Summary Findings
Achieved Goals and Cost Value

- **My education helped me achieve my goals**
  - Strongly agree: 34%
  - Somewhat agree: 38%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 15%
  - Somewhat disagree: 8%
  - Strongly disagree: 5%

- **My education was worth the cost**
  - Strongly agree: 32%
  - Somewhat agree: 33%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 12%
  - Somewhat disagree: 15%
  - Strongly disagree: 8%
Income

- $150k+: 7%
- $100k-$150k: 12%
- $50k-$100k: 39%
- <$50k: 37%
- Decline to answer: 4%
Summary Findings by Sub-Group
Summary Findings by Sub-Group

- **Helped achieve goals**: 72% in total, 70% for students of color, 72% for recent graduates, 71% for non-traditional students, 66% for first generation, and 71% for females.
- **Worth the cost**: 65% in total, 64% for students of color, 63% for recent graduates, 59% for non-traditional students, 60% for first generation, and 65% for females.
- **Income (>$50k)**: 59% in total, 55% for students of color, 52% for recent graduates, 59% for non-traditional students, 52% for first generation, and 52% for females.
Net Benefit Scores Explanation
Benefit Scores

Example

Benefit Scores are used throughout this report to show the relative positive or negative score of each item. These scores are calculated by subtracting the bottom two box scores from the top two box scores (45% - 40% = 5% in above example). These benefit scores are then averaged to create a Net Benefit Score.
Net Benefit Scores
Net Benefit Profile

- Academic Experiences: 27
- Career Experiences: 14
- Community Experiences: 11
- Financial Value: 35
- Career Preparation: 50
- Career Satisfaction: 30
- Life Impact: 45
- Skills: 26
- Affinity: 7
Net Benefit Scores by Sub-Group
Net Benefit Scores by Sub-Group (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Group</th>
<th>Career Preparation</th>
<th>Career Satisfaction</th>
<th>Financial Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students of color</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent graduate</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Traditional</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First generation</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Net Benefit Scores by Sub-Group (continued)
Detailed findings
### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES

#### How valuable were...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
<th>Not at all valuable</th>
<th>Somewhat valuable</th>
<th>Very valuable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your classes, coursework, and areas of study?</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your professors or instructors?</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research experience?</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project-based learning?</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student services, such as financial aid or the registrar?</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The academic advising you received?</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The data is presented in percentages for each category of experience.
### CAREER EXPERIENCES

How valuable were...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Very Valuable</th>
<th>Somewhat Valuable</th>
<th>Slightly Valuable</th>
<th>Not at all Valuable</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>...being mentored?</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...having a paid internship?</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...receiving work-study?</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...having an unpaid internship?</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...the career and job placement you received?</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...the career advising you received?</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Very Valuable
- Somewhat Valuable
- Slightly Valuable
- Not at all Valuable
- Not Applicable

26 people responded to the question about being mentored.
25 people responded to the question about having a paid internship.
15 people responded to the question about receiving work-study.
10 people responded to the question about having an unpaid internship.
7 people responded to the question about the career and job placement they received.
3 people responded to the question about the career advising they received.
COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

How valuable were...

- participating in sports, clubs and social groups?
  - Not Applicable: 26%
  - Not at all valuable: 7%
  - Somewhat valuable: 11%
  - Very valuable: 18%
  - Extremely valuable: 20%
  - 17%

- participating in campus leadership and volunteering?
  - Not Applicable: 35%
  - Not at all valuable: 7%
  - Somewhat valuable: 9%
  - Very valuable: 17%
  - Extremely valuable: 15%
  - 17%

- attending speakers, forums, cultural events and discussions?
  - Not Applicable: 21%
  - Not at all valuable: 7%
  - Somewhat valuable: 14%
  - Very valuable: 23%
  - Extremely valuable: 21%
  - 14%

- participating in off-campus community engagement or volunteering?
  - Not Applicable: 35%
  - Not at all valuable: 6%
  - Somewhat valuable: 10%
  - Very valuable: 17%
  - Extremely valuable: 18%
  - 13%

- alumni networking and professional connections?
  - Not Applicable: 30%
  - Not at all valuable: 14%
  - Somewhat valuable: 15%
  - Very valuable: 18%
  - Extremely valuable: 12%
  - 10%
FINANCIAL VALUE

Note that responses are question specific.

