

NSF GRFP Support for Engineering Grad Students

 UVA ENGINEERING

GRADUATE
WRITING
LAB

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Consortium for Graduate Communication Summer Institute

2022 (June)

School of Engineering

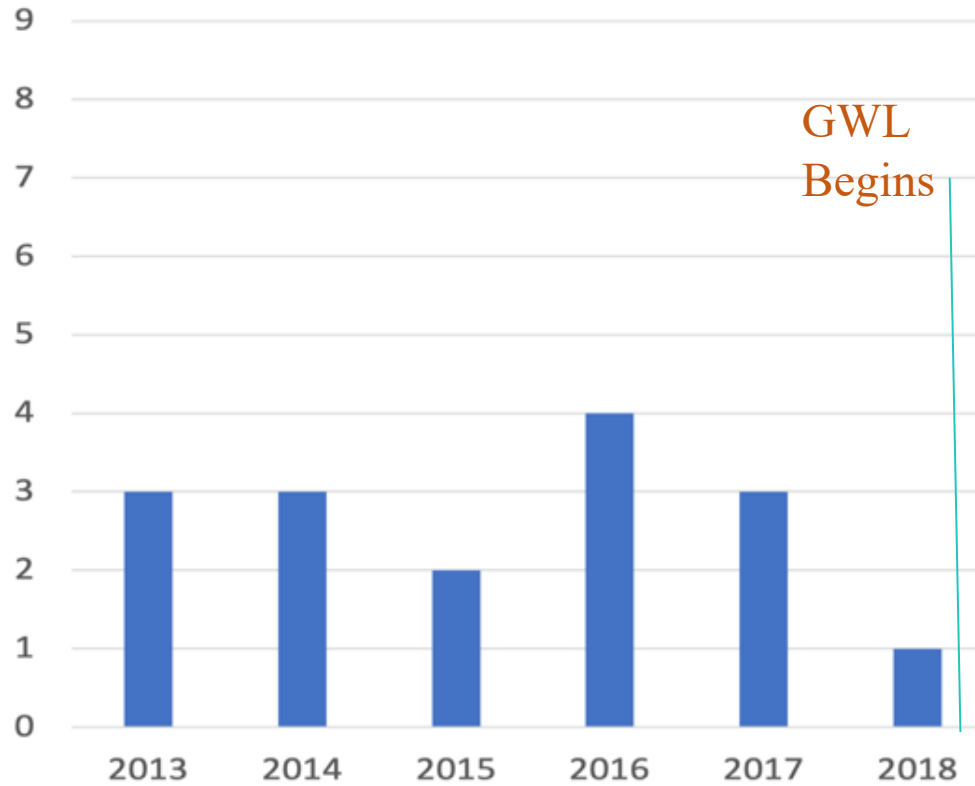
1114 grad students (46% int'l)
760 PhD (54% int'l)
across 9 programs

107 potentially eligible

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

- Domestic (US)
- Apply 1^{ce} as 1st/2nd yr grad student
- Research degrees only
- \$34k/year
- + prof development
- \$ to uni
- *'prestigious'*
- 15% acceptance rate

UVA Grad Engr GRFP Awards



2018

- Fellowships were part of career support
- University used to provide GRFP support
- GWL asked to provide support
- Knew little to nothing in this area

GWL GRFP Support

2018-2019

Minimal, Late Sept

Intro Grad Fellowships (faculty) & Winners Panel
References guide, Began website, Urged
university to bring back their support

2019-2020

Robust, f2f some hybrid, Summer- Fall

6 events, groups, GRFP Mentor Program starts
Consultants trained; website expanded
No Uni level support

2020-2021

Coordinated, Targeted, Online, Summer- Fall

GRFP Mentors, Mentors Panel, Reviewer Panel,
New Collab (late) videos, essays, resources,
2 generic proposal events; PhD+ starts support

**Incoming MS &
PhDs encouraged
to participate**

2021-2022

Coordinated, Targeted, Online, Summer- Fall

GRFP Mentors, Intro workshop, Mentors Panel,
Reviewer Panel, Revised Collab, updated videos,
essays, resources,
2 generic proposal events

