

# Connecting Education and Work Insights for Montana

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Tom Keily

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# Who we are.

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The essential, indispensable member of any team addressing education policy.



# What we do.

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We believe in the power of learning from experience and we know informed policymakers create better education policy.





# 350 Commissioners Across the Country:

Governors

Chief State School Officers

Chairs of Senate Education

Chairs of House Education

Higher Education Executives

Policy Leaders

**Montana**  
**ECS**  
**Commissioners**



**Steve Bullock**, Governor, State of Montana, ECS Steering Committee Member

**Elsie Arntzen**, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**Seth Berglee**, Montana House of Representatives

**Elly Driggers**, Retired Teacher

**McCall Flynn**, Education Policy Advisor, State of Montana

**Alison Harmon**, Dean, Montana State University

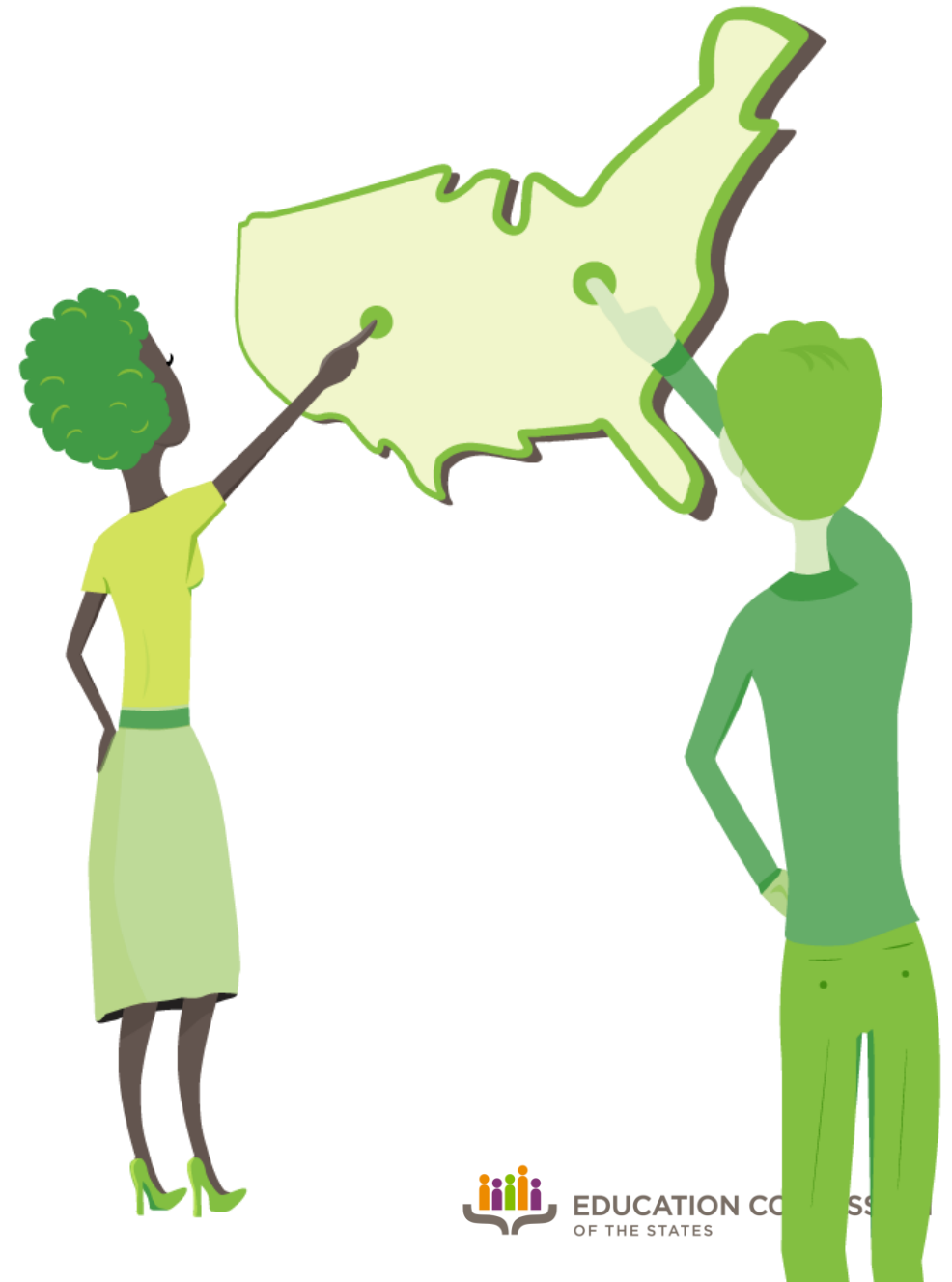
**Keith Regier**, Montana Senate

**Darlene Schottle**, Vice-Chair, Montana Board of Public Education

# How we do it.

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We research, report,  
convene and counsel.



# Education Consumer Survey

- 330,000+ responses
- 350 daily – 10,000 monthly – 122,500 annually
- All demographics
- All states & D.C.



