

Sexual Orientation and Experiences at Ohio State

Center for the Study of Student Life

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INTRODUCTION

This report explores student involvement, sense of belonging, student satisfaction and plans to persist at The Ohio State University by students' self-reported sexual orientation. Findings focus on several components of involvement, including taking part and participating in Ohio State traditions. In addition, this report examines sense of belonging, which is measured according to students' perceived connection to the university and relationships with others at the university.

Data are from the 2015 Student Life Survey, which was administered to a random sample of 5,000 undergraduate students at The Ohio State University during January 2015. A total of 1,039 undergraduate students (a 20.8% response rate) completed the survey.

Students were asked "what is your sexual orientation?" and given the following response options: bisexual, heterosexual, lesbian or gay, questioning and prefer not to answer. Students who responded that they identified as lesbian or gay, bisexual or questioning are grouped as LGBQ students since there were too few respondents to examine differences by subgroup. A total of 4.6% students identified as LGBQ, 92.3% identified as heterosexual and 3.2% preferred not to respond. The report compares responses LGBQ students and heterosexual students.

HIGHLIGHTS

- There are not statistically significant differences in LGBQ and heterosexual students':
 - Sense of belonging to Ohio State
 - Knowledge or participation in Ohio State traditions
 - Satisfaction with Ohio State's programs, services and academics
 - Overall satisfaction with Ohio State
 - Connection to students and faculty at Ohio State
 - Involvement in and leadership positions in student organizations, Student Life sponsored programs or social fraternities or sororities
- LGBQ students (64.7%) are significantly more likely than heterosexual students (43.0%) to agree or strongly agree that they want to get a job in Columbus after graduation.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Fifty-four percent of respondents were female and 44.2% were male. Females are overrepresented in the sample compared to the student population at Ohio State, where 50.9% of students are female and 49.1% are male (oesar.osu.edu). The majority of the sample identified as white or European American (71.1%) which is similar to the student population (71.3% white); 4.4% of the sample identified as black or African American, compared to 4.4% of the student population. Asian or Asian American students are overrepresented in the sample (12.6% compared to 6.9% of the student population) while Latino/a or Hispanic students are underrepresented (1.5% compared to 4.3% of the student population). Almost 8% of the sample are international students compared to 5.5% of the student population.

Gender	
Female	54.0%
Genderqueer/Gender Non-conforming	0.2%
Male	44.2%
Transgender Male/Transgender Man	0.2%
Transgender Female/Transgender Woman	0.1%
Preferred identity (in addition to or not listed above)	0.4%
Prefer not to state	0.9%

Race/Ethnicity	
African American/Black or African descent	4.4%
Asian American/Asian (East, South, Southeast)	12.6%
Latino(a)/Hispanic American	1.5%
Middle Eastern/Arab American	1.1%
White/European American	71.1%
Other	0.6%
Prefer not to answer	3.2%
Multiple Races/Ethnicities	5.5%

Sexual Orientation	
Heterosexual	92.3%
Bisexual	2.1%
Lesbian or gay	2.0%
Questioning	0.5%
Prefer not to answer	3.2%

*This item was recoded into *Heterosexual* and *LGBQ*.

Citizenship	
International	7.8%
Domestic	92.2%

Military Experience	
Veteran	4.0%
Civilian	96.0%

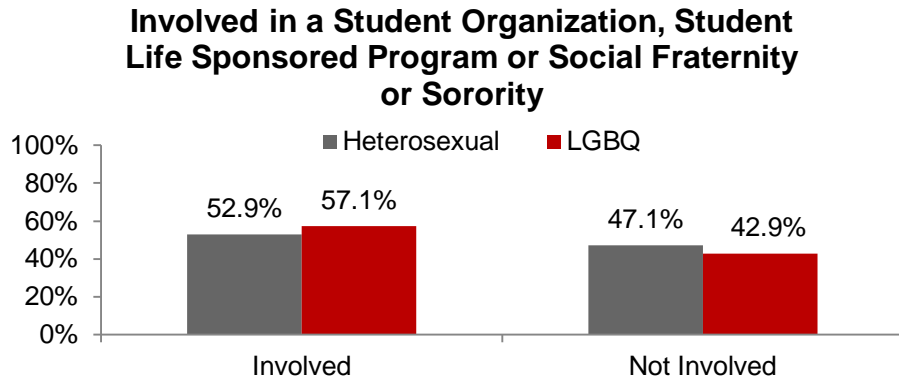
Rank	
First-year undergraduate	11.1%
Second-year undergraduate	17.1%
Third-year undergraduate	17.5%
Fourth-year undergraduate	32.9%
Graduate	15.5%
Professional	5.8%

