



Wentworth's Graduation Rate

Understanding and Addressing the Factors Contributing to Wentworth's
68% Graduation Rate



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01 Introduction

1.1 About the project

Background :

- As of 2022, Wentworth's graduation rate is 68%.
- While competitive with some institutions, this means approximately one -third of students fail to complete their degrees.

Problem Statement:

- This graduation rate could impact:
- Reputation: Lower university rankings.
- Student Success: Missed opportunities for academic and career advancement.

1.2 Purpose of Research

- **Understand Barriers:** Investigate factors behind Wentworth's 68% graduation rate.
- **Propose Solutions:** Develop strategies to improve retention and graduation outcomes
- **Enhance Reputation:** Support institutional growth through higher graduation rates

02 Hypothesis

H1

Inconsistent Academic
Advising

Academic and co-op
advising impacts
student progress and
retention.

H2

Campus
Engagement

Participation in
extracurricular
activities fosters
belonging and boosts
retention.

H3

Financial Barriers

financial challenges
influence timely
graduation.

03 Methodology



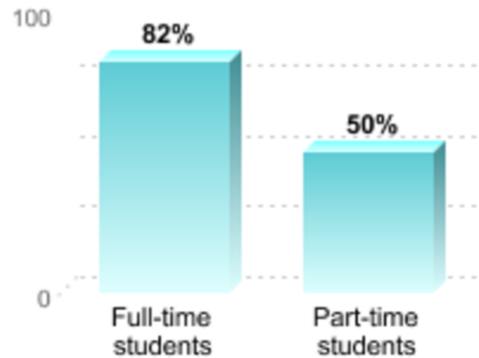
04 Secondary Research

4.1 Wentworth's Graduation rate

FIRST-TO-SECOND YEAR RETENTION RATES

Retention rates measure the percentage of first-time students who are seeking bachelor's degrees who return to the institution to continue their studies the following fall.

RETENTION RATES FOR FIRST-TIME STUDENTS PURSUING BACHELOR'S DEGREES



Percentage of Students Who Began Their Studies in Fall 2021 and Returned in Fall 2022

Source: Images and data are from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) College Navigator for Wentworth Institute of Technology. Available at: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>.

4.1 Wentworth's Graduation rate

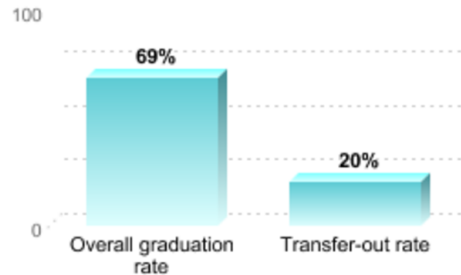
OVERALL GRADUATION RATE AND TRANSFER-OUT RATE

The overall graduation rate is also known as the "Student Right to Know" or IPEDS graduation rate. It tracks the progress of students who began their studies as **full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking students** to see if they complete a degree or other award such as a certificate within 150% of "normal time" for completing the program in which they are enrolled.

Some institutions also report a transfer-out rate, which is the percentage of the full-time, first-time students who transferred to another institution without completing at the current institution.

Note that not all students at the institution are tracked for these rates. Students who have already attended another postsecondary institution, or who began their studies on a part-time basis, are not tracked for this rate. **At this institution, 79 percent of entering students were counted as "full-time, first-time" in 2022.**

OVERALL GRADUATION AND TRANSFER-OUT RATES FOR STUDENTS WHO BEGAN THEIR STUDIES IN FALL 2017



Percentage of Full-time, First-Time Students Who Graduated or Transferred Out Within 150% of "Normal Time" to Completion for Their Program

