



# Graduation Survey 2020-2021

**All University**

Center for the Study of Student Life



June 2021



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the combined results for the Summer 2020, Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021 Ohio State Graduation Surveys. 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 2020-2021 academic year.

### UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS' HIGHLIGHTS

- The response rate for undergraduate students was **64.6%**; 7,778 submitted responses.
- **86.5%** were *satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied* with their experience at Ohio State.
- **43.7%** reported that they will graduate with no debt that they are personally responsible for repaying; **31.2%** reported their debt would be \$20,000 or more.
- **67.4%** *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that the benefits from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs.
- **30.5%** reported that they had accepted an employment position or were continuing with their current employer.
- **24.9%** reported that graduate or professional school was most likely to be their primary post-graduation plan.
- **72.2%** reported that Ohio State prepared them *very well* or *generally well* for the job market.

### MASTER'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS' HIGHLIGHTS

- The response rate for Master's degree recipients was **38.4%**; 1,160 submitted responses.
- **88.5%** were *satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied* with their experience at Ohio State.
- **48.7%** reported that they will graduate with no debt that they are personally responsible for repaying; **22.5%** reported their debt would be \$50,000 or more.
- **72.8%** *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that the benefits from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs.
- **46.8%** reported that they had accepted an employment position or were continuing with their current employer.
- **78.5%** 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 **33.3%**; 279 submitted responses.
- **78.9%** were *satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied* with their experience at Ohio State.
- **17.7%** reported that they will graduate with no debt that they are personally responsible for repaying; **20.7%** reported their debt would be \$100,000-\$199,999 and **37.9%** reported their debt would be \$200,000 or more.
- **59.7%** *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that the benefits from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs.
- **72.2%** reported that they had accepted an employment position or were continuing with their current employer.
- **78.4%** reported that Ohio State prepared them *very well* or *generally well* for the job market.

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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 covers the combined results for the 2020-2021 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, students are asked questions about the curriculum and about their co-curricular experiences.

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 in the same major, they were invited to take the Master's/Professional survey. Graduating students from all campuses were invited to take one of the two surveys.

	Invited	Responded	Response Rate
<b>All University</b>			
Undergraduate Degree Recipients	12,046	7,778	64.6%
Master's Degree Recipients	3,020	1,160	38.4%
Professional Degree Recipients	839	279	33.3%



# UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

## Demographics

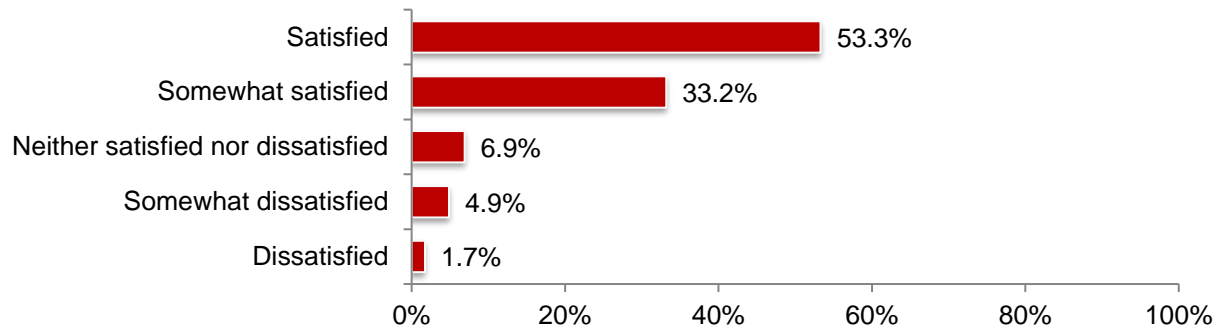
The following tables display sex and race/ethnicity information from the Student Information System for the students invited to take the survey and the students who completed the survey.

	Undergraduates - Invited <i>n</i> = 12,046	Undergraduates - Responded <i>n</i> = 7,778
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	51.4%	50.8%
Male	47.4%	48.0%
Undisclosed	1.2%	1.2%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.1%	0.0%
Asian	7.0%	7.4%
Black or African American	6.1%	5.7%
Hispanic	4.6%	4.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%
Non-Resident Alien	7.7%	8.1%
Non Given/Race Unknown	2.3%	2.2%
Two or More Races	3.9%	3.8%
White	68.2%	68.1%

## Satisfaction with Ohio State

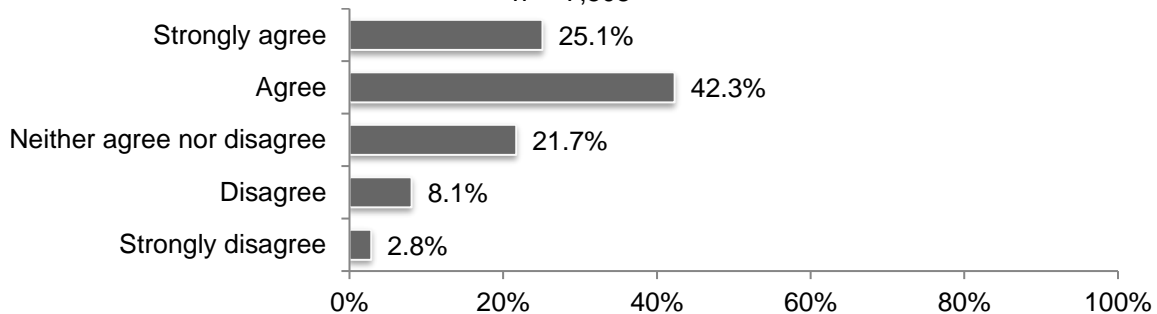
Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall?

*n* = 7,526



Reflecting back, to what extent do you agree that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family?

