

Results from the Class of 2017 One Year Out Survey

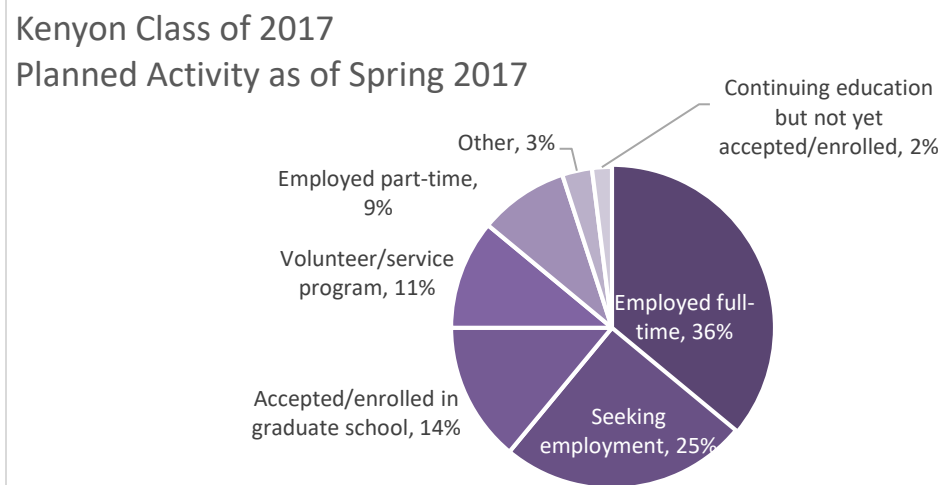
Overview

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 2017 is the sixth 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 (95%) 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).
- Only 4.5% indicated that they are looking for employment.
- The majority of respondents felt that Kenyon effectively prepared them for their current pursuits.

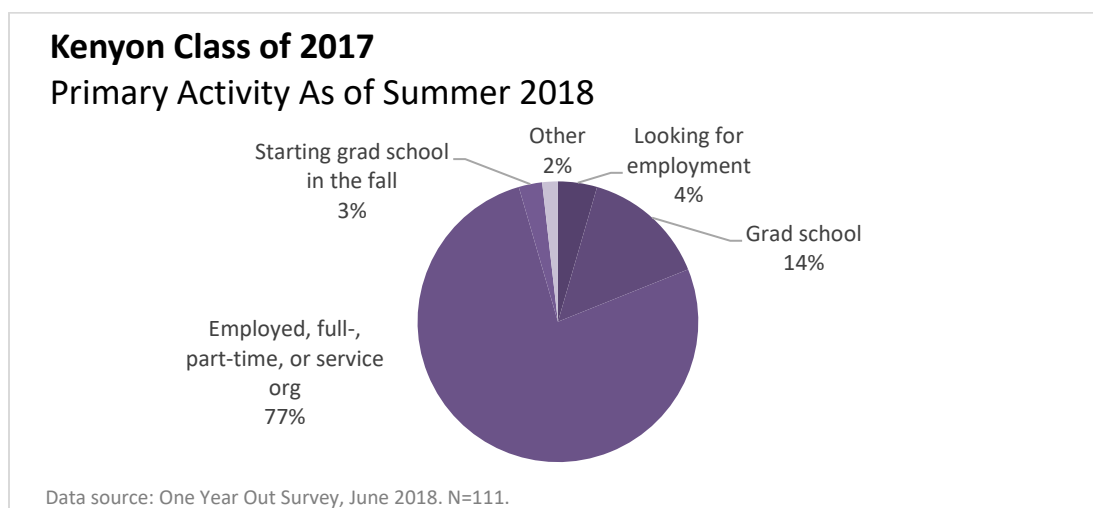
Senior Plans of the Class of 2017

Seniors in the Class of 2017 were surveyed from mid-April through May of 2017 about their plans for the fall after graduation. Of the 432 seniors surveyed, 285 responded for an overall response rate of 66%. Of the graduating seniors responding to the Senior Survey, 70% indicated that employment or service was their top priority with 45% indicating that they already found a either a part or full-time position. In addition, 16% planned to attend graduate or professional school.



