

# Who are the Kessler Scholars and Program Staff that participate in the Collaborative?

The Kessler Scholars Collaborative | 2022-23 Evidence Brief

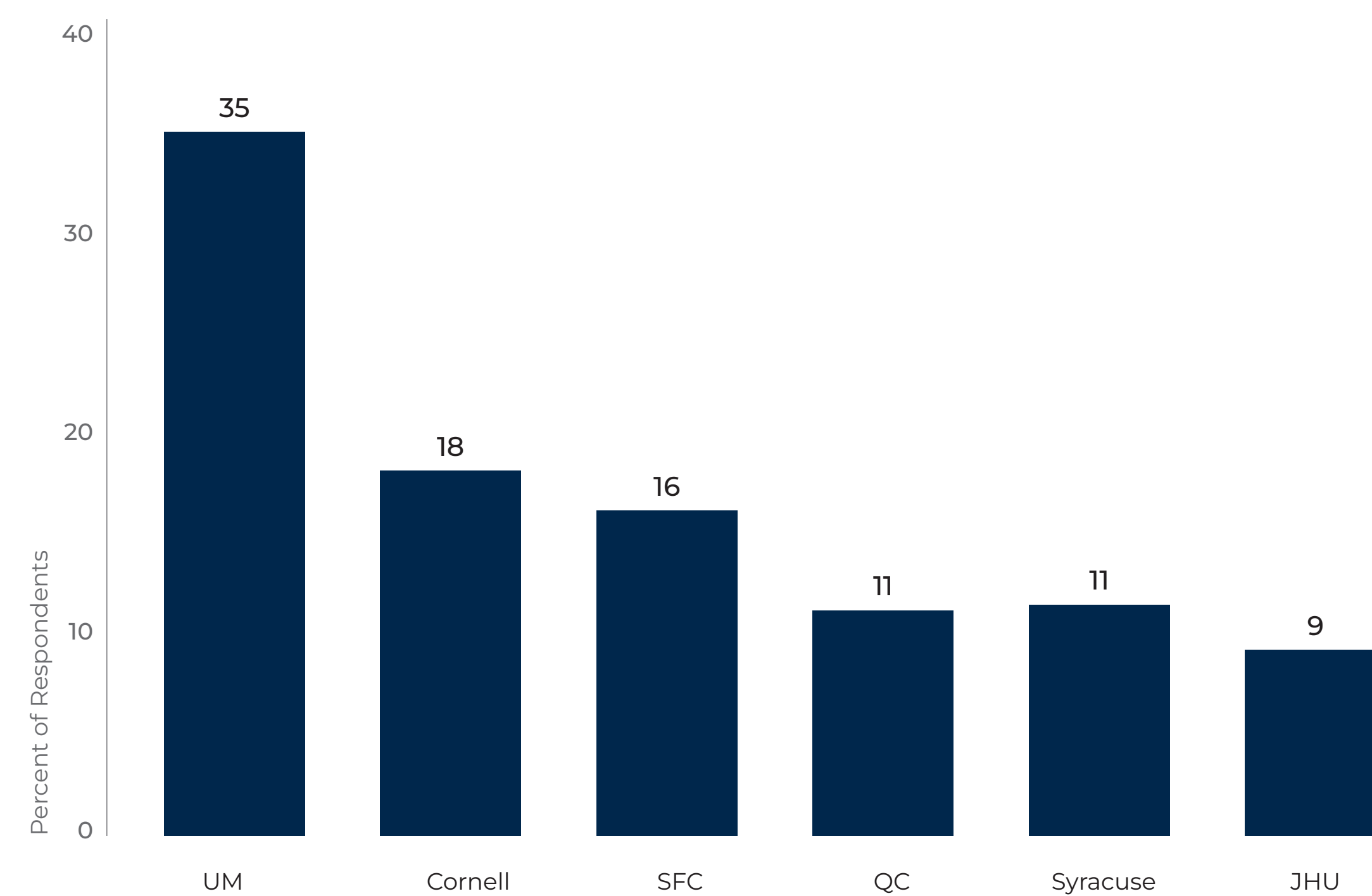
**454**

## Enrolled Kessler Scholars in 2022-23 across six