



# Graduation Survey

## 2016-2021 Trend Report

Center for the Study of Student Life

June 2021



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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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 presents the results from the last five academic years. Please note that the COVID-19 pandemic may have affected responses for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years.

## 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 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 and about their co-curricular experiences.

Since 2011, the surveys have undergone several revisions. Some items have been added or changed, and some response options have been edited to better reflect student perspectives. This report compares findings when multiple years of data are available.

## INVITATIONS AND RESPONSE RATES

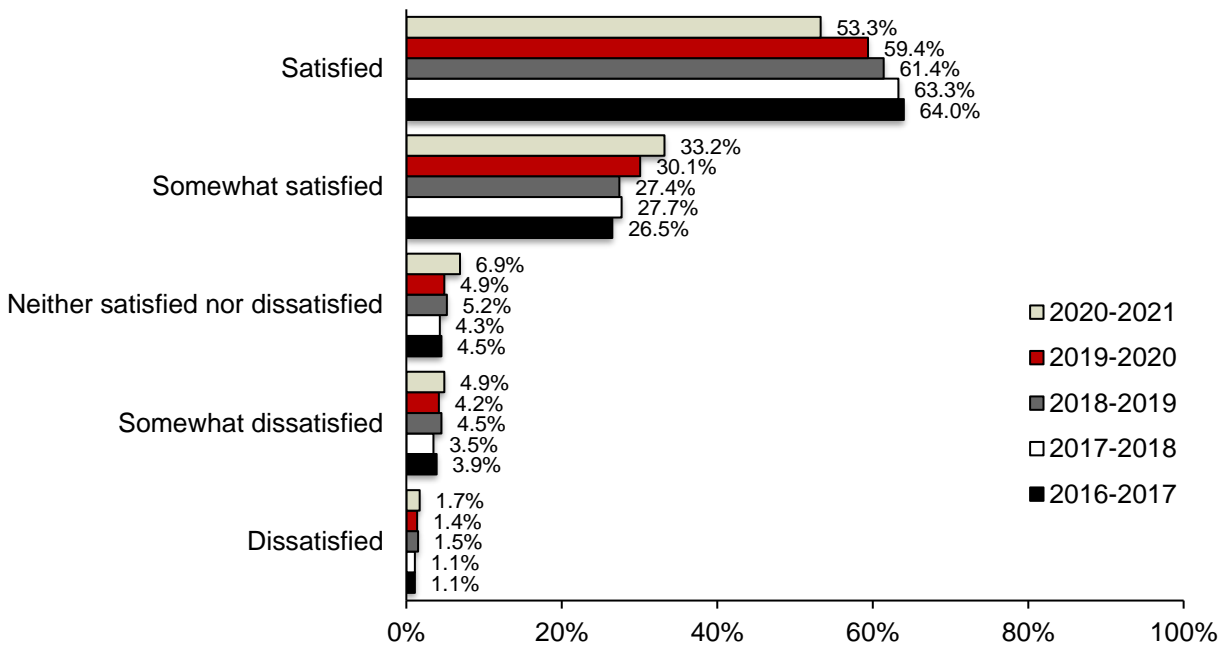
Students who applied to graduate each term were invited to take the appropriate survey. If students planned to graduate with more than one degree, they received only one invitation. If students planned to graduate with both an undergraduate and graduate degree in the same major, they were invited to take the Master's/professional survey. If a student planned to graduate with both a Master's and professional degree from the same college, they are counted as a professional student in reporting. Response rates for each of the academic years, by degree obtained, are presented in the table below.

		Undergraduate	Master's	Professional
2016 - 2017	Invited	10,975	2,986	783
	Responded	5,183	1,289	348
	Response Rate	<b>47.2%</b>	<b>43.2%</b>	<b>44.4%</b>
2017 - 2018	Invited	10,520	2,778	667
	Responded	4,833	1,119	261
	Response Rate	<b>45.9%</b>	<b>40.3%</b>	<b>39.1%</b>
2018 - 2019	Invited	11,458	2,968	828
	Responded	6,626	1,232	293
	Response Rate	<b>57.8%</b>	<b>41.5%</b>	<b>35.4%</b>
2019 - 2020	Invited	12,237	3,248	883
	Responded	8,071	1,212	264
	Response Rate	<b>66.0%</b>	<b>37.3%</b>	<b>29.9%</b>
2020 - 2021	Invited	12,046	3,020	839
	Responded	7,778	1,160	279
	Response Rate	<b>64.6%</b>	<b>38.4%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>

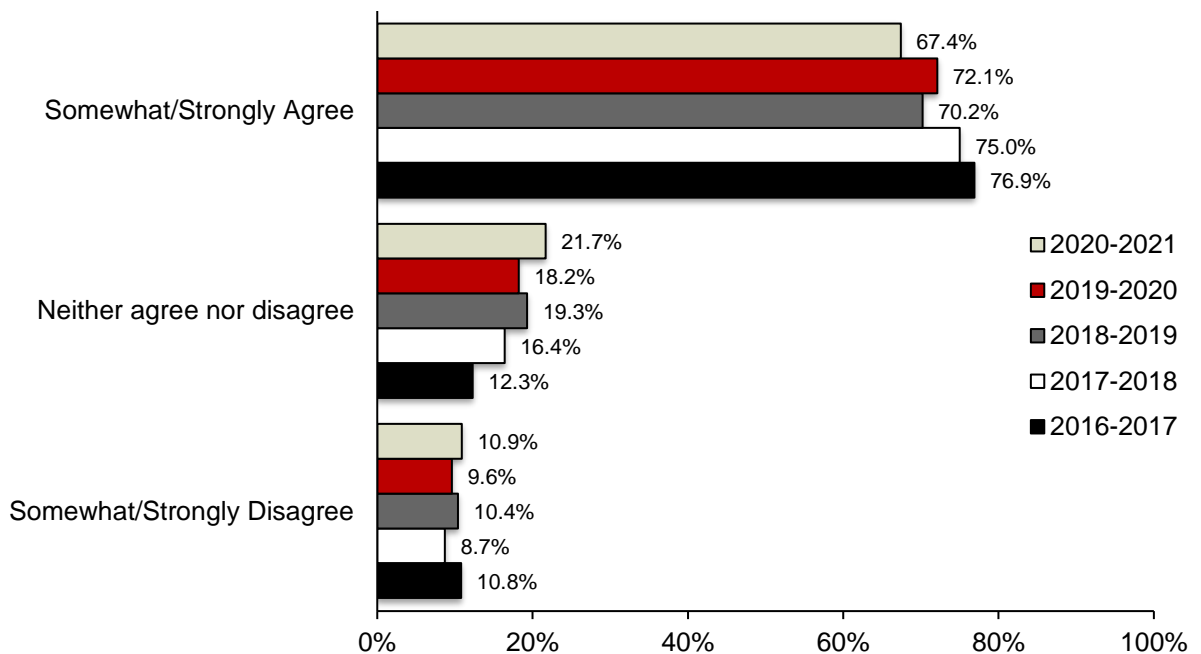
# UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

## SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

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



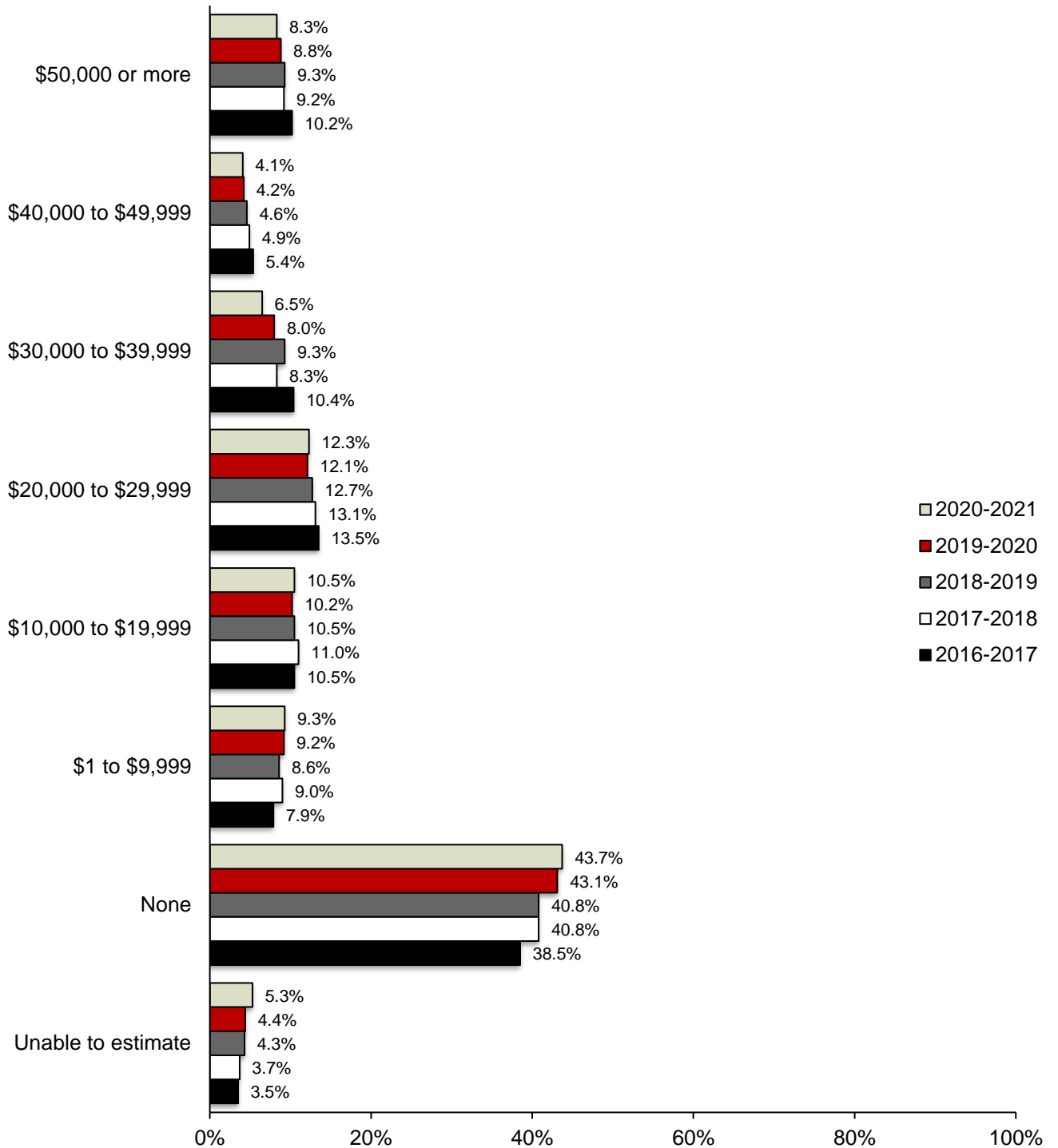
Reflecting back, to what extent do you agree that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? (Undergraduates)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>In 2017-2018, "Somewhat agree" was changed to "Agree" and "Somewhat disagree" was changed to "Disagree."

