

University of New Mexico  
**STEM Gateway**

**PLF and Student Surveys**

April 26, 2013

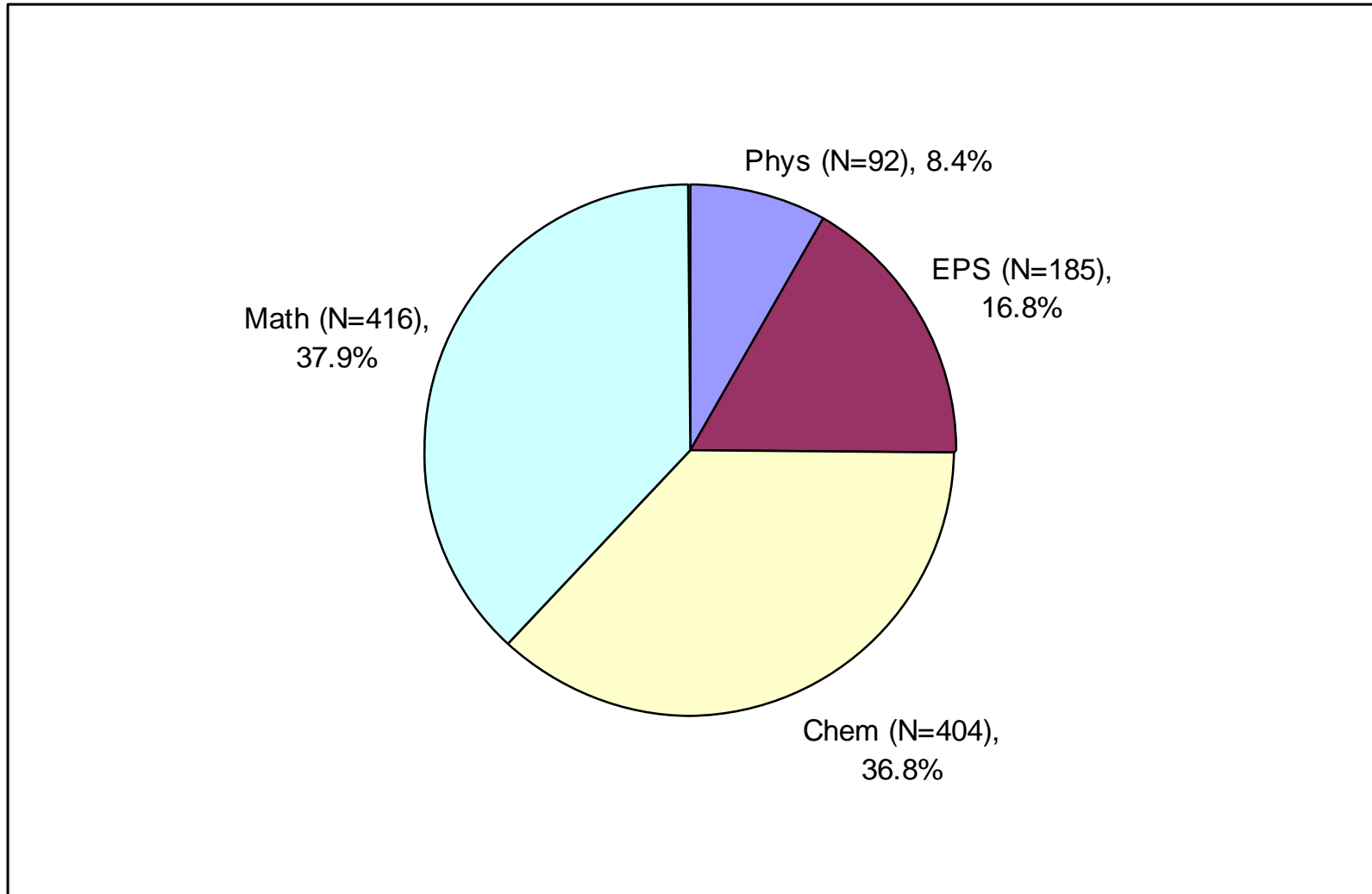
Danielle Rudder, Graduate Assistant

