



**NYU**

Wasserman Center  
for Career Development

# Life Beyond the Square

Undergraduate Class of 2017





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## Executive Summary

The New York University Wasserman Center for Career Development conducted its annual Life Beyond the Square survey of baccalaureate graduates, which encompasses those whose degrees were conferred between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Employment and enrollment in continuing education information was collected through December 30, 2017. This timetable is consistent with the National Association of Colleges and Employers' (NACE) First Destination Survey's revised Standards and Protocols. The following represents the major findings for the Class of 2017.

- » **96.5%** (4356 out of 4513) were either employed or enrolled in a graduate or professional school program during the data collection period, compared to 96.2% of the Class of 2016. Of those who secured a post-graduation opportunity, **84.1%** were working (3664 out of 4356), **13.3%** were in graduate or professional school (579 out of 4356), and **2.6%** reported both working and attending school (113 out of 4356).
- » The overall mean annual salary was **\$60,478**, a decrease of **1.6%** from the mean salary for the Class of 2016. Nationally, mean salaries dropped by 2.9% over the same period, according to the NACE Fall 2017 Salary Survey. Top average starting salaries by industry were: Financial Services **\$81,477**, Real Estate **\$72,316**, Computer Science/Technology **\$70,632**, and Health Care **\$69,335**.
- » Of those who enrolled directly into graduate or other continuing education programs, the top general areas of study were: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences **18.8%**, Life and Physical Sciences **11.6%**, Business **9.7%**, Law **9.4%**, and Medicine at **8.5%**.
- » **93.3%** used the resources of the Wasserman Center for Career Development while at NYU, which is consistent with the Class of 2016.
- » **54.8%** of those who secured employment indicated that they obtained their position directly through an NYU or Wasserman-related resource, including NYU CareerNet, career fairs, and special recruiting and networking opportunities. This is up from last year's 46.8%.
- » **42.3%** secured their positions prior to graduation, which is a slight decrease from the Class of 2016. An additional **34.1%** secured their position within three months of graduation, which is on par with the previous year.
- » **13.2%** secured their position from the organization where they held an internship or a previous role, up from 11.4% for the Class of 2016. Additionally, **51.7%** received 2 or more job offers, which is consistent with the previous year.
- » Of those graduates who held a part-time job or internship during their time at NYU, **95.4%** indicated secured a post-graduation job or enrollment in graduate or professional school; by comparison, of those who did not hold an internship or part-time job, just **86.3%** had secured a post-graduation opportunity. This is similar to the findings from the Class of 2016.
- » **96.4%** secured employment in the United States, of which **81.6%** work in the tristate area (NY, NJ, CT). **73.3%** of those working in the US are located in New York City. Outside of the Northeast, California was the most popular state for employment (**5.9%**). Graduates were working in **39** countries, with the United Kingdom, China, and the Republic of Korea as the top three global locations.
- » Graduates secured employment across more than **30** industries. The most popular industries where graduates secured opportunities include Entertainment/Media at **13.2%**, Financial Services/Banking at **12.9%**, Health Care at **11.0%**, Computer Science / Technology at **9.2%**, and Education at **8.2%**.
- » After distributing an electronic survey by email and phone and using industry standard professional networking sites, post-graduation status was collected from **4,529** graduates out of the 5,954 who graduated from Summer 2016 through Spring 2017 (per the Office of Institutional Research and Data Integrity), which represents **76.1%** of the Class of 2017.





## Introduction

The Wasserman Center for Career Development has conducted the annual *Life Beyond the Square* survey since the 1990s to understand the post-baccalaureate outcomes of NYU undergraduates. The data collected are used to determine key statistics that will be meaningful to current and prospective students, including average salaries and the most popular choices for both employment and graduate or professional school enrollment. The Wasserman Center also uses the findings to create an employer engagement strategy and to inform the programs and resources offered to students each year. The survey is routinely conducted over a 6-month period following graduation in accordance with the National Association of Colleges and Employers' (NACE) [First Destination Survey Standards and Protocols](#).

