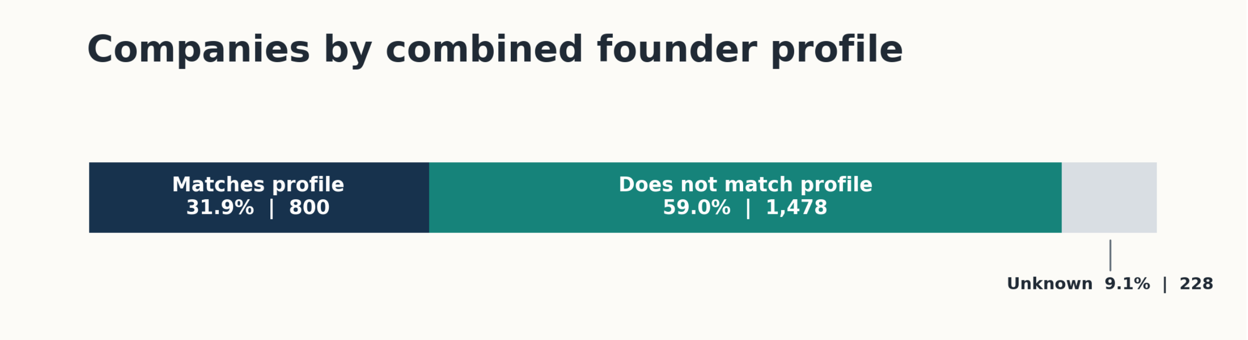
# YC Founder Credentials

This report covers every dated YC batch from Summer 2022 through the provisional Fall 2026 records in the August 19, 2026 local snapshot. The AI-tag trend ends at Fall 2025 because the 2026 batches were still open. Across completed batches, AI-tagged companies rose from 18.9% before Summer 2022 to 58.4% from Summer 2022 onward.

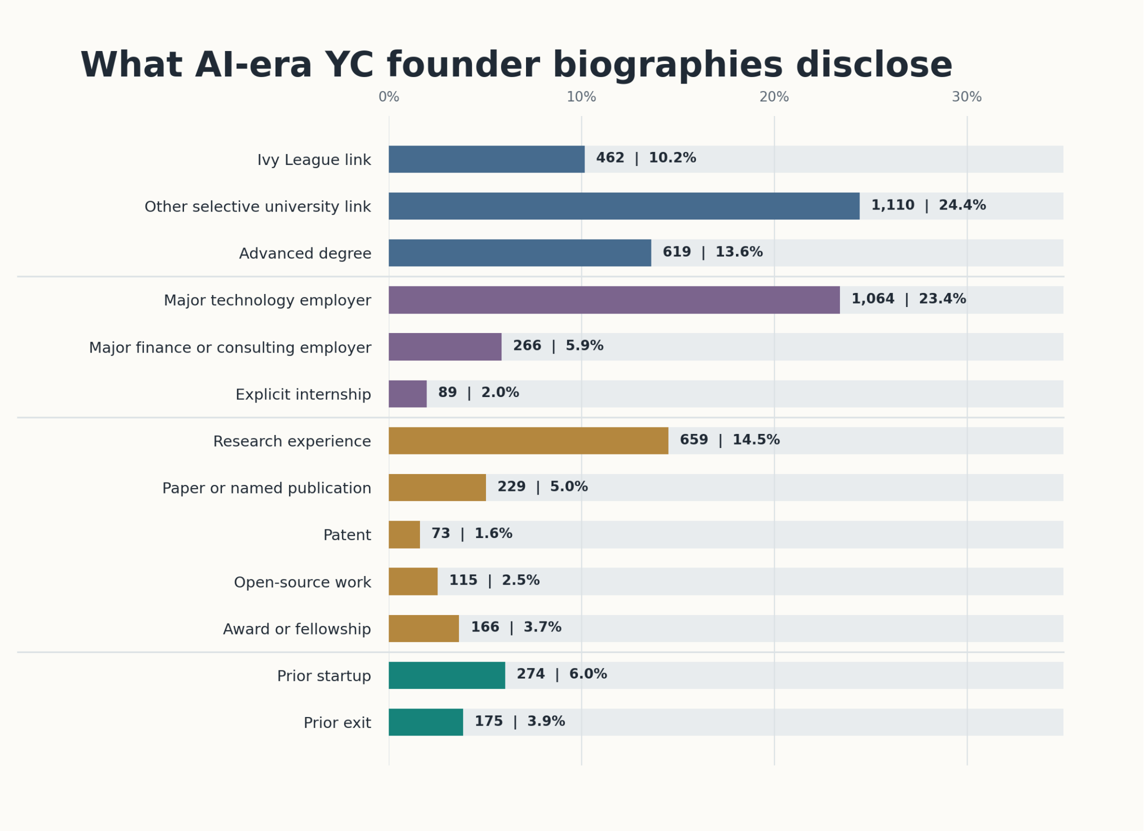
The sample has 2,506 companies, including 564 from 2026, and 4,545 current active founder-company ties, including 1,115 from 2026.

A company matches the **combined founder profile** when at least one current founder has an Ivy League or other selective-university link, plus one other listed credential. The groups are 800 profile matches (31.9%), 1,478 profile non-matches with complete biographies (59.0%), and 228 unknown (9.1%).




## Individual credential and signal rates

Each bar shows one signal as a share of all 4,545 founder-company ties. The signals overlap, so the percentages do not sum to 100%.



## What the less obvious types mean

- **Other selective university link:** A school on the frozen non-Ivy list. Examples include Stanford, MIT, Oxford, and Cambridge.
- **Major employer:** The frozen lists include firms such as Google, Microsoft, OpenAI, and Stripe for technology, and Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan, McKinsey, and BCG for finance or consulting.
- **Explicit internship:** Every internship named in the biography counts. There is no prestige cutoff.

A positive count requires explicit text in the preserved YC biography. No matching phrase means not disclosed, not absent. Current biographies can include achievements after YC admission. This accepted-only descriptive sample does not estimate admission odds or causation.

## Public data and API

Send the metadata URL to an AI tool first. It links the full CSV files, explains each field, and states the evidence limits.

PDF · Founder CSV · Company CSV · OpenAPI