



**Appalachian Region
Alumni Outcomes
Survey 2000-2001**

Appalachian College Association (ACA)

The study focused on graduates from Appalachian colleges and universities and was designed to learn more about their educational, social, and economic impact on the region.

Berea College and 30 other institutions participated in a survey of graduates.

- 22 ACA colleges
- 5 public universities
- 3 other work/labor colleges

Berea College Surveyed 2200
graduates from the 70s, 80s, and 90s
(5, 15, and 25 years ago)

Return rate = 42%, 946 grads
(second highest response rate
among all institutions)



Major Areas on Survey

- Background/Demographic Information
- Employment History
- Undergraduate Educational Outcomes

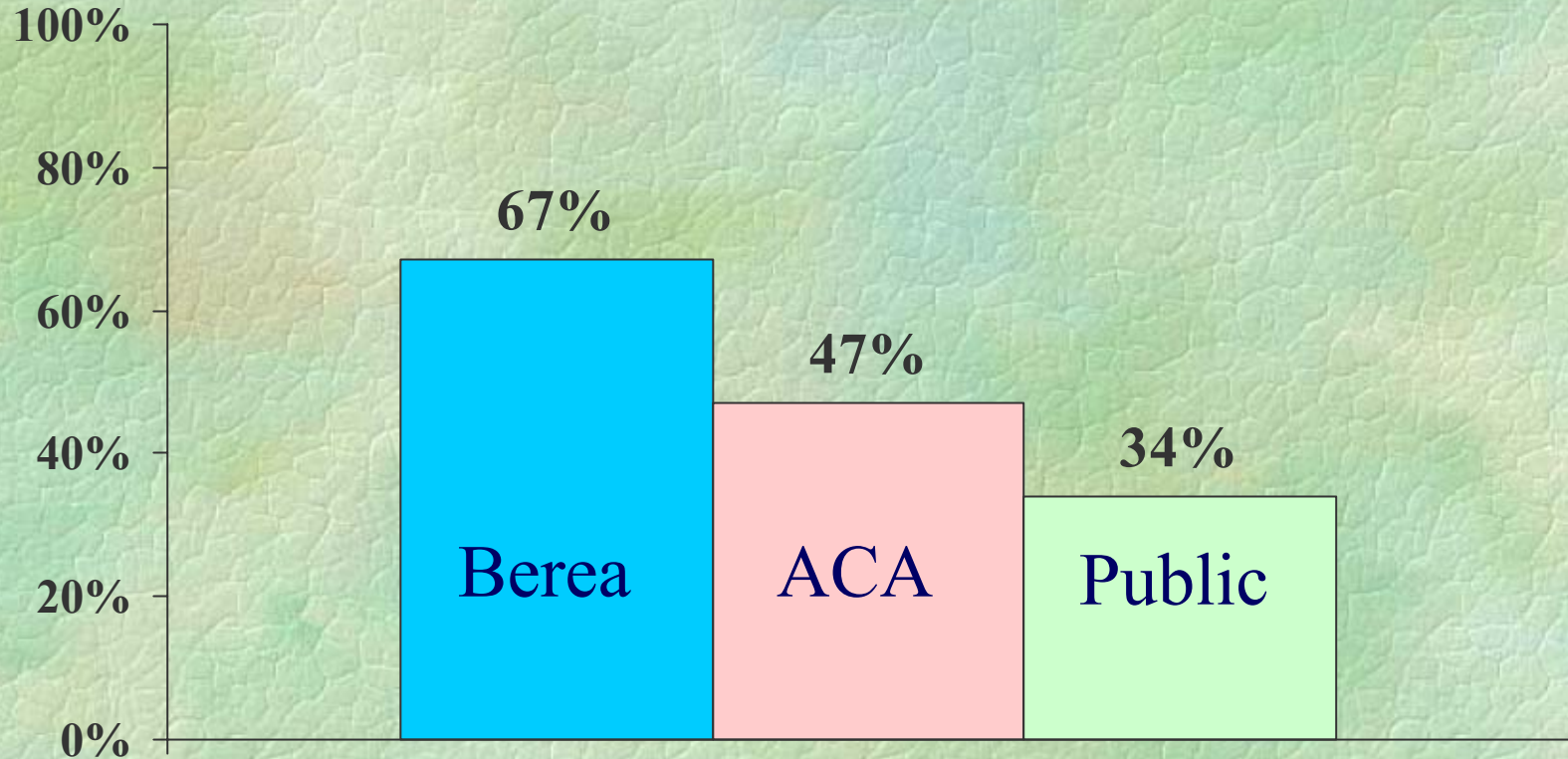
- Participation in Non-Work Activities
- Lifestyle Information
- Geographic Location and History
- Written Comments and Additional Questions
- Berea Specific Questions



