

Graduation Survey 2015-2016: University Report

June 2016



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the combined results for the summer 2015, autumn 2015, and spring 2016 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 2015-2016 academic year.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS' HIGHLIGHTS

- The response rate for undergraduate students was 40.2%; 4,388 submitted responses.
- 89.7% were *satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied* with their experience at Ohio State.
- 37.8% reported that they will graduate with no debt that they are personally responsible for repaying; 39.8% reported their debt would be \$20,000 or more.
- 73.6% *strongly agreed* or *somewhat agreed* that the benefits from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs.
- 71.7% reported that paid employment was most likely to be their principal activity after graduation; of those, 75.8% reported that Ohio State prepared them *very well* or *generally well* for the job market.
- 24.3% 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 40.0%; 1,123 submitted responses.⁵⁵
- 87.2% were *satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied* with their experience at Ohio State.
- 44.9% reported that they will graduate with no debt that they are personally responsible for repaying; 25.1% reported their debt would be \$50,000 or more.
- 73.1% *strongly agreed* or *somewhat agreed* that the benefits from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs.
- 84.8% reported that paid employment was most likely to be their principal activity after graduation; of those, 76.7% 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 40.1%; 336 submitted responses.
- 86.1% were *satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied* with their experience at Ohio State.
- 11.7% reported that they will graduate with no debt that they are personally responsible for repaying; 27.0% reported their debt would be \$100,000-\$199,999 and 46.0% reported their debt would be \$200,000 or more.
- 65.4% *strongly agreed* or *somewhat agreed* that the benefits from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs.
- 91.3% reported that paid employment was most likely to be their principal activity after graduation; of those, 81.5% 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 experiences, satisfaction and career and education plans of graduating students, as well as their permanent contact information. This report covers the combined results for the 2015-2016 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 has undergone several revisions. Some items have been added or changed, and some response options have been edited to better reflect student perspectives.

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: 10,916 were invited to take the survey and 4,388 responded, for a response rate of 40.2%.
 - Of the undergraduate respondents, 83 earned two bachelor's degrees.
- Master's degree recipients: 2,810 were invited to take the survey and 1,123 responded, for a response rate of 40.0%.
 - Of those earning Master's degrees, 15 who responded earned a second Master's degree and 4 earned a professional degree in addition to their Master's degree.
- Professional degree recipients: 837 were invited to take the survey and 336 responded, for a response rate of 40.1%.



UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

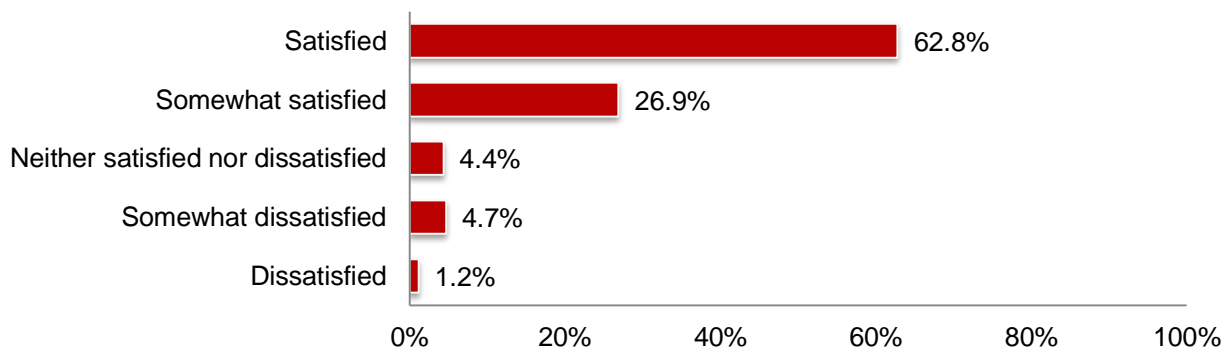
The following tables display gender and race/ethnicity information from the Student Information System for the students invited to take the survey and the students who completed the survey.

Gender	Undergraduates - Invited	Undergraduates - Responded
Female	49.9%	52.4%
Male	50.0%	47.6%
Undisclosed	0.1%	0.0%

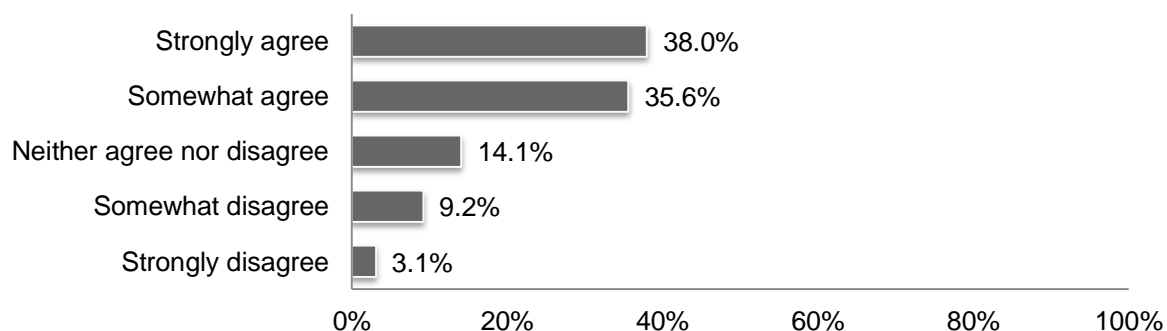
Race/Ethnicity	Undergraduates - Invited	Undergraduates - Responded
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.1%	0.1%
Asian	5.1%	4.5%
Black or African American	5.2%	4.9%
Hispanic	3.2%	3.1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%
Non-Resident Alien	7.3%	5.4%
None Given/Race Unknown	1.4%	1.4%
Two or More Races	2.9%	2.6%
White	74.8%	77.9%

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall? Undergraduates (n=4,301)

