

Results from the Class of 2015 One Year Out Survey

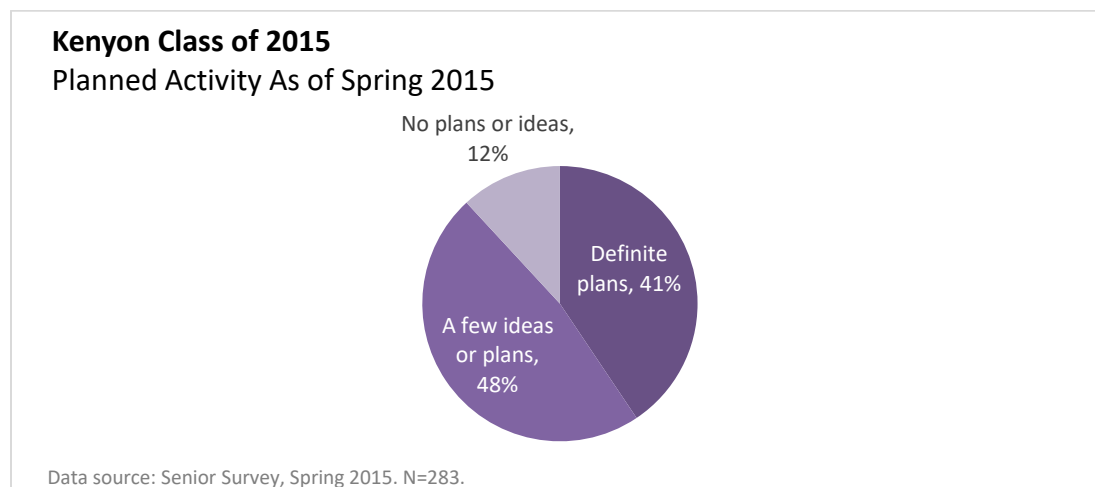
Overview

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 2015 is the fourth 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 (92%) is employed, in graduate school, or pursuing other endeavors of their choice like traveling.
- Only 5% indicated that they are looking for employment.
- The majority of respondents felt that Kenyon effectively prepared them for their current pursuits.

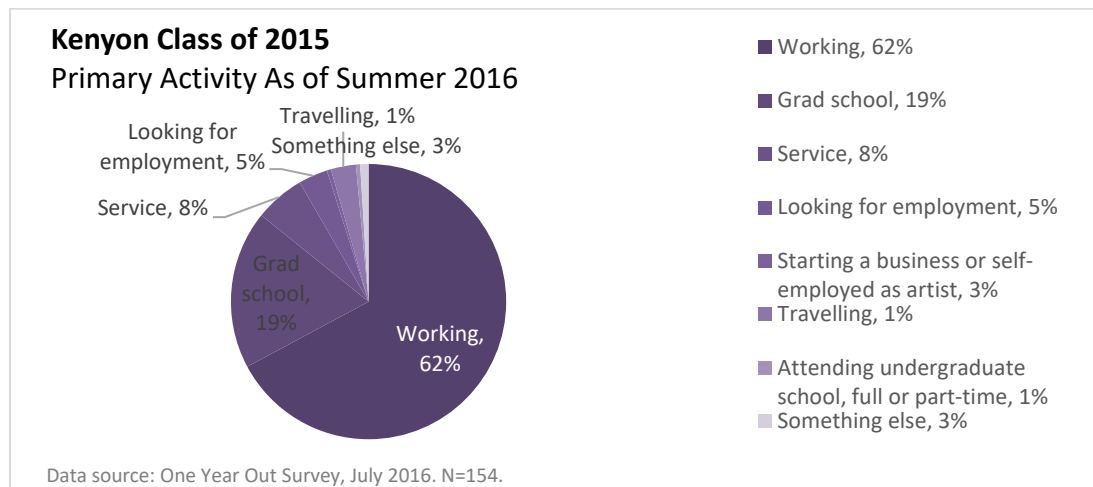
Senior Plans of the Class of 2015

Seniors in the Class of 2015 were surveyed from mid-April through May of 2015 about their plans for the fall after graduation. Of the 401 seniors surveyed, 283 responded for an overall response rate of 71%. Of the graduating seniors responding to the Senior Survey, 41% indicated that they had definite plans for the fall, while only 12% indicated they had no plans or ideas. We also asked about those plans and 72% indicated that employment was their top priority with 42% indicating that they already found employment. In addition, 18% planned to attend graduate or professional school, 7% intended to doing something else such as the Peace Corp, a Fulbright, travel, etc., and 3% had other plans for what they would be doing.



