

Graduation Survey: 2012 to 2015 Trend Report

Center for the Study of Student Life

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INTRODUCTION

The Ohio State University Undergraduate and Master's/ Professional Graduation Surveys were first administered in the spring term of 2011 and are administered at the end of each term by the Office of Student Life. The surveys gather information about the career and education plans of potential graduates, as well as students' satisfaction with Ohio State. In recent years, data from the academic terms comprising the academic year (summer, autumn, and spring) have been compiled. This report presents the results from the spring 2012, autumn 2012/spring 2013, the 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 administrations. Please note that the surveys have changed over time and this report compares findings when direct comparisons are available across years.

DESIGN

The surveys were designed by representatives from the Registrar's Office, the Office of Institutional Research and Planning, the Office of Student Life, University Communications, and the Alumni Association. Two surveys were developed—one for undergraduates and one for students earning Master's or professional degrees. Graduate students completing PhDs are not surveyed because PhD graduates are invited to take the Survey of Earned Doctorates, which duplicates many of items on the Graduation Survey.

The surveys include the following sections: future contact information, students' satisfaction with Ohio State, students' immediate career plans, students' future education plans, and the amount of debt incurred in pursuit of their degrees. In addition, undergraduate students are asked questions about the curriculum. Over the past few years, the survey underwent several revisions; items were added, changed or response options were edited.

The career and the future education items for the undergraduate survey were taken from the Association of American Universities Data Exchange (AAUDE) survey. For the Master's and professional students' survey, the AAUDE items were adapted to reflect appropriate language (for example, "major" or "minor" was changed to "field") and the dollar ranges for the item about debt were adjusted to reflect more likely ranges for Master's and professional students.

INVITATIONS AND RESPONSE RATES

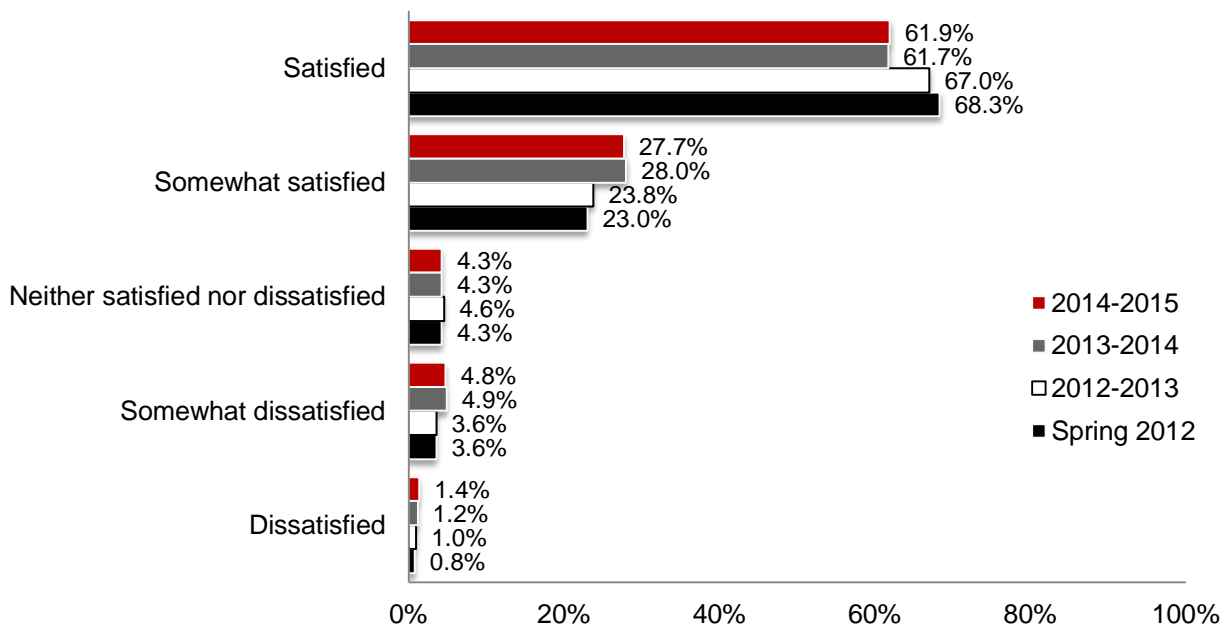
Students who applied to graduate each term were invited to take the appropriate survey. If students planned to graduate with more than one degree, they received only one invitation. If students planned to graduate with both an undergraduate and graduate degree, they were invited to take the Master's/Professional survey. Response rates for each of the academic years, by degree obtained, are presented in the table below.

		Undergraduate	Master's	Professional
Spring 2012	Invited	7,040	1,942	858
	Responded	2,829	596	247
	Response Rate	40.2%	30.7%	28.8%
Autumn 2012 & Spring 2013	Invited	8,838	2,583	872
	Responded	4,961	1,204	433
	Response Rate	56.1%	46.6%	49.7%
2013-2014	Invited	10,192	2,900	901
	Responded	4,713	1,109	435
	Response Rate	46.2%	38.2%	48.3%
2014-2015	Invited	10,765	2,860	897
	Responded	3,969	946	315
	Response Rate	36.9%	33.1%	35.1%

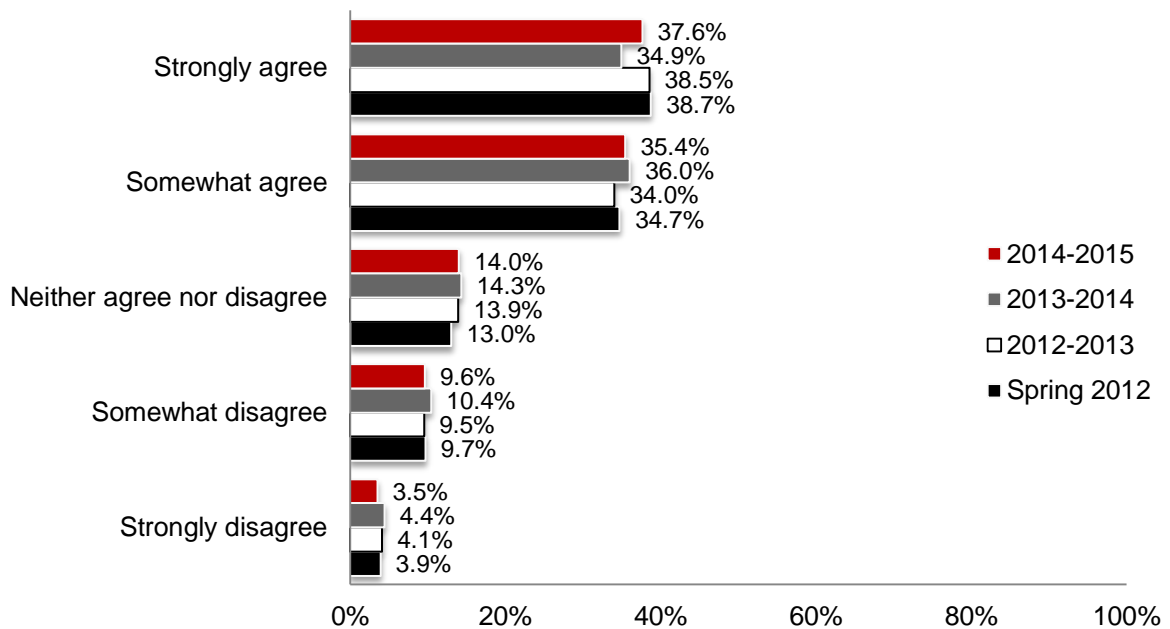
UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall? Undergraduates

