

# Report of the Convocation Advisory Review Committee

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## CONVOCATION ADVISORY REVIEW COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

March 29, 2018

Convocation remains one of the largest, most important and inclusive celebratory events held at the University of Toronto involving all academic divisions and a number of administrative offices. The reach of this event extends beyond the physical campus with the live world-wide webcast capturing a global audience.

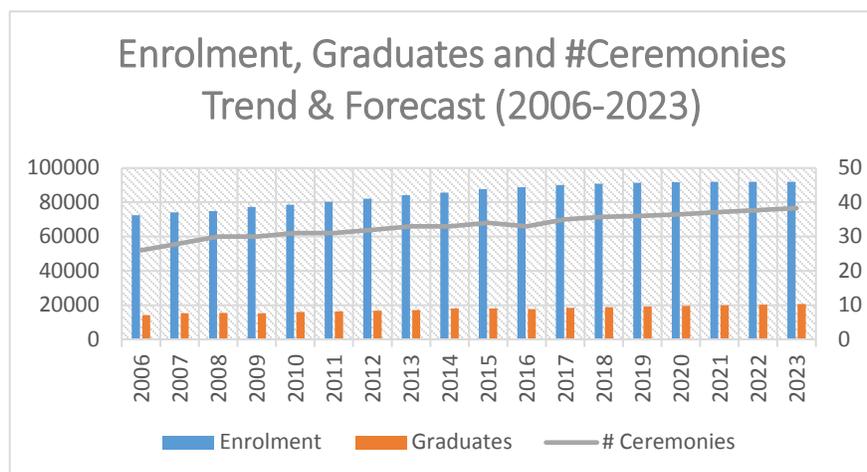
### **Background**

In the 2016-17 academic year, there were 35 ceremonies: 27 in June spanning across 13 days, and 8 in November over 4 days. We now graduate over 18,000 students annually and, of these, approximately 15,000 attend their convocation ceremonies with their over 37,000 guests.

Our current model focuses attention on individual students with each graduand being greeted by the Chancellor and the President (or another presiding officer acting for either of them) and receiving their diploma at the ceremony. This is a rare and unique model for a university of this size.

### **Context**

As the capacity of Convocation Hall is approximately 1,700 people, attendance at many ceremonies has now reached that capacity. Steady enrolment expansion at the Mississauga campus and the Scarborough campus, in graduate studies, and in professional programs, has resulted in growth in our graduating classes. Enrolment has increased nearly 10.7% over the last 5 years (2011/12 to 16/17). The increase translates to an 8.9% increase in the size of the graduating classes. For more context, this is a 22.6% increase in enrolment and 24.7% increase in the number of graduates over the 10-year period (2006/07 to 16/17) since the last Convocation Review (more about the Review below). The forecast of the number of graduates and the number of ceremonies needed over the next five years, based on the enrolment projections provided by the Planning and Budget Office (below), indicates a continuing upward growth.



Source: Planning & Budget Office and Office of Convocation

Currently, each graduand receives two guest tickets. Frequently, graduands request additional tickets in the event that they are available. As graduating class sizes increase, it is likely that the availability of extra tickets beyond two guest tickets per graduand may diminish and the option of extra tickets may therefore have to be eliminated.

Beginning in 2008, the capacity limit has been accommodated by splitting the ceremonies within the same Faculty or campus by departments, requiring large units such as the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering (FASE), Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), Woodsworth College, University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) and University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) to hold multiple ceremonies, with some occurring over multiple days. In addition, and for the first time, the spring 2018 season will have evening ceremonies almost daily in order to allow for three ceremonies a day rather than two. This will have significant logistical implications, as well as potential spillovers that affect other aspects of the normal business of the university. Also, for the first time, there will be more triple ceremony days than double ceremony days.

In 2005, in light of the impact of growing enrolment at that time, the first Committee to Review Convocation was established. In December 2006, the Committee delivered a Report containing the results of broad internal consultations and an alumni survey, and recommendations for next steps. The review emphasized that Convocation was a meaningful and important milestone in the continuum of the student experience, and recommended that Convocation Hall continue to be the primary venue for the ceremony. Since 2006, numerous improvements to Convocation and services for graduating students have been implemented arising from the Report and the University's commitment to enhancing the convocation experience for our students.

Some examples of the changes are as follows:

- The Opening Statement, which begins a convocation ceremony, has been updated to be more inclusive, to be respectful of diversity, and to recognize the traditional native lands upon which the University is built.
- The number of ceremonies increased from 22 in 2007 to 27 in 2017 to accommodate enrolment growth and the demand for guest tickets.
- Undergraduate and graduate convocation ceremonies have been combined, where appropriate, to reinforce the sense of a division's academic community.
- The academic regalia rental service has been radically improved to offer clean, fresh regalia to all students, faculty & staff within a professional and well-organized operation. Additionally, all doctoral candidates are provided with doctoral regalia.
- A comprehensive and easy-to-navigate online service for students was launched in 2009 to streamline gown rental, to RSVP, to order guest tickets, and to request accommodations for guests (and students).
- There were upgrades in 2015 to add an E-ticket functionality.

Another major enhancement to the convocation experience was the introduction in Spring 2011 of Convocation Plaza, a space of celebration situated adjacent to the Convocation Hall. Graduates, family and friends can assemble before or after their convocation ceremonies under a marquee that offers numerous services, to enjoy refreshments, take photographs and connect with fellow graduates, faculty and staff from their division, and be welcomed into the Alumni Community. It also serves as a live-

stream venue that makes the convocation ceremony more accessible to family and friends of graduands who could not be in the Hall due to ticket limits.

Despite these many positive initiatives, the overall capacity issue remains. In addition, there is also a need to review the elements of the ceremony itself with a goal to maintaining the University's traditions but at the same time adapt to changing needs.

### **Action**

In light of the above, the President and the Chair of the Governing Council have struck an advisory review committee, to be co-chaired by the Secretary of the Governing Council and the Assistant Vice-President, Office of the President & Chief of Protocol, that will make recommendations to the President and the Chair of the Governing Council.

### **Mandate**

The Convocation Advisory Review Committee's (CARC) general mandate is to:

- Examine the feasibility of the current model taking into account the trend and forecast of the number of ceremonies, number of dates in Spring and Fall convocation periods and limited venue capacity,
- Examine and recommend possible venue alternatives and possible changes in the delivery of ceremonies, and
- Make recommendations that will allow the University to continue to provide an outstandingly positive, memorable experience for graduands and their families.

Within these general terms and without limiting the scope of the review, the CARC is asked to examine and make recommendations on issues under two broad themes of Venue and Ceremony.

### **Venue**

On the theme of venue, the CARC will examine the current use of Convocation Hall and explore the use of other venues and evaluate the implications of each option. Factors to be considered will include: availability and feasibility of advanced booking, accessibility services, capacity and resulting estimated number of ceremonies and ticket availability, parking, access, transportation to and from campus where divisional Convocation-related events are held, financial implications such as venue rental fee, AV costs and cancellation penalties, and branding strategies.

### **Ceremony**

With respect to the ceremony, the CARC will carefully consider elements of the ceremony including, but not limited to: order of ceremony, length of speeches, participation guidelines (current graduates, past graduates), how and when the diploma should be presented, appropriate inclusion of Indigenous Culture, and accessibility matters. The CARC will also consult external sources including peer academic institutions.

## **Process**

It is expected that the work of the CARC will be informed by extensive consultations with the University community. This will include one-on-one meetings with Principals and Deans, outreach to divisional faculty and staff with involvement in convocation, the 2018 spring and fall graduating class, and the alumni community.

Outreach to graduating students and alumni will involve surveys. Key questions will focus on how well the University met their expectations with regard to their convocation experience with a focus on the themes of venue and ceremony, and will also seek open-ended feedback. The survey results will then be cross referenced with the feedback received through other consultations and from input from members of CARC, and used to achieve a coherent understanding of the student experience of Convocation.

## **Schedule**

The CARC will provide to the President and the Chair an Interim Report in December 2018 and a Final Report in early 2019.

Recommendations on various matters may ultimately require governance approval. For example, decisions regarding changes to convocation procedures rest with the Ceremonials Committee of the Academic Board.

To the extent possible, the CARC should outline the resource implications of its proposed recommendations and propose timelines for implementation should its recommendations be accepted.

## **Membership of the Committee**

### **Co-Chairs:**

Sheree Drummond (Secretary of the Governing Council)

Bryn MacPherson (Assistant Vice-President, Office of the President & Chief of Protocol)

### **Members:**

1. Steve Bailey, Director (Office of Academic & Campus Events)
2. Althea Blackburn-Evans (Interim Executive Director, Communications Partnerships, University of Toronto Communications)
3. Joseph Desloges (Professor and Principal, Woodsworth College)
4. Barbara Dick (Assistant Vice-President, Alumni Relations, Division of University Advancement)
5. Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo (Director, Indigenous Initiatives)
6. Janet Hunter (Faculty Registrar & Director, Enrolment Services, Faculty of Medicine)
7. Brenda Ichikawa (Director, University Events & Assistant to the Chancellor)
8. Richard Levin (University Registrar)
9. Don MacMillan (Faculty Registrar, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering)
10. Don McLean (Professor and Dean, Faculty of Music)
11. Mark Overton (Dean of Student Affairs, University of Toronto Mississauga)
12. Carolyn Peralta (Alumna (HBA 2015, MA 2017))

13. Mary Pugh (Professor and Acting Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International, Faculty of Arts & Science)
14. Ben Poynton (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Officer, Office of the Vice-Provost, Students)
15. Silvia Rosatone (Director, Office of Convocation)
16. Fiorella Sabadin (Associate Registrar & Director of Student Services, University of Toronto Scarborough)
17. Elizabeth Smyth (Professor and Vice-Dean, Programs, School of Graduate Studies)
18. Sandy Welsh (Professor and Vice-Provost, Students)
19. Joseph Wong (Professor and Associate Vice-President & Vice-Provost, International Student Experience)

**Secretary:**

Ayako Ariga (Special Projects Officer, Office of the Governing Council)

# CONVOCATION AT U OF T

## FACTS & FIGURES ON VENUE AND CEREMONIES

Convocation Advisory Review Meeting

April 11, 2018



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**

# Venue: Convocation Hall

2018 will mark the 111<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Convocation Hall built from 1904-1907. The University of Toronto Alumni Association raised over \$50,000 (nearly \$1M in today's dollars) for its construction, an amount that was matched by the Province.

This magnificent gift has not only witnessed convocation over the subsequent decades, it has also been the centre for a multitude of campus activities of local, national and international significance.

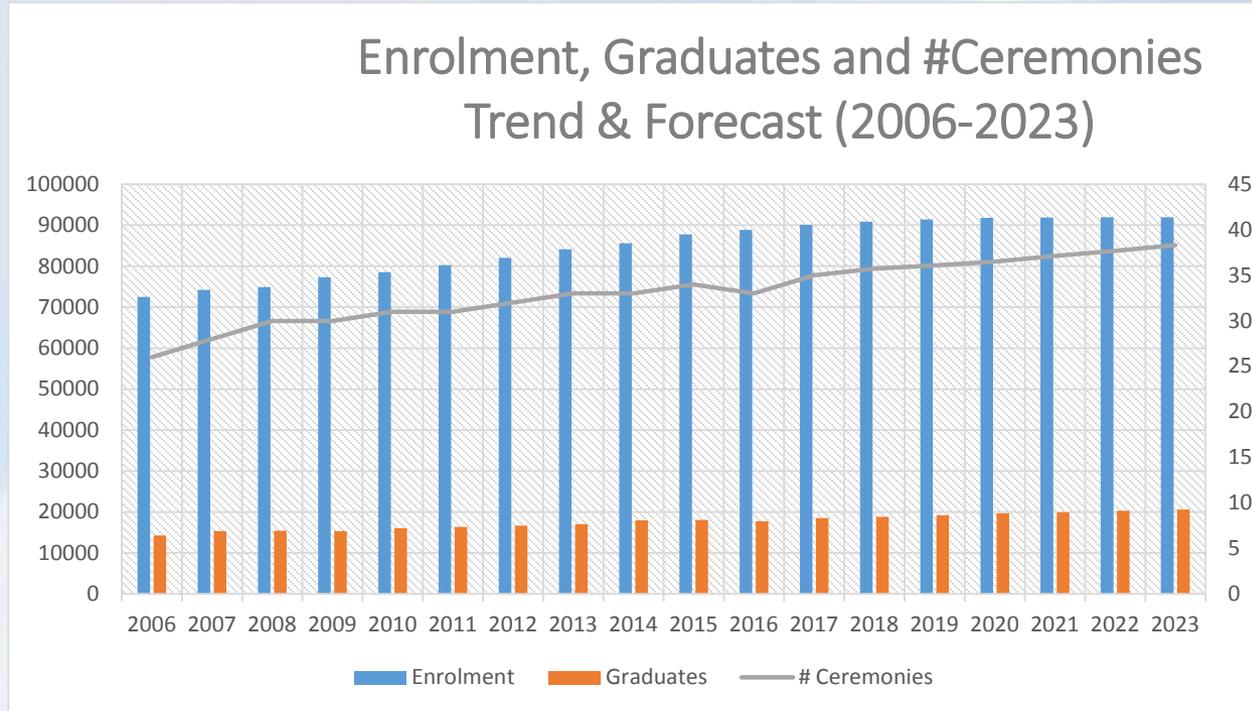


# Convocation Plaza

- Celebration Space
- Alumni Affairs Welcome
- Live Stream of Ceremony
- Refreshments
- Diploma Frames
- Flowers
- Gifts



# Growth Trend



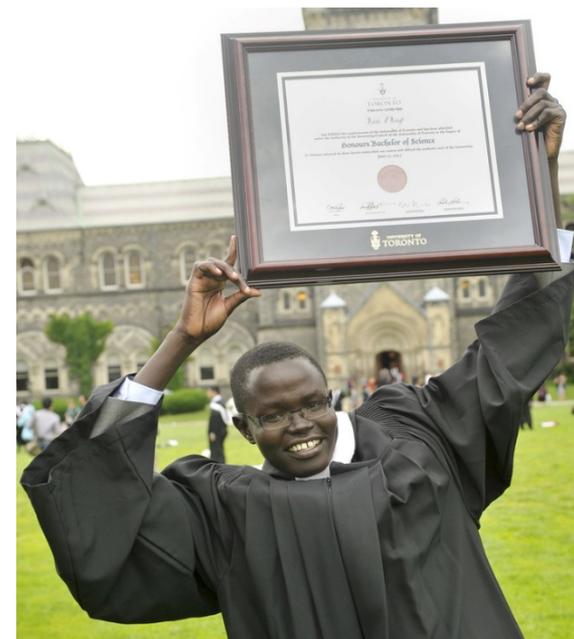
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Enrolment	90,077	90,875	91,456	91,837	91,906	91,955	91,995
Graduates	18,490	18,821	19,235	19,628	19,932	20,282	20,610
# Ceremonies	35	37	39	39	39	40	40

## Recent Statistics

	# Graduands	# Attendance	# Ceremonies	# Days
June 2017	13,595	11,596 (85.3%)	27	13 (June 6 – 20)
November 2017	4,868	3,386 (70.1%)	8	4 (Nov 6 - 9)
<b>2017 Total</b>	<b>18,463</b>	<b>14,982</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>
June 2018	13,869 (est.)	n/a	29	11 (June 7 – 21)

# Quick Facts on June 2017 Convocation

- 27 individual ceremonies held over 13 days
- 43 trained volunteer Readers reading out the names of 11,596 attending graduates
- 370 doctoral degrees awarded
- 2,374 professional degrees awarded
- 2,891 master's degrees awarded
- 8,026 bachelor degrees awarded
- 128 diploma & certificates awarded
- 28,787 guest tickets scanned
- 12 weeks spent preparing the 13,595 parchments for the Spring Class of 2017, from labeling and stuffing envelope to multiple checks to ensure names, degrees, marshalling cards, & signature books are correct



# CEREMONIES:

## SPRING CONVOCATION 2018 JUNE 7 TO 21, 2018

MONDAY JUNE 4	TUESDAY JUNE 5	WEDNESDAY JUNE 6	THURSDAY JUNE 7	FRIDAY JUNE 8
				C3 - 10:00 A.M. FACULTY OF LAW & MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS
			C1 - 2:30 P.M.	C4 - 2:30 P.M.
			FACULTY OF MEDICINE	FACULTIES OF DENTISTRY & PHARMACY
			C2 - 6:30 P.M.	
			SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES PhD, MA, MSc (Arts & Sciences, Medicine Only) MSc PLANNING & FORESTRY (PhD, MSc, MFC, MScFor) & NURSING (ALL DEGREES & DIPLOMAS)	
MONDAY JUNE 11	TUESDAY JUNE 12	WEDNESDAY JUNE 13	THURSDAY JUNE 14	FRIDAY JUNE 15
C5 - 10:00 A.M.	C8 - 10:00 A.M.	C11 - 10:00 A.M.	C14 - 10:00 A.M.	C17 - 10:00 A.M.
UofT SCARBOROUGH HBA / BA (Excluding: Economics Major)	OISE (PhD, EdD, MA, MEd) & MPP	FACULTY OF KINESIOLOGY & PHYSICAL EDUCATION & FACULTY OF MUSIC Graduate & Undergraduate	SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES (MTE, MHRH, MScAC) & FACULTY OF INFORMATION & FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, AND DESIGN Graduate & Undergraduate	INNIS COLLEGE & TRINITY COLLEGE
C6 - 2:30 P.M.	C9 - 2:30 P.M.	C12 - 2:30 P.M.	C15 - 2:30 P.M.	C18 - 2:30 P.M.
UofT SCARBOROUGH HBSic / BSc (For: Major/Specialist/Co-op in: Mental Health Science, Psychology or Neuroscience) Excluding: Economics Major	VICTORIA COLLEGE	UofT MISSISSAUGA SCIENCES SPECIALIST/MAJOR Science only Excluding: students in Economics specialist/major & EdD	UofT MISSISSAUGA GRADUATE DEGREES (M) MROTECH, MFA, MPP/AMM, MScBAC, MScSM & HBA, BA, BBA, BCOMM in economics/major/specialist only	ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE
C7 - 6:30 P.M.	C10 - 6:30 P.M.	C13 - 6:30 P.M.	C16 - 6:30 P.M.	
UofT SCARBOROUGH MEnvSc; HBSic / BSc Excluding: Economics Major; Mental Health Studies; Psych & Neuroscience	UofT SCARBOROUGH MAccFin; BBA/BCom / HBA/HBSc CERT.BUS (HBA/HBSc - MAJOR IN ECONOMICS ONLY)	UofT MISSISSAUGA ARTS & SCIENCES Arts/Science MAJOR/MINOR & CO-OP ONLY	UofT MISSISSAUGA ARTS Excluding: Economics specialist/major and EdD	
MONDAY JUNE 18	TUESDAY JUNE 19	WEDNESDAY JUNE 20	THURSDAY JUNE 21	
C19 - 10:00 A.M.	C22 - 10:00 A.M.	C25 - 10:00 A.M.	C28 - 10:00 A.M.	
ROTMAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT	FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING UTIAS, BME, Civ., Mex., EnvSci, MSE MEng (see over) & MEngCEM	NEW COLLEGE	SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES PROFESSIONAL MASTERS & FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK (PhD, MSW, Diploma) & SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH (PHS & HPME - ALL DEGREES)	
C20 - 2:30 P.M.	C23 - 2:30 P.M.	C26 - 2:30 P.M.	C29 - 2:30 P.M.	
WOODSWORTH COLLEGE ARTS & DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES	FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING MIE and Chemical MEngMtl	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE	ROTMAN COMMERCE	
C21 - 6:30 P.M.	C24 - 6:30 P.M.	C27 - 6:30 P.M.		
WOODSWORTH COLLEGE SCIENCES, COMMERCE	FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING ECE	OISE (TEACHER ED. PROGRAMS - MT, MA-CSE & BEd/CTEP)		

# Ceremony: Sample Program from Previous Years

## **Procession**

### **Opening of Convocation (Chancellor)**

### **Admissions to Degrees**

Members of the Graduating Classes will be admitted to their degrees

### **Welcoming Remarks (President & Dean)**

### **Conferring of the Honorary Degree**

Dean will deliver the citation

The Chancellor will confer the degree

The recipient will be hooded

### **The Address (Honorary Degree recipient)**

### **Presentation of Graduates**

The graduates will be presented to the Chancellor & the President

### **Closing Remarks (Chancellor & President)**

**O Canada**

# Participants & Partners

- **Graduands**
- **Families & Guests**
- **Presiding Officers**
- **Chancellor's Procession**
- **Academic Procession**
- **Honorary Degree Recipients**
- **Convocation Speakers**
- **Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni, Governors & Friends of the University**
- **Marshals**
- **Ushers**
- **Regalia Attendants**
- **Musicians**
- **University Readers**
- **Faculties & Divisions**
- **President's Office**
- **Alumni Relations, DUA**
- **Academic & Campus Events**
- **Convocation Office**
- **Campus Police**
- **Grounds and Trades**
- **Parking Services (Transportation)**
- **Vendor Partners – UofT Bookstore; Gaspard; Convocation Flowers; St. George Catering**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**

# Convocation Review

Venue Report  
October 2, 2017

# Analysis Overview

Venue	Capacity	Est. # of Ceremonies/ Days	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Convocation Hall</b> *based on Spring 2017 	1,714	27/13*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UofT space</li> <li>- tradition &amp; history</li> <li>- intimacy &amp; atmosphere</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- limited capacity</li> <li>- inaccessible stage</li> </ul>
<b>Energcare Centre</b>	12,000	6/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increase to at least 4 tickets per student</li> <li>- fully accessible and potential for captioning</li> <li>- easy transit and ample parking options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- significant audio visual and staging costs</li> </ul>
<b>Metro Toronto Convention Centre</b>	10,500	7/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increase to at least 4 tickets per student</li> <li>- fully accessible and potential for captioning</li> <li>- easy transit and ample parking options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- significant audio visual and staging costs</li> </ul>
<b>Ricoh Centre</b>	5,000-7,300	10/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increase to at least 4 tickets per student</li> <li>- fully accessible and potential for captioning</li> <li>- easy transit and ample parking options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- significant audio visual and staging costs</li> </ul>
<b>Varsity Stadium</b> 	Estimated 5,000+	15/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UofT space</li> <li>- increase to at least 4 tickets per student</li> <li>- easy transit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- weather</li> </ul>
<b>Front Campus</b> 	Estimated 8,000+	10/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UofT space</li> <li>- increase to at least 4 tickets per student</li> <li>- easy transit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intermural sports disruption</li> <li>- weather</li> </ul>
<b>Air Canada Centre</b>	12,900-16,100	5/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- easy transit and ample parking options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- availability highly restricted by sports schedule</li> </ul>
<b>Rogers Centre</b>	52,500	2/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- easy transit and ample parking options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- availability highly restricted by sports schedule</li> </ul>

Legend: **Blue** – Indoor Venues

**Green** – Outdoor Venues

**Grey** – significant scheduling challenges

# Convocation Hall

31 King's College Circle

Capacity: 1,714

27 ceremonies

13 days



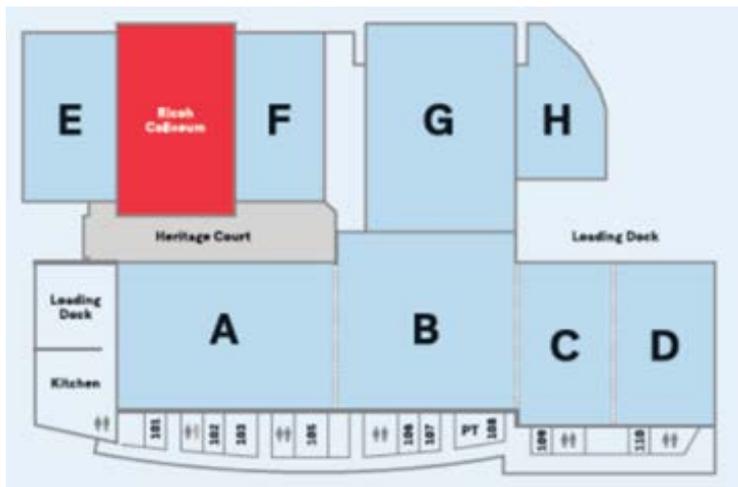
# Enercare Centre

100 Princes' Boulevard

Capacity: 12,000

6 ceremonies

3 days



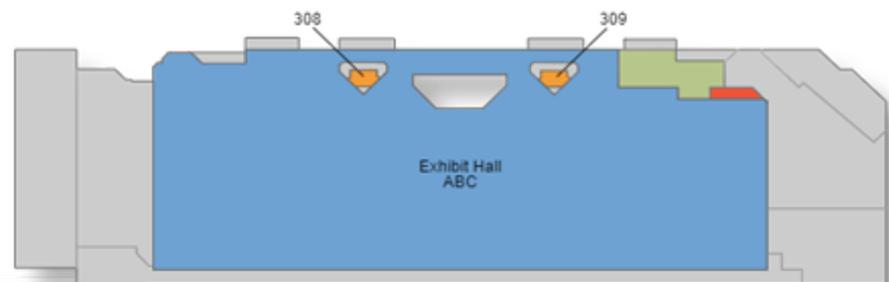
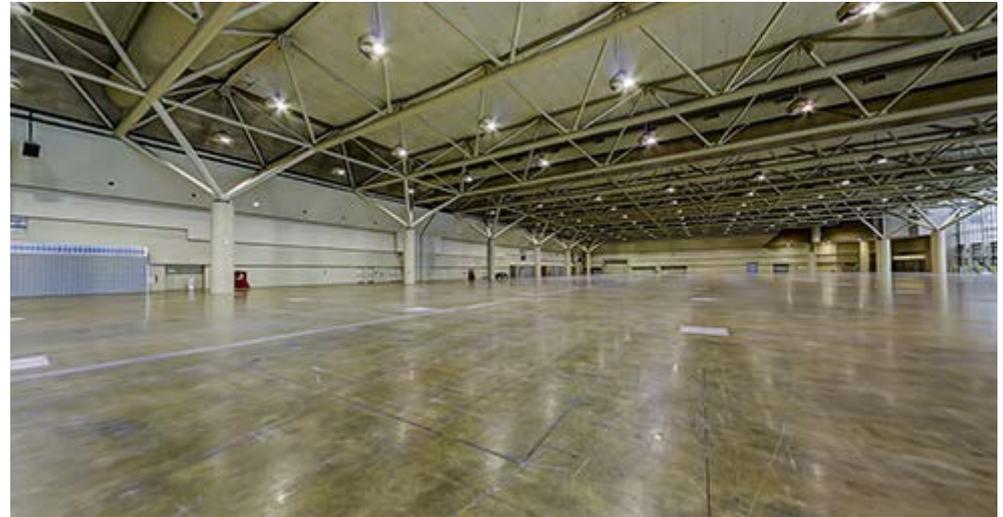
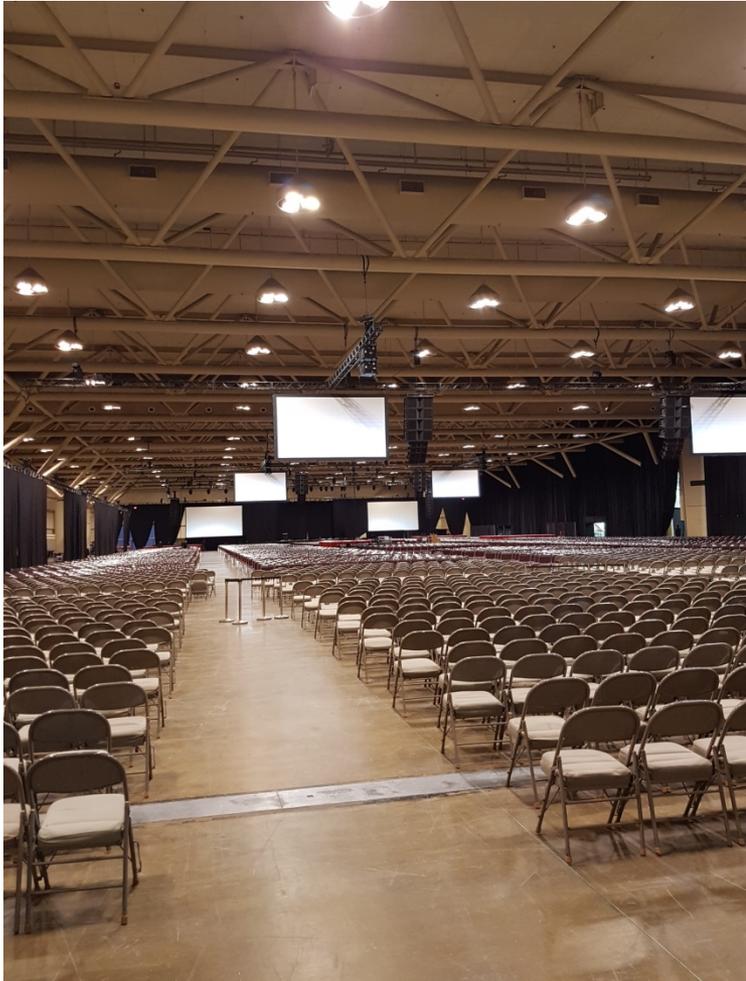
# Metro Toronto Convention Centre

