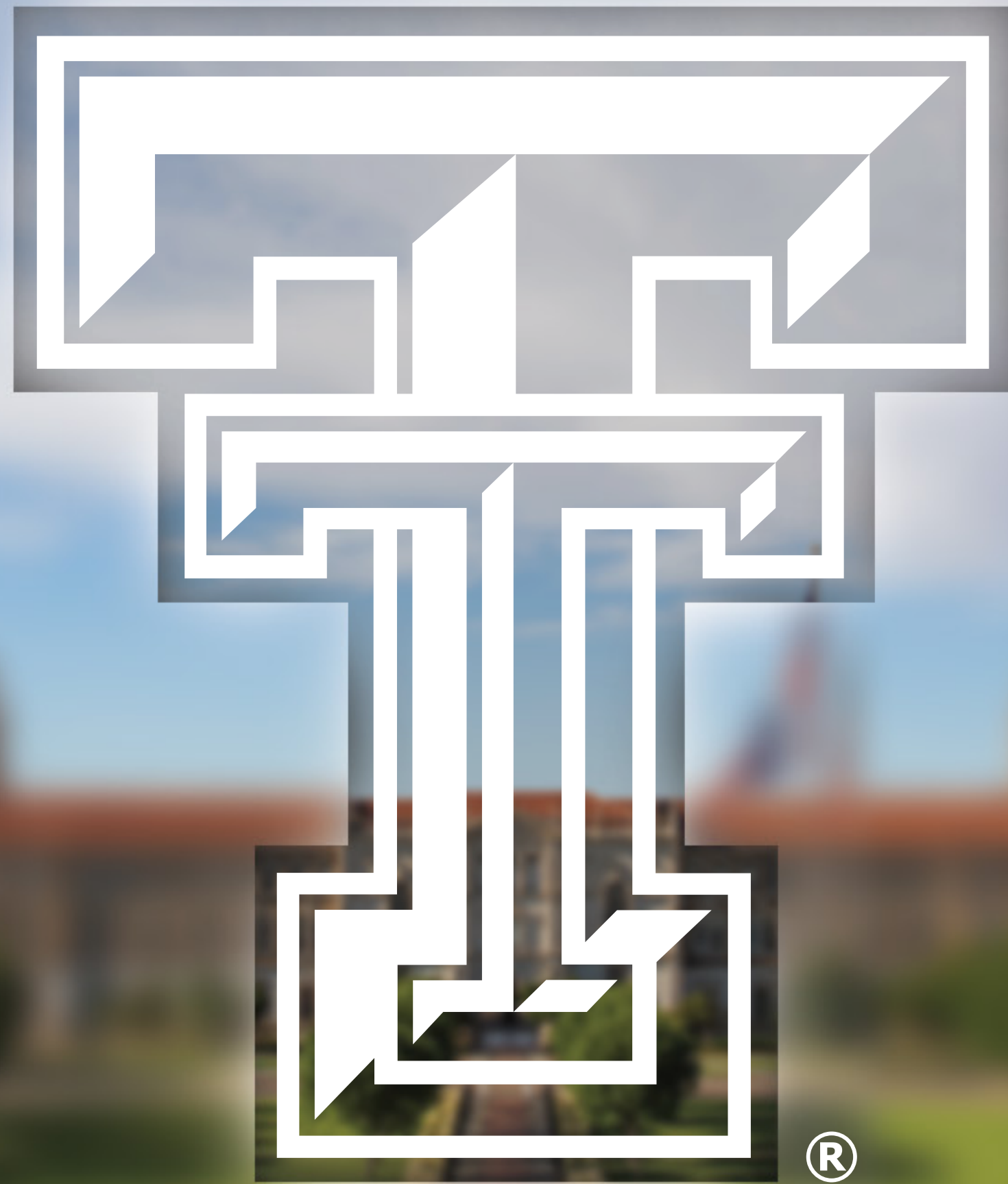


# SURVEY OF GRADUATE STUDENT ALUMNI



**SPRING 2024**

# Executive Summary

Students graduating from Texas Tech University with graduate degrees benefited from expert and supportive faculty and felt they gained the relevant and necessary experience to succeed in their chosen careers. They are innovators and researchers; entrepreneurs; health care providers; educators and university faculty; leaders in business, government and nonprofit sectors; and advancers of the arts and humanities. Their contributions to the workforce enhance society and significantly enrich the local, national and global economies. Below is a synopsis of the survey results:

- Most graduates (72.1 percent) with TTU graduate degrees entered the workforce directly without continuing their education.
- Of those students graduating with TTU graduate degrees who continued their education, most went on to earn/work toward doctoral (46.94 percent) or master's/professional (37.56 percent) degrees.

Nearly 31 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in higher education, while just over 69 percent were employed in other sectors, including K-12 education (14.27 percent), business (25.34 percent), government service (7.31 percent), healthcare (6.28 percent), military (0.57 percent), nonprofit (3.54 percent), self-employed (6.05 percent), volunteer activity (Peace Corps, missionary, etc.) (0.46 percent) and other (5.37 percent).

- Most graduates with TTU graduate degrees (65.57 percent) were employed full-time; 21.29 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were not seeking employment or were retired.
- A majority of graduates (68.26 percent) with TTU graduate degrees were employed in Texas.
- 56.87 percent of graduates with TTU degrees reported being born in Texas.
- 55.44 percent of graduates with TTU degrees made up to \$100,000 per year, 28.82 percent made between \$100,001 and \$250,000, 6.02 percent made over \$250,000, and 9.72 percent preferring not to answer.
- A majority of graduates with TTU graduate degrees (68.52 percent) felt their graduate degrees were very closely or closely related to their current or most recent job.
- Over 86 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were very satisfied or satisfied with their overall program quality. 90 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the intellectual challenge of their program and 86 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of faculty.
- Most graduates with TTU graduate degrees (80 percent) were very satisfied (44.6 percent) or satisfied (35.4 percent) with the adequacy of facilities and equipment. The majority of graduates were also very satisfied or satisfied with IT resources (66 percent), library or electronic resources (79 percent), and graduate student life experiences (71 percent). Only 46 percent were very satisfied or satisfied with assistance provided in finding employment.
- Graduates with TTU graduate degrees felt their graduate experience would have been enhanced by better climate/associations with others (19.0 percent), better career guidance/placement (17.9 percent), an improved program/class availability/accessibility (11.7 percent), improved university infrastructure (11.3 percent) and better professional development (8.8 percent); 25.9 percent felt no improvement was needed.
- Survey demographics, provided at the end of the survey, show age range of participants were fairly evenly distributed with the 35-44 year old range being the large percentage of participants (22.14 percent). Just over half of participants (51.71 percent) were male. 91.95 percent of participants identified with one race while 2.07 participants identified with 2 or more and 5.98 percent didn't answer.

## Introduction

Graduate education plays a critical role in the workforce strategy of the U.S. and is essential for innovation in all fields of endeavor, from the arts and humanities to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Graduate degree holders bring increased value to the workforce and to society through their specialized knowledge and problem-solving ability.