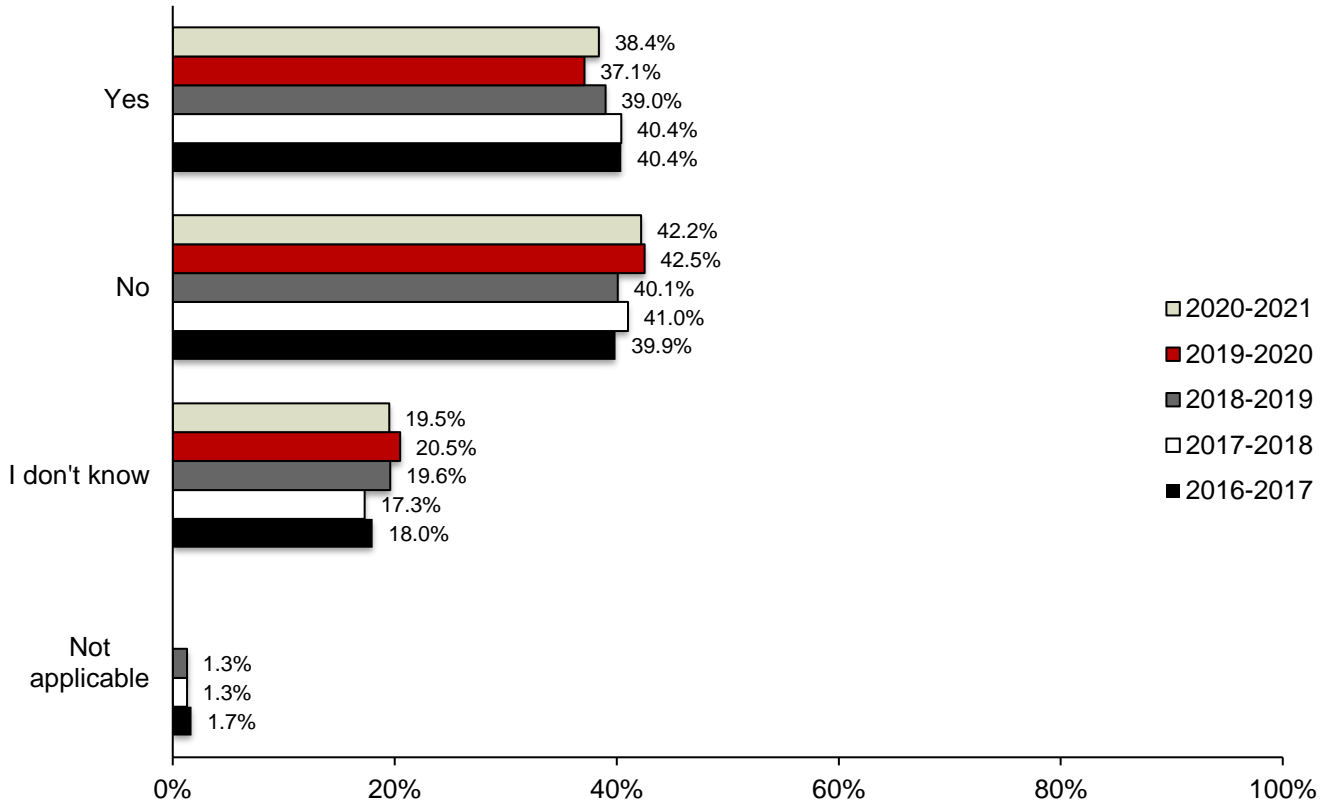
## DEBT

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)



## POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Do you plan to live in the Columbus, Ohio area after graduation?  
(Undergraduates)<sup>2</sup>



What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Undergraduates				
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Employment	71.3%	68.9%	70.6%	67.0%	64.6%
Graduate or professional school	24.7%	27.5%	25.6%	24.0%	27.5%
Additional undergraduate coursework	1.2%	1.0%	1.3%	1.4%	0.7%
Military service	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.3%	0.9%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%	0.8%	0.6%
Other plans (e.g., gap year, extended travel, starting a family, etc.) <sup>3</sup>	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	5.6%	5.9%

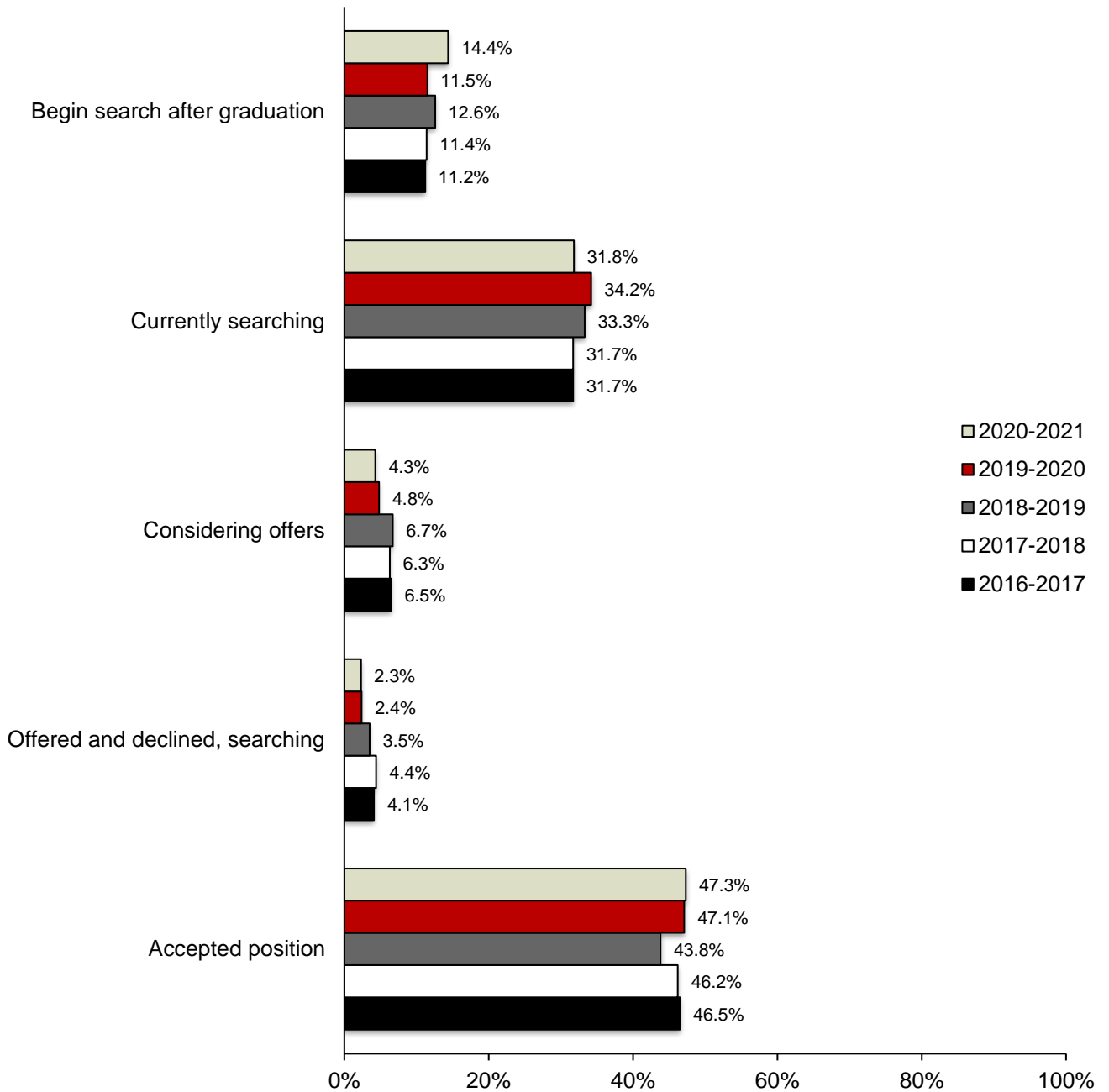
<sup>2</sup>Starting in 2019-2020, this question wording was updated to say 'live' instead of 'stay'. Also, the "Not applicable" response was removed from the survey beginning in the 2019-2020 academic year.

<sup>3</sup>Prior to 2019-2020, this response option was "Starting or raising a family".

## EMPLOYMENT PLANS

Only respondents who reported that they would either be employed part-time or full-time following graduation are included in the following chart.

