

Introduction

The Undergraduate Alumni Survey examines post-graduation outcomes of recent Marquette University undergraduate alumni. The survey asks respondents about their current life situation, pursuit of additional education, current employment status, their reflection on institutional learning outcomes, and overall satisfaction with Marquette. The data are used to inform prospective undergraduate students about Marquette, improve the Marquette undergraduate experience, and aid in assessment and accreditation efforts.

Most recently, the survey was administered from June 2021 to August 2021 to target populations of undergraduate alumni who graduated one year ago (the 2019-2020 graduating class), five years ago (the 2015-2016 graduating class), and 10 years ago (the 2010-2011 graduating class). Invitees were emailed a link to an online questionnaire if they had an email address. Of the 5,501 alumni across the three cohorts, 4,405 (80%) had emails available.

Key Findings

- Ninety-six percent of alumni one year after graduation and 97% of alumni five and 100% of alumni 10 years after graduation were **engaged in an activity full-time** or were not seeking full-time employment.
- Sixty-eight percent of alumni one year out, 86% five years out alumni, and 92% ten years out were **employed full-time**.
- Nineteen percent of alumni one year after graduation and 7% of alumni five years after graduation were enrolled in a **full-time graduate/professional program** compared to only one percent of alumni 10 years after graduation.
- Of those employed full-time, 91% of alumni one year out, 92% of alumni five years out, and 92% ten years out with full-time employment reported that they consider their job to be related to their **career goals and/or an entry-level path** that will allow them to achieve their career goals.
- Eighty-seven percent of alumni one year out who were also employed full-time felt Marquette **prepared them** “a great deal” or “somewhat” for their **current position** compared to 85% of alumni five years out and 81% for alumni ten years out.
- Ninety-five percent of alumni one year out, 96% of alumni five years out, and 97% of alumni ten years after graduation indicated they were **somewhat or very satisfied** with their overall **undergraduate education**.
- Eighty-four percent of alumni one year out, 82% of alumni five years out, and 78% of alumni ten years out reported either “**some connection**” or a “**very strong connection**” to Marquette.

Results

Response Rates

The overall response rate for the survey was 19%. This response rate is lower compared to previous years, likely due at least in part to administration occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic. The table below shows response rates by college.

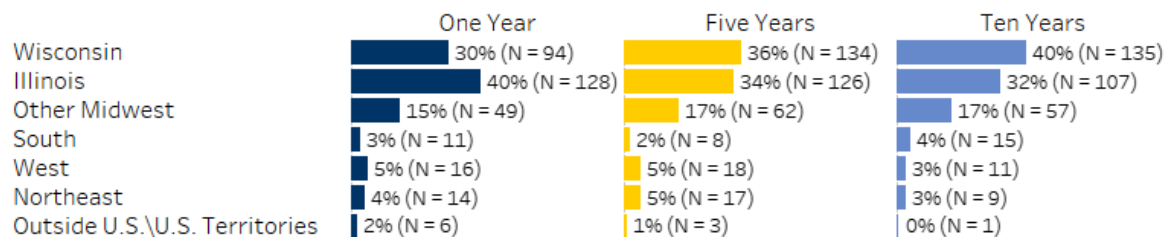
	Number of Respondents			Number of Graduates			Response Rate		
	One Year	Five Years	Ten Years	One Year	Five Years	Ten Years	One Year	Five Years	Ten Years
Arts and Sciences	86	90	93	494	522	500	17%	17%	19%
Business Administration	60	88	69	373	432	380	16%	20%	18%
Communication	39	50	49	233	270	215	17%	19%	23%
Education	10	22	14	62	89	79	16%	25%	18%
Engineering	60	46	30	255	269	205	24%	17%	15%
Health Sciences	36	48	53	276	246	241	13%	20%	22%
Nursing	27	25	27	145	113	102	19%	22%	26%
Total	318	369	335	1,838	1,941	1,722	17%	19%	19%

Geographical Region

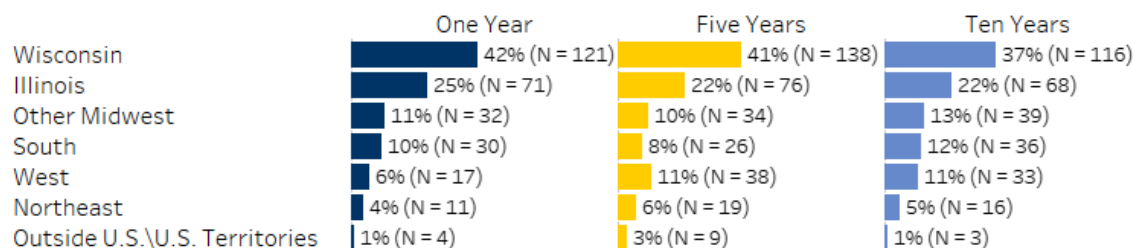
Alumni were asked to indicate their current location. As a comparison, alumni location at the time of undergraduate application to Marquette is also shown.

One year after graduation, more graduates are in Wisconsin compared to location at the time of their undergraduate application; however, this increase includes alumni who continue their graduate/professional studies at Marquette. At five years, the percentage of respondents in Wisconsin as alumni is higher than the percentage of respondents originally from Wisconsin. At ten years, the percentage of respondents outside of Wisconsin is just below the percentage who were in Wisconsin at the time of application. For both the five year and ten-year cohorts there is a shift in the distributions from the Midwest (including Illinois) to the south, west, northeast and locations outside the U.S.

Location at Time of Marquette Application



Where are Marquette alumni currently located?



One-Year, Five-Year, and Ten-Year Post-Graduation Outcomes - Overall

Graduates were grouped into one of several post-graduation outcomes based on their survey response. Each category is mutually exclusive.

	One Year	Five Years	Ten Years
Employed full-time	68% (N = 200)	86% (N = 302)	92% (N = 295)
School full-time	19% (N = 56)	7% (N = 23)	1% (N = 3)
Post-Graduate Service	2% (N = 5)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)
Military full-time	1% (N = 4)	1% (N = 5)	1% (N = 2)
Other, not seeking employment	4% (N = 12)	4% (N = 14)	7% (N = 21)
Seeking employment	5% (N = 15)	2% (N = 6)	0% (N = 1)

- **Employed, full-time** represents alumni who indicated full-time employment. The alumnus/a may have also indicated participation in another activity (such as graduate/professional school); in such cases, the respondent's outcome was only included in 'employed, full-time'.
- **Graduate/professional school, full-time** represents alumni who indicated current full-time enrollment in graduate professional school and who are not working full-time.
- **Post-graduation service** represents alumni who are participating in a stipend-paid post-graduation service position such as the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, or the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.
- **Active military, full-time** represents alumni who currently serve in the armed forces full-time.
- **Other, not seeking** represents alumni who indicated they were not engaged in an activity full-time or were not actively seeking employment. This includes alumni who were at-home parents, working part-time and/or attending school part-time, or retired.
- **Seeking** indicates those who were not engaged in any activity above and were still seeking employment as of either one, five, or ten years post-graduation.

