

## AIHEC Research Survey on the Impact of COVID-19 on TCU Student Experiences February 2021

In fall 2020, nearly 500 Tribal College and University (TCU) students participated in a study on the impact of the COVID-19 on their coursework and their daily lives. The survey results, published here for the first time, provide a valuable needs assessment tool and data to assist the TCUs and AIHEC in better meeting the needs of their students. The first study of its kind, the survey posed an array of questions focusing on persistence, online learning, and physical and mental well-being. The results underscore the far-reaching effects of the pandemic on TCUs, Native students, and their communities.

The AIHEC survey is based on a survey published in June 2020, by Arizona State University (ASU): "The Impact of COVID-19 on Student Experiences and Expectations: Evidence from a Survey," conducted in spring 2020. Like the ASU survey results, AIHEC's findings give a clear picture of what students are experiencing in these pandemic times. AIHEC requested permission from ASU's team of researchers to adapt their questionnaire for its own use, to make the questions relevant to TCU students and the tribal communities TCUs serve. The ASU research team graciously granted permission. AIHEC wishes to acknowledge and thank Esteban M. Aucejo, Jacob F. French, Maria Paola Ugalde Araya, and Basit Zafar of Arizona State University.

During the fall 2020 term, the TCUs recruited returning students to participate in the survey; 486 students provided valid responses.

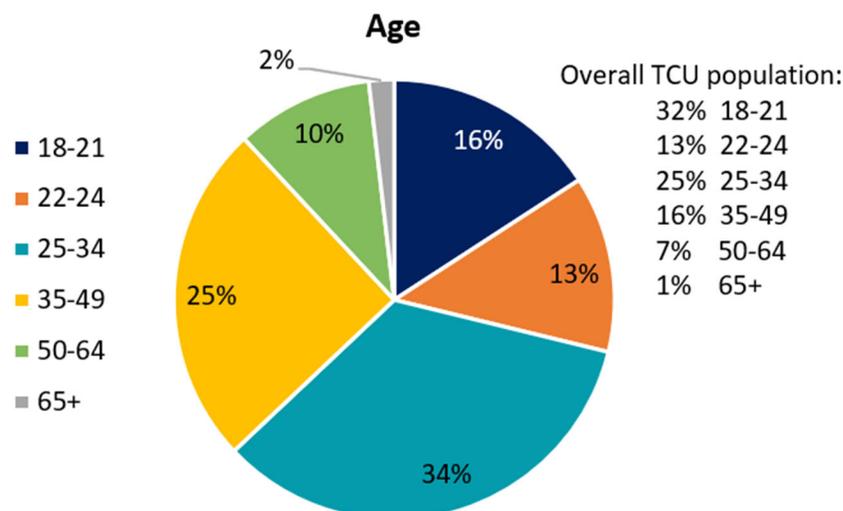
### Respondent Demographics (N=486)

#### Ethnicity

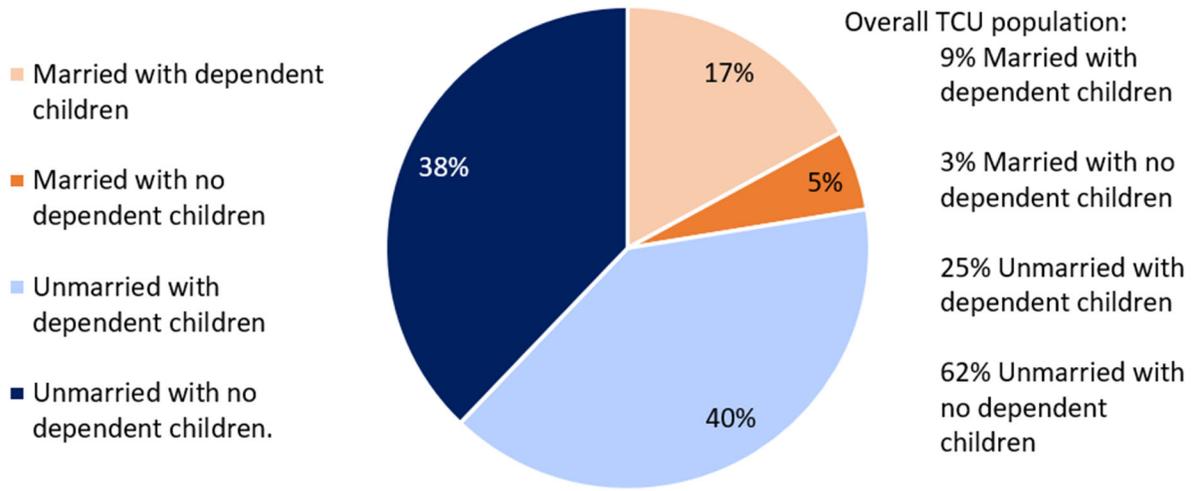
- 86% American Indian/Alaska Native; 14% non-Native
- Overall TCU population: 87% AI/AN; 13% non-Native

#### Gender

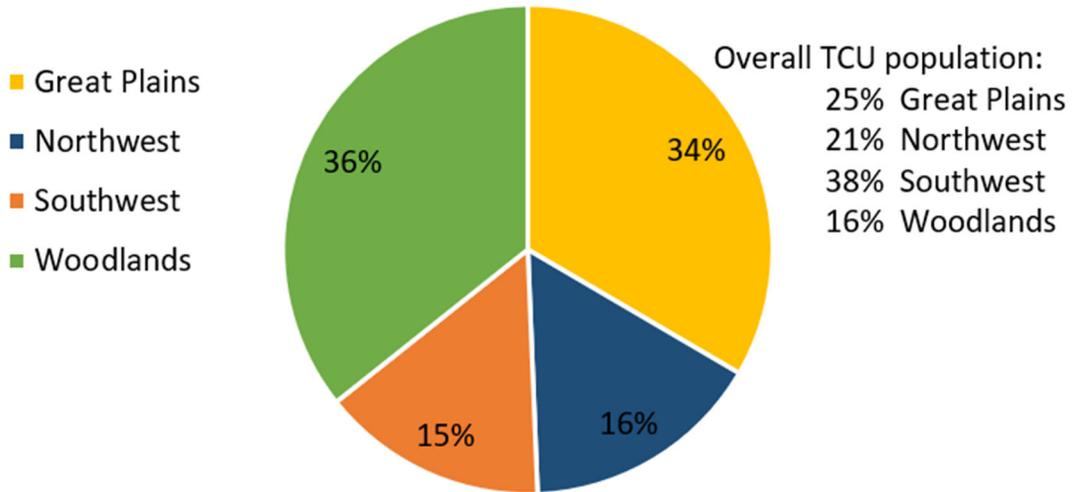
- 81% female, 17% male; 2% other/prefer not to say
- Overall TCU population: 69% female; 31% male; 0.05% other/prefer not to say