**Which of the following best describes your current state of plans for employment after graduation? (Undergraduates)**



If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Undergraduates				
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	44.0%	72.9%	75.7%	78.4%	79.1%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	7.1%	10.0%	9.3%	8.2%	10.1%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group) <sup>4</sup>	2.2%	2.1%	2.9%	--	--
Government or other public institution/agency	8.4%	10.2%	11.7%	13.4%	10.9%
Not applicable (have not accepted) <sup>4</sup>	38.3%	4.8%	0.5%	--	--
<b>Is your prospective position related to your undergraduate field(s) of study?</b>					
Same field as major(s)	40.4%	46.6%	42.4%	44.4%	42.0%
Related to major(s)	28.0%	35.7%	38.6%	34.6%	34.6%
Related to minor(s)	2.4%	3.4%	3.1%	2.6%	2.9%
Not related to major(s) or minor(s)	6.9%	8.4%	10.6%	7.4%	8.5%
Not applicable	22.3%	6.0%	5.3%	10.9%	11.9%
<b>How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?</b>					
Very well	29.7%	27.0%	27.2%	27.8%	23.6%
Generally well	47.6%	49.2%	47.4%	48.6%	48.6%
Neutral	13.3%	14.7%	14.9%	14.0%	16.7%
Inadequately	6.4%	6.4%	7.1%	6.3%	7.0%
Very inadequately	2.3%	2.1%	2.5%	2.3%	2.7%
Not applicable	0.7%	0.5%	0.8%	1.0%	1.4%
<b>How important have university or college resources been in helping you to find a job?<sup>5</sup></b>					
Essential	11.3%	12.4%	12.9%	12.2%	12.7%
Very important	26.8%	27.7%	24.4%	25.8%	20.1%
Somewhat important	18.5%	18.1%	17.2%	18.2%	37.3%
Not important	14.6%	15.2%	16.2%	15.6%	22.4%
Not applicable	5.6%	3.4%	3.8%	4.6%	7.4%
<b>Where will you be employed? (Top location listed)</b>					
Ohio	71.8%	71.6%	69.7%	66.9%	66.4%

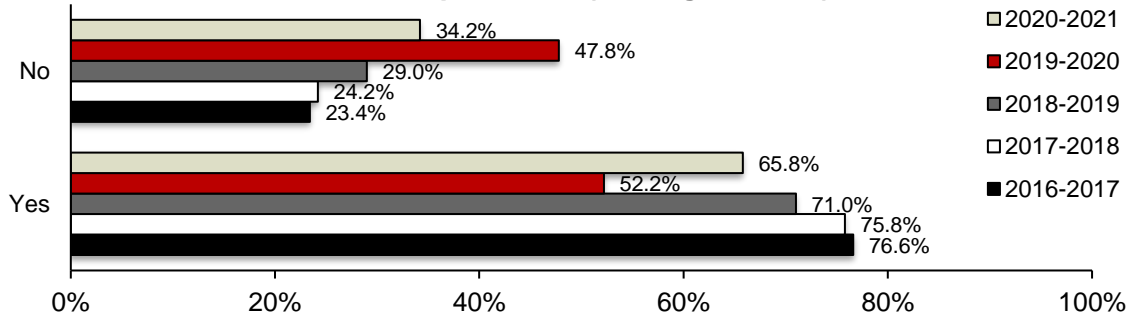
<sup>4</sup>In 2019-2020, Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group) and Not applicable (have not accepted) were removed as answer choices from this question.

<sup>5</sup>Starting in 2020-2021, "Neutral" was removed; the percentages for the prior years will not add up to 100%.

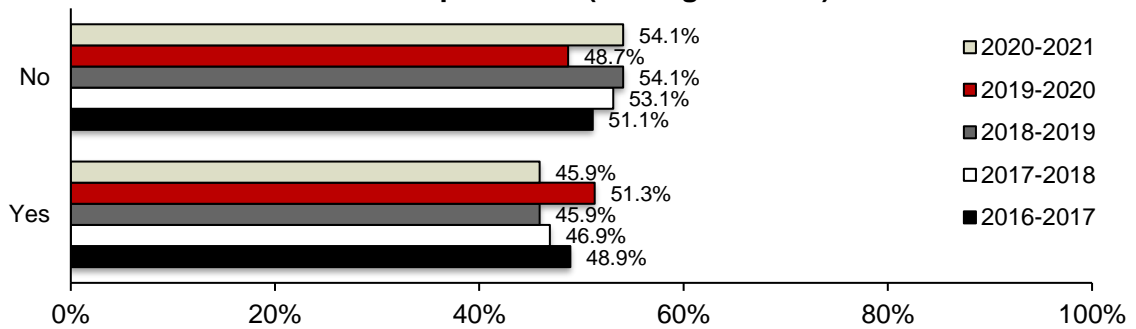


## INTERNSHIPS

**While enrolled in your current degree program, did you complete an internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum, or academic major-related work experience? (Undergraduates)**



**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)**

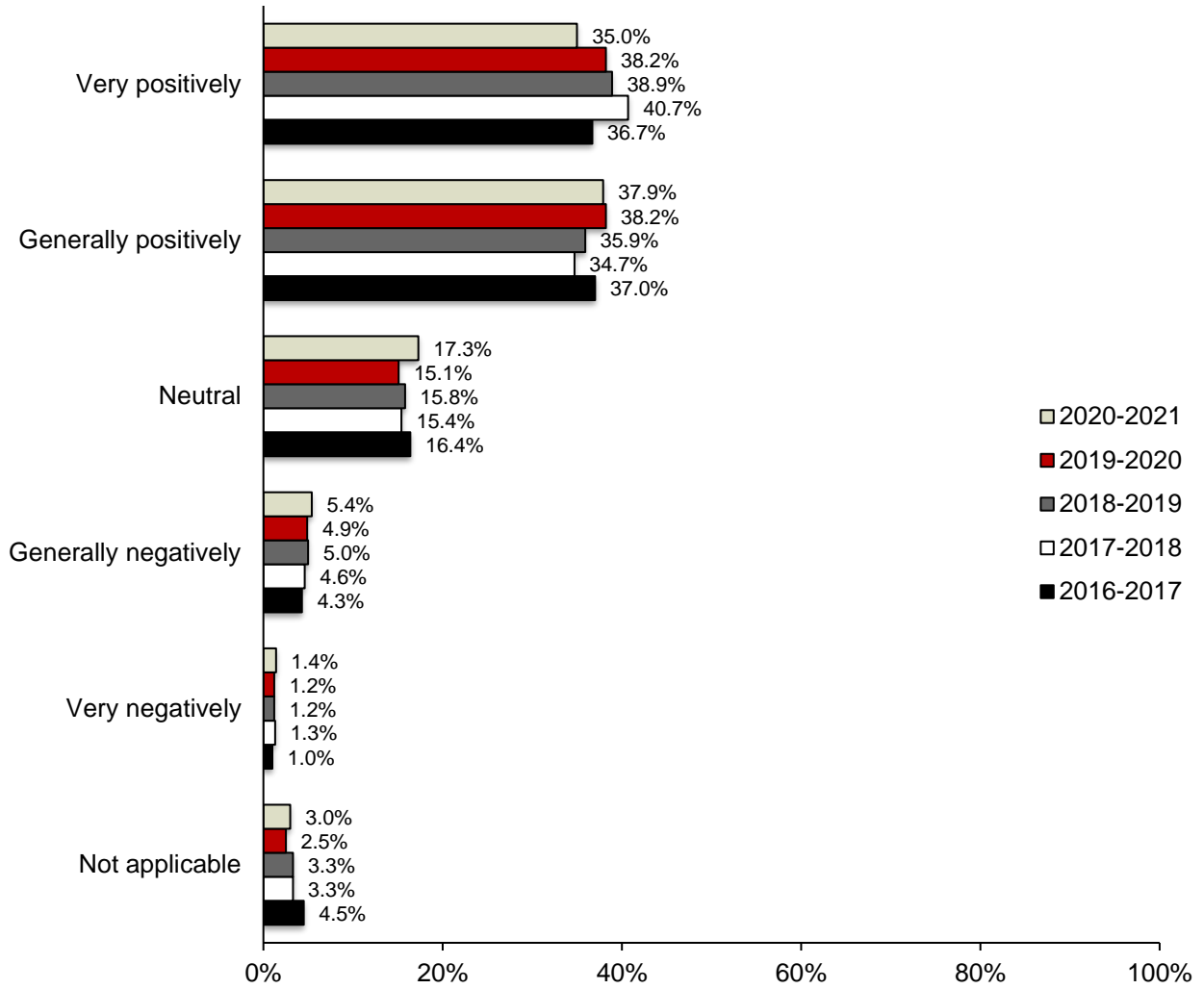


## FUTURE EDUCATION

### Which degrees do you plan to pursue upon graduation or in the future? (Undergraduates)

<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not select</b>
Law	2.3%	6.0%	91.7%
Medicine (MD, DO)	2.0%	4.4%	93.6%
Other Medical	3.4%	5.2%	91.4%
Second Bachelor's	1.1%	5.6%	93.3%
Master's	12.9%	47.9%	39.2%
Doctorate	2.8%	14.7%	82.4%
<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not select</b>
Law	1.9%	5.9%	92.2%
Medicine (MD, DO)	1.7%	3.9%	94.4%
Other Medical	2.9%	4.0%	93.1%
Second Bachelor's	0.8%	5.1%	94.1%
Master's	12.2%	49.6%	38.1%
Doctorate	3.2%	16.5%	80.3%
<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not select</b>
Law	2.0%	6.6%	91.4%
Medicine (MD, DO)	1.9%	5.1%	93.0%
Other Medical	3.1%	6.5%	90.4%
Second Bachelor's	0.8%	5.1%	94.1%
Master's	12.2%	49.6%	38.2%
Doctorate	2.2%	18.9%	78.9%
<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not select</b>
Law	1.8%	6.0%	92.2%
Medicine (MD, DO)	2.1%	5.0%	93.0%
Other Medical	3.0%	5.0%	92.0%
Second Bachelor's	1.0%	4.5%	94.4%
Master's	13.2%	48.0%	38.9%
Doctorate	2.7%	17.7%	79.6%
<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not select</b>
Law	1.8%	5.7%	92.5%
Medicine (MD, DO)	1.5%	5.5%	93.0%
Other Medical	2.5%	5.5%	92.0%
Second Bachelor's	0.6%	4.5%	94.9%
Master's	14.3%	43.9%	41.8%
Doctorate	2.8%	19.0%	78.2%

