

After Berklee

What happens to students once they leave Berklee? What careers do alumni pursue? How do alumni reflect back on their Berklee experience? These answers and more **from over 6,000 recent graduates and alumni** can be found in the following infographics and reports.

KEY FINDINGS

Berklee alumni who are primarily working in performing arts or entertainment report higher levels of career satisfaction than those working in positions not related to performing arts or entertainment.

Alumni who report making between \$40,001 and \$60,000 working in performing arts or entertainment have higher rates of career satisfaction than alumni making over \$100,000 outside of performing arts or entertainment. With this in mind, it is important for Berklee to continue to create opportunities for alumni to work in the performing arts or entertainment industry.

Alumni suggest the creation of more business, marketing, personal finance, and brand building courses to help students particularly since many become self-employed/freelancers.

Like global and national trends, Berklee alumni experience gender and race/ethnicity wage gaps. It is important that Berklee continue its advocacy for creating equitable career opportunities in the performing arts and entertainment industries for all.

[view the infographic →](#)

What happens to students once they leave Berklee? What careers do alumni pursue? How do alumni reflect back on their Berklee experience? These questions, among others are asked of recent Berklee College of Music, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and Berklee Online graduates and alumni on three surveys:

1. 2019 Graduating Student Exit Survey – Survey of students walking at 2019 commencement ceremonies (1,439 responses)
2. 2019 First Destination Survey – Follow up survey of undergraduates who graduated in 2017 (166 responses)
3. 2018–2019 Alumni Survey – Survey of all Berklee alumni (4,638 responses)

Highlighted findings from the responses are below. Links to full reports can be found at the bottom of page three.

KEY FINDINGS

1 Berklee alumni who are primarily working in performing arts or entertainment report higher levels of career satisfaction than those working in positions not related to performing arts or entertainment (figure 1).

Additionally, alumni working in performing arts or entertainment report higher career satisfaction than those not working in performing arts or entertainment regardless of their income range. In fact, **alumni who report making between \$40,001 and \$60,000 working in performing arts or entertainment have higher rates of career satisfaction than alumni making over \$100,000 outside of performing arts or entertainment** (figure 2).

With this in mind, it is important for Berklee to **continue to create opportunities for alumni to work in the performing arts or entertainment industry**. In recent years, Berklee has seen a sharp increase in the percent of graduating students who are moving on to their next stage working in a performing arts or entertainment related industry (figure 3).

Alumni working in the arts are more satisfied with their career than those working outside of the arts.

Percent of Berklee alumni who are satisfied with their career

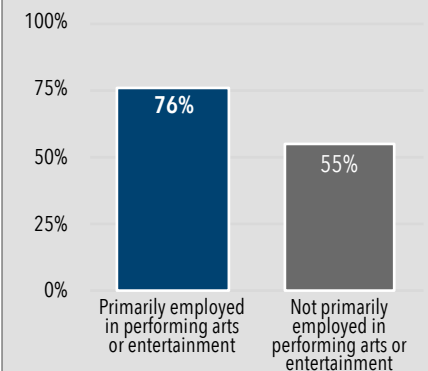


Figure 1. Source: Berklee Alumni Survey

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

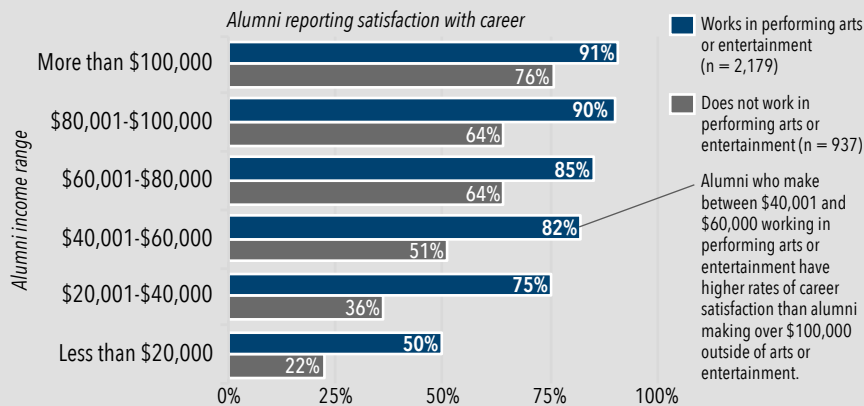


Figure 2. Source: Berklee Alumni Survey

A higher percentage of those employed at graduation are moving into jobs in performing arts or entertainment.

