

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

2020 Alumni Survey

School of Public Affairs

Office of Institutional Research
10-5-2020

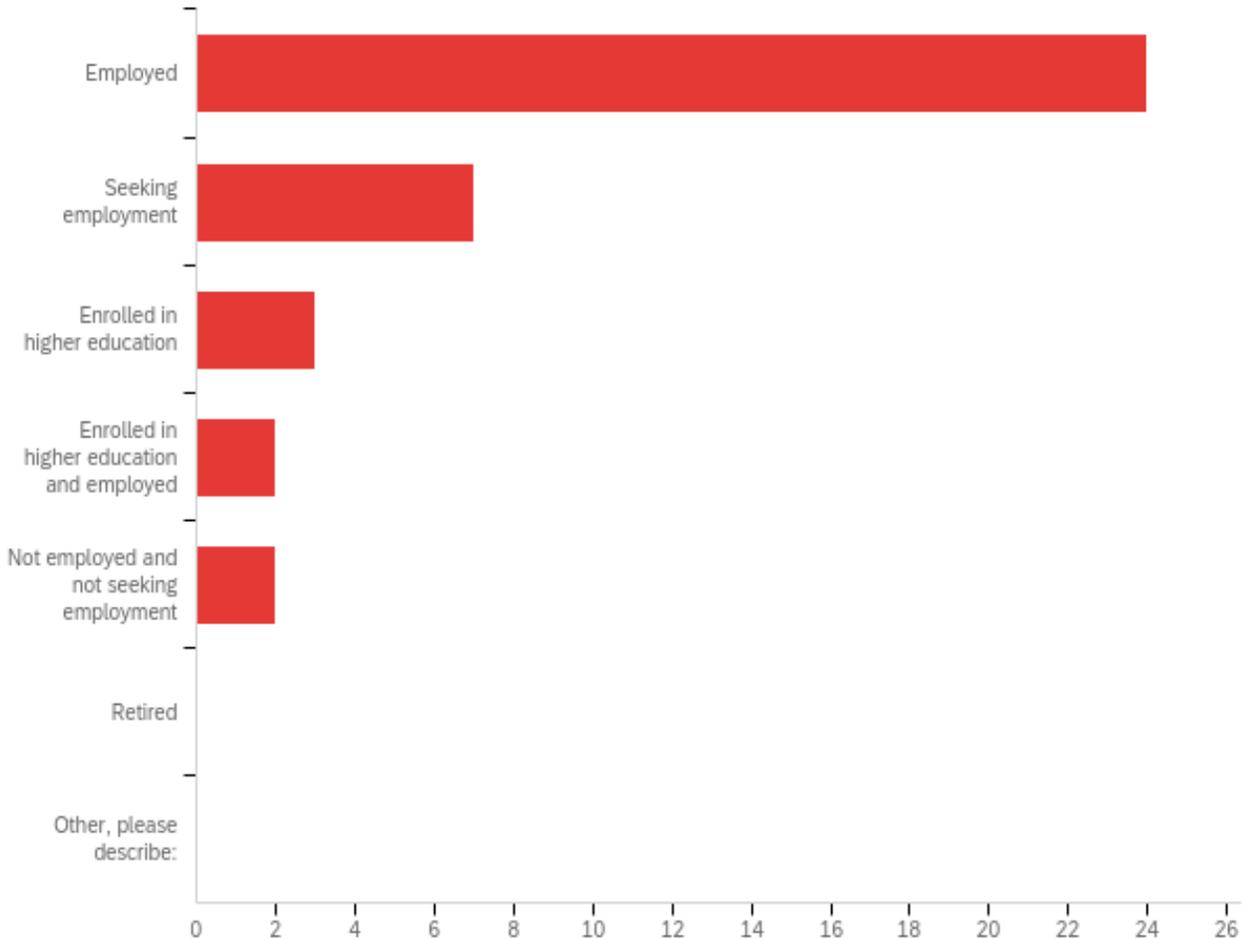
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2020 Alumni Survey Results, School of Public Affairs

This is a report of selected frequency tables drawn from our 2020 Alumni Survey; it is a subset of the respondents who earned undergraduate degrees from the School of Public Affairs in 2010, 2015, or 2019. Over 200 alumni were surveyed and 38 responded for a response rate of 19%. Please contact the Office of Institutional Research for more detailed analyses or results.

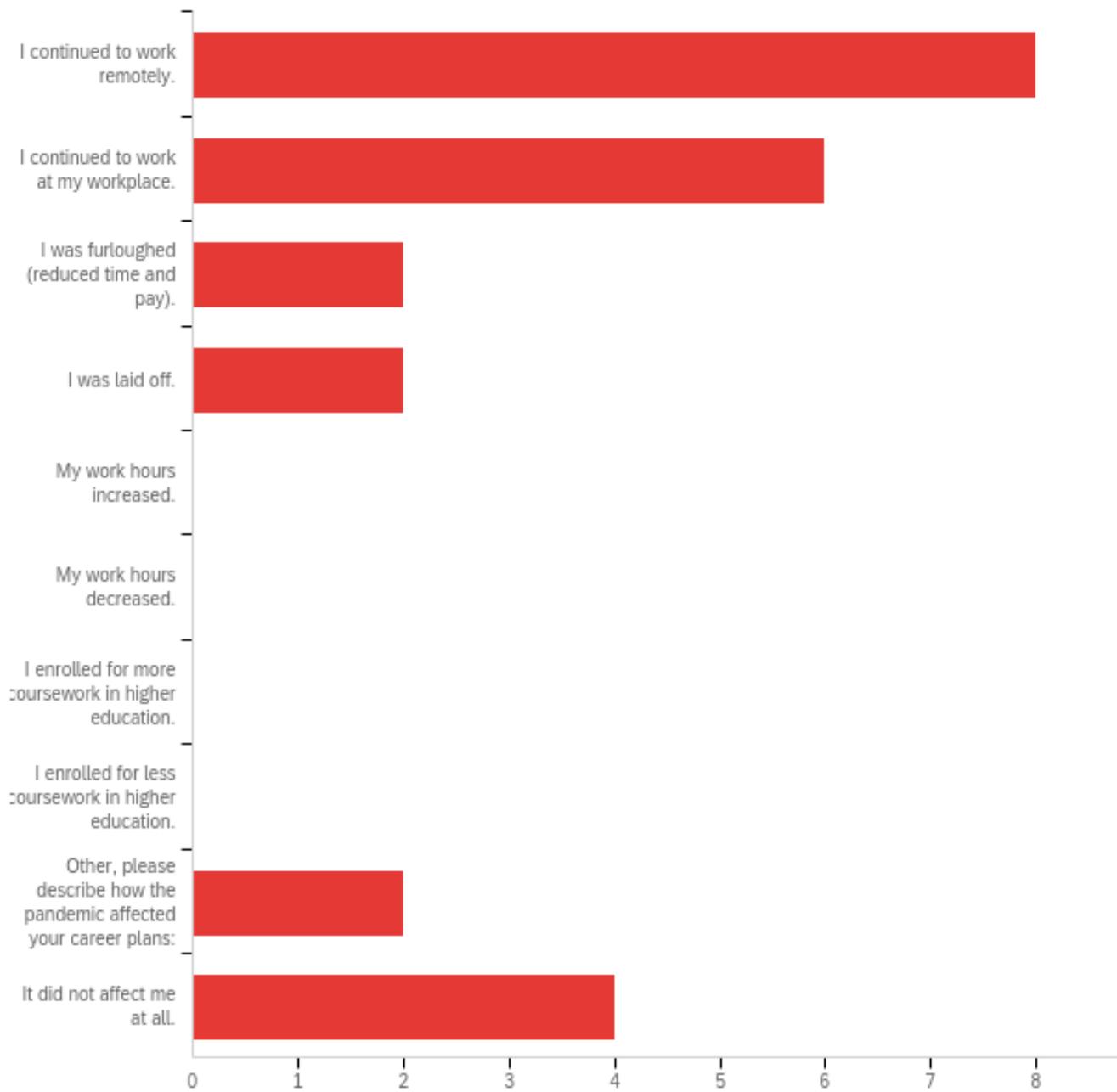
Please mark the status that best fits your situation today.



