

DREAMers at Cal State LA

Achieving the American Dream

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CAL STATE LA

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

Undocumented Students @ Cal State LA

- **Nearly 5% of Cal State LA population are Undocumented Students**
- **We have Largest # of Undocumented Students in CSUs**

Summary of Findings

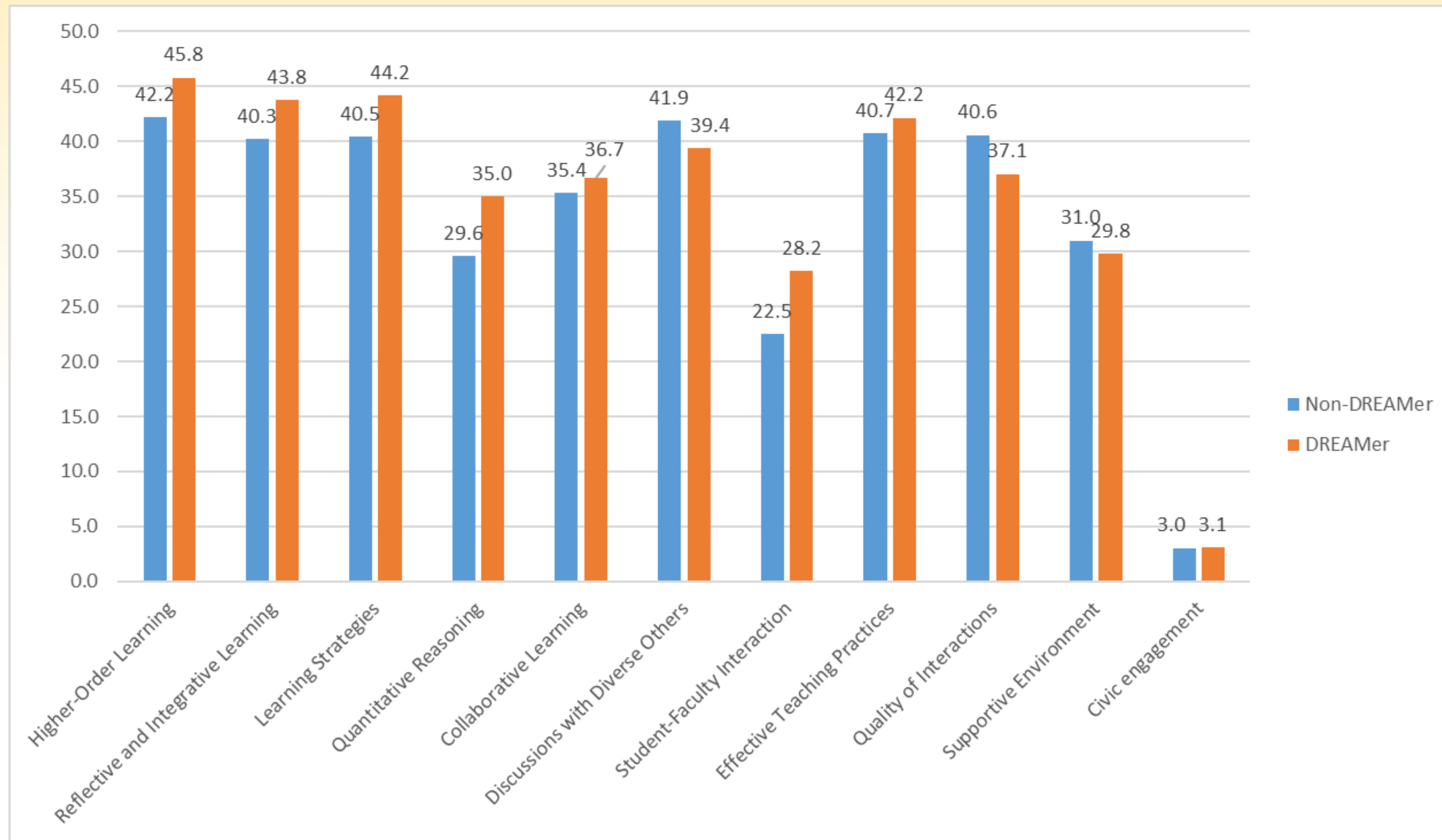
- Cal State LA's DREAMers showed engagement indicators and high impact practices comparable to non-DREAMers.
- First-time Freshmen DREAMers also showed comparable 1-year retention, 4-year graduation and 1st term GPA.
- Graduating DREAMers reported a positive overall academic experience at Cal State LA
- Debt at Graduation
 - Dreamers reported significantly less debt at graduation than non-Dreamers.
 - 65% of Dreamers reported that they would have no debt compared to 36% of non-Dreamers.
- All in all, for many Cal State LA Dreamers, their experience on our campus helped them achieve their *American Dream* of a college education.

