

Results from the Class of 2019 One Year Out Survey

Overview

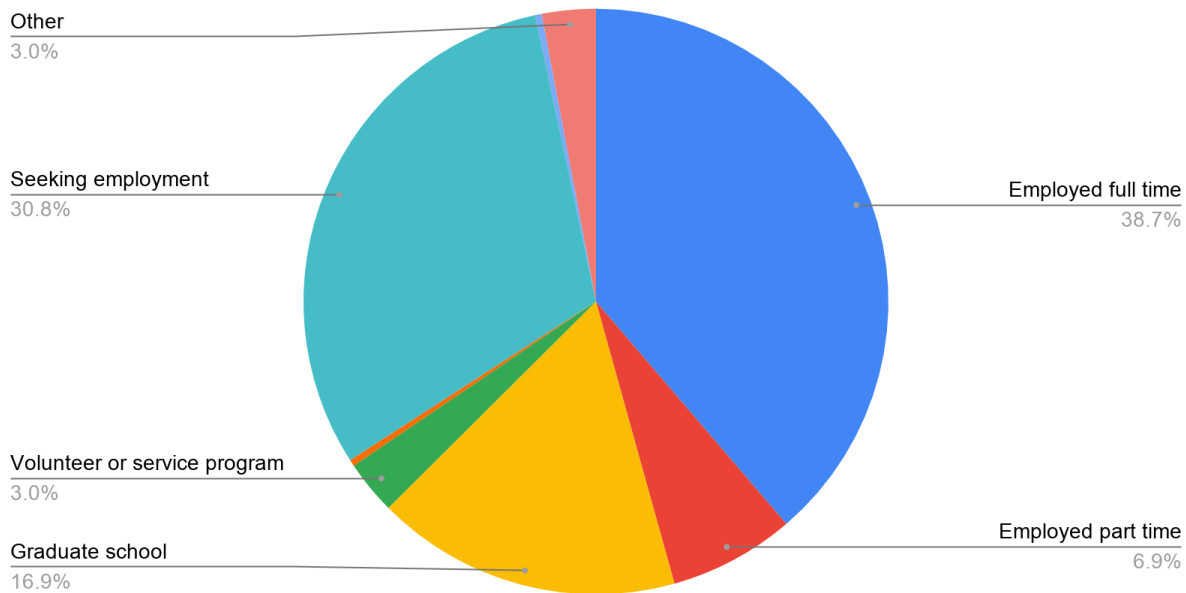
To understand the lives of young alumni, Kenyon has implemented both a Senior Survey and One Year Out Survey that focus on the plans and experiences of Kenyon students immediately after graduation and through the following fall. The Class of 2019 is the eighth graduating class to receive both surveys, and they offer us a glimpse into how our very youngest alumni are progressing and how they view Kenyon and its effect on their lives. The responses indicate that, of those alums who responded to our survey:

- The vast majority of the class (89%) is employed, in graduate school, or pursuing other endeavors of their choice such as a public or international/national service (e.g. Peace Corp, Teach for America).
- 8% indicated that they are looking for employment.
- The majority of respondents felt that Kenyon effectively prepared them for their current pursuits.

Senior Plans of the Class of 2019

Seniors in the Class of 2019 were surveyed from mid-April through May of 2019 about their plans for the fall after graduation. Of the 404 seniors surveyed, 280 responded for an overall response rate of 69%. Of the graduating seniors responding to the Senior Survey, 46% indicated that they already found either a part or full-time position. In addition, 17% planned to attend graduate or professional school.

