

Graduation Survey 2017-2018: University Report

June 2018



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the combined results for the Summer 2017, Autumn 2017 and Spring 2018 Ohio State Graduation Survey. 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 2017-2018 academic year.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS' HIGHLIGHTS

- The response rate for undergraduate students was **45.9%**; 4,833 submitted responses.
- **91.0%** were *satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied* with their experience at Ohio State.
- **40.8%** reported that they will graduate with no debt that they are personally responsible for repaying; **35.5%** reported their debt would be \$20,000 or more.
- **75.0%** *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that the benefits from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs.
- **68.9%** reported that paid employment was most likely to be their principal activity after graduation; of those, **76.2%** reported that Ohio State prepared them *very well* or *generally well* for the job market.
- **27.5%** 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 **40.3%**; 1,119 submitted responses.
- **89.3%** were *satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied* with their experience at Ohio State.
- **45.9%** reported that they will graduate with no debt that they are personally responsible for repaying; **24.4%** reported their debt would be \$50,000 or more.
- **77.9%** *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that the benefits from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs.
- **83.1%** reported that paid employment was most likely to be their principal activity after graduation; of those, **79.2%** 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 **39.1%**; 667 submitted responses.
- **85.7%** were *satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied* with their experience at Ohio State.
- **11.6%** reported that they will graduate with no debt that they are personally responsible for repaying; **27.8%** reported their debt would be \$100,000-\$199,999 and **44.8%** reported their debt would be \$200,000 or more.
- **63.6%** *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that the benefits from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs.
- **94.9%** 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 2017-2018 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: 10,520 were invited to take the survey and 4,833 responded, for a response rate of 45.9%
 - Of the undergraduate respondents, 97 earned two bachelor's degrees.
- Master's degree recipients: 2,778 were invited to take the survey and 1,119 responded, for a response rate of 40.3%
 - Of those earning Master's degrees, 9 who responded earned a second Master's degree and 8 earned a professional degree in addition to their Master's degree.
- Professional degree recipients: 667 were invited to take the survey and 261 responded, for a response rate of 39.1%.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

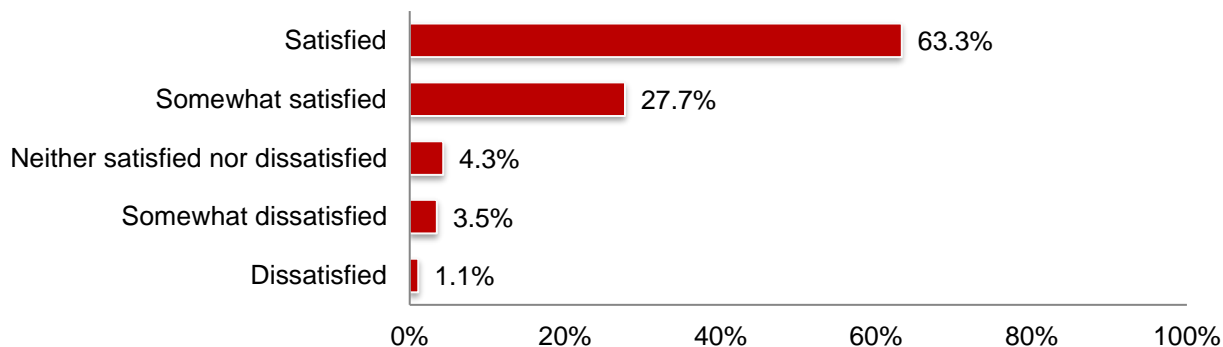
The following tables display gender and race/ethnicity information from the Student Information System for the students invited to take the survey and the students who completed the survey.

Gender	Undergraduates - Invited (n = 10,520)	Undergraduates - Responded (n = 4,833)
Female	50.6%	54.0%
Male	49.4%	45.9%
Undisclosed	0.1%	0.1%

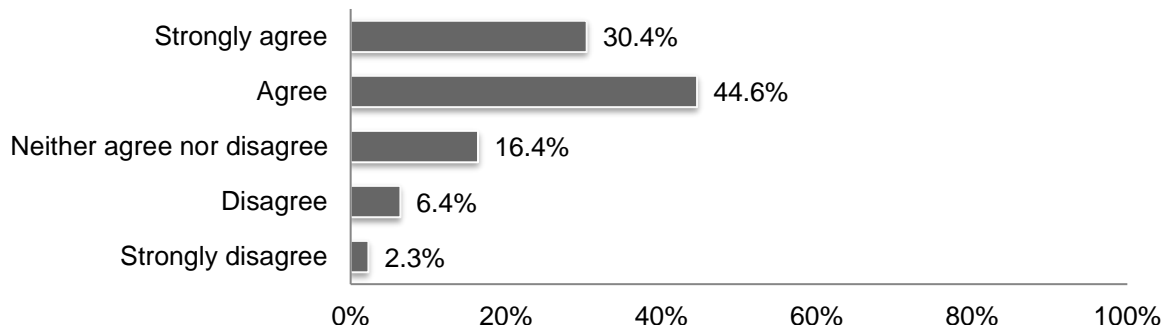
Race/Ethnicity	Undergraduates - Invited (n = 10,520)	Undergraduates - Responded (n = 4,833)
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.1%	0.1%
Asian	5.5%	5.3%
Black or African American	4.6%	4.2%
Hispanic	3.6%	3.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Non-Resident Alien	7.7%	7.1%
None Given/Race Unknown	2.5%	2.4%
Two or More Races	2.9%	2.4%
White	73.1%	74.7%

