



Most College Graduates Would Switch Majors

61% of graduates would change their undergraduate major if they could go back

February 27, 2020 (Seattle, WA) - A new report from BestColleges revealed that 82% of bachelor's degree holders considered college a "good financial investment;" however, 61% also indicated that they would change their undergraduate major if they could back. Click here for more information: <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/college-graduate-majors-survey/>.

Among all graduates who would change their major, the primary reason was "I want to pursue my passion" (26%). The other top responses were "I want better/more job opportunities" (25%) and "I want better compensation or benefits" (14%).

"The results indicate that while many college graduates are happy with their decision to attend college, their particular major didn't end up checking all the boxes when it came to landing a fulfilling career," said Quinn Tomlin, Public Relations Manager at BestColleges.

While pursuing a passion was the most popular response overall, only 14% of millennials (ages 24-39) who would change their major were concerned with their life's passion compared to 34% of adults aged 40 and older.

Millennials were also more likely to want to change majors to have better job opportunities (31% vs. 22% for adults aged 40+), earn better compensation/benefits (18% vs. 12%), or to learn in-demand skills (18% vs. 10%).

"The fact that most grads would switch majors in the first place is a useful finding because it indicates that colleges could do a better job of matching student expectations with career outcomes and the realities of today's workforce," said Tomlin. "And what does a good career mean? How can we help students identify variables that really lead to a rewarding life after college?"

One positive indicator for colleges is that only 5% of all respondents said their education had no value at all. Respondents across all categories listed the following three options as the most valuable benefits of college: soft skills (40%), personal enrichment or life experience (22%), and hard skills (17%).

Nearly 4 in 5 (79%) of all degree holders said the skills they learned in college were helpful in their current jobs, showing that most graduates are successfully leveraging the skills and knowledge they gained in college. However, over a quarter of millennials (27%) disagreed that their degrees gave them skills useful in their current jobs, suggesting that colleges aren't necessarily preparing young graduates for the realities of today's workforce.

Methodology

BestColleges commissioned YouGov Plc to conduct the survey. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. The total sample size was 817 adults with at least a four-year college degree. Fieldwork was undertaken January 22-24, 2020. The survey was carried out online and meets rigorous quality standards. It employed a non-probability-based sample using both quotas upfront during collection and then a weighting scheme on the back end designed and proven to provide nationally representative results.

About BestColleges

BestColleges empowers students to make smarter educational decisions and find schools that best fit their needs through proprietary research, user-friendly guides, and hundreds of unique college rankings. As a trusted education advisor, they also provide a wide array of college planning, financial aid, and career resources to help students realize life goals and overcome educational challenges as they prepare for careers after college.

For More Information

Quinn Tomlin
Public Relations Manager
quinn@bestcolleges.com