GALLUP

# Today's Postsecondary Students

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National Data



# Life-Work-School Balance

**64%**

Work while in college

**57%**

Attend 2-year colleges

Source: Higher Learning Advocates, 101: Today's Students, <https://higherlearningadvocates.org/resource/101-resources/>

# Financial Position

49%

About half of students are **financially independent**

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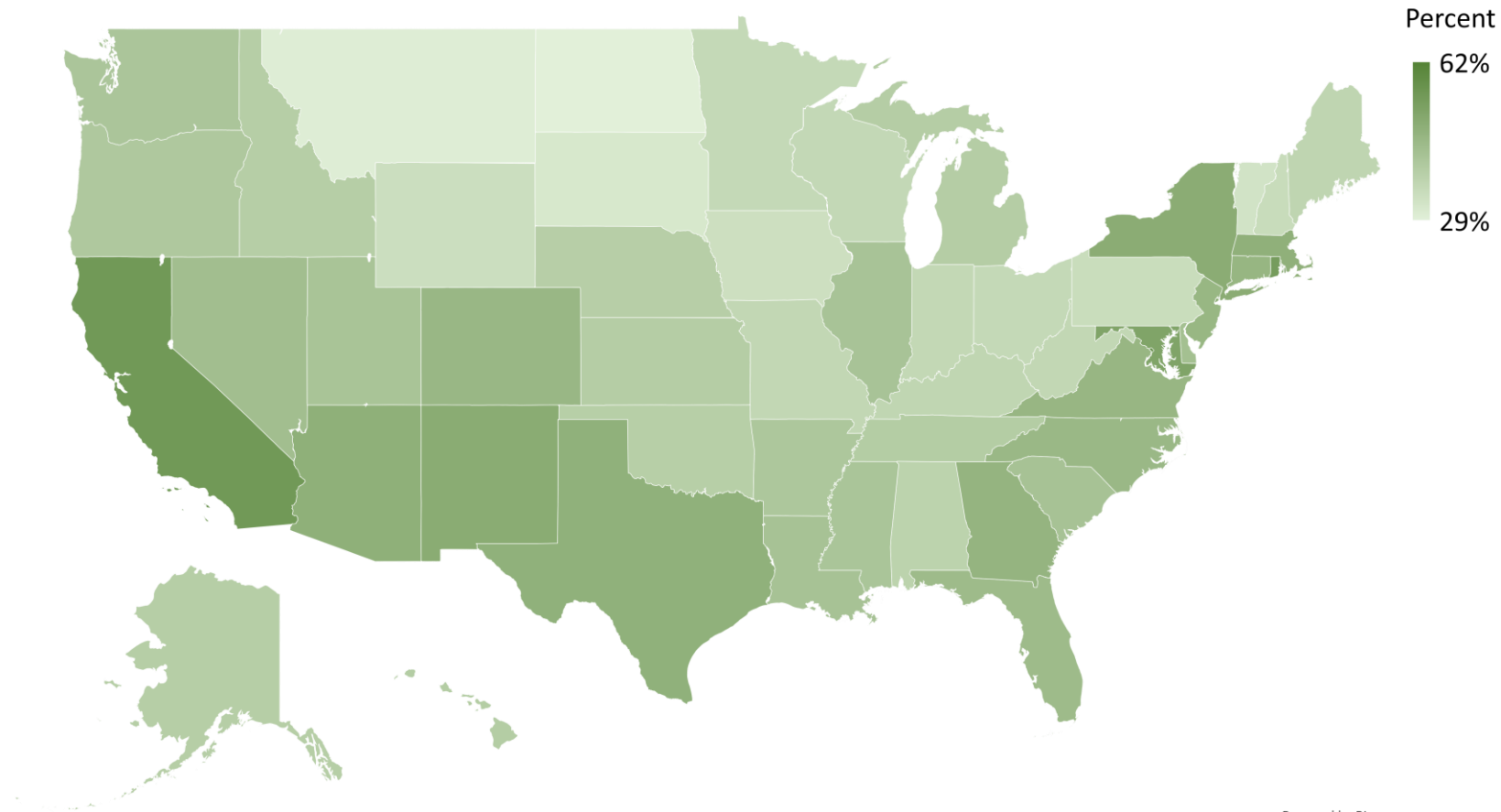
31%

Almost a third of students are at the **federal poverty line**

Source: Higher Learning Advocates, 101: Today's Students, <https://higherlearningadvocates.org/resource/101-resources/>

