

CAREER GRADUATE SURVEY: 2013 TRENDS AND FINDINGS

2013 Career Graduates

Prepared by
The Office of
Institutional Research
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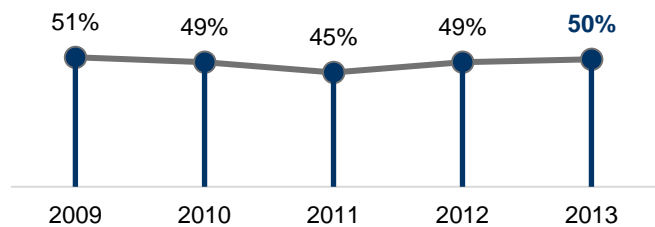
Executive Summary

Background

Students who have completed a **certificate and/or Associate of Applied Sciences** credentials in fiscal year 2013 were surveyed to determine the extent to which they have found employment and to assess their satisfaction with their experience at Harper College.

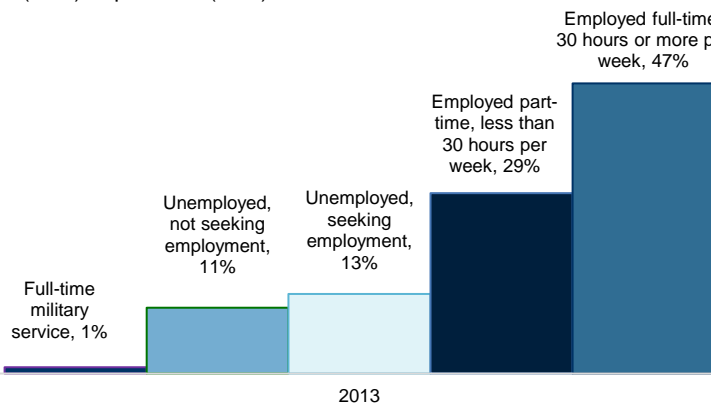
Response Rate

Response Rates from 2009 to 2013



Employment

The majority of the 2013 career graduates are employed either full-time (47%) or part-time (29%).



In 2013, **36%** of graduates reported working in an unrelated field to their credential from Harper College. The top three reasons were...

1. Temporary job while in transition
2. Preferred a job in another field
3. Could not find a job in their field of study



Hours Work per Week

- 52% of 2013 graduates report they work typical full-time hours between 31 and 40 hours per/week



Job Satisfaction

- The majority (82%) of graduates are satisfied with their careers



When they started working

- 50% of career graduates reported working sometime after leaving their college program



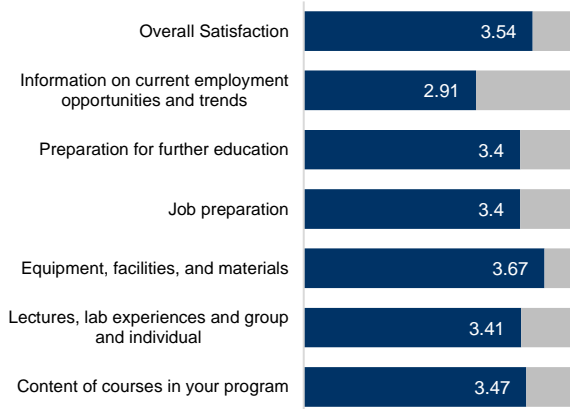
Location of Job

- The majority work in Illinois (94%)
- 6% work outside of Illinois

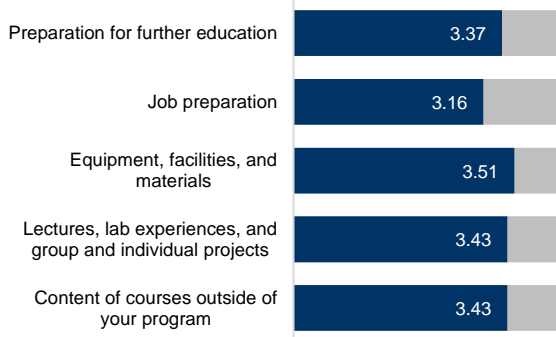
Course Satisfaction

Consistent with prior years, the majority of **2013 career graduates reported being satisfied with aspects of their program of study**. The 2013 career graduates were also, on average, **satisfied with their experiences outside of their program of study**.

Program of Study Courses

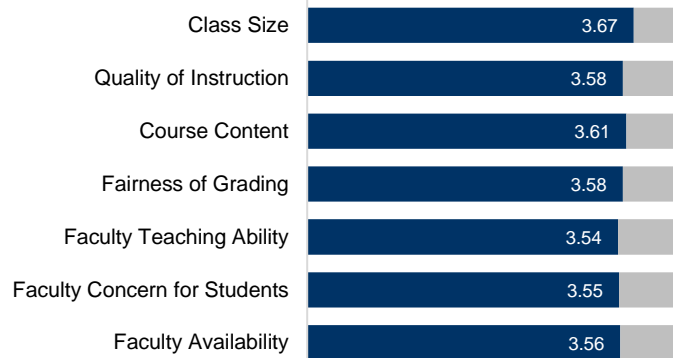


Courses outside Program of Study



More 2013 graduates rated the quality of instructor as poor (13%) compared to previous years (1% consistently). However, overall, **the average rating of instruction aspects were good** (ratings between 3-good, and 4-excellent).

Instruction at Harper

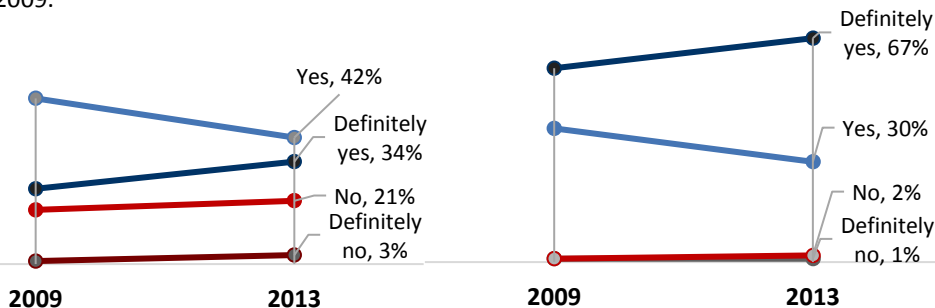


Student Services Satisfaction

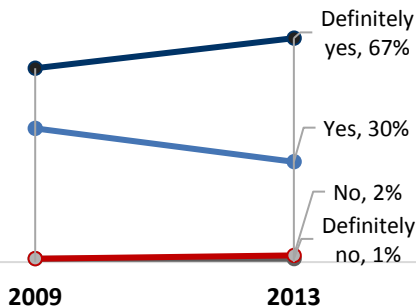
Many student offices and services were under used by the 2013 graduates; except for registration procedures. Of the graduates *that did use these services*, consistent with prior years, the **majority were Somewhat or Very Satisfied with the services and offices at Harper College**.

Satisfaction with Harper College

More graduates felt Harper College **Definitely** bettered their appreciate for diversity and culture in 2013 compared to 2009.



More graduates in 2013 responded **Definitely** would recommend Harper College compared to 2009.



The majority of graduates would return to Harper College for more education or personal enrichment.

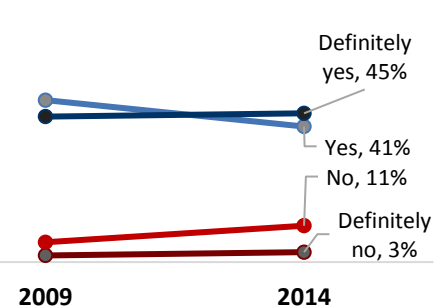


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Introduction

Every fall semester, Harper College partners with Comiskey Research to disseminate the career graduate survey to career program graduates from the preceding spring semester. Career programs are any **certificates** or **Associate of Applied Science** (AAS) degree programs. The survey consists of items that were developed locally and required items from the Occupational Follow-Up Survey by the Illinois Community College Board for career programs undergoing program review. The goal of the survey is to ascertain the **current employment** and **educational status** of Harper College career graduates, their **satisfaction** with their academic **experiences at Harper College**, their views on diversity, and the extent they would recommend Harper College to others or return to Harper in the future.

The findings presented throughout this report are based on the responses from 1,189 (50 percent response rate) completed surveys. Not every question was answered by every respondent, so findings only display the total responses for each question and distribution for that question (reporting valid responses). All percentages are rounded and may not add up to be exactly 100 percent. **For more information on the 2013 Career Graduates, explore the Graduate Dashboards on the Office of Institutional Research HIP page.**

Results and Discussion

DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographics of all Harper College career graduates have remained fairly static over survey years. Career graduates were predominately white and female. In 2013, racial/ethnic groups were expanded to include graduates who reported two races ("Multi-Racial"). Table 1 below shows the racial and gender breakdown for all graduates.

