

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

College of Education and Applied Human Sciences

2025 Impact Study

Advanced Programs



INTRODUCTION

EKU's Educator Preparation Program (EPP) evaluates employer satisfaction with the preparation of its advanced completers to ensure they meet the expectations of P-12 schools and their professional roles. This introduction provides general context by defining key terms, explaining cohort selection, and outlining the common data sources and tools used in the analysis.

Advanced completers are those who completed a post-baccalaureate or graduate-level program through the EPP. Cohorts are selected to represent completers approximately two and four years after program completion, allowing enough experience to recognize what aspects of their preparation were most effective and where gaps remain. The EPP identifies cohorts using the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) Completer and Enrollment Report, Graduate Assignment and Certification Inquiry (GACI), and Program Completers Employment Report. For this cycle, the 2019–2020 and 2021–2022 completer cohorts are included.

The Impact Study Team coordinates data collection and analysis in collaboration with faculty, staff, and district partners. These findings provide insight into the effectiveness of the EPP and reinforce its ongoing commitment to data-informed decision-making and continuous improvement.

MEASURE 2: SATISFACTION OF EMPLOYERS AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

The EPP uses employer satisfaction surveys on professional knowledge, skills and dispositions to determine the impact of the EPP's recent completers on P-12 student learning and development. Below is a summary of the data from this survey.

Employer Satisfaction Surveys

The data in this section was obtained by analyzing the results from the Advanced Employer Satisfaction Survey. The survey was designed to gather responses from employers ranking the effectiveness of the EPP in preparing teachers to meet the demands of the job in all areas of the profession. The ranking descriptions were (1) Poor – performance is inferior in quality; (2) Fair – performance is not very good or very bad in quality; (3) Good – performance is competent; (4) Excellent – performance is exemplary.

The survey was administered to employers of recent advanced completers. Out of 126 employers surveyed, 33 employers of advanced completers responded for a response rate of 26%. Figure 1 shows overall ratings of either “excellent” or “good” for the EPP's preparation of advanced completers, while Figure 2 provides a more detailed illustration of employer satisfaction specifically by each of the four possible ratings.

Employers overwhelmingly express confidence in the abilities of program completers, with more than 90% of respondents rating 16 out of 18 areas favorably (Figure 1). All employers report satisfaction with completers ability to use appropriate technology effectively. Compared to last year, employers reported stronger overall satisfaction in three areas that were previously below 80%. Satisfaction with completers' ability to demonstrate leadership within the discipline increased from 78.6% to 93.9%. Two research-related areas also improved: satisfaction with completers' use of qualitative and/or quantitative research methods increased from 75% to 80%, and satisfaction with their ability to use research results meaningfully in professional practice increased from 69.6% to 80.6%. While research applications continues to be the lowest-rated areas, the upward shift, alongside consistently strong ratings elsewhere, suggests growing confidence in completers' use of research in practice.

Figure 2 provides a more detailed breakdown of employer ratings across four categories: Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor. Employers rated at least 50% of completers excellent across 14 of the 18 area, representing a substantial

improvement from last year. While two areas related to qualitative and quantitative research were rated least favorably, the number of employers who rated completers excellent in these areas increased by 20 percentage points, suggesting meaningful improvement within the EPP.

