

Data Study: Who applied for 2023-2024 CALS Scholarships?

Created by Camille Andersen, CALS Director of Student Initiative Analysis and Scholarship Administration – 6-14-2023

About CALS scholarships: Between January 1 and April 1, 2023, students applied to be considered for 2023-2024 (Fall 2023 and Spring 2023) CALS scholarships. Students submit one application to get their foot in the door for all CALS scholarships, and then they are matched to each scholarship based on each scholarship's criteria.

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CALS Scholarships Quick Stats

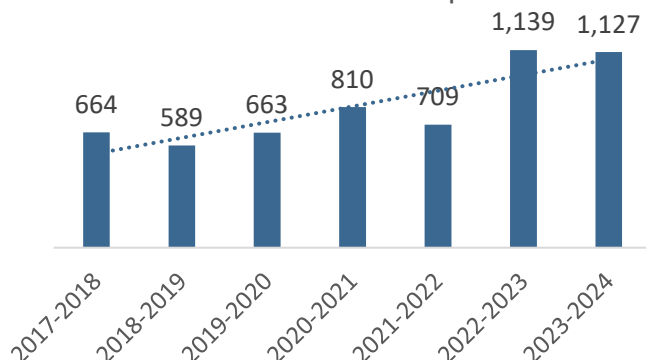
1,127 students applied for 2023-2024 CALS scholarships. This is **29%** of our CALS student body.

CALS awards over **\$1.1 million** in scholarships every academic year.

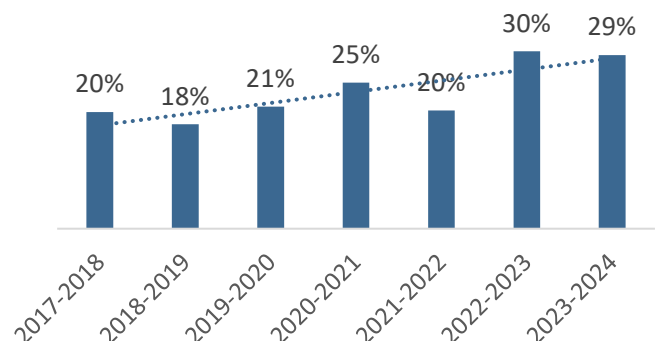
98% of available CALS scholarship funds were awarded last year. Average across the university: 77%.

Over **90** CALS staff, faculty and administrators from across CALS participate in the applicant review and winner selection process.

Our outreach efforts pay off:
More students are applying
for CALS scholarships.



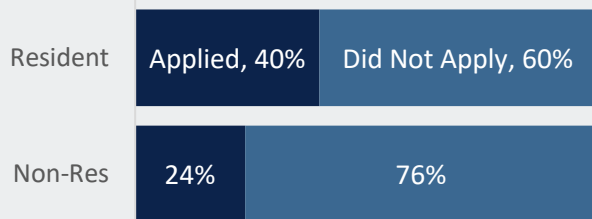
Also increasing: Scholarship
applicants as a % of the
CALS student body.



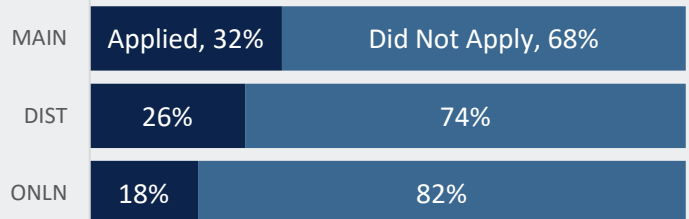
Who made up our applicant pool? A look at demographics.ⁱ

Scholarship applicants as a proportion of the entire CALS student bodyⁱⁱ:

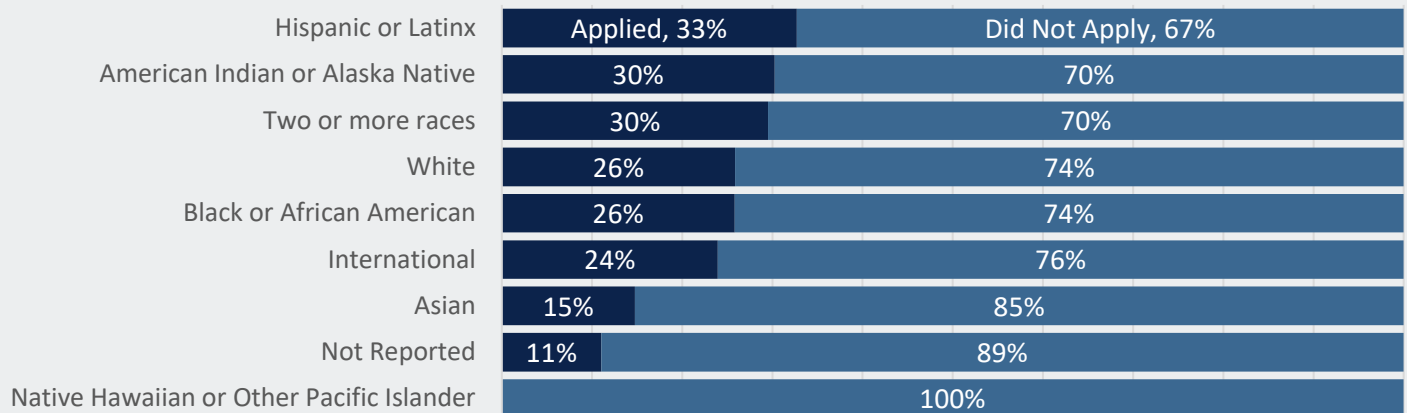
More AZ resident students applied than NR.



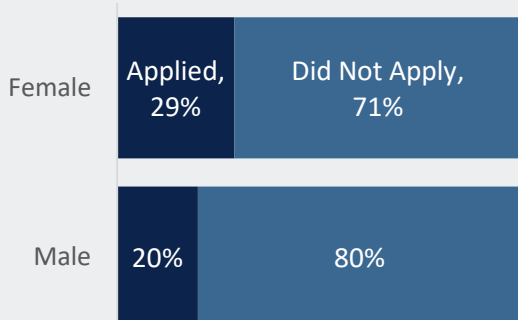
More MAIN campus students applied than DIST or ONLN.



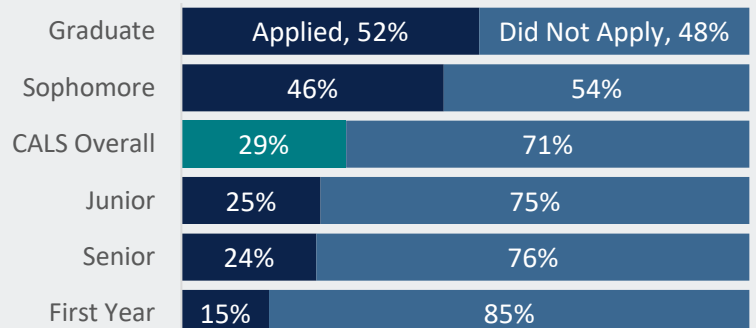
More Hispanic or Latinx, two or more races and American Indian or Alaska Native students applied than other races or ethnicities.



More female students applied than male.



More sophomores and grad students applied than other academic levels.