Table 1. Demographics of All Career Graduates

	Asian/Pacific Islander*	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	African-American/ Black	Hispanic/ Latino	White	Other/ Unknown	Multi-Racial	Male	Female
2009	9%	1%	3%	9%	69%	9%	--	36%	64%
2010	10%	<1%	4%	11%	66%	9%	--	35%	65%
2011	9%	<1%	4%	11%	69%	8%	--	39%	61%
2012	10%	<1%	4%	13%	66%	8%	--	39%	61%
2013	12%	<1%	5%	5%	77%	<1%	2%	36%	64%

Figure 1 and Table 2 (below) show how the graduates who responded to the 2013 career graduate survey compare to all 2013 career graduates. The sample of graduates who responded to the survey is similar to the demographics of the entire 2013 career graduate pool. The similarity in demographics suggests the 2013 respondents are representative of the 2013 career graduate group overall.

The demographic breakdown of those that responded to the 2013 career graduate survey is representative of the overall 2013 career graduate pool.

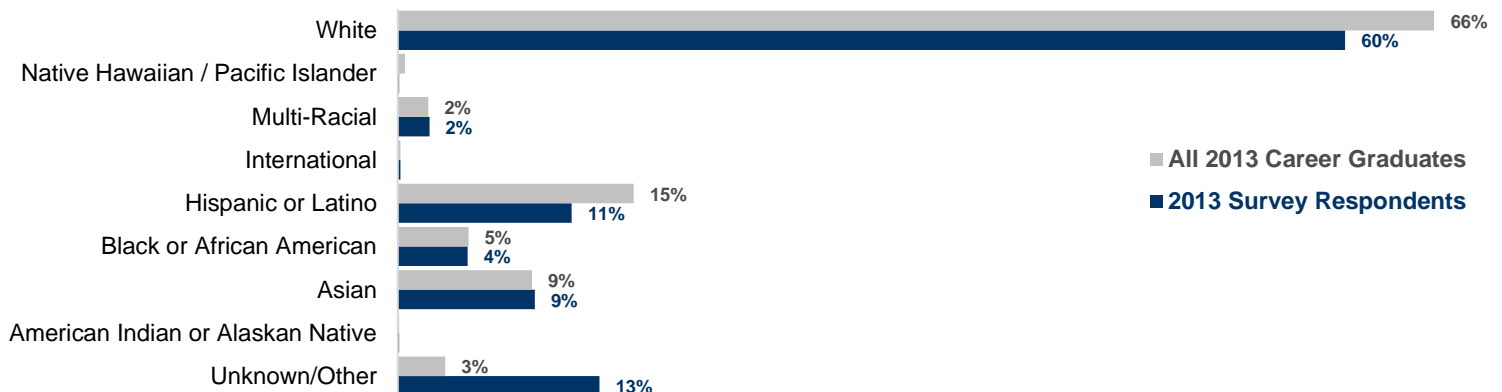


Figure 2. Demographics of 2013 Respondents and all 2013 Graduates

RESPONSE RATES

Of the 2,370 graduates who were sent invites to participate in the 2013 Career Graduate survey, 1,189 provided responses. The 2013 survey response rate (50%) is consistent with prior survey years.

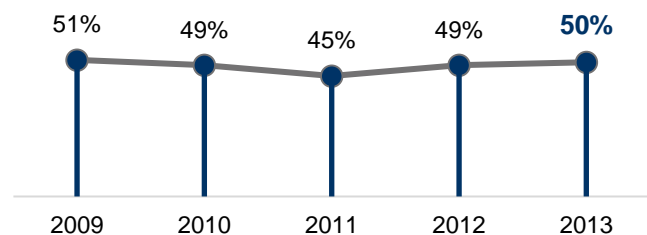
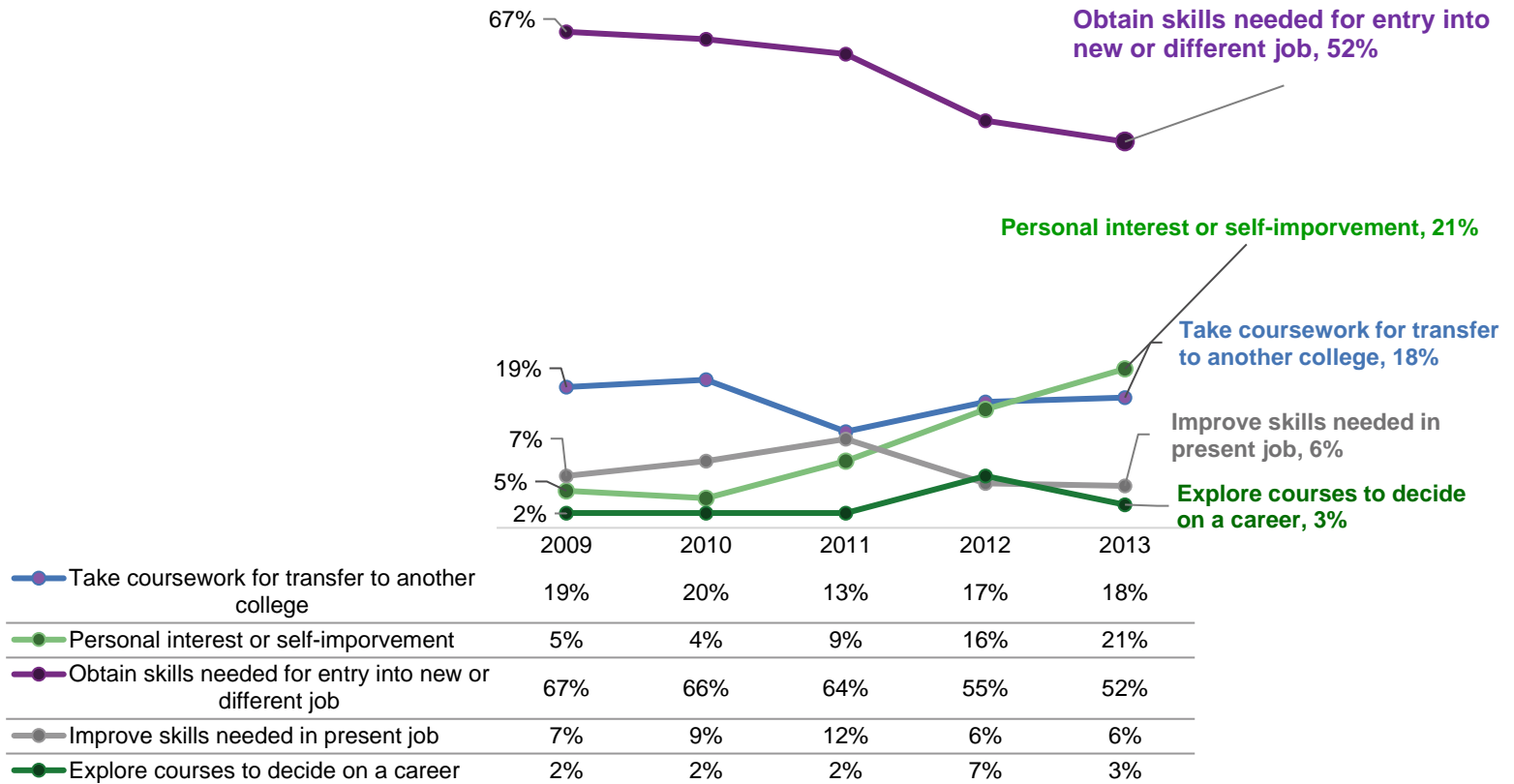


Figure 1. Response Rates

STUDENT INTENT

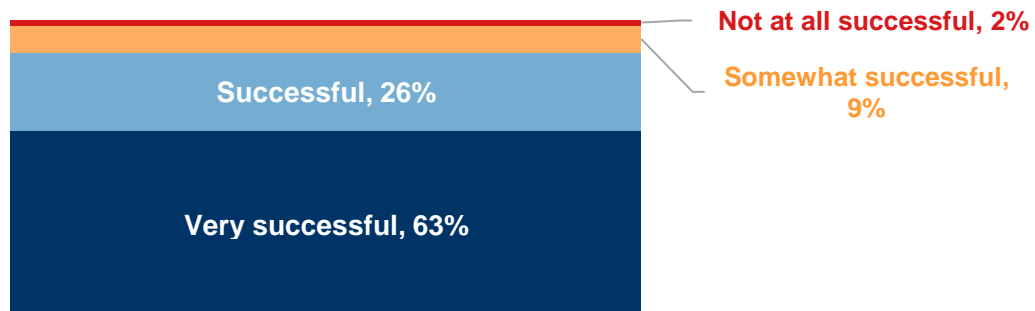
The **majority** of career graduates attended Harper College to **obtain skills for a job**. More reported their main objective for attending as **personal interest or self-improvement** in 2013 compared to in 2009.

Figure 3. Student Intent



In 2013 Harper College asked graduates how successful they were in achieving their main educational objective. The majority reported being **successful** or **very successful** in achieving their educational objective at Harper College.

