

University of New Mexico
STEM Gateway

PLF and Student Surveys

April 26, 2013

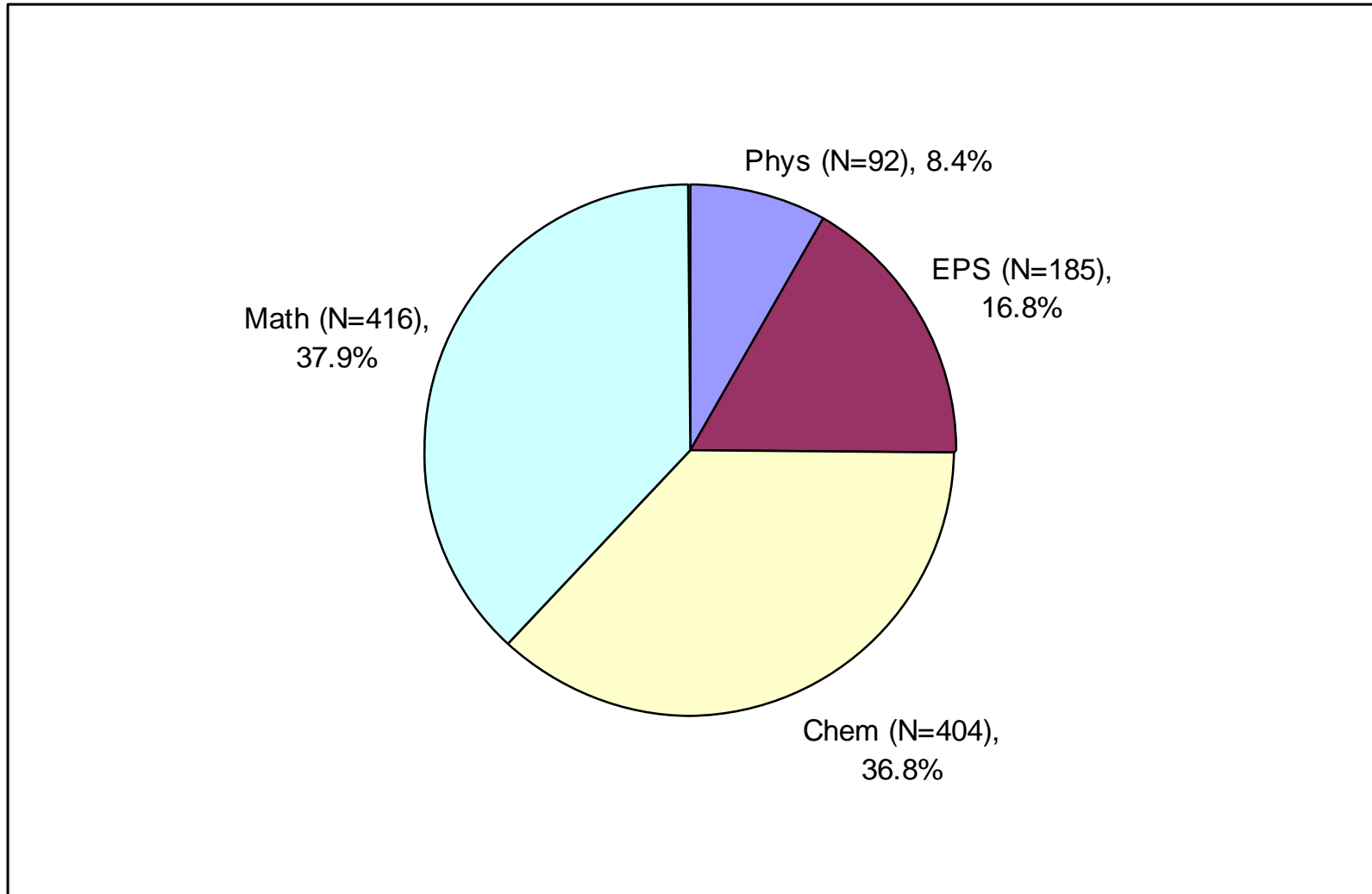
Danielle Rudder, Graduate Assistant

Who Are Our Survey Respondents?

Students

- 1689 students were enrolled in PLF-assisted courses in Fall 2012
- 1097 students completed surveys regarding the PLF program
- 64% response rate