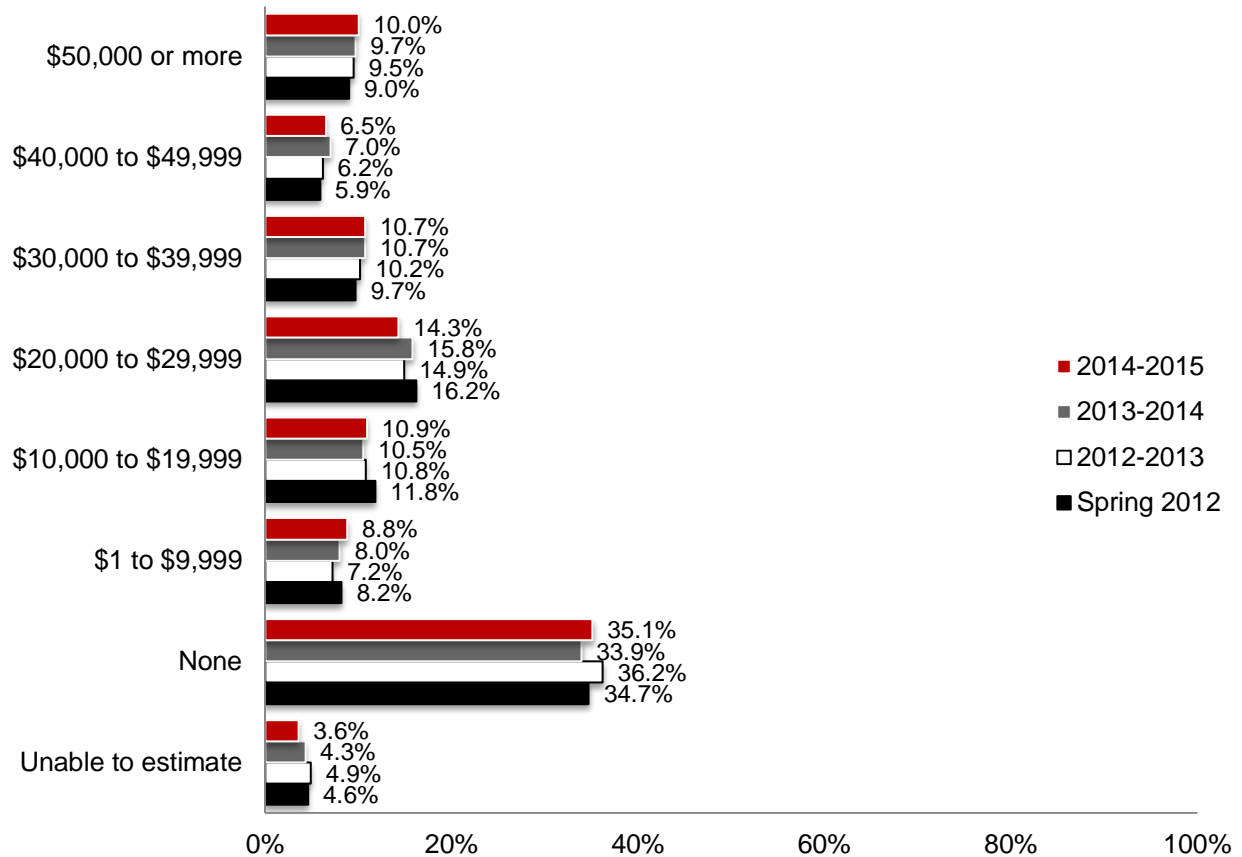


Reflecting back, do you now think that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? Undergraduates



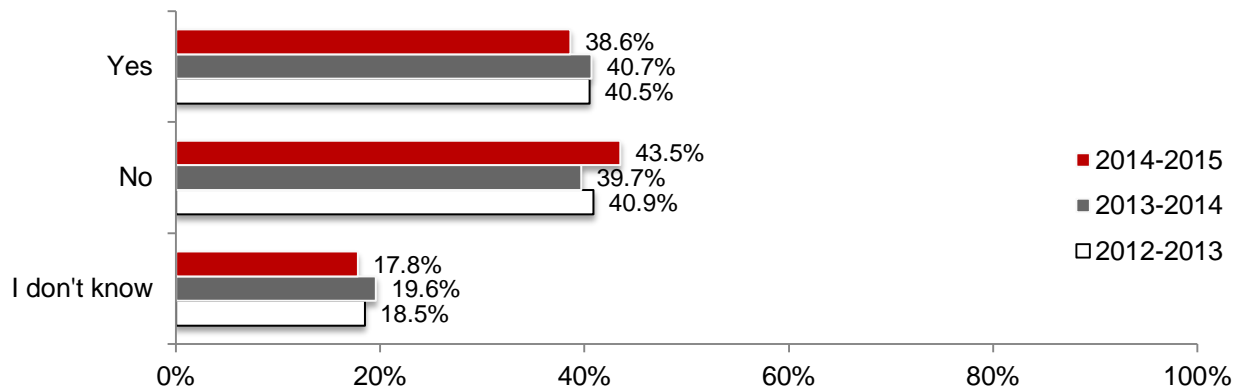
DEBT

At the time you graduate, approximately what will be the total amount borrowed to finance your education that you are personally responsible for repaying?
Undergraduates



UPON GRADATION

Are you planning to stay in Columbus, Ohio after graduation?
Undergraduates

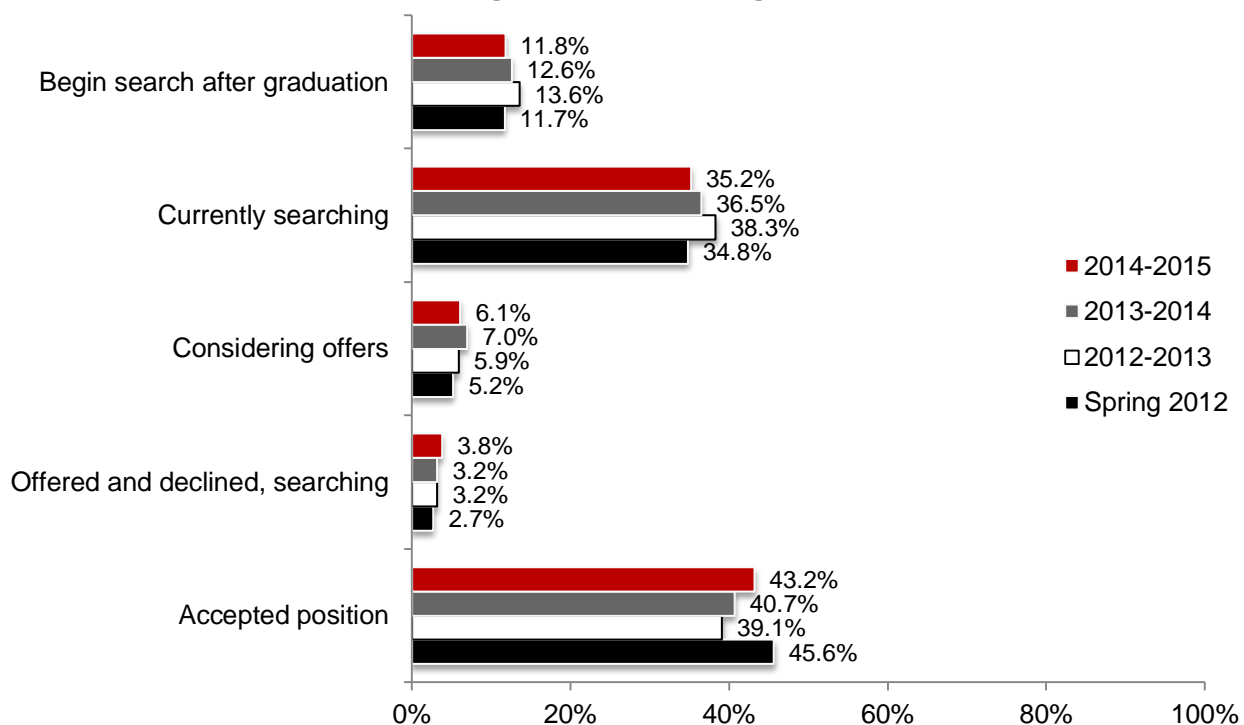


What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Spring 2012 Undergraduates	2012-2013 Undergraduates	2013-2014 Undergraduates	2014-2015 Undergraduates
Employment, full-time paid	57.4%	60.2%	62.2%	63.7%
Employment, part-time paid	6.1%	6.2%	5.7%	6.2%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	28.7%	27.5%	25.8%	24.7%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%
Additional undergraduate coursework	2.4%	1.6%	1.2%	1.2%
Military service	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	2.1%	1.3%	1.7%	1.5%
Starting or raising a family	0.6%	0.6%	0.8%	0.4%

EMPLOYMENT PLANS

Only respondents who reported that they would either be employed part-time or full-time following graduation were asked the following items.