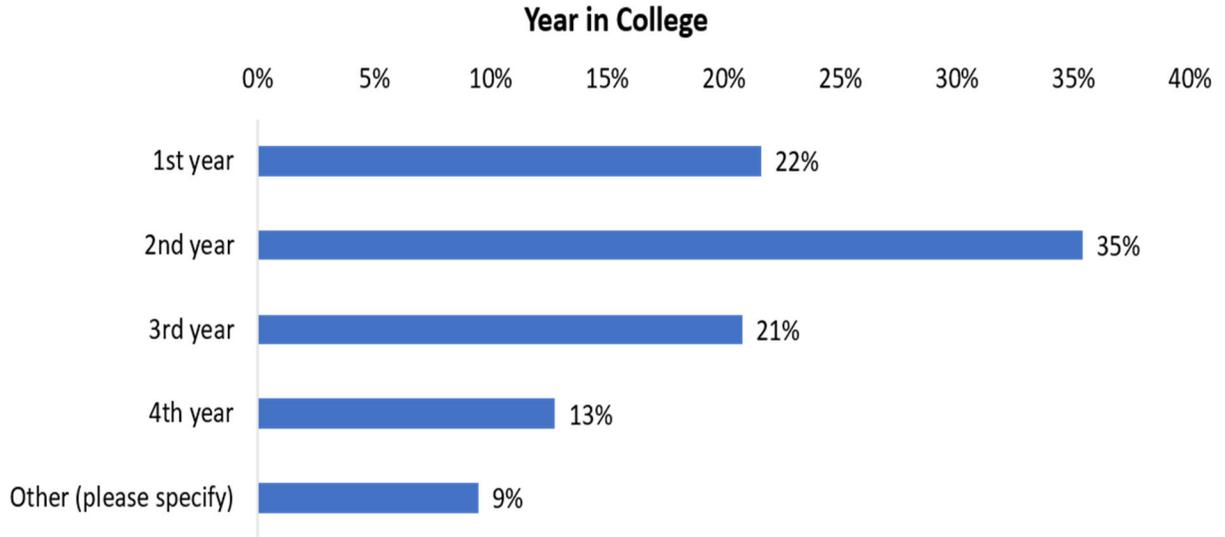
### Marital Status and Dependents



### TCU Participation



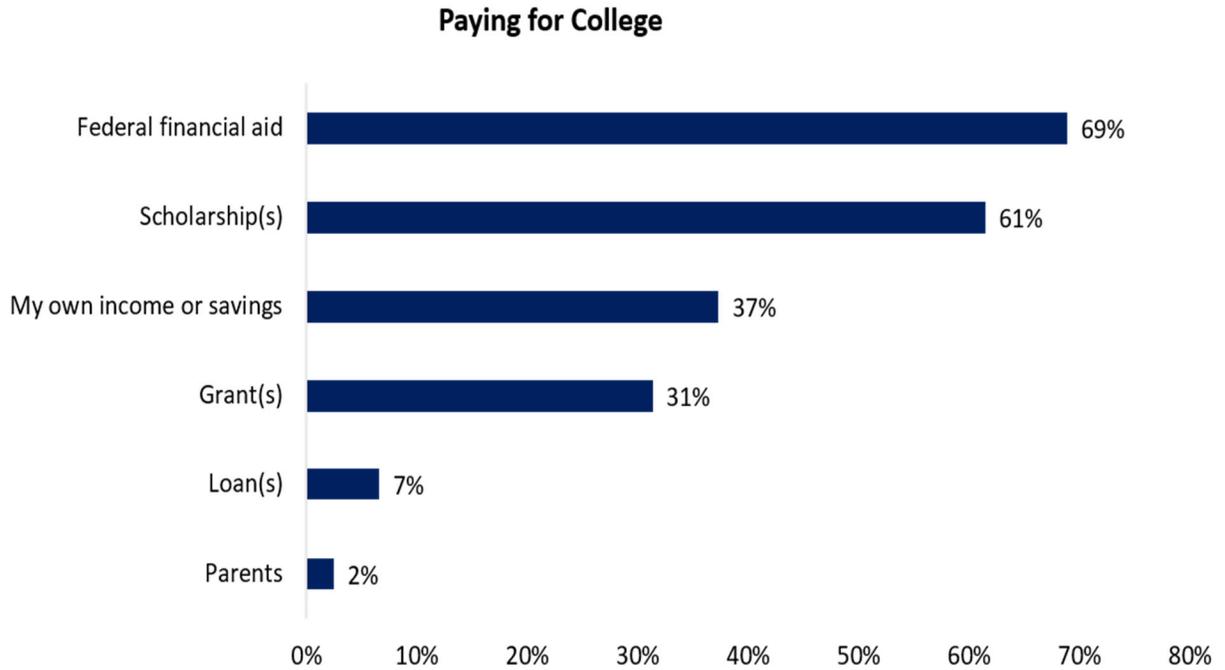
For TCU Participation, N=483. Three respondents did not identify their college.



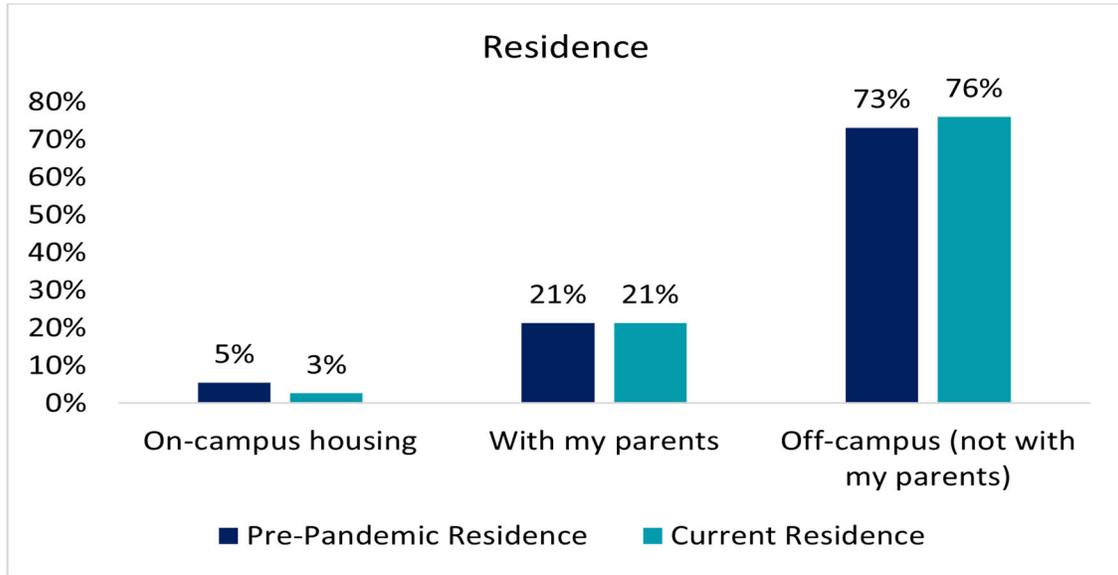
Other included:

- Graduate students
- Returning for another degree
- Non-degree/credential-seeking
- 5th year and beyond
- Returning after stop-out

