

## Appendix 2 Charts: Human Progress, Attitudes About Future, and National Pride

### Less Than Half of Students Say the World Has Gotten Better Over the Last 50 Years

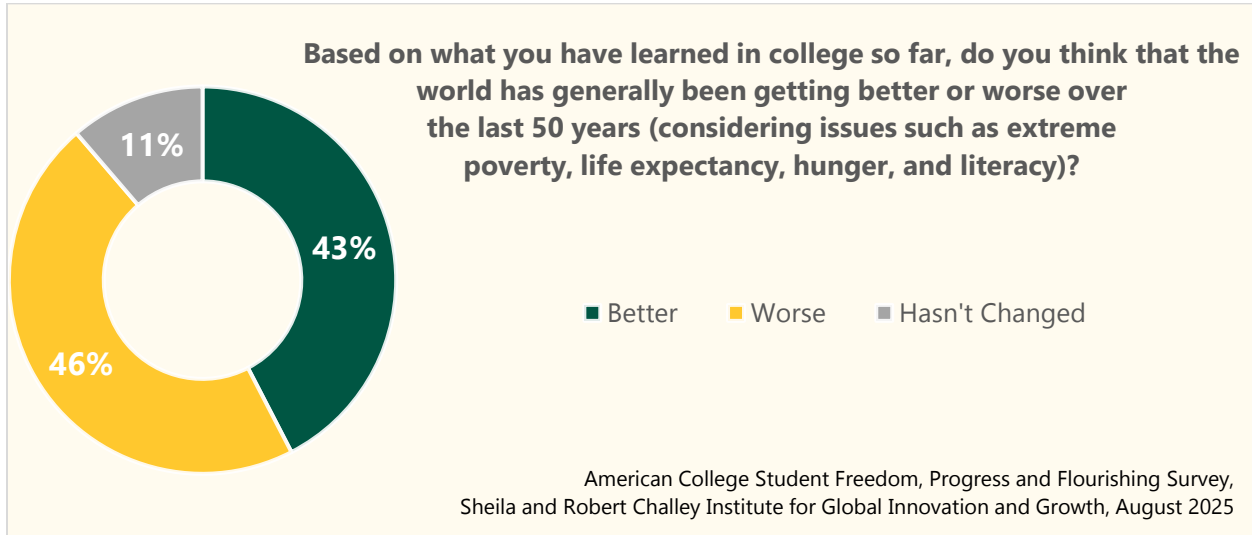


Figure 48: 40 percent of students believe the world has improved over the last 50 years in terms of extreme poverty, life expectancy, hunger, and literacy.

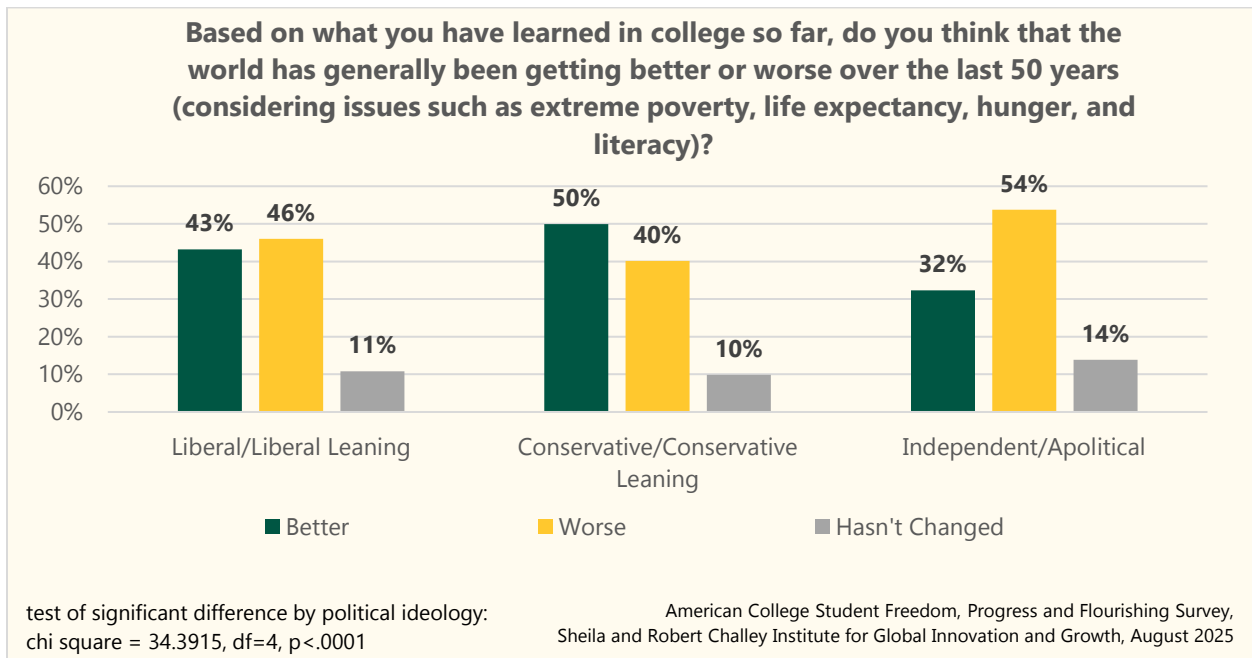


Figure 49: Student views on how the world has changed over the last 50 years vary by political ideology.

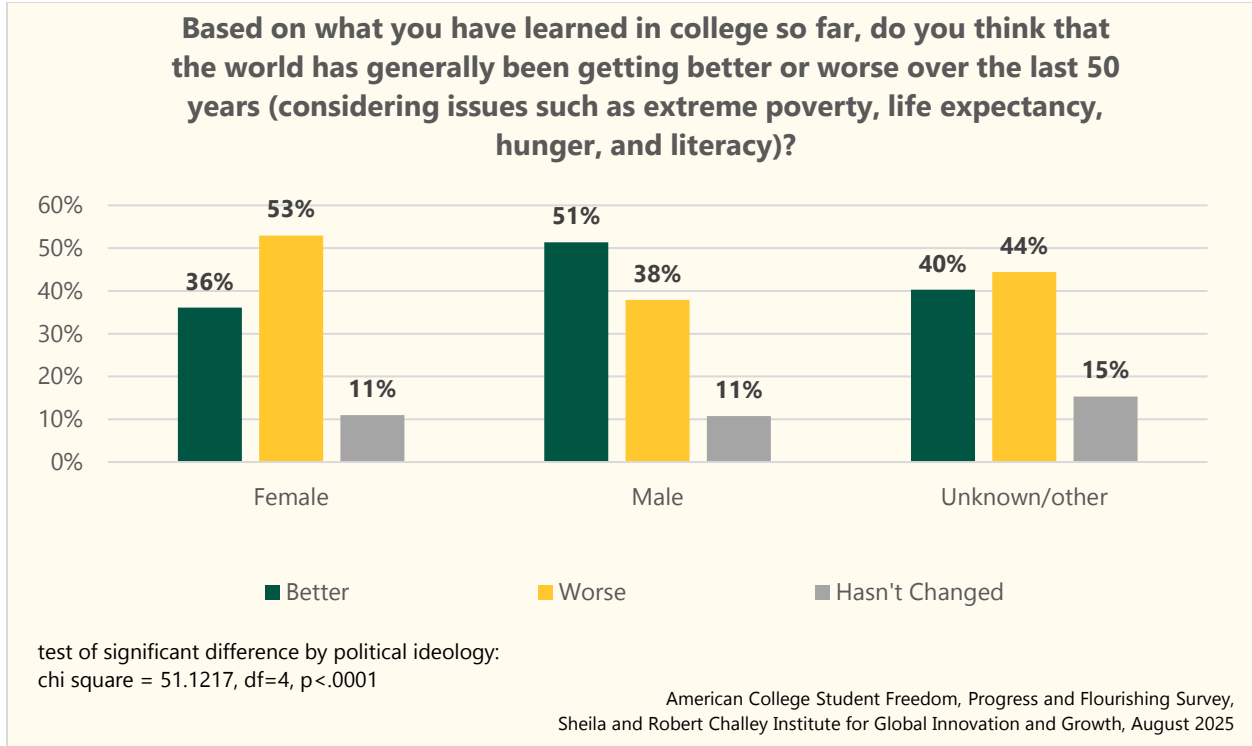


Figure 50: A smaller percentage of female and unknown/other students think the world has improved over the last 50 years in comparison to male students.

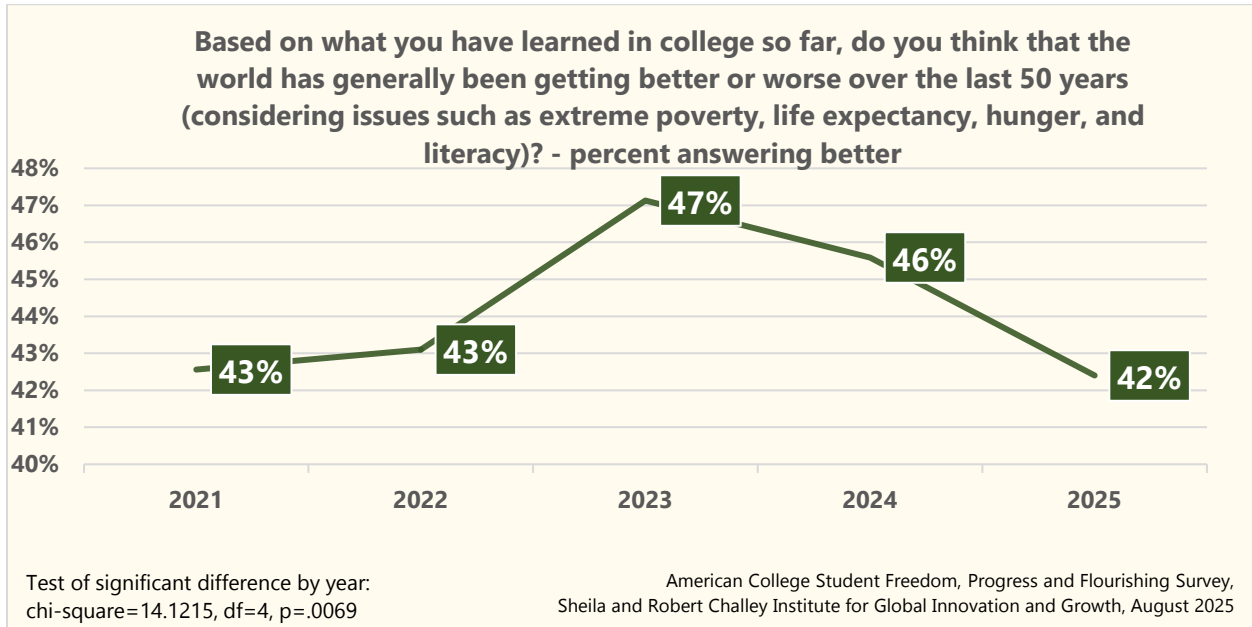


Figure 51: Student beliefs on whether the world has improved over the last 50 years over time.

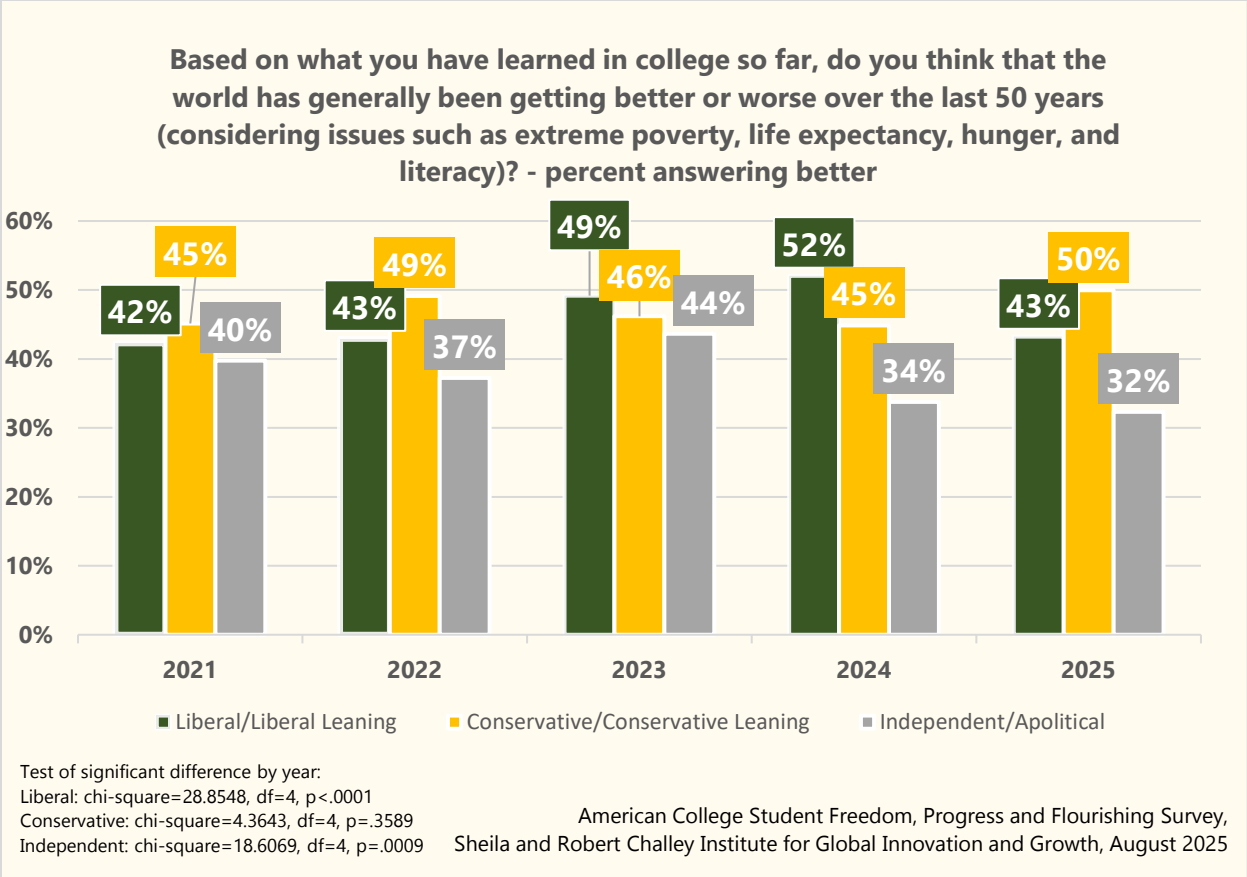


Figure 52: There have been significant changes over time in beliefs about whether the world has improved among liberal and independent students.

## For Students Who Believe the World Has Improved Over the Last 50 Years, 49 Percent Believe It Is Due to Increased Economic and Political Freedom

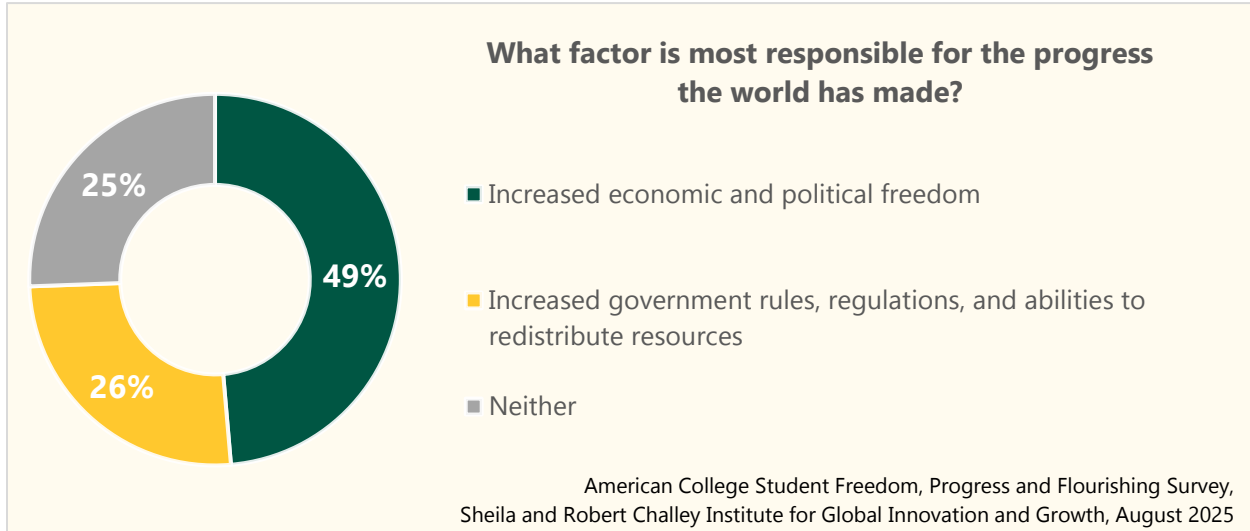


Figure 53: 49 percent of students who believe the world has improved think it is because of increased freedom.

