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Life After UMaine: The Employment and Educational Status of Baccalaureat Recipients, 2010-2011

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Life After UMaine
The Employment and Educational Status of
2010-2011 Baccalaureates

Office of Institutional Research
March 2013

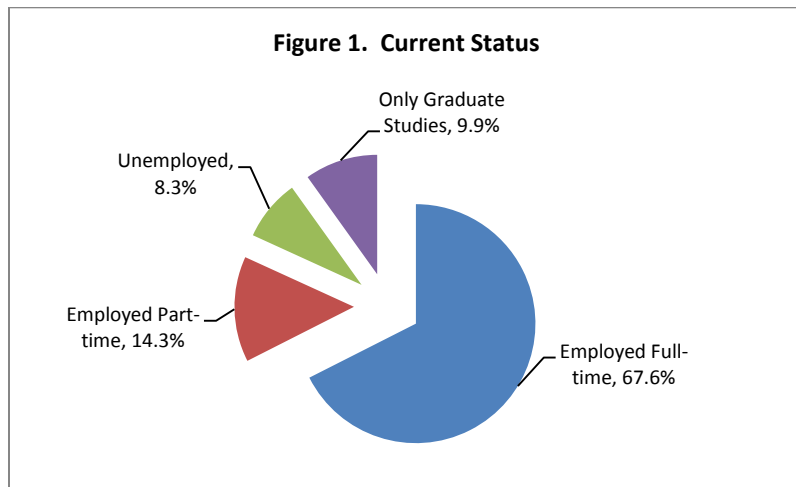
The Office of Institutional Research (OIR) mailed the *Life After UMaine* survey to 1,608 baccalaureate degree recipients who graduated in December 2010, May 2011, or August 2011.¹ Depending on the conferral date, 6 to 15 post-graduation months had elapsed at the time of the survey. OIR mailed follow-up surveys approximately one, two, and three months after the initial mailing to those who had not yet responded. 668 graduates provided useable responses, which corresponds to a return rate of 42%.

Although the percentage of respondents by college is similar to the percentage of actual graduates by college, one nevertheless should remain mindful of the 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. Further, any subgroup results (e.g., by college or residency) similarly should be considered with caution.

Below, we summarize the employment and educational status of these 668 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.

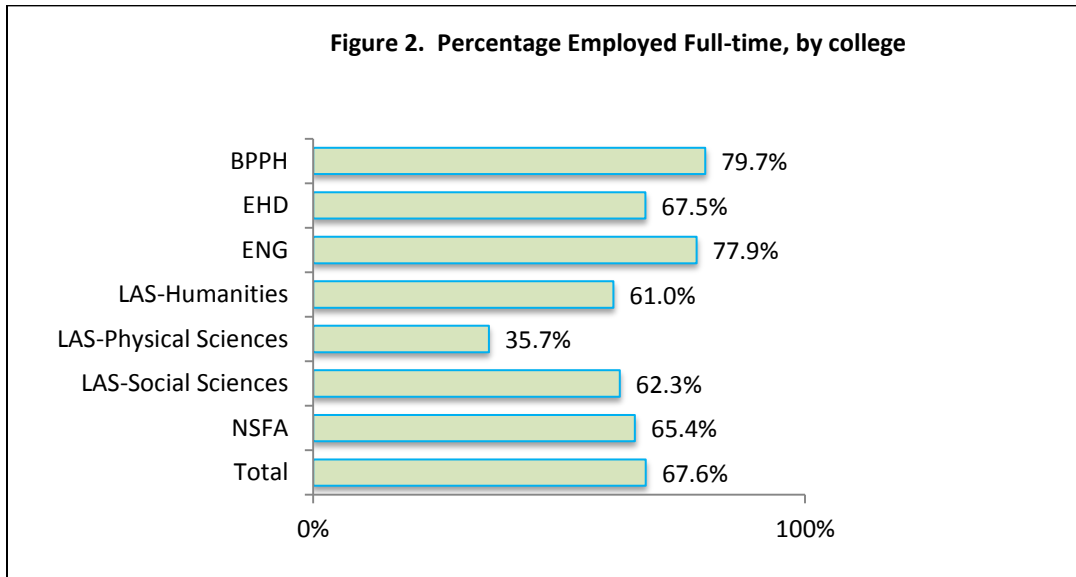
Employment after Graduation

As Figure 1 shows, 68% of respondents have full-time employment, and 14% are employed part-time. Among those reporting full-time employment, 82% indicated their job is related to their UMaine degree.



