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Life After UMaine: The Employment and Educational Status of Baccalaureat Recipients, 2011-2012

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Life After UMaine

The Employment and Educational Status of 2011-2012 Baccalaureates

Office of Institutional Research
April 2014

With generous support provided by President Ferguson, the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) mailed the *Life After UMaine* survey to 1,613 baccalaureate degree recipients who graduated in December 2011, May 2012, or August 2012.¹ Depending on the conferral date, 6 to 15 post-graduation months had elapsed at the time of the survey.

OIR sent the initial survey in March 2013. We prompted nonrespondents as many as four times between May and December. Although all mailings included the physical survey, we provided a link to an online version in the letter accompanying our final prompt. Useable responses were received from 589 graduates (12 of whom used the online survey), which corresponds to a return rate of 37%.

In the pages that follow, we summarize the employment and educational status of these 589 UMaine graduates. Where we report data by college, we go further for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (given the variety of its disciplines) by distinguishing among LAS–Humanities, LAS–Physical Sciences, and LAS–Social Sciences.

Caveat: Although the percentage of respondents by college generally is not dissimilar to the percentage of actual graduates by college, one nevertheless should remain mindful of the 37% return rate when generalizing these sample results to the population of UMaine baccalaureates. Subgroup results similarly should be considered with caution, particularly when the number of respondents is small (as it is, for example, with LAS–Physical Sciences respondents). This general caveat also applies were one to compare the results presented here with those reported in earlier editions of *Life After UMaine*.

¹ Not included in this pool are (a) the 31 international graduates and (b) the 35 graduates who informed the Office of Student Records they did not want to be contacted. Further, there were 20 graduates for whom current addresses were not available.

Employment after graduation

As Figure 1 shows, 68% of respondents have full-time employment, with 17% being employed part-time. Among those reporting full-time employment, 84% indicated their job is related to their UMaine degree.

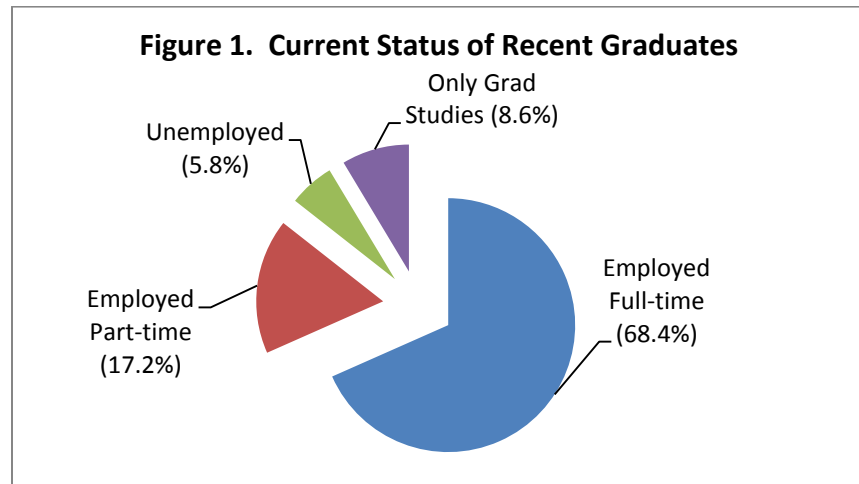
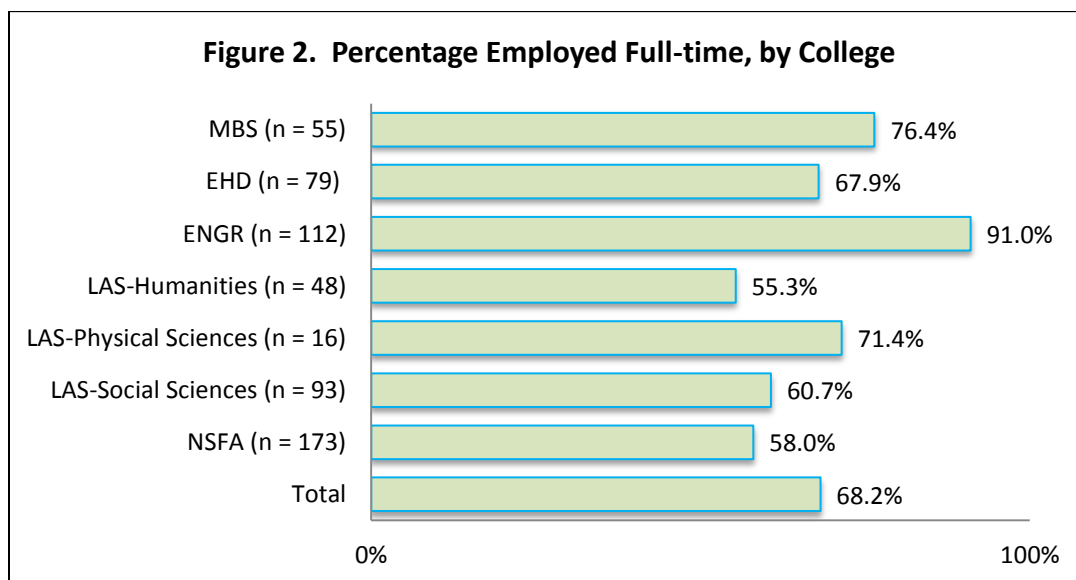