Kenyon Class of 2019 Planned Activity As of Spring 2019

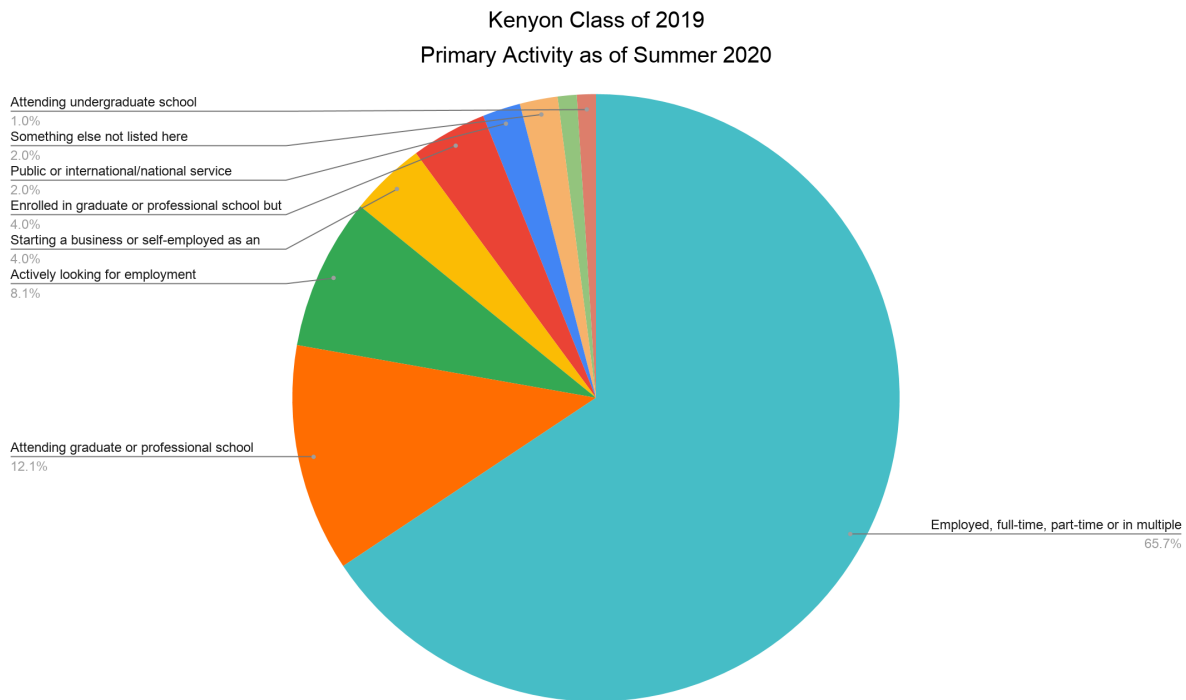


Data source: Senior Survey, June 2019. N=280.

Status in the summer of 2020

The Class of 2019 was invited to respond to a “one year out” survey regarding their current pursuits in June 2020.¹ The response rate was 29% (93 of 322 invitees). Of the 93 who responded about their primary activity, 65% indicated that they were currently employed while 12% were in graduate or professional school. Additionally, 8% indicated that they were currently looking for employment. This percentage is higher than previous years likely due to COVID-19. Looking across the seven years of historical data from this survey, the percent of students in each category have shown little variation from year to year. However, this year is an exception with the percentage of students who indicated that they are actively looking for employment being much higher than previous years. For instance, historically the percent of respondents who indicated that they are actively looking for employment has consistently ranged from 1-5%.