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One-Year, Five-Year, and Ten-Year Post-Graduation Outcomes by College

The information below shows the post-graduation outcomes rates for the undergraduate colleges at Marquette. Percentages for each college may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

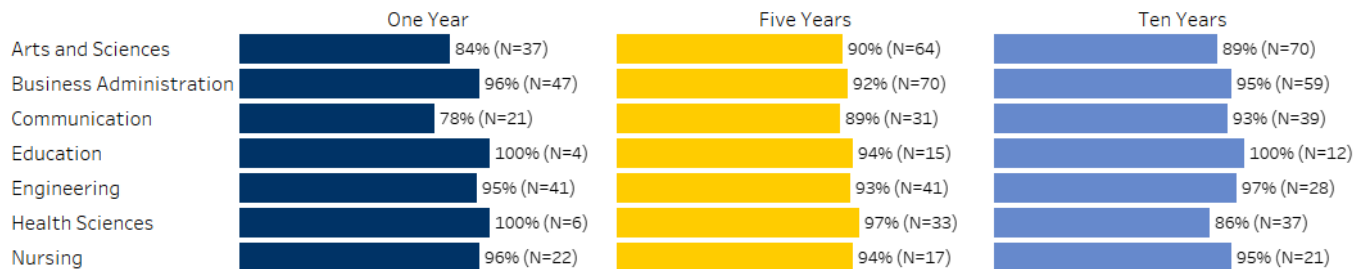
		Arts and Sciences	Business Administration	Communication	Education
Employed full-time	One Year	56% (N = 45)	92% (N = 49)	73% (N = 27)	57% (N = 4)
	Five Years	84% (N = 73)	94% (N = 77)	86% (N = 38)	85% (N = 17)
	Ten Years	88% (N = 80)	96% (N = 64)	93% (N = 43)	93% (N = 13)
School full-time	One Year	30% (N = 24)	0% (N = 0)	8% (N = 3)	29% (N = 2)
	Five Years	9% (N = 8)	1% (N = 1)	2% (N = 1)	10% (N = 2)
	Ten Years	2% (N = 2)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)
Post-Graduate Service	One Year	4% (N = 3)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	14% (N = 1)
	Five Years	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)
	Ten Years	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)
Military full-time	One Year	1% (N = 1)	2% (N = 1)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)
	Five Years	2% (N = 2)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)
	Ten Years	0% (N = 0)	1% (N = 1)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)
Other, not seeking employment	One Year	5% (N = 4)	2% (N = 1)	11% (N = 4)	0% (N = 0)
	Five Years	2% (N = 2)	4% (N = 3)	7% (N = 3)	0% (N = 0)
	Ten Years	9% (N = 8)	3% (N = 2)	7% (N = 3)	7% (N = 1)
Seeking employment	One Year	5% (N = 4)	4% (N = 2)	8% (N = 3)	0% (N = 0)
	Five Years	2% (N = 2)	1% (N = 1)	5% (N = 2)	5% (N = 1)
	Ten Years	1% (N = 1)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)

		Engineering	Health Sciences	Nursing
Employed full-time	One Year	80% (N = 45)	20% (N = 7)	100% (N = 23)
	Five Years	98% (N = 44)	73% (N = 35)	75% (N = 18)
	Ten Years	97% (N = 29)	94% (N = 44)	81% (N = 22)
School full-time	One Year	5% (N = 3)	69% (N = 24)	0% (N = 0)
	Five Years	2% (N = 1)	19% (N = 9)	4% (N = 1)
	Ten Years	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	4% (N = 1)
Post-Graduate Service	One Year	0% (N = 0)	3% (N = 1)	0% (N = 0)
	Five Years	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)
	Ten Years	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)
Military full-time	One Year	4% (N = 2)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)
	Five Years	0% (N = 0)	4% (N = 2)	4% (N = 1)
	Ten Years	0% (N = 0)	2% (N = 1)	0% (N = 0)
Other, not seeking employment	One Year	4% (N = 2)	3% (N = 1)	0% (N = 0)
	Five Years	0% (N = 0)	4% (N = 2)	17% (N = 4)
	Ten Years	3% (N = 1)	4% (N = 2)	15% (N = 4)
Seeking employment	One Year	7% (N = 4)	6% (N = 2)	0% (N = 0)
	Five Years	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)
	Ten Years	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)	0% (N = 0)

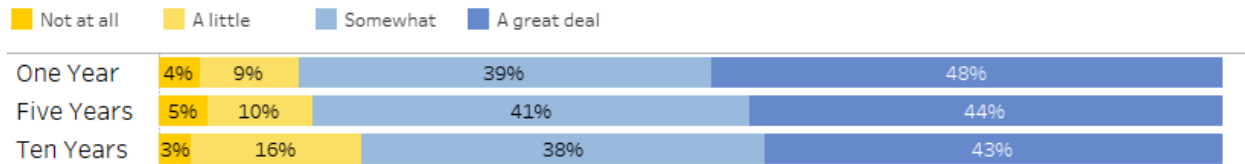
Full-time Employment

Respondents who reported full-time employment were asked to indicate the relationship of their current position to their undergraduate major and their career goals.

Overall, 91% of alumni one year out, 92% of alumni five years out, and 92% of alumni ten years out with full-time employment reported that they consider their job to be related to their career goals and/or an entry-level path that will allow them to achieve their career goals.

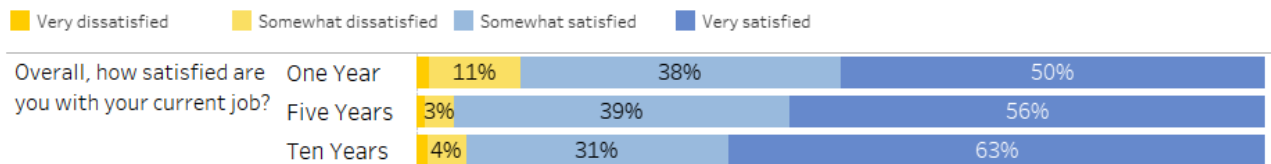


Alumni employed full-time were asked about the extent to which Marquette prepared them for their current position. Eighty-seven percent of alumni one year out, 85% of alumni five years out, and 81% of alumni ten years out felt their undergraduate years at Marquette prepared them “a great deal” or “somewhat” for their current position.

