

# Results from the Senior Survey 2013

**Methodology:** The link to an online 6-8 question survey was emailed to each full-time member of senior class who, as of March 25, 2013, was anticipated to graduate by May 2013. Employees and other non-traditional students were excluded from the population. Initial invitations were sent on April 1, 2013 and the last responses were received on May 31, 2013. Of the 405 invitations sent, 276 seniors responded for an overall response rate of 68%.

## Highlights

As of May 2013, respondents to the Class of 2013 Senior Survey indicated that:

**51% have definite plans for the fall**

- 38% will be employed
- 12% will be in graduate or professional school

**39% had some ideas for that they would be doing this fall, but nothing firm**

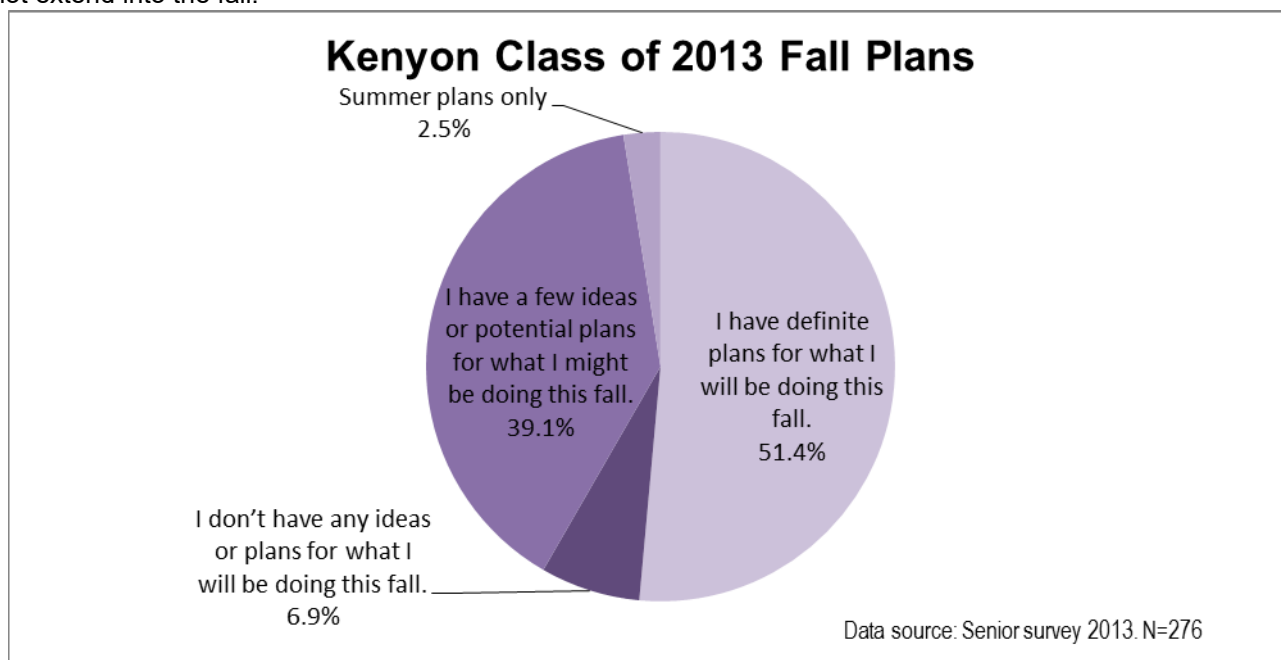
- 10% were waiting to hear back about job, grad school, grant, or Fulbright applications
- 12% were looking at or applying for jobs, grad programs, grants, etc.

