

# Analyzing the Decline in Planning Program/School Enrollment

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# Joint Task Force on Enrollment Report

# Joint Task Force on Enrollment

- *Where is enrollment declining, increasing, or remaining stable and why?*
- *What should we do to analyze and respond to the decline in enrollments in planning education?*



American Planning Association



# Task Force - Overview

- Appointed by the Presidents of APA, AICP, ACSP, PAB
- Representatives on the Task Force from each organization
- Establishment of Task Force based on increasing concern regarding enrollments issues at planning schools/programs
- Examined existing information regarding enrollments for colleges & universities, planning programs, and collegial programs
- Developed a survey
- Looked at the complexity of the issue
- Developed a series of questions to further analyze the situation

# Students Enrolled in Master's Accredited Programs

Year	No. of Programs	U.S. Citizens and Residents	International	Total Students	% change year to year
2008	67	4485	501	4986	
2009	67	4822	477	5299	6.3%
2010	69	4914	518	5432	2.5%
2011	70	4638	556	5194	-4.4%
2012	71	4336	664	5000	-3.7%
2013	71	4094	757	4851	-3.0%
2014	71	3911	853	4764	-1.8%

Data excludes University of Montreal and the University of British Columbia

# Students Enrolled in Bachelor's Accredited Programs

Year	No. of Programs	U.S. Citizens and Residents	International	Total Students	% change year to year
2008	14	1308	35	1343	
2009	14	1305	64	1369	1.9%
2010	14	1282	71	1353	-1.2%
2011	14	1191	86	1277	-5.6%
2012	14	916	84	1000	-21.7%
2013	14	870	87	957	-4.3%
2014	14	822	103	925	-3.3%

Data excludes University of Montreal

# Higher Education

**Table 1:** Estimated National Enrollment by Sector (Title IV, Degree-Granting Institutions)

Sector	FALL 2015		FALL 2014		FALL 2013	
	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year
<b>Total Enrollment, All Sectors</b>	19,280,473	-1.7%	19,619,773	-1.3%	19,885,203	-1.5%
<b>Four-Year Public</b>	8,055,192	0.4%	8,020,444	0.7%	7,964,090	0.4%
<b>Four-Year Private Nonprofit</b>	3,811,176	-0.3%	3,823,465	1.6%	3,761,953	1.3%
<b>Four-Year For-Profit</b>	1,134,974	-13.7%	1,315,167	-0.4%	1,321,107	-9.7%
<b>Two-Year Public</b>	5,906,419	-2.4%	6,052,069	-4.4%	6,329,631	-3.3%
<b>Unduplicated Student Headcount</b> (All Sectors)	18,929,736	-1.7%	19,258,730	-1.3%	19,511,518	-1.4%

