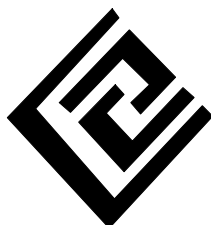




GRADUATING STUDENTS SURVEY

Calhoun Community College



Research Conducted at

2005 Graduation Expo

Research Compiled by

Office of Planning and Research

May 2005

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Office of Planning and Research at Calhoun Community College wishes to thank the Office of Student Services and the Office of Admissions for allowing space at the Graduation Expo for conducting this study. In addition, we thank June Holt, Kelli Garrison, and other Bookstore employees for graciously hosting us during the day this study was conducted and for agreeing to distribute additional surveys to those students who picked up caps and gowns after the Graduating Expo.

The Office of Planning and Research also thanks Redi-to-Serve for donating candy bars used as an incentive to promote completing the Graduating Student Survey. Though the Office of Planning and Research offered to purchase the candy bars, Redi-to-Serve graciously offered to donate and deliver the candy bars. Thanks!

The students who completed the survey used to conduct this study should be acknowledged for taking their time to contribute data the College can use to improve the educational experience for future students.

ABSTRACT

GRADUATING STUDENT SURVEY *Spring 2005*

The Graduating Student Survey was administered during the Graduation Expo held in the Calhoun Community College Bookstore on April 14, 2005.

Purpose: The 2005 Graduating Student Survey served many purposes: 1) to determine if students achieved their educational goals while attending Calhoun, 2) to determine whether they had positive experiences, 3) to determine the demographic composition of students who choose to go through the graduation ceremony, and 4) to determine the future plans of Calhoun graduates.

Objectives: The primary objective of the study was to determine student satisfaction with the educational experience at Calhoun.

Methods: The Office of Planning and Research was invited by Carla Swinney to administer the Graduating Student Survey at the Graduation Expo. In the past, the survey was administered during graduation and it was determined that students found it intrusive to complete a survey on the evening of their graduation.

The Office of Planning and Research attempted to obtain a copy of the most recent Graduating Student Survey, but obtained only a copy of the most recent results of that survey. Consequently, the survey instrument was reconstructed from the sample results. As graduating students entered the Graduation Expo, they were asked to stop by the Office of Planning and Research table and complete the survey. Students were given candy bars, donated by Redi-to-Serve, for completing the survey. Students appeared to be happy to participate. Additional surveys were left with Ms. Kelli Garrison to distribute to graduates who came later to pick up their caps and gowns. In all, 273 graduates completed the survey. A total of 1116 awards were given between summer 2004 and Spring 2005. Not all qualified students elected to participate in the graduation ceremony, and the survey was given only to those who applied to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Timeline: Most surveys were completed on April 14, 2005, at the Graduation Expo. A few additional surveys were completed as students picked up their caps and gowns late, and those surveys were forwarded to the Office of Planning and Research by Ms. Garrison and were included in the analysis of results.

Data was analyzed, and reported by May 20, 2005.

Study Limitations: This study included only graduates who chose to participate in the graduation ceremony. The survey could have been mailed to all students

who qualified for graduation, but poor return rates on mailed surveys impacted the decision to survey only those participating in the graduation ceremony. It is unknown how this decision may have affected the results of the survey.

In addition, the survey instrument was compiled quickly in order to meet the deadline for Graduation Expo. Consequently, the instrument was not tested, nor were others at the College asked for input. The instrument was closely patterned after previous Graduation Student Survey instruments. However, analysis of the results revealed that some students either did not understand the question or did not take the survey seriously. For instance, the question concerning the use of Childcare on campus indicated that very few students used the service. However, a large number of respondents indicated they were not satisfied with the service. Responses with such disparity cannot be valid. Those reading the results of the study should be aware of such inconsistencies.

Suggestions for Future Research: The Graduating Student Survey should be conducted annually in the Spring. Administering the survey at the Graduation Expo, along with an incentive for completing it, should be continued. The survey instrument should be revised to encourage valid responses. The Office of Planning and Research should coordinate with other offices, such as the Grants Office, to ensure the survey instrument includes questions of value to all at the College.

Major Findings: The results of the study revealed that the majority of the graduating students filling out the survey were satisfied with their experience at Calhoun Community College and would recommend the College to others.