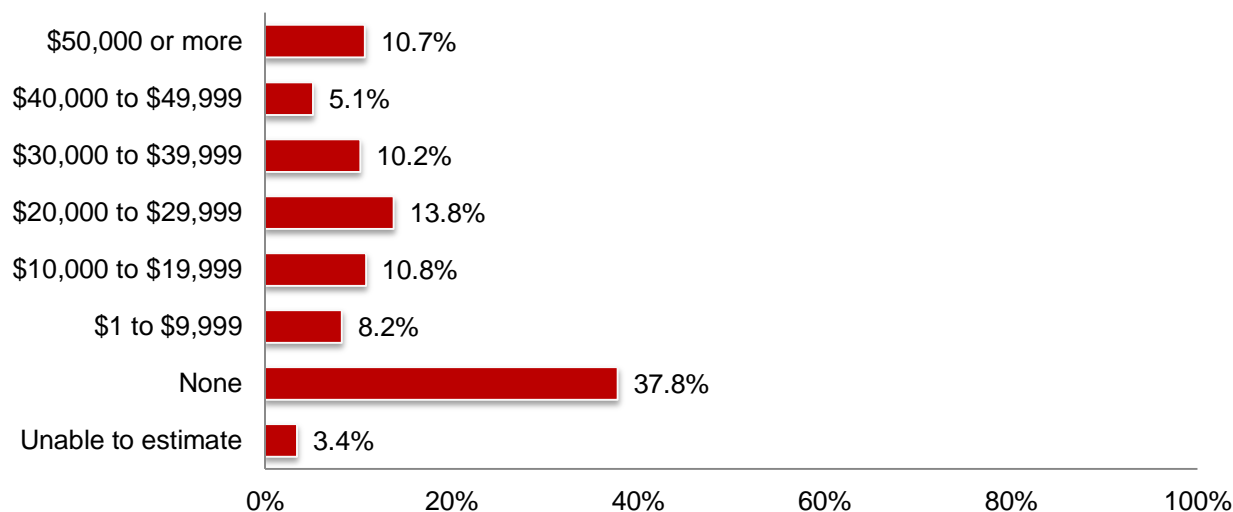


Reflecting back, do you now think that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? Undergraduates (n=4,299)



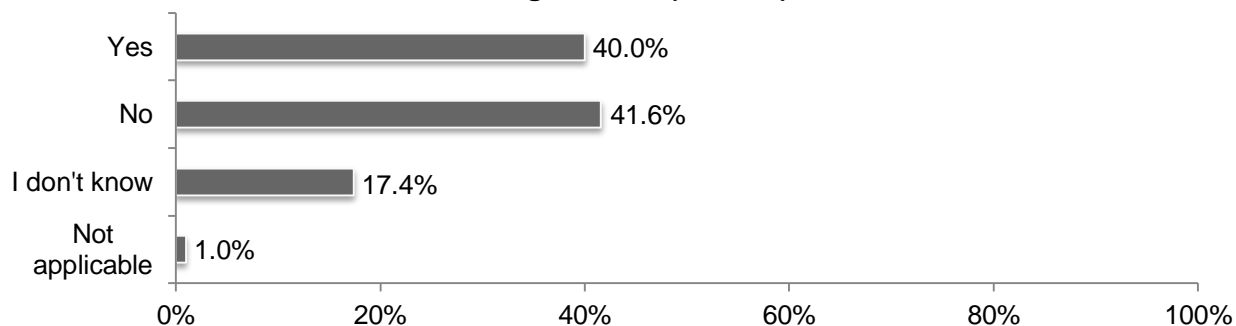
DEBT

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=4,299)



POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Are you planning to stay in Columbus, Ohio after graduation?
Undergraduates (n=4,274)



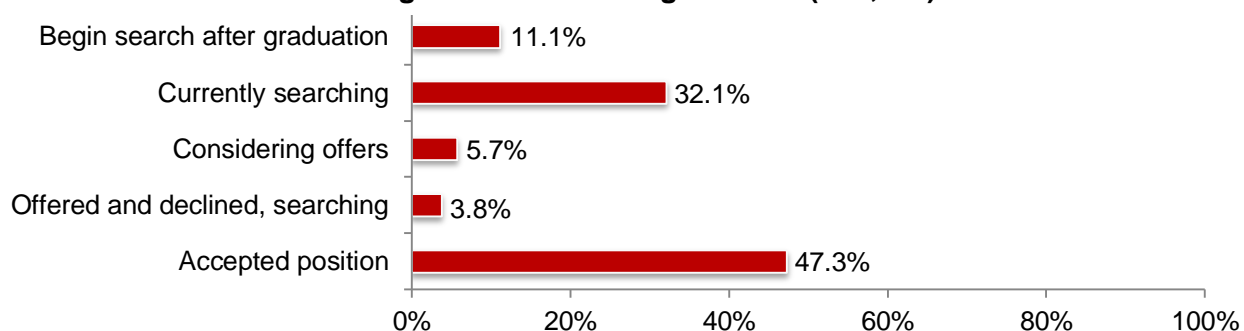
What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Undergraduates (n=4,272)
Employment, full-time paid	65.6%
Employment, part-time paid	6.1%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	22.8%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	1.5%
Additional undergraduate coursework	1.2%
Military service	0.8%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	1.3%
Starting or raising a family	0.6%



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=2,979)



If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Undergraduates (n=2,909)
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	43.6%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	8.0%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	2.0%
Government or other public institution/agency	8.5%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	37.8%

Is your prospective position related to your undergraduate field(s) of study?	Undergraduates (n=2,961)
Same field as major(s)	38.8%
Related to major(s)	27.9%
Related to minor(s)	2.4%
Not related to major(s) or minor(s)	9.1%
Not applicable	21.8%

How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?	Undergraduates (n=2,879)
Very well	27.3%
Generally well	48.5%
Neutral	14.0%
Inadequately	6.6%
Very inadequately	2.9%
Not applicable	0.8%

