In the fall of 2016, the Carolina Center for Public Service conducted a comprehensive survey of alumni of the Buckley Public Service Scholars program to better understand the program's long-term impact on postgraduate professional and civic experiences and attitudes. Just over 30 percent of the program's nearly 2,000 alumni responded. Here are some highlights.
PROGRAM IMPACT

Resume & skill building
Alumni respondents rated the impact of the BPSS program the highest in terms of preparing them to build their resume, learn new skills and think about social and ethical responsibilities involved in their chosen profession.

“...The culture of public service and critical reflection on that service at UNC was a huge draw for me to attend and remains what I love about it most.”

SERVICE REFLECTION

Clarify civic responsibility & personal values
When asked about reflection activities as a student, respondents reported the highest impact in terms of clarifying their sense of civic responsibility, challenging them to think more critically and clarifying their personal values.

“...The BPSS program helped me begin to really critically think about what service means to me and how I wish to give back to the communities I live in and work in on a day-to-day basis.”

Raise new questions & think critically
When asked about the impact of reflection in their current lives, respondents rated highest its ability to raise new questions for exploration and challenge them to think more critically.

SHAPING SERVICE LEADERS

The culture of public service and critical reflection on that service at UNC was a huge draw for me to attend and remains what I love about it most.”
I think that professionals have a civic responsibility to improve society by serving others. The education and knowledge that I have gained should be used to serve others. I am very interested in current events. Others I work with would likely describe me as someone who is at ease working with people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. I feel that my level of education places an additional responsibility upon me to serve others. Others would likely describe me as someone who is very passionate about my work. I am well connected to a number of people who are active in their communities. Others I work with would likely describe me as someone who listens to conflicting opinions before reaching decisions. I keep very well informed about current issues of social justice. I would describe myself as a politically active and engaged citizen. I am aware of many opportunities to use my skills and abilities in community, voluntary or pro bono service. I often feel a deep sense of purpose in the work that I do. Others would likely describe me as someone who is very familiar with a wide variety of nonprofit organizations. I am often gain a deep sense of satisfaction from the work that I do. I have a strong ability to come to consensus with others through dialogue and compromise. I often gain a deep sense of satisfaction from the work that I do. I think that all professionals should give a portion of their time to community, voluntary or pro bono service. I am very interested in current events. Others I work with would likely describe me as someone who is at ease working with people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. I feel that my level of education places an additional responsibility upon me to serve others. Others would likely describe me as someone who is very passionate about my work. I am well connected to a number of people who are active in their communities. Others I work with would likely describe me as someone who listens to conflicting opinions before reaching decisions. I keep very well informed about current issues of social justice. I would describe myself as a politically active and engaged citizen. I am aware of many opportunities to use my skills and abilities in community, voluntary or pro bono service. I often feel a deep sense of purpose in the work that I do. Others would likely describe me as someone who is very familiar with a wide variety of nonprofit organizations. I am often gain a deep sense of satisfaction from the work that I do. I have a strong ability to come to consensus with others through dialogue and compromise.

Alumni overwhelmingly self-report strong civic-mindedness. (percentage of alumni who agree with self-perception measures of civic-mindedness)

Most graduates report being regularly engaged in service.

WHERE THEY ARE TODAY

“I am so thankful for those who ensured I would graduate as an informed citizen dedicated to using my own skills to improve the lives of others.”

“My public service experience at UNC was the most profound and important aspect of my college experience. It created a thread through my academic coursework and passions that led me to my current position.”

Most graduates work in public service sectors. (sectors in which graduates report current or prior employment, as a percentage of total responses)