What impact has it had on your financial circumstances?
- Did not help at all or had very negative impact: 5%
- Helped a little or had somewhat negative impact: 11%
- Had no impact: 21%
- Helped some or had somewhat positive impact: 37%
- Helped quite a bit or had very positive impact: 26%
- Helped a great deal or had very positive impact: 26%

How much has it helped you to be able to support yourself and your family?
- Did not help at all or had very negative impact: 8%
- Helped a little or had somewhat negative impact: 11%
- Had no impact: 28%
- Helped some or had somewhat positive impact: 27%
- Helped quite a bit or had very positive impact: 26%
- Helped a great deal or had very positive impact: 20%

How much has it helped you to make more money?
- Did not help at all or had very negative impact: 10%
- Helped a little or had somewhat negative impact: 13%
- Had no impact: 30%
- Helped some or had somewhat positive impact: 26%
- Helped quite a bit or had very positive impact: 22%
- Helped a great deal or had very positive impact: 22%

18
CAREER PREPARATION

Note that responses are question specific.

What impact has it had on your success at work?
- Helped a great deal or Had very positive impact or Strongly agree: 73
- Helped quite a bit or Had somewhat positive impact or Somewhat agree: 62
- Helped some or Had no impact or Neither agree nor disagree: 42
- Helped a little or Had somewhat negative impact or Somewhat disagree: 39
- Did not help at all or Had very negative impact or Strongly disagree: 32

My education makes/made me an attractive candidate for potential employers.
- Helped a great deal or Had very positive impact or Strongly agree: 73
- Helped quite a bit or Had somewhat positive impact or Somewhat agree: 62
- Helped some or Had no impact or Neither agree nor disagree: 42
- Helped a little or Had somewhat negative impact or Somewhat disagree: 39
- Did not help at all or Had very negative impact or Strongly disagree: 32

How much has it helped you to be able to qualify for good jobs?
- Helped a great deal or Had very positive impact or Strongly agree: 73
- Helped quite a bit or Had somewhat positive impact or Somewhat agree: 62
- Helped some or Had no impact or Neither agree nor disagree: 42
- Helped a little or Had somewhat negative impact or Somewhat disagree: 39
- Did not help at all or Had very negative impact or Strongly disagree: 32

How much has it helped you to gain skills to be successful in work?
- Helped a great deal or Had very positive impact or Strongly agree: 73
- Helped quite a bit or Had somewhat positive impact or Somewhat agree: 62
- Helped some or Had no impact or Neither agree nor disagree: 42
- Helped a little or Had somewhat negative impact or Somewhat disagree: 39
- Did not help at all or Had very negative impact or Strongly disagree: 32

How much has it helped you to advance your career?
- Helped a great deal or Had very positive impact or Strongly agree: 73
- Helped quite a bit or Had somewhat positive impact or Somewhat agree: 62
- Helped some or Had no impact or Neither agree nor disagree: 42
- Helped a little or Had somewhat negative impact or Somewhat disagree: 39
- Did not help at all or Had very negative impact or Strongly disagree: 32
**CAREER SATISFACTION**

How satisfied are you in your current job or career?
- Not at all satisfied: 8%
- A little satisfied: 28%
- Somewhat satisfied: 39%
- Very satisfied: 21%
- Extremely satisfied: 48%

How satisfied are you with the progress you are making toward your long-term career goals?
- Not at all satisfied: 7%
- A little satisfied: 10%
- Somewhat satisfied: 33%
- Very satisfied: 33%
- Extremely satisfied: 18%

How satisfied were you with your first job after graduating from your school?
- Not at all satisfied: 15%
- A little satisfied: 16%
- Somewhat satisfied: 30%
- Very satisfied: 25%
- Extremely satisfied: 14%
CAREER SATISFACTION (CONTINUED)

