

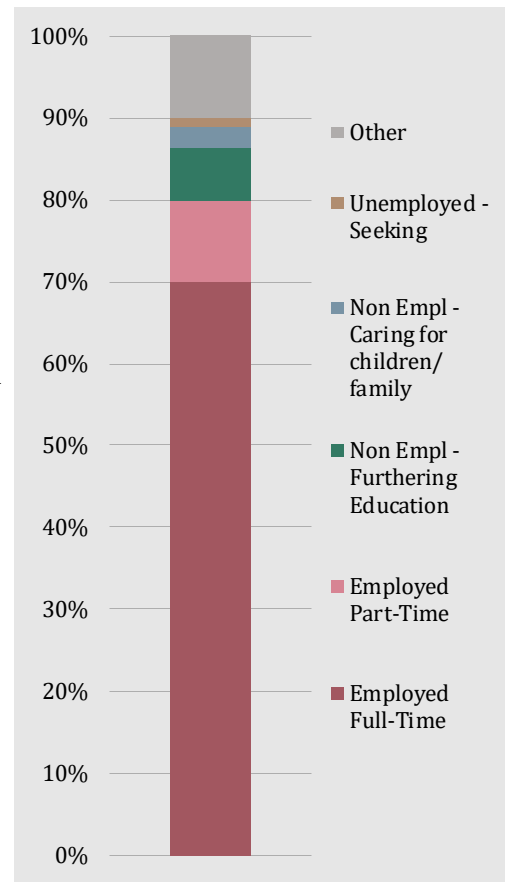


Alumni Survey, 2017: Outcomes Employment and Pursuit of Advanced Degrees

Overview

- In spring 2017 the College surveyed alumni from the classes of 1969, 1979, 1989, 1994, 2004, 2006, 2012, and 2016, asking them to reflect on many aspects of their college experience, and how it may have impacted current activities. This report focuses on the employment and advanced education outcomes of these alumni based on the survey.

- Over two thirds of our graduates (70%, across the cross-section of classes) are working full-time, with an additional 10% working part-time. The unemployment rate (unemployed and seeking a position) for these graduates is 1.0%, below the national average (for individuals with a Bachelor’s degree or higher) of 2.3% at the time of the survey.¹
- Consistent with our liberal arts mission, over a third of graduates (35%) are working in fields unrelated to their undergraduate majors. Forty-one percent work in fields related to their major, and nearly one-quarter (24%) are working in the field of their major.
- Most often, those alumni not currently employed are pursuing further education (7% of all respondents).
- The rates at which Swarthmore graduates earn advanced degrees are very high. About three-quarters of those who graduated five years ago (Class of 2012) reported earning or currently pursuing a graduate or professional degree – and the rate was even higher for each of the older classes, to a high of 91% of the Class of 1969. Across all classes (excluding 2016), 32% of the graduates had earned or were pursuing doctoral degrees at the time of the survey.