How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?	Undergraduates (n=2,875)
Essential	11.7%
Very important	26.0%
Neutral	21.2%
Somewhat important	19.4%
Not important	16.1%
Not applicable	5.6%

Where will you be employed? (top two locations listed)	Undergraduates (n=2,589)
Ohio	72.3%
International location	3.1%

INTERNSHIPS

While enrolled in your current degree program, did you complete an internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum, or academic major-related work experience?	Undergraduates (n=3,209)
Yes	73.0%
No	27.0%

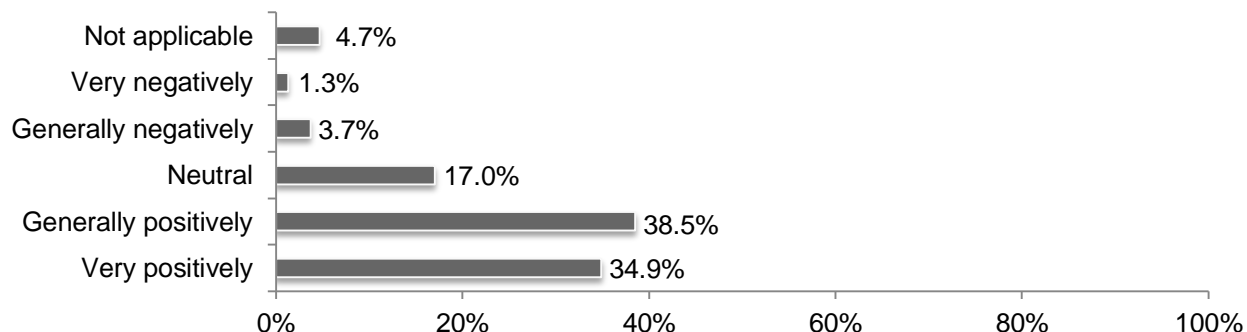
Only respondents who indicated completing a work experience and receiving a job offer were asked the following question.

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 (n=874)
Yes	46.0%
No	54.0%

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 select
Law (n=4,029)	1.6%	6.5%	91.8%
Medicine (MD) (n=4,028)	2.4%	4.0%	93.7%
Other Medical (n=4,028)	3.3%	4.6%	92.1%
Second Bachelor's (n=4,029)	1.2%	4.9%	93.9%
Master's (n=4,037)	12.8%	48.0%	39.2%
Doctorate (n=4,029)	2.9%	15.1%	82.0%

To what extent have your overall undergraduate experiences influenced your plans for graduate or professional studies? Undergraduates (n=3,939)



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=3,543)	32.7%	45.5%	17.1%	3.2%	1.0%	0.5%
To what extent have you gained skills needed to:						
Acquire, comprehend, and evaluate information and arguments (n=3,527)	46.8%	41.3%	9.3%	1.5%	0.8%	0.3%
Communicate clearly, precisely, and effectively (n=3,517)	47.5%	40.2%	9.6%	1.8%	0.7%	0.2%
Analyze and assess using qualitative and quantitative methods (n=3,520)	46.6%	38.8%	11.8%	1.6%	0.9%	0.3%
Integrate, create, and apply knowledge (n=3,516)	48.9%	39.0%	9.4%	1.7%	0.7%	0.3%
To what extent have you gained perspectives needed to:						
Interpret past and contemporary world cultures, events, and issues (n=3,516)	35.6%	35.2%	19.8%	6.0%	2.5%	0.9%
Make discriminating aesthetic judgments (n=3,502)	29.5%	33.5%	21.1%	6.1%	6.0%	3.9%
Make considered and reasoned ethical judgments (n=3,500)	44.9%	37.8%	12.1%	2.8%	1.4%	0.9%
Understand the roles of science and technology (n=3,506)	46.9%	34.0%	13.9%	3.3%	1.3%	0.6%
Recognize and respect diversity (n=3,499)	55.8%	29.7%	9.4%	2.5%	1.5%	1.0%
Based on your coursework experiences since you began your education at Ohio State:						
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=3,515)	48.1%	39.1%	10.0%	1.5%	0.7%	0.6%
To what extent, through your General Education program, have you gained a breadth of knowledge, skills, and perspectives that cross disciplines? (n=3,515)	18.9%	36.5%	27.9%	11.0%	5.0%	0.8%
Based on your General Education program: To what extent have your knowledge, skills, and perspectives improved in the following areas?						
Written communication (n=3,224)	35.5%	39.4%	17.2%	4.3%	2.4%	1.1 %
Oral expression (n=3,220)	29.3%	38.5%	20.5%	6.3%	3.6%	1.7%
Foreign language (n=3,216)	16.4%	19.5%	17.6%	9.2%	15.2%	22.1%
Literature (n=3,217)	18.7%	31.1%	28.5%	12.7%	5.7%	3.3%
The arts (n=3,209)	18.6%	26.2%	27.1%	16.3%	7.9%	3.9%
Historical perspectives (n=3,217)	20.6%	30.4%	25.6%	13.6%	5.6%	4.0%
Social diversity in the United States (n=3,221)	28.5%	32.4%	20.4%	10.4%	5.2%	3.1%
Global studies (n=3,217)	23.9%	31.1%	24.4%	11.3%	5.6%	3.6%
Social science (n=3,215)	28.3%	32.5%	22.8%	9.4%	4.1%	2.9%
Natural science (biological and physical) (n=3,208)	27.7%	29.5%	22.2%	11.1%	5.5%	4.0%
Logical analysis and analytical reasoning (n=3,219)	34.1%	33.4%	18.9%	7.7%	3.3%	2.6%
Mathematical and quantitative skills (n=3,219)	29.5%	28.3%	21.9%	10.3%	5.7%	4.2%