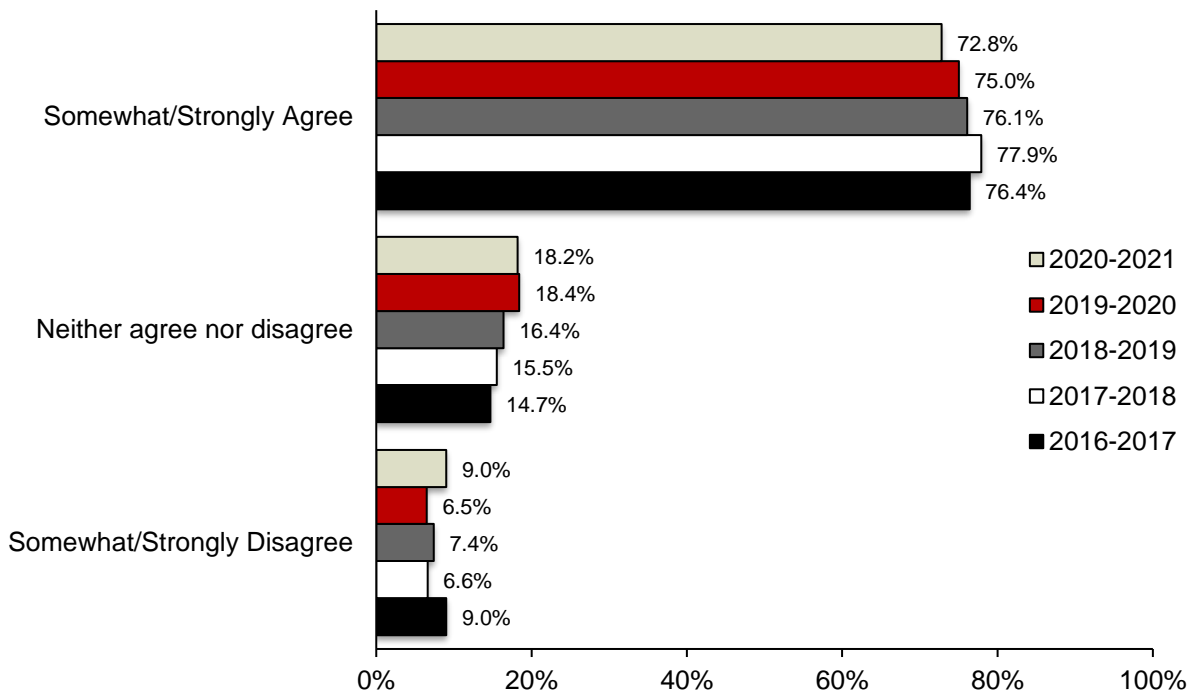
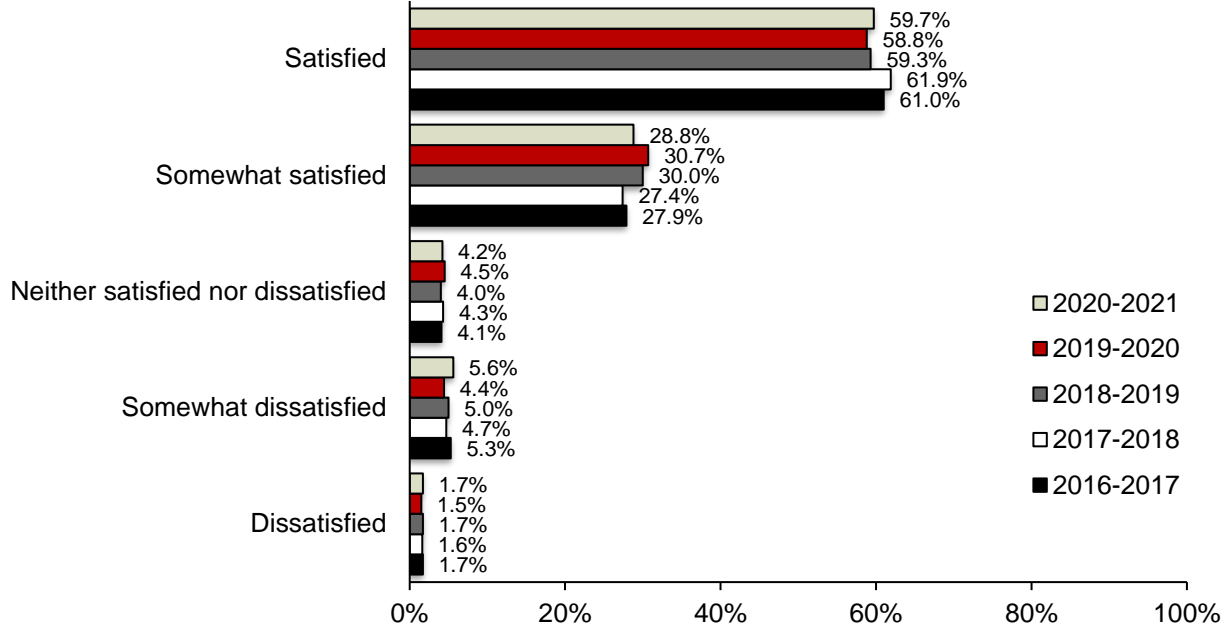
**To what extent have your overall undergraduate experiences influenced your plans for graduate or professional studies? (Undergraduates)**



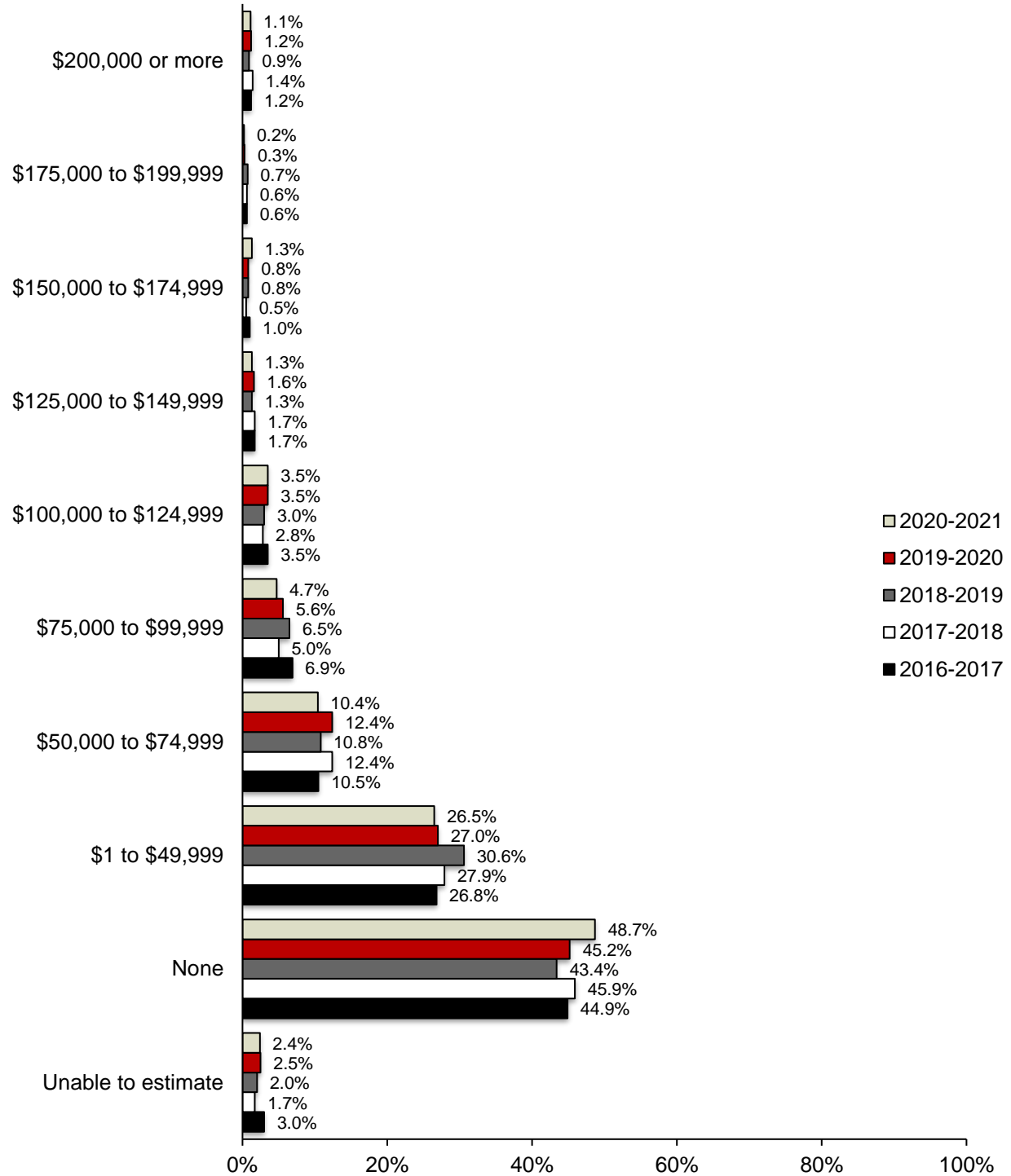
# MASTER'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS

## SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

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

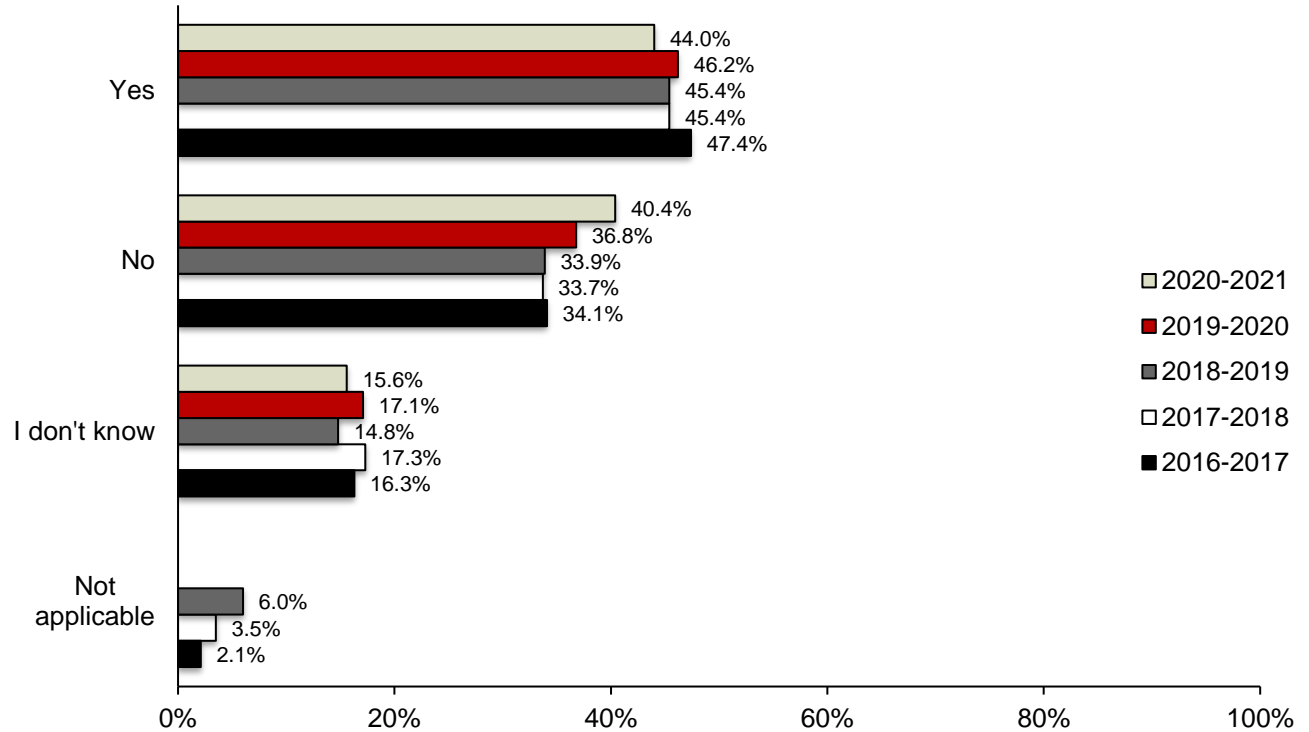


# DEBT



## POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Do you plan to live in the Columbus, Ohio area after graduation?  
(Master's)<sup>7</sup>



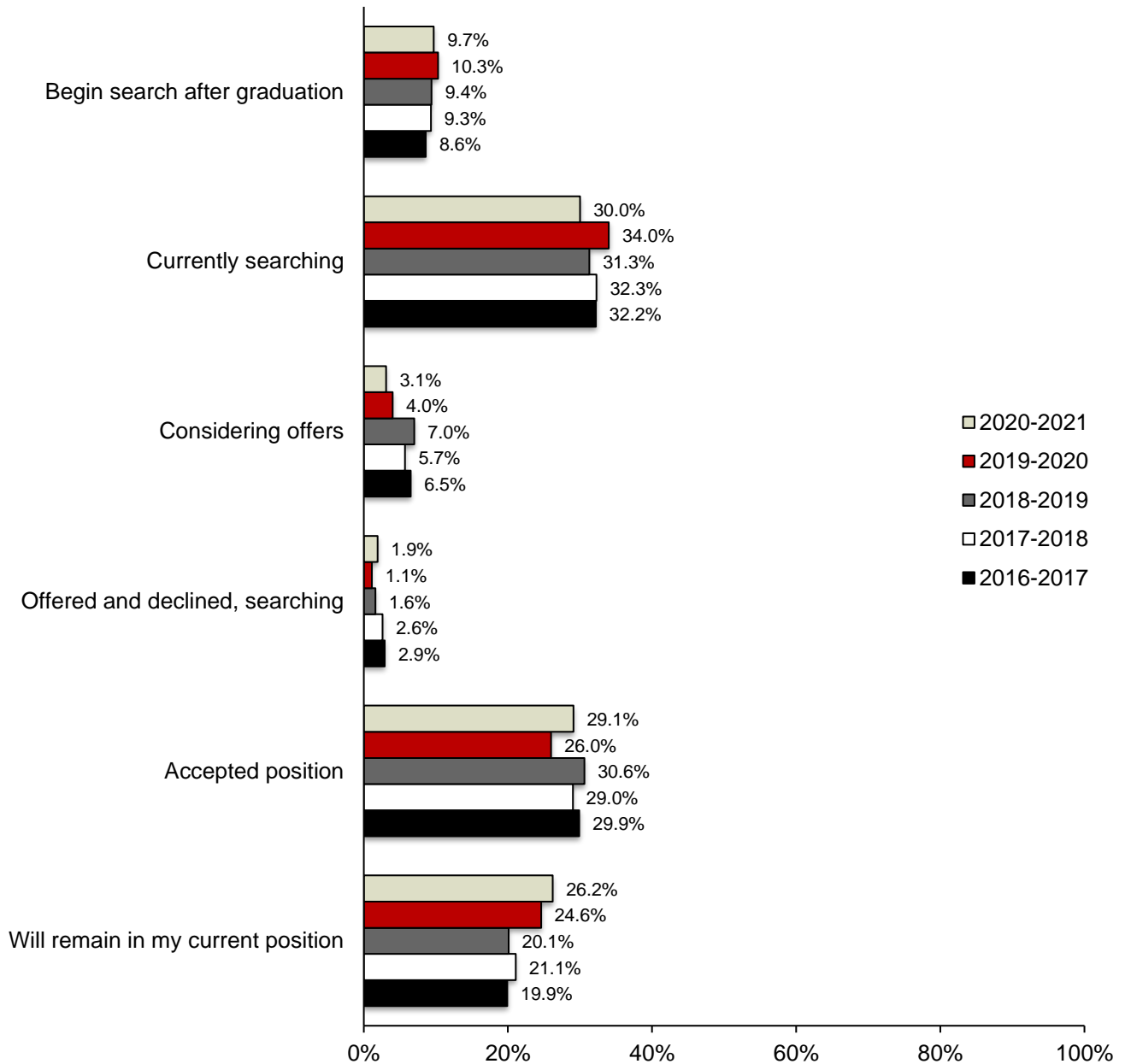
What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Master's				
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Employment	85.0%	83.1%	85.7%	84.8%	84.6%
Graduate or professional school	13.5%	15.5%	12.9%	12.4%	11.3%
Military service	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.3%	0.2%	0.7%	0.0%	0.2%
Other plans (e.g., gap year, extended travel, starting a family, etc.) <sup>8</sup>	0.3%	0.5%	0.7%	2.3%	3.2%

<sup>7</sup>Starting in 2019-2020, this question wording was updated to say 'live' instead of 'stay'. Also, the "Not applicable" response was removed from the survey beginning in the 2019-2020 academic year.

<sup>8</sup>Prior to 2019-2020, this response option was "Starting or raising a family".

## EMPLOYMENT PLANS

Only respondents who reported that they would either be employed part-time or full-time following graduation are included in the following chart.



If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization/sector will you work?	Master's				
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020 <sup>8</sup>	2020-2021
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	30.3%	28.9%	51.3%	40.2%	38.7%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	16.9%	16.8%	25.7%	31.9%	30.7%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group) <sup>9</sup>	1.2%	0.6%	1.6%	--	--
Government or other public institution/agency	15.1%	15.9%	20.1%	28.0%	30.5%
Not applicable (have not accepted) <sup>9</sup>	36.5%	37.8%	1.3%	--	--
<b>Is your prospective position related to your graduate/professional field(s) of study?</b>					
Same field	54.6%	57.7%	69.9%	62.7%	65.7%
Related to field of study	24.1%	22.4%	24.6%	26.4%	24.8%
Not related to field of study	2.3%	1.8%	2.9%	3.2%	3.0%
Not applicable	19.0%	18.0%	2.7%	7.6%	6.4%
<b>How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?</b>					
Very well	33.8%	34.9%	35.7%	41.0%	38.3%
Generally well	44.3%	44.3%	46.9%	41.1%	40.2%
Neutral	12.0%	10.9%	10.8%	10.6%	13.5%
Inadequately	5.5%	6.5%	3.7%	3.6%	4.0%
Very inadequately	2.7%	1.5%	1.3%	2.1%	2.0%
Not applicable	1.8%	1.9%	1.7%	1.5%	1.9%
<b>How important have university or college resources been in helping you to find a job?<sup>10</sup></b>					
Essential	8.4%	12.1%	10.5%	10.3%	12.2%
Very important	22.1%	23.6%	22.6%	24.3%	17.6%
Somewhat important	15.2%	13.3%	13.9%	11.3%	28.3%
Not important	19.2%	19.6%	20.0%	18.5%	26.6%
Not applicable	12.2%	7.4%	9.8%	9.3%	15.2%
<b>Where will you be employed? (Top location listed)</b>					
Ohio	67.1%	65.3%	64.5%	67.4%	65.0%

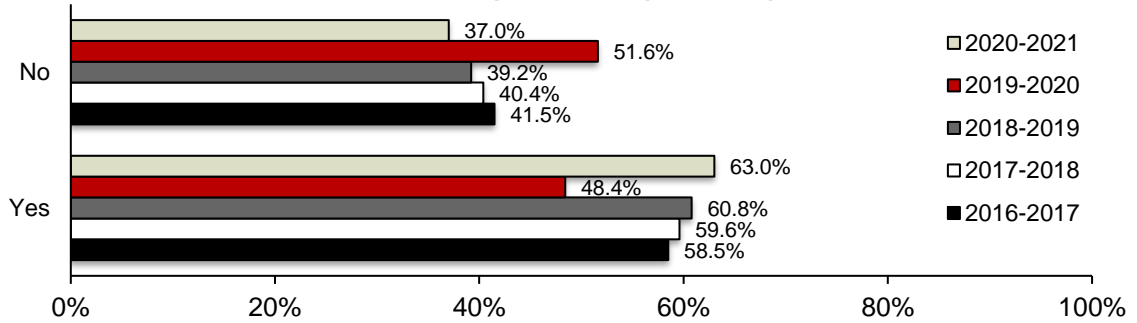
<sup>9</sup>In 2019-2020, Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group) and Not applicable (have not accepted) were removed as answer choices from this question.

<sup>10</sup>Starting in 2020-2021, "Neutral" was removed; the percentages for the prior years will not add up to 100%.

