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## Life After UMaine: The Employment and Educational Status of Baccalaureat Recipients, 2012-2013

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## *Life After UMaine*

### The Employment and Educational Status of 2012-2013 Baccalaureates

Office of Institutional Research  
March 2015

With generous support provided by President Hunter, the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) mailed the *Life After UMaine* survey to 1,472 baccalaureate degree recipients who graduated in December 2012, May 2013, or August 2013.<sup>1</sup> 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 2014. 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. Useable responses were received from 539 graduates (57 of whom used the online survey), which corresponds to a return rate of 37%. We summarize the employment and educational status of these 539 UMaine graduates in the pages that follow.<sup>2</sup>

**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. This general caveat also applies were one to compare the results presented here with those reported in earlier editions of *Life After UMaine*.

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<sup>1</sup> Not included in this pool are (a) the 35 international graduates and (b) the 17 graduates who informed the Office of Student Records they did not want to be contacted. Further, there were 22 graduates for whom current addresses were not available.

<sup>2</sup> Where we separate these results by college, we no longer further separate the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences into subdisciplines (as we had in previous reports of *Life After UMaine*).

## Employment after graduation

As Figure 1 shows, almost three quarters of respondents (72%) have full-time employment, with 15% being employed part-time. Among those reporting full-time employment, 83% indicated their job is related to their UMaine degree.

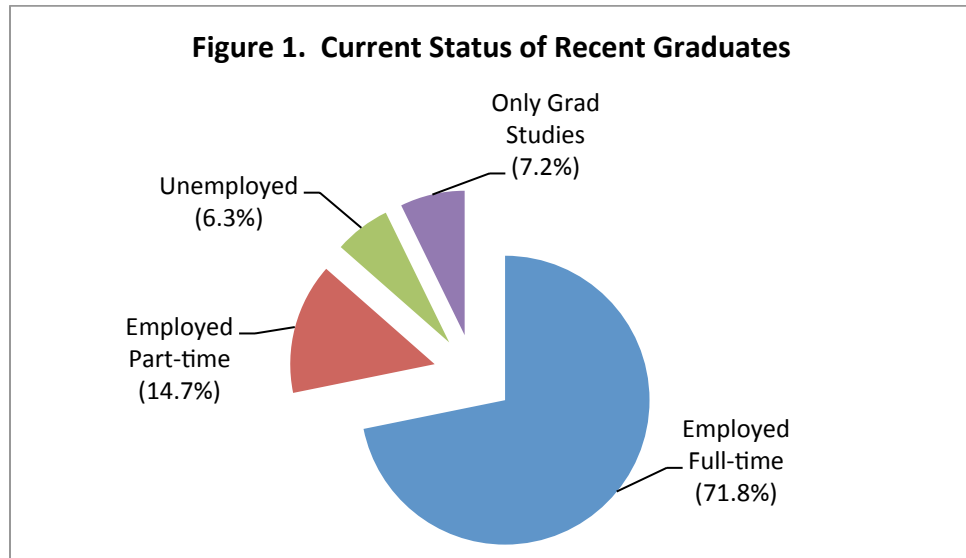
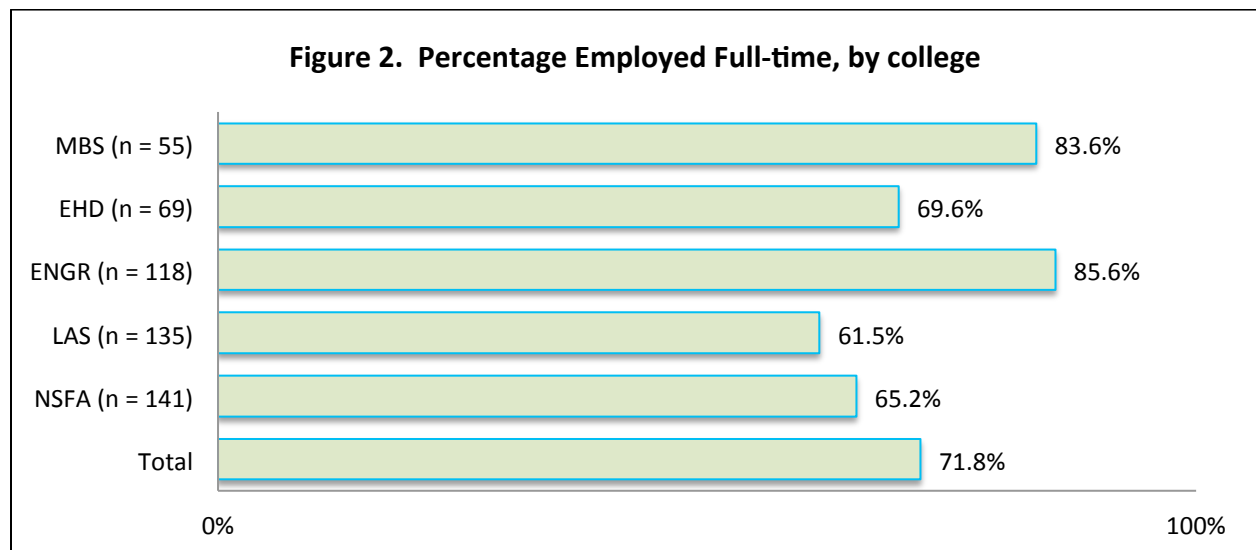