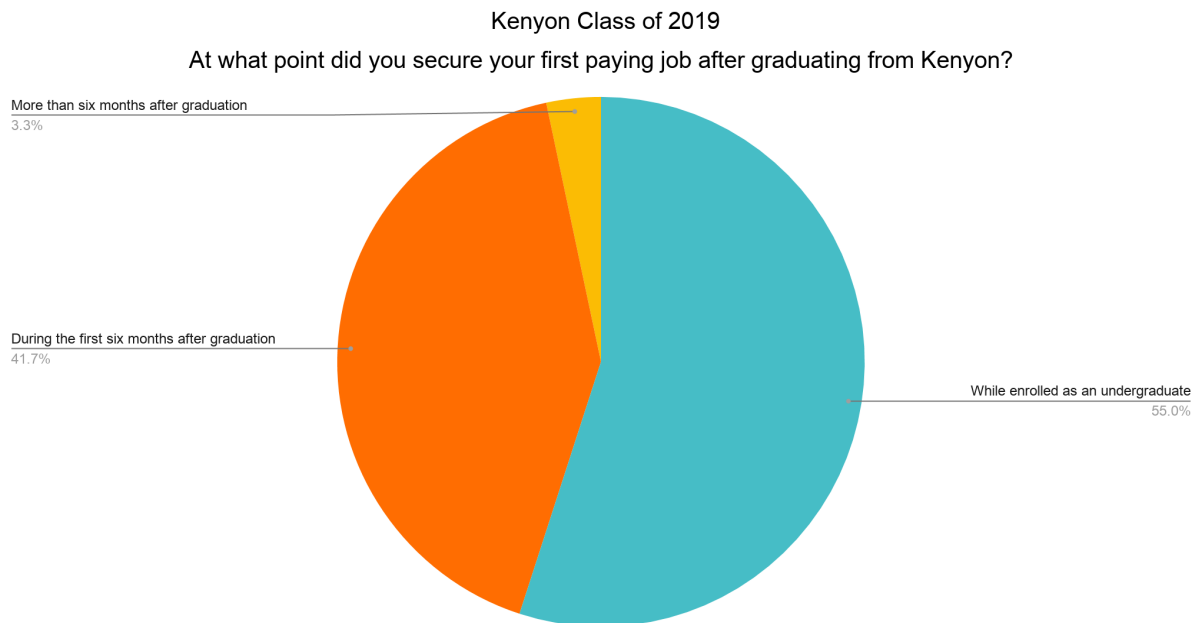
¹ Alumni who had been invited to participate in other surveys already this year were excluded from participation, as were those for whom we did not have a valid email address.



Data source: One Year Out Survey, June 2020. N=93.

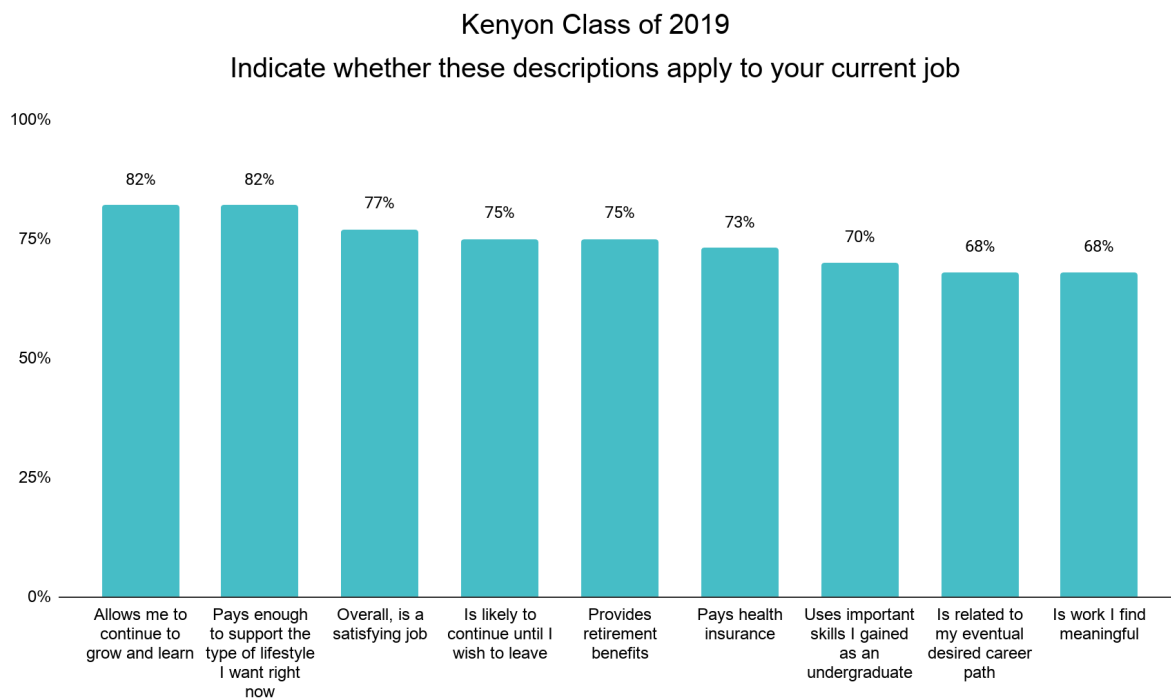
Employment

Of the Class of 2019 respondents who indicated that they were employed, 42% indicated that they found their first job during the first six months after graduating from Kenyon. In addition, 55% indicated that they were employed at the time of graduation, and 3% indicated that they were employed more than six months after graduating. Compared to historical data, more respondents from the Class of 2019 secured a paying job while enrolled as an undergraduate than respondents from most past years.