Of those employed, those working in arts or entertainment

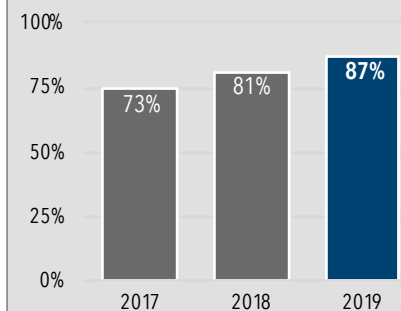


Figure 3. Source: Berklee Exit Survey
2017 data excludes Berklee Online. Employed includes those who are employed, self-employed, or in an internship.

2 Graduates' satisfaction and likelihood to recommend Berklee have slightly increased from 2018 to 2019 after a several year decline (figure 4). Alumni report higher satisfaction with their program of study and professors, and lower satisfaction with career and entrepreneurial preparation (figures 5 and 6). **Alumni suggest the creation of more business, marketing, personal finance, and brand building courses to help students particularly since many (55 percent) become self-employed/freelancers (figure 7).**

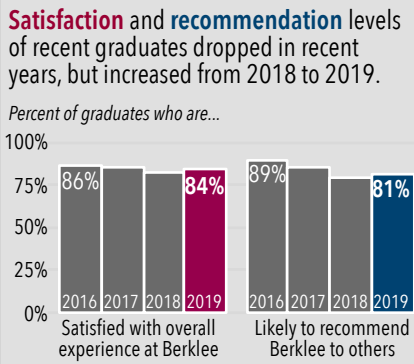


Figure 4. Source: Berklee Exit Survey 2016 data excludes Boston Conservatory and Berklee Online. 2017 data excludes Berklee Online.

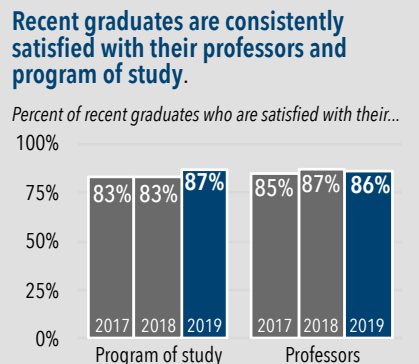


Figure 5. Source: Berklee Exit Survey 2017 data excludes Berklee Online.

Alumni report relatively low satisfaction with how Berklee prepared them to take an entrepreneurial approach and for their career in general.

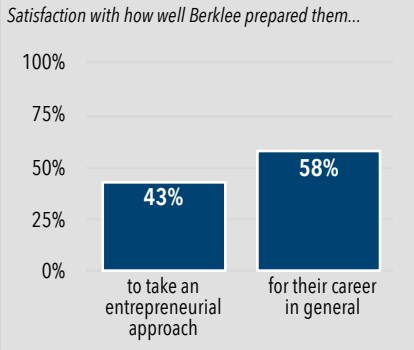


Figure 6. Source: Berklee Alumni Survey

Alumni suggestions

"I think all degree plans should include a self-employment financial literacy course, particularly in areas of tax planning, budgeting, debt management, and employment contracts."

"It would have been good to have a course on financial budgeting or financial planning for one's endeavors."

"It would behoove [Berklee] to offer classes that focus on grant writing, budgeting, negotiating contracts, and all other business aspects of being a working musician."

"I would have appreciated a little more training in areas like financial planning, tax preparation, grant writing, and the "business" side of being a composer."