**Incoming PhDs
encouraged to
participate**

GRFP Mentors

- Past GRFP winners/honorable mention
- Volunteer to help new applicants
- 1on1 planning meetings
- Panel
- Help with or develop
 - Events
 - Resources

Messaging

- Starts in May or June
- Targeted emails to likely eligible students
 - Incoming domestic PhDs
 - 2nd year domestic PhDs with no record of applying
 - 2nd year PhDs who indicated intention to wait to apply
- Emails to faculty listserv
 - Reminder to encourage to apply
 - Support overview

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May June July Aug Sept Oct March April



Submissions Due



May

June

July

Aug

Sept

Oct

March

April



Solicitation
available

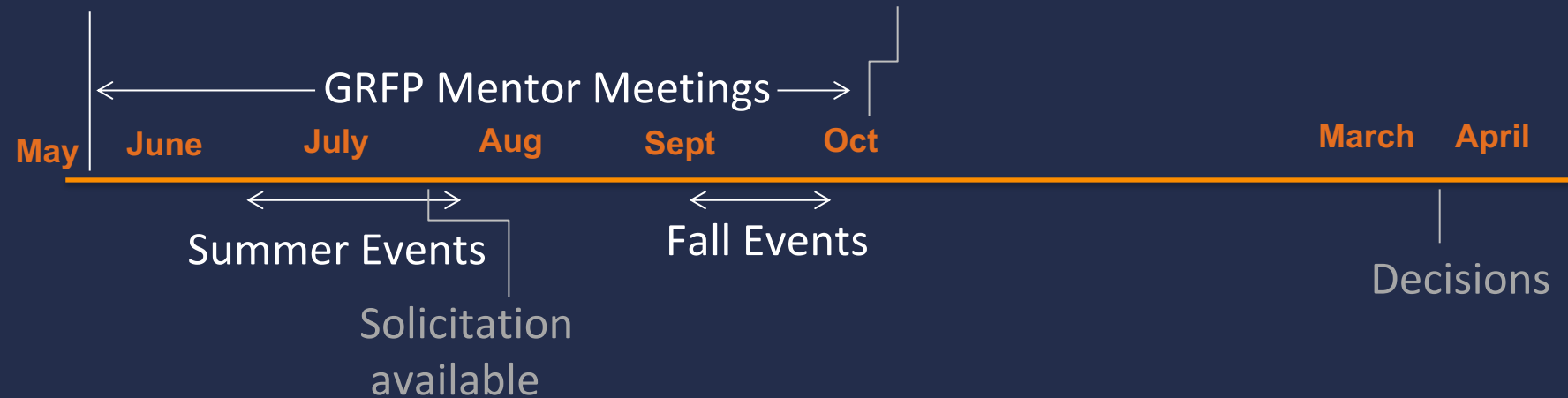


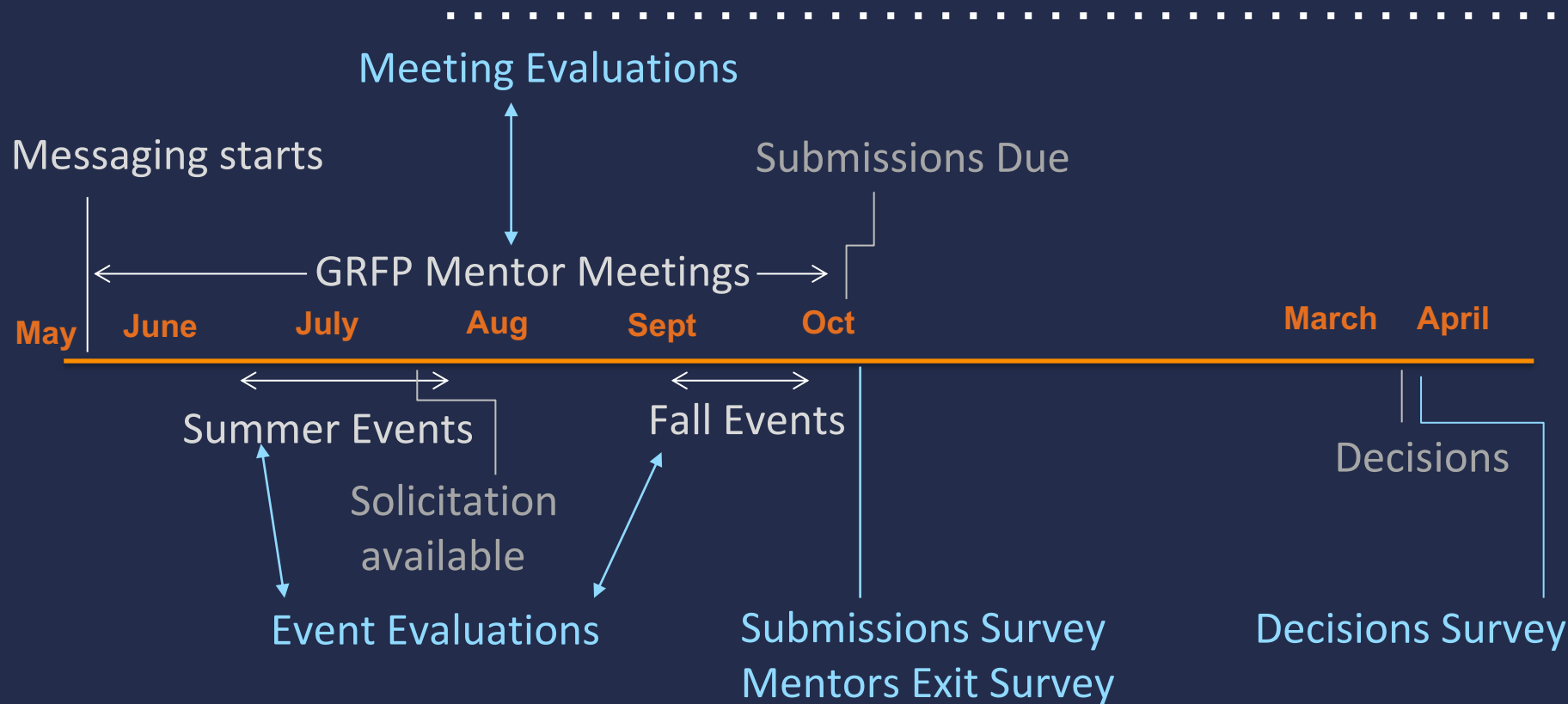
Decisions



Messaging starts

Submissions Due





Events

- Intro to GRFP (or GRFP & support or grad fellowships)
- GRFP Mentors Panel
- GRFP Reviewers Panel (collab)

(event 2019, videos 20-21, zoom event 22)