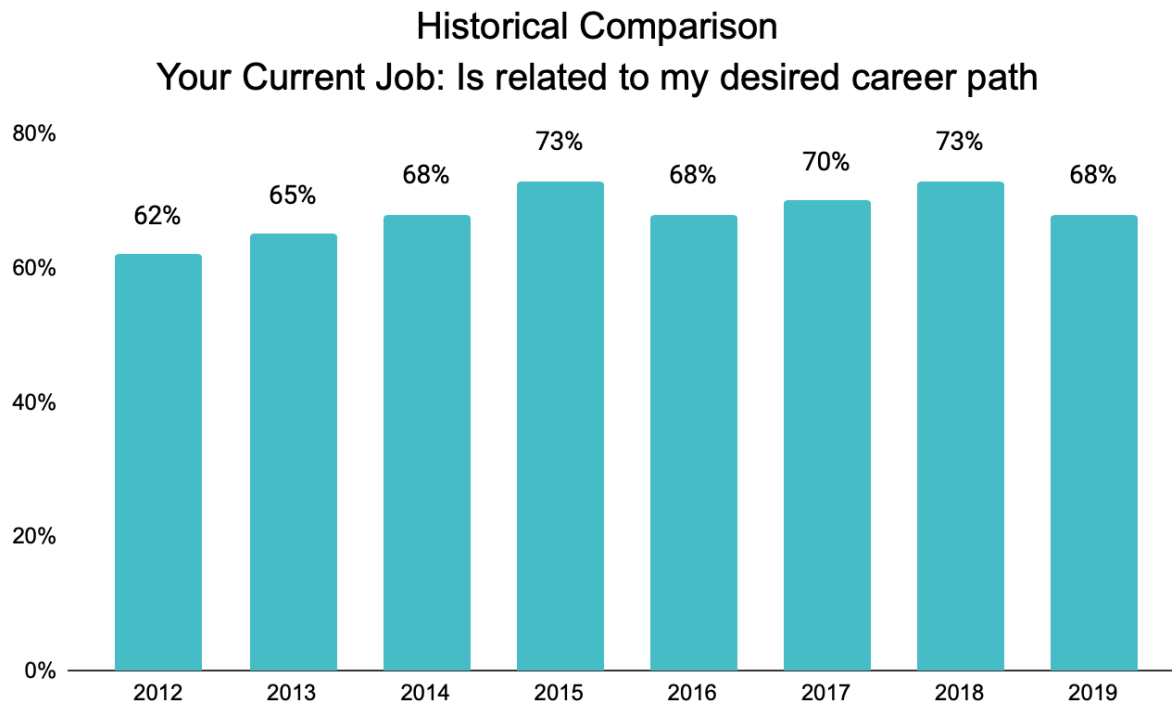
Data source: One Year Out Survey, June 2020. N=60.

In addition to having secured any job, most of the respondents indicated that their positions had values that are associated with a “good” job such as allowing for further growth and providing adequate pay and benefits.



Data source: One Year Out Survey, June 2020. N=60.

This year, 68% of respondents indicated that their job is related to their eventual career path, which is slightly lower than the past two years of respondents to this question, but it still is in line with the positive upward trend since 2012.