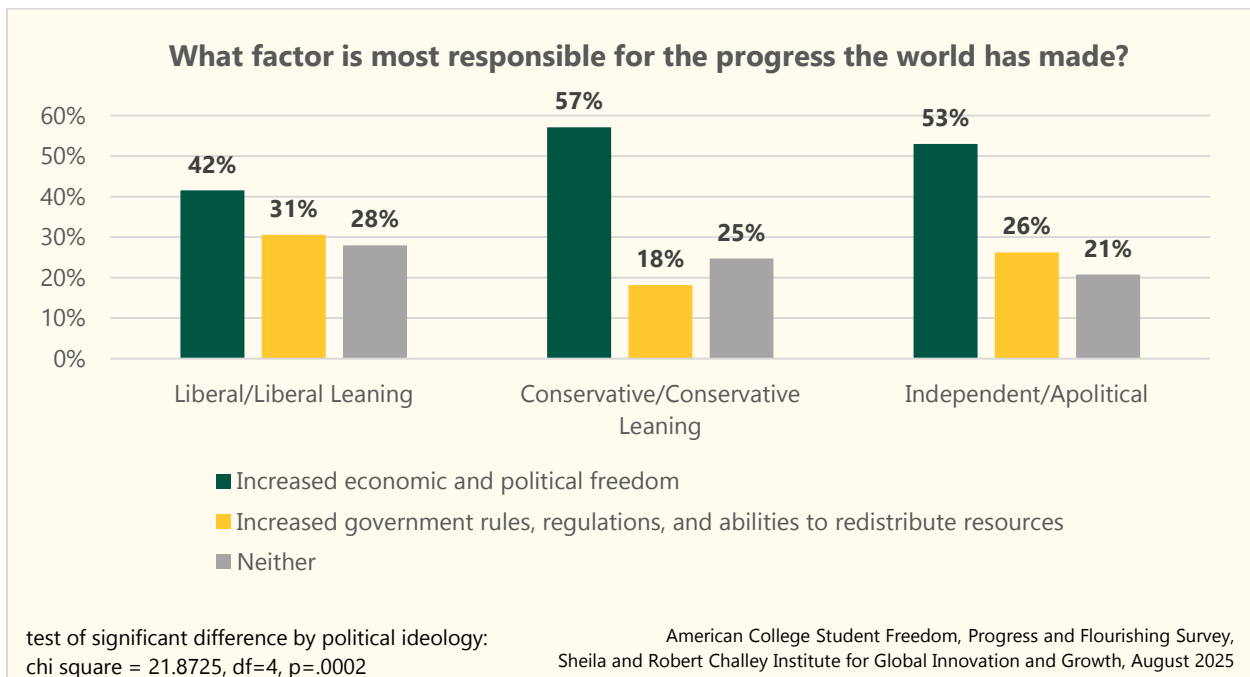


Figure 54: Among students who think the world has improved, conservative and independent students are more likely to attribute the improvement to increased freedom in comparison to liberal students.

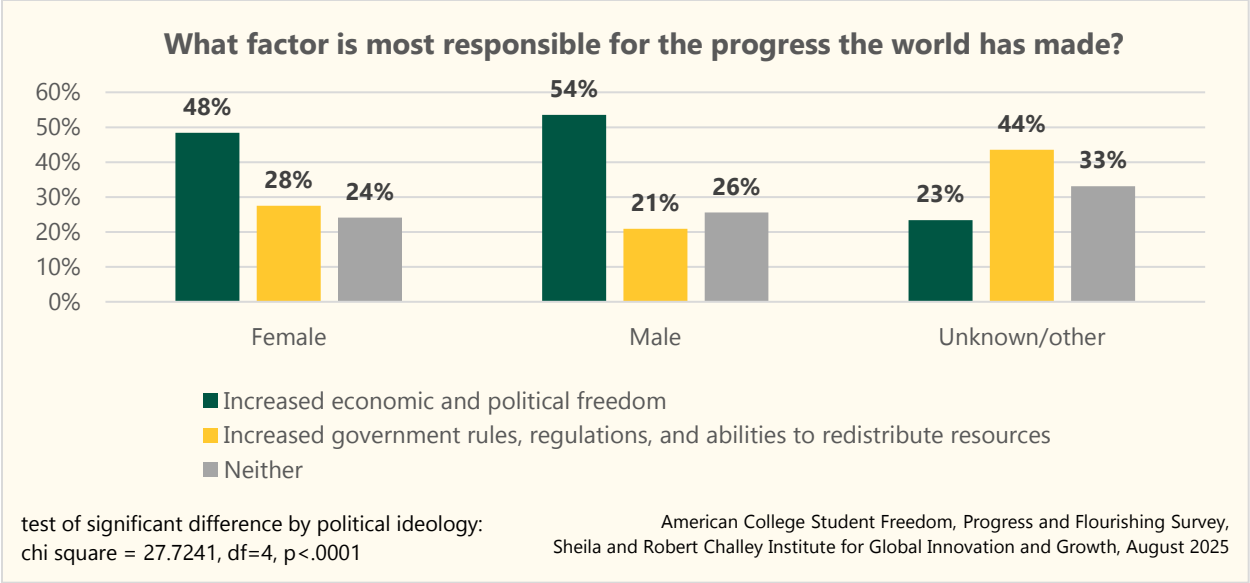


Figure 55: Among students who think the world has improved over the last 50 years, male and female students are more likely to attribute it to increased freedom in comparison to unknown/other students.

## For Students Who Think the World Has Declined Over the Last 50 Years, 38 Percent Believe It Is Because There are Not Enough Government Rules, Regulations, and Redistribution.



Figure 56: 38 percent of students who believe the world has gotten worse attribute it to a lack of government rules, and 29 percent attribute it to a lack of freedom.

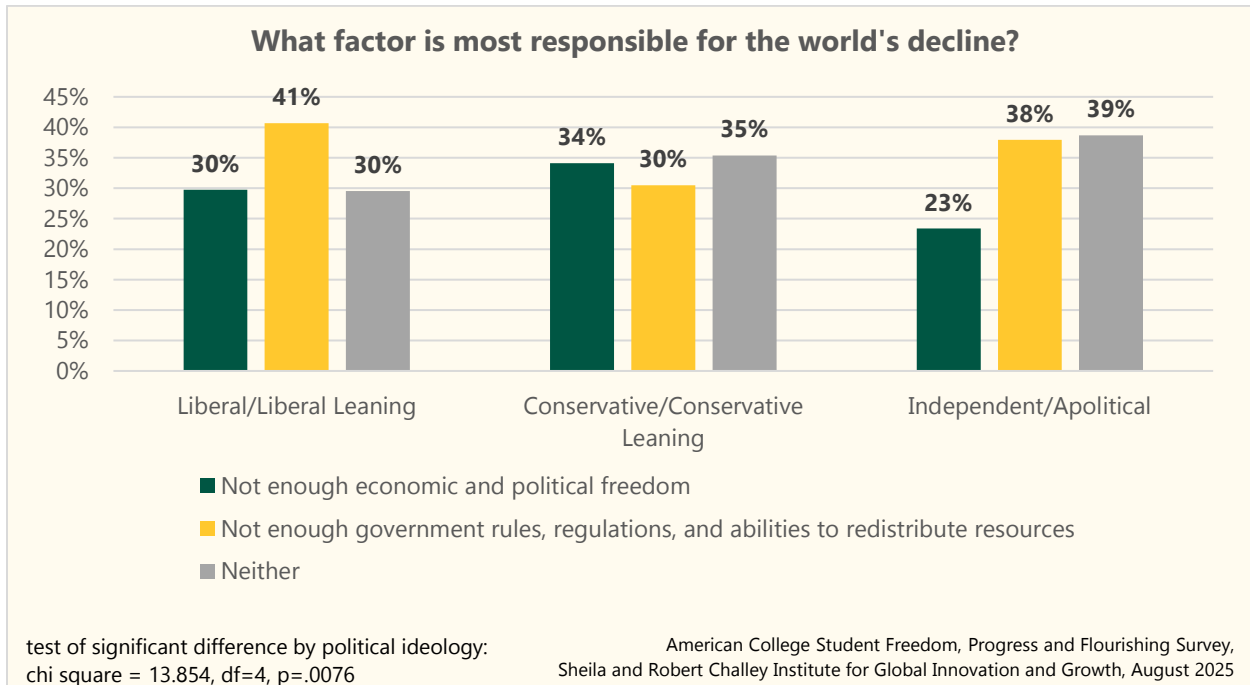


Figure 57: There are significant differences in attribution for the perceived decline among students with different political ideologies.

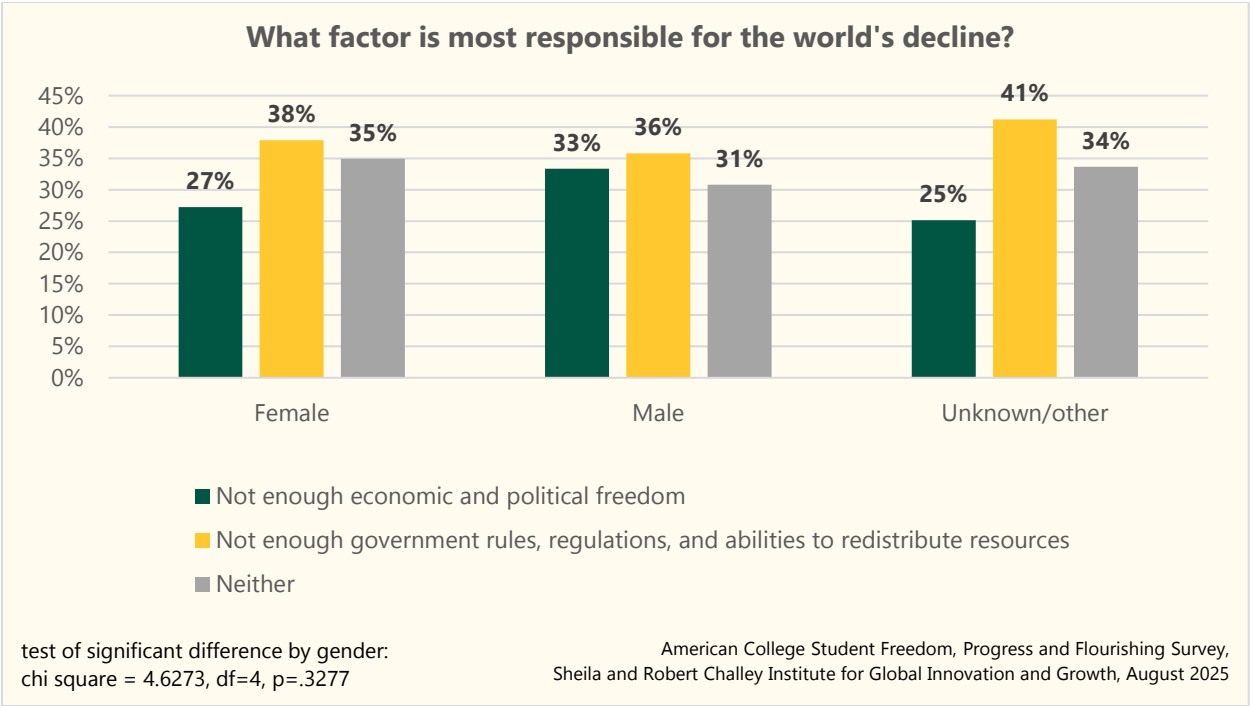


Figure 58: There are not significant differences in attribution for the perceived decline in the world by gender

## Only a Quarter of Students Are Optimistic About the Future of the World

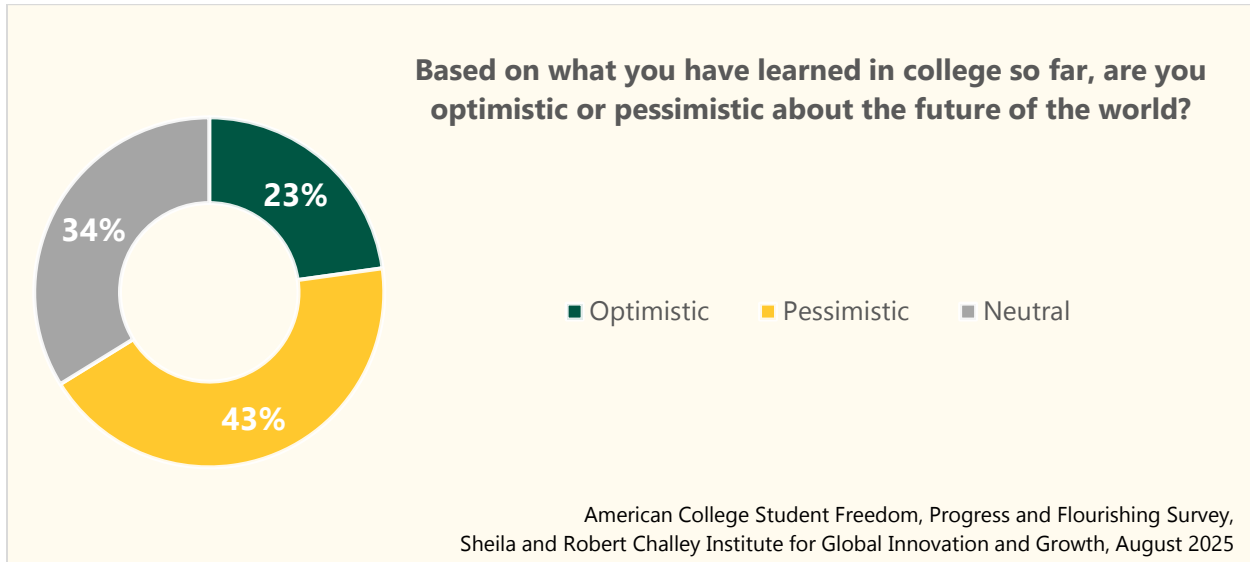


Figure 59: 23 percent of students are optimistic about the future of the world, while 43 percent are pessimistic

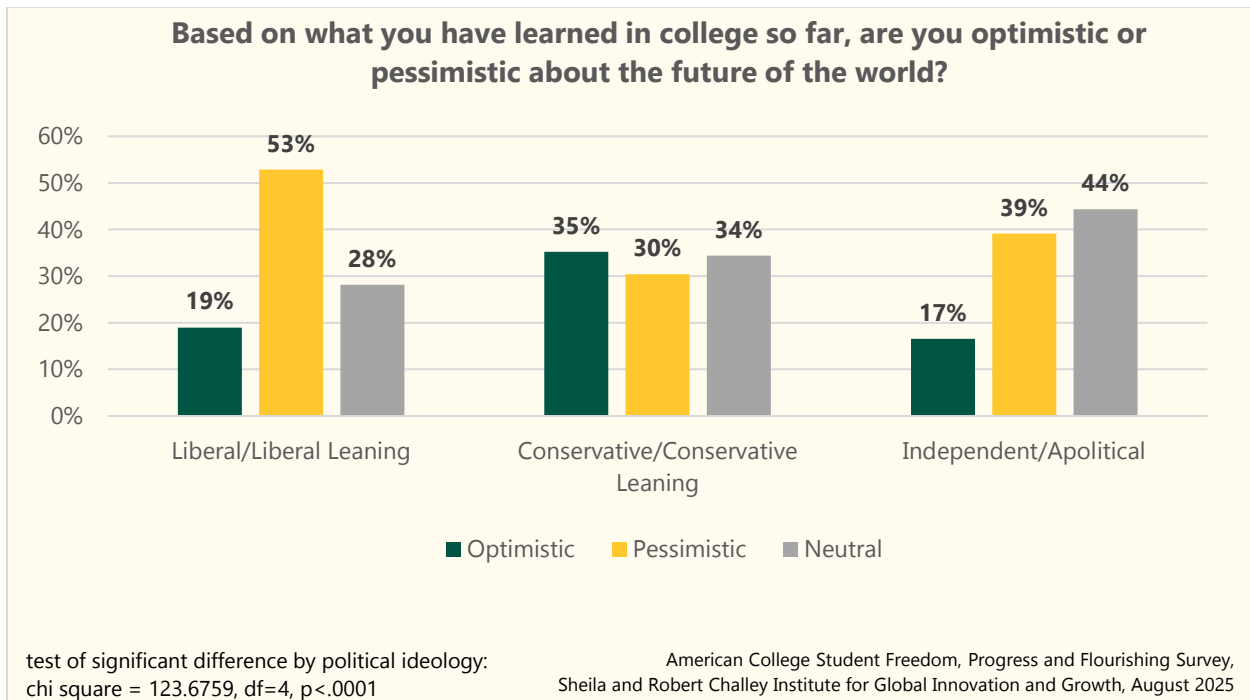


Figure 60: Liberal students are more pessimistic about the future of the world in comparison to independent and conservative students.



