



# STELLARXPLOREERS ALUMNI SURVEY

2024 REPORT



*StellarXplorers is a STEM Program of the Air & Space Forces Association  
For more information, visit [www.stellarxplorers.org](http://www.stellarxplorers.org) or contact [info@stellarxplorers.org](mailto:info@stellarxplorers.org)*

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## Survey Design

In the spring of 2024, current and former student participants of the StellarXplorers National Space Design Competition were surveyed in the following areas:

- Their current academic enrollment status
- Their current or prospective career paths
- The impact of StellarXplorers participation
- Their demographic information

In total, 119 students responded to the survey (n=119).

The purpose of this survey is to determine the rate at which StellarXplorers is achieving its goal of attracting students to education and careers in aerospace and other STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines.

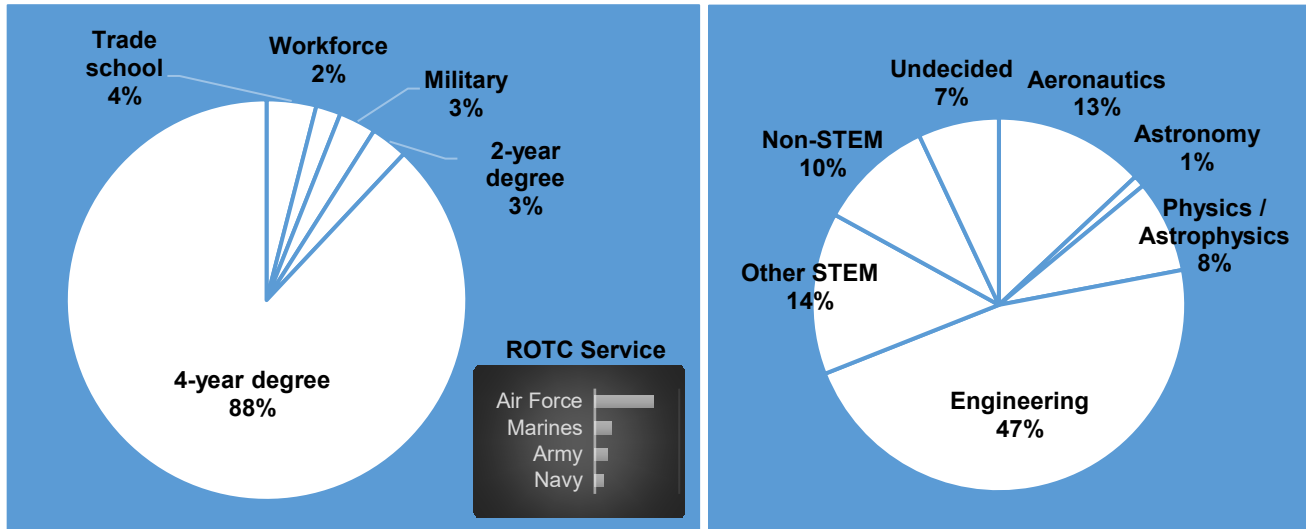


# Education

## Post-High School Education Plans

Of the total 119 respondents, 80% (n=96) are high school students or recent high school graduates. Of that population, the large majority (88%) indicated that they plan to enroll in a 4-year degree program at a college or university.

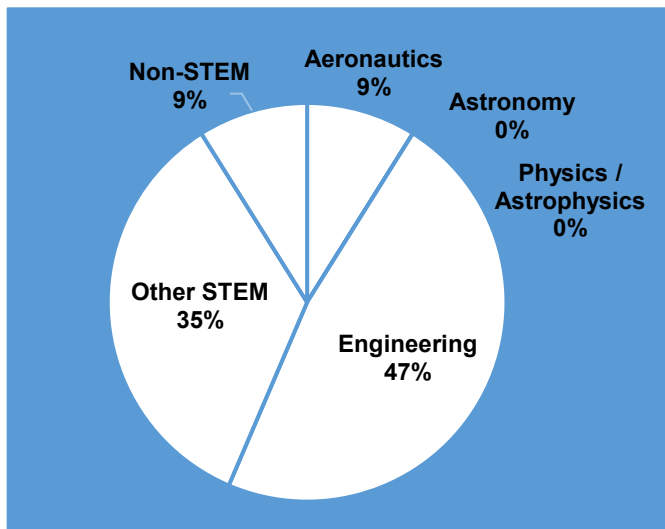
Furthermore, 25% of these respondents plan to attend on an ROTC scholarship, with another 25% considering ROTC but still undecided. The Air Force was the most commonly selected branch.