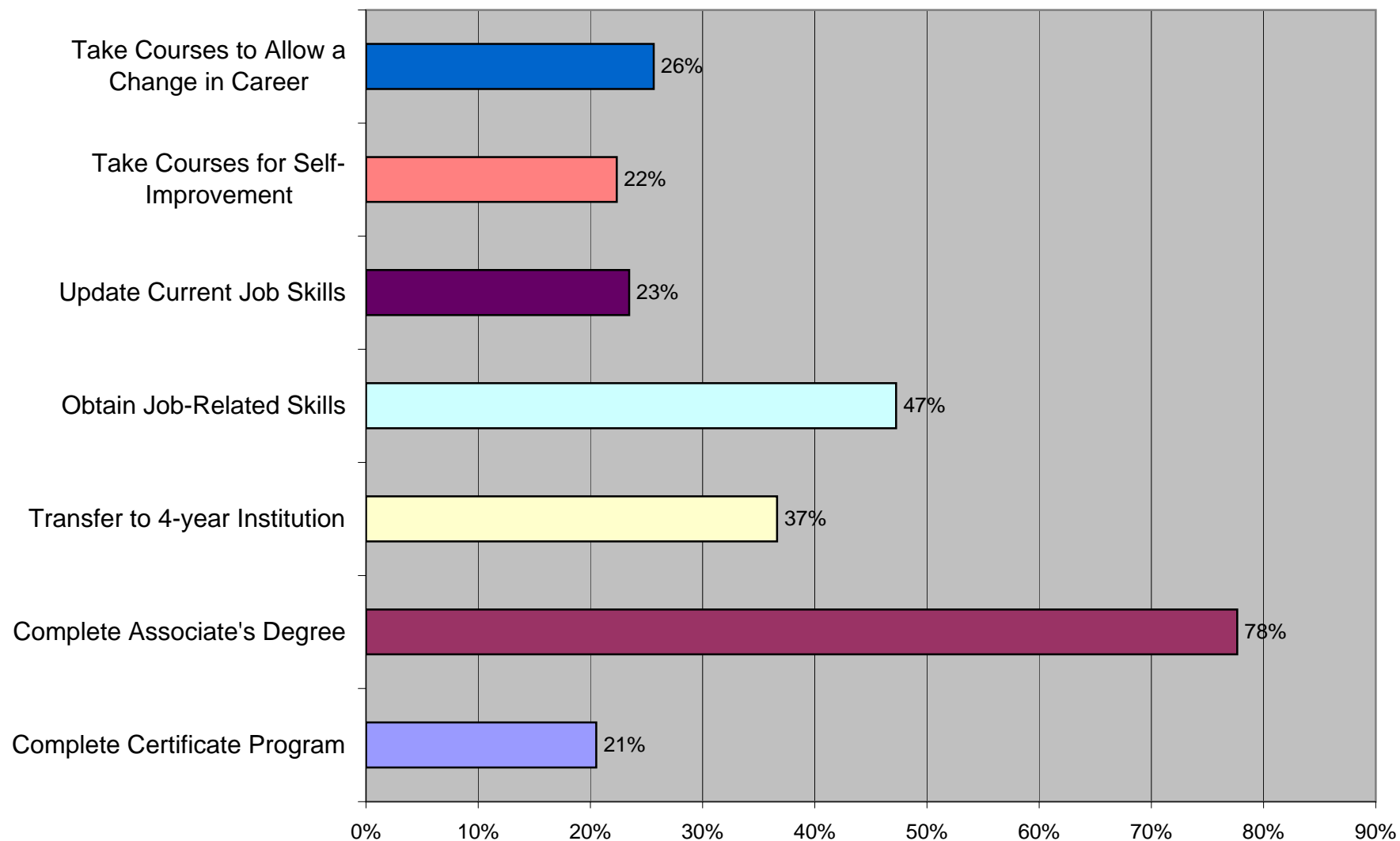
TABLE OF CONTENTS

GRADUATING STUDENT SURVEY *Spring 2005*

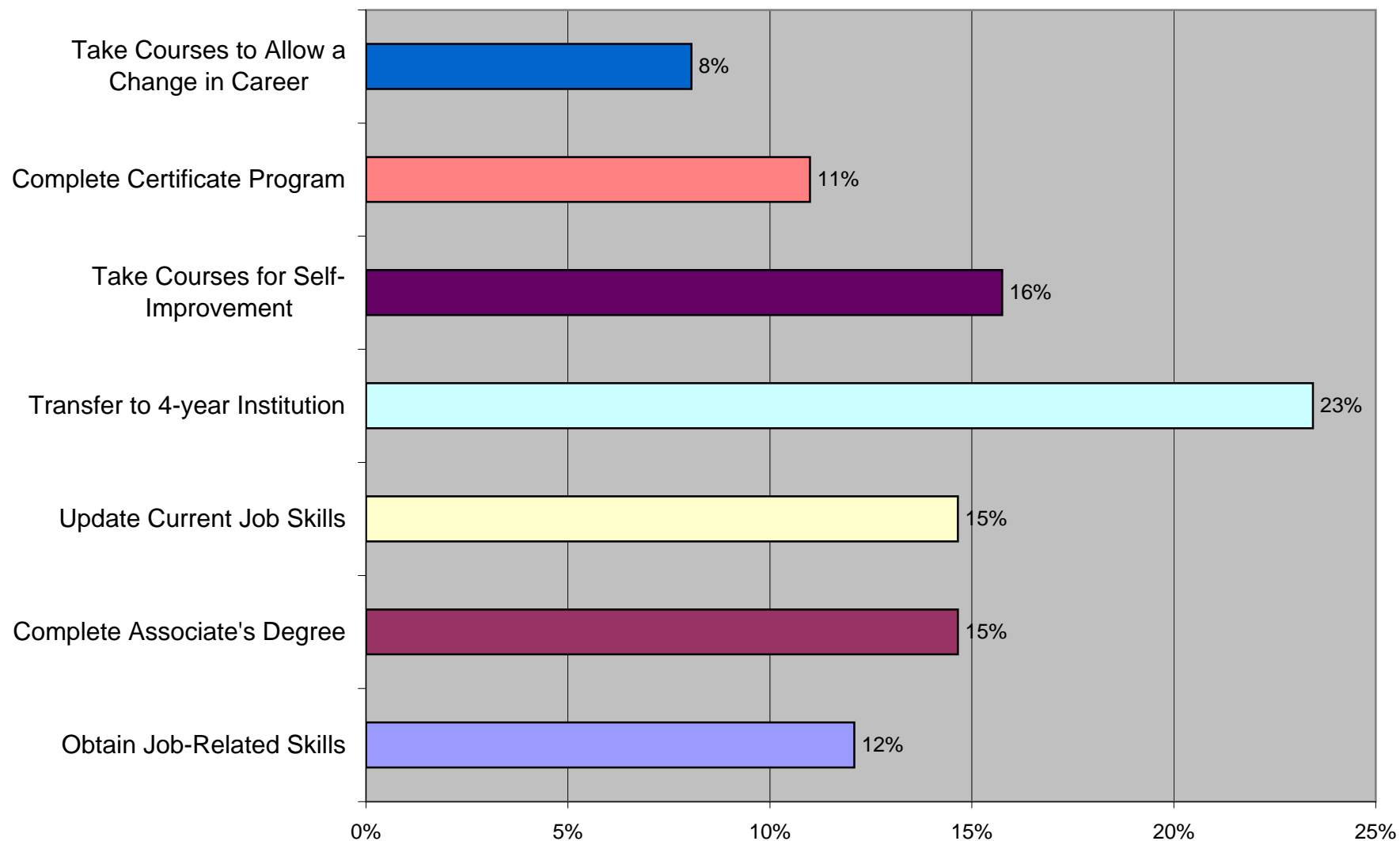
LIST OF TABLES

Graduates' Primary Goal for Attending Calhoun Community College	1
Graduates' Secondary Goal for Attending Calhoun Community College	2
Use and Satisfaction with the use of Faculty for Academic Advising	3
Use and Satisfaction with the Use of Advising Center	4
Use and Satisfaction with Peer Tutors	5
Use and Satisfaction with Skills Labs (Math, English, CIS, etc.)	6
Use and Satisfaction with Childcare	7
Use and Satisfaction with Financial Aid	8
Use and Satisfaction with Services for Students with Disabilities	9
Satisfaction with Instruction	10
Student's Opinion on Being Well Prepared for Employment or Transfer	11
Satisfaction with Courses Being Available when Needed	12
Satisfaction with Convenience in Scheduling Classes	13
Age Ranges of Graduating Students	14
Gender of Graduates	15
Employment Status of Graduates	16
Marital Status of Graduates	17
Graduates' Future Plans After Graduation	18
Educational Goals of Transferring Students	19
Schools to Which Students will Transfer	20
Top Ten Schools to Which Graduates Plan to Transfer	21
Recommendation of Calhoun to Others	22

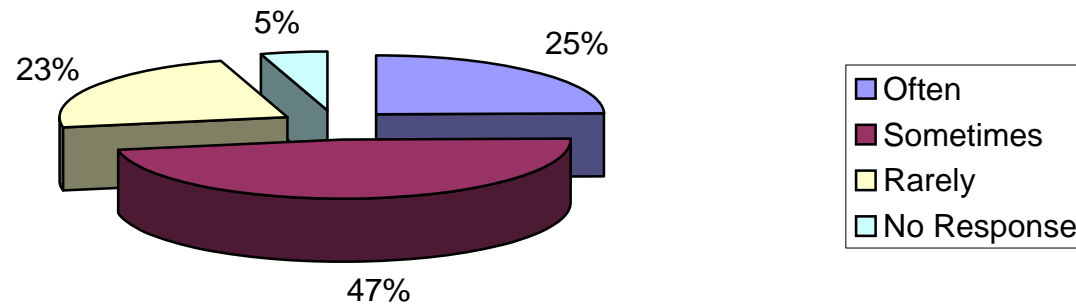
CALHOUN GRADUATES' PRIMARY GOAL FOR ATTENDING



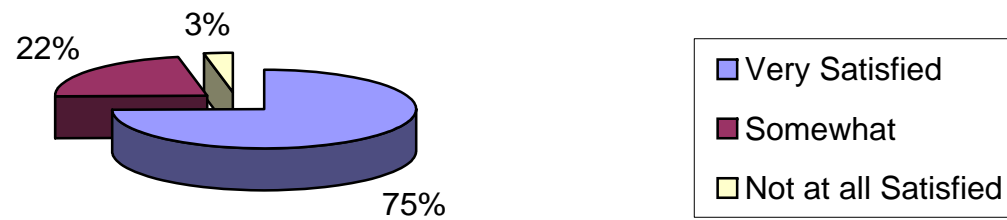
CALHOUN GRADUATES' SECONDARY GOAL FOR ATTENDING



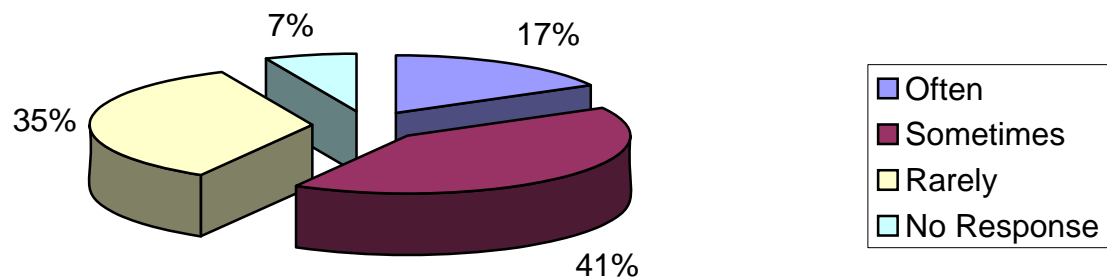
USE OF FACULTY FOR ACADEMIC ADVISING



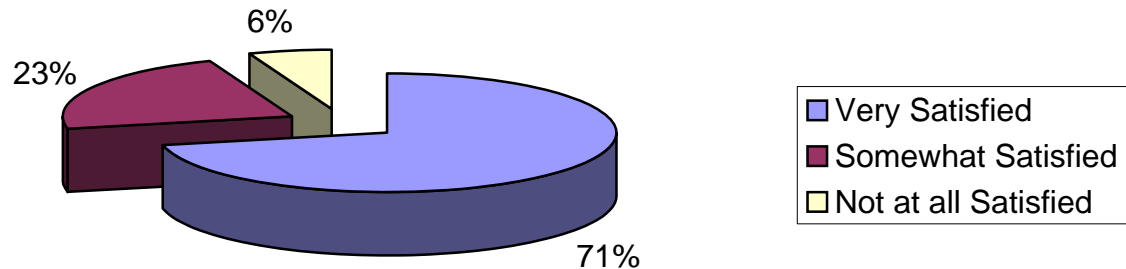
SATISFACTION WITH ADVISING RECEIVED FROM FACULTY

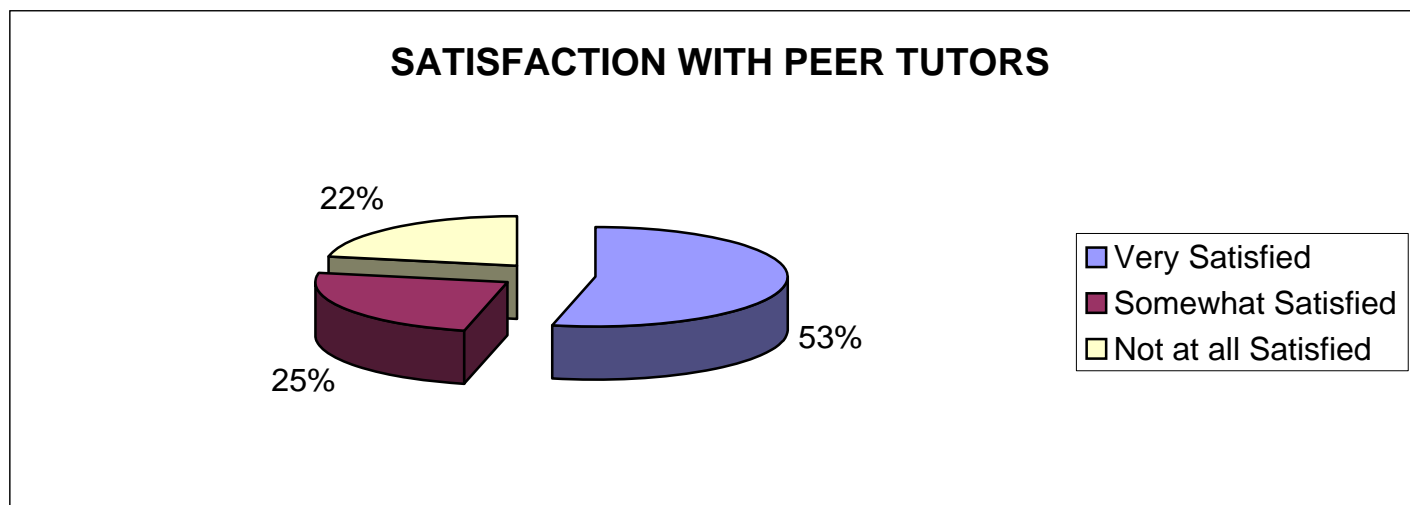
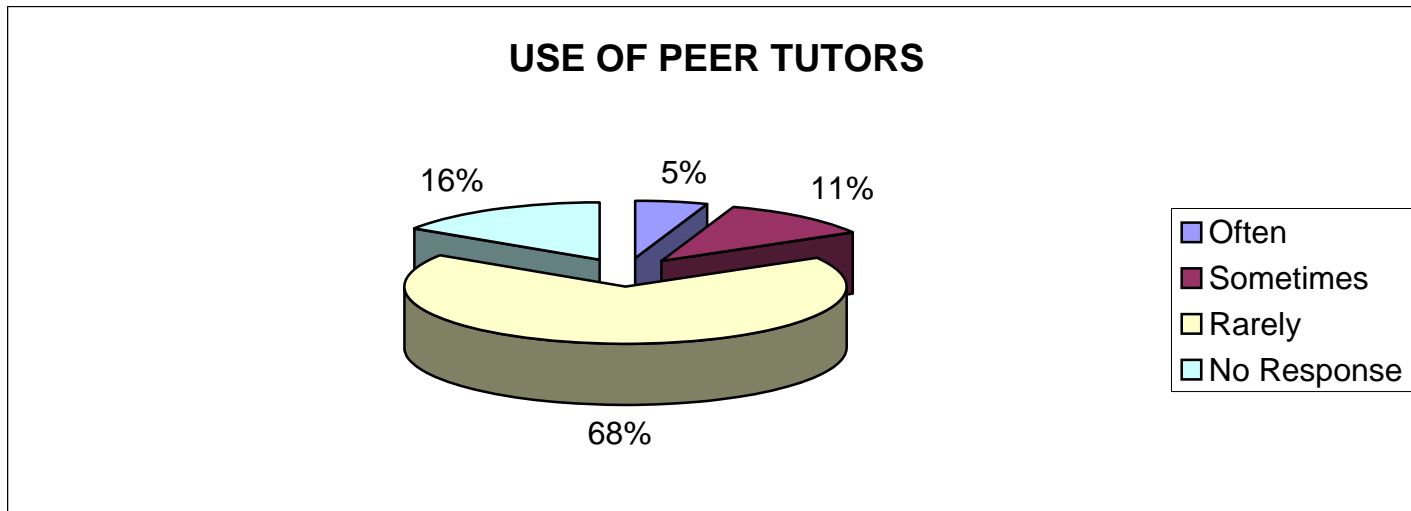