# Perceived Need for Additional Education

Working Adults without a Bachelor's Degree

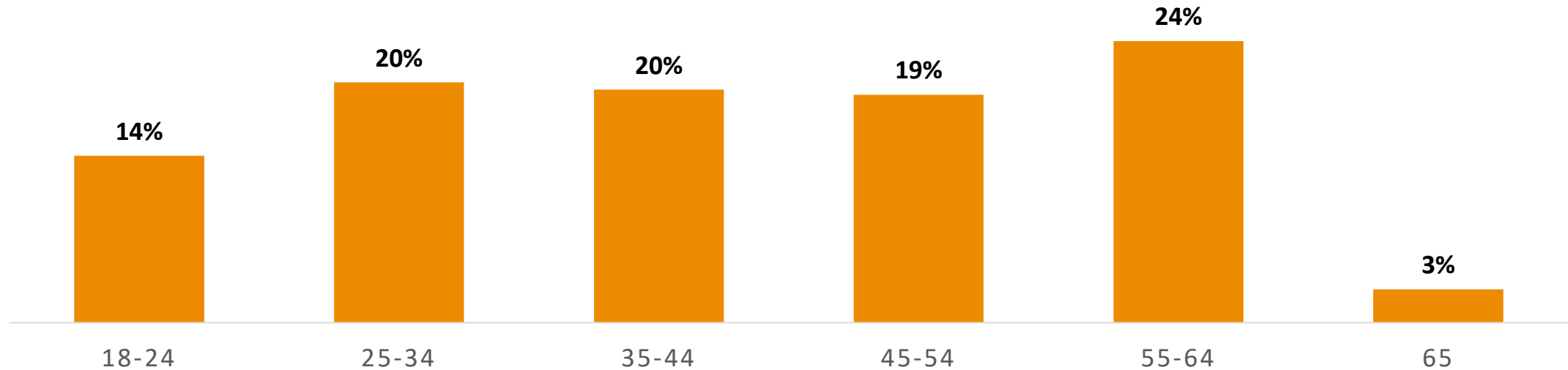


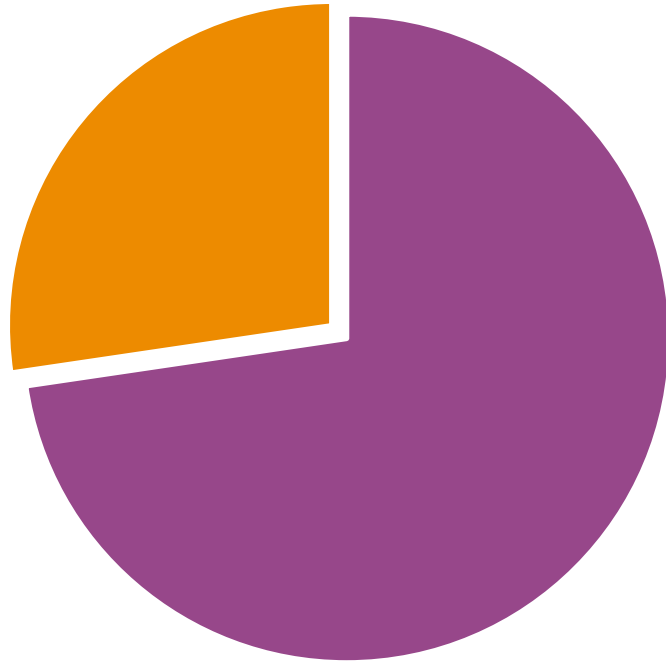
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# Montana Data

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# Age range of Montana respondents