Which of the following best describes your current state of plans for employment after graduation? Undergraduates



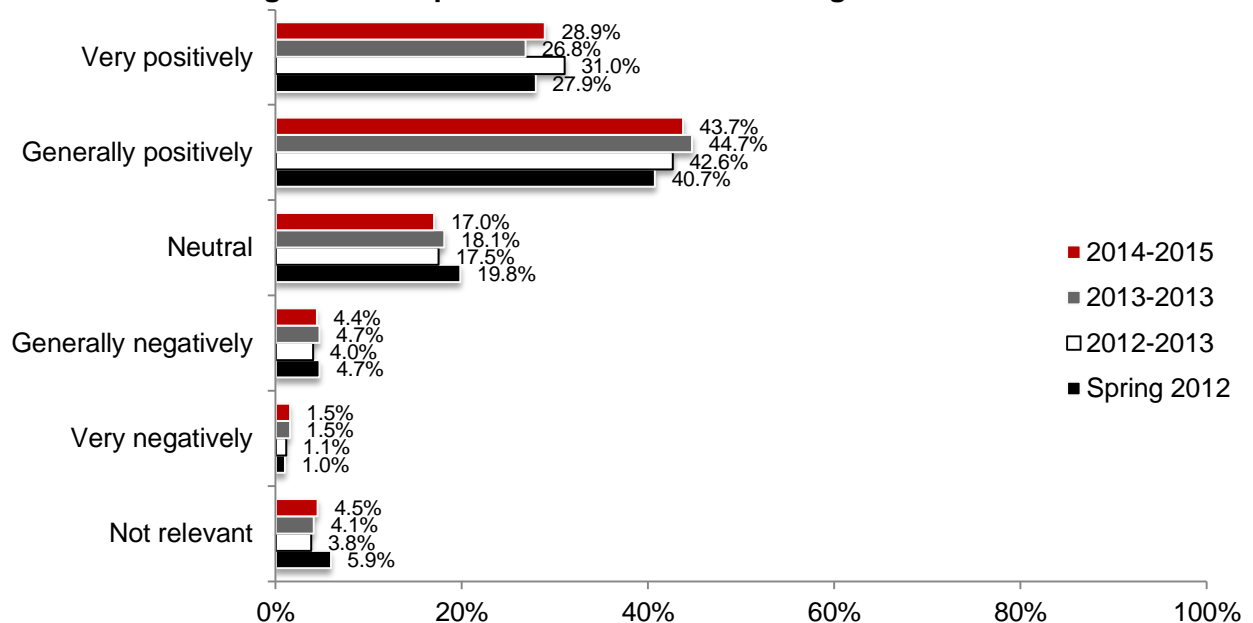
If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Spring 2012 Under-graduates	2012-2013 Under-graduates	2013-2014 Under-graduates	2014-2015 Under-graduates
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	43.4%	39.3%	40.9%	41.7%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	7.4%	7.7%	6.8%	7.4%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	2.2%	1.7%	2.0%	2.3%
Government or other public institution/agency	9.1%	8.5%	6.8%	7.9%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	37.9%	42.8%	43.6%	40.7%
Is your prospective position related to your undergraduate field(s) of study?				
Same field as major(s)	45.3%	41.6%	38.5%	40.7%
Related to major(s)	33.4%	30.4%	29.1%	28.9%
Related to minor(s)	2.5%	2.5%	2.2%	2.6%
Not related to major(s) or minor(s)	12.0%	10.1%	9.6%	8.5%
Not applicable	6.9%	15.4%	20.6%	19.4%
How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?				
Very well	23.5%	23.3%	22.1%	20.5%
Generally well	51.6%	51.0%	52.2%	52.6%
Neutral	16.7%	17.8%	16.3%	17.8%
Inadequately	6.0%	5.2%	6.0%	6.0%
Very inadequately	1.8%	1.8%	2.4%	2.3%
Not relevant	0.4%	1.0%	1.0%	0.8%
How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?				
Essential	8.4%	11.3%	16.4%	10.4%
Very important	21.5%	22.4%	24.6%	19.2%
Neutral	17.6%	18.4%	18.2%	18.6%
Somewhat important	27.6%	26.0%	21.5%	27.6%
Not important	16.7%	14.6%	11.6%	17.3%
Not applicable	8.2%	7.3%	7.6%	7.0%
Where will you be employed? (Top location listed)				
Ohio	70.0%	74.2%	74.4%	66.1%

FUTURE EDUCATION

Which degrees do you plan to pursue upon graduation or in the future? Undergraduates

Spring 2012	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law	2.6%	5.7%	91.7%
Medicine (MD)	1.7%	3.1%	95.2%
Other Medical	3.7%	4.7%	91.6%
Second Bachelor's	1.5%	4.8%	93.7%
Master's	17.8%	48.0%	34.2%
Doctorate	2.9%	14.1%	83.0%
2012-2013	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law	2.9%	10.0%	87.1%
Medicine (MD)	2.1%	6.8%	91.1%
Other Medical	4.0%	7.6%	88.4%
Second Bachelor's	1.7%	7.3%	91.0%
Master's	15.5%	49.9%	34.6%
Doctorate	3.2%	17.5%	79.3%
2013-2014	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law	2.2%	11.1%	86.6%
Medicine (MD)	2.3%	7.1%	90.6%
Other Medical	3.8%	6.9%	89.3%
Second Bachelor's	1.2%	8.1%	90.7%
Master's	14.3%	52.6%	33.1%
Doctorate	2.8%	17.8%	79.5%
2014-2015	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law	1.7%	6.1%	92.2%
Medicine (MD)	2.1%	4.1%	93.9%
Other Medical	3.2%	4.3%	92.5%
Second Bachelor's	1.3%	5.4%	93.3%
Master's	13.8%	48.9%	37.3%
Doctorate	2.6%	15.2%	82.1%

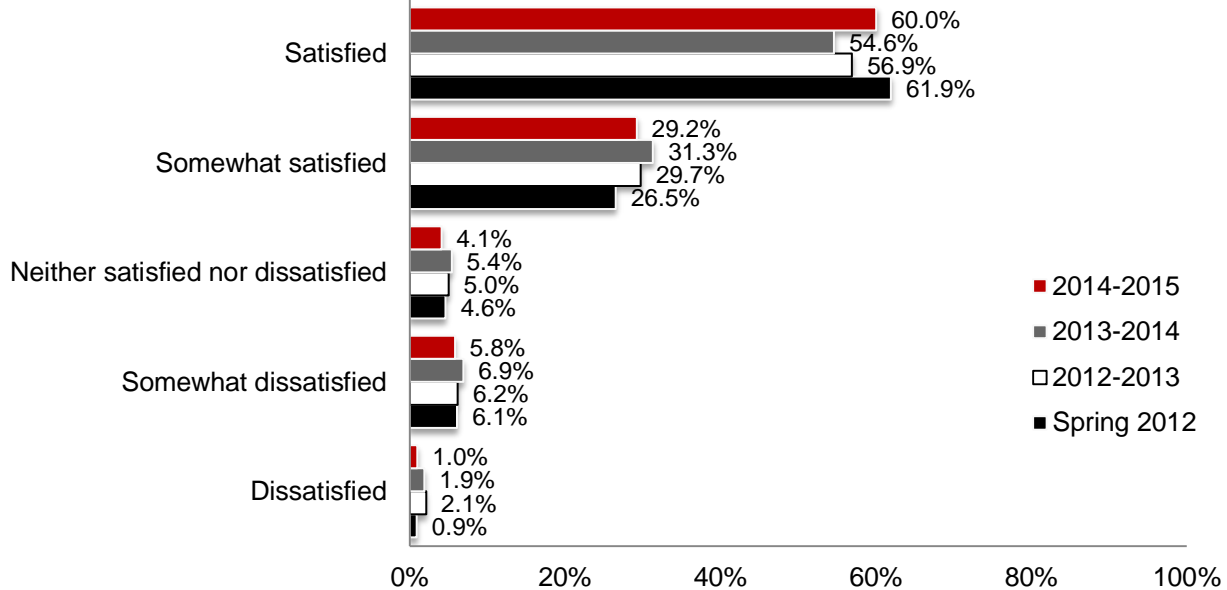
To what extent have your overall undergraduate experiences influenced your plans for graduate or professional studies? Undergraduates



