

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Class of 2023 Career Paths

The findings from this year's First Destination Survey (FDS) reflect some consistency with the outcomes observed in the class of 2022, particularly concerning graduates' primary trajectories. Among the known data set (with a knowledge rate of 91%, n=1191/1308) of 2023 graduates:

- 55% transitioned directly into full-time employment, compared to 56% of the class of 2022.
- 36% pursued further education, compared to 37% of the class of 2022.
- 3.5% indicated they were actively seeking opportunities, compared to 3% of the class of 2022.
- 5% pursued alternative paths such as entrepreneurship or military service, compared to 4% of the class of 2022.

## International students in the class of 2023:

- 57% identified advanced education as their primary post-graduation objective.
- 28% secured full-time employment.
- 1% indicated they were actively seeking opportunities at the time of survey completion.

## Class of 2023 Graduates who Pursued Advanced Education:

The 36% (434) of graduates who pursued advanced education after graduation did so at 134 diverse institutions, both in the United States and abroad, reflecting broad educational interests and pathways.

In addition to CWRU, some notable institutions within the United States include:

Brown University

Carnegie Mellon University

Columbia University

Duke University

Emory University

Harvard University

Johns Hopkins University

New York University

Stanford University

University Of Chicago

Vanderbilt University

Yale University

Some notable institutions abroad include:

- Australian National University (# 34 in QS World University Rankings 2024)
- University of Hong Kong (# 35 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024)
- Imperial College London (# 6 in QS World University Rankings 2024)
- University College London (# 12 in U.S. News & World Report Best Global Universities 2023)
- University of Cambridge (# 2 in QS World University Rankings 2024)
- University of Edinburgh (# 30 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024)

## Class of 2023 Undergraduates to Professional Schools

This year, in addition to information received through the FDS, the Career Center also collected data from various centralized application services such as AMCAS (allopathic medical schools) and AACOMAS (osteopathic medical schools) for medical school applications, LSAC for law school applications, CASPA for physician assistant applications, AADSAS for dental school applications and others. What we have learned from the additional data is that CWRU graduates demonstrate exceptional competitiveness for professional schools, substantiated by robust application data.

### Choosing CWRU

For many of the students who received more than one offer to prestigious medical or dental programs, they chose to matriculate to Case Western Reserve University's professional programs—not out of lack of options, but as a deliberate choice, underscoring their alma mater's significant impact on its students and reputation for providing a valuable education.

To provide some highlights:

- 515 is the average MCAT score of accepted CWRU graduates/medical school applicants, compared to 512 nationally.
- 3.91 is the average GPA of accepted CWRU graduates/medical school applicants, compared to 3.77 nationally.
- 74% is the acceptance rate to MD programs for the class of 2023, compared to 46% nationally.
- 85% is the combined MD and DO acceptance rate for the class of 2023.
- 22 is the average DAT score of accepted CWRU applicants for dental schools, compared to 20 nationally.
- 3.77 is the average GPA of accepted CWRU applicants for dental schools, compared to 3.54 nationally.
- 66% is the acceptance rate to dental school for class of 2023, compared to 58% nationally.
- 100% is the acceptance rate to physician assistant programs for class of 2023, compared to 40% nationally.
- 83% is the acceptance rate to physical therapy programs for class of 2023, compared to 72% nationally.

Preeminent professional schools to which 2023 graduates have matriculated (in addition to CWRU) include:

University of Pennsylvania (medicine)  
University of Rochester (medicine)  
Georgetown University (medicine)  
NYU College of Dentistry (dentistry)  
The Ohio State University (dentistry)

Duke University (physical therapy)  
University of California, Berkeley (optometry)  
Stanford University (law)  
University of California, Los Angeles (law)  
Boston University (law)

## Class of 2023 Employment

In 2023, amidst turbulent economic forecasts and significant tech layoffs, the class of 2023 defied expectations by securing meaningful and lucrative employment opportunities. Notably, they achieved the **highest reported starting salary range in comparison to any previous graduating class.**

## Understanding Gap Years

To get a clearer picture of graduates' starting salaries, we asked, through the First Destination Survey, whether students were engaging in "gap year" activities. A gap year—a term commonly used to describe a break between undergraduate studies and entering the workforce or graduate school—allows individuals to pursue various activities such as travel, volunteering, internships, or even temporary, year-long full-time employment.

