

Graduation Survey: 2013 to 2017 Trend Report

Center for the Study of Student Life

June 2017

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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 experiences, satisfaction and career and education plans of graduating students, as well as their permanent contact information. This report presents the results from the last four academic 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.

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.

Since 2011, the surveys have undergone several revisions. Some items have been added or changed, and some response options have been edited to better reflect student perspectives. This report compares findings when multiple years of data are available.

INVITATIONS AND RESPONSE RATES

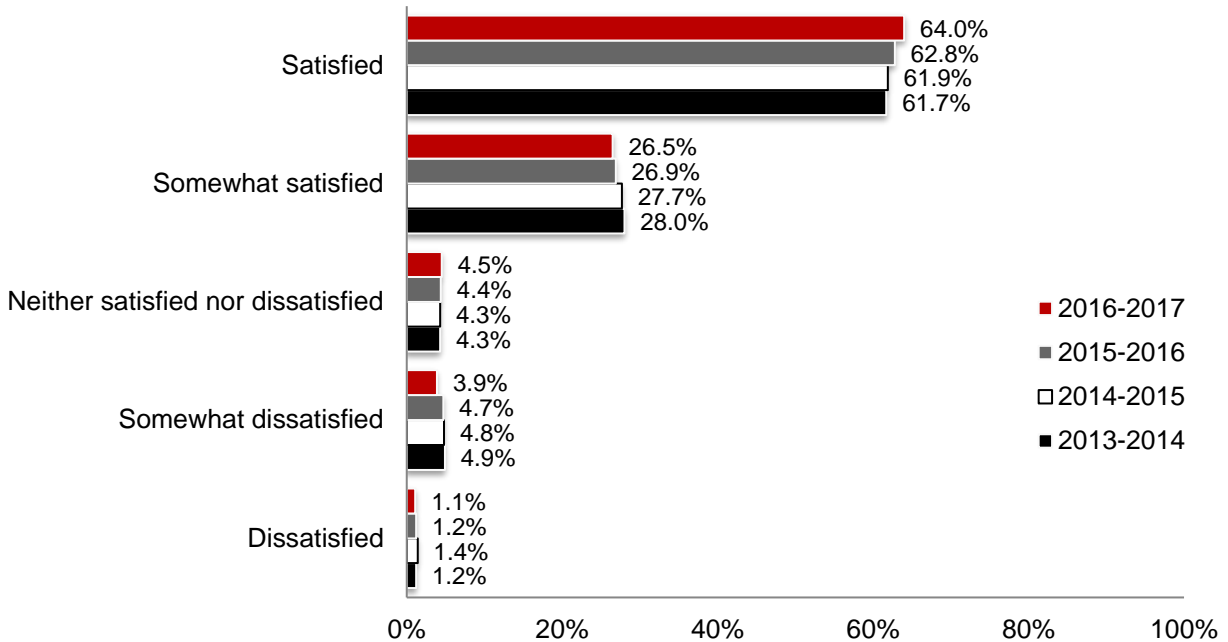
Students who applied to graduate each term were invited to take the appropriate survey. If students planned to graduate with more than one degree, they received only one invitation. If students planned to graduate with both an undergraduate and graduate degree, they were invited to take the Master's/Professional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

		Undergraduate	Master's	Professional
Summer 2013, Autumn 2013 & Spring 2014	Invited	10,192	2,900	901
	Responded	4,713	1,109	435
	Response Rate	46.2%	38.2%	48.3%
Summer 2014, Autumn 2014 & Spring 2015	Invited	10,765	2,860	897
	Responded	3,969	946	315
	Response Rate	36.9%	33.1%	35.1%
Summer 2015, Autumn 2015 & Spring 2016	Invited	10,916	2,810	837
	Responded	4,388	1,123	336
	Response Rate	40.2%	40.0%	40.1%
Summer 2016, Autumn 2016 & Spring 2017	Invited	10,975	2,986	783
	Responded	5,183	1,289	348
	Response Rate	47.2%	43.2%	44.4%

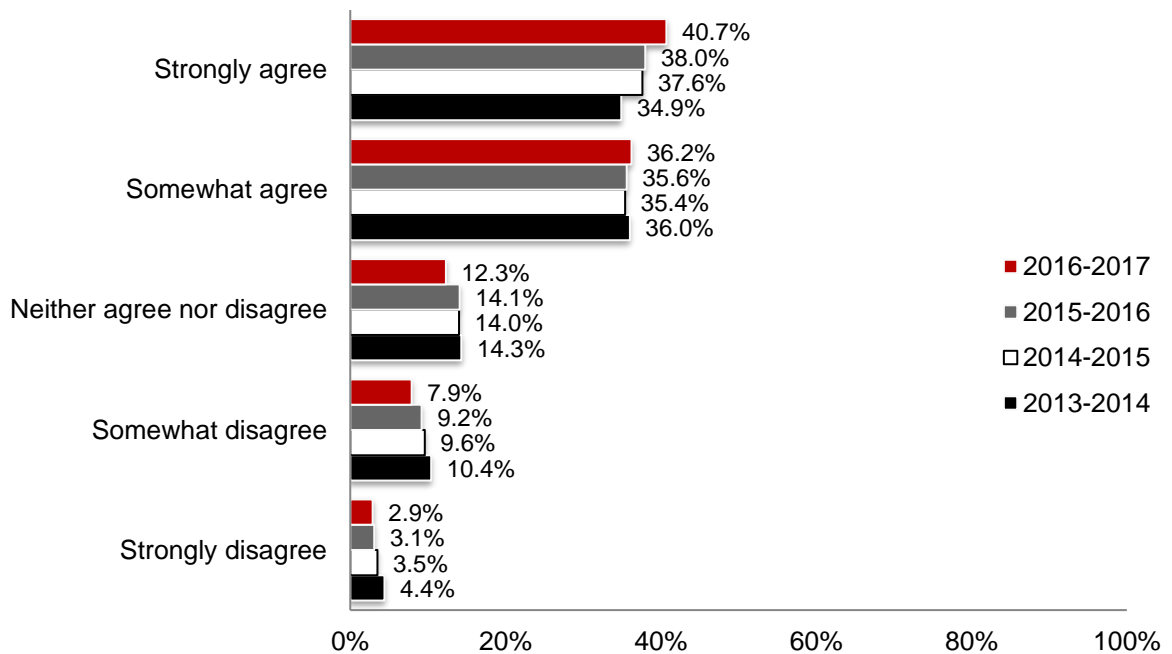
UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

