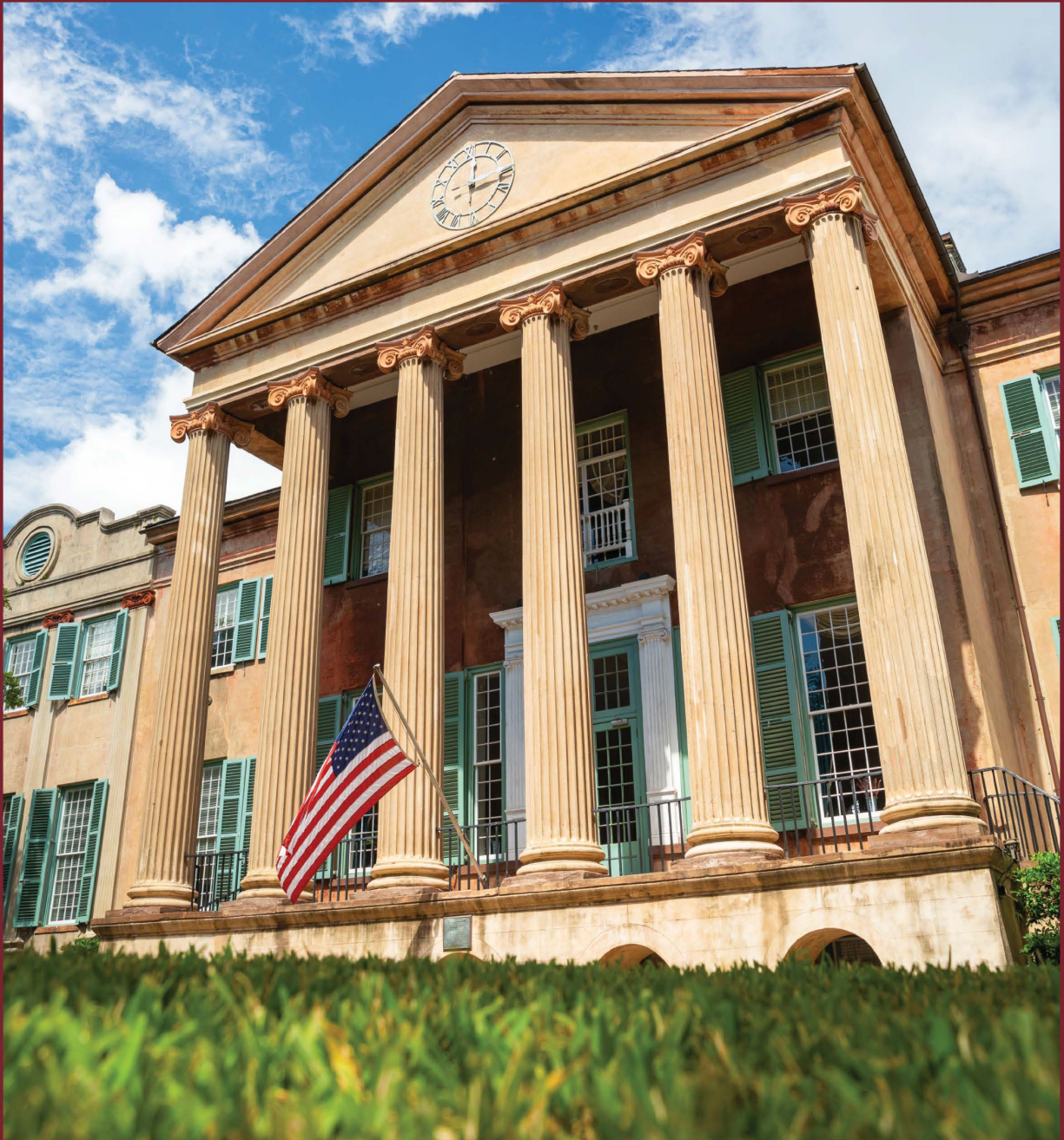




COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON
OFFICE FOR INSTITUTIONAL
EFFECTIVENESS

FIRST DESTINATION GRADUATE SURVEY ANALYTICAL REPORT



**First Destination Graduate Survey
(One-Year) 2019-2020 Analytical Report**

**Provided by
The Office for Institutional Effectiveness**

Survey Overview

The First Destination Graduate Survey (One-Year) (2019-2020) was administered through Qualtrics to 199 Master's degree recipients from The College of Charleston who graduated in Summer 2017, Fall 2017 and Spring 2018. This survey was administered on January 31, 2020 and was open for two weeks. With 23 responses received, the response rate is 11.56%. One-year represents the length of time between graduation and survey administration for the primary population-students who graduated in May in this case. Summer and fall graduates were included in the survey as these graduates are not captured by any other First Destination surveys. Also, the number is very small to make a significant impact on overall results.