- Planning & Drafting
- Revising & Refining

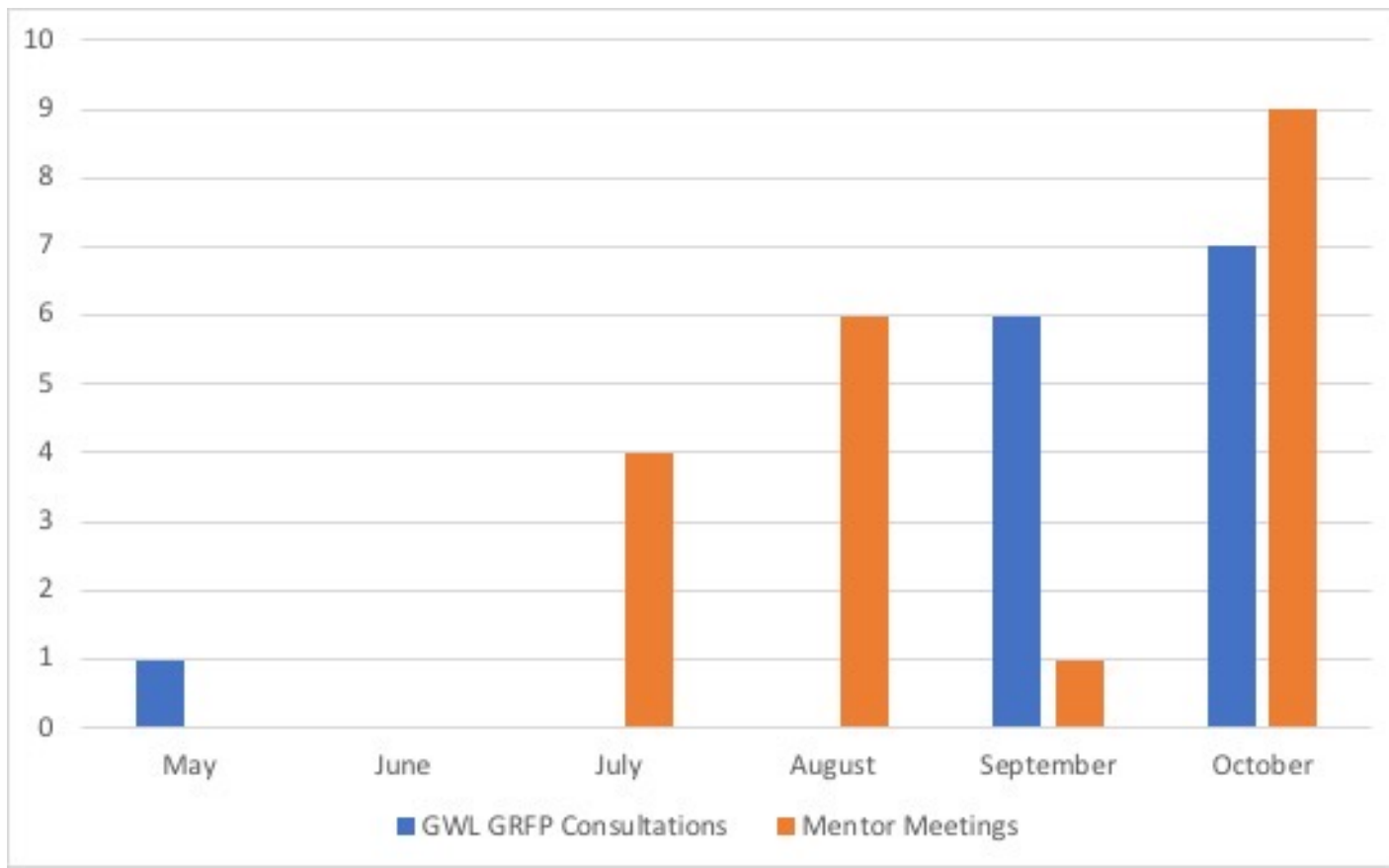
Events double as training for consultants

Collab (LMS course site)

