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# Student Life Report

# Purpose and Goal: Improve quality of life

- Unify the student voice by collecting student concerns
- Share concerns and advocate for change with appropriate administrators



# Other goals

- Maintain useful and functioning website
- Promote cheer and goodwill among students through recognition of accomplishments

# Brief History of GSC's role in Student Advocacy

- Historically, GSC was primarily a social organization that focused on student programming
- GSC created the Student Life Liaison position in 2015 to step into an advocacy role
- Student Advocacy Committee was formed in 2016 to expand advocacy role
- Future goal: GSC is 50% advocacy and 50% social

# Accomplishments:

- Formation of **Graduate Student Diversity and Inclusion Committee**
  - Ensured grad student voice was heard in Diversity Town Hall Meetings
- Advocated for the **retention of graduate student workspace** in Buttrick Hall
- Wrote and administered the **Graduate Student Perspectives Survey** - this survey was the first attempt to gather a comprehensive view of graduate student perspectives at Vanderbilt
- Grad Students placed on the following committees:
  - Traffic and Parking Committee
  - Sexual Assault Task Force
  - Student Wellness Committee
  - International Student Focus Group
  - Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Committee
- Created a **Student Advocacy Committee** to expand GSC's advocacy role
- Shared student concerns regarding **Student Health Insurance** with the Dean of Students Office
- Recommended and designed a resources booklet to distribute to new students at orientation - *in collaboration with the Graduate School*
- **Advocate for reasonable parking opportunities -**  
*in collaboration with the Graduate School*

# Accomplishments by our allies:

- Subsidization of health insurance premiums for students with families - *Office of the Provost*
- Quick reversal of “no AirBnB” policy - *Graduate School in collaboration with students*
- Increased stipends in some departments!- *with assistance from Graduate School, School of Engineering, and College of Arts and Sciences*



[https://www.google.com/search?q=confetti+cannon&rlz=1C1CHFX\\_enUS557US557&espv=2&biw=1366&bih=643&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=oahUKEwjx8LX6ne\\_OAhVCZCYKHVjJCoQQ\\_AUICCGD#imgsrc=B86PrRVZiJAUqM%3A](https://www.google.com/search?q=confetti+cannon&rlz=1C1CHFX_enUS557US557&espv=2&biw=1366&bih=643&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=oahUKEwjx8LX6ne_OAhVCZCYKHVjJCoQQ_AUICCGD#imgsrc=B86PrRVZiJAUqM%3A)

# Current Issues:

- Continue analyzing Graduate Student Perspectives Survey data to support advocacy efforts
- Check in on the new graduate student workspaces in Buttrick Hall - is there a need for further advocacy efforts?
- Advocate for fair stipends in all departments - *with assistance from Graduate School, School of Engineering, and College of Arts and Sciences*
- Advocating for a campus ombudsman - *through the Graduate School*
- Seeking clarity on different dismissal policies across departments