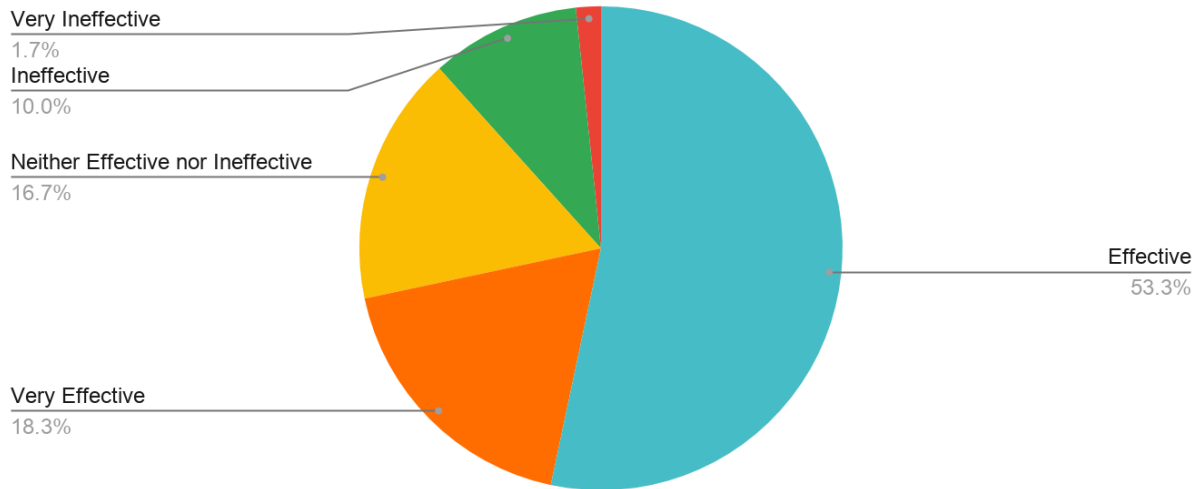


Data source: One Year Out Survey, Spring 2013-2020

In addition to questions about job quality, respondents who were employed at the time of the survey were also asked to generally describe how well Kenyon did at preparing them for employment. 72% indicated that Kenyon was effective or very effective at preparing them for employment. Looking across the seven years of historical data from this survey, the percent of respondents who indicated “effective” or “very effective” has been consistently near 65-75%.

Kenyon Class of 2019

How effective was Kenyon at preparing you for employment?



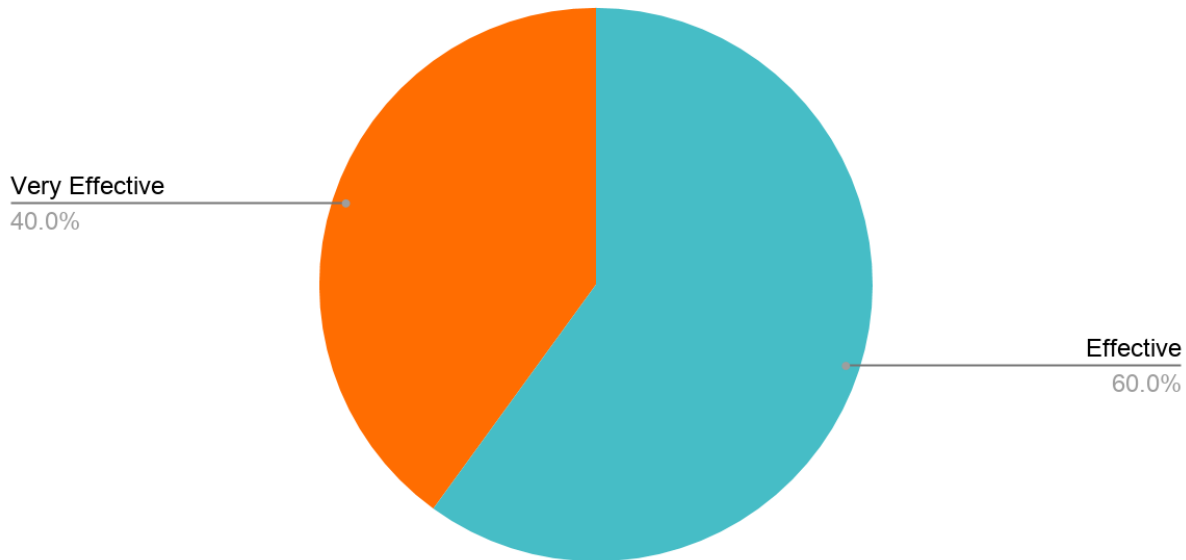
Data source: One Year Out Survey, June 2020. N=60.

