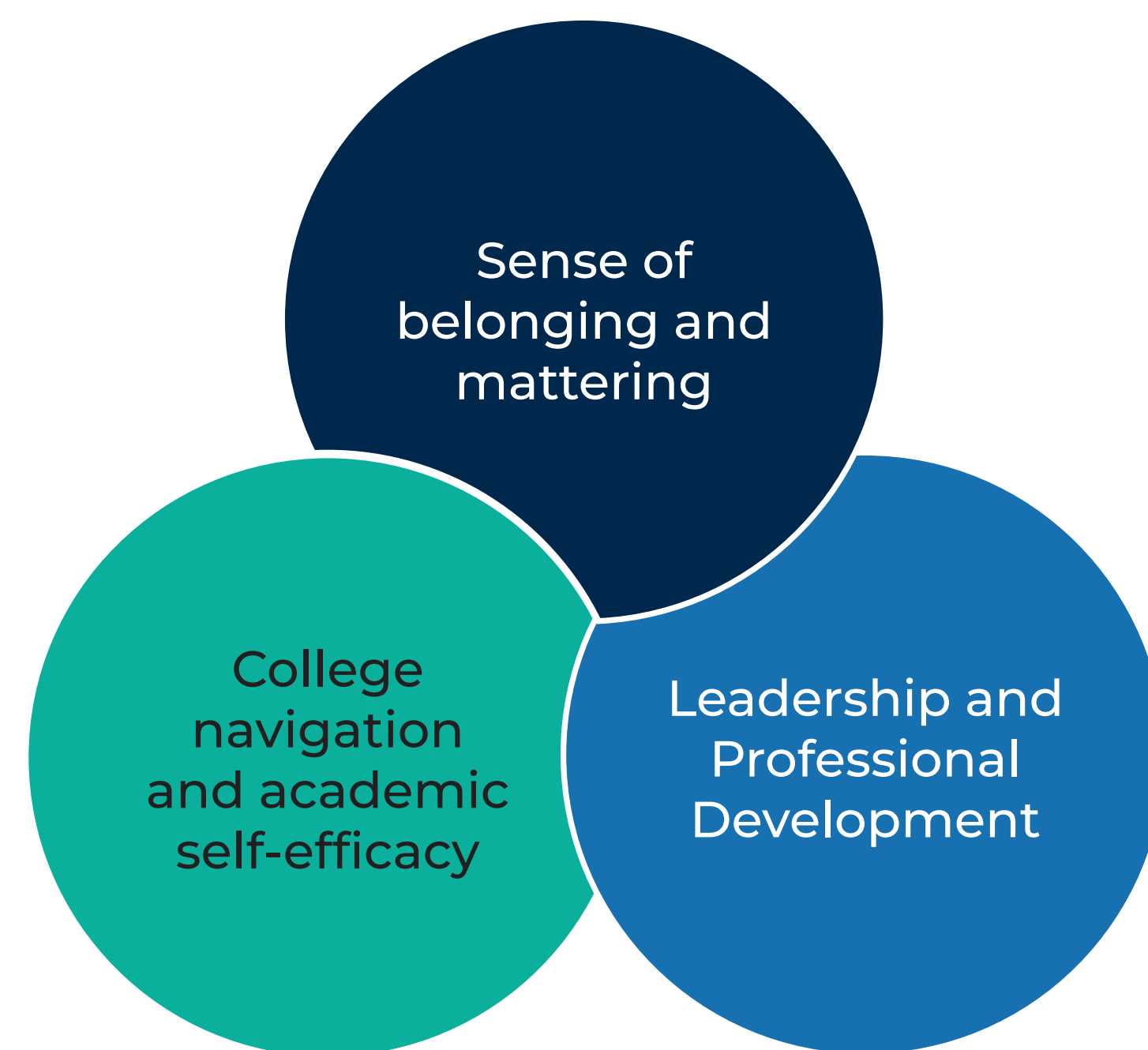


What were the experiences and outcomes of students who participated in the Kessler Scholars Program?

The Kessler Scholars Collaborative | 2022-23 Evidence Brief

Kessler Scholars Program Outcomes

Participation in the program provides students with opportunities to grow and develop in three core outcomes areas: navigating collegiate structures and succeeding academically, increasing sense of connection to both the program and the broader campus community, and cultivating leadership skills and promoting professional development



Program Satisfaction

Students report high levels of satisfaction with the program, and with their program experience.

