

Yale Student Athlete First Destination Report: Class of 2021



Yale’s Office of Career Strategy created the 2021 First Destination Report based on data collected from the 2021 First Destination survey, which is the graduates’ information within six months of graduation. ¹ The OCS Student Athlete First Destination Report for the Class of 2021 was created by taking the first destination data collected for the Class of 2021 and separating out the responses from the list of student athletes provided by Yale Athletics Department.

For purposes of this report, the Class of 2021 is defined as those graduating from Yale College between July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. When this data was generated, there were 131 student athletes in the Class of 2021. Of those 131 athletes, 127 students answered the Office of Career Strategy’s First Destination Survey which is a 97% response rate. This is a significantly higher response rate than previous years. The response rate for the Class of 2020 was 84% and for the Class of 2019, it was 86%. This was likely due to a smaller class size for the 2021 graduates due to many student athletes taking a leave of absence during the pandemic so they would be eligible for a subsequent season or due to students deciding to stop participating in their sport.

Post-Graduate Plans

Of the 127 student athletes who responded to the survey, over 60% of them reported as working for pay full time and 20% were planning on attending graduate or professional school. When comparing the Class of 2020 to Class of 2021 student athletes seeking employment six months after graduation, the Class of 2021 has only 1.6% seeking whereas the Class of 2020 had 7.6% seeking. This is likely due to the Class of 2020 graduating a few months after the pandemic started.

Post-graduate Plans	Class of 2021 Student Athletes
Working for pay full time (including University Research positions)	65.4%
Attending graduate or professional school	20.5%
Internship (short term experience, paid or unpaid)	4.7%
Working for pay part-time	.8%
Military Service	3.9%
Still seeking post-graduate employment	1.6%
Still seeking continuing education	1.6%
Entrepreneur/Freelance	1.6%

¹ For a full explanation of the data collection process, see NACE First-Destination Standards and Protocols, available at: <http://www.nacweb.org/job-market/graduate-outcomes/first-destination/first-destination-standards-and-protocols-key-questions-and-answers/>

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Job Function (Role)/ Industry / Sector

The Office of Career Strategy strives to educate students about the difference between function, industry and sector and how to think about their career options in these terms. Students are encouraged to think about the functional area first, which is the actual job of interest, and next consider the industry and sector in which they pursue that job (a micro to macro level approach). The following analysis looks at the employment choices of the student athletes for the Class of 2021 in each of these ways.

Employment Choices by Job Function (Role)

The Class of 2021 student athletes had 45% of respondents starting in finance roles. This is a 15% increase in comparison to previous class years which typically have approximately 30% of students entering finance roles. There are a variety of factors that could play a role in this increase. Since a number of student athletes took a semester off or a gap year, it could be that many of the student athletes who continued to stay enrolled were interns at finance firms during their junior summer and received return offers before entering their senior year. When looking at the entire class of 2021, 21% entered finance roles after graduation, which is consistent with past years in comparing finance among student athletes to the entire class. The chart below represents those industries with at least 3% respondents.

Employment by Job Function (Role)	Class of 2021 Student Athletes
Finance	45%
Consulting	15%
Health Services	8%
Research: Laboratory	8%
Research (Policy, Academic, Literary)	4%
Business Development	3%
Engineering	3%
Office Administrative Services	3%

Employment Choices by Industry

In looking at the industry choices of the student athletes in the Class of 2021, it is interesting to note that healthcare/medical/pharmaceutical industry was the second most popular choice with the same amount of student athletes entering consulting. Given that the third highest job function was health services and lab research, it makes sense that the healthcare industry has an increased number of student athlete graduates. The chart below represents those industries with at least 8% respondents.

Employment by Industry	Class of 2021 Student Athletes
Financial Services (including Real Estate and Insurance)	43%
Healthcare/Medical/Pharmaceutical	12%
Consulting	12%

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Academia/Education (including University research positions)	10%
Technology	8%

Employment Choices by Sector

When looking at the big picture of what sector Yale's student athletes have chosen, over 80% of student athletes reported their first job being in the for profit sector. This is compared to 67% of the overall Class of 2021 entering the for profit sector. This is very consistent with previous years.

Employment by Sector	Class of 2021 Student Athletes
For Profit	82%
Nonprofit	12%
Government	5%

Postgraduate Locations

When asked about their location choices, the majority of Yale student athletes (91%) reported that they would be living in the United States after graduation, which is consistent with past years. Similar to past years the top 4 states for student athletes were again New York, Connecticut, California and Massachusetts.

State	Class of 2021 Student Athletes
New York	37%
Connecticut	14%
California	12%
Massachusetts	8%
District of Columbia	6%
North Carolina	3%
Pennsylvania	3%
Virginia	3%

Starting Salary Range

Over three-fourths (76%) of student athlete respondents who are working full time in the United States began their career earning \$50,000 or more, while over 60% started with a salary of \$70,000 or more. There was a 10% increase in student athletes earning \$70,000 or more, when compared to the Class of 2020 student athletes which is likely due to the 10% increase of students going into finance after graduation.

Starting Salary	Class of 2021 Student Athletes
\$30,001 - \$50,000	24%
\$50,001 - \$70,000	13%

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\$70,001 - \$90,000	46%
\$90,001 - \$120,000	17%

Time of Year Secured Employment

Less than fifty percent (43%) of respondents secured their full-time position in spring (March) of senior year or later. This figure is inconsistent with past student athletes graduate reports which typically have over 50% securing employment in the spring. The increase of student athletes securing their positions in the early fall is directly linked to the high percentage who are entering finance which recruits during that season.

Time of Year Secured Employment	Class of 2021 Student Athletes
September / October 2020	43%
November / December 2020	9%
January / February 2021	3%
March / April 2021	22%
May / June 2021	10%
Summer 2021 after Graduation	9%
Fall 2021 after Graduation	2%

Graduate School

Of the 20% of Student Athlete respondents pursuing graduate school immediately after graduation, over 60% are pursuing a Master's Degree or Ph.D. When comparing to last year's student athletes, there is a 10% decrease in graduates pursuing their Master's Degree immediately after graduation which is likely due to there being more certainty in the job market in 2021 versus 2020.

Graduate/Professional School Degree	Class of 2021 Student Athletes
Master's Degree (includes MS, MA, MPH, MBA)	63%
Other Degree or Certificate	21%
Medical (e.g., MD, DO, DDS, DVM)	8%
Law Degree (e.g. JD or LLB)	4%
Ph.D.	4%

OCS Resources

When asked "What resources were most helpful in finding this opportunity?," over 20% reported using an OCS Resource. This includes the OCS job boards, the on campus recruiting program, a networking event or other Yale OCS recruiting event. It is interesting to note that the top resource was networking with Yale Alumni or peers as OCS strongly encourages our student athletes to utilize networking in exploring various careers and securing employment. In comparison to networking being the top resource for the Class of 2021, it was the third most

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utilized resource for the Class of 2020 athletes. This makes sense given that class graduated a few months after the pandemic started and things were very uncertain.

Top Resource for Finding Your Opportunity	Class of 2021 Student Athletes
Networking with Yale Alumni or Peer	31%
Direct Application through Employer's Website	26%
OCS Resource (includes Job Boards, Interview Programs, Career Fairs)	21%
Personal Contact outside Yale	10%
Faculty Referral	5%
Non-Yale Database (usajobs.gov, Indeed)	4%
Other Yale Resource (Student Organization, Yale Centers)	3%