Graduate and Professional School

Of all respondents to the survey, 12% indicated that graduate school was their primary activity. Respondents who indicated that their primary activity was graduate school were asked a similar question as employed respondents about how well Kenyon had prepared them for their current pursuits. Of those, 100% of respondents in graduate school indicated that Kenyon was either effective or very effective at preparing them. Looking across the five years of historical data, the percent of respondents who indicated “effective” or “very effective” has been consistently near or above 90%.

Kenyon Class of 2019

How effective was Kenyon at preparing you for graduate

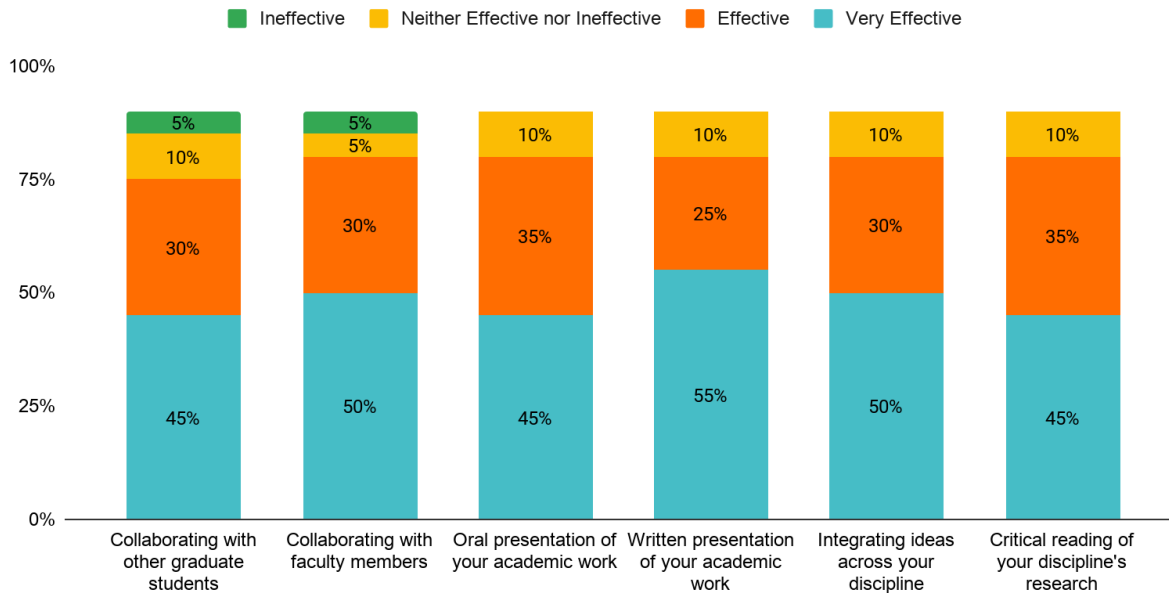


Data source: One Year Out Survey, June 2020. N=20.

Respondents were asked to elaborate on the extent to which Kenyon prepared them for specific graduate school experiences. These statements closely mirror questions that Kenyon asks alumni during external departmental review surveys. This year, 55% of respondents indicated that they were very effectively prepared for the written presentation of their work. Additionally, 50% indicated that they were very effectively prepared for collaborating with faculty members and integrating ideas across their discipline. Moreover, 45% of respondents indicated that they were very effectively prepared for collaborating with other graduate students, orally presenting their academic work, and critical reading of their discipline's research.

