

PAEA RESEARCH

Student Report 2

By the Numbers | Data from the 2017 Matriculating Student
and End of Program Surveys



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Student Report 2

BY THE NUMBERS: DATA FROM THE 2017 MATRICULATING STUDENT AND END OF PROGRAM SURVEYS

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INTRODUCTION

Physician Assistant Education Association

Founded in 1972, the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) is the only national organization representing physician assistant (PA) educational programs in the United States. At the end of 2017, PAEA represented 224 accredited PA programs. For more information about PAEA and our products and services, visit PAEAonline.org.

Background

This report compiles the results of two PAEA student surveys: the 2017 Matriculating Student Survey (MSS) and the 2017 End of Program Survey (EOPS). The aim of combining the results from these surveys is to give an overall picture of the PA student body — from matriculants to graduates — in 2017.

The MSS collects information from entering PA students with the goal of improving education, recruitment, and retention. This survey is based on a previous student survey, administered in collaboration with the American Academy of PAs, along with question items from the Association of American Medical College's (AAMC) [Matriculating Student Questionnaire](#) and the Higher Education Research Institute's (HERI) [College Senior Survey](#). The MSS was first administered in 2013.

The EOPS seeks information from graduating PA students to help schools evaluate and improve their educational programs. The information is also used for research on PA education. Items include several questions adapted from the AAMC's [Medical School Graduation Questionnaire](#) and HERI's [College Senior Survey](#), as well as questions assessing students' experiences in PA school and their post-graduation plans. The EOPS was first administered in 2016.

Report Overview

This report is divided into three main categories:

1. Overlapping data between the MSS and EOPS

- **Section 1. Students by Program Characteristics:** Includes information on the types of programs and institutions attended by the student respondents
- **Section 2. Student Demographics:** Includes information on students' gender, race, ethnicity, and family composition
- **Section 3. Health & Well-Being:** Includes information on student socioemotional well-being, physical health, and stress
- **Section 4. Future Practice:** Includes information on considerations for career paths post-graduation, specialty and practice environment choices, and salary expectations
- **Section 5. Financial Information:** Includes information on loans, debt, and financing of pre-PA and graduate PA educations

2. Data specific to the MSS

- **Section 6. MSS: Military Background:** Includes information on matriculating students' military experience
- **Section 7. MSS: Educational Background:** Includes information on degrees, GPAs, and additional credits taken to satisfy prerequisites
- **Section 8. MSS: Employment History:** Includes information on prior health care employment and community service
- **Section 9. Application to PA School:** Includes information on factors influencing career and program choice, consideration of careers in other health professions, and cost of PA school applications

3. Data specific to the EOPS

- **Section 10. EOPS: Experiences in PA School:**
Includes information on satisfaction with PA school, experiences in the didactic and clinical phases, and confidence in PA educational and professional competencies
- **Section 11. EOPS: Employment Plans:**
Includes information on post-graduate residencies and job applications, as well as information on accepted PA positions
- **Section 12. EOPS: Negative Experiences in PA School:**
Includes information on mistreatment, discrimination, and harassment witnessed or experienced personally

Researchers interested in conducting further analysis of the MSS or EOPS [may request raw data](#) from these surveys. PA faculty interested in benchmarking and evaluation may request more specific disaggregated [custom research reports](#).

Survey Administration

Human subjects review determined that the MSS and EOPS were exempt. Information regarding the MSS and the EOPS was emailed to program directors of accredited member programs at the beginning of each month in 2017. The email timing corresponded to the month that their programs admitted first-year students into class or graduated a class of students. There were 215 PA programs eligible to participate in the MSS and 198 eligible to participate in the EOPS. Program directors were asked to forward a survey link to their students and encourage participation. In addition, program directors were asked to provide a head count of their first-year or graduating class in order to calculate program and national response rates. To achieve an adequate response rate, PAEA research staff sent reminder emails to non-responding programs and conducted follow-up phone calls to programs with a student response rate less than 80%. Programs that achieved an 80% response rate were entered into drawings for a \$250 gift card and for a complimentary registration to the 2018 Education Forum.

Following the removal of duplicate cases, the MSS garnered 4,050 unique responses from 163 programs (75.8% of all eligible programs). Based on eligible programs' reports of first-year class sizes on the 2017 PAEA Annual Program Survey ($N = 9,626$ first-year students), the overall matriculating student response rate is estimated at 42.1%. Thirty-six programs (22.1% of all responding programs) achieved an 80% student response rate.

After the removal of duplicate cases, the EOPS received a total of 2,718 unique responses from 150 programs (75.8% of all eligible programs). Based on eligible programs' reports of graduating student cohorts on the 2017 PAEA Annual Program Survey ($N = 8,292$ graduating students), the overall graduating student response rate is estimated at 32.8%. Fifteen programs (10.0% of all responding programs) achieved an 80% student response rate.

Data Cleaning & Analysis

Responses that fell outside of reasonable parameters were not included in the analyses. For example, a student loan of \$10 would be treated as missing data. Participants who selected "Other" as their response to multiple-choice questions were asked to specify. These write-in responses were recoded into existing categories when appropriate. The tables and figures presented in this report display aggregate data from the respondents.

In general, analyses of the data consisted of calculating descriptive statistics on the variables of interest — percentage (%), minimum and maximum values (range), arithmetic mean (M), standard deviation (SD), median (Mdn), and percentiles (P). Tables describing financial information also include a 10% trimmed mean ($M(T)$), or the mean when the bottom and top 10% of responses are excluded. For some tables and figures, percentages will not equal 100% due to rounding or when multiple responses were allowed. The number of respondents in tables and figures is designated by n . Exact financial data were not reported if there were fewer than five respondents.

Limitations

A common challenge of survey research is attaining a robust response rate. The response rates of both students and programs were lower for the 2017 student surveys than in prior years. This lower-than-desired response rate may have an unquantifiable impact on the results because the characteristics of non-respondents are unknown. Programs can help boost the value of these data, which are critical to PA education research as well as program benchmarking, evaluation, and accreditation, by encouraging students to participate in PAEA surveys. Increasing the number of students and programs that provide data increases the representativeness and usefulness of the data and reports.

Note: In this survey administration, a technical problem in the survey hosting platform caused a question assessing students' age at PA graduation (EOPS) to be deleted. Therefore, no graduate age information is available; the problem has been corrected for future administrations of the EOPS.

SECTION 1. STUDENTS BY PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

This section provides an overview of the responding students according to characteristics of the PA programs they attended. “Represented Programs” refers to the programs attended by the responding students. “Eligible Programs” refers to all accredited member programs that were either matriculating (MSS) or graduating (EOPS) a cohort of students during the survey administration period. “All Programs” refers to all accredited member programs at the time of survey administration.

FIGURE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS BY U.S. CENSUS BUREAU REGIONS AND DIVISIONS

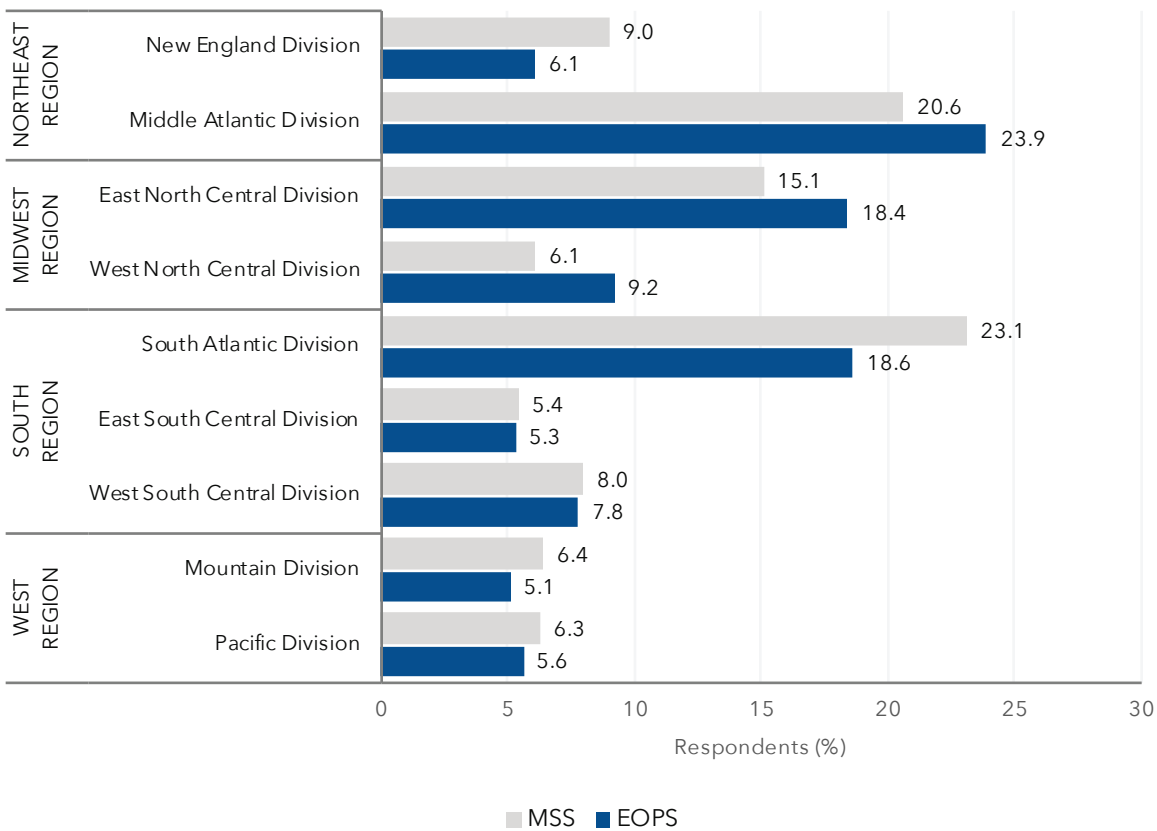


FIGURE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAMS BY U.S. CENSUS BUREAU REGIONS AND DIVISIONS

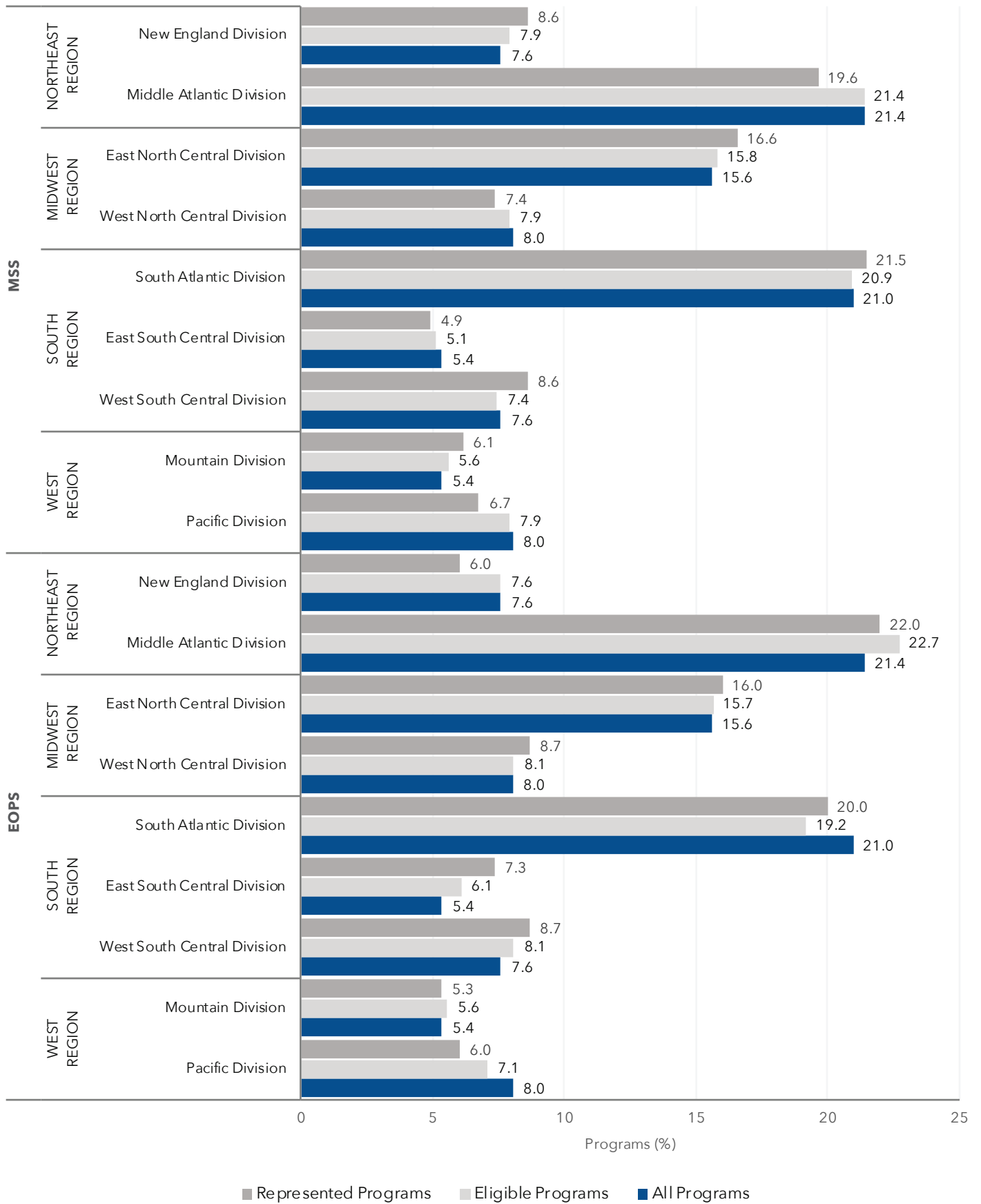
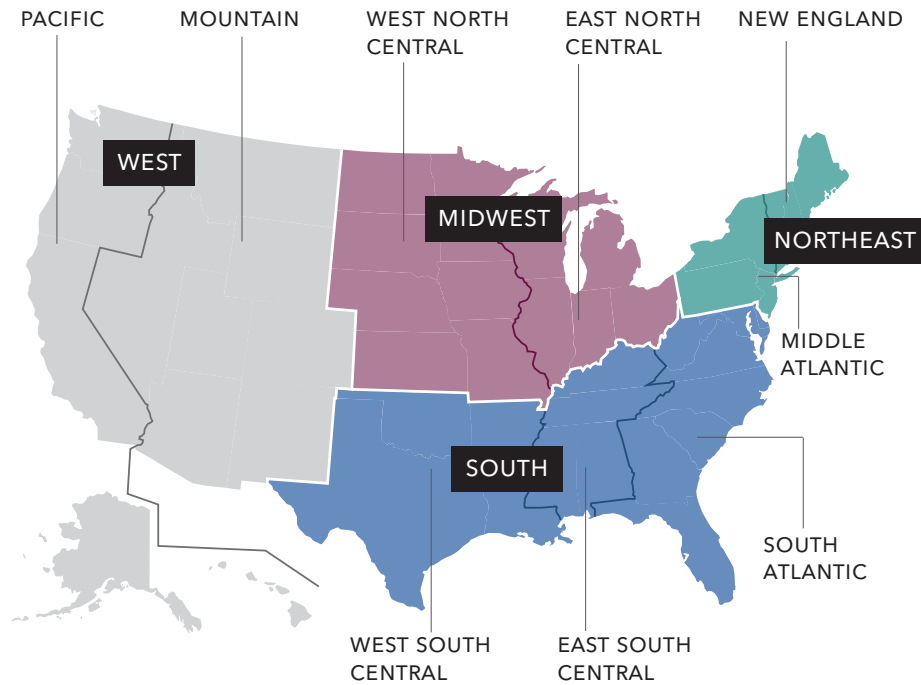


TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS BY U.S. CENSUS BUREAU REGIONS AND DIVISIONS

	Students		Represented Programs		Eligible Programs		All Programs	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
MSS								
Northeast Region								
New England Division	364	9.0	14	8.6	17	7.9	17	7.6
Middle Atlantic Division	833	20.6	32	19.6	46	21.4	48	21.4
Subtotal	1,197	29.6	46	28.2	63	29.3	65	29.0
Midwest Region								
East North Central Division	609	15.1	27	16.6	34	15.8	35	15.6
West North Central Division	247	6.1	12	7.4	17	7.9	18	8.0
Subtotal	856	21.2	39	23.9	51	23.7	53	23.7
South Region								
South Atlantic Division	934	23.1	35	21.5	45	20.9	47	21.0
East South Central Division	219	5.4	8	4.9	11	5.1	12	5.4
West South Central Division	323	8.0	14	8.6	16	7.4	17	7.6
Subtotal	1,476	36.5	57	35.0	72	33.5	76	33.9
West Region								
Mountain Division	259	6.4	10	6.1	12	5.6	12	5.4
Pacific Division	254	6.3	11	6.7	17	7.9	18	8.0
Subtotal	513	12.7	21	12.9	29	13.5	30	13.4
Total	4,042	100.0	163	100.0	215	100.0	224	100.0
EOPS								
Northeast Region								
New England Division	165	6.1	9	6.0	15	7.6	17	7.6
Middle Atlantic Division	647	23.9	33	22.0	45	22.7	48	21.4
Subtotal	812	30.0	42	28.0	60	30.3	65	29.0
Midwest Region								
East North Central Division	497	18.4	24	16.0	31	15.7	35	15.6
West North Central Division	250	9.2	13	8.7	16	8.1	18	8.0
Subtotal	747	27.6	37	24.7	47	23.7	53	23.7
South Region								
South Atlantic Division	504	18.6	30	20.0	38	19.2	47	21.0
East South Central Division	144	5.3	11	7.3	12	6.1	12	5.4
West South Central Division	212	7.8	13	8.7	16	8.1	17	7.6
Subtotal	860	31.8	54	36.0	66	33.3	76	33.9
West Region								
Mountain Division	138	5.1	8	5.3	11	5.6	12	5.4
Pacific Division	151	5.6	9	6.0	14	7.1	18	8.0
Subtotal	289	10.7	17	11.3	25	12.6	30	13.4
Total	2,708	100.0	150	100.0	198	100.0	224	100.0

*U.S. Census Bureau Divisions are nested within Regions. For a map of all Census Regions and Divisions, please see **Figure 3**. Student data are based on respondents' self-reported state in which they attend PA school. Program data are based on program-reported states. In a small minority of cases (1.5% in MSS, 2.1% in EOPS), student- and program-reported states do not match (e.g., if students are enrolled in an out-of-state satellite campus).*

FIGURE 3. U.S. CENSUS BUREAU REGIONS AND DIVISIONS



REGION 1 NORTHEAST

DIVISION 1 NEW ENGLAND

- Connecticut
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

DIVISION 2 MIDDLE ATLANTIC

- New Jersey
- New York
- Pennsylvania

REGION 2 MIDWEST

DIVISION 3 EAST NORTH CENTRAL

- Indiana
- Illinois
- Michigan
- Ohio
- Wisconsin

DIVISION 4 WEST NORTH CENTRAL

- Iowa
- Kansas
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- South Dakota

REGION 3 SOUTH

DIVISION 5 SOUTH ATLANTIC

- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Maryland
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Virginia
- West Virginia

DIVISION 6 EAST SOUTH CENTRAL

- Alabama
- Kentucky
- Mississippi
- Tennessee

DIVISION 7 WEST SOUTH CENTRAL

- Arkansas
- Louisiana
- Oklahoma
- Texas

REGION 4 WEST

DIVISION 8 MOUNTAIN

- Arizona
- Colorado
- Idaho
- New Mexico
- Montana
- Utah
- Nevada
- Wyoming

DIVISION 9 PACIFIC

- Alaska
- California
- Hawaii
- Oregon
- Washington

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS BY PROGRAM PUBLIC/PRIVATE STATUS

	Students		Represented Programs		Eligible Programs		All Programs		
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	
MSS									
Public	1,021	25.7	53	32.9	67	31.9	68	31.1	
Private									
For-profit	301	7.6	11	6.8	16	7.6	16	7.3	
Non-profit	2,648	66.7	97	60.2	127	60.5	135	61.6	
Subtotal	2,949	74.3	108	67.1	143	68.1	151	68.9	
Total	3,970	100.0	161	100.0	210	100.0	219	100.0	
EOPS									
Public	775	29.9	48	33.1	62	32.1	68	31.1	
Private									
For-profit	176	6.8	12	8.3	15	7.8	16	7.3	
Non-profit	1,642	63.3	85	58.6	116	60.1	135	61.6	
Subtotal	1,818	70.1	97	66.9	131	67.9	151	68.9	
Total	2,593	100.0	145	100.0	193	100.0	219	100.0	

Note: "Private" includes both for-profit and non-profit private programs. Military and public/private hybrid programs are excluded due to low frequencies.

TABLE 3. DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS BY PROGRAM AHC STATUS

	Students		Represented Programs		Eligible Programs		All Programs		
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	
MSS									
Academic Health Center	1,030	25.5	49	30.1	64	29.8	64	28.6	
Non-Academic Health Center	3,014	74.5	114	69.9	151	70.2	160	71.4	
Total	4,044	100.0	163	100.0	215	100.0	224	100.0	
EOPS									
Academic Health Center	586	21.6	40	26.7	59	29.8	64	28.6	
Non-Academic Health Center	2,124	78.4	110	73.3	139	70.2	160	71.4	
Total	2,710	100.0	150	100.0	198	100.0	224	100.0	

TABLE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS BY TYPE OF CAMPUS

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Not enrolled in satellite/distant campus	2,999	93.4	2,534	95.2
Enrolled in satellite/distant campus	213	6.6	127	4.8
Total	3,212	100.0	2,661	100.0

SECTION 2. STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

TABLE 5. GENDER

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Female	3,023	75.2	2,020	75.3
Male	998	24.8	662	24.7
Total	4,021	100.0	2,682	100.0

TABLE 6. AGE

	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	P10	P25	P50 (<i>Mdn</i>)	P75	P90
MSS	3,975	17.0-59.0	25.7	4.9	22.0	23.0	24.0	27.0	31.0

Unfortunately, a malfunction in our survey-hosting platform caused the question regarding age at graduation to not be displayed on the EOPS. This has been corrected for future survey administrations.

TABLE 7. ETHNICITY

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin	325	8.1	160	6.0
Not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin	3,663	91.9	2,490	94.0
Total	3,988	100.0	2,650	100.0

TABLE 8. MIDDLE EASTERN ORIGIN

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Middle Eastern or Arabic in origin	91	2.3	63	2.4
Not Middle Eastern or Arabic in origin	3,864	97.7	2,582	97.6
Total	3,955	100.0	2,645	100.0

RACE

In previous surveys, respondents were only allowed to select one race category to describe themselves. Beginning in 2017 and continuing forward, respondents can select as many racial categories to describe themselves as they feel are appropriate. “Single race” indicates that respondents selected only one race category. “In combination with other race” indicates that they selected two or more race categories. Although respondents could select ‘Other’ as their race, ‘Other’ was excluded when identifying multiracial respondents.

