

After Berklee | 2018–2019 Alumni Survey Report

A summary of the 2018–2019 Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee alumni survey results.

October 2019

Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment

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Executive Summary

The results of the 2018-19 “After Berklee” biennial survey of Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee alumni¹ reinforce similar alumni employment, experience, and satisfaction information that were reported in the 2014 and 2016 survey reports. Below are new findings of note, recommendations, and questions for consideration, with the full results following.

New findings from the 2018-19 survey include:

- **Alumni who work in an industry related to performing arts or entertainment report higher levels of career satisfaction** than those who do not work in an industry related to performing arts or entertainment. **It also appears to be a higher driver of career satisfaction than higher income.** Alumni who make between \$40,001 and \$60,000 working in an industry related to performing arts or entertainment report higher career satisfaction than those alumni who are making more than \$100,000 working in an industry not related to performing arts or entertainment.
- **Students who received a merit scholarship from the institution are more likely to work in a performing arts or entertainment-related industry than those who did not.** Seventy-nine percent of College alumni and 74 percent of Conservatory alumni who received a merit scholarship from the institution report primarily working in a performing arts or entertainment-related industry, higher than alumni who do not receive merit scholarship (66 percent at the College and 64 percent at the Conservatory).²
- **A gender income gap exists among Berklee alumni and a race/ethnicity gap among College alumni.** Alumni who identify as women report lower incomes than those who identify as men. Among College alumni, there appears to be a race/ethnicity income gap, as alumni who identify as a race or ethnicity other than White report lower incomes than those who identify as White.
- **Financial reasons are the top reason for alumni not completing their degree at both the College and Conservatory.** While this has remained consistent for College alumni, the percent of Conservatory alumni who reported financial reasons for not completing their degree increased from 18 percent reported in 2016 to 31 percent reported in 2018.
- **Of the recent alumni who graduated in 2017 and answered the survey, most of those who had been seeking employment at graduation are currently employed.** Half of those who were seeking employment are now self-employed and only seven percent reported being unemployed or disabled. Additional findings about 2017 graduates from the College and Conservatory can be found in the First Destination Survey Report in Appendix J or with this link: <http://bit.ly/2kt7Zde>

Recommendations

1. Use data in this report to inform and assess Berklee’s progress towards its strategic priorities. This report provides concrete insight into the experiences of Berklee alumni and can help inform what Berklee can do to best prepare students for the current state of the labor market.
2. Identify which data reflects and does not reflect what Berklee strives to provide students and alumni and consider how Berklee can build on the successes and address areas of opportunity.
3. Due to the similarity in results over the past three surveys, adjust the survey schedule to be administered once every five to ten years, and follow recent alumni one year after graduation with a “first destination” survey.

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

² It is important to note this is a correlation, not causation, as students who receive scholarships are likely to be stronger artists and therefore may have a better chance at securing a career in the performing arts or entertainment industry.

Questions for consideration

1. How can Berklee use its positioning in the arts and entertainment industry to create more opportunities for alumni to be able to work in an industry related to the performing arts or entertainment and have enough income to pay off loans?
2. Fifty seven percent of College alumni and 44 percent of Conservatory alumni are self-employed, however alumni report low satisfaction with how Berklee prepared them to take an entrepreneurial approach and develop a professional network. How can Berklee continue to evaluate how it prepares its students for a self-employed career?
3. As the preeminent institute of contemporary music and the performing arts, how can Berklee help lower the gender income gap in the performing arts and entertainment industry which affects Berklee's alumni?

Overall summary

In general, alumni continue to be involved in performing arts and entertainment, both through employment, and outside of work. Most alumni are satisfied with their careers and their overall experience as a student at Berklee College of Music or the Boston Conservatory. More than two-thirds report their primary occupation is related to the performing arts or entertainment industries, 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. The third of alumni with primary occupations that are not in the performing arts or entertainment industries work in various industries, including technology, education, hospitality, business, healthcare, and others. Over eighty percent of alumni participate in performing arts-related activities outside of paid work, such as gigging, composing or arranging, participating in performance groups, or for personal leisure.

The majority of alumni indicated that 50 percent or more of their 2015 income came from performing arts or entertainment-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.

About a quarter of alumni did not complete their degree, citing financial reasons as the top reason at both the College (44 percent) and Conservatory (31 percent). A quarter of College alumni and a third of Conservatory alumni earned an additional degree after leaving. Alumni feel very positively about the institution and how it prepared them for their career, especially with regard 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 alumni events, fewer than half from the College and fewer than a third 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 monthly alumni e-news, social media, and personal contact with faculty and staff members.

Introduction

Beginning in 2014, Berklee began administering a biennial 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. In winter 2018, one survey was distributed to all Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee alumni, with the first invitation going out in December 2018, and the survey closing in March 2019. 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 a part of the alumni community.

In total, more than 4,000 responses from College alumni and over 500 responses from Conservatory alumni, representing approximately 12 percent of all undergraduate and graduate alumni for whom we have contact information.³ This response rate is a slight drop from the 15 percent response rate and 5,010 responses from the 2016 survey.

This report includes undergraduate and graduate students, occasionally slicing data by degree level. Of the responses from the College, 96 percent came from undergraduate alumni and five percent came from graduate alumni. Seventy-two percent of respondents from the Conservatory are undergraduate alumni and 34 percent are graduate alumni. These are representative of both the College and Conservatory's alumni population.

The report below is separated into two sections: the results of Berklee College of Music and the results of Boston Conservatory at Berklee. A table comparing the College and Conservatory is available in Appendix B. A table comparing previous years results for the College is available in Appendix C. A table comparing previous years results for the Conservatory is available in Appendix D.

Over 4,500 responses were collected from alumni.

2018 Alumni Survey Response Rates

School	Respondents	Emails	Rate
Berklee College of Music	4,085	33,428	12%
Boston Conservatory at Berklee	553	4,725	12%
Berklee	4,638	38,153	12%

Figure 1. Response rate by school

³ If a student was both an undergraduate and graduate student, they are counted once in the combined analysis, and once in each of the undergraduate and graduate subcategories. If a student attended more than one campus, they are counted once in the combined analysis, and once in each of the campuses they attended.

Berklee College of Music

The following section contains results from alumni who attended Berklee College of Music's campus in Boston, Berklee College of Music's campus in Valencia, Spain, or Berklee Online.

Further Education, Careers, and Activities

"I couldn't be more grateful for my time at Berklee. I learned to piece together my dream freelance career and every step of the way has been paved by collaborators and mentors I met at Berklee."

-Alum, B.M. '12, professional music

Post-Secondary Degrees After Berklee College of Music

Twenty-eight percent of respondents (n=1,101) indicated that they earned an additional degree after leaving the college, compared to 24 percent in 2016. Most of these alumni earned an advanced degree, with 64 percent earning a master's degree and 14 percent earning a doctoral degree⁴. Of alumni who earned a master's degree after Berklee, New England Conservatory (25 alumni), New York University (25 alumni), Boston University (24 alumni), and University of Southern California (12 alumni) were the most common schools. Of alumni who earned a doctorate after Berklee, Boston University (7 alumni), University of Southern California (4 alumni), and University of Miami (3 alumni) were the most common schools. A full list of schools from which alumni obtained degrees after attending Berklee College of Music is in Appendix E.

Over 25 percent of alumni earn degrees after leaving Berklee.

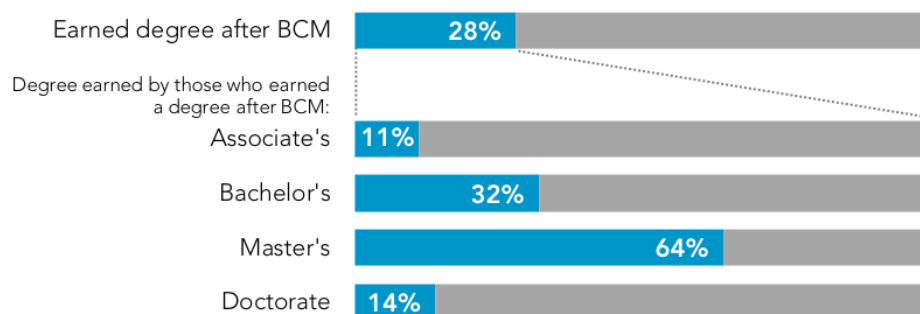


Figure 2. Responses to the questions, "Have you earned any additional college degree(s) since leaving Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee?" and "Please select the college degree(s) you earned after leaving Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee."

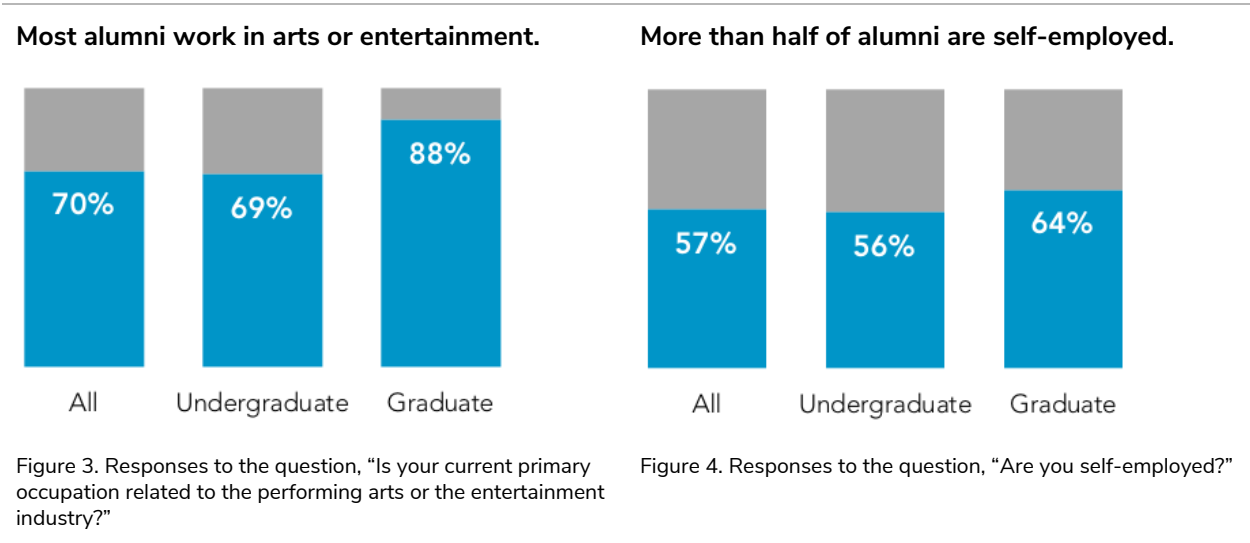
Primary Occupation

The majority of alumni reported that their current primary occupation is related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry (70 percent, unchanged since 2016⁵), and just over half reported that they are self-employed (57 percent). This represents a two percentage point increase from the 55 percent of alumni who reported that they were self-employed in 2016 and a seven percent increase from 2014. A higher percentage of graduate alumni indicate their current primary occupation is related to the performing arts or entertainment industry (88 percent) and a slightly lower percentage are self-employed (64 percent).

⁴ Doctorate includes an M.D., J.D., Ed.D., D.M., or Ph.D.

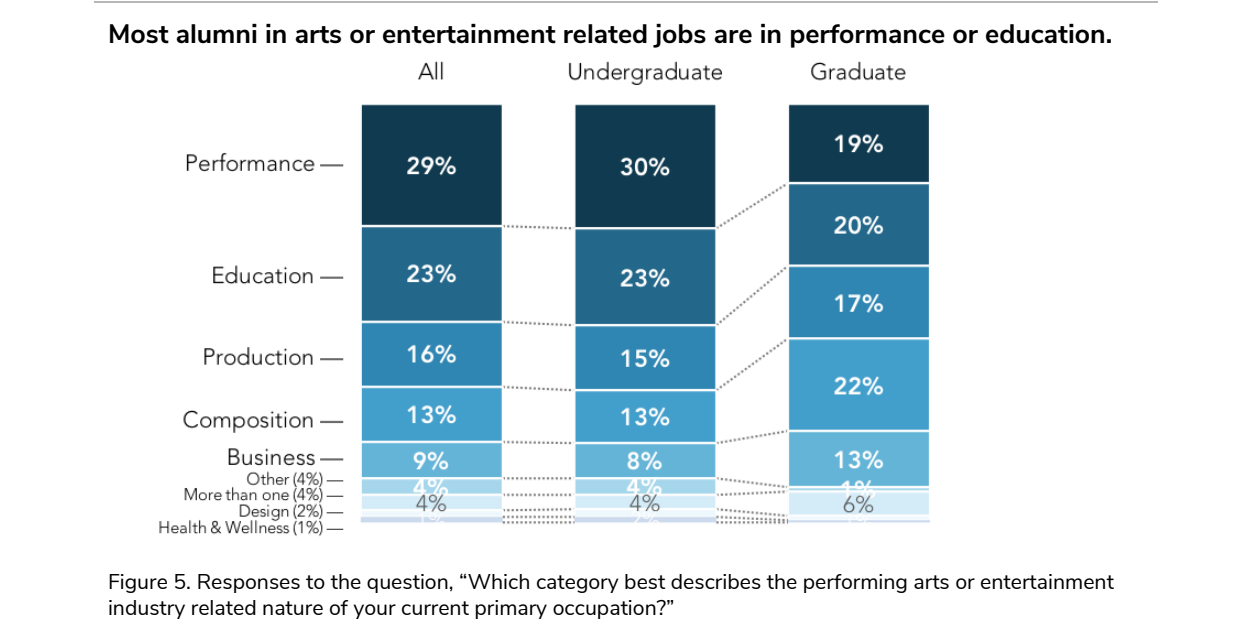
⁵ The 2016 survey asked if the primary occupation was "music-related".

