

Summary Results from VSU 1 Year Out and 5 Years Out Alumni Surveys



Strategic Research and Analysis

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VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTRODUCTION

This report is a summary of the perceptions of two groups of alumni who graduated: those who graduated one year ago and those that graduated five years ago. Surveys were sent to students who graduated during the academic year 2007-2008 (Fall 2007, Spring 2008, and Summer 2008) for the one year out population and those who graduated during academic year 2003-2004 (Fall 2003, Spring 2004, and Summer 2004) for the five year out population. Surveys were mailed to alumni at the address on file with Alumni Relations. Response rates were 8.1% for the one year population and 8.3% for the five year out population.

It is anticipated that these results will be used by colleges and departments as one indicator of the effectiveness of the University's programs and services.

Data analysis and creation of the report were completed by Jessica T. McCorkel, Institutional Research Analyst and Natalie Villa, Graduate Assistant.

We invite you to explore the results shown on the following pages and welcome any comments and suggestions for future analyses.

Kristina M. Cragg, Ph.D.

Assistant to the President for Strategic Research and Analysis

HIGHLIGHT OF RESULTS**1 Year Out Alumni**

94.5% said they would recommend VSU to others.

94.5% said they are proud to be a VSU graduate.

93.2% felt very or somewhat prepared to contribute professionally to their discipline.

90.9% believe that given the cost of their education and the investment of time and effort, the value of their education at VSU was good or excellent.

68.5% have visited VSU since graduation.

67.3% reported they would choose to attend VSU again if they started college over.

62.0% believe the academic reputation of VSU is improving.

59.5% were employed in less than 2 months after graduating.

54.4% of respondents have an annual full-time salary between \$20,001 and \$40,000.

5 Years Out Alumni

92.8% said they would recommend VSU to others.

92.7% believe that given the cost of their education and the investment of time and effort, the value of their education at VSU was good or excellent.

91.6% said they are proud to be a VSU graduate.

89.7% felt very or somewhat prepared to contribute professionally to their discipline.

77.1% reported they would choose to attend VSU again if they started college over.

63.8% believe the academic reputation of VSU is improving.

62.7% have visited VSU since graduation.

57.2% were employed in less than 2 months after graduating.

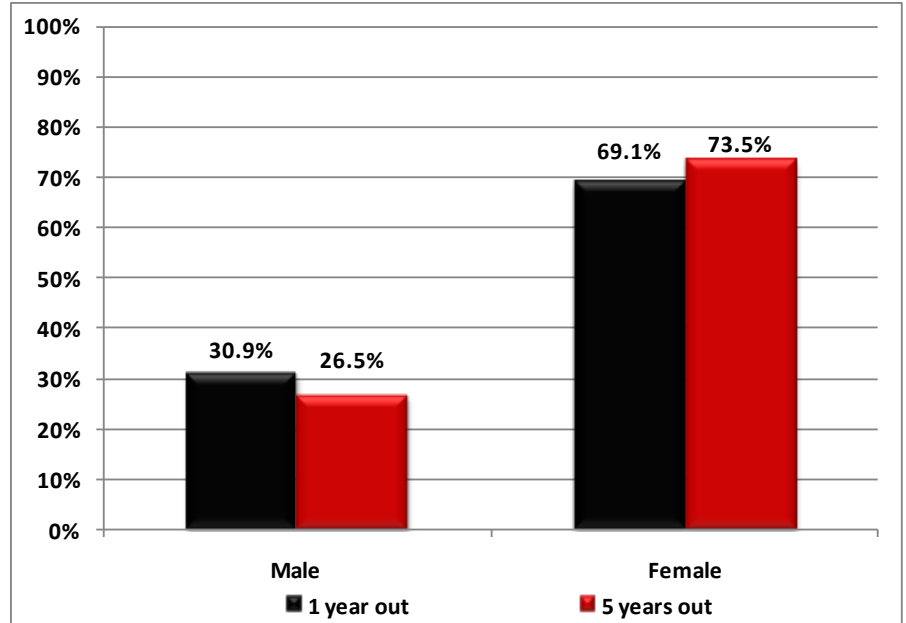
47.4% of respondents have an annual full-time salary between \$40,001 and \$70,000.

Description of the Responding Alumni

Number of Respondents: 1 year out: 110 respondents; 5 years out: 83 respondents
 (All percentages are based on valid responses. Not all respondents answered every question.)

BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

EXHIBIT 1: Gender

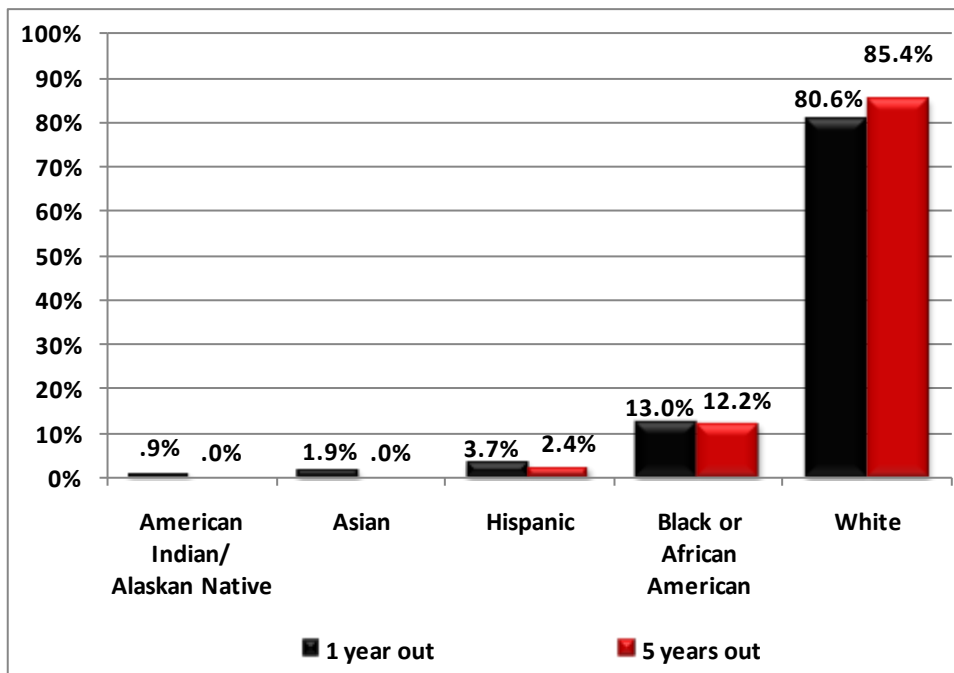


Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

All Respondents:

- 71.0% of the respondents were female.
- 29.0% of the respondents were male.

EXHIBIT 2: Race/Ethnicity



1 Year Out Alumni:

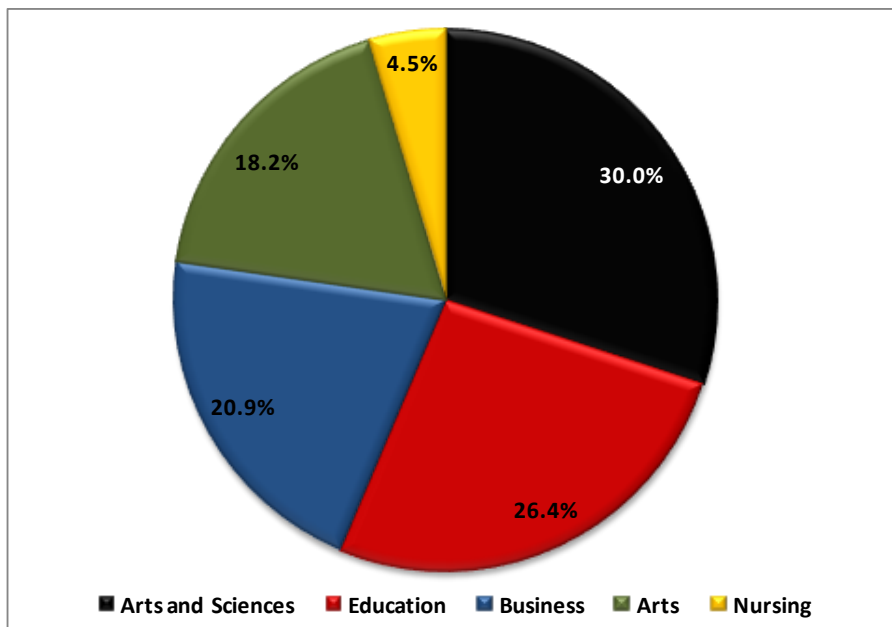
- 80.6% were White
- 13.0% were Black or African American
- 3.7% were Hispanic
- 1.9% were Asian
- 0.9% were American Indian/Alaskan Native

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 85.4% were White
- 12.2% were Black or African American
- 2.4% were Hispanic

Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 3: College of Major – 1 Year Out



1 Year Out Alumni by College:

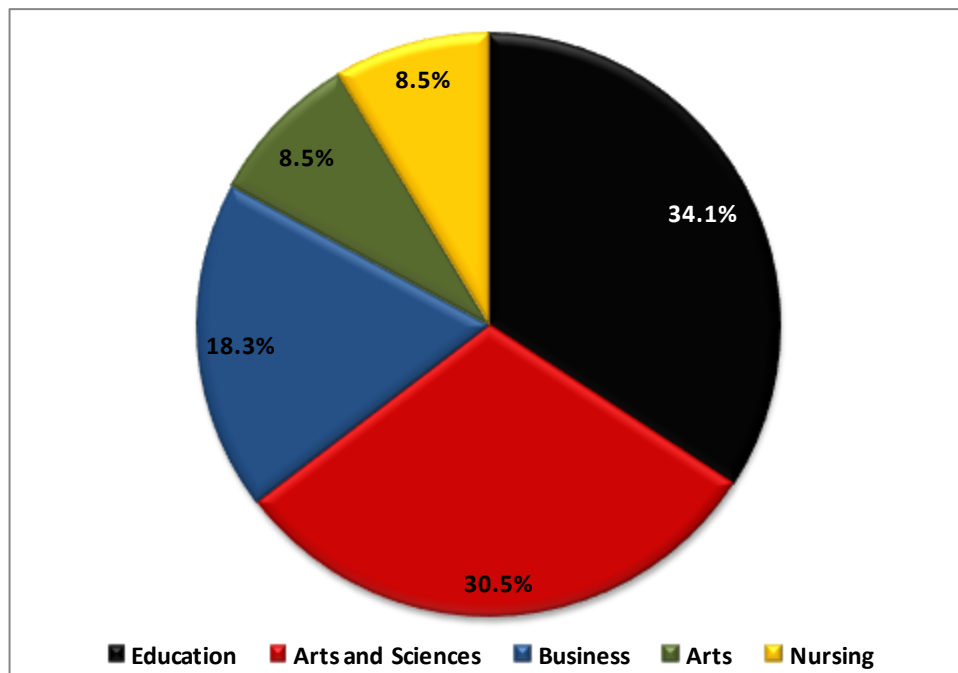
- College of Arts and Sciences, 30.0%
- College of Education, 26.4%
- College of Business, 20.9%
- College of The Arts, 18.2%
- College of Nursing, 4.5%

Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 4: College of Major – 5 Years Out

5 Year Out Alumni by College:

- College of Education, 34.1%
- College of Arts and Sciences, 30.5%
- College of Business, 18.3%
- College of The Arts, 8.5%
- College of Nursing, 8.5%



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EMPLOYMENT AFTER GRADUATION

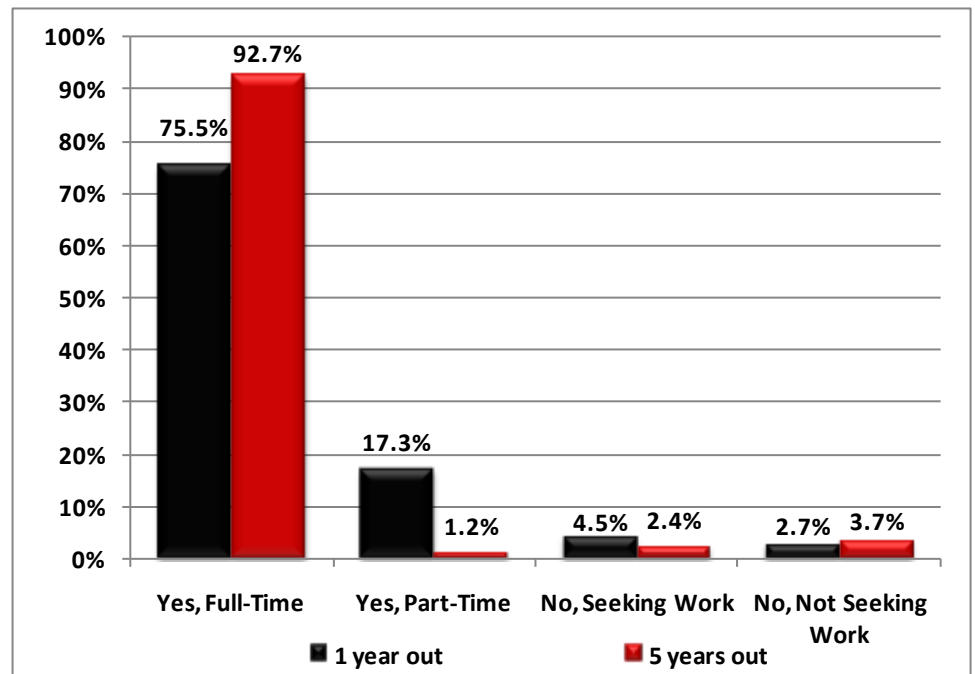
EXHIBIT 5: Are you currently employed?

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 92.8% are employed either full-time or part-time.