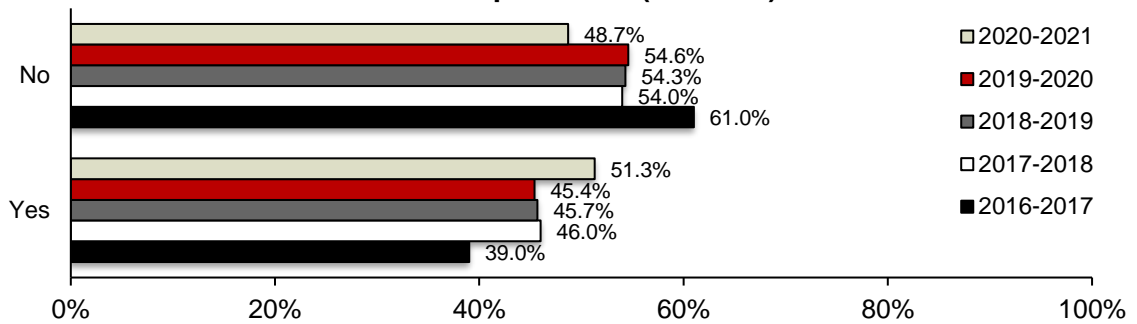


## INTERNSHIPS

**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)**



**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)**

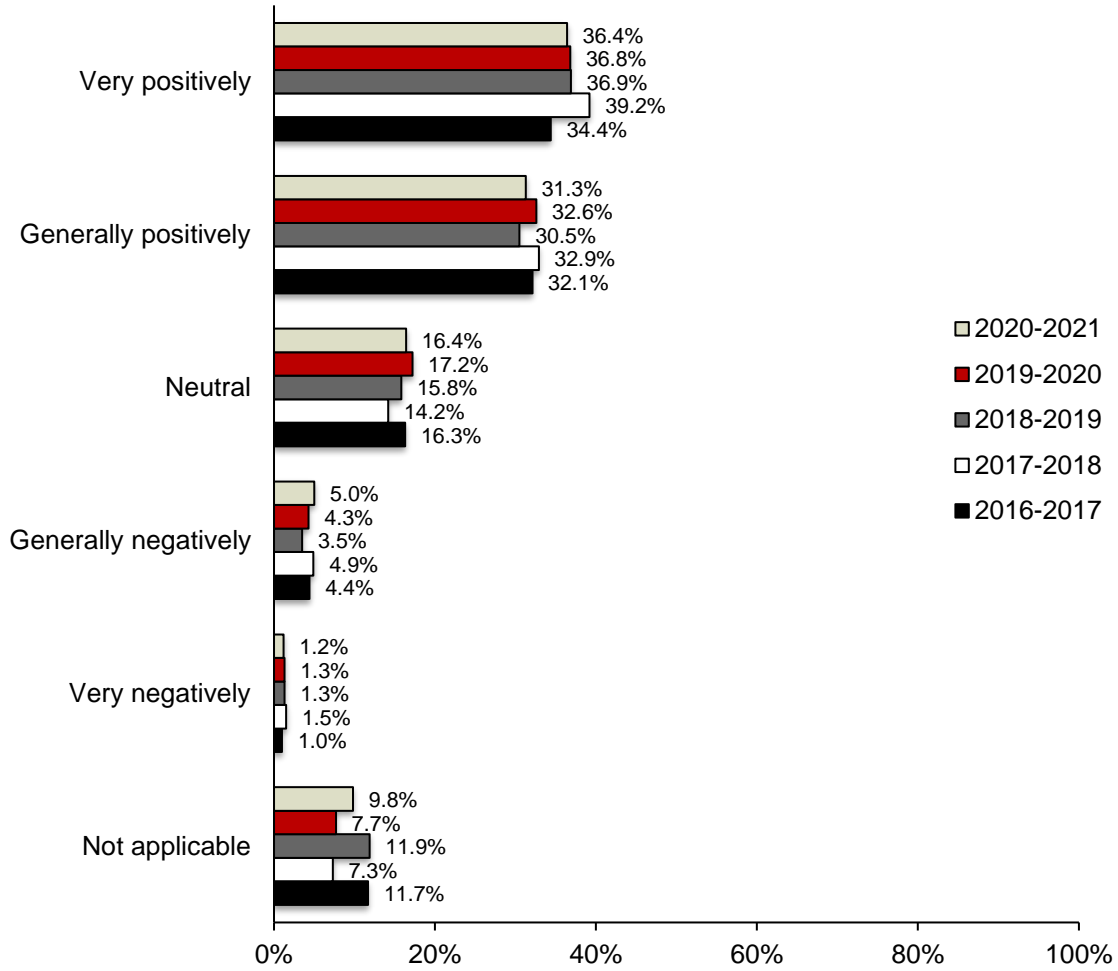


## FUTURE EDUCATION

### Which degrees do you plan to pursue upon graduation or in the future? (Master's)

<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not answer</b>
Law	0.3%	3.1%	96.6%
Medicine (MD, DO)	0.7%	1.8%	97.5%
Other Medical	1.2%	2.1%	96.8%
Master's	6.6%	7.1%	86.3%
Doctorate	12.4%	28.0%	59.6%
<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not select</b>
Law	0.1%	2.4%	97.5%
Medicine (MD, DO)	0.3%	0.4%	99.2%
Other Medical	0.7%	1.3%	98.1%
Master's	4.2%	7.8%	88.0%
Doctorate	13.9%	24.8%	61.2%
<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not select</b>
Law	0.2%	2.8%	97.0%
Medicine (MD, DO)	0.1%	0.7%	99.2%
Other Medical	0.7%	1.3%	98.0%
Master's	3.9%	7.0%	89.1%
Doctorate	12.1%	23.7%	64.2%
<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not select</b>
Law	0.2%	3.4%	96.4%
Medicine (MD, DO)	0.7%	1.2%	98.2%
Other Medical	0.8%	1.7%	97.5%
Master's	4.7%	8.3%	87.1%
Doctorate	12.2%	28.2%	59.6%
<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not select</b>
Law	0.2%	2.8%	97.0%
Medicine (MD, DO)	0.9%	1.6%	97.6%
Other Medical	0.9%	2.6%	96.5%
Master's	5.2%	5.4%	89.4%
Doctorate	11.2%	25.8%	63.0%

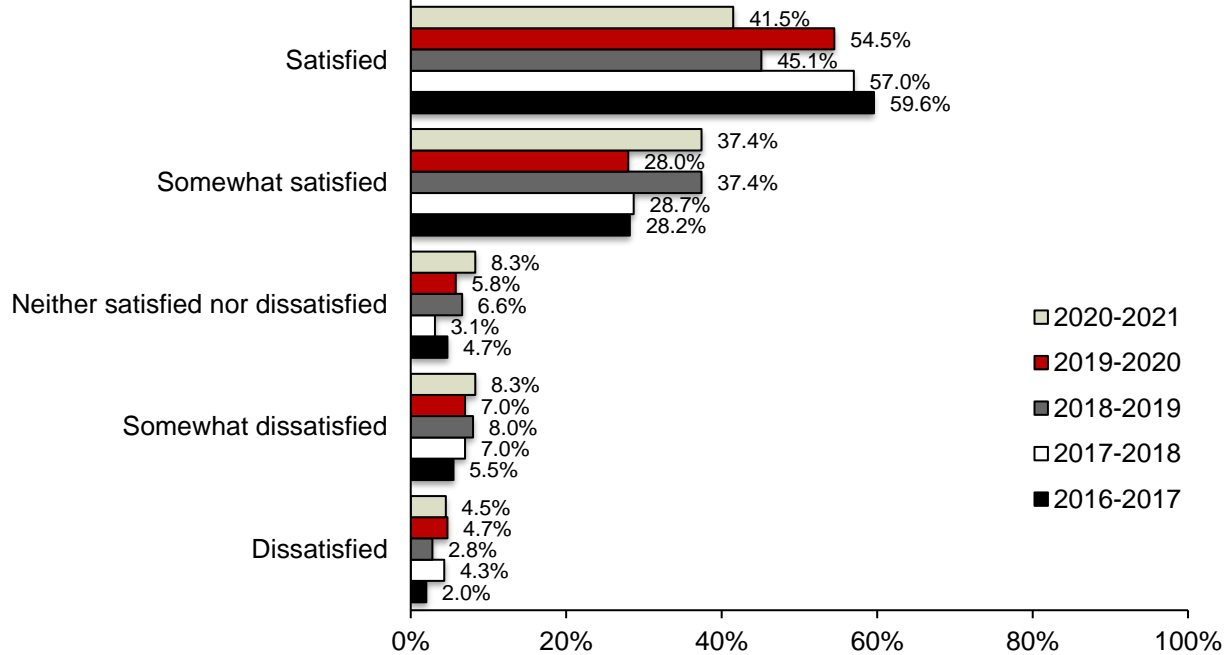
**To what extent have your overall graduate experiences influenced your plans for graduate or professional studies?  
(Master's)**



