

Graduation Survey 2014-2015: University Report

June 2015



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
Undergraduate Degree Recipients' Highlights	1
Master's Degree Recipients' Highlights.....	1
Professional Degree Recipients' Highlights	1
Introduction	2
Design	2
Invitations and Response Rates	2
Undergraduate Degree Recipients	3
Demographics	3
Satisfaction with Ohio State	3
Debt	4
Post-Graduation Plans	4
Employment Plans.....	5
Future Education	6
Curricular Experiences	6
Entrepreneurship.....	7
Master's Degree Recipients	8
Demographics	8
Satisfaction with Ohio State.....	8
Debt	9
Post-Graduation Plans	9
Employment Plans.....	10
Future Education	11
Entrepreneurship Experience	11
Professional Degree Recipients	12
Demographics	12
Satisfaction with Ohio State.....	12
Debt	13
Post-Graduation Plans	13
Employment Plans.....	14
Future Education	15
Entrepreneurship Experience	15

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the combined results for the summer 2014, autumn 2014, and spring 2015 Ohio State Graduation Survey administrations. An invitation to the Graduation Survey was sent to all undergraduate, Master's, and professional degree recipients who were scheduled to graduate in the summer, autumn, or spring terms of the 2014-2015 academic year.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS' HIGHLIGHTS

- The response rate for undergraduate students was 36.9%; 3,969 submitted responses.
- 89.6% were *satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied* with their experience at Ohio State.
- 35.1% reported that they will graduate with no debt that they are personally responsible for repaying; 41.5% reported their debt would be \$20,000 or more.
- 73.0% *strongly agreed* or *somewhat agreed* that the benefits from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs.
- 69.9% reported that paid employment was most likely to be their principal activity after graduation; of those, 73.1% reported that Ohio State prepared them *very well* or *generally well* for the job market.
- 26.0% reported that graduate or professional school was most likely to be their principal activity after graduation.

MASTER'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS' HIGHLIGHTS

- The response rate for Master's degree recipients was 33.1%; 946 submitted responses.
- 89.2% were *satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied* with their experience at Ohio State.
- 44.6% reported that they will graduate with no debt that they are personally responsible for repaying; 24.7% reported their debt would be \$50,000 or more.
- 76.8% *strongly agreed* or *somewhat agreed* that the benefits from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs.
- 84.4% reported that paid employment was most likely to be their principal activity after graduation; of those, 78.9% reported that Ohio State prepared them *very well* or *generally well* for the job market.

PROFESSIONAL DEGREE RECIPIENTS' HIGHLIGHTS

- The response rate for those earning a professional degree was 35.1%; 315 submitted responses.
- 87.8% were *satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied* with their experience at Ohio State.
- 9.3% reported that they will graduate with no debt that they are personally responsible for repaying; 29.6% reported their debt would be \$100,000-\$199,999, and 42.8% reported their debt would be \$200,000 or more.
- 67.6% *strongly agreed* or *somewhat agreed* that the benefits from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs.
- 89.4% reported that paid employment was most likely to be their principal activity after graduation; of those, 83.1% reported that Ohio State prepared them *very well* or *generally well* for the job market.

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 and permanent contact information. This report covers the combined results for the 2014-2015 academic year and includes demographic information about students who were invited to take the surveys, as well as the survey-takers.

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 the 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.

Over the past few years, the survey underwent several revisions; items were added or changed, and for a few items the type of responses were altered.

INVITATIONS AND RESPONSE RATES

Students who applied to graduate 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. Graduating students from all campuses were invited to take one of the two surveys.

- Undergraduate degree recipients: 10,765 were invited to take the survey and 3,969 responded, for a response rate of 36.9%.
 - Of the undergraduate respondents, 83 earned two bachelor's degrees.
- Master's degree recipients: 2,860 were invited to take the survey and 946 responded, for a response rate of 33.1%.
 - Of those earning Master's degrees, 14 who responded earned a second Master's degree and 7 earned a professional degree in addition to their Master's degree.
- Professional degree recipients: 897 were invited to take the survey and 315 responded, for a response rate of 35.1%.
 - Of those who earned a professional degree, 7 also earned a Master's degree.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

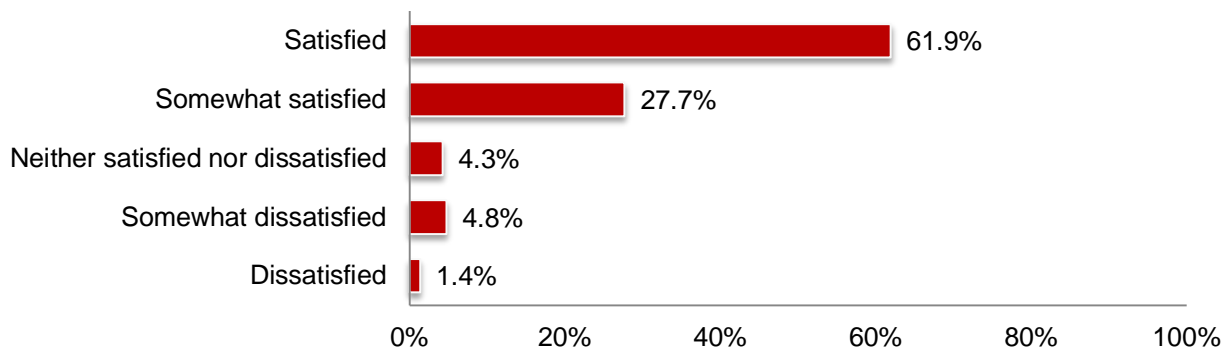
The following tables display gender and race/ethnicity information from the Student Information System for the students invited to take the survey and the students who completed the survey.

