

Impact of Psychiatry Medical Student Scholars Program (MSSP) on Students

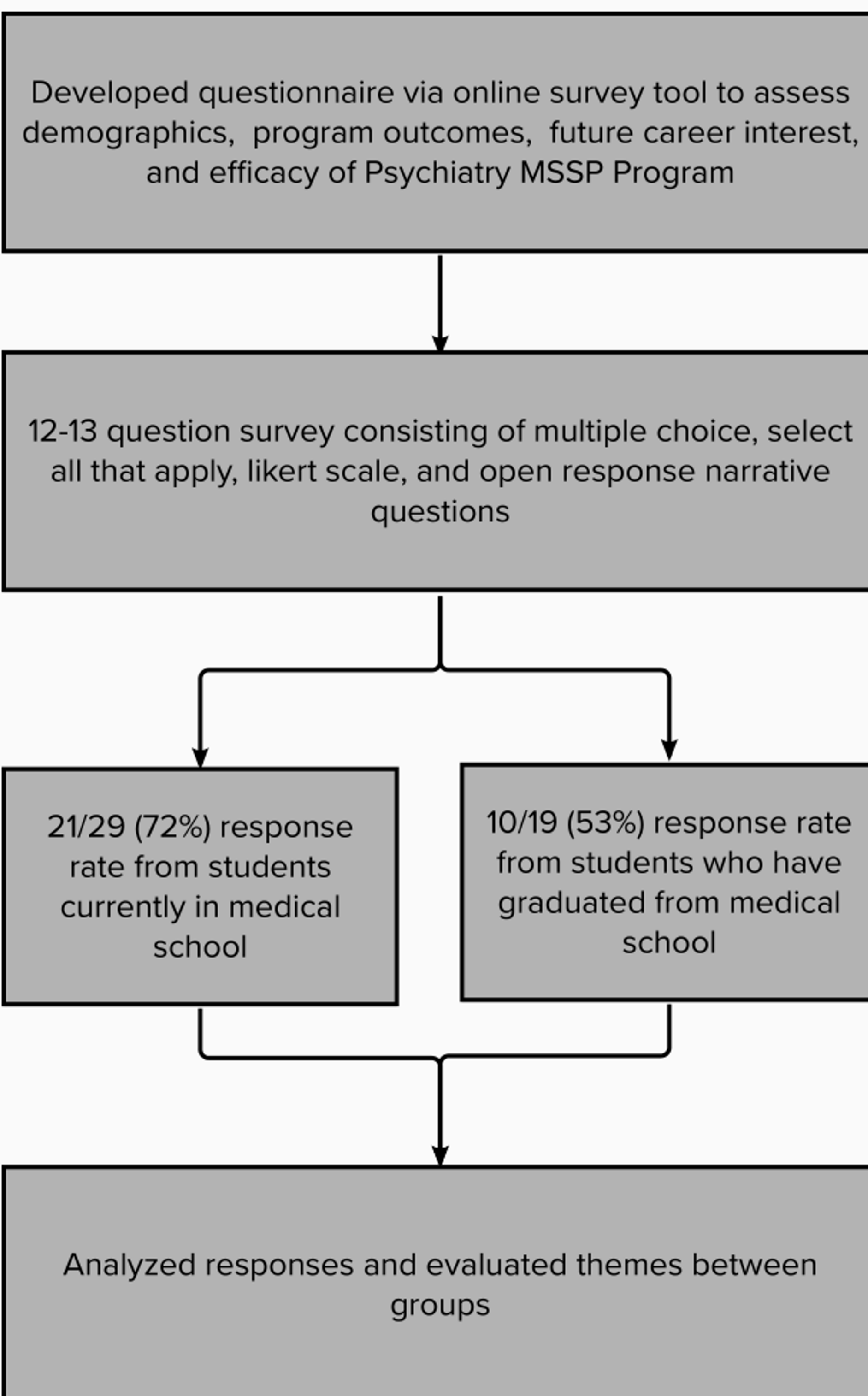
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Introduction

- Physicians are key players in the field of medical research. Given the increasing emphasis placed on evidence-based medicine, recruiting medical students to do research in their field of study early on in their careers can contribute to both increased research literacy and increased interest in future research.
- The goal of Psychiatry MSSP is to increase student interest in psychiatry and psychiatric research. This program offers first-year medical students an opportunity to explore psychiatry and behavioral neuroscience research with a mentor over four years, as well as a funded 5-week (\$2000) summer research experience.
- In this study, we describe the methods of the Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience Medical Student Scholars Program (MSSP) at University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and report the impact on students over the last decade.

