

# Results from the Senior Survey 2021

## Methodology

The link to an online survey with a maximum of 29 questions was emailed to each full-time member of the senior class who, as of April 12, 2021, was anticipated to graduate by May 2021. Guest students were excluded from the population. Initial invitations were sent on April 12th and the last responses were received on June 21st. Of the 317 seniors who received the survey, 187 responded with their primary activity after graduation (at a minimum) for an overall response rate of 59%.

## Highlights

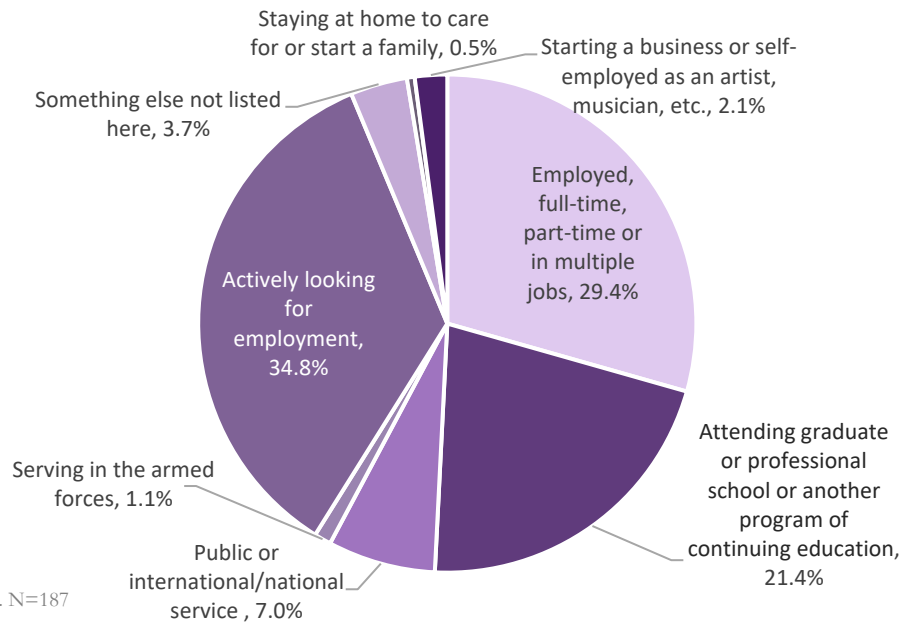
As of June 2021, respondents to the Class of 2021 Senior Survey indicated that:

- 29.4% had full- or part-time employment for the fall
- 21.4% had been accepted to/enrolled in graduate school for the fall
- 7% planned on participating in a volunteer/service opportunity for the fall
- 34.8% were still seeking employment for the fall
- 0.5% were planning to stay at home to care for or start a family.
- 1.1% were serving in the U.S. military
- 2.1% were starting a business or pursuing self-employment.
- 3.7% planned on doing something not listed above.

## The Plans of the Class of 2021

The survey first asked seniors to identify their plans for the fall after graduation. 64% of students indicated that employment was their top priority, whether it was being employed full- or part-time (29%), or looking for a job (35%). 21.4% indicated that they would continue their education in the fall. 7% of graduates planned on participating in a volunteer or service program. 2.1% of respondents planned on starting a business or pursuing self-employment in the arts. A small percentage of students (1.1%) were serving in the U.S. military, while another small number of students (0.5%) planned to stay home to take care of or start a family. Finally, 3.7% of respondents had a plan not listed in the survey.

