

PewResearchCenter

Is College Worth It?

*Presentation to Council of Graduate Schools
December 8, 2011*

PewResearchCenter

Methodology

- Based on findings from two Pew Research Center surveys conducted in the spring of 2011:

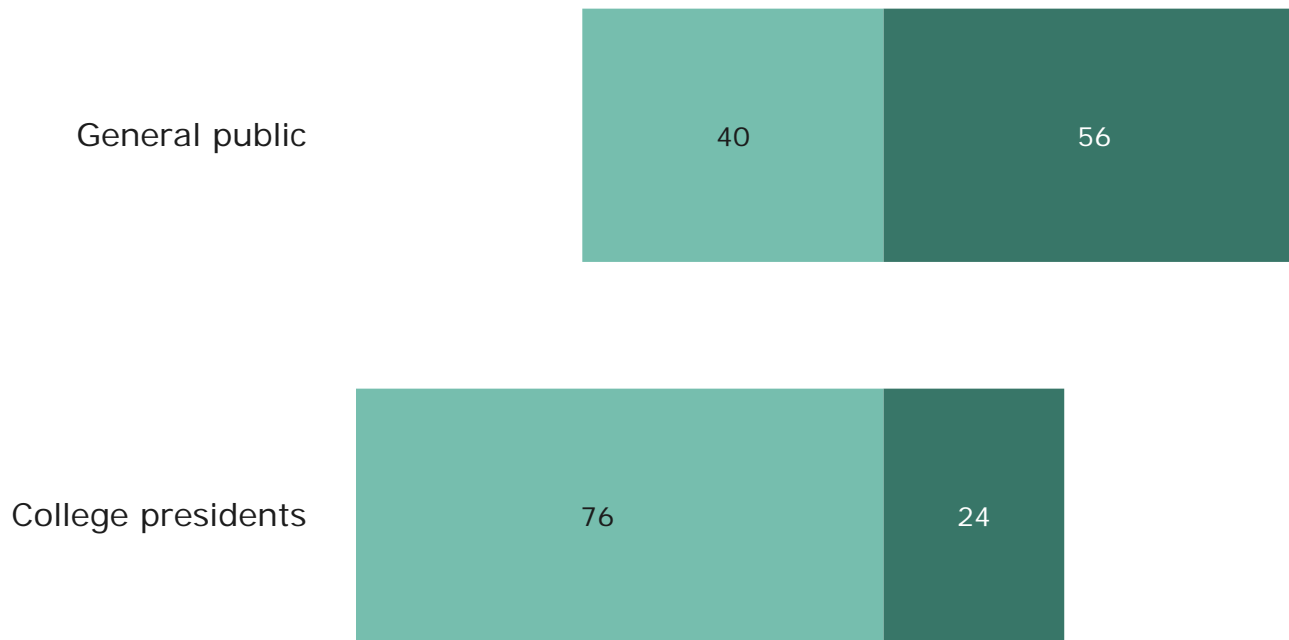
- General public (GP) survey based on telephone interviews conducted with a nationally representative sample of 2,142 adults

- College presidents survey based on a web survey conducted with 1,055 college and university presidents, designed by the Pew Research Center in association with the Chronicle of Higher Education

Is College a Good Value?

% who rate the job the higher education system is doing in providing value

■ Excellent/Good ■ Only fair/Poor



"Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

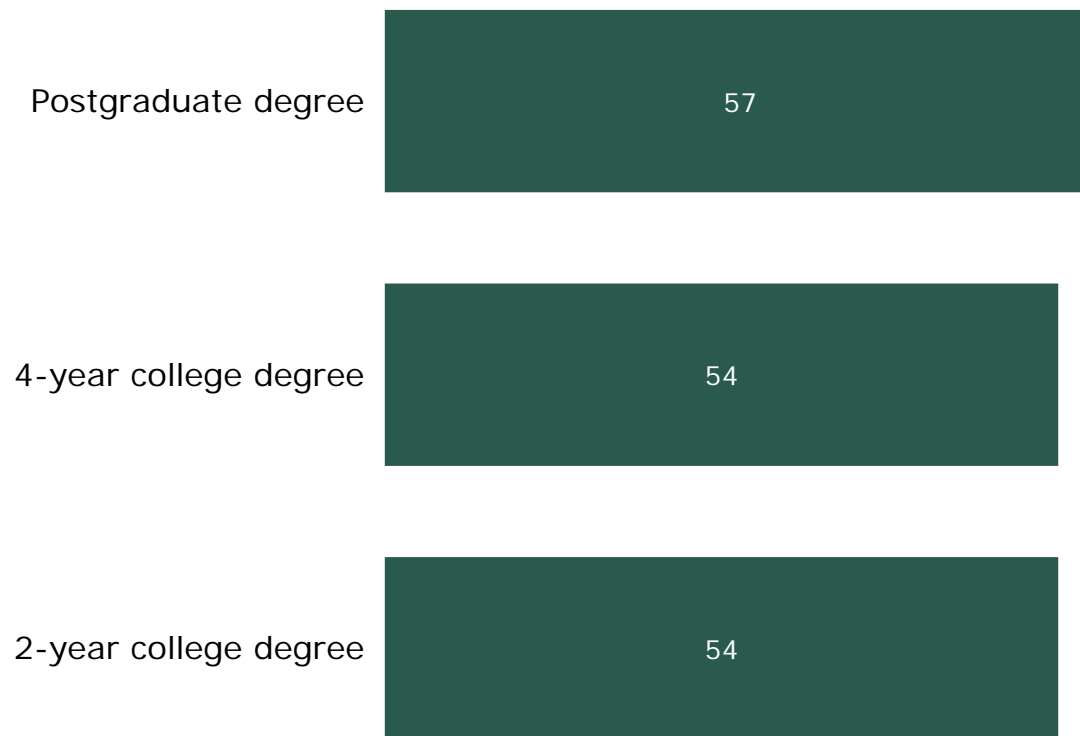
Has College Been a Good Investment for You?

% of graduates who say it has been a good investment



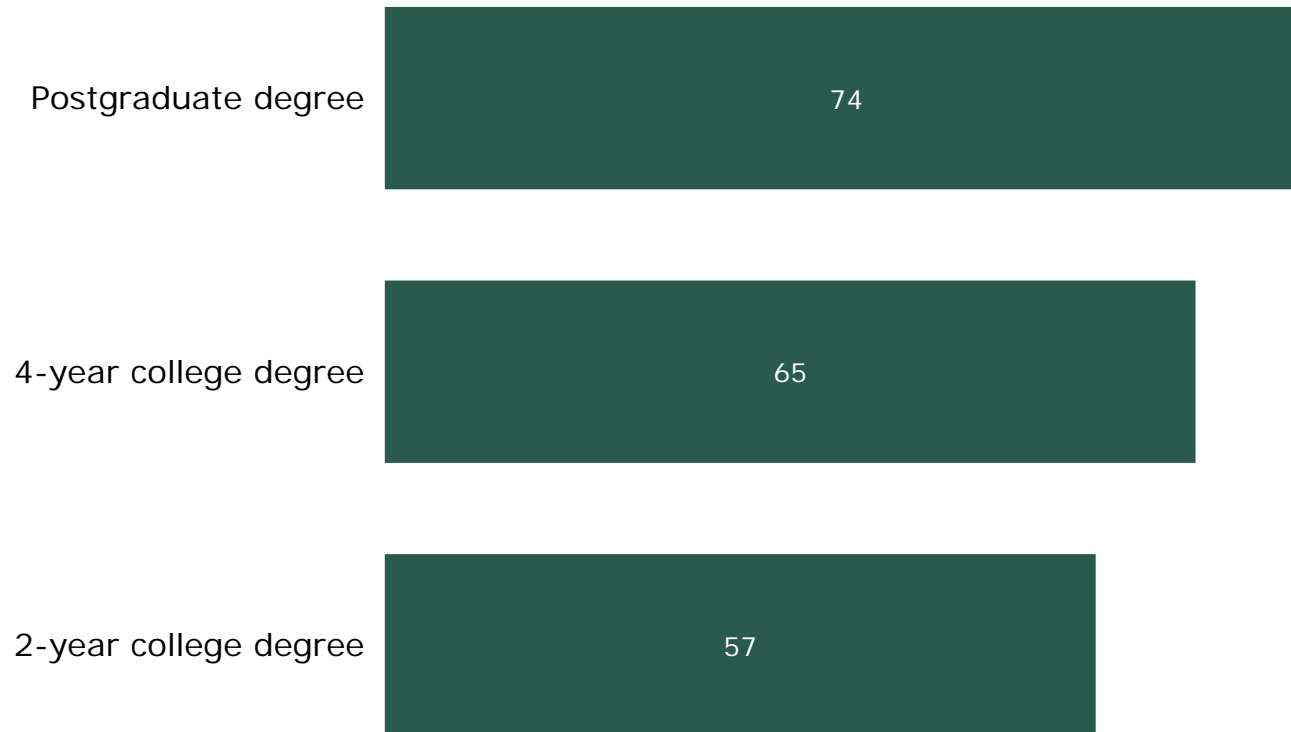
How Useful Was College in Preparing You for a Job or a Career?