Methods



Results

Variable	MSSP Current Medical Students N = 21		MSSP Alumni Respondents N = 10	
Gender				
Female	12	57%	3	30%
Male	7	33%	7	70%
Non-Binary	2	10%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
Year				
M2	6	29%		
M3	7	33%		
M4	8	38%		
Other	0	0%		
Years since graduating UCCOM?				
One			2	20%
Two			2	20%
Three			1	10%
Four			4	40%
Five			1	10%
Where do you work in medicine?				
Private Practice			0	0%
Hospital			1	10%
Federal Government			1	10%
Community Health			0	0%
Academic Institution			7	70%
Other			1	10%
Specialty?				
Psychiatry			7	70%
Emergency Medicine			1	10%
Anesthesiology			1	10%
Other			1	10%
How many research publications do you currently have?				
0	2	9.50%	0	0%
1-3	9	43%	4	40%
4-6	6	28.50%	2	20%
7-9	2	9.50%	1	10%
10+	2	9.50%	3	30%
Do you do research in your current position?				
Yes			4	40%
No			6	60%
Did you continue your research project with your mentor after the paid summer experience?				
Yes	15	71%	6	60%
No	6	29%	4	40%

Figure 1 Demographic information about current MSSP students and alumni MSSP students.

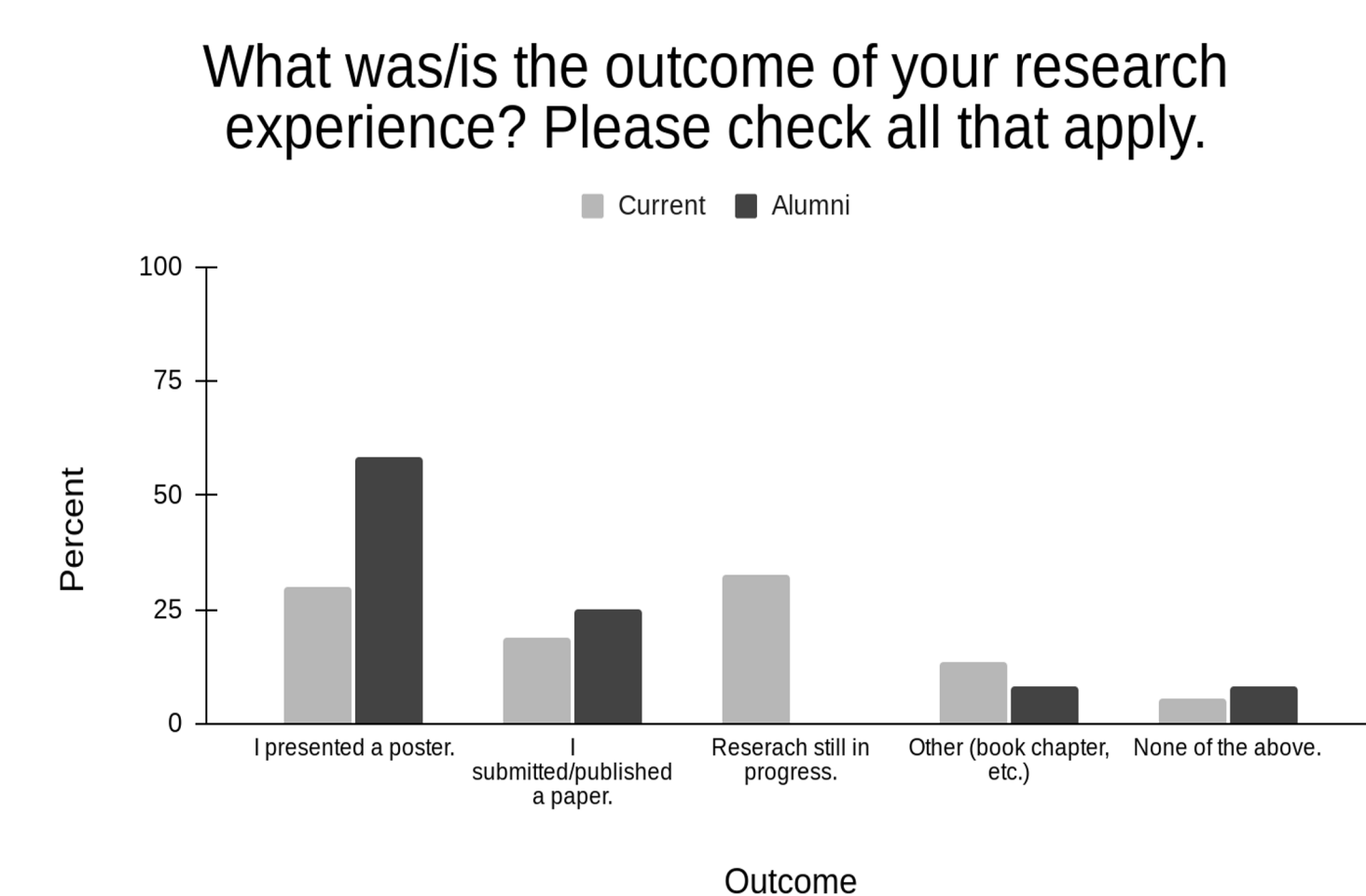


Figure 2 Comparison of research outcomes between Alumni and Current MSSP students. Majority of alumni presented a poster. The majority of current students still have research in progress.

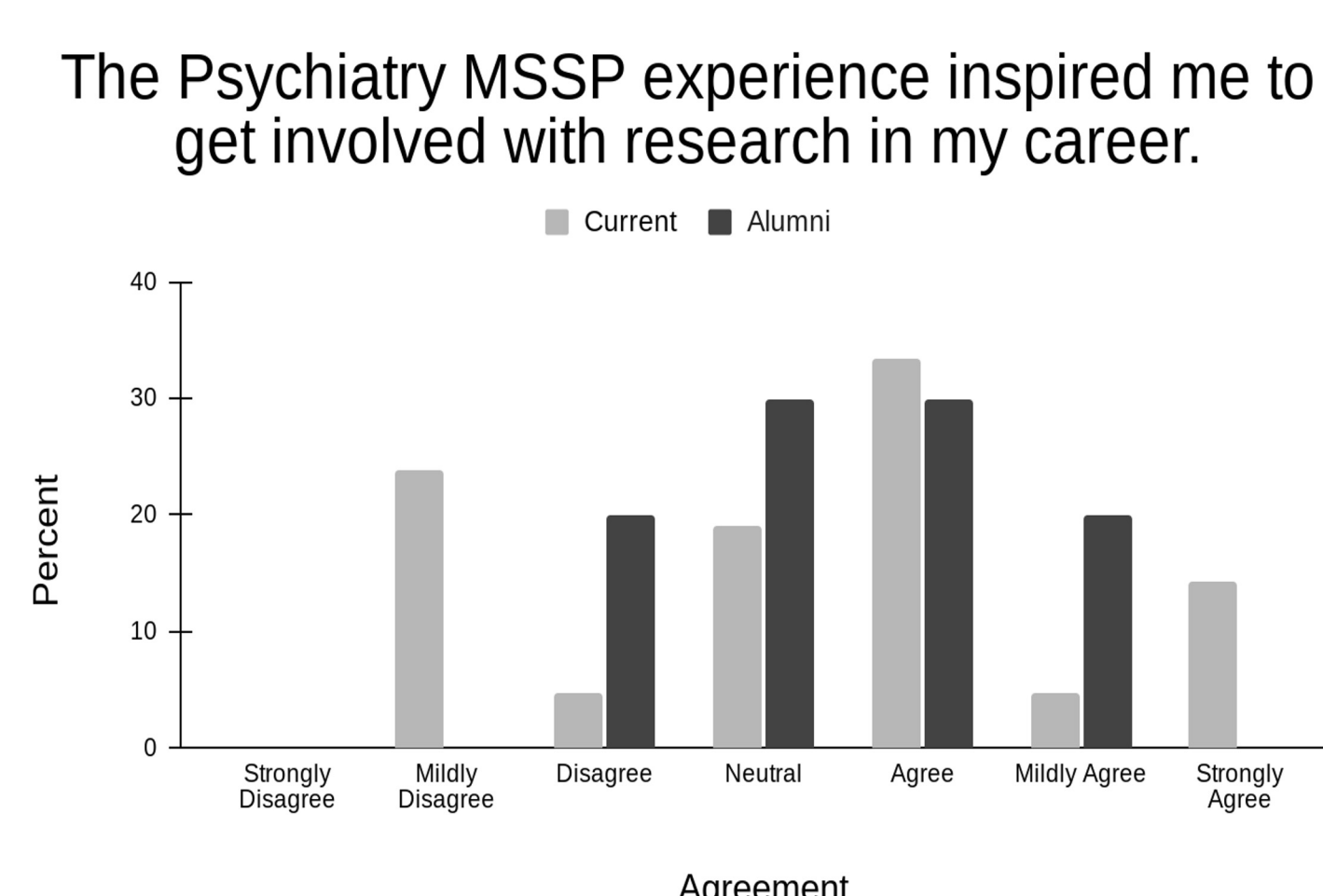


Figure 3 Comparison of MSSP influence on current student and alumni student involvement in research.