# 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

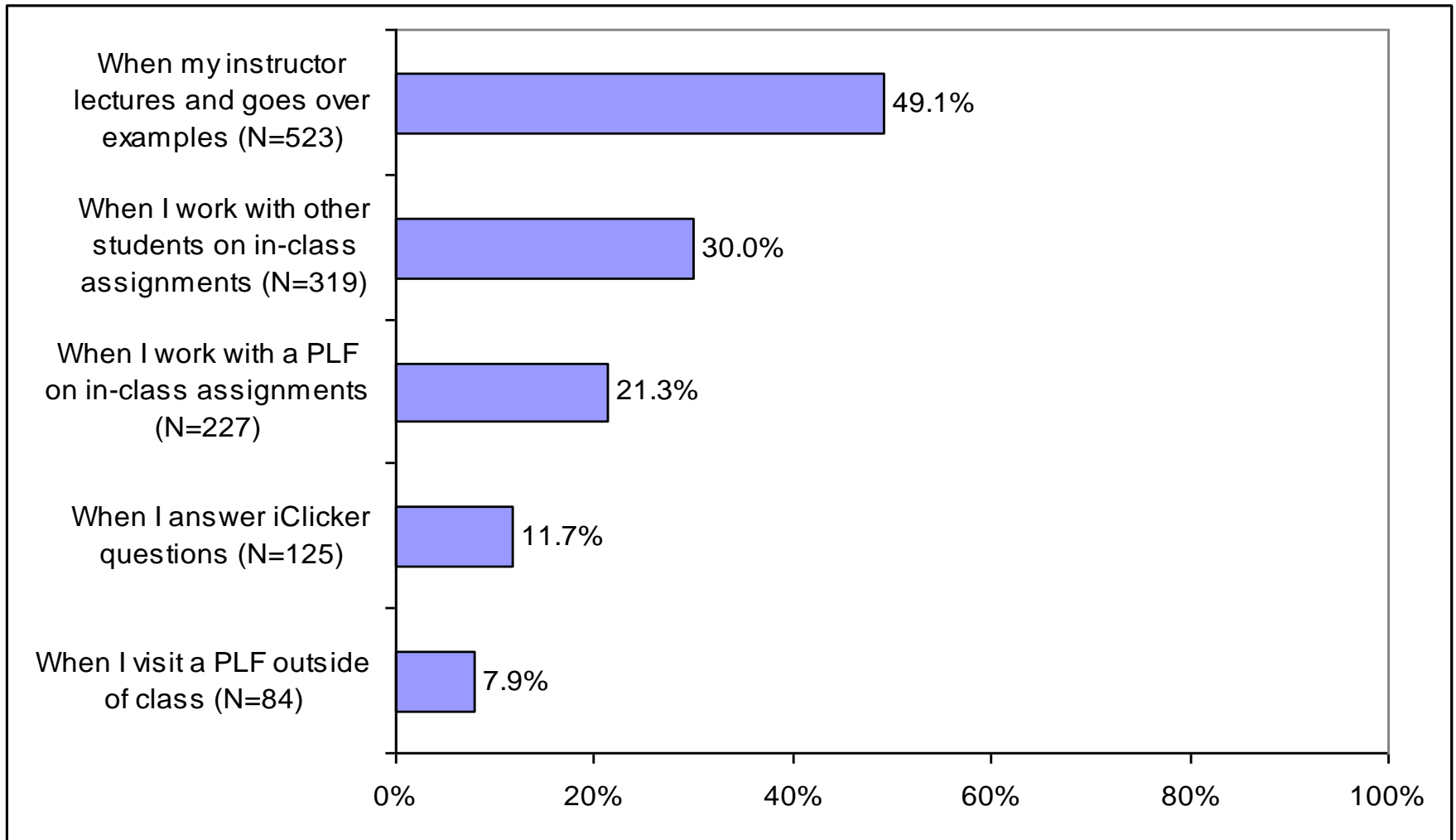


# Who Are Our Survey Respondents?

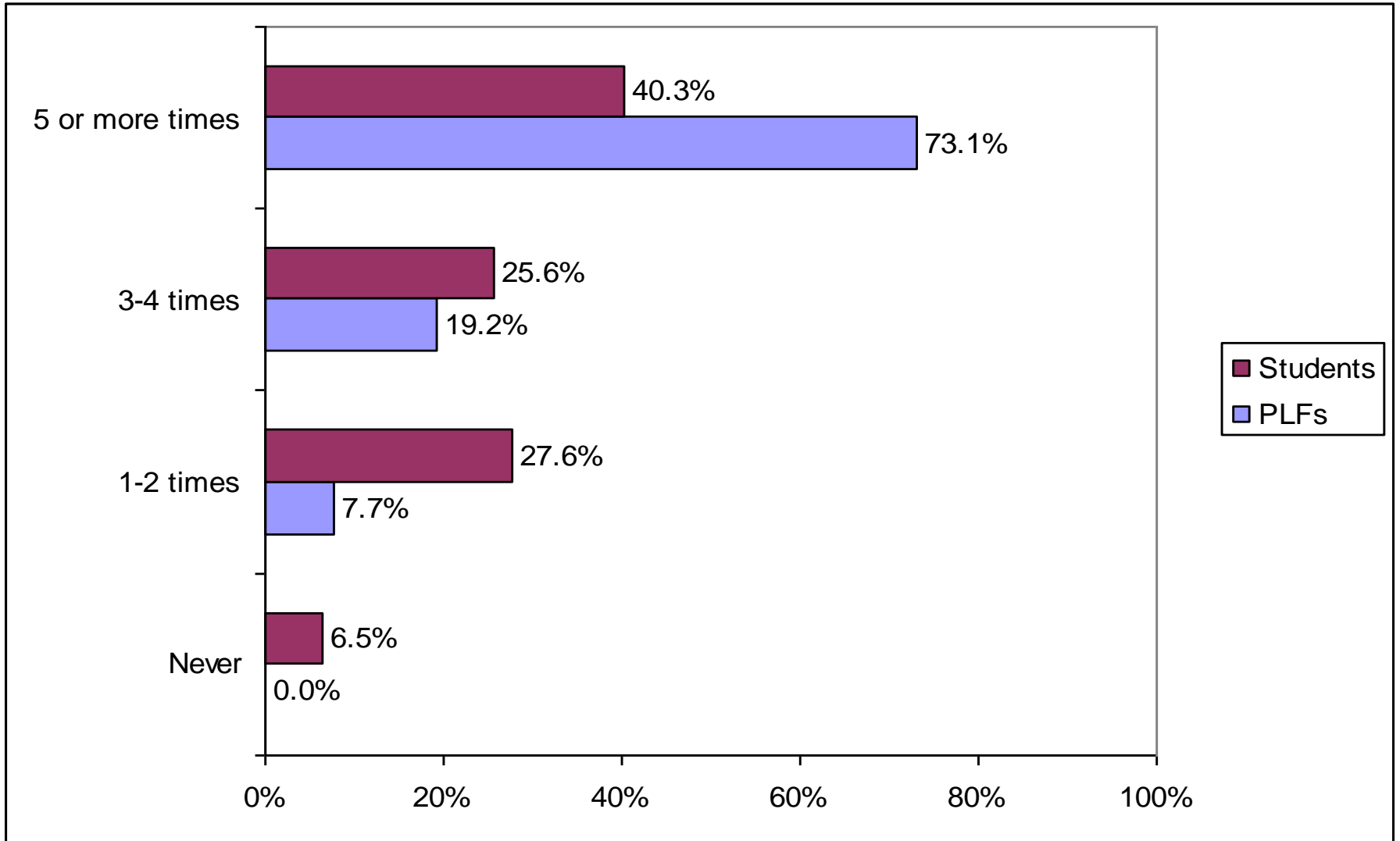
