



**Schools of Education
Learning Collaborative**

**Alumni Perceptions of the College of
Education at William Paterson
University**
Executive Summary

January 2009

Part I – Background

Part II – Perceptions of Teacher Preparation

Part III – Perceptions of William Paterson University

Part IV – Employment Status

Part V – Questions

Eduventures recently completed this research on behalf of a member of the Schools of Education Learning Collaborative

This research sought to identify alumni perceptions about the effectiveness of William Paterson's initial licensure programs

- This research was undertaken in the context of a Custom Research Report
- These are small-scale research investigations that address specific questions of interest to members

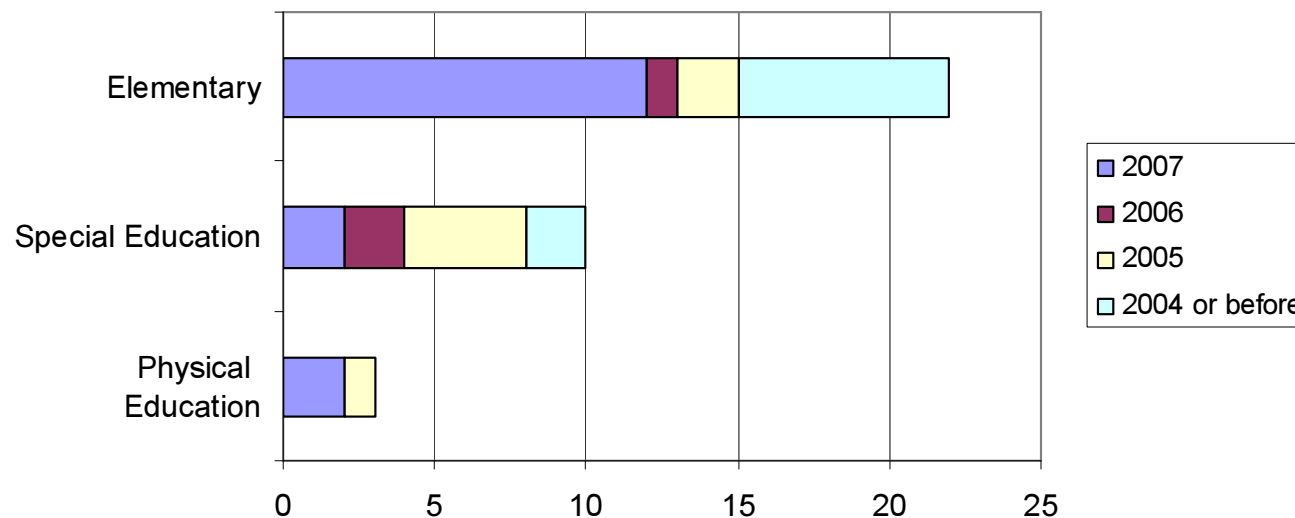
Goals

1. Identify recent alumni perceptions related to satisfaction with the preparation they received to enter the field
2. Identify recent alumni perceptions related to satisfaction with William Paterson University and the College of Education
3. Identify recent alumni employment status

An executive summary of this research follows

There are several common characteristics of responding alumni:

- The average respondent is female (84.4%), White (82.2%), and in her early 30s ($M=32.2$)
- Nearly half of respondents (47.8%) graduated from William Paterson in 2007
- Graduates from an Elementary certification field constituted the greatest proportion of respondents (47.8%), followed by Special Education (21.7%) and Physical Education (6.5%) (as seen below)
- The majority of respondents earned an undergraduate degree (82.2%) or post-baccalaureate certificate (15.6%)



Alumni self-selected to participate, and thus may be more inclined to offer extreme responses, either positive or negative.