The purpose of the survey was to assess their current employment status and other post-graduation activity. Additionally, it collects information their opinions/suggestions about improving the quality of graduate education. This survey consists of six sections: graduate education at the College of Charleston, employment status, continuing education, quality of the graduate education, career preparation, and utilizing institutional resources. Basic descriptive analysis was conducted to reveal the frequency (n) and percentage (%) distribution of survey items in these sections of the survey.

Part A. Graduate Education at the College of Charleston

1. Please select the program where you received your Master's degree from the College of Charleston.¹

Table 1. Graduate program distribution.

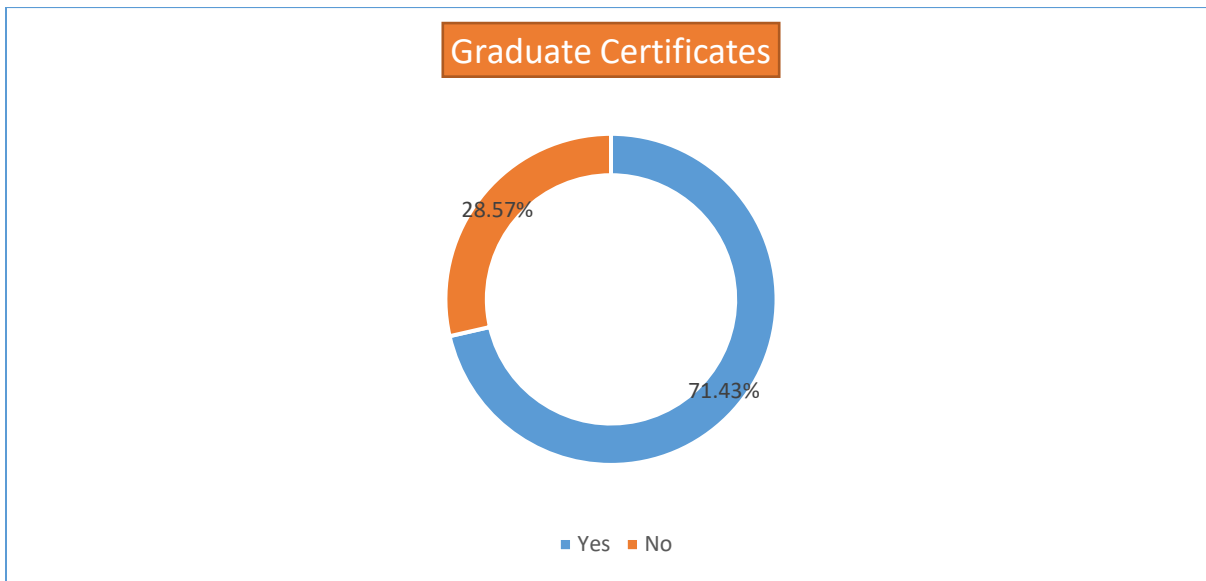
Program	Count	Total	%
Child Life, M.S.	4	23	17.39%
Environmental Studies, M.S.	3	23	13.04%
Public Administration, M.P.A.	3	23	13.04%
Accountancy, M.S.	2	23	8.70%
Creative Writing, M.F.A.	2	23	8.70%
Marine Biology, M.S.	2	23	8.70%
Business Administration, M.B.A.	1	23	4.35%
Communication, M.A.	1	23	4.35%
Elementary Education, M.A.T.	1	23	4.35%
English, M.A.	1	23	4.35%
Historic Preservation, M.S.	1	23	4.35%
Mathematical Sciences, M.S.	1	23	4.35%
Special Education, M.A.T.	1	23	4.35%

- ❖ The majority of graduates who responded to this survey were from Child life (17.39%), followed by Environmental Studies (13.04%), Public administration (13.04%) and Accountancy (8.7%).