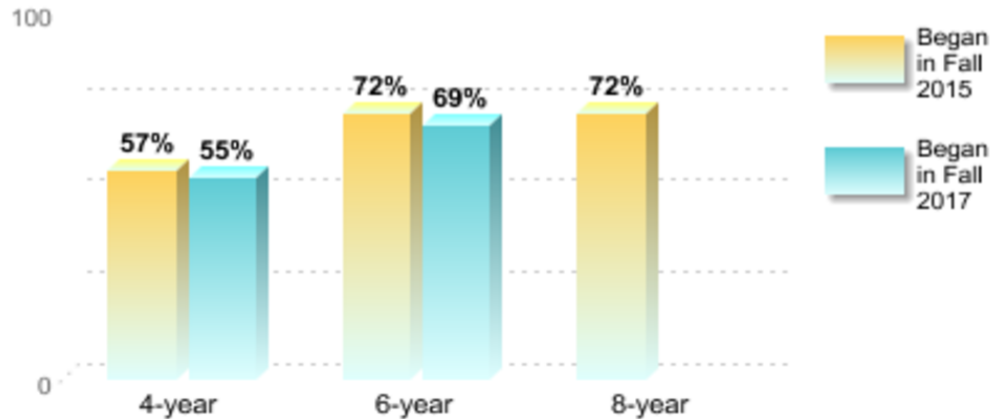
Source: Images and data are from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) College Navigator for Wentworth Institute of Technology. Available at: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>.

4.1 Wentworth's Graduation rate

BACHELOR'S DEGREE GRADUATION RATES

Bachelor's degree graduation rates measure the percentage of entering students beginning their studies full-time and are planning to get a bachelor's degree and who complete their degree program within a specified amount of time.

GRADUATION RATES FOR STUDENTS PURSUING BACHELOR'S DEGREES



Percentage of Full-time, First-time Students Who Graduated in the Specified Amount of Time and Began in Fall 2015 or Fall 2017

Source: Images and data are from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) College Navigator for Wentworth Institute of Technology. Available at: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>.

4.2 Factors affecting Graduation rate research

Article: "Retention and Graduation Rates in Higher Education" (EJ987305), from the ERIC database.

Explores trends and strategies in improving student retention and graduation outcomes.

Factors Affecting Graduation Rates:

- Academic preparedness and workload challenges.
- Financial barriers impacting student persistence.
- Lack of campus engagement and belonging.

05 Interviews

5.1 Overview

Number of Interviews: 7 interviews conducted:

- 3 Juniors (Engineering, Computer Science major & Computer Information Systems).
- 2 Seniors (Business majors).
- 2 Sophomores (Construction Management).

5.2 Key Areas of Focus

- **Academic Journey:** Students' motivations, experiences, and academic progress.
- **Challenges:** Issues with workload management, fast -paced courses, and advising.
- **Work-Life Balance:** Managing academics, personal life, and responsibilities.
- **Engagement:** Participation in extracurricular activities and sense of belonging.

5.3 Key Findings: Academic Journey

- **Satisfaction with Academic Progress:** Most students felt satisfied with their progress, especially in their chosen technical fields. However, STEM courses (e.g., calculus) posed significant challenges, particularly during their freshman year.
- **Expectations vs. Reality:** Students chose Wentworth for its technical focus and co-op opportunities. Most felt their expectations were met.

5.4 Key Findings: Challenges

- **Workload Management:** Managing multiple class projects and fast -paced courses was a common struggle, though students appreciated the practical skills gained through hands -on learning.
- **Advising Inconsistencies:** All participants reported issues with academic and co -op advising, including frequent advisor changes and lack of clear guidance for career paths

5.5 Key Findings: WorkLife Balance

- **Struggles with Balance:** Many students found it difficult to juggle academic responsibilities with personal and work life, suggesting that more flexible class schedules could help.
- **Financial Challenges:** Financial difficulties were not a major issue for most, but those who relied on financial aid found the process generally smooth