First Generation Status	
First Generation	32.2%
Non-First Generation	67.8%

Student Employment	
Not employed/summers only	40.0%
1-20 hours	39.2%
20+ hours	20.8%

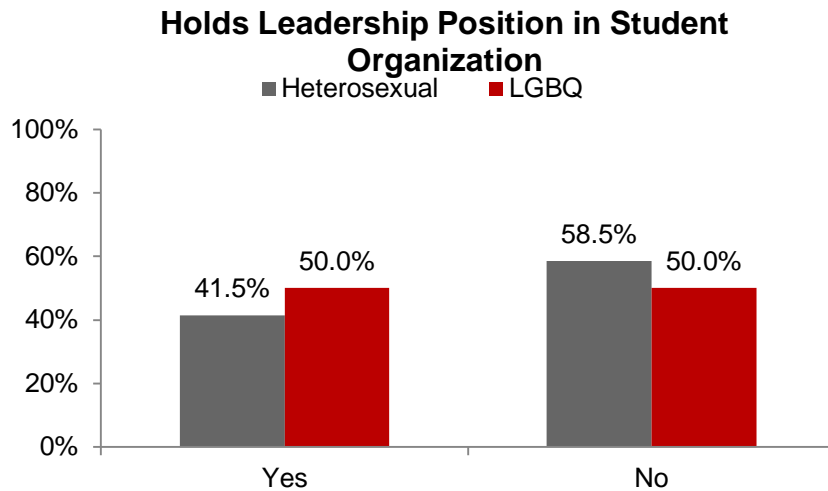
FINDINGS

Involvement

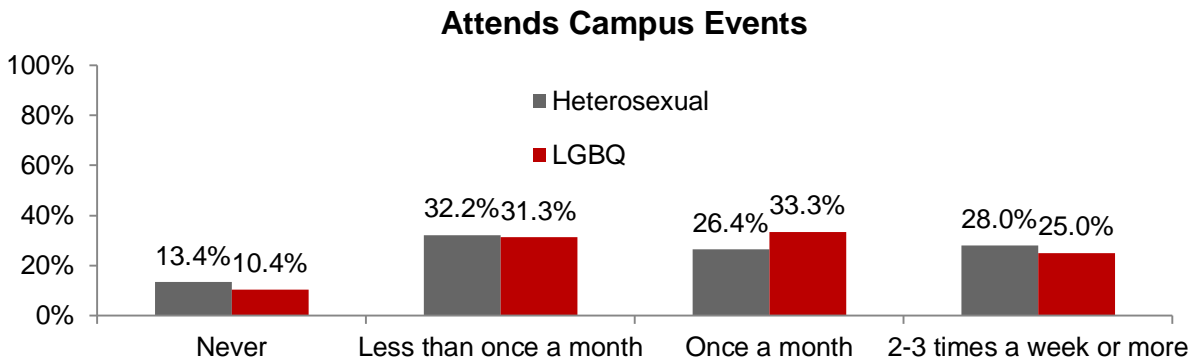


There are not statistically significant differences in the proportion of heterosexual or LGBQ students involved in student organizations, Student Life sponsored programs or social fraternities or sororities.

50.0% of LGBQ students report that they hold a leadership program in a student organization, Student Life sponsored program or social fraternity or sorority compared to 41.5% of heterosexual students, but the difference is not statistically significant.

