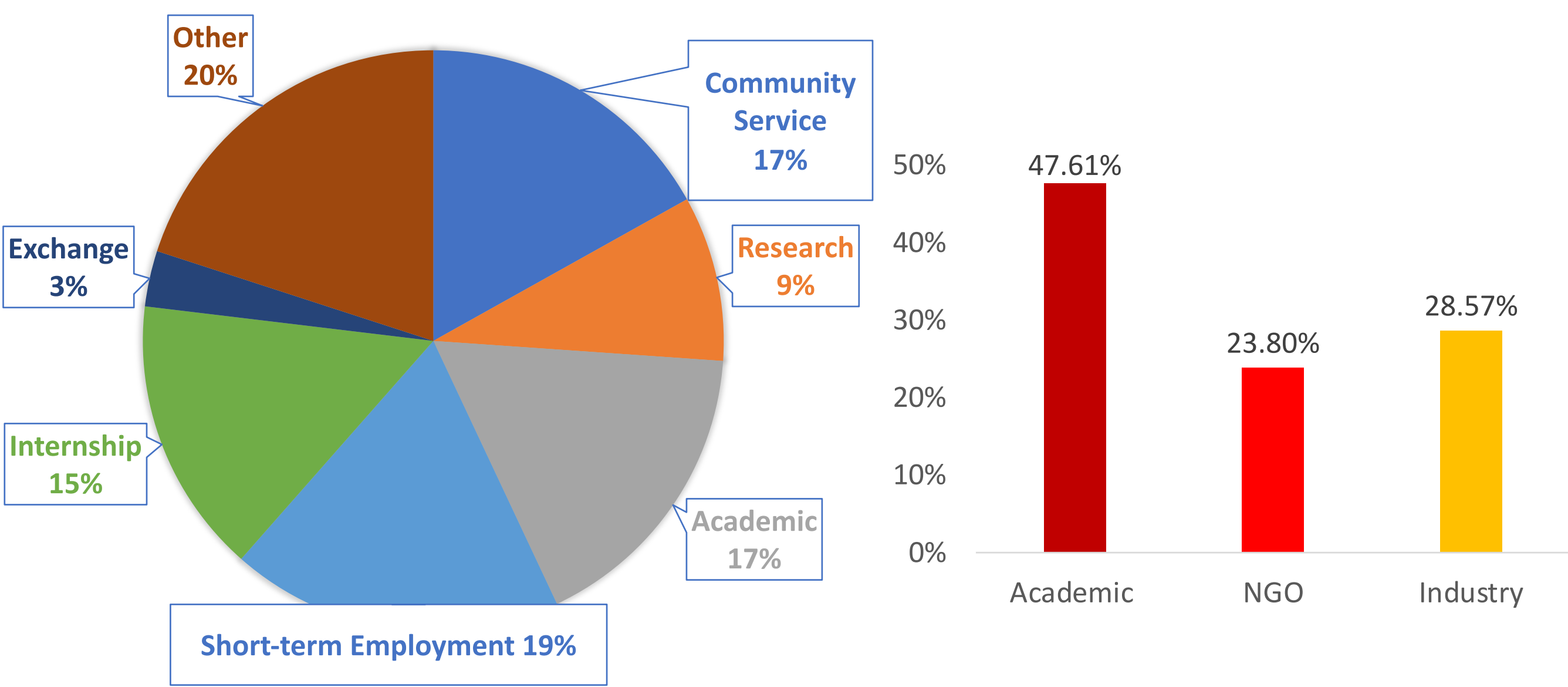


Empowering dental students: Enhancing enrichment activities through peer collaboration