222 Bremner Boulevard

Capacity: 10,500

7 ceremonies

3 days



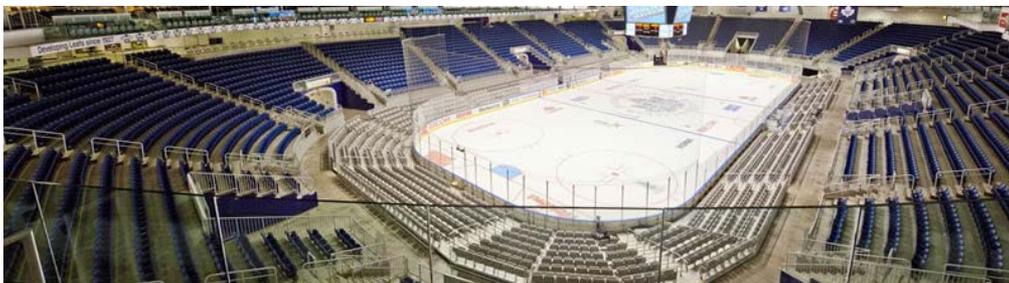
# Ricoh Coliseum

45 Manitoba Drive

Capacity: 7,300

10 ceremonies

5 days



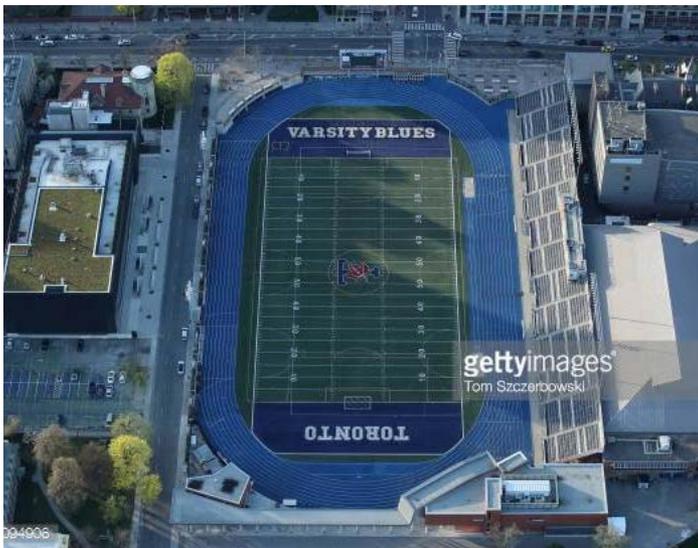
# Varsity Stadium

299 Bloor Street West

Capacity: 5,000+

15 ceremonies

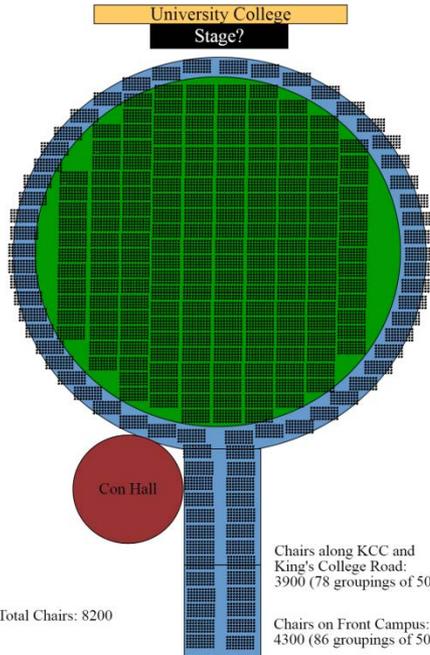
7 days



# Front Campus

King's College Circle

Capacity: 8,000+  
10 ceremonies  
5 days



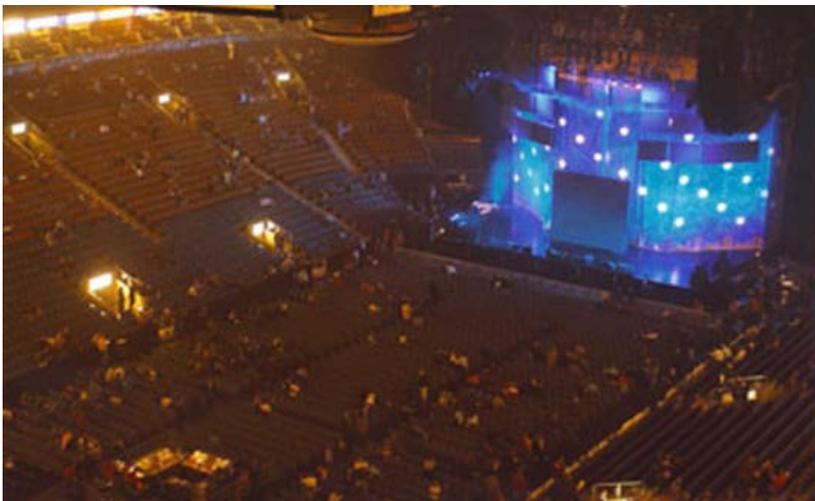
# Air Canada Centre

40 Bay Street

Capacity: 16,000

5 ceremonies

2 days



## Air Canada Centre

Toronto, ON



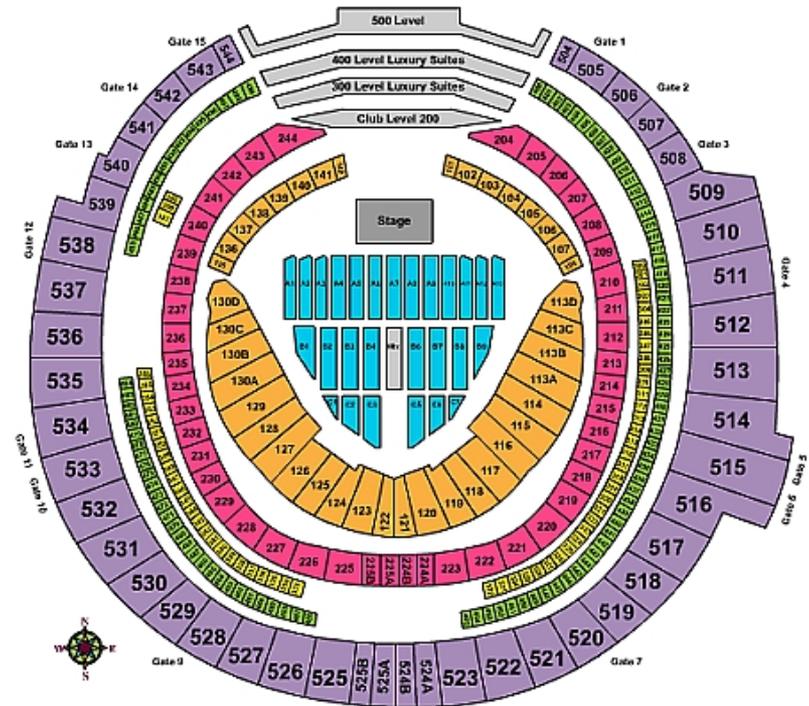
# Rogers Centre (Sky Dome)

1 Blue Jays Way

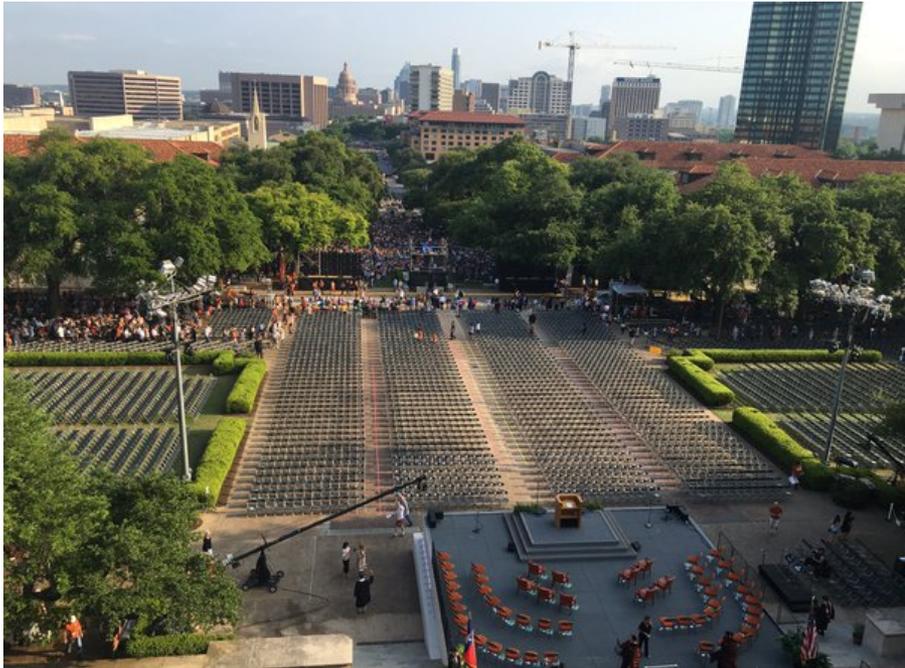
Capacity: 52,500

2 ceremonies

1 day



# Examples at other Universities



University of Texas at Austin

# Examples at other Universities



Columbia University

# Examples at other Universities



Rutgers University

# Comparison of Graduation Ceremonies at 14 Peer Institutions

Similarities and differences in:

- Dates
- # Ceremonies
- Venues
- # Graduates & Enrolment
- Ticketed?
- Date of Conferral
- Graduation Fees?
- Honorary Degrees?

Institutions:

- Oxford
- Cambridge
- University College London
- Harvard
- Yale
- Stanford
- Michigan
- U Penn
- Chicago
- Berkeley
- Ohio State
- UBC
- McGill
- Ryerson

# Comparison of Graduation Ceremonies at 14 Peer Institutions

## **Group 1** (Majority of US Schools)

One university-wide ceremony (outdoor) followed by diploma granting ceremonies and featured speakers events by Faculty/College/School

## **Group 2** (Ohio State)

One university-wide ceremony; no faculty-level ceremonies = Ohio State

## **Group 3** (Canadian Schools, Oxford)

Ceremonies by Faculty/College/School/Campus

## **Group 4** (Cambridge)

Combination of large general ceremonies for most BAs + smaller ceremonies when governance meetings are held (every month)

*Thank You.*



# SPRING CONVOCATION 2018

## JUNE 7 TO 21, 2018

MONDAY JUNE 4	TUESDAY JUNE 5	WEDNESDAY JUNE 6	THURSDAY JUNE 7	FRIDAY JUNE 8
				<b>C3 - 10:00 A.M.</b>
				<b>FACULTY OF LAW &amp; MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS</b>
			<b>C1 - 2:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C4 - 2:30 P.M.</b>
			<b>FACULTY OF MEDICINE</b>	<b>FACULTIES OF: DENTISTRY &amp; PHARMACY</b>
			<b>C2 - 6:30 P.M.</b>	
			<b>SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES PHD , MA, MSc (ARTS &amp; SCIENCE, MEDICINE ONLY) MSc.PLANNING &amp; FORESTRY (PhD,MSc,MFC, MScFor) &amp; NURSING (ALL DEGREES &amp; DIPLOMAS)</b>	
MONDAY JUNE 11	TUESDAY JUNE 12	WEDNESDAY JUNE 13	THURSDAY JUNE 14	FRIDAY JUNE 15
<b>C5 - 10:00 A.M.</b>	<b>C8 - 10:00 A.M.</b>	<b>C11 - 10:00 A.M.</b>	<b>C14 - 10:00 A.M.</b>	<b>C17 - 10:00 A.M.</b>
<b>UOFT SCARBOROUGH HBA / BA (Excluding: Economics Major)</b>	<b>OISE (PHD, EDD, MA, MED)  &amp; MPP</b>	<b>FACULTY OF KINESIOLOGY &amp; PHYSICAL EDUCATION  &amp; FACULTY OF MUSIC GRADUATE &amp; UNDERGRADUATE</b>	<b>SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES (MFE, MIRHR, MScAC) &amp; FACULTY OF INFORMATION &amp; FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, AND DESIGN Graduate &amp; Undergraduate</b>	<b>INNIS COLLEGE &amp; TRINITY COLLEGE</b>
<b>C6 - 2:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C9 - 2:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C12 - 2:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C15 - 2:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C18 - 2:30 P.M.</b>
<b>UOFT SCARBOROUGH HBSc / BSc  (For: Major/Specialist/Co-op in: MENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE. PSYCHOLOGY OR NEUROSCIENCE)  Excluding: Economics Major</b>	<b>VICTORIA COLLEGE</b>	<b>UOFT MISSISSAUGA SCIENCES SPECIALIST/MAJOR Science only. Excluding: students in Economics specialist/major &amp; CCIT</b>	<b>UOFT MISSISSAUGA GRADUATE DEGREES (IMI) MBIOTECH, MFA, MMPA,MMI, MSCBMC, MSCSM &amp; HBA, BA, BBA, BCOMM in ECONOMICS major/specialist only</b>	<b>ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE</b>
<b>C7 - 6:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C10 - 6:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C13 - 6:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C16 - 6:30 P.M.</b>	
<b>UOFT SCARBOROUGH MEnvSc; HBSc / BSc  Excluding: Economics Major; Mental Health Studies; Psych &amp; Neuroscience</b>	<b>UOFT SCARBOROUGH MAccFin; BBA /BCOM / HBA /HBSc CERT.BUS (HBA/HBSc- MAJOR IN ECONOMICS ONLY)</b>	<b>UOFT MISSISSAUGA ARTS &amp; SCIENCES Arts/Science MAJOR/MINOR &amp; CCIT ONLY</b>	<b>UOFT MISSISSAUGA ARTS Excluding: Economics specialist/major and CCIT</b>	
MONDAY JUNE 18	TUESDAY JUNE 19	WEDNESDAY JUNE 20	THURSDAY JUNE 21	
<b>C19 - 10:00 A.M.</b>	<b>C22 - 10:00 A.M.</b>	<b>C25 - 10:00 A.M.</b>	<b>C28 - 10:00 A.M.</b>	
<b>ROTMAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE &amp; ENGINEERING UTIAS, BME, CIVIL, MIN., ENGSci, MSE MHSc (BME ONLY) &amp; MENGCEM</b>	<b>NEW COLLEGE</b>	<b>SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES PROFESSIONAL MASTERS &amp; FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK (PhD., MSW, Diplomas) &amp; SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH (PHS &amp; HPME – ALL DEGREES</b>	
<b>C20 - 2:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C23 - 2:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C26 - 2:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C29 - 2:30 P.M.</b>	
<b>WOODSWORTH COLLEGE  ARTS &amp; DIPLOMAS &amp; CERTIFICATES</b>	<b>FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE &amp; ENGINEERING MIE AND CHEMICAL MENGDM</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY COLLEGE</b>	<b>ROTMAN COMMERCE</b>	
<b>C21 - 6:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C24 - 6:30 P.M.</b>	<b>C27 - 6:30 P.M.</b>		
<b>WOODSWORTH COLLEGE  SCIENCES, COMMERCE</b>	<b>FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE &amp; ENGINEERING ECE</b>	<b>OISE (TEACHER ED. PROGRAMS – MT, MA-CSE &amp; BEd/CTEP)</b>		

# FALL CONVOCATION 2018

NOVEMBER 5 - 8, 2018

<b>MONDAY NOVEMBER 5</b>	<b>TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7</b>	<b>THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8</b>
<p><b>C1 - 10:00 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>INSTALLATION OF CHANCELLOR &amp;</b></p> <p><b>FACULTY OF ARTS &amp; SCIENCE</b></p> <p>INNIS COLLEGE NEW COLLEGE ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE TRINITY COLLEGE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE</p>	<p><b>C3 - 10:00 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>ROTMAN / MANAGEMENT</b> PHD, MBA, MF, MFRM, GDPA</p> <p><b>&amp;</b></p> <p><b>SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES</b></p> <p><b>MA</b> – FOR ARTS &amp; SCIENCE ONLY <b>MSc</b> – FOR ARTS &amp; SCIENCE, AND MEDICINE*</p> <p><b>MFE, MFI, MMF, MScAC, MScBMC, MScPL</b></p> <p><i>* Note for MSc degree programs in <b>Medicine</b>: this ceremony includes all departments in the Faculty of Medicine except HPME and Rehabilitation Science</i></p>	<p><b>C5 - 10:00 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES</b></p> <p><b>PHD FOR:</b> ARTS &amp; SCIENCE, DENTISTRY, FORESTRY, IHPME, INFORMATION, LAW, MEDICINE, PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, &amp; PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p><b>&amp;</b></p> <p><b>DENTISTRY</b> PHD, MSc, DDS</p> <p><b>FORESTRY</b> PHD MFC, MScFor</p> <p><b>INFORMATION</b> PHD, MI, MMSt, MI combined; DipISt</p> <p><b>LAW</b> SJD, GPLLM, LLM, MSL, JD and JD COMBINED</p> <p><b>MEDICINE</b> – PhD only</p> <p><b>PHARMACY</b> PHD, MSc, DPHARM (MSc – Pharmaceutical Science only)</p> <p><b>PUBLIC HEALTH &amp; IHPME</b> PHD, MSc, MScCH, MPH, MHI DipCommH, DIH</p>	<p><b>C7 - 10:00 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES &amp;</b></p> <p><b>APPLIED SCIENCE and ENGINEERING</b> PHD, MASc, MEng, MENGCEM, MENGDM, MHSc, BASc, BAScEngSc</p> <p><b>ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, and DESIGN</b> <b>(including Visual Studies)</b> M.ARCH, MLA, MUD, MVS, HBA (Architecture &amp; Visual Studies)</p> <p><b>INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS &amp; HUMAN RESOURCES</b> (PHD, MIRHR)</p> <p><b>KINESIOLOGY &amp; PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b> (PHD, MSc, MPK, BKin, BPHE)</p> <p><b>MUNK SCHOOL &amp; PUBLIC POLICY</b> MGA, MPP</p> <p><b>MUSIC</b> PHD, DMA, MA, MM, BMus, BMusPerf. &amp; ALL DIPLOMA &amp; CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS</p> <p><b>SOCIAL WORK</b> PHD, MSW, DSSA</p>
<p><b>C2 – 2:30 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>UoFT MISSISSAUGA</b></p> <p>INSTITUTE FOR MANAGEMENT OF INNOVATION MBIOTECH, MMPPA, MMI, MSCSM, MFACC, DIFA</p> <p><b>&amp;</b></p> <p>ALL UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS</p>	<p><b>C4 - 2:30 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES</b></p> <p><b>NURSING</b> PHD, MN, BScN ALL DIPLOMA &amp; CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS</p> <p><b>REHABILITATION SCIENCE</b> PHD, MSc, MScOT, MScPT, MHSc</p> <p><b>MEDICINE</b> MD, BScPA, BScRadSci. &amp; diploma programs only</p>	<p><b>C6 - 2:30 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>UoFT SCARBOROUGH</b></p> <p>MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &amp; ALL UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS</p>	<p><b>C8 - 2:30 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>OISE</b></p> <p>PHD, EdD, MA, MEd, MT BEEd, DipTEd, CTEP</p> <p><b>&amp;</b></p> <p><b>FACULTY OF ARTS &amp; SCIENCE</b></p> <p>VICTORIA COLLEGE WOODSWORTH COLLEGE</p>

Convocations in 2017: Peer Comparison  
January 2018

Institution	Dates (# days; incl. Fri eve & Sat?)	# ceremonies	Venue (cap)	# Graduates/enrollment	Ticketed? (#/grad)	Date of conferral	Graduation fee?	Honorary degree? (#)
<a href="#">Oxford</a> Degree ceremonies	Nov 3,4,11 Jan 20, Mar 3&10, May 5&12 No F eve; Y Saturdays	8 (grouped by college)	Sheldonian Theatre (750)	n/a /23,195	Y (3)	Date of degree ceremony	Y for MA conferred £40 (~\$68). Details below.	Y (7; awarded at a separate ceremony in June)
<a href="#">Cambridge</a> Degree ceremonies	1-2 times every month from Oct-May 1 Honorary Degrees ceremony in June 4 dates in June – “General Admission”(most UGs opt to attend on one these dates) 2 dates in July  Y Fridays but not eve Y Saturdays	16 (grouped by college) Degree ceremonies dates are when Regent House (GC equiv) congregations are held at which degrees may be conferred. Not all Colleges present candidates at every date given.	Senate House (cap info n/a)	n/a /19,660	Y (3)	Date of degree ceremony	n/a	Y (8)
<a href="#">UCL</a> Graduation Ceremony	July 4-6 August 29-30 Aug 31-Sep 8 (7 days; in a bespoke structure; weekdays only)  Y Fridays but not eve	27 (grouped by Faculty and program of study; 10 at RFH; 17 in Russell Square)	Royal Festival Hall (2,500; a corporate-owned theatre) Russell Square (Aug31-Sep8 only; in purpose-built venues in the grounds)	n/a /38,900	Y for purchase (£45 (~\$77) for guests; max. # n/a; complimentary for graduands	July 15 or the 1st day of the month after UCL Edu Committee has confirmed the award.	N	Y (3)

Institution	Dates (# days; incl. Fri eve & Sat?)	# ceremonies	Venue (cap)	# Graduates/enrollment	Ticketed? (#/grad)	Date of conferral	Graduation fee?	Honorary degree? (#)
<a href="#">Harvard</a> Commencement Exercises	Thu, May 25	1 u-wide Morning Exercises; Diploma granting ceremonies & luncheons (by UG Houses, grad & prof schools); Afternoon Program= annual meeting of Alumni Association, incl. remarks by Commencement speaker.	Tercentenary Theatre (~32,000; outdoor; rain or shine)	n/a /22,000	Y (4/UG grad; 2/Graduate & Prof degree candidates)	Date of Commencement Exercises	N	Y (10)
<a href="#">Yale</a> Commencement	May 20-22 Sat, May 20-Bacc. Address Sun, May 21-Class Day Mon, May 22-Comm.	3 u-wide events: Baccalaureate ceremonies (Address at its heart; Christian elements; 3 ceremonies by groups of colleges); Class Day (awards and featured speaker); U Commencement (student marshals from each residential college and school accept symbolic diplomas from the Pres).  Diploma ceremonies for Yale College, Graduate School & Prof Schools, following Commencement.	Old Campus (outdoor; rain or shine)  Woolsey Hall (2,650) for Bacc Address	n/a / 12,312	N	Date of Commencement	N	Y (8)

Institution	Dates (# days; incl. Fri eve & Sat?)	# ceremonies	Venue (cap)	# Graduates/ enrollment	Ticketed? (#/grad)	Date of conferral	Graduation fee?	Honorary degree? (#)
<a href="#">Stanford</a> Commencement Weekend	June 16-17 Sat, June 16-Bacc gathering Sun, June 17- Comm. ceremony; Followed by Diploma Ceremonies	3 u-wide events:	Bacc @Main Quadrangle (outdoor)  Stanford Stadium (50,000)	850 / 16,437	N (however, seating on Main Quad is limited)	Date of Commencement Ceremony	N	N
<a href="#">Michigan</a> Commencement	April 28-29 Fri, Apr 28 Graduate Exercises Sat, April 29 Spring Commencement  Sun, Dec 17 Winter Commencement	2 u-wide Commencement ceremonies;  1 Graduate Exercises;  37 School/ college/ campus ceremonies	Michigan Stadium (Spring; rain or shine; 109,901 ) Crisler Arena (Winter; 13,751) Hill Auditorium (Graduate Excs; 3,500)	16,764 (2016) / 44,718	10 for UG grads; 6 for graduate/ prof grads  Not required for Winter Comm.	Date of Registrar's Office posting degrees to official transcript (=weeks after Comm ceremony )	N	Y (0 in 2017; 1 in 2016; 11 in 2015)
<a href="#">U Penn</a> Commencement	May 14-15 Mon, May 15-Comm ceremony & School ceremonies Sun, May 14-Baccalaureate ceremony	1 u-wide ceremony; 2 Baccalaureate ceremonies (by last names); School Ceremonies	Franklin Field (outdoor; rain or shine; 52,593)	n/a / 24,960	N Some school ceremonies may require tickets	Date of Commencement	N	Y (7)
<a href="#">Chicago</a> Convocation	June 9-10 Fri, June 9-Class Day Sat, June 10- Conv	1 u-wide conv ceremony; diploma ceremonies for each div & schools follow. In Nov 2015, Chicago consolidated conv as single annual event, The	Main Quadrangle (outdoor; rain or shine)	1,306 (2014) / 15,700	N for U Conv ceremony. Some School ceremoni	Date of convocation	N	Y(3)

Institution	Dates (# days; incl. Fri eve & Sat?)	# ceremonies	Venue (cap)	# Graduates/enrollment	Ticketed? (#/grad)	Date of conferral	Graduation fee?	Honorary degree? (#)
<a href="#">Berkeley</a> Commencement	Sat, May 13	1 campus-wide ceremony, followed by departmental graduations	California Memorial Stadium (63,000)	5,500/41,910	Y (complimentary for graduates; \$10 for guests; can purchase up to 15 guest tix)	Degrees are awarded 3x/yr, at the end of the Fall semester in Dec., end of Spring semester in May, and end of Summer semester in August.	N	N (stopped the tradition in 1972, except in 2009, U honored 42 former students of Japanese descent, who weren't conferred their degree 70 yrs ago due to internment during WW2.)
<a href="#">Ohio State</a> Commencement	Sun, May 7 Sun, August 6 Tue, Dec 12	1 u-wide ceremony after each semester ends (Spring, Summer & Autumn); Lasts 2.5-3 hrs long; Each graduate receives own diploma at the	Ohio Stadium (May; 104,944) Jerome Schottenstein Center (Aug & Dec; 20,000)	16,993/66,046	N for Ohio Stadium Y (4+4 optional) for Dec ceremony starting in	Date of commencement	N	Y(3)

		ceremony, a rare custom for a u this size; No departmental/ school ceremonies			Dec. 2016. Details below.			
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Dates (# days; incl. Fri eve &amp; Sat?)</b>	<b># ceremonies</b>	<b>Venue (cap)</b>	<b># Graduates/enrollment</b>	<b>Ticketed? (#/grad)</b>	<b>Date of conferral</b>	<b>Graduation fee?</b>	<b>Honorary degree? (#)</b>
<a href="#">UBC</a> Graduation	Vancouver campus May 24-26 May 29-Jun 1 (7 days; Y Fri, but not eve)  Nov 22-24	32 ceremonies by Faculties & Schools: 8 in Fall; 26 in Spring	Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (1,185)	13,000/62,923	Y(2+ up to 4 extra tix available for 2/ticket, if available)	Date of graduation ceremony	N	Y(4)
	Okanagan campus June 8-9 (Y Fri, but not eve)	5 ceremonies by Faculties & Schools (NB: 2016 data; 2017 info n/a)	Campus Gymnasium		N			Y(1)
<a href="#">McGill</a> Graduation & Convocation	May 30-Jun 7 (7 days, Y Fri, not eve)	14 by disciplines (of which, 2 at McDonald campus)	Lower campus field, Convocation tent (Downtown campus) Centennial Centre (MacDonald campus)	n/a / 40,971	N Each student is limited to 4 guests assigned on a FCFS basis (NB) Info on how it's enforced is n/a.	Oct 1 for grads who complete degree requirements during the Summer term. Feb 1 for those during Fall term. May 1 for those during	N	Y(15)
	Oct 31	2	Place des Arts (8,000)					

						Winter term.		
Ryerson Convocation	Jun 6-16 (9 days, Y Fri, but not eve)	17 by Faculties (Spring 2017) Will be reduced to 12 ceremonies over 6 days in 2018.	Mattamy Athletic Ctr (15,728; starting in Spring 2018, due to growth of student body) Used to be at Ryerson Theatre (1,237)	n/a /43,000	Y(4) for Spring Y(2 for the Ryerson Theatre & 2 for Live Broadcast ) for Fall No extra tickets	Date of convocation	Y (\$50 ceremony fee payable by PayPal)	Y(9 for 2016; 2017 info n/a)
	Oct 10-12	6						
U of T Convocation	June 6-22 (13; N) Nov 6-9 (4; N)	35 (27 in Spring, 8 in Fall)	ConHall (1,730)	13,595/ 88,766	Y (2)	Date of conv	N	Y (18)

### Recommendations for Further In-Depth Analysis

Two institutions have recently gone through changes in the way they conduct their convocation ceremonies:

- **U Chicago** has consolidated convocation into a single annual event starting with Spring 2017 convocation (from holding it twice a year in June, August and December) in order to promote a spirit of solidarity among graduating class; and
- **Ryerson** will move the venue to the much bigger Mattamy Athletic Centre from Ryerson Theatre and hold fewer ceremonies starting in Spring 2018.

Both are recommended for in-depth analysis, preferably with in-person interviews with relevant administrators, to learn more about their internal and external consultations and how they've obtained stakeholder buy-in's needed to install the change.

Also, it is suggested that we note **UBC** and **Ryerson's** manner of including the Indigenous culture in their Convocation ceremonies in the materials for the review by the Indigenous Culture Working Group.

### Of Note

Oxford

Ceremonies are conducted all in Latin. Booklets with translations are provided.

At Oxford (and at Cambridge and Dublin), undergraduates may apply for a MA degree 21 terms (7 years) after matriculation. It is an Oxford (Cambridge and Dublin, too) specialty indicating BA with Honours. There is no period of study or examination. To attend another graduation ceremony to receive their MA, they pay a small fee (£40 (~\$68)). This distinction is represented in a person's postnominal letters: MA (Oxon), MA (Cantab) or MA (Dubl).

#### Cambridge

In groups of four, the students are presented to the Vice-Chancellor's deputy, and then are conferred their degree individually. The ceremony is entirely in Latin. After the last candidate has graduated, the new graduates meet their family and friends in the Senate House Yard to celebrate and the next college processes in for their turn.

Possession of the MA, or any other Cambridge master's degree or doctorate, confers membership of the University Senate.

#### UCL

Criticism on tickets for purchase and academic robe for hire at <http://pimediaonline.co.uk/comment/graduation-ceremonies-another-money-making-scheme/> (2015)

⇒ February 2016 announcement that students no longer have to pay £35 (~\$60) for their graduand ticket.

#### U Chicago

U Chicago [consolidated](#) its University-wide quarterly convocation ceremonies into a single annual event, following the December 2016 convocation. Until then the Aug, Dec and March convocations were held at the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel (cap 15,000) and the events were ticketed to 3 per graduate. The decision to consolidate is in response to a report issued by several dean, --and supported by the remainder; the Council of the U Senate was involved in the discussions-- to "enhance a lasting sense of solidarity, affinity and cohesion within class cohorts." The previous significant change to the convocation structure was made in 2009, when the U began conducting Spring Convocation as a single campus-wide ceremony, instead of four separate sessions involving different units, to renew the purpose of the convocation to honour the entire U by assembling its different parts in a shared graduation.

The Class Day event was added in 2017, a student-led ceremony held on the Main Quadrangle on the afternoon of Friday, on the day before the Convocation. The senior class reception was held on Friday evening at the Museum of Science & Industry as in previous years.

#### Ohio State

Starting for the December 2016 ceremony, OSU [has begun requiring tickets](#) for guests to the Autumn Commencement, citing a growing number of graduands. Graduates are not required to have a ticket. 4 guaranteed tickets per graduate, with the option to apply for 4 additional tickets. Other measures to increase capacity inside the arena were placed, including relocating and using a smaller commencement platform.

#### UBC

Welcome remarks in two languages (Musqueam and English) in the graduation program booklet for Vancouver campus (pp.10-11 from Spring 2017 [here](#)).

Welcome remarks in English from the Okanagan Nation Alliance, signed by 8 Chiefs, and the Okanagan Song in the graduation program booklet for Okanagan campus (pp. 12-13 from Spring 2016 (2017 unavailable) [here](#)).

UBC's First Nations House of Learning hosts the Aboriginal student graduation celebration.

Ryerson

Featured in the program are a statement on the connection between Egerton Ryerson and residential schools, and a picture & description of Ryerson Aboriginal Student Services Eagle Staff, next to those of the University mace. (pp. 34-35 of the program from Fall 2016 [here](#))

A [call](#) for volunteers is issued to faculty and staff for multiple roles including marshals.

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## Site Visits Summary

### Background

As part of the review process, the co-chairs of the Committee, the Director of University Events & Assistant to the Chancellor, and the Director of the Office of Convocation conducted site visits to four peer institutions to observe their convocation ceremonies and practices. The four universities visited were: University of Michigan, University of California at Berkeley, University College London (UCL), and University of Cambridge. The selection was based on the peer comparison of graduation ceremonies of 14 institutions in Canada, the US and the UK (summarized in Appendix D) in which the four institutions represented three of the four categories identified as follows.

- Group 1 (Majority of US Schools): One university-wide ceremony (outdoor) followed by diploma granting ceremonies and featured speaker events by Faculty / College / School – **University of Michigan and University of California Berkeley**
- Group 2 (Ohio State): One university-wide ceremony; no faculty-level ceremonies.
- Group 3 (Canadian Schools, Oxford, **UCL**): Ceremonies by Faculty / College / School / Campus
- Group 4 (**Cambridge**): Combination of large general ceremonies and smaller ceremonies when governance meetings are held. Specific interest here was to observe the Honorary Degree Congregation, a stand-alone model for conferral of honorary degrees.

The findings were reported back to the Committee as follows and subsequently informed the recommendations.

### University of Michigan

In April 2018, Ms. Ichikawa and Ms. Rosatone conducted a two-day site visit to the University of Michigan to observe Commencement ceremonies, which included the university-wide spring commencement and a sample of a faculty, college and department ceremony.

#### *Overview of Ceremonies at U of Michigan:*

- 65 ceremonies over 4 days (April 25 – 29)
- 24 venues; some ticketed, most not
- One “Spring Commencement” ceremony in the Big House
- 2 additional ceremonies for Dearborn & Flint campuses;
- 17 faculty/school/college ceremonies;
- 37 department ceremonies (LSA);
- 3 ROTC ceremonies (Army, Navy & Air Force)
- 5 special interest ceremonies (e.g. Latino, First Generation Initiatives, Black Celebratory; Student Athletes; Honors Program)

*Ceremonies Observed:*

At Michigan, the large university-wide commencement is known as “Spring Commencement” and is held on campus in Michigan Stadium, an outdoor venue that seats 107,601 (known on campus as the “Big House”). Graduating students receive up to ten tickets with assigned seating and the ceremony is held rain or shine. Under severe weather conditions, the ceremony can be modified (shortened), delayed or cancelled depending on the severity. The ceremony is not rescheduled if cancelled.

Below is a summary of the ceremonies observed along with the venue details. The venues listed are on campus with the exception of the Michigan Theater (which is within walking distance of campus).

Ceremony	Venue	Class Size	Comments
<b>Spring Commencement</b>	Michigan Stadium (capacity 110,000)	16,544 Approx. 7500 attend	Graduates presented by faculty/school. All rise when college named.  Several speakers – honorary degree recipient, student speakers, President, alumni director, one dean.
<b>Rackham Graduate Exercises</b>	Hill Auditorium (capacity 3,500)	322 Doctoral Candidates 1595 Masters August: 182 Masters	Graduates presented individually. Only PhDs hooded on stage.
<b>Department of English Language &amp; Literature Undergraduate</b>	Michigan Theater (capacity 1,700)	185 graduates	Graduates presented individually.
<b>College of Engineering</b>	Crisler Center (capacity 13,751)	1,503 UG 110 PhD 631 Masters Aug: 29; Dec 2017: 903	Graduates presented individually.