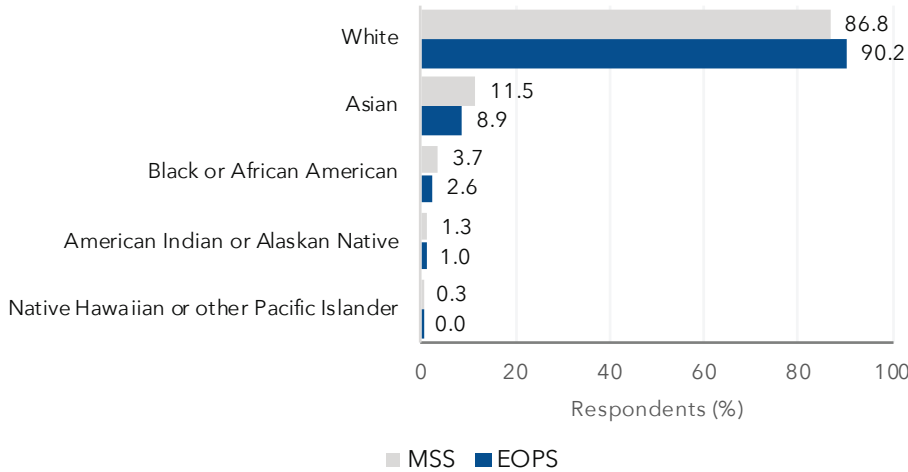
In the “Single race” and “In combination with other race” rows, percentages (%) indicate the proportion of students reporting that race who fell into each category. In the “Subtotal” rows, percentages (%) indicate the proportion of all responding students who reported that race, whether alone or in combination with another race. Subtotals will not sum to the total because students could select multiple race categories.

TABLE 9. RACE

	MSS		EOPS	
	n	%	n	%
American Indian or Alaskan Native				
Single race	14	27.5	8	30.8
In combination with other race	37	72.5	18	69.2
Subtotal	51	1.3	26	1.0
Asian				
Single race	370	83.3	188	82.1
In combination with other race	74	16.7	41	17.9
Subtotal	444	11.5	229	8.9
Black or African American				
Single race	118	81.9	53	80.3
In combination with other race	26	18.1	13	19.7
Subtotal	144	3.7	66	2.6
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander				
Single race	3	25.0	0	0.0
In combination with other race	9	75.0	1	100.0
Subtotal	12	0.3	1	0.0
White				
Single race	3,221	96.2	2,271	97.3
In combination with other race	126	3.8	62	2.7
Subtotal	3,347	86.8	2,333	90.2
Total	3,858	100.0	2,586	100.0

3.4% of matriculating students (MSS) and 2.5% of graduating students (EOPS) reported multiple races.

FIGURE 4. RACE



Percentages (%) indicate the proportion of all responding students who reported that race, whether alone or in combination with another race.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Table 10 presents students’ reports of both their race and ethnicity. In the “Not Hispanic” and “Hispanic” rows, percentages (%) indicate the proportion of students reporting that race who fell into each category. In the “Subtotal” rows, percentages (%) indicate the proportion of all responding students who reported both a race and an ethnicity. Subtotals will not sum to the total because students could select more than one race category. “Prefer not to answer” responses for either race or ethnicity were excluded from this table.

TABLE 10. RACE & ETHNICITY

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
American Indian or Alaskan Native				
Not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin	44	86.3	23	92.0
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin	7	13.7	2	8.0
Subtotal	51	1.3	25	1.0
Asian				
Not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin	428	97.1	224	98.2
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin	13	2.9	4	1.8
Subtotal	441	11.5	228	8.9
Black or African American				
Not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin	131	91.6	62	93.9
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin	12	8.4	4	6.1
Subtotal	143	3.7	66	2.6
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander				
Not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin	10	83.3	1	100.0
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin	2	16.7	0	0.0
Subtotal	12	0.3	1	0.0
White				
Not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin	3,125	93.6	2,206	95.0
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in origin	215	6.4	117	5.0
Subtotal	3,340	86.8	2,323	90.2
Total	3,847	100.0	2,575	100.0

UNDERREPRESENTED STATUS

Underrepresented status is defined and reported in two different ways. **Table 11** presents underrepresented minority (URM) status, or those who identified as Hispanic, a single non-White race, or a non-White race in combination with White race. URMs are contrasted against non-Hispanic, single-race White respondents.

Table 12 presents underrepresented (UR) in medicine status [defined by the Association of American Medical Colleges](#) as “those racial and ethnic populations that are underrepresented in the medical profession relative to their numbers in the general population.” In PAEA’s definition, non-Hispanic, single-race Asian, single-race White, and biracial Asian/White individuals are not considered to be UR in medicine. Respondents who did not self-identify their race or ethnicity were excluded.

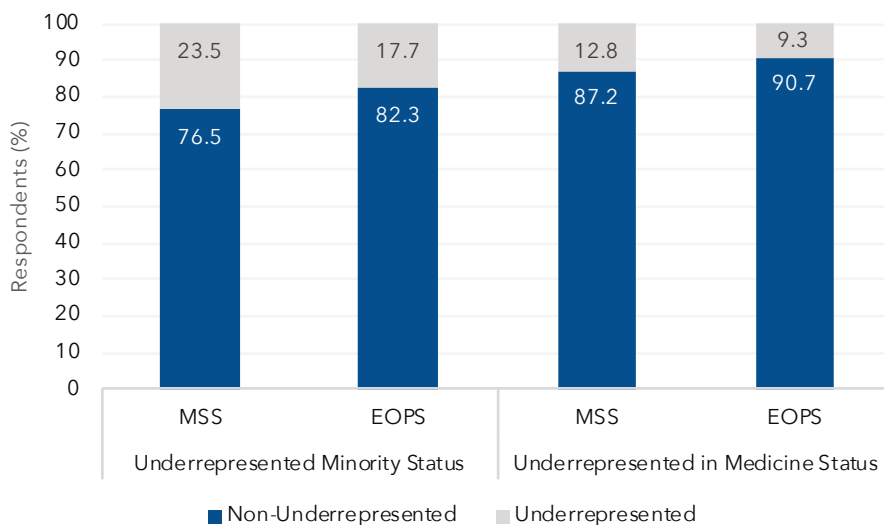
TABLE 11. UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY (URM) STATUS

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Non-URM	3,021	76.5	2,160	82.3
URM	929	23.5	465	17.7
Total	3,950	100.0	2,625	100.0

TABLE 12. UNDERREPRESENTED (UR) IN MEDICINE STATUS

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Non-UR in medicine	3,445	87.2	2,381	90.7
UR in medicine	505	12.8	244	9.3
Total	3,950	100.0	2,625	100.0

FIGURE 5. UNDERREPRESENTED STATUS



FAMILY COMPOSITION

TABLE 13. CIVIL STATUS

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Single (never legally married)	2,936	76.4	1,587	65.8
Married	792	20.6	734	30.4
Divorced	54	1.4	40	1.7
Domestic partnership	50	1.3	39	1.6
Separated, but still legally married	5	0.1	11	0.5
Widowed	3	0.1	2	0.1
Civil union	2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Total	3,842	100.0	2,413	100.0

TABLE 14. NUMBER OF LEGAL DEPENDENTS

	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
MSS	381	1-9	1.9	1.1	2.0
EOPS	308	1-11	2.0	1.3	2.0

Note: Respondents who did not report having any legal dependents were excluded from this table.

10.3% of matriculating students (MSS) and 14.2% of graduating students (EOPS) reported having legal dependents.

TABLE 15. GEOGRAPHIC ORIGINS

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Northeast Region				
New England Division	290	7.5	162	6.1
Middle Atlantic Division	769	19.9	574	21.8
Subtotal	1,059	27.5	736	27.9
Midwest Region				
East North Central Division	676	17.5	559	21.2
West North Central Division	267	6.9	266	10.1
Subtotal	943	24.5	825	31.3
South Region				
South Atlantic Division	754	19.6	431	16.3
East South Central Division	143	3.7	80	3.0
West South Central Division	276	7.2	195	7.4
Subtotal	1,173	30.4	706	26.8
West Region				
Mountain Division	308	8.0	168	6.4
Pacific Division	373	9.7	203	7.7
Subtotal	681	17.7	371	14.1
Total	3,856	100.0	2,638	100.0

Note: Geographic origins were determined based on students' home ZIP codes.

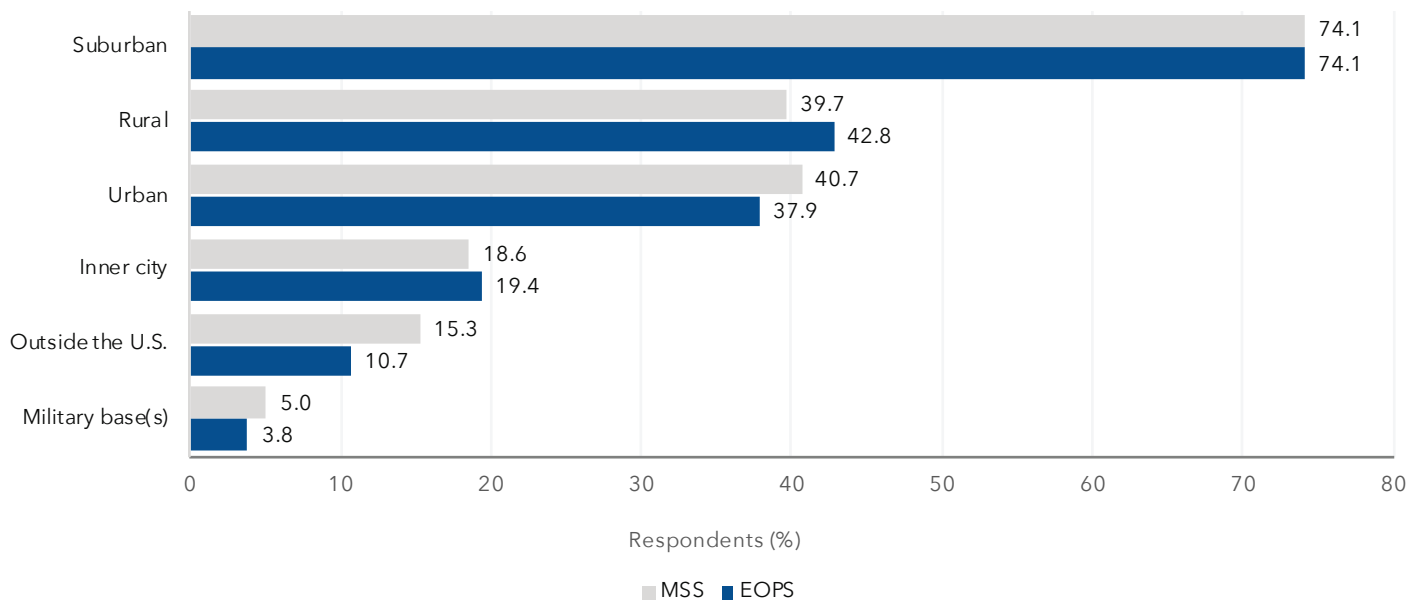
46.5% of matriculating students (MSS) and 38.9% of graduating students (EOPS) reported attending PA school outside of their home state.

TABLE 16. PERCENT OF LIFE SPENT IN VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTS (%)

	MSS					EOPS				
	<i>n</i>	% Reporting	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>	<i>n</i>	% Reporting	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
Inner city	731	18.6	29.5	31.1	19.0	502	19.4	31.2	32.2	20.0
Military base(s)	197	5.0	20.3	18.7	15.0	98	3.8	19.3	17.9	13.5
Native American/American Indian reservation	15	0.4	10.7	25.2	2.0	8	0.3	27.2	32.6	10.0
Outside the U.S.	602	15.3	16.8	22.4	5.0	277	10.7	17.3	22.2	6.0
Rural	1,562	39.7	56.5	35.2	65.0	1,107	42.8	58.3	34.7	70.0
Suburban	2,917	74.1	74.1	30.0	85.0	1,917	74.1	73.4	30.4	85.0
Urban	1,600	40.7	33.1	31.4	20.0	980	37.9	31.3	30.2	20.0
Other	4	0.1	33.8	45.0	16.5	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total	3,934	-	-	-	-	2,586	-	-	-	-

Note: “% Reporting” represents the proportion of respondents who selected each environment and may sum to more than 100% because respondents could select multiple environments.

FIGURE 6. LIFE ENVIRONMENTS



Note: This figure displays the proportion of respondents who indicated that they had lived in each environment. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents could select multiple environments. “Native American/American Indian reservation” and “Other” were excluded due to low frequencies.

Students were presented with a list of all environments and asked to indicate the percentage of their lives they had spent in each. Students’ self-reported percentages had to sum to 100%.

EDUCATION

TABLE 17. HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION PRIOR TO ENROLLING IN PA SCHOOL

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
High school diploma/GED	34	0.9	30	1.1
Some college but no degree	157	3.9	58	2.2
Associate's degree	19	0.5	13	0.5
Bachelor of Arts (BA)	560	14.1	398	14.8
Bachelor of Science (BS)	2,817	70.8	1,883	70.2
Other bachelor's degree (e.g., business, BFA)	50	1.3	43	1.6
Master's degree (health- or natural sciences-related; e.g., MPH)	225	5.7	173	6.5
Master's degree (not health- or natural-sciences related; e.g., MBA)	76	1.9	54	2.0
Academic doctorate (health- or natural sciences-related; e.g., biology PhD)	10	0.3	9	0.3
Professional doctorate (health-related; e.g., MD)	6	0.2	7	0.3
Professional doctorate (not health-related; e.g., JD)	3	0.1	4	0.1
Foreign medical graduate/unlicensed medical graduate	9	0.2	4	0.1
Other	22	0.6	5	0.2
Total	3,978	100.0	2,681	100.0

TABLE 18. YEARS SINCE COMPLETING MOST RECENT DEGREE

	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	P10	P25	P50 (<i>Mdn</i>)	P75	P90
Years	3,778	0.0-32.0	2.9	3.2	0.0	1.0	2.0	4.0	6.0

Note: Years since completing most recent degree was calculated by subtracting respondents' reports of the year they finished their most recent degree from 2017, the year the survey was administered. This question was only asked of matriculating students (MSS).

SECTION 3. HEALTH & WELL-BEING

WELL-BEING

The following questions were adapted from the AAMC's [Matriculating Student Questionnaire \(MSQ\)](#).

TABLE 19. FATIGUE

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
MSS	3,997	5.1	2.4	5.0
EOPS	2,646	5.8	2.5	6.0

Note: Respondents were asked to report their level of fatigue during the past 30 days, where 0 = "No fatigue" and 10 = "Constant tiredness."

TABLE 20. FINANCIAL CONCERNS

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
MSS	4,005	5.7	2.8	6.0
EOPS	2,650	6.6	2.8	7.0

Note: Respondents were asked to report their financial concerns during the past 30 days, where 0 = "No concerns" and 10 = "Constant concerns."

TABLE 21. SATISFACTION WITH SOCIAL SUPPORT

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
MSS	4,005	8.7	1.6	9.0
EOPS	2,652	8.5	1.7	9.0

Note: Respondents were asked to report their level of satisfaction with social support from friends and family during the past 30 days, where 0 = "Not at all satisfied" and 10 = "Highly satisfied."

TABLE 22. OVERALL WELL-BEING

	MSS				EOPS			
	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
Overall quality of life	4,003	8.1	1.6	8.0	2,656	8.1	1.6	8.0
Overall mental well-being	4,002	7.8	1.8	8.0	2,657	7.7	1.8	8.0
Overall physical well-being	4,000	7.6	1.8	8.0	2,656	7.4	1.9	8.0
Overall emotional well-being	4,001	7.6	1.9	8.0	2,652	7.6	1.9	8.0
Level of social activity	4,000	6.9	2.4	7.0	2,657	7.0	2.3	7.0
Spiritual well-being	3,995	7.5	2.0	8.0	2,651	7.4	2.0	8.0

Note: Respondents were asked to report their overall well-being during the past week, where 0 = "As bad as it can be" and 10 = "As good as it can be."

STRESS

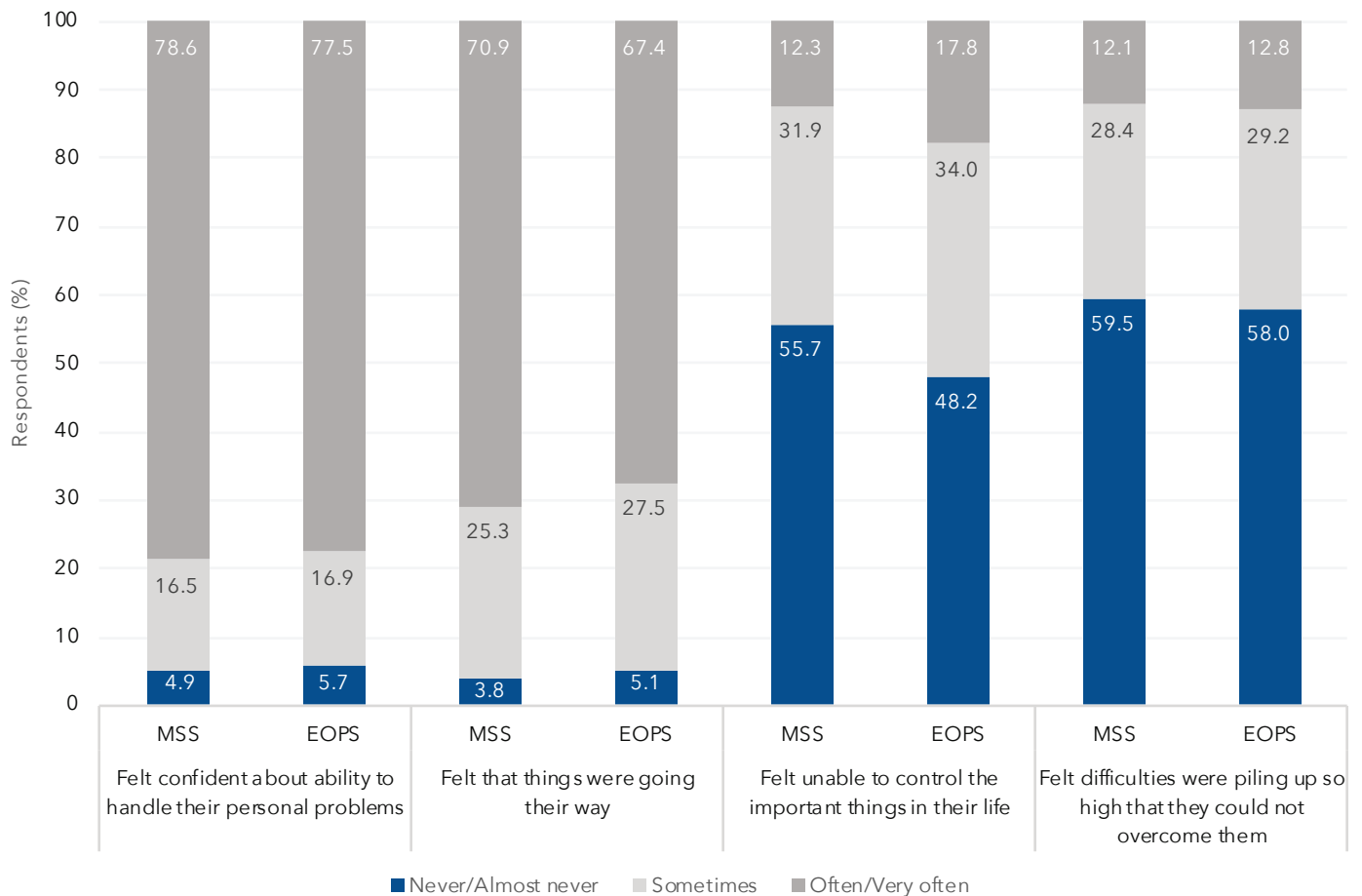
The following questions were drawn from the Perceived Stress Scale.* Respondents were asked to report how often they experienced certain thoughts and feelings during the last month using a 5-point scale, where 1 = “Never” to 5 = “Very often.”

*Cohen S, Kamarck T, Mermelstein R. A global measure of perceived stress. *J Health Soc Behav.* 1983;24:386-396.

TABLE 23. STRESS

	MSS				EOPS			
	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
Felt confident about ability to handle their personal problems	3,991	4.0	0.9	4.0	2,657	4.0	0.9	4.0
Felt that things were going their way	3,990	3.9	0.8	4.0	2,657	3.8	0.8	4.0
Felt unable to control the important things in their life	3,991	2.4	1.0	2.0	2,658	2.6	1.0	3.0
Felt difficulties were piling up so high that they could not overcome them	3,992	2.4	1.0	2.0	2,658	2.4	1.0	2.0

FIGURE 7. STRESS



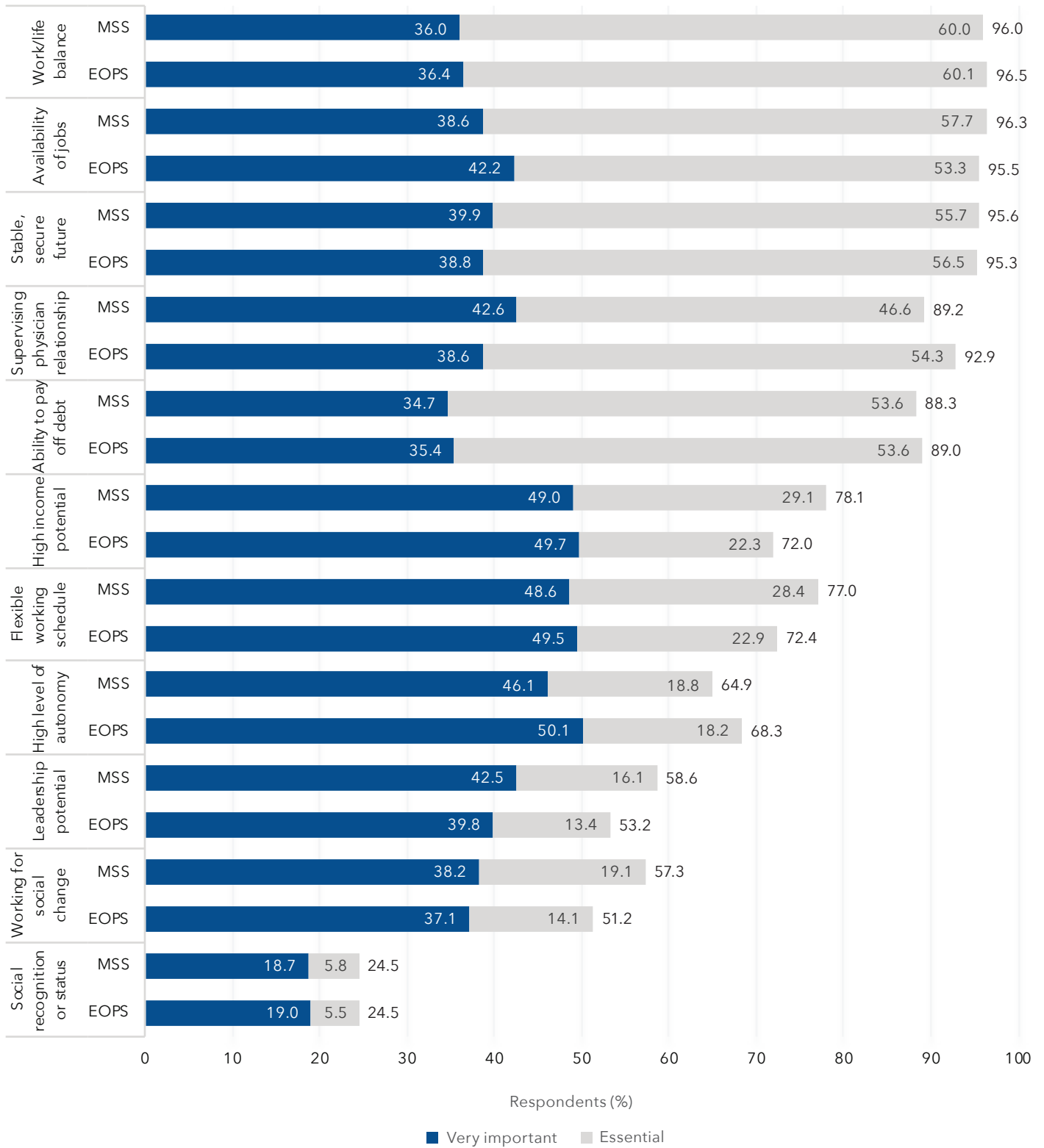
SECTION 4. FUTURE PRACTICE

TABLE 24. IMPORTANCE OF CONSIDERATIONS FOR CAREER PATH AFTER PA SCHOOL

	MSS				EOPS			
	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
Ability to pay off debt	3,830	3.4	0.8	4.0	2,463	3.4	0.8	4.0
Availability of jobs	3,831	3.5	0.6	4.0	2,457	3.5	0.6	4.0
Flexible working schedule	3,832	3.0	0.7	3.0	2,460	2.9	0.8	3.0
High income potential	3,831	3.1	0.7	3.0	2,459	2.9	0.8	3.0
High level of autonomy	3,831	2.8	0.8	3.0	2,460	2.8	0.8	3.0
Leadership potential	3,827	2.7	0.8	3.0	2,459	2.6	0.8	3.0
Social recognition or status	3,828	2.0	0.9	2.0	2,459	2.0	0.9	2.0
Stable, secure future	3,831	3.5	0.6	4.0	2,462	3.5	0.6	4.0
Supervising physician relationship	3,826	3.3	0.7	3.0	2,460	3.5	0.6	4.0
Work/life balance	3,826	3.6	0.6	4.0	2,460	3.6	0.6	4.0
Working for social change	3,826	2.7	0.9	3.0	2,457	2.6	0.9	3.0

Note: 1 = "Not important"; 2 = "Somewhat important"; 3 = "Very important"; 4 = "Essential"

FIGURE 8. IMPORTANCE OF CONSIDERATIONS FOR CAREER PATH AFTER PA SCHOOL



Note: This figure presents the proportion of respondents who rated each consideration as either “very important” or “essential.”

