

SNAAP 2017 Data Highlights

Western Washington University Undergraduate Level



This Data Highlights Report features key findings based on your institutional data, including some information about different subgroups of your alumni. More extensive information, including comparisons to other SNAAP institutions, can be found in the Frequency Report. Throughout the Data Highlights, "n" refers to the number of alumni responding to a particular question. The data for schools that participated in more than one year (2015, 2016, 2017) have been combined.

Institutional Experiences

How alumni (n = 960) rated their overall experience at WWU:

- Excellent - 51%
- Good - 41%
- Fair - 8%
- Poor - 1%

Alumni (n = 960) who would attend WWU if they could start over again:

- Definitely yes - 44%
- Probably yes - 36%
- Uncertain - 11%
- Probably no - 8%
- Definitely no - 2%

How well WWU prepared alumni (n = 946) for further education:

- Very well - 30%
- Fairly well - 25%
- Not too well - 8%
- Not well at all - 2%
- Did not pursue further education - 35%

Alumni (n = 947) reporting their level of satisfaction as **very satisfied** with these aspects of their time at WWU:

	% Very Satisfied
Opportunities to perform, exhibit, or present their work	45%
Opportunities to work in different artistic disciplines from their own	31%
Opportunities to take non-arts classes	56%
Instructors in classrooms, labs, and studios	53%
Academic advising	26%
Advising about career or further education	16%
Opportunities for degree-related internships or work	17%
Opportunities to network with alumni and others	14%
Freedom and encouragement to take risks	40%

Institutional Experiences (cont.)

Alumni (n = 941) reporting WWU helped them develop the following skills and abilities:

	% Very Much	% Not at All
Critical thinking and analysis of arguments and information	52%	1%
Broad knowledge and education	62%	0%
Improved work based on feedback from others	55%	2%
Creative thinking and problem solving	61%	1%
Research skills	34%	3%
Clear writing	43%	2%
Persuasive speaking	23%	5%
Project management skills	28%	7%
Technological skills	24%	8%
Artistic technique	51%	3%
Financial and business management skills	3%	31%
Entrepreneurial skills	4%	32%
Interpersonal relations and working collaboratively	44%	3%
Leadership skills	28%	6%
Networking and relationship building	19%	10%
Teaching skills	23%	16%

While enrolled at WWU, alumni (n = 932) participated^a in the following activities:

- Participated in community service - 77%
- Participated in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, sports) - 72%
- Had serious conversations with students who are different from themselves in terms of their ethnicity, religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values - 94%
- Worked with an artist in the community - 67%

Alumni (n = 915) who did the following activities while at WWU:

- Study abroad - 12%
- Internship - 31%
- Complete a portfolio - 53%

^a Participated refers to those who responded "often", "sometimes", or "rarely" in question 15.

Career

Those who have ever worked (n = 909) said the following skills and abilities were important in their profession or work life:

	% Selected as Important ^b
Critical thinking and analysis of arguments and information	94%
Broad knowledge and education	94%
Improved work based on feedback from others	95%
Creative thinking and problem solving	98%
Research skills	87%
Clear writing	90%
Persuasive speaking	88%
Project management skills	93%
Technological skills	93%
Artistic technique	71%
Financial and business management skills	75%
Entrepreneurial skills	64%
Interpersonal relations and working collaboratively	97%
Leadership skills	91%
Networking and relationship building	92%
Teaching skills	75%

Alumni (n = 912) who:

- Currently work as a professional artist - 48%
- Previously worked as a professional artist (but not currently) - 19%
- Never worked as a professional artist - 32%

Alumni (n = 908) who:

- Currently work as a teacher of the arts - 17%
- Previously worked as a teacher of the arts (but not currently) - 25%
- Never worked as a teacher of the arts - 58%

Alumni (n = 910) who:

- Currently are self-employed - 39%
- Previously have been self-employed (but not currently) - 32%
- Never have been self-employed - 29%

Those who currently spend a majority of their time in non-arts fields^c (n = 343) and find their arts training at WWU:

- Very relevant - 15%
- Relevant - 23%
- Somewhat relevant - 34%
- Not at all relevant - 29%

Career (cont.)

