

**Ph.D. Exit Survey**  
**Summary of Responses for Academic Year 2016**  
(Summer 2015, Fall 2015, & Spring2016)

University of Pennsylvania



## Table of Contents

Respondent Representativeness (based on SRS file).....	5
Respondents by Graduate Group.....	6
Respondents by Time to Degree.....	8
Demographics.....	9
Academic.....	13
Faculty.....	18
Financial.....	28
Career Services.....	31
Teaching and Research.....	34
Future.....	41
Satisfaction.....	47
Campus Life and Penn Community.....	50



2015-16 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Respondent Representativeness (based on census file)

University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D Exit Survey	Population	Respondents	Response Rate		
	463	448	97%		

By School	Population	Respondents	Population Distribution	Respondent Distribution	Difference
Annenberg School for Communication	11	11	2%	2%	0.1%
A&S Humanities	62	59	13%	13%	-0.2%
A&S Social Science	76	75	16%	17%	0.3%
A&S Natural Science	49	46	11%	10%	-0.3%
Design	7	7	2%	2%	0.1%
Graduate School of Education	20	19	4%	4%	-0.1%
Perelman School of Medicine	120	115	26%	26%	-0.2%
School of Engineering & Applied Science	75	74	16%	17%	0.3%
School of Nursing	11	10	2%	2%	-0.1%
School of Social Policy & Practice	1	1	0%	0%	0.0%
The Wharton School	31	31	7%	7%	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

By Race/Ethnicity	Population	Respondents	Population Distribution	Respondent Distribution	Difference
International	131	131	28%	29%	0.9%
<b>Non-URM</b>					
Asian American/Pacific Islander	34	34	7%	8%	0.2%
White non-Hispanic	226	226	49%	50%	1.6%
Other/Unknown	29	14	6%	3%	-3.1%
<b>URM</b>					
African American/Black	12	12	3%	3%	0.1%
Hispanic/Latino/a	31	31	7%	7%	0.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native					
Two or more races					
<b>Total</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

By Academic Year	Population	Respondents	Population Distribution	Respondent Distribution	Difference
Male	246	240	53%	54%	0.4%
Female	217	208	47%	46%	-0.4%
Transgender					
Other/Unknown					
<b>Total</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

By Cluster	Population	Respondents	Population Distribution	Respondent Distribution	Difference
Engineering	59	59	13%	13%	0.4%
Formal Science	48	47	10%	10%	0.1%
Humanities	65	62	14%	14%	-0.2%
Life Science	133	128	29%	29%	-0.2%
Physical Science	45	44	10%	10%	0.1%
Social Science	113	108	24%	24%	-0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

2015-16 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Respondents by Graduate Group

University of Pennsylvania

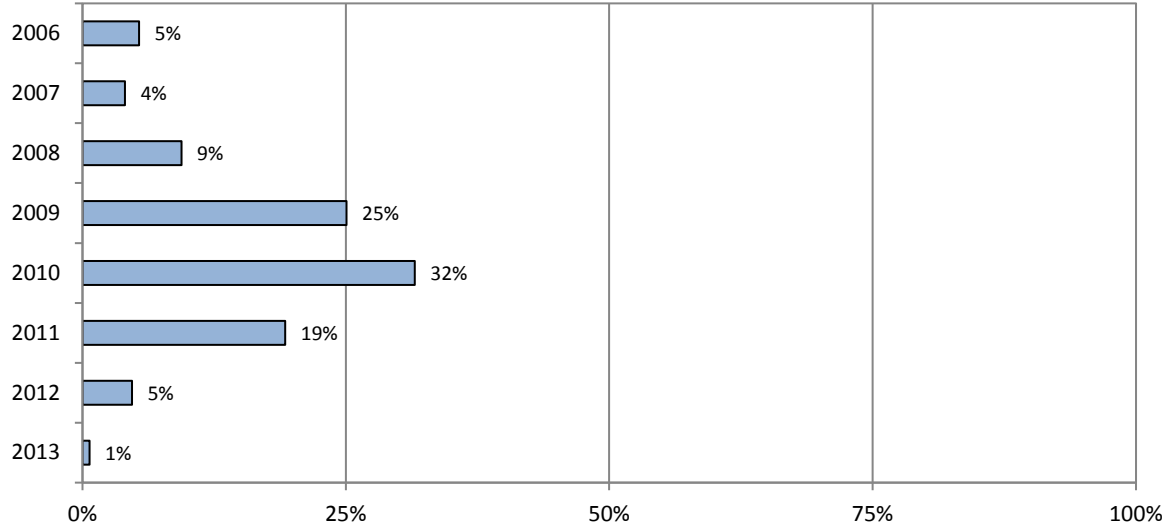
Graduate Group	Year Graduated							
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Engineering Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>59</b>
Bioengineering	12	25	25	18	18	14	21	13
Chemical and Bio-molecular Engineering	6	10	12	5	11	10	13	13
Electrical and Systems Engineering	1	2	10	7	4	5	9	10
Materials Science and Engineering	7	9	9	6	4	4	11	15
Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics	6	8	11	10	6	6	13	8
<b>Formal Science Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>
Applied Math and Computational Science		1	.	.	3	5	3	1
Bio-statistics						5	2	0
Computer and Information Science	12	8	10	11	12	14	14	15
Mathematics	13	9	10	9	5	17	4	10
Operations and Information Management	1	3	1	8	6	5	3	5
Statistics	7	3	3	6	1	10	3	6
<b>Humanities Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>62</b>
Africana Studies					1	.	1	0
Ancient History	2	3	.	1	1	2	.	1
Architecture	4	4	5	.	3	2	1	3
Art and Archeology of the Mediterranean World	1	1	6	2	1	2	2	1
Classical Studies	3	4	2	7	2	3	3	5
Comparative Literature and Theory	5	4	2	4	4	6	4	4
East Asian Languages and Civilizations	5	0	4	7	3	6	6	4
English	11	8	14	15	4	12	9	11
Folklore and Folk-life	2	4	.	.	0	1	0	0
Germanic Languages and Literatures	2	4	2	.	1	3	1	0
History	11	12	15	16	4	11	13	13
History of Art	1	6	5	8	3	3	3	2
Music	2	5	6	5	1	4	4	1
Near Eastern Languages and Civilization	1	7	7	4	1	2	8	0
Philosophy	5	4	8	2	1	3	5	3
Religious Studies							2	1
Romance Languages	9	9	6	9	6	3	5	12
South Asia Regional Studies	3	2	4	2	1	2	3	1
<b>Life Science Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>134</b>
Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics	9	12	4	8	7	17	8	8
Biology	2	8	9	14	6	9	7	8
Biomedical Graduate Studies	.	.	.	.	.	10	16	0
CAMB-Cancer Biology	3	14	14	4	11	2	3	9
CAMB-Cell Biology and Physiology	4	4	8	4	2	11	10	7
CAMB-Development Stem Cell and Regenerative B	2	2	7	5	8	0	1	3
CAMB-Gene Therapy and Vaccines	2	3	5	2	8	0	5	6
CAMB-Genetics and Gene Regulation B	4	12	5	4	2	1	.	4
CAMB-Microbiology, Virology, and Parasitology	5	17	15	13	13	4	2	11
Cell and Molecular Biology	.	.	.	.	.	16	21	19
Epidemiology and Bio-statistics	4	4	9	7	6	5	6	8
Genomics and Computational Biology	2	8	2	2	4	8	4	6
Immunology	5	15	10	9	8	22	9	8
Neuroscience	13	14	21	20	16	17	21	20
Nursing	2	13	14	11	7	13	13	11
Pharmacological Sciences	11	11	21	6	10	11	13	6
<b>Physical Science Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>44</b>
Chemistry	19	22	33	19	31	31	29	26
Earth and Environmental Science	3	1	3	5	4	2	4	2
Physics and Astronomy	12	14	16	12	13	13	26	16

2015-16 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Respondents by Graduate Group

University of Pennsylvania

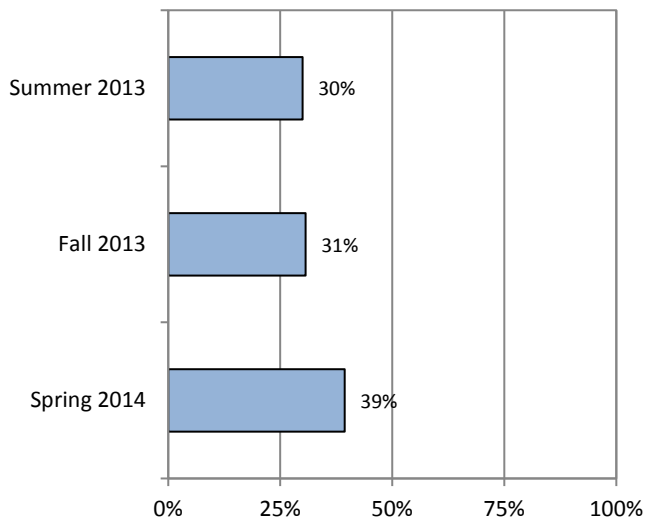
Graduate Group	Year Graduated							
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Social Science Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>112</b>
Accounting	.	1	3	2	1	1	2	0
Anthropology	4	12	5	7	5	3	11	6
Applied Economics	2	12	6	2	6	3	5	7
City and Regional Planning	2	3	1	2	0	6	8	4
Communication	5	18	21	6	11	11	6	10
Criminology	.	4	2	1	1	.	3	2
Demography	7	1	6	5	3	8	5	8
Economics	16	21	16	13	16	19	15	19
Education	26	18	23	24	14	23	19	19
Finance	5	4	6	6	1	19	8	4
Health Care Management and Economics	2	5	7	.	1	2	1	4
History and Sociology of Science	5	4	2	2	1	3	7	4
Legal Studies and Business Ethics	.	.	1	2	1	1	2	0
Linguistics	3	5	5	2	7	3	5	4
Management	9	3	4	5	4	3	4	2
Marketing	5	4	1	2	1	.	3	3
Political Science	3	8	9	7	2	7	11	4
Psychology	7	10	6	11	4	5	7	8
Social Welfare	5	4	13	7	7	2	6	1
Sociology	4	6	6	4	5	4	5	3
	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>University Total</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>448</b>

Figure 2: When did you first enroll at Penn as a graduate student?



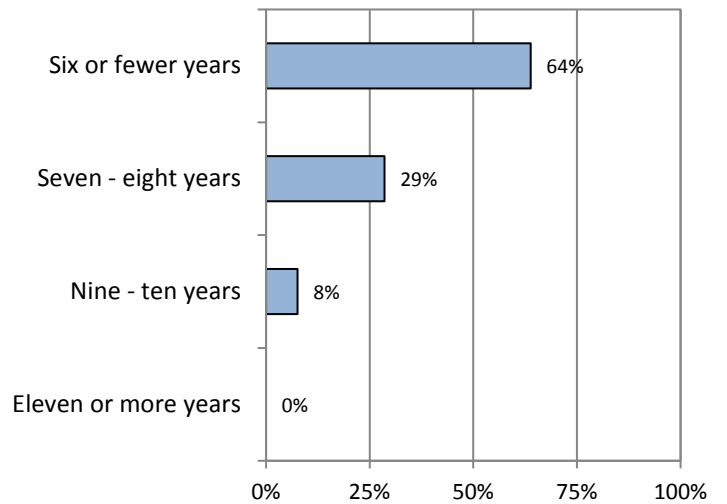
Responses: 447

Figure 3: Degrees Awarded by Term:



Responses: 447

Figure 4: Average Time to Degree: (semester/year degree received - semester/year degree started)



Responses: 448  
(Mean=5.89, Std=1.53)



Figure 5: Respondents by Gender:

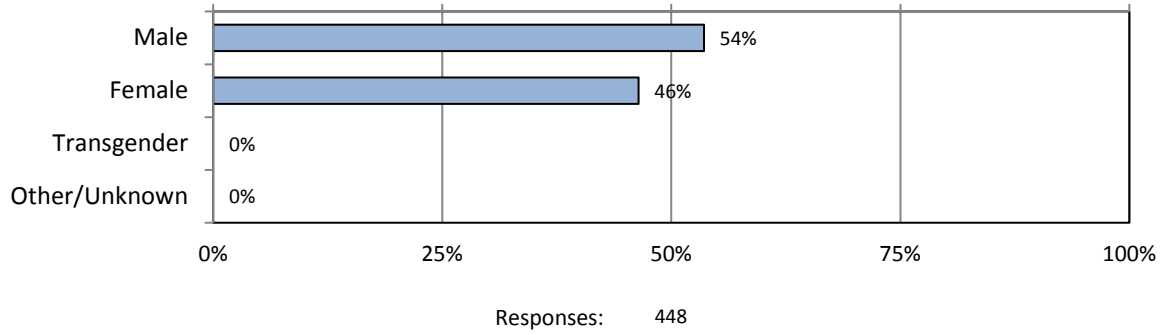


Figure 6: Percent of respondents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or queer:

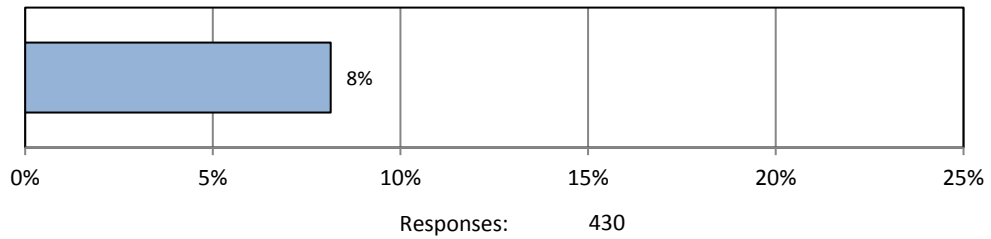


Figure 7: Respondents current citizenship status:

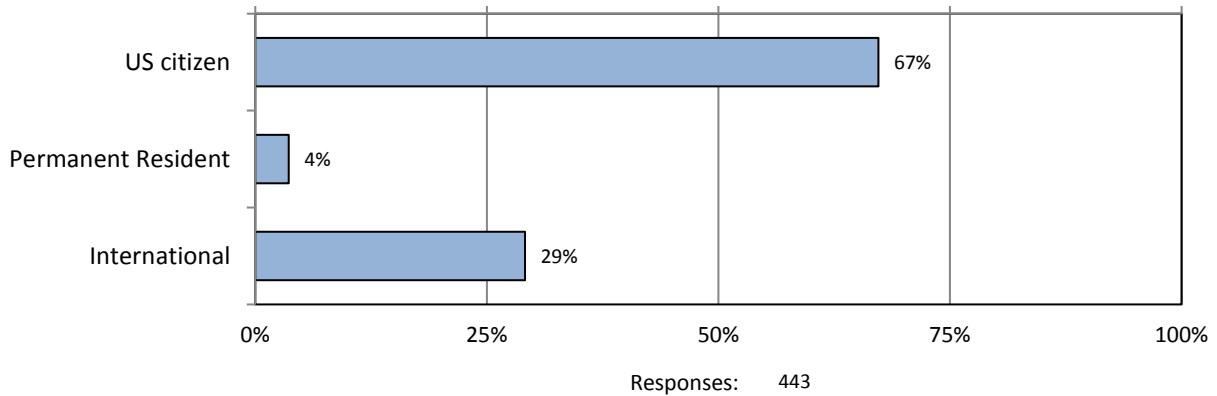


Figure 6: Question added in AY 2013-2014.

Figure 8: Respondents by Race:

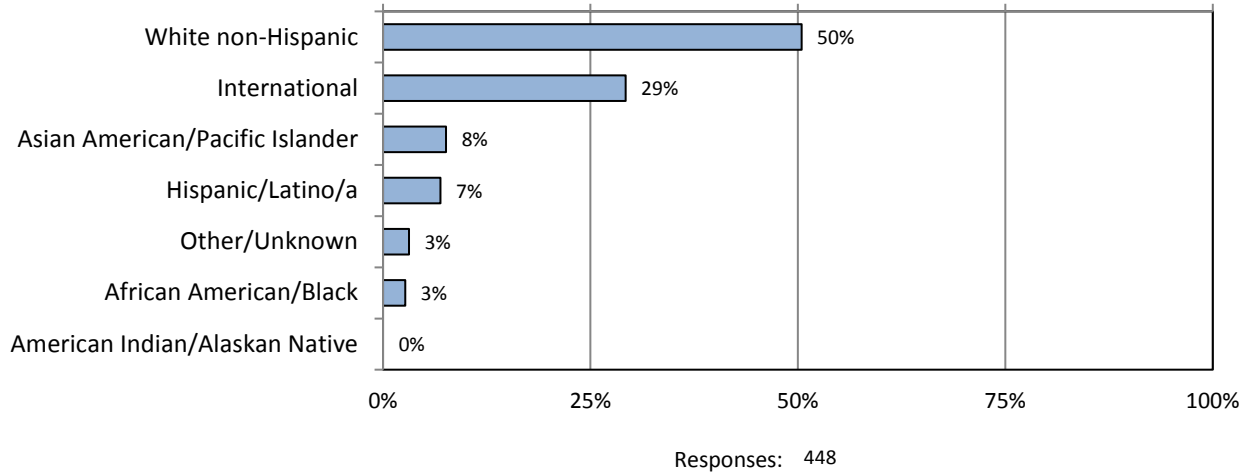


Figure 9: Percent of respondents who are currently married or living with a long-term partner:

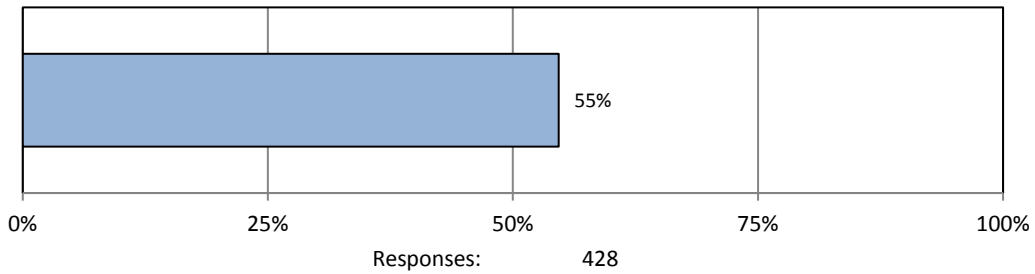
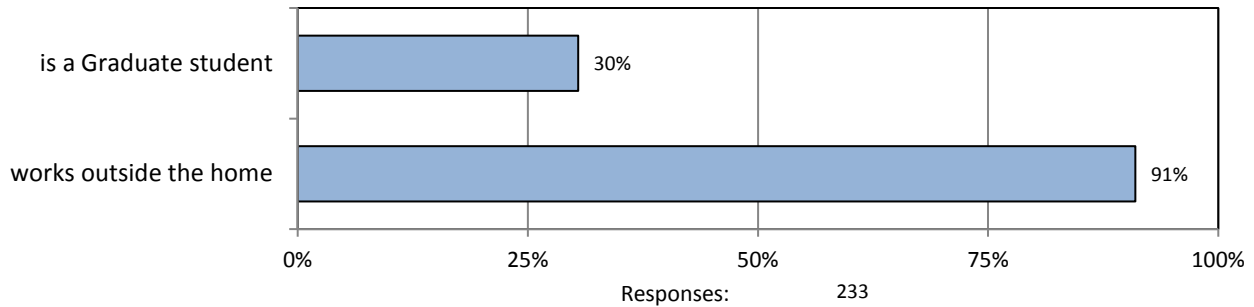
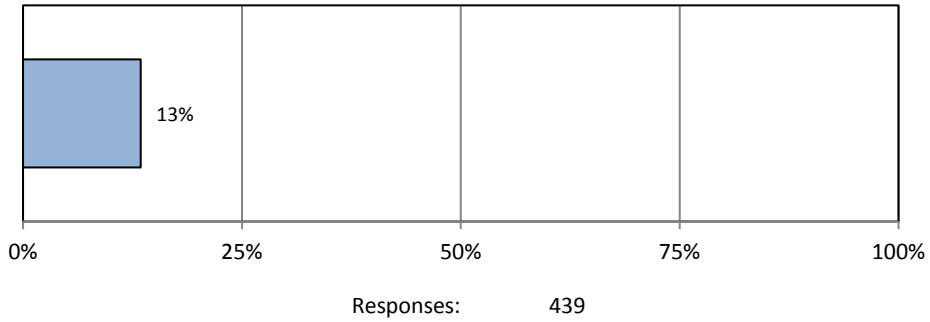


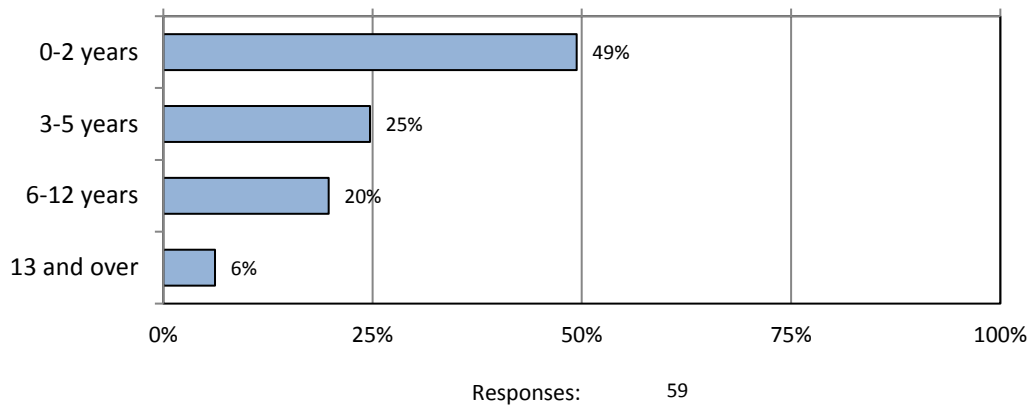
Figure 10: Percent of respondents whose spouse or partner...



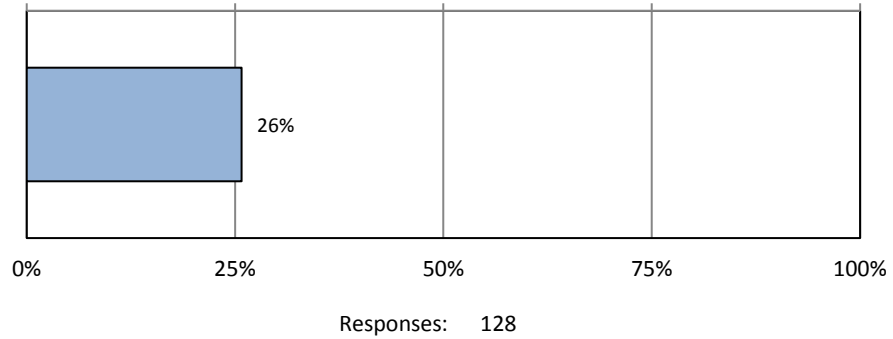
**\*Figure 11: Percent of respondents with children:**



**Figure 12: Of those with children, percent who have children in the following age ranges:**

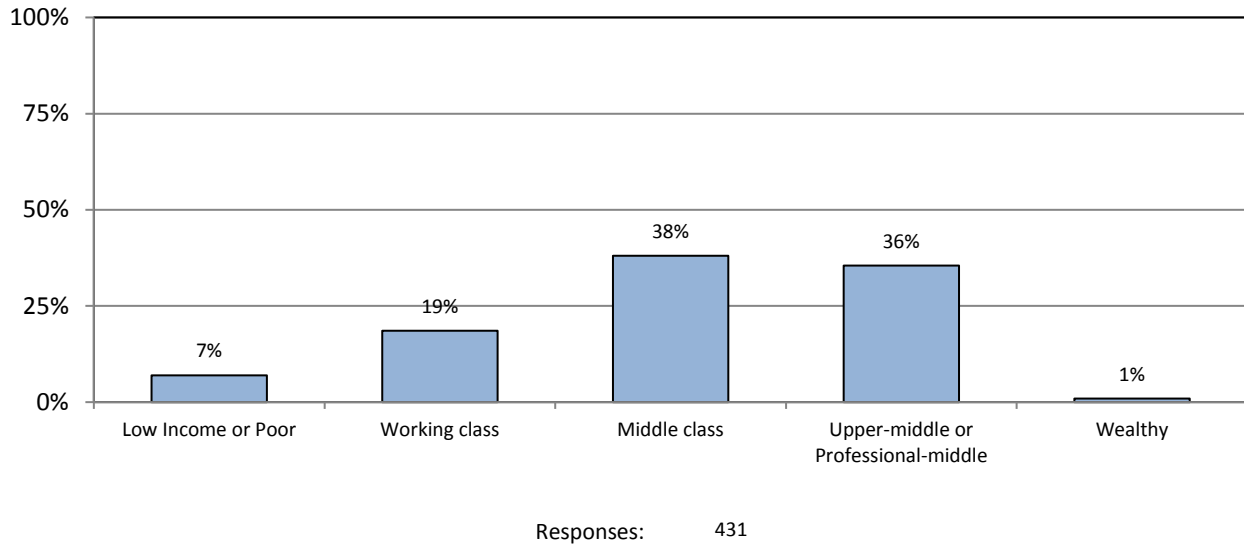


**Figure 13: Percent of international students who plan to return to their country for professional employment within the next two years:**

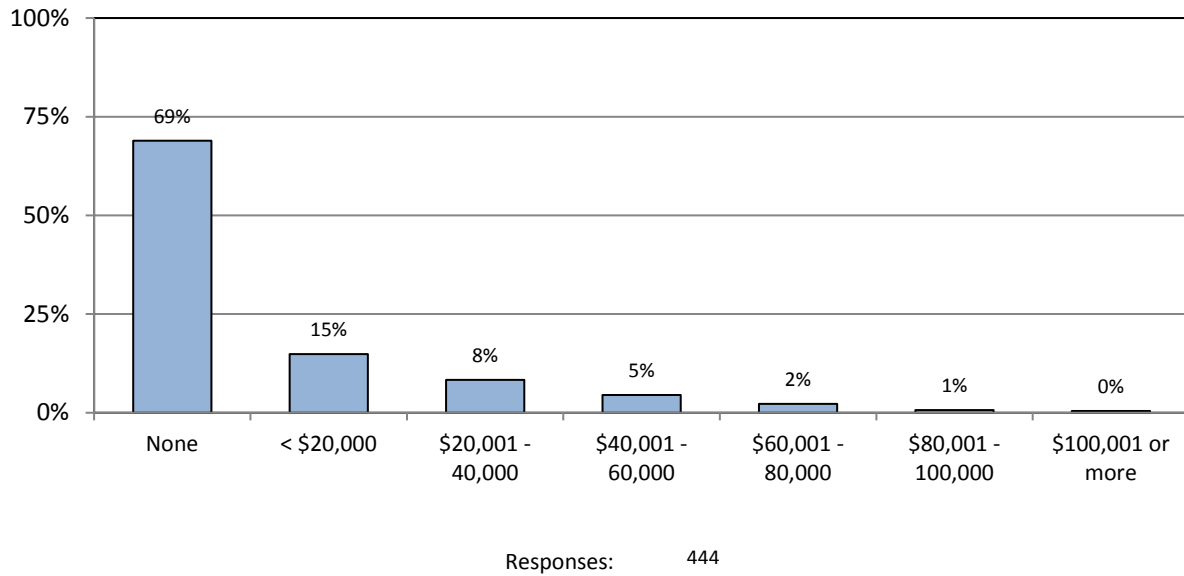


*\*Question was phrased differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.*

Figure 14: Respondents by self identified Socio-Economic Status:

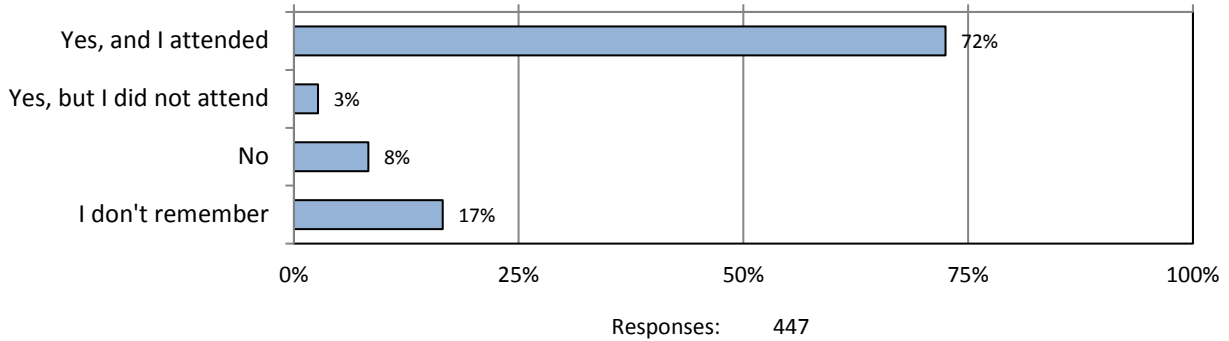


\*Figure 14a: Debt related to UNDERGRADUATE education:

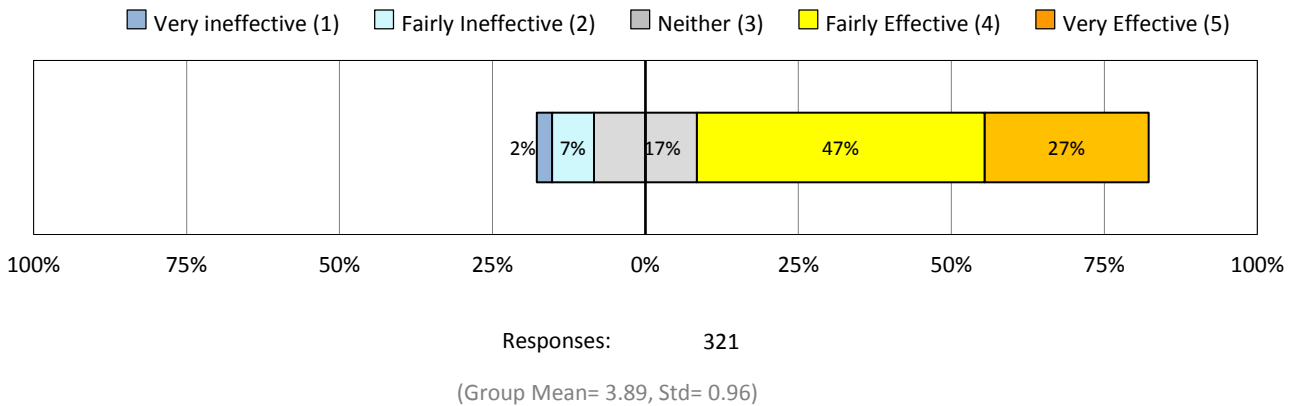


\*Question added in AY 2015-2016.