## Overview

### **METHODOLOGY**

The target population consisted solely of individuals who, based on the official records from NYU's Office of Institutional Research and Data Integrity, were awarded a bachelor's degree in September 2016, January 2017, or May 2017 from the following schools: the College of Arts and Science; the Gallatin School of Individualized Study; Global Liberal Studies; the Leonard N. Stern School of Business; the Rory Meyers College of Nursing; the School of Professional Studies; the Silver School of Social Work; the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development; the Tandon School of Engineering; and the Tisch School of the Arts.

The purpose of this survey is to collect employment and graduate/professional school information for each of the graduates. Based on how individual questions were answered, the number of questions any one graduate would see varied. Median completion time of an individual survey was just over four minutes.

Graduates were first sent a link to an online survey via email. After several email reminders were sent, graduates who had not responded were called up to three times by trained phone interviewers. For those who did not respond to either the repeated email or phone inquiries, NACE-approved professional networking sites such as LinkedIn were used to obtain post-graduation status data. Additionally, the Wasserman Center included data from NYU CareerNet, the National Student Clearinghouse, Office of Global Services, and outcomes information reported by faculty, staff and employers.

In order to incentivize graduates to take the survey, the Wasserman Center offered recent graduates inclusion in a drawing for \$10 gift cards if they completed the survey by a certain date. After data cleaning and implementing the additional outreach and research measures discussed above, information on 4,529 graduates was collected and analyzed. The list of graduates supplied by the Office of Institutional Research and Data Integrity contained records for 5,954 individuals\*. Thus, Wasserman was able to collect post-graduate outcomes information on 76.1%.

### **MISSING VALUES/ROUNDING**

Throughout the analyses, "missing values" (i.e., questions that the respondents did not answer) were omitted, as were "Unsure" or "Unknown" responses for most calculations. As illustrated in several charts, the total percentage does not equal 100% due to rounding. Additionally, Institutional Research Board (IRB) guidelines prohibit us from requiring respondents to answer all questions, so the number of responses to each question varies.

*\*Note:* Of the graduates, six received bachelor's degrees from two different schools. These students were counted once for statistics summarizing all graduates, but their responses were included in school-specific calculations. Additionally, if students received a bachelor's and an advanced degree in the same year, they were removed from this analysis and will be counted in the analysis for advanced degrees in a separate report.



### DEMOGRAPHICS

The students included in this report provide a fairly accurate representation of the makeup of NYU’s Class of 2017. All demographic information was provided by NYU’s Office of Institutional Research and Data Integrity.

| Responses By Gender |               |                    |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|
|                     | Report Sample | Overall Population |
| Female              | 58.9%         | 58.5%              |
| Male                | 40.6%         | 41.0%              |
| Not Specified       | 0.5%          | 0.5%               |

| Responses By International/Domestic Status |               |                    |
|--|---------------|--------------------|
|  | Report Sample | Overall Population |
| Domestic                                   | 86.1%         | 85.3%              |
| International                              | 13.9%         | 14.7%              |

| Responses By Race/Ethnicity*             |               |                    |
|--|---------------|--------------------|
|  | Report Sample | Overall Population |
| American Indian / Alaskan Native         | 0.1%          | 0.2%               |
| Asian                                    | 23.1%         | 22.9%              |
| Black / African American                 | 5.7%          | 5.7%               |
| Hispanic / Latino                        | 13.3%         | 13.8%              |
| Multiracial                              | 4.4%          | 4.4%               |
| Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander | 0.2%          | 0.1%               |
| White                                    | 42.2%         | 42.0%              |
| Not Specified                            | 11.1%         | 10.9%              |

\*Note: Categories per U.S. Department of Education IPEDS

## Career Preparation

### INTERNSHIPS AND PART-TIME JOBS

Internships and part-time jobs are a key component in preparing students for post-graduation opportunities. **87.6% held part-time jobs and/or internships during their undergraduate experience.** Out of the 87.6% of graduates who held an internship or a part-time job, **95.4%** secured a position or enrollment in continuing education. In contrast, of students who reported that they did not hold an internship or part-time job, 86.3% were employed or enrolled in graduate school. Part-time jobs and internships are routinely found in research to be an effective way to gain practical experience and to build the professional network needed to secure a job after graduation; they also often help to offset college-related expenses.