## PLFs

- 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

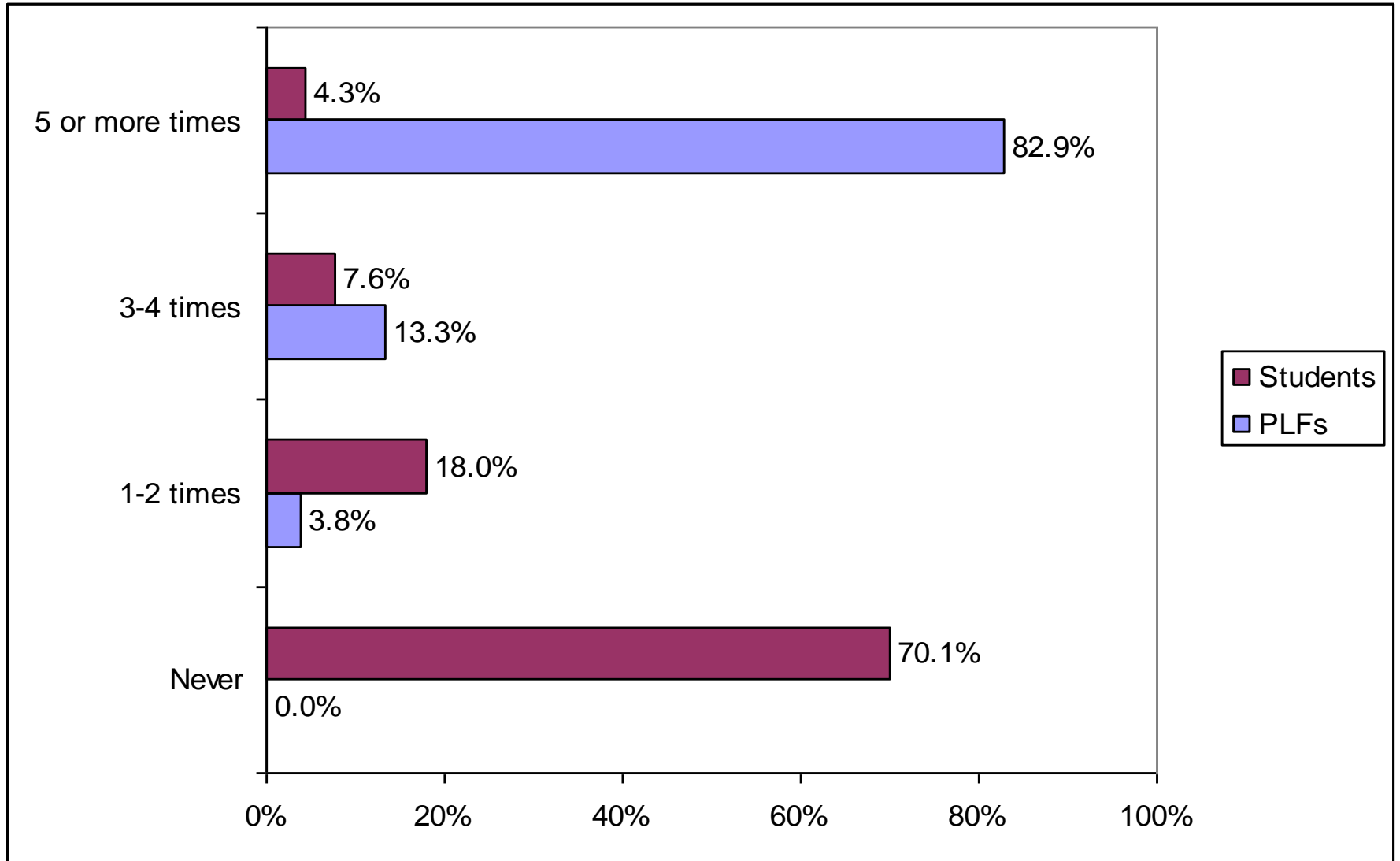
# Student Survey: When do you feel like you get to learn the most about the material?