## Survey Administration

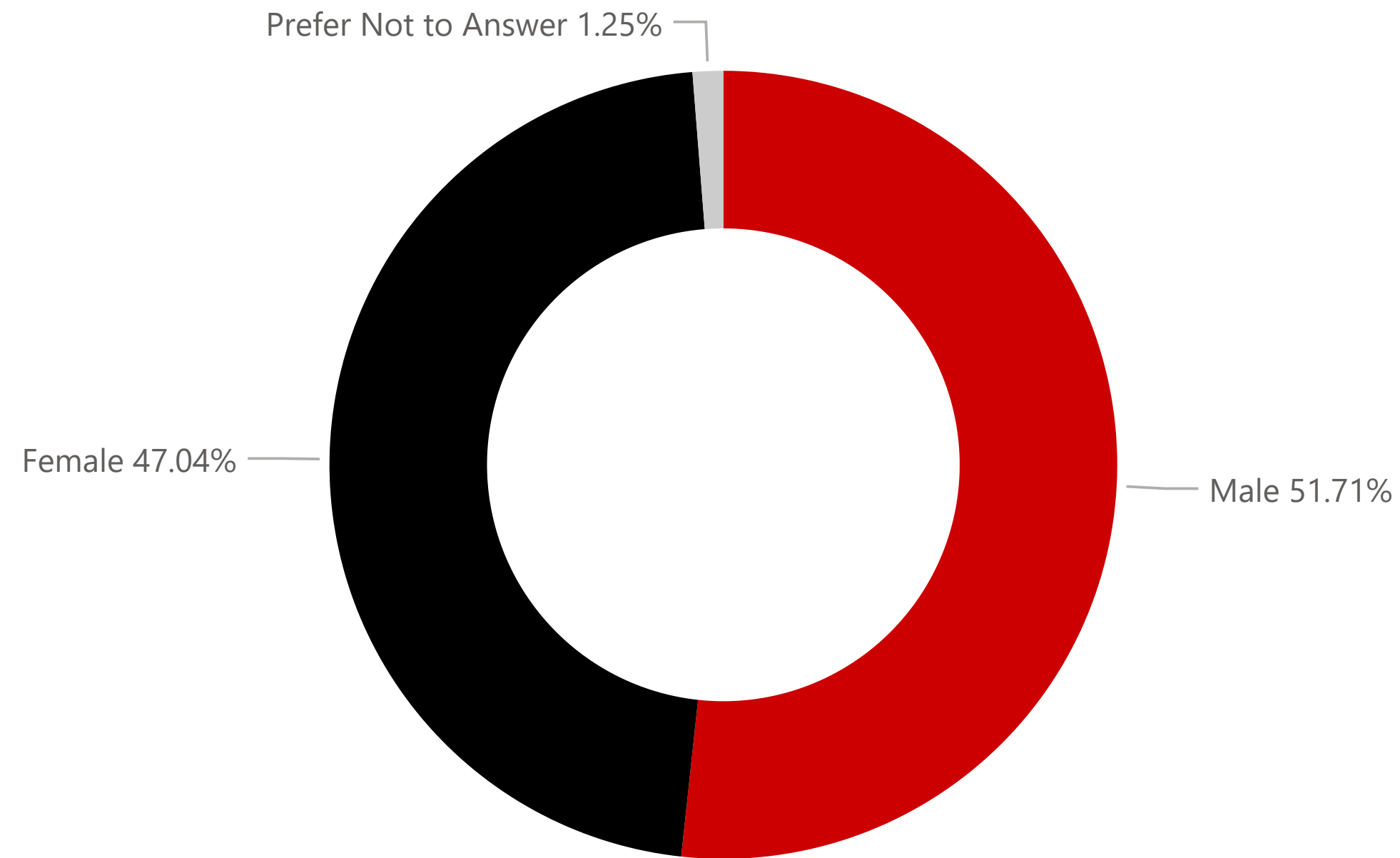
The survey was administered by the Texas Tech University Office of Institutional Research to all alumni of record who earned a graduate degree at TTU, had an address on file, and graduated between 1952 and 2022 in five-year increments (e.g., 2022, 2017, 2012, etc.).

7188 emails requests were sent with 816 being bounced back due to an invalid email address; 4169 postcards were then mailed to alumni we did not have an email address for as well as the alumni that had emails bounced back.

Email requests were initially sent on January 5, 2024. Email reminders every Tuesday from January 9th to February 27th. A total of 885 responses were received, yielding a response rate of about 8 percent.

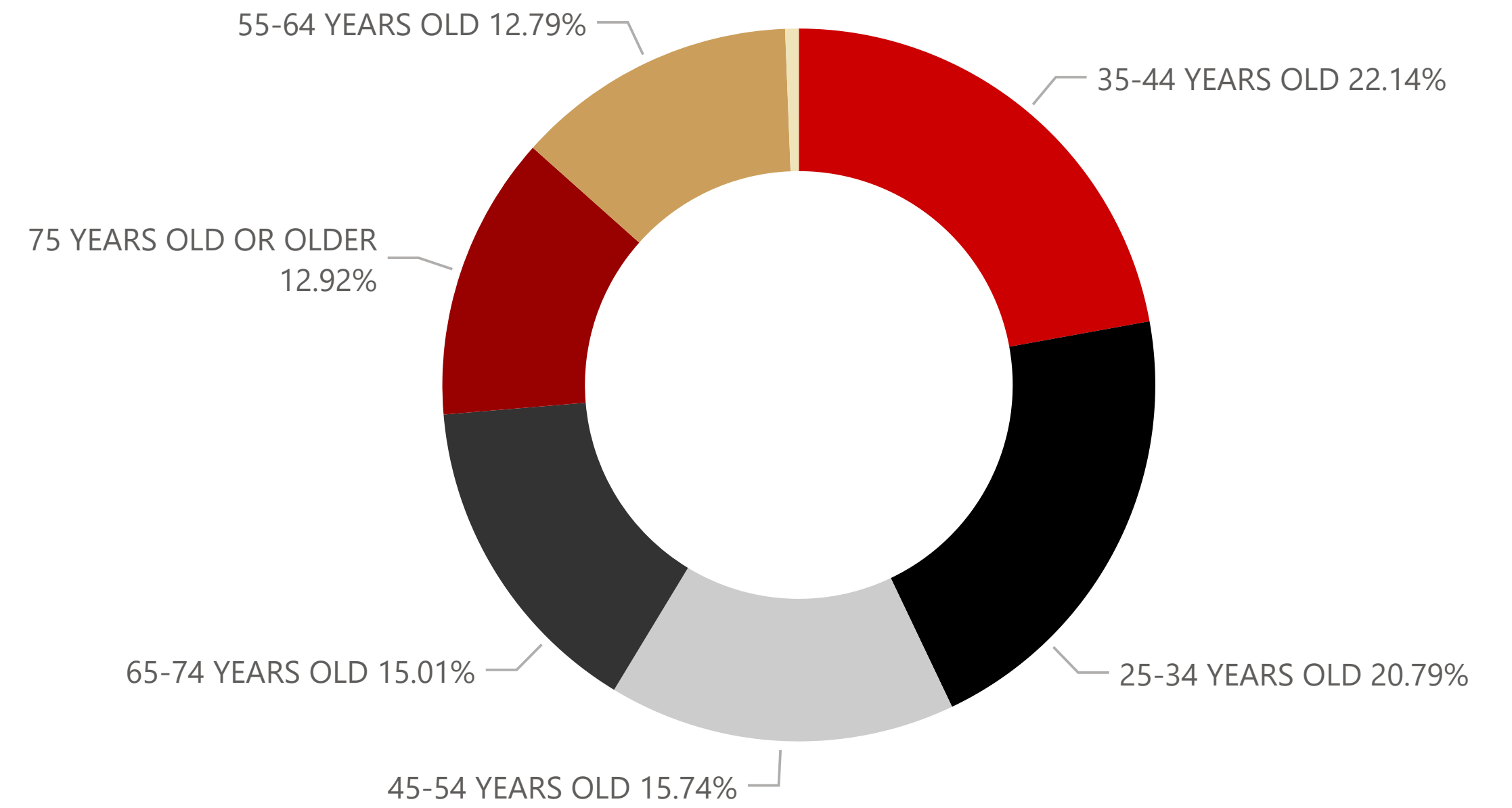
Of the total responses received, 115 were doctoral degree recipients and 324 were masters degree recipients.

### Gender



Just over half of participants (51.71 percent) were male with 47.04 percent being female and 1.25 percent preferring not to answer.