Status in the Summer of 2016

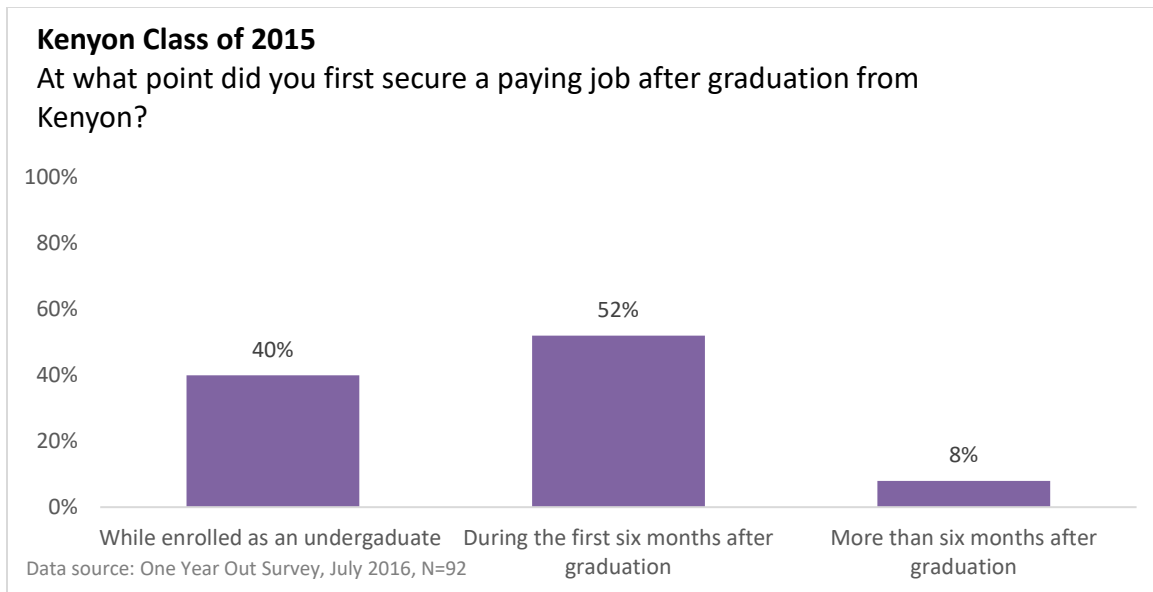
The Class of 2015 was invited to respond to a “one year out” survey regarding their current pursuits in July 2016.¹ The response rate was 49% (156 of 316 invitees). Of the 156 who responded, 62% indicated that they were currently employed while 19% were in graduate or professional school. Five percent indicated that they were currently looking for employment. Looking across the four years of historical data from this survey, the percent of students in each category have shown little variation from year to year.