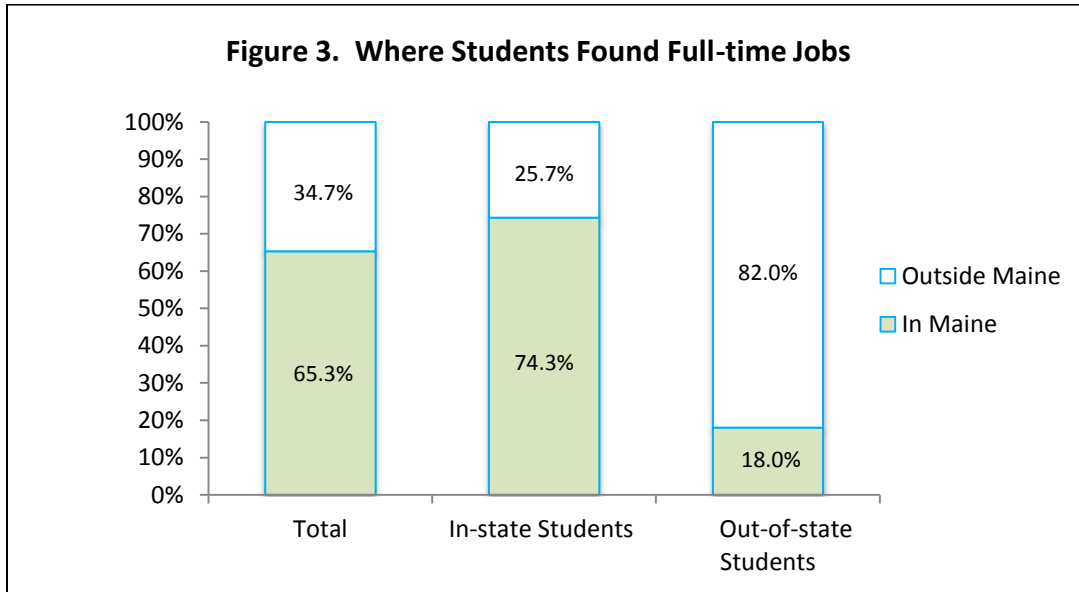
Figure 2 reveals the variability among colleges² in the percentage of respondents who are employed full-time. The highest rate of employment—91%—is seen among ENGR graduates. In contrast, roughly half of LAS–Humanities graduates reported full-time employment.



