

Student Life Student Employees

Center for the Study of Student Life

September 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Among employed students, 60.8% reported they work off-campus, 14.7% reported they work on campus within the Office of Student Life and 24.6% reported they work on-campus but not in the Office of Student Life.
- Among employed international students, 10.9% work as Student Life student employees, 1.6% work off-campus, and 3.9% work on-campus, but not in Student Life.
- Student Life student employees are more likely to live in on-campus housing (50.0%) than students who work off-campus (26.4%) or on-campus, but not in Student Life (22.1%).
- Student Life student employees are more likely to be involved in student organizations, Student Life sponsored programs or social fraternities or sororities (72.8%) than students working off-campus (57.9%) or on-campus, but not in Student Life (66.2%).
- Student employees who work in Student Life, on-campus or off-campus do not report statistically significant differences in recognizing people on campus, having relationships with other Ohio State students or satisfaction with the university.
- Students working on-campus but not in Student Life are the most likely to agree that they feel like a member of the Ohio State community (91.6%, compared to 79.3% among Student Life student employees and 81.1% among students working off-campus).
- Student Life student employees are the most likely to agree that they want to get a job in Columbus after graduation (51.1%, compared to 43.4% among on-campus, non-Student Life employees and 44.1% among off-campus employees).
- Among employed students, there are no statistically significant differences in the percentage who agree or strongly agree that they intend to complete their degree at Ohio State (Student Life employees, 93.5%; on-campus, non-Student Life employees, 96.1%; off-campus employees, 97.1%).

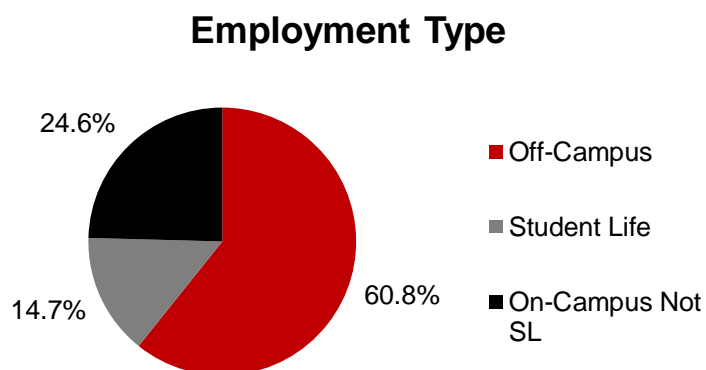
Note: All reported differences in the executive summary are statistically significant at the $p < .05$ level or below unless otherwise noted.

INTRODUCTION

The Student Life Survey was distributed to a random sample of 5,000 undergraduate students at The Ohio State University in January 2015. The survey received 1,039 responses (a 20.8% response rate). Note that not all students answered each question. This report examines differences in the responses of students who are employed off-campus, on-campus in Student Life, or on-campus outside of Student Life. Working 10-19 hours per week off campus is associated with benefits to student learning including increased studying and higher GPA's. (Dundes and Marx, 2006) This report considers how employment on campus influences students' lives.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Of the 627 undergraduate students who are employed, 60.8% reported they work off-campus, 14.7% reported they work on campus within the Office of Student Life and 24.6% reported they work on campus but not in the Office of Student Life.



