

# 2011 CIRP Freshman Survey

## Analysis and Results

Office of Institutional Research

May 9, 2012

# CIRP 2011 Freshman Survey Analysis

## Background

Wake Forest has been administering the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey from UCLA to different freshman classes since 1979. The 2011 Survey was administered by the Office of Institutional Research web based to the entire entering freshman class beginning in July, 2011. The 2011 CIRP survey was completed by 518 freshmen representing 42% of the entering class. Wake Forest administers this national survey to entering freshmen every other year.

## Findings

Following this analysis are graphs with results of selected items from the 2011 CIRP Freshman Survey for entering freshmen at Wake Forest, Vanderbilt, and the “Private Universities – Very High Selectivity” combined. (Institutions included in the “Private Universities- Very High Selectivity” are as follows: Boston College, Brown, Cal Tech, Carnegie Mellon, Duke, Emory, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Rice, Penn, Southern California, Vanderbilt, and Wake Forest.) Graphs are also provided for the results of Wake Forest additional questions and results of Wake Forest vs. just Vanderbilt since 2001.

### Average High School Grade of A or A+

- The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen reporting an average high school grade of A or A+ was 43% compared to 40% in 2009.

### Distance From Home

- The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen more than 500 miles away from home was 48% compared to 41% in 2009.

### Father and Mother Did Not Attend College

- The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their father did not attend college was 7% compared to 13% in 2009. The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their mother did not attend college was 6% compared to 11% in 2009.

### Current Religious Preference

- The percentage of 2011 freshmen indicating a religious preference of Baptist was 10% vs. 12% in 2009 and the percentage of those students indicating Roman Catholic was 26% vs. 25% in 2009.

### First Choice College and Applied to Six or More Colleges

- The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that Wake Forest was their first choice college was 55% compared to 60% in 2009. The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen applying to six or more colleges was 56% compared to 56% in 2009.

### **Good Academic Reputation and Size of College Very Important in “Choosing this College”**

- The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen indicating good academic reputation as very important in choosing their school was 93% compared to 92% in 2009. The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen indicating size of this college as very important was 64% compared to 70% in 2009.

### **Offered Financial Aid and Magazine Rankings Very Important in “Choosing this College”**

- The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen indicating offered financial aid as very important was 34% compared to 36% in 2009. The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen indicating rankings in magazines as very important was 50% compared to 52% in 2009.

### **Political Views Characterized as Conservative**

- The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen indicating their political views as conservative was 35% compared to 31% in 2009.

### **Parental Income Above \$150,000**

- The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their parental income exceeded \$150,000 (the prior year) was 52% compared to 48% in 2009.

### **Doctorate Highest Degree Planned**

- The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that they plan to obtain a doctorate degree was 17% compared to 22% in 2009.

### **Racial Background**

- The racial identification for 2011 Wake Forest African-Americans was 7% compared to 8% in 2009; Asians were 8% vs. 6% in 2009; and Hispanics were 4% vs. 5% in 2009.

### **Probable Field of Study**

- The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their probable field of study will be arts and humanities was 11% vs. 16% in 2009; biological science was 12% vs. 13% in 2009; business 23% vs. 21% in 2009; physical science or mathematics was 4% vs. 8% in 2009; and social science was 18% vs. 19% in 2009.

### **Student’s Probable Career – Lawyer and Physician**

- The percentage of 2011 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their probable career would entail being a lawyer was 8% vs. 11% in 2009 and the percentage for being a physician was 20% vs. 21% in 2009.

### **Studying Abroad and Research with Professors “Very Important” (Additional questions by Wake Forest)**

- The percentage of 2011 freshmen indicating that the opportunity for studying abroad at Wake Forest was “very important” as a reason for attending was 66% vs. 66% in 2009, and the opportunities to participate in collaborative research with a professor was 27% vs. 23% in 2009.

**Opportunity for small classes and knowing your professors “Very Important” (Additional questions by Wake Forest)**

- The percentage of 2011 freshmen indicating that the opportunity to participate in small classes at Wake Forest was “very important” as a reason for attending was 82% vs. 89% in 2009, and the percentage for the opportunity to get to know your professors was 79% vs. 79% in 2009.

**Summary**

The percentage of 2011 entering freshmen with an A or A+ average from high schools is higher compared to 2009 and the percentage of those indicating Wake Forest as their first choice is lower compared to 2009. The percentage of those entering freshmen 500 or miles away from home is significantly higher compared to 2009.

The 2011 survey results indicate too that the Wake Forest freshman class has a significantly lower percentage of “First-Generation College Students” compared to 2009. The highest percentage of Wake Forest 2011 freshmen choosing a probable field of study was again in business and the 2011 percentage of those intending to obtain a doctorate is significantly lower compared to 2009.

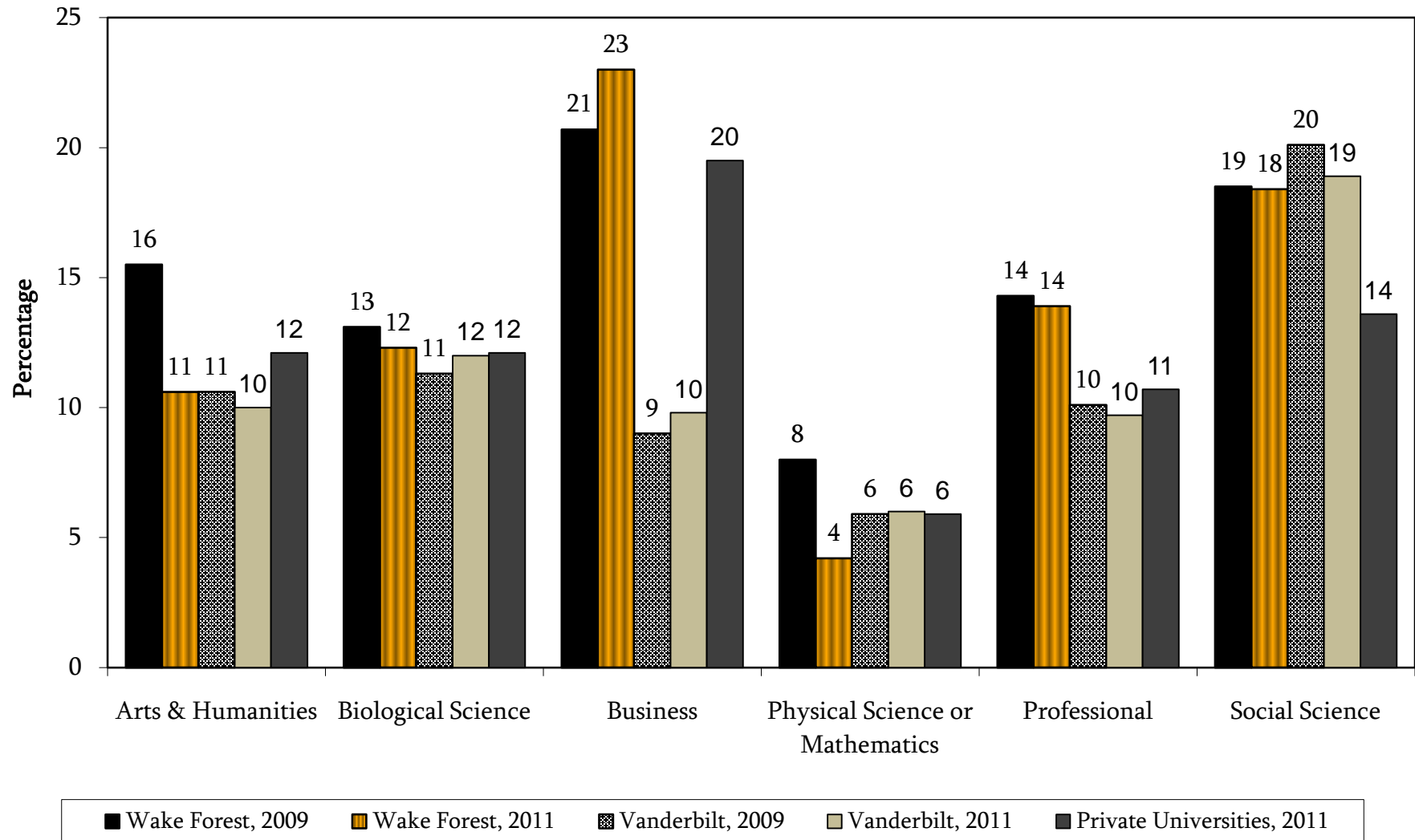
The opportunity for research and collaboration with professors is increasingly important as a reason to attend Wake Forest and the opportunity for studying abroad continues to be a very strong reason for choosing Wake Forest.

# CIRP Freshman Survey

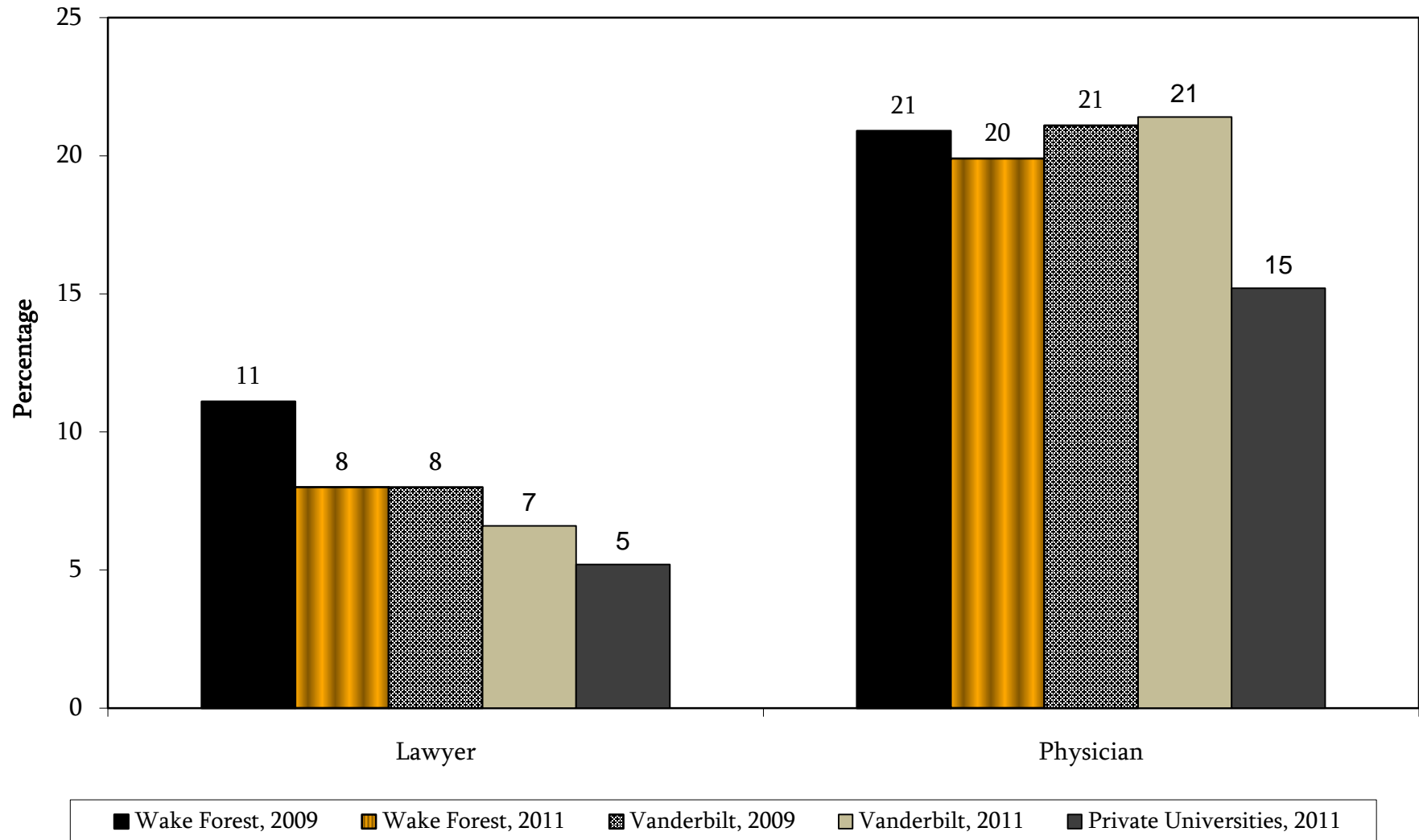
Results 2011

Wake Forest University, Vanderbilt University, and  
“Private Universities—Very High Selectivity”