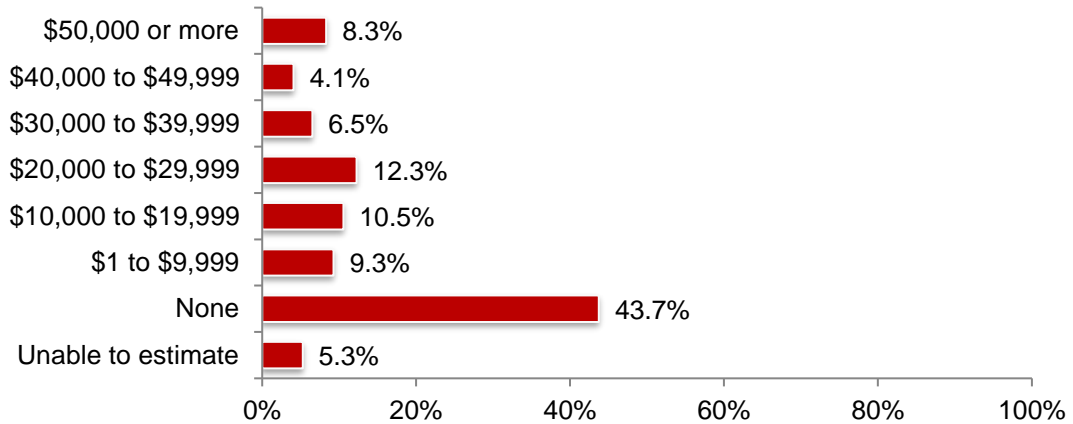
*n* = 7,508



## 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?

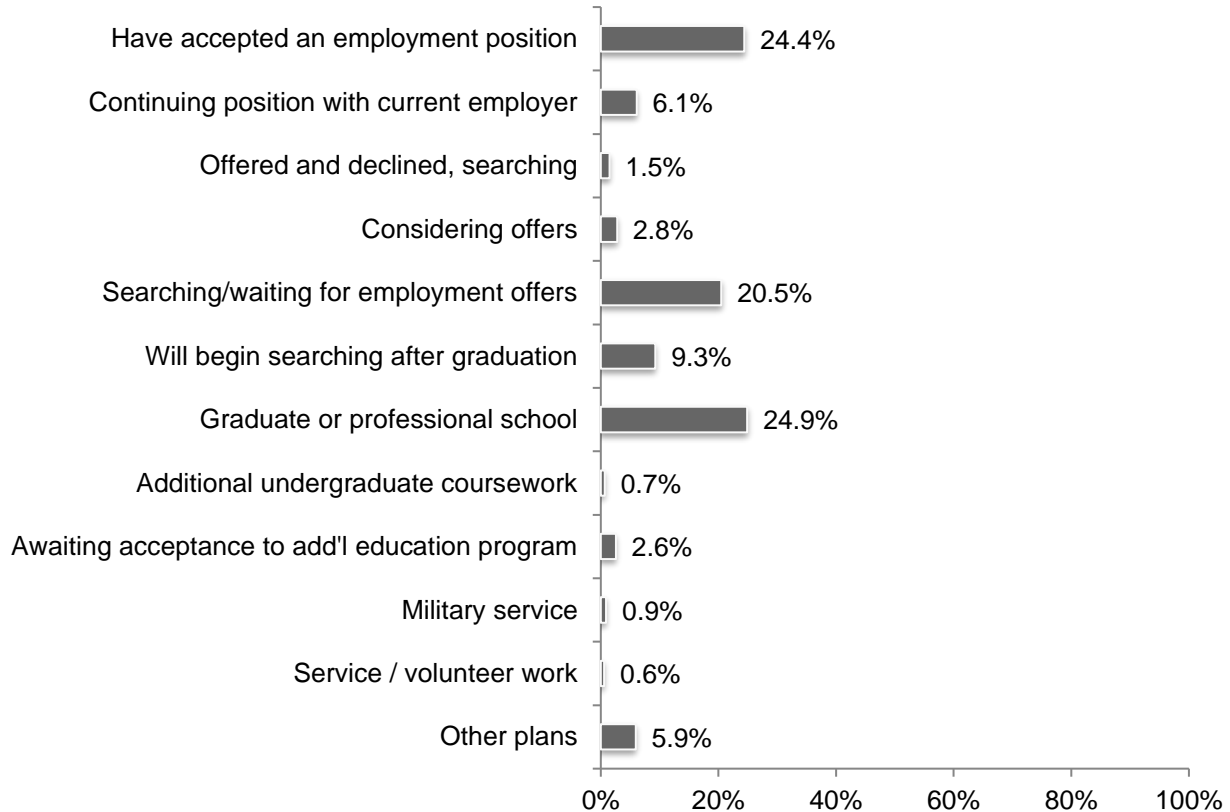
*n* = 7,462



## Post-Graduation Plans

Which of the following best describes your PRIMARY post-graduation plans?

*n* = 7,511



Undergraduates remaining in Ohio	Percent
Will be employed in Ohio	<i>n</i> = 1,938 66.4%
Will attend graduate / professional school in Ohio	<i>n</i> = 527 49.0%

## Future Career Plans

Only respondents who reported that they had accepted an employment position or were continuing in their position with a current employer following graduation were asked the items in this section.

If you have accepted a position or plan to continue with your current employer, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Undergraduates <i>n</i> = 2,246
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	79.1%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	10.1%
Government or other public institution/agency	10.9%
If you have accepted a position or plan to continue with your current employer, please select the category that BEST describes your future position:	Undergraduates <i>n</i> = 2,145
Employed as an entrepreneur/starting own business	3.1%
Employed in temporary/contract work assignment	5.2%
Employed as a freelancer	1.0%
Employed in a postgraduate internship/fellowship	4.1%
Employed in any other work category (e.g., permanent employee)	86.7%
Is this position full-time or part-time employment?	Undergraduates <i>n</i> = 2,205
Full-time (30 or more hours per week)	95.6%
Part-time (less than 30 hours per week)	4.4%

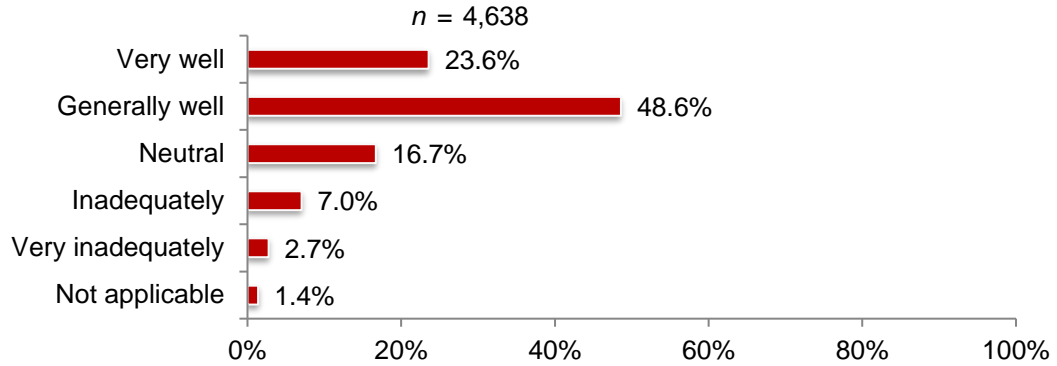
### Where or how did you find your job?

(Select all that apply)

*n* = 2,132



## How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?



Is your prospective position related to your undergraduate field(s) of study?	Undergraduates <i>n</i> = 4,586
Same field as major(s)	42.0%
Related to major(s)	34.6%
Related to minor(s)	2.9%
Not related to major(s) or minor(s)	8.5%
Not applicable	11.9%

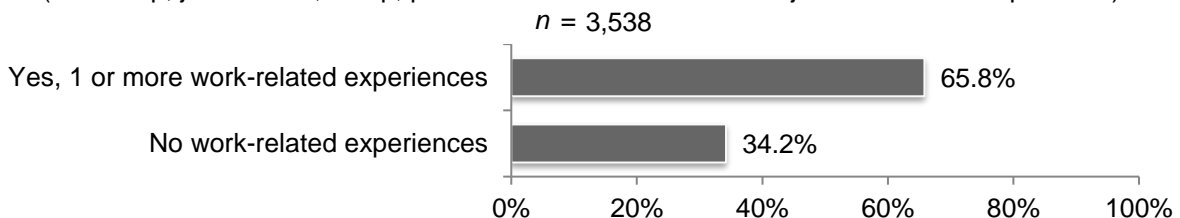
How important have university or college resources been in helping you to find a job?	Undergraduates <i>n</i> = 4,625
Essential	12.7%
Very important	20.1%
Somewhat important	37.3%
Not important	22.4%
Not applicable	7.4%

*Note.* Questions above on this page were answered by respondents who had accepted a position as well as respondents who were still searching for employment

## Work-Related Experiences

### Participation in work-related experiences

(internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum or other academic major-related work experience)



Only respondents who indicated completing a work-related 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 <i>n</i> = 1,977
Yes	45.9%
No	54.1%





An entrepreneur is one who starts a new business. During your academic program, did you complete any courses (required or elective) for academic credit in which entrepreneurship was part of the overall instruction?	Undergraduates <i>n</i> = 6,784
Yes	15.3%
No	76.3%
Not Sure	8.4%

Only respondents who indicated that they were going to be employed as entrepreneurs/starting their own business were shown the following questions.