## Class of 2021 Post-Graduate Plans



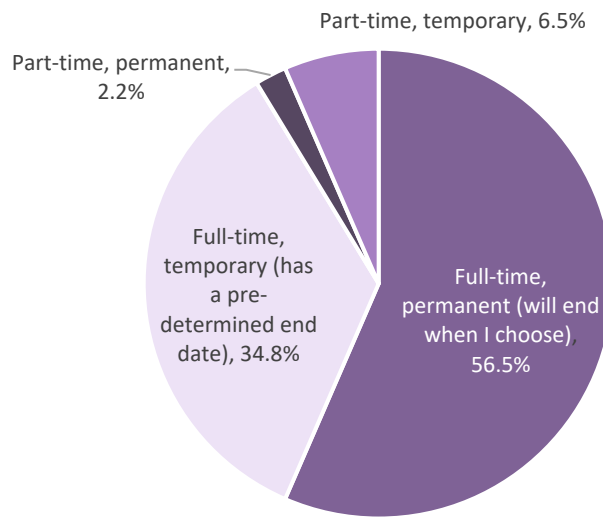
Data source: Senior Survey 2021. N=187

## Employment and Volunteer/Service

A little over a third of respondents (36.4%) reported they were undertaking full-time employment, part-time employment, or volunteer/service work positions. The survey gave these respondents the opportunity to provide information on the nature of their work.

29.4% of survey respondents (55 respondents) stated that they would be employed full- or part-time in the fall. Students who selected one of these employment categories had an option to give further information about the nature of their work. Of the employed respondents, 84% selected a description of their work. The majority of these respondents (91%) selected that their work is part of the private sector, while the remaining respondents (8.7%) indicated their work was in the public sector. In addition, 64% of employed respondents indicated that they would be working for a for-profit organization. From the open response question in which respondents could state their position or title, popular fields of work for these graduates include finance, education, and research.

## Nature of Employment



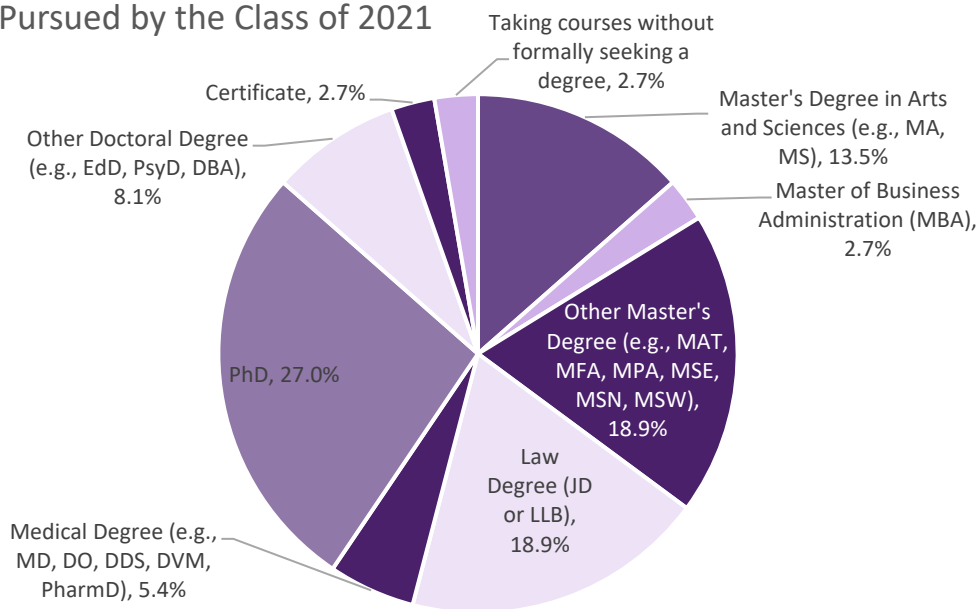
Data source: Senior Survey 2021. N=46

In addition, 7% of the survey respondents (13 respondents) stated that they would work volunteer or service positions in the fall. In the open response job title and job organization sections, 58% of students who reported that they would conduct volunteer or service work stated that they had teaching positions. Respondents were also asked about which service organization they were involved with. Half of respondents to this question were employed with Teach for America and a third were employed by AmeriCorps.

## Graduate and Professional School

Of the Class of 2021, 21.4% indicated that their post-graduation plans included graduate or professional school. Students who stated they had been accepted at or had enrolled in a graduate/professional program for the fall were asked to provide details on the type of degree they were pursuing. Of these students, 35% (13 respondents) will be pursuing a doctoral degree such as a PhD and 35% (13 respondents) will be pursuing a Master's degree. A considerable percentage of these students will be pursuing a law degree (19%) and a small number of respondents plan to pursue a medical degree (5.4%).