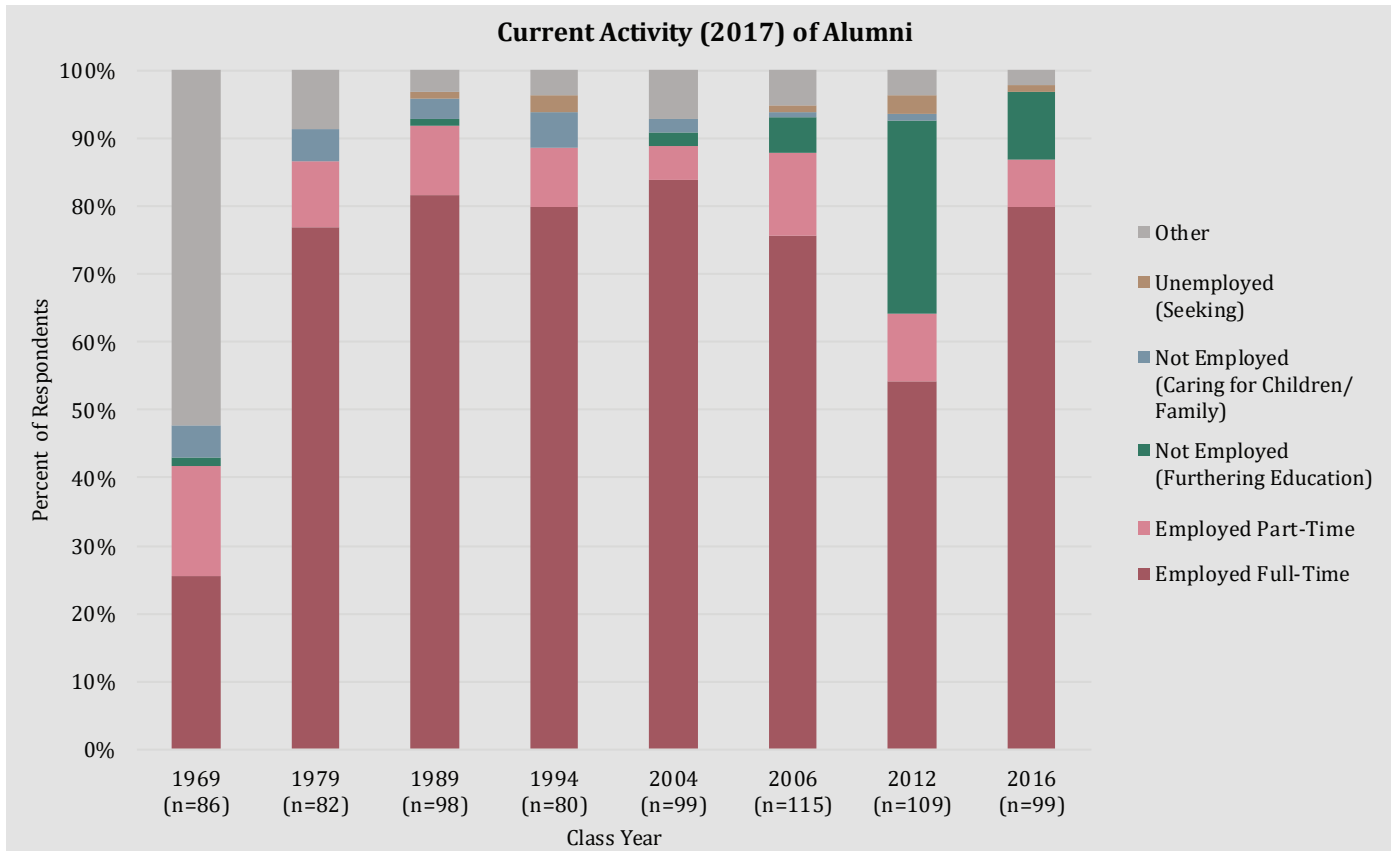


- While the largest share of those doctorate earners who were employed full-time work in the field of higher education, a majority (54%) do not.
- Graduates work in a range of occupations, with the largest categories being educators, trainers, or librarians (24%), scientists, social scientists, or mathematical occupations (13%), health or mental health professionals (10%), business or management occupations (8%), legal professionals (8%), and computer scientists, programmers, or technologists (6%).

¹Table A-4. Employment status of the civilian population 25 years and over by educational attainment (seasonally adjusted), September 2017, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Survey

In spring 2017 the College surveyed from the classes of 1969, 1979, 1989, 1994, 2004, 2006, 2012, and 2016. (The Class of 2016 received a much briefer version of the survey.) Along with a group of peer institutions, we conduct this survey about every four or five years, asking a cross-section of alumni to reflect on many aspects of their college experience, and how it may have impacted current activities. About 40% of the alumni in these classes responded to the survey. This is down from a response rate of around 50% in 2013, which was down from around 63% when administered in 2009. The reduced response rate over the last decade is consistent with survey response rates nationally and among our peer institutions. The current report focuses on the employment and advanced education outcomes of these alumni.



What are they doing now?