inaugural partner campuses

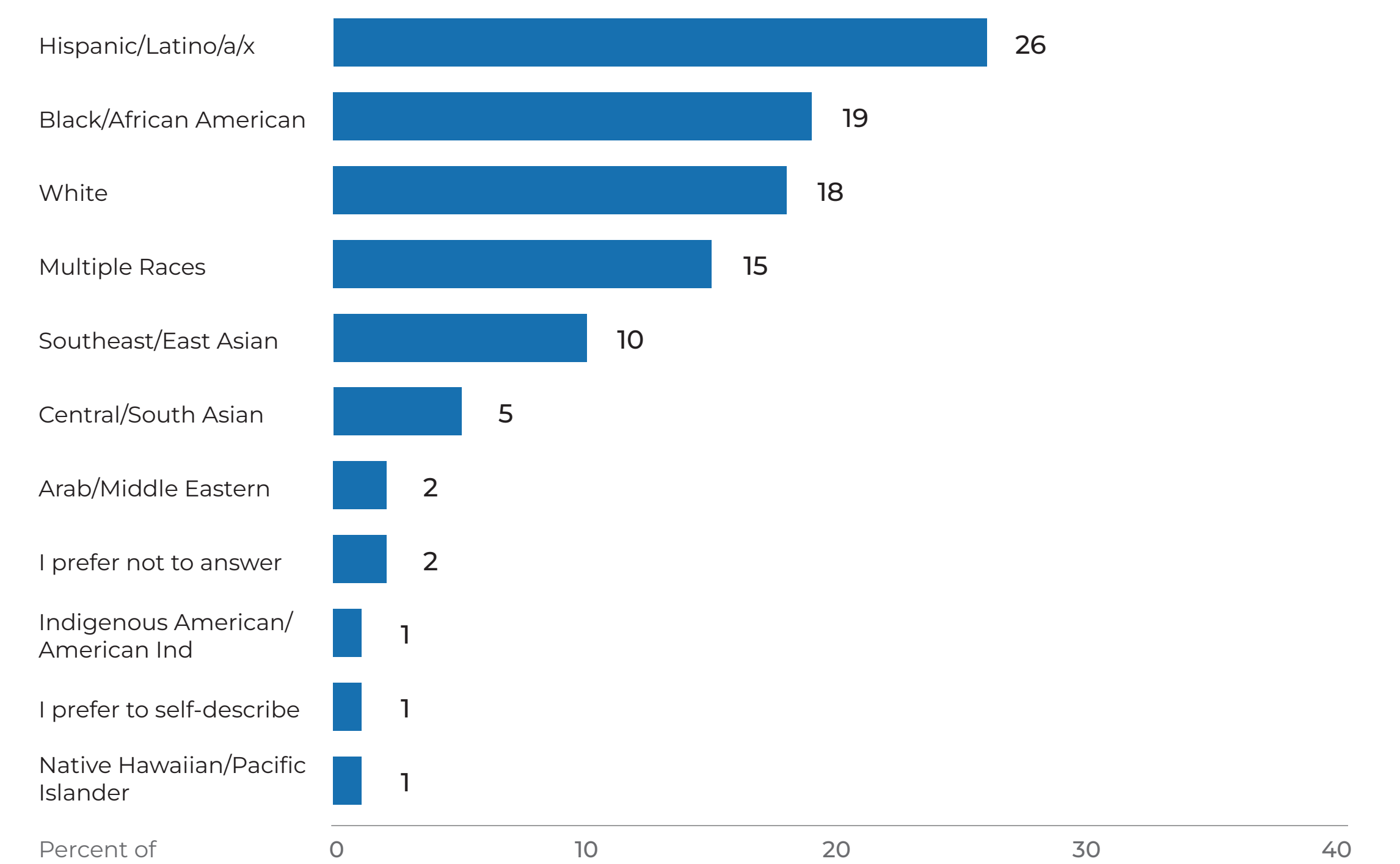
\*Spring Survey Estimates

The Kessler Scholars Program serves a diverse population of first-generation students across categories of race and ethnicity, gender, and academic disciplines.

