



**Aiken Technical College  
Graduation Survey Summary**

**June 2, 2022**

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## **Summary:**

The 2022 Graduation survey participation rate increased approximately 13.4 points from the 2021 survey. Ninety-six graduates responded, yielding a response rate of 29.1%. Based on the participation rate, the results will not necessarily represent the view of the majority of graduates.

The majority of the students who responded rated items concerning their program of study as "very satisfied" and "satisfied." The graduates ranked *i*) overall quality of campus security, *ii*) your major program of study, and *iii*) instruction in your general education courses among their top three levels of satisfaction. Items like campus activities and instruction in your major program of study obtained the highest percentage of "neutral" or "dissatisfied" ratings.

There is a positive feeling regarding ATC's impact on skill development as "very helpful" and "helpful." The highest-scoring areas on question three were:

- 68 percent agree that ATC was "very helpful" in developing skills to earning independently.
- 62 percent agree that ATC was "very helpful" in developing skills for problem solving and critical thinking, and enhancing self-confidence.
- 63 percent agree ATC was "helpful" in developing skills in determining personal and career goals and working cooperatively with others.

On the other hand, graduates recognized the following areas of improvement for ATC (Q3): *i*) instruction in your major program of study and *ii*) campus activities.

The employment results indicate that approximately 69 percent of the respondents were employed at the time of their graduation ceremony. Sixty-two percent of those who responded as employed are working in their program field of study.

Ninety-two percent of the graduates who answered question six would recommend ATC to someone interested in their education program. Ninety-five percent of the graduates who answered question sixteen would recommend ATC to someone interested in attending college.

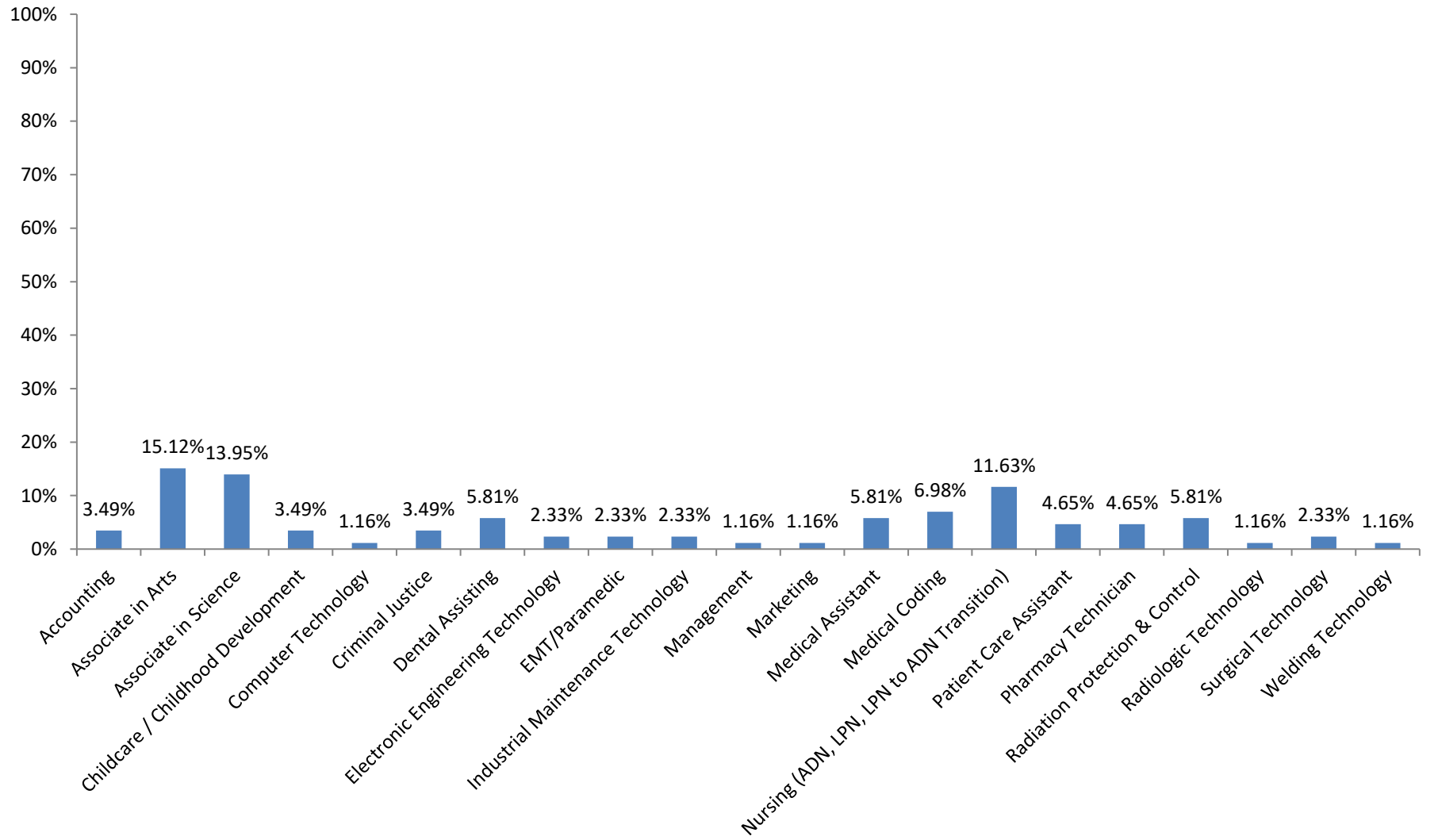
### **Methodology:**

The Institutional Effectiveness and Research Department administered the 2022 Graduation Survey via Survey Monkey for Aiken Technical College on behalf of the College's Recruitment and Student Experience Department. On April 5, 2022, a survey link was emailed and texted to 329 graduates. The announcement was also posted on the ATC portal.

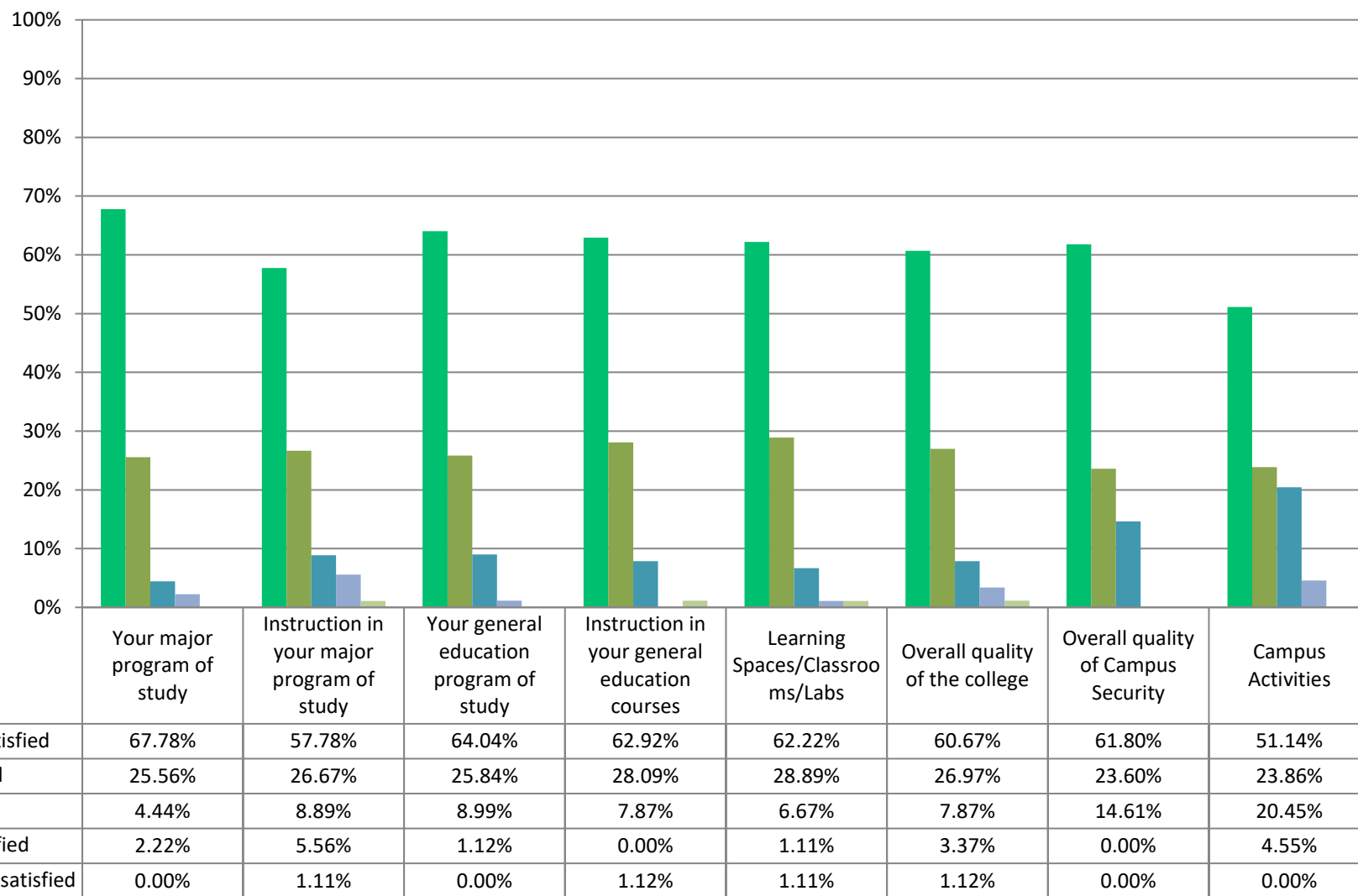
This survey was closed on May 3, 2022, at 12:01 am. Ninety-six graduates responded, yielding a response rate of 29.1%. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate ATC's programs as they relate to employment opportunities.