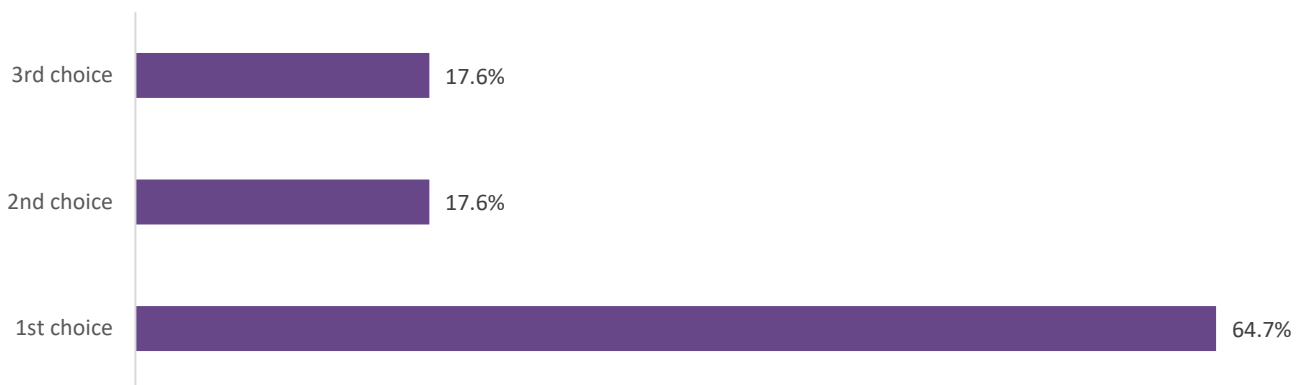
### Degrees Pursued by the Class of 2021



Data source: Senior Survey 2021. N=37

Students who planned to attend graduate or professional school were successful in getting admitted to their top choice programs. The majority (64.7%) were planning to attend their first choice of graduate or professional program, 17.6% were planning to attend their second choice of program, and a further 17.6% were attending their third choice. No students reported attending anything lower than their third choice.

### Ranking of Final Graduate/Professional Institutions of Class of 2021



Data source: Senior Survey 2021. N=34

## Students with Other Plans

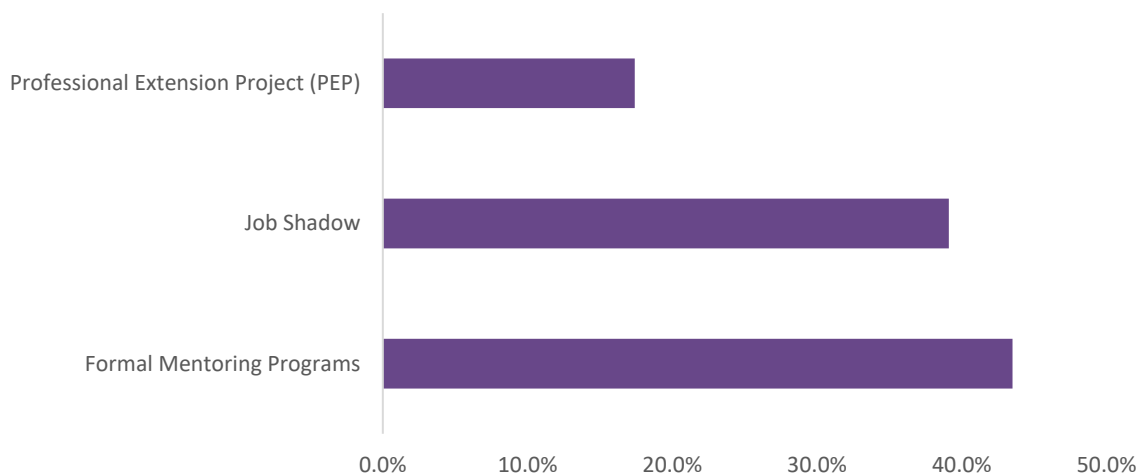
41% of respondents were not employed or furthering their education at the time of this survey. 84% of these respondents were actively seeking employment at the time of their response. The remainder were pursuing self-employment (5.2%), staying home to start or care for a family (1.3%), or something else not listed in the survey (9.1%). These respondents were asked to go into more detail about their plans, and some common responses included moving back home and taking temporary jobs or searching for permanent employment.