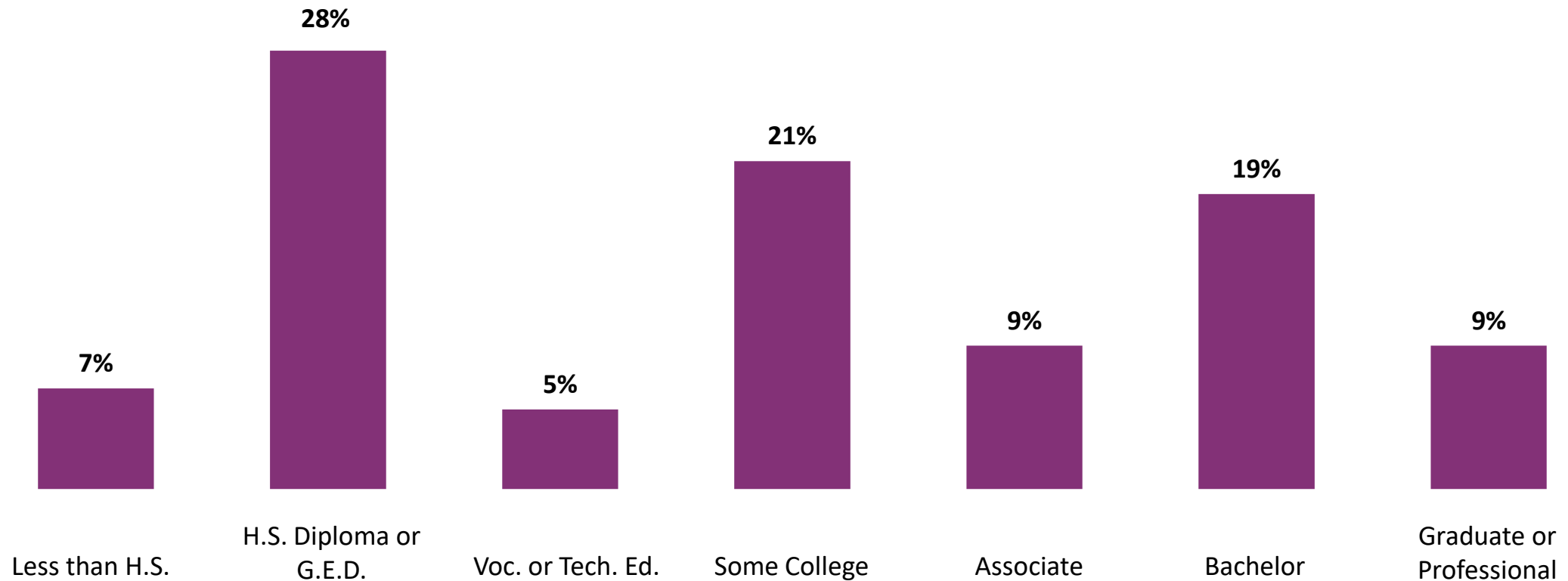


73% of Montana respondents are **currently working**

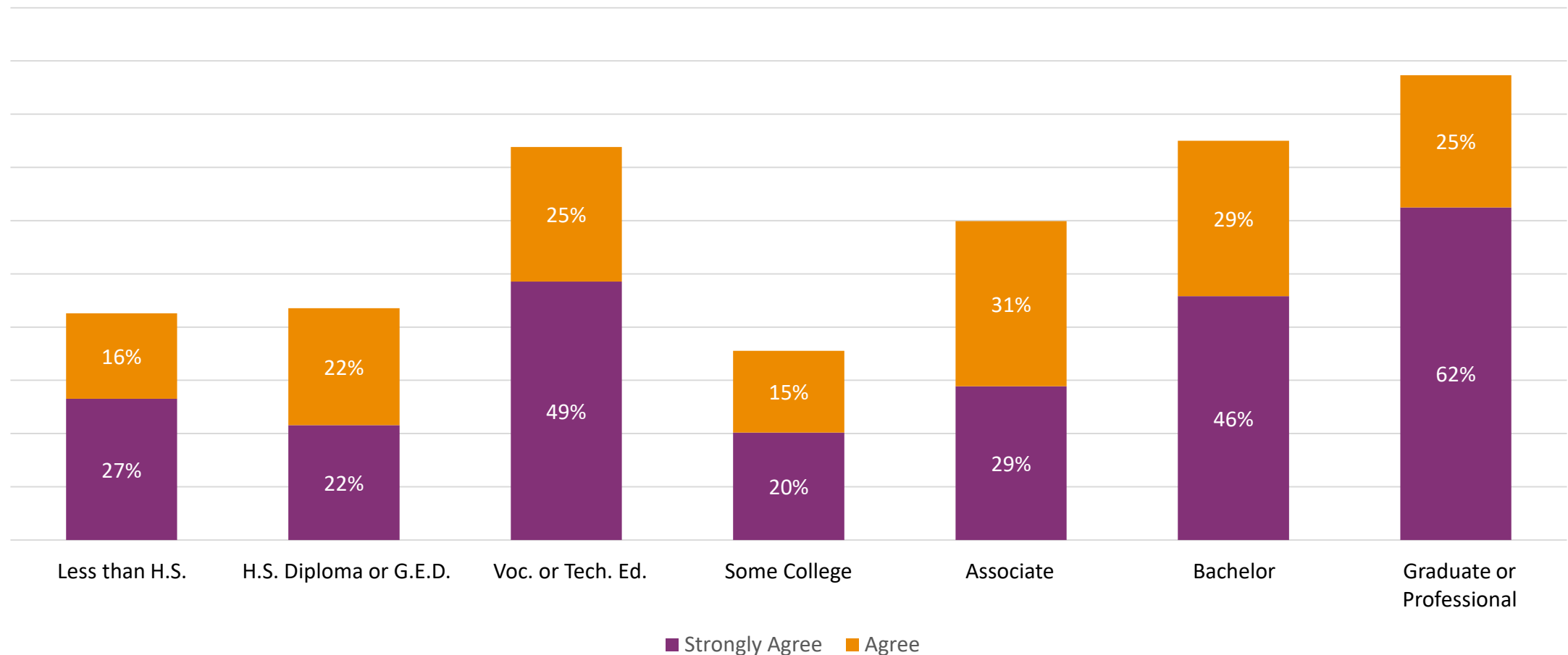
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27% of Montana respondents are **not working**