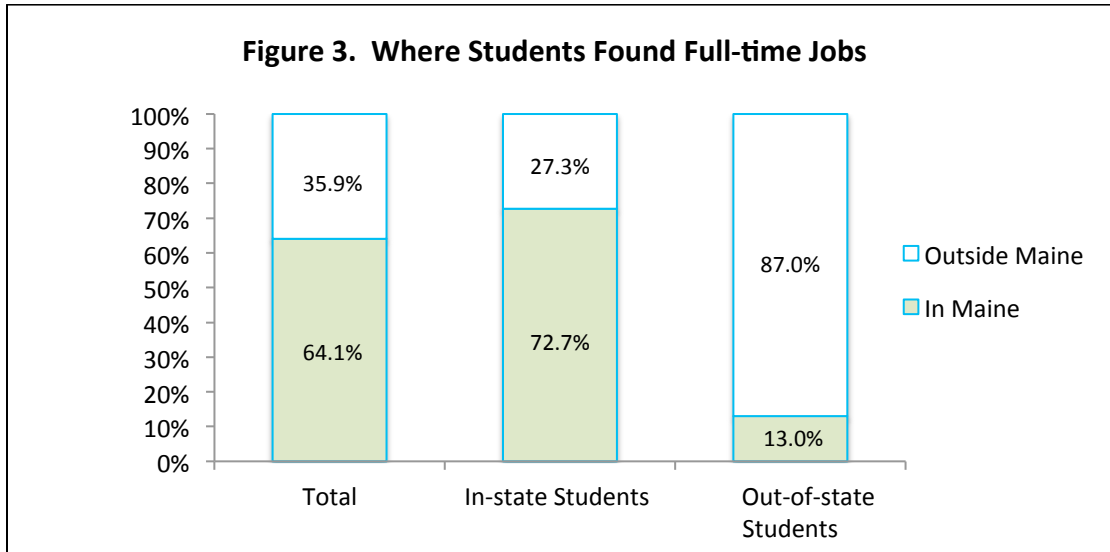
Figure 2 reveals the variability among colleges<sup>3</sup> in the percentage of respondents who are employed full-time. The highest rates of employment are seen for ENGR and MBS graduates: 86% and 84%, respectively. In contrast, 62% of LAS graduates reported full-time employment.