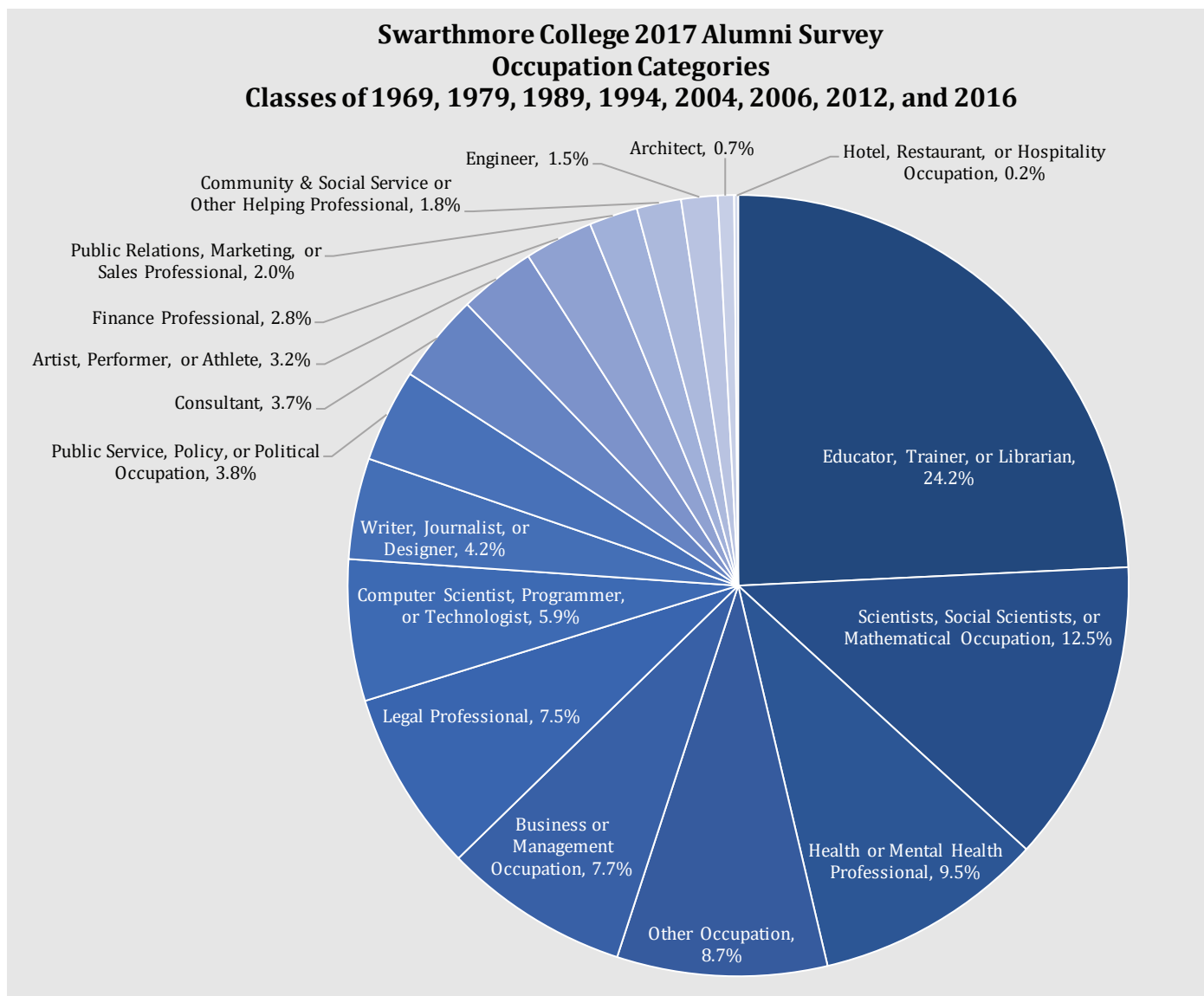
With the exception of the Class of 1969, many of whom are retired, the majority of alumni from each of the classes are working full time. Pursuing further education is the next largest category of activities for the younger classes (one year and five years out). Over a quarter of the Class of 2012 is pursuing further education, compared with 10% of the Class of 2016, 5% of the Class of 2006, and 2% of the class of 2004. This finding is consistent with earlier surveys that showed that Swarthmore students often wait a year or more before attending graduate school. In contrast, members of the older classes who are not employed are more likely to be taking care of children or family. This is true for three to five percent of respondents from the Classes of 1969, 1979, 1989, and 1994. The unemployment rate (unemployed and seeking a position) for these graduates is 1.0%, below the national average (for individuals with a Bachelor’s degree or higher) of 2.3% at the time of the survey.^{2,3}

² Table A-4. Employment status of the civilian population 25 years and over by educational attainment (seasonally adjusted), September 2017, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

³ “Other” includes those employed but on leave (total of 11 across all classes), and not employed but not seeking employment, for reasons other than family care or education.

