



## *Tech Opportunities Program – 2020-21 Annual Report*

We power the potential of first-generation students, low-income students, and students with disabilities. Our dedicated staff provides services and support in the following areas:

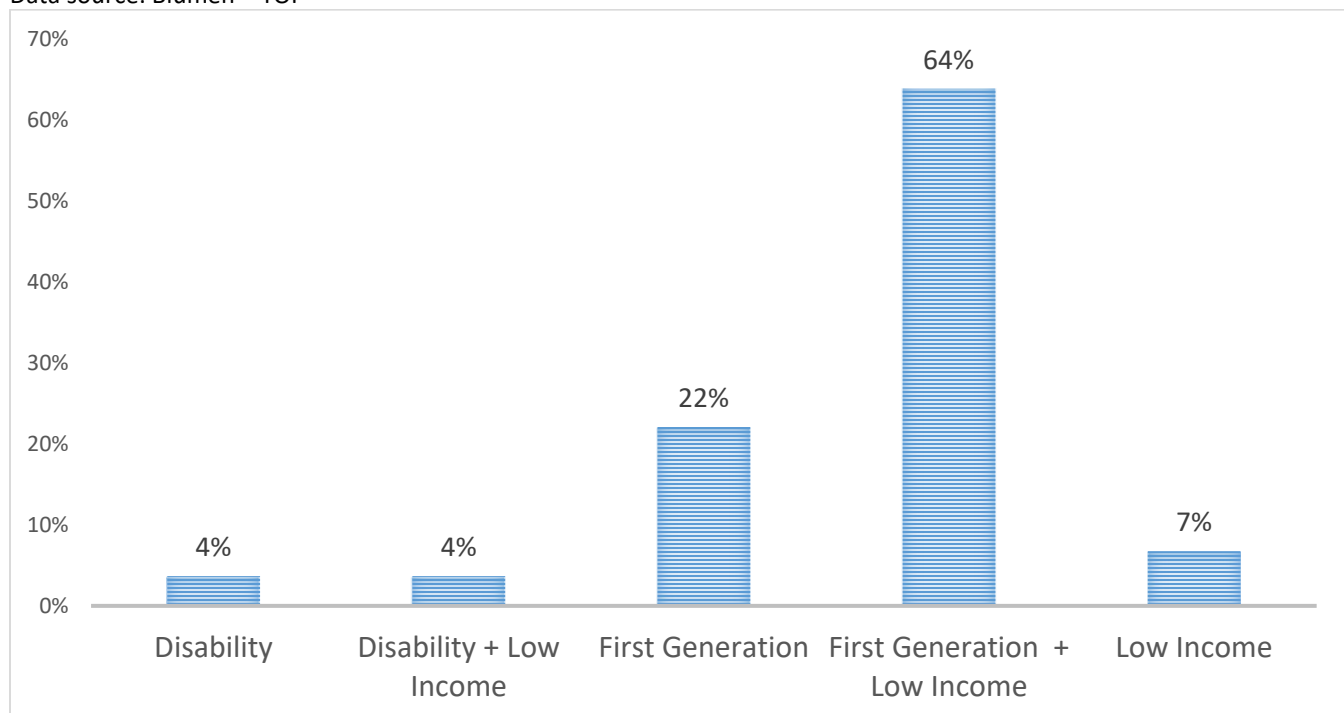
- Study skills, decision-making, and academic coaching.
- Academic, career, and financial planning, supplemental tutoring.
- Peer mentoring and networking with other students, staff and faculty.
- College success classes, faculty-led sessions, and workshops.
- Assistance with applying for financial aid, scholarships, and grants.
- Community building, cultural events, and a sense of belonging.