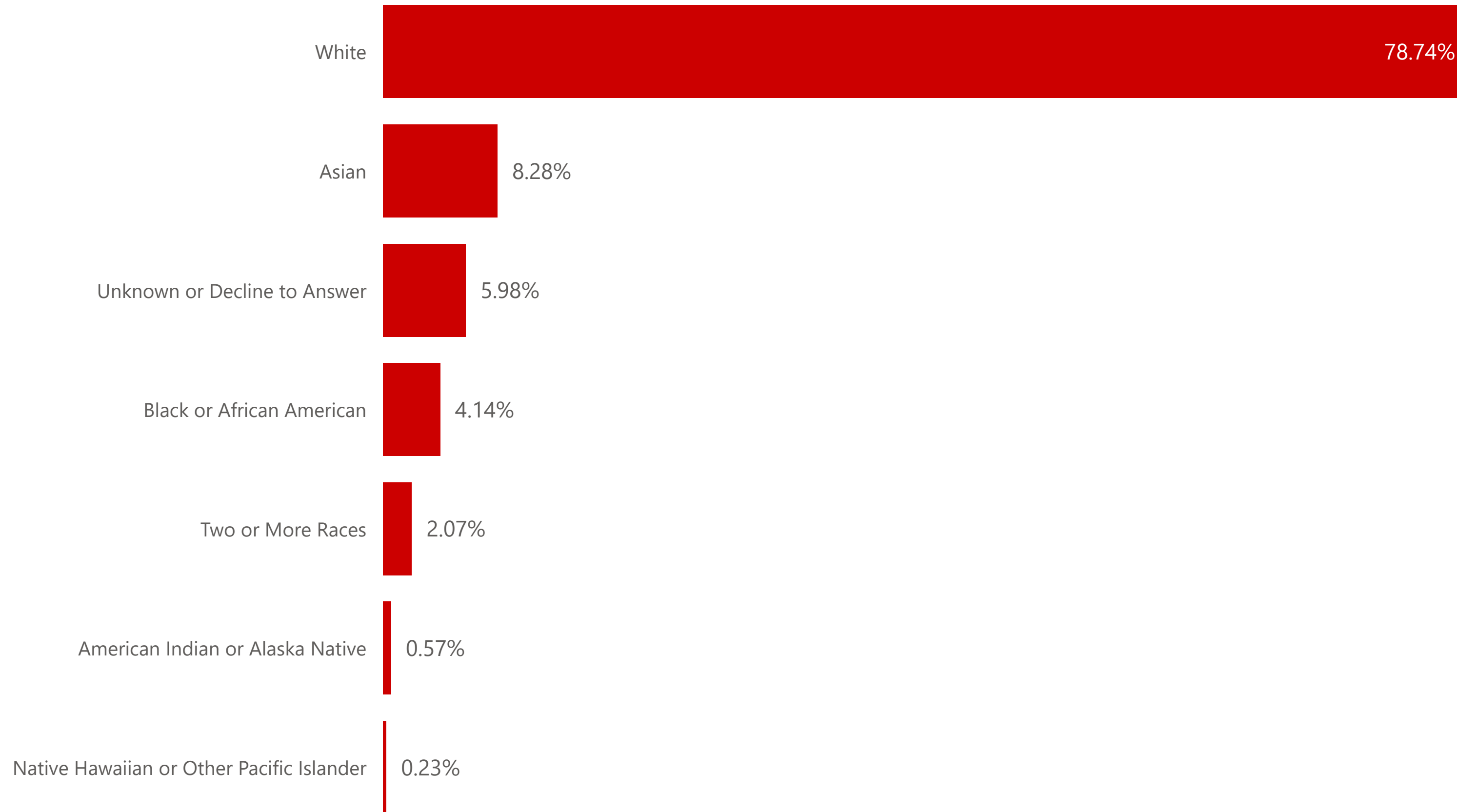
### Age



Ages represented by survey were fairly even with 20.79 percent being 25-34 year old, 35-44 years old (22.14 percent) and 45-54 years old (15.74 percent), 65-74 years old (15.01 percent), and 55-64 years old (12.79 percent).

Less represented age ranges include 75 years and older (12.92 percent) and 18-24 years old (.62 percent).

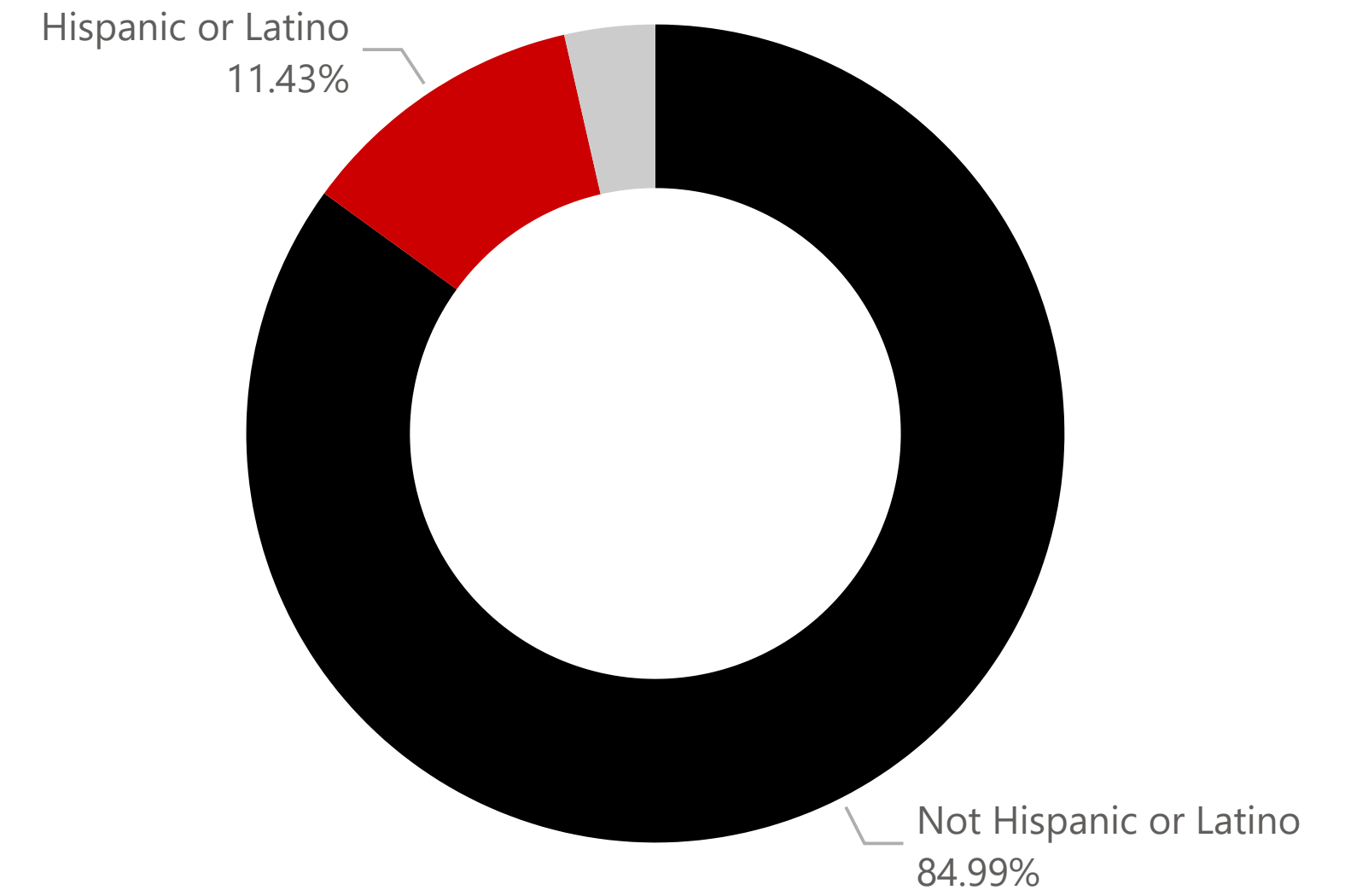
### Race



Most participants (78.74 percent) selected white as their race with Asian (8.28 percent) and unknown or prefer not answer (5.98 percent) being the next most selected choices.