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

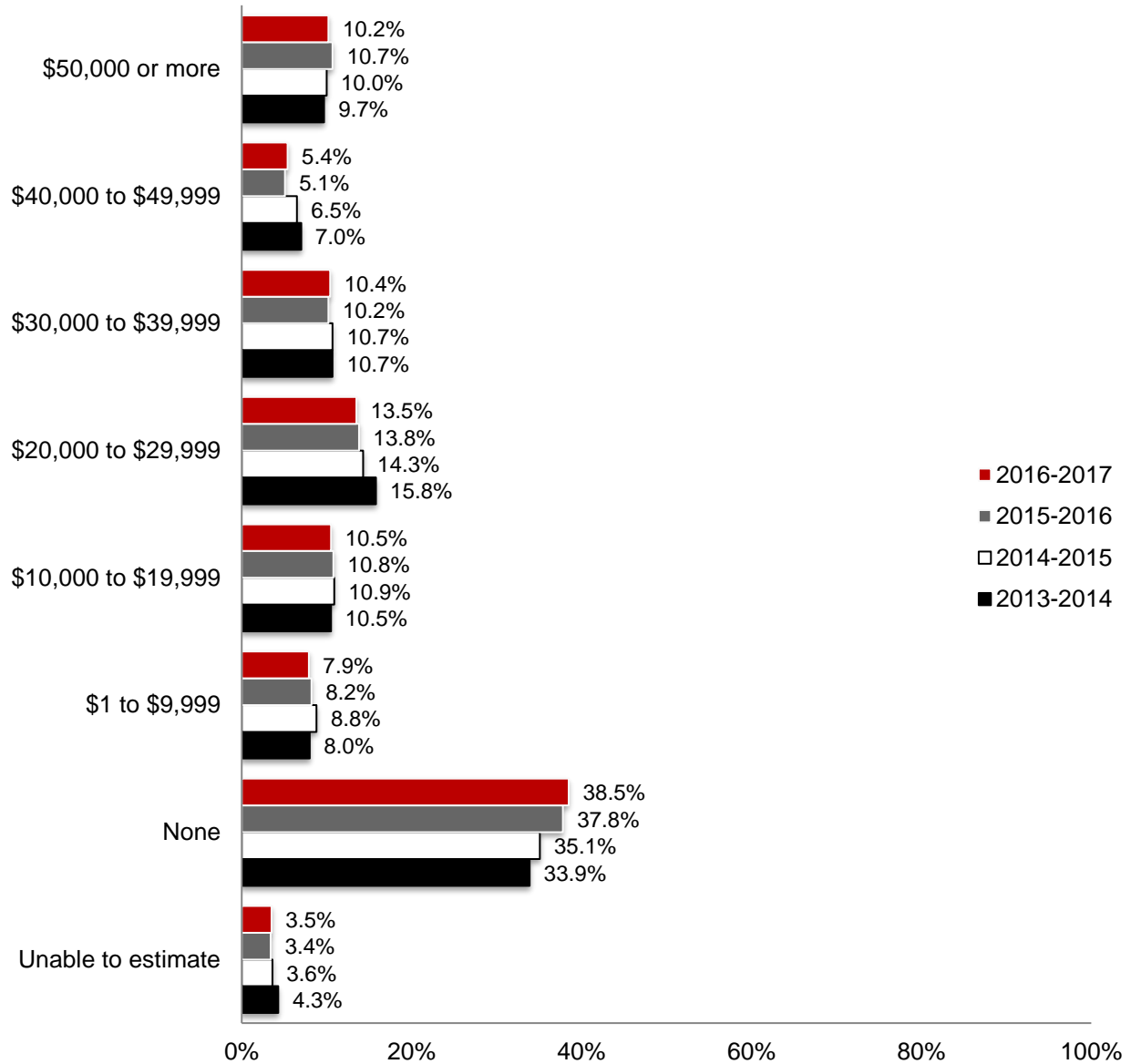


Reflecting back, do you now think that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? (Undergraduates)

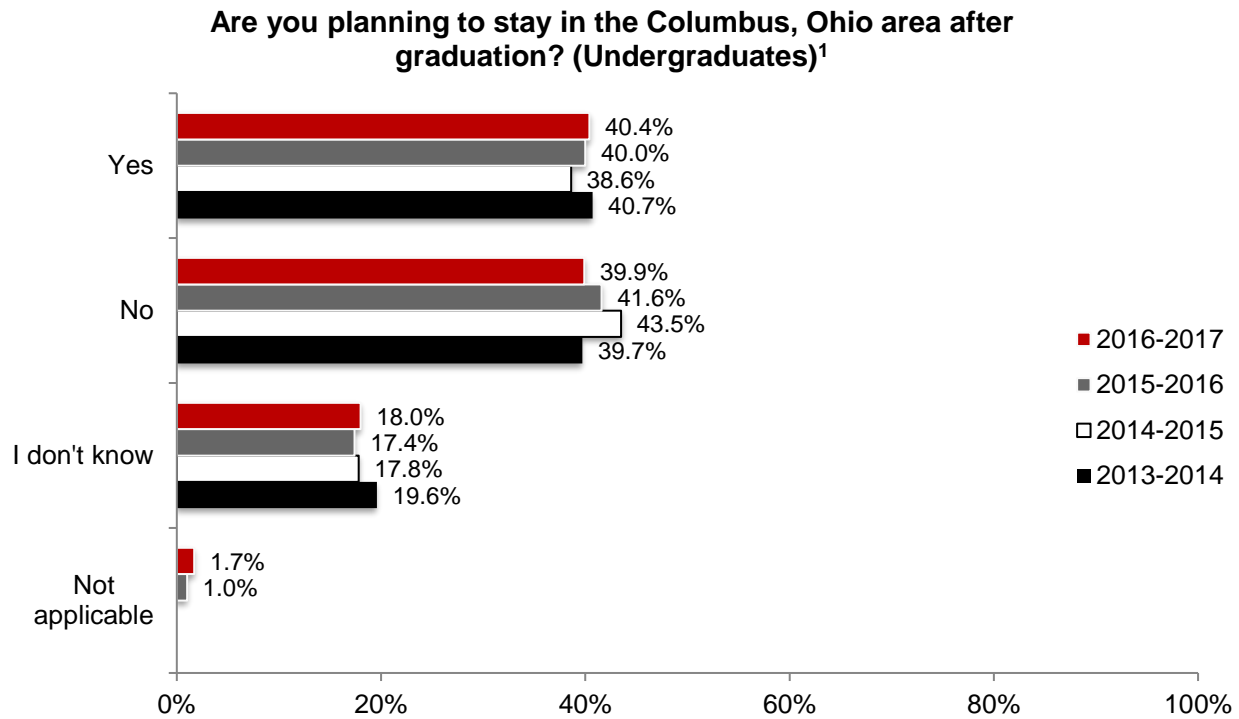


DEBT

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)



POST-GRADUATION PLANS



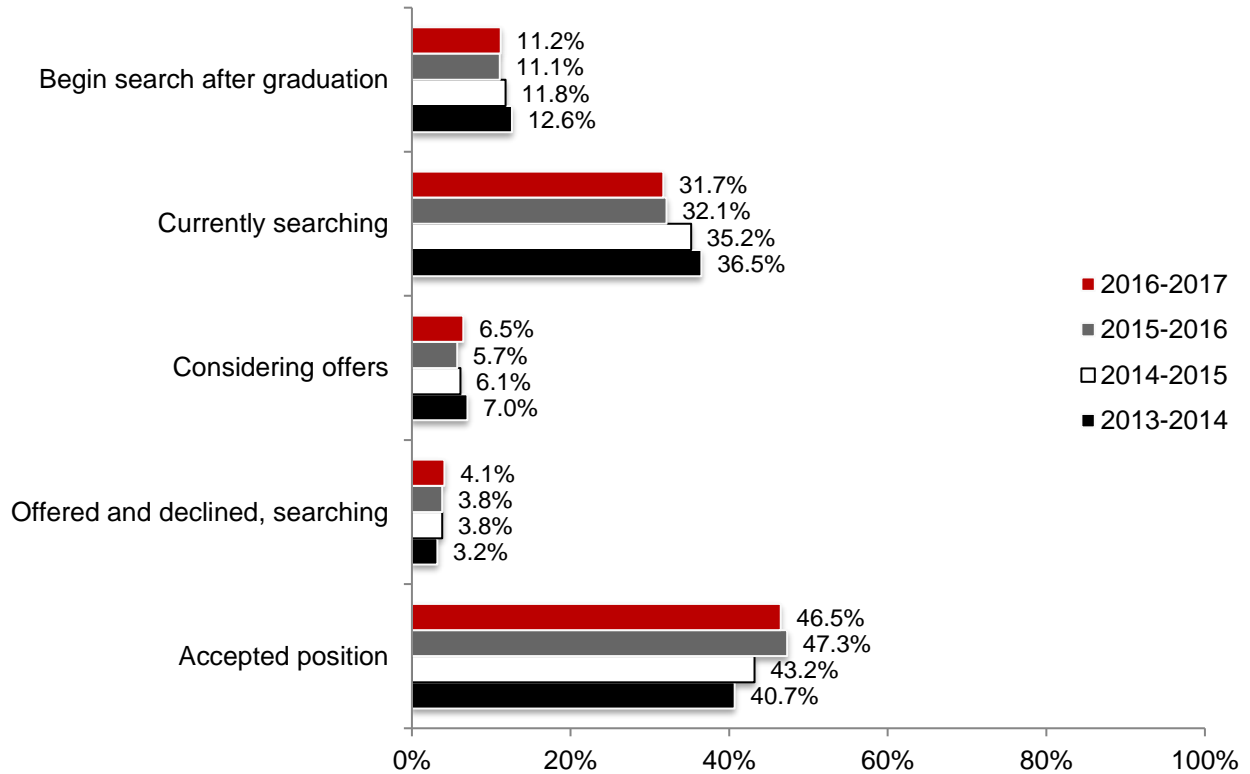
What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Undergraduates			
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Employment, full-time paid	62.2%	63.7%	65.6%	65.3%
Employment, part-time paid	5.7%	6.2%	6.1%	6.0%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	25.8%	24.7%	22.8%	23.0%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	1.4%	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%
Additional undergraduate coursework	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
Military service	1.1%	1.1%	0.8%	1.0%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	1.7%	1.5%	1.6%	1.3%
Starting or raising a family	0.8%	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%

¹The "Not applicable" response was included in the survey beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year.

