American Occupational Therapy Association

Our Profession, Our Voice, Our Future



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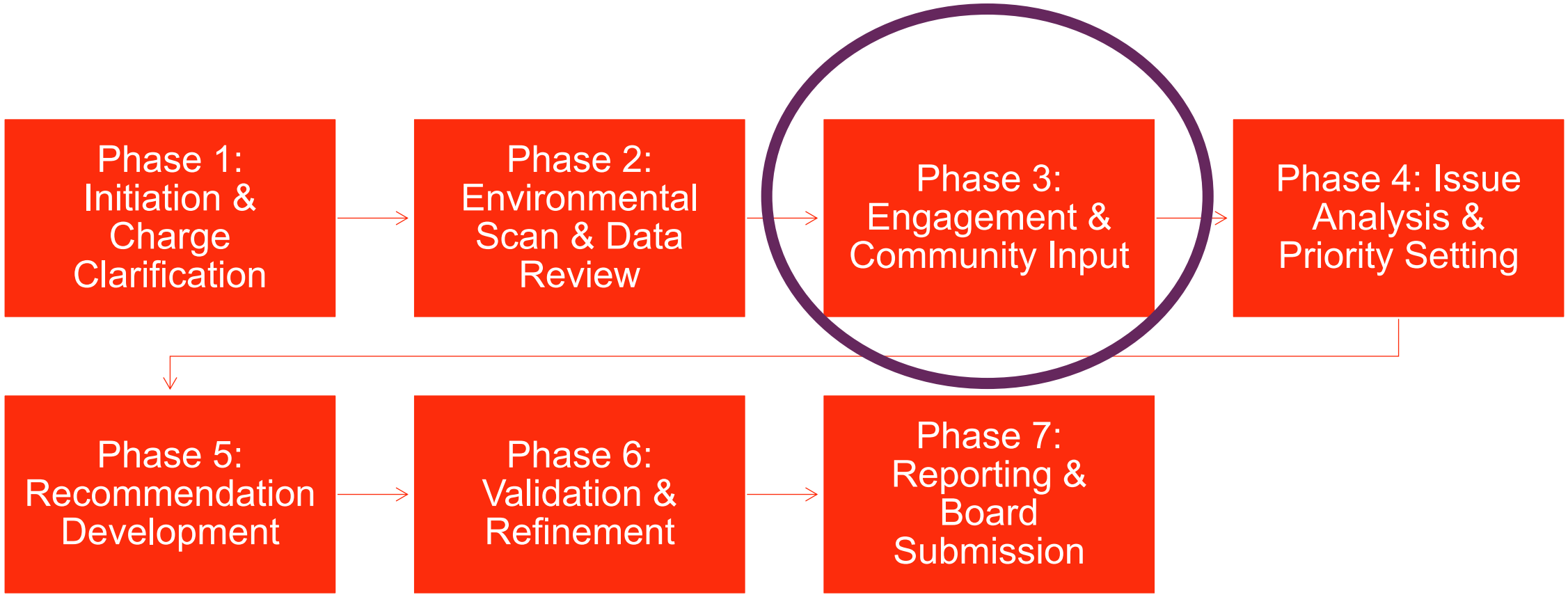
An update from the Reimagining and Reenvisioning OTA/OT Education Ad Hoc Committee.

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The **Reimagining and Reenvisioning OTA/OT Education Ad Hoc Committee** has been convened for a one-year term to develop recommendations addressing the challenges facing entry-level occupational therapy assistant (OTA) and occupational therapy (OT) programs.

The goal is to ensure high-quality education, support a sustainable pipeline of competent practitioners, and respond to the evolving needs of the profession and society.

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Future of OT and OTA Education: Exploring Priorities Survey

This **brief survey** was designed to gather perspectives on potential actions that could help strengthen the future of OTA and OT education.

Participants were asked to consider the potential impact of several ideas and identify those you believe should receive the greatest attention.

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Responses

2,254

Survey Records

Completed some aspect of the survey.

1,555

Completed valid 1-6 ranking.

Included in ranking analysis.