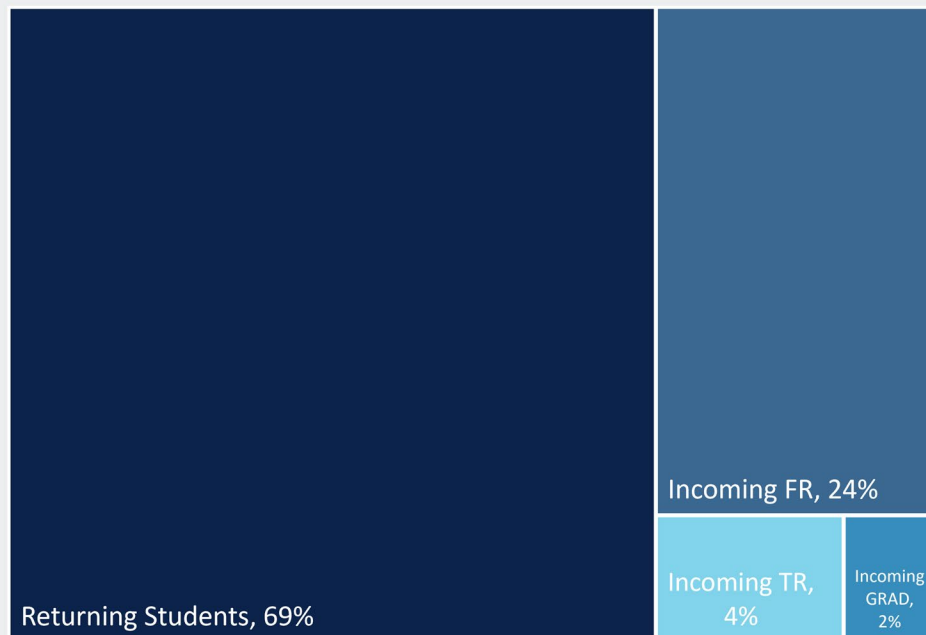


Continued – Who made up our applicant pool?

Almost a third of our scholarship applicants were incoming (new) students.

Kudos:

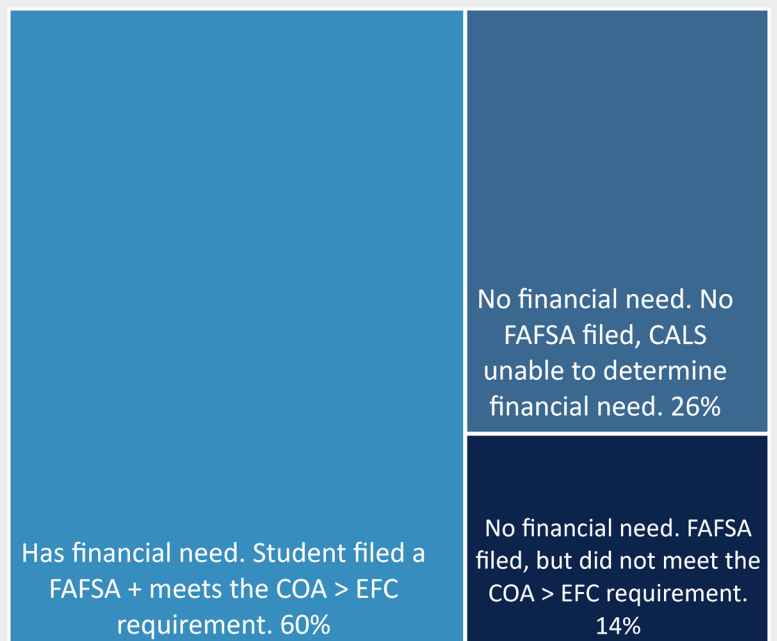
The number of incoming First-Year applicants (24%) is a HUGE increase from previous years. Thank you, CALS Recruiting team, Marketing and Branding team and Agvisors plus for such tireless outreach to our incoming students!



Key Takeaway:

About 14% of our scholarships require financial need. Let's encourage our students to file a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if they are eligible to do so. A FAFSA on file helps us link the student up to as many CALS scholarships as possible. More info on the FAFSA is located [here](#).

Just shy of 2/3 of our students meet the "financial need" requirement for some of our scholarships.



Timeline and When Students Apply



Almost a quarter of our students apply within the final 24 hours before the deadline at 11:59pm on April 1.