*The TOP program is federally funded to serve 160+ qualifying students. The 2020-21 federal budget was \$294,380.*

### WHO DID WE SERVE IN 2020-21?

#### TOP Students by TRIO eligibility

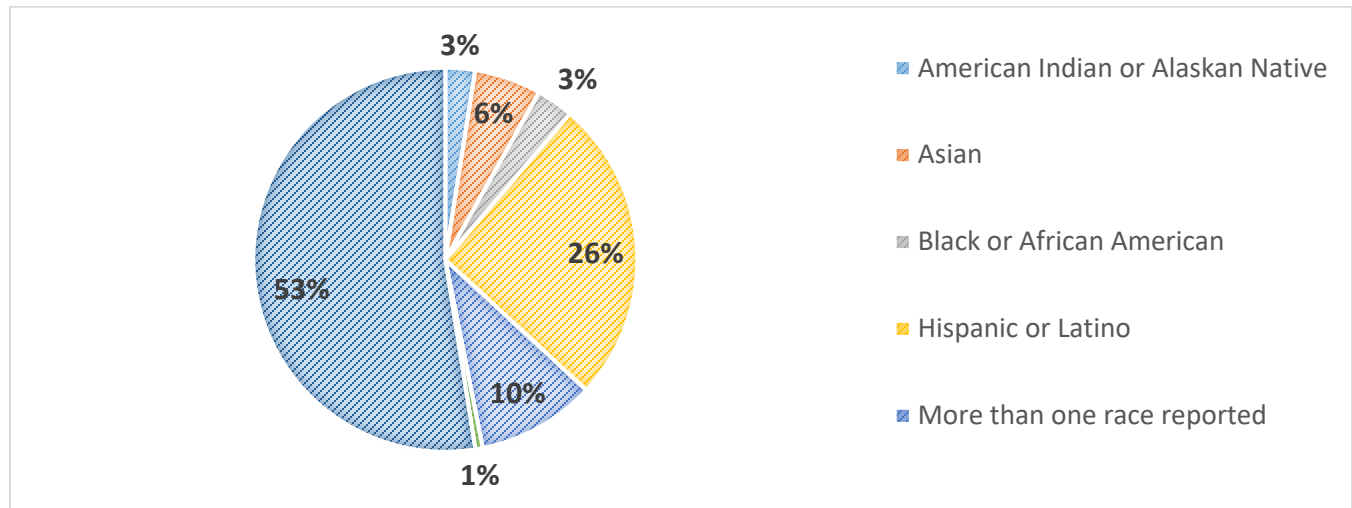
Data source: Blumen – TOP



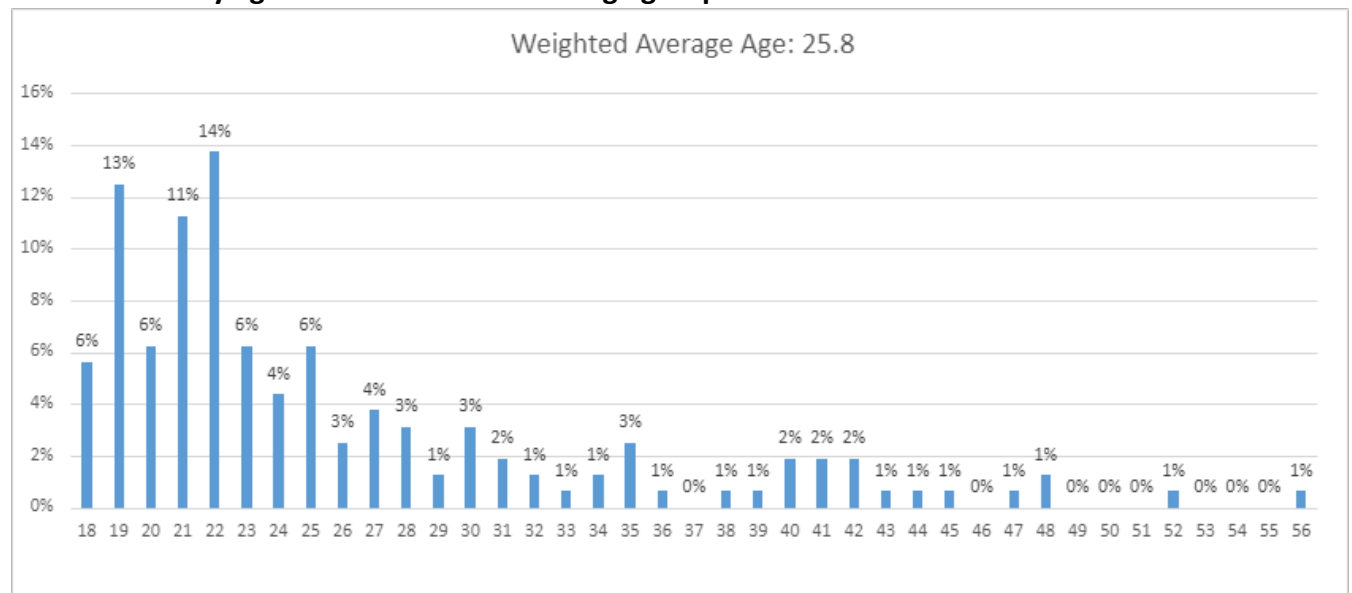
## WHO DID WE SERVE IN 2020-21?