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall? Undergraduates (n = 4,758)



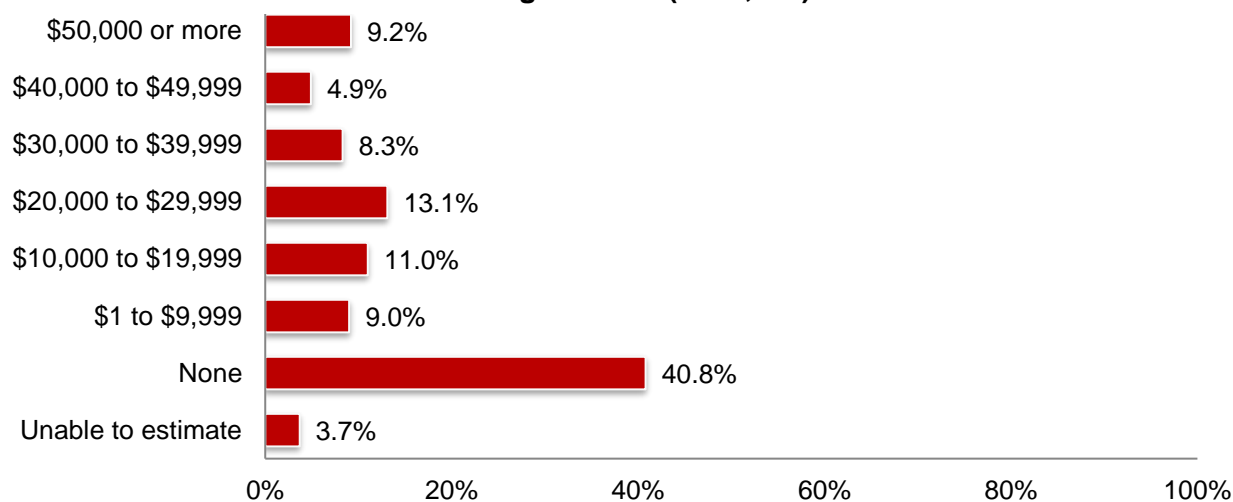
Reflecting back, to what extent do you agree that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? Undergraduates (n = 4,668)



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?

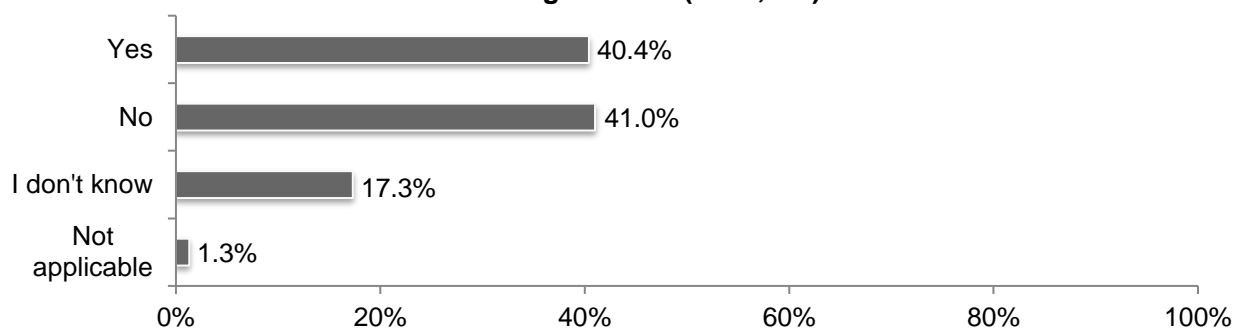
Undergraduates (n = 4,722)



POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Do you plan to stay in the Columbus, Ohio area after graduation?

Undergraduates (n = 4,745)

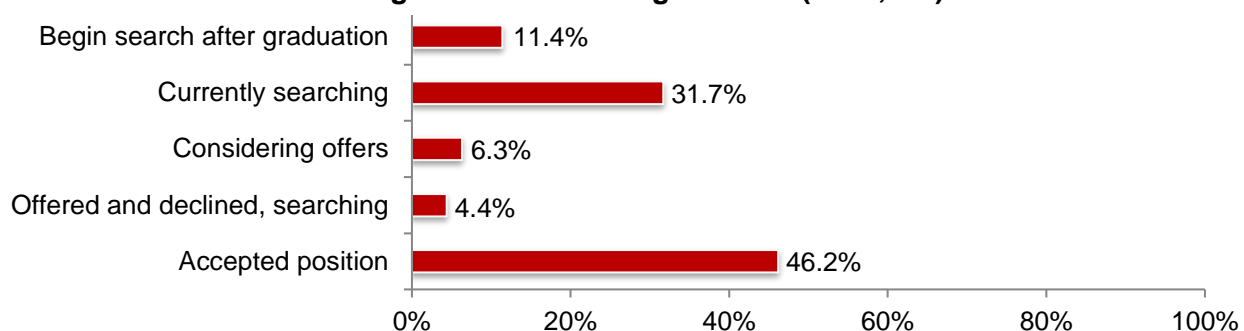


What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Undergraduates (n = 4,699)
Employment, full-time paid	63.5%
Employment, part-time paid	5.4%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	26.2%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	1.3%
Additional undergraduate coursework	1.0%
Military service	1.0%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	1.1%
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 = 3,269)