699

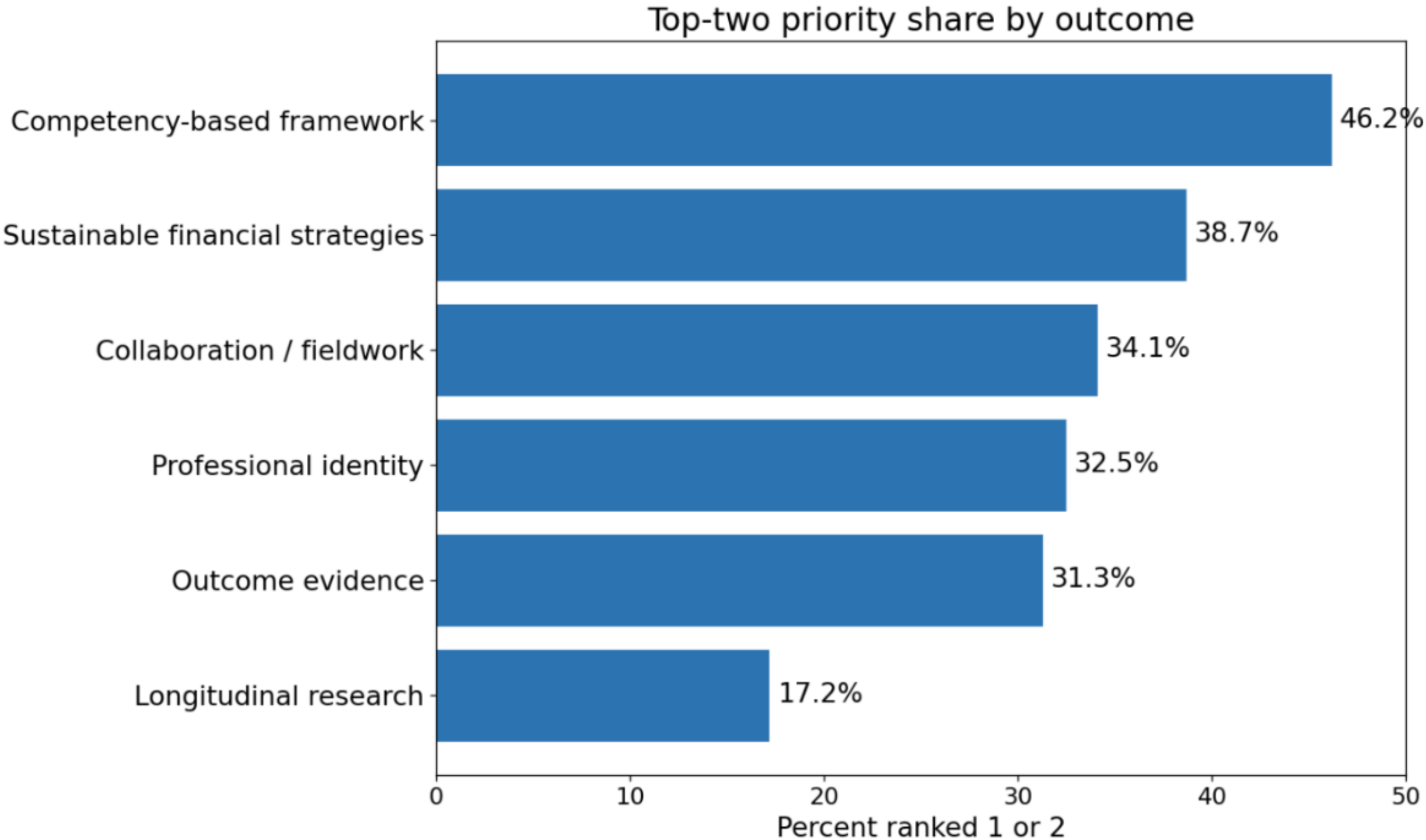
Incomplete rankings

Excluded from analysis.

