

How America Succeeds After College 2025

A snapshot of the national study by Sallie Mae® and Ipsos on life after college for recent grads

salliemae.com/HowAmericaSucceeds



Proactive Planning and Career Focus Drive Success

Recent grads who reported feeling successful took intentional steps before enrolling:



discussed college applications and selection with family



had a career goal in mind



developed a full college payment plan

Higher Ed Delivers Strong ROI for Recent Grads



had a positive college experience



who used career resources secured a first job in their field



who borrowed to pay for college feel confident in repaying their loans, and a majority agree their education was worth it



Post-grad Success Means Life and Career Balance

Top three factors associated with success:



Recent Grads are Optimistic About the Future



have a positive outlook on their lives



expect their income to increase in the next 5 years



employed with 74% working in their field of study

Key Resources

Explore these free tools to help navigate your college journey:

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