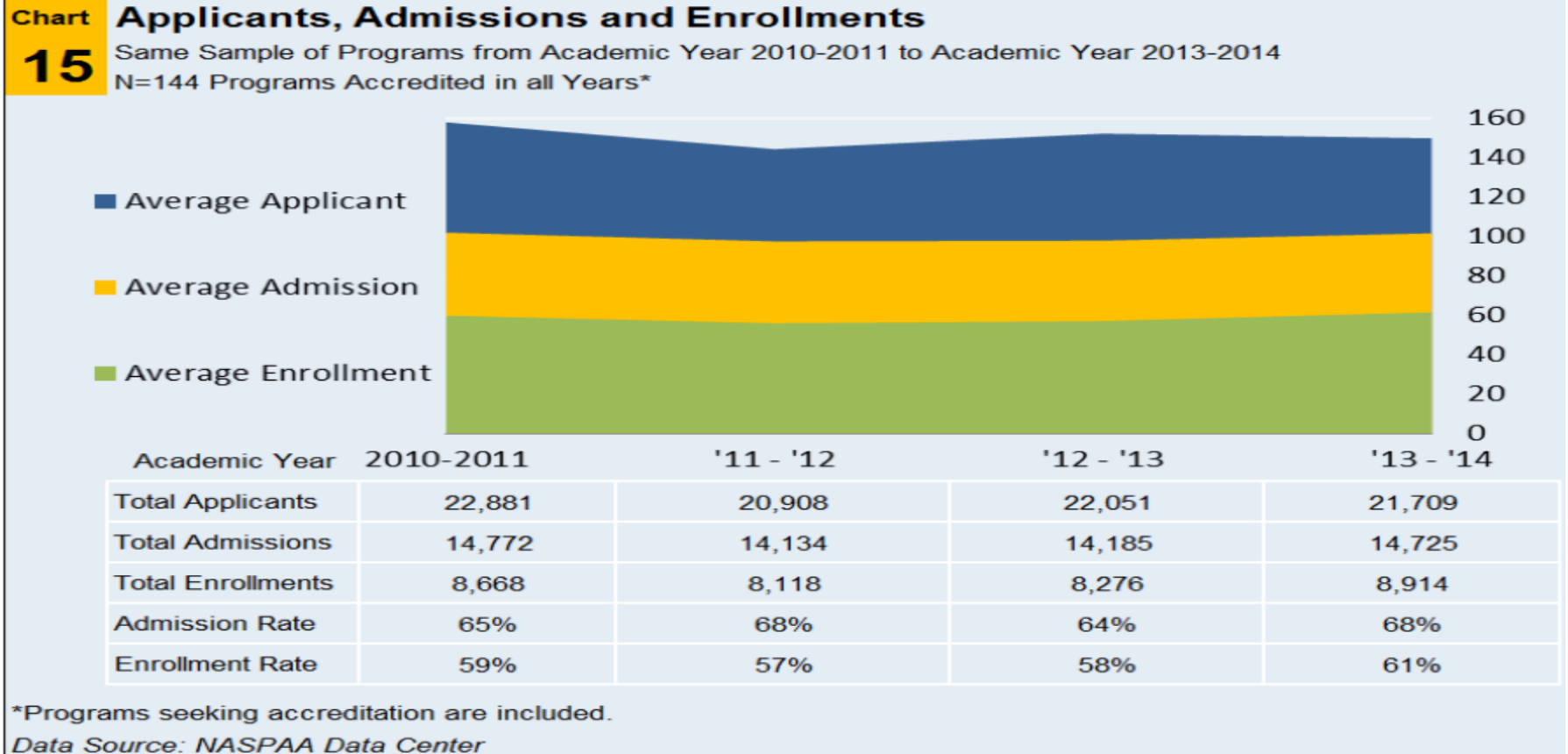
## UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**Table 1** provides counts of fall term enrollments submitted to the Clearinghouse by December 1 of each year. Enrollments represent one student in one institution and thus would count twice a student enrolled simultaneously at two institutions. The unduplicated headcount provides the number of unique students with no double-counting. This figure can be used to determine the percentage of concurrent enrollments in any given year. In each term, about 2.0 percent of total enrollments can be accounted for by students enrolling in more than one institution.

Institutional classifications for the current term are based on the most recently available IPEDS institutional characteristics at the time of publication. Less-than-two-year institutions have been aggregated with two-year institutions. Two-year for-profits and two-year private nonprofits are not shown in the table due to small counts, but enrollments from those sectors are included in the overall totals. Additional notes on data and coverage are included at the end of this document.