If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Undergraduates (n = 1,553)
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	72.9%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	10.0%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	2.1%
Government or other public institution/agency	10.2%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	4.8%

Is your prospective position related to your undergraduate field(s) of study?	Undergraduates (n = 3,088)
Same field as major(s)	46.6%
Related to major(s)	35.7%
Related to minor(s)	3.4%
Not related to major(s) or minor(s)	8.4%
Not applicable	6.0%

How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?	Undergraduates (n = 2,941)
Very well	27.0%
Generally well	49.2%
Neutral	14.7%
Inadequately	6.4%
Very inadequately	2.1%
Not applicable	0.5%

How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?	Undergraduates (n = 2,923)
Essential	12.4%
Very important	27.7%
Neutral	23.3%
Somewhat important	18.1%
Not important	15.2%
Not applicable	3.4%

Where will you be employed? (top two locations listed)	Undergraduates (n = 2,669)
Ohio	71.6%
International location	3.4%

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 = 3,951)
Yes	75.8%
No	24.2%

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

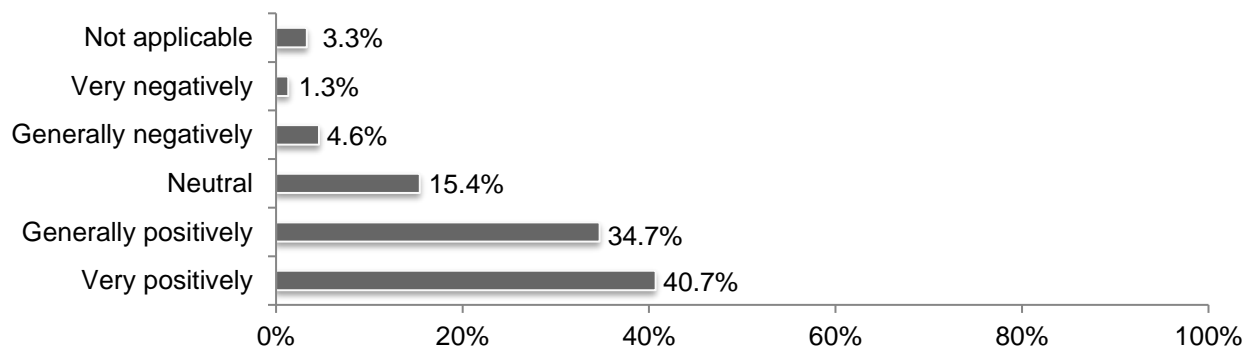
Earlier you indicated you had accepted a job offer. Is your accepted position with the same organization where you completed your internship, job shadow, co-op, practicum or academic-major related work experience?	Undergraduates (n = 1,066)
Yes	46.9%
No	53.1%

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	Do not plan to pursue	Did not select
Law (n = 4,833)	1.9%	5.9%	61.1%	31.1%
Medicine (MD) (n = 4,833)	1.7%	3.9%	63.3%	31.1%
Other Medical (n = 4,833)	2.9%	4.0%	62.1%	31.0%
Second Bachelor's (n = 4,833)	1.1%	3.8%	62.3%	32.8%
Master's (n = 4,833)	15.0%	46.9%	21.6%	16.5%
Doctorate (n = 4,833)	3.2%	16.5%	51.0%	29.3%

To what extent have your overall undergraduate experiences influenced your plans for graduate or professional studies? Undergraduates (n = 4,560)



CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES

	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? (<i>n</i> = 4,355)	0.8%	3.1%	15.3%	44.5%	35.7%	0.6%
To what extent have you gained skills needed to:	1 - Not at all	2	3	4	5 - Great extent	0 - N/A
Acquire, comprehend and evaluate information and arguments (<i>n</i> = 4,247)	0.5%	2.2%	10.5%	37.3%	48.9%	0.6%
Communicate clearly, precisely and effectively (<i>n</i> = 4,245)	0.6%	2.2%	11.5%	35.6%	49.4%	0.7%
Analyze and assess using qualitative and quantitative methods (<i>n</i> = 4,246)	0.7%	2.9%	12.7%	36.7%	46.2%	0.8%
Integrate, create and apply knowledge (<i>n</i> = 4,243)	0.6%	2.0%	11.5%	37.0%	48.3%	0.6%
To what extent have you gained perspectives needed to:	1 - Not at all	2	3	4	5 - Great extent	0 - N/A
Interpret past and contemporary world cultures, events and issues (<i>n</i> = 4,229)	1.7%	7.1%	19.0%	32.6%	38.2%	1.5%
Make discriminating aesthetic judgments (<i>n</i> = 4,221)	6.0%	6.9%	20.7%	29.0%	30.4%	7.1%
Make considered and reasoned ethical judgments (<i>n</i> = 4,230)	1.2%	2.7%	10.9%	34.5%	49.6%	1.2%
Understand the roles of science and technology (<i>n</i> = 4,231)	1.2%	3.9%	14.2%	32.9%	46.6%	1.2%
Recognize and respect diversity (<i>n</i> = 4,224)	1.5%	3.1%	10.2%	27.8%	55.8%	1.7%
Based on your coursework experiences since you began your education at Ohio State:	1 - Not at all	2	3	4	5 - Great extent	0 - N/A
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? (<i>n</i> = 4,283)	0.7%	1.7%	10.1%	36.7%	49.9%	0.8%
To what extent, through your General Education program, have you gained a breadth of knowledge, skills and perspectives that cross disciplines? (<i>n</i> = 4,217)	4.0%	13.4%	28.4%	33.2%	20.2%	0.8%
Based on your General Education program: To what extent have your knowledge, skills, and perspectives improved in the following areas?	1 - Not at all	2	3	4	5 - Great extent	0 - N/A
Written communication (<i>n</i> = 3,995)	3.3%	6.8%	20.7%	34.8%	32.2%	2.2%
Oral expression (<i>n</i> = 3,989)	6.2%	10.0%	23.5%	31.7%	23.4%	5.1%
Foreign language (<i>n</i> = 4,002)	19.4%	9.6%	15.1%	17.9%	17.7%	20.2%