Please mark the status that best fits your situation today.	%	Count
Seeking employment	18.42%	7
Retired	0.00%	0
Other, please describe:	0.00%	0
Not employed and not seeking employment	5.26%	2
Enrolled in higher education and employed	5.26%	2
Enrolled in higher education	7.89%	3
Employed	63.16%	24
Total	100%	38

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your employment status or education plans?

Please mark all that apply.



How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your employment status or education plans?	%	Count
Other, please describe how the pandemic affected your career plans:	8.33%	2
My work hours increased.	0.00%	0
My work hours decreased.	0.00%	0
I was laid off.	8.33%	2
I was furloughed (reduced time and pay).	8.33%	2
It did not affect me at all.	16.67%	4
I enrolled for more coursework in higher education.	0.00%	0
I enrolled for less coursework in higher education.	0.00%	0
I continued to work remotely.	33.33%	8
I continued to work at my workplace.	25.00%	6
Total	100%	24

Please describe how the pandemic affected your career plans (open-ended responses):

Made it more difficult to find employment
still unemployed and undesirable, too old

Could you provide more detail about your current or most recent job?

This info can help UCCS develop partnerships in the community and beyond.

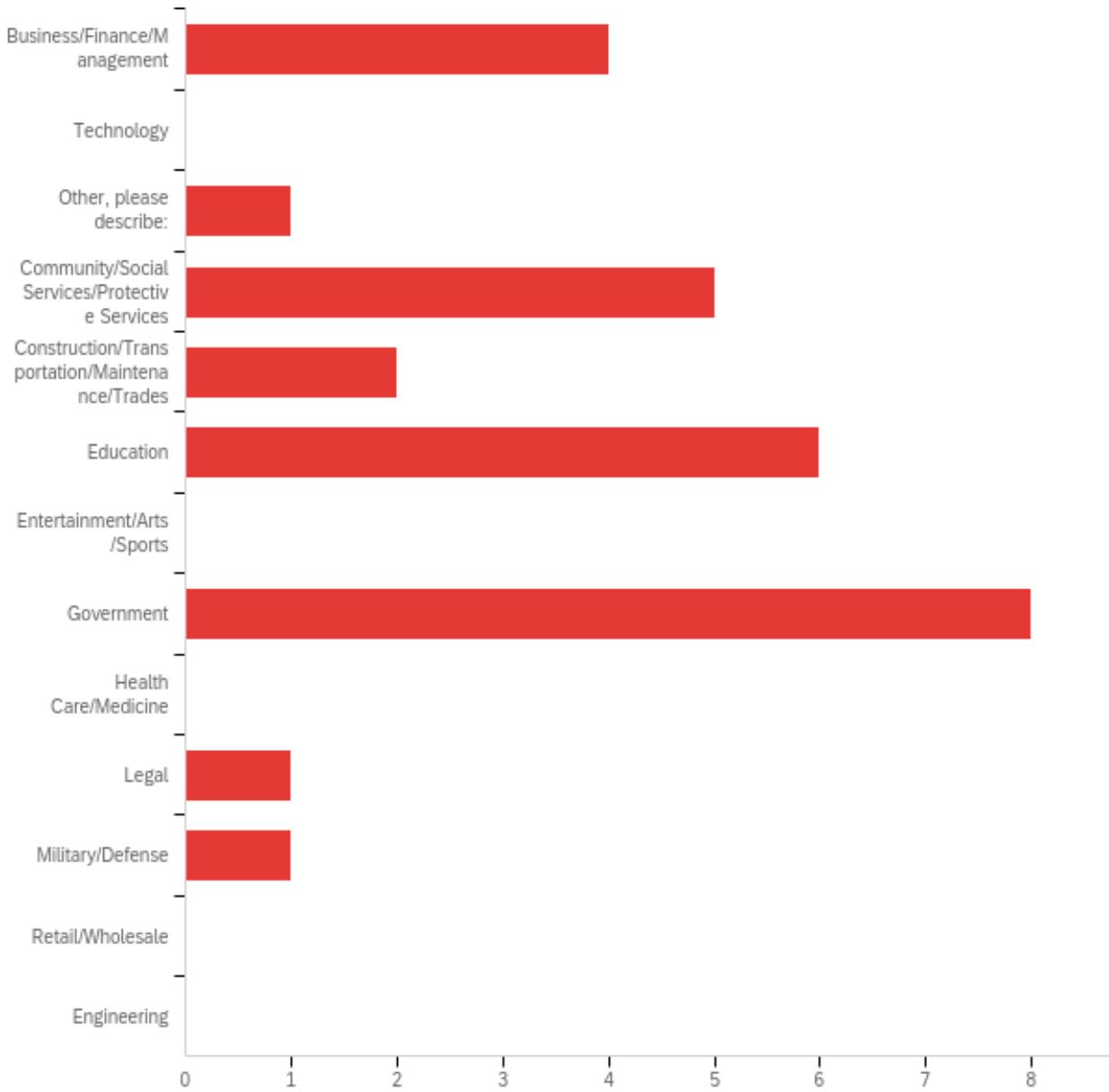
Job title:	Company/Organization:	City & State:	Website, if applicable:
Police officer	Wrpdp	Wheat Ridge, CO	
Project Manager	Colorado State University	Fort Collins, CO	
Compliance survey specialist	VA	Denver, CO	
Wrapping up role with local nonprofit on 8/31 to move to new role		Denver, CO	
Maintenance supervisor	Sentinel real estate	Colorado Springs, CO	First and main apartments.com
Assistant Manager	Echelon Property Group	Colorado Springs, CO	Echelonrents.com
Administrative Prof.	University of Colorado	Colorado Springs, CO	
Compliance Project Manager, Community Development Division	City of Colorado Springs	Colorado Springs, CO	https://coloradosprings.gov/community-development
Assistant Program Director	UCCS	Colorado Springs, CO	uccs.edu
Professional Research Assistant	UCCS/CDOC	Colorado Springs, CO	N/A
Workforce Development Specialist	El Paso County	Colorado Springs, CO	www.elpasoco.com

Financial Administrator	UCCS College of Education	Colorado Springs, CO	
Director, Admissions, Recruitment, and Enrollment	Pikes Peak Community College	Colorado Springs, CO	Ppcc.edu
Operations Analyst	NORAD	Colorado Springs, CO	
Victim Advocate	4th Judicial District Attorney's Office	Colorado Springs, CO	
Enrollment Strategy Analyst	University of Colorado Colorado Springs	Colorado Springs, CO	
Director of Member Services	Apartment Association	Colorado Springs CO	
Caseworker	El Paso County DHS	Colorado Springs CO	
Police Officer	CSPD	Colorado Springs, CO	
Assistant Program Director	UCCS	Colorado Springs, CO	www.uccs.edu
Executive Assistant	CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	https://www.colorado.edu/