Alumni who have ever been a(n):

- Founder of a nonprofit or for-profit organization (n = 888) - 13%
- Paid intern (n = 890) - 24%
- Unpaid intern (n = 881) - 32%

The top non-arts occupational fields^c in which alumni currently work:

	# of Alumni ^d
Education, training, and library	104
Communications	98
Office and administrative support	65

Reasons^d for not being an artist that were given by those who are past artists, or intended to be artists and never were (n = 307):

- Artistic work not available - 34%
- Higher pay or steadier income in other fields - 65%
- Current location not conducive to artistic career - 22%
- Change in interests - 27%
- Family-related reasons - 25%
- Lack of access to important networks and people - 29%
- Debt (including student loans) - 26%
- Lack of social support from family and friends - 9%

Alumni who are **very satisfied** with certain aspects of the current job in which they spend the majority of their work time:

	Arts Fields ^c (n = 402)	Non-arts Fields ^c (n = 346)
Job security	48%	60%
Opportunity to be creative	61%	28%
Income	27%	32%
Balance between work and non-work life	38%	43%
Opportunity to contribute to the greater good	48%	46%
Opportunity for career advancement	34%	31%
Work reflects their values, personality, and interests	65%	40%
Overall job satisfaction	52%	42%

Alumni who have worked directly after leaving WWU (n = 809) reporting how closely related their first job was to their arts training:

- Closely related - 49%
- Somewhat related - 19%
- Not related - 32%

^b *Important* refers to those who responded "very important" or "somewhat important" in question 31.

^c *Non-arts fields* refers to occupational fields 24-44 listed in Appendix C of the Codebook.

^d Respondents could select more than one response option.

^e *Arts fields* refers to occupational fields 1-23 listed in Appendix C of the Codebook.

Arts Engagement

How current professional artists (n = 419) rated the area where they currently live and/or work as a place to pursue their artistic career:

- Very good - 37%
- Good - 35%
- Fair - 22%
- Poor - 4%
- Very poor - 1%

Ways^d in which alumni supported the arts in the past 12 months:

	Current Artists (n = 418)	Not Artists ^f (n = 450)
Volunteering at an arts organization	29%	18%
Serving on the board of an arts organization	12%	8%
Volunteering to teach the arts	21%	12%
Donating money to an arts organization or artist	43%	37%
Attending an arts event	85%	78%

Those not currently professional artists^f who make or perform art in their personal (not work-related) time:

- 1987 cohort and earlier (n = 119) - 68%
- 1988-1997 cohorts (n = 61) - 59%
- 1998-2002 cohorts (n = 36) - 81%
- 2003-2007 cohorts (n = 53) - 70%
- 2008-2012 cohorts (n = 79) - 70%
- 2013-2017 cohorts (n = 111) - 74%

For those who make or perform art in their personal (not work-related) time (n = 678), how frequently they do so:

- Daily - 20%
- Several times a week - 30%
- Several times a month - 33%
- A few times a year or less - 16%

Income and Debt

Median **individual** income^g in 2016:

- 1987 cohort and earlier (n = 174) - \$55,000
- 1988-1997 cohorts (n = 108) - \$65,000
- 1998-2002 cohorts (n = 66) - \$55,000
- 2003-2007 cohorts (n = 103) - \$45,000
- 2008-2012 cohorts (n = 153) - \$45,000
- 2013-2017 cohorts (n = 200) - \$25,000

Median **household** income^g in 2016:

- 1987 cohort and earlier (n = 164) - \$95,000
- 1988-1997 cohorts (n = 107) - \$125,000
- 1998-2002 cohorts (n = 65) - \$125,000
- 2003-2007 cohorts (n = 102) - \$75,000
- 2008-2012 cohorts (n = 149) - \$65,000
- 2013-2017 cohorts (n = 188) - \$25,000

For professional artists in 2016, the percentage of **work time** or **income** from work as a professional artist:

	% of Time (n = 479)	% of Income (n = 450)
Less than 25%	24%	41%
26% to 50%	20%	10%
51% to 75%	13%	5%
76% to 100%	43%	44%

For those who acquired debt (n = 489), the impact of student loan debt on career or educational decisions:

- Major impact - 25%
- Some impact - 38%
- No impact - 37%

^d Respondents could select more than one response option.

^f *Not currently professional artists* are identified as those who did not select "yes, I do this currently" in question 25.

^g Median income values are calculated using the midpoints of income ranges as values.