% of graduates who say it was very useful



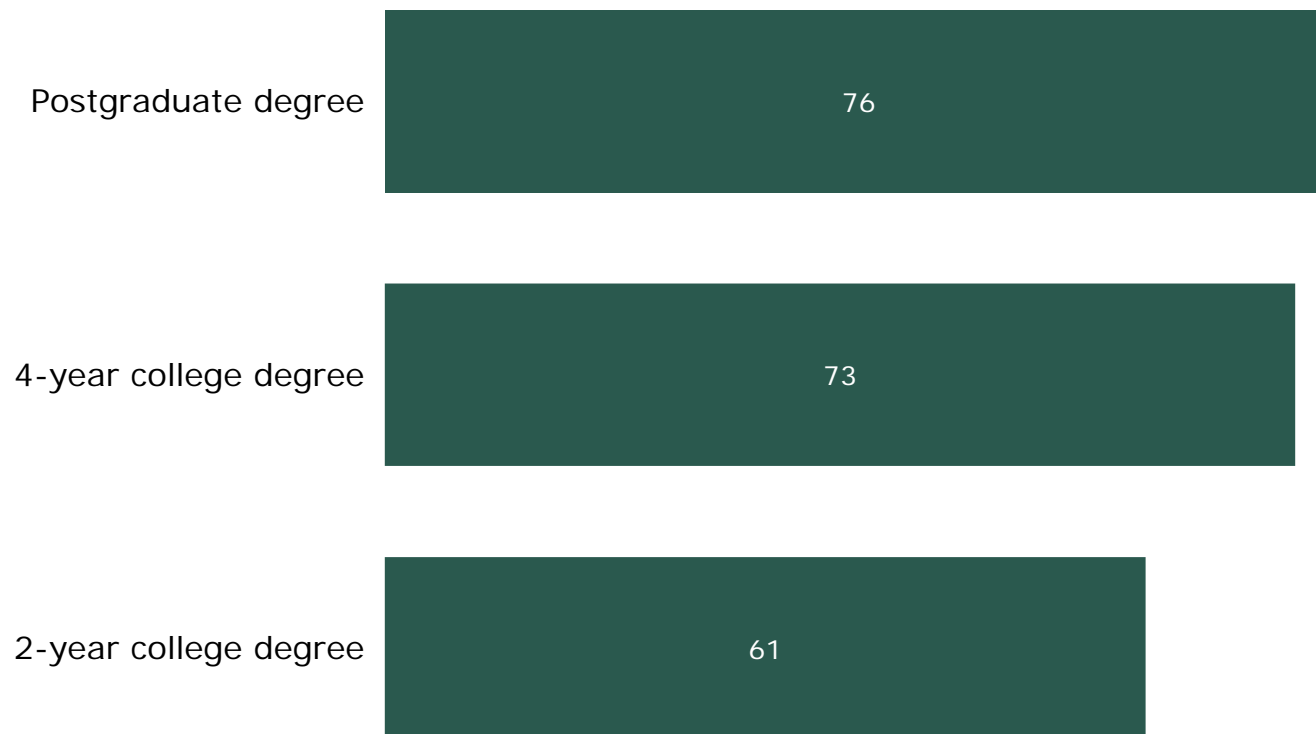
How Useful Was College in Helping You Grow and Mature as a Person?

% of graduates who say it was very useful



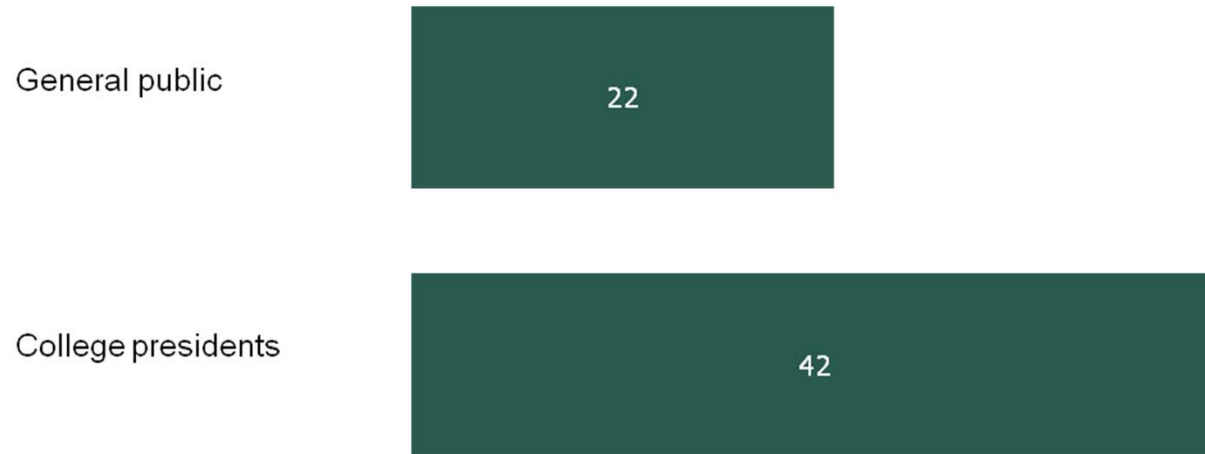
How Useful Was College in Increasing Your Knowledge and Helping You to Grow Intellectually?

% of graduates who say it was very useful



Is College Affordable for Most People Today?

% who agree



Who Should Pay for College?

% saying the largest share of students' college expenses should be paid by...

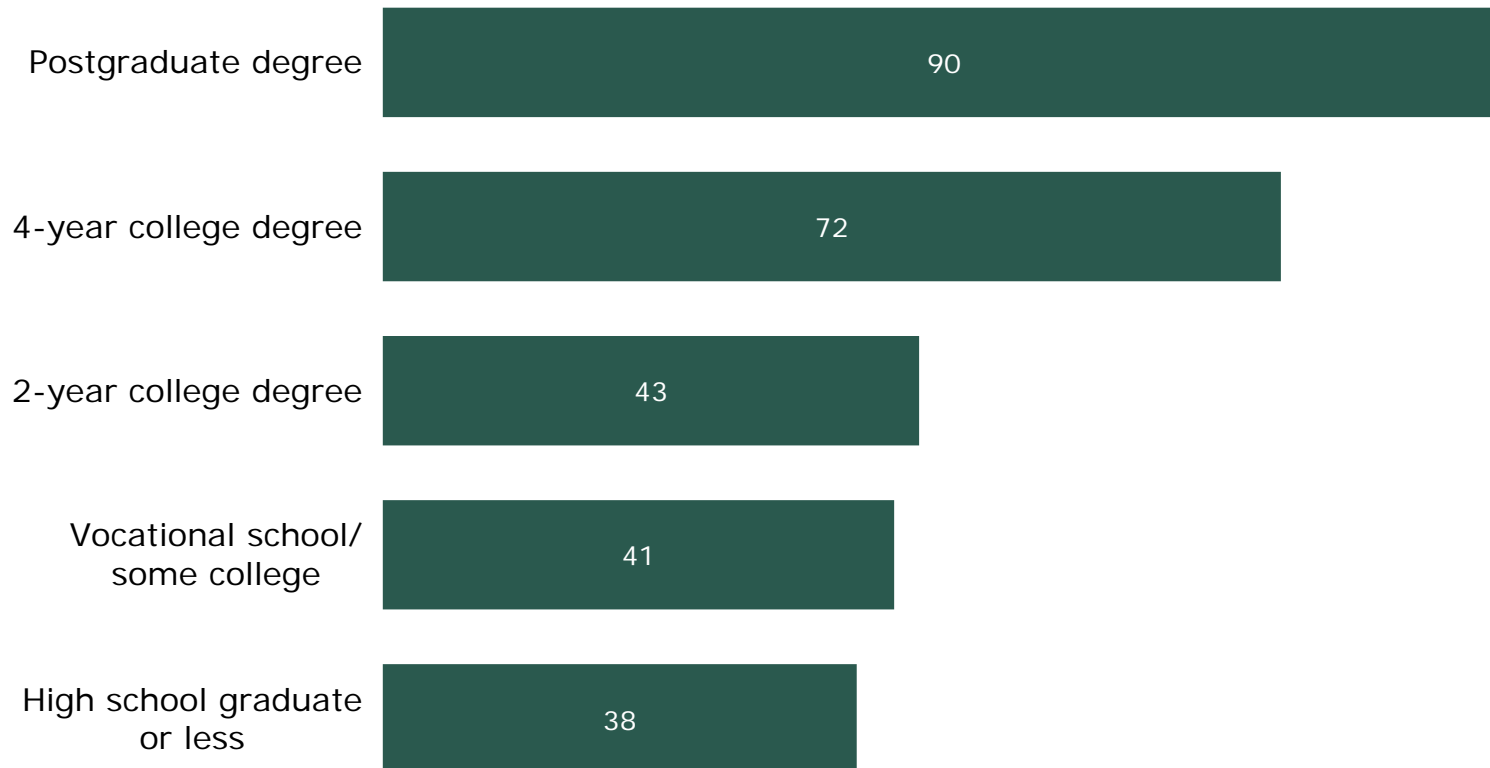
- Students/their families
- State government
- Federal government
- Private donations
- Some combination (vol)



"Don't know/Refused" or "No answer" responses not shown.