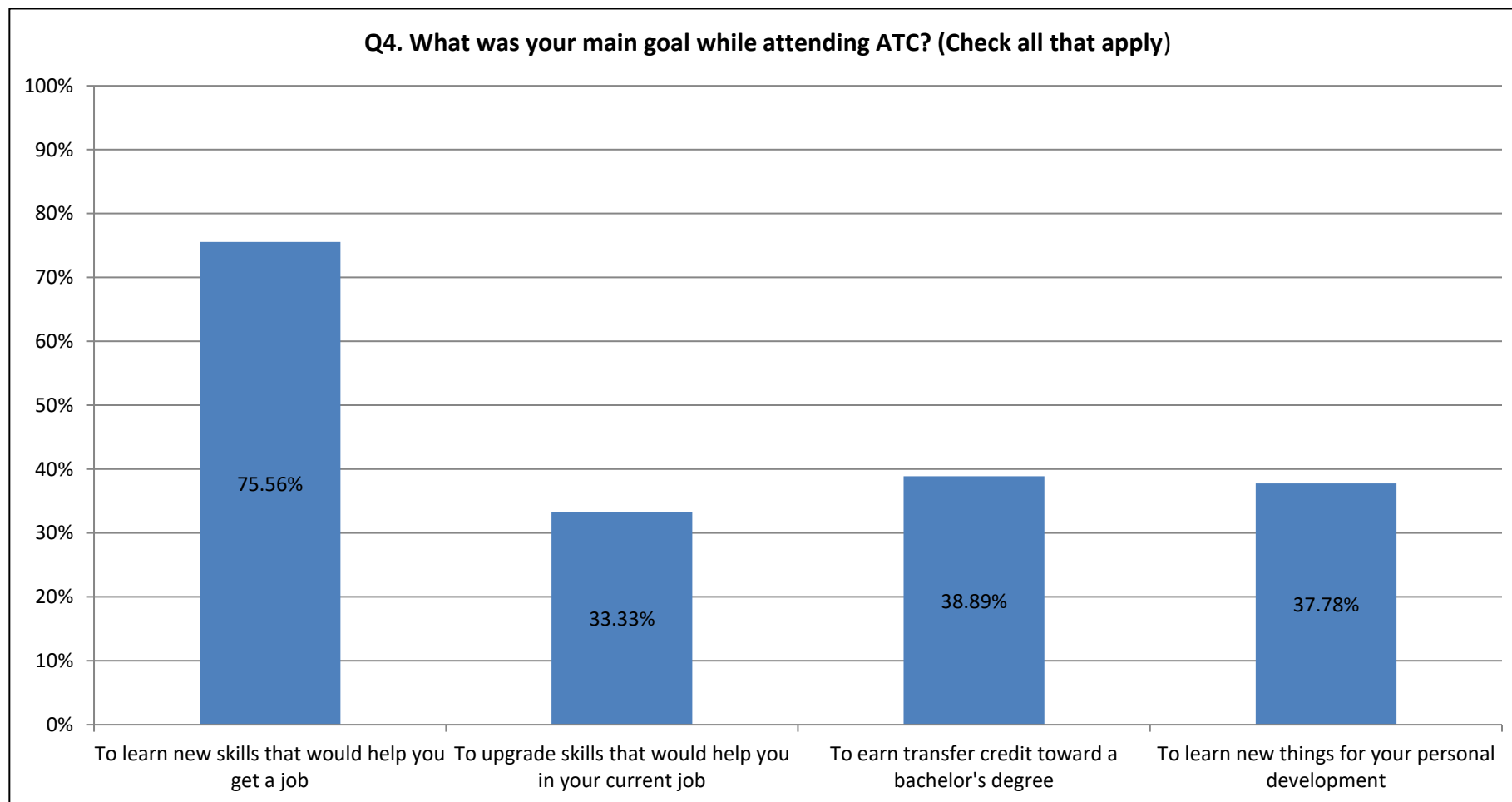
Question 1 asks for contact information and is not included in this report. Results of the Graduation Survey questions 2 - 18 are provided below.