FIGURE 9. MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR CAREER PATH AFTER PA SCHOOL

	MSS	EOPS
Most Important	Work/life balance	Work/life balance
	Availability of jobs	Stable, secure future
	Stable, secure future	Availability of jobs
	Ability to pay off debt	Supervising physician relationship
	Supervising physician relationship	Ability to pay off debt

Note: Rankings were based on respondents' average reports of importance for each consideration.

TABLE 25. EXPECTED SALARY FOR FULL-TIME POSITION AS A PA

	MSS			EOPS		
	n	%	% (Cum.)	n	%	% (Cum.)
\$49,999 or less	1	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
\$50,000 - \$59,999	10	0.3	0.3	6	0.4	0.4
\$60,000 - \$69,999	60	1.6	1.8	8	0.6	1.0
\$70,000 - \$79,999	277	7.2	9.0	49	3.4	4.4
\$80,000 - \$89,999	1,015	26.3	35.4	402	27.9	32.3
\$90,000 - \$99,999	1,460	37.9	73.3	641	44.5	76.8
\$100,000 - \$109,999	755	19.6	92.9	263	18.3	95.0
\$110,000 - \$119,999	178	4.6	97.5	52	3.6	98.6
\$120,000 - \$129,999	58	1.5	99.0	9	0.6	99.2
\$130,000 or more	39	1.0	100.0	11	0.8	100.0
Total	3,853	100.0	-	1,441	100.0	-

Note: "% (Cum.)" refers to the cumulative percentage of respondents. Graduating students (EOPS) who indicated that they had already accepted a job offer or that they did not plan to apply for a position as a PA were not asked to respond to this question.

TABLE 26. DESIRABILITY OF SPECIALTIES (%)

	MSS					EOPS				
	<i>n</i>	Und.	Neither Und. nor Des.	Des.	Do Not Know Enough	<i>n</i>	Und.	Neither Und. nor Des.	Des.	Do Not Know Enough
Emergency medicine specialties										
Emergency medicine (not urgent care)	3,814	11.2	17.5	67.3	4.0	2,387	14.4	15.7	69.7	0.2
Urgent care	3,801	16.0	30.1	50.3	3.5	2,364	14.3	24.0	60.7	1.0
Inpatient specialties										
Critical care	3,793	11.9	26.7	53.2	8.2	2,361	31.6	24.7	40.2	3.5
Hospitalist	3,782	16.5	33.0	37.9	12.6	2,352	28.7	26.8	42.6	2.0
Internal medicine subspecialties										
Cardiology	3,794	9.2	26.9	57.2	6.7	2,358	24.8	29.9	43.6	1.8
Endocrinology	3,810	21.5	38.6	25.6	14.3	2,360	41.6	34.2	20.3	3.9
Gastroenterology	3,799	25.8	40.0	22.5	11.7	2,360	30.0	36.4	30.9	2.6
Infectious Disease	3,806	18.3	33.6	38.0	10.1	2,357	36.8	35.3	23.5	4.4
Nephrology	3,810	26.0	41.8	16.3	15.8	2,359	50.4	34.0	10.8	4.7
Oncology/Hematology	3,805	17.8	31.4	42.3	8.5	2,358	43.6	30.2	20.8	5.5
Rheumatology	3,789	27.1	40.8	13.7	18.5	2,354	47.2	35.6	12.8	4.4
Other internal medicine subspecialties	1,131	19.9	37.0	9.6	33.4	513	34.5	32.7	12.7	20.1
Primary care specialties										
Family/General medicine	3,799	10.7	23.2	63.6	2.5	2,371	19.0	21.7	59.0	0.2
General internal medicine	3,811	11.1	28.8	54.9	5.2	2,366	22.8	26.3	50.5	0.4
General pediatrics	3,812	20.5	24.3	51.9	3.2	2,365	36.5	25.0	38.2	0.3
Geriatrics	3,805	41.5	35.6	18.8	4.1	2,353	47.5	34.6	16.5	1.4
Obstetrics/Gynecology/Women's health	3,791	26.7	28.0	40.8	4.4	2,342	35.3	26.9	37.3	0.4
Surgical specialties										
Cardiovascular/Cardiothoracic surgery	3,813	12.1	25.2	55.0	7.7	2,358	34.6	25.9	36.7	2.8
General surgery	3,783	11.3	21.1	61.8	5.8	2,350	33.4	20.9	45.4	0.3
Neurosurgery	3,814	20.7	29.1	40.8	9.3	2,356	49.0	27.4	17.6	6.0
Orthopedics	3,813	15.9	23.4	54.8	5.9	2,370	36.7	22.5	39.4	1.4
Urology	3,807	36.1	37.8	14.9	11.2	2,351	52.0	29.0	13.1	5.9
Plastic surgery	3,803	29.0	29.3	34.0	7.7	2,360	39.7	24.1	30.0	6.2
Other surgical subspecialties	1,079	20.6	32.2	15.8	31.4	488	36.1	25.8	18.6	19.5
Other specialties										
Correctional medicine	3,797	37.6	31.0	7.8	23.7	2,345	63.4	21.8	5.0	9.9
Dermatology	3,809	21.1	25.5	48.9	4.6	2,355	34.1	25.1	38.6	2.3
Interventional radiology	3,812	26.3	34.1	19.7	19.9	2,352	41.6	26.6	21.4	10.4
Neurology	3,814	17.6	33.2	39.7	9.5	2,349	46.1	32.5	16.8	4.6
Occupational medicine	3,815	32.1	37.2	12.6	18.1	2,345	57.5	26.7	6.1	9.7
Pain management	3,815	49.4	30.0	10.8	9.8	2,354	73.2	17.6	5.2	3.9
Palliative care	3,811	38.1	32.9	11.8	17.2	2,351	58.3	25.5	9.8	6.5
Pediatric subspecialties	3,814	20.7	23.9	47.9	7.5	2,354	40.8	23.7	31.8	3.7
Psychiatry/Behavioral medicine	3,818	39.0	30.6	23.6	6.8	2,358	52.7	26.8	19.3	1.2
Retail clinic	3,812	48.1	27.3	5.4	19.3	2,348	68.7	16.8	4.6	10.0
Other specialties	1,027	25.8	31.9	9.2	33.1	429	36.1	28.9	12.6	22.4

Note: "Und." = "Undesirable"; "Des." = "Desirable"

FIGURE 10. MOST DESIRABLE SPECIALTIES

	MSS	EOPS
Most Desirable	Emergency medicine (not urgent care)	Emergency medicine (not urgent care)
	Family/General medicine	Urgent care
	General surgery	Family/General medicine
	Cardiology	General internal medicine
	Cardiovascular/ Cardiothoracic surgery	General surgery
	General internal medicine	Cardiology
	Orthopedics	Hospitalist
	Critical care	Critical care
	General pediatrics	Orthopedics
	Urgent care	Dermatology

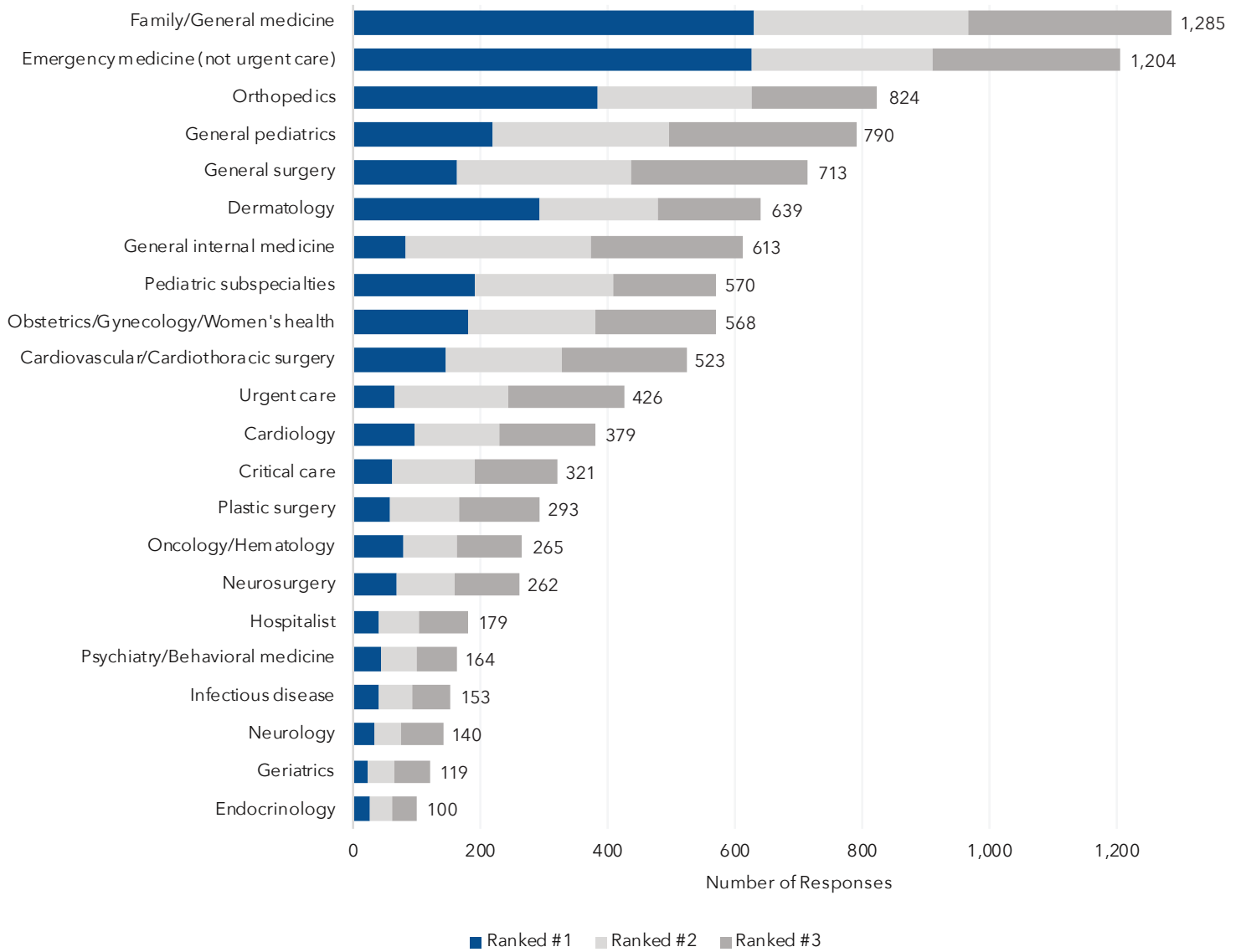
Note: Rankings were based on the proportion of respondents who indicated that a specialty was desirable.

TABLE 27. NUMBER OF SPECIALTIES CONSIDERED DESIRABLE

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	P10	P25	P50 (Mdn)	P75	P90
MSS	3,851	11.4	5.4	5.0	8.0	11.0	14.0	18.0
EOPS	2,416	9.1	4.6	4.0	6.0	8.0	11.0	15.0

Respondents were asked to indicate whether each of 35 specialties was desirable to them. This table presents information on how many specialties respondents thought were desirable.

FIGURE 11. RANKINGS OF DESIRABLE SPECIALTIES: MSS



After indicating whether each of 35 specialties was desirable, respondents were presented with a list of all specialties they had rated as “desirable” and asked to rank the specialties within that list. **Figures 11 and 12** present the number of matriculating (MSS) and graduating (EOPS) students, respectively, who ranked each specialty as one of their top 3 choices. Only specialties that had been ranked in the top 3 by more than 100 students are displayed. A technical problem in our survey hosting platform prevented EOPS respondents from ranking the desirability of gastroenterology.

FIGURE 12. RANKINGS OF DESIRABLE SPECIALTIES: EOPS

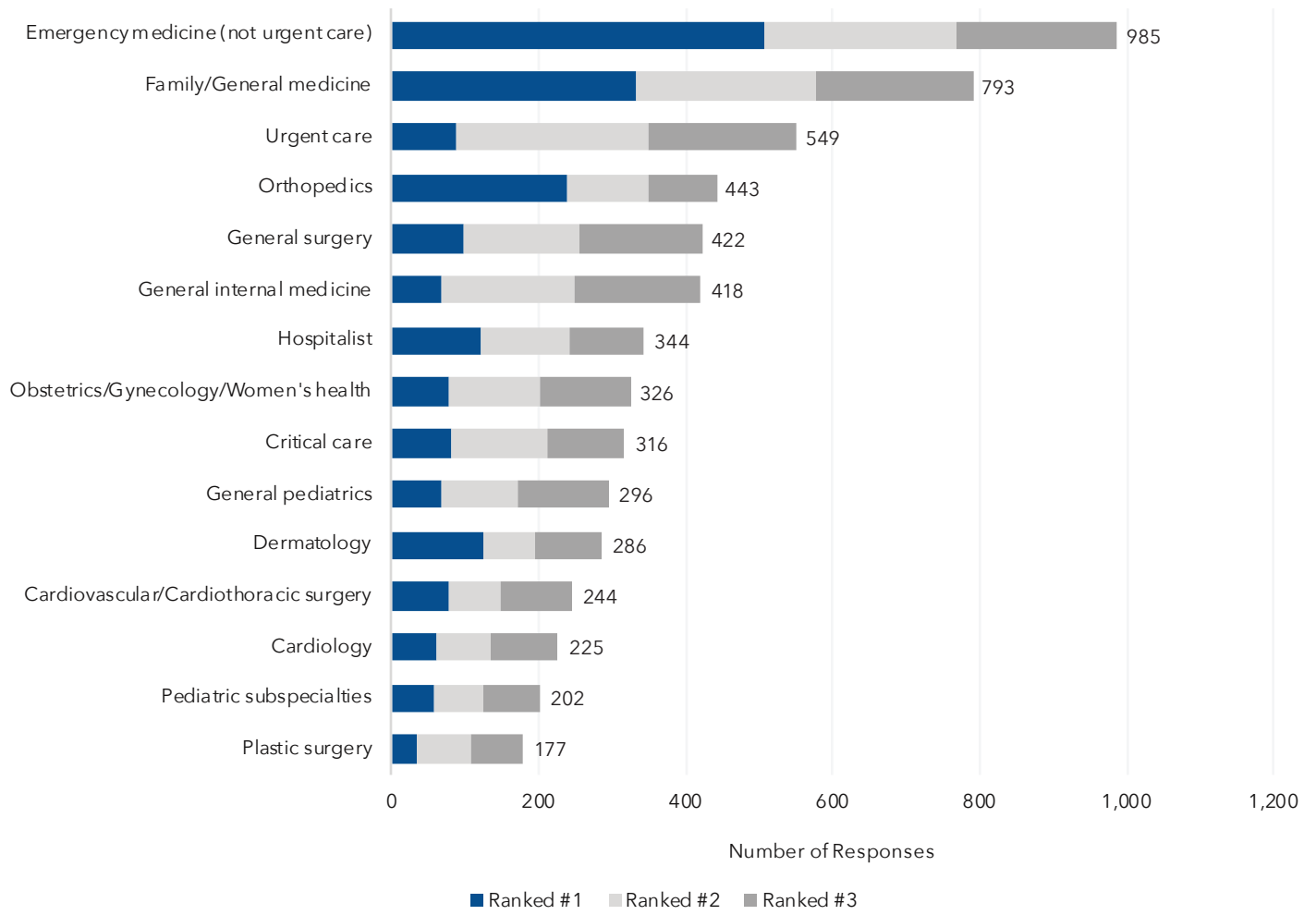


FIGURE 13. HIGHEST RANKED SPECIALTIES

	MSS	EOPS
Highest Ranked	Family/General medicine	Emergency medicine (not urgent care)
	Emergency medicine (not urgent care)	Family/General medicine
	Orthopedics	Orthopedics
	Dermatology	Dermatology
	General pediatrics	Hospitalist
	Pediatric subspecialties	General surgery
	Obstetrics/Gynecology/ Women's health	Urgent care
	General surgery	Critical care
	Cardiovascular/ Cardiothoracic surgery	Obstetrics/Gynecology/ Women's health
	Cardiology	Cardiovascular/ Cardiothoracic surgery

Note: Rankings were based on the number of respondents who rated each specialty as their top choice.

TABLE 28. PLANS TO PRACTICE IN SAME STATE AS PROGRAM AFTER GRADUATION

	MSS		EOPS	
	n	%	n	%
Practice in program state				
In-state students	1,820	47.8	667	47.4
Out-of-state students	534	14.0	193	13.7
Students of unknown residency	63	1.7	18	1.3
Practice outside of program state				
In-state students	179	4.7	135	9.6
Out-of-state students	1,173	30.8	389	27.6
Students of unknown residency	41	1.1	6	0.4
All respondents	3,810	100.0	1,408	100.0

Respondents were asked to select the state where they expected to practice upon graduation. Among graduating students (EOPS), those who had already accepted a position were not asked to respond to this question. If the state they expected to practice in was the same state where their program was located, they were considered to be planning to “practice in program state.” Otherwise, they were considered to be planning to “practice outside of program state.” Students’ residency status was based on their self-reported program states and home ZIP codes.

FIGURE 14. PLANS TO PRACTICE IN SAME STATE AS PROGRAM AFTER GRADUATION BY STUDENT RESIDENCY

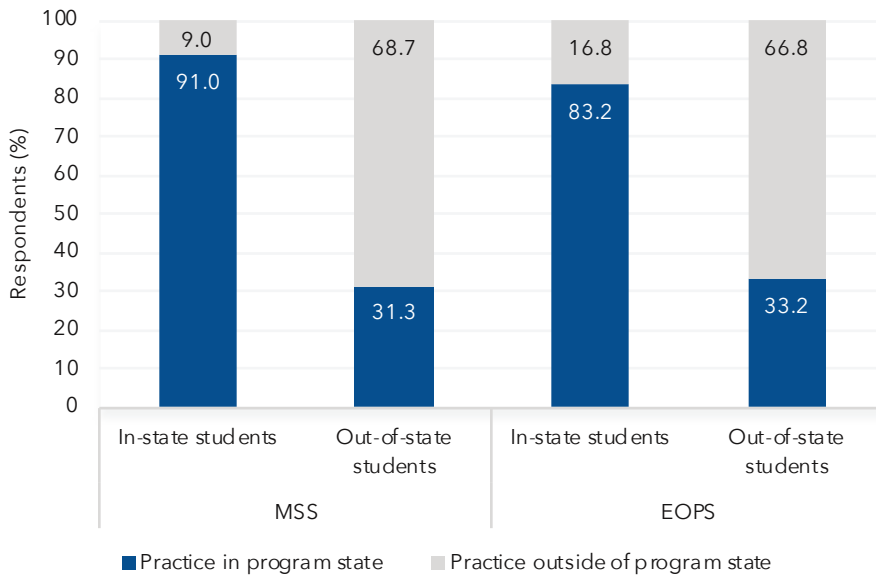


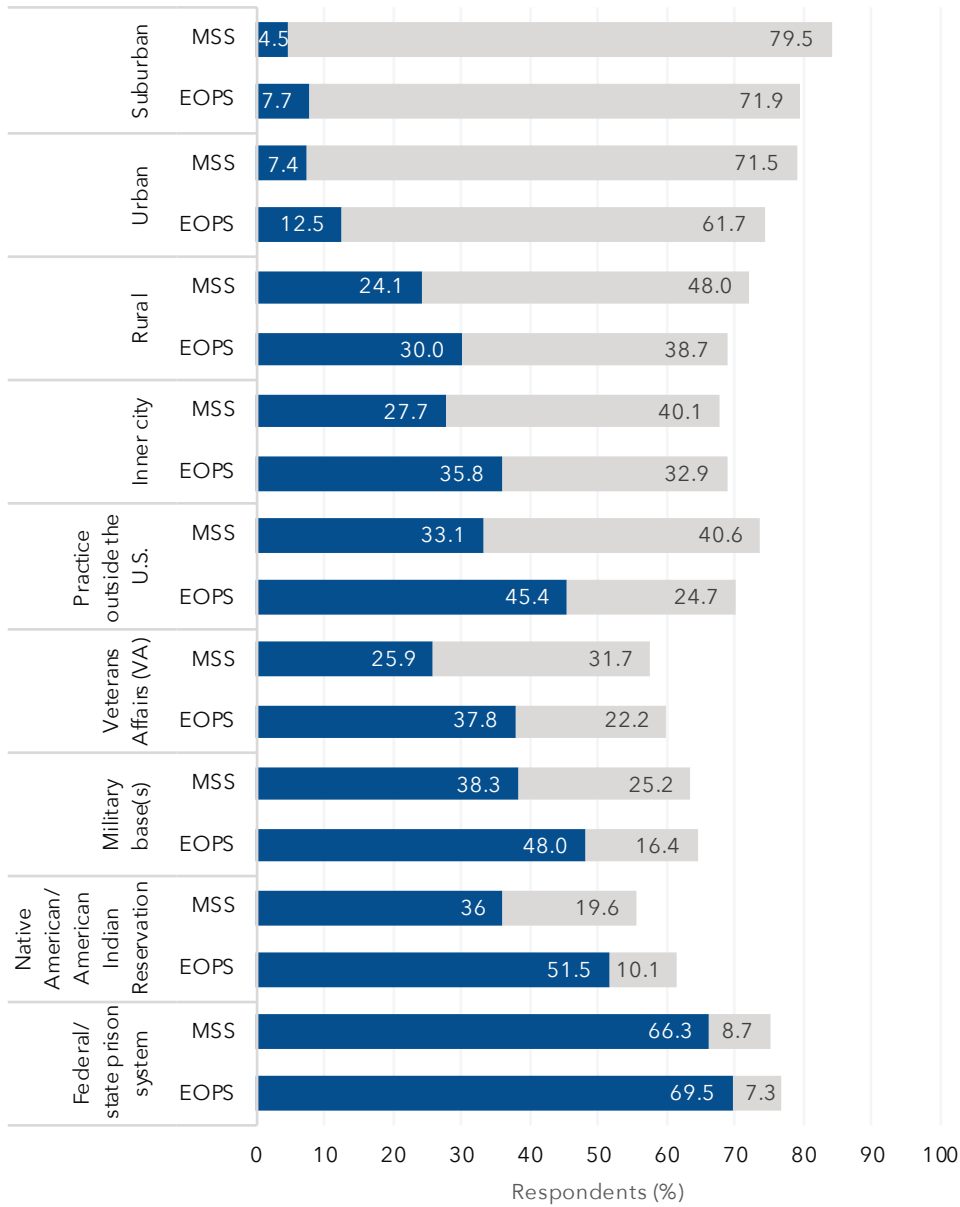
Table 28 shows the residency statuses of students who wanted to practice in or outside of their program state. Figure 14 shows the proportion of in- and out-of-state students who intended to practice in or outside of their program state.

