



One Year Out

Survey among the High School Class of 2010

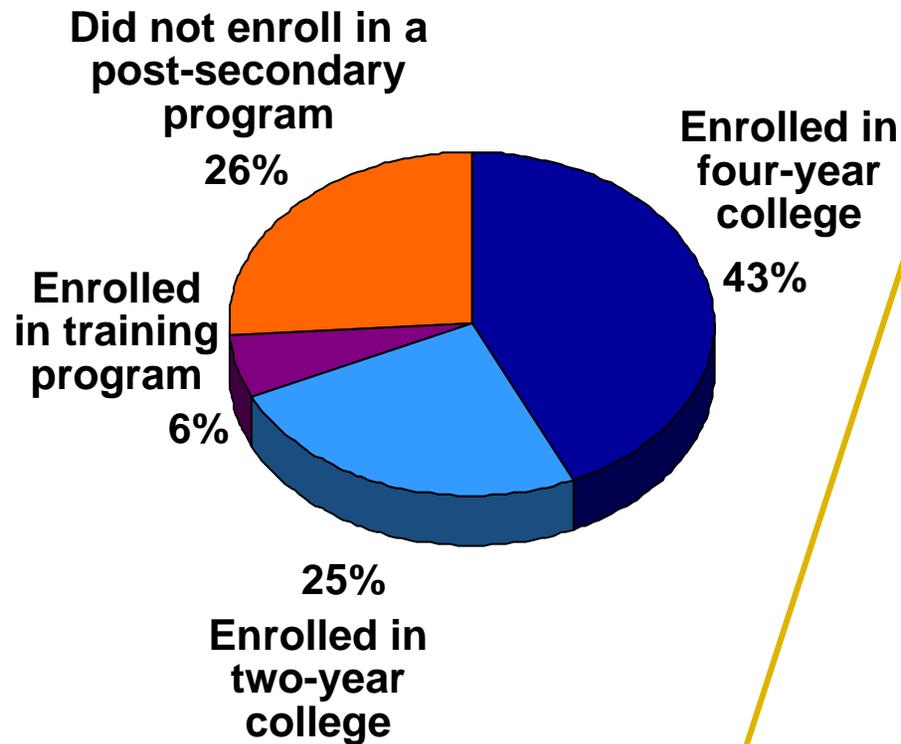
Key findings from a national telephone/online survey among
1,507 members of the high school graduating class of 2010
conducted July 29 – August 3, 2011

for

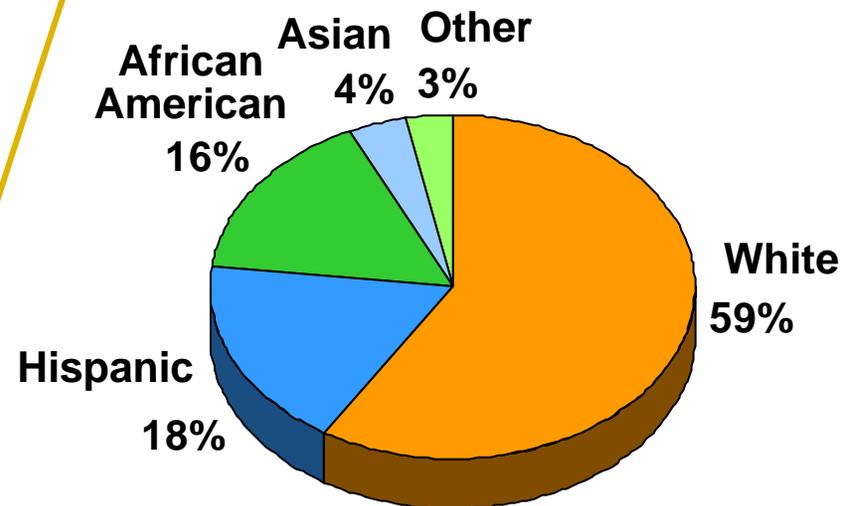


Characteristics Of The Sample

Educational Enrollment Post High School



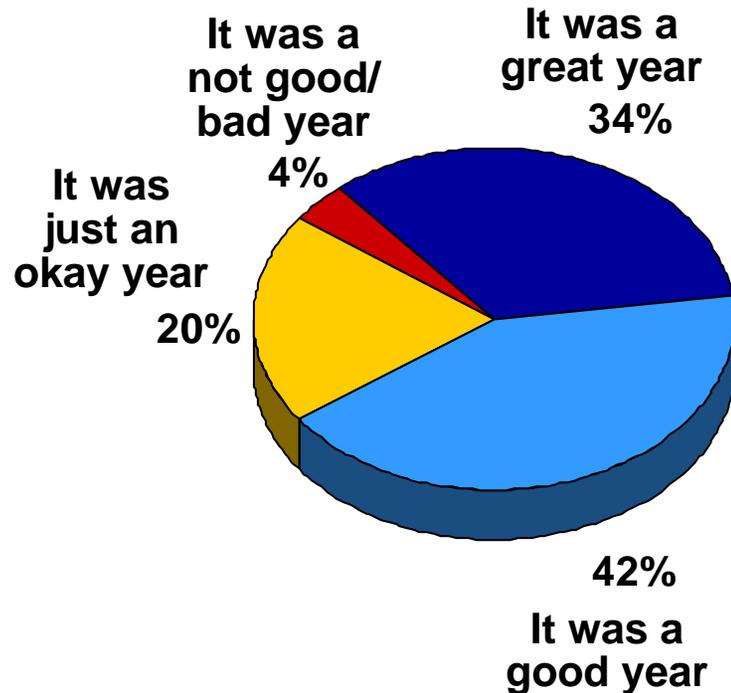
Ethnicity



Most members of the class of 2010 think of their first year out in positive terms.

How do you feel about the past year for you personally since you graduated from high school?

All 2010 Graduates

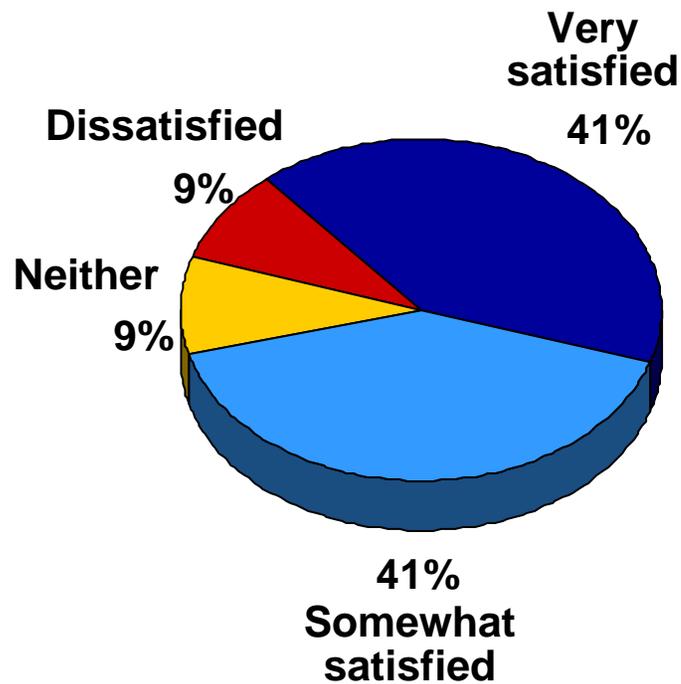


Students in four-year colleges are most likely to say it was great:

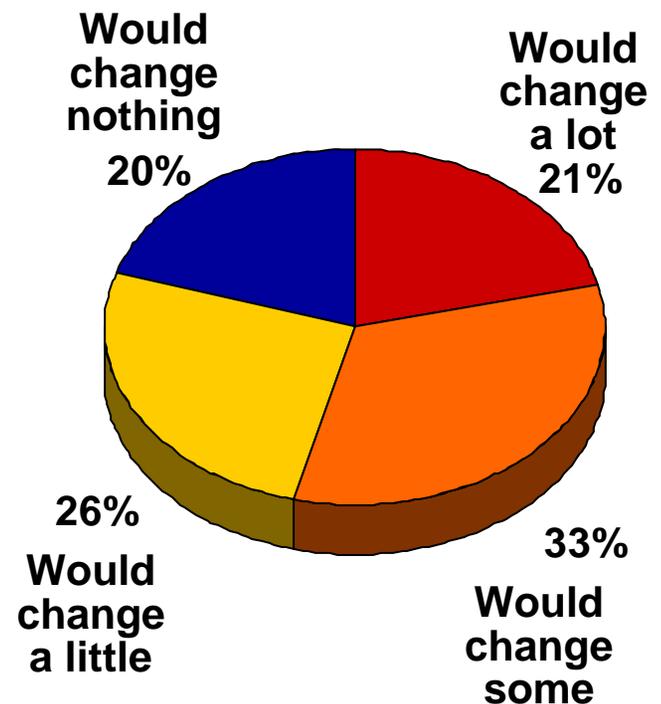
	Great year
Enrolled in four-year college	41%
Enrolled in two-year college	33%
Enrolled in no program/ other	25%

Most 2010 graduates express satisfaction with their high school experience, but the vast majority also say they would change something about it.

How satisfied are you with your high school experience?



Knowing what you do now, how much would you change about your high school experience?



If I could do it again:

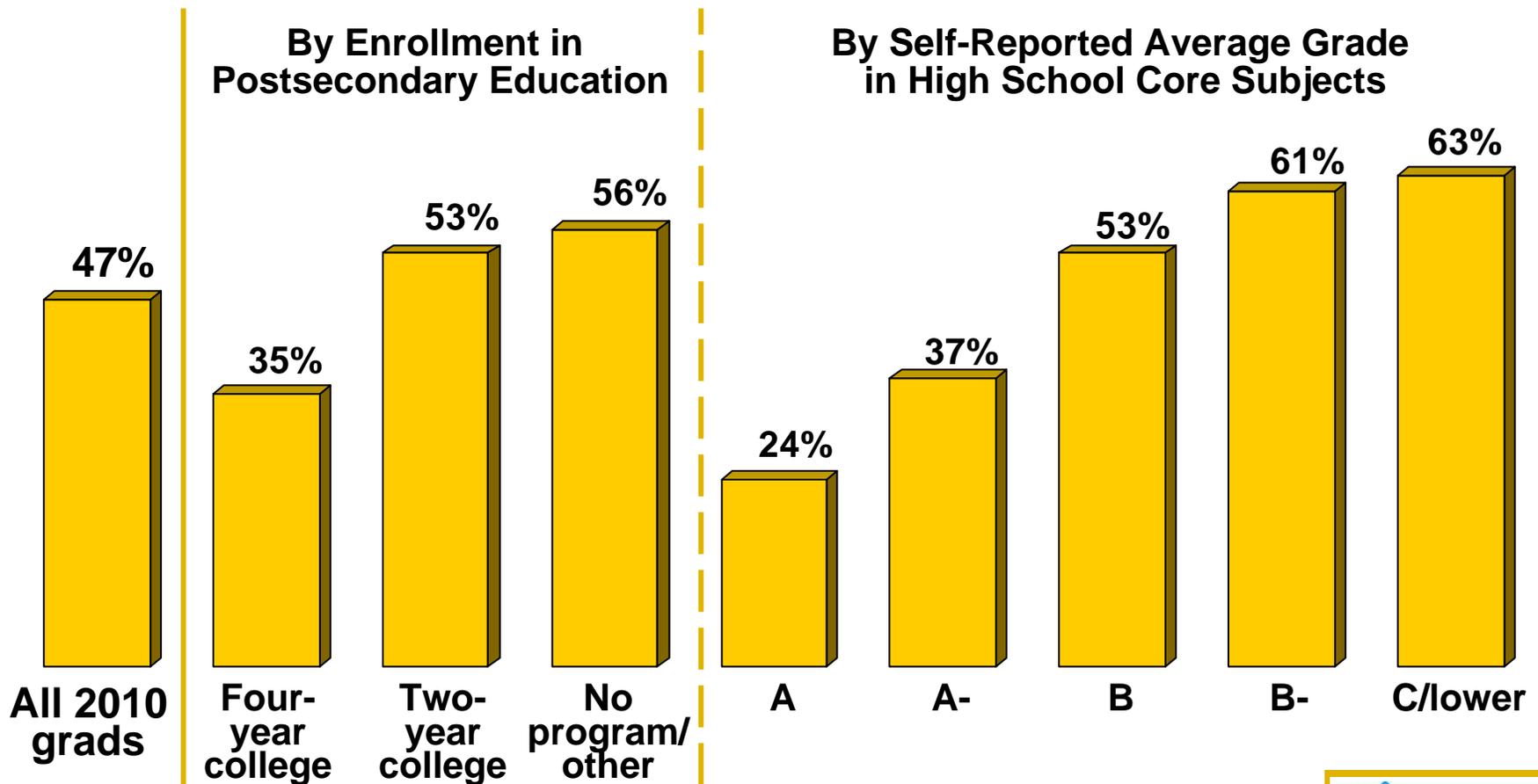
*What would you change about your high school experience if you could?**

I would have studied more/harder, would have gotten better grades	27%
I would have been more involved in extra-curricular activities	18%
I would have taken different classes	16%
I would have been more outgoing/friendly, stopped being anti-social	9%
I would be more focused/taken things more seriously	5%

* Among those who say they would change at least a little about their high school experience

Majorities of 2010 graduates who didn't go on to a four-year college now wish they had worked harder in high school.

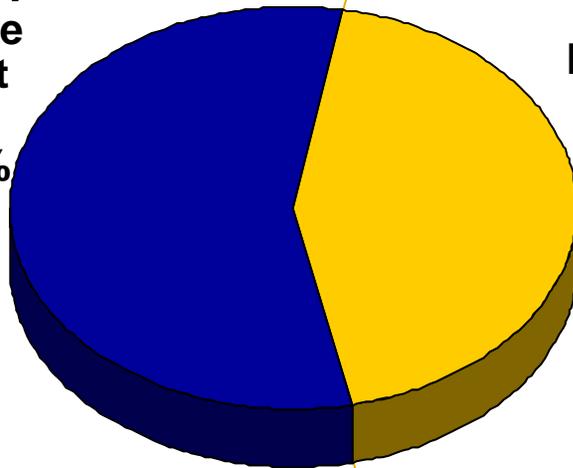
This totally/mainly describes me: "Now that I am out of high school, I wish I worked harder in high school."



Four in nine graduates wish they had taken different courses in high school, particularly in math.