During your academic program, did you participate in starting a business? (Please answer yes even if you started a new business with others, started a new business as part of a class and regardless of the size of the business).	Undergraduates <i>n</i> = 66
Yes	51.5%
No	39.4%
Not Sure	9.1%

You've indicated that you had started a business and that you plan on being employed as an entrepreneur. Will you continue to manage the business you started during your academic program?	Undergraduates <i>n</i> = 34
Yes	79.4%
No	14.7%
Not Sure	5.9%

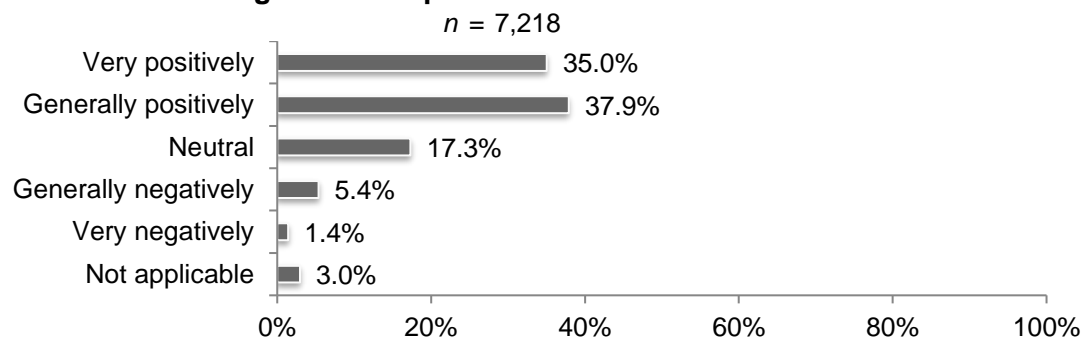
Note. Only students who responded Yes to the previous question were shown this question.

## Future Education Plans

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? *n* = 7,778

Degree	Immediately upon graduation	Future Plans	Do not plan to pursue	Did not answer
Law	1.8%	5.7%	77.5%	15.0%
Medicine (MD, DO)	1.5%	5.5%	78.2%	14.8%
Other Medical	2.5%	5.5%	77.2%	14.8%
Second Bachelor's	0.6%	4.5%	79.1%	15.8%
Master's	14.3%	43.9%	30.9%	10.9%
Doctorate	2.8%	19.0%	63.8%	14.4%

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



## Curricular and Co-Curricular Experiences

	<i>n</i>	1 - Not at all	2	3	4	5 - Great extent	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?	6,941	0.9%	2.5%	15.3%	41.7%	38.6%	1.0%
<b>To what extent have you gained skills needed to:</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>1 - Not at all</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 - Great extent</b>	<b>0 - N/A</b>
Acquire, comprehend and evaluate information and arguments	6,853	0.7%	2.4%	12.0%	37.7%	46.2%	0.9%
Communicate clearly, precisely and effectively	6,857	0.9%	2.8%	13.3%	35.4%	46.7%	0.9%
Analyze and assess using qualitative and quantitative methods	6,853	0.9%	2.8%	14.2%	37.0%	44.1%	1.1%
Integrate, create and apply knowledge	6,858	0.7%	2.4%	12.5%	37.5%	45.9%	0.9%
<b>To what extent have you gained perspectives needed to:</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>1 - Not at all</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 - Great extent</b>	<b>0 - N/A</b>
Interpret past and contemporary world cultures, events and issues	6,828	2.3%	6.4%	18.6%	30.8%	39.7%	2.2%
Make discriminating aesthetic judgments	6,801	7.0%	6.4%	19.6%	26.8%	30.1%	10.0%
Make considered and reasoned ethical judgments	6,835	1.4%	2.9%	12.2%	32.2%	49.8%	1.5%
Understand the roles of science and technology	6,833	1.4%	3.4%	13.8%	31.9%	47.9%	1.7%
Recognize and respect diversity	6,825	1.8%	3.1%	11.4%	24.7%	56.9%	2.0%
<b>Based on your coursework experiences since you began your education at Ohio State:</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>1 - Not at all</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 - Great extent</b>	<b>0 - N/A</b>
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?	6,750	0.8%	2.5%	10.6%	37.1%	47.7%	1.2%
To what extent, through your General Education program, have you gained a breadth of knowledge, skills and perspectives that cross disciplines?	6,757	5.3%	12.4%	27.4%	32.0%	21.3%	1.5%



<b>Based on your General Education program: To what extent have your knowledge, skills, and perspectives improved in the following areas?</b>	<i>n</i>	<b>1 - Not at all</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 - Great extent</b>	<b>0 - N/A</b>
Written communication	6,499	3.0%	6.7%	20.8%	34.1%	32.7%	2.7%
Oral expression	6,495	5.6%	11.4%	24.0%	30.6%	22.7%	5.6%
Foreign language	6,504	19.9%	8.6%	16.4%	17.0%	19.4%	18.6%
Literature	6,492	6.3%	14.1%	28.6%	26.8%	20.0%	4.2%
The arts	6,494	9.0%	16.2%	26.5%	23.1%	20.0%	5.2%
Historical perspectives	6,492	6.3%	14.1%	26.2%	26.4%	21.3%	5.5%
Social diversity in the United States	6,496	5.6%	10.6%	22.7%	28.6%	27.1%	5.2%
Global studies	6,496	7.2%	13.1%	25.9%	25.8%	22.0%	6.0%
Social science	6,494	4.8%	10.3%	24.7%	28.7%	27.1%	4.4%
Natural science (biological and physical)	6,497	5.9%	12.9%	23.2%	25.5%	27.0%	5.5%
Logical analysis and analytical reasoning	6,496	3.4%	6.8%	19.7%	32.6%	33.9%	3.6%
Mathematical and quantitative skills	6,500	5.4%	11.8%	21.6%	25.8%	30.3%	5.0%

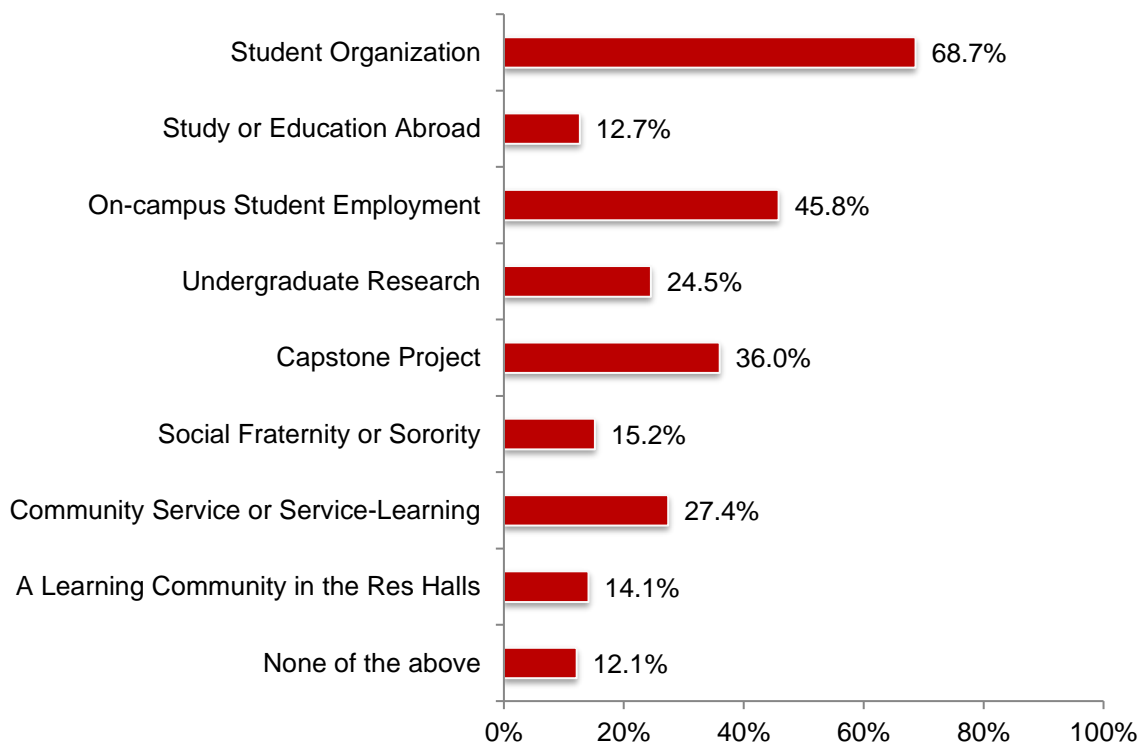
  

<b>To what extent have your knowledge, skills, and perspectives improved through the following kinds of coursework?</b>	<i>n</i>	<b>1 - Not at all</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 - Great extent</b>	<b>0 - N/A</b>
Education abroad courses or programs	6,469	17.4%	3.5%	7.7%	9.0%	14.6%	47.9%
Service learning courses	6,471	11.5%	7.0%	12.8%	12.5%	12.3%	43.9%
Culture and ideas coursework	6,460	5.5%	7.9%	20.5%	24.4%	22.8%	18.9%
Cross-disciplinary seminars	6,459	10.6%	7.3%	15.2%	13.4%	11.8%	41.7%