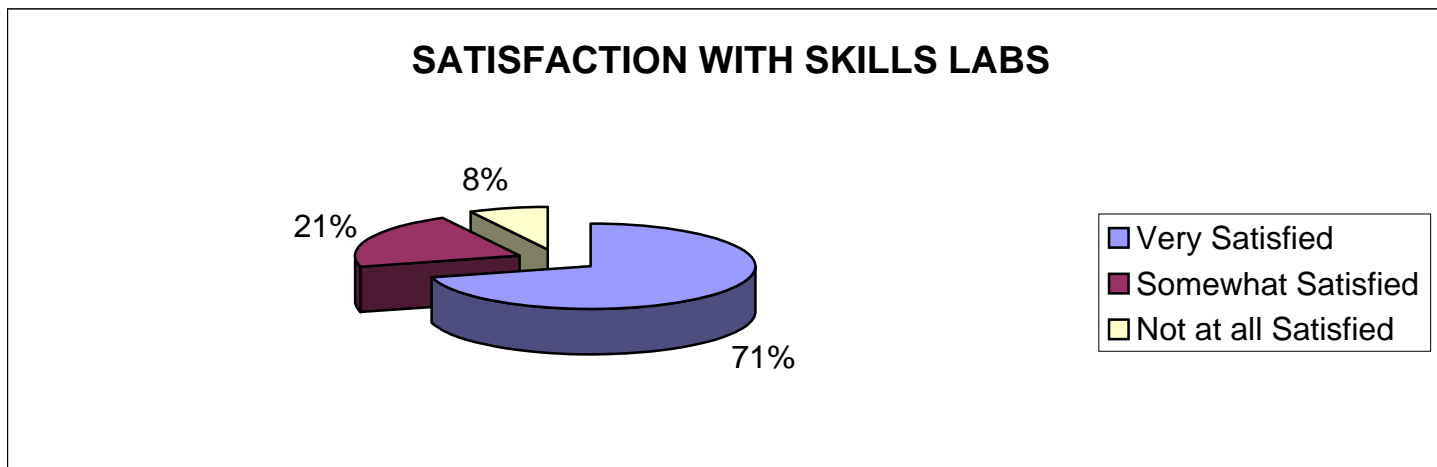
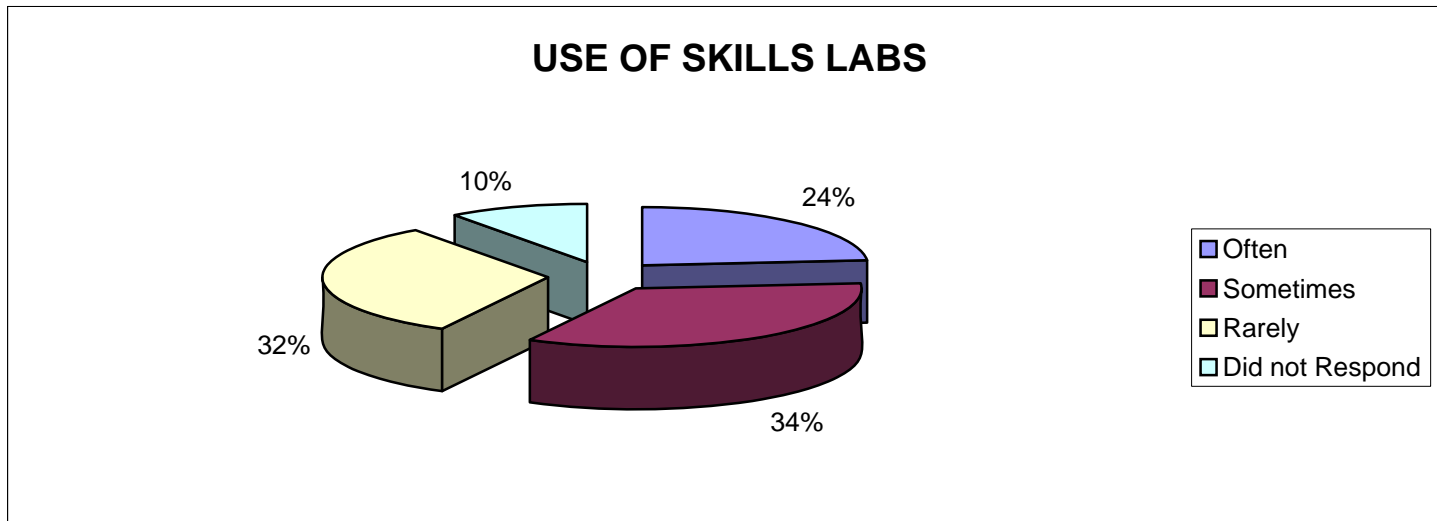
USE OF ADVISING CENTER FOR ACADEMIC ADVISING

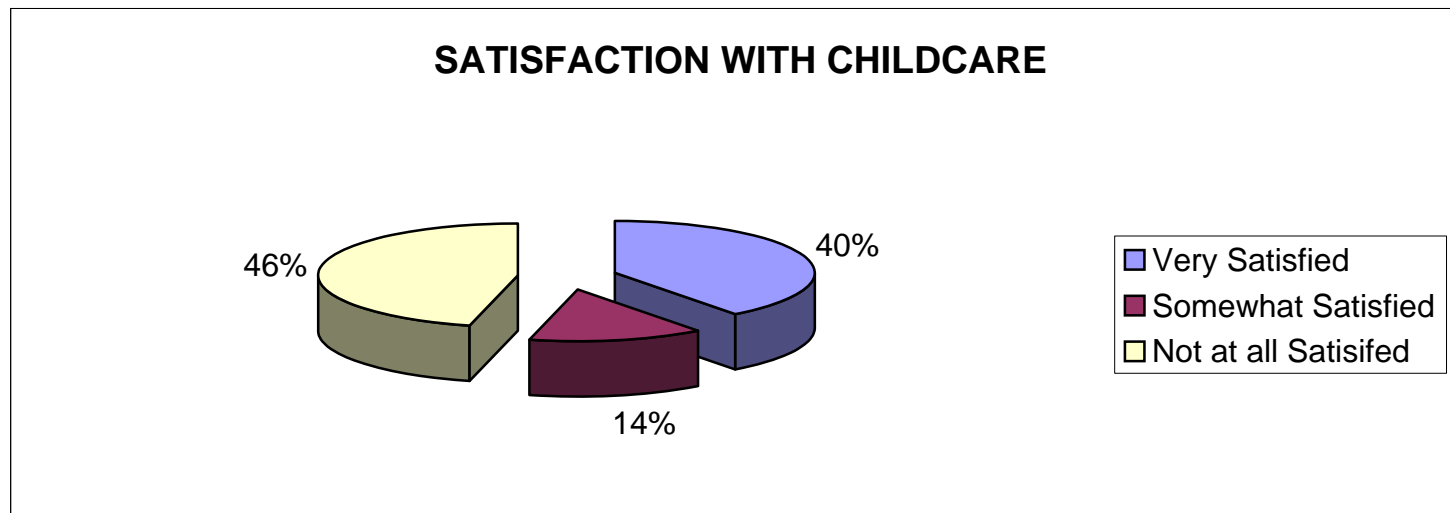
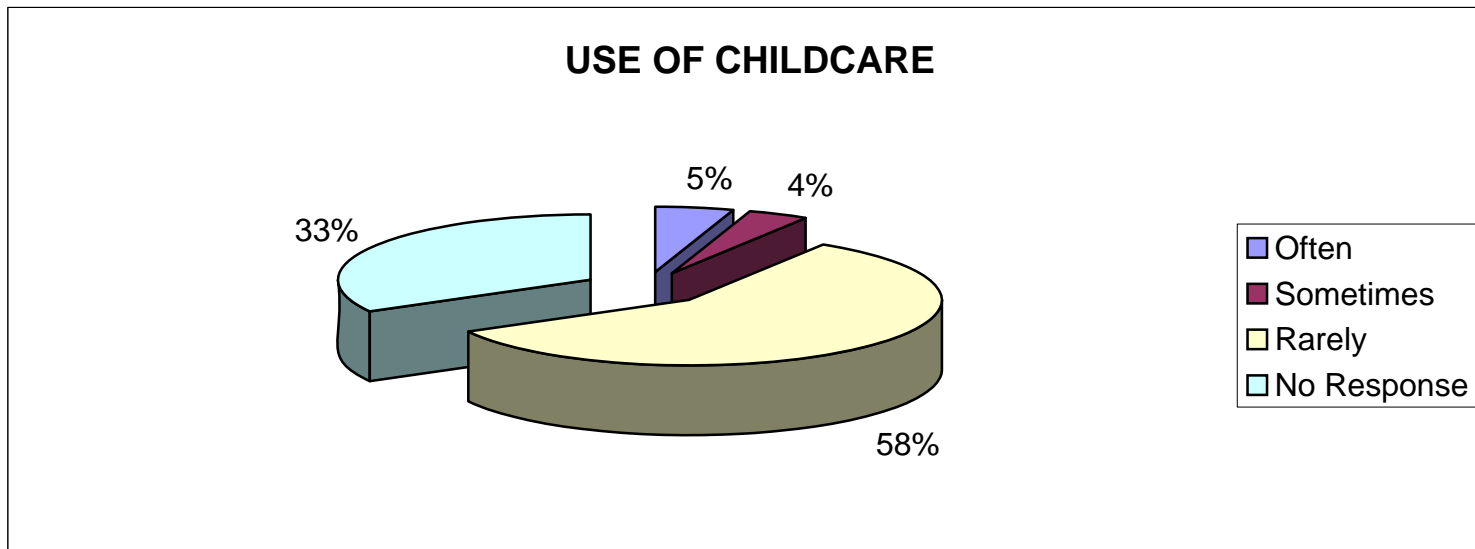