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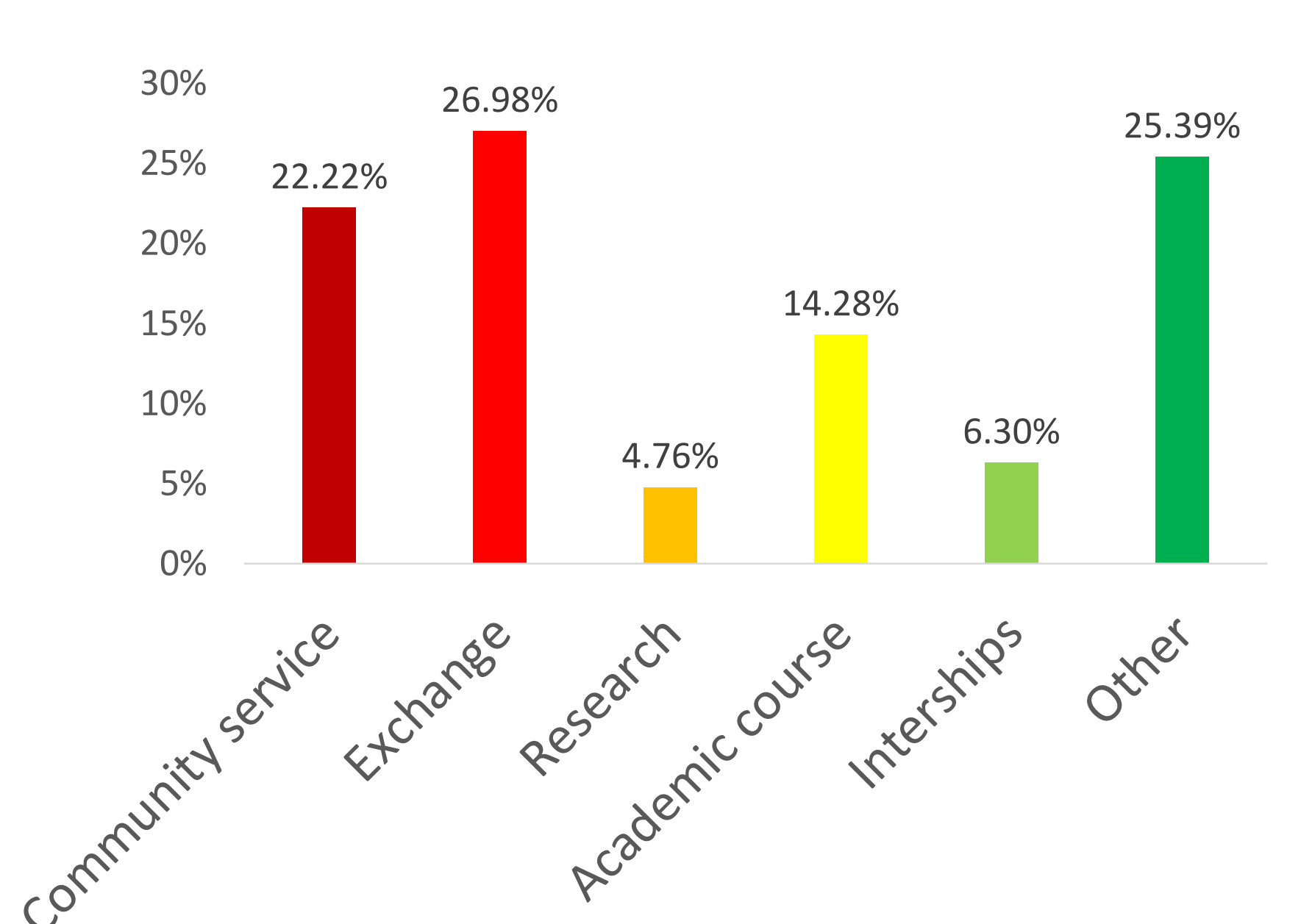
The HKU-Dentistry has introduced a ring-fenced period for enrichment activities for second-year undergraduate students since 2019. Students must participate in a 6-8-week, nongraded enrichment experience in June-July according to their learning needs and interests. This includes clinical experiences, leadership development, interdisciplinary/cross-disciplinary research and innovation activities, and community engagement. A Recent survey was conducted among BDS II students who completed enrichment activities in the academic year 2023-2024.