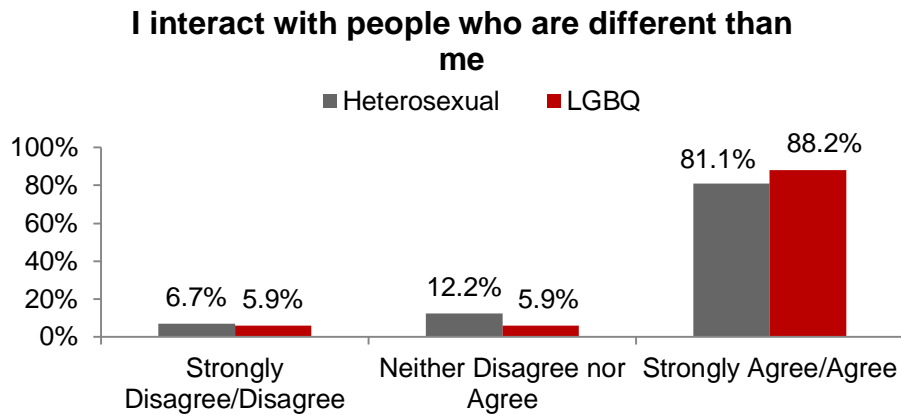


LGBQ and heterosexual students attend campus events with the same frequency.

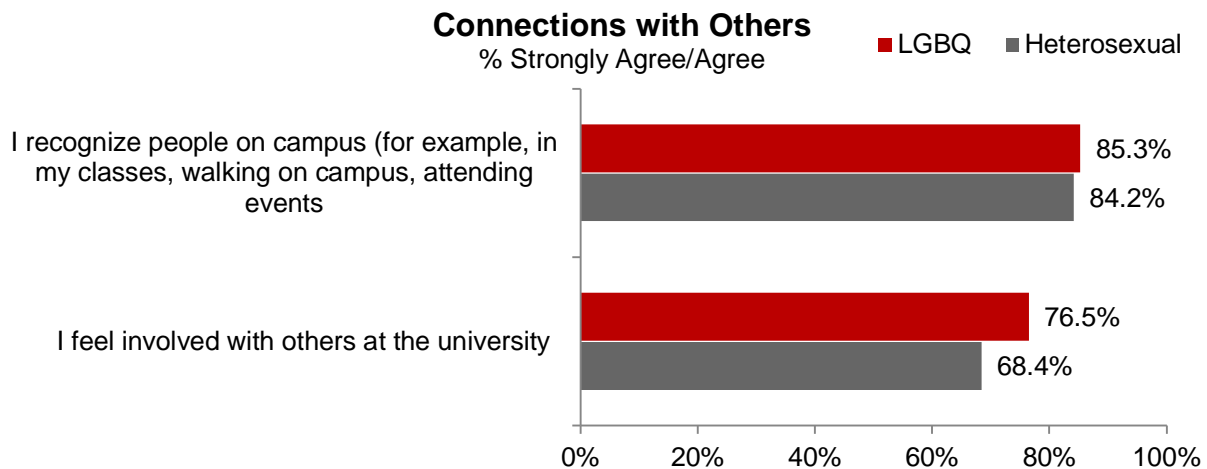


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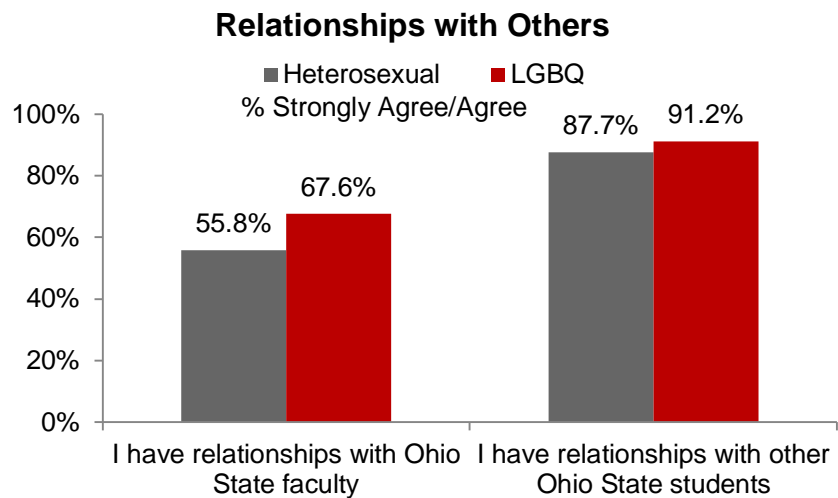
CONNECTIONS WITH OTHERS AT OHIO STATE



Overall, LGBQ and heterosexual students are as likely to report that they interact with people who are different than them and report have connections to others on campus.