**2.5% have short term summer plans**

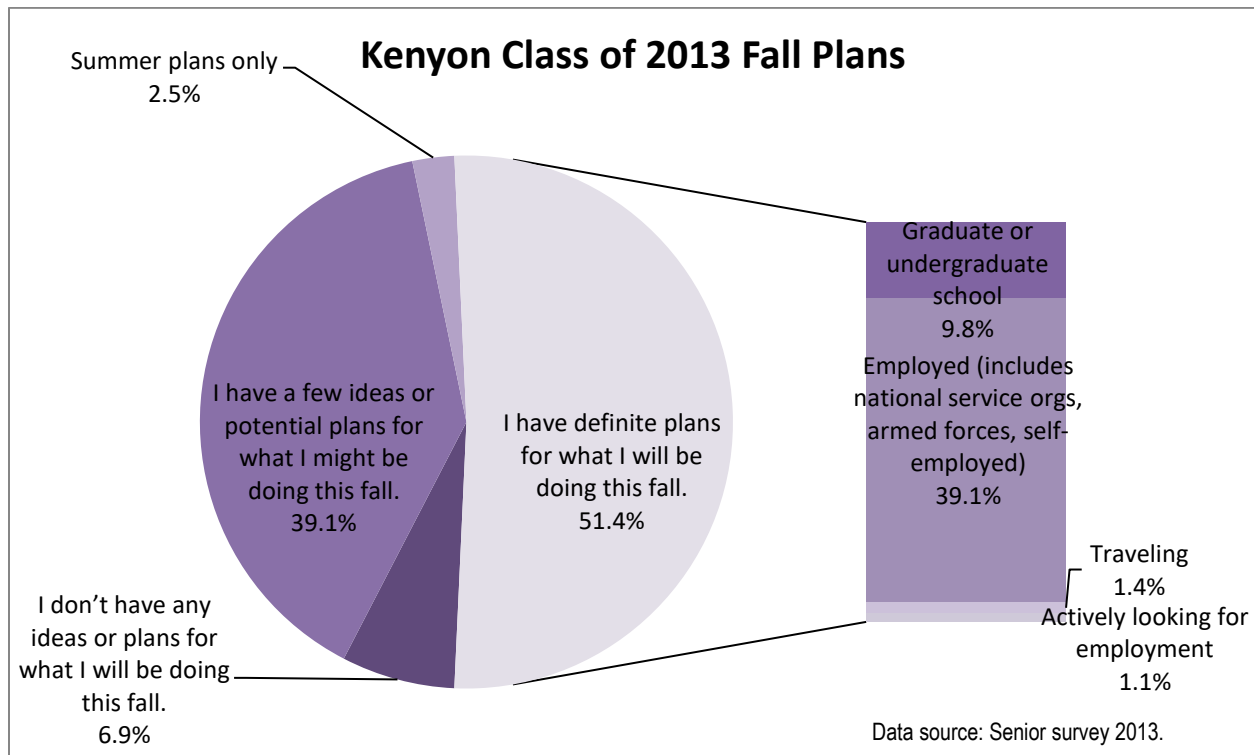
**7% had no plans or ideas for the fall**

## The Plans of the Class of 2013

Based on the results of the Senior Survey 2012, we reformatted the survey questions in order to reduce the effort of respondents and the suspected effects of social desirability. This year, we first asked seniors to identify the status of their plans for the fall. More than half of the respondents indicated that they have definite plans for the fall and almost 39% had some ideas for what they might be doing (for instance some were waiting to hear back from employers or were deciding on graduate schools). Seven percent indicated that they had not yet begun making plans and 2.5% indicated that they had employment or plans for the summer but that these plans did not extend into the fall.



After identifying the state of their plans for the fall, respondents were asked to provide more details. Those students who indicated that they had definite plans were asked to pick their primary activity in the fall from a closed list of choices, while those with a few potential plans were directed to an open text box and asked to describe their plans. Of those with definite plans, the majority (38% of all respondents) indicated that they will be employed in the fall, 12% will be going straight into graduate or professional school, 1% indicated that they will be traveling in the fall, and 1% indicated that they were taking the summer off and plan to begin their job search in the fall.