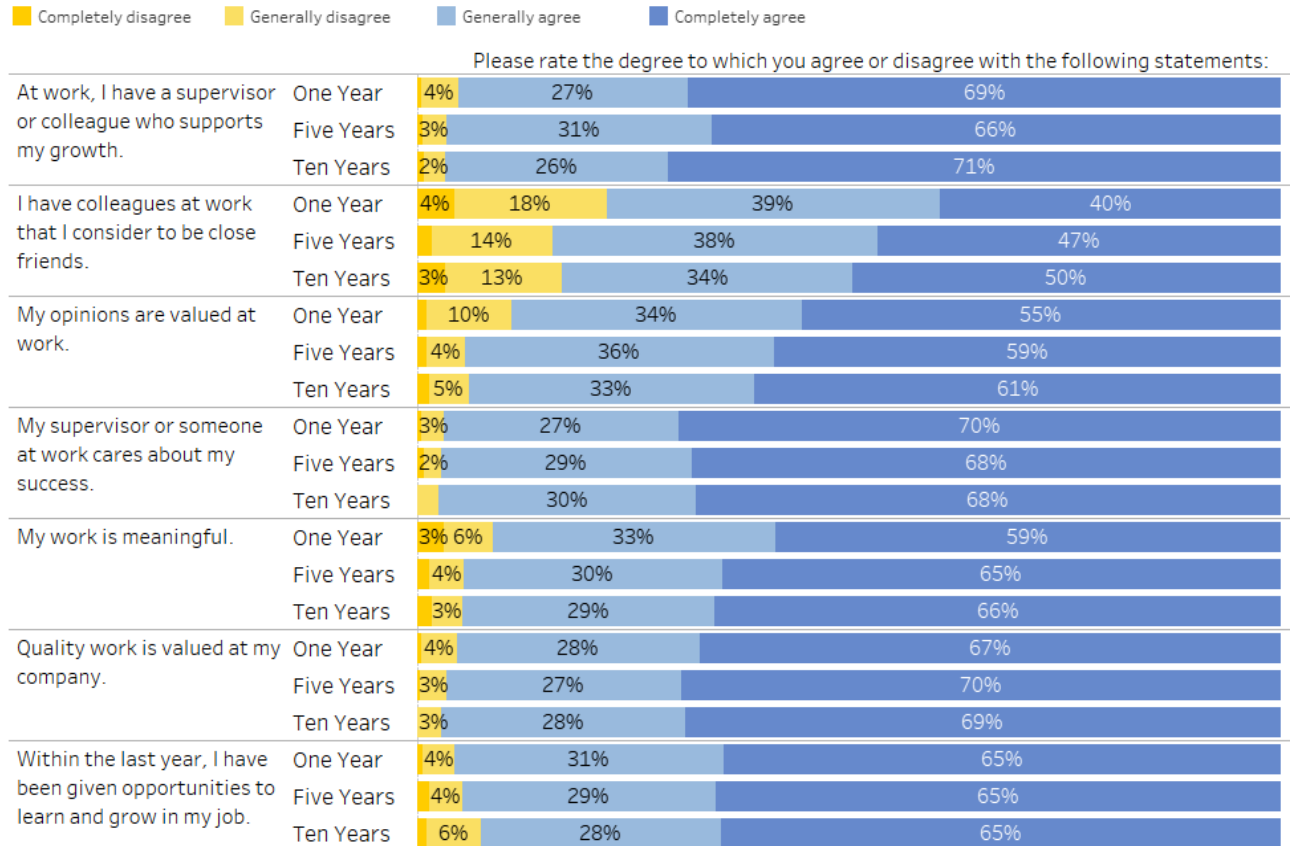


Workplace Engagement

Alumni who were employed full-time were asked to indicate their satisfaction with their current position.

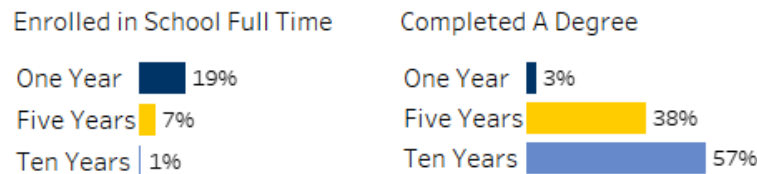


Full-time employed alumni were also asked to respond to a set of items surrounding their workplace engagement.¹



Graduate and Professional Education

Alumni were asked whether they had completed or were currently enrolled in graduate/professional school. The categories below are not mutually exclusive. For example, a respondent could have completed a graduate/professional program and be enrolled in a program. The information about alumni enrolled full-time or part-time are not directly comparable to the post-graduation outcome categories above, as these numbers include all alumni enrolled who may also be working full-time.

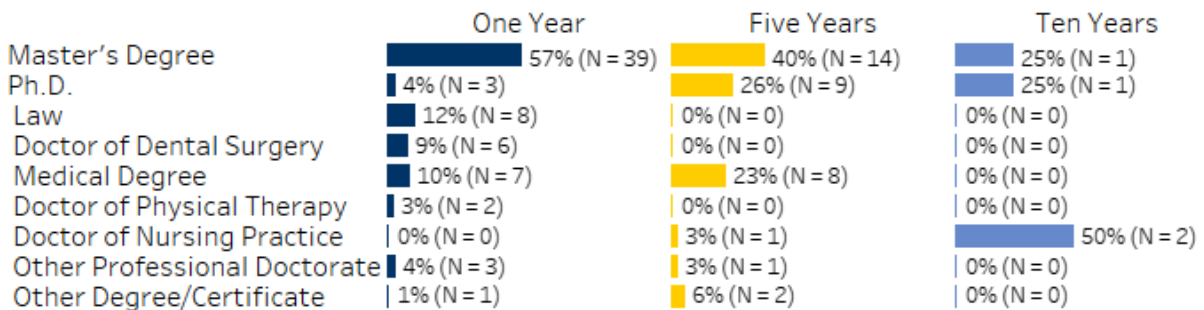


¹ Those who responded “N/A” to the workplace engagement items are excluded from the data.