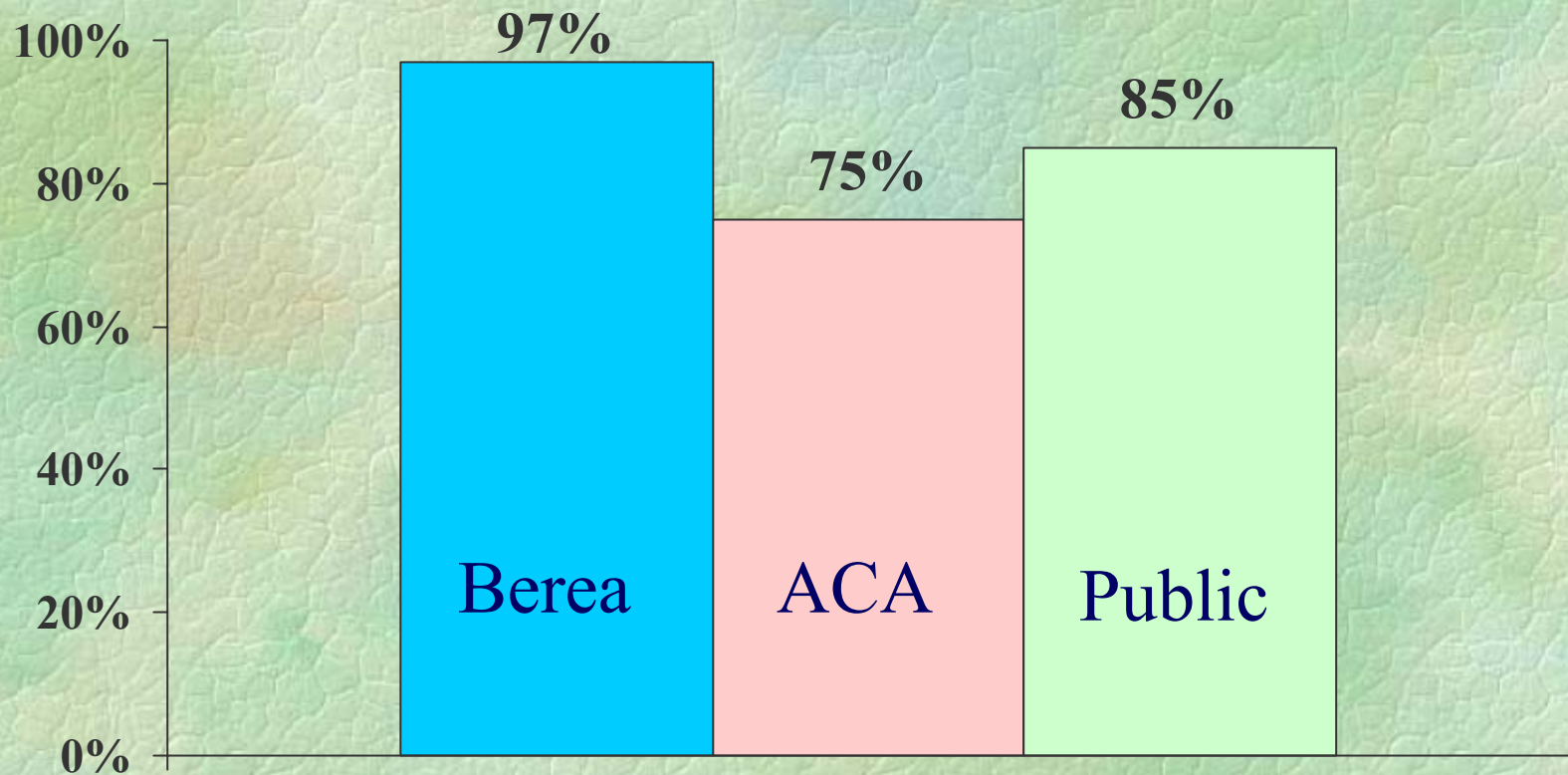
Highlights of Results

“Overall satisfaction with education received at your college”