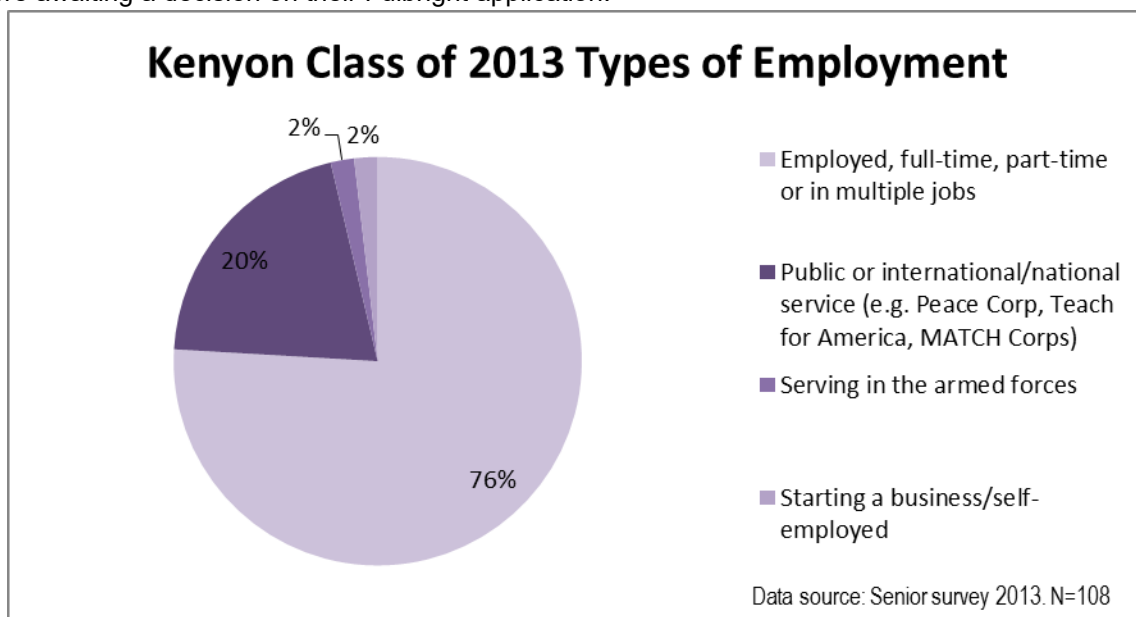


What will be your primary activity this fall? (Choose one).	Count of Students	Percent of Respondents (not entire senior class)
<b>I don't have any ideas or plans for what I will be doing this fall.</b>	19	6.9%
<b>I have a few ideas or potential plans for what I might be doing this fall.</b>	108	39.1%
Summer internship	1	0.4%
Summer study	2	0.7%
Summer work	4	1.4%
<b>Summer plans only</b>	7	2.5%
Attending graduate or professional school, full- or part-time	26	9.4%
Attending undergraduate school, full- or part-time	1	0.4%
<b>Graduate or undergraduate school</b>	27	9.8%
Employed, full-time, part-time or in multiple jobs	82	29.7%
Public or international/national service (e.g. Peace Corp, Teach for America, MATCH C	22	8.0%
Serving in the armed forces	2	0.7%
Starting a business/self-employed	2	0.7%
<b>Employed (includes national services orgs, armed forces, self-employed)</b>	108	39.1%
<b>Traveling</b>	4	1.4%
<b>Actively looking for employment</b>	3	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	276	100.0%

## Employment

We counted all salaried positions as employment, including service organization positions, internships, and traditional long-term employment positions. Of those students who reported that they will be employed in paying positions this fall, three quarters reported that they will be employed in traditional full- or part-time jobs.