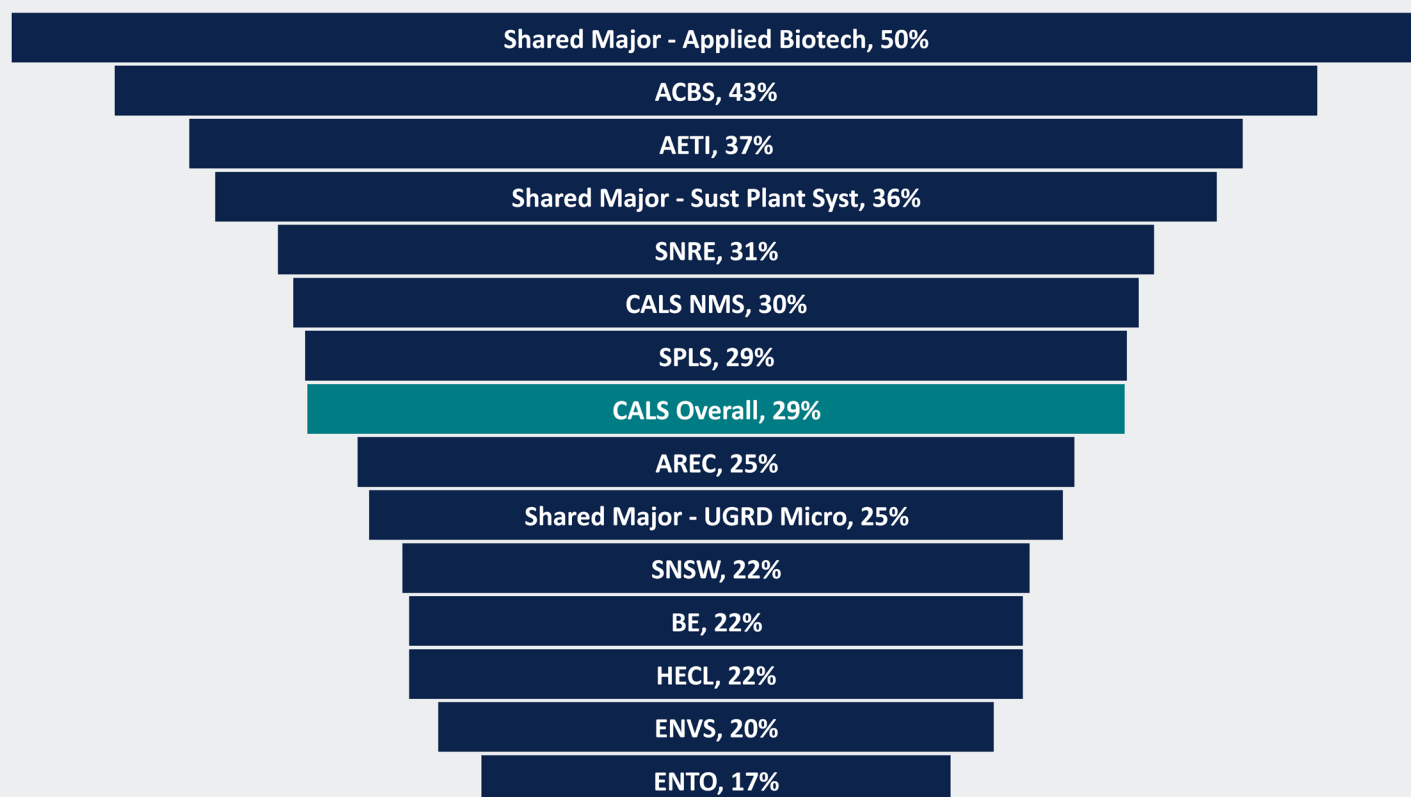


Which majors saw the most applicants for CALS scholarships?

Reminder: A student submits *one application* to be considered for all CALS scholarships.