**How are you paying for college (including tuition, room and board, living expenses, books, etc.)? N=485**

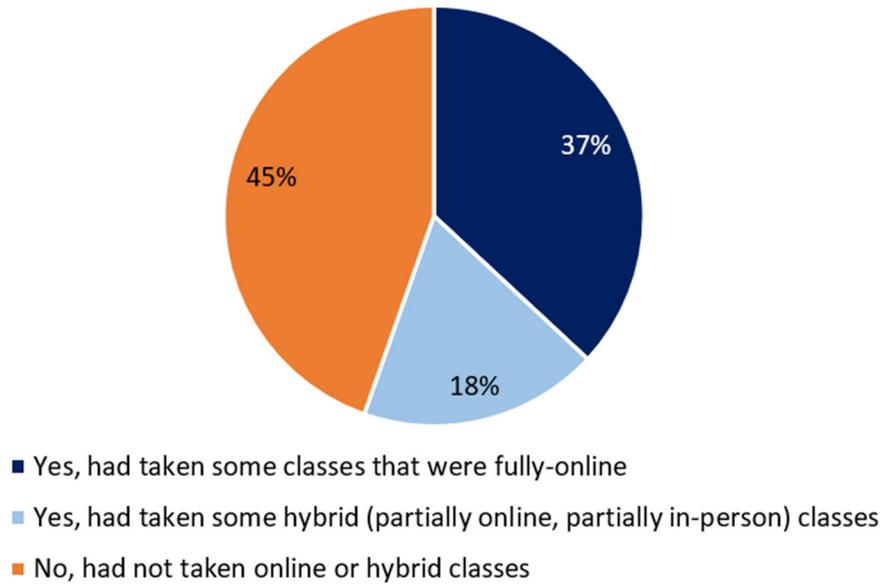


**Before the COVID-19 outbreak, where did you live?  
Where do you live now?  
(N=455)**



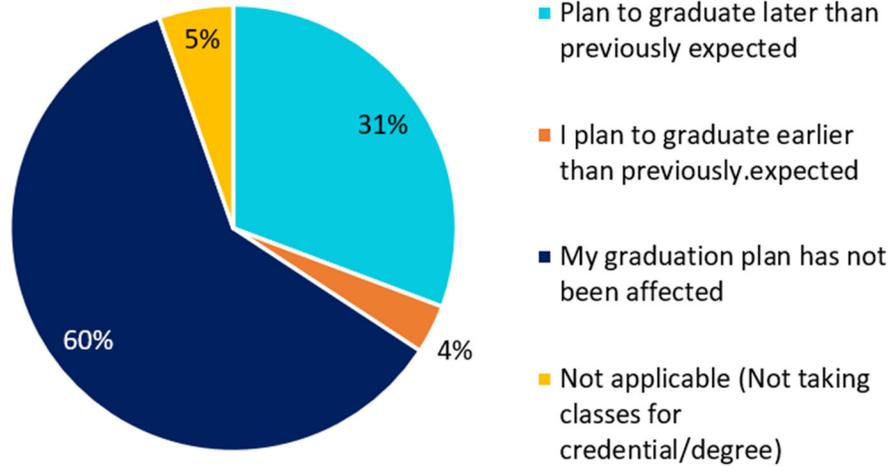
**Before the COVID-19 pandemic, did you have any experience with online classes? (N=482)**

**Experience with Online/Distance Learning**



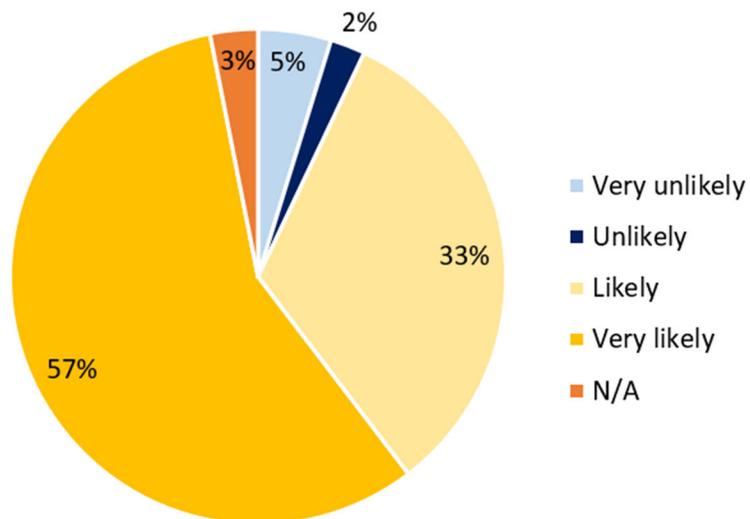
Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your graduation plan? (N=482)

**Pandemic Effects on Graduation Plans**

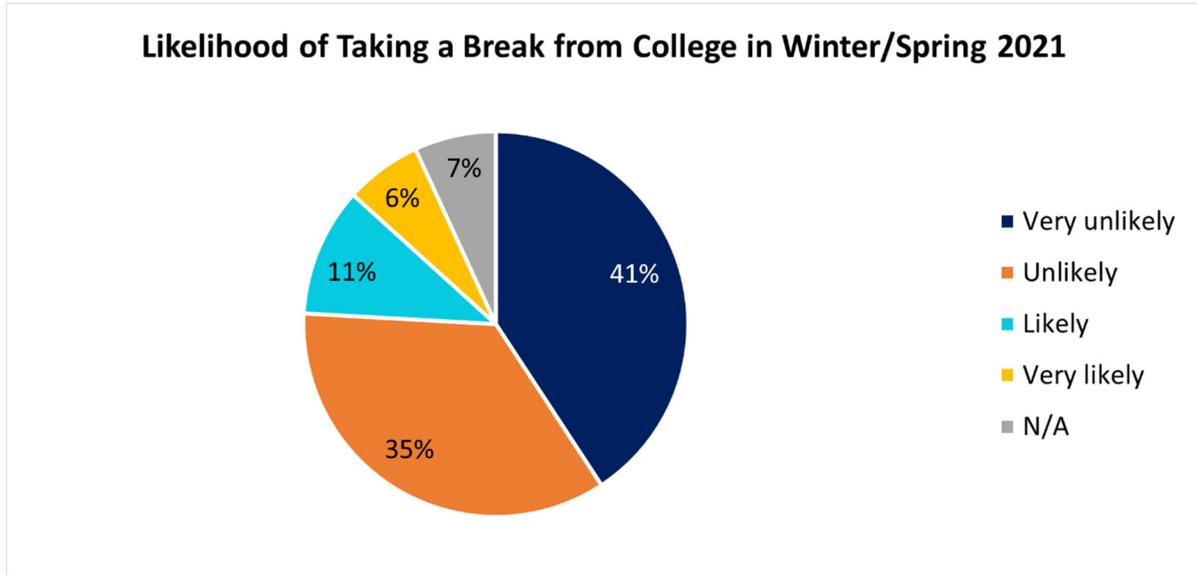


How likely is it that you will graduate with your intended credential/degree from this institution? (N=482)

**Likelihood of Graduating with Intended Credential**



How likely is it that you will take a break from college in the next term starting in winter/spring 2021? (N=481)

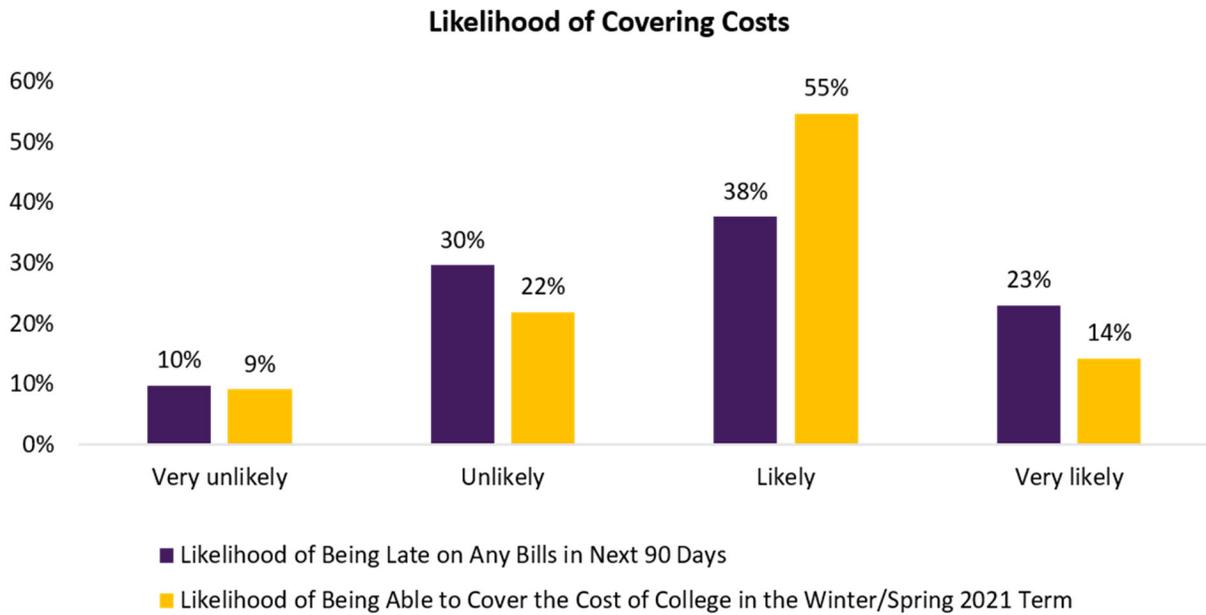


Do you know anyone who has contracted COVID-19? (N=438)