### UTILIZATION OF WASSERMAN CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

**93.3% used Wasserman Center resources to support their career development** over the course of their time studying at NYU.

| Wasserman Center Use By School                                 |            |
|--|------------|
| School   | Percentage |
| College of Arts and Science                                    | 95.7%      |
| Gallatin School of Individualized Study                        | 94.0%      |
| Global Liberal Studies   | 98.6%      |
| Leonard N. Stern School of Business                            | 96.7%      |
| Rory Meyers College of Nursing                                 | 80.4%      |
| School of Professional Studies                                 | 87.8%      |
| Silver School of Social Work                                   | 86.1%      |
| Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development | 95.2%      |
| Tandon School of Engineering                                   | 90.6%      |
| Tisch School of the Arts <sup>1</sup>                          | 81.4%      |

<sup>1</sup>Note: TSOA students also make use of the Tisch Office of Career Development.



## Employment

### CAREER OUTCOMES RATE

The career outcomes rate is the total number of graduates who secured a position or enrollment in a continuing education program divided by the total number of graduates who sought opportunities. **The career outcomes rate for the Class of 2017 is 96.5%, which is an increase from 96.2% from the Class of 2016.**

### Career Outcomes Rate By School

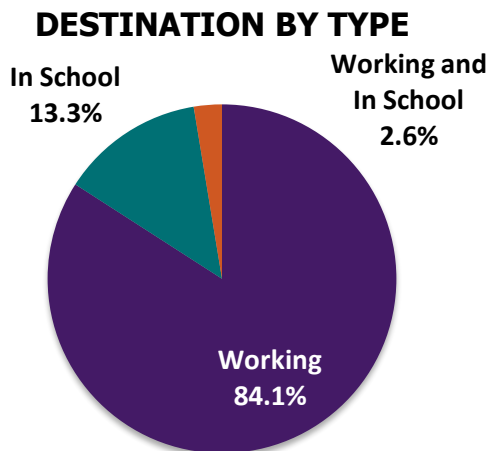
| School   | Percentage |
|--|------------|
| College of Arts and Science                                    | 96.1%      |
| Gallatin School of Individualized Study                        | 98.0%      |
| Global Liberal Studies   | 98.4%      |
| Leonard N. Stern School of Business                            | 97.5%      |
| Rory Meyers College of Nursing*                                | 92.2%      |
| School of Professional Studies                                 | 98.8%      |
| Silver School of Social Work                                   | 100.0%     |
| Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development | 97.5%      |
| Tandon School of Engineering                                   | 94.6%      |
| Tisch School of the Arts                                       | 96.6%      |

\* Although the overall job outlook for bachelor’s level nurses remains quite strong, nursing has historically had a lower career outcomes rate in this report due to the timing of the nursing board exams (NCLEX). These board exam results, upon which securing a job often depends, become available several months into the Life Beyond the Square data-collection period. Thus, nursing graduates start their job search significantly later than graduates in other schools.

*Note:* A small number of respondents (16) were not seeking employment or continuing education, and thus were removed from the career outcomes calculations per NACE guidelines.

### CAREER DESTINATIONS

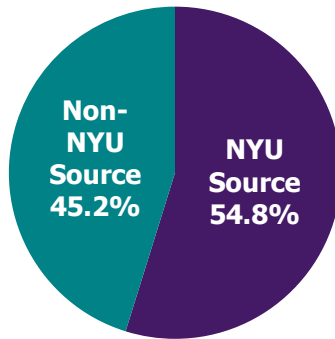
Of the 4,356 graduates who were either employed or continuing their education, 84.1% were working, 13.3% were in school, and 2.6% were both working and in school. This year, the percentage of students working decreased slightly (it was 86.6% for the Class of 2016) and the percentage in school and not working increased slightly (it was 10.5% last year).