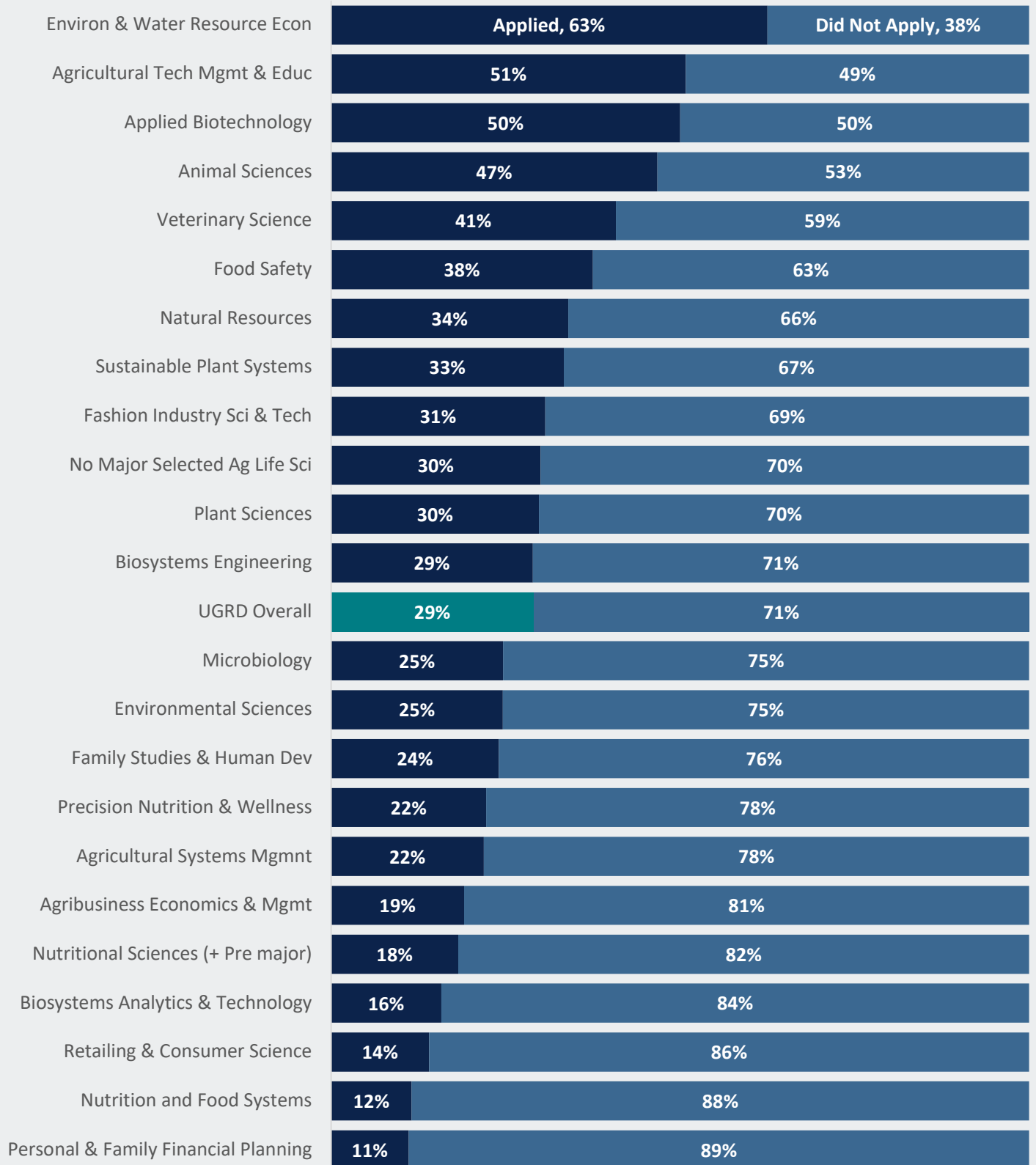
Data for Each Unit

Within each academic unit, what proportion of students applied for CALS scholarships?