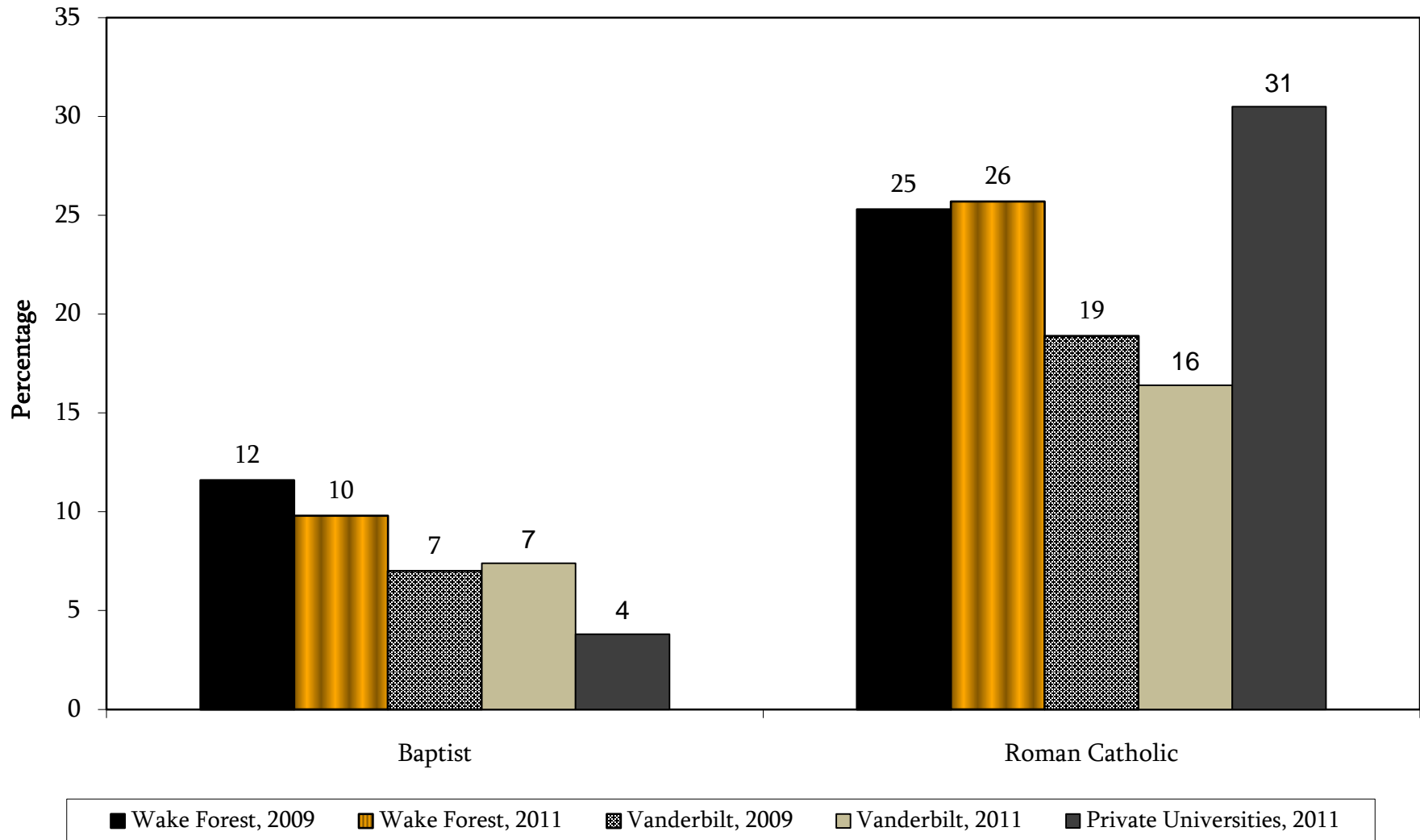
## Probable Field of Study



## Probable Career/Occupation

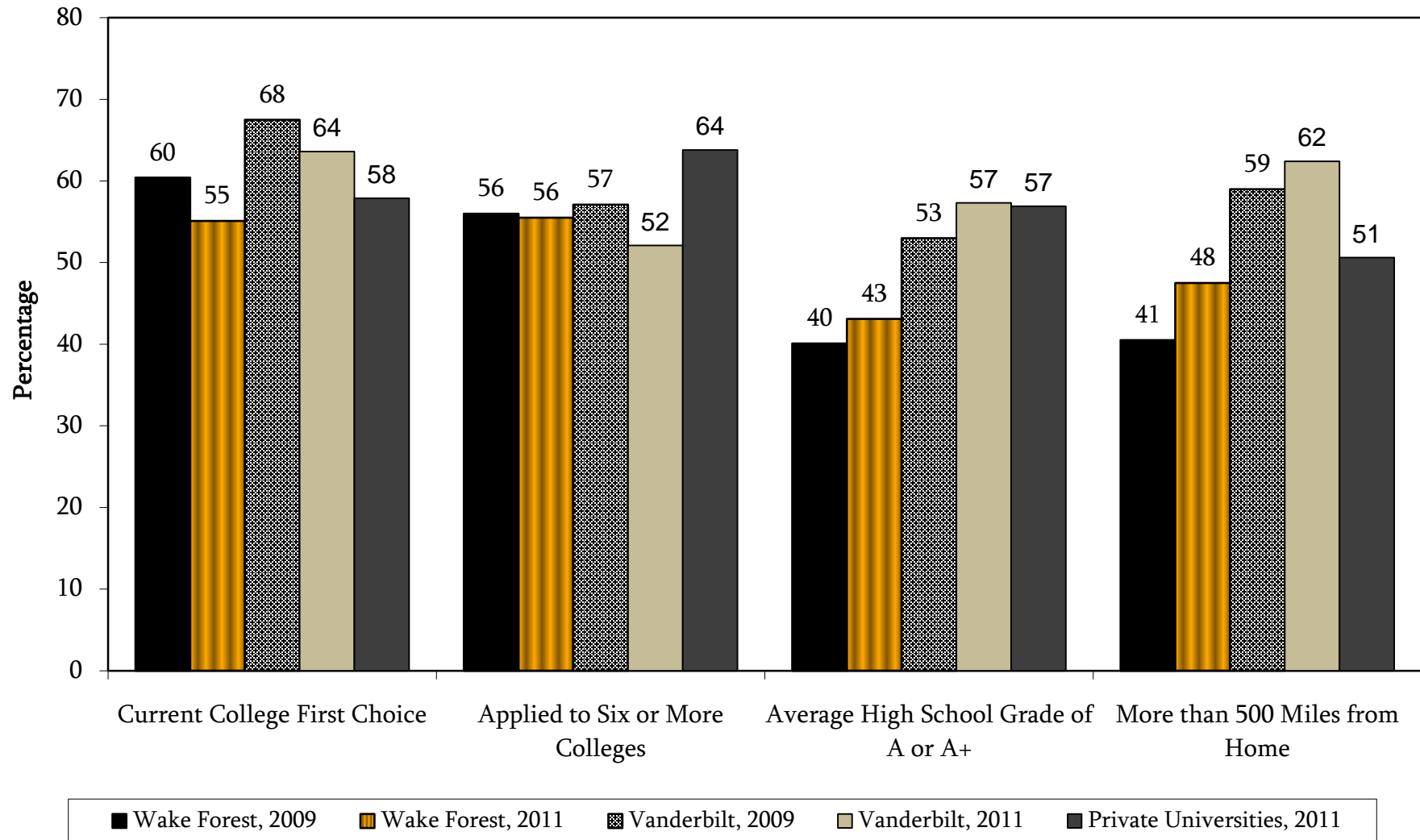


## Current Religious Preference

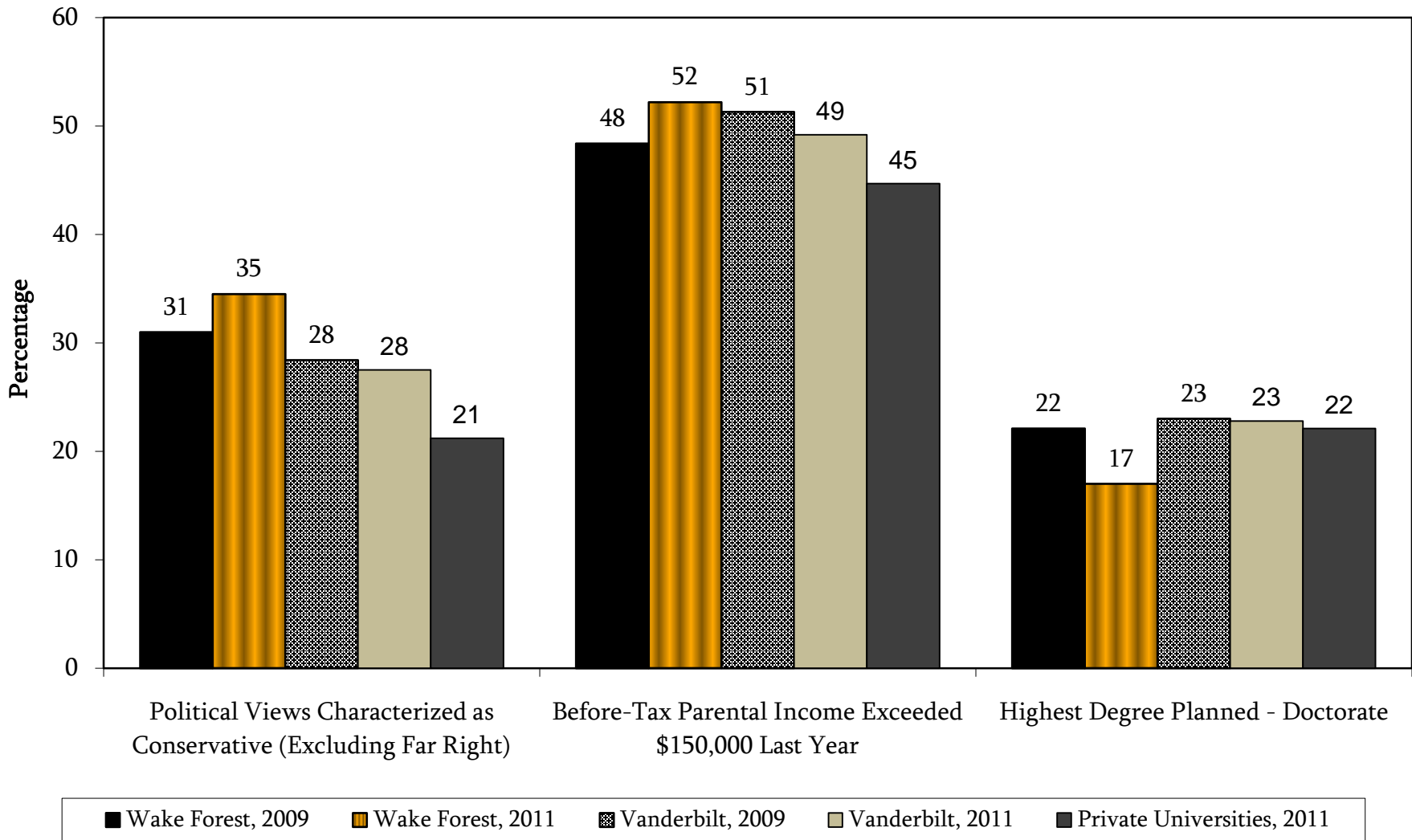




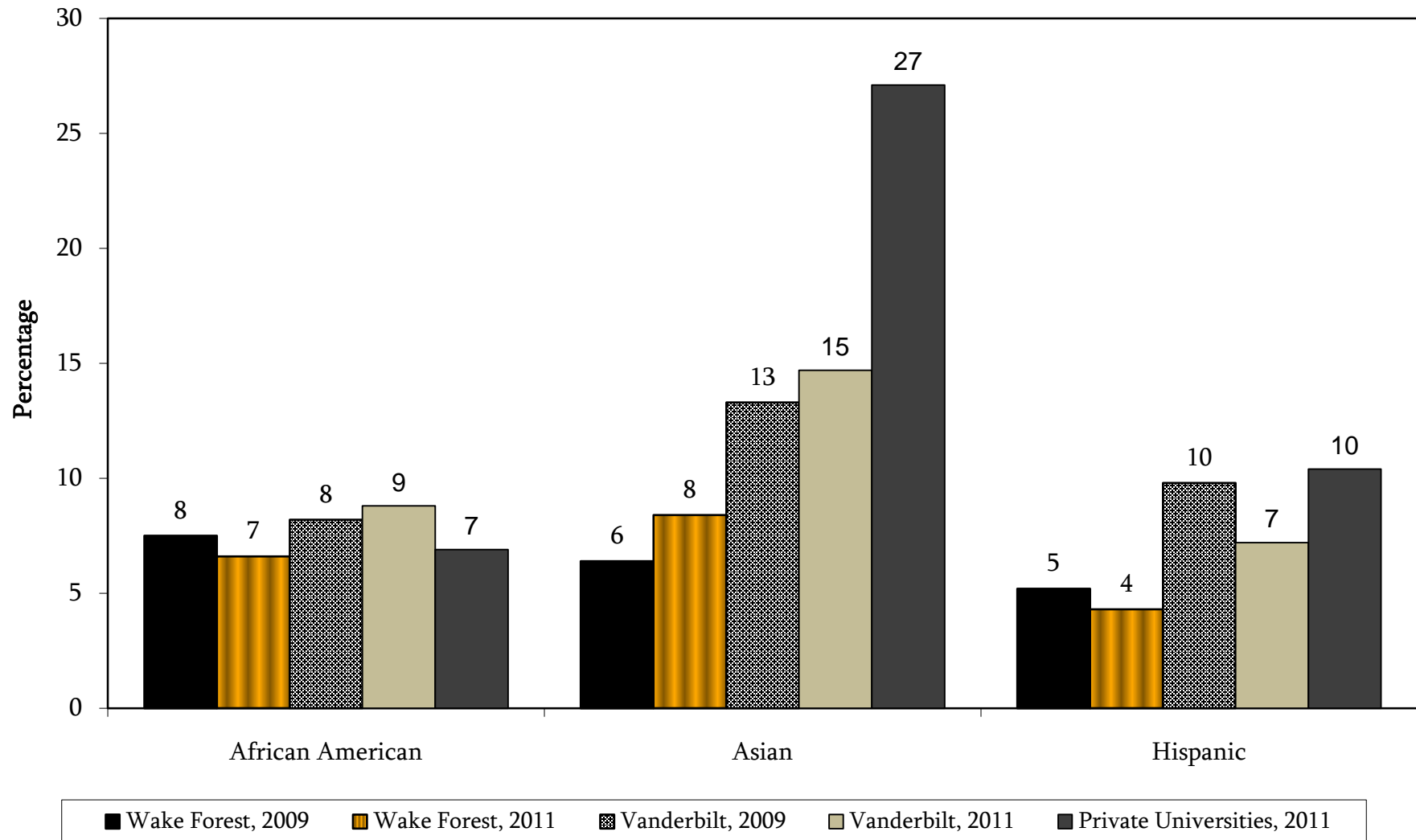
## Profile Items



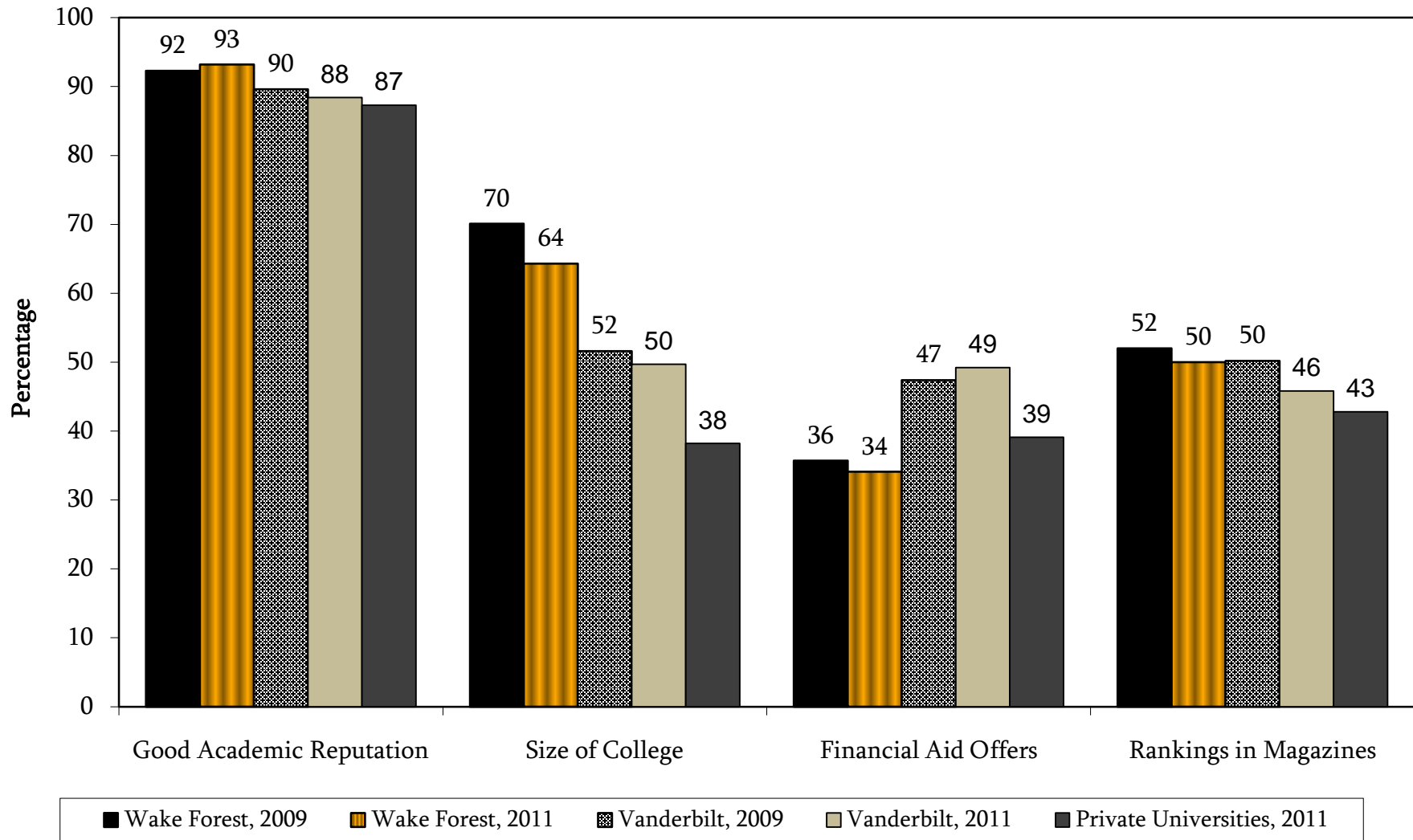
### Profile Items (continued)



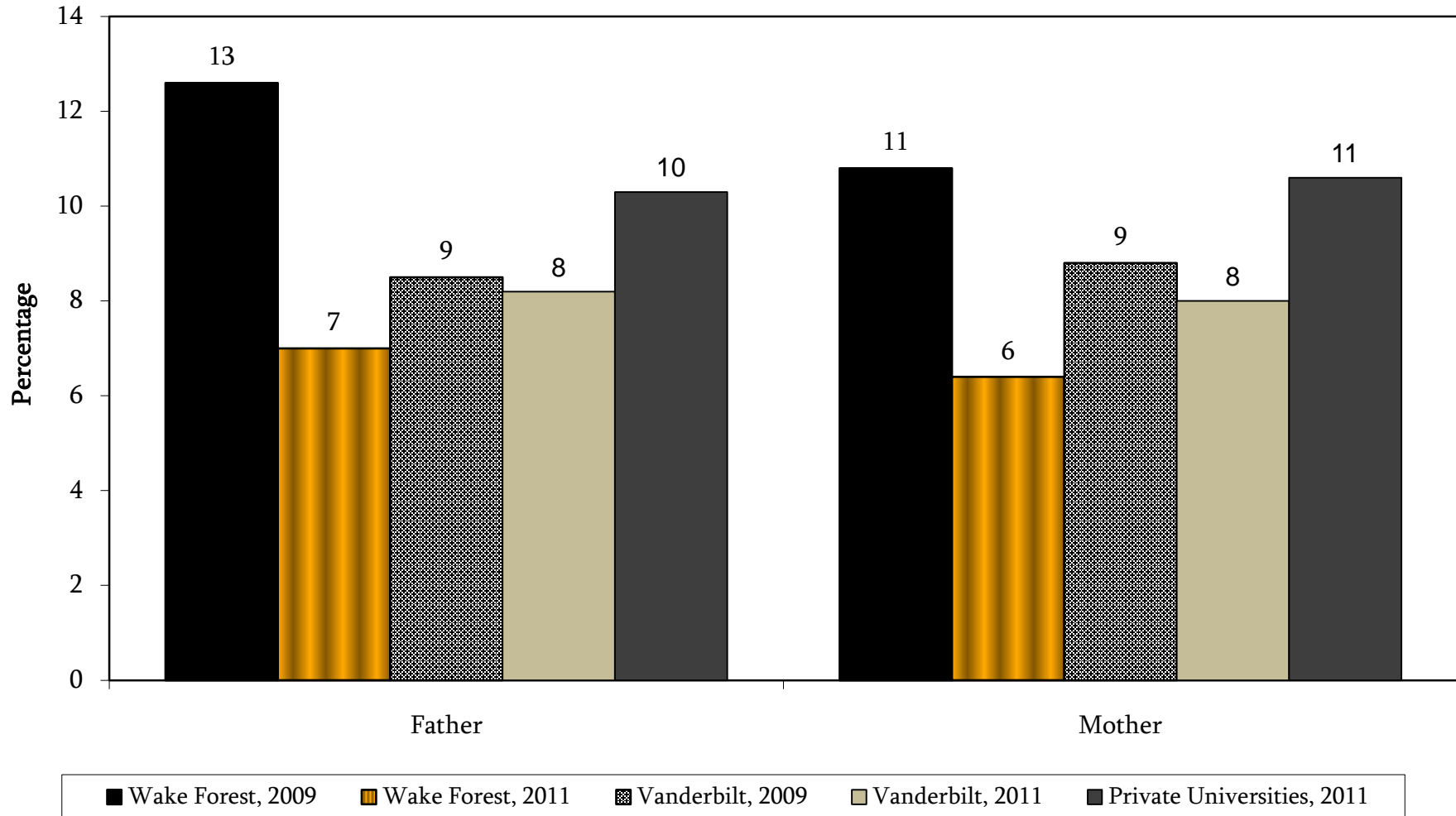
## Minority Respondents



## Factors Cited as "Very Important" in Choosing a School



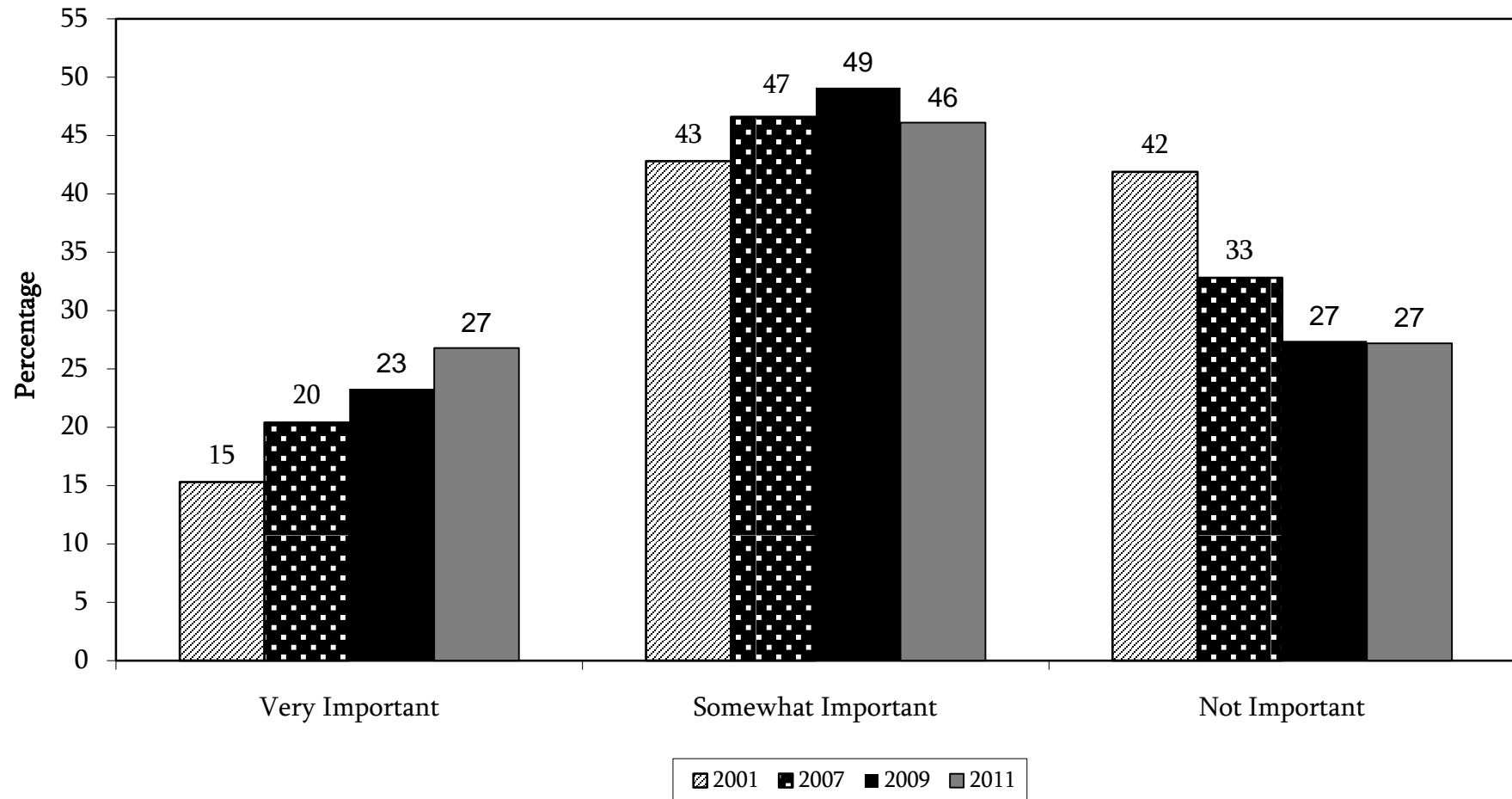
## Respondents Indicating their Mother and/or Father did NOT attend College



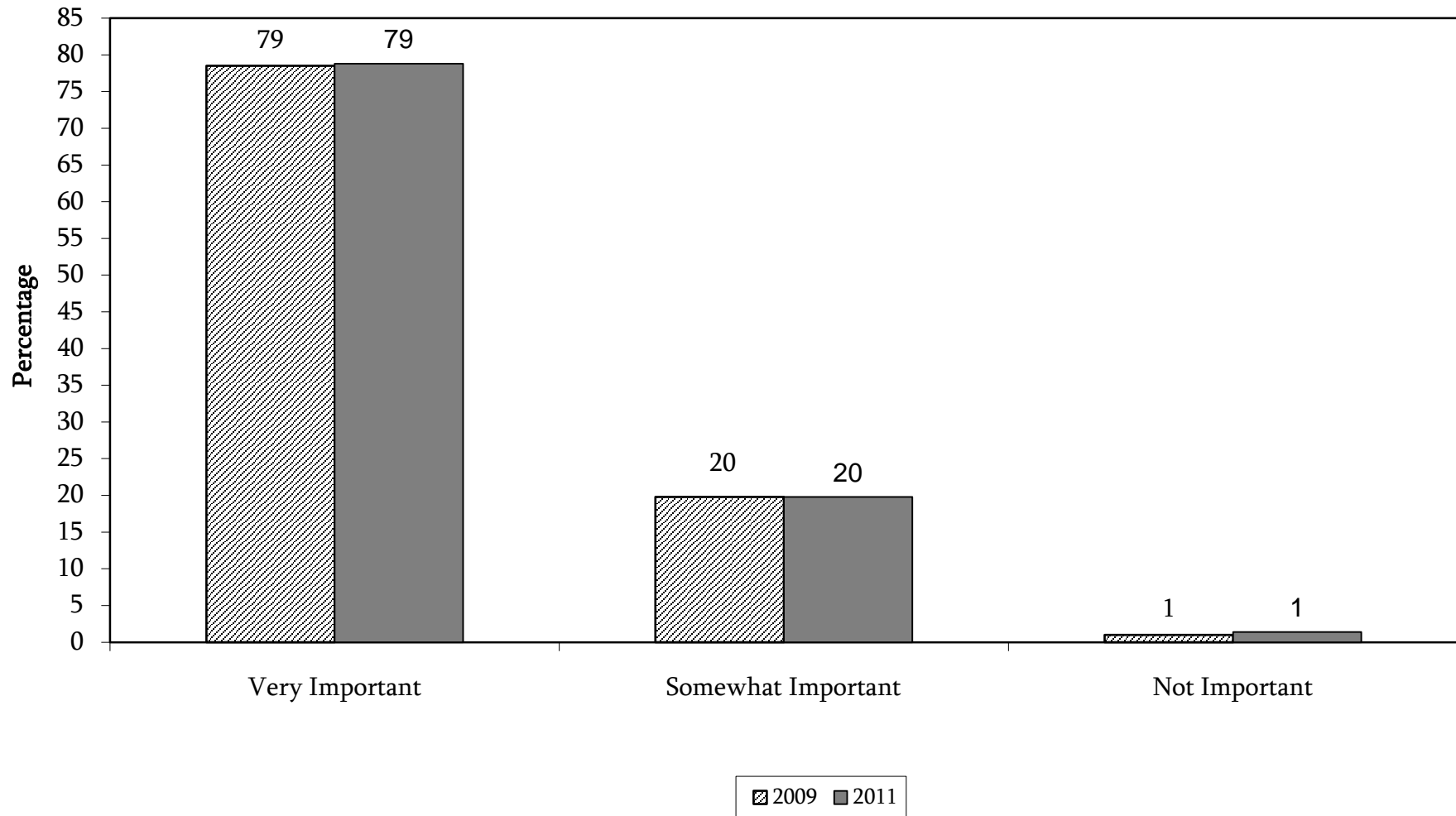
# Additional Questions

## Wake Forest University

**As a reason in your decision to attend Wake Forest, how important was the opportunity to participate in collaborative research with a professor?**

