2024-2025 CSUSM Exit Survey Results

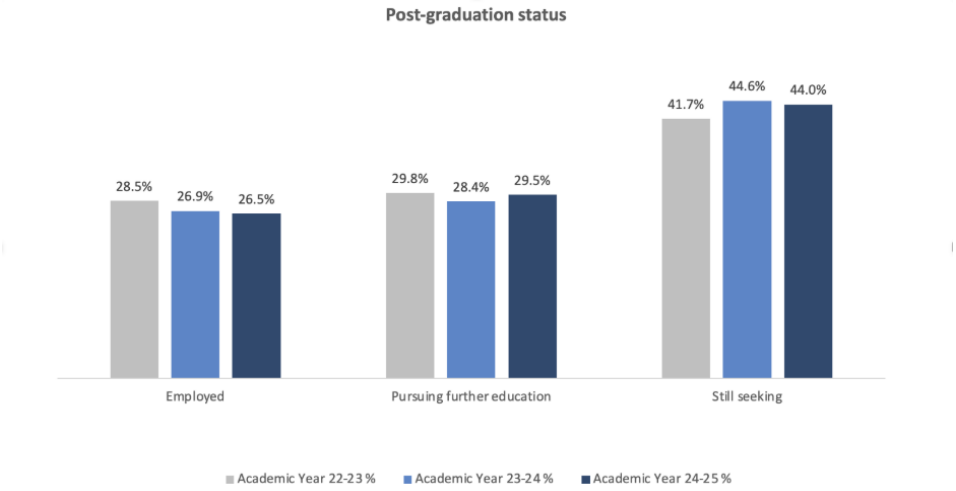
Undergraduate Student Summary

The 2024-25 Exit survey was administered in two waves, in the fall and spring, to all degree-seeking graduating students. For the 2024-25 academic year, a total of 2,503 undergraduate and graduate students responded achieving a 58.1% response rate. This summary report will highlight specific findings in the undergraduate student experience.

Multi-year Findings

Post-graduation plans

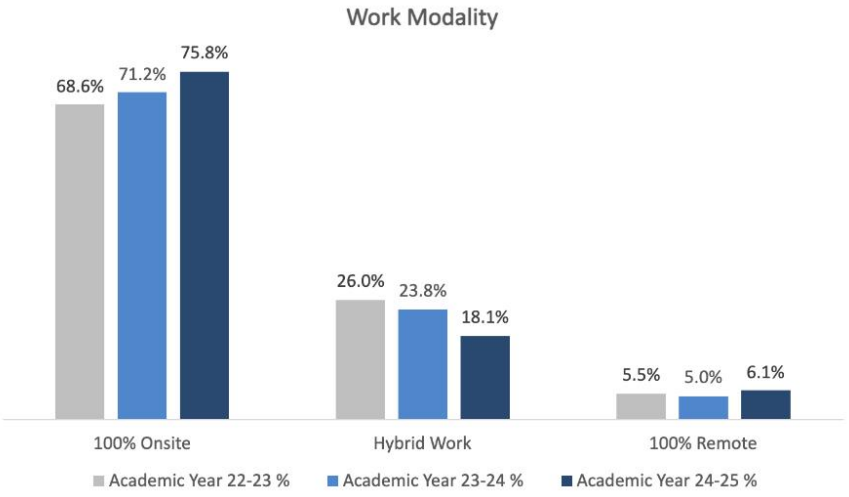
The Exit Survey is strategically administered 2-3 weeks before commencement each semester to allow graduates to report their post graduate plans as accurately as possible. The past three academic years steadily reflect a period of transition for graduating students, as post-graduation outcomes remained largely consistent with previous years although there are some slight shifts in employment trends. The percentage of graduates seeking employment decreased slightly from the prior year, along with those reporting that they are employed. Interestingly, the proportion continuing in pre-existing positions increased, suggesting that more students are maintaining employment established prior to graduation. A decline in those reporting new job offers may indicate a more competitive or delayed hiring landscape. Interest in graduate and professional programs remained steady, with almost one-third of respondents (29.8%) pursuing or planning further education. Overall, the data highlight steady post-graduation patterns at CSUSM, with nuanced changes that align with broader labor market dynamics and student employment behaviors.