**During your time at Ohio State, in which of the following did you participate?**

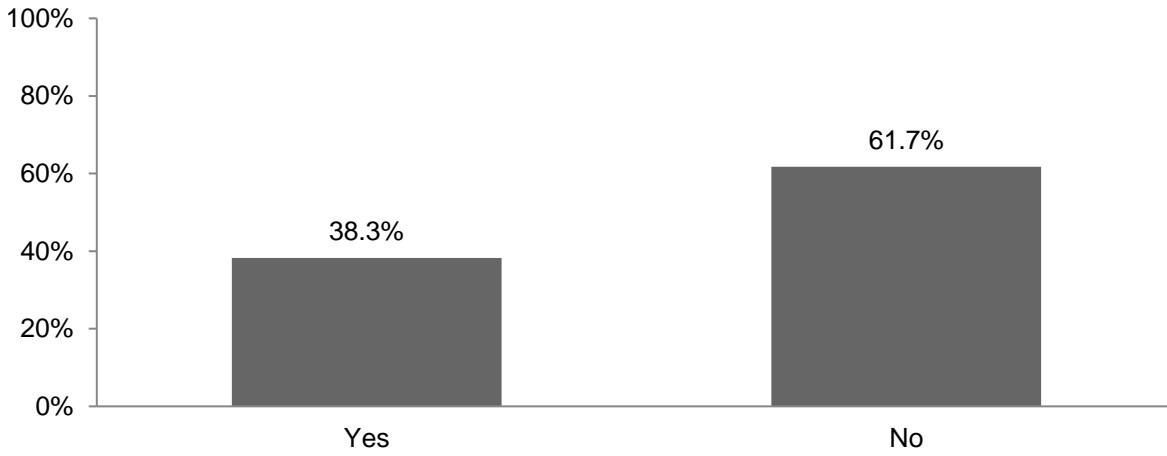
(Select all that apply)

*n* = 6,608



During your time at Ohio State, did you ever hold a formal leadership role in a student organization or in a social fraternity or sorority?

$n = 6,612$



## MASTER'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS

### Demographics

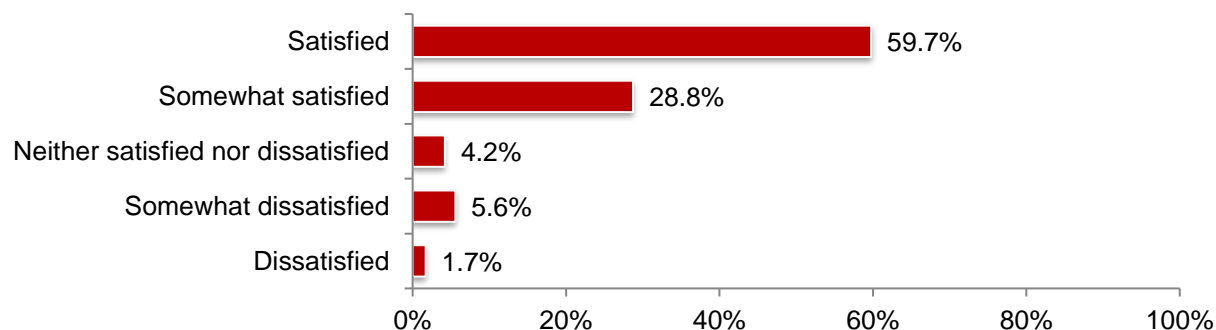
The following tables display sex and race/ethnicity information from the Student Information System for the students invited to take the survey and the students who completed the survey.

Sex	Master's - Invited <i>n</i> = 3,020	Master's - Responded <i>n</i> = 1,160
Female	60.4%	60.0%
Male	38.5%	39.0%
Undisclosed	1.1%	1.0%
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%
Asian	4.0%	3.8%
Black or African American	5.4%	5.2%
Hispanic	5.4%	5.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.0%
Non-Resident Alien	15.8%	18.2%
Non Given/Race Unknown	7.1%	5.9%
Two or More Races	2.6%	2.5%
White	59.7%	59.2%

### Satisfaction with Ohio State

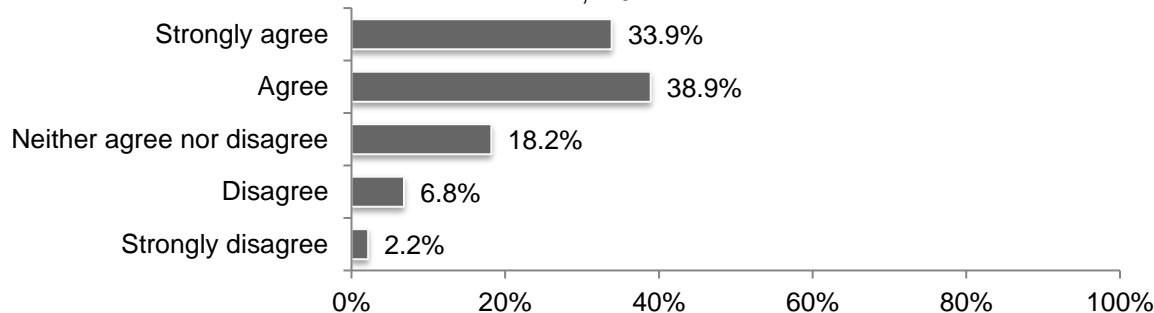
Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall?

*n* = 1,113



Reflecting back, to what extent do you agree that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family?