EMPLOYMENT PLANS

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

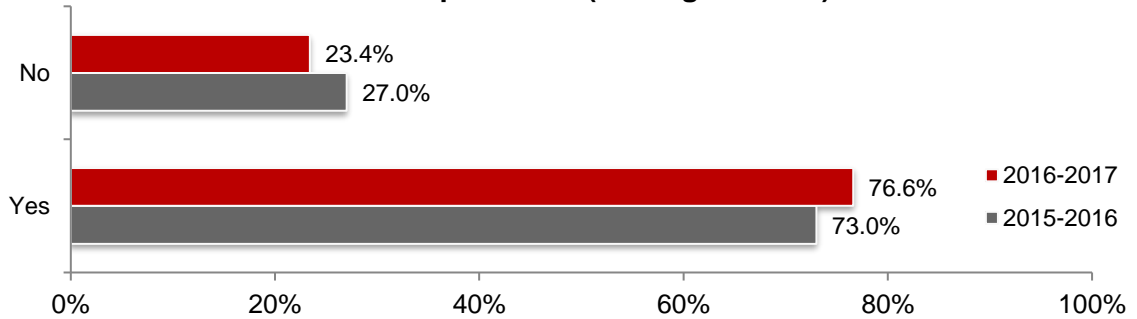
Which of the following best describes your current state of plans for employment after graduation? (Undergraduates)



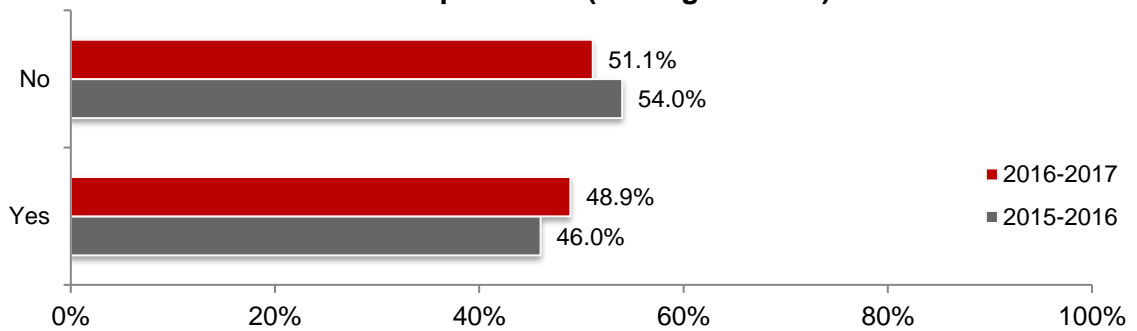
If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Undergraduates			
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	40.9%	41.7%	43.6%	44.0%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	6.8%	7.4%	8.0%	7.1%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	2.0%	2.3%	2.0%	2.2%
Government or other public institution/agency	6.8%	7.9%	8.5%	8.4%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	43.6%	40.7%	37.8%	38.3%
Is your prospective position related to your undergraduate field(s) of study?				
Same field as major(s)	38.5%	40.7%	38.8%	40.4%
Related to major(s)	29.1%	28.9%	27.9%	28.0%
Related to minor(s)	2.2%	2.6%	2.4%	2.4%
Not related to major(s) or minor(s)	9.6%	8.5%	9.1%	6.9%
Not applicable	20.6%	19.4%	21.8%	22.3%
How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?				
Very well	22.1%	20.5%	27.3%	29.7%
Generally well	52.2%	52.6%	48.5%	47.6%
Neutral	16.3%	17.8%	14.0%	13.3%
Inadequately	6.0%	6.0%	6.6%	6.4%
Very inadequately	2.4%	2.3%	2.9%	2.3%
Not applicable	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%
How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?				
Essential	16.4%	10.4%	11.7%	11.3%
Very important	24.6%	19.2%	26.0%	26.8%
Neutral	18.2%	18.6%	21.2%	23.1%
Somewhat important	21.5%	27.6%	19.4%	18.5%
Not important	11.6%	17.3%	16.1%	14.6%
Not applicable	7.6%	7.0%	5.6%	5.6%
Where will you be employed? (Top location listed)				
Ohio	74.4%	66.1%	72.3%	71.8%

INTERNSHIPS

While enrolled in your current degree program, did you complete an internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum, or academic major-related work experience? (Undergraduates)



Earlier you indicated you had accepted a job offer. Is your accepted position with the same organization where you completed your internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum, or academic-major related work experience? (Undergraduates)

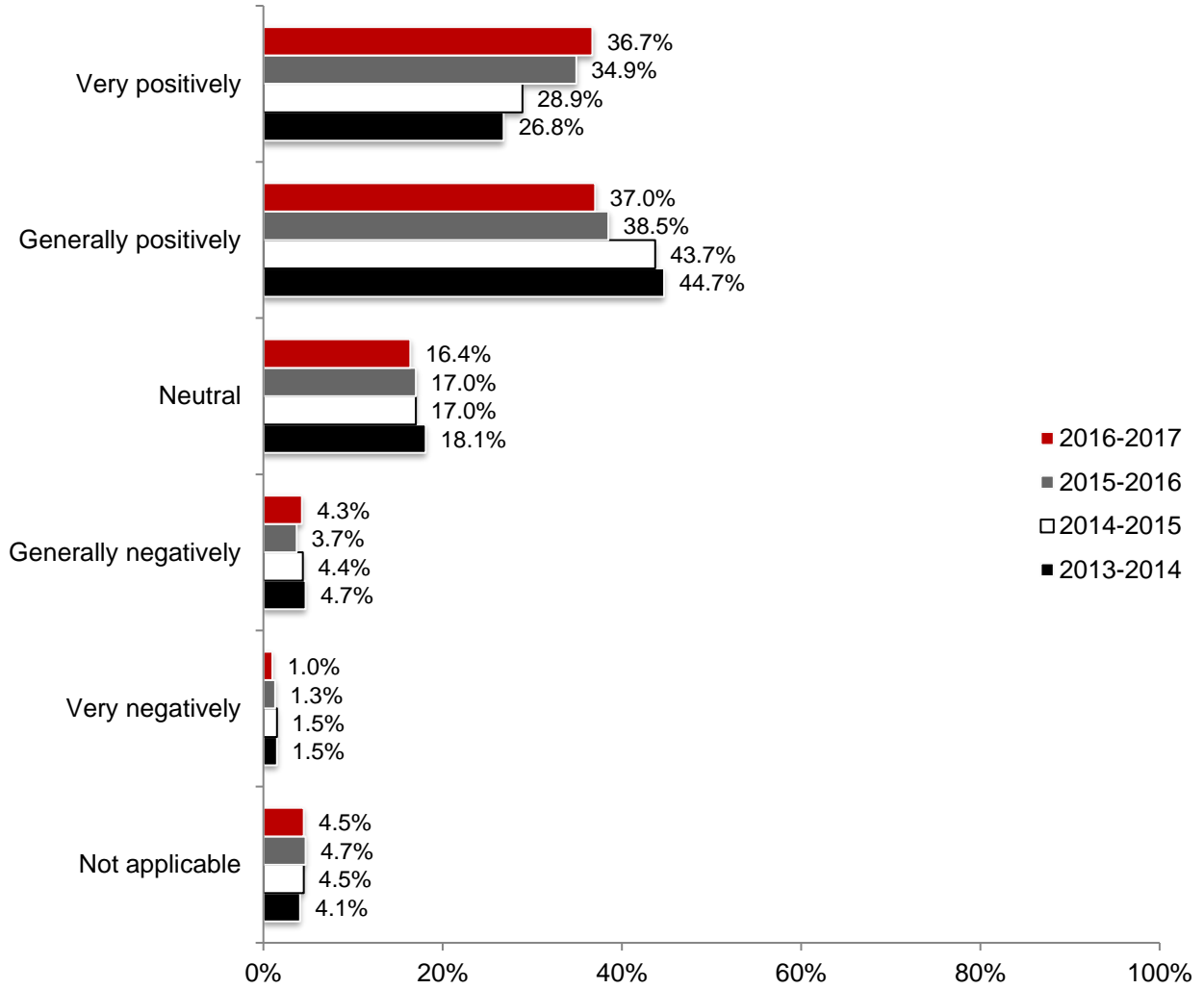


FUTURE EDUCATION

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

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%
2015-2016	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law	1.6%	6.5%	91.8%
Medicine (MD)	2.4%	4.0%	93.7%
Other Medical	3.3%	4.6%	92.1%
Second Bachelor's	1.2%	4.9%	93.9%
Master's	12.8%	48.0%	39.2%
Doctorate	2.9%	15.1%	82.0%
2016-2017	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not select
Law	2.3%	6.0%	91.7%
Medicine (MD)	2.0%	4.4%	93.6%
Other Medical	3.4%	5.2%	91.4%
Second Bachelor's	1.1%	5.6%	93.3%
Master's	12.9%	47.9%	39.2%
Doctorate	2.8%	14.7%	82.4%