# Peer Disciplines

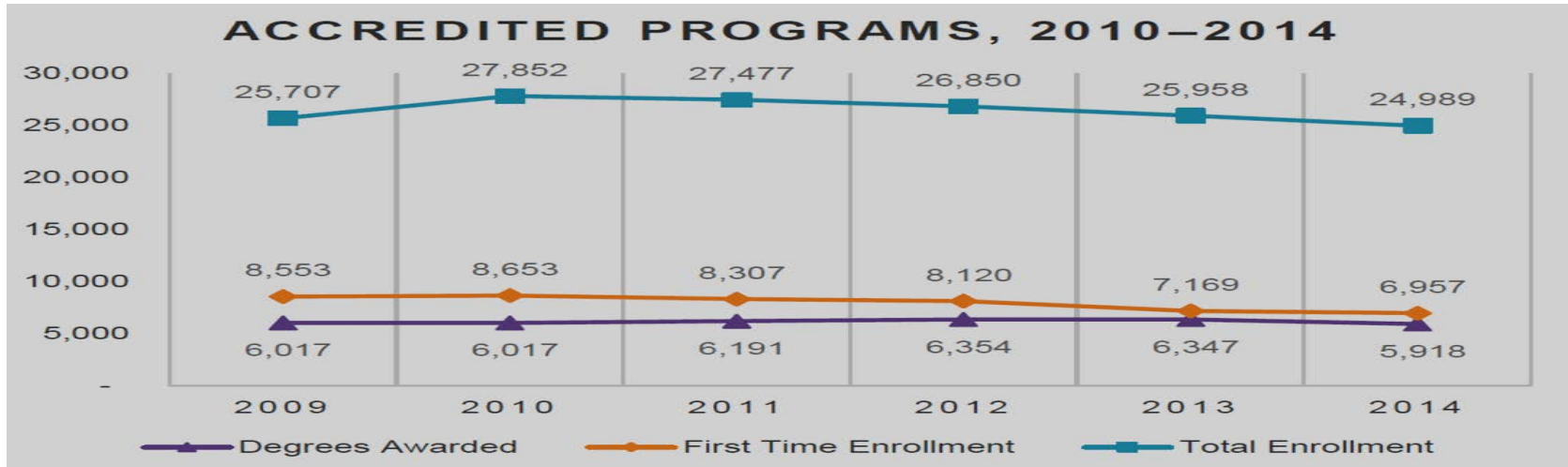
## Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration





# Peer Disciplines

## Architecture



## STUDENT ENROLLMENT - DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL

## Landscape Architecture

STUDENTS	2013			2014			2015		
	UG	GRAD	TOTAL	UG	GRAD	TOTAL	UG	GRAD	TOTAL