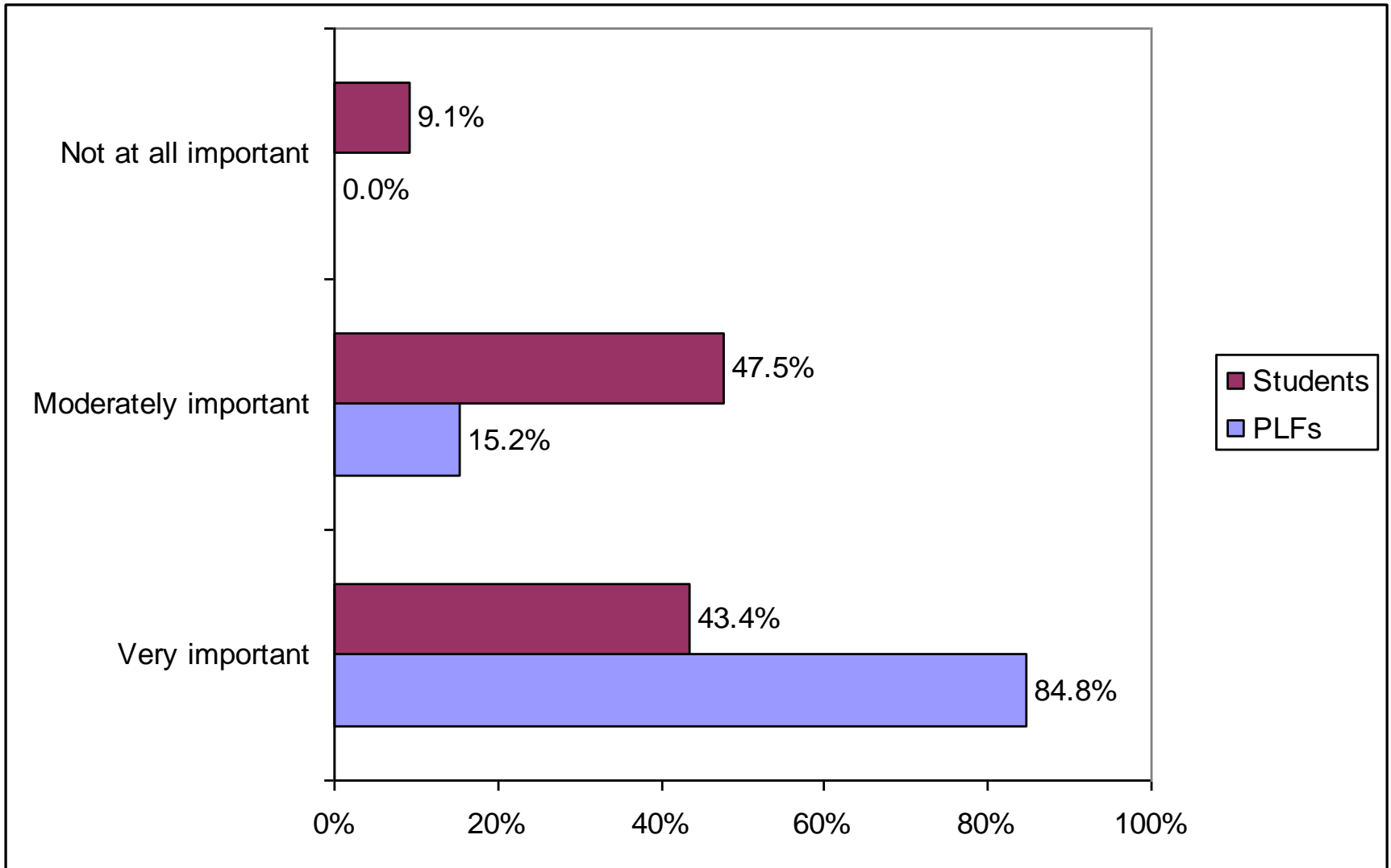
# Help During Class



# Meeting Outside of Class



# Importance of PLF Availability





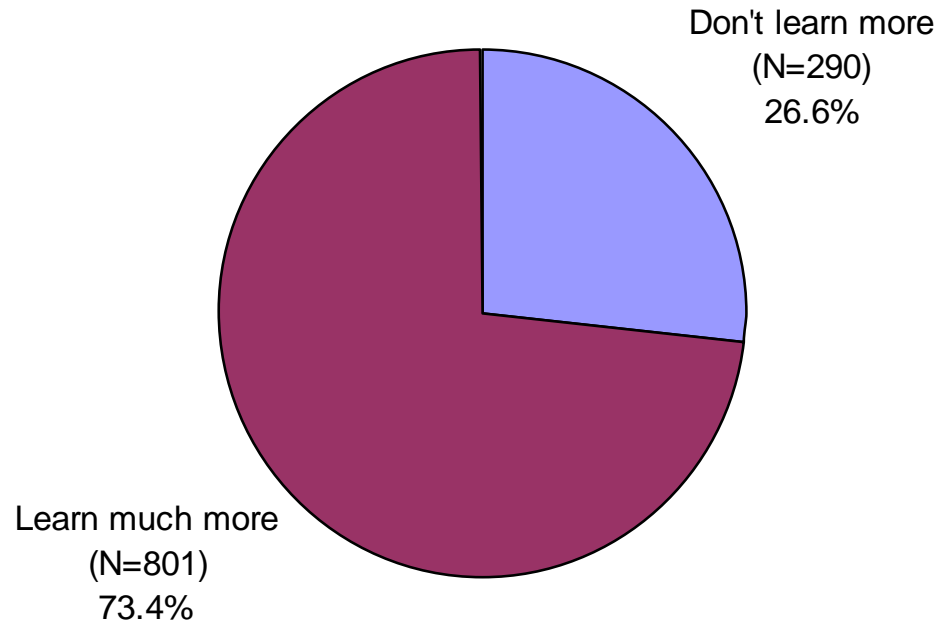