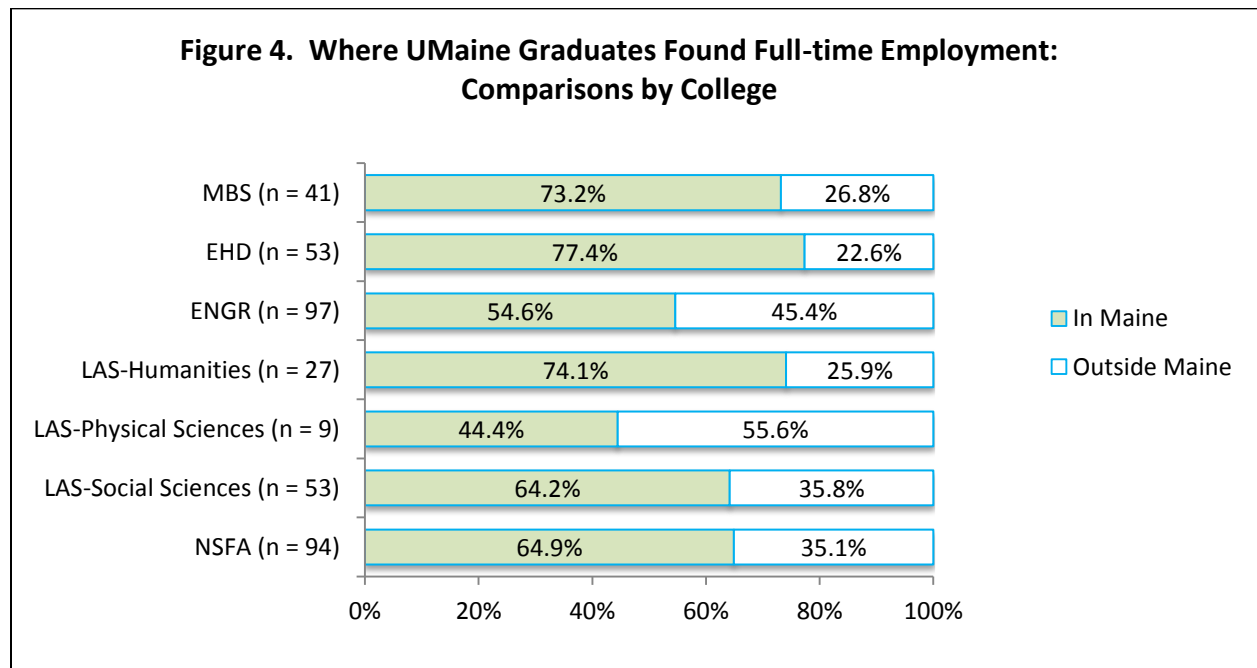
² The composition of each college reflects its composition as of fall 2013. (MBS = Maine Business School; EHD = College of Education and Human Development; ENGR = College of Engineering; LAS = College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and NSFA = College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture.)

Where are the jobs?

About two thirds 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 having Maine roots, roughly three quarters of the full-time employed have remained in Maine; for those "from away," 18% have.



As Figure 4 shows, there are differences across the UMaine colleges with respect to location of employment among the full-time employed. For example, 77% of EHD graduates remained in Maine for full-time employment compared with 55% of ENGR graduates.



What do they earn?

The median salary is \$37,000 for the 340 respondents who are employed full-time and who volunteered their annual income (see Table 1). Among those employed in Maine, the median salary is \$35,000; for those employed elsewhere, \$40,000.

Not surprisingly, full-time median salaries vary by college. Among all respondents, for example, ENGR graduates command the highest median salary and LAS–Humanities the lowest. 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>
MBS	39,000	36	37,000	25	41,000	10
EHD	30,000	43	30,000	32	30,000	11
ENGR	53,550	96	52,000	51	55,000	43
LAS-Humanities	26,531	24	27,000	17	24,000	7
LAS-Physical Sciences	43,000	9	37,100	4	62,000	4
LAS-Social Sciences	31,000	44	29,000	28	37,000	16
NSFA	37,500	82	38,000	51	34,500	30
UMaine Total³	37,000	340	35,000	213	40,000	122

³ UMaine totals also include four Bachelor of University Studies and two Bachelor of Arts in Public Management recipients. Further, UMaine totals include five respondents who did not disclose residence (which also explains why a college total *N* in some cases is greater than the sum of its subgroup *ns*).

What occupational sectors are represented?