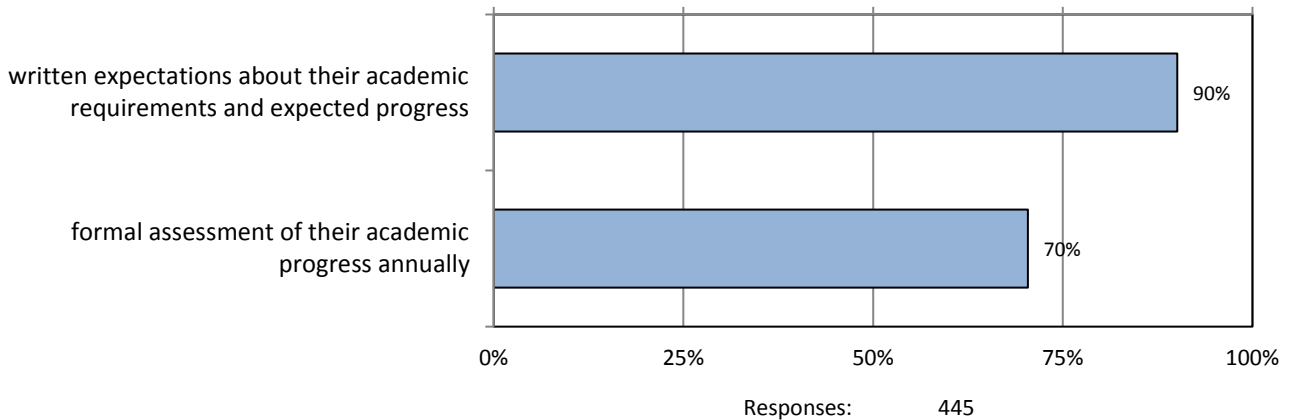
**\*Figure 15: Did your Ph.D program provide you with a formal orientation to help you understand the process of completing your graduate degree?**



**Figure 16: How effective was this orientation in helping you to understand the process of completing your graduate degree?**

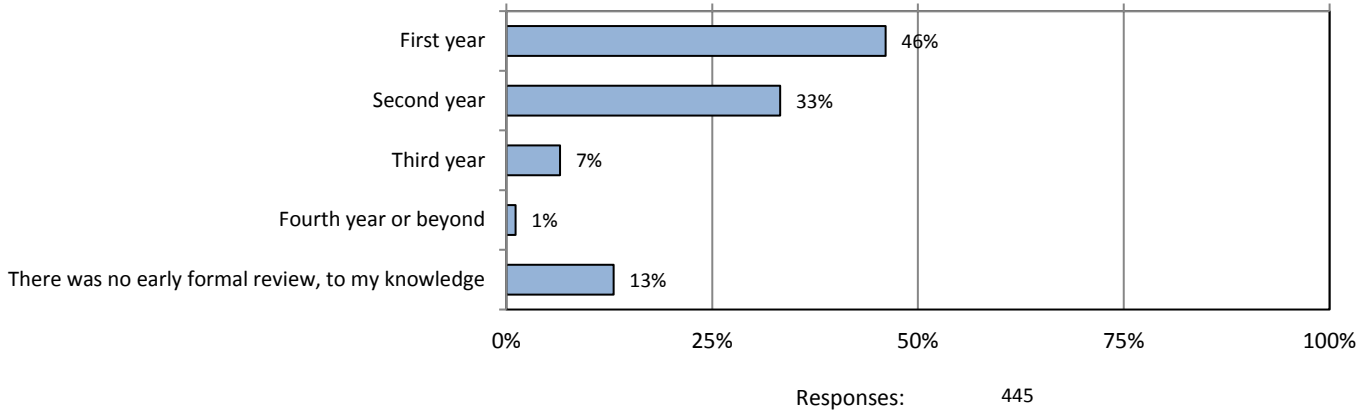


**Figure 17: Percent of respondents who received...**

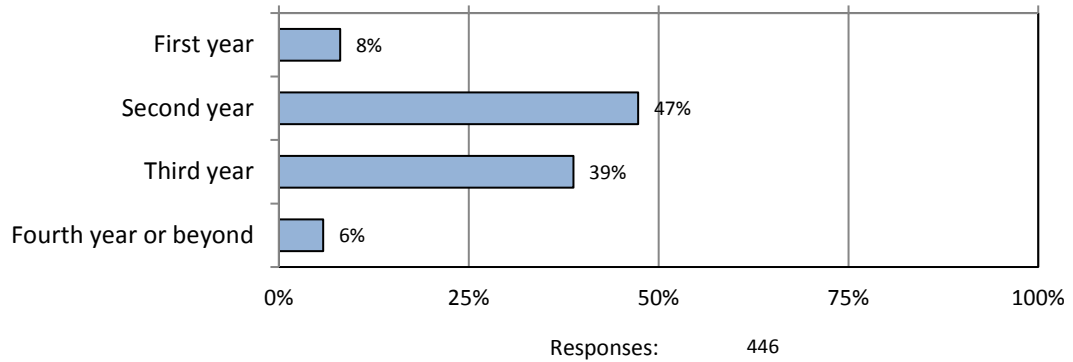


\*Response categories were modified beginning in AY 2013-2014.

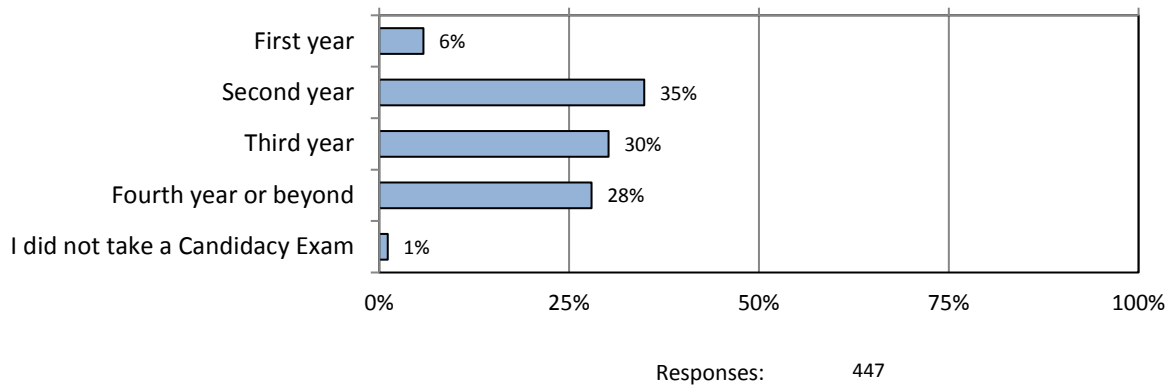
**\*Figure 17a: Was there an early formal academic assessment or exam to review your overall academic progress?**



**\*Figure 17b: In what year of study did you complete your required course work for the Ph.D.**

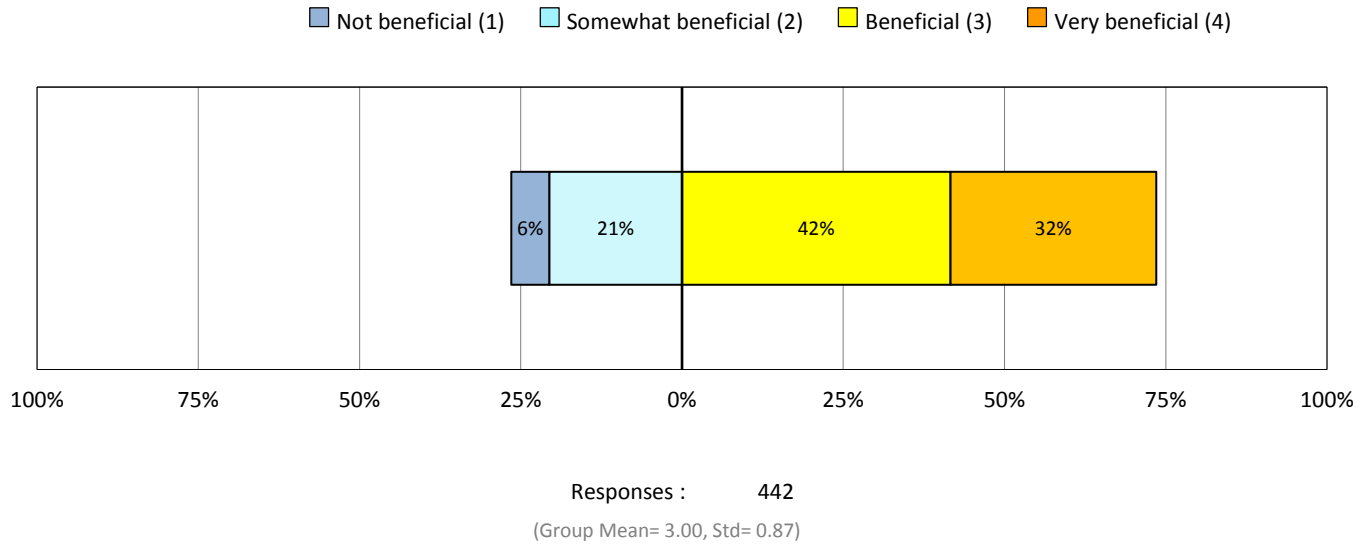


**\*Figure 17c: In what year of study did you complete the Candidacy Exam (formerly known as the Proposal Defense)?**

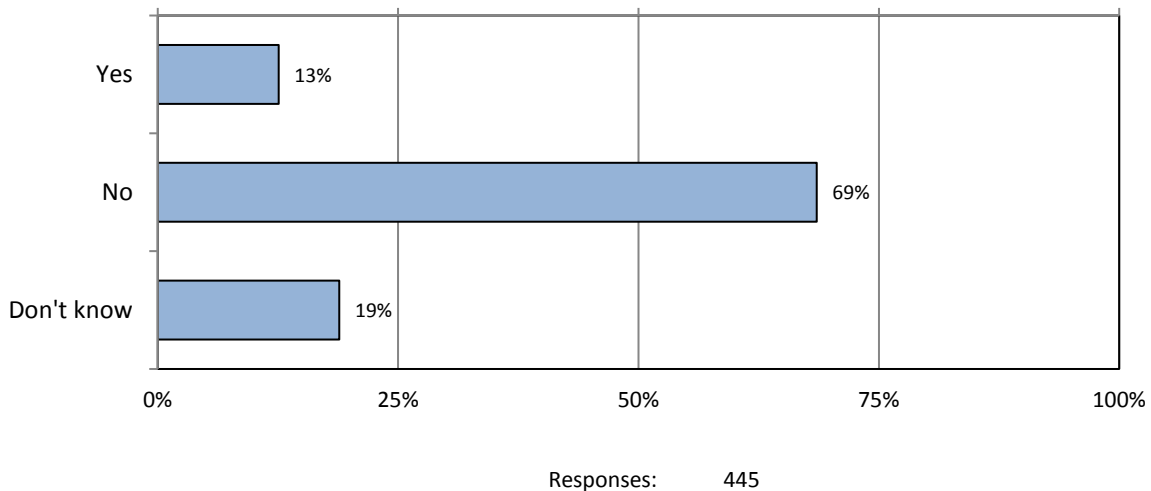


\*Questions added in AY 2014-2015.

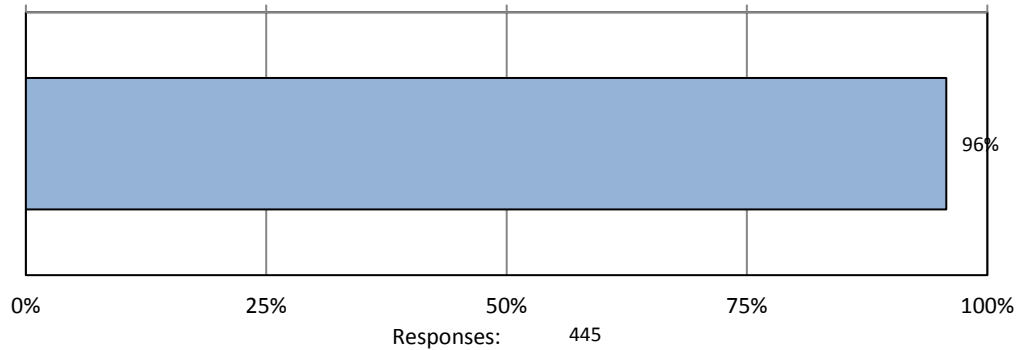
**Figure 18: Please consider your Candidacy Exam (the last examination before you undertook your dissertation research). Was this a beneficial educational experience?**



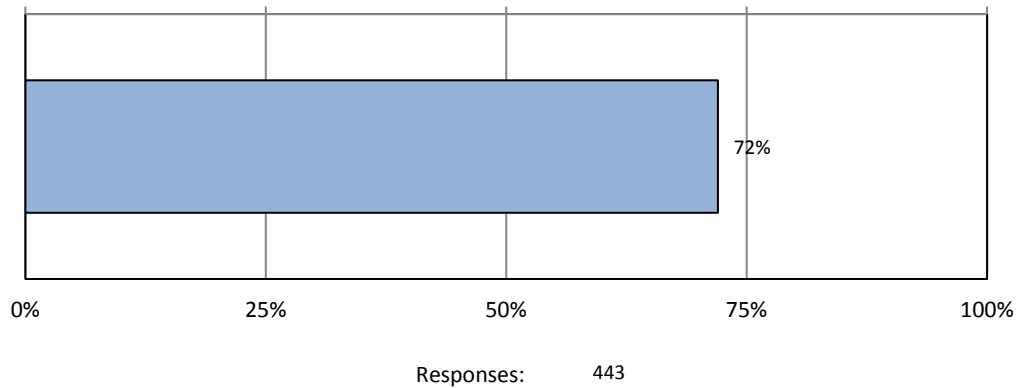
**Figure 19: Do you think the Candidacy Exam in its current form should be modified?**



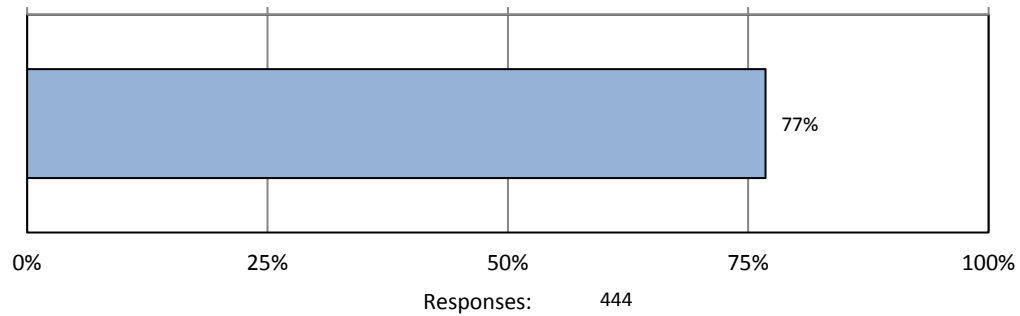
**\*Figure 19a: After being assigned a Dissertation Advisor, percent of respondents who met with this individual at least twice each year to establish expectations and to review progress:**



**\*Figure 19b: While working on dissertation, percent of respondents who prepared an Annual Dissertation Report summarizing progress:**



**\*Figure 19c: After being assigned a Dissertation Committee, percent of respondents who met with the Committee at least once annually.**



*\*Questions added at the middle of 2014-2015 survey administration.*



Figure 20: To what extent were the following factors an obstacle to your academic progress?

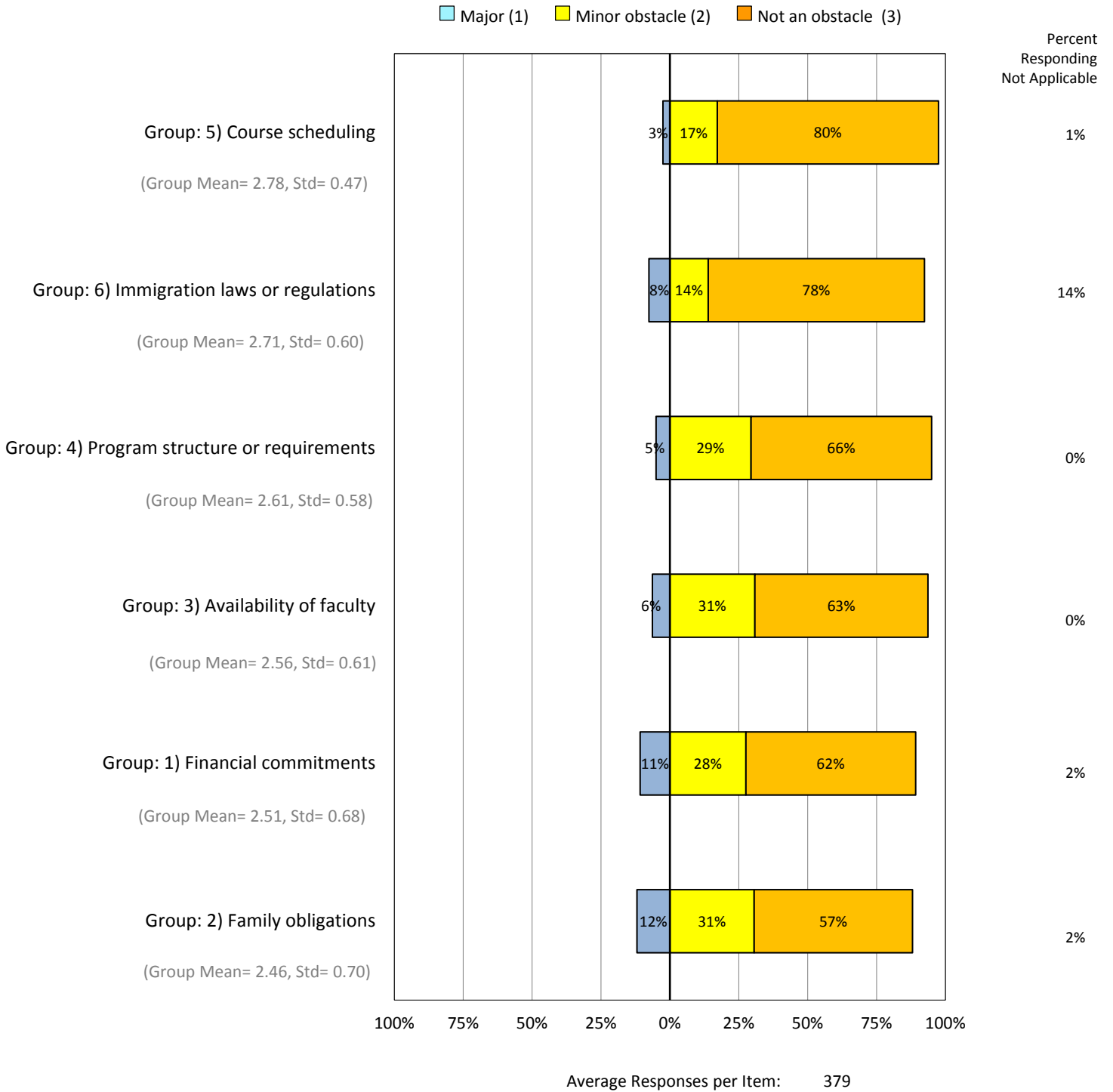


Figure 21: How many faculty served on your Dissertation committee?

