IUPUI

2019 Alumni Undergraduate Student Survey

Institutional Research and Decision Support
Institutional Effectiveness and Survey Research Office
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OVERVIEW

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Purpose: To measure indicators related to alumni employment outcomes as well as satisfaction with advising, services, and support to better understand the student experience of undergraduate alumni at IUPUI.

Methods: In 2019, Institutional Effectiveness and Survey Research, an office within Institutional Research and Decision Support, was charged with conducting a survey of recent alumni. The survey was administered to all undergraduate degree/certificate recipients from the 2014 and 2016 cohorts.

**Institutional Research
and Decision Support**

**Institutional
Effectiveness and
Survey Research
Office**

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	Undergraduate Alumni Respondents	Undergraduate Alumni Invited
Female	64.6%	58.8%
Male	35.4%	41.2%
White	78.2%	74.9%
Asian	2.6%	3.5%
Black/African American	9.8%	9.6%
Two or more races	1.5%	2.7%
Hispanic/Latinx	3.1%	4.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0%	0.1%
International	2.8%	3.2%
Refused to Answer/Not Applicable	0.0%	1.3%
2014 Cohort	44.7%	46.5%
2016 Cohort	55.3%	53.5%
Kelley School of Business	9.2%	11.8%
School of Dentistry	1.0%	1.6%
School of Education	2.5%	3.8%
School of Engineering and Technology	14.6%	14.2%
School of Science	11.1%	11.7%
Herron School of Art and Design	4.3%	3.7%
School of Informatics and Computing	4.7%	3.3%
School of Medicine	5.4%	4.8%
Lilly Family School of Philanthropy	0.5%	0.2%
School of Nursing	9.8%	8.5%
O'Neill School of Public & Environmental Affairs	4.7%	5.1%
Fairbanks School of Public Health	2.0%	1.8%
School of Health & Human Sciences	5.9%	6.8%
School of Liberal Arts	23.1%	20.0%
School of Social Work	1.3%	2.5%
N	**611**	**6320**
Response Rate	**9.7%**	

Current Employment and Student Debt

- 83% of undergraduate student alumni respondents reported full-time employment. 85% of those currently employed either full- or part-time say their job allows them to use skills or pursue activities related to their major at IUPUI.
- The most prominent places of employment include healthcare organizations (25%), large corporations (19%), and small business or corporations (18%).
- 27% of undergraduate student alumni respondents have no debt related to their undergraduate degree.
- 57% of alumni respondents currently with debt reported being at least somewhat confident they will be able to pay off their student loans on time.
- Of those owing between $60,000K and above in student loan debt, almost half of respondents reported being not at all confident (48%) in their ability to pay them back on time.
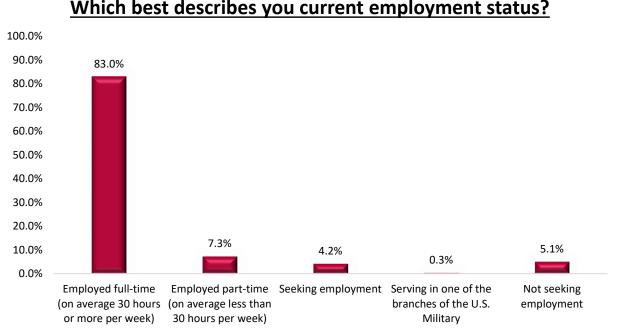
IUPUI Experience

- Overall, respondents are satisfied (49%) or very satisfied (43%) with their overall academic experiences at IUPUI.
- Quality of instruction in major area and the general helpfulness of faculty were both rated highly by respondents (89% and 86% respectively being satisfied or very satisfied).
- Respondents indicated low levels of satisfaction with the quality of career services, as well as the opportunity to participate in undergraduate research. 38% of all respondents reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with career services. 41% of all respondents reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with opportunities to participate in undergraduate research.
- 81% of respondents reported they would either probably or definitely choose IUPUI if they could repeat their undergraduate student career. 90% also responded definitely or probably yes that they would recommend IUPUI to a potential student.
- 61% of all respondents completed an internship, co-op, field experience, practicum, student teaching experience or clinical placement while a student at IUPUI.
- Only 10% of respondents indicated not working while completing their degree. Nearly two-thirds (64%) indicated having employment only off campus.
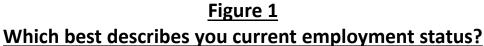
Knowledge and Skills Gained at IUPUI

