .

- 801 students from the Class of 2017 completed the Graduate Follow-Up Survey, representing, 15.3% of those contacted and 9.6% of the graduating class.

- 76.8% of Class of 2016 and 74.5% of Class of 2017 Respondents indicated that they were currently enrolled in school.

- Of all respondents who intended work, only 45.7% report achieving or having started achieving their high school plans compared to 74.6% of seniors who intended education.

- Approximately half of all students reported experiencing obstacles after HS that interfered with plans.

- Not enough money and/or financial aid to pay for college was the single largest obstacle reported for students who intended education (45.2% of students who intended education and reported obstacle).