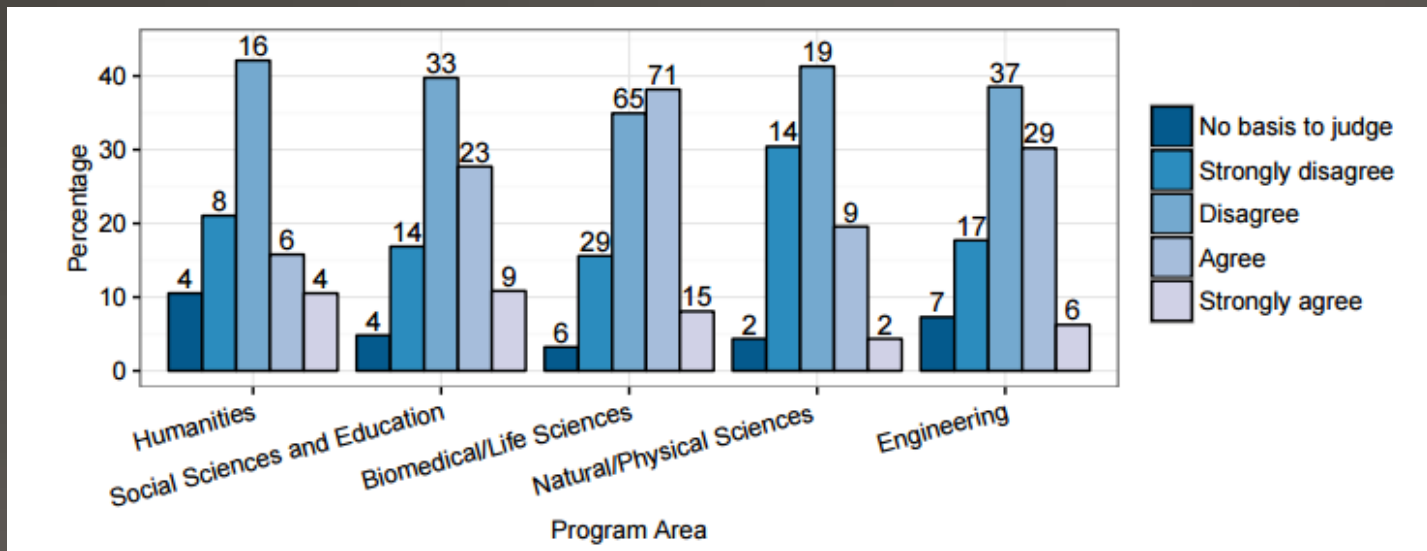


www.freepic.com

# Survey Data - Stipends

“Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

I understand how my stipend level is determined.”

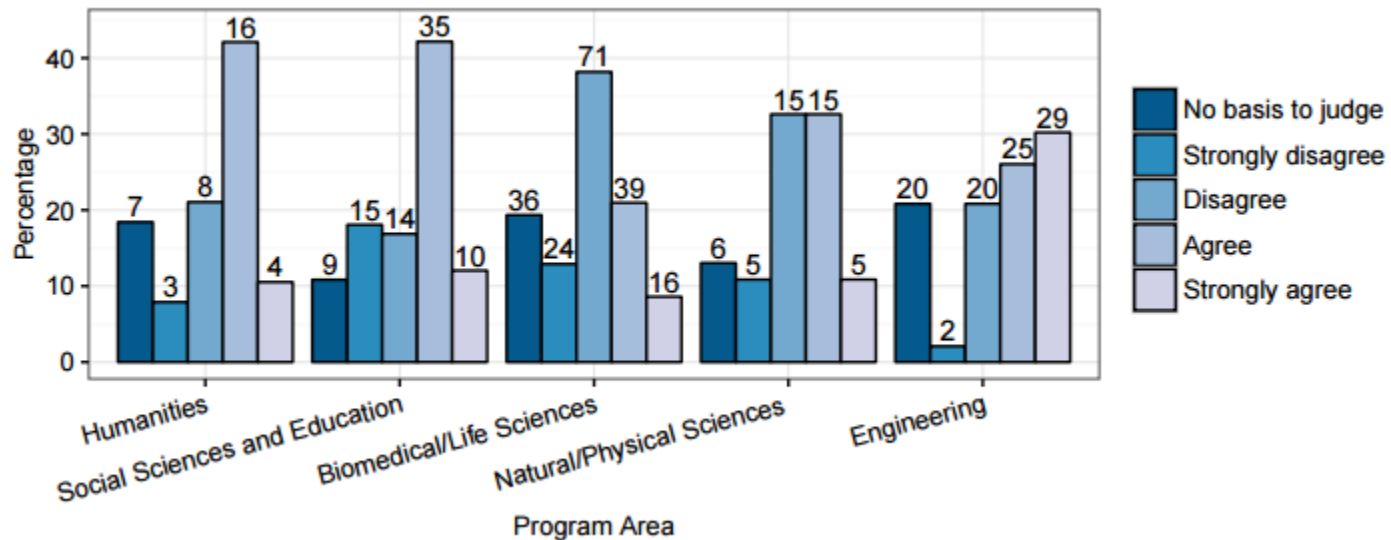




# Survey Data - Stipends

"Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Graduate students stipends in my department vary from individual to individual."