- Respondents rated themselves as "quite a bit" to "very much" prepared to understand and value cultural differences (79%), as well as working with people from different backgrounds (81%). Similarly, 75% of respondents indicated being "quite a bit prepared" or "very much prepared" to initiate interactions with those who are culturally different.
- Areas in which students reported lower levels of agreement with being "quite a bit" or "very much" prepared including the ability to recognize one's own cultural rules and biases (68%) and contribute to communities locally and globally (60%).
- Alumni respondents commented on appreciating, needing, and currently using the skills they learned throughout their education at IUPUI. They specifically mentioned critical thinking skills, communication skills, problem solving skills, technical skills, and research skills.
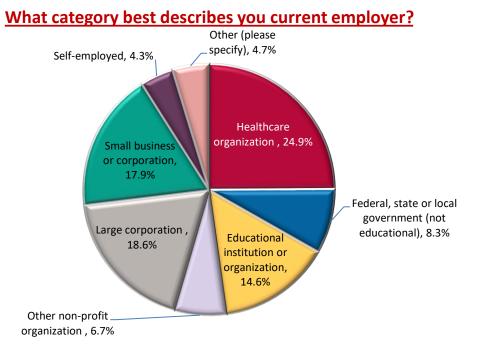
Further Education

- 82% of undergraduate alumni respondents are currently not enrolled in further courses but 23% of alumni respondents have plans on doing so.
- 37% of undergraduate alumni respondents currently pursuing another degree are doing so at an IU institution.
- 19% of undergraduate alumni respondents reported having earned an additional degree since graduating from IUPUI. 54% of those who had obtained another degree did so at IUPUI.

Figure 1
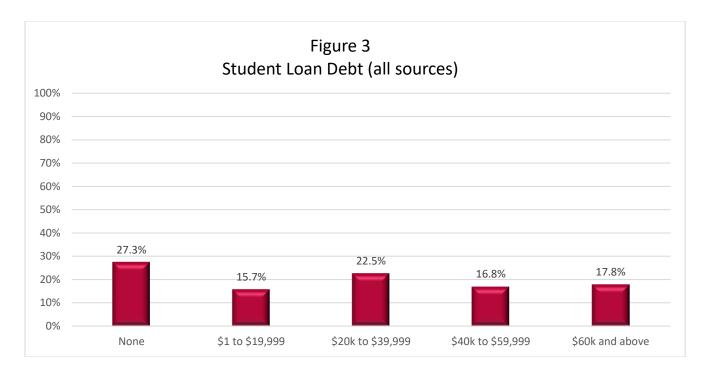# Which best describes you current employment status?

N =572

- Roughly 90% of alumni respondents reported working, whether full-time or part-time; the majority of respondents who indicated they were working currently have full time employment.
- Approximately 73% of those currently working are employed in Indiana.

What category best describes you current employer?

Pie chart segments:
- Healthcare organization, 24.9%
- Federal, state or local government (not educational), 8.3%
- Educational institution or organization, 14.6%
- Other non-profit organization, 6.7%
- Large corporation, 18.6%
- Small business or corporation, 17.9%
- Self-employed, 4.3%
- Other (please specify), 4.7%

N=446

- The majority of respondents (89%) reported being employed in a traditional type of employment.
- Approximately 44% of all undergraduate student alumni respondents reported working for either a large corporation or a healthcare organization.
- The majority of respondents (85%) reported that their current job either allows them to use skills or pursue activities related to their major at IUPUI.
- 61% of respondents reported their current job being mid-level and 22% report being in an entry level position.
- The majority of undergraduate student alumni (74%) also agreed with the statement, "The job I have is the job I want."
- Over half of respondents (61%) reported seeing their current job as a career, while 29% reported seeing their current job as a stepping stone to a career.
- 87% of respondents indicated IUPUI prepared them for their job either "Somewhat" or "Very Well."
- Respondents reported their IUPUI education enhanced their prospects of future advancement either "somewhat" (43%) or "very well" (42%).
- The majority of employed respondents have a salary either in the range of $40,000 to $59,999 (34%) or $60,000 to $79,999 (23%).
- Over half of respondents (52%) indicated having accepted the first salary they were offered without negotiating, while 35% reported having negotiated for their current salary.
- The majority of respondents (69%) reported no longer being in their first job since graduating from IUPUI.