# Potential Questions

- 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

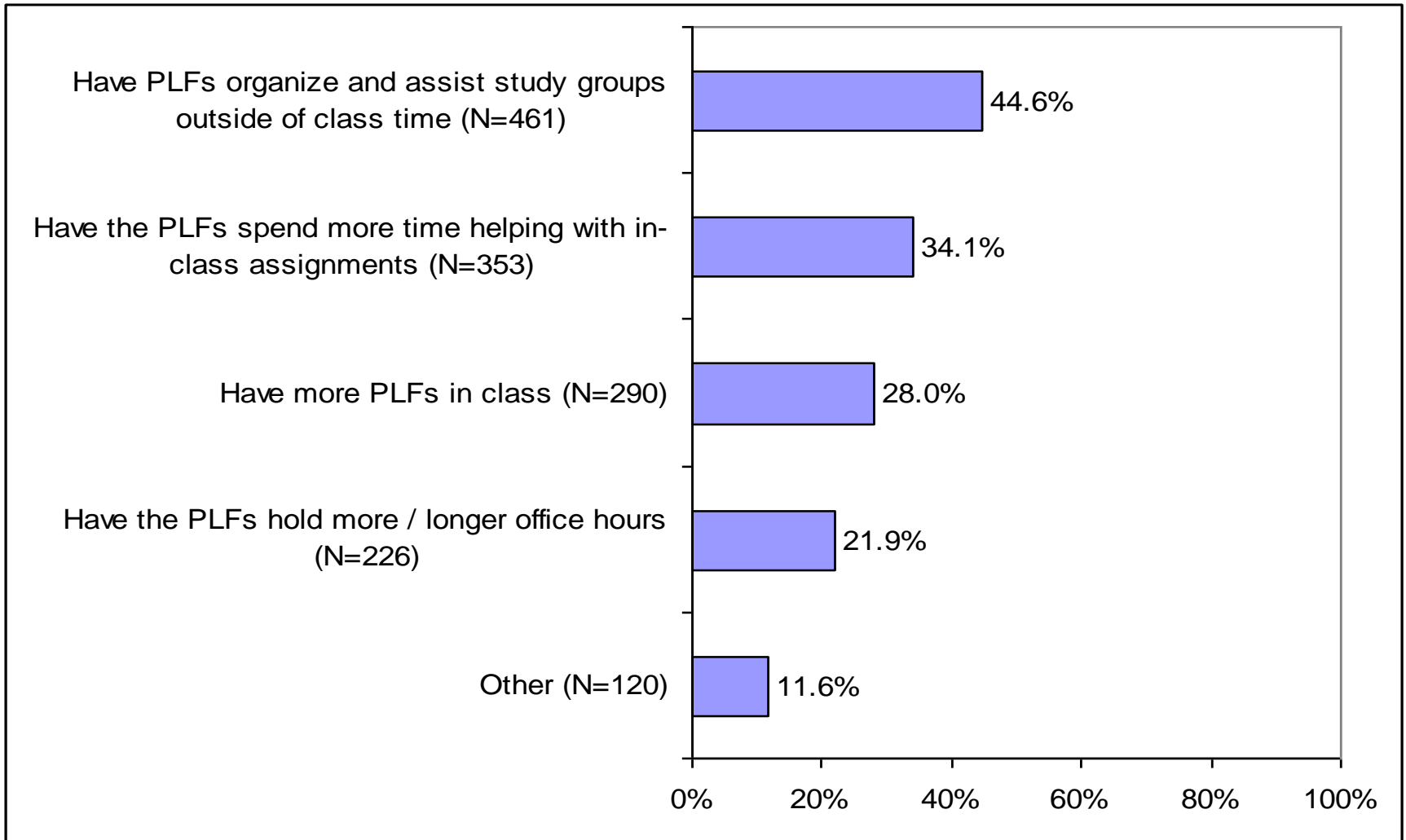
Students who reported that they learn much more when working with other students