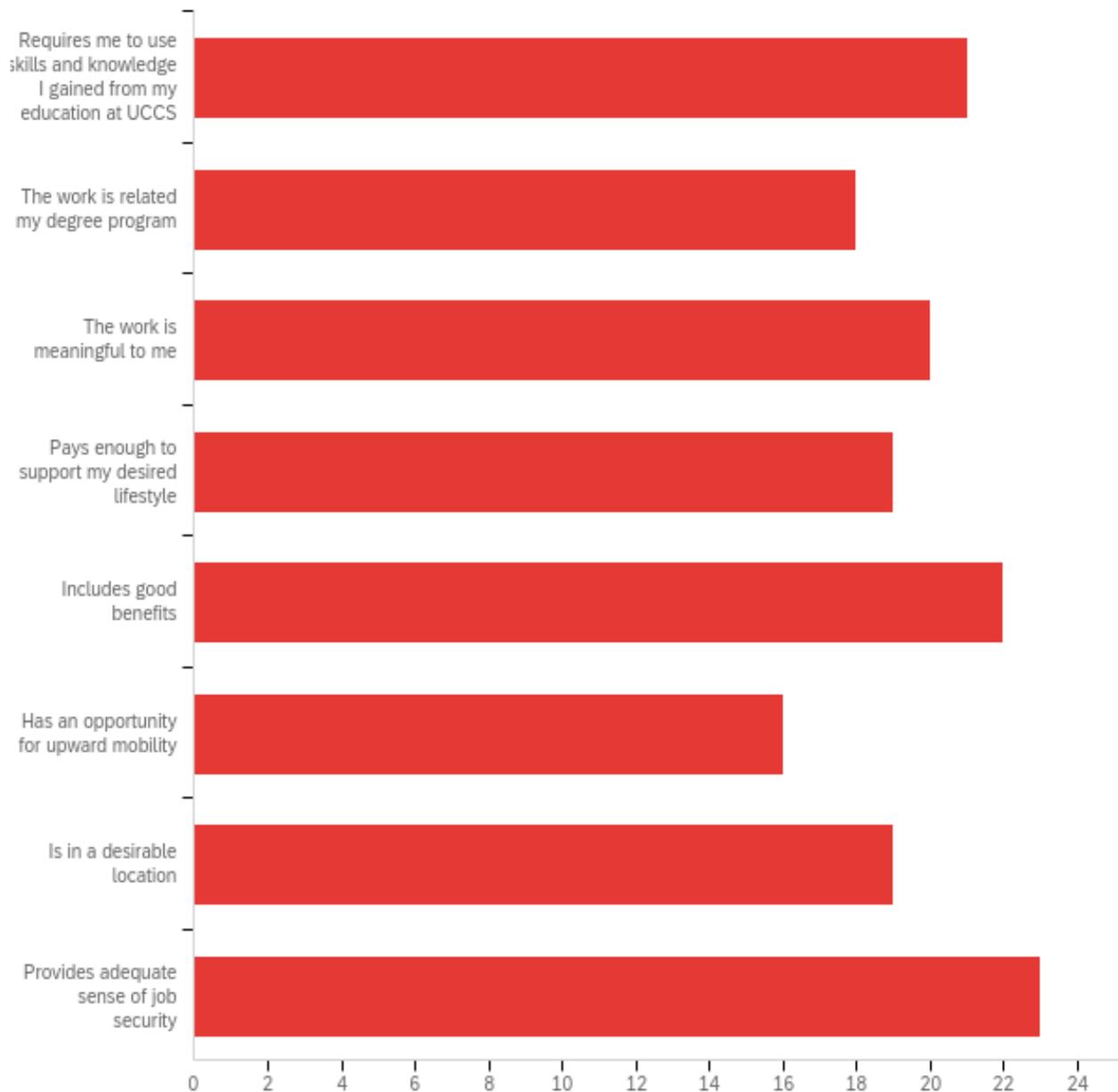
Which of the following occupational categories is the best fit for your current (or most recent) job?
These categories are based on the Standard Occupational Classification System.

	%	Count
Technology	0.00%	0
Retail/Wholesale	0.00%	0
Other, please describe:	3.57%	1
Military/Defense	3.57%	1
Legal	3.57%	1
Health Care/Medicine	0.00%	0
Government	28.57%	8
Entertainment/Arts/Sports	0.00%	0
Engineering	0.00%	0
Education	21.43%	6
Construction/Transportation/Maintenance/Trades	7.14%	2
Community/Social Services/Protective Services	17.86%	5
Business/Finance/Management	14.29%	4
Total	100%	28

Which of the following occupational categories is the best fit for your current (or most recent) job?



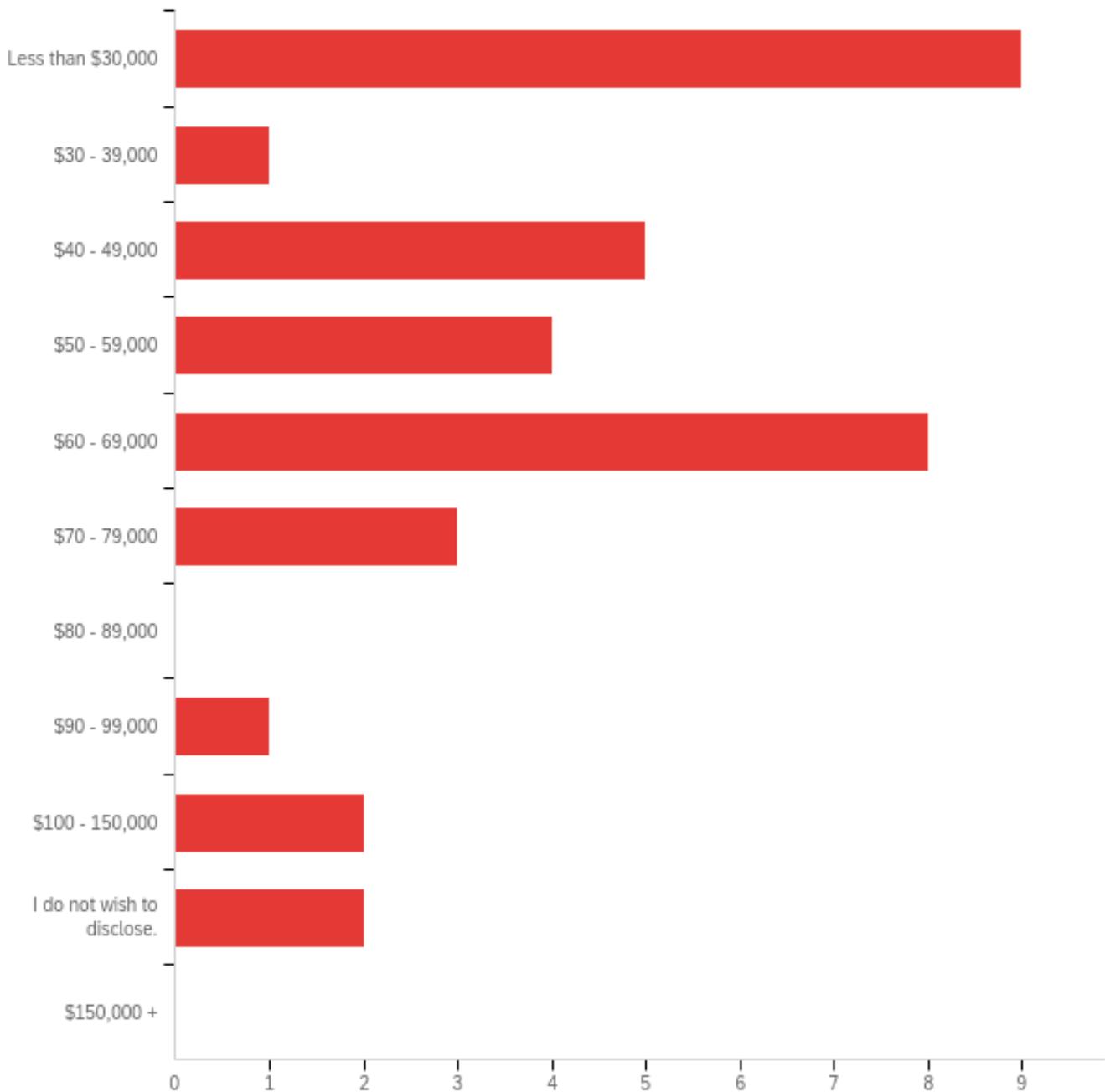
Please indicate if the following statements apply to your current (or most recent) job.