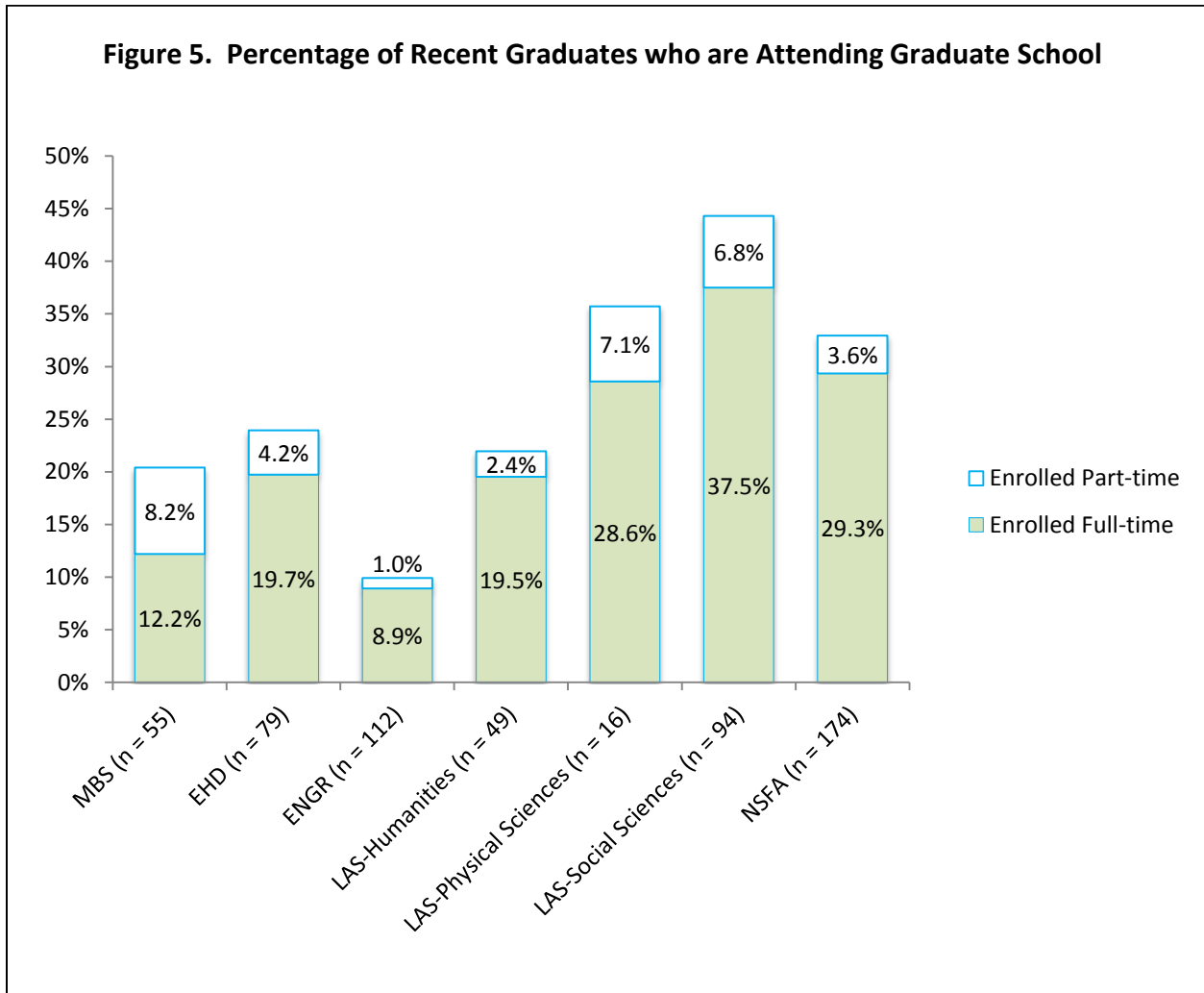
Using the place of employment and occupation/job title provided by employed respondents, we grouped the full-time employed according to occupational sector.⁴ As shown in Table 2, over half of those employed full-time (61%) are working in occupations related to architecture/engineering, education, healthcare, business, or management occupations.

Table 2. Broad Occupation Sectors (Employed Full-Time).		
Sector	Total	
	<i>n</i>	% of all full-time employed
Architecture & Engineering Occupations	75	19.3%
Education, Training, & Library Occupations	53	13.6%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	49	12.6%
Business & Financial Occupations	29	7.5%
Management Occupations	29	7.5%
Sales & Related Occupations	22	5.7%
Office & Administrative Support Occupations	17	4.4%
Computer & Mathematical Occupations	14	3.6%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations	14	3.6%
Life, Physical, & Social Science Occupations	14	3.6%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	13	3.3%
Community & Social Service Occupations	12	3.1%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	8	2.1%
Construction & Extraction Occupations	7	1.8%
Personal Care & Service Occupations	7	1.8%
Military-Specific Occupations	6	1.5%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations	4	1.0%
Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	3	0.8%
Production Occupations	2	0.5%
Healthcare Support Occupations	1	0.3%
Protective Service Occupations	1	0.3%
Full-Time Employed Respondents Reporting Occupation	380	97.7%
Occupation Sector Not Known	9	2.3%
Total Full-Time Employed Respondents	389	100%

⁴ 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 of respondents are enrolled either part-time (4%) or full-time (23%) 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 5, these percentages differ by college—differences that, in part, reflect corresponding differences regarding full-time employment. For example, we saw in Figure 2 that 91% of ENGR graduates are employed full-time, which throws light on the observation in Figure 5 that only 10% of ENGR graduates go on to graduate studies.



How well did UMaine prepare its graduates?

Of the respondents employed full-time in a job related to their UMaine degree, 91% believe their UMaine experience prepared them “very well” or “moderately well,” and only 9% report being “minimally prepared” or “uncertain” in this regard (Figure 6). This sentiment is shared by those enrolled in graduate school (irrespective of employment status): 91% believe UMaine prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for graduate studies, and 9% report feeling “minimally prepared” or “uncertain.”