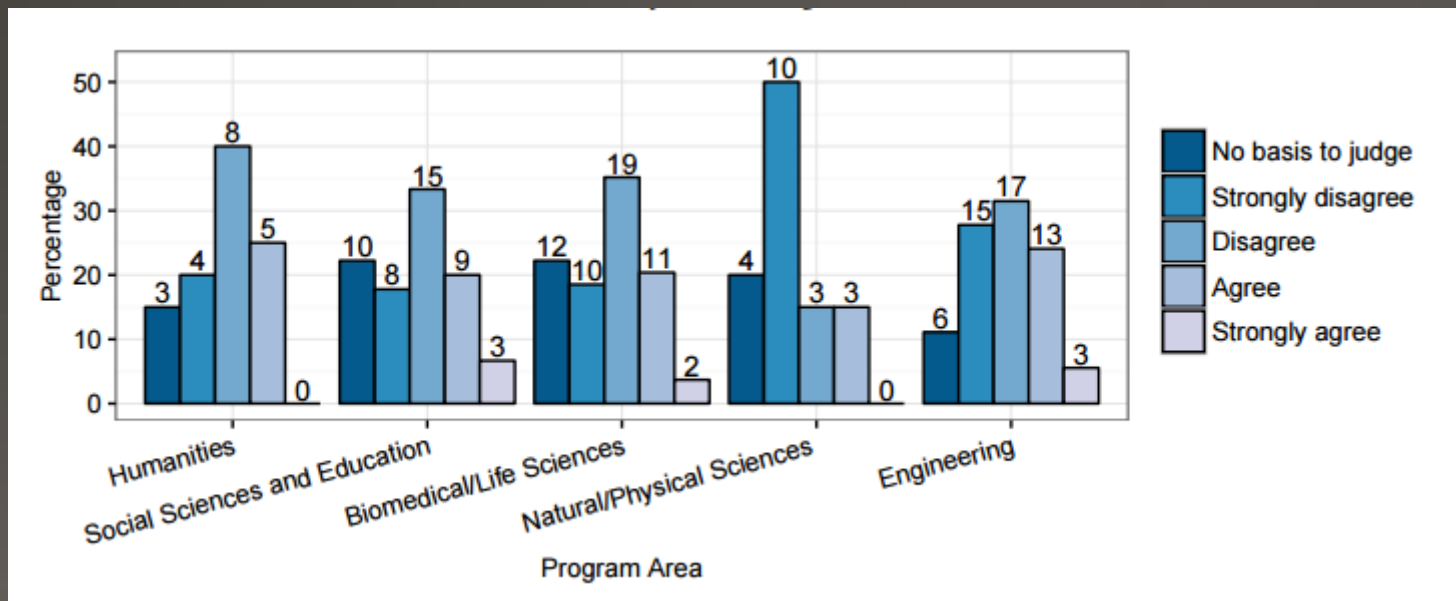


# Survey Data - Stipends

## NESTED

"Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

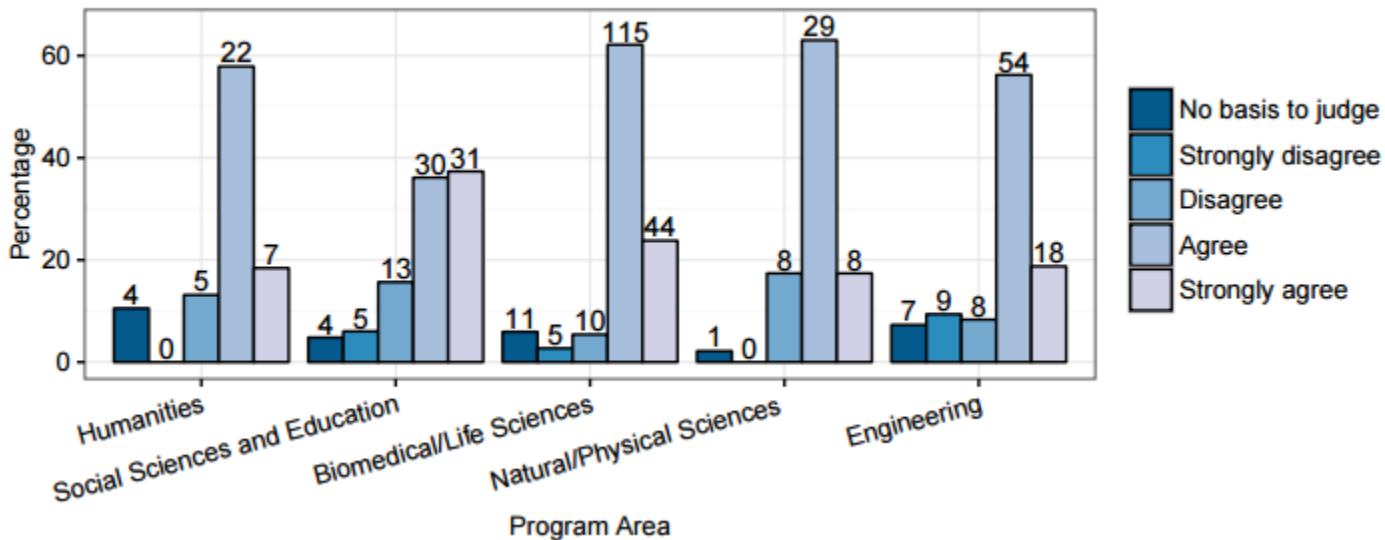
'Variations in graduate student stipend levels are based on merit.'"