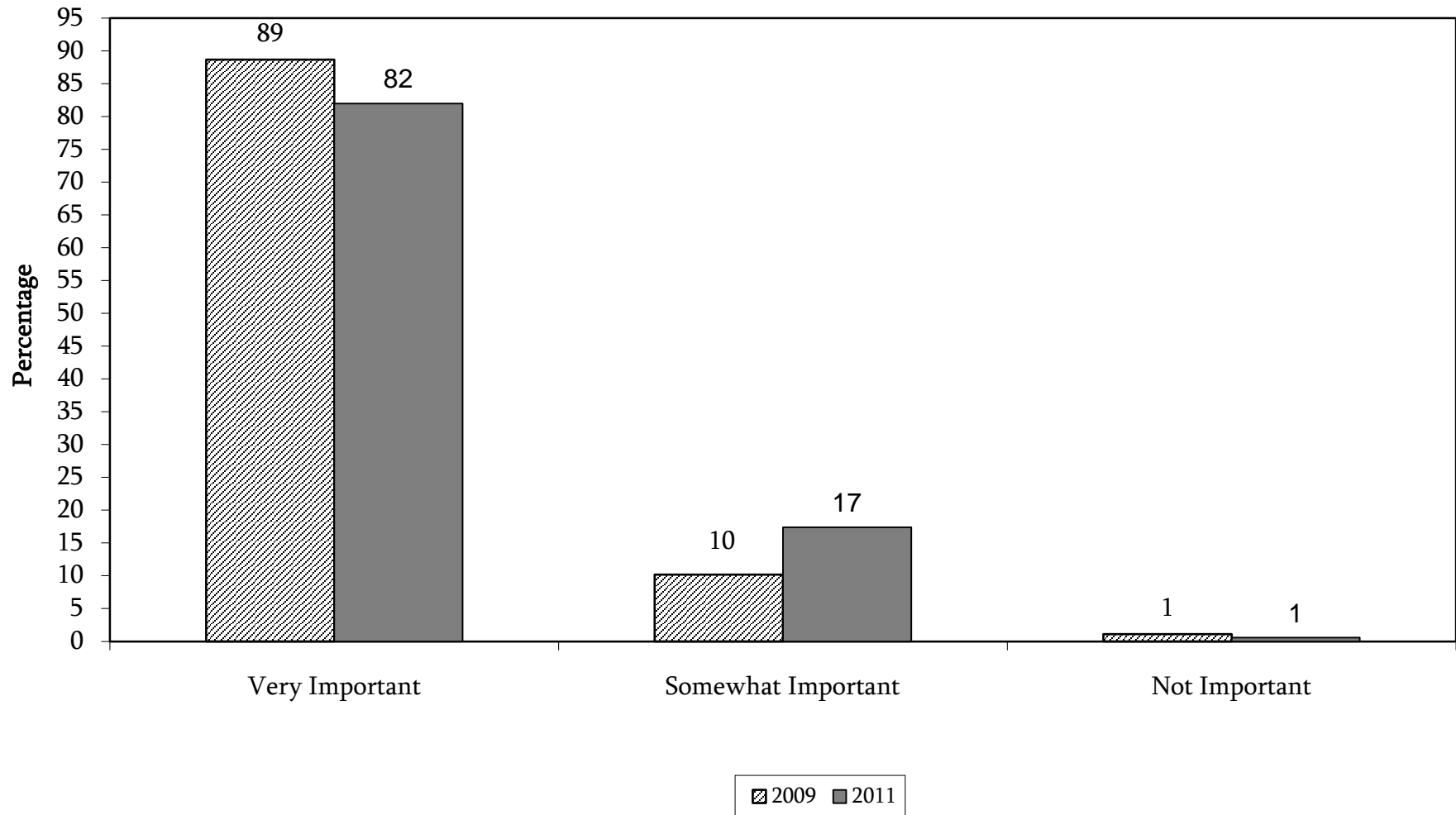


**As a reason in your decision to attend Wake Forest, how important was the opportunity to get to know your professors?**

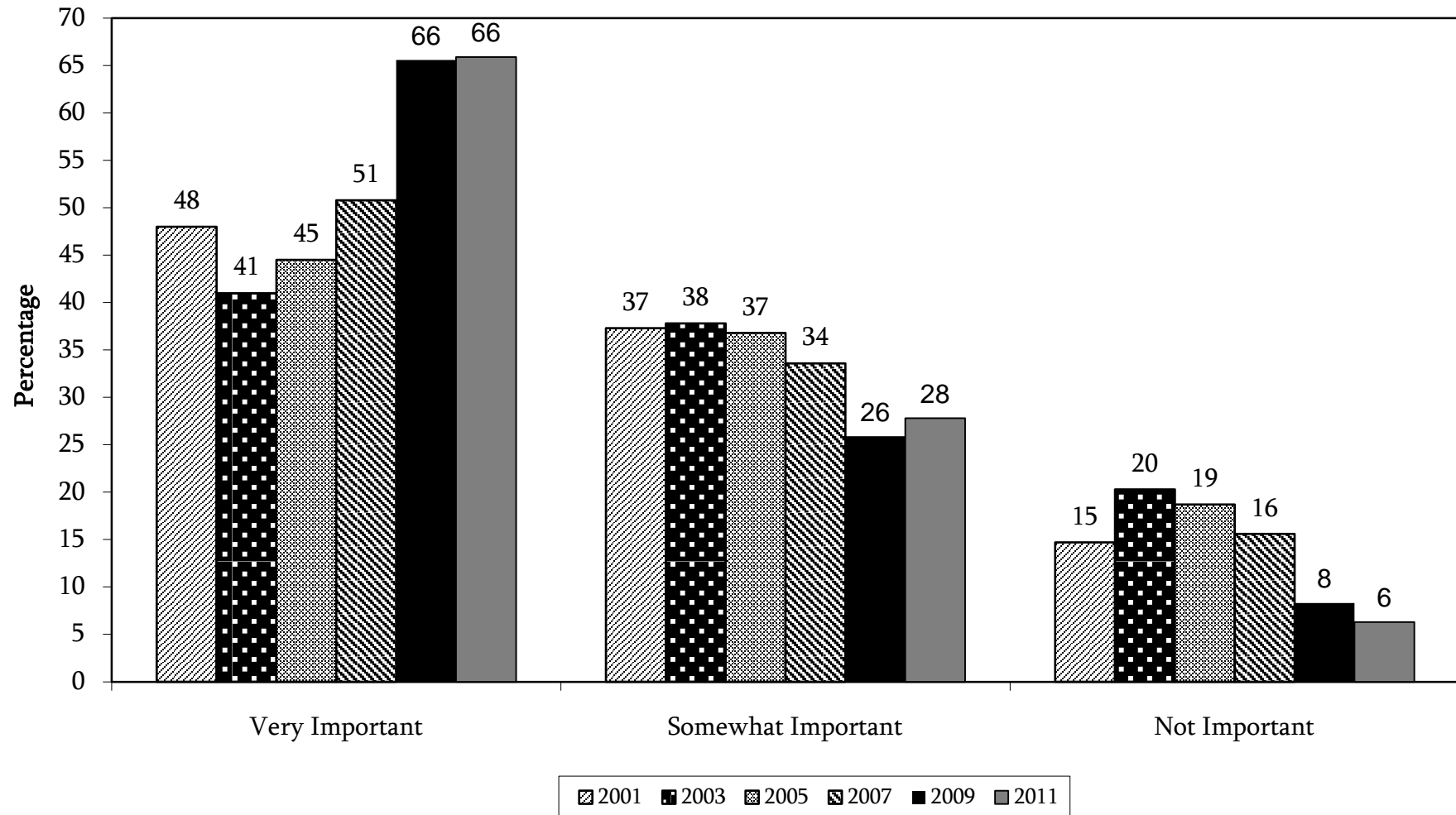




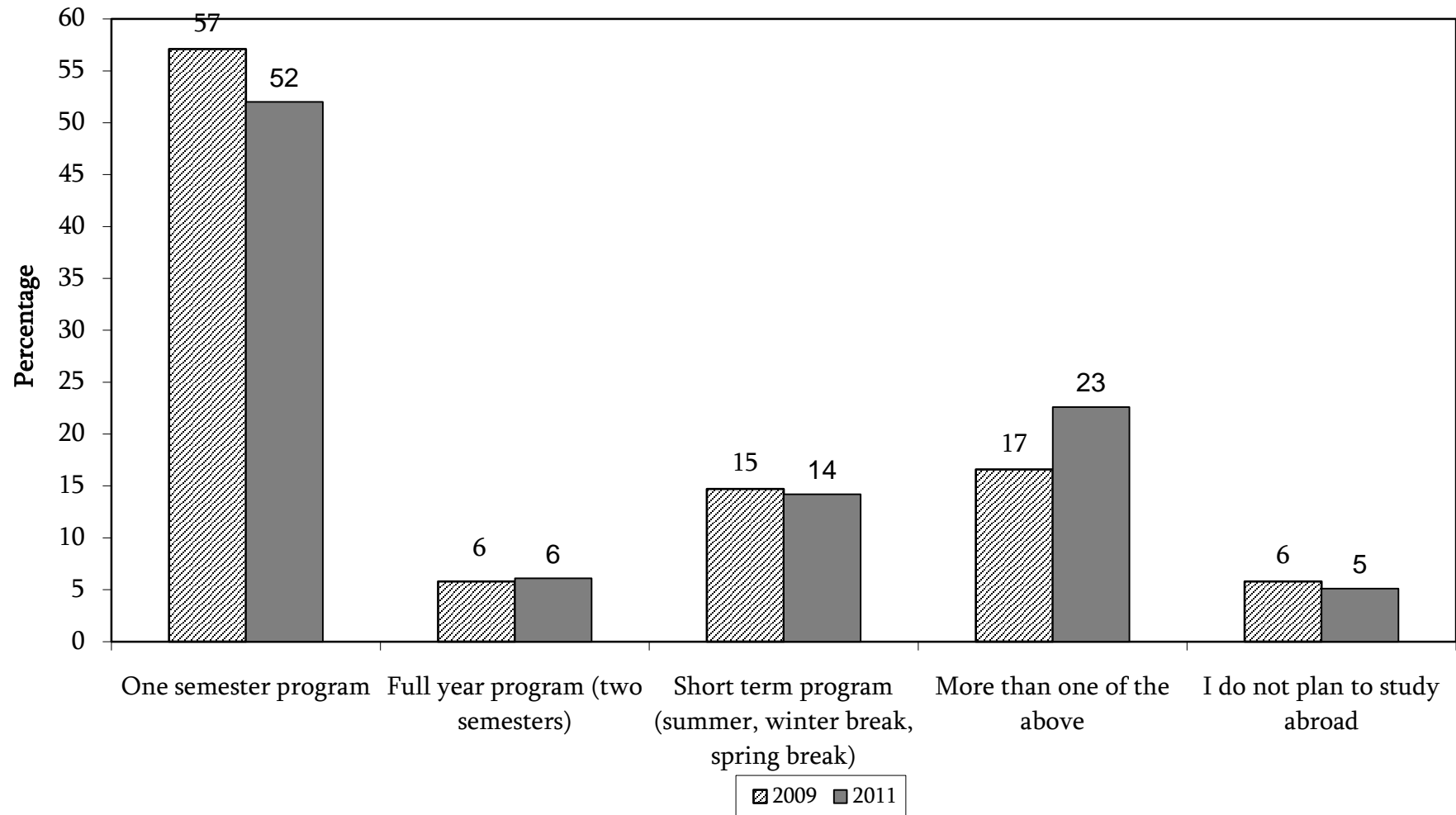
As a reason in your decision to attend Wake Forest, how important was the opportunity to participate in small classes?



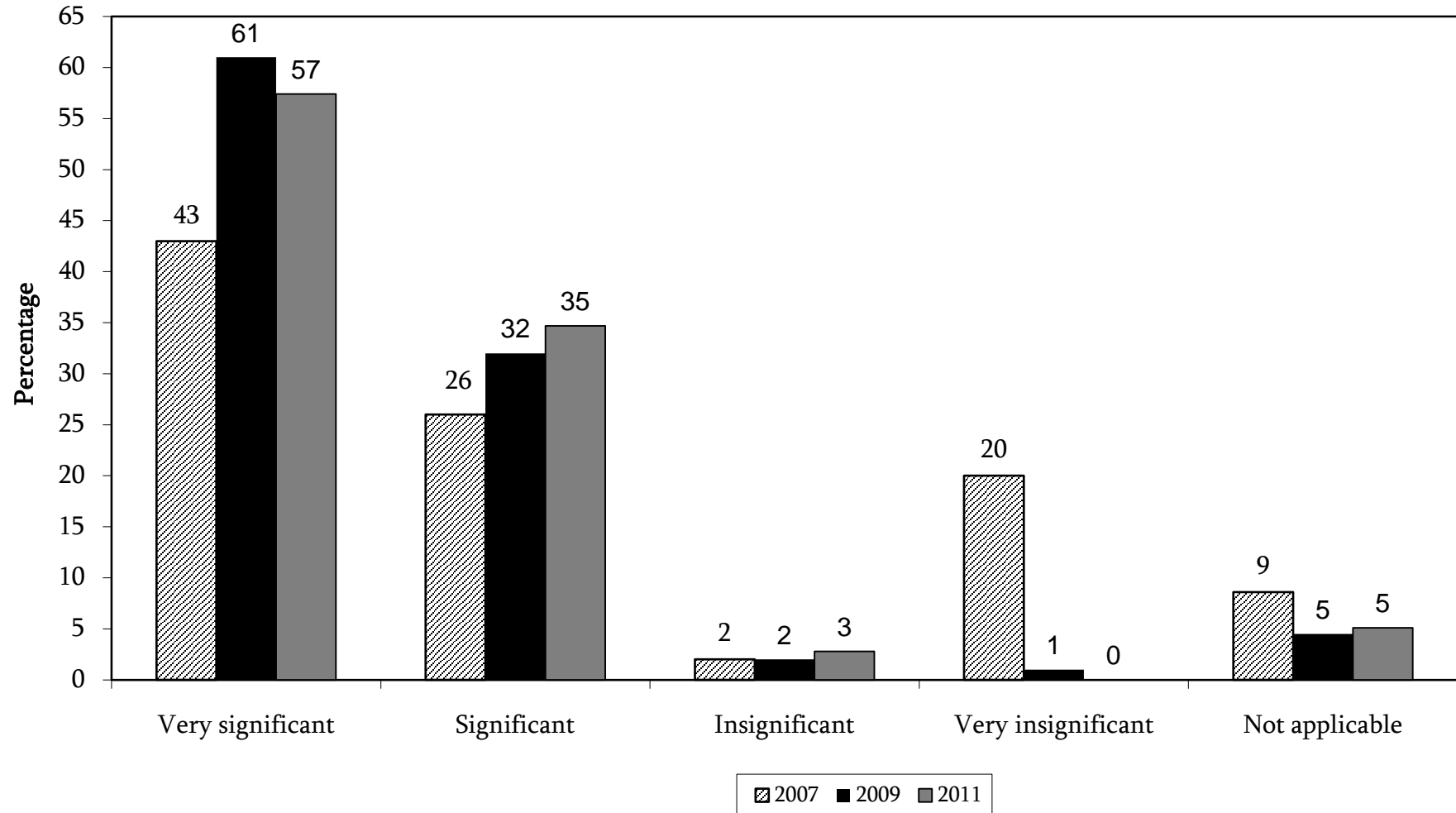
As a reason in your decision to attend Wake Forest, how important was the opportunity for studying abroad?



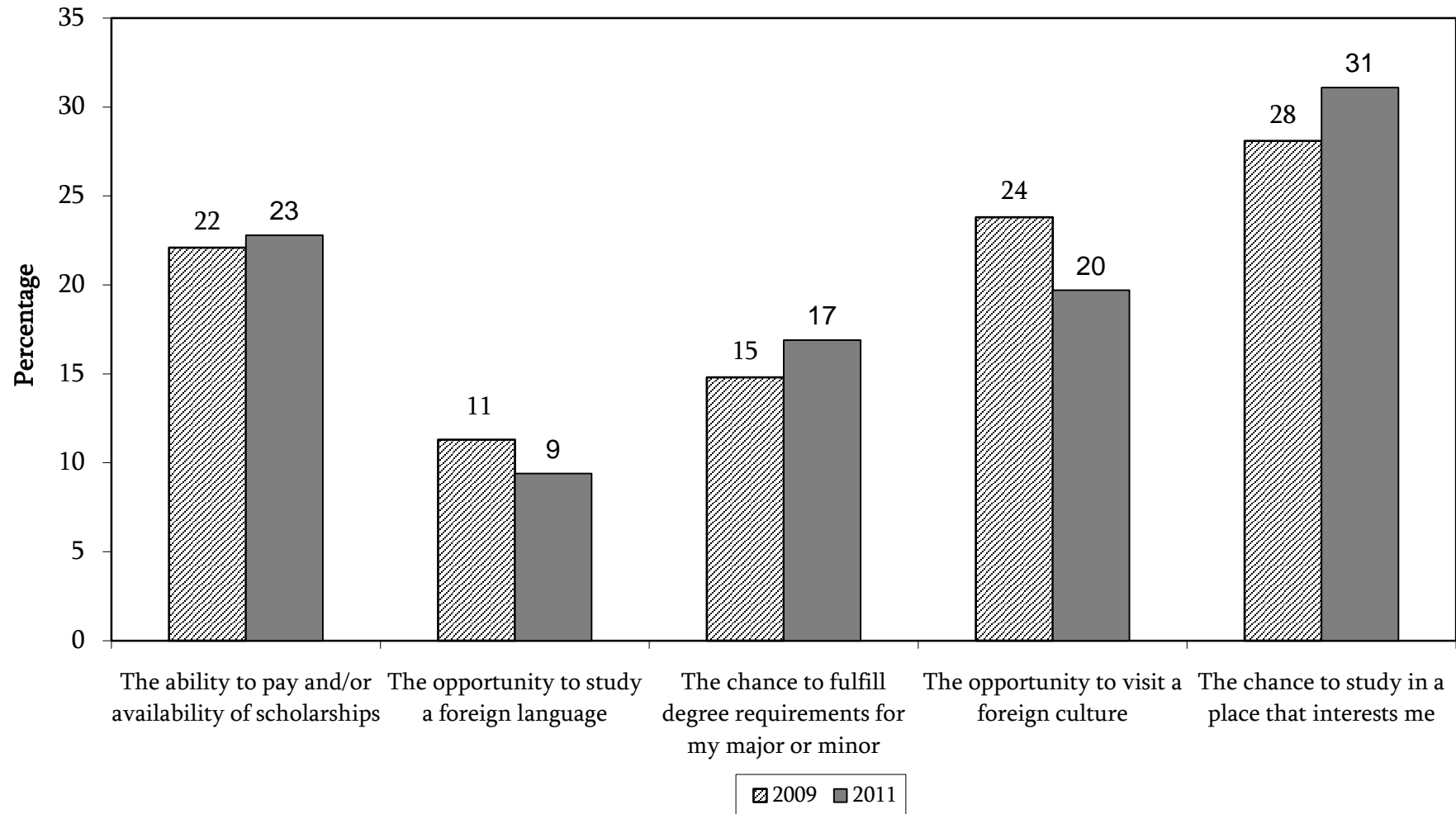
## What type of Study abroad program(s) would you like to participate in while a student at Wake Forest?



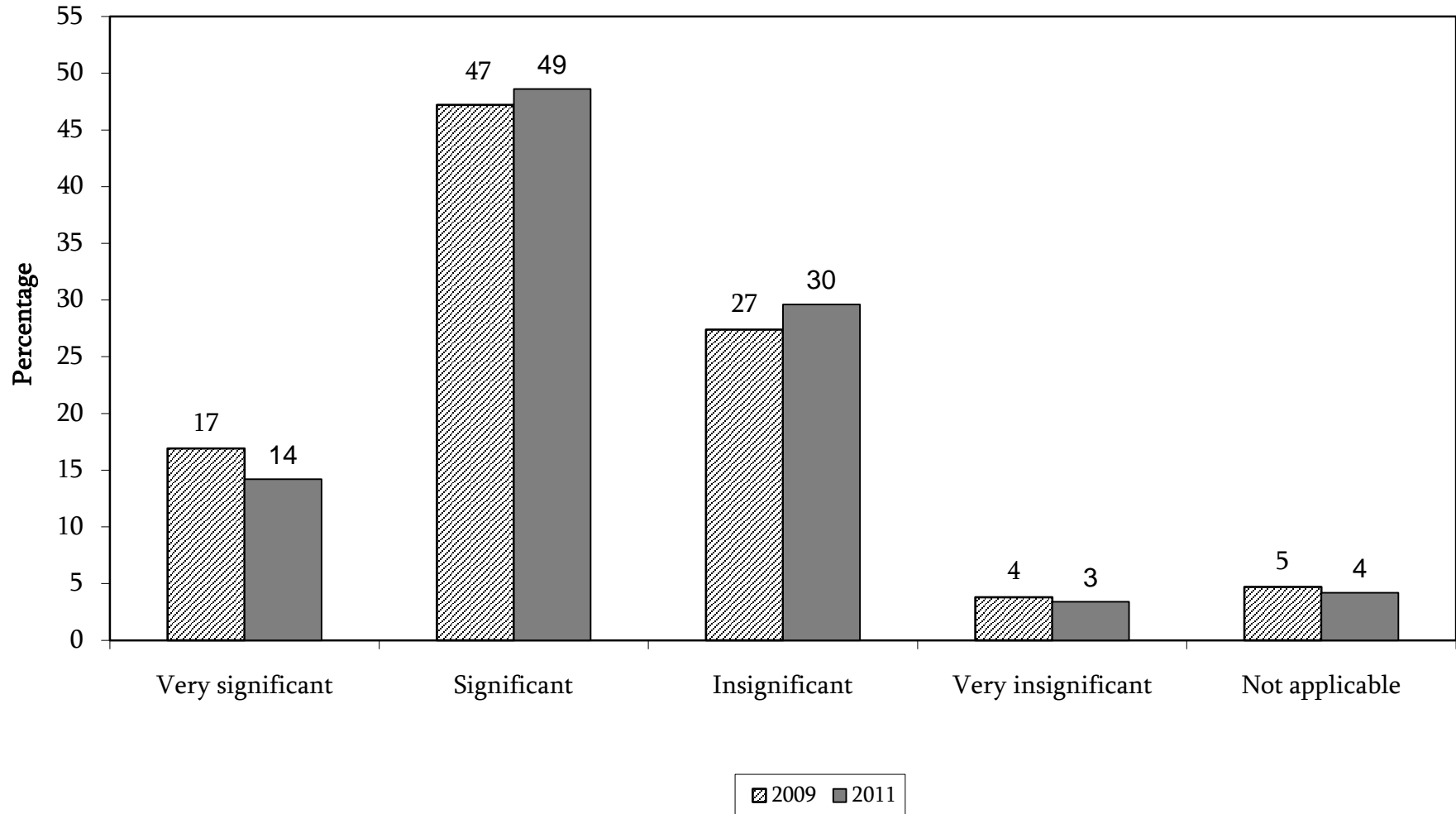
**If you are planning to study abroad while a student at Wake Forest, how would you regard this experience as a part of your education?**



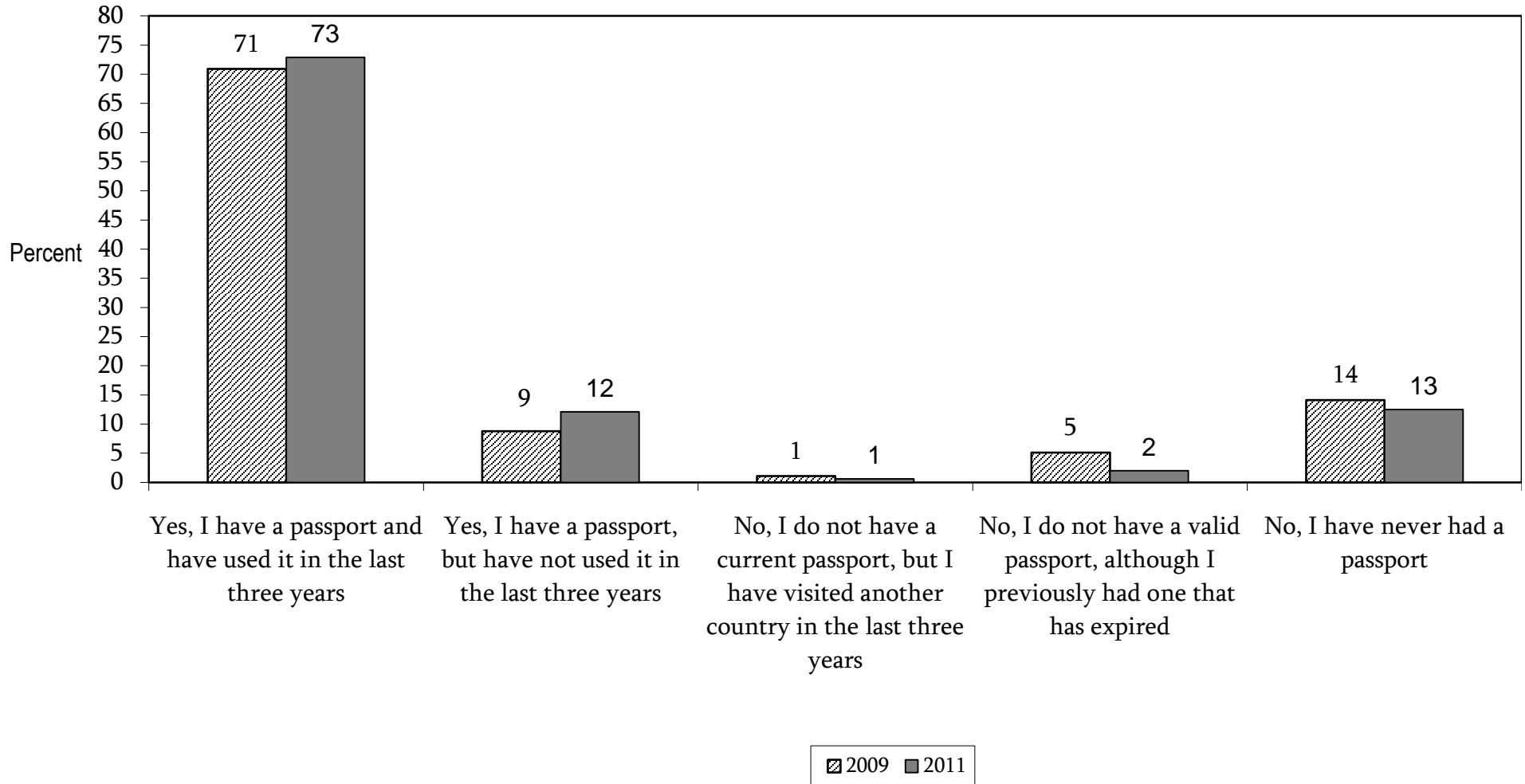
## What factor is most likely to influence your decision to study abroad while a student at Wake Forest?