Types of activities 2023-2024 BDS II students attended

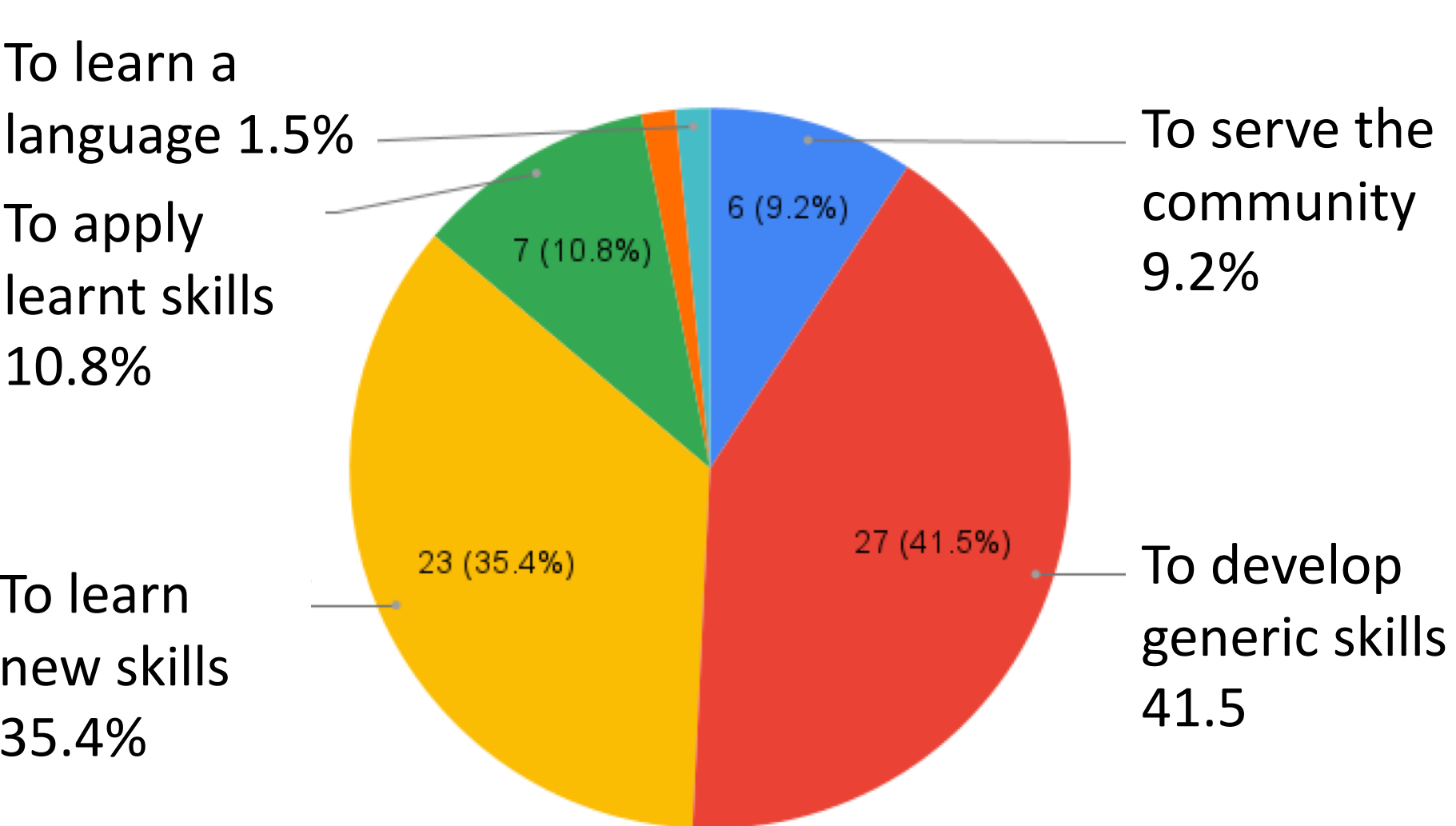


39% participated in activities other than community service, internships, academic activities, exchange, and research. Furthermore, 25.39% indicated they would prefer different activities if given the option. However, only 3% participated in research during enrichment, and only 4.76% would choose to participate if given the opportunity.

