



STRATEGIC NATIONAL ARTS ALUMNI PROJECT

## DataBrief

DataBrief provides arts educators and arts policy makers with highlights of SNAAP data and insights into the value of arts-school education. Contact us for more information.

### This Month:

- [How School Type Influences Arts Graduates](#)
- [SNAAP Conference Recap](#)
- [2013 SNAAP Registration Opens](#)

## Working as Artists: Does School Type Matter?

SNAAP data from the 2011 survey show that there are different outcomes for arts students who attend schools that specialize in the arts (independent colleges of art and design or independent conservatories) compared with those who attend arts programs within more comprehensive colleges and universities. Alumni from specialized arts schools are more likely to have ever worked as artists, to currently work as artists, and to be spending the majority of their current work time in an arts job. While 82% of those who graduate from schools specializing in music, art or design work at some point in an artist occupation (an occupation where they create or perform art), the same is true for 72% of their counterparts who attend arts programs within more comprehensive institutions.

Alumni from specialized arts schools are also more likely than those from comprehensive institutions to currently work as artists (62% versus 50%) and to be spending the majority of their work time in an occupation associated with the arts (74% versus 62%). The 2012 SNAAP dataset will shed further light on the distinctions between specialized arts schools and others; look for information in the 2013 SNAAP Annual Results, coming this summer.

## How School Type Influences Skills Development

SNAAP respondents run the gamut - coming from specialized arts schools, to liberal arts colleges to large research universities, public and private.

SNAAP asked arts graduates how much their institutions helped them to acquire or

develop a number of particular skills and abilities (“not at all,” “very little,” “some,” or “very much”). Those from comprehensive institutions (liberal arts colleges or research institutions) are more likely to report that their schools helped them “very much” to acquire or develop “broad knowledge and education” (53%) than their counterparts from arts-intensive institutions (34%).

More than a third of alumni who had attended schools specializing in the arts indicated that these schools had “very much” given them “broad knowledge and education.” Those from arts-specialized schools are only slightly more likely to say that their schools helped them “very much” to develop their ability for “creative thinking and problem solving” (61%, versus 59% of comprehensive school alumni). Finally, 21% of graduates from arts-specializing institutions say their schools helped them “very much” to develop research skills, while 36% of graduates from arts programs within general-knowledge institutions credit their schools with helping them develop research skills.

### 3 Million Stories in Hindsight

The dust has settled on the first-ever SNAAP conference. For a vivid recap, check out [Steven Tepper’s guest blog](#) and a [3-minute video](#).

Participants left buzzing: *I was really impressed with the high level of the speakers, and consequently, the conversation it generated. Interspersed were some Nashville singer-songwriters who blew us away, a real live Gorilla Girl, a rare interview with playwright/comedian Lewis Black, and a brilliant closing. As someone who attends many conferences, I’m a tough audience and this one really stood out.*

While the conference was meant to be a one-time culmination of our first five years of data collection and analysis, we at SNAAP are now contemplating what we might do next.

### SNAAP 2013 Open for Registration

The third national administration of SNAAP is now open for business. Interested in knowing what your arts alumni are doing now, and how they have applied their arts education to their current careers? The SNAAP survey makes it easy for you to collect comprehensive data that you can use for everything from advocacy and assessment to recruitment and retention. Plus, you get comparative data from peer institutions across the country.

Here’s your [Invitation to Participate](#) and the [Registration Site](#).

The registration deadline is July 15 and your alumni will be surveyed this Fall. For more information, contact us at [snaap@indiana.edu](mailto:snaap@indiana.edu) or 812-856-5824.



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