Part I – Background

Part II – Perceptions of Teacher Preparation

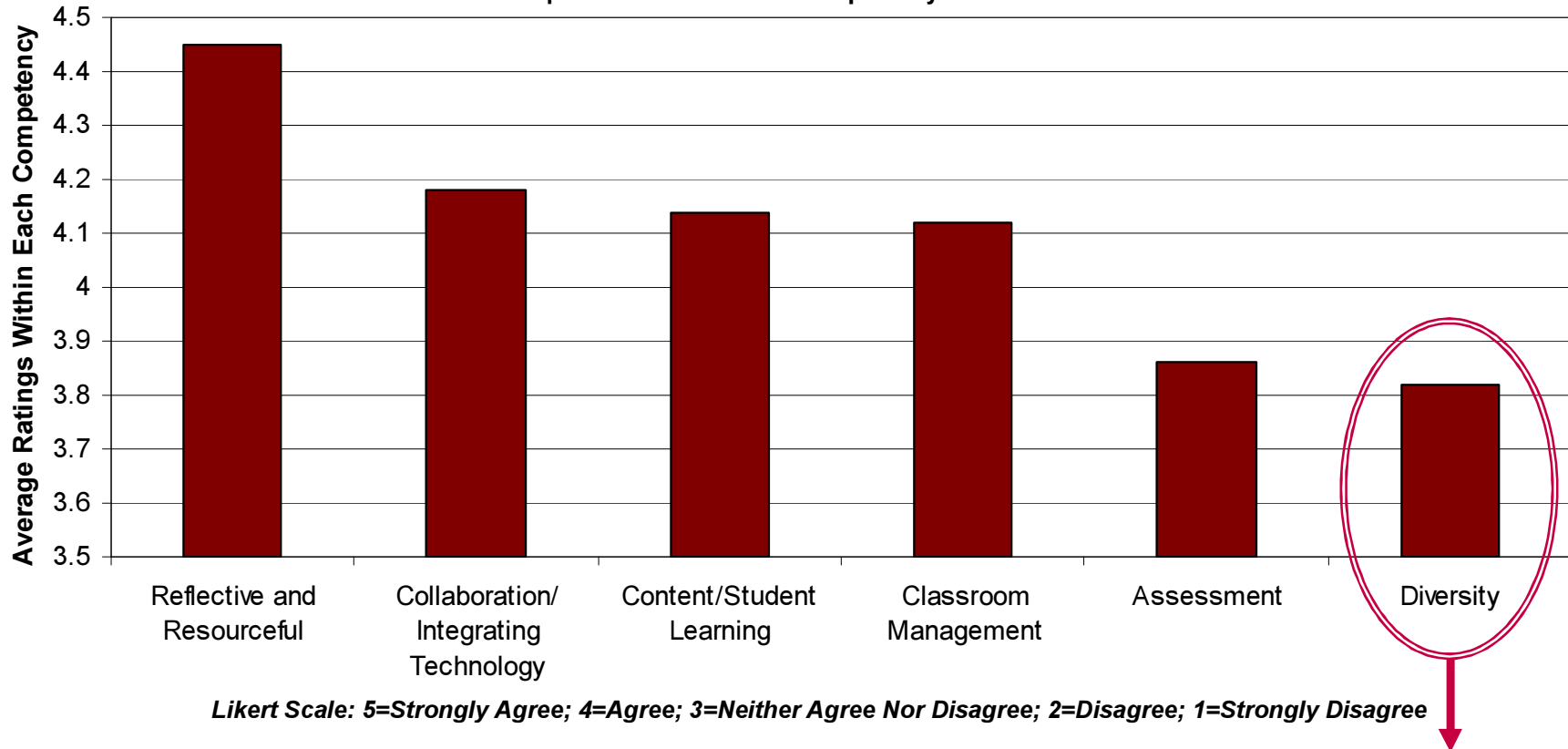
Part III – Perceptions of William Paterson University

Part IV – Employment Status

Part V – Questions

William Paterson alumni report that they felt prepared to teach across core areas of instruction

Alumni were asked to rate their level of preparedness across several key teaching competencies. The average ratings of questions within each competency are offered below.



Working with diverse learners – particularly English Language Learners – is an area where further support or inquiry, especially in the elementary education program, may be necessary.