Self-employed alumni are more likely to report their primary occupation as performing arts or entertainment related than those who are not self-employed. Of alumni who are self-employed, 86 percent are employed in a performing arts or entertainment-related occupation. By contrast, of those who are not self-employed, only 49 percent report being employed in a performing arts or entertainment-related occupation. These rates are similar to those reported in 2014 and 2016 surveys.



Performing Arts or Entertainment-Related Nature of Primary Occupation

Of the 2,724 alumni who indicated their primary occupation as performing arts or entertainment-related, 29 percent selected performing arts and 23 percent selected education (including teaching and education administration) to describe the nature of their primary occupation. These were similar to the 2016 survey, with 36 percent performance and 25 percent education. Graduate alumni who indicated their primary occupation as performing arts or entertainment-related are largely employed in composition, education, and performance (19 percent).



Non Performing Arts or Entertainment-Related Nature of Primary Occupation

Thirty percent of alumni reported a non performing arts or entertainment-related primary occupation. Of the 30 percent of alumni who work outside of performing arts or entertainment-related fields, the most common industries selected included technology/software (17 percent), education (14 percent), and medicine/healthcare (10 percent). In both 2014 and 2016, technology/software also topped the list. Forty-three percent of those working in education worked in higher education, followed by K-12 education (38 percent), and private lessons (16 percent).

Of those working outside of music, just under one-in-five alumni work in technology and software.

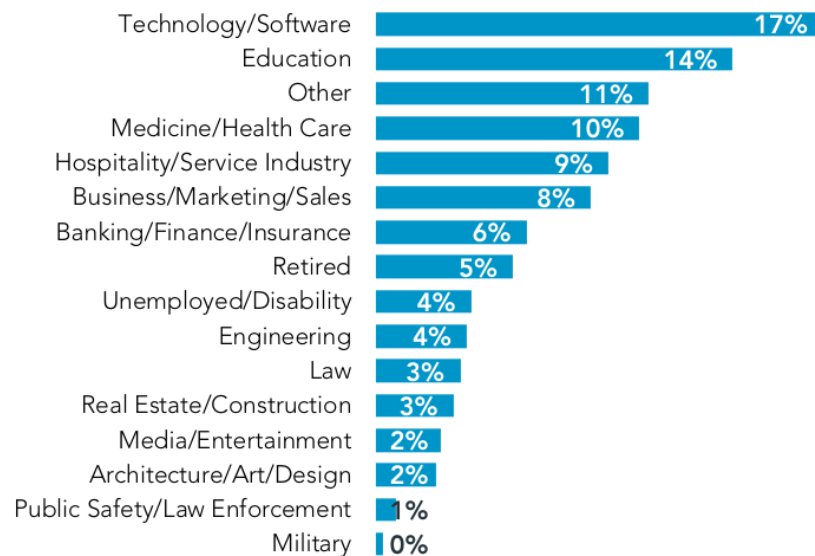


Figure 6. Responses to the question, "Which category best describes the industry of your primary occupation". Question is only asked of those who report having a primary occupation outside of the performing arts and entertainment industries.

Common Employers

Alumni who are not self-employed listed almost 1,000 different employers. Berklee employs the most alumni with 57 alumni employees, followed by Universal Music Group (eight alumni), Apple (seven alumni), and Sony (six alumni). Find a table of most common employers and a complete list of employers and job titles in Appendix F.

Secondary Occupation

Forty-four percent of alumni reported having an additional, non-primary job that is performing arts or entertainment industry-related. The majority of these secondary jobs are in performance (38 percent) and education (24 percent). These rates are similar to those reported in the 2016 survey (36 percent performance and 25 percent education).

Other Performing Arts or Entertainment-Related Activities

Eighty-four percent of alumni participate in performing arts or entertainment-related activities outside of paid work. This percentage increased from the 74 percent reported in both the 2014 and 2016 surveys. The most common activities include gigging (44 percent), composing (36 percent), music for personal leisure or family entertainment (29 percent), and teaching (25 percent), similar to 2014.

44 percent of alumni have secondary jobs in arts or entertainment.

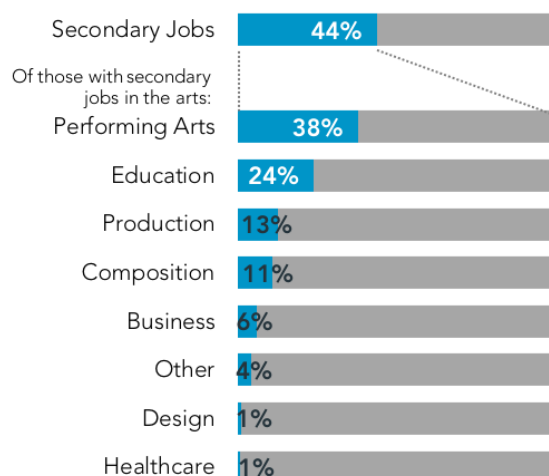


Figure 7. Responses to the questions, “Do you have an additional job that is related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry?” and “Which category best describes the performing arts or entertainment industry related nature of your additional job?”

84 percent of alumni participate in performing arts related activities outside of paid work.

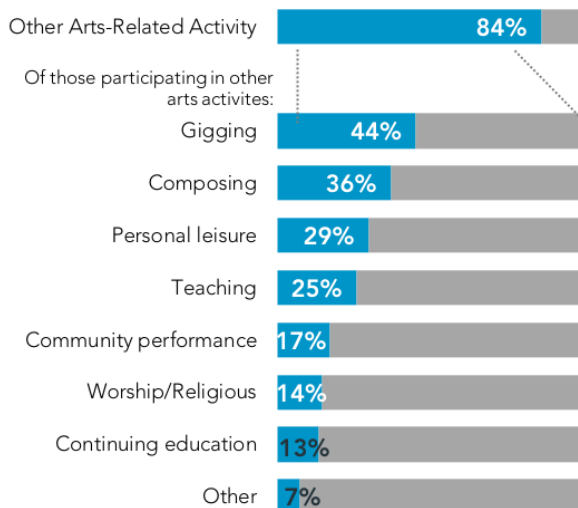


Figure 8. Responses to the question, “Do you participate in any performing arts related activities outside of paid work? (Please select all that apply, and provide any comments.)”

Income

“I would also like to see Berklee continue to stress the importance of compensation for work, as the industry has fallen victim to employers abusing the use of internships and offering little to no monetary compensation. It has become much more difficult in recent years to develop a [prosperous] career in the music industry; current and future generations need to learn new and versatile ways to continue earning income from their art, as well as what they should be properly compensated.”
-Alum, B.M. '08, film scoring

Percentage of Income from Performing Arts or Entertainment-Related Work

The majority of alumni (56 percent) indicated that over 50 percent of their 2015 income came from performing arts or entertainment-related work. For graduate alumni, this percentage is higher (69 percent), likely due to the fact that a larger percentage of graduate alumni are employed in a performing arts or entertainment-related primary occupation.

Alumni earn most of their income from performing arts or entertainment industry related work.

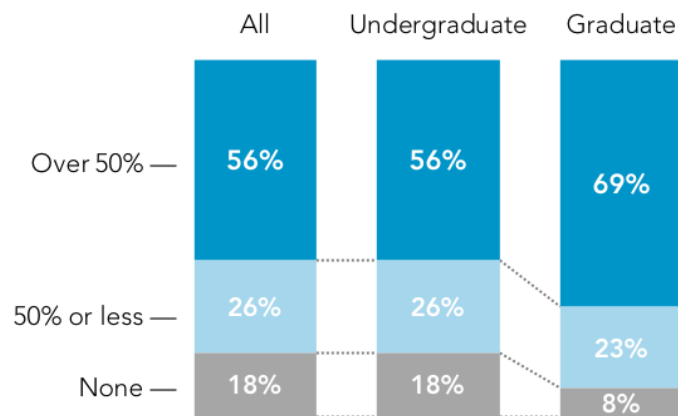


Figure 9. Responses to the question, "Approximately what percentage of your personal income in 2017 came from performing arts or entertainment industry related work?"

Income Range

Respondents were asked to select a range that best described their total personal income for all of 2017.⁶ Just over 2,500 alumni chose to answer this question. The highest concentration of these alumni, 23 percent, were in the \$20,001 to \$40,000 range, similar to 2016 and 2014. Sixty-one percent of alumni reported an income above \$40,000, an increase from 59 percent in 2016. Twenty percent of alumni reported earning more than \$100,000, an increase from 17 percent in 2016. 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.

Looking at income ranges in five-year increments from when a student begins at the college, we see a steady increase in income as alumni progress in their careers. This increase is followed by a leveling off mid-career and a slight decline as alumni enter retirement. This pattern was also shown in both the 2016 and 2014 surveys.

Sixty-one percent of alumni earned over \$40,000 in 2017.

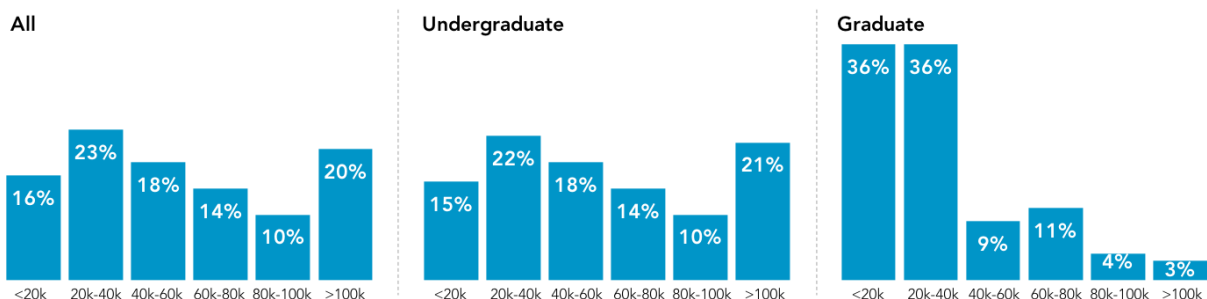


Figure 10. Responses to the question, "Please select the range that best describes your total personal (not household) income for all of 2017." Alumni who reported ending their Berklee education in 2017 and 2018 were excluded from this analysis, as they did not have a full-year to earn income.

⁶ Alumni who reported ending their Berklee education in 2017 and 2018 were excluded from this analysis, as they did not have a full-year to earn income.

Alumni income increases steadily since attending Berklee.

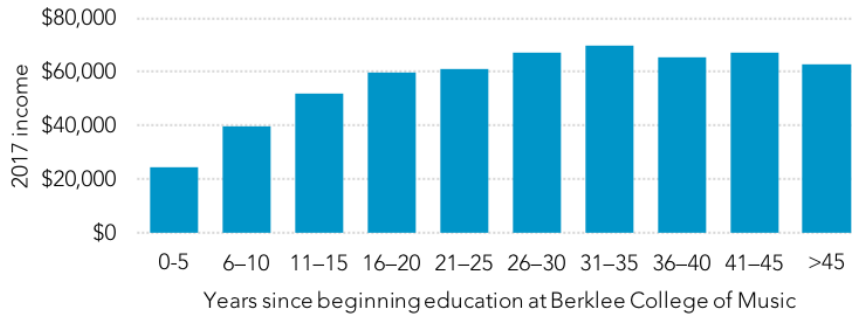


Figure 11. Alumni 2017 income by years since beginning at the college. Income is based on the midpoint of the salary range reported.

Income Inequality Across Gender, Race, and Ethnicity

Men reported a higher personal income in 2017 than women, showing that gender income inequality exists among Berklee alumni. Of alumni who began their education from 2008 to 2012, men (\$42,045 average income) reported an 11 percent higher average income than women (\$37,591). Of alumni who began their education from 2003 to 2007, men (\$54,844, average income) reported a 16 percent higher average income than women (\$46,179). This may suggest that systematic gender income inequality is decreasing for more recent graduates, or that income inequality increases later on in alumni careers. Without consistent income data for those alumni who are later in their career, it is hard to accurately define long term trends.

