

PEW SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS MARCH 2011 HIGHER EDUCATION SURVEY

NOTE: All numbers are percentages. Percentages greater than zero but less than .5% are replaced by an asterisk (*). Columns/rows may not total 100% due to rounding. Unless otherwise noted, all trends reference surveys from social and demographic trends and the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

Please tell me whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied, on the whole, with the following aspects of your life. Would you say you are VERY (dis)satisfied or SOMEWHAT (dis)satisfied?

	<u>Very satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very dissatisfied</u>	<u>Doesn't Apply (volunteered)</u>	<u>Don't know/Refused (volunteered)</u>
a. Your family life	72	19	4	3	*	2
Oct 2010	75	19	4	2	*	1
Oct 2005	72	19	4	3	1	1
Jan 1999	71	20	4	3	0	2
Dec 1996	69	21	6	3	0	1
b. Your personal financial situation	28	39	17	14	*	2
Oct 2010	29	40	14	14	*	2
Feb 2009	23	43	18	13	*	3
c. Your present housing situation	56	29	7	5	*	2
Feb 2009	56	30	8	4	*	2
October 2005	63	25	6	5	*	1
January, 1999	61	28	6	4	0	1
December, 1996	56	31	7	5	0	1
d. Your education	50	32	10	5	1	2

Comparisons for Part D¹:

Mar <u>2011</u>		National Conference for Community and Justice <u>2005</u>	National Conference for Community and Justice <u>2000</u>
82	Satisfied	80	78
15	Dissatisfied	19	21
1	Doesn't apply (vol.)	1	1
2	Don't know/Refused (vol.)	*	*

¹ Surveys by the National Conference for Community and Justice did not probe for "very" or "somewhat" (dis)satisfied.

Now, I would like to read you a list of long-term financial goals. Whether or not you have already achieved some of these, please tell me how important each is for YOU PERSONALLY. Is this extremely important for you, very important, somewhat important, or not too important for you?

a. Being able to own your own home

35	Extremely important
42	Very important
12	Somewhat important
7	Not too important
3	Does not apply (vol.)
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

b. Being able to live comfortably in retirement

34	Extremely important
45	Very important
16	Somewhat important
4	Not too important
*	Does not apply (vol.)
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

c. Being able to pay for your children's college education

26	Extremely important
35	Very important
13	Somewhat important
10	Not too important
15	Does not apply (vol.)
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

d. Being able to leave an inheritance for your children

20	Extremely important
30	Very important
28	Somewhat important
16	Not too important
5	Does not apply (vol.)
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

Please tell me how important you think each of the following is in helping a young person succeed in the world today. Would you say this is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important in helping a young person succeed in the world today?

a. A college education

42	Extremely important
35	Very important
18	Somewhat important
4	Not too important
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

b. Knowing how to get along with people

57	Extremely important
36	Very important
6	Somewhat important
1	Not too important
*	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

c. A good work ethic

61	Extremely important
35	Very important
3	Somewhat important
*	Not too important
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

d. Work skills learned on the job

43	Extremely important
46	Very important
9	Somewhat important
1	Not too important
*	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

What is the last grade or class that you completed in school?

4	None, or grade 1-8
9	High school incomplete (Grades 9-11)
30	High school graduate (Grade 12 or GED certificate)
4	Technical, trade, or vocational school AFTER high school
20	Some college, no degree
5	2-year Associates degree
18	College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other 4-year degree)
10	Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D.; law or medical school)
*	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

For 2-year and 4-year college graduates: What year did you receive your undergraduate or Bachelor's degree?

12	60s or earlier
15	70s
17	80s
22	90s
30	2000 or later
4	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

Are you currently enrolled in school?

<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-64</u>	
17	35	6	Yes
2	4	*	in High School
2	3	2	in Technical, trade, or vocational school
11	23	3	in College (Undergraduate)
3	5	1	in Graduate School
83	64	94	No
*	1	0	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

Trends for ages 18-34:

Are you currently enrolled in school?

Mar 2011		Jan 2010	Sep 2006 ²
<u>18-34</u>		<u>18-34</u>	<u>18-34</u>
35	Yes	34	30
4	in High School	5	4
3	in Technical, trade, or vocational school	3	1
23	in College (Undergraduate)	21	20
5	in Graduate School	6	5
83	No	66	70
*	Don't know/Refused (vol.)	0	*

If currently enrolled: How much further in school do you plan to go?