Figure 3
Student Loan Debt (all sources)

N=490

- Approximately 27% of all respondents reported having no debt related to their undergraduate degree.
- Only 14% of those with debt at graduation reported having paid it off.
- Of those still with debt, 30% stated they are not at all confident they will be able to pay off their student loans on time.
- Over half (57%) of alumni respondents currently with debt reported being at least somewhat confident they will be able to pay off their student loans on time.
- Of those owing between $60,000K and above in student loan debt, almost half of respondents reported being not at all confident (48%) in their ability to pay them back on time.
- Female respondents (33%) were more likely to report being "not at all confident" in their ability to pay student loan debt back on time compared to male respondents (23%).
- Not including international respondents, White participants (35%) were more likely to report feeling "very confident" in being able to pay off debt on time compared to non-White respondents (25%).

Table 1
Satisfaction with Academic, Instruction, and the Learning Environment [a]

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Not Applicable
Overall academic experiences at IUPUI	2.9%	5.2%	48.9%	43.0%	0.0%
Overall quality of instruction by faculty in your major area	1.9%	8.3%	45.2%	44.6%	0.2%
Overall quality of courses in your major area	1.9%	9.3%	47.0%	41.8%	0.2%
Academic advising in your major department or school	7.8%	19.6%	41.7%	30.9%	4.0%
Career services in your major department or school	12.1%	26.0%	38.5%	23.5%	13.9%
Personal attention from faculty/staff in your major department	4.9%	14.5%	44.9%	35.7%	1.3%
Opportunities to participate in undergraduate research	11.9%	28.6%	38.8%	20.7%	21.5%
General helpfulness of faculty	4.7%	8.0%	51.9%	35.4%	1.4%
The extent to which faculty and/or staff helped you become oriented to your program	6.0%	14.2%	48.6%	31.2%	3.3%
Tutoring, coaching, and other academic support services (e.g., Writing Center, Math Assistance Center)	4.1%	6.4	52.8%	36.7%	24.2%
Library resources, services, and space	1.4%	2.2%	49.4%	47.0%	5.0%
Use of technology in the classroom to promote learning	2.2%	6.0%	51.6%	40.1%	4.4%
Access to studios, workshops, and labs	2.4%	8.1%	52.9%	36.6%	12.1%

[a] 1 = Very Dissatisfied, 2 = Dissatisfied, 3 = Satisfied, 4 = Very Satisfied
Satisfaction percentages calculated after removing the Not Applicable responses

N=521
- The large majority (92%) of alumni respondents reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of their academic experiences.
- The lowest satisfaction is in regards to quality of career services, as well as the opportunity to participate in undergraduate research. 38% and 41% of all respondents reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with these aspects of their academic experience respectively.
- Regarding faculty, the quality of instruction in major area and the general helpfulness of faculty were both rated highly by respondents with 89% and 86% respectively being satisfied or very satisfied.

Table 2
Satisfaction with Co-Curricular Experiences and Other Services [a]

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Not Applicable
Opportunities to develop leadership skills	4.3%	14.4%	49.2%	32.0%	6.1%
Opportunities for career development (e.g., externships, job shadowing, career workshops, internships)	10.7%	27.2%	38.8%	23.4%	9.1%
Opportunities for professional development (e.g., conferences, presentations)	8.7%	23.7%	43.5%	24.1%	10.6%
Opportunities to participate in international activities on campus (e.g., courses/programs with international students, using the global classroom)	7.5%	25.3%	48.5%	18.7%	27.2%
Opportunities to develop appreciation for diversity (e.g., outside speakers, programs, films, book discussions)	5.2%	13.9%	52.9%	28.0%	13.4%
Opportunities to engage in community service or volunteer work	3.8%	13.3%	52.0%	30.9%	13.9%
Opportunities to participate in the Alternative Break Program	14.2%	22.6%	42.5%	20.8%	56.7%
On-campus housing	15.4%	23.9%	42.0%	18.6%	61.9%
Support in establishing or maintaining your overall health and well-being	7.5%	17.3%	55.0%	20.3%	18.5%
Availability of support services on campus (e.g., services provided by Counseling and Psychological Services, Campus Recreation, and Office of Student Advocacy and Support)	7.5%	16.0%	51.8%	24.7%	31.7%
Overall social experiences at IUPUI	3.6%	13.9%	56.6%	26.0%	8.4%

[a] 1 = Very Dissatisfied, 2 = Dissatisfied, 3 = Satisfied, 4 = Very Satisfied

N= 496
- Overall, respondents reported being satisfied with the co-curricular experience at IUPUI.
- Undergraduate student alumni reported that they would like to have more opportunities for career and professional development and to participate in international activities on campus. More than one-quarter of respondents reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with these two items.