When asked their intended field of study, a collective 83% plan to pursue a STEM discipline.

By comparison to the figures above, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, 62% of American students who graduated high school in 2022 entered college. Of those students, 45% enrolled in 4-year institutions and 17% enrolled in 2-year institutions.

## Fields of Study for Current College Students and College Graduates

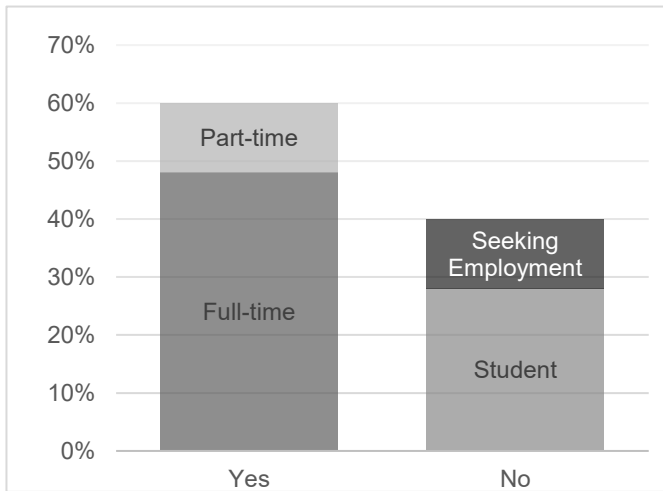


Of the total 119 respondents, 20% (n=23) are either enrolled in a college or university or have earned a degree.

Of that population, 91% selected a STEM field as their field of study.

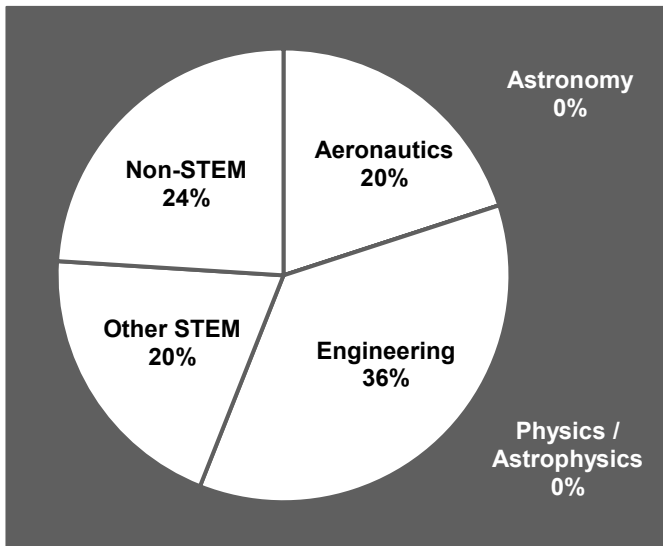
By comparison, STEM degrees accounted for just 20% of all degrees (associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctorate) in 2021.

# Employment



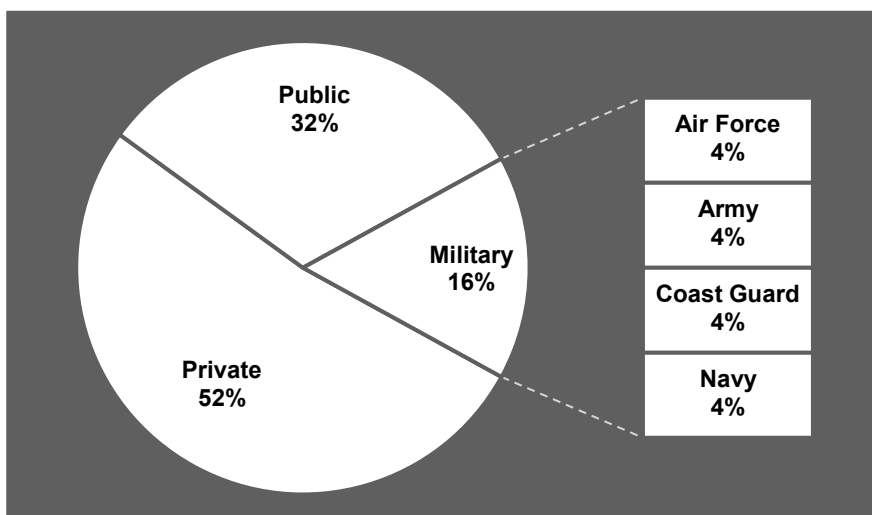
## Employment Status

Of the respondents who have continued past high school (n=25), 60% are actively employed. The large majority of those who are unemployed are currently full-time students.