### TOP students by ethnicity

Data source: Blumen – TOP



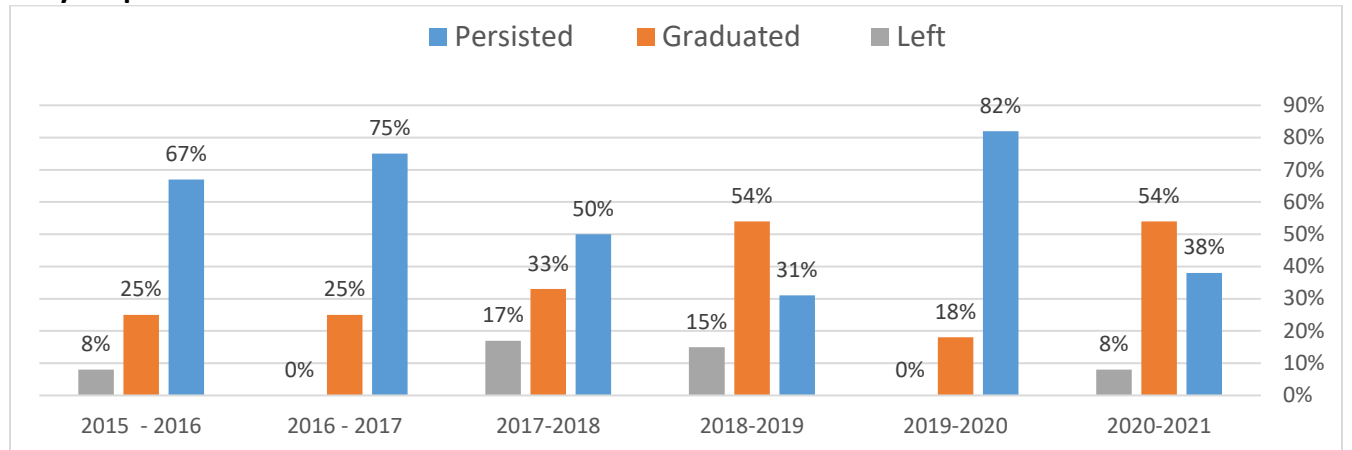
### TOP students by age: % of students in each age group



