

AFTER BERKLEE

2016-17 Alumni Survey Report

Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment

After Berklee

A summary of the 2016-17 Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee alumni survey results.

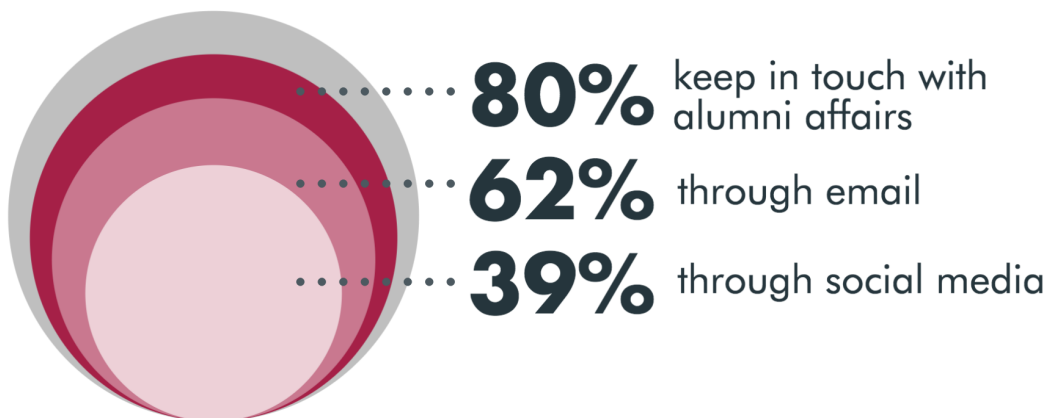
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Berklee College of Music

2016 Alumni Survey

Over 4,000 alumni responded, see what they are doing now...

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT



89%

aware of the merger with the Boston Conservatory

OUTCOMES



70%

primary occupation is music-related



55%

self-employed



70%

satisfied with career



24%

earned an additional degree after leaving Berklee



81%

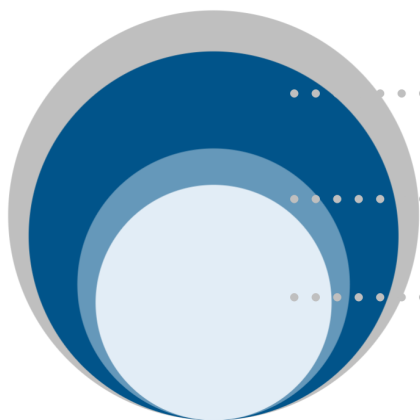
satisfied with overall experience as a student at Berklee

Boston Conservatory at Berklee

2016 Alumni Survey

Over 700 alumni responded, see what they are doing now...

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT



81% keep in touch with the Boston Conservatory

44% through monthly alumni newsletter

33% through social media



96%
aware of the merger with Berklee

OUTCOMES



69%
primary occupation is performing arts-related



42%
self-employed



74%
satisfied with career



33%
earned an additional college degree after leaving the Boston Conservatory



79% satisfied with overall experience as a student at the Boston Conservatory

Executive Summary

"Berklee prepared me to make a living with music, instead of just making music."

—Berklee College of Music alum, B.M. '89, music production and engineering

The results of "After Berklee," the bi-annual survey of Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee alumni, show that alumni¹ are heavily involved in music and the performing arts and enjoy the work they do. More than two-thirds report their primary occupation as music- or performing arts-related, primarily in performance and education. More than half of Berklee College of Music alumni and more than a third of Boston Conservatory at Berklee alumni are self-employed, 80 percent of whom have music- or performing arts-related occupations. The third of alumni with primary occupations that do not involve music or the performing arts work in various industries, including technology, hospitality, media or entertainment, healthcare, education, and others. Nearly three-fourths of alumni continue to participate in performing arts-related activities outside of paid work, such as gigging, participating in performance groups, or for personal leisure.

The majority of alumni indicated that 50 percent or more of their 2015 income came from music- or performing arts-related work. More than half of alumni reported their annual income as above \$40,000 and steadily growing for the first decade after starting at either institution. More than two-thirds of all alumni are generally satisfied with their careers.

One-third of alumni did not complete their degree at the college, citing financial reasons, followed by professional opportunity, as the most frequent cause. By contrast, only 10 percent of Conservatory alumni reported not completing their degree, with personal reasons cited most often. A quarter of college alumni and a third of Conservatory alumni earned an additional degree after leaving, and close to 700 college alumni who answered the survey responded that they would be interested in pursuing a master's degree at the combined institution. Alumni feel very positively about the institution and how it prepared them for their career, especially with regards to technical skills relevant to their field. They felt less prepared with entrepreneurial skills.

Although the majority of alumni report an interest in attending institution-based events, fewer than half from the college and fewer than a quarter from the Conservatory have done so. They are particularly interested in attending workshops and master classes, networking events, and clinics. Alumni keep in touch with alumni affairs primarily through email, e-news, and social media.

¹ Berklee defines an alumnus/alumna as a student who attended for a minimum of one semester. Note the use of the term alumni in this report refers to alumni who responded to the survey.

Introduction

Beginning in 2014, Berklee began administering a bi-annual alumni survey to all alumni from Berklee College of Music. In the summer of 2016, an additional comparable survey was developed for Boston Conservatory at Berklee alumni. These parallel surveys were administered online to all undergraduate and graduate alumni, with the first invitation going out in November 2016, and the survey closing during the first week of February 2017. The surveys collected information regarding alumni's current career, continued education, their experience at the college and the Conservatory, and their level of engagement as part of the alumni community.

In total, more than 5,000 responses were collected: 4,226 responses from college alumni and 784 responses from Conservatory alumni, representing approximately 15 percent of all undergraduate and graduate alumni for whom we have contact information. This response rate is a significant increase from the 2014 survey (1,820 responses).

2016 Alumni Survey Response Rates

Institution	Responses	Alumni Emailed	Rate
Berklee College of Music	4,226	30,257	14%
Boston Conservatory at Berklee	784	3,673	21%
Total	5,010	33,930	15%

Table 1. Response rate by institution

The report includes undergraduate and graduate students, occasionally slicing data by degree level.² Of the responses from the college, 96 percent came from undergraduate alumni and four percent from graduate alumni, representative of current enrollment. Sixty-five percent of respondents from the Conservatory are undergraduate alumni and 35 percent are graduate alumni, compared to the current 72 percent–undergraduate and 28 percent–graduate enrollment. (Find additional demographic data for the response sample in Appendix A.)

The report below is separated into two sections: the results of Berklee College of Music and the results of Boston Conservatory at Berklee (find a table of data comparing the college and the Conservatory in Appendix B.). When possible, comparative data from the Fall 2014 Alumni Survey Report is provided for the college (and a full table of comparable data is available in Appendix C).

² If a student was both an undergraduate and graduate student, he or she is counted once in the combined analysis, and once in each of the undergraduate and graduate subcategories.

Berklee College of Music

Further Education, Careers, and Activities

Post-Secondary Degrees

"I have observed, after recently beginning graduate school for the second time, that Berklee's training extends well beyond music."

—Berklee College of Music alum, B.M. '12, performance

Twenty-four percent of respondents (n=984) indicated that they earned an additional degree after leaving the college, compared to 28 percent in 2014. Most of these alumni earned an advanced degree, with 65 percent earning a master's degree and 14 percent earning a doctoral degree³. Additionally, 40 percent earned an associate's or bachelor's degree after leaving the college. Seventy-two percent of those who completed an undergraduate degree elsewhere did not finish their degree at the college. (Find a full list of schools from which alumni obtained degrees after attending Berklee College of Music in Appendix D.)

A quarter of alumni earned degrees after leaving Berklee College of Music.

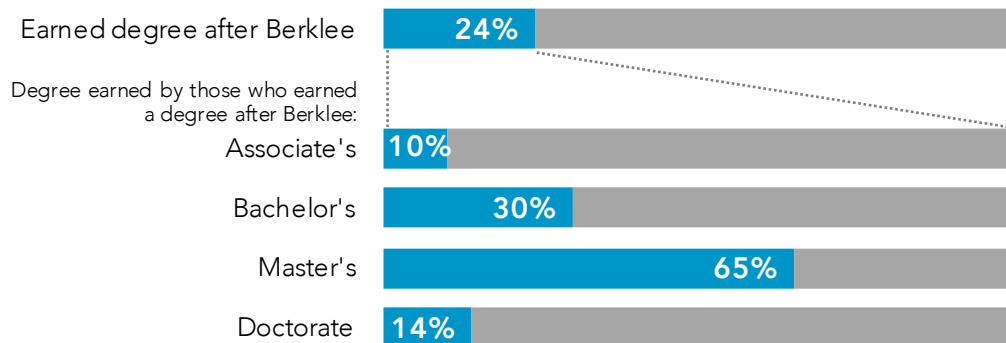


Figure 1. "Select the college degree(s) you earned after leaving Berklee." Respondents selected all that apply.

Most Common Institutions After Leaving Berklee College of Music

Master's	#	Doctorate	#
New York University	27	Boston University	6
New England Conservatory	23	University of Southern California	4
Boston University	22	University of Texas	3
University of Southern California	17		
Boston Conservatory	10		

Table 2. Top schools where alumni earned a degree after leaving Berklee College of Music.

³ Doctorate includes an M.D., J.D., Ed.D., D.M., or Ph.D.

Interest in Pursuing a Master's Degree at Berklee College of Music

"I would be completely thrilled with the opportunity of pursuing a Berklee master's degree in film scoring under any kind of scholarship. What can I do to make this goal/dream of mine a reality?"

—Berklee College of Music alum, B.M. '10, professional music

Alumni were asked if they were interested in pursuing a master's degree at Berklee. Of the 4,107 responses to this question, 693 responded "yes" (17 percent), 1,432 responded "not sure" (36 percent), and 1,892 responded "no" (47 percent). Those who responded "yes" or "not sure" were asked to select the one program in which they would be interested. Twenty-two percent chose Film Scoring/Composition, with Music Production following at 19 percent.

600-plus alumni are interested in a master's degree at Berklee.