Research Question

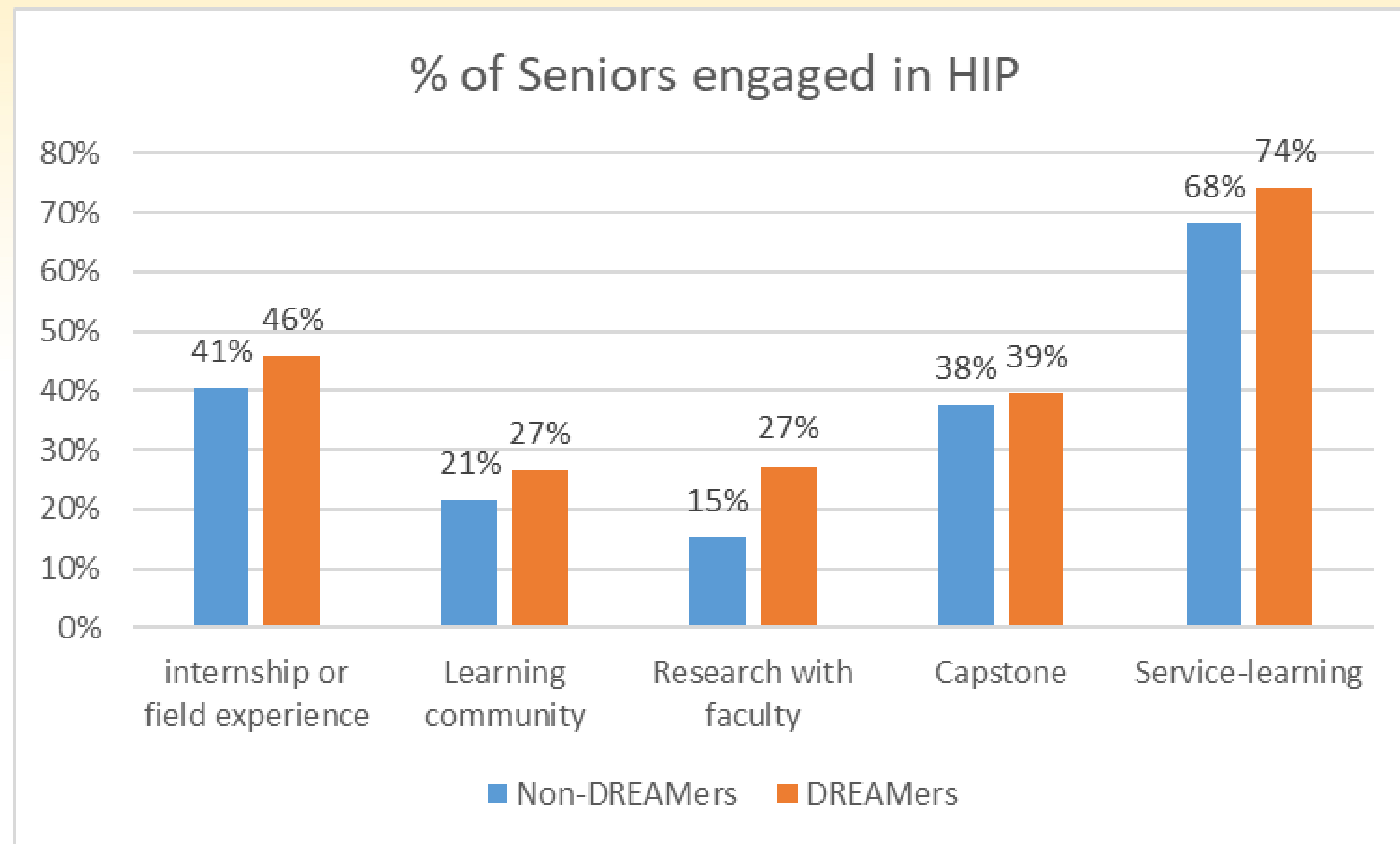
Are DREAMers' educational experience and attainment at Cal State LA comparable to non-DREAMers?