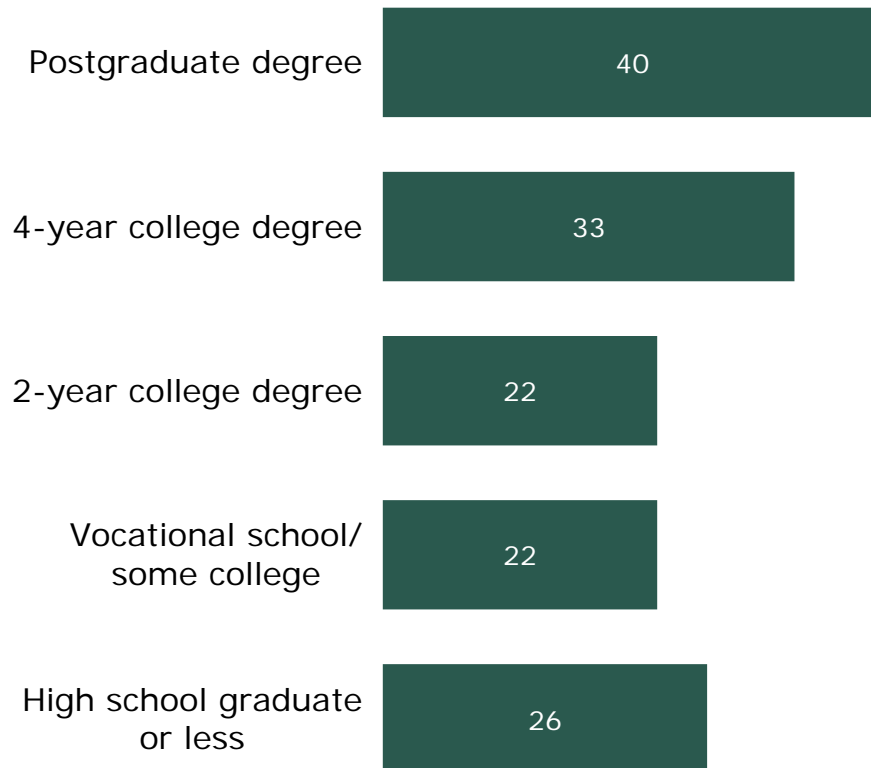
Satisfaction with Education

% very satisfied with education



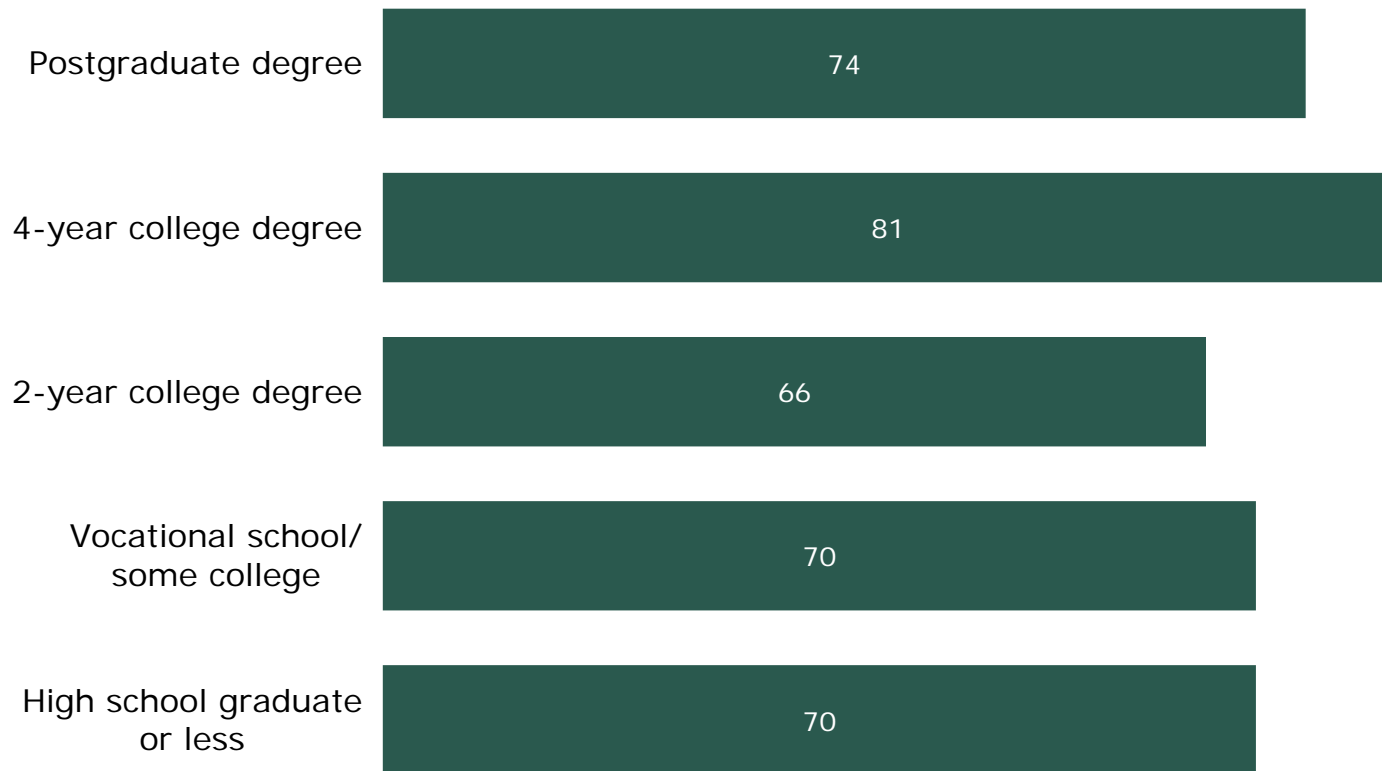
Satisfaction with Personal Financial Situation

% very satisfied with personal financial situation



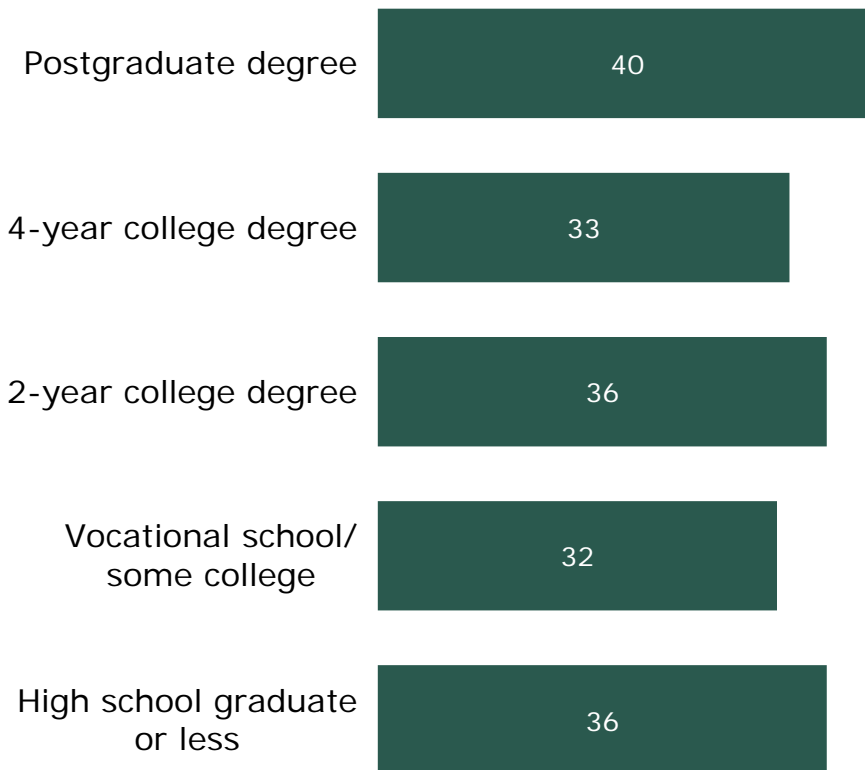
Satisfaction with Family Life

% very satisfied with family life



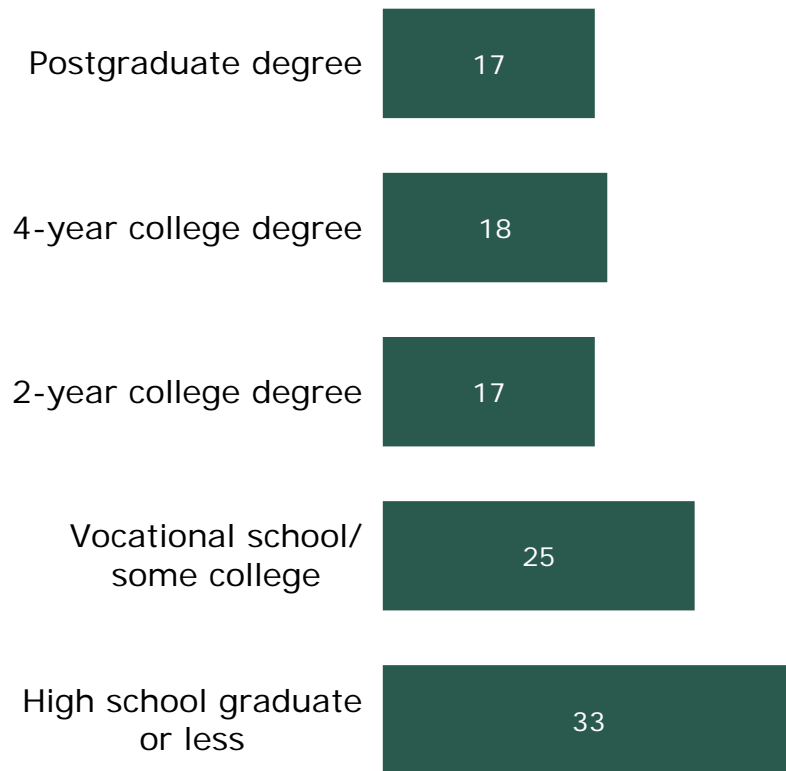
Are You Better off than Your Parents?