Table 3
Participation in co-curricular experiences
(internships, community service & campus organizations)

	Did not do this	Did this
Internship, co-op, field experience, practicum, student teaching experience, or clinical placement	38.7%	61.3%
Community service or volunteer work, not as part of a course	41.1%	58.9%
A project addressing a real-world problem	48.5%	51.5%
Community service or volunteer work as part of a course	48.6%	51.4%
Student club or organization	58.5%	41.5%
A learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together	71.4%	28.6%
Peer mentoring	75.8%	24.2%
Research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements	78.8%	21.2%
Electronic portfolio (ePortfolio/ePDP)	85.7%	14.3%
Study abroad	87.1%	12.9%
Intramural athletics	89.7%	10.3%
Fraternity/sorority	91.5%	8.5%
Student government	93.4%	6.6%
Intercollegiate athletics	96.5%	3.5%

N= 555

- The most common extra-curricular activity reported among alumni respondents was internship, co-op, field experience, etc. (61%), followed by community service or volunteer work that was not part of a course (59%).
- Just over half (51.5%) of respondents also indicated working on a project addressing a real-world problem and as well as participating in community service or volunteer work that was part of a course.

Did you work while completing your degree at IUPUI?

	Frequency
Yes, on campus	9.2%
Yes, off campus	63.7%
Yes, both on and off campus	17.6%
No	9.6%

During your time at IUPUI, approximately how many hours per week did you work?

	Mean Hours (SD)
On campus for pay	13.2 (12.1)
Off campus for pay	28.8 (11.7)

Figure 4
If You Could Start Over Again,
Would You Go To IUPUI?

Definitely no, 5.50%
Probably no, 13.6%
Definitely yes, 36.5%
Probably yes, 44.4%

Figure 5
Would you recommend IUPUI to a
potential student?

Definitely no, 2.6%
Probably no, 7.3%
Definitely yes, 47.9%
Probably yes, 42.2%

Table 4
Satisfaction with IUPUI overall and faculty/staff specifically

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I am proud to tell others I attended IUPUI	4.2%	9.4%	50.6%	35.9%
IUPUI challenged me academically	2.1%	8.5%	58.5%	30.9%
I feel fulfilled in my current career	5.8%	18.4%	39.9%	36.0%
There were instructors at IUPUI who cared about my learning	1.4%	4.0%	48.3%	46.4%
There were instructors at IUPUI who cared about me as a person	2.4%	13.0%	48.6%	36.0%
There were instructors at IUPUI who wanted to help me attain my personal goals	2.6%	15.5%	50.4%	31.4%
There were instructors at IUPUI who wanted to help me attain my career goals	3.1%	14.9%	48.9%	33.1%
There were staff members at IUPUI who cared about me as a person	3.7%	18.2%	51.5%	26.7%
There were staff members at IUPUI who wanted to help me attain my personal goals	3.7%	22.5%	49.0%	24.9%
There were staff members at IUPUI who wanted to help me attain my career goals	3.7%	17.6%	53.3%	25.4%

- The majority of alumni respondents reported being proud to tell others they attended IUPUI (87%) as well as agreeing that IUPUI challenged them academically (89%)
- However, 68% of alumni respondents indicated being only "a little connected" to "not at all" connected to IUPUI.
- Almost half of respondents (48%) indicated being regularly in touch with classmates and friends they have met at IUPUI.
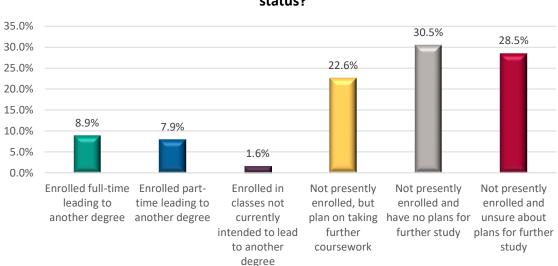
Table 5
Knowledge and Skills [a]