2022-23 Enrollment by Institution

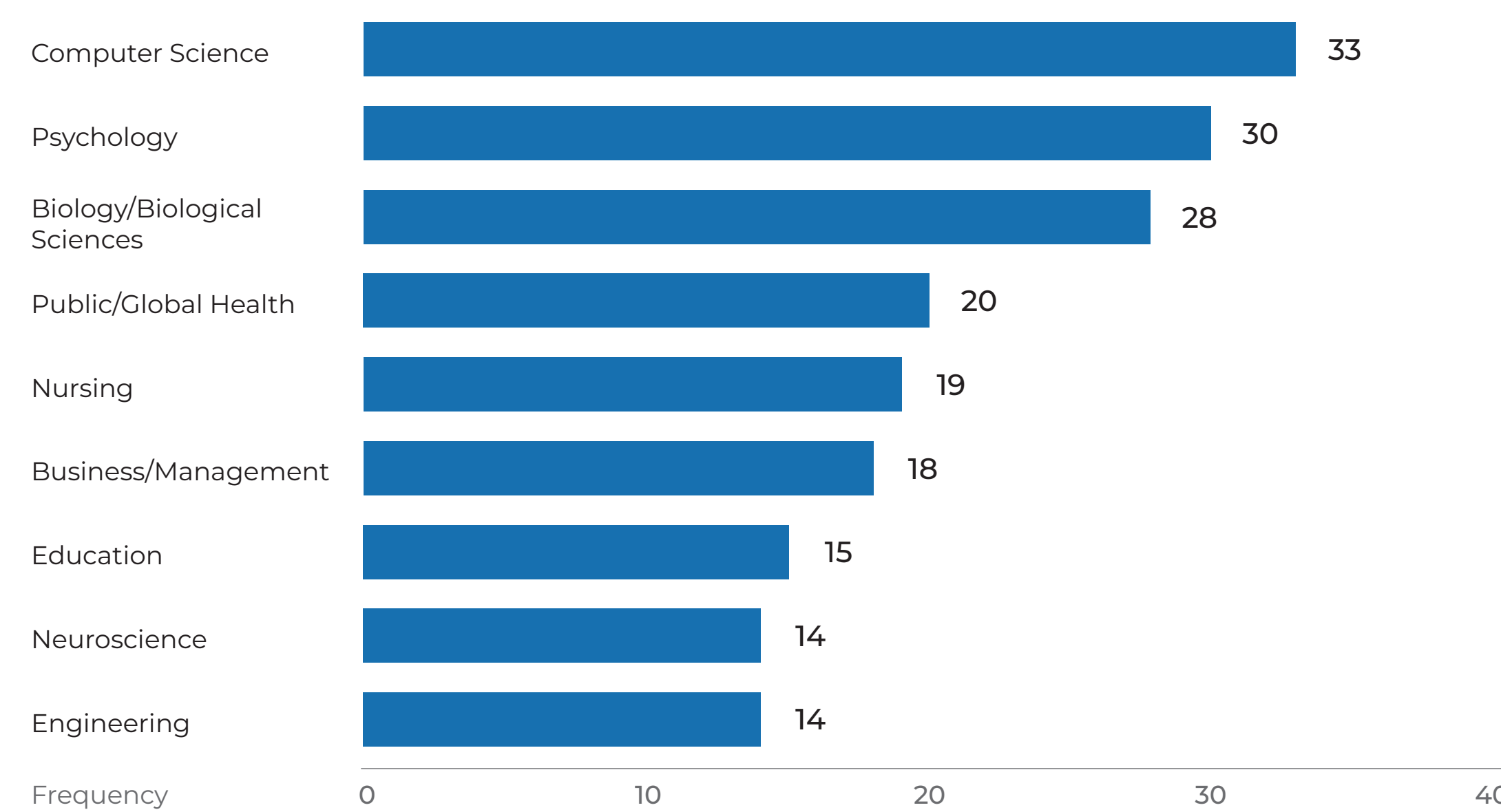


Racial/Ethnic Identity