Mar 2011		Jan 2010	Sep 2006 ³
<u>18-34</u>		<u>18-34</u>	<u>18-34</u>
1	Finish high school	2	2
2	Technical, trade, or vocational school	4	3
10	Attend college, no degree or 2 year/associate degree	9	10
31	Attend college, bachelor's degree	31	27
47	Graduate or professional school or degree	48	54
3	No further (vol.)	0	1
1	Other (vol.)	1	1
4	Don't know/Refused (vol.)	4	2

² The 2006 survey only asked 18-39 year olds this question.

³ The 2006 survey only asked 18-39 year olds this question.

If not enrolled: Do you ever plan to return to school?

<u>18-64</u>	<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-64</u>	
39	65	28	Yes
57	31	67	No
4	4	4	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

Trends:

Mar 2011		Jan 2010	Sep 2006 ⁴
<u>18-34</u>		<u>18-34</u>	<u>18-34</u>
39	Yes	60	59
57	No	34	33
4	Don't know/Refused (vol.)	6	7

For ages 18-34 and no bachelor's degree or not enrolled in school: Here are some reasons why people postpone or do not continue their education. For each one, please tell me whether it applies to you or not.

a. You won't need more education for the career you want

34	Yes
65	No
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

b. You can't afford to go on in school

48	Yes
52	No
0	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

c. You would rather work and make money than go to school

57	Yes
41	No
2	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

d. You need to help support your family

67	Yes
33	No
0	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

e. You were not accepted at the schools where you wanted to go

5	Yes
93	No
2	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

⁴ The 2006 survey only asked 18-39 year olds this question.

For all: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: College costs in general are such that most people are able to afford to pay for a college education.

22 Agree
75 Disagree
3 Don't know/Refused (vol.)

Trend for comparison:

Tell me if you agree or disagree with each of these statements... College costs in general are such that most people can afford to pay for a college education.

	<i>Council for Advancement and Support of Education Jun 1991</i>	<i>Council for Advancement and Support of Education Sep 1986</i>	<i>Council for Advancement and Support of Education Sep 1985</i>
Agree	25	32	39
Disagree	73	65	60
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	2	3	1

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: In order to get ahead in life these days, it's necessary for a woman to get a college education.

77 Agree
22 Disagree
2 Don't know/Refused (vol.)

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: In order to get ahead in life these days, it's necessary for a man to get a college education.

68 Agree
31 Disagree
1 Don't know/Refused (vol.)

As you may know, women are more likely than men these days to get a college degree. Overall, do you think this is a good thing for our society, a bad thing for our society, or doesn't it make much difference?

52 Good thing
7 Bad thing
39 Doesn't make much difference
2 Don't know/Refused (vol.)

As you may know, men are less likely than women these days to get a college degree. Overall, do you think this is a good thing for our society, a bad thing for our society, or doesn't it make much difference?

12 Good thing
46 Bad thing
38 Doesn't make much difference
4 Don't know/Refused (vol.)

How would you rate the job the higher education system in this country is doing in terms of providing VALUE for the money spent by students and their families? Would you say...

5 Excellent
35 Good
42 Only fair
15 Or poor
4 Don't know/Refused (vol.)

For 2-year and 4-year college graduates: What about your own experience? Thinking about what you or your family paid for your undergraduate education, would you say that college for you HAS been a good investment, has NOT been a good investment, or are you not sure?

84	Has been a good investment
7	Has not been a good investment
8	Not sure
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

For those enrolled in college: What about you? Thinking about what you or your family are paying for your college education, do you think that college WILL be a good investment, will NOT be a good investment, or are you not sure?

84	Will be a good investment
2	Will not be a good investment
14	Not sure
0	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

Still thinking about college, which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right. The main purpose of college should be ...

39	To help an individual grow personally and intellectually
47	To teach specific skills and knowledge that can be used in the workplace
12	Both equally (vol.)
2	Don't know/Refused(vol.)

In general, who should pay the largest share of a student's college expenses, including tuition and room and board? Should it be... ?