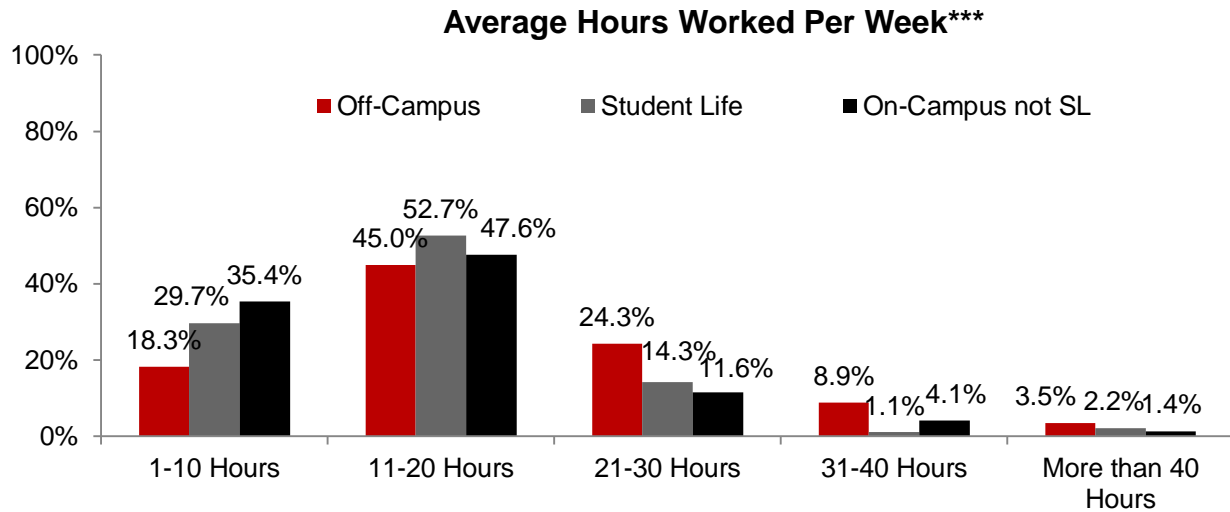
Gender	Off-Campus	Student Life	On-Campus Not SL	Total
Female	53.9%	55.6%	56.7%	54.8%
Male	46.1%	44.4%	43.3%	45.2%
Ethnicity	Off-Campus	Student Life	On-Campus Not SL	Total
Black	3.0%	3.4%	5.6%	3.7%
Asian	7.9%	14.6%	9.1%	9.2%
White	83.6%	78.7%	77.6%	81.4%
Multi-Racial	5.5%	3.4%	7.7%	5.7%
Class Rank***	Off-Campus	Student Life	On-Campus Not SL	Total
1	9.7%	9.8%	2.6%	8.0%
2	21.0%	23.9%	14.3%	19.8%
3	24.1%	21.7%	17.5%	22.2%
4	45.1%	44.6%	65.6%	50.1%
International Student***	Off-Campus	Student Life	On-Campus Not SL	Total
Yes	1.6%	10.9%	3.9%	3.5%
No	98.4%	89.1%	96.1%	96.5%
Current Residence***	Off-Campus	Student Life	On-Campus Not SL	Total
On Campus Housing	26.4%	50.0%	22.1%	28.8%
Off Campus in 43201 area	44.9%	45.7%	52.6%	46.9%
Off Campus outside 43201 area	28.8%	4.3%	25.3%	24.3%

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

FINDINGS

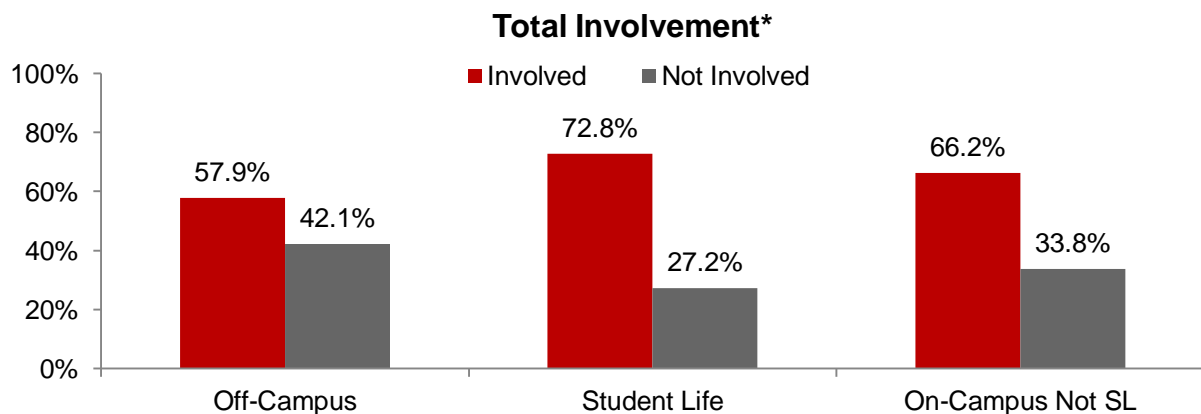
HOURS WORKED BY LOCATION

73.9% of students work 20 hours or under on average per week. Significant differences between hours worked per week by job location are shown below.

