

## Appendix D: Topline Questionnaire

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
OCTOBER 2013 HIGHER EDUCATION AND GENDER SURVEY  
OCTOBER 7-27, 2013  
TOTAL N= 2,002 ADULTS 18+ INCLUDING 982 ADULTS AGES 18-34**

**NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES. THE PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN ZERO BUT LESS THAN 0.5% ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (\*). COLUMNS/ROWS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL TRENDS REFERENCE SURVEYS FROM SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS.**

QUESTIONS 1-2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED; NO QUESTION 3; QUESTION 4 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

Now I have some questions about your background.

SEX,AGE NOT SHOWN

ASK ALL:

EDUC What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received? **[DO NOT READ]**  
**[INTERVIEWER NOTE: Enter code 3-HS graduate" if R completed vocational, business, technical, or training courses after high school that did NOT count toward an associate degree from a college, community college or university (e.g., training for a certificate or an apprenticeship)]**

- 4 Less than high school (Grades 1-8 or no formal schooling)
- 6 High school incomplete (Grades 9-11 or Grade 12 with NO diploma)
- 32 High school graduate (Grade 12 with diploma or GED certificate)
- 20 Some college, no degree (includes some community college)
- 11 Two-year associate degree from a college or university
- 17 Four year college or university degree/Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)
- 1 Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree (e.g. some graduate school)
- 9 Postgraduate or professional degree, including master's, doctorate, medical or law degree (e.g., MA, MS, PhD, JD, graduate school)
- \* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK COLLEGE GRADUATES WHO DID NOT ATTEND GRADUATE SCHOOL (EDUC=5,6): [n=690]**

ED1 What year did you graduate from college? (OPEN-END, RECORD FOUR-DIGIT YEAR)

**ASK COLLEGE GRADUATES WHO ATTENDED GRADUATE SCHOOL (EDUC=7,8): [n=292]**

ED2 What year did you receive your undergraduate or Bachelor's degree? (OPEN-END, RECORD FOUR-DIGIT YEAR)

Trends:

<u>Oct 2013</u>		<u>March 2011</u>
8	1960s or earlier	12
15	1970s	15
15	1980s	17
20	1990s	22
37	2000 or later	30
2	Still enrolled in college (VOL.)	n/a
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4
(n=982)		

**ASK IF AGE < 65: [n=1,639]**

SCHL Are you currently enrolled in school?

**[IF YES, PROBE TO DETERMINE IF ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOL, TECHNICAL TRADE OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, A COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE OR IN GRADUATE SCHOOL]**

17	Yes, enrolled
1	in high school
2	in technical, trade or vocational school
12	in college (undergraduate)
3	in graduate school
83	No, not enrolled
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK IF AGE < 65 AND NOT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL (SCHL=5,9): [n=1,349]**

RSCHL Do you ever plan to return to school?

25	Yes
62	No
11	Maybe (VOL.)
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK IF AGE < 65 AND CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN SCHOOL OR PLAN TO RETURN (SCHL=1,2,3,4 OR RSCHL=1,3): [n=855]**

SCHL2 How much further in school do you plan to go? [DO NOT READ]

2	Finish high school
6	Technical, trade, or vocational school
2	Attend college, no degree
9	Attend college, 2 year/associate's degree
32	Attend college, bachelor's degree
31	Graduate or professional school or degree
2	Some other non-degree certification/licensing/training (e.g. teaching certificate, continuing learning requirements, language learning)
2	No further (VOL)
3	Other [Specify] (VOL)
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL)

**NO QUESTION 5-6; QUESTIONS 7-8 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK IF GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE AND NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN COLLEGE (EDUC=5,6,7,8 AND SCHL NE 3): [n=922]**

Q.9 Thinking about what you and your family paid for your (IF EDUC=7,8, INSERT: undergraduate) college education, would you say your education has paid off for you, or not?

**IF NO OR TOO EARLY TO SAY (Q.9=2,4), ASK: [n=184]**

Q.10 Do you think it will pay off for you in the future, or not?

86	NET College has/will pay off
79	Has paid off
7	Will pay off
10	College has not and will not pay off
4	Not sure if has/will pay off (VOL.)

(n=922)

**IF CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN COLLEGE (SCHL=3), ASK: [n=166]**

Q.11 Thinking about what you and your family are paying for your college education, do you think your education will pay off for you in the future, or not?

90	Yes, will pay off
6	No, will not pay off
3	Depends (VOL.)
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK IF GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE OR ENROLLED IN COLLEGE OR GRADUATE SCHOOL (EDUC=5-8 OR SCHL= 3,4): [n=1,096]**

Q.12 (IF SCHL=3,4: Have you taken; OTHERWISE: Did you take) out any loans to help finance your education, or not?

45	Yes
55	No
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK IF NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED AND TOOK OUT LOANS (SCHL=5,9 AND Q.12=1): [n=389]**

Q.13 Do you happen to know approximately how much money you borrowed to finance your education? Was it... [READ]?