# Highest level of **education completed** for Montana respondents

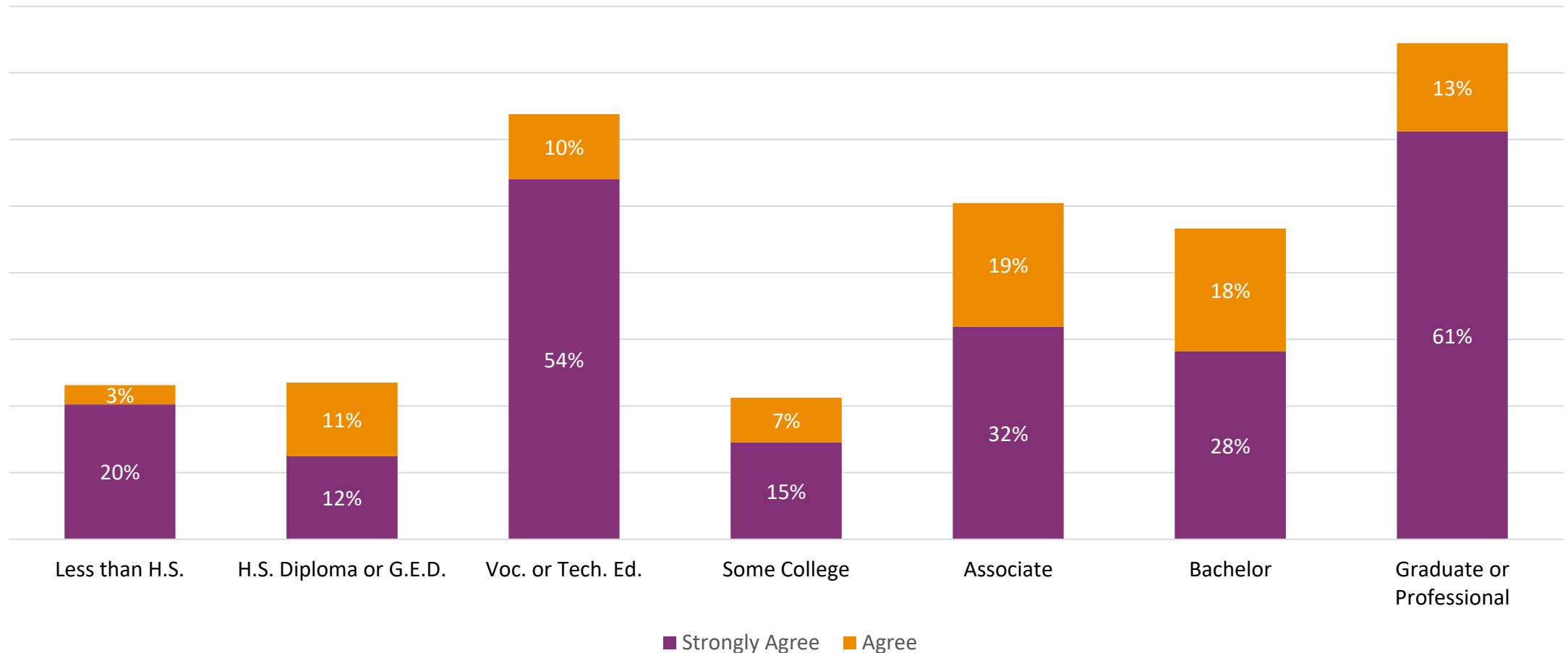


# Your education experiences make you an **attractive candidate** to potential employers.

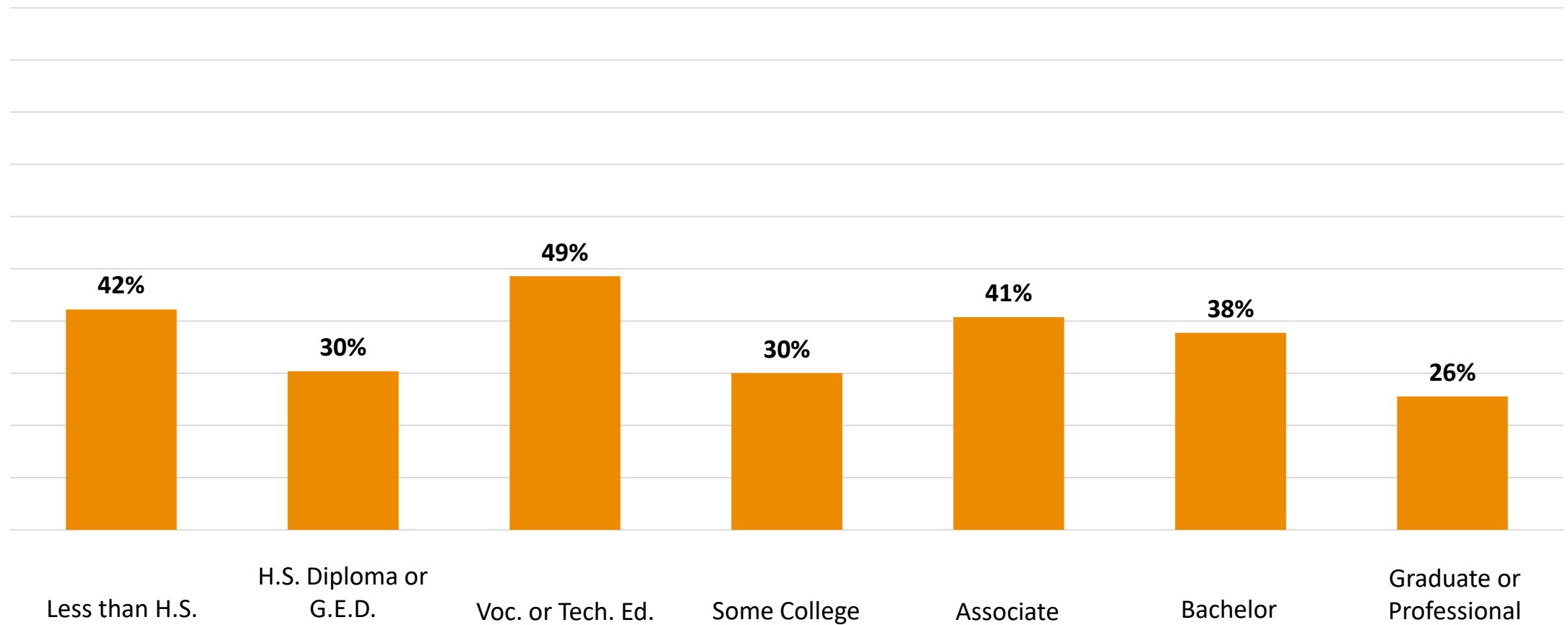




# The courses you took are directly **relevant** to what you do at work?



# Do you feel as if you need to **obtain additional education** in order to advance in your career?



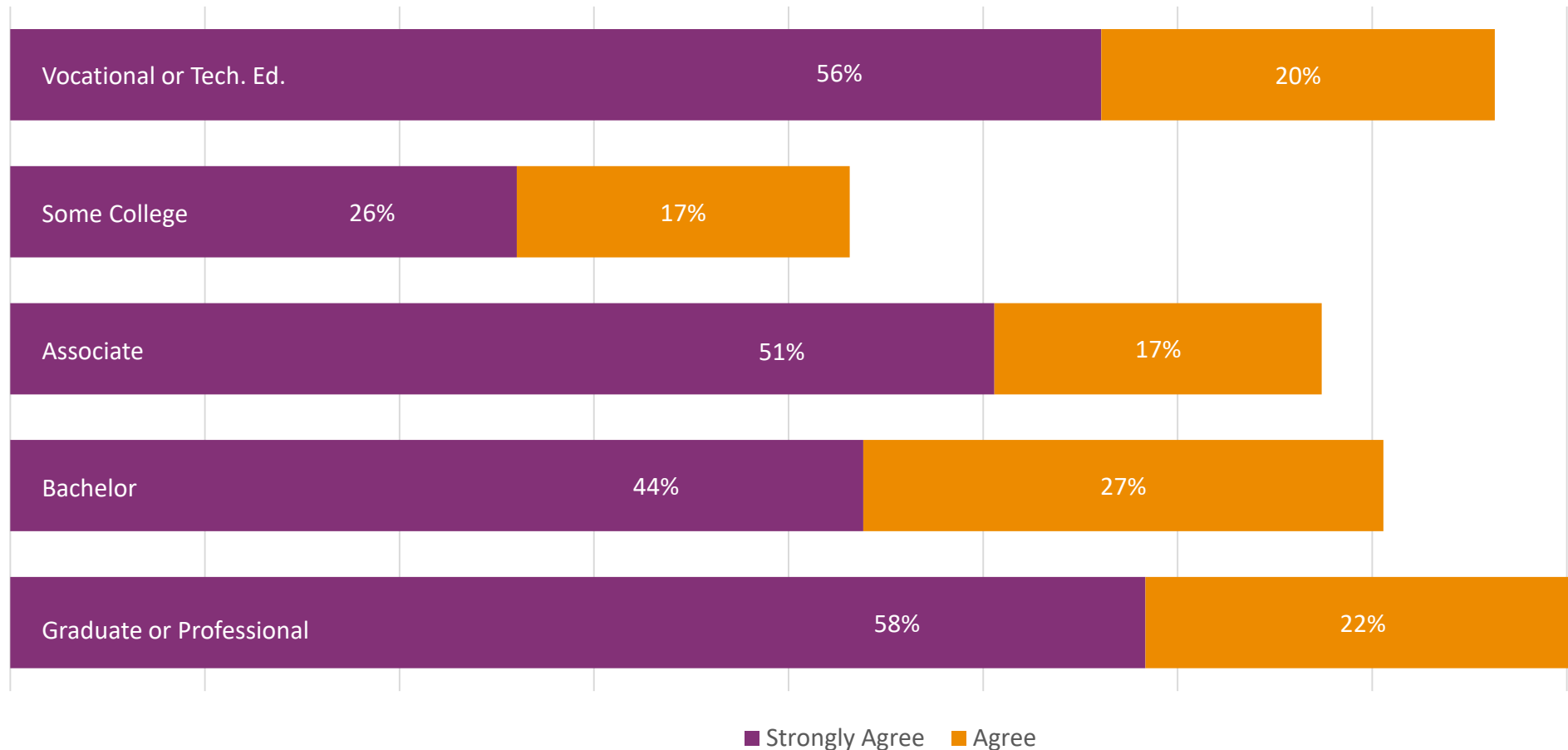
## High School Diploma/G.E.D. holders (or less):

- a **lower** perception that their education makes them an attractive candidate to employers
- a **lower** perception that their education is relevant to their work

## Postsecondary degree or credential holders:

- a **higher** perception that their education makes them an attractive candidate to employers
- a **higher** perception that their education is relevant to their work