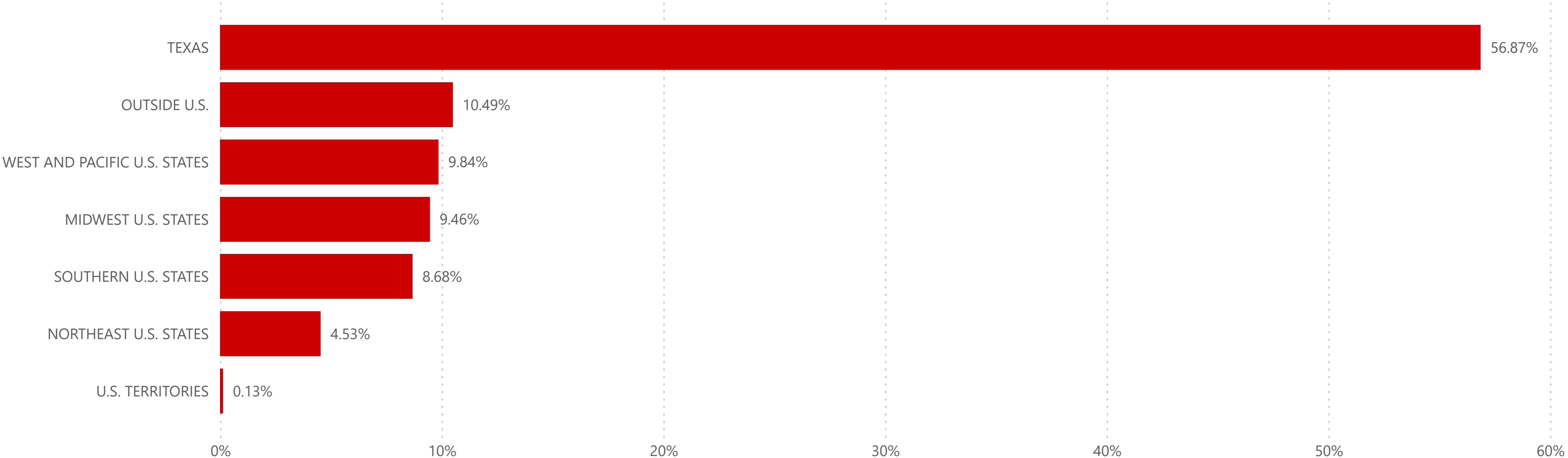
91.95 percent of participants identified with one race while 2.07 participants identified with 2 or more and 5.98 percent didn't answer.

### Ethnicity



A vast majority (84.99 percent) of participants selected Not Hispanic or Latino while 11.43 percent selected Hispanic or Latino and 3.58 percent selected unknown or prefer not to answer.

### What is your place of birth?



A majority (56.87 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in Texas.

4.53 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in Northeast U.S. states.

9.84 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in West U.S. and Pacific states.

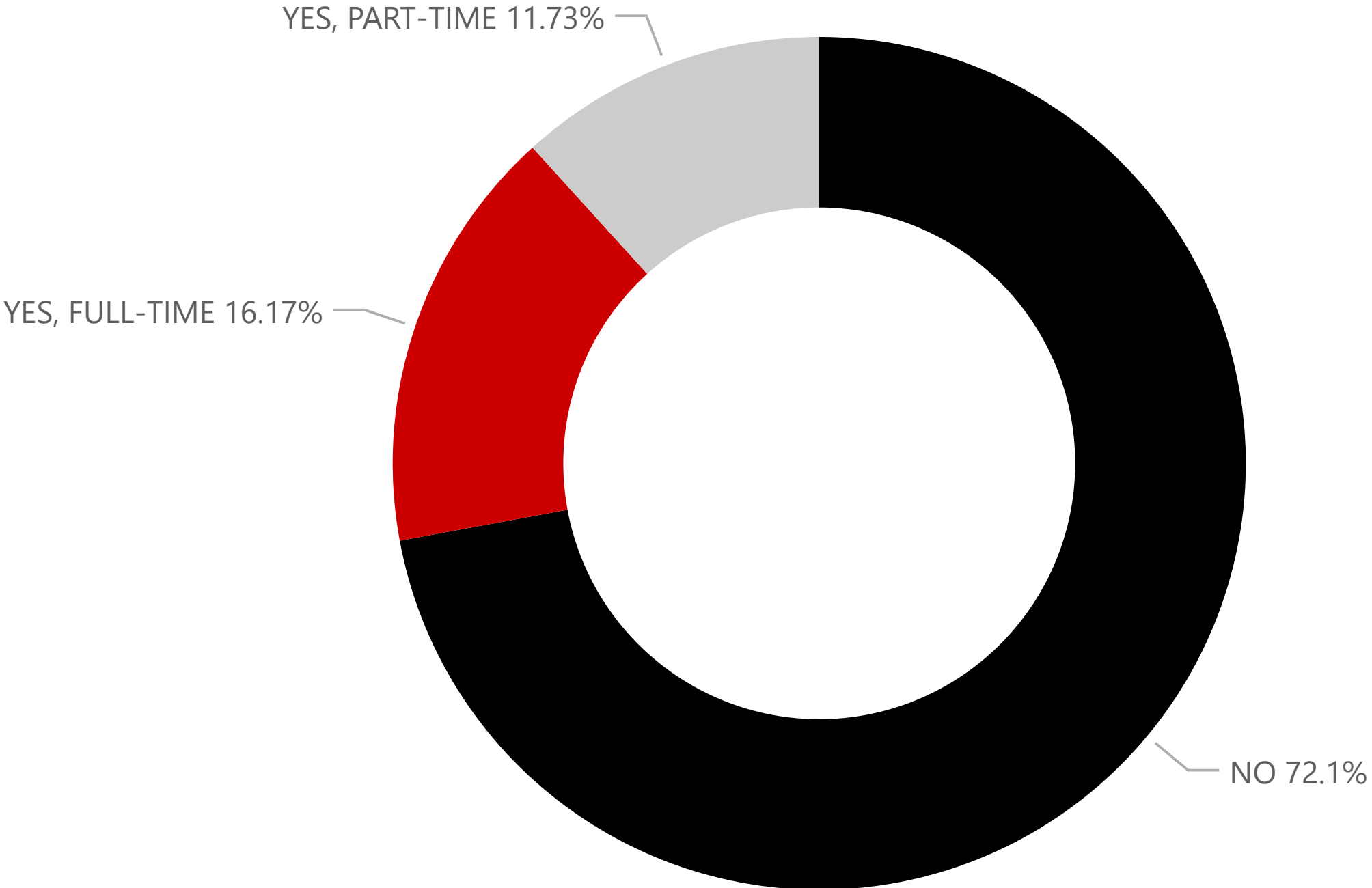
8.68 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in other Southern U.S. states.

9.46 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in other Midwest states.

0.13 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in U.S. territories.

89.51 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in the U.S.