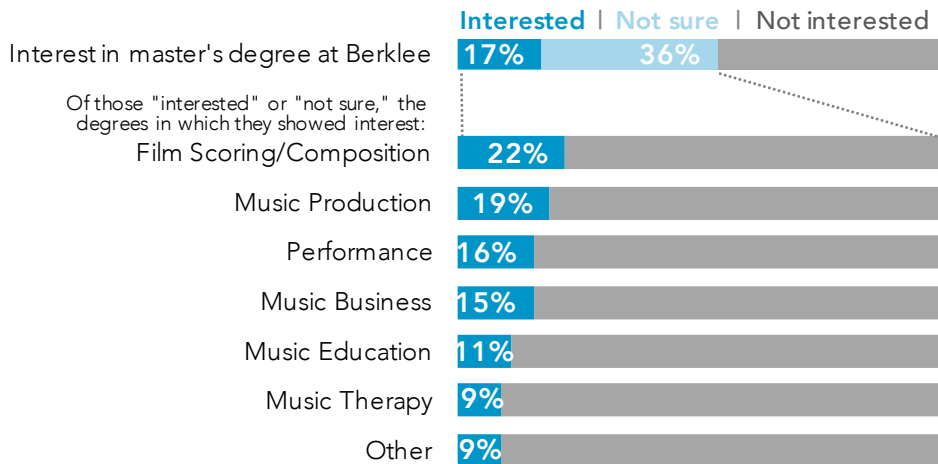


Figure 2. "Are you interested in earning a master's degree at Berklee? If so, which of the following master's programs would you be interested in?" Respondents selected one program.

Primary Occupation

"In just three years, Berklee prepared me to be a 100-percent self-sufficient music entity, allowing me to compose, multi-perform, produce, and market my music online."

—Berklee College of Music alum, P.D. '96, music production and engineering

The majority of alumni reported that their current primary occupation is music-related (70 percent), and just over half reported that they are self-employed (55 percent). This represents a four-percent increase from the 51 percent of alumni who reported that they were self-employed in 2014, and a three-percent increase in the number of alumni who indicated that their primary occupation was music-related. A slightly lower percentage of graduate alumni are self-employed (53 percent), and a higher percentage indicate their current primary occupation as music-related (90 percent).

More than half of alumni are self-employed.

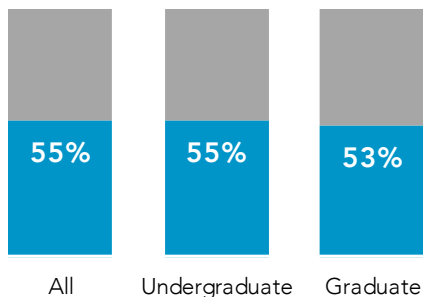


Figure 3. "Are you self-employed?"

Most alumni work in music.

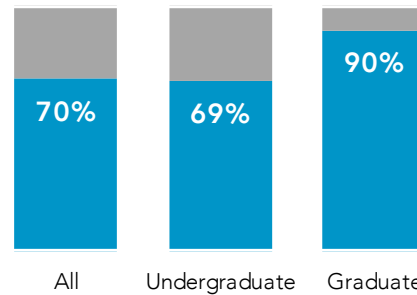


Figure 4. "Is your current primary occupation music-related?"

Self-employed alumni are more likely to be employed in a music-related occupation than those who are not self-employed. Of alumni who are self-employed, 85 percent are employed in a music-related occupation. By contrast, of those who are not self-employed, only 51 percent report being employed in a music-related occupation. These rates are similar to those reported in the 2014 survey, in which more than 80 percent of self-employed individuals were in a music-related occupation, while only half of those not self-employed identified as being in a music-related occupation.

Self-employed alumni are more likely to work in music.

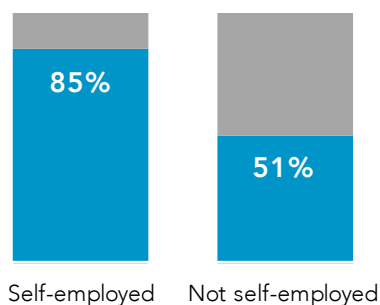


Figure 5. Percent of alumni working in music.

Music-Related Nature of Primary Occupation

"Berklee was an amazing experience for me as a professional musician. Ninety-nine percent of the people I work with today in New York are connections from Berklee."

—Berklee College of Music alum, B.M. '13, performance

Of the 2,776 alumni who indicated their primary occupation as music-related, 29 percent selected performing arts and 25 percent selected education (including teaching and education administration) to describe the nature of their primary occupation. Graduate alumni who indicated their primary occupation as music-related are largely employed in education (27 percent) and business (22 percent).

Most alumni in music-related jobs are in performing arts or education.

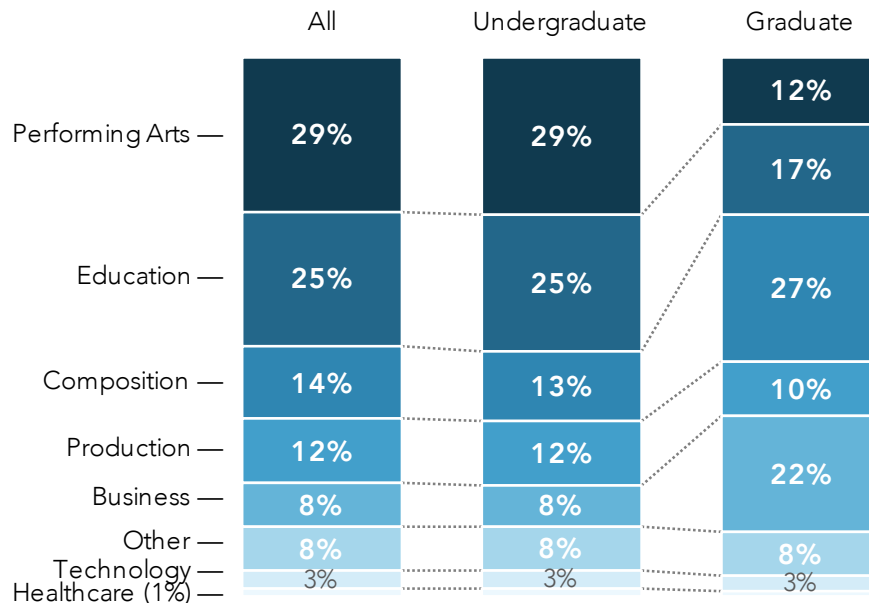


Figure 6. "Which category best describes the music-related nature of your current primary occupation?"

While the 2016 survey provided categories of music-related occupations that differed slightly from those offered in 2014⁴, performance and education still had the highest percentages.

⁴ The current categories have been revised to correspond to the career communities recently established by the Berklee Career Center.

Non Music-Related Nature of Primary Occupation

"While I value my Berklee experience, I am no longer pursuing musical endeavors other than for my own personal enjoyment. I'm now pursuing a STEM master's degree, with hopes of earning a Ph.D. in the near future and eventually obtaining a position as a scientist."

—Berklee College of Music alum, B.M. '02, songwriting

Thirty percent of alumni reported a non music-related primary occupation. Of this 30 percent, the most common industries selected included technology/software (16 percent), hospitality/service Industry (12 percent), and media/entertainment and education (10 percent). In 2014, technology/software also topped the list, with 18 percent of alumni selecting this option.

Occupations within the technology/software industry are the most common outside of music.

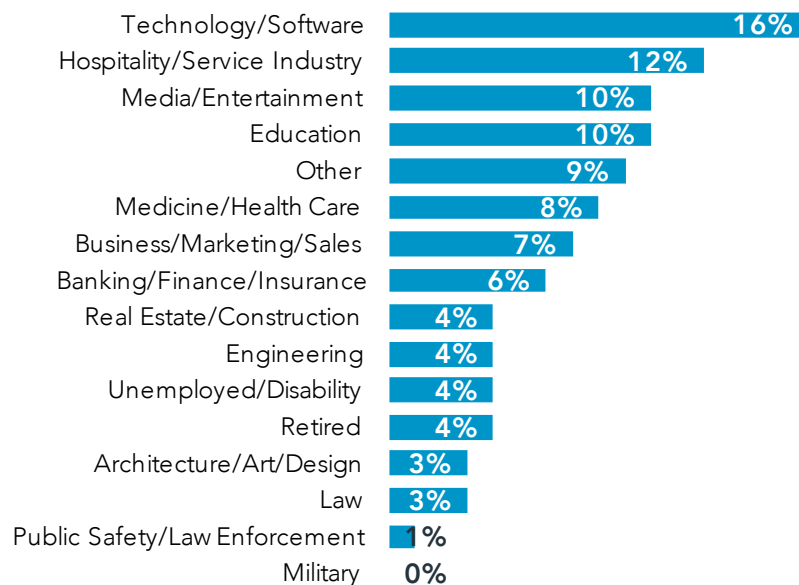


Figure 7. "Which category best describes the industry of your primary occupation?" Question asked to those with primary occupations that are not music-related.

Common Employers

Alumni listed more than 1,000 different employers. Of the employers that have hired more than one alumnus/alumna, Berklee employs the most with 72 alumni employees, followed by Sony Corporation (14 alumni) and Warner Music Group (10 alumni). Find a table of most common employers and a complete list of employers and job titles in Appendix E.

Secondary Occupation

"I play one or two gigs a week in the evening and do small recording projects to supplement my income."

—Berklee College of Music alum, B.M. '06, contemporary writing and production

Forty-six percent of alumni reported having an additional, non-primary job that is music-related. The majority (61 percent) of these music-related secondary jobs are in performing arts and education (including teaching and education administration). Alumni with a music-related primary occupation are more likely to have an additional music-related job (50 percent) than those with a non music-related primary occupation (36 percent).

Other Music-Related Activities

"I am now retired but still compose, arrange, and produce music for my pleasure."

—Berklee College of Music alum, P.D. '75, composition

Nearly 75 percent of alumni participate in music-related activities outside of paid work. This percentage decreased from the 83 percent reported in the 2014 alumni survey. The most common activities include gigging (57 percent), music for personal leisure or family entertainment (40 percent), and teaching (28 percent), similar to 2014. Alumni who are employed in a music-related occupation are more likely to engage in other music-related activities (80 percent) than those who are not (77 percent).

Alumni find additional ways to participate in music.

Through secondary jobs:

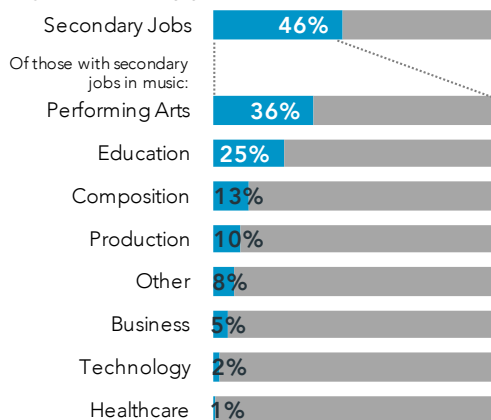


Figure 8. "Do you have an additional job that is music-related? If so, which category best describes the nature of your job?"