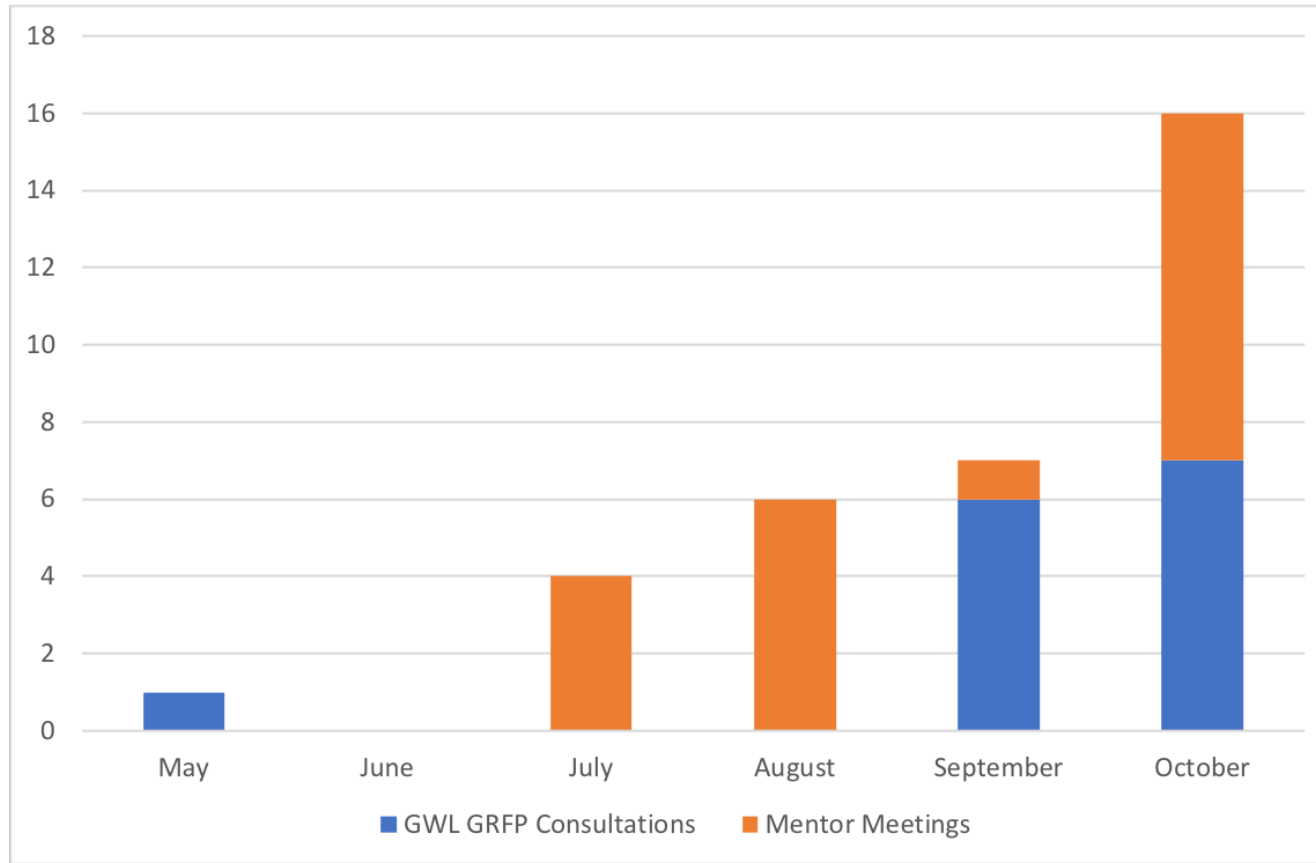
- Videos
 - Intro to GRFP
 - Planning & Drafting
 - Revising & Refining
- Recorded Events
 - Reviewers Panel
- Resources
 - Guides
 - Slides
 - Panel notes
 - Timeline & links
- Examples of Winning Essays

2019 GRFP 1on1s

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2019 GRFP 1on1s



Useful according to applicants

- Start early
- Feedback, early, often
 - From a variety of perspectives
 - Both synchronous and asynchronous
- Frequent acknowledgement that a good essay takes time & effort
- **Realistic perspective- daunting but less scary**
- Focus on potential