% saying much better



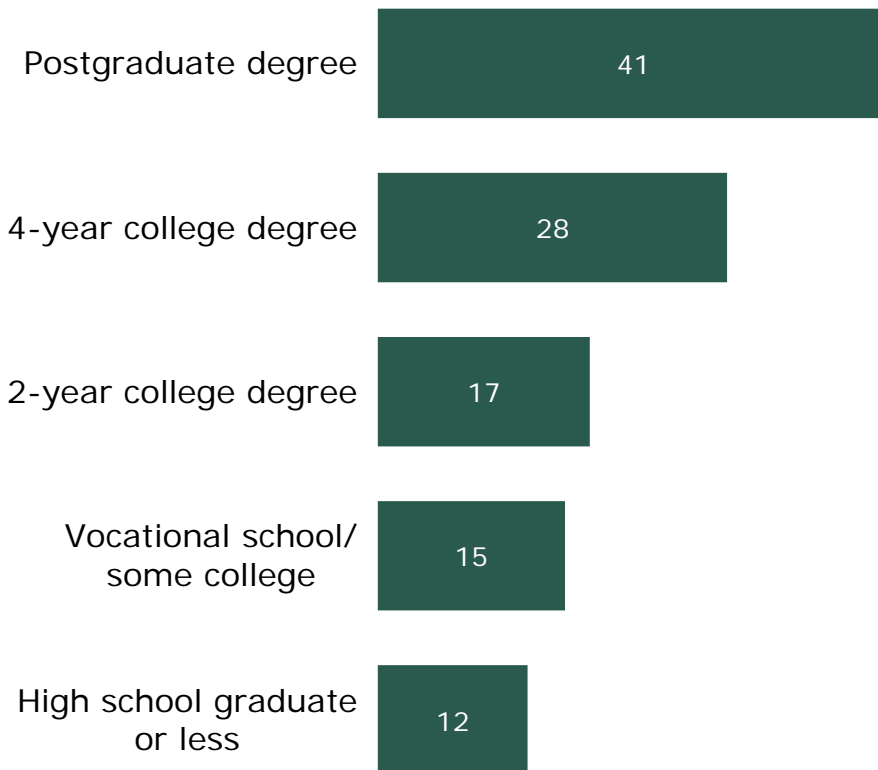
Will Your Children Be Better off than You?

% saying much better



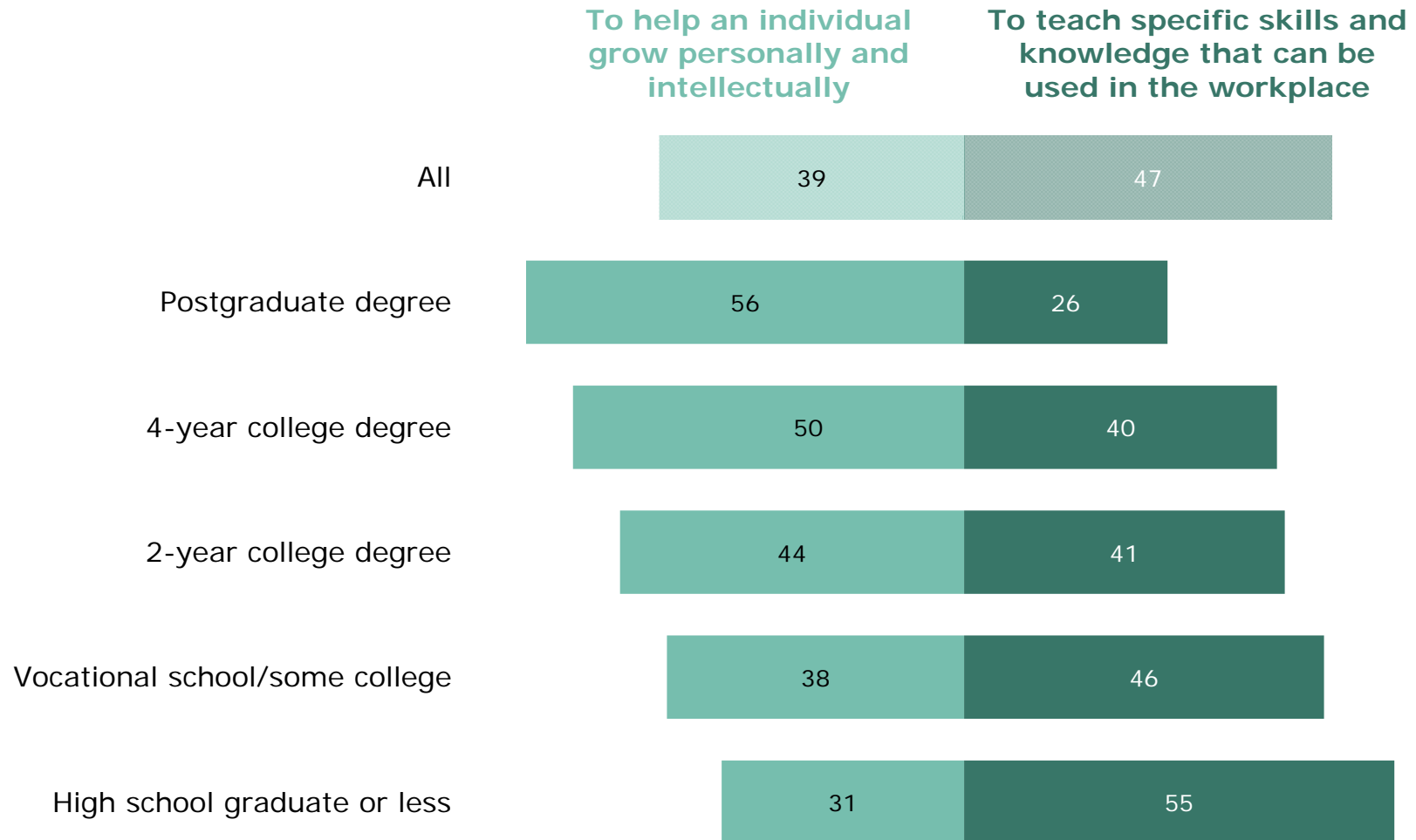
The Correlation Between Education and Social Class

% saying they belong in the upper or upper-middle class



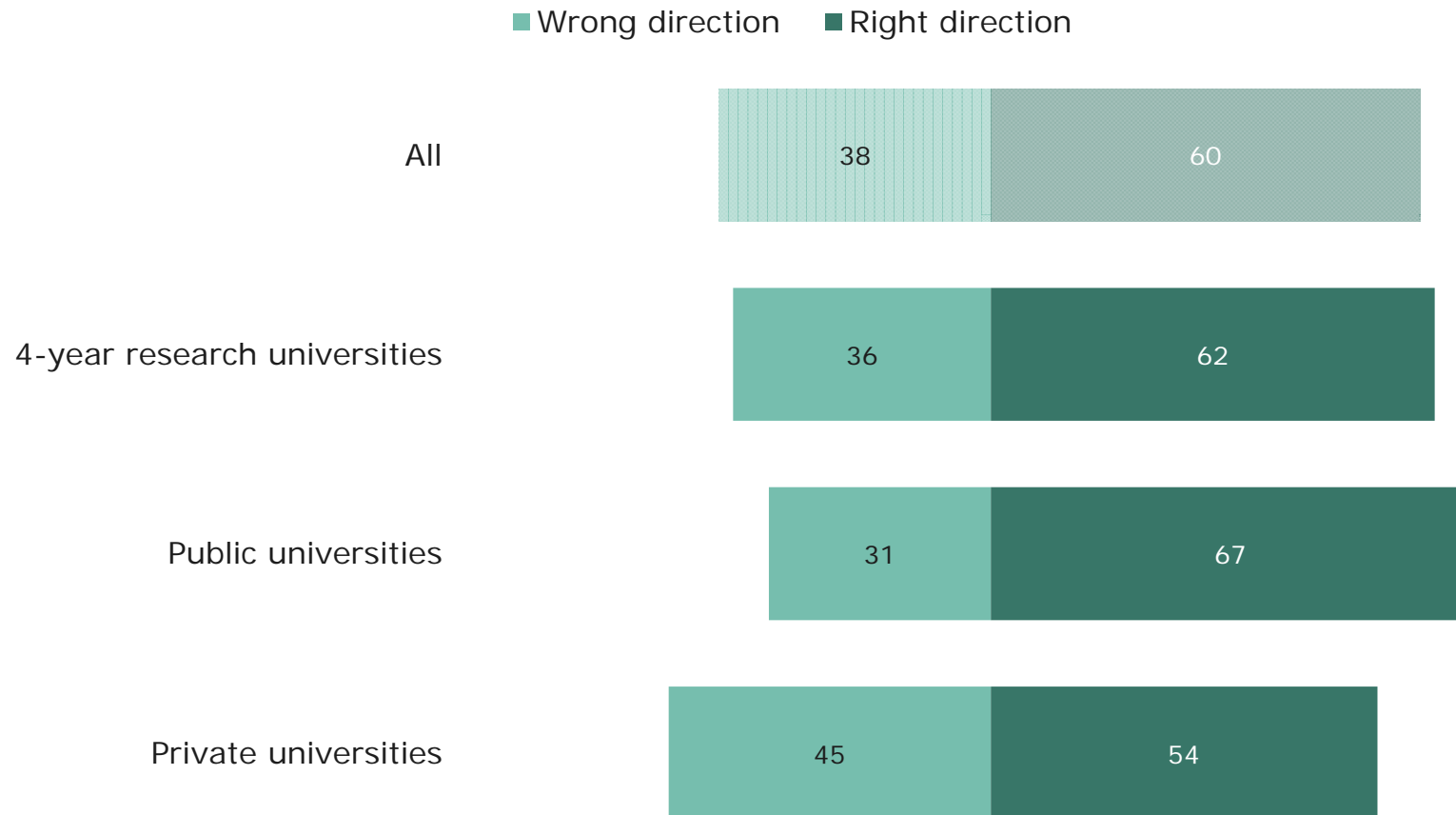
Main Purpose of College?