Why did you choose to do the Psychiatry MSSP? Please select all that apply.

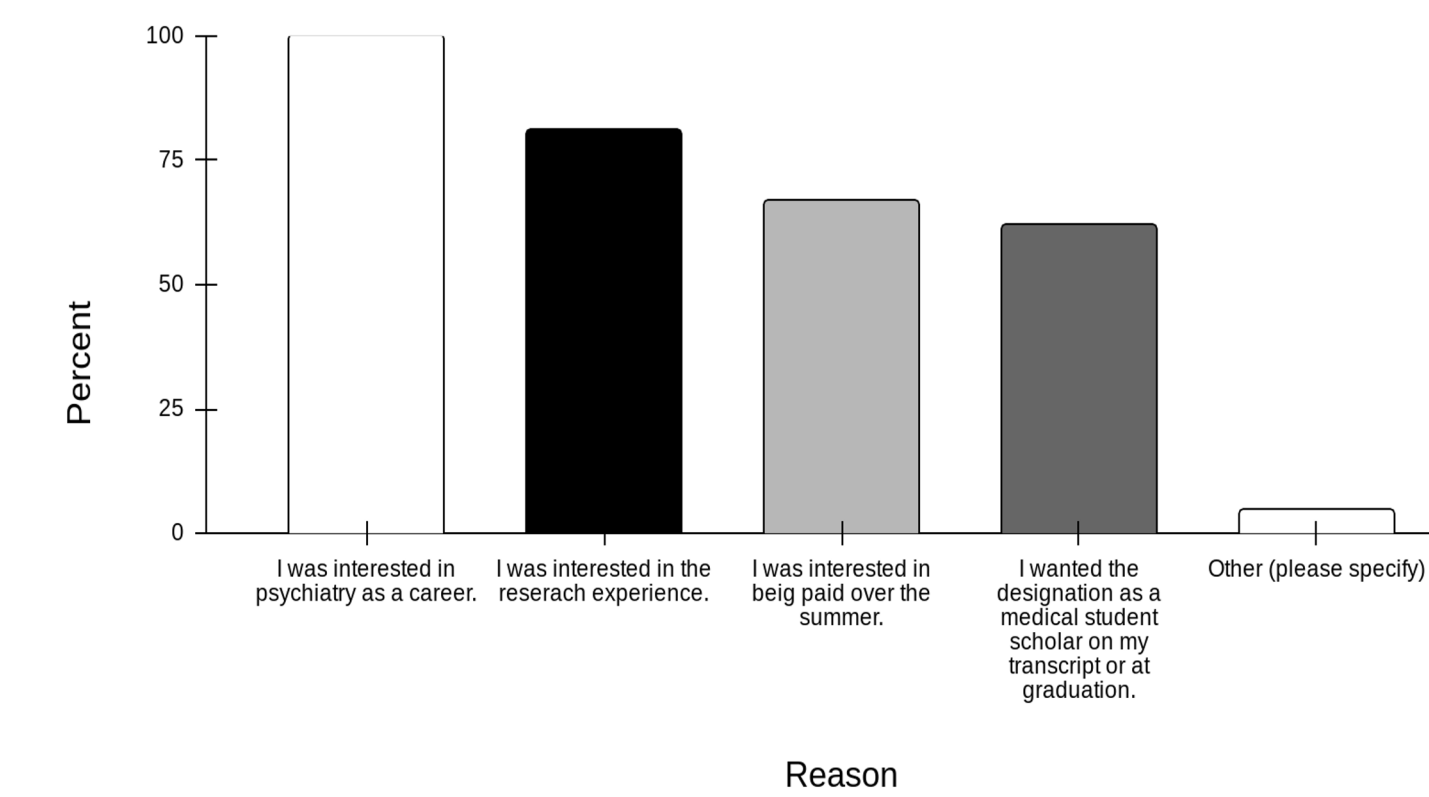


Figure 4 Current MSSP student reasoning for applying to the Psychiatry MSSP program.

The Psychiatry MSSP has made me more interested in psychiatry as a career.