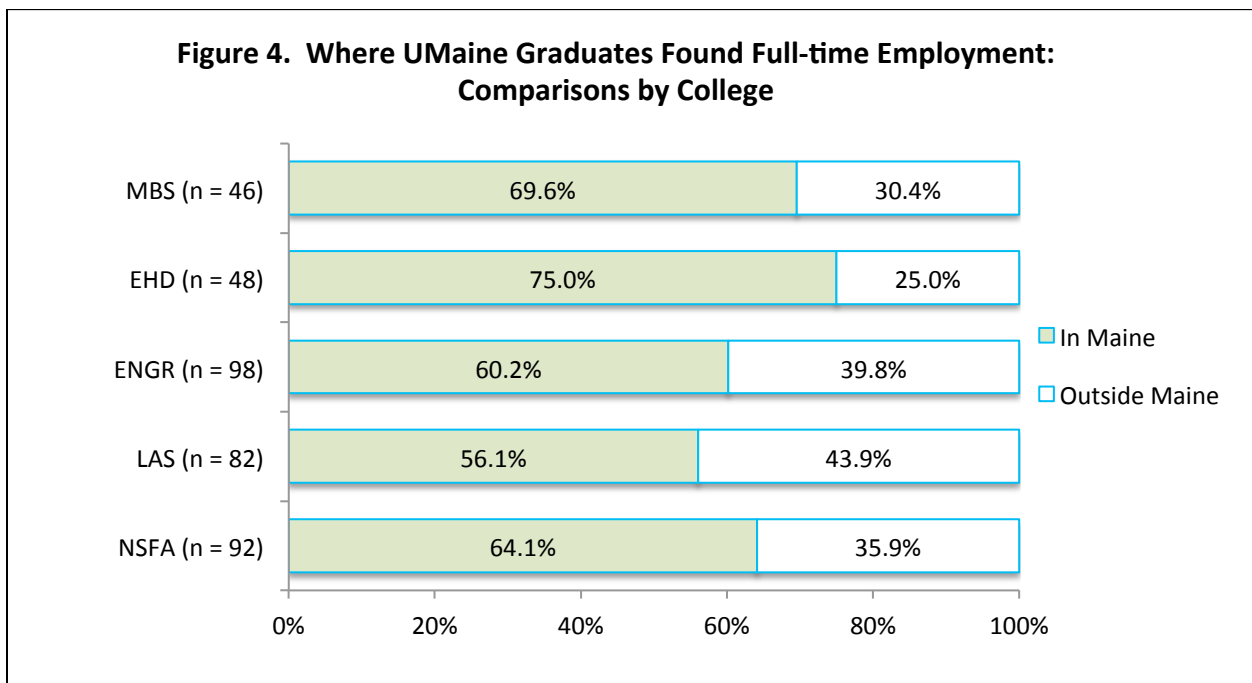
<sup>3</sup> The composition of each college reflects its composition as of fall 2014. (MBS = Maine Business School; EHD = College of Education and Human Development; ENGR = College of Engineering; LAS = College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and NSFA = College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture.)

## Where are the jobs?

About two thirds of the respondents who are working full-time are doing so 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," 13% 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, 75% of EHD graduates remained in Maine for full-time employment compared with 56% of LAS graduates.



### What do they earn?

The median salary is \$40,000 for the 335 respondents who are employed full-time and who volunteered their annual income (see Table 1). Among those employed in Maine, the median salary is \$37,750; for those employed elsewhere, \$42,500.

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

<b>Table 1. Median Salaries of the Full-time Employed.</b>						
College	Median Salary		Median Salary (in Maine)		Median Salary (outside Maine)	
	\$	<i>N</i>	\$	<i>n</i>	\$	<i>n</i>
<b>MBS</b>	40,000	43	40,000	29	50,500	14
<b>EHD</b>	31,251	42	31,000	33	35,000	9
<b>ENGR</b>	59,000	94	58,000	56	60,000	35
<b>LAS</b>	33,000	69	33,000	37	35,000	32
<b>NSFA</b>	37,750	80	39,000	52	34,180	28
<b>UMaine Total<sup>4</sup></b>	40,000	335	37,750	214	42,500	118

<sup>4</sup> UMaine totals also include seven Bachelor of University Studies. Further, UMaine totals include three 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?