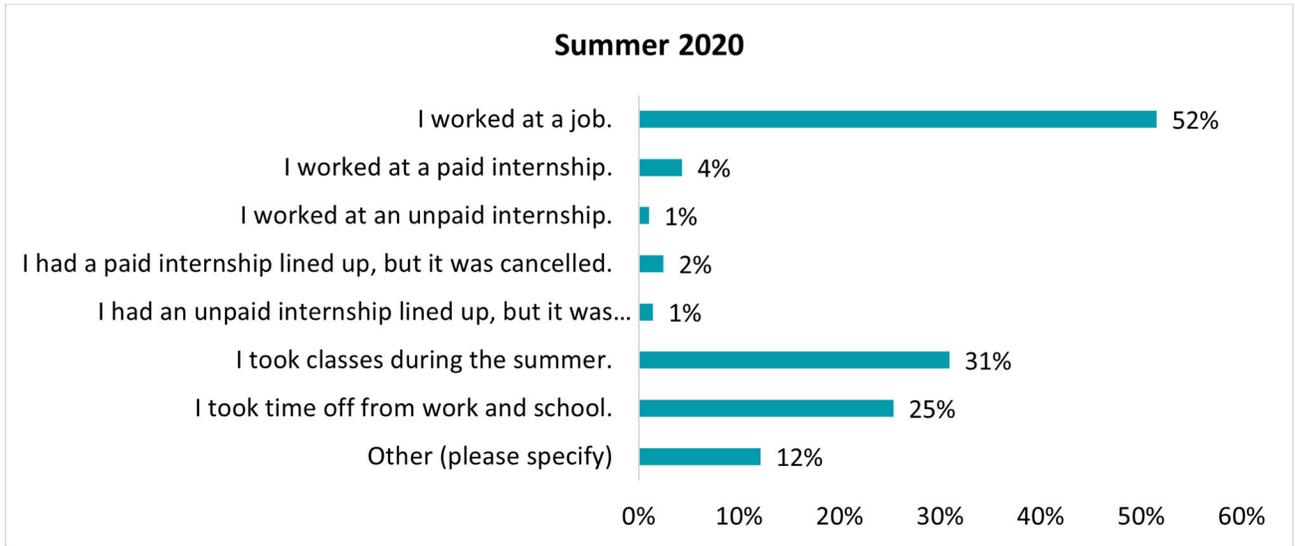
91% responded that they knew someone who had contracted the virus.

In your opinion, how likely are you to be late on any of your bills or other payments in the next 90 days? (N=483)

Taking into account all sources of income, how likely are you to be able to cover the cost of attending this institution if you enroll in the next term (winter/spring)? (N=484)



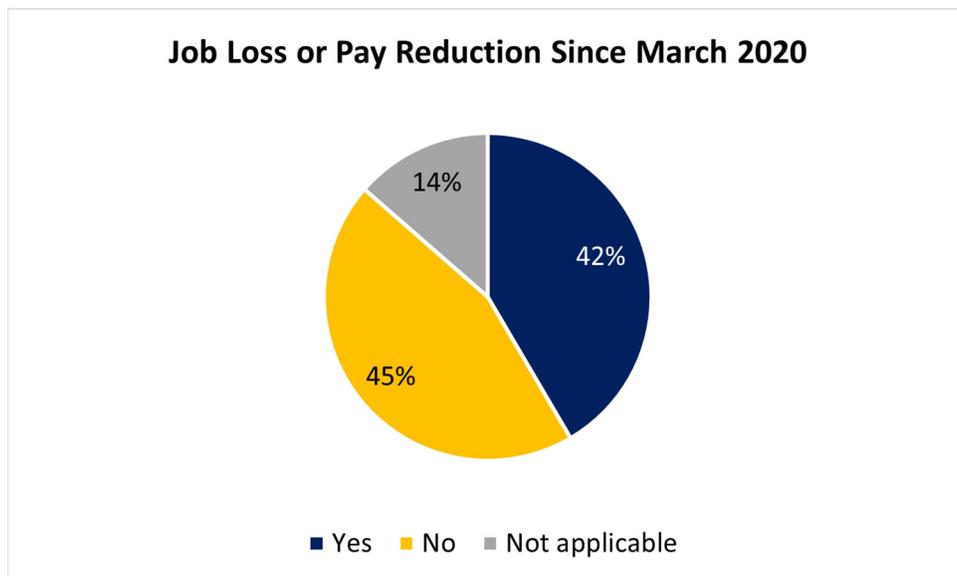
**Which of the following applied to you during summer 2020? (N=485)**



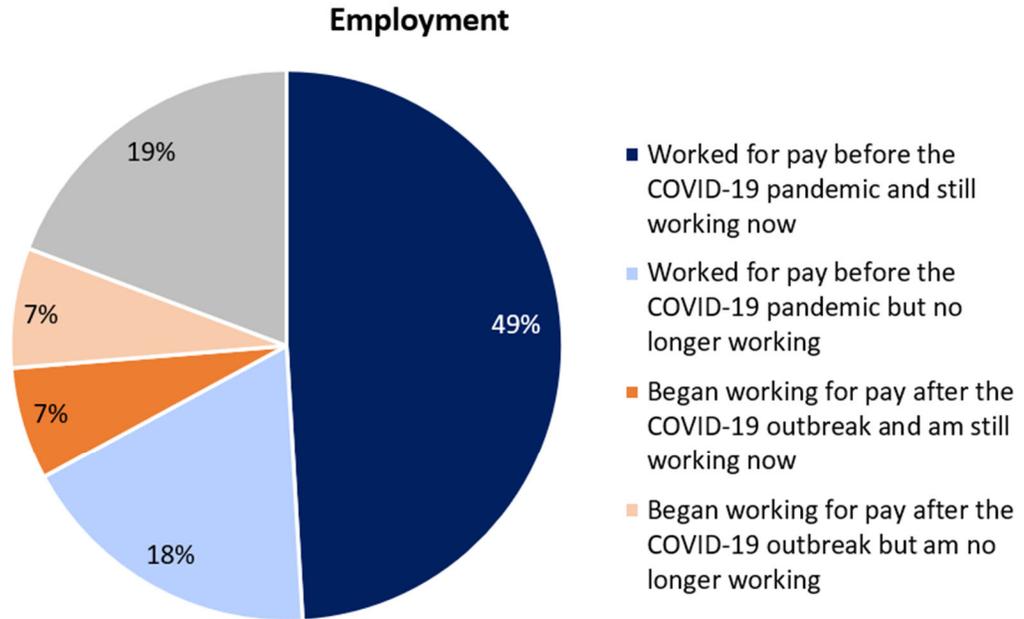
Other responses included:

- Work closed due to COVID
- Job lost due to COVID
- Resigned
- Difficulty finding employment due to COVID
- High-risk, so unable to work
- Furloughed
- Self-employed (including in-home child care)
- In mourning
- Illness
- Quarantine

