

LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS: ENGINES OF INEQUITY?



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DATASET:
2016 LSSSE ADMINISTRATION | 16,424 STUDENTS FROM 70 U.S. LAW SCHOOLS

Question:

During the current school year, were you awarded need- or merit-based scholarships or grant funding? If so, what kind of funding did you receive? (Select all that apply.)

- Need-based scholarship(s)
- Merit-based scholarship(s)
- Other, please specify:
- None

Student responses were analyzed through the following frames:

Race/Ethnicity

- Asian
- Black
- Latino/a
- White

Gender

- Female
- Male

Parental Education

- First-generation—no college (FG-HS)
- First-generation—some college (FG-SC)
- Non-first-generation (NFG)

Entering LSAT score

- 150 and lower
- 151 – 160
- 161 and higher

Enrollment division

- Full-time
- Part-time

Expected law school debt

- \$0
- \$1-40,000
- \$40,001-80,000
- \$80,001-120,000
- \$120,001-160,000
- \$160,001-200,000
- \$200,001+





WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS?

WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS?



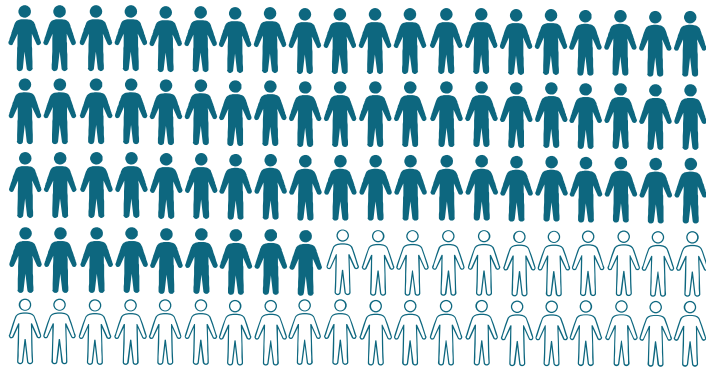
72%

**of respondents
received a scholarship
during the 2015-2016
school year.**



WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS?

A higher proportion of respondents at private schools received scholarships than those at public schools.



69%
PUBLIC
3735/5435

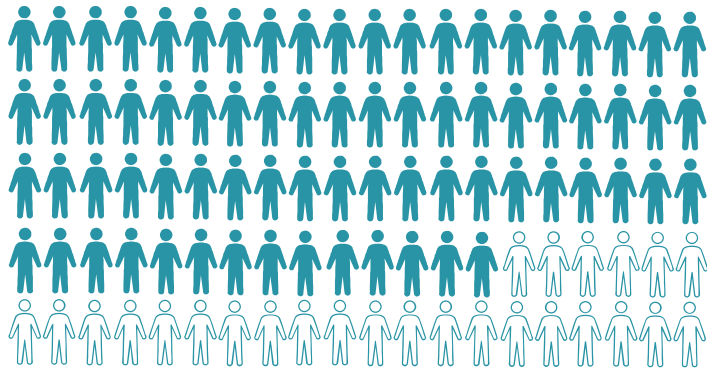


74%
PRIVATE
6372/8631



WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS?

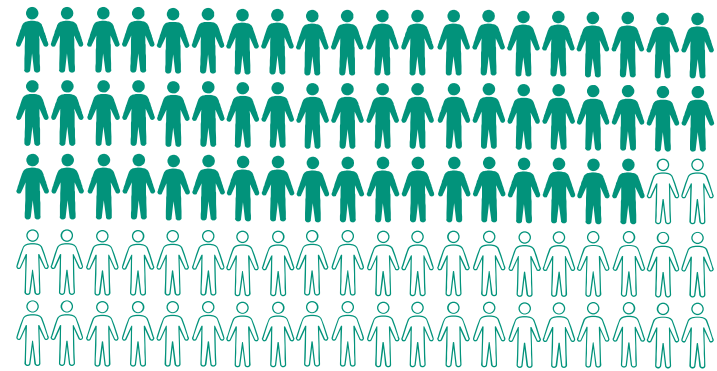
Full-time students were more likely to have received a scholarship than part-time students.



74%

FULL-TIME

9084/12290



58%

PART-TIME

1021/1773



WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS?

White respondents were most likely to have received a scholarship. Black respondents were least likely.



WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS?

A slightly higher proportion of women than men received a scholarship.