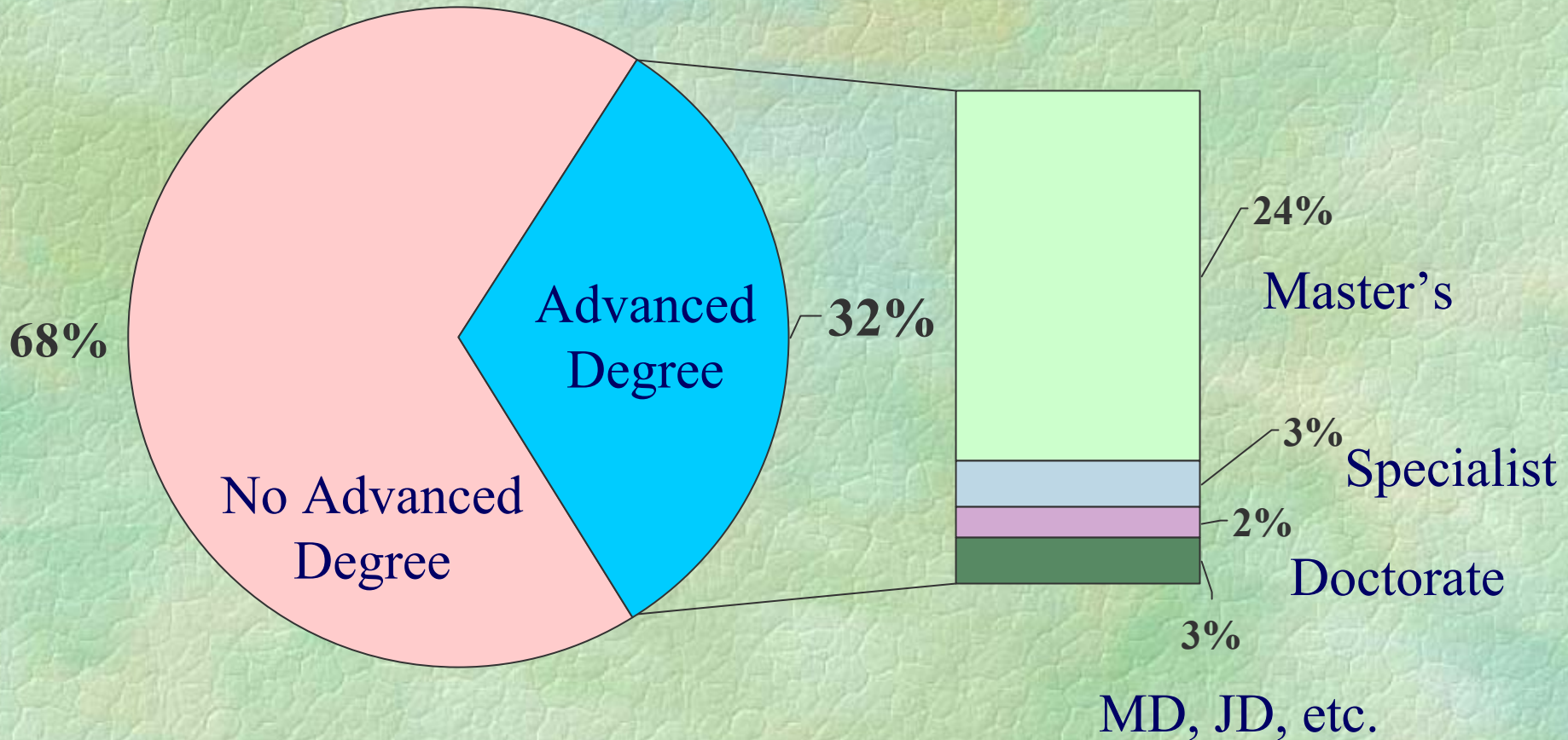
“Very satisfied” graduates