Please indicate if the following statements apply to your current (or most recent) job.	%	Count
The work is related to my degree program	11.39%	18
The work is meaningful to me	12.66%	20
Requires me to use skills and knowledge I gained from my education at UCCS	13.29%	21
Provides adequate sense of job security	14.56%	23
Pays enough to support my desired lifestyle	12.03%	19
Is in a desirable location	12.03%	19
Includes good benefits	13.92%	22
Has an opportunity for upward mobility	10.13%	16
Total	100%	158

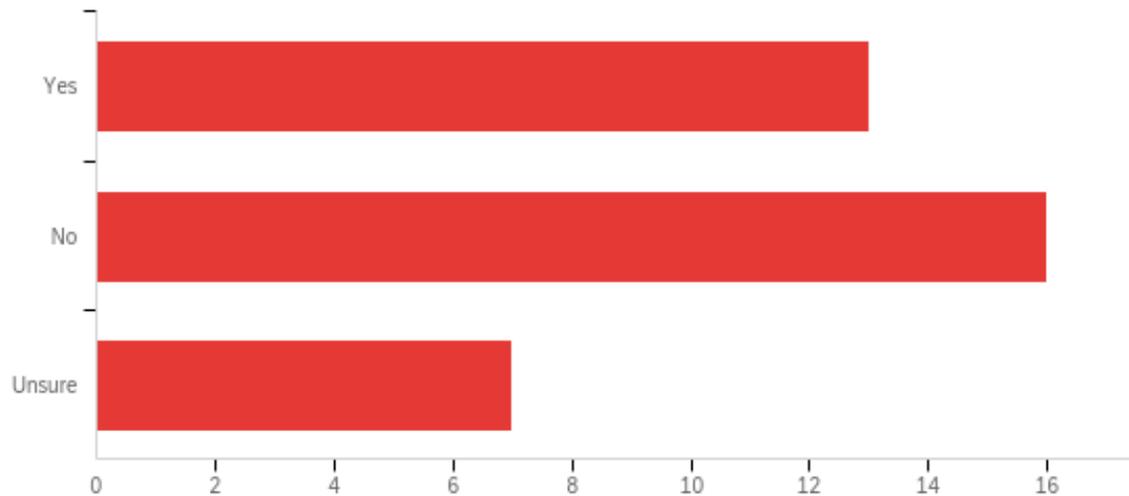
Please estimate your current annual salary.

Note: adjust your estimate to reflect the salary as if you are working 100% time. For example, if you are earning 25k and working 50% time, then your annual estimate should be 50k.



Please estimate your current annual salary	%	Count
Less than \$30,000	25.71%	9
I do not wish to disclose.	5.71%	2
\$100 - 150,000	5.71%	2
\$90 - 99,000	2.86%	1
\$80 - 89,000	0.00%	0
\$70 - 79,000	8.57%	3
\$60 - 69,000	22.86%	8
\$50 - 59,000	11.43%	4
\$40 - 49,000	14.29%	5
\$30 - 39,000	2.86%	1
\$150,000 +	0.00%	0
Total	100%	35

Did your degree enhance your salary?

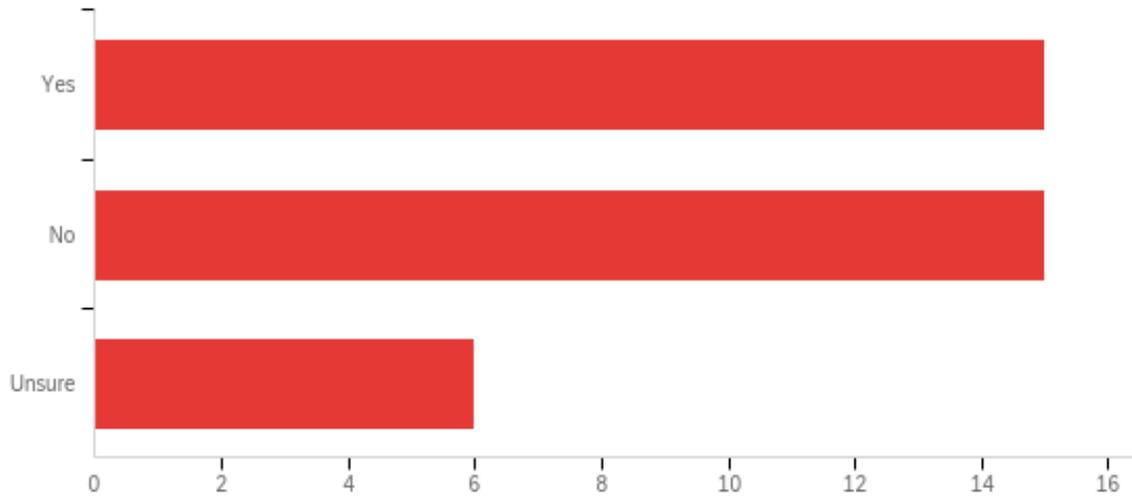


Did your degree enhance your salary?	%	Count
Yes	36.11%	13
No	44.44%	16
Unsure	19.44%	7
Total	100%	36

Please estimate in dollars how much you think your degree enhanced your annual salary.

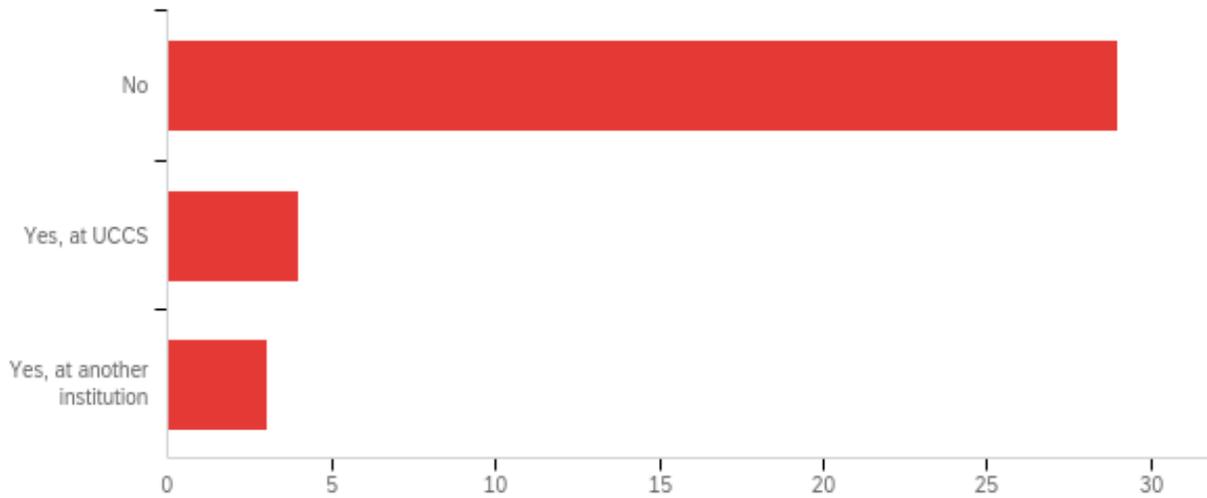
Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
Please estimate in dollars how much you think your degree enhanced your annual salary.	0.00	75000.00	23625.63	18840.25	354954849.61	16

Did your degree help you advance or be promoted within your career?