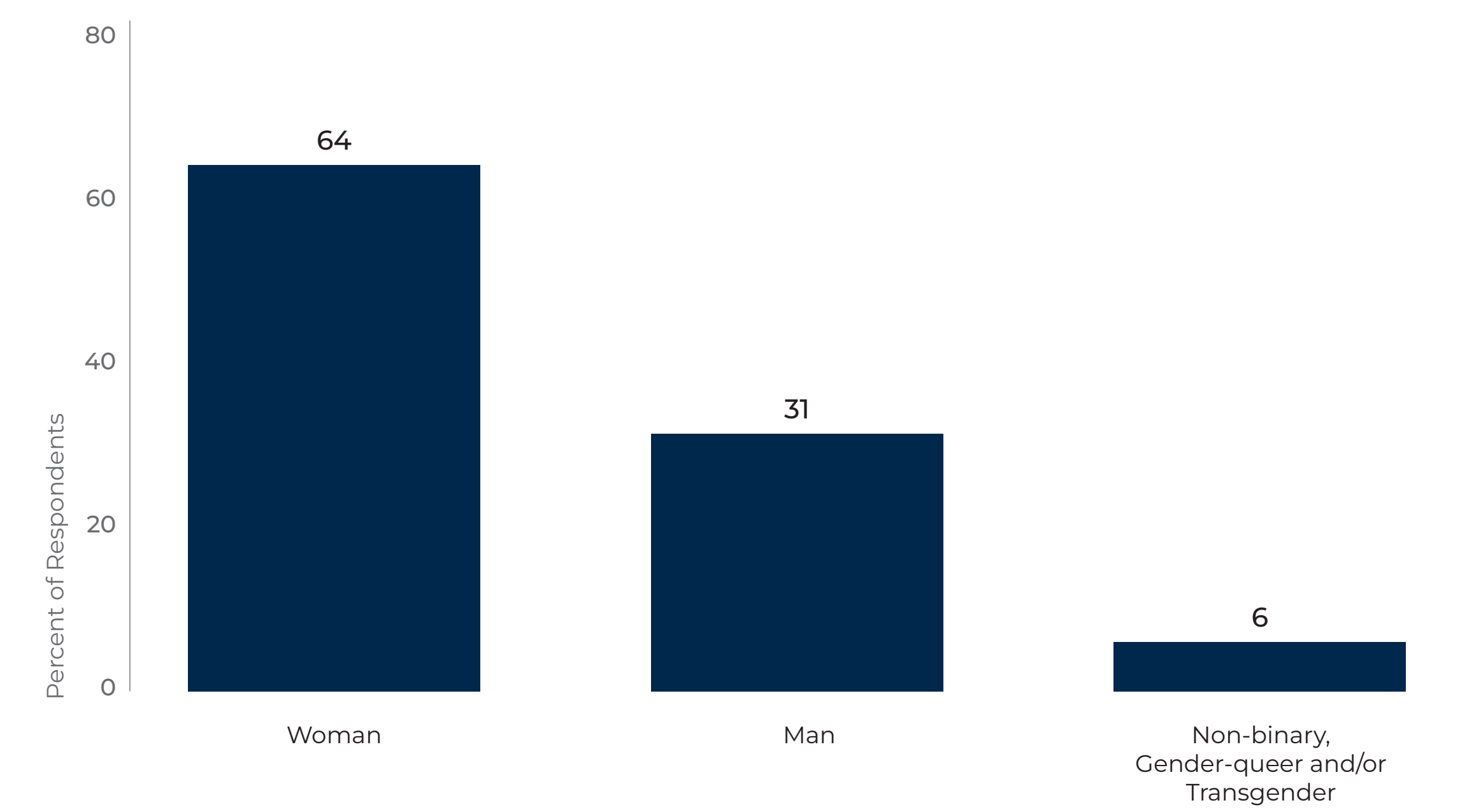


Source: 2023 Spring Student Survey (Sample = 371 students. Non-respondents - 0.27% of sample).