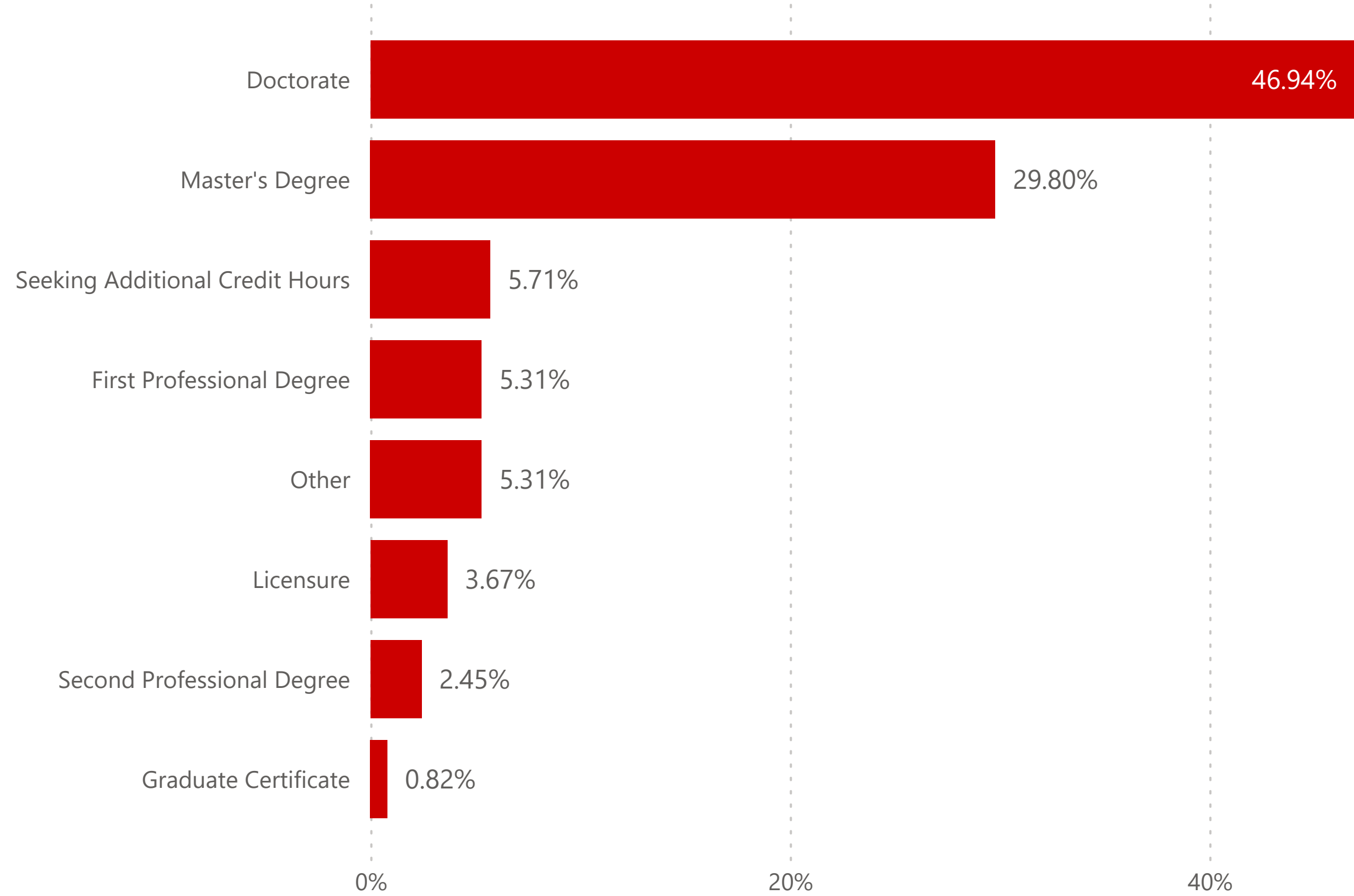
Have you enrolled at a college or university since receiving your graduate degree from TTU?



A majority (72.1 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees did not continue their education.

Of the graduates with TTU graduate degrees that continued their education, 16.17 percent continued full-time, and 11.73 percent continued part-time.

**What is the highest degree you have achieved or toward which you are currently working since receiving your graduate degree from TTU?**



**What are the names of the institutions at which you continued (or are continuing) your education?**

- West Texas A&M
- Wayland Baptist University
- Ut Permian Basin
- University Of Toledo
- University Of The West Indies
- University Of Texas Permian Basin
- University Of Texas Health Science Center Houston, School Of Public Health
- University Of Texas At Arlington
- University Of Texas
- University Of Southern California
- University Of South Dakota
- University Of South Carolina
- University Of San Diego, State University Of New York, University Of Salamanca, University Of Hawaii, Of Texas At Tyler, San Francisco School Of Art
- University Of Phoenix
- University Of Oregon
- University Of North Texas
- University Of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University Of Nebraska-Lincoln

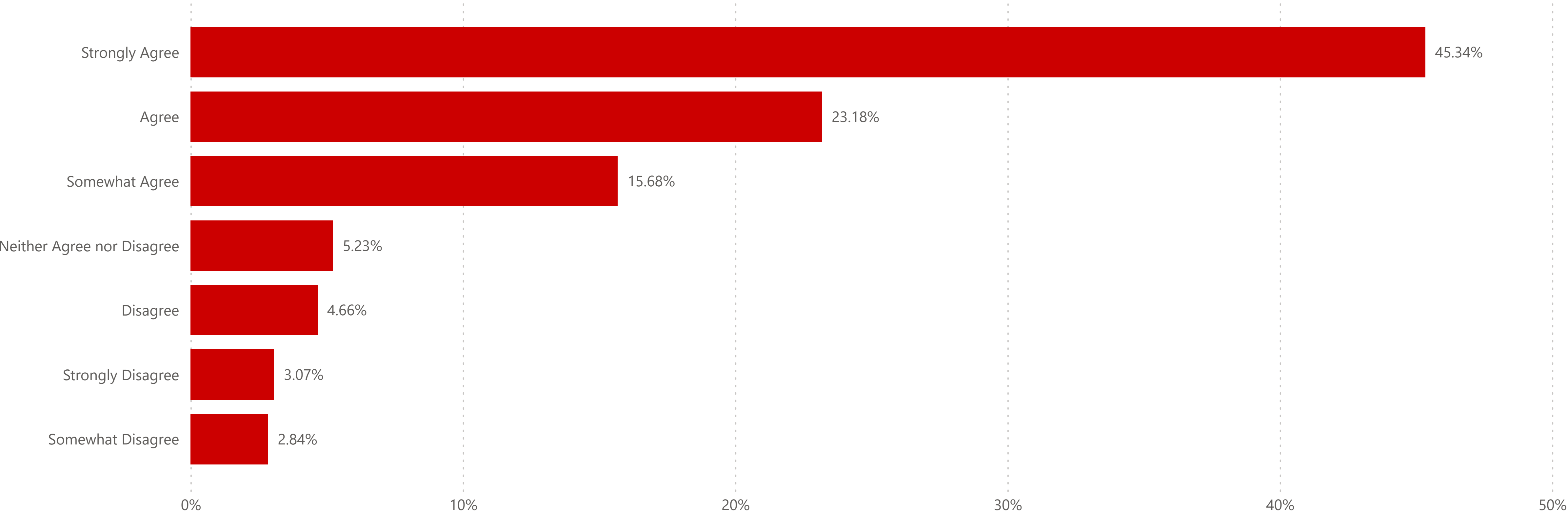
Almost 47 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees who continued their education after leaving TTU obtained or were pursuing a doctorate; 29.8 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees who continued their education after leaving TTU obtained or were pursuing a master's degree; 7.76 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees who continued their education after leaving TTU obtained or were pursuing a first or second professional degree.

15.51 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees who continued their education after leaving TTU sought or were seeking additional credits rather than a degree, including .82 percent seeking a graduate certificate, 3.67 percent seeking some type of licensure, 5.71 percent seeking additional credit hours, and 5.31 percent seeking some other type of additional credits.

Representative institutions at which graduates with TTU graduate degrees continued their education after leaving TTU are shown on the right.