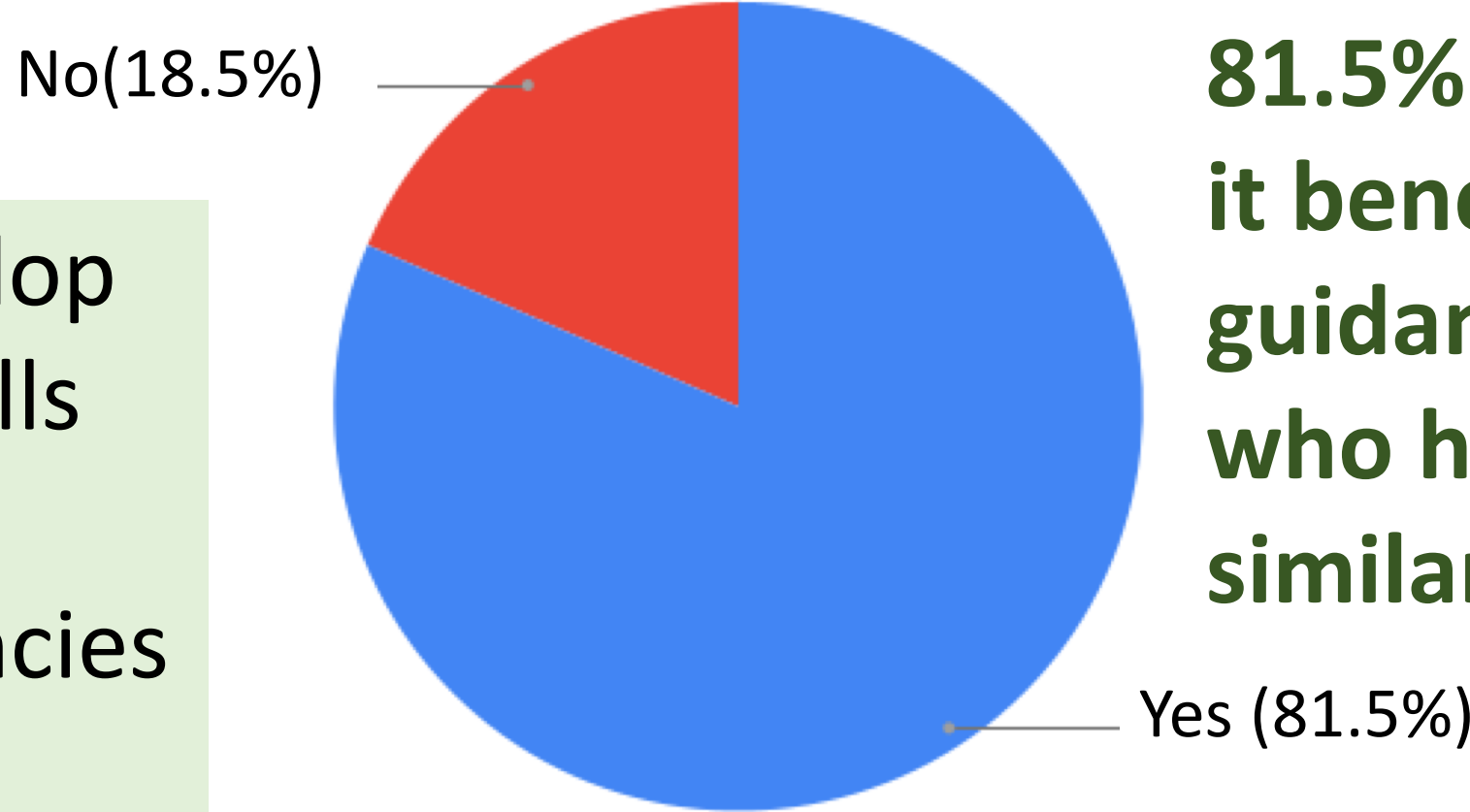
If given the choice



Expectations of the students

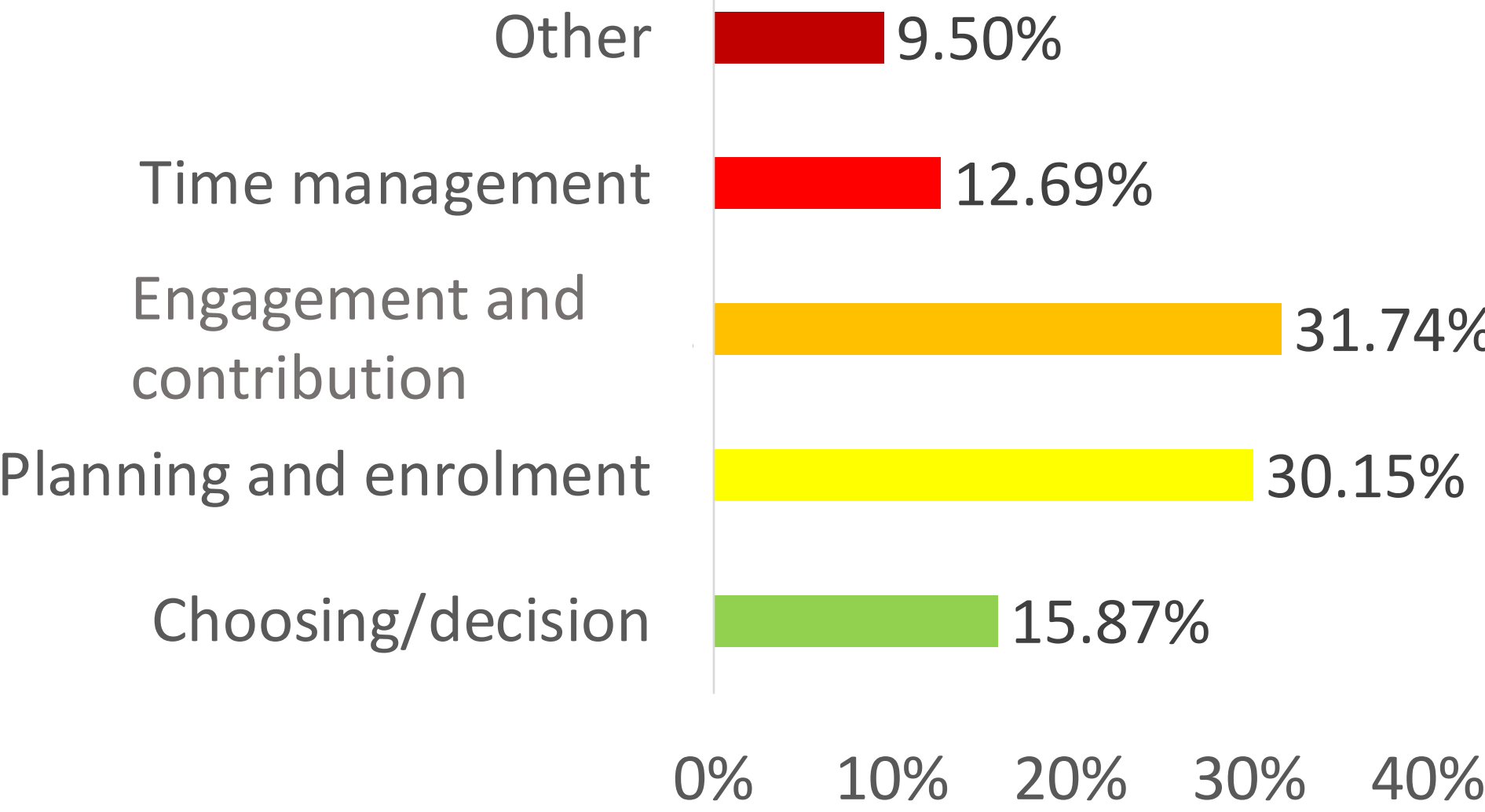


The majority of students aimed to develop generic skills (41.5%) or acquire new skills (35.4%). These findings emphasize the importance of identifying key competencies for these activities.