48	Students or their families
12	The state government
18	The federal government OR
5	Private donations and endowments
13	Some combination (vol.)
4	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

For those with any college experience: People often rely on different sources to pay for their education. How did YOU pay for most of your educational expenses/college expenses/undergraduate college expenses? This includes tuition and room and board if you lived away from home. What would you say was the MAIN source?

27	Did your parents pay most of the cost?
28	Did you pay most of the cost yourself using your own income and savings?
17	Did you rely mainly on student loans that you had to pay back later?
22	Did you receive scholarship money or financial aid that covered most of the cost?
1	All sources equal/No main source (vol.)
4	Some other source (vol.)
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

For those currently enrolled in college: People often rely on different sources to pay for their education. How are YOU paying for most of your educational expenses/college expenses? This includes tuition and room and board if you live away from home. What would you say is the MAIN source?

- 12 Are your parents paying most of the cost?
- 17 Are you paying most of the cost yourself using your own income and savings?
- 27 Are you relying mainly on student loans that you will have to pay back later?
- 38 Are you receiving scholarship money or financial aid that covers most of the cost?
- 1 All sources equal/No main source (vol.)
- 5 Some other source (vol.)
- 2 Don't know/Refused (vol.)

If not currently enrolled and took out loans: Do you happen to know approximately how much money you borrowed to finance your undergraduate education? Was it... ?

- 44 Less than \$10,000
- 30 Between \$10,000 and \$20,000
- 11 Between \$20,000 and \$30,000
- 5 Between \$30,000 and \$40,000
- 7 More than \$40,000
- 3 Don't know/Refused (vol.)

If not currently enrolled and took out loans: Have you paid back all the money you owe in undergraduate student loans, or are you still in the process of paying the money back?

- 63 Have paid off loans
- 35 Still paying off loans (includes deferment)
- * Haven't started to pay them off yet (vol.)
- 2 Don't know/Refused (vol.)

If not currently enrolled and took out loans: Did/has having to pay back your student loans affect/ed you in any of the following ways, or not?

a. Did it make/has it made it harder for you to buy a home, or not?

- 25 Yes
- 74 No
- * Don't know/Refused (vol.)

b. Did it cause/has it caused you to delay getting married or starting a family, or not?

- 7 Yes
- 92 No
- 1 Don't know/Refused (vol.)

c. Did it have/has it had an impact on the kind of career you are pursuing, or not?

- 24 Yes
- 76 No
- 1 Don't know/Refused (vol.)

d. Did it make/has it made it harder for you to pay other bills or make ends meet, or not?

- 48 Yes
- 52 No
- * Don't know/Refused (vol.)

Do you have any children under age 18? How many children under age 18 do you have?

33	Yes, have children under age 18
13	One child under 18
20	Two or more children under 18
67	No children under age 18
*	Don't know/Refused

If children under 18: Do you think this child/any of these children will go to college, or not?

94	Yes, at least one child will
4	No
2	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

If yes: I want to ask about saving for your child's/children's college education. Do you have any money saved or invested for your child's/children's college education, or not?

53	Yes
47	No
*	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

For those who have saved or invested: How do you feel about the progress you have made so far in saving for your child's/children's college education? Do you feel you are ahead, behind, or just about where you should be at this point?

11	Ahead
46	Behind
42	Just about right
2	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

If graduated from a 2-year or 4-year college: Thinking about the undergraduate college you graduated from, was it a private college or university or was it a public college or university?

32	Private college/university
66	Public college/university
2	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

If currently enrolled in college: Thinking about the college you attend, is it a private college or university or is it a public college or university?

17	Private college/university
82	Public college/university
*	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

If graduated from a 2-year or 4-year college: What was your major field of study in college?

26	Business
20	Business management/Finance/Marketing/Accounting/Human Resources
3	Communications/Broadcasting
3	Economics
20	Science
13	Life sciences/Health sciences/Medicine
3	Science (unspecified)
2	Natural sciences
1	Agriculture
16	Liberal Arts
4	Art
3	English/Literature
2	Liberal arts/Humanities/General studies
2	Philosophy/Religion/Theology
2	Music
2	Journalism
1	Foreign languages
1	History
12	Social Science/Law
6	Social sciences (unspecified)
5	Psychology/Behavioral science
1	Social work
1	Law
11	Engineering
7	Engineering/drafting
4	Computer and information sciences
1	Mathematics/Statistics
6	Vocational
3	Vocational/Technical
3	Police and protective services/Criminal justice
10	Education
4	Other
2	Don't know/Refused

If currently enrolled in college: What is your major field of study in college?