Did your degree help you advance or be promoted within your career?	%	Count
Yes	41.67%	15
Unsure	16.67%	6
No	41.67%	15
Total	100%	36

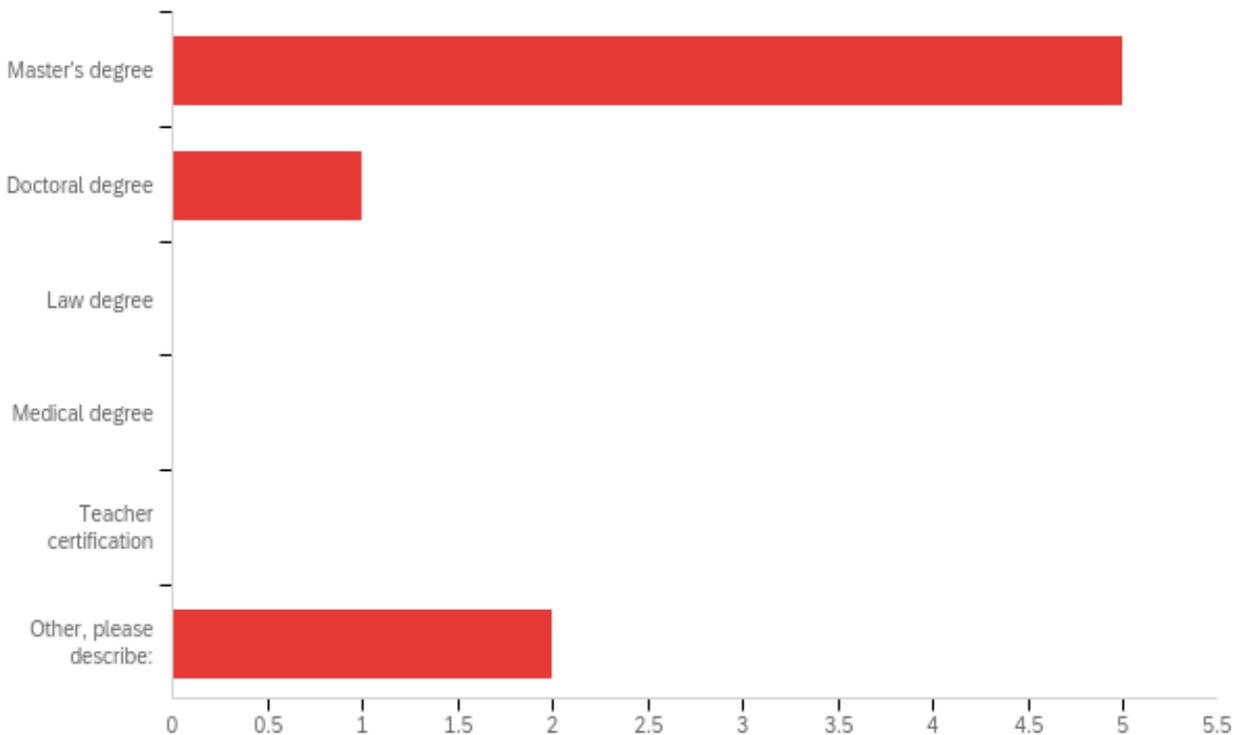
Have you enrolled in another degree/certificate program after graduating from UCCS?



Have you enrolled in another degree/certificate program after graduating from UCCS?	%	Count
Yes, at another institution	8.33%	3
Yes, at UCCS	11.11%	4
No	80.56%	29
Total	100%	36

What type of degree/certificate program did you pursue?

Check all that apply.



What type of degree/certificate program did you pursue?	%	Count
Teacher certification	0.00%	0
Other, please describe:	25.00%	2
Medical degree	0.00%	0
Master's degree	62.50%	5
Law degree	0.00%	0
Doctoral degree	12.50%	1
Total	100%	8

Other, please describe (open-ended responses):

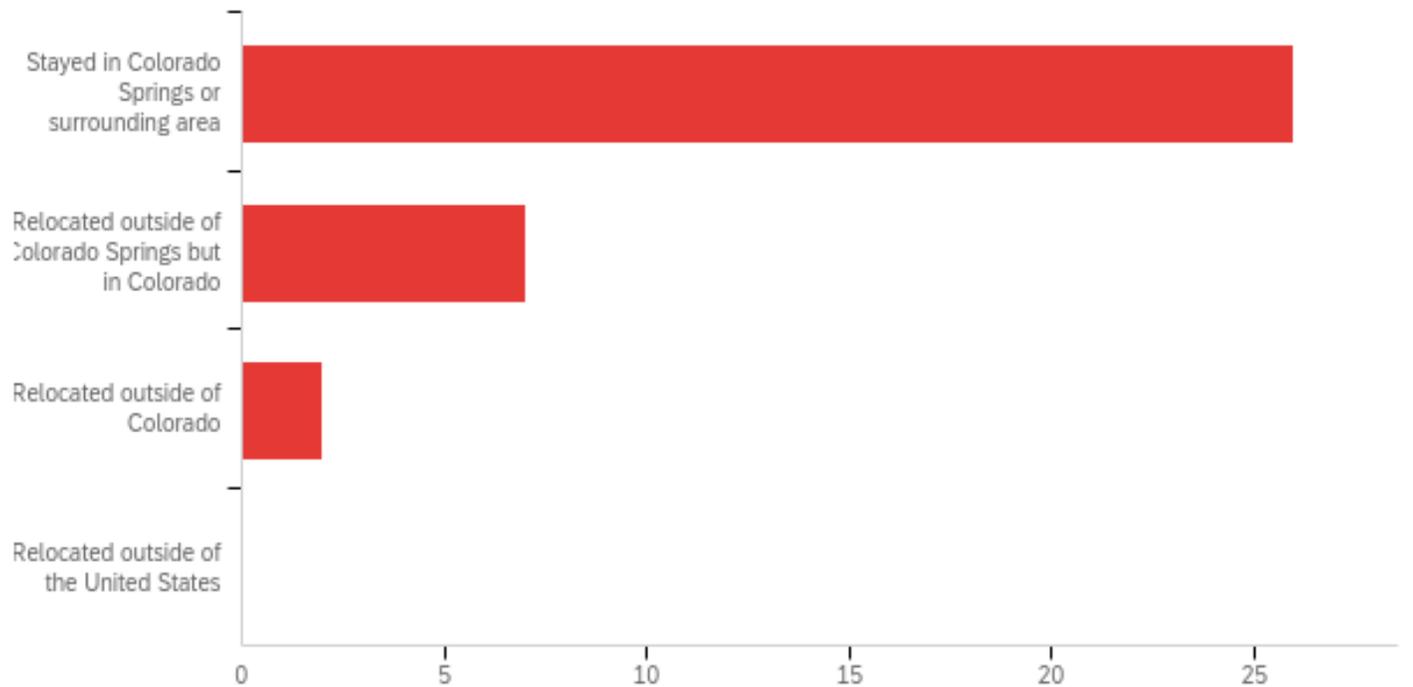
POST certification courses

Graduate Certificate

Where did you pursue another degree (or where are you attending now)?