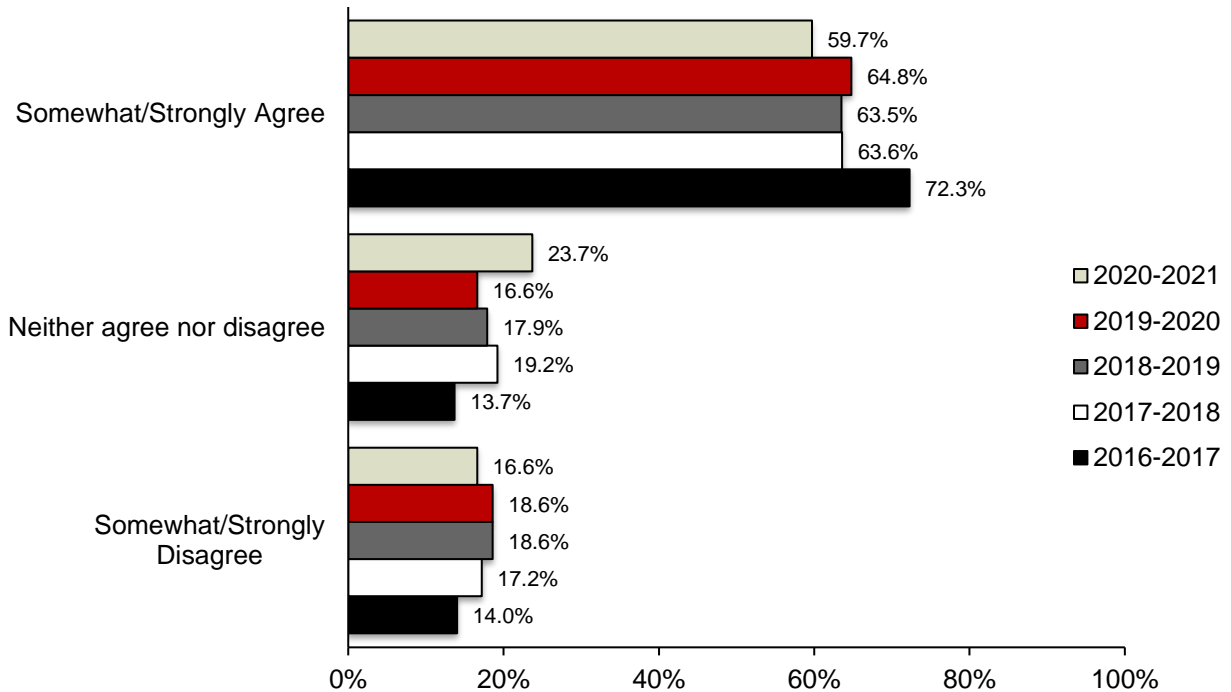
# PROFESSIONAL DEGREE RECIPIENTS

## SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

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



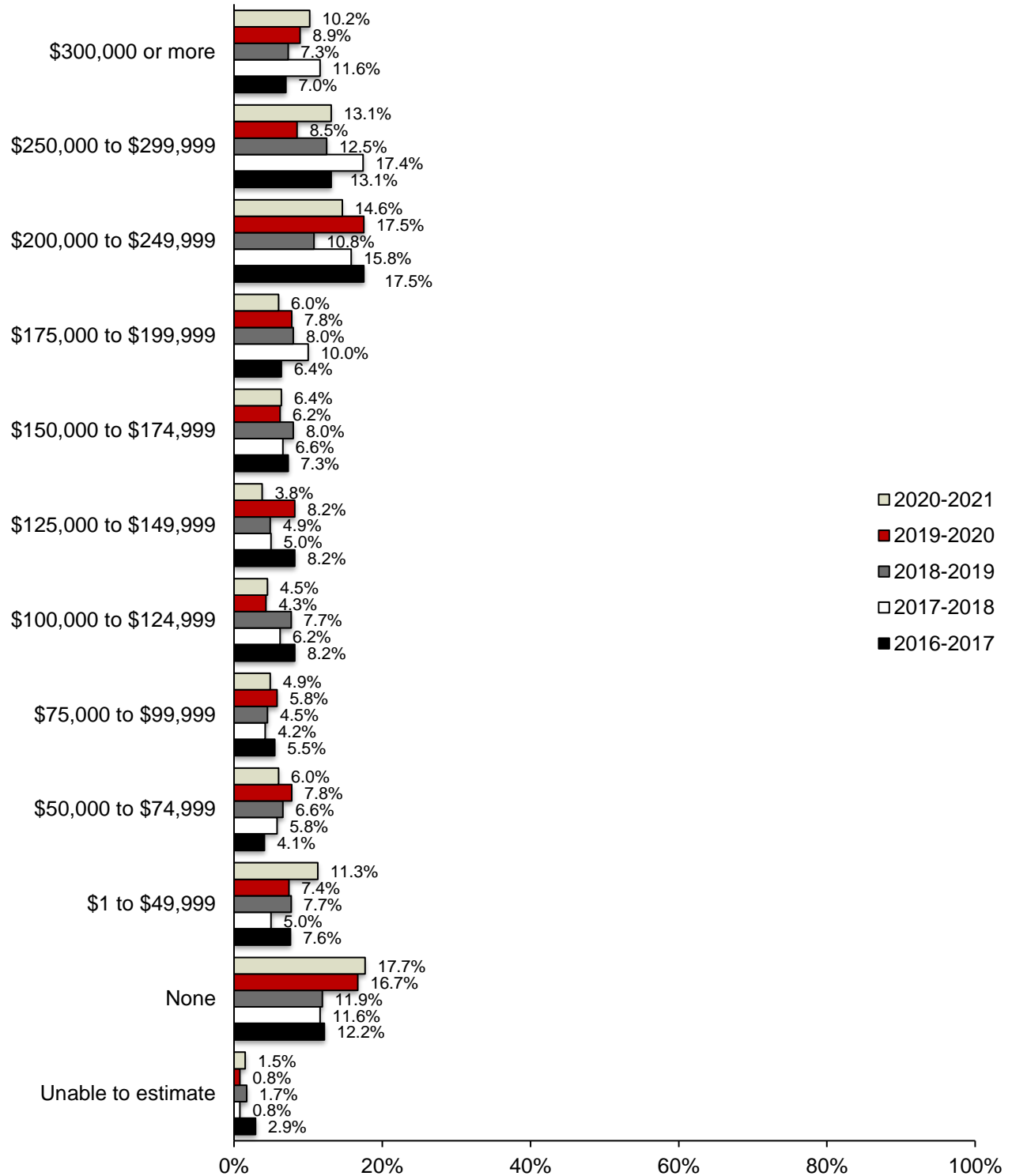
Reflecting back, to what extent do you agree that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? (Professionals)<sup>11</sup>



<sup>11</sup>In 2017-2018, "Somewhat agree" was changed to "Agree" and "Somewhat disagree" was changed to "Disagree."

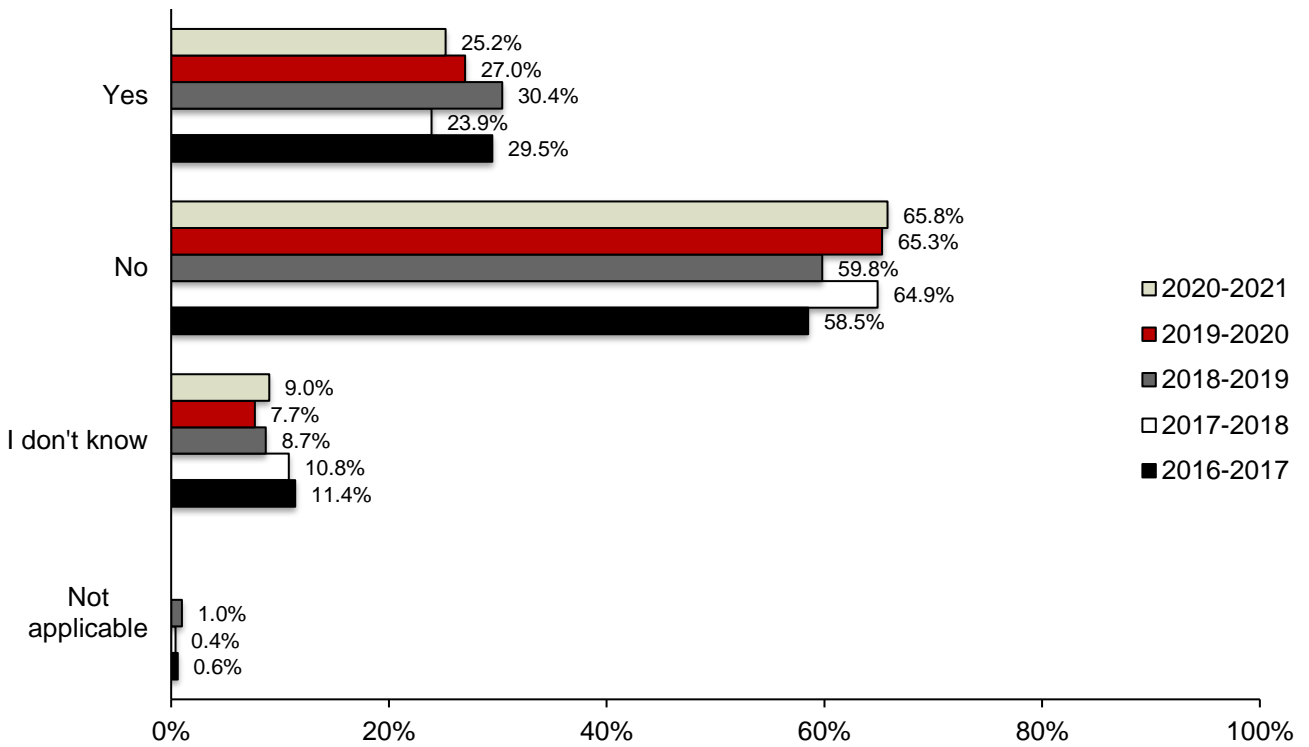
## DEBT

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)



## POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Do you plan to live in the Columbus, Ohio area after graduation?  
(Professionals)<sup>12</sup>



What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Professionals				
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Employment	90.7%	94.9%	93.0%	89.2%	89.1%
Graduate or professional school	5.6%	3.5%	4.6%	1.9%	4.2%
Military service	3.5%	1.2%	1.8%	3.8%	2.3%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Other plans (e.g., gap year, extended travel, starting a family, etc.) <sup>13</sup>	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	5.0%	4.5%