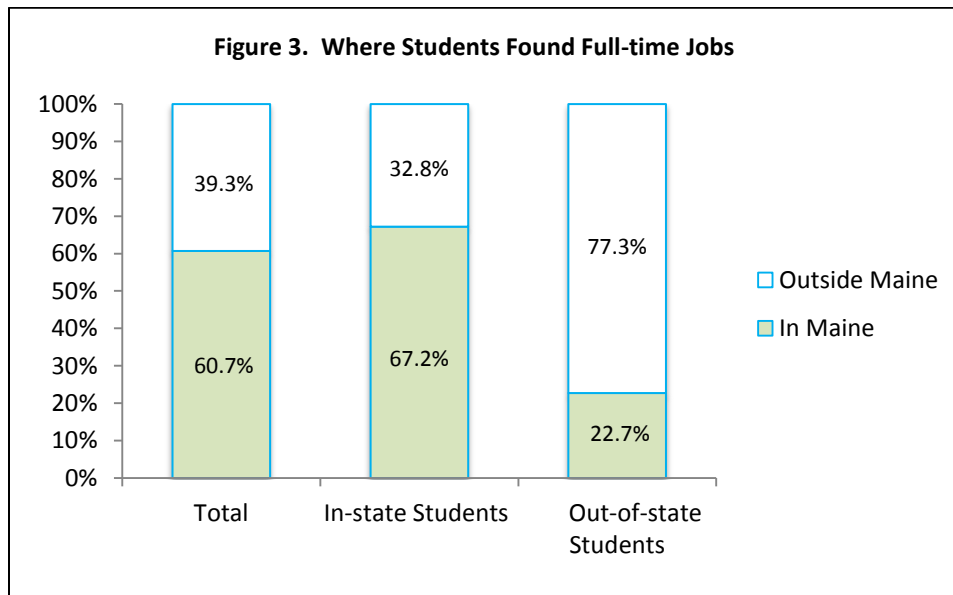
¹ Not included in this pool are (a) 28 international graduates, (b) 34 graduates for whom a valid address was not available, and (c) 26 graduates who asked the Office of Student Records not to share their address.

Figure 2 reveals the variability among colleges² in the percentage of respondents who are employed full-time, with BPPH and ENG at one extreme and LAS-Physical Sciences at the other.



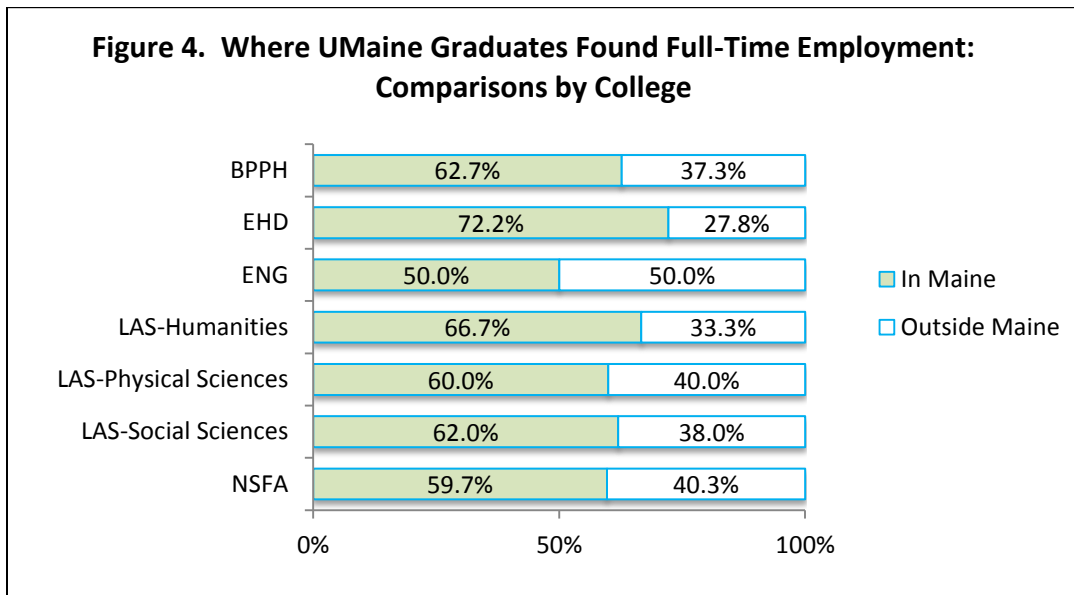
Where are the Jobs?