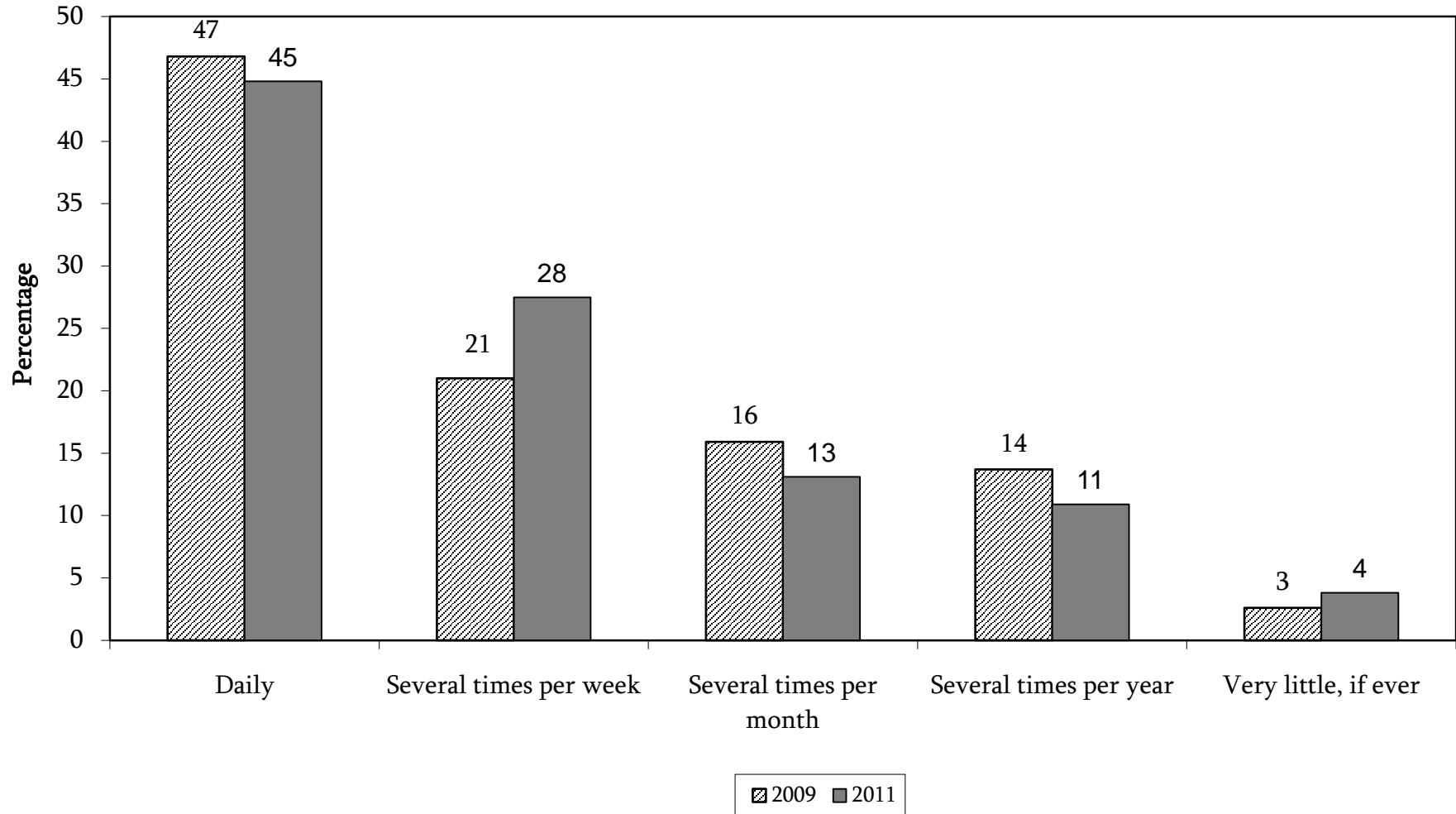
To what extent do you anticipate that studying abroad will be relevant to completing your major or minor?



## Do you have a current passport? Have you used it to visit another country in the last three years?

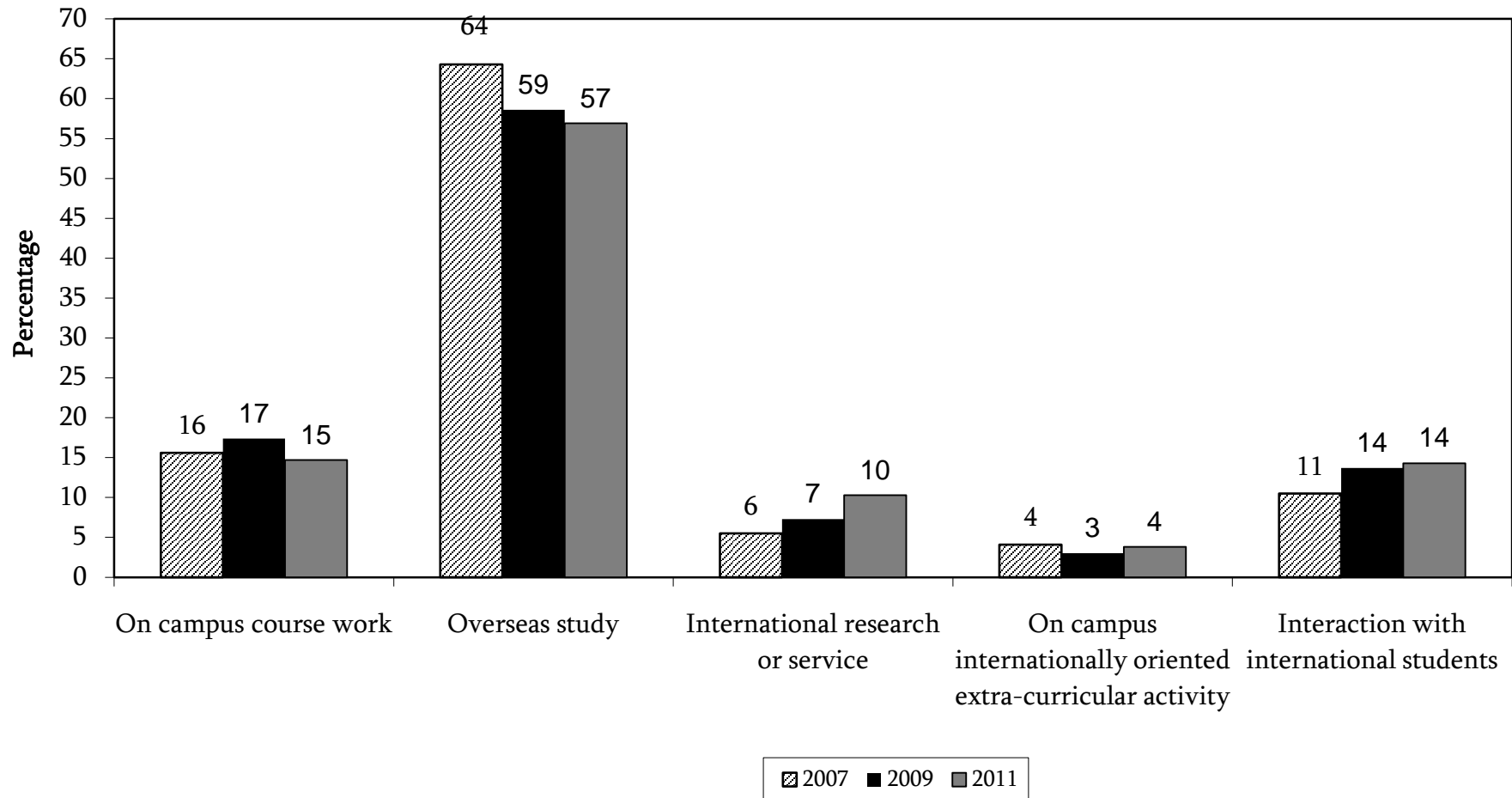


**In the last 2-3 years, how frequently have you interacted with people from a culture or background different from your own?**

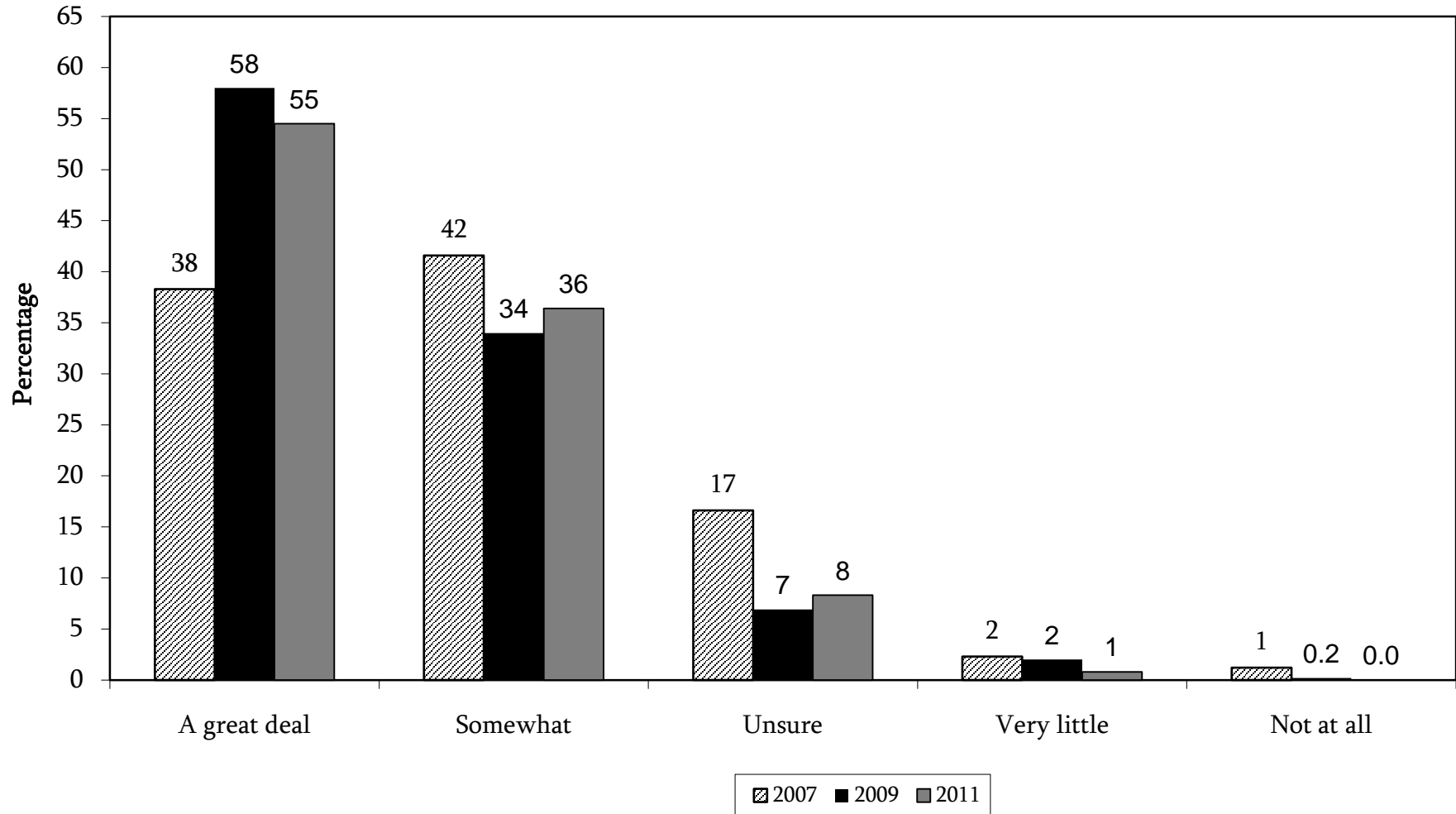




What one experience at Wake Forest do you think will be most significant in shaping your understanding of foreign cultures and societies?