- Does your current job require you to have a college degree? 73%
- Did your first job after graduating from your school require you to have a college degree? 62%
LIFE IMPACT

What impact has it had on your quality of life?
- Not at all: 9%
- A little: 24%
- Some: 44%
- Quite a bit: 31%
- A great deal: 28%

How much has it helped you to learn new things?
- Not at all: 6%
- A little: 12%
- Some: 30%
- Quite a bit: 31%
- A great deal: 21%

What impact has it had on your community engagement, such as voting, volunteering, or advocacy?
- Not at all: 7%
- A little: 13%
- Some: 31%
- Quite a bit: 27%
- A great deal: 21%

How much has it helped you to become the best person you can be?
- Not at all: 42
- A little: 35
- Some: 42
- Quite a bit: 35
- A great deal: 28
SKILLS

How much did it help to develop your skill in…

- ability to learn new things?
  - Not at all: 8%
  - A little: 27%
  - Some: 35%
  - Quite a bit: 26%
  - A great deal: 26%

- critical thinking or problem solving?
  - Not at all: 10%
  - A little: 26%
  - Some: 36%
  - Quite a bit: 26%
  - A great deal: 26%

- verbal communication or speaking?
  - Not at all: 9%
  - A little: 28%
  - Some: 34%
  - Quite a bit: 25%
  - A great deal: 25%

- writing?
  - Not at all: 10%
  - A little: 28%
  - Some: 32%
  - Quite a bit: 25%
  - A great deal: 25%

- teamwork?
  - Not at all: 6%
  - A little: 14%
  - Some: 33%
  - Quite a bit: 29%
  - A great deal: 18%

- leadership?
  - Not at all: 9%
  - A little: 14%
  - Some: 33%
  - Quite a bit: 25%
  - A great deal: 18%

- creativity?
  - Not at all: 7%
  - A little: 15%
  - Some: 36%
  - Quite a bit: 24%
  - A great deal: 17%

- digital literacy?
  - Not at all: 9%
  - A little: 15%
  - Some: 34%
  - Quite a bit: 26%
  - A great deal: 16%

- data analysis or statistics?
  - Not at all: 12%
  - A little: 16%
  - Some: 31%
  - Quite a bit: 25%
  - A great deal: 17%

- project management?
  - Not at all: 12%
  - A little: 18%
  - Some: 32%
  - Quite a bit: 24%
  - A great deal: 14%

- math?
  - Not at all: 15%
  - A little: 20%
  - Some: 31%
  - Quite a bit: 20%
  - A great deal: 13%
Note that responses are question specific.

- I felt like part of the community at my school:
  - 12% Strongly disagree or Not at all interested
  - 18% Somewhat disagree or A little interested
  - 44% Neither agree nor disagree or Somewhat interested
  - 26% Somewhat agree or Very interested
  - 12% Strongly agree or Extremely interested

- When someone praises my school, it feels like a personal compliment:
  - 9% Strongly disagree or Not at all interested
  - 8% Somewhat disagree or A little interested
  - 27% Neither agree nor disagree or Somewhat interested
  - 36% Somewhat agree or Very interested
  - 20% Strongly agree or Extremely interested

- If a story in the media criticized my school, I would feel embarrassed:
  - 12% Strongly disagree or Not at all interested
  - 17% Somewhat disagree or A little interested
  - 32% Neither agree nor disagree or Somewhat interested
  - 31% Somewhat agree or Very interested
  - 8% Strongly agree or Extremely interested

- How interested would you be in talking to current students about work and career?:
  - 25% Strongly disagree or Not at all interested
  - 16% Somewhat disagree or A little interested
  - 26% Neither agree nor disagree or Somewhat interested
  - 17% Somewhat agree or Very interested
  - 14% Strongly agree or Extremely interested