25	Science
22	Life sciences/Health sciences/Medicine
2	Natural sciences
1	Science (unspecified)
22	Business
19	Business management/Finance/Marketing/Accounting/Human Resources
1	Economics
1	Communications/Broadcasting
13	Social Science/Law
6	Psychology/Behavioral science
4	Social sciences (unspecified)
2	Social work
12	Engineering
7	Computer and information sciences
5	Engineering/drafting
12	Liberal Arts
5	Art
2	Music
2	Architecture
1	Liberal arts/Humanities/General studies
1	Philosophy/Religion/Theology
1	History
7	Vocational
6	Vocational/Technical
1	Police and protective services/Criminal justice
3	Education
9	Other
2	Don't know/Refused

If graduated from a 2-year or 4-year college: How useful was your undergraduate education in ____ : Would you say very useful, fairly useful, not too useful, or not useful at all?

a. Preparing you for a job or career

55	Very useful
32	Fairly useful
9	Not too useful
4	Not at all useful
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

b. Helping you grow and mature as a person

67	Very useful
24	Fairly useful
5	Not too useful
3	Not at all useful
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

c. Increasing your knowledge and helping you to grow intellectually

72	Very useful
23	Fairly useful
3	Not too useful
1	Not at all useful
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

<u>Mar</u> <u>2011</u>		<u>Oct</u> <u>2010</u>
61	Employed	58
45	Full-time	46
16	Part-time	12
40	Not employed	41
29	Not employed	27
10	Retired (vol.)	12
1	Student (vol.)	1
*	Don't know/Refused (vol.)	1

If employed: Overall are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your current job or career? Would you say you are VERY (dis)satisfied or SOMEWHAT (dis)satisfied?

82	Satisfied
45	Very satisfied
37	Somewhat satisfied
17	Dissatisfied
10	Somewhat dissatisfied
7	Very dissatisfied
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

If employed: Still thinking about your current job, would you say you have more qualifications than the job requires, the right amount of qualifications, or only some of the qualifications the job requires?

Mar <u>2011</u>		May <u>2010</u>
40	More	41
50	Right amount	51
9	Only some	7
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)	2

If employed: Generally speaking, would you describe your work as very interesting, fairly interesting, not too interesting or not at all interesting?

52	Very interesting
33	Fairly interesting
9	Not too interesting
5	Not at all interesting
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

If employed: Does your current job require a college degree or not?

28	Yes
71	No
*	Job requires associate's degree (vol.)
*	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

*If no college degree: Just your best guess, if you had a college degree, how much MORE money, if any, do you think you would earn each year?
Would you say...*

16	About \$10,000 more a year
18	\$20,000
12	\$30,000
7	\$40,000
10	\$50,000 or more, OR
26	Do you think you would earn about the same amount of money you are earning now
6	Does not apply (vol.)
*	Other (vol.)
5	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

If 2-year or 4-year college graduate: Just your best guess, if you did NOT have a college degree, how much LESS money, if any, do you think you would earn each year? Would you say...

19	About \$10,000 more a year
21	\$20,000
13	\$30,000
5	\$40,000
8	\$50,000 or more, OR
23	Do you think you would earn about the same amount of money you are earning now
7	Does not apply (vol.)
*	Other (vol.)
4	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

If attended graduate school: Just your best guess, if you had NOT gone to graduate school after college, how much LESS money, if any, do you think you would earn each year? Would you say...

28	About \$10,000 more a year
14	\$20,000
7	\$30,000
6	\$40,000
18	\$50,000 or more, OR
21	Do you think you would earn about the same amount of money you are earning now
1	Does not apply (vol.)
1	Other (vol.)
4	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

If no 2-year or 4-year college degree: Please tell me if either of these things has ever happened to you or not?

a. Have you applied for a job and been turned down because you did not have a college degree, or has this never happened to you?

13	Yes, has happened
87	No, has never happened
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)

b. Have you wanted to apply for a job but didn't because you did not have a college degree, or has this never happened to you?

29	Yes, has happened
70	No, has never happened
1	Don't know/Refused (vol.)