## Employment Field

When asked what field the respondents (n=25) were employed in or seeking employment in, 76% of respondents selected a STEM field

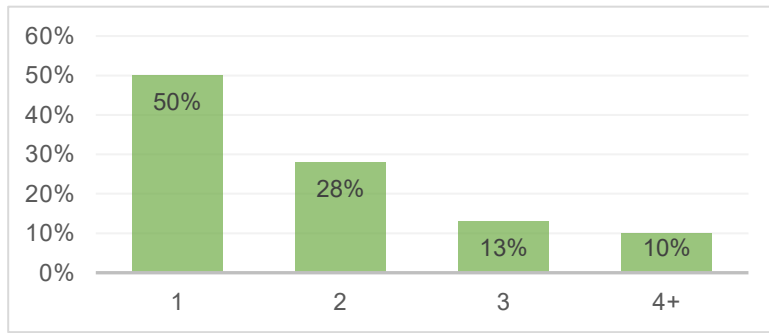


## Employment Sector

More than half of the StellarXplorers alumni in the workforce are employed (or seeking employment) in the private sector.

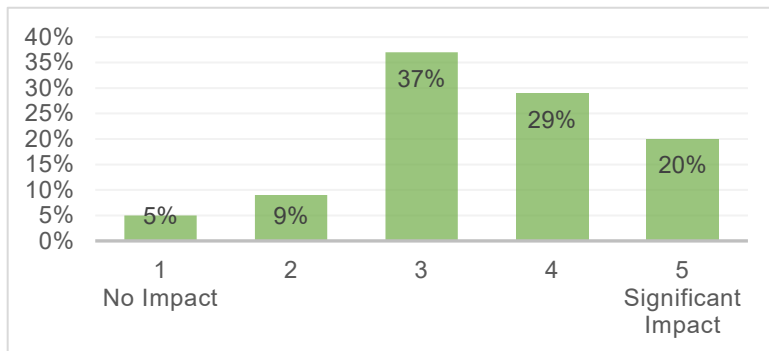
The 16% of respondents serving in the military are split evenly between the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, and Navy.

# StellarXplorers Impact



## Years of Participation

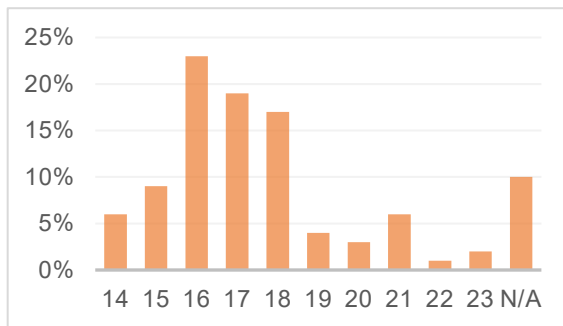
Half of the respondents have participated in two or more seasons of the StellarXplorers National Space Design Competition.



## Impact on Education / Career Goals

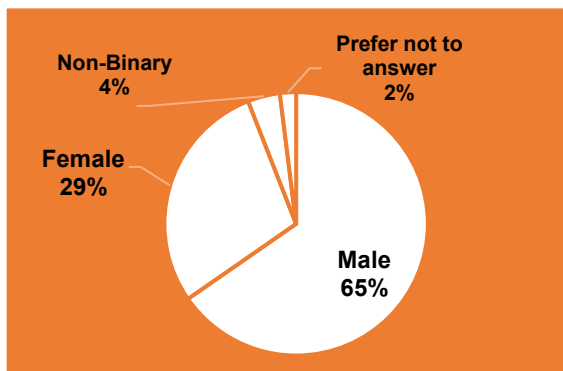
In total, 86% of respondents reported that their participation in StellarXplorers positively impacted their decision to pursue STEM education and careers beyond high school.