Based on what I know now, to prepare me for success after high school:

Courses I took were the right ones
56%



I wish I had taken different courses
44%

I wish I had taken:

More math/higher level math

40%

More courses to train me for a specific job

37%

More science/higher level science

33%

More courses that emphasized writing skills

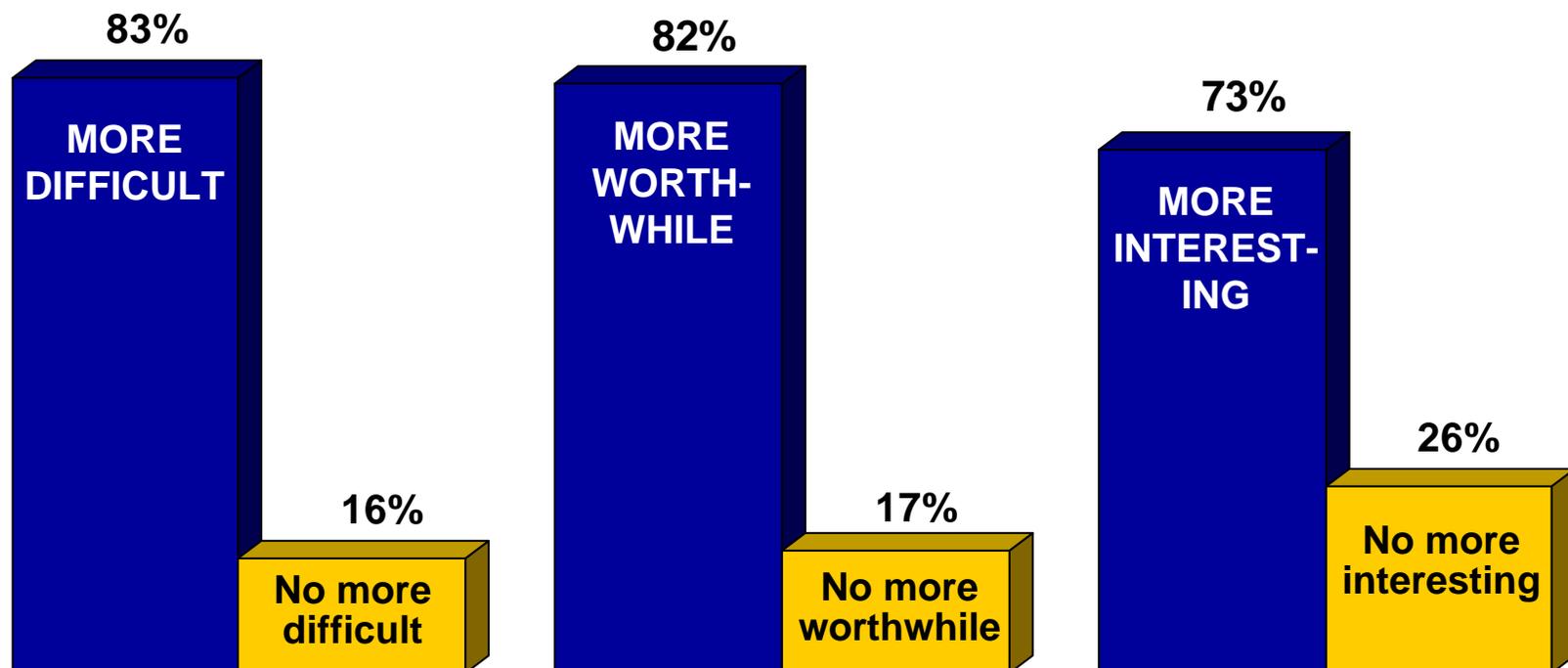
29%

More courses that emphasized research skills

26%

Graduates who took AP or IB courses say they were more demanding and more worthwhile.

Compared with the other courses I took in high school, the AP or IB courses I took were:

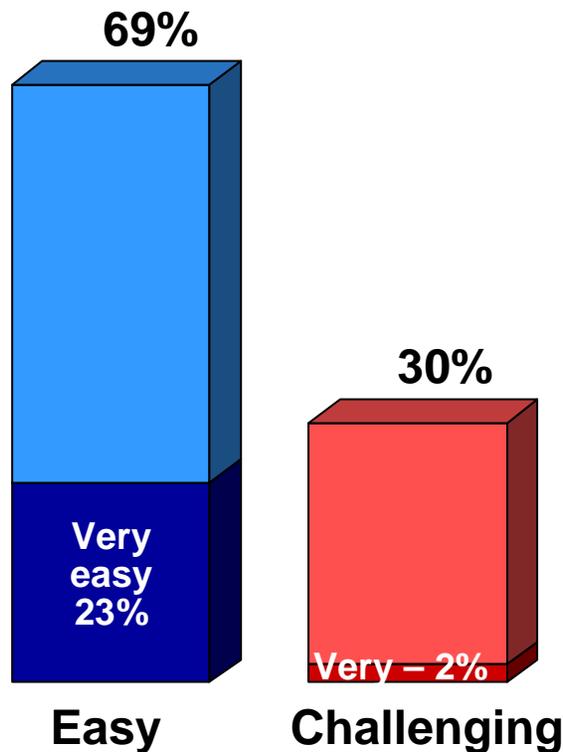


(Among the 39% of 2010 graduates who say they took AP/IB courses)

Large majorities say requirements for graduating high school were easy rather than challenging.

The requirements for graduating high school, including tests and courses I had to pass were:

All 2010 Graduates



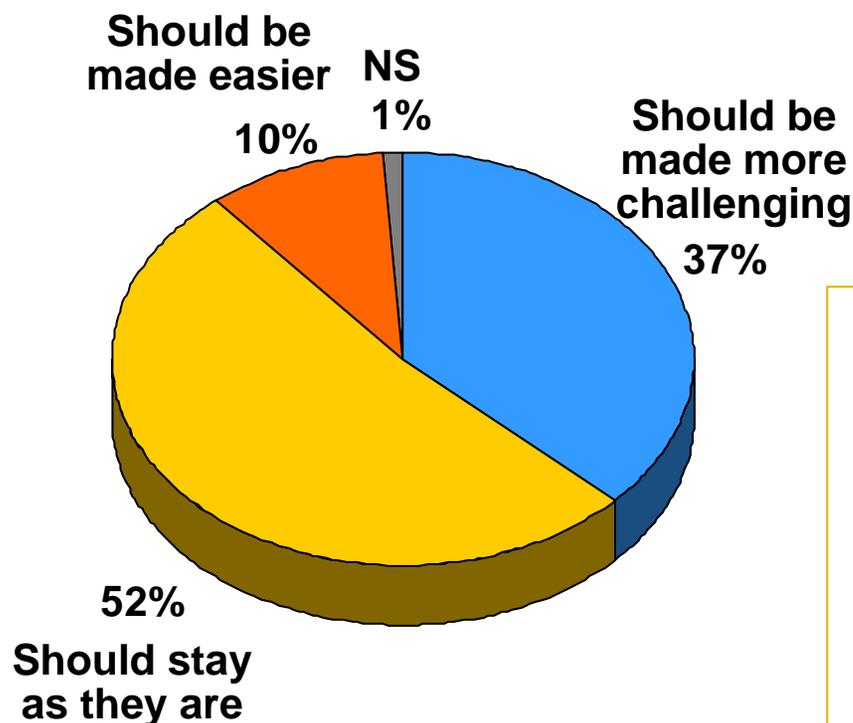
Graduation Requirements Were Very/Pretty Easy

Enrolled in four-year college	80%
Enrolled in two-year college	66%
Enrolled in no program/other	58%

More than a third of 2010 graduates say high school graduation requirements should be made tougher.