Figure 7. Source: Berklee Alumni Survey

3 Like global and national trends, **Berklee alumni experience gender and race/ethnicity wage gaps.** On average, women report lower incomes than men and alumni of color report lower incomes than white alumni. Income disparities are larger among older alumni. **It is important that Berklee continue its advocacy for creating equitable career opportunities in the performing arts and entertainment industries for all.**

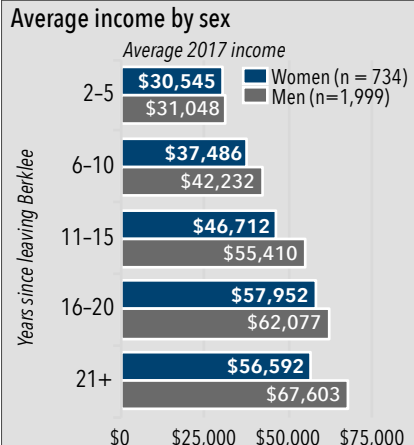


Figure 8. Source: Berklee Alumni Survey

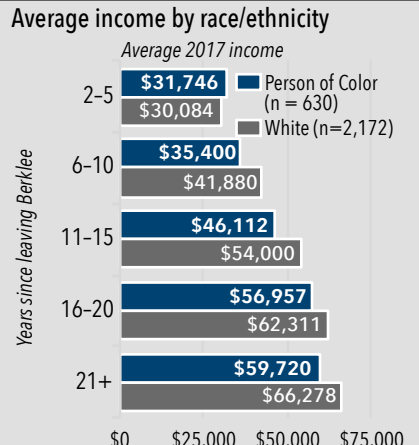


Figure 9. Source: Berklee Alumni Survey

SELECT JOBS OF 2019 GRADUATES

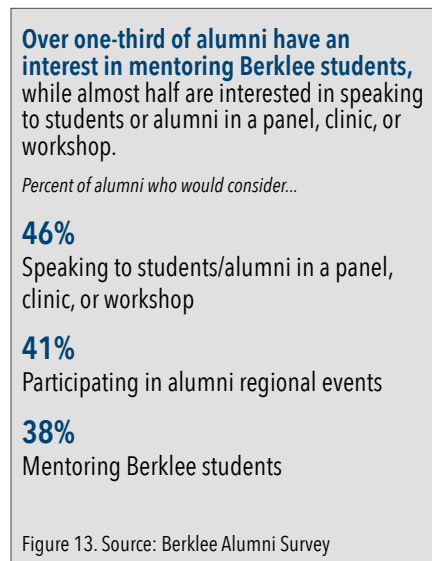
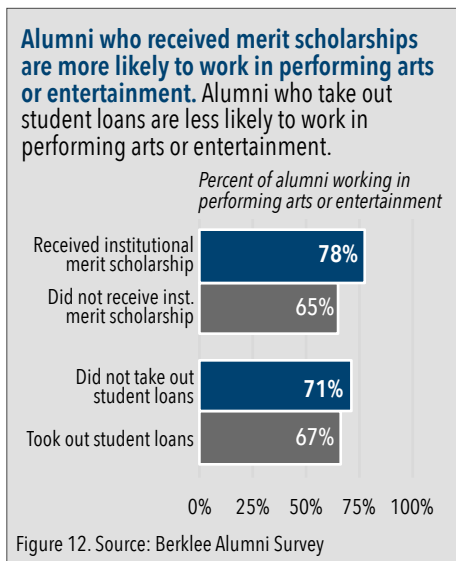
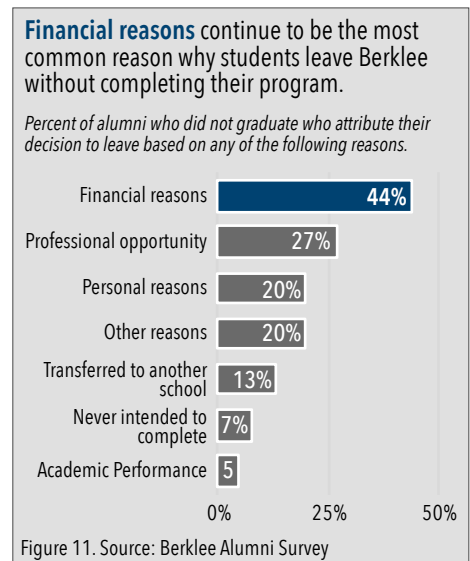
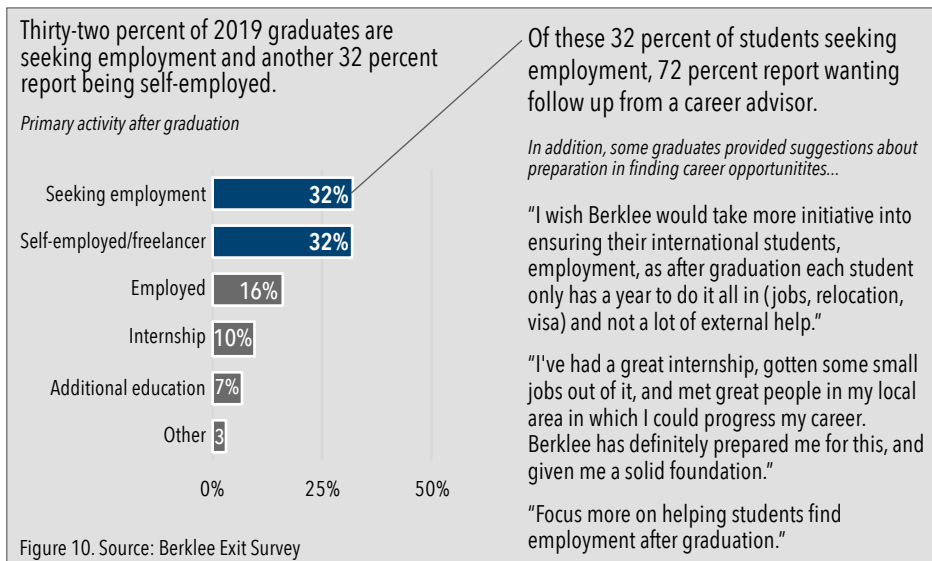
- Marketing Consultant**
Carthage Management
- Project Manager**
Def Jam Recordings
- Actor**
Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera
- Music Teacher**
Worcester Public Schools
- Synch Licensing Assistant**
Kobalt Music Group
- Teacher**
New England Movement Arts
- Recording Assistant**
Magnetica Studio
- Media Technology Lab Assistant**
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Music Publishing Assistant**
Vice Media
- Composer and Producer for Game Music**
Tencent
- Featured Performer**
Royal Caribbean International