Data source: Blumen – TOP

## Impact of TOP E Emergency Grant (\$10,000 per year OIT commitment)

### Six-year persistence status trend of TOP students that utilized TOP E funds



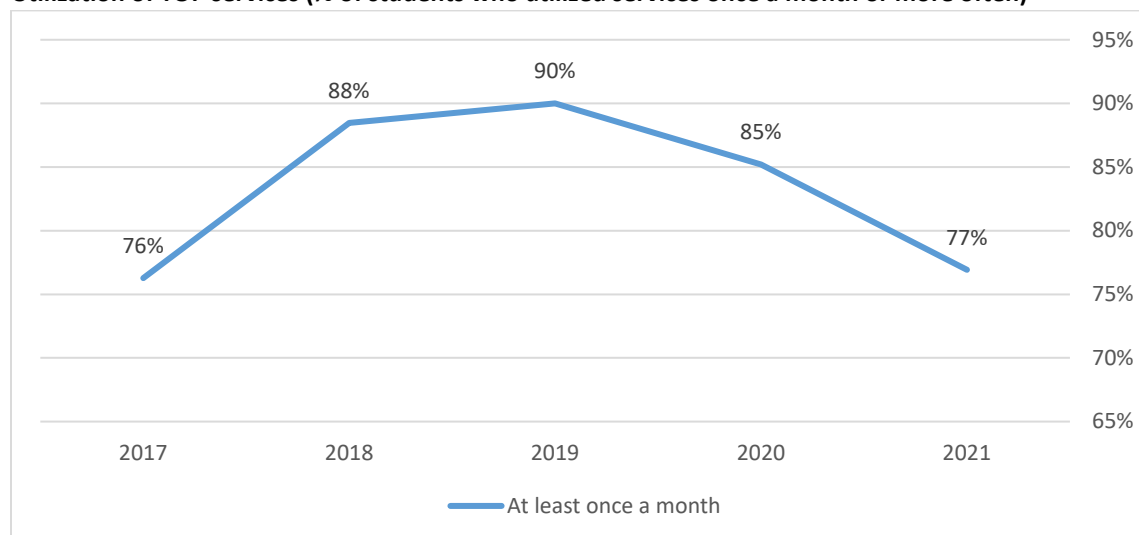
Data source: Blumen – TOP

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

TOP utilizes a holistic, appreciative, and intrusive advising model to increase students' retention and graduation rates. In the 2020-21 academic year we have:

- Provided **1600+ academic, career and financial planning sessions**.
- Hosted **9 workshops** on topics from financial literacy to networking to fair housing law, and career development.
- Hosted **3 alumni panels** focused on career development and networking between current students and TOP alumni in engineering, social science and health sciences fields.
- Taught **4 student success seminar classes**, including a success class on scholarships, career, and graduate school application.
- Conducted a **two-day Virtual Summer Bridge program for 21** incoming TOP students.
- Hosted **7 faculty sessions** on topics such as self-care, persistence, wilderness navigation, and financial aid.
- Implemented **2 peer mentoring programs** with cumulative **240+** individual and group **student contacts** including **one student-led community building event**.
- Hosted **30+ community events**, including one welcome event, one end-of-year event, and an on-campus strengths-based virtual retreat.
- Hosted our second annual **First-Generation Celebration** event at Oregon Tech on November 12 to commemorate the signing of the Higher Education Act in 1965.
- Hosted a **Scholarship Month** featuring workshops and presentations on best practices for applying for scholarship in partnership with the Office of Financial Aid.
- Hosted a virtual **TOP Honors Ceremony to honor the 102 TOP students** that achieved a 3.30 GPA or above in either fall or winter terms of the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Award \$23,000 in **TOP Grant Aid** and \$8,925 in **TOP Emergency Grants** to students.
- Hosted our first ever **outdoor TOP Graduation Celebration** for TOP Graduates and their families.
- Checked out **40+ items** from the TOP Textbook Library

Utilization of TOP services (% of students who utilized services once a month or more often)