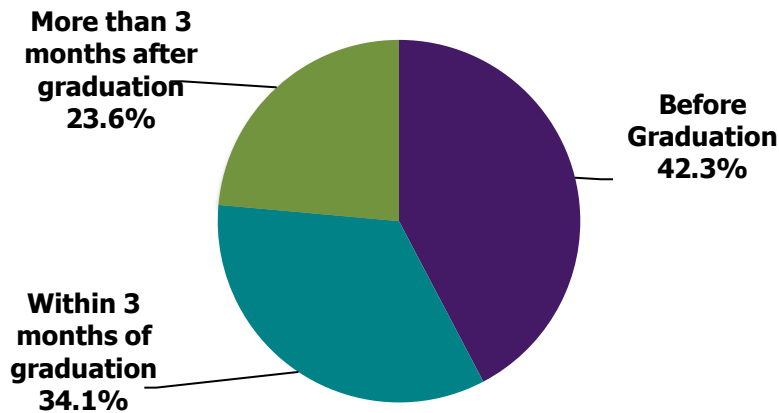
54.8% of those working indicated they obtained their position through using at least one NYU resource. These resources include Wasserman programs and services such as NYU CareerNet, the On-Campus Recruitment program, career fairs, and employer presentations, as well as NYU faculty and staff connections, NYU events, NYU career emails, online mentor databases, and promotions from positions secured through NYU.

### SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT



42.3% of employed graduates had secured their position before graduation; an additional 34.1% of employed graduates secured their positions within 3 months of graduation.

### WHEN EMPLOYMENT WAS SECURED



13.2% of employed graduates secured their positions through a promotion from the organization where they were already employed in an internship or other role, up slightly from 11.4% last year.



## EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONS

### Domestic Employment

Of graduates who are working, 96.4% are in the United States, with the majority of those staying in the New York City metropolitan area. 84.3% of employed international students are working in the United States. The top US locations for employment are the same as the Class of 2016.

### TOP US LOCATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT By Number of Graduates



### Global Employment

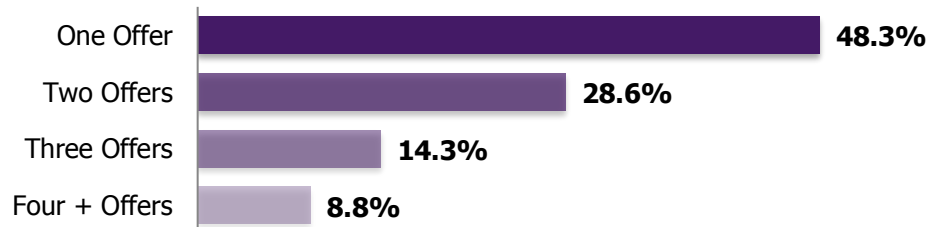
127 graduates reported working abroad in 39 countries, which is comparable to the Class of 2016 data.

### TOP GLOBAL LOCATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT By Number of Graduates



## NUMBER OF JOB OFFERS

51.7% of graduates reported receiving two or more job offers, which is on par with the Class of 2016.

