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Life After UMaine: The Employment and Educational Status of Baccalaureat Recipients, 2009-2010

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Life After UMaine
 The Employment and Educational Status of
 2009-2010 Baccalaureate Recipients

Office of Institutional Studies
 December 2011

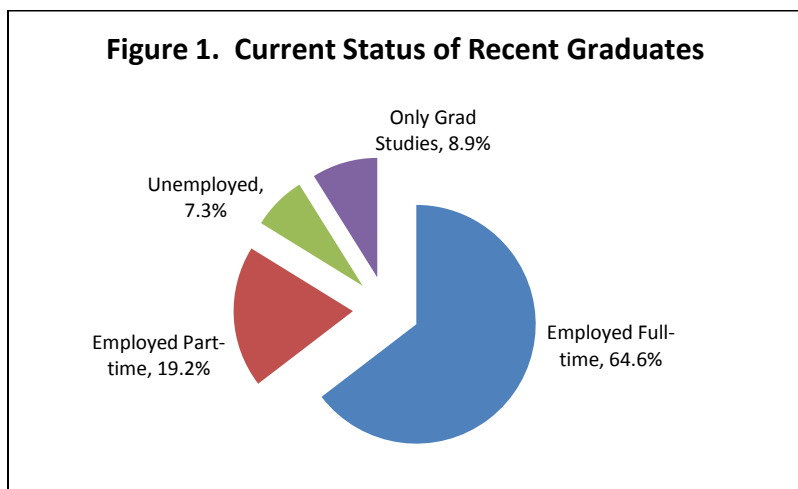
The Office of Institutional Studies (OIS) mailed the *Life After UMaine* survey to 1,571 baccalaureate degree recipients who graduated in December 2009, May 2010, or August 2010.¹ Depending on the conferral date, 6 to 15 post-graduation months had elapsed at the time of the survey. OIS mailed follow-up surveys approximately one, two, and three months after the initial mailing to those who had not yet responded. 672 graduates provided useable responses, which corresponds to a return rate of 44%. Although the percentage of respondents by college is similar to the percentage of actual graduates by college, one nevertheless should remain mindful of this return rate when generalizing these sample results to the population of UMaine baccalaureate recipients and, further, when considering differences between the results reported below and those obtained in previous years.

Below, we summarize the employment and educational status of these 672 UMaine graduates. Where we report data by college, we go further for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences—given the variety of disciplines in this college—by distinguishing between humanities, physical sciences, and social sciences.

Employment after Graduation

As Figure 1 shows, 65% of respondents have found full-time work (down from 71% in the previous survey of 2007-2008 baccalaureates)² and 19% are working part-time (up from 14%). Among those reporting full-time employment, 83% indicated their job is related to their UMaine degree.

Individuals only pursuing graduate studies make up an additional 9% of respondents. Another 14% of respondents reported enrolling in graduate school while working, resulting in a total of 23% enrolled in further education (down from 30%).

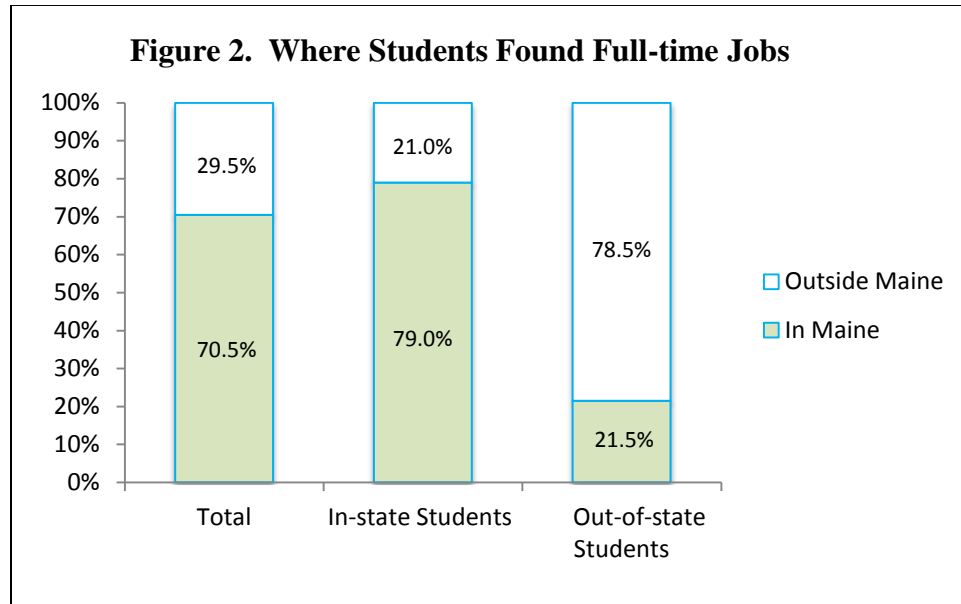


¹ The 26 international graduates were not surveyed. Further, there were 28 graduates for whom addresses could not be obtained.