Name of institution:	Location (state):	Area of study:
Pikes Peak Community College	Colorado	Peace Officer Training Certification
Northcentral University	Utah	Marriage and Family Therapy

Did you relocate after or since earning your UCCS degree?



Did you relocate after or since earning your UCCS degree?	%	Count
Stayed in Colorado Springs or surrounding area	74.29%	26
Relocated outside of the United States	0.00%	0
Relocated outside of Colorado Springs but in Colorado	20.00%	7
Relocated outside of Colorado	5.71%	2
Total	100%	35

What prompted you to relocate?

(open-ended responses)

I went to UCCS online but lived in Denver during grad school and still do.

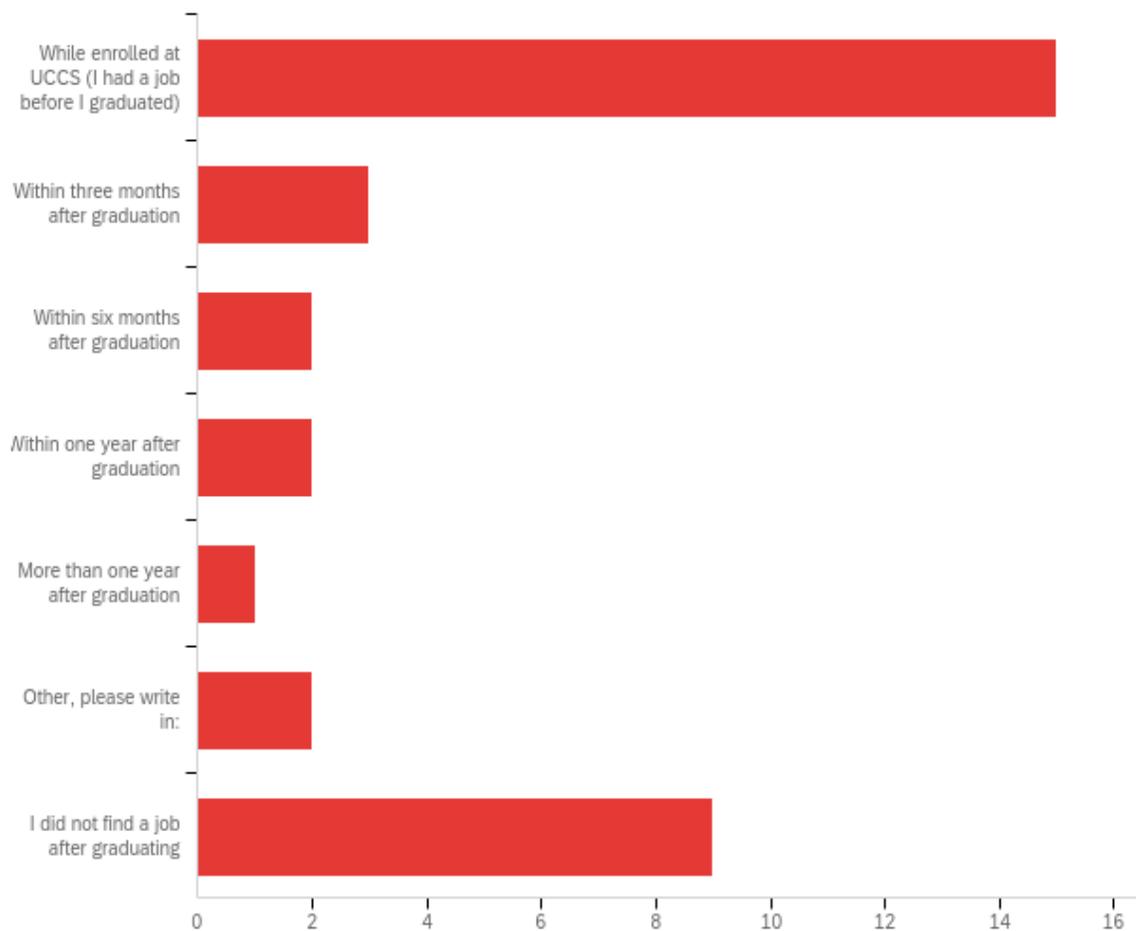
Job

Wife's employment/no prospects in Colorado

Lack of advancement within UCCS organizational structure; Lack of planning for enhancing the Facilities department without needing additional resources

Family

When did you get your first job after graduating from UCCS?



When did you get your first job after graduating from UCCS?	%	Count
Within three months after graduation	8.82%	3
Within six months after graduation	5.88%	2
Within one year after graduation	5.88%	2
While enrolled at UCCS (I had a job before I graduated)	44.12%	15
Other, please write in:	5.88%	2
More than one year after graduation	2.94%	1
I did not find a job after graduating	26.47%	9
Total	100%	34

Other, please write in (open-ended responses):