Literature (<i>n</i> = 4,001)	6.3%	15.5%	27.7%	27.6%	19.9%	3.1%
The arts (<i>n</i> = 4,002)	9.9%	16.9%	26.4%	23.6%	18.7%	4.5%
Historical perspectives (<i>n</i> = 4,001)	6.7%	14.2%	26.5%	26.3%	21.2%	5.1%
Social diversity in the United States (<i>n</i> = 4,002)	5.8%	11.3%	23.7%	28.5%	26.3%	4.4%
Global studies (<i>n</i> = 3,997)	6.1%	14.4%	25.3%	27.5%	21.6%	5.0%
Social science (<i>n</i> = 3,993)	5.0%	9.6%	25.6%	30.2%	26.3%	3.4%
Natural science (biological and physical) (<i>n</i> = 4,007)	6.3%	12.5%	23.3%	26.4%	27.1%	4.4%
Logical analysis and analytical reasoning (<i>n</i> = 3,990)	3.7%	7.8%	20.9%	32.9%	31.4%	3.4%
Mathematical and quantitative skills (<i>n</i> = 4,002)	5.7%	12.4%	22.9%	27.2%	26.8%	4.9%
To what extent have your knowledge, skills, and perspectives improved through the following kinds of coursework?	1 - Not at all	2	3	4	5 - Great extent	0 - N/A
Education abroad courses or programs (<i>n</i> = 3,896)	12.6%	4.0%	7.3%	10.4%	18.5%	47.1%
Service learning courses (<i>n</i> = 3,888)	10.1%	6.0%	11.9%	14.6%	13.4%	44.0%
Culture and ideas coursework (<i>n</i> = 3,891)	6.2%	7.1%	19.5%	25.8%	21.6%	19.8%
Cross-disciplinary seminars (<i>n</i> = 3,888)	9.4%	6.6%	13.4%	16.2%	12.6%	41.8%

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; 8 students earned both in the 2017-2018 academic year.

DEMOGRAPHICS

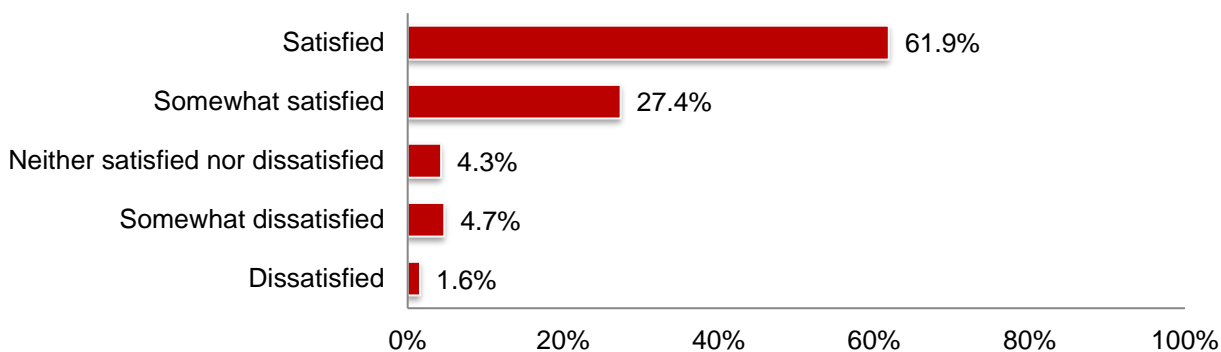
The following tables display gender and race/ethnicity information from the Student Information System for the students invited to take the survey and the students who completed the survey.

Gender	Master's - Invited (n = 2,778)	Master's - Responded (n = 1,119)
Female	58.6%	60.3%
Male	40.6%	39.2%
Undisclosed	0.8%	0.4%