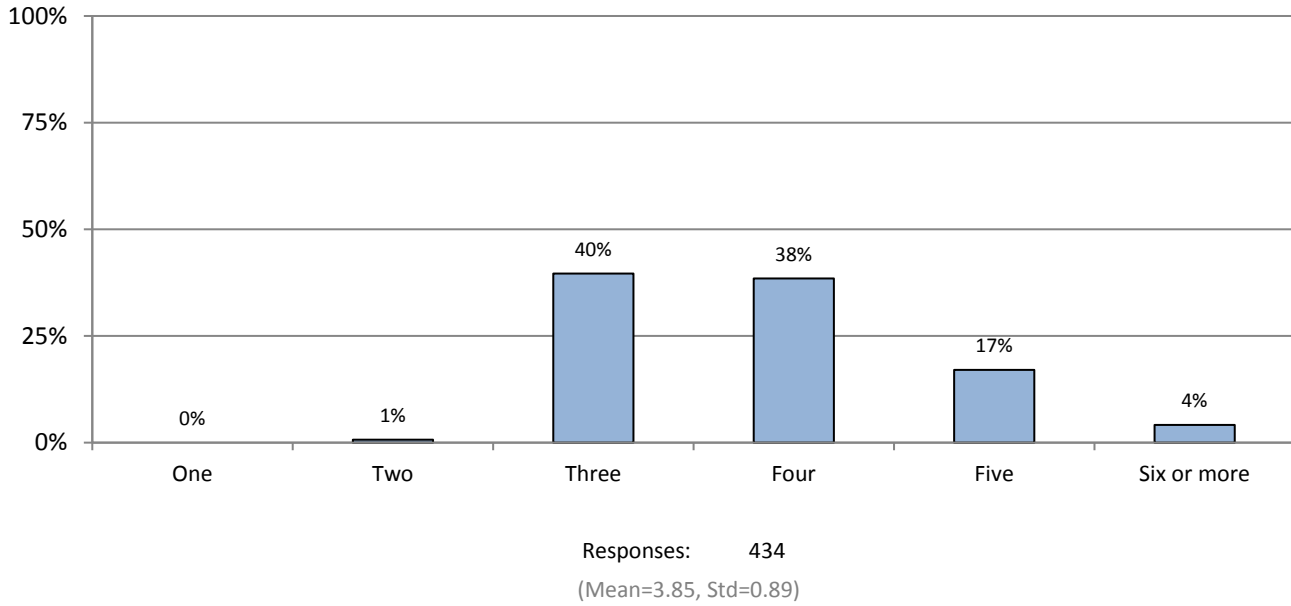
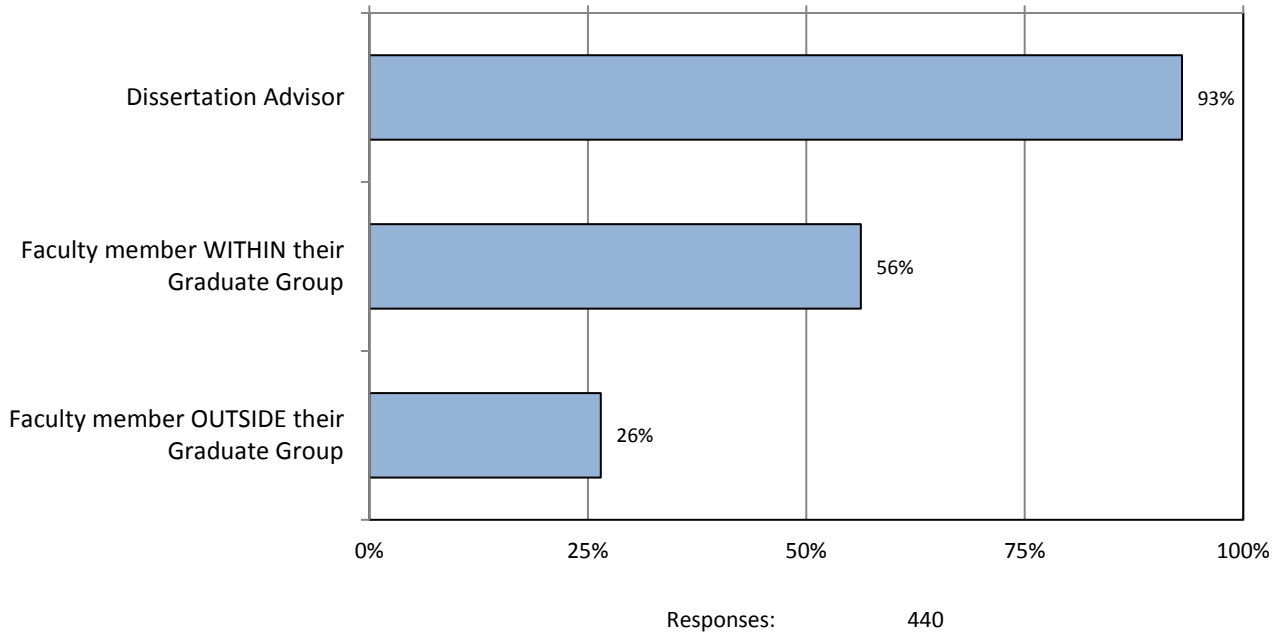
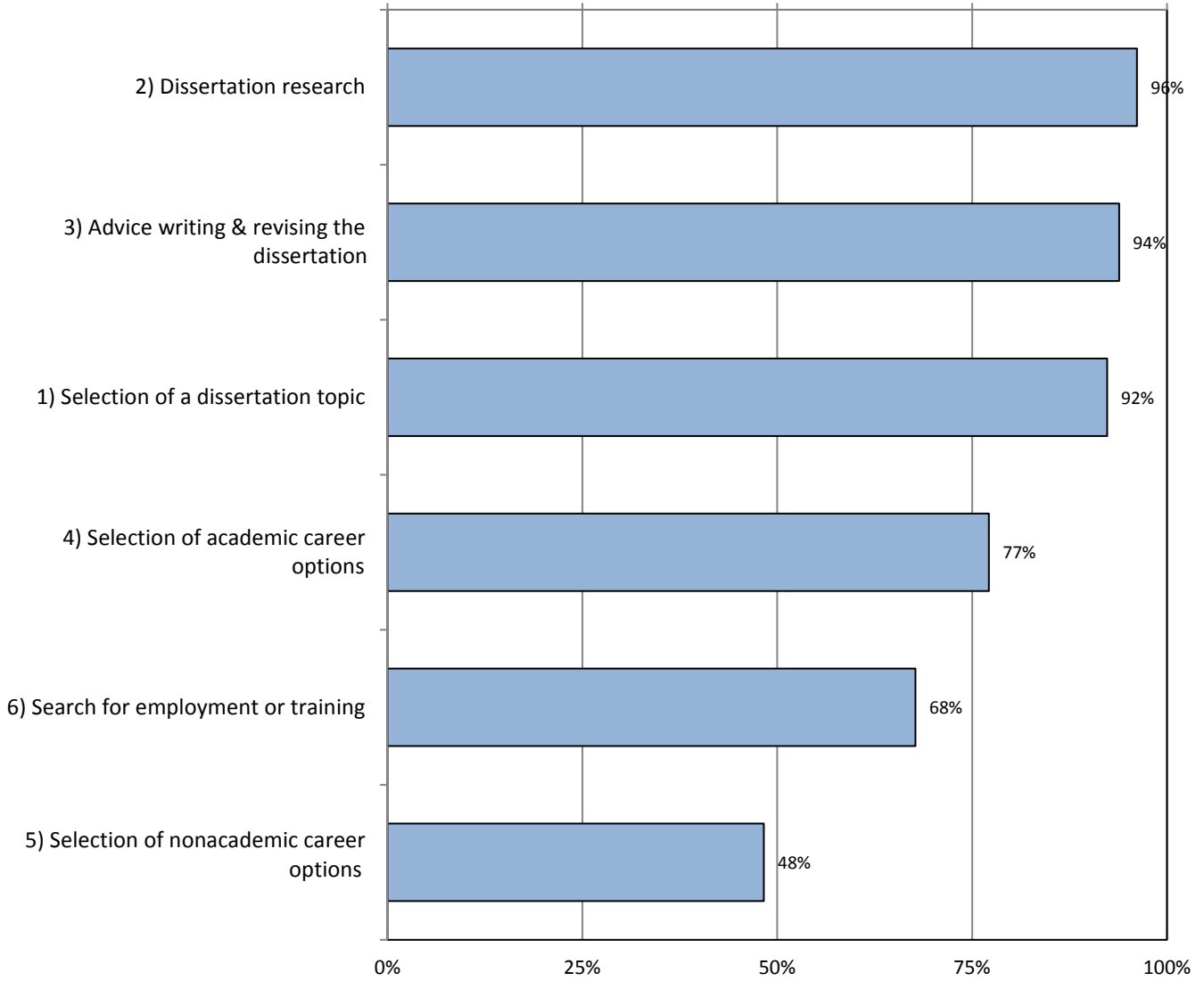


Figure 22: Percent of respondents who received mentoring from:



**\*Figure 23: Of those who received mentoring from DISSERTATION ADVISOR, percent received assistance or support on each of the following:**



Responses: 440

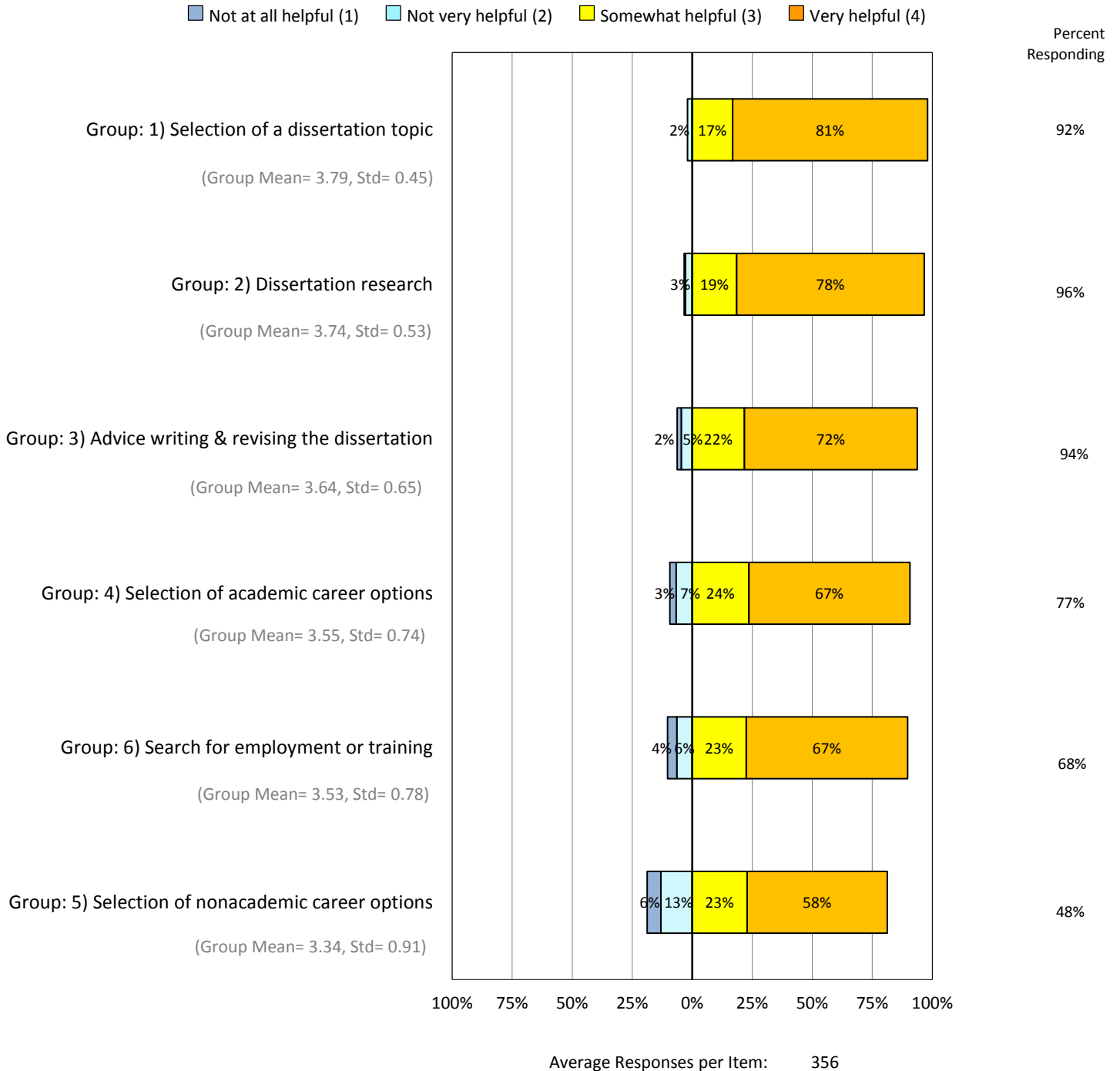
*\*Question added in AY 2013-2014.*

Figure 23a: If you have received assistance or support from your Dissertation Advisor on each of the following items, how **TIMELY** was the assistance or support?

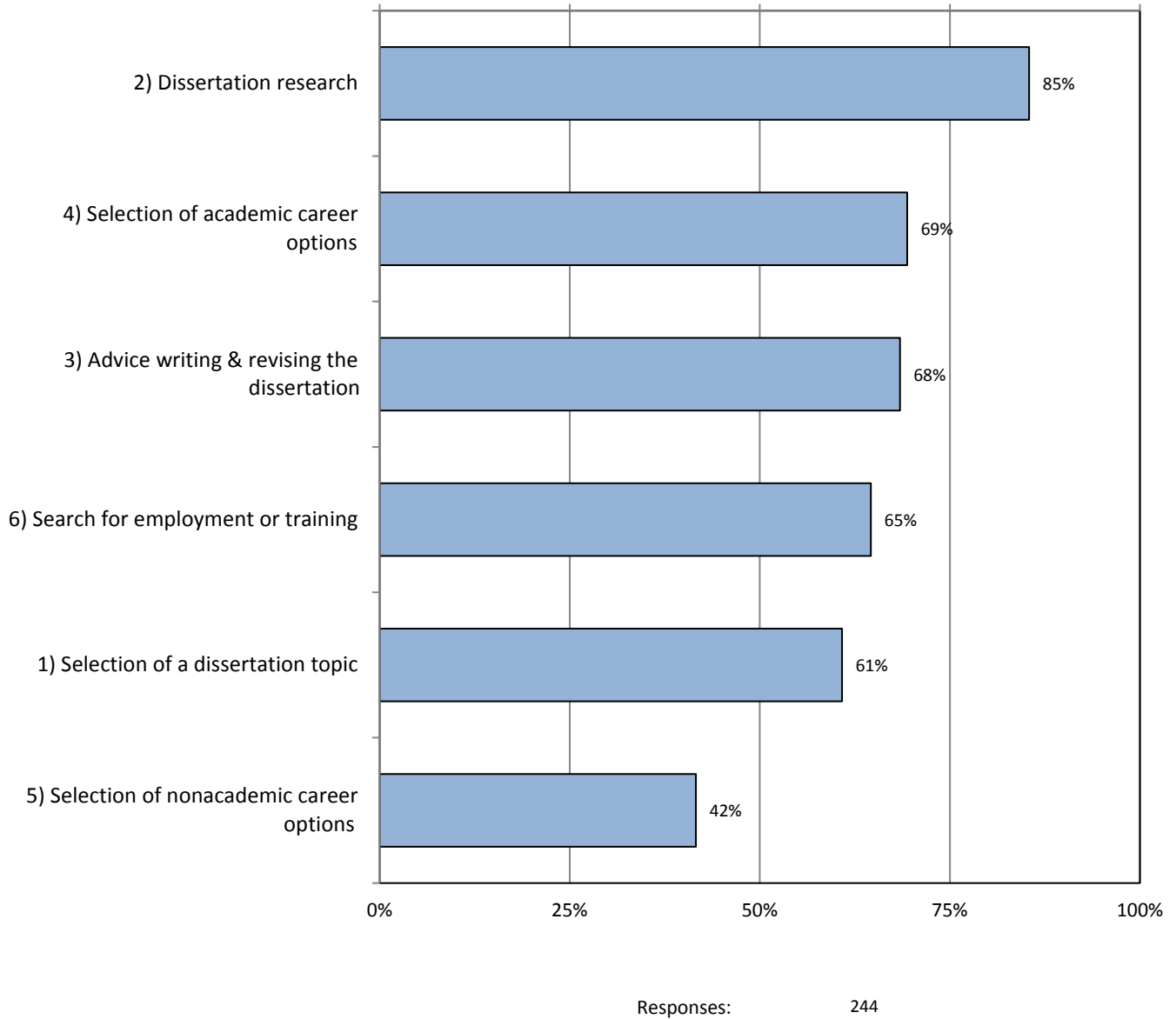


Average Responses per Item: 360

Figure 23b: If you have received assistance or support from your Dissertation Advisor on each of the following items, how HELPFUL was the assistance or support?

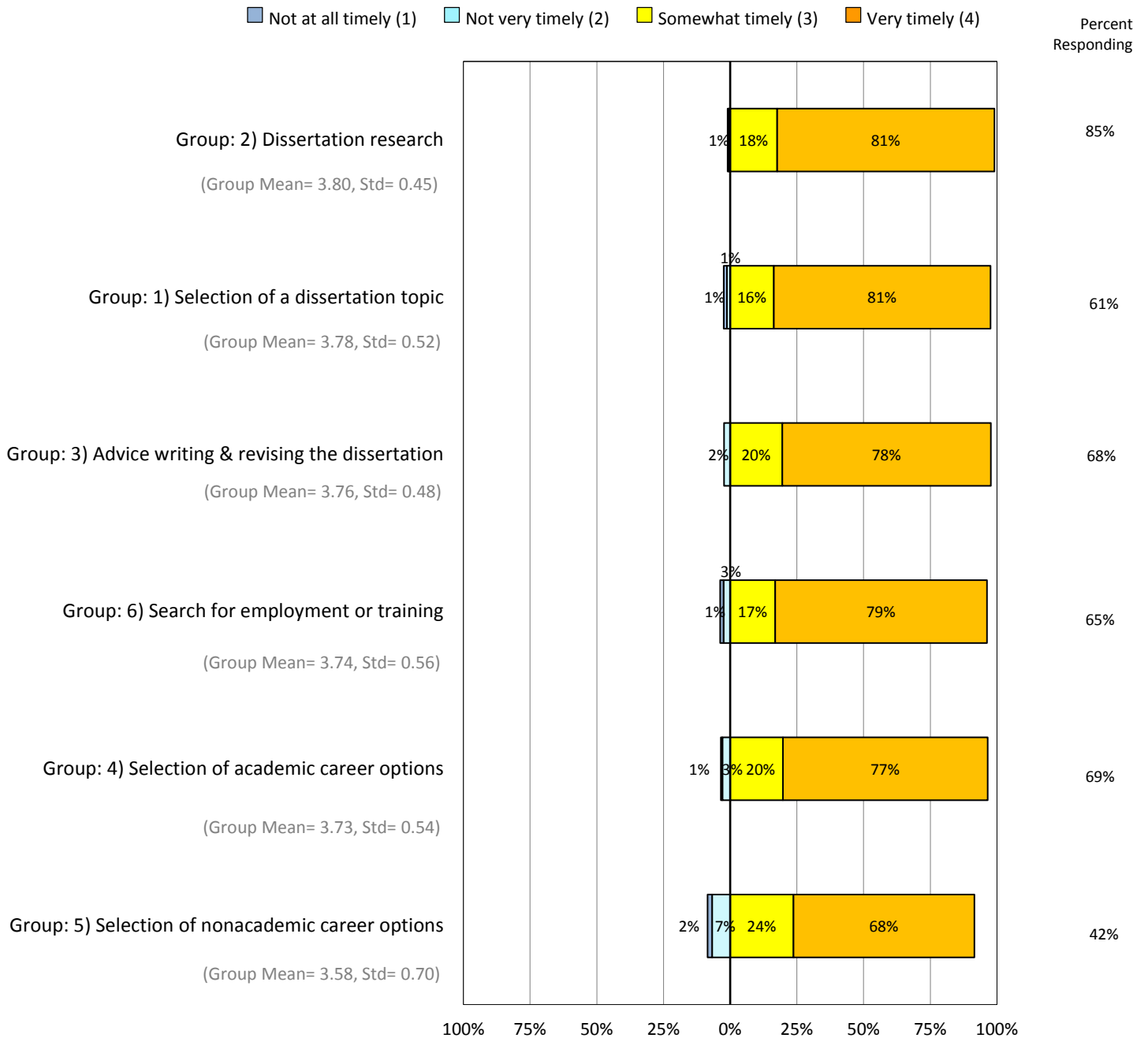


**\*Figure 24: Of those received mentoring from a faculty member WITHIN Graduate Group, percent received assistance or support on each of the following:**



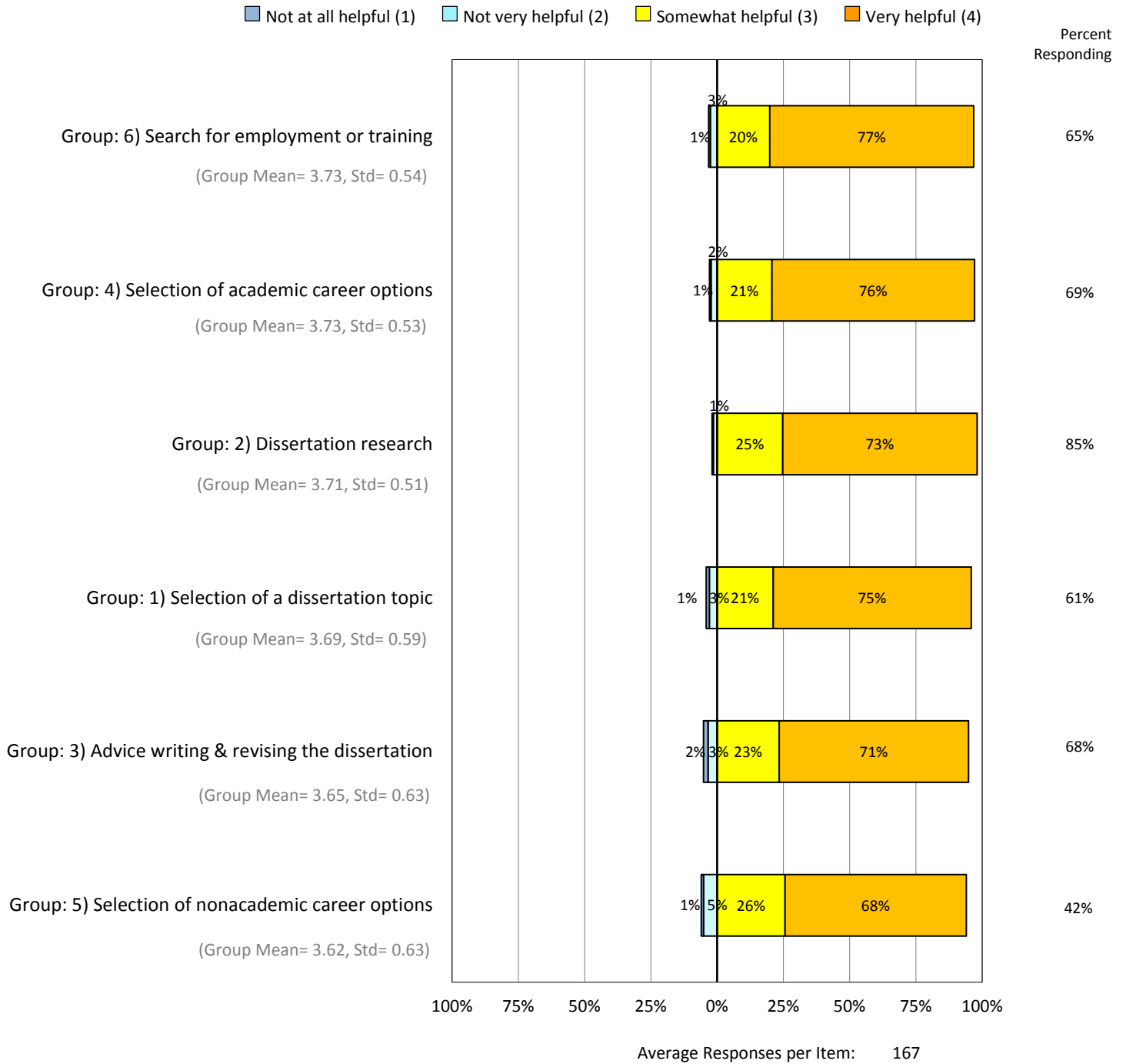
*\*Question added in AY 2013-2014.*

**Figure 24a: Other than your Dissertation advisor, if you have received assistance or support from a mentor WITHIN your Graduate Group, how TIMELY was the assistance or support?**



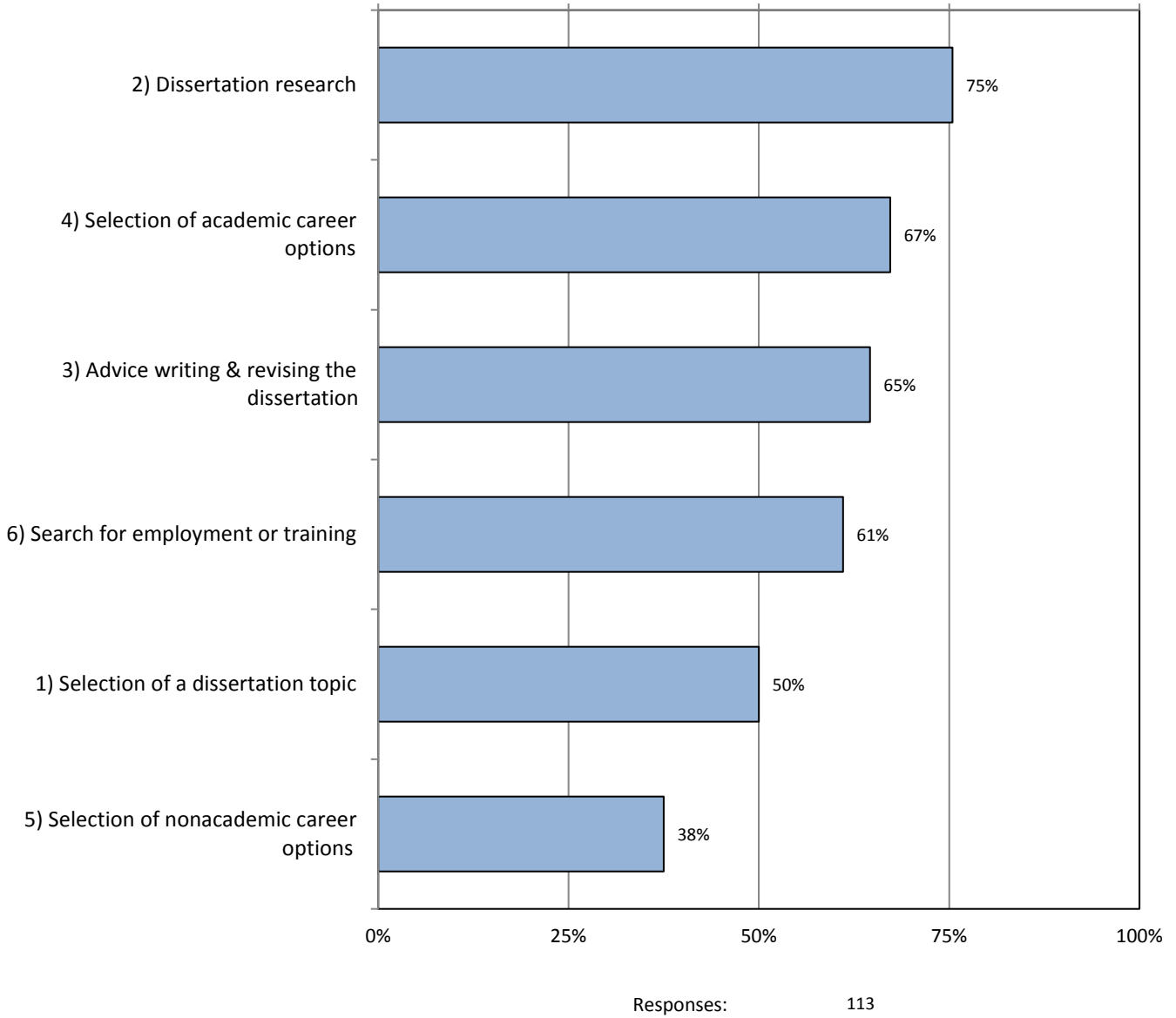
Average Responses per Item: 167

**Figure 24b: Other than your Dissertation advisor, if you have received assistance or support from a mentor WITHIN your Graduate Group, how HELPFUL was the assistance or support?**



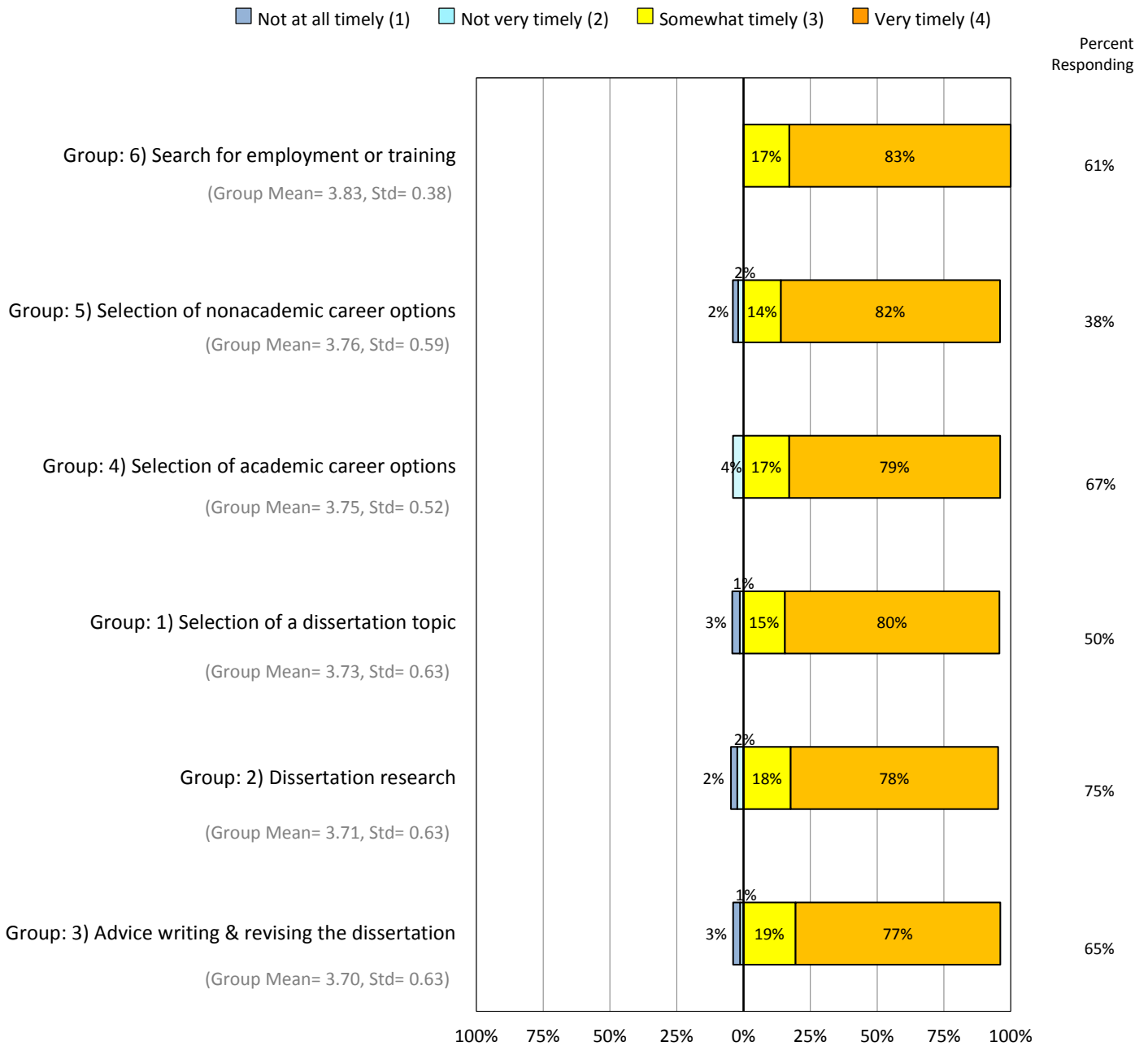


**\*Figure 25: Of those received mentoring from a mentor OUTSIDE Graduate Group, percent received assistance or support on each of the following:**



*\*Question added in AY 2013-2014.*

**Figure 25a: Other than your Dissertation advisor, if you have received assistance or support from a mentor OUTSIDE your Graduate Group, how TIMELY was the assistance or support?**



Average Responses per Item: 72

Figure 25b: Other than your Dissertation advisor, if you have received assistance or support from a mentor OUTSIDE your Graduate Group, how HELPFUL was the assistance or support?