**Have you lost a job or had a reduction in hours/pay since March 2020? (N=486)**

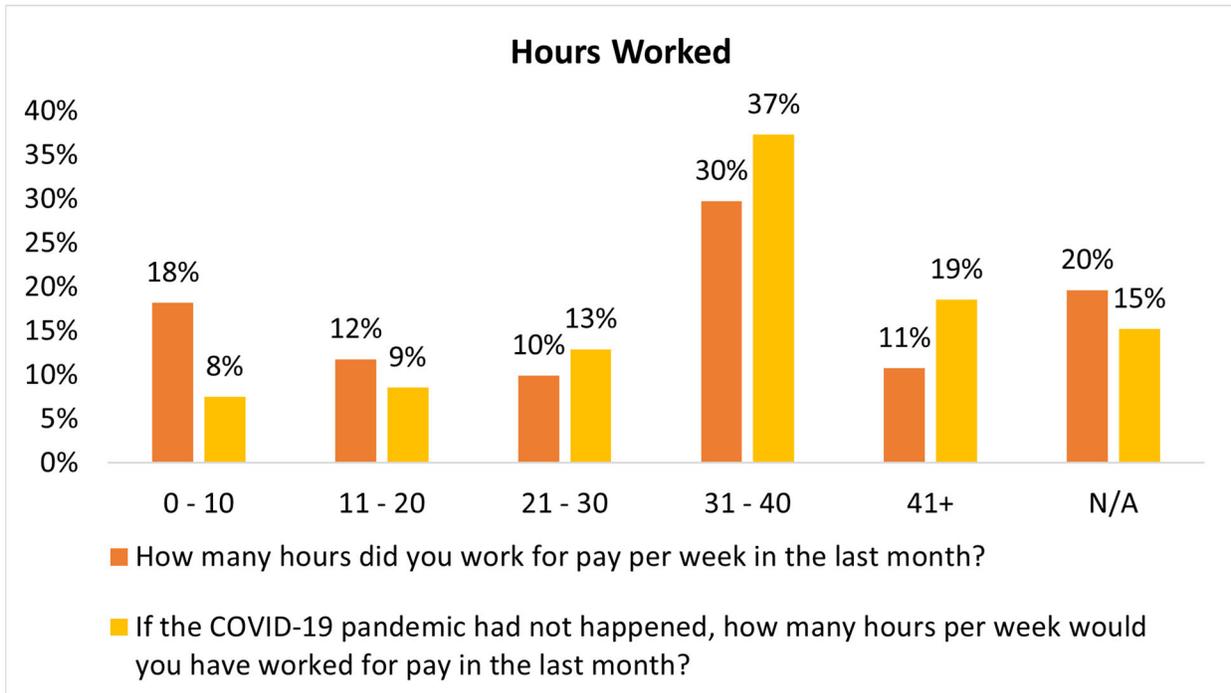


Which of the following applies to you? (N=483)

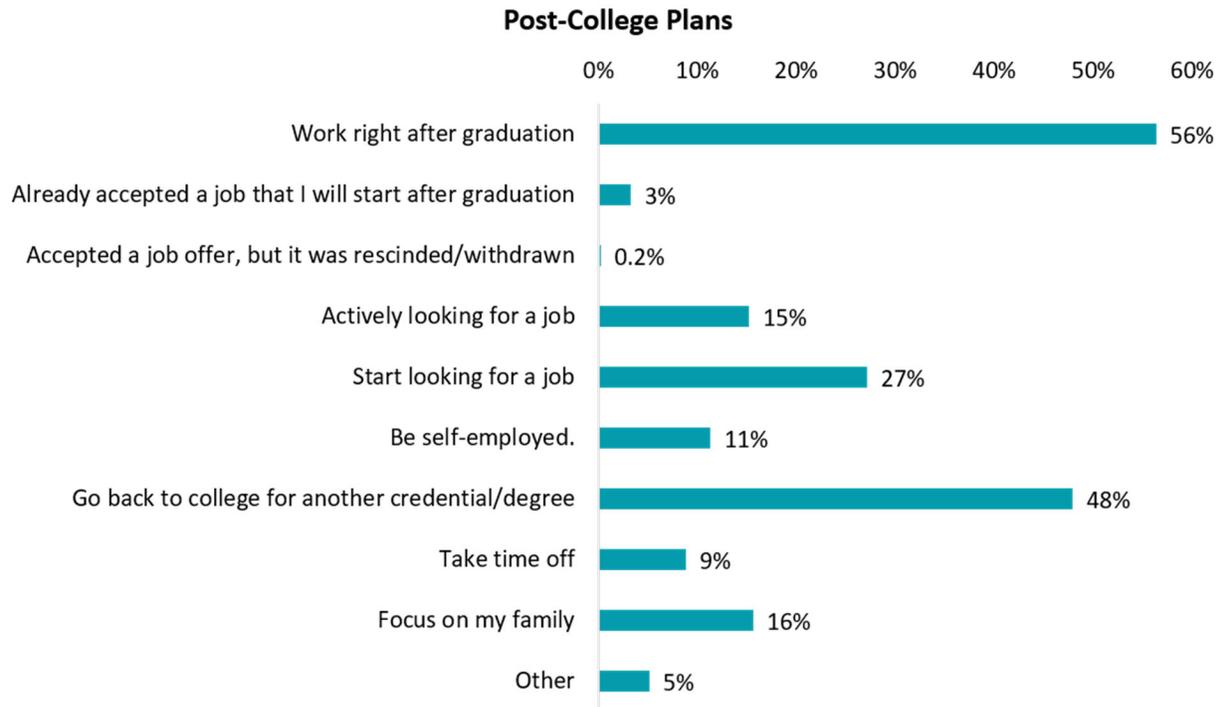


How many hours did you work for pay per week in the last month? (N=484)

If the COVID-19 pandemic had not happened, how many hours per week would you have worked for pay in the last month? (N=480)



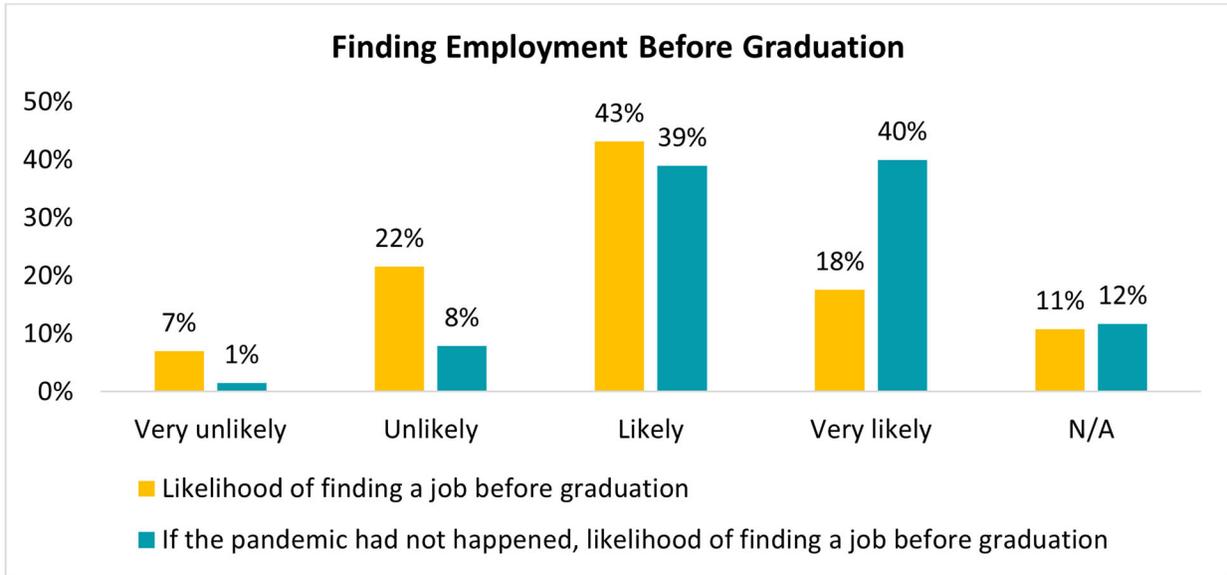
**What do you plan to do after your finish your studies at this institution? (N=486)**



Other responses included:

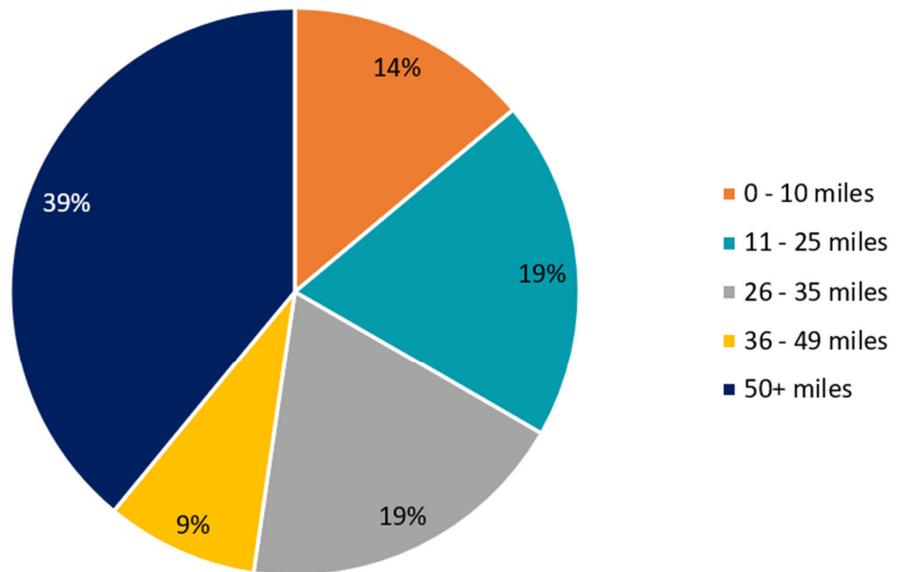
- Unsure
- Already working
- Continue my education
- Look for a different job
- Work in my community
- Finish and sell art work
- Move home to be closer to family
- Internship
- Artist-in-residence
- Start my own business