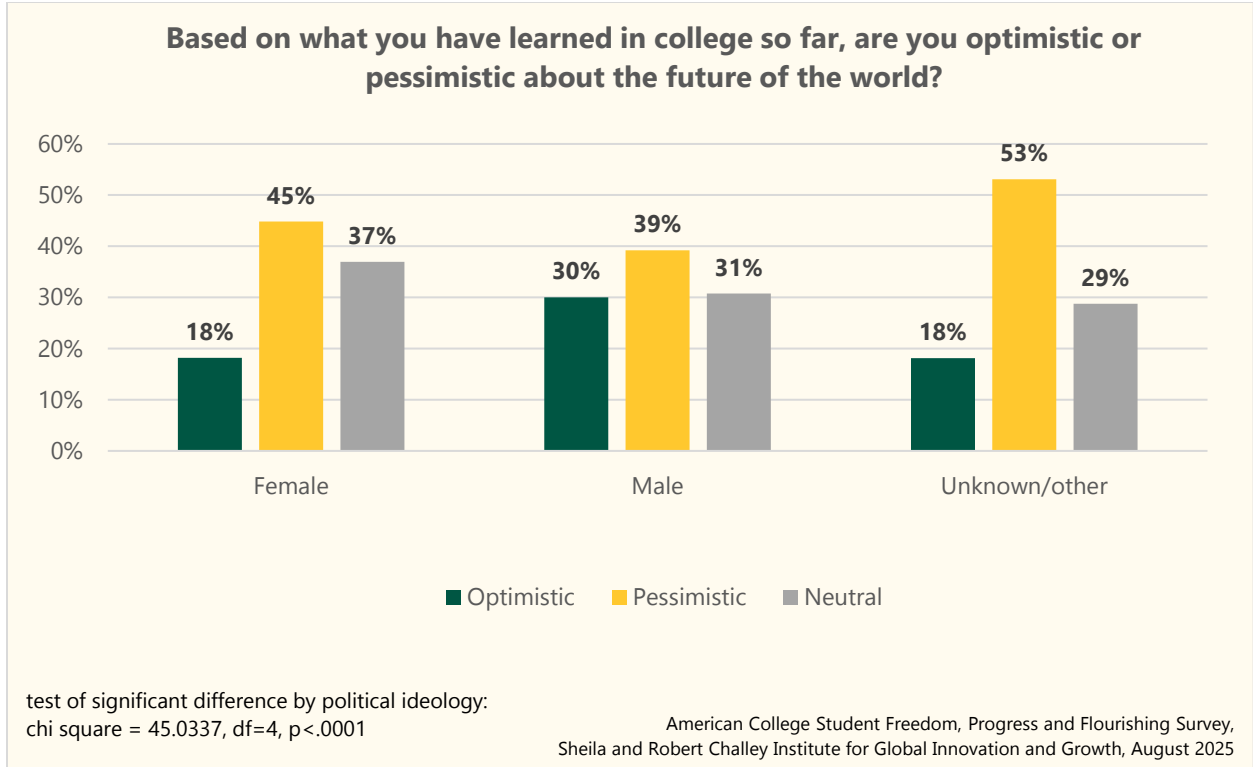


Figure 61: Male students are more optimistic about the future of the world than other students.

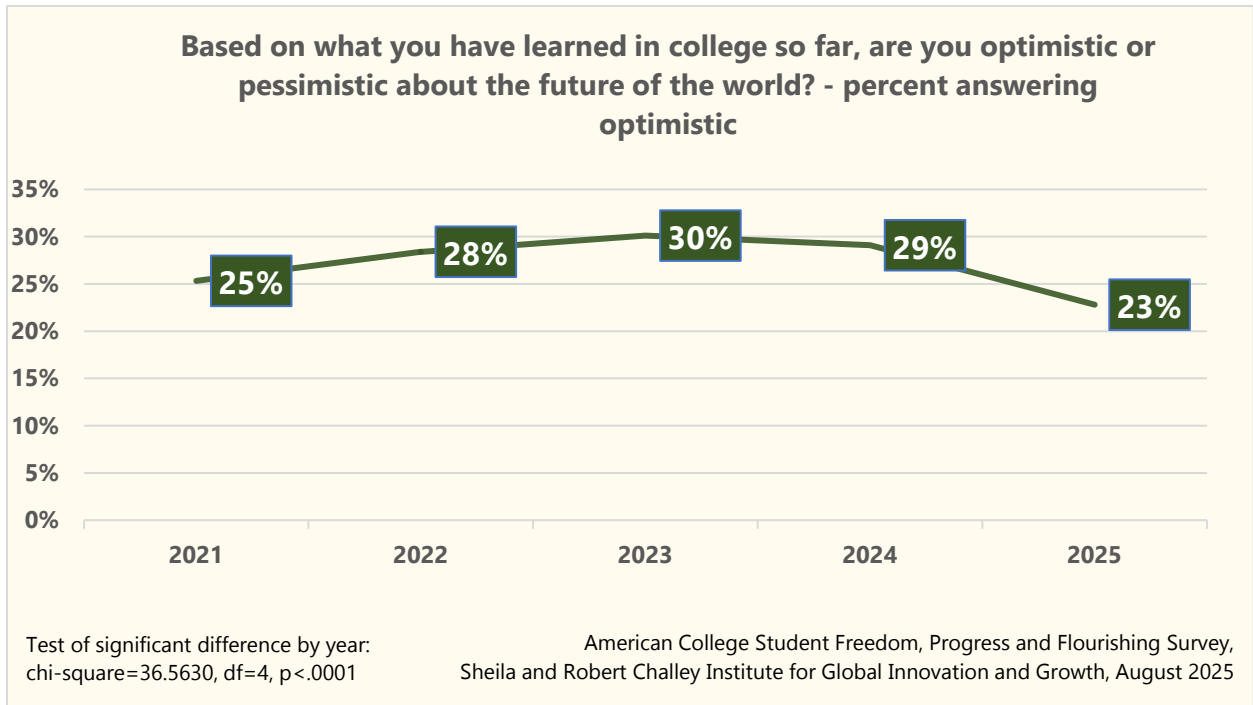


Figure 62: Few students have been optimistic about the future of the world since 2021.

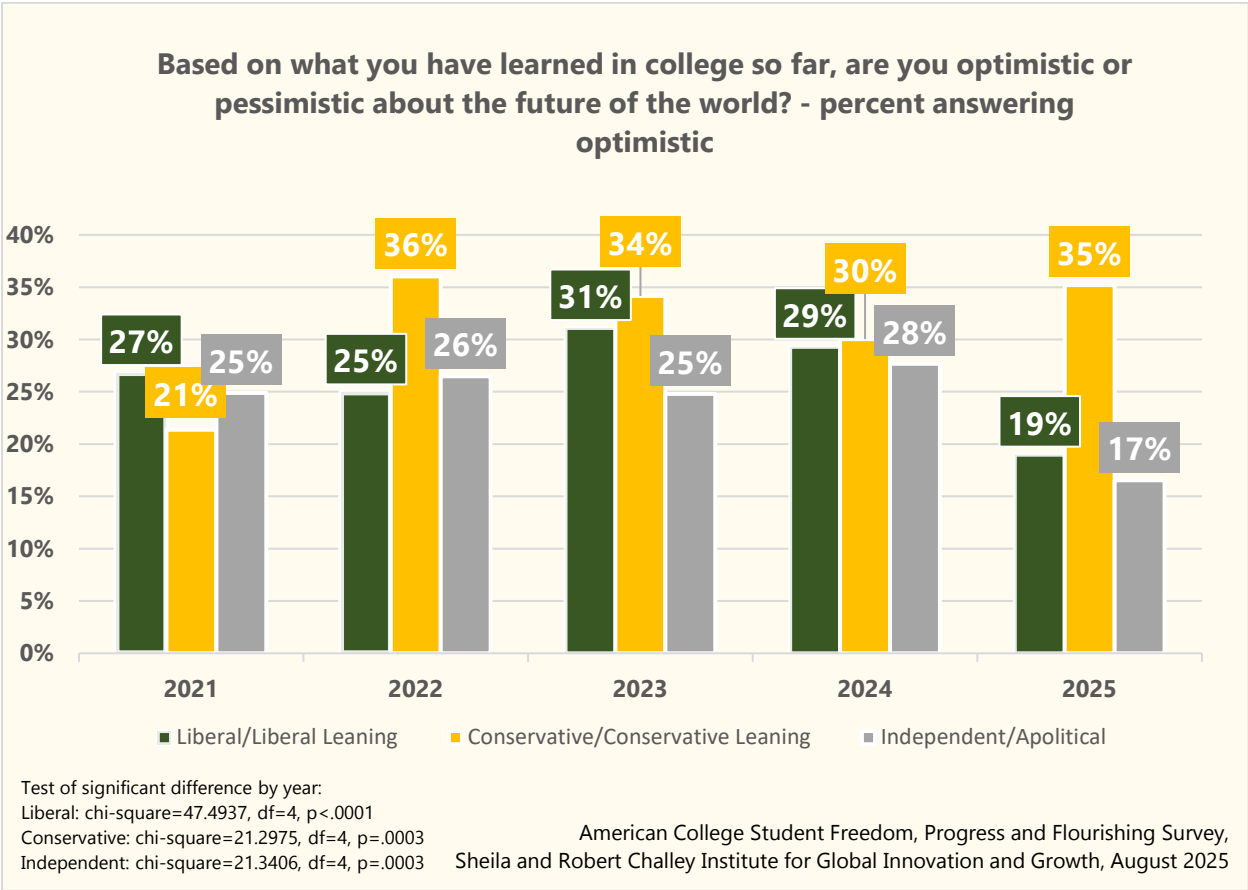


Figure 63: Student optimism about the future of the world for students with different ideologies varies significantly over time.

## 60 Percent of Students Believe that Life in the U.S. Has Gotten Worse or Stayed the Same Over the Last 50 Years



Figure 64: 40 percent of students think life has gotten better in the U.S. over the last 50 years, while 51 percent say it has gotten worse.

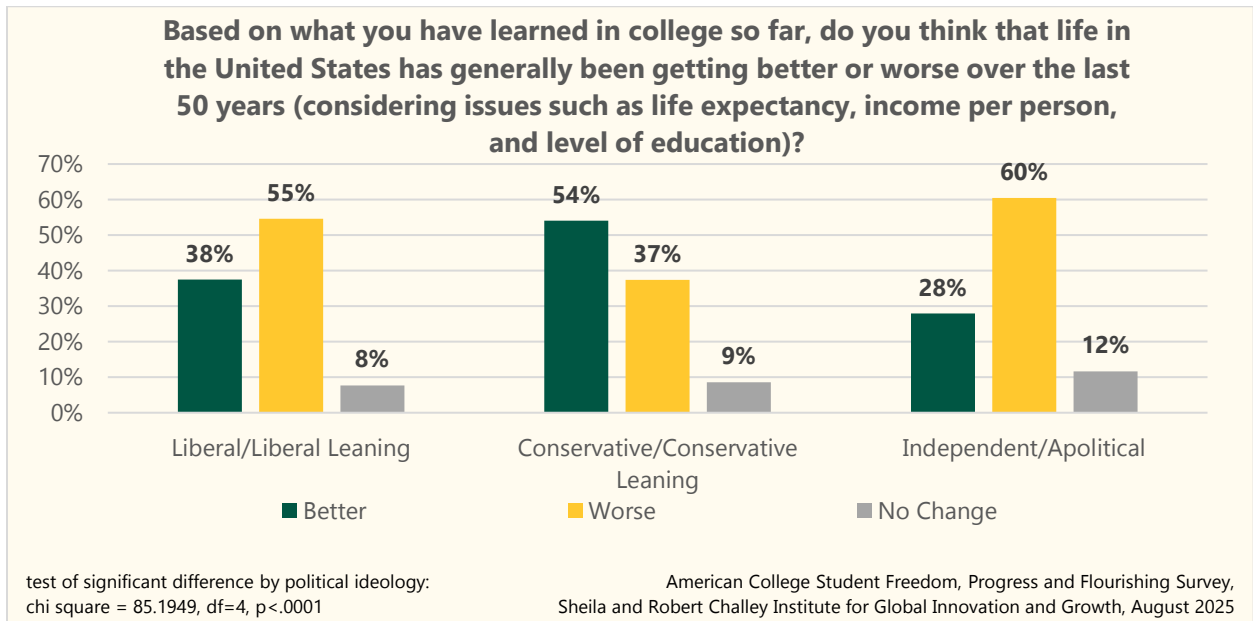


Figure 65: There are significant differences among students with different political ideologies on perceptions about whether the U.S. has improved over the last 50 years.

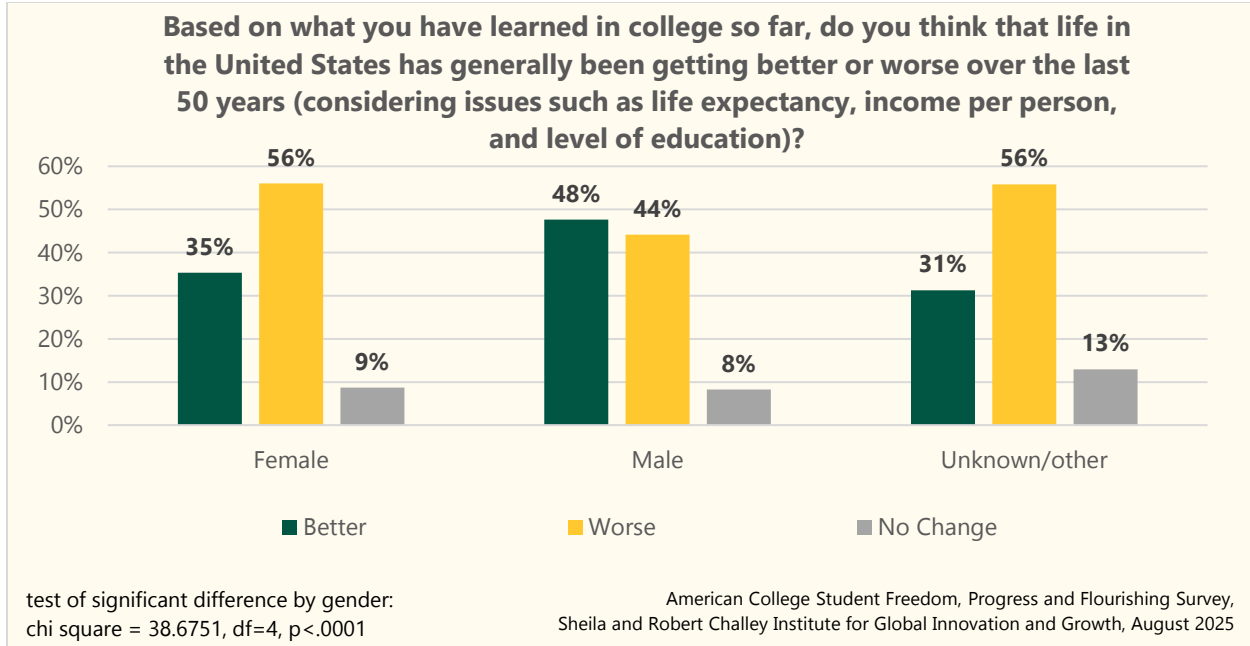


Figure 66: A larger percentage of male students think the world has improved over the last 50 years in comparison to unknown/other and female students.