# Survey Data - Stipends

"Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

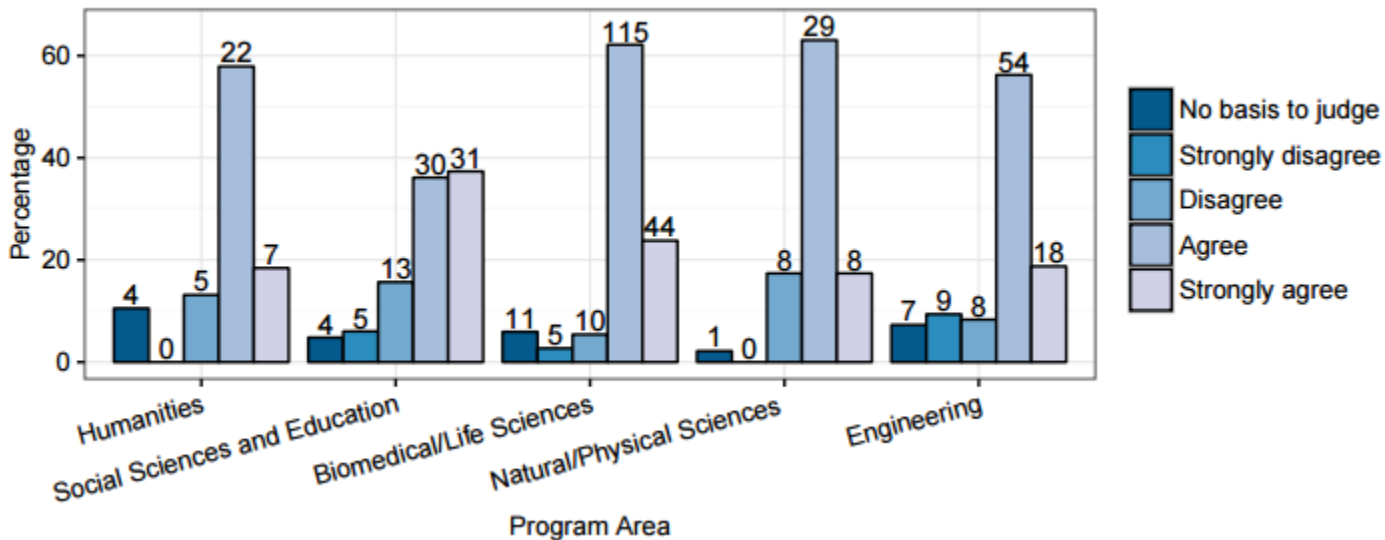
The financial support I receive has been consistent throughout my graduate experience."