29	Less than \$10,000
30	Between \$10,000 and \$20,000
18	Between \$20,000 and \$30,000
6	Between \$30,000 and \$40,000, or
14	More than \$40,000
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK IF NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED AND TOOK OUT LOANS (SCHL=5,9 AND Q.12=1): [n=389]**

Q.14 Have you paid back all the money you owe in (IF EDUC=8, INSERT: undergraduate) student loans, or are you still in the process of paying the money back?

<u>Oct 2013</u>		<b>Trend for comparison:<sup>20</sup></b>	<u>March 2011</u>
52	Have paid off loans		63
46	Still paying off loans (includes deferment)		35
2	Haven't started to pay them off yet (VOL.)		*
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)		2

**ASK IF GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE AND NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN COLLEGE (EDUC=5,6,7,8 AND SCHL NE 3): [n=922]**

Q.15 Thinking about the (IF EDUC=7,8, INSERT: undergraduate) college you graduated from, was it a private college or university or was it a public college or university?

<u>Oct 2013</u>		<u>March 2011</u>
29	Private college/university	32
70	Public college/university	66
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

**ASK IF CURRENTLY IN COLLEGE (SCHL=3): [n=166]**

Q.16 Thinking about the college you attend, is it a private college or university or is it a public college or university?

<u>Oct 2013</u>		<u>March 2011</u>
17	Private college/university	17
83	Public college/university	82
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*

<sup>20</sup> In March 2011, question read, "Have you paid back all the money you owe in (IF ANY POST-GRADUATE TRAINING, INSERT: undergraduate) student loans, or are you still in the process of paying the money back?"

ASK IF GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE AND NOT CURRENTLY IN COLLEGE OR GRAD SCHOOL (EDUC=5,6,7,8 AND SCHL NE 3,4):  
[n=848]

Q.17 What was your major field of study in (IF EDUC=5,6,7: college; IF EDUC=8: graduate school)? [OPEN-END; RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE; ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE THAN ONE.]

ASK IF CURRENTLY IN COLLEGE (SCHL=3) [n=166]:

Q.18 What is your major field of study in college? [OPEN-END; RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE; ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE THAN ONE.]

ASK IF CURRENTLY IN GRAD SCHOOL (SCHL=4) [n=82]:

Q.19 What is your major field of study in graduate school? [OPEN-END; RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE; ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE THAN ONE.]

Total <sup>21</sup>		College major	Graduate school major
<b>20</b>	<b>(NET) Business (VOL.)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>
17	Business management/Finance/Marketing/Accounting/ Human Resources	22	14
2	Communications/Broadcasting	3	1
2	Economics	2	*
<b>20</b>	<b>(NET) Science (VOL.)</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>
14	Life sciences/Health sciences/Medicine	14	15
4	Natural sciences	3	7
2	Science (unspecified/other)	2	2
*	Agriculture/forestry/horticulture	*	0
<b>13</b>	<b>(NET) Social Science/Law (VOL.)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>
6	Social sciences (unspecified/other)	5	6
4	Psychology/Behavioral science	4	5
2	Law	1	4
1	Social work/Human services	1	2
*	Anthropology	*	0
<b>12</b>	<b>(NET) Liberal Arts (VOL.)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
3	Liberal arts/Humanities/General studies	4	*
3	English/Literature	3	4
2	History	1	4
1	Art	2	1
1	Journalism	1	1
1	Philosophy/Religion/Theology	*	1
1	Music	1	*
*	Architecture	*	1
*	Foreign languages	*	*
<b>12</b>	<b>(NET) Engineering (VOL.)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>
6	Engineering/drafting	6	4
5	Computer and information sciences	5	3
1	Mathematics/Statistics	1	1
<b>11</b>	<b>(NET) Vocational (VOL.)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>
8	Vocational/Technical	10	4
3	Police and protective services/Criminal justice	4	1
<b>10</b>	<b>Education (VOL.)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>
5	Other (VOL.)	3	10
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	0
(n=1,096)		(n=779)	(n=317)

<sup>21</sup> Figures add to more than 100% because total first and second responses showing.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.20 How useful was your [IF EDUC=1-4: education; IF EDUC= 5,6: college education; IF EDUC=7,8: graduate school education] in preparing you for a job or career? Would you say very useful, somewhat useful, not too useful, or not useful at all?

<u>Total</u>	
47	Very useful
34	Somewhat useful
7	Not too useful
9	Not at all useful
1	Can't say, still in graduate school/college (VOL.)
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK IF ANY GRAD SCHOOL (EDUC=7,8): [n=292]**

Q.21 And how useful was your undergraduate college education in preparing you for a job or career? Would you say very useful, somewhat useful, not too useful, or not useful at all?