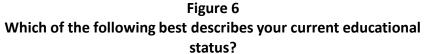|	Not at all prepared	Somewhat prepared	Quite a bit prepared	Very much prepared	Mean
Work with people from different backgrounds (e.g., races, ethnicities, religions, socioeconomic backgrounds, cultural, or sexual orientations)	3.7%	15.1%	27.8%	53.4%	3.31
Understand and value cultural differences	4.3%	16.8%	30.8%	48.1%	3.23
Initiate interactions with those who are culturally different	6.0%	18.9%	30.1%	44.9%	3.14
Write a well-organized final report or paper	3.0%	20.4%	37.1%	39.5%	3.13
Modify how I approach a problem based on the requirements of the situation	4.7%	19.9%	36.1%	39.3%	3.10
Prepare a formal oral presentation to communicate ideas and information	3.5%	21.9%	36.9%	37.7%	3.09
Generate new ideas about how to approach an issue	4.5%	22.1%	38.6%	34.7%	3.04
Support an argument using appropriate (quantitative or non-quantitative) data	5.0%	20.6%	41.8%	32.5%	3.02
Advocate for my beliefs in a civil and respectful manner	8.1%	22.4%	33.1%	36.5%	2.98
Engage in meaningful self-examination and reflection	9.0%	22.9%	33.0%	35.1%	2.94
Recognize my own cultural rules and biases	10.5%	22.0%	33.8%	33.8%	2.91
Contribute to communities locally and globally	12.2%	27.9%	31.8%	28.1%	2.76

[a] 1 = Not at all Effective, 2 = Somewhat Effective, 3 = Effective, 4 = Very Effective

- Respondents rated themselves as "quite a bit" to "very much" prepared to understand and value cultural differences (79%), as well as working with people from different backgrounds (81%). Similarly, 75% of respondents indicated being "quite a bit prepared" or "very much prepared" to initiate interactions with those who are culturally different.
- Alumni respondents rated themselves as "quite a bit prepared" or "very much prepared" on skills and abilities like using data to support an argument (74%) and generating new ideas about how to approach an issue (73%).
- 74% of alumni respondents rated themselves "quite a bit prepared" or "very much prepared" to support an argument using appropriate data.
- Areas in which students reported lower levels of agreement with being "quite a bit" or "very much" prepared including the ability to recognize one's own cultural rules and biases (68%) and contribute to communities locally and globally (60%).

Figure 6
Which of the following best describes your current educational status?

N=571

- The majority of respondents (59%) reported being not currently enrolled in an institution and either have no plans for further study or are unsure.
- About 17% of respondents reported being currently enrolled in classes leading to another degree. Of those that reported being enrolled, slightly more than a third (37%) reported being enrolled in an IU program.
- Almost half (46%) of respondents indicated believing their IUPUI education prepared them very well to pursue their new degree while 81% reported that it prepared them at least somewhat.
- Of those alumni who reported being enrolled in an institution leading to another degree, three-fourths (75%) were accepted to their 1st choice school and 92% were admitted to at least their 2nd choice.

Since graduating from IUPUI, have you earned any additional degrees?

	Frequency
Yes	18.9%
No	81.1%

Those that answered yes reported …

- Approximately 41% of respondents indicated having obtained an additional Bachelor's degree while 33% indicate obtaining an additional Master's degree.
- Just over half of alumni respondents (54%) report attending IUPUI again for this additional degree.
- Over half (59%) reported believing their IUPUI education prepared them very well to pursue their new degree while 94% reported that it prepared them at least somewhat.
- Of those alumni who reported being enrolled in an institution leading to another degree, over 85% were accepted to their 1st choice school and 96% were admitted to at least their 2nd choice.
- Approximately 68% of respondents indicated starting this degree immediately to one year after graduating from IUPUI.

From the perspective you have gained since graduation, what has been the greatest value of earning your degree at IUPUI? (311 comments)

	Frequency
Acquiring a degree	48
Useful skills	40
Experiences/Opportunities	36
Faculty/Staff	31
Affordable	30
Network	25
Location	23
Diversity	19
Convenience	16

Acquiring a degree (48)

Respondents recognized the value in a four-year degree in the workforce and personally. Some noted the value of the particular school they earned their degree from, Indiana University (13) and Purdue University (9). Others commented on the satisfaction of completing their degree as a personal goal (9).

- "The prestige of IU on my degree."
- "Every employer knows the IU name, which is helpful because most employers hold IU in a high regard."
- "Greatest value of earning my degree at IUPUI was the fact that I have a degree. I have never been asked where I graduated from college - only that I have."
- "Having a bachelor's degree was necessary to get my foot in door in my career path."
- "Having it be known as a Purdue degree."
- "I got a piece of paper that granted access to an otherwise inaccessible echelon of jobs."
- "I have felt a great sense of accomplishment and it has prepared me for my current job."
- "Even though I'm not working in the field of my degree, it has still helped me move up in my local union."
- "Knowing I finished a degree I started 45 years earlier."
- "IUPUI got me a job that would have been unattainable otherwise. Being able to go in to work knowing what all I had to accomplish before coming into the field fills me with pride."
- "Most good career jobs require a person to have a bachelor's degree. My math degree has opened a lot of doors."
- "Probably like most people my age the bachelor's degree was just seen as a placeholder for obtaining any job above entry level positions.