## Q2: What is your program of study?

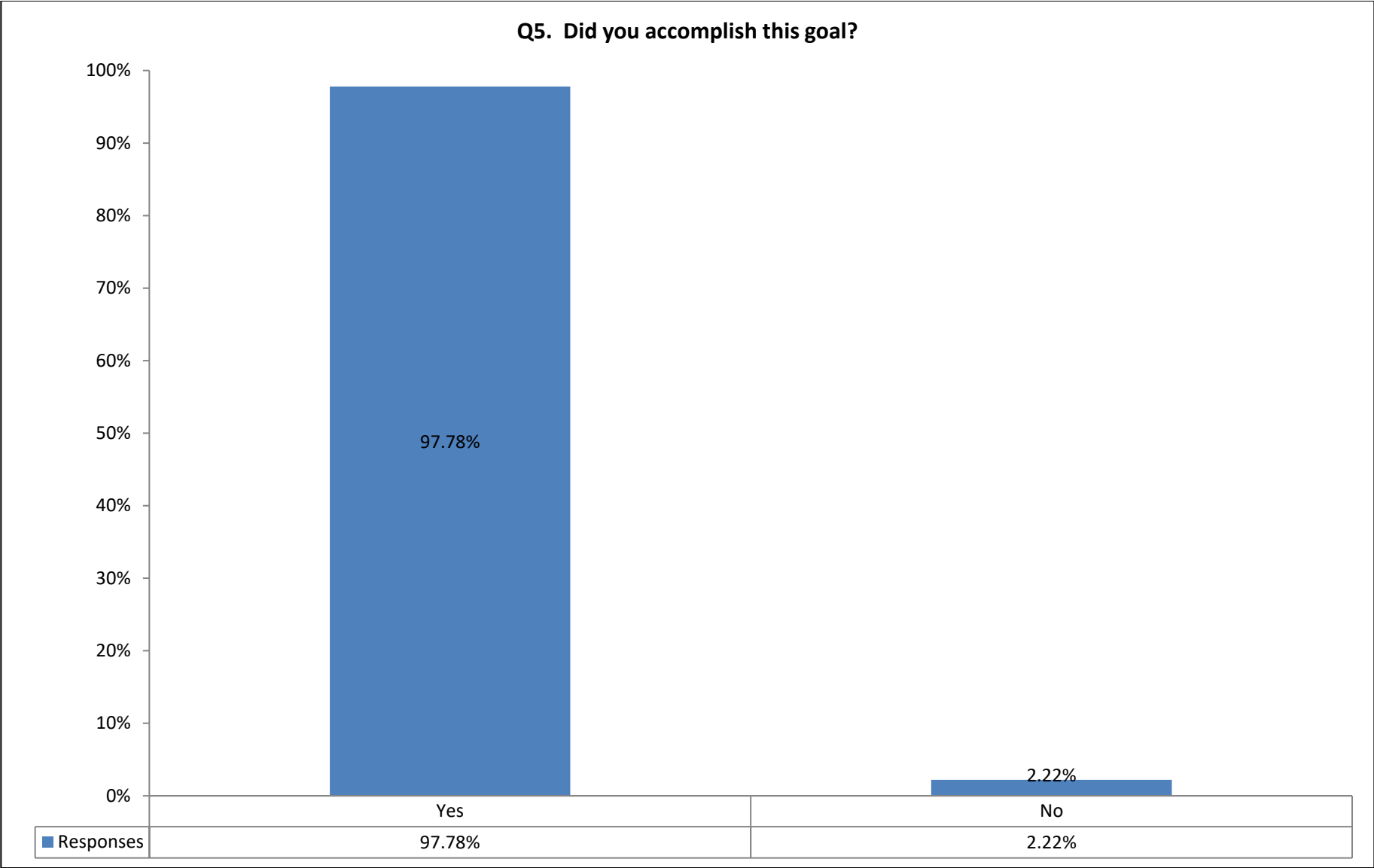


**Q3. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following:**



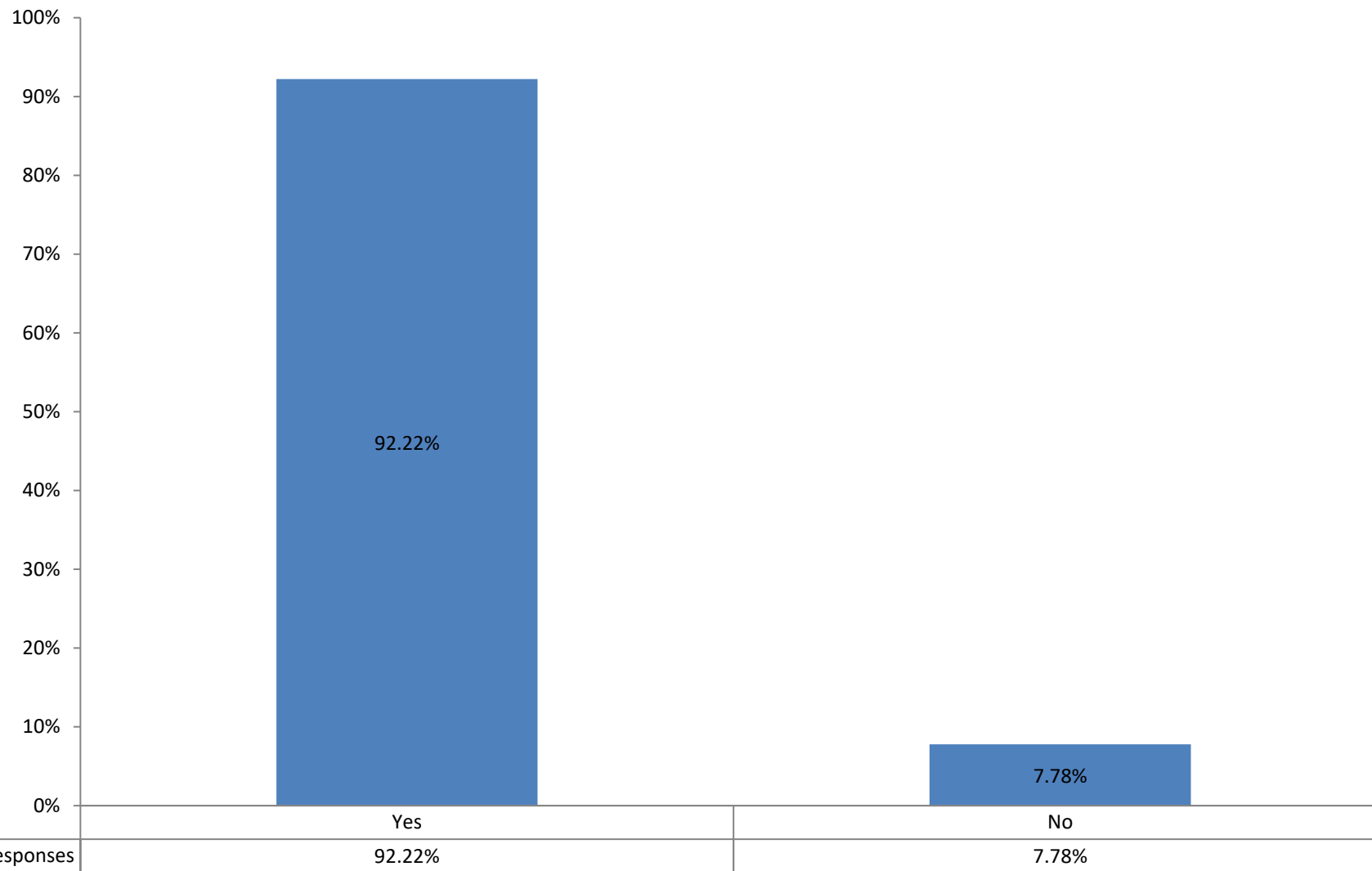


Q4. What was your main goal while attending ATC? (comments)
To gain extra credentials to help me stand out in an application process for another program.
To get involved.





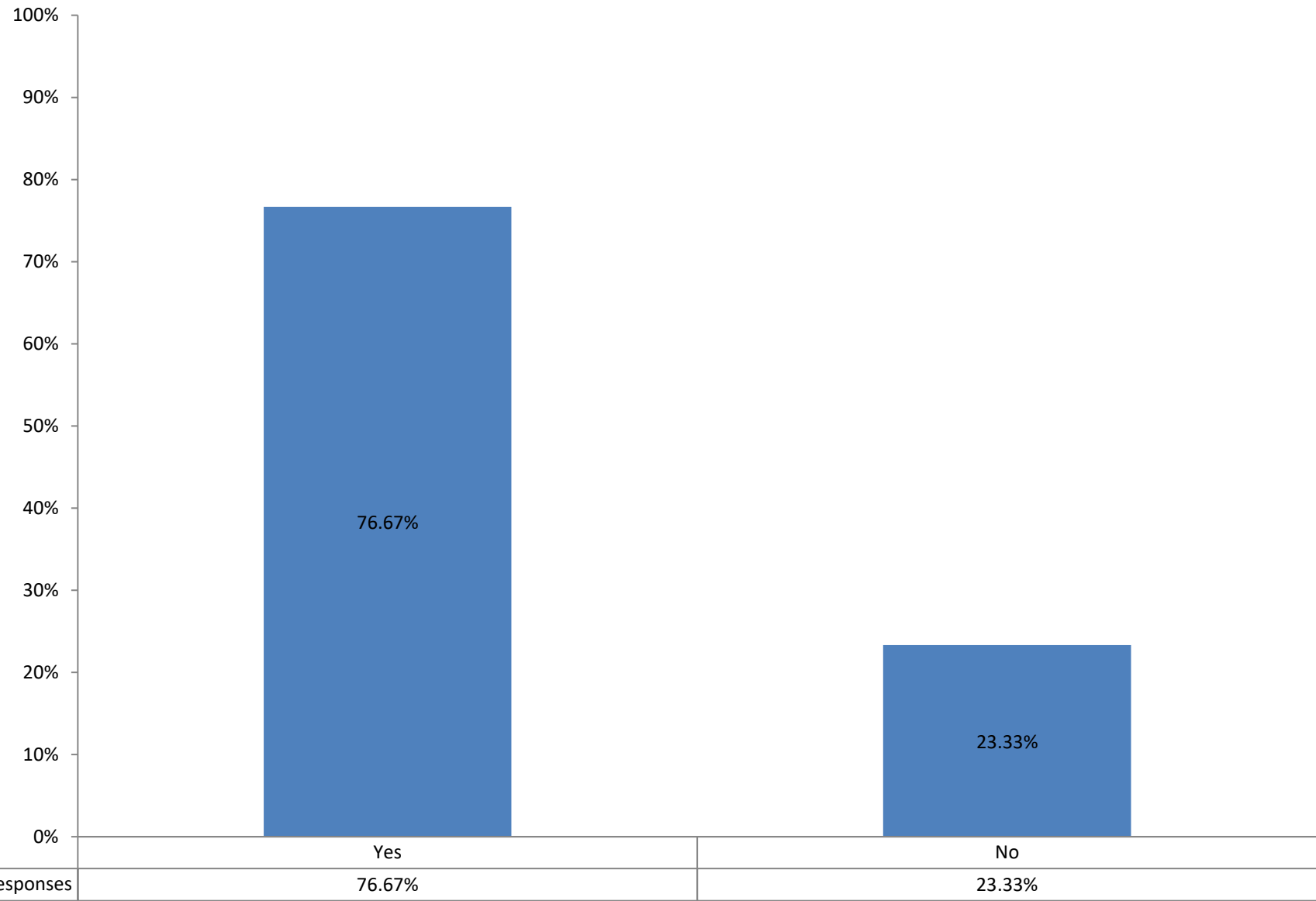
**Q6. Would you recommend Aiken Technical College to someone interested in your program of study?**