Gender	Undergraduates - Invited	Undergraduates - Responded
Female	51.5%	55.5%
Male	48.5%	44.4%
Undisclosed	0.0%	0.0%

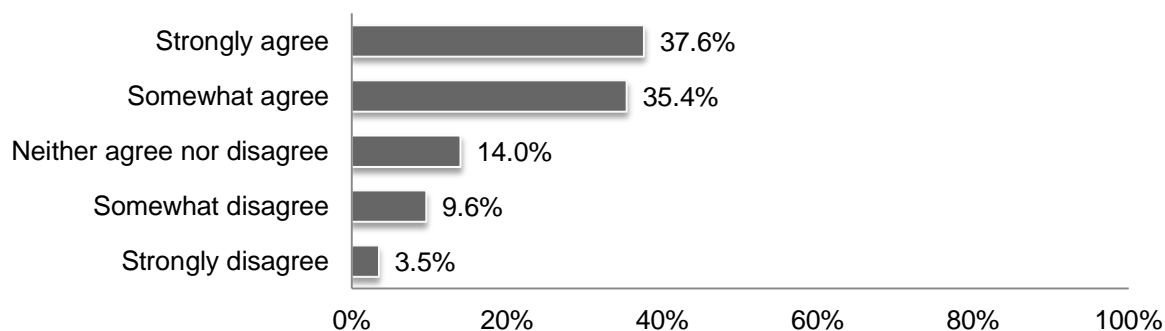
Race/Ethnicity	Undergraduates - Invited	Undergraduates - Responded
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.1%	0.2%
Asian	4.7%	4.5%
Black or African American	5.9%	6.4%
Hispanic	3.2%	3.3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%
Non-Resident Alien	7.7%	5.7%
None Given/Race Unknown	1.2%	1.2%
Two or More Races	2.1%	1.9%
White	74.9%	76.7%

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall? Undergraduates (n=3,919)

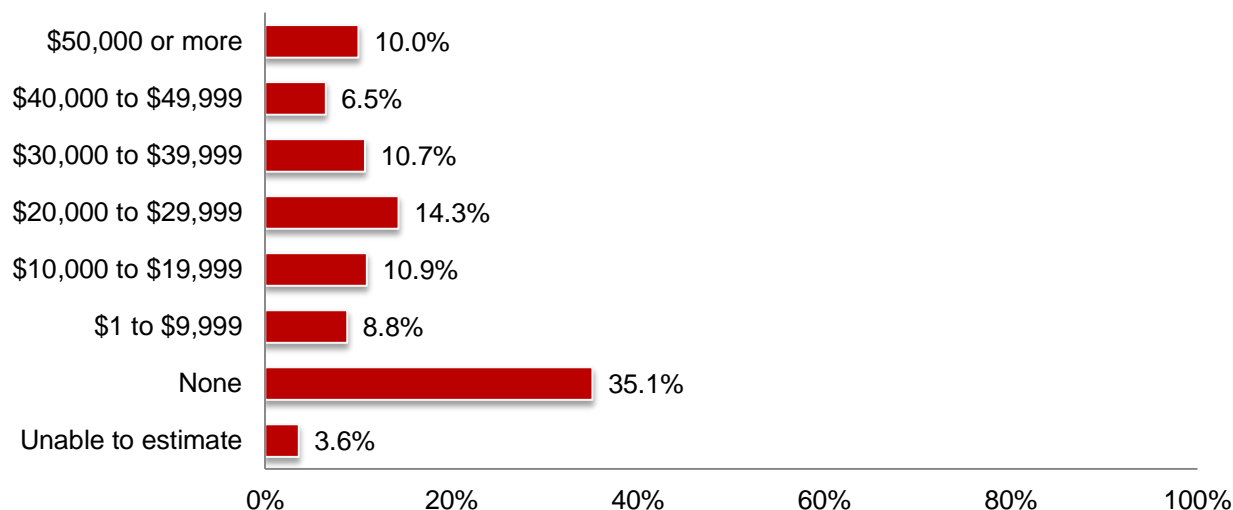


Reflecting back, do you now think that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? Undergraduates (n=3,915)



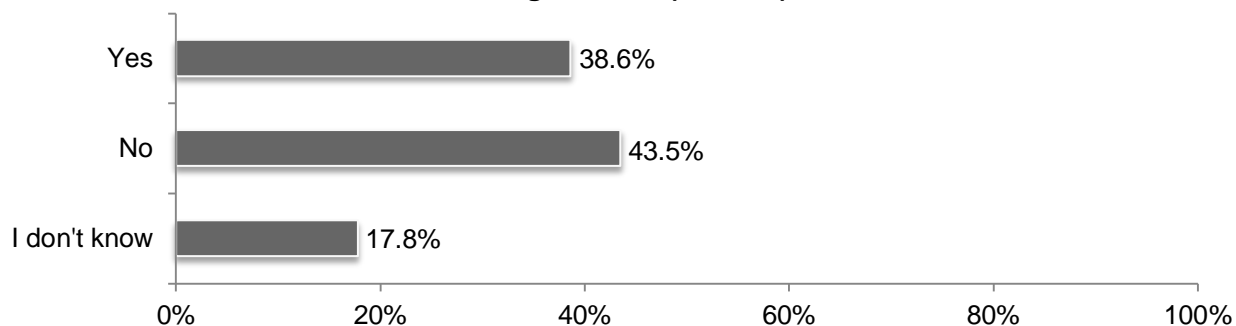
DEBT

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 (n=3,912)



POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Are you planning to stay in Columbus, Ohio after graduation?
Undergraduates (n=3,901)

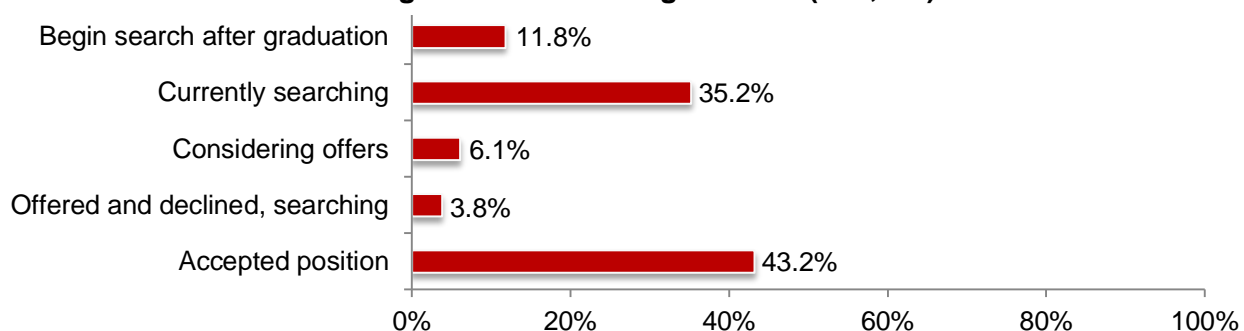


What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Undergraduates (n=3,899)
Employment, full-time paid	63.7%
Employment, part-time paid	6.2%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	24.7%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	1.3%
Additional undergraduate coursework	1.2%
Military service	1.1%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	1.5%
Starting or raising a family	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 (n=2,704)