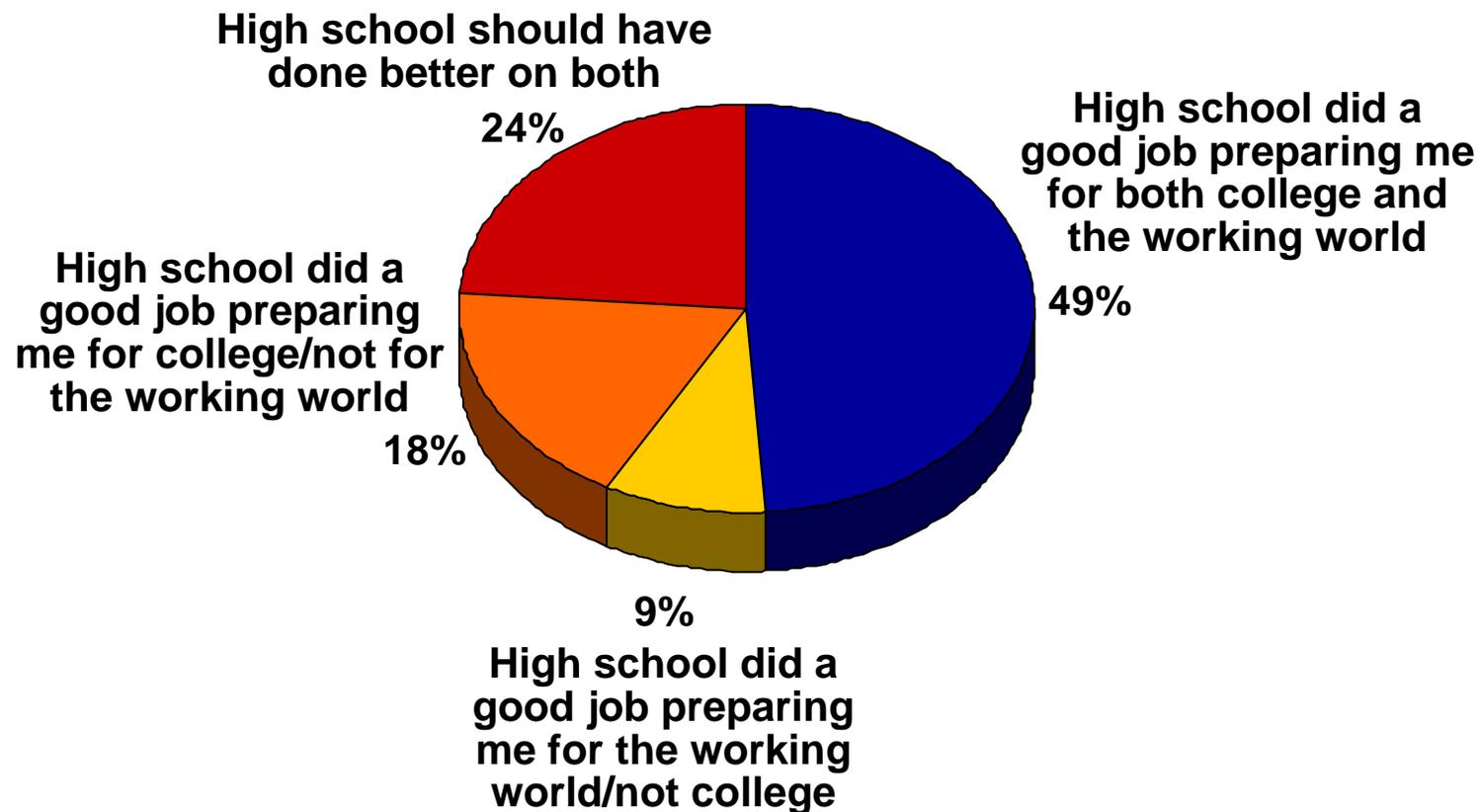
Preference for Requirements for Graduating High School

All 2010 Graduates



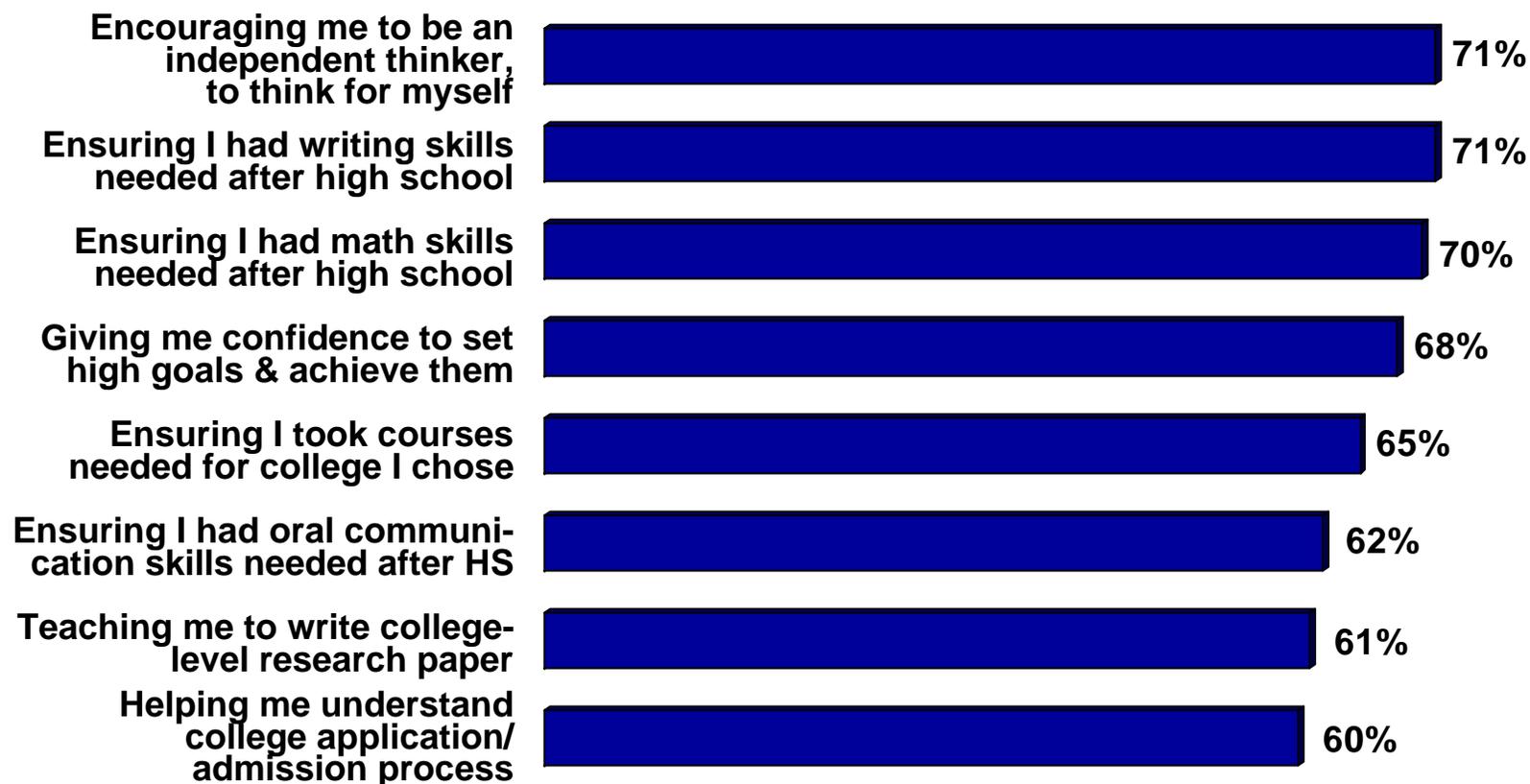
	Make more challenging	Make easier
Enrolled in four-year college	45%	3%
Enrolled in two-year college	33%	12%
Enrolled in no program/ other	30%	18%

Only half say high school prepared them well for both college and work.



High schools get positive grades from 2010 graduates on many content and skill areas.

■ My high school did an excellent or good job on this



High schools get more mixed grades from 2010 graduates on helping them prepare for life after high school.

■ My high school did an excellent or good job on this



2010 graduates say family was their prime source of guidance for identifying goals after high school.