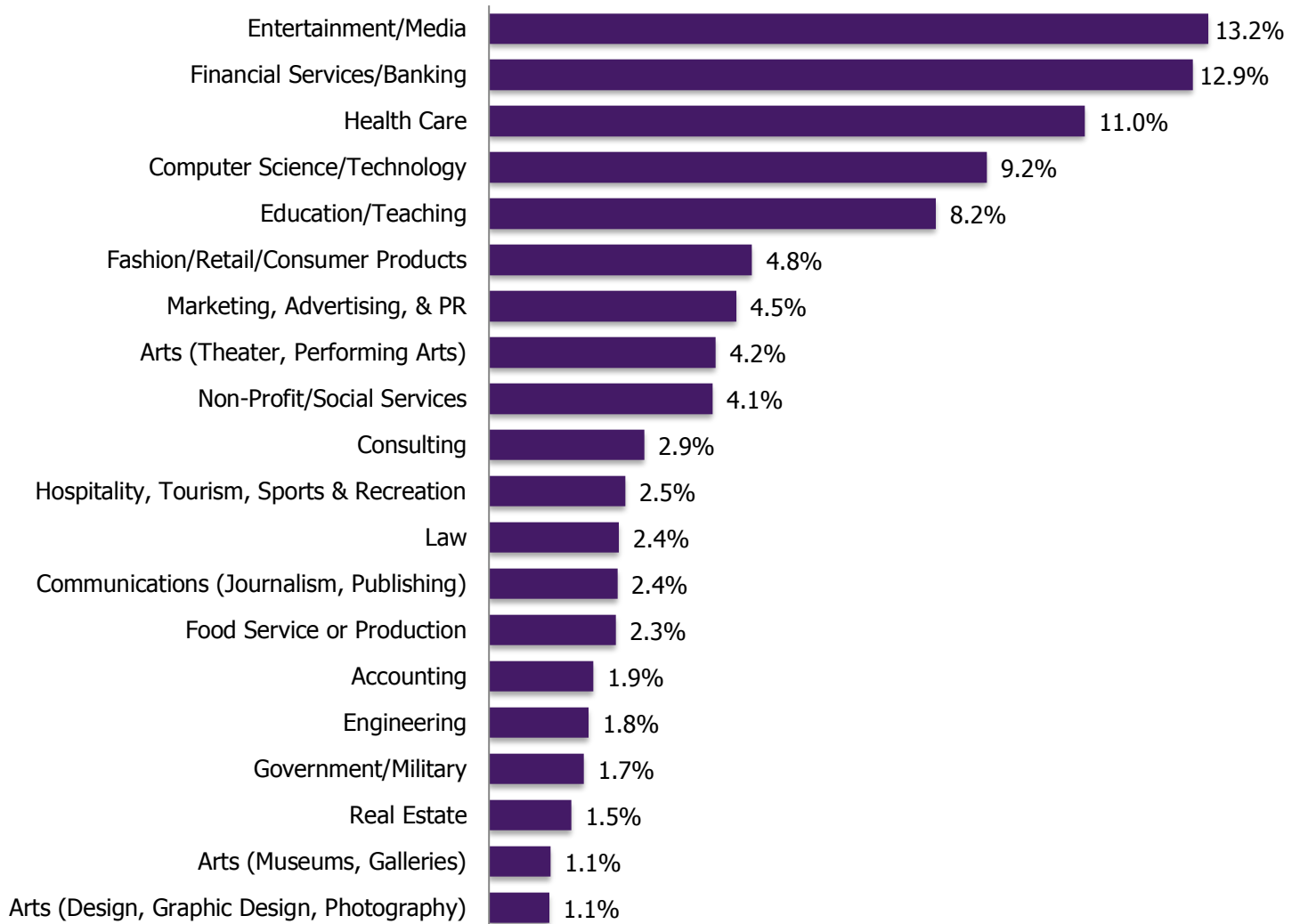






**EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

Listed below are the top 20 industries employing the Undergraduate Class of 2017. Entertainment/Media, which for years has been the second most popular industry, has risen to the top spot, and Financial Services/Banking has moved to second. Health Care, which this year also includes Nursing, has risen to third most popular industry.



**SALARIES**

**The mean annual salary for the Class of 2017 is \$60,478**, which is well above the national overall mean of \$51,022 (based on NACE's Fall 2017 Salary Survey of 2017 graduates). It is also 8.5% higher than the mean salary for the Mid-Atlantic region as reported in NACE's Fall 2017 Salary Survey. This year's mean salary is slightly lower than the mean salary for the NYU Class of 2016 by 1.6%. According to NACE, salaries for the class of 2017 were down by 2.9% when compared to the Class of 2016. This mean does not include signing bonuses or other compensation such as relocation expenses. **The mean bonus was \$9,317**, which is 20% higher than the mean bonus for the Class of 2016.

**Mean Salary By School**

| School   | Mean     |
|--|----------|
| College of Arts and Science                                    | \$56,098 |
| Gallatin School of Individualized Study                        | \$45,895 |
| Global Liberal Studies   | \$43,886 |
| Leonard N. Stern School of Business                            | \$72,397 |
| Rory Meyers College of Nursing                                 | \$83,266 |
| School of Professional Studies                                 | \$68,489 |
| Silver School of Social Work <sup>1</sup>                      | N/A      |
| Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development | \$43,520 |
| Tandon School of Engineering                                   | \$66,043 |
| Tisch School of the Arts                                       | \$40,620 |

<sup>1</sup>Note: Sample size was less than 10, so salary is not reported.

**Top Industries by Mean Salary<sup>3</sup>**

| Industry                            | Mean     |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Financial Services / Banking        | \$81,477 |
| Real Estate                         | \$72,316 |
| Computer Science / Technology       | \$70,632 |
| Health Care                         | \$69,335 |
| Consulting                          | \$66,400 |
| Accounting                          | \$66,315 |
| Insurance                           | \$62,694 |
| Engineering                         | \$58,596 |
| Food Service or Production          | \$57,857 |
| Energy                              | \$56,545 |
| Fashion/Retail/Consumer Products    | \$53,245 |
| Transportation                      | \$52,508 |
| Marketing, Advertising, & PR        | \$49,068 |
| Education/Teaching                  | \$48,401 |
| Design, Graphic Design, Photography | \$45,571 |
| Government/Military                 | \$45,423 |
| Entertainment/Media                 | \$45,159 |

<sup>3</sup>Note: Industries with fewer than ten data points (n=10) were excluded.