% saying...



College Presidents: Is the Higher-Education System in the U.S. Going in the Right or Wrong Direction?

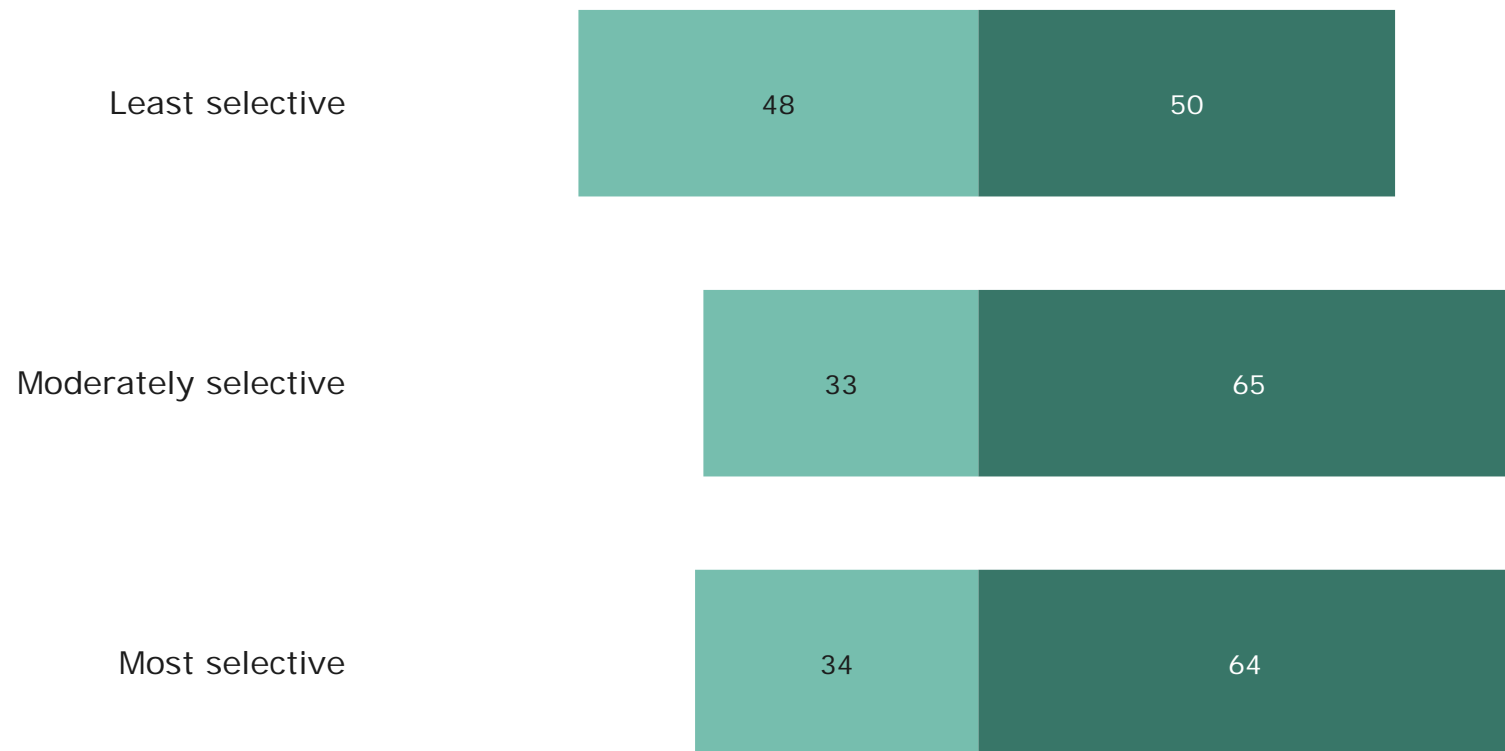
% of college presidents saying...



Presidents from the Least Selective Four-Year Colleges Are More Pessimistic

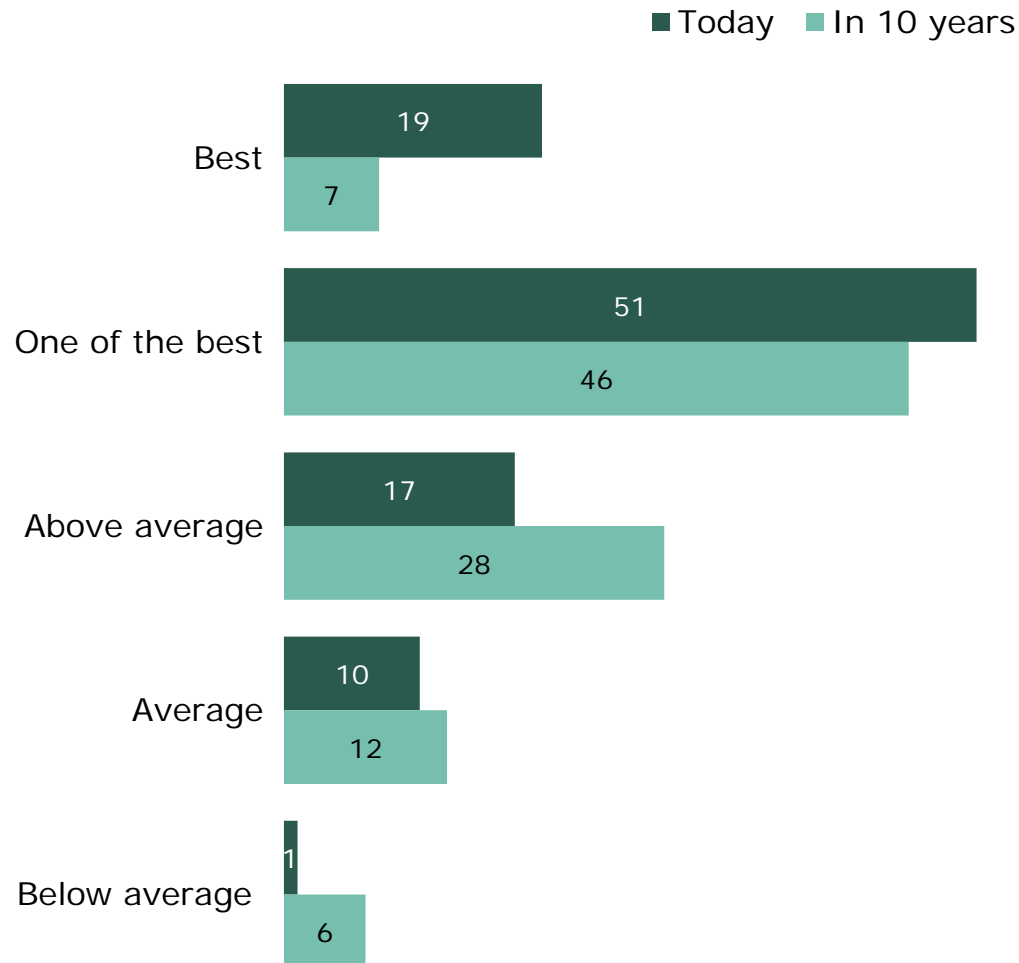
% saying the higher-education system is going in the...

■ Wrong direction ■ Right direction



Few Presidents Say U.S. Higher-Education System Is World's Best

How does the quality of the higher education system in the U.S. rate in the world?



"No answer" responses not shown.