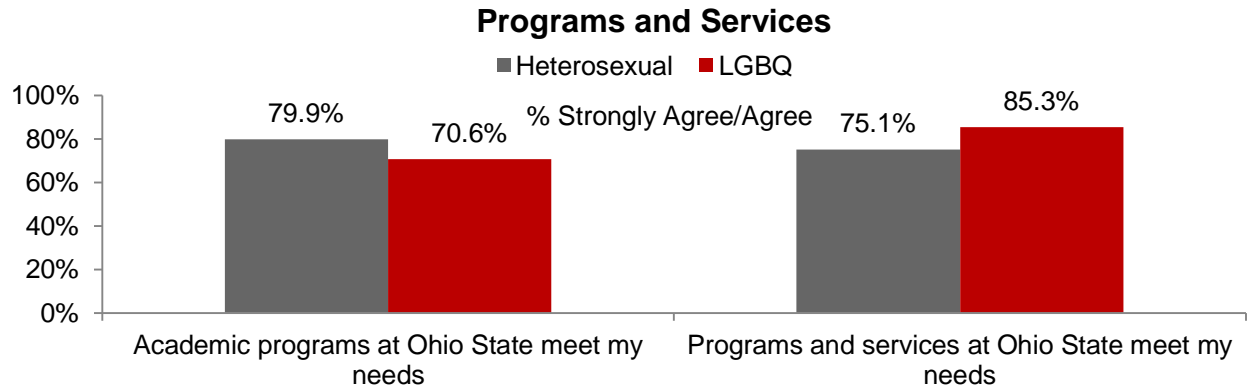
Heterosexual and LGBQ students are equally likely to report that they have relationships with other Ohio State students and with Ohio State faculty.



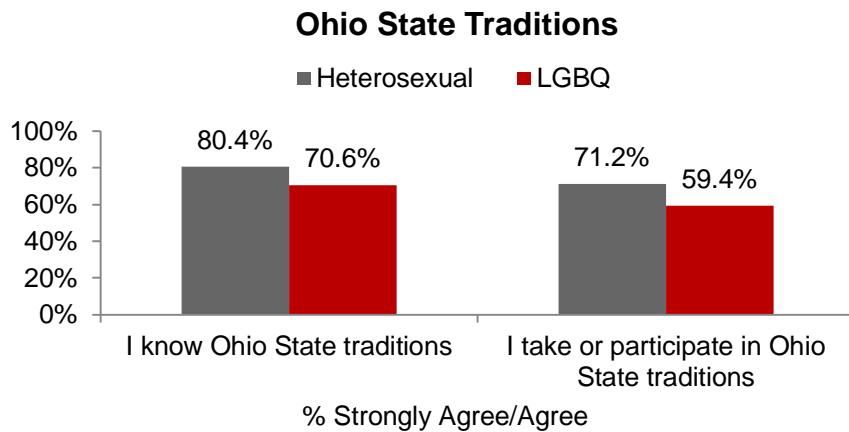
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ACADEMICS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Students with differing sexual orientations are as likely to report that academic programs at Ohio State meet their needs and that programs and services at Ohio State meet their needs.



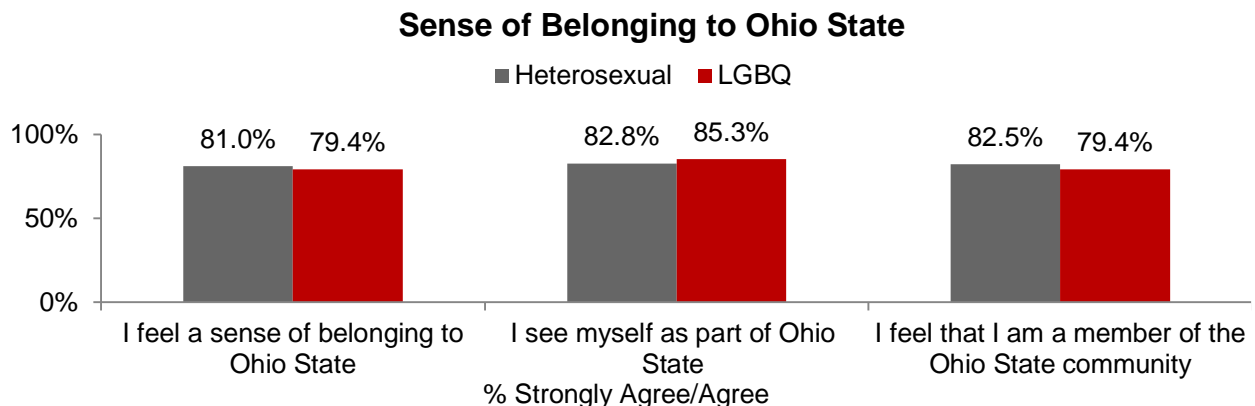
OHIO STATE TRADITIONS



Heterosexual and LGBQ students are as likely to report that they know and take part in Ohio State traditions.