Top 10 Majors



Gender Identity

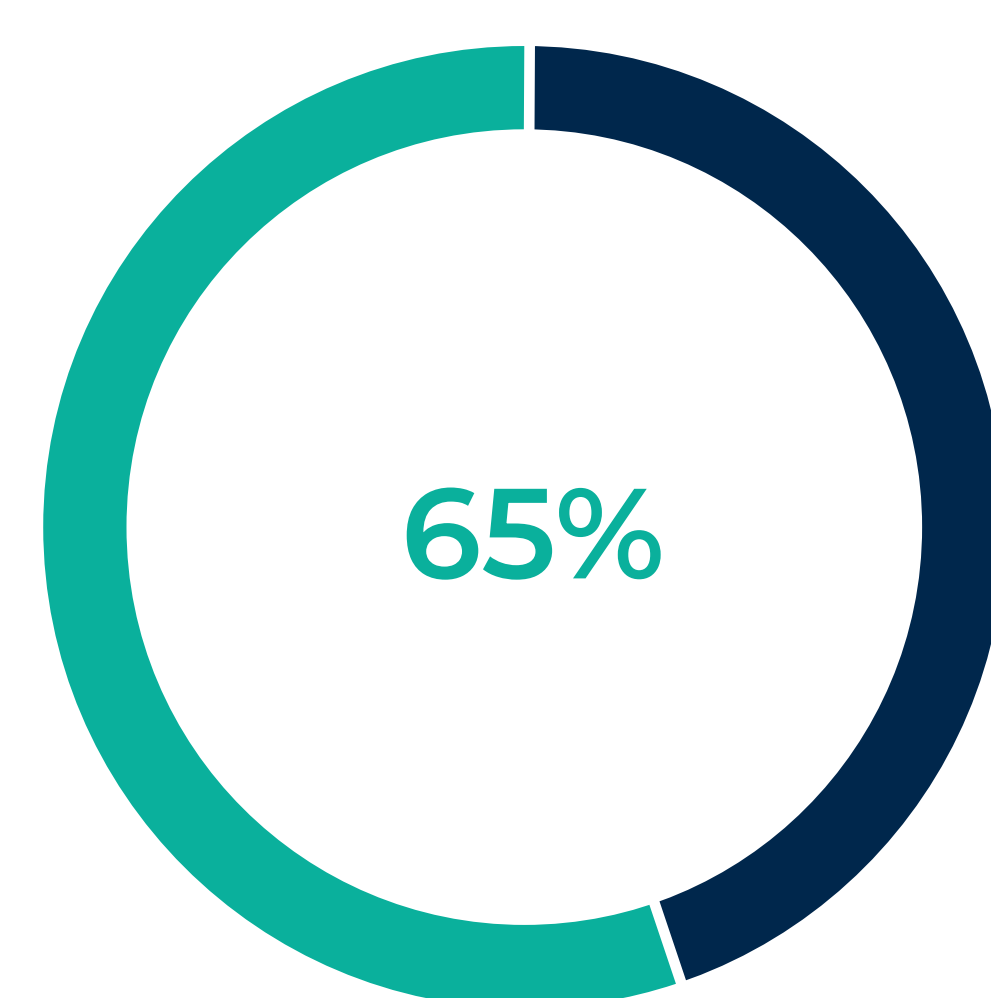


Source: 2023 Spring Student Survey (Sample = 371 students. Non-respondents - 0.27% of sample). Some students reported multiple gender identities. Categories combined to protect respondent anonymity.