were significantly more likely to:

- 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?”

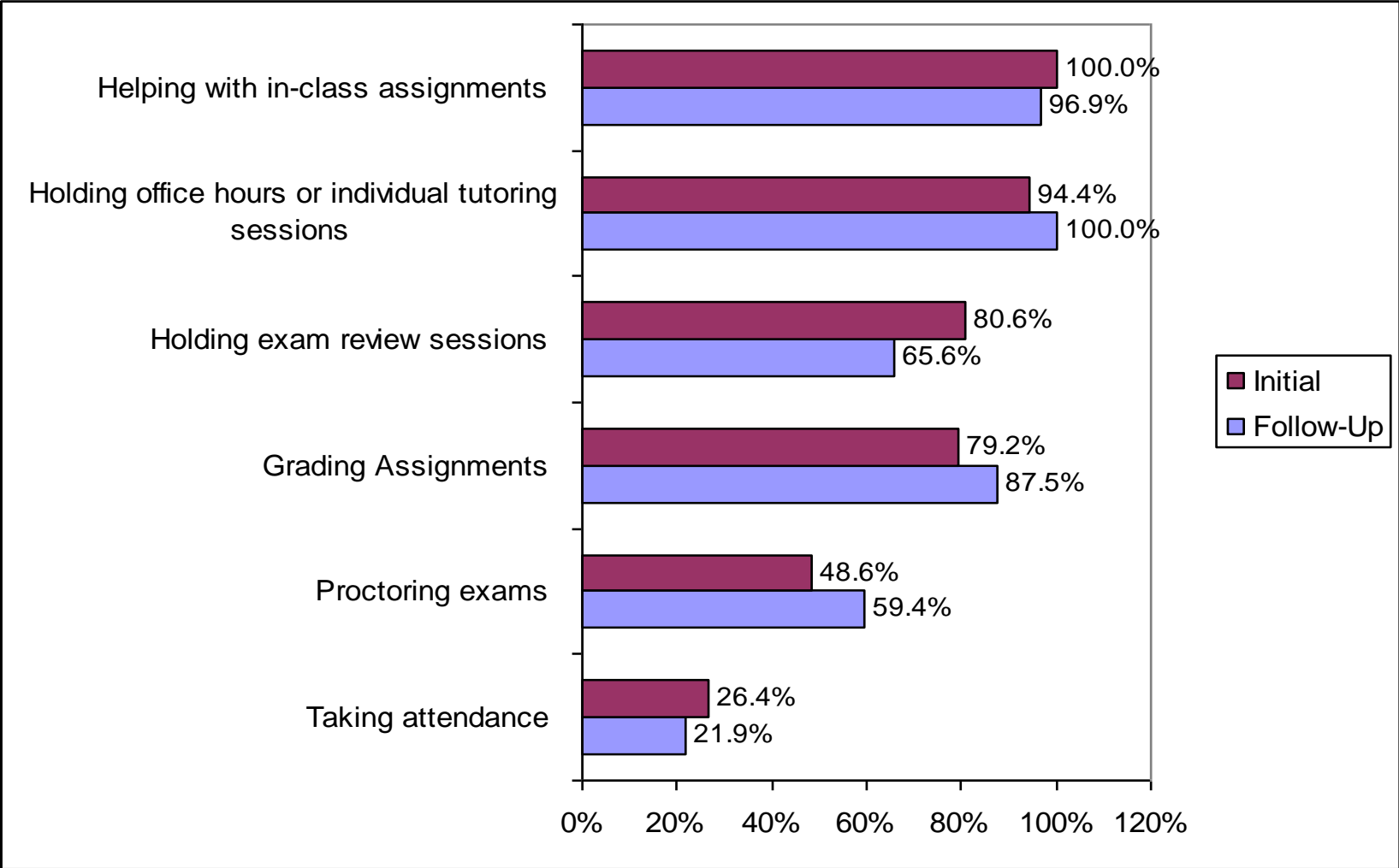
Some students reiterated their survey responses