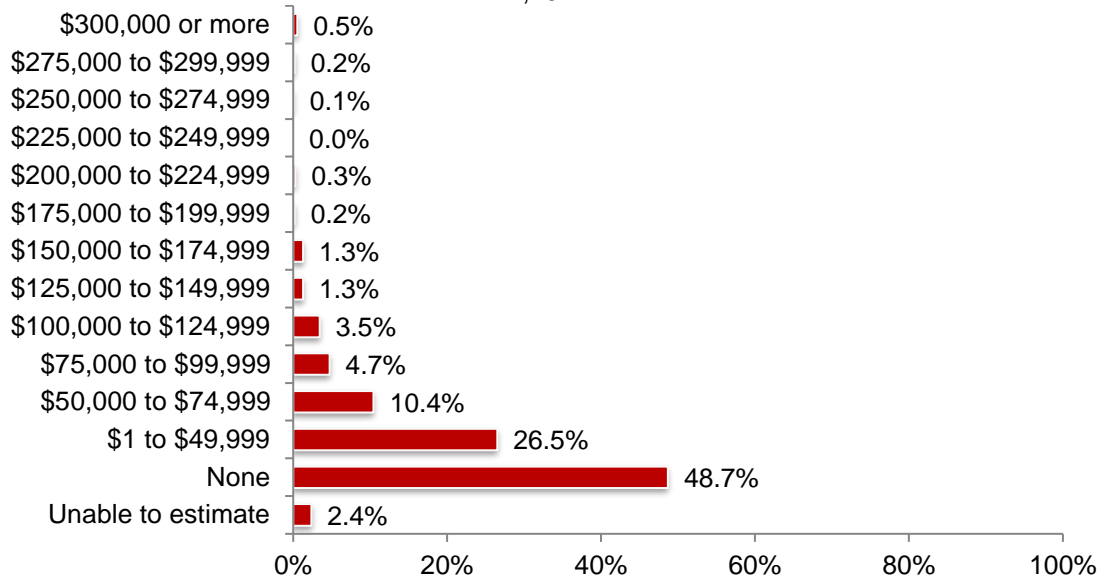
*n* = 1,110



## 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?

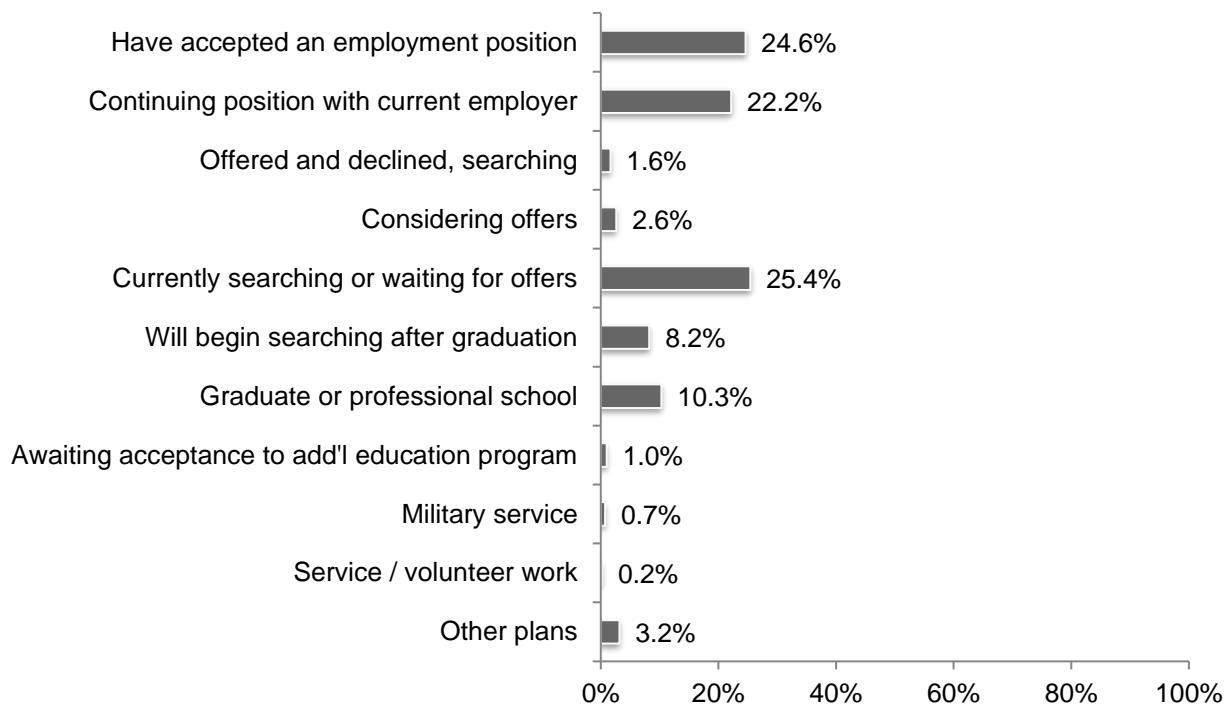
*n* = 1,101



## Post-Graduation Plans

Which of the following best describes your PRIMARY post-graduation plans?

*n* = 1,106



Master's graduates remaining in Ohio		Percent
Will be employed in Ohio	<i>n</i> = 405	65.0%
Will attend graduate / professional school in Ohio	<i>n</i> = 58	69.0%



## Future Career Plans

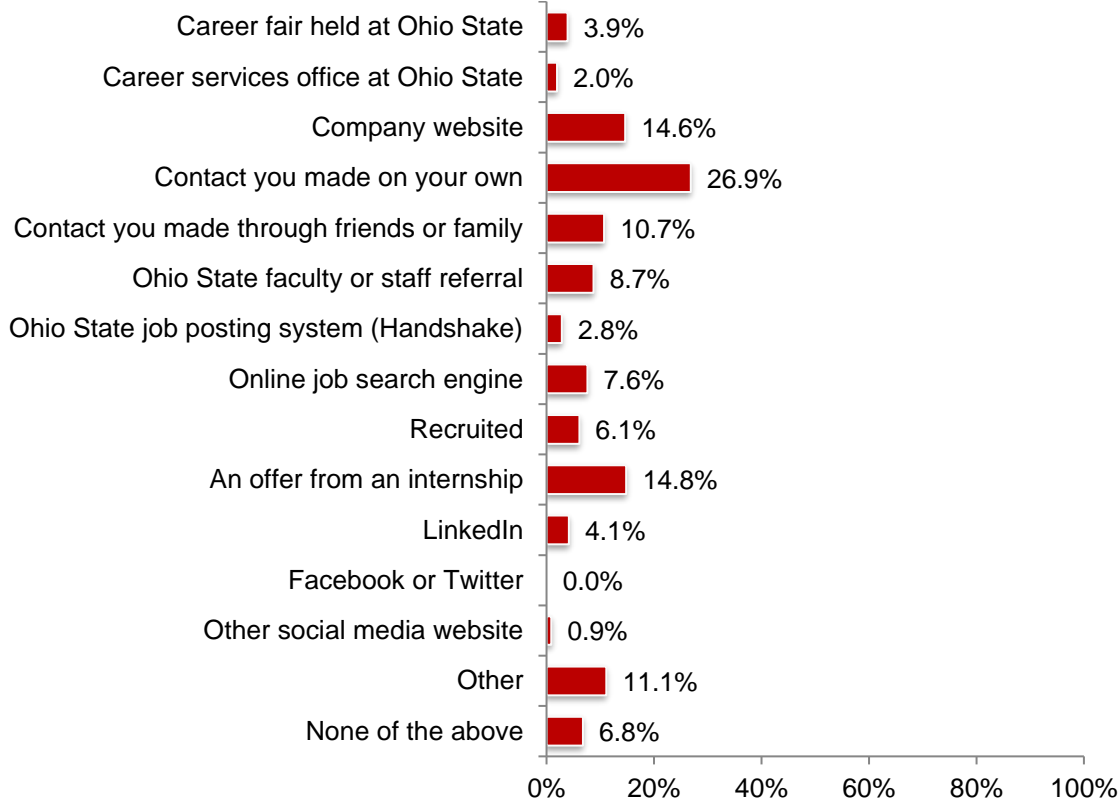
Only respondents who reported that they had accepted an employment position or were continuing in their position with a current employer following graduation were asked the items in this section.

If you have accepted a position or plan to continue with your current employer, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Master's <i>n</i> = 501
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	38.7%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	30.7%
Government or other public institution/agency	30.5%
If you have accepted a position or plan to continue with your current employer, please select the category that BEST describes your future position:	Master's <i>n</i> = 477
Employed as an entrepreneur/starting own business	1.5%
Employed in temporary/contract work assignment	4.8%
Employed as a freelancer	1.3%
Employed in a postgraduate internship/fellowship	5.9%
Employed in any other work category (e.g., permanent employee)	86.6%
Is this position full-time or part-time employment?	Master's <i>n</i> = 503
Full-time (30 or more hours per week)	94.8%
Part-time (less than 30 hours per week)	5.2%

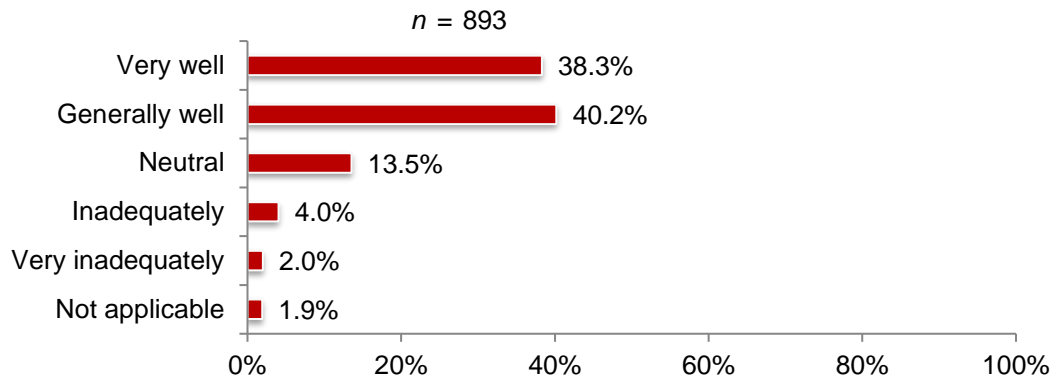
### Where or how did you find your job?