Primary Activity Following Graduation	Academic Year 22-23 %	Academic Year 23-24 %	Academic Year 24-25 %
Employed	**28.5%**	**26.9%**	**26.5%**
Continuing to work in a position I held before graduation	17.0%	16.1%	17.6%
Have accepted a new employment offer	8.4%	8.8%	6.6%
Starting my own business	2.0%	1.3%	1.5%
Pursuing or continuing military service	1.1%	0.7%	0.8%
Pursuing further education	**29.8%**	**28.4%**	**29.5%**
Accepted into a graduate, teaching, or professional preparation program	12.4%	11.4%	11.6%
Applying but not yet accepted into a graduate, teaching, or professional preparatio	17.4%	17.0%	17.9%
Seeking employment	**40.3%**	**43.3%**	**42.2%**
Pursuing volunteer service	1.0%	0.8%	1.0%
Not seeking employment or further education	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

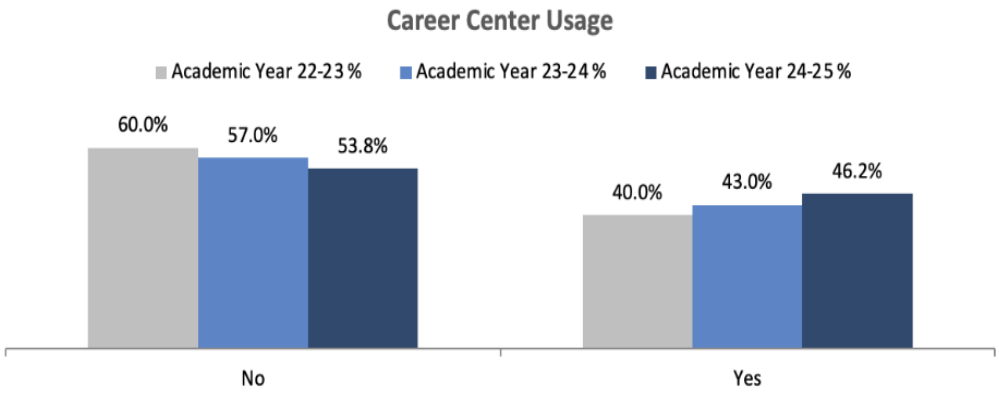
Work Modality

Data regarding work modality was intentionally collected in recent years, as the data provide insight into how graduates are engaging in the evolving job market. Understanding whether graduates are working onsite, hybrid, or fully remote sheds light on employment trends and how well students are adapting to post-pandemic workforce expectations. The most recent academic year, 2024-25, shows a continued shift toward onsite work among graduates who are employed, with 75.8% reporting a *100% Onsite* position, the highest proportion in three years. Hybrid work arrangements declined steadily from 26.0% in 2022-23 to 18.1% in 2024-25, reflecting a broader return to traditional in-person workplace settings. Fully remote roles remained relatively stable, accounting for 5-6% of respondents across all years with a very slight increase in 2024-25. The survey results suggest a clear movement away from hybrid flexibility toward predominantly onsite employment among recent graduates. This may also correlate with the type of positions held or industry sectors for recent graduates.



Career Center Usage

The 2024-25 academic year reflected a continued increase in Career Center engagement among graduates, with 46.2% reporting that they used Career Center services, the highest rate in three years. This steady rise from 40.0% in academic year 2022-23 suggests growing awareness and utilization of career development resources. This increase indicates progress in connecting more students with support for career readiness, job search strategies, and post-graduation planning.