Just One-in-Five College Presidents Say College Students Are Getting More for Their Money Now than a Decade Ago

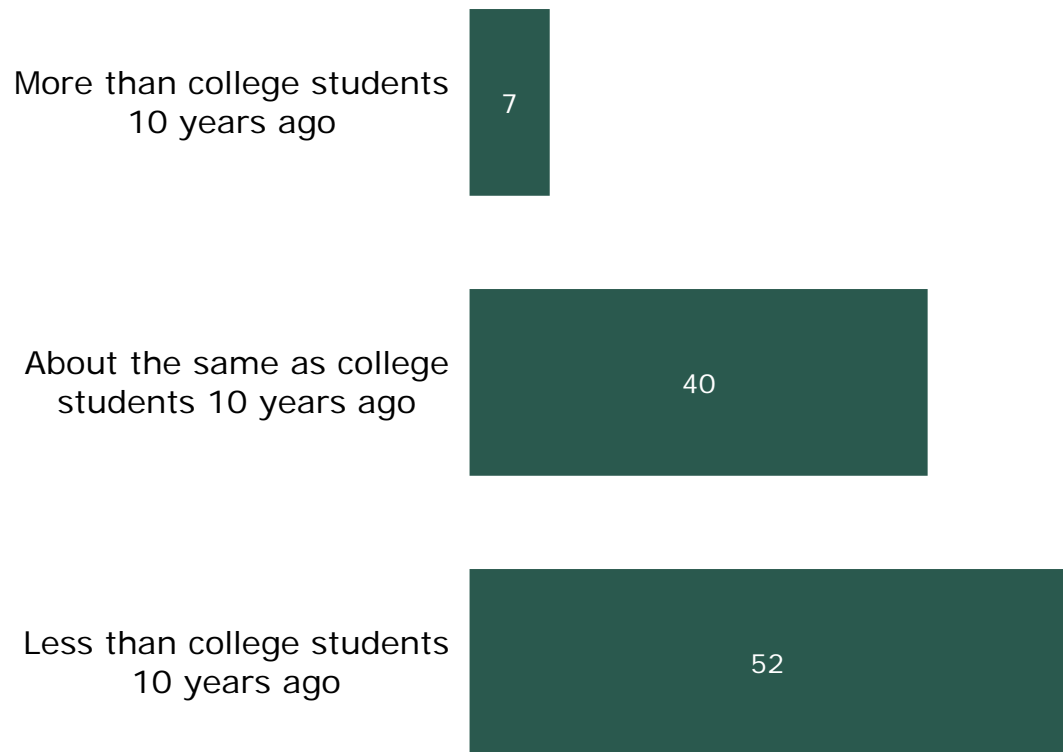
Compared with 10 years ago, % saying the value students get for the money they spend on a college education today is...



"No answer" responses not shown.

Most College Presidents Say College Students Are Studying Less Now than Ten Years Ago

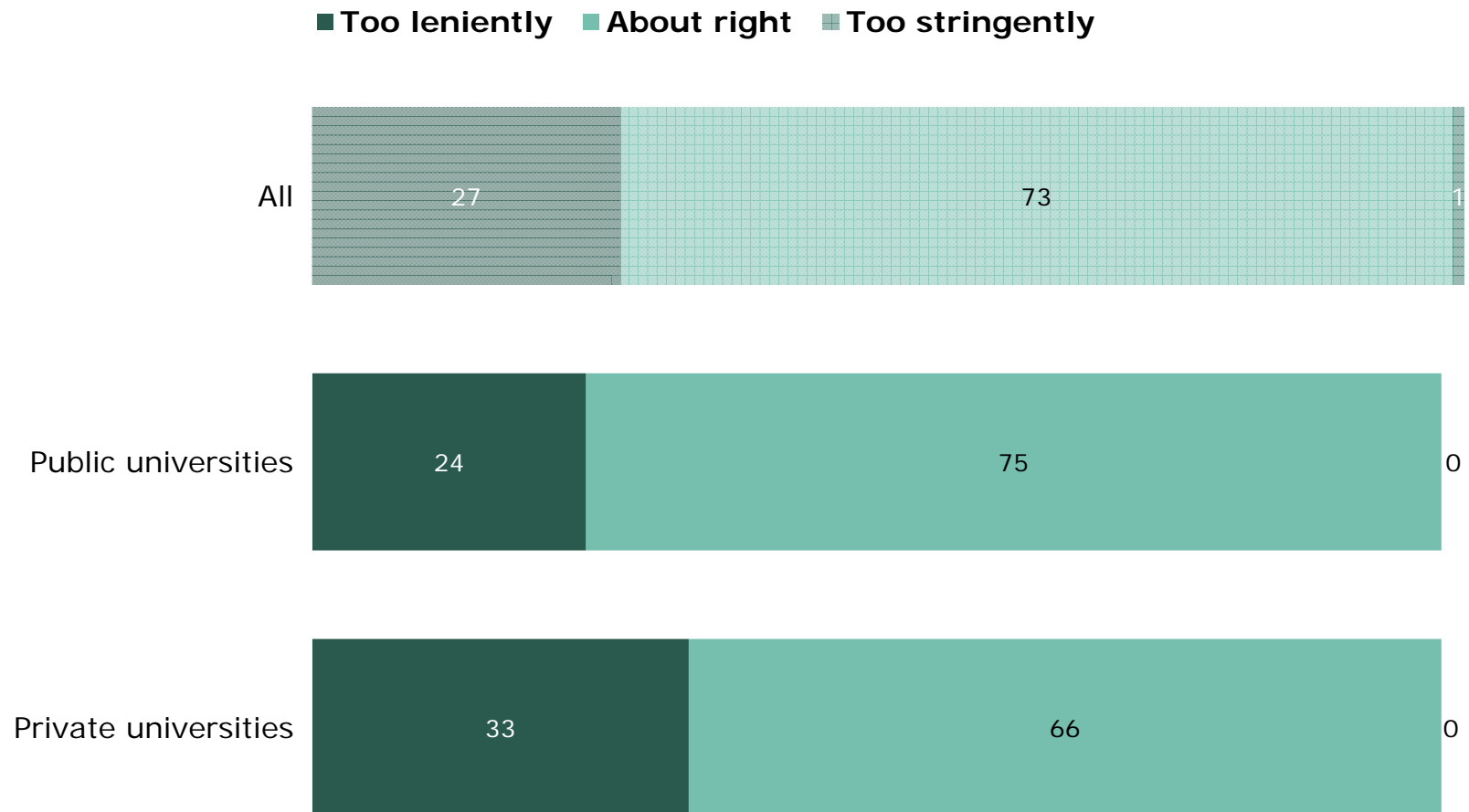
Compared with college students 10 years ago, % saying the amount of studying college students do these days is...



"No answer" responses not shown.

Overall, Do You Think the Faculty at Your Institution Grade the (Undergraduate) Students...?

% saying...

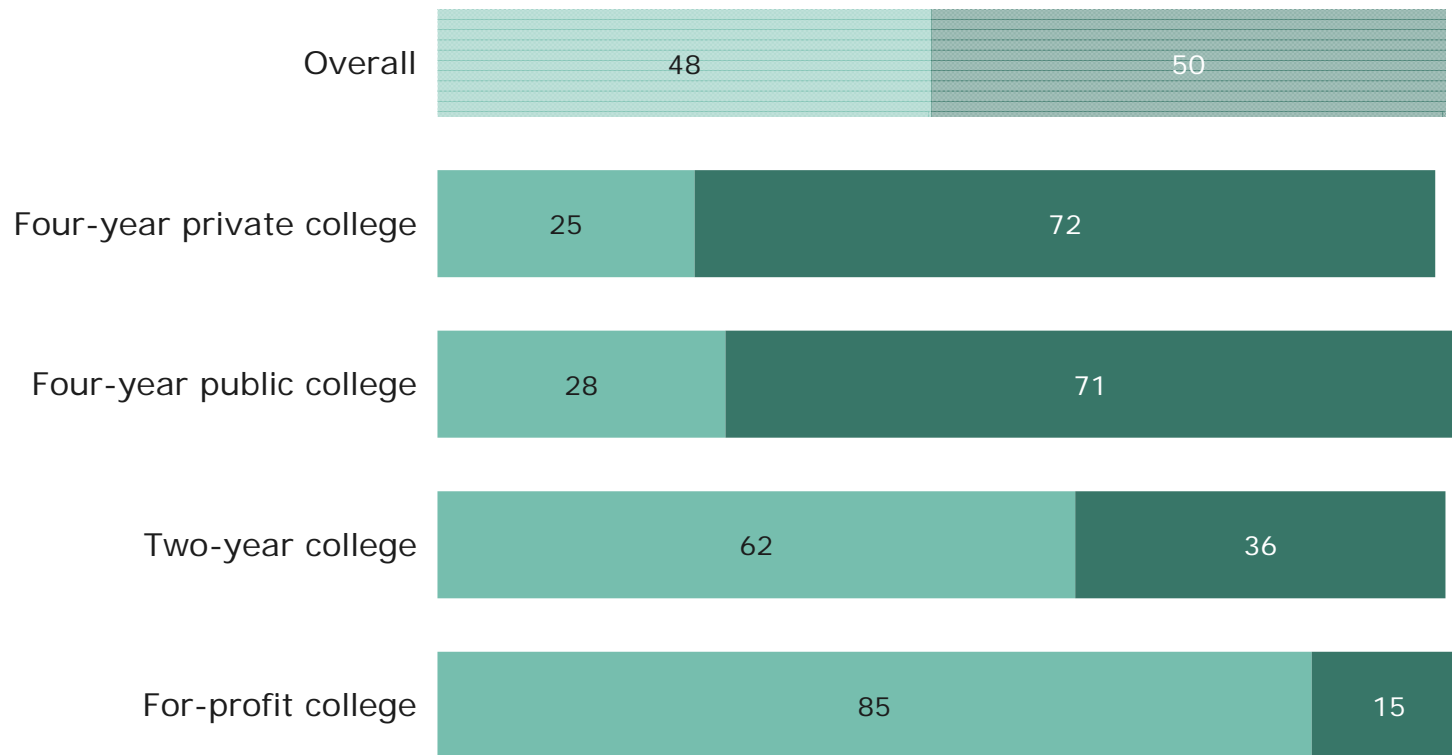


"No answer" responses not shown.