## Experiential Learning

This survey asked the Class of 2021 about their experiences with opportunities like internships, networking events, and co-curricular activities. For most questions, respondents were instructed to choose all options that applied to them, resulting in a wide range of activities.

Of the respondents who participated in mentorship activities over the course of their time at Kenyon, 43.5% engaged in formal mentoring programs like Kenyon Athletic Mentoring Program, the Alumni of Color Mentoring Initiative, the Summer Mentor Program, and the Kenyon Professional Women's Network. 39.1% completed a job shadow, and 17.4% completed a Professional Extension Project.

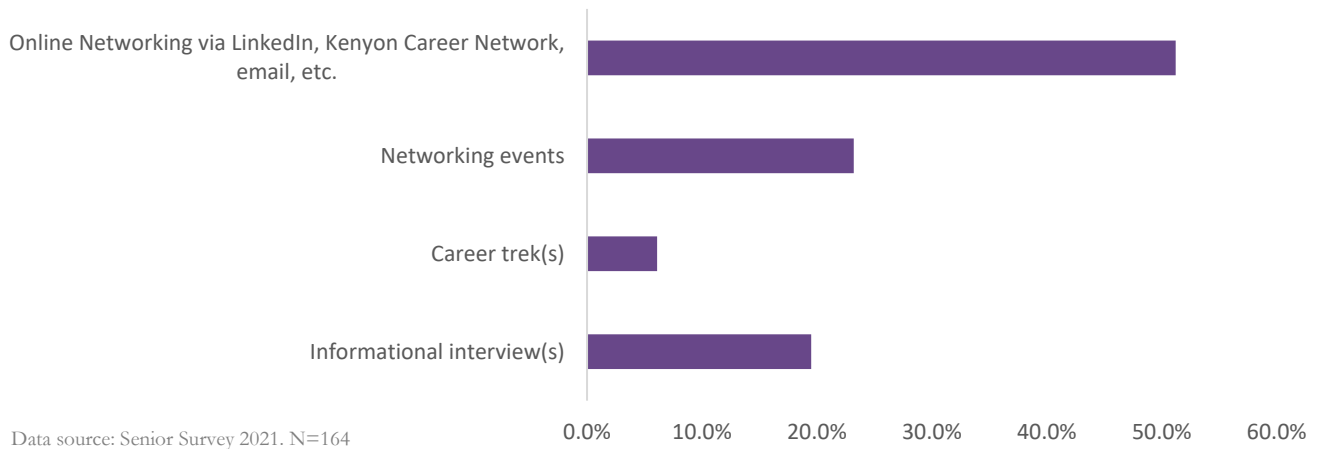
### Participation in Mentorship Activities