I have not pursued a job my career

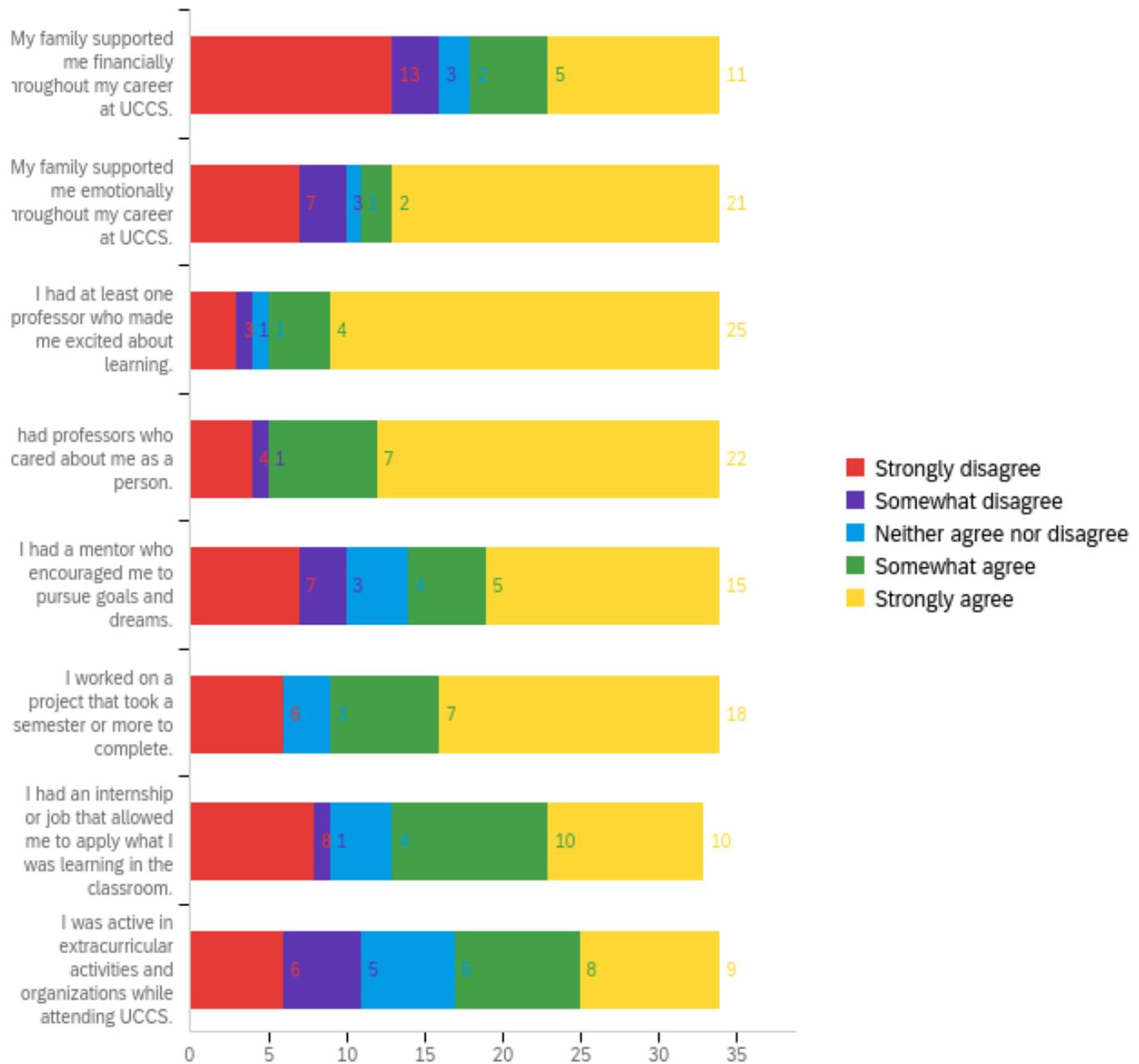
I had employment throughout school

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements

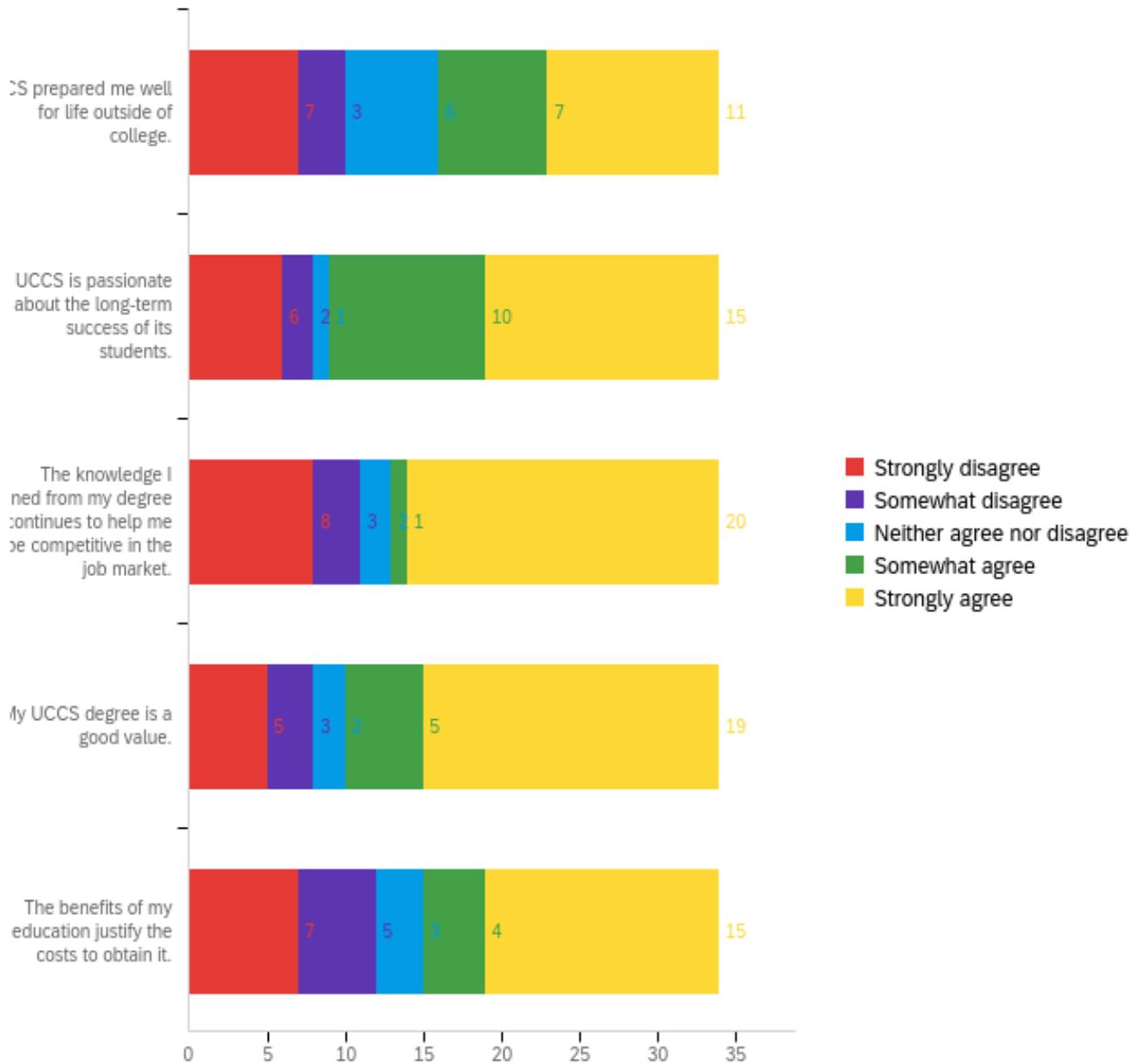
(as they pertain to your experiences at UCCS).

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:	Strongly disagree		Somewhat disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Somewhat agree		Strongly agree		Total
	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	(N)
My family supported me financially throughout my career at UCCS.	38.24	13	8.82	3	5.88	2	14.71	5	32.35	11	34
My family supported me emotionally throughout my career at UCCS.	20.59	7	8.82	3	2.94	1	5.88	2	61.76	21	34
I worked on a project that took a semester or more to complete.	17.65	6	0.00	0	8.82	3	20.59	7	52.94	18	34
I was active in extracurricular activities and organizations while attending UCCS.	17.65	6	14.71	5	17.65	6	23.53	8	26.47	9	34
I had professors who cared about me as a person.	11.76	4	2.94	1	0.00	0	20.59	7	64.71	22	34
I had at least one professor who made me excited about learning.	8.82	3	2.94	1	2.94	1	11.76	4	73.53	25	34
I had an internship or job that allowed me to apply what I was learning in the classroom.	24.24	8	3.03	1	12.12	4	30.30	10	30.30	10	33
I had a mentor who encouraged me to pursue goals and dreams.	20.59	7	8.82	3	11.76	4	14.71	5	44.12	15	34

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements pertaining to your experiences at UCCS.



Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements
 (as they pertain to your experiences at UCCS).



Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:	Strongly disagree		Somewhat disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Somewhat agree		Strongly agree		Total (N)
	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	
UCCS prepared me well for life outside of college.	20.59	7	8.82	3	17.65	6	20.59	7	32.35	11	34
UCCS is passionate about the long-term success of its students.	17.65	6	5.88	2	2.94	1	29.41	10	44.12	15	34
The knowledge I gained from my degree continues to help me be competitive in the job market.	23.53	8	8.82	3	5.88	2	2.94	1	58.82	20	34
My UCCS degree is a good value.	14.71	5	8.82	3	5.88	2	14.71	5	55.88	19	34
The benefits of my education justify the costs to obtain it.	20.59	7	14.71	5	8.82	3	11.76	4	44.12	15	34

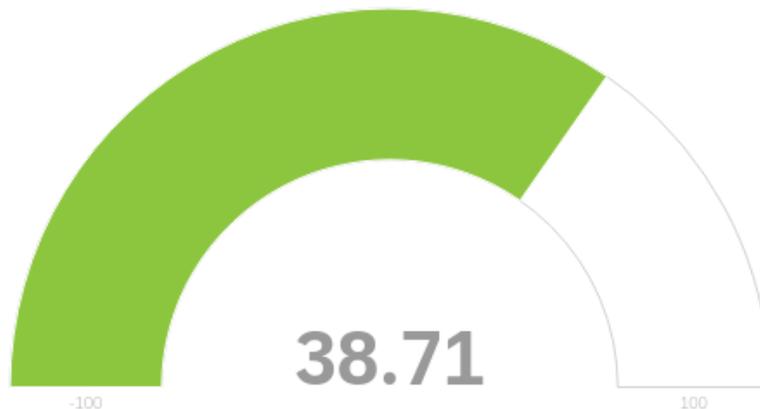
School of Public Affairs Net Promoter Score

On a scale from 0-10, how likely are you to recommend UCCS to a potential student?

The net promotor score (NPS) is a measure of customer satisfaction and score represents the likelihood that the respondent will recommend the institution to other consumers. The score ranges from -100 to +100 and we aim for a score between 30-50.



■ Detractor ■ Passive ■ Promoter



Why did you rate UCCS the way you did?

UCCS was a great school as I am a disabled Veteran. I had help from the VA office as well as all of my professors to ensure that my higher education goal was met. They all worked with me and helped me, despite difficulties I ran into due to my disabilities. There were many options for working around a busy schedule and you can tell that the teachers cared and wanted their students to be successful. I also learned a lot and have found that I want to learn more and eventually pursue higher education. Overall, UCCS was a great school.

Great school, professors, and resources. I enjoyed my time! May return for masters!

Great experience, value, and provides wonderful opportunities.

UCCS has pragmatic professors (for the most part) grounded in the reality that workers must provide their employer with value as much or more than they are paid. This was not true of the former city planner that UCCS hired.

The education and experience was good to have, but finding and obtaining a job following school has been problematic.

I was treated unfairly by the majority of my teachers because of my political views and stances on certain subjects, so much so that some of the grades were affected and I was forced to take the stances of my professors so as to not get marked down for my personal beliefs.

Great location easy transfer from PPCC

Overall I had a positive experience with UCCS and SPA. It was a bit harder to build long-term relationships with staff and professors remotely, but I likely could have done more to try to achieve that. I did follow up at one point after graduation with a staff member about possible networking help for future jobs and didn't hear back which was disappointing. I felt like my professional foundation was extremely beneficial paired with the coursework. My primary suggestion is more hands-on real world tasks. With my capstone my main frustration was that I knew the partner wanted, and would use, more practical findings. I was asked to reduce the findings section to have a more balanced report, and increase the literature review and other areas. I understand the importance and value of those, but it highlighted my feeling that while knowing how and why to do those things, the real world application is the most useful in the job market. I am glad I graduated from SPA and believe my MPA will serve me well in my career. Thank you and stay safe.

I made it through two programs because various professors aided me.

I gave UCCS a 10 because the faculty and staff really care about the students.

UCCS is an exceptional school that offers a diversity of degree programs and activities, and is set in a beautiful location, and most of all, dedicated staff and teachers/professors.

UCCS, particularly SPA did nothing to prepare me for a job. I have not heard one word from the school on job opportunities, alumni events, networking, etc. SPA is particularly weak at helping older women, I know of 4 other older females who graduated with me who are struggling emotionally, financially and professionally. I entered SPA in 2016 financially, emotionally and psychologically destroyed after a divorce and being "unemployed" for 31 years. I graduated 3 years later with high academic honors, I was more involved in extra curricular activities than any of my classmates, and I was just as hopeless, suicidal, and in need of skills to help me find a job. I made wonderful friends, all with older women who like me can not find a job, and wasted \$30,000 plus on this education that was supposed to be a much needed gateway into the second phase of our lives. None of us have received any assistance from the school, and most of us were torn down to less than what we were by particularly one person, and a system not set up to support older women lacking in some necessary job hunting skills. I can not say enough SPA needs to re evaluate it's program, and re-structure in such a way as to help this demographic which it only seems to see as a cash cow, and not as the potential contributing members of the public administration profession. All the females I

speak or have high grades, most speak multiple languages, most have military background, our children are out of the homes, and for many so are spouses. We should be a much sought after employment demographic, instead we all suffer from depression and hopelessness.

While I love UCCS and it is my alma mater, now that I am working at a traditional university, I do see that UCCS does still have the face of a commute college. I think I felt pressure from my family to stay close to home, and I somewhat regret not going to a more traditional university and having those opportunities. In terms of the education - I think UCCS is comparable to other colleges.

I support UCCS because I believe in the academic value, the mentorship from faculty and the experience from the program.

Waste of 8 years for a degree that was supposed to be job security. Most things I have looked at require a masters degree, 5 years experience, military background, and it will be for either a minimum wage or volunteer position. If I had to do it again, I would never do it again and now I have student debt.

If you're looking for a degree, UCCS is relatively accessible and affordable

UCCS has the best interest in their students through college accreditations, quality faculty, campus engagement and staff that care and support the students through their journey.

I think the cost of education keeps going up, not sure how to stop that. that is the only reason I rated the value question as somewhat agree. In spite of that, I think UCCS does a great job supporting students and planning for their success. I think there are many strengths at UCCS that the nearby community doesn't know. If they did, local students would all stay and attend. I feel like the faculty at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are committed to this community and do a great job relating learning concepts to the community.

Waste of time and money

Over the last 3 years UCCS has become a money making machine, with no regard for the future well being of the student. There was no concern at SPA about fit of curriculum, no mentor ship, and no nurturing after my first years. As a matter of fact I as a student was tormented by my professors and department head resulting in my being suicidal weeks before graduation. I have rated UCCS on my experience with SPA mostly, but also because it was a known fact that I was out of school and work for over 30 years and nothing was done to prepare me to job hunt or succeed after my graduation. In my opinion all UCCS wanted was my tuition money and my donations. Now that I have graduated I have no place to go, and very little hope of finding a job in my career field (I was apparently black balled by the dean and department chair). Other departments may be fine, but SPA does not live up to any kind of reputation other than awful. I should also mention I am a disabled student who got some services during my time at UCCS, and it is my opinion that UCCS way under invests in the disabled student in terms of help, self advocacy workshops, and identification for further programs that will help them succeed after graduation, such as special seminars with career services, coordinating with Pikes Peak Work Force Center, and especially career and personal counseling.

UCCS had a passion to encourage student-learning. The Public Administration staff was very helpful and strived to push for academic excellence. Thanks Regina Winters.

I sometimes leave my advanced degree off of my resume, because I couldn't get an interview.

I got my internship at a job fair, which turned into a full time career once I graduated

Great campus. Great times. Average teachers. Wholesome university for the most part.

Based on my past experiences with higher education and the amount of help I received during my time enrolled, it was definitely better. However, there are areas where improvements could be made.

Excellent local campus with international focus

The degrees obtained were pretty much worthless when searching for employment. My supposed counselor was always MIA. I heard from them once during my education. There was pretty much no support from UCCS' side.

I had a great experience and believe UCCS is a great institution!

I had a fantastic experience in the MPA program as a Graduate student

I love the school, its not the schools fault that a degree isn't worth the cost.

They challenged me throughout well worth being challenged.