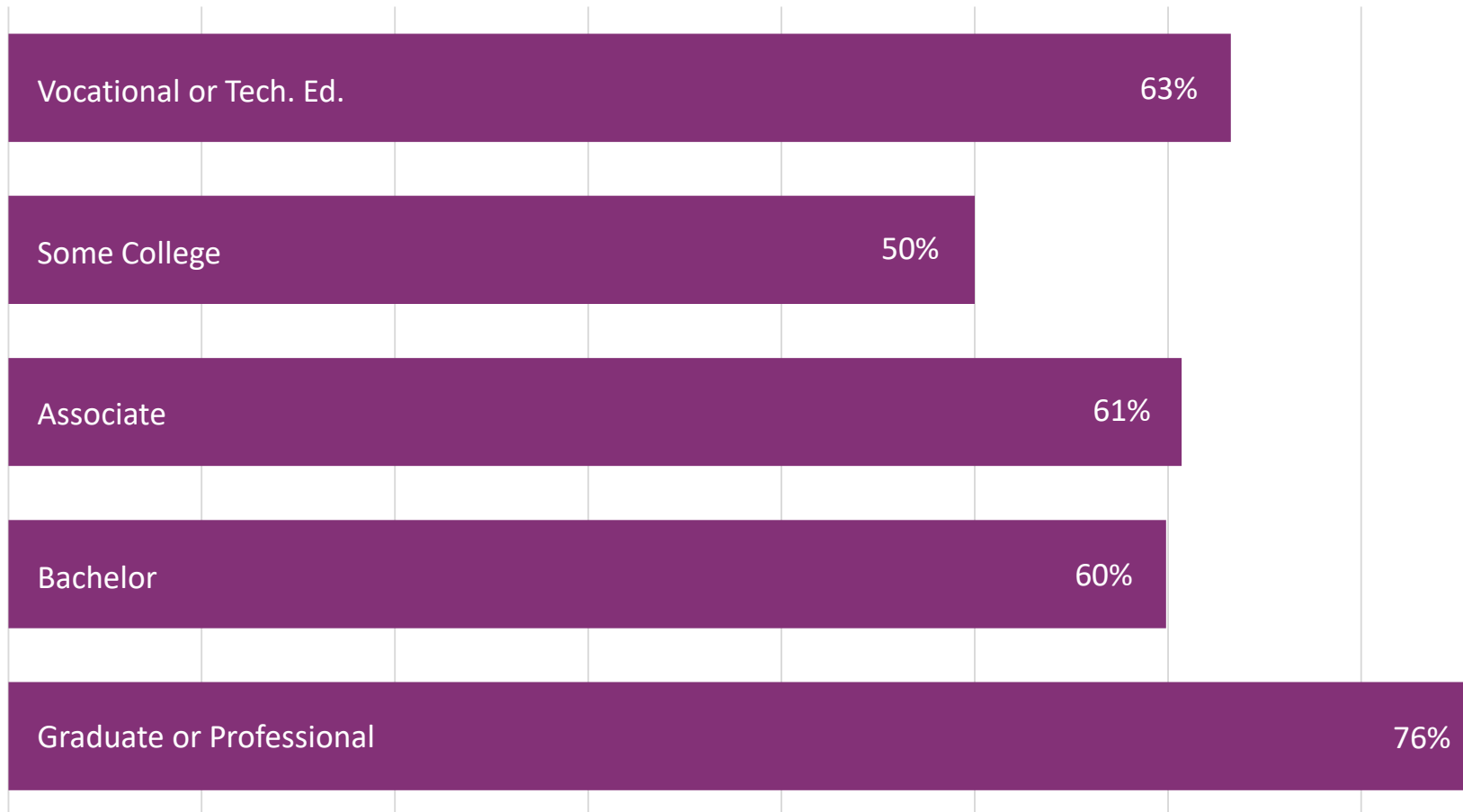
# Your courses/degree were **worth the cost.**



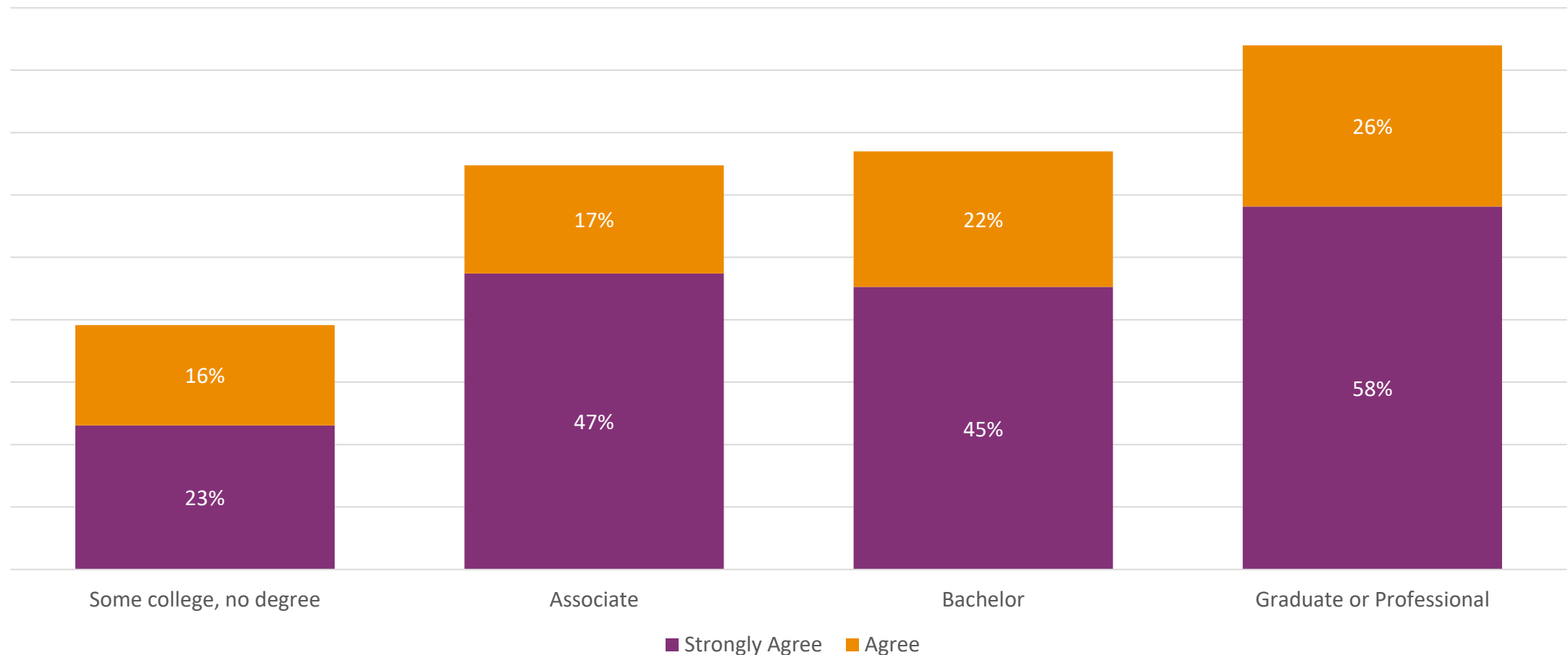
# If you had to do it all over again, would you still obtain/complete the **same degree/courses?**