Observations shared with the Committee included:

- Consistent and powerful branding across ceremonies;
- Consistent key messaging in remarks (the prestige of education at the University of Michigan and the importance of giving back, not necessarily only to the university but to society);
- Diversity among speakers.

For the university-wide Spring Commencement:

- Universal accessibility - accommodations included wheelchairs for loan, elevator access, special seating, transportation by golf carts, and live captioning services. Service animals

were permitted. Due to a large number of tickets available, support people were easily accommodated.

- A very large number of volunteers wearing branded attire that included alumni, faculty and staff.
- Concession stands in the venue offered food and hot drinks.
- Unlike the smaller faculty ceremonies, which had more gravitas, the large ceremony appeared to be more in line with a football game – festive, loud, fun with guests in casual attire (e.g. branded athletic gear and baseball caps) with constant roaming of guests in the stands and graduating students on the field.
- Pre-ceremony show was included to entertain guests as the graduates were marshalled and seated. The entire length of the event (including guest seating, pre-show events and ceremony) was almost four hours. The formal ceremony was approximately 1.75 hours in length.
- Weather was unusually cold and uncomfortable for guests (and the observers).

## **University of California Berkeley**

In May 2018, Ms. Rosatone visited the University of California Berkeley to observe the university-wide spring commencement and a sample of faculty, college and department ceremonies. The University does not confer honorary degrees.

### *Overview of Ceremonies at Berkeley:*

- 90-plus ceremonies over two weeks
- 12 venues; some ticketed, most not
- One “Spring Commencement” in the Memorial Stadium
- 89 department ceremonies (includes 3 ROTC)
- 3 ROTC ceremonies (Army, Navy & Air Force)
- Large number of affinity group graduations (e.g. Latino, Black Celebratory; Student Athletes; drama society)

#### *In the Fall:*

- One university-wide Commencement in December
- No department ceremonies
- December ceremony in Haas Pavilion (Basketball Stadium)

### *Ceremonies Observed:*

The large university-wide ceremony at Berkeley is also known as “Spring Commencement” and is held on campus in the California Memorial Stadium, an outdoor venue that seats 63,000 and approximately 30,000 tickets were sold. Graduating students receive up to ten tickets at a cost of \$10 per ticket. The ceremony proceeds under all weather conditions (rain or shine). Under

severe weather conditions, the ceremony can be modified (shortened), delayed or cancelled depending on the severity. The ceremony is not rescheduled if cancelled.

Below is a summary of the ceremonies observed along with the venue details. The venues listed are on campus.

Ceremony	Venue	Class Size	Comments
<b>Spring Commencement</b>	Memorial Stadium (capacity 63,000)	Approx. 6800 attend; 30,000+ guests  1.75 hr duration	Graduates not presented.  One keynote speaker and brief address by Chancellor. Class Medalist speaks.  New this year: Deans no longer address the class (to decrease the ceremony length)
<b>Berkeley Law</b>	Greek Theatre outdoor amphitheater (capacity 8,500)	530	Graduates presented individually. Only PhDs hooded on stage.
<b>Department of Philosophy</b>	Faculty Glade – Faculty Club (outdoor)	81 (5 PhD., 76 UG)	Graduates presented individually.
<b>College of Natural Resources</b>	Greek Theatre (capacity 8,500)	Approximately 520	Graduates presented individually.
<b>Department of Legal Studies</b>	Zellenbach Theatre (capacity 2,689)	117 graduates 965 guests	Graduates presented individually.

In addition to the key observations similar to those from the University of Michigan visit, the unique findings as follows were reported back to the Committee:

- Consistent key messaging in remarks included appreciation for staff and faculty as well as faculty speakers noting the “privilege” of teaching at Berkeley;
- Stopped conferring honorary degrees in 1972;
- Fee of \$10 per ticket (maximum 10 tickets for undergrads and 6 tickets for graduate students) - no significant opposition to the need to purchase tickets;
- Announcement of an evacuation plan, likely because of the earthquakes in the region;
- Although the ‘stadium feel’ was omnipresent, it was apparent that significant resources were invested in landscaping the field with temporary soft and hardscaping (e.g. a flagstone stage, live trees, flowers, hedges, and backdrops) with the aim to create a ceremonial atmosphere.

### **University of Cambridge & University College London (UCL)**

In June 2018, the co-chairs visited these UK institutions. At Cambridge, they met with the Ceremonial Officer in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. They had the privilege of observing the honorary degree conferral ceremony (Congregation) and attending the accompanying events (rehearsal, luncheon for honorary degree recipients, post-ceremony reception). There were some valuable observations and learnings as result of their attendance and discussions with key staff (Proctors, Registrar, Esquire Bedells, Constables). These will be shared directly with the President, Chair of the Governing Council and the Committee for Honorary Degrees, as any recommendations for changes to honorary degree ceremonies are beyond the scope of this Review.

At UCL they met with the Registrar and with the Senior Events and Operations Manager. UCL had fairly recently transitioned from an on-site venue with a capacity of 900 to an off-campus venue, the Royal Festival Hall – Southbank Centre. In addition, in 2017 responsibility for running graduation ceremonies moved from the Student Support and Wellbeing Team within the Registrar’s Office to the events team in Communications and Marketing. The Royal Festival Hall has a capacity of 2,500. This allows for 25 graduation ceremonies (held in July and September) with three ceremonies a day (1 ½ hours in length). There are approximately 550 graduates per ceremony (each coming forward individually, but certificates are not given out at the ceremony but rather are sent by mail). Student are grouped by Faculty. Students rent the academic regalia at £40 (~68 CAD). Guest tickets are £45 (~77 CAD). Students are guaranteed two guest tickets but can apply for a maximum of four. The presiding officers are the President and the Provost (with Vice-Provosts sharing the responsibility). Deans serve as the readers. It was noted that a consequence of the change to an external venue was that the planning team in the central administration had more control over the deadline for information to be supplied by the divisions as this was required by the external partner. It was also noted that the external venue was fully accessible in contrast to the older, on-campus venue. The co-chairs were informed that many other higher education institutions in London held their ceremonies at the same or similar off-campus venues.

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The Committee would like to express its sincere appreciation to colleagues at the four host institutions who were so welcoming and collaborative, and made each site visit a truly meaningful learning experience.

# SPRING 2018 CONVOCATION SURVEY RESULTS



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO



## Overview

1. Response Rate
2. Demographics
3. Tickets
4. Reasons to Attend
5. Valuable Factors of Convocation Experience
6. Alternate Venue VS More Tickets
7. Accessibility Accommodations
8. Liked Most About Ceremony
9. Liked Least About Ceremony
10. Preferred Time & Day of Week

## Response Rate

### **6.8 %      Response Rate (Overall)**

2,918 Total Respondents/(31,026 Tickets Scanned+12,086 Graduated RSVPs)

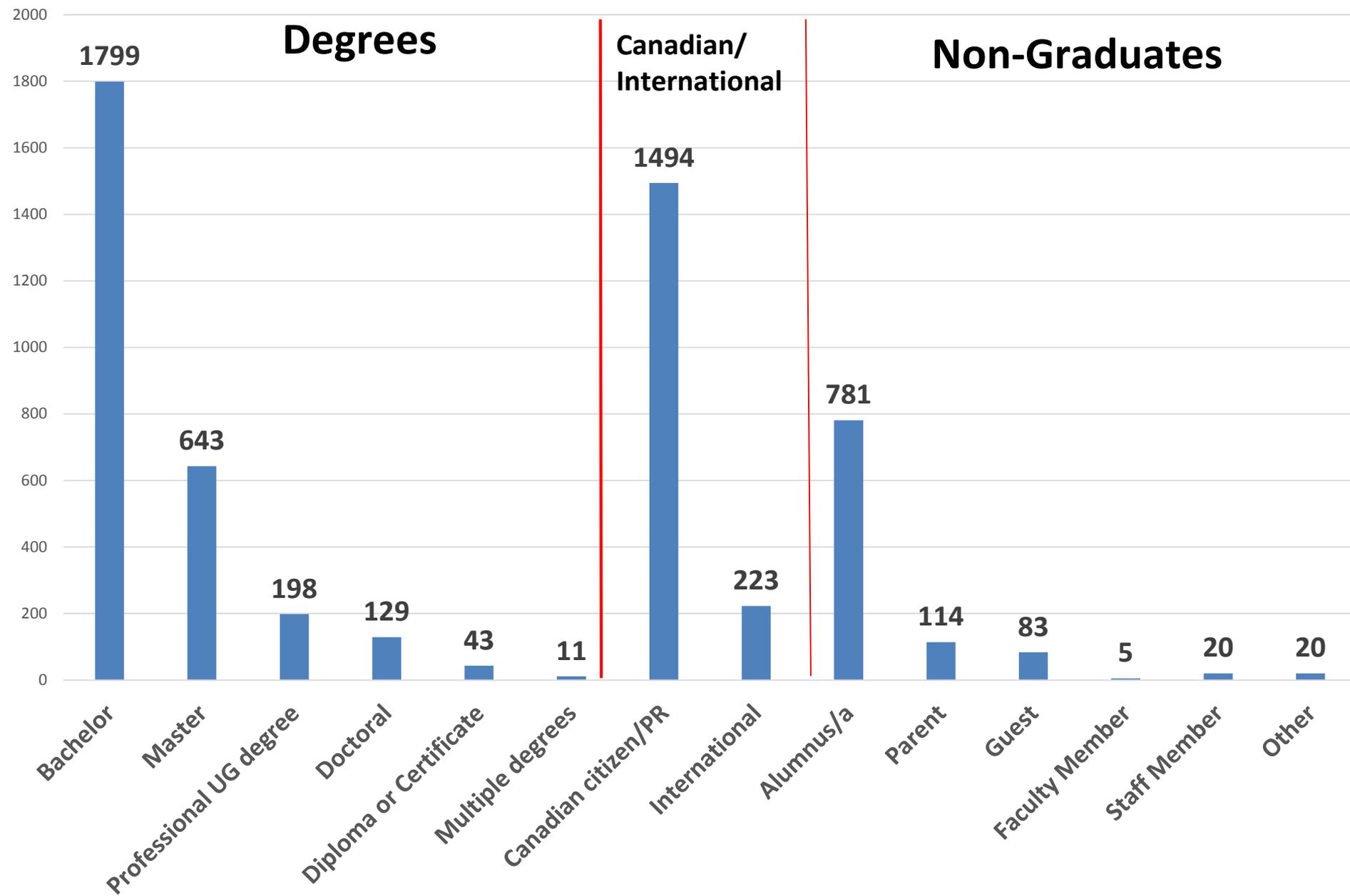
### **15.7 %      Response Rate (Graduates)**

1,895 Respondents Self-Identified as 'Graduate'/  
12,086 Graduates RSVP'd Yes to Ceremony

June 7 – August 31 (86 days)



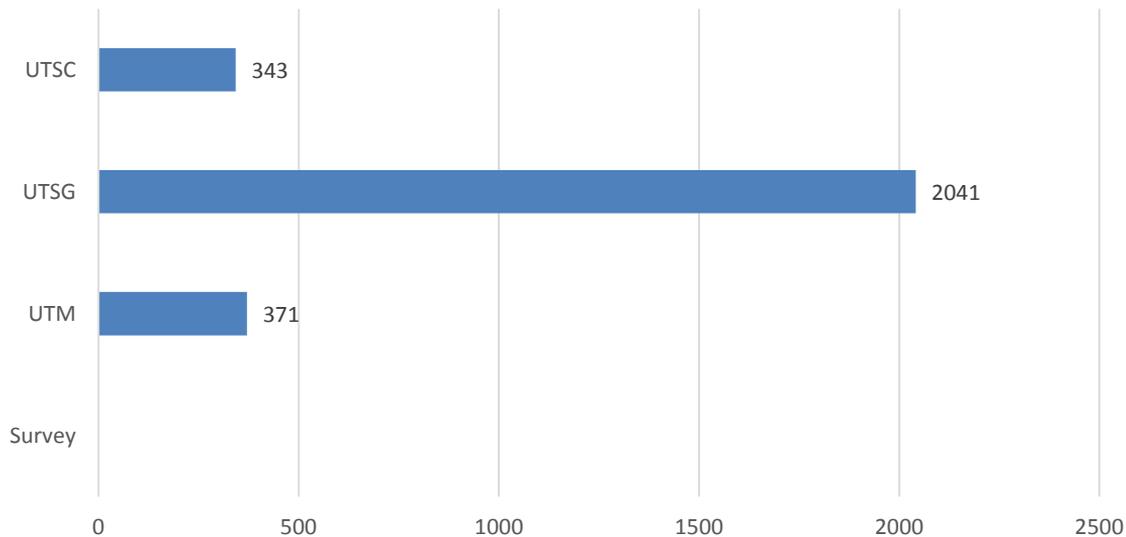
# Demographics



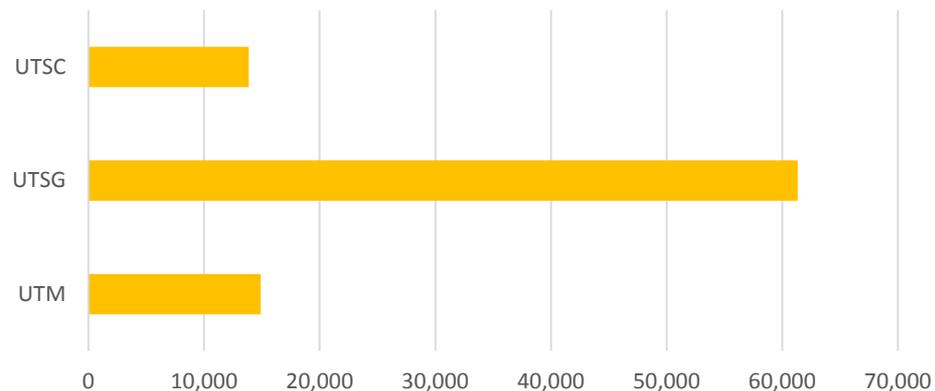


# Demographics – Campus Affiliation

## Demographics by Campus -Survey



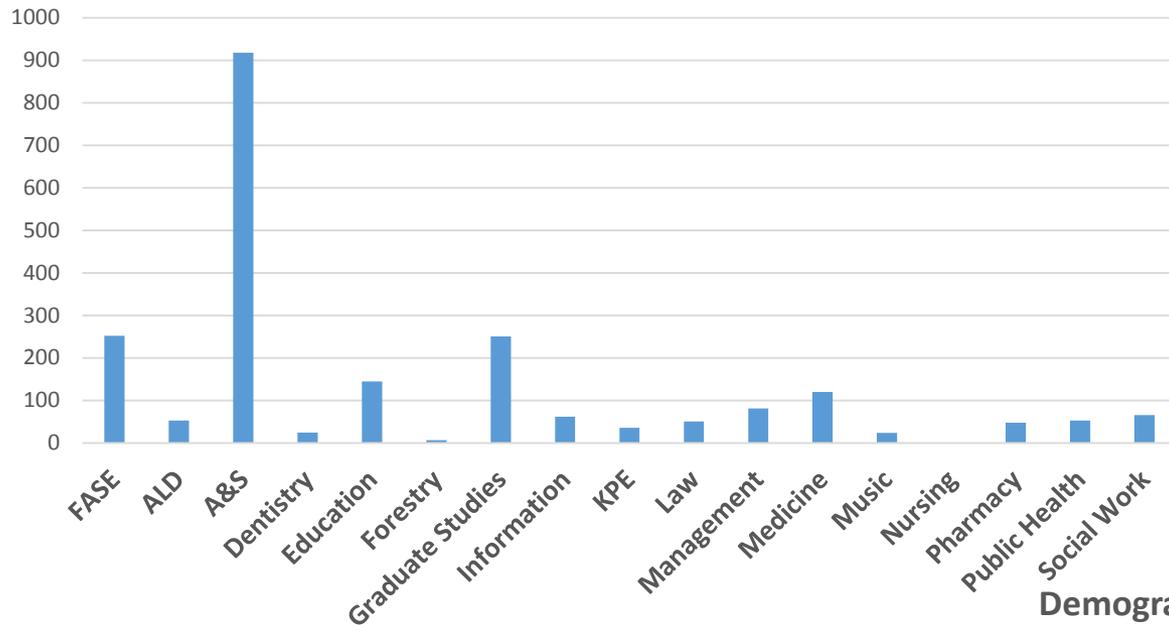
## Demographics by Campus - Facts & Figures Fall 2017



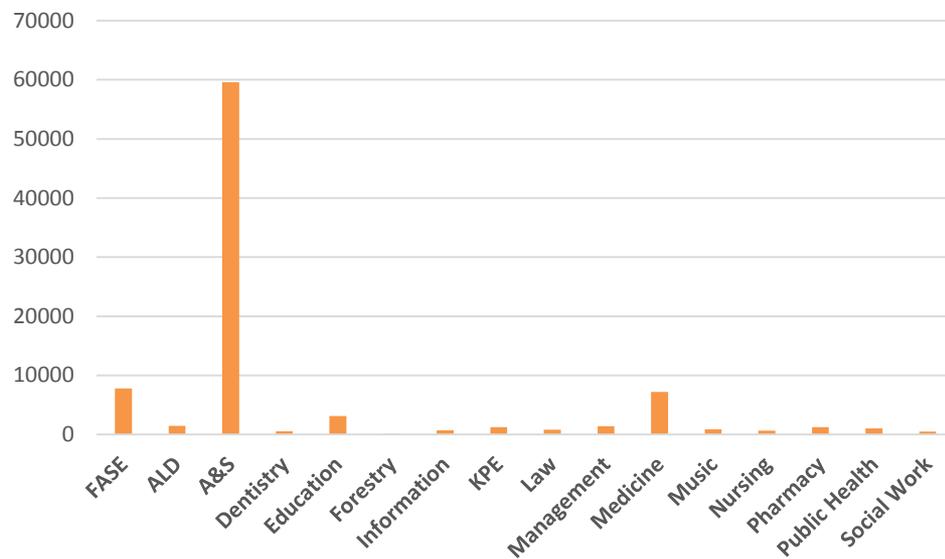


# Demographics – Academic Unit Affiliation

## Demographics by Faculty (UTSG) - Survey



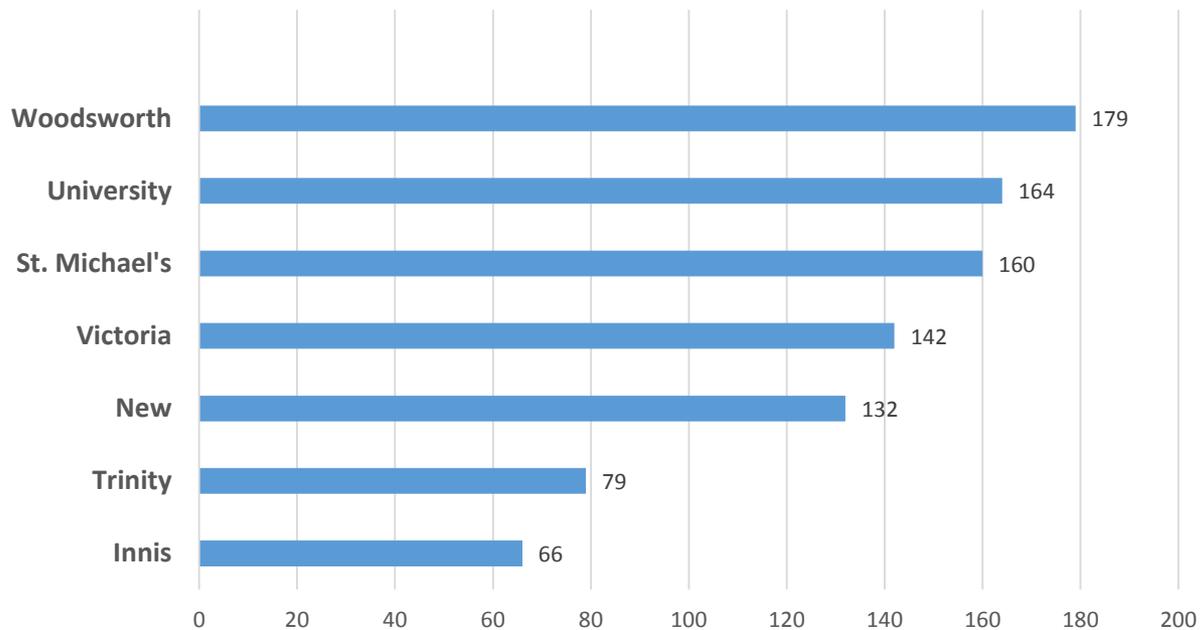
## Demographics by Faculty - Facts & Figures 2017



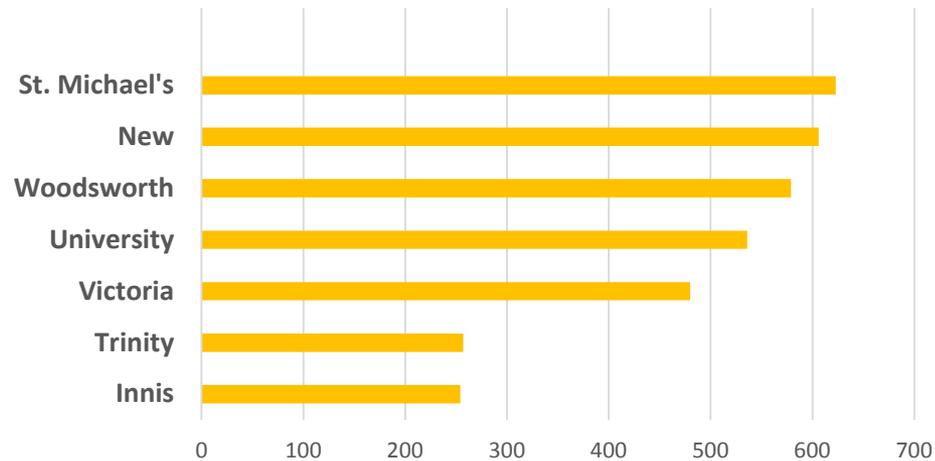


# Demographics – College Affiliation

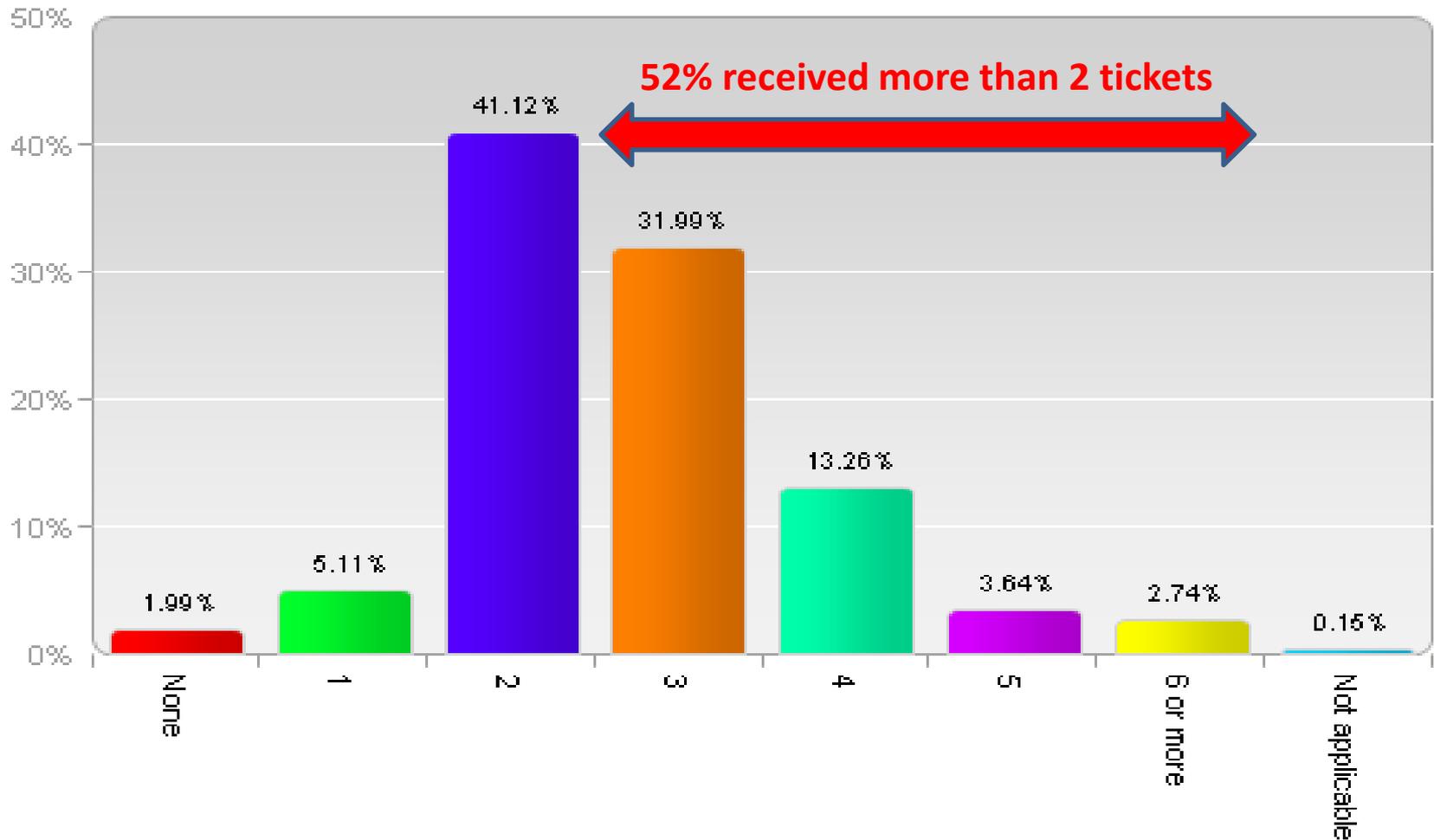
## Demographics by College - Survey



## Demographics by College - Actual Attendance

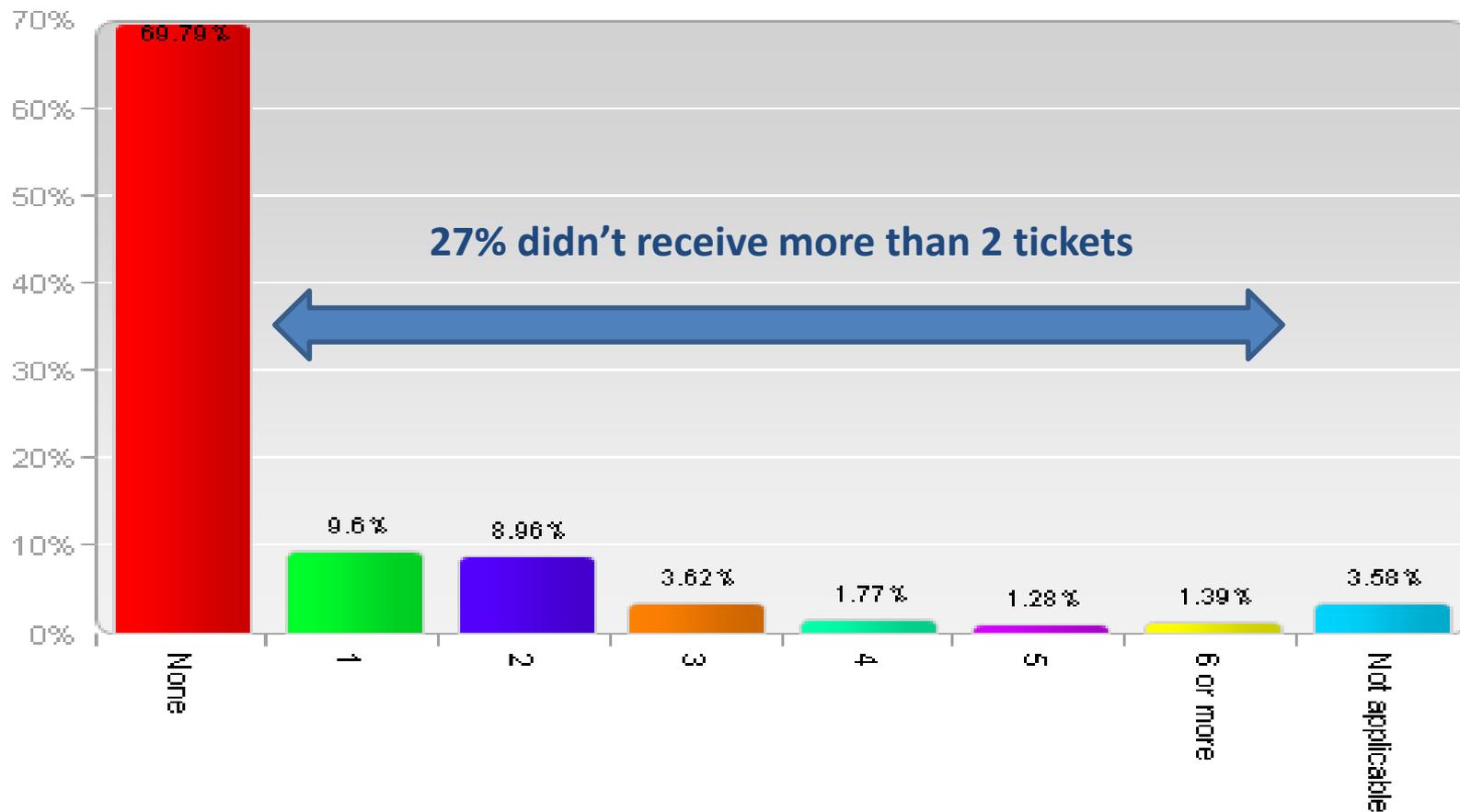


### 3. Tickets - # Guests Who Attended Your Ceremony



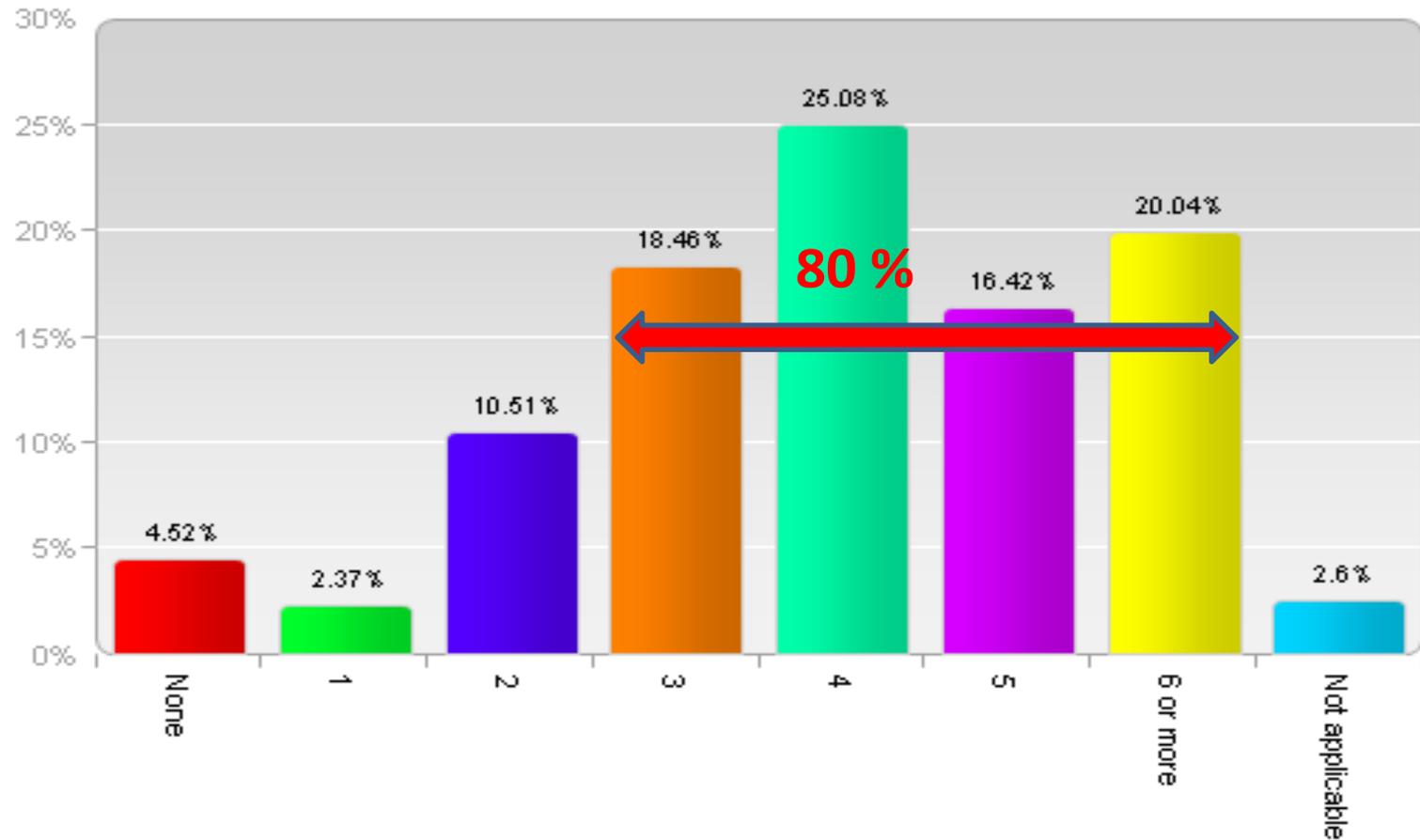
51.63% of respondents received more than 2 tickets  
(=those who said >3 guests attended)

### 3. Tickets - # Guests Who Watched Your Ceremony in Convocation Plaza



26.62% of respondents didn't receive more than 2 tickets.