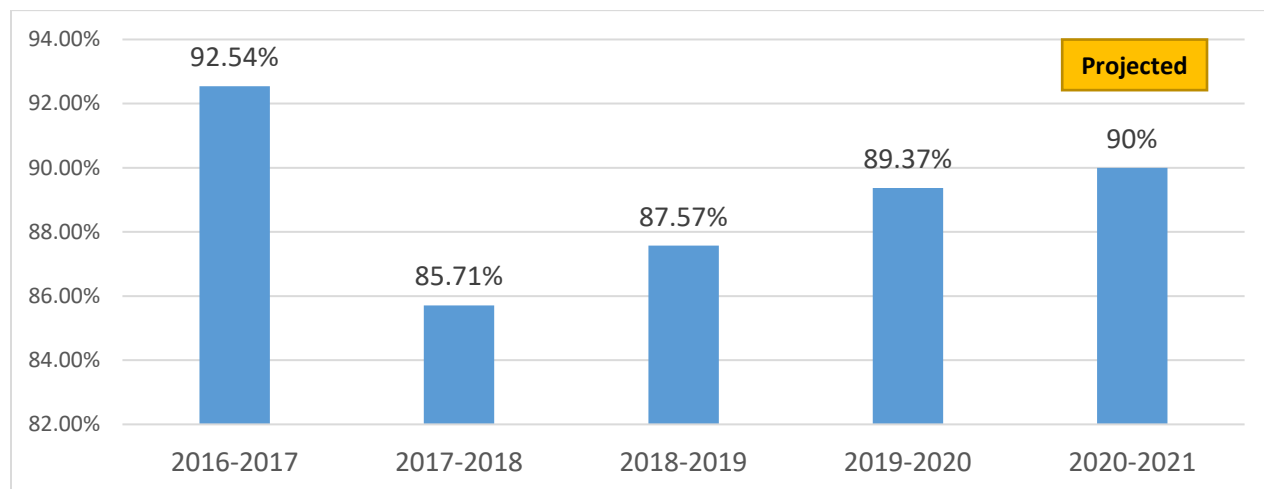


Data source: TOP End of Year Surveys

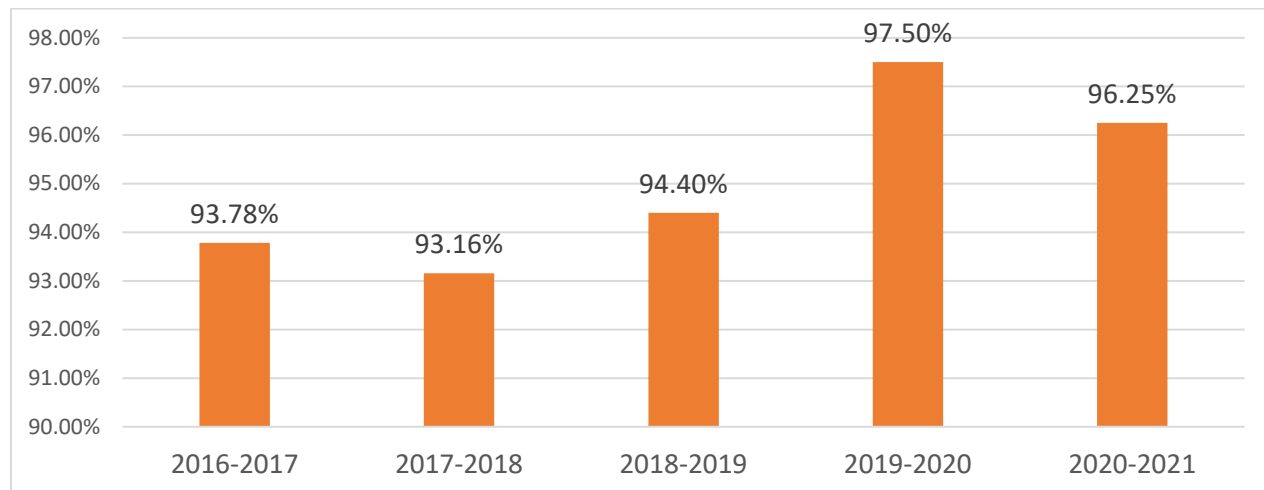
## PROGRESS TOWARDS TOP'S MISSION

**Mission:** To significantly increase TOP students' academic achievement, retention, and graduation rates.

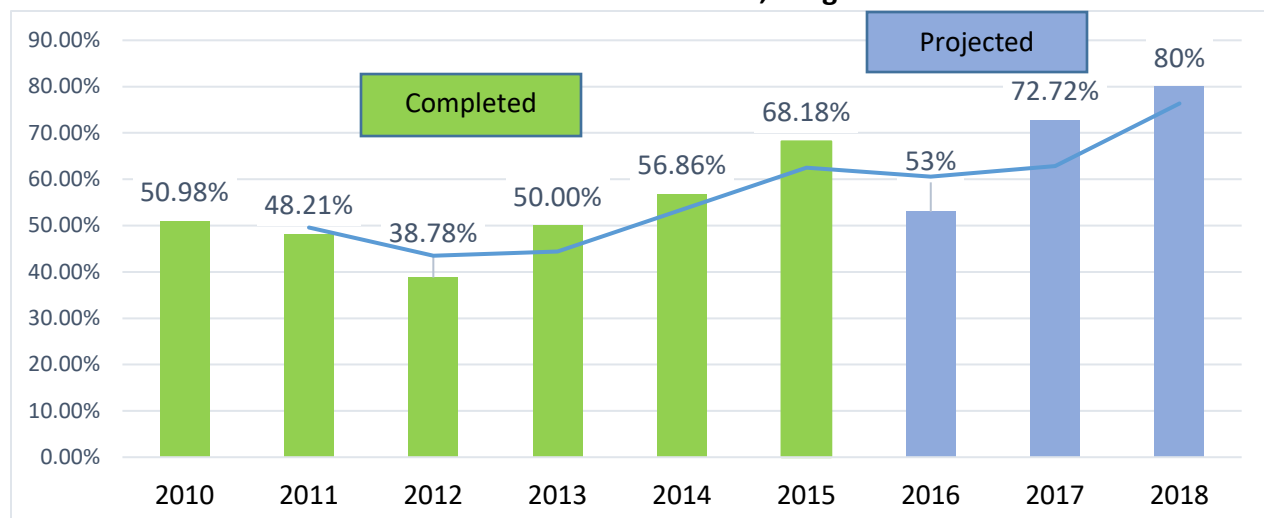
### Fall to Fall Persistence Trend



### Good Academic Standing Trend



### 6-Year Graduation Rate in % Per Cohort Year. In 2020-21, we graduated the 2015 cohort.



Data source: Blumen | Internal Tracking



## STUDENT STORIES



"My main goal ever since my first MECOP internship is to work with robotics. My new position at Amazon came directly from a connection that I made with my MECOP mentor."