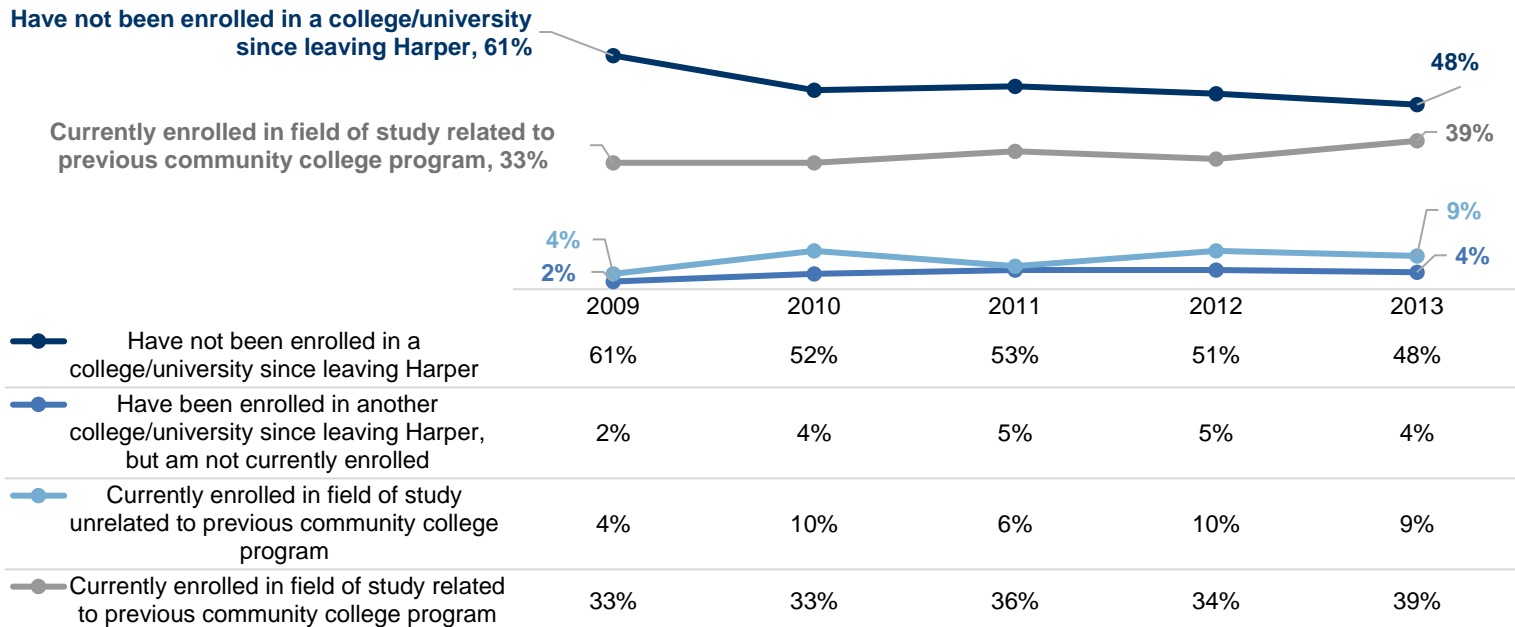
Figure 4. Success at Achieving Educational Objective



EDUCATIONAL STATUS

Of the 2013 career graduates who responded with their education status, many **have not enrolled in another institution since leaving Harper College**. Many other are enrolled in a **program related to their credential from Harper College**. This is a slight decrease compared to previous years.

Figure 5. Educational Status

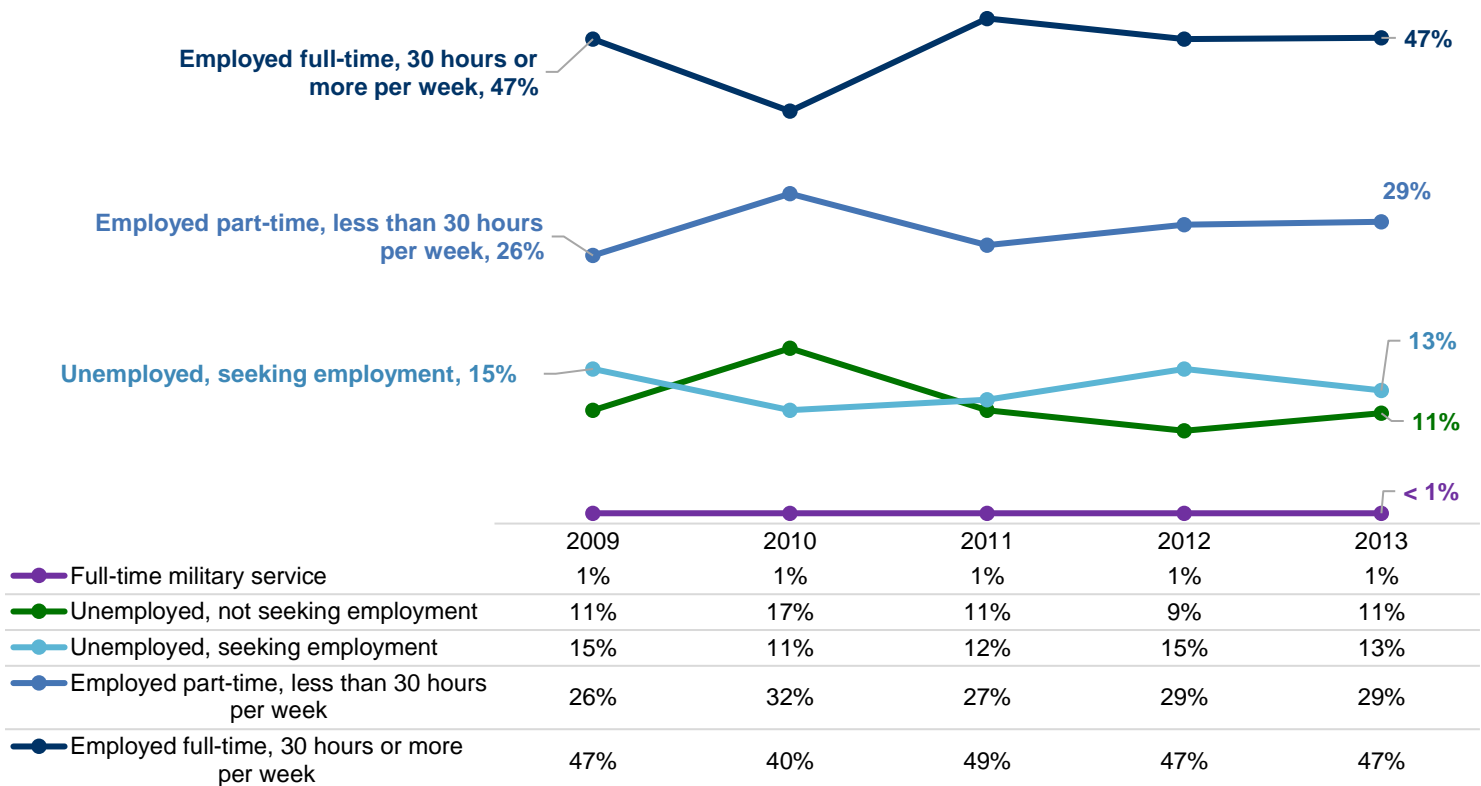


EMPLOYMENT

Employment Status

The majority of 2013 career graduates are employed either employed **full-time** or **part-time**. Almost half of the respondents indicated being employed full-time since receiving their credential from Harper College (47%). Of those who are unemployed, 11 percent responded not seeking in 2013.

Figure 6. Employment Status



The majority of 2013 career graduates who are **employed and not seeking**, are unemployed because they are **full-time students (67%)**. The large percent of graduates who indicate they are full-time students suggests graduates are going back to college or university for more credentials.