Data source: Senior Survey 2021. N=46

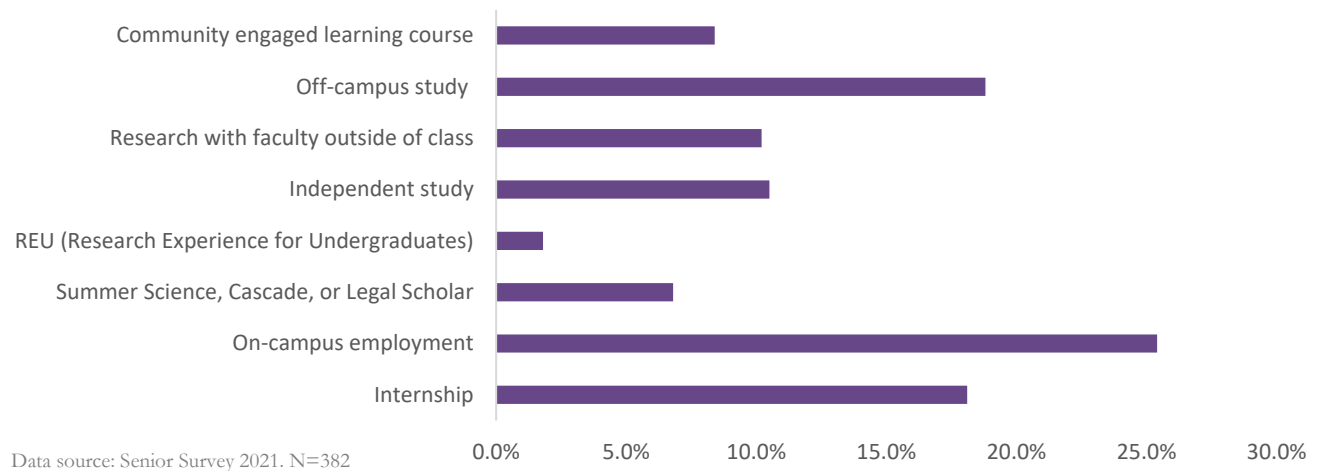
Respondents also had the opportunity to select the networking activities they took part in during their time as a Kenyon student. Over half (51.2%) of responses reported online networking through LinkedIn or other platforms. The next most-common form of networking (23.2%) was through formal networking events like Senior Premiere or regional alumni association events. Informational interviews were also relatively popular, comprising 19.5% of responses. The least common response was networking through career treks (6.1%)

## Participation in Networking Activities

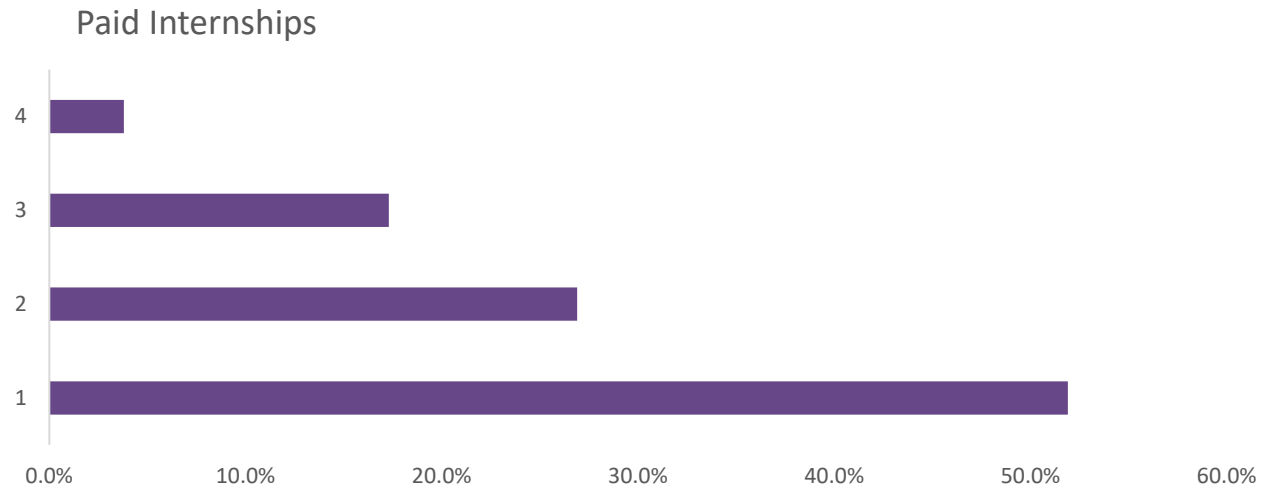


The Class of 2021 participated in a wide range of co-curricular activities. Respondents were able to select all options that applied to them. There were 382 responses and 146 respondents to this question, indicating that respondents were involved in multiple activities. The three most common activities were student employment (25.4%), off-campus study (18.8%), and internships (18.1%). 18.8% of respondents were involved in research through Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), summer research programs, or general research with faculty. Course-based activities like Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) classes and independent studies were also fairly common, with 8.4% of respondents enrolled in CEL courses and 10.5% conducting independent studies.