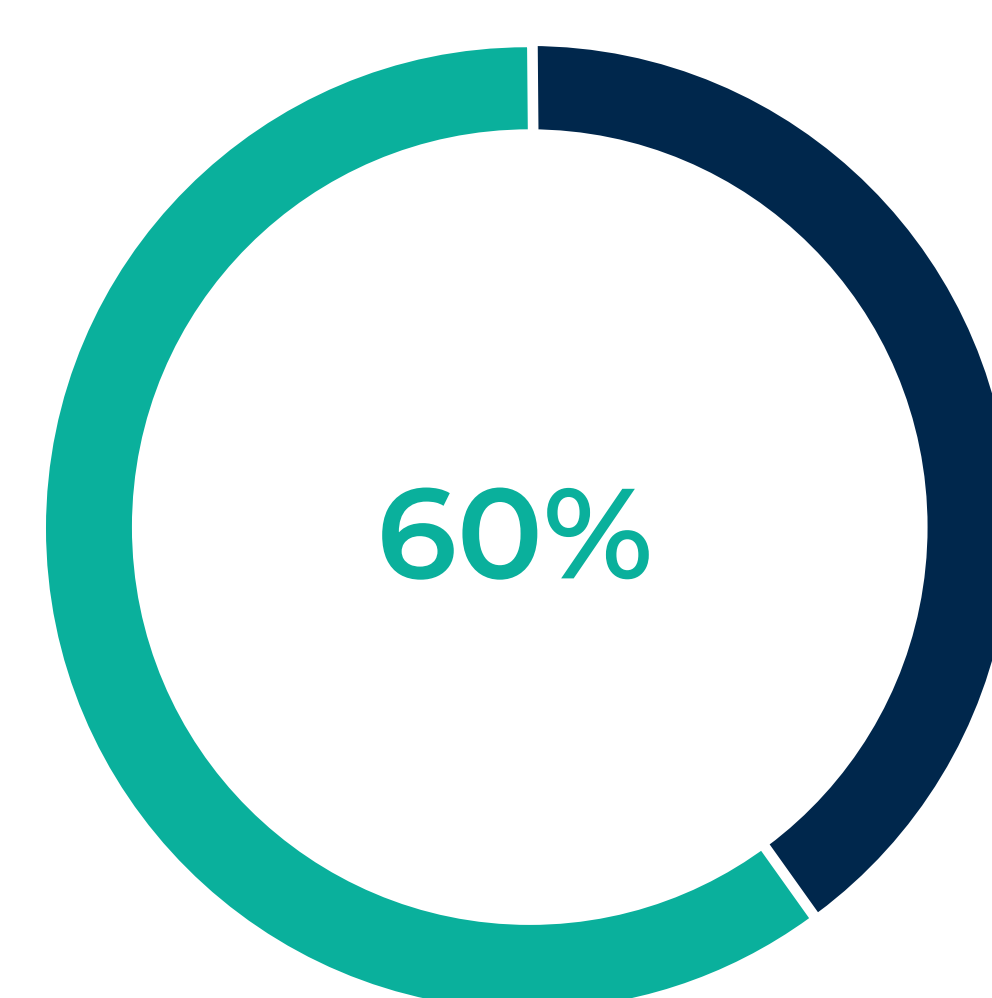
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## Program Staff across sixteen partner campuses

