Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education: 2016-17 Graduate Alumni Survey

The 2016-17 Graduate Alumni Survey was administered to 4,808 graduate degree recipients during the spring of 2018 with the goal of capturing overall satisfaction, employment-search experience, post-graduation employment and/or continuing education, and the importance of various skills acquired while a graduate student.

A total of 639 graduate alumni responded to the survey for an overall response rate of 13.3%. Of those 639 graduate alumni, over 85% were employed full-time, while an additional 3% were enrolled in a program of continuing or graduate education. Less than 3% were seeking employment and less than 2% were neither seeking employment nor continuing their education.

Of those graduate alumni who were employed and provided employment information, 67% were employed in Pennsylvania.
The education industry, health and/or medical services industry, and social and/or community services industry employed over 72% of graduate alumni. The arts, entertainment, and/or recreation industry; agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry, and military employed the least number of graduate alumni.

About 6% of employed graduate alumni said their occupation is unrelated to their program/area of study, while over 69% said their job is directly related to their area of study.
The top five sources for graduate alumni to cover their college expenses excluding Federal and/or State financial aid were from personal savings (41%), off-campus jobs (29%), parental/family/friends contributions (27%), graduate assistantships (25%), and private loans (24%).

Overall, 78% of graduate alumni said they would choose the same university again if they had to do it over, while 76% would choose the same major(s).