Female: 72% (5244/7262)



Male: 71% (4649/6556)

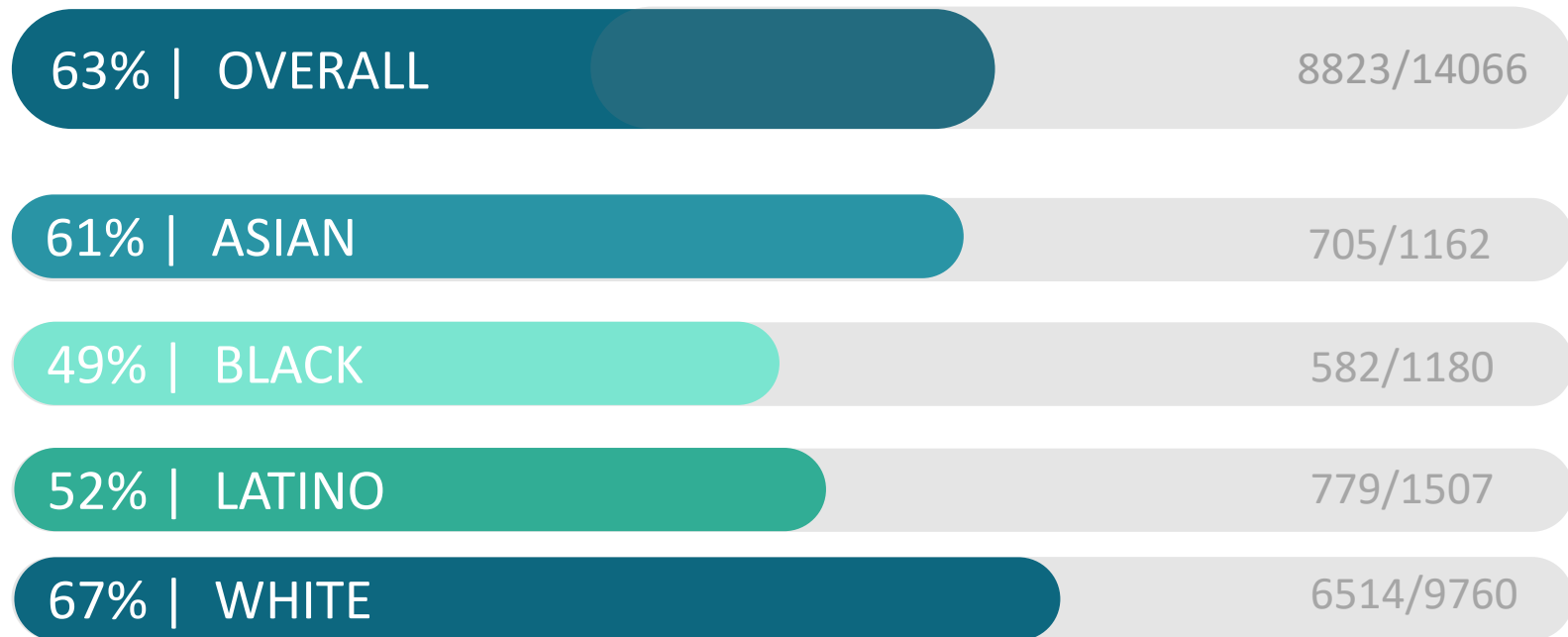


A woman with dark hair is looking down at a document she is holding. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. The text "MERIT V. NEED" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, serif font.