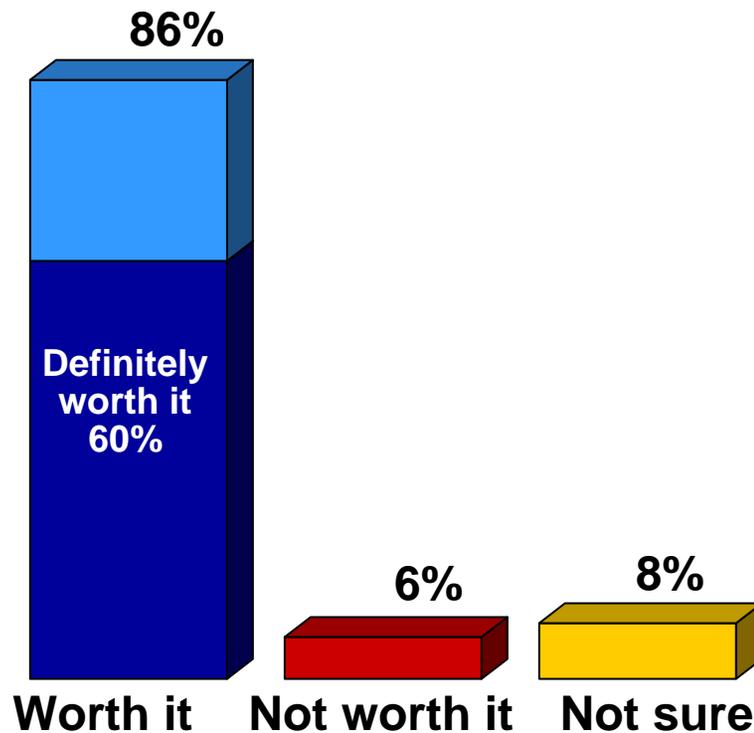
While in high school, which of these did you rely on the most for guidance to help you identify and achieve your goals after high school?

	All 2010 graduates	By Parents' Education		
		Neither college grad	One college grad	Both college grads
Family	58%	48%	63%	71%
Teachers	35%	34%	36%	38%
Friends	30%	28%	31%	31%
Guidance counselors	22%	24%	22%	21%
None of these	12%	14%	11%	8%

Most members of the class of 2010 believe getting a college degree is definitely worth it, *including many who did not yet go on to college.*

Considering the money and time involved in getting a college degree, do you think getting a college degree today is worth it?

All 2010 Graduates



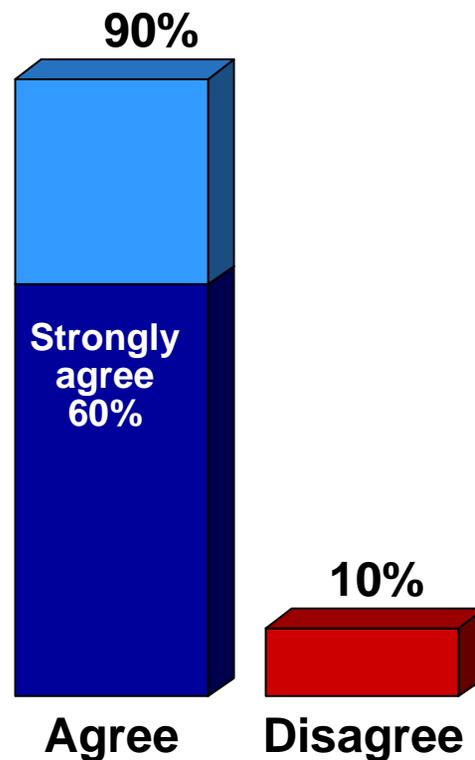
Getting A College Degree Today Is Worth It

Enrolled in four-year college	91%
Enrolled in two-year college	90%
Enrolled in no program/ other	76%

Nearly all members of the class of 2010 believe a high school degree is not enough.

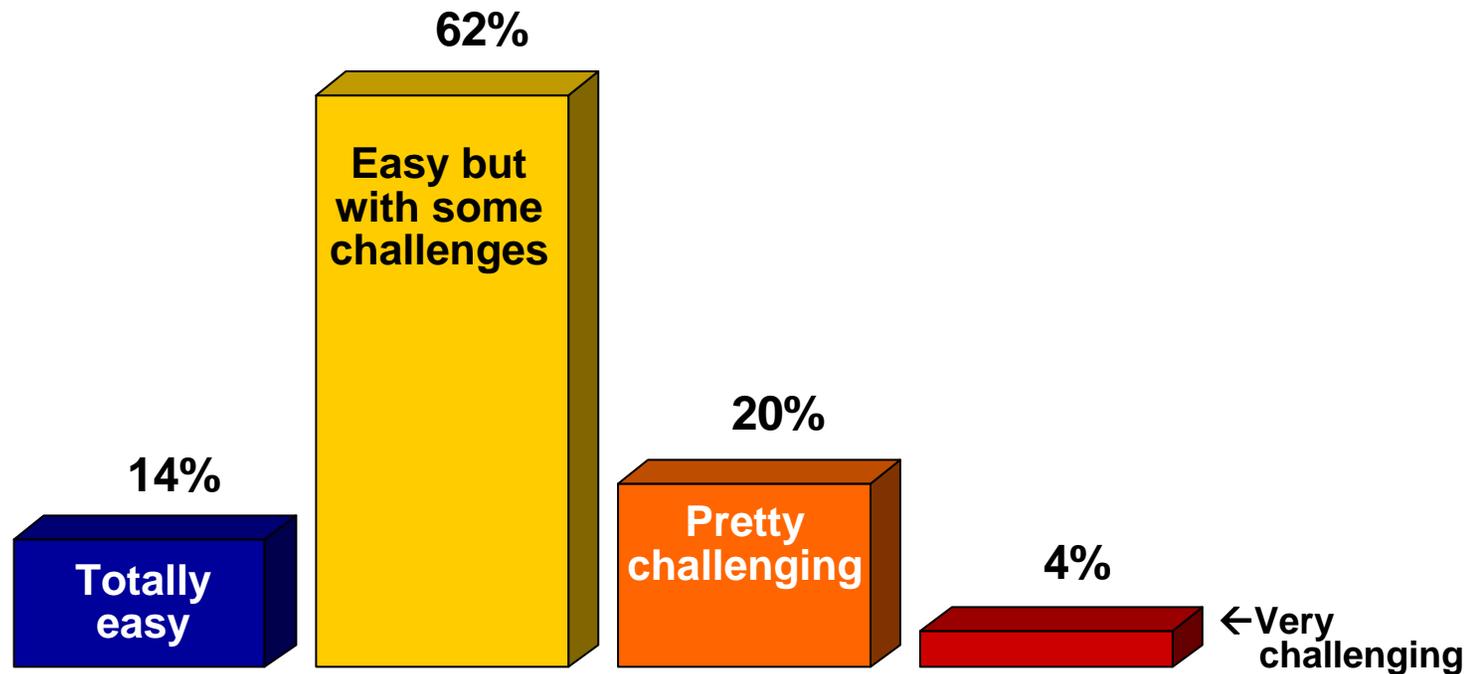
"In today's world, high school is not enough, and nearly everybody needs to complete some kind of education or training after high school."

All 2010 Graduates



Of those who went on to college, most found the transition was easy, but nearly all faced some challenges.