Through other music-related activities:

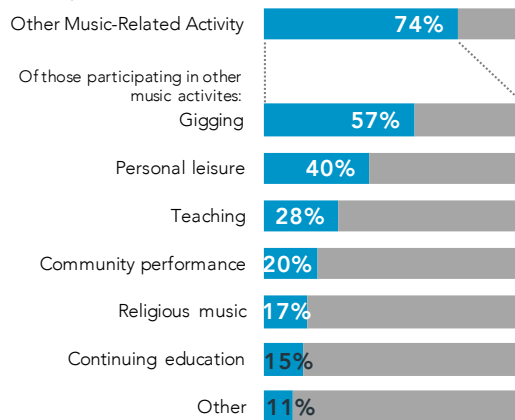


Figure 9. "Do you participate in any music-related activities outside of paid work? If so, what activities?"

Income

Percentage of Income from Music-Related Work

"Berklee was the best choice for me. I was exposed to a whole new world of music which definitely enhanced my own musical abilities. I have been lucky enough to earn a living in New York City since 1978 performing, writing, and using my musical skills."

—Berklee College of Music alum, M.M. '78, composition

The majority of alumni (58 percent) indicated that 50 percent or more of their 2015 income came from music-related work. For graduate alumni, this percentage is higher (65 percent), likely due to the fact that a larger percentage of graduate alumni are employed in a music-related primary occupation.⁵

Alumni earn most of their income from music.

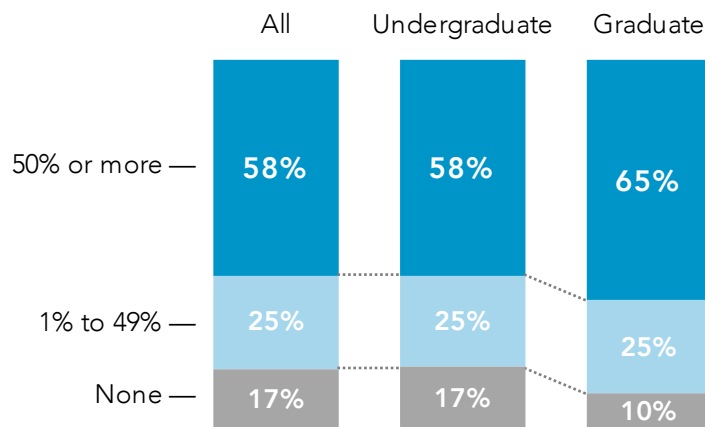


Figure 10. "Approximately what percentage of your personal income in 2015 came from music-related work?"

⁵ 90 percent of graduate alumni are employed in a music-related primary occupation, compared to 69 percent of undergraduate alumni.

Income Range

"One thing Berklee failed in doing is preparing me for how long it can sometimes take to get your career up and rolling post-graduation. Music is a lifetime long endeavor... it takes years, sometimes, to start seeing the fruits of your labors."

—Berklee College of Music alum, B.M. '11, professional music

Respondents were asked to select a range that best described their total personal income for all of 2015.⁶ Eighty percent of qualified respondents (n=2640) chose to answer this question. The highest concentration of these alumni, 24 percent, were in the \$20,000 to \$40,000 range, similar to 2014. Fifty-nine percent of alumni reported an income above \$40,000, with 17 percent earning more than \$100,000.

Fifty-nine percent of alumni earned over \$40,000 in 2015.

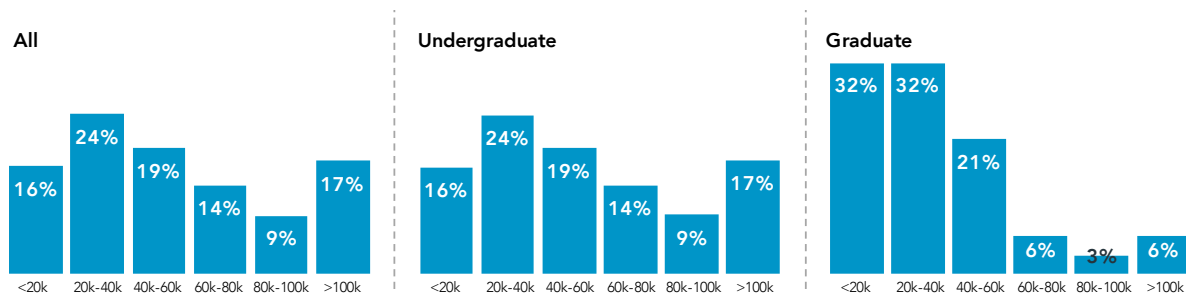


Figure 11. "Please select the range that best describes your total personal (not household) income for all of 2015."

Graduate alumni reported slightly lower incomes than undergraduates, likely due to the newness of the master's degree programs and less time available to build their careers after leaving the college.⁷ However a comparison of graduate and undergraduate alumni who left the college in 2013 or 2014 shows a higher percentage of graduate students reporting an income above \$40,000 (31 percent) compared to undergraduate students (25 percent).

Looking at income ranges in five-year increments from when a student begins at the college, we see a steady increase in income as an alumnus/alumna progresses in his/her career. This increase is followed by a leveling off mid-career and a slight decline as alumni enter retirement. We also observed this pattern in the 2014 survey.

⁶ Alumni who reported ending their Berklee education in 2015 and 2016 were excluded from this analysis, as they did not have a full-year to earn income.

⁷ Median year ending Berklee College of Music education for undergraduate respondents is 2002, and for graduate respondents is 2014.

Alumni income increases steadily since attending the college.

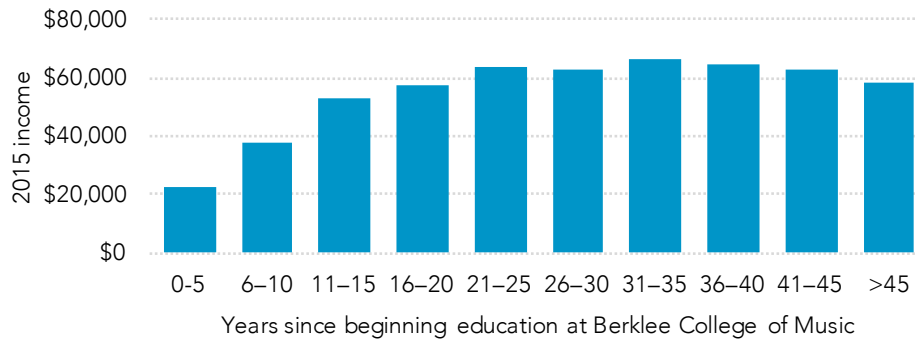


Figure 12. Alumni 2015 income by years since beginning at the college.

Career Satisfaction

More than two-thirds of alumni are satisfied with their careers—an increase from a similar satisfaction rate of 58 percent in the 2014 survey⁸. Graduate alumni express slightly lower satisfaction (63 percent) with their career than undergraduate alumni (70 percent).

More than two-thirds of alumni are satisfied with their career.

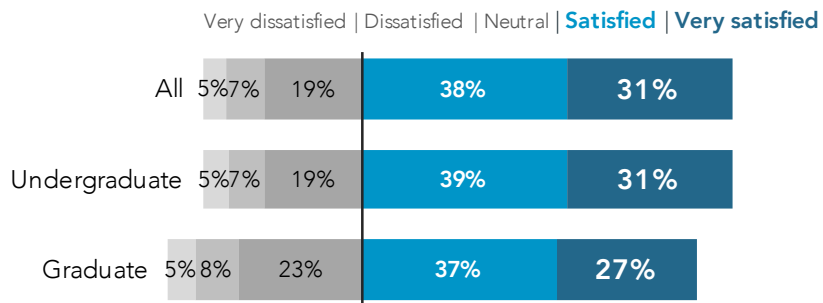


Figure 13. "Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career."

⁸ In the 2014 survey, satisfaction was a four-part question with alumni ranking their satisfaction in each of four aspects of their current careers: feeling of contribution or achievement, work-life balance, professional recognition, and income. The composite rating is the average satisfied and very satisfied responses for all responses combined.

Experience at Berklee College of Music

Degree Completion

"I had a tough time when attending Berklee as a guitarist. My financial situation required me to work full time and support myself, leaving me with minimal time to focus on my academic life. I left after six semesters."

—Berklee College of Music alum, '05, film scoring

Seventy-two percent of alumni reported that they completed their degree program while at the college, similar to 70 percent reported in the 2014 survey. Ninety-seven percent of graduate alumni completed their degree program. Of those who completed their degrees at the college, 82 percent received a bachelor's degree, 14 percent received a diploma, six percent received a master's degree, and one percent a certificate.

Those who did not complete their degree were asked to indicate the main reason why they left. Forty percent of this group point to financial reasons, followed by 28 percent who said that professional opportunities interrupted their plans to complete their degrees. This pattern of responses is similar to the 2014 survey.

Finances are the top reason why students do not complete their programs.

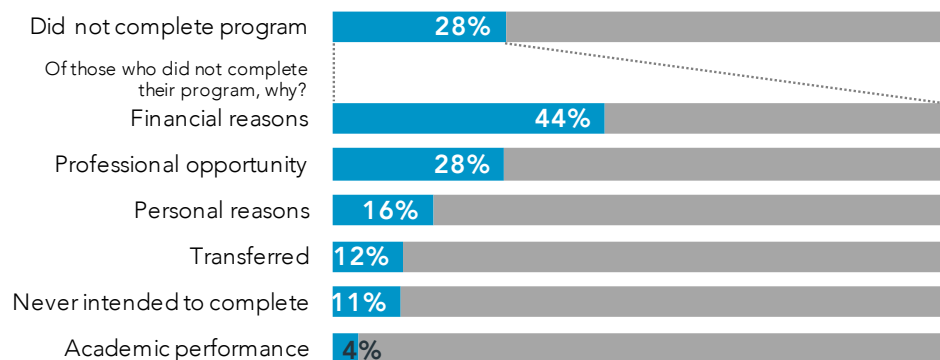


Figure 14. "What reason best describes why you left Berklee without completing a degree?" Respondents selected all that apply.

Career Preparation

"I am very satisfied with my education at Berklee. I learned everything I really needed to and it prepared me in a 360-degree way for a career in music."