MERIT V. NEED

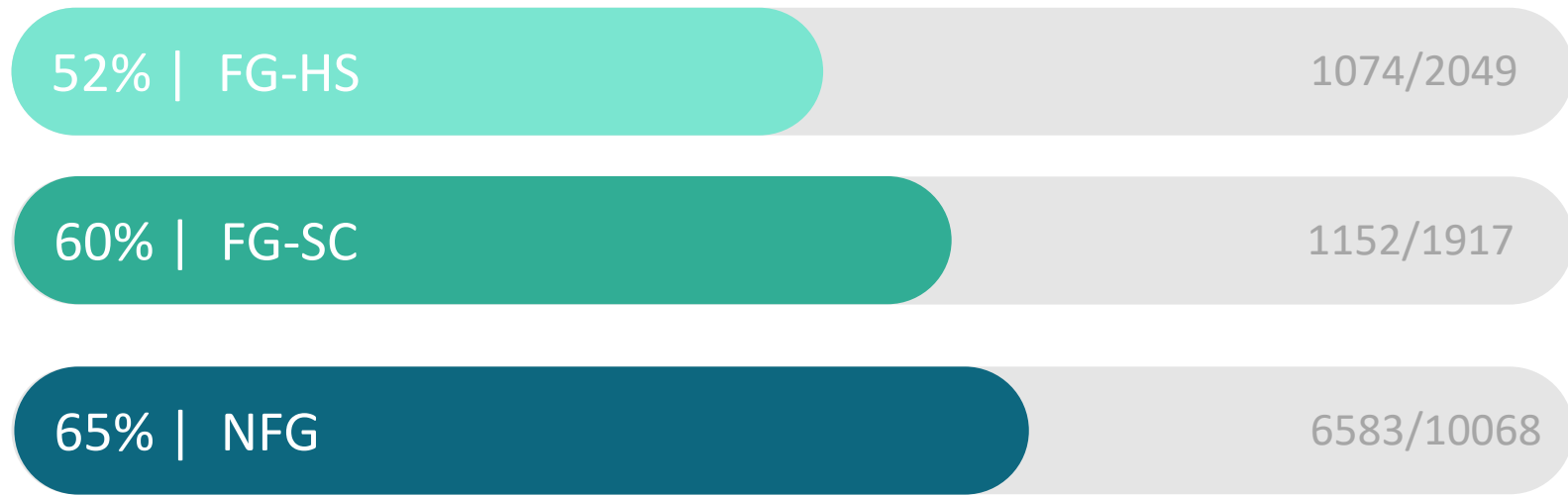
MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

White respondents were most likely to have received a merit scholarship. Black respondents were least likely.



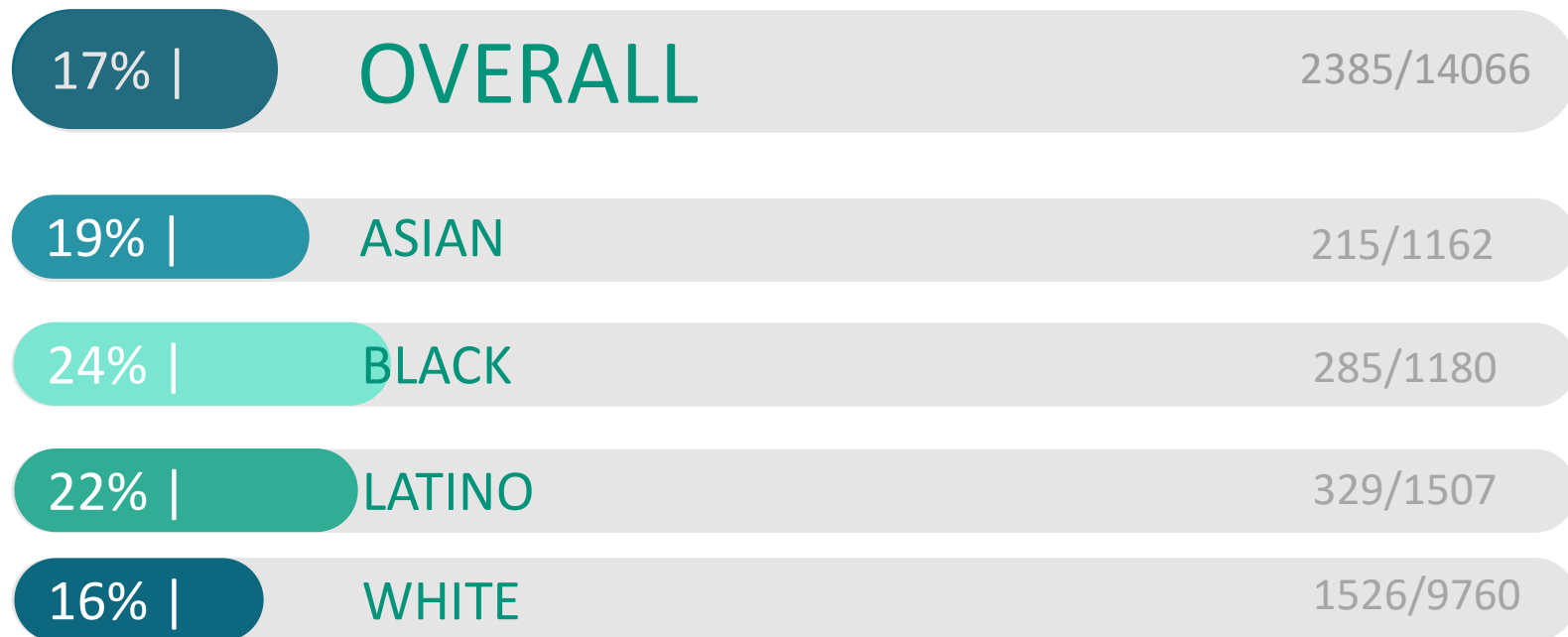
MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

First-generation respondents were less likely to have received merit scholarships than respondents with college-educated parents.



NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Black respondents were most likely to have received a need-based scholarship. White respondents were least likely.



NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

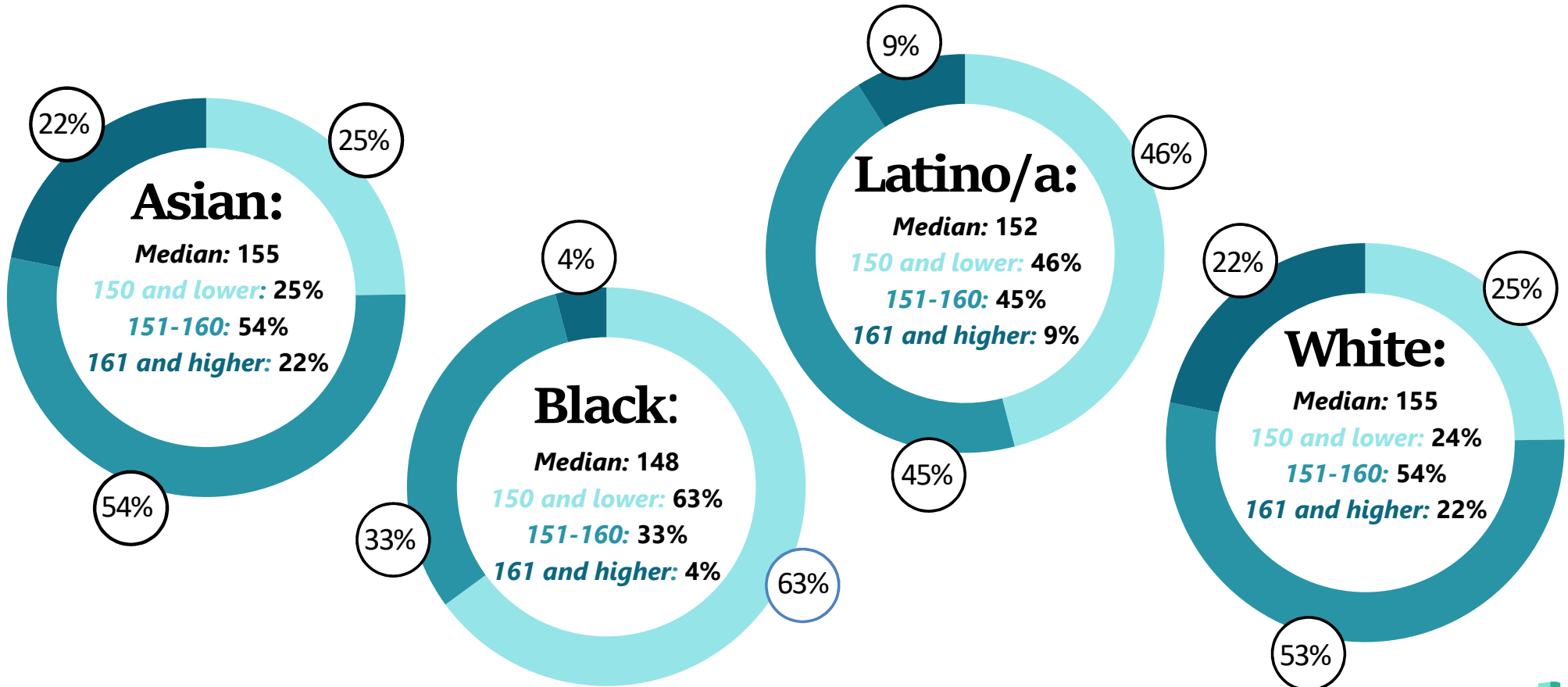
First-generation respondents were more likely to have received need-based scholarships than respondents with college-educated parents.