¹ The way of numbering questions in this report is not corresponding to the one in the actual survey.

2. Did you receive a graduate certificate(s) from the College of Charleston?

Figure 1. Graduate certificates.



Note. n=23.

❖ 71.43% of 23 respondents received a graduate certificate from the College.

3. Please select the certificate(s) you received from the College of Charleston.

Table 2. Graduate certificates.

Graduate certificates	Count	Total	%
Arts Management	2	6	33.33%
Urban and Regional Planning	2	6	33.33%
Other, please specify	2	6	33.33%

Note. Other includes accountancy and one misreported answer. 6 out of 15 respondents reported their certificates.

4. How long did it take you to get your Master’s degree from the College of Charleston?

Table 3. The number of months to complete a master’s degree.

Months	Count	Total	%
10	1	20	5.00%
12	2	20	10.00%
21	1	20	5.00%
24	8	20	40.00%
29	1	20	5.00%
30	2	20	10.00%
34	1	20	5.00%
48	1	20	5.00%
50	1	20	5.00%
53	1	20	5.00%
78	1	20	5.00%

❖ 40% of 20 respondents used two years to complete the degree.

5. Which of the following sources of financial support did you receive in your graduate program at the College of Charleston?

Table 4. Sources of financial support.

Sources of financial support	Count	Total	%
Loans from any sources	11	55	20.00%
Fellowship, scholarship	9	55	16.36%
Personal savings	8	55	14.55%
Graduate, assistant position	8	55	14.55%
Other, please specify	6	55	10.91%
Teaching assistantship	3	55	5.45%
Research assistantship	3	55	5.45%
Parent support	3	55	5.45%
Grant	2	55	3.64%
Internship	2	55	3.64%

Family gift	0	55	0.00%
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Note. Other includes Staff Training, Husband’s job, Employer funding, working full-time, and GI Bill. This is a multiple-choices question.

- ❖ The top two financial sources are loans (20%) and fellowship and scholarship (16.36%).

6. What was the total amount you borrowed from any sources to finance your graduate degree you received from the College of Charleston?

Table 5. Student debt ranges.

Student debt range	Count	Total	%
\$0	6	18	33.33%
\$1 - \$10,000	0	18	0.00%
\$10,001 - \$20,000	2	18	11.11%
\$20,001 - \$30,000	3	18	16.67%
\$30,001 - \$40,000	3	18	16.67%
\$40,001 - \$50,000	3	18	16.67%
Over \$50,000	1	18	5.56%

- ❖ 33.33% of 18 respondents did not have any debts caused by financing the graduate degree.
- ❖ 16.67% of 18 respondents’ debts caused by financing the graduate degree ranged from \$20,001 to \$50,000.

Part B. Employment Status

1. What is your current employment status?

Table 6. Employment status.

Employment status	Count	Total	%
Employed full-time (35 or more hours per week)	14	20	70.00%
Employed part-time (34 hours or less per week)	4	20	20.00%
Unemployed, but seeking employment	1	20	5.00%
Unemployed; not seeking employment	0	20	0.00%
Currently enrolled as a full-time student	1	20	5.00%
Other, please specify	0	20	0.00%
Currently enrolled as a part-time student	0	20	0.00%

- ❖ The majority of graduates were employed full-time (70%), followed by employed part-time (20%).

2. How long did it take you to get your FIRST full-time job after completing your graduate degree at the College of Charleston?

Table 7. The length of time to locate the first full-time job.

The length of time to locate the first full-time job	Count	Total	%
Had the same job before completing degree	4	14	28.57%
Accepted the position upon graduation	1	14	7.14%
1 - 3 months	7	14	50.00%
4 - 6 months	1	14	7.14%
7 - 12 months	1	14	7.14%
More than 12 months	0	14	0.00%

Note. This table only includes respondents who are employed full-time.

- ❖ The majority of graduates found their first full-time employment 1-3 months after graduation (50%), followed by before graduation (28.57%).

3. How many job(s) are you currently working?

Table 8. Number of current jobs.

# of jobs	Count	Total	%
1	13	14	92.86%
2	1	14	7.14%
3	0	14	0.00%
More than 3	0	14	0.00%

Note. This table only includes respondents who are employed full-time.