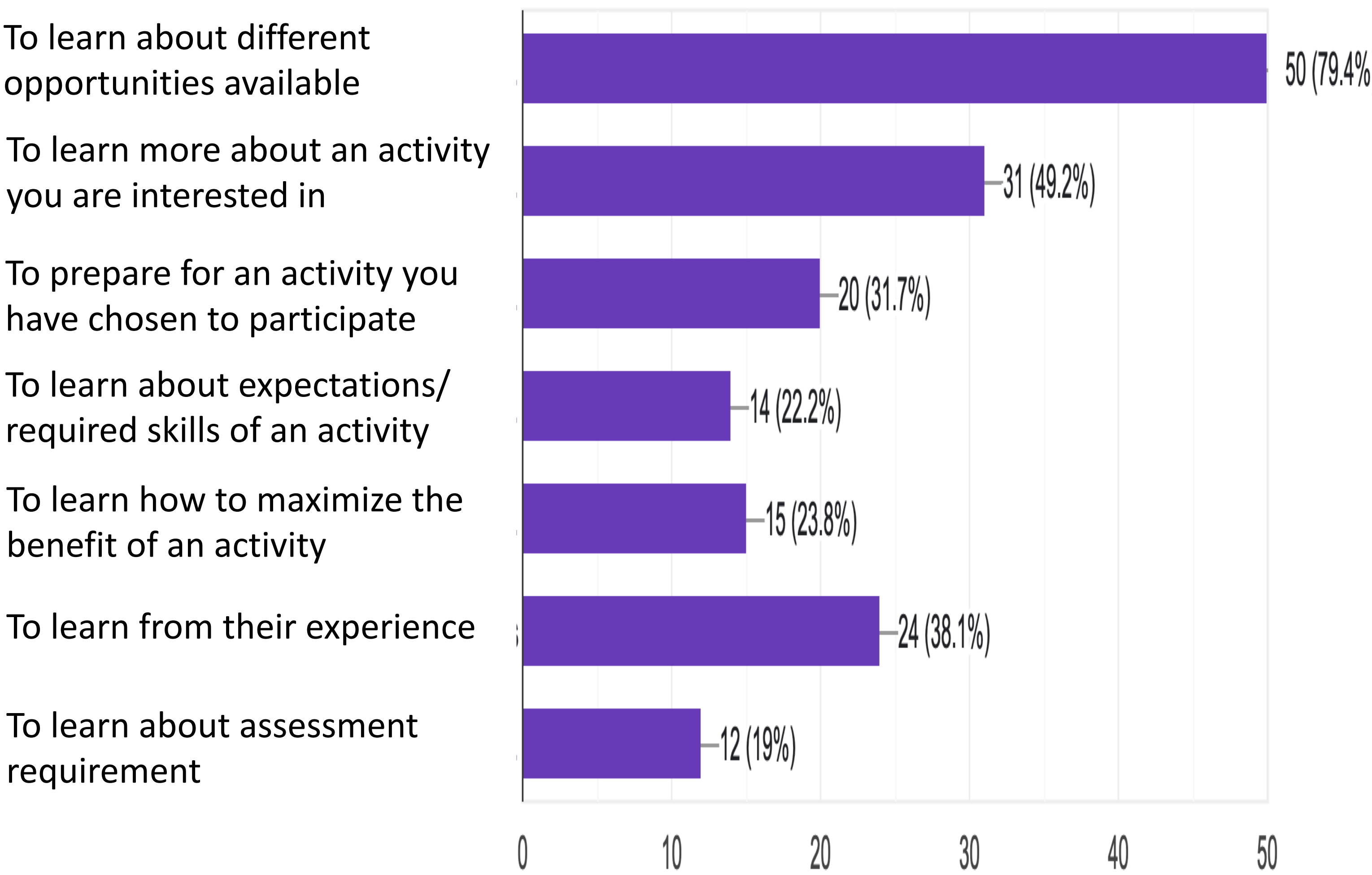
81.5% of students found it beneficial to receive guidance from seniors who have completed similar activities

Students found challenges in engagement, contribution and planning of enrichment activities



Many also suggested enhancing the experience through increased options (19.04%) and opportunities for experience sharing (33.33%). Moreover, 79.4% believed they could receive support for enrichment opportunities, and 49.2% expressed a desire to learn more from their senior colleagues.

Areas to receive guidance from senior students



Recruit students who have completed enrichment activities and are willing to collaborate

Student ambassadors

Participate in the design, communication, and execution of the program
Acting as partners in curriculum development and facilitating ownership of their learning in a collaborative manner

To identify the key competencies that students should develop through enrichment activities

To lead the main areas of enrichment activities identified according to the key competencies

To promote cross-disciplinary undergraduate research and innovation activities

To act as partners in the enrichment curriculum development

Future objectives

- To recruit students who have completed enrichment activities and are willing to collaborate in enhancing the experience for prospective students as student ambassadors.
- To empower the student ambassadors through brainstorming and skill-enhancing workshops
- To identify a wide range of holistic skills that a dental undergraduate student should aim to achieve through enrichment activities.
- To involve the student ambassadors in the design, communication, and execution of the program, acting as partners in enrichment curriculum development and facilitating ownership of their learning in a collaborative manner.
- To promote research and innovation as enrichment activities.