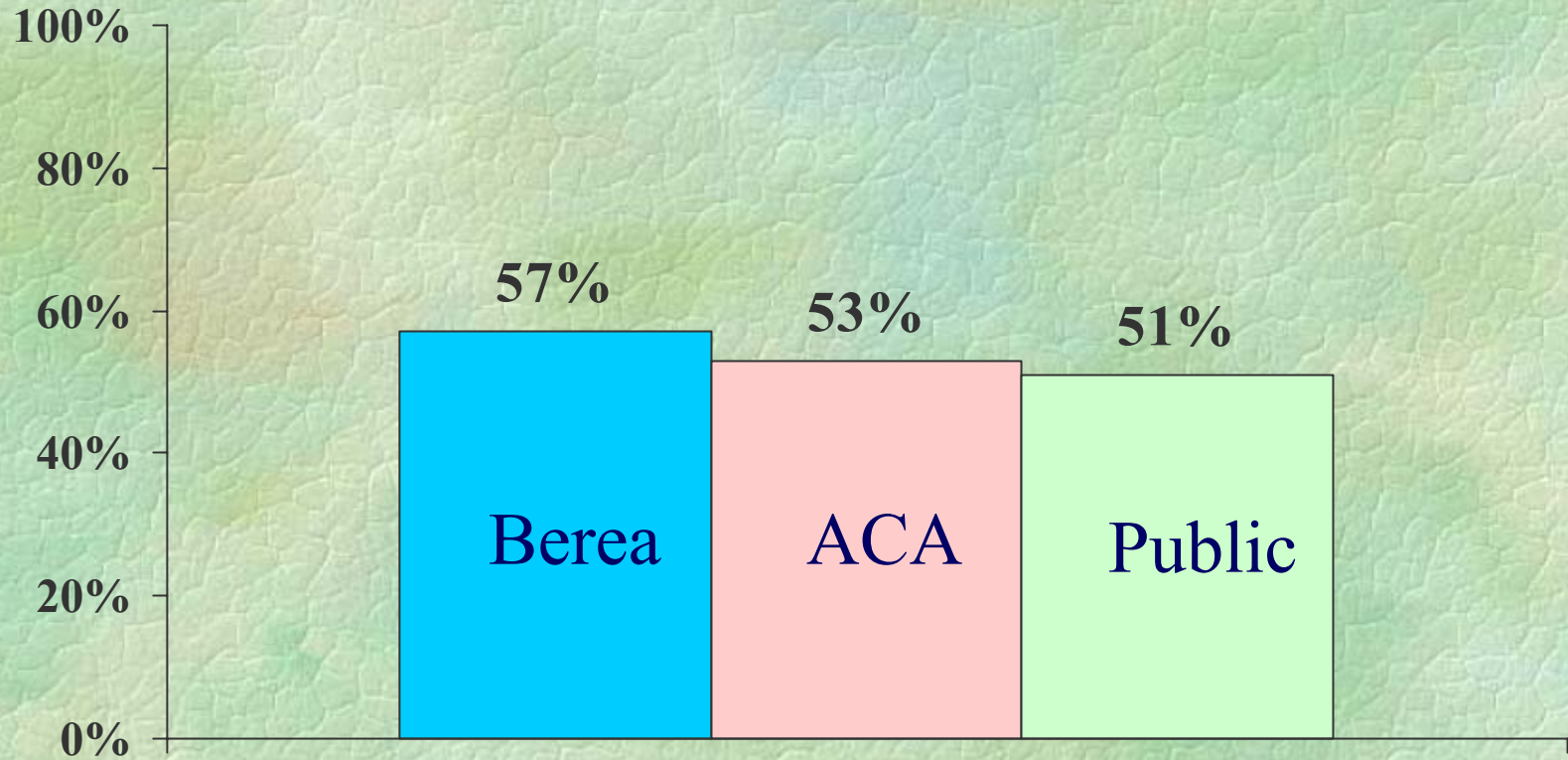
Graduates who reported student loans under \$7,500