- ❖ The overwhelming majority of full-time employed graduates were working just one job (92.86%).

4. Which of these types of organizations best describes your current employer?

Table 9. Type of employers.

Type of employer organizations	Count	Total	%
Locally or regionally owned business	2	14	14.29%
National or international corporation	2	14	14.29%
Local or regional non-profit	1	14	7.14%
National or international non-profit	1	14	7.14%
Government agency	8	14	57.14%

Note. This table only includes respondents who are employed full-time.

- ❖ For graduates who are full-time employed, the most common employer organization type is government agency (57.14%), followed by locally or regionally owned business (14.29%) and national or International Corporation (14.29%).

5. How long have you been with your current employer?

Table 10. # of months with the current employer.

# of months with the current employer	Count	Total	%
Less than 1 month	1	14	7.14%
1 - 4 months	1	14	7.14%
5 - 8 months	1	14	7.14%
9 - 12 months	1	14	7.14%
13 - 16 months	0	14	0.00%
17 - 20 months	3	14	21.43%
21 - 24 months	0	14	0.00%
More than 24 months	7	14	50.00%

Note. This table only includes respondents who are employed full-time.

- ❖ The most common amount of time with the current employer for full-time employed graduates was more than 24 months (50%), followed by 17-20 months (21.43%).

6. What is your gross annual income of the principle job you currently hold?

Table 11. Gross annual income distribution.

Salary range	Count	Total	%
Less than \$20,000	0	14	0.00%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	14	7.14%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	2	14	14.29%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	4	14	28.57%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	3	14	21.43%
\$60,000 - \$69,999	1	14	7.14%
\$70,000 - \$79,999	2	14	14.29%
\$80,000 or more	1	14	7.14%

Note. This table only includes respondents who are employed full-time.

- ❖ The most common gross annual income ranges were \$40,000-\$49,999 (28.57%) and \$50,000-\$59,999 (21.43%).

7. To what extent is your work related to the graduate degree you received from the College of Charleston?

Table 12. Employment and degree relatedness.

Employment and degree relatedness	Count	Total	%
Closely related	11	14	78.57%
Somewhat related	1	14	7.14%
Not related	2	14	14.29%

Note. This table only includes respondents who are employed full-time.

- ❖ The majority of full-time employed graduates were employed in fields closely related to their degree (78.57%).

8. Do you feel you are under-employed relative to your graduate degree from the College of Charleston?

Table 13. Under-employment perception distribution.

Under-employment perception	Count	Total	%
Yes	0	12	0.00%
No	12	12	100.00%

Note. This table only includes respondents who are employed full-time.

9. How well did the graduate program at the College of Charleston prepare you for your current career?

Table 14. Graduate program career preparation.

Graduate program career preparation	Count	Total	%
Extremely well	5	13	38.46%
Very well	4	13	30.77%
Moderately well	3	13	23.08%
Slightly well	1	13	7.69%
Not well at all	0	13	0.00%

Note. This table only includes respondents who are employed full-time.

- ❖ 38.46% of respondents reported that graduate program at the College prepared their current careers “extremely well”, and 30.77% reported “very well”.

10. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your current or most recent job?

Table 15. Satisfaction with aspects of your current job.

Job satisfaction	Extremely satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Extremely dissatisfied	Total
Intellectual challenge	76.92%	23.08%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13
Career growth/opportunities	46.15%	30.77%	7.69%	15.38%	0.00%	13
Independence	69.23%	30.77%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13
Contribution to field/society	61.54%	38.46%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13
Salary	23.08%	46.15%	7.69%	15.38%	7.69%	13
Geographic location	46.15%	46.15%	0.00%	7.69%	0.00%	13
Flexibility	38.46%	46.15%	7.69%	7.69%	0.00%	13
Work/life balance	46.15%	30.77%	7.69%	15.38%	0.00%	13
Overall	30.77%	69.23%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13

Note. This table only includes respondents who are employed full-time.

- ❖ The top three aspects of their current or most recent job that respondents are extremely satisfied with are intellectual challenge (76.92%), the overall job (54.84%) and contribution to the field/society (48.39%).