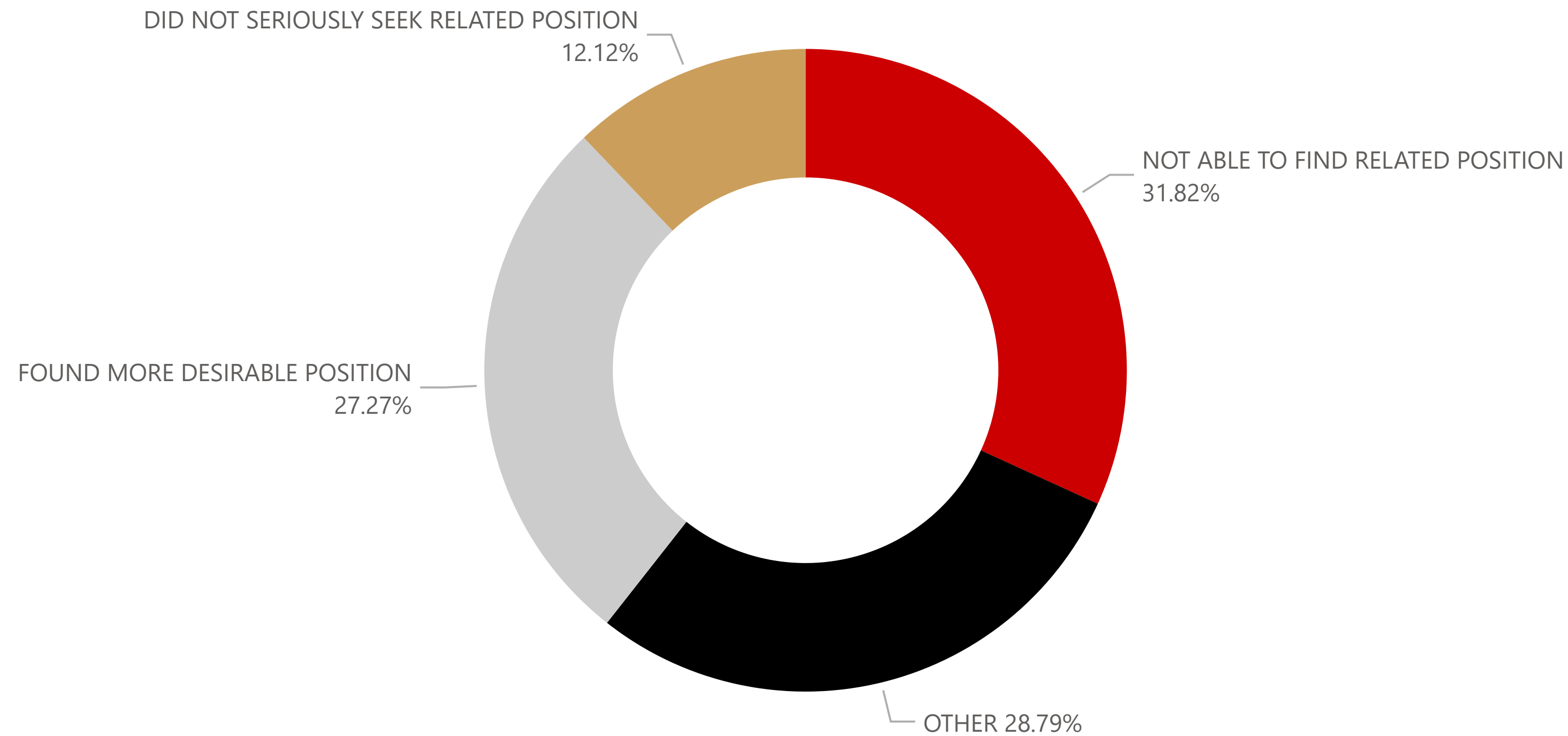
My current or most recent job is closely related to my graduate education.



A vast majority (84.2 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees strongly agreed (45.34 percent), agreed (23.18 percent), or somewhat agreed (15.68 percent) that their degrees were closely related to their current or most recent job.

Only 10.57 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees somewhat disagreed (2.84 percent), disagreed (4.66 percent), or strongly disagreed (3.07 percent) that their degrees were closely related to their current or most recent job.

**If your current or most recent position is/was NOT related to your graduate education, what best describes your situation?**



After Tech, I got another graduate degree in another discipline and began my career in that field

I found a part time continue working on my Doctorate.

I have not found a position related to my graduate education that pays well.

I moved back to Europe and have been working on finding ways to fund my research/enter the scientific system here

I retired from Public Education in 2018

I spent 30 years working in my graduate field, then retired and went into private business.

I was forced to leave a job because of philosophical differences in leadership

I worked in my chosen field of study for nearly 20yrs & left for better pay

I worked in the museum field for several years, but left when no jobs were forthcoming

Made a financial decision

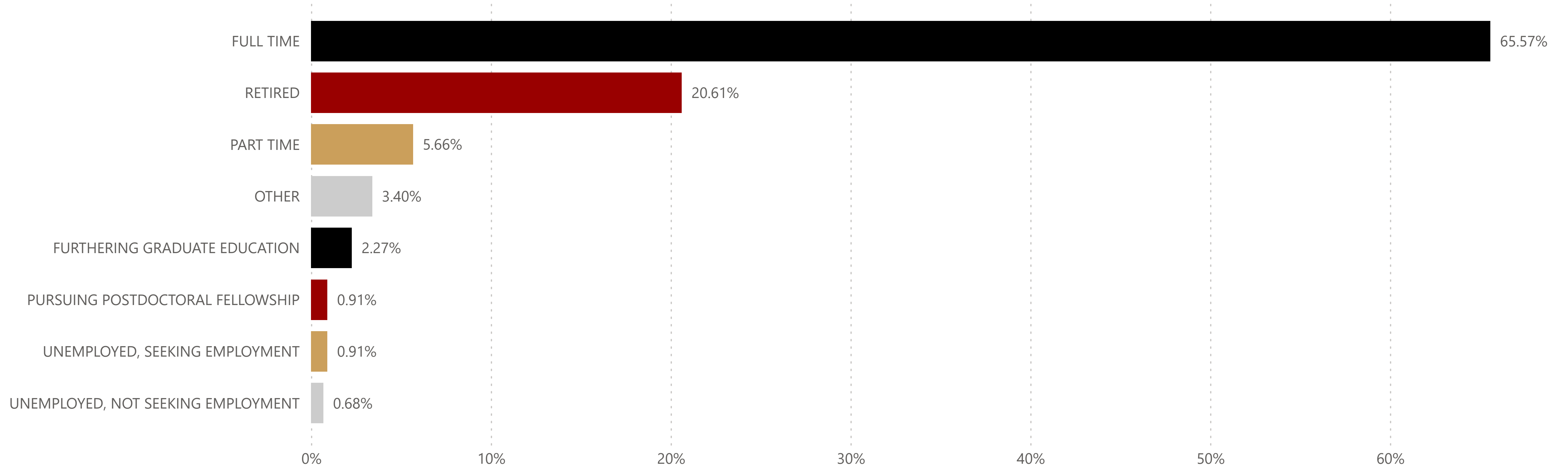
My most recent employment was in a family owned business.

Not only were there no jobs in my degree feild, they were almost minimum wage roles. \$13/hr with a masters? My degree's are useless.

Of the 10.57 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees who felt their graduate degrees were minimally related or not related at all to their employment, 27.27 percent answered "found more desirable position in another field," 31.82 percent answered "not able to find a position related to my graduate education" and 12.12 percent answered "I have not seriously sought a position related to my graduate degree" as the main reasons.

"Other" reasons identified for why current/most recent position was not related to graduate degree are on the right hand side.