SENSE OF BELONGING

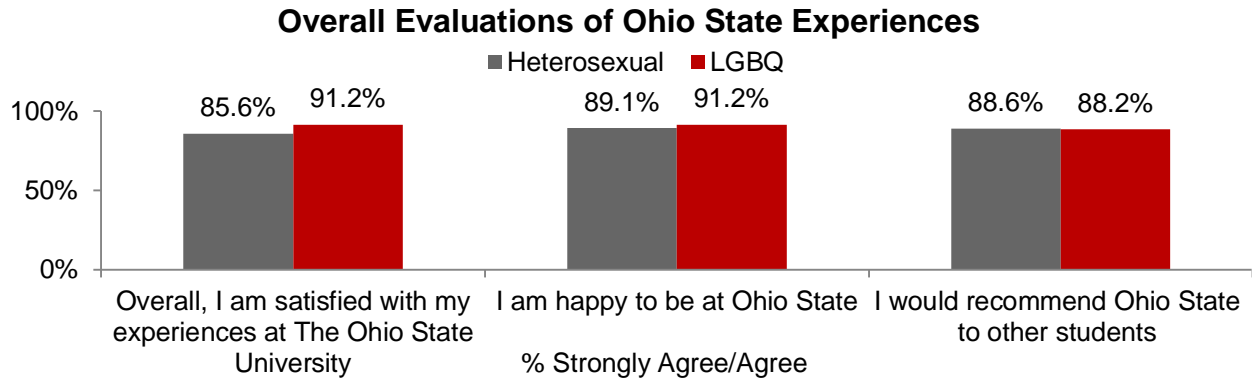
Overall students report a high sense of belonging to Ohio State and this does not differ by sexual orientation.



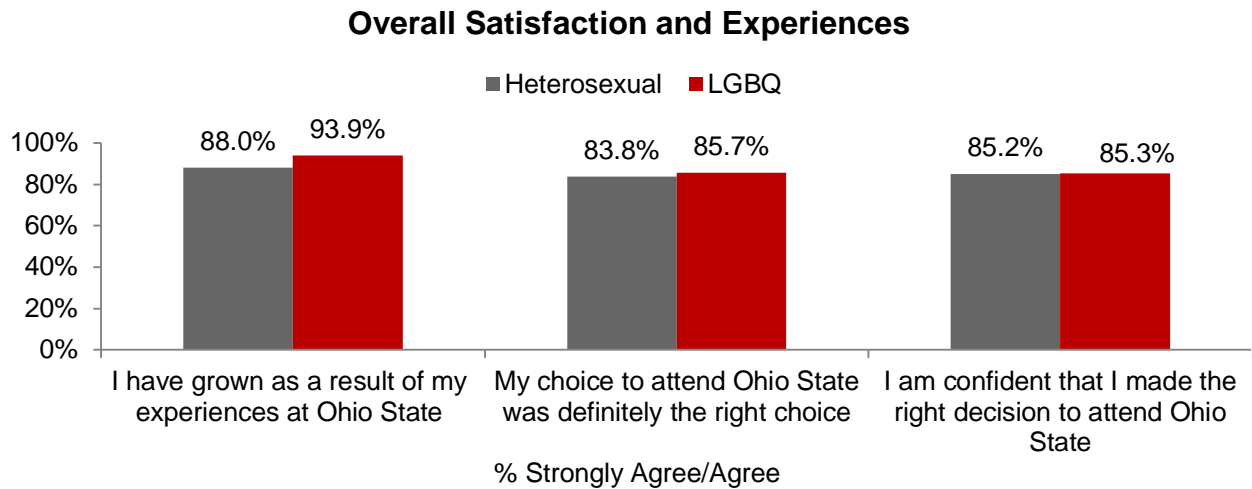
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SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