**Mean Salary By Gender**

| Gender                     | Mean     |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Female                     | \$55,751 |
| Male                       | \$66,992 |
| Not Specified <sup>2</sup> | N/A      |

<sup>2</sup>Note: Sample size was less than 10, so salary is not reported.

**Mean Salary By International Status**

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Domestic      | \$60,070 |
| International | \$63,677 |

**Mean Salary By Race / Ethnicity<sup>4</sup>**

| Ethnicity                                | Mean     |
|--|----------|
| American Indian / Alaska Native          | N/A      |
| Asian                                    | \$64,584 |
| Black / African American                 | \$56,465 |
| Hispanic                                 | \$57,485 |
| Multiracial                              | \$54,428 |
| Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander | N/A      |
| White                                    | \$58,322 |
| Not Specified                            | \$62,447 |

<sup>4</sup>Note: Categories with fewer than ten data points (n=10) were excluded.



## Continuing Education

Overall, 15.9% of Class of 2017 graduates are enrolled in continuing education program full-time or pursuing a degree program while working. For those currently not attending a post-bachelor's program, 42.4% reported intentions to enroll in graduate or professional school in the next five years.

| <b>Continuing Education Enrollment By School</b>               |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>School</b>  | <b>Percentage</b> |
| <b>Overall</b>   | <b>15.9%</b>      |
| College of Arts and Science                                    | 27.0%             |
| Gallatin School of Individualized Study                        | 9.5%              |
| Global Liberal Studies   | 23.0%             |
| Leonard N. Stern School of Business                            | 4.3%              |
| Rory Meyers College of Nursing                                 | 5.9%              |
| School of Professional Studies                                 | 14.9%             |
| Silver School of Social Work                                   | 73.5%             |
| Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development | 19.2%             |
| Tandon School of Engineering                                   | 12.6%             |
| Tisch School of the Arts                                       | 4.3%              |

There were over 30 general areas of study reported for post-baccalaureate education. The top 10 fields are below, listed by the percentage of those who were in graduate or professional school.

| <b>Continuing Education Enrollment By Area of Study</b> |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Area of Study</b>                                    | <b>Percentage</b> |
| Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities                       | 18.8%             |
| Life & Physical Sciences                                | 11.6%             |
| Business (MBA, Accounting, Finance, Economics)          | 9.7%              |
| Law   | 9.4%              |
| Medicine/Pre-Med  | 8.5%              |
| International Affairs, Government, Policy               | 5.8%              |
| Education   | 5.6%              |
| Social Work   | 4.8%              |
| Computer Science/Technology                             | 4.8%              |
| Engineering   | 4.3%              |
| Fine Arts   | 2.9%              |

*Note:* 7.7% of those who indicated they were in graduate or professional school did not provide details about what they were studying.



## Conclusion

New York University graduates are among the most successful in the country. The career outcomes rate for the undergraduate Class of 2017 was 96.5% -- an increase from the Class of 2016. 93.3% took advantage of the resources, support, and experience of the NYU Wasserman Center during their time at NYU.

Graduates work in a wide variety of industries and for a variety of employers. That said, 54.5% are working in the top five industries of entertainment/media, financial services, health care, technology, and education. A majority (81.6%) are working in the tristate area, with more than 70% employed in New York City.

NYU graduates are committed to graduate and professional school attendance, and the Class of 2017 has slightly more graduates continuing their education. 15.9% were enrolled in post-graduate academic programs at the time of the survey, an increase over last year's 13.4%. And for those not currently enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program, 42.4% indicated that they intend to pursue such study within five years, a decrease when compared to past years.

NYU graduates are perceptive, experienced, and well-prepared to launch their careers. The NYU Wasserman Center for Career Development partners with academic departments, employers, and the entire University community to support students and alumni through strategically planned initiatives, career education programming, and development of and connections to resources.