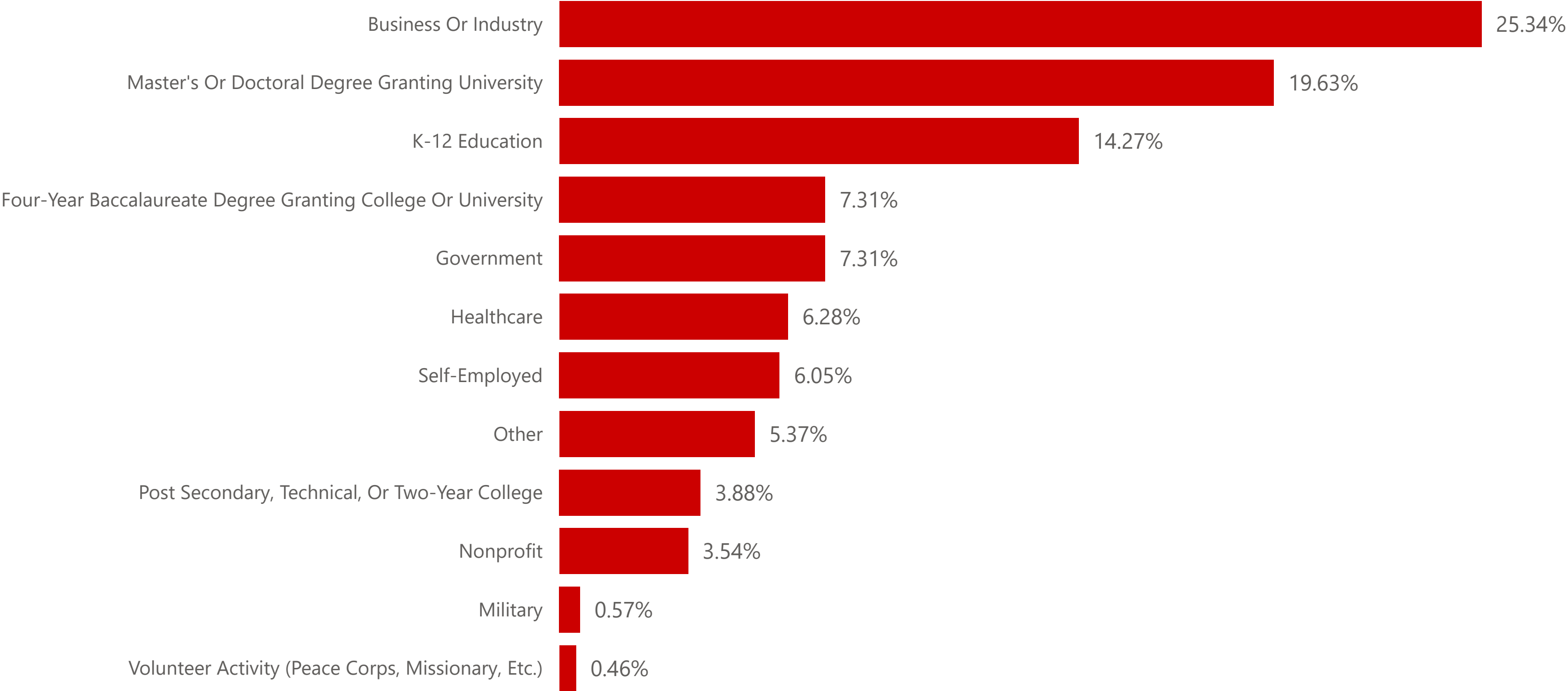
### What is your current employment status?



A majority (65.57 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed full-time.

21.29 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were not seeking employment, including retired individuals.

**Which category best describes the sector of your current or most recent employment?**



**What is the name of your current or most recent employer?**

- (self): Jan Burket Interior Design
- Abilene Christian University
- Abilene Education Foundation
- Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- Acosta
- AER
- Alcatel
- All Saints Episcopal Schoil
- All Saints Episcopal School
- Alphabet (Google)
- Amarillo College
- Amarillo ISD
- Amarillo National Bank
- Amazon
- Amazon Web Services
- American College of Education

In keeping with national trends nearly 31 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in higher education, including 19.63 percent at research universities, 7.31 percent at four-year colleges and 3.88 percent at two-year college/technical schools.

A majority (63.14 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in other sectors, including K-12 education (14.27 percent), business (25.34 percent), government (7.31 percent), healthcare (6.28 percent), military (0.57 percent), nonprofit (3.54 percent), volunteer activity (0.46 percent) and other (5.37 percent).

6.05 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were self-employed.

Individuals with TTU graduate degrees obtained employment at the entities on the right hand side.

### What is the location of your current or most recent employer?



A majority (68.26 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in Texas.

3.43 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in Northeast U.S. states.

10.05 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in West U.S. and Pacific states.

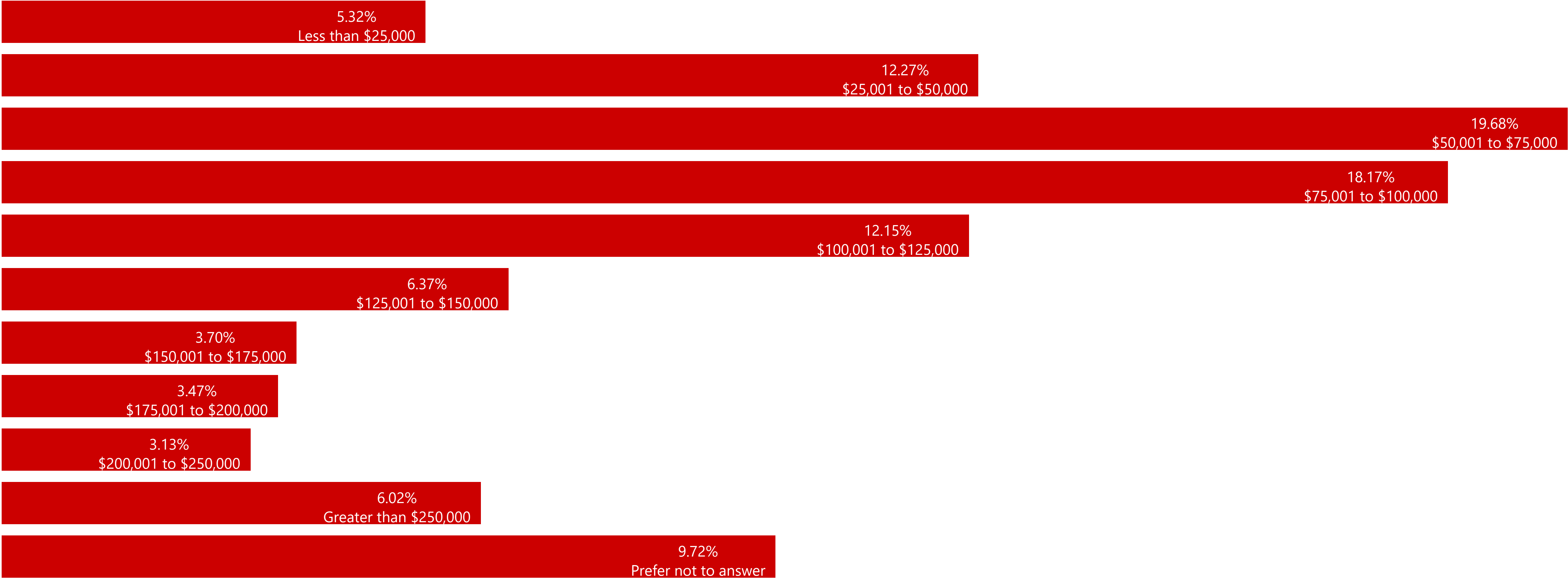
8.46 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in other Southern U.S. states.

7.72 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in other Midwest states.

0.12 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in U.S. territories.

98.04 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in the U.S.

What is your current or most recent annualized 12-month salary?



A majority (55.44 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees made up to \$100,000 per year.

28.82 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees made between \$100,001 and \$250,000.

6.02 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees made over \$250,000.

9.72 percent preferred not to answer.

How satisfied were you with the following academic elements of your graduate program? Percentages reflect those who responded very satisfied or satisfied.