Status in the summer of 2018

The Class of 2017 was invited to respond to a “one year out” survey regarding their current pursuits in June 2018.¹ The response rate was 33% (111 of 339 invitees). Of the 111 who responded about their primary activity, 77% indicated that they were currently employed or in a service program while 14% were in graduate or professional school. A small percent, 4.5%, indicated that they were currently looking for employment. Looking across the six years of historical data from this survey, the percent of students in each category have shown little variation from year to year.



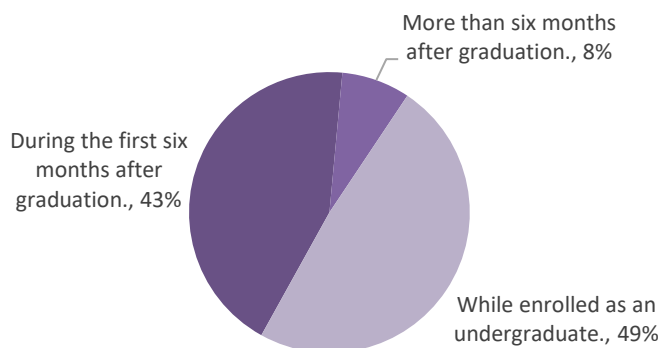
Employment

Of the Class of 2017 respondents who indicated that they were employed, 43% indicated that they found their first job during the first six months after graduating from Kenyon. In addition, 49% 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 previous 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 chemistry, biochemistry, anthropology, and psychology were excluded.

Kenyon Class of 2017

At what point did you first secure a paying job after graduation from Kenyon?

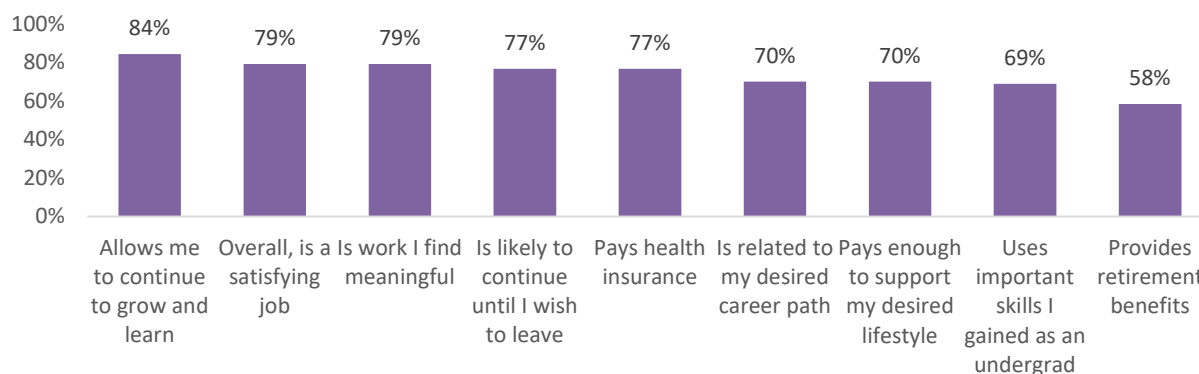


Data source: One Year Out Survey, June 2018. N=77.

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, 70% 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.

Kenyon Class of 2017

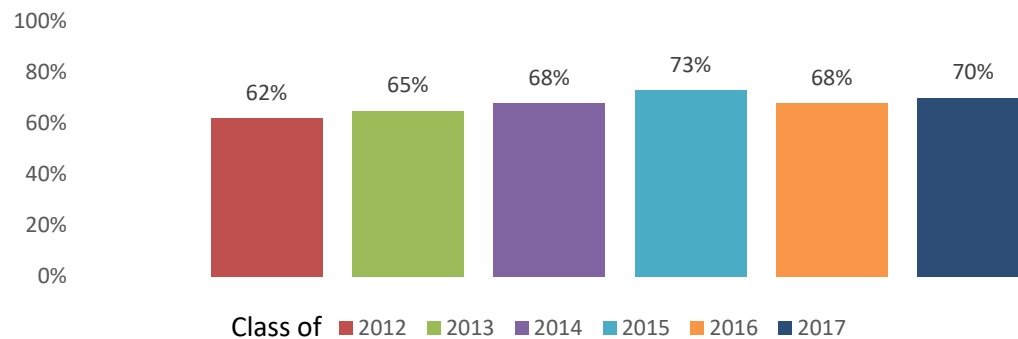
Indicate whether these statements describe your current job



Data source: One Year Out Survey, June 2018. N=77.