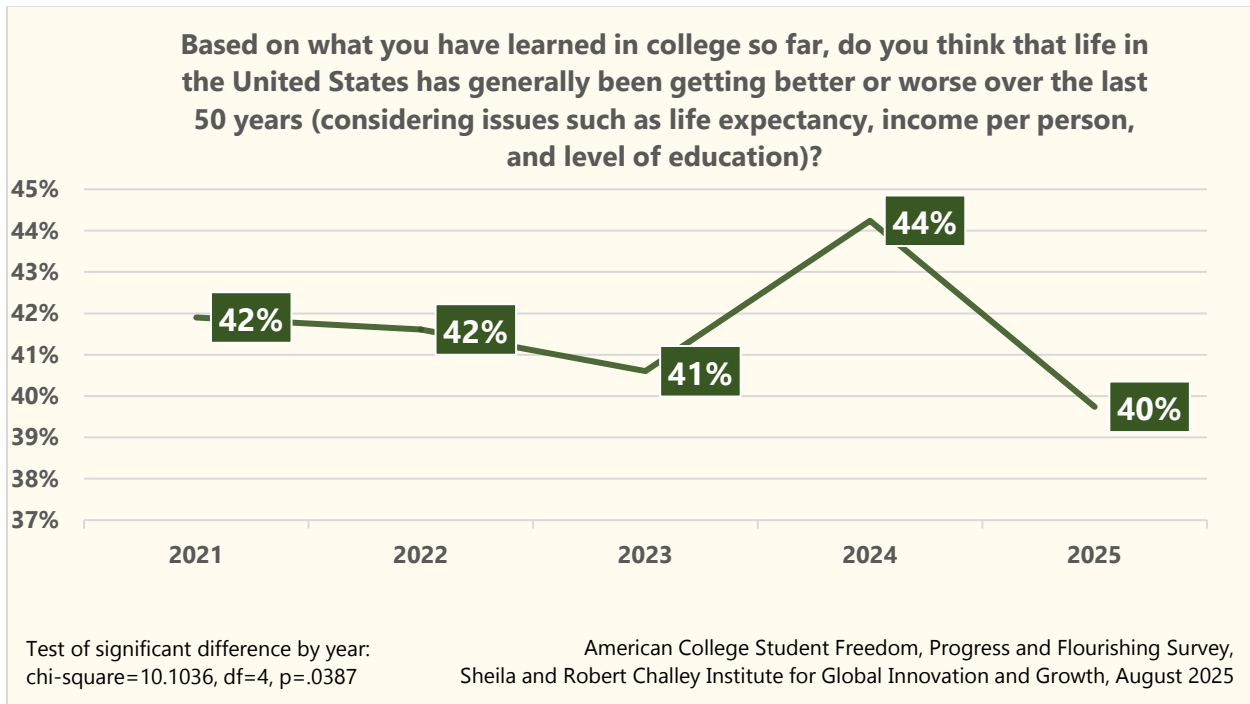


Figure 67: The percent of students who believe the U.S. has improved over the last 50 years from 2021 to 2025.

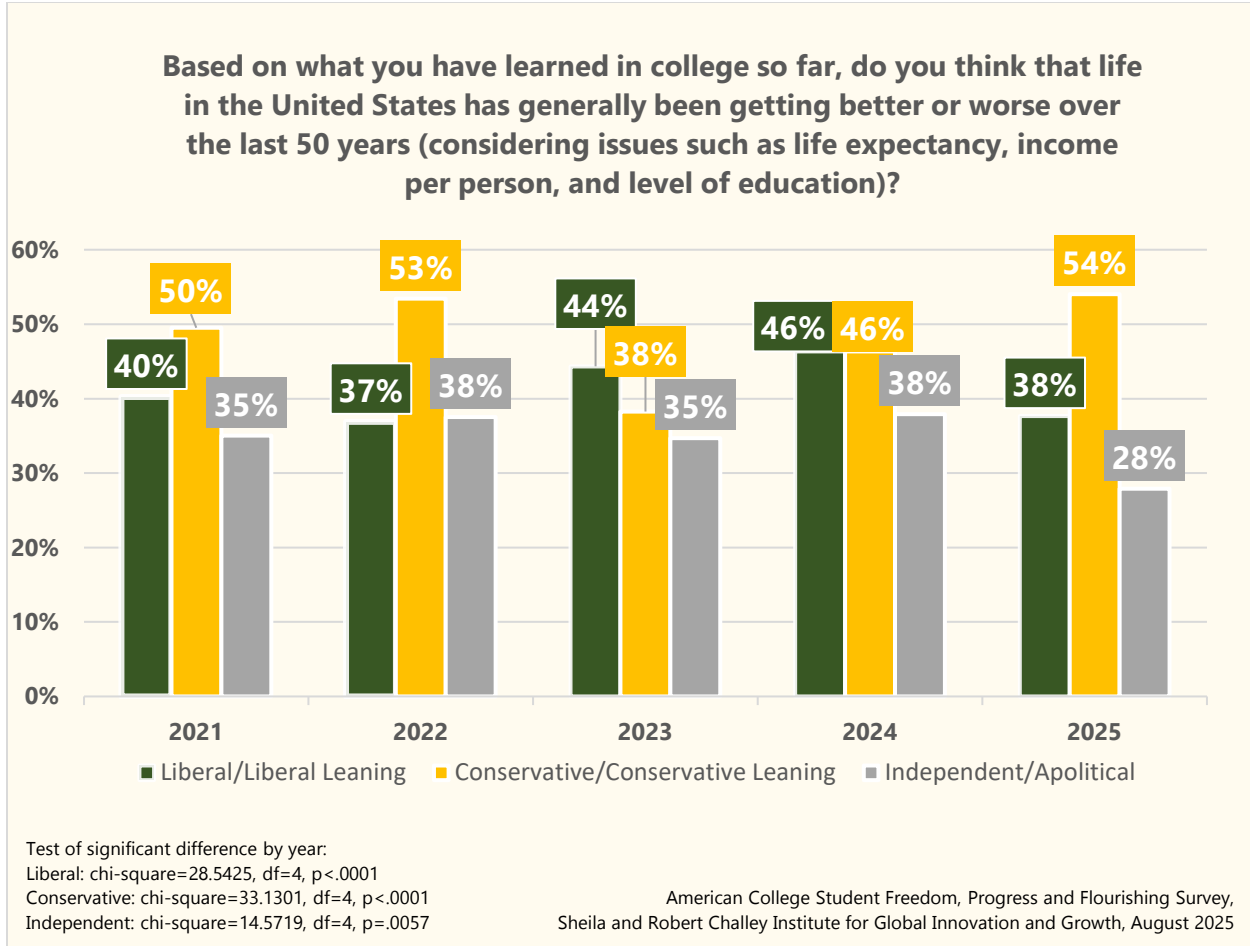


Figure 68: The percent of students believing the U.S. has improved over the last 50 years has significantly changed over time for all political ideologies.

## For Students Who Think the U.S. Has Improved Over the Last 50 Years, Over Half Believe It Is Because of a Dynamic Marketplace

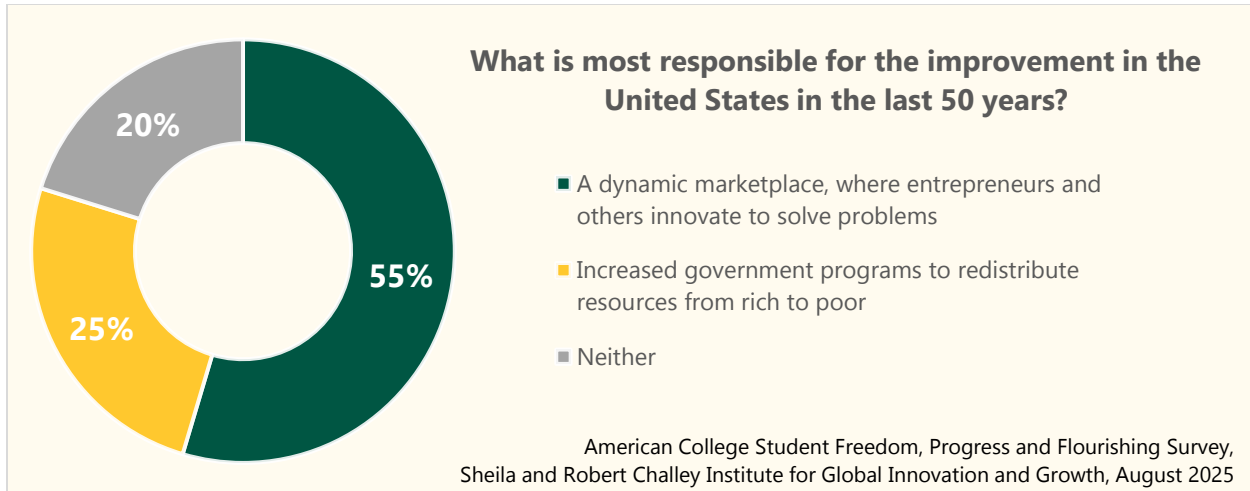


Figure 69: 55 percent of students who think the U.S. has improved attribute it to a dynamic marketplace.

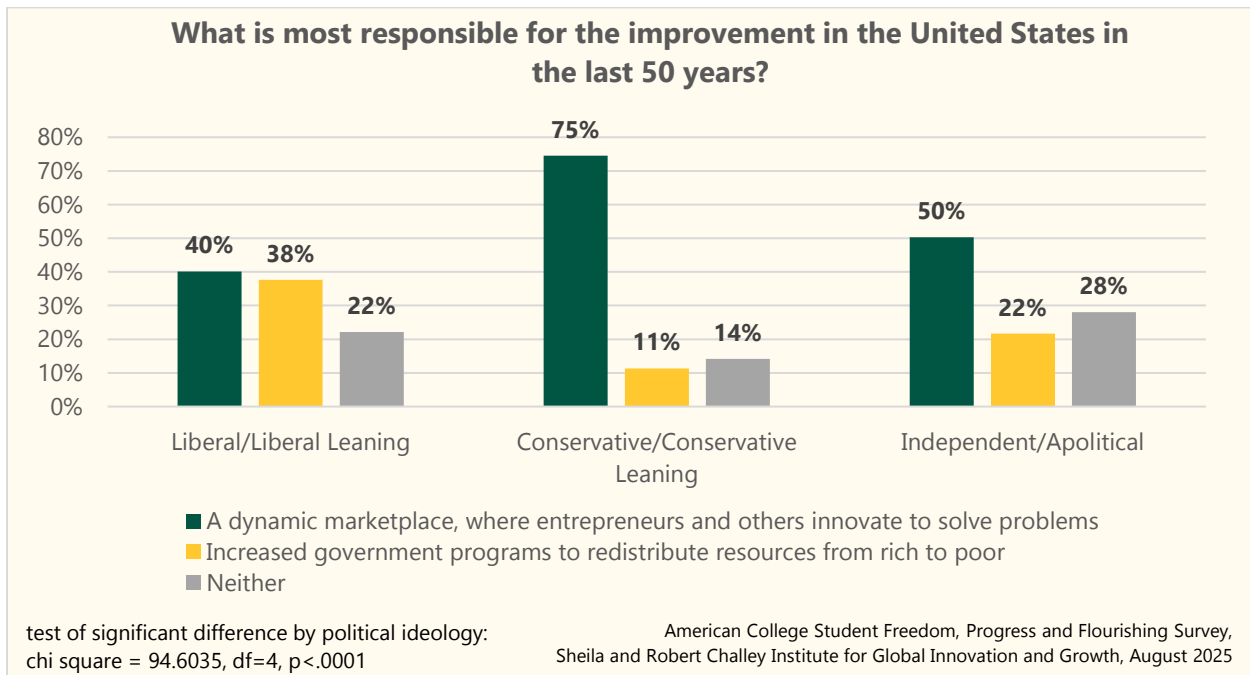


Figure 70: There are large differences among students with different political ideologies in attributing U.S. improvement.

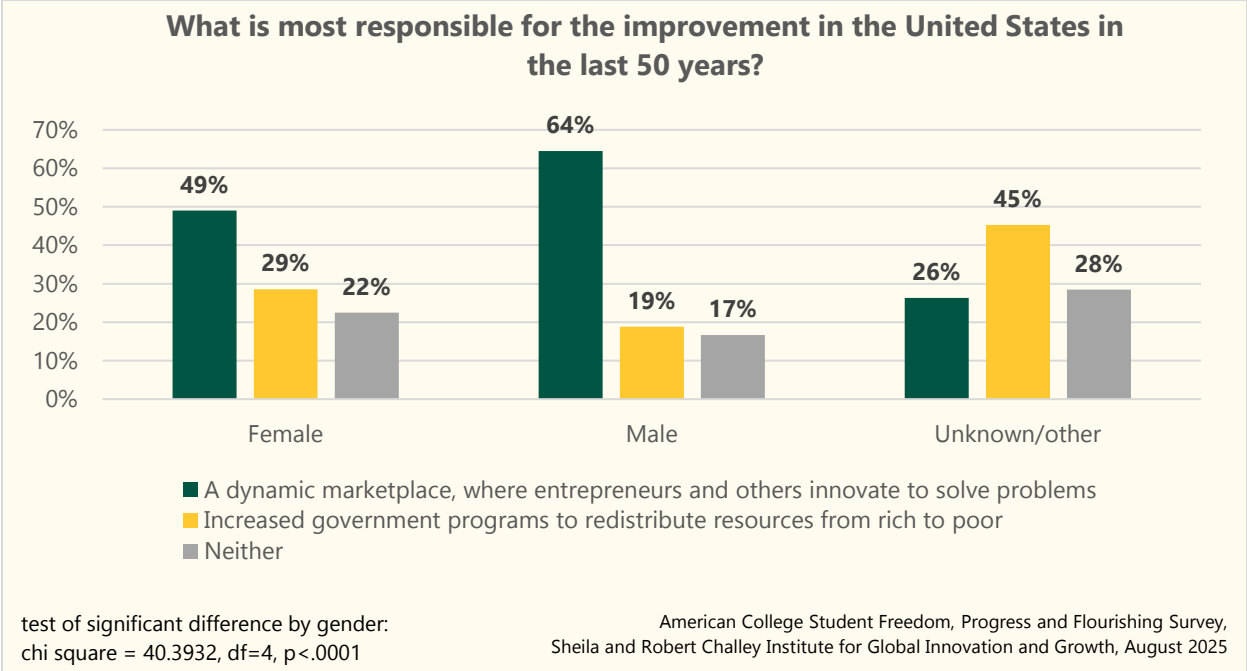


Figure 71: Male students are more likely to attribute improvement in the U.S. to a dynamic marketplace in comparison to female and unknown/other students.