Though smaller sample sizes make it difficult to identify accurate relationships between race or ethnicity and gender, alumni who identify as White tend to report the highest levels of income.

Alumni who are men report higher income than women.

Years after entering Berklee	Man		Woman		Non-binary or Self-describe	
	Average income	n	Average income	n	Average income	n
1-5 years	\$29,915	118	\$28,182	44	\$20,000	2
6-10 years	\$42,045	308	\$37,591	137	\$20,000	10
11-15 years	\$54,844	256	\$46,179	123	\$43,444	6
16-20 years	\$61,231	195	\$55,385	65	\$50,000	2
21+ years	\$67,544	1,014	\$57,821	179	\$53,333	12

Years after entering Berklee	American Indian or Alaska Native		Asian		Black or African American	
	Average income	n	Average income	n	Average income	n
1-5 years	\$23,333	3	\$30,968	31	\$43,333	3
6-10 years	\$33,333	6	\$39,107	56	\$37,586	29
11-15 years	\$32,500	8	\$50,000	36	\$50,000	20
16-20 years	\$50,000	1	\$56,786	28	\$62,000	10

21+ years	\$46,923	13	\$56,042	48	\$65,600	50
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Years after entering Berklee	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		Hispanic and/or Latino		White	
	Average income	n	Average income	n	Average income	n
1-5 years	\$30,000	1	\$23,171	41	\$27,692	104
6-10 years	\$100,000	1	\$39,180	61	\$41,656	326
11-15 years	\$50,000	2	\$47,949	39	\$53,846	299
16-20 years	\$90,000	1	\$54,000	30	\$60,945	201
21+ years	\$40,000	4	\$61,286	70	\$67,022	994

Figure 12. Based on responses to the question Responses to the questions, "Please select the range that best describes your total personal (not household) income for all of 2017." and "What is your gender?" Average midpoint salary is based on the midpoint of the salary range reported. Alumni who reported ending their Berklee education in 2017 and 2018 were excluded from the average midpoint salary portion of this analysis, as they did not have a full-year to earn income.

Career Satisfaction

"Academically and musically, my time at Berklee was beyond fulfilling and rewarding. However, in regards to the preparation of my career in the entertainment industry, specifically, copyright and royalty administration, it was not as comprehensive and [pragmatic in] my preparation to become a professional musician."

-Alum, B.M. '17, music business/management

Sixty-nine percent of alumni are satisfied with their careers, similar to the rate reported in 2016 (70 percent). Graduate alumni express slightly lower satisfaction (68 percent) with their career than undergraduate alumni (70 percent). Self-employed alumni report slightly higher satisfaction (71 percent) than those who are not self-employed (67 percent). Alumni who are employed in the arts or entertainment industry report being much more satisfied (76 percent) than those employed outside of the arts and entertainment industry (55 percent).

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

	n	V. Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	V. Satisfied	% Top Two
All	3,769	5%	7%	18%	39%	31%	69%
Undergraduate	3,625	5%	7%	18%	39%	31%	70%
Graduate	193	4%	7%	21%	47%	22%	68%
Self-employed	2,147	5%	7%	18%	40%	31%	71%
Not Self-employed	1,622	6%	8%	19%	37%	30%	67%
Employed in arts or entertainment industry	2,652	4%	5%	15%	41%	35%	76%
Employed in an industry outside of arts or entertainment	1,117	9%	12%	25%	34%	21%	55%

Figure 13. Responses to the question, "Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career."

Relationship Between Industry, Income, and Satisfaction

Alumni who work in the performing arts or entertainment industry tend to have lower incomes (53 percent make over \$40,000 annually) than those who work outside of the performing arts or entertainment industry (66 percent make over \$40,000). Despite generally lower incomes, alumni who have a primary occupation related to the performing arts or entertainment industry report higher career satisfaction (76 percent) than those who are not working in performing arts or entertainment (55 percent). In fact, alumni who make between \$40,001 and \$60,000 working in the performing arts or the entertainment industry report higher career satisfaction than those alumni who are making more than \$100,000 working outside of the performing arts or the entertainment industry.

Alumni working in the performing arts or entertainment industry have higher levels of career satisfaction at each level of income.

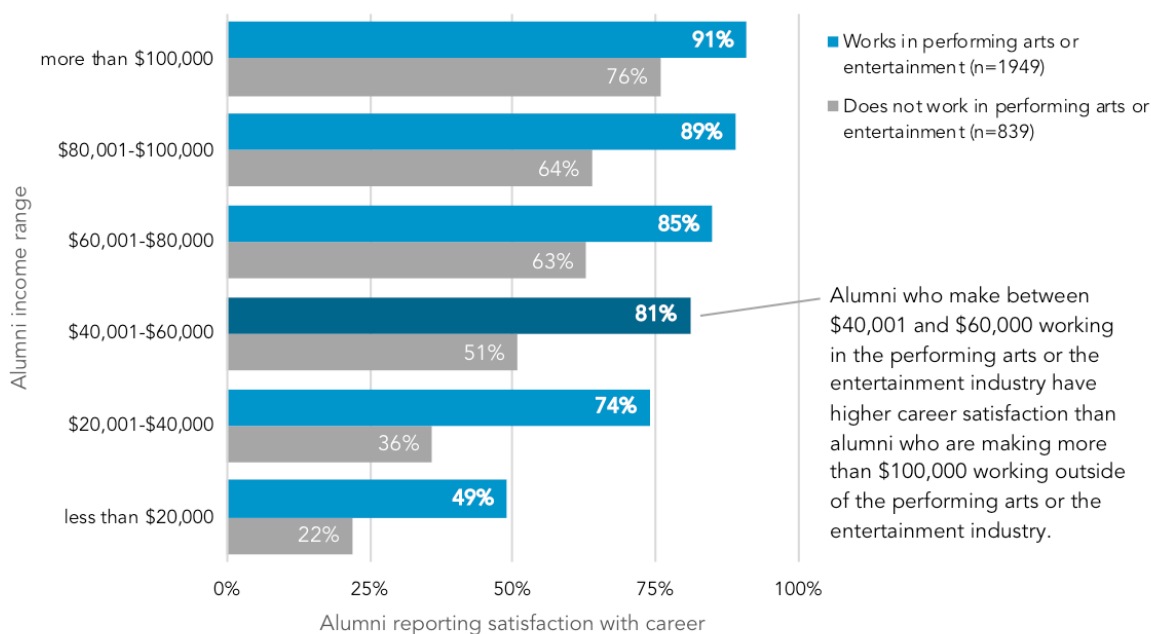


Figure 14. Responses to the question, “How satisfied are you with your overall experience as a student at Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee?”, “Please select the range that best describes your total personal (not household) income for all of 2017.”, and “Is your current primary occupation related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry?”. Satisfaction is based on alumni who reported being “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their career.

Experience at Berklee College of Music

"I loved my experience at Berklee. I also feel that it has been the right balance for me both as an artist and an entrepreneur. Berklee has not only taught me music but also so many different philosophies and approaches towards the arts and entertainment industry. I am ever grateful and thankful for that."

-Alum, M.M. '15, scoring for film, television, and video games

Program Completion

Twenty-five percent of alumni reported that they did not complete their program, slightly lower than the 28 and 30 percent reported in the 2016 and 2014 surveys. Those who did not complete their degree were asked to indicate the main reason why they left. Forty-four percent of this group point to financial reasons, followed by 27 percent who said that professional opportunities interrupted their plans to complete their degrees. This pattern of responses is similar to the 2016 and 2014 surveys.

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

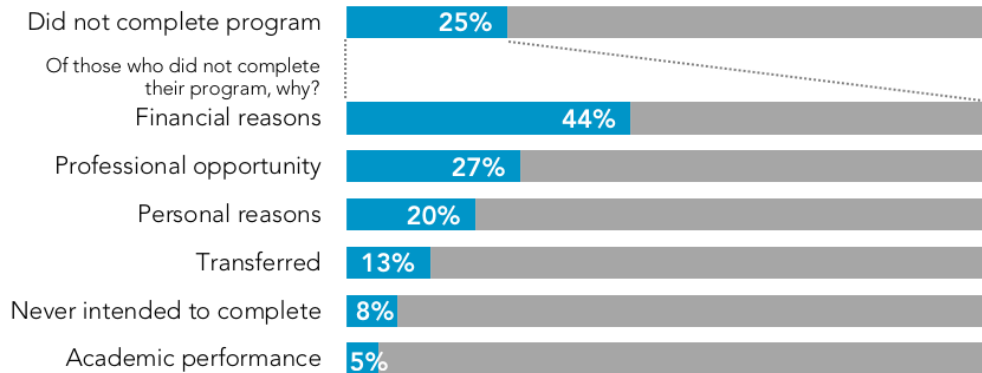


Figure 15. Responses to the questions, "Did you complete your program at Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee?" and "What reason best describes why you left Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee without completing a degree? You may select more than one option."

Career Preparation

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 general, unchanged from 2016. In particular, alumni felt that the college prepared them with the ability to connect with people from varying backgrounds/cultures (74 percent), and provided them with technical skills relevant to their field (73 percent), both increasing one percentage point from 2016. Forty four percent of alumni felt that the college gave them the ability to take an entrepreneurial approach, unchanged since 2016.

Berklee prepares students for their careers in many ways.

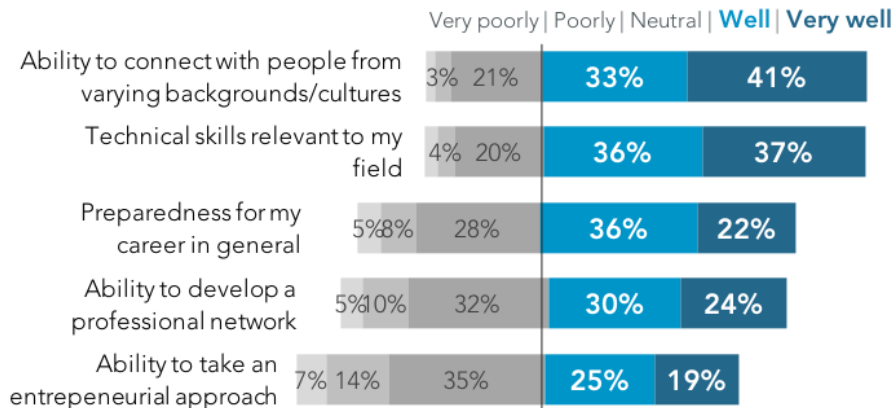


Figure 16. Responses to the question, “How well did Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee prepare you in the following ways for your career?”

Overall Experience

Alumni were also asked to rank their satisfaction with their overall experience as a student at the college. Eighty-one percent of alumni reported being “satisfied” or “very satisfied”, unchanged from the 2016 survey.

Alumni are satisfied with their overall experience at Berklee.

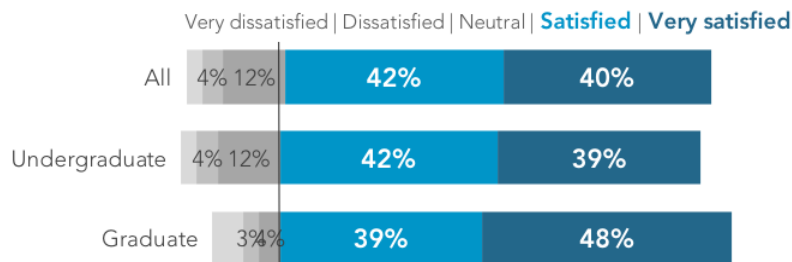


Figure 17. Responses to the question, “How satisfied are you with your overall experience as a student at Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee?”

Financial Aid

The survey included a new question this year asking alumni if they had received financial aid while they were at Berklee. Thirty-seven percent of respondents reported not receiving financial aid. Thirty-seven percent of respondents also reported receiving student loans. Thirty-four percent of respondents received a merit scholarship from the college. Twenty-six percent received student employment.

We then examined whether there is a relationship between financial aid and the responses to questions about career satisfaction and satisfaction with their overall experience at Berklee. This analysis found that respondents who received merit scholarships from the institution report higher satisfaction with their overall experience while at Berklee, but the difference is minimal when it comes to career satisfaction. Students who did not take out student loans saw both higher student and career satisfaction than those who took out

student loans. Alumni who received a merit scholarship from Berklee are more likely to work in the performing arts or entertainment related-industry (79 percent) than those who did not receive merit scholarships from Berklee (66 percent). Students who received student loans are less likely to have a primary occupation related to the performing arts or entertainment industry (67 percent) than those who do not take out student loans (72 percent). There is little difference between average salaries based on an alumni receiving a merit scholarship or student loans.