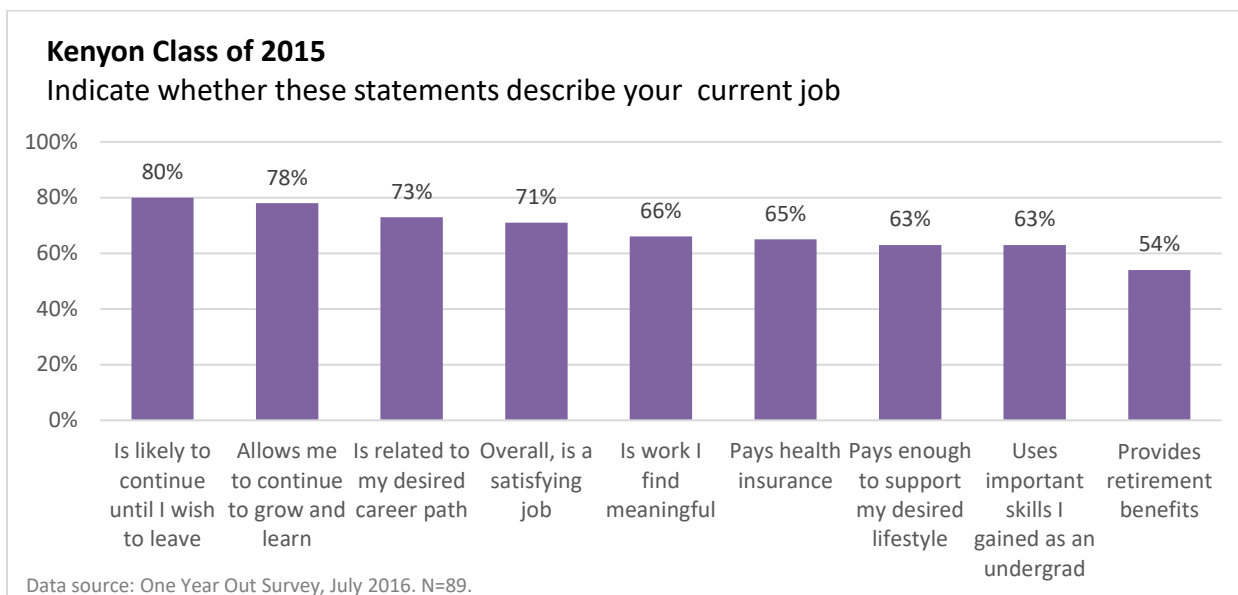
Employment

Of the Class of 2015 respondents who indicated that they were employed, 52% indicated that they found their first job during the first six months after graduating from Kenyon. In addition, 40% indicated that they were employed at the time of graduation and 8% indicated that they were employed more than six months after graduating. This mirrors what we have seen in the previous three years.

¹ Alums 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. This year students who majored in history, economics, and physics were excluded.

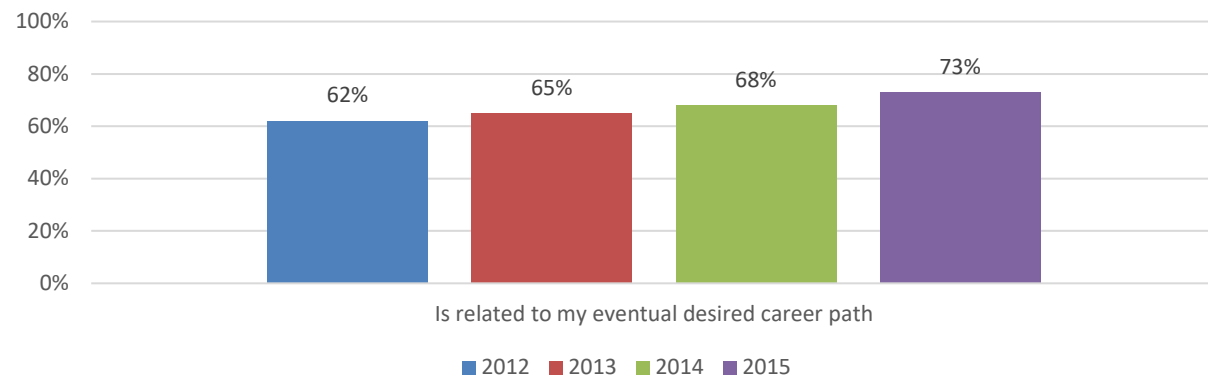


In addition to having secured any job, most of the respondents indicated that their positions had values that we associate with a “good” job such as allowing for further growth and providing adequate pay and benefits. This year, 73% said their job is related to their eventual career path, continuing a positive trend upward in the percent of respondents whose early jobs are related to their eventual career path each year since 2012.