## For Students Who Think the U.S. Has Declined Over the Last 50 Years, Over Half Believe It Is Because There Are Not Enough Government Programs

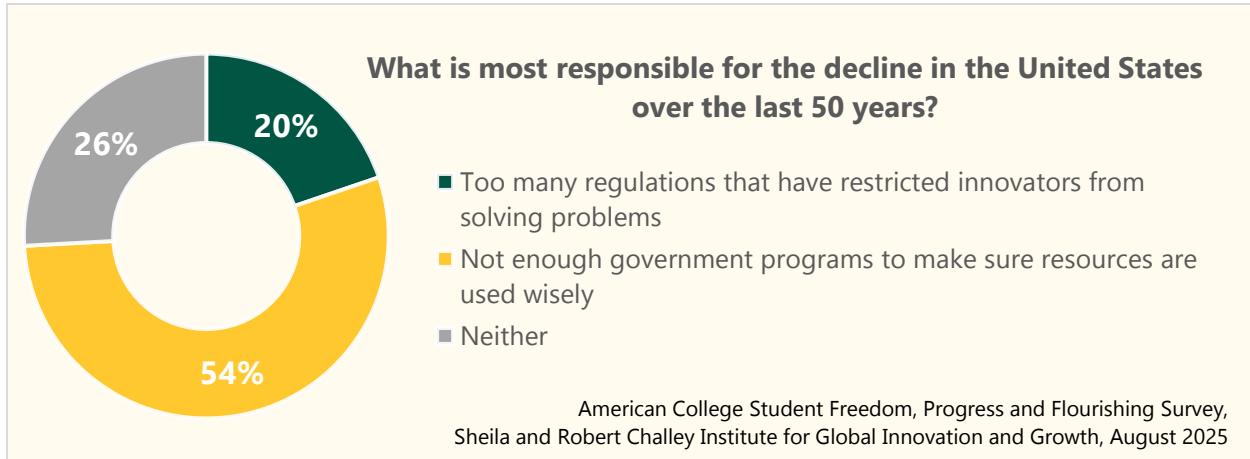


Figure 72: 54 percent of students attribute a perceived decline in the U.S. to not enough government programs

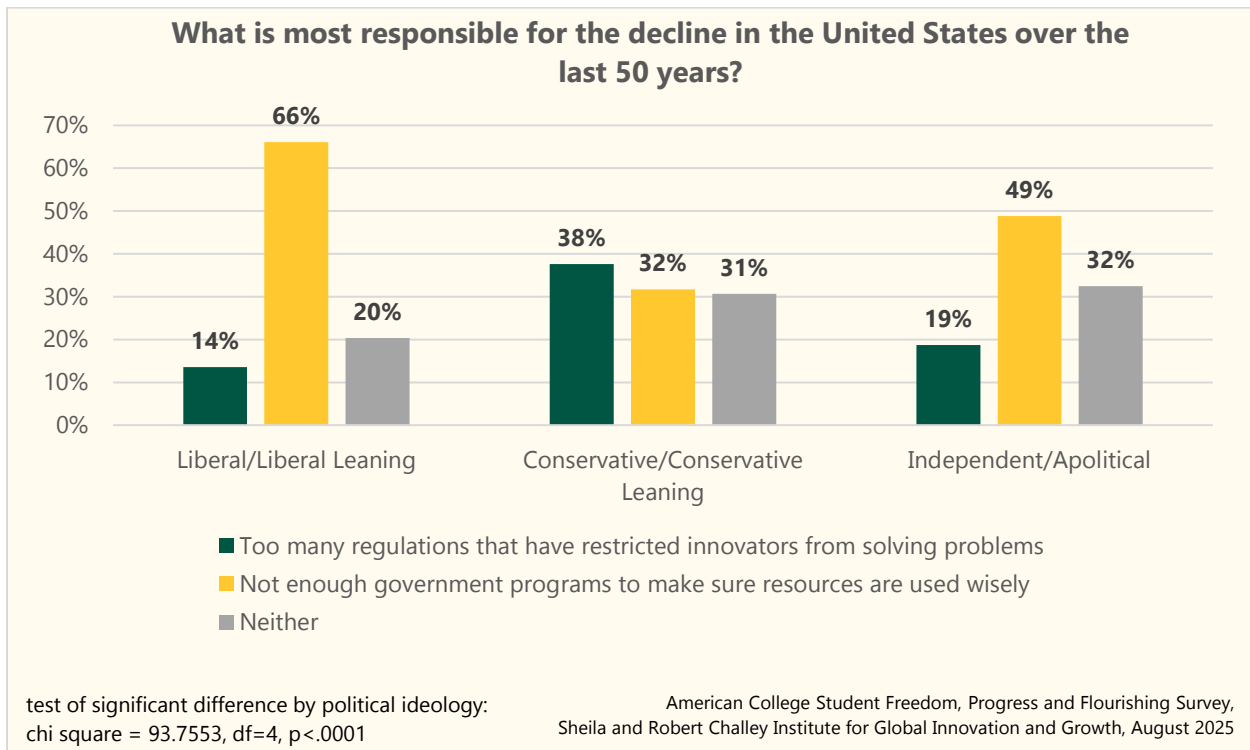


Figure 73: Large differences among students with different political views exist in attributing a perceived decline in the U.S.



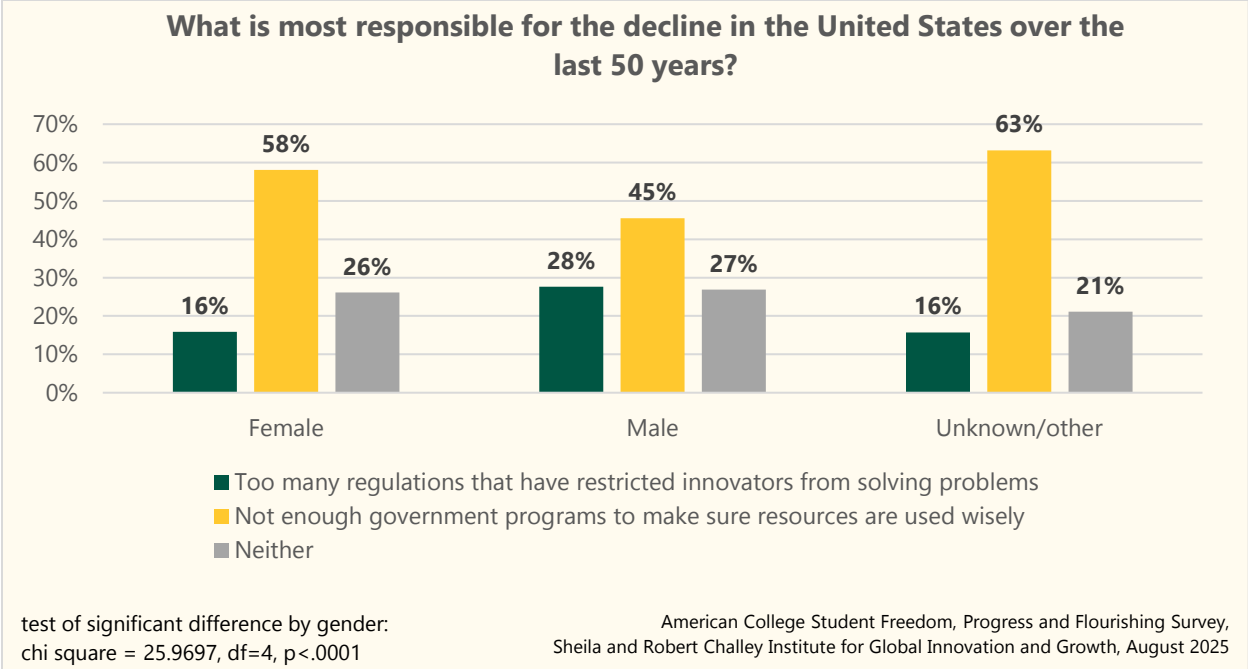


Figure 74: There are significant differences in attribution of the perceived U.S. decline by gender.

## Less than a Quarter of Students Are Optimistic About the Future of the U.S.

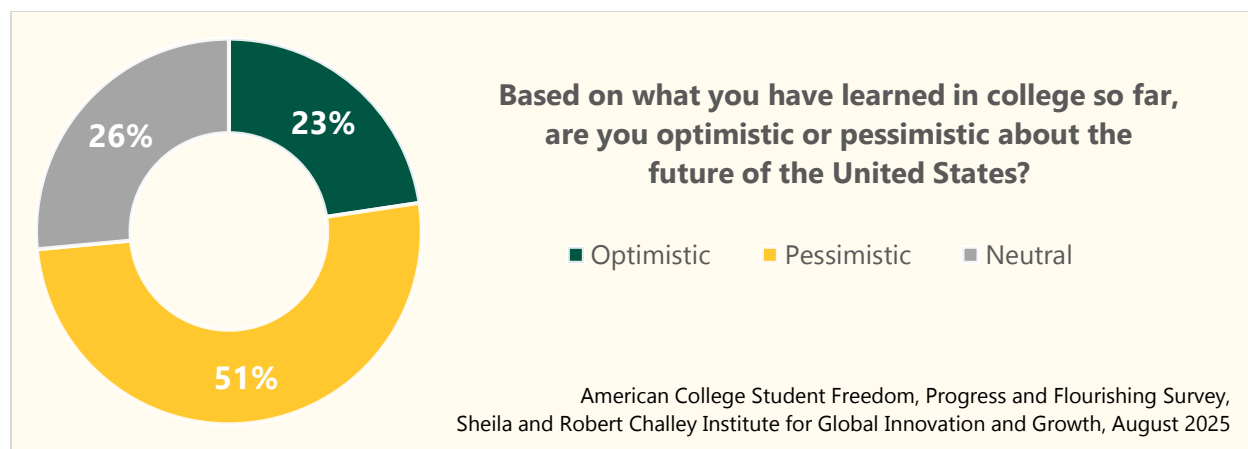


Figure 75: 23 percent of students are optimistic about the future of the U.S., while 51 percent are pessimistic.

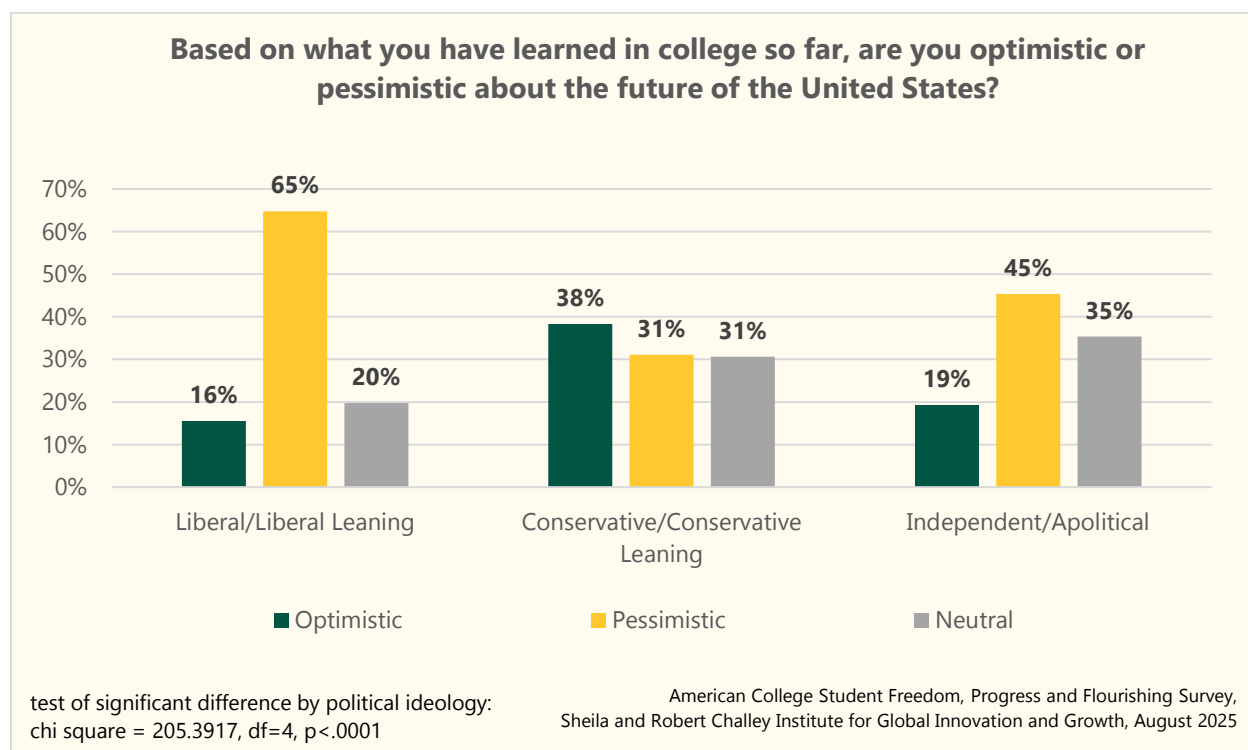


Figure 76: There are significant differences by political ideology in optimism about the future of the U.S.

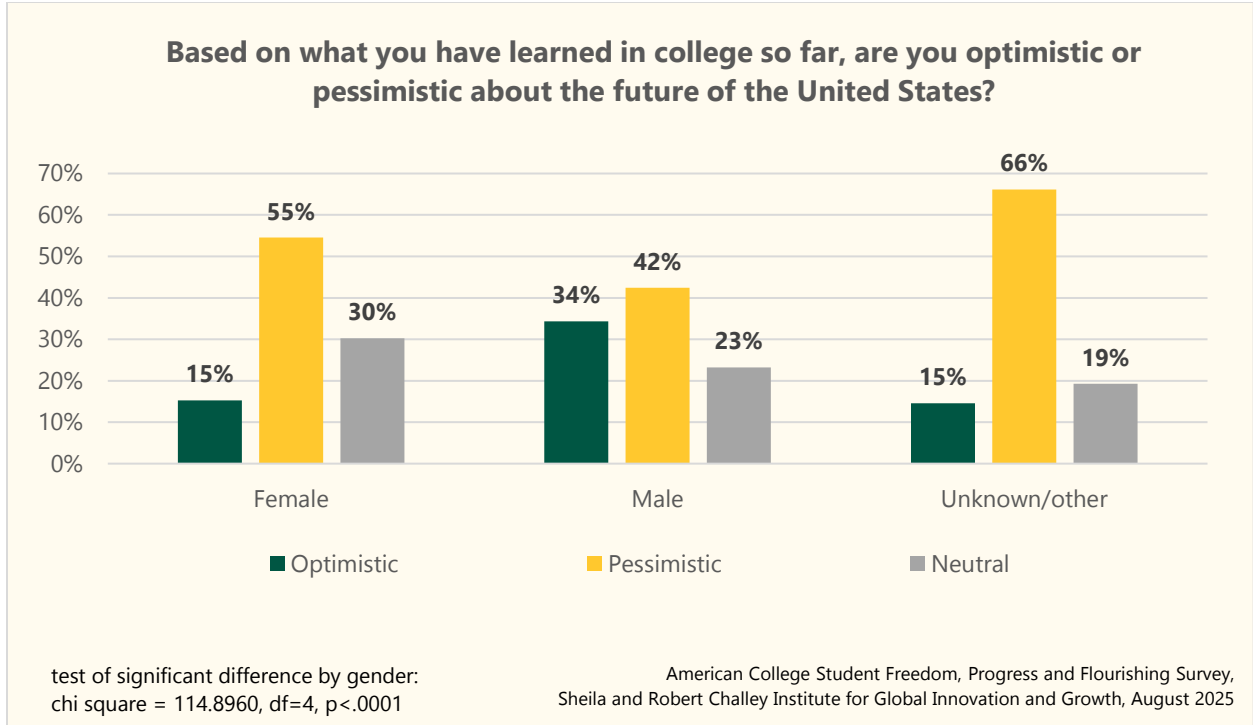


Figure 77: Differences in optimism about the future of the U.S. by gender are significant.

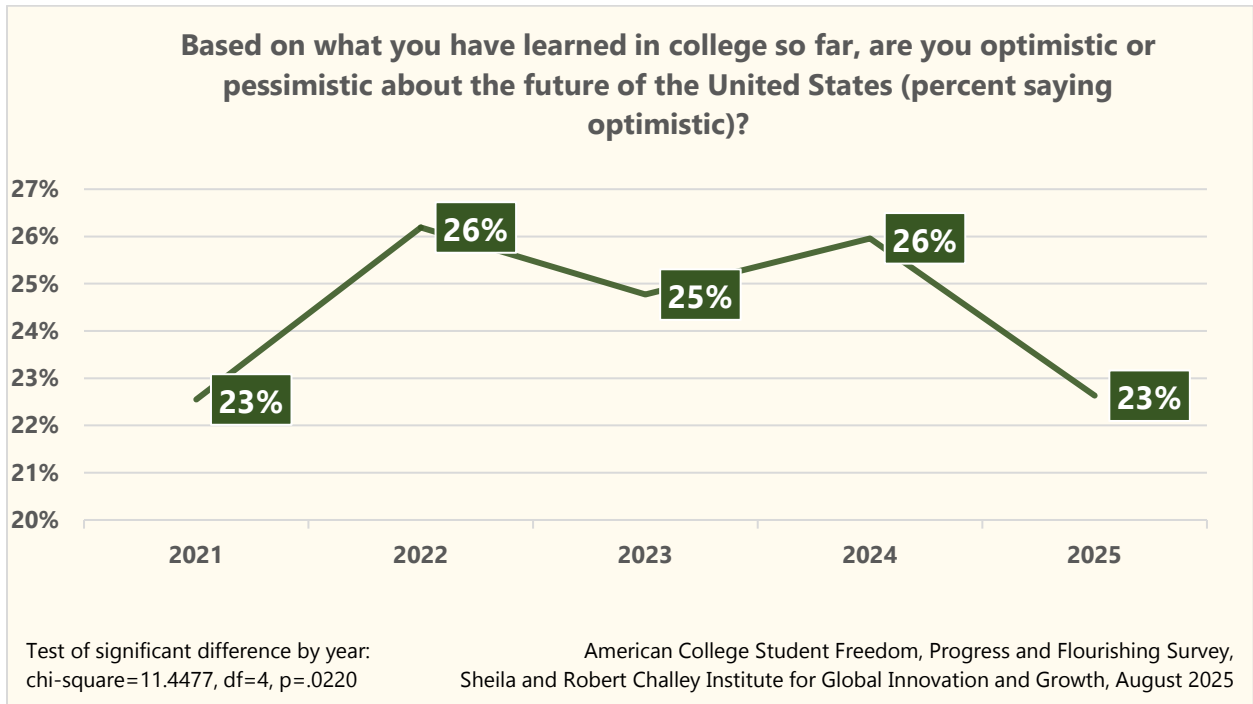


Figure 78: Optimism about the future of the U.S. has hovered around 25 percent for the last five years.