92 percent of scholars are satisfied with their program experience.

94 percent of students say that the support they have received from the program has met or exceeded their expectations.

The Kessler Scholars Program goes above and beyond any other scholarship program, I have encountered. They are there for their students physically, emotionally, and mentally along with substantial, financial support. They care about the student's health and well-being and their family members... It is truly such a privilege to have been granted this scholarship...

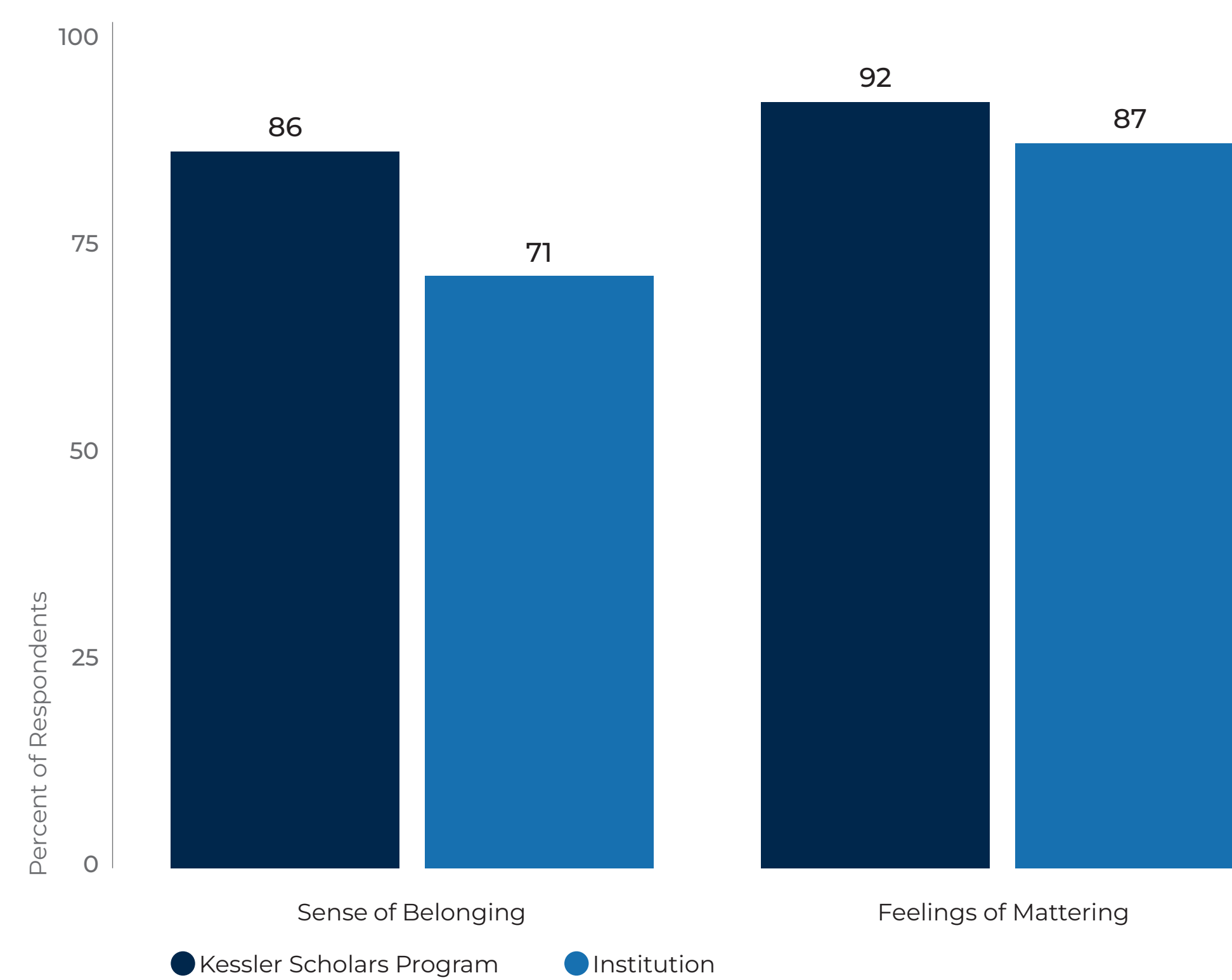
- Kessler Scholar

Sense of belonging and mattering

Sense of Belonging and Mattering

Students' sense of belonging and feelings of mattering are higher at the program-level, a testament to the great work being done by the Kessler Scholars Program on inaugural campuses. The lower rates of sense of belonging and mattering at the institution-level presents an opportunity for program staff to encourage their institutions to consider how to create a more inclusive climate for First-generation low-income students.