If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Undergraduates (n=2,633)
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	41.7%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	7.4%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	2.3%
Government or other public institution/agency	7.9%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	40.7%

Is your prospective position related to your undergraduate field(s) of study?	Undergraduates (n=2,689)
Same field as major(s)	40.7%
Related to major(s)	28.9%
Related to minor(s)	2.6%
Not related to major(s) or minor(s)	8.5%
Not applicable	19.4%

How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?	Undergraduates (n=2,676)
Very well	20.5%
Generally well	52.6%
Neutral	17.8%
Inadequately	6.0%
Very inadequately	2.3%
Not relevant	0.8%

How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?	Undergraduates (n=2,675)
Essential	10.4%
Very important	19.2%
Neutral	18.6%
Somewhat important	27.6%
Not important	17.3%
Not applicable	7.0%

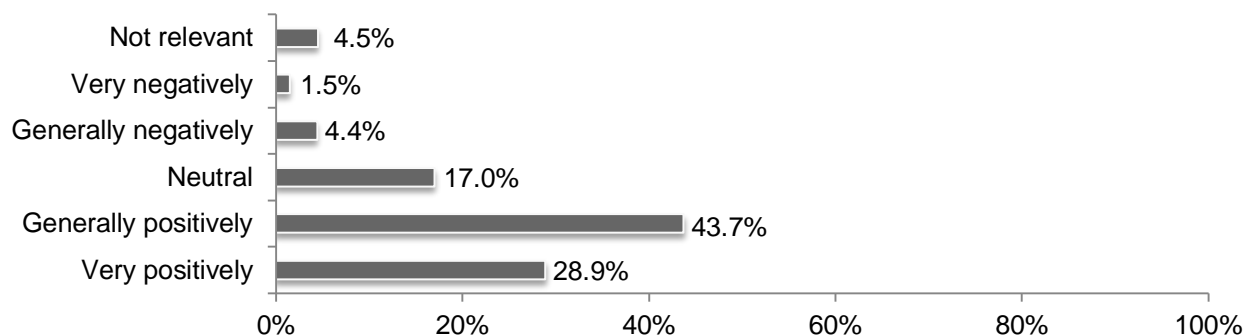
Where will you be employed? (top two locations listed)	Undergraduates (n=2,381)
Ohio	66.1%
Washington	7.3%

FUTURE EDUCATION

For the following six cases, which, if any, degrees do you plan to pursue either immediately upon graduation or at any time in the future? Please mark all that apply. If no option applies, please leave blank.

Degree	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law (n=3,822)	1.7%	6.1%	92.2%
Medicine (MD) (n=3,822)	2.1%	4.1%	93.9%
Other Medical (n=3,822)	3.2%	4.3%	92.5%
Second Bachelor's (n=3,822)	1.3%	5.4%	93.3%
Master's (n=3,822)	13.8%	48.9%	37.3%
Doctorate (n=3,822)	2.6%	15.2%	82.1%

To what extent have your overall undergraduate experiences influenced your plans for graduate or professional studies? Undergraduates (n=3,770)



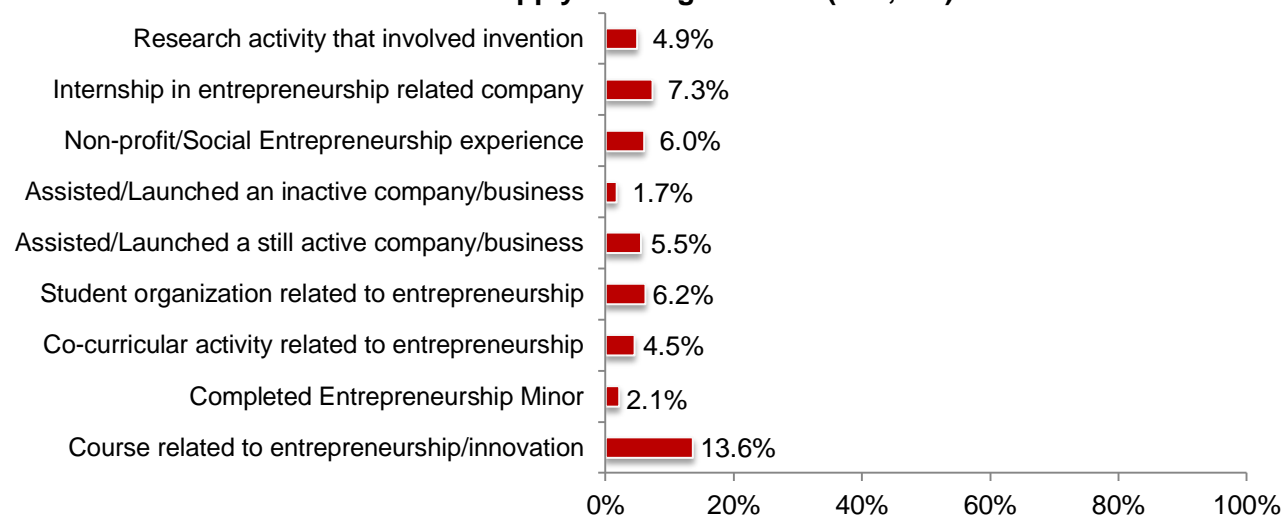
CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES

	5 - Great extent	4	3	2	1 - Not at all	0 -N/A
To what extent have you gained knowledge about key areas of study (for example, the arts, the sciences, your major), including how they are related to one another? (n=3,598)	30.5%	47.2%	17.3%	3.5%	1.1%	0.5%
To what extent have you gained skills needed to:						
Acquire, comprehend, and evaluate information and arguments (n=3,589)	44.8%	43.3%	9.3%	1.8%	0.6%	0.3%
Communicate clearly, precisely, and effectively (n=3,583)	45.5%	40.2%	11.1%	2.1%	0.8%	0.3%
Analyze and assess using qualitative and quantitative methods (n=3,579)	44.6%	38.8%	12.9%	2.6%	0.9%	0.3%
Integrate, create, and apply knowledge (n=3,580)	46.6%	39.9%	11.0%	1.7%	0.6%	0.3%
To what extent have you gained perspectives needed to:						
Interpret past and contemporary world cultures, events, and issues (n=3,572)	32.2%	35.2%	21.9%	7.5%	2.3%	1.0%
Make discriminating aesthetic judgments (n=3,561)	26.6%	34.4%	21.7%	6.9%	5.1%	5.3%
Make considered and reasoned ethical judgments (n=3,554)	41.7%	38.8%	13.5%	3.4%	1.7%	0.8%
Understand the roles of science and technology (n=3,561)	43.3%	36.5%	14.9%	3.6%	1.2%	0.6%
Recognize and respect diversity (n=3,564)	55.2%	29.2%	10.0%	2.9%	1.8%	0.8%

