The Illini Success initiative was launched in August 2014 to gather career-related information about the next steps of bachelor’s degree recipients at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The information here focuses on the 2017-2018 bachelor’s degree graduates from the College of Media, sharing what they are doing with their Illinois degrees.

We reached out to 304 bachelor’s degree recipients in the College of Media graduating classes of August 2017, December 2017, and May 2018. After following this group for six months, we learned about the outcomes of 262 (86%) of our graduates.

### Primary Status after Graduation

- **Employed**: 84%
- **Seeking employment**: 9%
- **Continuing education**: 2%
- **Other**: 14%

> “You never truly understand the power of a connection until you step foot in the College of Media. The number of doors opened for me thanks to the services and resources provided by the college are almost too many count. The job I have now is due to the Connecting Students and Alumni in the Windy City event and through four degrees of separation from the initial keynote speaker who connected me to her colleagues. The College of Media emphasizes that nothing will be given to you in your university experience, but its staff will do everything in their power to help you achieve the vision that you create for yourself.”

> —Walker Post, Journalism ’18

> “The College of Media provided the support, opportunities, and professional experiences needed to succeed in the advertising industry. I have the staff, advisors, and professors at the college to thank for continuously pushing me to meet my goals and helping find my interests. All of the one-on-ones with my professors, networking events, conferences, and student organizations where I was able to apply my classroom knowledge became the foundation of my career. The College of Media offers many challenges and opportunities to advance academically and professionally. Take advantage of what it offers, and there’s no doubt you’ll go far in your career. I did and was able to start my career strong at Droga5 and now, Media Assembly!”

> —Soryane Song, Advertising ’18
"Of all the tremendous things the College of Media has done for me, the main thing I am forever grateful for is broadening my horizons to careers outside of the traditional television and print journalism paths. Through the various networking events and alumni visits, I learned how far a journalism and public relations degree can take you. Today, I am working for the Federal Bureau of Investigation because of the confidence and guidance given to me by the College of Media, and all of the wonderful people that have made it family."

—Jillian Kaehler, Journalism '18