

## 2012 Graduate Alumni Survey

### Highlights

The following report is based on data collected from the 2012 MIT Graduate Alumni Survey. The survey was open to recipients of graduate degrees in the years 1987, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2008, representing classes approximately 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years out. Of the 15,806 alumni from these years for whom we had an email address, we received 3,692 valid responses, yielding an overall response rate of 23% (31% for Doctoral alumni and 20% for MBA alumni and other Master's alumni). Full results are available on our website: <http://web.mit.edu/ir/surveys/>

### Satisfaction with Degree

#### Overall Satisfaction

- 92% of Doctoral alumni, 96% of MBA alumni, and 95% of other Master's alumni report being Somewhat or Very satisfied with being a graduate student at MIT.
- Alumni respondents in all degree categories gave high ratings to their academic experience at MIT, with 89% saying it was Very good or Excellent. Ratings for student life experience, personal development opportunities, and professional development opportunities were lower, but still received ratings of Very good or Excellent from over two-thirds of respondents.

### Career

#### First post-graduate position

- 96% of MBA alumni and 89% of other Master's alumni said that their first post-graduate activity was employment or military service. All Doctoral alumni were working or in military service as their first post-graduate position, with 37% reporting working as a post-doc.
- 15% of Doctoral alumni, 35% of MBA alumni, and 19% of other Master's Alumni reported that their first post-graduate position was outside the U.S.
- Among current US citizens, 8% of Doctoral alumni, 8% of MBA alumni, and 6% of other Master's alumni reported that their first post-graduate position was outside the U.S.
- Among current non-citizens, 65% of Doctoral alumni, 26% of MBA alumni, and 43% of other Master's alumni reported that their first post-graduate position was *inside* the U.S.
- For Doctoral alumni, the top three methods of obtaining their first post-graduate position were: networking (32% of respondents), through their faculty advisor (27%), and directly applying to a posted job (18%). For MBA alumni, the top three methods were: MIT on-campus recruiting or career fair (33% of respondents), networking (26%), and returning to pre-program employment (24%). For other Master's alumni, the top three methods were: networking (29% of respondents), MIT on-campus recruiting or career fair (25%), and directly applying to a posted job (14%).

### Current position

- 97% of Doctoral alumni, 91% of MBA alumni, and 90% of other Master's alumni are currently working, doing a post-doc, or are in military service.
- 22% of Doctoral alumni, 39% of MBA alumni, and 25% of other Master's Alumni reported that their current position is outside the U.S.
- Among current US citizens, 8% of Doctoral alumni, 11% of MBA alumni, and 8% of other Master's alumni reported that their current position is outside the U.S.
- Among current non-citizens, 43% of Doctoral alumni, 19% of MBA alumni, and 27% of other Master's alumni reported that their current position is *inside* the U.S.
- 39% of Doctoral alumni say they work in Industry (for-profit), and 27% work for a U.S. 4-year college or university (non-medical school).
- The average annual salary for a Doctoral alumnus is \$144,320, \$214,488 for an MBA alumnus, and \$142,039 for an alumnus with another type of Master's degree.
- 73% of Doctoral alumni, 74% of MBA alumni, and 64% of other Master's alumni say that their graduate program at MIT Very well or More than adequately prepared them for their current career.