Historical Comparison

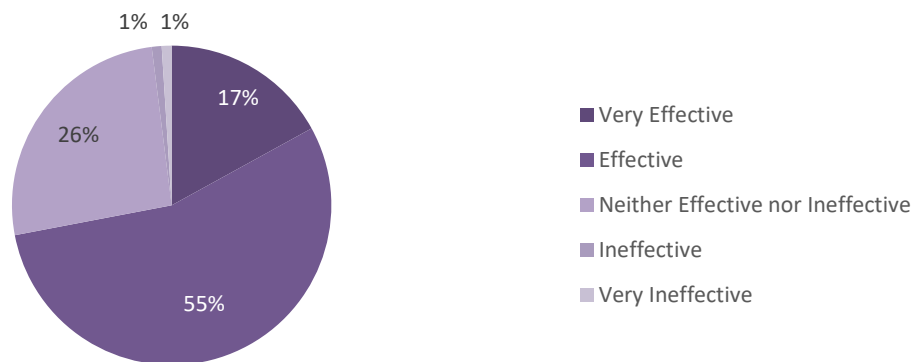
Please indicate whether each of the following descriptions applies to your current job.



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. Over 70% indicated that Kenyon was effective or very effective at preparing them for employment. Looking across the four years of historical data from this survey, the percent of respondents who indicated “effective” or “very effective” has been consistently about or above 70%.

Kenyon Class of 2015

How effective was Kenyon at preparing you for employment?



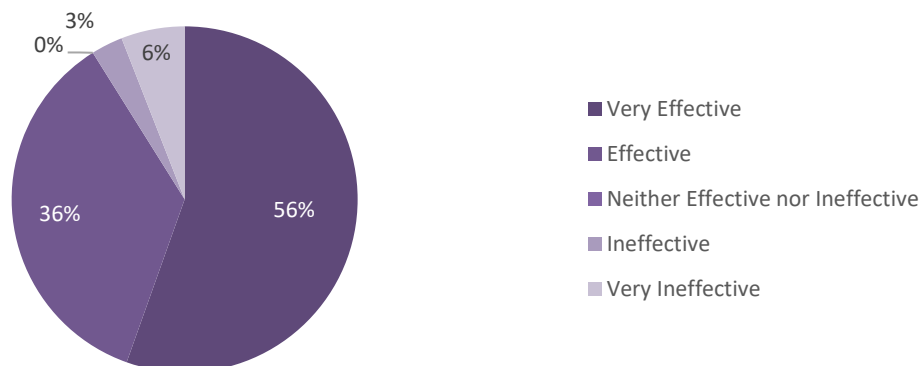
Data source: One Year Out Survey, July 2016. N=91.

Graduate and Professional School

Of all respondents to the survey, 19% 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, 92% of respondents in graduate school said that Kenyon was either effective or very effective at preparing them. Looking across the four years of historical data, the percent of respondents who indicated “effective” or “very effective” has been consistently about or above 90%.

Kenyon Class of 2015

How effective was Kenyon at preparing you for graduate school?

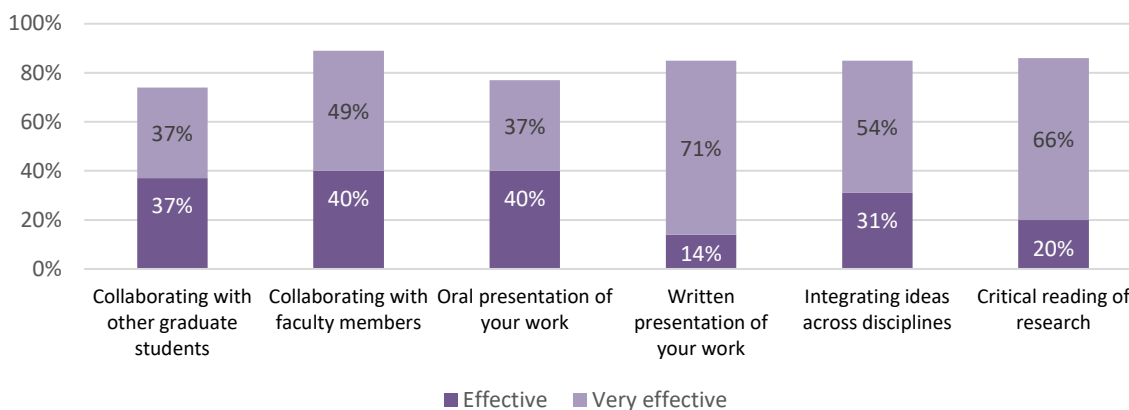


Data source: One Year Out Survey, July 2016. N=36.