**Kevin Brambila**  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Technology  
Class of 2021



"As a first-generation student, I had no one to turn to that understood how the higher education system worked. TOP filled in this hole for me. They were always there for me."

**Kira Hess**  
Applied Mathematics  
Class of 2021



"I am passionate about changing the way math is taught and perceived. I hope to make math more accessible to students."

**Darren Wright**  
Applied Mathematics  
Class of 2021

See more student stories at [www.oit.edu/top](http://www.oit.edu/top)



End of Year Event



TOP Ice Skating



TOP Graduation Celebration



TOP Honors Ceremony

## STUDENTS' FEEDBACK

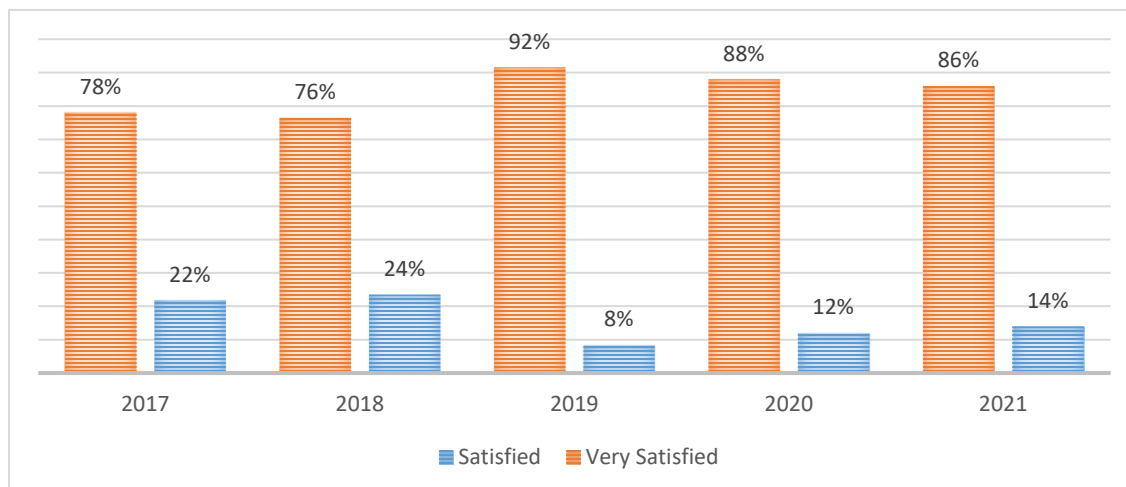
### What do you like most about TOP?