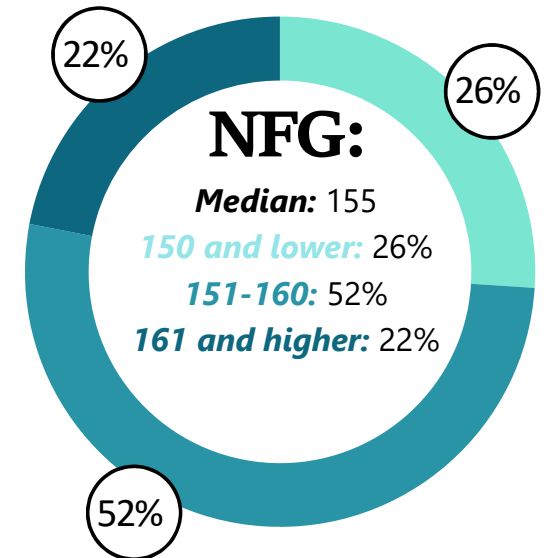
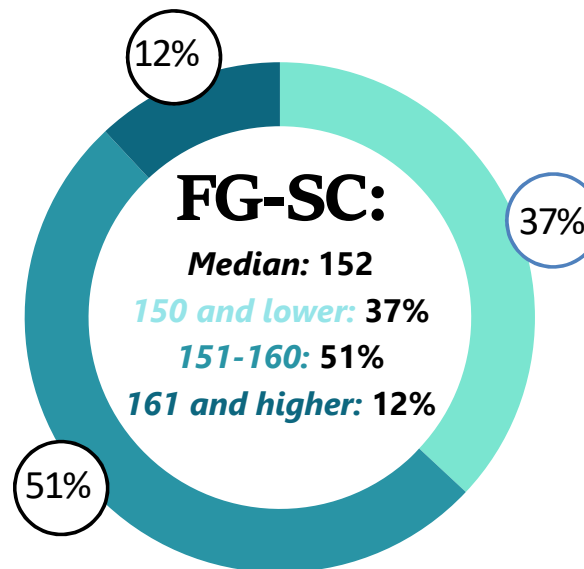
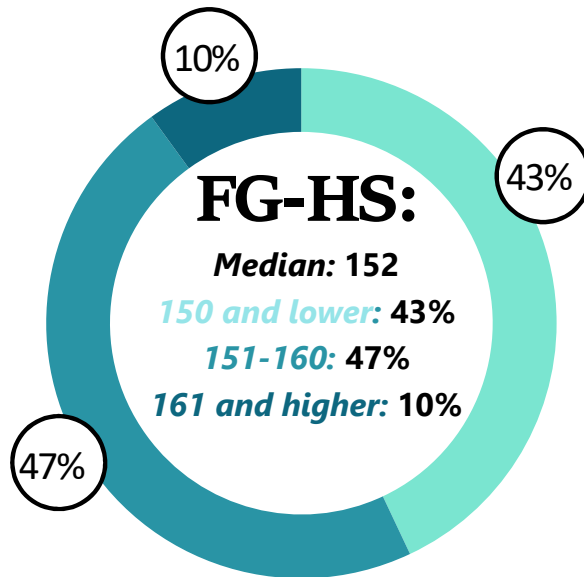
A young man with dark hair is sitting at a desk, leaning forward and writing in a notebook with a pen. The desk is cluttered with various papers, a spiral notebook, and other study materials. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. The text "WHAT ROLE DID THE LSAT PLAY?" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, serif font.

WHAT ROLE DID THE LSAT PLAY?