- 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.

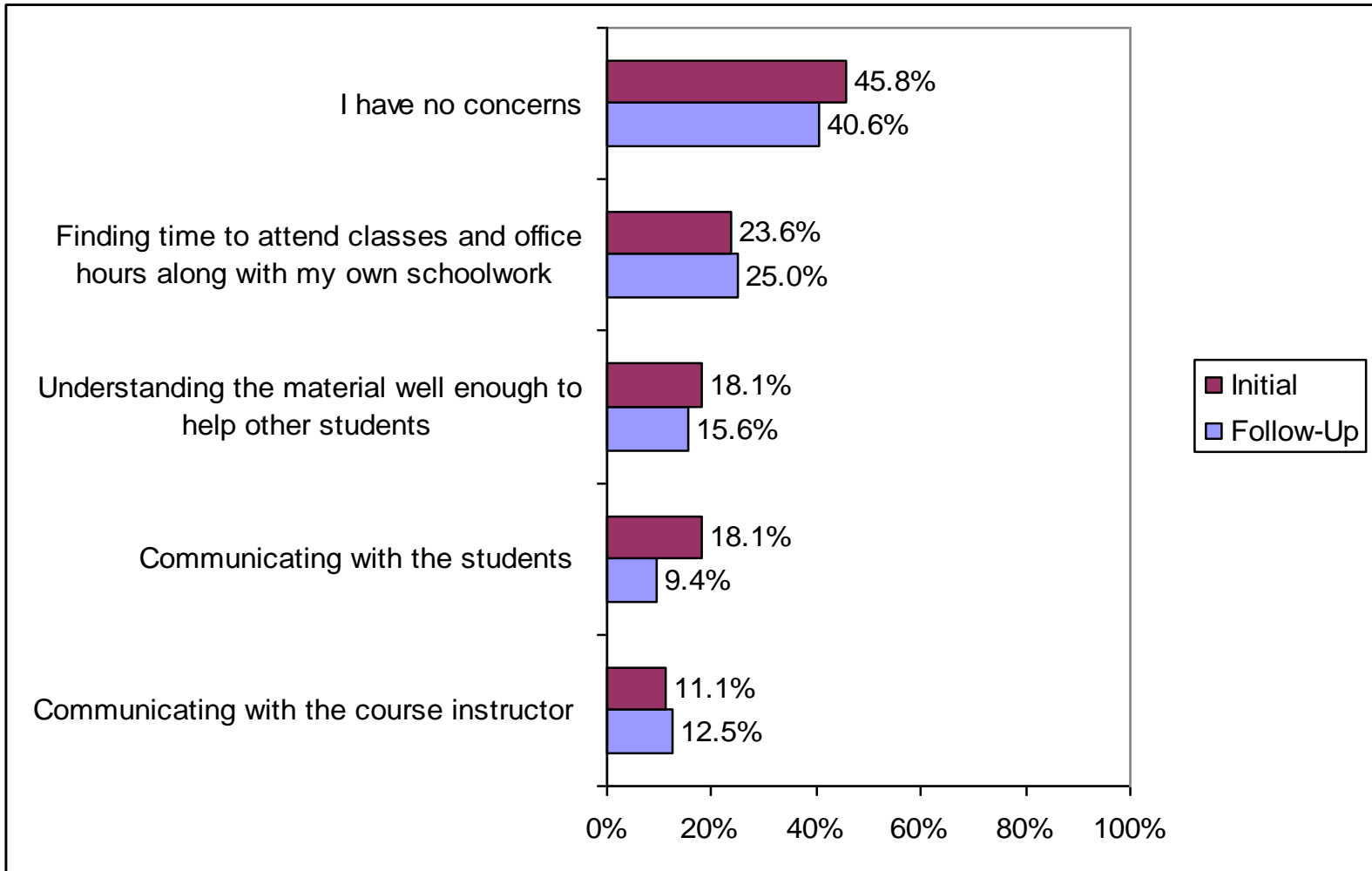
# There Were a Variety of Other Suggestions