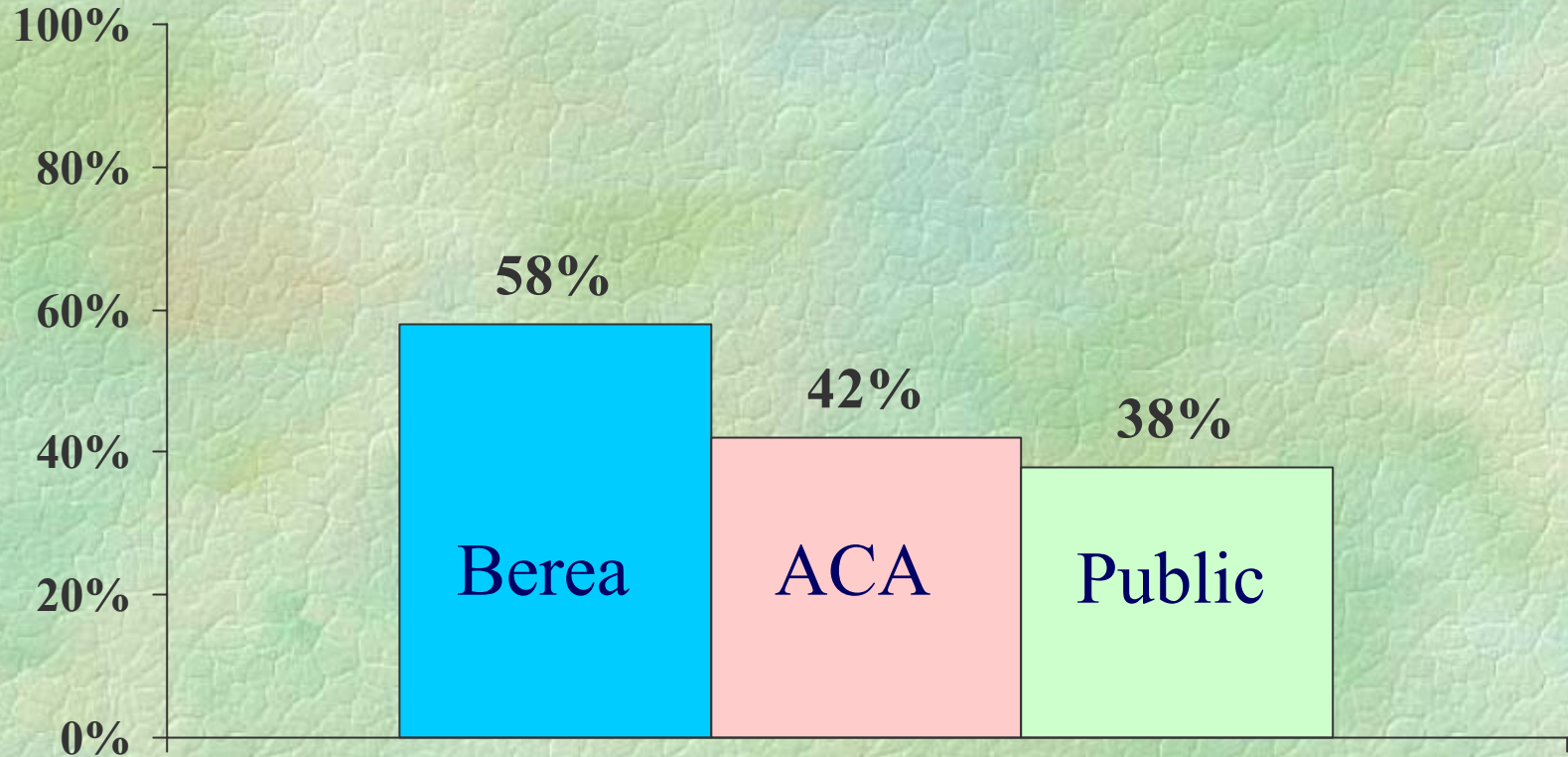
Advanced Degrees:



Respondents who are employed by an educational or service organization (nonprofit)



Graduates were “exceptionally well” or “more than adequately” prepared for their *current job*.