Figure 7. Unemployed and Not Seeking Reasons

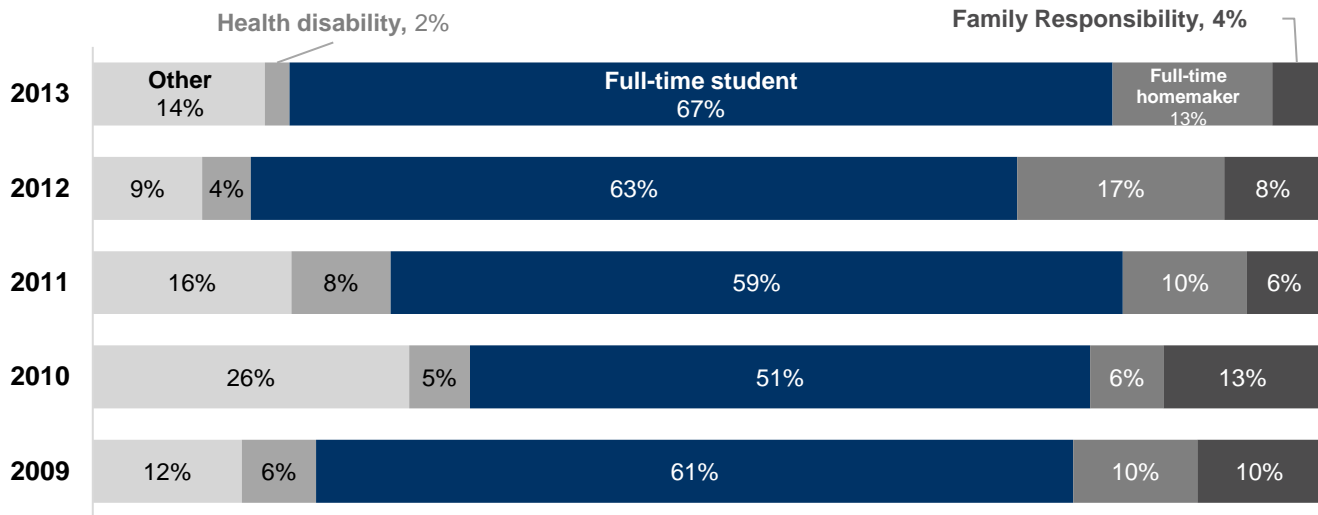
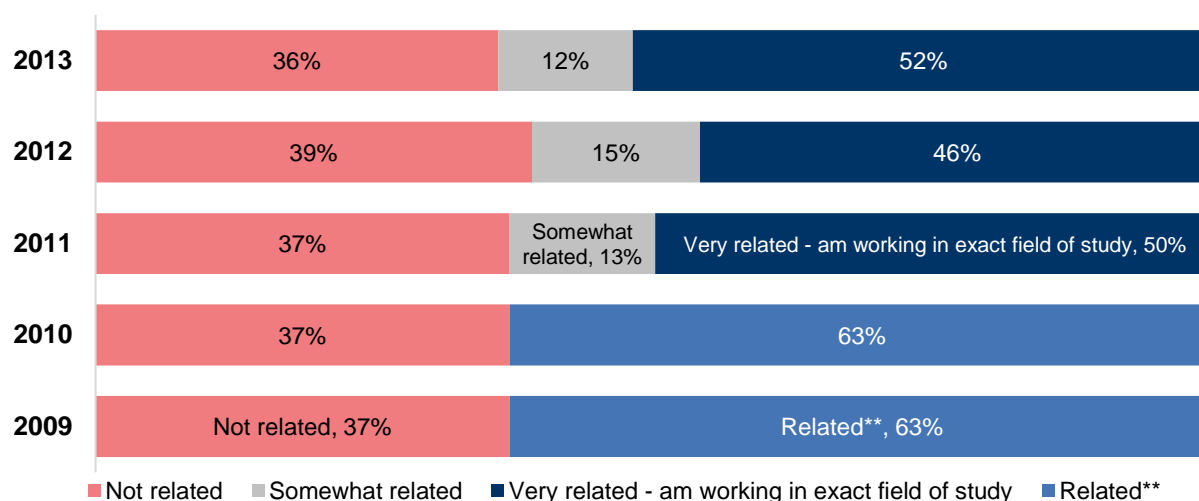


Table #. What is your employment status?					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Full-time military service	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Unemployed, not seeking employment	11%	17%	11%	9%	11%
Unemployed, seeking employment	15%	11%	12%	15%	13%
Employed part-time, less than 30 hours per week	26%	32%	27%	29%	29%
Employed full-time, 30 hours or more per week	47%	40%	49%	47%	47%
If unemployed and not seeking employment, choose one best reason					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Other	12%	26%	16%	9%	14%
Health disability	6%	5%	8%	4%	2%
Full-time student	61%	51%	59%	63%	67%
Full-time homemaker	10%	6%	10%	17%	13%
Family Responsibility	10%	13%	6%	8%	4%

Job Relation to Program of Study

In 2009 and 2010, graduates were asked if their job was **related** or **not related** to their program of study at Harper College, then in 2011 the options changed to **not related**, **somewhat related**, or **very related**. Overall, the majority of graduates from each survey year are employed in a field related to their program of study at Harper College. The graduates who indicated they are employed in an unrelated field were asked a follow-up question to assess the reason why. In 2013, the top three reasons career graduates were not employed in a related field to their program of study were: 1. Temporary job while in transition, 2. Preferred a job in another field, and 3. Could not find a job in their field of study.

Figure 8. The majority of graduates are employed in a related field



Note: survey response choices changed from 2010 to 2011. In 2011, the scale changed to 1- not related, 2 – somewhat related, and 3 – very related.

Table 2. Reason why present job is unrelated to college program of study

If your present job is unrelated to your college program , what is the one best reason why?	2009 (100)	2010 (176)	2011 (292)	2012 (373)	2013 (319)
Other reason	0%	11%	11%	8%	8%
Temporary job while in transition	0%	37%	35%	48%	37%
Preferred to work in another field	11%	14%	20%	16%	22%
Could not find a job in my field of preparation	1%	25%	27%	19%	15%
Did not complete program/pass licensing test to be eligible to work in my field	0%	2%	1%	2%	8%
Found better paying job in another field	5%	7%	4%	3%	5%
Worked previously in my field of preparation, but changed	24%	2%	1%	2%	3%
Took job in order to get preferred working hours	57%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Preferred not to move to new locality	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Health problems prevented me from working in my field of preparation	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%

Working Hours and Wages

In 2011, the survey item regarding number of works worked changed from an open-box to an interval-scale. For this reason, 2009 and 2010 were not included in Figure 9, but the information from these previous years are available in Table 3. Overall, the majority of graduates are working either full-time or part-time hours. Of the career graduates who are employed, the majority are working **typical full-time hours**. Few are working more than typical full-time hours, or working less than 30 hours a week.

Figure 9. Hours Work per Week

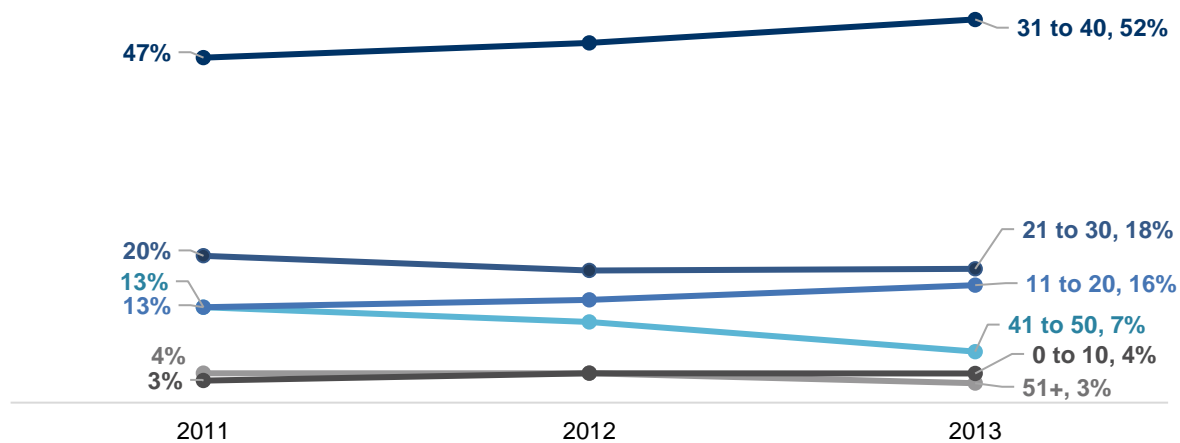
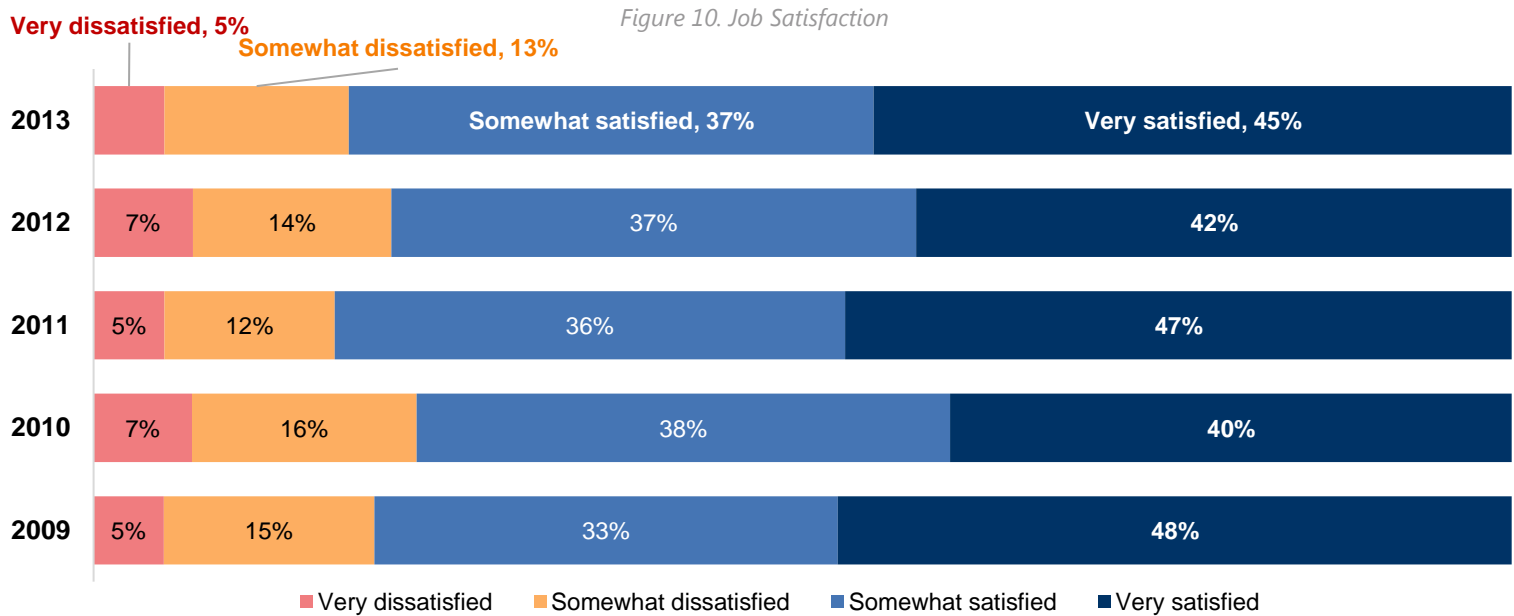