SELECT JOBS OF ALUMNI

- Audio Engineer**
MTV
- Artistic Director**
Cirque du Soleil
- Vice President of Education**
Guitar Center
- Executive Director**
Opera in the Heights
- Sales Management and Marketing**
Fender Musical Instruments Corp.
- Director of Dance Program**
The College of The Holy Cross
- Senior Software Test Engineer**
Sonos
- Music Therapist**
Massachusetts General Hospital
- Supervising Music Director**
Disney
- Max for Live Content Specialist**
Ableton
- Playwriting Teaching Artist**
Bricolage Theater Company
- Lead Audio Producer**
Pandora
- Director of Administration**
Brooklyn Conservatory of Music
- Learning Technology Consultant**
McGraw Hill Education

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

Other highlighted findings of the surveys include plans of recent alumni, satisfaction with various aspects of their Berklee experience, and reasons why some students do not complete their program. To learn more about the experience of recent graduates and alumni with detailed results from the College, Conservatory, and Berklee Online, please see the full reports linked below.



166 alumni who last attended Berklee in 2017 responded to the First Destination Survey. While this was an increase from 69 respondents to the 2018 first destinations survey, it represents fewer than 20 percent of recent graduates.

In order to better track the early career experiences of recent alumni and reflections of their Berklee experience, **a process is being created for a targeted outreach and data collection strategy.**

METHODOLOGY

Data from this infographic is based on over 6,000 responses to the Undergraduate Exit Survey, Graduate Exit Survey, First Destination Survey, and the Alumni Survey. These surveys are designed in partnership between the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, Alumni Affairs, the Registrar, Institutional Advancement, and the Career Center. Information collected includes recent graduate and alumni contact information, career plans, additional education, their experience at the College and Conservatory, and their level of engagement as part of the alumni community. These responses provide Berklee with valuable information which can be used to refine programs to better meet the needs of students and alumni, as well as up-to-date contact information. **Full reports, including results by learning environment and trends over time are available through the links to the right.** For questions or more information, please contact the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

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Analysis, reports, and infographic prepared by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

FULL REPORTS

Undergraduate Exit Survey

<http://bit.ly/2s7Lq1F>

Graduate Exit Survey

<http://bit.ly/35Dd302>

First Destination Survey

<http://bit.ly/2tK9wQc>

Alumni Survey

<http://bit.ly/36EPzJe>

Alumni Survey Interactive Dashboard

<https://tabsoft.co/2QtzjVN>