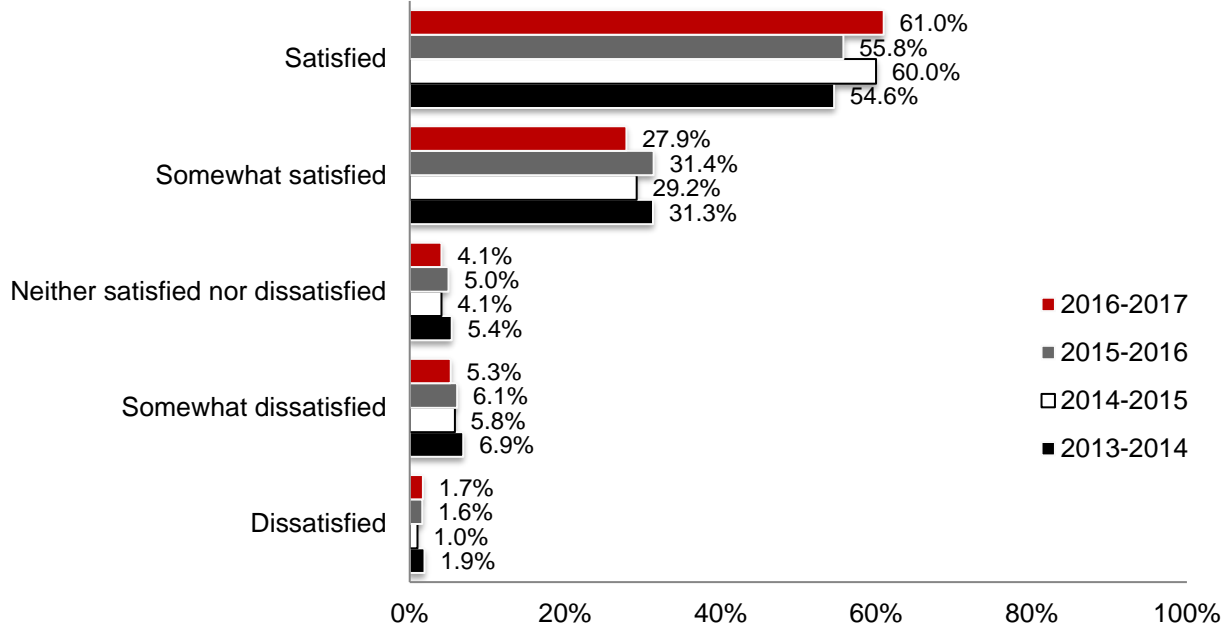
To what extent have your overall undergraduate experiences influenced your plans for graduate or professional studies? (Undergraduates)



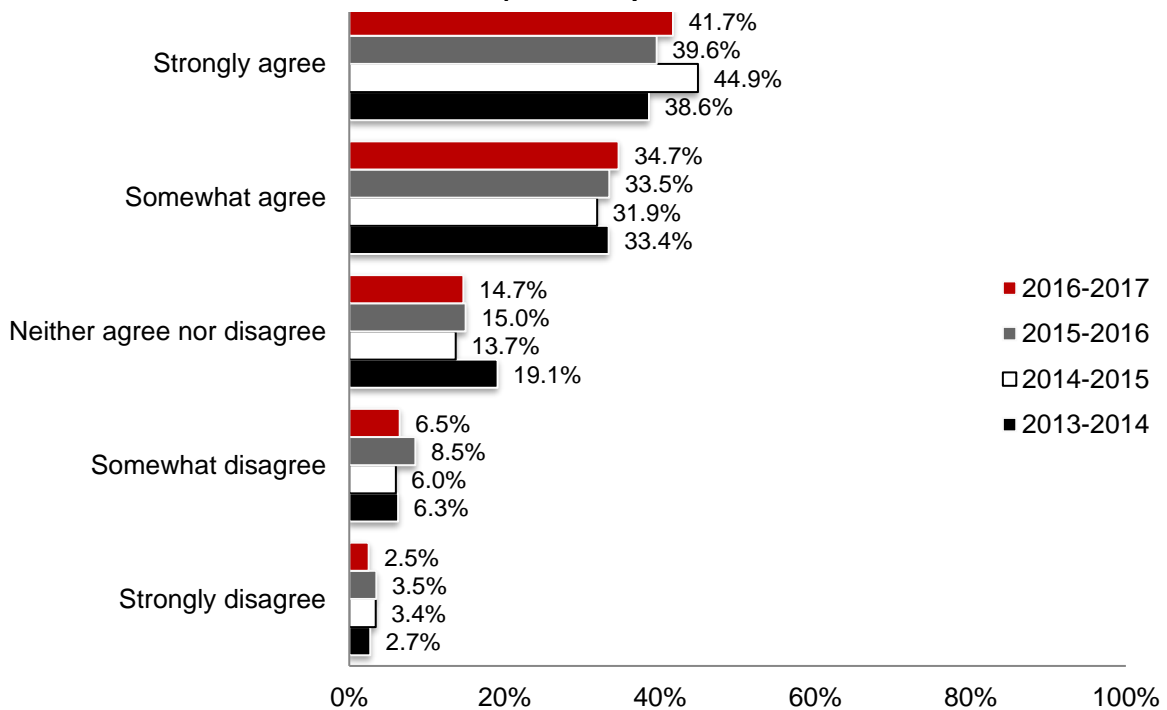
MASTER'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

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

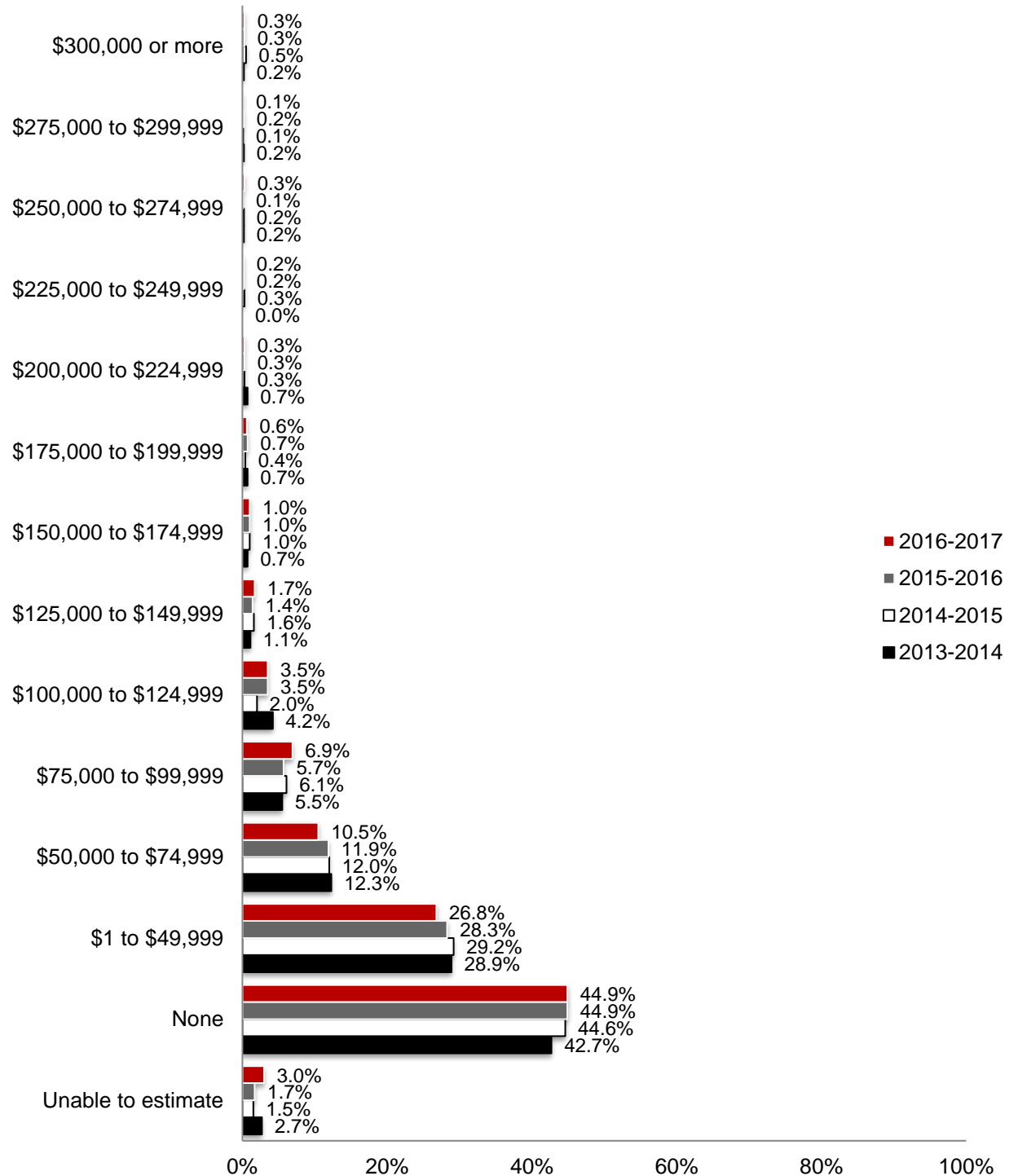


Reflecting back, do you now think that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? (Master's)