College students with scholarships had higher student satisfaction levels than those without, but the difference in career satisfaction was minimal.

Students with merit scholarships or no student loans are more likely to work in a performing arts or entertainment-related industry.

	Received Berklee Merit Scholarship		Received Student Loans	
	Yes (n~1,330)	No (n~2,551)	Yes (n~1,424)	No (n~2,457)
Satisfaction with Career	71%	69%	65%	72%
Satisfaction with Overall Experience as a Student at Berklee	86%	79%	76%	84%
Primarily work in Performing Arts or Entertainment-Related Industry	79%	66%	67%	72%
Average midpoint salary				
1-5 years after entering Berklee (n=163)	\$29,692	\$28,265	\$27,674	\$29,250
6-10 years after entering Berklee (n=457)	\$40,909	\$39,425	\$41,194	\$39,375
11-15 years after entering Berklee (n=391)	\$51,023	\$52,698	\$52,676	\$51,067
16-20 years after entering Berklee (n=263)	\$59,894	\$59,763	\$60,000	\$59,650

Figure 18. Based on responses to the questions, "Did you receive financial aid while you were a student at Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee? Please select all that apply.", "How satisfied are you with your overall experience as a student at Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee?", and "Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career." Average midpoint salary is based on the midpoint of the salary range reported. Income is not broken down after 20 years because prior to 2000, the percent of students who reported receiving a merit scholarship or loans drops. Alumni who reported ending their Berklee education in 2017 and 2018 were excluded from the average midpoint salary portion of this analysis, as they did not have a full-year to earn income.

Experience in Master's Program in Valencia

A question was also added to this year's alumni survey to get a concrete understanding of Berklee Valencia's competitive advantage. Alumni who indicated that they participated in a master's degree program in Valencia were asked to select which factors had the most positive effect on their career, with 201 alumni responding. Fifty percent of alumni indicated faculty had among the most positive effect, followed closely by practical experiences such as recordings, performances, and studio time.

Faculty and Practical Experiences contribute to the positive effect of a Valencia alumni's career.

Category	%
Faculty	50%
Practical experiences (recordings, performances, studio time, etc.)	44%
Berklee Valencia network (alumni, faculty, visiting artists, etc.)	28%
Campus location in Spain	25%
Berklee's brand	23%
Campus amenities (facilities, studios, classrooms)	22%
Class size/intimate campus setting	20%
Collaboration among the student body	19%
Curriculum	18%
International student body	10%
Visiting artists/guest speakers	8%
Other	6%
Career support and opportunities	5%
Program length	4%

Figure 19. Responses to the question, "Which parts of your experience as a graduate student at Berklee's Valencia campus had the most positive effect on your career? Please select up to three."

Alumni Engagement

"I think a mentoring program for students graduating and entering into the "real world" would be great. [The program could help graduates find] an alumni in their city and town that they can email and have some contact with."
-Alum, B.M. '99, film scoring

Staying Connected

Forty percent of alumni reported attending alumni events in the past. Almost two-thirds of alumni who have attended events in the past are likely to recommend these events to other alumni (64 percent replied "somewhat likely" or "extremely likely"). Eighty-two percent of alumni report keeping in touch with alumni affairs or Berklee. This is commonly done through the monthly alumni e-news (55 percent), alumni Facebook group (26 percent), personal contact with faculty/staff member(s) (24 percent), and following Berklee on social media (23 percent).

Sixty-four percent of alumni who attend alumni events recommend them to others.

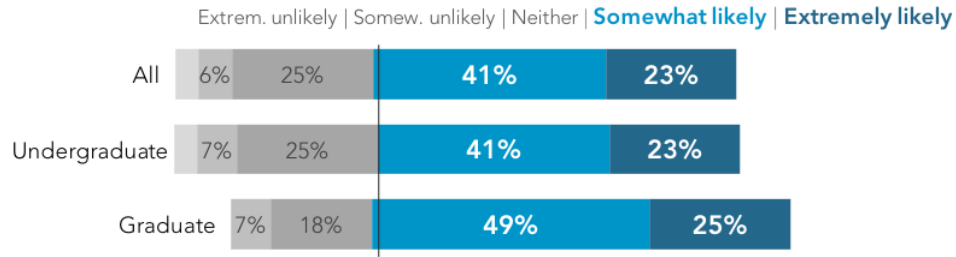


Figure 20. Responses to the question, "How likely are you to recommend these events to other alumni?"

Interest in Alumni Activities

This survey also provided an opportunity to gauge alumni interest in potential alumni activities. Alumni expressed the most interest in attending workshops and master classes (53 percent), networking events (49 percent), and panels and clinics (41 percent), which were also the top three reported in the 2016 survey. When it comes to being involved with the college, alumni were most interested in speaking to students in a panel, clinic, or workshop (46 percent), participating in alumni regional events (42 percent), and mentoring Berklee students (39 percent).

79% of alumni are interested in alumni activities

Category	%
Workshops and master classes	53%
Networking events	49%
Panels and clinics	41%
Career development programs	38%
Online events	34%
Volunteering	21%
On-campus reunion (2-3 days)	20%
On-campus summit (1 day)	18%

Figure 21. Responses to the question, "Which of the following possible alumni activities would you be interested in attending?"

Alumni are interested in being involved with the college in many ways

Category	%
Speaking to students/alumni in a panel, clinic, and/or workshop	46%
Participating in alumni regional events	42%
Mentoring Berklee students	39%
Participating in admissions auditions and interviews	33%
Posting a job opportunity	18%
Hiring a student intern	17%
Hosting a regional alumni event	13%
Organizing a webinar	9%

Figure 22. Responses to the question, "Would you consider being involved with Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee in any of the following ways?"

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 and in Appendix L. Forty-five percent of the sentiments expressed in the comments were positive, while thirty-four percent of the sentiments were negative. Twenty-one percent of the sentiments were neutral, which generally indicated a suggestion, idea, or other neutral comment.

Alumni provided many suggestions for a number of areas of improvement within the college. One recurring suggestion was creating more required business, marketing, and brand building courses to help students as they enter a field which may require freelancing. Many alumni showed interest in becoming more involved with the alumni community and making connections between Berklee and their current places of employment. Similar to the 2016 survey, the most common negative comments are regarding finances and the cost of education.

The table below provides information on the open ended questions, with the total number of codes and the sentiment breakdowns of each comment code. See Appendix L for samples of coded comments from both College and Conservatory alumni.

Most alumni comments were related to general satisfaction, their careers, and alumni experiences.
Categories and sentiments of 1,736 alumni comments

Category	Number of Codes	Sentiment		
		% Negative	% Neutral	% Positive
General Satisfaction	465	0%	1%	99%
Career-Related	387	30%	15%	55%
Alumni-Related	363	33%	43%	24%
Curriculum and Academic Support	313	41%	35%	24%
Financial	232	91%	7%	2%
Student Experience	170	39%	14%	47%
Other	136	26%	71%	3%
Faculty	124	29%	9%	62%
Degree Completion	77	31%	9%	60%
Arts/Entertainment Industry	42	60%	24%	17%
Facilities	31	42%	26%	32%
General Dissatisfaction	29	100%	0%	0%
Merger	6	17%	0%	83%
Total	2,375	34%	21%	45%

Figure 23. Coded comments to the question “Finally, we would like to give you the opportunity to provide any comments, observations, or feedback in the space below. This is your chance to let Berklee know how you feel and to help improve the college and Conservatory. Please feel free to expand on any question or address any issue you felt was not covered in the survey.” Comments may have received up to three codes, with varying sentiments.

Boston Conservatory at Berklee

The following section contains results from alumni who attended the Boston Conservatory at Berklee or the legacy Boston Conservatory.⁷

Further Education, Careers, and Activities

"I am so proud to be an alum and cheer every time I see another alum in the news. You prepared me for so much more beyond my art form. These skills have positively impacted each of my careers."
-Alum, B.F.A. '71, musical theater

Post-Secondary Degrees After the Boston Conservatory

Thirty-four percent of respondents (n=181) indicated that they earned an additional degree after leaving the Conservatory, compared to 33 percent in 2016. Most of these alumni earned an advanced degree, with 72 percent earning a master's degree and 22 percent earning a doctoral degree⁸. Of alumni who earned a master's degree after the Conservatory, Boston University (ten alumni), New York University (nine alumni), and New England Conservatory of Music (eight alumni) were the most common schools. Of alumni who earned a doctorate after the Conservatory, Boston University, University of Miami, Brandeis University, City University of New York, and the University of Texas at Austin were the most common schools with two alumni each. Find a full list of schools from which alumni obtained degrees after attending the Boston Conservatory in Appendix G.

Over a third of alumni earn degrees after leaving the Conservatory.

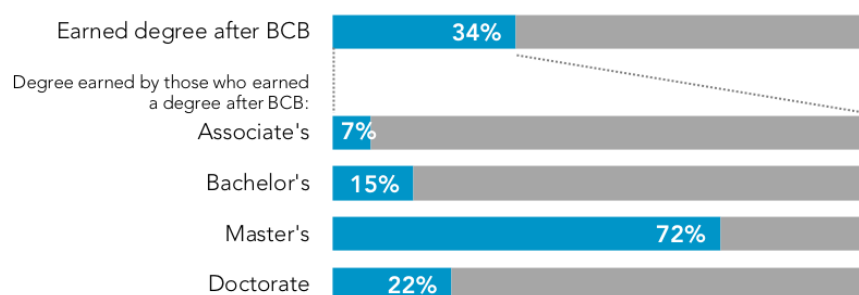


Figure 24. Responses to the questions, "Have you earned any additional college degree(s) since leaving Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee?" and "Please select the college degree(s) you earned after leaving Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee."

Primary Occupation

Forty-four percent of alumni indicated that they are self-employed, slightly higher than the 42 percent reported in 2016. The majority of alumni reported that their primary occupation is related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry (69 percent). Of those alumni who reported that they are self-employed, 79 percent are employed in a performing arts or entertainment-related occupation. Of those not self-employed, only 60 percent are employed in a performing arts or entertainment-related occupation.

⁷ This also includes students who may have attended both Berklee College of Music and the Boston Conservatory.

⁸ Doctorate includes an M.D., J.D., Ed.D., D.M., or Ph.D.

Almost half of alumni are self-employed.

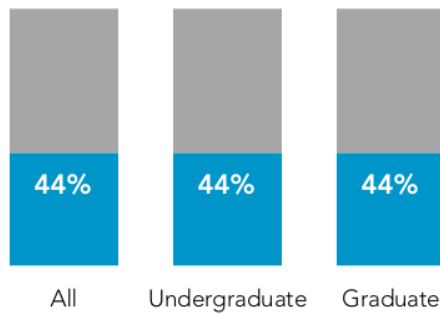


Figure 25. Responses to the question, "Are you self-employed?"

Most alumni work in arts or entertainment.

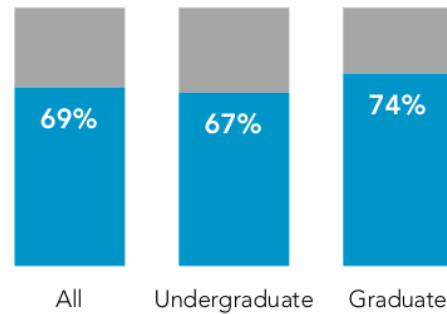


Figure 26. Responses to the question, "Is your current primary occupation related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry?"

Performing Arts-related Nature of Primary Occupation

Of the alumni who indicated a primary occupation in performing arts or entertainment, 41 percent indicated employment in education (including teaching and education administration), closely followed by another 39 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 arts or entertainment related jobs are in education or performance.

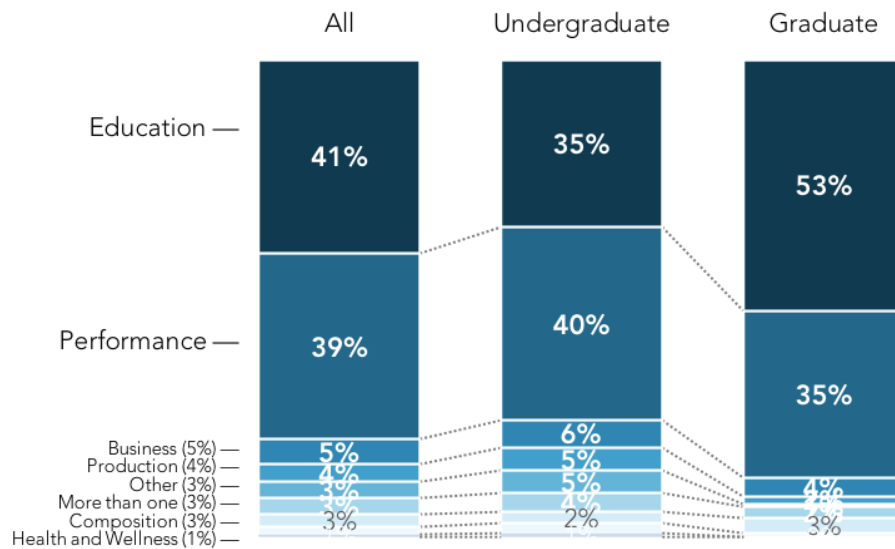


Figure 27. Responses to the question, "Which category best describes the performing arts or entertainment industry related nature of your current primary occupation?" Explanation of the figure

Non Performing Arts-Related Nature of Primary Occupation

Alumni not in a performing arts or entertainment industry-related primary occupation were asked to select the category that best describes the industry in which they work. Other than retired, the most common industry reported of this group was education, followed by healthcare, business, and other miscellaneous

occupations. Forty-three percent of those working in education worked in K-12 education, followed by higher education (35 percent).