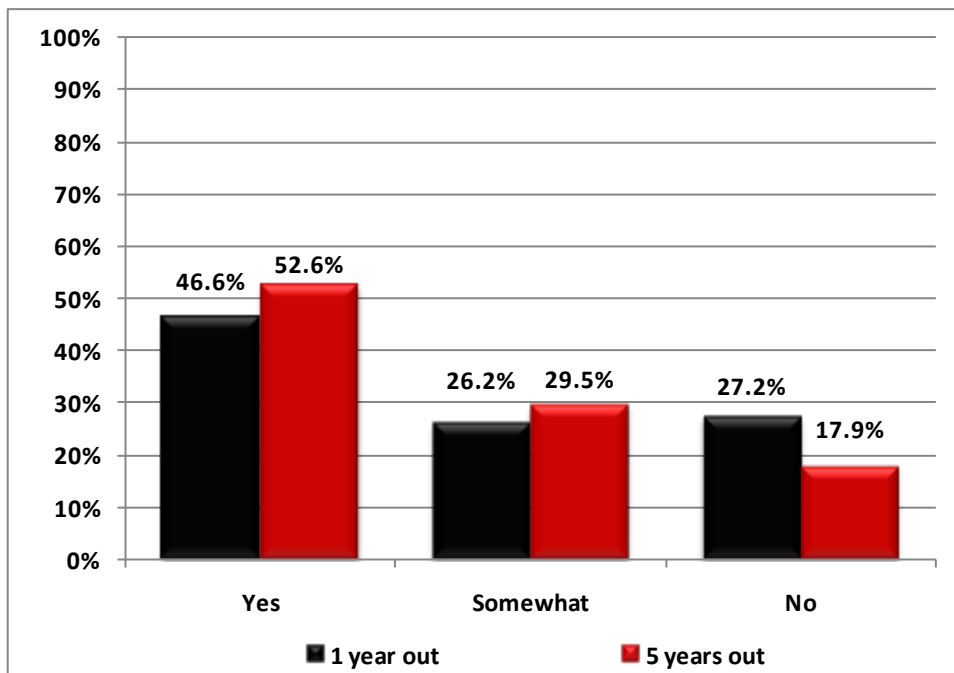
5 Year Out Alumni:

- 93.9% are employed either full-time or part-time.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 6: Is your current employment directly related to your major?



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

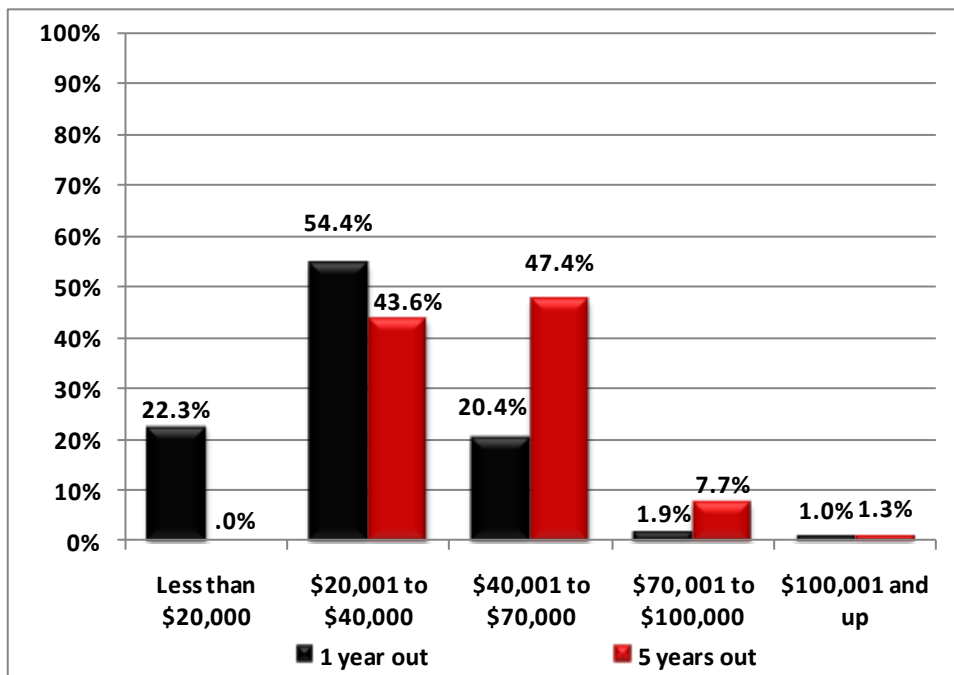
1 Year Out Alumni:

- The highest percentage (46.6%) of respondents say their current job is related to their major.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- The majority (52.6%) of respondents say their current job is related to their major.

EXHIBIT 7: What is your annual full-time salary?



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

1 Year Out Alumni:

- The majority (54.4%) of the respondents have an annual full-time salary between \$20,001 and \$40,000.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- The highest percentage (47.4%) of respondents have an annual full-time salary between \$40,001 and \$70,000.

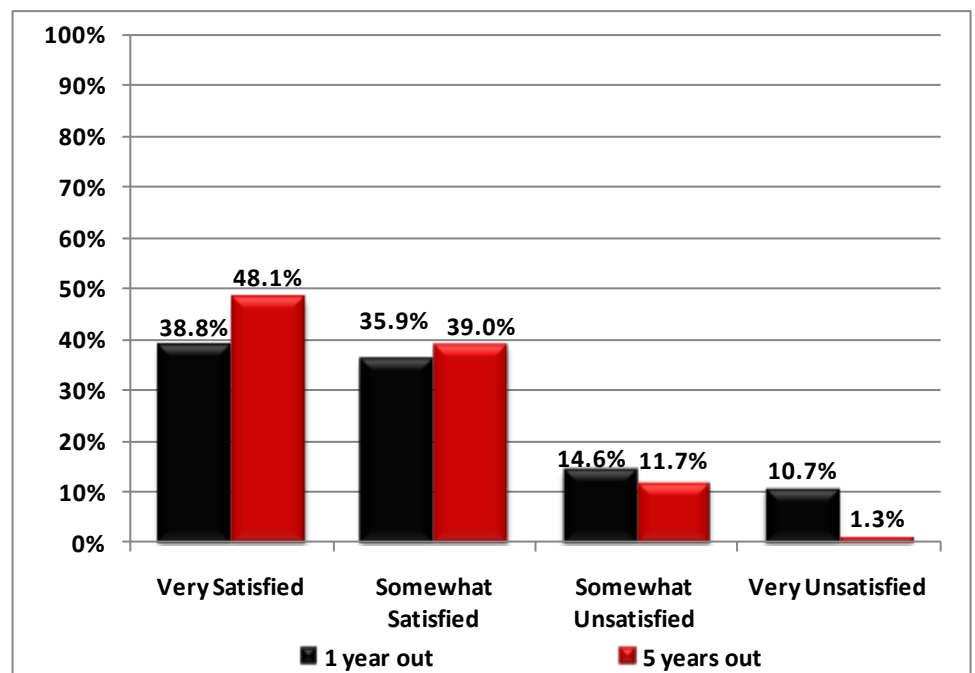
EXHIBIT 8: How satisfied are you with your current job?

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 74.7% reported being somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with their current job.

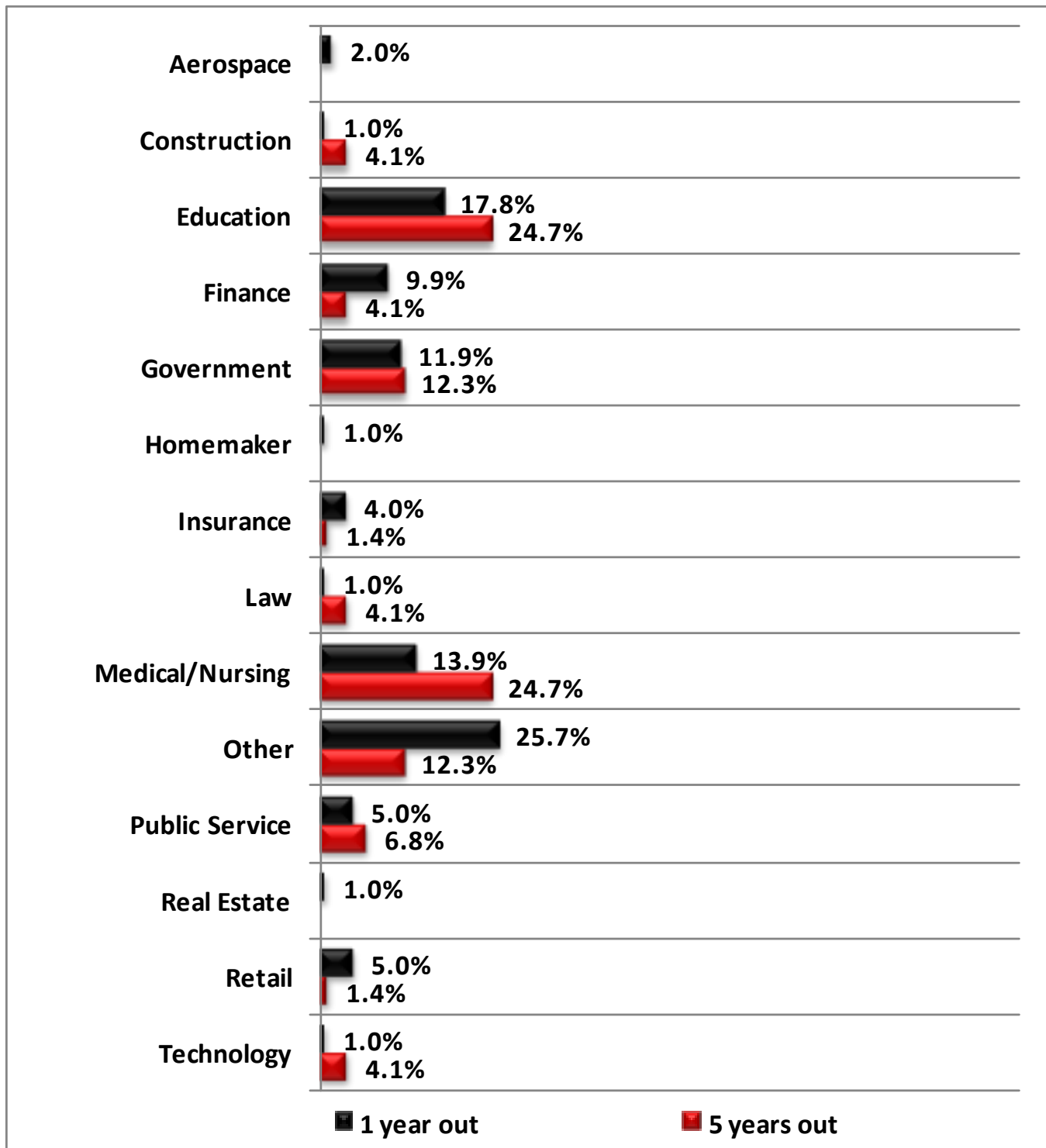
5 Year Out Alumni:

- 87.1% reported being somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with their current job.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 9: What is your current field of employment?



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

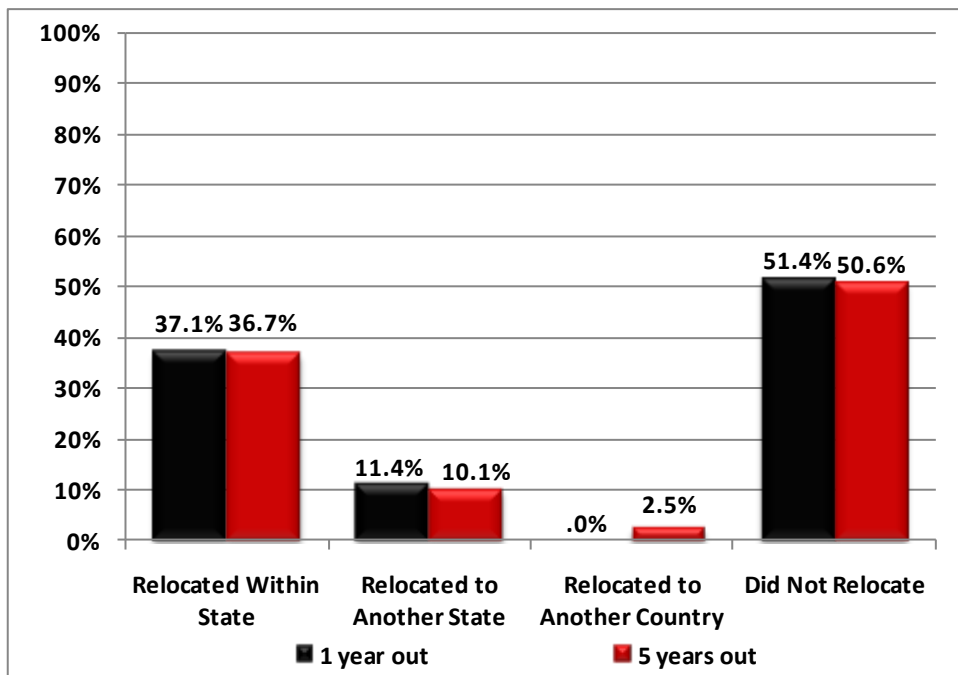
1 Year Out Alumni:

- 25.7% of respondents are employed in a sector that is not classified (Other).

5 Year Out Alumni:

- Each field, Education and Medical/Nursing, are comprised of 24.7% of the respondents.

EXHIBIT 10: Was it necessary for you to relocate for your first job after graduation?



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 48.5% relocated for their first job after graduation.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 49.3% relocated for their first job after graduation.