TABLE 29. DESIRABILITY OF PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTS

	MSS				EOPS			
	n	M	SD	Mdn	n	M	SD	Mdn
Inner city	3,814	3.2	1.1	3.0	2,410	2.9	1.1	3.0
Rural	3,829	3.3	1.1	3.0	2,406	3.1	1.1	3.0
Suburban	3,846	4.0	0.8	4.0	2,407	3.8	0.9	4.0
Urban	3,826	3.8	0.9	4.0	2,402	3.6	0.9	4.0
Federal/state prison system	3,771	2.1	1.0	2.0	2,366	2.0	1.0	2.0
Military base(s)	3,782	2.8	1.1	3.0	2,374	2.5	1.0	3.0
Practice outside the US	3,796	3.0	1.2	3.0	2,369	2.6	1.2	3.0
Native American/American Indian Reservation	3,776	2.7	1.0	3.0	2,365	2.4	1.0	2.0
Veterans Affairs (VA)	3,783	3.0	1.0	3.0	2,367	2.7	1.0	3.0

Note: 1 = “Very undesirable” to 5 = “Very desirable”

FIGURE 15. DESIRABILITY OF PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTS



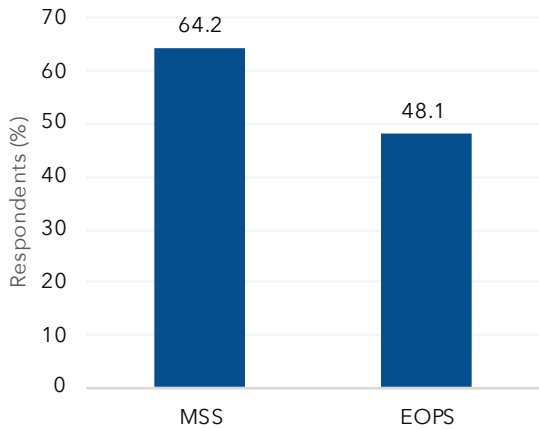
Note: Categories were collapsed such that "Undesirable" includes "Very undesirable" and "Undesirable" responses, and "Desirable" includes "Very desirable" and "Desirable" responses.

TABLE 30. SELF-REPORTED LIKELIHOOD OF WORKING IN A MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA (MUA) AFTER GRADUATION

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
MSS	3,867	3.8	1.0	4.0
EOPS	2,430	3.5	1.0	3.0

Note: 1 = "Very unlikely" to 5 = "Very likely"

FIGURE 16. SELF-REPORTED LIKELIHOOD OF WORKING IN A MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA (MUA) AFTER GRADUATION



Note: This figure presents the proportion of respondents who indicated that they were either “likely” or “very likely” to work in an MUA after graduation.

TABLE 31. INTEREST IN PRACTICE SETTINGS

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
Group private practice	2,363	3.0	0.9	3.0
Community health center (CHC)	2,361	2.6	0.9	3.0
Health maintenance organization (HMO)	2,345	2.6	0.9	3.0
Solo private practice	2,364	2.5	1.0	3.0
Accountable care organization (ACO)	2,342	2.3	0.9	2.0

Note: This question was only asked of graduating students (EOPS). Respondents were asked to indicate how much they would like to practice in each setting, where 1 = “Not at all” to 4 = “Very much.”

TABLE 32. SELF-REPORTED LIKELIHOOD OF PURSUING CAREER AS PA EDUCATOR

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
MSS	3,871	3.4	1.0	3.0
EOPS	2,429	3.3	1.1	3.0

Note: 1 = “Very unlikely” to 5 = “Very likely”

SECTION 5. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TABLE 33. HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	Considered Dependent by Parents			Not Considered Dependent by Parents		
	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)
Less than \$25,000	164	5.6	5.6	1,484	48.1	48.1
\$25,000 - \$49,999	277	9.5	15.1	555	18.0	66.0
\$50,000 - \$74,999	437	15.0	30.1	363	11.8	77.8
\$75,000 - \$99,999	467	16.0	46.0	254	8.2	86.0
\$100,000 - \$149,999	734	25.1	71.2	230	7.4	93.5
\$150,000 - \$199,999	372	12.7	83.9	99	3.2	96.7
\$200,000 - \$249,999	179	6.1	90.0	43	1.4	98.1
\$250,000 - \$299,999	100	3.4	93.5	26	0.8	98.9
\$300,000 or higher	191	6.5	100.0	34	1.1	100.0
Total	2,921	100.0	-	3,088	100.0	-

This question was only asked of matriculating students (MSS). Respondents who were considered to be a dependent by their parents reported on the estimated combined (both parents/guardians) gross income for their families. Respondents who were not considered to be a dependent reported on their estimated gross income for themselves and, if applicable, their spouse/partner. “% (Cum.)” refers to the cumulative percentage of respondents.

FINANCING PRE-PA EDUCATION

TABLE 34. HOLD OUTSTANDING PRE-PA EDUCATIONAL LOANS

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Yes	1,811	47.9	1,209	50.5
No	1,967	52.1	1,186	49.5
Total	3,778	100.0	2,395	100.0

Respondents were asked whether they had outstanding educational loans, excluding interest, from their pre-PA education (i.e., undergraduate and/or non-PA graduate training) prior to entering their graduate PA programs. Those who said “Yes” were then asked to report the amount owed on their outstanding loans by providing exact dollar amounts or by selecting the appropriate range. All tables reporting the distribution of ranges include reports of exact dollar amounts when available, which were first recoded to the correct range. Zeroes and clear outliers were removed prior to analysis.

TABLE 35. AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING PRE-PA EDUCATIONAL LOANS (\$)

	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>M</i> (<i>T</i>)	<i>SD</i>	<i>P</i> 10	<i>P</i> 25	<i>P</i> 50 (<i>Mdn</i>)	<i>P</i> 75	<i>P</i> 90
MSS	1,291	200-300,000	31,109	26,612	27,623	6,000	14,000	25,000	38,000	60,000
EOPS	545	1,000-580,000	38,217	30,634	43,644	7,000	14,000	25,000	46,000	80,000

Note: "*M* (*T*)" refers to the trimmed mean, or the mean when the top and bottom 10% of values are removed.

TABLE 36. AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING PRE-PA EDUCATIONAL LOANS (RANGES)

	MSS			EOPS		
	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)
\$1 - \$24,999	803	44.8	44.8	469	39.1	39.1
\$25,000 - \$49,999	631	35.2	80.0	363	30.2	69.3
\$50,000 - \$74,999	209	11.7	91.6	144	12.0	81.3
\$75,000 - \$99,999	74	4.1	95.8	89	7.4	88.7
\$100,000 - \$124,999	45	2.5	98.3	66	5.5	94.2
\$125,000 - \$149,999	12	0.7	98.9	21	1.7	95.9
\$150,000 - \$174,999	12	0.7	99.6	24	2.0	97.9
\$175,000 - \$199,999	3	0.2	99.8	12	1.0	98.9
\$200,000 - \$224,999	3	0.2	99.9	9	0.7	99.7
\$225,000 or more	1	0.1	100.0	4	0.3	100.0
Total	1,793	100.0	-	1,201	100.0	-

Note: "% (Cum.)" refers to the cumulative percentage of respondents.

TABLE 37. SOURCES OF FINANCING FOR PRE-PA EDUCATION COSTS

	<i>n</i>	%
Family support (excluding support from spouse/partner)	2,079	55.2
Loans	1,992	52.9
Scholarships or awards from college/university	1,865	49.5
Personal income and savings	1,439	38.2
Scholarships or awards from external sources	1,263	33.5
Work-study program	495	13.1
Money earned by spouse/partner	168	4.5
Other		
Military benefits	70	1.9
Employer support (e.g., tuition reimbursement)	11	0.3
All other sources	23	0.6
Total	3,768	100.0

Note: Only matriculating students (MSS) were asked to respond to this question. Participants were not explicitly asked about military benefits or employer support; these categories were added based on recoded "Other" responses. Percentages will exceed 100% because respondents could select multiple categories.

Respondents were asked to indicate each source of funding for their pre-PA education costs. They were then presented with the list of all sources they had previously checked and asked to report the percentage of their funding from each source. Percentages had to sum to 100%.

TABLE 38. PERCENT OF PRE-PA EDUCATION COSTS PAID FOR BY EACH SOURCE (%)

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
Family support (excluding support from spouse/partner)	1,857	55.1	35.0	50.0
Loans	1,733	55.4	32.4	50.0
Scholarships or awards from college/university	1,661	39.7	30.1	30.0
Personal income and savings	1,237	23.1	27.4	10.0
Scholarships or awards from external sources	1,092	24.2	27.5	10.0
Work-study program	398	8.2	10.1	5.0
Money earned by spouse/partner	147	25.1	28.2	10.0
Other				
Military benefits	68	84.9	21.5	99.0
Employer support (e.g., tuition reimbursement)	11	46.3	29.6	50.0
All other sources	13	75.0	25.9	77.0

Note: Only matriculating students (MSS) were asked to respond to this question. Participants were not explicitly asked about military benefits or employer support; these categories were added based on recoded "Other" responses. Zeroes were removed prior to analysis.

FINANCING GRADUATE PA EDUCATION

TABLE 39. RECEIVED GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, OR STIPENDS FOR GRADUATE PA EDUCATION

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Yes	683	17.8	745	31.1
No	3,163	82.2	1,650	68.9
Total	3,846	100.0	2,395	100.0

Respondents were asked whether they had received any grants, scholarships, and/or stipends, excluding loans, for their graduate PA education. Those who said "Yes" were then asked to report the amount still owed on their outstanding loans by providing exact dollar amounts or by selecting the appropriate range. All tables reporting the distribution of ranges include reports of exact dollar amounts when available, which were first recoded to the correct range. Zeroes and clear outliers were removed prior to analysis.

TABLE 40. AMOUNT OF GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, OR STIPENDS (\$)

	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>M (T)</i>	<i>SD</i>	P10	P25	P50 (<i>Mdn</i>)	P75	P90
MSS	369	500-200,000	15,250	9,743	24,299	1,000	2,000	5,000	18,000	40,200
EOPS	327	200-200,000	13,585	8,488	22,827	1,000	1,275	4,000	15,000	35,800

Note: "M (T)" refers to the trimmed mean, or the mean when the top and bottom 10% of values are removed.

TABLE 41. AMOUNT OF GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, OR STIPENDS (RANGES)

	MSS			EOPS		
	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)
\$1 - \$4,999	260	40.9	40.9	365	49.9	49.9
\$5,000 - \$9,999	88	13.8	54.7	95	13.0	62.9
\$10,000 - \$14,999	74	11.6	66.4	62	8.5	71.4
\$15,000 - \$19,999	41	6.4	72.8	43	5.9	77.3
\$20,000 - \$24,999	33	5.2	78.0	35	4.8	82.1
\$25,000 - \$29,999	25	3.9	81.9	15	2.1	84.1
\$30,000 - \$49,999	54	8.5	90.4	53	7.3	91.4
\$50,000 - \$74,999	23	3.6	94.0	17	2.3	93.7
\$75,000 - \$99,999	21	3.3	97.3	17	2.3	96.0
\$100,000 or more	17	2.7	100.0	29	4.0	100.0
Total	636	100.0	-	731	100.0	-

Note: "% (Cum.)" refers to the cumulative percentage of respondents.

TABLE 42. TOOK OUT EDUCATIONAL LOANS TO PAY FOR GRADUATE PA EDUCATION

	MSS		EOPS	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Yes	2,638	74.1	1,981	83.7
No	924	25.9	387	16.3
Total	3,562	100.0	2,368	100.0

Respondents were asked whether they had taken out any educational loans to finance their graduate PA education. Those who said "Yes" were then asked to report the amount still owed on their outstanding loans by providing exact dollar amounts or by selecting the appropriate range. All tables reporting the distribution of ranges include reports of exact dollar amounts when available, which were first recoded to the correct range. Zeroes and clear outliers were removed prior to analysis.

TABLE 43. AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL LOANS FOR GRADUATE PA EDUCATION (\$)

	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>M (T)</i>	<i>SD</i>	P10	P25	P50 (Mdn)	P75	P90
MSS	1,011	1,000-250,000	61,668	57,676	41,164	15,000	25,000	54,000	85,000	120,000
EOPS	800	2,834-280,000	97,360	96,659	45,810	39,000	60,000	100,000	130,000	150,000

Note: "*M (T)*" refers to the trimmed mean, or the mean when the top and bottom 10% of values are removed.

TABLE 44. AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL LOANS FOR GRADUATE PA EDUCATION (RANGES)

	MSS			EOPS		
	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)
\$1 - \$4,999	505	19.8	19.8	126	6.5	6.5
\$5,000 - \$9,999	500	19.6	39.3	189	9.7	16.2
\$10,000 - \$14,999	521	20.4	59.7	303	15.6	31.7
\$15,000 - \$19,999	447	17.5	77.2	362	18.6	50.3
\$20,000 - \$24,999	339	13.3	90.5	431	22.1	72.5
\$25,000 - \$29,999	139	5.4	95.9	241	12.4	84.8
\$30,000 - \$49,999	80	3.1	99.1	196	10.1	94.9
\$50,000 - \$74,999	18	0.7	99.8	65	3.3	98.3
\$75,000 - \$99,999	4	0.2	99.9	23	1.2	99.4
\$100,000 or more	2	0.1	100.0	11	0.6	100.0
Total	2,555	100.0	-	1,947	100.0	-

Note: "% (Cum.)" refers to the cumulative percentage of respondents.

TABLE 45. SOURCES OF FINANCING FOR GRADUATE PA EDUCATION COSTS

	<i>n</i>	%
Loans	3,226	85.6
Personal income and savings	1,311	34.8
Family support (excluding support from spouse/partner)	1,067	28.3
Money earned by spouse/partner	441	11.7
Scholarships or awards from external sources	438	11.6
Scholarships or awards from your college/university	409	10.9
Work-study program	52	1.4
Other		
Military benefits	74	2.0
All other sources	10	0.3
Total	3,759	99.8

Respondents were asked to indicate each source of funding for their graduate PA education costs. They were then presented with the list of all sources they had checked and asked to report the percentage of funding from each source. Percentages had to sum to 100%.

Note: Only matriculating students (MSS) were asked to respond to this question. Participants were not explicitly asked about military benefits; this category was added based on recoded "Other" responses. Percentages will exceed 100% because respondents could select multiple categories.

TABLE 46. PERCENT OF GRADUATE PA EDUCATION COSTS PAID FOR BY EACH SOURCE (%)

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
Loans	2,969	85.8	21.1	95.0
Personal income and savings	1,130	18.4	22.7	10.0
Family support (excluding support from spouse/partner)	931	46.3	36.6	35.0
Money earned by spouse/partner	383	20.8	22.2	10.0
Scholarships or awards from external sources	309	21.0	27.7	10.0
Scholarships or awards from your college/university	318	16.6	18.4	10.0
Work-study program	29	12.6	24.8	5.0
Other				
Military benefits	72	84.9	24.8	100.0
All other sources	18	72.1	31.0	80.0

Note: Only matriculating students (MSS) were asked to respond to this question. Participants were not explicitly asked about military benefits; this category was added based on recoded "Other" responses. Zeroes were removed prior to analysis.

TABLE 47. ANTICIPATED TOTAL DEBT FROM ATTENDING PA SCHOOL

	MSS			EOPS		
	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)
\$0	397	10.8	10.8	269	11.2	11.2
\$1 - \$24,999	166	4.5	15.3	118	4.9	16.1
\$25,000 - \$49,999	265	7.2	22.6	146	6.1	22.2
\$50,000 - \$74,999	443	12.1	34.7	213	8.9	31.1
\$75,000 - \$99,999	693	18.9	53.5	319	13.3	44.4
\$100,000 - \$124,999	815	22.2	75.8	421	17.5	61.9
\$125,000 - \$149,999	465	12.7	88.4	349	14.5	76.5
\$150,000 - \$174,999	257	7.0	95.4	269	11.2	87.7
\$175,000 - \$199,999	86	2.3	97.8	170	7.1	94.8
\$200,000 or greater	81	2.2	100.0	126	5.3	100.0
Total	3,668	100.0	-	2,400	100.0	-

Note: Total debt excludes personal debt. "% (Cum.);" refers to the cumulative percentage of respondents.

SERVICE INDEBTEDNESS & LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS

TABLE 48. SERVICE INDEBTEDNESS/LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

	MSS		EOPS	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	44	1.1	679	29.2
No	3,785	98.9	1,646	70.8
Total	3,829	100.0	2,325	100.0

Note: Matriculating students (MSS) were asked whether they had service indebtedness for their pre-PA education. Graduating students (EOPS) were asked whether they planned to enter a state or federal loan forgiveness program following their graduation.

TABLE 49. TYPE OF SERVICE INDEBTEDNESS/LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS

	MSS		EOPS	
	n	%	n	%
Armed Services (e.g., Navy, Army, Air Force)	21	72.4	34	5.2
Department of Education's Public-Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)	1	3.4	246	37.3
Indian Health Service Corps	0	0.0	26	3.9
National Health Service Corps	1	3.4	202	30.7
State loan forgiveness program	3	10.3	369	56.0
Uniformed Service (e.g., Centers for Disease Control, Department of Health and Human Services)	0	0.0	26	3.9
Other	3	10.3	32	4.9
Total	29	100.0	659	-

Matriculating students (MSS) reported their service indebtedness for their pre-PA education. Graduating students (EOPS) reported the type of loan forgiveness program they planned to enter following their graduation from PA school. Among graduating students (EOPS), percentages may exceed 100% because they could select multiple programs, whereas matriculating students (MSS) could select only one.

Consumer Debt

TABLE 50. HOLD NON-EDUCATIONAL, CONSUMER DEBT

	MSS		EOPS	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	1,075	29.2	766	32.5
No	2,605	70.8	1,592	67.5
Total	3,680	100.0	2,358	100.0

Respondents were asked whether they had any non-educational, consumer debt, which included car loans, credit card debt, and mortgages. Those who said "Yes" were asked to report the amount of their debt by providing exact dollar amounts or by selecting the appropriate range. All tables reporting the distribution of ranges include reports of exact dollar amounts when available, which were first recoded to the correct range. Zeroes and clear outliers were removed prior to analysis.

TABLE 51. AMOUNT OF NON-EDUCATIONAL, CONSUMER DEBT (\$)

	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>M</i> (T)	<i>SD</i>	P10	P25	P50 (<i>Mdn</i>)	P75	P90
MSS										
Car loans	499	185-80,000	12,913	11,605	10,055	3,000	6,000	11,000	17,000	25,000
Credit card debt	564	100-50,000	5,069	3,817	6,093	600	1,400	3,000	6,000	12,000
Mortgage	216	1,000-800,000	166,514	150,300	116,798	60,000	94,750	150,000	200,000	283,500
Other consumer debt	49	300-31,000	7,316	6,446	6,729	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	15,000
Total consumer debt										
Respondents with a mortgage	216	1,000-814,000	178,341	163,095	118,976	69,000	100,000	159,500	215,750	306,500
Respondents without a mortgage	660	100-85,000	10,768	8,994	10,989	1,000	3,000	8,000	15,000	23,000
All respondents	876	100-814,000	52,087	30,172	93,765	1,500	4,000	12,000	40,000	180,000
EOPS										
Car loans	306	100-80,000	12,915	11,223	11,766	2,000	6,000	10,000	16,375	25,000
Credit card debt	378	100-40,000	5,761	4,602	6,105	600	1,650	4,000	8,000	14,300
Mortgage	177	1,100-500,000	158,292	151,643	87,836	59,200	100,000	150,000	200,000	267,000
Other consumer debt	34	500-200,000	18,488	10,246	37,072	1,300	3,000	6,500	14,750	37,000
Total consumer debt										
Respondents with a mortgage	177	1,100-555,000	169,707	162,969	93,247	68,200	103,500	160,000	215,000	287,200
Respondents without a mortgage	423	100-210,000	11,200	9,100	14,560	1,000	3,000	8,500	15,000	23,000
All respondents	600	100-555,000	57,960	38,631	89,096	1,480	5,000	13,000	85,250	193,200

TABLE 52. AMOUNT OF NON-EDUCATIONAL, CONSUMER DEBT (RANGES)

	MSS			EOPS		
	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)
Car loans						
\$1 - \$4,999	106	17.6	17.6	56	17.3	17.3
\$5,000 - \$9,999	148	24.5	42.1	78	24.1	41.4
\$10,000 - \$14,999	147	24.4	66.5	79	24.4	65.7
\$15,000 - \$19,999	80	13.3	79.8	43	13.3	79.0
\$20,000 - \$24,999	62	10.3	90.0	32	9.9	88.9
\$25,000 - \$29,999	28	4.6	94.7	14	4.3	93.2
\$30,000 - \$49,999	25	4.1	98.8	14	4.3	97.5
\$50,000 - \$74,999	6	1.0	99.8	4	1.2	98.8
\$75,000 - \$99,999	1	0.2	100.0	3	0.9	99.7
\$100,000 or more	0	0.0	100.0	1	0.3	100.0
Subtotal	603	100.0	-	324	100.0	-
Credit card debt						
\$1 - \$4,999	431	62.6	62.6	209	53.6	53.6
\$5,000 - \$9,999	141	20.5	83.1	107	27.4	81.0
\$10,000 - \$14,999	55	8.0	91.1	34	8.7	89.7
\$15,000 - \$19,999	29	4.2	95.3	20	5.1	94.9
\$20,000 - \$24,999	20	2.9	98.3	8	2.1	96.9
\$25,000 - \$29,999	3	0.4	98.7	7	1.8	98.7
\$30,000 - \$49,999	4	0.6	99.3	5	1.3	100.0
\$50,000 - \$74,999	3	0.4	99.7	0	0.0	100.0
\$75,000 - \$99,999	1	0.1	99.9	0	0.0	100.0
\$100,000 or more	1	0.1	100.0	0	0.0	100.0
Subtotal	688	100.0	-	390	100.0	-
Mortgage						
\$1 - \$4,999	11	4.1	4.1	7	3.8	3.8
\$5,000 - \$9,999	4	1.5	5.6	0	0.0	3.8
\$10,000 - \$14,999	4	1.5	7.0	0	0.0	3.8
\$15,000 - \$19,999	2	0.7	7.8	2	1.1	4.9
\$20,000 - \$24,999	0	0.0	7.8	2	1.1	6.0
\$25,000 - \$29,999	2	0.7	8.5	0	0.0	6.0
\$30,000 - \$49,999	6	2.2	10.7	5	2.7	8.8
\$50,000 - \$74,999	21	7.8	18.5	13	7.1	15.9
\$75,000 - \$99,999	28	10.4	28.9	13	7.1	23.1
\$100,000 - \$124,999	37	13.7	42.6	25	13.7	36.8
\$125,000 - \$149,999	23	8.5	51.1	24	13.2	50.0
\$150,000 - \$174,999	34	12.6	63.7	25	13.7	63.7
\$175,000 - \$199,999	22	8.1	71.9	11	6.0	69.8
\$200,000 - \$224,999	25	9.3	81.1	21	11.5	81.3
\$225,000 - \$249,999	9	3.3	84.4	4	2.2	83.5
\$250,000 - \$274,999	10	3.7	88.1	11	6.0	89.6
\$275,000 - \$299,999	7	2.6	90.7	2	1.1	90.7