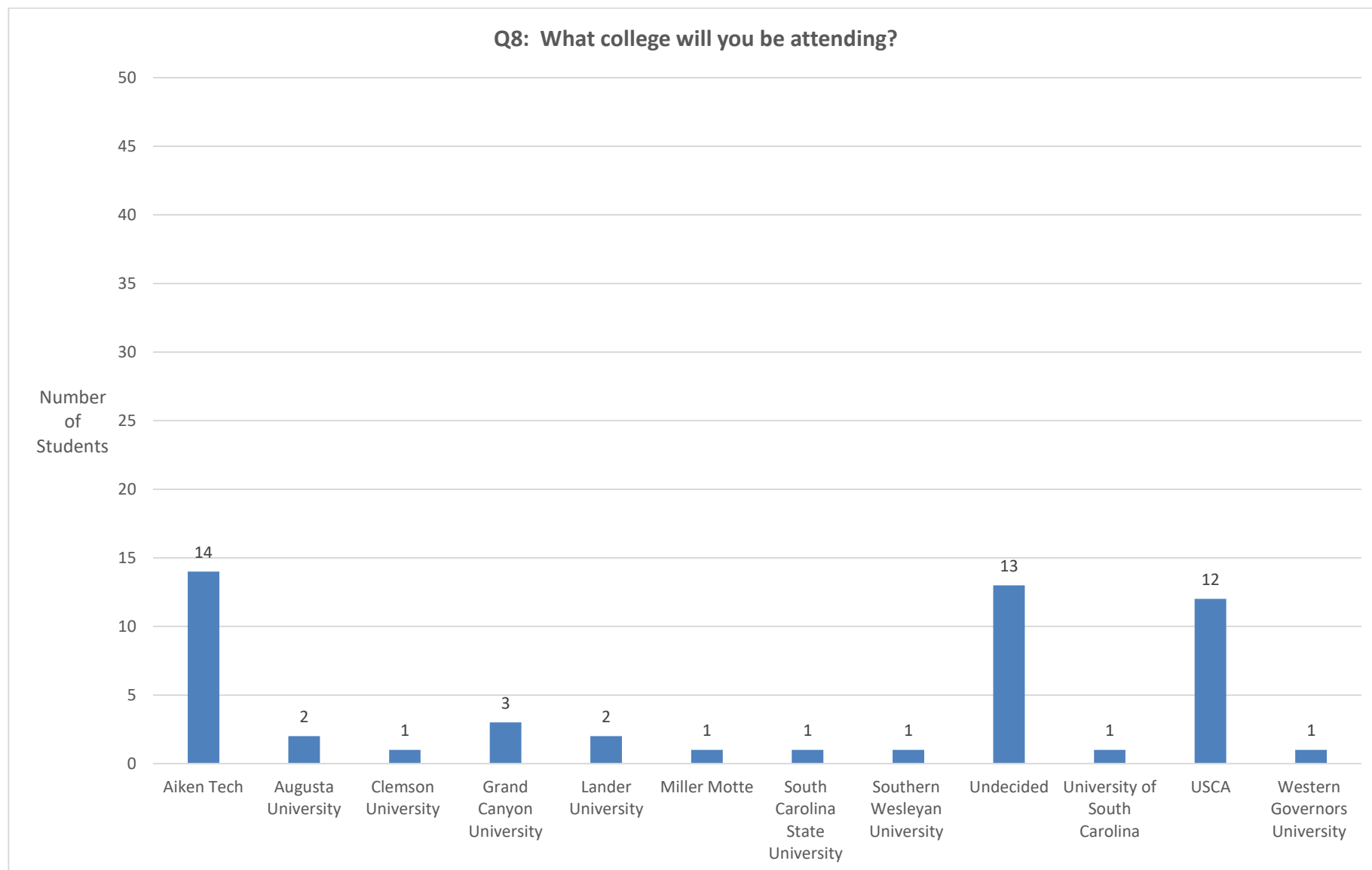


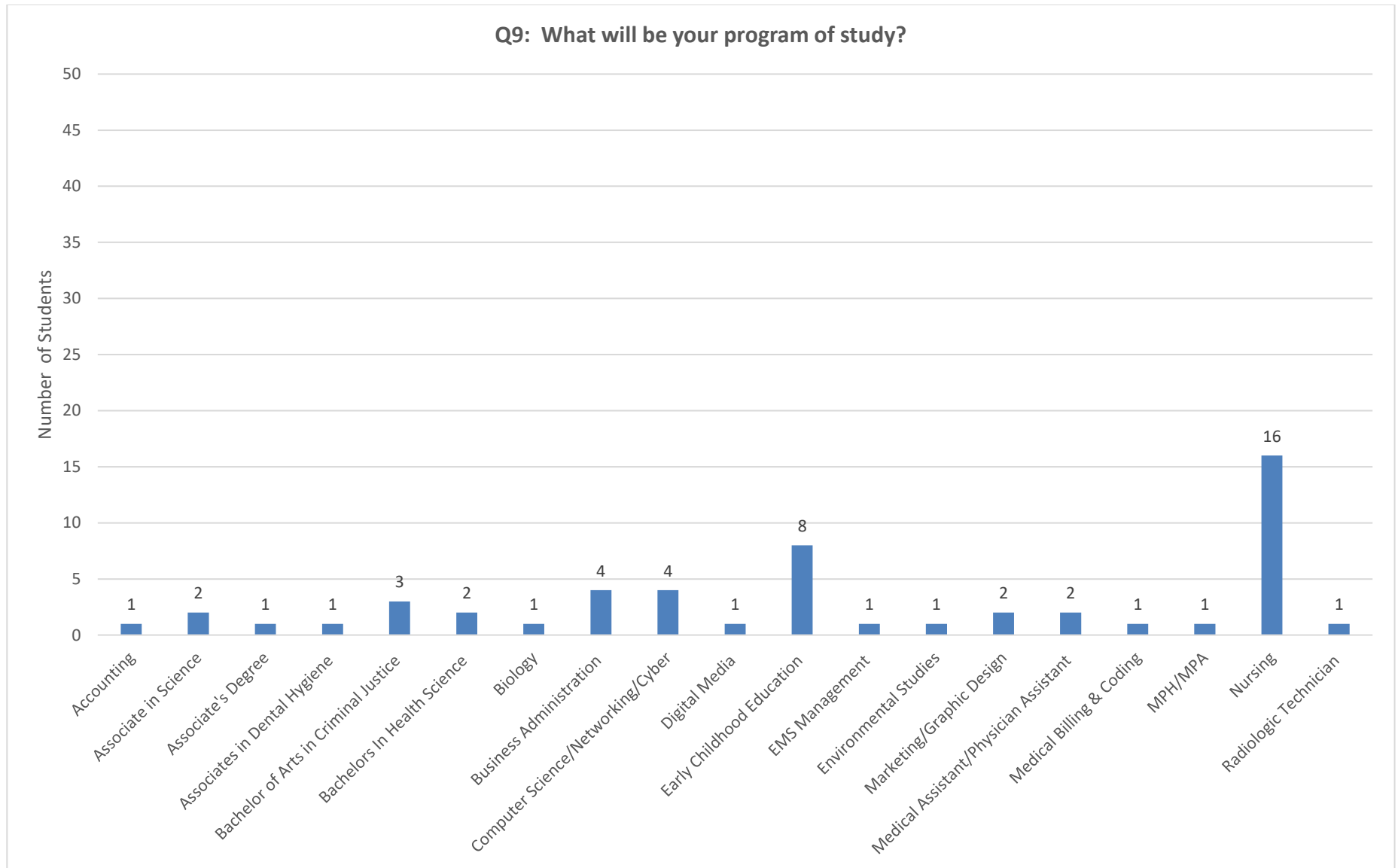
<b>Q6. Would you recommend ATC to someone interested in your program?? (comments)</b>
Because you don't have any teachers, limited classes and the teachers you do have aren't good teachers. The best teachers I've had has been Lakota Phoeson, Victor McKinnis (was ok), Timothy Reeves was the only memorable and enjoyable classes
Because Aiken Technical College is a great school they are willing to work with you and help you succeed.
It is very extensive and I feel that I got the maximum amount of knowledge that I could have because it lasted three semesters. My instructor had a lot to do with how much I gained from this course, she went above and beyond for everyone.
The instruction is really thorough. We learned how to perform many of the clinical tests as well as administrative duties done in the medical office. An important detail is that we often learned things not only with the use of new technology but also the manual way as well. While it has been challenging, I've enjoyed my time in the program.
I learned more each time I attended to help in my educational journey.
Mrs. Altman is a great Professor well educated and loves to share her knowledge with others.
Very smooth and easy sign up process. Good courses and engaging staff.
I would recommend someone who is interested in my program of study because it is financially beneficial to take it at ATC. The professors are very helpful in many ways such as helping the student taking the program succeed.
There are great instructors in this program and some that do not perform their job responsibilities at an acceptable level. They are preparing the next generation of health care professionals and this is a job that is very important for our communities.
Very simple from start to finish
For the most part, my degree was focused on exactly what I needed to learn for the skill set I was learning. It is an efficient way to attend college.
The caring attitude of the department.
Not all credits transferred like I was told they would
My program of study was given by a very educated, prepared instructor
Because it has giving me the gateway to the degree I want to peruse
ATC offers one of the best NCLEX pass rates in the area. It is known to be a rigorous program and the graduates are sought after. I feel prepared to enter the nursing field.
I have never been to a college where they care so much about you like ATC. I have enjoyed my program and look forward to returning after graduation to continue my education for transfer credits!
This type of program needs someone showing the students how to code things and why or why not things should/shouldn't be a certain way. Power point learning isn't the way to go.
Because Aiken Technical College is a very hands-on with their students. They also are willing to do everything they can to help you pursue your degree.
Friendly people. Great education. Plenty of resources.
ATC does not offer enough programs. And they need more online classes. People have to work, too.
Because they offer many options of classes
The pre-nursing certificate prepared me for what's to coming in the associate program. This also help me decide if I truly want to further my education.

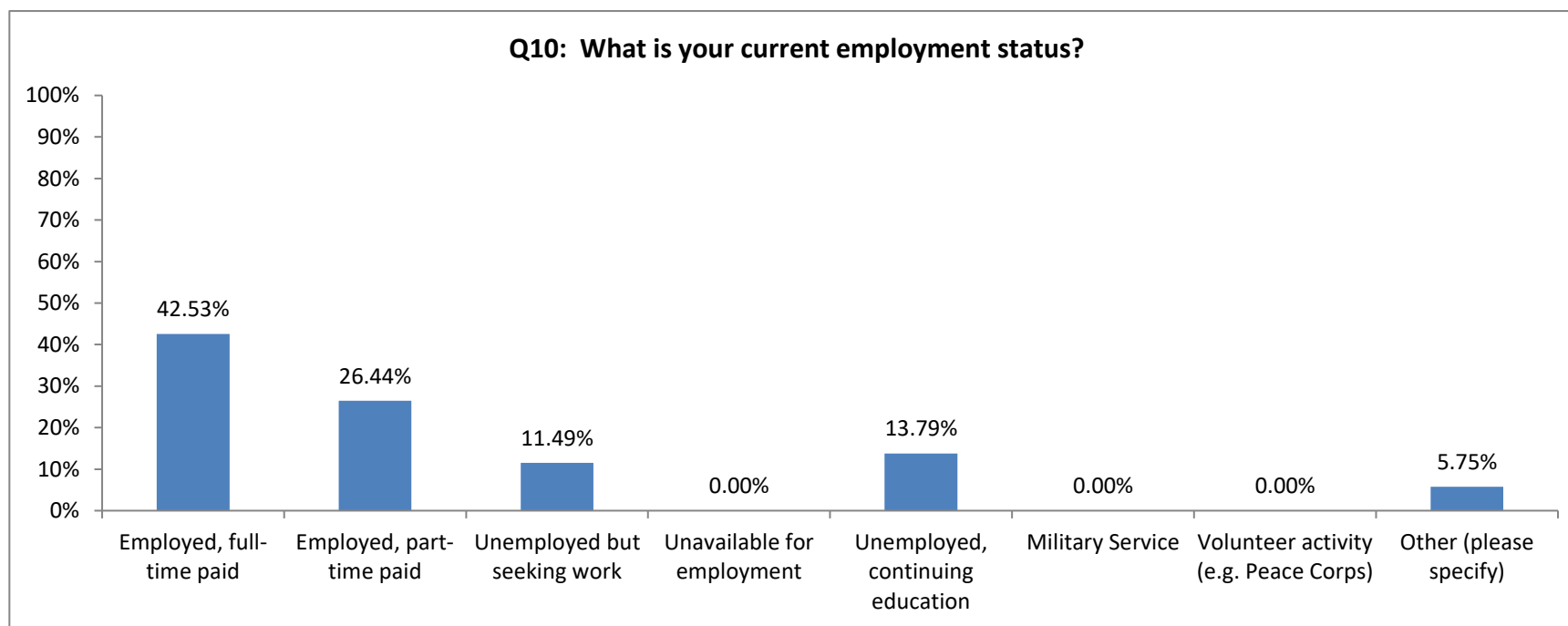
Overall I have had loads of support from the faculty at Aiken Technical College.
Because the teachers at ATC will do their best to give you the education you need to succeed in the future.
I was only able to achieve my goals because I took it upon myself to do additional work on my own. Had I only done the work required of me by the instructors to pass the classes, I would have a degree without learning much of anything at all. Not everyone does additional work. It frightens me to think of all the graduates who will be entering the workforce without any knowledge or skills.
The program has some flaws, but overall does prepare you for the future.
Because Aiken Tech actually cares about your education.
The pharmacy technician program is amazing and has my favorite professor of all time, she makes the program challenging but also very accessible and gratifying.