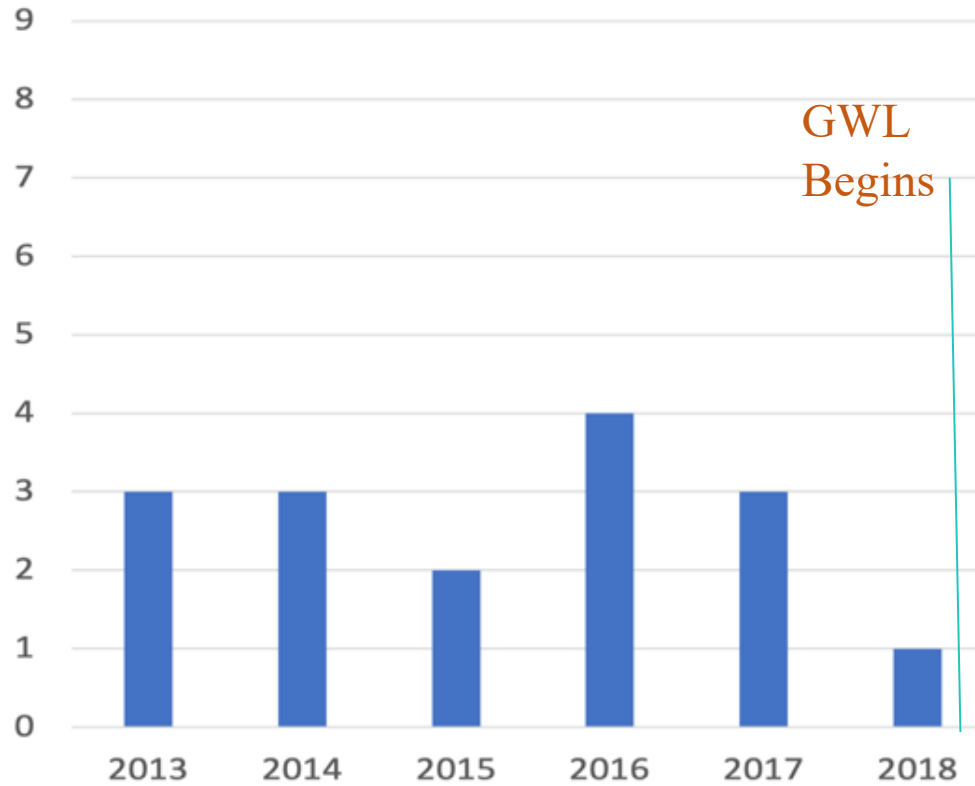
GRFP Acceptance Rates by Support

Award Year	2019
GWL GRFP support*	25% (2/8) awarded 1-hon. mention
No GWL Support*	14.3% (2/14)
Total Known Applied	22
Other support	15.28% (2/13) UVA