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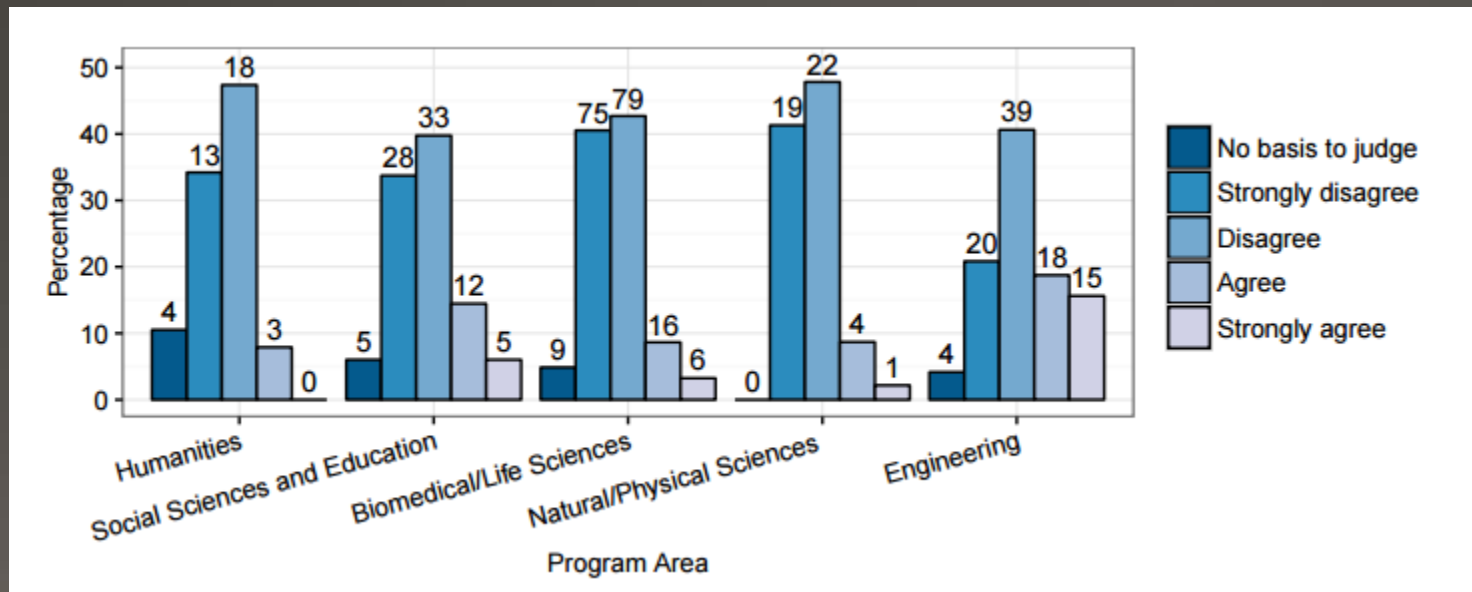
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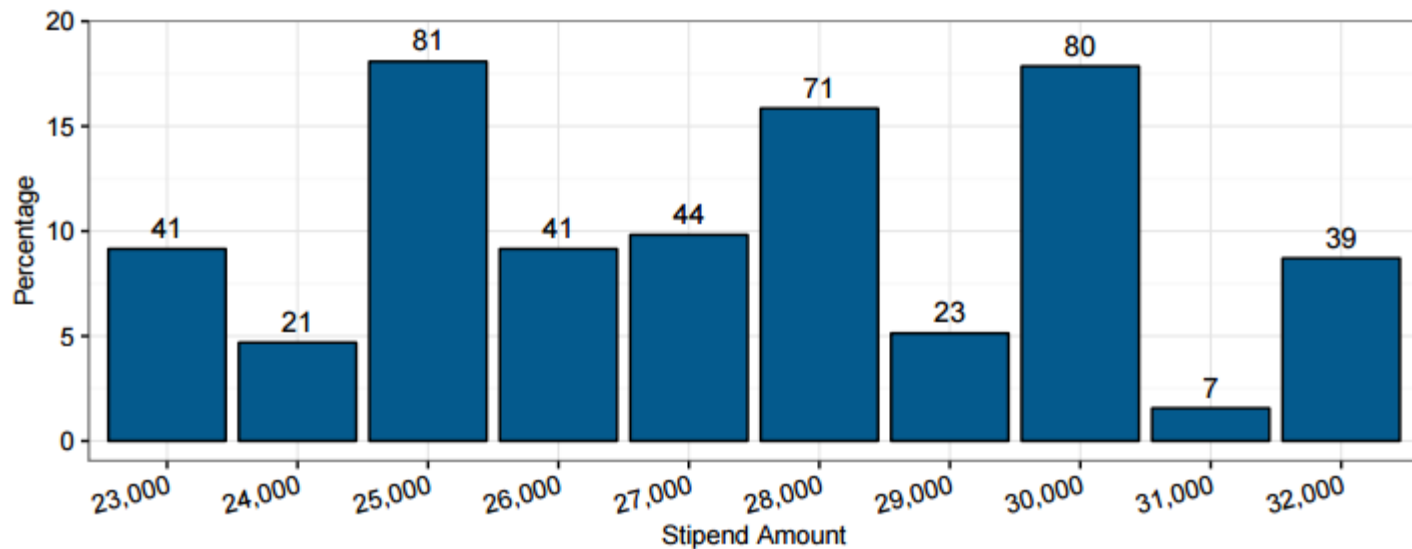
"Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

I am concerned that I will unexpectedly lose financial support before I graduate."



# Survey Data - Stipends

“Estimate the lowest yearly stipend required to live in Nashville.”



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# What other grievances do you have?

- Buttrick carrel situation- feedback?
- Other concerns?

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- [VanderbiltGraduateAdvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:VanderbiltGraduateAdvocacy@gmail.com)
- Leave a message on the GSC website  
<https://studentorg.vanderbilt.edu/gsc/>