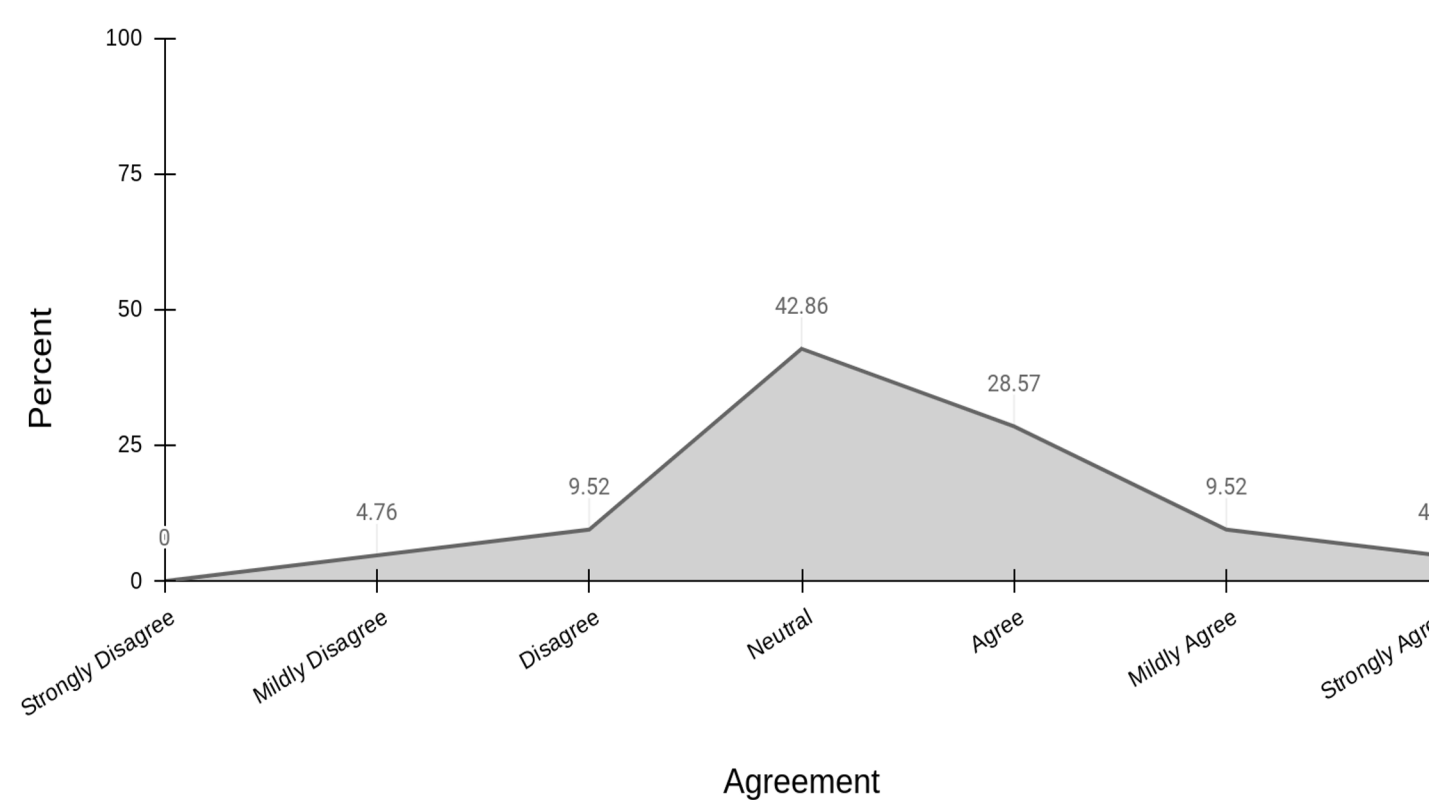


Figure 5 Current MSSP student responses. For the majority of students, it increased their interest in psychiatry.

I found the MSSP experience valuable in picking my specialty.