Based on your coursework experiences since you began your education at Ohio State:	5 - Great extent	4	3	2	1 - Not at all	0 -N/A
To what extent, through your major(s), minor(s), and other specialized study programs, have you gained in-depth knowledge skills, perspectives, and way of thinking related to your specialized field(s) of study? (n=3,584)	48.7%	39.4%	8.7%	1.7%	0.8%	0.7%
To what extent, through your General Education program, have you gained a breadth of knowledge, skills, and perspectives that cross disciplines? (n=3,585)	19.5%	35.1%	27.5%	11.6%	5.3%	1.0%
Based on your General Education program: To what extent have your knowledge, skills, and perspectives improved in the following areas?						
Written communication (n=3,413)	34.2%	39.3%	18.2%	5.0%	2.2%	1.0%
Oral expression (n=3,408)	30.3%	38.8%	20.2%	6.5%	2.7%	1.6%
Foreign language (n=3,405)	17.1%	19.2%	17.8%	8.5%	16.3%	21.1%
Literature (n=3,405)	17.7%	28.4%	30.2%	13.9%	6.3%	3.6%
The arts (n=3,401)	17.1%	24.2%	28.2%	16.5%	9.3%	4.6%
Historical perspectives (n=3,399)	19.4%	30.7%	27.7%	13.1%	5.6%	3.5%
Social diversity in the United States (n=3,405)	27.1%	32.0%	23.1%	10.4%	5.0%	2.5%
Global studies (n=3,402)	21.5%	28.9%	24.9%	13.8%	6.6%	4.3%
Social science (n=3,403)	27.5%	31.2%	23.3%	10.0%	4.8%	3.3%
Natural science (biological and physical) (n=3,394)	27.7%	28.4%	23.3%	11.8%	5.2%	3.6%
Logical analysis and analytical reasoning (n=3,401)	33.3%	34.7%	19.1%	8.0%	3.2%	1.7%
Mathematical and quantitative skills (n=3,407)	28.4%	29.3%	22.7%	10.7%	5.6%	3.2%
To what extent have your knowledge, skills, and perspectives improved through the following kinds of coursework?						
Education abroad courses or programs (n=3,380)	18.5%	10.9%	7.2%	3.1%	8.9%	51.5%
Service learning courses (n=3,378)	11.7%	14.4%	12.6%	5.5%	8.0%	47.8%
Culture and ideas coursework (n=3,380)	18.6%	25.7%	19.3%	7.7%	5.7%	23.1%
Cross-disciplinary seminars (n=3,375)	11.7%	16.4%	15.0%	6.4%	7.5%	42.9%

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

During your time as a student at Ohio State, did you do any of the following? Please select all that apply. Undergraduates (n=3,139)¹



¹ Only autumn and spring respondents were asked this question.

MASTER'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Students may earn both Master's and professional degrees during the same term, in which case they are reported in both sections; 7 students earned both in the 2014-2015 academic year.

DEMOGRAPHICS

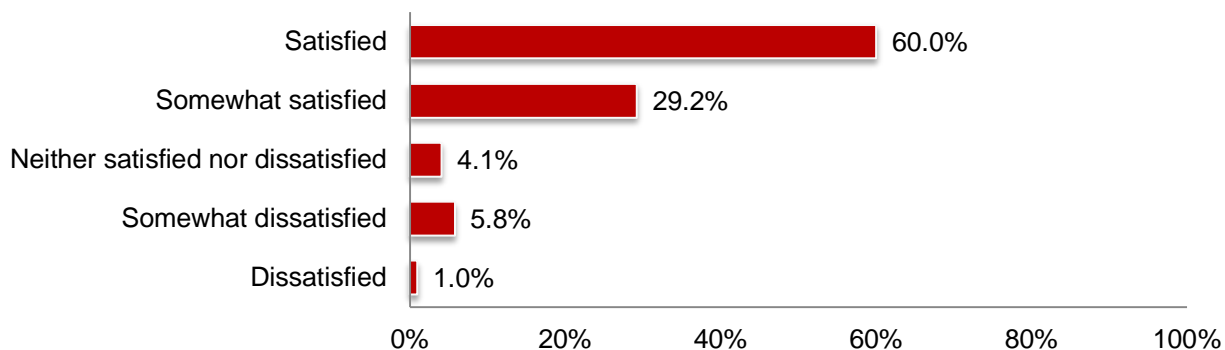
The following tables display gender and race/ethnicity information from the Student Information System for the students invited to take the survey and the students who completed the survey.

Gender	Master's - Invited	Master's - Responded
Female	57.2%	56.1%
Male	42.8%	43.9%
Undisclosed	0.0%	0.0%

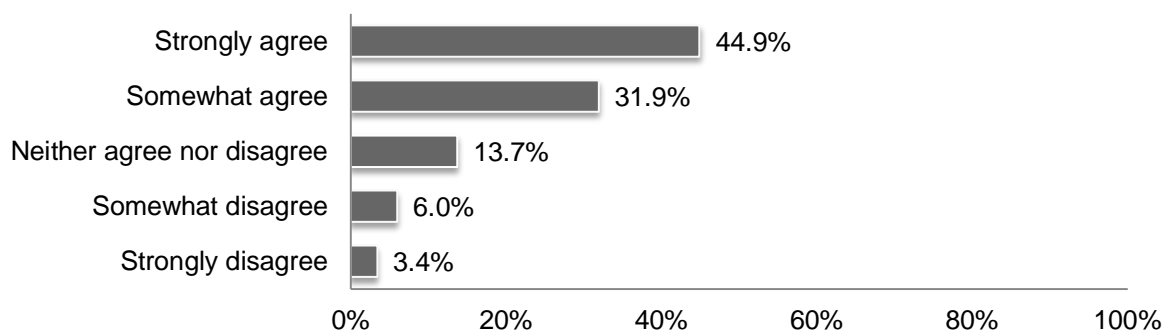
Race/Ethnicity	Master's - Invited	Master's - Responded
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.2%	0.1%
Asian	3.1%	2.4%
Black or African American	4.1%	3.2%
Hispanic	3.1%	3.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Non-Resident Alien	23.5%	25.2%
None Given/Race Unknown	3.8%	3.0%
Two or more Races	1.5%	1.8%
White	60.6%	61.2%

