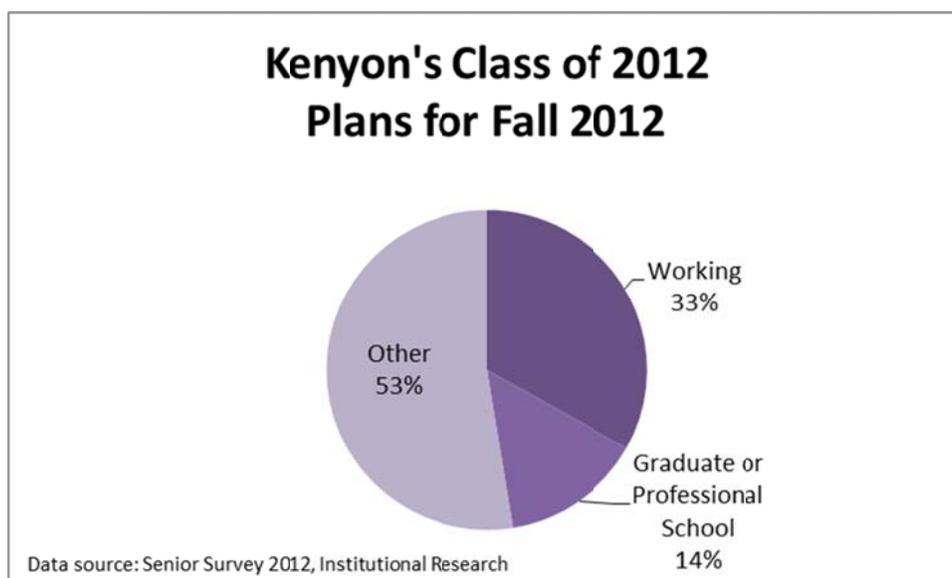


Results from the Senior Survey 2012

Methodology: The directions to an online 6-8 question survey were emailed to each member of the graduating class in March 2012. Reminders were sent intermittently until the week after graduation in May of 2012. The overall response rate was 66.8%.

The Plans of the Class of 2012

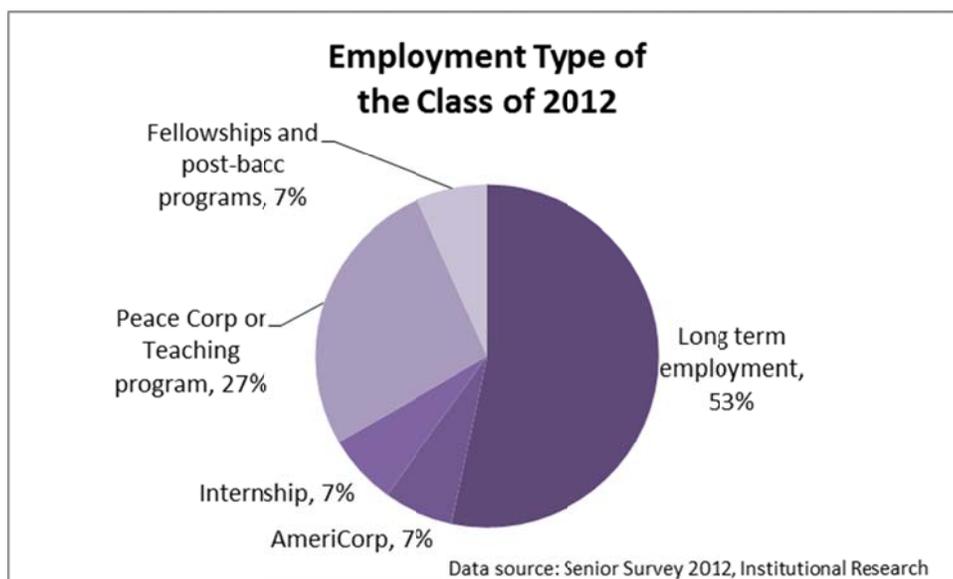
Of the 66.8% of graduating seniors responding to the Senior Survey, 33% had accepted a job and will be working this fall while 14% are going directly to graduate or professional school this fall, and 53% are doing something else such as volunteering, looking for employment, or traveling.



What will you be doing this fall?	Count of Students	Percent of Respondents (not entire senior class)
Working	90	33%
Graduate or Professional School	39	14%
Other	143	53%
Total	272	1