LSAT SCORE DISTRIBUTION: BY RACE

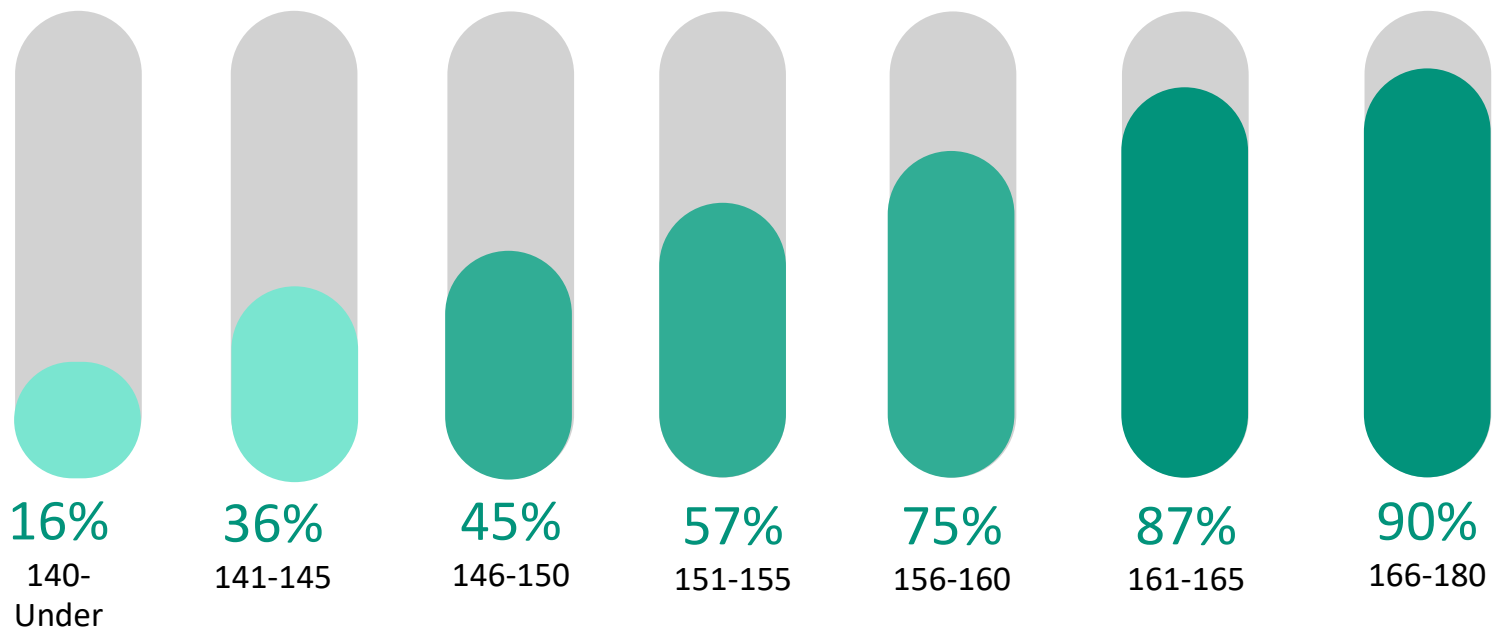


LSAT SCORE DISTRIBUTION: BY PARENTAL EDUCATION



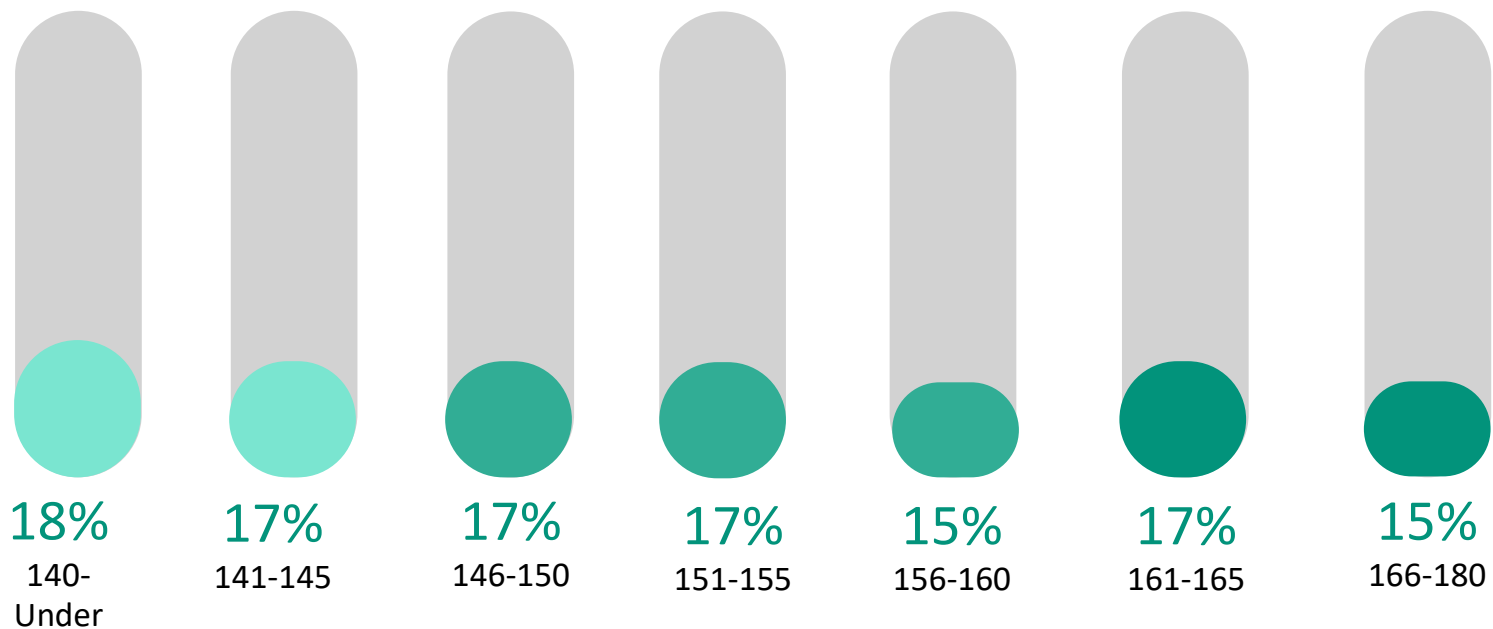
THE ROLE OF THE LSAT

Ninety percent of respondents with LSAT scores above 165 received merit scholarships, compared to 16% of respondents with scores of 140 or below.



THE ROLE OF THE LSAT

Respondents with the lowest LSAT scores were slightly more likely to have received a need-based scholarship than other respondents.

