
Highlights from

Beyond the Bachelor's:

*Undergraduate Perspectives on
Graduate and Professional Degrees*



Association of American
Law Schools



GALLUP®

What do today's college students think about graduate and professional school?

At the very time when it could not be more important for the nation for college graduates to earn a graduate or professional degree, *Beyond the Bachelor's: Undergraduate Perspectives on Graduate and Professional Degrees* offers new insight into what college students are thinking about advanced degrees. The findings reported in *Beyond the Bachelor's* provide new answers to old questions about undergraduate views and values from which colleges, universities, researchers, and prospective students can all benefit.

Who are the next generation of graduate and professional students?

Today's potential graduate students are more likely to be women than men. They are more likely to be Asian, Black, and Hispanic than are college students unlikely to pursue an advanced degree. They are also more likely to have at least one parent with an advanced degree than are those unlikely to go to graduate school or those who have never thought about it.

41%

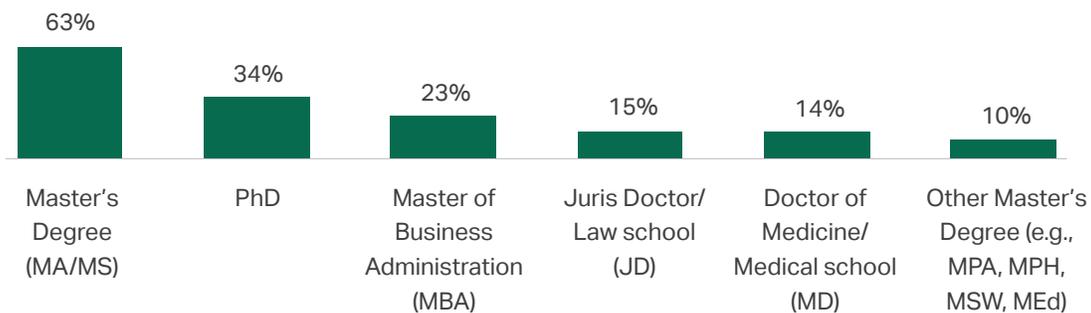
of undergraduates likely to pursue an advanced degree have at least one parent with an advanced degree.

Which degrees are they considering?

34% are considering a PhD. 15% are considering a JD.
23% are considering an MBA. 14% are considering an MD.

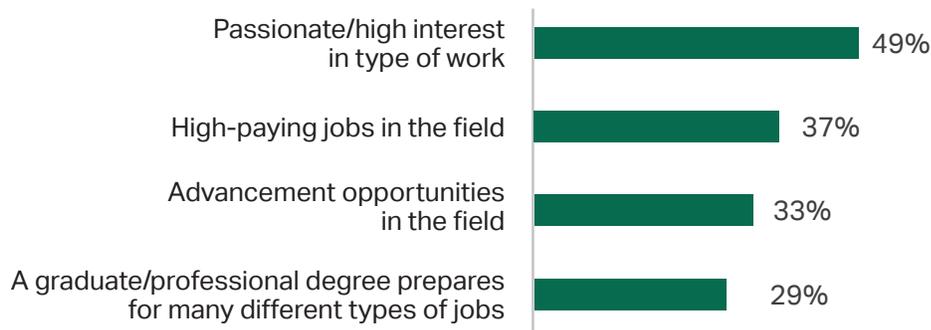
63%

of undergraduates likely to pursue an advanced degree are considering an MA or MS.



Why do undergraduates want to pursue an advanced degree?

Passion for and interest in the work lead the top four reasons for considering a graduate or professional degree among undergraduates likely to pursue an advanced degree.



Who are the most important sources of advice about graduate and professional school?

Family, professors or staff, and advisors/counselors are the most important sources of advice for undergraduates likely to pursue an advanced degree. As the education level attained by their parents increases, so does the likelihood that an undergraduate will report relying on family as an important source of advice. Undergraduates likely to pursue an advanced degree who have at least one parent with an advanced degree are **most likely to report relying on family as a source of advice** about graduate school.



First-generation undergraduates (those whose parents do not have a bachelor's degree) are also the **least likely to report having seen or received information on any graduate and professional degrees**.

About *Beyond the Bachelor's*

Beyond the Bachelor's is the second report using data from the *Before the JD* project—a study based on a national survey conducted by Gallup for the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) to understand student views on law school and other graduate and professional degrees. The project was sponsored by the ABA Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, the AccessLex Institute, the American Bar Foundation, the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), and the National Association for Law Placement (NALP). Fourteen major law firms and four corporate counsel offices provided additional support. The survey produced responses from 22,189 undergraduates at 25 four-year institutions whose students are likely to go on to graduate and professional schools.

About AALS

The Association of American Law Schools (AALS), founded in 1900, is a non-profit association of 179 member and 18 fee-paid law schools. Its members enroll most of the nation's law students and produce the majority of the country's lawyers and judges, as well as many of its lawmakers. The mission of AALS is to uphold and advance excellence in legal education. In support of this mission, AALS promotes the core values of excellence in teaching and scholarship, academic freedom, and diversity, including diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints, while seeking to improve the legal profession, to foster justice, and to serve its many communities—local, national and international.

About LSAC

Law School Admission Council (LSAC) is a nonprofit organization devoted to furthering quality, access, and equity in law and education worldwide by supporting individuals' enrollment journeys and providing pre-eminent assessment, data, and technology services. Annually, LSAC helps over 60,000 law school candidates navigate the admission process, administers the LSAT to 100,000 worldwide test takers, provides the essential admission software and data relied upon by over 220 member law schools, presents dozens of national forums to help candidates and law schools connect, and supports the nation's prelaw network. The LSAT is the premier standardized test of critical reasoning skills that are fundamental for success in law school and in a wide range of careers. LSAC also works actively to increase diversity in the legal profession and to promote public understanding of law as part of its focus on building a strong justice pipeline.

About Gallup

Gallup delivers analytics and advice to help leaders and organizations solve their most pressing problems. Combining more than 80 years of experience with its global reach, Gallup knows more about the attitudes and behaviors of employees, customers, students and citizens than any other organization in the world.

Order Your Copy of *Beyond the Bachelor's Today*

Copies of the full report can be ordered at www.aals.org/research



Order a Copy of *Before the JD Too*

Before the JD is a companion report on undergraduate views on law school. Copies of this report can be ordered at www.aals.org/research

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