- 1. Engagement Indicators and HIPs using NSSE (2014 & 2017)**
- 2. Graduation, Retention and First-term GPA**
- 3. Senior Survey**

Senior *DREAMers* score higher on most Engagement Indicators than Non-*DREAMers*



Senior *DREAMers* report participating in High Impact Practices than Non-DREAMers

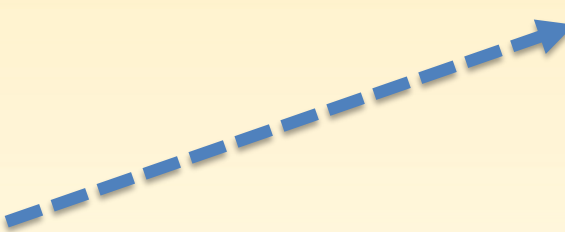


Cal State LA *DREAMers* Academic Outcomes Compared to Non-DREAMers

	Variables	DREAMer	Non-DREAMer	Total
First-time Freshmen	HS GPA	3.23	3.18	3.18
	SAT	858	900	886
	1st Term GPA	2.81	2.88	2.87
	1 year retention	79.3%	81.7%	81.6%
	4 year graduation	10.1%	8.8%	8.8%
4 year graduation is based on cohort 2013 & 2014				

Freshmen cohort Multiple/Logistic Regression Result

- HS GPA, SAT, attempted units and gender is consistently associated with the outcome, but NOT with DREAMer status



Variables	1yr Retention OR	4-yr grad OR	1st term GPA B
DREAMer	0.81	1.11	-0.08
Men	0.83	0.57	-0.16
Art and Letter	0.84	1.36	0.01
Business	1.19	0.90	0.10
Education	1.51	0.39	0.14
Engineering	0.96	0.21	-0.17
Health & Human Services	1.12	0.88	0.02
Undeclared	1.16	0.74	0.09
HS GPA	1.42	1.50	0.25
SAT	1.28	1.66	0.12
Pell	1.15	0.64	-0.03
First Gen	1.05	0.93	0.00
Units Attempted	1.18	1.19	0.07
International	1.43	0.63	-0.20
Underrepresented	0.77	0.87	-0.14