## Participation in Co-Curricular Activities

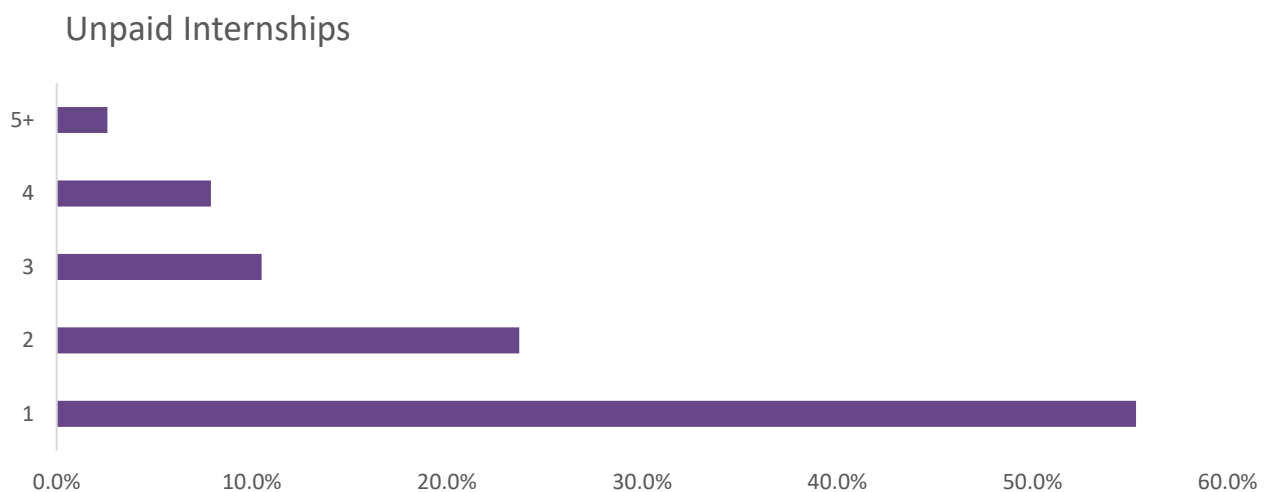


Of the 52 respondents who reported paid internships over the course of their time at Kenyon, 52% only participated in one paid internship, while 27% had two, 17.3% had three, and only 3.8% participated in four paid internships.



Data source: Senior Survey 2021. N=52

Unpaid internships followed a similar pattern. 55.3% of respondents to this question participated in one unpaid internship as an undergraduate. 23.7% participated in two, 10.5% participated in three, 7.9% participated in four, and just 2.6% of respondents held five or more unpaid internships over their time at Kenyon.