## To what extent do you think your college education will enhance your understanding of foreign cultures and societies?

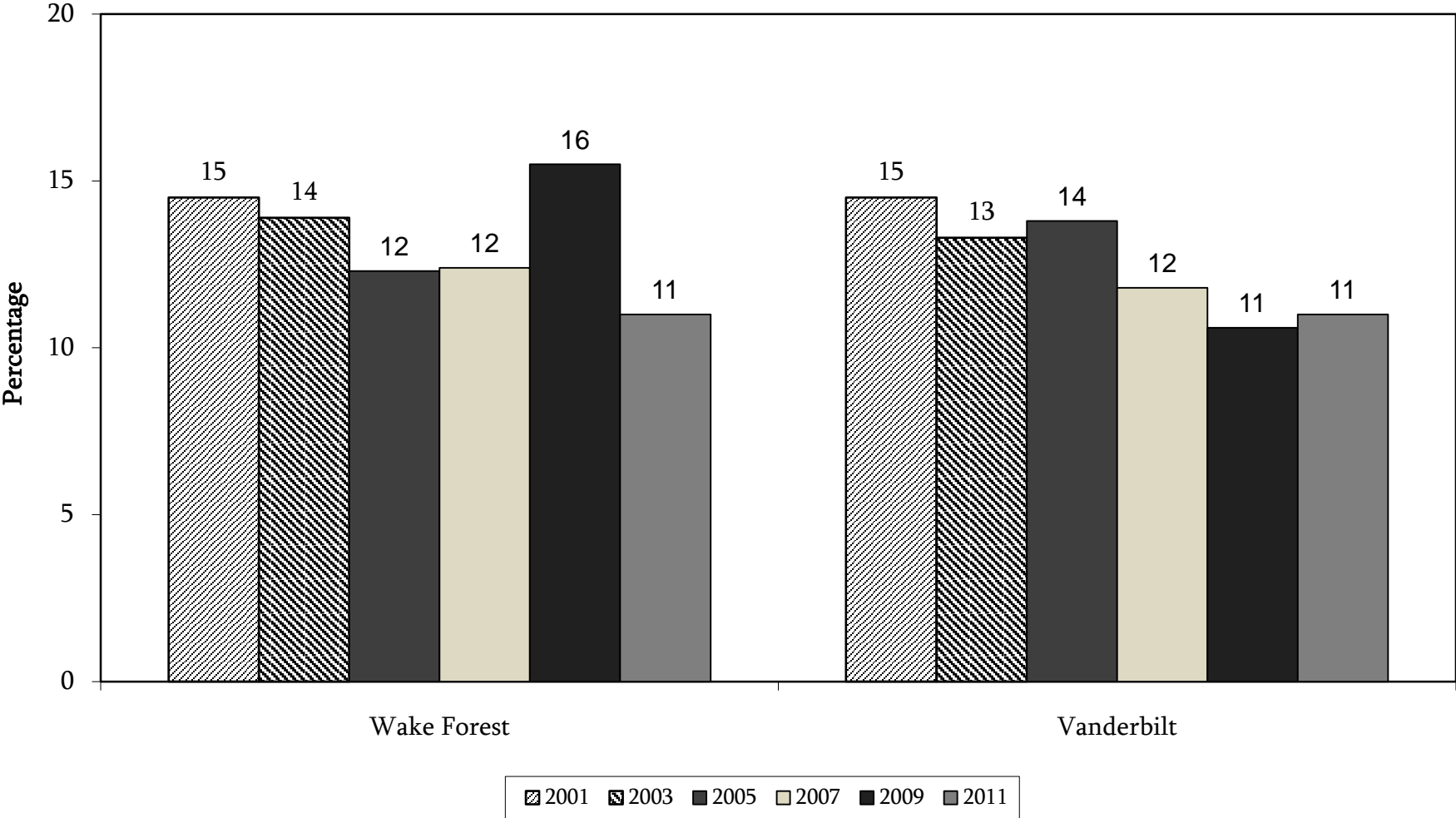


# CIRP Freshman Survey

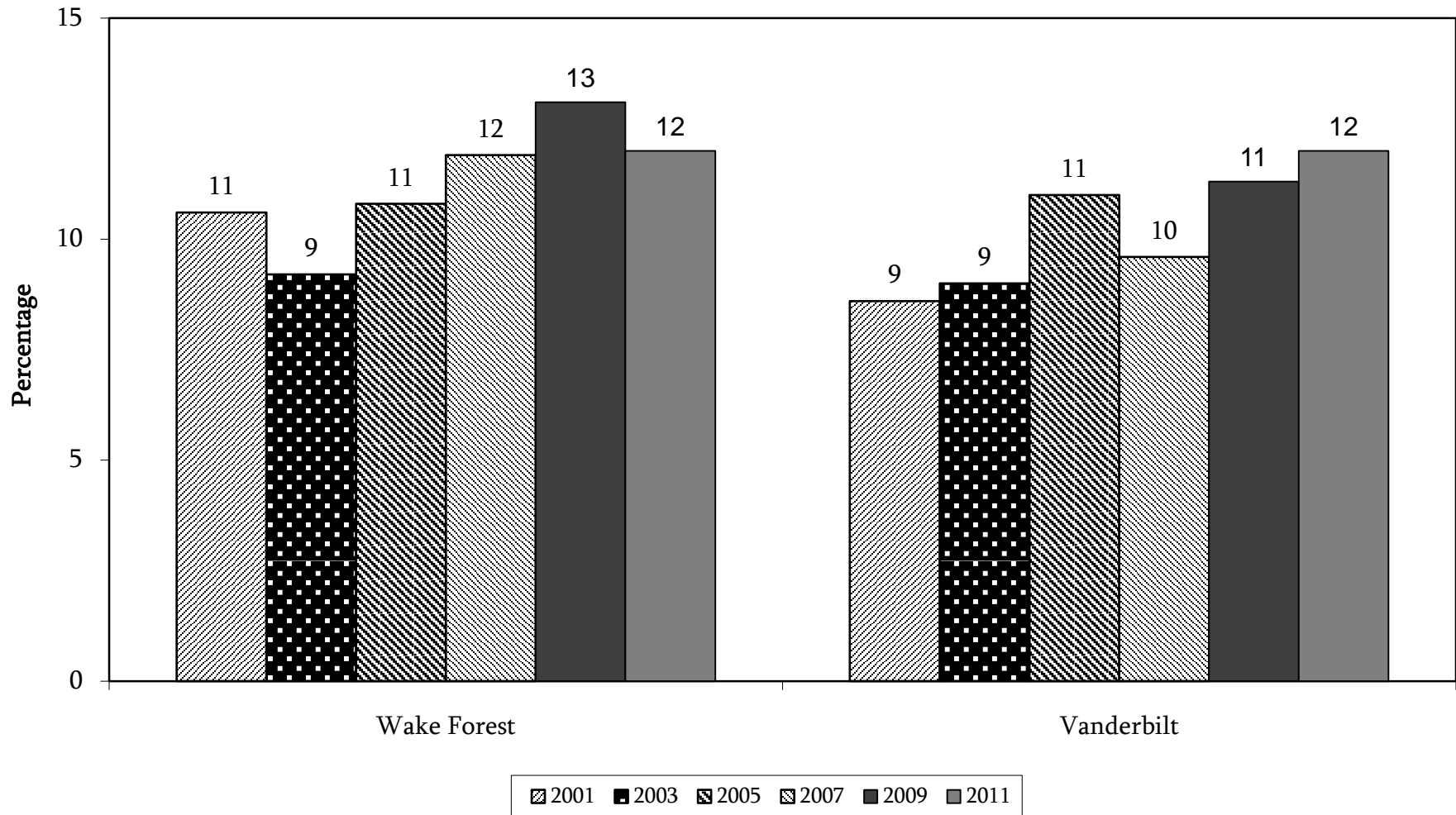
## 2001-2011 Longitudinal Results

Wake Forest University and Vanderbilt University

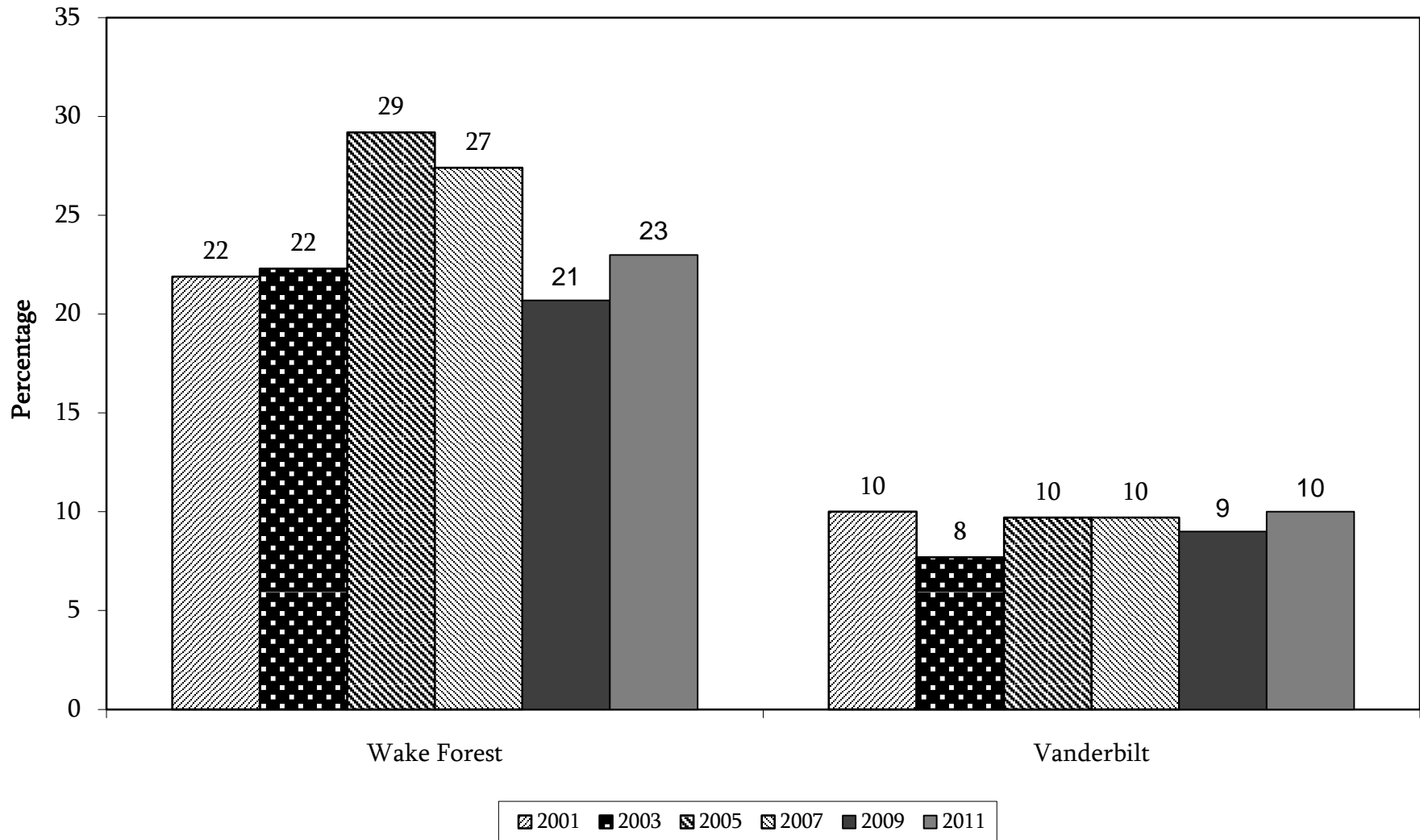
## Respondents Indicating a Probable Field of Study in Arts & Humanities



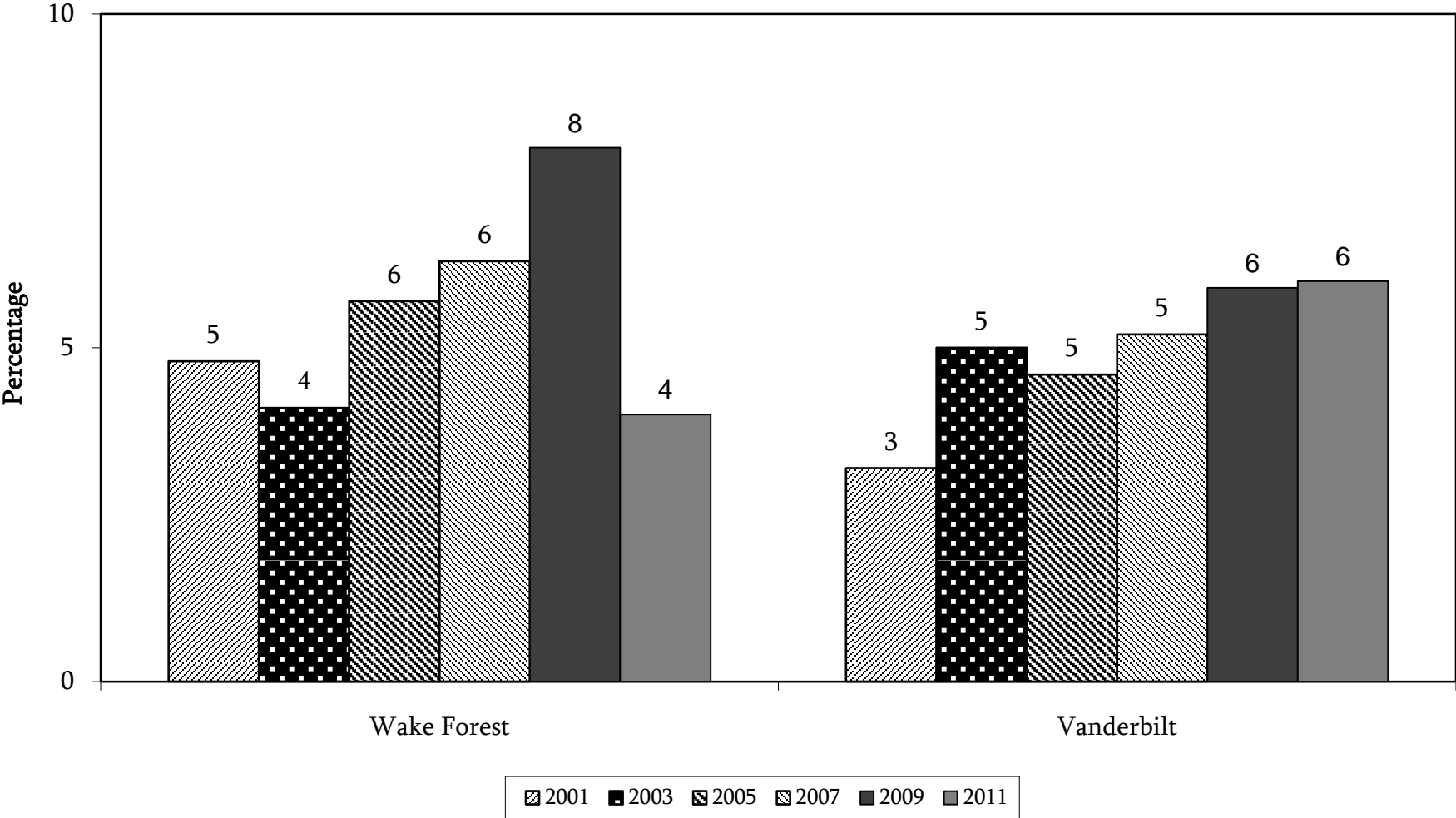
## Respondents Indicating a Probable Field of Study in Biological Science



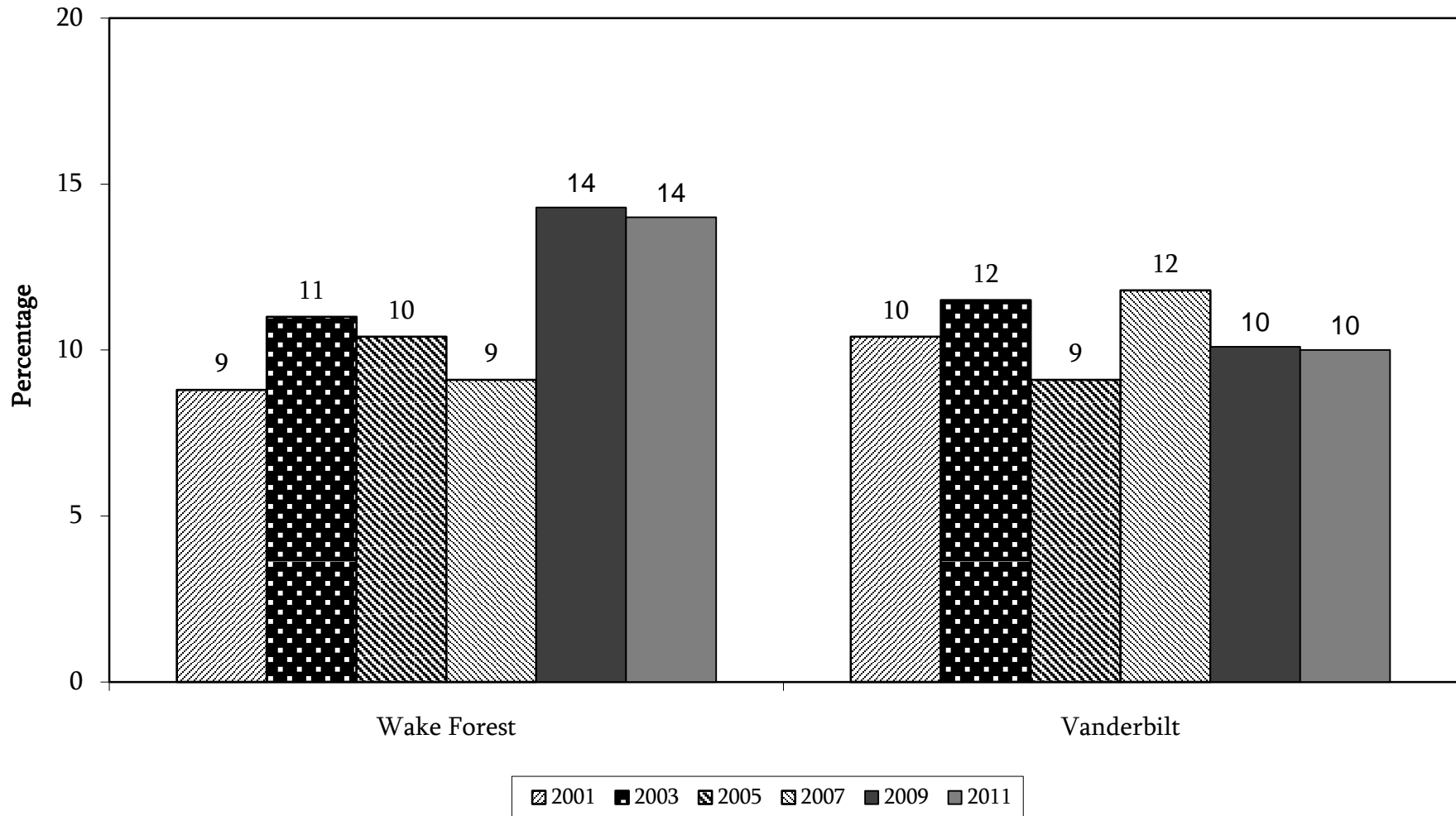
## Respondents Indicating a Probable Field of Study in Business



## Respondents Indicating a Probable Field of Study in Physical Science or Mathematics

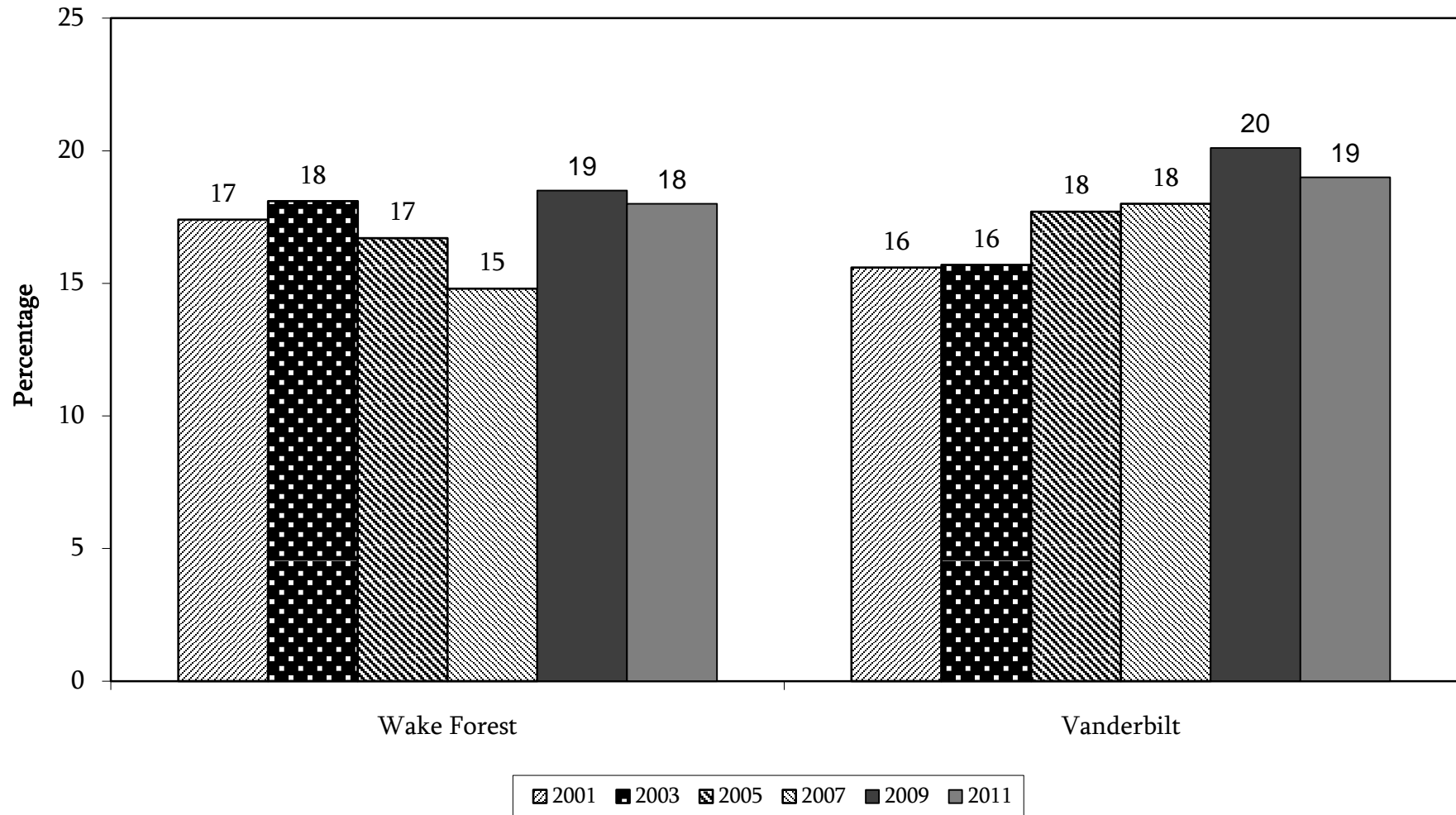


## Respondents Indicating a Probable Field of Study in a Professional Discipline

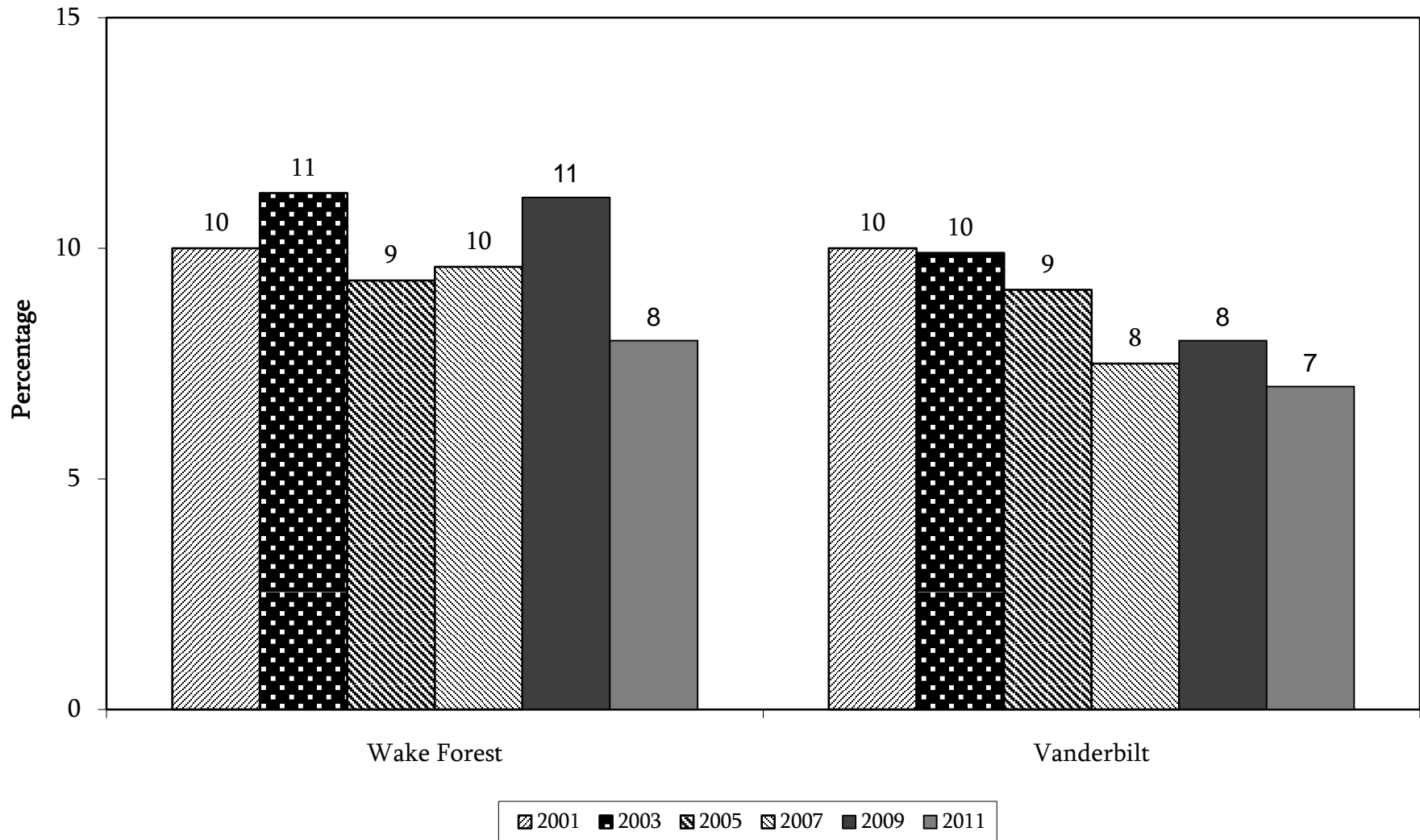




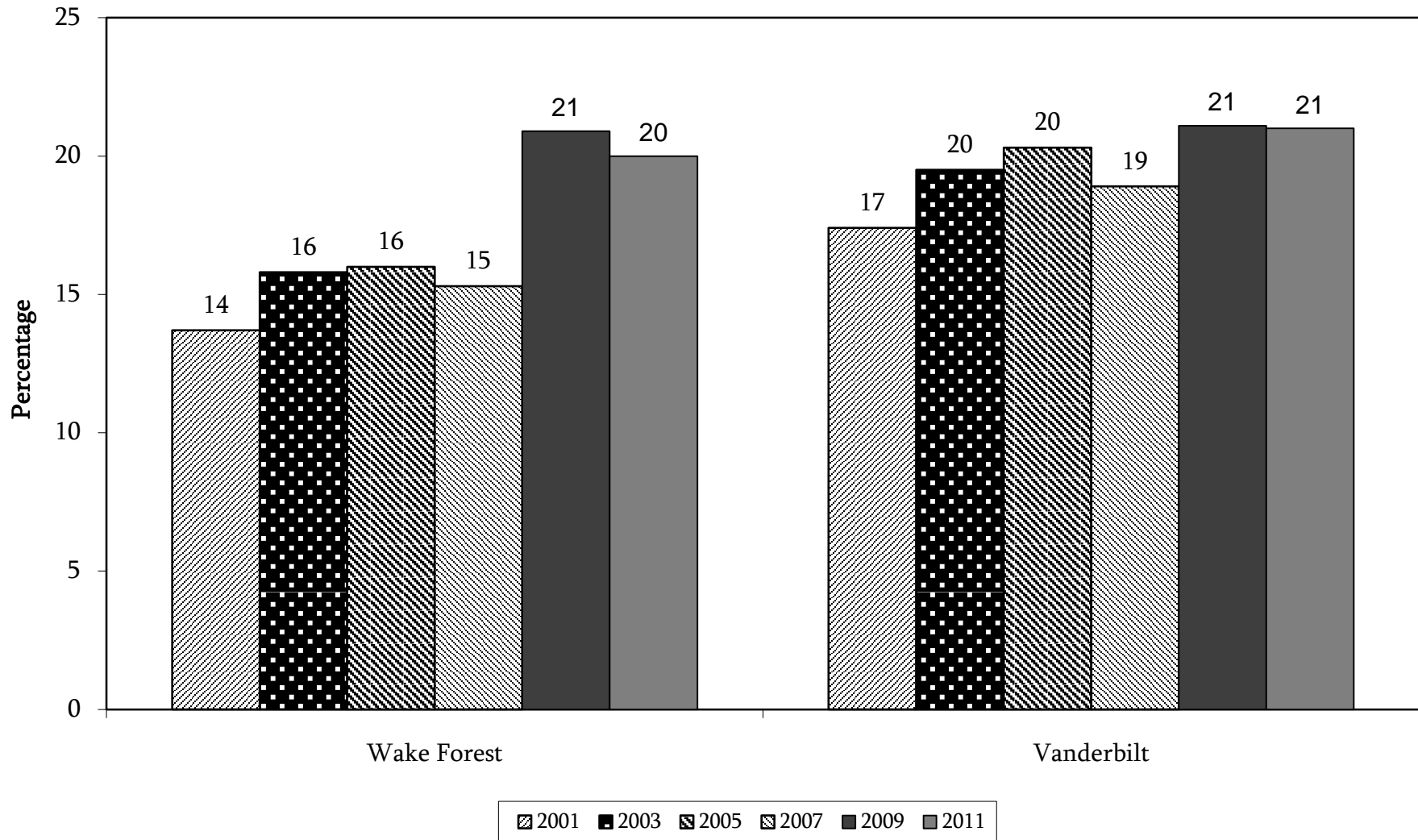
## Respondents Indicating a Probable Field of Study in Social Science