Historical Comparison

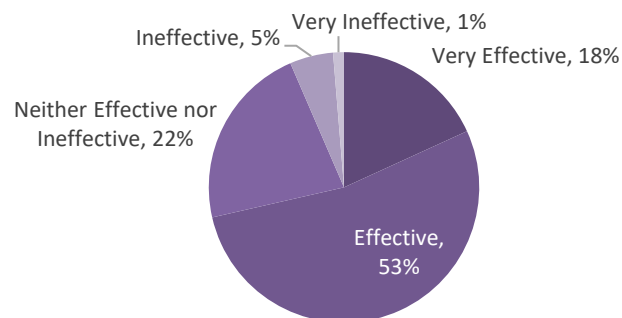
Your current job: Is related to my desired career path



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. 71% indicated that Kenyon was effective or very effective at preparing them for employment. Looking across the five years of historical data from this survey, the percent of respondents who indicated “effective” or “very effective” has been consistently near 65-70%.

Kenyon Class of 2017

How effective was Kenyon at preparing you for employment?



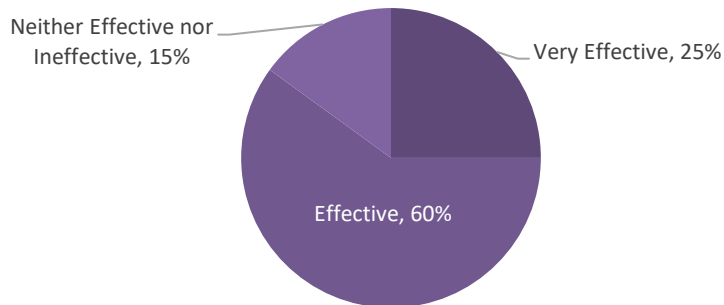
Data source: One Year Out Survey, June 2018. N=77.

Graduate and Professional School

Of all respondents to the survey, 16% 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, 85% 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 near or above 90%.

Kenyon Class of 2017

How effective was Kenyon at preparing you for graduate school?

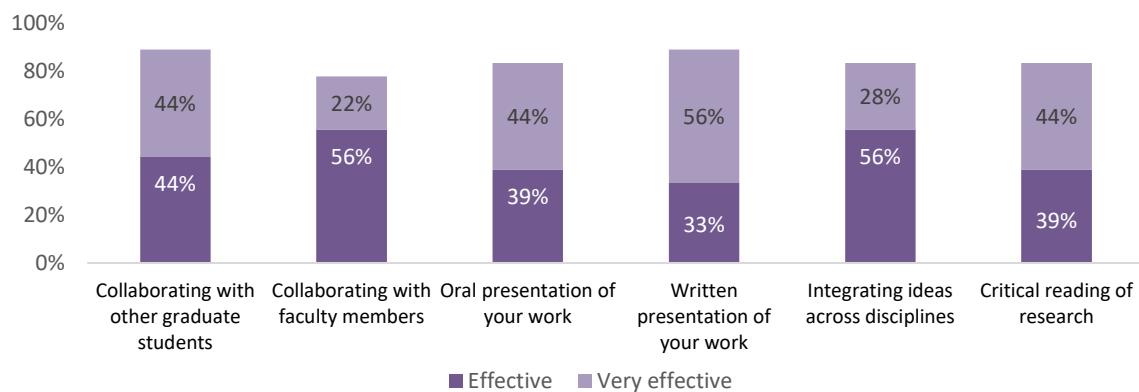


Data source: One Year Out Survey, June 2018. N=22.