### 3. Tickets - # Guests You Would Have Invited (had there been no limit)



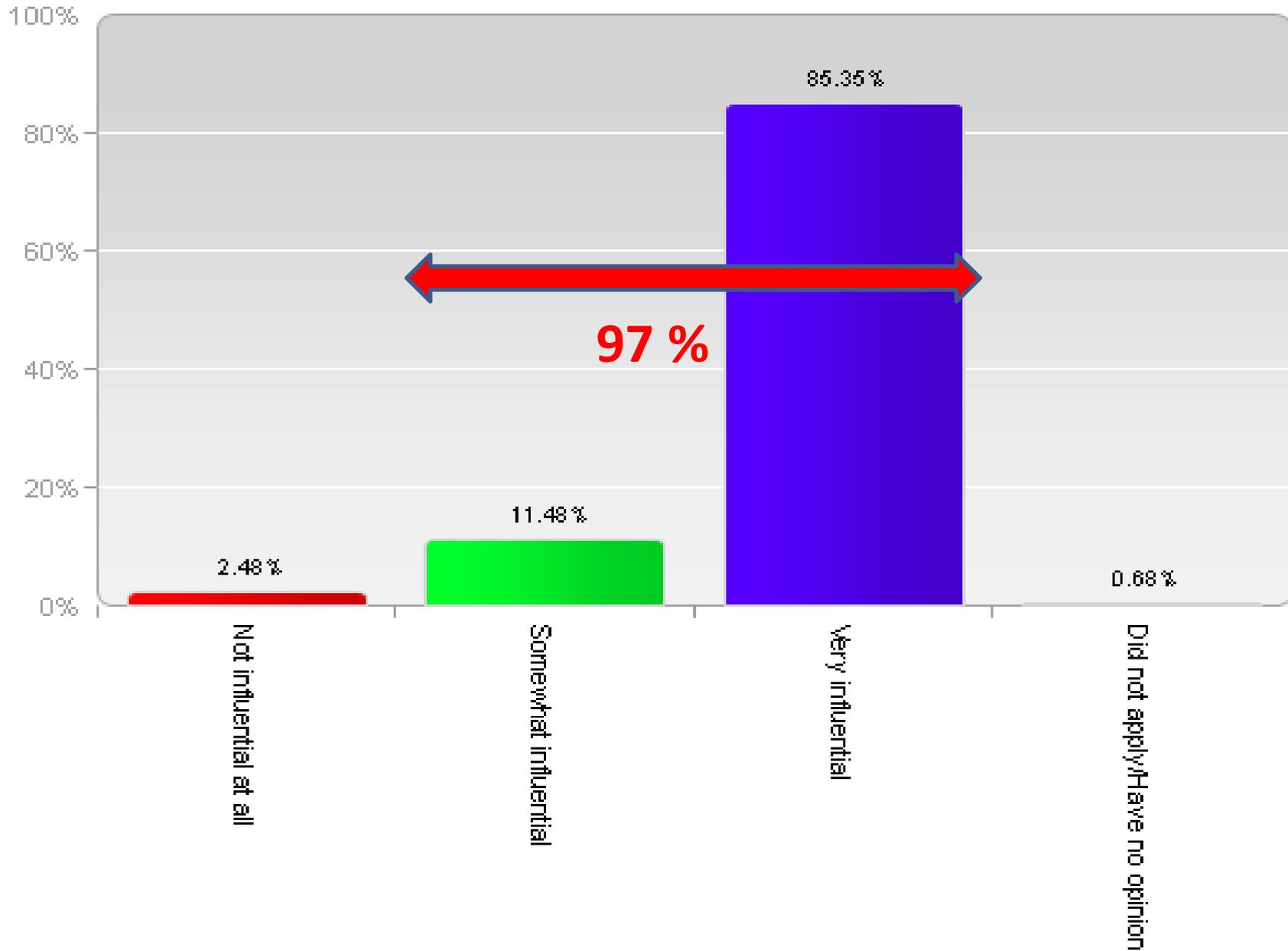
80.00% of respondents selected 3 or more

### 3. Tickets

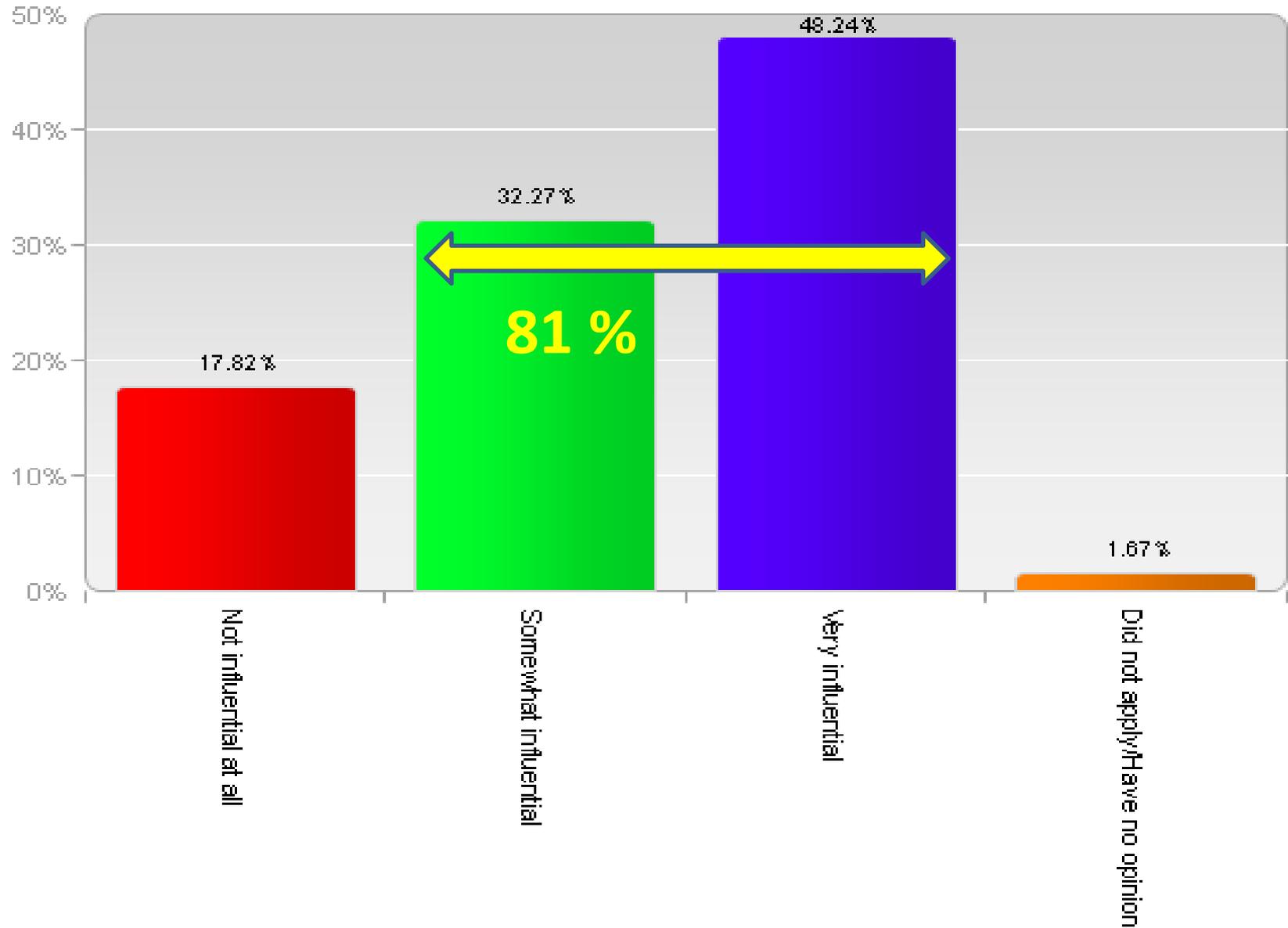
From the last 3 slides on ticket situations:

80% would have invited 3 or more guests (if no ticket limit)  $\approx$  52% received more than 2 tickets + 27% didn't receive more than 2 tickets

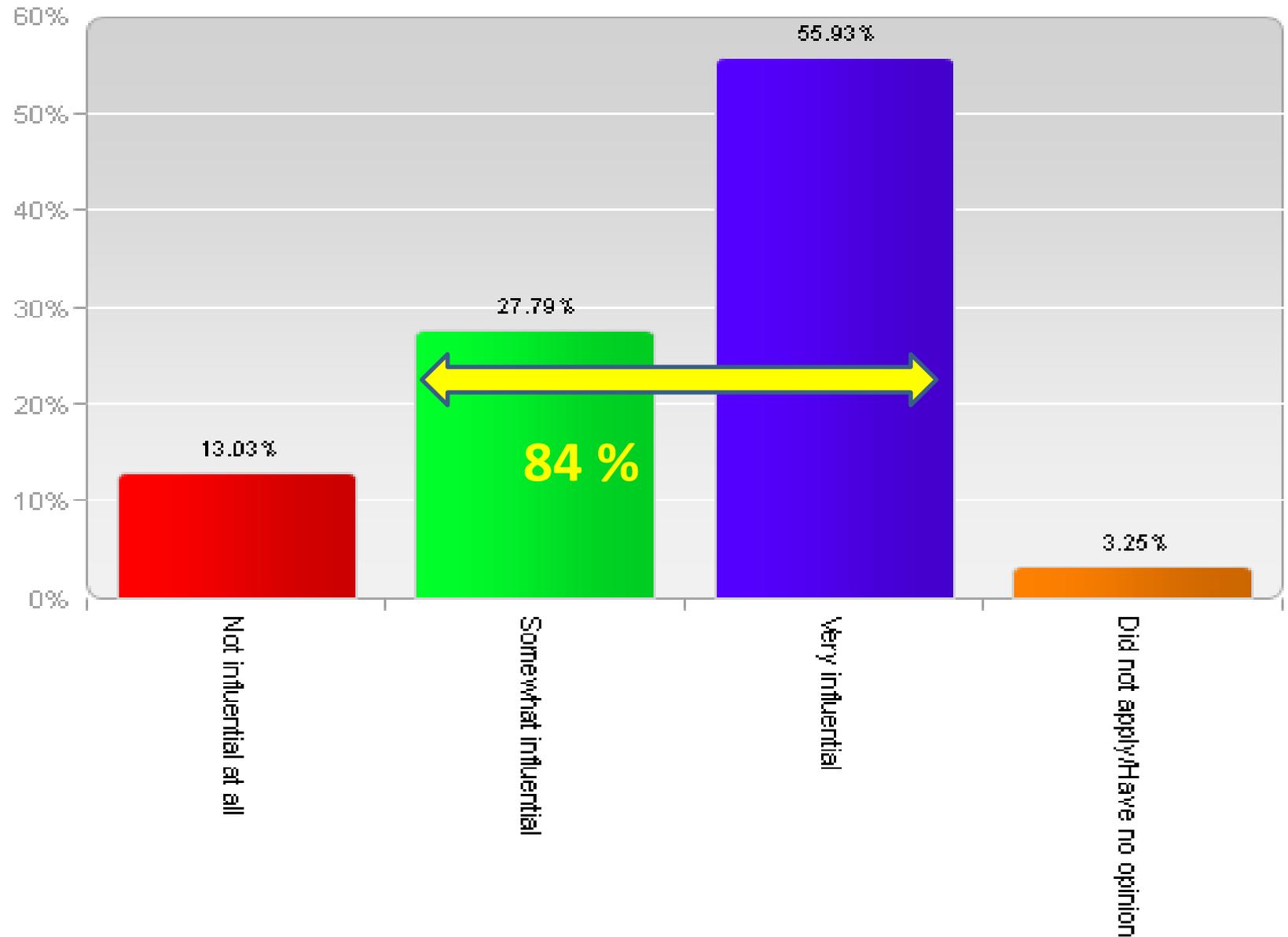
## 4. Reasons to Attend – To celebrate with family & friends



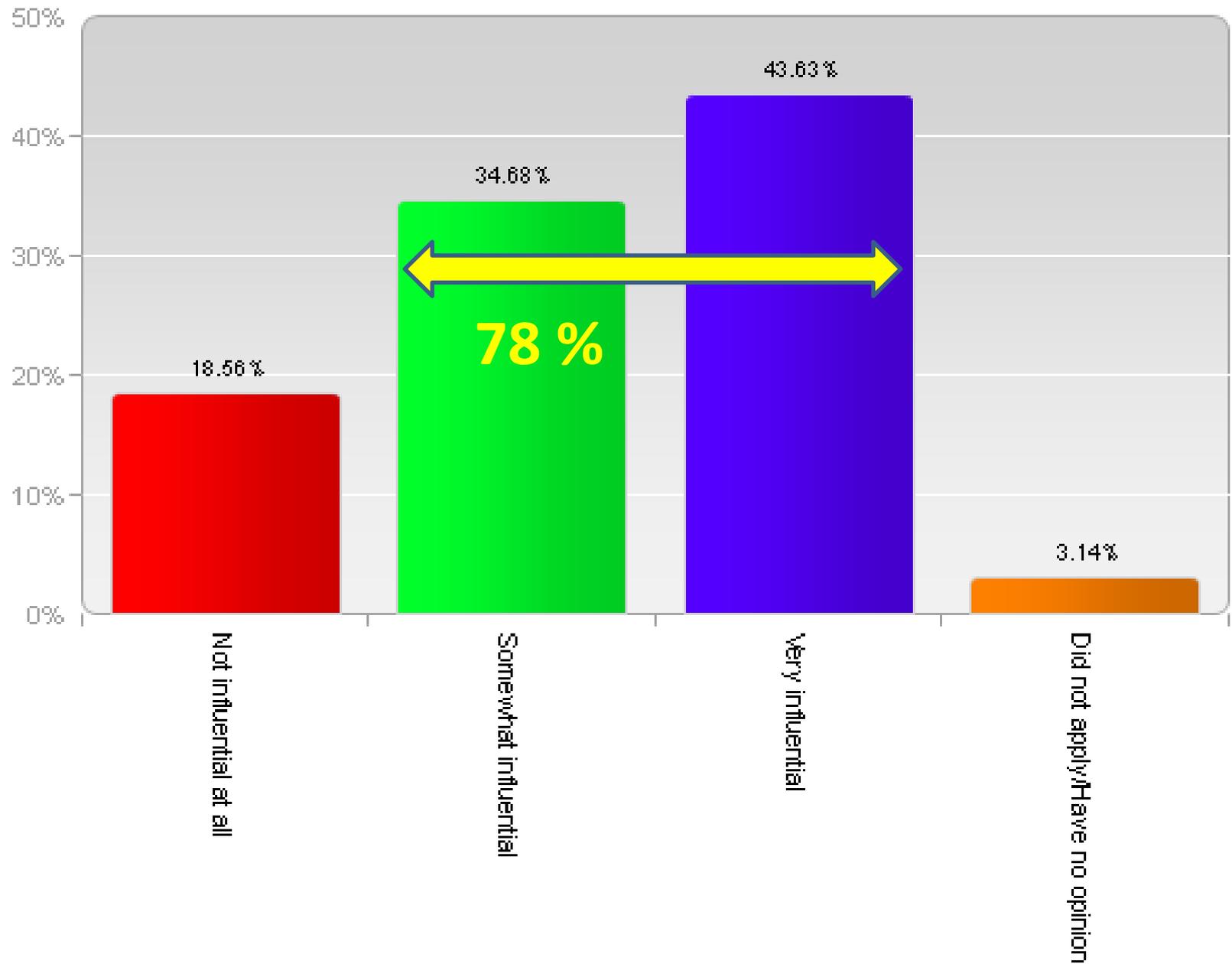
## 4. Reasons to Attend – Experience a ceremony in ConHall



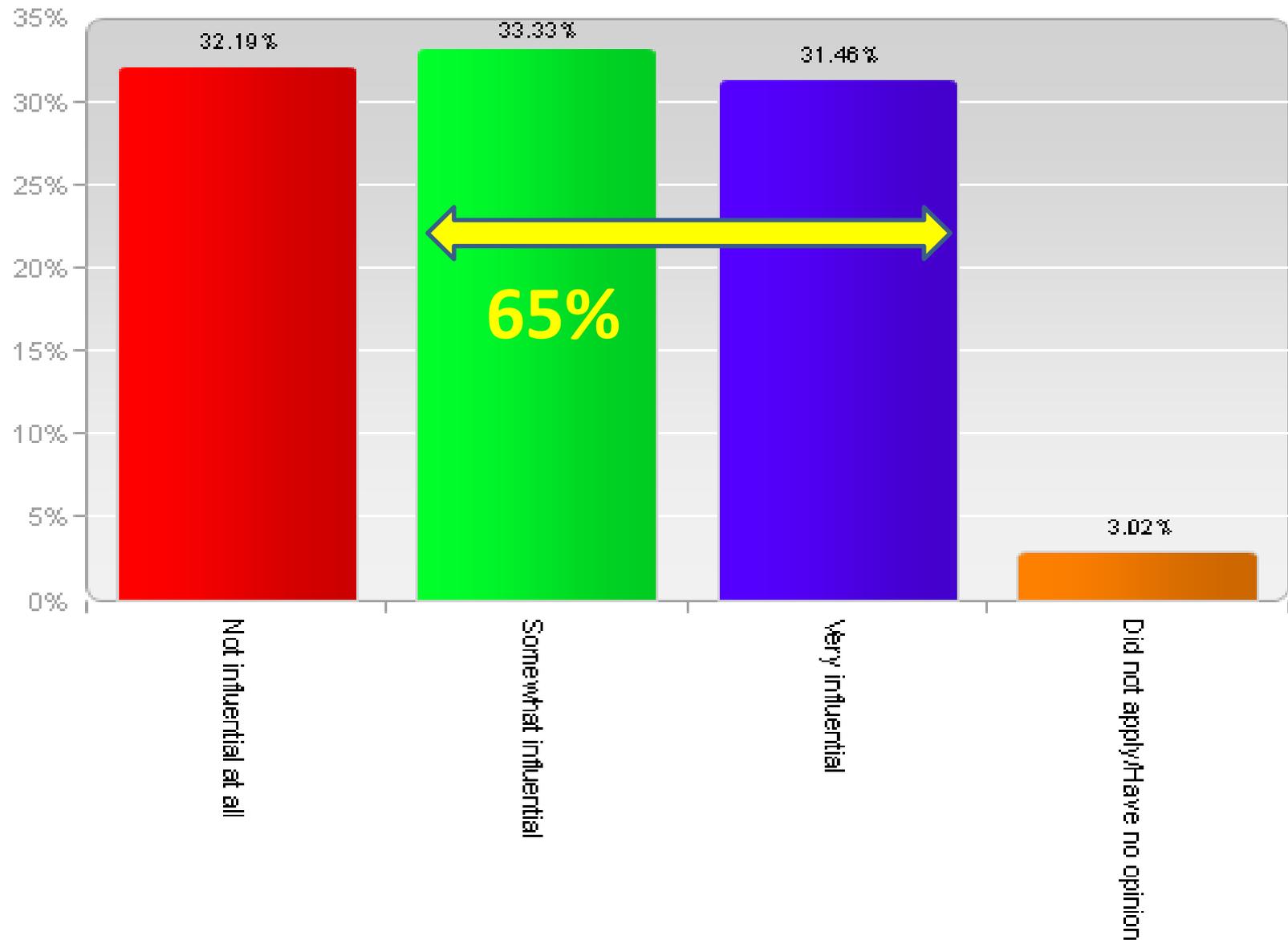
## 4. Reasons to Attend – Family Expectations



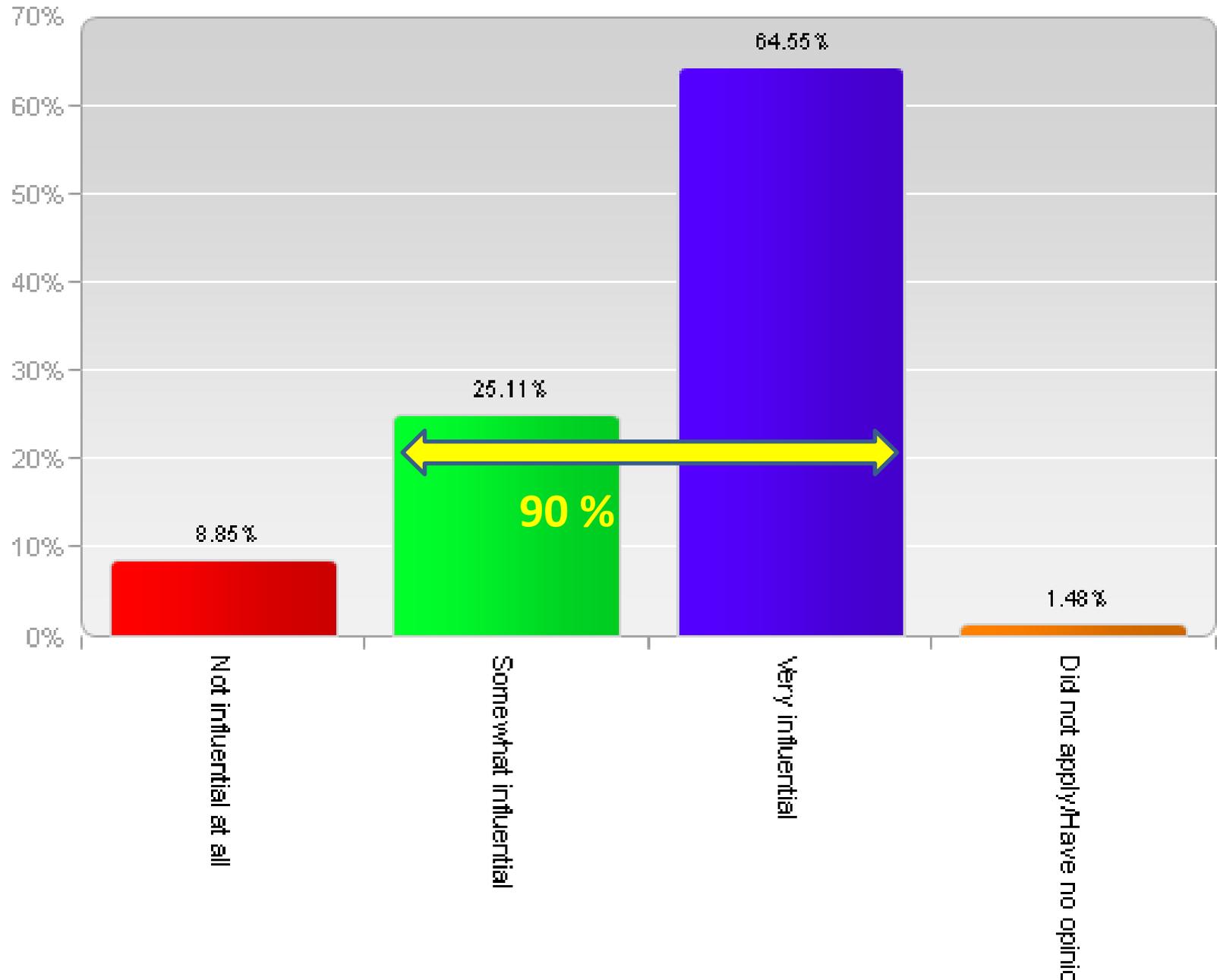
## 4. Reasons to Attend – Ceremonial rite of passage