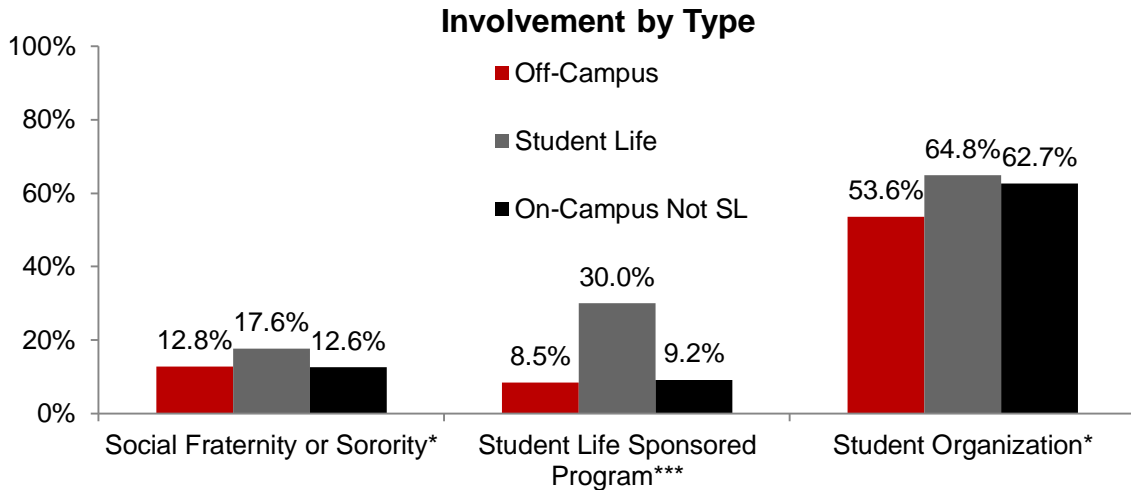


INVOLVEMENT

Overall, 63.6% of students reported being involved in at least one of the areas listed below. The chart directly below indicates students' level of involvement in Student Organizations, Student Life sponsored programs, and Fraternities and Sororities, considering the respondent's location of employment. The charts further down itemize the specific areas of involvement and consider differences based on employment location. While there are differences in involvement type, there is no significant difference in where students work, and whether they hold leadership positions in student groups.