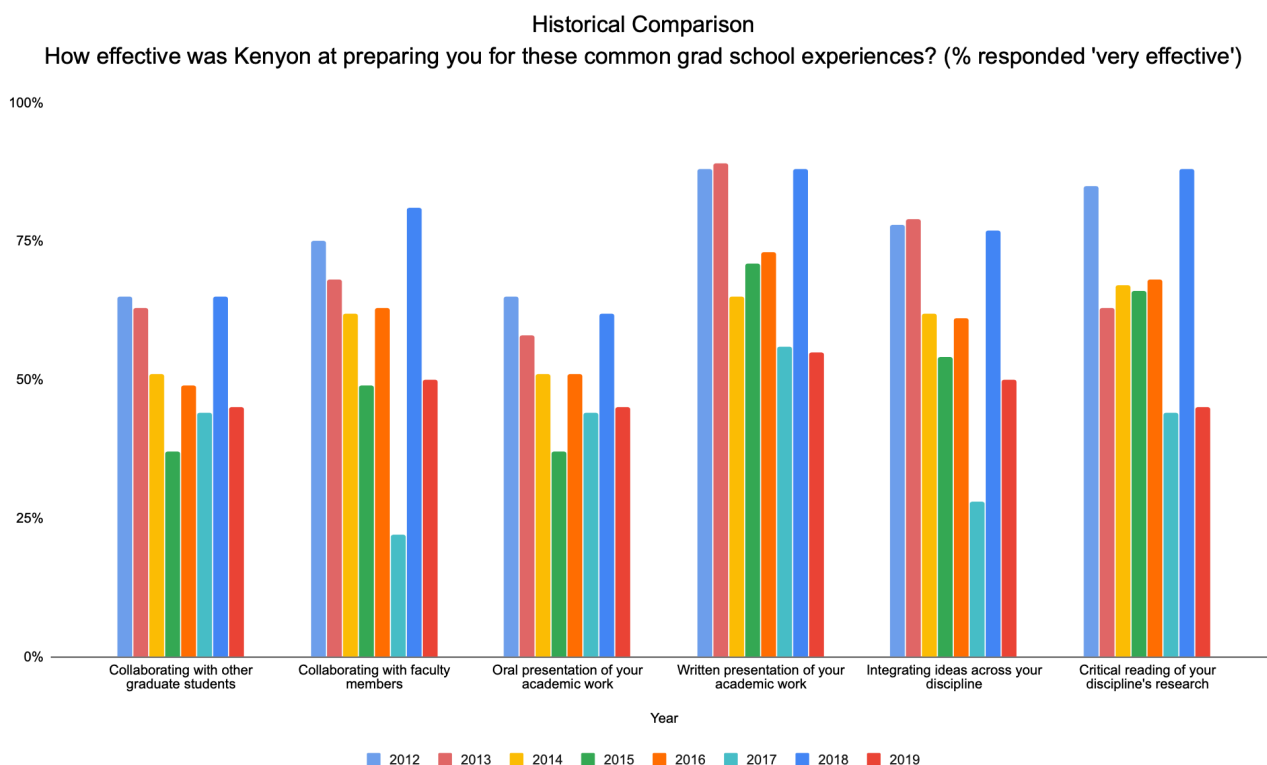
Kenyon Class of 2019

How effective was Kenyon at preparing you for these common graduate school experiences?



Data source: One Year Out Survey, June 2020. N=20.

Historically, we see that the Class of 2019 had a much lower percentage of respondents who indicated “very effective” across all categories. While some variation across years may be attributed to the groups of students included or excluded from the survey each year, the overall trends are still worth considering.



Data source: One Year Out Survey, Spring 2013 (N=39), Spring 2014 (N=19), Spring 2015 (N=55), Spring 2016 (N=89), Spring 2017 (N=41), Spring 2018 (N=27), Spring 2019 (N=20).

Though only 16% of respondents are currently enrolled in graduate or professional school, 50% of all respondents indicated that they hope to pursue a master's degree in the future and 30% of respondents hope to pursue a medical, law, or Doctoral degree.

Conclusions

The responding Class of 2019 alumni indicated that they felt satisfied with their Kenyon education and generally prepared for their next stage in life, with 90% responding “satisfied” or “very satisfied” to the question “Overall, how satisfied have you been with your undergraduate education?” This sentiment is supported by their success in finding initial employment or placement in graduate school. Specifically, 92% of alumni found employment within six months of graduation, and only 8% of alumni are actively seeking employment. Nevertheless, the percentage of respondents who are actively looking for employment appears to be higher than past years, likely due to consequences of layoffs due to COVID-19. Alumni who went to graduate school (N=20) felt more prepared than did employed alumni (N=60), though 71% of all employed alumni indicated that they felt either effectively or very effectively prepared by Kenyon. These data point to largely positive sentiments regarding Kenyon’s effectiveness in preparing students for life post-graduation.