## 4. Reasons to Attend – Photos for Social Media

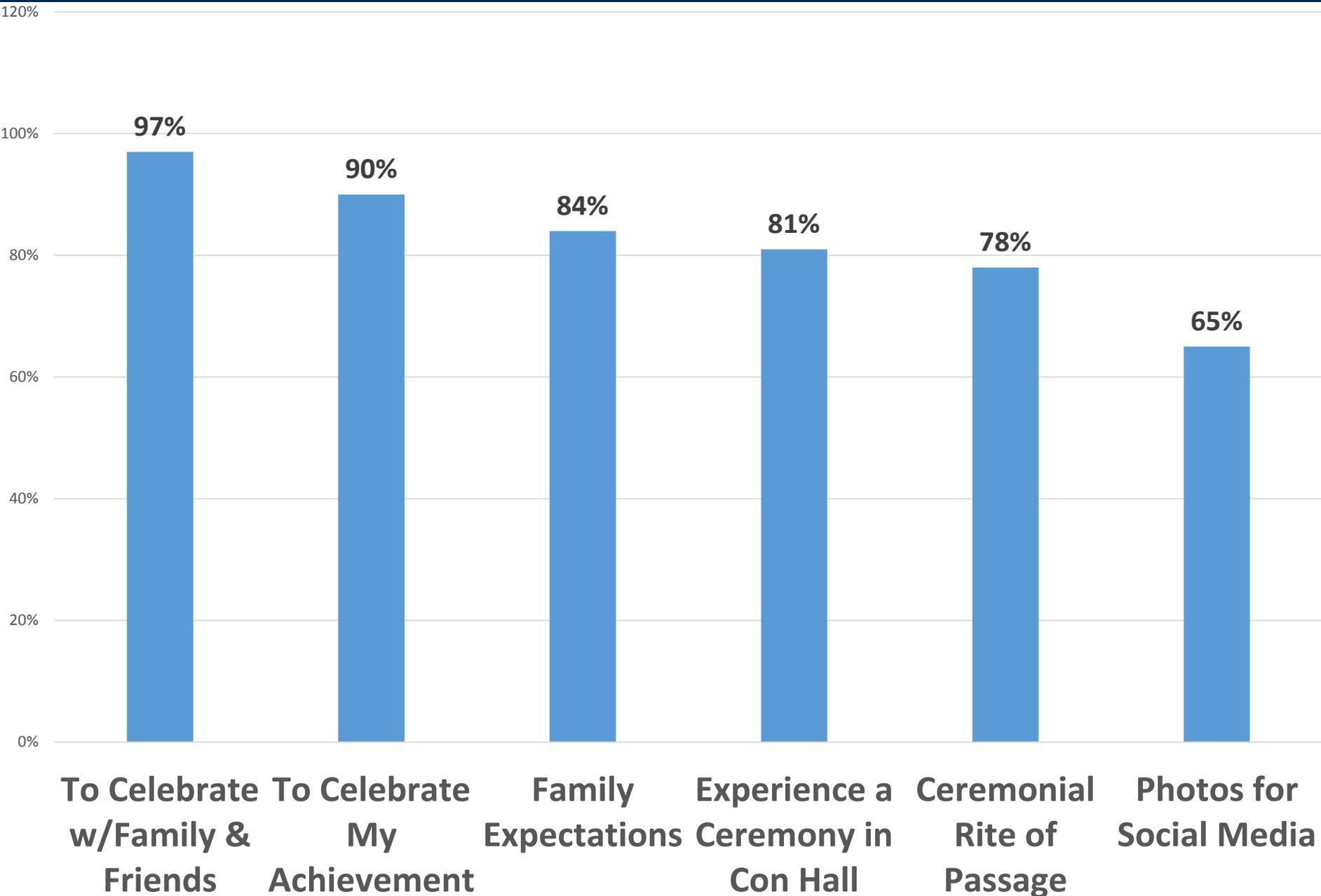


## 4. Reasons to Attend – To celebrate my achievement

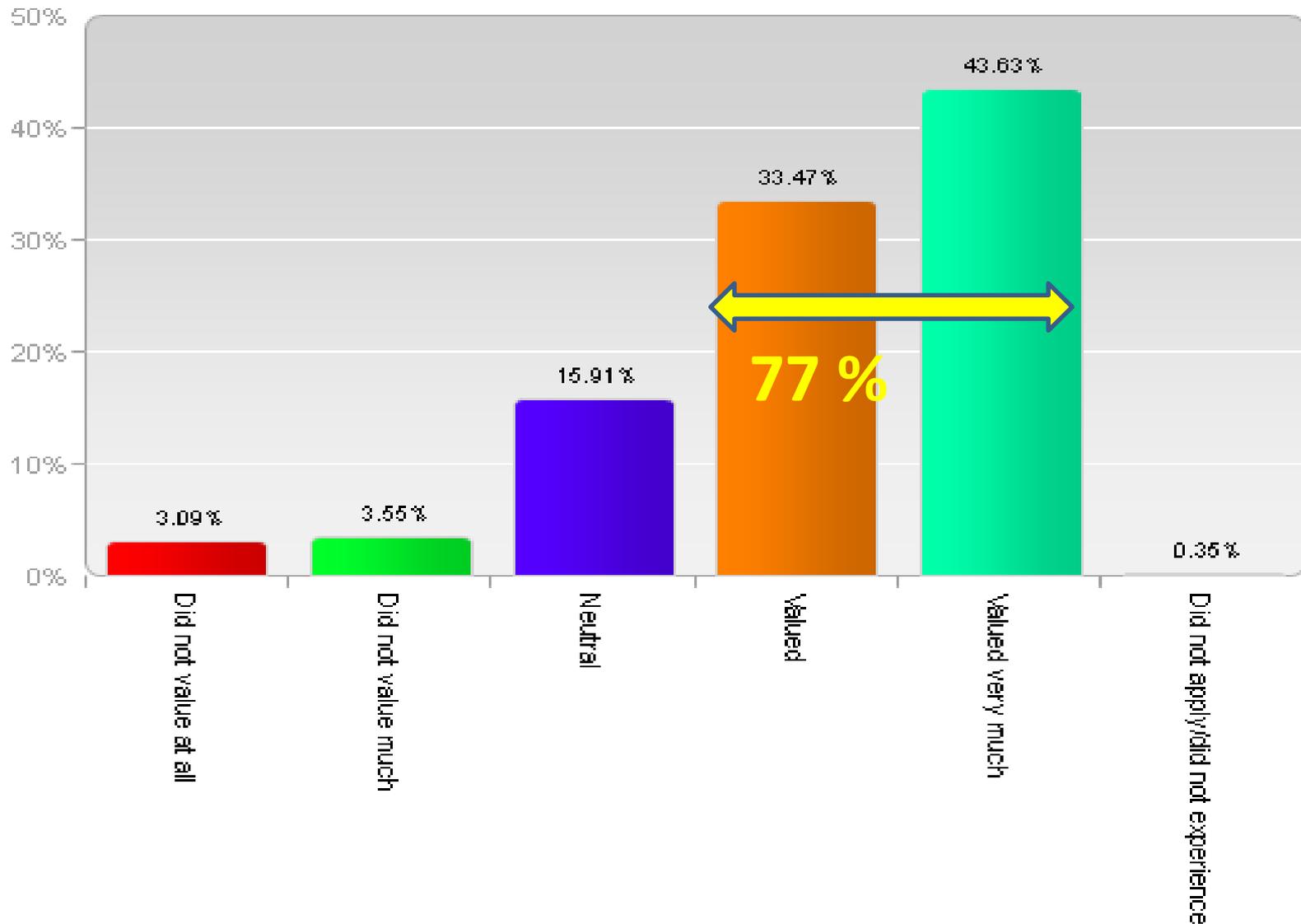




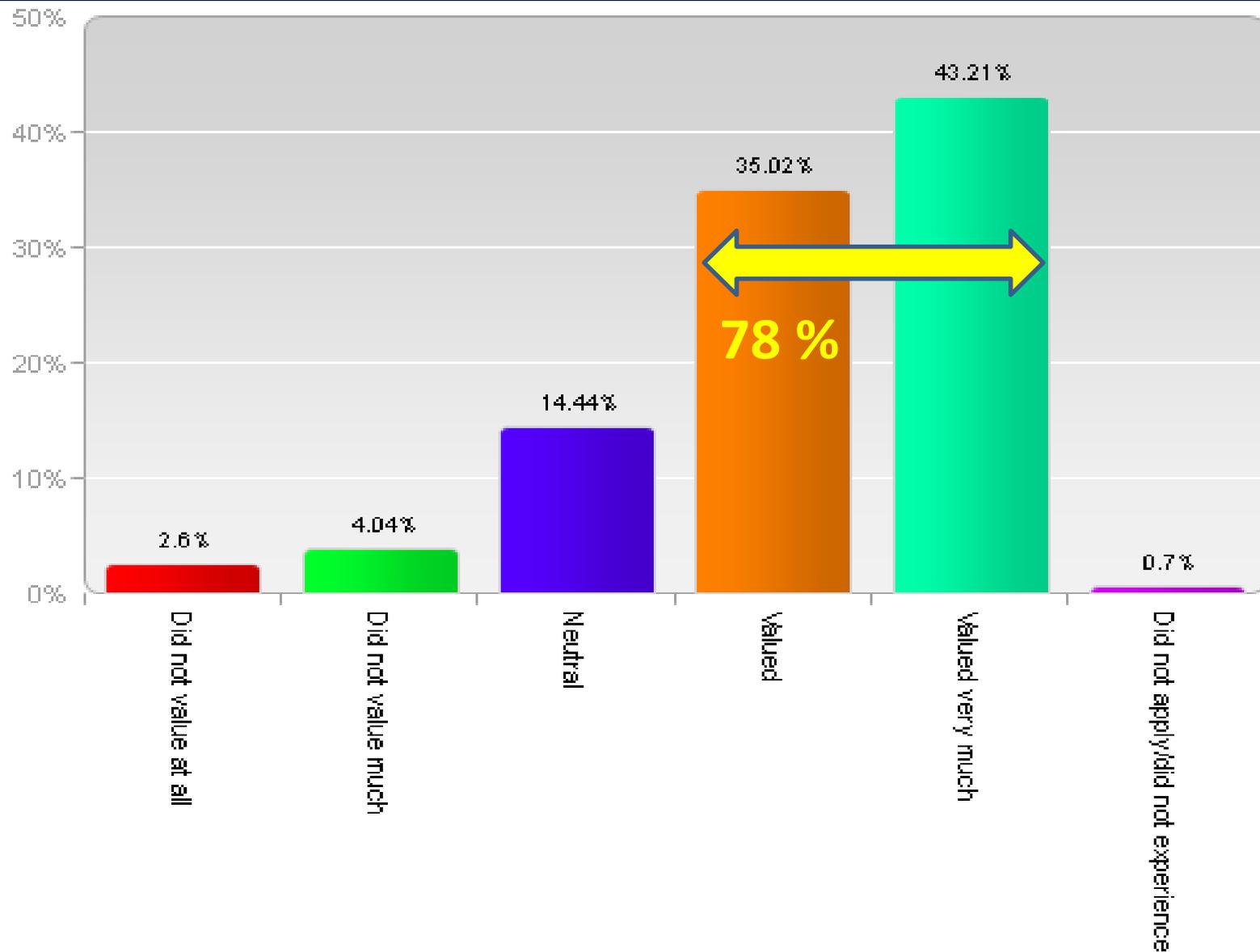
## 4. Reasons to Attend – Summary



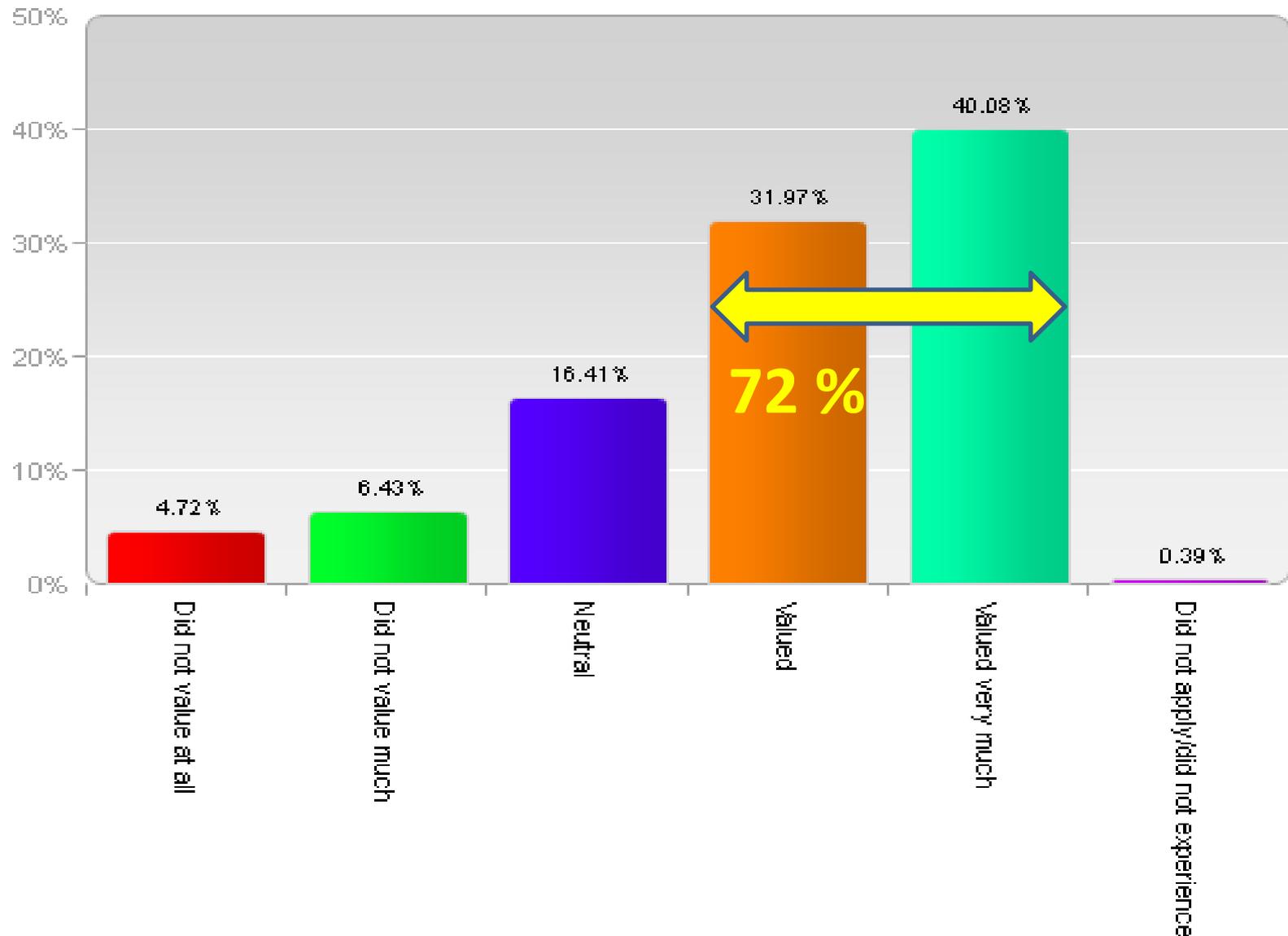
## 4. Valuable Factors of Convocation Experience - Location of Ceremony Venue at U of T



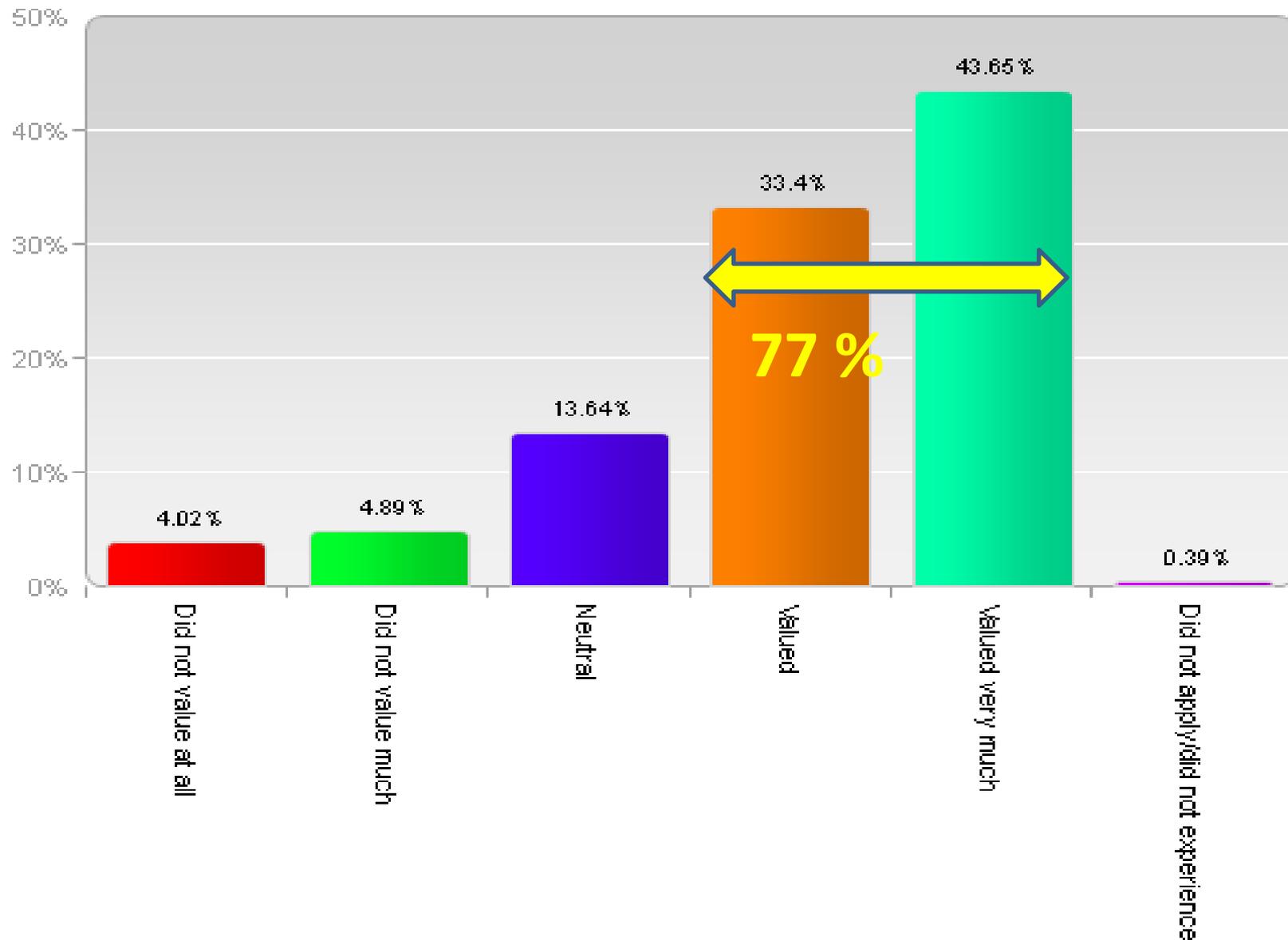
## 4. Valuable Factors of Convocation Experience - Sharing the campus with family and friends



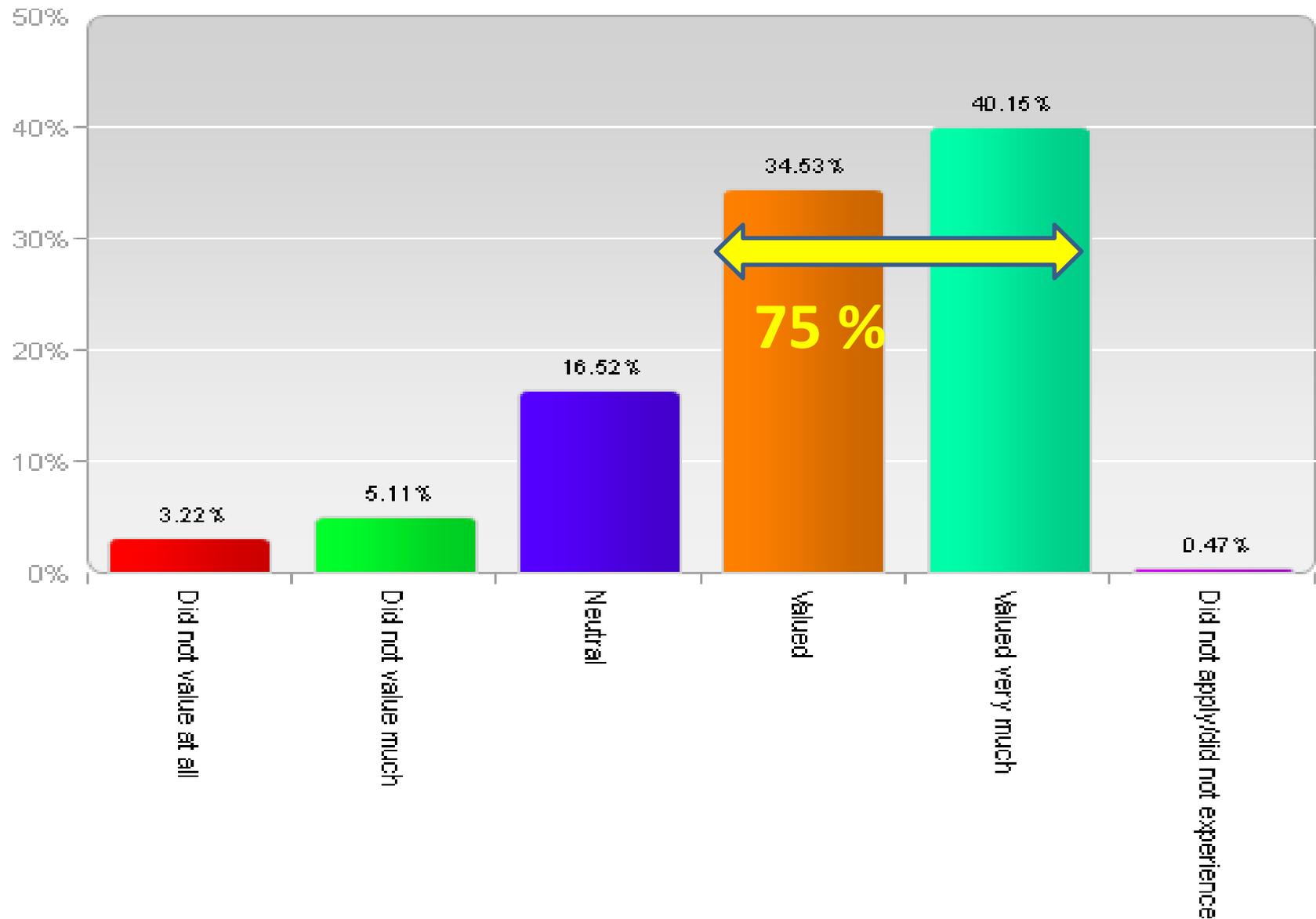
## 4. Valuable Factors of Convocation Experience - Experiencing the ceremony in iconic Convocation Hall



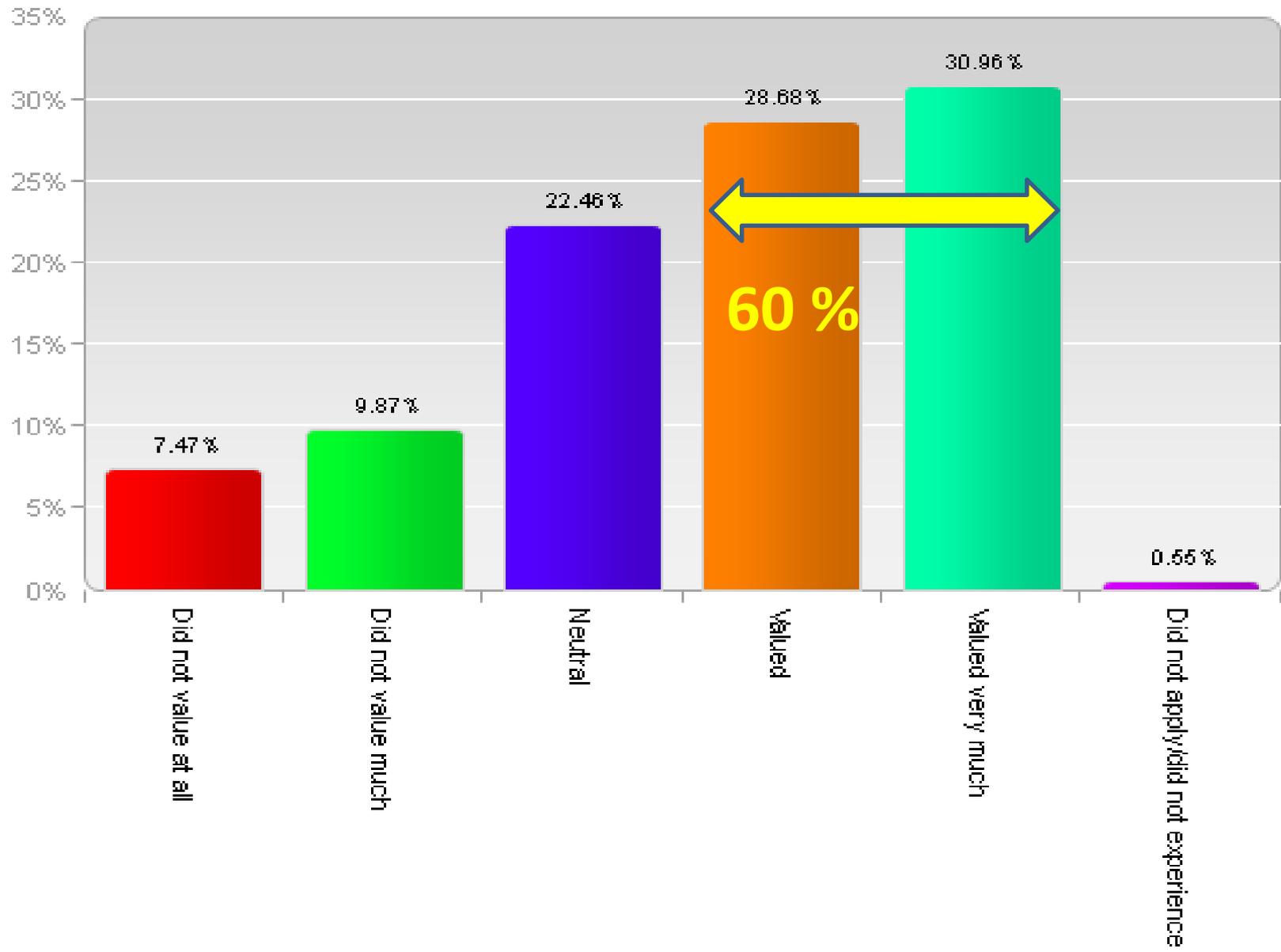
## 4. Valuable Factors of Convocation Experience - Marking the occasion in academic gown



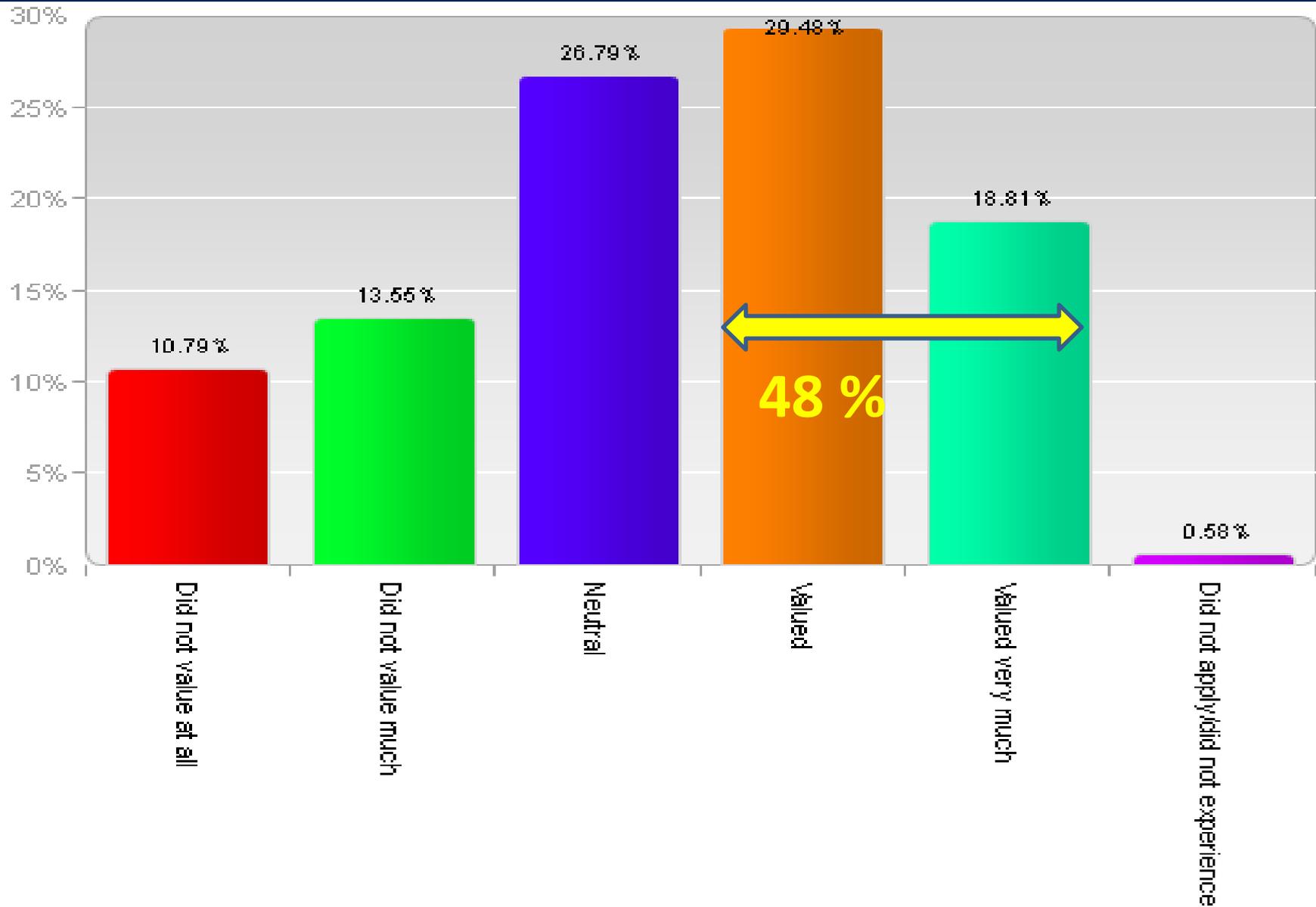
## 4. Valuable Factors of Convocation Experience - Crossing the stage



## 4. Valuable Factors of Convocation Experience - Shaking hands on stage with Chancellor or President

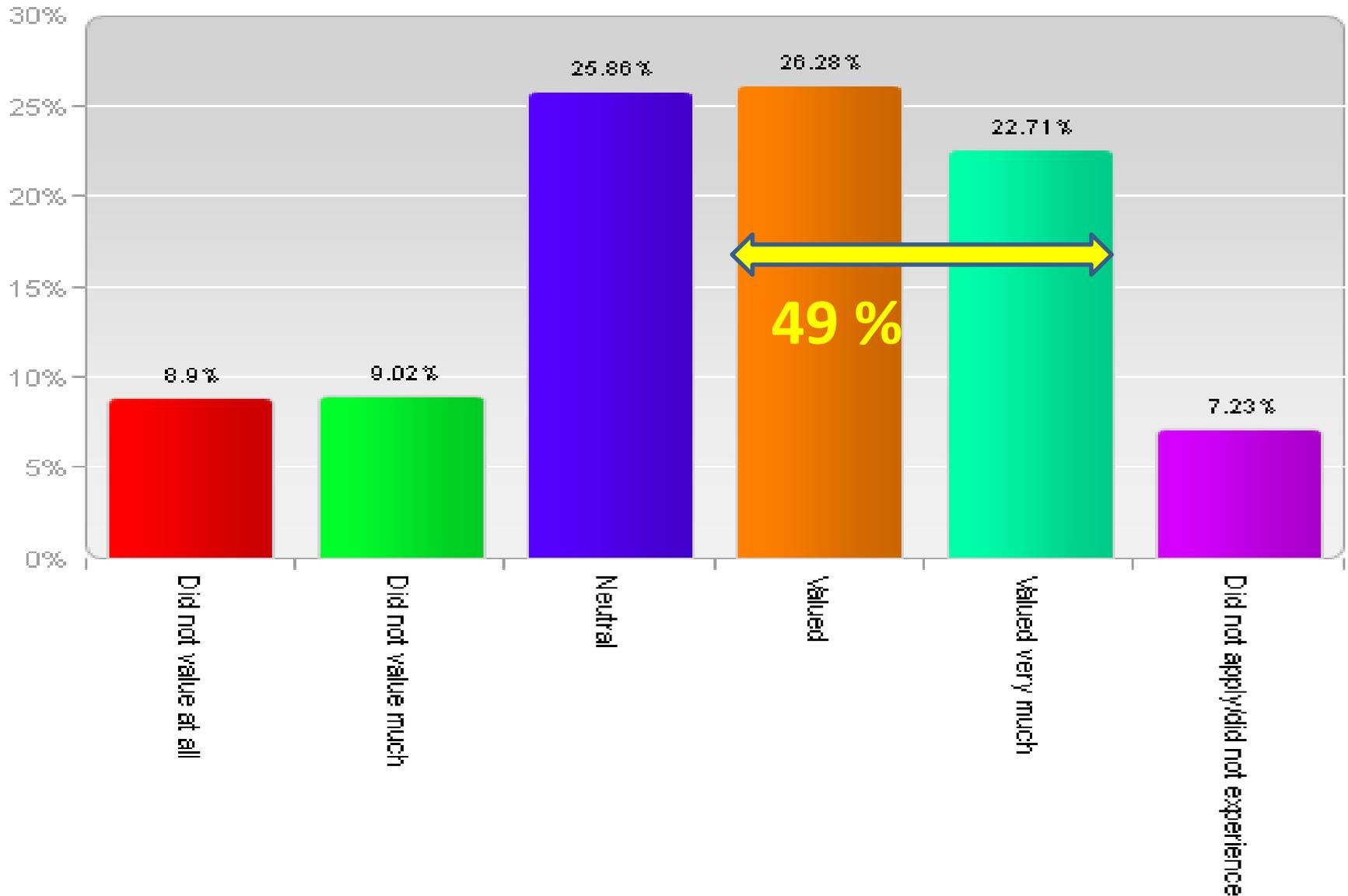


## 4. Valuable Factors of Convocation Experience - Speeches from special guests

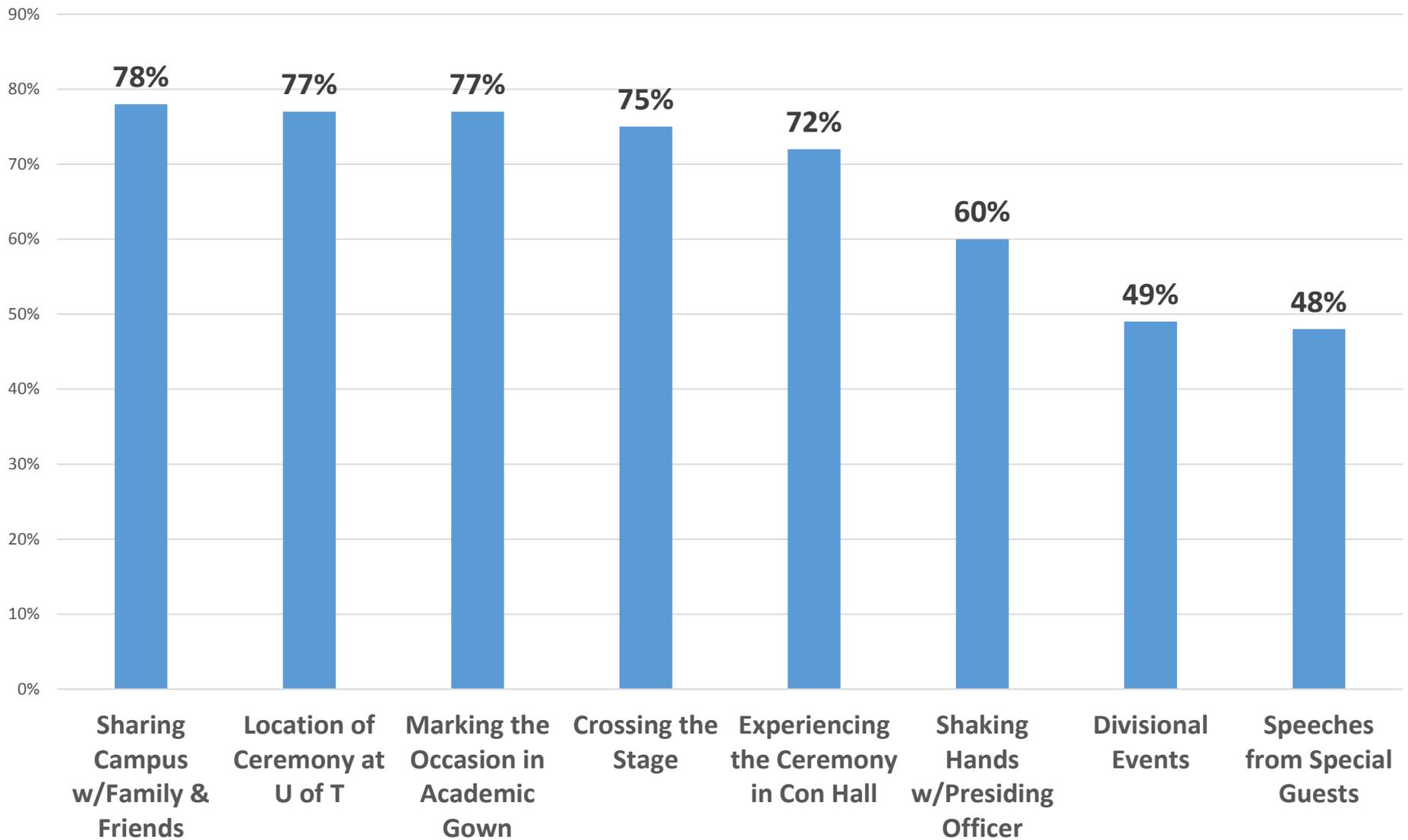


# 4. Valuable Factors of Convocation Experience

- Convocation events organized by my Faculty/School/College



## 4. Valuable Factors of Convocation Experience - Summary



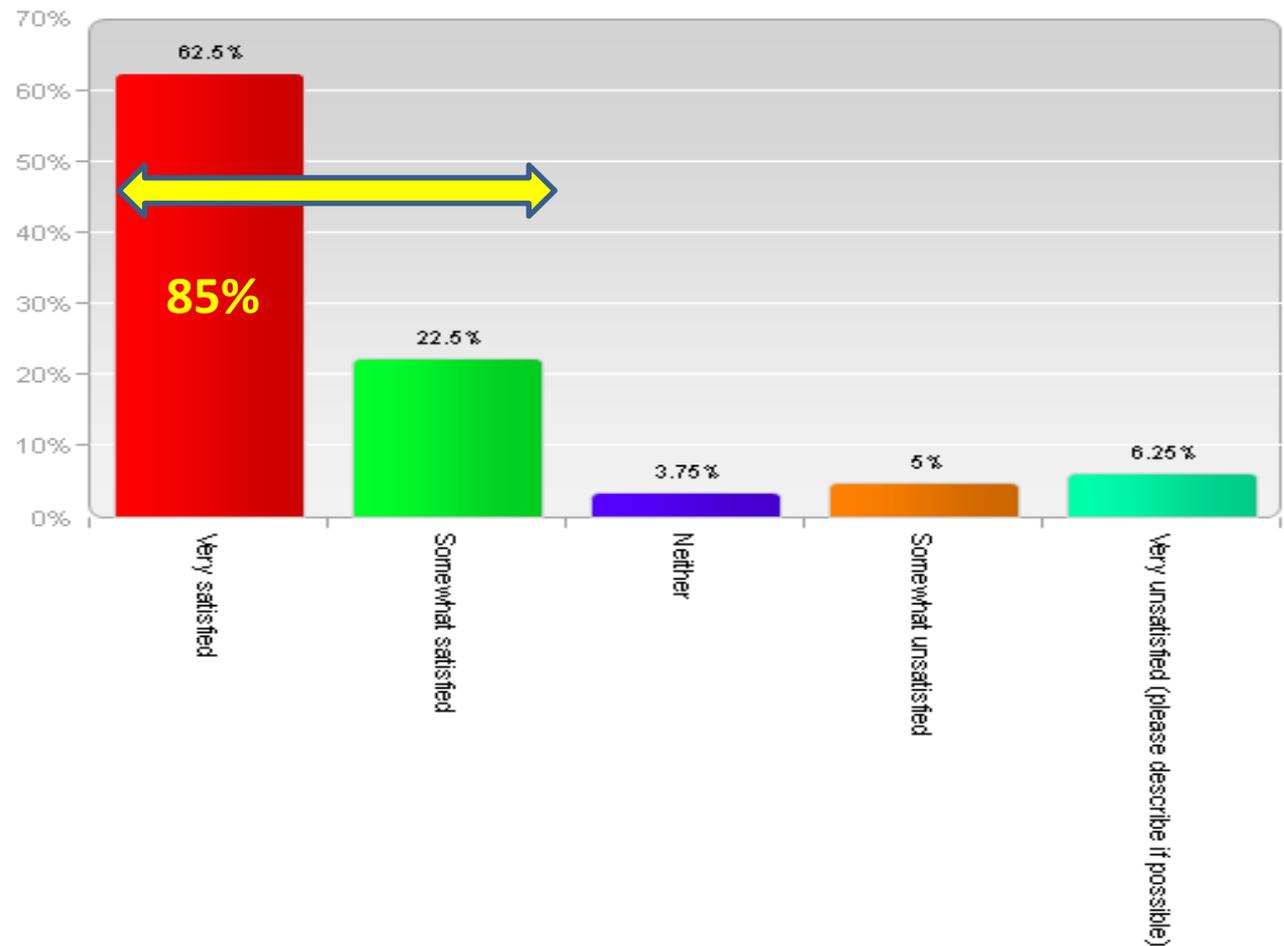
## 6. Alternate Venue vs More Tickets

- For up to 4 tickets, you would consider:

Alternative	Indoor/ Off Campus	Outdoor/ On Campus
Yes	26%	38%
No	49%	37%
Maybe	25%	25%

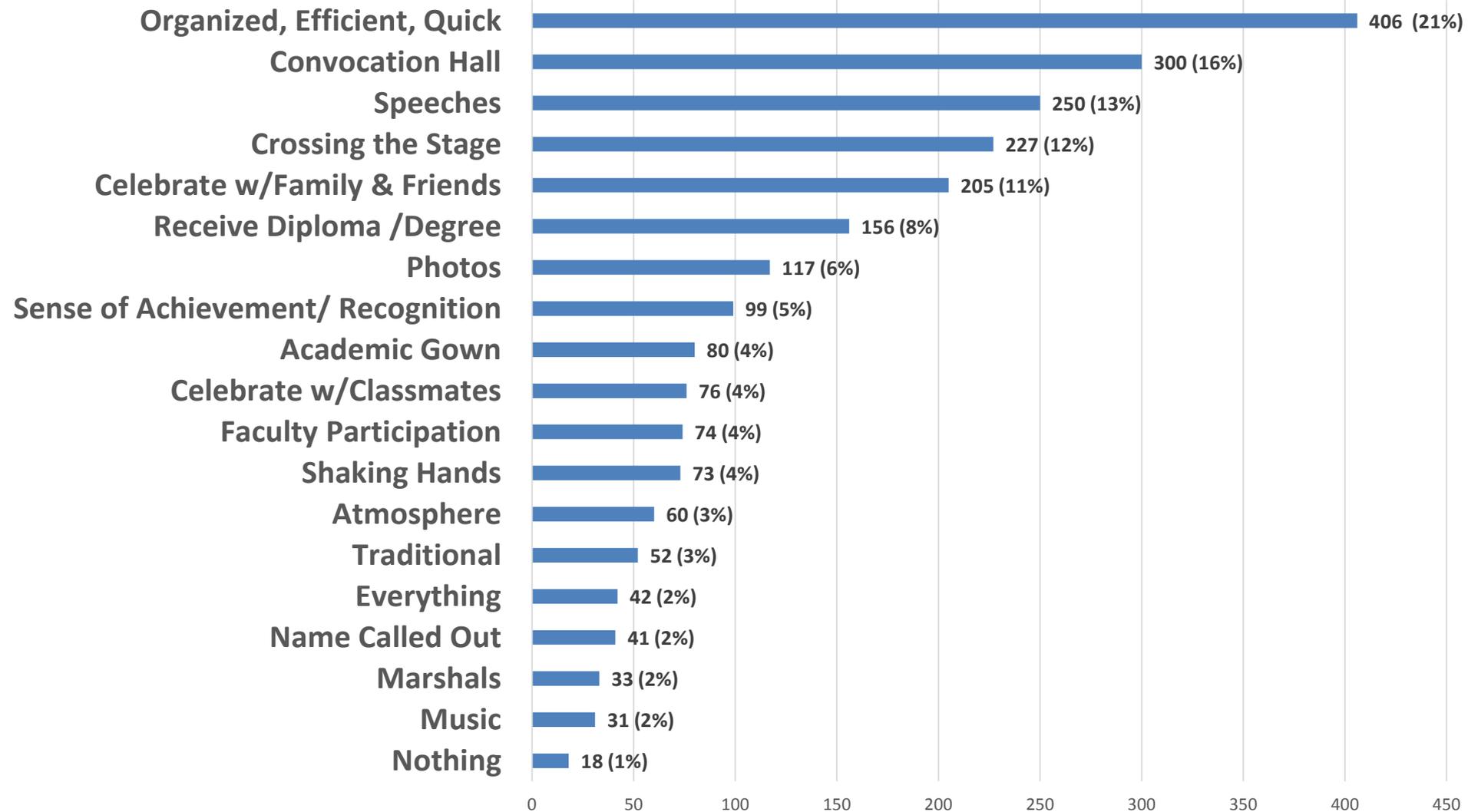
## 7. Accessibility Accommodations

- 160 respondents (6% of survey participants) requested accommodations before and at ceremony.



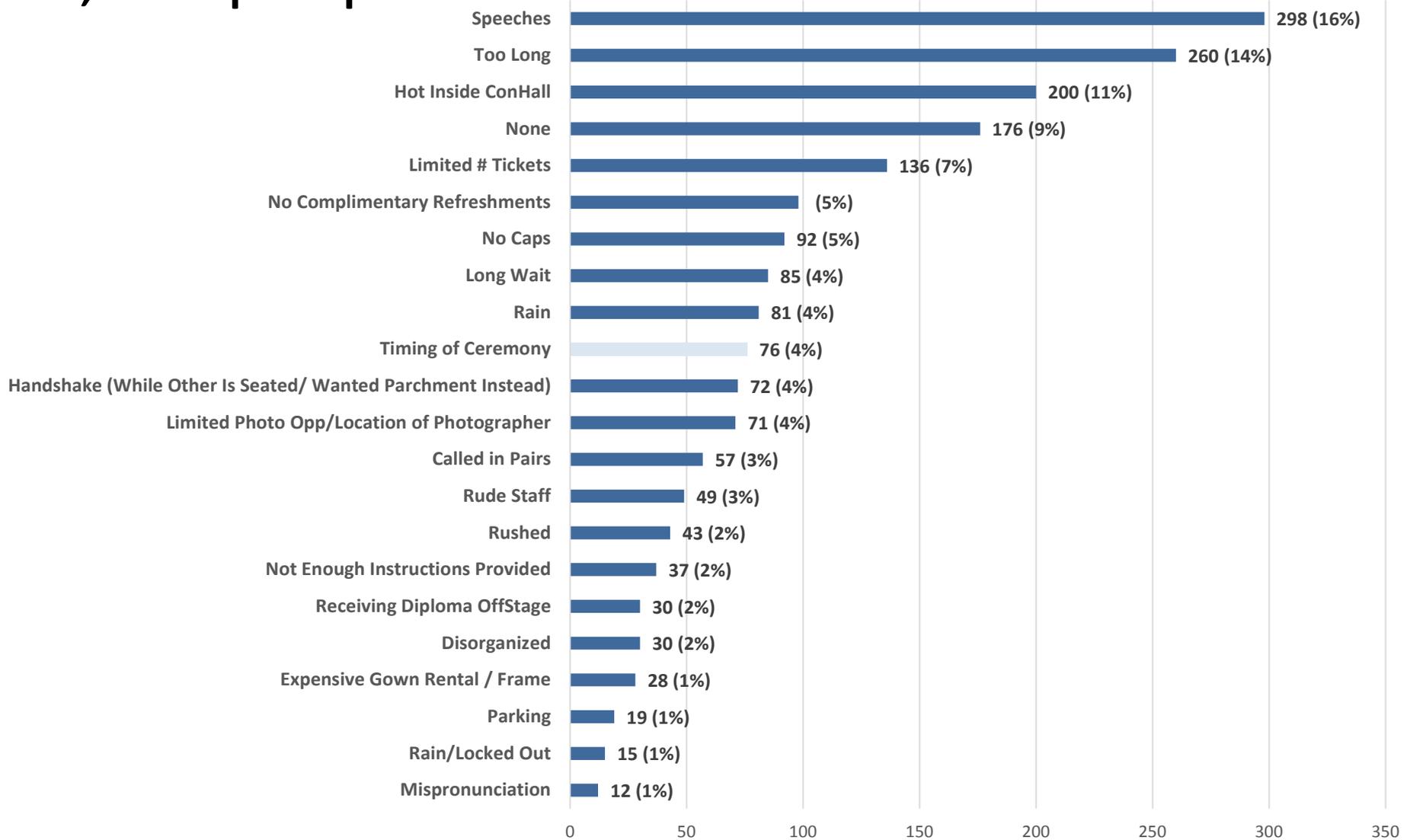
## 8. Liked Most About Ceremony (Open-Ended)

- 1,923 people commented



## 8. Liked Least About Ceremony (Open-Ended)

- 1,904 people commented



*Thank You.*



# FALL 2018 CONVOCATION SURVEY RESULTS



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**

# Response Rate

## 9.2 % Response Rate (Overall)

1,067 Total Response / (8,125 Tickets Scanned + 3,466 Graduated RSVPs)

Spring: 6.8% (=2,918 / (31,026 + 12,086))

## 19.7 % Response Rate (Graduates)

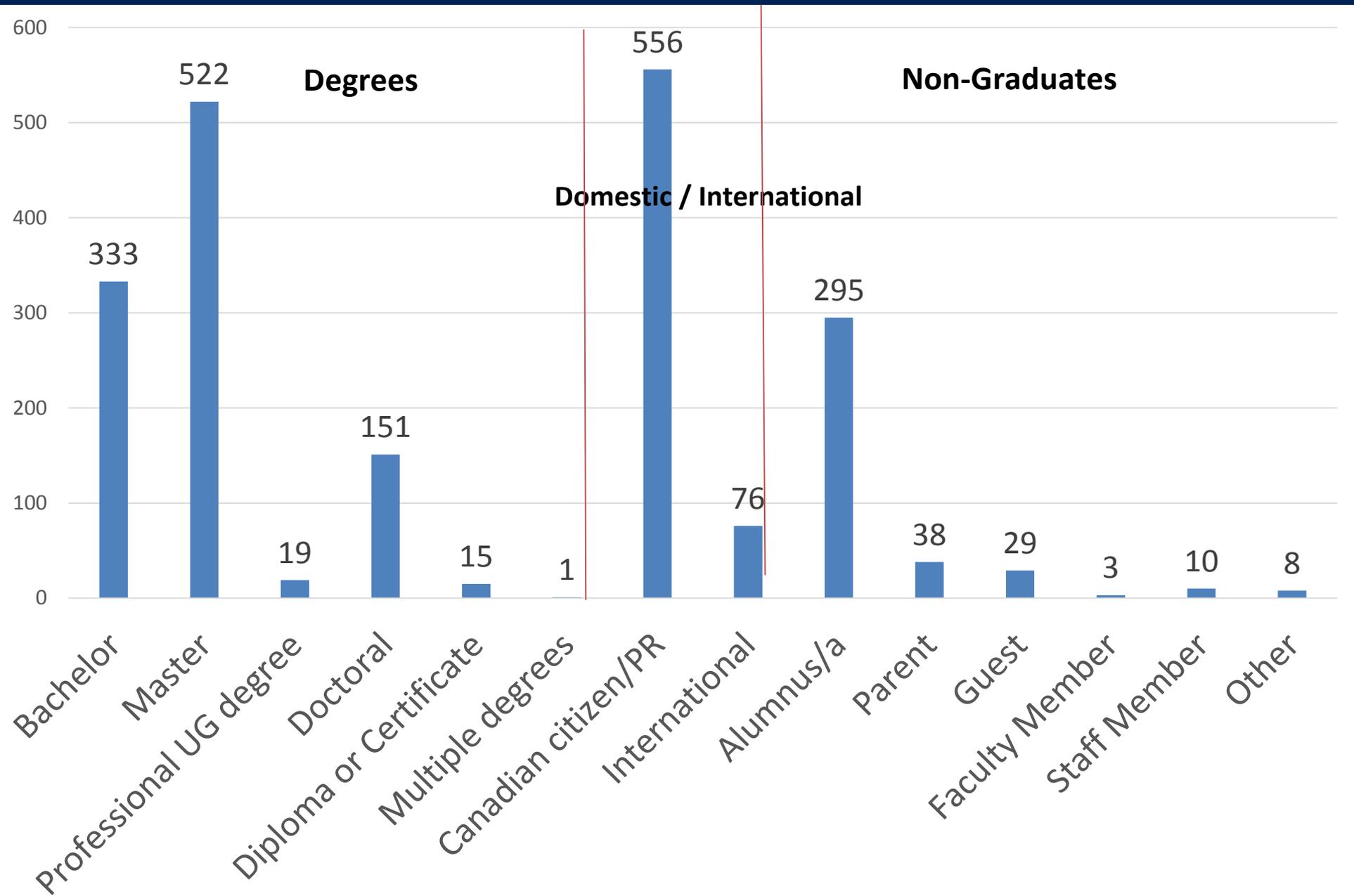
684 Respondents Self-Identified as 'Graduate' /  
3,466 Graduates RSVP'd Yes to Ceremony

Spring: 15.7% (=1,895 / 12,086)

November 5-23 (19 days)

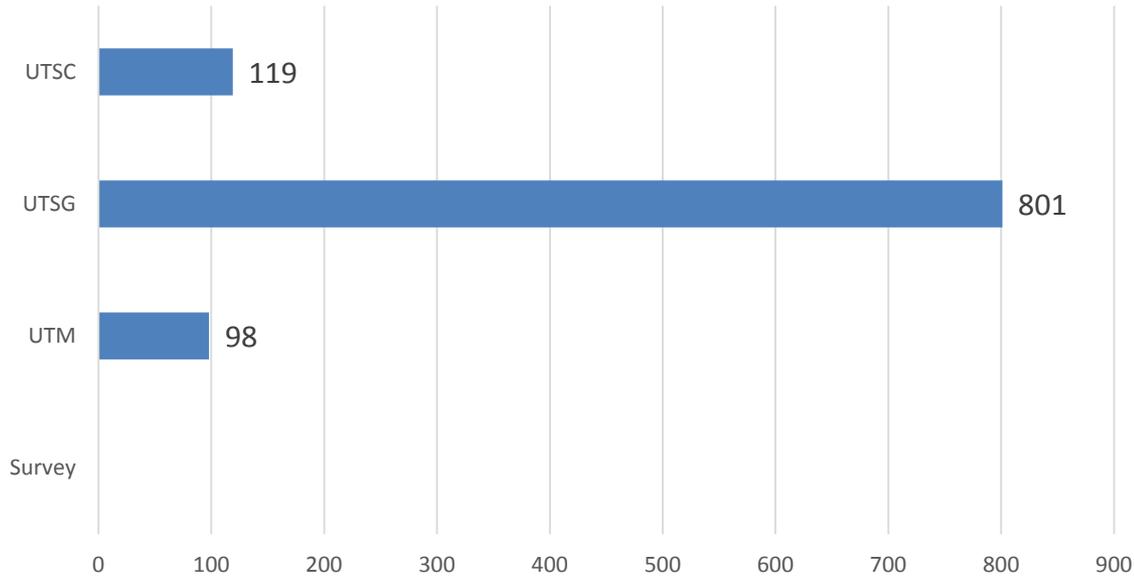
Spring: 86 days

# Demographics

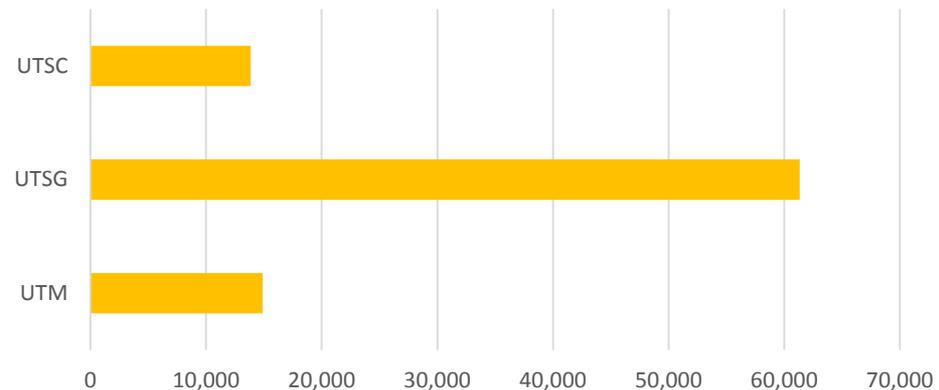


# Demographics – Campus Affiliation

## Demographics by Campus -Survey

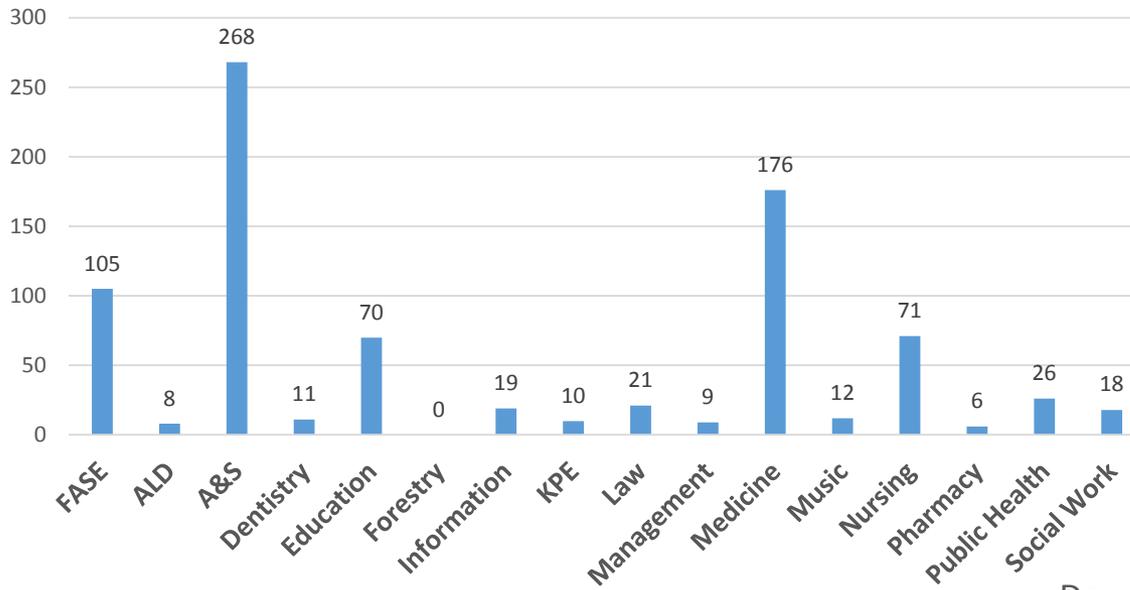


## Demographics by Campus - Facts & Figures Fall 2017

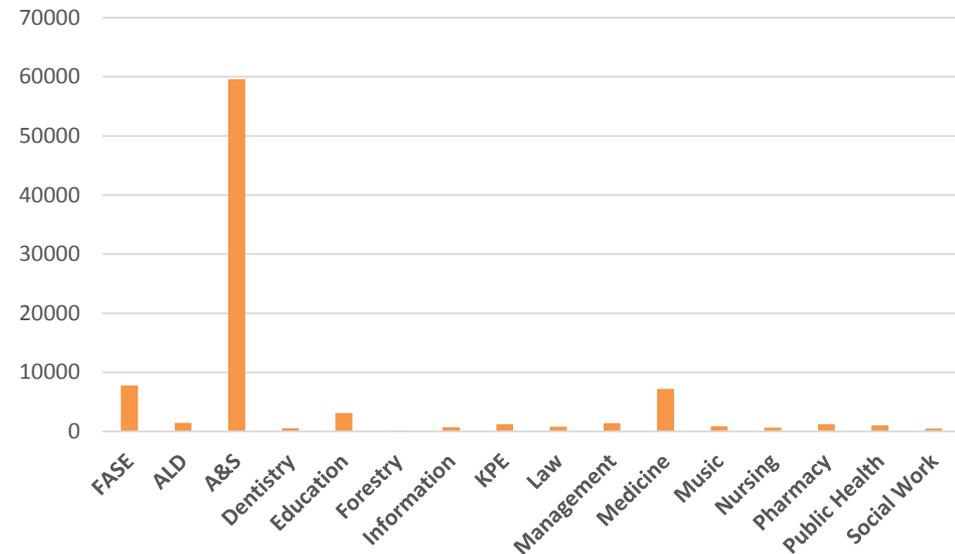


# Demographics – Academic Unit Affiliation

## Demographics by Faculty (UTSG) - Survey

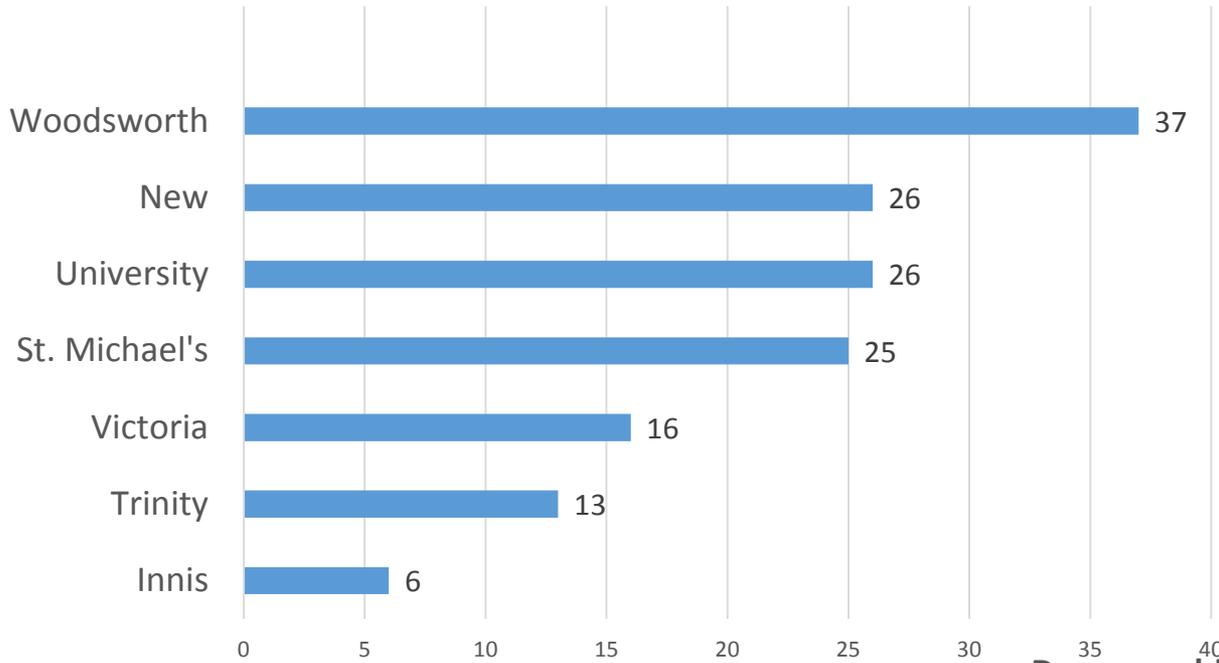


## Demographics by Faculty - Facts & Figures 2017

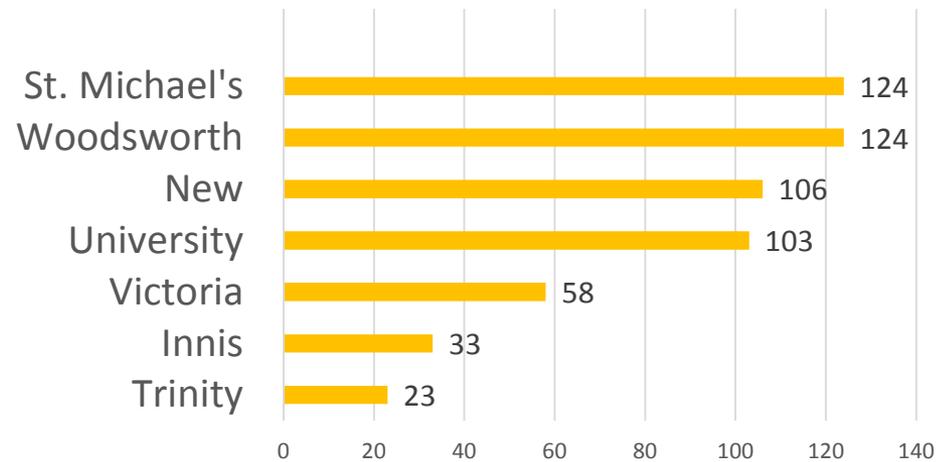


# Demographics – College Affiliation

## Demographics by College - Survey



## Demographics by College - Actual Attendance



### 3. Tickets

75%  
would have  
invited 3 or  
more guests  
(if no ticket  
limit)

Spring=80%

≈

52%  
received  
more than  
2 tickets

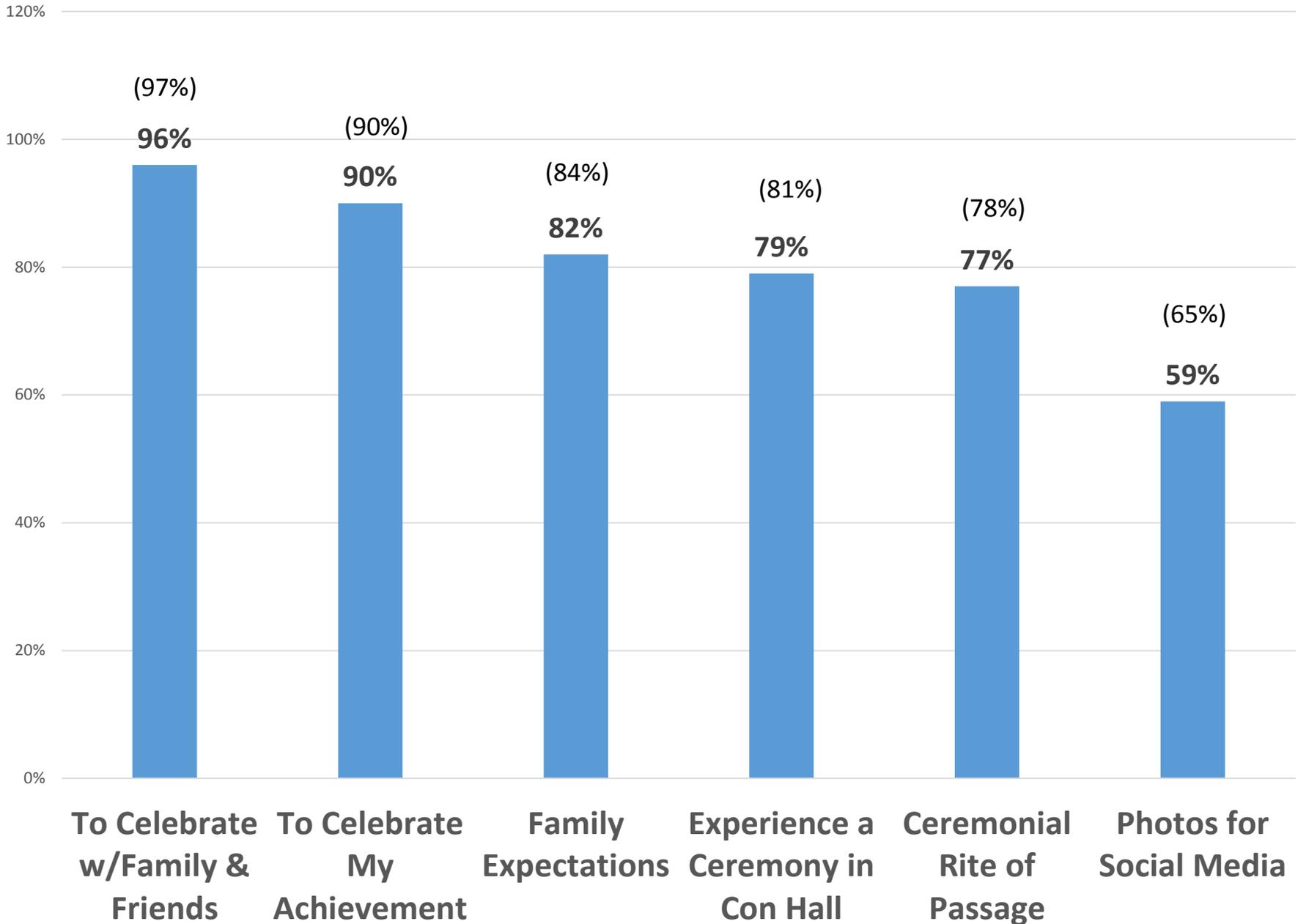
Spring=52%

+

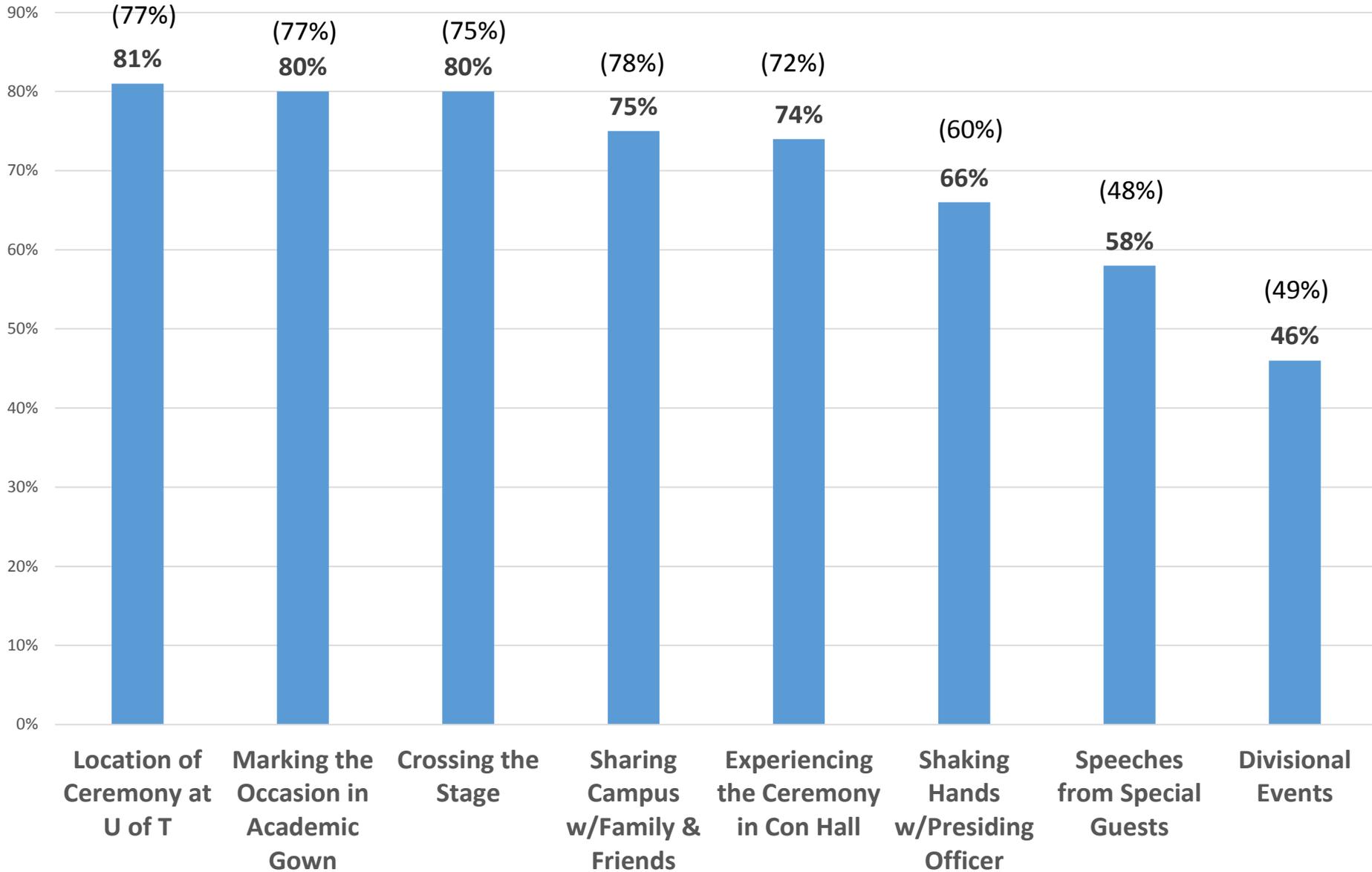
22%  
didn't  
receive  
more than  
2 tickets

