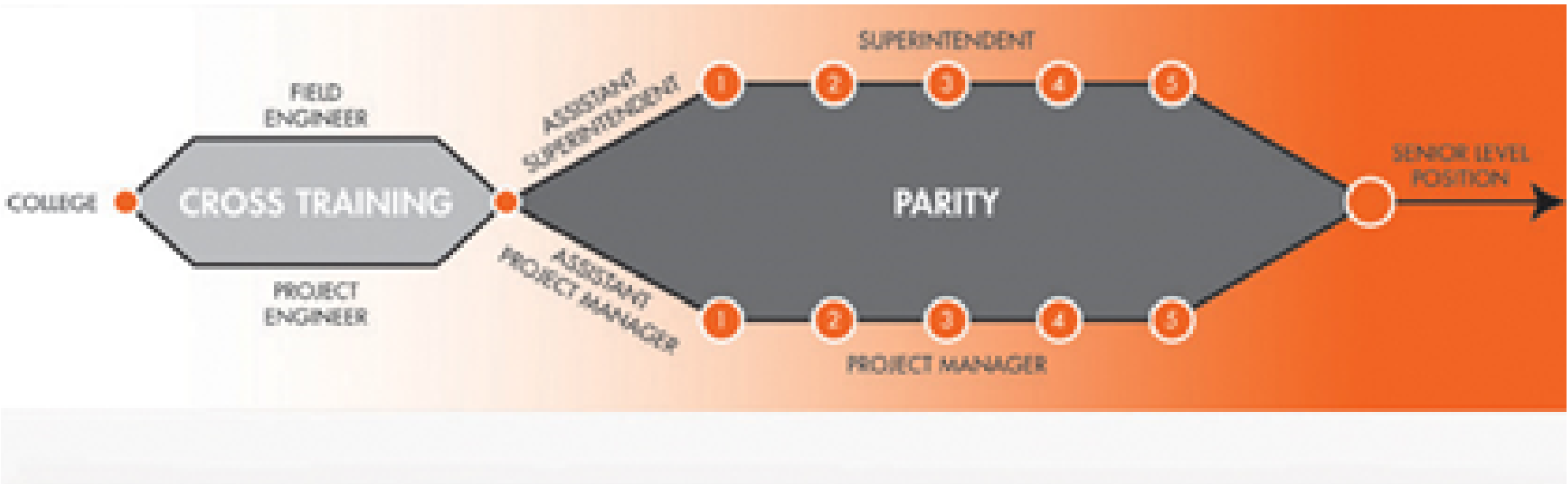


A Study of Cal Poly Students' Preferred Career Path: A Focus on Alumni

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The construction industry is a fragile system with an intricate mix of field and office. Theses two branches are critical to keeping any project running smoothly. However, the industry is noticeably changing and this fragile structure is deteriorating. Field positions are getting tougher and tougher to fill for most companies in the construction industry. As Cal Poly construction management students, we are taught rather early in our education that there are generally two paths that we can pursue in the construction industry: field or the office. The purpose of this report is to survey whether or not graduating students prefer the office or the field. This report also discovers the reasons for each alumnus decision. Recruiters will be able to better incentive field positions based on the knowledge gained in this report.

Key Words: Construction, Cal Poly, Graduates, Alumni, Office Path, Field Path



Whiting-Turner Career Path for Graduates



METHODOLOGY

A Survey was conducted with the following questions:

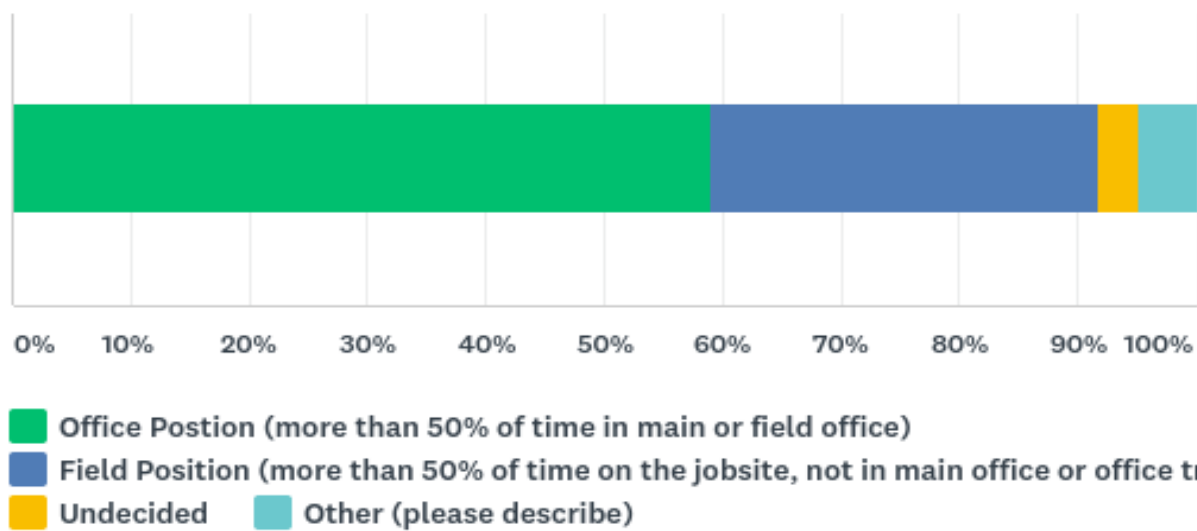
- 1) What year did you graduate?
- 2) Upon graduation, what position were you looking to get?
- 3) If you chose the office route, why?
- 4) If you chose the field route, why?
- 5) Have you switched paths (office to field/field to office) since you started working full time with a construction company?
- 6) If you answered yes above, why did you switch paths? (select all that apply)
- 7) How long do you plan to stay on your current path (either field or office)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