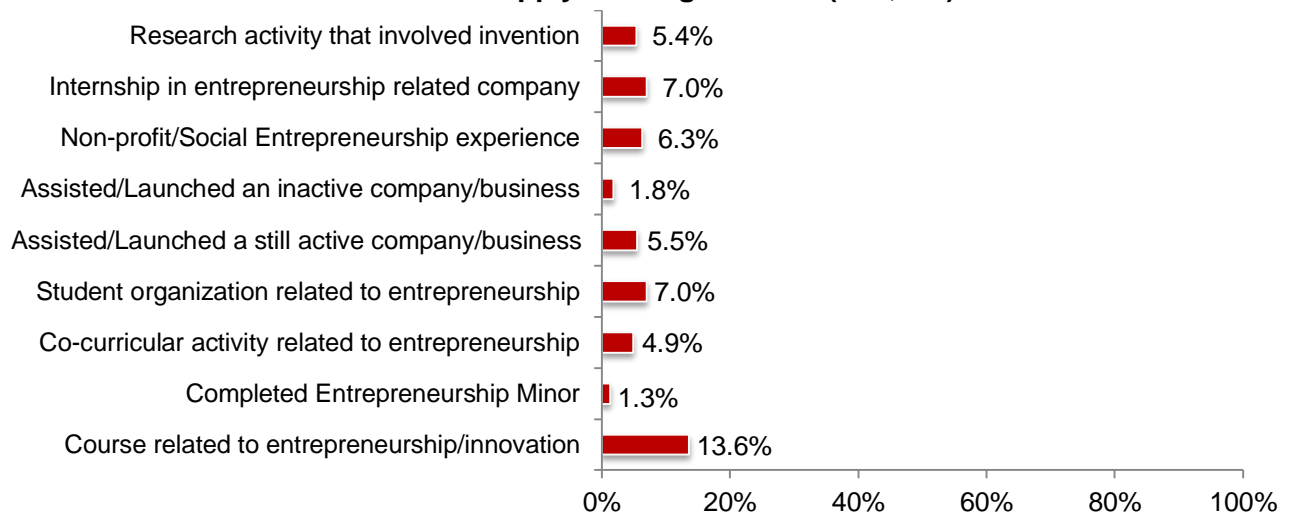


To what extent have your knowledge, skills, and perspectives improved through the following kinds of coursework?

Education abroad courses or programs (n=3,196)	19.8%	10.6%	7.6%	3.3%	9.0%	49.7%
Service learning courses (n=3,191)	12.9%	13.9%	11.5%	5.3%	8.2%	48.2%
Culture and ideas coursework (n=3,197)	21.6%	25.0%	19.4%	6.6%	5.4%	21.9%
Cross-disciplinary seminars (n=3,191)	13.2%	16.4%	14.3%	6.0%	7.4%	42.7%

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

During your time as a student at Ohio State, did you do any of the following? Please select all that apply. Undergraduates (n=3,323)



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; 4 students earned both in the 2015-2016 academic year.

DEMOGRAPHICS

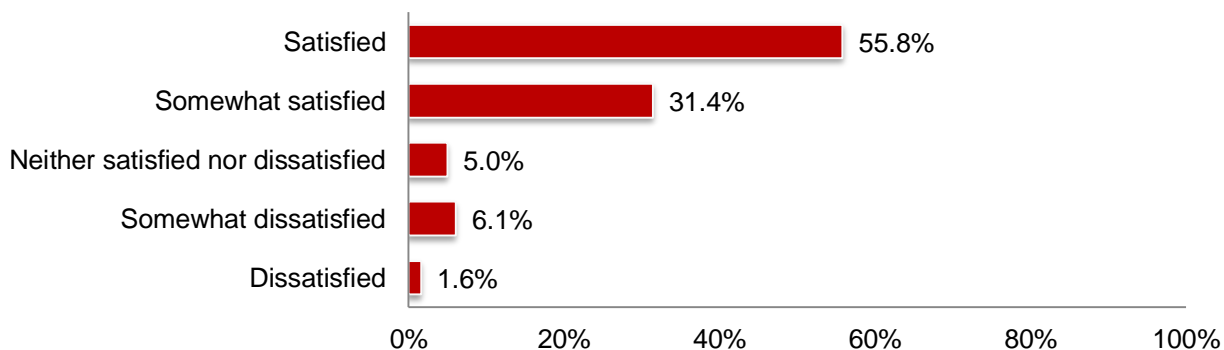
The following tables display gender and race/ethnicity information from the Student Information System for the students invited to take the survey and the students who completed the survey.

Gender	Master's - Invited	Master's - Responded
Female	55.9%	56.2%
Male	44.1%	43.8%
Undisclosed	0.0%	0.0%

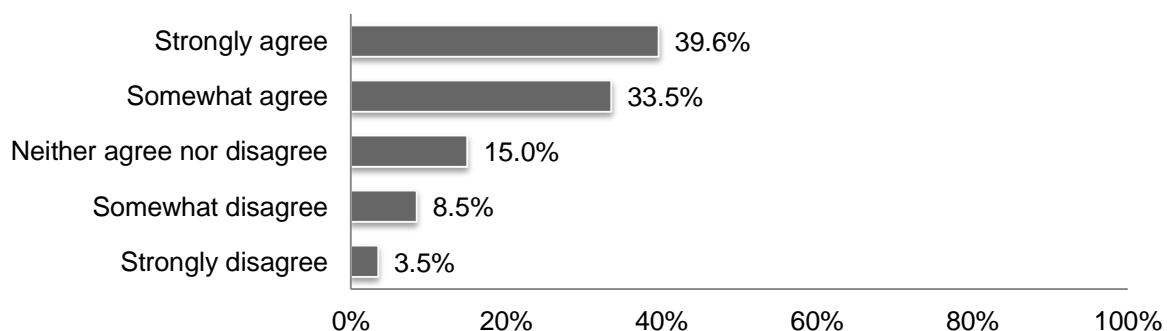
Race/Ethnicity	Master's - Invited	Master's - Responded
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.3%	0.3%
Asian	4.4%	3.8%
Black or African American	4.0%	4.2%
Hispanic	2.7%	2.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.0%
Non-Resident Alien	23.2%	25.0%
None Given/Race Unknown	3.0%	2.7%
Two or more Races	1.4%	1.1%
White	60.9%	60.3%