Q7. After graduating from ATC, do you plan to pursue another degree/credential?

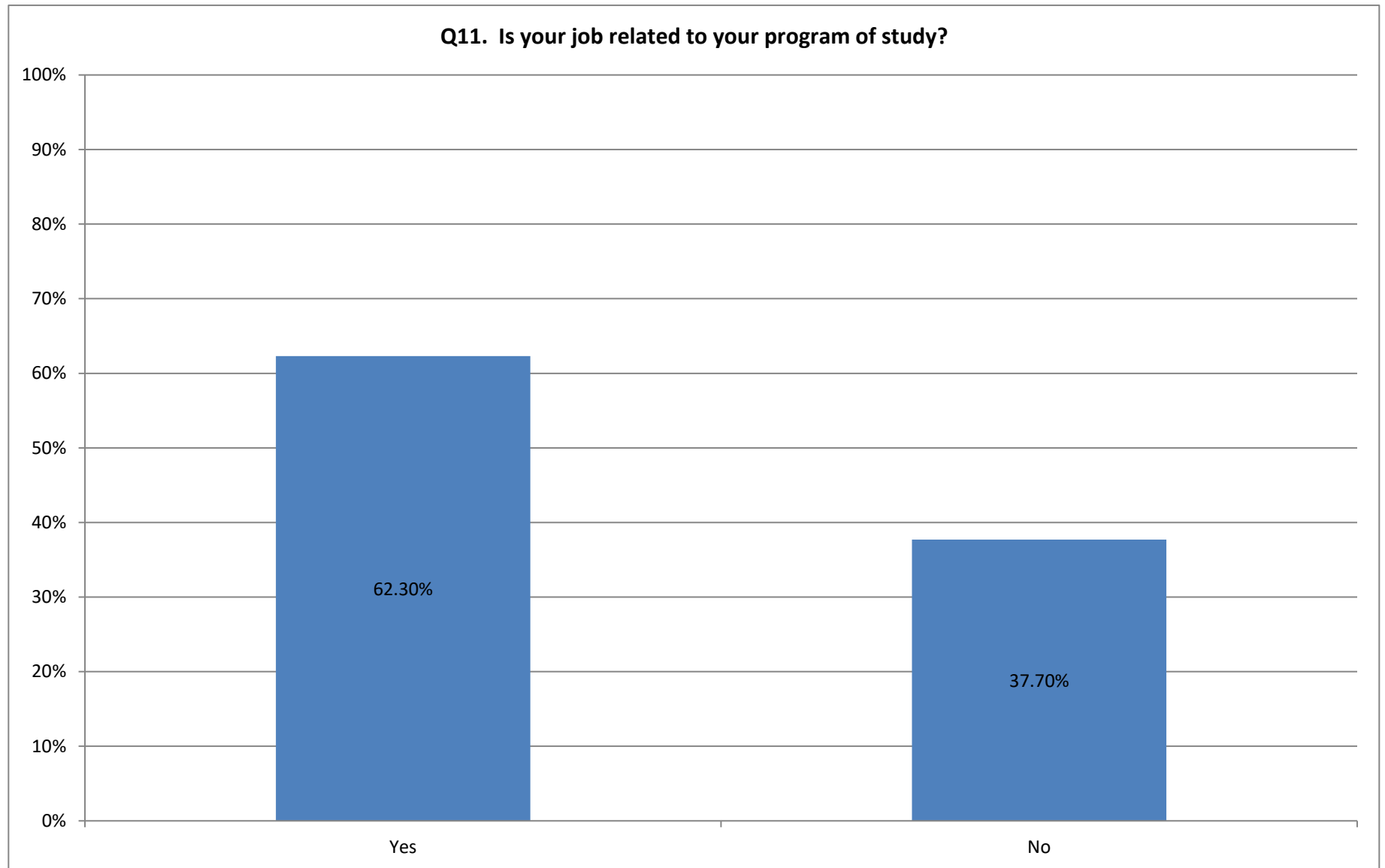






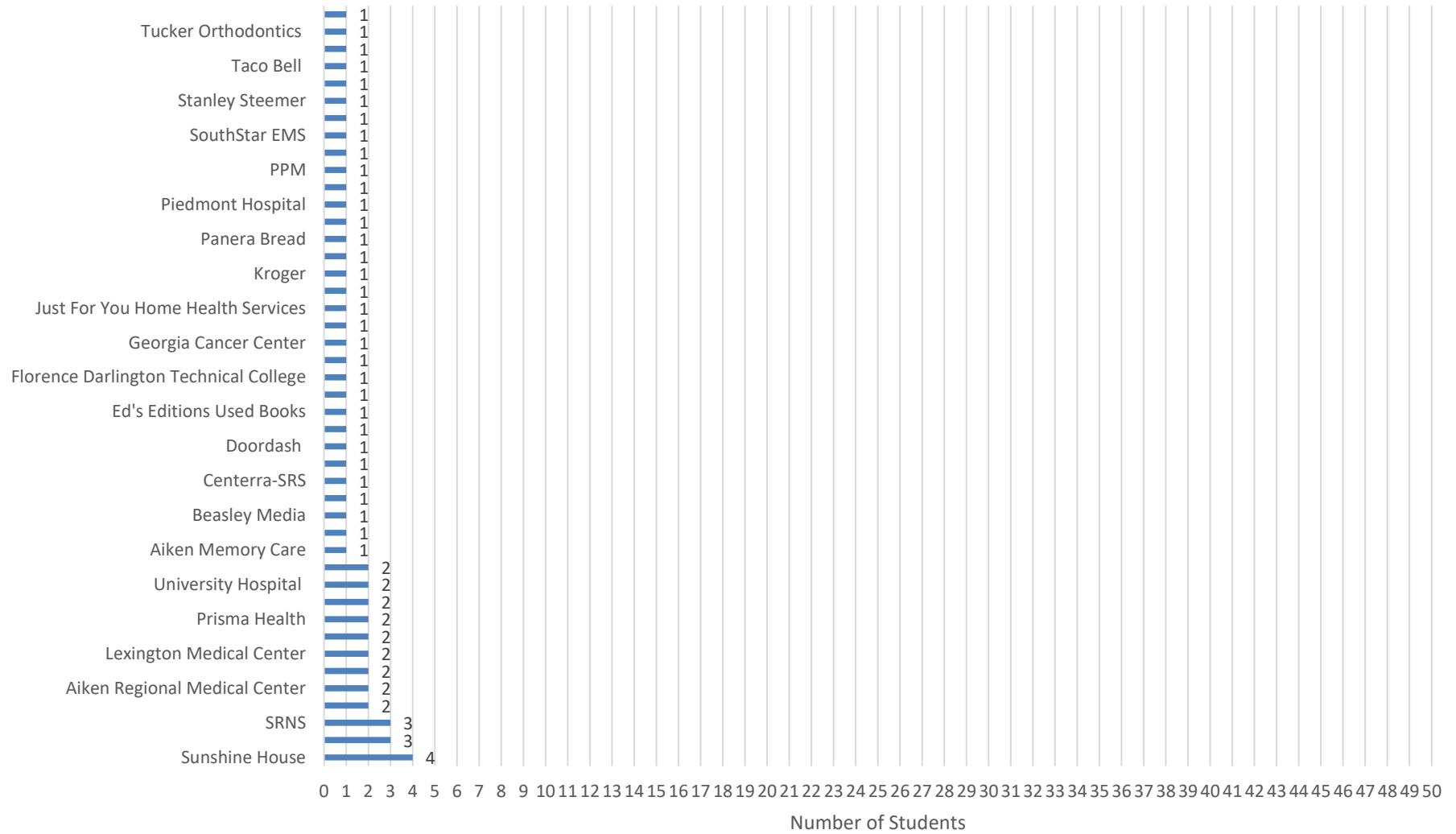


Q10. What is your current employment status? (Comments)
Disable
About to get a job
Student/part time
Have accepted a job dependent upon my graduation and passing the NCLEX.
Small business