Employment

The survey asked about the sector, industry, level, and occupation that reflected respondents' jobs, and here we report on those alumni who indicated that they were employed (full-time, part-time, or on leave).



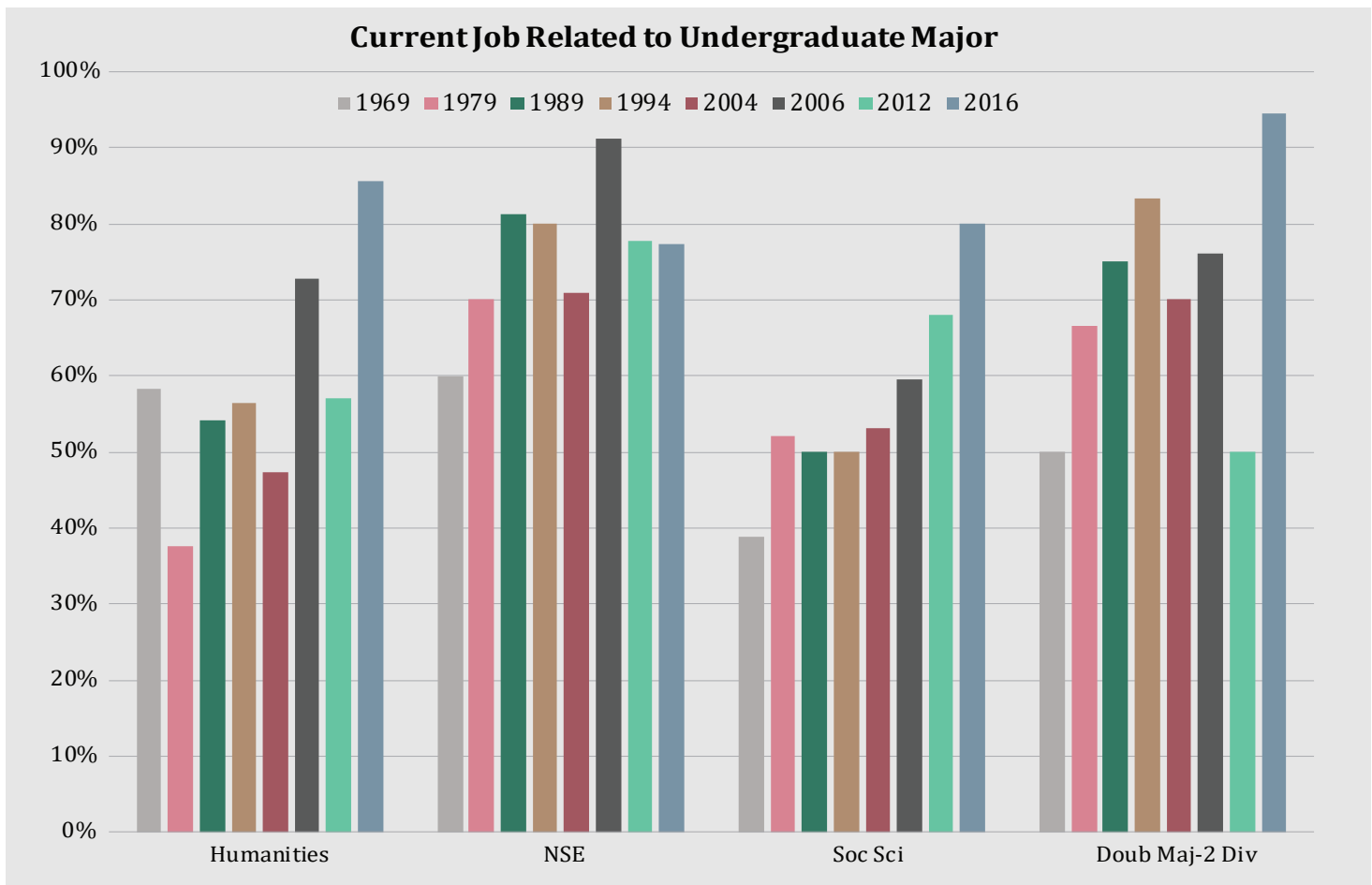
The occupation categories of alumni are presented above. The largest category is *Educator, Trainer, or Librarian* (24%). The next largest groups are *Scientists, Social Scientists, or Mathematical Occupations* (13%), *Health or Mental Health Professionals* (10%), *Business or Management Occupations* (8%), *Legal Professionals* (8%), and *Computer Scientists Programmers or Technologists* (6%). The prevalence of educators/trainers/librarian as well as health or mental health professionals tends to increase with the older classes. This could, in part, be a result of the time it takes to acquire the education and credentials required for many of the positions in these fields.