Student Respondents By Subject

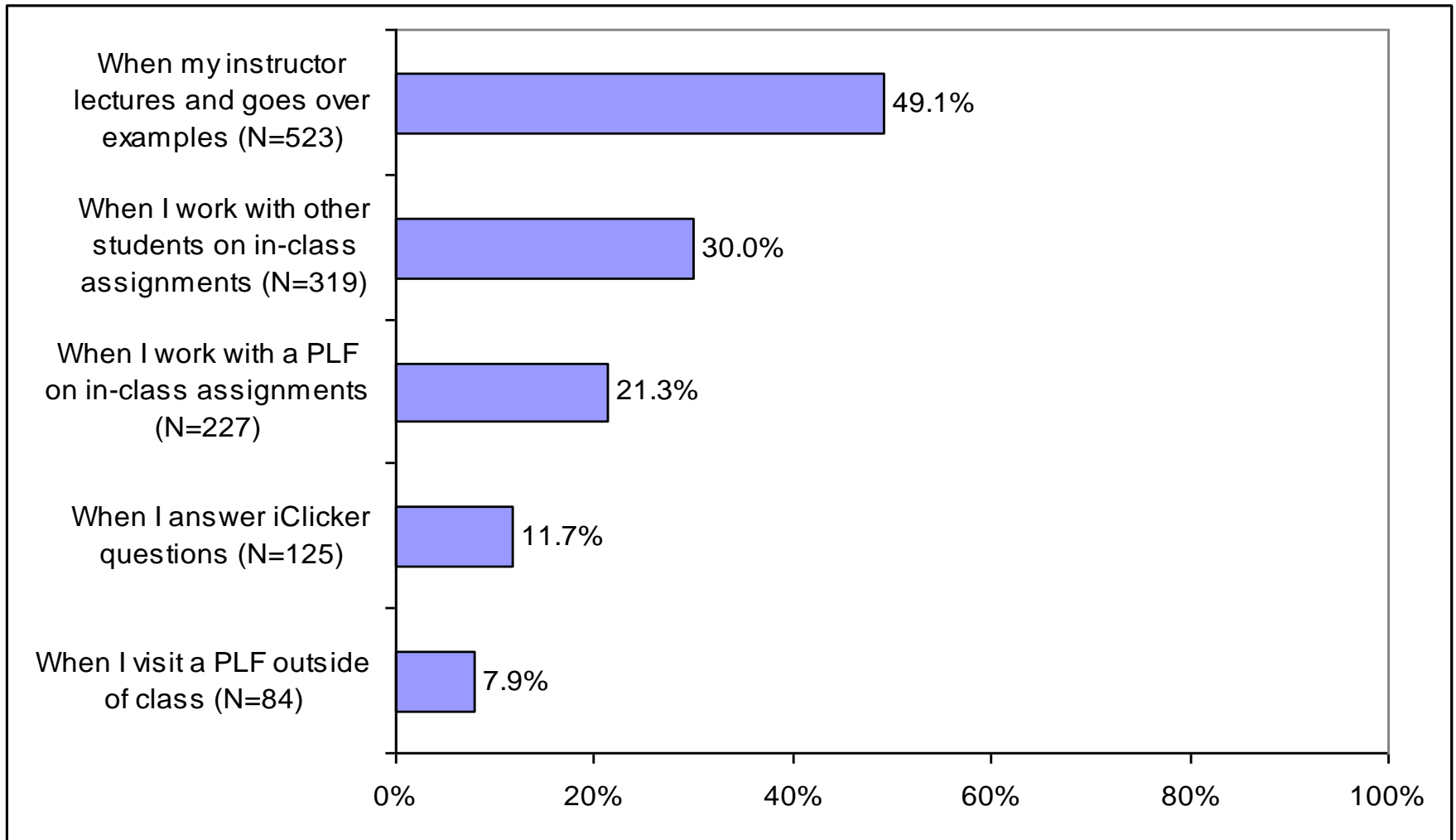


Who Are Our Survey Respondents?