Spring=27%

## 4. Reasons to Attend – Summary



## 4. Valuable Factors of Convocation Experience - Summary



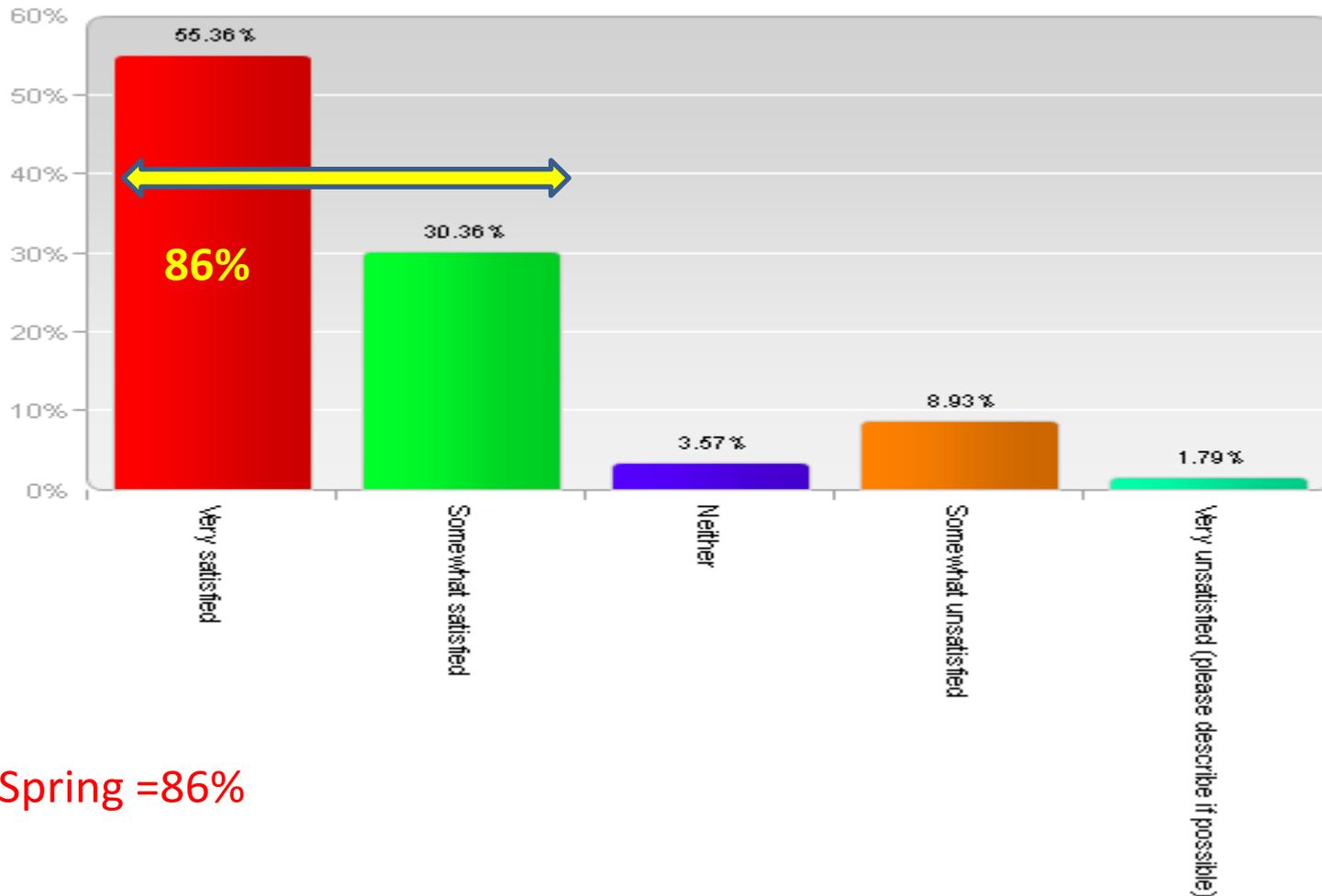
## 6. Alternate Venue vs More Tickets

- For up to 4 tickets, you would consider:

Alternative	Indoor/ Off Campus	Outdoor/ On Campus
Yes	25% (26%)	32% (38%)
No	52% (49%)	42% (37%)
Maybe	24% (25%)	26% (25%)

## 7. Accessibility Accommodations

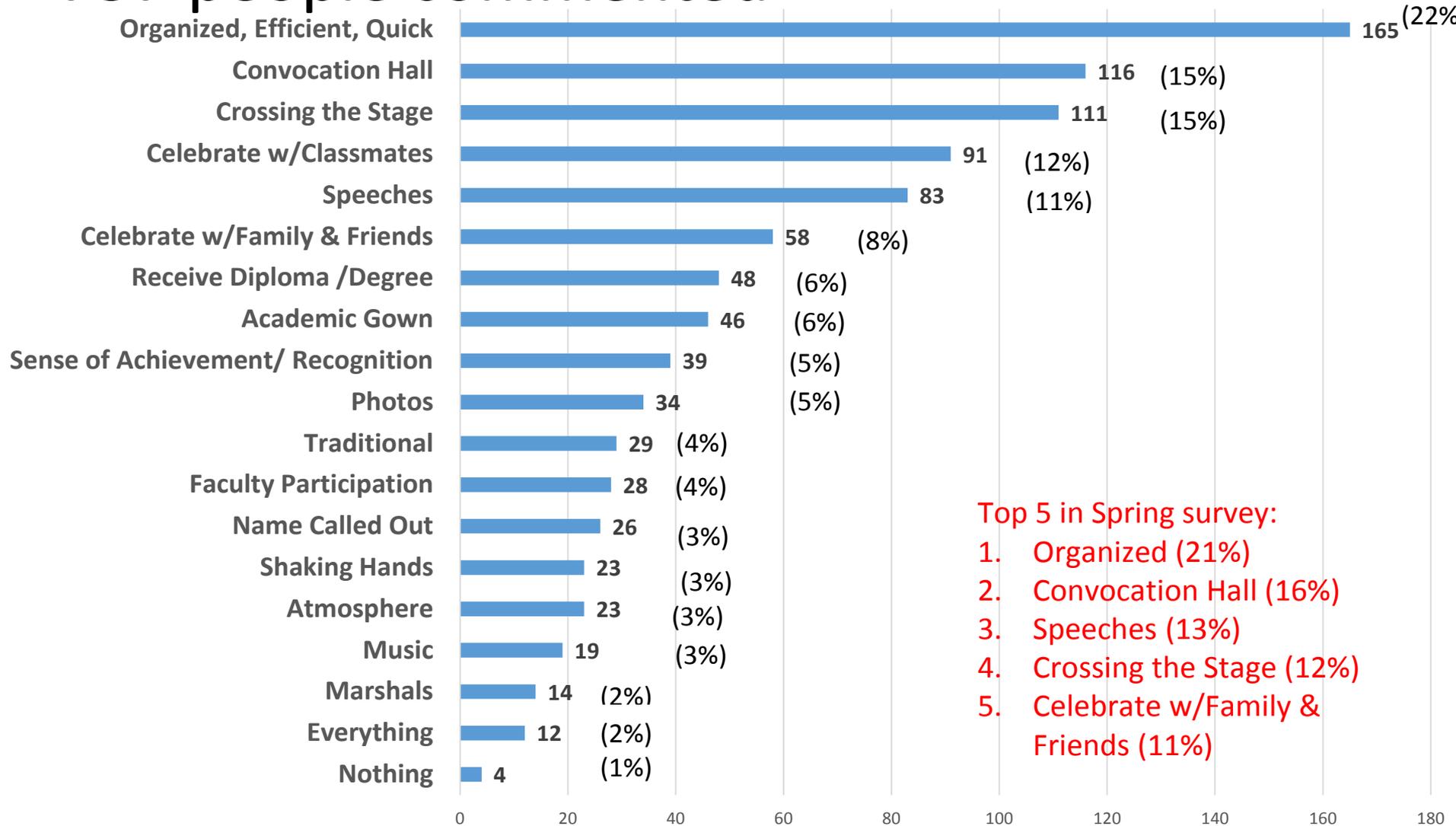
- 56 respondents (6% of survey participants) requested accommodations before and at ceremony.



Spring =86%

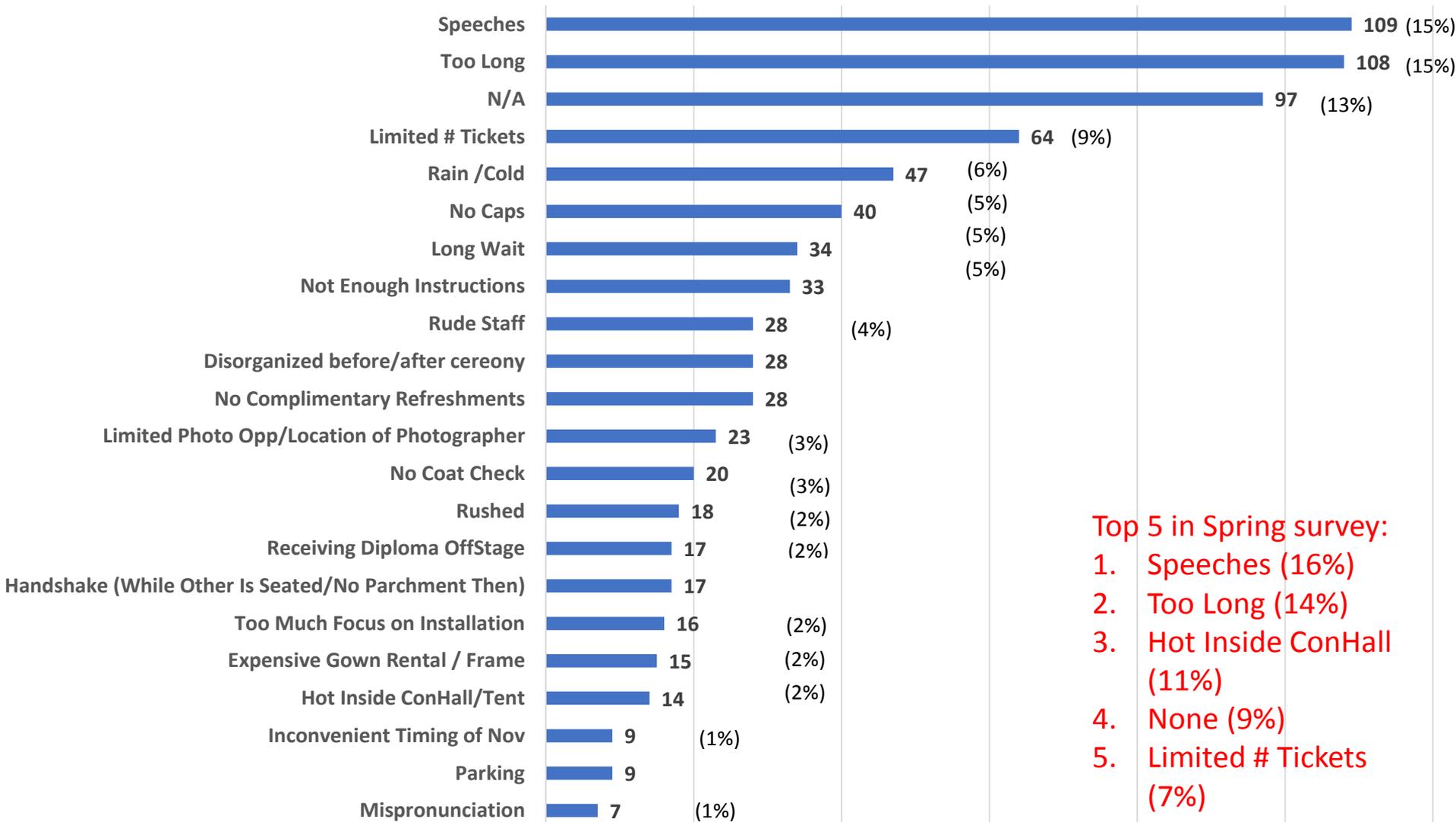
## 8. Liked Most About Ceremony (Open-Ended)

### • 757 people commented



## 8. Liked Least About Ceremony (Open-Ended)

- 736 people commented



*Thank You.*



# ALUMNI CONVOCATION SURVEY RESULTS

OCTOBER 22, 2018



BOUNDLES

# OVERVIEW

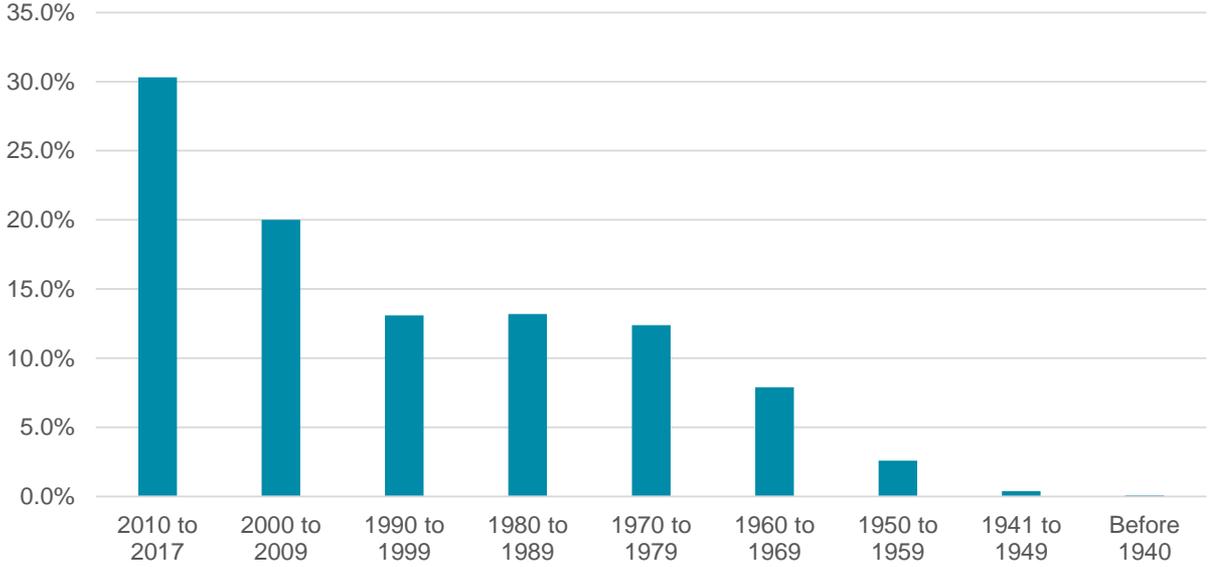
1. Response Rate
2. Demographics
3. Guests
4. Decisions to attend
5. Experiences
6. Tickets
7. Accessibility
8. Comments

# RESPONSE RATE

- Sent by email
- One time only; no reminders or incentives
- All living alumni with an active email address (and no restrictions)
- 255,594 alumni
- 10,219 responses
- 4% response rate

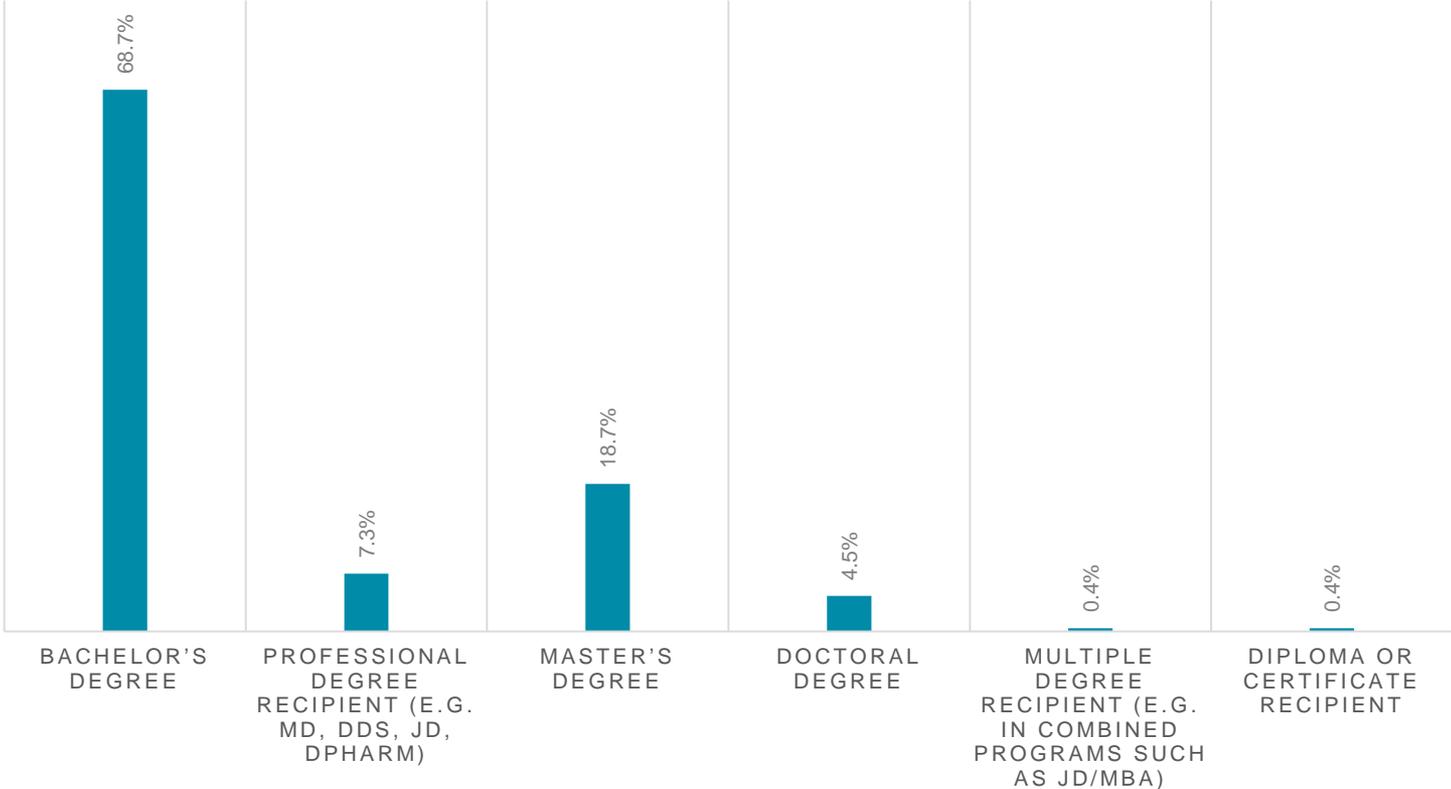
# DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

## YEAR OF FIRST DEGREE



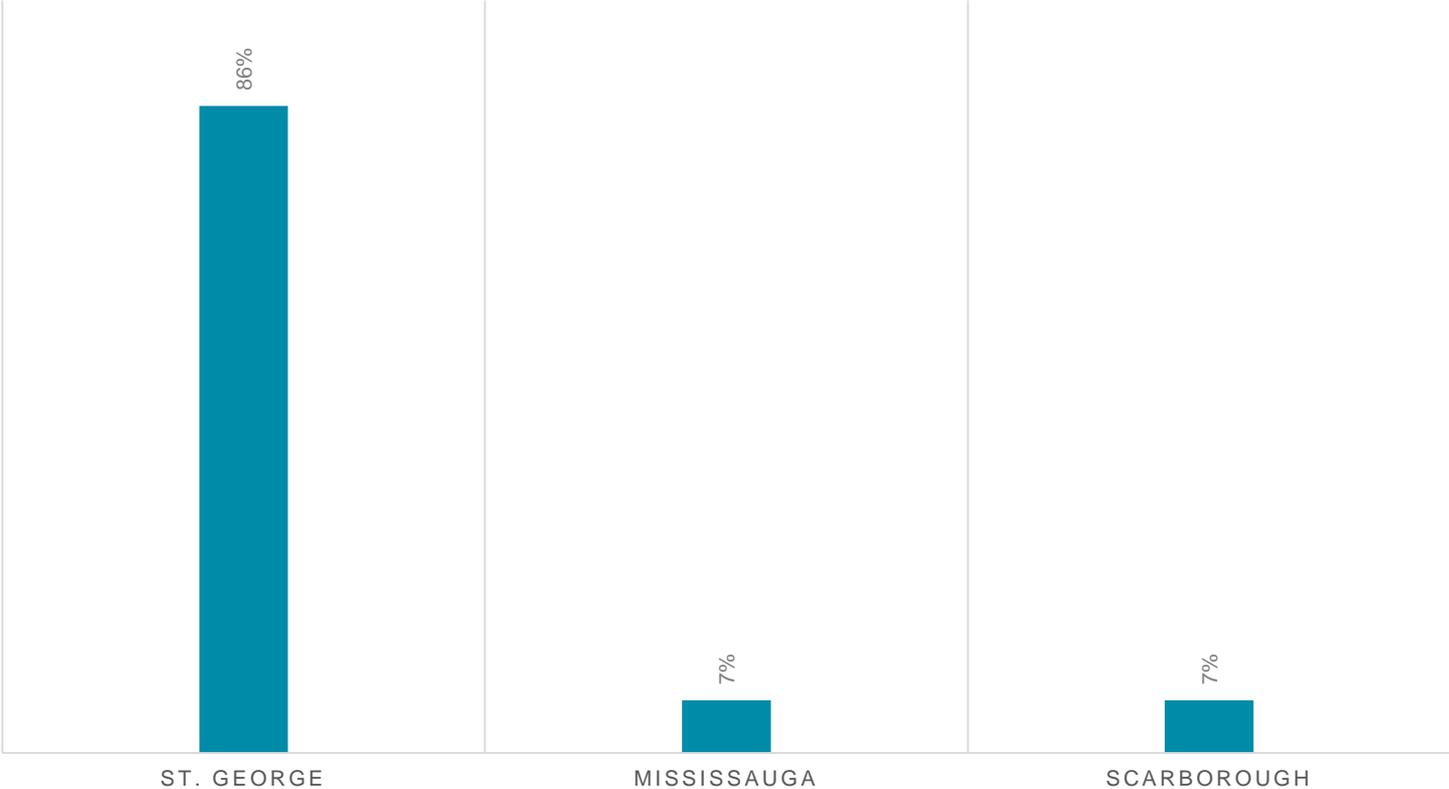
# DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

## PROGRAM OF FIRST GRADUATION



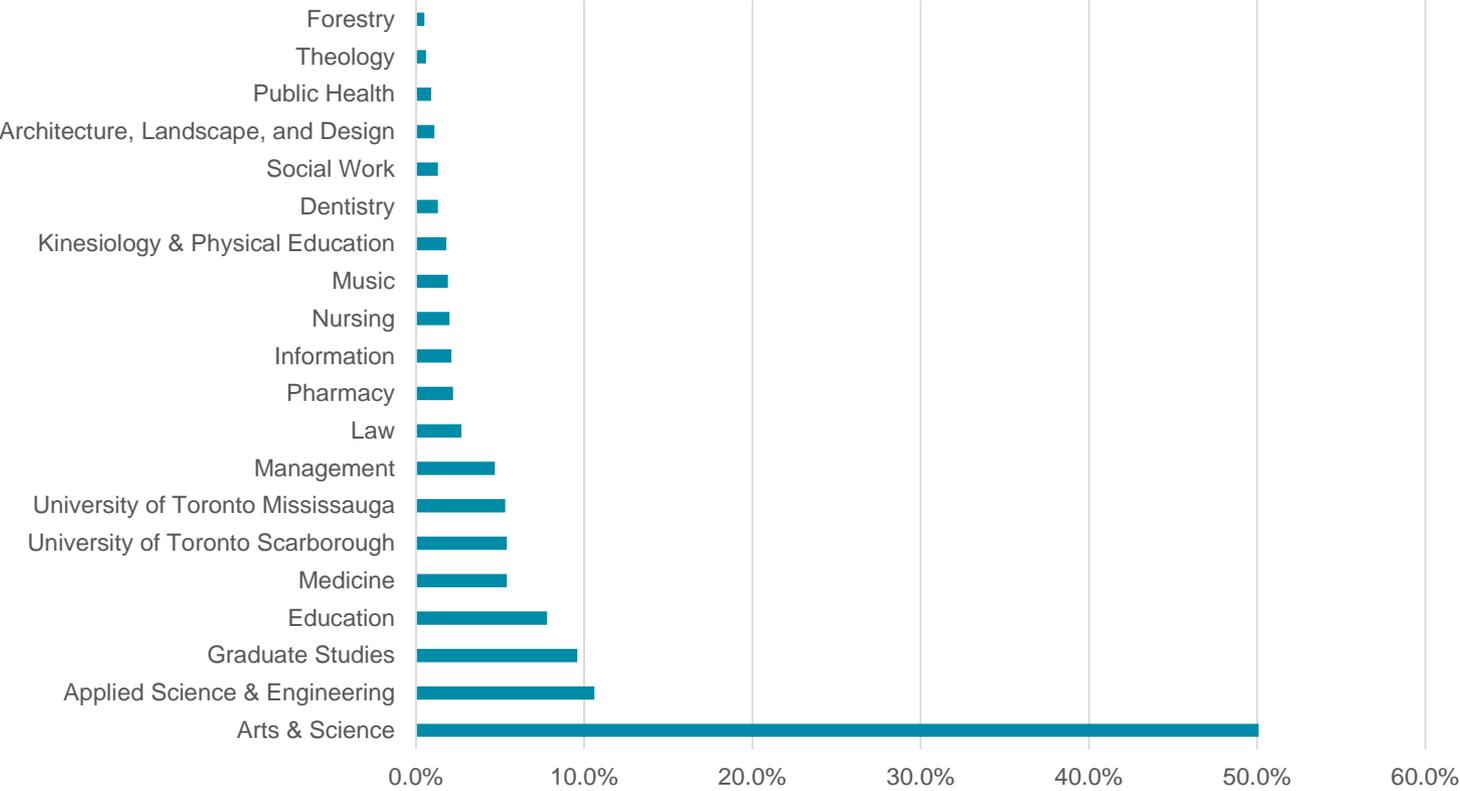
# DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

## CAMPUS AFFILIATION



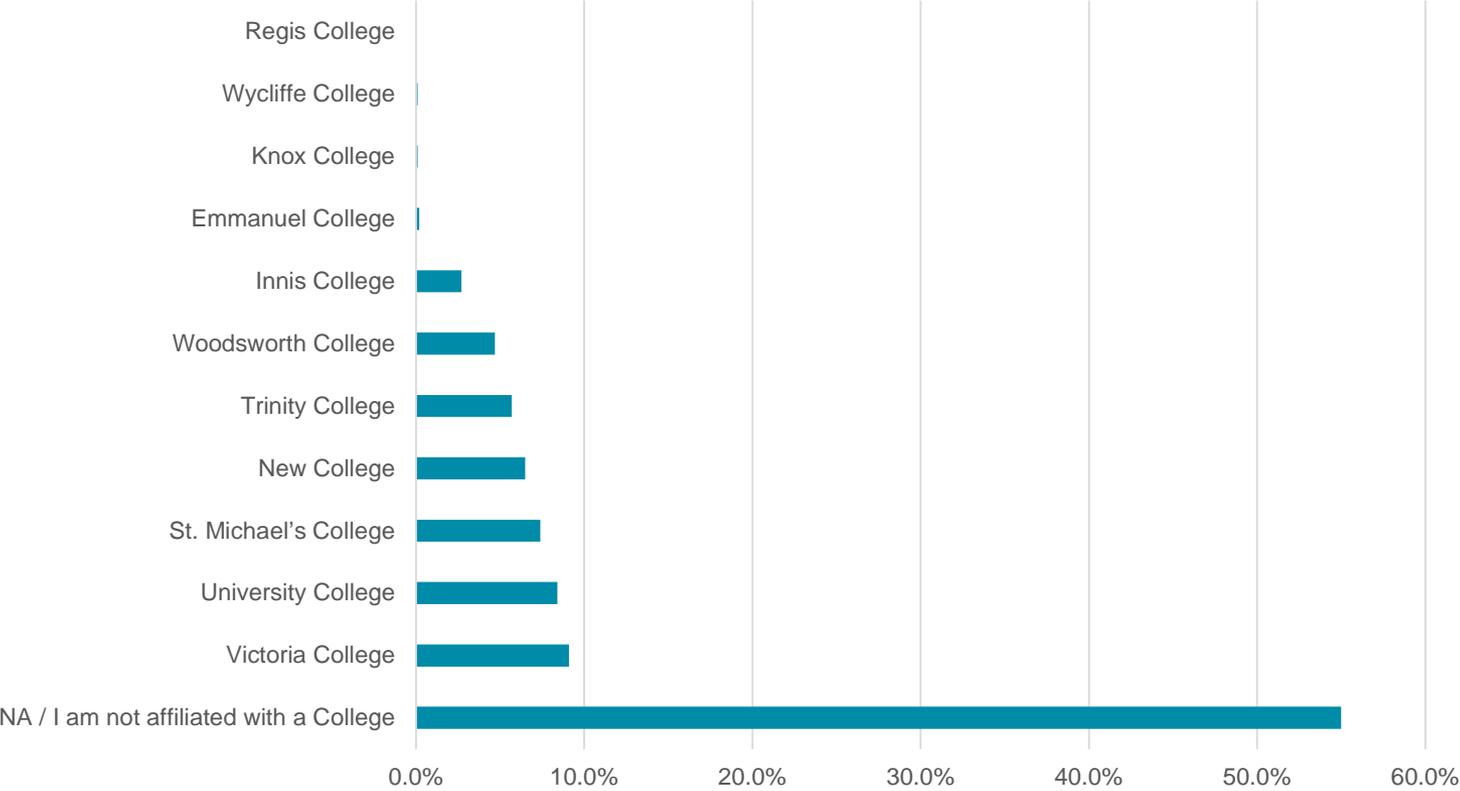
# DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