**Contribution of College Experiences
to
Personal Growth
in Selected Areas**

(Ratings of Educational Outcomes)

Highest rated of 28 items

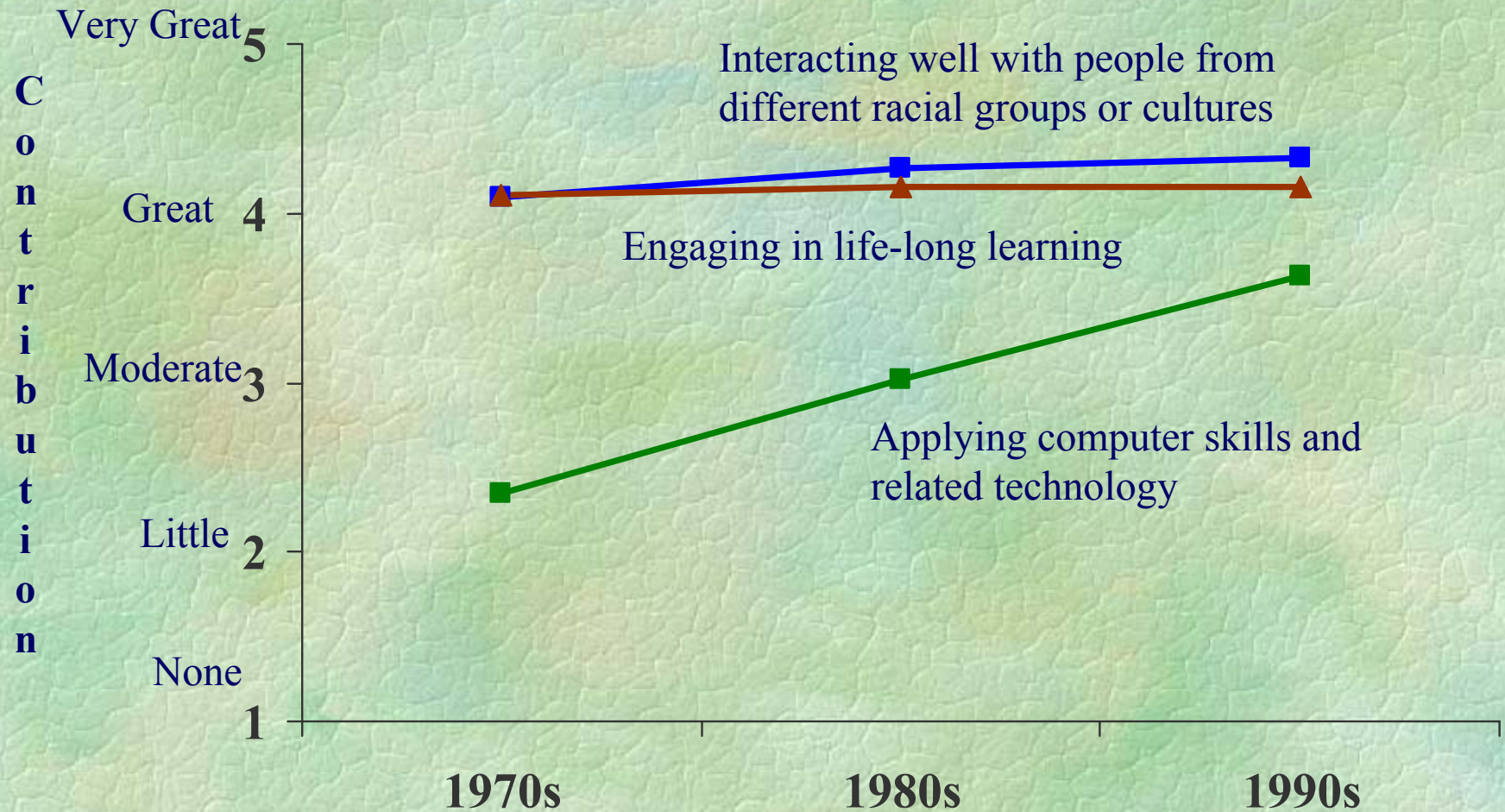
(contribution was rated “great”):