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, 71% of respondents, the most frequent response, indicated they were very effectively prepared for writing, 66% indicated they were very effectively prepared to critically read their discipline's research, and 54% for integrating ideas across disciplines. Only 37% of respondents felt very effectively prepared for oral presentation of their work and collaborating with other students.

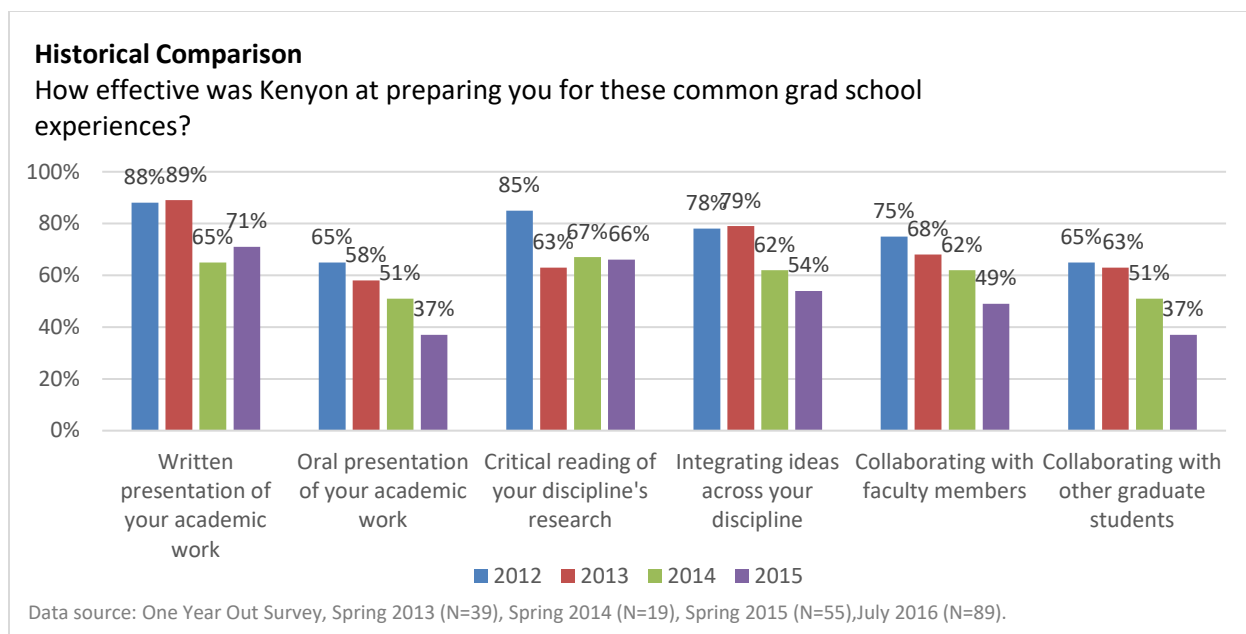
Kenyon Class of 2015

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



Data source: One Year Out Survey, July 2016. N=35.

Looking at historical trends, we see a negative trend across most categories, except critical reading, in the percent of respondents who indicated they were “very effectively” prepared. 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.



Though only 19% of respondents are currently enrolled in a graduate or professional school, 54% of all respondents indicated that they hope to pursue a master's degree in the future and 20% of respondents hope to pursue a Doctoral degree. When asked to elaborate on these plans, the majority indicated that they were looking to return to school in the next one to three years.

Conclusions

Our responding Class of 2015 alumni indicated that they felt satisfied with their Kenyon education and generally prepared for their next stage in life. This sentiment is supported by their success in finding initial employment or placement in graduate school. Alumni who went straight to graduate school indicated that they felt more effectively prepared by Kenyon than did alumni who were employed. However, negative historical trends in how effectively alumni feel prepared in specific grad school experiences should be monitored. Respondents also indicated that both senior year and the six months following graduation are equally important periods of transition with almost half of the employed respondents gaining their employment in each period. This may have important implications for how seniors and the Kenyon administration view early career transitions.