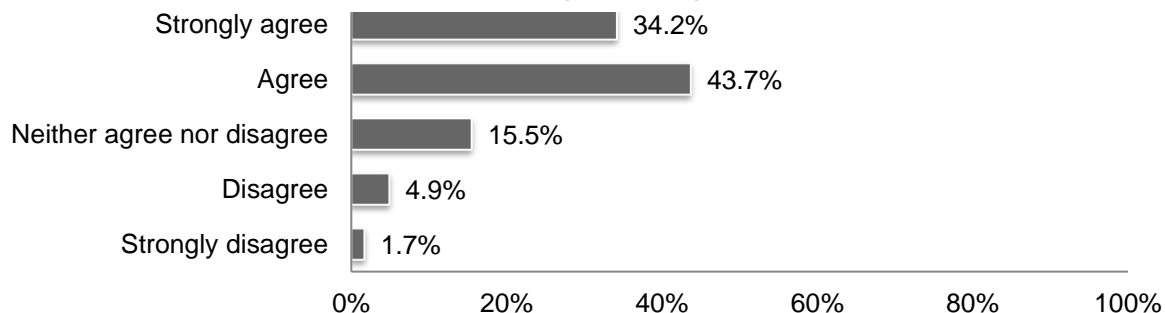
Race/Ethnicity	Master's - Invited (n = 2,778)	Master's - Responded (n = 1,119)
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.1%	0.0%
Asian	4.2%	3.1%
Black or African American	4.4%	4.9%
Hispanic	3.5%	2.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Non-Resident Alien	19.6%	22.1%
None Given/Race Unknown	2.2%	2.1%
Two or more Races	2.3%	2.1%
White	63.7%	63.2%

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall? Master's (n = 1,104)

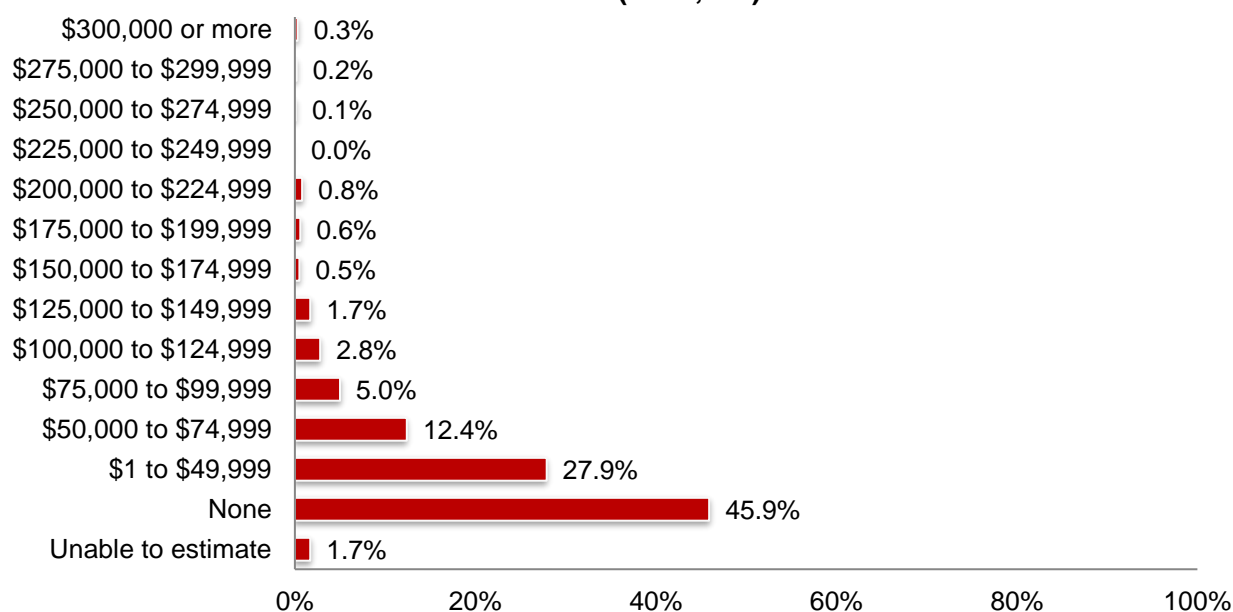


Reflecting back, to what extent do you agree that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? Master's (n = 1,061)



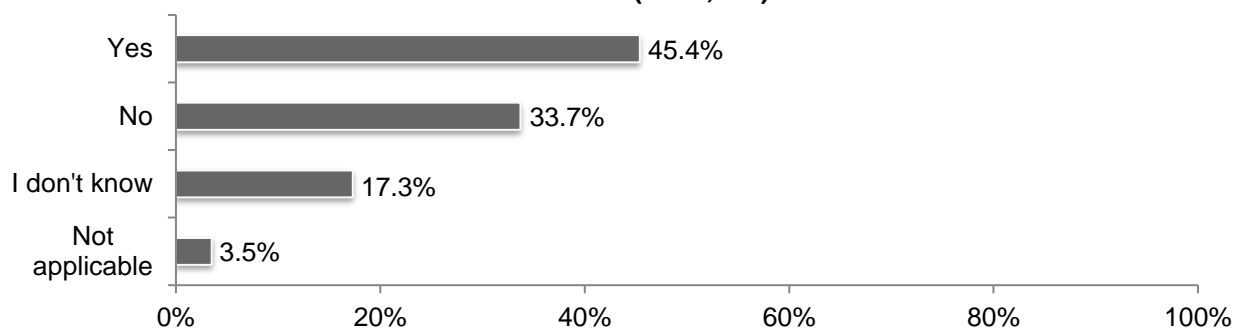
DEBT

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 = 1,100)



POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Do you plan to stay in the Columbus, Ohio area after graduation?
Master's (n = 1,101)