² Because of budget constraints, there was no *Life After UMaine* survey of 2008-2009 graduates.

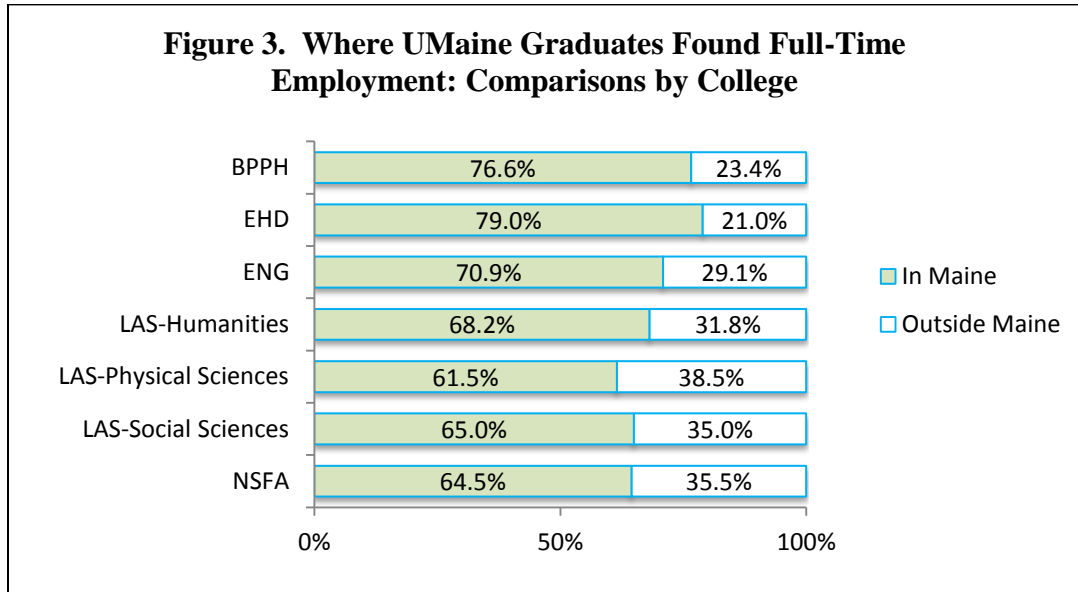
Where are the Jobs?

71% of respondents who are working full-time have remained in Maine (Figure 2), which is seven percentage points higher than what was reported in the previous survey. Not surprisingly, location of employment is related to one's roots. Among respondents whose roots are in Maine, 79% of the full-time employed have remained in Maine (up from 70%); for those "from away," the figure is 22% (up from 16%).



As Figure 3 shows, there are differences across the UMaine colleges³ with respect to location of employment. For example, 79% of EHD graduates remained in Maine for full-time employment compared with 62% of graduates from LAS (Physical Sciences).

³ Each college's composition corresponds to its 2009-2010 composition. (BPPH = College of Business, Public Policy, and Health; EHD = College of Education and Human Development; LAS = College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and NSFA = College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture.)



What Do They Earn?

The median salary is \$35,000 for the 349 respondents who are employed full-time and who volunteered their annual income (see Table 1). The median salary is \$32,500 for those employed in Maine and \$40,000 for those employed elsewhere.

Not surprisingly, full-time median salaries vary by college.⁴ Among all respondents, for example, ENG graduates command the highest median salary whereas those receiving degrees in LAS-Humanities have the lowest median salary. Regardless, median salaries are higher among those employed outside Maine here as well.