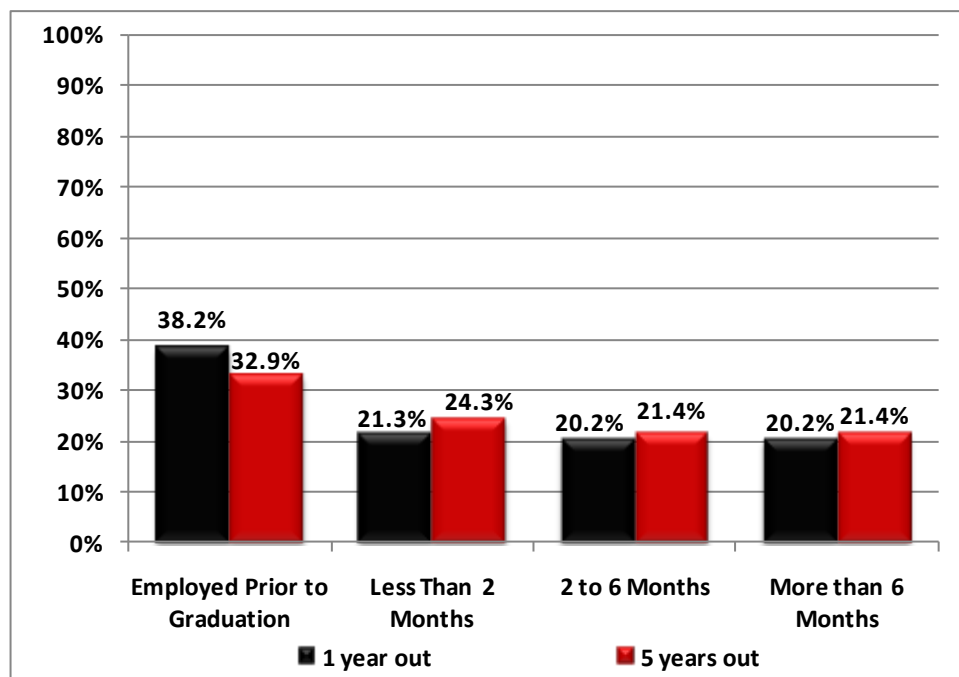
EXHIBIT 11: How long did it take you to get your first full-time permanent job after completing your bachelor’s degree?

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 59.5% were employed in less than 2 months after graduating.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 57.2% were employed in less than 2 months after graduating.

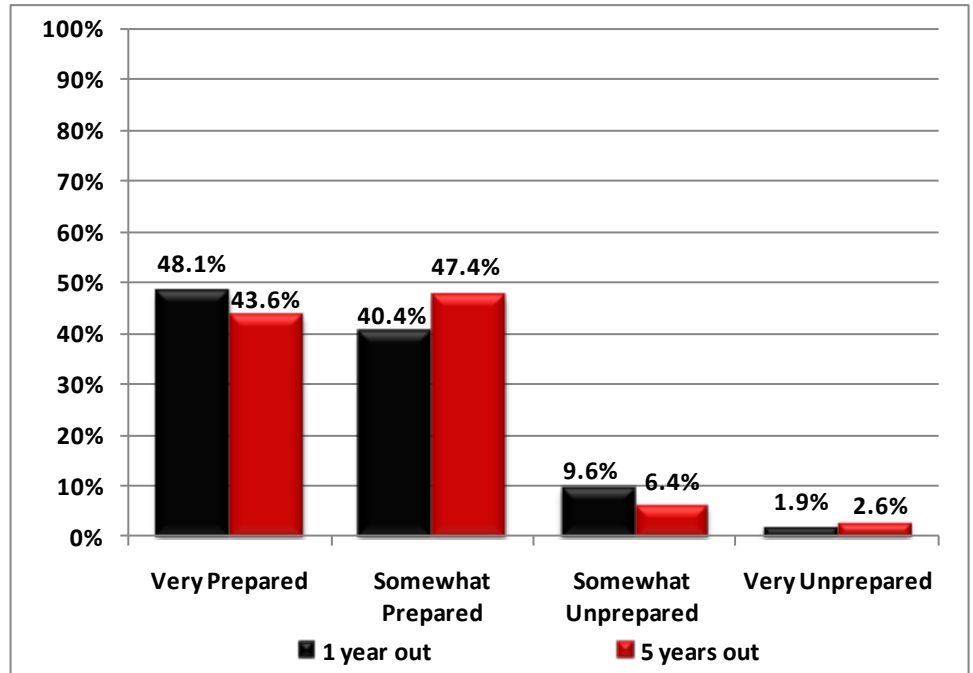


Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 12: Rate your overall professional preparation at VSU to practice professionally within your discipline.

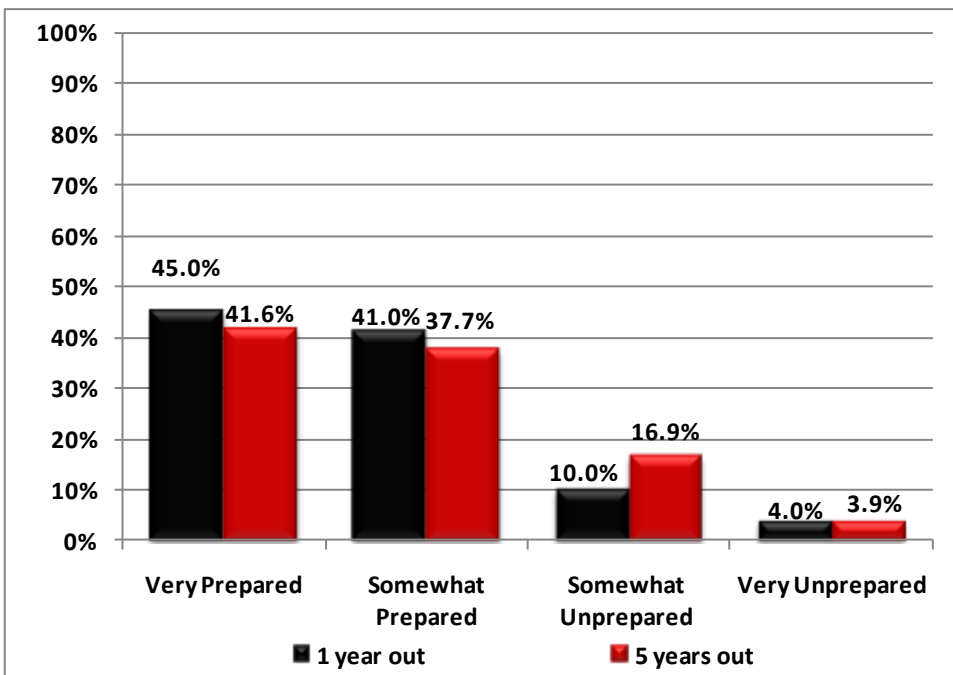
1 and 5 Year Out Alumni:

- Over 85% of both groups of alumni said they were somewhat prepared or very prepared to practice professionally within their discipline.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 13: Rate your overall professional preparation at VSU to interview and obtain your first job after graduation.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

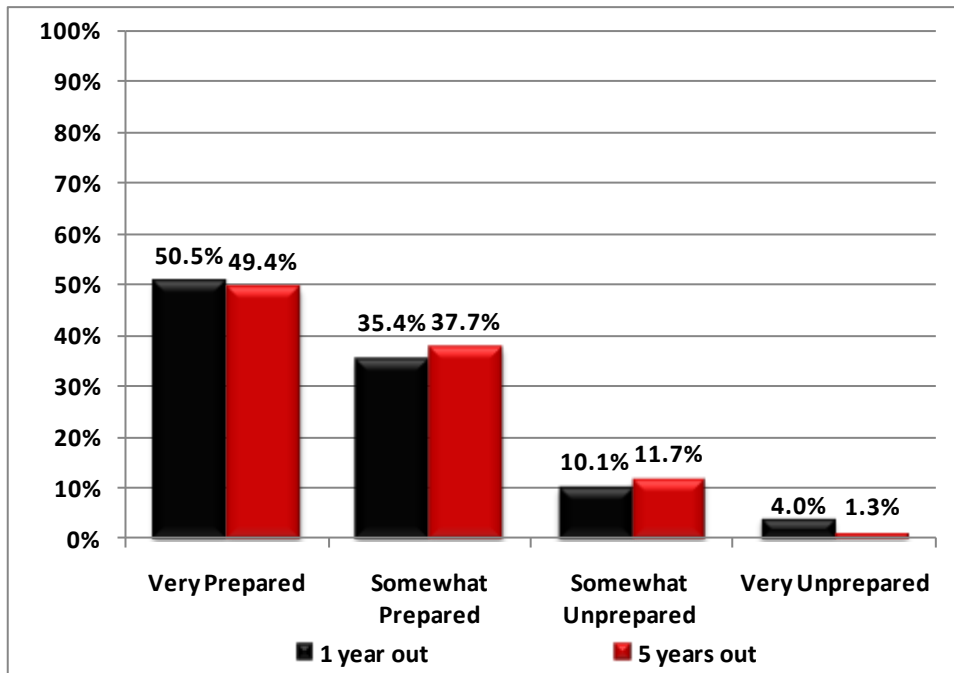
1 Year Out Alumni:

- The highest percentage of alumni (45.0%) felt very prepared to interview and obtain their first job after graduation.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- The highest percentage of alumni (41.6%) felt very prepared to interview and obtain their first job after graduation.

EXHIBIT 14: Rate your overall professional preparation at VSU to enter the workforce after graduation.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

1 and 5 Year Out Alumni:

- Over 85% of both groups of alumni said they were somewhat prepared or very prepared to enter the work force after graduation.

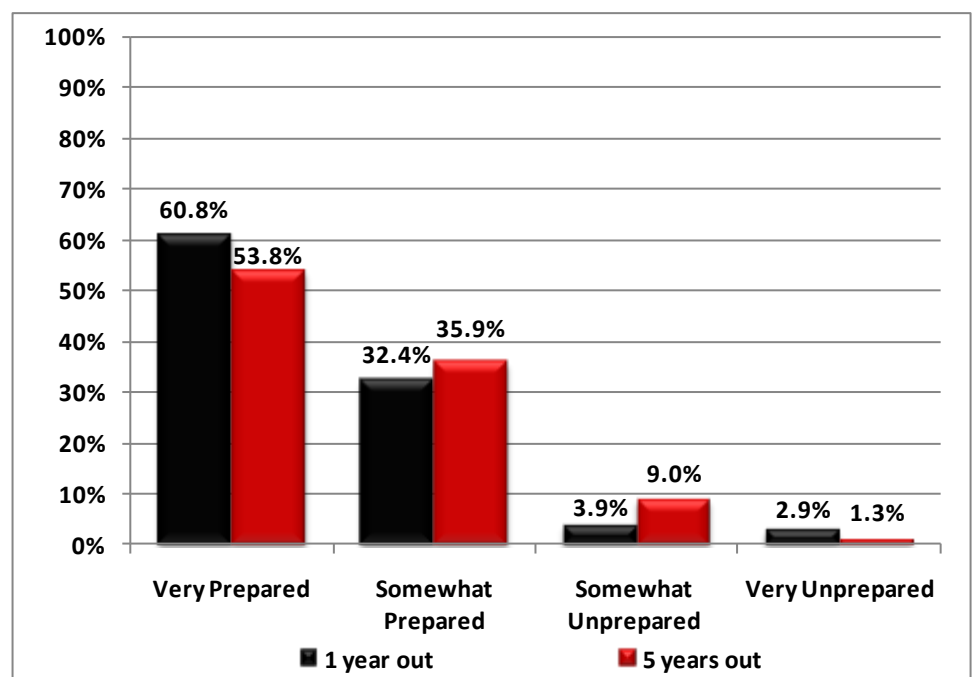
EXHIBIT 15: Rate your overall professional preparation at VSU to contribute professionally in your discipline.

1 Year Out Alumni:

- The majority (60.8%) felt very prepared to contribute professionally to their discipline.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- The majority (53.8%) felt very prepared to contribute professionally to their discipline.

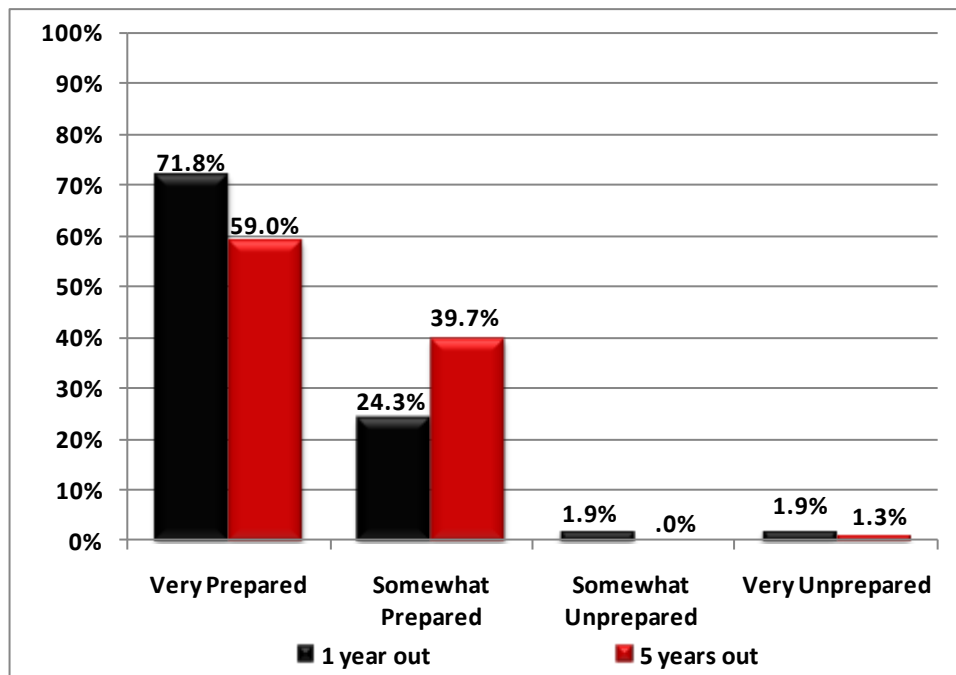


Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 16: Rate your overall professional preparation at VSU to contribute to society as a person.

