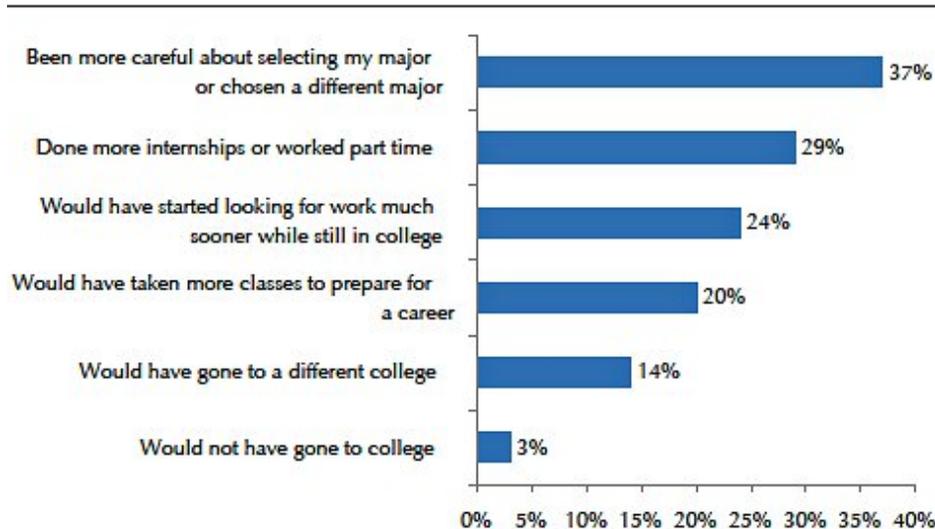


- 1) **Student Loan Debt** - 71% of 2012 graduates had student loan debt averaging \$29,400 per borrower. In 5 states, average debt was more than \$30,000, concentrated in the Northeast and Midwest (Source: “Student Loan Debt and the Class of 2012” The Institute for College Access and Success).
- 2) **No Time To Buy** - Young consumers are delaying major purchases like homes and cars. Despite the fact that a college education leads to higher earning potential, those ages 25 to 30 who took out student loans are less likely to be able to make these major purchases than their peers with no student loan debt (Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York).
- 3) **Average First Year Salary** - for recent graduates with a bachelor’s degree, \$44, 928 (Source: Salary Survey April 2013, National Association of Colleges and Employers).
- 4) **Jobs Out Of Necessity** - In 2007, 27.4% of recent graduates had jobs that did not require a degree. In 2013, 36% of recent graduates had jobs that did not require a degree (Source: Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University).
- 5) **College Costs** “According to statistics from The College Board, the moderate cost per year for a public state college is just over \$22,000, and for a private institution, it's just over \$43,000. Considering it takes an average of just over four years to complete an undergraduate degree, most people will spend between \$90,000 and \$200,000 for that degree. All that money and for what?” (Source: “College-All That Money And For What?” *The Huffington Post*. 2-13-2014, Thomas Kruzek, Dean, College of Business and Management, Lynn University).

*“It takes a village to graduate young adults who can survive this job market and lead in today’s world. It takes an all-encompassing process that is supported by curriculum and programs that emphasize service-learning, ethics, and social responsibility” (Susan Brennan, managing director of University Career Services at Bentley).*

FIGURE 16. THINKING BACK TO COLLEGE, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY TO BE SUCCESSFUL TODAY?



(Source: “Chasing the American Dream: Recent College Graduates and the Great Recession,” Heldrich Center for Workforce Development. Chart shows responses from a nationally representative sample of 444 recent college graduates from the class of 2006 through 2011, with a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 5 percentage points).

- 6) **Gray Collar** About half of college graduates will be under-employed and take up “Gray Collar” jobs—ones which do not require the education they received. “Gray Collar” jobs are found out of necessity due to rising education costs, a shrinking job market, and oversaturation of certain academic majors in the workforce (Source: Fleming, “Success in the New Economy”).