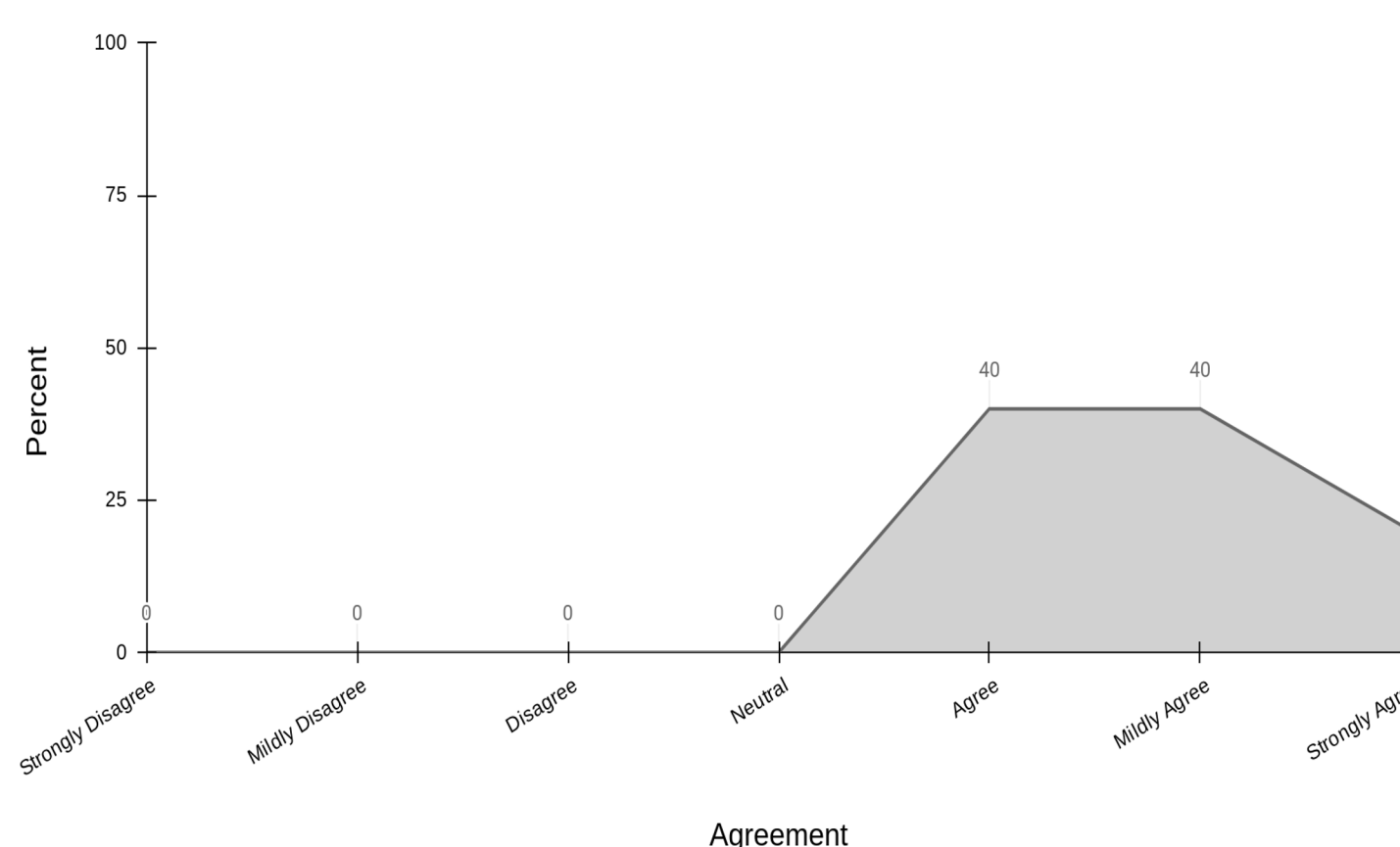


Figure 6 Alumni MSSP student responses. Majority of graduated students found the MSSP program helpful in picking their final specialty.

I found my Psychiatry MSSP experience valuable in making a decision on my future specialty.