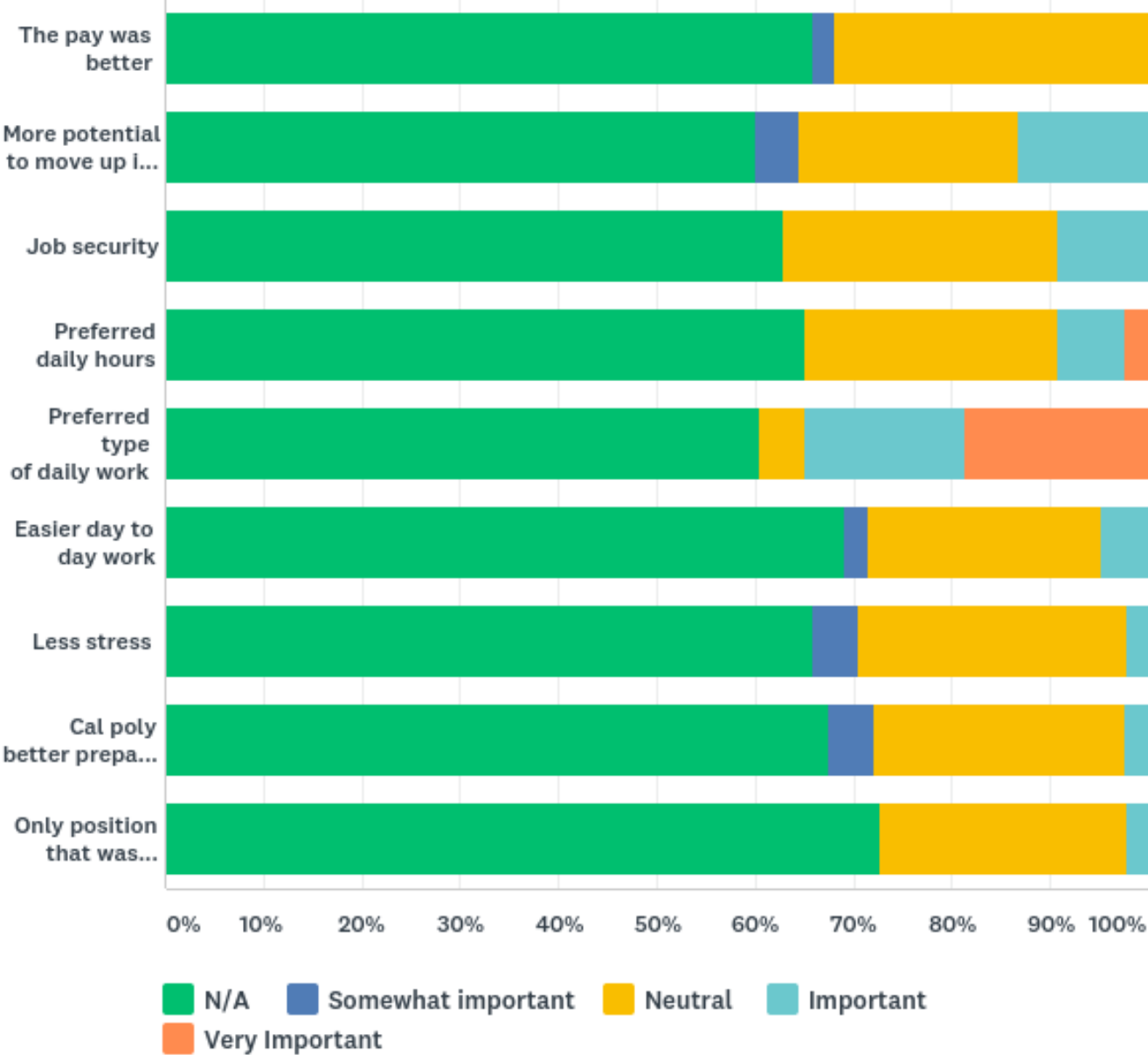
- 1) Graduation years ranged back as far as 42 years in 1976
- 2) 59% of graduates preferred the office after graduation
- 3) Why responders chose the office: "Cal Poly better prepared me for this route" & "More potential to move up in the company"
- 4) Why responders chose the field: "Preferred type of daily work"
- 5) 69% of responders are looking to stay in the same path as they are in now

DATA

Q2 Upon graduation, what type of position were you looking to get?



Q4 If you chose the field route, why?



Q3 If you chose the office route, why?