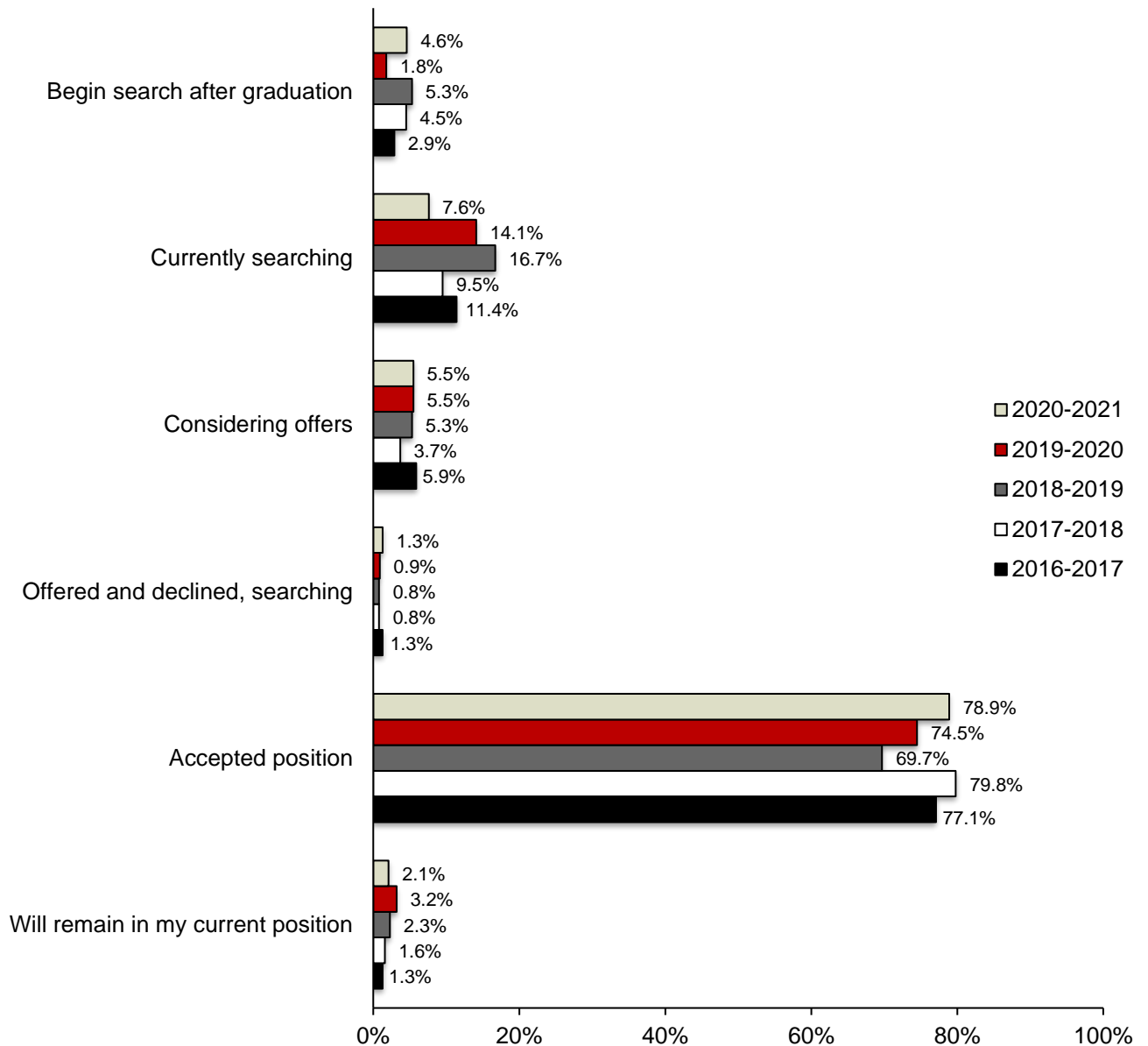
<sup>12</sup>Starting in 2019-2020, this question wording was updated to say 'live' instead of 'stay'. Also, the "Not applicable" response was removed from the survey beginning in the 2019-2020 academic year.

<sup>13</sup>Prior to 2019-2020, this response option was "Starting or raising a family".

## EMPLOYMENT PLANS

Only respondents who reported that they would either be employed part-time or full-time following graduation are included in the following chart.

**Which of the following best describes your current state of plans for employment after graduation? (Professionals)**



If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Professionals				
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020 <sup>12</sup>	2020-2021
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	52.6%	46.4%	65.0%	60.7%	64.7%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	13.6%	18.5%	13.3%	16.8%	13.4%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group) <sup>14</sup>	6.3%	6.0%	5.6%	--	--
Government or other public institution/agency	13.6%	18.0%	16.1%	22.5%	21.9%
Not applicable (have not accepted) <sup>14</sup>	13.9%	11.2%	0.0%	--	--
<b>Is your prospective position related to your graduate or professional field(s) of study?</b>					
Same field	89.1%	93.9%	91.9%	94.9%	88.1%
Related to field of study	3.0%	1.7%	7.3%	2.8%	8.8%
Not related to field of study	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.9%
Not applicable	7.9%	4.4%	0.8%	1.9%	2.2%
<b>How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?</b>					
Very well	40.5%	37.3%	30.5%	40.2%	33.5%
Generally well	44.0%	44.2%	51.0%	42.5%	44.9%
Neutral	8.2%	9.0%	11.6%	11.7%	12.3%
Inadequately	5.2%	7.3%	4.6%	4.2%	5.7%
Very inadequately	1.4%	0.9%	1.5%	0.9%	2.6%
Not applicable	0.7%	1.3%	0.8%	0.5%	0.9%
<b>How important have university or college resources been in helping you to find a job?<sup>15</sup></b>					
Essential	8.5%	13.2%	10.9%	10.8%	14.2%
Very important	25.5%	26.8%	26.8%	27.7%	21.3%
Somewhat important	18.4%	11.0%	17.1%	17.4%	29.8%
Not important	19.7%	19.7%	19.1%	17.8%	31.6%
Not applicable	5.4%	7.5%	4.3%	1.9%	3.1%
<b>Where will you be employed? (Top location listed)</b>					
Ohio	65.2%	62.4%	59.4%	59.4%	62.3%

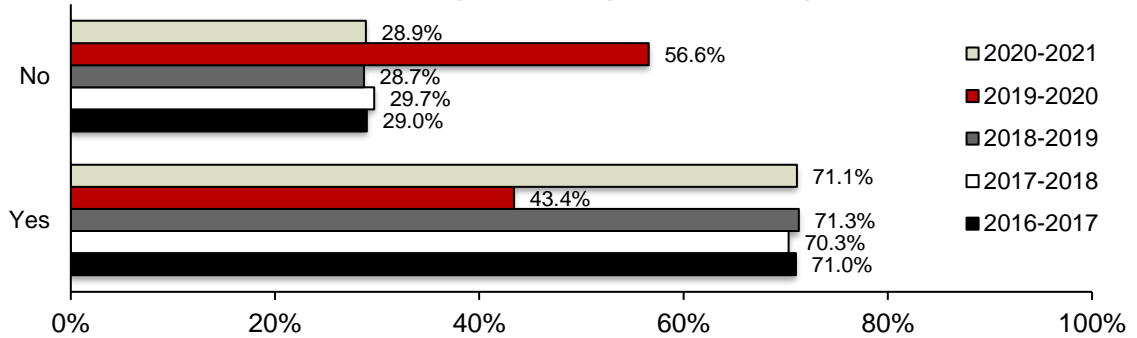
<sup>14</sup>In 2019-2020, Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group) and Not applicable (have not accepted) were removed as answer choices from this question.

<sup>15</sup>Starting in 2020-2021, "Neutral" was removed; the percentages for the prior years will not add up to 100%.

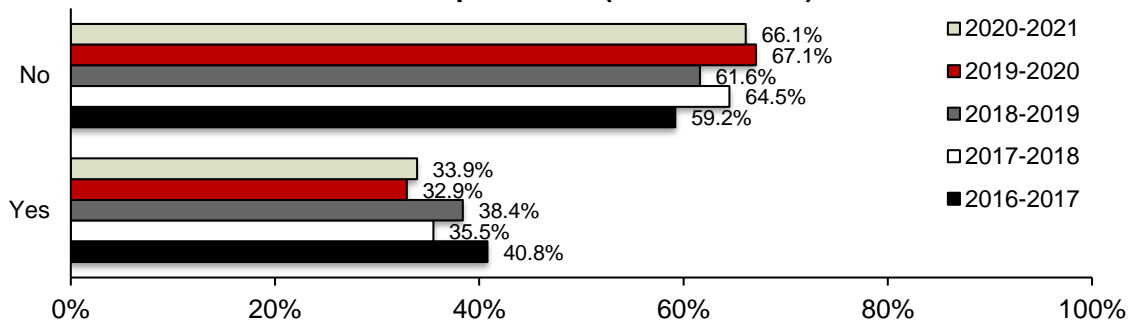


## INTERNSHIPS

**While enrolled in your current degree program, did you complete an internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum, or academic major-related work experience? (Professionals)**



**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)**



## FUTURE EDUCATION

### Which degrees do you plan to pursue upon graduation or in the future? (Professionals)

<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not answer</b>
Law	1.8%	2.1%	96.0%
Medicine (MD, DO)	2.1%	2.4%	95.4%
Other Medical	12.5%	3.0%	84.5%
Master's	4.3%	8.2%	87.5%
Doctorate	1.8%	5.8%	92.4%
<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not answer</b>
Law	0.8%	1.1%	98.1%
Medicine (MD, DO)	4.6%	0.4%	95.0%
Other Medical	8.0%	0.4%	91.5%
Master's	3.4%	8.0%	88.6%
Doctorate	0.8%	2.3%	97.0%
<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not select</b>
Law	2.0%	2.0%	96.0%
Medicine (MD, DO)	0.0%	1.0%	99.0%
Other Medical	11.6%	1.0%	87.4%
Master's	4.1%	5.5%	90.5%
Doctorate	1.4%	5.1%	93.5%
<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not select</b>
Law	2.3%	1.9%	95.9%
Medicine (MD, DO)	0.8%	0.0%	99.3%
Other Medical	11.0%	1.9%	87.1%
Master's	3.0%	10.2%	86.8%
Doctorate	1.1%	4.5%	94.4%
<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>Immediately upon graduation</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Did not select</b>
Law	0.7%	2.2%	97.2%
Medicine (MD, DO)	2.2%	0.7%	97.2%
Other Medical	19.0%	1.4%	79.6%
Master's	3.6%	9.0%	87.5%
Doctorate	3.2%	5.0%	91.8%

**To what extent have your overall graduate experiences influenced your plans for graduate or professional studies? (Professionals)**