55	Very useful
35	Somewhat useful
7	Not too useful
1	Not at all useful
1	Can't say, still in graduate school (VOL.)
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK IF GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE (EDUC 5,6,7,8): [n=982]**

Q.22 Still thinking back to when you were (IF EDUC=5,6: a college student; IF EDUC=7,8: an undergraduate college student), do you think any of the following things would have better prepared you to get the kind of job you wanted, or not? First/Next, [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [REPEAT IF NECESSARY: Do you think this would have better prepared you to get the kind of job you wanted, or not?

- a. Choosing a different major
 

31	Yes
66	No
2	Maybe (VOL.)
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- b. Gaining more work experience
 

52	Yes
45	No
2	Maybe (VOL.)
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- c. Starting to look for work sooner
 

30	Yes
65	No
1	Maybe (VOL.)
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- d. Studying harder
 

40	Yes
57	No
1	Maybe (VOL.)
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**QUESTIONS 23-24 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE; NO QUESTIONS 25-27; QUESTIONS E3-E3a, D1-D4, E4-E5 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED; QUESTION E6 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK IF EMPLOYED (E3=1,2): [n=1,301]**

Q.28 In general, do you feel you have the education and training necessary to get ahead in your job or career, OR do you need more education and training?

Oct <u>2013</u>		Dec <u>2011</u>	June <u>2006</u>
59	Have necessary education and training	59	57
39	Need more	40	42
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1

**ASK IF NOT EMPLOYED AND NOT RETIRED (E3=3,4,9): [n=449]**

Q.29 In general, do you feel you have the education and training necessary to get the kind of job you want, or do you need more education and training?

Oct <u>2013</u>	
42	Have necessary education and training
51	Need more
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**QUESTIONS 30-31, E7 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED; NO QUESTIONS 32-33**

**ASK IF EMPLOYED (E3=1,2): [n=1,301]**

Q.34 Do you think of your current job as a career, a stepping stone to a career, or do you think of it as just a job to get you by?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
50	A career	53	46
17	A stepping stone to a career	16	17
32	Just a job to get you by	30	36
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1
		(n=777)	(n=524)

**Trends:**

	<u>A career</u>	<u>A stepping stone to a career</u>	<u>Just a job to get you by</u>	<u>DK/Ref. (VOL.)</u>
Oct 2013	50	17	32	1
Dec 2011	44	19	35	2
Jan 2010	51	18	29	2

**ASK IF EMPLOYED (E3=1,2): [n=1,301]**

Q.35 Still thinking about your current job, would you say you have more qualifications than the job requires, the right amount of qualifications, or only some of the qualifications the job requires?

Oct <u>2013</u>		March <u>2011</u>	May <u>2010</u> <sup>22</sup>
38	More	40	41
52	Right amount	50	51
9	Only some	9	7
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2

<sup>22</sup> In May 2010, the question read "Would you say you have more qualifications than the job requires, the right amount of qualifications that the job requires or only some of the qualifications the job requires?"

**ASK IF EMPLOYED (E3=1,2): [n=1,301]**

Q.36 Does your current job require a college degree, or not?

Oct <u>2013</u>		March <u>2011</u>
31	Yes	28
68	No	71
*	Job requires an associate's degree (VOL.)	*
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*

**QUESTION 37 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE; NO QUESTION 38-39****ASK IF COLLEGE GRADUATE AND CURRENTLY EMPLOYED (EDUC=5,6,7,8 AND E3=1,2): [n=742]**

Q.40 How closely related is your current job to the field or major you received your (IF EDUC=5,6,7: college; IF EDUC=8: graduate) degree in? [READ]

46	Very closely
19	Somewhat closely
10	Not very closely
25	Not at all related
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**IF JOB NOT VERY CLOSELY/NOT AT ALL RELATED TO COLLEGE MAJOR (Q.40=3,4), ASK: [n=236]**

Q.41 What would you say is the main reason you are not currently working in a job that is more closely related to field you majored in? (OPEN-END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES)

<u>Total</u> <sup>23</sup>	
23	No job available in field/Bad economy (VOL.)
21	Wanted a change/Didn't like the work/Wasn't for me (VOL.)
17	Happy with current job/Job security (VOL.)
11	Financial reasons/Better pay (VOL.)
10	Lacked experience/Not qualified (VOL.)
8	Circumstances/Moved/Had children/Flexible hours (VOL.)
8	Major was very general/Major was useless (VOL.)
10	Other (includes retired, still in school) (VOL.)
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**MARITAL, LWP NOT SHOWN; QUESTION M2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED; NO QUESTION 42; QUESTIONS 43-52 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED; NO QUESTION 53; KIDS1, KIDS2, KIDSAGE NOT SHOWN; KIDS3, QUESTIONS 54-58 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED; OTHER DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS NOT SHOWN**

<sup>23</sup> Figures add to more than 100% because total first, second and third responses showing.