Part I – Background

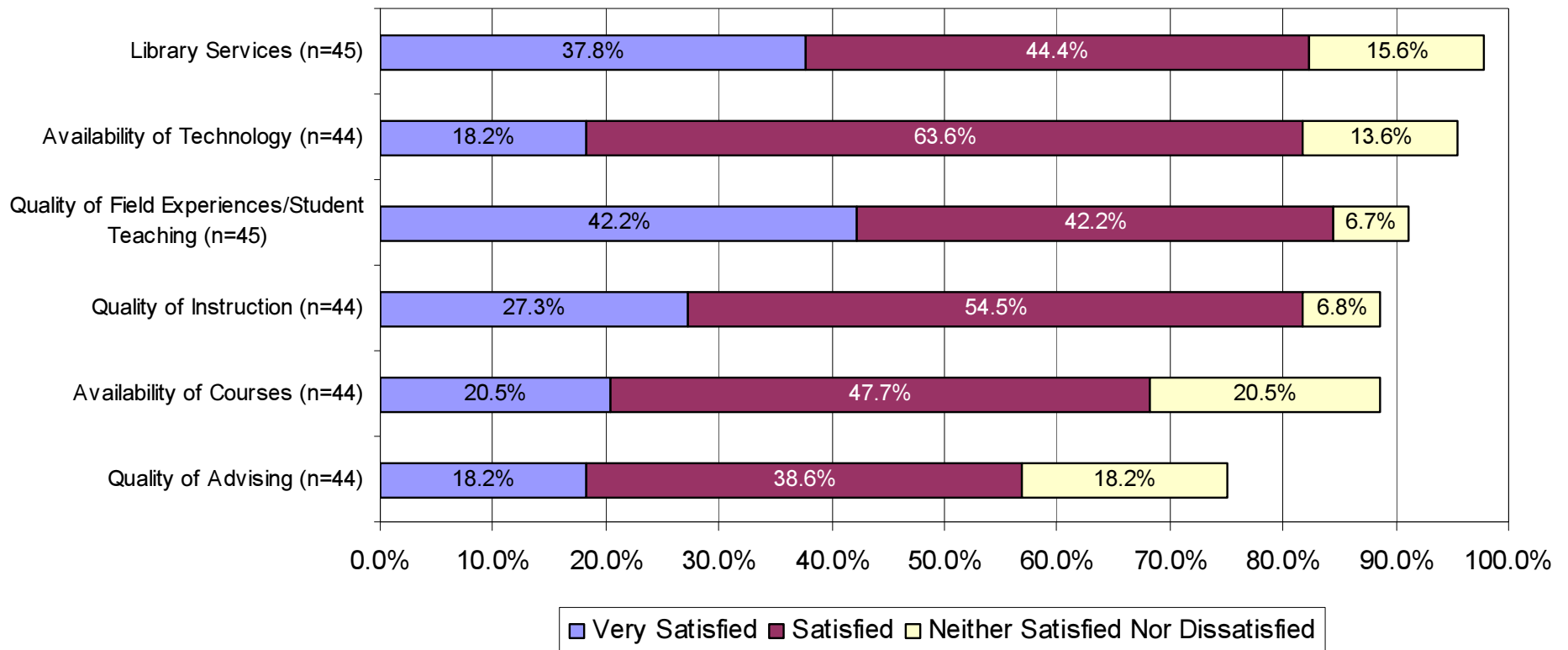
Part II – Perceptions of Teacher Preparation

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The majority of alumni are *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with WPU's services; however, advising is an area in which improvement may be needed



Alumni who are either *dissatisfied* or *very dissatisfied* with the quality of advising do not vary greatly by program area:

-Elementary Education (23.8%)

-Special Education (30.0%)

-All Other Graduates (23.1%)