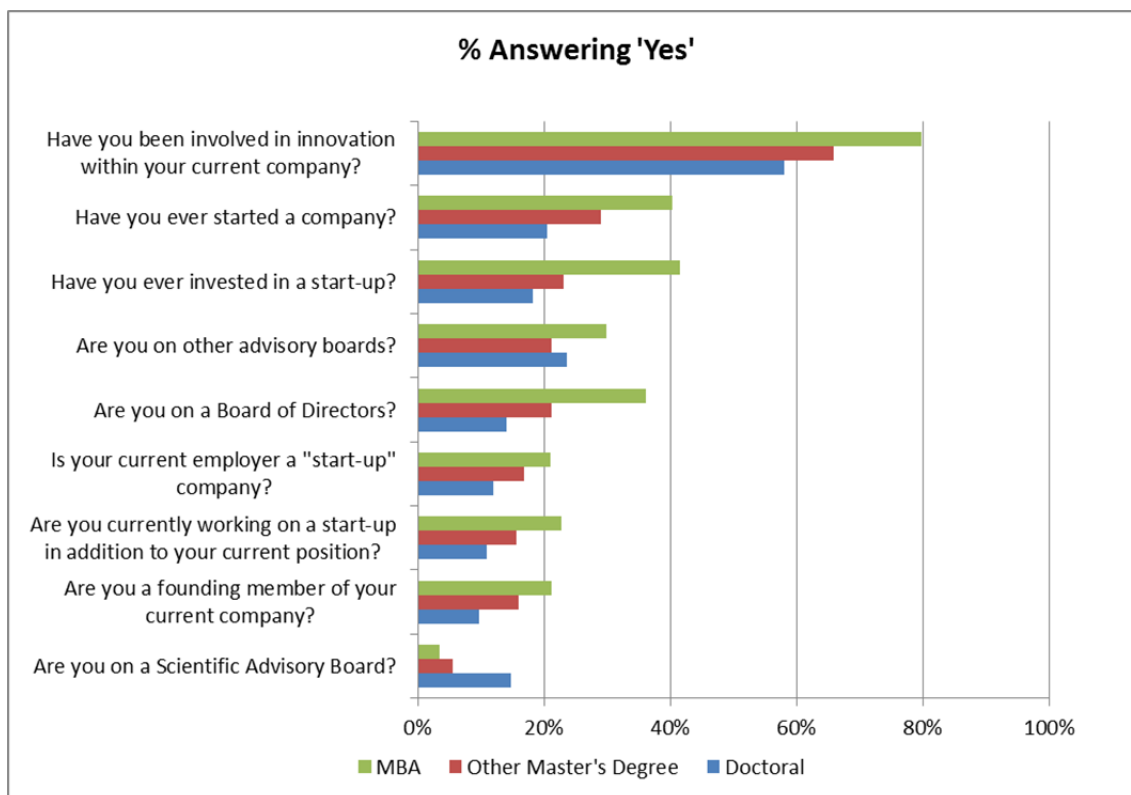
### Career path

- Alumni were asked to describe the course of their career so far with regard to their field. Over half of Doctoral alumni have remained in the same field (e.g., consistently in chemistry) while two-thirds of MBA alumni and 58% of other Master's alumni have changed fields at least once.
- Alumni were also asked to describe the course of their career with regard to their role. 47% of Doctoral alumni have stayed in the same role (e.g., consistently a professor) while 48% of MBA alumni and 35% of other Master's alumni have changed roles two or more times.

## Entrepreneurship

### Entrepreneurial Activities

- 12% of Doctoral alumni, 21% of MBA alumni, and 17% of other Master's alumni say that their current company is a startup.
- 10% of Doctoral alumni, 21% of MBA alumni, and 16% of other Master's alumni say they are a founding member of their current company.
- 21% of Doctoral alumni, 40% of MBA alumni, and 29% of other Master's alumni say they have started a company.
- 11% of Doctoral alumni, 23% of MBA alumni, and 16% of other Master's alumni are working on a start-up in addition to their current position.
- 18% of Doctoral alumni, 41% of MBA alumni, and 23% of other Master's alumni have invested in a startup.



### Start-ups

- Of those respondents who said that they had started a company, 24% of Doctoral alumni, 12% of MBA alumni, and 19% of other Master's alumni say that they have started a company based on their research at MIT.
- Of those who have started a company, the average number of companies started is 1.7 overall, with MBA alumni having a slightly higher average of 2.0. Five percent of Doctoral alumni, 10% of MBA alumni, and 5% of other Master's alumni report having started four or more companies.
- Of those who have started a company, 8% of Doctoral alumni, 27% of MBA alumni, and 10% of Master's alumni had started their first company before coming to MIT.
- Over 28% of Doctoral alumni and a third of MBA/other Master's alumni had started their first company within five years of their most recent MIT degree, while an additional third of alumni started their first company longer than five years after completing their degree.

### Innovation

- 41% of Doctoral alumni, 12% of MBA alumni, and 27% of other Master's alumni have at least one patent or invention, and 9% of Doctoral alumni have more than 10 patents or inventions.