In your opinion, how likely do you think it is that you will be able to find a job before you graduate? (N=473)  
 In your opinion, if the COVID-19 pandemic had not happened, how likely is it that you would have been able to find a job before you graduate? (N=470)

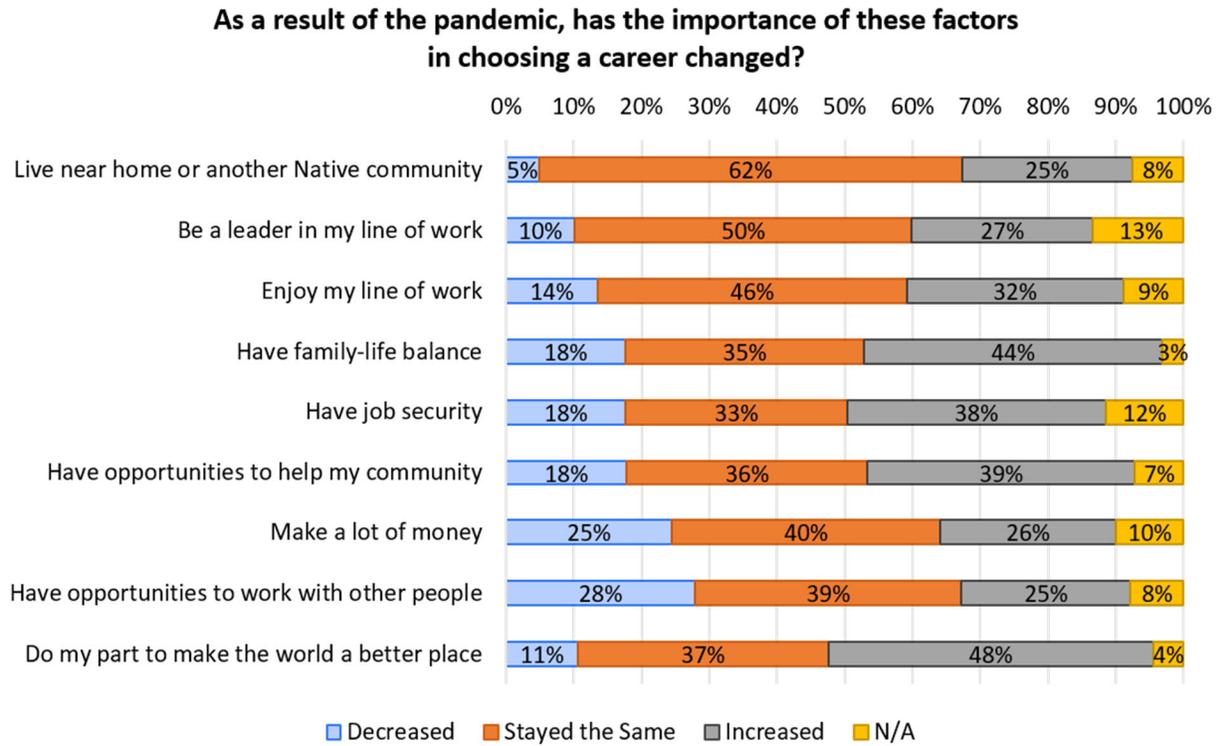


How far are you willing to commute or move away from your home community/reservation for employment? (N=474)

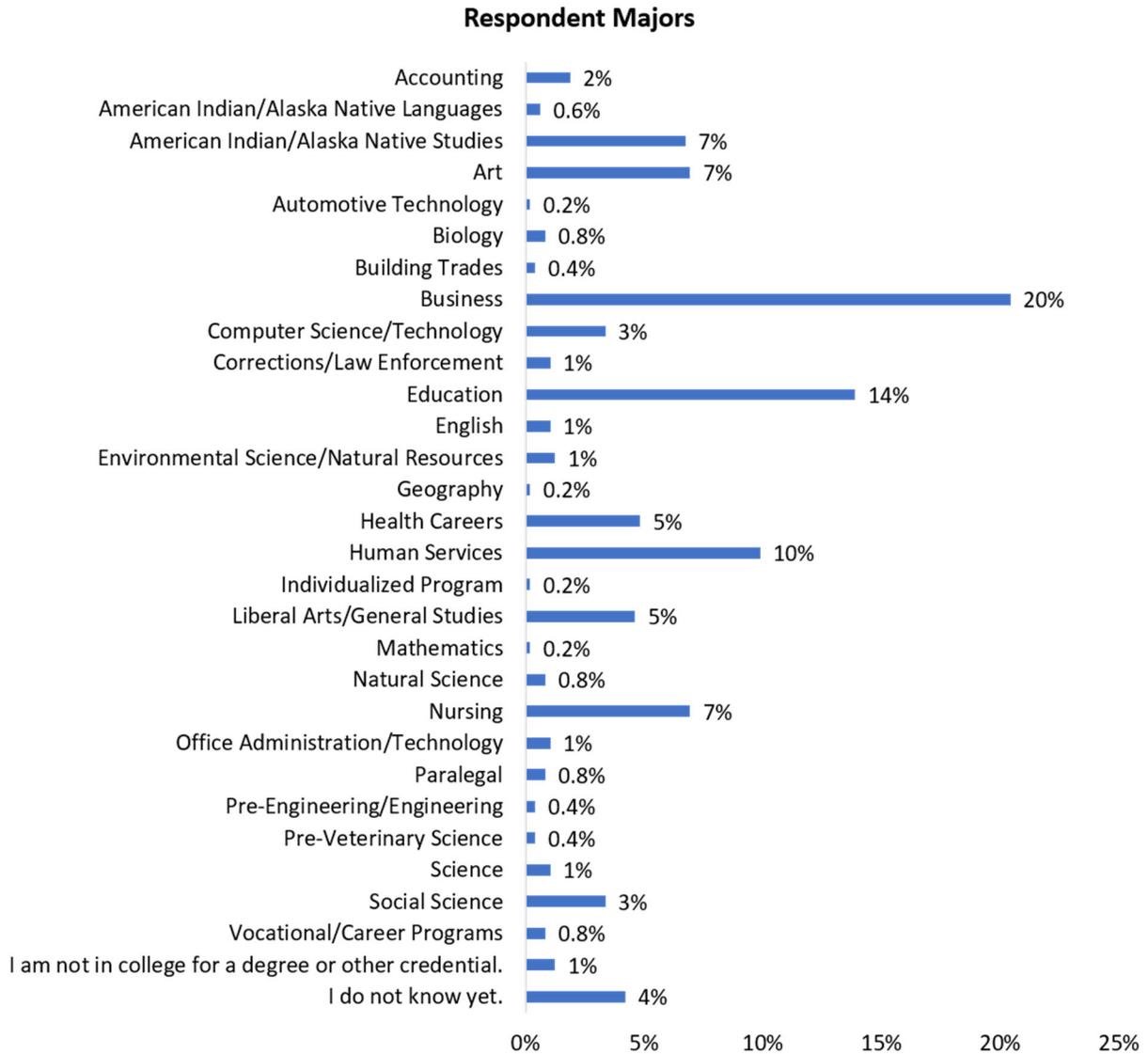
### Distance Willing to Commute / Move Away from Home Community / Reservation for Employment



Below are some reasons that may be important when choosing a career. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, has the importance of these factors to you changed? (N=474)