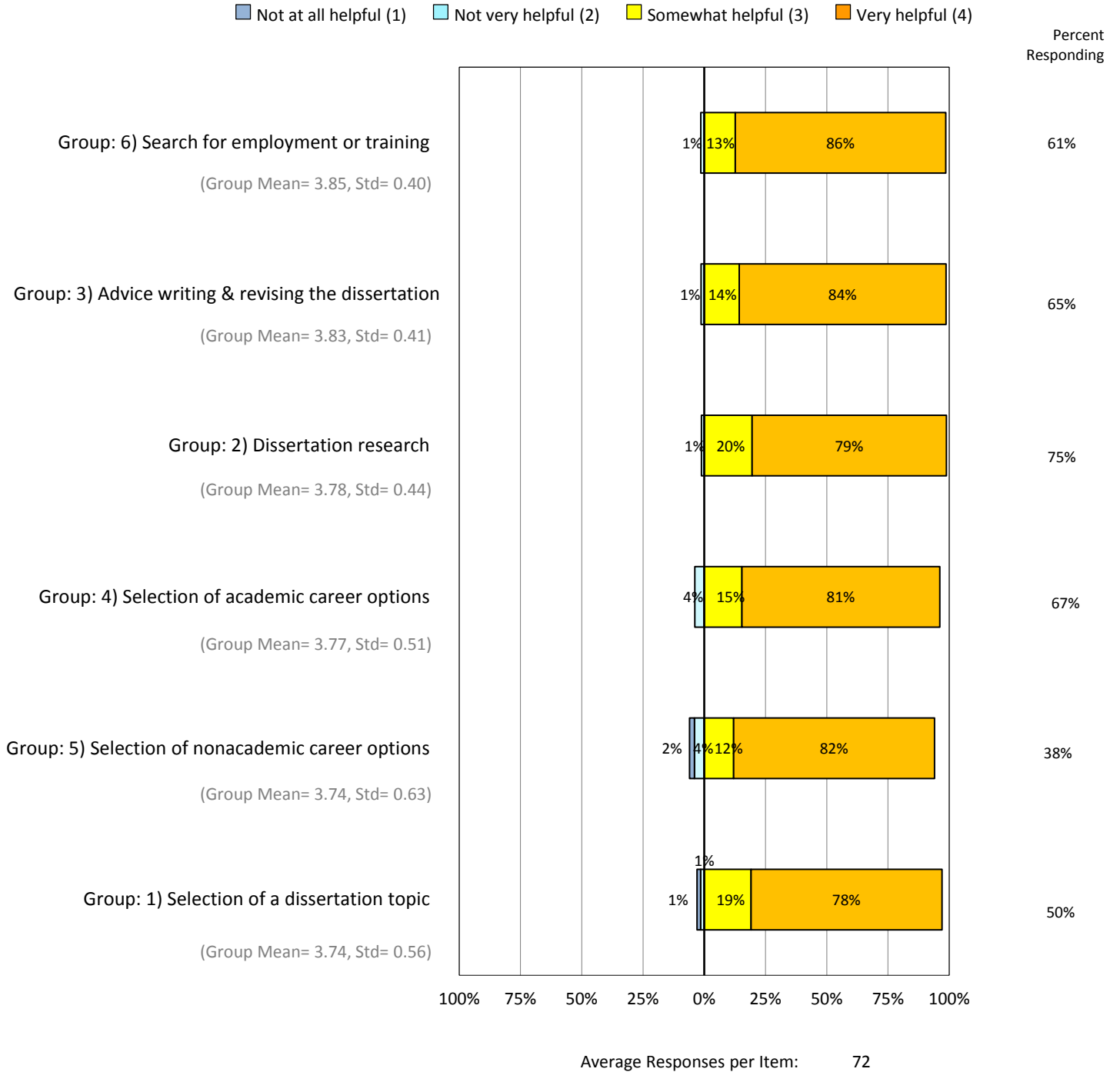


Figure 26: How much have you borrowed to finance your doctoral education?

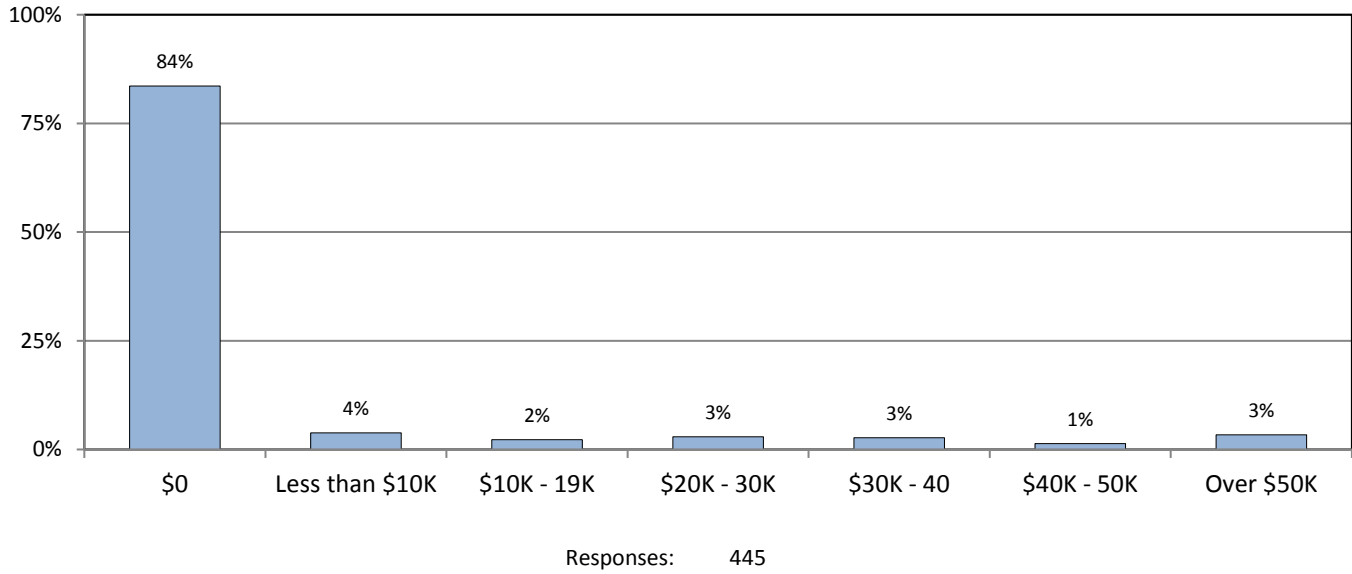
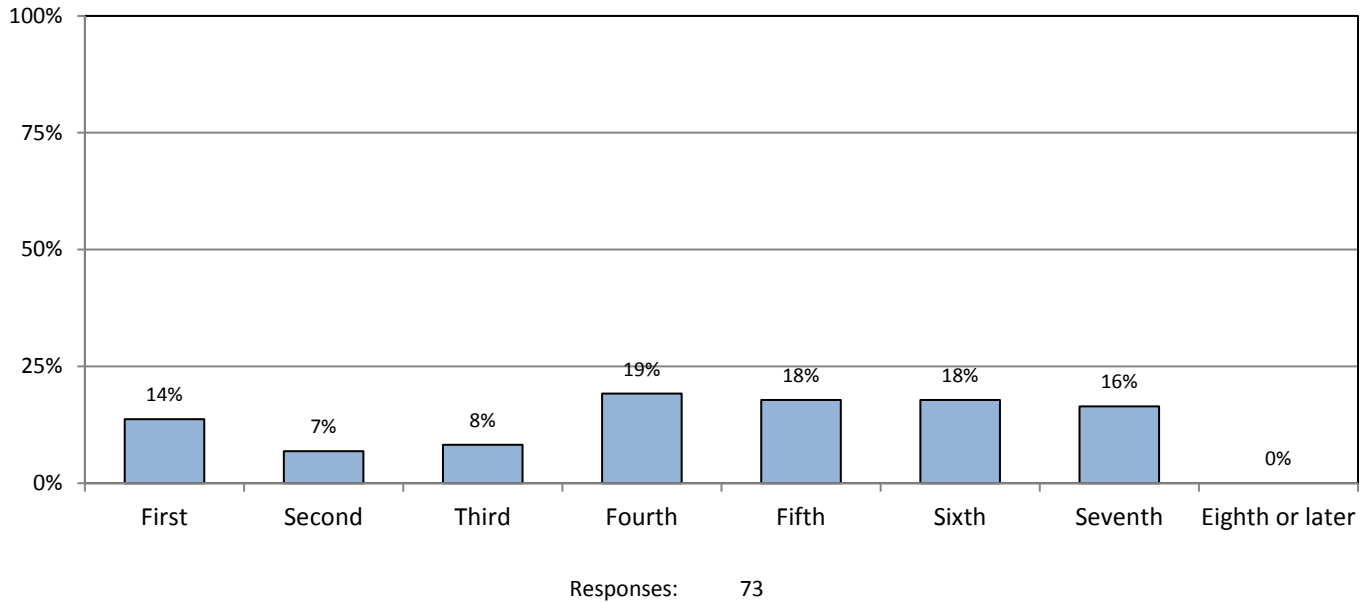
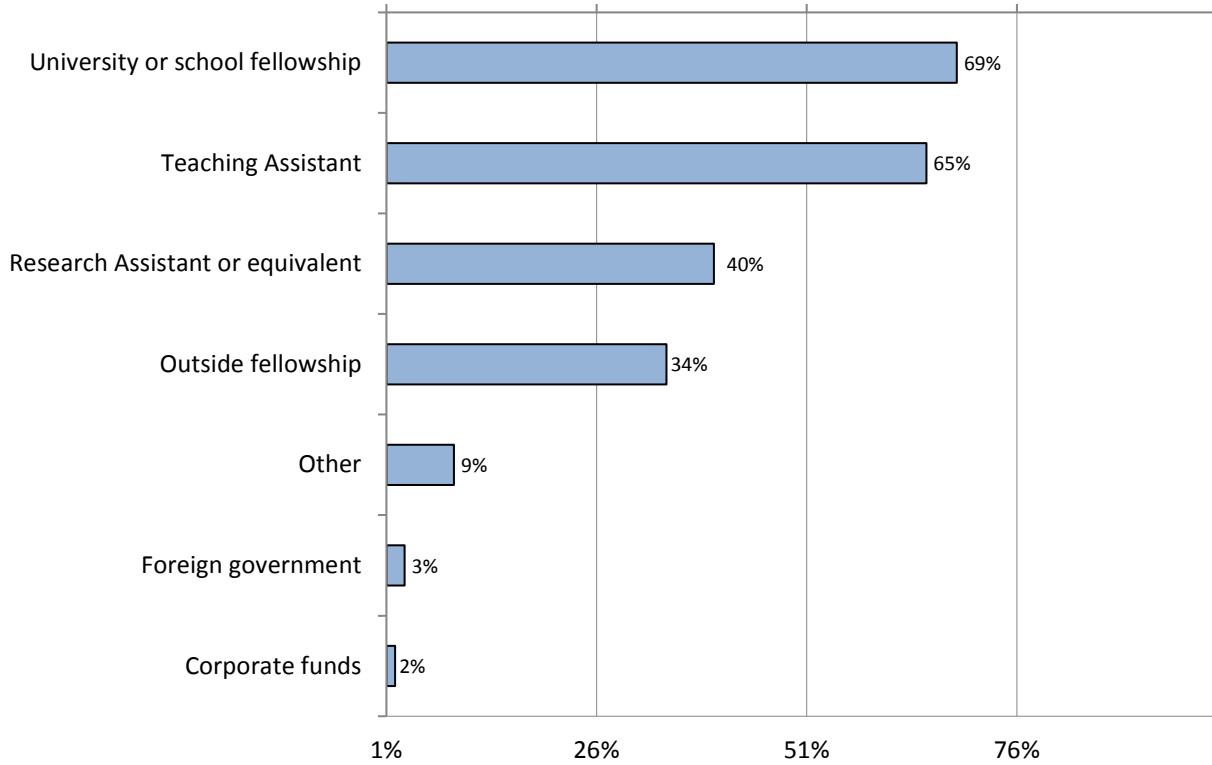


Figure 27: In which years of doctoral study did you borrow? Please mark all that apply.



\*Question was phrased differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.

**\*Figure 28: Percent of respondents who received financial support by category. (Students who received financial support only). Indicate all that apply.**



Financial Support Categories	N <sup>1</sup>	Average %	Average Number of Years	Standard Deviation
University or school fellowship	305	69%	3.7	1.96
Teaching Assistant	289	65%	2.4	1.25
Research Assistant or equivalent	177	40%	3.4	1.81
Outside fellowship	152	34%	2.7	1.46
Other	40	9%	2.9	1.71
Foreign government	14	3%	2.5	1.61
Corporate funds	9	2%	2.2	1.92

\*Question was phrased differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.

<sup>1</sup> Results shown only when N is greater than 3.

Figure 29: How familiar are you with the criteria used to allocate financial support?

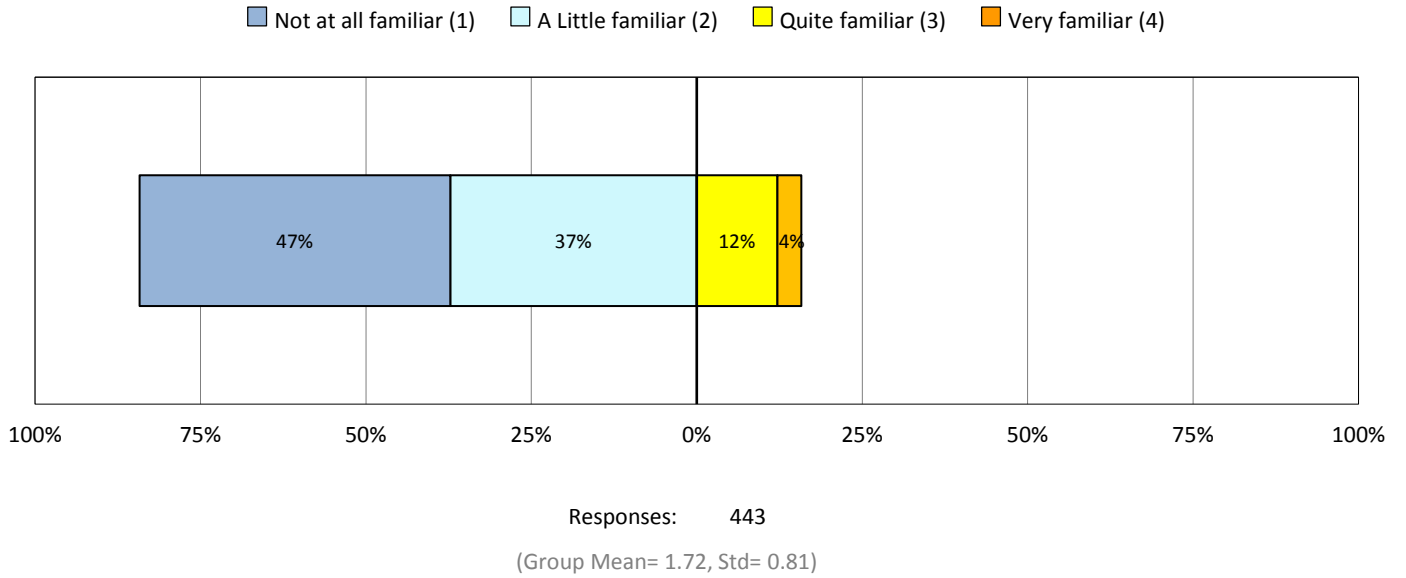
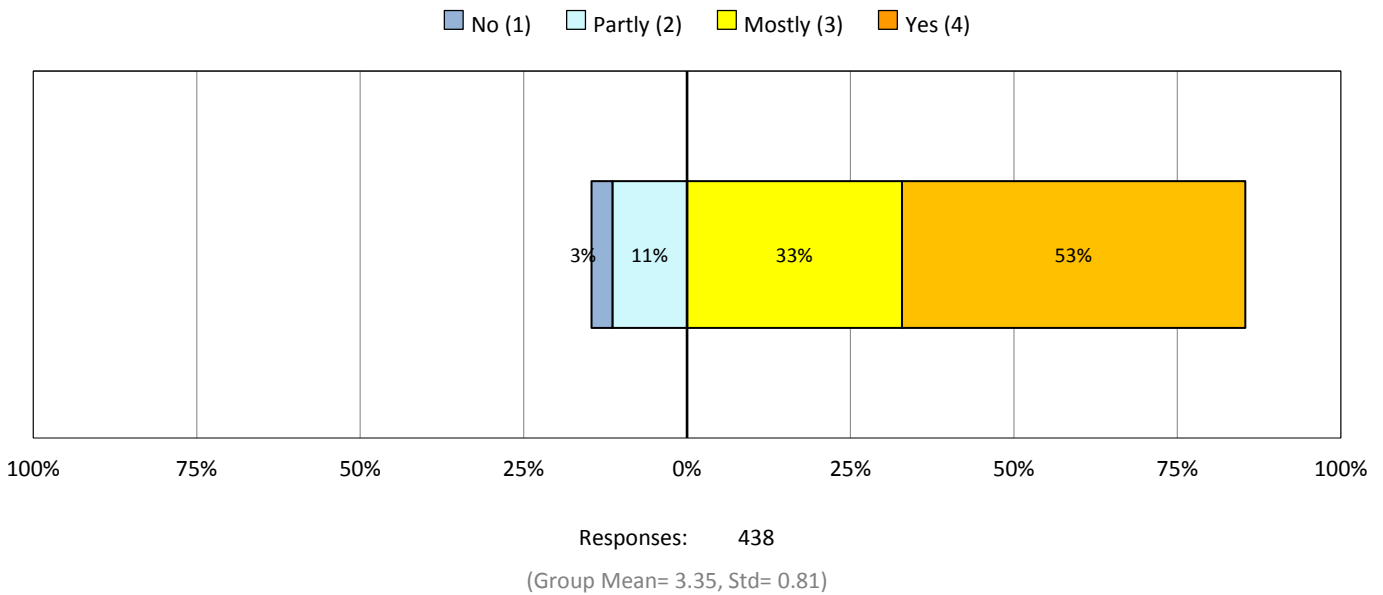
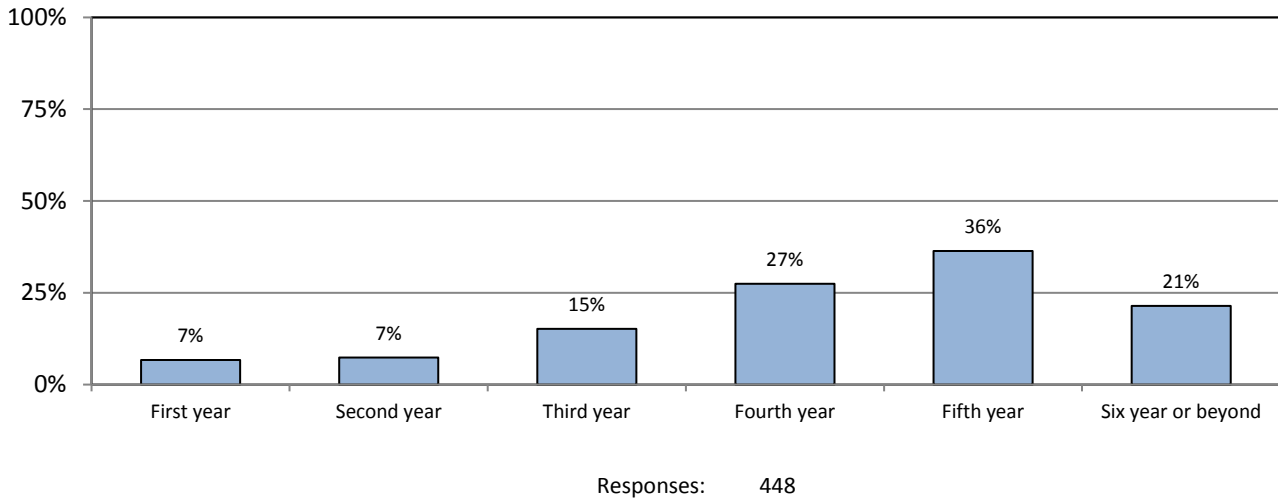


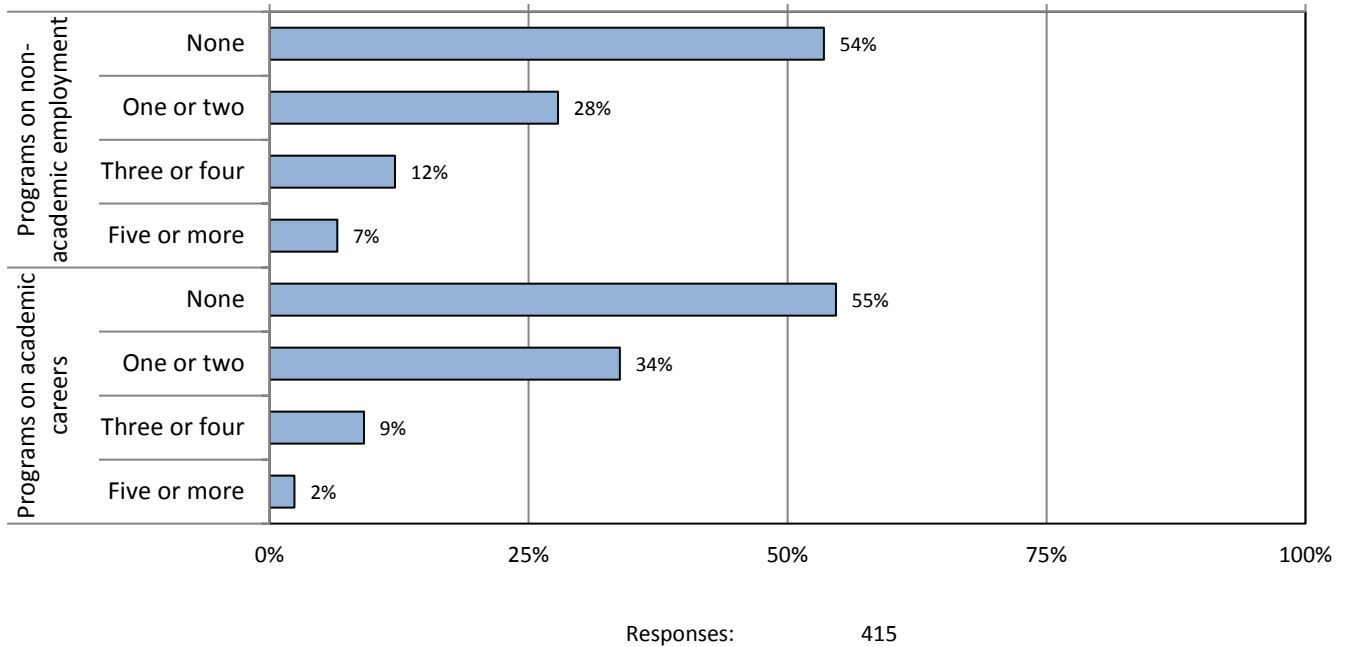
Figure 30: To the best of your knowledge, has financial support for students in your program been fairly allocated?



