

**Concordia University Chicago**  
**Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness**  
**Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP)**  
**Study Highlights**

**Respondents' Characteristics**

Concordia University Chicago's Arts Alumni were asked to participate in the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP) survey. This survey asked arts graduates from across the U.S. and Canada, questions about their perceptions and experiences at higher education institutions.

Fifteen percent (15%) of all eligible alumni from Concordia University Chicago responded to the survey. They were graduate and undergraduate alumni from Arts majors such as Arts Administration, Media Arts, Theater, Arts Education, Craft, Dance, Design, Fine & Studio Art, Music, to name a few. Seven cohorts based on year of graduation, spanning from before 1987 through 2022, participated in the survey. There were 59% females and 36% males. Age ranged from 24 years to over 60 years. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the alumni were married and 19% were single. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the alumni were from Arts Education (Art, Dance, Drama, and Music). Thirty-two percent (32%) were from Music. Fourteen percent (14%) were from Theatre and other Arts respectively. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the alumni were white, two percent Black, four percent Hispanic and four percent two or more races and four percent preferred not to answer.

**SNAAP 2022 Data Highlights**

One hundred alumni rated their overall experience at CUC.

- Eighty-eight percent (88%) rated their experience as good and excellent.
- Seventy-one percent (71%) had some connection and were very much connected to CUC.
- Sixty-nine percent (69%) of the alumni will recommend CUC to another student like them.
- Thirty-nine (39%) of the alumni had opportunities to perform, exhibit, or present their artistic or design work; 33% were satisfied with the overall quality of instructors; 30% had opportunities to take non-arts classes, 24% were satisfied with other opportunities to participate in internships and other professional work-training.
- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of the alumni were working for pay or profit. The table below presents the percentage of alumni who considered these skills very important to career success and the percentage who thought CUC helped them to develop these skills:

Very Important Skills	% who thinks these skills are very important	% who thinks CUC is helping them to develop these skills and abilities
Communication skills	80%	34%
Ability to adapt to changing circumstances	67%	35%
Critical thinking skills	65%	34%
Ability to be resilient and to pick yourself up	63%	32%
Creative thinking and problem-solving skills	61%	30%
Ability to evaluate multiple approaches to solving a problem	55%	19%

It is important for CUC to increase emphasis on the above skills that students considered very important for their career success: Communication skills, Ability to adapt to changing circumstances, Critical thinking skills, and Creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

While enrolled at CUC, Arts alumni participated in the following activities:

- Learned about creative works from diverse cultures or creators with diverse backgrounds within coursework - 95%
- Learned from faculty and instructors who represent a diversity of identities- 97%
- Learned from guest speakers, artists, or other visiting professionals who represent a diversity of identities - 94%
- Learned about matters of racial justice or social equity within their coursework - 73%
- Worked on a project with or in a role serving the local community - 74%
- Worked with an artist in the local community - 66%

## **SNAAP 2022 Highlights from the Arts Alumni Comments**

### **Strengths**

- CUC has a strong general education program with excellent instructors
- Music remains one of CUC's great programs
- Music professors are knowledgeable and are excellent in their field

### **Opportunities for Improvement**

- Provide professional development seminars for students on self-marketing, networking, relationship-building, and entrepreneurial skills or integrate these into the curriculum/coursework
- Hire new faculty members as replacements for those that retired or had been laid off
- Enhance the Theatre program by bringing in guest speakers, instructors, and directors from the professional theatre community.

### **Conclusions**

Concordia University Chicago's Arts alumni indicated that they had good and excellent experience at CUC. They worked on projects with or in a role serving the local community. They reported learning creative works from faculty and instructors representing diverse cultures and backgrounds. Alumni also identified the following as critical to their career success: Communication skills, Ability to adapt to changing circumstances, Critical thinking skills, and Creative thinking and problem-solving skills. However, only one third of the alumni thought CUC is helping them to develop these skills and abilities. Approximately, two-third of the alumni will recommend CUC to other art students.