I found the transition from high school to college to be:

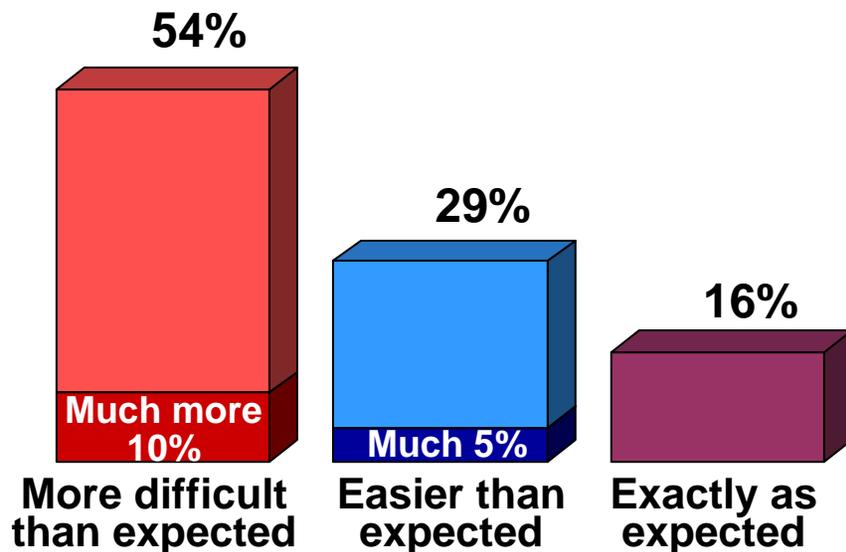


(Among graduates who enrolled in four-year or two-year colleges)

Most say that doing well in college was more difficult than they expected, *regardless of the type of college they attend.*

In terms of what I needed to know and do to get a good grade, my college courses were:

2010 Graduates*



College Courses Were More Difficult Than Expected*

Enrolled in four-year college	59%
Enrolled in two-year college	49%
Four-year college type:	
Public college	59%
Private college	59%
Selective college	61%
Non-selective college	59%

*Among graduates who enrolled in four-year or two-year colleges

One-quarter needed remediation, one in seven did not complete the full year of post-secondary education.

Were you required to take any non-credit developmental/remedial courses because the college determined you weren't ready for college-level work in a particular subject?



Did you complete the full year of your college, school, or training program?

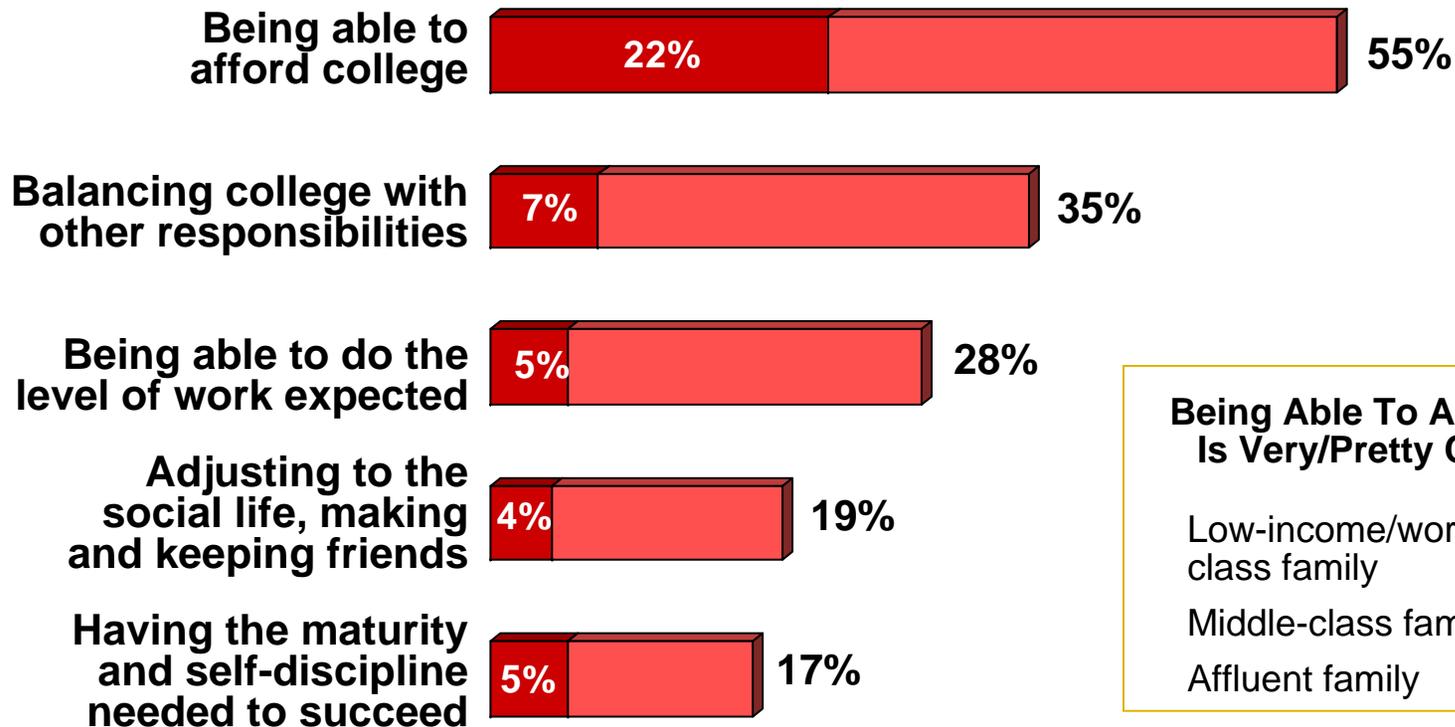


	Required to take remedial courses	Didn't complete the full year
Enrolled in four-year college	16%	9%
Enrolled in two-year college	37%	24%
Enrolled in other program	N/A	32%

The biggest challenge faced in transition to college was financial.

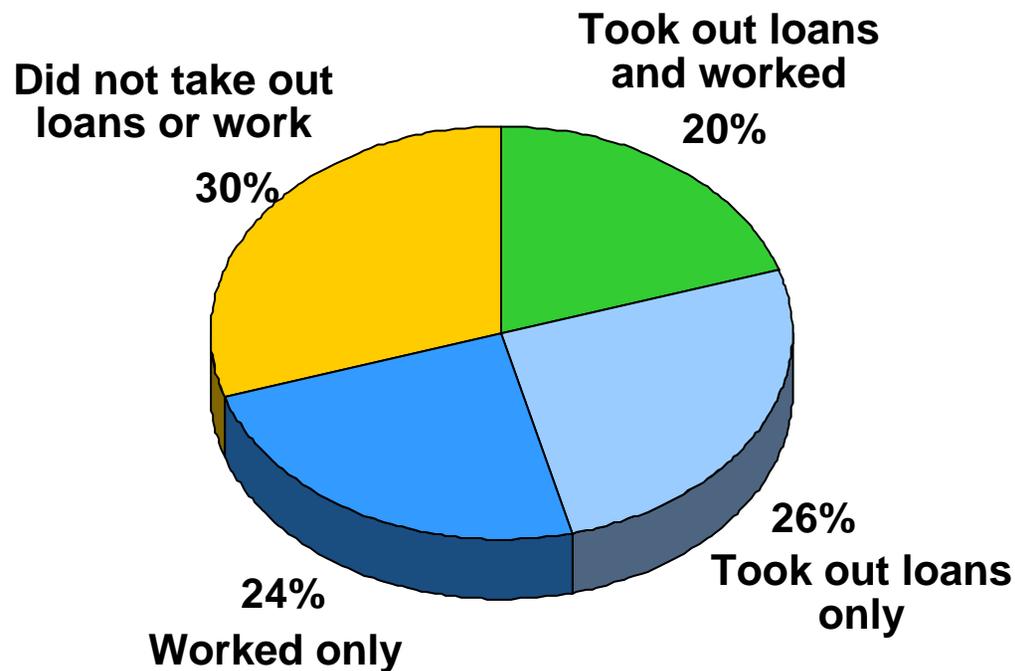
Experience of Specific Aspects of Going to College