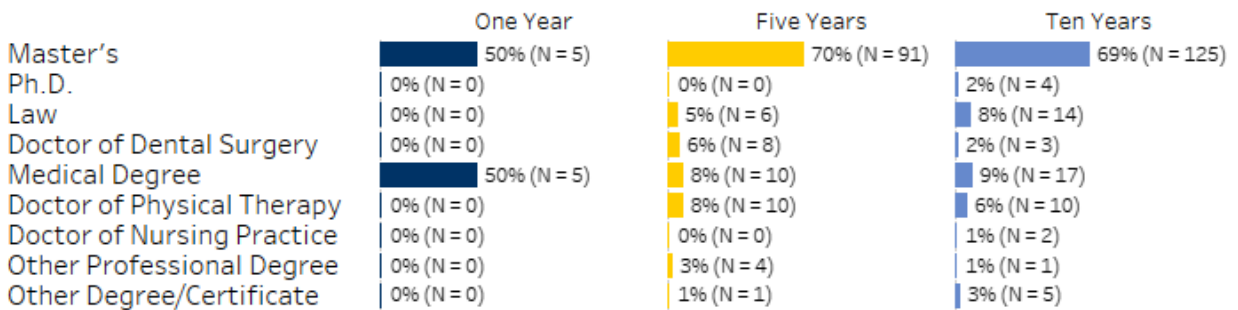
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Those pursuing graduate/professional school full-time or those who completed a degree were asked to indicate the type of degree they are pursuing and the field of study of the degree. The survey also collected the name of the school, although that information is not included in this report. These categories are not mutually exclusive; a respondent could have completed a graduate/professional program and be enrolled. The “Other professional doctorate” category includes degrees such as Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) and Doctor of Audiology (AuD). The “Other” category primarily includes second bachelor’s degrees and certificates.

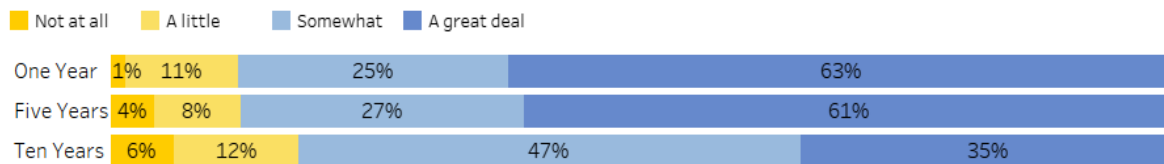
What degrees are Marquette alumni pursuing?



What degrees have Marquette alumni obtained?



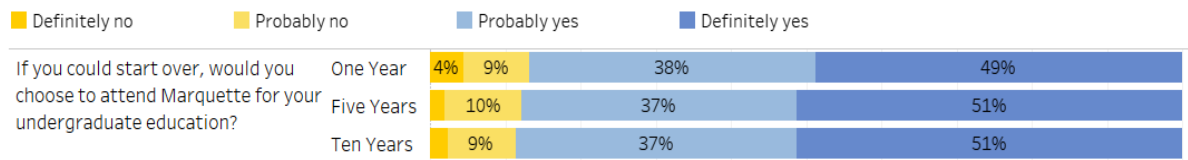
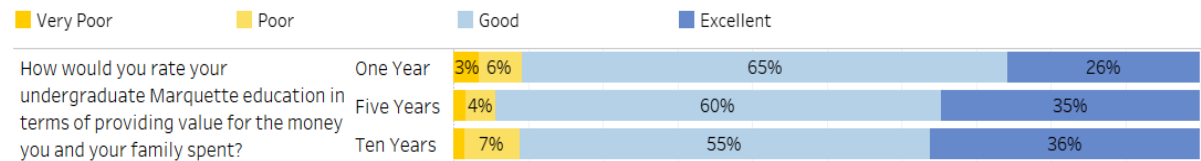
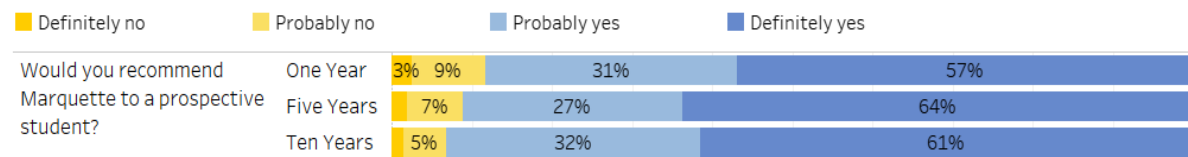
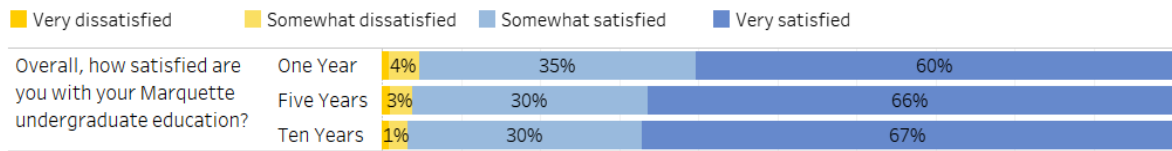
Alumni who were attending graduate/professional school were also asked about the extent to which their undergraduate education at Marquette prepared them for their program.



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Satisfaction

Alumni indicated their satisfaction with their undergraduate education at Marquette in their responses to four different questions.