2024-25 New & Expanded Survey Questions

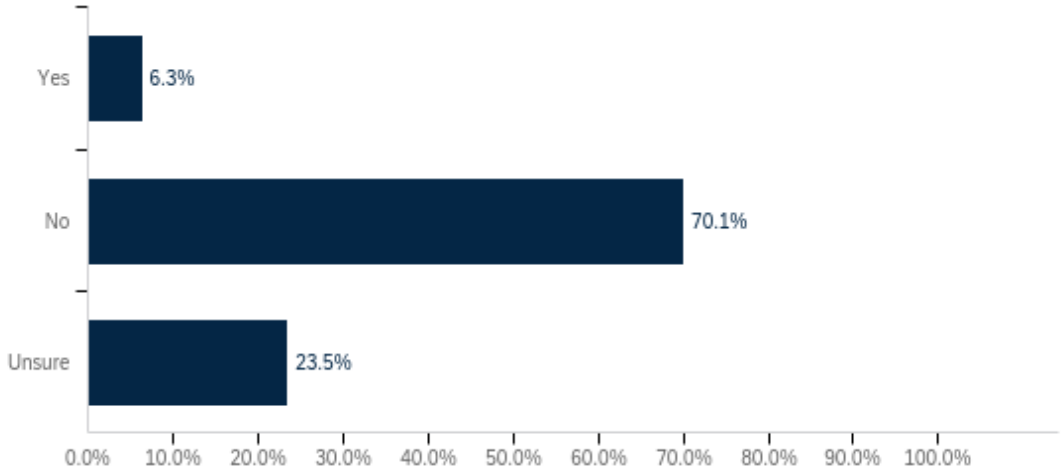
The 2024-25 academic year marked new challenges to the field of higher education and an opportunity to capture data on emerging issues. Adding survey questions around higher education funding and how it may have affected graduate school admissions, as well as internship participation and student preparedness for the job market, helped to ensure that data collected from the Exit Survey remains relevant and reflects the realities that CSUSM's graduates are facing.

The following questions were added to the survey administered to Spring and Summer 2025 graduates. When interpreting the results, it should be noted that these questions were introduced in the later part of the academic year, so only students who applied to graduate in the spring or summer were given the opportunity to respond.

Impact on Graduate School

Understanding that some U.S. graduate student admissions processes have been impacted by federal funding uncertainties, we hoped to understand the potential impact on CSUSM students. While only a small number of respondents who indicated they had *been accepted* or were *applying to graduate school* (6.3%) reported that their offers were impacted, almost a quarter (23.5%) said that they were *unsure*. This suggests that students did not know the outcome of their graduation applications at the time of taking this survey. Perhaps unsurprisingly, respondents who had applied but not yet been accepted to graduate school were more likely to be unsure.

*Have you had any graduate school acceptances that were negatively impacted? This could include a university revoking or withdrawing an initial offer of admission, paused admission, reduced funding offers, etc.**



Answer	%	Count
Yes	6.3%	28
No	70.1%	310
Unsure	23.5%	104
Total	100%	442

*Question shown only to respondents who indicated that they were accepted or applying to graduate school.

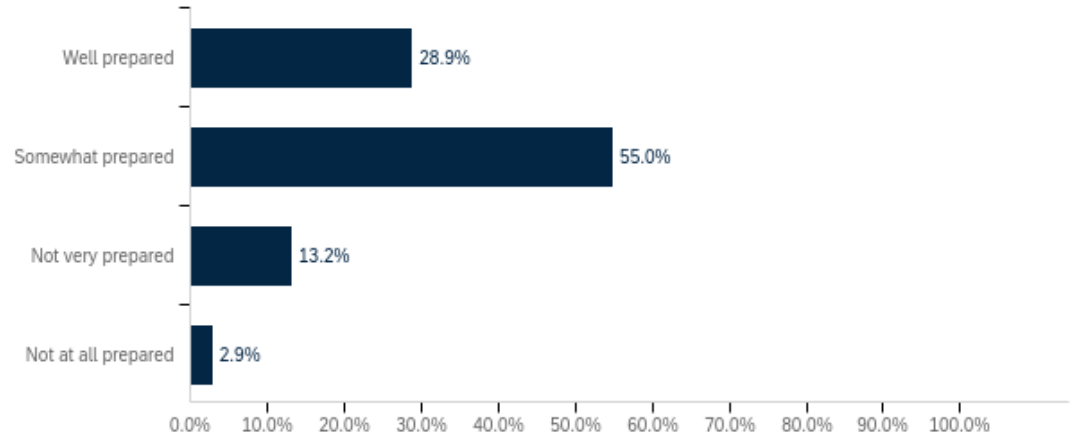
Impact by Students who were Accepted vs. Applying