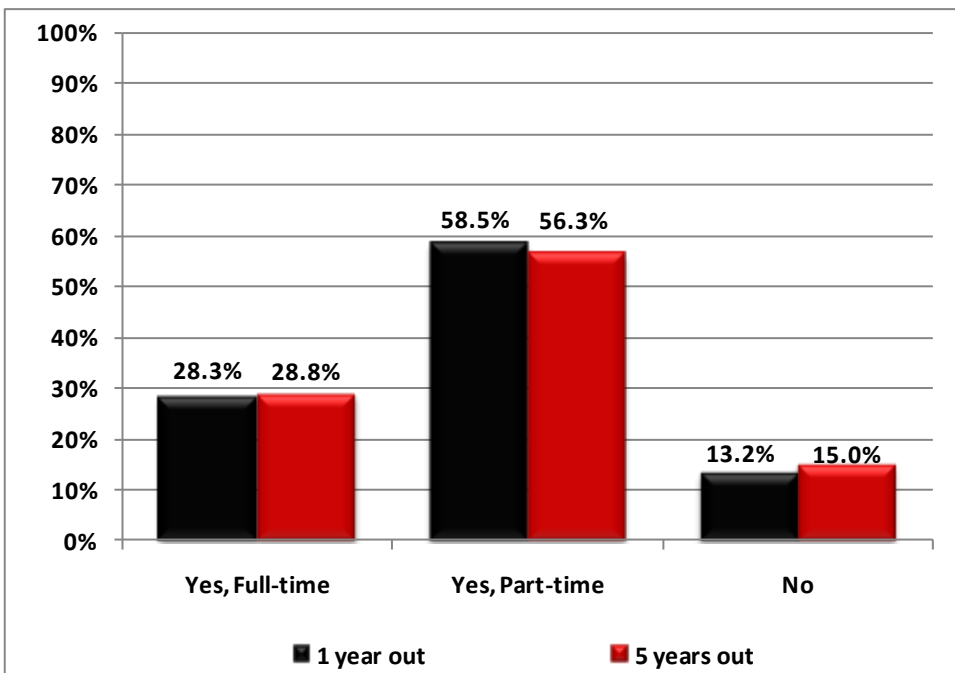
1 and 5 Year Out Alumni:

- Over 95% of both groups of alumni said they were somewhat prepared or very prepared professionally to contribute to society as a person.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 17: Did you work during college?



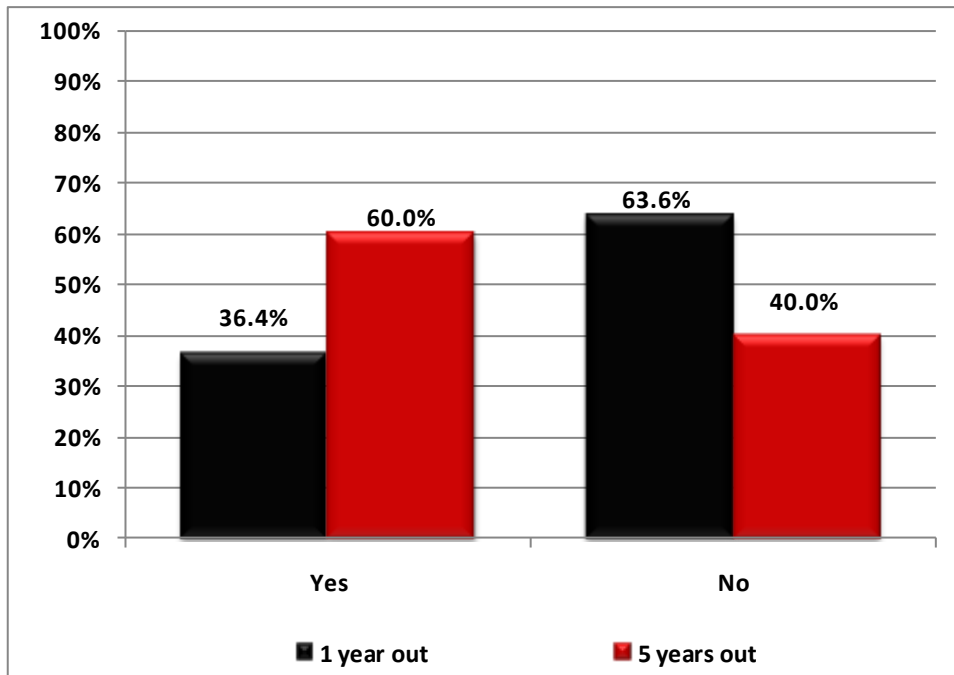
Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

1 and 5 Year Out Alumni:

- Over 50% of both groups of alumni worked part-time during college.

GRADUATE STUDY

EXHIBIT 18: Have you enrolled in a degree program since graduation from VSU?



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

1 Year Out Alumni:

- The majority (63.6%) did not enroll in a degree program after graduating from VSU.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- The majority (60.0%) enrolled in a degree program after graduating from VSU.

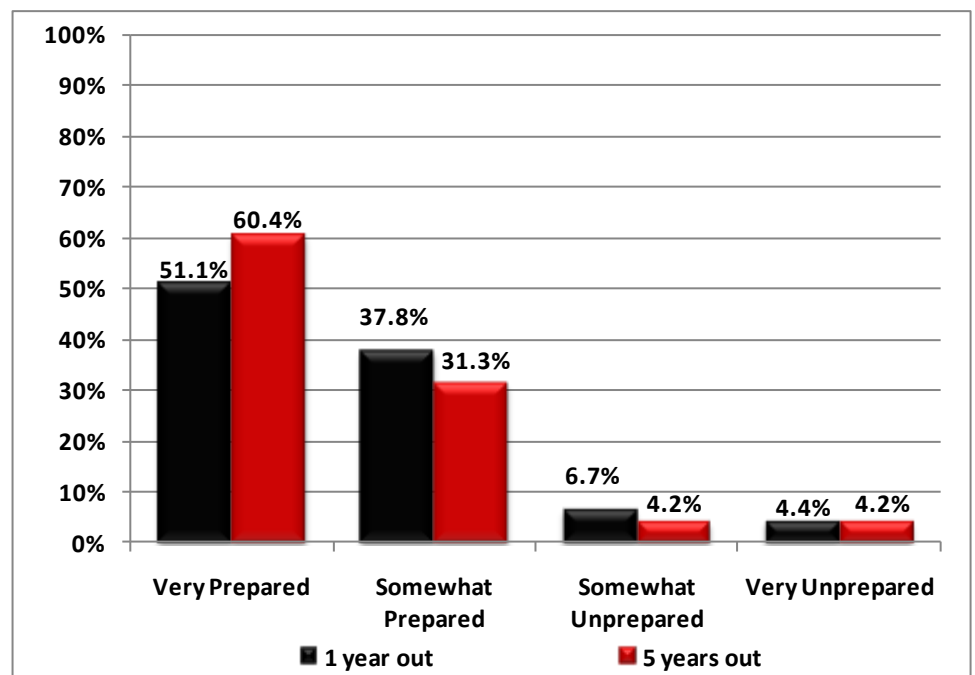
EXHIBIT 19: Based on your undergraduate experience at VSU, how prepared were you for graduate or professional school?

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 88.9% felt somewhat prepared or very prepared for graduate or professional school.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 91.7% felt somewhat prepared or very prepared for graduate or professional school.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS OF VSU

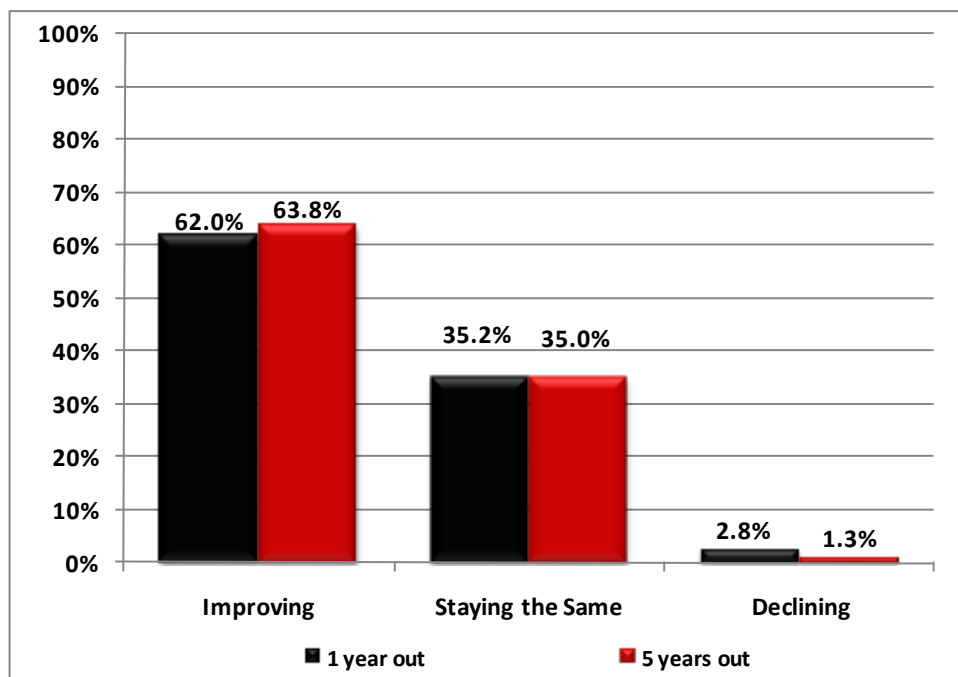
EXHIBIT 20: In my opinion, VSU’s academic reputation is...

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 62% believe the academic reputation of VSU is improving.

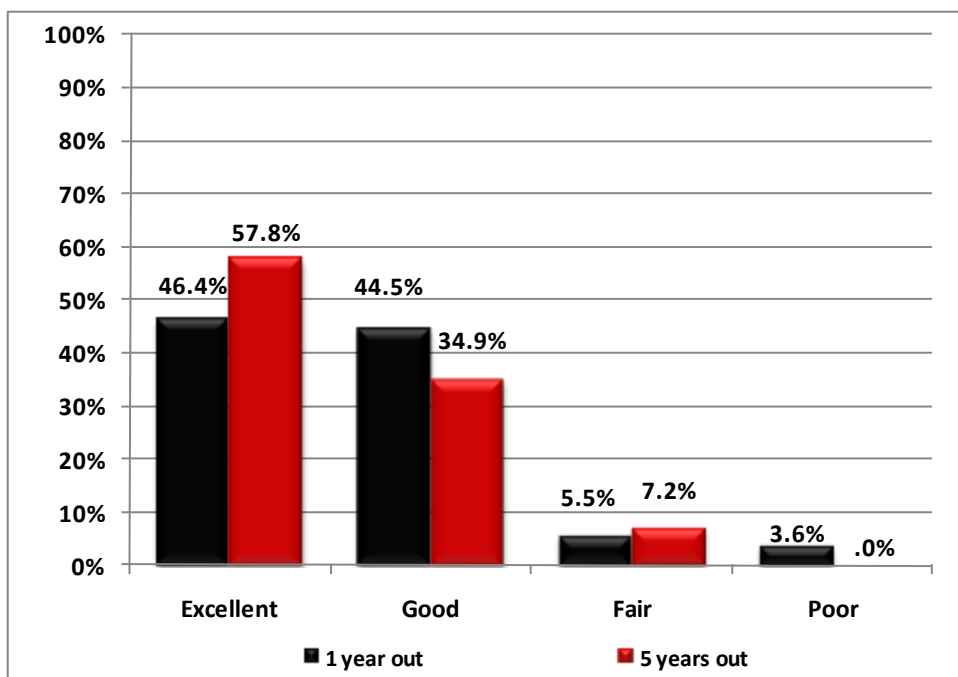
5 Year Out Alumni:

- 63.8% believe the academic reputation of VSU is improving.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 21: Given the cost of education and your investment of time and effort, how would you rate the value of your education?

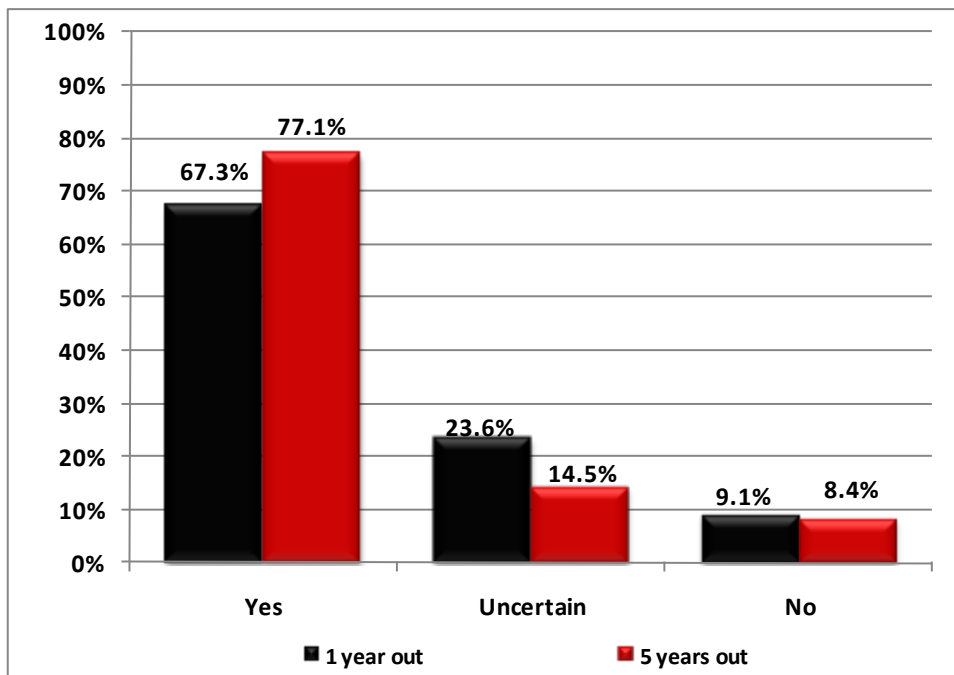


1 and 5 Year Out Alumni:

- Over 90.0% of both groups reported the value of their education as good or excellent.

Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 22: If you started college again, would you choose to attend VSU?



1 Year Out Alumni:

- 67.3% reported they would choose to attend VSU again if they started college over.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 77.1% reported they would choose to attend VSU again if they started college over.

Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

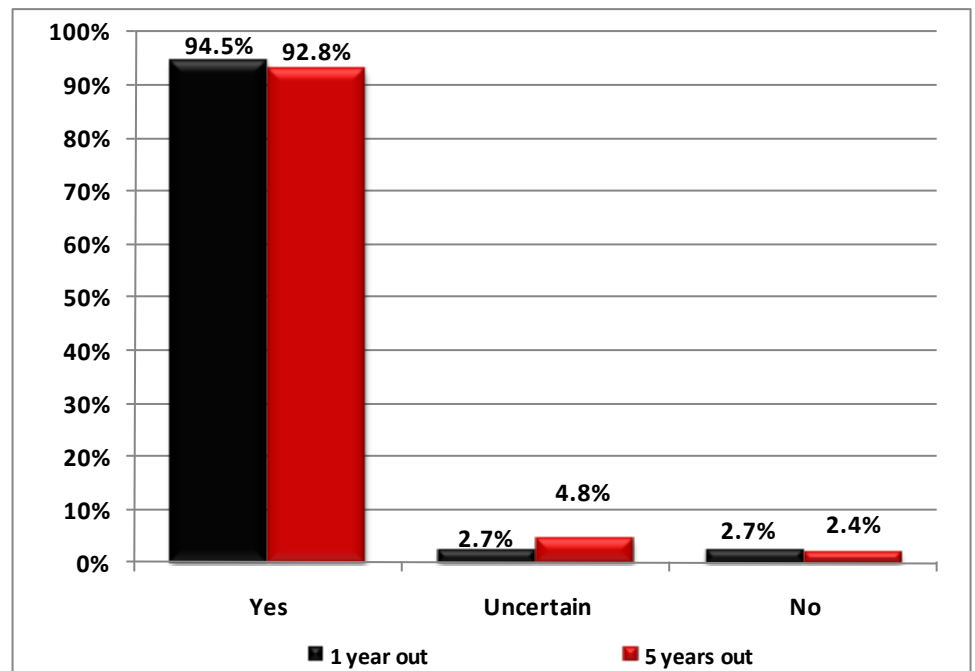
EXHIBIT 23: Would you recommend VSU to others?

1 Year Out Alumni:

- The majority (94.5%) said they would recommend VSU to others.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- The majority (92.8%) said they would recommend VSU to others.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

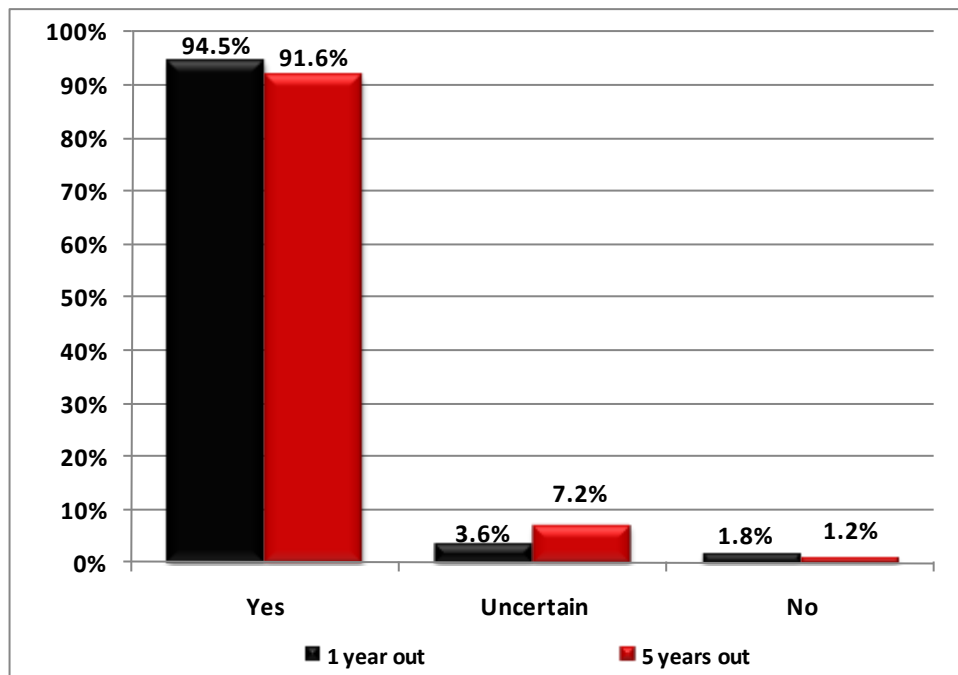
EXHIBIT 24: I am proud to be a VSU graduate.

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 94.5% said they are proud to be a VSU Graduate.

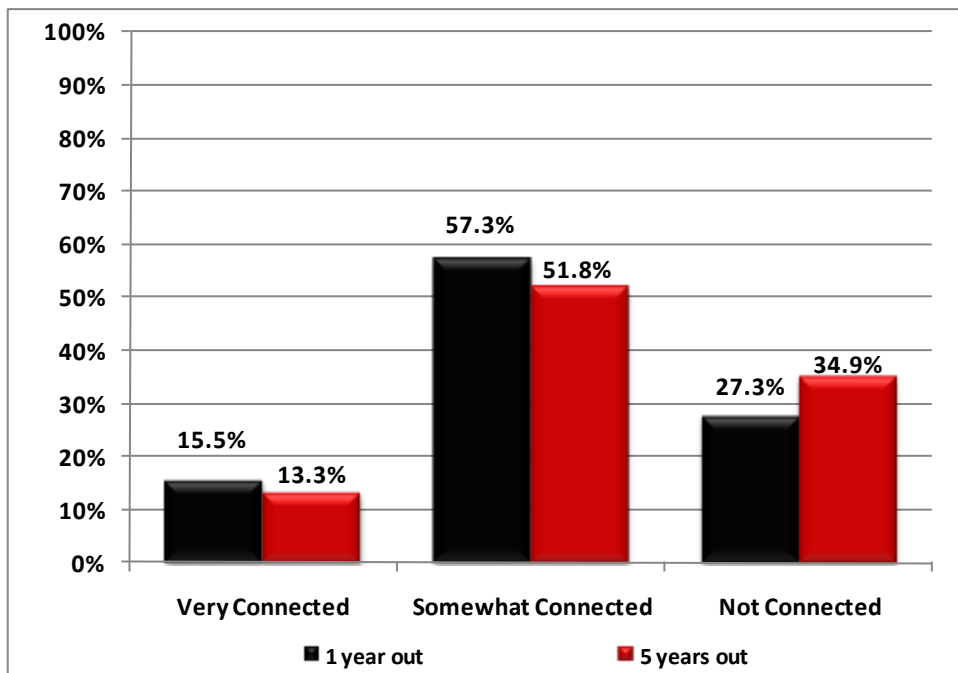
5 Year Out Alumni:

- 91.6% said they are proud to be a VSU Graduate.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 25: How connected do you feel to VSU as an alumnus?



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

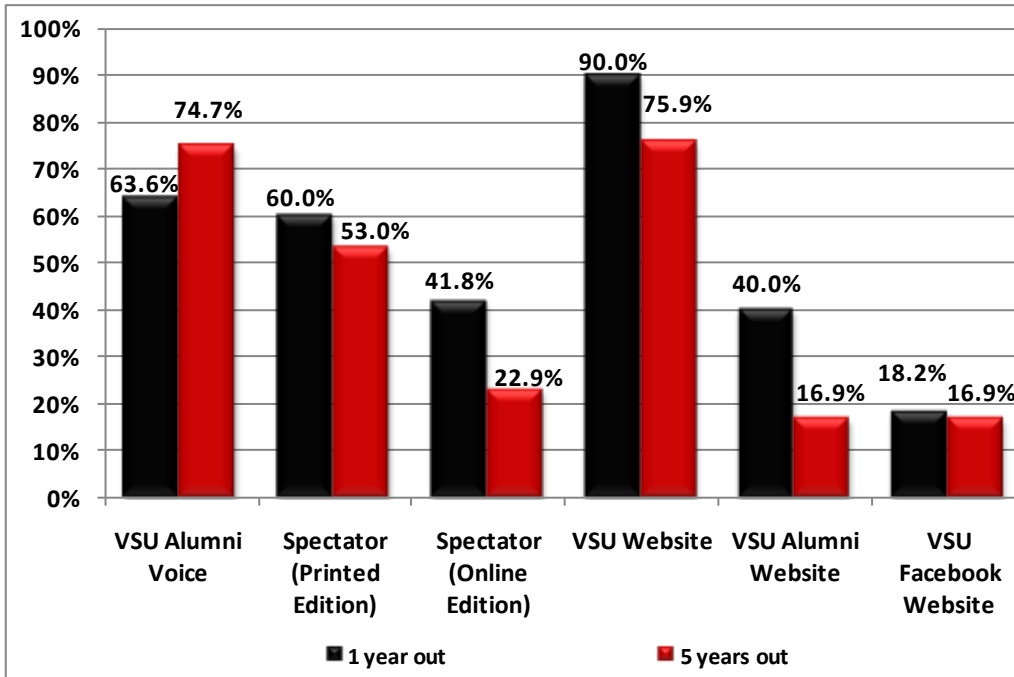
1 Year Out Alumni:

- 57.3% feel somewhat connected to VSU as an alumnus.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 51.8% feel somewhat connected to VSU as an alumnus.

**EXHIBIT 26: Are you familiar with the following sources of VSU news and events?
(Mark all that apply)**



Most Familiar Sources

- The majority of 1 year (90.0%) and 5 year (75.9%) alumni are familiar with the VSU Website.

Least Familiar Sources

- The VSU Facebook website is the least familiar VSU news source for both 1 year (18.2%) and 5 year (16.9%) alumni.

Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

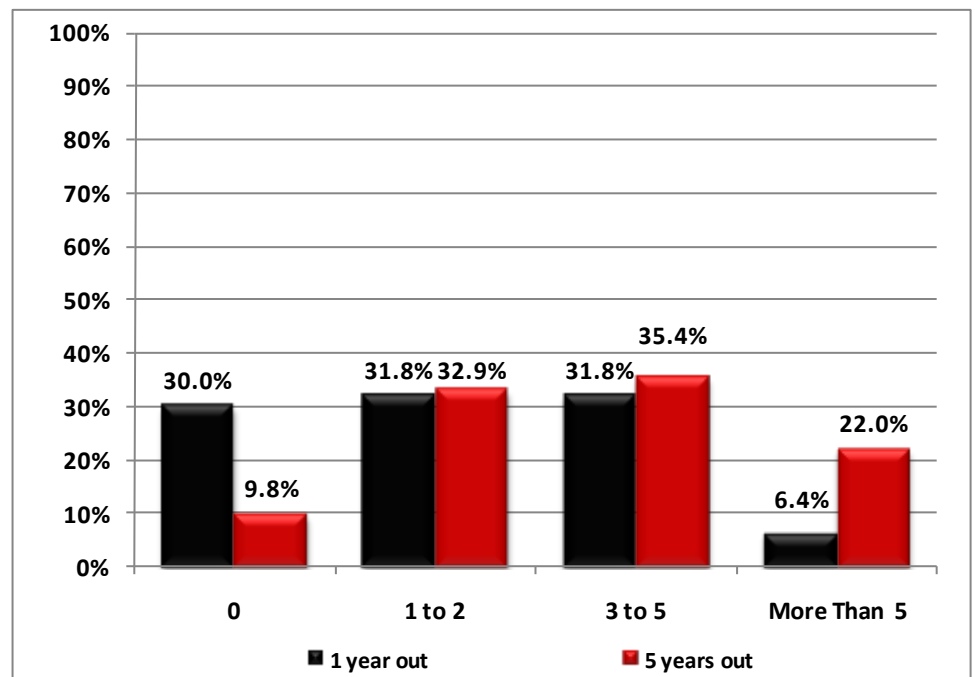
EXHIBIT 27: The VSU Alumni Voice magazine is the only publication VSU distributes to all alumni and supporters. How many issues of the VSU Alumni Voice have you read?

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 38.2% have read 3 or more issues of the VSU Alumni Voice.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 57.4% have read 3 or more issues of the VSU Alumni Voice.