Table 3. Average Hours per Week and Hourly Wage

Average Hours of Work per Week and Mean Hourly Wage			
	N	Average Hours Worked/Week	Average Hourly Wage
2009	117	31.7	\$ 18.54
2010	277	30.5	\$ 16.62
2011	287	-	\$ 16.94
2012	555	-	\$ 17.99
2013	523	-	\$ 21.51
On average, how many hours do you work each week?			
Hours/Week Range	2011	2012	2013
0 to 10	3%	4%	4%
11 to 20	13%	14%	16%
21 to 30	20%	18%	18%
31 to 40	47%	49%	52%
41 to 50	13%	11%	7%
51+	4%	4%	3%

Job Satisfaction

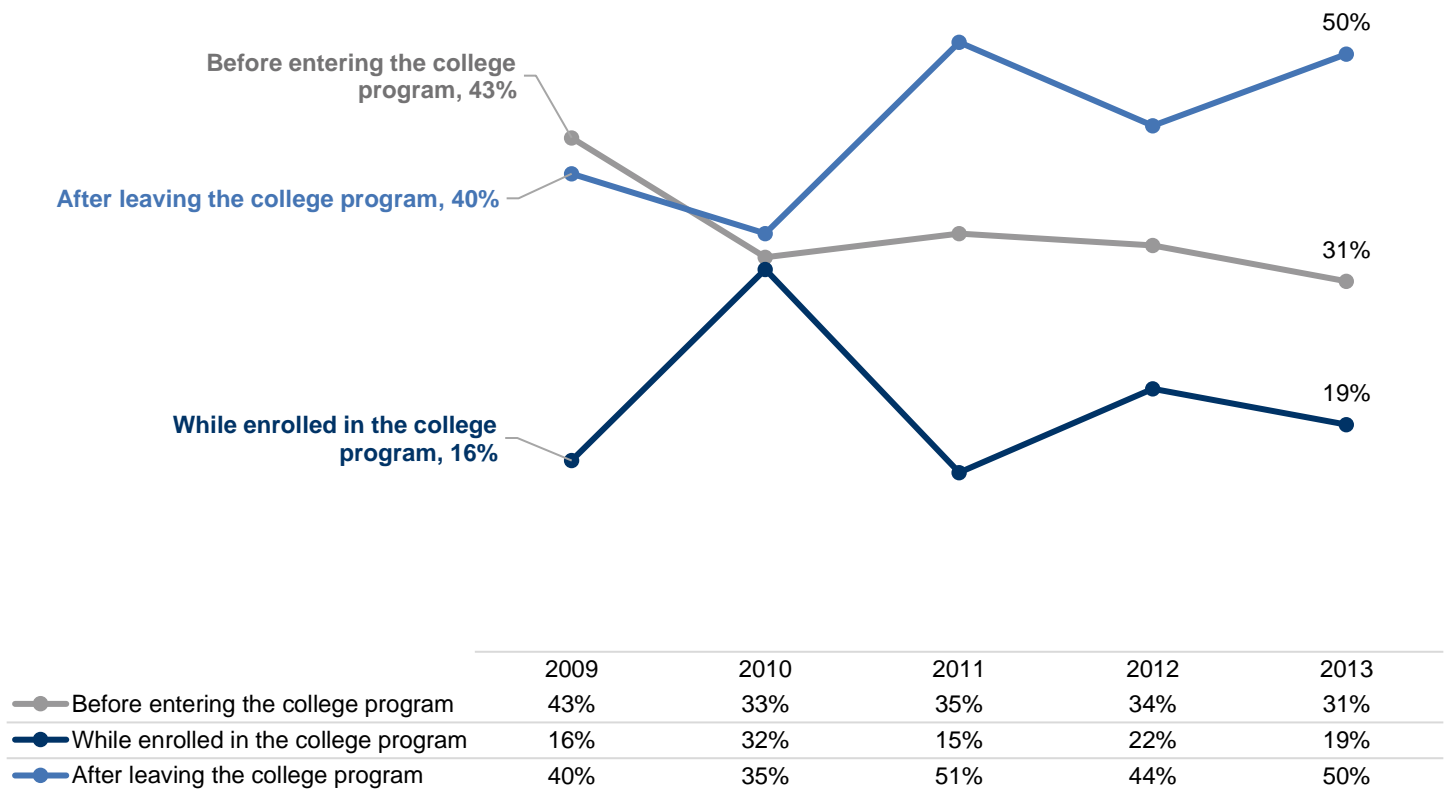
While the majority of graduates' responded feeling **somewhat** or **very satisfied** with their current jobs, 18% of 2013 Career Graduates felt **somewhat** or **very dissatisfied** at work. The ratio of satisfied to dissatisfied graduates at work has remained consistent over survey years. Although, more graduates were dissatisfied to some extent in 2010 compared to all other graduate years.



When Graduates Began Working

Many of the career graduates began working after **leaving their program**, a trend that spiked in 2011. The percent of graduates who began **work before entering their program** has declined since 2009. These results may suggest graduates are attending Harper College to prepare for a career rather than develop skills for their current position.