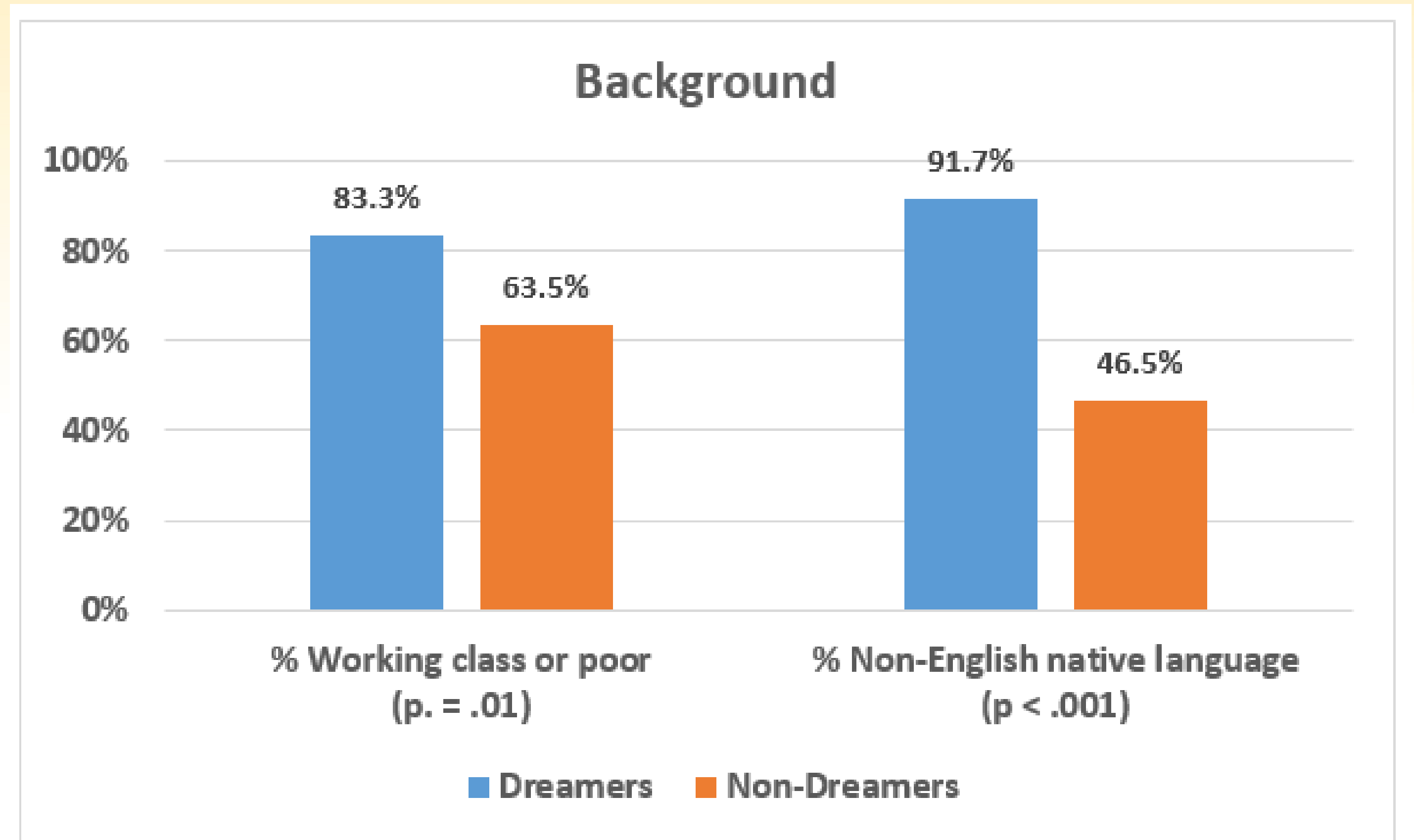
P values < .05 in red; OR = odds ratios; B = beta

Analyses conducted using logistic regression for 1 year retention and 4-yr graduation and linear regression for first term GPA