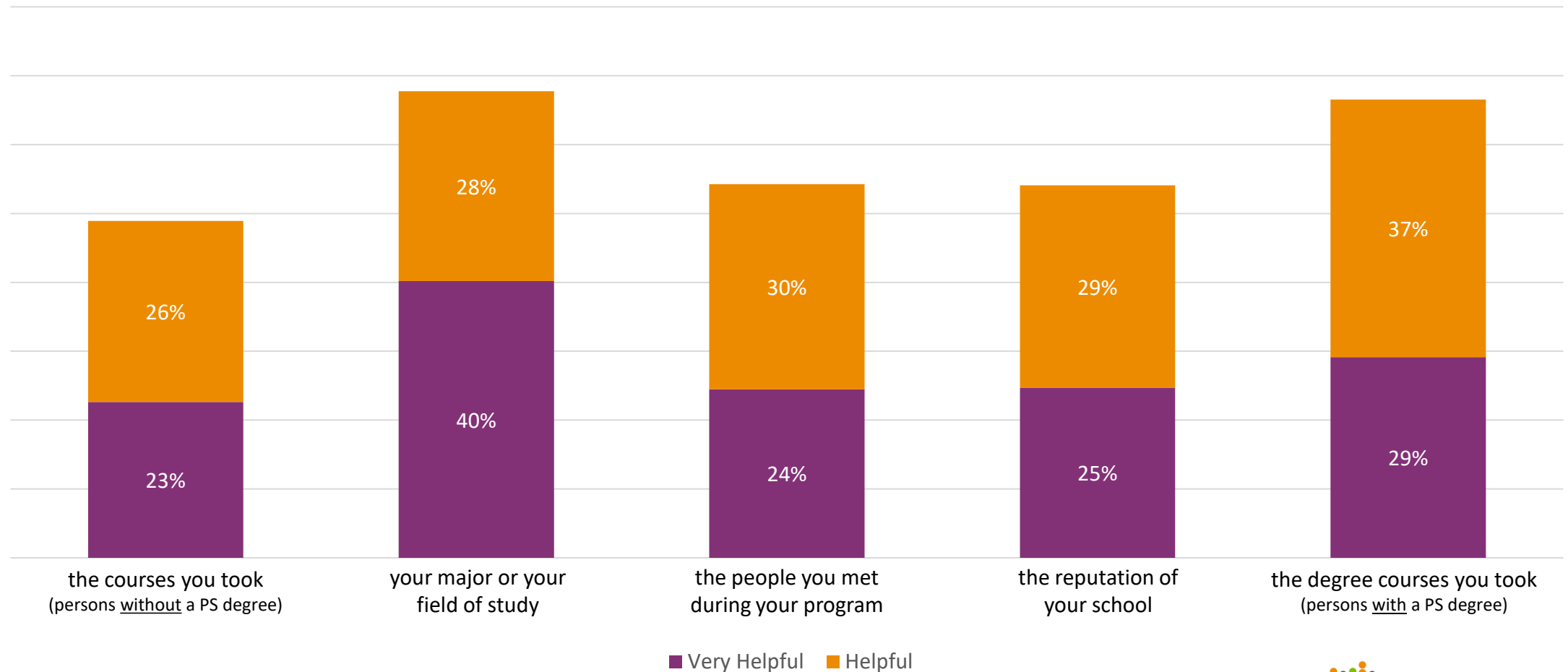
# If you had to do it all over again, would you still study the **same major**?



You learned **important skills** during your courses/degree program that you use in your **day-to-day life**.



# How **helpful** have each of the following been to you so far in your career?





# Postsecondary completers see value in their education experience

- Worth the cost
- Skill attainment
- Would do it again,  
but maybe not the same major

# Implications

Broaden  
understanding  
of **today's**  
**college student.**



# Implications

Students with **all types of postsecondary credentials** report value and employability from their postsecondary experience.



# Implications

Focus on people that have **no postsecondary credential** for largest gains in employability and relevance to work.



# Project Activities

- Thinkers Meeting + Principles of Policy Design
- 50-state database of state policies

# Questions?

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