Useful skills (40)

Alumni respondents commented on appreciating, needing, and currently using the skills they learned throughout their education at IUPUI. Specifically mentioned were Thinking Skills (15), Communication skills (7), Problem solving skills (5), Technical, and Research skills.

- "The ability to analyze and think outside the box."
- "Being taught to make my mind process information differently, in a more analytical way. This is key in my field."
- "A developed technical skill set."
- "Critical thinking and professional skills through exposure to wide variety of clinical experiences."
- "I gained substantial research skills that have allowed me to be successful in my writing post-graduation."
- "I am able to effectively communicate complicated subject matter to a wide range of audiences. I have soft skills that are difficult to quantify but make me an excellent employee, mentor and coworker."
- "IUPUI was what helped me move from an 'if-this then-that"way of thinking to a systematic method that can be adopted to complex systems."
- "Instructors like Travis Faas and Todd Shelton taught me the most important skill of all -- problem solving. While frustrating and impossible-seeming work at the time, their class work required me to take a basic concept and figure out an advanced solution through a combination of googling and puzzle-solving. That is the most important skill in my field."
- "IUPUI taught me how to work with others as a global work team."
- "Learning how to think, analyze, and write professional documents with reliable information to support ideas and arguments."
- "The courses offered new ways to think about communication and life in general and how to apply what I was learning when communicating with others."
- "The knowledge and skill set I left IUPUI with helped me advance my career quickly by already having a foundation to start out with. I wouldn't be where I am without my degree from IUPUI."

Experiences/Opportunities (36)
Respondents mentioned many types of opportunities and experiences students were able to participate in. Instructors provided experiences in the classroom and there were ample opportunities off-campus for all types of study paths.

- "Clinical experience in downtown hospitals."
- "Community service and undergraduate research opportunities at IUPUI allowed me to develop in professional ways that exceeds that of many other universities."
- "Getting phenomenal experience, field education, and internships."
- "The access to resources and opportunities in Indianapolis."
- "I became a much more well-rounded person due to the educational opportunities I had outside of class and the class requirements for a Liberal Arts degree."
- "I believe that I gained a lot of valuable clinical experience at IUPUI. My clinical experience really prepared me most for my profession as a nurse. I also worked as a RA on campus, and that definitely taught me time management, how to be a leader, conflict resolution, and how to engage with others from different backgrounds."
- "It allowed me to work in many different hospitals in the area and understand the differences before I graduated. This allowed me to make a more informed choice when I began applying for jobs."
- "Parallel opportunities - I wasn't living and attending school in a bubble. I was attending school alongside 30-40 year olds with real life experience who were also highly determined and drove motivation throughout various projects I was involved in. I had the flexibility to live my life AND attend school rather than uprooting everything and anything I knew to attend school."
- "Student Involvement Opportunities (Volunteering, Conferences, Alt. Spring Break, other)"
- "The greatest value that IUPUI has given me was the endless opportunities of what I aim to be. I had an enormous support from the faculty staffs, my professors, and colleagues to experience various of events, organizations, internships, and projects while I was there. Those experiences were priceless and valuable for me to carry on."
- "The IUPUI Chemistry Department offers extensive opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in research and lab experiences that seem to be generally offered only to graduate students."

Faculty/Staff (31)
- "Exposure to faculty and their breadth of knowledge, which they unfailingly share."
- "The only benefits unique to IUPUI is the faculty of the Anthropology department who were incredible."
- "I had great experiences with faculty and staff who really cared about my success."
- "I've spoken with many dental assistants that attended different schools and they are never as knowledgeable or experienced as my classmates and myself through IUPUI's program. We were taught by the best."
- "Industry connections and having faculty with industry experience."
- "Instructors were extremely well versed in their area of expertise and taught classes in an effective manner to prepare students for their careers."
- "Number one would be the friends and faculty I have kept in touch with over the years that have helped to build my network."
- "The Philosophy faculty who I developed a professional and mentoring relationship with during my time on campus continues today. These faculty members are now professional contacts and friends. They continue to support me through informal review of my academic work as an independent scholar."