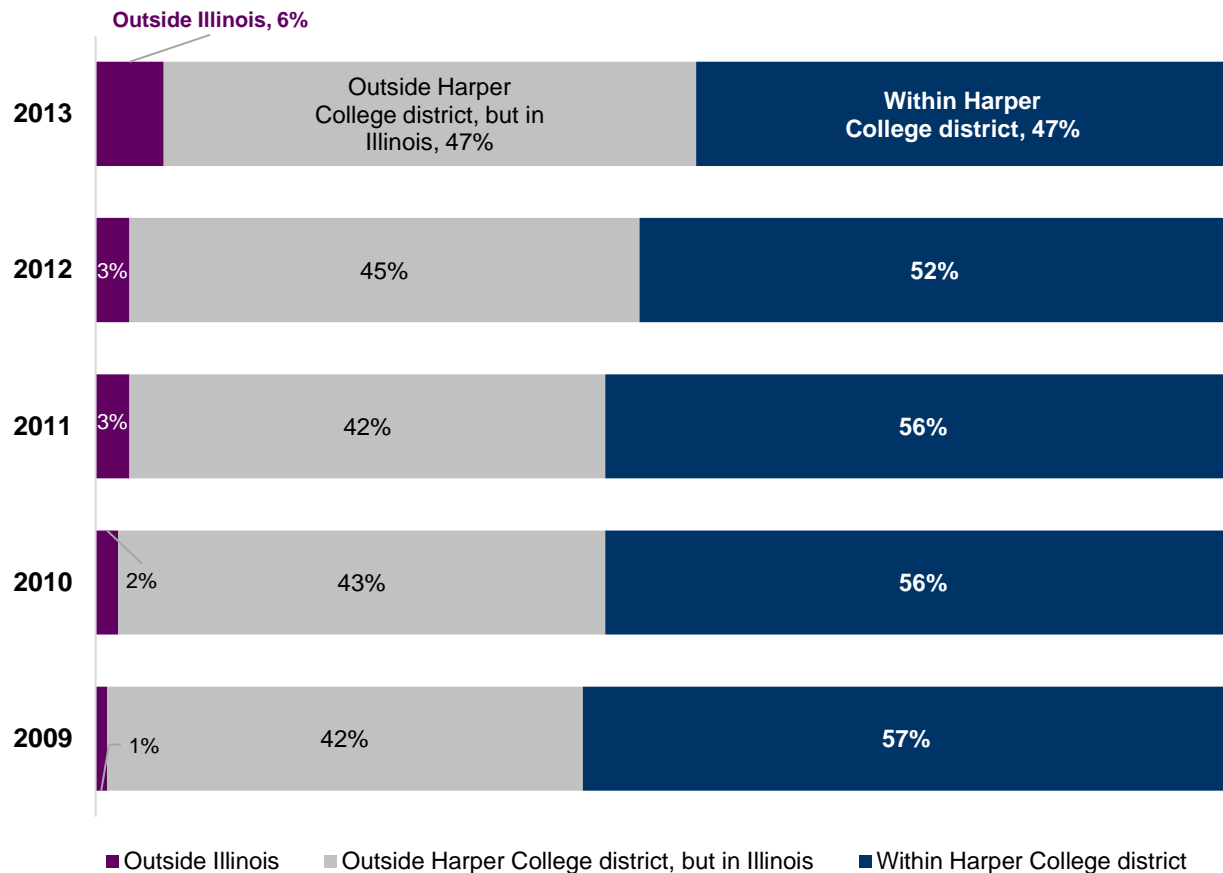
Figure 11. When Graduates Began Work



Location of Employment

While more graduates reported **working outside of Illinois** in 2013 compared to previous years, the **majority still are employed within the state**. Almost half of the 2013 respondents report working within Harper College's district, consistent with prior graduate years.

Figure 12. Location of Employment



SATISFACTION WITH HARPER EXPERIENCE

Satisfaction within Program of Study

Career Graduates rated their program on specific items using a scale where 1 – very dissatisfied and 4 – very satisfied. Overall, graduates are satisfied with the aspects of their program of study at Harper College (Table 4). Figure 13 (below) shows the results from the 2013 career graduates satisfaction ratings only. Consistent with previous years, 2013 graduates are *very satisfied* with the equipment, facilities, and materials but less enthusiastic about information on current employment opportunities and trends.

Figure 13. 2013 Career Graduates Satisfaction with Program of Study



Table 4. Satisfaction with Items Pertaining to Program of Study Courses

Satisfaction with the following items as they pertain to skill courses in program of study					
	N	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Content of courses in your program					
2009	423	69%	27%	5%	1%
2010	643	67%	30%	2%	0%
2011	1059	73%	23%	4%	1%
2012	1347	70%	25%	4%	1%
2013	1183	72%	4%	23%	1%
Lectures, lab experiences, and group and individual projects					
2009	421	64%	30%	5%	1%
2010	642	64%	30%	5%	1%
2011	1058	71%	25%	4%	1%
2012	1338	66%	28%	4%	1%
2013	1,181	69%	4%	25%	1%
Equipment, facilities, and materials					
2009	421	72%	23%	4%	0%
2010	643	69%	26%	4%	0%
2011	1053	73%	22%	4%	1%
2012	1334	69%	25%	5%	1%
2013	1,180	74%	20%	4%	1%

Satisfaction with the following items as they pertain to skill courses in program of study					
	N	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Job preparation					
2009	362	59%	30%	9%	2%
2010	628	47%	36%	14%	4%
2011	967	60%	28%	9%	3%
2012	1224	54%	32%	11%	4%
2013	1127	56%	32%	9%	3%
Preparation for further education					
2009	387	61%	31%	7%	1%
2010	632	52%	36%	10%	2%
2011	1024	65%	26%	7%	2%
2012	1300	57%	33%	8%	3%
2013	1138	62%	29%	7%	2%
Information on current employment opportunities and trends					
2009	311	38%	33%	21%	8%
2010	607	28%	36%	23%	13%
2011	841	40%	32%	18%	9%
2012	1112	34%	35%	20%	11%
2013	1027	32%	34%	19%	12%
2014	1234	37%	36%	19%	8%
Overall, how satisfied are you that your program provided you with the skills for your job?					
2009	368	64%	30%	5%	1%
2010	616	56%	34%	6%	3%
2011	958	68%	24%	5%	2%
2012	1247	59%	31%	8%	2%
2013	968	64%	28%	5%	2%

Satisfaction outside Program of Study

Graduates then rated their satisfaction (4-point scale) with their experience at Harper College outside of their program of study, using the same scale. On a four-point scale, graduates rated their experience at Harper College, **outside** of their program of study. Overall, graduates were **satisfied** with their class experiences. Figure 14 shows the mean ratings of just the 2013 career graduates.

Figure 14. 2013 Career Graduate Satisfaction outside Program of Study

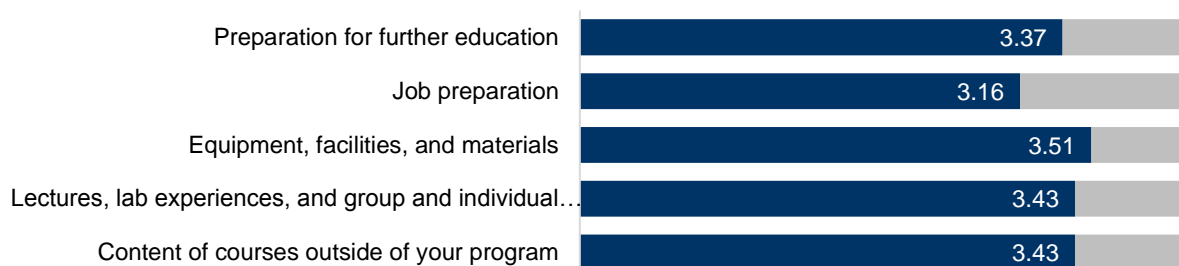


Table 5. Satisfaction with Items Pertaining to Courses outside Program of Study

Satisfaction with items as they pertain to skill courses outside of program of study.					
	N	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Content of courses outside your program					
2009	130	64%	30%	5%	1%
2010	377	47%	35%	15%	3%
2011	402	55%	36%	7%	2%
2012	752	57%	37%	5%	2%
2013	532	55%	35%	8%	2%
Lectures, lab experiences, and group and individual projects					
2009	127	61%	34%	4%	1%
2010	376	44%	35%	17%	4%
2011	400	55%	37%	6%	2%
2012	737	44%	49%	5%	2%
2013	530	53%	39%	6%	2%
Equipment, facilities, and materials					
2009	128	68%	28%	3%	1%
2010	377	51%	30%	16%	3%
2011	400	64%	30%	5%	1%
2012	733	48%	46%	5%	1%
2013	533	59%	35%	4%	2%
Job preparation					
2009	74	51%	26%	19%	4%
2010	365	31%	36%	24%	9%
2011	329	43%	37%	15%	6%

Satisfaction with items as they pertain to skill courses outside of program of study.					
	N	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
2012	593	40%	43%	13%	5%
2013	442	40%	40%	15%	5%
Preparation for further education					
2009	91	62%	23%	12%	3%
2010	372	41%	35%	19%	6%
2011	385	55%	32%	9%	3%
2012	703	51%	39%	8%	3%
2013	508	51%	37%	8%	3%

Satisfaction with Services and Offices on Campus

Career graduates rated thirteen offices and services at Harper College on a scale where 1 = Very Dissatisfied, and 4 = Very Satisfied, or "Did not Use/NA". The majority of graduates reported not using the listed offices and services (Figure 15). The 2013 graduates reported being, on average, satisfied (Figure 16). Table 6 shows the ratings for all career graduates from 2009 through 2013.