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall? Master's (n=932)

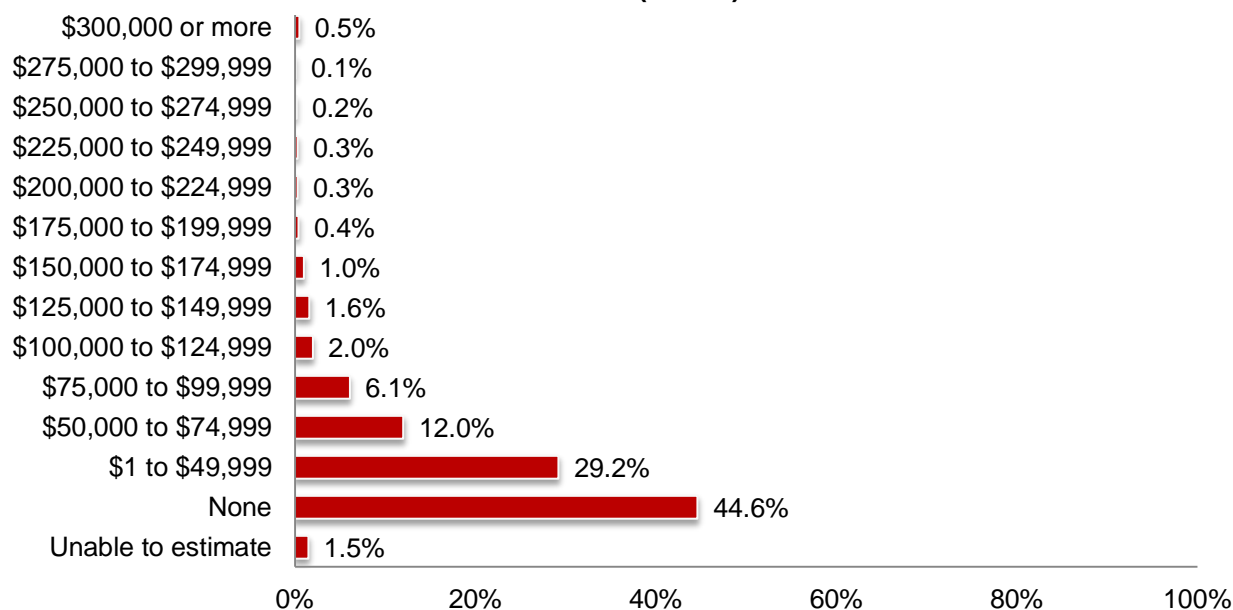


Reflecting back, do you now think that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? Master's (n=933)



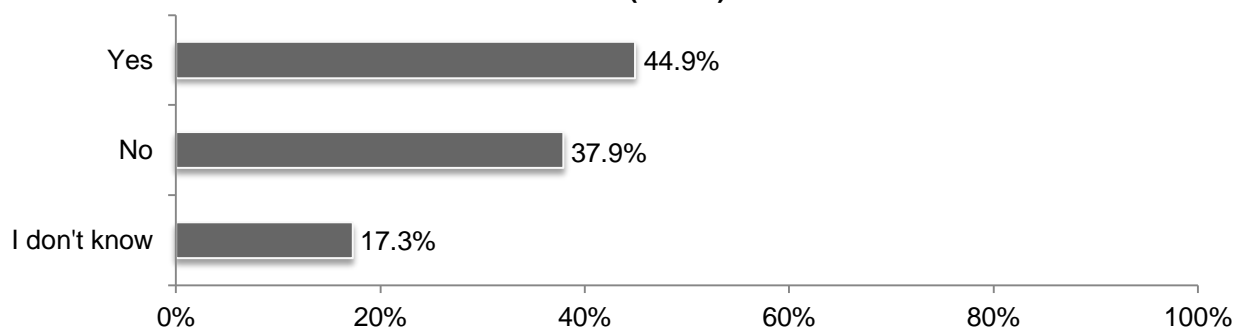
DEBT

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 (n=931)



POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Are you planning to stay in Columbus, Ohio after graduation? Master's (n=927)

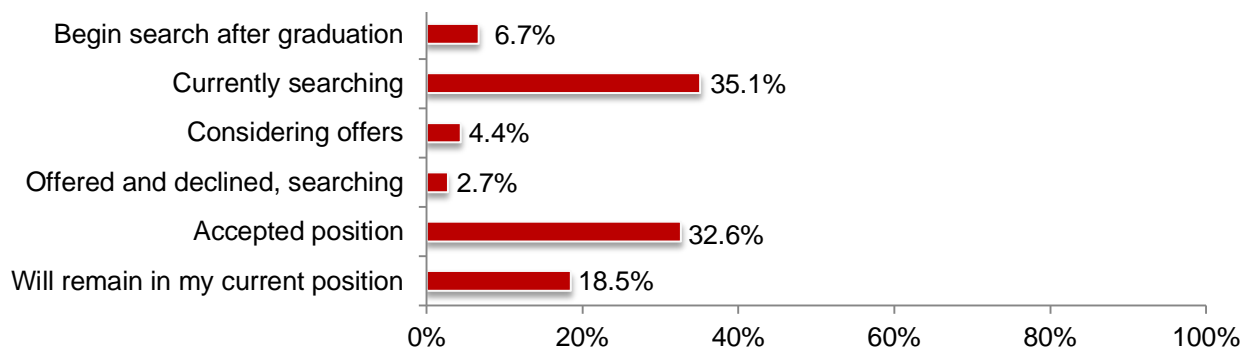


What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Master's (n=925)
Employment, full-time paid	80.9%
Employment, part-time paid	3.5%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	13.9%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	0.1%
Military service	0.2%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.5%
Starting or raising a family	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 (n=777)



If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Master's (n=762)
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	30.7%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	15.4%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	1.3%
Government or other public institution/agency	18.2%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	34.4%

Is your prospective position related to your graduate or professional field(s) of study?	Master's (n=776)
Same field	67.7%
Related to field of study	25.9%
Not related to field of study	3.7%
Not applicable	2.7%

How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?	Master's (n=767)
Very well	27.9%
Generally well	51.0%
Neutral	15.4%
Inadequately	4.6%
Very inadequately	1.2%