On the other hand, several occupational categories reflect the reverse pattern. When looking at the Classes of 2012 and 2016 together, there are substantially higher proportions of scientists/social scientists/math occupations as well as computer scientists/programmers/technologists compared to the older classes. These trends may be reflective of growth fields and shifts in the occupational landscape.

Though the trends for business/management occupations and legal professionals are less distinct, both have a slight downward trajectory when starting with the Class of 1979 and moving across to the youngest cohort (the Class of 2016). It is important to recognize that these results reflect a cross-section of alumni at a fixed point in time. A longitudinal analysis of the occupational proportions for specific cohorts across time would help to determine the impact of both age and time period on occupational affiliation.

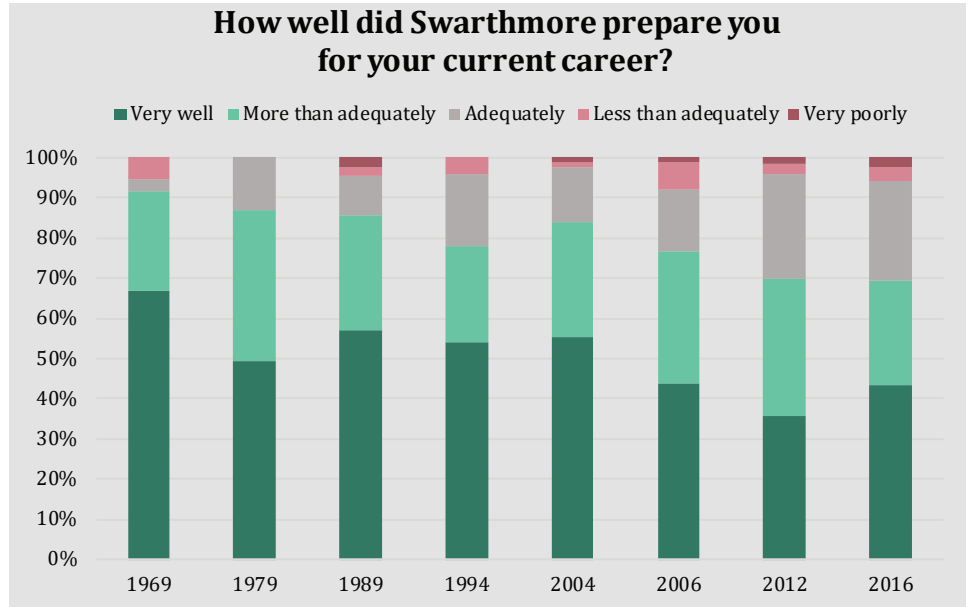
<u>Largest occupation categories</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2016</u>
Educator, Trainer, or Librarian	41%	22%	28%	27%	21%	25%	19%	18%
Scientists, Soc. Scientists, or Math Occ.	8%	10%	13%	8%	14%	11%	10%	22%
Health or Mental Health Professional	19%	6%	9%	15%	15%	11%	3%	1%
Business or Management Occ.	0%	14%	7%	11%	8%	9%	5%	4%
Legal Professional	5%	10%	9%	6%	8%	8%	6%	6%
Computer Scientist, Programmer or Tech	0%	1%	2%	6%	4%	8%	13%	10%

As a liberal arts institution we do not have strong expectations that jobs will be related to student's undergraduate major, but in this era of public pressure to relate education to employment it is a question that is often asked. The following chart shows the percentage of alumni within each division who indicated that their jobs were either related to their major or in the same field as their major. Seventy-eight percent of those with Natural Science and Engineering majors as well as those with double majors across divisions reported working in the same or related field. On the other hand, 58% and 57% of those with Humanities and Social Science majors, respectively, reported working the same or related fields. In addition, distinctly higher portions of the younger classes reported working in the same or related fields compared to older classes.