## FACULTY/SCHOOL



# DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

## COLLEGE



# DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

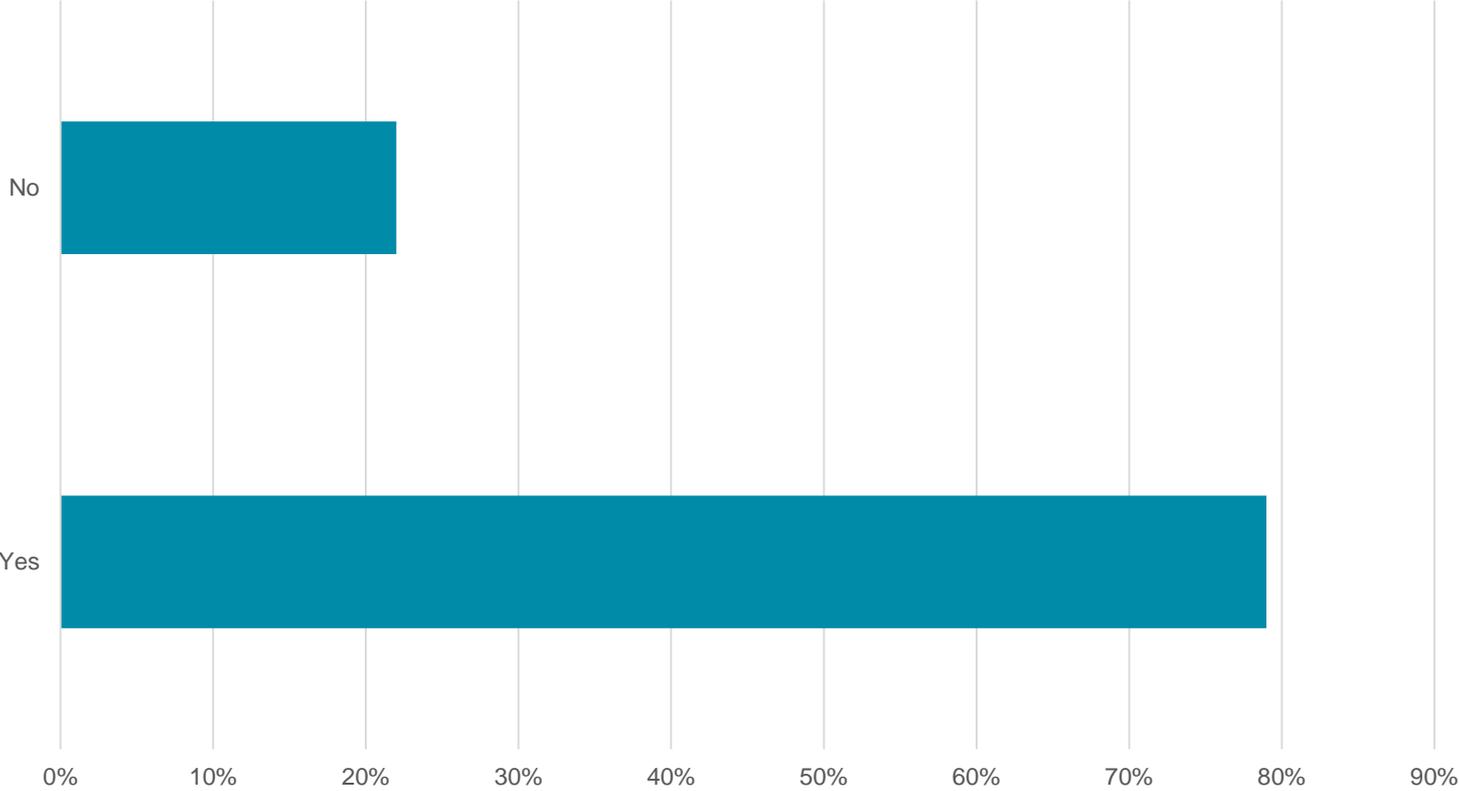
## COUNTRIES

- Based on IP addresses, we had responses from 86 countries.
- Canada was the highest with 7,576 responses.
- These are the next to 10:

1 United States	783
2 United Kingdom	105
3 Hong Kong	73
4 Germany	35
5 Australia	34
6 Japan	33
7 France	28
8 Italy	19
9 Singapore	18
10 Mexico	17

# DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

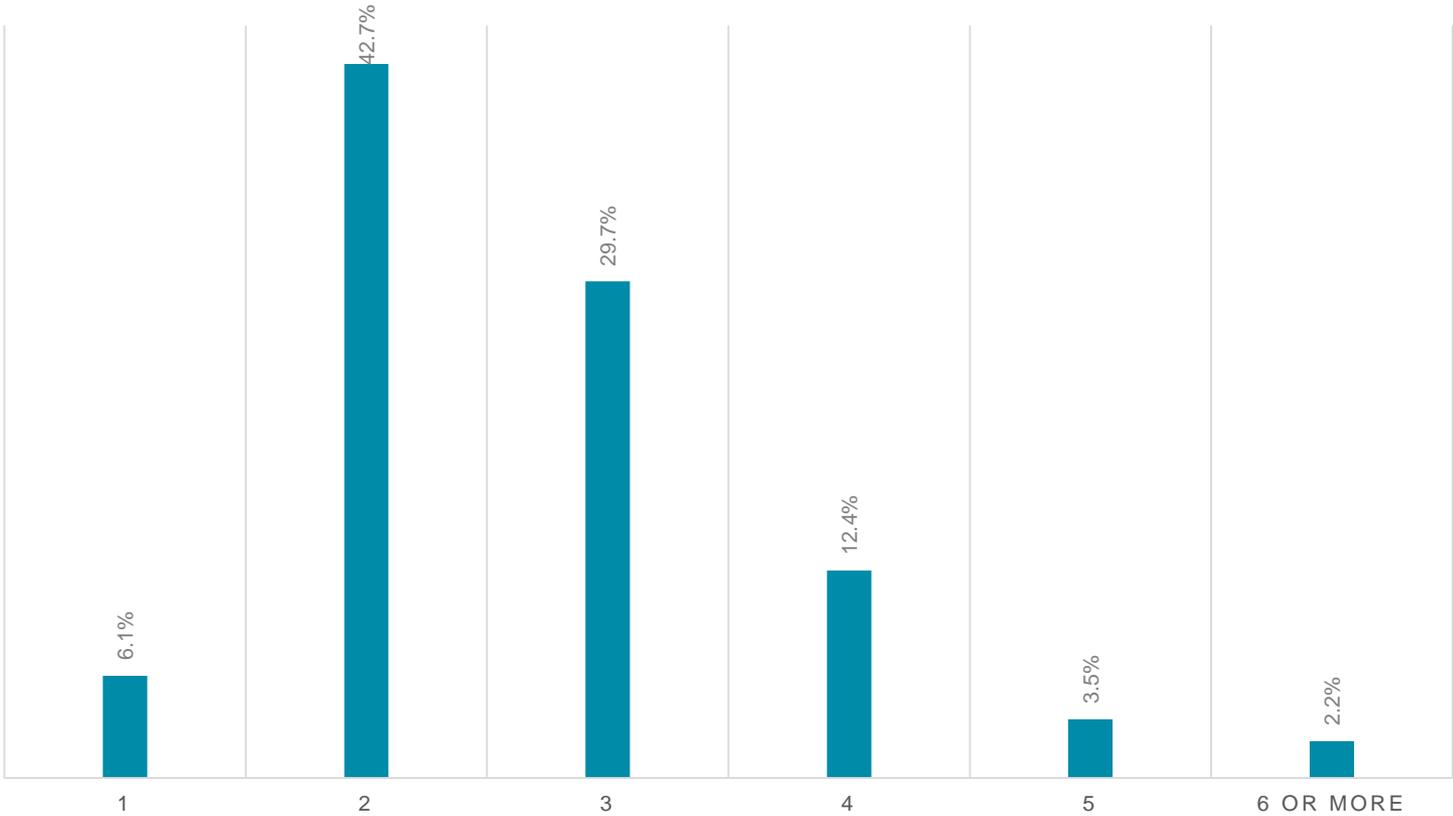
DID YOU ATTEND CONVOCATION FOR YOUR FIRST DEGREE AT U OF T





# GUESTS

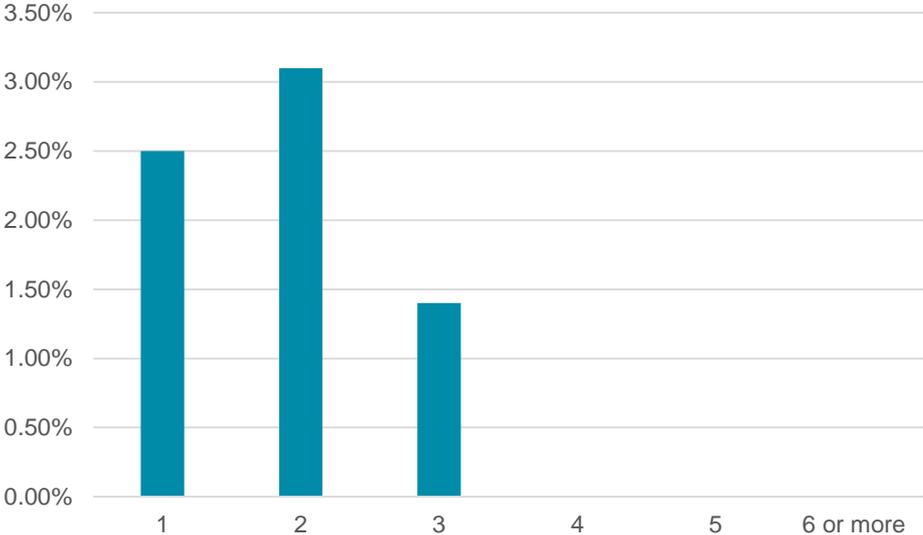
## HOW MANY GUESTS ATTENDED THE CEREMONY INSIDE CON HALL?



# GUESTS

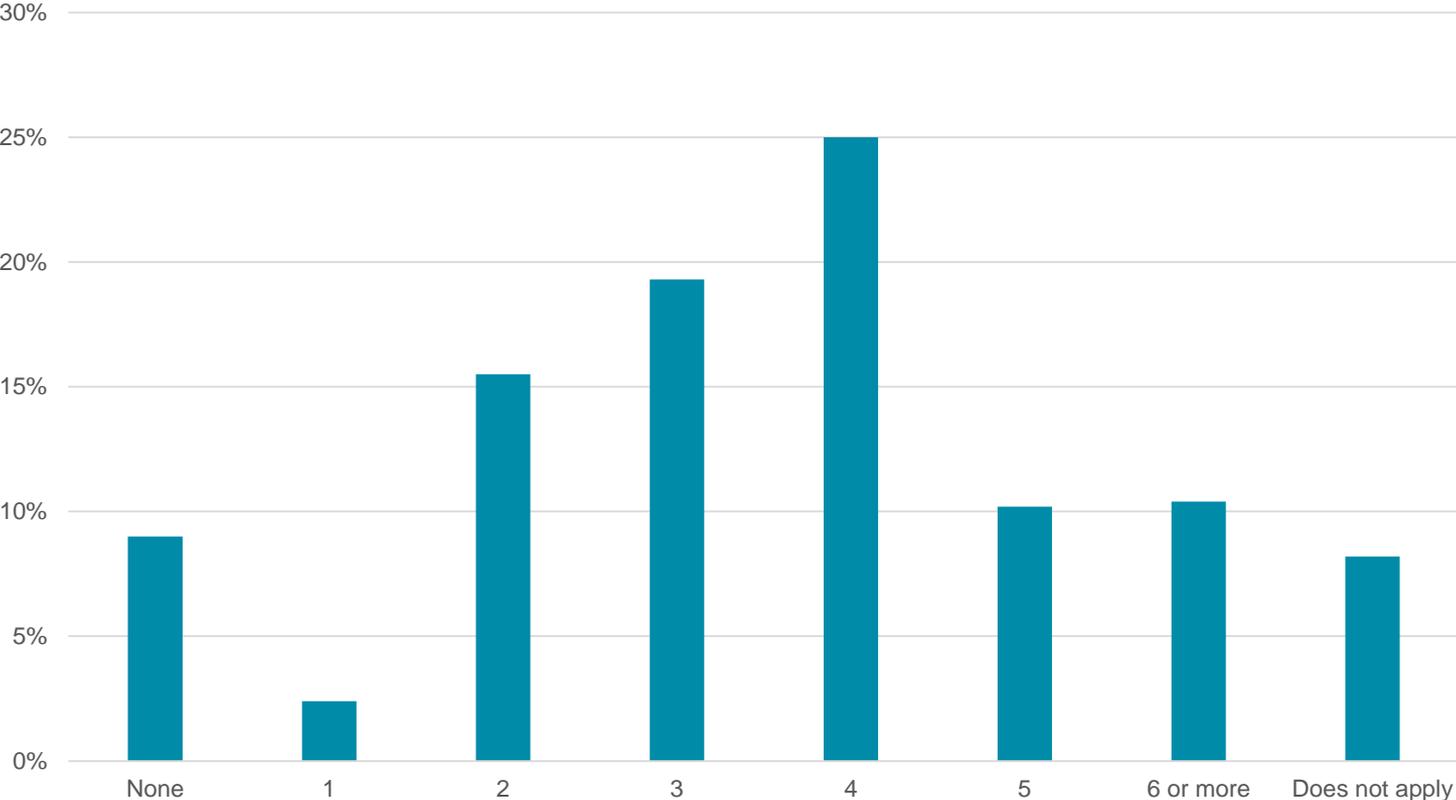
## HOW MANY OF YOUR GUESTS WATCHED A LIVE STREAM?

- 78% - None
- 21% - Does not apply



# GUESTS

HOW MANY GUESTS WOULD YOU HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ATTENDED IN CONVOCATION HALL HAD THERE BEEN NO LIMIT ON TICKETS?



# DECISION TO ATTEND

## HOW INFLUENTIAL WERE THE FOLLOWING FACTORS IN YOUR CHOICE TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY?

	Not influential at all	Somewhat influential	Very influential	NA / have no opinion	Responses
Celebrate with family, guests and friends Row %	5.8%	16.5%	76.6%	1.1%	7,552
Experience a ceremony in Convocation Hall Row %	19.3%	30.3%	48.1%	2.3%	7,547
Family expectations Row %	19.0%	28.6%	50.1%	2.4%	7,546
Ceremonial rite of passage Row %	14.6%	29.2%	53.9%	2.3%	7,545
Opportunity to take pictures Row %	30.6%	37.5%	29.6%	2.3%	7,543
To celebrate/recognize my achievement Row %	8.0%	22.9%	68.2%	0.9%	7,546
Totals Total Responses					7552



# EXPERIENCE

## HOW MUCH DID YOU VALUE THESE FACTORS OF YOUR CONVOCATION EXPERIENCE?

	Did not value at all	Did not value much	Neutral	Valued	Valued very much	NA/did not experience	Responses
Location of ceremony venue at U of T Row %	2.3%	2.4%	10.5%	31.7%	52.7%	0.4%	7,545
Sharing the campus with friends and family Row %	3.0%	4.1%	13.9%	37.9%	40.1%	1.0%	7,544
Experiencing the ceremony in iconic and historic Convocation Hall Row %	3.4%	3.6%	11.3%	32.1%	48.9%	0.7%	7,547
Marking the occasion in academic gown Row %	4.1%	4.4%	11.5%	33.8%	45.6%	0.6%	7,544
Crossing the stage Row %	3.5%	4.3%	14.5%	35.6%	41.4%	0.6%	7,543

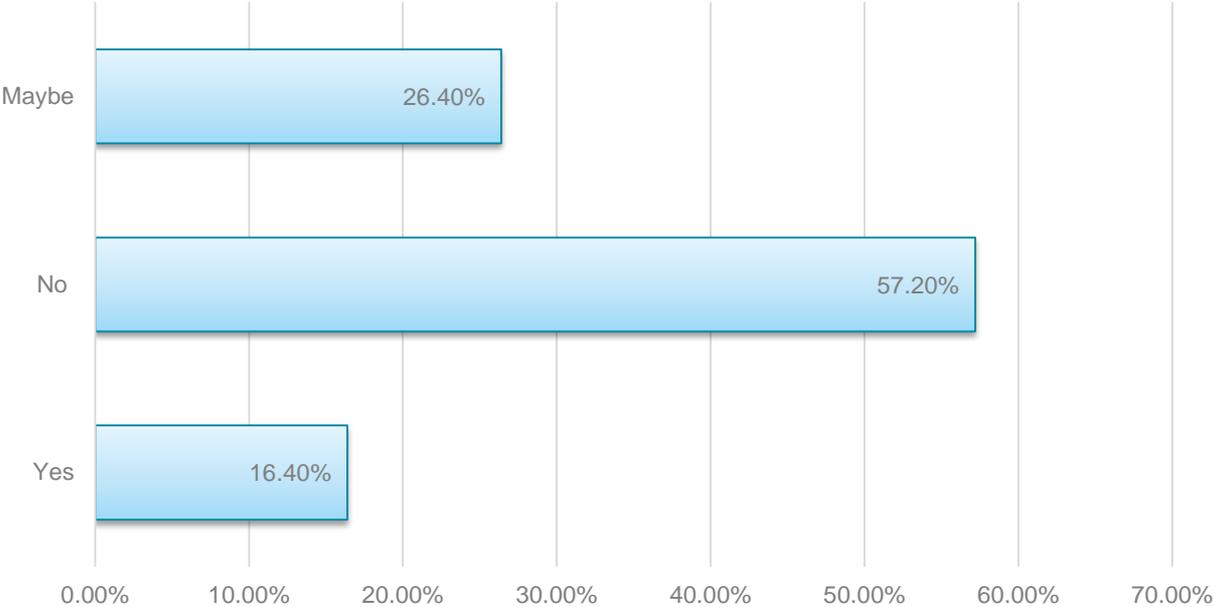
# EXPERIENCE

## HOW MUCH DID YOU VALUE THESE FACTORS OF YOUR CONVOCATION EXPERIENCE?

	Did not value at all	Did not value much	Neutral	Valued	Valued very much	NA / did not experience	Responses
Shaking hands on stage with Chancellor, President or acting presiding officer Row %	6.4%	7.8%	19.9%	33.1%	32.0%	0.8%	7,544
Speeches from special guests (Convocation Speaker, Honorary degree recipient, etc.) Row %	7.8%	11.6%	27.2%	35.1%	17.6%	0.7%	7,542
Convocation-related events organized by your Faculty, School and/or College, if any Row %	8.2%	9.5%	21.6%	24.4%	17.3%	19.0%	7,538

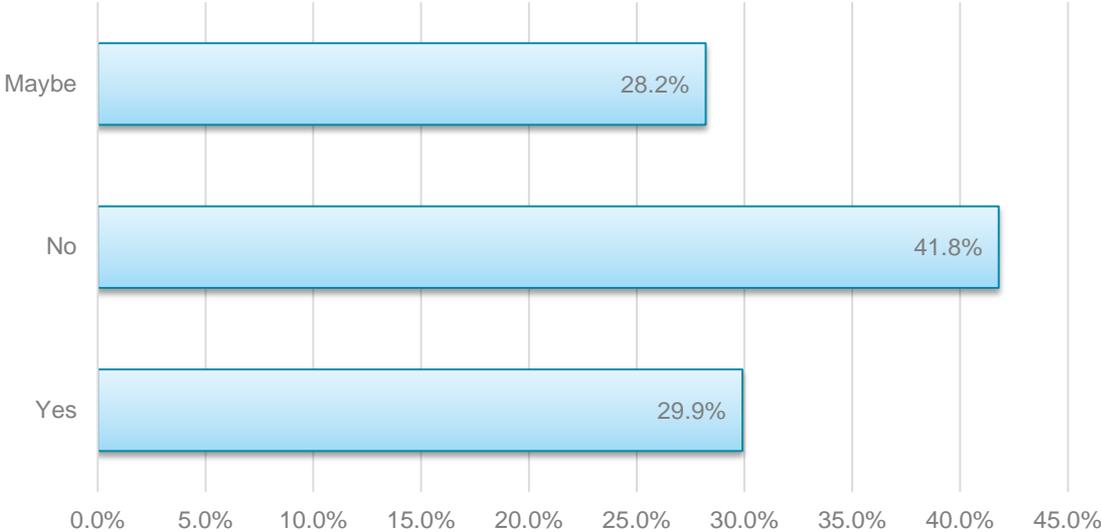
# TICKETS

IF YOU HAD BEEN ABLE TO HAVE UP TO 4 GUEST TICKETS, WOULD YOU HAVE CONSIDERED A LARGE INDOOR VENUE NOT ON THE U OF T CAMPUS?



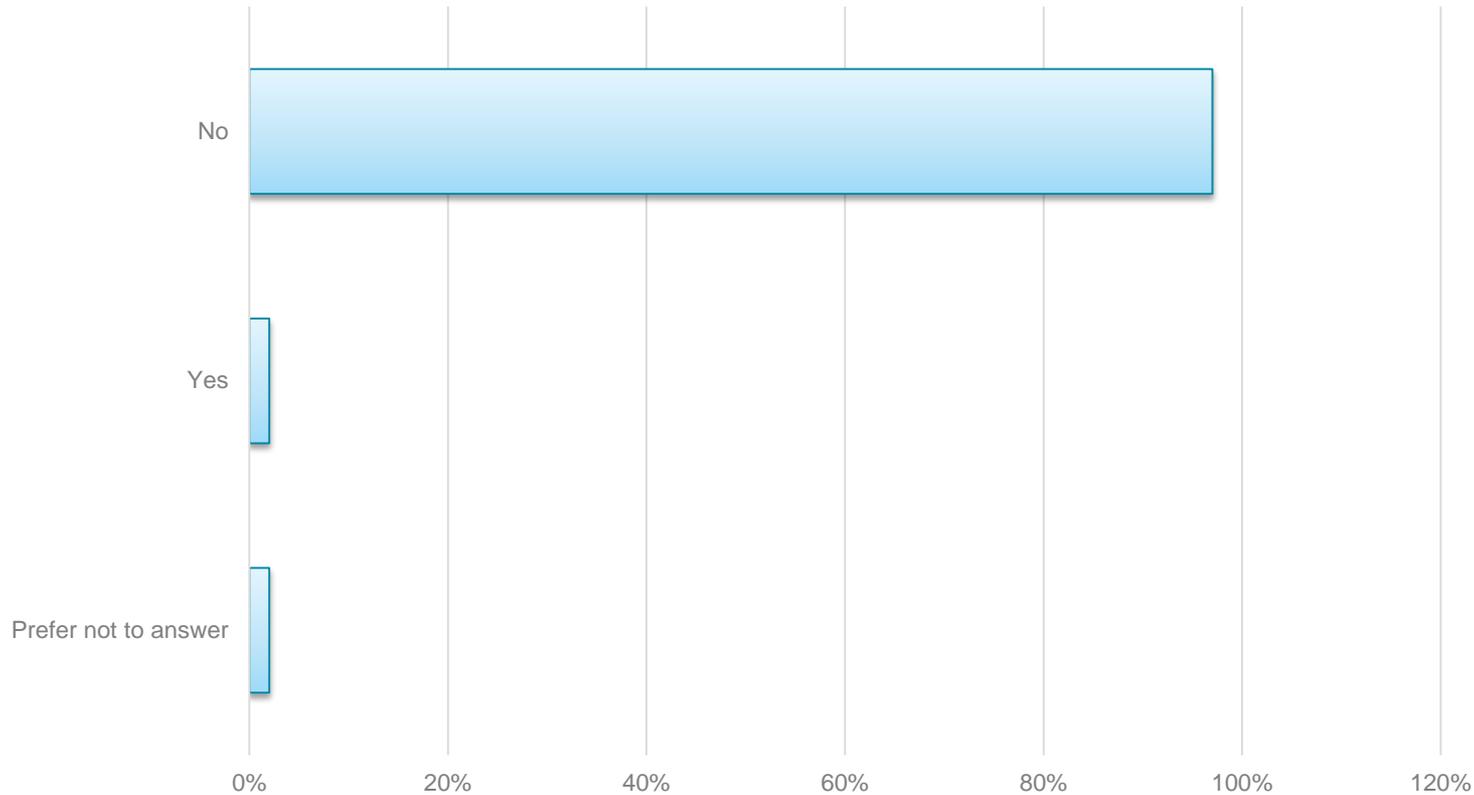
# TICKETS

IF YOU HAD BEEN ABLE TO HAVE UP TO 4 GUEST TICKETS WOULD YOU HAVE CONSIDERED A LARGE OUTDOOR VENUE ON U OF T CAMPUS? CEREMONY WOULD TAKE PLACE RAIN OR SHINE.



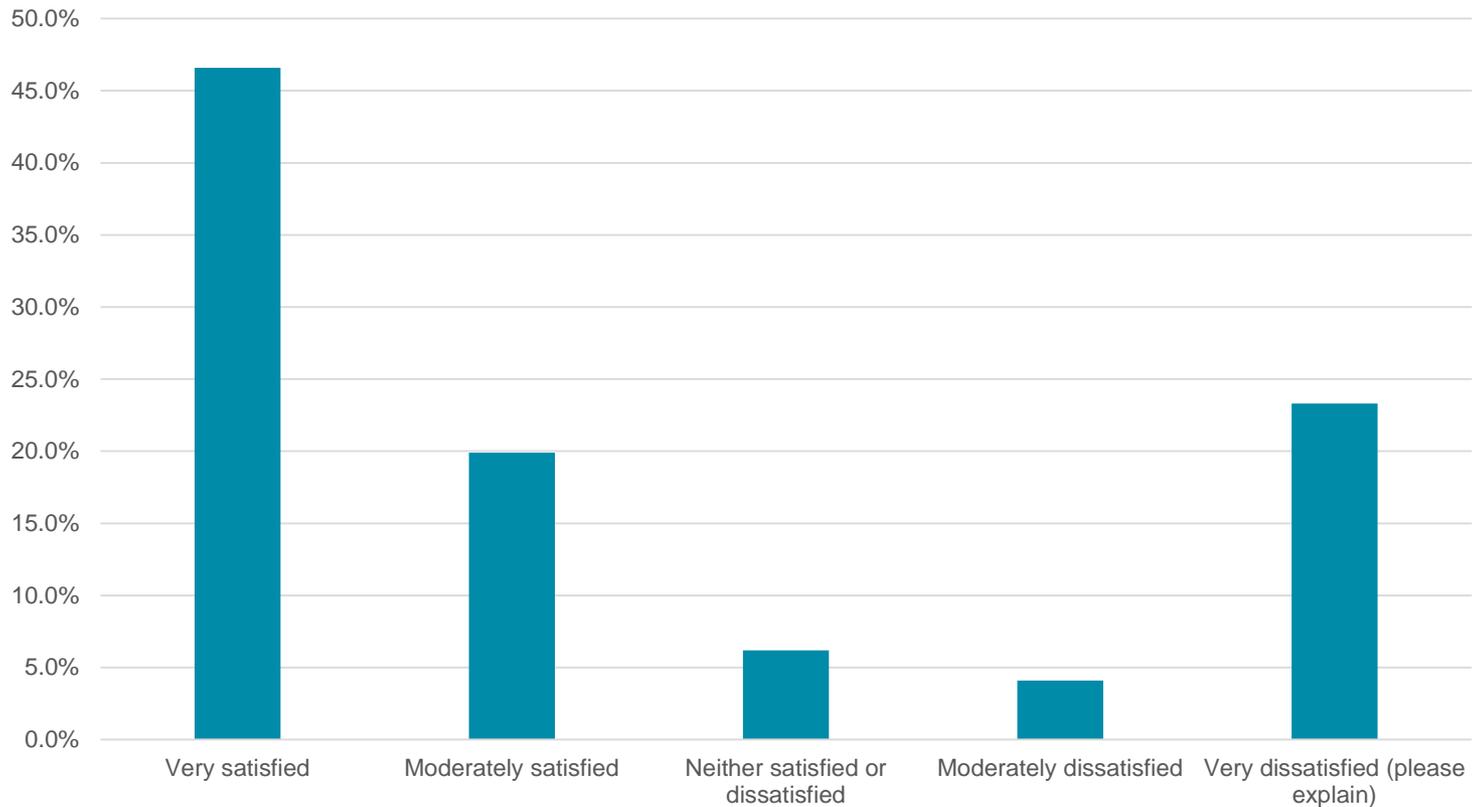
# ACCESSIBILITY

## DID YOU REQUEST ACCESSIBLE ACCOMMODATIONS?



# ACCESSIBILITY

RATE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF ACCESSIBLE ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE CEREMONY YOU ATTENDED.



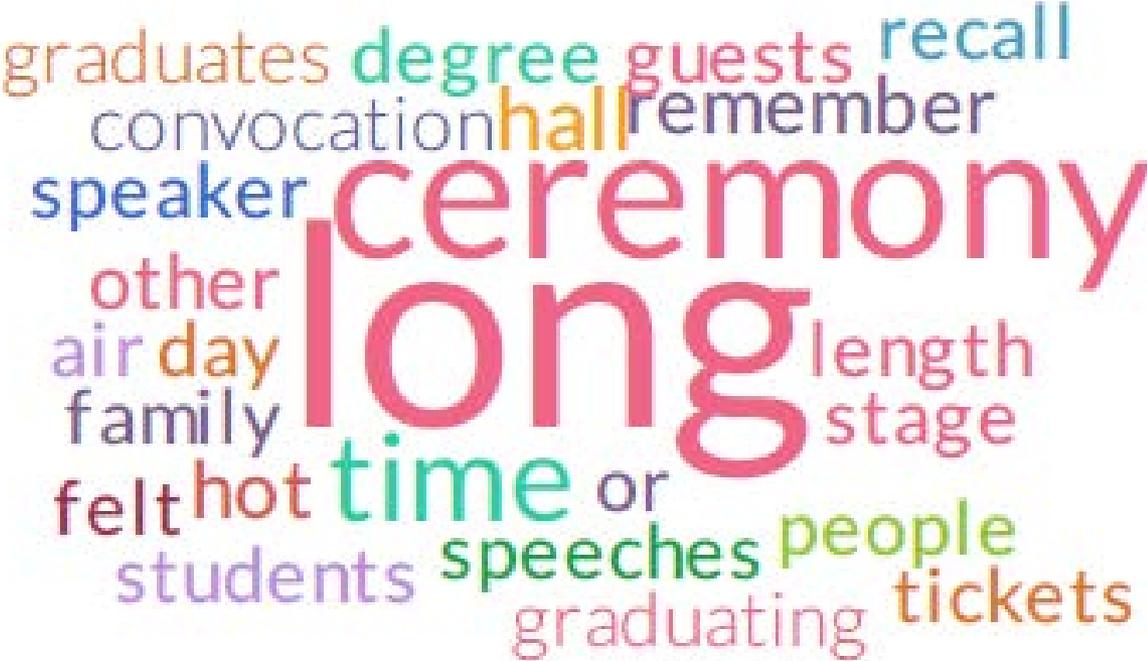
# COMMENTS

WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE CEREMONY?



# COMMENTS

WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST OR WISH WAS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE CEREMONY?



# COMMENTS

IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE,  
PLEASE ADD THEM BELOW

- The survey generated over 900 pages of comments.



# QUESTIONS?

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UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

November 23, 2018

David Ansermino, President  
University of Toronto Computer Science Student Union  
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[cssu@teach.cs.toronto.edu](mailto:cssu@teach.cs.toronto.edu)

Dear David,

On behalf of the Convocation Advisory Review Committee, we are writing to acknowledge receipt of feedback from Computer Science students. We have also received the petition package and comments through the online form. We thank the students of the Department of Computer Science for their engagement with the review process. We appreciate the value they place on Convocation and acknowledge their keen interest in having a ceremony specifically for Computer Science students.

However, after discussion of this matter, the Committee has concluded that it will not be including the possibility of a stand-alone ceremony for Computer Science as one of its recommendations to the President and to the Chair of Governing Council. It is the view of the Committee that taking an anomalous approach for one department, given the overall size and structure of the University and the related implications of such an action, would not be appropriate. Convocation ceremonies at the University of Toronto are organized based on Faculties and on degrees, and in the case of Arts and Science are further broken down on the basis of Colleges (which is the way in which students are currently admitted to the Faculty).

We noted that the petition and many online comments pointed to the fact that the Rotman Commerce students have their own convocation ceremony. In this case, unlike Computer Science, Rotman Commerce is a multi-Faculty program (Rotman School of Management and the Faculty of Arts and Science) and students receive a different degree – a Bachelor of Commerce.

The Committee encourages units within the University to continue to take the opportunity to host local events, outside the Convocation ceremonies, that honour and celebrate the achievements of their particular, and often close-knit, cohorts.

We understand that this response will be disappointing to many within your community but we hope that there will be an appreciation of the rationale for the decision. We would ask that you pass on this response to interested students as appropriate. Again, thank you to the students of Computer Science for taking the time to engage in this review process.

Sincerely,



Sheree Drummond  
Co-Chair  
Convocation Advisory Review Committee  
Secretary of the Governing Council



Bryn MacPherson  
Co-Chair  
Convocation Advisory Review Committee  
Assistant Vice-President, Office of the President  
& Chief of Protocol

Cc: Professor Ravin Balakrishnan, Chair, Department of Computer Science  
Professor David Cameron, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science  
Lana El Sanyoura, *Let CS Graduate Together*