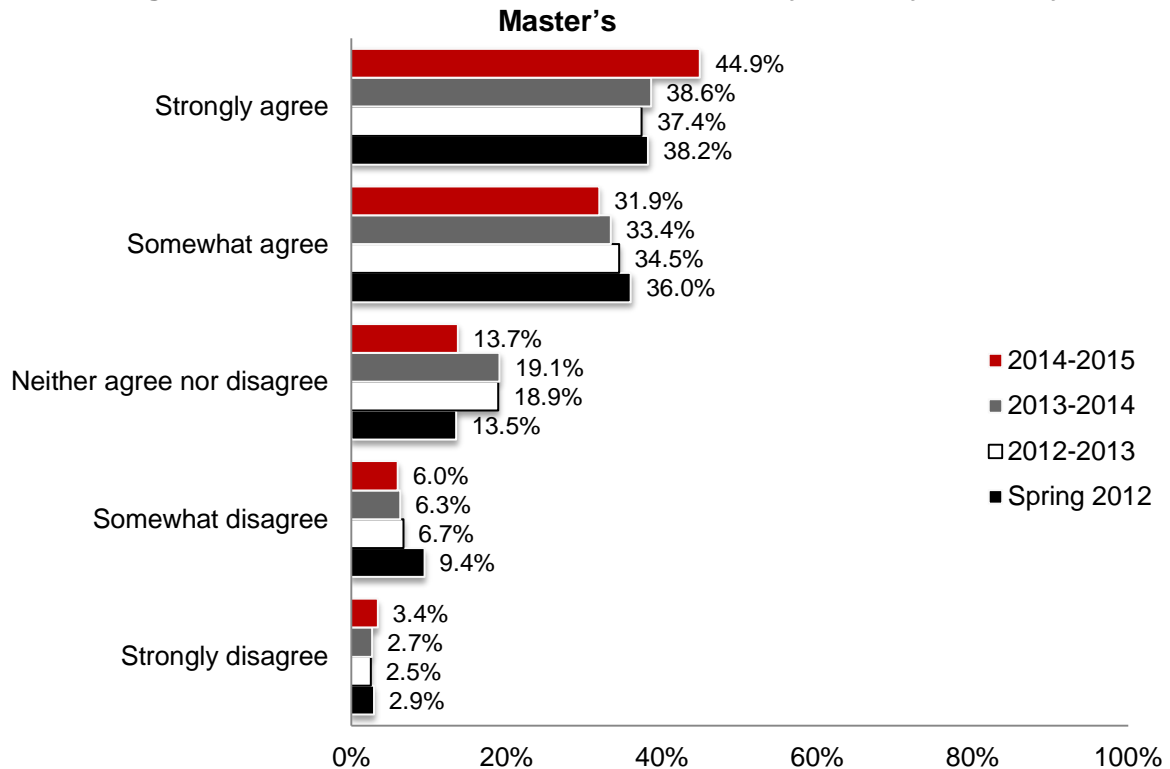
MASTER'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall? Master's

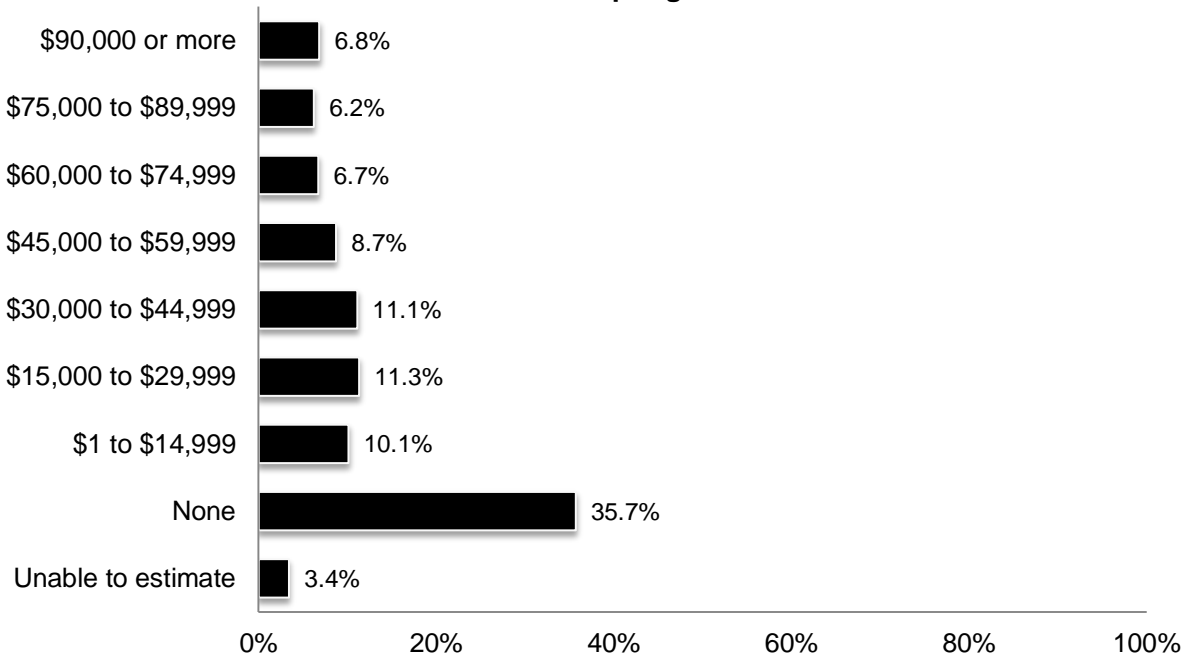


Reflecting back, do you now think that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? Master's

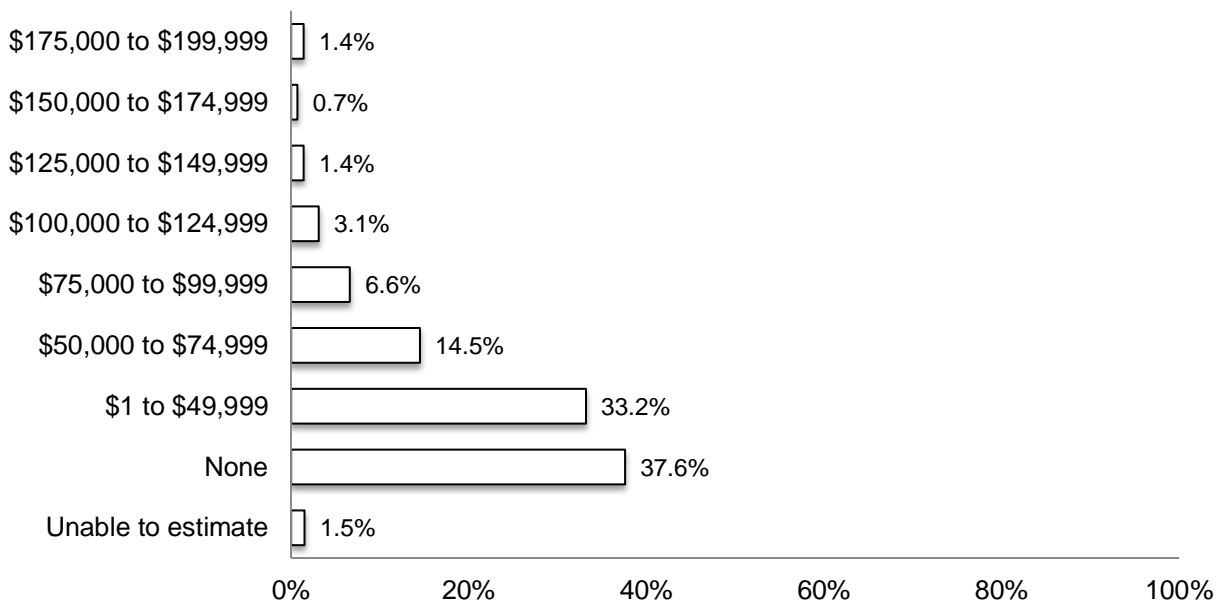


DEBT

At the time you graduate, approximately what will be the total amount borrowed to finance your education that you are personally responsible for repaying:
Master's Spring 2012