Cal State LA Dreamers at graduation

Based on responses from 2015 and 2018 senior surveys

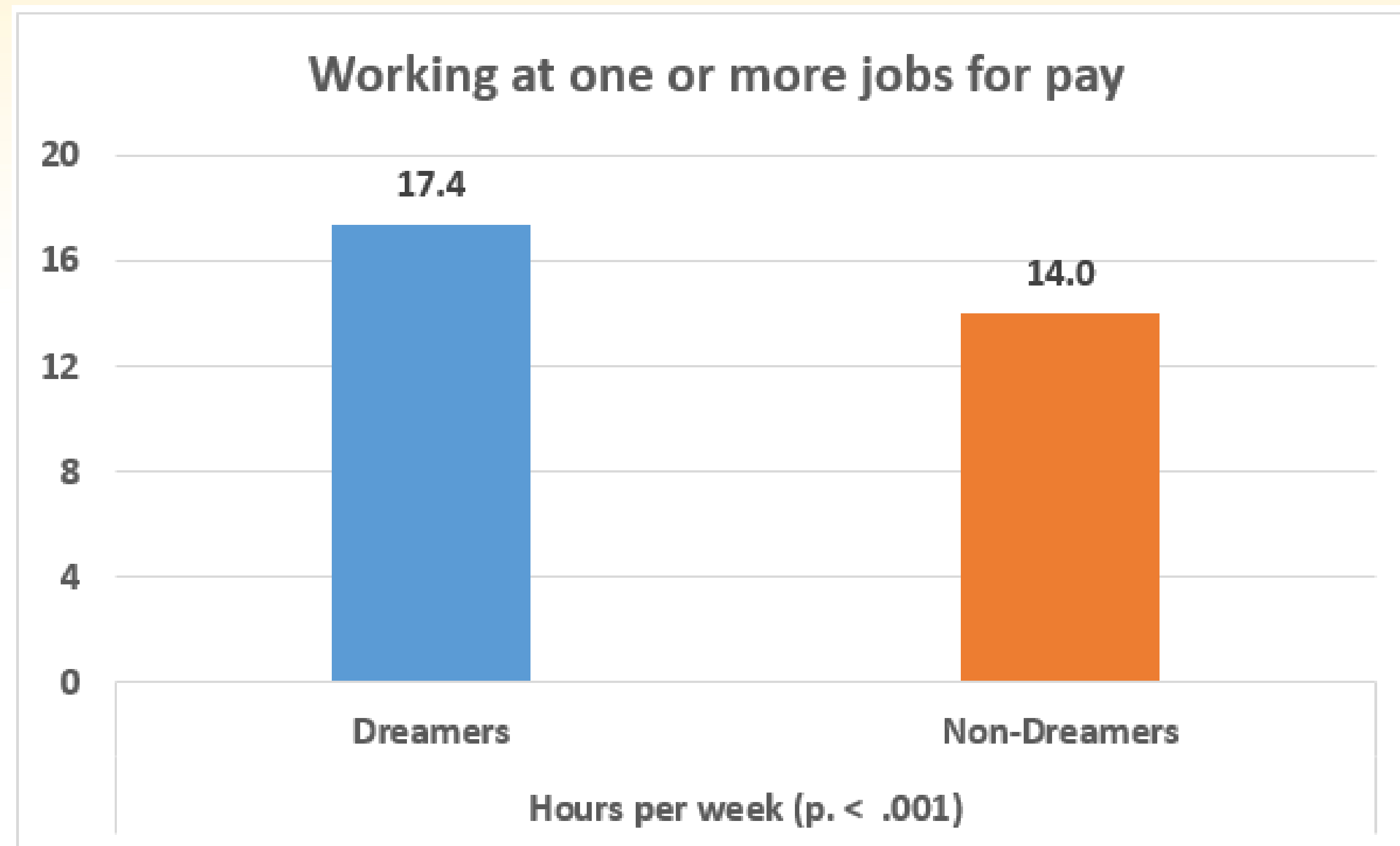
- About 4.5% of our seniors in those two survey years were Dreamers.
- **DREAMers** face some challenges at a higher rate than Non-DREAMers