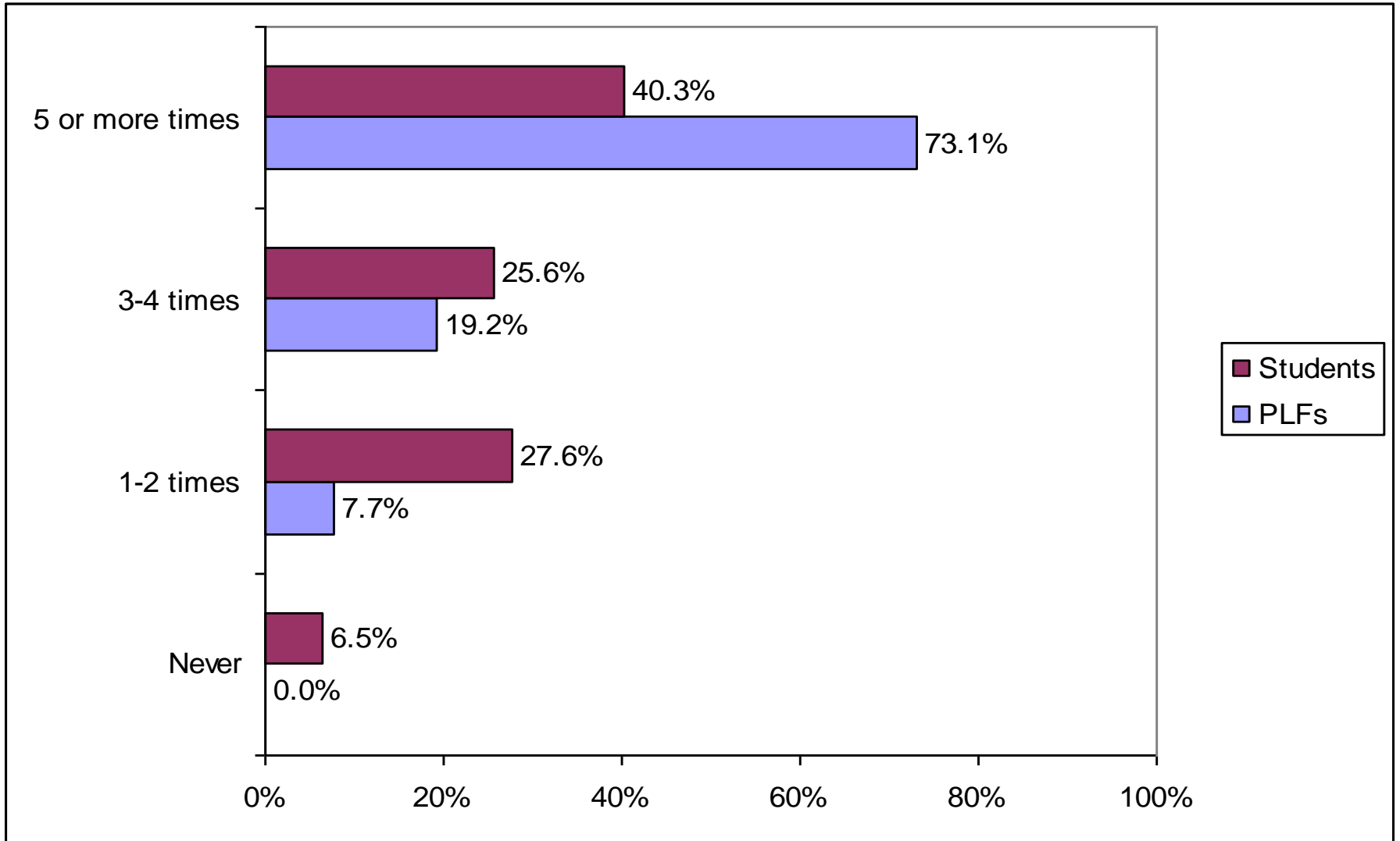
PLFs

- 38 Fall 2012 initial PLF surveys
- 33 Fall 2012 follow-up PLF surveys
- 34 Spring 2013 initial PLF surveys
- Spring 2013 follow-Up PLF survey to come

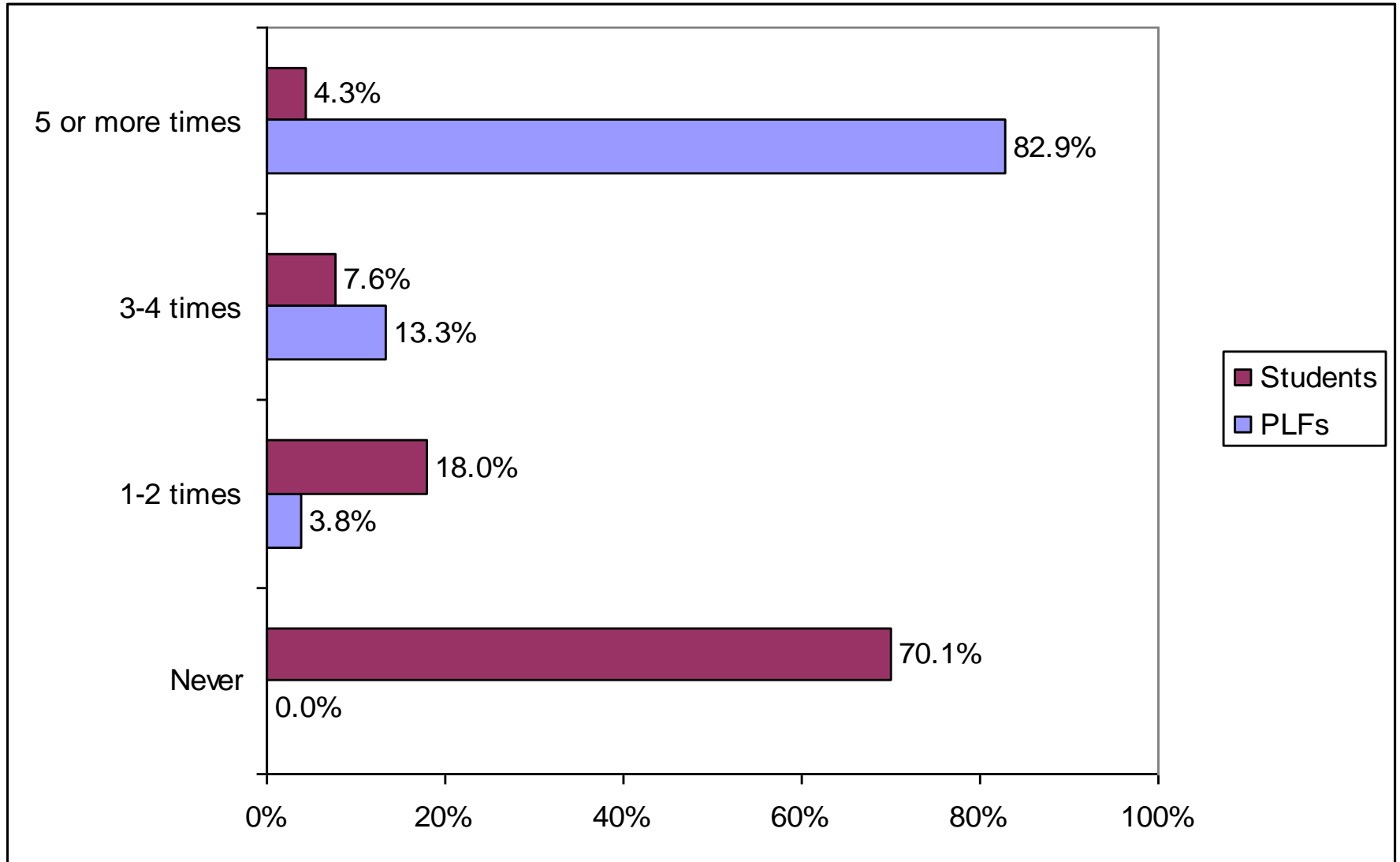
Student Survey: When do you feel like you get to learn the most about the material?