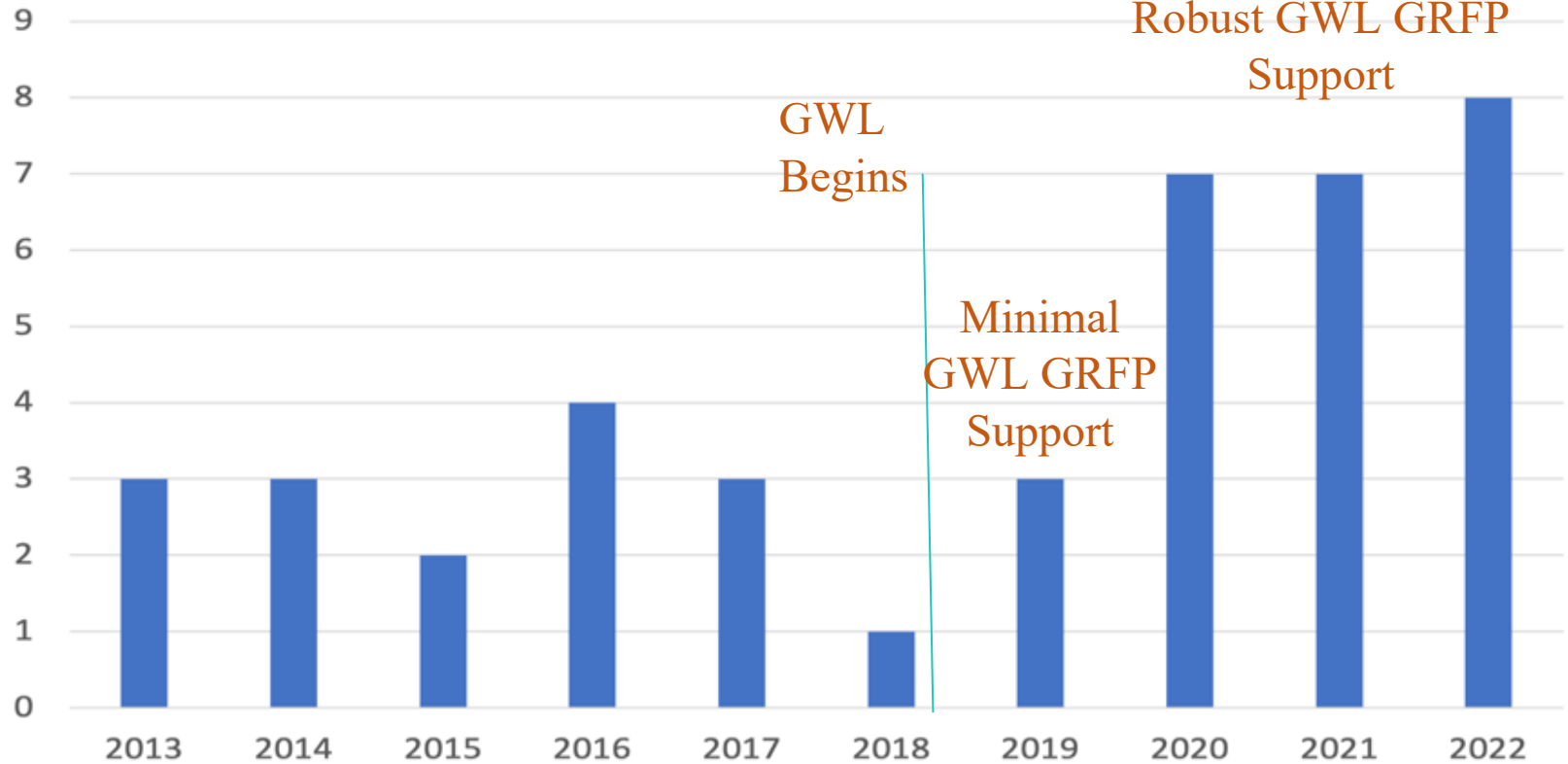
GRFP Acceptance Rates by Support

Award Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
GWL GRFP support*	25% (2/8) awarded 1-hon. mention	44% (7/16) awarded 2-hon. mention	53% (8/15) awarded	50% (11/22) awarded 1-hon. mention
No GWL Support*	14.3% (2/14)	20% (1/5)	0% (0/9) 1-hon.mention	0% (0/2)
Total Known Applied	22	21	24	24
Other support	15.28% (2/13) UVA	N/A	Unknown	15% (3/20) outside vendor (all did GWL support)