—Berklee College of Music alum, P.D. '15, professional music

Alumni were asked how well the college prepared them in certain ways for their career on a scale ranging from very poorly to very well. More than half (58 percent) felt that, in general, the college

prepared them "well" or "very well" for their career. In particular, alumni felt that the college prepared them with the ability to connect with people from varying backgrounds/cultures (73 percent), and provided them with technical skills relevant to their field (72 percent). Fewer alumni felt that the college gave them the ability to take an entrepreneurial approach (44 percent). The same pattern of responses was observed in the 2014 survey.

Berklee prepares students for their careers in many ways.

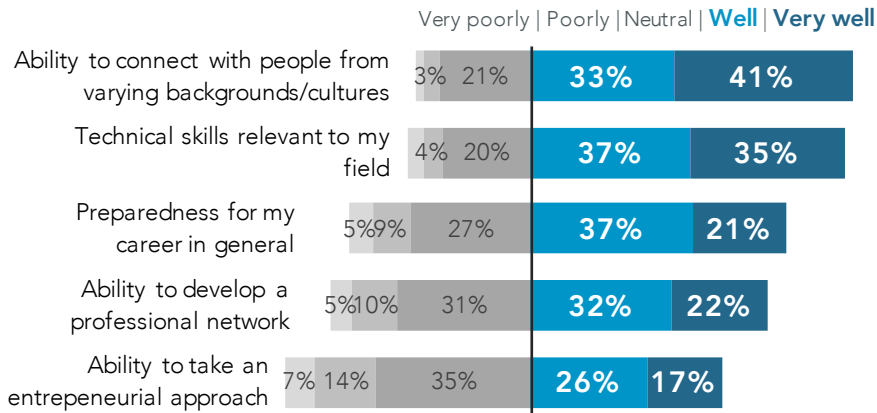


Figure 15. "How well did Berklee prepare you in the following ways for your career?"

Overall Experience

"I enjoyed studying at Berklee very much, and the experience has helped me every day of my career. "

—Berklee College of Music alum, P.D. '86, commercial arranging

Alumni were also asked to rank their satisfaction with their overall experience as a student at the college. Most alumni are satisfied with their experience (81 percent satisfied or very satisfied).

Alumni are satisfied with their overall experience at Berklee.

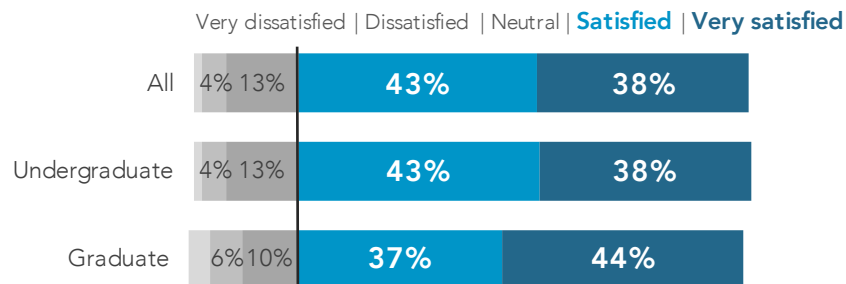


Figure 16. "How satisfied are you with your overall experience as a student at Berklee?"

Alumni Engagement

Staying Connected

"Thank you very much for keeping in touch with me! I had a great time when I was attending and still have a great life as a musician and a part of the Berklee society. I get in touch on Facebook, while watching how Berklee is doing."

—Berklee College of Music alum '02

Several questions were added to the 2016 survey identifying how often and through what avenues alumni stay in touch with the college and/or with fellow alumni. Forty-one percent of alumni have attended alumni events in the past. This percentage is slightly lower for graduate program alumni (35 percent).⁹ Most alumni who have attended events in the past are likely to recommend these events to other alumni (68 percent replied "somewhat likely" or "extremely likely").

Alumni who attend events recommend them to others.

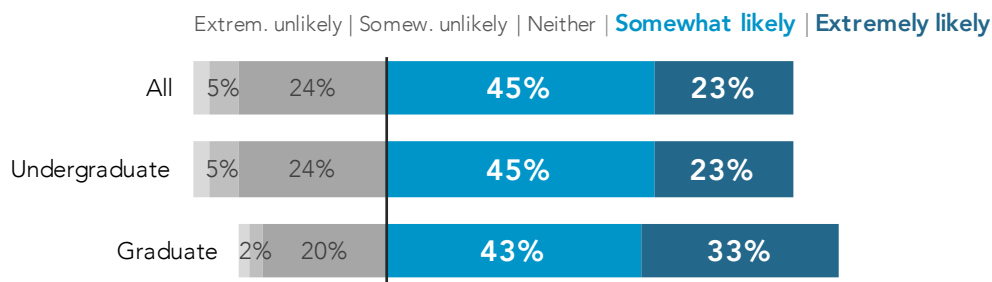


Figure 17. "How likely are you to recommend these events to other alumni?" Responses from the 41% of alumni who attended an alumni event.

The results also show that many alumni keep in touch with Alumni Affairs through email (62 percent), and through social media and/or Berklee's website (39 percent). A smaller percentage stay in touch with Alumni Affairs through alumni events (16 percent) and through other means (five percent), such as the alumni magazine, *Berklee Today*. Only 20 percent of alumni report not being in touch at all with Alumni Affairs.

Most alumni stay connected to Berklee through email.

Select all that apply	Rate
Email	62%
Social media/website	39%
N/A – not in touch	20%
Alumni events	16%
Other	5%

Table 3. How do you keep in touch with Alumni Affairs?" Respondents select all that apply.

⁹ Alumni events targeted at graduate-student alumni have only recently been offered.

Interest in Alumni Activities

"Most of the events are in the U.S., while a lot of international alumni went back home [after attending Berklee]. It would be very helpful for fresh alumni to have some events in their country to start building a network."

—Berklee College of Music alum, P.D. '10, professional music

This survey also provided an opportunity to gauge alumni interest in alumni activities. Seventy-five percent indicated that they were interested in at least one alumni activity. Alumni expressed the most interest in attending workshops and master classes (47 percent), networking events (47 percent), and panels and clinics (39 percent), similar to the results from the 2014 survey.

75% of alumni are interested in alumni activities.

Select all that apply	Rate
Workshops and master classes	47%
Networking events	47%
Panels and clinics	39%
Online events	33%
Career programs	33%
On-campus reunion (2-3 days)	19%
Joint events with the Boston Conservatory at Berklee	18%
Volunteering	18%
On-campus summit (1 day)	16%
Other	14%

Table 4. "Which of the following possible alumni activities would you be interested in attending?"

Half of the alumni showed interest in volunteering their time or talents for students or alumni. Alumni were most interested in opportunities to speak to and mentor students.

Alumni are interested in volunteering in many ways.

Select all that apply	Rate
Speaking to students/alumni in a panel, clinic, and/or workshop	37%
Mentoring current Berklee students	27%
Participating in Berklee admissions events (auditions/interviews)	21%
Participating/organizing Berklee alumni regional events	18%
Hosting an internship opportunity for current students	13%
Organizing an online webinar on a specific topic/subject	12%
Hosting a regional alumni event at your home/business	11%

Table 5. "Are you interested in volunteering your time or talents for Berklee students or alumni?"

Awareness of the Merger

"I'm in complete favor of the merger and expect great things will come out of it once everything gets completely sorted out over the next few years."

—Berklee College of Music alum, B.M. '83, composition

Almost all alumni (89 percent) indicated they were aware of the recent merger of Berklee College of Music and the Boston Conservatory. Graduate alumni were less aware (82 percent) than undergraduate alumni (89 percent).

Comments

Alumni were offered the opportunity to write comments and give additional feedback at the end of the survey. There were more than 1,700 comments, which were reviewed and coded for primary themes. Samples of these comments appear throughout this report.

More than a third of the comments expressed general satisfaction with the college and the alumnus/alumna's experience as a student, as well as praise for Berklee's accomplishments. Many comments focused on career, with alumni elaborating and providing details on their own careers—and expressing the desire for Berklee to provide more professional development opportunities. Slightly more than 10 percent of the comments suggested providing more events, or events in other areas of the U.S. and the world, and some alumni stated an interest in becoming more involved. Alumni also had suggestions for ways to improve their academic experience and the curriculum. Just under 10 percent of comments mentioned financial concerns, both personal (student loan debt) and institutional (the cost of tuition and amount of scholarship support).

Respondent comments were generally positive.

Category	Rate
General Satisfaction	35%
Career-Related	15%
Alumni-Related	13%
Academic/Curriculum	12%
Financial	9%
Other	6%
General Dissatisfaction	4%
Academic Support	3%
Degree Completion	3%
Music Industry	1%
Merger	<1%

Table 6. "Please feel free to expand on any question or address any issue you felt was not covered in this survey."

Boston Conservatory at Berklee

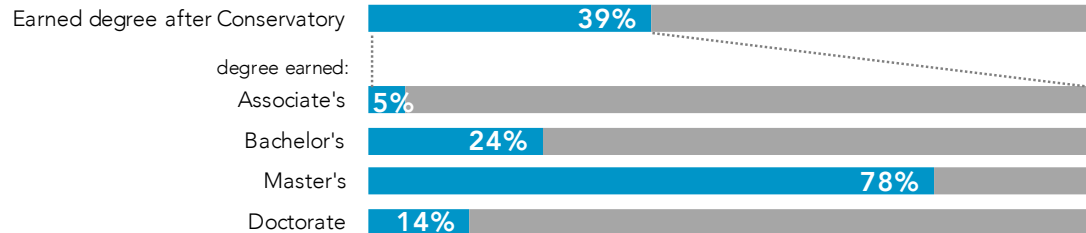
Further Education, Careers, and Activities

Post-Secondary Degrees After the Boston Conservatory

Over a third of alumni respondents earned an additional degree after leaving the Boston Conservatory; most of these degrees are master's or doctoral degrees (91 percent). (Find a list of schools in Appendix F.)

Almost 40 percent of Conservatory undergraduates seek additional degrees.

Undergraduate



Graduate

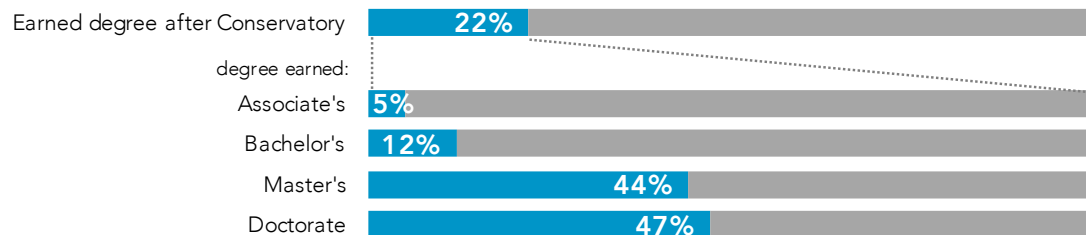


Figure 18. "Select the college degree(s) you earned after leaving the Conservatory." Respondents select all that apply.