How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?	Master's (n=770)
Essential	7.4%
Very important	19.0%
Neutral	18.8%
Somewhat important	26.2%
Not important	18.4%
Not applicable	10.1%

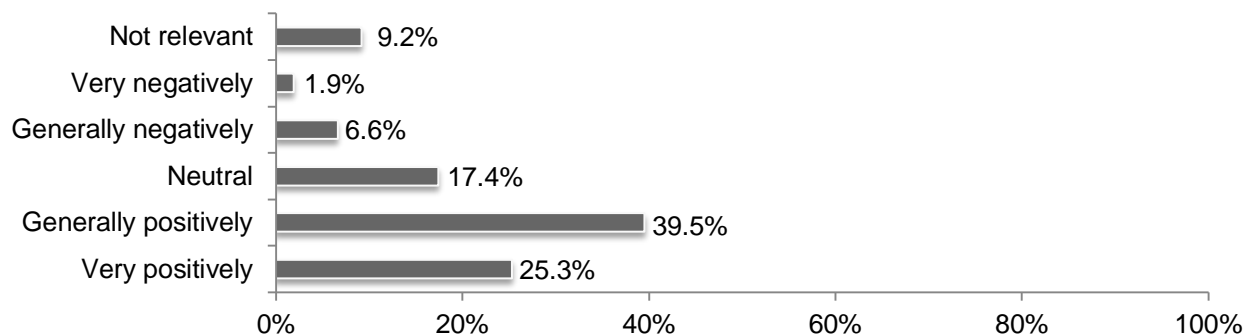
Where will you be employed? (top two locations listed)	Master's (n=676)
Ohio	60.4%
Washington	5.9%

FUTURE EDUCATION

For the following five cases, which, if any, degrees do you plan to pursue either immediately upon graduation or at any time in the future? Please mark all that apply. If no option applies, please leave blank.

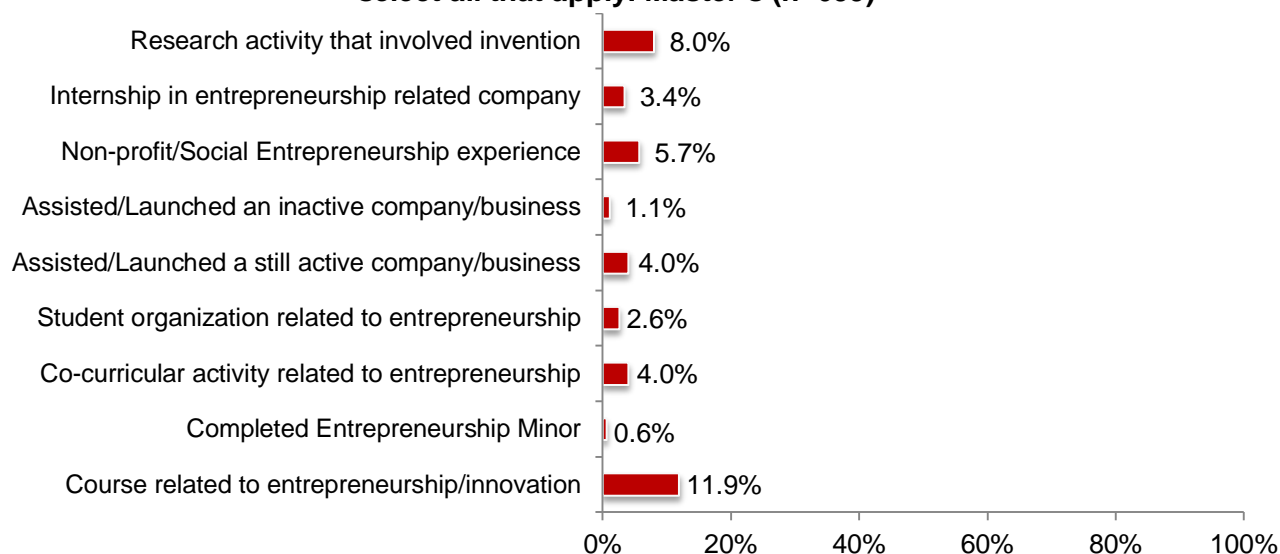
Degree	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law (n=906)	0.1%	2.8%	97.1%
Medicine (MD) (n=906)	0.3%	1.1%	98.6%
Other Medical (n=906)	0.8%	1.7%	97.6%
Master's (n=906)	4.4%	6.4%	89.2%
Doctorate (n=906)	14.9%	26.7%	58.4%

To what extent have your overall graduate experiences influenced your future plans for graduate or professional studies? Master's (n=889)



ENTREPRENEURSHIP EXPERIENCE

During your time as a student at Ohio State, did you do any of the following? Please select all that apply. Master's (n=699)²



² Only autumn and spring respondents were asked this question.

PROFESSIONAL DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Students may earn both Master's and professional degrees during the same term, in which case they are reported in both sections; 7 students earned both in the 2014-2015 academic year.

DEMOGRAPHICS

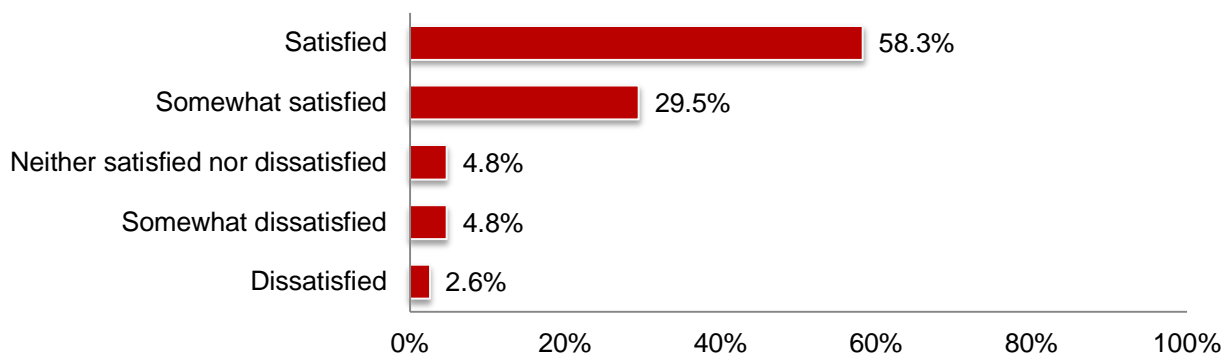
The following tables display gender and race/ethnicity information from the Student Information System for the students invited to take the survey and the students who completed the survey.