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall? Master's (n=1,098)

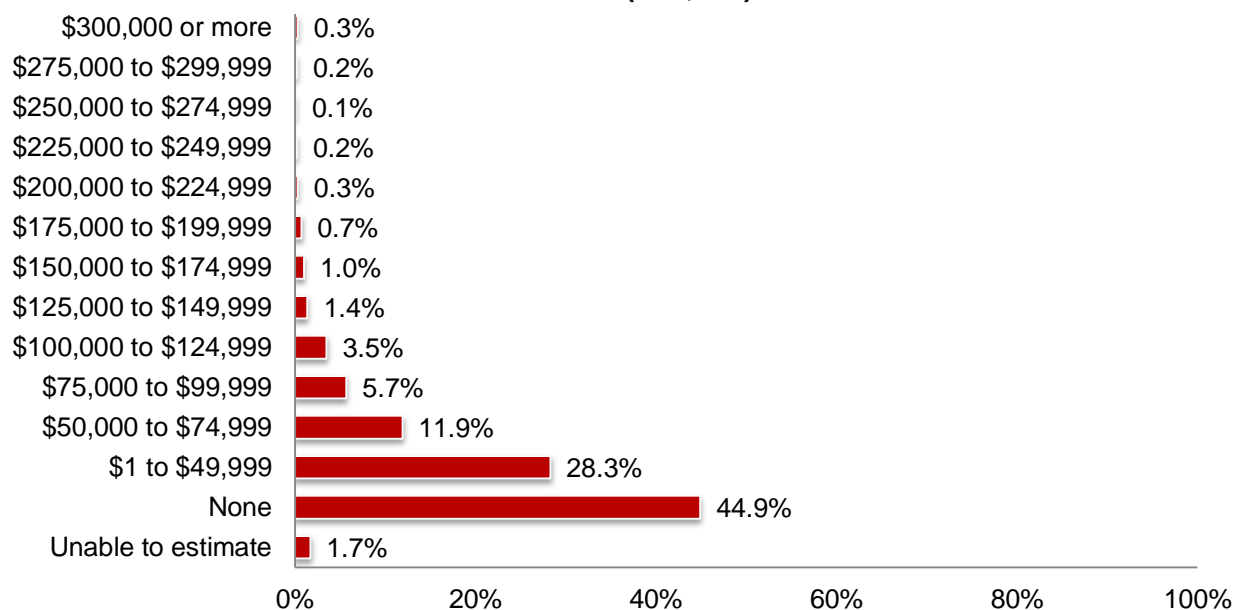


Reflecting back, do you now think that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? Master's (n=1,097)



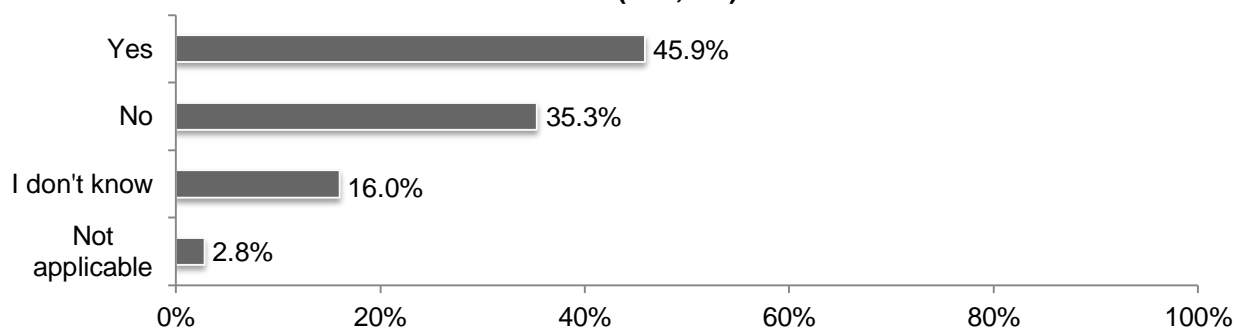
DEBT

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=1,096)



POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Are you planning to stay in Columbus, Ohio after graduation? Master's (n=1,090)

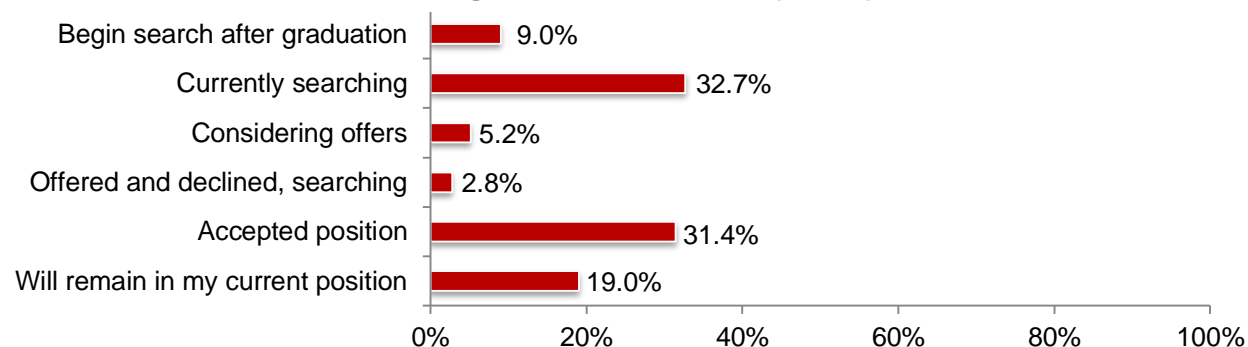


What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Master's (n=1,088)
Employment, full-time paid	80.1%
Employment, part-time paid	4.7%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	13.3%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	0.7%
Military service	0.6%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.3%
Starting or raising a family	0.3%