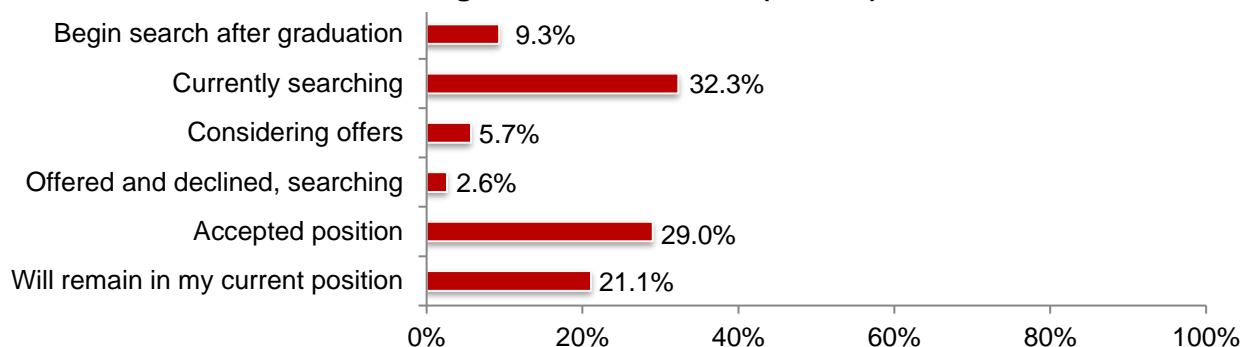


What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Master's (n = 1,092)
Employment, full-time paid	80.3%
Employment, part-time paid	2.8%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	14.9%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	0.6%
Military service	0.5%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.2%
Starting or raising a family	0.5%

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 = 916)



If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Master's (n = 792)
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	28.9%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	16.8%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	0.6%
Government or other public institution/agency	15.9%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	37.8%

Is your prospective position related to your graduate or professional field(s) of study?	Master's (n = 870)
Same field	57.7%
Related to field of study	22.4%
Not related to field of study	1.8%
Not applicable	18.0%

How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?	Master's (n = 862)
Very well	34.9%
Generally well	44.3%
Neutral	10.9%
Inadequately	6.5%
Very inadequately	1.5%
Not applicable	1.9%

How important have university resources been in helping you to find a job?	Master's (n = 850)
Essential	12.1%
Very important	23.6%
Neutral	23.9%
Somewhat important	13.3%
Not important	19.6%
Not applicable	7.4%

Where will you be employed? (top two locations listed)	Master's (n = 769)
Ohio	65.3%
International Location	7.7%

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 (<i>n</i> = 1,057)
Yes	59.6%
No	40.4%

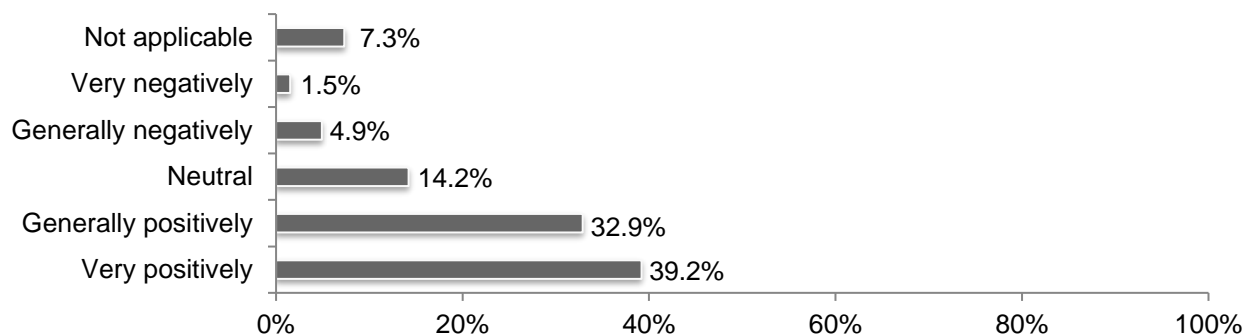
Only respondents who indicated completing a work experience and receiving a job offer were asked the following question.

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 (<i>n</i> = 189)
Yes	46.0%
No	54.0%

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	Do not plan to pursue	Did not select
Law (<i>n</i> = 1,119)	0.1%	2.4%	54.0%	43.5%
Medicine (MD) (<i>n</i> = 1,119)	0.3%	0.4%	55.6%	43.7%
Other Medical (<i>n</i> = 1,119)	1.1%	0.9%	55.0%	43.1%
Master's (<i>n</i> = 1,119)	4.2%	7.8%	46.7%	41.3%
Doctorate (<i>n</i> = 1,119)	13.9%	24.8%	37.3%	23.9%

To what extent have your overall graduate experiences influenced your future plans for graduate or professional studies? Master's (*n* = 1,053)



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; 8 students earned both in the 2017-2018 academic year.