<b>Domestic</b>	3,606	1,501	5,107	5,107	1,229	2,688	1,343	1,305	2,648
<b>International</b>	203	292	795	2,350	885	3,235	1,952	868	2,820
<b>Total</b>	3,809	2,093	5,902	3,809	2,114	5,923	3,295	2,173	5,468

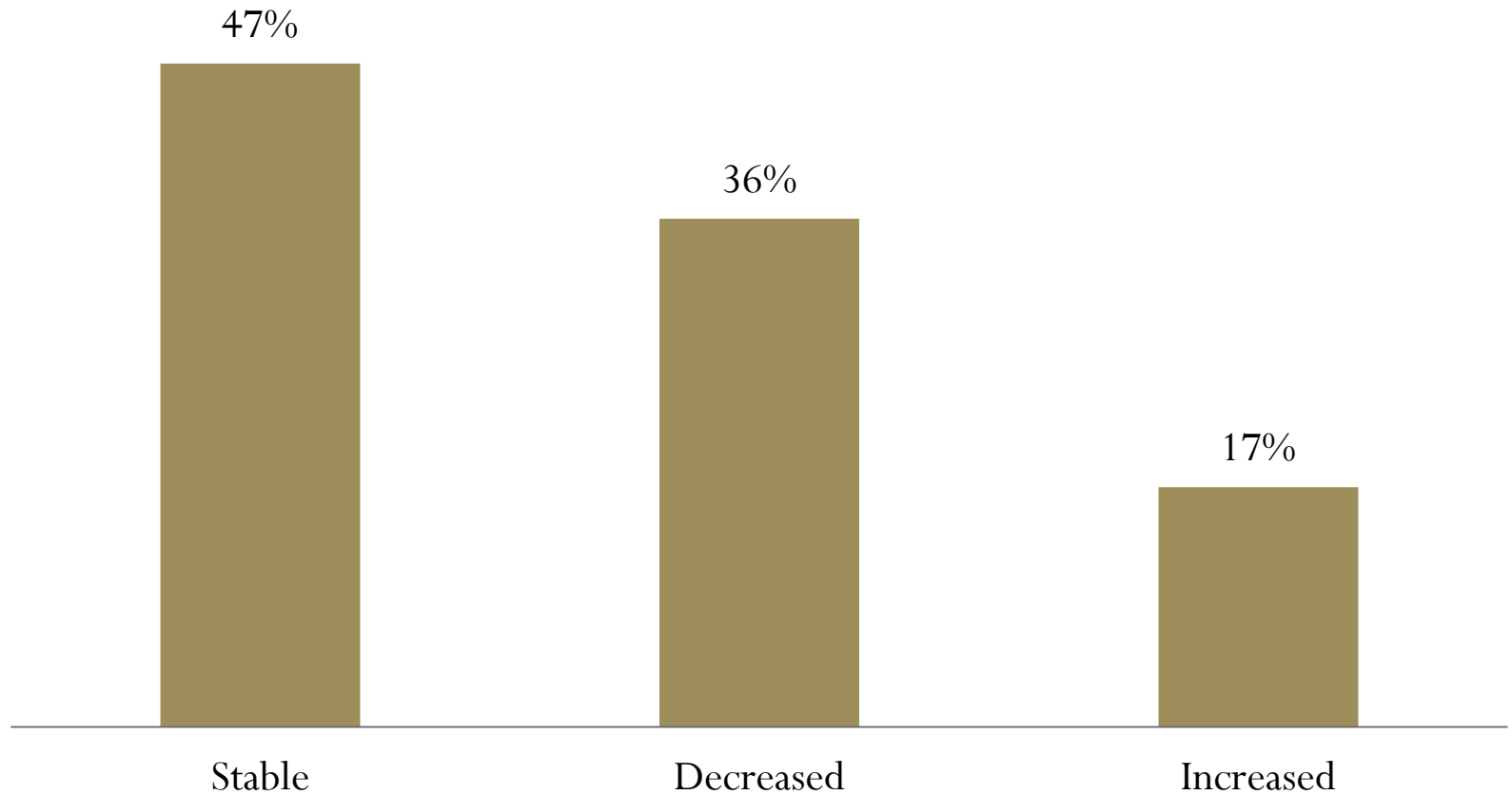
Source: National Architectural Accrediting Board. [Highlights from the 2014 NAAB Annual Report](#); Landscape Architecture Accrediting Board. [Annual Report Summary](#)