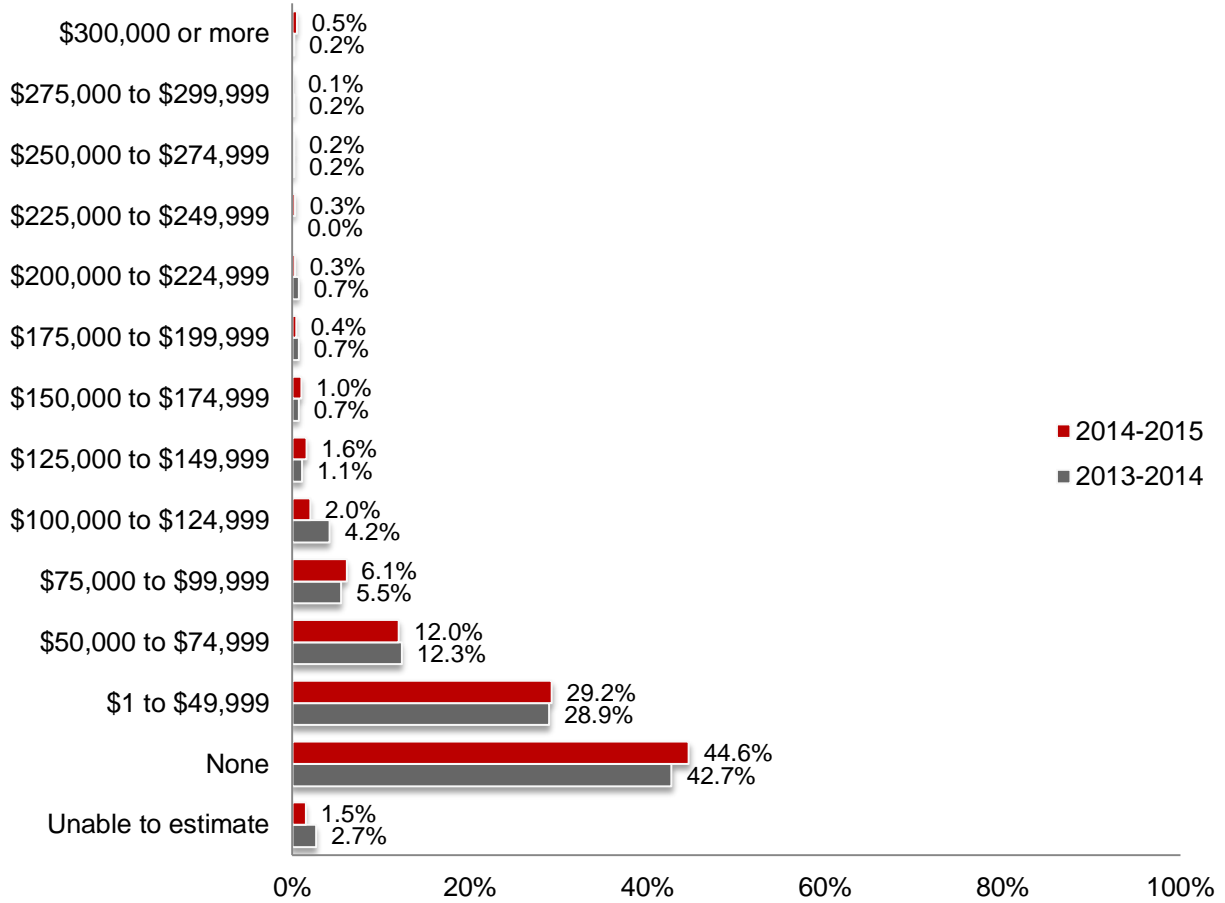


At the time you graduate, approximately what will be the total amount borrowed to finance your education that you are personally responsible for repaying:
Master's 2012-2013



At the time you graduate, approximately what will be the total amount borrowed to finance your education that you are personally responsible for repaying?

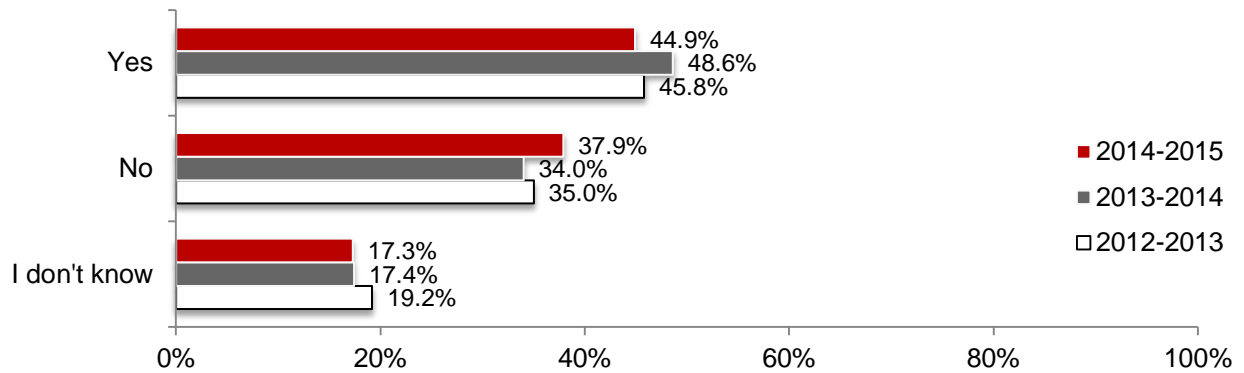
Master's



UPON GRADUATION

Are you planning to stay in Columbus, Ohio after graduation?

Master's

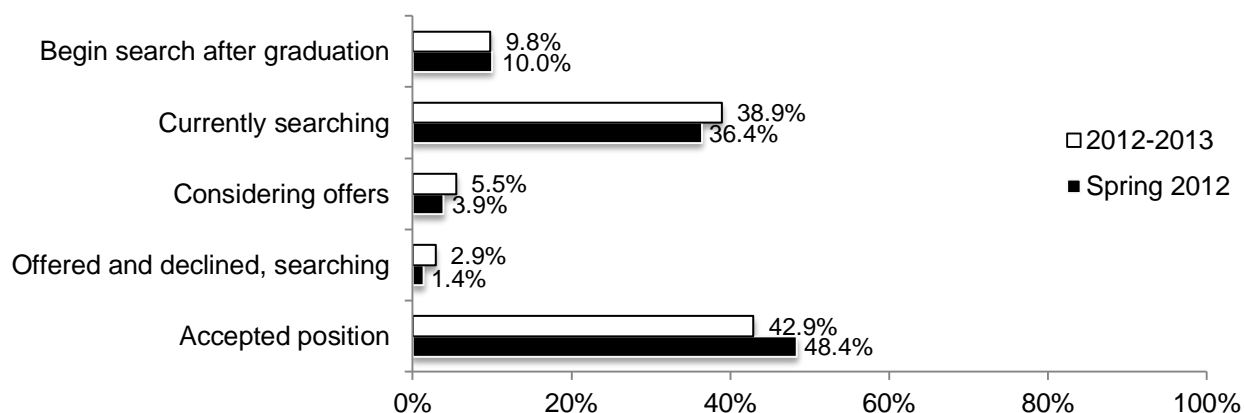


What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Spring 2012 Master's	2012-2013 Master's	2013-2014 Master's	2014-2015 Master's
Employment, full-time paid	78.8%	80.4%	82.6%	80.9%
Employment, part-time paid	5.1%	4.5%	2.5%	3.5%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	13.0%	12.5%	13.2%	13.9%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	0.8%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%
Military service	0.8%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.5%	1.0%	0.2%	0.5%
Starting or raising a family	1.0%	0.8%	1.1%	0.9%

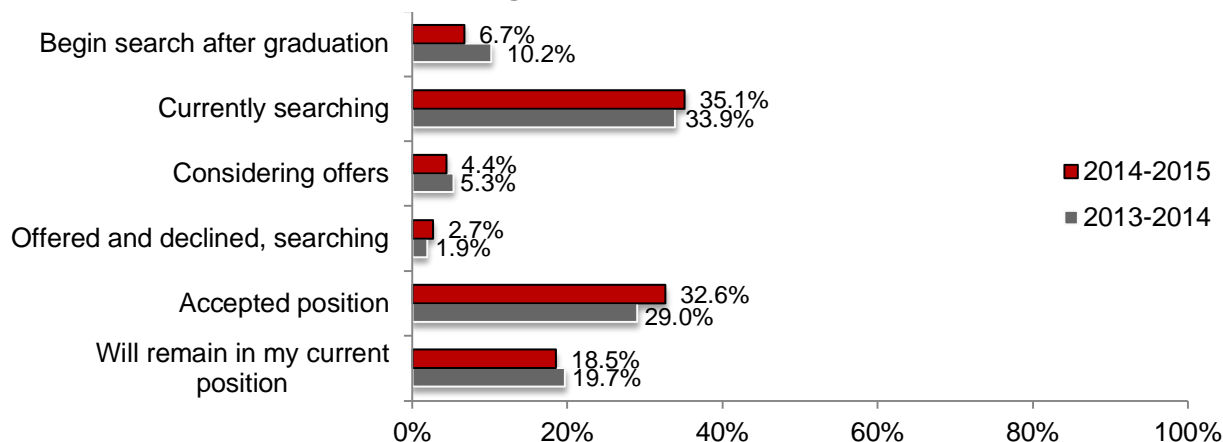
EMPLOYMENT PLANS

Only respondents who reported that they would either be employed part-time or full-time following graduation were asked the following items.