Sense of belonging and mattering



Most scholars feel cared for and supported by the program and that they belong within these small, tight-knit communities designed for first-generation students.

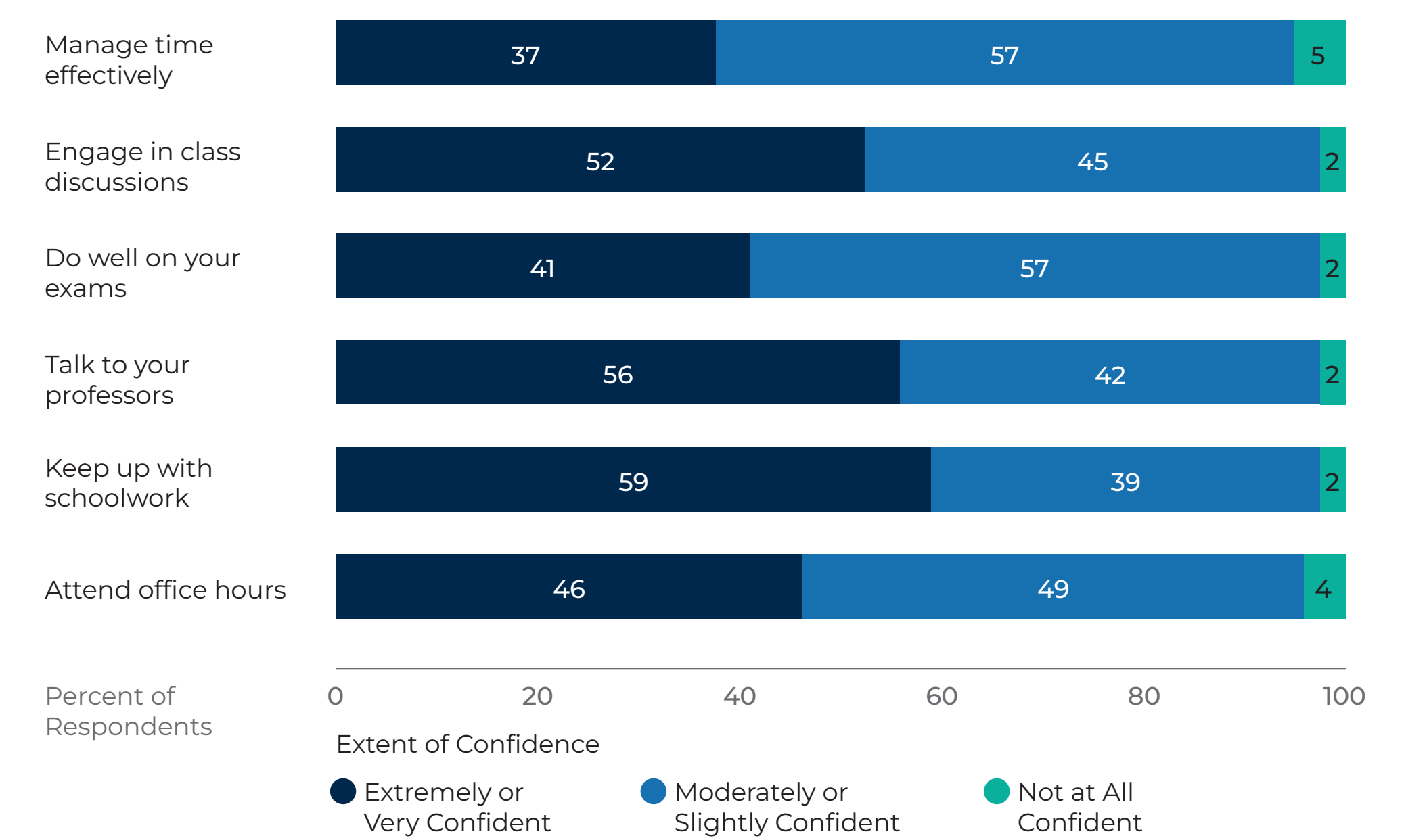
The Kessler Scholars helped provide exposure to new opportunities that I was not even sure existed. Additionally, I believe that the Kessler Scholars fosters a strong sense of community that cannot be found anywhere else on campus.