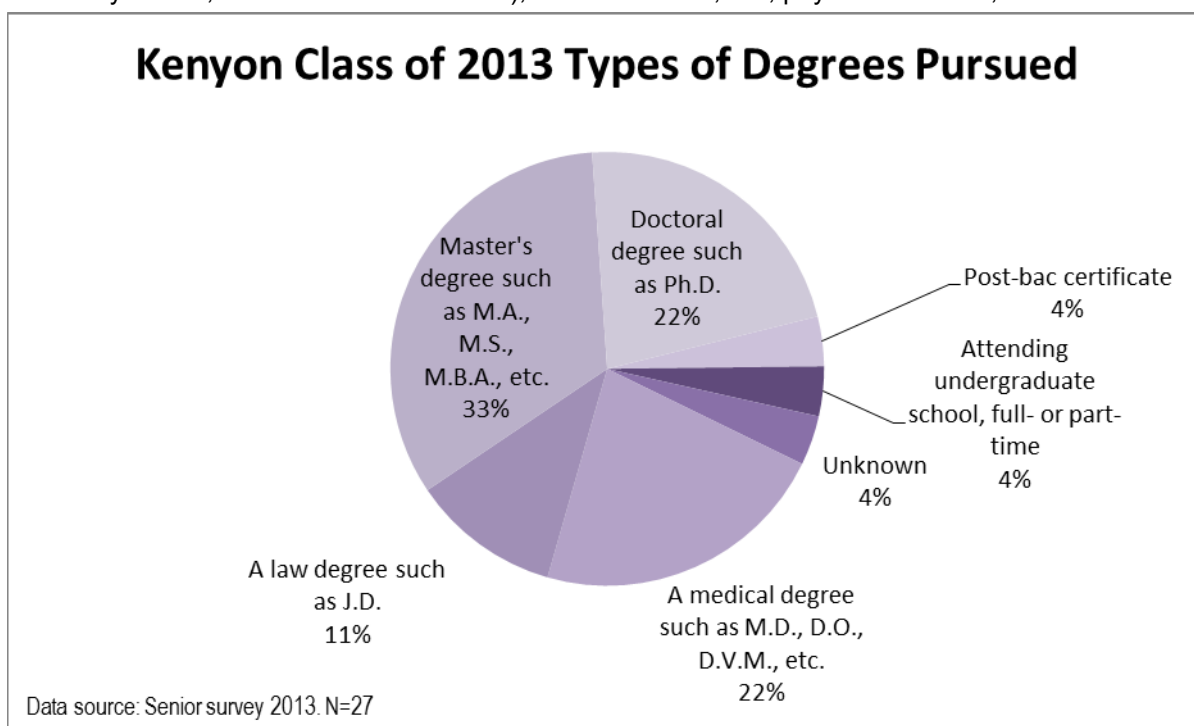
Twenty percent of those students who will be employed in the fall are participating in a service programs. The most popular organizations with which students will be serving are Teach for America and AmeriCorps (specifically the Schuler Scholar program within AmeriCorps). Other service organizations included the Peace Corp, Princeton in Asia, Match Corp, WomenCraft, and local museums and service organizations. Two students indicated that their service was related to receiving a Fulbright grant while several more students indicated that they were awaiting a decision on their Fulbright application.



What will be your primary activity this fall? (Choose one).	Count of Students	Percent of Employed Respondents
Employed, full-time, part-time or in multiple jobs	82	75.9%
Public or international/national service (e.g. Peace Corp, Teach for America, MATCH)	22	20.4%
Serving in the armed forces	2	1.9%
Starting a business/self-employed	2	1.9%
<b>Employed (includes national services orgs, armed forces, self-employed)</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Graduate and Professional School

Twelve percent of the graduating class indicated that they would be attending graduate or professional school in the fall or attending undergraduate school to fulfill the prerequisites for a graduate degree. Of these students, more than one third will be pursuing a master's degree. Doctoral and medical degrees were the next most common degrees to be pursued with 6 students (22% of students attending school) pursuing either of these options. The most popular fields of study were the biological and health sciences (including medical school, nursing, veterinary school, and alternative medicine), social sciences, law, physical sciences, and humanities.