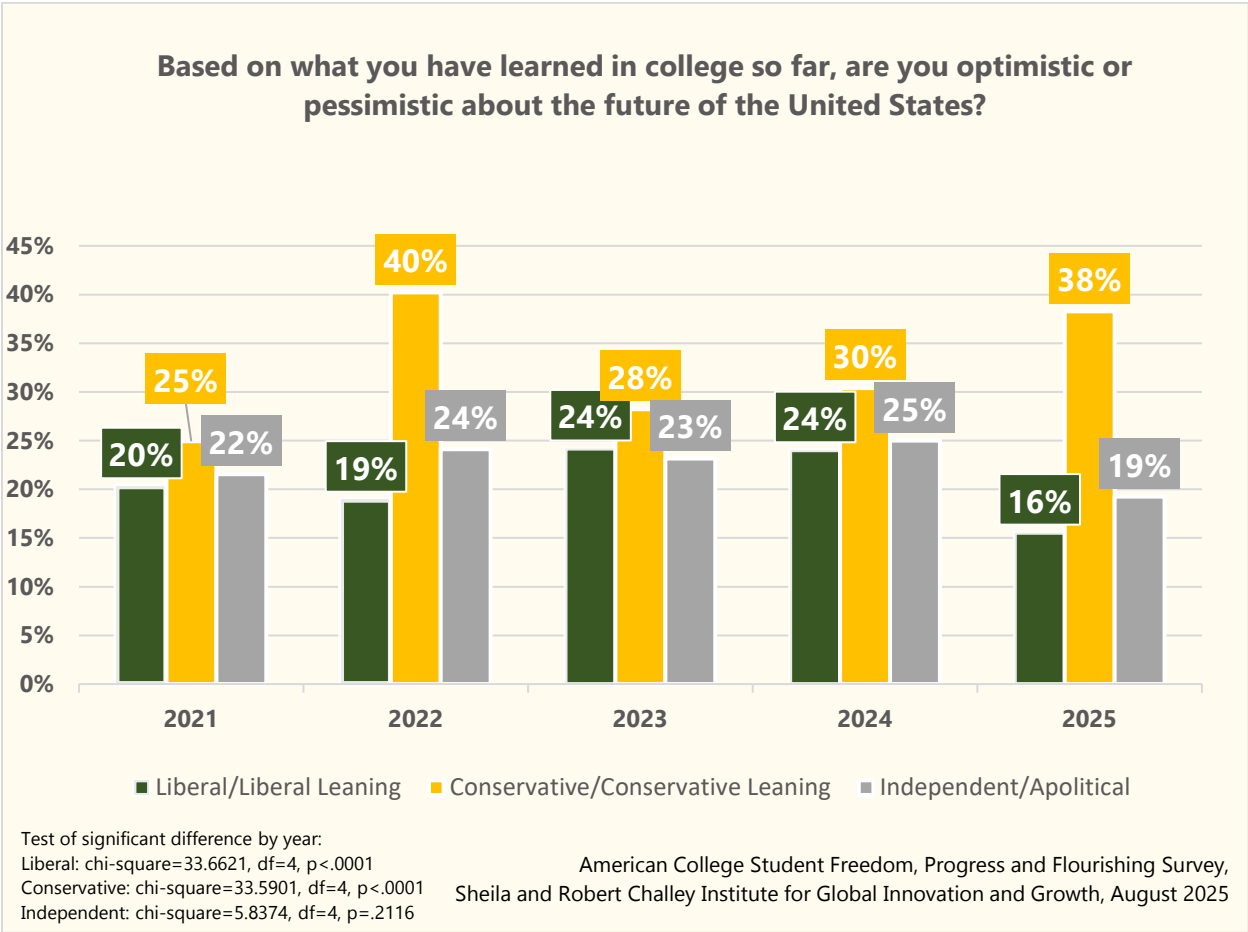


Figure 79: Optimism about the future of the U.S. has varied significantly among liberal and conservative students over time.

## About Half of Students Are Optimistic About Their Own Future

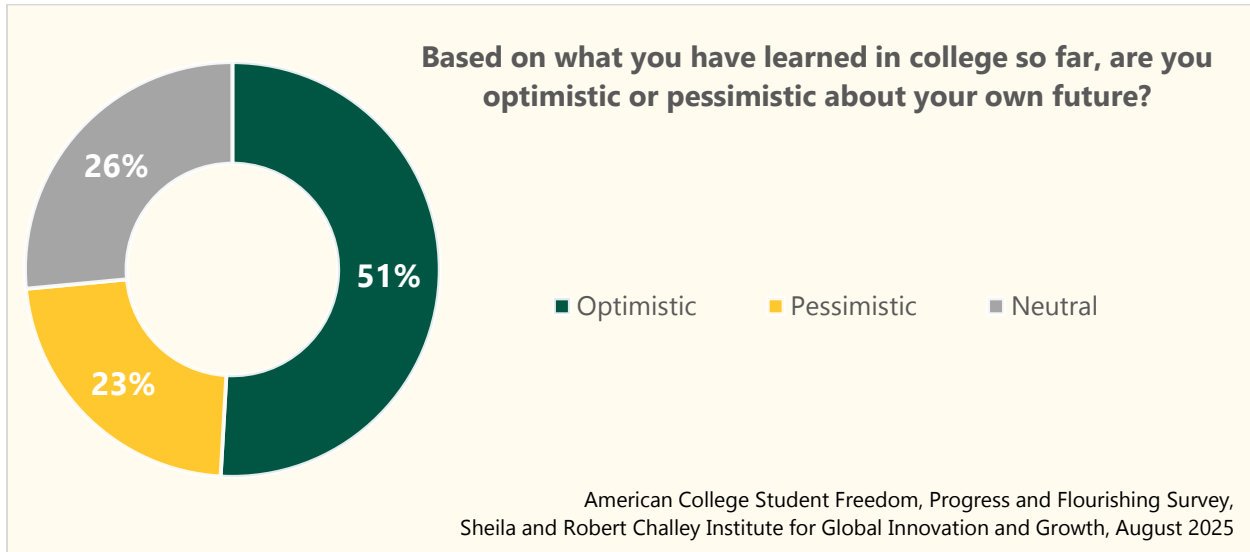


Figure 80: 51 percent of students are optimistic about their own future.

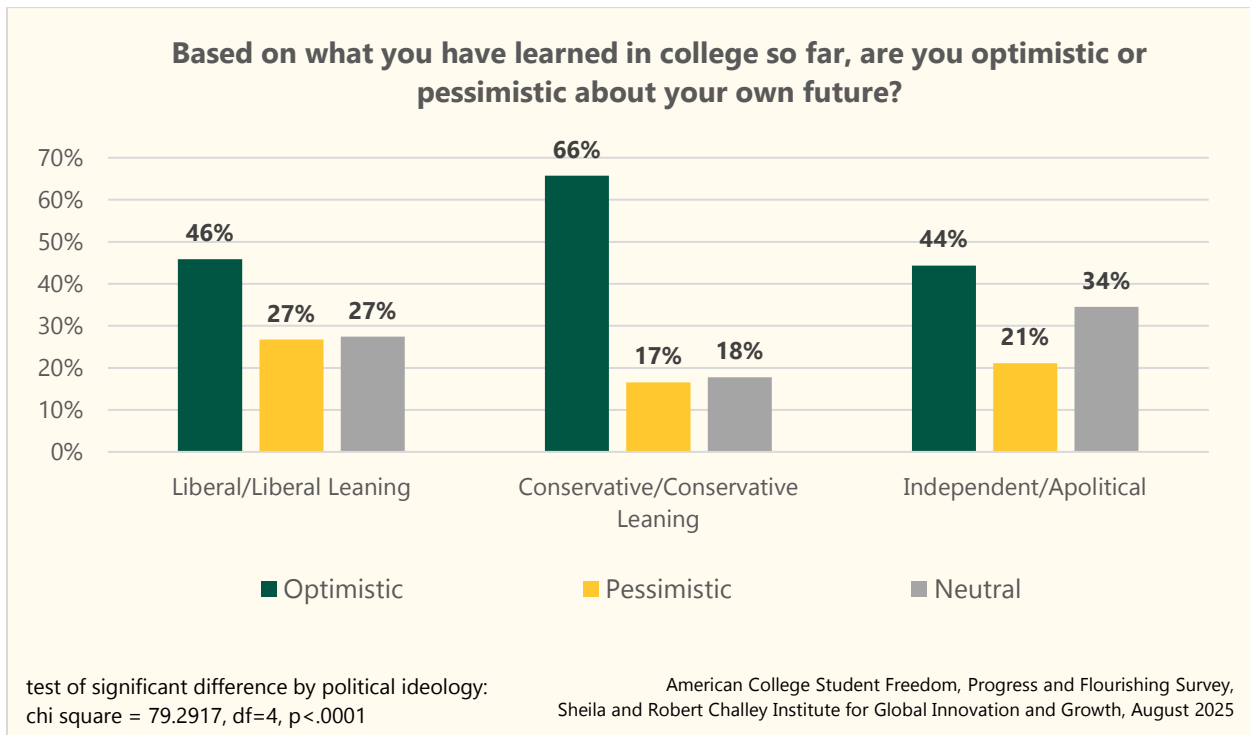


Figure 81: There are significant differences in optimism about their own futures for students with different political ideologies.

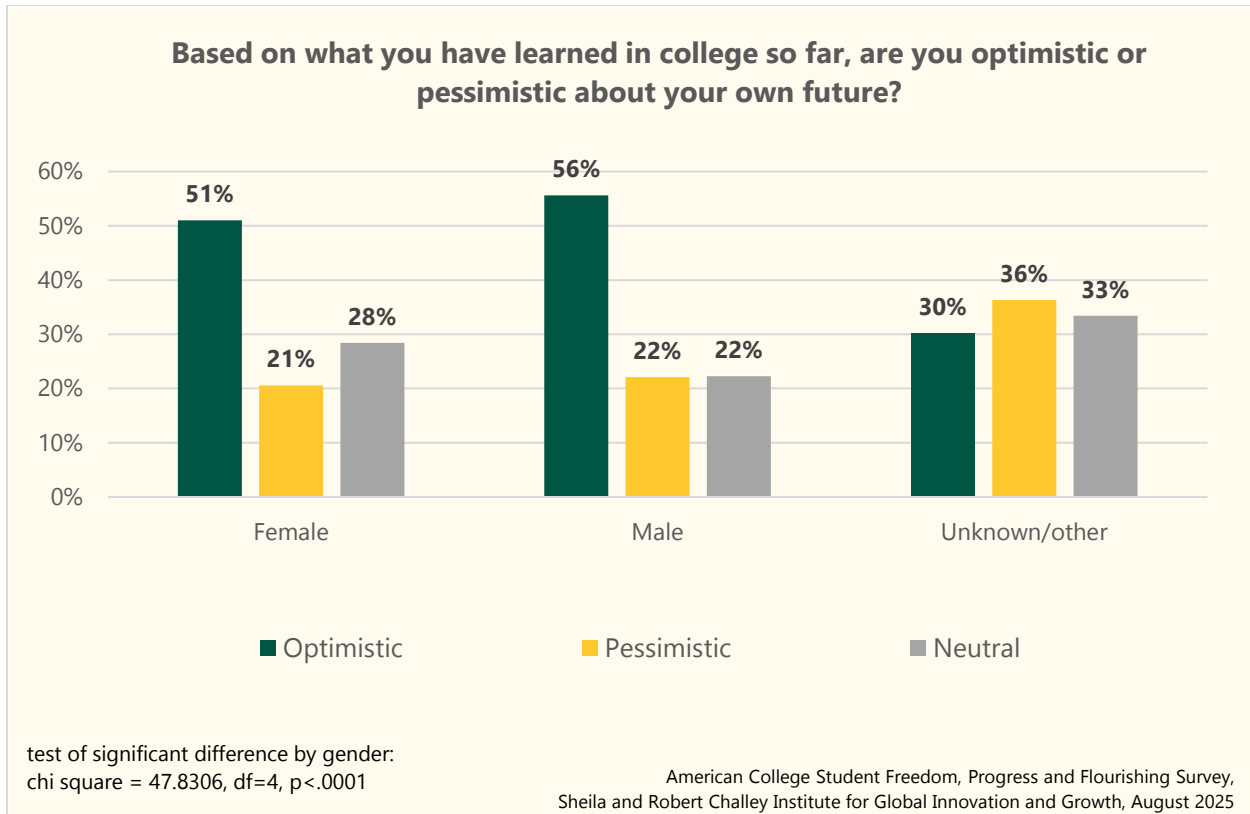


Figure 82: There are significant differences in student optimism about their own future by gender.

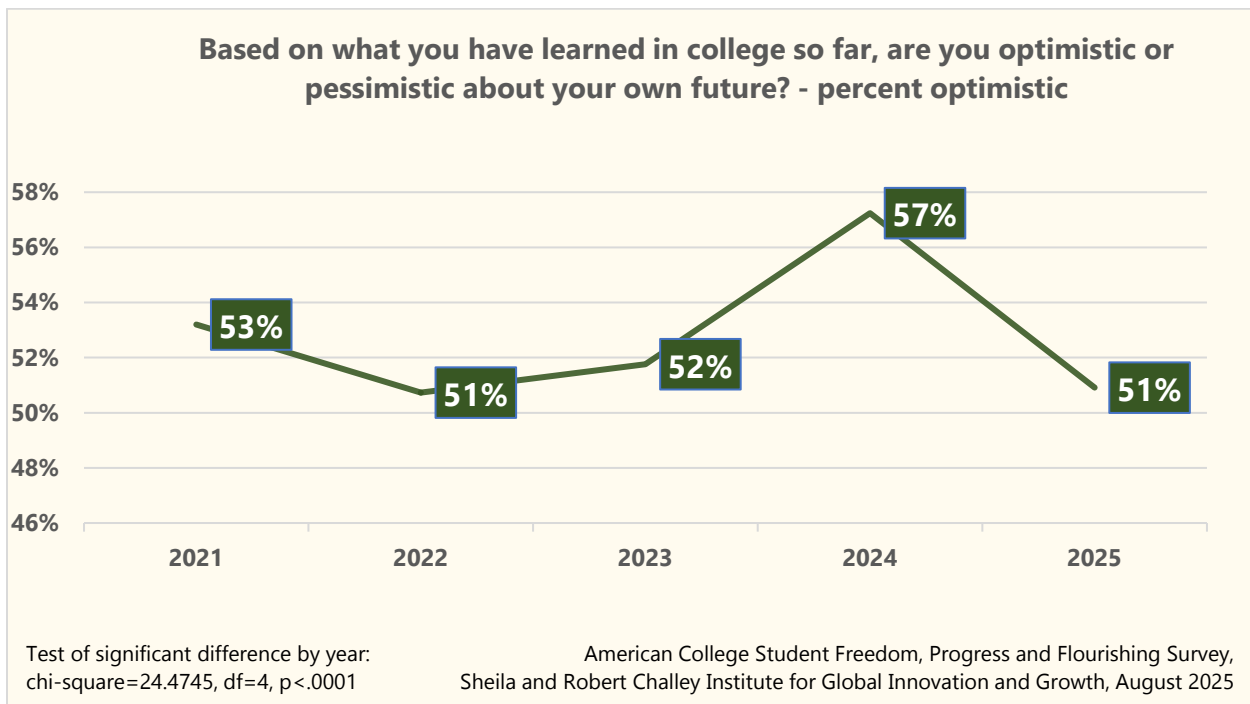


Figure 83: Student optimism about their own futures over time.

Optimism about their own future has increased significantly for both liberal and conservative students.