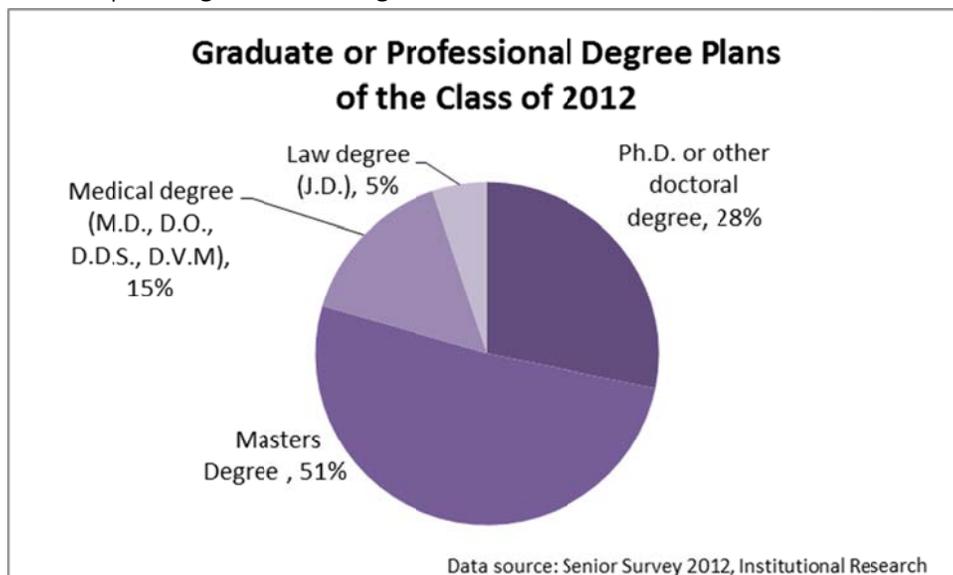
Working

Being employed can have several definitions, but for our purposes we included all salaried positions including fellowships, post-baccalaureate scholarships, service organization positions, internships, and traditional long-term employment positions. Of those students who reported that they will be employed in paying positions this fall, the majority reported long term employment. More than a quarter of those students who will be employed in the fall are participating in a teaching program such as Teach for America or a regional or country specific teaching program such as MATCH in Boston. The remaining students reported that they had received Fulbright or other post-baccalaureate fellowships or positions, will be paid interns, or will be working for AmeriCorps/City Year.

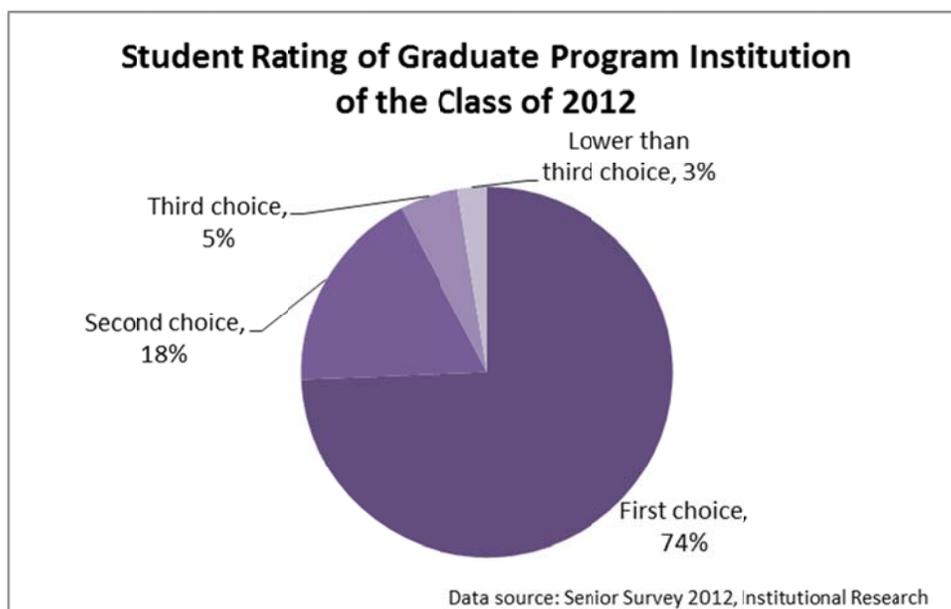


Graduate and Professional School

Fourteen percent of the graduating class indicating that they would be attending graduate or professional school in the fall. Of these, more than half will be pursuing a master's degree and more than a quarter will be pursuing a doctoral degree.