DEMOGRAPHICS

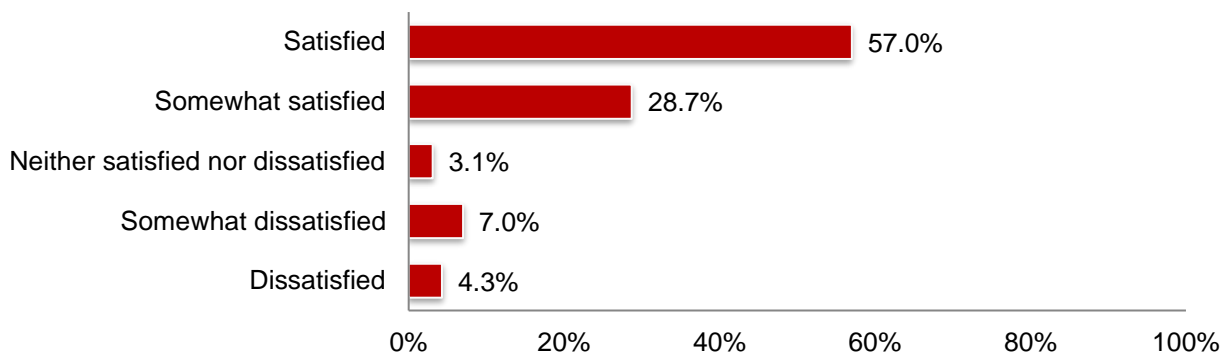
The following tables display gender and race/ethnicity information from the Student Information System for the students invited to take the survey and the students who completed the survey.

Gender	Professionals - Invited (n = 667)	Professionals - Responded (n = 261)
Female	58.0%	57.1%
Male	41.4%	42.1%
Undisclosed	0.6%	0.8%

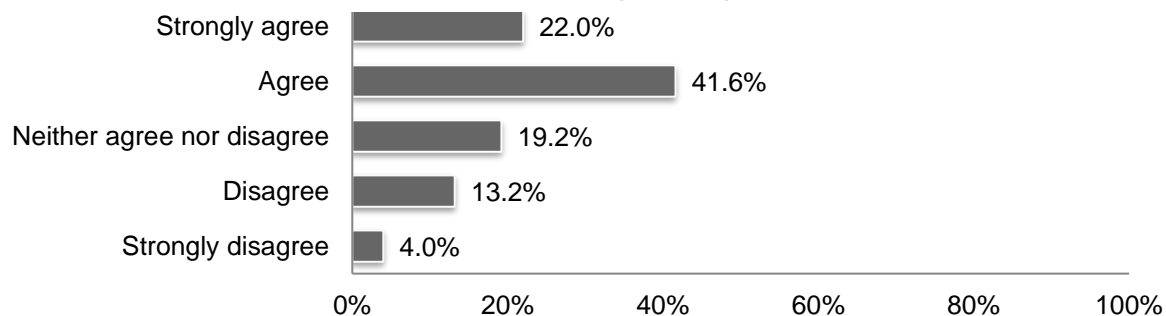
Race/Ethnicity	Professionals - Invited (n = 667)	Professionals - Responded (n = 261)
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.1%	0.0%
Asian	11.5%	10.7%
Black or African American	3.9%	2.3%
Hispanic	5.8%	3.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Non-Resident Alien	1.6%	1.5%
None Given/Race Unknown	3.1%	2.7%
Two or more Races	3.4%	2.7%
White	70.3%	76.2%

SATISFACTION WITH OHIO STATE

Looking back, how satisfied are you with your experience as a student at Ohio State overall? Professionals (n = 258)



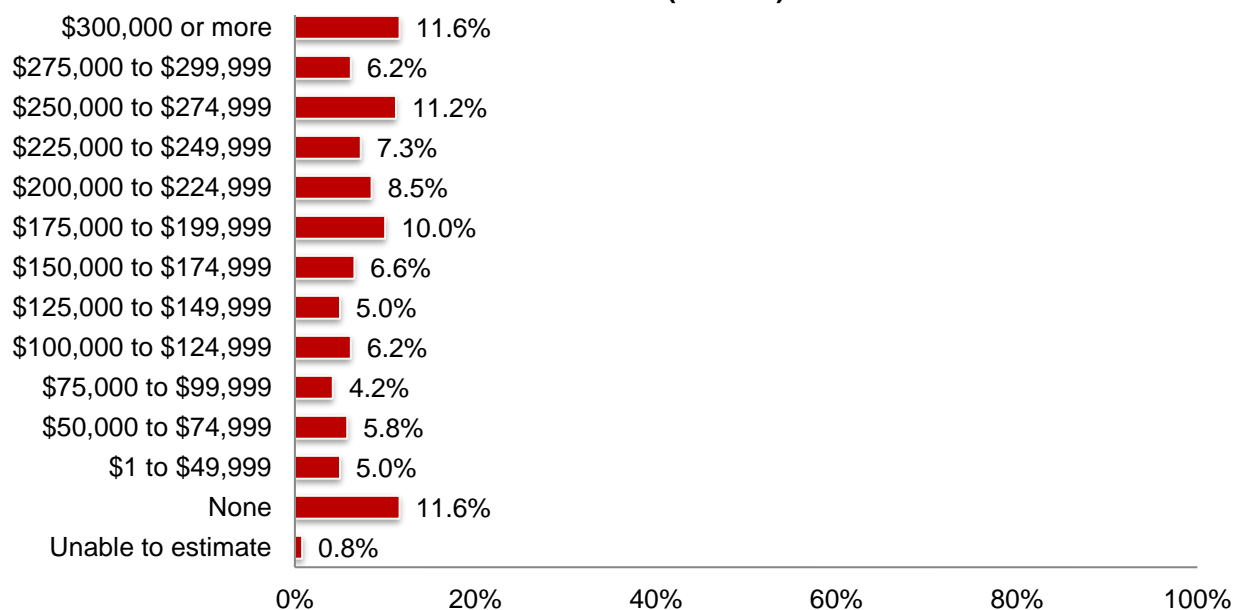
Reflecting back, to what extent do you agree that the benefits you have received from attending Ohio State were worth the financial costs to you and your family? Professionals (n = 250)



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?