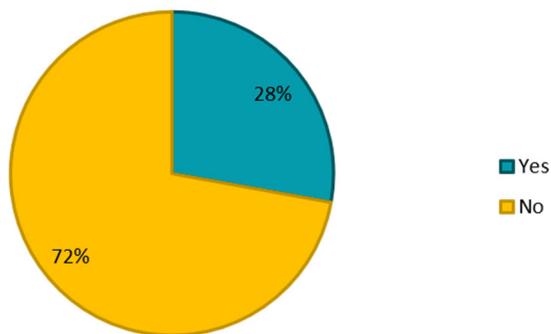


**What is your major? Please choose the one that fits most closely. (N=475)**



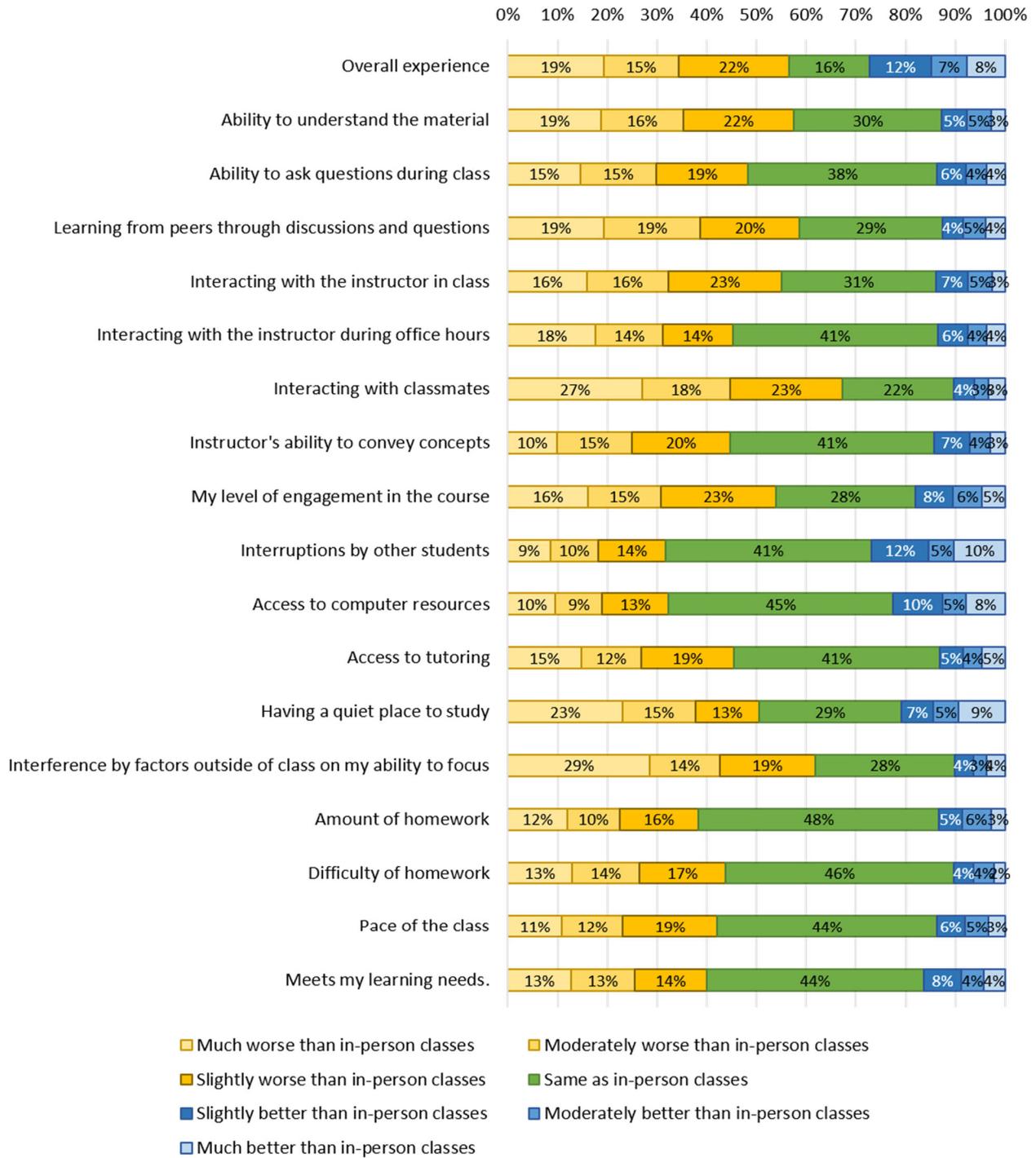
**Has your choice of major been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic? (N=474)**

**Choice of Major was Affected by Pandemic**



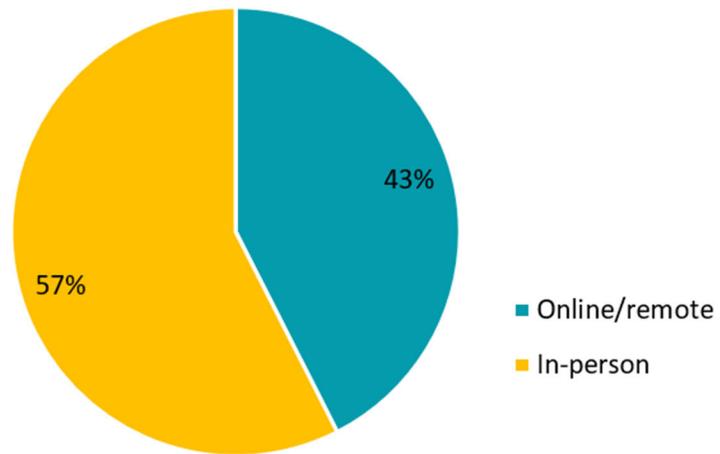
Please compare your online learning experiences with in-person classes. (N=460)

Online Learning Experiences Compared With In-Person Classes.



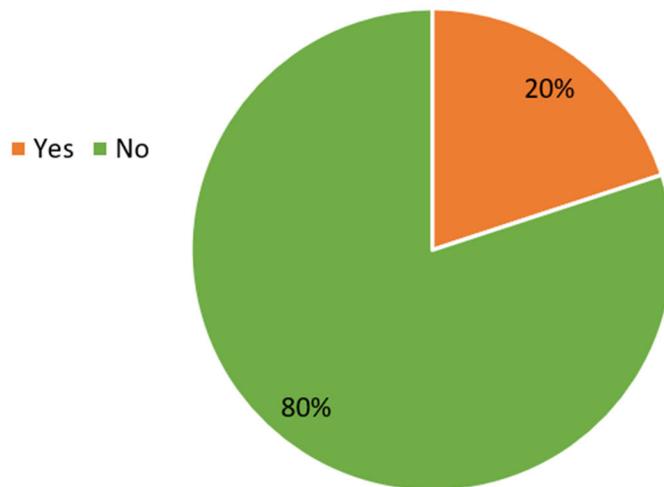
If you were given the choice, would you rather take a course online/remote or in-person? (N=461)