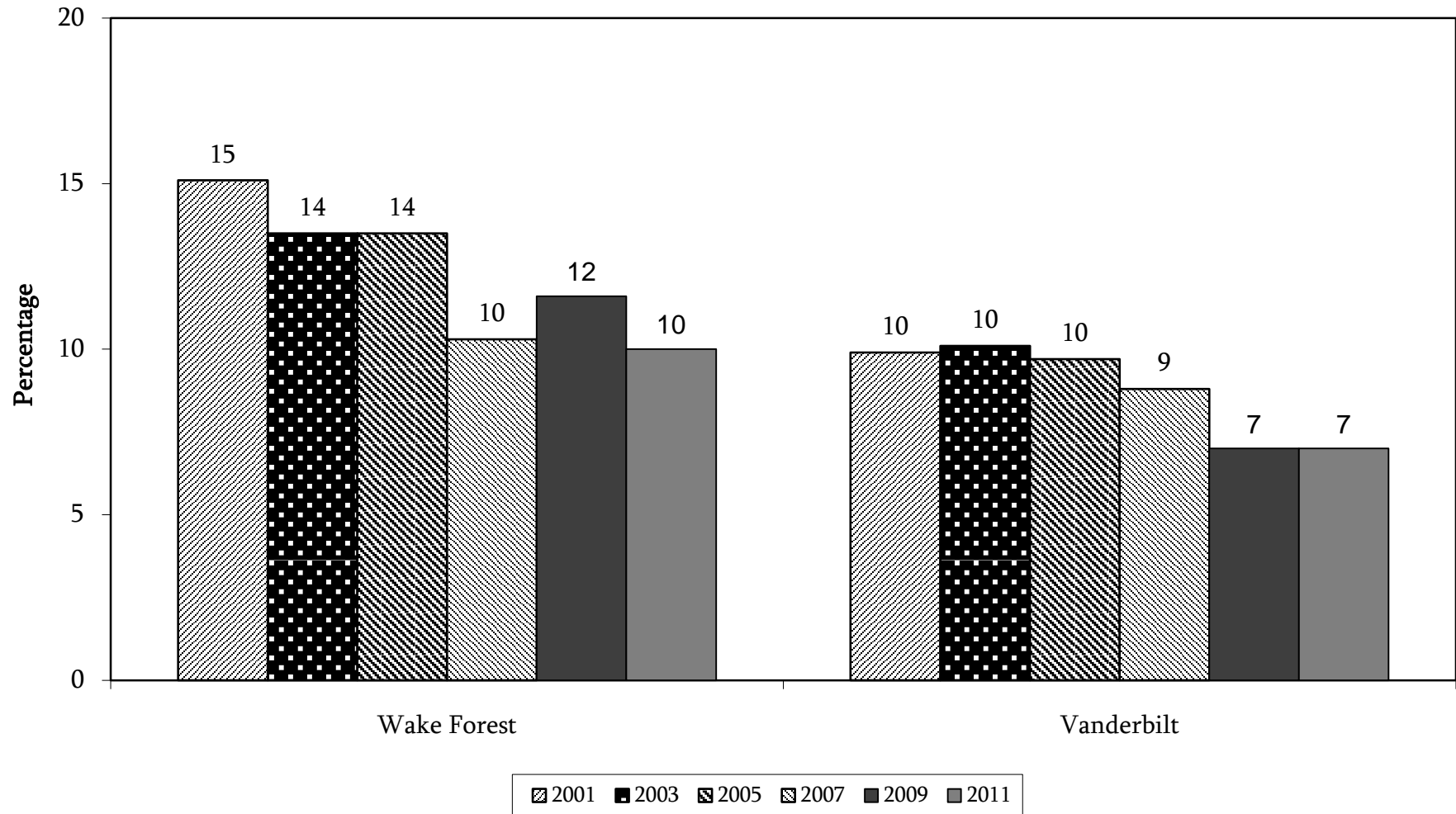
## Respondents Indicating a Probable Career as a Lawyer



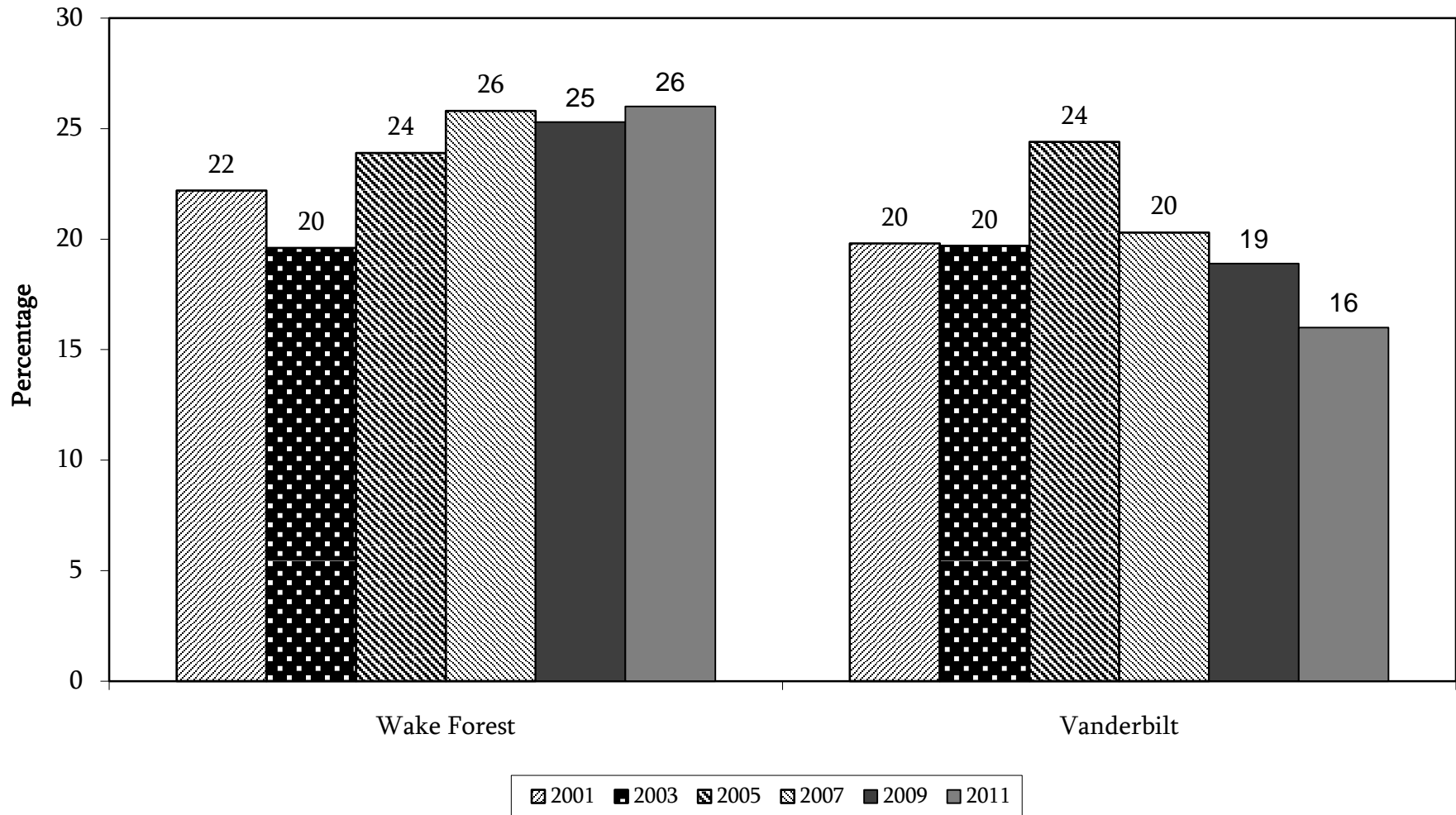
## Respondents Indicating a Probable Career as a Physician



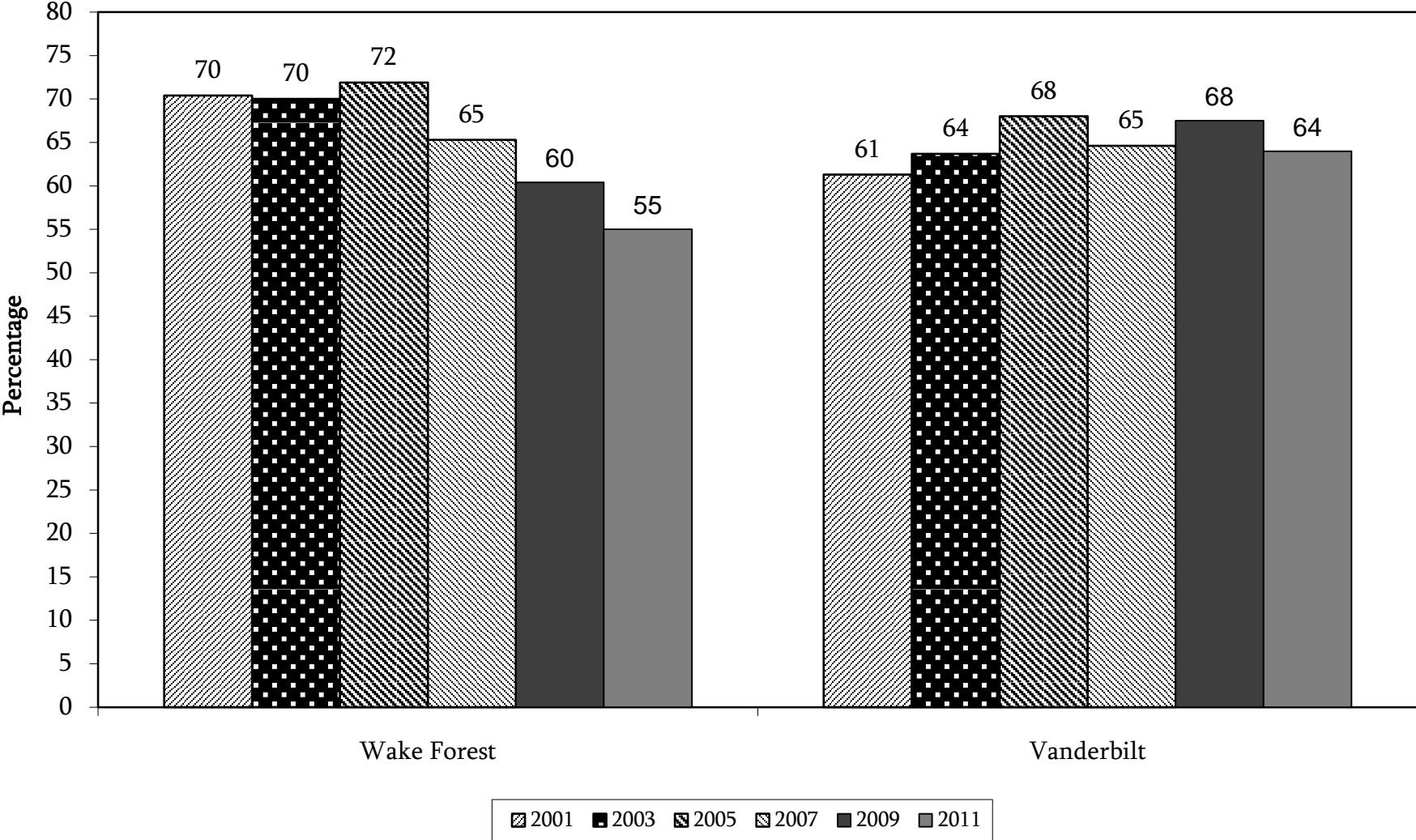
## Respondents Indicating their Current Religious Preference as Baptist



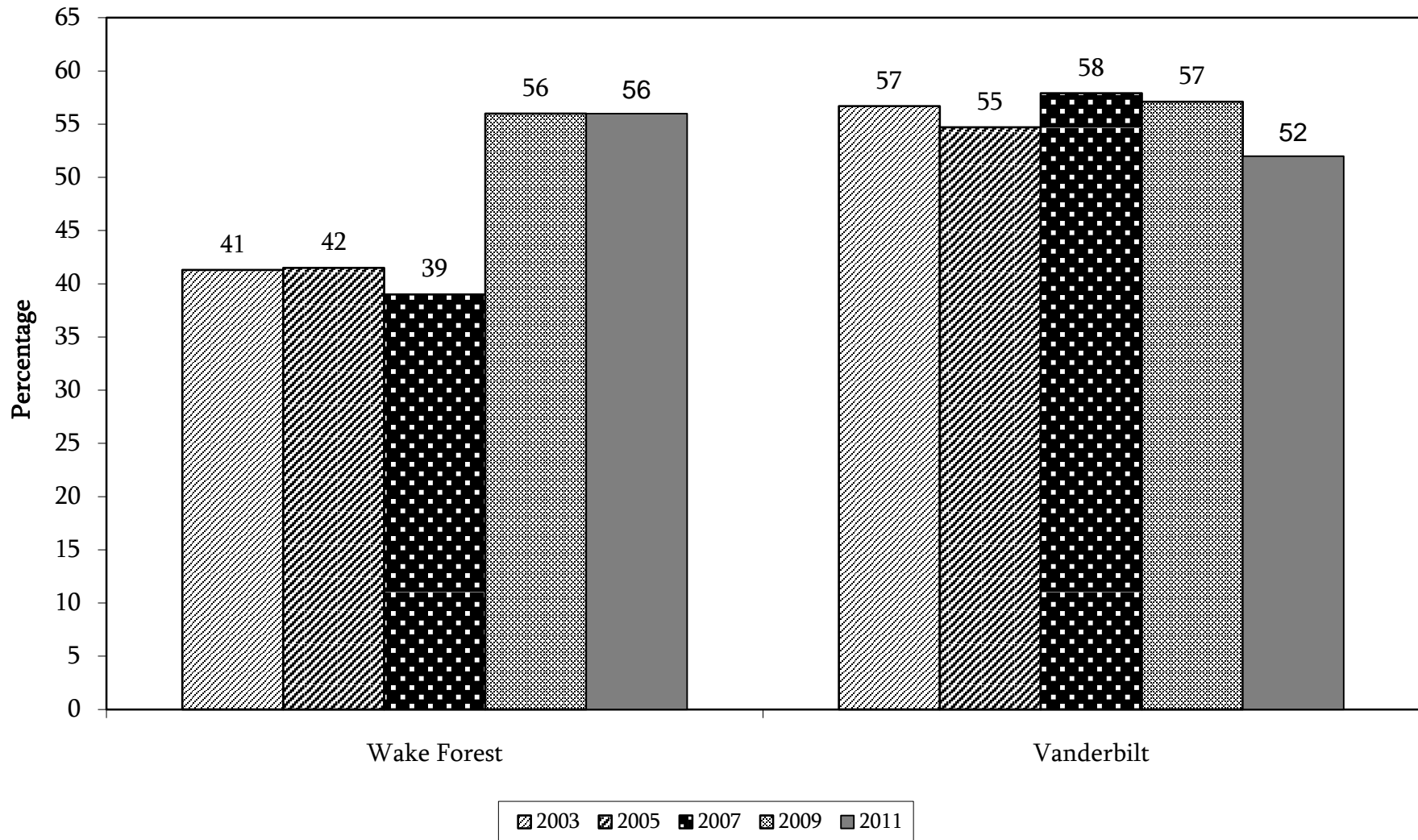
## Respondents Indicating their Current Religious Preference as Roman Catholic



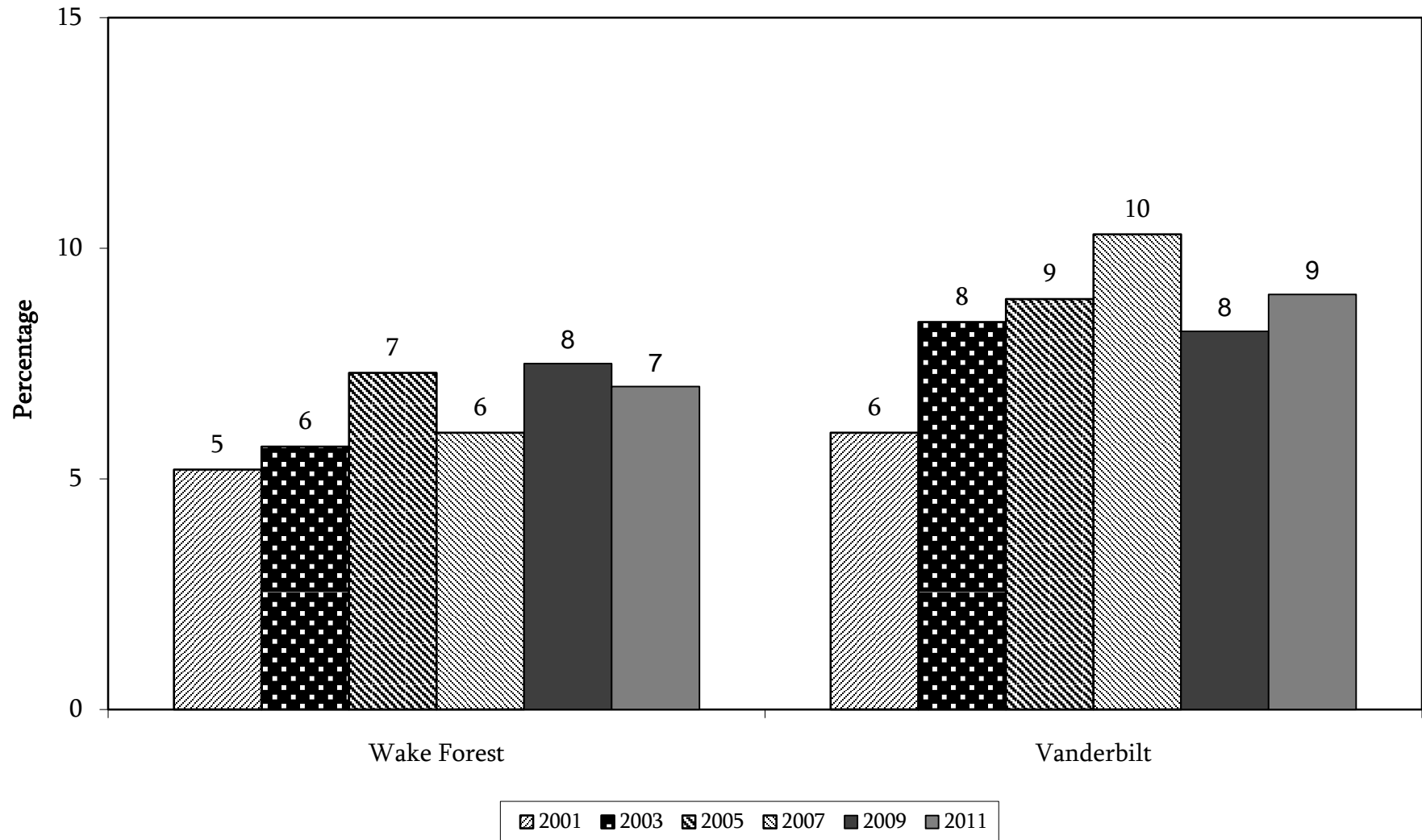
### Respondents Indicating their Current School as their First Choice