61% of respondents who are working full-time have remained in Maine (Figure 3). Not surprisingly, location of employment is related to one's roots. Among respondents whose roots are in Maine, 67% of the full-time employed have remained in Maine; for those "from away," the figure is 23%.



² The composition of each college reflects its composition as of fall 2012. (BPPH = College of Business, Public Policy, and Health; EHD = College of Education and Human Development; ENG = College of Engineering; LAS = College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and NSFA = College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture.)

As Figure 4 shows, there are differences across the UMaine colleges with respect to location of employment. For example, 72% of EHD graduates remained in Maine for full-time employment compared with 50% of graduates from ENG.



What Do They Earn?

The median salary is \$36,000 for the 388 respondents who are employed full-time and who volunteered their annual income (see Table 1). Among those employed in Maine, the median salary is \$32,500; for those employed elsewhere, \$42,000.

Not surprisingly, full-time median salaries vary by college.³ Among all respondents, for example, ENG graduates command the highest median salary. Regardless, median salaries are generally higher among those employed outside Maine.

Table 1. Median Salaries of the Full-time Employed.

College	Median Salary		Median Salary (in Maine)		Median Salary (outside Maine)	
	\$	<i>N</i>	\$	<i>n</i>	\$	<i>n</i>
BPPH	40,000	47	36,000	29	44,500	18
EHD	30,000	47	30,000	35	30,000	12
ENG	53,000	80	51,000	39	60,000	41
LAS-Humanities	30,000	31	29,000	21	35,000	10
LAS-Physical Sciences	48,500	4	48,500	2	48,925	2
LAS-Social Sciences	30,000	65	30,000	43	35,500	22
NSFA	36,000	111	34,500	64	40,000	47
UMaine Total⁴	36,000	388	32,500	235	42,000	153

³ Given the small *N*s (coupled with the 42% response rate), these subgroup medians should be interpreted with caution.

⁴ The UMaine totals also include three Bachelor of University Studies recipients.

What Occupational Sectors Are Represented?