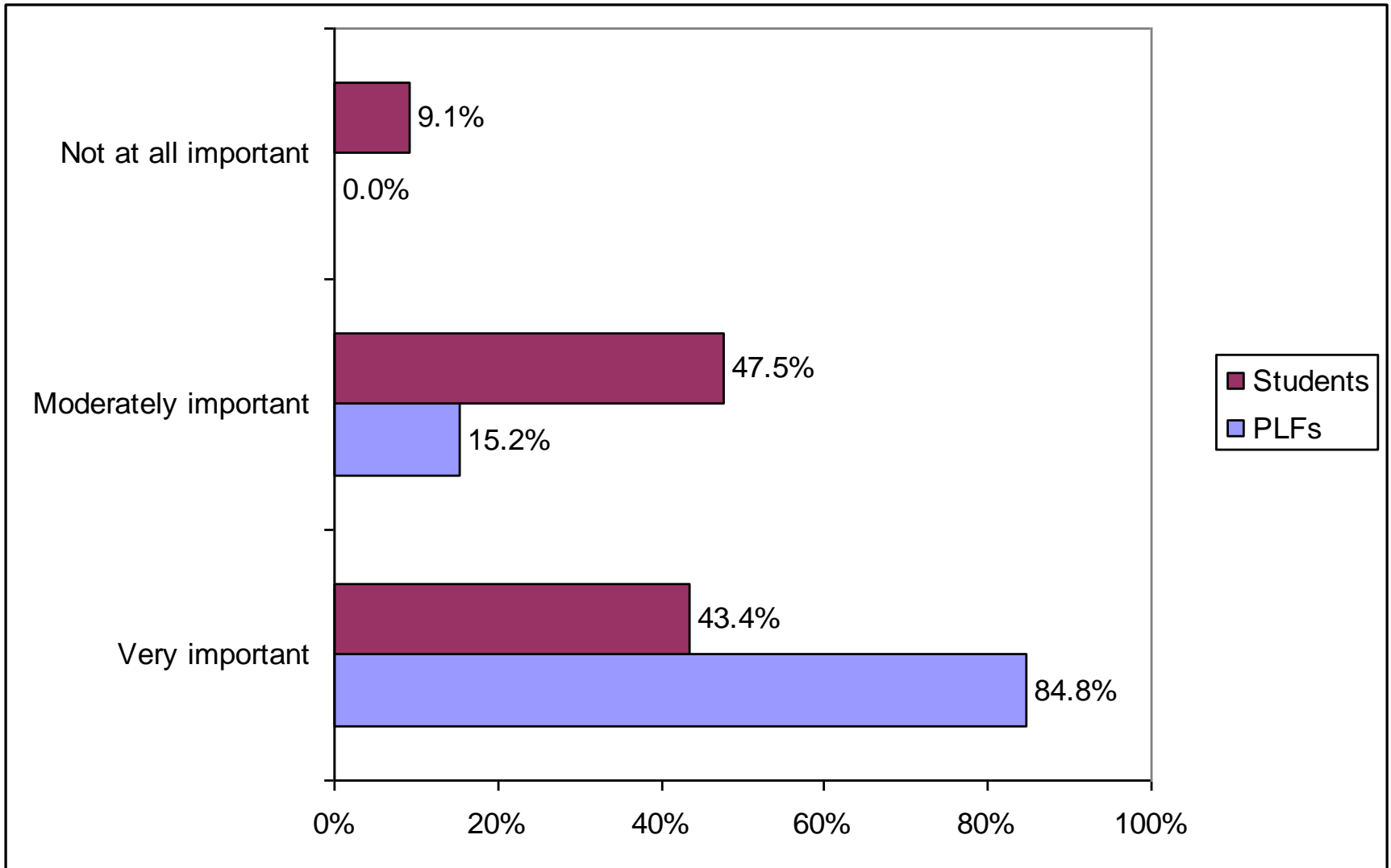
Help During Class



Meeting Outside of Class



Importance of PLF Availability



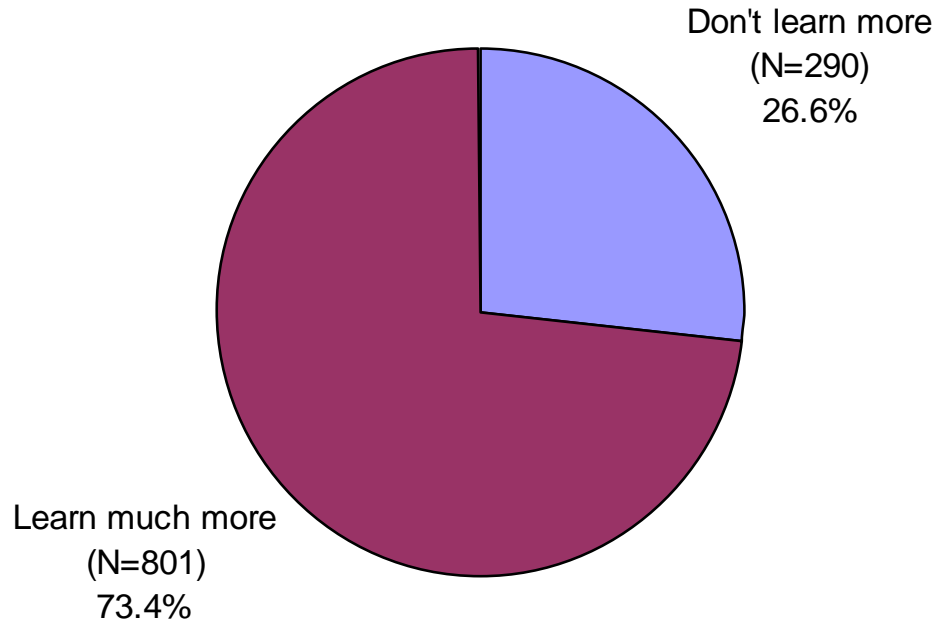
Potential Questions

- Do students think the PLFs are not important?
- Are the PLFs unhelpful for student learning?
- Are students avoiding meeting with the PLFs outside of class?

Answer: NO

- It is the result of *learning preference*
- 73% indicated that they learn much more when working with other students (N=801)