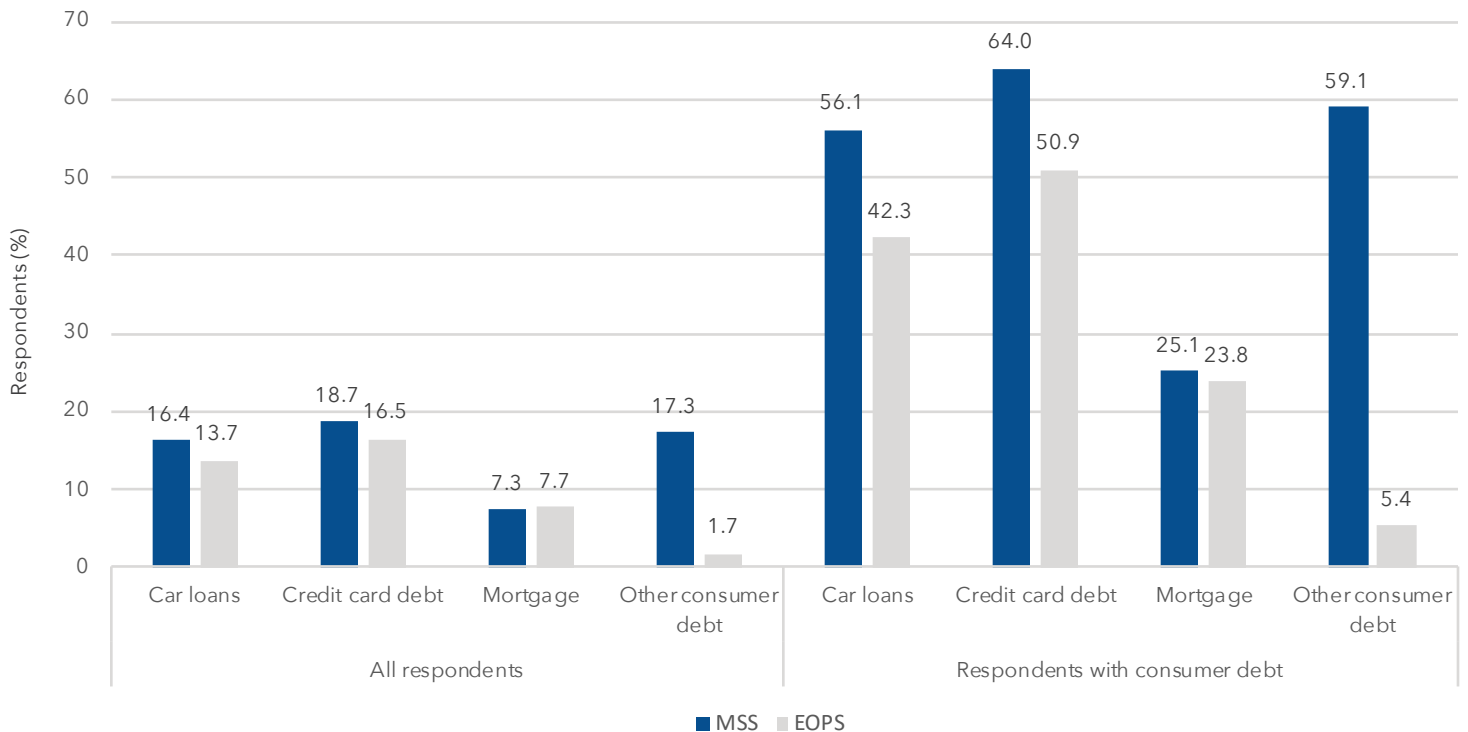
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TABLE 52. AMOUNT OF NON-EDUCATIONAL, CONSUMER DEBT (RANGES), CONTINUED

	MSS			EOPS		
	n	%	% (Cum.)	n	%	% (Cum.)
\$300,000 - \$349,999	6	2.2	93.0	9	4.9	95.6
\$350,000 - \$399,999	5	1.9	94.8	2	1.1	96.7
\$400,000 - \$449,999	5	1.9	96.7	2	1.1	97.8
\$450,000 - \$499,999	1	0.4	97.0	1	0.5	98.4
\$500,000 - \$549,999	3	1.1	98.1	1	0.5	98.9
\$550,000 - \$599,999	0	0.0	98.1	0	0.0	98.9
\$600,000 or higher	5	1.9	100.0	2	1.1	100.0
Subtotal	270	100.0	-	182	100.0	-
Other consumer debt						
\$1 - \$4,999	37	38.5	38.5	11	26.8	26.8
\$5,000 - \$9,999	23	24.0	62.5	7	17.1	43.9
\$10,000 - \$14,999	10	10.4	72.9	7	17.1	61.0
\$15,000 - \$19,999	8	8.3	81.3	5	12.2	73.2
\$20,000 - \$24,999	2	2.1	83.3	3	7.3	80.5
\$25,000 - \$29,999	2	2.1	85.4	1	2.4	82.9
\$30,000 - \$49,999	2	2.1	87.5	1	2.4	85.4
\$50,000 - \$74,999	0	0.0	87.5	3	7.3	92.7
\$75,000 - \$99,999	2	2.1	89.6	0	0.0	92.7
\$100,000 or more	10	10.4	100.0	3	7.3	100.0
Subtotal	96	100.0	-	41	100.0	-

Note: Zeroes were excluded from this analysis. "% (Cum.)" refers to the cumulative percentage of respondents.

FIGURE 17. TYPES OF NON-EDUCATIONAL, CONSUMER DEBT HELD



Note: In the "All respondents" section, percentages represent the proportion of all respondents who reported each type of debt. In the "Respondents with consumer debt" section, percentages represent the proportion of respondents who had each type of debt, out of only those respondents who reported having any consumer debt.

SECTION 6. MSS: MILITARY BACKGROUND

TABLE 53. CURRENT OR PAST MILITARY SERVICE

	<i>n</i>	%
Veteran/Commitment complete	87	48.9
Reserve military (active)	45	25.3
Regular military (active)	35	19.7
Regular military (inactive)	10	5.6
Reserve military (inactive)	1	0.6
Total	178	100.0

4.5% of respondents reported that they had served or were currently serving in the military.

TABLE 54. MILITARY BRANCH SERVED IN

	<i>n</i>	%
Army	97	54.2
Air Force	41	22.9
Navy	24	13.4
Marine Corps	9	5.0
Coast Guard	4	2.2
Other	4	2.2
Total	179	100.0

Note: If respondents had served in multiple branches, they were asked to select the one in which they had served the longest.

TABLE 55. YEARS OF ACTIVE DUTY

	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	P10	P25	P50 (<i>Mdn</i>)	P75	P90
Years enlisted	175	1.0-26.0	7.2	4.4	3.1	4.0	6.0	9.0	13.0

Note: Zeroes were excluded prior to analysis.

TABLE 56. MILITARY HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCE

	n	%
General duty medic or corpsman	69	59.5
Health care administration	12	10.3
Medical logistics	11	9.5
Combat lifesaving	11	9.5
Patient administration	8	6.9
Radiology	7	6.0
Mental health	5	4.3
Nursing	5	4.3
Operating room (e.g., surgical tech)	5	4.3
Dental	3	2.6
Nutrition care	3	2.6
Pharmacy	3	2.6
Respiratory	2	1.7
Other	25	21.6
Total	116	-

68.2% of military respondents reported that they had received health care-related training or experience in the military.

Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents could select multiple types of health care experiences.

SECTION 7. MSS: EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

FIGURE 18. PARENTS' HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

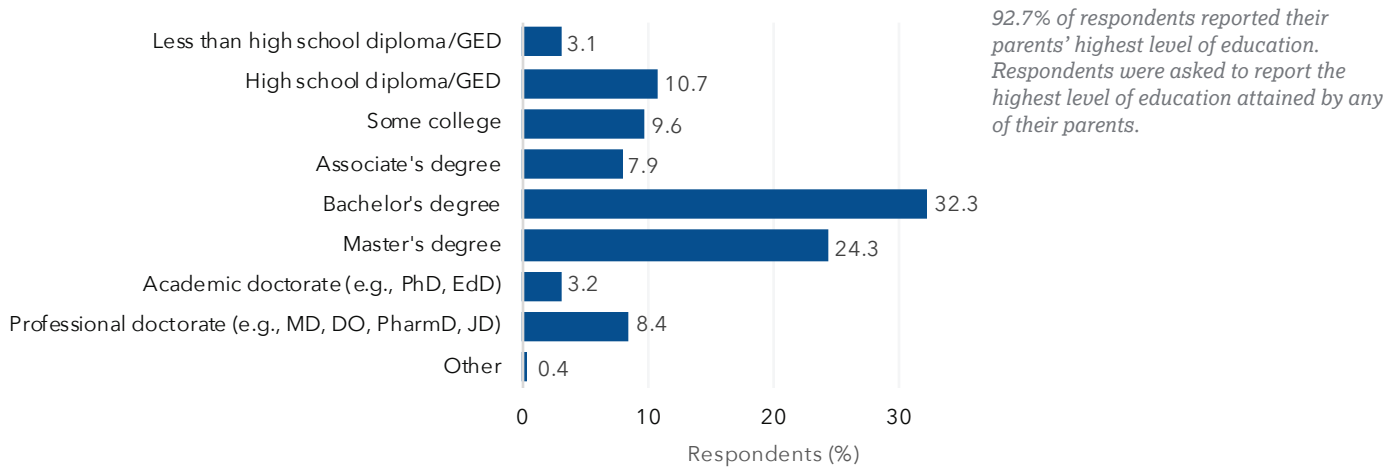


TABLE 57. BACHELOR'S DEGREE: PRIMARY MAJOR

	n	%
Biology (includes Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, and Zoology)	1,562	42.3
Health sciences	505	13.7
Exercise science/Athletic training	285	7.7
Psychology	241	6.5
Kinesiology	148	4.0
Chemistry (includes Biochemistry)	124	3.4
Nutrition/Dietetics	124	3.4
Neuroscience	96	2.6
Social sciences (e.g., Social work, Anthropology)	88	2.4
Premedical studies	84	2.3
Business	75	2.0
Public health	70	1.9
Humanities (e.g., History, Philosophy)	60	1.6
Foreign language (e.g., Spanish, French)	35	0.9
Fine arts (e.g., Performing or Visual arts)	28	0.8
Health care administration	19	0.5
Nursing	19	0.5
General studies	14	0.4
Mathematics	14	0.4
Audiology/Speech-language pathology	11	0.3
Other	87	2.4
Total	3,689	100.0

Note: Respondents were presented with a list of 21 majors; only majors with 5 or more respondents are included in this table.

TABLE 58. BACHELOR'S DEGREE: SECONDARY MAJOR

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Psychology	54	19.1
Foreign language (e.g., Spanish, French)	47	16.6
Biology (includes Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, and Zoology)	35	12.4
Social sciences (e.g., Social work, Anthropology)	23	8.1
Chemistry (includes Biochemistry)	22	7.8
Humanities (e.g., History, Philosophy)	18	6.4
Health sciences	12	4.2
Fine arts (e.g., Performing or Visual arts)	10	3.5
Business	9	3.2
Premedical studies	9	3.2
Neuroscience	6	2.1
Public health	6	2.1
Other	32	11.3
Total	283	100.0

8.2% of respondents reported that they had double-majored as undergraduates.

Note: Respondents were presented with a list of 21 majors; only majors with 5 or more respondents are included in this table.

TABLE 59. UNDERGRADUATE GPA

	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	P10	P25	P50 (<i>Mdn</i>)	P75	P90
Undergraduate GPA	3,709	2.01-4.00	3.59	0.26	3.20	3.40	3.60	3.80	3.90

Respondents were asked to report their undergraduate overall GPA at the time of their graduation, excluding any college-level work done after graduation.

TABLE 60. ADDITIONAL CREDITS TO SATISFY PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS

	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	P10	P25	P50 (<i>Mdn</i>)	P75	P90
Additional credits	2,616	0.5-55.0	15.1	13.1	3.0	6.0	11.0	20.0	36.0

64.6% of respondents reported taking additional credits to satisfy prerequisite requirements for the PA programs to which they had applied.

SECTION 8. MSS: EMPLOYMENT

TABLE 61. PRIOR HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT

	n	%
Nursing assistant	993	28.8
Medical assistant	886	25.7
Scribe	700	20.3
EMT/Paramedic	631	18.3
Home health aide	317	9.2
Emergency room technician	304	8.8
Phlebotomist	242	7.0
Physical therapist/Physical therapy assistant	190	5.5
Pharmacy technician	154	4.5
Medical reception/records	139	4.0
Medical lab technician	132	3.8
Medical technician	132	3.8
Athletic trainer	106	3.1
Health care administrator	91	2.6
Research	86	2.5
Health services researcher	68	2.0
Radiology technician	62	1.8
Medic or medial corpsman	58	1.7
Nutritionist/Dietitian	48	1.4
Dental assistant/Hygienist	40	1.2
Total	3,447	-

89.4% of respondents reported having been employed in a health care field. Of these, 99.3% reported at least one specific health care field. Respondents were asked to exclude internships or other experiences related to completion of a degree.

Note: There were a total of 40 categories of prior employment. The top 20 most reported categories are reported here. "Research" was recoded from respondents' write-in responses to "Other." Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents could select multiple categories.

TABLE 62. LENGTH OF HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT

	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>M (T)</i>	<i>SD</i>	P10	P25	P50 (<i>Mdn</i>)	P75	P90
Direct patient contact (e.g., nurse or nursing aide)										
Weeks	2,992	1.0-936.0	120.7	98.7	115.5	30.0	52.0	96.0	150.0	250.0
Hours per week	3,030	1.0-80.0	33.0	33.9	11.4	15.0	25.0	36.0	40.0	40.0
Subtotal (hours)	2,949	4.0-49,920.0	4,152.7	3,236.6	4,641.3	649.6	1,530.0	2,880.0	4,800.0	8,472.0
Health care setting (indirect patient contact; e.g., medical secretary)										
Weeks	1,372	1.0-900.0	90.0	71.8	100.4	11.1	28.0	52.0	108.5	200.0
Hours per week	1,381	1.0-75.0	25.8	26.2	14.2	5.0	12.0	28.0	40.0	40.0
Subtotal (hours)	1,339	4.0-36,000.0	2,605.6	1,876.8	3,703.9	120.0	400.0	1,500.0	3,200.0	6,041.8

Note: Zeroes and reports of more than 80 hours worked per week were excluded prior to analysis. "M (T)" refers to the trimmed mean, or the mean when the top and bottom 10% of values are removed.

Respondents were asked to only report paid health care experiences. "Subtotal" hours were determined by multiplying hours worked per week by the number of reported weeks.

TABLE 63. COMMUNITY SERVICE (WEEKS)

	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>M (T)</i>	<i>SD</i>	P10	P25	P50 (<i>Mdn</i>)	P75	P90
International medical										
Paid experiences	28	1.0-250.0	59.0	50.0	67.6	2.4	4.0	40.0	97.0	144.0
Volunteer experiences	564	0.5-800.0	10.5	3.0	45.6	1.0	1.0	2.0	4.0	12.0
Service learning experiences	83	1.0-300.0	15.2	6.9	37.6	1.0	2.0	4.0	12.0	28.8
Subtotal	580	0.5-800.0	14.9	4.0	55.6	1.0	1.0	2.0	6.0	24.0
International non-medical										
Paid experiences	17	1.0-800.0	93.1	52.1	190.1	2.6	8.0	26.0	105.0	150.8
Volunteer experiences	316	1.0-400.0	17.5	8.1	37.0	1.0	2.0	4.0	12.0	72.5
Service learning experiences	50	1.0-20.0	5.8	5.0	5.1	1.0	2.0	4.0	9.8	12.3
Subtotal	337	1.0-800.0	20.6	8.8	57.8	1.0	2.0	4.0	13.0	64.6
U.S. medical										
Paid experiences	215	1.0-990.0	105.7	83.6	123.4	12.0	40.0	75.0	120.0	204.8
Volunteer experiences	864	1.0-900.0	60.6	39.6	97.3	3.0	8.0	25.0	70.0	150.0
Service learning experiences	164	1.0-800.0	42.8	22.0	94.8	3.0	6.0	16.0	30.5	104.0
Subtotal	937	1.0-1,782.0	85.8	57.0	138.4	3.0	10.0	45.0	104.0	208.0
U.S. non-medical										
Paid experiences	72	1.0-364.0	58.1	46.5	66.3	3.0	8.0	30.0	100.0	138.0
Volunteer experiences	840	1.0-724.0	48.6	29.0	84.4	2.0	5.0	17.5	52.0	116.4
Service learning experiences	142	1.0-900.0	37.6	19.2	91.4	2.0	5.0	12.0	39.0	87.2
Subtotal	891	1.0-900.0	54.4	33.4	92.0	2.0	5.0	20.0	60.0	150.0
All community service experiences										
Paid experiences	268	1.0-990.0	106.0	81.8	131.2	8.0	34.2	71.0	120.0	211.8
Volunteer experiences	1,694	1.0-2,997.0	63.8	36.5	138.1	2.0	5.0	20.0	65.0	150.0
Service learning experiences	387	1.0-900.0	35.7	16.8	87.2	2.0	4.0	12.0	28.0	83.2
Total	1,660	1.0-2,997.0	85.6	51.6	170.0	2.0	7.0	30.0	101.2	212.0

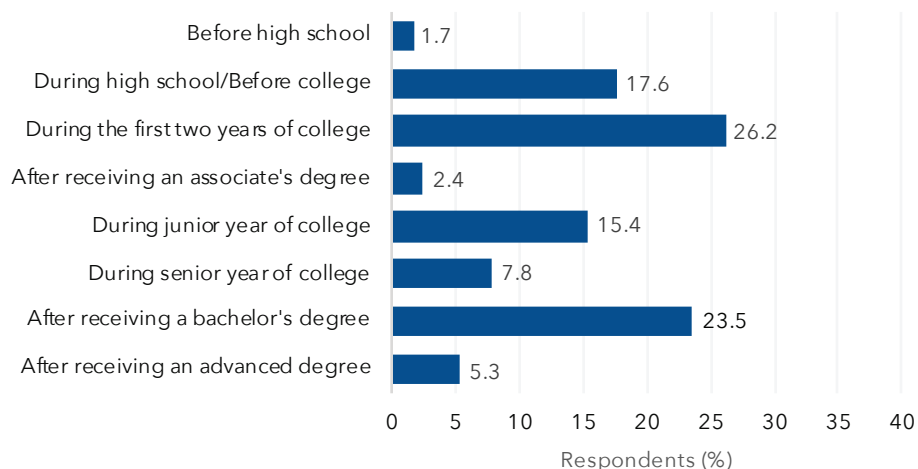
Note: Zeroes were excluded prior to analysis. "M (T)" refers to the trimmed mean, or the mean when the top and bottom 10% of values are removed.

55.0% of respondents reported having participated in paid or volunteer community service work, such as the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, service learning activities, and mission work.

SECTION 9. MSS: APPLICATION TO PA SCHOOL

Decision to Become a PA

FIGURE 19. WHEN STUDENT DECIDED TO BECOME A PA



Note: Percentages are based on the 3,972 respondents who reported when they decided to become a PA.

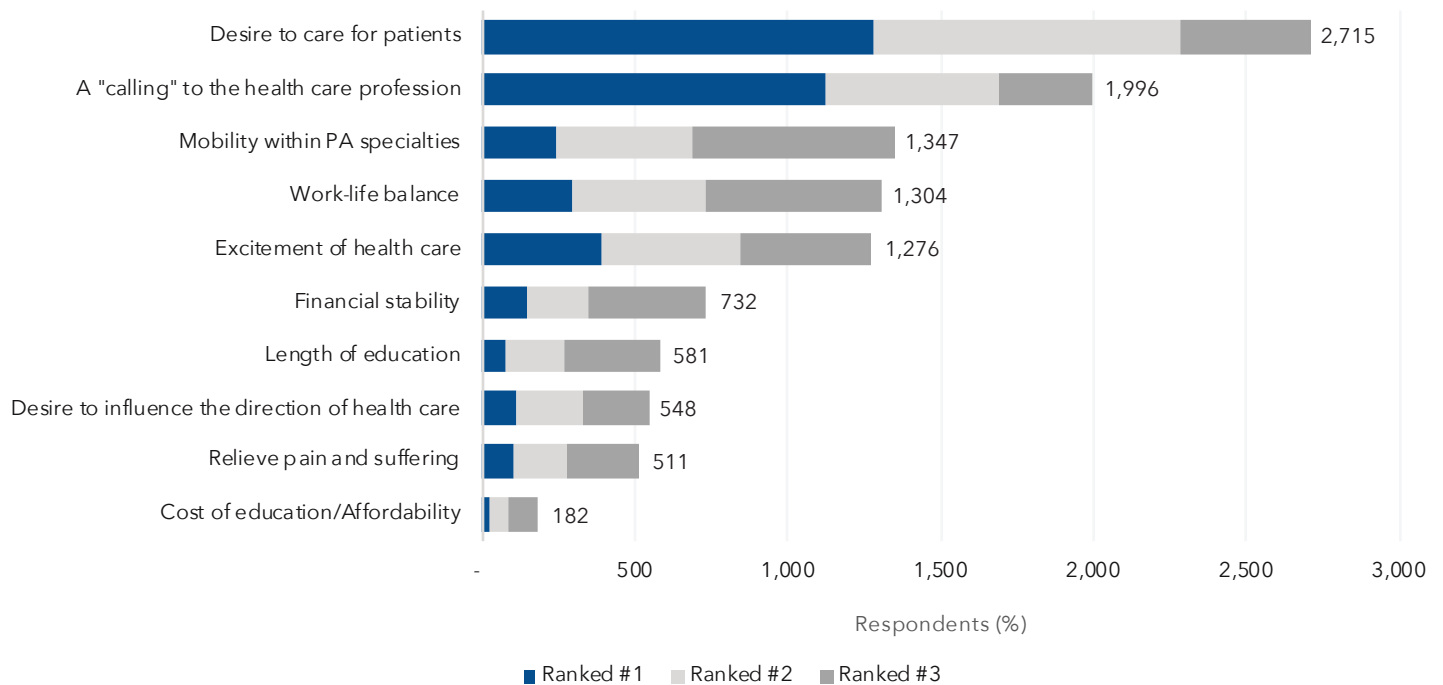
TABLE 64. REASONS TO BECOME A PA

	n	%
Desire to care for patients	3,264	83.2
Mobility within PA specialties	2,957	75.4
Work-life balance	2,846	72.6
A "calling" to the health care profession	2,535	64.7
Financial stability	2,280	58.1
Length of education	2,180	55.6
Excitement of health care	2,144	54.7
Desire to influence the direction of health care	1,256	32.0
Relieving pain and suffering	951	24.3
Cost of education/Affordability	916	23.4
Mobility (geographically)	719	18.3
Level of education	712	18.2
Other health professions were less appealing	694	17.7
Prestige	480	12.2
Parental/Peer pressure	174	4.4
Other	64	1.6
Total	3,921	-

Respondents were asked to select, then rank from a list of 16 choices, all the reasons why they have decided to pursue a PA career. On average, respondents selected 6.0 reasons (SD = 2.7, Mdn = 6.0).

Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents could select multiple reasons.

FIGURE 20. RANKINGS OF REASONS TO BECOME A PA



Note: This figure depicts the number of times each reason was ranked in respondents' top 3 most important reasons to become a PA. Only the top 10 most frequently selected reasons are presented here.

TABLE 65. INFLUENCES ON DECISION TO BECOME A PA (%)

	n	Made Student NOT WANT to Become a PA	No Influence on Decision	Made Student WANT to Become a PA	Did Not Use/Had Not Heard of
Previous health care experience	3,909	0.6	3.4	93.7	2.3
PA program faculty/staff	3,802	0.4	15.5	73.5	10.7
Other PA acquaintance	3,889	0.4	12.8	72.5	14.3
Friend	3,906	0.6	20.4	68.7	10.4
Other health professional	3,870	0.6	20.3	61.8	17.4
Family member	3,789	1.4	25.0	60.2	13.3
Other physician acquaintance	3,895	1.1	21.9	59.6	17.5
PA who treated me/my family	3,895	0.5	19.4	58.7	21.3
PA program literature	3,884	0.3	26.9	55.3	17.5
College/Campus admissions department	3,896	0.8	30.5	54.6	14.1
Physician who treated me/my family	3,898	1.0	26.8	54.6	17.7
Public media (e.g., television, newspaper, radio)	3,901	0.5	40.8	38.8	19.8
Social media (e.g., YouTube, Facebook)	3,904	0.3	46.6	32.2	21.0
Career counselor/Teacher (high school or college)	3,890	1.1	35.7	29.5	33.7
AAPA website/literature	3,912	0.2	43.9	25.8	30.1
PAEA website/literature	3,899	0.1	42.9	21.8	35.2
Project Access	3,884	0.1	37.6	4.8	57.5
Previous military experience	3,885	0.1	17.2	4.7	78.0

TABLE 66. CONSIDERATION OF CAREERS IN OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS (%)

	<i>n</i>	Did Not Consider	Considered but Did Not Apply	Applied but Was Not Accepted	Accepted but Did Not Attend	Attended but Did Not Complete	Completed or Graduated
Alternative/Complementary/Naturopathic medicine	3,905	87.3	12.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3
Audiology/Speech pathology	3,895	93.9	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Chiropractic	3,894	92.1	7.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Dentistry	3,890	88.3	11.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2
Emergency technician	3,895	71.3	12.4	0.2	0.4	0.1	15.6
Medical school (MD/DO) in the U.S.	3,915	24.8	67.9	6.0	1.0	0.3	0.0
Medical school (MD/DO) outside the U.S.	3,894	79.3	18.8	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3
Nurse practitioner (NP)	3,896	59.7	39.3	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.1
Nursing (other than NP)	3,889	64.2	31.0	0.8	2.9	0.4	0.7
Occupational therapy (OT)	3,893	87.9	11.7	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
Occupational therapy assistant	3,888	97.8	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Optometry	3,888	91.4	8.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pharmacy	3,901	80.3	19.0	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0
Physical therapy (PT)	3,905	69.0	30.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1
Physical therapy assistant	3,893	95.8	3.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5
Public health	3,893	79.1	17.5	0.1	0.8	0.3	2.2
Social work	3,895	92.9	6.8	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Sports medicine	3,888	81.0	17.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.4
Surgical assistant	3,890	85.8	13.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
Veterinary medicine	3,881	87.1	12.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Other							
Anesthesiologist assistant*	17	0.0	58.8	5.9	0.0	0.0	35.3
Certified nursing assistant (CNA)*	16	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Dietician/Nutritionist*	32	0.0	18.8	3.1	0.0	0.0	78.1
Laboratory assistant*	10	0.0	20.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	70.0
Medical assistant*	9	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	88.9
Paramedic*	10	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	90.0
Radiology technician*	18	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Respiratory technician*	16	0.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	93.8
All other health professions	2,024	94.5	2.6	0.2	0.6	0.1	2.0

Note: * indicates that the health profession was recoded from respondents write-in "Other" responses.

FIGURE 21. MOST FREQUENTLY CONSIDERED CAREERS IN OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS

	Considered but Did Not Apply	Applied but Was Not Accepted	Accepted but Did Not Attend	Attended but Did Not Complete	Completed or Graduated
Most Frequent	Medical school (MD/DO) in the U.S.	Medical school (MD/DO) in the U.S.	Nursing (other than NP)	Nursing (other than NP)	Emergency technician
	Nurse practitioner (NP)	Nursing (other than NP)	Medical school (MD/DO) in the U.S.	Medical school (MD/DO) outside the U.S.	Public health
	Nursing (other than NP)	Medical school (MD/DO) outside the U.S.	Public health	Public health	Sports medicine
	Physical therapy (PT)	Nurse practitioner (NP)	Medical school (MD/DO) outside the U.S.	Medical school (MD/DO) in the U.S.	Nursing (other than NP)
	Pharmacy	Dentistry	Nurse practitioner (NP)	Surgical assistant	Surgical assistant
	Medical school (MD/DO) outside the U.S.	Physical therapy (PT)	Pharmacy	Emergency technician	Physical therapy assistant
	Public health	Veterinary medicine	Emergency technician	Physical therapy assistant	Medical school (MD/DO) outside the U.S.
	Sports medicine	Pharmacy	Physical therapy (PT)	Sports medicine	Alternative/ Complementary/ Naturopathic medicine
	Surgical assistant	Alternative/ Complementary/ Naturopathic medicine	Occupational therapy (OT)	Audiology/Speech pathology	Social work
	Veterinary medicine	Emergency technician	Sports medicine	Physical therapy (PT)	Dentistry

Note: Only the top 10 most frequently considered health professions in each category are presented.

PA Program Applications

FIGURE 22. PREVIOUS APPLICATIONS TO PA SCHOOL

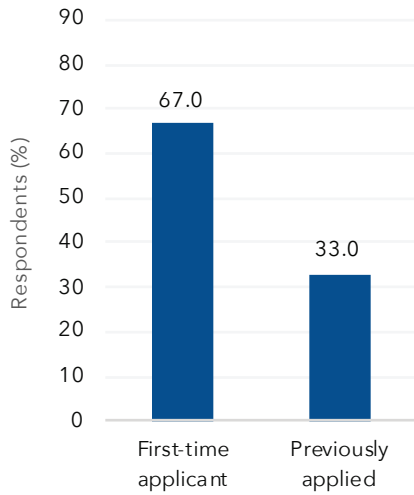


TABLE 67. COST OF APPLYING TO PA SCHOOL

	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)
No cost (\$0)	177	4.5	4.5
\$1 - \$499	846	21.4	25.9
\$500 - \$999	1,002	25.3	51.2
\$1,000 - \$1,499	776	19.6	70.8
\$1,500 - \$1,999	437	11.0	81.9
\$2,000 - \$2,499	303	7.7	89.5
\$2,500 - \$2,999	137	3.5	93.0
\$3,000 - \$3,499	101	2.6	95.5
\$3,500 - \$4,999	66	1.7	97.2
\$5,000 - \$5,499	36	0.9	98.1
\$5,500 - \$5,999	10	0.3	98.4
\$6,000 - \$6,499	14	0.4	98.7
\$6,500 - \$6,999	9	0.2	99.0
\$7,000 or more	41	1.0	100.0
Total	3,955	100.0	-

Respondents were asked to report costs for the current application year only, excluding costs from campus visits not associated with an interview, other non-mandatory expenses (e.g., interview clothes), and prerequisite coursework.

Note: "% (Cum.)" refers to the cumulative percentage of respondents.

FIGURE 23. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES WHEN CHOOSING WHICH PA PROGRAMS TO APPLY TO

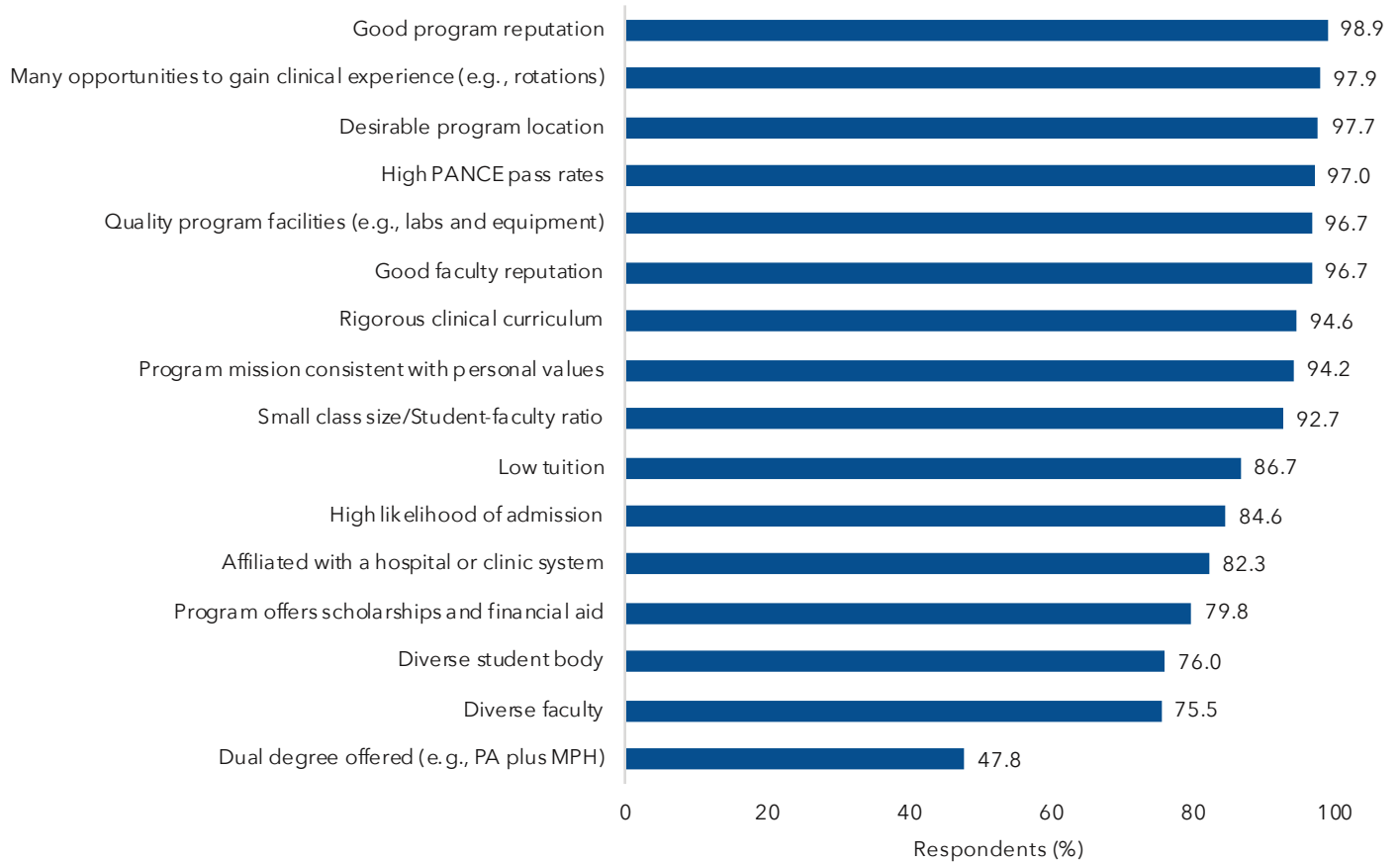


TABLE 68. PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES INFLUENCING CHOICE OF WHICH PA PROGRAMS TO APPLY TO

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
High PANCE pass rates	3,769	3.5	0.7	4.0
Many opportunities to gain clinical experience (e.g., rotations)	3,807	3.4	0.7	4.0
Good program reputation	3,845	3.4	0.7	4.0
Good faculty reputation	3,758	3.4	0.7	3.0
Quality program facilities (e.g., labs and equipment)	3,758	3.2	0.8	3.0
Program mission consistent with personal values	3,656	3.1	0.9	3.0
Desirable program location	3,800	3.1	0.9	3.0
Rigorous clinical curriculum	3,673	3.0	0.8	3.0
Small class size/Student-faculty ratio	3,602	2.7	0.9	3.0
Affiliated with a hospital or clinic system	3,194	2.7	0.9	3.0
Program offers scholarships and financial aid	3,097	2.4	1.0	2.0
Diverse student body	2,947	2.4	1.0	2.0
Diverse faculty	2,928	2.3	1.0	2.0
High likelihood of admission	3,281	2.3	1.0	2.0
Low tuition	3,366	2.3	0.9	2.0
Dual degree offered (e.g., PA plus MPH)	1,851	1.7	0.9	1.0

Note: Respondents who indicated that they did not consider a factor when deciding where to apply were excluded from this table. Those who did consider each factor rated each one on a 4-point scale, where 1 = "Not important" and 4 = "Essential."

TABLE 69. EXPERIENCES INFLUENCING CHOICE TO ATTEND CURRENT PA PROGRAM (%)

	<i>n</i>	Did Not Experience	Made Student NOT Want to Attend	No Influence	Made Student WANT to Attend
Conversations with program faculty and staff	3,885	4.2	2.4	5.6	87.8
Program interview experience	3,882	4.3	2.9	7.4	85.4
Conversations with current students	3,885	7.5	2.4	9.0	81.1
Conversations with program alumni	3,881	38.2	1.7	12.7	47.4
Program admissions outreach/recruitment efforts	3,885	28.9	2.4	22.5	46.1

SECTION 10. EOPS: EXPERIENCES IN PA SCHOOL

TABLE 70. PSYCHOLOGICAL SENSE OF SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
I am treated with as much respect as other students in my PA program	2,633	4.4	1.0	5.0
I can really be myself in my PA program	2,635	4.1	1.1	4.0
I wish I were in a different PA program	2,630	1.9	1.2	1.0
Sometimes I feel as if I don't belong in my PA program	2,636	1.8	1.2	1.0

These questions were drawn from the Psychological Sense of School Membership Scale. Respondents were asked to rate each statement on a 5-point scale, where 1 = "Not at all true" to 5 = "Completely true."*

*Goodenow C. The psychological sense of school membership among adolescents: scale development and educational correlates. *Psychol Schools*. 1993;30:79-90. doi: 10.1002/1520-6807(199301)30:1<79::AID-PITS2310300113>3.0.CO;2-X

Satisfaction with Program

TABLE 71. OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH PROGRAM AND CAREER CHOICE

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
I would recommend the PA career to others	2,633	4.6	0.6	5.0
If I could revisit my career choice again, I would attend school to become a PA	2,628	4.4	0.9	5.0
Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of my PA education	2,636	4.2	0.9	4.0
If I could revisit my program choice again, I would attend the same program	2,633	4.0	1.1	4.0

Note: 1 = "Strongly disagree" to 5 = "Strongly agree"

TABLE 72. SATISFACTION WITH PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
PANCE pass rates	2,481	4.5	0.8	5.0
Class size/Student-faculty ratio	2,630	4.3	0.8	5.0
Program mission consistent with personal values	2,607	4.3	0.8	5.0
Rigor of clinical curriculum	2,622	4.2	0.8	4.0
Program reputation	2,597	4.2	1.0	4.0
Opportunities to gain clinical experience (e.g., rotations)	2,622	4.1	1.0	4.0
Desirability of program location	2,630	4.1	1.0	4.0
Quality of program facilities (e.g., labs and equipment)	2,628	4.1	1.0	4.0
Likelihood of admission	2,541	4.1	0.7	4.0
Faculty reputation	2,603	4.0	1.0	4.0
Affiliation with a hospital or clinic system	2,380	3.8	1.1	4.0
Diversity of student body	2,607	3.7	1.0	4.0
Diversity of faculty	2,589	3.7	1.0	4.0
Dual degree offered (PA plus MPH)	1,287	3.3	1.1	3.0
Tuition	2,619	3.1	1.2	3.0
Scholarships and financial aid	2,480	3.0	1.2	3.0

Note: 1 = "Very dissatisfied" to 5 = "Very satisfied." "N/A" responses were excluded prior to analysis.

TABLE 73. UTILIZATION OF INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (%)

	<i>n</i>	Accessed	Not Accessed	Not Offered
Admissions office	2,382	93.8	6.0	0.2
Business office	2,365	76.4	20.7	2.9
Campus security	2,382	84.9	14.1	1.0
Counseling/Mental health center	2,381	58.9	38.4	2.7
Faculty advising	2,379	96.3	3.5	0.2
Financial aid	2,382	92.6	7.0	0.4
Health center	2,379	78.4	15.3	6.3
Institutional computing (technology)/Help desk	2,383	86.2	13.3	0.5
Library/Learning resource center	2,383	95.3	4.3	0.4
Registrar	2,378	89.0	10.5	0.5
Student success center/ADA office	2,373	60.5	35.6	3.9
Student activities	2,376	76.3	22.2	1.5

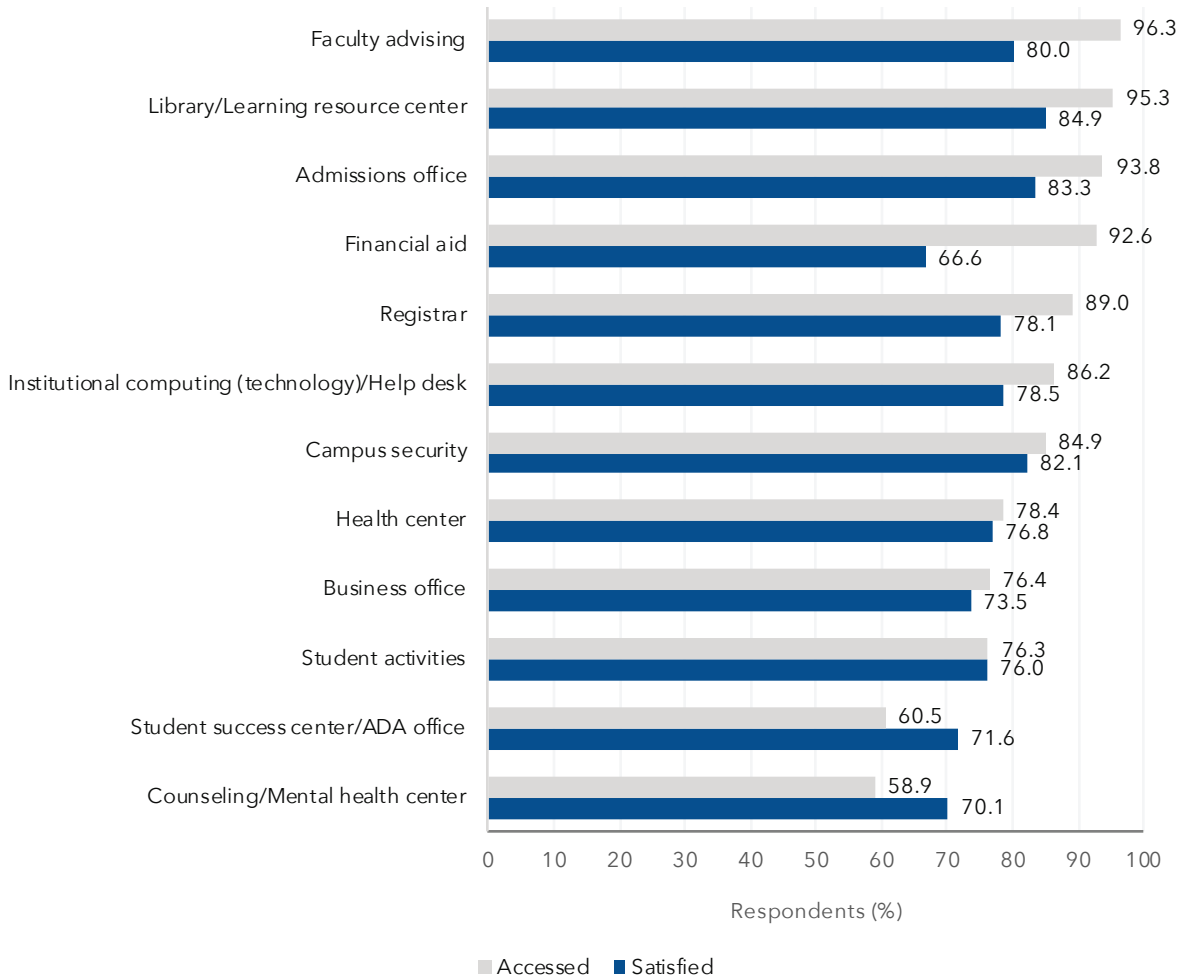
Note: "Accessed" represents the proportion of respondents who had utilized a service and rated their satisfaction with it. "Not Accessed" represents the proportion of respondents who reported that their school offered a service but that they did not utilize it. "Not Offered" represents the proportion of respondents who reported that their school did not offer a service.

TABLE 74. SATISFACTION WITH INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
Admissions office	2,233	4.2	0.8	4.0
Business office	1,806	3.9	0.9	4.0
Campus security	2,022	4.2	0.8	4.0
Counseling/Mental health center	1,401	4.0	0.9	4.0
Faculty advising	2,291	4.1	1.0	4.0
Financial aid	2,205	3.7	1.1	4.0
Health center	1,866	4.0	1.0	4.0
Institutional computing (technology)/Help desk	2,055	4.0	0.9	4.0
Library/Learning resource center	2,272	4.2	0.8	4.0
Registrar	2,116	4.0	0.8	4.0
Student success center/ADA office	1,436	4.0	0.8	4.0
Student activities	1,812	4.0	0.8	4.0

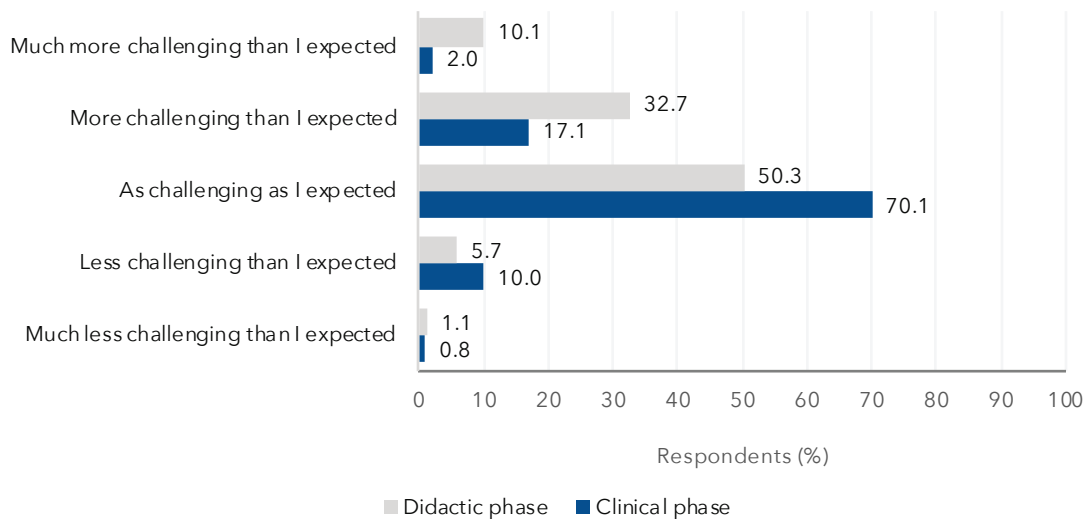
Note: Respondents who indicated that their school did not offer a service, or that their school offered a service but they did not utilize it, were excluded from this analysis. 1 = "Very dissatisfied" to 5 = "Very satisfied"

FIGURE 24. UTILIZATION OF AND SATISFACTION WITH INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



Note: "Accessed" represents the proportion of respondents who had utilized a service. "Satisfied" represents the proportion of respondents who had utilized a service and indicated that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the service.