Figure 16. 2013 Career Graduates Reported Use of Offices/Services

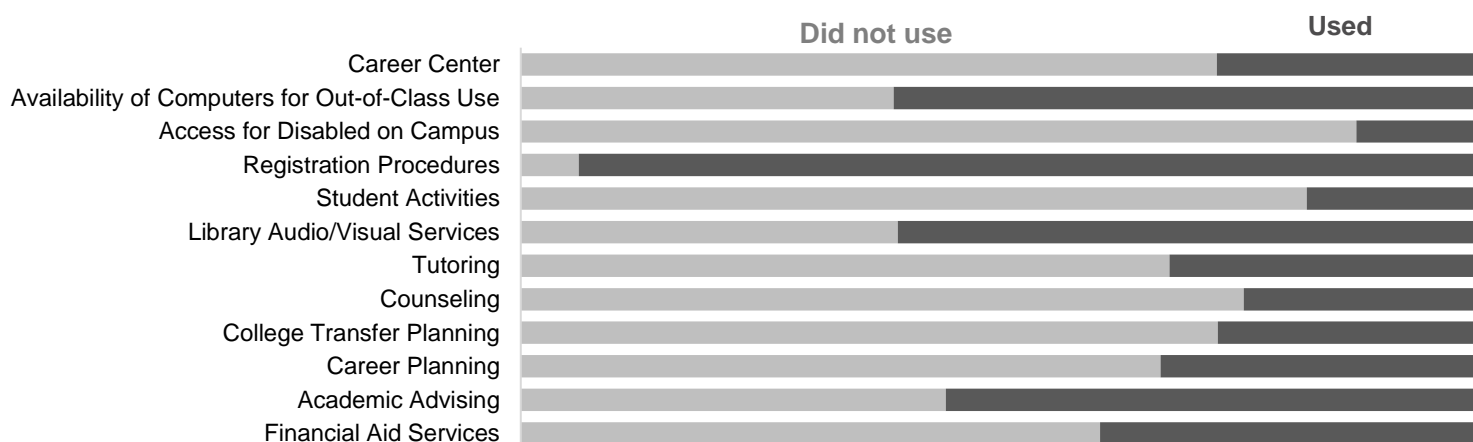


Figure 15. 2013 Career Graduates Satisfaction with Offices/Services

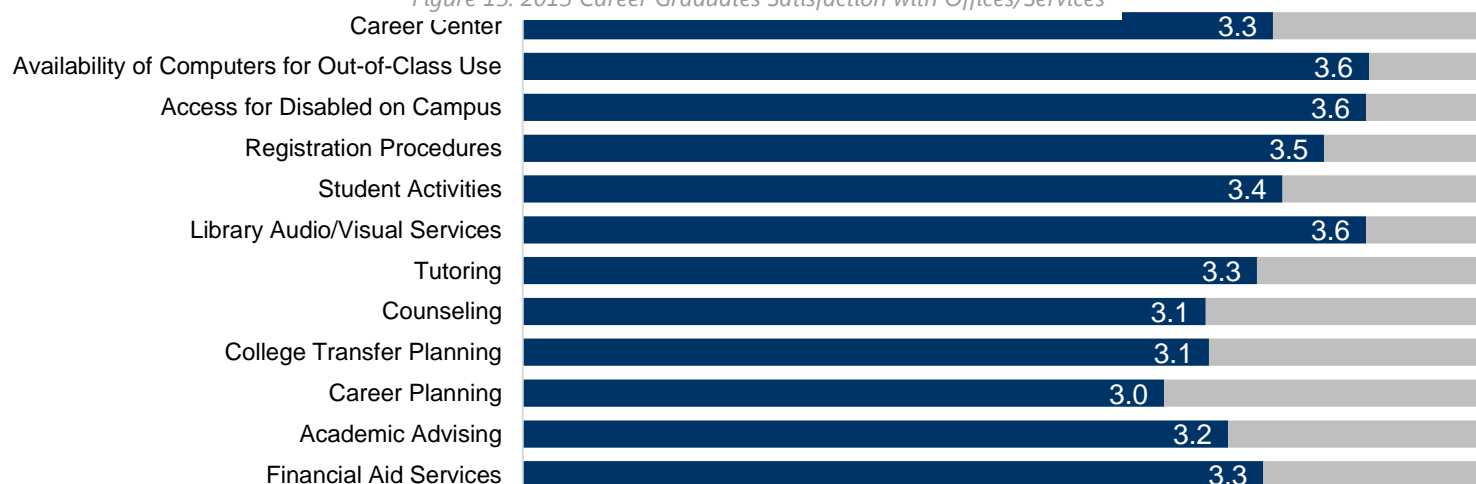


Table 6. Satisfaction with Harper College Office or Services

Satisfaction with Harper College offices or services					
	N	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Financial Aid services					
2009	146	53%	24%	13%	10%
2010	272	42%	30%	16%	13%
2011	353	58%	27%	9%	5%
2012	513	57%	24%	11%	9%
2013	469	57%	24%	13%	10%
Career planning					
2009	121	52%	31%	7%	9%
2010	304	24%	39%	22%	14%
2011	283	37%	37%	17%	8%
2012	446	40%	36%	16%	7%
2013	391	39%	31%	21%	9%
College transfer planning					
2009	100	52%	29%	13%	6%
2010	241	33%	32%	23%	12%
2011	211	41%	36%	16%	7%
2012	317	43%	38%	13%	7%
2013	323	43%	34%	19%	5%
Counseling					
2009	94	59%	30%	6%	5%
2010	315	38%	35%	17%	10%
2011	189	46%	33%	14%	7%
2012	337	47%	35%	11%	7%
2013	292	43%	33%	18%	6%
Tutoring					
2009	111	55%	32%	6%	6%
2010	238	43%	33%	15%	9%
2011	270	58%	30%	9%	3%
2012	394	54%	32%	8%	6%
2013	382	51%	33%	12%	5%
Library/audio visual services					
2009	272	76%	21%	3%	0%
2010	481	50%	39%	9%	1%
2011	635	74%	22%	4%	0%
2012	835	72%	24%	4%	1%
2013	717	69%	26%	4%	1%
Student activities					
2009	73	60%	30%	7%	3%

Satisfaction with Harper College offices or services					
	N	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
2010	181	38%	40%	17%	5%
2011	165	53%	38%	8%	2%
2012	224	53%	37%	8%	2%
2013	214	53%	34%	9%	3%
Registration procedures					
2009	418	65%	24%	7%	4%
2010	634	37%	41%	15%	7%
2011	1023	67%	25%	6%	1%
2012	1273	64%	28%	6%	2%
2013	1102	61%	30%	7%	2%
Access for disabled on campus					
2009	127	83%	13%	3%	1%
2010	165	50%	36%	10%	4%
2011	122	66%	27%	3%	3%
2012	153	66%	27%	2%	5%
2013	151	72%	22%	5%	2%
Availability of computers for out-of-class use					
2009	313	80%	18%	1%	0%
2010	515	52%	32%	12%	3%
2011	733	74%	22%	4%	0%
2012	851	73%	21%	5%	1%
2013	720	70%	25%	4%	1%
Career Center					
2009	333	86%	12%	2%	0%
2010	242	39%	43%	12%	6%
2011	312	62%	29%	7%	3%
2012	334	58%	33%	6%	4%
2013	319	55%	30%	9%	6%
Academic Advising					
2009	248	54%	26%	13%	7%
2010	453	34%	33%	21%	11%
2011	570	50%	30%	13%	7%
2012	797	50%	29%	15%	6%
2013	658	48%	32%	13%	7%

Instruction Ratings

Career Graduates also rated areas of instruction at Harper College on a 4-point scale (1= Poor and 4 = Excellent). Overall, the majority of graduates rated the areas of instruction as **Good** or **Excellent**. More 2013 graduates rated quality of instruction as **Poor** compared to other graduate years.

Figure 17. 2013 Career Graduates Average Instruction Ratings



Table 7. Instruction Ratings

Rate the instruction at Harper College.					
	N	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Class Size					
2009	424	64%	28%	8%	1%
2010	650	61%	32%	6%	0%
2011	1050	70%	24%	5%	1%
2012	1328	65%	29%	5%	1%
2013	1180	72%	22%	4%	1%
Quality of instruction					
2009	423	58%	33%	8%	1%
2010	651	57%	36%	6%	1%
2011	1055	67%	26%	6%	1%
2012	1341	60%	32%	7%	1%
2013	1179	66%	27%	6%	13%
Course content					
2009	424	59%	36%	5%	0%
2010	650	58%	37%	5%	0%
2011	1055	72%	23%	4%	1%
2012	1338	60%	34%	5%	1%
2013	1179	68%	26%	5%	1%
Fairness of grading					
2009	425	60%	33%	6%	1%
2010	649	60%	33%	6%	2%

Rate the instruction at Harper College.					
	N	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
2011	1054	70%	23%	6%	1%
2012	1338	65%	28%	6%	1%
2013	1179	66%	27%	6%	1%
Faculty teaching ability					
2009	425	58%	33%	8%	1%
2010	650	57%	34%	7%	2%
2011	1056	70%	22%	7%	1%
2012	1339	64%	28%	7%	2%
2013	1178	64%	28%	7%	1%
Faculty concern for students					
2009	425	60%	30%	8%	2%
2010	648	56%	32%	10%	3%
2011	1051	69%	23%	6%	2%
2012	1335	63%	26%	9%	2%
2013	1179	65%	26%	7%	2%
Faculty availability					
2009	423	61%	30%	7%	1%
2010	641	58%	31%	9%	2%
2011	1052	66%	25%	7%	2%
2012	1309	63%	27%	9%	1%
2013	1174	65%	26%	7%	2%

Location Ratings

Career graduates were asked to rate the convenience of Harper College locations on a three-point scale where 1 = **Not convenient**, 2 = **Convenient**, and 3 = **Very convenient**, or 0 = N/A. The majority of graduates **did not use** the HPC, LCC, or Online Program options. In 2013, of those that utilized the **Main Campus**, 73% feel it was a **very convenient** location.