# Demographics



## Age

As expected, the majority of survey respondents (73%) were in the high school age range of 14-18 years old. A further breakdown shows that over one-third (36%) of respondents were juniors and seniors in high school.



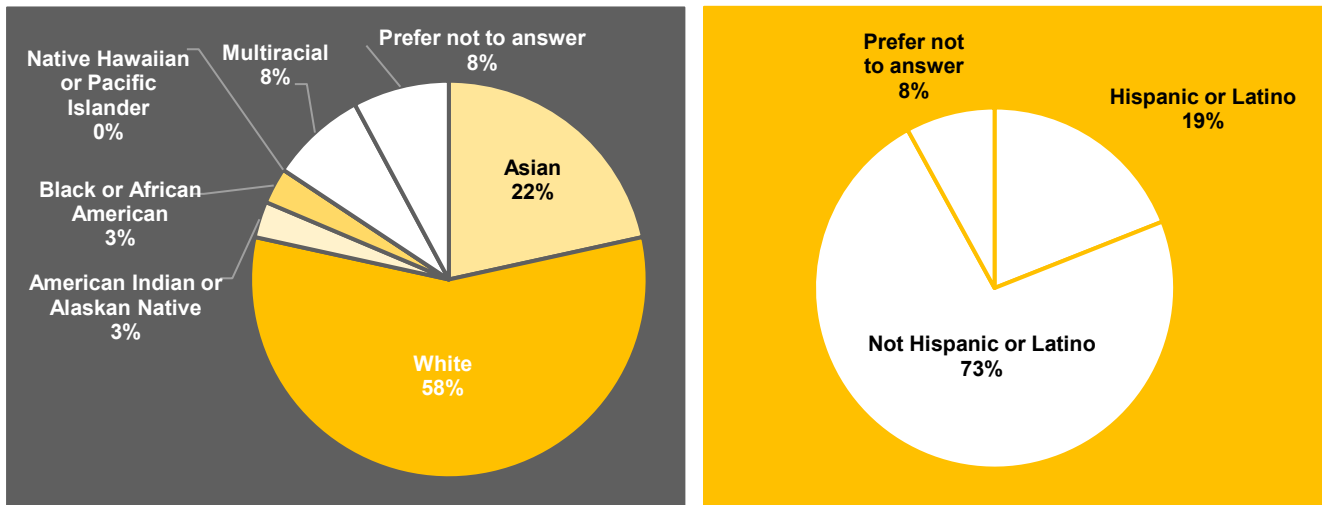
## Gender

The majority of the survey respondents (65%) were male, while 29% identified as female. StellarXplorers is continuing with efforts to increase the percentage of female representation in STEM fields.

MIT Professional Education. (2023). The Gender Gap in STEM: Still Gaping in 2023. Retrieved from <https://professionalprograms.mit.edu/blog/leadership/the-gender-gap-in-stem/>

## Race & Ethnicity

31% of the respondents identified as a race other than white, and 16% of respondents self-identified as Hispanic or Latino



## Testimonials

*“StellarXplorers has given me the opportunity to meet like-minded people, solve complex problems in a nerve-wracking competition, and feel so much closer to the kind of career path that I want to take.” – Clive, age 16*

*“I met my fiancé, found my choice of career, made lifelong friends, and learned valuable skills for my hopeful career at NASA. It’s safe to say that StellarXplorers has impacted my life more than any other program I’ve ever been a part of.” – Anonymous, age 22*

*“Stellarxplorers pushed me into a path of study that followed engineering and math. I learned that teaching stem related fields is my passion, and it is why I am an education major with an emphasis in STEM.” – Anonymous, age 21*

*“StellarXplorers has showed me possibilities that I had did not have before. I doubted myself when I first started the program. However, I managed to find my way through it! – Connor, age 16*

*“The experience of making it to finals was so cool. This program has helped me realize I love STEM and I’ll forever be grateful for that!!” – Anonymous, age 18*

*“StellarXplorers allowed me to discover my passion for Engineering and project management. I liked how I was able to work in a team were I didn’t have to be an expert or genius in any one field, but rather I could have general knowledge in multiple fields. This made Engineering and astronautics less intimidating and made me feel more confident in pursuing a degree in it.” – Anonymous, age 17*

*“I was already interested in space and how things work, but getting to see simulations of orbital mechanics while trying to solve interesting and complex engineering problems turned this interest into a passion and a career.” – Samual, age 20*