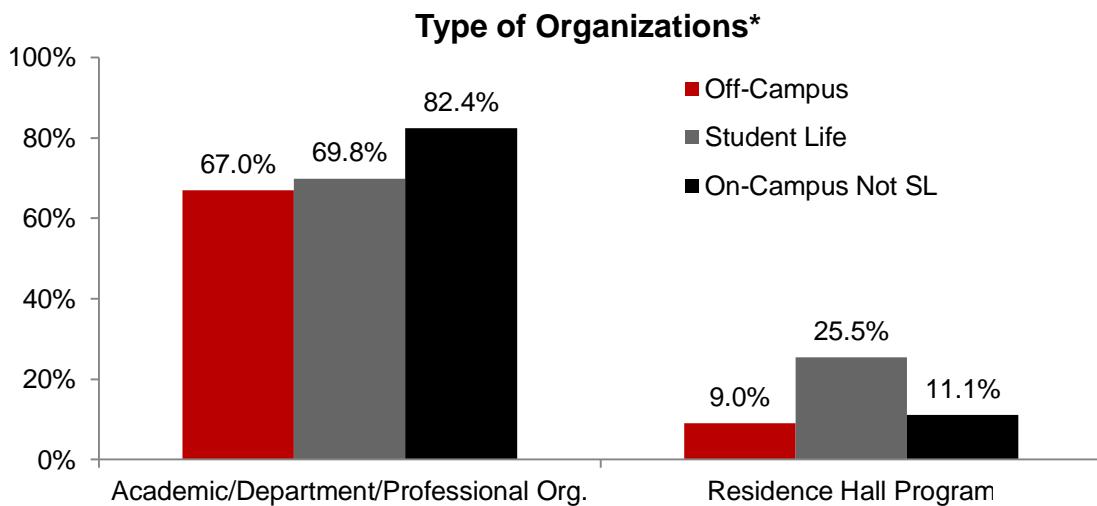
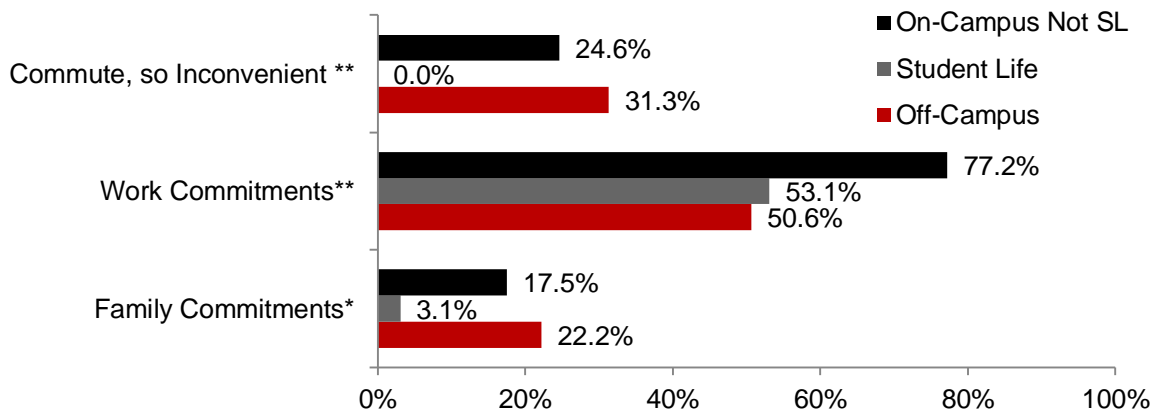


*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001



There are no significantly different reasons for joining a student organization. There are however, significantly different reasons based on job location for not joining a student organization shown below. There are also significant differences by type of organization students join.

Reasons for not Joining Student Organizations



*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

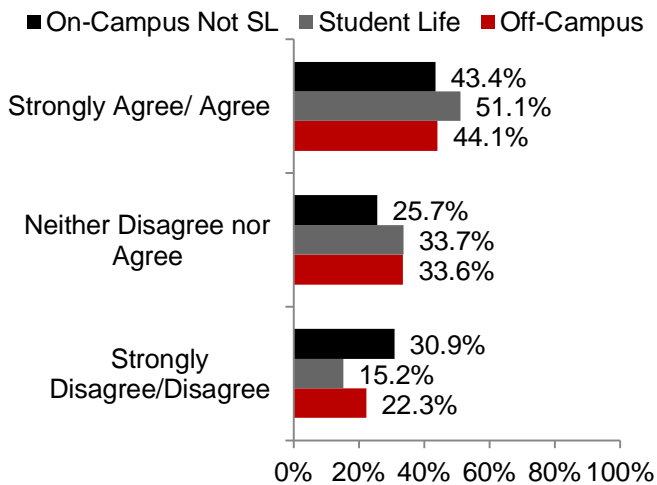
FEELINGS BASED ON OHIO STATE EXPERIENCE

Students' feelings of belongingness varied in only a few areas when examining their employment location, which is shown below.