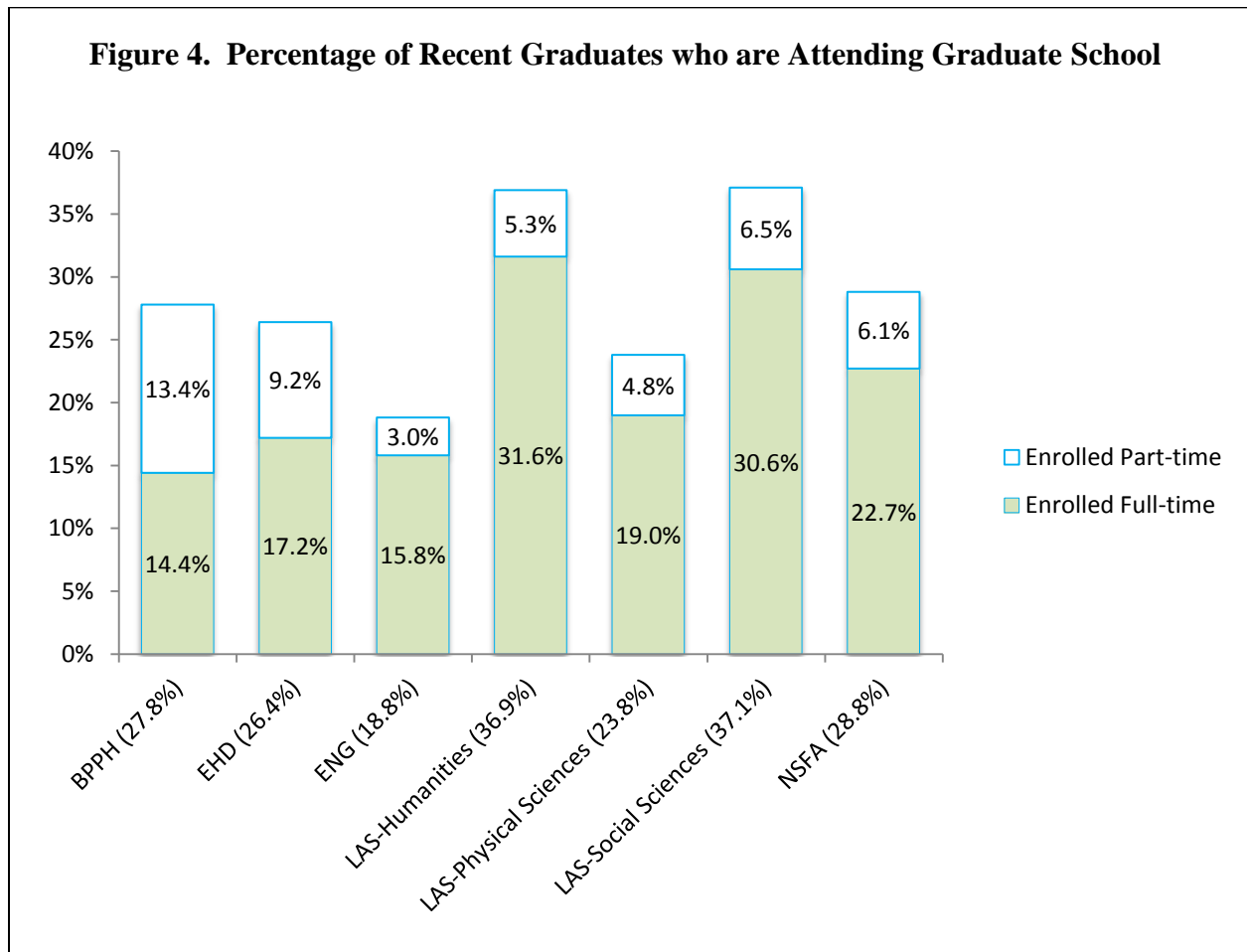
College	Median Salary		Median Salary (in Maine)		Median Salary (outside Maine)	
	\$	<i>N</i>	\$	<i>n</i>	\$	<i>n</i>
BPPH	36,000	64	34,000	50	45,000	14
EHD	30,000	46	30,000	35	32,000	11
ENG	52,000	73	50,000	52	55,000	21
LAS-Humanities	25,000	17	25,000	13	33,500	4
LAS-Physical Sciences	40,000	13	50,000	8	40,000	5
LAS-Social Sciences	28,080	49	25,000	33	37,000	16
NSFA	35,000	84	33,500	50	39,000	34
UMaine Total⁵	35,000	349	32,500	244	40,000	105

⁴ Given the small *N*s, coupled with the 44% response rate, these subgroup medians should be interpreted with great caution.

⁵ The UMaine totals also include six Bachelor of University Studies recipients.

Who is Attending Graduate School?

Just under one-third (29%) of respondents are enrolled either part-time (7%) or full-time (22%) in graduate studies. (This includes the 9% of respondents, shown in Figure 1, who report that graduate study is their only pursuit.) As illustrated in Figure 4, these percentages vary by college. For example, fewer than one-fifth of ENG graduates go on to graduate studies compared with over one-third of graduates in the humanities and social sciences. We also see differences among colleges with respect to the full-time/part-time breakdown, with larger percentages of graduates from LAS and NSFA enrolling full-time in graduate studies compared with their counterparts in BPPH, EHD, and ENG.



How Well Did UMaine Prepare its Graduates?

Of the respondents employed full-time in a job related to their UMaine degree, 93% believed their UMaine experience prepared them “very well” or “moderately well,” and only 7% reported being “minimally prepared” or “uncertain.” Coincidentally, results were identical for those enrolled in graduate school (irrespective of employment status): 93% believed UMaine prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for graduate studies, and 3.8% reported feeling “minimally prepared” or “uncertain” in this regard.