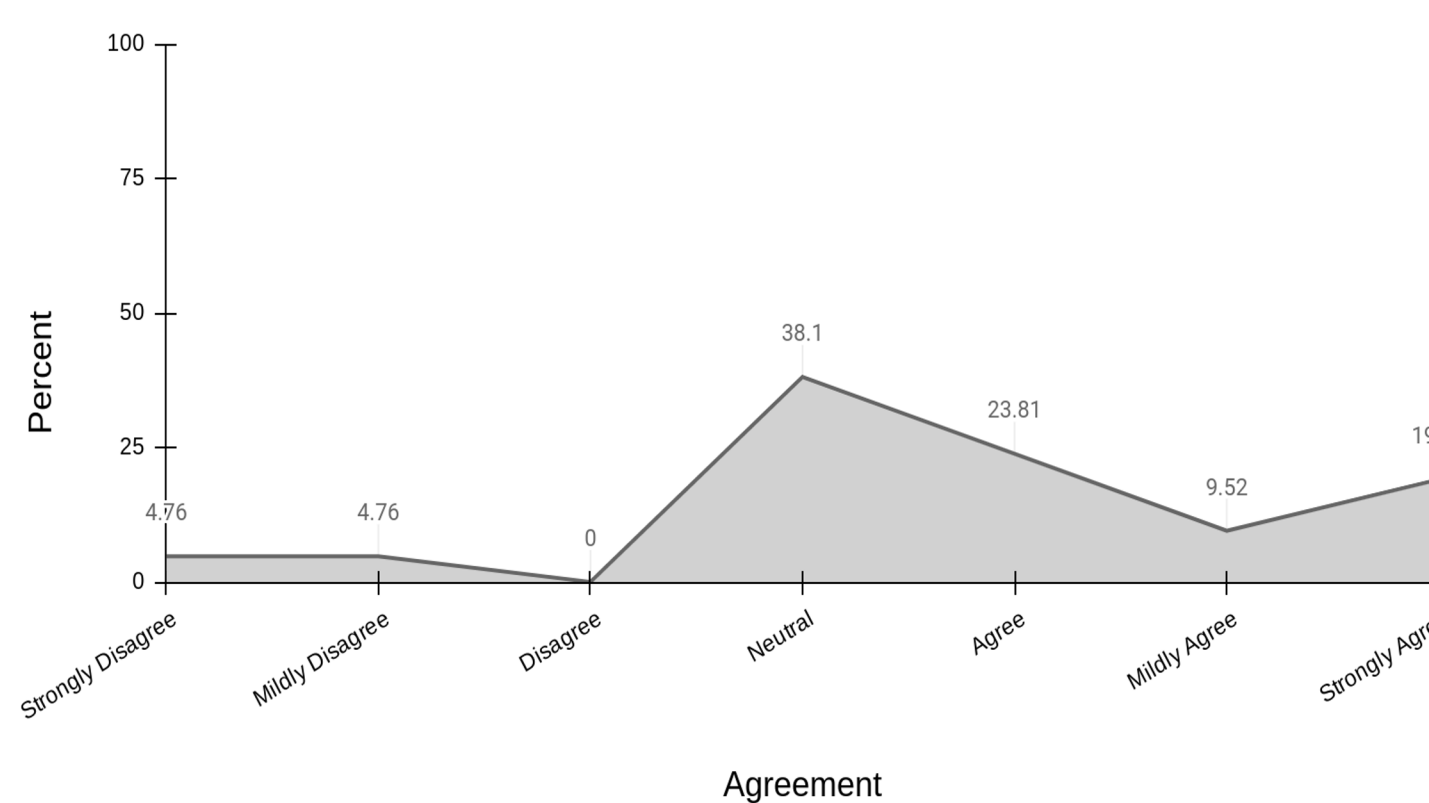


Figure 7 Current MSSP student responses. The majority of students found the experience valuable in deciding on their future specialty.