SOURCE: COFHE Alumni Survey, 2017.

For all employed respondents the survey asked how well their undergraduate education had prepared them for their current career. Again, as a liberal arts institution, Swarthmore aims to prepare its students for a range of endeavors rather than for a particular career. But as the adjacent chart shows, most respondents felt that the College had prepared them well for their careers.



Graduate School

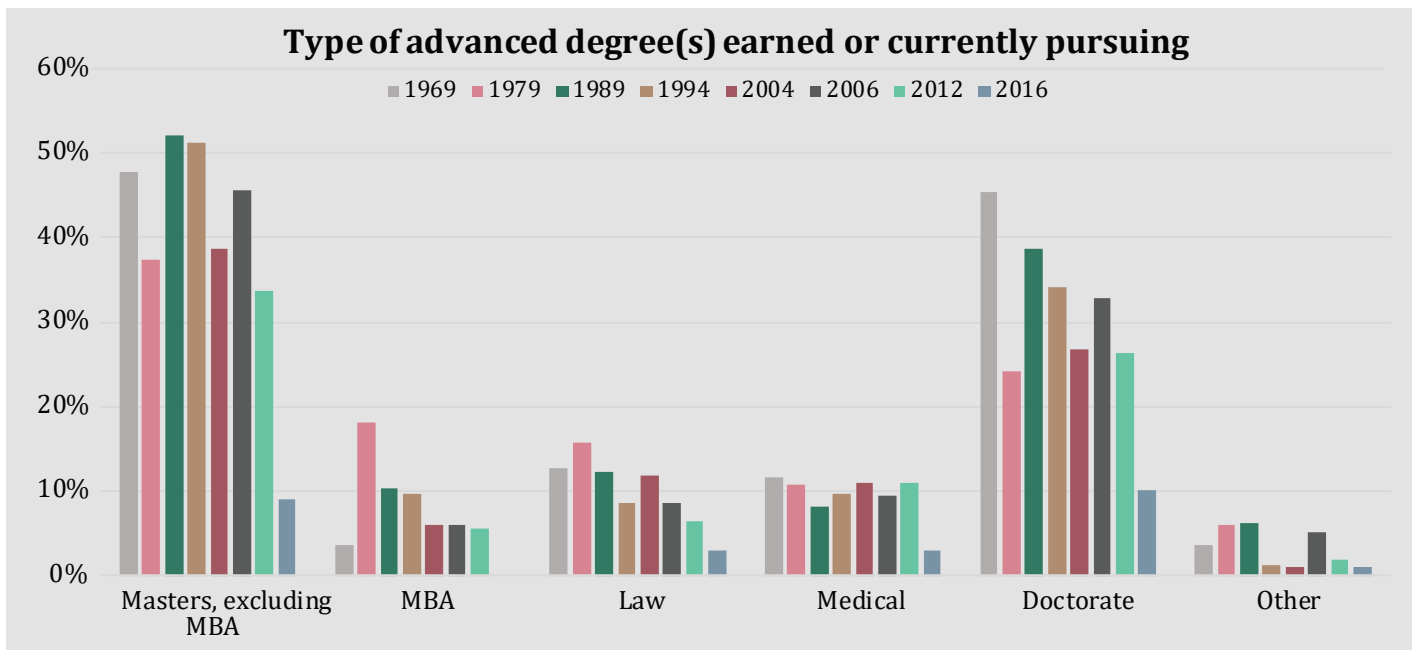
The table below presents the proportion of alumni from each

Class	Ever Enrolled?	Advanced Degree*
2016	28%	26%
2012	75%	73%
2006	81%	79%
2004	82%	78%
1994	88%	87%
1989	91%	90%
1979	86%	83%
1969	92%	91%

**Earned or currently pursuing*

class reporting that they have enrolled in graduate or professional school since graduating from Swarthmore, as well as the proportion that has earned (or is still pursuing) an advanced degree. These results are consistent with earlier surveys showing that the overwhelming majority of Swarthmore alumni pursue graduate level education.