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=902)



If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Master's (n=861)
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	30.9%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	15.2%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	1.3%
Government or other public institution/agency	16.7%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	35.9%

Is your prospective position related to your graduate or professional field(s) of study?	Master's (n=883)
Same field	56.2%
Related to field of study	20.6%
Not related to field of study	2.4%
Not applicable	20.8%

How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?	Master's (n=875)
Very well	32.8%
Generally well	43.9%
Neutral	13.7%
Inadequately	5.8%
Very inadequately	2.6%
Not applicable	1.1%

How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?	Master's (n=872)
Essential	9.3%
Very important	20.1%
Neutral	18.3%
Somewhat important	18.2%
Not important	21.4%
Not applicable	12.6%

Where will you be employed? (top two locations listed)	Master's (n=773)
Ohio	64.9%
California	6.5%

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 (n=1,017)
Yes	58.9%
No	41.1%

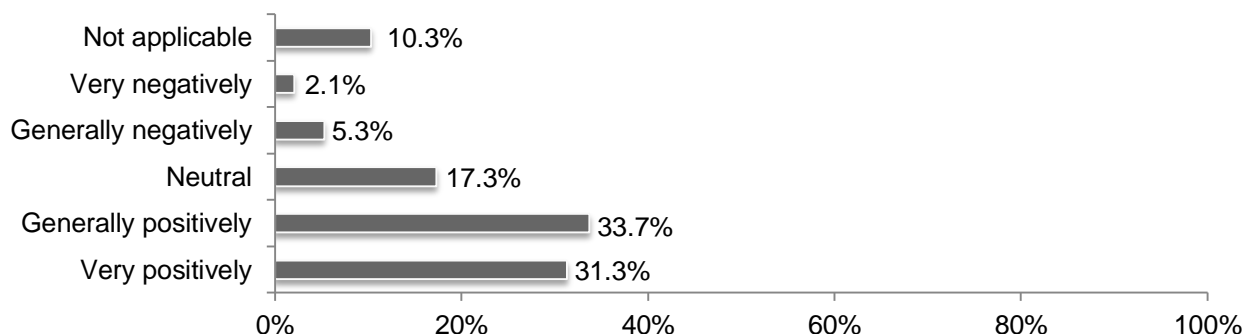
Only respondents who indicated completing a work experience and receiving a job offer were asked the following question.

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 (n=180)
Yes	46.1%
No	53.9%

FUTURE EDUCATION

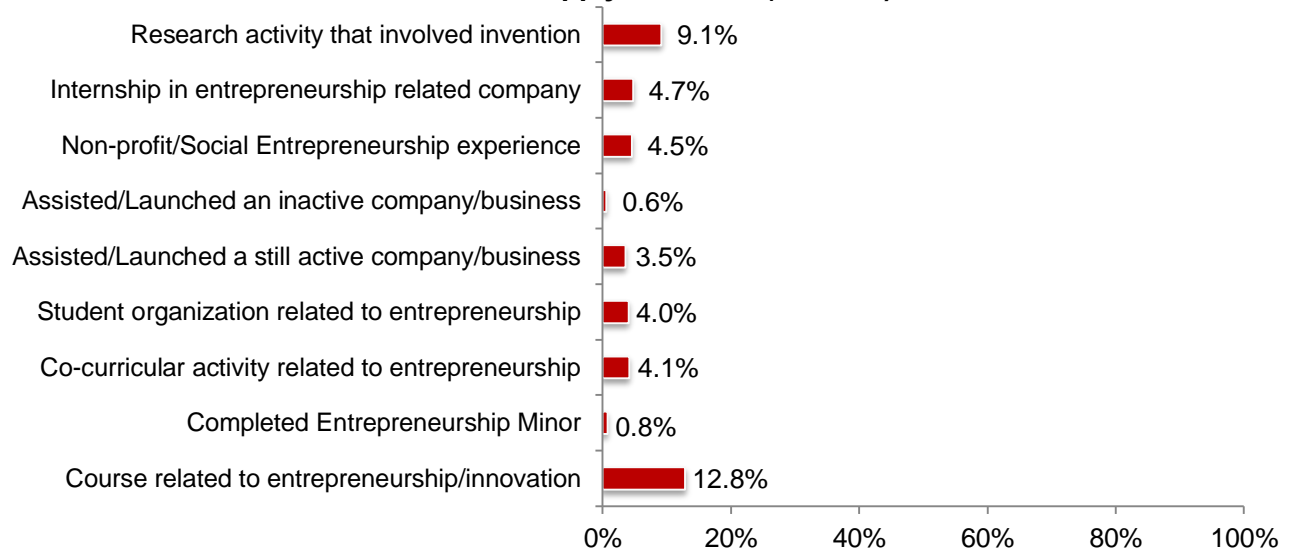
For the following five cases, which, if any, degrees do you plan to pursue either immediately upon graduation or at any time in the future? Please mark all that apply. If no option applies, please leave blank.			
Degree	Immediately upon graduation	Future plans	Did not select
Law (n=1,047)	0.4%	3.7%	95.9%
Medicine (MD) (n=1,047)	0.8%	1.3%	97.9%
Other Medical (n=1,047)	1.7%	1.8%	96.5%
Master's (n=1,047)	5.5%	9.1%	85.4%
Doctorate (n=1,047)	12.8%	27.0%	60.2%

To what extent have your overall graduate experiences influenced your future plans for graduate or professional studies? Master's (n=1,010)



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=1,032)



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; 4 students earned both in the 2015-2016 academic year.