Which of the following best describes your current state of plans for employment after graduation? Master's



Which of the following best describes your current state of plans for employment after graduation? Master's¹



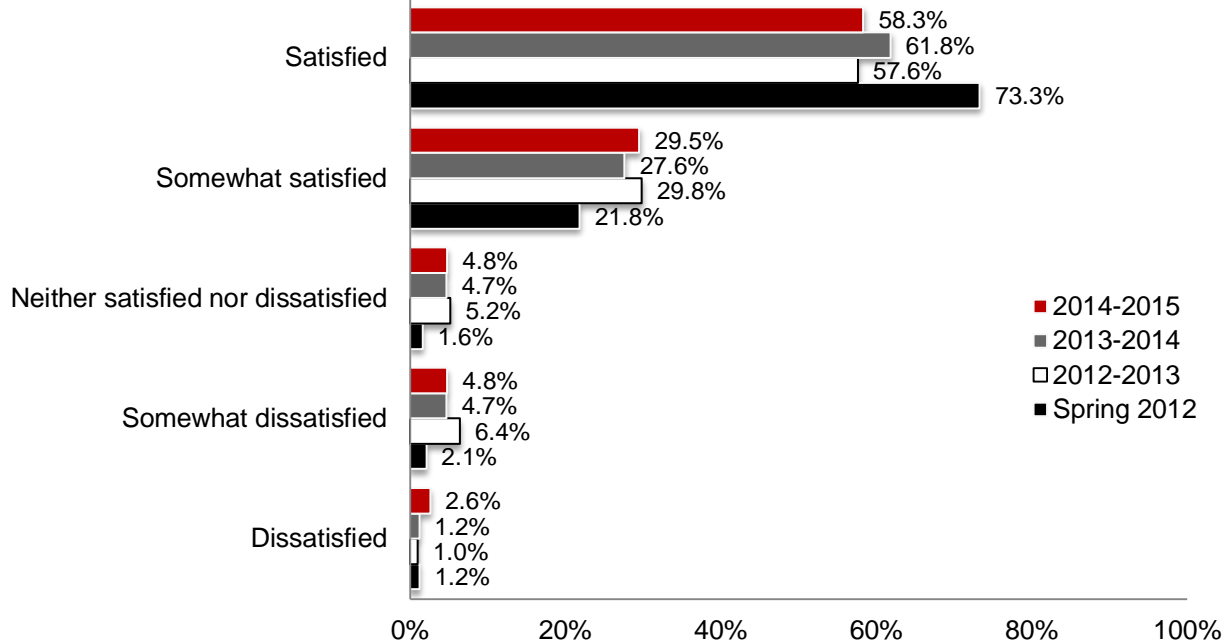
¹ The 2013-2014 data only represent Autumn 2013 and Spring 2014 as the item was asked differently in Summer 2013.

If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization/sector will you work?	Spring 2012 Master's	2012-2013 Master's	2013-2014 Master's	2014-2015 Master's
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	33.2%	34.0%	33.5%	30.7%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	13.3%	14.4%	11.7%	15.4%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%	1.3%
Government or other public institution/agency	16.7%	13.1%	11.5%	18.2%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	35.5%	37.3%	42.3%	34.4%
Is your prospective position related to your graduate/professional field(s) of study?				
Same field	71.6%	71.9%	67.1%	67.7%
Related to field of study	21.1%	20.7%	27.5%	25.9%
Not related to field of study	2.6%	2.4%	1.5%	3.7%
Not applicable	4.7%	5.0%	3.9%	2.7%
How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?				
Very well	27.1%	30.2%	27.6%	27.9%
Generally well	54.7%	50.1%	52.0%	51.0%
Neutral	12.3%	13.9%	14.4%	15.4%
Inadequately	2.6%	4.5%	4.3%	4.6%
Very inadequately	1.2%	1.3%	1.7%	1.2%
How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?				
Essential	7.7%	8.8%	10.3%	7.4%
Very important	15.9%	17.9%	18.5%	19.0%
Neutral	15.4%	19.1%	16.9%	18.8%
Somewhat important	24.8%	23.7%	27.2%	26.2%
Not important	23.2%	16.7%	17.3%	18.4%
Not applicable	13.0%	13.7%	9.7%	10.1%
Where will you be employed? (Top location listed)				
Ohio	67.0%	70.2%	68.8%	60.4%