Graduates with TTU graduate degrees felt the most positive aspect of their graduate experience was the intellectual challenge of their program (90 percent). Overall program quality (86 percent) and quality of faculty (86 percent) were ranked just under intellectual challenge.

Specific positive experiences mentioned by graduates with TTU graduate degrees include the following:

Your staffing people in registration were so helpful and pleasant to work with.

Working with the professors and peers

Working with the faculty.

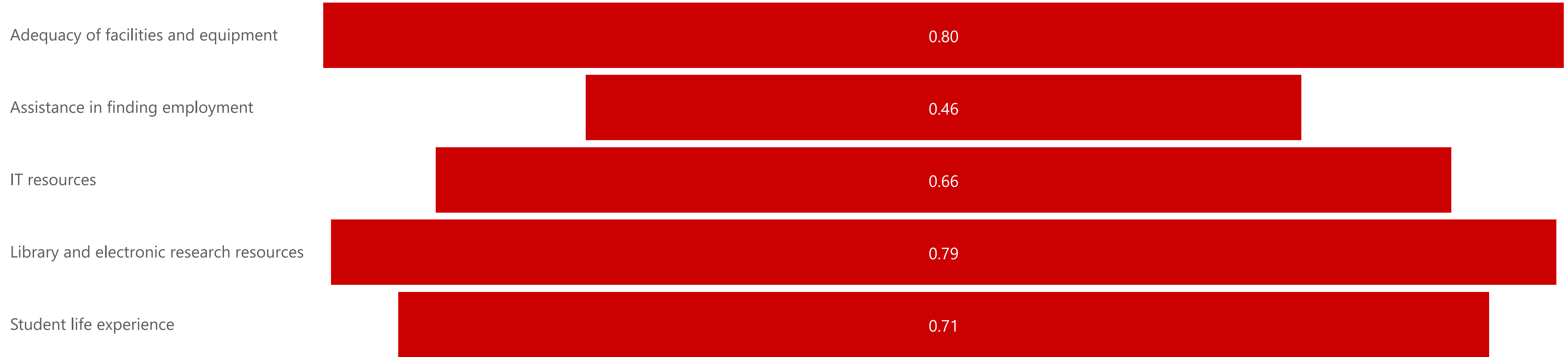
Working with my Cohort and meeting with PhD students for additional education.

Working with like minded people who valued learning and the subject matter of Family & Consumer Sciences Education.

Working with faculty to explore areas of interest. Their support was invaluable.

Working with faculty that cared beyond my status as "student" and that helped me learn to learn

How satisfied were you with the following elements of your graduate program? Percentages reflect those who responded very satisfied or satisfied.



A majority (80 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate were very satisfied (44.6 percent) or satisfied (36.15 percent) with the adequacy of facilities and equipment

46 percent of graduates with TTU graduate were very satisfied (25.88 percent) or satisfied (20.51 percent) with the assistance provided in finding employment.

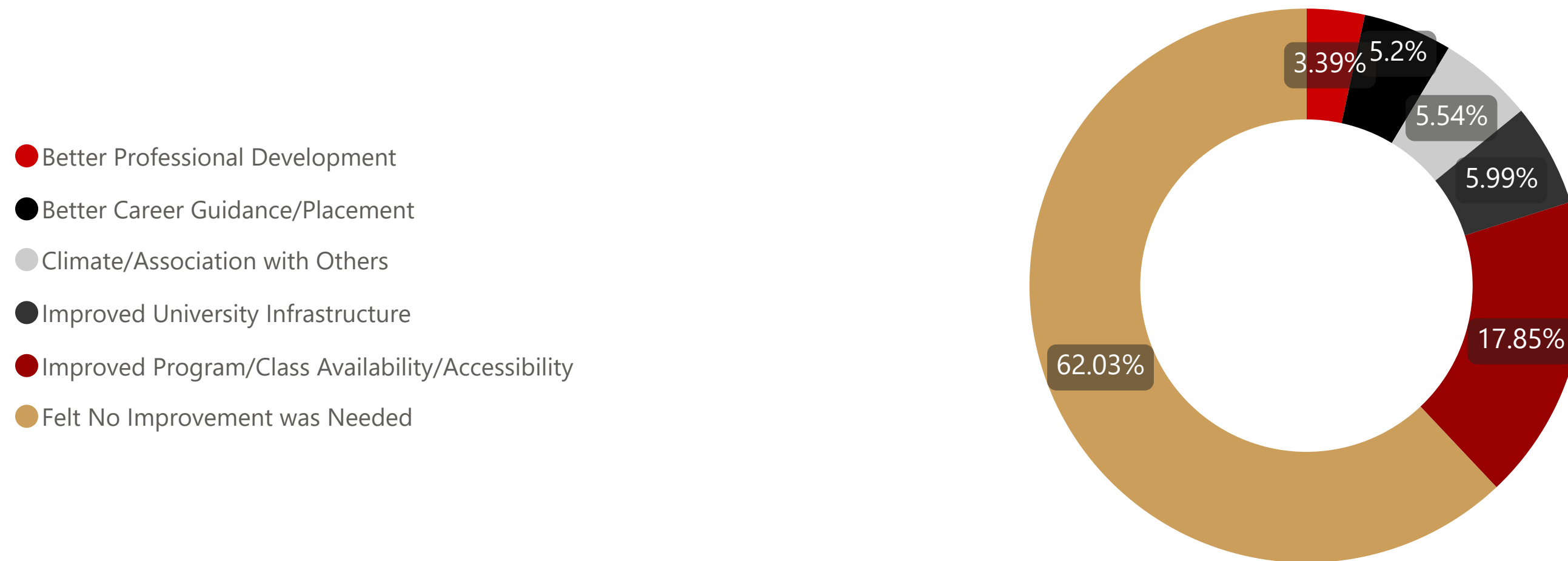
66 percent of graduates with TTU graduate were very satisfied (30.38 percent) or satisfied (35.46 percent) with the IT resources.

79 percent of graduates with TTU graduate were very satisfied (41.61 percent) or satisfied (37.83 percent) with Library or electronic resources.

71 percent of graduates with TTU graduate were very satisfied (37.52 percent) or satisfied (33.2 percent) with the student life experience.



Please share recommendations regarding how your TTU graduate education experience could have been enhanced.



Graduates with TTU graduate degrees felt their graduate experience would have been improved by greater climate/associations with others (19.0 percent), career guidance/placement (17.9 percent), program/class availability/accessibility (11.7 percent) and improved university infrastructure (11.3 percent).

62.03 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees felt no improvement was needed.

Specific recommendations mentioned by graduates with TTU graduate degrees for enhancing the graduate experience are shown below.

"Discussion boards" were a prominent part of the curriculum. I don't believe that these assignments contributed much to the educational experience. I understand that this has been a common practice in asynchronous instruction, but I would love to see TTU come up with a different tool for remote student engagement and interaction.

1--Employment assistance seemed to be aimed at finding jobs in Texas, but I wanted to return to the WAOR/ID area and got little help with that.2--Not sure how this might have been remedied, but at every non-sales field representative job I applied for no one cared how much education I had because I had never been "a farm kid".3- But what would have helped me most would have been the ability to change advisors after having accepted an assistantship with someone I barely knew. My advisor and I didn't get along, on several levels, from almost day 1. He disagreed with my thesis project, which I defined based on data collected the first year from the project of another student whom he advised. My advisor reluctantly allowed me to pursue my project anyway, but essentially divorced himself from the project by saying something like: "Fine, do what you want then. Here is X amount of money to hire a work-study assistant. Give me weekly reports on your project. If I don't like what you're doing or how you're doing it or you miss a week, then I'll stop your project and your assistantship." Had another professor on my committee not acted in my advisor's stead (off-the-record), I probably would have left the program at TTU.



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