Cal State LA Dreamers at graduation

Based on responses from 2015 and 2018 senior surveys

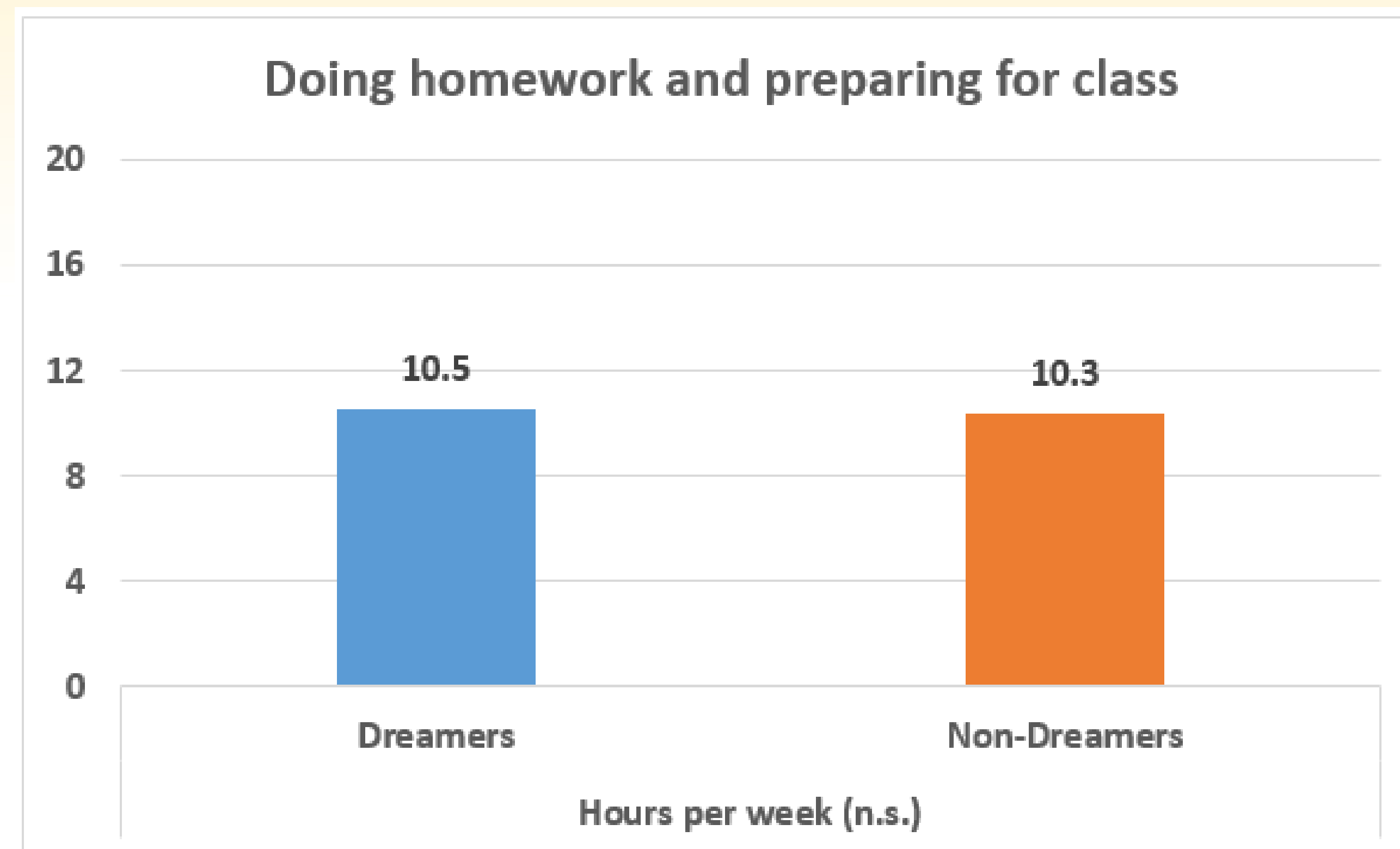
Time Allocation: Dreamers spent **more time per week** working for pay