## Respondents Applying to Six or More Schools

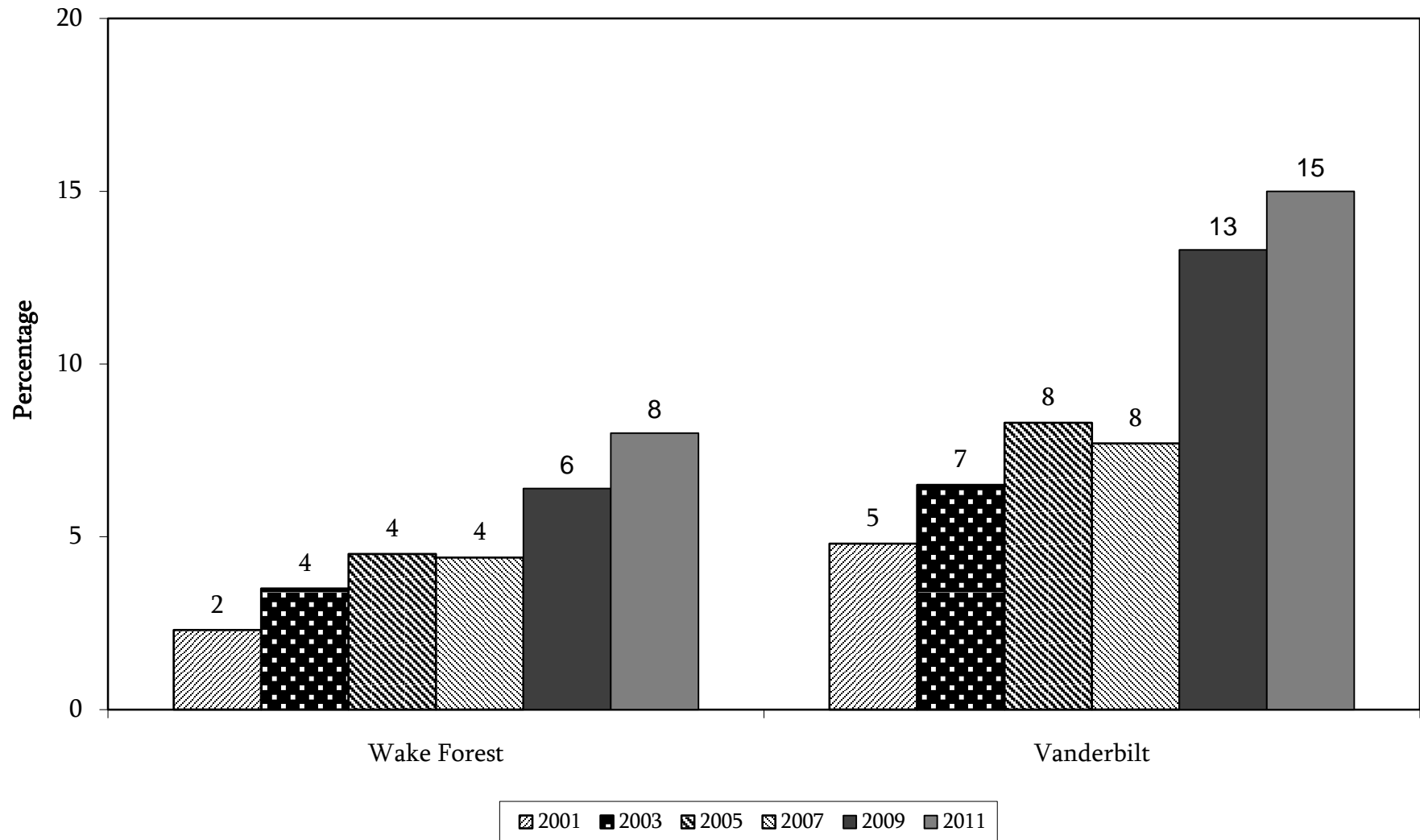


## Respondents - African American

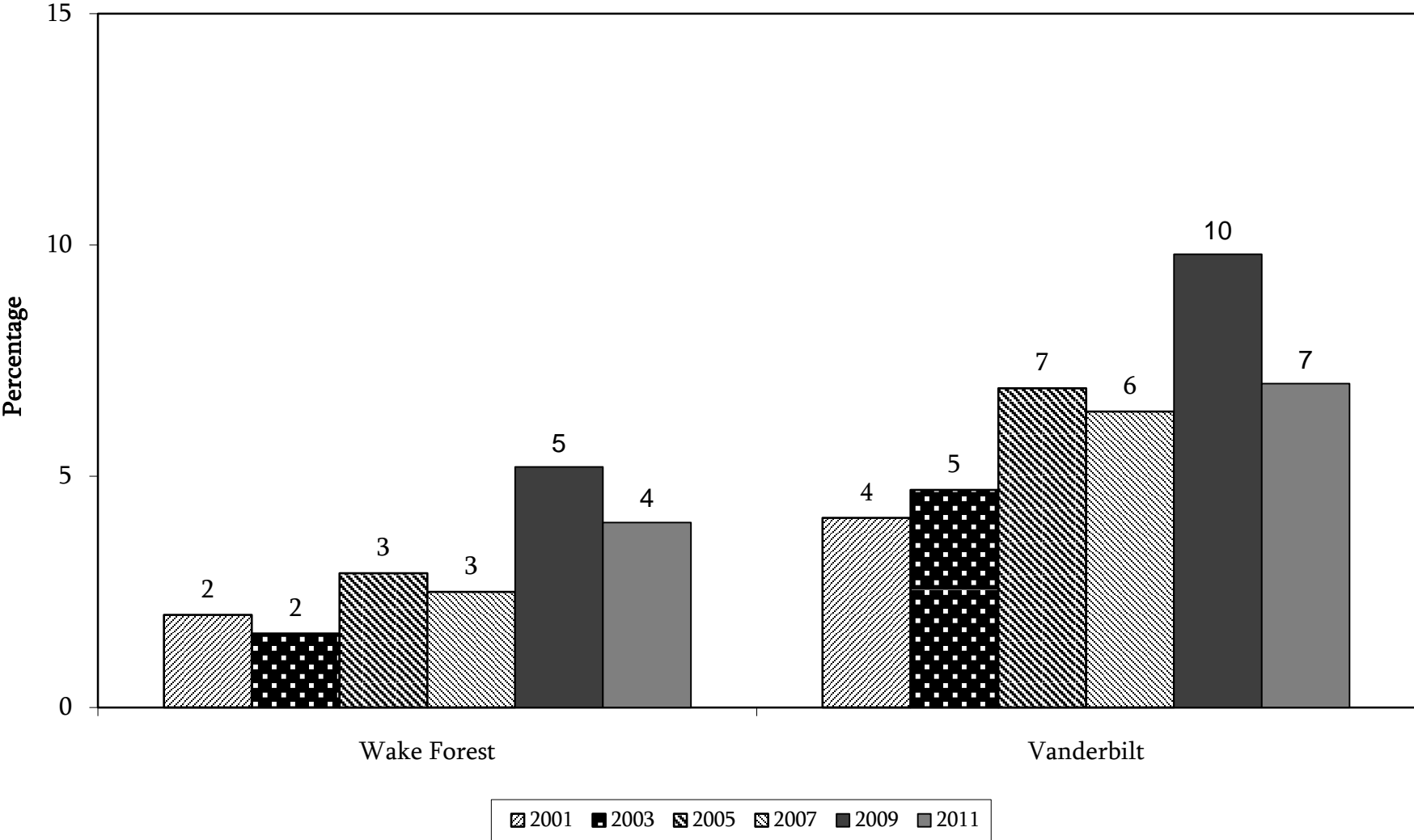




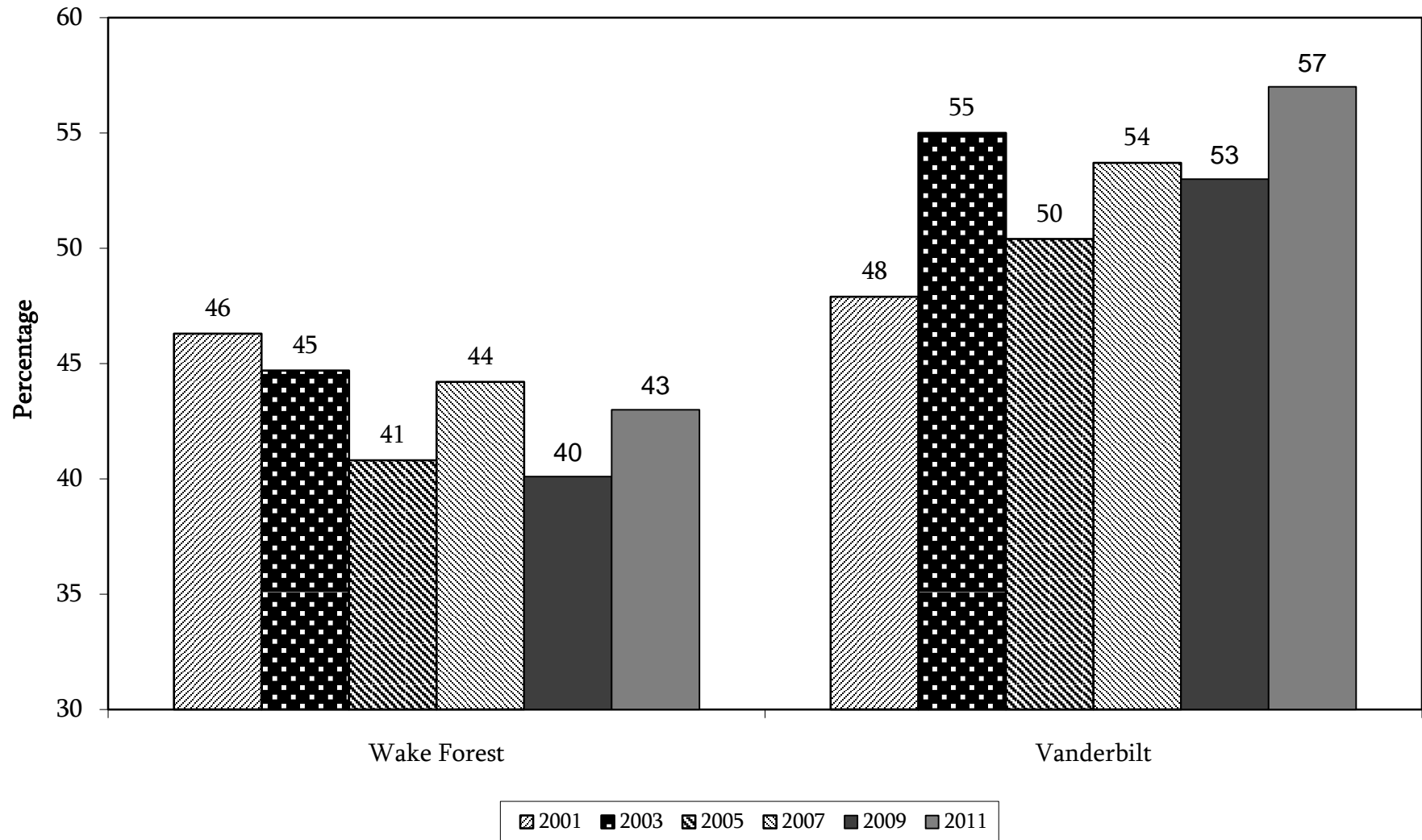
## Respondents - Asian



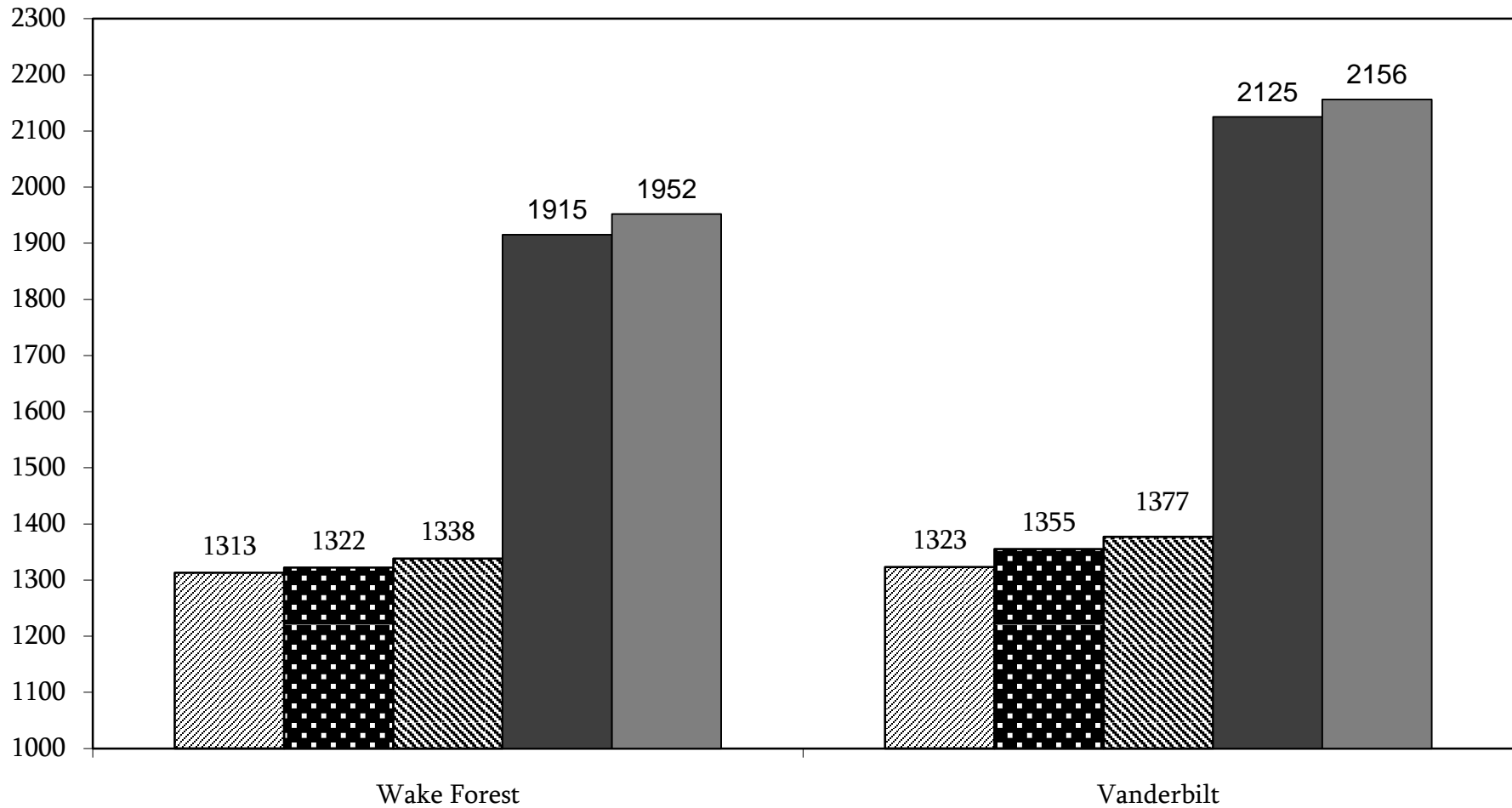
# Respondents - Hispanic



## Respondents Indicating an Average High School Grade of "A" or "A+"



## Mean Composite SAT for Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen\*

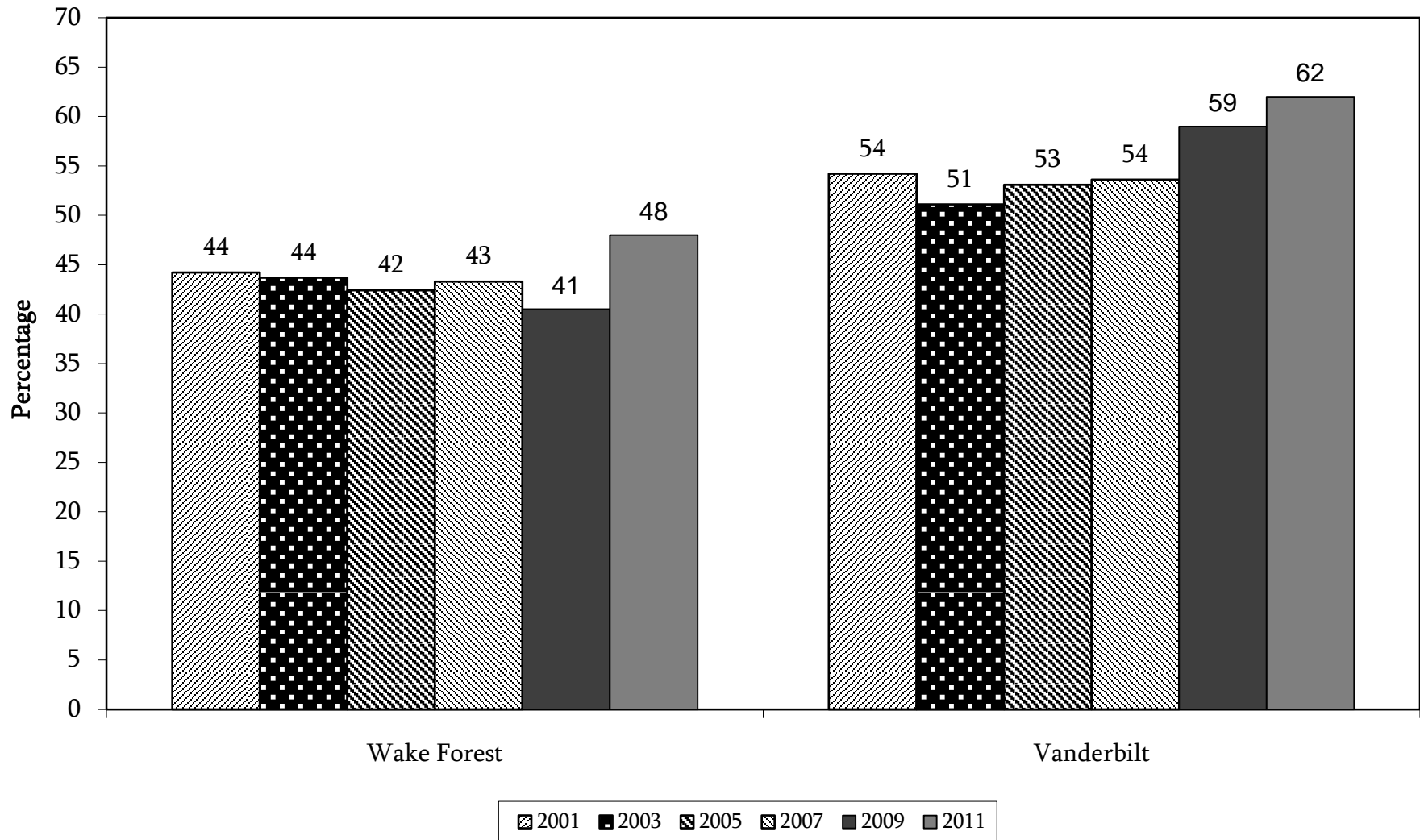


\*Question not asked in 2007

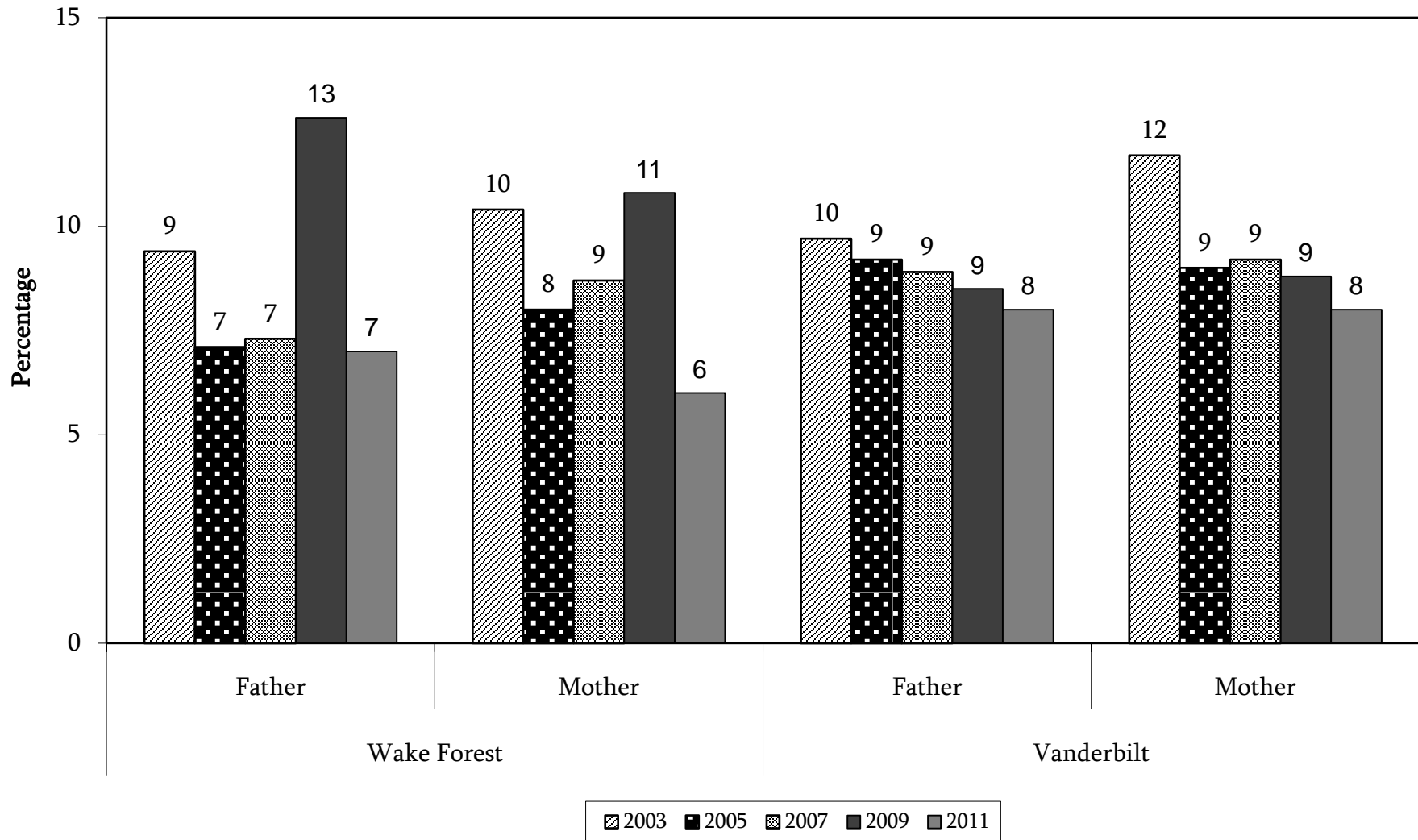
Changed from 1600 to 2400 point scale for 2009