## Impact of COVID-19

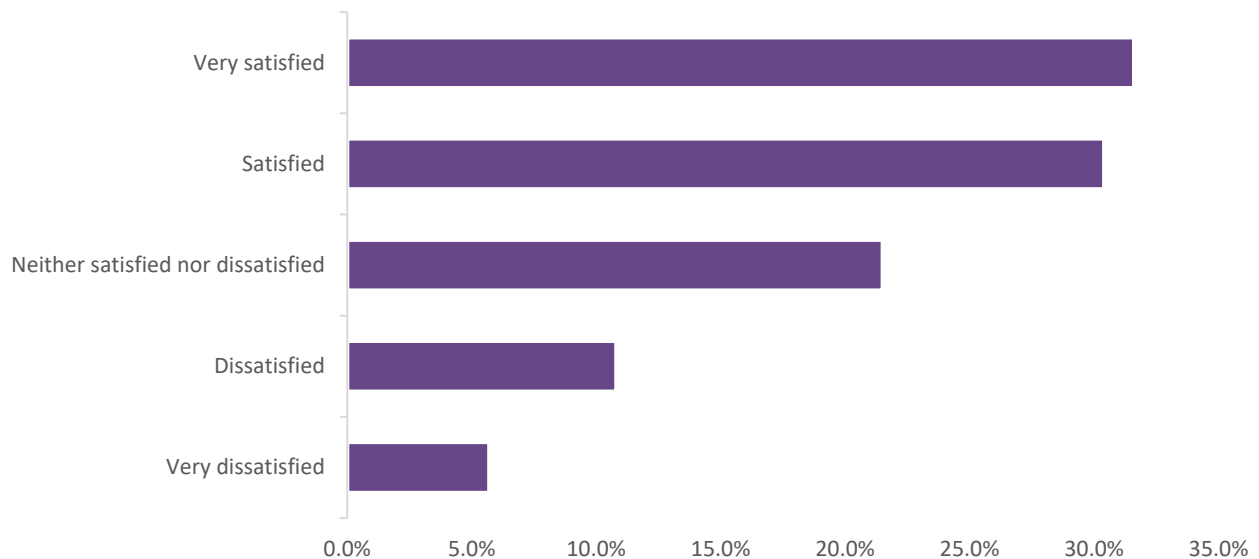
Like the class of 2020, the Class of 2021 had their college experience disrupted suddenly by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although they did not graduate into the same tumultuous post-graduate landscape as the Class of 2020, the pandemic continued to pose challenges for members of this class. 30% of respondents reported that their post-graduate plans had been impacted by COVID-19. When asked for more detail, respondents cited canceled internships and enrichment opportunities, a more competitive job market, and general burnout from the stress of going to school in a pandemic as factors that influenced their post-graduate plans.

## Satisfaction

The 2021 Senior Survey asked respondents about how satisfied they were with Kenyon overall, their plans for the fall, and their feelings of connection to the college.

Overall, the Class of 2021 was relatively happy with their post-graduate plans. The majority of respondents (62%) were satisfied or very satisfied with their plans for the fall, and only 16.5% of students reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their plans.

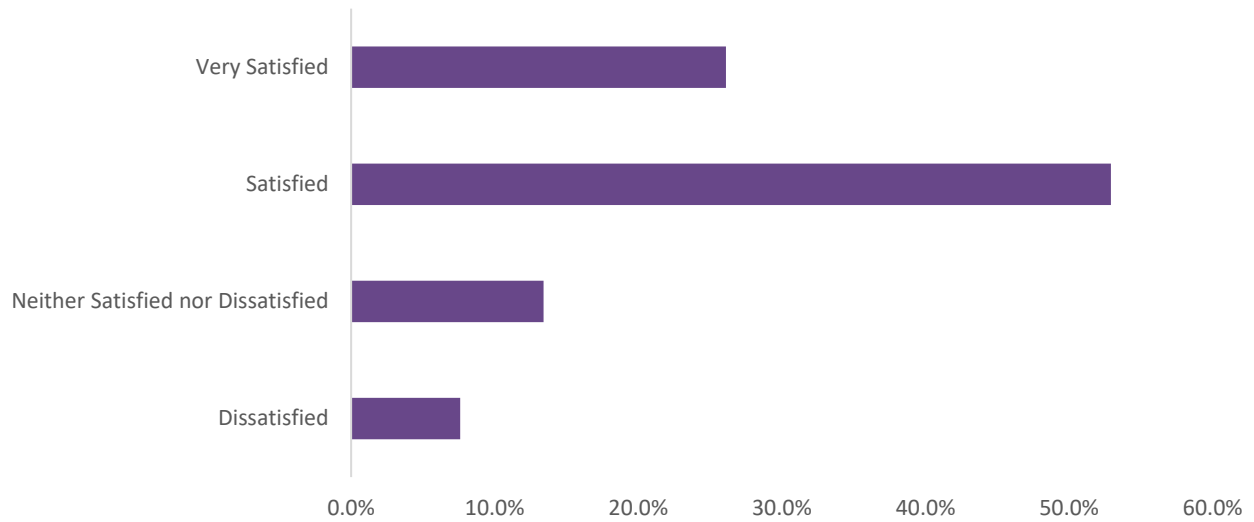
### Satisfaction with Post-Graduate Plans



The Class of 2021 was also extremely satisfied with their Kenyon education overall. 79% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their Kenyon experience. 13.4% of respondents were neither satisfied nor were dissatisfied, and only 7.6% of respondents dissatisfied with their Kenyon education.