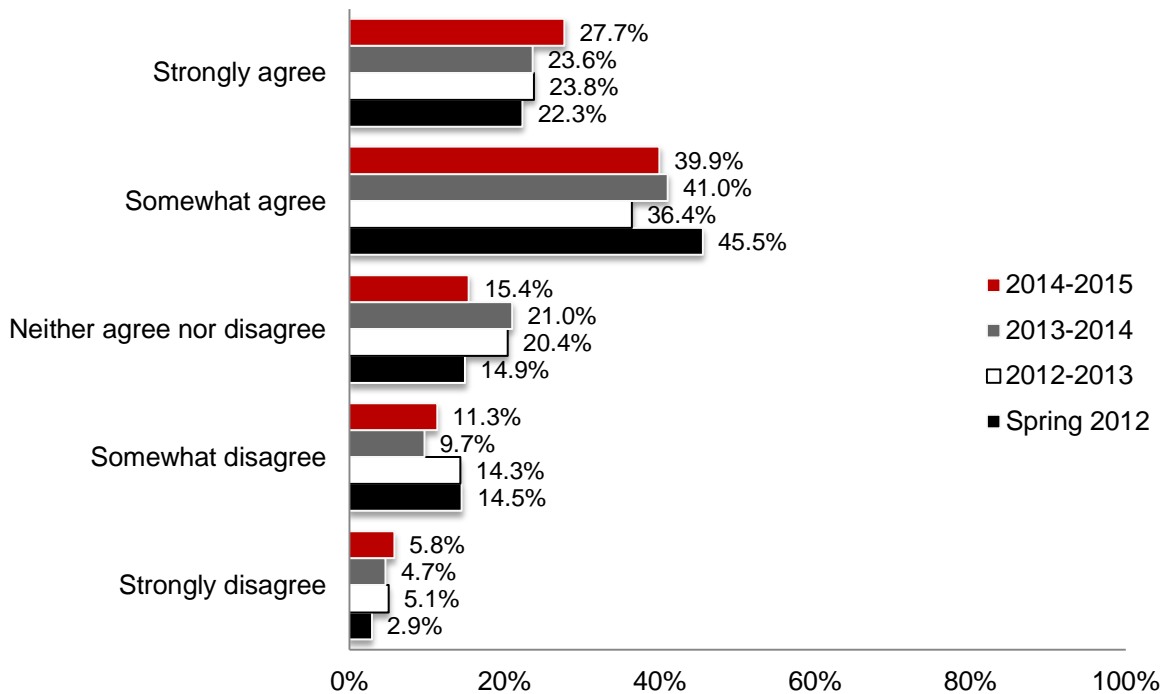
PROFESSIONAL DEGREE RECIPIENTS

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall? Professional

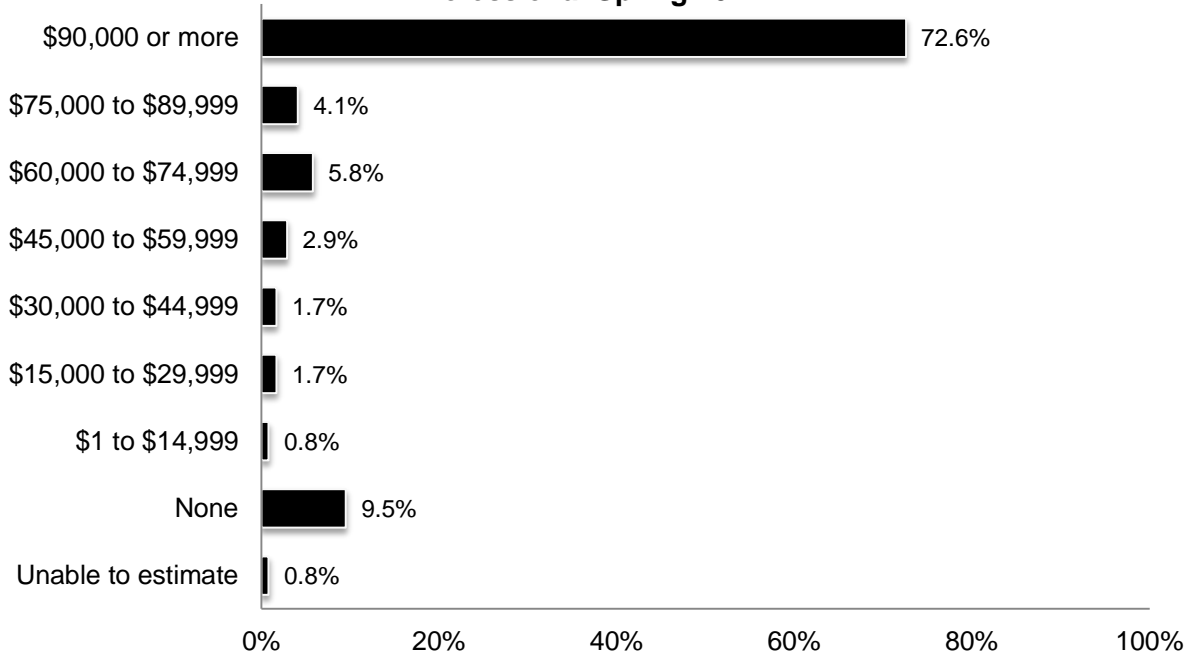


Reflecting back, do you now think that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? Professional

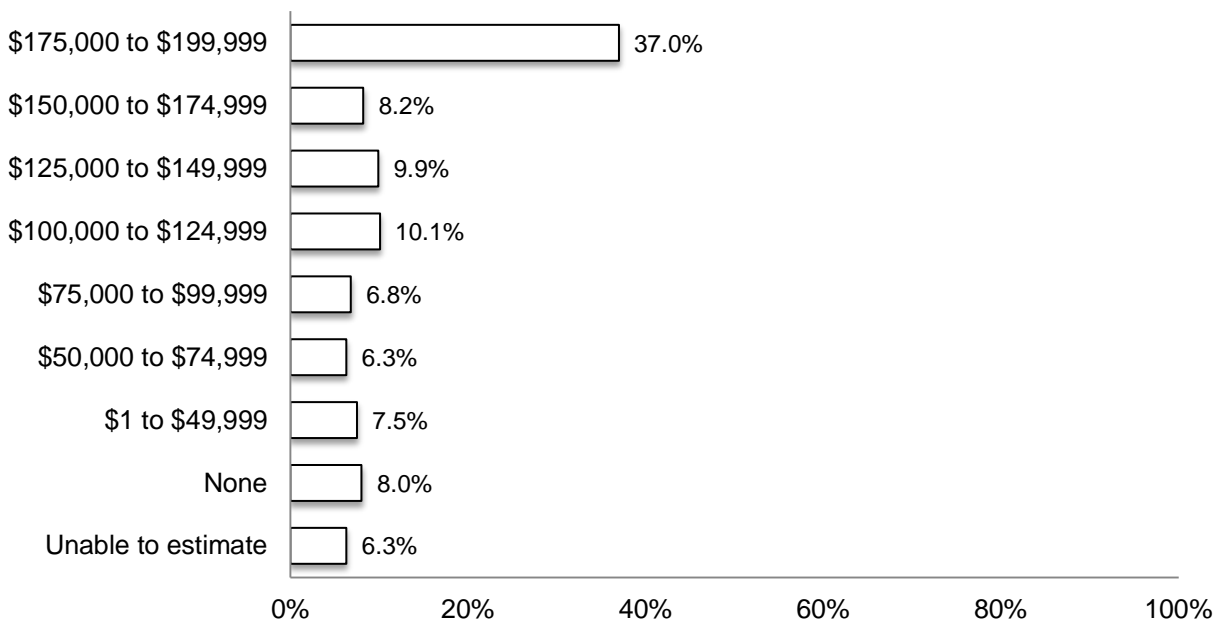


DEBT

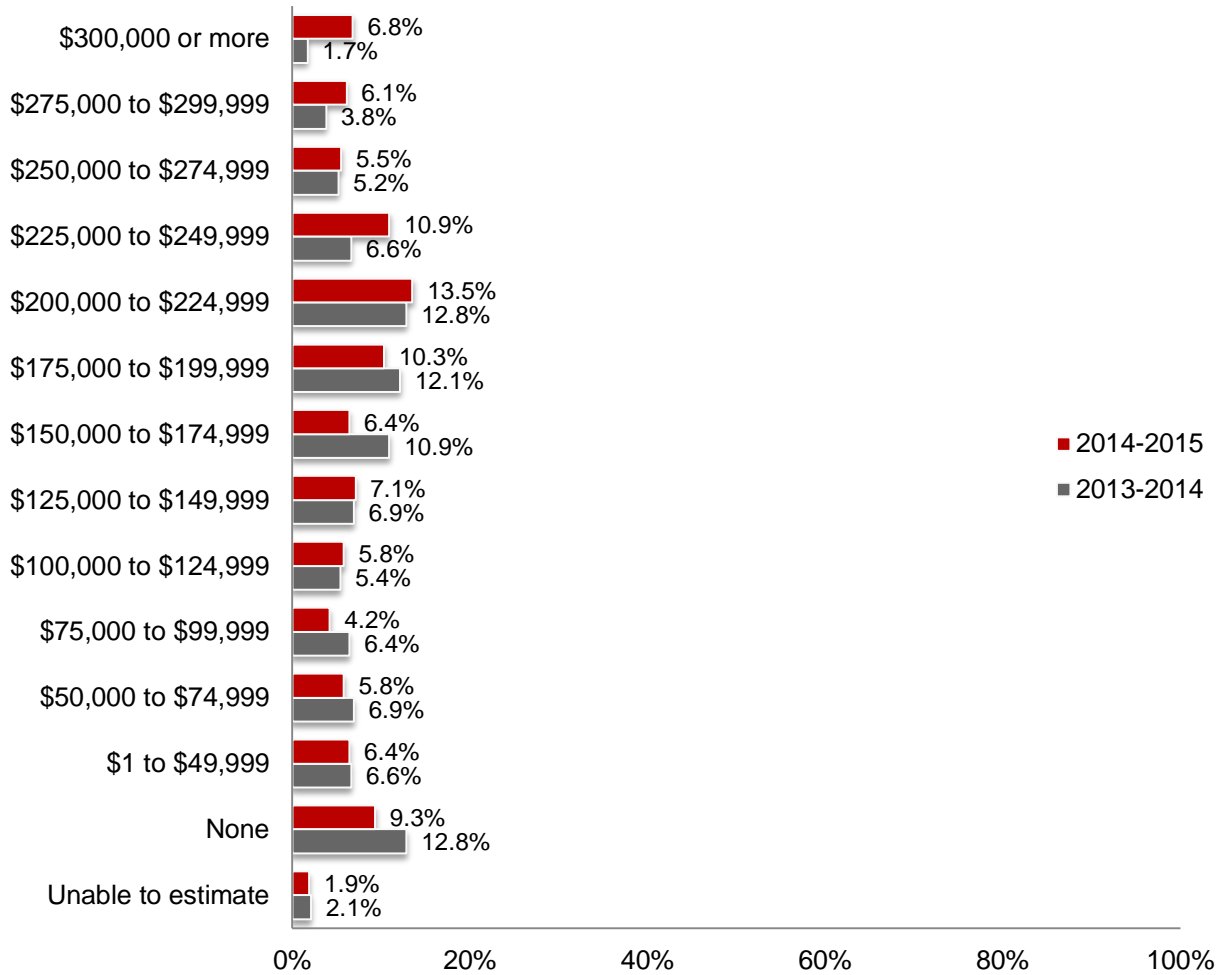
**At the time you graduate, approximately what will be the total amount borrowed to finance your education that you are personally responsible for repaying:
Professional Spring 2012**