DEMOGRAPHICS

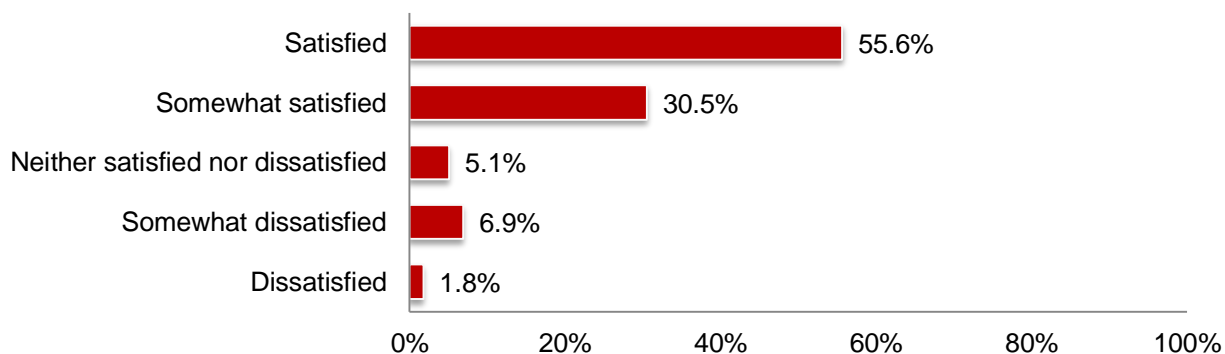
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Gender	Professionals - Invited	Professionals - Responded
Female	57.0%	59.1%
Male	43.0%	40.9%
Undisclosed	0.0%	0.0%

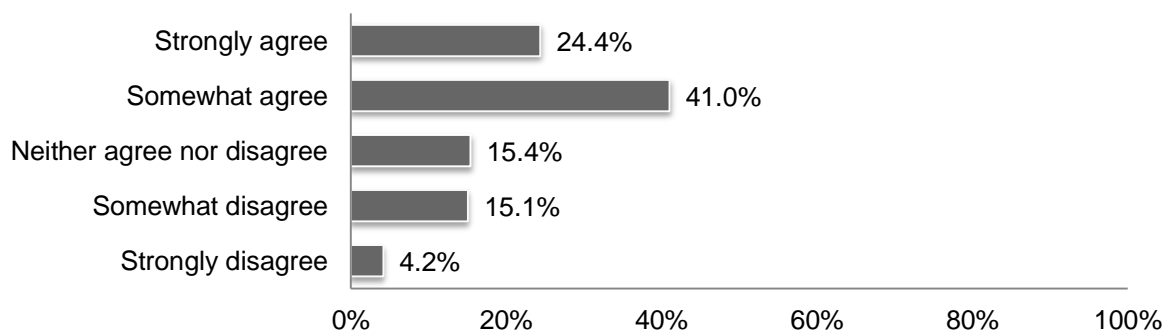
Race/Ethnicity	Professionals - Invited	Professionals - Responded
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.1%	0.0%
Asian	12.5%	7.1%
Black or African American	3.2%	2.6%
Hispanic	4.8%	2.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Non-Resident Alien	4.7%	4.1%
None Given/Race Unknown	5.4%	6.2%
Two or more Races	2.0%	2.4%
White	67.3%	74.7%

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall? Professionals (n=331)



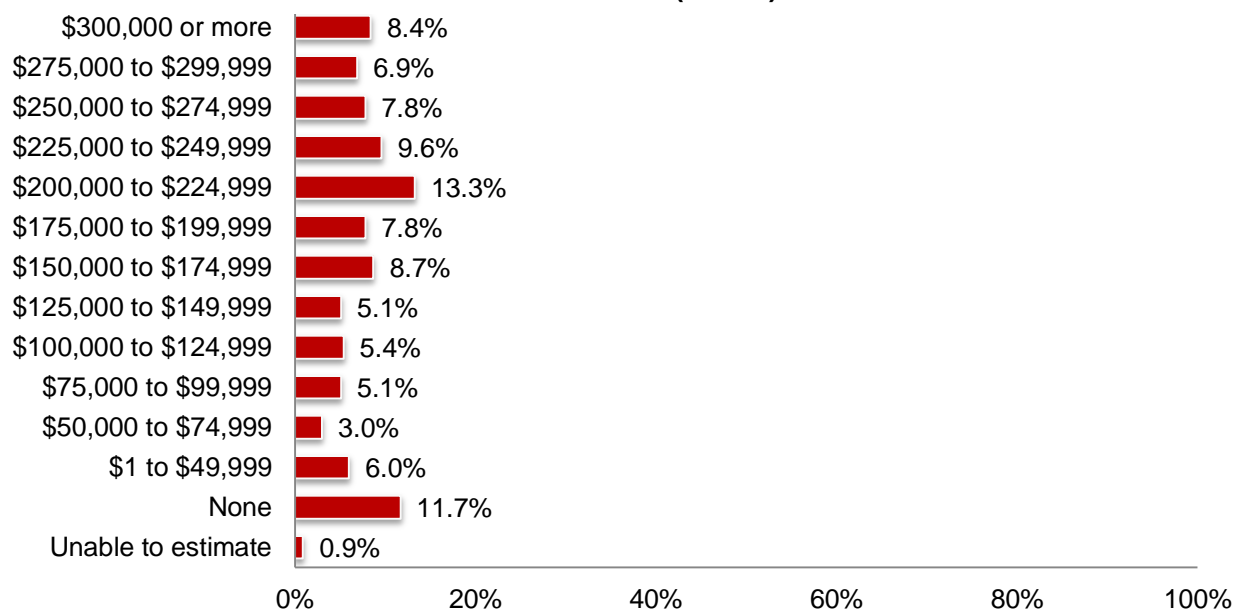
Reflecting back, do you now think that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? Professionals (n=332)



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?