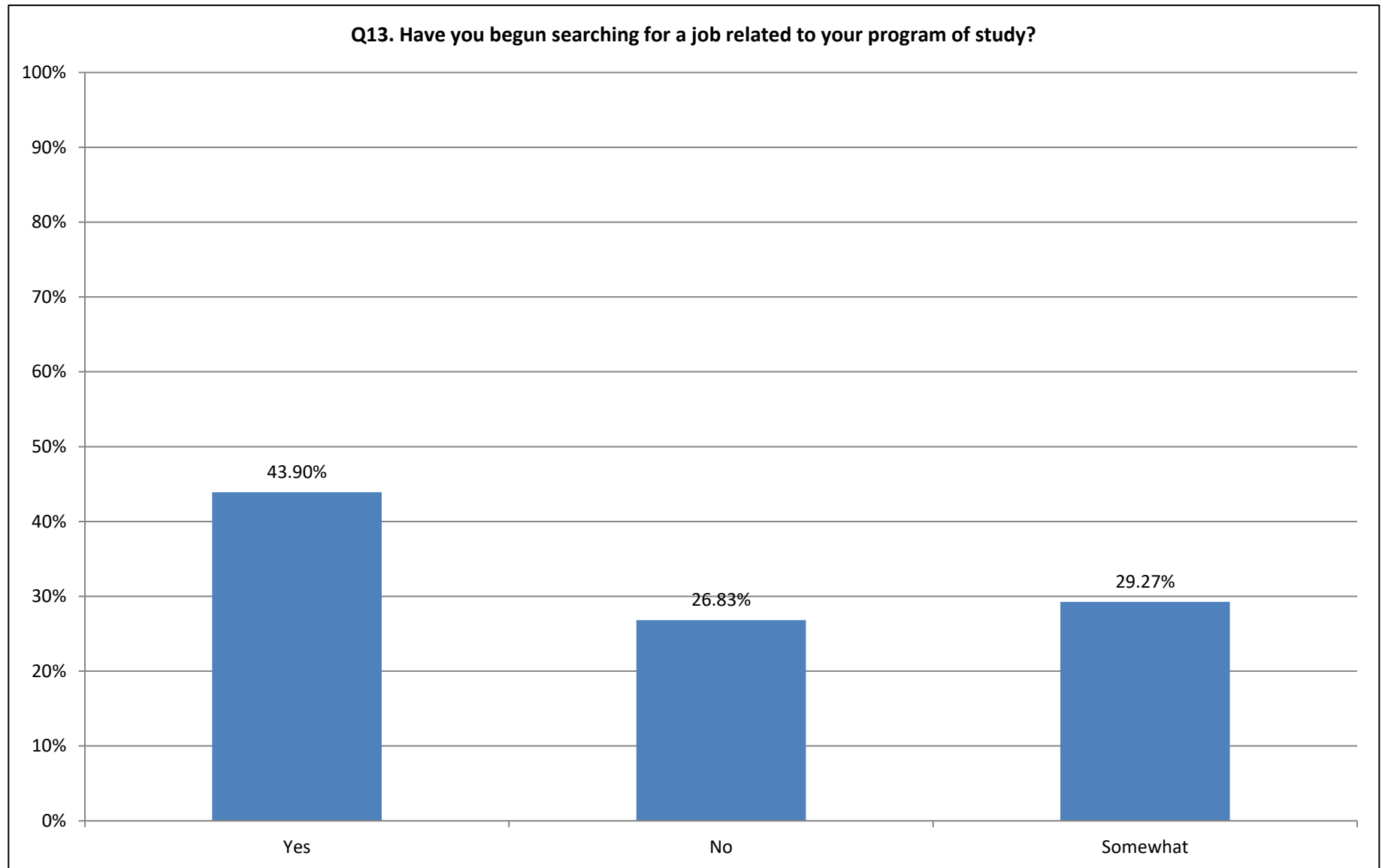


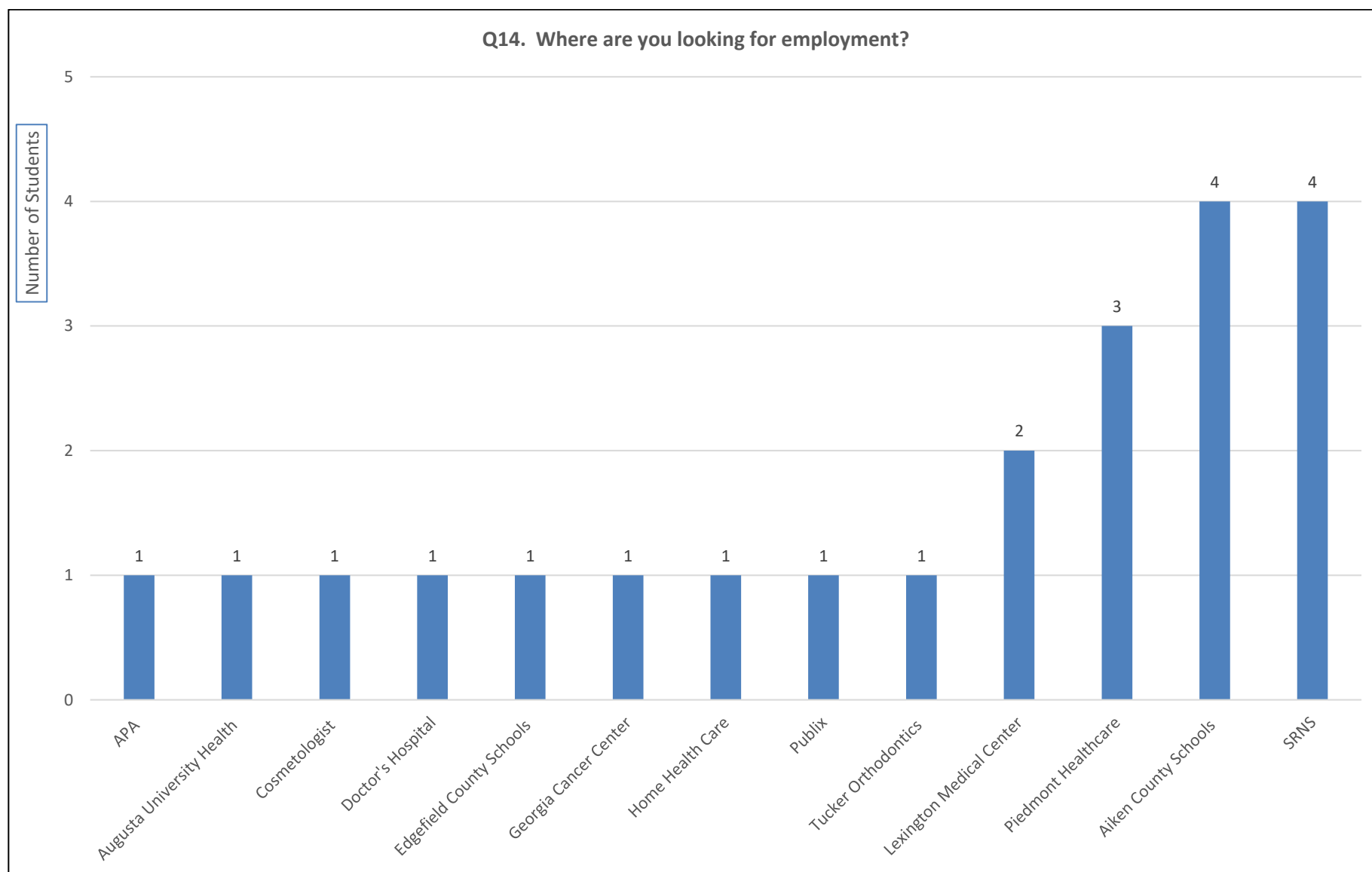
### Q12. Where is your job located?