06 Surveys

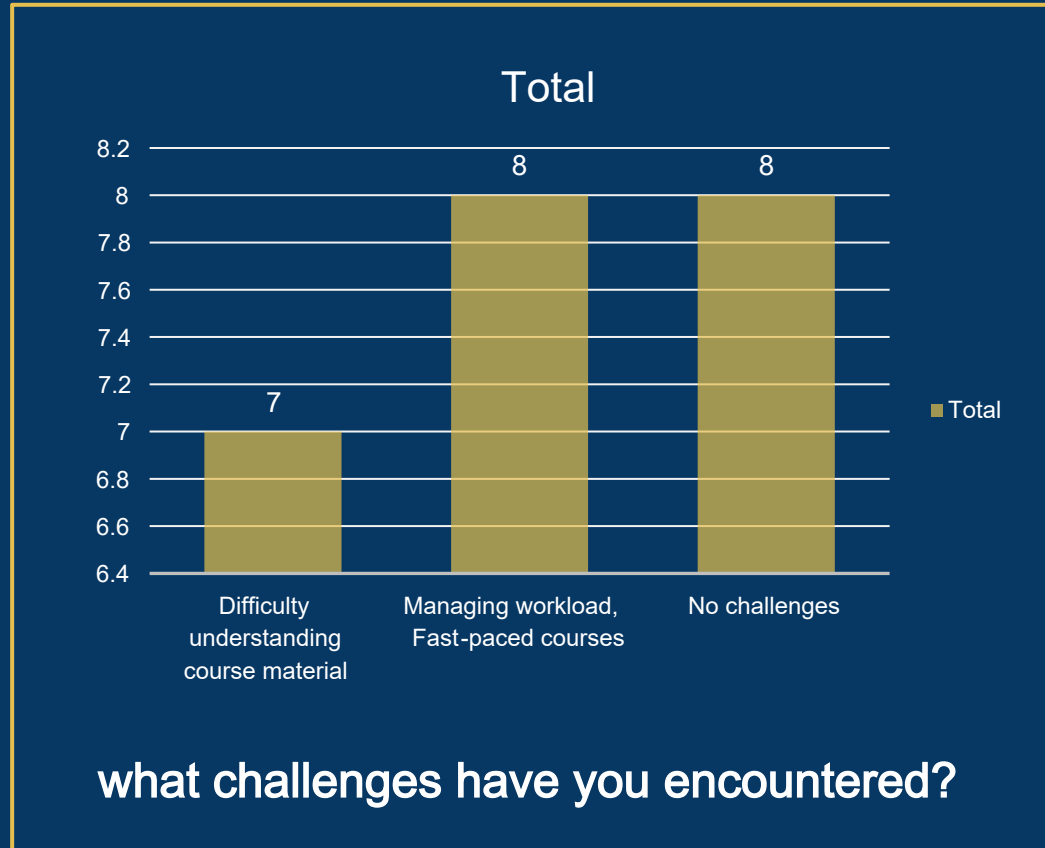
6.1 Overview

Surveyed 23 undergraduate students across various years and majors.

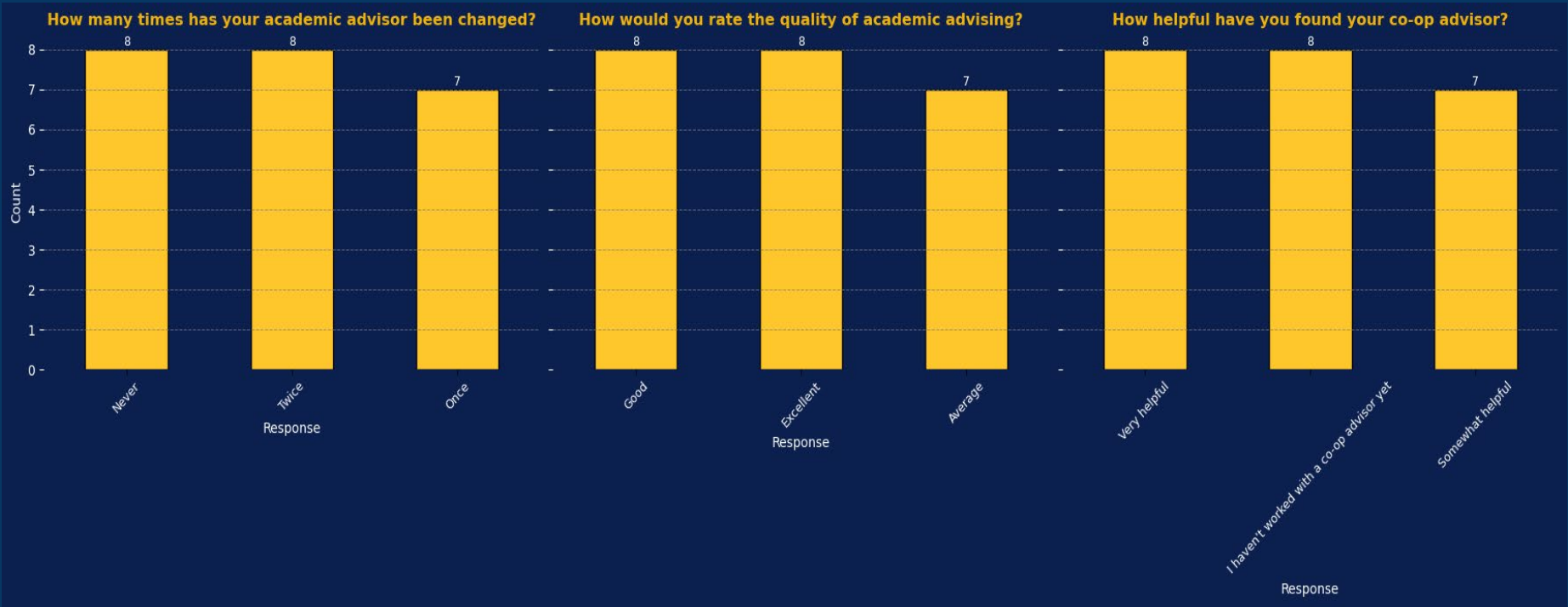
Focus Areas:

- Academic challenges (e.g., workload, course difficulty).
- Satisfaction with academic advising and co -op guidance.
- Need for flexible class schedules.
- Campus engagement and extracurricular participation.

6.2 Academic challenges

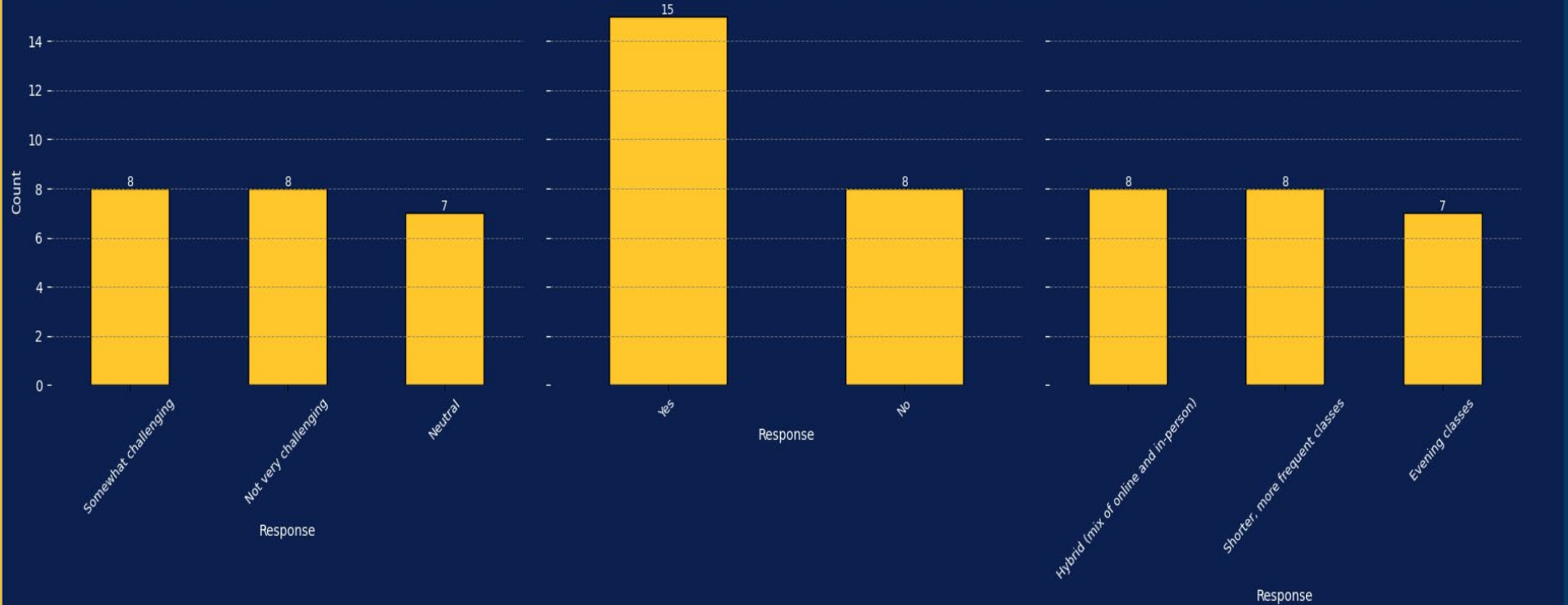


6.3 Satisfaction with academic advising and co-op guidance

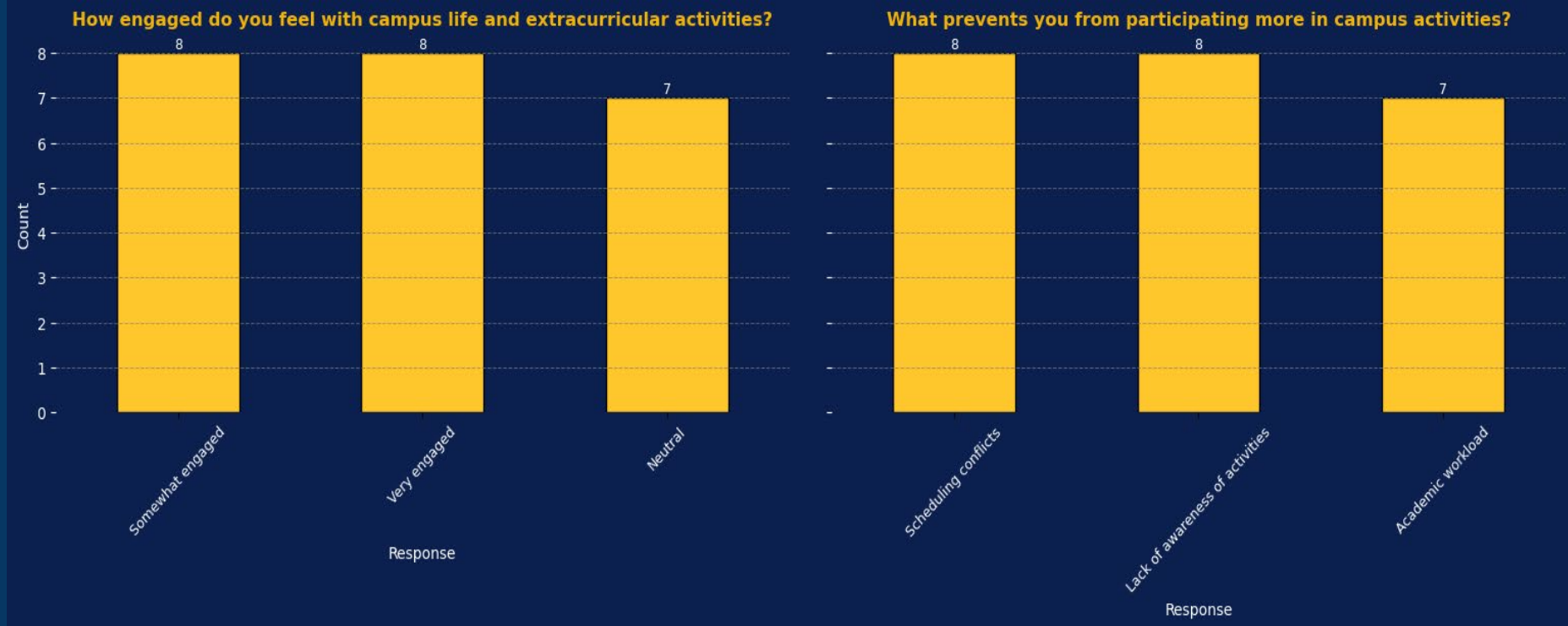


6.4 Need for flexible class schedules

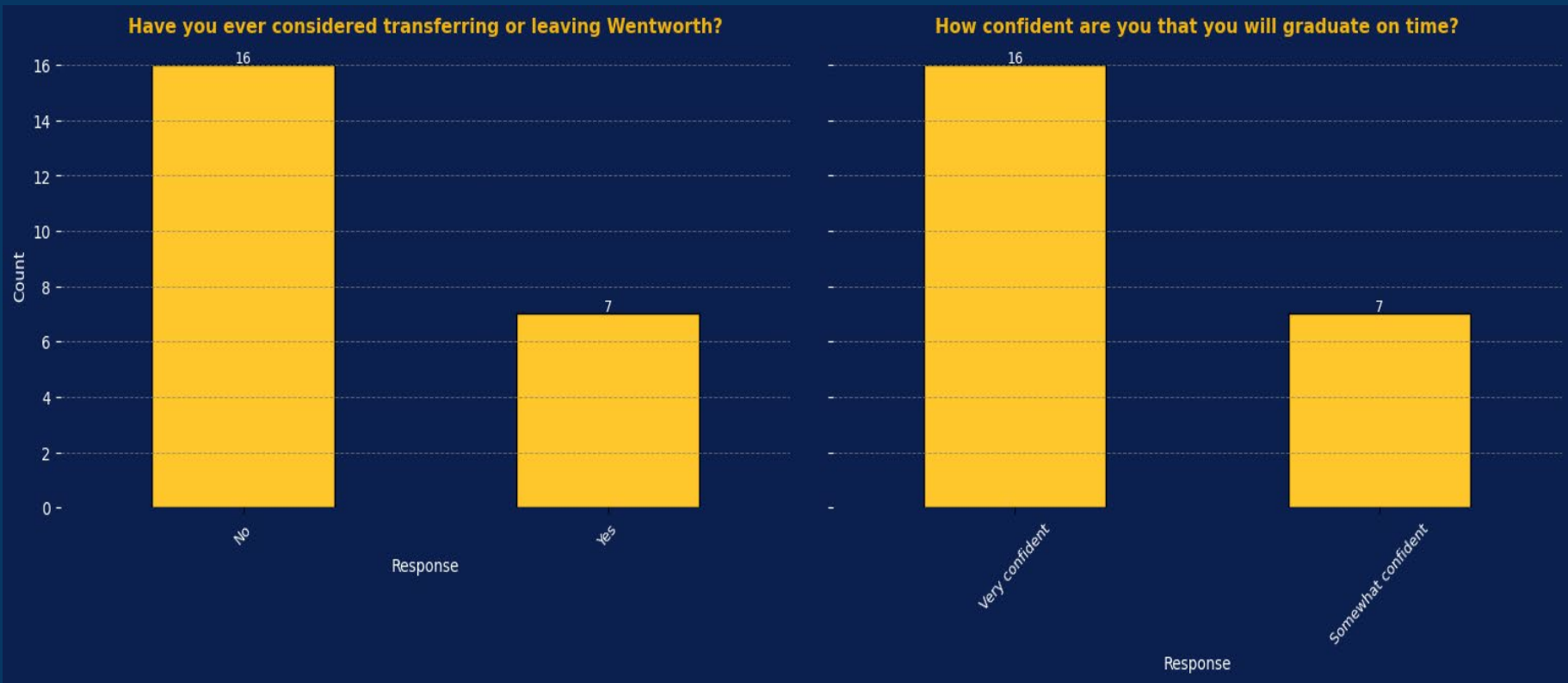
How challenging is it for you to balance academic responsibilities? Would you find more flexible class scheduling helpful? What type of flexibility in class scheduling would benefit you most?



6.5 Campus engagement and extracurricular participation.



6.6 Graduation Questions



6.7 What changes would improve your overall experience at Wentworth?



07 Results

- Inconsistent academic advising and frequent advisor changes impact student success.
- Heavy workload and fast-paced courses create stress and retention challenges.
- Students value flexible scheduling and stronger advising support for improved experiences.

08 Conclusion

- The study identified key factors affecting Wentworth's graduation rate, including **inconsistent academic advising, heavy workloads, and the need for flexible scheduling**
- not much to do with **campus engagement**.
- These factors directly impact student retention and progression, particularly in STEM programs with high academic demands.

09 Recommendation

- **Enhance Academic Advising:** Establish consistent and proactive advising practices to ensure students receive clear guidance throughout their academic journey.
- **Introduce Flexible Scheduling:** Offer hybrid or adaptable course schedules to help students balance academic, personal, and work commitments.
- **Support Workload Management:** Provide resources like time management workshops and reduce the pace of challenging courses, particularly in STEM programs.

10 References

- Retention and Graduation Rates in Higher Education (EJ987305). Retrieved from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ987305.pdf>.
- National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). College Navigator: Wentworth Institute of Technology. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=wentworth&s=all&id=168227#retgrad>.

THANK YOU