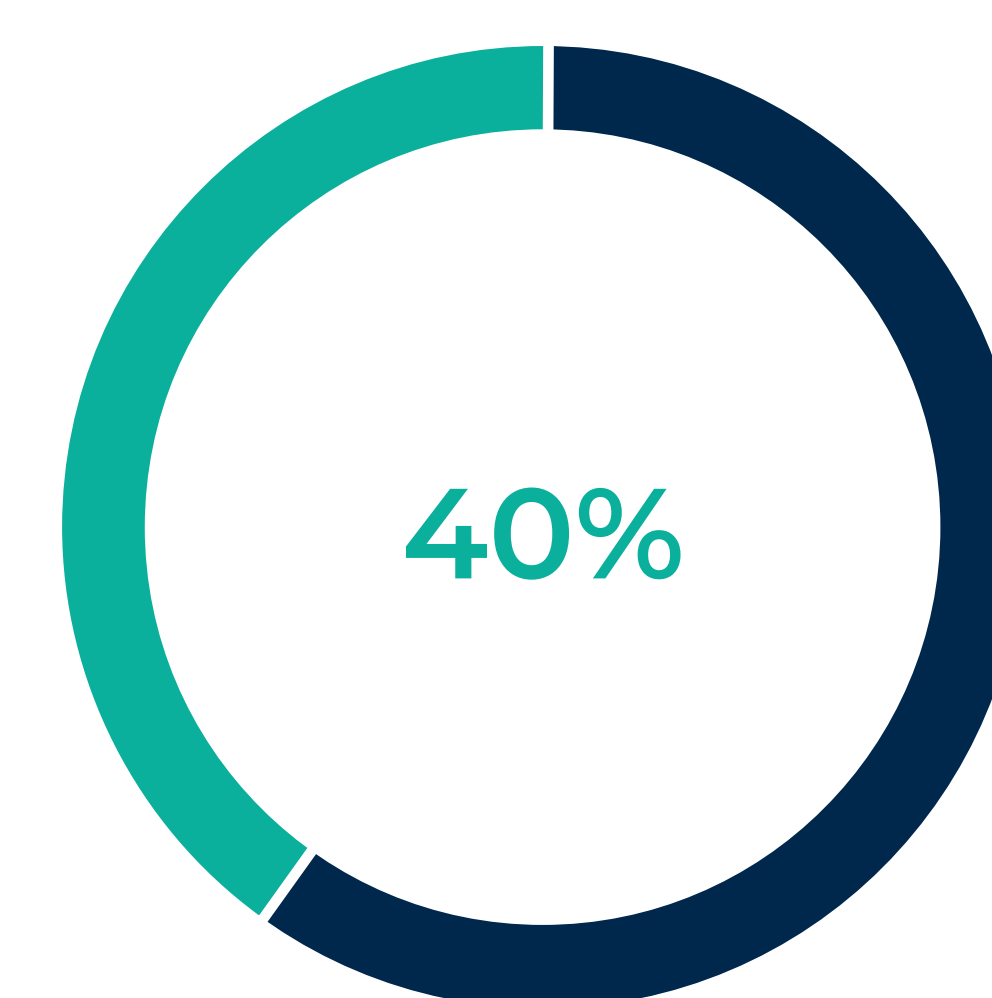
Program staff represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives, and lived experiences, and bring significant expertise, and knowledge of higher education to the Kessler Scholars Collaborative.