Education is the most popular industry for jobs outside of arts and entertainment.

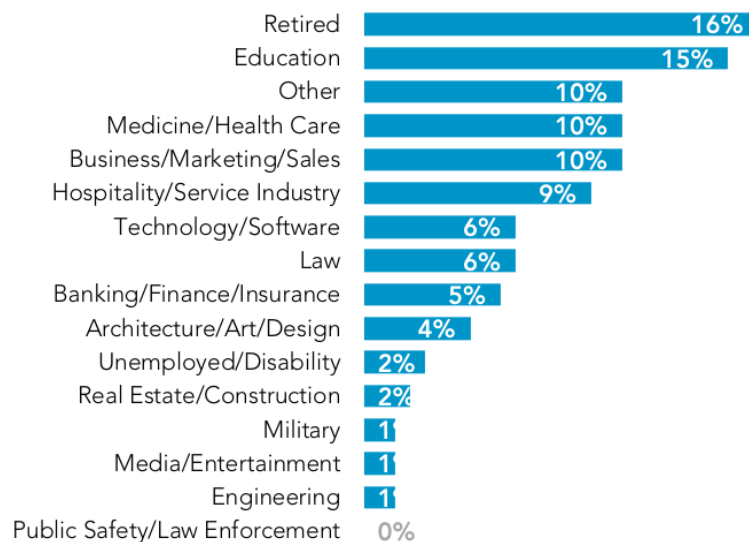


Figure 28. Responses to the question, “Which category best describes the industry of your primary occupation”. Question is only asked of those who report having a primary occupation outside of the performing arts and entertainment industries.

Common Employers

Of the 183 employers listed by alumni, four employers employ more than one respondent. These employers include Berklee (11 alumni), Boston College, Disney Theatricals, and Fall River Public Schools, with two alumni each. Find a table of most common employers and a complete list of employers and job titles of Conservatory alumni in Appendix H.

Secondary Occupation

Forty-nine percent of alumni (n=254) reported having an additional job that is related to the performing arts or entertainment industry. Of these alumni, 43 percent indicated their additional jobs are primarily in performance, and 29 percent indicated education. These are similar to what was reported in the 2016 survey.

Other Performing Arts-Related Activities

Eighty-one percent of alumni participate in performing arts-related activities outside of paid work. The most common activities include gigging, performing in community groups, and teaching. These rates are similar to the 2016 survey.

Almost half of alumni have secondary jobs in arts or entertainment.

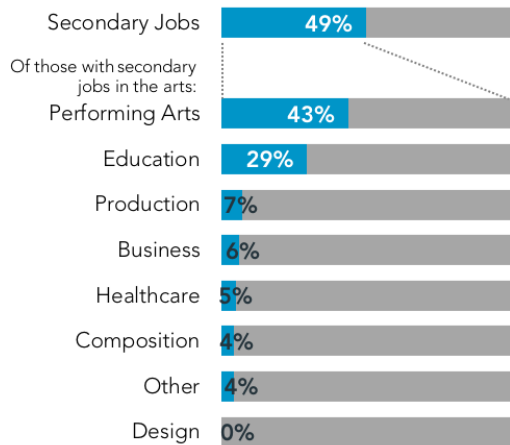


Figure 29. Responses to the questions, "Do you have an additional job that is related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry?" and "Which category best describes the performing arts or entertainment industry related nature of your additional job?"

81 percent of alumni participate in performing arts related activities outside of paid work.

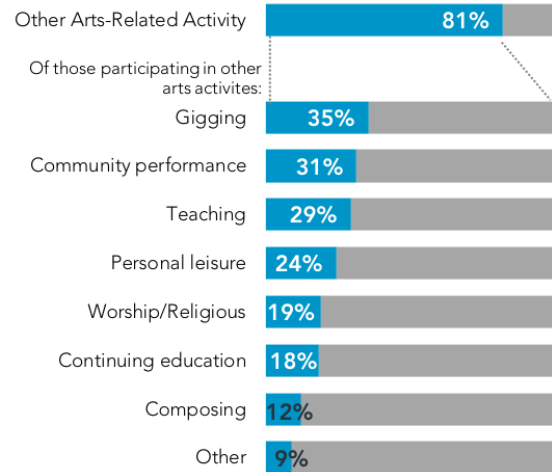


Figure 30. Responses to the question, "Do you participate in any performing arts related activities outside of paid work? (Please select all that apply, and provide any comments.)"

Income

Percentage of Income from Performing Arts or Entertainment-Related Work

Over half of alumni respondents indicated that over 50 percent of their 2017 income came from performing arts or entertainment industry-related work. This is a slight decrease from 53 percent reported in 2016. 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.

Half of alumni earn most of their income from performing arts or entertainment industry related work.

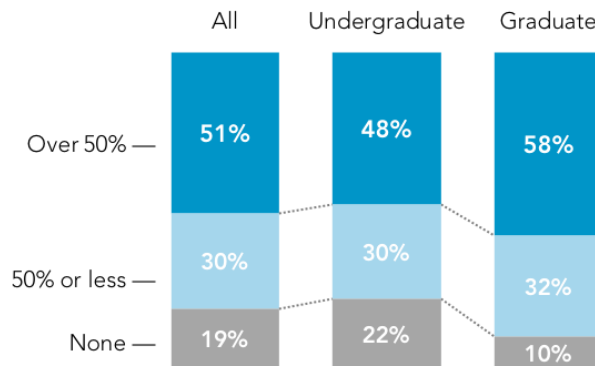


Figure 31. Responses to the question, "Approximately what percentage of your personal income in 2017 came from performing arts or entertainment industry related work?"

Income Range

Respondents were asked to select a range that best describes their total personal income for all of 2017.⁹ Three hundred and twenty alumni chose to answer this question. The highest concentration of these alumni (25 percent) were in the \$20,001 to \$40,000 range. Sixty-one percent of alumni reported their income as above \$40,000, with 16 percent reporting an income over \$100,000. Conservatory alumni see income growth in their first ten years after leaving the Conservatory.

Sixty-one percent of alumni earned over \$40,000 in 2017.

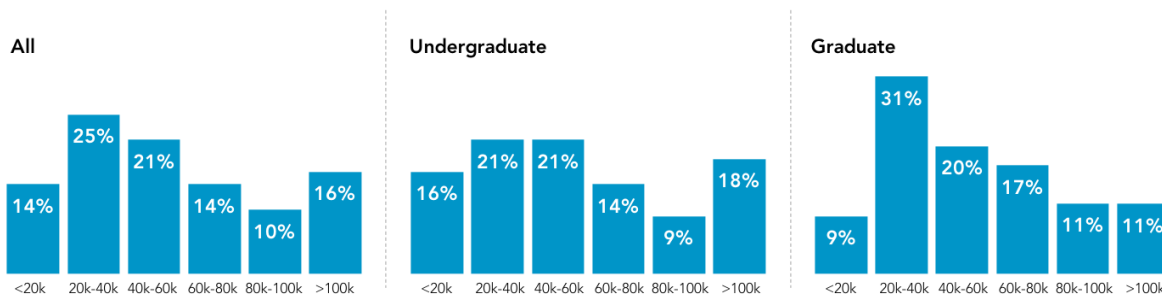


Figure 32. Responses to the question, "Please select the range that best describes your total personal (not household) income for all of 2017." Alumni who reported ending their Berklee education in 2017 and 2018 were excluded from this analysis, as they did not have a full-year to earn income.

Alumni see incomes rising ten years after beginning at the Conservatory.

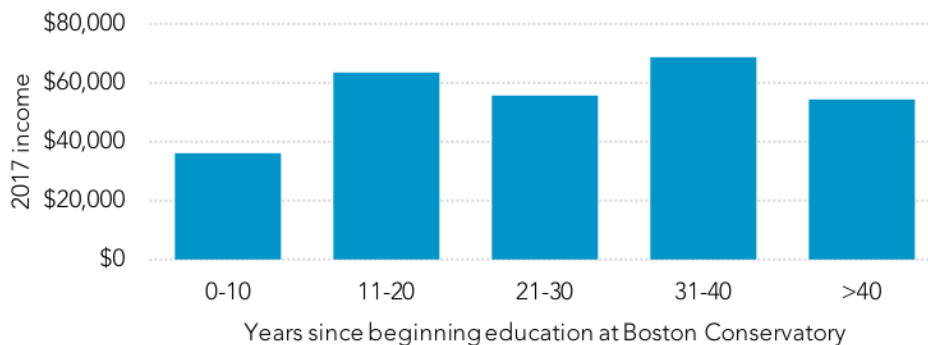


Figure 33. Alumni 2017 income by years since beginning at the Conservatory. Due to small number of respondents, five-year increments were combined into 10-year ranges. Income is based on the midpoint of the salary range reported.

Income Inequality Across Gender

Men reported a higher personal income in 2017 than women, showing that gender income inequality exists among Boston Conservatory alumni. Of alumni who began their education from 2008 to 2012, men (\$43,793 average income) reported an 18 percent higher average income than women (\$37,174). Small sample sizes make it difficult to make accurate comparisons across race and ethnicity.

⁹ Alumni who reported last attending Boston Conservatory in 2017 and 2018 were excluded from this analysis, as they did not have a full year to earn income.

Alumni who are men report higher income than women.

Years after entering Berklee	Man		Woman	
	Average income	n	Average income	n
1-5 years	\$53,333	6	\$40,000	11
6-10 years	\$43,793	29	\$37,174	46
11-15 years	\$67,692	13	\$49,583	24
16-20 years	\$77,692	13	\$67,143	21
21+ years	\$65,161	62	\$54,045	89

Figure 34. Based on responses to the question Responses to the questions, "Please select the range that best describes your total personal (not household) income for all of 2017." and "What is your gender?" Average midpoint salary is based on the midpoint of the salary range reported. Alumni who reported ending their Berklee education in 2017 and 2018 were excluded from the average midpoint salary portion of this analysis, as they did not have a full-year to earn income. One response from an alumni who responded to "What is your gender?" with "Non-binary or Prefer to self-describe" is excluded for anonymity.

Career Satisfaction

"The conservatory prepared me pretty well for the future. I have been working very consistently since graduating. I do think they should talk more about what happens after the Conservatory, and how to make a living besides your given career."
 -Alum, B.F.A., '18, musical theater

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, unchanged since 2016. Undergraduate alumni (78 percent) expressed a higher level of satisfaction than graduate alumni (69 percent). Self-employed alumni report slightly higher satisfaction (75 percent) than those who are not self-employed (74 percent). Alumni who are employed in the arts or entertainment industry report being much more satisfied (83 percent) than those employed outside of the arts and entertainment industry (55 percent).

Seventy-four percent of alumni are satisfied with their career.

	n	V. Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	V. Satisfied	% Top Two
All	500	4%	6%	15%	41%	33%	74%
Undergraduate	369	5%	5%	13%	43%	35%	78%
Graduate	163	2%	9%	20%	39%	29%	69%
Self-employed	217	4%	6%	15%	43%	32%	75%
Not Self-employed	283	5%	6%	16%	40%	34%	74%
Employed in arts or entertainment industry	345	3%	2%	12%	46%	37%	83%
Employed in an industry outside of arts or entertainment	155	6%	14%	24%	30%	25%	55%

Figure 35. Responses to the question, "Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career."

Relationship Between Industry, Income, and Satisfaction

Alumni who work in the performing arts or entertainment industry tend to have lower incomes (54 percent make over \$40,000 annually) than those who work outside of the performing arts or entertainment industry (64 percent make over \$40,000). Despite generally lower incomes, alumni who have a primary occupation related to the performing arts or entertainment industry report higher career satisfaction (83 percent) than those who are not working in performing arts or entertainment (55 percent). In fact, alumni who make between \$20,001 and \$40,000 working in the performing arts or the entertainment industry report higher career satisfaction than those alumni who are making more than \$100,000 working outside of the performing arts or the entertainment industry.