Part I – Background

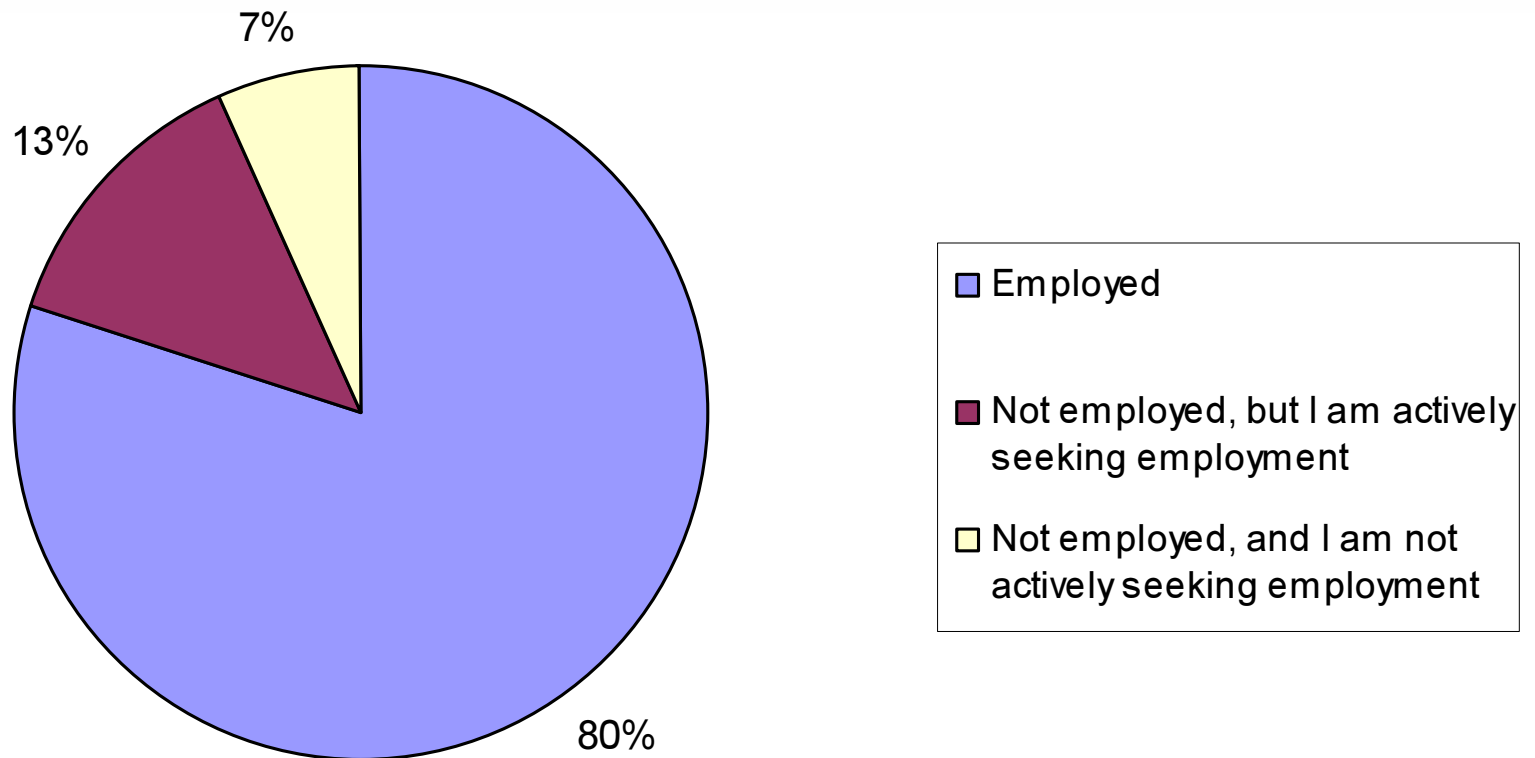
Part II – Perceptions of Teacher Preparation