Cal State LA Dreamers at graduation

Based on responses from 2015 and 2018 senior surveys

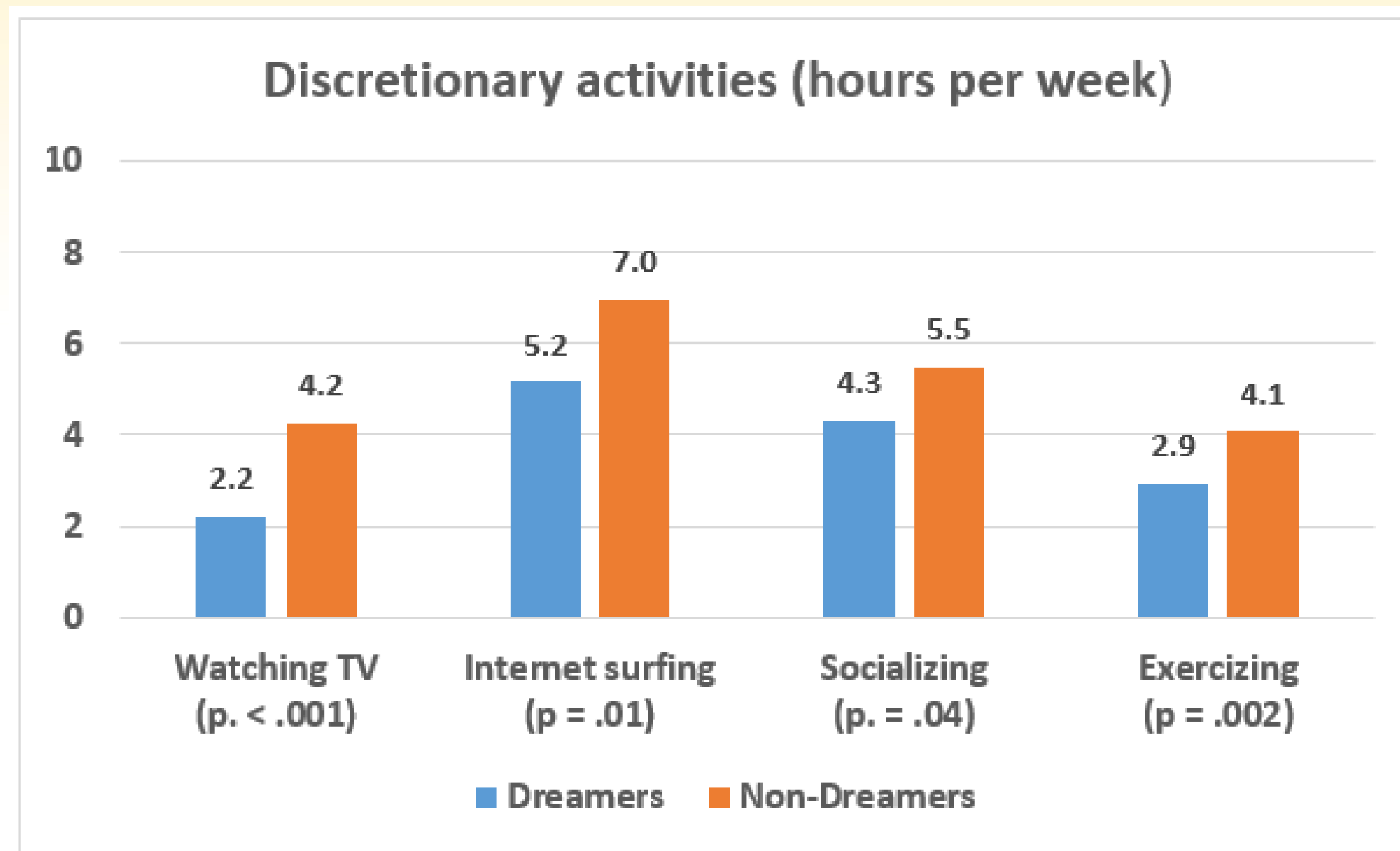
Time Allocation: Dreamers spent the **same amount of time** on academics



Cal State LA Dreamers at graduation

Based on responses from 2015 and 2018 senior surveys

Time Allocation: Dreamers spent **less** time on *discretionary activities*



Cal State LA Dreamers at graduation

: Based on responses from 2015 and 2018 senior surveys

Despite these challenges, by the time they reached the end of their senior year, the Cal State LA Dreamers thrived:

- **In the classroom,**

Their cumulative GPA was higher: **3.21** versus **3.08** for non-Dreamers (p=.001)

- **Out of the classroom,**

They participated more in some **high impact practices**:

- Internships (p = .01)
- Volunteering in the local community (p < .03, 2015 only)