- I like how the advisors and mentors are there for us when we need someone to talk to. TOP is like my family away from home.*
- Every TOP advisor is completely committed to each students' needs/wellbeing. Whether you live on campus, off campus, on externship etc., my advisors have been my biggest fan. And, I just appreciate all the efforts they go through to help with my success. Whether it's financially, or with academics. I could come to them for anything. Truly a great program and a great team.*
- I'm very satisfied and fulfilled with the way TOP has worked for me individually. I enjoy having access to the workshops and presentations which are often about topics I might not normally think about but benefit from once they're brought to my attention. I also like that my advisor is a part of these workshops and presentations because it seems to help our working relationship overall.*
- I like that I have someone to talk to if needed and always feel supported. College is extremely stressful so it is nice to have some stability in with that stress.*

### What would you like to change about TOP?

- I would like if the TOP events were offered at different times because during this semester I often had schedule conflicts that wouldn't allow me to attend.*
- I think the program should set projects together that place us outside. Say.... TOP claims ownership of a particular landscaping area, flower bed, or location on campus and the members work on it throughout the term. This doesn't need to be landscaping related, just something that we can take pride in.*
- I haven't been in TOP for very long so I don't have much to say. The only thing I could think of would be maybe more outings. I know last year TOP went to the lava beds which I think would be super cool! I know the reason that stuff didn't happen this year was because of COVID. So, maybe next year hopefully!*
- Wider time range of events (they seem to always be about the same time, when I have other commitments). Wider range of events. More opportunities to get in contact with other TOP students in a comfortable way.*

### Students' Satisfaction with TOP



Data source: TOP End of Year Surveys

## 2020-21 GOALS: STATUS UPDATE

1. Meet the **program's new objectives** as defined in the 2020-25 grant proposal  
**Status:** The goal has been fully met. At this point, we have exceeded the grant objective rates.
2. Hire a new Program Director and complete **staff transitions**  
**Status:** This goal has been met and a new Program Director began in September 2020.
3. Implement the **Plan of Operations** as outlined in the 2020-25 proposal. Adjust based on COVID-19 health/safety guidelines as well as prior year's programmatic evaluations.  
**Status:** Despite the impact of COVID-19 on campus operations, TOP was able to adapt to hybrid programming in order to continue providing our services in line with the Plan of Operations in the 2020-2025 grant proposal.
4. Achieve a **70%+ graduation rate** for the 2015 cohort.  
**Status:** The graduation rate for the 2015 cohort is **68.18%**. While this is nearly two percentage points lower than our anticipated graduation rate from the 2015 cohort, it represents one of the highest rates that TOP has ever achieved in its 20+ year program history. We are still very proud of this and even more proud of the 30 students that graduated from the 2015 cohort.

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2021-22 PROGRAM GOALS

1. **Receive all possible prior experience (PE) points** for year two of the 2020-2025 grant cycle. This next grant year will be the first in which PEs are awarded by the Department of Education.
2. Implement the **Plan of Operations** as outlined in the 2020-25 proposal. Adjust based on COVID-19 health/safety guidelines as well as prior year's programmatic evaluations.
3. Implement our new intake process using the College Student Inventory (CSI) to better match and align student needs with TOP services and institutional referrals.
4. Achieve a **53%+ graduation rate** for the 2016 cohort.