Gender	Professionals - Invited	Professionals - Responded
Female	56.0%	58.7%
Male	43.8%	41.0%
Undisclosed	0.2%	0.3%

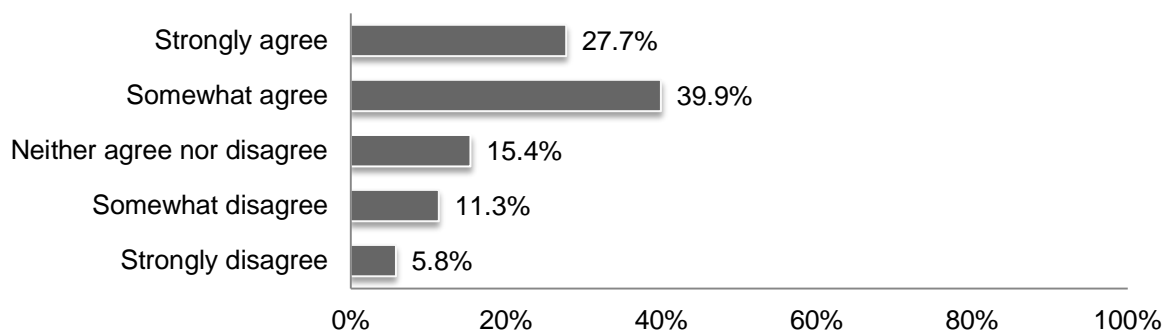
Race/Ethnicity	Professionals - Invited	Professionals - Responded
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%
Asian	12.3%	10.8%
Black or African American	5.1%	4.8%
Hispanic	4.0%	3.5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.3%
Non-Resident Alien	3.3%	3.5%
None Given/Race Unknown	5.0%	2.9%
Two or more Races	2.1%	2.2%
White	68.0%	72.1%

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall? Professionals (n=312)



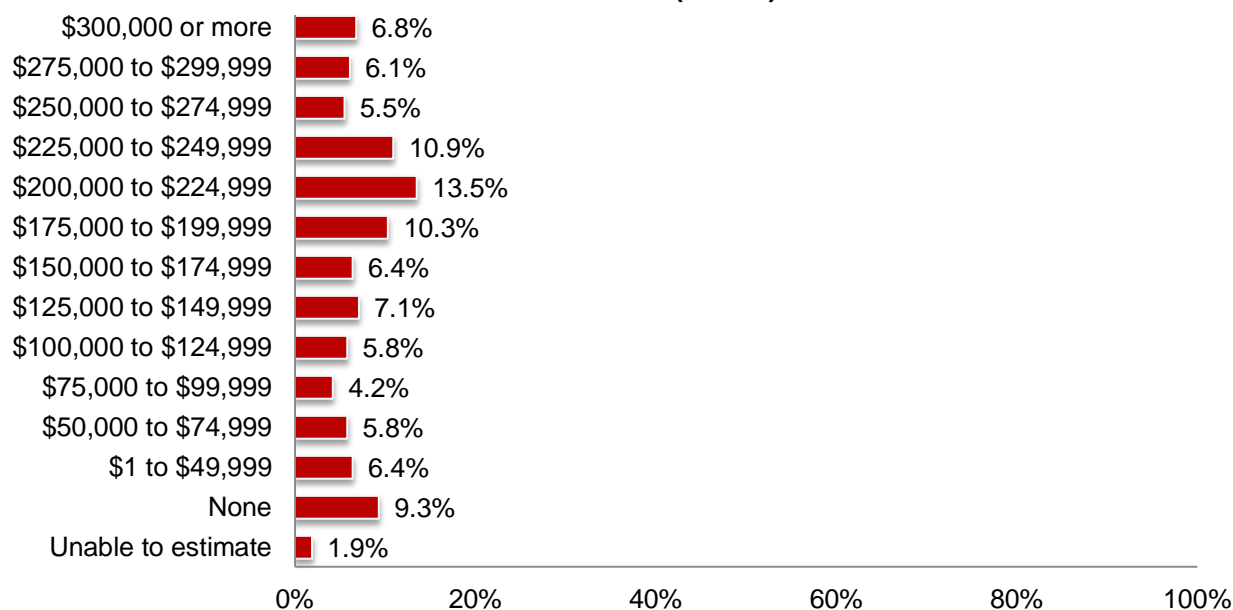
Reflecting back, do you now think that the benefits you have received from



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?

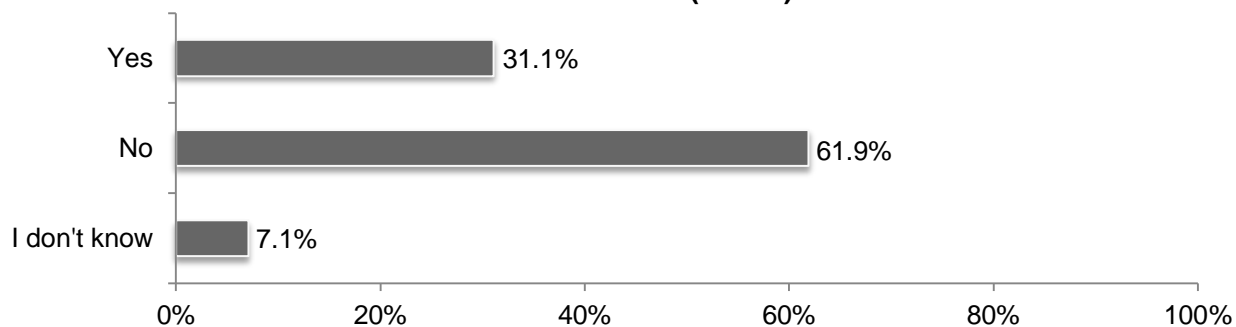
Professionals (n=311)



POST-GRADUATION PLANS

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

Professionals (n=312)