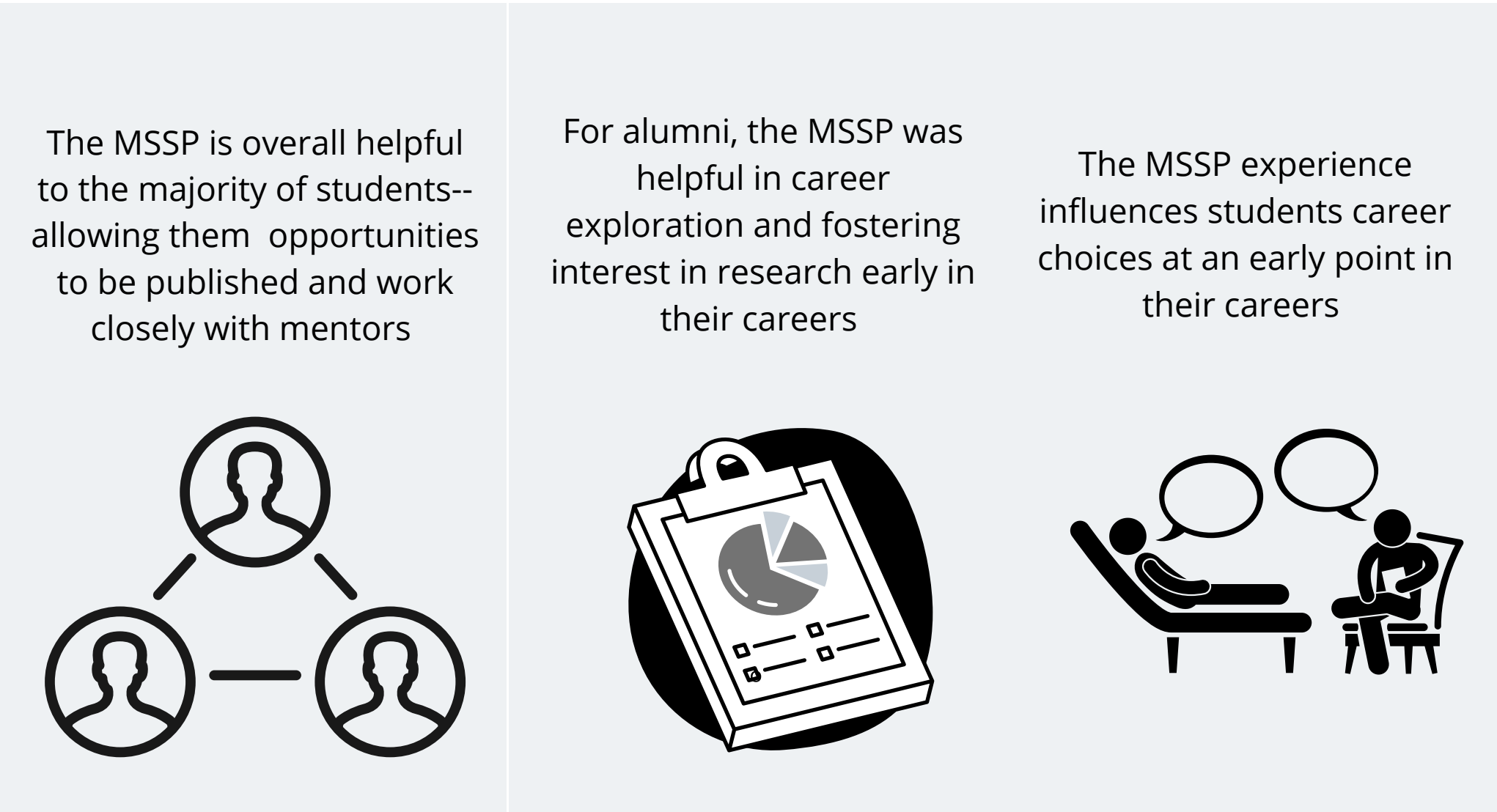
Strengths of MSSP

- MENTOR RELATIONSHIP**
"Getting to form a relationship with a strong mentor who has really gone above and beyond to help me in career development, exploration, and guidance."
- EARLY EXPOSURE TO PSYCHIATRY**
"Gaining early exposure to clinical psychiatry settings and access to faculty."
- EXPOSURE TO RESEARCH PROCESS**
"...Seeing a project get started—designing the project from the start and seeing how that all gets done, including writing IRB."
- LEARNING HOW TO GATHER AND ANALYZE DATA**
"Learning how to utilize resources (statisticians, tech support, etc.)"
- PUBLICATION AND PAYMENT**
"Ease of project placement and funding minimized stress."
- LONGITUDINAL MENTORSHIP**
"Strong, longitudinal mentorship was the most positive aspect."

Possible Improvements to MSSP

- INCREASED PROGRAM STRUCTURE**
"Creating a standardized mentorship model..."
- MORE CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY EXPOSURE**
"Exposure to shadow ECT, forensic psychiatry, etc that may not have occurred during the 3rd year psychiatry rotation."
- MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE INTERACTIONS**
"Connecting students across years...and some means of encouraging engagement on grand rounds/journal club"
- MORE CLEAR OBJECTIVES**
"Would have appreciated having a more structured set of goals/expectations for the summer work."
- BETTER COMMUNICATION**
"Check-in meetings to track progress and an exit debriefing to go over how the summer went."
- NO CHANGES**
"Great program"
"A wonderful learning experience for me"
"None it was fantastic"

Conclusions



The MSSP is overall helpful to the majority of students—allowing them opportunities to be published and work closely with mentors

For alumni, the MSSP was helpful in career exploration and fostering interest in research early in their careers

The MSSP experience influences students career choices at an early point in their careers

- The COVID-19 pandemic may have influenced the outcomes/experiences of current M2-M4 students
- Modifications were made during this time to continue to have MSSP students—i.e. having a completely virtual MSSP experience one summer—which may have contributed to some of the opportunities for improvement noted by current medical students

Acknowledgements

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