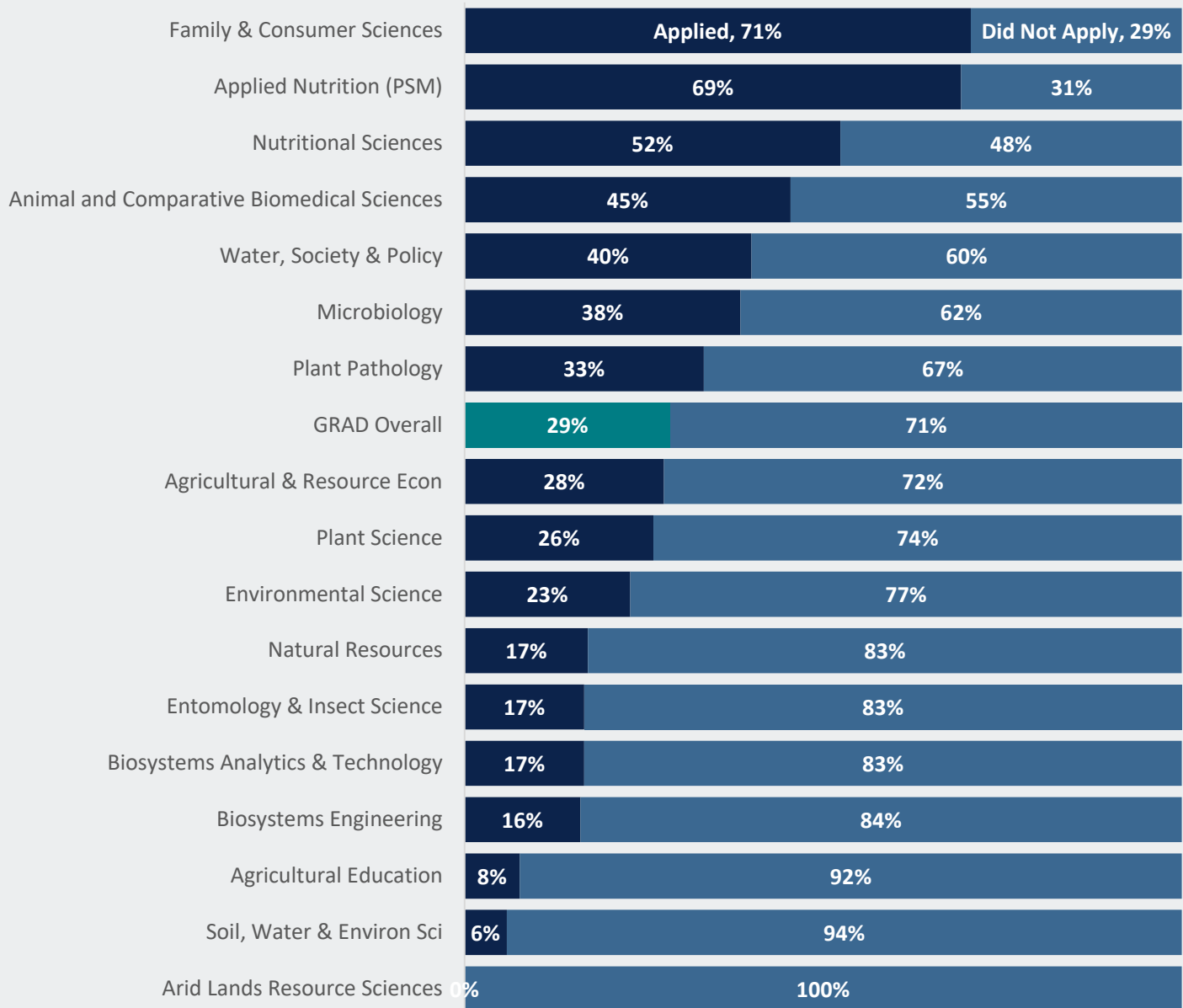
Focus: Undergraduate Majors

Within each major, what proportion of students applied for CALS scholarships?



Focus: Graduate Majors

Within each major, what proportion of students applied for CALS scholarships?



Current Outreach to students to encourage applications:

- Direct email from Camille Andersen to all active CALS students on Scholarship Universe
- “How to apply” quick info sent from Camille to Agvisors, CAS and main contact in each unit for forwarding on to students
- CALS website
- CALS student email bulletin
- CALS social media

Ideas welcome!

As you look through your unit’s major information above, let me know if you have any ideas on how we can increase our outreach efforts to your students. CAS can offer the macro-level outreach to all CALS students – How can I partner with you to help you further target your specific populations?
-Camille

Student Feedback on Our Application Process

After students submitted their CALS General Scholarship application, they were asked to Participate in an optional experience survey. The response rate was 22%. n=248

On average, students took **66 minutes** to write their **personal statement**.

63% used the "Writing Your Personal Statement" guide published by CAS.

On average, students took **98 minutes** to **complete the entire application process** (personal statement, resume, matching questions).

82% used the "How to Apply for CALS Scholarships" master guide published by CAS.

73% already had a **resume** ready to go for their application.

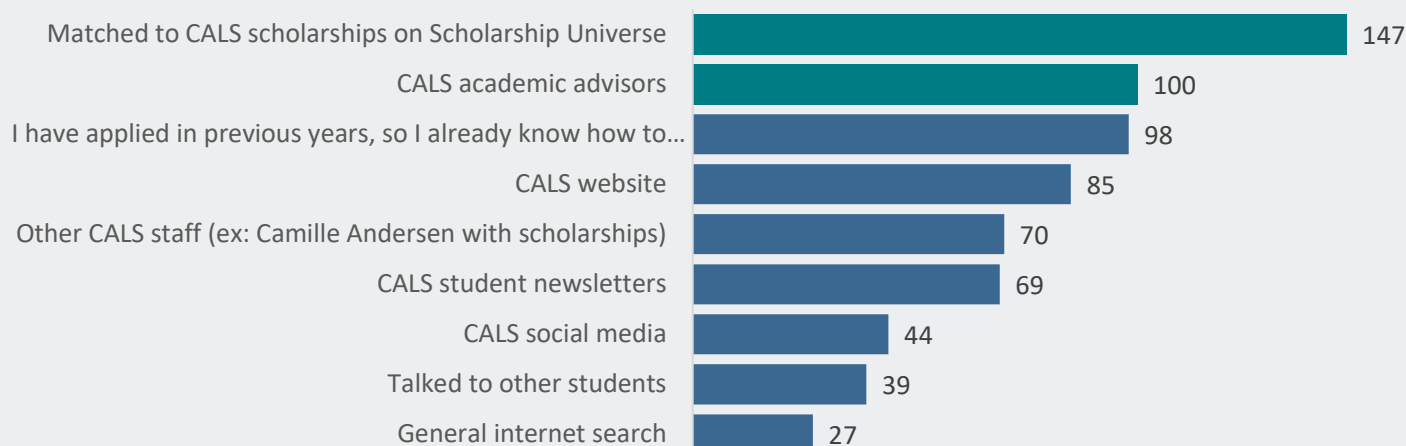
15% utilized our CALS Career Center to create a new resume or update their existing document.

