Millennial Benefit Preferences Study
Study finds that companies offering student loan repayment can

☑ increase speed to hire
☑ reduce costs of turnover
☑ improve gender and cultural diversity

Conducted by FC Consulting, the Millennial Benefit Preferences study has been published by HR.com, Recruiter.com, and presented at Purdue university
Benefit Preferences of College-educated Millennials

Summary of Findings

- 85% of respondents would accept a job offer when student loan repayment is included.

- Respondents indicated a willingness to stay at a job at least 36% longer (1.3 additional years) when an employer offers student loan repayment.

- The average respondent prefers student loan repayment nearly 2x more than 401(k) contribution, 2x more than health insurance, 7x more than food, 11x more than gym membership and 12x more than enhancements to the workplace environment.

- 27% of respondents prefer student loan repayment 18x more than 401(k) and 23x more than health insurance contributions; these individuals are more likely to be female and minority ethnicities.
73% of respondents are currently unsatisfied with at least one benefit/perk provided by their employer.

- Free meals
- Working environment
- Gym membership
- Discounts
- Pet insurance
- Public commuting

DOES YOUR COMPANY CURRENTLY OFFER ANY BENEFITS OR PERKS THAT YOU DON’T VALUE? IF SO, WHAT?

- YES
- NO
85% of respondents would accept a job offer when student loan repayment is included

IF YOU RECEIVED JOB OFFERS FROM TWO EMPLOYERS WITH IDENTICAL SALARY, BENEFITS, AND PERKS, BUT EMPLOYER #1 ALSO OFFERED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REPAYMENT OF YOUR STUDENT LOANS, WOULD YOU ACCEPT THE JOB OFFER FROM EMPLOYER #1?

- YES
- NO
- IT DEPENDS
Respondents indicated a willingness to stay at a job at least 36% longer (1.3 additional years) when an employer offers student loan repayment.

More than 2x as many people said they would stay 6 years or more, when employer contributes to student loans.

- IF AN EMPLOYER PROVIDED YOU WITH COMPETITIVE SALARY, BENEFITS, AND PERKS, ABOUT HOW LONG WOULD YOU EXPECT TO STAY WITH THIS EMPLOYER?
College-educated Millennials prefer student loan repayment 2-12x more than other perks and benefits.

- **Student loan repayment**: $418
- **401(k) contribution**: $239 (2x)
- **Health insurance (e.g., premiums, HSA, FSA)**: $181 (2x)
- **Food (e.g., breakfast, lunch, snacks, soda)**: $63 (7x)
- **Gym membership**: $38 (11x)
- **Workplace environment (e.g., foosball tables, artwork, leather sofas)**: $35 (12x)

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**IF YOUR EMPLOYER WERE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE $1000 TOWARD ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS, HOW WOULD YOU PREFER THE MONEY BE DISTRIBUTED?**

- **AVERAGE SPEND PREFERRED**
27% of respondents prefer student loan repayment 18x more than 401(k) and 23x more than health insurance contributions; these individuals are more likely to be female and minority ethnicities.
Implications for Employers
Modest contributions to employee student loans can help attract talent

- INCREASE QUANTITY OF APPLICANTS
- DECREASE COST TO HIRE
- SHORTEN HIRING TIMELINE

85% of college-educated Millennials would accept a job when student loan repayment is offered
Voluntary attrition can be reduced by offering benefits employees value

- AVOID LOST PRODUCTIVITY
- REDUCE HIRING COSTS
- SPEND LESS ON TRAINING

College-educated Millennials expressed a willingness to stay 36% longer when an employer offers student loan repayment
Careful refinement of the employee value proposition can improve diversity and help companies become an employer of choice

- DIFFERENTIATE VERSUS COMPETITORS
- HELP EMPLOYEES GET OUT OF DEBT
- ASSIST IN RESOLVING AMERICA’S $1.2T STUDENT DEBT PROBLEM

The group of college-educated Millennials that values student loan repayment 18x more than 401(k) and 23x more than health insurance contributions included significantly more females and minorities than the sample’s average
Offer Student Loan Assistance, the #1 employee benefit for college-educated talent

Get started with
Student Loan Resources
The tools your employees need to tackle their student debt
- Curated advice and insights
- Free and paid counseling options
- Refinancing marketplace

Maximize your impact with
Student Loan Repayment
Simple administration for company-sponsored loan contributions
- Benchmarking, plan design, and analysis
- Enrollment, loan verification, and support
- Payment management and reporting

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Methodology and Demographics
Methodology

FIRST PHASE: FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS
- 1:1 interviews regarding perceptions of benefits and perks

SECOND PHASE: SURVEY TESTING
- Self-administered, online survey delivered via email to 62 testers, completed Jul 5–8, 2015
- Survey data analyzed and questions refined

THIRD PHASE: QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS
- Self-administered, online survey, open from July 26 – August 9, 2015
- Distribution included: Email, Handouts, Craigslist, Amazon Mechanical Turk, Facebook, Reddit, Twitter, LinkedIn
- 717 total respondents
- 229 disqualified based on Age ("20 years old, or younger," "35 years old, or older," no response); study intended to focus on Millennial generation
- 26 disqualified based on Education ("High school diploma, or less", no response); study intended to focus on individuals with at least some college education
- 62 disqualified based on Incompletion (no response to final required question)
- 400 qualified and complete responses (n=400 for all charts in this presentation)
### Student Loan Balance

- $100,000 or more: 3%
- $80,000 - $99,999: 1%
- $60,000 - $79,999: 4%
- $40,000 - $59,999: 5%
- $20,000 - $39,999: 14%
- $5,000 - $19,999: 33%
- $1 - $5,000: 23%
- 0: 16%
- No answer: 2%

### Household Income

- $200,000 or more: 2%
- $150,000 - $199,999: 2%
- $100,000 - $149,999: 5%
- $75,000 - $99,999: 9%
- $50,000 - $74,999: 22%
- $35,000 - $49,999: 19%
- $25 - $34,999: 17%
- Less than $25,999: 16%
- No answer: 9%
Home and Workplace

- Live Rural & Work Rural: 4%
- Live Suburban & Work Suburban: 25%
- Live Suburban & Work Urban: 11%
- Live Urban & Work Urban: 39%
- Live Urban & Work Rural, 0%
Years Since Completing Most Recent Degree

- 7 years, or more: 17%
- 6 years: 5%
- 5 years: 9%
- 4 years: 9%
- 3 years: 12%
- 2 years: 23%
- 1 year, or less: 16%
- No answer: 9%

Industry You Work In

- Healthcare: 14%
- Financials: 13%
- Technology: 13%
- Consumer Goods: 11%
- Government or Nonprofit: 10%
- Other: 9%
- Advertising, Communications, and Media: 7%
- Retail: 7%
- Industrials: 4%
- Basic Materials: 4%
- Telecommunications: 3%
- Travel & Leisure: 2%
- Utilities: 1%
- Oil & Gas: 0%
Get started designing your company’s student loan assistance program

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or submit your info here to schedule an appointment

www.getpeanutbutter.com/get-started