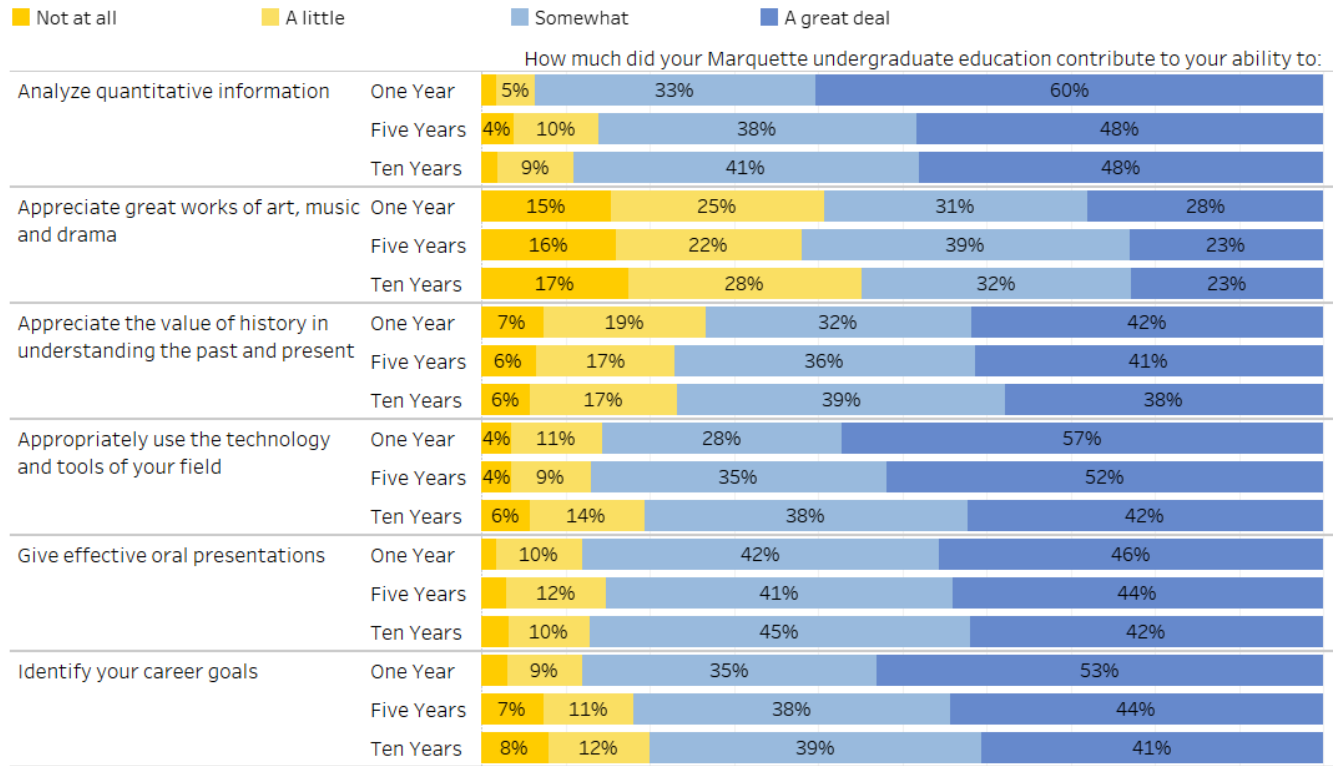


Alumni who indicated that they would not choose to attend Marquette again were asked to indicate why they would not choose Marquette again. In total, 113 alumni responded to this optional, open-ended question. Of those who said they would not attend Marquette again and who provided a response to the reason why, the themes for the most commonly cited responses (in order of greatest frequency) were:

Comment Theme	One Year	Five Years	Ten Years
Financial (cost of tuition, perceived value of education)	46%	32%	34%
Diversity (encourage diversity/increase involvement with Milwaukee)	14%	12%	14%
Administration (administrational efforts, political prominence)	11%	5%	11%
Marquette's national reputation (recognition, prestige, national rank)	8%	15%	9%
Location & safety (closeness to home, weather, on-campus safety)	9%	5%	9%

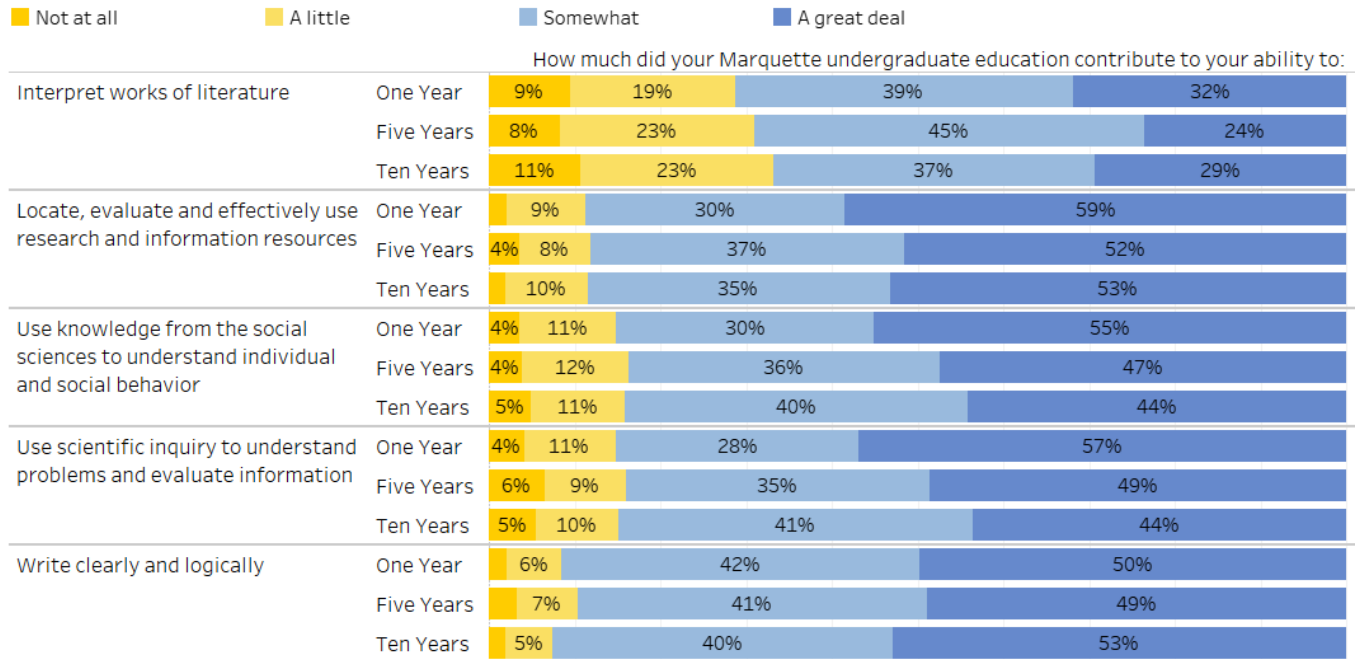
Development of Abilities

Alumni were asked to indicate how much their Marquette undergraduate education contributed to their abilities in several domains.