64% said their application process felt **more efficient** this year than previous years. 31% were neutral.

Scholarship Universe and Agvisor outreach were the **biggest drivers in student applications**. See below for more info.

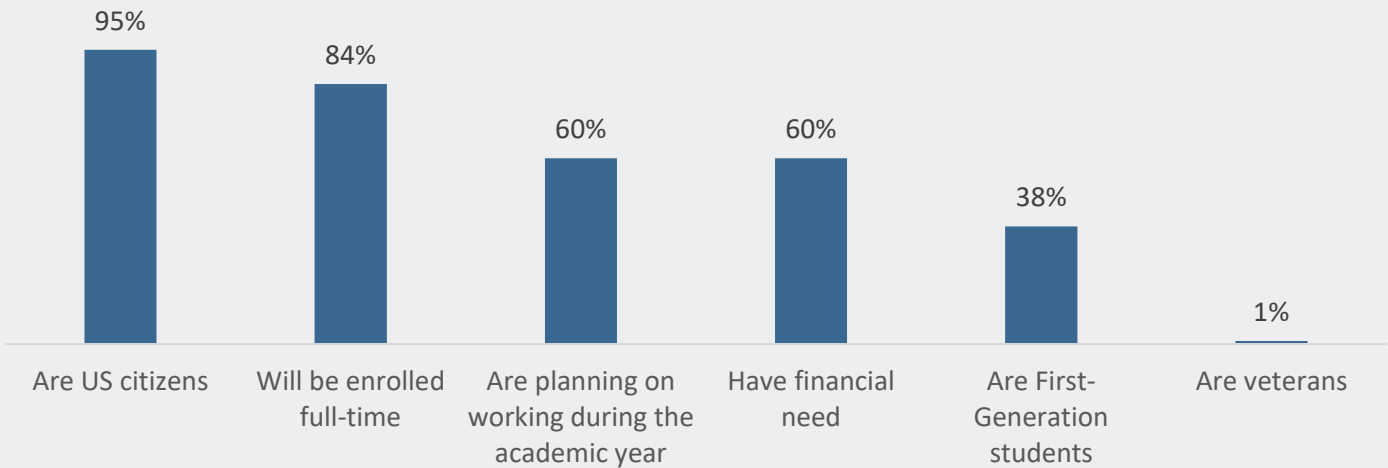
"What information sources helped prompt you to apply for CALS scholarships? Select all that apply."

Count of how many students selected each answer.



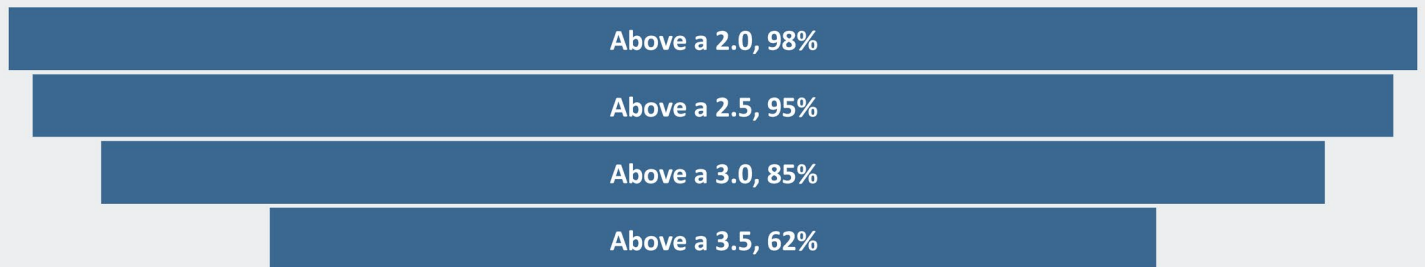
Development food for thought: When future scholarships are being created, are the specs so detailed that it limits our applicant pool?