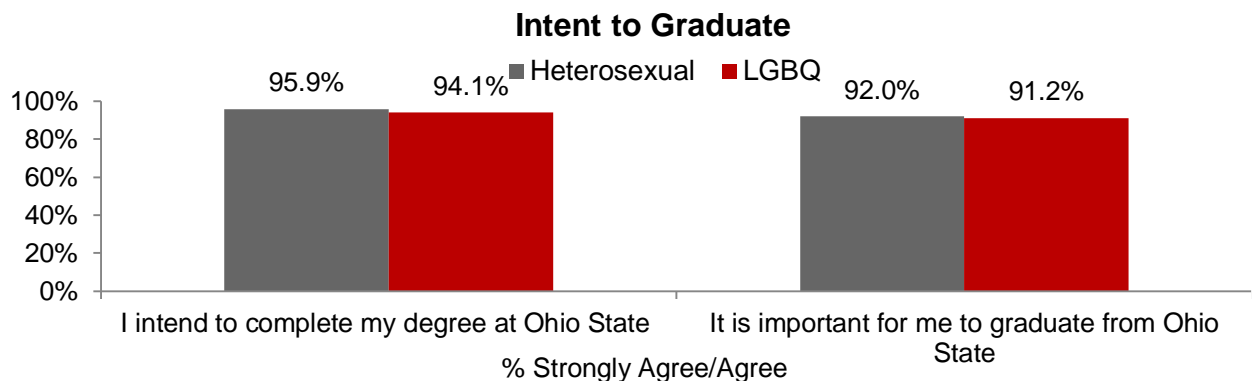
The majority of students are satisfied with their experiences at Ohio State and this does not differ by sexual orientation.



The majority of students report that they have grown as a result of their experiences at Ohio State, their choice to attend Ohio State was the right choice and they are confident that they made the right decision to attend Ohio State.



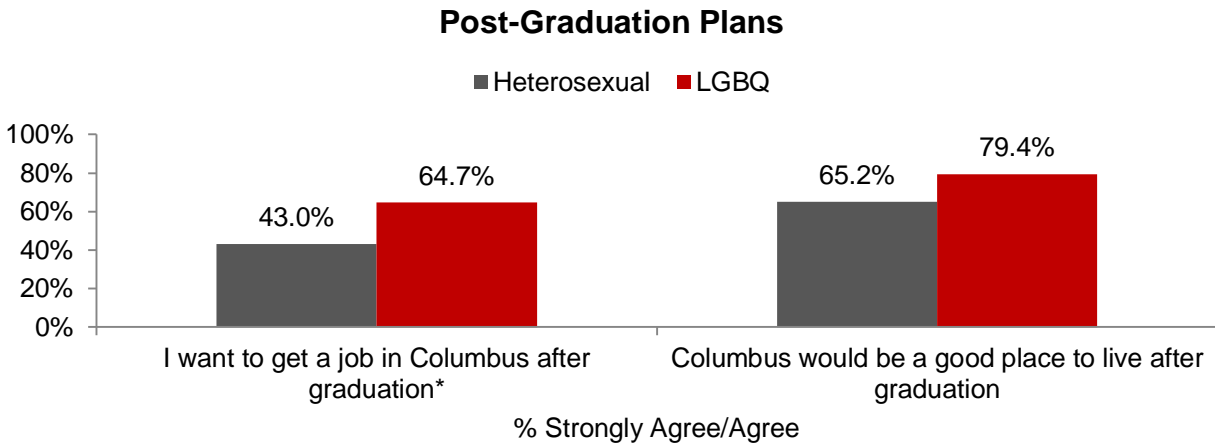
GRADUATION EXPECTATIONS



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POST-GRADUATION PLANS

A significantly higher proportion of LGBQ students (64.7%) reported they want a job in Columbus after graduation compared to heterosexual students (43.0%); but heterosexual and LGBQ students were as likely to agree or strongly agree that Columbus would be a good place to live after graduation.



SUMMARY

In general, LGBQ and heterosexual students report that they have similar experiences at Ohio State. LGBQ students are more likely to report that they want to get a job in Columbus after graduation, but are as likely as heterosexual students to report being involved on campus, taking part in Ohio State traditions, being connected to others and feeling a sense of belonging to Ohio State.