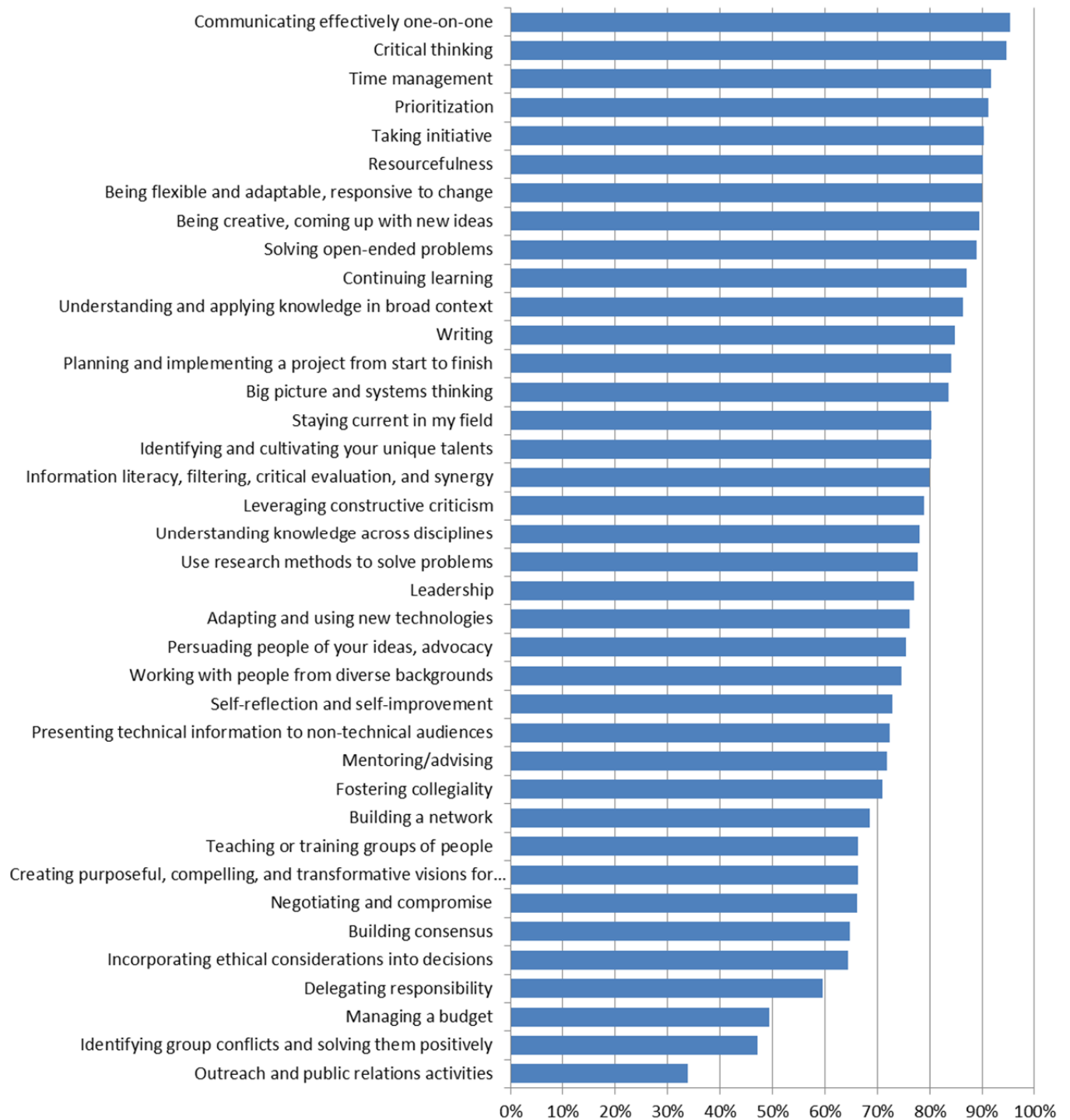
## Importance of Skills

Alumni were asked to rate the importance of a variety of skills to their current work on a scale from Not Important to Essential. The skills were grouped into thematic areas such as “Communication” and “Intrapersonal.”