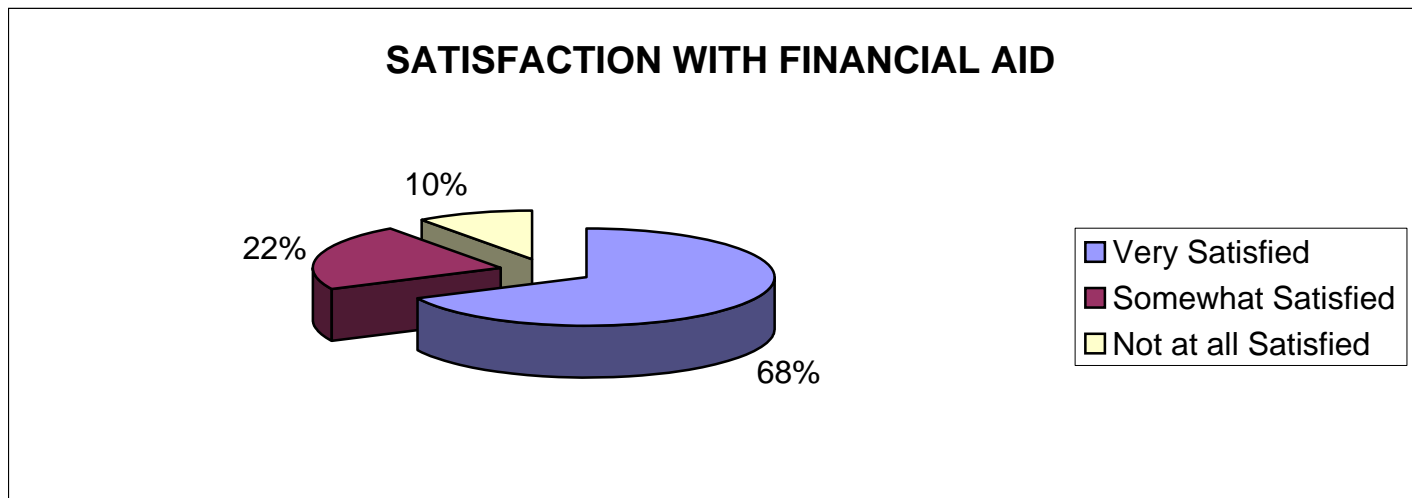
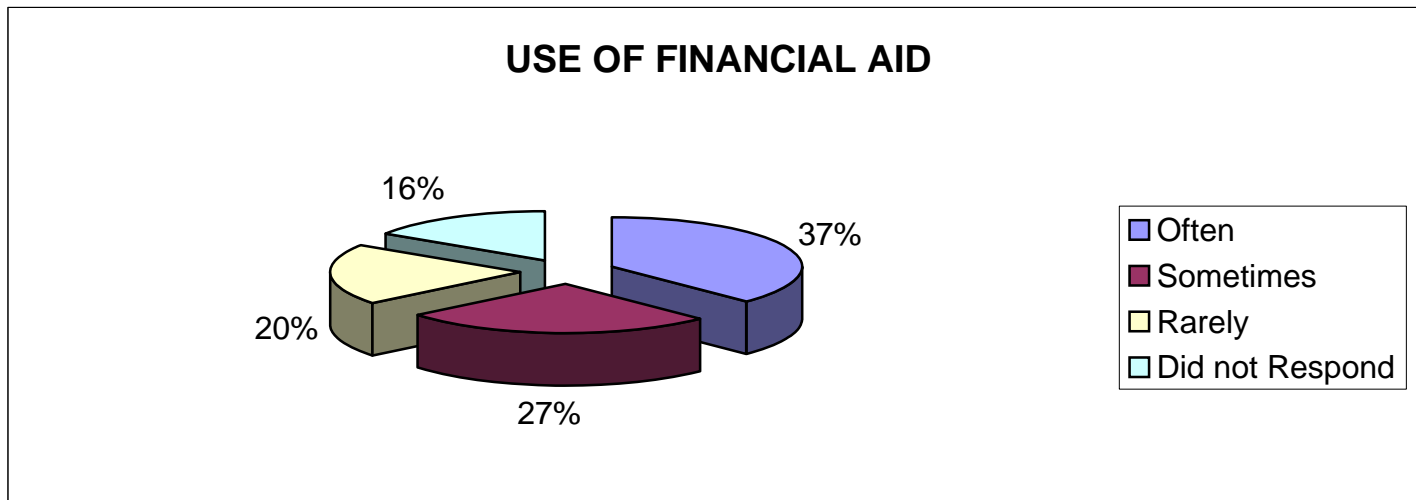
SATISFACTION WITH ADVISING CENTER



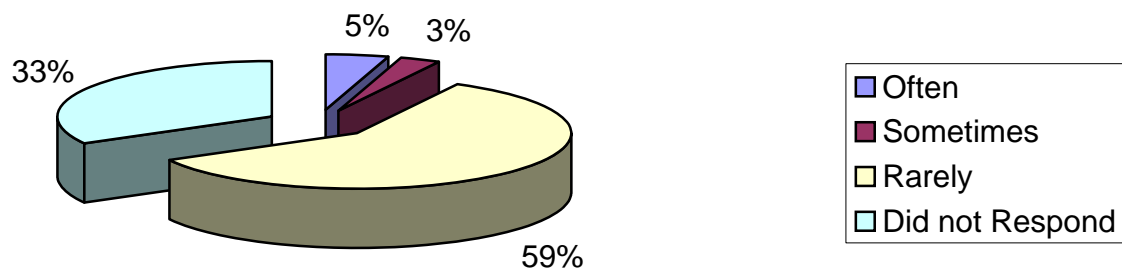




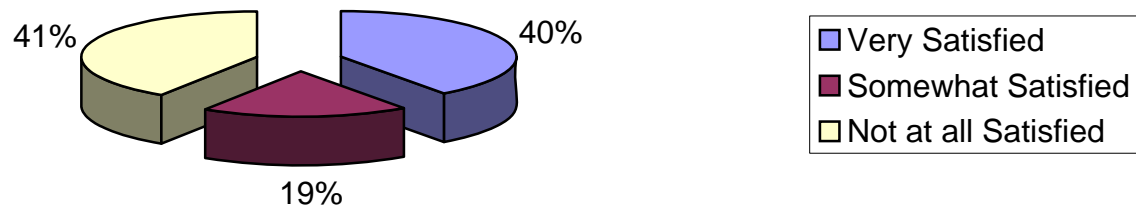




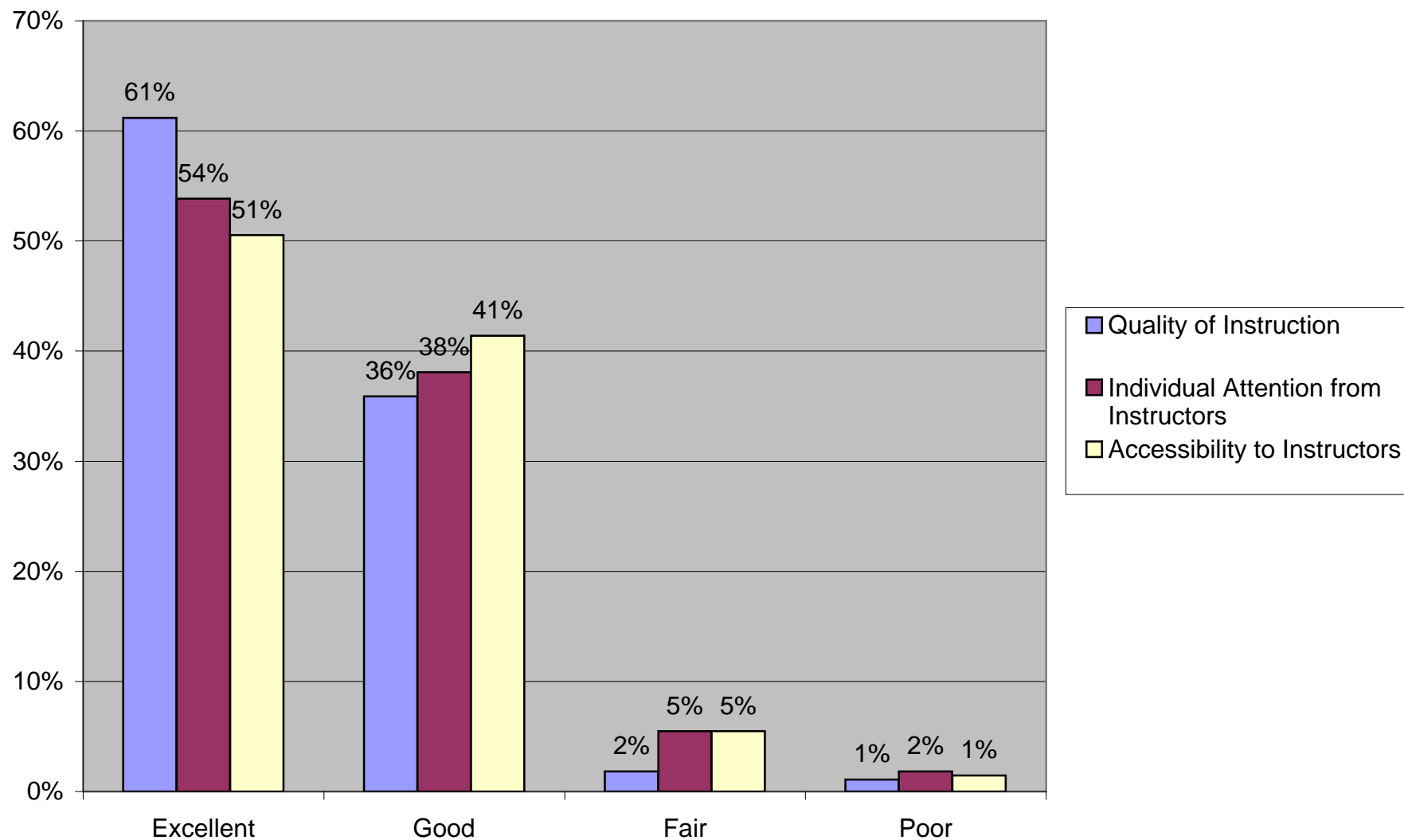
USE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SERVICES