The most prevalent advanced degrees pursued or earned were Master's degrees, with Doctorates a close second. With the exception of the Class of 1969, the rate of MBA's is decreasing for younger classes. Nearly one in five (19%) respondents from the Class of 1979 reported pursuing or earning an MBA. The rate of Law degrees also appears to be decreasing for younger classes. For alumni across all eight classes, 10% earned Law degrees and 9% earned Medical degrees. (Because alumni reported on all degrees earned, the types of degrees may sum to more than 100% within an alumni class).



SOURCE: COFHE Alumni Survey, 2017.

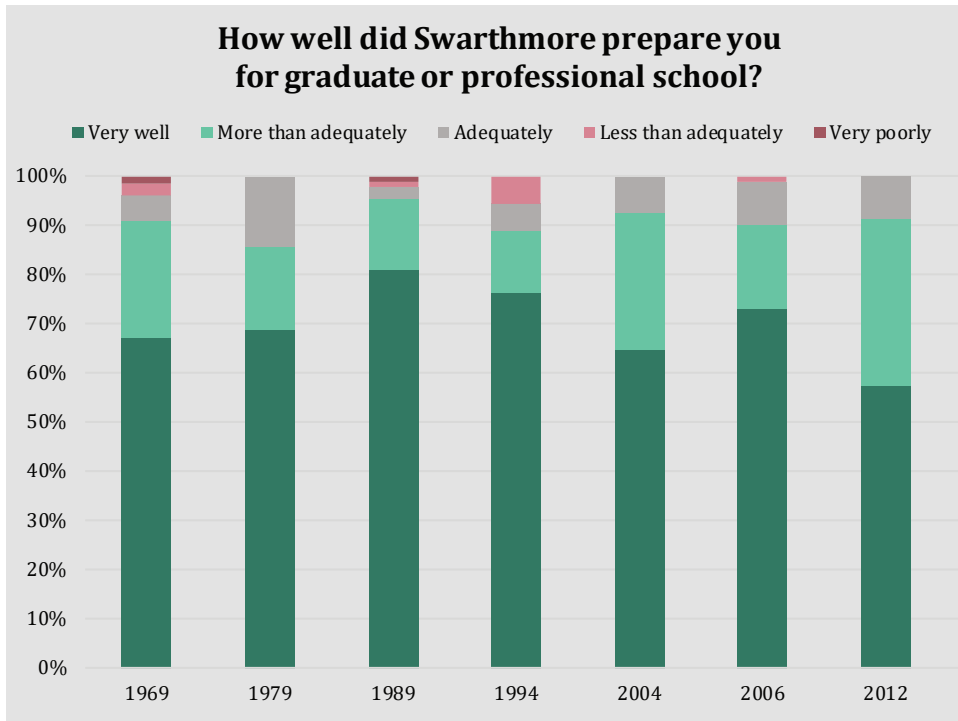
The percentage of alumni who have pursued or earned doctorates, across all classes except 2016, was 32% based on this survey. Since this includes students still enrolled in their programs, this finding is consistent with external data that estimates our doctorate attainment rate at about 22%, one of the highest rates in the country.⁴

Doctorate earners work in a range of settings, in addition to academia. Slightly less than half (48%) of those with doctorates working full time indicated that they worked in higher education. The remainder worked in many other industries, including:

- Technology, Science, or Engineering
- Education (K-12, adult)
- Healthcare, Social Assistance, or Advocacy
- Cultural, Charitable Arts, Religious, Sports/Rec.
- Professional or Business Services
- Journalism, Publishing, or Media
- Finance, Insurance or Real Estate
- "Other"

The percentage of those with doctorates employed full-time who do work in higher education varied somewhat by the division of their undergraduate degree. Humanities and Social Science majors were most likely to be working in higher education, and Natural Science and Engineering majors were least likely. Though this reflects the same order as the Alumni Survey administered in 2013, the results from that year reflected a much larger spread (with Humanities at 87% and Natural Science and Engineering at 31%). In other words, while