Affordable (30)
- "Didn't cost very much - able to pay tuition while attending without a loan."
- "Having a degree from the IU School of Medicine at IUPUI prices was the best choice for me. I wanted a degree that was reputable without the price tag of a private school."
- "I value the ability to work and participate in internships in a real city while going to school. I also value the reasonable cost."
- "I was grateful that I was able to live at home and attend IUPUI, it was especially important with a newborn and was way more affordable than if I had to live on a traditional college campus."
- "IU credibility at IUPUI prices"
- "IUPUI was basically all I wanted in a college degree. I wanted a usable degree with no fuss and no frills. I wanted to get my education and get out with minimal debt, and that's ultimately what I did."
- "Low in-state tuition and high-quality science courses."

Networking (25)
- "Connection to the arts community in Indianapolis."
- "I've learned how to work my network that I built while in college."
- "I am in a career that I didn't know about while at IUPUI but through professors, I was able to land a career that got me to where I am today."
- "I had great experiences with faculty and staff who really cared about my success. These connections and great work experience (I mostly got through IUPUI) while in school were super helpful. It's such a practical, connected campus. I'm still in touch with many classmates, teachers, and staff. I Loved it."
- "The research, volunteer, and employment opportunities I experienced were paramount in building a network, gaining experience, and "sampling" a variety of post-graduation opportunities."

Location (23)

- "Cultural awareness and the opportunities IUPUI offers employees both in the classroom and being geographically located in the heart of Indy."
- "Downtown campus, Indiana community in our healthcare system, tech advances in healthcare, all cultures and wake of life to use Spanish and nursing skills."
- ""Being in Indianapolis made it possible to stay involved with things I valued off campus, to easily expand my professional network in my desired career area (sports), and to be readily accessible for internships and other career advancement opportunities while maintaining a steady course load (this allowed me to tack two minors on with my major)."
- "I love that I graduated from a large school, in the capital city, that offers so many great degree programs and that I can now give back to."
- "I think being a part of a commuter campus where I didn't see the same people all the time really made me go outside of my comfort zone every semester."
- "My greatest value of earning my degree at IUPUI is that I was exposed to a lot of things that helped me change the way I think about things, I think that as a lot to do with the location of campus."
- "I am confident IUPUI's location in Indianapolis resulted in professional and personal development I could not have gotten at other campuses."
- "The location. By going to school downtown Indy I was central to a lot. Also by being close to family I was able to save money on student housing."
- "Very diverse culture, urban setting, less expensive than IU but still have a degree that says IU. Also there is a sense of pride in knowing that I had to balance a full time job, marriage and baby off campus while earning my degree, which is pretty non-traditional compared to other college students."

Diversity (19)

- "A perspective gained from creative people of different backgrounds."
- "A welcoming perspective of all cultures and personalities."
- "Diversity of students and willingness of faculty to support students"educational goals."
- "Getting to know more students from different parts of the world and being taught by SME's."
- "I came from a very small, very racially homogeneous, rural area. Going to IUPUI offered me the opportunity to be in a more culturally diverse place, working and learning alongside those with differing thoughts, opinions, and life experiences. Those opportunities to learn about cultural differences while in college helped me to have more empathy, understanding, and compassion within in my current career field."
- "It gave me access to different cultures and points of view I may not have encountered at a different institution."
- "The breadth of ideas and people I was introduced to at IUPUI probably changed my entire viewpoint of how the world functions."
- "Leadership skills and collaborating with people from all backgrounds and cultures."
- "My experience at IUPUI was great, I really enjoyed all the different cultures you come in face with. Diversity is probably the best value I had while attending IUPUI."

Convenience (16)
- "Convenience to someone already living and working in downtown Indy."
- "Convenience, lower cost, good advisors."
- "Having had the convenience of going to school locally in Indy without having to move out on my own, but being able to say I have a degree from IU."
- "I was able to live at home with my parents to save money while paying for IUPUI tuition."
- "I was grateful that I was able to live at home and attend IUPUI, it was especially important with a newborn and was way more affordable than if I had to live on a traditional college campus."
- "Low debt. Stayed in community, able to work."
- "Needed to finish my degree and graduate. IUPUI provided a perfect opportunity for me to live in Indy and do that."
- "I had the flexibility to live my life AND attend school rather than uprooting everything and anything I knew to attend school."
- "The broad range of clinical experiences it provided and the ability to commute to school instead of living on campus."