**\*Figure 31: During which year(s) of your doctoral program did you use Career Services, (i.e. met with a career advisor, attended a Career Services event or used other resources such as the website)? Indicate all that apply.**



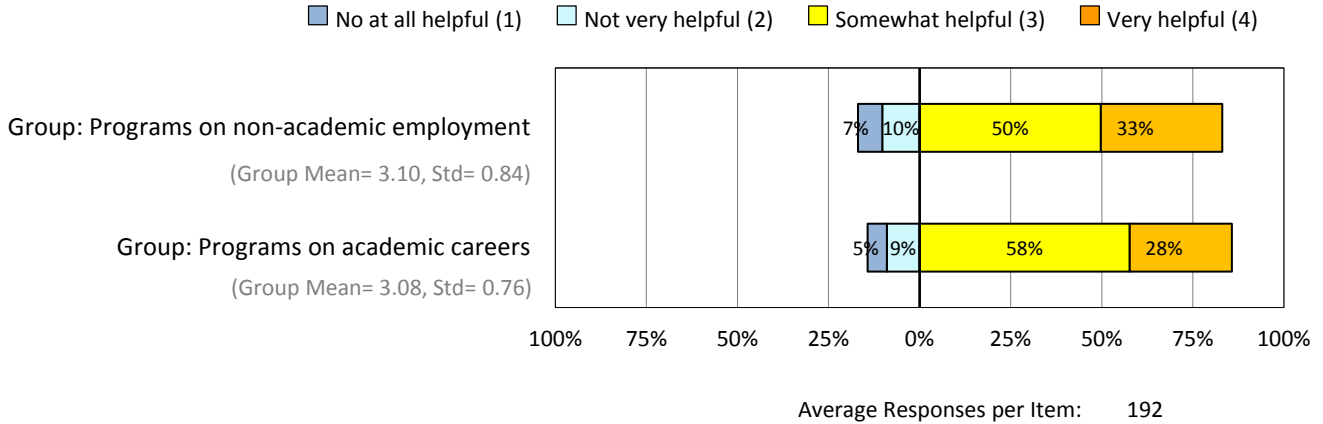
**\*\*Figure 32: How many of Career Services' programs did you attend on the following?**



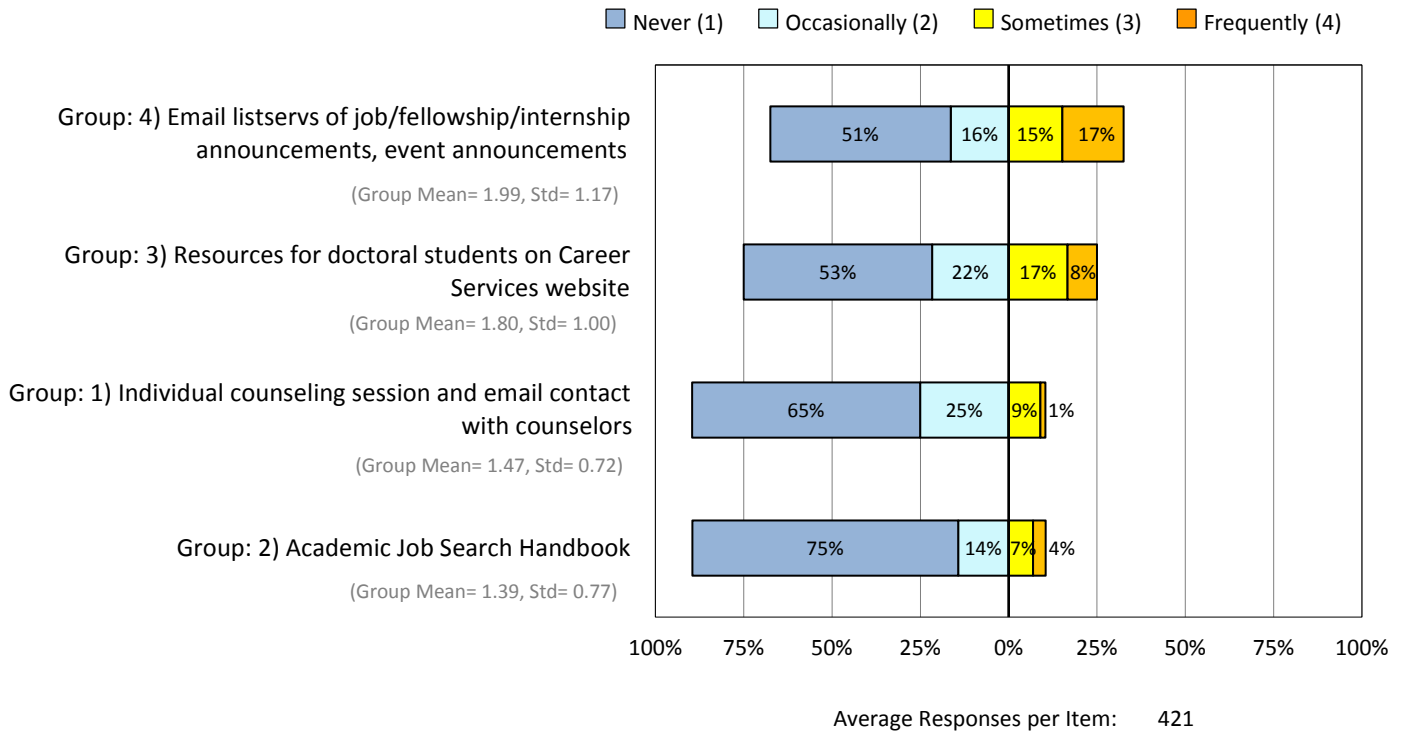
\*Question added in AY 2013-2014.

\*\*Question was phrased differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.

**\*Figure 32a: If you have attended the following programs offered by the Career Services, please rate HELPFULNESS.**



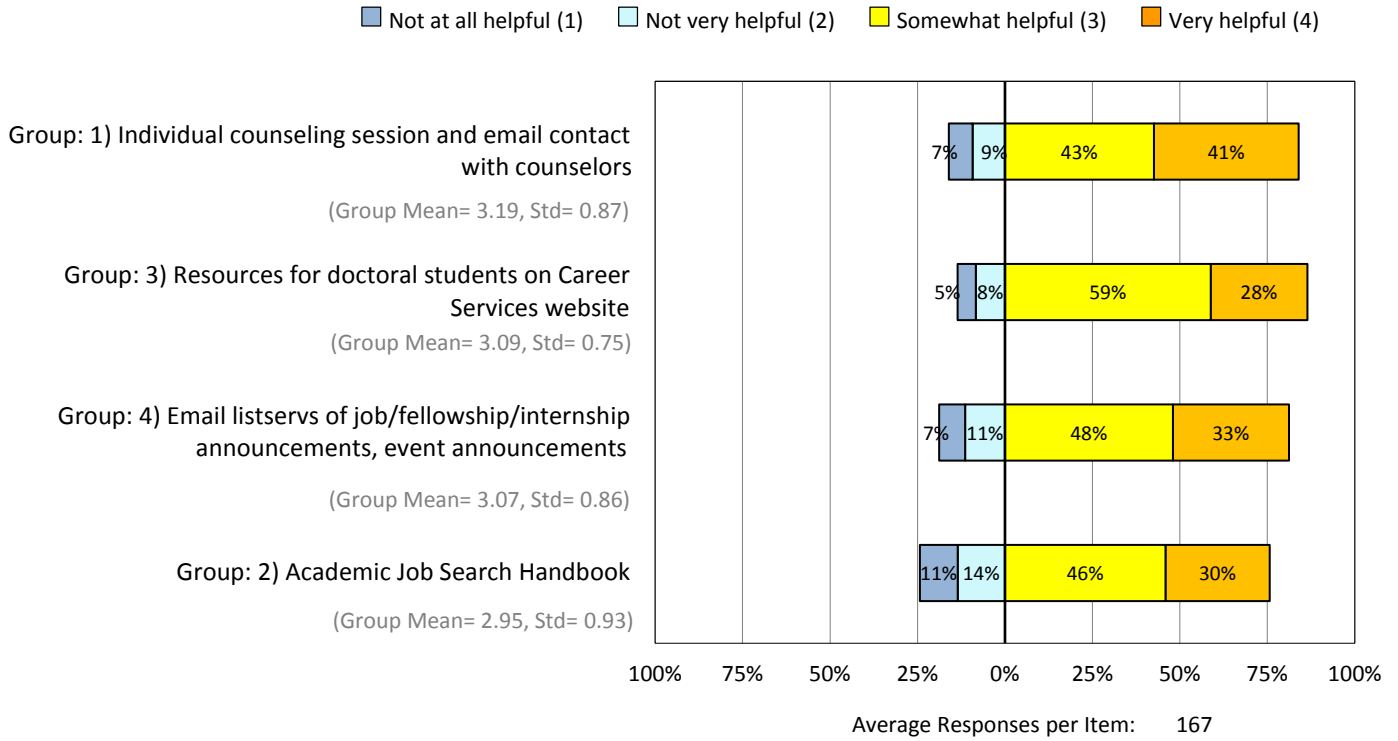
**\*Figure 33: How frequently did you attend/use the following offerings by Career Services?**



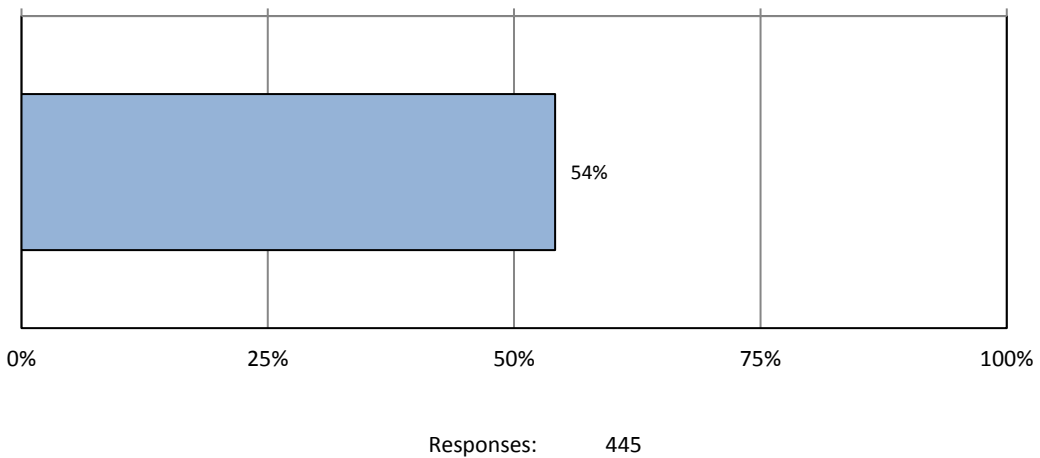
\*Questions added in AY 2013-2014.



**\*Figure 33a: If you have attended the following programs offered by the Career Services, please rate HELPFULNESS.**

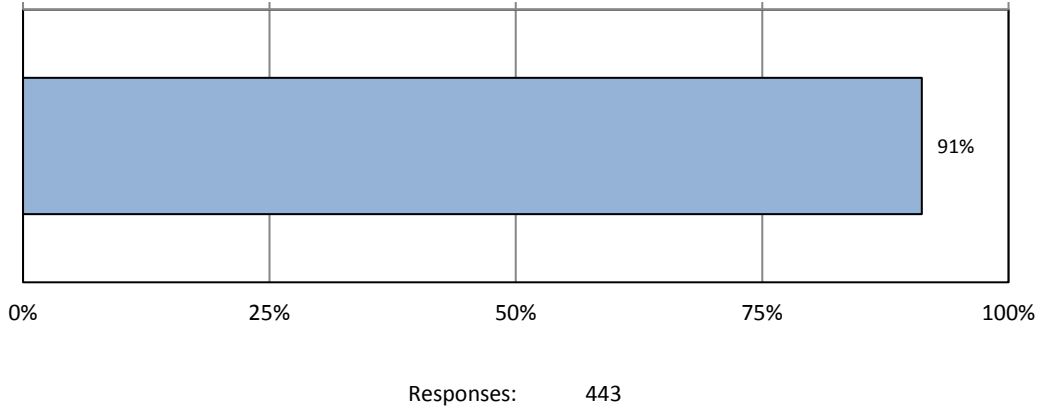


**Figure 34: Percent of respondents who attended activities and/or used the services of the Graduate Student Center.**

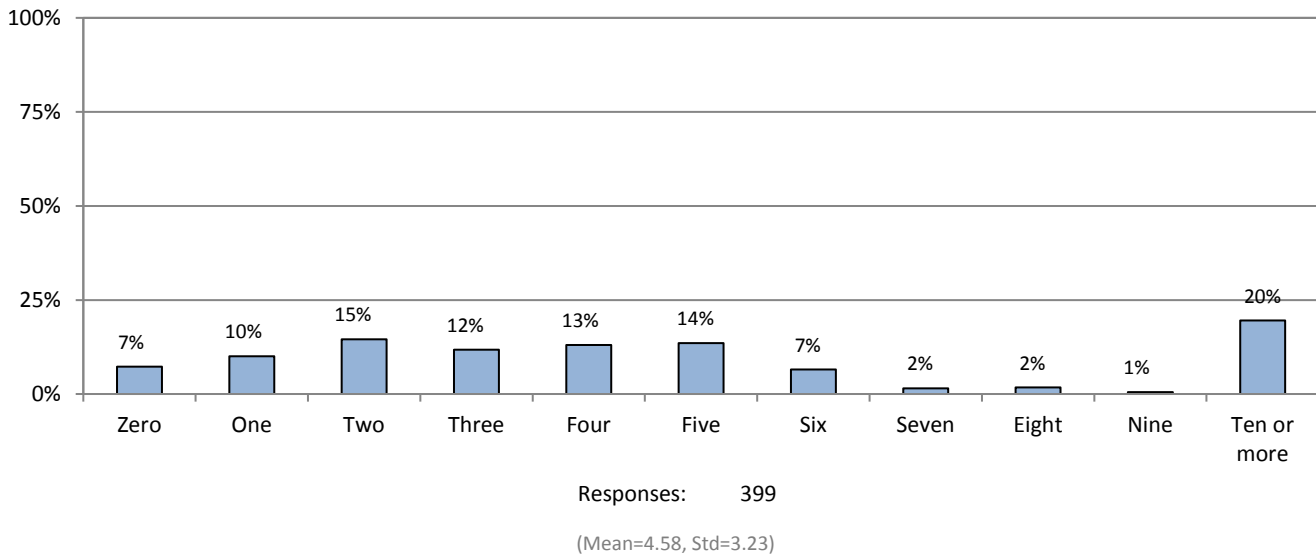


\*Question added in AY 2013-2014.

**Figure 35: Percent of respondents who presented their research in organized seminars, colloquia, or conferences sponsored by your Graduate Group.**

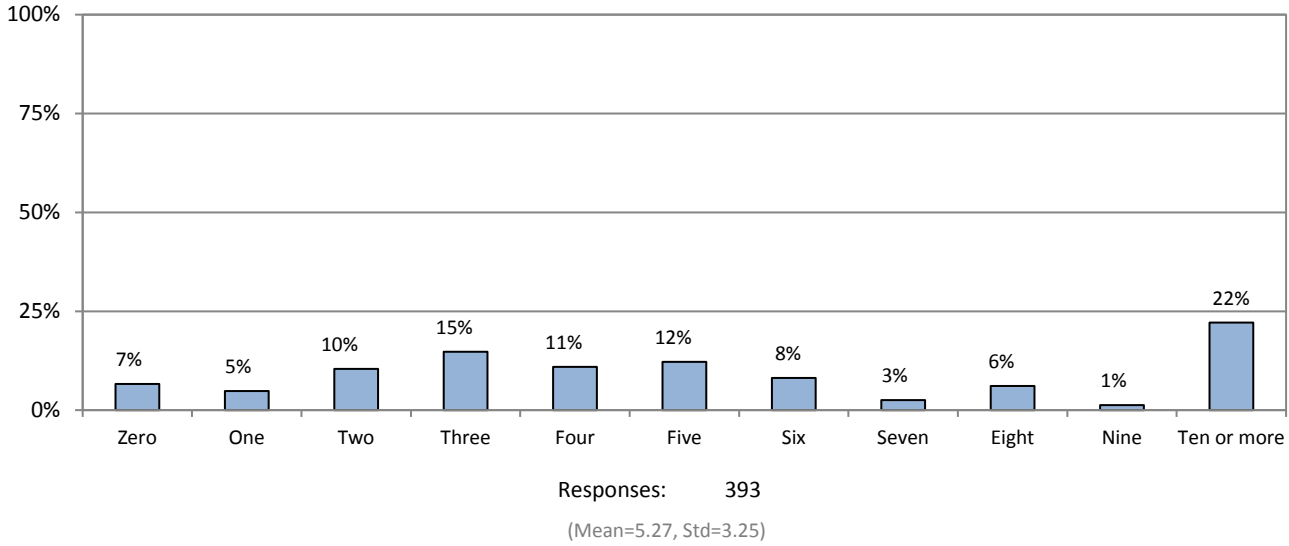


**\*Figure 36: How many research or scholarly presentations (including poster presentations) did you make ON CAMPUS during your graduate studies (not including presentations given in class or in regularly-scheduled not-for-credit lab meetings)?**

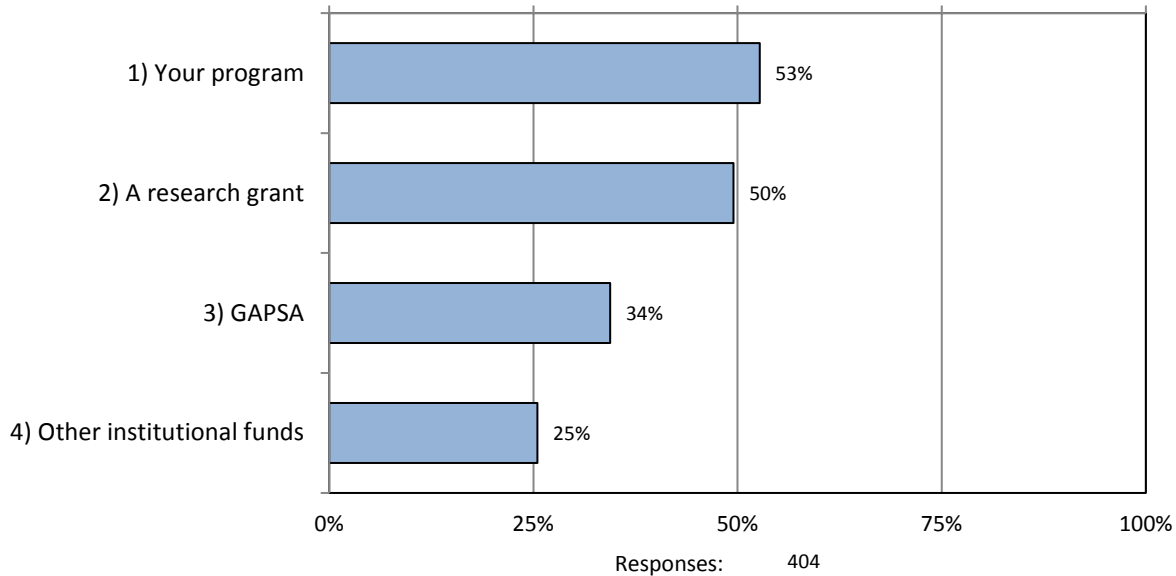


\*Response categories were modified beginning in AY 2013-2014.

**\*Figure 36a: How many research or scholarly presentations (including poster presentations) did you make AWAY from campus (regional, national, or international)?**



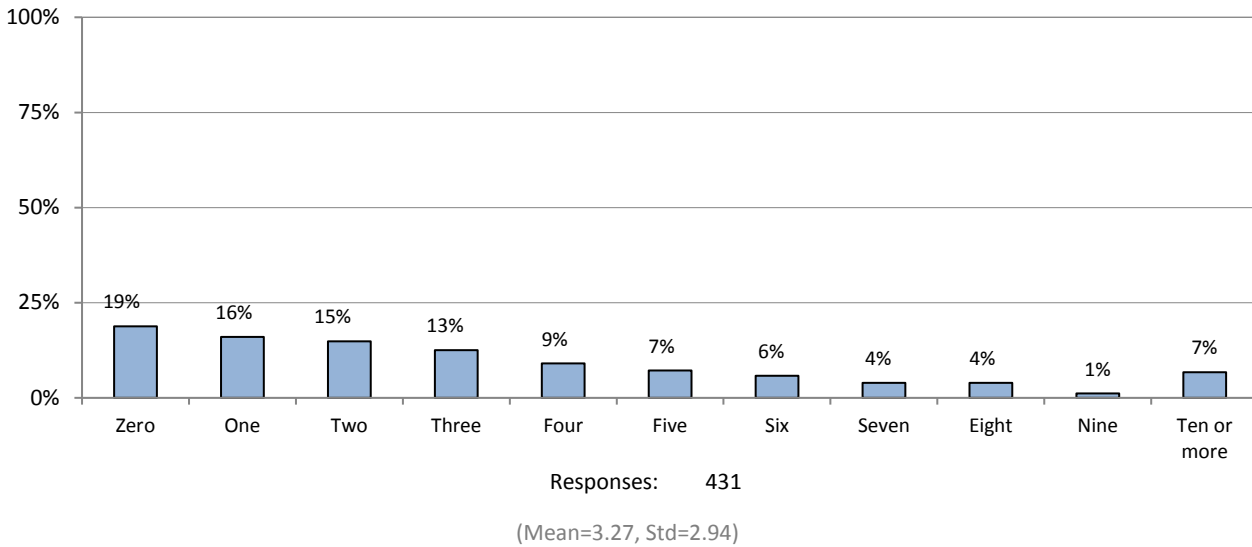
**\*\*Figure 37: If you made a presentation AWAY from campus, did you receive funds for travel from any of the following sources? Check all that apply.**



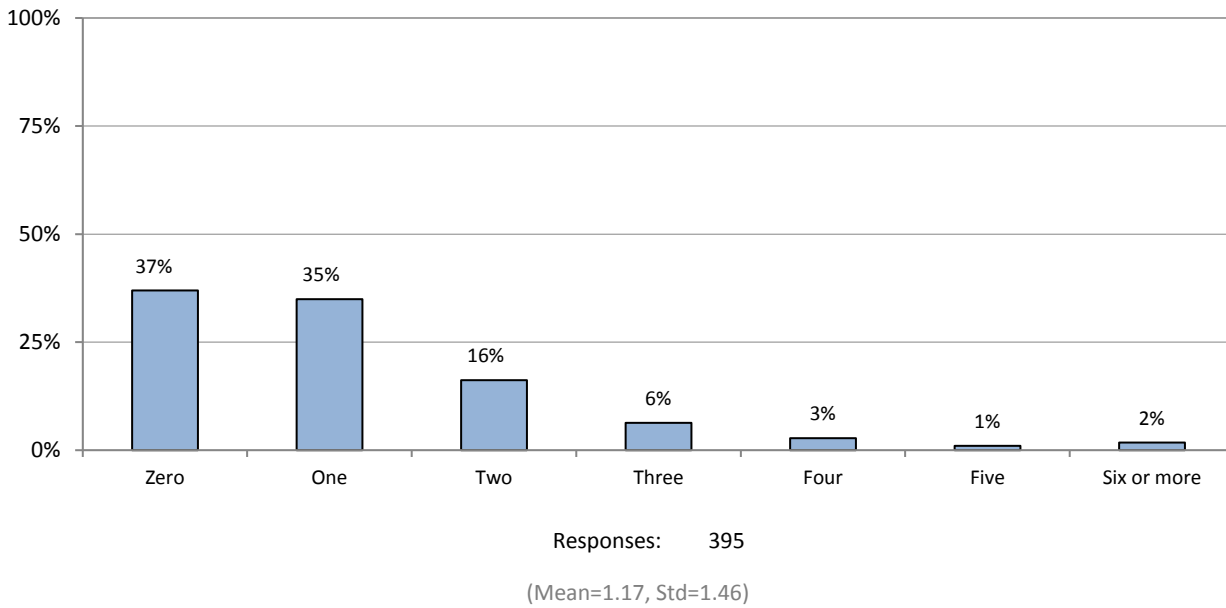
\*Question was phrased differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.

\*\*Question was phrased differently and two new funding sources (A research grant & Other institutional funds) were added beginning in AY 2013-2014.

**\*Figure 38: Based on research conducted while you were a doctoral student, how many scholarly articles, books, or book chapters have you authored or co-authored that have been published or accepted for publication?**

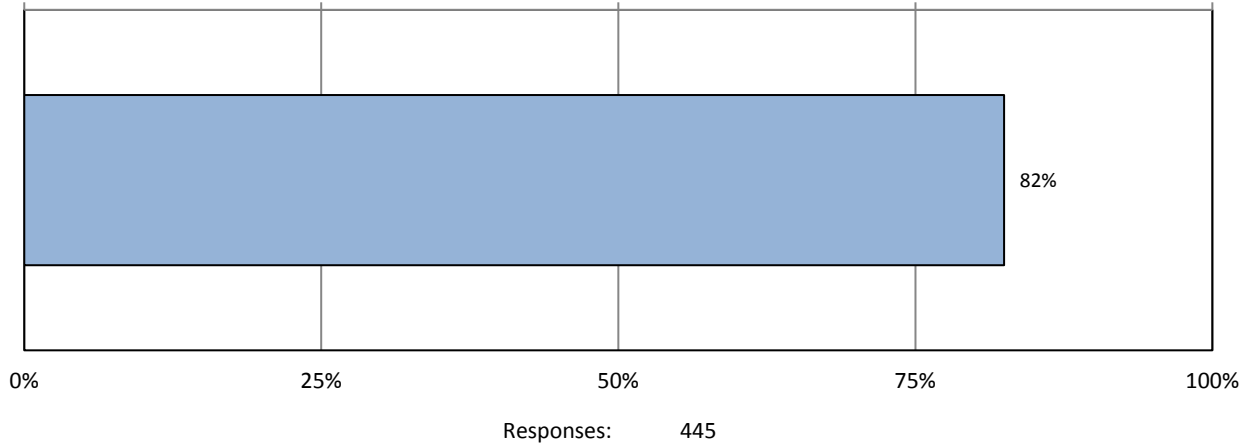


**Figure 38a: How many others are currently under review?**

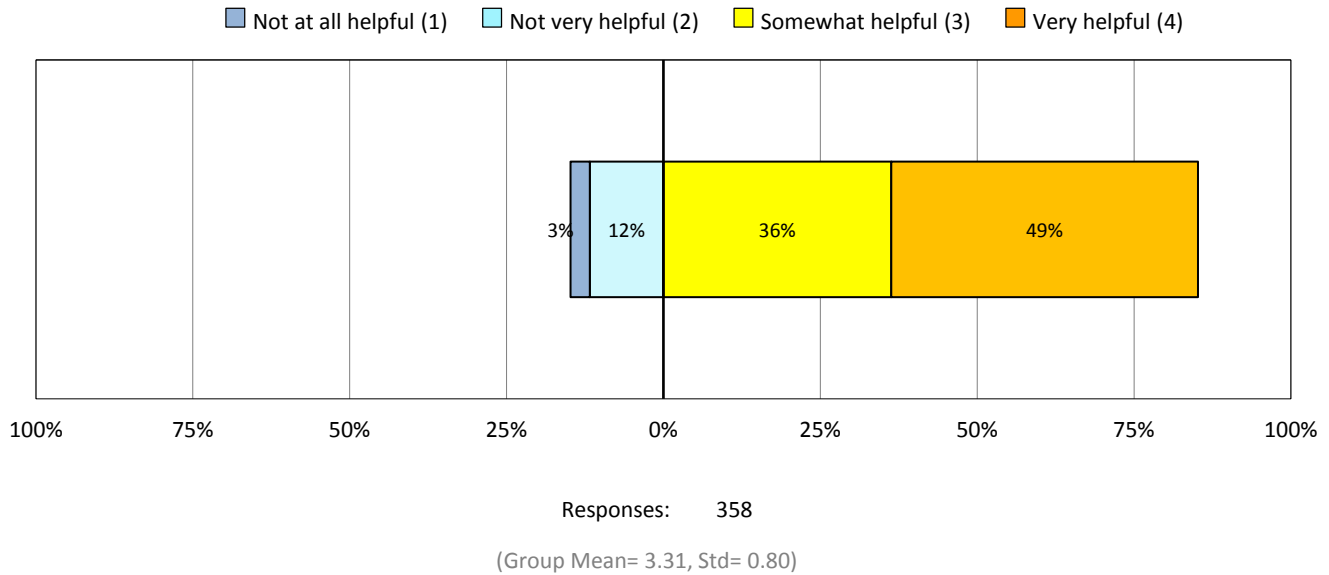


\*Response categories were modified beginning in AY 2013-2014.