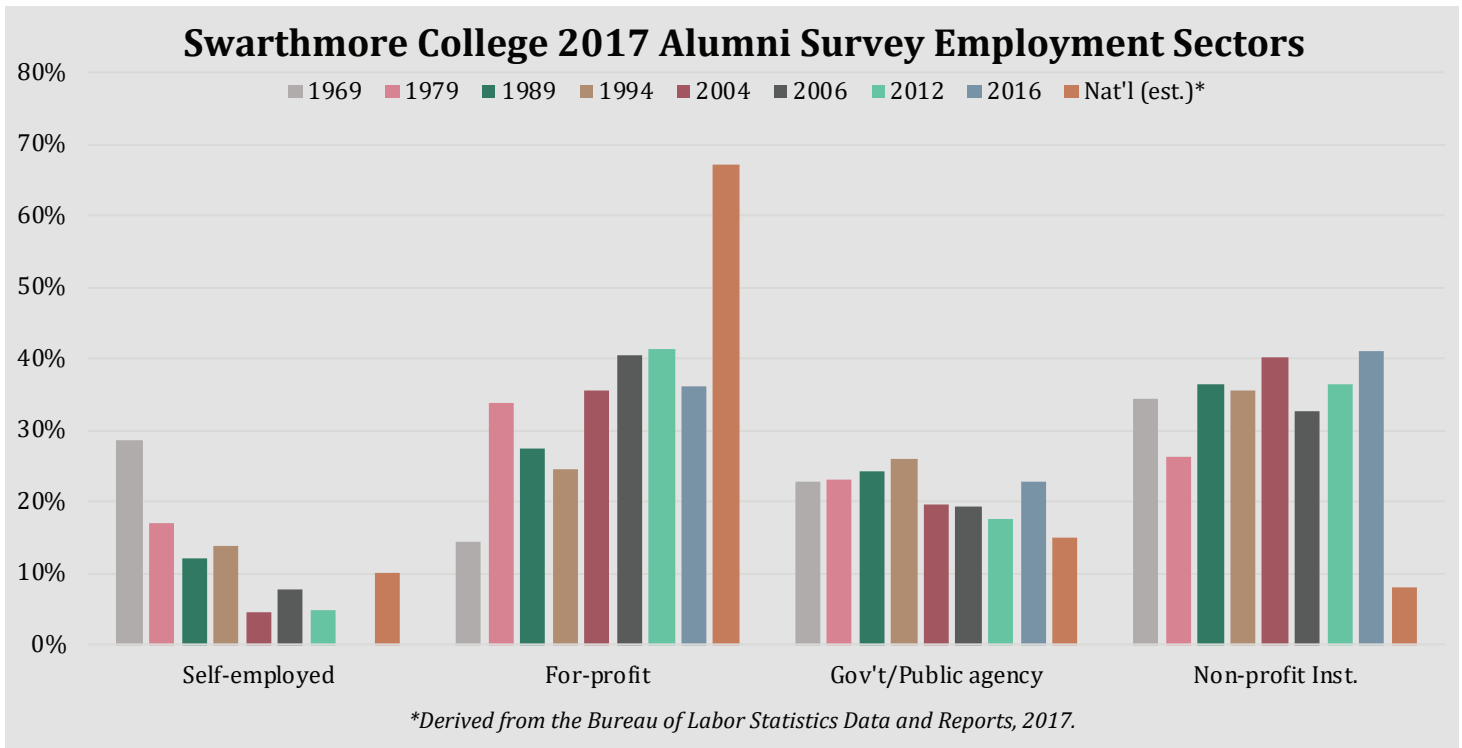
<u>Division</u>	<u>Higher Ed</u>
Humanities	59%
Soc Sci	57%
Doub Maj-2	50%
NSE	42%



the overall rate of employed full-time respondents with doctorates working in higher education hovers around 50% for both surveys, the differences by division are much less pronounced in 2017.

Respondents who pursued or earned an advanced degree (excluding the Class of 2016) were asked how well their Swarthmore education prepared them for graduate or professional school. As the adjacent chart shows, for each of the classes, the majority responded that they were very well prepared.

⁴ This is based on data from the NSF Survey of Earned Doctorates. The rate may vary slightly depending on which years are included in the analysis, but Swarthmore generally ranks third, behind Cal Tech and Harvey Mudd.



Across all classes, the largest group of alumni, (36%) works in the non-profit sector, with for-profits a close second (33%). The percentage working at for-profits generally decreases with the older classes, as the percentage reporting they are self-employed rises. Comparative national data on employment by sector is estimated using data and reports available through the Bureau of Labor Statistics. As the chart shows, Swarthmore graduates work in the non-profit sector at a much higher rate than employees nationally.