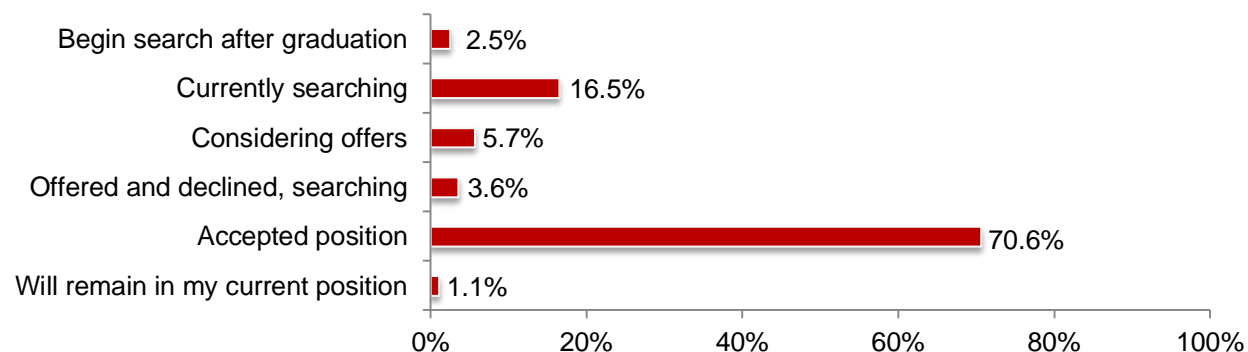


What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Professionals (n=312)
Employment, full-time paid	87.5%
Employment, part-time paid	1.9%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	7.1%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	0.0%
Military service	3.5%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.0%
Starting or raising a family	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? Professionals (n=279)



If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Professionals (n=279)
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	44.8%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	16.5%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	7.2%
Government or other public institution/agency	14.7%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	16.8%

Is your prospective position related to your graduate or professional field(s) of study?	Professionals (n=279)
Same field	93.2%
Related to field of study	2.9%
Not related to field of study	1.1%
Not applicable	2.9%

How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?	Professionals (n=279)
Very well	26.5%
Generally well	56.6%
Neutral	12.2%
Inadequately	2.9%
Very inadequately	1.8%

How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?	Professionals (n=279)
Essential	7.9%
Very important	17.6%
Neutral	17.2%
Somewhat important	31.2%
Not important	20.8%
Not applicable	5.4%

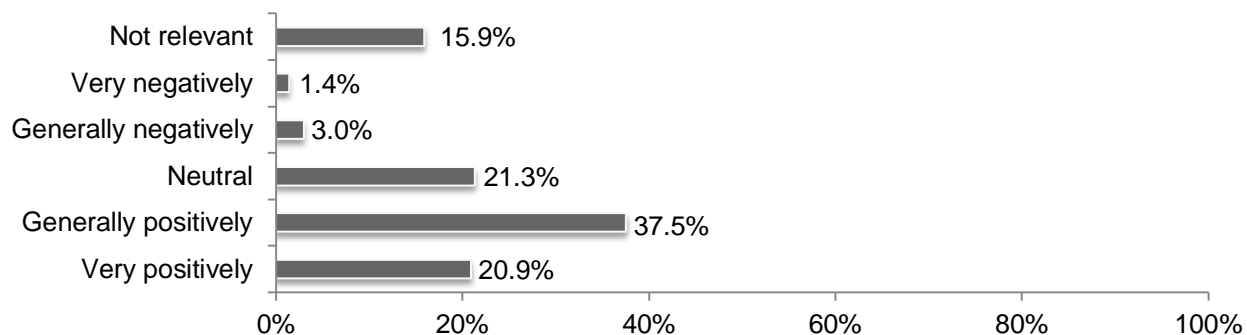
Where will you be employed? (top two locations listed)	Professionals (n=260)
Ohio	58.5%
Washington	7.7%

FUTURE EDUCATION

For the following five cases, which, if any, degrees do you plan to pursue either immediately upon graduation or at any time in the future? Please mark all that apply. If no option applies, please leave blank.

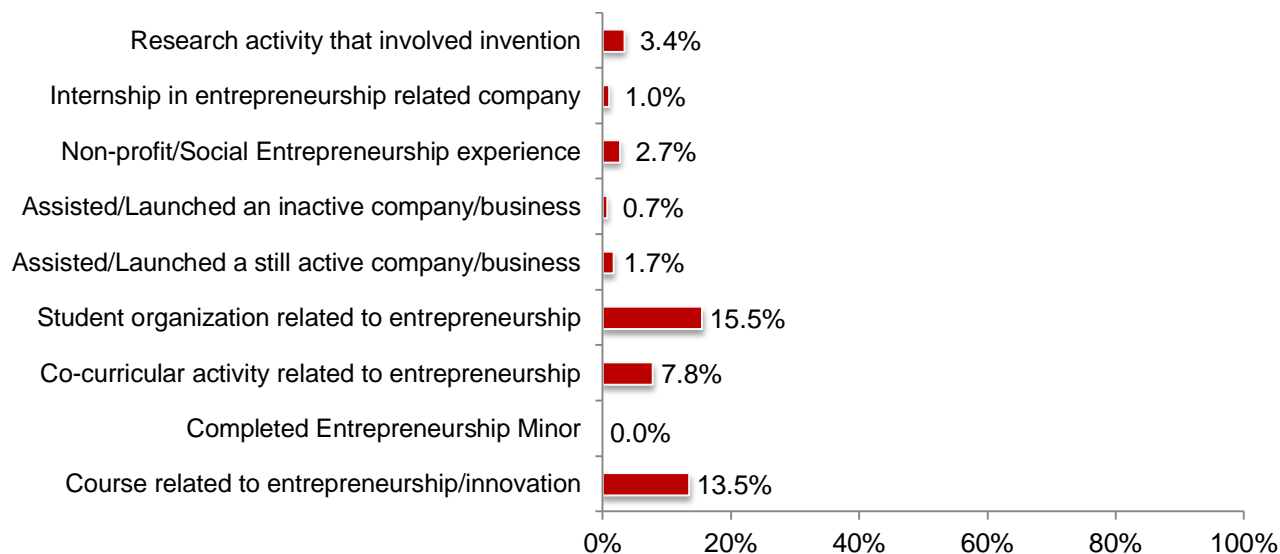
Degree	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not answer
Law (n=302)	2.0%	3.0%	95.0%
Medicine (MD) (n=302)	3.6%	3.0%	93.4%
Other Medical (n=302)	16.6%	2.0%	81.5%
Master's (n=302)	2.3%	8.9%	88.7%
Doctorate (n=302)	2.0%	2.6%	95.4%

To what extent have your overall graduate experiences influenced your future plans for graduate or professional studies? Professionals (n=296)



ENTREPRENEURSHIP EXPERIENCE

During your time as a student at Ohio State, did you do any of the following? Please select all that apply. Professionals (n=296)³



³ Only autumn and spring respondents were asked this question.