(Select all that apply)

*n* = 458



## How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?



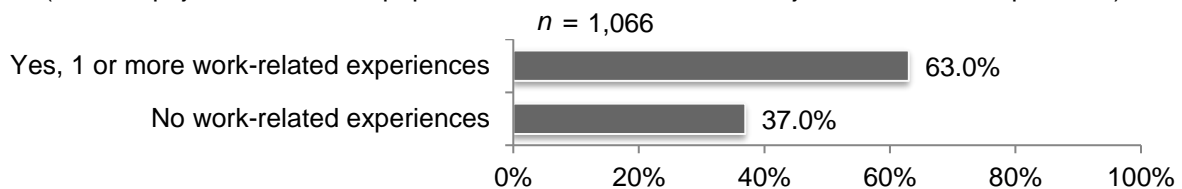
Is your prospective position related to your graduate field of study?	Master's <i>n</i> = 886
Same field	65.7%
Related to field of study	24.8%
Not related to field of study	3.0%
Not applicable	6.4%
How important have university or college resources been in helping you to find a job?	Master's <i>n</i> = 882
Essential	12.2%
Very important	17.6%
Somewhat important	28.3%
Not important	26.6%
Not applicable	15.2%

*Note.* Questions above on this page were answered by respondents who had accepted a position as well as respondents who were still searching for employment

## Work-Related Experiences

### Participation in work-related experiences

(internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum or other academic major-related work experience)



Only respondents who indicated completing a work-related 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 <i>n</i> = 353
Yes	51.3%
No	48.7%





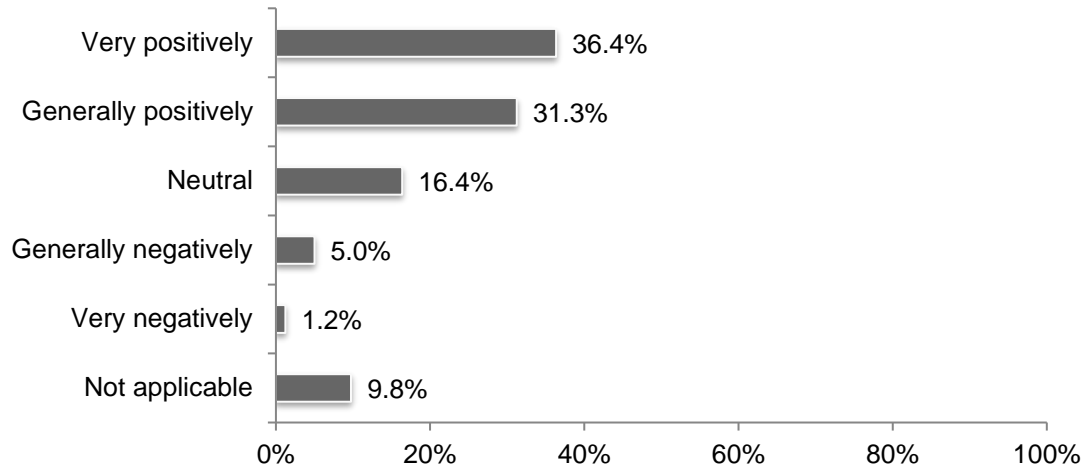
## Future Education Plans

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?  $n = 1,160$

Degree	Immediately upon graduation	Future Plans	Do not plan to pursue	Did not answer
Law	0.2%	2.8%	75.7%	21.3%
Medicine (MD, DO)	0.9%	1.6%	76.3%	21.3%
Other Medical	0.9%	2.6%	75.6%	20.9%
Master's	5.2%	5.4%	66.0%	23.4%
Doctorate	11.2%	25.8%	47.4%	15.6%

To what extent have your overall graduate experiences influenced your future plans for graduate or professional studies?

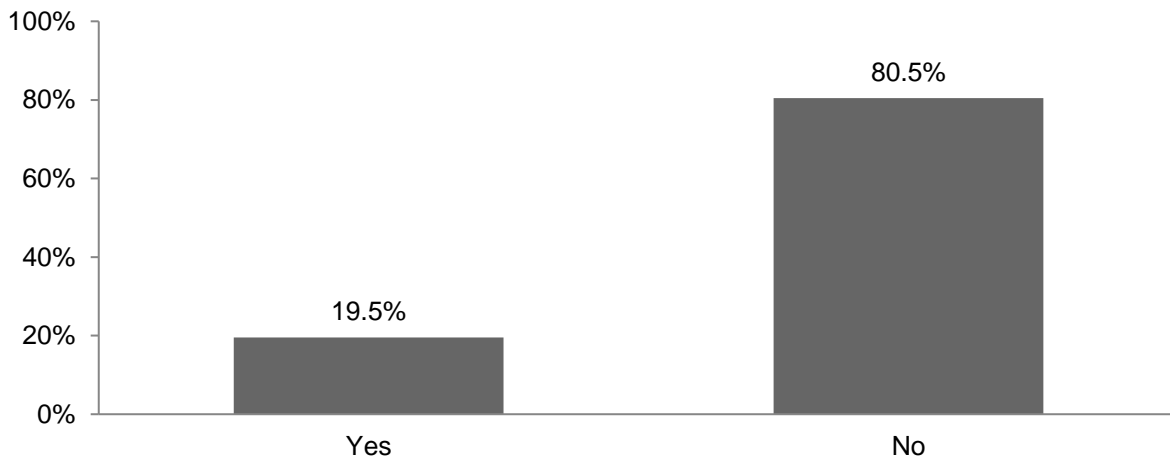
$n = 1,056$



## Curricular and Co-Curricular Experiences

In graduate school, did you ever hold a formal leadership role in a student organization or in your department?

$n = 1,059$



## PROFESSIONAL DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Students may earn both Master’s and professional degrees during the same term (9 this academic year). These students are reported twice only if their degrees are in different colleges.

### Demographics

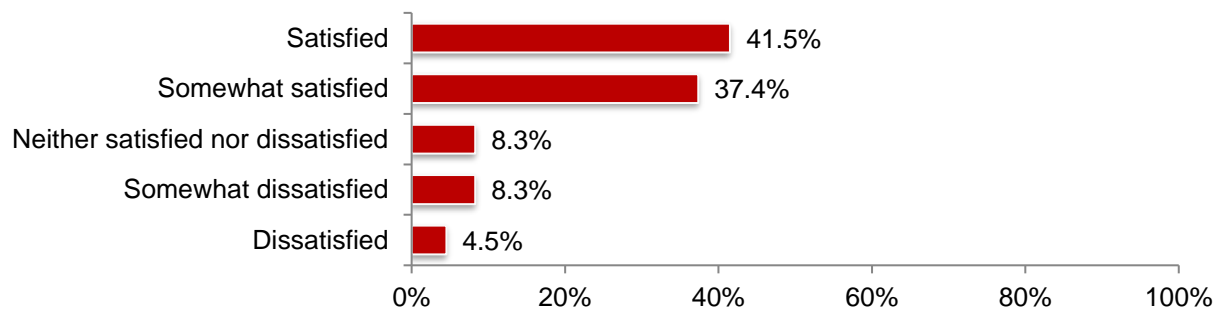
The following tables display sex and race/ethnicity information from the Student Information System for the students invited to take the survey and the students who completed the survey.