- 22% indicated that they do not learn more or less when working with other students (N=238)
- 5% indicated that they do not learn more at all when working with other students (N=52)

Proportion of Students Who Learn Much More When Working with Other Students



Significant Positive Correlations

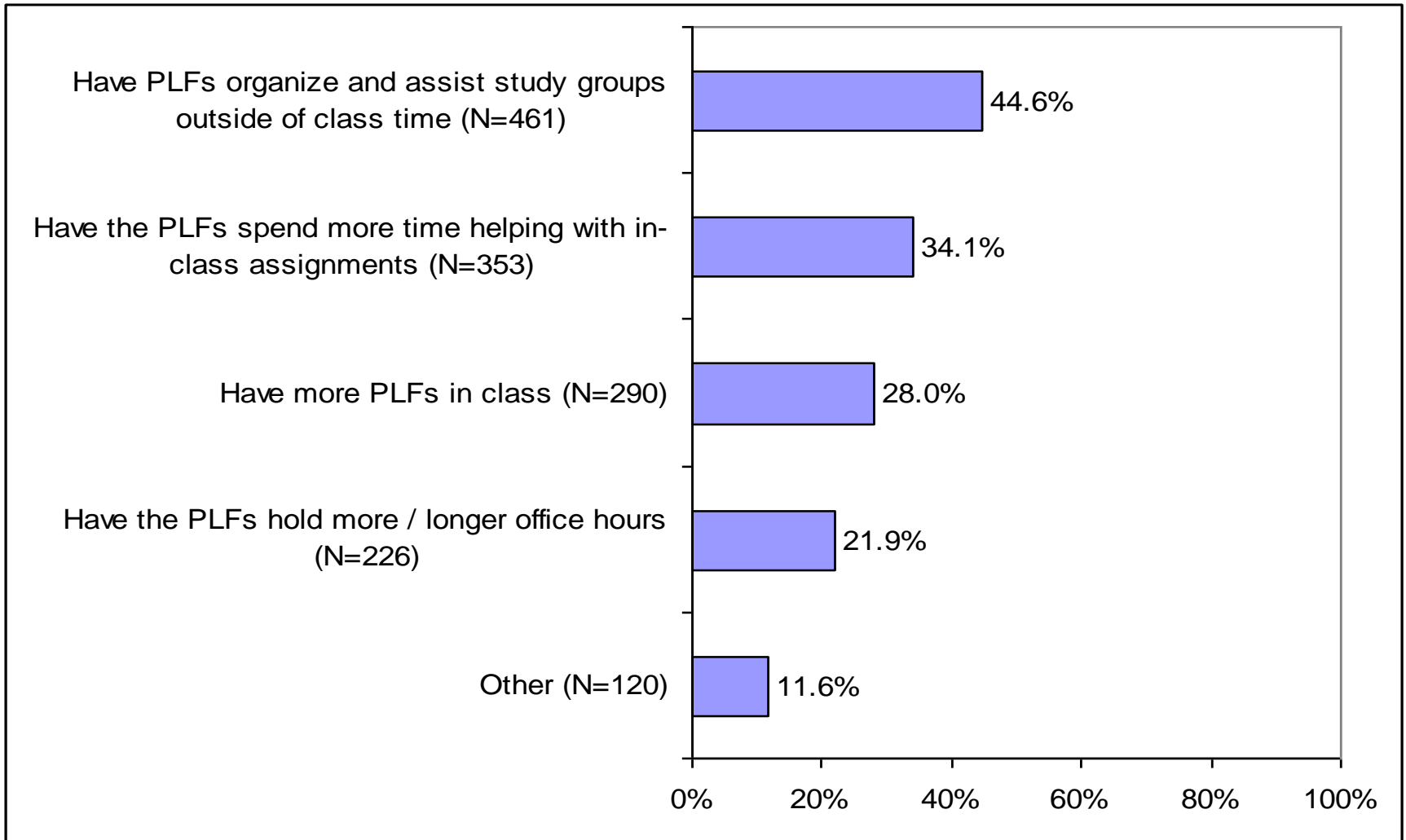
Students who reported that they learn much more when working with other students were significantly more likely to:

- Work with PLFs in and out of class more often
- Rate importance of PLF availability higher
- Report that they learned the most when working with PLFs

Significant Negative Correlation

Students who reported that they learn much more when working with other students were significantly **less** likely to report that they learned the most when their instructor lectured and went over examples

How Would You Improve the PLF Program?



What is “Other?”

40% of comments indicated that no improvements were necessary

- Everything they did is good and they should continue doing what they're doing.
- I wouldn't change anything for this class, they are doing fine.
- I think what they do now is great. I couldn't ask for more.
- I think the PLFs are already doing their best at helping students succeed. They all have frequent help sessions and flexible office hours to accommodate the most students.

What is “Other?”

17% of comments indicated that the program would be more helpful if the PLFs knew more about the material

- Make sure the PLFs know the material well.
- Maybe be a little more prepared for the day's subject material.
- Have PLFs be certain of material to help students with problems.
- Have them be more knowledgeable about the topic.

What is “Other?”

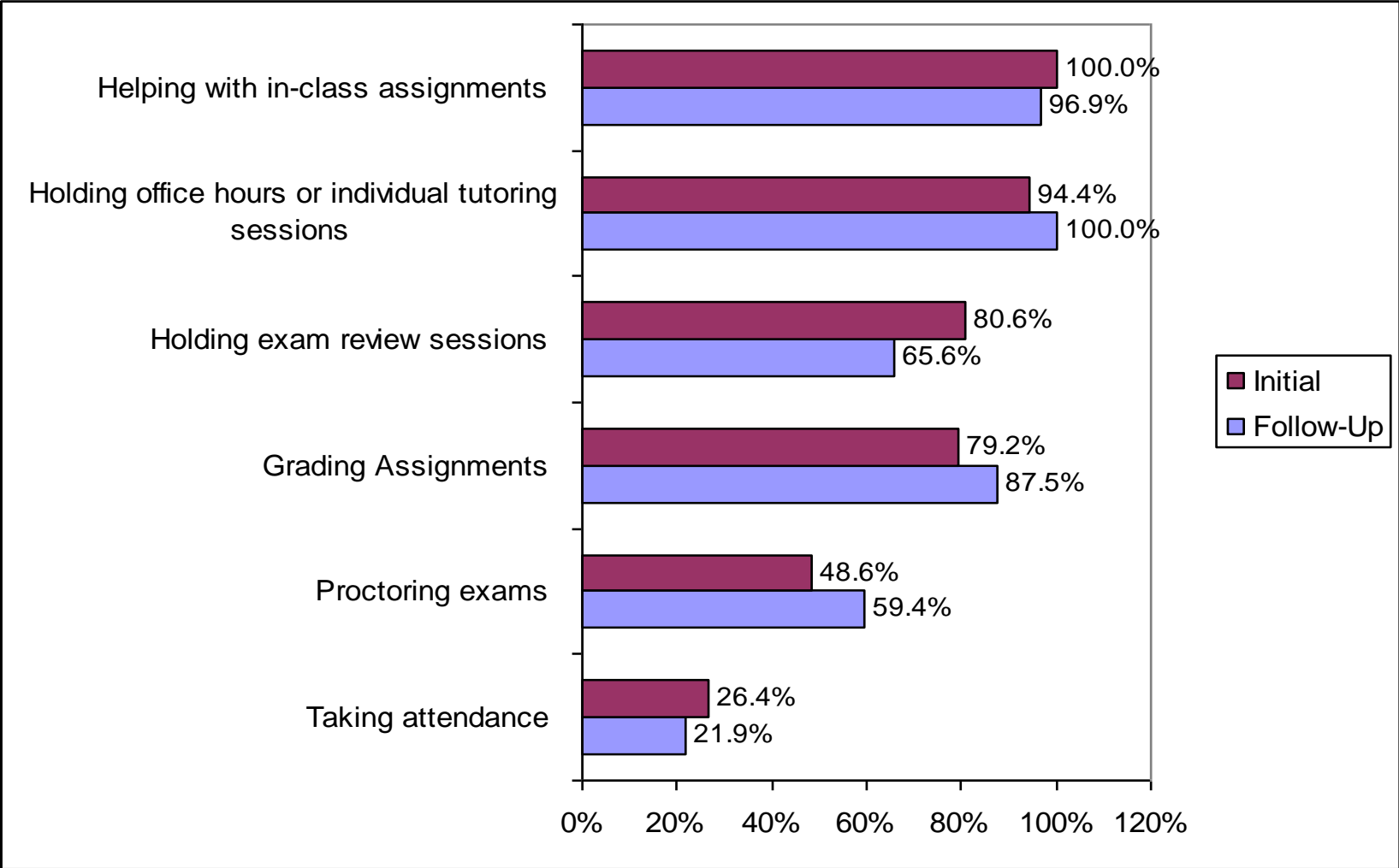
Some students reiterated their survey responses