Presidents Are Split on the Role of a College Education

% saying the most important role that colleges play in the lives of their students is to...

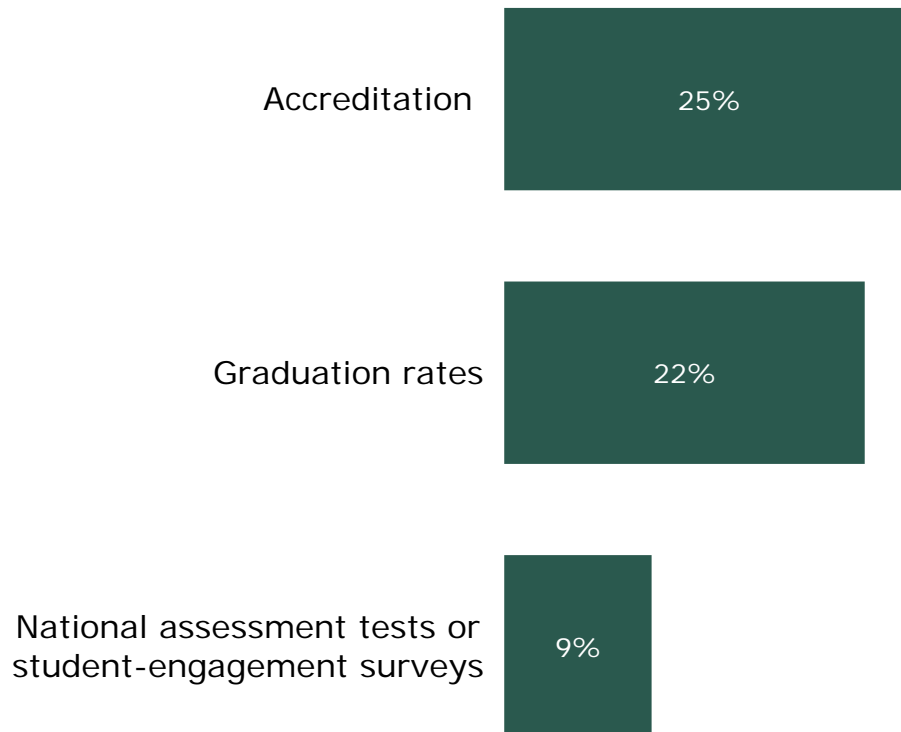
■ Provide knowledge and training for working world ■ Promote intellectual and personal growth



"No answer" responses not shown.

How Should the Public Assess Colleges' Quality? Accreditation and Graduation Rates Are Best, Presidents Say

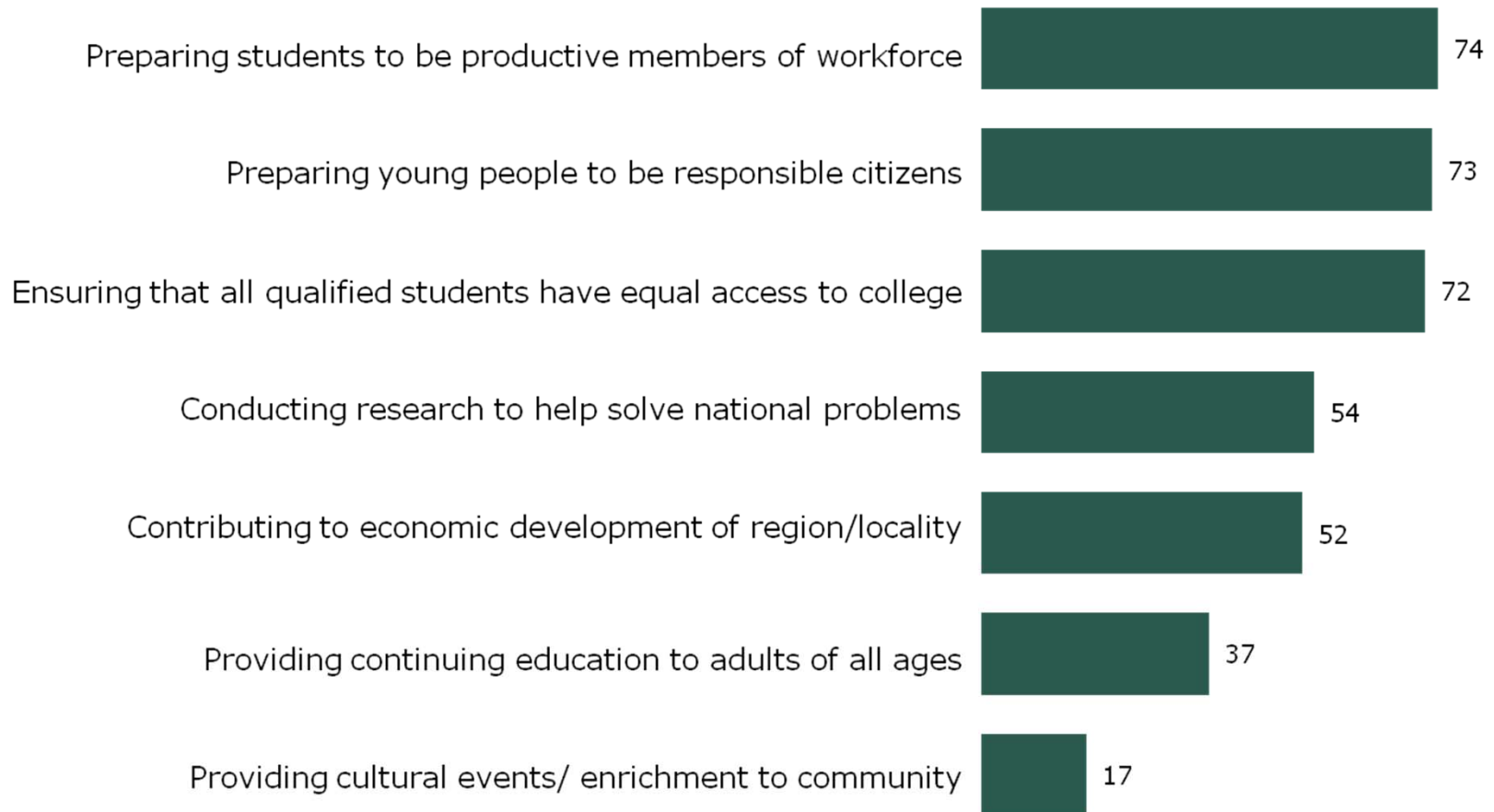
Which of these would you say is the most effective indicator for the public to use in assessing the overall quality of a college?



Note: 35% of respondents said no factor was "very effective" or didn't answer.

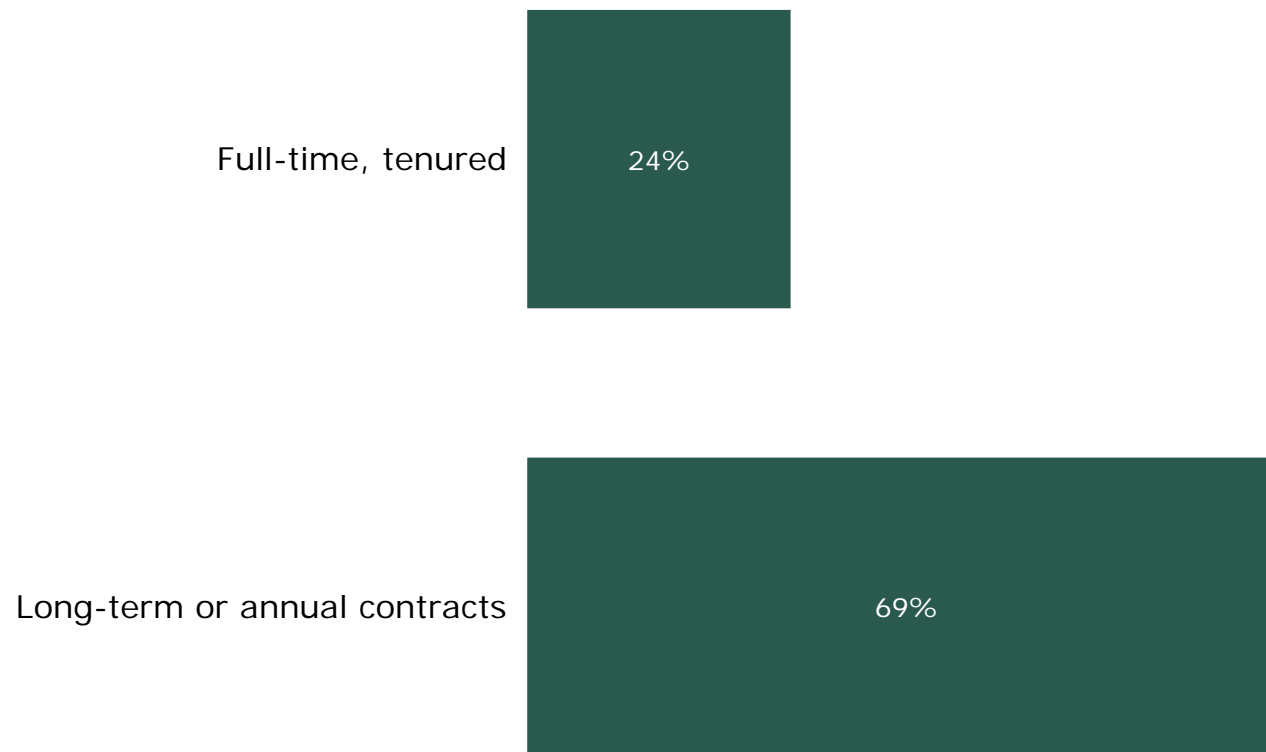
The Most Important Roles Colleges and Universities Play in Society More Broadly