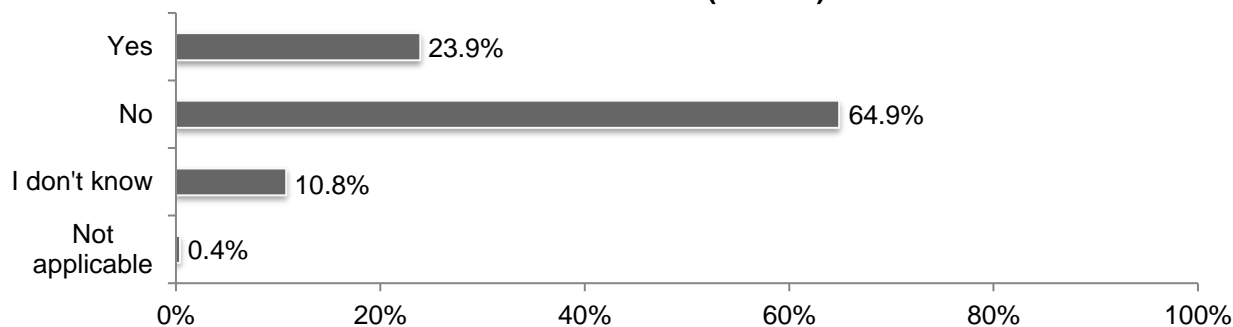
Professionals (n = 259)



POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Do you plan to stay in the Columbus, Ohio area after graduation?

Professionals (n = 259)

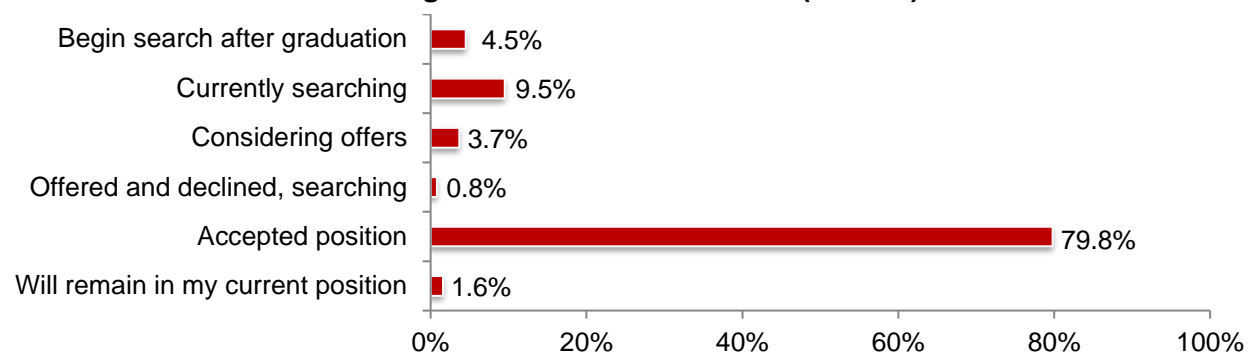


What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Professionals (n = 257)
Employment, full-time paid	92.6%
Employment, part-time paid	2.3%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	3.1%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	0.4%
Military service	1.2%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.0%
Starting or raising a family	0.4%

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 = 243)



If you have accepted a position, in what type of organization or sector will you work?	Professionals (n = 233)
Private for-profit corporation/company/group-practice	46.4%
Private non-profit (e.g., school, college, arts/cultural organization)	18.5%
Self-employed, own business, or professional practice (non-group)	6.0%
Government or other public institution/agency	18.0%
Not applicable (have not accepted)	11.2%

Is your prospective position related to your graduate or professional field(s) of study?	Professionals (n = 229)
Same field	93.9%
Related to field of study	1.7%
Not related to field of study	0.0%
Not applicable	4.4%

How well do you think Ohio State has prepared you for the job market?	Professionals (n = 233)
Very well	37.3%
Generally well	44.2%
Neutral	9.0%
Inadequately	7.3%
Very inadequately	0.9%
Not applicable	1.3%

How important have university or college resources been in helping you to find a job?	Professionals (n = 228)
Essential	13.2%
Very important	26.8%
Neutral	21.9%
Somewhat important	11.0%
Not important	19.7%
Not applicable	7.5%

Where will you be employed? (top two locations listed)	Professionals (n = 221)
Ohio	62.4%
Texas	3.6%

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 = 246)
Yes	70.3%
No	29.7%

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 = 124)
Yes	35.5%
No	64.5%

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	Do not plan to pursue	Did not select
Law (n = 261)	0.8%	1.1%	61.7%	36.4%
Medicine (MD) (n = 261)	4.6%	0.4%	58.2%	36.8%
Other Medical (n = 261)	8.0%	0.4%	58.2%	33.3%
Master's (n = 261)	3.4%	8.0%	55.6%	33.0%
Doctorate (n = 261)	0.8%	2.3%	59.8%	37.2%

To what extent have your overall graduate experiences influenced your future plans for graduate or professional studies? Professionals (n = 245)