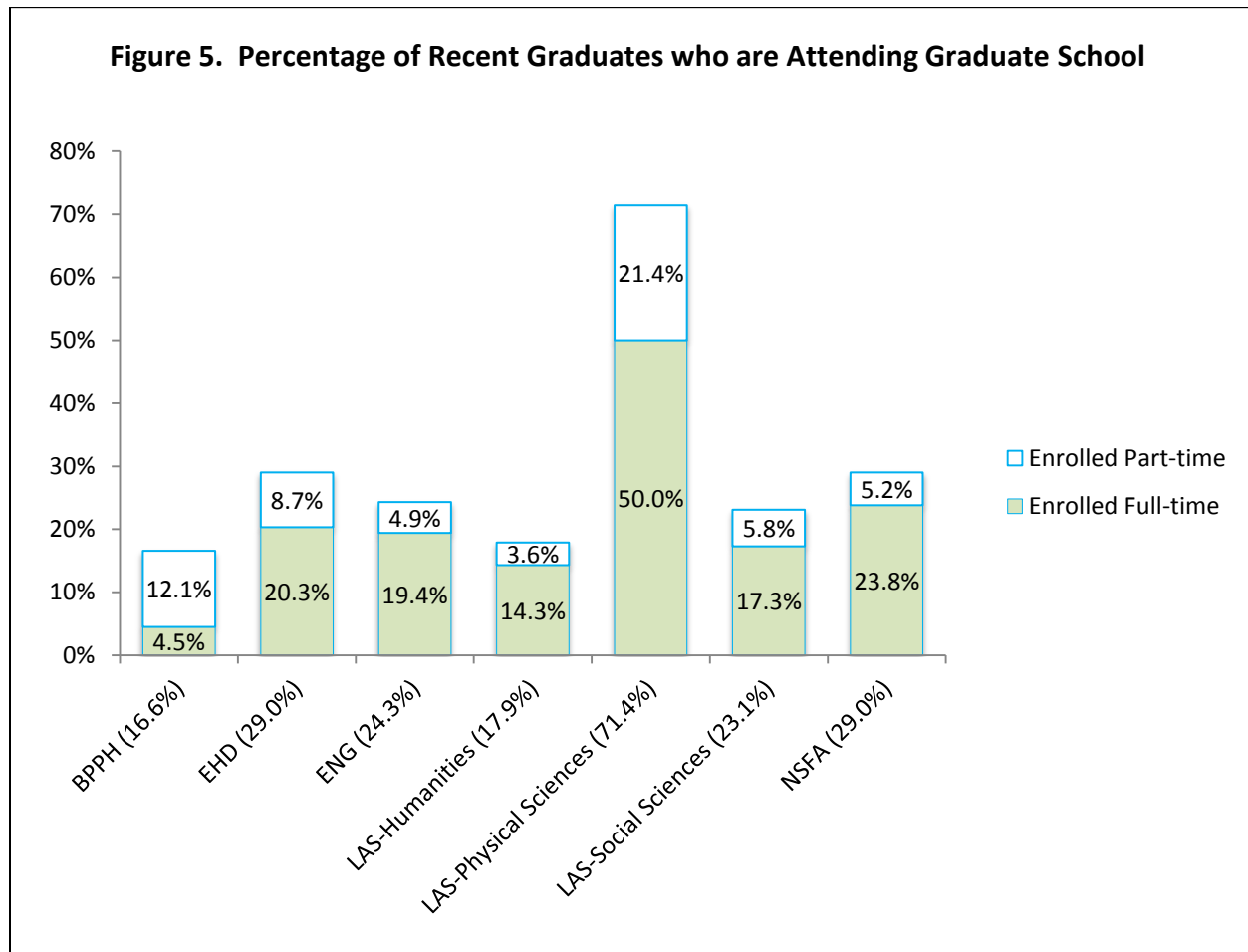
Using the place of employment and occupation/job title provided by employed respondents, we grouped the full-time employed according to occupational sector.⁵ As shown in Table 2, over half (55%) of those employed full-time are working in occupations related to architecture/engineering, education, healthcare, or business.

Table 2. Broad Occupation Sectors (Employed Full-Time).		
Sector	Total	
	<i>n</i>	% of all full-time employed
Architecture & Engineering Occupations	77	17.1%
Education, Training, & Library Occupations	62	13.8%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	59	13.1%
Business & Financial Operations Occupations	50	11.1%
Sales & Related Occupations	33	7.3%
Management Occupations	25	5.6%
Office & Administrative Support Occupations	18	4.0%
Community & Social Service Occupations	17	3.8%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations	15	3.3%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	15	3.3%
Computer & Mathematical Occupations	14	3.1%
Life, Physical, & Social Science Occupations	11	2.4%
Personal Care & Service Occupations	7	1.6%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations	6	1.3%
Military-Specific Occupations	6	1.3%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	5	1.1%
Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	4	0.9%
Healthcare Support Occupations	4	0.9%
Construction & Extraction Occupations	4	0.9%
Protective Service Occupations	3	0.7%
Production Occupations	1	0.2%
Full-Time Employed Respondents Reporting Occupation	436	97%
Occupation Not Known	14	3%
Total Full-Time Employed Respondents	450	100%

⁵ We based these groupings on the Standard Occupational Classification system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (http://www.bls.gov/soc/major_groups.htm).

Who is Attending Graduate School?

Roughly one-quarter (26%) of respondents are enrolled either part-time (7%) or full-time (19%) in graduate studies. (This includes the 10% of respondents, shown in Figure 1, who report that graduate study is their only pursuit.) As illustrated in Figure 5, these percentages vary by college. For example, fewer than one fifth of BPPH graduates go on to graduate studies compared with over two thirds of graduates in the physical sciences. We also see differences among colleges with respect to the full-time/part-time breakdown, with fully half of the LAS-Physical Sciences graduates enrolling full-time in graduate studies compared with roughly 5% in BPPH.



How Well Did UMaine Prepare its Graduates?

Of the respondents employed full-time in a job related to their UMaine degree, 90% believe their UMaine experience prepared them “very well” or “moderately well,” and only 10% report being “minimally prepared” or “uncertain” in this regard. Results are comparable for those enrolled in graduate school (irrespective of employment status): 94% believe UMaine prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for graduate studies, and 6% report feeling “minimally prepared” or “uncertain.”