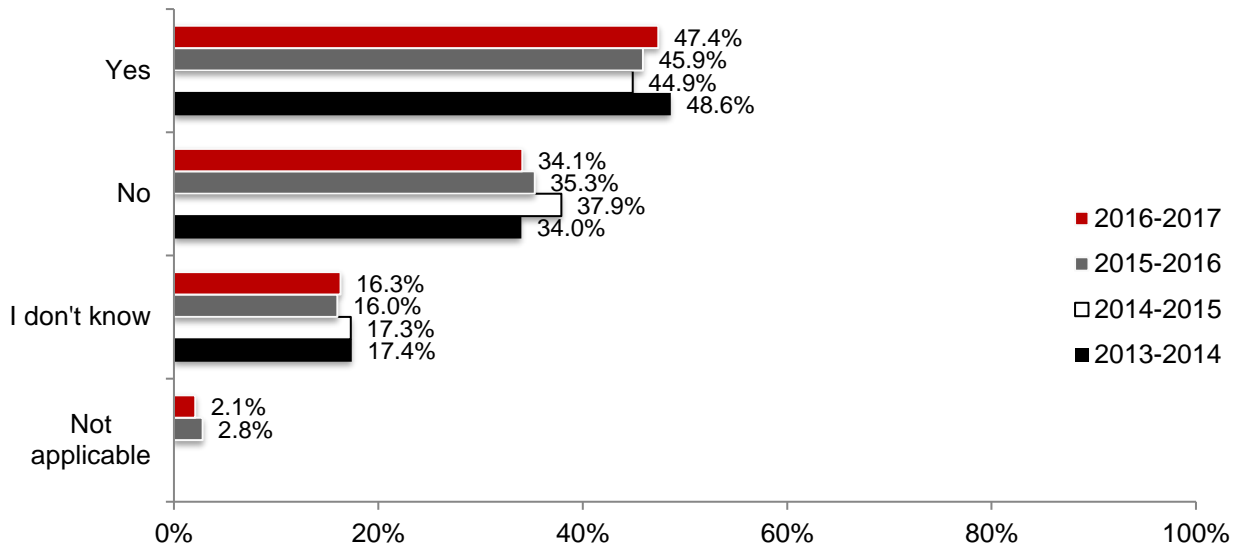
DEBT

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)



POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Are you planning to stay in the Columbus, Ohio area after graduation?
(Master's)²



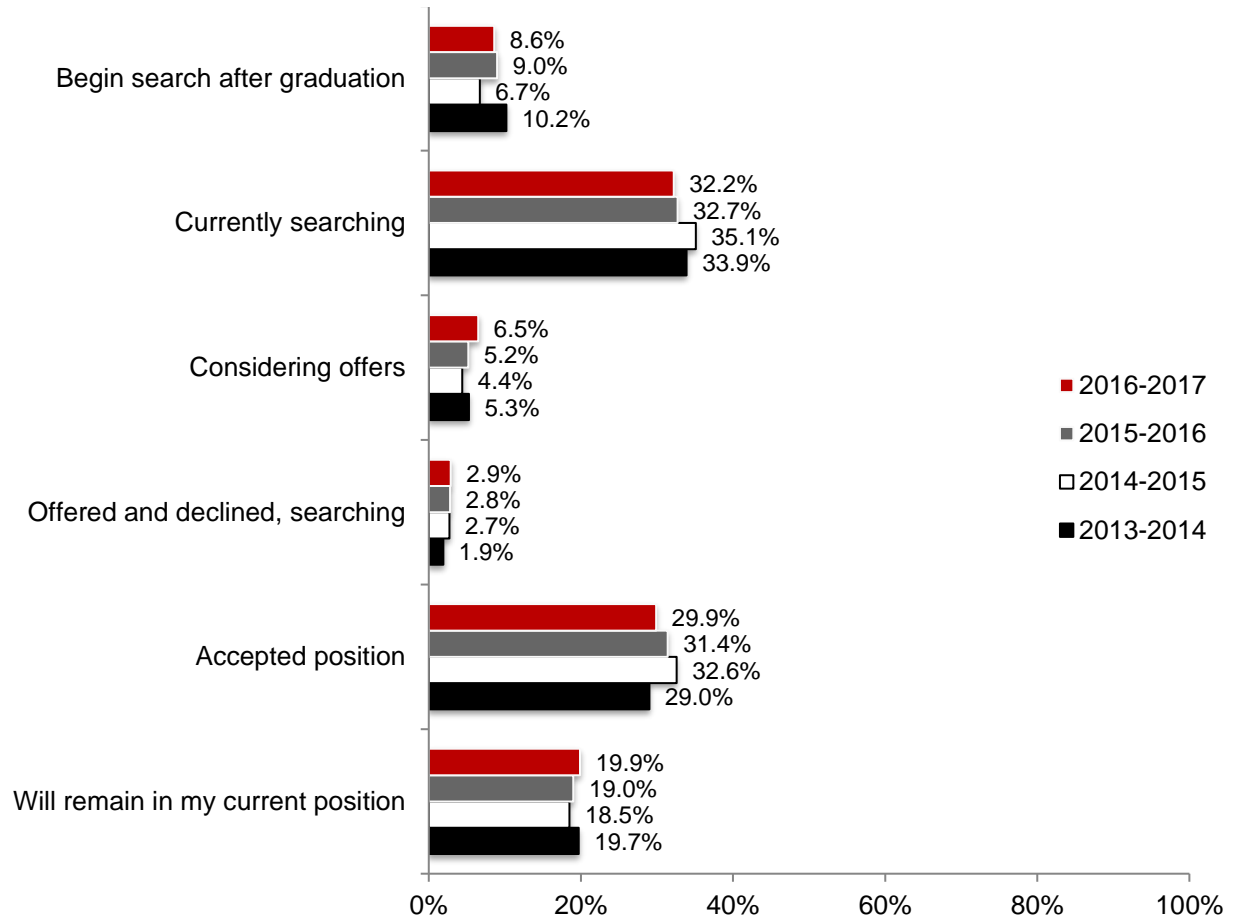
What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Master's			
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Employment, full-time paid	82.6%	80.9%	80.1%	81.5%
Employment, part-time paid	2.5%	3.5%	4.7%	3.5%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	13.2%	13.9%	13.3%	13.2%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	0.3%	0.1%	0.7%	0.3%
Military service	0.1%	0.2%	0.6%	0.6%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%
Starting or raising a family	1.1%	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%

² The "Not applicable" response was included in the survey beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year.

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)³

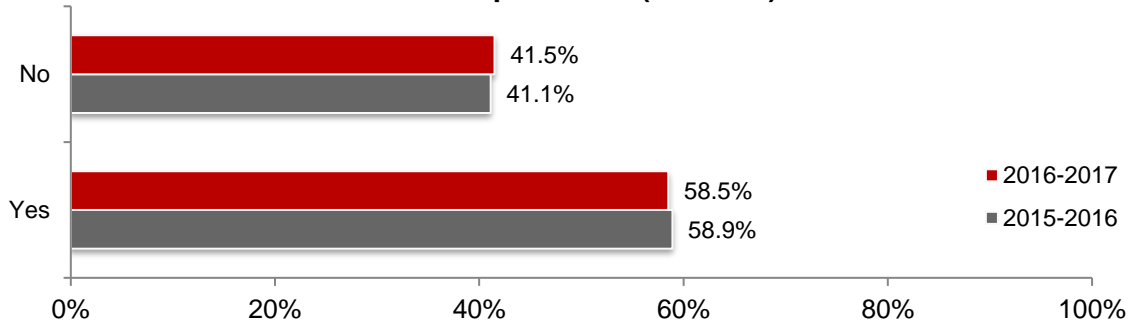


³ The 2013-2014 data only represent Autumn 2013 and Spring 2014 as the item was asked differently in Summer 2013.

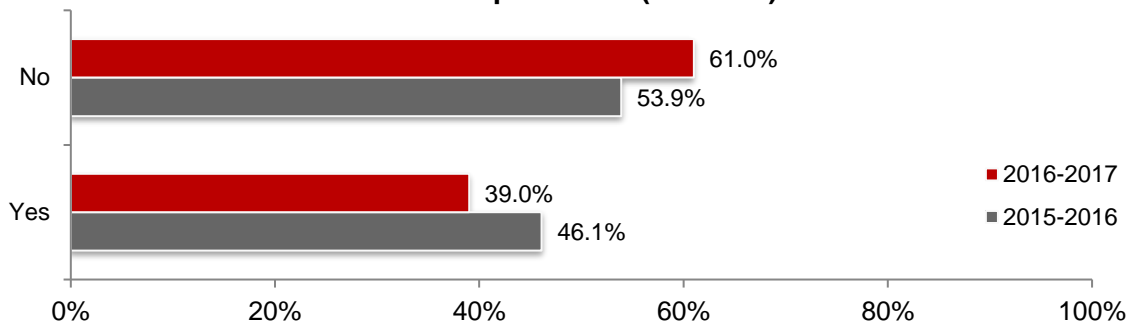
If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization/sector will you work?	Master's			
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	33.5%	30.7%	30.9%	30.3%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	11.7%	15.4%	15.2%	16.9%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	1.0%	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%
Government or other public institution/agency	11.5%	18.2%	16.7%	15.1%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	42.3%	34.4%	35.9%	36.5%
Is your prospective position related to your graduate/professional field(s) of study?				
Same field	67.1%	67.7%	56.2%	54.6%
Related to field of study	27.5%	25.9%	20.6%	24.1%
Not related to field of study	1.5%	3.7%	2.4%	2.3%
Not applicable	3.9%	2.7%	20.8%	19.0%
How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?				
Very well	27.6%	27.9%	32.8%	33.8%
Generally well	52.0%	51.0%	43.9%	44.3%
Neutral	14.4%	15.4%	13.7%	12.0%
Inadequately	4.3%	4.6%	5.8%	5.5%
Very inadequately	1.7%	1.2%	2.6%	2.7%
Not Applicable	-	-	1.1%	1.8%
How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?				
Essential	10.3%	7.4%	9.3%	8.4%
Very important	18.5%	19.0%	20.1%	22.1%
Neutral	16.9%	18.8%	18.3%	22.9%
Somewhat important	27.2%	26.2%	18.2%	15.2%
Not important	17.3%	18.4%	21.4%	19.2%
Not applicable	9.7%	10.1%	12.6%	12.2%
Where will you be employed? (Top location listed)				
Ohio	68.8%	60.4%	64.9%	67.1%