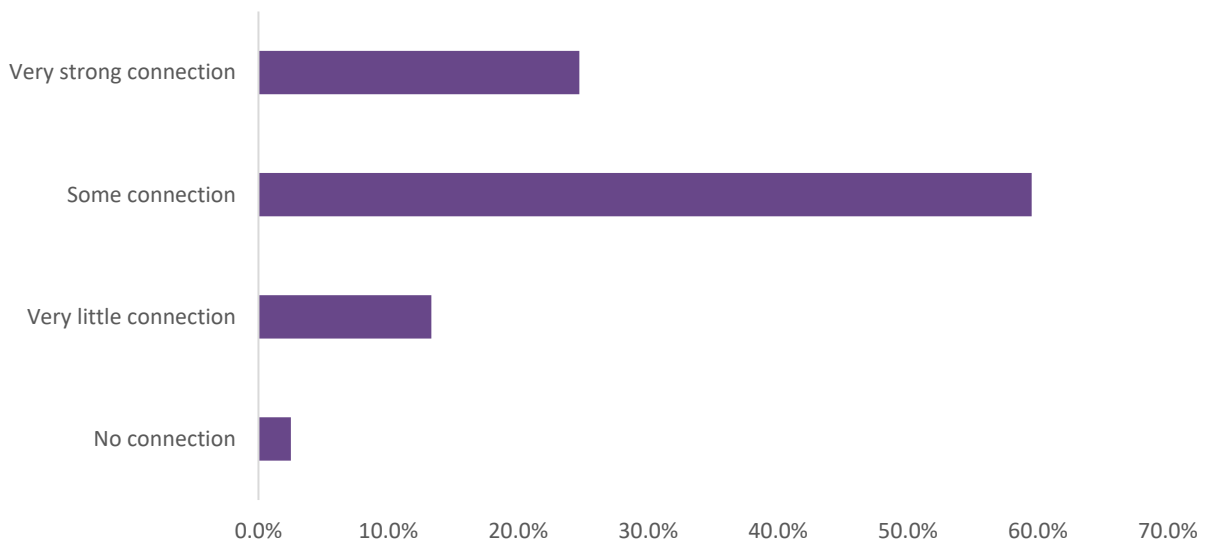
### Satisfaction with Undergraduate Education



Data source: Senior Survey 2021. N=157

Similarly, most respondents (59.5%) in the Class of 2021 felt some connection to Kenyon. 24.7% of respondents felt a very strong connection to Kenyon, while only 13.3% of respondents reported very little connection, and just 2.5% of respondents felt no connection to the College at all.

### Connection to Kenyon



## Conclusions

The Class of 2021 made good use of their time at Kenyon by engaging in a wide variety of co-curricular activities, mentoring opportunities, and internships as undergraduates. As a group, they were highly satisfied both with their undergraduate experience and their plans for the future and feel a connection to Kenyon. With just over half of respondents (59.8%) indicating that they have definite plans for the fall (in the form of full- or part-time employment, volunteer or service work, or graduate school) and several more respondents continuing to apply for opportunities, the Class of 2021 appears to be successfully transitioning into the next stage of their lives despite the significant disruption of COVID-19. For some respondents this transition will include traditional and formal opportunities such as long-term employment or attending graduate school, while other respondents have deliberately structured their next steps to allow for both rest and exploration after a particularly stressful year. Having overcome significant challenges, the Class of 2021 is poised for a successful transition into the next stage of their lives.