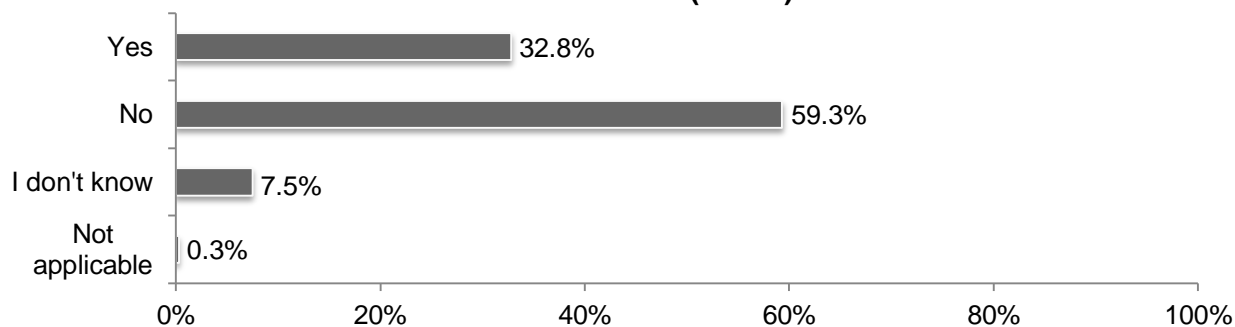
Professionals (n=332)



POST-GRADUATION PLANS

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

Professionals (n=332)



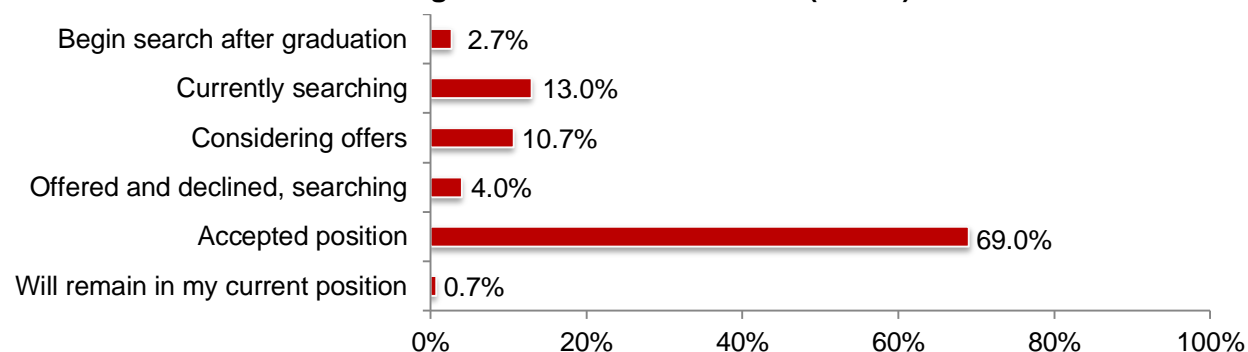
What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Professionals (n=333)
Employment, full-time paid	88.6%
Employment, part-time paid	2.7%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	5.7%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	0.0%
Military service	2.7%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.3%
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=300)



If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Professionals (n=291)
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	46.7%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	13.4%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	4.1%
Government or other public institution/agency	17.5%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	18.2%

Is your prospective position related to your graduate or professional field(s) of study?	Professionals (n=297)
Same field	89.6%
Related to field of study	3.7%
Not related to field of study	0.3%
Not applicable	6.4%

How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?	Professionals (n=291)
Very well	33.0%
Generally well	48.5%
Neutral	11.0%
Inadequately	3.8%
Very inadequately	3.1%
Not applicable	0.7%

How important have university or college resources been in helping you to find a job?	Professionals (n=292)
Essential	8.6%
Very important	24.3%
Neutral	19.9%
Somewhat important	19.5%
Not important	22.9%
Not applicable	4.8%

Where will you be employed? (top two locations listed)	Professionals (n=278)
Ohio	64.0%
California	4.0%

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 (n=306)
Yes	65.4%
No	34.6%

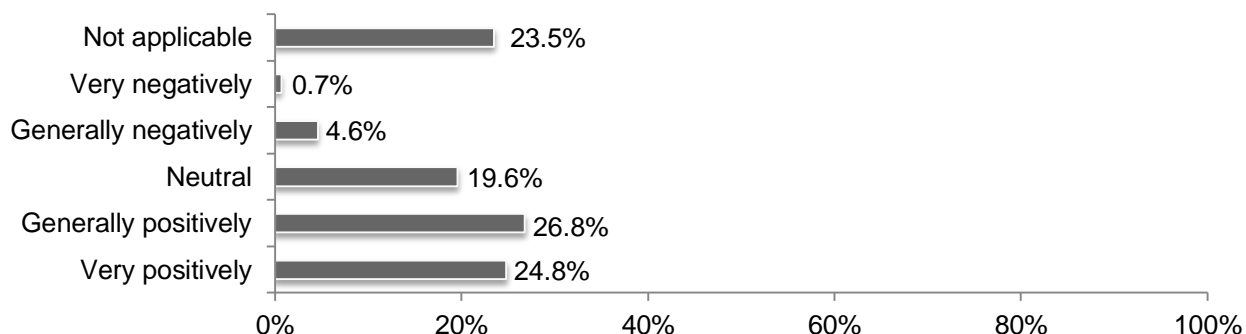
Only respondents who indicated completing a work experience and receiving a job offer were asked the following question.

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 (n=125)
Yes	34.4%
No	65.6%

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=321)	2.2%	1.6%	96.3%
Medicine (MD) (n=321)	4.0%	0.6%	95.3%
Other Medical (n=321)	11.5%	3.1%	85.4%
Master's (n=321)	5.6%	5.6%	88.8%
Doctorate (n=321)	1.2%	3.4%	95.3%

To what extent have your overall graduate experiences influenced your future plans for graduate or professional studies? Professionals (n=306)



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=313)