INTERNSHIPS

While enrolled in your current degree program, did you complete an internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum, or academic major-related work experience? (Master's)



Earlier you indicated you had accepted a job offer. Is your accepted position with the same organization where you completed your internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum, or academic-major related work experience? (Master's)

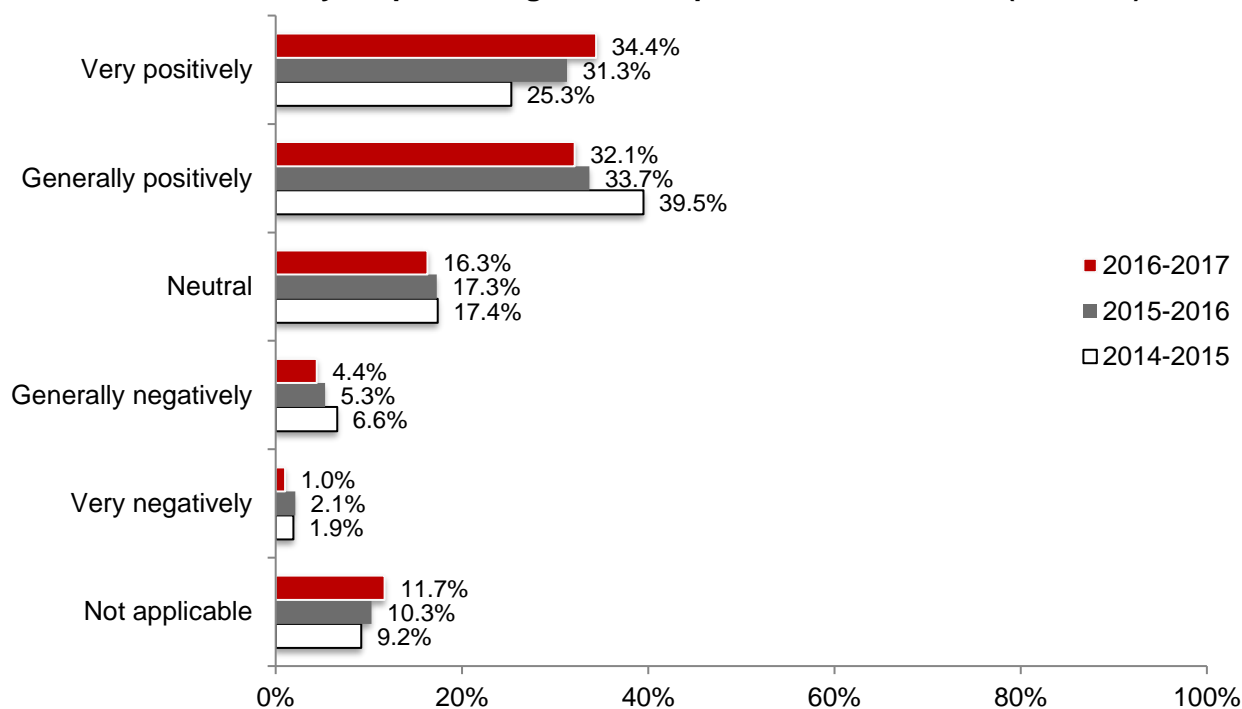


FUTURE EDUCATION

Which degrees do you plan to pursue upon graduation or in the future? (Master's)

2014-2015	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law	0.1%	2.8%	97.1%
Medicine (MD)	0.3%	1.1%	98.6%
Other Medical	0.8%	1.7%	97.6%
Master's	4.4%	6.4%	89.2%
Doctorate	14.6%	26.7%	58.4%
2015-2016	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law	0.4%	3.7%	95.9%
Medicine (MD)	0.8%	1.3%	97.9%
Other Medical	1.7%	1.8%	96.5%
Master's	5.5%	9.1%	85.4%
Doctorate	12.8%	27.0%	60.2%
2016-2017	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law	0.3%	3.1%	96.6%
Medicine (MD)	0.7%	1.8%	97.5%
Other Medical	1.2%	2.1%	96.8%
Master's	6.6%	7.1%	86.3%
Doctorate	12.4%	28.0%	59.6%

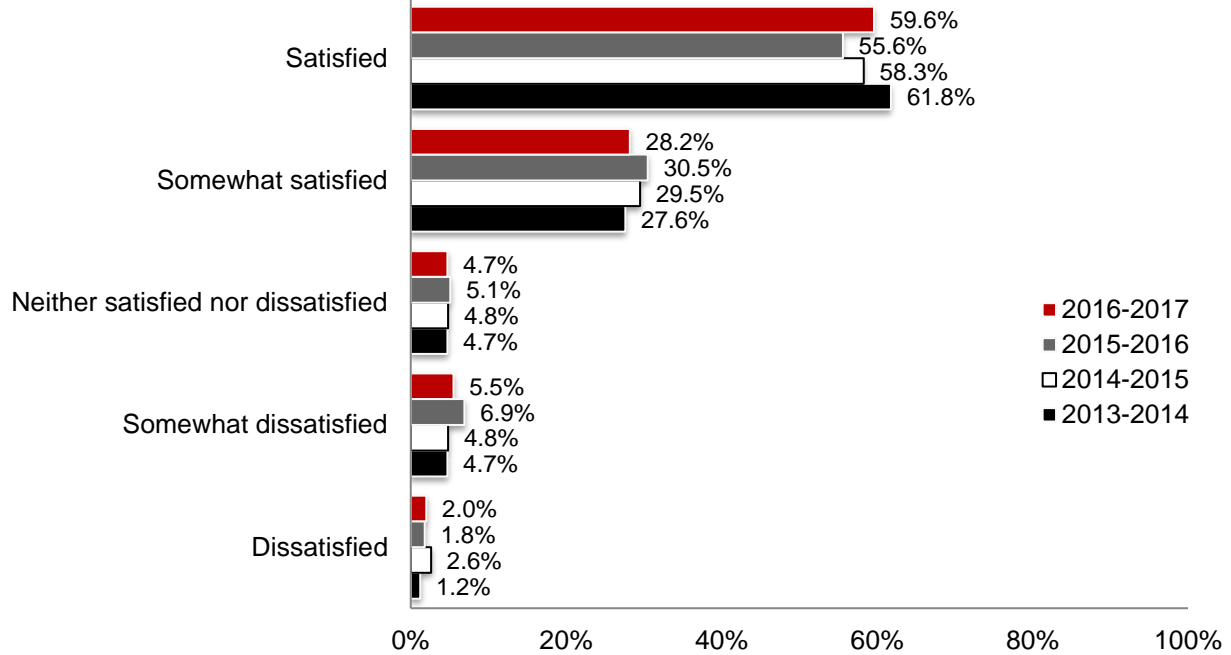
To what extent have your overall undergraduate experiences influenced your plans for graduate or professional studies? (Master's)