- Interacting well with people from racial groups or cultures different from my own (sig. trend)
- Getting along with people whose attitudes and opinions are different from my own (sig. trend)

- Engaging in life-long learning
- Improving thinking and reasoning skills (sig. trend)
- Appreciating literature and the fine arts. (sig. trend)

(all more highly rated than other institutional groups)

Trends Over Three Decades of Graduates





Berea Specific Items

*Participation in the labor
program positively
influenced later work life.*

87% agreed

*My overall experience at
BC has contributed to a
generally positive view
of life.*

82% agreed

*BC experience helped me to
develop the intellectual
ability to address complex
problems from multiple
disciplines and perspectives.*

81% agreed

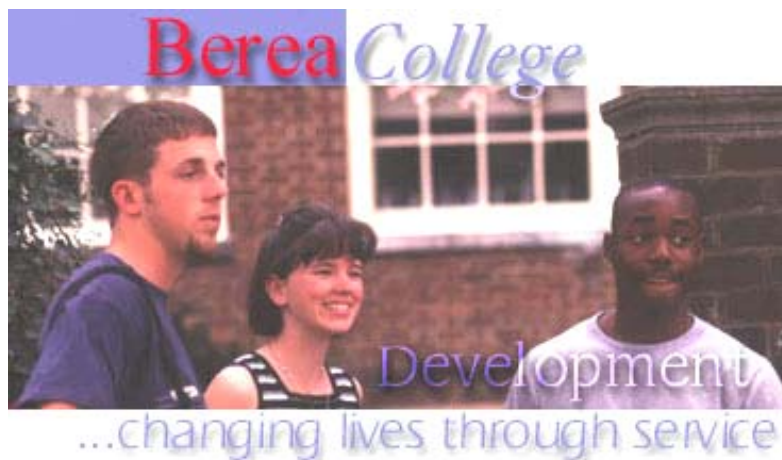
*Compared to my co-workers
who have college degrees,
I believe my education at
BC better prepared me for
my work.*

71% agreed

My overall experience at BC influenced me positively in regard to serving my community.

71% agreed

591 Open-Ended Comments



First, indicate the most valuable aspect of your education at this college.

Then, write any other comments you would like to share.

“As I serve the youth of our region, I strive to produce a quiet confidence in their lives that Berea gave me...”

“The most valuable aspect was meeting people of other races and nationalities. It changed the way I viewed the world and others.”

“Through my various jobs at Berea, I learned that I could do anything if I wanted to do it.”

“My experience attending Berea College, without a doubt, completely changed my life and perspective in a most positive way.”

“If it were not for Berea, I don’t know where I would have gotten an education.”

“Berea helped me to understand my abilities and self-worth and taught me the attitude of being a ‘servant’ to my fellow man.”

“The liberal arts structure of my education has made me a more well-rounded person. I’m going to see Pavarotti in Louisville this December. That is because of Berea College.”

“The most valuable aspects of my college education included my exposure to the arts and humanities through the liberal arts curriculum and most importantly, the extensive research and writing requirements.”

“Work-study program coupled with the high academic standards. The education of a student at Berea goes beyond that of pure academics --the ability to reason and grow in a changing world.”

“Wherever I travel, the
‘Berea College’ name is well
known and well regarded.”

“Math and science education!
I learned to manage school,
work, sports, and social
activities in an effective
manner while pursuing my
dream of becoming a
physician.”

“Most valuable aspect--my professional development as an R.N. Next most valuable--appreciation of the Appalachian culture...I am very thankful for Berea.”

“When I arrived at Berea I was a non-Christian yet because of the positive influence this college had on my life, I left it a Christian.”

“I grew up with such a small, shallow view of life. BC added depth, color; they filled my head with so many wonderful new concepts it is difficult absorbing it all at once. I am an associate professor of chemistry who owns her own house and land...”

“Most valuable--being a member of Country Dancers. It taught me service, friendship, communication, and how to work with and appreciate folks of different ages and cultures.”

“The thing I most value from my time at Berea College is, simply put, just being there... working, studying, living there for four years with an extraordinary community of teachers and fellow students.”