■ Very challenging ■ Pretty challenging



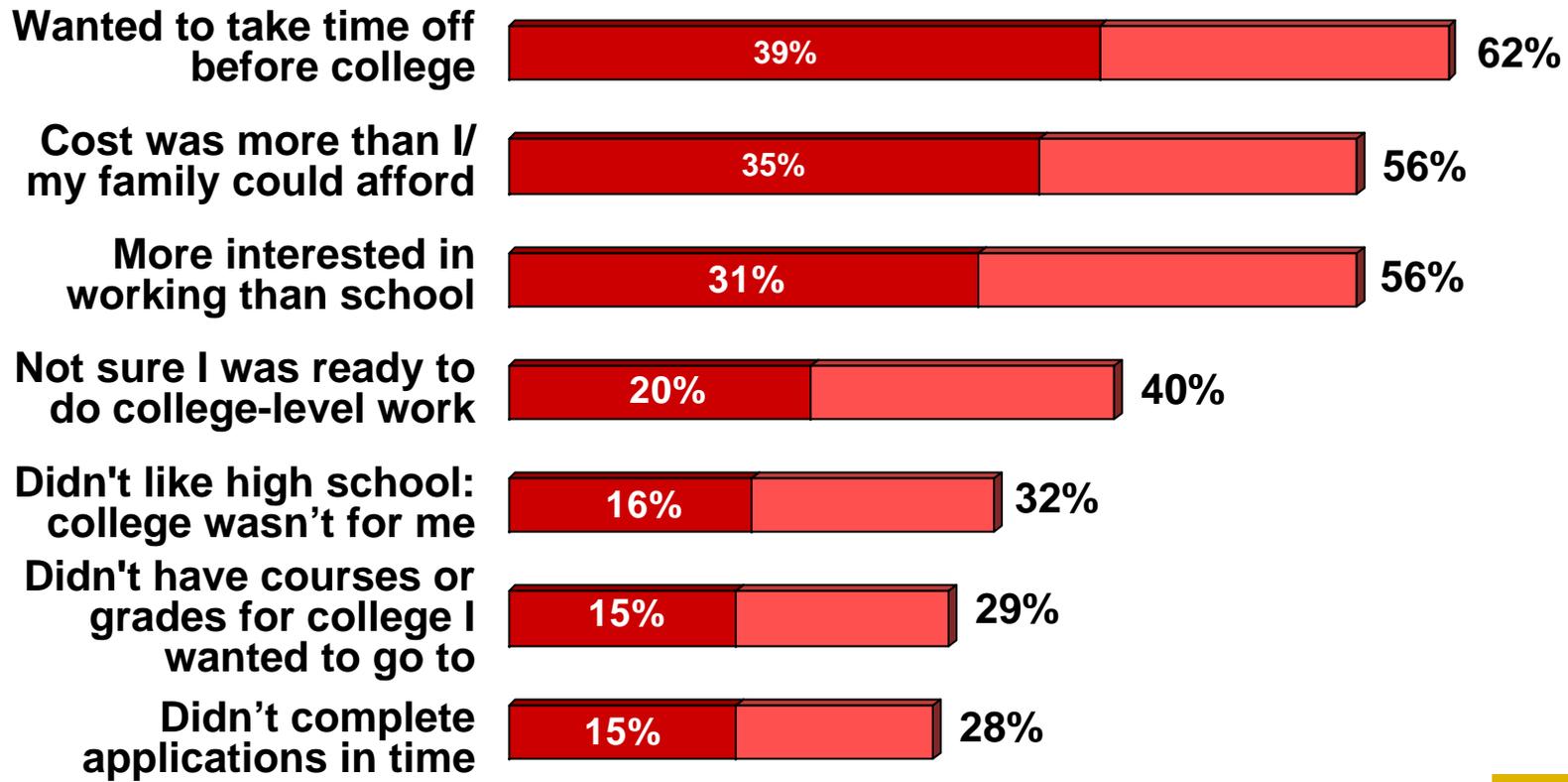
Seven in 10 either took out loans or worked to help afford college.

Self-Reported Financing for College Experience



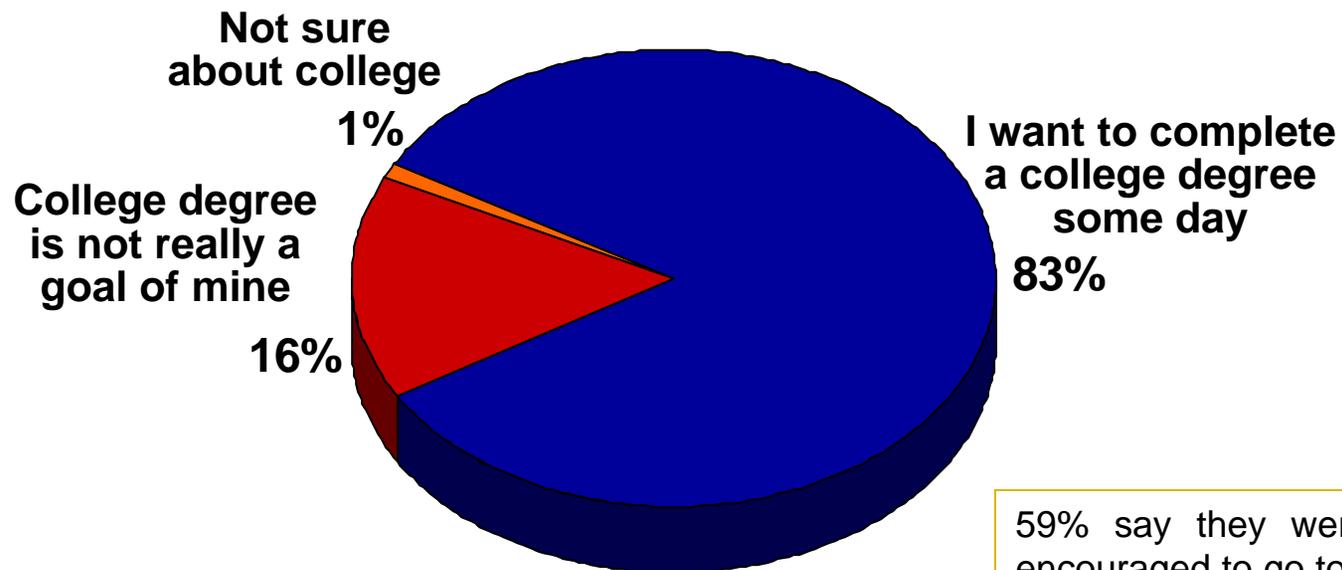
For those who didn't go on to college, cost was a barrier, along with desire to take time off from school.

Considerations in My Decision Not to Enroll in College after High School



Those who did not enroll in college after high school still see themselves getting a degree.