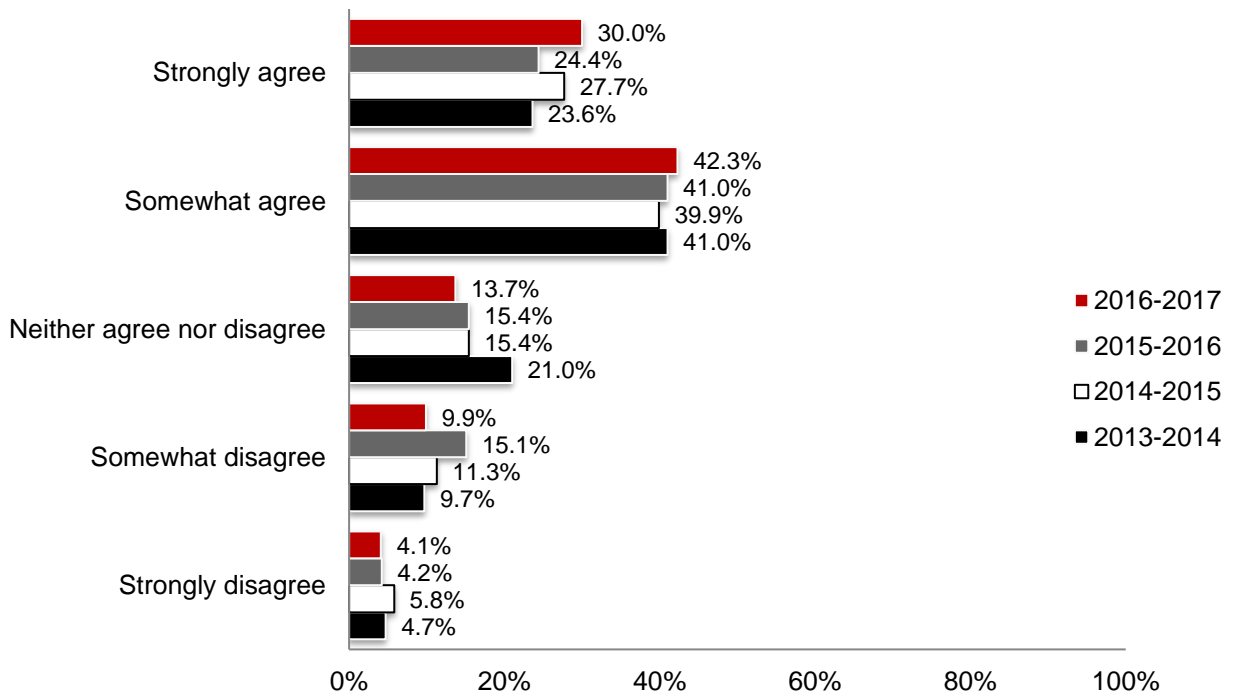
PROFESSIONAL DEGREE RECIPIENTS

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

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

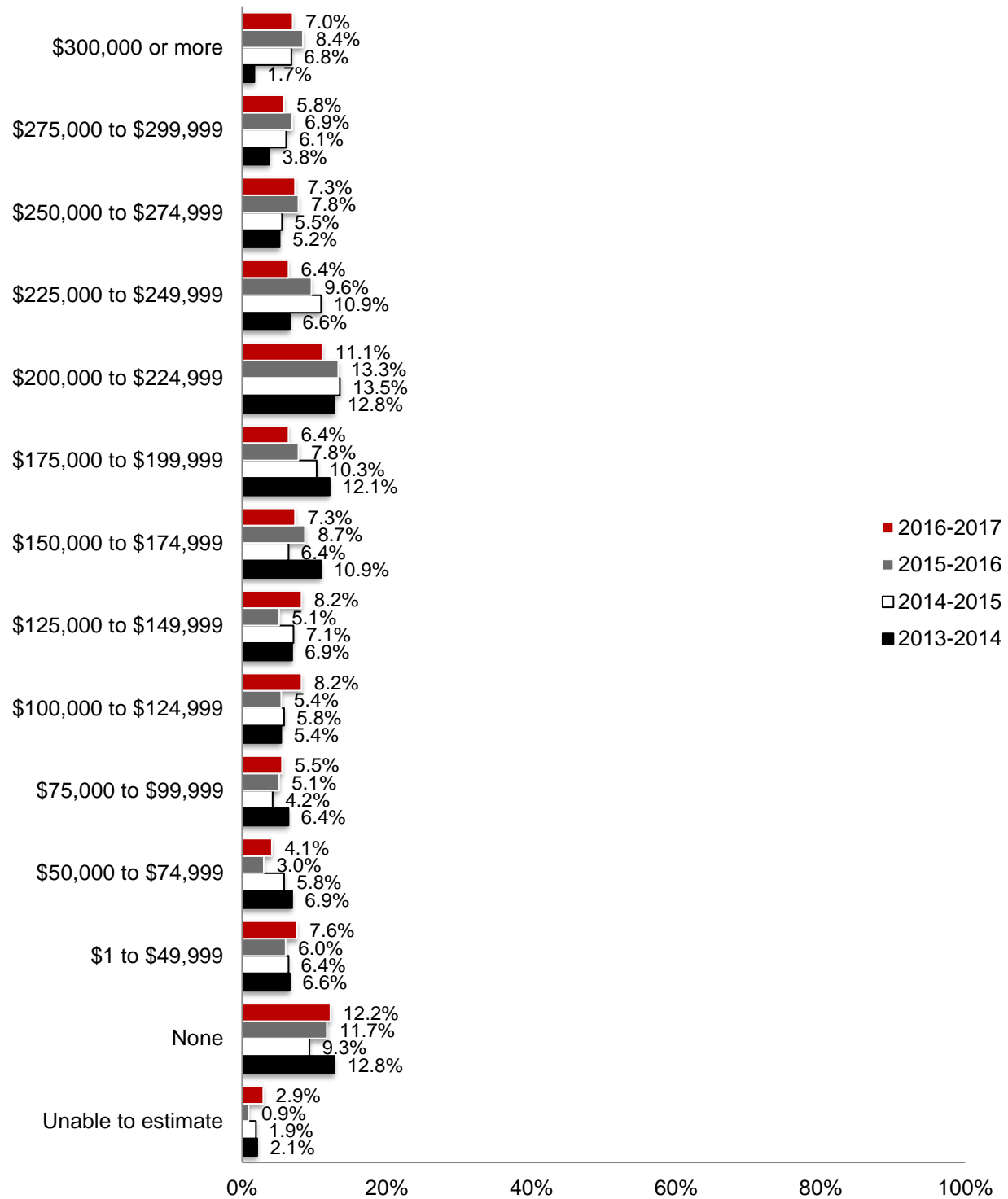


Reflecting back, do you now think that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? (Professional)



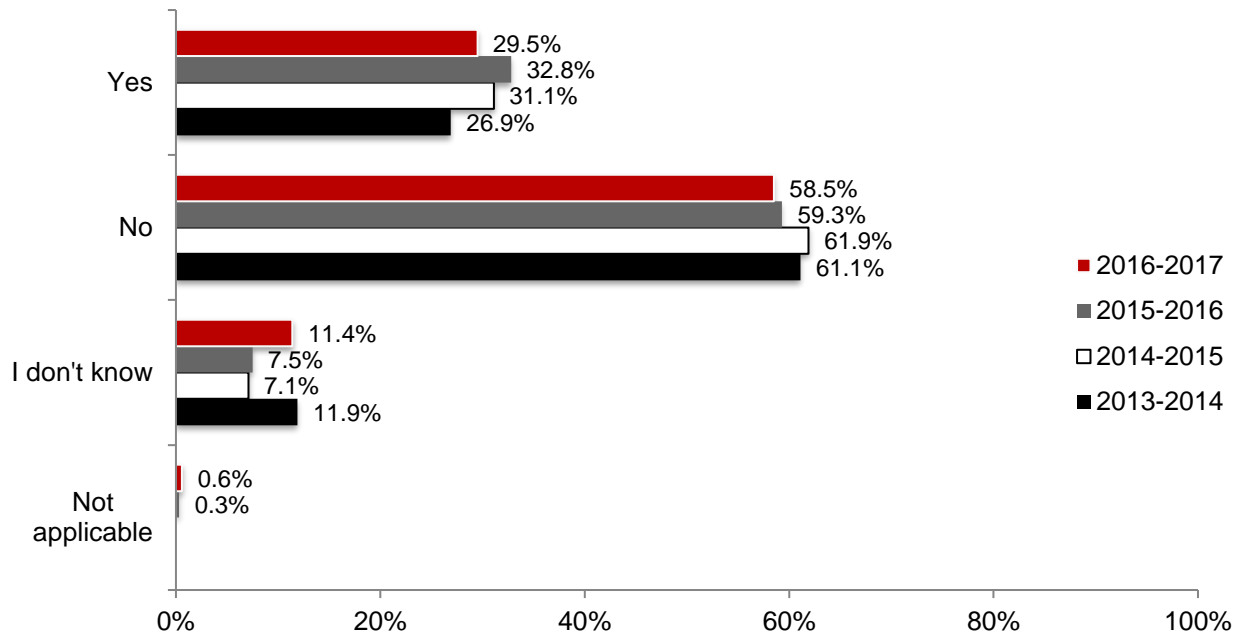
DEBT

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)



POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Are you planning to stay in the Columbus, Ohio area after graduation?
(Professional)⁴