Most Common Institutions After Leaving Boston Conservatory

Master's	#	Doctorate	#
Boston University	10	Rutgers University	3
New England Conservatory	9	Indiana University	3
Boston College	4	Arizona State	2
		Boston University	2
		Northeastern University	2

Table 7. Top schools where alumni earned a degree after leaving Boston Conservatory. "N" includes only those who listed a school.

Primary Occupation

"My experience at [the Conservatory] was exceptional in terms of training and faculty. I feel so very prepared for my current and future career in the arts."

—Boston Conservatory at Berklee alum, B.F.A. '16, musical theater

Forty-two percent of alumni indicated that they are self-employed. This figure is slightly higher for undergraduate alumni (43 percent) than graduate alumni (39 percent), and considerably lower than for legacy Berklee College of Music alumni (55 percent).

42 percent of alumni are self-employed.

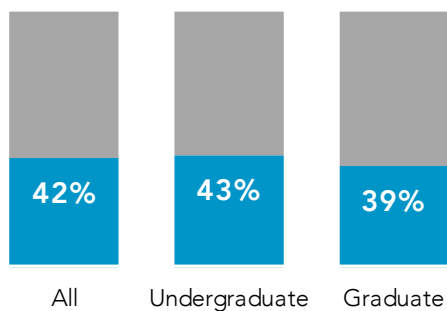


Figure 19. "Are you self-employed?"

Most alumni work in performing arts.

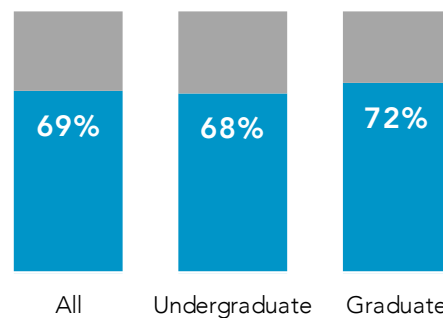


Figure 20. "Is your current primary occupation performing arts-related?"

The majority of alumni reported that their primary occupation is performing arts-related (69 percent, similar to 70 percent for the college). Of those alumni who reported that they are self-employed, 83 percent are employed in a performing arts-related occupation. Of those not self-employed, only 59 percent are employed in a performing arts-related occupation.

Performing Arts-related Nature of Primary Occupation

Of the alumni who indicated a primary occupation in the performing arts, 39 percent indicated employment in education (including teaching and education administration), closely followed by another 38 percent that selected performance. Comparing undergraduate and graduate responses, a higher percentage of undergraduate alumni are employed in performance, and a higher percentage of graduate alumni are employed in education.

Most alumni in performing arts-related jobs are in education or performance.

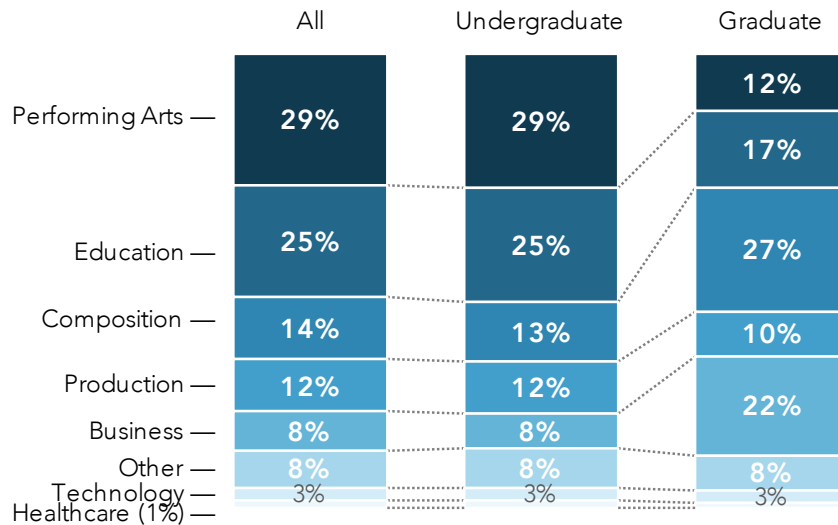


Figure 21. "Which category best describes the performing arts-related nature of your current primary occupation?"

Non Performing Arts-Related Nature of Primary Occupation

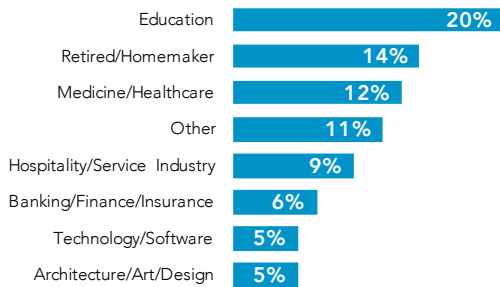
"There are many paths to success and [the Conservatory] provided me with many of the skills; I just needed to put them together."

—Boston Conservatory alum (B.F.A. '11, musical theater)

Alumni not in a performing arts-related primary occupation were asked to select the category that best describes the industry in which they work. Of this group, the most common industry reported was education, followed by healthcare-related occupations.

Many alumni work in education.

Undergraduate



Graduate

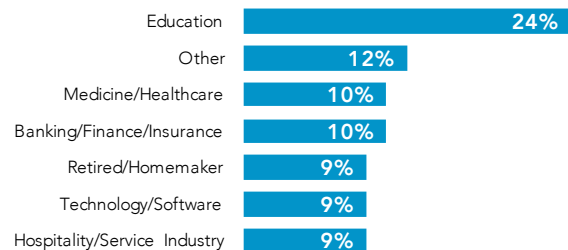


Figure 22. "Which category best describes the industry of your primary occupation?" Question asked to those with primary occupations that are not performing arts-related. Responses with 5% or less were excluded from chart.

Common Employers

Of the 325 employers listed, 24 employed more than one respondent. The most common employers include Berklee (six alumni), followed by Equinox (four alumni). Find a table of most common employers and a complete list of employers and job titles in Appendix G.

Secondary Occupation

Fifty-three percent of alumni (n=389) reported having an additional job that is performing arts-related. Of these alumni, half indicated their additional jobs are primarily in performance, and a quarter indicated education. Of those alumni with primary occupations not performing arts-related, 40 percent reported having an additional job that is in the performing arts.

Other Performing Arts-Related Activities

Conservatory alumni were similar to college alumni with nearly three-fourths continuing to participate in performing arts-related activities outside of paid work. The most common activities include gigging, performing in community groups, and teaching. Alumni employed in a performing arts-related occupation are more likely to engage in other performing arts-related activities (79 percent) than those who are not (70 percent).

Alumni find additional ways to participate in the arts.

Through secondary jobs

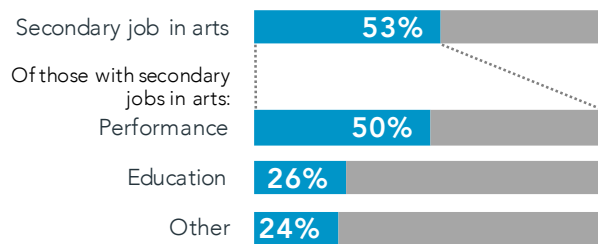


Figure 23. "Do you have an additional job that is performing arts-related? If so, which category best describes the nature of your job?"

Through other arts-related activities

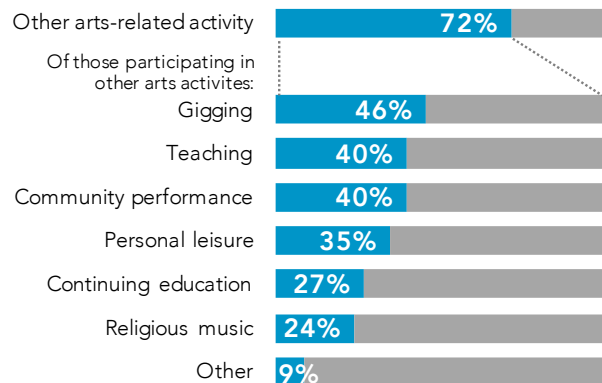


Figure 24. "Do you participate in any performing arts-related activities outside of paid work? If so, what activities?"

Income

Percentage of Income from Performing Arts-related Work

Almost half of alumni respondents indicated that 50 percent or more of their 2015 income came from performing arts-related work. For graduate alumni, this percentage is slightly higher (54 percent), likely due to the fact that a larger percentage of graduate alumni are employed in a performing arts-related primary occupation.

Alumni earn most of their income from the performing arts.

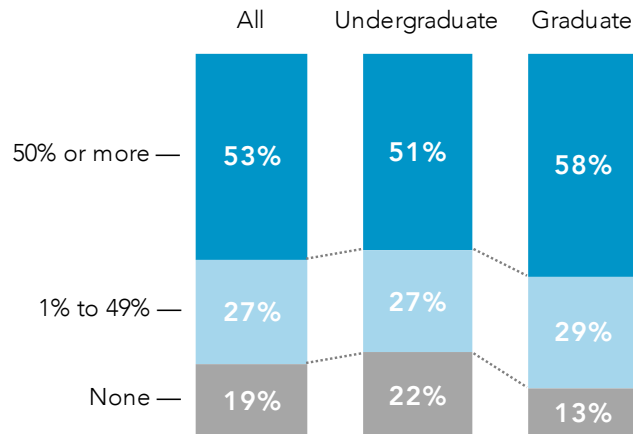


Figure 25. "Approximately what percentage of your personal income in 2015 came from performing arts-related work?"

Income Range

Respondents were asked to select a range that best describes their total personal income for all of 2015.¹⁰ Seventy-five percent of qualified respondents (n=477) chose to answer this question. The highest concentration of these alumni (25 percent) were in the \$20,000 to \$40,000 range. Sixty-two percent of alumni reported their income as above \$40,000, with 14 percent reporting an income over \$100,000. As with college alumni, it seems to take six to 10 years after starting at the Conservatory before alumni see a substantial increase in average income.

Sixty-two percent of alumni earned over \$40,000 in 2015.