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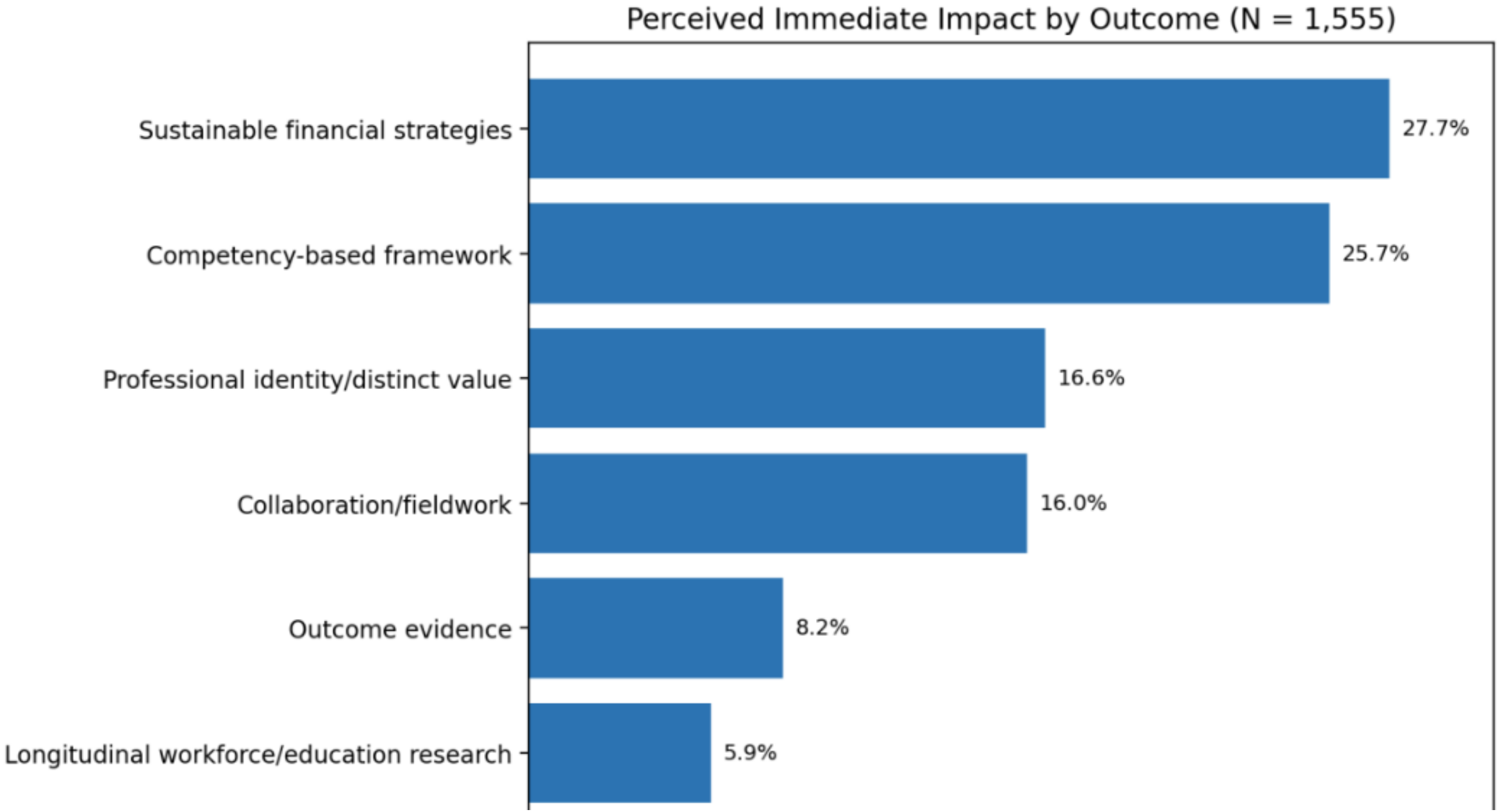
Respondents were first asked to **rank 6 priorities** identified through environmental scans, data review and feedback from the academic leadership councils at your spring 2026 meeting.

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Top-two priority share by outcome
Competency-based framework
Sustainable financial strategies
Collaboration / fieldwork
Professional identity
Outcome evidence
Longitudinal research
46.2%
38.7%
34.1%
32.5%
31.3%
17.2%
0
10
20
30
40
50
Percent ranked 1 or 2

A separate survey item asked respondents to **select the single action they believed would have the most immediate impact** on OTA and OT education. All 1,555 respondents in the analytic ranking sample answered this item.

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Perceived Immediate Impact by Outcome (N = 1,555)
Sustainable financial strategies
27.7%
Competency-based framework
25.7%
Professional identity/distinct value
16.6%
Collaboration/fieldwork
16.0%
Outcome evidence
8.2%
Longitudinal workforce/education research
5.9%

Key takeaways

- Competency-based framework outcome is the clearest overall high-priority
- Financial strategies also receive substantial high-priority support.
- Respondents felt the most immediate impact would come from addressing financial strategies

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What did respondents say was missing:

- Clear clinical foundations and applied preparation
- Educational cost and the value of degree pathways
- Alignment of accreditation certification and practice
- Fieldwork support and workable learning models
- Faculty capacity and educational quality
- Accessibility inclusion and student support
- OTA roles and career progression
- Technology evidence use and practice viability

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Survey.

Completed.

Brainstorming with small groups.

Clarify findings from survey and start formulating actionable steps.

Build out Recommendations.

Build out practical, achievable actions to address challenges facing education

Report back.

Board of Directors meeting in February. ALC meeting in April.



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