**Figure 39: Percent of respondents who served as a graduate Teaching Assistant (TA) at any point during their doctoral studies.**

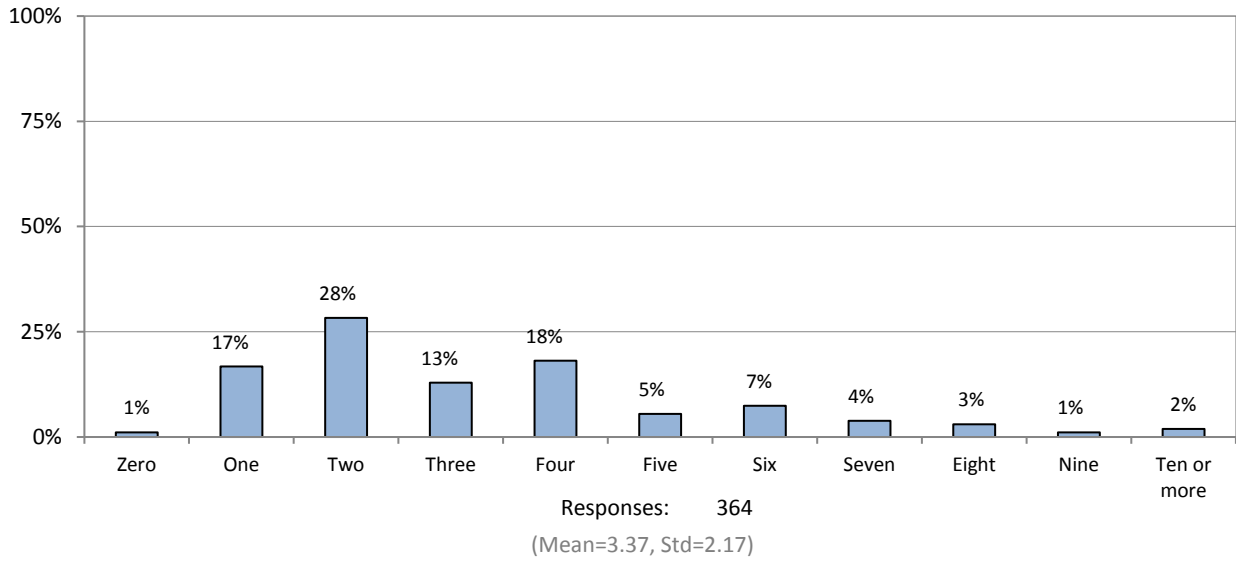


**\*Figure 40: How helpful was this experience with respect to your professional development and training?**

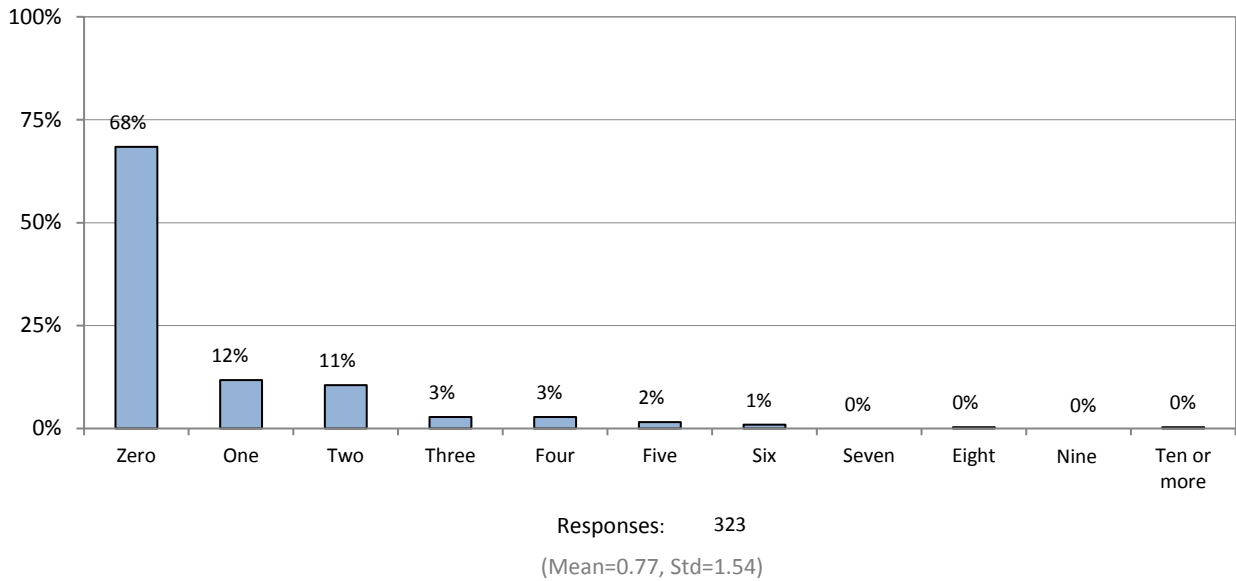


\*Response categories were modified beginning in AY 2013-2014.

**\*Figure 41: How many semesters did you teach as a Teaching Assistant (TA)?**

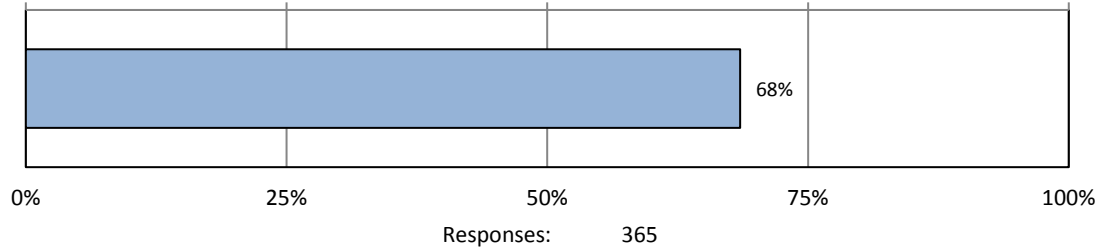


**\*Figure 41a: How many semesters did you teach as a lecturer (with primary responsibility for the class)?**

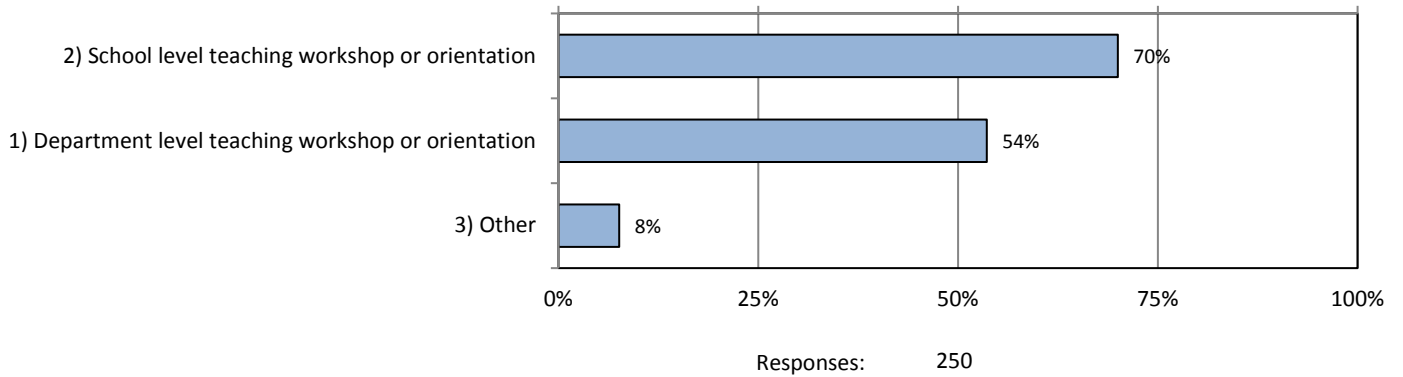


*\*Question was organized differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.*

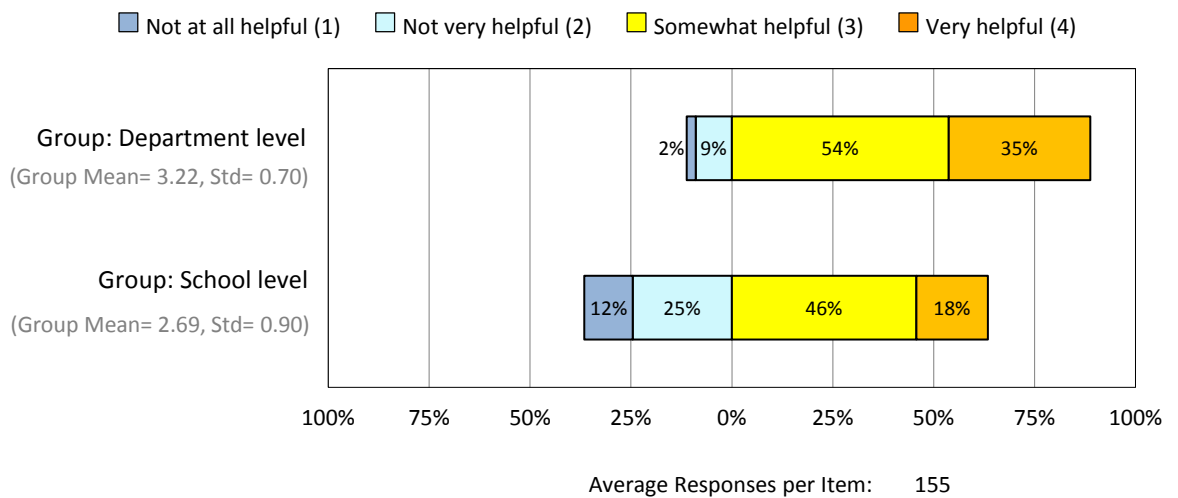
**\*Figure 42: Percent of respondents who received teaching preparation training as a Teaching Assistant (TA).**



**\*\*Figure 43: Types of teaching preparation training: Mark all that apply.**



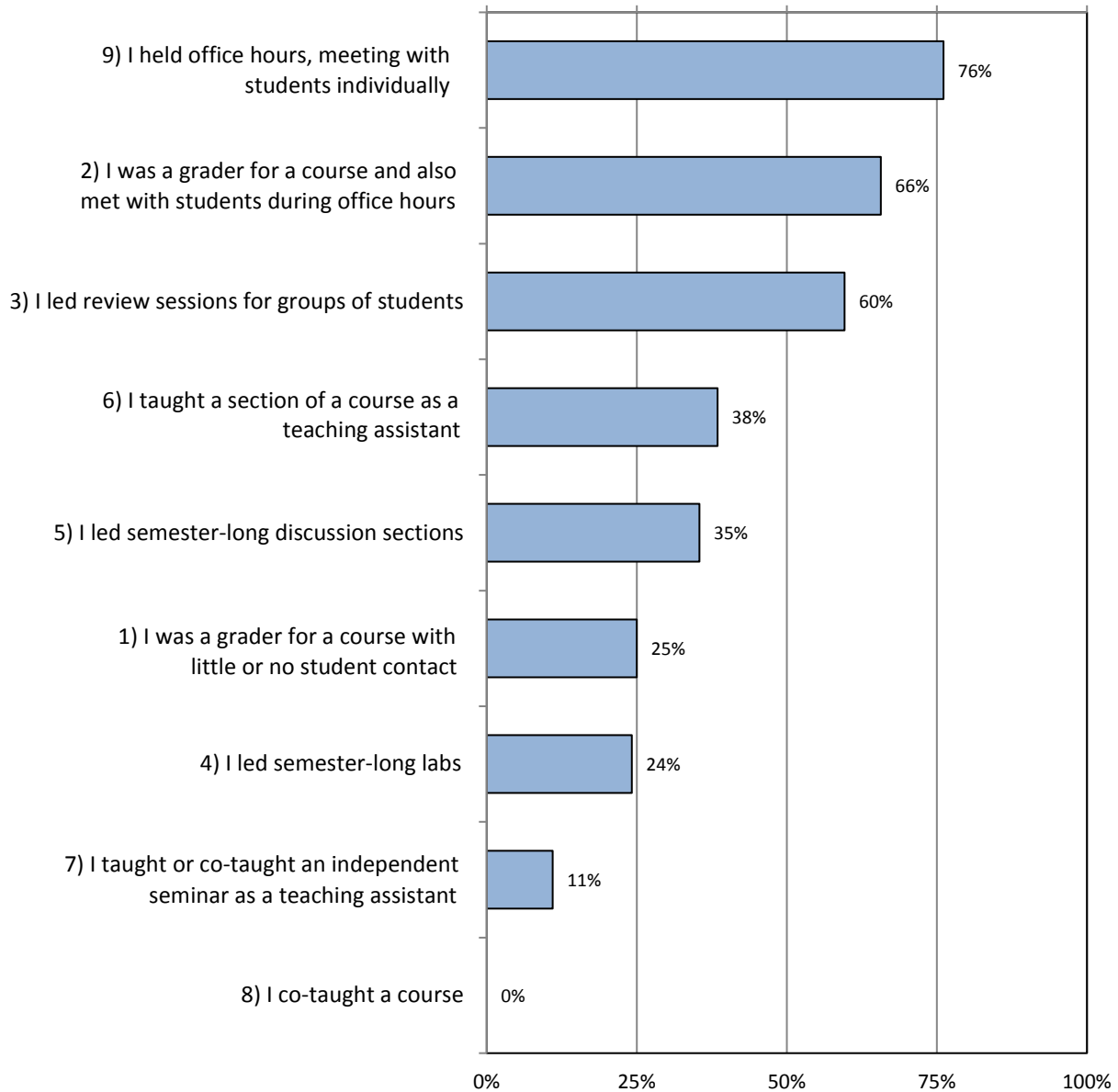
**\*Figure 44: HELPFULNESS of teaching preparation training:**



\*Questions added in AY 2013-2014.

\*\*Question was phrased differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.

**\*Figure 45: Which of the following teaching experiences have you had while a doctoral student at Penn? Mark all that apply.**

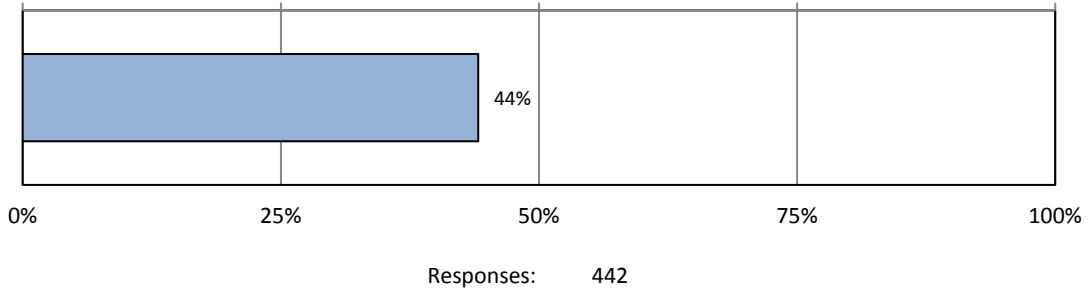


Responses: 448

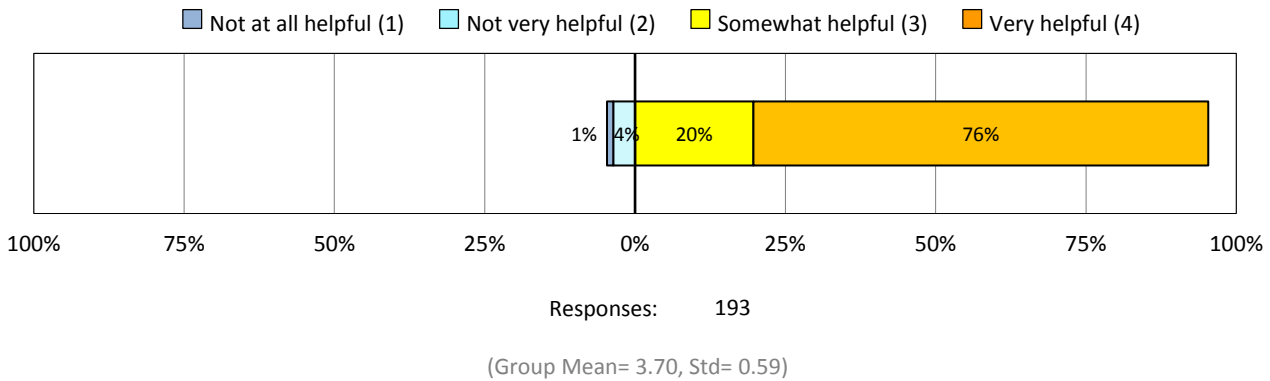
\*Question added in AY 2013-2014.



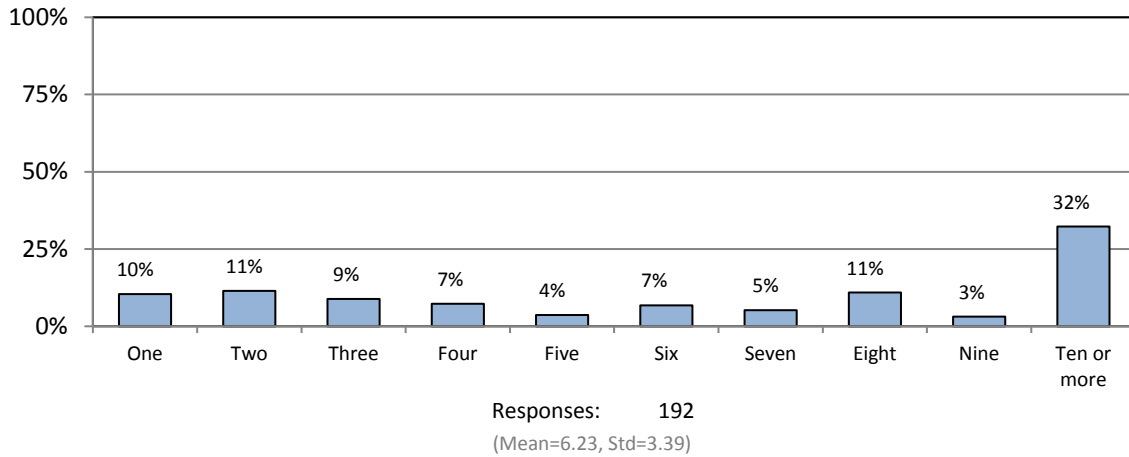
**\*Figure 46: Percent of respondents who served as Research Assistants (RA) during their doctoral studies.**



**Figure 47: How helpful was this experience with respect to your professional development and training?**



**\*\*Figure 48: How many semesters were you a Research Assistant (RA)?**



\*Questions added in AY 2013-2014.

\*\*Response categories were modified beginning in AY 2013-2014.

Figure 49: What are your immediate professional plans?

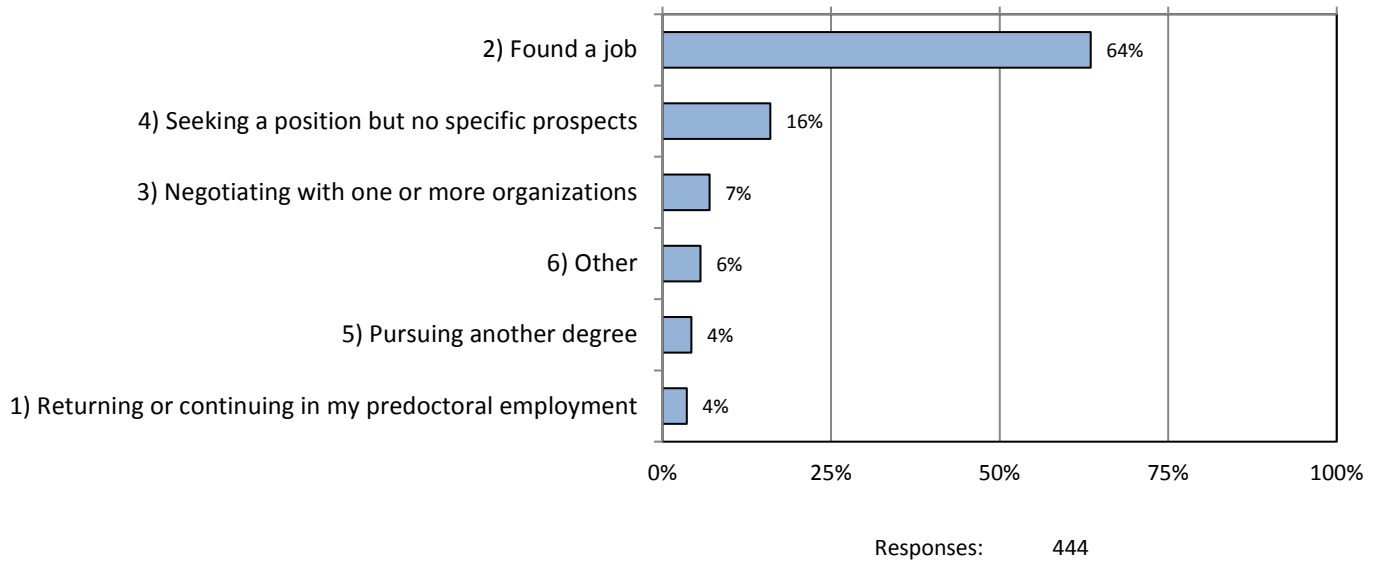
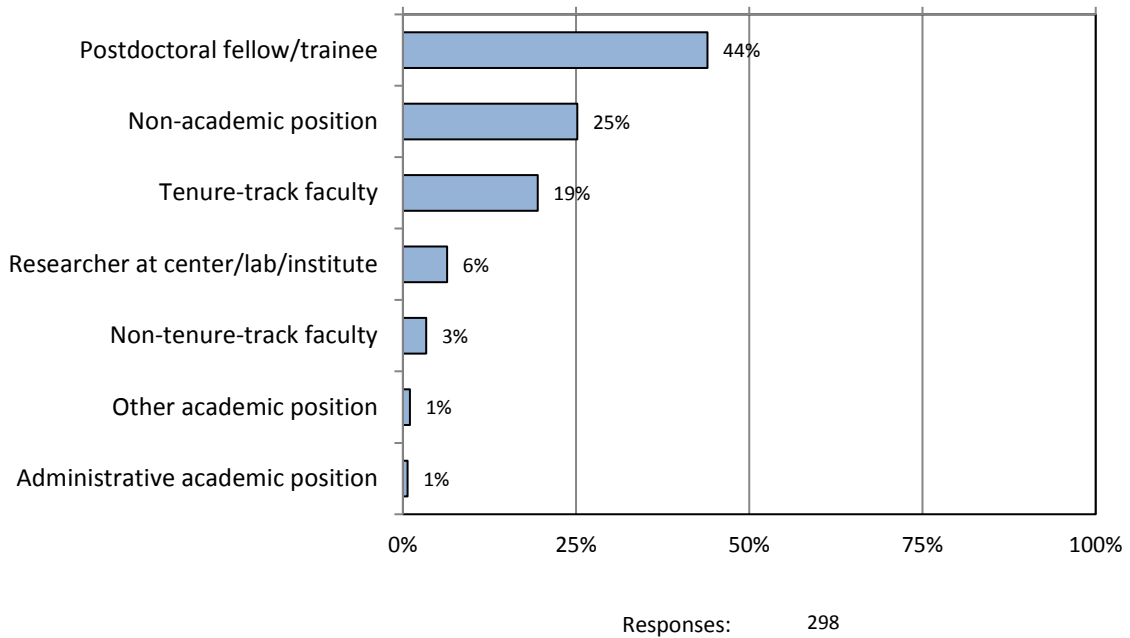


Figure 50: If you have OBTAINED a position, which best describes your position?



\*'Non-academic position' category is included in AY 2013-2014 report.

Figure 51: If you have OBTAINED a position, is your position in the field of your academic training?

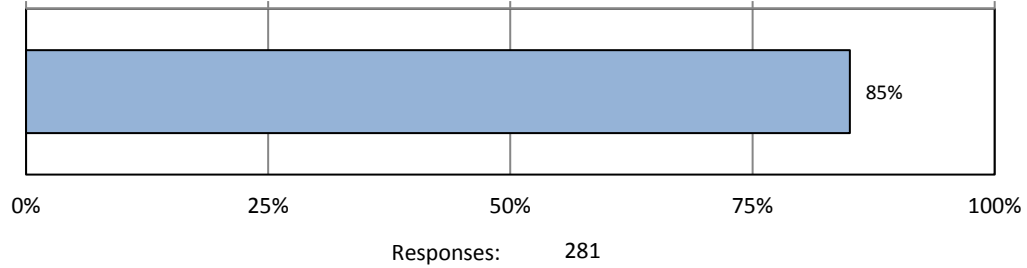


Figure 52: If you have OBTAINED a position, do you feel this position is consistent with your long-term professional goals?