- Having PLFs organize study groups outside of class would be very helpful.
- Allowing more time in-class to work with the PLFs and solve problems.
- Big class: more PLFs please!
- More office hours.

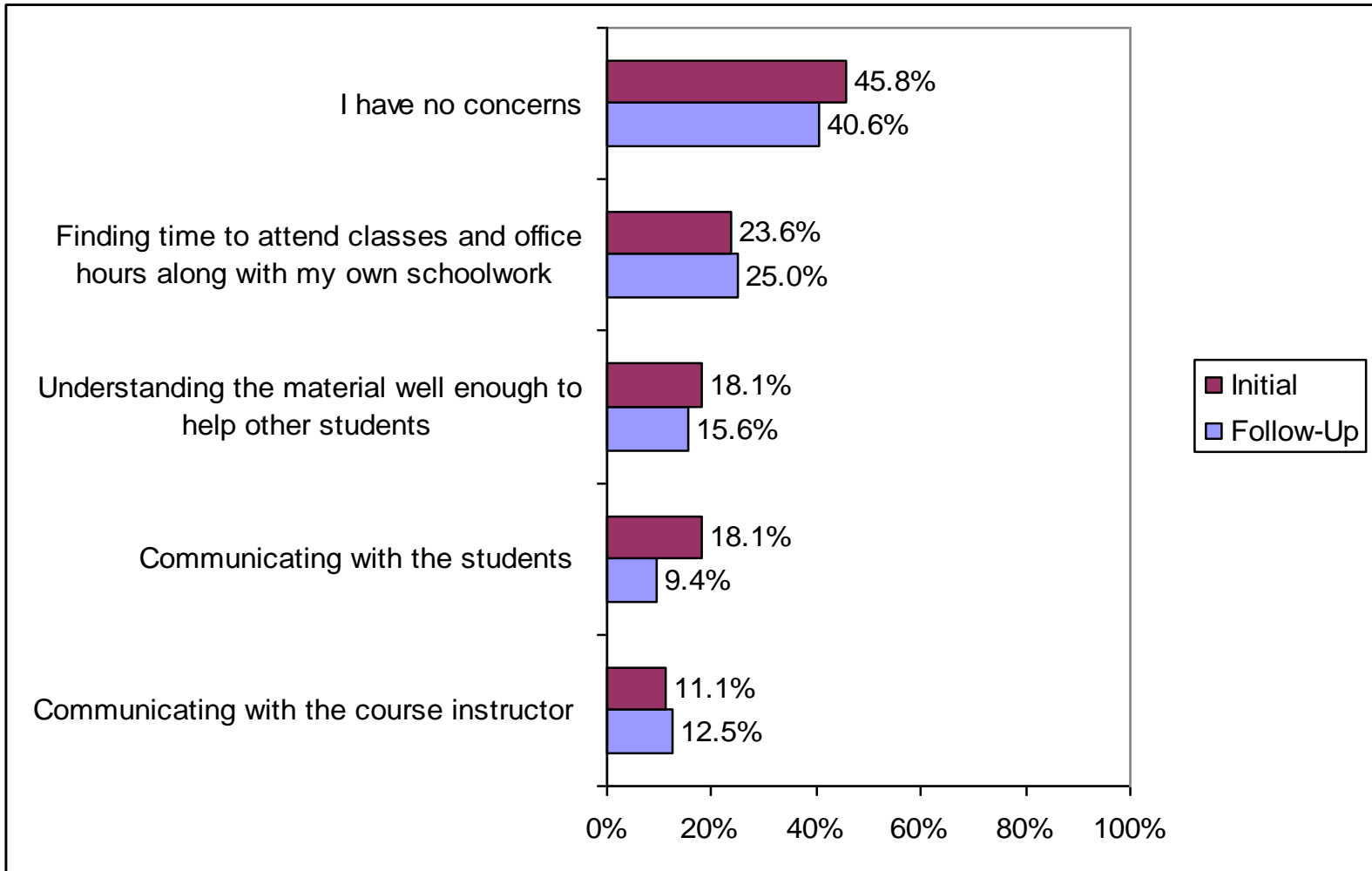
There Were a Variety of Other Suggestions