# Joint Task Force Survey

- Task Force developed a survey to understand what was happening at the planning schools
- Survey emailed to PAB schools
- 67% response
- 38 questions
- Wide variety of individual answers

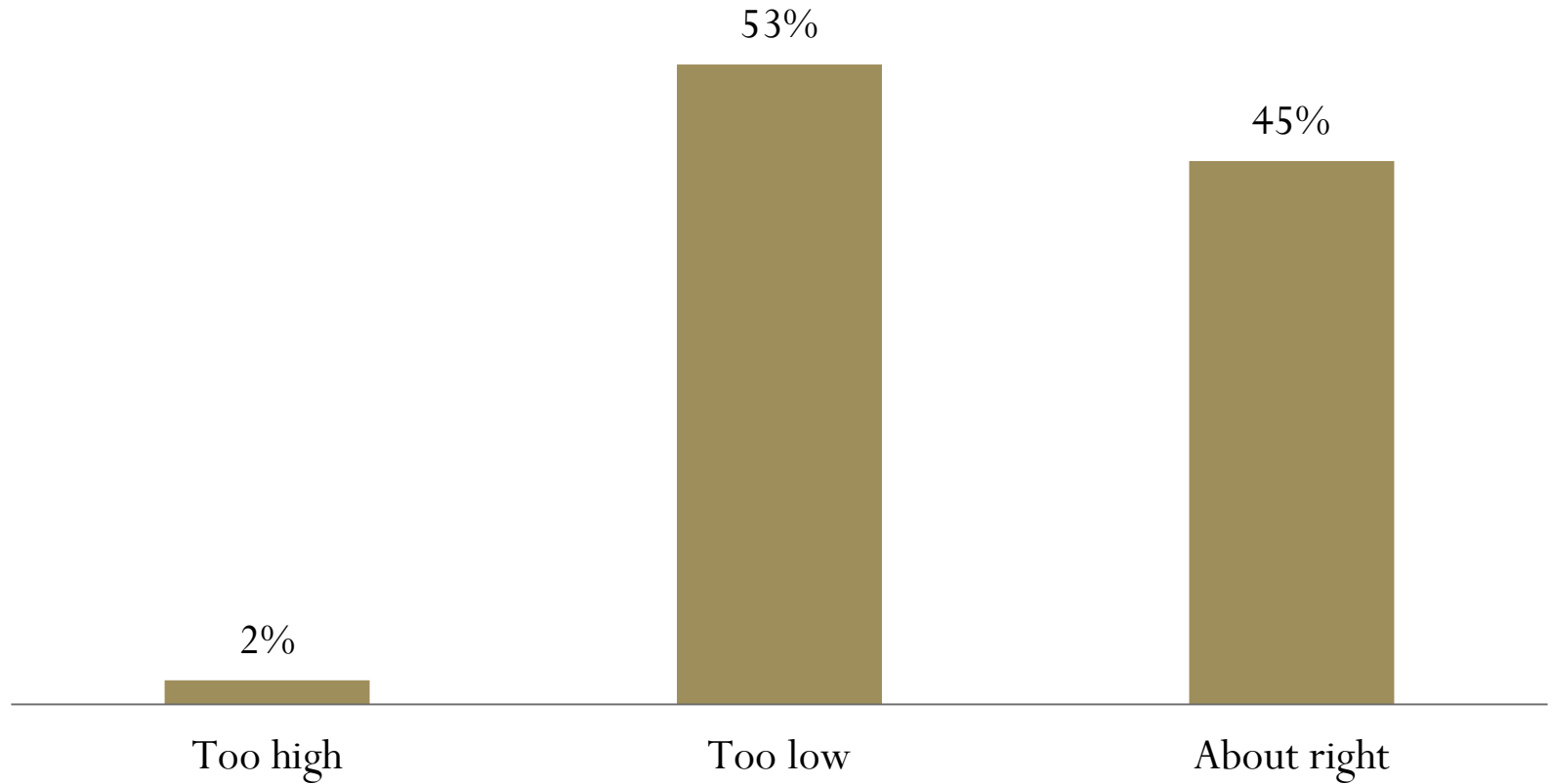
# Survey of PAB-accredited Programs

## Enrollment at Accredited Masters Program



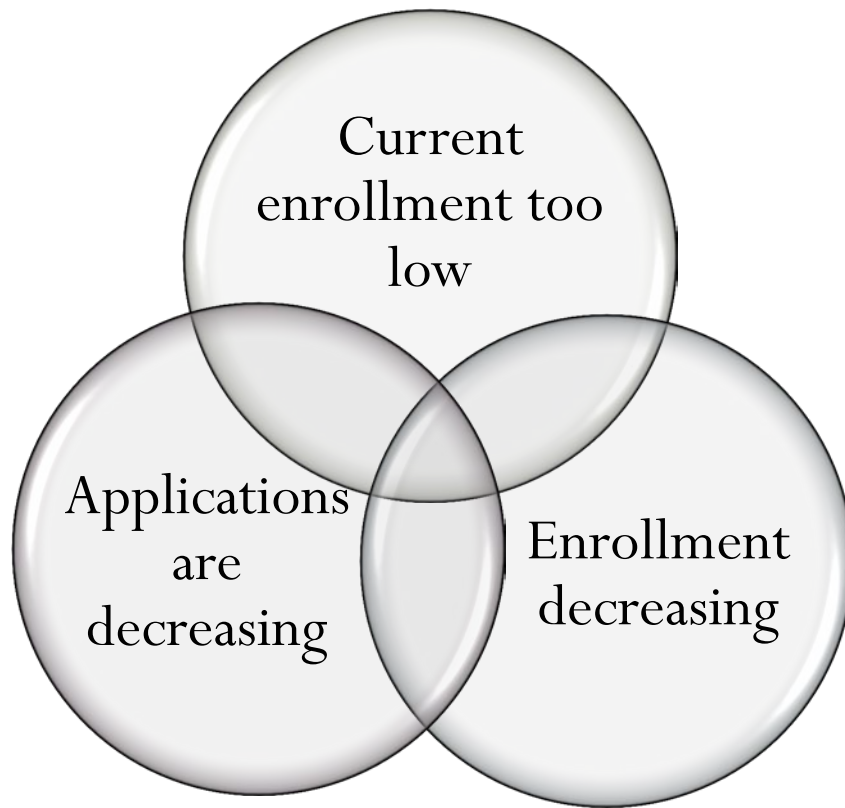