Question	Accepted into a graduate, teaching, or professional preparation program		Applying but not yet accepted into a graduate, teaching, or professional preparation program	
Yes	10.6%	23	2.2%	5
No	74.1%	160	66.4%	150
Unsure	15.3%	33	31.4%	71
Total	Total	216	Total	226

Job Market Preparedness

Considering the national conversation about a challenging job market, a question was created to gauge how prepared respondents felt when navigating the labor market after graduating. A majority of graduates (83.9%) indicated they felt either *well prepared* or *somewhat prepared* for the future. Further exploration by college revealed that COBA and CEHHS students reported the highest rates of perceived preparedness.

How prepared do you feel to navigate the job market?



Answer	%	Count
Well prepared	28.9%	409
Somewhat prepared	55.0%	778
Not very prepared	13.2%	187
Not at all prepared	2.9%	41
Total	100%	1415

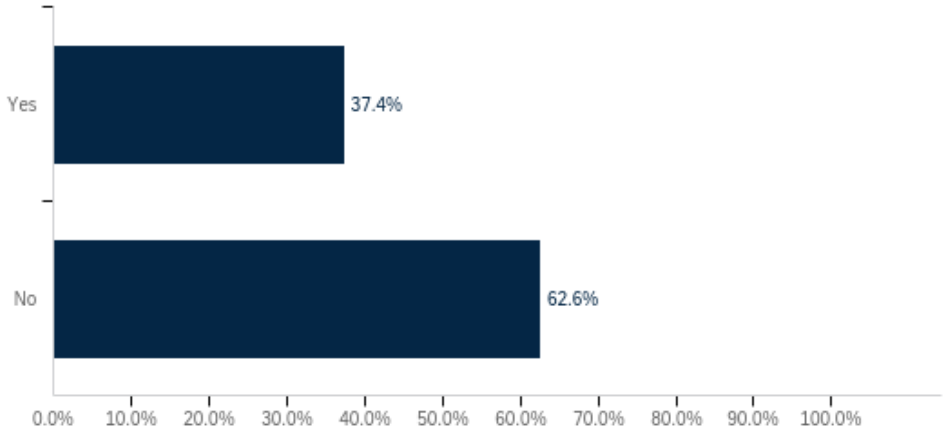
Student Feelings of Preparedness to Navigate the Job Market, by College of Primary Major

Question	CHABSS		CEHHS		COBA		CSTEM	
Well prepared	26.0%	164	33.9%	99	35.0%	85	24.5%	61
Somewhat prepared	54.5%	344	52.1%	152	56.8%	138	57.8%	144
Not very prepared	16.0%	101	12.0%	35	7.0%	17	13.7%	34
Not at all prepared	3.5%	22	2.1%	6	1.2%	3	4.0%	10
Total	Total	631	Total	292	Total	243	Total	249

Expanded Question: Internship Participation

A standalone internship question was reintroduced this year to understand students' involvement with internships during their time at CSUSM. While over one third of participants (37.4%) self-reported that they participated in an internship, this still remains an area of opportunity for CSUSM with 62.6% stating that they did not do an internship.

Did you participate in an internship while at CSUSM?



Additional analysis by college showed that CEHHS respondents reported the highest internship participation, with 71.6% completing an internship consistent with the college's emphasis on applied and field-based learning. COBA students followed, with 37.2% of students participating in internships.

Self-reported Internship Participation by College of Student's Primary Major

Question	Yes		No		Total
CHABSS	26.7%	259	73.3%	712	971
CEHHS	71.6%	277	28.4%	110	387
COBA	37.2%	139	62.8%	235	374
CSTEM	29.0%	97	71.0%	237	334

Internship by Preparedness Question	Yes (I did participate)		No (I did not participate)	
Well prepared	31.8%	172	27.1%	235
Somewhat prepared	54.0%	292	55.7%	483
Not very prepared	11.8%	64	14.2%	123
Not at all prepared	2.4%	13	3.0%	26
Total	Total	541	Total	867