**Given the choice, students would rather attend class ...**

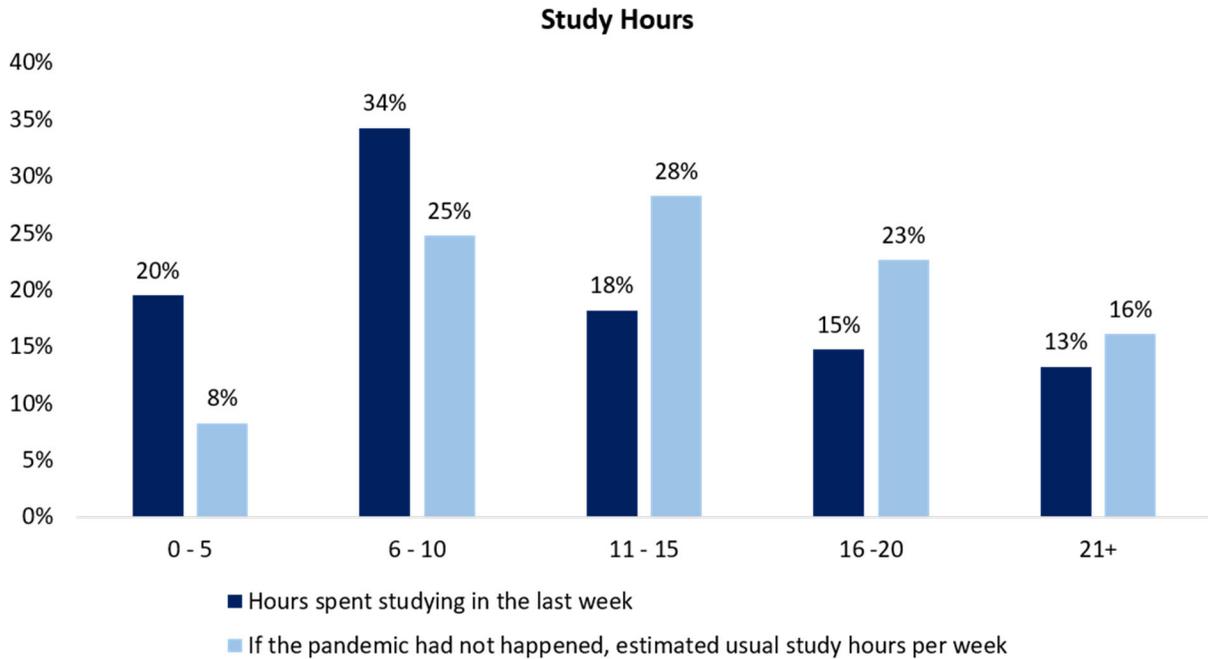


Did you withdraw from any classes because of the COVID-19 pandemic? (N=461)

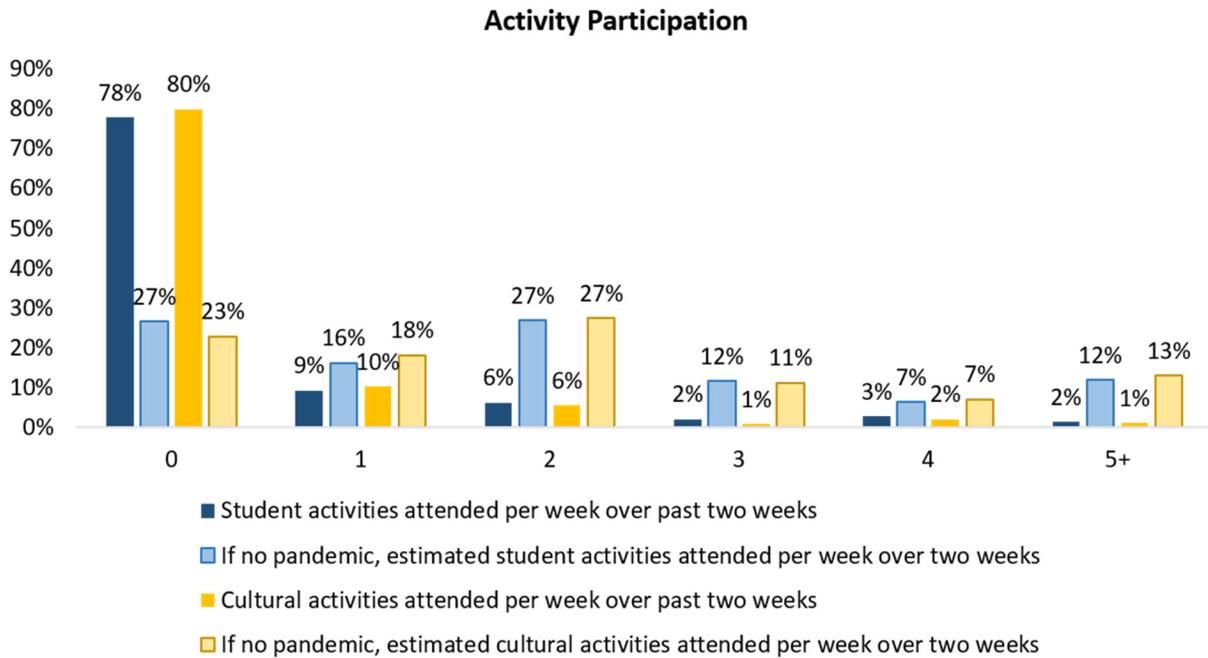
**Withdrew from Any Classes Due to Pandemic**



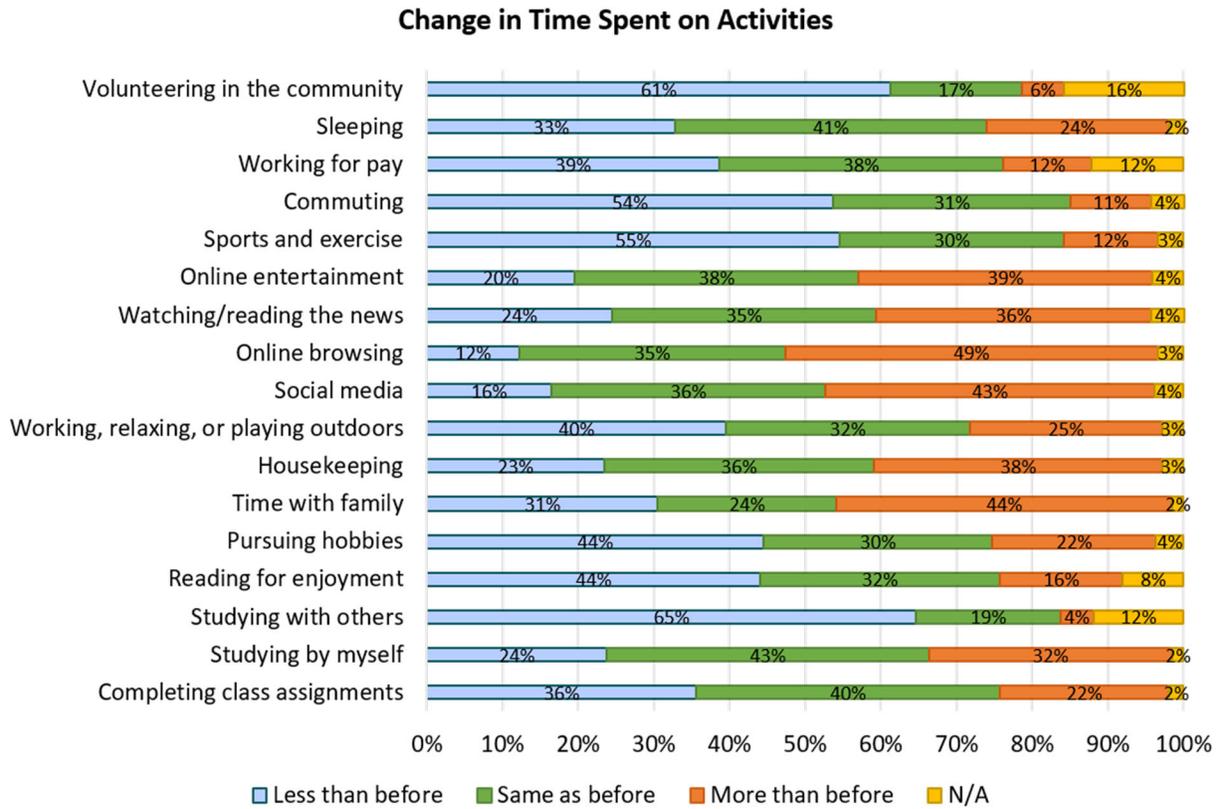
**How many hours did you study per week in the last two weeks? (N=461)**  
**If the COVID-19 pandemic had not happened, how many hours would you have studied per week in the last two weeks? (N=460)**



**Please provide your best estimate: (N=463)**



**How has the time you spend on the following activities changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic? (N=463)**



**Have you been able to meet your needs since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic? (N=462)**