# Survey of PAB-accredited Programs

## Current Enrollment Levels



# Impacts

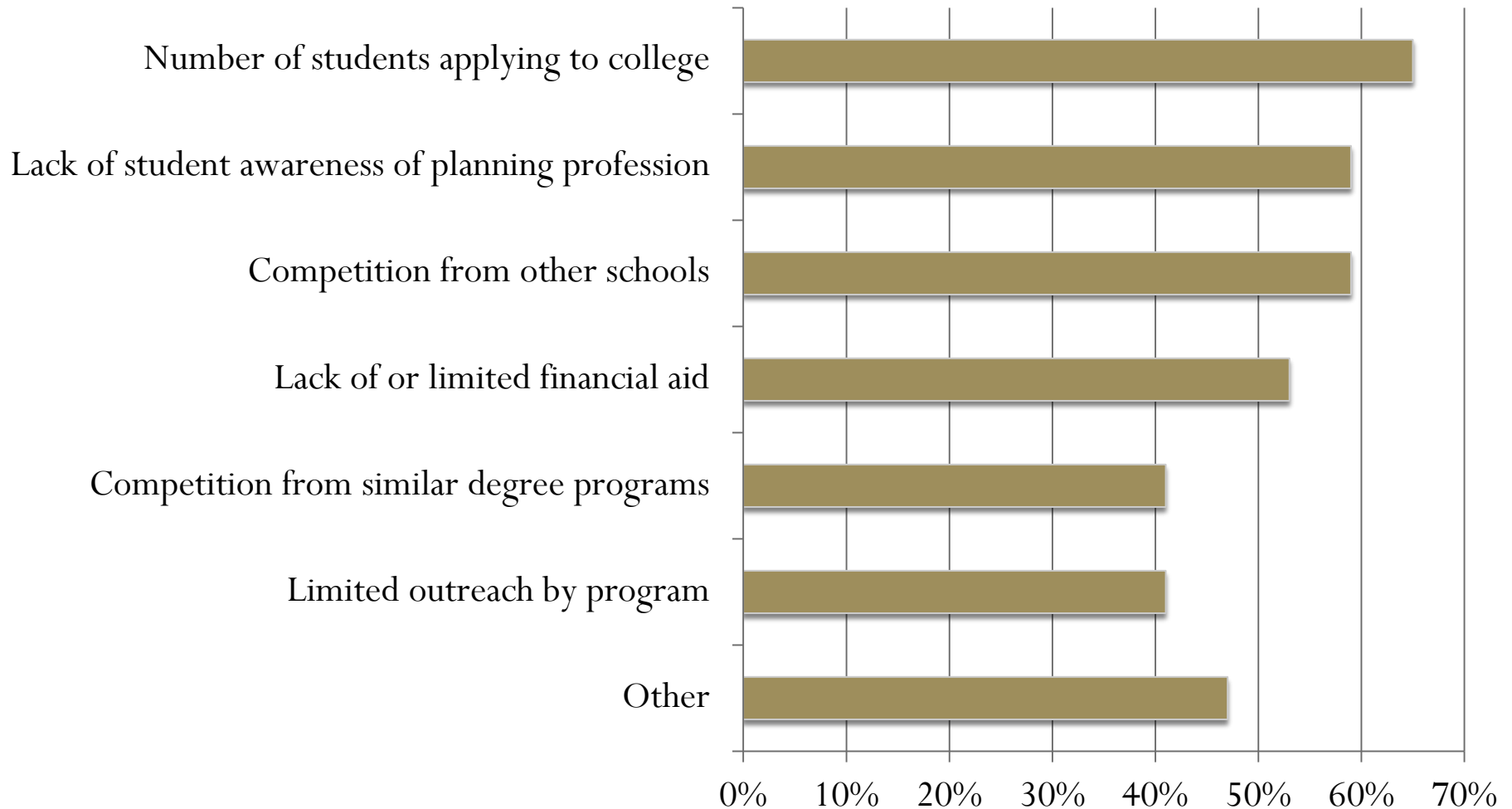
12 Programs



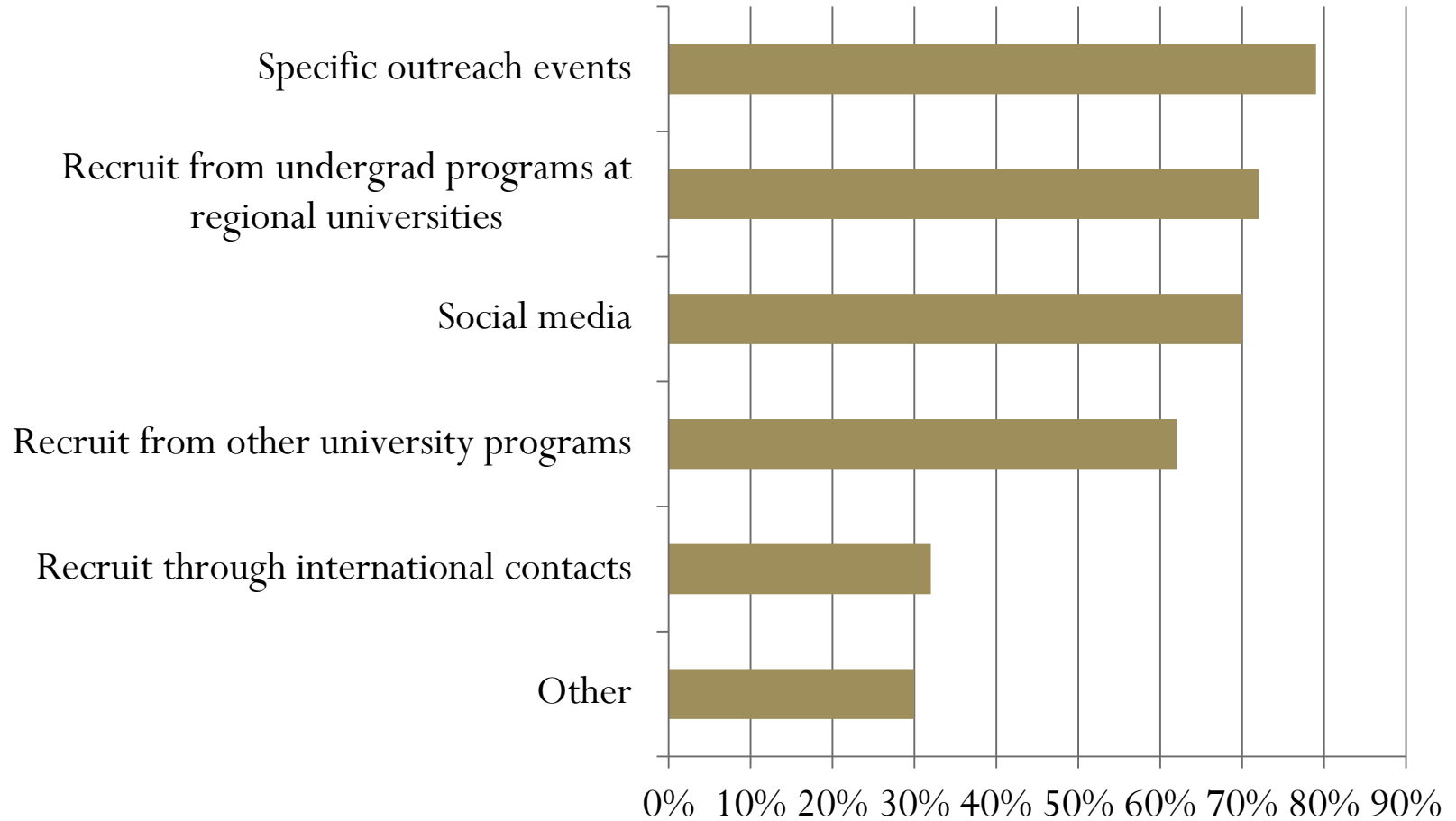
50% reported negative impacts, such as:

- Inability to hire new faculty
- Fewer course offerings; limited number of electives
- Variable student quality
- Concern about declining institutional support

# Factors contributing to Decline



# Recruitment Strategies



# What's Next?

- APA, AICP, ACSP, PAB Review of Report
- Phone follow-up with certain programs
- Additional questions and further research
- Investigation of trends for “competing” programs (example: Sustainable Development degrees)
- Understanding suggested “best practices” being implemented at planning schools