Part B. Employment Status: subgroup analysis²

To assess how graduates differ in just one employments or multiple employments, this survey used two sets of identical questions for two groups of graduates: graduates who are employed with more than one jobs (group one) and those who are employed with just one job (group two). The analysis on group one was not conducted because there was only one respondent in that group. The information about that individual graduate will be provided by request.

Group two: Employed full-time (one job)

1. What is the title of the job you currently hold?

Table 16. Current job titles.

Catalog and Curriculum Systems Manager
Assistant Director of Academic Programs
Staff Accountant
Experienced Audit Associate
Assistant Program Director of Logistics
Senior Budget Analyst
Technical Solutions Engineer
Child Life Specialist
Child Life Specialist
Deputy Director of Livability & Tourism
Director of Marketing and Communications
Data Scientist
Historic Preservationist

Note. n=13.

² This is a sub-session under Part. B.

2. Please describe your current employer.

Table 17. Profile of current employers.

Name	City	State	Country
College of Charleston	Charleston	SC	USA
College of Charleston	Charleston	SC	USA
Baldwin & Associates	Mt Pleasant	SC	USA
PwC	Miami	FL	USA
Catalina Island Marine Institute	Avalon	CA	USA
City of Charleston	Charleston	SC	USA
Epic Systems	Verona	WI	USA
UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	PA	USA
UNC Children's Hospital	Chapel Hill	NC	USA
City of Charleston	Charleston	SC	USA
Citibot	Charleston	SC	USA
Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic	North Charleston	SC	USA
National Park Service	Charleston	SC	USA

Note. n=13.

3. Which industry are you currently employed in?

Table 18. Current industry distribution.

Industry	Count	Total	%
Computer Science/Technology	2	13	15.38%
Education: Higher Education (Public or Private)	2	13	15.38%
Medicine/Health care	2	13	15.38%
Other, please specify	2	13	15.38%
Business Services	1	13	7.69%
Education: Elementary or Secondary Education, Adult Education (Public or Private)	1	13	7.69%
Financial Services	1	13	7.69%

Hospitality, Tourism, Travel	1	13	7.69%
Military/Defense	1	13	7.69%

Note: Other consists of Local Government and History preservation.

Part C. Continuing Education

No analysis was conducted in this session since only one graduate answered the continuing education questions. The data of that individual graduate will be provided by request.

Part D. Quality of Graduate Education

1. My faculty mentor/advisor: (Select all that apply.)

Table 19. Advisor support.

Advisor support	Count	Total	%
Served as an advocate for me while I was a graduate student at the College of Charleston	14	36	38.89%
Served as an advocate for me since I have graduated (post-graduation)	7	36	19.44%
Was supportive of the career path I chose	10	36	27.78%
None of these apply	4	36	11.11%
Other, please specify	1	36	2.78%

Note. Other consists of a statement that advisors could've done more to support. This is a multiple-choices question.

- ❖ 38.89% of respondents reported that their advisors served as an advocate for them while they were graduate students at the College of Charleston.

2. Looking back to your graduate program at the College of Charleston, how did your training from the College help you develop the following skills and abilities?

Table 20. Skill and ability development from the graduate training.

Skill and ability development	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Analyzing or synthesizing data	52.63%	21.05%	21.05%	0.00%	5.26%	19
Designing and executing research	52.63%	26.32%	5.26%	15.79%	0.00%	19
Presenting orally	42.11%	31.58%	26.32%	0.00%	0.00%	19
Managing people	26.32%	42.11%	15.79%	15.79%	0.00%	19
Thinking critically/problem solving	47.37%	36.84%	15.79%	0.00%	0.00%	19
Working in a team	47.37%	36.84%	15.79%	0.00%	0.00%	19
Working in a local or regional community	31.58%	36.84%	10.53%	15.79%	5.26%	19
Working within interdisciplinary groups	42.11%	26.32%	15.79%	5.26%	10.53%	19
Working with people from diverse backgrounds	36.84%	36.84%	5.26%	10.53%	10.53%	19
Mentoring/advising students	31.58%	31.58%	21.05%	5.26%	10.53%	19
Teaching or training groups of people	26.32%	31.58%	26.32%	10.53%	5.26%	19
Writing reports, articles, books, etc.	63.16%	15.79%	10.53%	10.53%	0.00%	19

- ❖ Graduates reported that the top three “excellent” skills and abilities developed by the graduate program training are writing reports/books/articles (63.16%), designing and executing research (52.63%), analyzing data and writing reports/articles and books (52.63%).