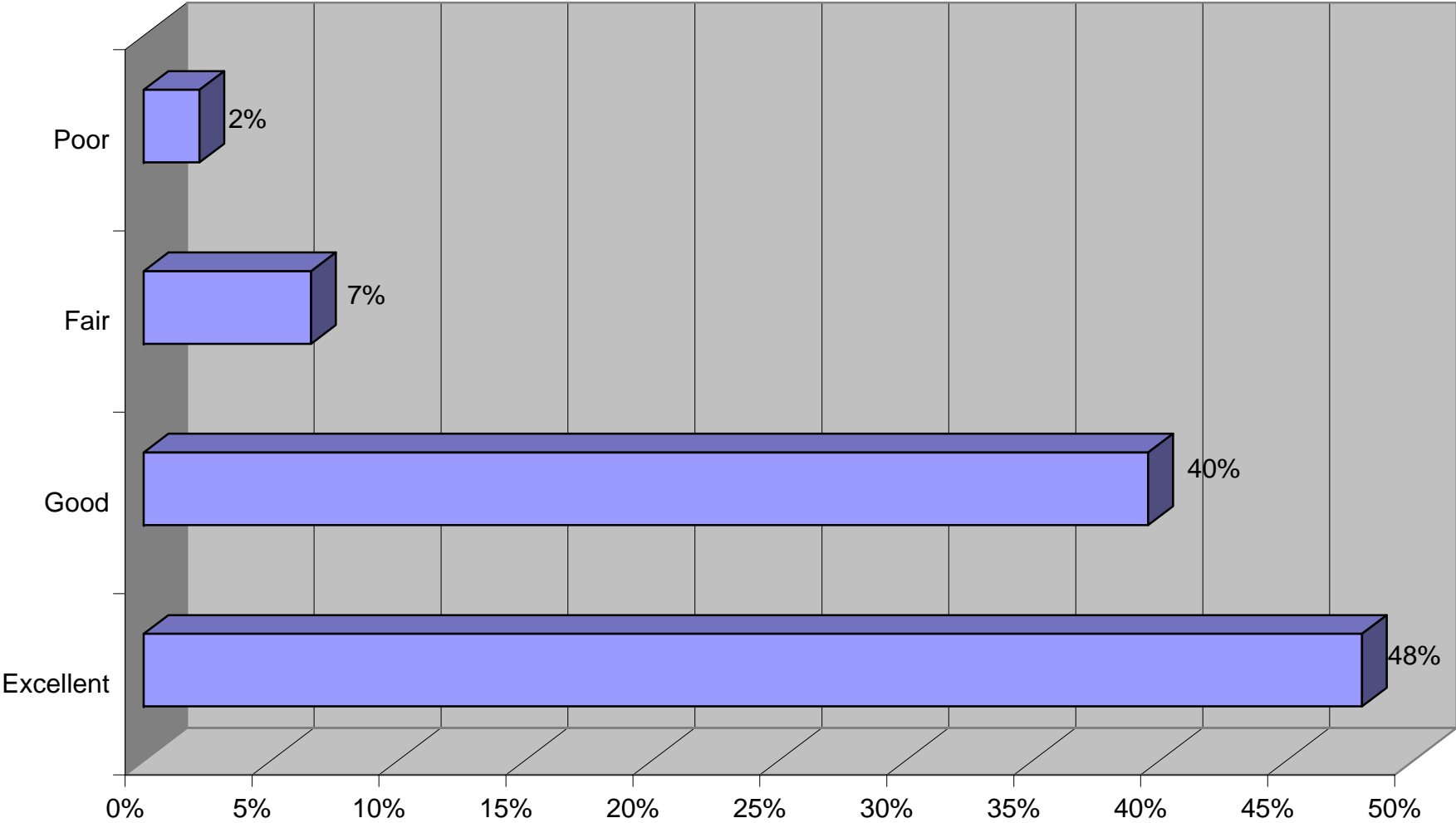
SATISFACTION WITH STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY SERVICES



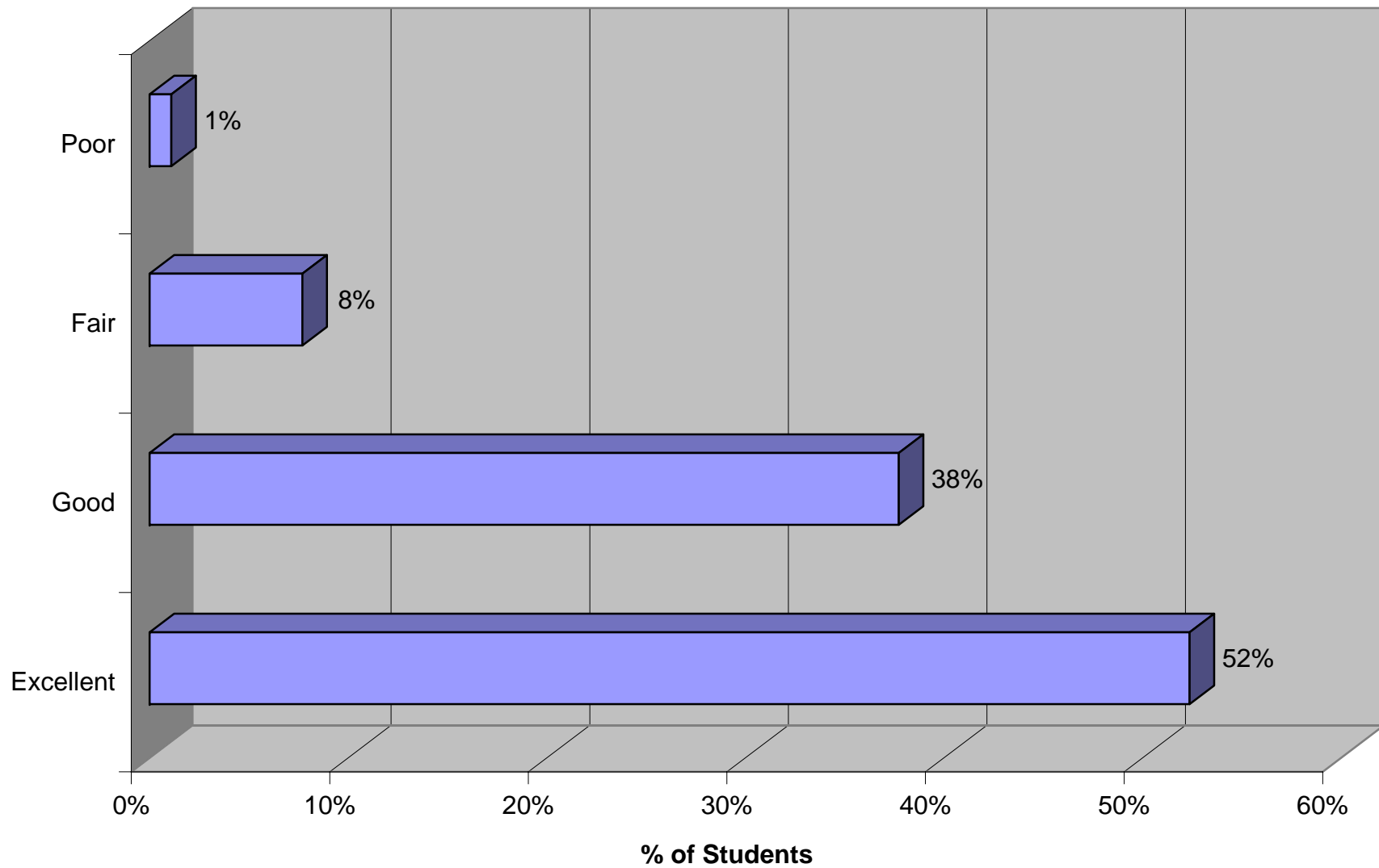
SATISFACTION WITH INSTRUCTION AT CALHOUN