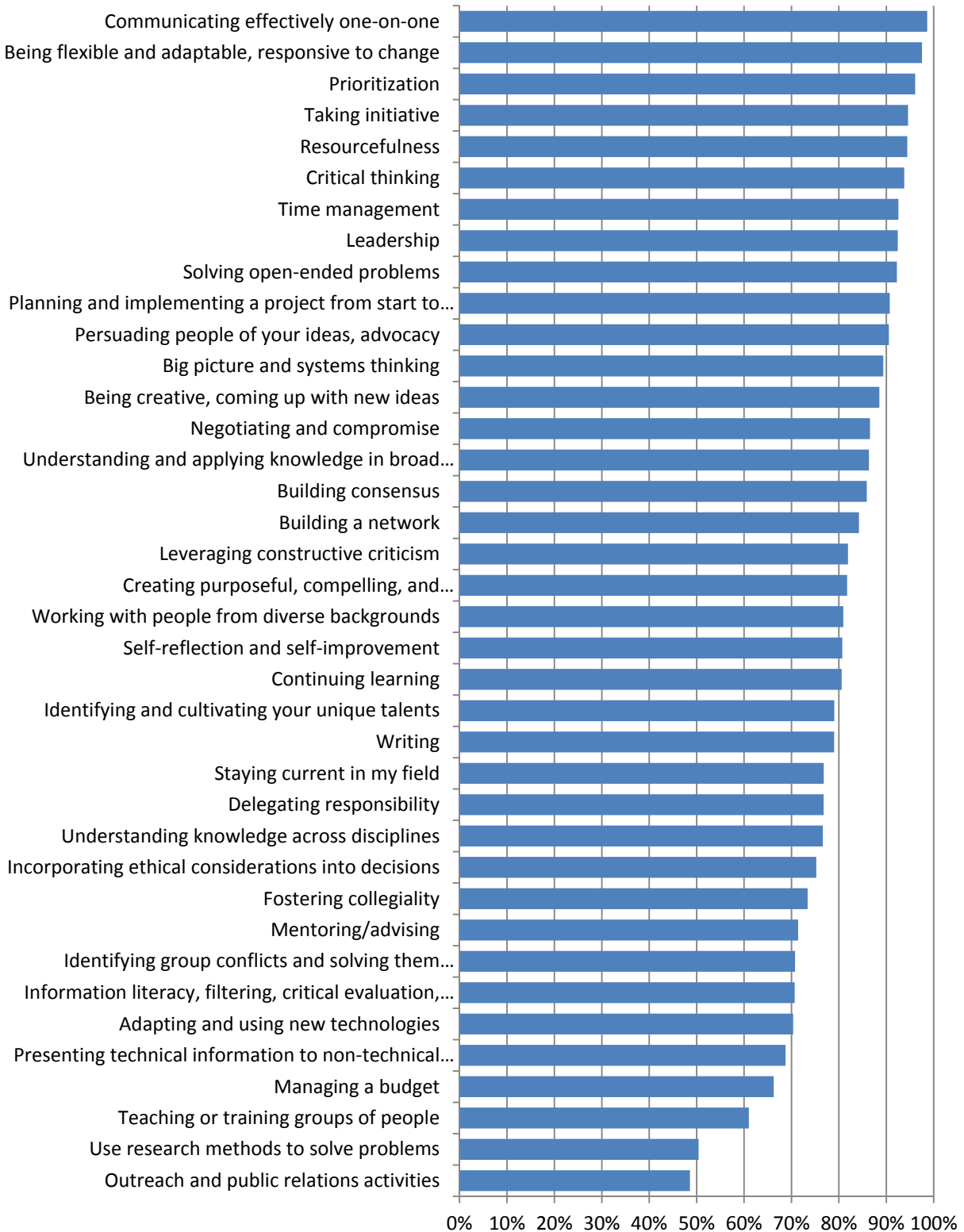
### Overall importance

- For doctoral alumni, the top five skills, as rated by combining the ratings of “Essential” and “Very Important” are Communicating effectively one-on-one (95%), Critical thinking (95%), Time management (92%), Prioritization (91%), and Taking initiative (90%).
- For MBA alumni, the top five skills are Communicating effectively one-on-one (99%), Being flexible and adaptable, responsive to change (98%), Prioritization (96%), Taking initiative (95%), and Resourcefulness (94%).
- For other master’s alumni, the top five skills are Communicating effectively one-on-one (97%), Being flexible and adaptable, responsive to change (95%), Resourcefulness (94%), Prioritization (94%), and Critical thinking (93%).
- See charts on following pages for all of the skills in descending order for each degree category.