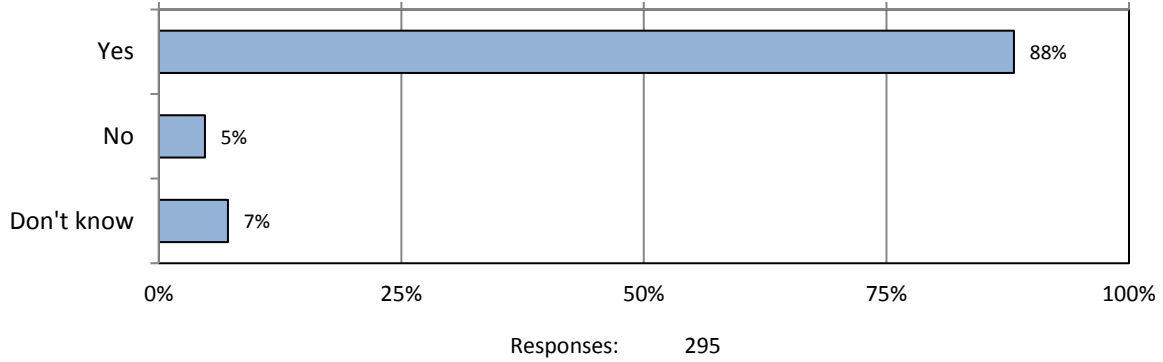
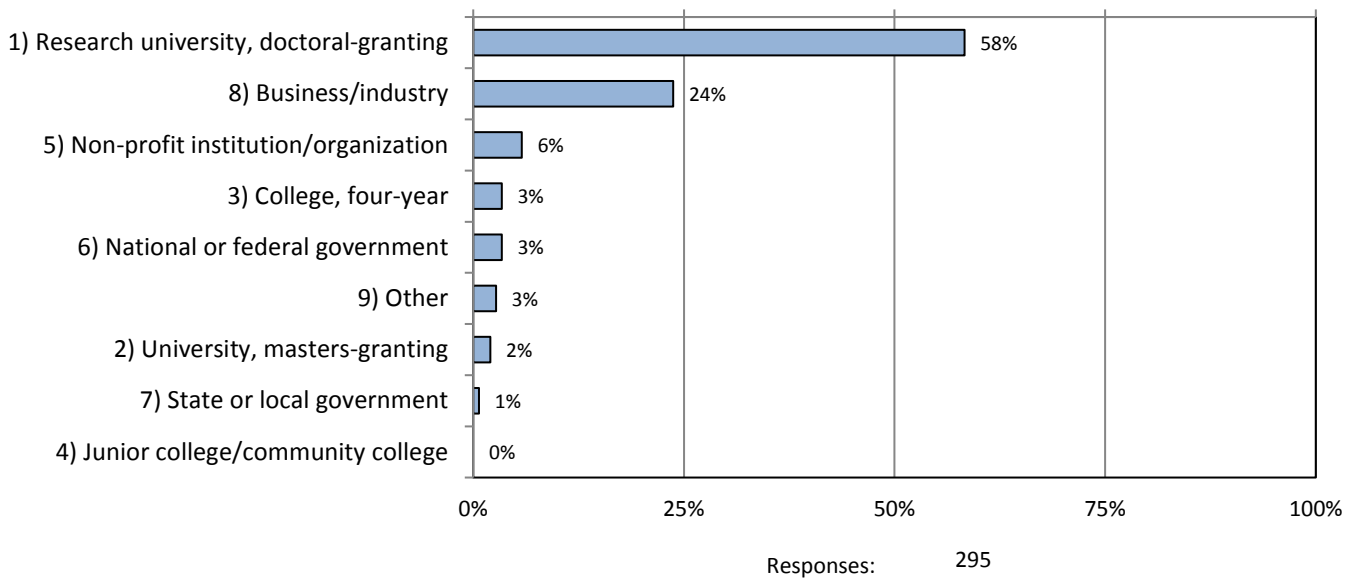


Figure 53: Employer by category.



University of Pennsylvania

Figure 54: Employer location.

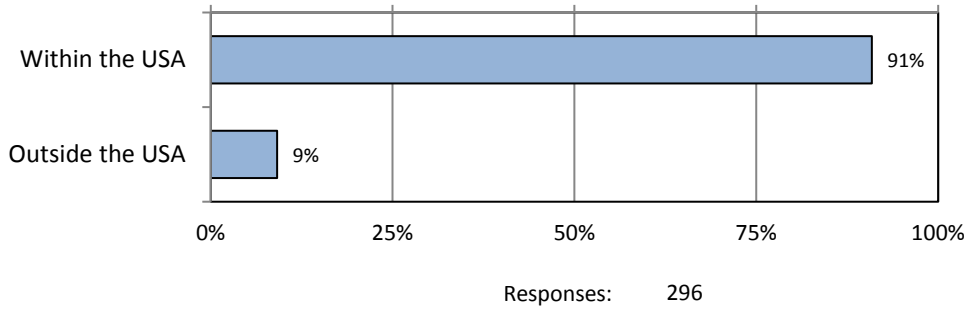


Table 1: Top Five Employers Name.

Employers Name	Number Employed <sup>1</sup>
University of Pennsylvania	29
Harvard University	5
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	4
Dow Chemical Company	
Duke University	

Location of Top Five Employers WITHIN the USA.

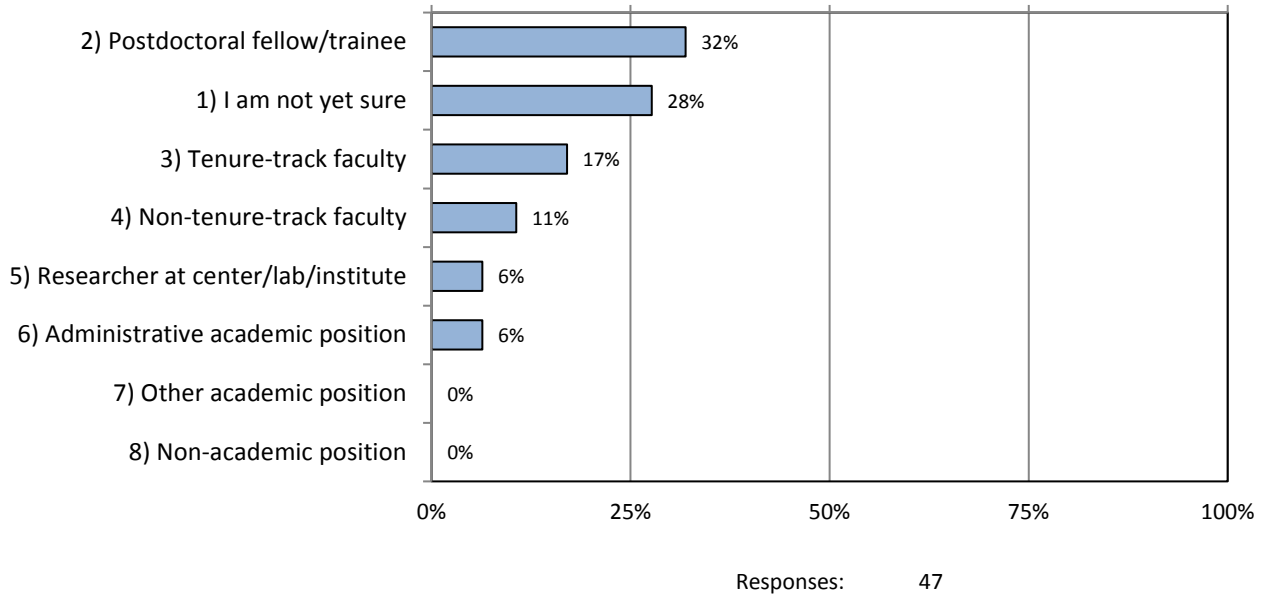
State	Number Employed in each State <sup>1</sup>
Pennsylvania	63
California	33
Massachusetts	23
New York	19
New Jersey	10

Location of Employers OUTSIDE the USA.

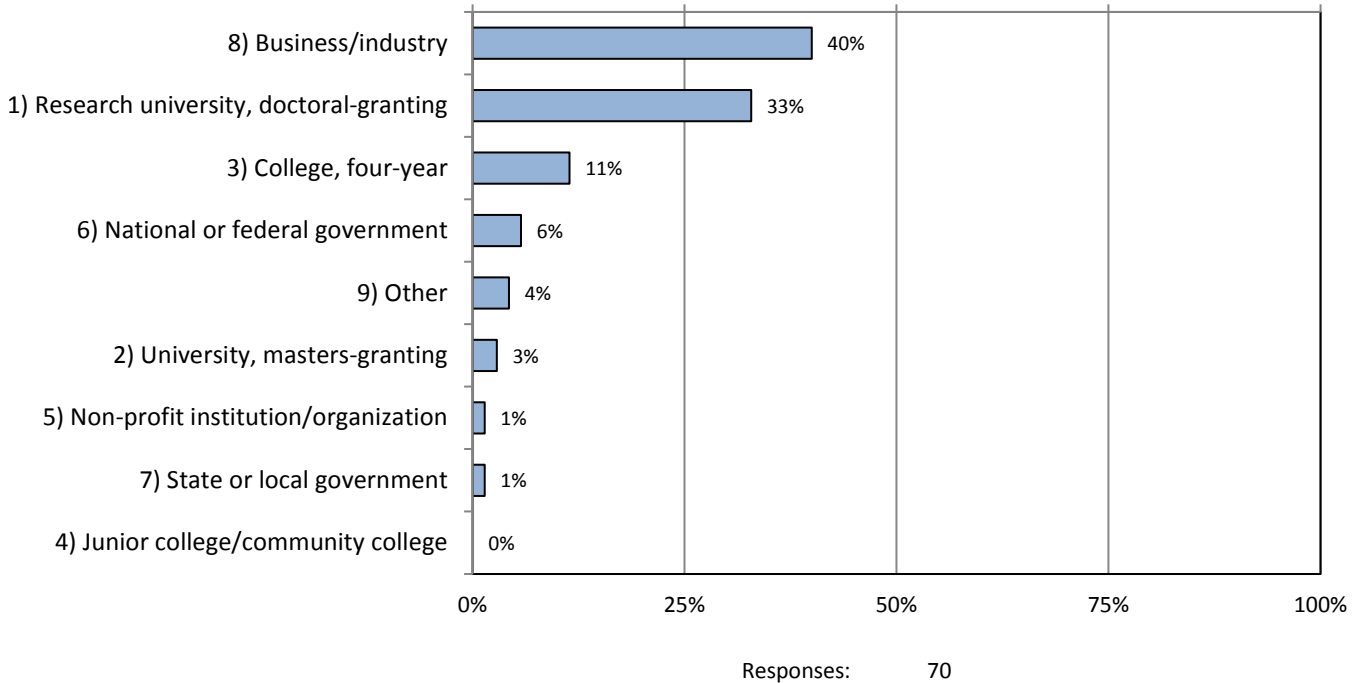
Country	Number Employed in each Country <sup>1</sup>
United Kingdom	5
Canada	
China	
France	
South Korea	

<sup>1</sup> Results shown only when N is greater than 3.

**\*Figure 55: If you are SEARCHING for a position during the next year, which best describes that position?**

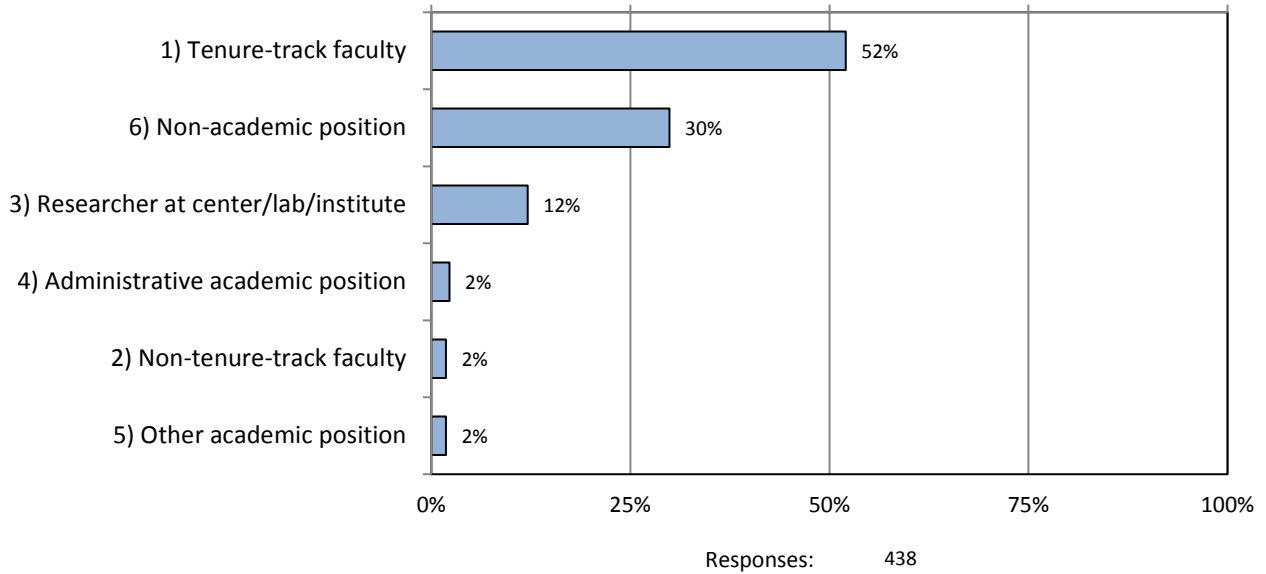


**Figure 56: If you are SEARCHING for a position during the next year, in what sector do you hope to obtain a job?**

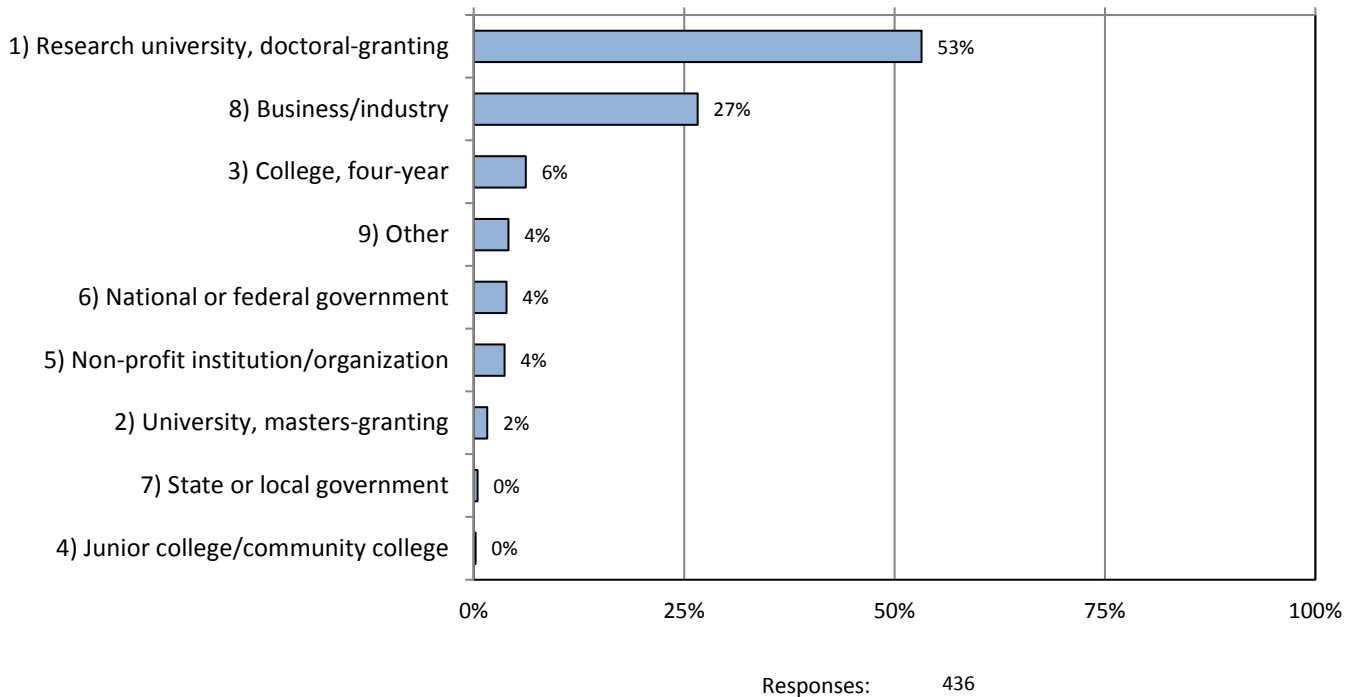


*\*'Non-academic position' category is included in AY 2013-2014 report.*

**\*Figure 56a: Thinking about the future, which best describes the position that is your ULTIMATE career goal?**



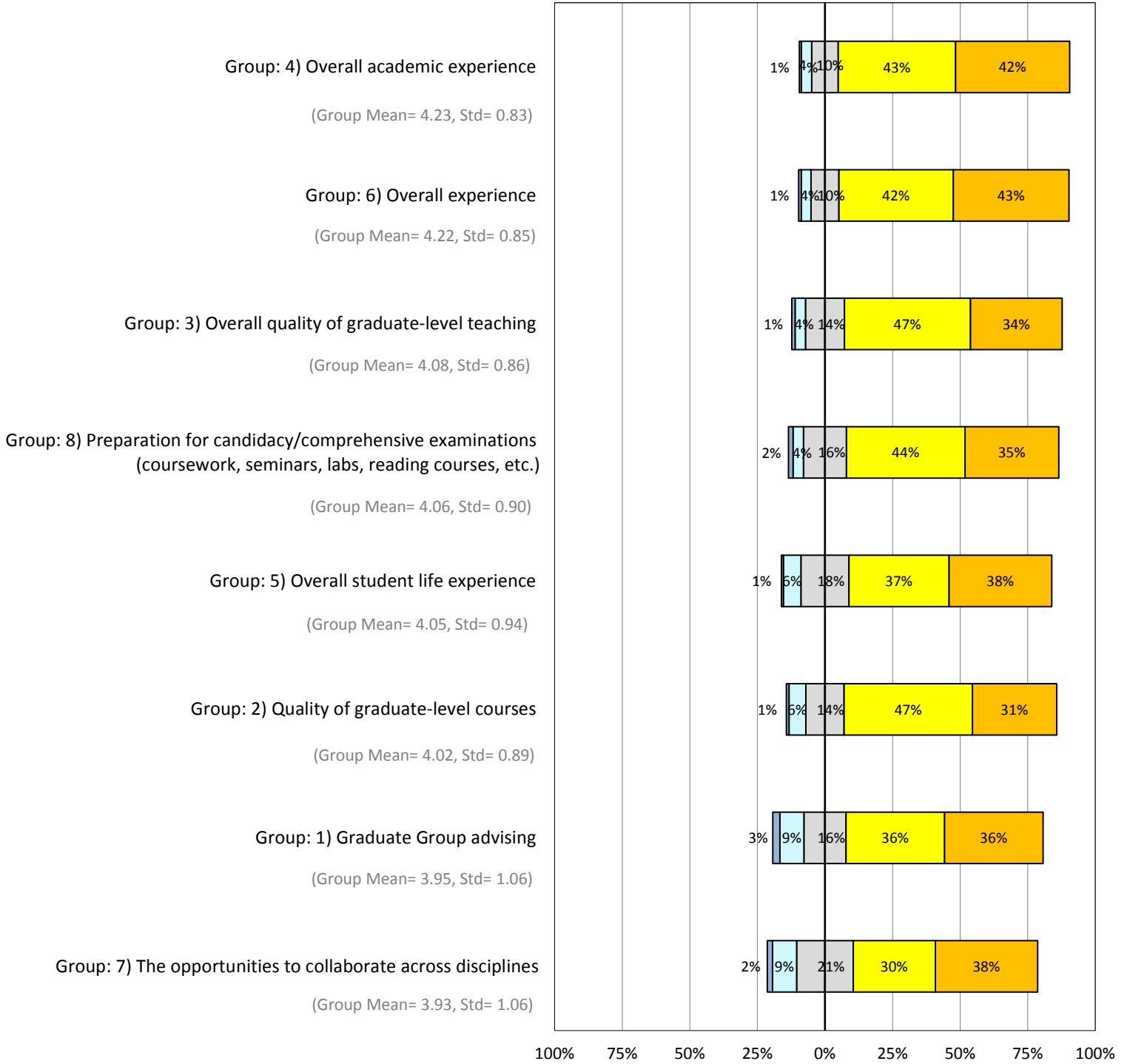
**\*Figure 56b: Thinking about your ULTIMATE career goal, in what sector do you hope to obtain a job?**



\*Questions added in AY 2014-2015.

Figure 57: Please rate your overall satisfaction with each of the following:

Very dissatisfied (1)    Generally dissatisfied (2)    Neither (3)    Generally satisfied (4)    Very satisfied (5)

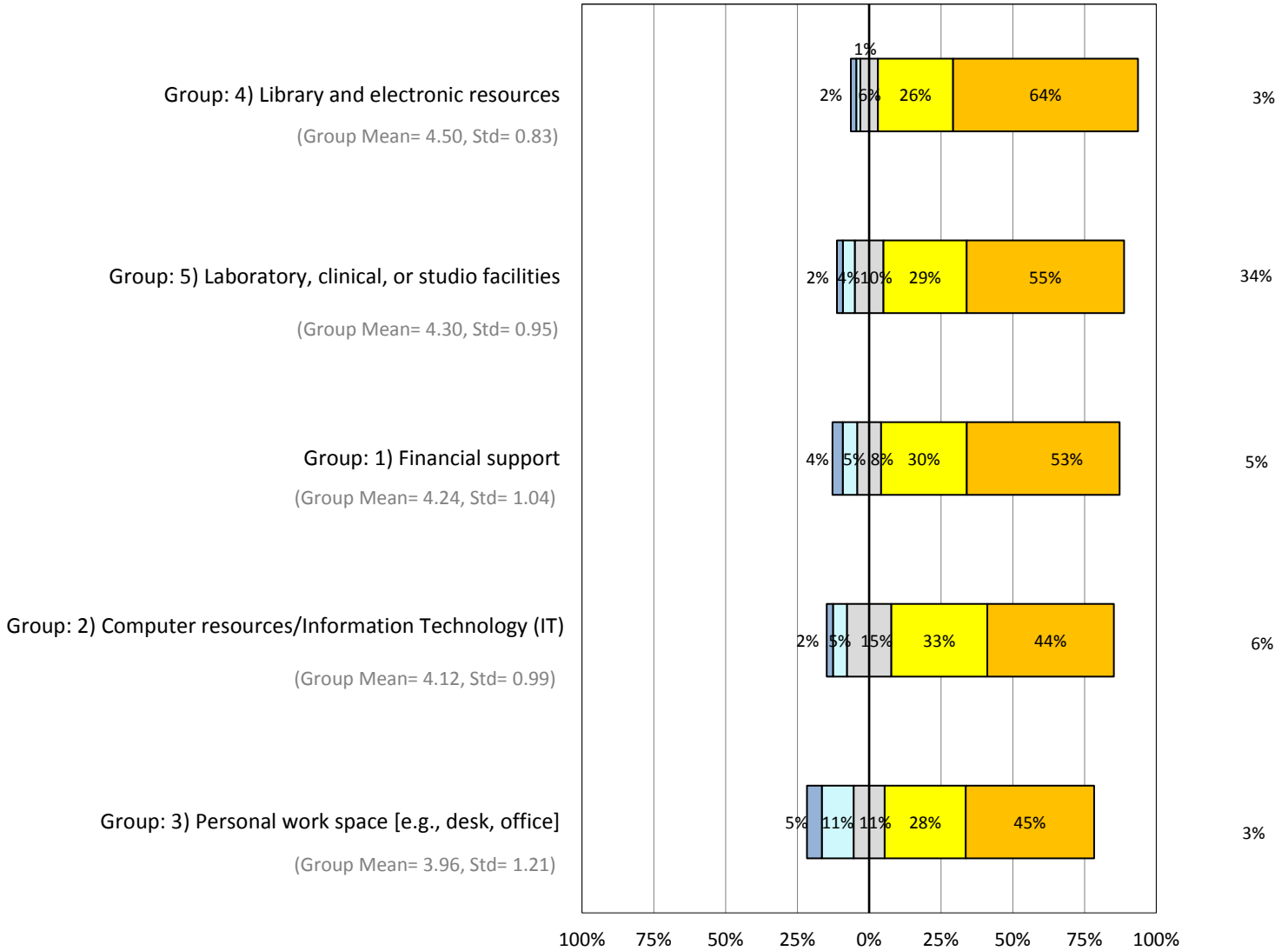


\*Response categories were changed beginning in AY 2013-2014.

Average Responses per Item: 416

**\*Figure 58: Please rate the adequacy of support you were provided during your graduate education and dissertation research in the following areas:**

■ Very dissatisfied (1)  
 ■ Generally dissatisfied (2)  
 ■ Neither (3)  
 ■ Generally satisfied (4)  
 ■ Very satisfied (5)  
 Percent Responding Not Applicable



Average Responses per Item: 440

\*Response categories were changed beginning in AY 2013-2014.



Figure 59: If you were to start your graduate career again, would you...