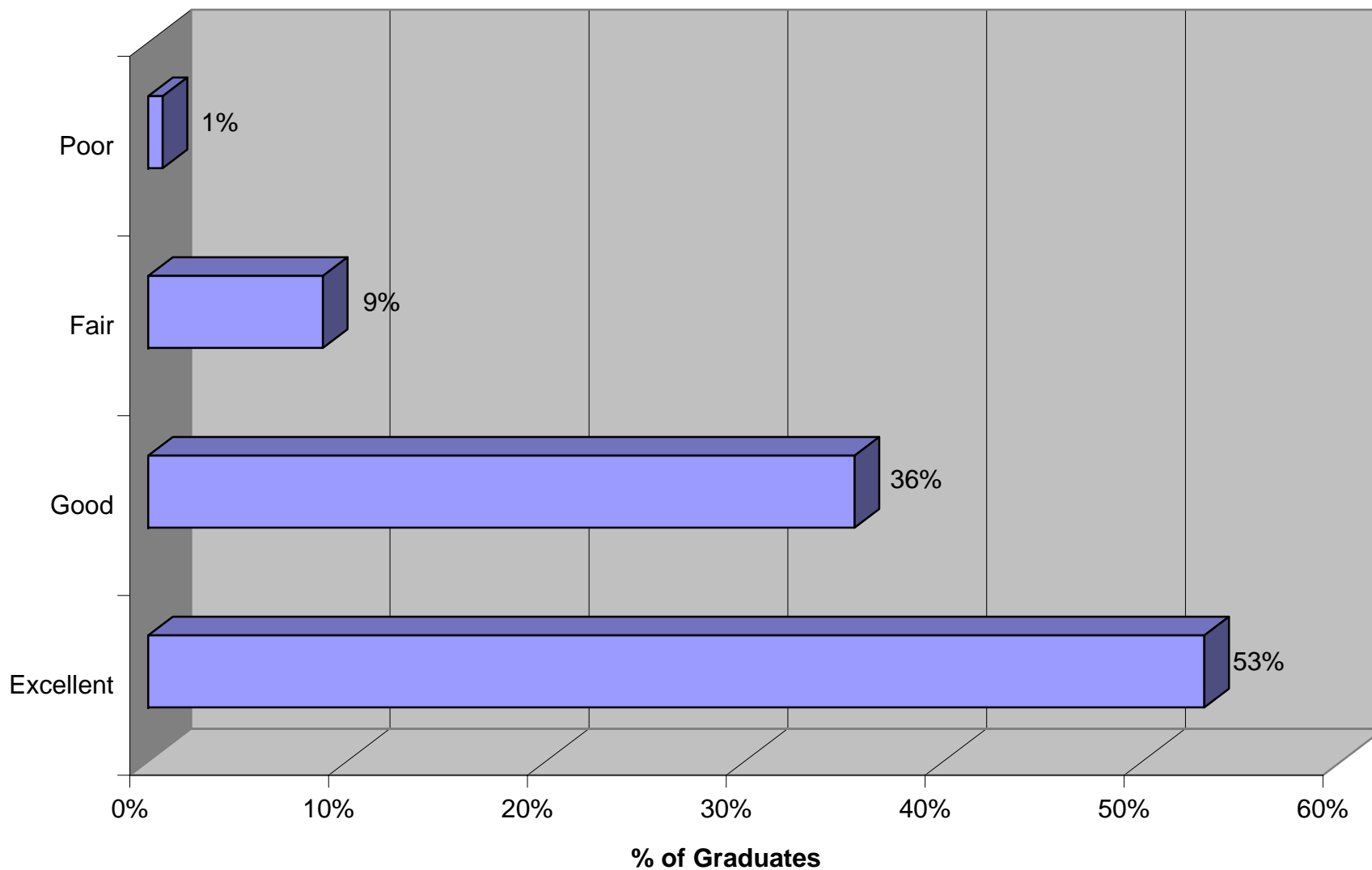
HOW WELL CALHOUN PREPARED GRADUATES FOR EMPLOYMENT OR TRANSFER



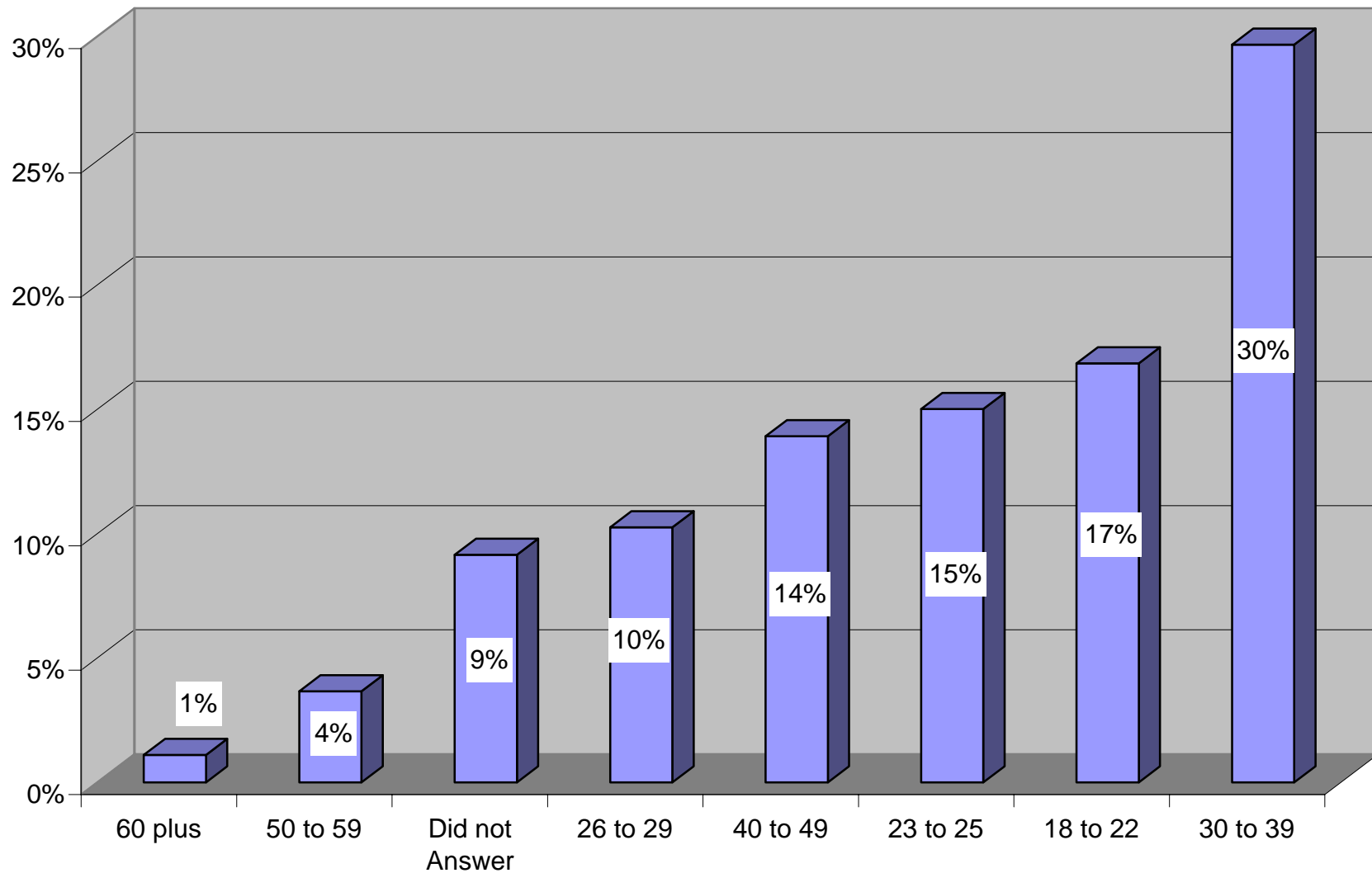
CALHOUN MADE AVAILABLE THE COURSES NEEDED



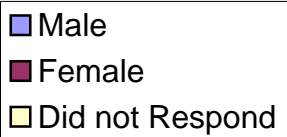
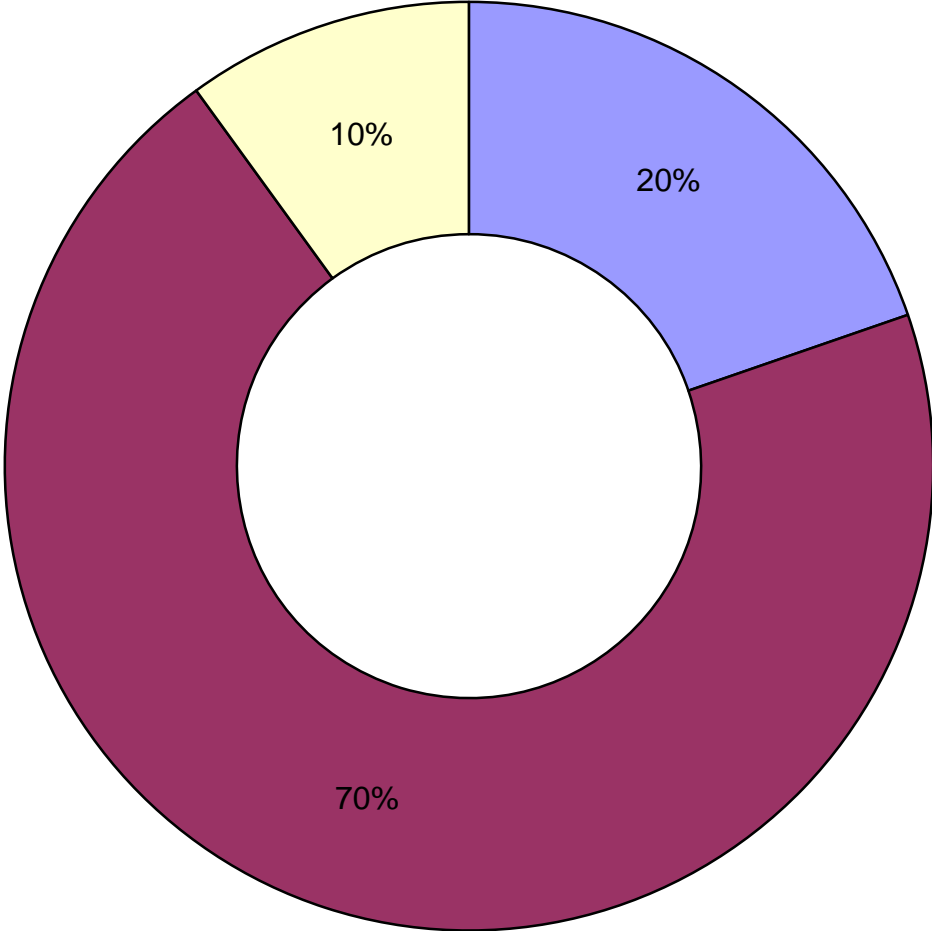
CALHOUN PROVIDED CONVENIENCE IN SCHEDULING CLASSES



