



1 in 4 College Students Want to Relocate After Graduation

36% Are Interested in a Large City and 60% Would Prefer a Mid-Sized Town Post-College

Nov. 4, 2021 (Seattle, WA) - According to a new survey from BestColleges.com, 25% of current undergraduate students say they are tired of their current situation and desire change when considering options for relocation after graduation. Most college students plan to or will consider living in a mid-sized town (60%), 36% will consider a large city, and 21% will consider a small town.

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<https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/students-dissatisfied-with-post-grad-living-plans/>

Over a third of college students admit they don't know where they will live post-college (39%), while 29% definitively say they will move somewhere completely new. Fewer students will stay in the area where their school is located (18%) or plan to move back to their hometown or where their family lives (14%). When considering where to live once they finish college, factors contributing to students' plans include an area's affordability (57%), career opportunities (56%), safety (41%), and proximity to family and friends (40%).

"College students can use the characteristics of the places they lived before and during college to help them decide whether they want to live somewhere similar or different in the future," said Jessica Bryant, education analyst for BestColleges.com. "Additionally, it's important to consider all the factors that will have an impact on the life they want to live before making plans."

A majority of current college students report they left their hometown to attend college (61%), and 29% wish they went to a school in an entirely different area. Almost half (48%) want to experience a new place post-college with 40% reporting they have a desire and ability to live independently and 20% reporting plans to move in with a partner or spouse.

An overwhelming majority (73%) say successfully carrying out their plans for relocation after college would be a dream come true.

The most popular regions undergraduates are planning to or are considering living in are the Northeast (33%), South Atlantic (26%) and Pacific West (23%). Among those interested in the Northeast, 57% are considering the New York-Newark-Jersey City metropolitan area. Half (50%) of students considering the Pacific West are eyeing the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim metropolitan area, and a quarter (25%) of those interested in moving to the South Atlantic are considering the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater area.

Fewer students plan to or will consider living in the Midwest (18%), South Central (17%), and Mountain West (14%) regions of the United States. Just 8% of college students plan to or will consider living abroad and 13% are unsure of their future geographic location.

More than half (53%) of students say their relocation plans after college are more realistic than idealistic, and 53% also report they wish they could live where they want rather than where they plan to or will likely have to.

Differences across racial and ethnic backgrounds highlight unique contributing factors when making plans, with students of color being more than twice as likely as white students to report their considerations are impacted by the fact that they will be a caregiver to a family member (10% vs. 4%) and that they will be contributing to their family's household income (21% vs. 10%) post-graduation.

"College students today are being practical as they look to the future," said Bryant. "It's great to see that they are making careful considerations as they develop plans for life with a degree in hand."

Methodology

The survey was conducted from September 9-22, 2021. Student respondents were fielded by Lucid LLC. Survey participants included 1,000 currently enrolled undergraduate students nationwide. Respondents were 18-26 years of age, enrolled at a college or university, and pursuing a bachelor's degree. The respondents for the survey were screened by various quality checks, including systems like Relevant ID, and responses were manually reviewed to ensure consistency and accuracy.

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