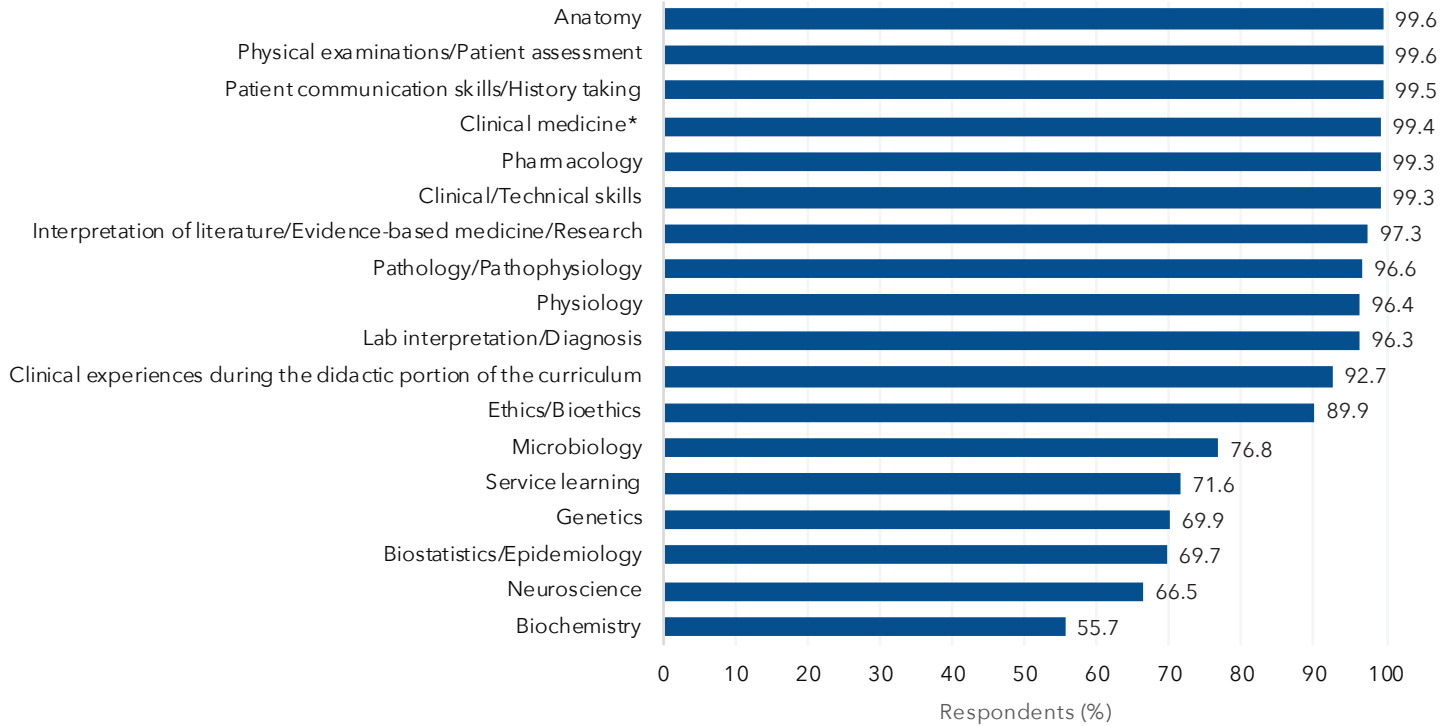
FIGURE 25. HOW CHALLENGING WAS PA EDUCATION



Experiences in the Didactic Phase

The following section presents data specific to students' experiences in, and satisfaction with, the didactic (classroom) phase of their programs.

FIGURE 26. DIDACTIC COURSES TAKEN



* includes surgery, emergency medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, and behavioral health

TABLE 75. HOW WELL DIDACTIC COURSES PREPARED STUDENTS FOR CLINICAL ROTATIONS

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
Anatomy	2,590	3.1	0.8	3.0
Biochemistry	1,442	2.5	0.9	2.0
Biostatistics/Epidemiology	1,800	2.5	0.9	2.0
Clinical experiences during the didactic portion of the curriculum	2,402	2.9	0.9	3.0
Clinical medicine	2,580	3.3	0.7	3.0
Clinical/Technical skills	2,569	3.1	0.8	3.0
Ethics/Bioethics	2,327	2.9	0.9	3.0
Genetics	1,807	2.4	0.9	2.0
Interpretation of literature/Evidence-based medicine/Research	2,519	2.8	0.9	3.0
Lab interpretation/Diagnosis	2,498	2.9	0.9	3.0
Microbiology	1,991	2.7	0.9	3.0
Neuroscience	1,723	2.6	0.9	3.0
Patient communication skills/History taking	2,582	3.5	0.7	4.0
Pathology/Pathophysiology	2,506	3.0	0.9	3.0
Pharmacology	2,577	3.0	0.9	3.0
Physical examinations/Patient assessment	2,585	3.4	0.7	4.0
Physiology	2,493	3.0	0.8	3.0
Service learning	1,853	3.0	0.8	3.0

Note: Students who indicated that they did not take a course were excluded prior to analysis.

1 = "Not at all well" to 4 = "Extremely well"

* includes surgery, emergency medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, and behavioral health

TABLE 76. EVALUATION OF DIDACTIC INSTRUCTION IN TOPIC AREAS (%)

	<i>n</i>	Received no Instruction	Insufficient	Appropriate	Excessive
Diagnosis of disease	2,591	0.1	2.6	92.0	5.3
Disease prevention/Health maintenance	2,592	0.2	4.0	90.6	5.2
Management of disease	2,591	0.2	4.8	90.3	4.8
Women's health	2,594	0.2	7.8	87.2	4.8
Culturally appropriate care for diverse populations	2,596	1.6	7.7	83.6	7.1
Social determinants of health	2,593	2.0	11.8	81.9	4.3
Public health	2,591	2.5	16.8	77.5	3.2
Role of community health and social service agencies	2,592	4.0	22.0	71.3	2.8
Palliative/End-of-life care	2,592	3.8	28.0	66.8	1.4
Oral health	2,592	4.4	27.8	64.5	3.3

Note: Respondents were asked to consider both quality and quantity of instruction in their evaluations.

Experiences in the Clinical Phase

The following section presents data specific to students' experiences in, and satisfaction with, their supervised clinical rotations, as well as their level of preparedness for clinical practice. Students were asked to evaluate the following rotations:

- Emergency medicine
- Extended primary care or rural track
- Family medicine
- General internal medicine
- General pediatrics
- General surgery
- Hospital medicine
- Obstetrics/Gynecology/Women's health
- Psychiatry/Behavioral medicine

Students also had the option of reporting about their experiences in up to 5 rotation electives.

FIGURE 27. CLINICAL ROTATIONS TAKEN

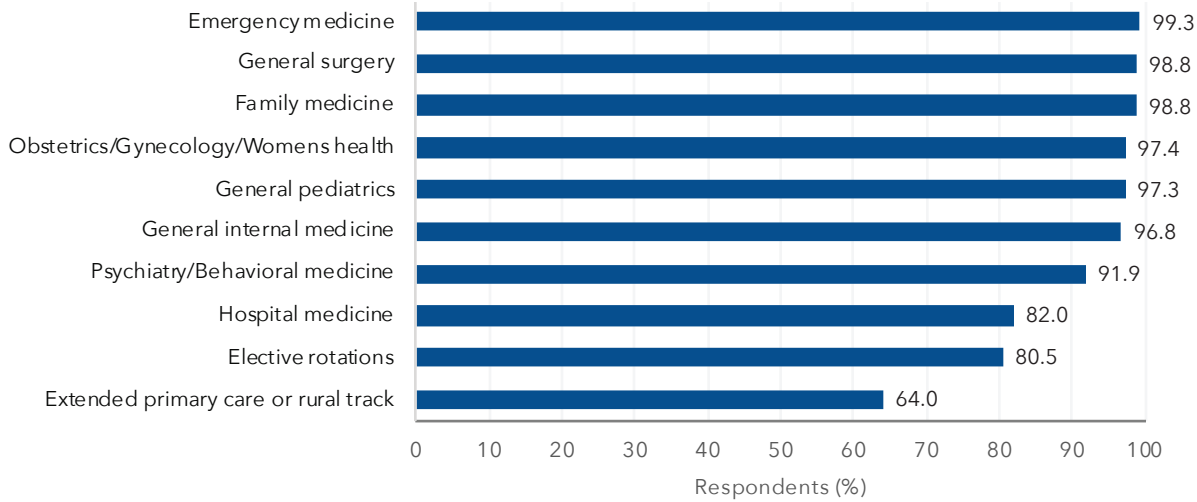


TABLE 77. NUMBER OF CLINICAL ROTATIONS TAKEN

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
Number of elective rotations	2,085	2.3	1.4	2.0
Total number of rotations	2,590	10.8	1.5	11.0

Note: Respondents who reported taking fewer than the 6 required electives were excluded prior to analysis. Respondents had the option of reporting up to 5 elective rotations; those who reported zero elective rotations were excluded from the elective rotations analysis.

TABLE 78. QUALITY OF CLINICAL ROTATION EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES (%)

	<i>n</i>	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Emergency medicine	2,573	1.7	6.3	28.5	63.5
Extended primary care or rural track	1,657	1.7	6.3	32.3	59.7
Family medicine	2,558	2.6	7.7	28.7	61.0
General surgery	2,558	3.9	12.3	30.6	53.2
General internal medicine	2,506	4.5	11.5	32.4	51.6
Obstetrics/Gynecology/Women’s health	2,523	6.5	13.2	28.9	51.5
Hospital medicine	2,123	5.4	12.0	35.4	47.2
General pediatrics	2,519	5.9	13.1	33.1	47.9
Psychiatry/Behavioral medicine	2,380	7.8	14.6	32.3	45.3

Note: Respondents who did not complete a rotation were excluded prior to analysis.

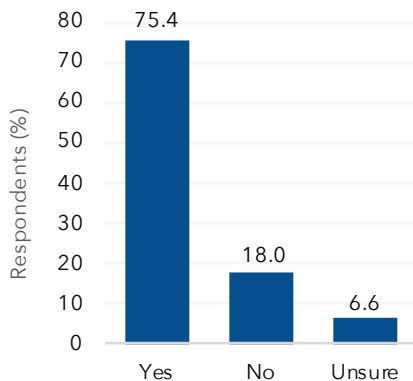
TABLE 79. EXPERIENCES WITH PRECEPTORS DURING CLINICAL ROTATIONS

	<i>n</i>	% Yes
Emergency medicine		
Observed by preceptor taking patient history	2,520	74.0
Observed by preceptor performing physical exam	2,505	78.8
Observed by preceptor performing technical procedures	2,501	94.8
Given mid-point feedback by preceptor	2,502	88.4
Extended primary care or rural track		
Observed by preceptor taking patient history	1,605	76.9
Observed by preceptor performing physical exam	1,589	80.4
Observed by preceptor performing technical procedures	2,478	89.1
Given mid-point feedback by preceptor	1,586	90.4
Family medicine		
Observed by preceptor taking patient history	2,506	75.5
Observed by preceptor performing physical exam	2,484	80.4
Observed by preceptor performing technical procedures	2,478	89.1
Given mid-point feedback by preceptor	2,486	90.1
General internal medicine		
Observed by preceptor taking patient history	2,450	70.8
Observed by preceptor performing physical exam	2,432	75.1
Observed by preceptor performing technical procedures	2,406	79.8
Given mid-point feedback by preceptor	2,427	86.9
General pediatrics		
Observed by preceptor taking patient history	2,460	73.3
Observed by preceptor performing physical exam	2,446	79.3
Observed by preceptor performing technical procedures	2,411	81.7
Given mid-point feedback by preceptor	2,438	86.9
General surgery		
Observed by preceptor taking patient history	2,499	68.0
Observed by preceptor performing physical exam	2,479	75.0
Observed by preceptor performing technical procedures	2,474	95.4
Given mid-point feedback by preceptor	2,480	85.3
Hospital medicine		
Observed by preceptor taking patient history	2,384	69.1
Observed by preceptor performing physical exam	2,365	72.2
Observed by preceptor performing technical procedures	2,330	77.5
Given mid-point feedback by preceptor	2,365	81.9
Obstetrics/Gynecology/Women's health		
Observed by preceptor taking patient history	2,468	72.8
Observed by preceptor performing physical exam	2,452	84.4
Observed by preceptor performing technical procedures	2,437	90.9
Given mid-point feedback by preceptor	2,450	84.4
Psychiatry/Behavioral medicine		
Observed by preceptor taking patient history	2,325	73.5
Observed by preceptor performing physical exam	2,295	70.1
Observed by preceptor performing technical procedures	2,247	68.5
Given mid-point feedback by preceptor	2,297	81.9

Note: "% Yes" refers to the proportion of respondents who indicated that they had each experience.

Experiences with Interprofessional Education (IPE)

FIGURE 28. PARTICIPATED IN REQUIRED IPE



Of those students who did not participate in required IPE, 56.5% indicated that they would have liked the opportunity to learn with students from different health professions programs.

Note: IPE was defined as “curricular activities where PA students had the opportunity to learn with students from different health professions programs.”

TABLE 80. TYPES OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS THAT STUDENTS INTERACTED WITH

	n	%
Physical therapy	1,199	64.4
Pharmacy	1,071	57.5
Registered nursing (BSN or ADN)	973	52.3
Occupational therapy	788	42.3
Registered nursing (advanced practice, NP, CRNA, and/or midwife)	700	37.6
Allopathic medicine (MD)	698	37.5
Social work	567	30.5
Osteopathic medicine (DO)	549	29.5
Nutrition/Dietetics	492	26.4
Audiology/Speech-language pathology	449	24.1
Clinical/Counseling psychology	426	22.9
Dentistry	341	18.3
Public health	312	16.8
Athletic training	231	12.4
Veterinary medicine	37	2.0
Other		
Orthotics/Prosthetics*	26	1.4
Optometry*	21	1.1
Respiratory therapy*	20	1.1
Pathology assistant*	19	1.0
Radiology*	17	0.9
EMT*	15	0.8
Art therapy*	12	0.6
Anesthesia assistant*	10	0.5
Medical assistant*	9	0.5
Surgical technician/Surgical assistant*	9	0.5
All other health professions	66	3.5
Total	1,862	-

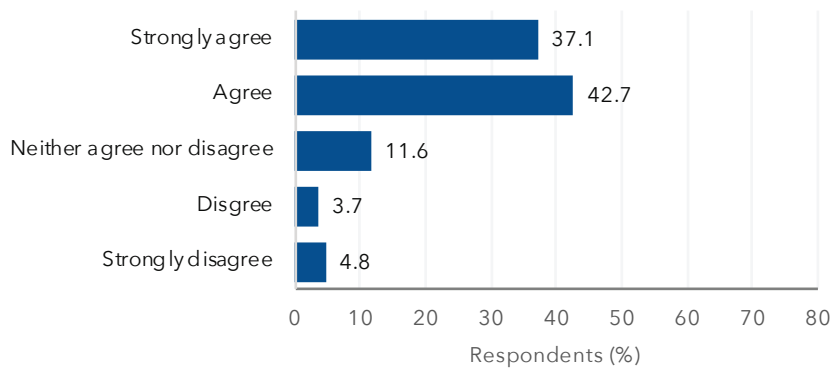
Note: * indicates that the health profession was recoded from respondents' write-in “Other” responses. Percentages will sum to more than 100% because respondents could select multiple types of health professions students. Only students who reported participating in required IPE were asked to respond to this question.

TABLE 81. TYPES OF IPE ACTIVITIES

	<i>n</i>	%
Patient-centered case problems (classroom or student setting)	1,233	67.3
Clinical simulations	856	46.7
Team skills training	725	39.6
Active engagement with patients (e.g., inpatient or ambulatory-based team rotation, longitudinal clinics, practice-based rotations)	695	37.9
Community projects or service-learning activities	572	31.2
Lecture only, clinical subject (e.g., universal precautions, informed consent, advanced cardiac life support certification, population health)	461	25.2
Lecture only, basic science	397	21.7
Other		
Lab only, basic science	19	1.0
All other IPE activities	18	1.0
Total	1,832	-

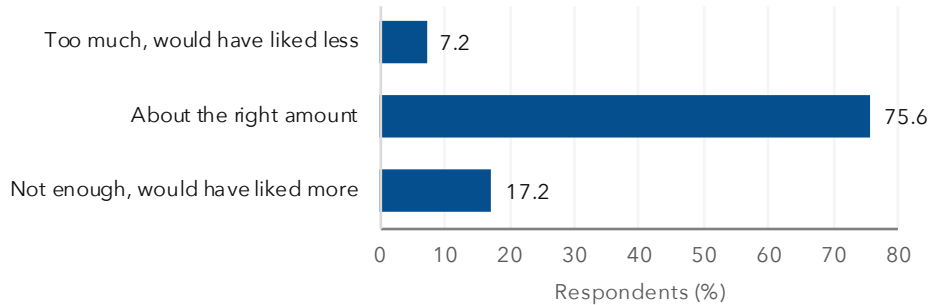
Note: Percentages will sum to more than 100% because respondents could select multiple types of health professions students. "Lab only, basic science" was recoded from respondents' write-in "Other" responses.

FIGURE 29. IMPACT OF IPE EXPERIENCES



Respondents who had IPE experiences were asked to report their agreement with the statement, "The learning experience(s) with students from different health professions helped me gain a better understanding of the roles of other professions in patient care."

FIGURE 30. AMOUNT OF IPE EXPERIENCES



Respondents who had IPE experiences were asked to assess the amount of IPE experiences and interactions they had during their PA programs.

Confidence in PA Competencies

Respondents were asked to rate their confidence in their current ability to implement the PA competencies in their practices. The PA competencies are as follows:

Medical Knowledge

Includes synthesis of pathophysiology, patient presentation, differential diagnosis, patient management, surgical principles, health promotion, and disease prevention

Interpersonal & Communication Skills

Encompasses verbal, nonverbal, written, and electronic exchange of information to patients, peers, and others

Patient Care

Includes patient- and setting-specific assessment, evaluation, and management

Professionalism

The expression of positive values and ideals as care is delivered and prioritizing patients' needs over one's own; includes ethical practice and cultural sensitivity

Practice-Based Learning & Improvement

Includes processes and practices through which PAs engage in critical analysis of their own practice experience, medical literature, and other resources to improve delivery of care

Systems-Based Practice

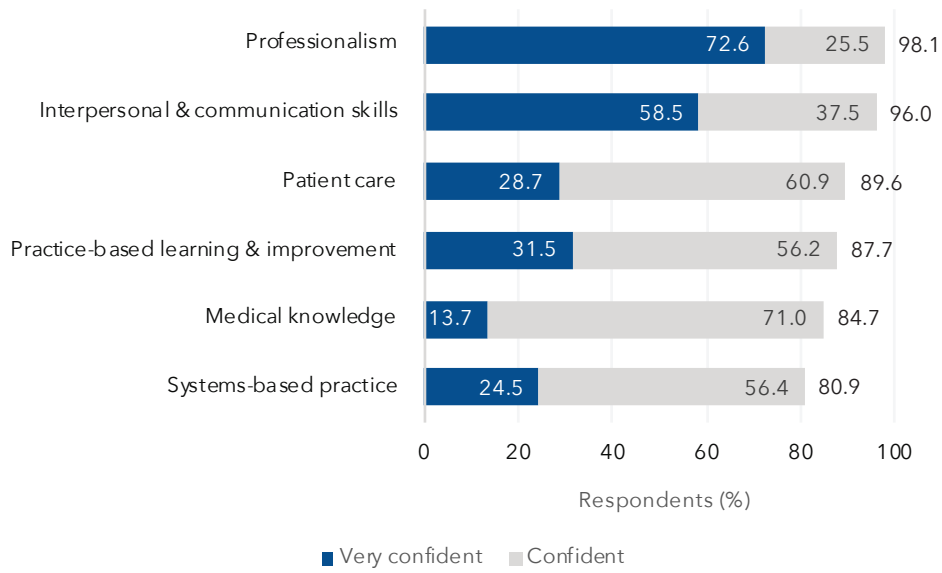
Awareness and responsiveness to the larger system of health care to provide patient care that balances quality and cost

TABLE 82. CONFIDENCE IN PA COMPETENCIES

	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
Professionalism	2,468	4.7	0.5	5.0
Interpersonal & communication skills	2,477	4.5	0.6	5.0
Patient care	2,471	4.2	0.6	4.0
Practice-based learning & improvement	2,474	4.2	0.7	4.0
Medical knowledge	2,480	4.0	0.6	4.0
Systems-based practice	2,478	4.0	0.7	4.0

Note: 1 = "Not at all confident" to 5 = "Very confident"

FIGURE 31. CONFIDENCE IN PA COMPETENCIES



SECTION 11. EOPS: EMPLOYMENT PLANS

TABLE 83. EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	n	%
I have accepted a job offer	1,021	41.3
I have had at least one interview or invitation to interview but have not yet received a job offer	524	21.2
I have received at least one job offer but have not accepted a position	385	15.6
I have not yet started my job search	247	10.0
I have submitted job applications but have not yet received an invitation to interview	229	9.3
I plan to apply for/have already applied for a PA residency	65	2.6
I do not plan to apply for a job as a PA	2	0.1
Total	2,473	100.0

62.5% of graduating PA students had either accepted or received at least one job offer.

Note: Respondents who did not plan to apply for a position as a PA were not asked further questions regarding their PA employment plans.

Applications to PA Residencies & Positions

TABLE 84. RESIDENCY SPECIALTIES

	n	%
Emergency medicine	16	24.6
Critical care/Trauma	11	16.9
Orthopedic surgery	9	13.8
Psychiatry	9	13.8
Surgery	9	13.8
Acute care medicine	8	12.3
Family medicine	6	9.2
Cardiothoracic	5	7.7
Hospitalist	5	7.7
Pediatrics	5	7.7
Urgent care	4	6.2
Hematology/Oncology	3	4.6
Neonatology	3	4.6
Internal medicine	2	3.1
OB-GYN	2	3.1
Cardiology	1	1.5
Otolaryngology	1	1.5
Urology	1	1.5
Other	3	4.6
Total	65	-

Respondents who indicated that they had applied to or planned to apply to a PA residency were asked to indicate which residency specialties they had applied or would apply to. These specialties were drawn from a list of all PA residency programs available from the [Association of Postgraduate PA Programs](#) as of December 2016.

Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents could select multiple residencies to apply to.

TABLE 85. NUMBER OF RESIDENCY SPECIALTIES APPLIED TO

	<i>n</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mdn</i>
Number of residency specialties	65	8.0	1.6	1.5	1.0

Note: Respondents who did not plan on applying for a PA residency were excluded from this table.