Alumni working in the performing arts or entertainment industry have higher levels of career satisfaction at each level of income.

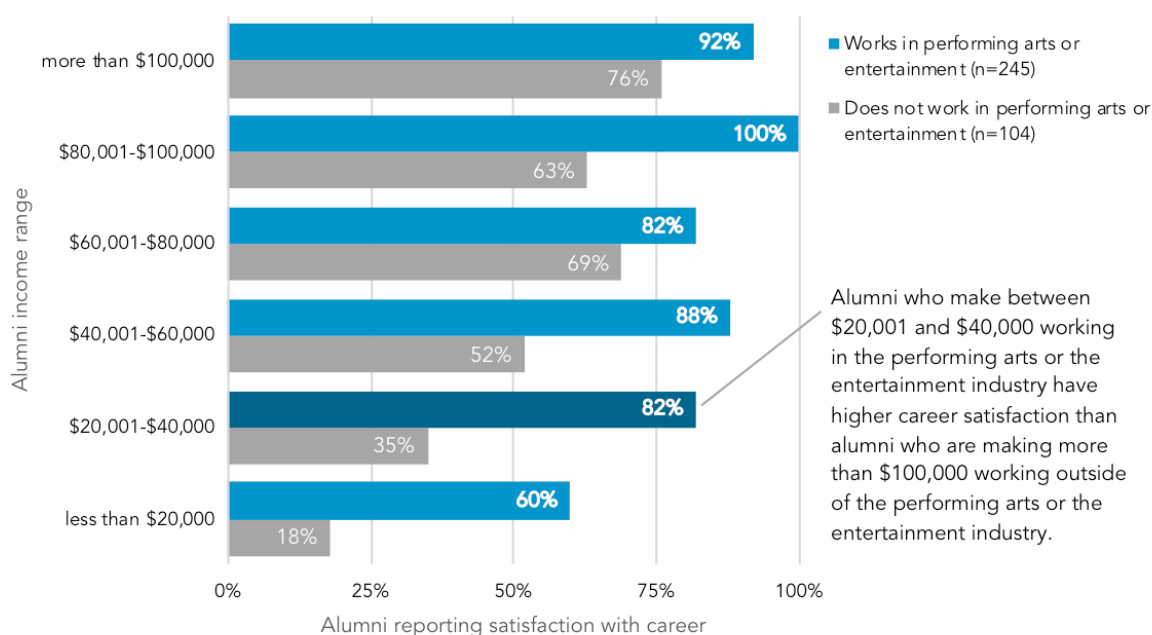


Figure 36. Responses to the question, "How satisfied are you with your overall experience as a student at Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee?", "Please select the range that best describes your total personal (not household) income for all of 2017.", and "Is your current primary occupation related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry?". Satisfaction is based on alumni who reported being "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their career.

Experience at the Boston Conservatory

"Throughout my career as a music educator, performer, administrator, I have used the skills and discipline I learned while earning my degree."

-Alum, M.M. '86

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. Of the 59 alumni that reported not completing their degree program, 31 percent point to financial reasons, a large increase from 18 percent in the 2016 survey. Twenty five percent indicated a professional opportunity and 24 percent transferred to another school.

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

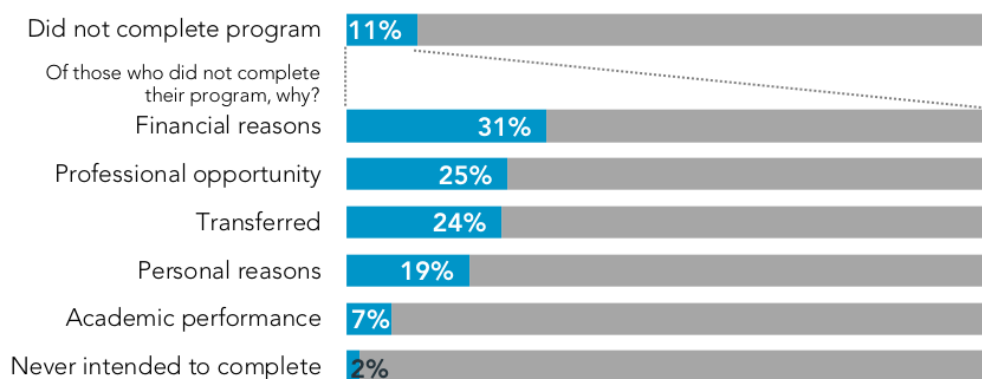


Figure 37. Responses to the questions, "Did you complete your program at Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee?" and "What reason best describes why you left Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee without completing a degree? You may select more than one option."

Career Preparation

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, 60 percent felt prepared for their career in general and 58 percent were prepared to connect with people from varying backgrounds/cultures. Alumni felt less positively about the Conservatory preparing them to develop a professional network (42 percent) or nurturing an ability to take an entrepreneurial approach (32 percent).

The Conservatory prepares students for their careers in many ways.

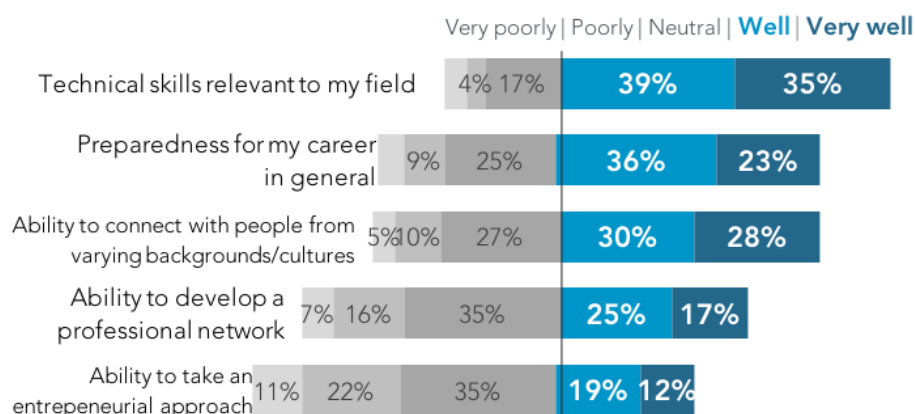


Figure 38. Responses to the question, “How well did Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee prepare you in the following ways for your career?”

Overall Experience

When asked to rank their satisfaction with their overall experience as a student at the Conservatory, 76 percent reported being “satisfied” or “very satisfied” down from the 79 percent reported in the 2016 survey.

Alumni are satisfied with their overall experience at Berklee.

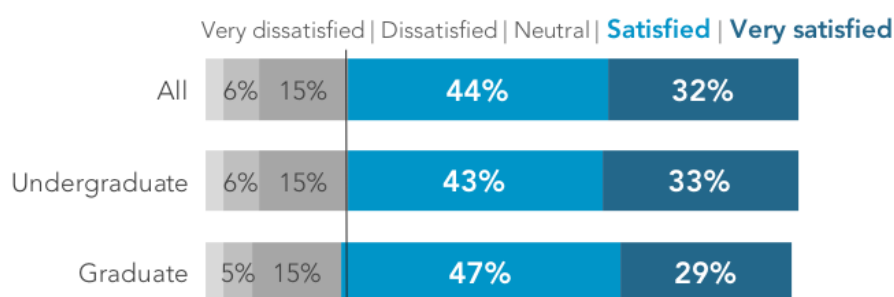


Figure 39. Responses to the question, “How satisfied are you with your overall experience as a student at Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee?”

Financial Aid

The survey included a new question to identify if alumni had received financial aid while they were at the Conservatory. Twenty-seven percent of respondents reported not receiving financial aid. Forty-six percent of respondents reported receiving a merit scholarship from the conservatory. Forty-three percent of respondents also reported receiving student loans. Thirty-one percent received student employment.

We examined whether there is a relationship between financial aid and the responses to questions about career satisfaction and satisfaction with the overall experience. Interestingly, students who reported receiving institutional merit scholarship reported lower levels of career and overall student satisfaction than those who did not receive institutional merit scholarship. Alumni who received institutional merit scholarship are more likely to primarily work in the performing arts or entertainment related-industry (74 percent) than those who did not receive a merit scholarship (64 percent). There was little difference in satisfaction, and working in

performing arts or entertainment of those who did and did not receive student loans. There are varying differences in salaries, likely due to smaller sample sizes.

Conservatory students with merit scholarships are more likely to work in a performing arts or entertainment-related industry, but do not have higher levels of career or student satisfaction.

	Received Institutional Merit Scholarship		Received Student Loans	
	Yes (n~244)	No (n~282)	Yes (n~229)	No (n~297)
Satisfaction with Career	72%	76%	75%	73%
Satisfaction with Overall Experience as a Student at the Conservatory	72%	79%	75%	76%
Primarily work in Performing Arts or Entertainment-Related Industry	74%	64%	69%	68%
Average midpoint salary				
0-5 years after entering the Conservatory (n=17)	\$42,000	\$48,571	\$39,091	\$55,000
6-10 years after entering the Conservatory (n=77)	\$41,754	\$32,000	\$40,000	\$37,778
11-15 years after entering the Conservatory (n=37)	\$56,522	\$55,000	\$58,333	\$51,538
16-20 years after entering the Conservatory (n=34)	\$70,952	\$51,538	\$70,000	\$72,857

Figure 40. Based on responses to the questions, "Did you receive financial aid while you were a student at Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee? Please select all that apply.", "How satisfied are you with your overall experience as a student at Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee?", and "Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career." Average midpoint salary is based on the midpoint of the salary range reported. Income is not broken down after 20 years because prior to 2000, the percent of students who reported receiving merit scholarship or loans drops.

Alumni Engagement

"Many of the Conservatory and alumni events sound interesting, but I find that my teaching and performing schedules in Rhode Island don't often allow for traveling to Boston. When I am free, I usually prefer to spend time relaxing and networking within my own local community. Scheduling dilemmas aside, I would be interested in talking with current and potential students, as well as donors, about my experience at Boston Conservatory and my career."

-Alum, B.M. '12

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, 28 percent of alumni indicated that they did, up from 23 percent in 2016. Sixty-three percent of those who have attended alumni events in the past are likely to recommend these events to other alumni, down from seventy-six percent in 2016. Seventy-six percent of alumni report keeping in touch with alumni affairs or Berklee. This is commonly done through the monthly alumni e-news (47 percent), alumni Facebook group (26 percent), personal contact with faculty/staff member(s) (26 percent), and following Berklee on social media (25 percent).

Sixty-three percent of alumni who attend alumni events recommend them to others.

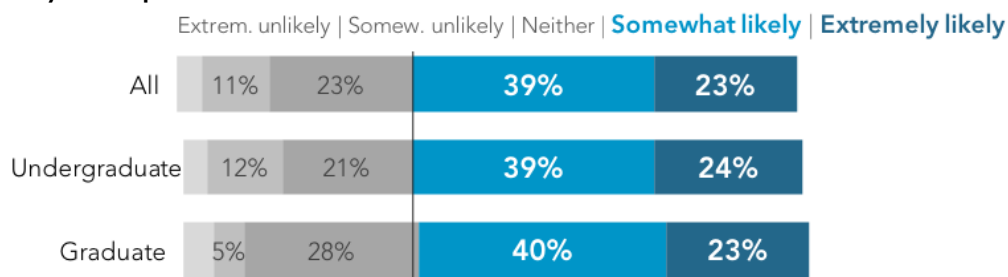


Figure 41. Responses to the question, "How likely are you to recommend these events to other alumni?"

Interest in Alumni Activities

This survey also provided an opportunity to gauge alumni interest in alumni activities. Alumni expressed the most interest in attending workshops and master classes, networking events, followed by panels and clinics. When it comes to being involved with the Conservatory, alumni were most interested in speaking to students in a panel, clinic, or workshop (41 percent), participation in alumni regional events (34 percent), and participating in admissions auditions and interviews (30 percent).

69% of alumni are interested in alumni activities.

	%
Workshops and master classes	44%
Networking events	33%
Panels and clinics	27%
Online events	25%
Career development programs	25%
On-campus reunion (2-3 days)	20%
On-campus summit (1 day)	17%
Volunteering	15%
Other	5%

Figure 42. Responses to the question, "Which of the following possible alumni activities would you be interested in attending?"

Alumni are interested in volunteering in many ways.

	%
Speaking to students/alumni in a panel, clinic, or workshop	41%
Participating in alumni regional events	34%
Participating in admissions auditions and interviews	30%
Mentoring Berklee students	29%
Posting a job opportunity	18%
Hiring a student intern	13%
Hosting a regional alumni event	7%
Organizing a webinar	5%

Figure 43. Responses to the question, "Would you consider being involved with Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee in any of the following ways?"