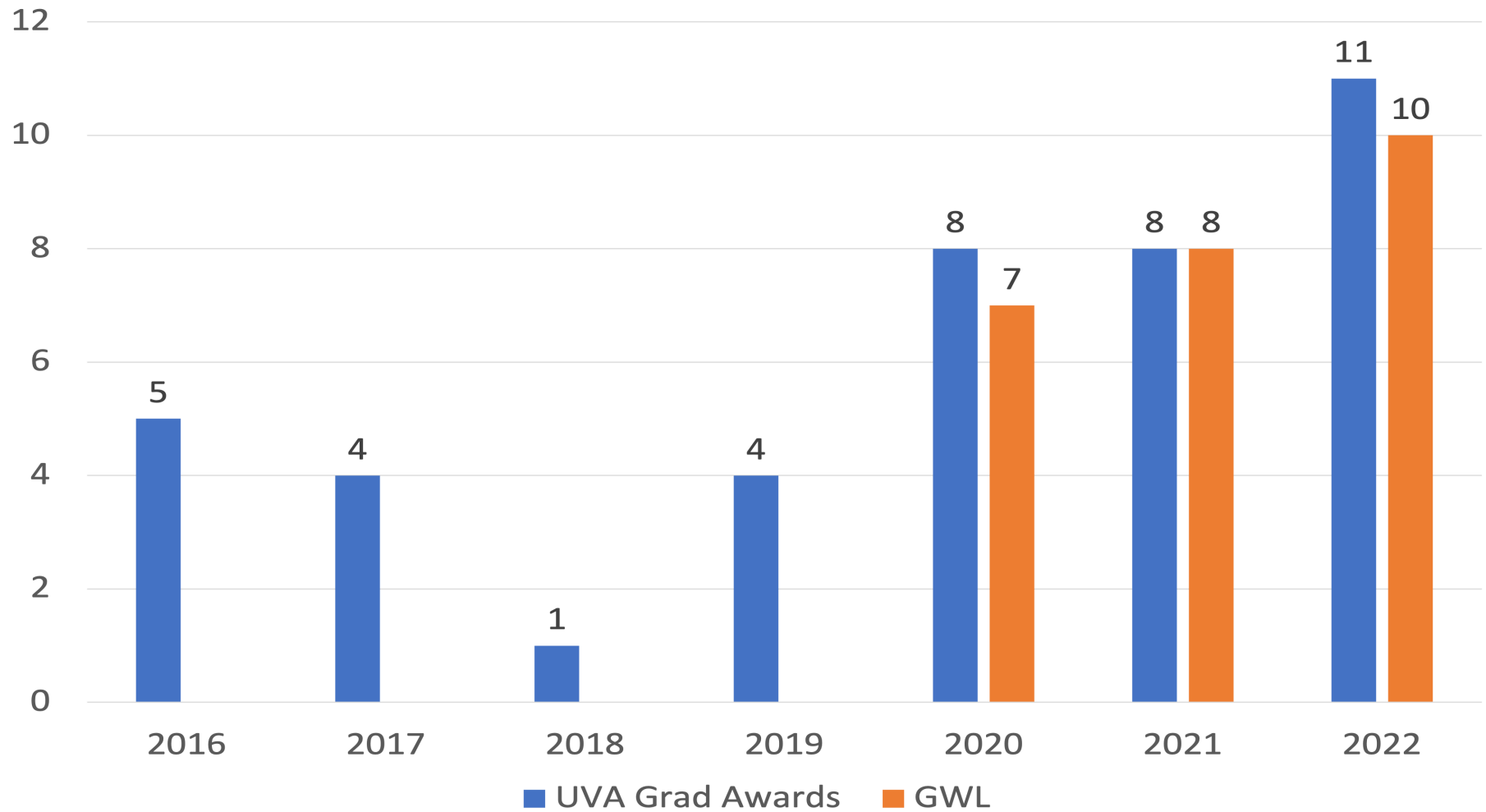
UVA Grad Engr GRFP Awards



UVA Grad Engr GRFP Awards



Grad GRFP Awards



Other gains

According to students

Can jump start proposal development
for other fellowships

- Better ID & analyze goals
- More direction
- Feel like have the skills for grad school
- Feel more qualified
- Validated research
- Improved confidence in writing, proposals, abilities, & as a researcher
- Motivation

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The process helped me to think more outside of the box in terms of coming up with specific aims for my research which I believe will be helpful for the future. Even though I wasn't awarded the GRFP, I still think it had a positive impact on how I see myself as an engineer. Its easy to get lost in the moment but looking back on my accomplishments and experiences reminded me on how far I've come and how far I still can go. I also think this was a great experience in terms of grant writing and applying for other fellowships.

Consultants

Event/Video Content
+
Examples & Rubric

- Transformed consulting approach
- Increased confidence
- More knowledgeable
- Reflect on own fellowship apps

Mentors

Felt more like

- Communicators
 - Improved own skills, new questions, etc.
- Researchers
 - Discussing scientific research- filling gaps
 - Overcoming methods changes, reframing problems

Mentors

Why join

- Pay it fwd (benefitted from program before)
- Meaningful work

Mentors

Best part

- Positive impact
- Interpersonal connections

This year

+Data collection revisions

- GRFP Mentors continues
 - 1on1s
 - New- 2nd Mentor Panel
 - New- Weekly drop in GRFP Mentor hour
- Intro, Mentor Panel, Reviewer Panel
- Collab & Website; Targeting 1st & 2nd year PhDs
- New- 2 workshops (bringing back, but GWL present)

Possibly

- Screencasts of Mentor statement walk throughs
- Opening to other grad students beyond engineering
- Revising workshops, post award mentor Q&A

Thank You Questions?

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Awards by class year & support

Student Entry Semester	GWL GRFP Support	Awards
2017	min in person 1 year	4
2018	min + robust in person	5
2019	robust in person + online	5
2020	online both	10

UVA NSF GRFP Graduate Awards

Top 43%
rank 76

2016-2018

before GWL support

UVA NSF GRFP Graduate Awards

Top 43%
rank 76

2016-2018
before GWL support



Top 21%
rank 36

2020-2022
with GWL support