**Q12. Where is your job located?**

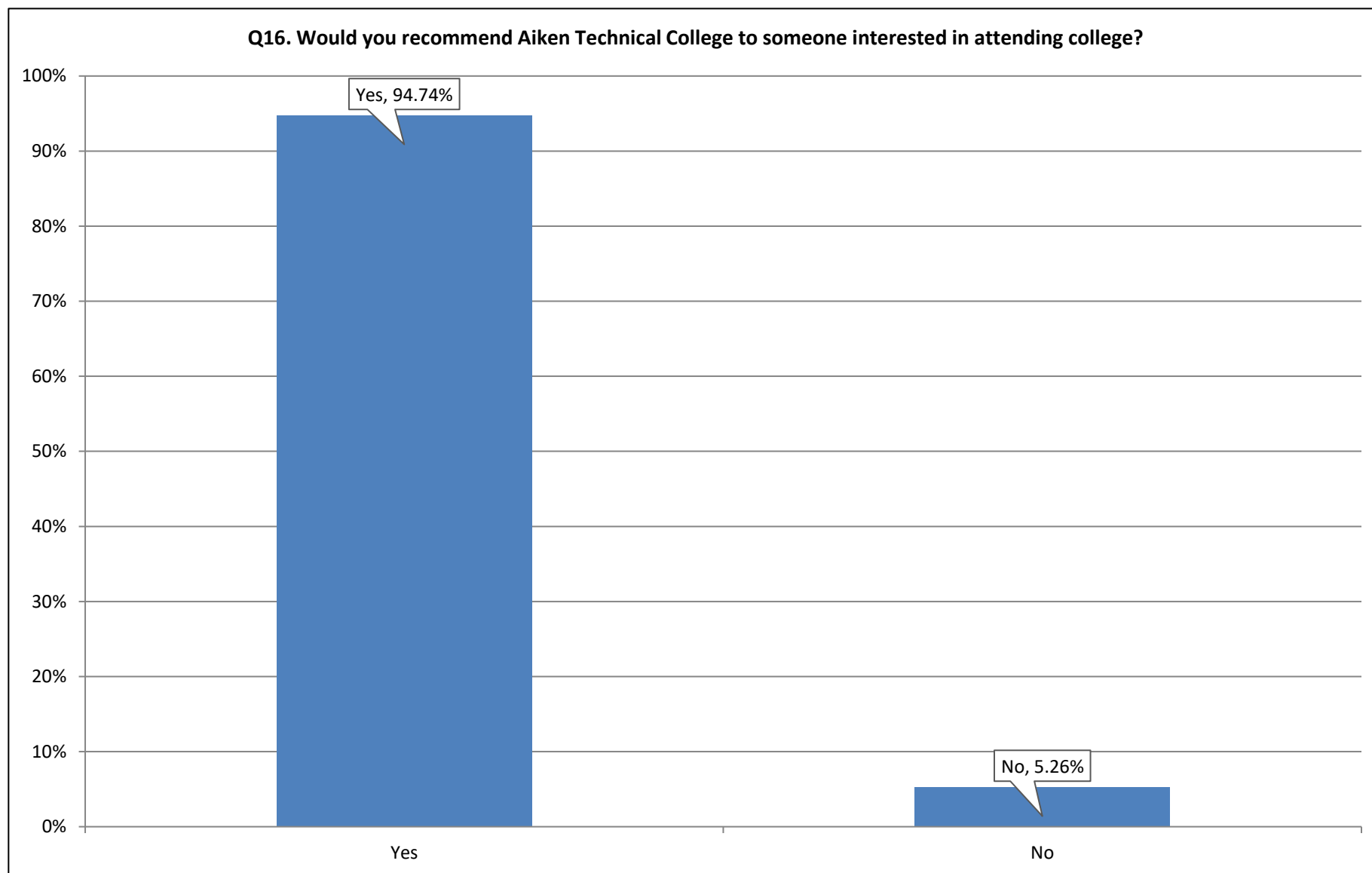
Company	City	State	Students		Company	City	State	Students
Sunshine House	Aiken	SC	4		Florence Darlington Technical College	Florence	SC	1
Augusta University	Augusta	GA	3		Food Lion	Aiken	SC	1
SRNS	Aiken	SC	3		Georgia Cancer Center	Augusta	GA	1
Aiken County Public Schools	Aiken	SC	2		Hardee's	Aiken	SC	1
Aiken Regional Medical Center	Aiken	SC	2		Just For You Home Health Services	Barnwell	SC	1
Aiken Technical College	Aiken	SC	2		Kimberly Clark	Beech Island	SC	1
Lexington Medical Center	Lexington	SC	2		Kroger	North Augusta	SC	1
Manpower	Aiken	SC	2		Owens Corning	Aiken	SC	1
Prisma Health	Oconee	SC	2		Panera Bread	Evans	GA	1
Publix Pharmacy	Aiken	SC	2		Parks Pharmacy	North Augusta	SC	1
University Hospital	Augusta	GA	2		Piedmont Hospital	Augusta	GA	1
Walmart	Aiken	SC	2		Powertech Engineering	Union Point	GA	1
Aiken Memory Care	Aiken	SC	1		PPM	Graniteville	SC	1
Augusta Endodontics Center	Augusta	GA	1		SME CPAs	Augusta	GA	1
Beasley Media	Augusta	GA	1		SouthStar EMS	Aiken	SC	1
Betty's Creative Corner	Aiken	SC	1		SRMC	Aiken	SC	1
Centerra-SRS	Aiken	SC	1		Stanley Steemer	Augusta	Ga	1
Doctor's Hospital	Augusta	GA	1		Straight Edge	North Augusta	SC	1
Doordash	Aiken	SC	1		Taco Bell	Hephzibah	GA	1
Edgefield County	Edgefield	SC	1		The Reserve Club	Aiken	SC	1
Ed's Editions Used Books	Columbia	SC	1		Tucker Orthodontics	Aiken	SC	1
Elite Nails	North Augusta	SC	1		UPS Chain Supply Solution	Aiken	SC	1





**Q15. Please rate ATC's impact on your skill development in the following areas:**

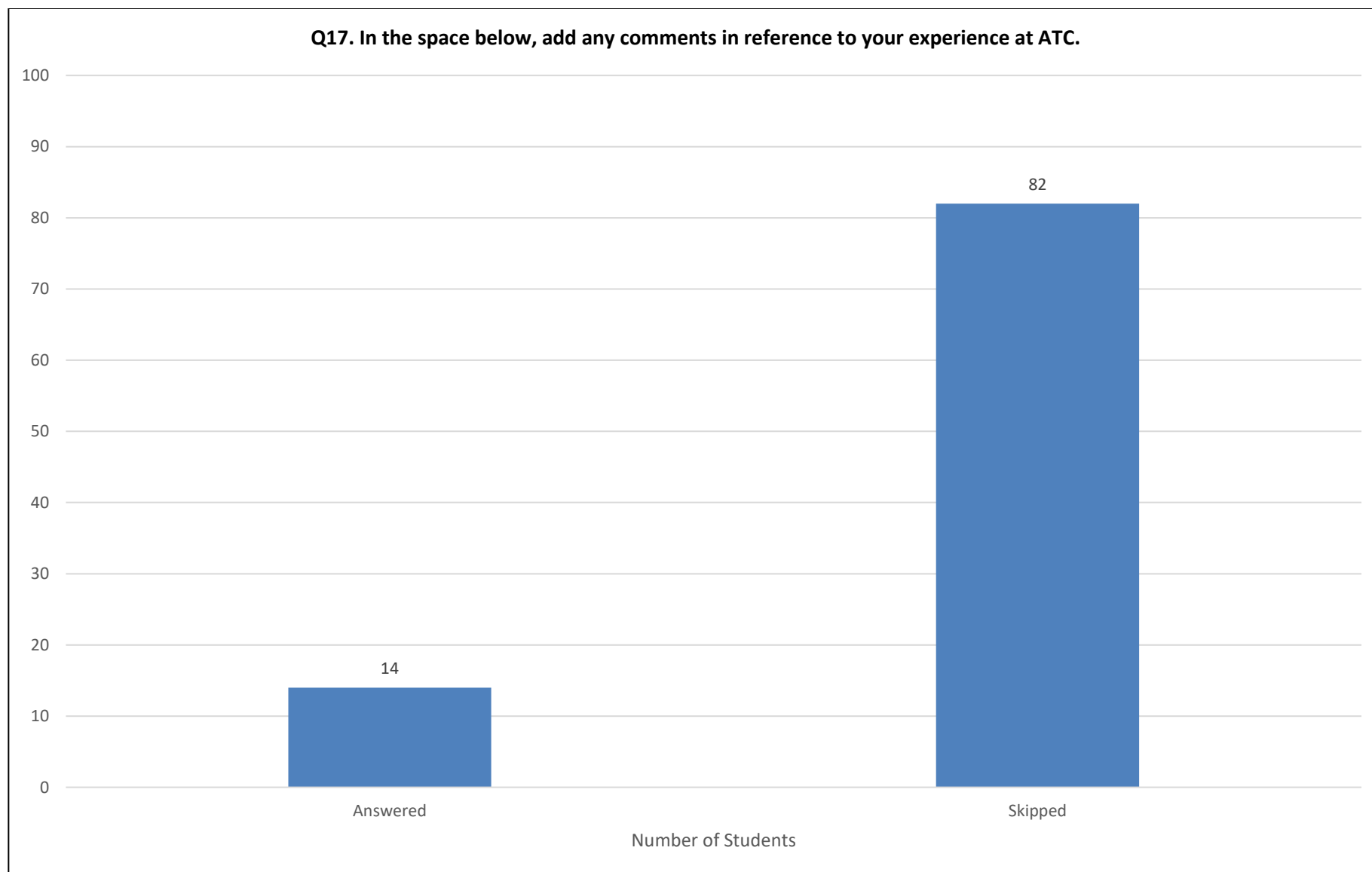




Q16. Would you recommend Aiken Technical College to someone interested in attending college? (Comments)
All of my instructors were very professional and friendly, and the staff at Aiken Tech were very helpful and considerate.
ATC has helped me bloom as a person. The support that I have received from faculty and staff has been invaluable in achieving my goals.
Bad communication.
Because Aiken Technical College truly help me find myself. I didn't know what I wanted to do but I had a great advisor.
Because it was a place close to home that taught me so much and it was affordable
Because of all the learning I was able to do and Aiken Tech made it easy and also has certifiable programs of study (CAAHEP)
Because of how much the school cares and wants people to succeed and actually want to help you.
Great college with some good professors.
I have had several co-workers sign up to go to Aiken Tech.
I heard great things about ATC regarding their graduates getting a job. I see opportunities and I would encourage anyone seeking a job to get job training from ATC.
I think you have to be extremely self-disciplined to get anything useful out of the experience. If you want to transfer to a reputable 4 year college, you will not be prepared unless you go out of your way to seek additional knowledge from other sources.
It is an efficient way to gain a new set of skills or to enhance your current skill set.
It is close to town, has all the amenities that you'd need to succeed, and everyone is super helpful and friendly.
My experience with my prerequisites was awesome for the most part. I had really great instructors.
Size of campus and caring attitude of professors.
Small, welcoming college with faculty that really care about your success. There are also many student opportunities for service, interaction, & overall betterment.
They help my educational journey to further experience in my field of studies.
They need more problems and more online classes. Need bachelor programs.
This school really does prepare you for life.
Very helpful, friendly people. Plenty of resources.
You could take some of the same courses at the school and it's closer to home.
All of my instructors were very professional and friendly, and the staff at Aiken Tech were very helpful and considerate.
ATC has helped me bloom as a person. The support that I have received from faculty and staff has been invaluable in achieving my goals.

