

Where Do Artists Work?

Exploring the Careers of Arts Graduates in Illinois and the U.S.

This issue brief is the first of a series of reports that examine the career trajectories and experiences of arts graduates and artists. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau was used to map the occupational outcomes of creative talent in the state's workforce. Broadly, it found that arts graduates find pathways both within and outside creative disciplines, with many lending their skills and talents to professions unrelated to the arts.

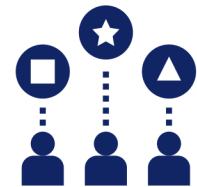
KEY FINDINGS

22% of U.S. and **20%** of Illinois arts graduates work in occupations related to their field of study. The rest are applying their unique talents to other roles such as Management, Education, Administration, and Sales.

Architecture (40%) and Graphic Design (29%) graduates are the most likely to be employed in arts occupations, while **Drama (10%) and Art History (6%) graduates are among the least likely to be so.**

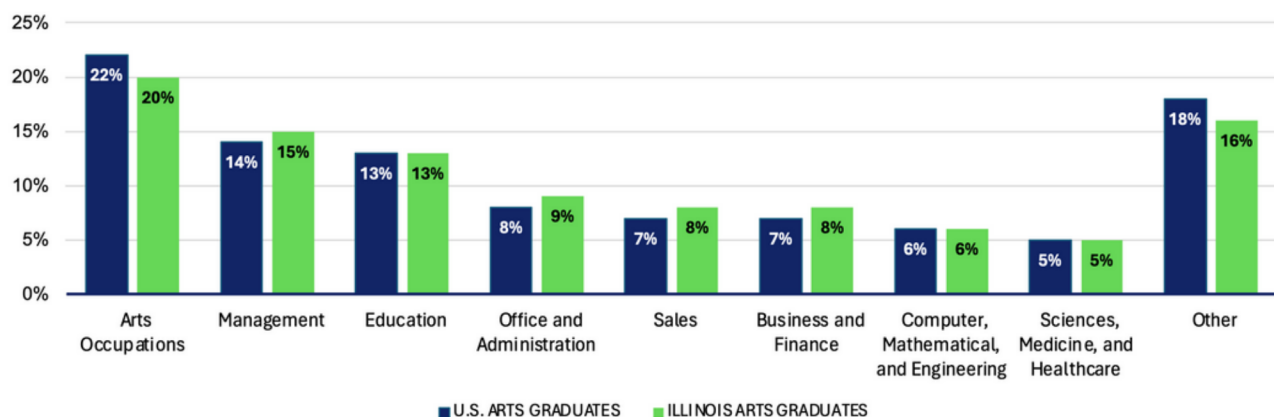


More than one-quarter of **Music graduates (26%) end up working in Education** and one-fifth of **Art History graduates (20%) end up working in Management** occupations.



Arts graduates are more likely to work outside their field than graduates of other majors like Healthcare, IT, and Education.

Occupational Distribution of Arts Graduates in Illinois and United States



Read the Issue Brief Here: <https://go.illinois.edu/ilcwp>

About the Illinois Creative Workforce Partnership

Artists and creative workers can help drive technological and societal innovation. The Illinois Creative Workforce Partnership believes in fostering a creative workforce that transcends boundaries. Rooted in inclusivity, collaboration, and data-driven insights, the partnership, funded by Discovery Partners Institute, Arts Alliance Illinois, the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts at the University of Illinois Chicago, strives for equity and innovation. This report is the first step in building a long-term partnership between universities, nonprofits, and industry that will achieve transformative improvements in how Illinois identifies, prepares, supports, trains, and employs creative workers.



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