- Maybe having them teach class sometimes so we can have a variety of teaching methods.
- Daily reminder of Help Events, just written on the board as we come in.
- Have PLFs in labs. We all had questions in lab and instructor had hard time keeping up; affected rate of work.
- Maybe online help because I work full-time and go to school. It's hard to take the time to visit. Online chat would be great.

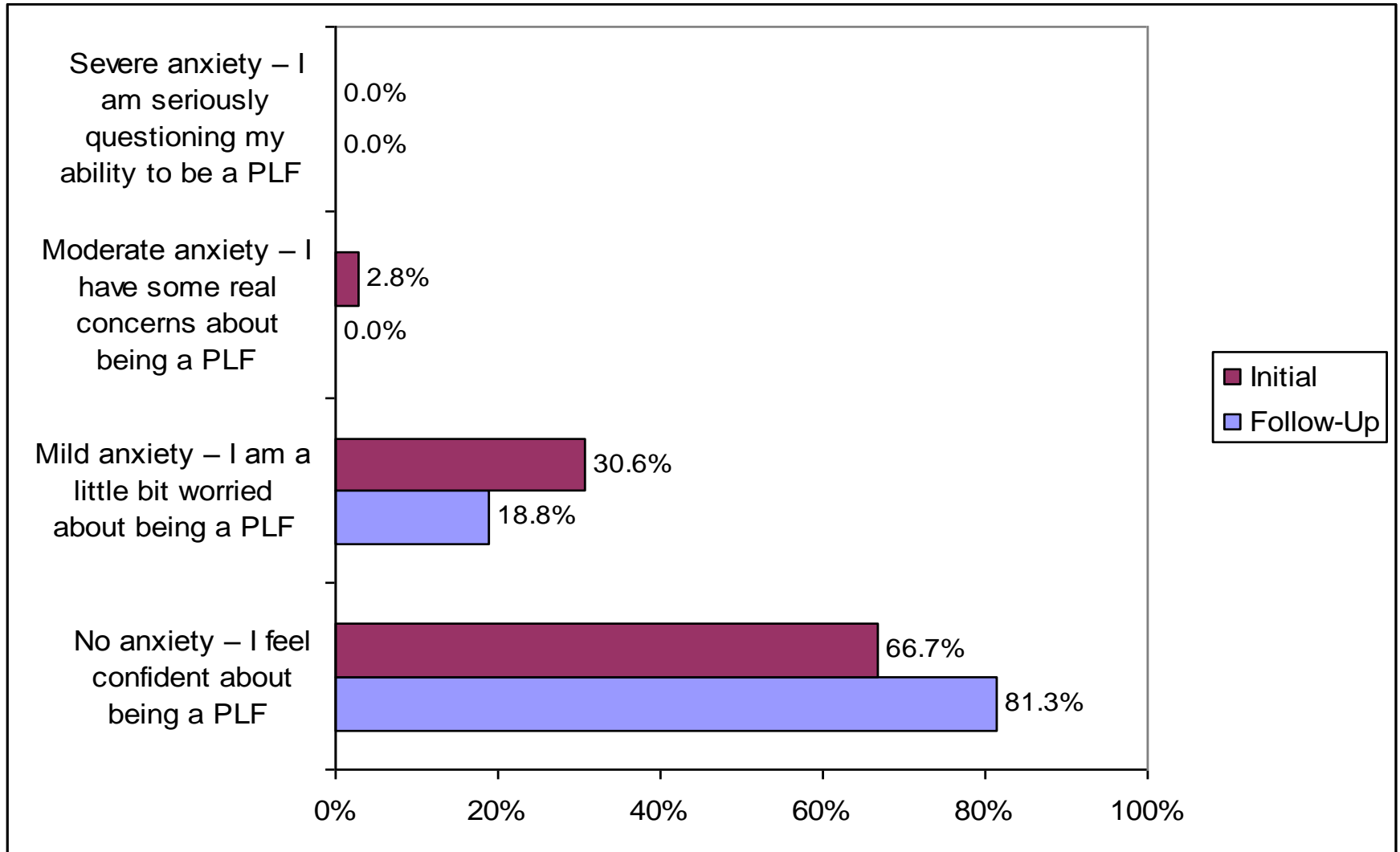
How PLFs Are Utilized



Concerns About Being a PLF



Anxiety Regarding Role As PLF



Questions?