Bad communication.
Because Aiken Technical College truly help me find myself. I didn't know what I wanted to do but I had a great advisor.



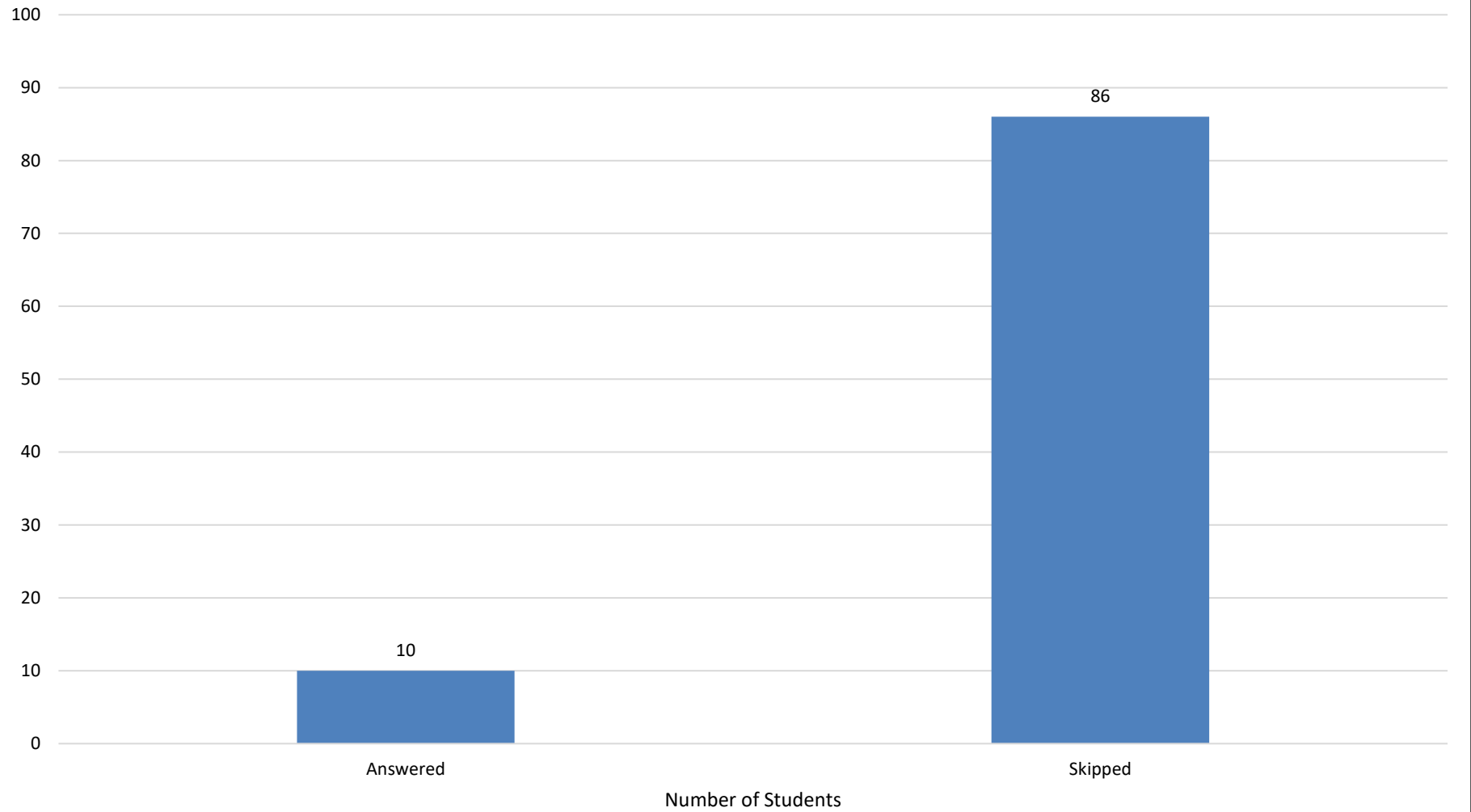


Q17. Comments
ATC has been my alumni, three years of all my education took place at Aiken Technical College. I learned from the great instructors who made it possible for me to advance in my studies. I loved the atmosphere of interacting with working adults trying to further their educate, younger students showing different ways of learning. Aiken Technical College will always be my best place to learn.
Because of my full-time employment, I chose to take all online classes. I found the online class experience to be very poor. Most classes were centered around unmonitored discussion boards, that left students talking amongst themselves with no constructive criticism or input from a knowledgeable source. There was very little instruction by the professors, and in some cases, none at all. Tests were mostly true/false/multiple-choice format tests that were auto-generated from a test bank. The teachers didn't even know what was on them. It is very easy to pass these kinds of tests without learning much about the subject. In the few classes where I had to write compositions, most were given a numerical grade without any comments from the professor at all, other than corrections for citation errors (which I believe were auto-generated by a citation-checking app.) Communication with teachers was very poor. Exceptions were in Calculus and Chemistry. Both of those classes were better than what I described above. (Thank you to Professors Barber and Polite for actually teaching something.)
Ease of use for online classes
I can't think of any at this moment, but I am grateful for the help I received from the faculty.
I feel that during the time I spent at Aiken Tech, I have loved being a part of the activities, the groups, and building relationships with people that I've met along the way.
I have heard stories of instructors who were completely useless in helping their students further their education. This was not my experience here at ATC. My instructors were extremely helpful in getting me to the next level of my education. In addition to the instructors' assistance, I also received real-world help from the ISM staff. I will be forever thankful for these people.
I loved all of my classes, especially my precourse work classes.
I loved attending Aiken Tech these two years went by very fast. I learned a lot not only in the classroom
I've enjoyed my experiences at Aiken Tech.
It was a truly great experience and I'm a little sad with it coming to an end. Mrs. Driesen is a great instructor and advisor, she showed no favoritism and was fair to everyone equally. She has a way of pushing us to our best.
My short-lived experience in the ADN program was horrible. It was very unorganized and the instructors didn't seem to care about the students. My experience with the coding program is only bad because I prefer an in-class setting. I need an instructor to be hands on. I don't like online learning.
The early college program through Midland Valley was great, however more communication between the two schools would lead to a smooth transition and better understanding on specific topics within the program.
The resource center for tutoring and with my projects (ie essay/research/lab). My previous tutor Amanda really help me navigate through my first two semesters (physiology and anatomy) was tough courses after being out of college for over 10 yrs. Also being in a course I never had a lot of knowledge with.

The staff entirely at Aiken Technical College from admissions to the professors have been extraordinary.

ATC has been my alumni, three years of all my education took place at Aiken Technical College. I learned from the great instructors who made it possible for me to advance in my studies. I loved the atmosphere of interacting with working adults trying to further their educate, younger students showing different ways of learning. Aiken Technical College will always be my best place to learn.

**Q18. In the space below, please add any suggestions to enhance/improve services & activities offered through ATC.**



#### Q18. Comments

Again, I am grateful for the assistance I received from the faculty. The only thing I think needs improvement is the professors' response to a student in crisis. I think every professor needs to know where to send a student if they think that student is a harm to themselves or others.

I do not really have any suggestions to enhance or improve the services and activities offered here at ATC.

I feel like every day I received emails from Ms. Newkirk Barnes, the HUB, and student engagement. Although these emails held helpful information at times, they were very redundant and filled my inbox quickly. I wish there was an opt-out button for those emails, specifically ones saying that there were Chickfila sandwiches and pizza left over at the HUB. And for the reminders on LibGuides and paper research materials in the library, I don't need one every day. I also don't need four "last call for \_\_\_\_\_!" emails when it comes to student engagement or reminders on when and where specific things are planned. One newsletter with all this information at the beginning of each month would suffice for student engagement. Blackboard was phenomenal and allowed for a smooth college experience when completing assignments and submitting materials.

In hopes to have the nursing program available for part-time students such as myself. I completed the pre-nursing courses but still have 9 more nursing courses to complete after I'm accepted in the program. This would require me to quit my full daytime job. That's why I think with me completing the pre-nursing courses at night and online and in person why not offer the other courses the same way. Thanks

More private study rooms would be nice.

Need more programs. More online classes. bachelor programs.

Please either get rid of the online class format, or create some guidelines to make sure that the professors are actually making some effort to teach. I think many of them see online classes as an easy way to make more money without doing any work, especially the adjunct professors from other colleges. Those were generally the worst abusers of the system, in my experience here. And please, require the professors to regularly monitor and substantively respond to posts on the discussion boards if they are going to use them for their classes. Otherwise, students are just propagating misinformation, and that is not helpful to anyone.

Technology is involving every day, I can't think of anything at the time.

The only suggestion for improvement that I have is for the bookstore/financial aid. I do feel that it is so important to make financial aid funds available before mid-semester because what can end up happening (and what DOES happen most times) is that a student will spend most or all of their financial aid in the bookstore before a check is even refunded to them mid-semester. When people tell me about their failed college stories, this is usually a big reason why. Things they need help with to get to school, they can't get help with until mid-semester. So if they need gas money, car repairs, or anything related to getting to school on time, they have to rely on family, and hopefully, their families are well off because if they are unreliable and living in poverty, the chances of a said student graduating are slim to none and that's not fair. So, making financial aid available before mid-semester is impertinent. The fact that you can spend all of your financial aid at the bookstore as soon as school starts blows my mind completely, there should be a limit to how much percentage you can spend at the bookstore. If you've read this far, thank you so much!

Try to give the students more information even if it's very repetitive.