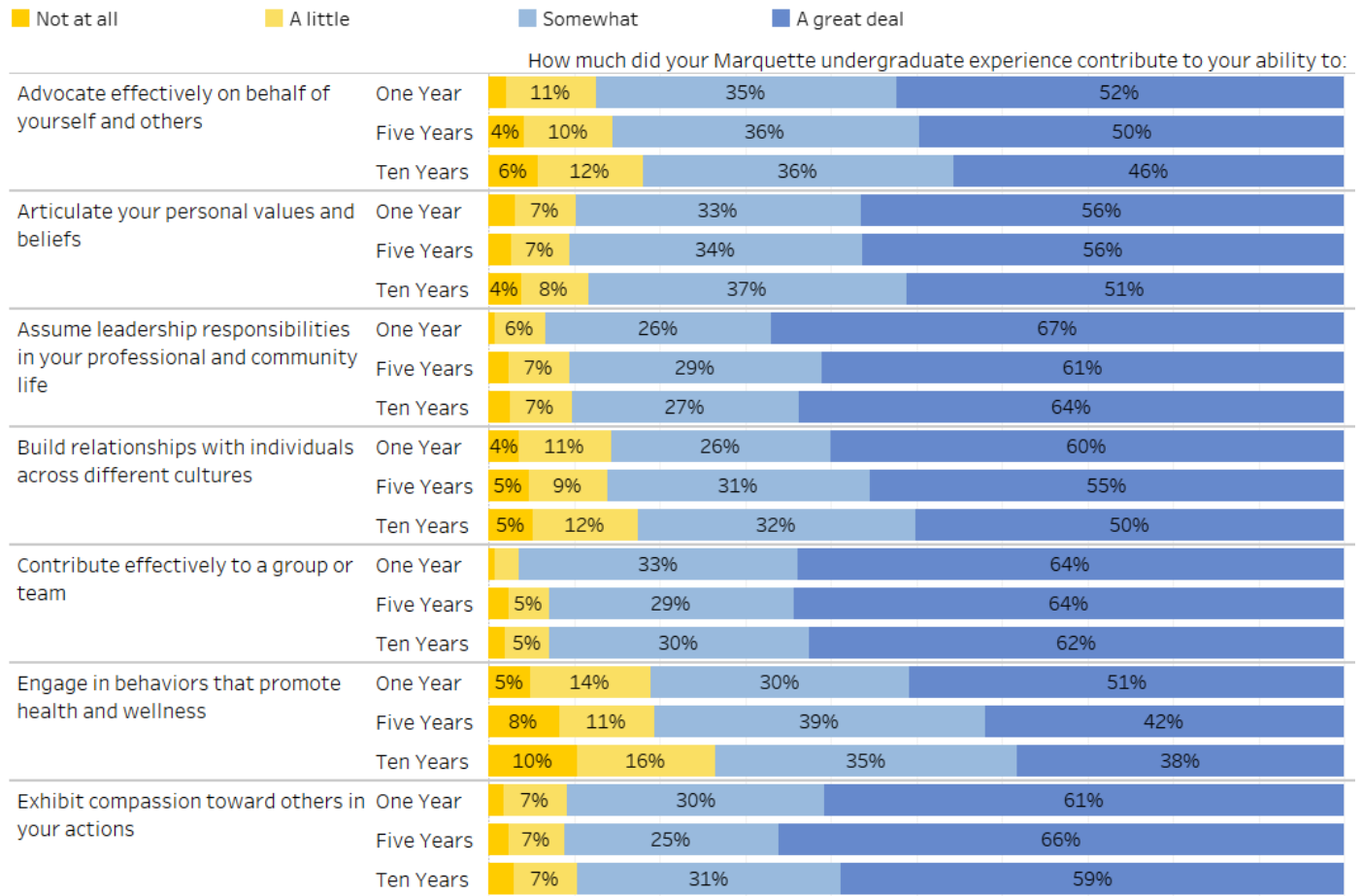
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Development of Abilities, continued



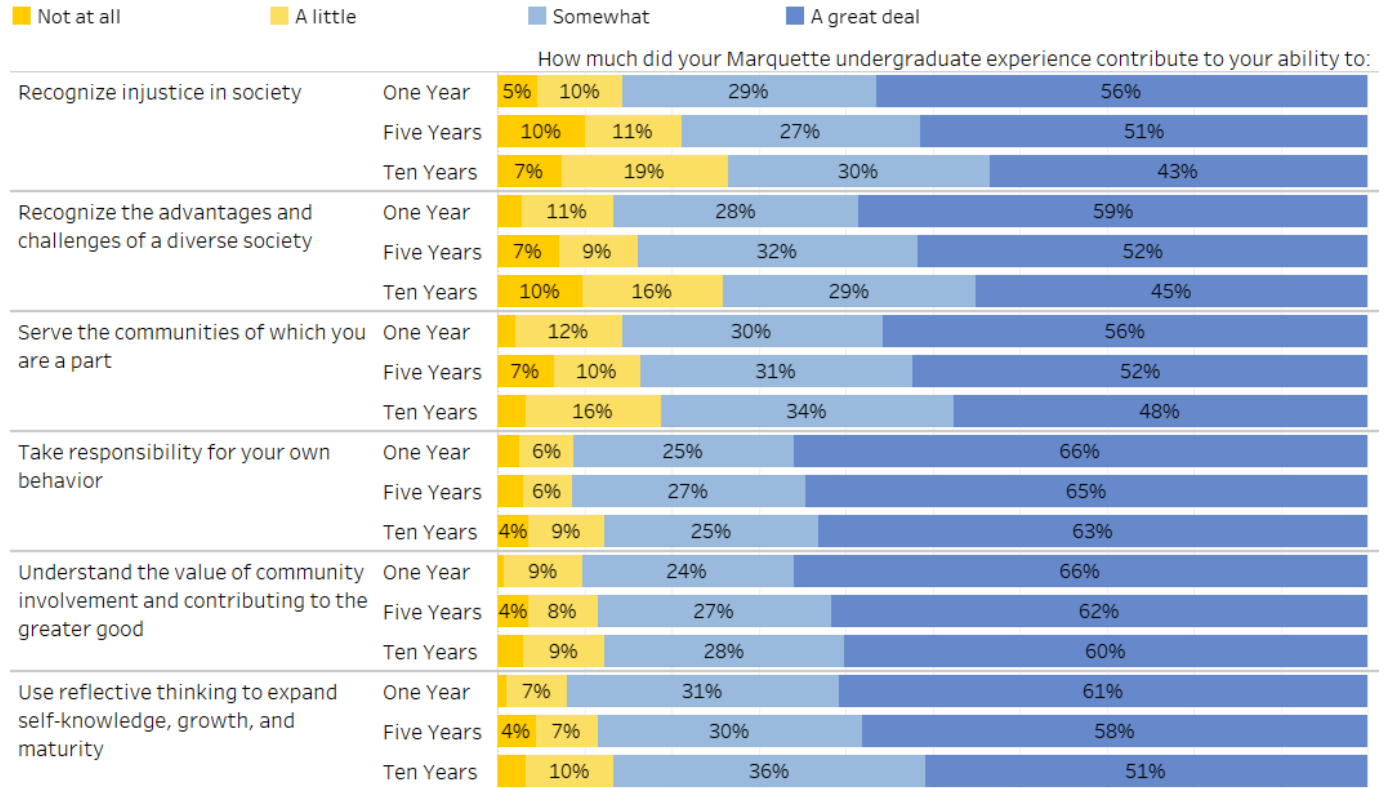
Growth in Abilities

Alumni were asked how much they have grown in their abilities in several areas compared to when they entered Marquette as undergraduates.