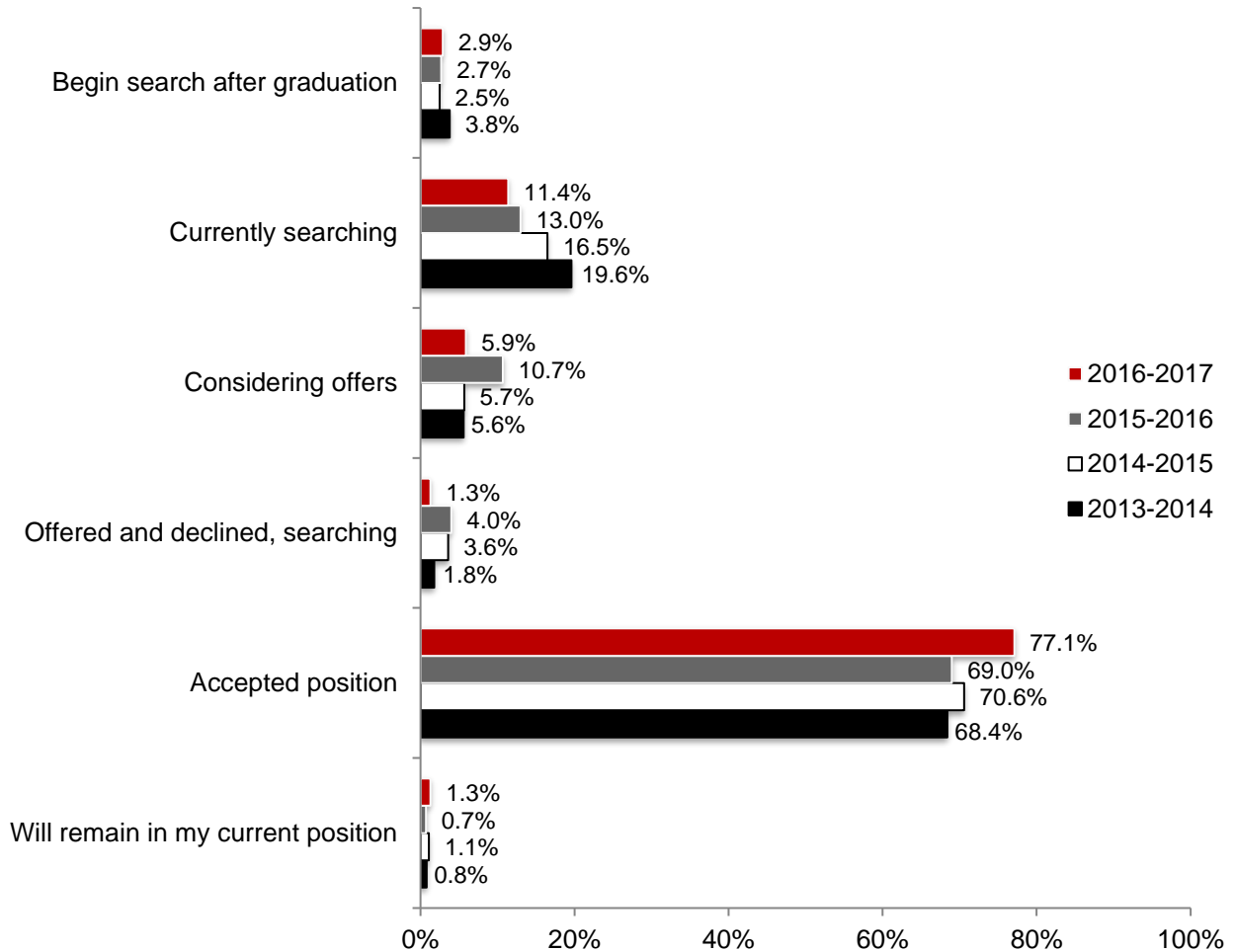
What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Professional			
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Employment, full-time paid	90.4%	87.5%	88.6%	88.6%
Employment, part-time paid	1.9%	1.9%	2.7%	2.1%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	5.2%	7.1%	5.7%	5.3%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Military service	2.1%	3.5%	2.7%	3.5%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Starting or raising a family	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%

⁴ The 2015-2016 data contained an additional response for “Not applicable”, which received 0.3% of professional student’s responses.

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 ²)

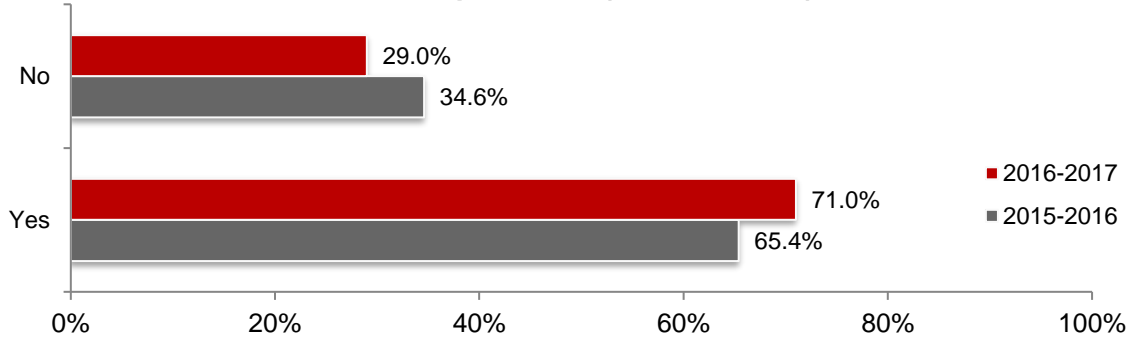


⁵ The 2013-2014 data only represent Autumn 2013 and Spring 2014 as the item was asked differently in Summer 2013.

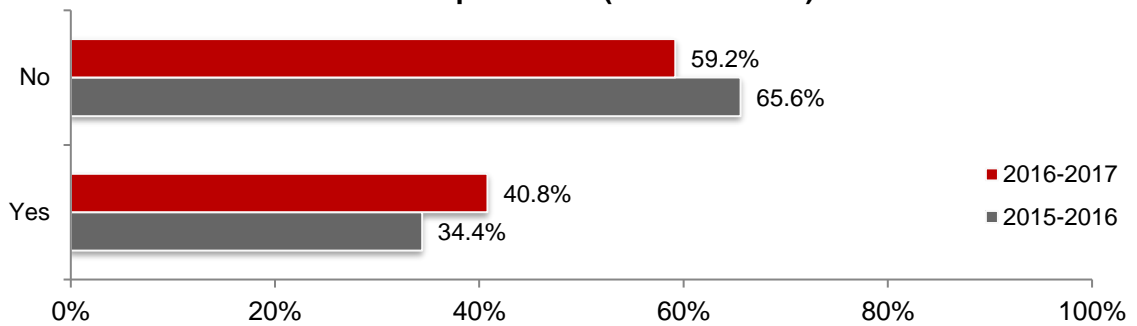
If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Professional			
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	39.3%	44.8%	46.7%	52.6%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	18.5%	16.5%	13.4%	13.6%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	3.9%	7.2%	4.1%	6.3%
Government or other public institution/agency	15.9%	14.7%	17.5%	13.6%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	22.4%	16.8%	18.2%	13.9%
Is your prospective position related to your graduate or professional field(s) of study?				
Same field	92.0%	93.2%	89.6%	89.1%
Related to field of study	5.9%	2.9%	3.7%	3.0%
Not related to field of study	0.0%	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%
Not applicable	2.1%	2.9%	6.4%	7.9%
How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?				
Very well	38.2%	26.5%	33.0%	40.5%
Generally well	48.2%	56.6%	48.5%	44.0%
Neutral	8.7%	12.2%	11.0%	8.2%
Inadequately	3.6%	2.9%	3.8%	5.2%
Very inadequately	1.3%	1.8%	3.1%	1.4%
Not Applicable	-	-	0.7%	0.7%
How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?				
Essential	7.2%	7.9%	8.6%	8.5%
Very important	20.3%	17.6%	24.3%	25.5%
Neutral	16.9%	17.2%	19.9%	22.4%
Somewhat important	30.0%	31.2%	19.5%	18.4%
Not important	19.0%	20.8%	22.9%	19.7%
Not applicable	6.7%	5.4%	4.8%	5.4%
Where will you be employed? (Top location listed)				
Ohio	54.1%	58.5%	64.0%	65.2%

INTERNSHIPS

While enrolled in your current degree program, did you complete an internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum, or academic major-related work experience? (Professionals)



Earlier you indicated you had accepted a job offer. Is your accepted position with the same organization where you completed your internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum, or academic-major related work experience? (Professionals)



FUTURE EDUCATION

Which degrees do you plan to pursue upon graduation or in the future? (Professionals)

2014-2015	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law	2.0%	3.0%	95.0%
Medicine (MD)	3.6%	3.0%	93.4%
Other Medical	16.6%	2.0%	81.5%
Master's	2.3%	8.9%	88.7%
Doctorate	2.0%	2.6%	95.4%
2015-2016	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law	2.2%	1.6%	96.3%
Medicine (MD)	4.0%	0.6%	95.3%
Other Medical	11.5%	3.1%	85.4%
Master's	5.6%	5.6%	88.8%
Doctorate	1.2%	3.4%	95.3%
2016-2017	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law	1.8%	2.1%	96.0%
Medicine (MD)	2.1%	2.4%	95.4%
Other Medical	12.5%	3.0%	84.5%
Master's	4.3%	8.2%	87.5%
Doctorate	1.8%	5.8%	92.4%