Comments

Alumni were offered the opportunity to write comments and give additional feedback at the end of the survey. There were more than 200 comments, which were reviewed and coded for primary themes. Samples of these comments appear throughout this report. Forty-six percent of the sentiments expressed in the comments were positive and thirty-four percent of the sentiments were negative. Twenty percent of the sentiments were neutral, which generally indicated a suggestion, idea, or other neutral comment.

Alumni generally spoke highly of the quality of their instruction and connections they made with their faculty. In addition, suggestions included having more courses on budgeting, business, and financial literacy to better

prepare students when they leave the Conservatory. Alumni also indicated an interest in having access to more job openings or postings.

The table below provides information into the open ended questions, with the total number of codes and the sentiment breakdowns of each comment code. See Appendix L for samples of coded comments from both College and Conservatory alumni.

Most alumni comments were related to their careers, general satisfaction, and alumni experiences.
Categories and sentiments of 232 alumni comments

Category	Number of Codes	Sentiment		
		% Negative	% Neutral	% Positive
Career-Related	55	25%	13%	62%
General Satisfaction	50	0%	0%	100%
Alumni-Related	49	39%	33%	29%
Curriculum and Academic Support	47	34%	40%	26%
Faculty	30	27%	3%	70%
Merger	21	48%	14%	38%
Financial	20	100%	0%	0%
Student Experience	20	50%	10%	40%
Other	19	21%	79%	0%
Facilities	6	67%	0%	33%
General Dissatisfaction	3	100%	0%	0%
Degree Completion	2	100%	0%	0%
Arts/Entertainment Industry	2	50%	50%	0%
Total	324	34%	20%	46%

Figure 44. Coded comments to the question "Finally, we would like to give you the opportunity to provide any comments, observations, or feedback in the space below. This is your chance to let Berklee know how you feel and to help improve the College and Conservatory. Please feel free to expand on any question or address any issue you felt was not covered in the survey." Comments may have received up to three codes, with varying sentiments.

Conclusion

“After Berklee,” the institution’s alumni survey, is an important tool to engage with former students, assess their professional and personal success, learn how they feel about the institution, determine what we can do to support them as well as maintain up to date contact information. The 2018 survey reinforces findings that were identified in 2014 and 2016 surveys. This information will help to inform Berklee’s strengths and opportunities when it comes to student success, career tracking, and alumni engagement.

A primary recommendation going forward is to concentrate on the yearly “First Destination” survey and to expand the amount of time between administrations of the “After Berklee” survey to every 4 to 5 years instead of biennially. Only 107 alumni from the most recent graduating class answered the alumni survey, efforts will be increased to target and increase response rates from recent graduates.

Appendices

Appendix A: Demographics

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

Berklee College of Music

Area of Study

The most frequent undergraduate majors reported by college respondents are performance (963 respondents) and professional music (799 respondents), followed by music production and engineering (456 respondents). These responses are consistent with those reported in the 2016 and 2014 survey. The most frequent master's degree programs reported are the Master of Music in Scoring for Film, Television, and Video Games (54 respondents) and the Master of Music in Contemporary Performance (Production Concentration) (47 respondents).

Years of Attendance

The years of attendance of survey alumni range from 1945 to 2017, with four years being the average amount of time alumni spent at the college. Fifty percent of respondents began their education at Berklee since 2000.

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 (81 percent) identified themselves as White, followed by Asian (11 percent), Hispanic or Latino (11 percent), Black or African American (five percent), and American Indian or Alaska Native (one percent). In addition, 29 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-seven percent of alumni currently live in the United States, a slight decrease from the 79 percent reported in 2016. Those that currently live in the United States come from 48 states and territories. Of those currently living in the United States, 20 percent reside in California, 20 percent reside in Massachusetts, and 11 percent reside in New York.

The 904 respondents who reside outside of the United States live in 85 different countries. The most popular countries outside of the United States include Canada (10 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 2016 and 2014 alumni surveys.

Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Area of Study

Seventy-two percent of respondents were enrolled in undergraduate programs, while 34 percent were enrolled in graduate programs. The most represented division was Music, with 338 respondents. This was followed by theater (138 respondents) and dance (69 respondents).

Years of Attendance

The years of attendance of survey alumni range from 1945 to 2017, with four years being the average amount of time alumni spent at the Conservatory. Forty-seven percent of respondents began their education at Berklee since 2000.

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 percent of alumni identified as a woman, and 39 percent as a man. Eighty-seven percent of alumni identified themselves as White, with a small number of Hispanic or Latino (seven percent), Asian (six percent), Black or African American (three percent), and American Indian or Alaska Native (one percent). Nine percent of alumni were international students when they attended the Conservatory.

Region

Ninety-four percent of alumni currently live in the United States. Those that currently live in the United States come from 40 states and territories. Of those currently living in the United States, 32 percent reside in Massachusetts, 16 percent reside in New York, and 10 percent reside in California. The 30 respondents who reside outside of the United States live in 18 different countries. The most popular countries outside of the United States include Canada (four international respondents), Spain, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom (three alumni each).

Appendix B: Responses to all questions

The following table shows the responses to each question of the survey separated by Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

	BCM	BCB
Your Education at Berklee		
When did you start your education at BCM/BCB?		
1940's	<1%	<1%
1950's	<1%	2%
1960's	3%	10%
1970's	15%	15%
1980's	16%	11%
1990's	16%	14%
2000's	25%	23%
2010's	25%	25%
When did you last attend BCM/BCB?		
1940's	<1%	0%
1950's	<1%	1%
1960's	2%	6%
1970's	11%	14%
1980's	15%	14%
1990's	16%	12%
2000's	21%	20%
2010's	36%	34%
Which level of study did you participate in at BCM/BCB? (derived from program question and alumni may be counted as both.		
Undergraduate	96%	72%
Graduate	5%	34%
Did you complete your program at BCM/BCB?		
Yes	75%	89%
No	25%	11%
What reason best describes why you left without completing a degree? You may select more than one option.		
Academic Performance	5%	7%
Financial reasons	44%	31%
Never intended to complete degree	8%	2%
Personal reasons, including health, disability, or family reasons	20%	19%
Professional opportunity	27%	25%
Transferred to another school	13%	24%
Other	19%	29%
Further Education, Career, and Activities		
Earned any additional college degree(s) since leaving BCM/BCB	28%	34%

If yes, please select the college degree you earned since leaving BCM/BCB (select all that apply)		
Associate's	11%	7%
Bachelor's	32%	15%
Master's	64%	72%
Doctorate (M.D., J.D., Ed.D., D.M., Ph.D.)	14%	22%
Self Employed	57%	44%
Primary occupation related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry	70%	69%
Which category best describes the industry of your primary occupation (non-arts/entertainment)?		
Architecture/Art/Design	2%	4%
Banking/Finance/Insurance	6%	5%
Business/Marketing/Sales	8%	10%
Education (including Music Education and Education Administration)	14%	15%
Engineering	4%	1%
Hospitality/Service Industry	9%	9%
Law	3%	6%
Media/Entertainment	2%	1%
Medicine/Health Care (including Music Therapy)	10%	10%
Military	<1%	1%
Other	11%	10%
Public Safety/Law Enforcement	1%	0%
Real Estate/Construction	3%	2%
Retired	5%	16%
Technology/Software	17%	6%
Unemployed/Disability	4%	2%
Which form of education is your primary occupation? (select all that apply)		
Private lessons	16%	4%
K-12 education	38%	43%
Higher education	43%	35%
Other	12%	17%
Which category best describes the performing arts or entertainment industry related nature of your primary occupation?		
Business	9%	5%
Composition (including songwriting)	13%	3%
Design	2%	1%
Education (including teaching and education administration)	23%	41%
Health and Wellness	1%	1%
Wrote in more than one	4%	3%
Other	4%	3%
Performance	29%	39%
Production	16%	4%
Approximately what percentage of your personal income in 2017 came from performing arts or entertainment industry related work?		

None	18%	19%
1-50%	26%	30%
Over 50%	56%	51%
Have an additional job that is related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry.	44%	49%
Business	6%	6%
Composition (including songwriting)	11%	4%
Design	1%	0%
Education (including teaching and education administration)	24%	29%
Health and Wellness	1%	5%
Wrote in more than one	1%	1%
Other	4%	4%
Performance	38%	43%
Production	13%	7%
Which form of education is your additional job?		
Private lessons	51%	47%
K-12 education	10%	15%
Higher education	29%	17%
Other	10%	21%
Participate in performing arts related activities outside of paid work. Please select all that apply.	84%	81%
Community performance group (chorus, theatre, orchestra, etc.)	17%	31%
Composing or arranging	36%	12%
Continuing education (lessons, college courses, etc.)	13%	18%
Gigging	44%	35%
Personal leisure or family entertainment	29%	24%
Teaching	25%	29%
Worship and religious music	14%	19%
Other (please specify)	7%	9%
Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career. (% satisfied or very satisfied)	69%	74%
Please select the range that best describes your personal (not household) income for all of 2017.		
Less than \$20,000	16%	14%
\$20,001-\$40,000	23%	25%
\$40,001-\$60,000	18%	21%
\$60,001-\$80,000	14%	14%
\$80,001-\$100,000	10%	10%
More than \$100,000	20%	16%
Average salary range midpoint, years after starting BCM/BCB		
1-5	\$24,627	\$31,136
6-10	\$39,669	\$38,481
11-15	\$51,784	\$55,946
16-20	\$59,551	\$71,176
21-25	\$61,106	\$57,333
26-30	\$67,018	\$51,875

31–35	\$69,752	\$70,526
36–40	\$65,371	\$67,200
41–45	\$67,010	\$53,684
>45	\$62,721	\$54,565
Your Experience at Berklee		
How well did Berklee prepare you in the following ways for your career? (% well or very well)		
Technical skills relevant to my field	73%	74%
Ability to develop a professional network	54%	42%
Ability to connect with people from varying backgrounds/cultures	74%	58%
Ability to take an entrepreneurial approach	44%	32%
Preparedness for my career in general	58%	60%
Satisfied with overall experience as a student at BCM/BCB (% satisfied or very satisfied)	81%	76%
Did you receive financial aid while you were at Berklee? Please select all that apply.		
I did not receive financial aid	37%	27%
College/Conservatory merit scholarship	34%	46%
College/Conservatory grant	10%	10%
External scholarship or grant	16%	13%
Student employment	26%	31%
Student loan	37%	43%
Veterans' Benefits/GI Bill	1%	1%
Other aid	4%	4%
Which parts of your experience as a graduate student at Berklee's Valencia campus had the most positive effect on your career? Please select up to three.		
Berklee's brand	23%	—
Berklee Valencia network (alumni, faculty, visiting artists, etc.)	28%	—
Campus amenities (facilities, studios, classrooms)	22%	—
Campus location in Spain	25%	—
Career support and opportunities	5%	—
Class size/intimate campus setting	20%	—
Collaboration among the student body	19%	—
Curriculum	18%	—
Faculty	50%	—
International student body	10%	—
Practical experiences (recordings, performances, studio time, etc.)	44%	—
Program length	4%	—
Visiting artists/guest speakers	8%	—
Other	6%	—
Alumni Events and Communications		
Attended alumni events in the past	40%	28%
Keep in touch with Alumni Affairs/School. You may select more than one.		
Alumni Facebook group	26%	26%
Following Berklee and/or the Conservatory on social media	23%	25%
Berklee and/or Conservatory website	13%	16%

Monthly alumni e-news	55%	47%
Attending Berklee and/or Conservatory performances	4%	12%
Volunteering as a mentor, recruiter, or committee member	3%	4%
Attending alumni events	17%	9%
Personal contact with faculty/staff member(s)	24%	26%
Other	5%	4%
Which of the following possible alumni activities would you be interested in attending?		
Career development programs	38%	25%
Networking events	49%	33%
On-campus summit (1 day)	18%	17%
On-campus reunion (2-3 days)	20%	20%
Online events	34%	25%
Panels and clinics	41%	27%
Volunteering	21%	15%
Workshops and master classes	53%	44%
Other	4%	5%
How likely are you to recommend these events with other alumni (% somewhat likely or extremely likely)	64%	63%
Would you consider being involved with BCM/BCB in any of the following ways?		
Mentoring Berklee students	39%	29%
Participating in alumni regional events	42%	34%
Participating in admissions auditions and interviews	33%	30%
Speaking to students/alumni in a panel, clinic, and/or workshop	46%	41%
Organizing a webinar	9%	5%
Hosting a regional alumni event	13%	7%
Posting a job opportunity	18%	18%
Hiring a student intern	17%	13%
Demographics		
Gender		
Man	75%	39%
Non-binary	0%	0%
Prefer to self-describe	1%	<1%
Woman	24%	60%
Do you identify as transgender?		
No	99%	100%
Yes	1%	<1%
Do you consider yourself to be hispanic/latino		
No	89%	93%
Yes	11%	7%
Did you attend Berklee as an international student?		
No	71%	91%
Yes	29%	9%
Please select one or more of the following racial categories to describe yourself. (select all that		

apply)		
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%	1%
Asian	11%	6%
Black or African American	5%	3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	<1%	<1%
White	81%	87%
Other	6%	4%
Program of Study (Number of respondents)		
Conservatory Divisions (532 total respondents to this question, alumni may be counted in more than one division)		
Dance	–	69
Music	–	338
Theater	–	138
College Programs (3,923 total respondents to this question, alumni may be counted in more than one program)		
Composition or Commercial Arranging	420	–
Contemporary Writing and Production	228	–
Electronic Music Production and Design (Music Synthesis, Electronic Music)	208	–
Film Scoring or Music Composition for Film, TV, and Games	337	–
Guitar	4	–
Interdisciplinary Music Studies	8	–
Jazz Composition	245	–
Music Business/Management	319	–
Music Education	224	–
Music Production	7	–
Music Production and Engineering (Audio Recording)	456	–
Music Therapy	65	–
Performance	963	–
Professional Music	799	–
Songwriting	211	–
Writing and Producing Music	1	–
Undeclared	129	–
MA in Global Entertainment and Music Business	28	–
MA in Music Business	0	–
MA in Music Therapy	1	–
MM in Contemporary Performance (Global Jazz Concentration)	14	–
MM in Contemporary Performance (Production Concentration)	47	–
MM in Music Production	37	–
MM in Music Production, Technology, and Innovation	35	–
MM in Scoring for Film, Television, and Video Games	54	–
Fellowship	7	–
Berklee Online Certificate	34	–
Other	2	–

Appendix C: Berklee College of Music Historical Comparisons

The table below compares answers from the 2014, 2016, and 2018 surveys.