Sex	Professional - Invited <i>n</i> = 839	Professional - Responded <i>n</i> = 279
Female	56.7%	59.5%
Male	43.1%	40.1%
Undisclosed	0.1%	0.4%
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.1%	0.0%
Asian	9.3%	7.2%
Black or African American	7.2%	4.7%
Hispanic	7.0%	6.1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Non-Resident Alien	2.9%	3.9%
Non Given/Race Unknown	6.7%	7.9%
Two or More Races	4.6%	2.9%
White	62.2%	67.4%

### Satisfaction with Ohio State

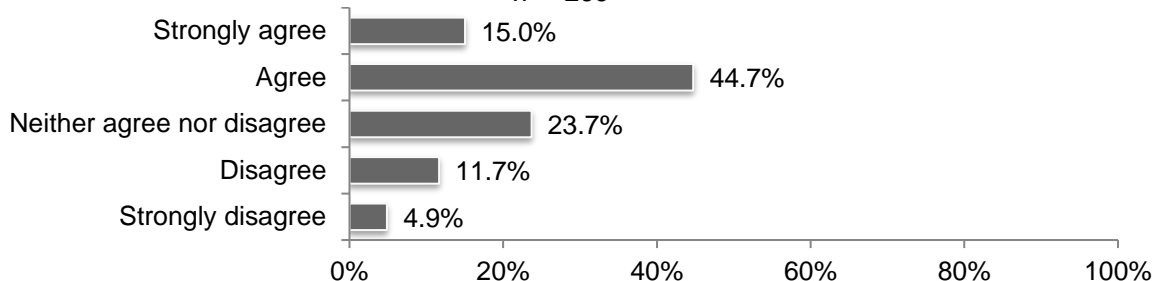
Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall?

*n* = 265



Reflecting back, to what extent do you agree that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family?

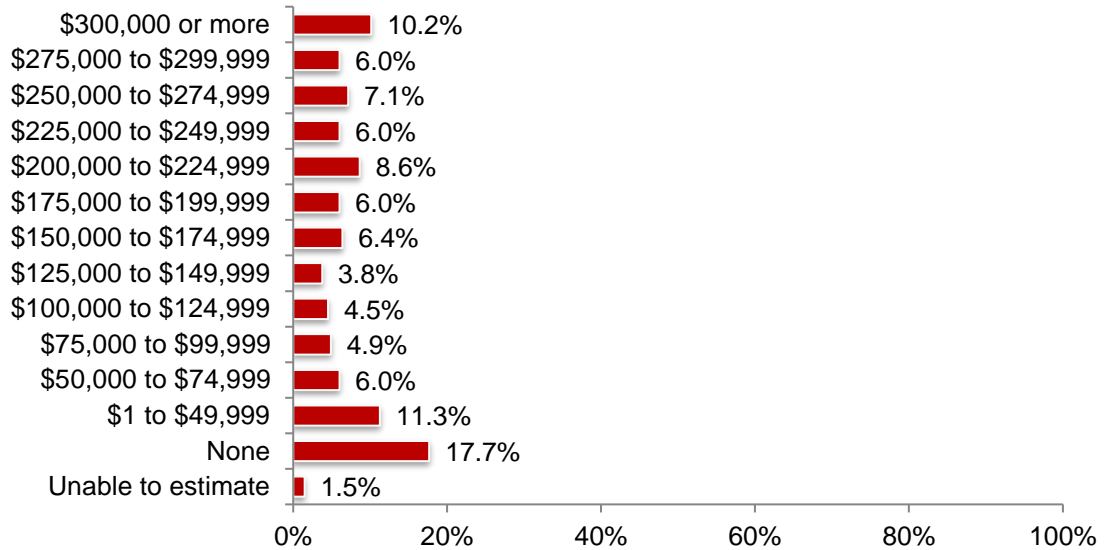
*n* = 266



## 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?

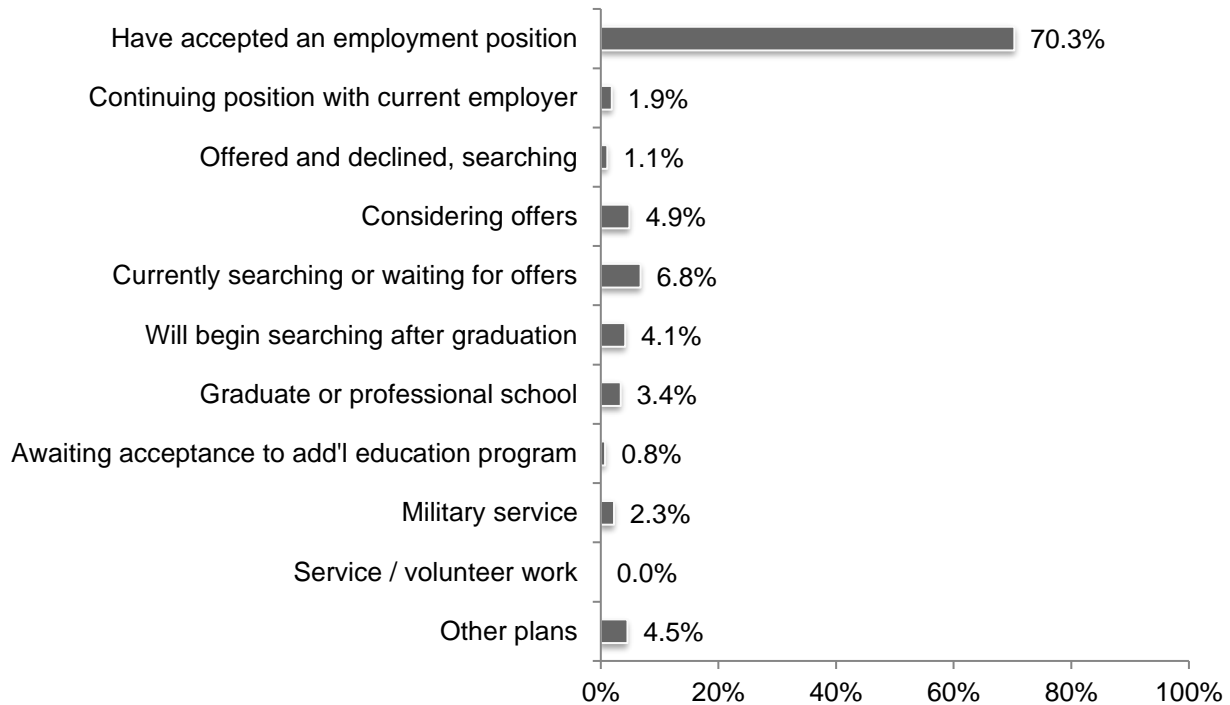
*n* = 266



## Post-Graduation Plans

Which of the following best describes your PRIMARY post-graduation plans?

*n* = 266



Professional graduates remaining in Ohio		Percent
Will be employed in Ohio	<i>n</i> = 114	62.3%
Will attend graduate / professional school in Ohio	<i>n</i> = 3	60.0%