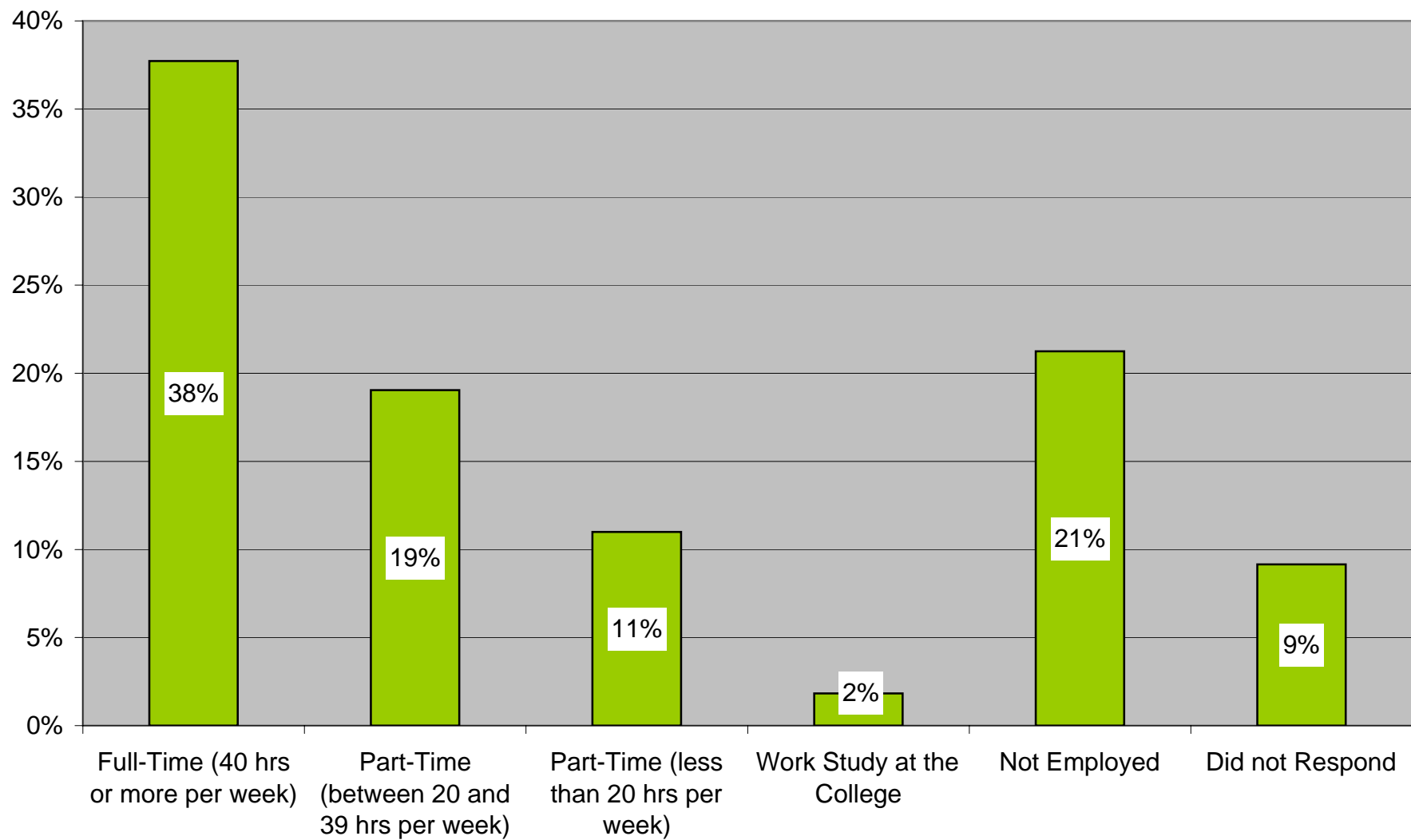
AGE RANGES OF GRADUATES



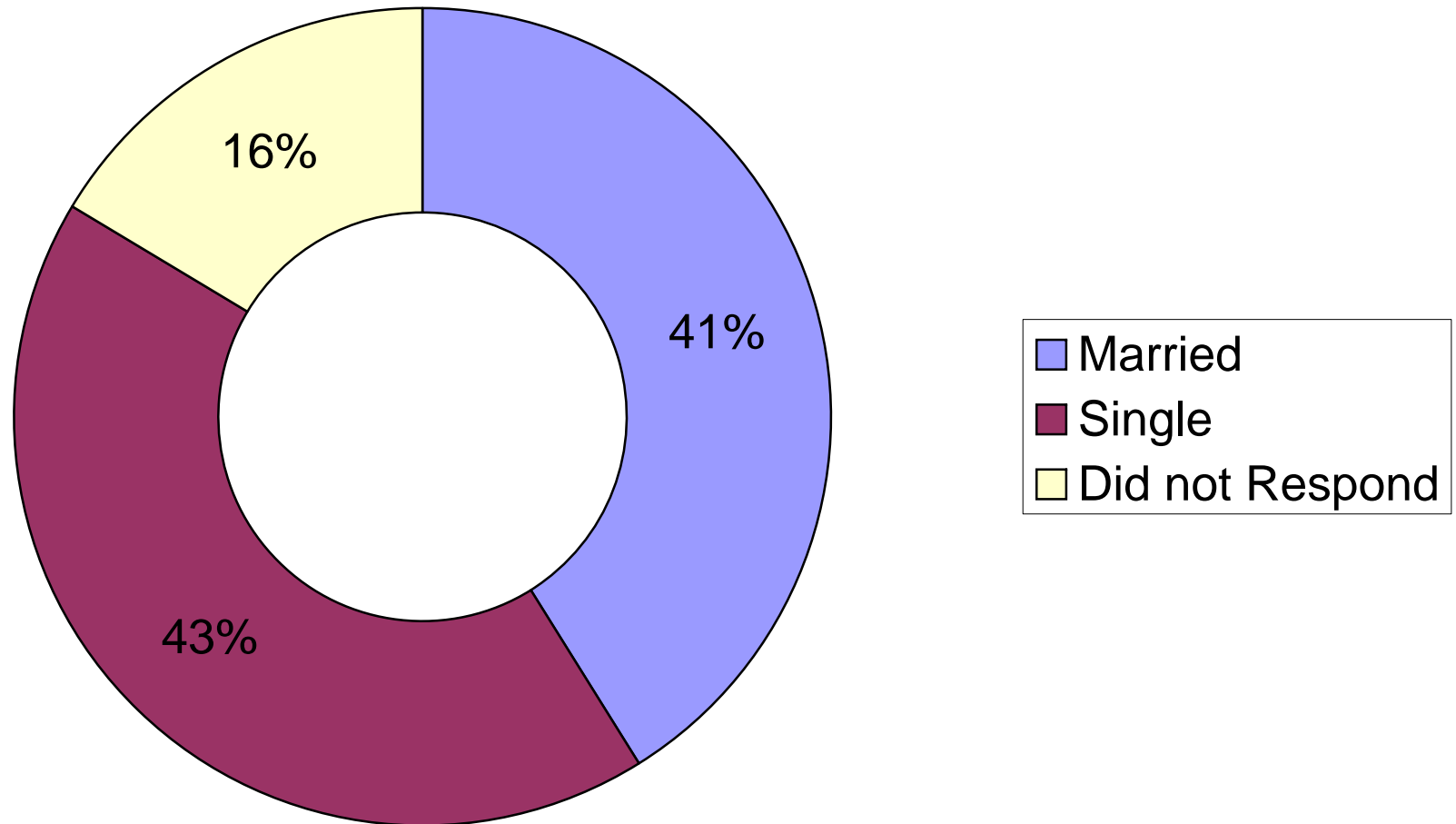
GENDER OF GRADUATES



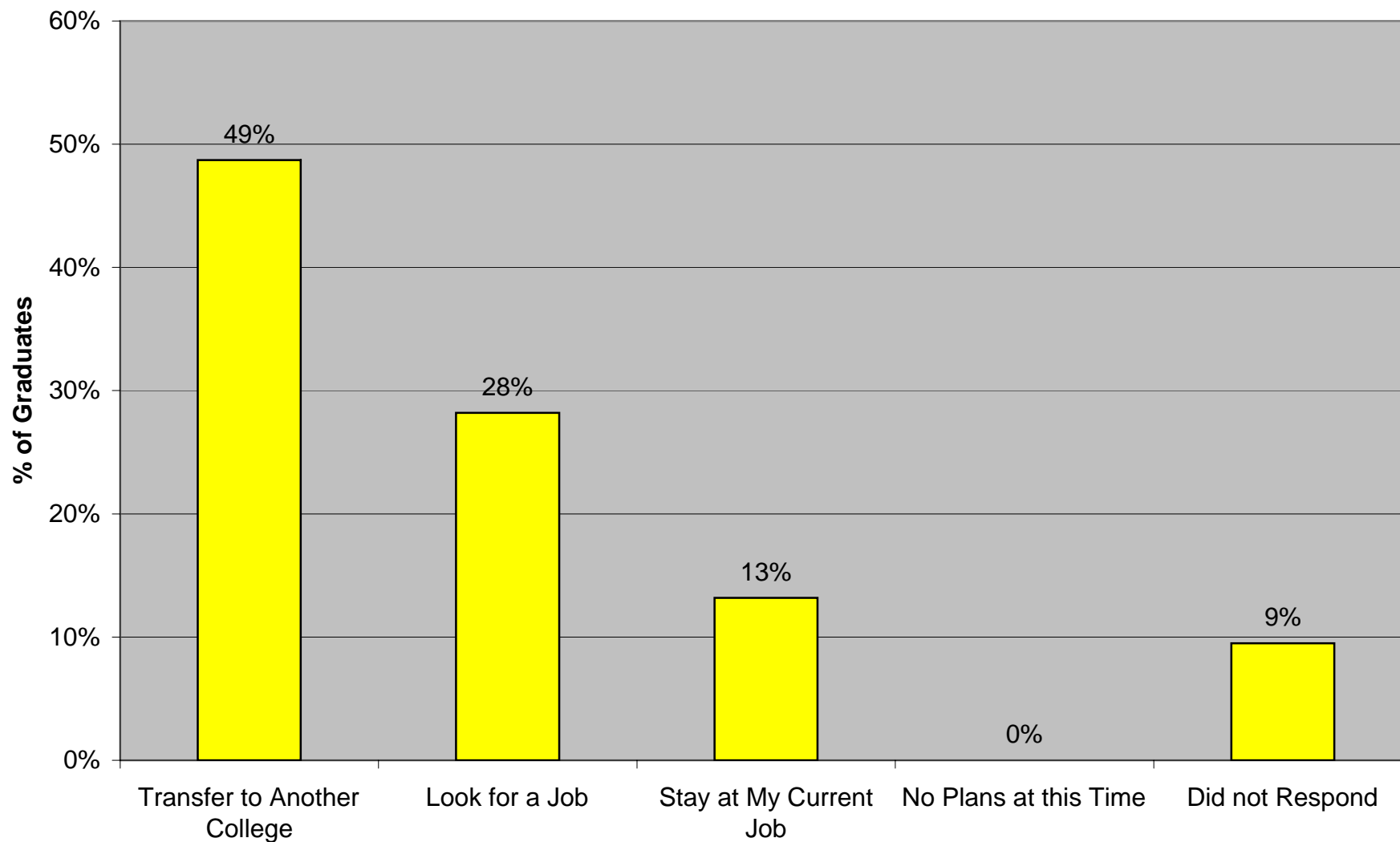
EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF GRADUATES