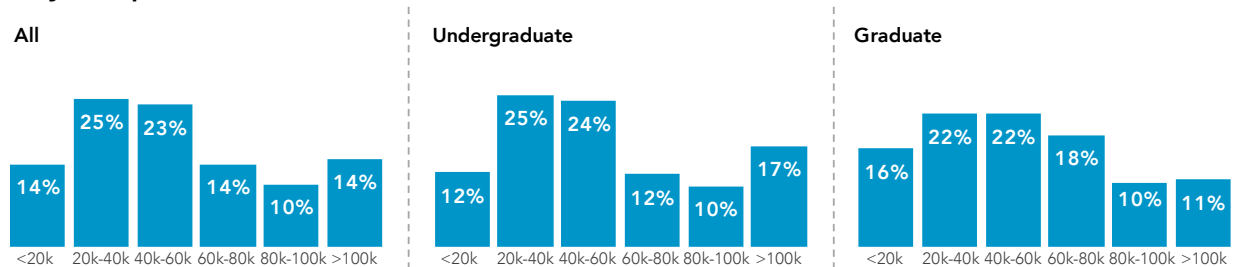


Figure 26. "Please select the range that best describes your total personal (not household) income for all of 2015."

¹⁰ Alumni who reported last attending Boston Conservatory in 2015 and 2016 were excluded from this analysis, as they did not have a full year to earn income.

Alumni income increases steadily since attending the Conservatory.

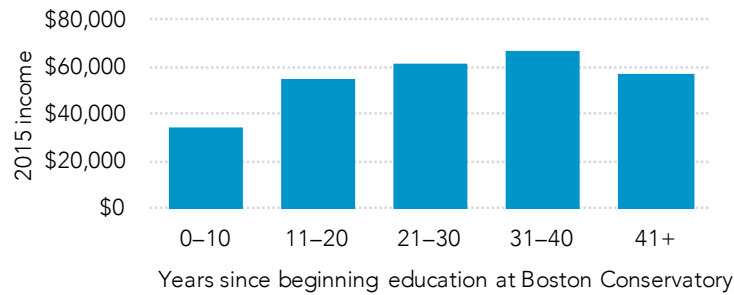


Figure 27. Alumni income since beginning at Boston Conservatory. Due to small number of respondents, five-year increments were combined into 10-year ranges.

Career Satisfaction

"My experiences at [the Conservatory] helped me begin my career in music education and actually served as a springboard to a business career. I have had an opportunity to experience two diverse careers, and now to return to conducting. The careers in music and business allow me to operate more completely than either would have singly."

—Boston Conservatory alum (B.M. '70, M.M. '73, music education)

When asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with their career, 74 percent of alumni replied that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their career. Undergraduate alumni expressed a higher level of satisfaction than graduate alumni.

Almost 75 percent of alumni are satisfied with their career.

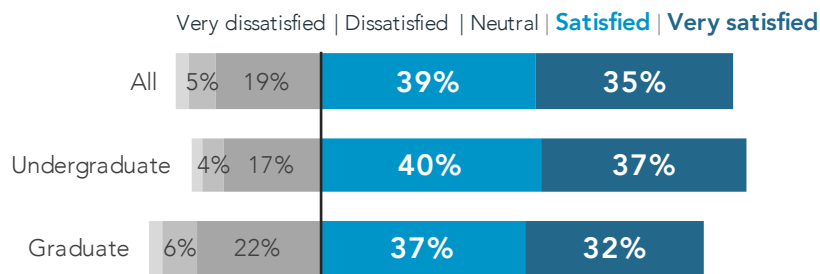


Figure 28. "Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career."

Experience at Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Degree Completion

Nearly 90 percent of alumni reported completing their degree program while at Boston Conservatory at Berklee—a much greater percentage than the college alumni. The rate of reported degree completion was lower for undergraduates (87 percent) than for graduate alumni (94 percent).

"While I didn't finish my degree at Boston Conservatory, I daily use skills developed there in my career. I'm not a performer anymore, but I work in film, television, and commercials dealing directly with actors and their performances."

—Boston Conservatory alum ('91, musical theater)

Of the 82 alumni that reported not completing their degree program, 33 percent point to personal reasons, including health, disability, or family issues. Twenty-two percent transferred to another school. In contrast to the college, only 18 percent cited financial reasons—the same percentage who listed not completing due to professional opportunities.

Personal reasons tops the list for why students do not complete their program.

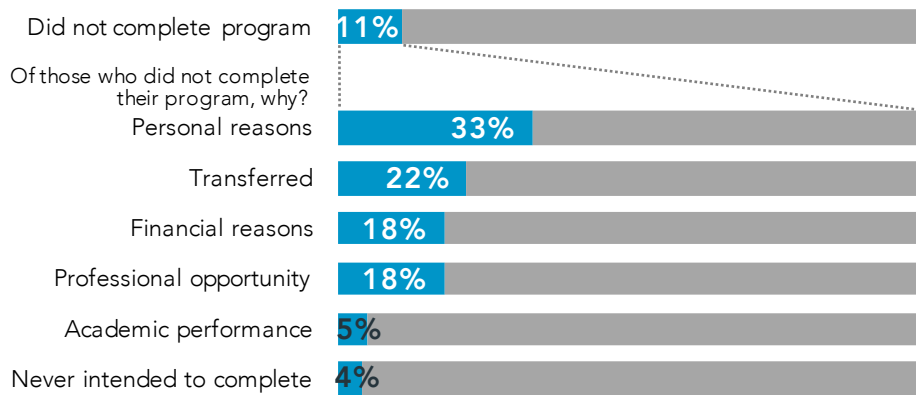


Figure 29. "What reason best describes why you left Boston Conservatory without completing a degree program?" Respondents selected all that apply.

Career Preparation

"I received the most amazing technical training in my four years at the Conservatory that I am forever grateful for. What I struggle with now in my professional career is the longing for more networking connections—not just in the Boston area, but all over the country and overseas. As a self-employed artist, there are a lot of things I had to learn along the way in terms of taxes and what it really means to be a 1099. But most importantly, it's imperative to learn how to market myself, because I essentially am my own business. Having learned this in school would have made my career even more successful, had I had those important tools under my belt."

-Boston Conservatory alum (B.F.A. '11, contemporary dance)

Alumni were asked to rate how well the Boston Conservatory prepared them in certain ways for their career on a scale ranging from "very poorly" to "very well." Nearly three-quarters of alumni felt that the Conservatory prepared them with the technical skills relevant to their field, and nearly two-thirds felt prepared for their career in general, as well as in their ability to connect with people from varying backgrounds/cultures. Alumni felt less positively about the Conservatory preparing them to develop a professional network or nurturing an ability to take an entrepreneurial approach.

Alumni share how Boston Conservatory prepared them for careers.

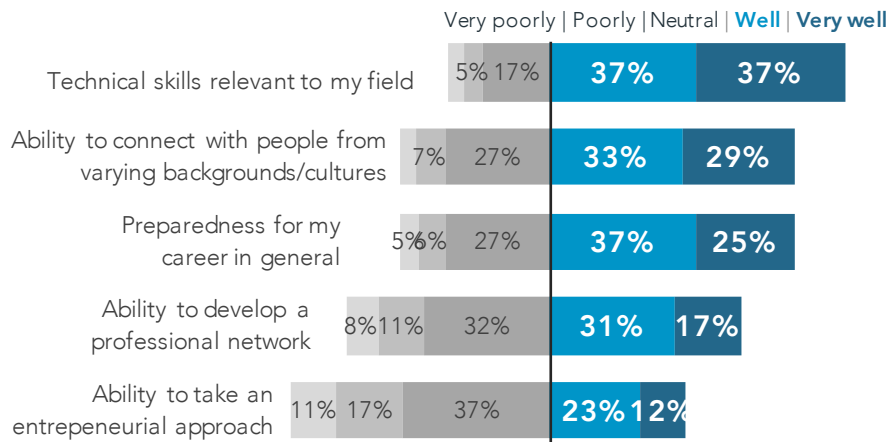


Figure 30. "How well did Boston Conservatory prepare you in the following ways for your career?"

Overall Experience

"My dance training was outstanding and comprehensive. In addition to core courses, we had classes in tap, acrobatics, pedagogy, and composition. We were required to study music, and I can say with complete certainty that the courses we had in music theory, solfege, and score analysis helped me be a better dancer, teacher, and choreographer."

—Boston Conservatory alum (B.F.A. '75, contemporary dance)

When asked to rank their satisfaction with their overall experience as a student at the Conservatory, most alumni said that they were satisfied.

79 percent of alumni are satisfied with their student experience.

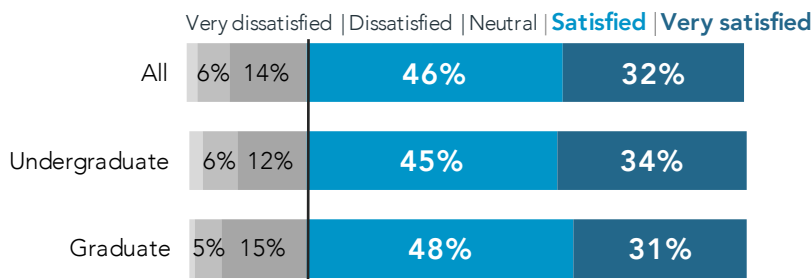


Figure 31. "How satisfied are you with your overall experience as a student at Boston Conservatory?"

Alumni Engagement

"I loved my time at [the Conservatory], but as an international student, I had no idea how...to keep in touch with my school after graduation. I hope that now [the Conservatory] is doing a much better job educating international students about the benefit of being an active alumnus. I am ready and happy to participate."

—Boston Conservatory alum (G.P.D. '98, cello performance)

Staying Connected

A number of questions on the survey investigated how often and through what avenues alumni stay in touch with the Conservatory and/or with fellow alumni. When asked if they attended alumni events in the past, only 23 percent of alumni indicated that they did. Nevertheless, three-quarters of those that have attended alumni events in the past are likely to recommend these events to other alumni.

Alumni that attend events recommend them to others.

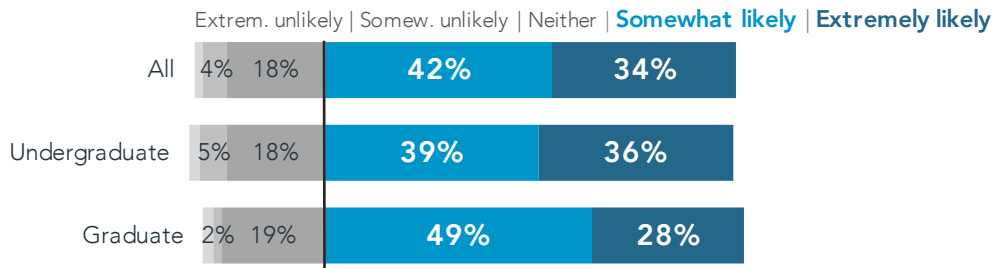


Figure 32. "How likely are you to recommend these events to other alumni?" Responses from the 23% of alumni who attended an alumni event.