Historically, many pre-medical students have taken gap years to enhance their applications or gain relevant work experience. In the FDS 2023, **we found that 26% of the class of 2023 were participating in gap-year activities.** While this figure may seem high, it aligns with national trends reported by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), where only 27% of medical school matriculants in 2023 entered without a gap year, 48% took 1-2 gap years, 16% took 3-4 gap years, and 9% took 5 or more years before matriculating to medical school. This data emphasizes the importance of understanding and contextualizing students' post-graduation plans, and it must be noted that for pre-medical students, **gap years are the norm, not the exception.**

## Class of 2023 Salaries

In analyzing the salary data, keeping in mind that more than a quarter of our students were in full-time jobs that they considered to be temporary positions while applying to professional schools, we are sharing two median salary ranges for the class of 2023:

- **\$70,000-\$74,999:** median salary range for the class of 2023, including all graduates in full-time employment
- **\$75,000-\$79,999:** median salary range, excluding graduates in full-time temporary/gap year employment
- Broken down by college and schools, the median salary ranges, excluding graduates in full-time temporary/gap year employment are:
  - **\$80,000-\$84,999:** Case School of Engineering
  - **\$70,000-\$74,999:** College of Arts and Sciences
  - **\$65,000-\$69,999:** Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing
  - **\$75,000-\$79,999:** Weatherhead School of Management

## Class of 2023 Companies & Organizations

Graduates were employed in 414 unique organizations, across various industries in 38 different states within the U.S., and internationally in South Korea, Taiwan, Spain, Germany, China, and Japan. Thirty-three percent of graduates are employed in Northeast Ohio, strengthening the regional economy. The top employers employing four or more graduates were:

Cleveland Clinic (43)  
Epic (23)  
University Hospitals (23)  
Case Western Reserve  
University (17)  
P&G (10)

EY (8)  
Deloitte (7)  
Rockwell Automation (6)  
JPMorgan Chase (5)  
KeyBank (5)  
Amazon (4)

Eaton Corporation (4)  
PNC (4)  
PwC (4)  
Sherwin-Williams (4)  
University of Pennsylvania (4)

## Class of 2023 Top Job Functions

Top job functions for full-time employed students were:

- Engineering (27%)
- Research and Science (14%)
- Nursing (14%)
- Healthcare/Public Health (8%)
- Information Technology & Technology (7%)
- Consulting (5%)
- Financial Services (4%)
- Project Management/Administration (4%)
- Education/Teaching (4%)
- Data and Analytics (2%)
- Accounting (2%)

## Class of 2023 Additional Highlights

- 80% of survey respondents who entered full-time employment post-graduation indicated that their positions were in line with their field of study and required a bachelor's degree. Another 10% of students reported that while their job required a bachelor's degree, the job was not directly related to the academic discipline they studied. This demonstrates that academic credentials from CWRU equip students with skills and knowledge applicable across diverse industries, transcending conventional and obvious career paths.
- 99% of students going on to graduate school agreed or strongly agreed that CWRU prepared them for graduate school.
- 92% of all 2023 graduates engaged with programs and services from the Career Center, including events, appointments, and structured experiential education programs.
- 40% of graduates who entered the workforce received a signing bonus.
- 99% of graduates participated in experiential education, with 66% of students completing three to five different kinds of experiential learning activities.
- 99% of international students and 97% of underrepresented minority students engaged in at least one experiential learning opportunity.

We are grateful to the Case Western Reserve University community for supporting these remarkable students in their ambitious endeavors and for sharing their successes through this data.