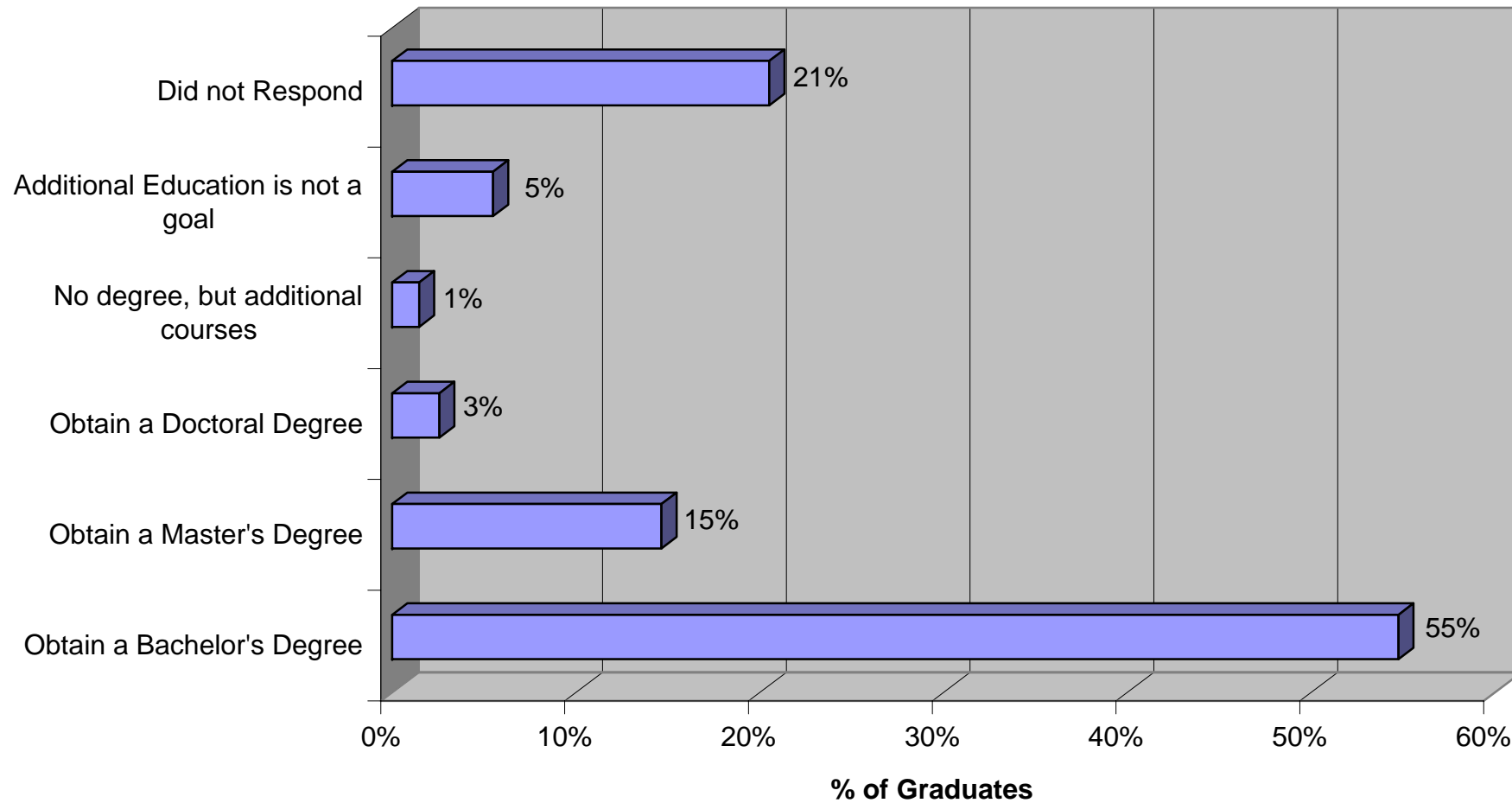
MARITAL STATUS OF GRADUATES



FUTURE PLANS AFTER GRADUATION

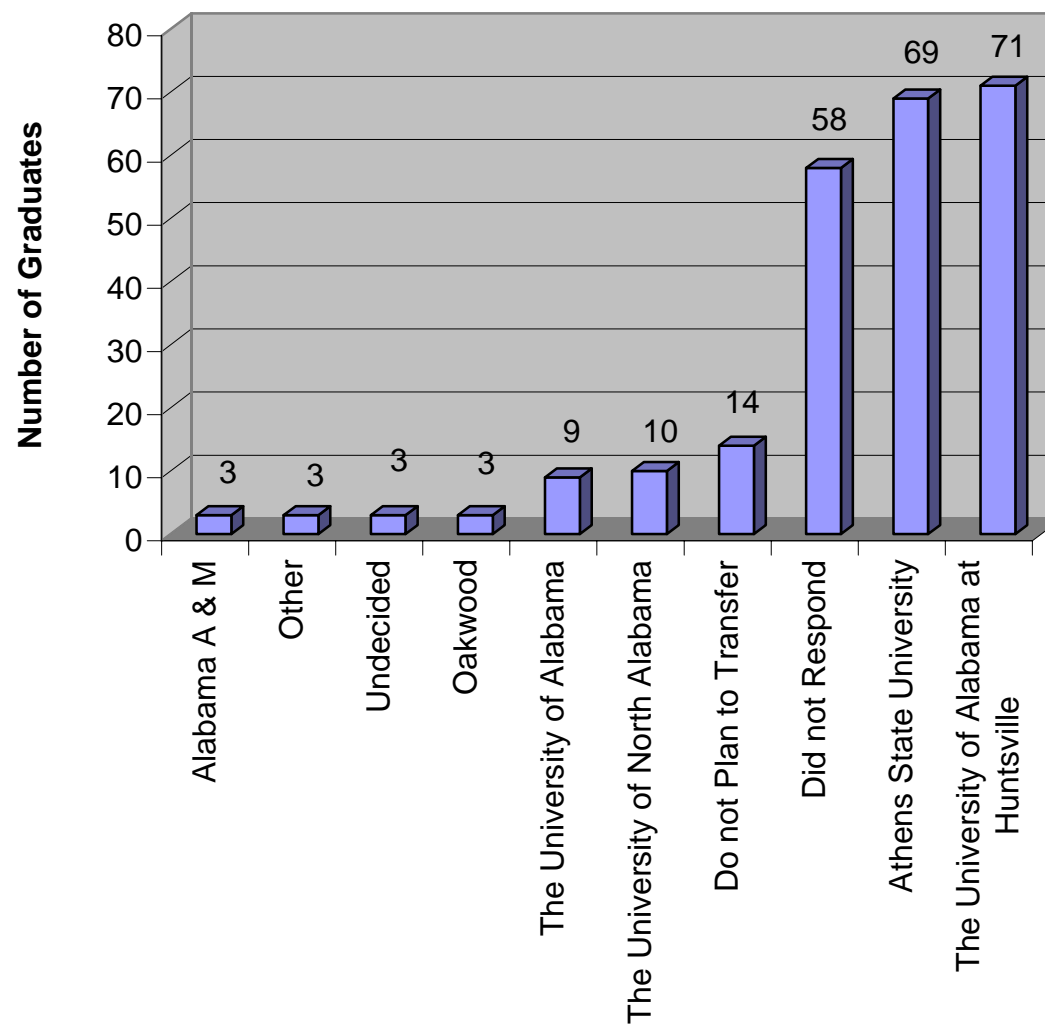


ULTIMATE EDUCATIONAL GOAL FOR TRANSFERRING STUDENTS



TO WHAT INSTITUTION DO YOU PLAN TO TRANSFER	
Jacksonville State University	1
Montevallo	1
Auburn University	1
Columbia College	1
Alabama State	1
Beauty Academy	1
University of South Alabama	1
Kutztown University	1
Middle Tennessee State University	1
The University of Alabama in Birmingham	2
Faulkner	2
Vanderbilt	2
Alabama A & M	3
Other	3
Undecided	3
Oakwood	3
The University of Alabama	9
The University of North Alabama	10
Do not Plan to Transfer	14
Did not Respond	58
Athens State University	69
The University of Alabama in Huntsville	71

TOP TEN RESPONSES OF GRADUATES WHO PLAN TO TRANSFER (Actual Number of Graduates Indicating Plans to Transfer to These Schools)



WOULD YOU RECOMMEND CALHOUN TO YOUR FRIENDS