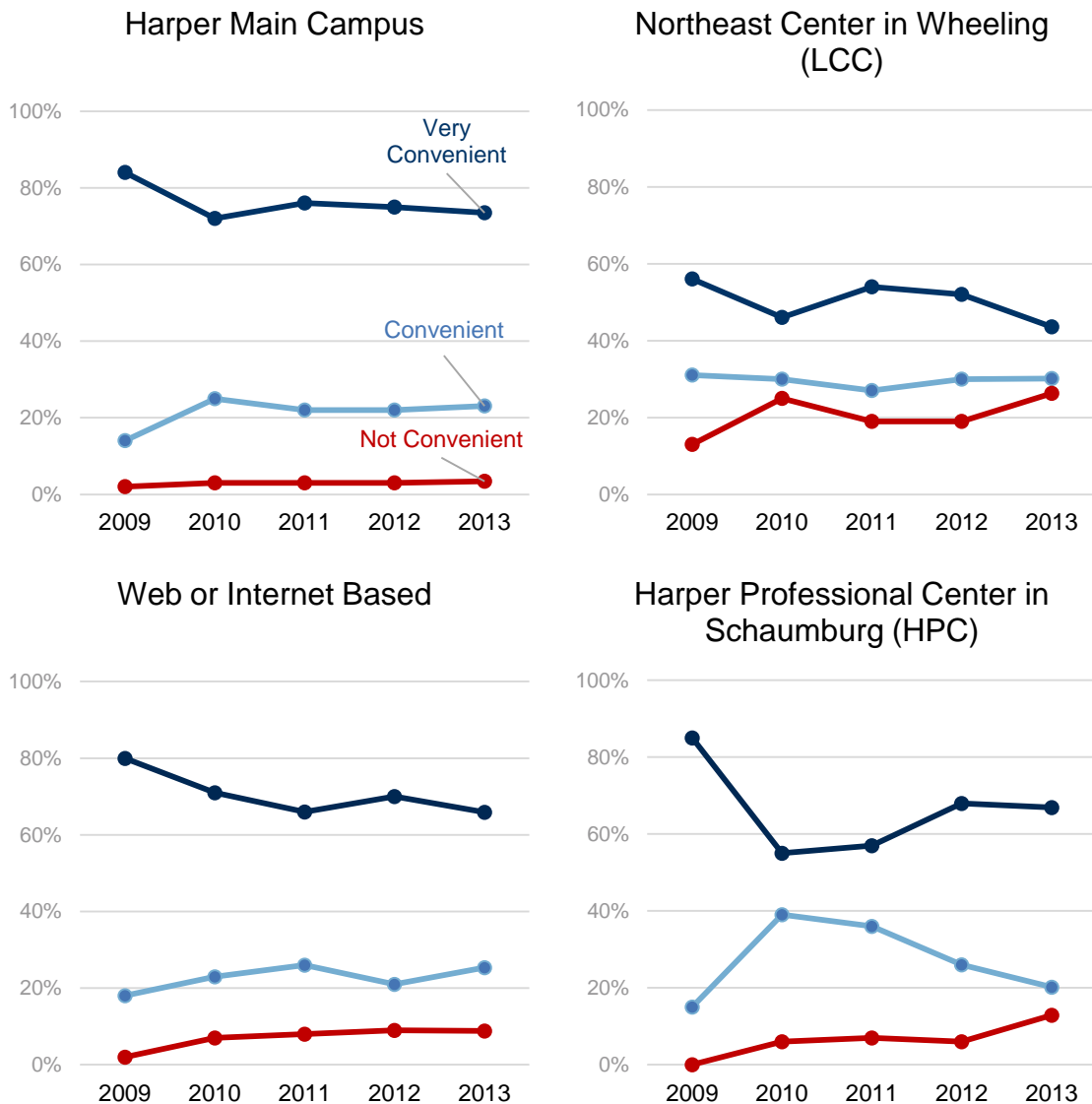


Figure 18. Convenience Ratings of Harper Locations

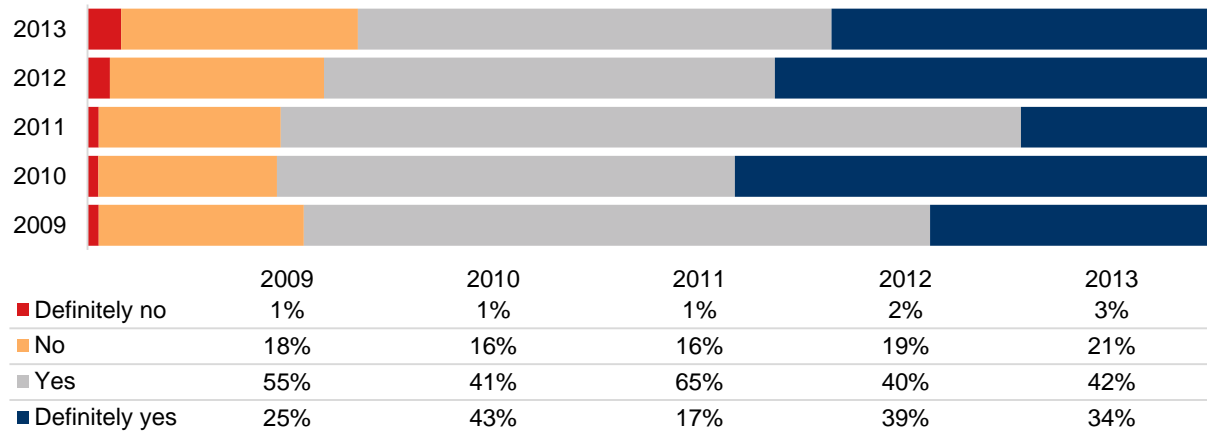
Table 8. Convenience Ratings of Harper Locations

Location Convenience		Count	Very Convenient	Convenient	Not Convenient
Harper Main Campus					
	2009	415	84%	14%	2%
	2010	633	72%	25%	3%
	2011	951	76%	22%	3%
	2012	1225	75%	22%	3%
	2013	1,030	73%	23%	3%
Northeast Center in Wheeling (LCC)					
	2009	78	56%	31%	13%
	2010	151	46%	30%	25%
	2011	185	54%	27%	19%
	2012	239	52%	30%	19%
	2013	209	44%	30%	26%
Web or Internet based					
	2009	203	80%	18%	2%
	2010	311	71%	23%	7%
	2011	250	66%	26%	8%
	2012	524	70%	21%	9%
	2013	375	66%	25%	9%
Harper Professional Center in Schaumburg					
	2009	13	85%	15%	0%
	2010	62	55%	39%	6%
	2011	84	57%	36%	7%
	2012	146	68%	26%	6%
	2013	124	67%	20%	13%

Harper's Influence on Appreciate of Diversity, Cultures and Values

The majority of 2013 Career Graduates reported **yes** or **definitely yes** that as a result of their experiences at Harper College, **they have a better appreciation for diversity and different cultures and values.**

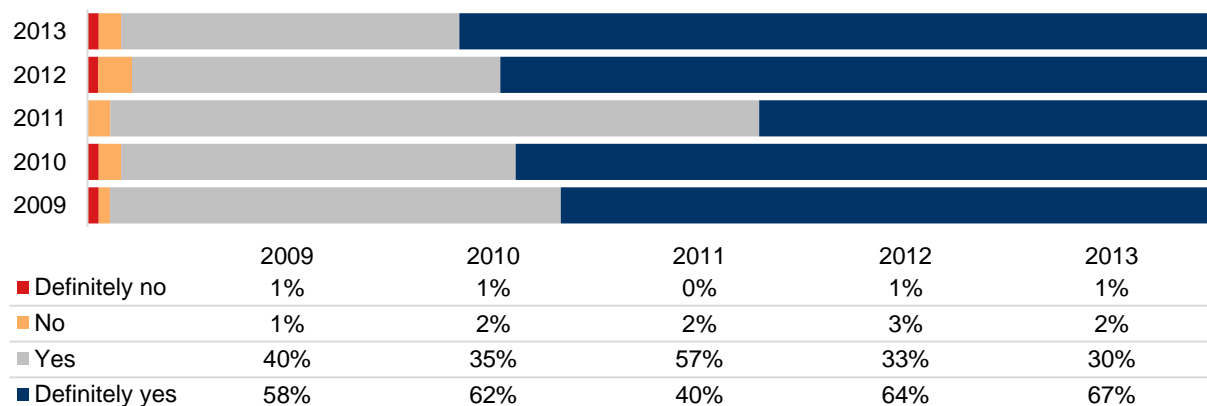
Figure 19. Diversity and Different Cultures and Values Appreciation



Recommendation of Harper to Others

2013 Career Graduates overwhelmingly responded **yes** or **definitely yes** that **they would recommend Harper College to friends and family.**

Figure 20. Recommending Harper to Others



Returning to Harper in the Future

The **majority** of graduates responded that **they would return to Harper College for education or personal enrichment courses** in the near future.

Figure 21. Returning to Harper for more Education