- How interested would you be in providing a job shadowing experience for current students?:
  - 30% Strongly disagree or Not at all interested
  - 17% Somewhat disagree or A little interested
  - 23% Neither agree nor disagree or Somewhat interested
  - 17% Somewhat agree or Very interested
  - 13% Strongly agree or Extremely interested

- How interested would you be in serving as a mentor for current students?:
  - 29% Strongly disagree or Not at all interested
  - 18% Somewhat disagree or A little interested
  - 24% Neither agree nor disagree or Somewhat interested
  - 17% Somewhat agree or Very interested
  - 12% Strongly agree or Extremely interested
Developed Skills: Value Perceptions

- Critical thinking/problem solving: 62%
- Ability to learn new things: 61%
- Verbal communication/Speaking: 58%
- Writing: 57%
- Teamwork: 47%
- Leadership: 43%
- Digital literacy: 42%
- Creativity: 42%
- Data analysis: 42%
- Project management: 38%
- Math: 34%

Legend:
- Quite a bit/A great deal developed a skill
- Very/Extremely valuable skill at job
Educational Goals: Reasons for Pursuing Education and Outcomes

- Be able to quality for good jobs: 82%
- Gain skills to be successful at work: 79%
- Learn new things: 79%
- Advance your career: 77%
- Be able to support family: 75%
- Make more money: 72%
- Become the best person you can be: 72%
- Be a good role model: 59%

[Graph showing the educational goals and outcomes]
Perspectives on student loans
### Total borrowed in student loans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total borrowed in student loans</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0 or no student loans</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $5,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000 to $15,000</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,001 to $25,000</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,001 to $50,000</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,001 to $75,000</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,001 to $100,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,001 or more</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

It was worth taking out student loans to get my bachelor’s degree.
Methodology

Bachelor’s degree completers were invited to complete a 15 minute long online survey.

Responses in this report have been weighted to reflect the institutional age and gender distributions of bachelor’s degree completers between 2002 and 2021.

There were 3231 eligible responses from the national sample.
## Methodology: Margin of Error

Samples for this study are drawn from a finite list of alumni. The table below provides estimates for the margin of error at a 95% confidence interval across a range of sample sizes using the most conservative statistical assumptions. Margins of error for subgroups would be higher. All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Size</th>
<th>Confidence Interval</th>
<th>Margin of Error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=1300</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>+/- 2.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=1100</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>+/- 2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=1000</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>+/- 3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=750</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>+/- 3.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=500</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>+/- 4.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=400</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>+/- 4.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=300</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>+/- 5.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=200</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>+/- 6.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=100</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>+/- 9.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=50</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>+/- 14.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key demographics
Income and Employment

- $150k+: 7%
- $100k-$150k: 12%
- $50k-$100k: 39%
- <$50k: 37%
- Decline to answer: 4%

Employment Status:
- Full time: 78%
- Part time: 8%
- Multiple: 3%
- Not currently working, but looking for work: 4%
- Not currently working, and not looking for work: 6%
Educational Background

**Parent's Education**

- High school or less: 18%
- Tech / Trade / Vocational: 4%
- Some college: 9%
- Associate degree: 6%
- Bachelor's degree: 33%
- Some graduate school / Graduate degree: 28%
- Not sure: 1%

**Alumni Graduate Education**

- Postbaccalaureate certificate: 3%
- Master's degree: 38%
- Post-master's degree: 2%
- Doctoral research degree: 4%
- Doctoral professional degree: 6%
- None: 46%
### Demographic Profile: Top Majors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business, management, marketing, and related support service</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological and biomedical sciences</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health professions and related clinical sciences</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and information sciences and support services</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication, journalism, and related program</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Current occupation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Occupation</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education, training, and library</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer, engineering, and science</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and financial operations</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community service, social service, legal, arts, design, entertainment, sports and media</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office and administrative support</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and related</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional demographics
(unweighted)
Gender

40% Male

60% Female
Current age and graduation year

Current Age

Graduation Year
If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact:
Summer Casillas
summer.casillas@stradaeducation.org
https://www.stradaeducation.org/research