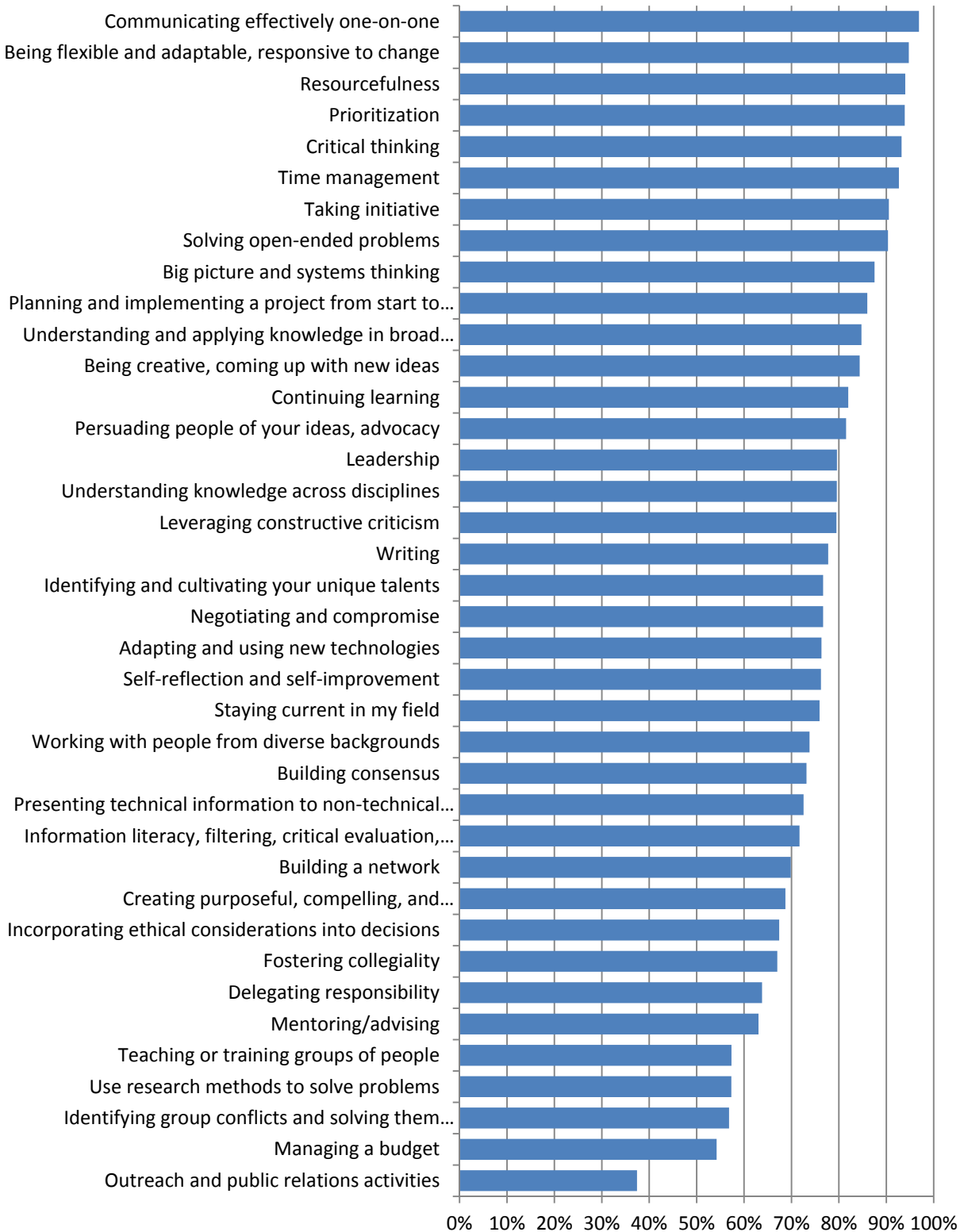
## Importance of Skills: Doctoral Alumni