Berklee College of Music Historical Comparison			
	2014	2016	2018
Your Education at Berklee			
Did you complete your program at BCM/BCB?			
Yes	70%	72%	75%
No	30%	28%	25%
What reason best describes why you left without completing a degree? You may select more than one option.			
Academic Performance	2%	4%	5%
Financial reasons	39%	44%	44%
Never intended to complete degree	11%	11%	8%
Personal reasons, including health, disability, or family reasons	16%	16%	20%
Professional opportunity	28%	28%	27%
Transferred to another school	n/a	12%	13%
Other	27%	14%	19%
Further Education, Career, and Activities			
Earned any additional college degree(s) since leaving BCM/BCB	28%	24%	28%
If yes, please select the college degree you earned since leaving BCM/BCB (select all that apply)			
Associate's	12%	10%	11%
Bachelor's	30%	30%	32%
Master's	53%	65%	64%
Doctorate (M.D., J.D., Ed.D., D.M., Ph.D.)	19%	14%	14%
Self Employed	50%	55%	57%
Primary occupation related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry	66%	70%	70%
Which category best describes the industry of your primary occupation (non-arts/entertainment)?			
Architecture/Art/Design	n/a	3%	2%
Banking/Finance/Insurance	n/a	6%	6%
Business/Marketing/Sales	n/a	7%	8%
Education (including Music Education and Education Administration)	n/a	10%	14%
Engineering	n/a	4%	4%
Hospitality/Service Industry	n/a	12%	9%
Law	n/a	3%	3%
Media/Entertainment	n/a	10%	2%
Medicine/Health Care (including Music Therapy)	n/a	8%	10%
Military	n/a	<1%	<1%
Other	n/a	9%	11%
Public Safety/Law Enforcement	n/a	1%	1%
Real Estate/Construction	n/a	4%	3%

Retired	n/a	4%	5%
Technology/Software	n/a	16%	17%
Unemployed/Disability	n/a	4%	4%
Which category best describes the performing arts or entertainment industry related nature of your primary occupation?			
Business	n/a	8%	9%
Composition (including songwriting)	n/a	14%	13%
Design	n/a	n/a	2%
Education (including teaching and education administration)	n/a	25%	23%
Health and Wellness	n/a	1%	1%
Wrote in more than one	n/a	n/a	4%
Other	n/a	8%	4%
Performance	n/a	36%	29%
Production	n/a	10%	16%
Approximately what percentage of your personal income in 2017 came from performing arts or entertainment industry related work?			
None	n/a	17%	18%
1-50%	n/a	25%	26%
Over 50%	n/a	58%	56%
Have an additional job that is related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry.			
Business	n/a	5%	6%
Composition (including songwriting)	n/a	13%	11%
Design	n/a	n/a	1%
Education (including teaching and education administration)	n/a	25%	24%
Health and Wellness	n/a	1%	1%
Wrote in more than one	n/a	n/a	1%
Other	n/a	8%	4%
Performance	n/a	36%	38%
Production	n/a	10%	13%
Participate in performing arts related activities outside of paid work. Please select all that apply.			
Community performance group (chorus, theatre, orchestra, etc.)	83%	74%	84%
Composing or arranging	9%	20%	17%
Continuing education (lessons, college courses, etc.)	n/a	n/a	36%
Gigging	n/a	15%	13%
Personal leisure or family entertainment	64%	57%	44%
Teaching	52%	40%	29%
Worship and religious music	43%	28%	25%
Other (please specify)	16%	17%	14%
	n/a	11%	7%
Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career. (% satisfied or very satisfied)			
	n/a	70%	69%
Please select the range that best describes your personal (not household) income for all of 2017.			
Less than \$20,000	20%	16%	16%

\$20,001-\$40,000	25%	24%	23%
\$40,001-\$60,000	20%	19%	18%
\$60,001-\$80,000	12%	14%	14%
\$80,001-\$100,000	9%	9%	10%
More than \$100,000	14%	17%	20%
Your Experience at Berklee			
How well did Berklee prepare you in the following ways for your career? (% well or very well)			
Technical skills relevant to my field	n/a	72%	73%
Ability to develop a professional network	n/a	54%	54%
Ability to connect with people from varying backgrounds/cultures	n/a	73%	74%
Ability to take an entrepreneurial approach	n/a	44%	44%
Preparedness for my career in general	n/a	58%	58%
Satisfied with overall experience as a student at BCM/BCB (% satisfied or very satisfied)	n/a	81%	81%
Alumni Events and Communications			
Attended alumni events in the past	n/a	41%	40%
Keep in touch with Alumni Affairs/School	n/a	80%	82%
How likely are you to recommend these events with other alumni? (% somewhat likely or extremely likely)	n/a	68%	64%
Would you consider being involved with BCM/BCB in any of the following ways? (Note question was worded, "Are you interested in volunteering your time or talents for students and alumni?" in the 2016 survey.)			
Mentoring Berklee students	n/a	27%	39%
Participating in alumni regional events	n/a	18%	42%
Participating in admissions auditions and interviews	n/a	21%	33%
Speaking to students/alumni in a panel, clinic, and/or workshop	n/a	37%	46%
Organizing a webinar	n/a	12%	9%
Hosting a regional alumni event	n/a	11%	13%
Posting a job opportunity	n/a	n/a	18%
Hiring a student intern	n/a	13%	17%

Appendix D: Boston Conservatory at Berklee Historical Comparisons

The table below compares answers from the 2016 survey to the 2018 survey.

Boston Conservatory Historical Comparison		
	2016	2018
Your Education at Berklee		
Did you complete your program at BCM/BCB?		
Yes	89%	89%
No	11%	11%
What reason best describes why you left without completing a degree? You may select more than one option.		
Academic Performance	5%	7%
Financial reasons	18%	31%
Never intended to complete degree	4%	2%
Personal reasons, including health, disability, or family reasons	33%	19%
Professional opportunity	18%	25%
Transferred to another school	22%	24%
Other	21%	29%
Further Education, Career, and Activities		
Earned any additional college degree(s) since leaving BCM/BCB	33%	34%
If yes, please select the college degree you earned since leaving BCM/BCB		
Associate's	5%	7%
Bachelor's	22%	15%
Master's	71%	72%
Doctorate (M.D., J.D., Ed.D., D.M., Ph.D.)	20%	22%
Self Employed	42%	44%
Primary occupation related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry	69%	69%
Which category best describes the industry of your primary occupation (non-arts/entertainment)?		
Architecture/Art/Design	4%	4%
Banking/Finance/Insurance	7%	5%
Business/Marketing/Sales	n/a	10%
Education (including Music Education and Education Administration)	22%	15%
Engineering	3%	1%
Hospitality/Service Industry	9%	9%
Law	2%	6%
Media/Entertainment	3%	1%
Medicine/Health Care (including Music Therapy)	12%	10%
Military	1%	1%
Other	11%	10%
Public Safety/Law Enforcement	1%	0%
Real Estate/Construction	3%	2%
Retired	12%	16%

	6%	6%
Technology/Software		
Unemployed/Disability	4%	2%
Which category best describes the performing arts or entertainment industry related nature of your primary occupation?		
Business	4%	5%
Composition (including songwriting)	2%	3%
Design	n/a	1%
Education (including teaching and education administration)	39%	41%
Health and Wellness	1%	1%
Wrote in more than one	n/a	3%
Other	12%	3%
Performance	38%	39%
Production	5%	4%
Approximately what percentage of your personal income in 2017 came from performing arts or entertainment industry related work?		
None	19%	19%
1-50%	28%	30%
Over 50%	53%	51%
Have an additional job that is related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry.		
Business	2%	6%
Composition (including songwriting)	2%	4%
Design	n/a	0%
Education (including teaching and education administration)	26%	29%
Health and Wellness	1%	5%
Wrote in more than one	n/a	1%
Other	15%	4%
Performance	50%	43%
Production	3%	7%
Participate in performing arts related activities outside of paid work. Please select all that apply.		
Community performance group (chorus, theatre, orchestra, etc.)	72%	81%
Composing or arranging	40%	31%
Continuing education (lessons, college courses, etc.)	n/a	12%
Gigging	27%	18%
Personal leisure or family entertainment	46%	35%
Teaching	35%	24%
Worship and religious music	40%	29%
Other (please specify)	24%	19%
	9%	9%
Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career. (% satisfied or very satisfied)		
	74%	74%
Please select the range that best describes your personal (not household) income for all of 2017.		
Less than \$20,000		
\$20,001-\$40,000	14%	14%
\$40,001-\$60,000	25%	25%
	23%	21%

\$60,001-\$80,000	14%	14%
\$80,001-\$100,000	10%	10%
More than \$100,000	14%	16%
Your Experience at Berklee		
How well did Berklee prepare you in the following ways for your career? (% well or very well)		
Technical skills relevant to my field	74%	74%
Ability to develop a professional network	48%	42%
Ability to connect with people from varying backgrounds/cultures	62%	58%
Ability to take an entrepreneurial approach	34%	32%
Preparedness for my career in general	62%	60%
Satisfied with overall experience as a student at BCM/BCB (% satisfied or very satisfied)	79%	76%
Alumni Events and Communications		
Attended alumni events in the past	23%	28%
Keep in touch with Alumni Affairs/School	80%	76%
How likely are you to recommend these events with other alumni? (% somewhat likely or extremely likely)	76%	63%
Would you consider being involved with BCM/BCB in any of the following ways? (Note question was worded, "Are you interested in volunteering your time or talents for students and alumni?" in the 2016 survey.)		
Mentoring Berklee students	24%	29%
Participating in alumni regional events	8%	34%
Participating in admissions auditions and interviews	8%	30%
Speaking to students/alumni in a panel, clinic, and/or workshop	32%	41%
Organizing a webinar	12%	5%
Hosting a regional alumni event	n/a	7%
Posting a job opportunity	n/a	18%
Hiring a student intern	10%	13%

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

View a list degrees and institutions attended by Berklee College of Music alumni: <http://bit.ly/2xIfoIA>

Appendix F: 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/2LL5EWn>

Appendix G: Post-Secondary Degrees and Institutions, Boston Conservatory at Berklee

View a list of degrees and institutions attended by Boston Conservatory alumni: <https://bit.ly/2XHtjQl>

Appendix H: Employers and Job Titles, Boston Conservatory at Berklee

View a list of employers and job titles of Boston Conservatory alumni: <http://bit.ly/32hItIS>

Appendix I: Copy of Survey

View a copy of the Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee alumni survey:
<https://bit.ly/2LLaVNG>

Appendix J: First Destination Survey Report

View a report based on responses from alumni who graduated in 2017: <http://bit.ly/2kt7Zde>

Appendix K: Study Abroad Report

View a report based on responses from alumni who studied abroad in Valencia: <http://bit.ly/2k1vhXn>

Appendix L: Sample Comments with Codes

View a list of examples of comments with their codes: <http://bit.ly/2OtkdRd>