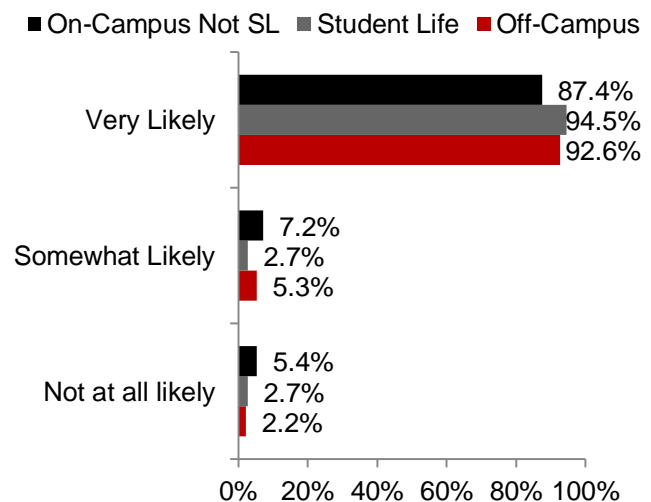
Based on your experience at Ohio State thus far, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements (% Agree/Strongly Agree)	Off-Campus	Student Life	On-Campus Not SL
I recognize people on campus (for example, in my classes, walking on campus, attending events)	83.2%	88.0%	89.6%
I feel that I am a member of the Ohio State community**	81.1%	79.3%	91.6%
I have relationships with other Ohio State students	88.7%	87.0%	92.2%
I have grown as a result of my experiences at Ohio State	87.4%	91.2%	91.6%
I feel involved with others at the university*	65.9%	70.3%	77.9%
Overall, I am satisfied with my experiences at The Ohio State University	86.6%	87.0%	87.0%

There were statistically significant differences in the percentage of students who want to get a job in Columbus after graduation by occupational location; however, there were not differences in the percentage who believed they would return to Ohio State during Autumn 2015.

I want to get a job in Columbus after graduation*

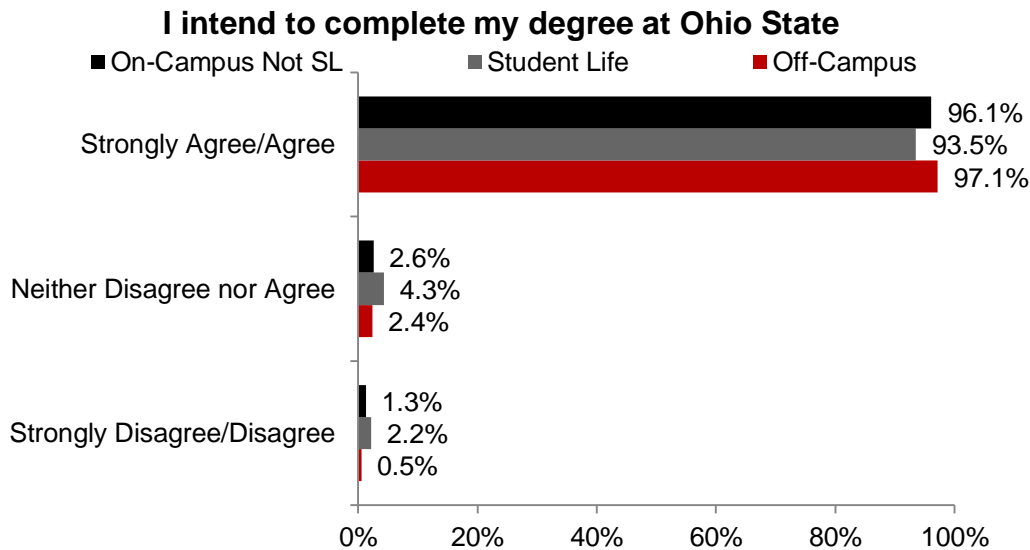


How likely are you to return to Ohio State in Autumn 2015?



*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

The chart below shows that regardless of occupational location the vast majority of students intend to complete their degree at Ohio State (differences are not statistically significant).



SUMMARY

While there are some differences in involvement by employment location, students working in Student Life were the most involved group, across all areas of student involvement. The most common reason students feel they were unable to be involved in student organizations was unsurprisingly work commitments. On-campus workers were least likely to report work commitments hindered involvement, while those who worked on-campus not in Student Life were most likely to report complications. Despite differences on some feelings of belonging, there are no significant differences in students returning the next year or intentions to graduate from Ohio State. It is important to understand the impact of employment on students because many require employment to pay for school.

REFERENCE

Dundes, L. and Marx, J. (2006). Balancing work and academics in college: Why do students working 10 to 19 hours per week excel? *Journal of College Student Retention*, 8(1), 107-120.