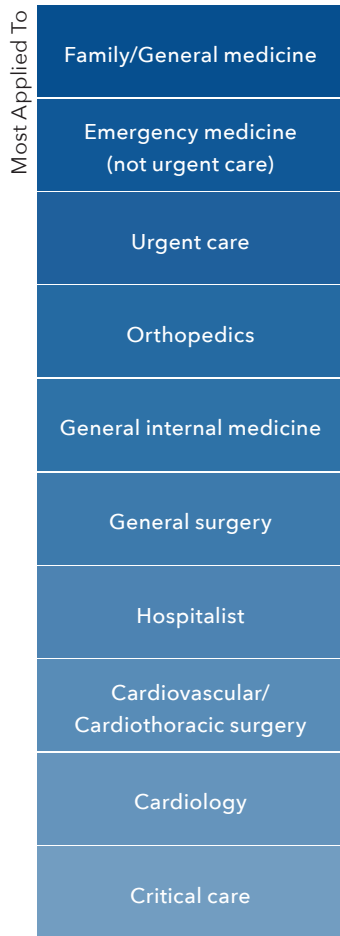
Applications to Specialties

TABLE 86. SPECIALTY PRACTICE POSITIONS APPLIED TO

	n	%
Emergency medicine specialties		
Emergency medicine (not urgent care)	910	43.1
Urgent care	734	34.8
Inpatient specialties		
Critical care	261	12.4
Hospitalist	443	21.0
Internal medicine subspecialties		
Cardiology	316	15.0
Endocrinology	63	3.0
Gastroenterology	180	8.5
Infectious disease	56	2.7
Nephrology	26	1.2
Oncology/Hematology	147	7.0
Rheumatology	49	2.3
Other internal medicine subspecialties	26	1.2
Primary care specialties		
Family/General medicine	1,012	47.9
General internal medicine	575	27.2
General pediatrics	234	11.1
Geriatrics	65	3.1
Obstetrics/Gynecology/Women's health	248	11.7
Surgical specialties		
Cardiovascular/Cardiothoracic surgery	324	15.3
General surgery	467	22.1
Neurosurgery	186	8.8
Orthopedics	584	27.7
Plastic surgery	153	7.2
Urology	115	5.4
Other surgical subspecialties	127	6.0
Other specialties		
Correctional medicine	21	1.0
Dermatology	256	12.1
Interventional radiology	75	3.6
Neurology	88	4.2
Occupational medicine	43	2.0
Pain management	85	4.0
Palliative care	20	0.9
Pediatric subspecialties	117	5.5
Psychiatry/Behavioral medicine	146	6.9
Retail clinic	24	1.1
Other specialties	46	2.2
Total	2,111	-

Note: Respondents were asked to report which specialties they had applied to for employment, not for residencies. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents could select multiple specialties.

FIGURE 32. MOST APPLIED TO SPECIALTY PRACTICE POSITIONS



Note: Rankings were based on the number of respondents who indicated that they had applied to each specialty.

TABLE 87. NUMBER OF SPECIALTIES APPLIED TO

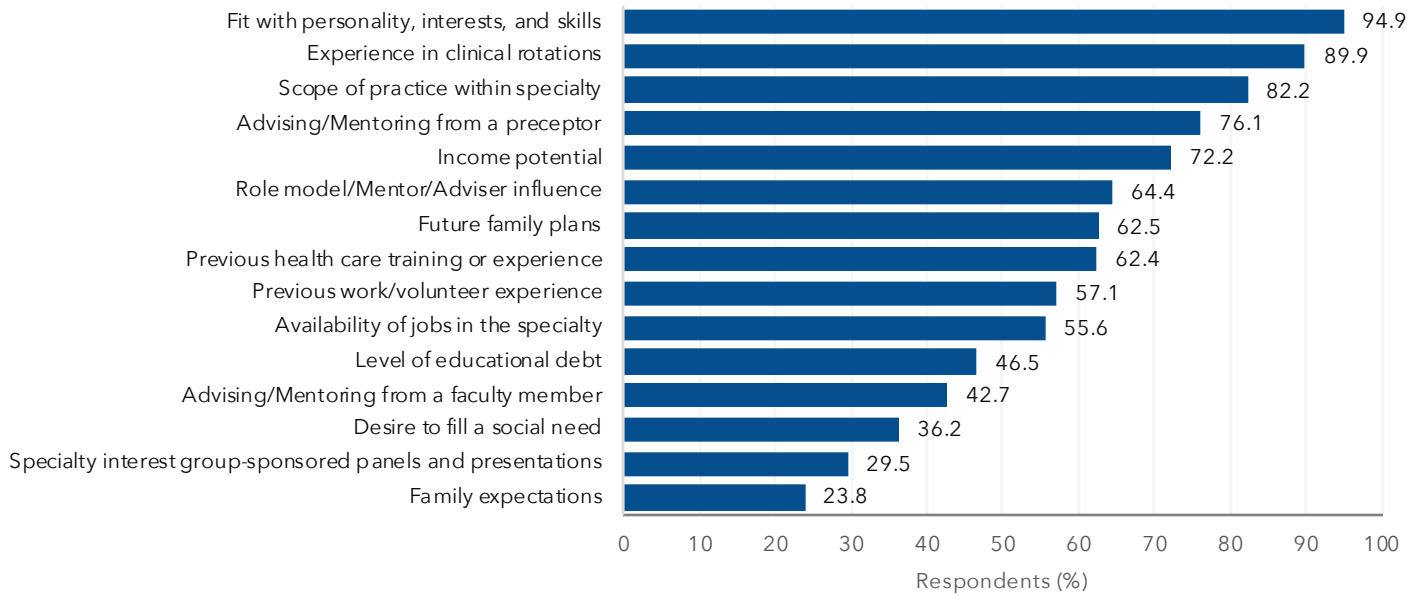
	<i>n</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	P10	P25	P50 (<i>Mdn</i>)	P75	P90
Number of specialties	2,111	2-36	4.9	2.8	2.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	8.0

Note: Zeroes were excluded prior to analysis.

TABLE 88. FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED SPECIALTY CHOICE (%)

	<i>n</i>	Made Student NOT WANT to Choose Specialty	No Influence	Made Student WANT to Choose Specialty	Did Not Consider/ Experience
Advising/Mentoring from a preceptor	2,420	2.5	18.1	76.1	3.4
Advising/Mentoring from a faculty member	2,411	1.3	46.1	42.7	9.9
Availability of jobs in the specialty	2,410	3.3	35.4	55.6	5.8
Desire to fill a social need	2,413	0.7	50.6	36.2	12.5
Family expectations	2,411	1.4	60.5	23.8	14.3
Fit with personality, interests, and skills	2,407	0.8	3.2	94.9	1.1
Income potential	2,410	2.4	22.1	72.2	3.4
Level of educational debt	2,401	2.4	42.0	46.5	9.0
Future family plans	2,402	3.1	28.5	62.5	5.9
Experience in clinical rotations	2,404	1.5	6.8	89.9	1.9
Previous health care training or experience	2,408	1.5	28.8	62.4	7.4
Role model/mentor/adviser influence	2,410	0.5	27.9	64.4	7.1
Previous work/volunteer experience	2,407	1.4	32.1	57.1	9.5
Scope of practice within specialty	2,409	1.4	13.4	82.2	3.0
Specialty interest group-sponsored panels and presentations	2,401	0.6	47.1	29.5	22.8

FIGURE 33. POSITIVE INFLUENCES ON SPECIALTY CHOICE

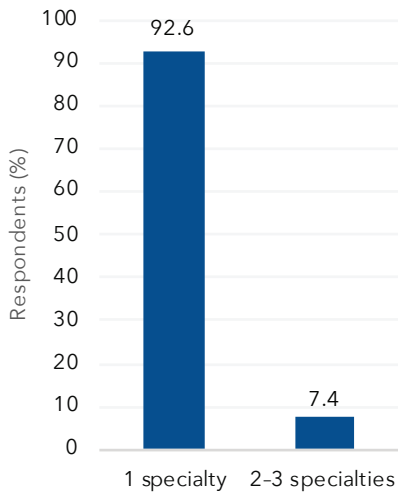


Note: This figure displays the proportion of respondents who indicated that each factor made them want to choose the specialties they had applied to.

Accepted Positions

Only graduating students who indicated that they had accepted at least one job offer responded to questions in this section.

FIGURE 34. NUMBER OF SPECIALTIES



Of the 1,011 students who reported specialties in which they had accepted positions, 7.2% reported accepting positions in multiple specialties, with a maximum of 3.

TABLE 89. SPECIALTY PRACTICE IN WHICH POSITION WAS ACCEPTED

	<i>n</i>	%
Emergency medicine specialties		
Emergency medicine (not urgent care)	209	20.7
Urgent care	61	6.0
Inpatient specialties		
Critical care	41	4.1
Hospitalist	78	7.7
Internal medicine subspecialties		
Cardiology	23	2.3
Endocrinology	4	0.4
Gastroenterology	15	1.5
Infectious Disease	5	0.5
Nephrology	-	-
Oncology/Hematology	19	1.9
Rheumatology	4	0.4
Other internal medicine subspecialties	9	0.9
Primary care specialties		
Family/General medicine	158	15.6
General internal medicine	39	3.9
General pediatrics	11	1.1
Geriatrics	4	0.4
Obstetrics/Gynecology/Women's health	18	1.8
Surgical specialties		
Cardiovascular/Cardiothoracic surgery	32	3.2
General surgery	54	5.3
Neurosurgery	23	2.3
Orthopedics	129	12.8
Plastic surgery	12	1.2
Urology	12	1.2
Other surgical subspecialties	37	3.7
Other specialties		
Correctional medicine	-	-
Dermatology	25	2.5
Interventional radiology	1	0.1
Neurology	10	1.0
Occupational medicine	3	0.3
Pain management	8	0.8
Palliative care	-	-
Pediatric subspecialties	10	1.0
Psychiatry/Behavioral medicine	21	2.1
Retail clinic	2	0.2
Other specialties	17	1.7
Total	1,011	-

Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents could select multiple specialties.

FIGURE 35. MOST COMMON SPECIALTIES



Note: Rankings were based on the number of respondents who indicated accepting a position in each specialty.

FIGURE 36. ACCEPTED POSITION IN FIRST-CHOICE SPECIALTY

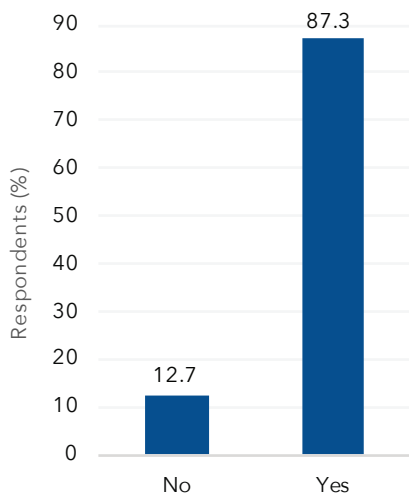
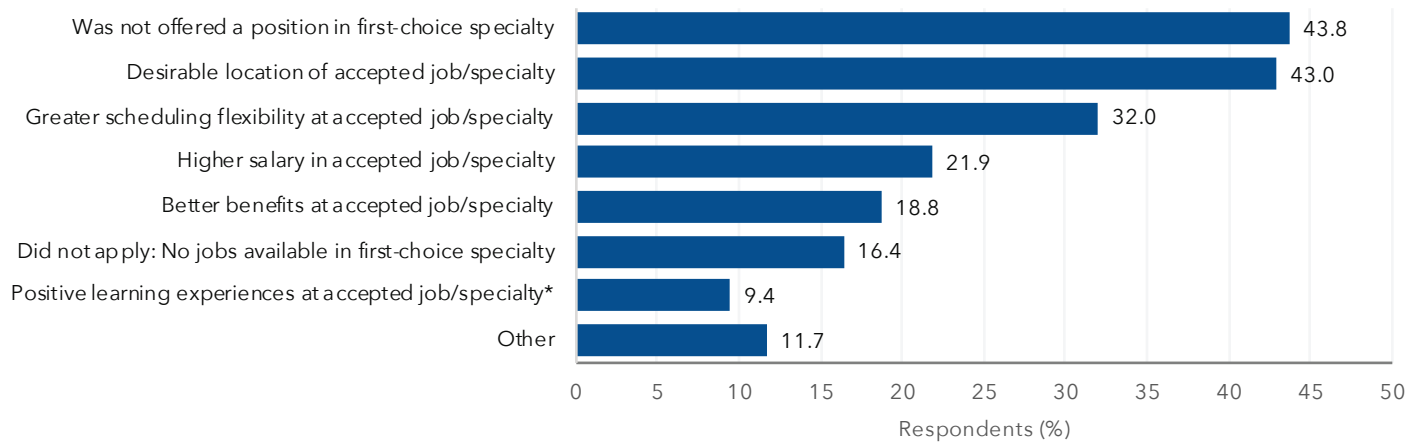


FIGURE 37. REASONS TO ACCEPT POSITION IN SPECIALITY THAT WAS NOT FIRST CHOICE



Note: * indicates that this category was created by recoding respondents' write-in "Other" responses, and includes experiences with supervisory physicians and team-learning opportunities. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents could select multiple reasons.

The 12.7% of students who reported accepting a position that was not in their first-choice specialty were asked to indicate all the reasons why they accepted a position outside of their first-choice specialty.

TABLE 90. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF ACCEPTED POSITIONS

	<i>n</i>	%
Northeast Region		
New England Division	51	5.5
Middle Atlantic Division	236	25.4
Subtotal	287	30.9
Midwest Region		
East North Central Division	169	18.2
West North Central Division	110	11.8
Subtotal	279	30.0
South Region		
South Atlantic Division	174	18.7
East South Central Division	20	2.2
West South Central Division	53	5.7
Subtotal	247	26.6
West Region		
Mountain Division	50	5.4
Pacific Division	66	7.1
Subtotal	116	12.5
Total	929	100.0

Note: Only students who reported accepting a position in one specialty were included in this table.

TABLE 91. ACCEPTED FULL- OR PART-TIME POSITION

	<i>n</i>	%
Full-time	929	99.4
Part-time	6	0.6
Total	935	100.0

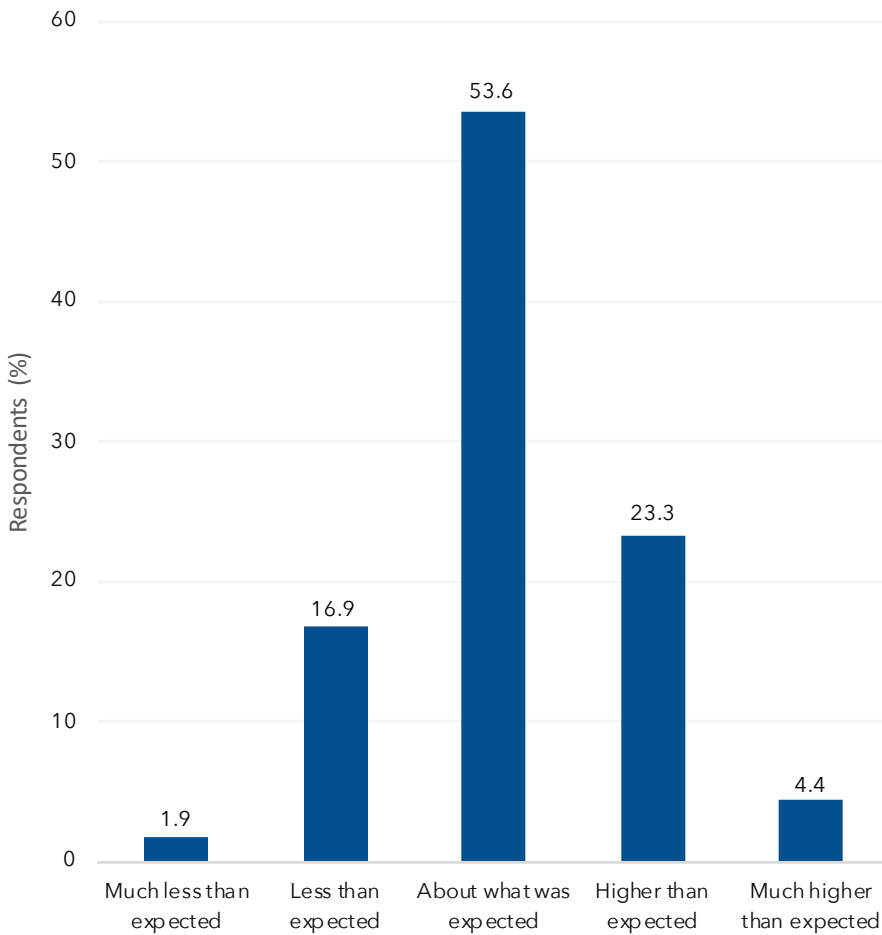
Note: Only students who reported accepting a position in one specialty were included in this table.

TABLE 92. SALARY OF ACCEPTED POSITION

	<i>n</i>	%	% (Cum.)
\$49,999 or less	5	0.5	0.5
\$50,000 - \$59,999	12	1.3	1.8
\$60,000 - \$69,999	17	1.8	3.7
\$70,000 - \$79,999	58	6.2	9.9
\$80,000 - \$89,999	224	24.1	34.0
\$90,000 - \$99,999	297	31.9	65.9
\$100,000 - \$109,999	190	20.4	86.4
\$110,000 - \$119,999	81	8.7	95.1
\$120,000 - \$129,999	28	3.0	98.1
\$130,000 or more	18	1.9	100.0
Total	930	100.0	-

Note: "% (Cum.)" refers to the cumulative percentage of respondents. Only students who reported accepting a position in one specialty were included in this table.

FIGURE 38. HOW SALARY OF ACCEPTED POSITION COMPARED TO EXPECTATIONS



Note: Only students who reported accepting a position in one specialty were included in this figure.

SECTION 12. EOPS: NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES IN PA SCHOOL

This section presents students' reports of mistreatment, discrimination, and harassment that they had either personally experienced, or witnessed other students experience, during PA school.

TABLE 93. DOES YOUR PROGRAM HAVE POLICIES REGARDING THE MISTREATMENT OF PA STUDENTS?

	<i>n</i>	%
Yes	1,064	63.0
No	51	3.0
Unsure	575	34.0
Total	1,690	100.0

TABLE 94. PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED NEGATIVE EVENTS (%)

	<i>n</i>	Never	Once	More than Once
Been publicly embarrassed	1,695	73.2	12.4	14.5
Been publicly humiliated	1,694	86.6	7.8	5.6
Been threatened with physical harm	1,692	97.2	1.9	0.9
Been physically harmed (e.g., hit, slapped, kicked)	1,694	98.5	1.2	0.3
Been required to perform personal services (e.g., shopping, babysitting)	1,695	95.5	3.2	1.3
Been subjected to unwanted sexual advances	1,693	93.4	3.2	3.3
Been asked to exchange sexual favors for grades or other rewards	1,694	99.7	0.3	0.0
Been denied opportunities for training or rewards based on my gender	1,693	93.7	2.7	3.7
Been subjected to offensive remarks/names based on my gender	1,690	88.9	4.6	6.5
Received lower evaluations or grades solely because of my gender rather than performance	1,692	97.5	1.6	0.9
Been denied opportunities for training or rewards based on my race or ethnicity	1,687	98.0	0.9	1.0
Been subjected to offensive remarks/names based on my race or ethnicity	1,691	95.9	2.4	1.7
Received lower evaluations or grades solely because of my race or ethnicity rather than performance	1,691	98.7	0.8	0.5
Been denied opportunities for training or rewards based on my sexual orientation	1,691	99.7	0.2	0.1
Been subjected to offensive remarks/names regarding my sexual orientation	1,689	98.8	0.5	0.7
Received lower evaluations or grades solely because of my sexual orientation rather than performance	1,693	99.8	0.1	0.1
Been denied opportunities for training or rewards based on my religion	1,694	99.0	0.7	0.3
Been subjected to offensive remarks/names regarding my religion	1,693	96.3	2.1	1.5
Received lower evaluations or grades solely because of my religion rather than performance	1,692	99.2	0.5	0.2

Note: Due to low frequencies, "occasionally" and "frequently" were combined into "more than once."

TABLE 95. NEGATIVE EVENTS WITNESSED BUT NOT PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED (%)

	<i>n</i>	Never	Once	More than Once
Public embarrassment	1,686	73.1	8.8	18.0
Public humiliation	1,680	85.0	5.4	9.6
Threat of physical harm	1,683	98.6	0.8	0.6
Physical harm (e.g., hit, slapped, kicked)	1,683	98.8	1.0	0.3
Required to perform personal services (e.g., shopping, babysitting)	1,686	96.4	2.0	1.6
Subjected to unwanted sexual advances	1,684	94.5	2.4	3.0
Asked to exchange sexual favors for grades or other rewards	1,685	99.7	0.2	0.1
Opportunities for training or rewards denied based on their gender	1,683	94.4	1.9	3.7
Subjected to offensive remarks/names based on their gender	1,683	94.2	1.8	4.0
Lower evaluations or grades received solely because of their gender rather than performance	1,681	98.2	1.0	0.8
Opportunities for training or rewards denied based on their race or ethnicity	1,682	98.1	0.7	1.2
Subjected to offensive remarks/names based on their race or ethnicity	1,682	95.5	2.4	2.1
Lower evaluations or grades received solely because of their race or ethnicity rather than performance	1,680	98.8	0.8	0.4
Opportunities for training or rewards denied based on their sexual orientation	1,681	99.2	0.5	0.3
Subjected to offensive remarks/names regarding their sexual orientation	1,681	97.5	1.4	1.1
Lower evaluations or grades received solely because of their sexual orientation rather than performance	1,682	99.3	0.4	0.4
Opportunities for training or rewards denied based on their religion	1,683	99.3	0.5	0.2
Subjected to offensive remarks/names regarding their religion	1,684	97.6	1.2	1.2
Lower evaluations or grades received solely because of their religion rather than performance	1,681	99.6	0.2	0.1

Note: Due to low frequencies, "occasionally" and "frequently" were combined into "more than once."

FIGURE 39. IDENTITY DISCRIMINATION OR HARASSMENT

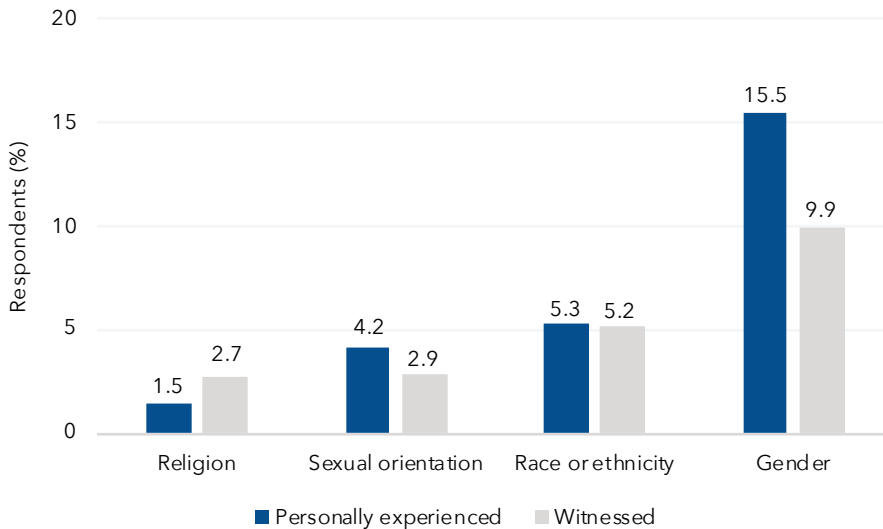


Figure 39 displays the proportion of responding students who reported either personally experiencing or witnessing other students being discriminated against or harassed based on facets of their identities. Reports of being discriminated against or harassed for each facet of identity were based on students' combined reports of any of the following experiences:

- Denied opportunities for training or rewards
- Subjected to offensive remarks/names
- Received lower evaluations or grades