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with your graduate education experience at the College of Charleston?

Table 21. Satisfaction with graduate education.

Satisfaction with graduate education	Count	Total	%
Extremely satisfied	12	19	63.16%
Somewhat satisfied	4	19	21.05%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3	19	15.79%
Somewhat dissatisfied	0	19	0.00%
Extremely dissatisfied	0	19	0.00%

- ❖ The majority of respondents are extremely satisfied (63.16%) or somewhat satisfied (21.05%) with the graduate education experience at the College.

4. If you were to do it again, would you:

Table 22. Attend the College again.

	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Might or might not	Probably not	Definitely not	Total
Select the same field of study at the College of Charleston?	57.89%	21.05%	5.26%	15.79%	0.00%	19
Select the College of Charleston?	47.37%	15.79%	26.32%	10.53%	0.00%	19
Choose to pursue a graduate degree?	68.42%	15.79%	5.26%	10.53%	0.00%	19

- ❖ 78.94% would select the same field of study at the College (57.89% definitely yes and 21.05% probably yes)
- ❖ 63.16% would select the College again (47.37% definitely yes and 15.79% probably yes)
- ❖ 84.21% would choose to pursue a graduate degree (68.42% definitely yes and 15.79% probably yes).

Part E. Career Preparation

1. Thinking back to when you graduated from the College of Charleston with a master's degree, how important were each of the following factors in helping you land your first job?

Table 23. Factors helping land the first job.

Factors helping land the first job	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	Total
Perceived quality of my academic work	35.29%	29.41%	29.41%	5.88%	17
My academic standing (GPA)	11.76%	35.29%	29.41%	23.53%	17
Research I did during my graduate education (conference presentations, journal articles, etc.)	23.53%	35.29%	11.76%	29.41%	17
Academic reputation of my advisor	17.65%	23.53%	23.53%	35.29%	17
Connections made at academic or professional conferences	11.76%	17.65%	41.18%	29.41%	17
Connections formed through community partnerships/engagement	29.41%	41.18%	17.65%	11.76%	17
Connections with other College of Charleston alumni	5.88%	41.18%	29.41%	23.53%	17
Social connections (family or friends)	6.25%	12.50%	31.25%	50.00%	16
Reputation of my graduate program	47.06%	17.65%	29.41%	5.88%	17
Reputation of the College of Charleston	17.65%	47.06%	29.41%	5.88%	17

- ❖ The three most cited factors considered as “very important” by respondents are reputation of my graduate program (47.06%), perceived quality of my academic work (35.29%) and Connections formed through community partnerships/engagement (29.41%).

2. In your opinion, how important are the following elements of graduate education for students entering jobs in your field?

Table 24. Elements of graduation education.

Elements of graduate education	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	Total
Experience gained through an internship or practicum	70.59%	17.65%	11.76%	0.00%	17
Practice of academic or professional writing skills	41.18%	35.29%	23.53%	0.00%	17
Presentation of work at a professional conference	35.29%	29.41%	29.41%	5.88%	17
Practice of research methods in your field	64.71%	11.76%	5.88%	17.65%	17
Research participation under your advisor's guidance	41.18%	23.53%	17.65%	17.65%	17
Practice of formal analytic technique in your field	52.94%	35.29%	11.76%	0.00%	17
Opportunity to interact across disciplines	52.94%	17.65%	17.65%	11.76%	17
Opportunity to participate in partnerships with the local or regional community	35.29%	29.41%	23.53%	11.76%	17
Experience as a teaching assistant	5.88%	17.65%	35.29%	41.18%	17
Experience as a research assistant	11.76%	23.53%	35.29%	29.41%	17

- ❖ Graduates valued experience gained through an internship or practicum as “very important” for students entering jobs in their field (70.59%), followed by practice of research methods in your field (64.71%), practice of formal analytic technique in your field (52.94%) and opportunity to interact across disciplines (52.94%).

3. How many internships/practicums/clinical practices did you complete in your graduate school at the College of Charleston?

Table 25. Experiential activities.