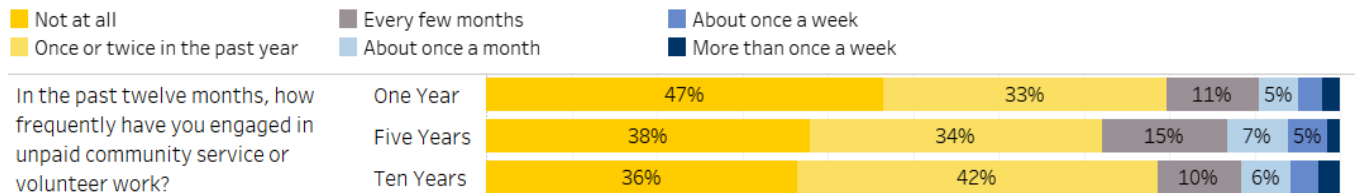
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Growth in Abilities, continued



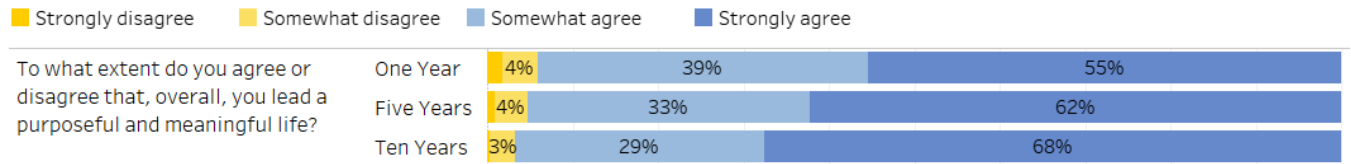
Community Service

Alumni were asked whether they had engaged in any community service or volunteer work in the past twelve months. Overall, most alumni had participated in community service at least once in the past year.

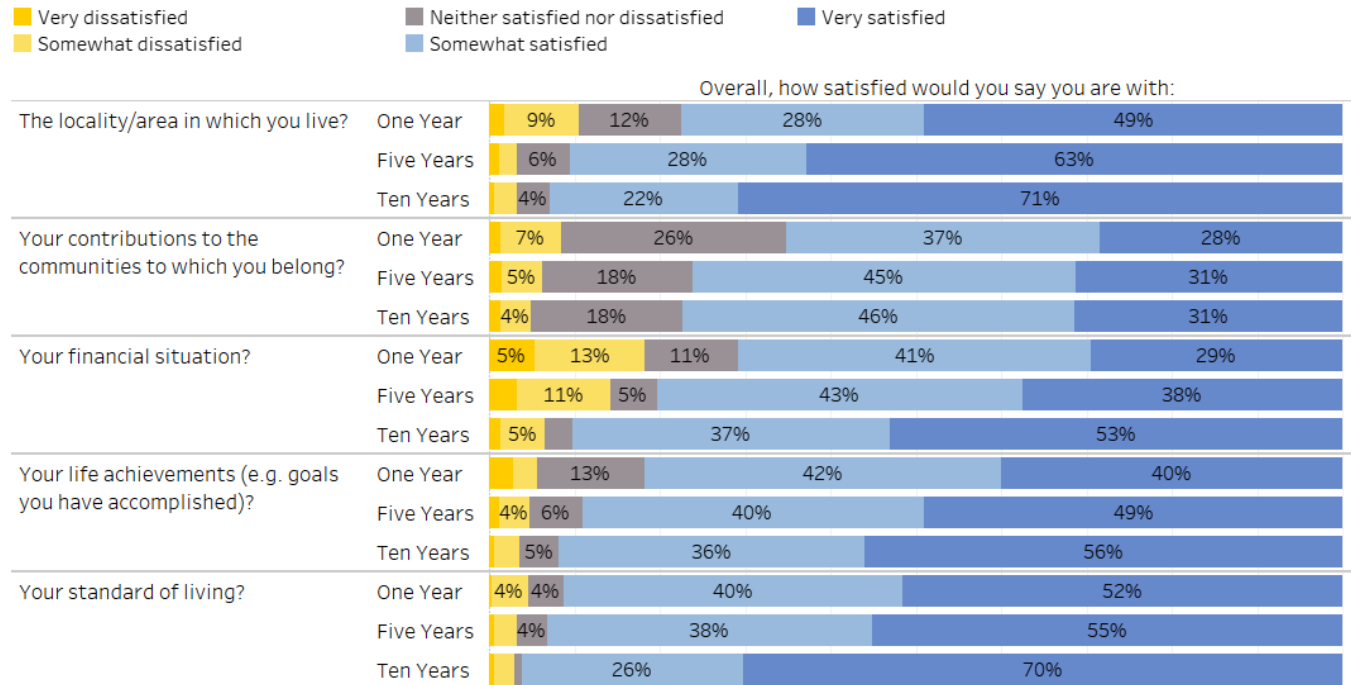


Life Satisfaction

Alumni who were asked to indicate their satisfaction with various aspects of their life to understand better their well-being.

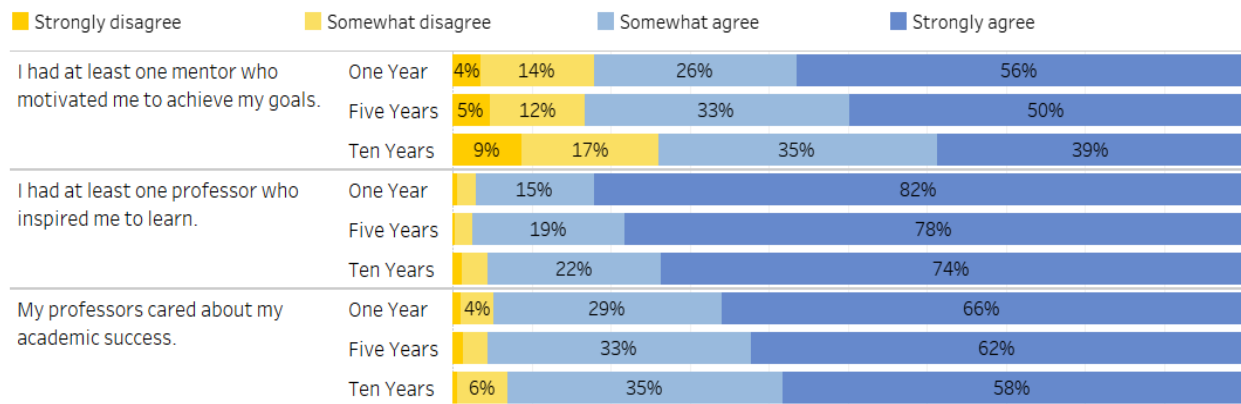


Overall, life satisfaction appears to increase from the one year cohort to to the ten year cohort with the exception of contribution to communities.