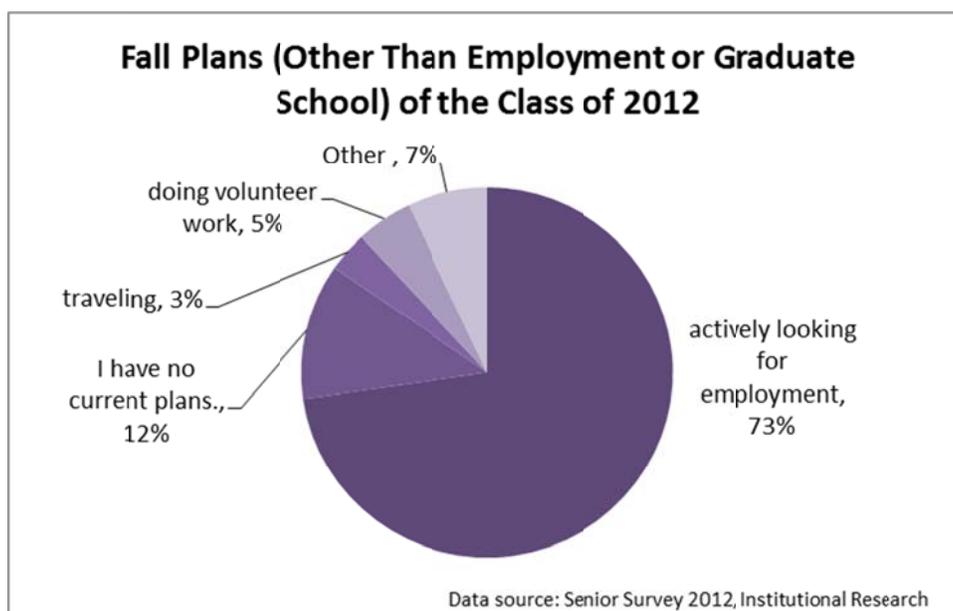


The majority of students who will be pursuing a graduate or professional degree will do so at their first choice institution and only 3% will be pursuing a degree at an institution that was less than their third choice.



Other Pursuits

Kenyon's class of 2012 will be pursuing many activities outside of employment or further formal education this fall. Of the students that responded that they would not be employed or attending graduate school this fall the majority expected to be actively looking for employment. Twelve percent had no definitive plans while others planned on volunteering or traveling this fall. Another 7% of students planned to be pursuing still other activities like starting their own businesses, attending a vocational or another undergraduate program, starting a family, or pursuing a music career. It is important to note that for those students who report that they will be actively looking for work in the fall, we have no additional information about where they are in the job search process. That is, we do not know how many are currently looking for work unsuccessfully versus making a conscious decision to delay the job search until after graduation.



Advice

Respondents to the survey were asked if they had any advice for the upcoming class of 2013. Forty percent of respondents answered this open ended question. A short qualitative analysis of their responses revealed three strong themes: starting early in making post-graduation plans, the value of networking, and the importance of quality of life.

Easily the most frequent piece of advice was to begin post-graduate plans as soon as possible, whether those plans include work or graduate school, as exemplified by these comments:

“Start looking for job opportunities early and often. I mean really early.”

“Definitely, it's never too early to start.”

“Start thinking about your resume, last year.”

“Start your job search early and apply to everything that interests you. Be open to new paths.”

“Get the ball rolling early for your post-grad plans!”

“Also, if you have an idea of certain programs or types of programs you're interested in for graduate school - GO TO YOUR PROFESSORS' OFFICE HOURS NOW. That way when you ask them to write a letter of recommendation for you, they'll be able to know what programs you want to get into, what those programs expect, and how you fit the criteria. Plus you hear all of the best gossip at office hours.”

“If you are applying for graduate school your senior year- especially PhD programs- start early and plan to be very busy.”

“If you want to go to grad school right away get on it this summer so you can enjoy more of senior year.”

“You should ideally begin planning for grad school the summer after your sophomore year at your latest.”

“Work on your resume and any applications you know you want to apply to the summer before senior year so they are all done!”

The next most frequent theme of advice was that of the value of networking, both formally through the Kenyon Career Network or informally, and for both employment and graduate school:

“My best piece of advice? Network, network, network... especially with alumni. Sign up for the KCN and start contacting alumni who are in a career that interests you.”

“Also, reach out to alumni in the field you are interested in, they are an incredible resource.”

“Most people can always introduce you to someone who might be able to help.”

“I'm a huge proponent of networking and have found it to be the most helpful way of figuring out what exactly it is you want to do.”

“Network anyway you can. Family, church, use the kenyon connection too”

“Use the KCN and start doing it now. It is so much easier to reach out to people as a student looking for advice than as some random person, though kenyon alums seem to be very receptive either way.”

“Start networking with potential employers early.”

“Start connecting to alumni during this summer or by this coming Fall. The Kenyon Career Network is a great resource at your disposal, but only if you choose to use it.”

Lastly, respondents frequently reminded the upcoming class about quality of life issues, such as enjoying senior year and focusing on aspects of school or careers that create true happiness in the future:

“Also, don't go to a school just because it is ranked a little higher. Find out your fit and whether people will actually work with you.”

“My other advice is to take time to discover what it is you truly love doing and are passionate about.”

“Also, have fun and take advantage of your time at Kenyon because it goes by too fast.”

“Persevere, focus, and be diligent, but don't lose sight of life's joys and the nonacademic beauty of Kenyon.”

“Pursue what makes you happy, even if that isn't what you're majoring in.”

“Relax and enjoy your last year of college with the people you love. Work hard, but find time to go adventures and do silly things with your friends, too.”

“Don't get too stressed out!”

“Find someone--friend and/or mentor--to be honest about any fears or worries so you don't buckle under the pressure of trying to carry all your emotional burdens on yourself.”

“Look towards the future, but enjoy Kenyon while you're still here. This school is a gift.”