## Importance of Skills: MBA Alumni



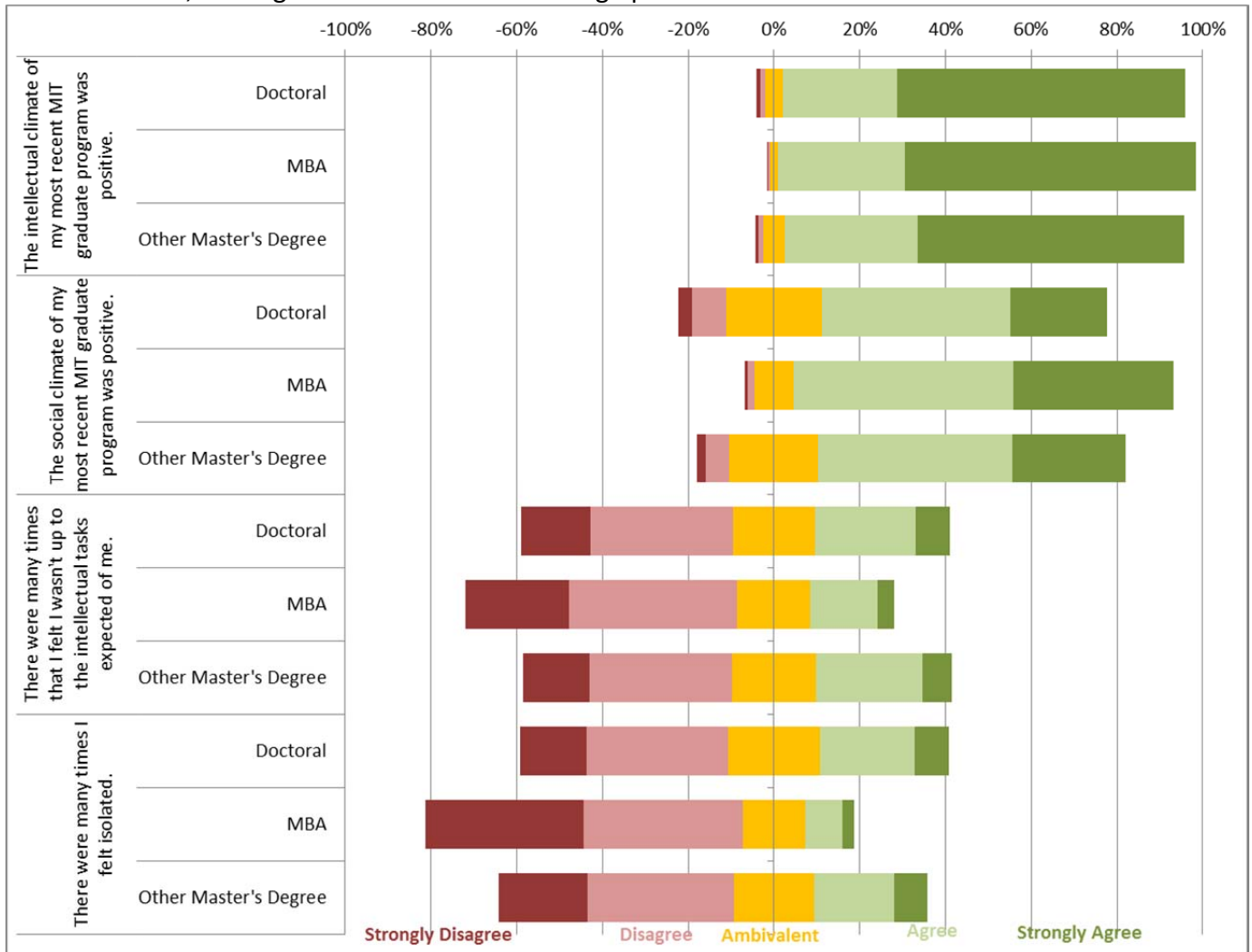
## Importance of Skills: Other Master's Alumni



## The MIT Experience

### Perception of Graduate Experience

- When asked how likely they would be to recommend MIT to a prospective graduate student like themselves, on a scale of 0 (not at all likely) to 10 (extremely likely), the average response was 9 for all three degree categories.
- The charts below detail the responses by degree type to four questions related to program climate.
- Doctoral alumni report feeling less positive about their social environment, more isolated, and higher incidence of not feeling up to their intellectual tasks.



### Connection to MIT

- 37% of Doctoral alumni, 45% of MBA alumni, and 38% of other Master's alumni say they currently feel Moderately or Very connected to MIT.
- 88% of respondents are in touch with someone they met during their program at MIT. The majority say they are in touch with another student. 62% of Doctoral alumni report still being in touch with their advisor.