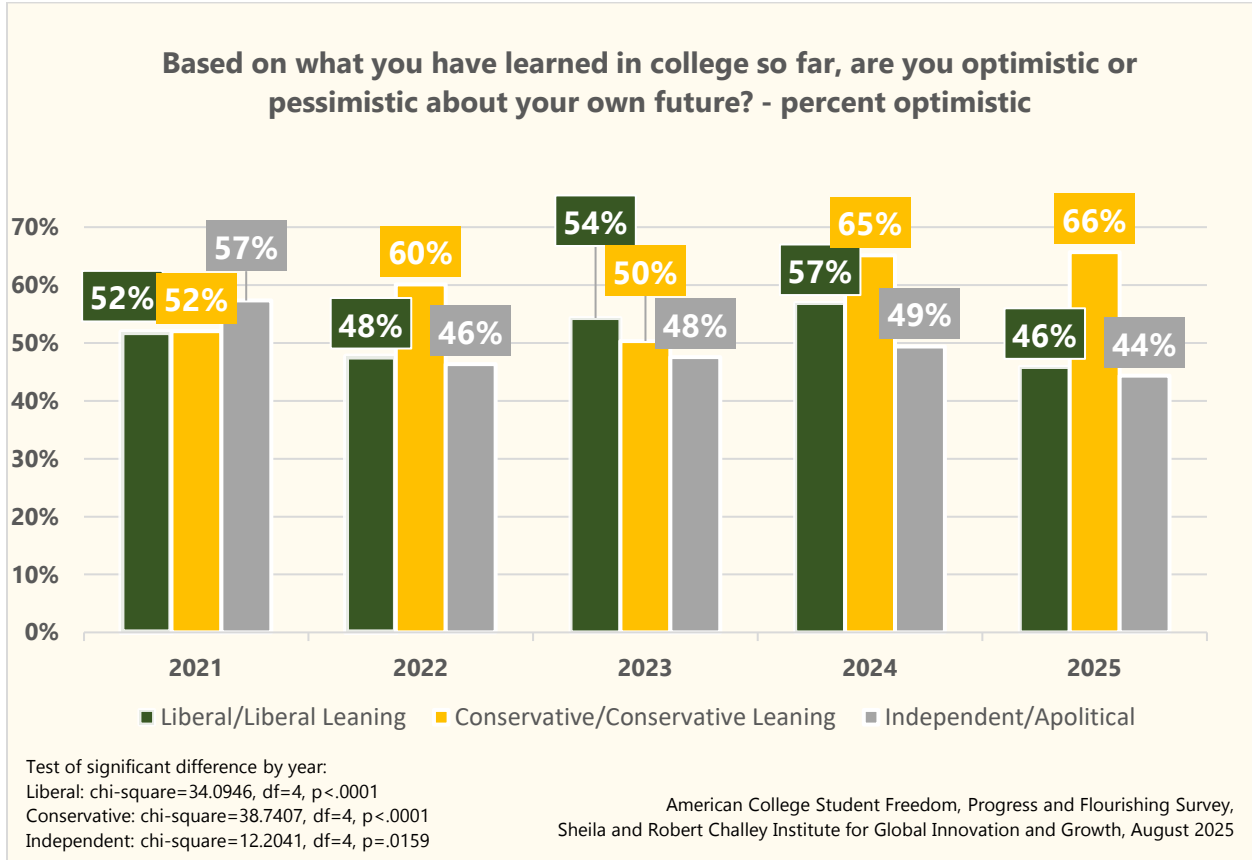


Figure 84: Optimism about own future by political ideology over time.

## Nearly Half of Students Are Optimistic About Their Ability to Make a Difference in the World

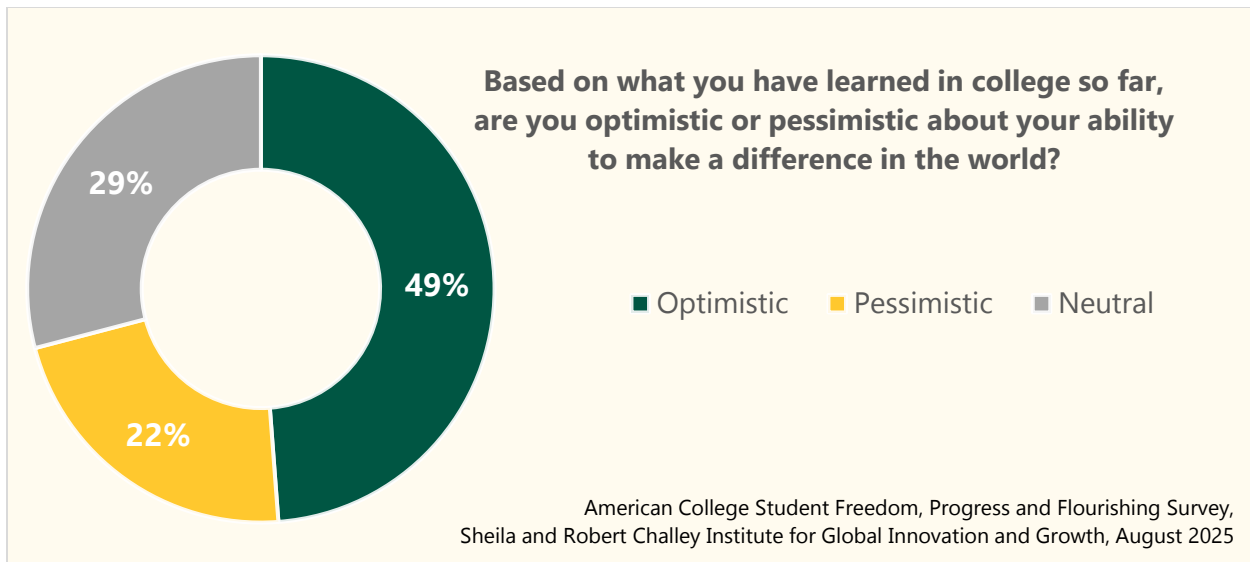


Figure 85: 49 percent of students are optimistic about their ability to make a difference in the world.

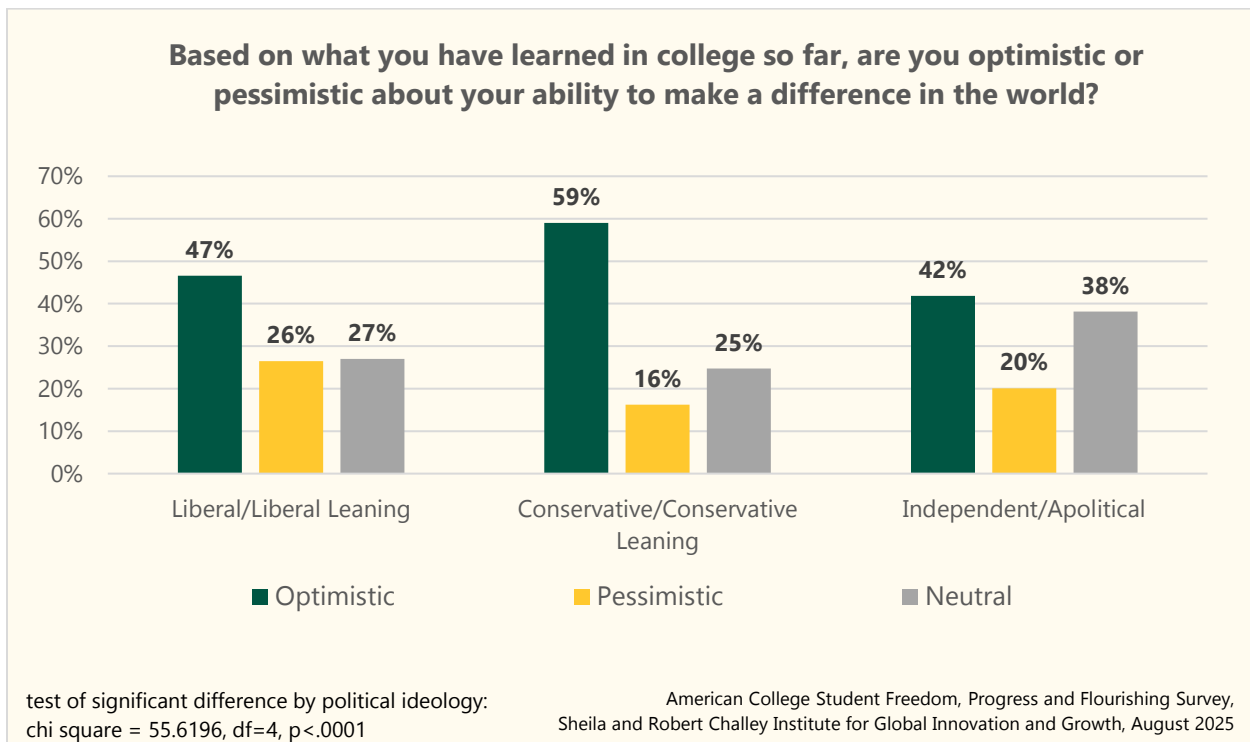


Figure 86: Conservative students are more optimistic about their ability to make a difference in the world in comparison to liberal and independent students.



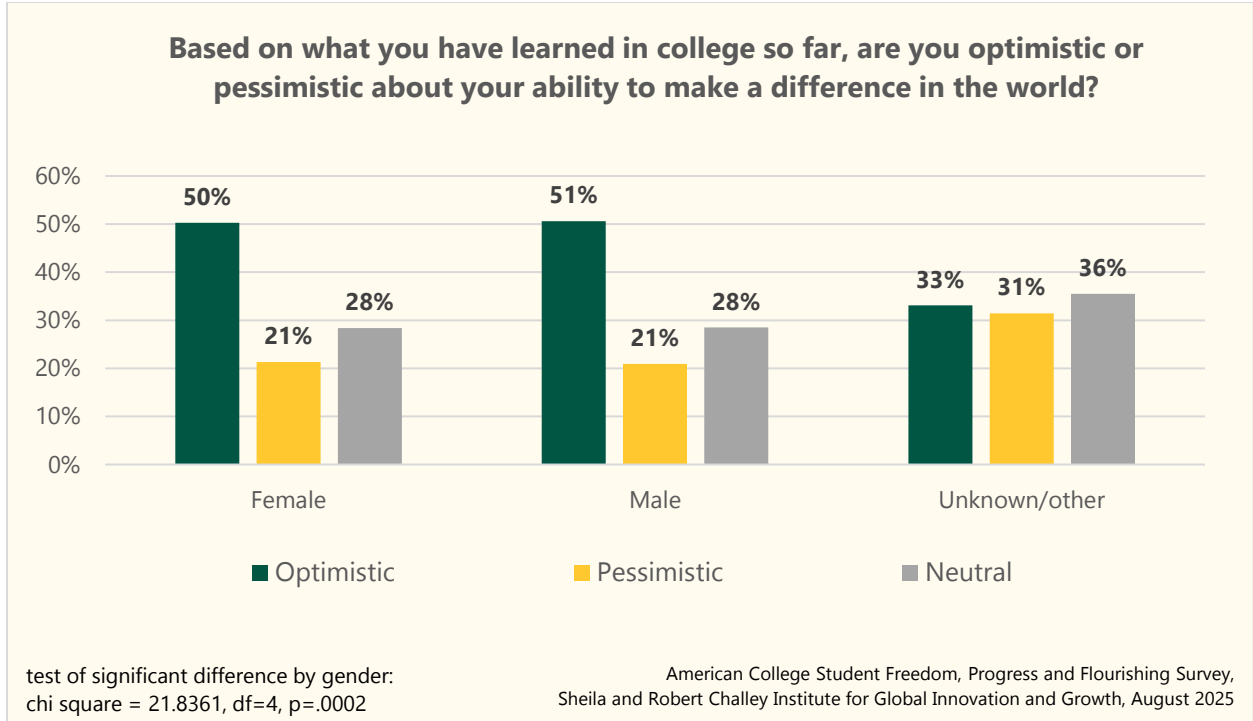


Figure 87: Male and female students are more optimistic about their ability to make a difference in the world than unknown/other students.

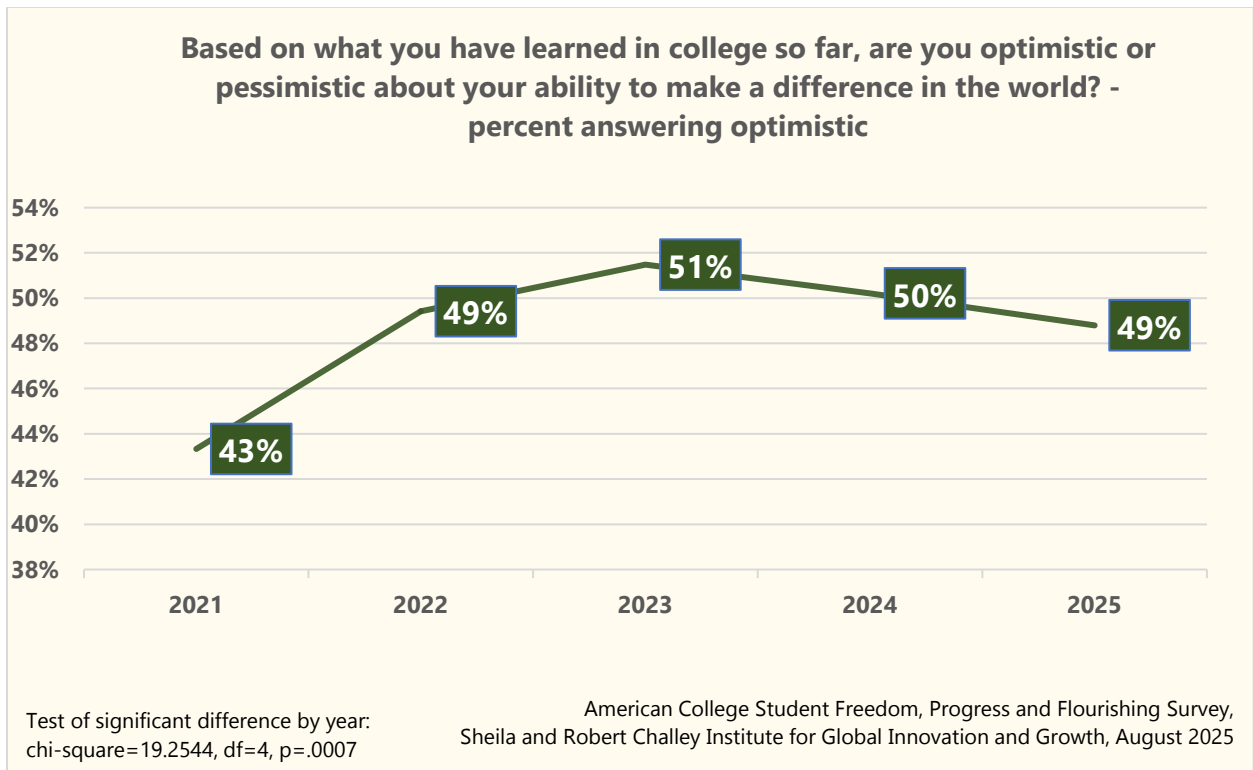


Figure 88: Students are more optimistic about their ability to make a difference in the world in comparison to 2021

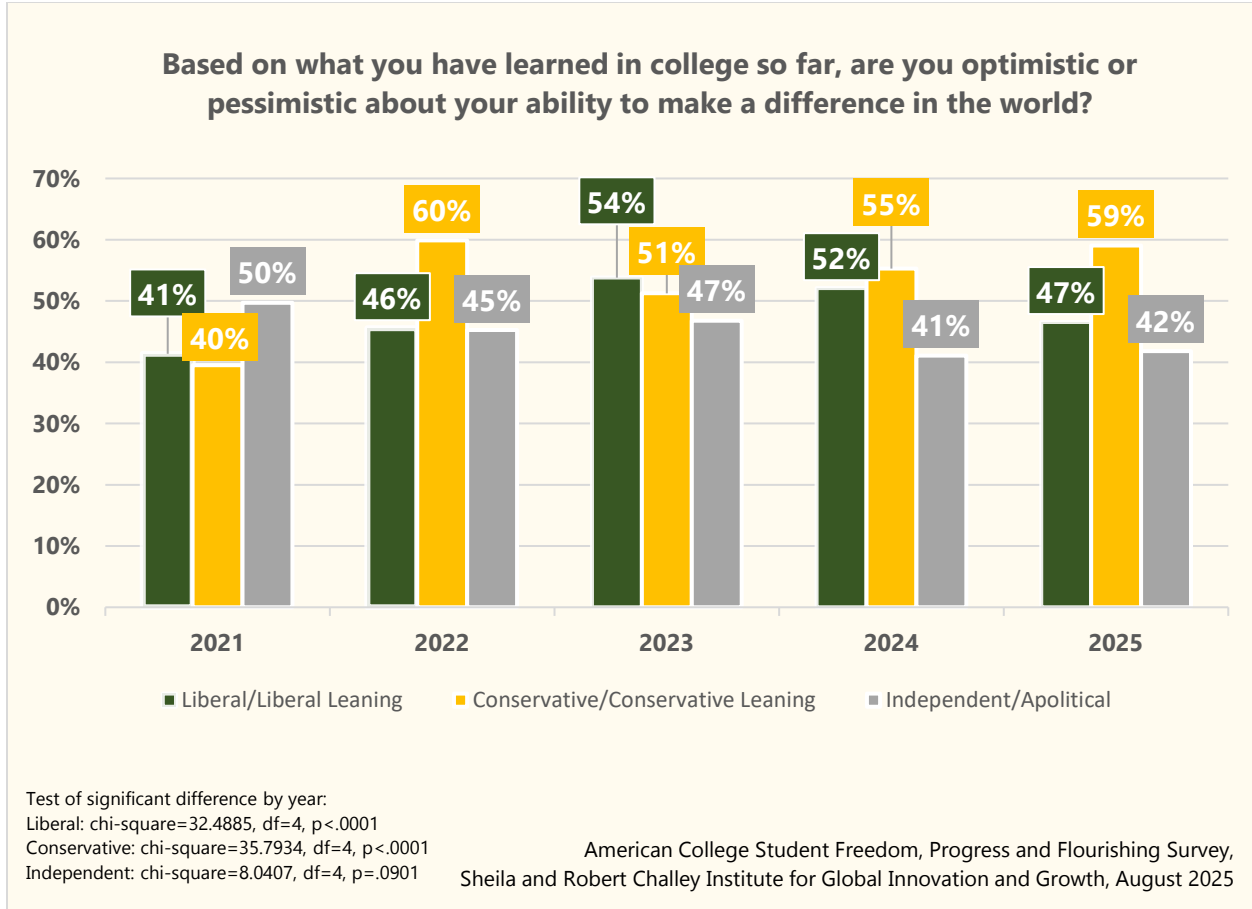


Figure 89: Change in optimism about an ability to make a difference by political ideology over time.