Part III – Perceptions of William Paterson University

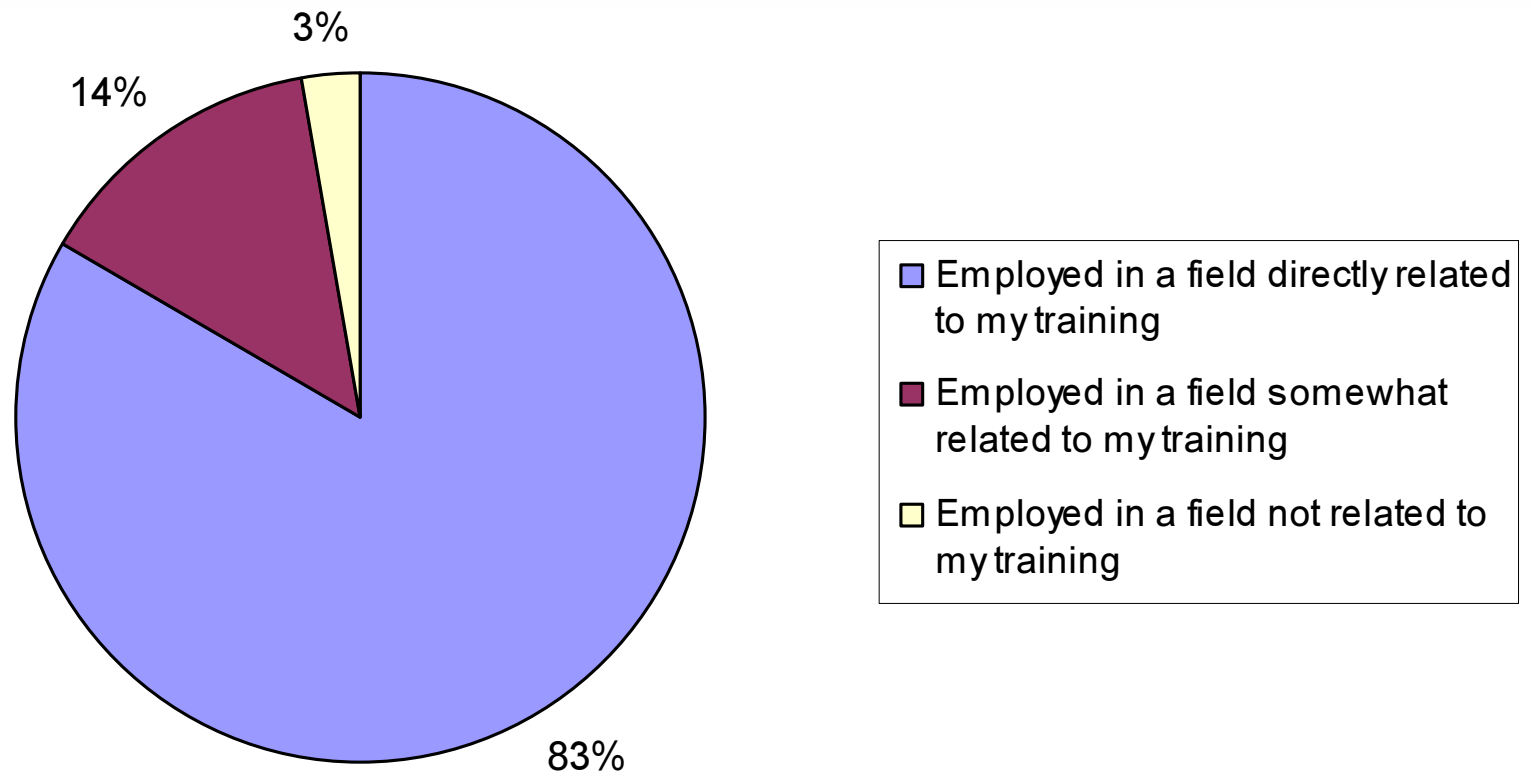
Part IV – Employment Status

Part V – Questions

The vast majority of responding alumni are either employed or not seeking employment (87%), with only 13% actively seeking a job



For those alumni that are employed, nearly all are in a position either directly related (83%) or somewhat related (14%) to their training



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For questions about this research, please feel free to contact:

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