## Future Career Plans

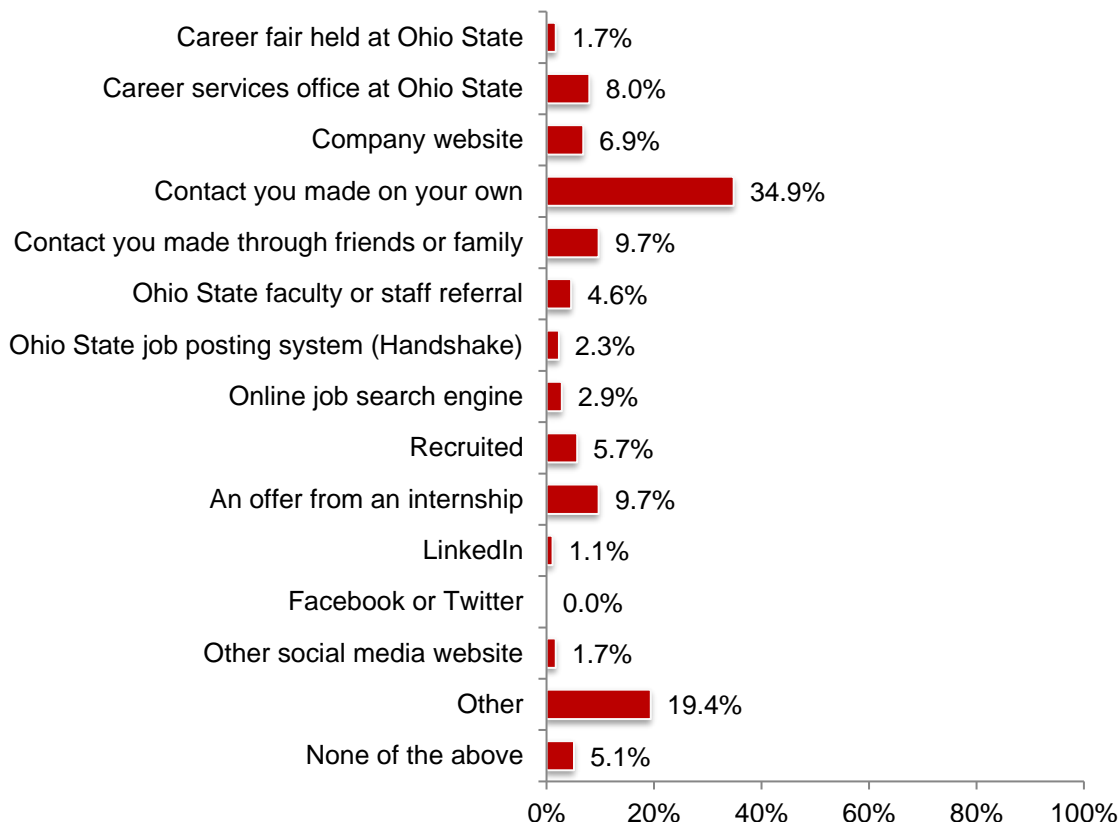
Only respondents who reported that they had accepted an employment position or were continuing in their position with a current employer following graduation were asked the items in this section.

If you have accepted a position or plan to continue with your current employer, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Professional <i>n</i> = 187
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	64.7%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	13.4%
Government or other public institution/agency	21.9%
If you have accepted a position or plan to continue with your current employer, please select the category that BEST describes your future position:	Professional <i>n</i> = 173
Employed as an entrepreneur/starting own business	2.3%
Employed in temporary/contract work assignment	4.6%
Employed as a freelancer	0.6%
Employed in a postgraduate internship/fellowship	31.2%
Employed in any other work category (e.g., permanent employee)	61.3%
Is this position full-time or part-time employment?	Professional <i>n</i> = 188
Full-time (30 or more hours per week)	96.8%
Part-time (less than 30 hours per week)	3.2%

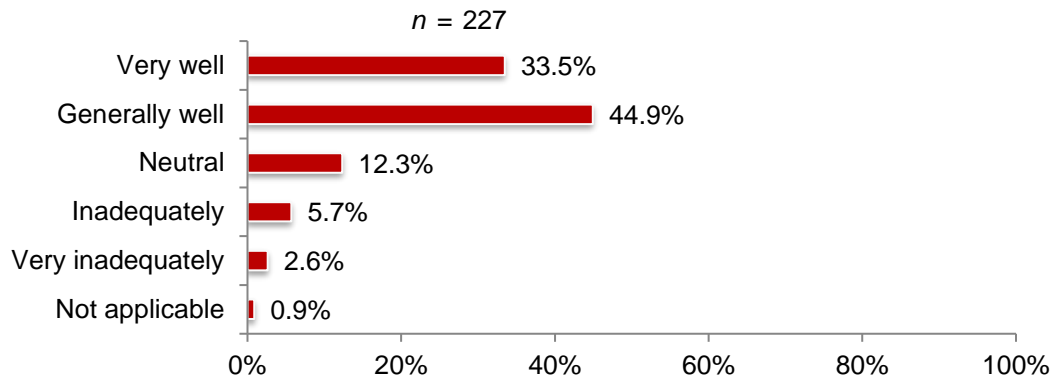
### Where or how did you find your job?

(Select all that apply)

*n* = 175



## How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?



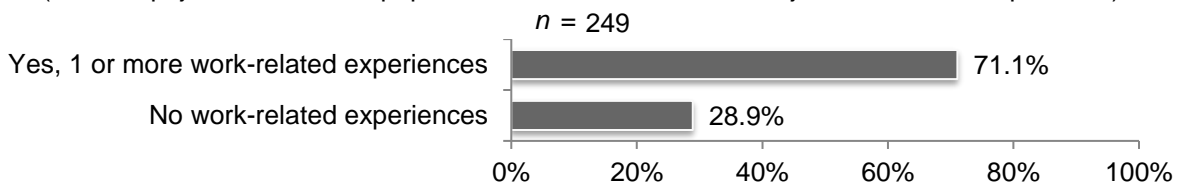
Professional	
Is your prospective position related to your field of study?	<i>n</i> = 227
Same field	88.1%
Related to field of study	8.8%
Not related to field of study	0.9%
Not applicable	2.2%
How important have university or college resources been in helping you to find a job?	Professional <i>n</i> = 225
Essential	14.2%
Very important	21.3%
Somewhat important	29.8%
Not important	31.6%
Not applicable	3.1%

*Note.* Questions above on this page were answered by respondents who had accepted a position as well as respondents who were still searching for employment

## Work-Related Experiences

### Participation in work-related experiences

(internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum or other academic major-related work experience)



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

Professional	
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?	<i>n</i> = 177
Yes	33.9%
No	66.1%



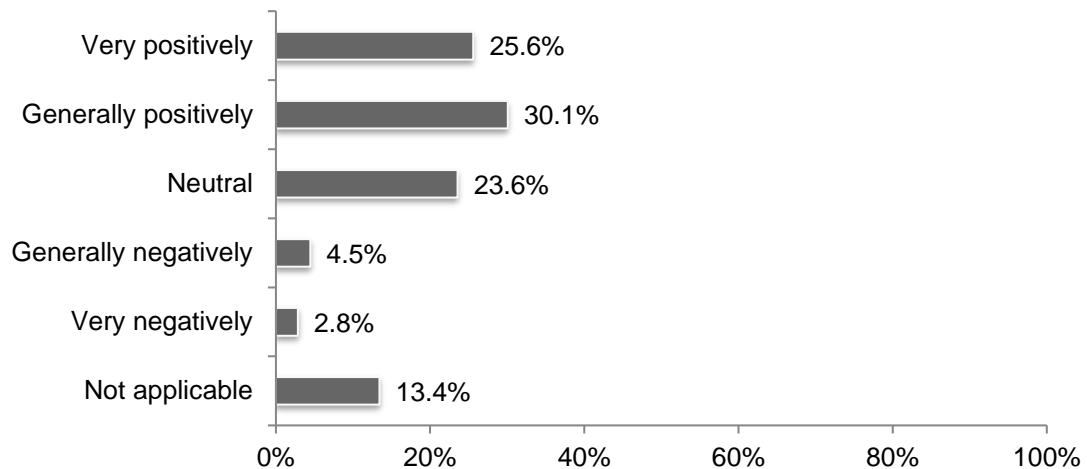
## Future Education Plans

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? *n* = 279

Degree	Immediately upon graduation	Future Plans	Do not plan to pursue	Did not answer
Law	0.7%	2.2%	62.4%	34.8%
Medicine (MD, DO)	2.2%	0.7%	62.4%	34.8%
Other Medical	19.0%	1.4%	53.8%	25.8%
Master's	3.6%	9.0%	55.2%	32.3%
Doctorate	3.2%	5.0%	59.9%	31.9%

To what extent have your overall professional school experiences influenced your future plans for graduate or professional studies?

*n* = 246



## Curricular and Co-Curricular Experiences

In professional school, did you ever hold a formal leadership role in a student organization or in your department?

*n* = 246