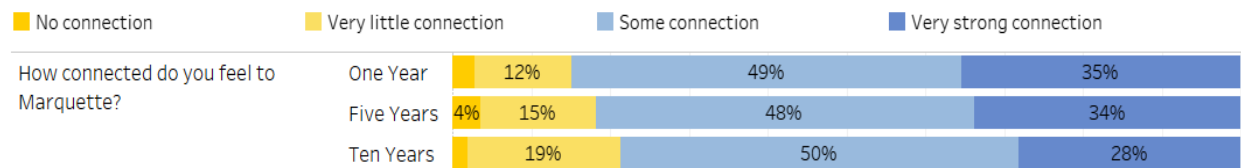
Undergraduate Academic Experience

Alumni were asked about their experience as an undergraduate at Marquette. A majority of alumni across cohorts agree they had at least one professor that inspired them and that the professors at Marquette cared about their success. Most alumni also indicated that they had at least one mentor at Marquette who motivated them.

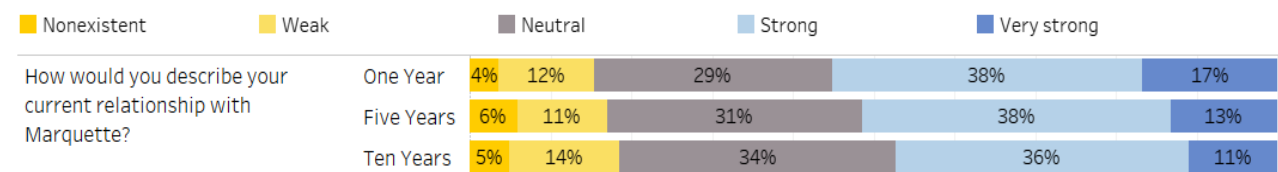


Connection to Marquette

Alumni were asked how connected they felt to Marquette. Overall, 84% of alumni one year out, 82% of alumni five years out, and 78% of alumni ten years out reported either “some connection” or a “very strong connection” to Marquette.



Alumni were also asked to describe their current relationship with Marquette. Sixty-five percent of alumni one year out, 55% of alumni five years out and 46% of alumni ten years out reported either a “very strong” or “strong” relationship with Marquette.



Open Response Items

Three optional, open-ended questions on the survey invited alumni to summarize their feedback for the university as they reflected on their experiences at Marquette as an undergraduate. Some comments provided covered multiple themes; as a result, percentages for themes do not add up to a full one hundred percent.

The first open-response item asked alumni to identify one way in which the undergraduate experience could be improved for future students. In total, 510 alumni responded; themes for the most commonly cited responses (in order of the greatest frequency) were:

What is at least one way that the overall Marquette undergraduate experience could be improved for future students?

Comment Theme	One Year	Five Years	Ten Years
Improve financial burden (cost of tuition, perceived value of education)	12%	18%	23%
Offer more real world experiences (career prep, interview, resume help)	14%	14%	20%
Improve/increase diversity (encourage diversity/increase involvement with Milwaukee)	19%	17%	18%
Campus activities/social aspect (did not create lasting friendships, did not "fit in")	8%	10%	7%
Academics (improve programs, increase resources for programs)	8%	4%	6%
Advising (faculty/instructor guidance in registration/building schedules)	4%	6%	7%
Improve facilities including dorm quality, food options, recreation center	5%	4%	2%
Class requirements/availability (alter common core requirements, class availability)	3%	7%	2%
Improve professor/faculty/instructor quality	7%	2%	4%
Faith (abide by Jesuit and Catholic teachings and values)	1%	4%	2%
Wellness (increase student wellness, offer more mental health assistance)	4%	3%	1%
Other*	10%	6%	6%

*The "Other" comment theme includes additional themes analyzed in which returned small percentages of the respondent population that commented on those topics. These themes include Encouragement, Non-traditional student concerns, Rules, Safety, Campus technology, and Administration.

The second open-response item asked alumni to identify the most valuable learning experience at Marquette. In total, 501 alumni responded; themes for the most commonly cited responses (in order of greatest frequency) were:

What was your most valuable learning experience?

Comment Theme	One Year	Five Years	Ten Years
In-class/academic experiences (specific class content, skills such as public speaking)	34%	34%	32%
Out-of-classroom academic experiences (internships, research experiences, student programs)	23%	22%	20%
Student organizations (Greek life, clubs, leadership opportunities)	20%	24%	17%
Campus activities/social aspect (athletic events, orientation, friendships made)	17%	13%	18%
Personal development/life lessons	7%	5%	12%
Experiences with faculty/instructors	8%	8%	7%
Service experience/volunteering (Volunteer Corps, Global Brigades, etc.)	6%	7%	9%
Study abroad (academic experiences/opportunities in other countries)	3%	10%	8%

In 2021, a question was added to the Undergraduate Alumni Survey which asked alumni how the COVID-19 pandemic affected their professional life. In total, 522 alumni responded; themes for the most commonly cited responses (in order of greatest frequency) were:

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your professional life?

Comment Theme	One Year	Five Years	Ten Years
Working remote	24%	35%	41%
Healthcare industry (difficulties such as short-staffed, limited resources, high stress, etc.)	8%	16%	16%
Affected job opportunity (lost a job opportunity to due hire freezes, cancel interviews, etc.)	16%	11%	8%
No impact/did not affect professional life	12%	12%	9%
Increased job challenges (limited resources, turnover, increased workload, burnout, etc.)	8%	8%	10%
Personal life (mental health, loss of interactions and social life)	8%	7%	12%
Graduate/professional school (remote learning, delayed graduation, enrollment in programs, etc.)	12%	4%	1%
Experienced difficulty finding a job	8%	0%	1%
Furloughed or laid off from job	3%	4%	3%

Discussion

Results from this biennial survey are distributed to many campus constituency groups and are used to inform current and future students of post-graduation outcomes. Additional information, such as employer names, job titles, graduate/professional school names, and comments from the respondents are available upon request.

For additional information about the report, contact:

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