- 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.

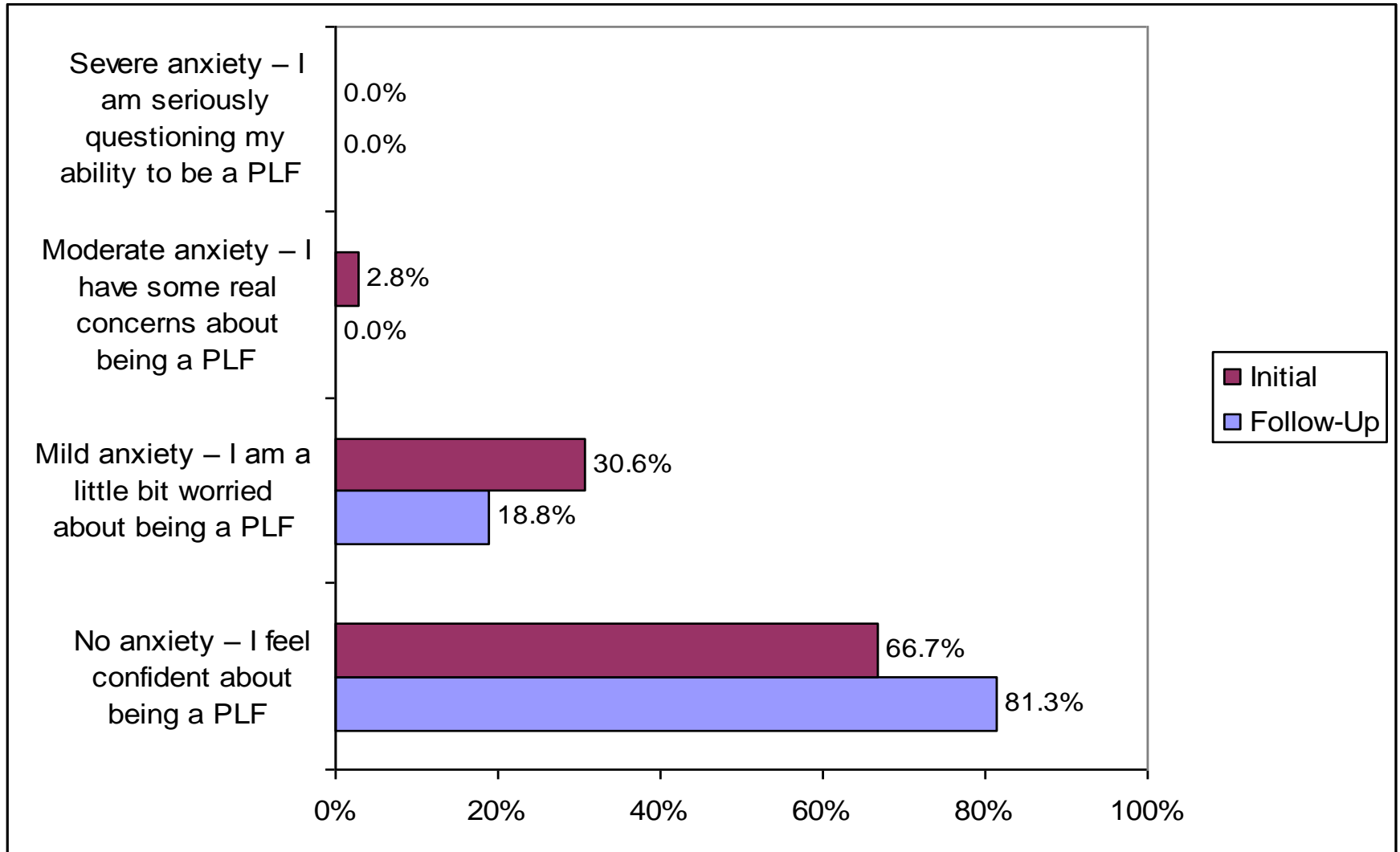
# How PLFs Are Utilized



# Concerns About Being a PLF



# Anxiety Regarding Role As PLF



Questions?