The results also show that alumni keep in touch with the Conservatory mostly through the monthly alumni e-news (44 percent), and by following the Conservatory on social media (33 percent).

How Alumni Keep in Touch with Boston Conservatory

Select all that apply	Rate
Monthly alumni e-news	44%
Following the Conservatory on social media	33%
Alumni Facebook group	31%
Personal contact with faculty/staff member	30%
Conservatory website	20%
N/A – not in touch	19%
Attending Conservatory performances	10%
Attending alumni events	9%
Other	7%
Volunteering as mentor, recruiter, or committee member	3%

Table 8. "How do you keep in touch with Boston Conservatory?" Respondents select all that apply.

On the Boston Conservatory at Berklee survey, alumni were additionally asked to rank feelings of connection to certain aspects of the institution. Alumni felt most connected to their major, division, and class year.

Conservatory alumni rank the top strengths of the Conservatory.

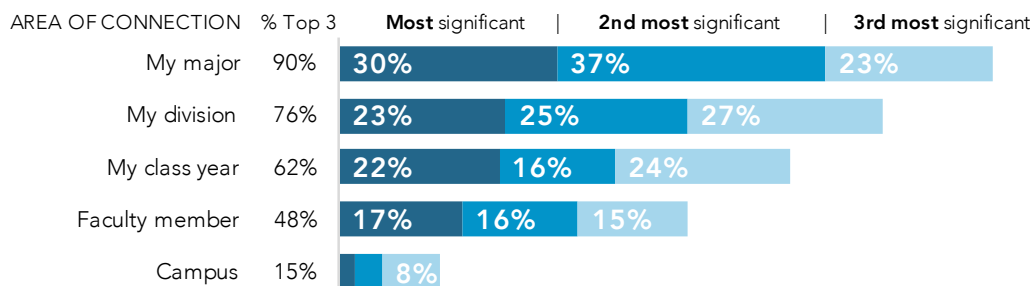


Figure 33. "Please rank the areas of Boston Conservatory that you feel most connected to." Respondents ranked them on a scale. (Response of "other" was excluded from chart.)

When asked which areas they would be interested in supporting if making a monetary donation, the majority of alumni (55 percent) selected student scholarships. Another 34 percent indicated making a monetary donation to their division, and 19 percent indicated that they would donate in honor or memory of faculty. Alumni were less interested in making monetary donations to support institutes or special programs (11 percent).

Interest in Alumni Activities

This survey also provided an opportunity to gauge alumni interest in alumni activities. Alumni expressed the most interest in attending networking events, followed closely by an interest in attending a regional off-campus alumni reunion.

Conservatory alumni are interested in alumni activities.

Select all that apply	Rate
Networking events	35%
Regional off-campus alumni reunion	34%
On-campus alumni reunion	27%
Drop-in class taught by faculty	27%
Joint events with Berklee College of Music	26%
Virtual workshop/panel on a specific topic	26%
In-person workshop panel on a specific topic	25%
Career development programs	25%
Drop-in class taught by alumni	21%
Other	4%

Table 9. "Which of the following possible alumni activities would you be interested in attending?" Respondents select all that apply.

When alumni were asked if they were interested in volunteering their time or talents to the Boston Conservatory, 51 percent of alumni showed interest in volunteering in at least one category. Alumni were most interested in opportunities to perform or speak, followed by mentoring a Boston Conservatory student.

Alumni are interested in volunteering for the Conservatory.

Select all that apply	Rate
Returning to campus to perform or speak	32%
Mentoring a Boston Conservatory student	24%
Contributing to Bravo, the alumni blog	14%
Organizing a virtual or in-person workshop on a specific topic	12%
Creating an internship opportunity for current students	10%
Organizing/hosting a regional alumni event	8%
Serving on the Alumni Association Executive Committee	8%
Volunteering at admissions recruitment events	8%
Other	5%

Table 10. "Are you interested in volunteering your time or talents for Boston Conservatory?" Respondents select all that apply.

Awareness of the Merger

"I support efforts to introduce students to a wide range of skills that may be useful in a variety of future careers, and I hope that the merger with Berklee will provide even more opportunities for [the Conservatory] students to obtain both depth and breadth in their education."

—Boston Conservatory alum (M.M. '10, viola performance)

Almost all alumni (96 percent) indicated they were aware of the recent merger of Berklee College of Music and The Boston Conservatory.

Comments

Conservatory alumni were offered the opportunity to write comments and give additional feedback at the end of the survey. There were close to 300 comments that were reviewed and coded for primary themes. Similar to the comments from the college alumni, just over a third were general expressions of gratitude to the Conservatory and satisfaction with their experience. Forty-six comments contained suggestions on improving the academic experience and/or the curriculum, such as offering business courses and more performance opportunities or voicing concerns over the termination of the music education licensure program. There were a number of comments about the recent merger, the majority of which were positive. Compared to the comments from college alumni, the percentage of financial-related comments (e.g., large student loan debt, the need for more scholarships) was much smaller.

Respondent comments were generally positive.

Category	Rate
General Satisfaction	36%
Academic/Curriculum	16%
Alumni-Related	15%
General Dissatisfaction	7%
Merger	7%
Career-Related	6%
Financial	3%

Table 11. "Please feel free to expand on any question or address any issue you felt was not covered in this survey."

Conclusion

"After Berklee," the institution's biannual alumni survey, is an important tool to engage with former students, assess their professional and personal success, learn how they feel about the institution, and determine what we can do to support them. The 2016 survey distribution represented the first comprehensive survey of Boston Conservatory alumni in addition to legacy Berklee College of Music alumni, and the growth of alumni responses from graduate programs. The next distribution of the survey in 2018 will provide data on the first cohort of alumni who have graduated from the fully integrated institution and participated in joint alumni events.

Appendix

Appendix A: Demographics

The following section of the report provides demographic details on the respondents from the college and then from the Conservatory.

Berklee College of Music Demographics

Area of Study

The most frequent undergraduate majors reported by college respondents are performance and professional music (25 and 21 percent), followed by music production and engineering (13 percent). These percentages are consistent with those reported in the 2014 survey. The most frequent master's degree programs reported are the Master of Arts in Global Entertainment and Music Business (30 percent), and the Master of Music in Scoring for Film, Television, and Video Games (25 percent).

Previous Post-Secondary Degrees

In the 2016 survey, 18 percent of alumni had previously earned a post-secondary degree before enrolling at the college, primarily a certificate or bachelor's degree. International alumni made up 50 percent of this group. In the 2014 survey, 20 percent reported having a previous degree (26 percent associate's degree, 57 percent bachelor's degree, and 14 master's or higher), a third of which were international alumni.

Most students who come to Berklee College of Music with a degree come with a bachelor's degree.

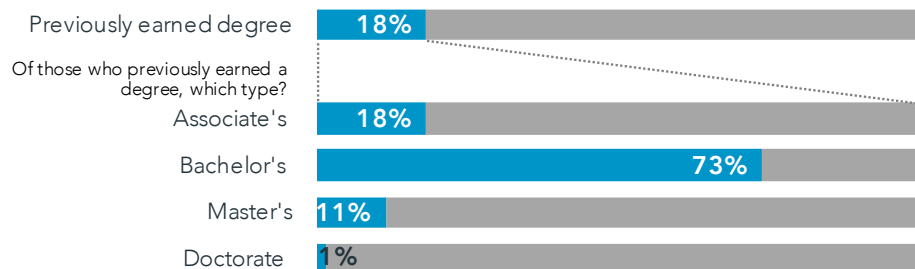


Figure 34. "Did you have a college degree before enrolling at Berklee College of Music? Select the college degree(s) you earned before enrolling at Berklee College of Music." Respondents select all that apply.

Years of Attendance

The years of attendance of survey alumni range from 1950 to 2016, with three years being the average amount of time alumni spent at the college. More than half of the alumni started their college education between 2000 and 2010.

Gender and Race/Ethnicity

The survey included optional questions on gender, race/ethnicity, and domestic/international status at time of attendance. About three times as many men answered the survey as women (75 percent men, 24 percent women). An additional one percent of alumni indicated that they were non-binary

or preferred to self-describe. The majority of alumni (83 percent) identified themselves as White, followed by Asian (11 percent), Hispanic or Latino (10 percent), Black or African American (six percent), and American Indian or Alaska Native (one percent). In addition, 28 percent of alumni indicated that they attended the college as international students.

Region

Alumni responses to the survey came from all around the United States and the world. Seventy-nine percent of alumni currently live in the U.S., a slight decrease from the 81 percent reported in 2014. Of those currently living in the U.S., just under half reside in the Northeast (46 percent), with the second largest concentration of alumni found in the West (27 percent). In 2014, the concentration in the Northeast was slightly higher (51 percent), and the concentration in the West was lower (24 percent).

Of the 21 percent of alumni who reside outside of the United States (n=891), most live in Europe (42 percent). The most popular countries outside of the United States include Canada (11 percent of international alumni), Japan (8 percent), South Korea (7 percent), and Spain (6 percent). This pattern of responses is similar to those reported in the 2014 alumni survey.

Where Berklee College of Music Alumni Live

United States (79% of alumni)	%	Other Countries (21% of alumni)	%
Of these, the most common states are:		Of these, the most common countries are:	
California	21%	Canada	11%
Massachusetts	20%	Japan	8%
New York	13%	South Korea	7%
Florida	4%	Spain	6%

Table 12. Current U.S. State or Country

Boston Conservatory Demographics

Area of Study

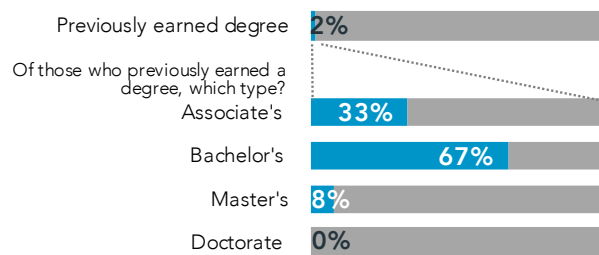
The majority of respondents were enrolled in either a Bachelor of Fine Arts (34 percent) or a Bachelor of Music degree program (30 percent). Twenty-seven percent of respondents were enrolled in a Master of Music degree program. The most frequent undergraduate majors reported by respondents include musical theater (35 percent), contemporary dance (18 percent), and music education (11 percent). The most frequent graduate majors include voice performance (18 percent), music education (15 percent), opera performance, and musical theater (both eight percent).