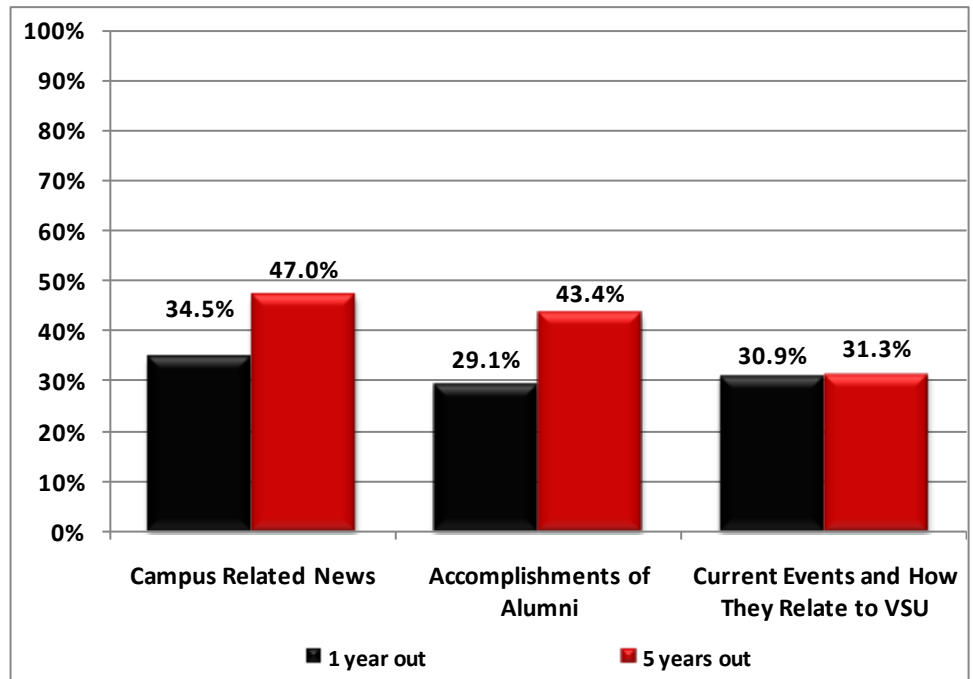


Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 28: If you have read the *VSU Alumni Voice*, what type of articles do you most enjoy?

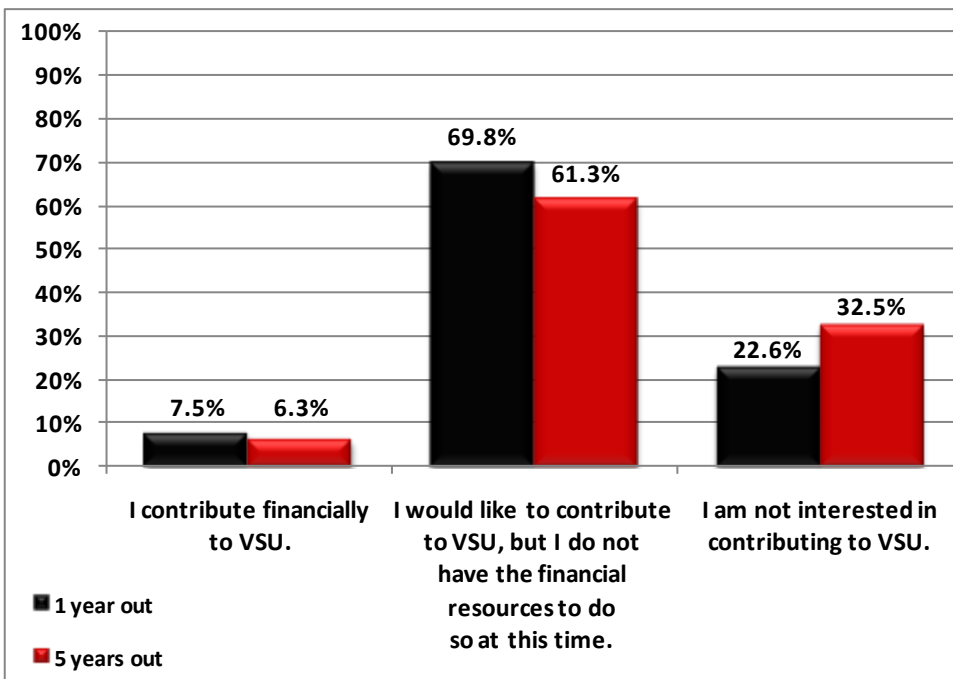
1 and 5 Year Out Alumni:

- Both groups enjoy the *VSU Alumni Voice's* articles about campus related news over any other types of articles.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 29: Which of the following statements best reflects your thoughts on financial donations to VSU?

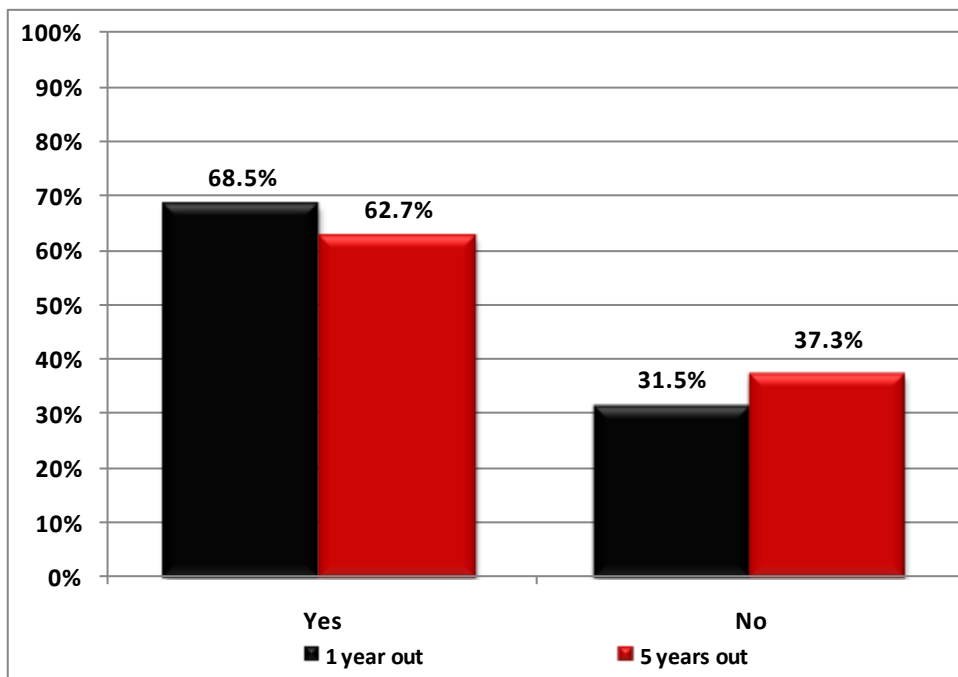


1 and 5 Year Out Alumni:

- More than 60.0% of respondents would like to contribute to VSU, but they do not have the financial resources to do so at this time.

Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 30: Have you visited the VSU campus since you graduated?



1 Year Out Alumni:

- 68.5% have visited VSU since graduation.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 62.7% have visited VSU since graduation.

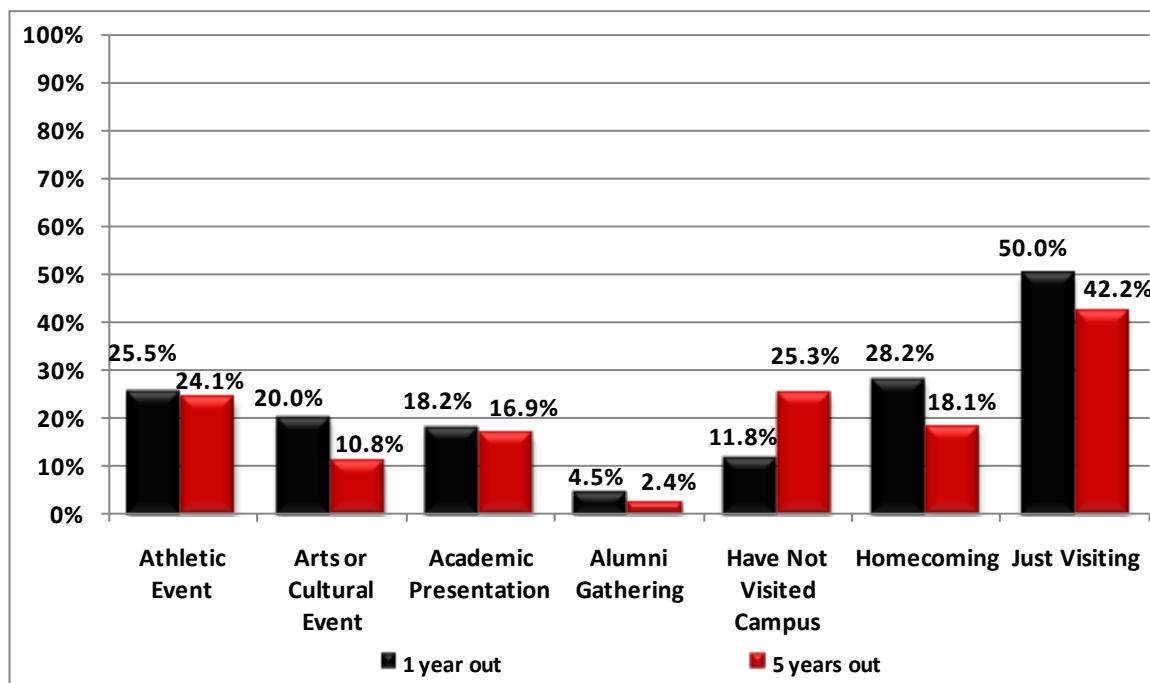
Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 31: If you have visited VSU, what prompted you to return to campus?

(Mark all that apply.)

1 and 5 Year Out Alumni:

- Over 40.0% of respondents returned to VSU because they were “just visiting.”



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

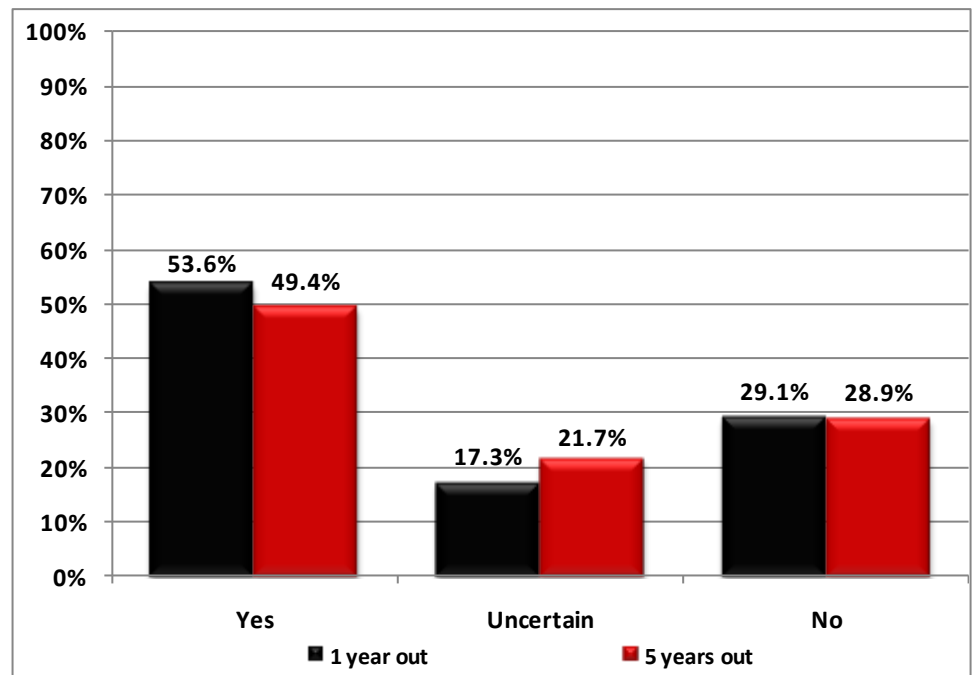
EXHIBIT 32: If you started college again, would you enroll in the same program?

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 53.6% said they would enroll in the same program.

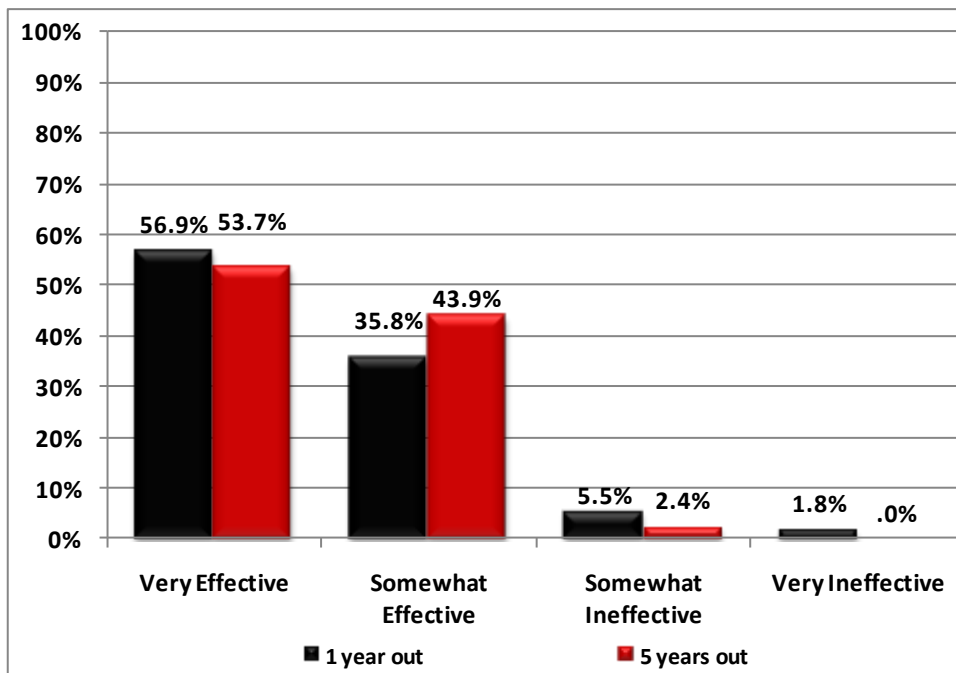
5 Year Out Alumni:

- 49.4% said they would enroll in the same program.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 33: How would you rate the overall effectiveness of your program/major?