Experiential activities	0	1	2	3	4	More than 4	Total
Internship	37.50%	56.25%	6.25%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16
Practicum	68.75%	25.00%	0.00%	6.25%	0.00%	0.00%	16
Clinical practices	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13
Teaching assistantship (semester(s))	73.33%	6.67%	13.33%	6.67%	0.00%	0.00%	15
Research assistantship (semester(s))	73.33%	6.67%	0.00%	6.67%	6.67%	6.67%	15

- ❖ The most common opportunity utilized by the graduates was internships (at least one time) (56.25%), followed by practicum (at least one time) (25%).

Part F. Utilizing Institutional Resources

1. Select the following job search method(s) you utilized to secure your current job?

Table 26. Job search methods.

Job search methods	Count	Total	%
College of Charleston Career Center (Handshake, Career Fair, on-campus interviews)	2	25	8.00%
Directly applied to an online posting via company website or other job search	9	25	36.00%
Contacted the employer directly	8	25	32.00%
Family and/or friend referral	4	25	16.00%
College of Charleston alumni and/or employee of the College assisted to secure an interview/job	2	25	8.00%

- ❖ The most common job search method utilized by employed graduates was directly applying to online postings (36%), followed by contacting the employer directly (32%).

2. Did you use any of the following College of Charleston Career Center services?

Table 27. Career Center services.

Career Center services	Count	Total	%
Career/major consultation or meeting with staff	2	18	11.11%
On-campus student employment	3	18	16.67%
Internship assistance	1	18	5.56%
Handshake	1	18	5.56%
Career Center website	2	18	11.11%
Career Fair	2	18	11.11%
Career center program or workshop	3	18	16.67%
On-campus interview	1	18	5.56%
Mock interview	2	18	11.11%
Grad school preparation	1	18	5.56%

- ❖ The most commonly used Career Center service among graduates was on-campus student employment (16.67%) and career center program or workshop (16.67%).

3. How often have you done the following since graduating from the College of Charleston?

Table 28. Civic action completion after graduation.

Civic actions	Always	Very often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Total
Attend a racial/cultural awareness workshop	0.00%	0.00%	17.65%	11.76%	70.59%	17
Perform community service	17.65%	17.65%	41.18%	0.00%	23.53%	17
Demonstrate for a cause (e.g., boycott, rally, protest)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.76%	88.24%	17
Vote in a government election at the local, state, or national level	41.18%	11.76%	41.18%	5.88%	0.00%	17
Attend a leadership training/workshop	0.00%	23.53%	23.53%	17.65%	35.29%	17
Join student government	11.76%	11.76%	11.76%	17.65%	47.06%	17
Work for a local, state, or national political campaign	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	16
Contribute money to a local, state, or national campaign	0.00%	0.00%	11.76%	5.88%	82.35%	17

❖ The most common civic action (as rated “always”) completed by graduates after graduation was voting in a government election (41.18%).

4. Suggestions towards improving the quality of the graduate programs at the College of Charleston:

Suggestions towards improving the quality of the graduate programs at the College of Charleston:
Have more real world training
More research opportunities integrated into classes
Who needs the humanities anymore? Coddle the computer jockeys out the door and use the extra English offices for more useful pursuits. And never be transparent about how 4’s will get an adjunct fired. They’ll figure it out. Gfy.
I think changing programs (especially the MCOMM program) was a mistake and that’s why I wouldn’t do it again if I had the choice. I understand the need for online courses to gain more enrollment and

appeal to a larger audience but it would not have been the experience I want out of the graduate program. The graduate program already lacks enough compared to how undergraduates are treated. The best part was the faculty but the rest of the experience left something to be desired. Such as designated spaces for graduate students, opportunities for socialization and more scholarships to apply for. I heard many complaints from other students about funding issues, high interest rates and difficulty securing housing.

Offer a phd in math

Providing funding for graduate students in scientific fields is incredibly important for maintaining a competitive graduate program. The Marine Biology program is exceptional. My perspective on the quality of my education I received in the Marine Biology M.S. program has been strengthened since I entered my Ph.D. program. It is disappointing to hear that CofC has terminated assistantships and tuition waivers for master's students in this program. If the program is no longer competitive due to lack of funding, the quality of applicants will drastically decrease. I would hate to see the value of my degree and the reputation of this amazing program decrease as a consequence.