**At the time you graduate, approximately what will be the total amount borrowed to finance your education that you are personally responsible for repaying:
Professional 2012-2013**

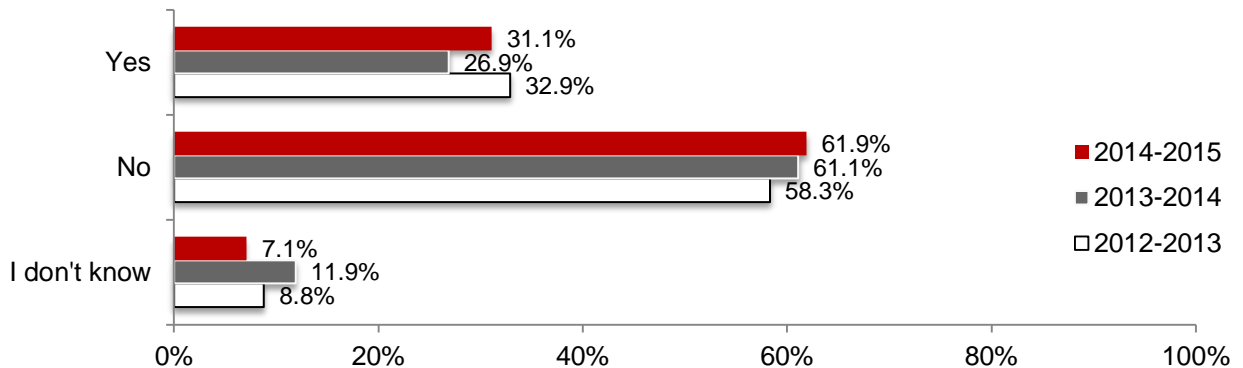


At the time you graduate, approximately what will be the total amount borrowed to finance your education that you are personally responsible for repaying? Professional



UPON GRADATION

Are you planning to stay in Columbus, Ohio after graduation? Professional

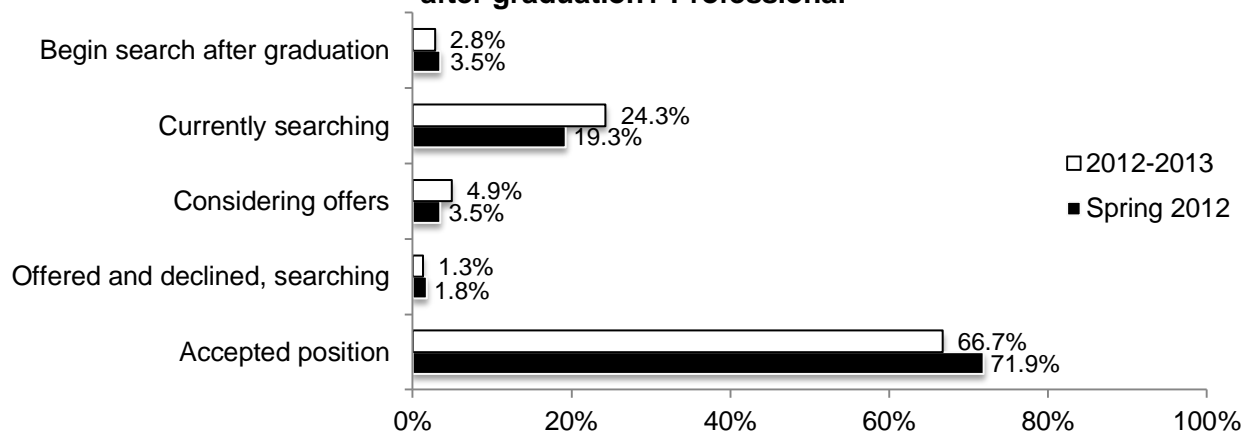


What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Spring 2012 Professional	2012-2013 Professional	2013-2014 Professional	2014-2015 Professional
Employment, full-time paid	89.4%	92.1%	90.4%	87.5%
Employment, part-time paid	4.5%	1.7%	1.9%	1.9%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	3.3%	3.4%	5.2%	7.1%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Military service	2.0%	2.6%	2.1%	3.5%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Starting or raising a family	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%

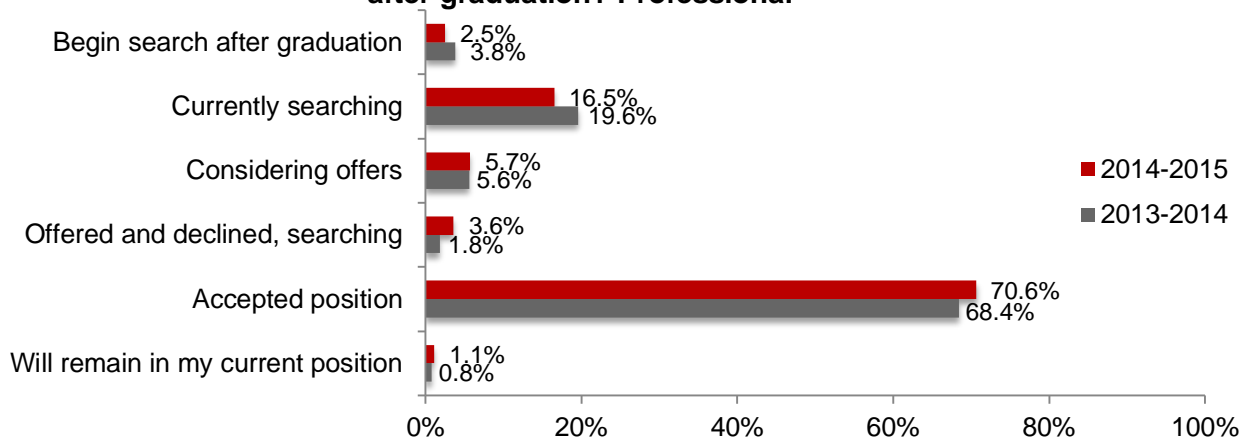
EMPLOYMENT PLANS

Only respondents who reported that they would either be employed part-time or full-time following graduation were asked the following items.

Which of the following best describes your current state of plans for employment after graduation? Professional



Which of the following best describes your current state of plans for employment after graduation? Professional²



² The 2013-2014 data only represent Autumn 2013 and Spring 2014 as the item was asked differently in Summer 2013.

If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Spring 2012 Professional	2012-2013 Professional	2013-2014 Professional	2014-2015 Professional
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	44.9%	40.3%	39.3%	44.8%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	19.4%	17.3%	18.5%	16.5%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	3.2%	5.7%	3.9%	7.2%
Government or other public institution/agency	15.7%	17.0%	15.9%	14.7%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	16.7%	19.7%	22.4%	16.8%
Is your prospective position related to your graduate or professional field(s) of study?				
Same field	91.3%	90.1%	92.0%	93.2%
Related to field of study	6.1%	7.3%	5.9%	2.9%
Not related to field of study	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	1.1%
Not applicable	2.2%	2.3%	2.1%	2.9%
How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?				
Very well	40.8%	22.7%	38.2%	26.5%
Generally well	46.5%	52.3%	48.2%	56.6%
Neutral	8.3%	13.5%	8.7%	12.2%
Inadequately	3.1%	5.4%	3.6%	2.9%
Very inadequately	0.9%	1.0%	1.3%	1.8%
How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?				
Essential	7.5%	7.0%	7.2%	7.9%
Very important	13.7%	16.1%	20.3%	17.6%
Neutral	19.4%	21.1%	16.9%	17.2%
Somewhat important	30.8%	27.9%	30.0%	31.2%
Not important	23.3%	22.7%	19.0%	20.8%
Not applicable	5.3%	5.2%	6.7%	5.4%
Where will you be employed? (Top two locations)				
Ohio	50.9%	62.0%	54.1%	58.5%