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

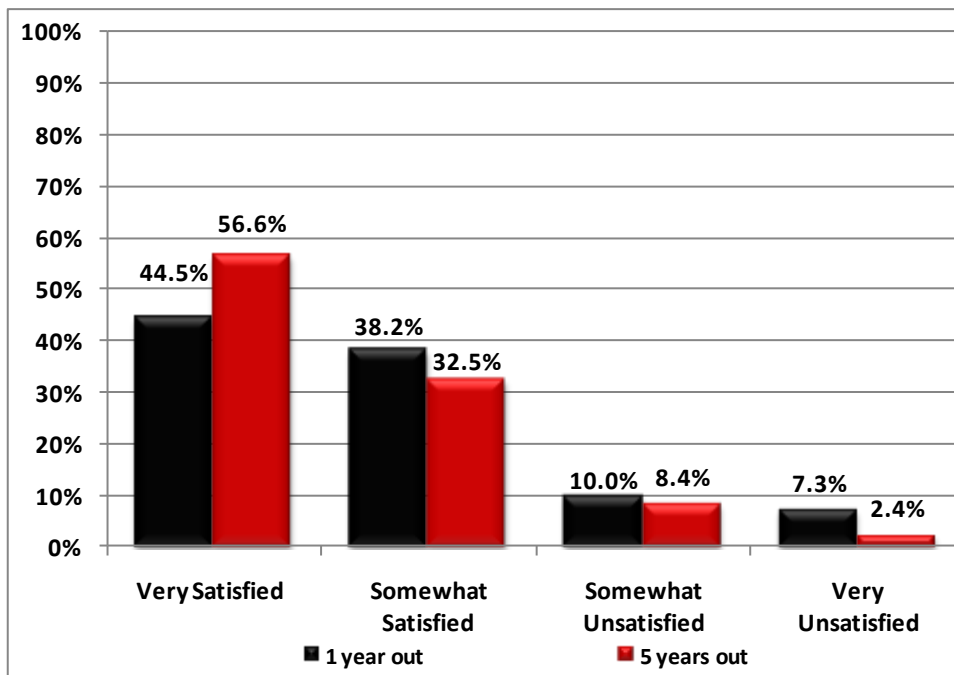
1 Year Out Alumni:

- 92.7% rated the overall effectiveness of their program/major as somewhat or very effective.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 97.6% rated the overall effectiveness of their program/major as somewhat or very effective.

EXHIBIT 34: Rate your satisfaction with academic advising.



1 Year Out Alumni:

- 82.7% reported they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with academic advising.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 89.1% reported they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with academic advising.

Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

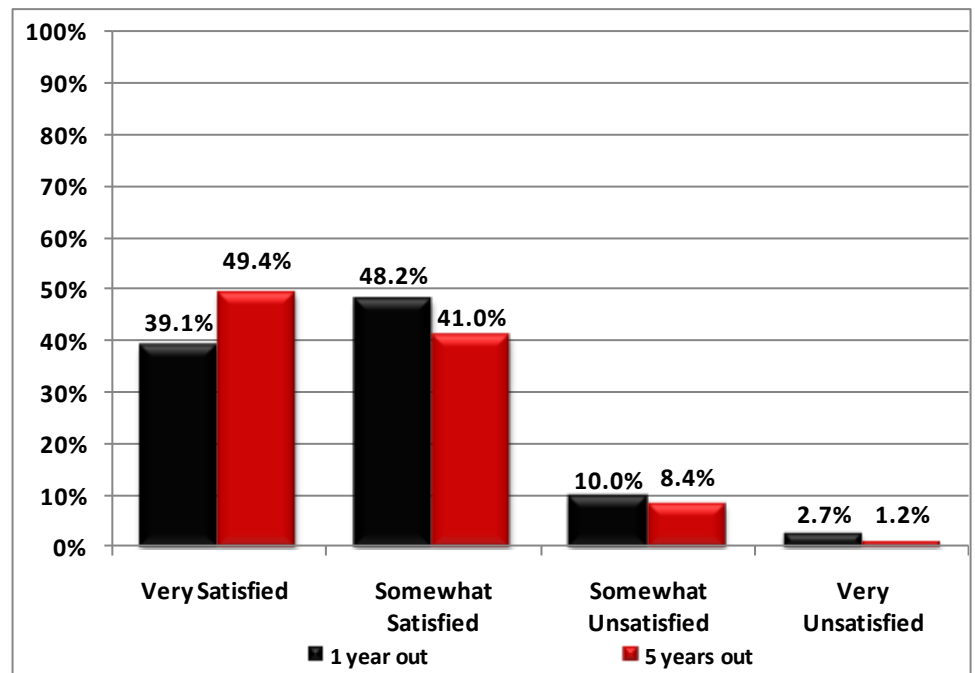
EXHIBIT 35: Rate your satisfaction with course availability.

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 87.3% reported they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with course availability.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 90.4% reported they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with course availability.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

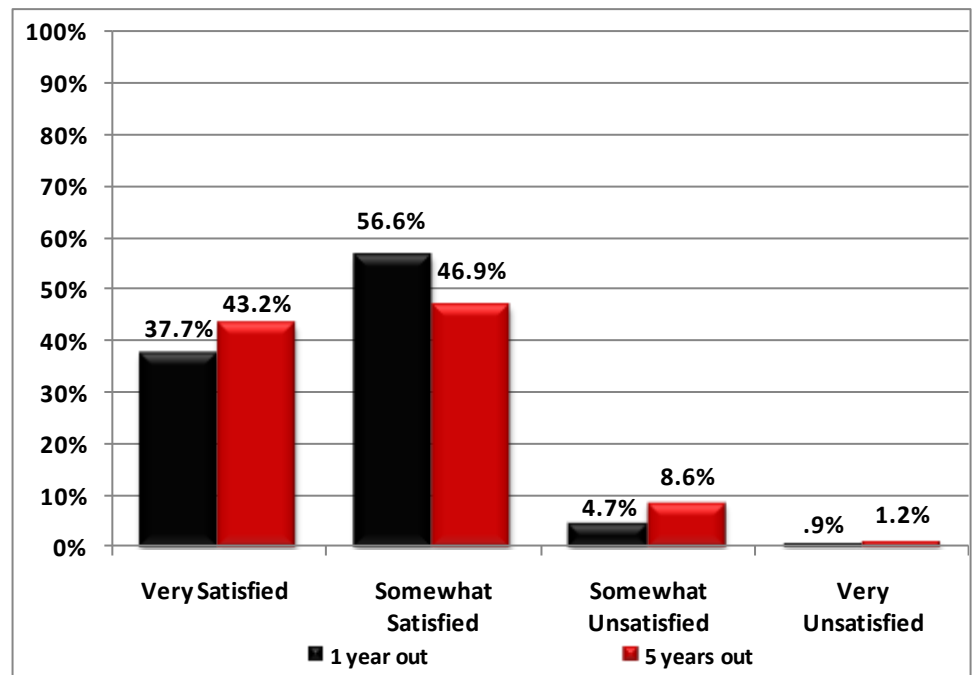
EXHIBIT 36: Rate your satisfaction with general education instruction (core courses).

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 94.3% reported they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the general education instruction.

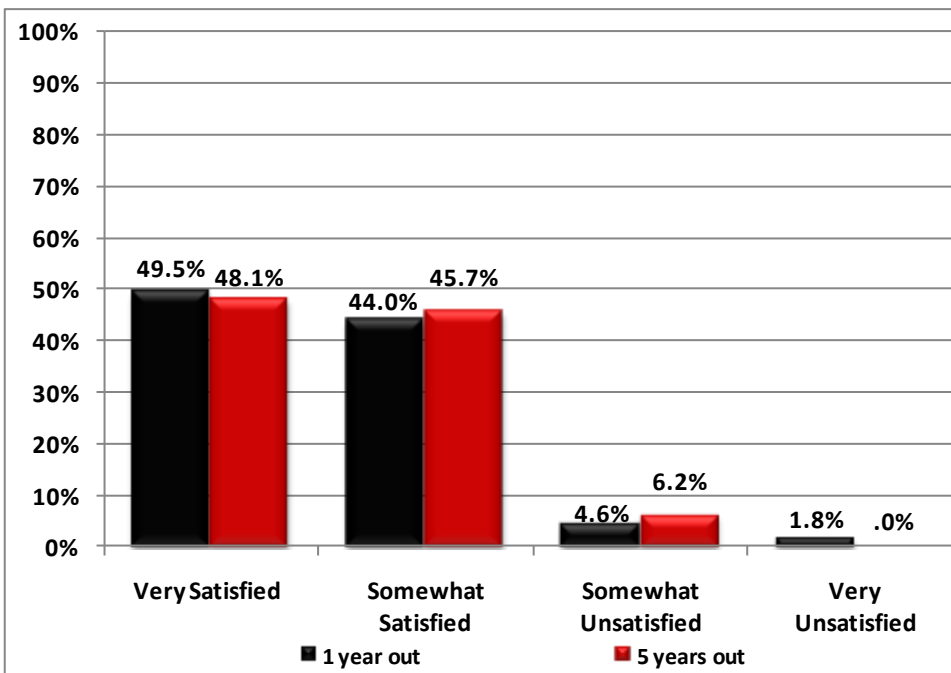
5 Year Out Alumni:

- 90.1% reported they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the general education instruction.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 37: Rate your satisfaction with availability of faculty in general education courses.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

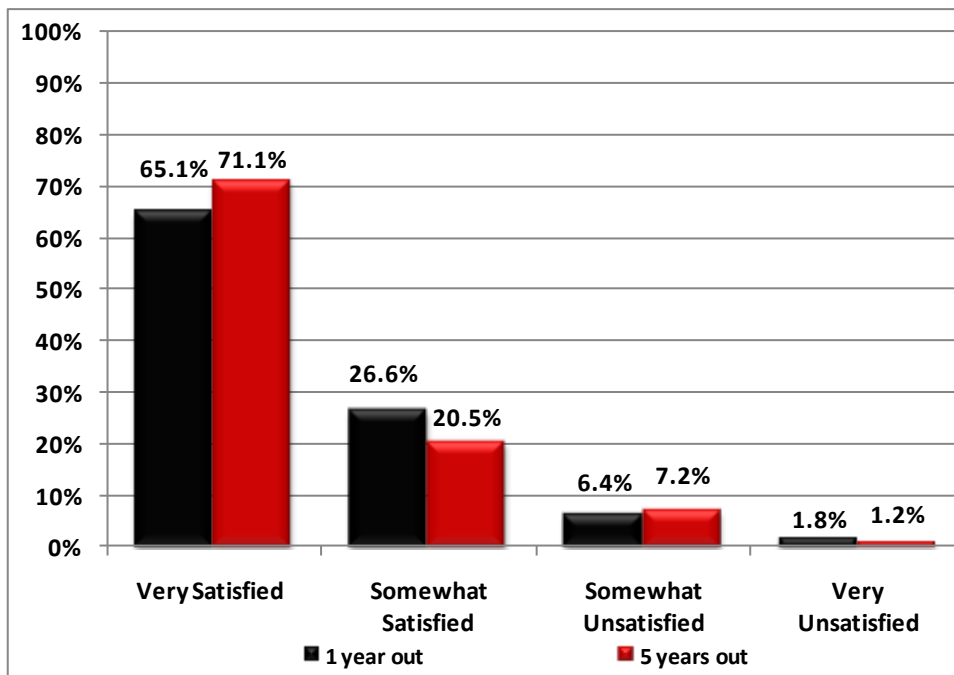
1 Year Out Alumni:

- 93.5% reported they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the availability of faculty in general education courses.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 93.8% reported they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the availability of faculty in general education courses.

EXHIBIT 38: Rate your satisfaction with your major program of instruction.



1 and 5 Year Out Alumni:

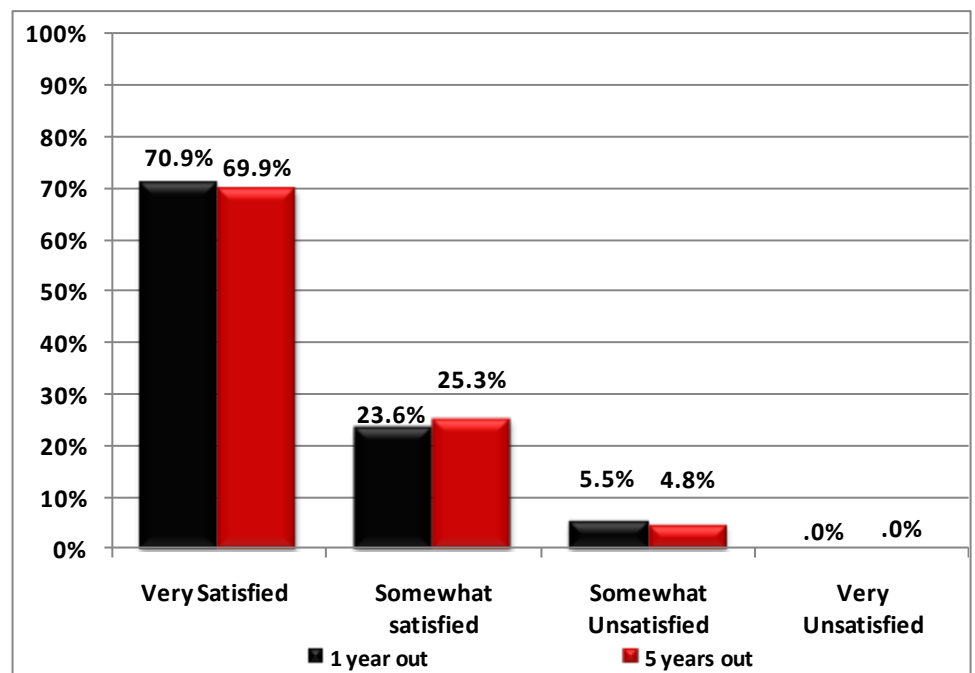
- Approximately 92.0% of both groups reported they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with their major program of instruction.

Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 39: Rate your satisfaction with availability of faculty in major program courses.

1 and 5 Year Out Alumni:

- Approximately 95.0% of both groups reported they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the availability of faculty in major program courses.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

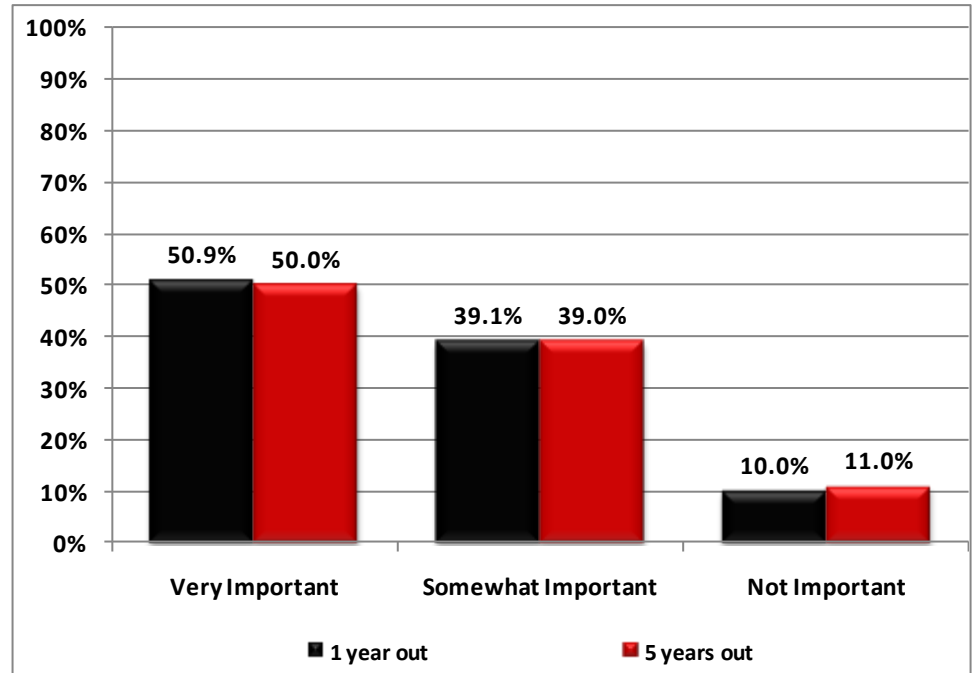
EXHIBIT 40: How important is it for VSU to emphasize faculty/student interaction outside the classroom?

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 90.0% believe it is somewhat important or very important for VSU to emphasize faculty/student interaction outside the classroom.

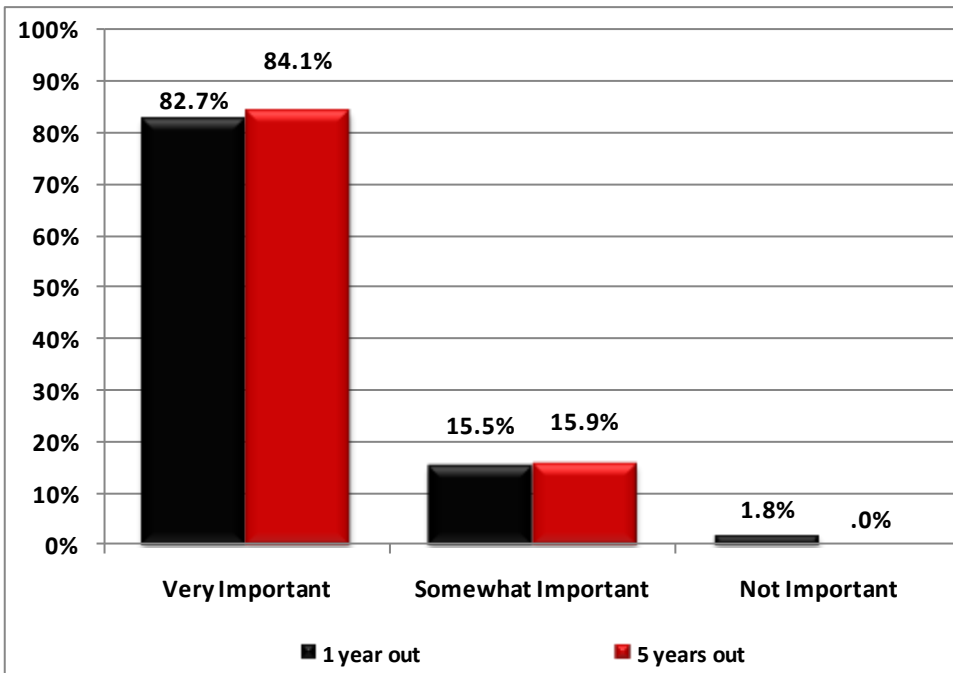
5 Year Out Alumni:

- 89.0% believe it is somewhat important or very important for VSU to emphasize faculty/student interaction outside the classroom.



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 41: How important is it for VSU to emphasize academic advising?



1 Year Out Alumni:

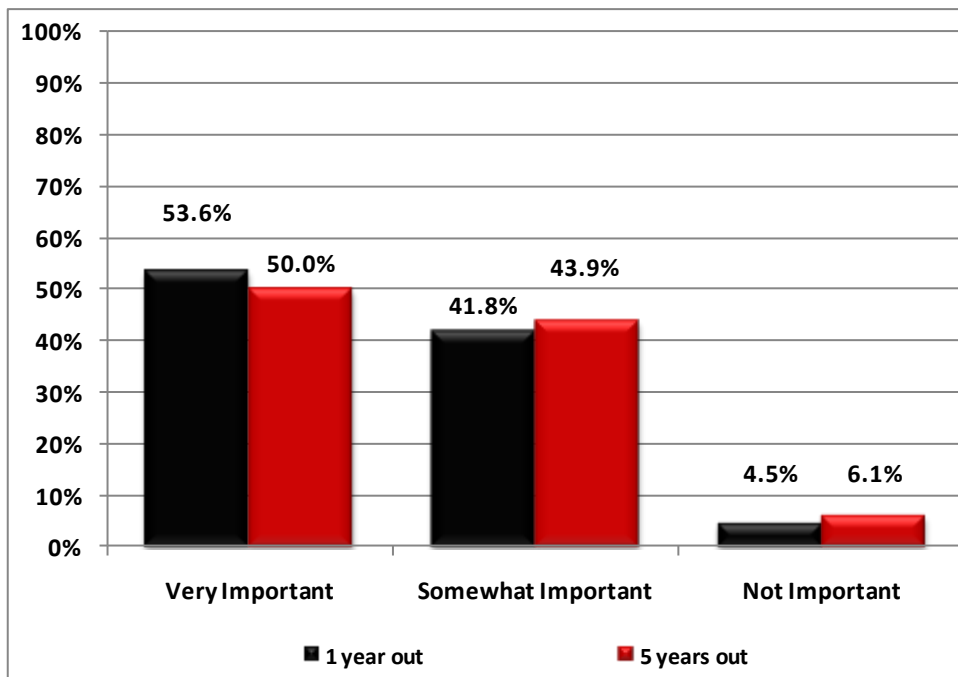
- 98.2% believe it is somewhat important or very important for VSU to emphasize academic advising.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 100.0% believe it is somewhat important or very important for VSU to emphasize academic advising.

Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 42: How important is it for VSU to emphasize engagement with local community?



Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

1 Year Out Alumni:

- 95.4% believe it is somewhat important or very important for VSU to emphasize engagement with the local community.

5 Year Out Alumni:

- 93.9% believe it is somewhat important or very important for VSU to emphasize engagement with the local community.

EXHIBIT 43: 1 Year-Out Alumni Ratings of Level of Preparation and Level of Importance

Very unprepared	Somewhat unprepared	Somewhat prepared	Very prepared		Not important	Somewhat important	Very important
0.0%	5.5%	43.1%	51.4%	Appreciate and understand diversity and other culture	2.8%	30.8%	66.4%
0.9%	10.9%	52.7%	35.5%	Appreciate history in context to current issues	0.0%	34.3%	65.7%
1.8%	11.8%	50.9%	35.5%	Appreciate social, economic, and political forces	1.8%	24.8%	73.4%
3.6%	13.6%	45.5%	37.3%	Appreciate the value of literature and the arts	6.5%	50.0%	43.5%
3.7%	17.4%	45.0%	33.9%	Appreciate the natural or physical sciences	10.1%	45.9%	44.0%
0.9%	4.5%	32.7%	61.8%	Critically analyze information	0.9%	16.5%	82.6%
0.9%	15.6%	38.5%	45.0%	Develop a global perspective	2.8%	34.9%	62.4%
1.9%	5.6%	24.1%	68.5%	Formulate and present ideas verbally and in writing	0.9%	10.9%	88.2%
0.0%	2.8%	25.7%	71.6%	Listen effectively	0.0%	2.8%	97.2%
0.9%	5.5%	40.4%	53.2%	Maintain a sense of mental well-being	0.9%	10.2%	88.9%
1.8%	9.2%	34.9%	54.1%	Maintain a sense of physical well-being	0.0%	12.7%	87.3%
1.9%	2.8%	26.2%	69.2%	Make decisions	0.9%	9.2%	89.9%
1.8%	1.8%	22.9%	73.4%	Organize information	0.9%	10.9%	88.2%
1.8%	6.4%	30.9%	60.9%	Provide effective leadership	0.9%	14.7%	84.4%
1.8%	5.5%	27.5%	65.1%	Solve problems creatively	1.8%	20.0%	78.2%
0.9%	11.9%	43.1%	44.0%	Synthesize and integrate knowledge across disciplines	2.8%	28.4%	68.8%
0.9%	10.0%	28.2%	60.9%	Think creatively	0.0%	21.3%	78.7%
2.7%	9.1%	46.4%	41.8%	Use analytic reasoning	1.9%	26.9%	71.3%
0.9%	3.6%	21.8%	73.6%	Use computing and other technologies in your daily life and work	0.0%	10.3%	89.7%
2.8%	10.2%	34.3%	52.8%	Use computing technology in discipline-specific analysis and design	3.7%	27.8%	68.5%
0.0%	2.8%	23.9%	73.4%	Work in teams or groups	0.9%	20.4%	78.7%
0.0%	7.3%	23.9%	68.8%	Write effectively	0.0%	14.8%	85.2%

Note: Yellow indicates the highest percent value for each question. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.

EXHIBIT 44: 5 Year-Out Alumni Ratings of Level of Preparation and Level of Importance

Very unprepared	Somewhat unprepared	Somewhat prepared	Very prepared		Not important	Somewhat important	Very important
1.2%	7.4%	51.9%	39.5%	Appreciate and understand diversity and other culture	10.0%	38.8%	51.3%
2.5%	19.8%	55.6%	22.2%	Appreciate history in context to current issues	4.9%	49.4%	45.7%
1.2%	21.0%	56.8%	21.0%	Appreciate social, economic, and political forces	1.3%	41.3%	57.5%
3.7%	9.9%	53.1%	33.3%	Appreciate the value of literature and the arts	8.9%	54.4%	36.7%
2.5%	17.5%	51.3%	28.8%	Appreciate the natural or physical sciences	10.1%	50.6%	39.2%
1.2%	3.7%	43.2%	51.9%	Critically analyze information	1.3%	23.8%	75.0%
2.4%	24.4%	46.3%	26.8%	Develop a global perspective	11.4%	43.0%	45.6%
1.2%	4.9%	34.6%	59.3%	Formulate and present ideas verbally and in writing	1.3%	10.0%	88.8%
0.0%	6.1%	35.4%	58.5%	Listen effectively	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%
0.0%	18.1%	38.6%	43.4%	Maintain a sense of mental well-being	3.7%	11.1%	85.2%
3.7%	15.9%	37.8%	42.7%	Maintain a sense of physical well-being	5.0%	13.8%	81.3%
1.2%	3.7%	42.7%	52.4%	Make decisions	1.3%	6.3%	92.5%
1.2%	3.7%	29.3%	65.9%	Organize information		11.1%	88.9%
2.4%	12.2%	39.0%	46.3%	Provide effective leadership	1.3%	16.3%	82.5%
1.2%	9.8%	39.0%	50.0%	Solve problems creatively	0.0%	21.3%	78.8%
1.2%	12.2%	52.4%	34.1%	Synthesize and integrate knowledge across disciplines	2.5%	40.0%	57.5%
0.0%	11.1%	44.4%	44.4%	Think creatively	1.2%	28.4%	70.4%
1.2%	6.2%	48.1%	44.4%	Use analytic reasoning	3.7%	28.4%	67.9%
1.2%	4.9%	25.6%	68.3%	Use computing and other technologies in your daily life and work	2.5%	14.8%	82.7%
2.4%	12.2%	41.5%	43.9%	Use computing technology in discipline-specific analysis and design	3.8%	41.3%	55.0%
1.2%	4.8%	31.3%	62.7%	Work in teams or groups	2.5%	35.0%	62.5%
1.2%	4.9%	30.5%	63.4%	Write effectively	3.7%	16.0%	80.2%

Note: Yellow indicates the highest percent value for each question. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: VSU Strategic Research and Analysis, 2010.