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 as the most frequent responses, 56% of respondents indicated they were very effectively prepared for written presentation of their work. Additionally, 44% indicated they were very effectively prepared collaborate with other graduate students, present their work orally, and to read critically their discipline’s research. Only 39% of respondents felt very effectively prepared to integrate ideas across disciplines and 22% for collaborating with faculty members.

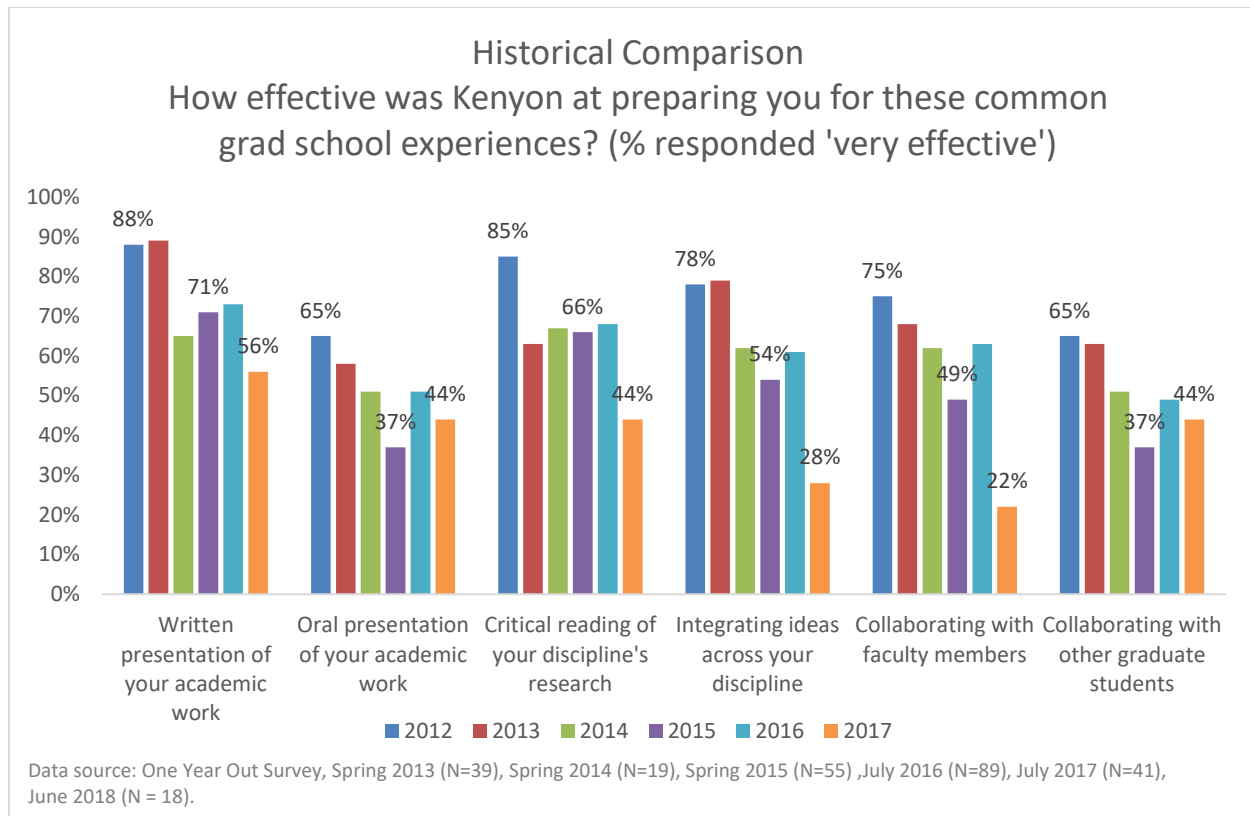
Kenyon Class of 2017

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



Data source: One Year Out Survey, June 20178 N=18.

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. The class of 2017 had a fewer respondents going to graduate school than in previous years and many of them responded that they felt effectively prepared.



Though only 20% of respondents are currently enrolled in a graduate or professional school, 62% 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 three to five years.

Conclusions

Our responding Class of 2017 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.