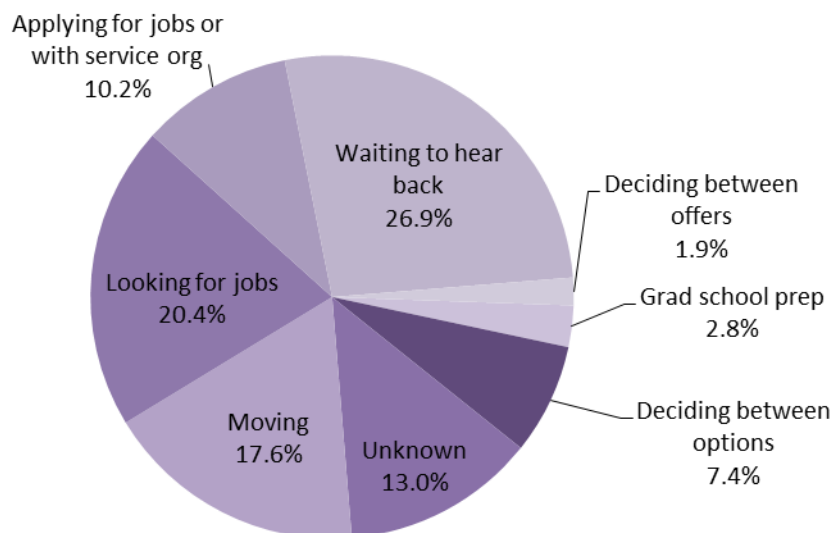
<b>Attending graduate or professional school, full- or part-time or Undergraduate school, full- or part-time</b>	<b>Count of Students</b>	<b>Percent of Respondents Attending School</b>
Doctoral degree such as Ph.D.	6	22.2%
A law degree such as J.D.	3	11.1%
A medical degree such as M.D., D.O., D.V.M., etc.	6	22.2%
Master's degree such as M.A., M.S., M.B.A., etc.	9	33.3%
Post-bac certificate	1	3.7%
Attending undergraduate school, full- or part-time	1	3.7%
Unknown	1	3.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	

## Indefinite Plans and Ideas

Forty percent of seniors indicated that they had some ideas or plans for the fall but nothing definite. We asked respondents to tell us more about their plans for the fall and several themes emerged. More than half of the respondents (59%) who indicated that they had some ideas or plans were somewhere in the job or graduate school process, including looking for or applying for positions, waiting to hear back about an application, or deciding about offers. About 30% had applied for jobs, internships, Fulbrights, graduate schools, grants, or other positions but had not heard back yet or were deciding between offers. Another 30% indicated that they were beginning the job or graduate school process and were in the looking and applying stages. A few (2.8%) indicated that they would be spending the year taking test prep classes for graduate or professional school or applying for graduate schools but did not indicate what else they might be doing during this time. About 7% of respondents who had some plans were very early in the planning stages and were trying to decide which of several paths to pursue (e.g. working or applying to grad school, traveling or applying to AmeriCorps).

Perhaps most interesting are those respondents whose primary plans for the fall will involve moving to a given city. These respondents composed 17% of those who said they had some fall plans. Some indicated that they would be pursuing certain career fields unique to the location (e.g. film industry in Los Angeles) but many indicated they would begin looking for work opportunities once they moved to their desired location.

## Kenyon Class of 2013 Ideas or Plans



Data source: Senior survey 2013. N=108

I have a few ideas or potential plans for what I might be doing this fall.	Count of Students	Percent of Respondents with Indefinite Plans
Looking for jobs	22	20.4%
Applying for jobs, grad school, service orgs	11	10.2%
Waiting to hear back about applications	29	26.9%
Deciding between offers	2	1.9%
Grad school prep	3	2.8%
Moving	19	17.6%
Deciding between options	8	7.4%
Unknown	14	13.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	

## Conclusions

With half of respondents indicating that they have definite plans for the fall and several more respondents applying for or deciding between positions, the Class of 2013 appears to be successfully transitioning into the next stage of their lives. For some respondents this transition will include traditional and formal opportunities such as long-term employment or attending graduate school while other respondents have deliberately structured their next steps to allow for exploration such as traveling, career related service, and moving to their desired city.

This survey was primarily designed to explore the plans of the majority of respondents who were preparing for the first fall of their post-Kenyon life by the end of their senior year but the experiences of the small number of respondents with no plans may be an important focus for the Class of 2014 survey. Seniors may have several reasons why they have no ideas for what they may be doing the fall after graduation, including a desire to remain focused on their Kenyon academic careers, a lack of awareness of the resources available to support

planning, or a focus on their immediate summer experiences. Understanding this planning process will help us to further understand the life and career paths of Kenyon alums.