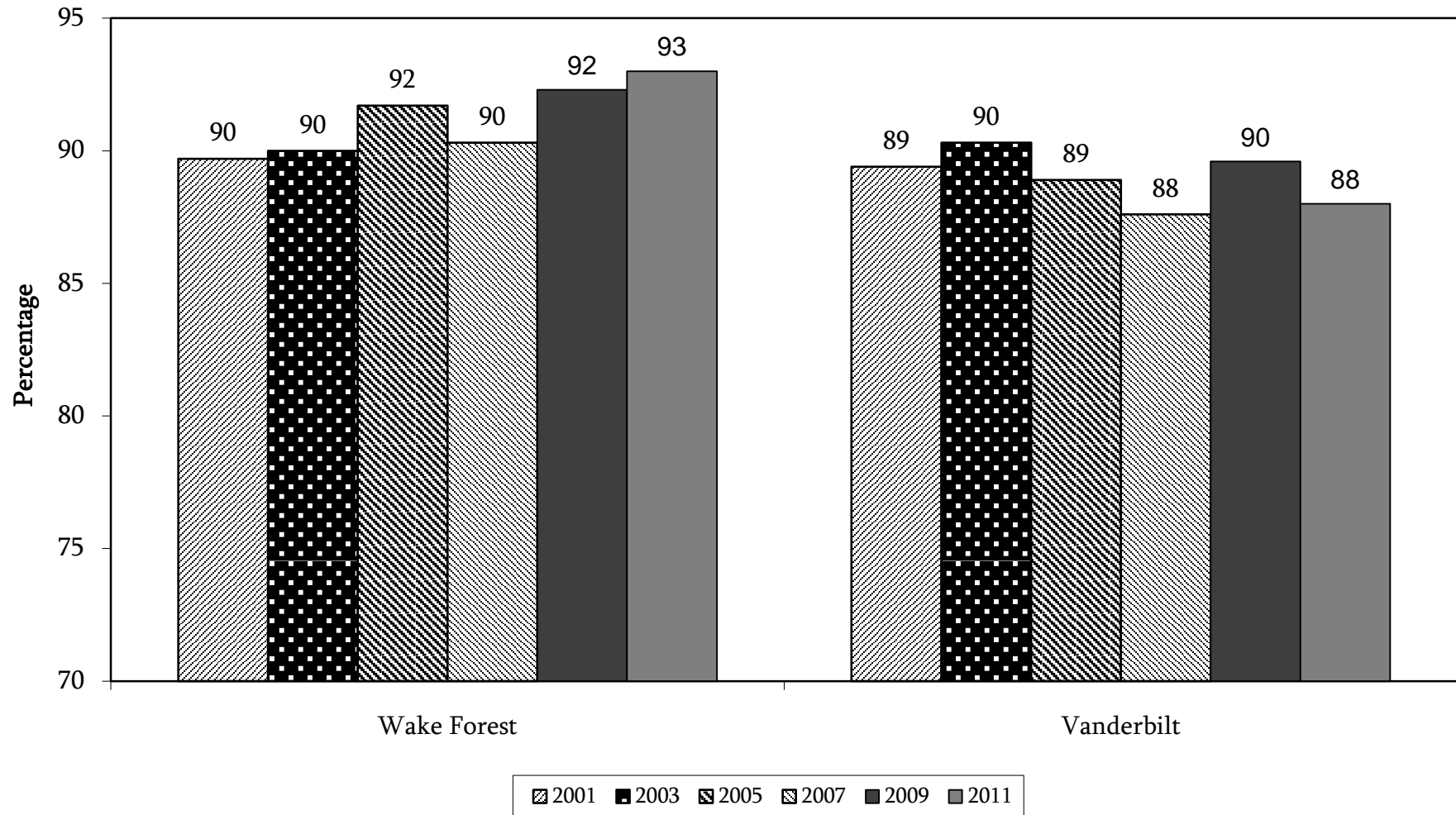
## Respondents Indicating a Distance from Home Greater than 500 Miles



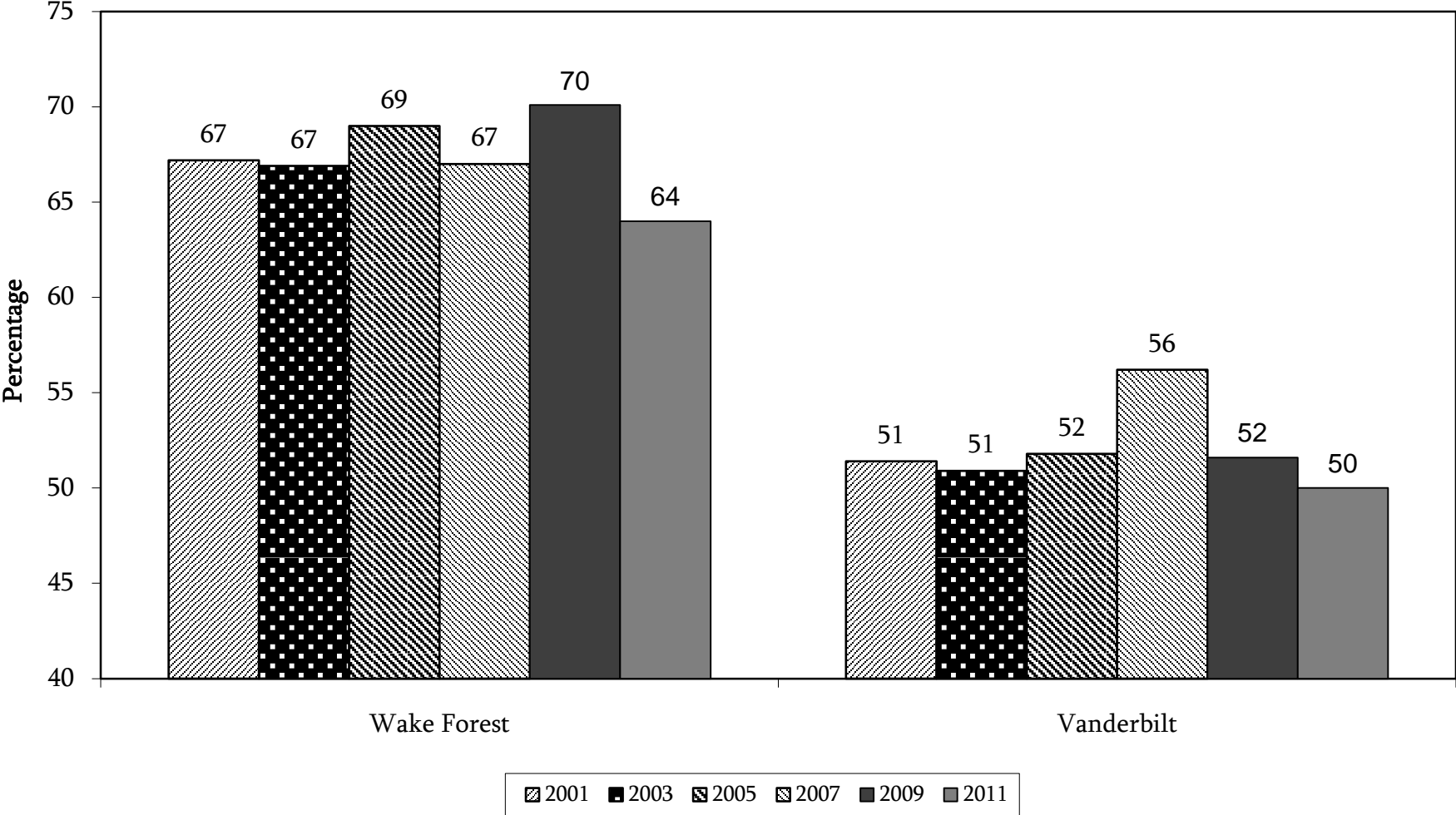
## Respondents Indicating Their Father/Mother did NOT Attend College



## Respondents Indicating a Good Academic Reputation was "Very Important" in Choosing a School

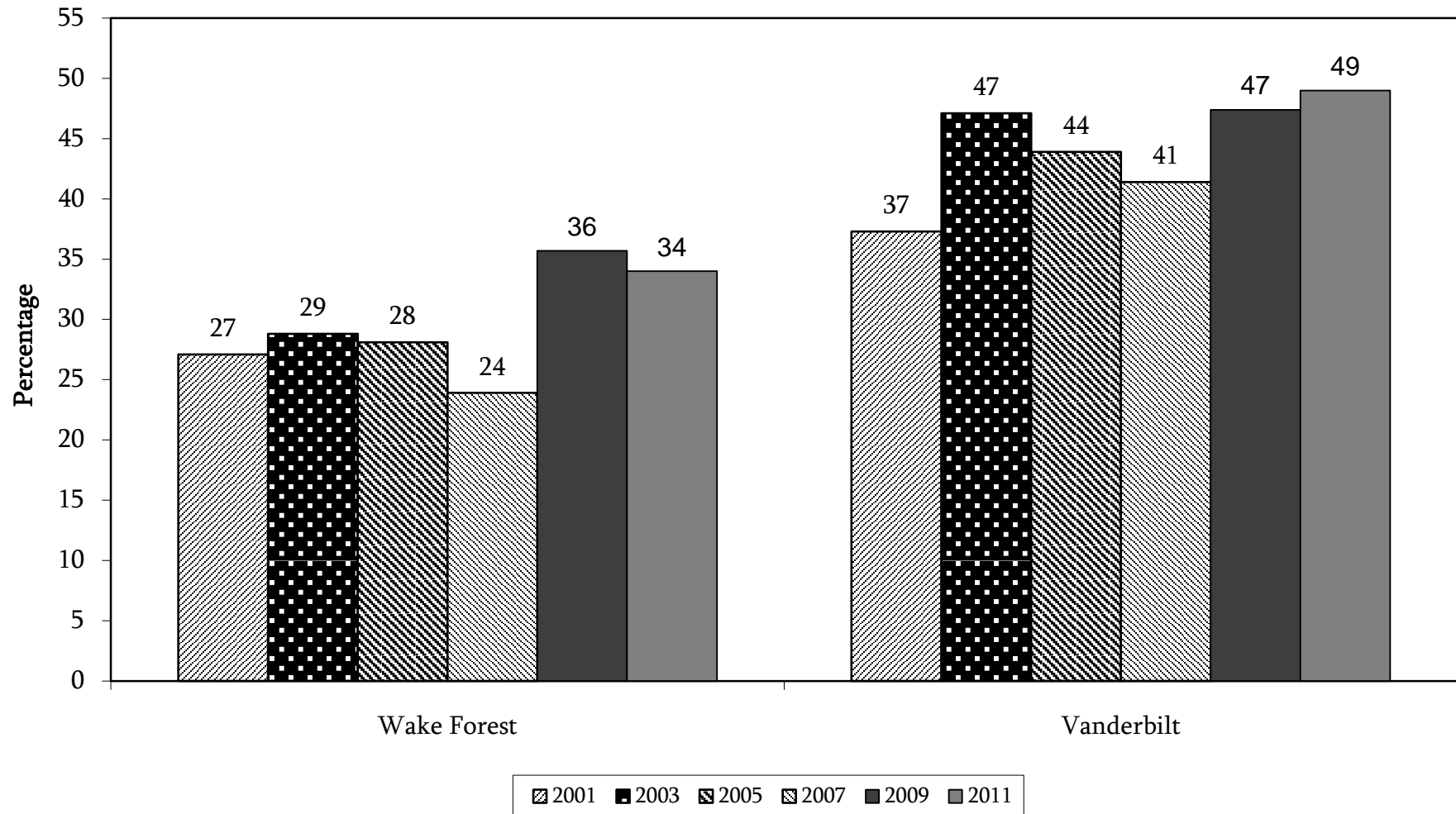


## Respondents Indicating that Size of the College was "Very Important" in Choosing a School

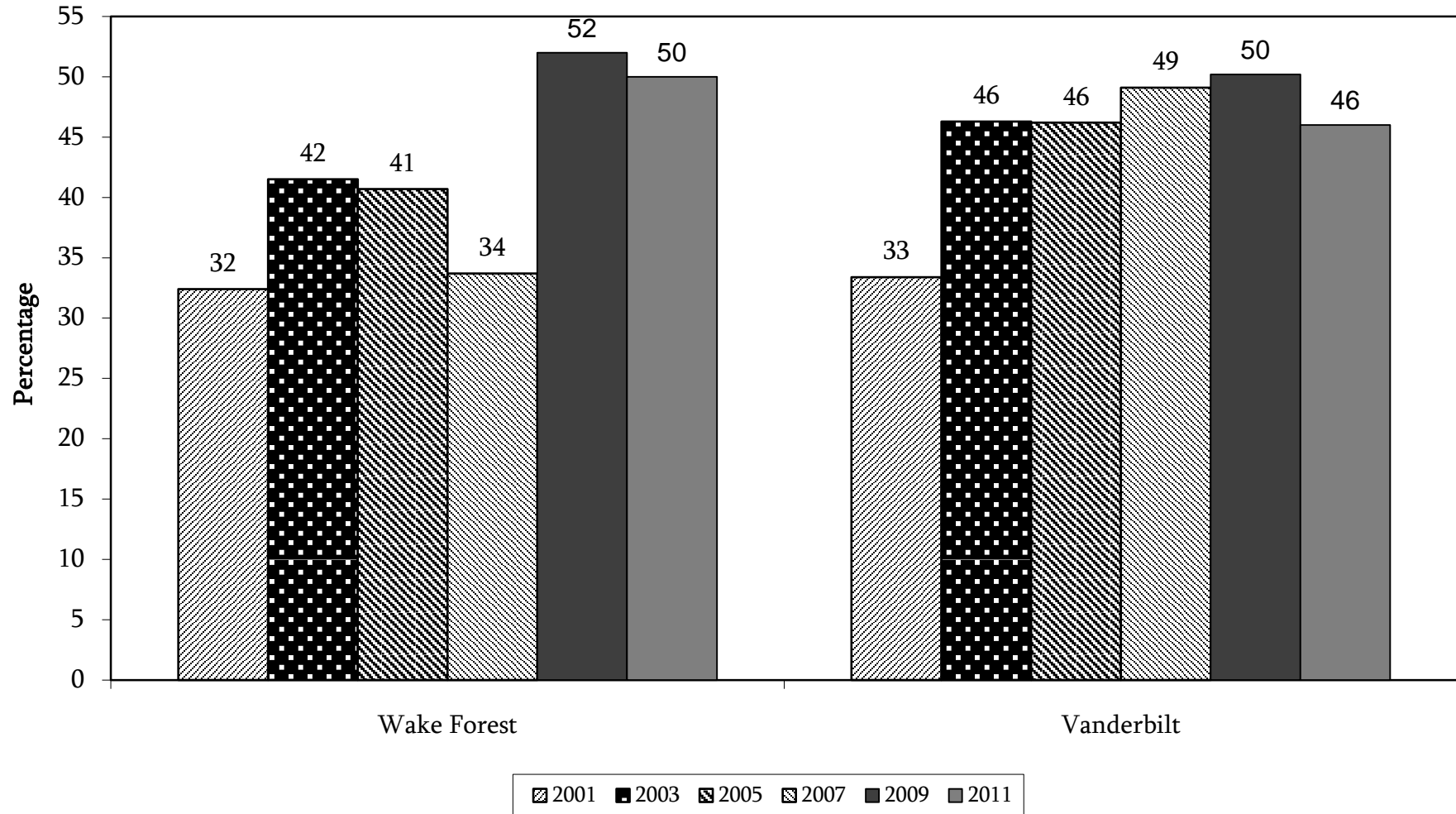




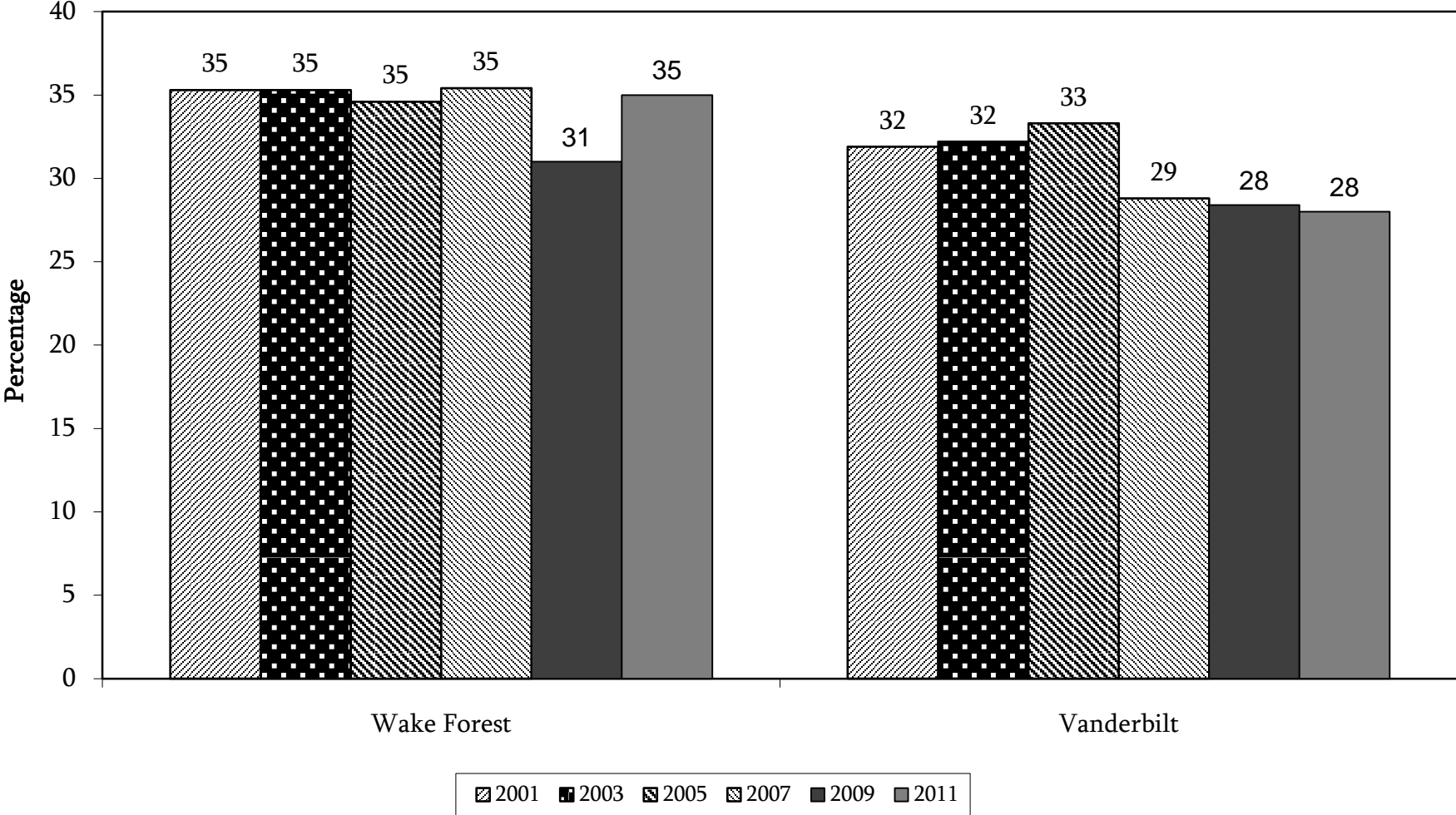
## Respondents Indicating that Financial Aid Offers were "Very Important" in Choosing a School



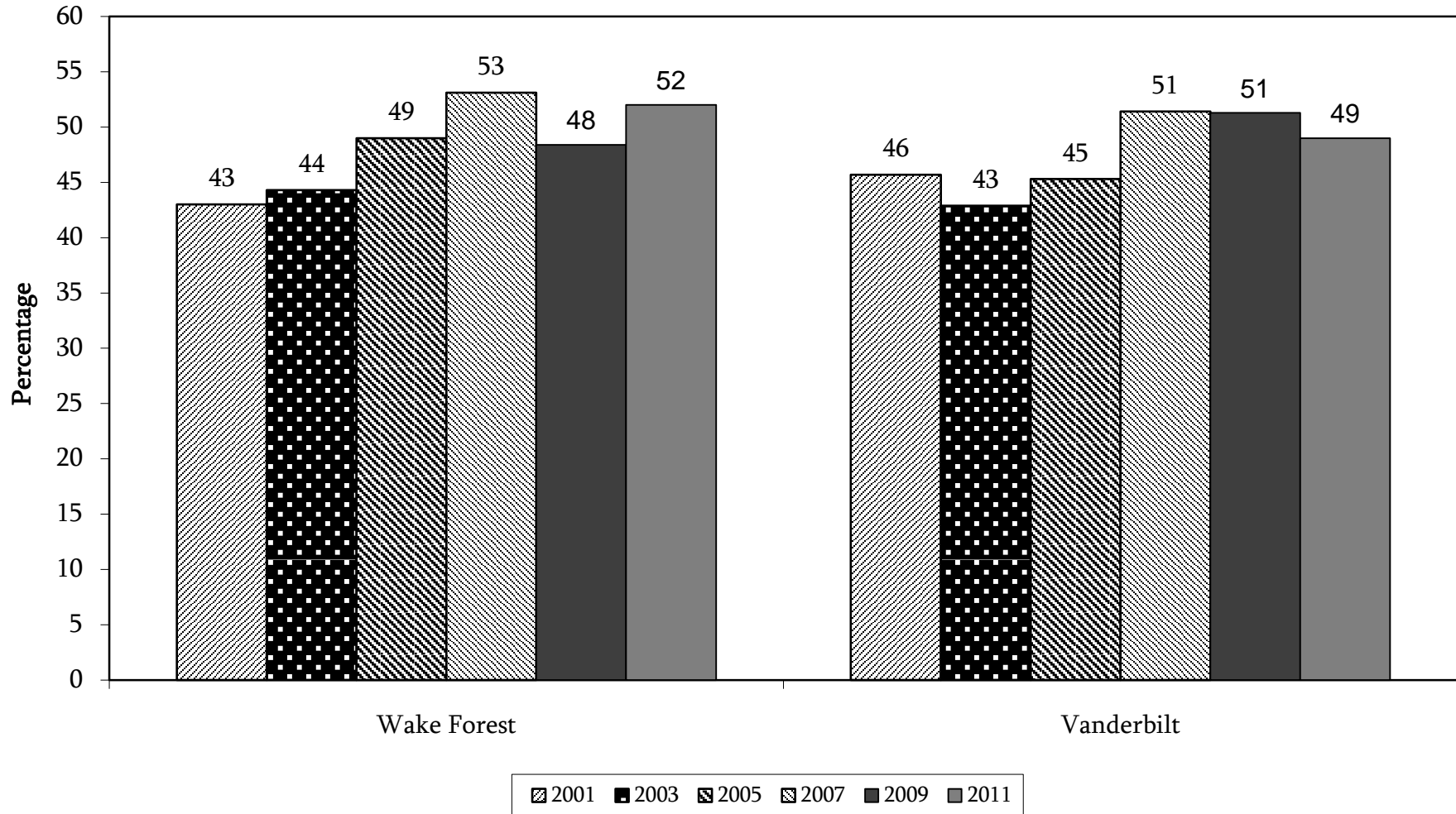
## Respondents Indicating that Rankings in Magazines were "Very Important" in Choosing a School



## Respondents Characterizing their Political Views as Conservative (Excluding "Far Right")



## Respondents Indicating that their Parents' Before-Tax Income exceeded \$150,000 in the Previous Year



# Respondents Indicating Doctorate as their Highest Planned Degree