% of presidents who responded “very important” that colleges and universities do each of the following



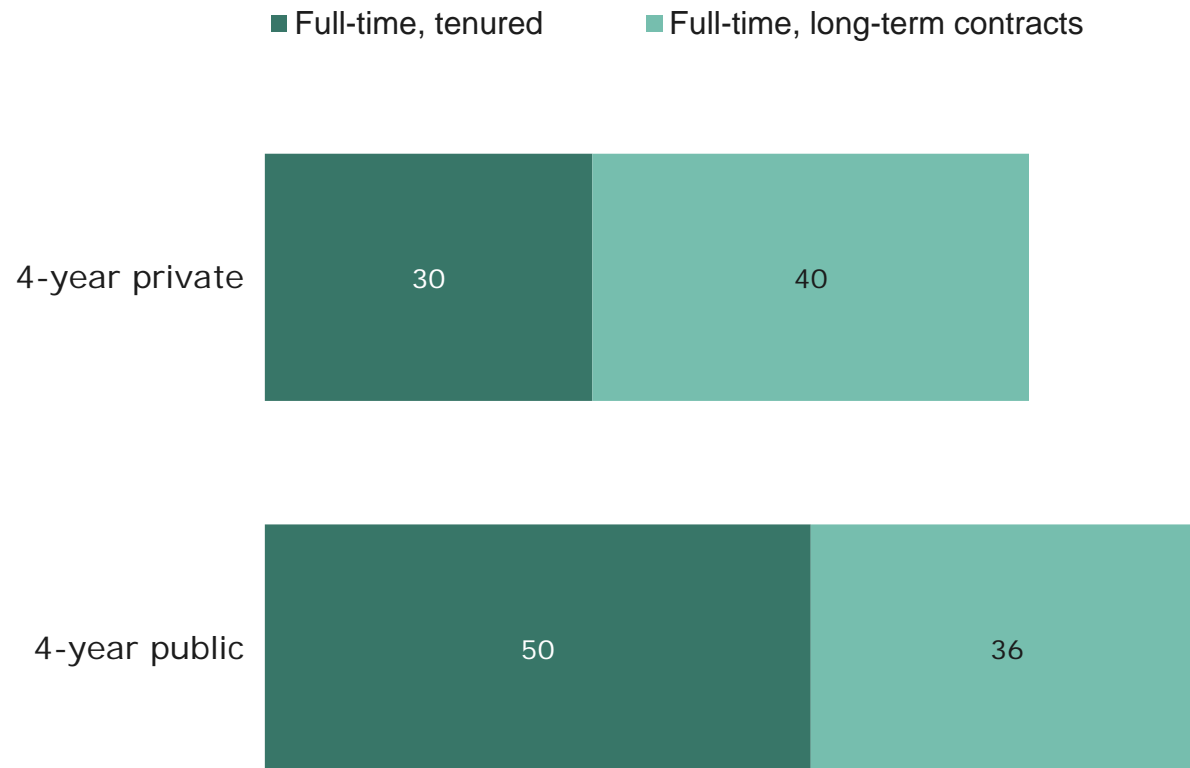
Limited Support for Faculty Tenure among College Presidents

If given the choice, which of the following would you prefer make up most of the faculty at your institution?



Leaders of Private Four-year Institutions Are Less Supportive of Tenure than Their Public Peers

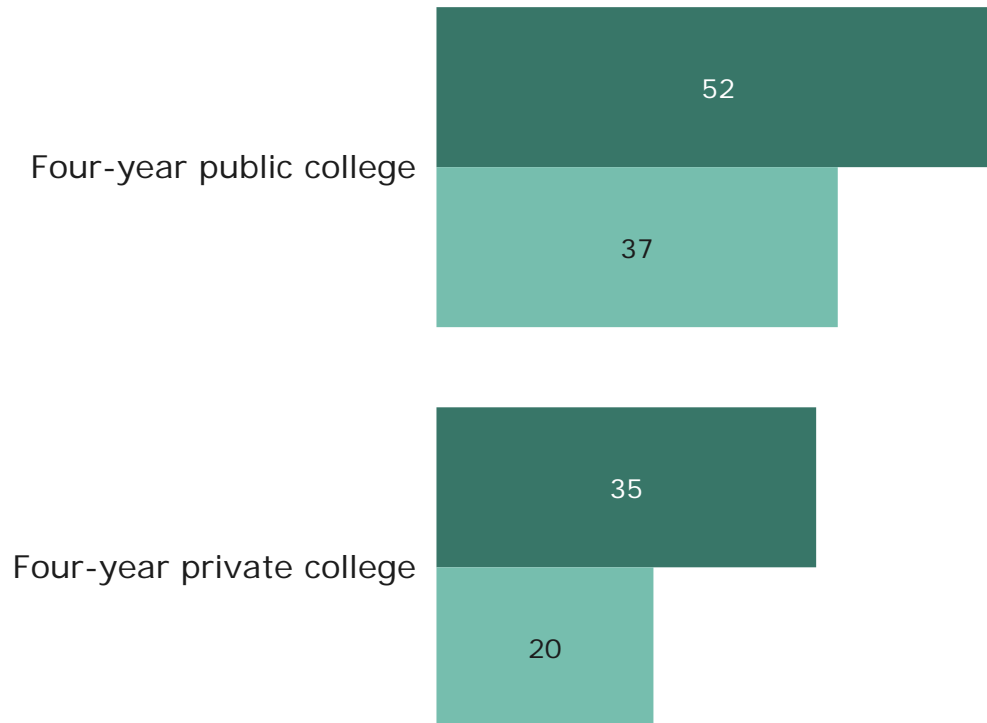
If given the choice, which of the following would you prefer make up most of the faculty at your institution?



Presidents Who Had Previously Served in Faculty Positions Are More Likely than Leaders Who Had Not to Say They Preferred a Mostly Tenured Professoriate on Their Campuses

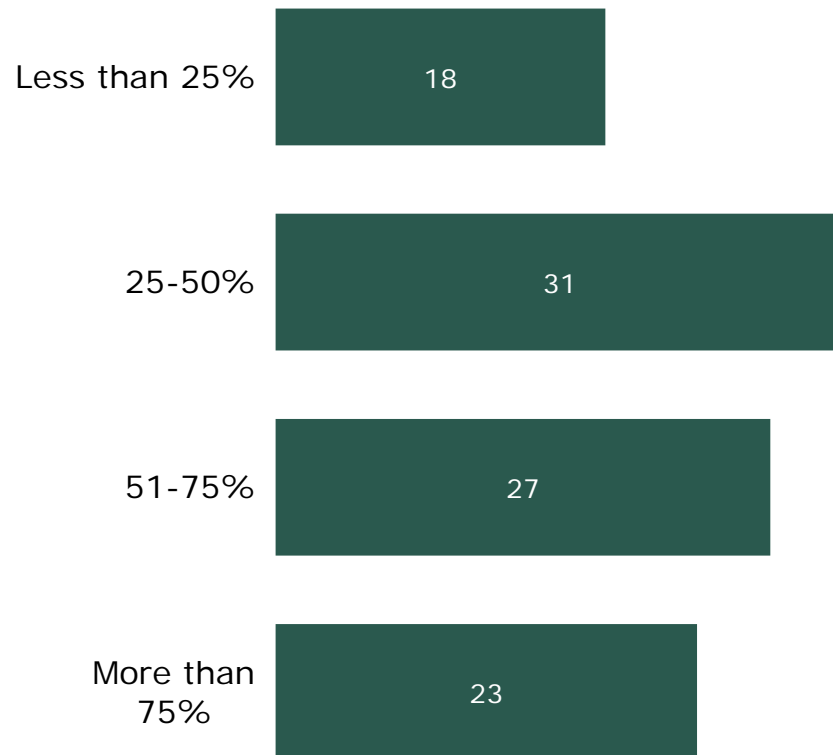
% saying they prefer full-time, tenured professors

■ Had previously served in faculty position ■ Had not previously served in faculty position



Just Your Best Guess, 10 Years from Now, During the Typical Semester, What Percentage of Your (Undergraduate) Students Will Be Taking at Least One Course Online?

% saying...



PewResearchCenter

1615 L Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036-5631
202-419-3600(main) 202-419-3608(fax)
www.pewresearch.org

PewResearchCenter