- **After graduation,**

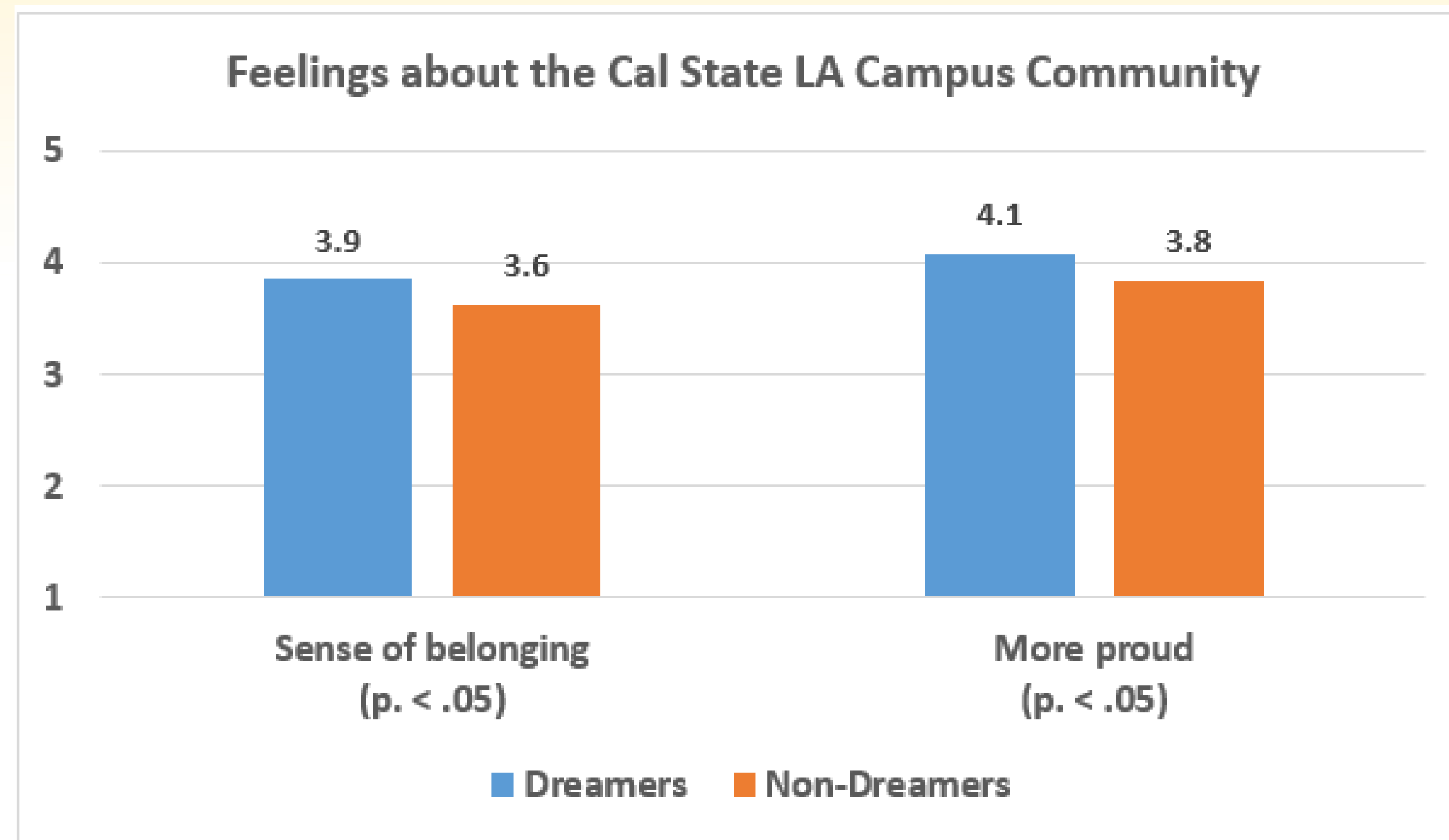
More said that their undergraduate experience influenced them to pursue **graduate** or professional studies (p=.001). (Percent planning to do so was about the same)

(21% vs 18%)

Cal State LA Dreamers at graduation

Based on responses from 2015 and 2018 senior surveys

Beyond academics, the university experience became a vital part of the Dreamers' lives:





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