The 2017 Study of University of Pittsburgh Graduates

Helen Stubbs
Senior Consultant | Higher Education Practice
A Crucible for Higher Education

The Importance of the Advising Role

2017 Study of University of Pittsburgh Graduates

Pitt Graduate Experiences and Perceptions
79% of U.S. adults say they do not think education beyond high school is affordable for everyone in this country who needs it.

Source: Gallup-Lumina Poll, 2015
44% of higher ed CBOs are not confident in their institution’s financial stability over the next five years.

Source: 2017 Inside Higher Education Survey of College and University Chief Business Officers
Presidents’ Priorities for Faculty Aligned With Values and Incentives?

College Presidents’ Opinions on the Most Important Role of Faculty at Their Institution

1% Scholarly Activities

64% Teaching

Source: 2016 Inside Higher Ed/Gallup Survey of College and University Presidents
What Americans Want From Higher Ed: To Get a Good Job

67%

**Americans**: “very important” reason for getting education beyond high school

88%

**Freshmen**: Top reason for going to college

Sources: Gallup/Lumina poll, UCLA CIRP, Gallup/IHE poll
Only 27% of recent college graduates had a good job upon graduation.
Is Higher Education Preparing Students for Work?

99% of Chief Academic Officers rate their institution as very/somewhat effective at preparing students for the world of work.

11% of business leaders strongly agree that new graduates have the skills and competencies their businesses need.

Majority of U.S. Adults Would Do Their Education Differently

51% would change at least one of three choices

- 12% would change degree
- 28% would change institution
- 36% would change field of study
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The Gallup-Purdue Index assesses alumni perceptions of their university experiences and how those experiences relate to their well-being and job quality later in life.
How Can College Promote Lifelong Well-Being and Engagement?

Examining the Outcomes of College Graduates

Annual survey of a representative sample of more than 70,000 U.S. college graduates who have obtained a bachelor’s degree measuring:

- Overall well-being (five domains)
- Workplace engagement ($Q^{12}$)
- College experiences
- Affinity and attachment to alma mater

Where you go to college matters far less than how you go to college.
Gallup’s “Big Six” Experiences

- 64% A professor made me excited about learning
- 32% I had a project taking a semester or more to complete
- 30% I had an applied internship or job experience
- 27% My professors cared about me as a person
- 22% I had a mentor who encouraged my goals and dreams
- 20% I was extremely active in extra-curricular activities
Critical College Experiences Prepare Students for Life After College

• Among graduates who had none of the experiences, 5% strongly agree that their university prepared them well for life outside of college.

• 85% of graduates who had all six experiences strongly agree that their university prepared them well for life outside of college.

![Bar chart showing the percentage of graduates who strongly agree that their university prepared them well for life outside of college, for each level of positive experiences.

- None: 24% of graduates
- One: 23% of graduates
- Two: 19% of graduates
- Three: 14% of graduates
- Four: 10% of graduates
- Five: 6% of graduates
- Six: 3% of graduates

Positive experiences: Green bars
Preparedness for life: Dark green bars]
## Where Do Students Get Advice About Their Major?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of Advice</th>
<th>Helpfulness of Advice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Informal social networks</td>
<td>1. Informal work-based network</td>
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<td>2. Formal sources</td>
<td>2. Informal school networks</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Informal work-based network</td>
<td>4. Formal sources</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In Which Areas Are Academic Advisors Most Helpful?

1. Choosing which courses you will take

2. Choosing your major or minor field of study

3. Identifying or evaluating potential career options

4. Identifying or evaluating graduate degree or additional training programs
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Study of University of Pittsburgh Undergraduate Alumni

41,285
undergraduate alumni email records (graduated between 2006 and 2016)

Gallup-Purdue Index core survey

3,536
completed surveys
11% participation rate

March 20-April 18, 2017, fielding (up to five reminders)

Data were combined with Gallup studies examining 2006-2015 Pitt graduates in 2015 and 2016.
Total sample=8,535
Comparison Groups for Pitt Year Two Gallup-Purdue Index Research

2006-2016 University of Pittsburgh Undergraduate Alumni (n=8,535)

National undergraduate alumni who received their bachelor’s degree between 2006 and 2016 (n=8,411)

Undergraduate alumni who graduated from Association of American Universities (AAU) member institutions between 2006 and 2016 (n=1,476)

Undergraduate alumni who graduated from public Association of American Universities (AAU) member institutions between 2006 and 2016 (n=1,100)
Positive Postgraduation Outcomes for Pitt Graduates

79%

Pitt graduates are more likely to be employed full time for an employer (vs. 71% nationally).

2x

Pitt graduates (41%) are more likely than college graduates nationally (21%) to earn a postgraduate degree.

8%

Graduates from Pitt are more likely to be classified as thriving in all five elements of well-being (8%) compared with all peer groups (5%).
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Pitt Graduate Experiences and Perceptions
Faculty-Student Engagement

My professors cared about me as a person *(strongly agree)*

- University of Pittsburgh: 22%
- College Graduates Nationally: 34%
- AAU Graduates: 20%
- Public AAU Graduates: 18%

I had a mentor who encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams *(strongly agree)*

- University of Pittsburgh: 26%
- College Graduates Nationally: 29%
- AAU Graduates: 25%
- Public AAU Graduates: 23%
Academic-Curricular Enrichment

I had at least one professor who made me excited about learning *(strongly agree)*

- University of Pittsburgh: 68%
- College Graduates Nationally: 73%
- AAU Graduates: 74%
- Public AAU Graduates: 72%

I was challenged academically *(strongly agree)*

- University of Pittsburgh: 44%
- College Graduates Nationally: 42%
- AAU Graduates: 57%
- Public AAU Graduates: 52%
Engaged Learning Experiences at Pitt

Did you have a job or internship that allowed you to apply what you were learning in the classroom? (yes)

- University of Pittsburgh: 72%
- College Graduates Nationally: 63%
- AAU Graduates: 68%
- Public AAU Graduates: 67%

I worked on a project that took a semester or more to complete (strongly agree)

- University of Pittsburgh: 41%
- College Graduates Nationally: 43%
- AAU Graduates: 45%
- Public AAU Graduates: 41%
Engaged Learning, continued

Did you participate in a research project with a professor or faculty member? (yes)

- University of Pittsburgh: 50%
- College Graduates Nationally: 45%
- AAU Graduates: 53%
- Public AAU Graduates: 49%
Drivers of Educational Value and Preparation for Life

- I was academically challenged
- My professors cared about me
- I had at least one professor who made me excited about learning
- Mentorship
- Applied internships and jobs
Questions?
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