2017 U.S. college graduates are willing to commit and ready to roll up their sleeves. In return these new grads want an engaging experience that takes full advantage of their degree. Many recent 2015/16 graduates face a different reality.

The Accenture Strategy report *Gen Z Rising* examines the attitudes and expectations of U.S. graduates and how employers can improve their employee experience and become a destination for top talent.

### GETTING READY FOR THE WORKFORCE

**EXPECTATIONS of the class of 2017**

- 83% said their education prepared them well
- 88% considered job availability before selecting a major
- 78% completed an apprenticeship or internship

**REALITY experienced by 2015/16 grads**

- 44% found it difficult or extremely difficult to find a job
- 49% accepted a lower salary or compromised on job benefits
- 65% saw their apprenticeship or internship lead to a job

### FINDING THAT FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATION

**EXPECTATIONS of the class of 2017**

- 94% expect to find a job in their field of study
- 97% need training to further their career
- 69% expect to earn more than $35,000 a year

**REALITY experienced by 2015/16 grads**

- 57% work full time in their chosen field
- 67% receive training from their first employer
- 49% earn more than $35,000 a year

Source: The Accenture Strategy 2017 College Graduate Employment Study surveyed 1,000 U.S. students who are graduating from college in 2017, and 1,000 students who graduated in 2015 or 2016, between the ages of 18 and 24, to compare the perceptions of students preparing to enter the job market with the experiences of recent graduates already in the workforce. Survey conducted in January/February, 2017.

To access the full report please visit [www.accenture.com/US2017Grads](http://www.accenture.com/US2017Grads)

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