Previous Post-Secondary Degrees

Almost a third of all alumni indicated that they had a college degree before enrolling at the Conservatory. The majority of these are graduate alumni who had previously earned a bachelor's degree.

Nearly one-third entered the Conservatory with a prior degree.

Undergraduate



Graduate

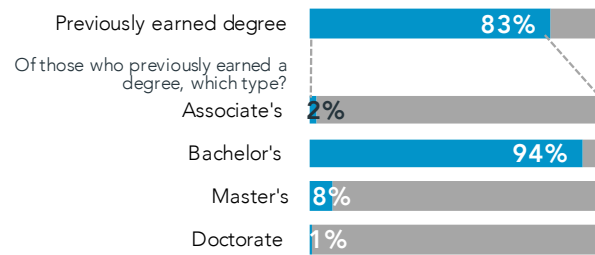


Figure 35. "Did you have a college degree before enrolling at Boston Conservatory? Select the college degree(s) you earned before enrolling at Boston Conservatory." Respondents select all that apply.

Years of Attendance

The years of attendance of survey respondents range from 1946 to 2016, with four years being the average amount of time respondents spent at the Conservatory. Nearly half of the respondents started their education between 2000 and 2010.

Gender and Race/Ethnicity

The survey included optional questions regarding gender, race/ethnicity, and whether alumni attended the Conservatory as domestic or international students. Sixty-one percent of alumni identified as female, and 39 percent as male. Ninety percent of alumni identified themselves as White, with a small number of Hispanic or Latino (six percent), Asian (six percent), Black or African American (four percent), and American Indian or Alaska Native (one percent)¹¹. Ten percent of alumni were international students when they attended the Conservatory.

¹¹ Alumni were able to select as many racial categories as applied.

Region

The majority of alumni currently live in the United States (92 percent) with nearly two-thirds in the Northeast and 15 percent each in the South and the West. Of the eight percent of alumni who reside outside of the United States (n=59), common locations include Eastern Asia (27 percent) and Canada (24 percent).

Where Boston Conservatory Alumni Live

United States (92% of alumni)	%	Other Countries (8% of alumni)	%
Of these, the most common states are:		Of these, the most common countries are:	
Massachusetts	30%	Canada	24%
New York	20%	Taiwan	8%
California	11%	United Kingdom	8%
Florida	5%	Japan	7%
		South Korea	7%

Table 13. Current U.S. State or Country

Appendix B: Berklee College of Music/Boston Conservatory at Berklee Comparisons

	BCM%	BCB%
Degree Completion		
Did you complete your degree program at BCM/BCB?	72%	89%
What reason best describes why you left without completing a degree?		
Academic performance	4%	5%
Financial reasons	44%	18%
Never intended to complete degree	11%	4%
Personal reasons, including health, disability, or family reasons	16%	33%
Professional opportunity	28%	18%
Transferred to another school	12%	22%
Other	14%	21%
Further Education, Career, and Activities		
Have you earned any additional college degree(s) since leaving BCM/BCB?	24%	33%
If yes, please select the college degree you earned since leaving BCM/BCB:		
Associate's	10%	5%
Bachelor's	30%	22%
Master's	65%	71%
Doctorate (M.D., J.D., Ed.D., D.M., Ph.D.)	14%	20%
Are you self-employed?	55%	42%
Is your primary occupation music- or performing arts-related?	70%	69%
Which category best describes the industry of your primary occupation (non-music)?		
Architecture/Art/Design	3%	4%
Banking/Finance/Insurance	6%	7%
Business/Marketing/Sales	7%	n/a
Education	10%	22%
Engineering	4%	3%
Hospitality/Service Industry	12%	9%
Law	3%	2%
Media/Entertainment	10%	3%
Medicine/Health Care	8%	12%
Military	<1%	1%
Other	9%	11%
Public Safety/Law Enforcement	1%	1%
Real Estate/Construction	4%	3%
Retired/Homemaker	4%	12%
Technology/Software	16%	6%
Unemployed/Disability	4%	4%
Which category best describes the music- or performing arts-related nature of your primary occupation?		
Business	8%	4%
Composition	14%	2%
Education	25%	39%
Healthcare	1%	1%
Performing Arts/Performance	29%	38%

Production	12%	5%
Technology	3%	<1%
Other	8%	12%
Approximately what percentage of your 2015 personal income came from music- or performing arts-related work?		
None	17%	19%
Less than 5%	11%	9%
More than 5%, less than 20%	7%	11%
More than 20%, less than 50%	7%	8%
50% or more	58%	53%
Do you have an additional job that is music- or performing arts-related?		
Business	5%	2%
Composition	13%	2%
Education	25%	26%
Healthcare	1%	1%
Performing Arts	36%	50%
Production	10%	3%
Technology	2%	1%
Other	8%	15%
Do you participate in any music- or performing arts-related activities outside of paid work?		
Community performance group	20%	40%
Continuing education	15%	27%
Gigging	57%	46%
Personal leisure or family entertainment	40%	35%
Teaching	28%	40%
Worship and religious music	17%	24%
Other options and comments	11%	9%
Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career. (% "satisfied" or "very satisfied")		
	70%	74%
Please select the range that best describes your personal income for all of 2015:		
\$20,000 or less	16%	14%
\$20,001–\$40,000	24%	25%
\$40,001–\$60,000	19%	23%
\$60,001–\$80,000	14%	14%
\$80,001–\$100,000	9%	10%
More than \$100,000	17%	14%
How well did Berklee prepare you in the following ways for your career? (% "well" or "very well")		
Technical skills relevant to my field	72%	74%
Ability to develop a professional network	54%	48%
Ability to connect with people from varying backgrounds/cultures	73%	62%
Ability to take an entrepreneurial approach	44%	34%
Preparedness for my career in general	58%	62%
Are you satisfied with your overall experience as a student at BCM/BCB (% "satisfied" or "very satisfied")		
	81%	79%
Alumni Events and Communication		
Have you attended alumni events in the past?	41%	23%

Do you keep in touch with Alumni Affairs/school? If yes, by which means?	80%	81%
Social media/website	39%	33%
Alumni events	16%	9%
Email	62%	44%
Other	5%	7%
Are you aware of the recent merger with the Boston Conservatory?	89%	96%
Which of the following possible alumni activities would you be interested in attending?		
Career programs/career development programs	33%	25%
Networking events	47%	35%
Online events/virtual workshop panel	33%	26%
Panels and clinics/in-person workshop panel	39%	25%
Joint events with BCM/BCB	18%	26%
How likely are you to recommend these alumni events to other alumni (% "somewhat likely" or "extremely likely")	68%	76%
Are you interested in volunteering your time or talents for students or alumni? If yes, in which capacity?		
Mentoring current students	27%	24%
Participating in/organizing alumni regional events	18%	8%
Participating in admissions events	21%	8%
Speaking to students/alumni in a panel, clinic, and/or workshop	37%	32%
Organizing an online webinar on a specific topic/subject	12%	12%
Hosting a regional alumni event at your home/business	11%	n/a
Hosting an internship opportunity for current students	13%	10%
Demographics		
Did you have a college degree before enrolling at BCM/BCB?	18%	32%
If yes, please select the college degree you earned before BCM/BCB:		
Associate's	18%	4%
Bachelor's	73%	93%
Master's	11%	8%
Doctorate (M.D., J.D., Ed.D., D.M., Ph.D.)	1%	1%

Table 14. Comparisons between Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee responses.

Appendix C: Berklee College of Music Comparisons, 2014 to 2016

	2014	2016
Degree Completion		
Did you complete your degree program at Berklee College of Music?	70%	72%
What reason best describes why you left without completing a degree?		
Academic performance	2%	4%
Financial reasons	39%	44%
Never intended to complete degree	11%	11%
Personal reasons, including health, disability, or family reasons	16%	16%
Professional opportunity	28%	28%
Transferred to another school	n/a	12%
Other	27%	14%
Further Education, Career, and Activities		
Have you earned any additional college degree(s) since leaving Berklee?	28%	24%
If yes, please select the college degree you earned since leaving Berklee:		
Associate's	12%	10%
Bachelor's	30%	30%
Master's	53%	65%
Doctorate (M.D., J.D., Ed.D., D.M., Ph.D.)	19%	14%
Are you self-employed?	50%	55%
Is your primary occupation music-related?	66%	70%
Do you participate in any music-related activities outside of paid work?	83%	74%
Community performance group	9%	20%
Continuing education	n/a	15%
Gigging	64%	57%
Personal leisure or family entertainment	52%	40%
Teaching	43%	28%
Worship and religious music	16%	17%
Other options and comments	n/a	11%
Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career.* (% "satisfied" or "very satisfied")	58%	70%
Please select the range that best describes your personal income for all of 2015:		
\$20,000 or less	20%	16%
\$20,001–\$40,000	25%	24%
\$40,001–\$60,000	20%	19%
\$60,001–\$80,000	12%	14%
\$80,001–\$100,000	9%	9%
More than \$100,000	14%	17%
Demographics		
Did you have a college degree before enrolling at Berklee?	20%	18%

Table 14. Comparisons between Berklee College of Music alumni survey in 2014 and 2016. *Note: Some questions were similar but not exact matches between 2014 and 2016. These are indicated with an asterisk.

Appendix D: Post-Secondary Degrees and Institutions, Berklee College of Music

View a list of degrees and institutions attended by Berklee College of Music alumni:

<http://bit.ly/2wnT2dQ>

Appendix E: Employers and Job Titles, Berklee College of Music

View a list of employers and job titles of Berklee College of Music alumni: <http://bit.ly/2wSHzpY>

Appendix F: Post-Secondary Degrees and Institutions, Boston Conservatory

View a list of degrees and institutions attended by Boston Conservatory alumni:

<http://bit.ly/2vEMMgP>

Appendix G: Employers and Job Titles, Boston Conservatory

View a list of employers and job titles of Boston Conservatory alumni: <http://bit.ly/2wnSlkL>

Appendix H: Copy of Surveys

View a copy of the Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee alumni survey:

<http://bit.ly/2gK3Ore>