

Future Plans Data Element VSA College Portrait

The data for the future plans of bachelor's degree recipients comes from one of two sources.

1. A common survey question administered to graduating seniors as a stand-alone item, incorporated into the application for degree process, added to an existing senior exit or employment survey, or through another appropriate method. (See below for the exact text of the question.)
2. The College Senior Survey (CSS), Question 24. The CSS is a national survey administered by Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) at the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA - <http://www.heri.ucla.edu/cirpoverview.php>.
(added as an option in January 2010)

Common Survey Question

What is MOST LIKELY to be your main activity or activities upon graduation? (Check all that apply)

- Employment, full-time paid
- Employment, part-time paid
- Graduate or professional school, full-time
- Graduate or professional school, part-time
- Additional undergraduate coursework
- Military service
- Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)
- Starting or raising a family
- Other, please specify: _____

Administration Guidelines

- **Student Surveyed:** Either all students who plan to graduate within an academic year or all students who plan to graduate in the spring term of the academic year – ideally no more than 3 months prior to their anticipated graduation. For example, institutions that plan to survey all graduates during the academic year should survey May graduates during the spring semester and survey December graduates during the fall semester.
- **Frequency:** Updated annually. Results are reported on the College Portrait for the most recently completed academic year.
- Institutions are required to report their sample size, administration method, and response rate through a link from the College Portrait.