59 Percent of American Students Are Proud to Be American

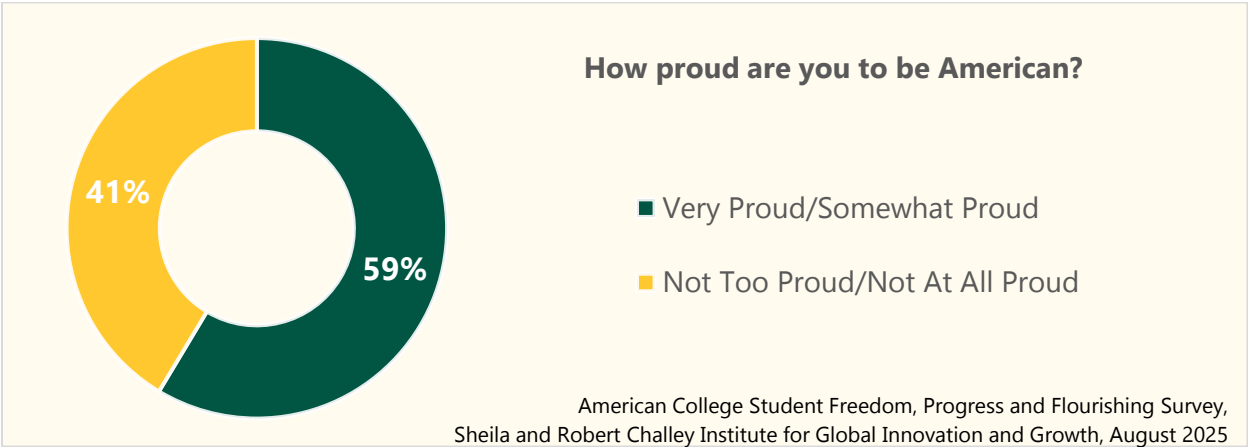


Figure 90: 59 percent of students who are citizens say they are proud to be American.

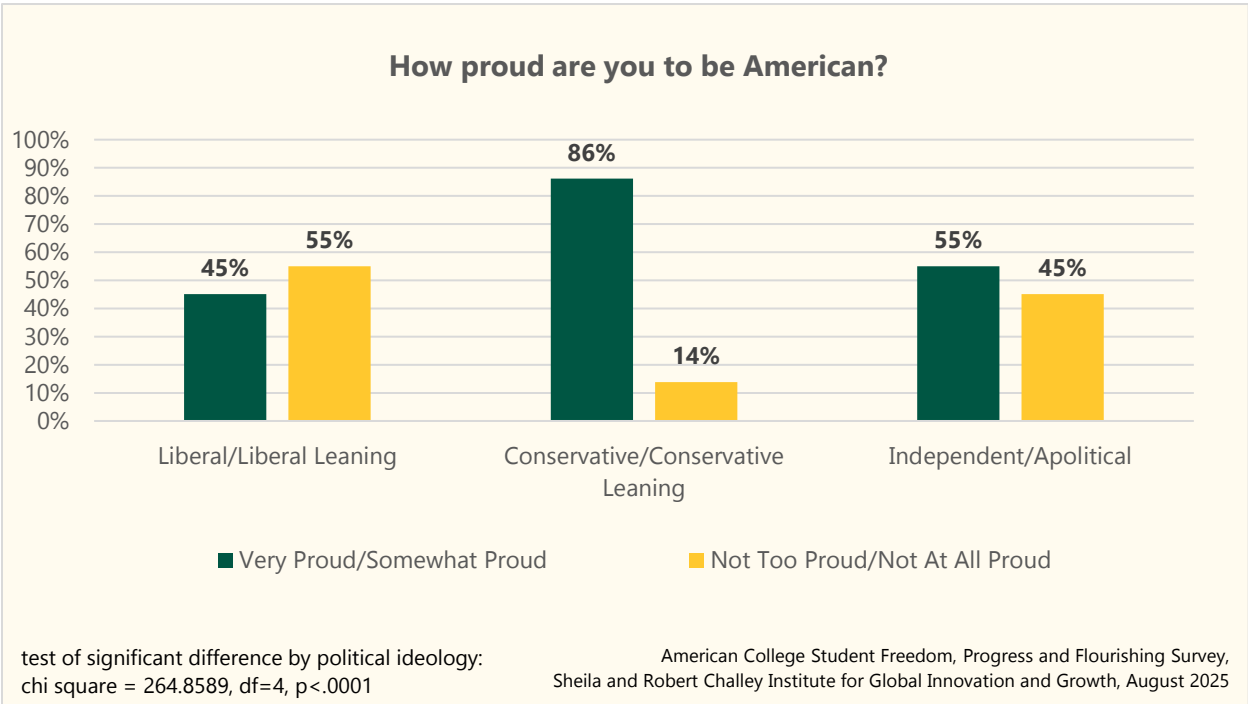


Figure 91: Students with different political views vary widely on their pride in being American, with conservative students being significantly more likely to be proud.

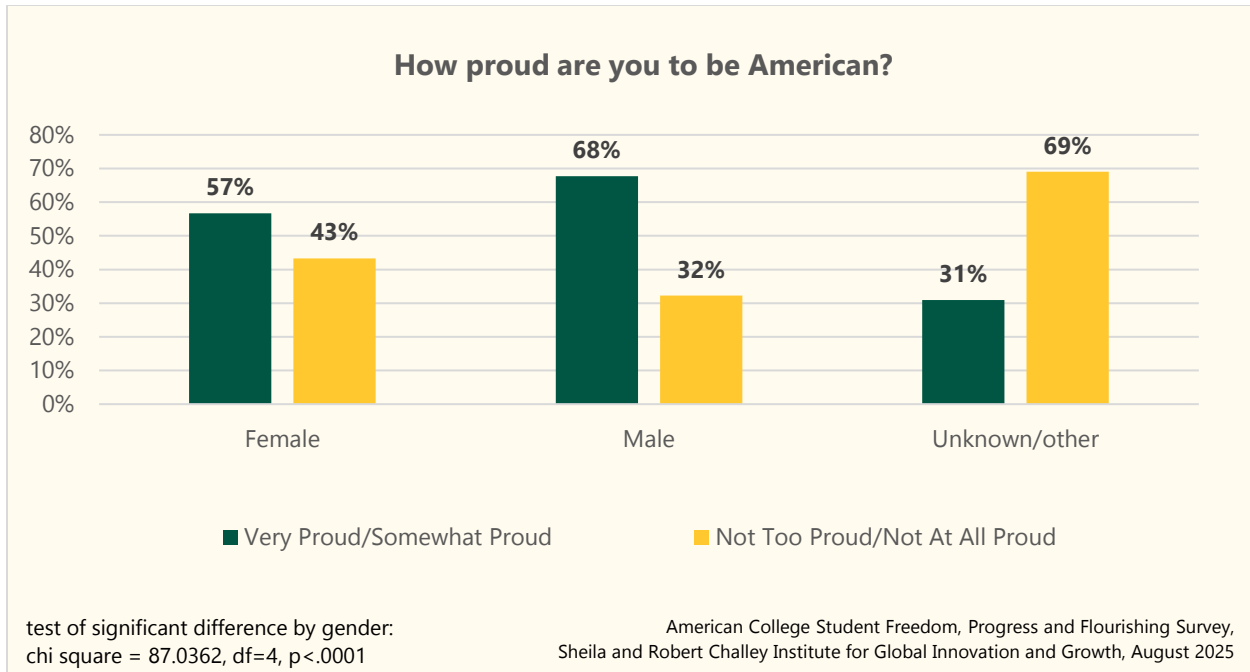


Figure 92: Percent of students who are proud to be American varies significantly by gender.

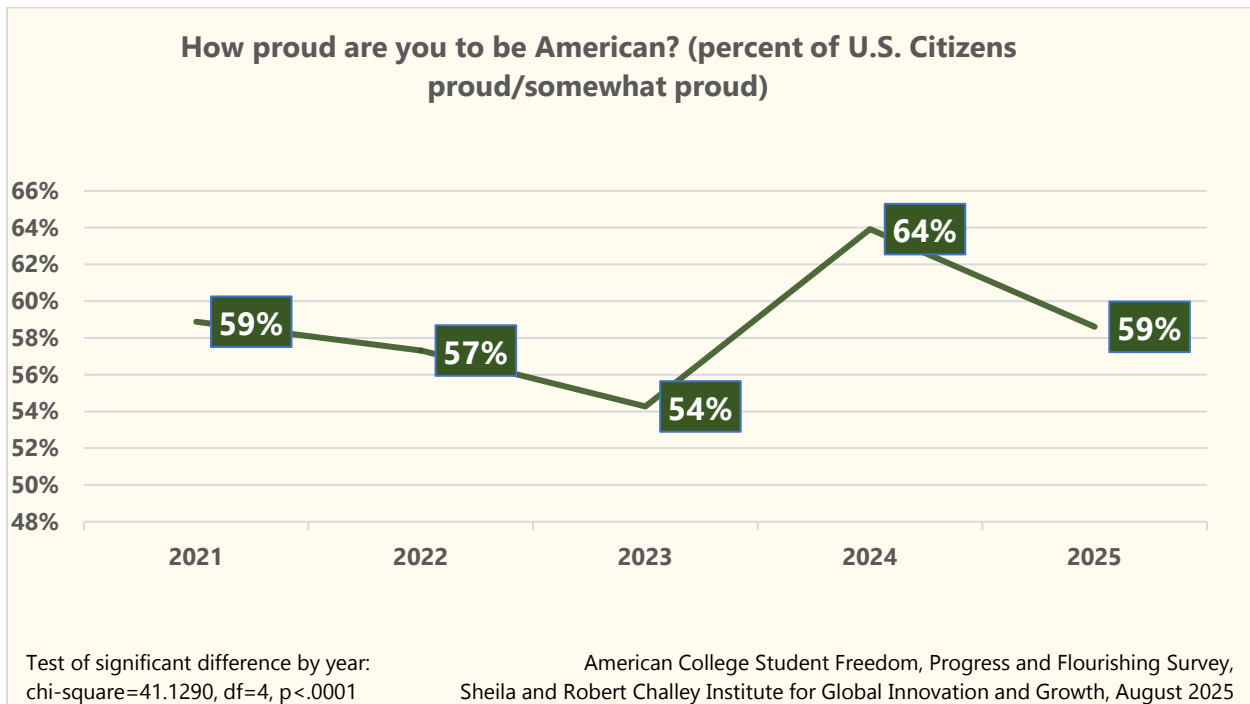


Figure 93: The percent of students who say they are proud to be American over time.

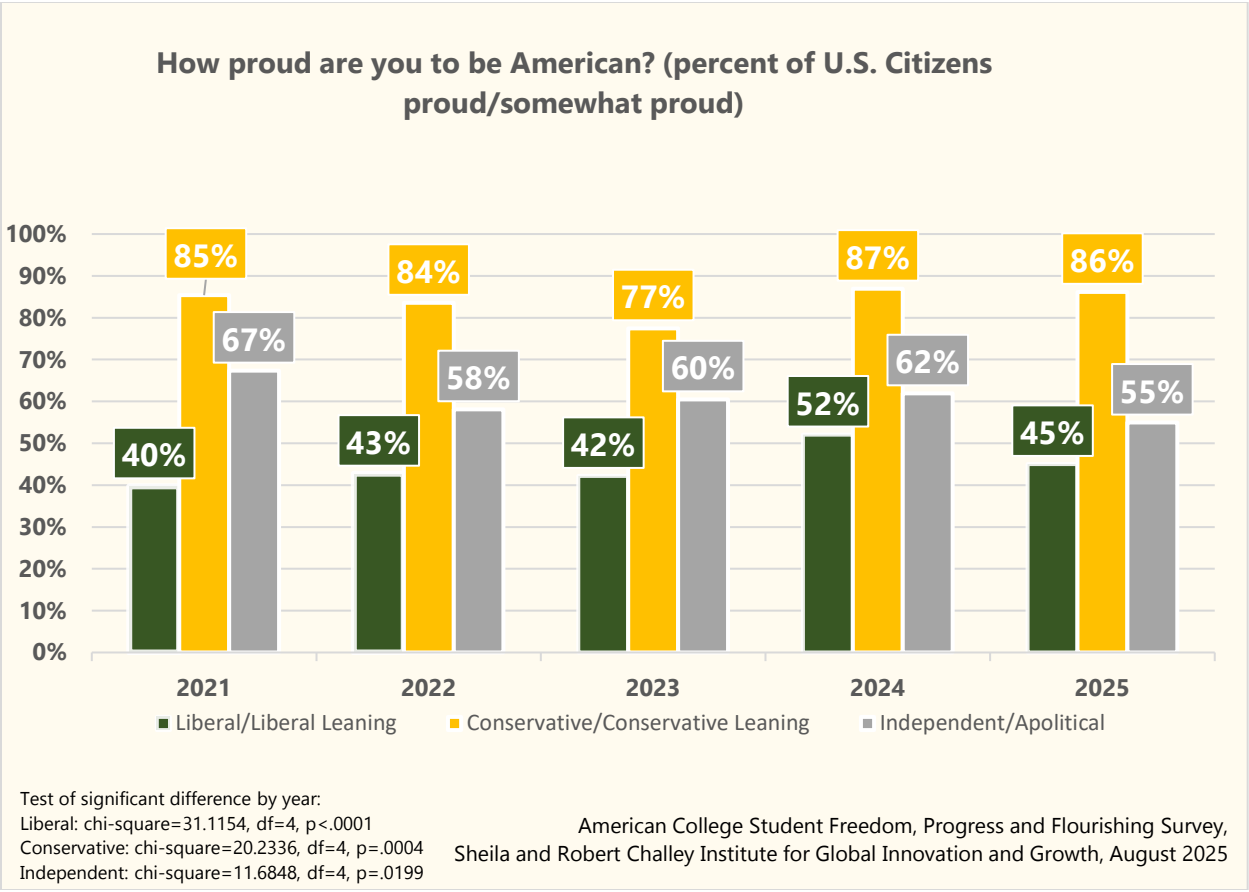


Figure 94: Percent of students who are proud to be American by political ideology over time