How could your experience at IUPUI have been improved? (291 comments)

	Frequency
Job placement/Career Planning	45
Participate in Orgs/Involvement	40
Advising/Mentorship	36
Real-World Preparation	19
Loan Debt Plan/Advice	13
Internship	13

Job Placement/Career Planning (45)
- "Better career advising. I felt like I was not prepared for the workforce or for how real the real world was going to be. It would have been nice to know I would have to pursue higher education in order to achieve a job in my chosen field of study."
- "A general direction/help in calculating a career path. Not all students have mentors at home from which they can receive professional guidance. I felt as though I entered the workforce with no direction."
- "Better help gaining employment in desired field."
- "I am an older student with kids; so internships and TA positions were not realistic for me because the times coincided with my full-time job. I was not really guided on how to market myself or how to get a job after I graduated; because most students get their jobs through internships."
- "More opportunities for career growth and professional networking."
- "Better programs to help students find jobs. I found there to be a lack of programs that help students find jobs for job placement and a lack of courses or faculty/staff helping students figure out what they want or could get into."
- "More pathways or opportunities upon graduating IUPUI."
- "Professors should also have connections with industry professionals to help give better career advice and help students network with professionals. Career services should do a better job at helping students land a job within their chosen field."
- "More interaction with career services and advisers prior to graduation, regular check-ins to ensure we had all the support we wanted/needed in preparing for a career."

Participate in Orgs/Involvement (40)

- "I wish I could have been involved more socially. However, being a non-traditional student made that difficult."
- "I wish I had reached out for help more, and done more social/extracurricular activities while I had them all at my fingertips."
- "Definitely focus on the campus lifestyle, I did not live near campus so at times I felt out of tune from social experiences."
- "It could have improved if I had participated in more social activities/organizations/clubs."
- "Socially. Didn't feel like many options were given to get involved to transferring students. Felt like it was all directed towards incoming Freshman."
- "More effective communication to student body about available extracurricular activities, create a better sense of community among students."

Advising/Mentorship (36)

- "My experience with IUPUI could have improved exponentially with more guidance. Reference to choosing classes, finding resources for educational assistance for difficult subjects, being more resourceful to find grants/scholarships to fund my education, and provide a more personable approach rather than a transaction to the big business of Universities throughout the US."
- "My academic advising experience was terrible. All through the program up until graduation I had issues. I even had to re-verify transfer credits in my last semester because my adviser never submitted the documentation for credits when I first entered the program."
- "My advisor was awful and did not respect my personal goals or career interests. I felt like a lot of advisors tried to push me toward specific career paths. I also felt like I had to look hard to find the resources I needed to be successful."
- "More academic support. The university-college/Taylor hall advisors were not helpful at all."
- "The first couple years advisory experiences were just me making my schedule and handing it over to be signed. No or little council was given, one literally didn't even look at it! I was not in my field yet and was making my schedule based on the requirements but not understanding things like prerequisites. This messed me up big time."
- "My academic advisor initially didn't lay out path to graduating. When I returned I had to change entire major because of a requirement to take math which was unrelated to my English degree. Very disappointed."

Real-World Preparation (19)
- "Provided actual real world experience, not wasted so much time on things that are not practical."
- "The classes don't really prepare you for the "real world." I've had to learn a lot on the fly."
- "The education system at IUPUI doesn't provide real-world experience to assist in helping young people find their passion/career."
- "For an applied institution, it taught no practical skills. It was just memorizing and regurgitating."
- "I wish the degree had more practical classes relating to actual design work, versus design research - it would have given us more experience in what we actually do in our day-to-day jobs."

Loan Debt Plan/Advice (13)
- "A better plan for exit, student loan debt is overwhelming and services for finding a position after graduation is a joke."
- "Managing student loan debit more responsibly."
- "Being able to get employment from college graduate level jobs and not be stuck with student debt."
- "Less cost for classes. My student loan debt is outrageous because I had to pay for school myself. There is little help out there to minimize the stress that comes with the debt."

Internship (13)
- "I personally could've participated in more internships and field experience. Most likely would've helped guide me to exploring my educational opportunities while I was there."
- "I would really have liked to have been told more about or been given more opportunity to volunteer in my field and participate in an internship. It would have made my time after graduation much better."
- "I would have liked more of a formal discussion about internships, study abroad trips, and other opportunities outside of the classroom. I felt behind the deadline when I received a paper with internship opportunities and was told it was getting down to the wire and needed to select one soon."
- "I would have enjoyed more paid internship programs and ones that may have been worthwhile since I had to work full-time to pay my bills."

IUPUI
INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND DECISION SUPPORT

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