What proportion of our applicants met these common scholarship criteria?

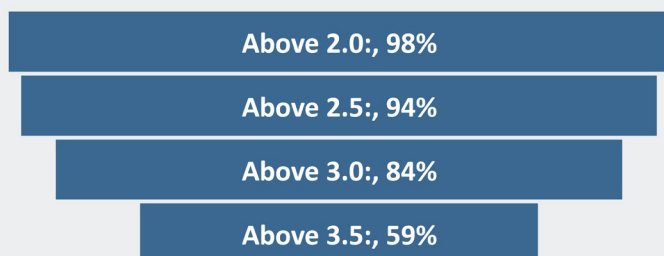


What proportion of our applicants would meet these common GPA minium thresholds?

Example: 98% of our students would meet a 2.0 GPA requirement. 95% would meet a 2.5 requirement.



Drilled down to only undergrads:
What proportion of our applicants would meet these common GPA minium thresholds?



Drilled down to only grad students:
What proportion of our applicants would meet these common GPA minium thresholds?



Come to this doc for the data, stay for the student impact.

CALS staff, faculty and administrators: Thank you. We are the white noise between our dual goals of upholding our generous donors' wishes and helping our students afford their education and jumpstart their careers. We meet both of these goals, every year, on time, and with a fair and even review process. Your time and support for this process is so valued, and I can't thank you enough. -Camille Andersen

But enough about us...how about some more notes from our scholarship winners?

As a **mom, a wife, a wildlife professional and public servant, and now a student again**, time is so important to me. Your generous financial assistance will **allow me to focus more on my studies** this coming year as well as help cover expenses, such as fees, associated with my education.

I am probably slightly older than a normal student, and **have young children and a full time job**. I have found myself putting in extra effort and long hours to meet my goals. I have always considered myself a fighter and someone who has a strong work ethic, so for me, after learning a little more of the namesake of this scholarship, I am even more grateful that I have been selected for it. **The fact that someone has the faith in me to select me for this type of award really helps motivated me more.**

I work as a **caregiver for the elderly**, so being free on multiple weekdays **allows me to form closer relationships with my clients** and give them the attention and care they deserve. This scholarship will cover all online course fees for the upcoming year, meaning I can take the classes I need at a time that works best for me, and **successfully work more hours to save money for my education.**

I will be the **first person in my family to graduate from college** and hold a 4-year degree. Not only is the scholarship money going towards my educational pursuits of becoming a Vet, but it is also helping me, on a more personal level, **prove to myself and to my family that dreams can become a reality through hard work, persistence, and passion.**

In the future, I hope to pursue a career in social work specifically in the field of childhood development and welfare. **I want to leave a mark on the world in any way I can**, and I believe that enabling children to grow and flourish in safe homes is a great way to do that. **Having a fair start to life is so important for anyone's success and giving that to children defines my own success in a way.**

My long-term **goal is to make fashion more accessible to people with disabilities**. A middle school afternoon mall excursion led to a fortuitous and pivotal moment when a young girl entered the adjacent fitting room. Like me, she was shopping for back-to-school clothes. But unlike me, she wore braces on her legs. I could hear her crying. None of the trendy jeans fit over her braces. I suddenly realized that the ability to express yourself through fashion is not equally accessible to all. As a Retailing and Consumer Science major at the University of Arizona, one of my many goals and aspirations is to **make the retail experience more inclusive.**

ⁱ Gender and Race/Ethnicity data: Aggregated data for comparison only. Arizona's 2010 Proposition 107 amendment the state [constitution](#) ([Article 2](#), [Section 36](#)) restricts UA Arizona from making race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin a requirement for a scholarship. Specifically: "Section 36. A. This state shall not grant preferential treatment to or discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education or public contracting."

ⁱⁱ CALS major headcount data is from Fall 2022.