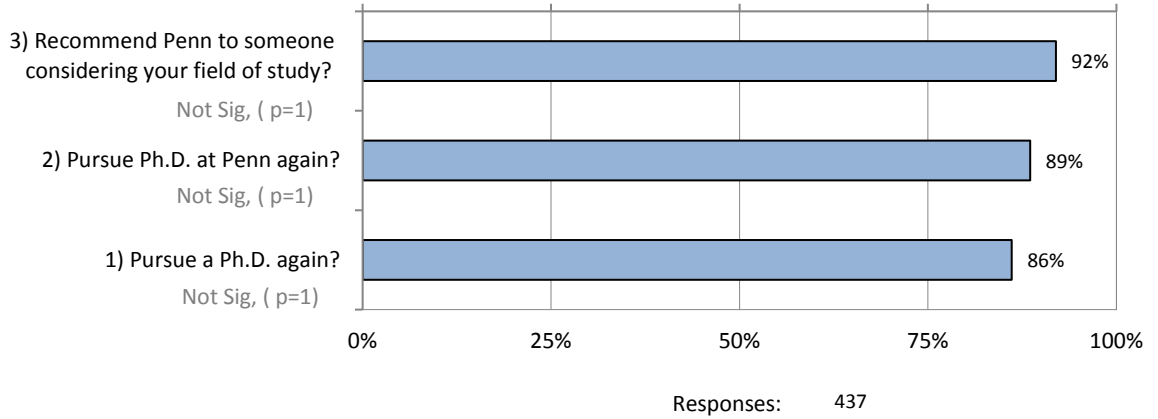
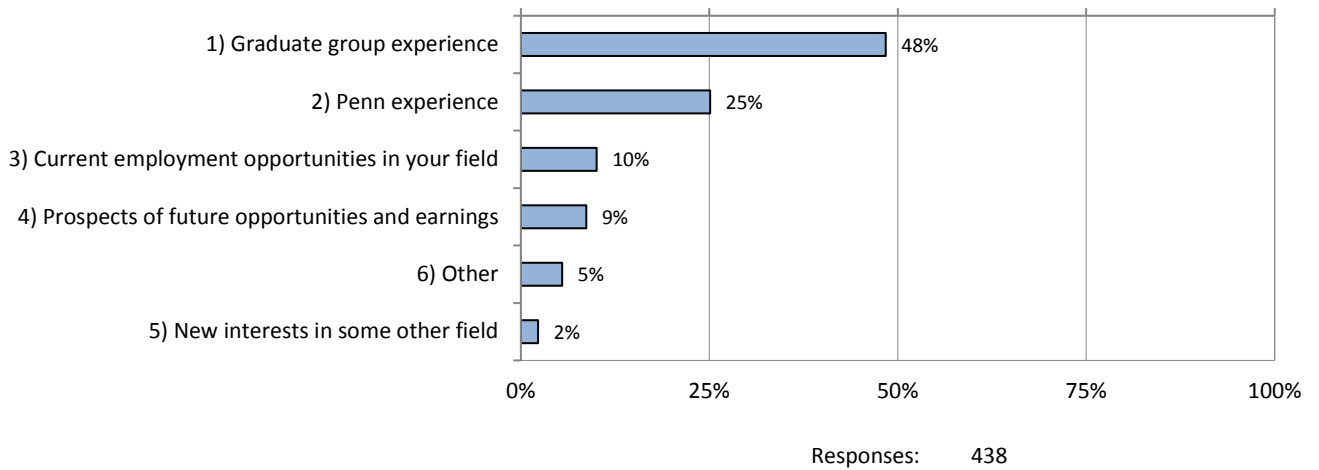
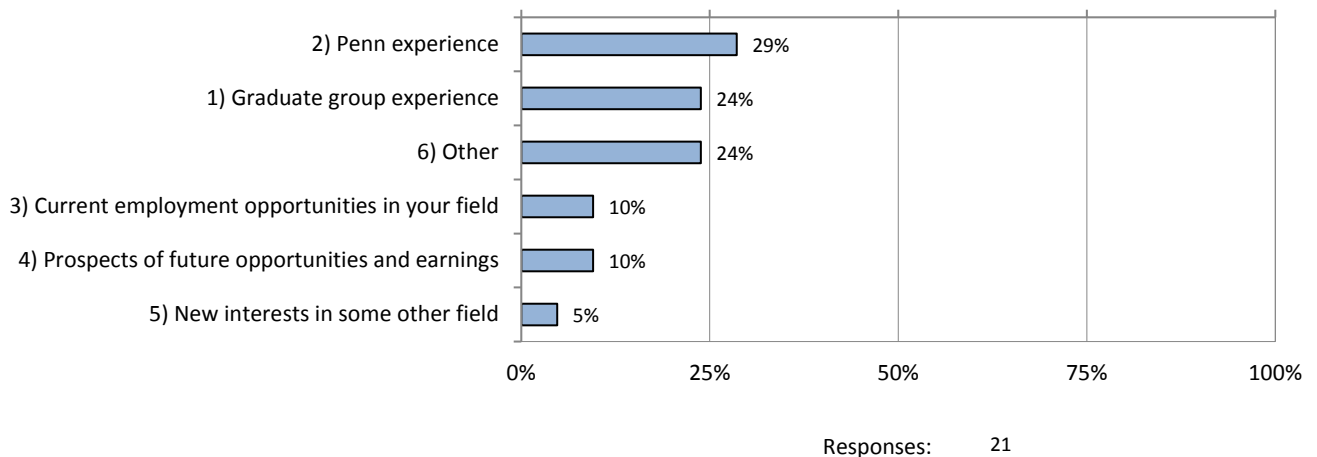


Figure 60: This decision is primarily based upon:



Question 60a: The decision NOT to PURSUE a Ph.D at Penn again is primarily based upon:



**Figure 61: How often have you had conversations with Penn colleagues (students and post docs) who differ from you...**

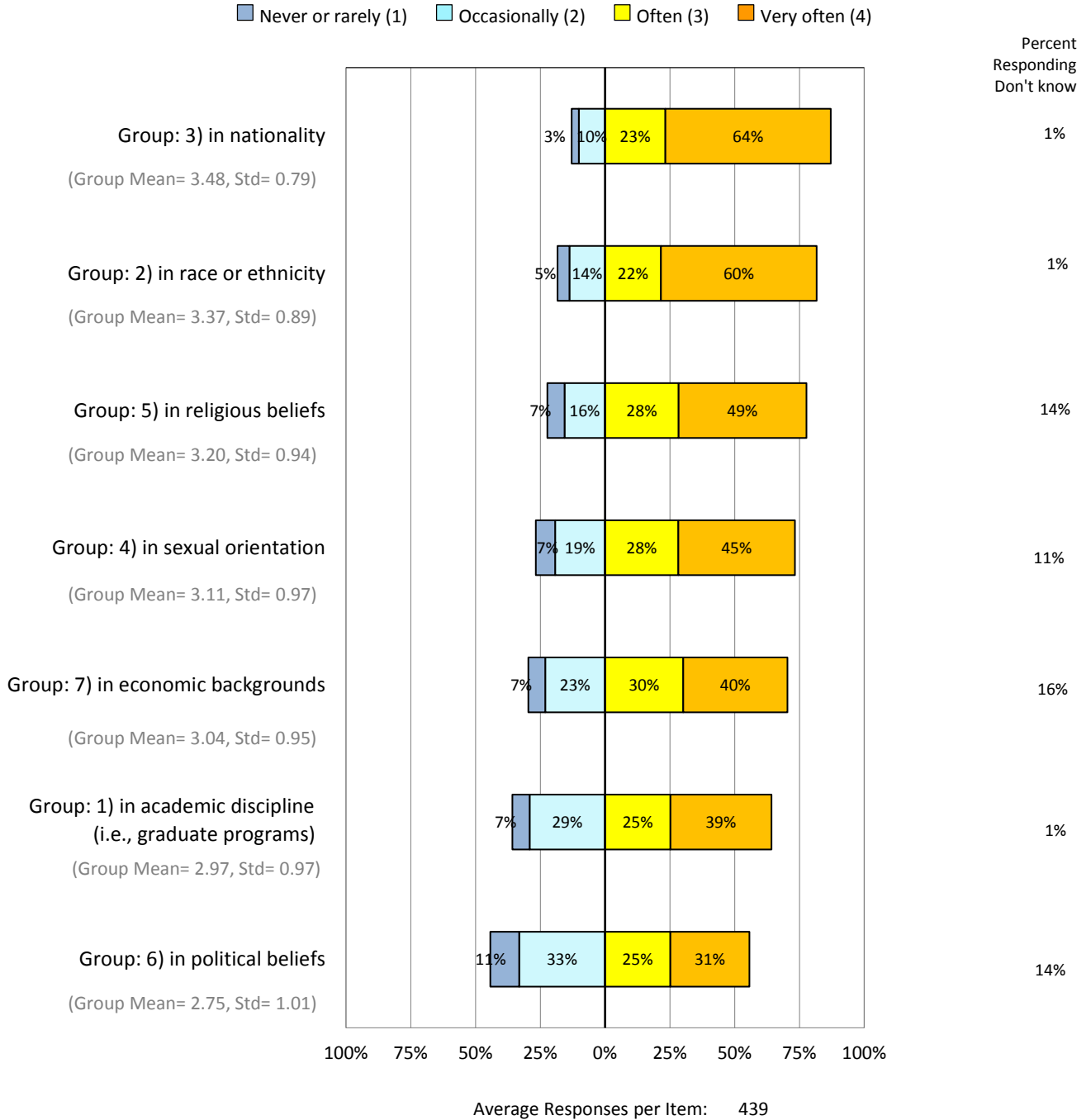
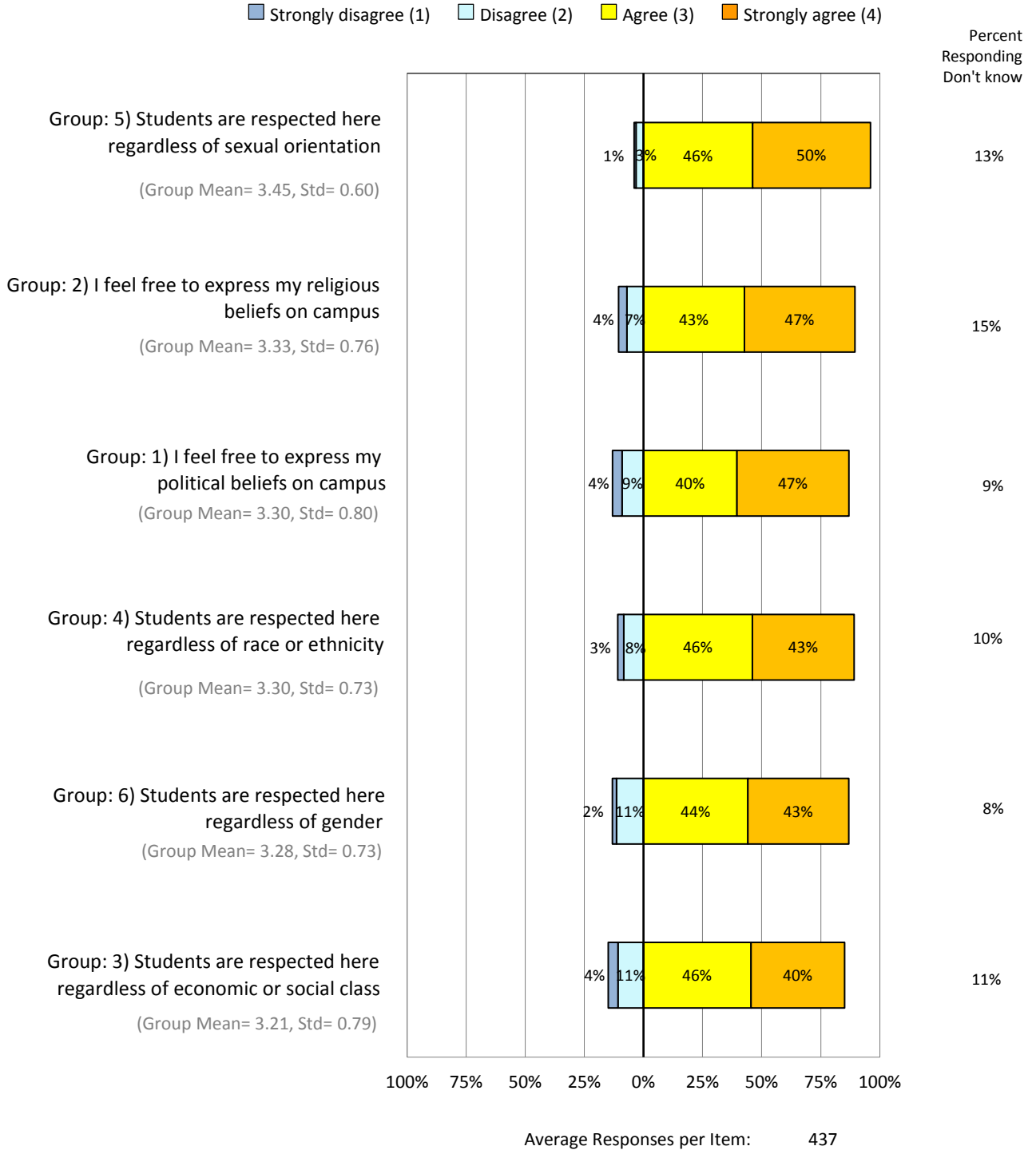
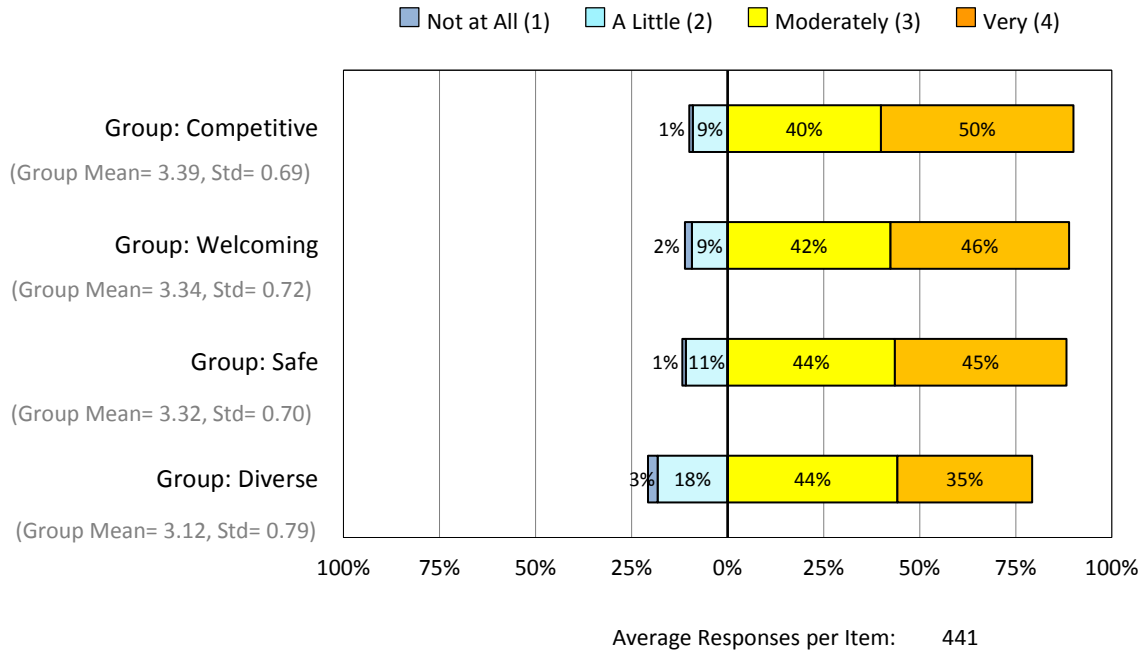


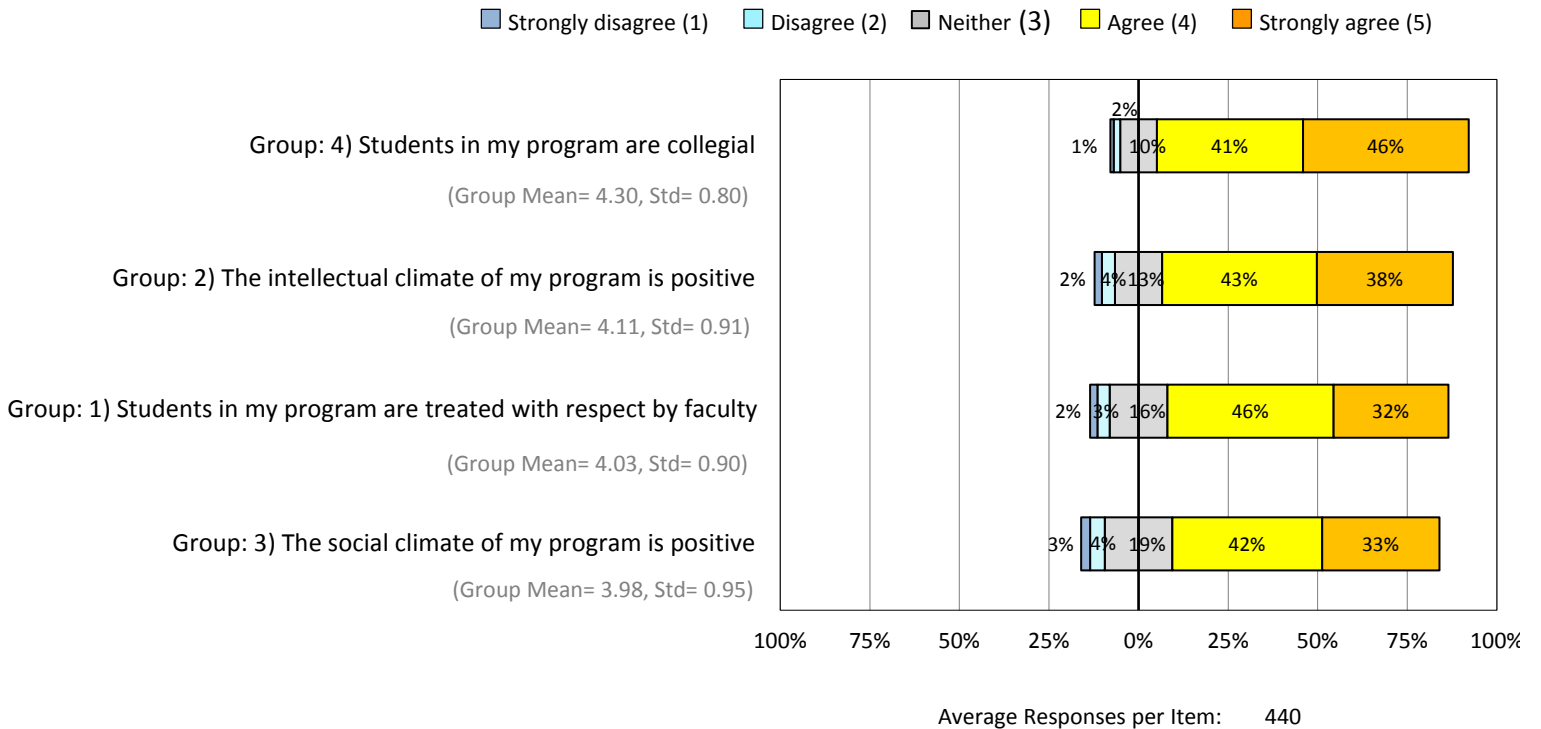
Figure 62: Indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:



**Figure 63: What is your impression of the Penn Community?**

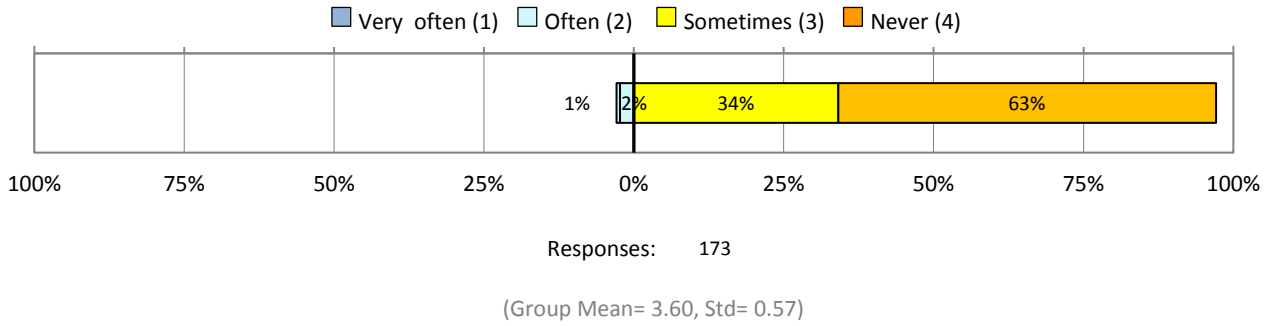


**\*Figure 64: To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?**

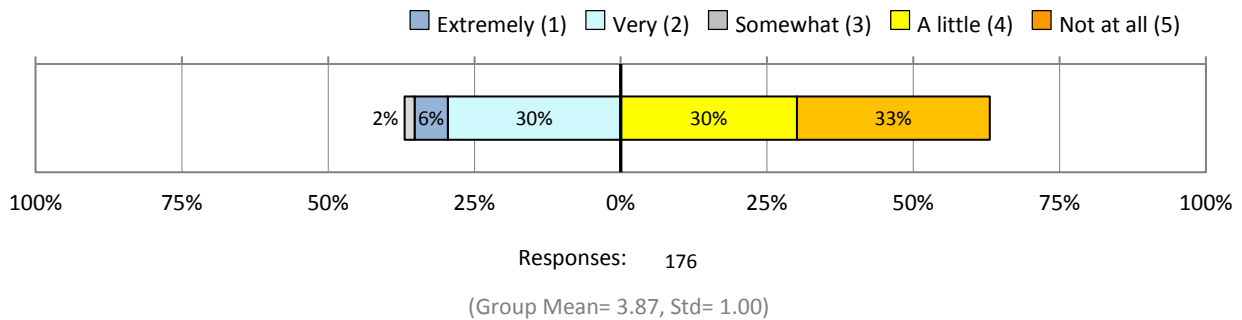


\*Question added in AY 2013-2014.

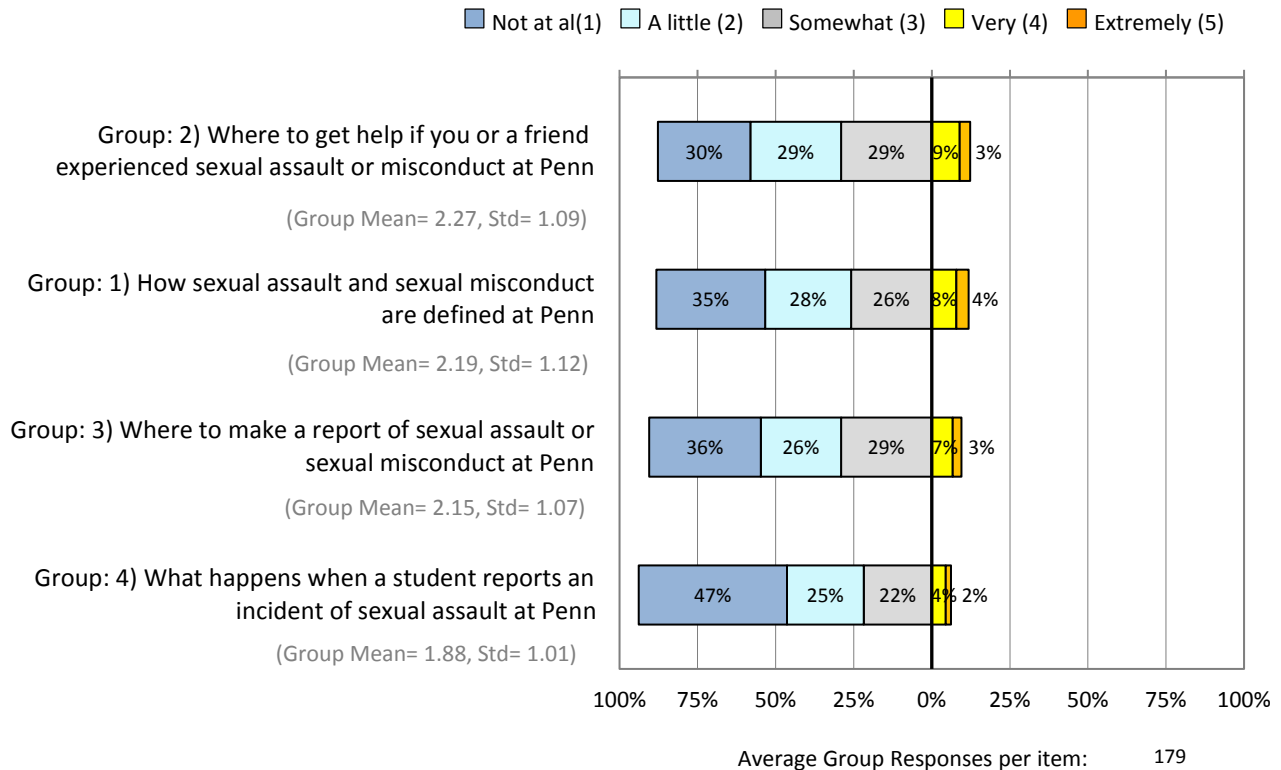
**\*Figure 65: Perceived frequency of cheating, including plagiarism at Penn:**



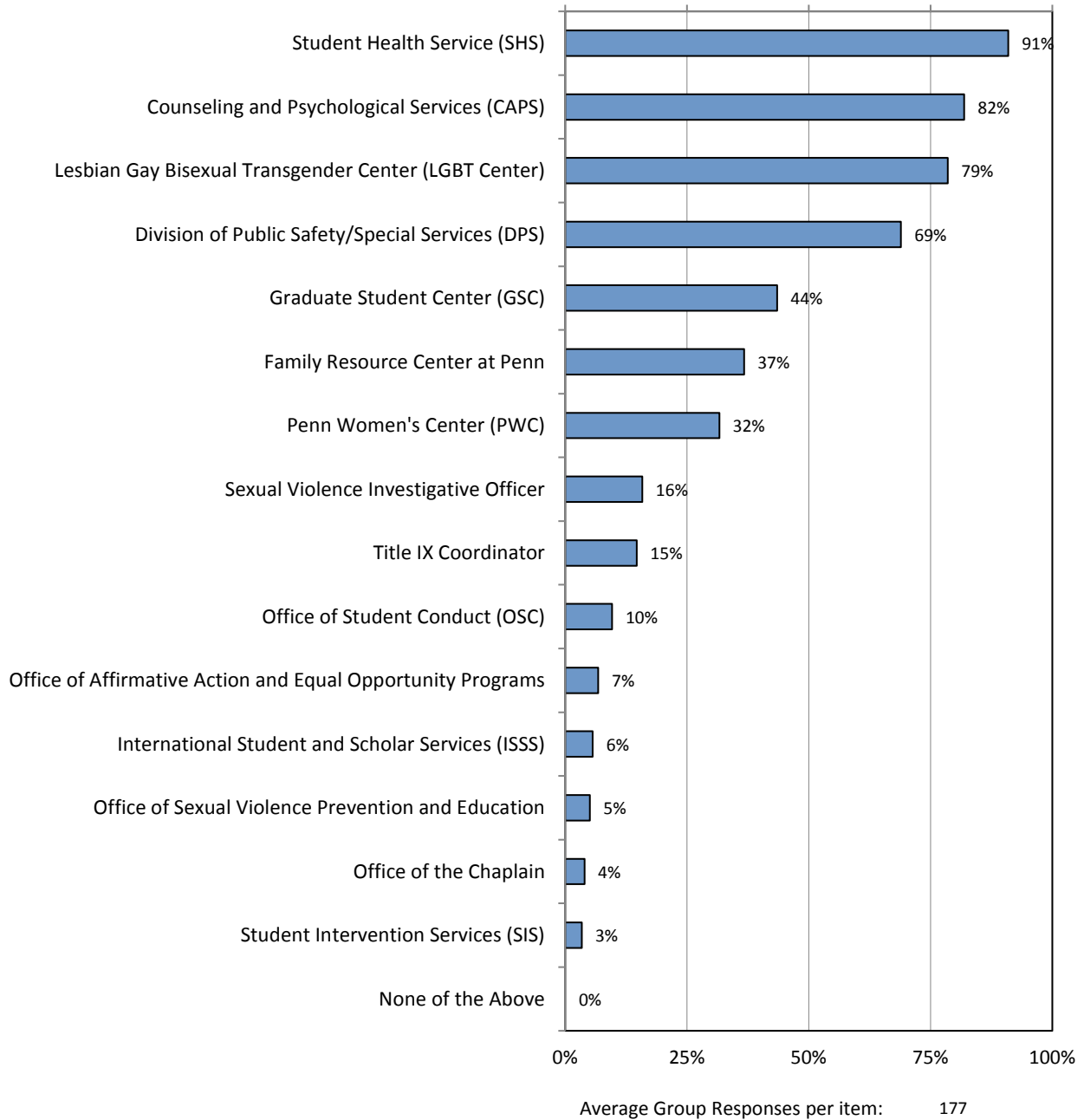
**\*Figure 66: Perception of whether sexual assault or sexual misconduct at Penn is problematic:**



**\*Figure 66a: Extent of knowledge about sexual assault/misconduct at Penn:**



**\*Figure 66b: Awareness of services provided by the following:**



*\*Question added in AY 2015-2016.*