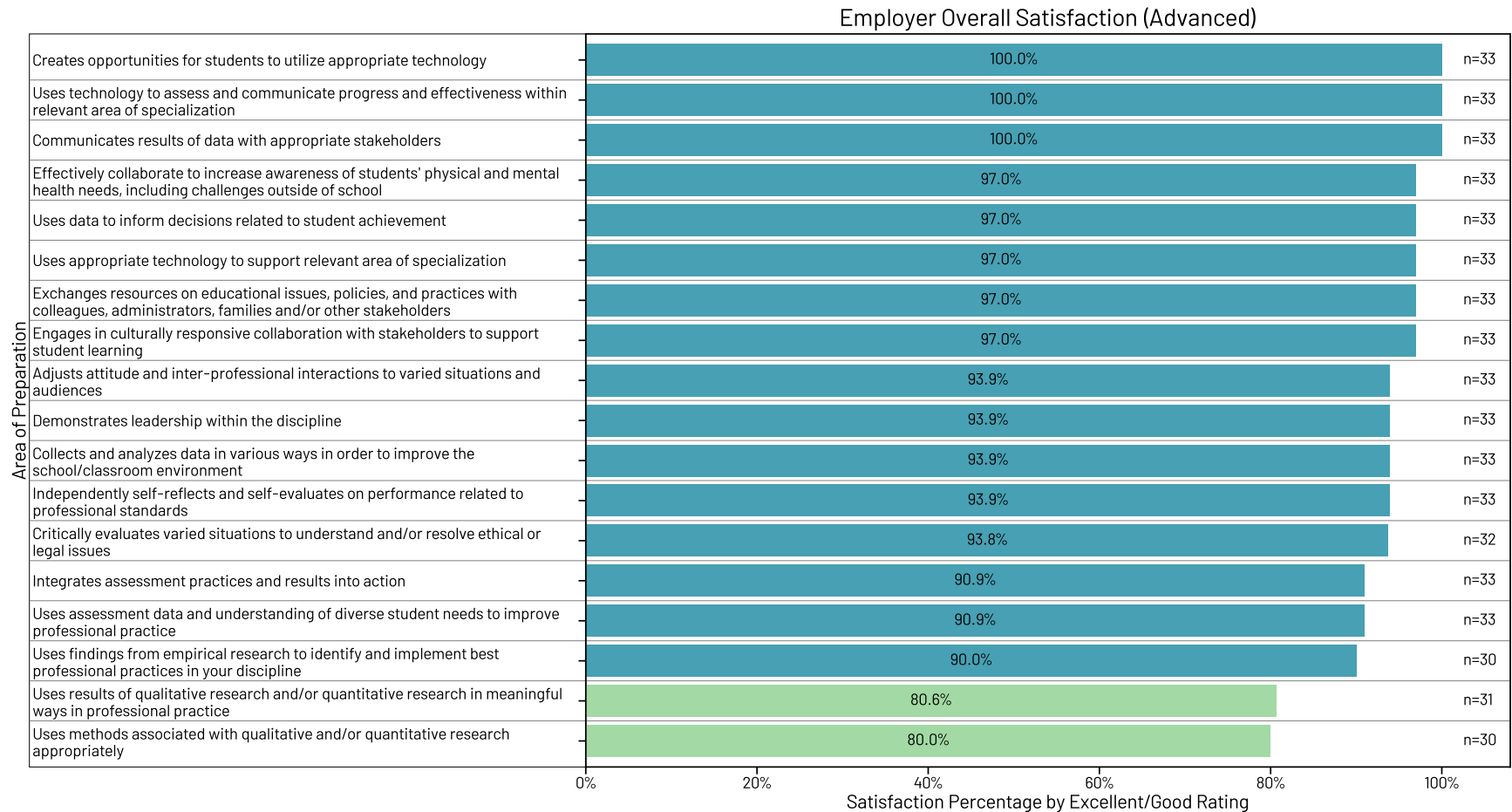


Figure 1: This figure illustrates overall employer satisfaction with the EPP's advanced programs. Ratings of 'Excellent' or 'Good' were collected across 18 areas, with more than 90% of employers rating 16 areas favorably.

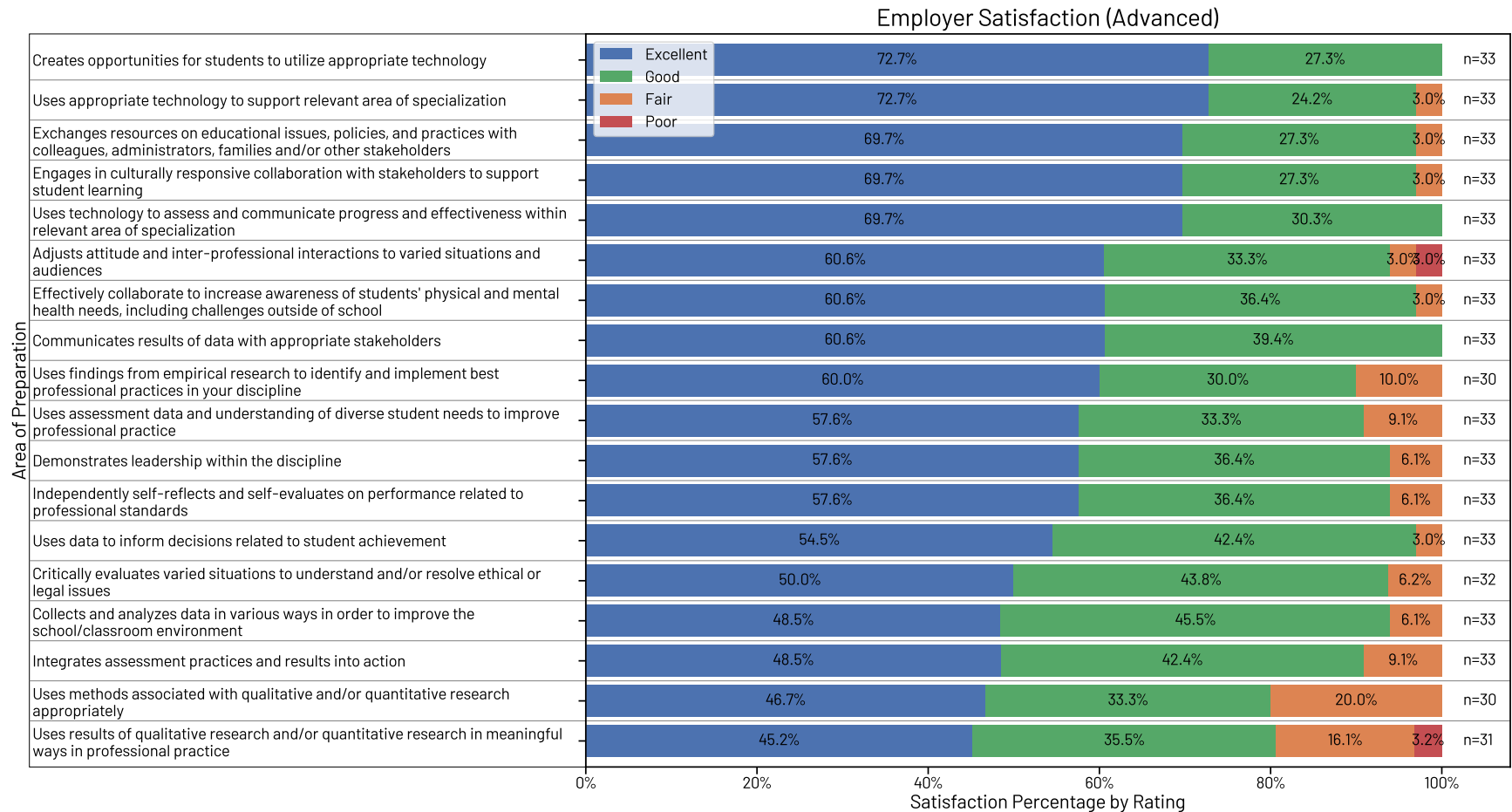


Figure 2: Fourteen areas received 50% or more 'Excellent' ratings, and all areas showed increases in 'Excellent' ratings compared to the previous year.