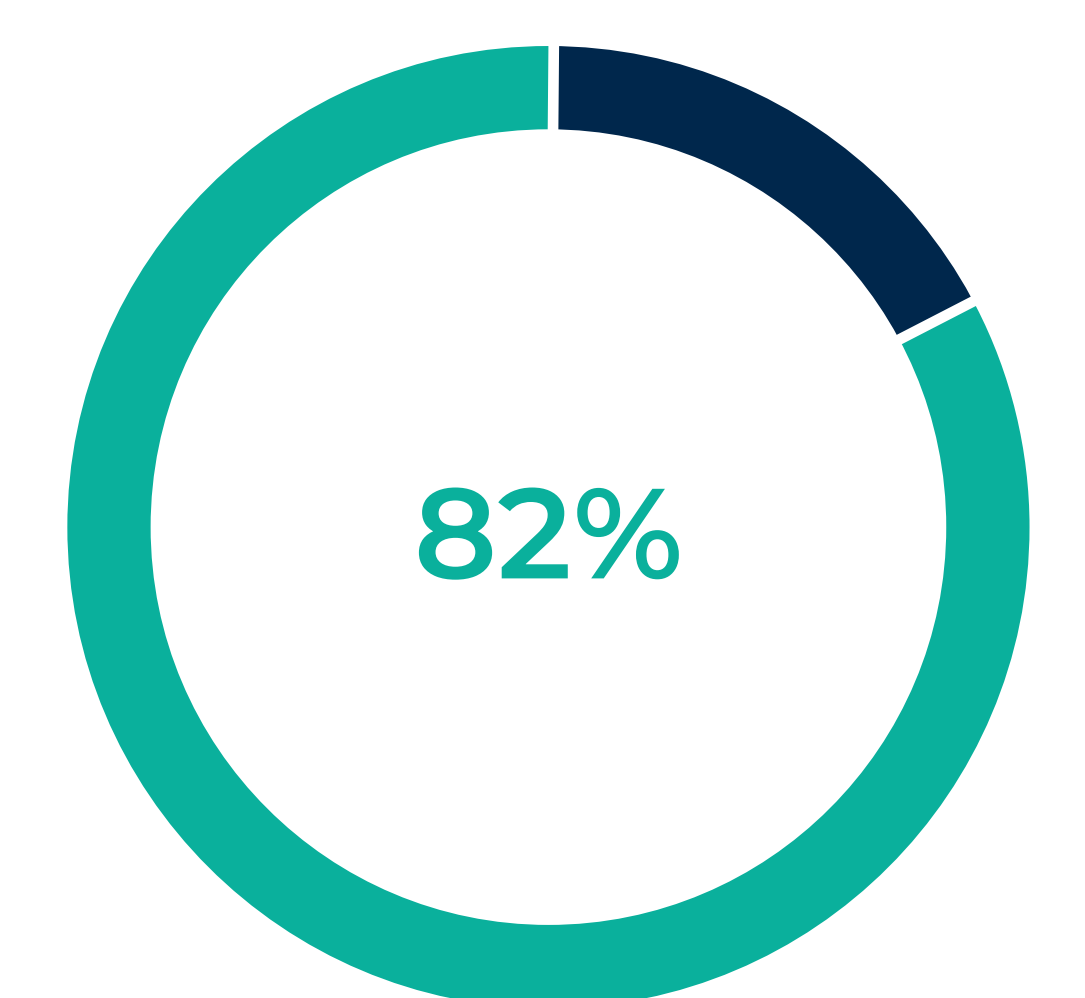
Program Staff identify as first-generation students



Program Staff belong to historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups



Program Staff have graduate degrees in higher education  
\*22% have masters degrees and 18% have doctoral degrees



Program Staff have 6 or more years of experience working in higher education

Source: 2023 Staff Survey (34 of 43 respondents)

**“**  
**The staff always checked up on me and made me feel supported and like I had someone in my corner.** If I wasn't a part of the Kessler Scholars Program I think that my transition (to college) would have been so much worse.  
**”**  
 - Kessler Scholar

**“**  
**The Kessler Scholars Program really helped me during my transition into my first-year especially through the challenges I faced early on. The staff are so helpful and trustworthy and I am so glad that I have been able to use their support.**  
**”**  
 - Kessler Scholar

Funded by the Judy and Fred Wilpon Family Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Kessler Scholars Program is a comprehensive, cohort-based program designed to support first-generation, limited-income college students through a combination of financial aid and robust, evidence-informed support programming, with the goals of advancing outcomes and closing equity gaps for participants.

Ithaka S+R provides research and strategic guidance to help the academic and cultural communities serve the public good and navigate economic, demographic, and technological change. Ithaka S+R is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit with a mission to improve access to knowledge and education for people around the world. We believe education is key to the wellbeing of individuals and society, and we work to make it more effective and affordable.

Ithaka S+R is leading the multi-site and multi-year evaluation of the Kessler Scholars Program across the entire network and at each of the 16 participating institutions. The 2022-23 evaluation focused on assessing the effectiveness of the Collaborative's support to participating institutions, understanding the program model at each institution, and capturing the backgrounds, experiences and outcomes of students who are participating in the program. The evidence presented in this brief draws on data collected by the evaluation team from surveys of program staff, participant observation at Collaborative meetings and events, and reviews of program documentation. For more information, please contact Ify Oliobi (Evaluation Lead) at ifeatu.oliobi@ithaka.org