- Kessler Scholar

College navigation and academic self-efficacy

96 percent of scholars express confidence in their abilities to successfully complete academic and social tasks at college

Self-Efficacy

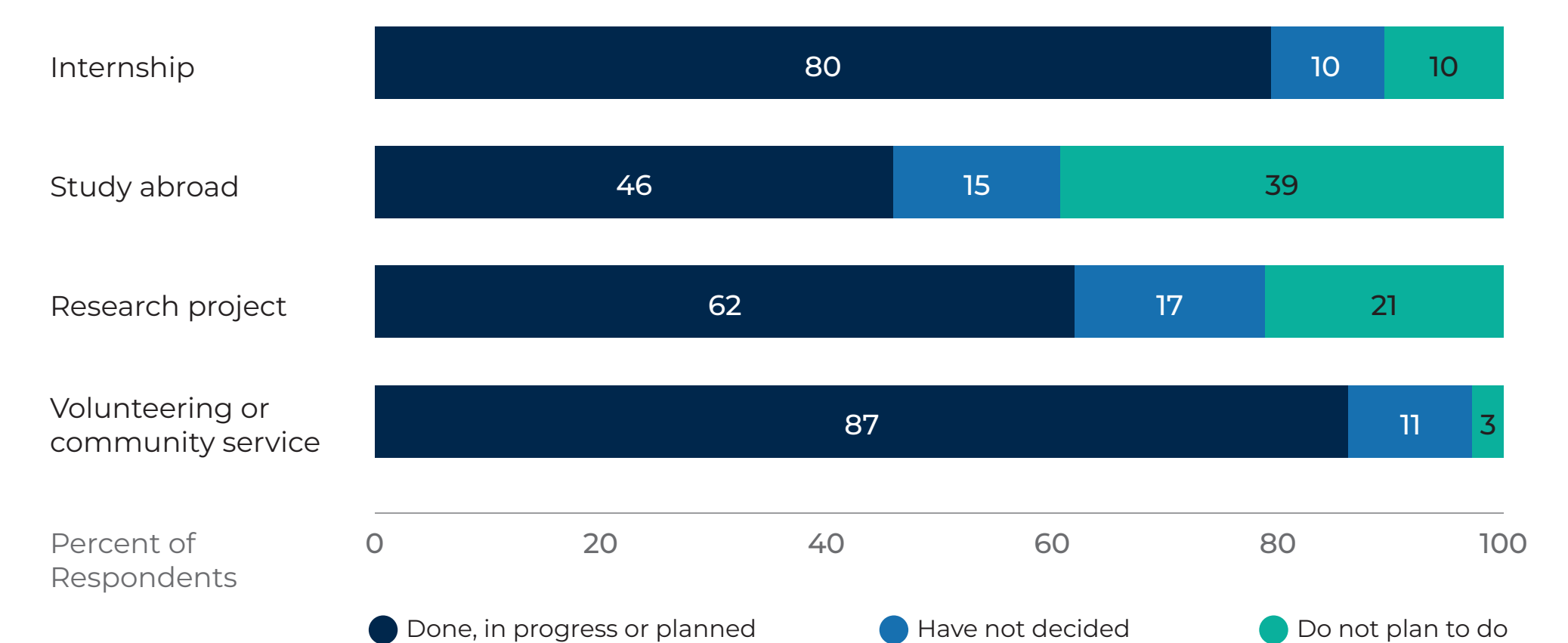


Leadership and Professional Development

High-Impact Practices

The program also supports scholars to engage in **community service and high-impact practices such as study abroad programs, internships and undergraduate research**, which have been linked to improved student engagement and success, particularly for historically underserved students.

Engagement in High-Impact Practices



70 percent of scholars have participated (or plan to participate in) in a high impact practice during their time in college.

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 Olibi (Evaluation Lead) at ifeatu.olibi@ithaka.org