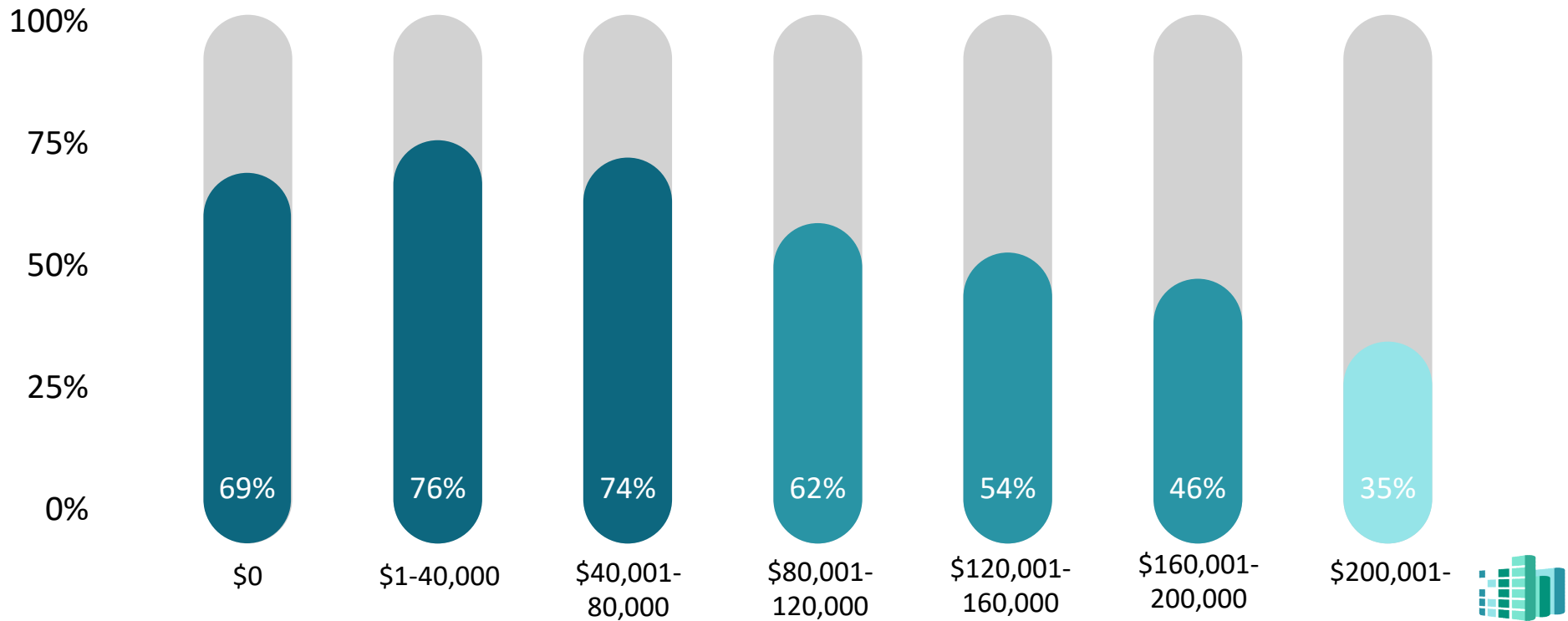




**WAS RECEIPT OF A SCHOLARSHIP
ASSOCIATED WITH STUDENT DEBT?**

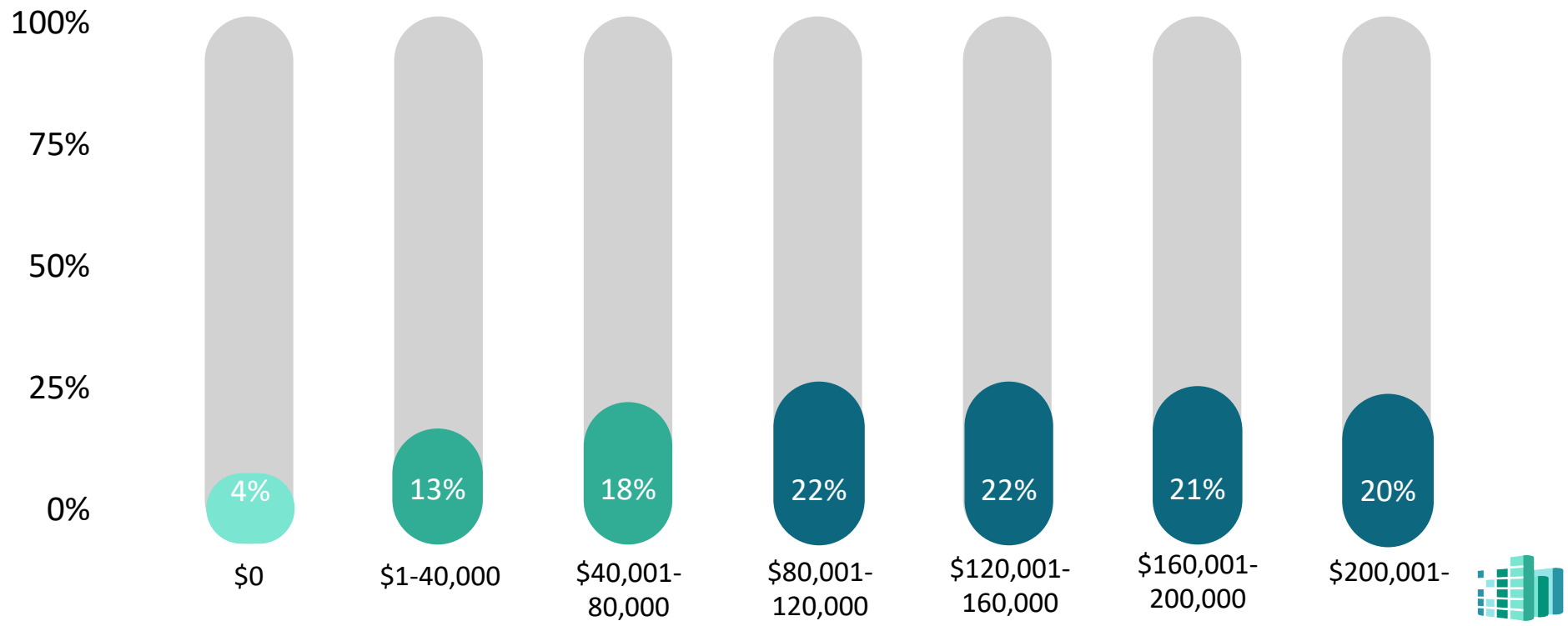
RECEIPT OF A MERIT SCHOLARSHIP WAS ASSOCIATED WITH LOWER LEVELS OF DEBT.

Respondents expecting \$80,000 in debt or less were more than twice as likely to have received a merit scholarship than those expecting debt of more than \$200,000.



RECEIPT OF A NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP WAS ASSOCIATED WITH HIGHER LEVELS OF DEBT.

Respondents expecting more than \$80,000 in debt were about five times as likely to have received a need-based scholarship than respondents expecting no debt.



A group of diverse students in a classroom setting, overlaid with a teal gradient. The students are looking towards the right, and one student in the foreground is wearing glasses and a plaid shirt. The text is centered over the image.

**TO WHAT EXTENT ARE LAW
SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
BASED ON EQUITY?**

RESPONDENTS MOST LIKELY TO RECEIVE NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS INCLUDED:

- Black students**
- First-generation students**
- Latino students**
- Students expecting the most debt**
- Students with the lowest LSAT scores**



RESPONDENTS LEAST LIKELY TO RECEIVE MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS INCLUDED:

- Black students**
- First-generation students**
- Latino students**
- Students expecting the most debt**
- Students with the lowest LSAT scores**