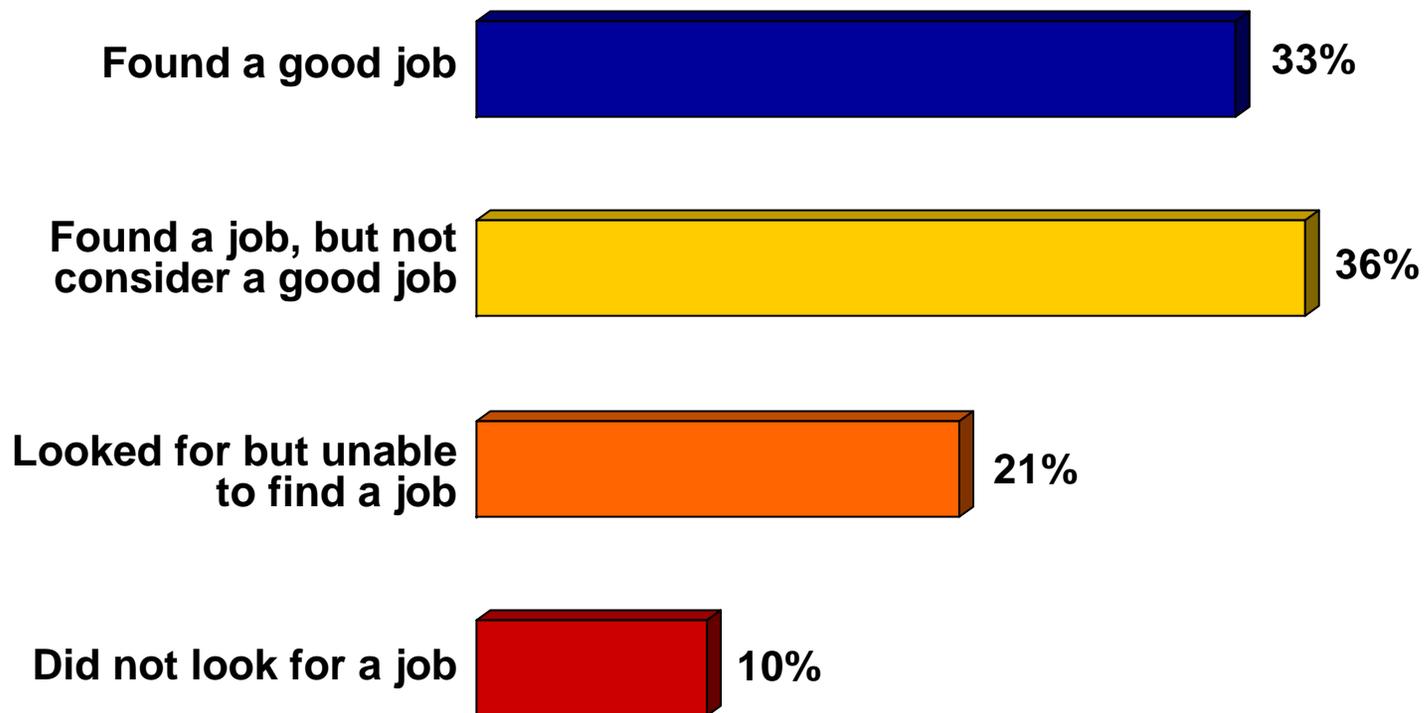
College Plans among 2010 Graduates Who Did Not Enroll in College/Training Program after High School



59% say they were strongly encouraged to go to college by their high school teachers and counselors.

Most who did not go on to college found a job, but not a “good” one.

Employment Situation among 2010 Graduates Who Did Not Enroll in College/Training Program after High School



For the long term, members of the high school class of 2010 want work that is interesting and that they care about.

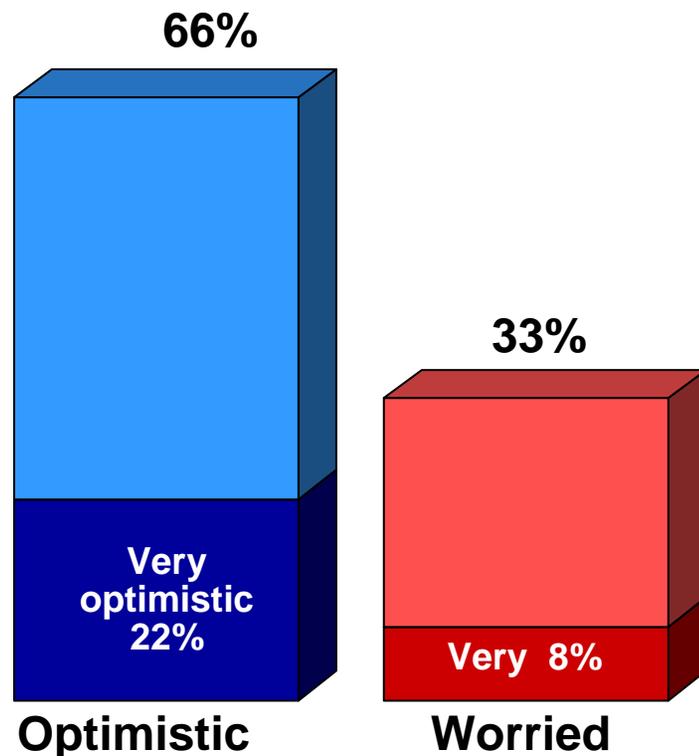
Which of the following are the most important to you in a job or career?

	All 2010 graduates	By Post-secondary Education		
		Enrolled in four-year college	Enrolled in two-year college	Enrolled in other/no program
Work that I find interesting or care about	59%	70%	52%	48%
Work that helps other people	28%	31%	28%	25%
Job that pays bills while I have fun outside work	28%	23%	34%	30%
Job security	19%	22%	19%	16%
Making a lot of money	18%	16%	16%	22%
Being able to work with my hands	9%	6%	11%	12%
Being my own boss	6%	4%	6%	10%

Even after the great recession, most are optimistic that their generation will have good opportunities for jobs.

Are you optimistic or worried about whether people your age will have good opportunities for jobs and careers in the years ahead?

All 2010 Graduates



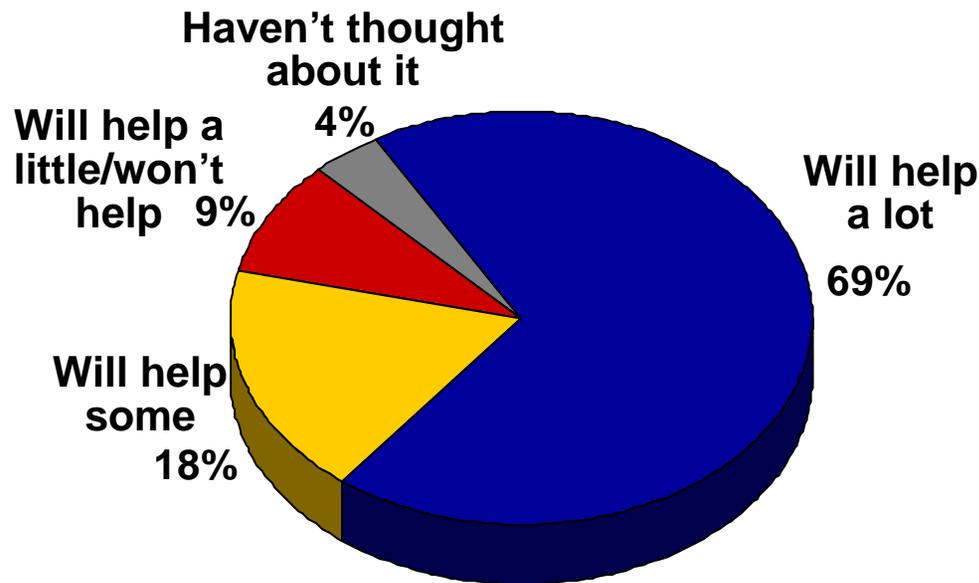
Optimistic About Opportunities For Jobs And Careers

Enrolled in four-year college	66%
Enrolled in two-year college	65%
Enrolled in no program/ other	68%

Seven in 10 say that a college degree will help a lot in achieving career goals, *including more than half who have not yet gone on to college.*

In terms of getting the kind of job or career you want, will having a college degree help?

All 2010 Graduates



College Degree Will Help A Lot In Getting Job/Career I Want

Enrolled in four-year college	78%
Enrolled in two-year college	73%
Enrolled in no program/other	56%