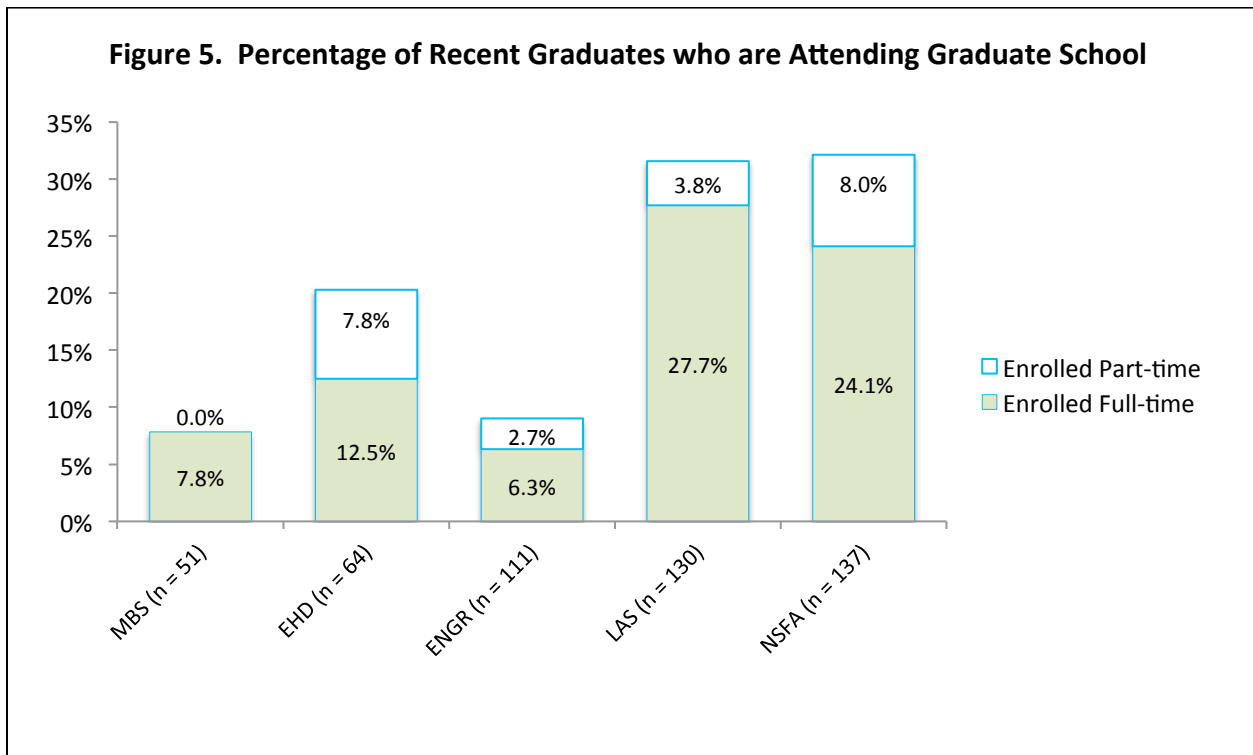
Using the place of employment and occupation/job title provided by employed respondents, we grouped the full-time employed according to occupational sector.<sup>5</sup> As shown in Table 2, two thirds of those employed full-time are working in occupations related to architecture/engineering, education, business, management, or healthcare occupations.

<b>Table 2. Broad Occupation Sectors (Employed Full-Time).</b>		
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Total</b>	
	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>% of all full-time employed</b>
Architecture & Engineering Occupations	79	21.0%
Education, Training, & Library Occupations	59	15.6%
Business & Financial Occupations	40	10.6%
Management Occupations	40	10.6%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	31	8.2%
Sales & Related Occupations	16	4.2%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	13	3.4%
Community & Social Service Occupations	13	3.4%
Office & Administrative Support Occupations	13	3.4%
Computer & Mathematical Occupations	12	3.2%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations	11	2.9%
Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations	9	2.4%
Construction & Extraction Occupations	8	2.1%
Personal Care & Service Occupations	8	2.1%
Life, Physical, & Social Science Occupations	6	1.6%
Military-Specific Occupations	5	1.3%
Production Occupations	5	1.3%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations	3	0.8%
Healthcare Support Occupations	2	0.5%
Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	2	0.5%
Protective Service Occupations	1	0.3%
Full-Time Employed Respondents Reporting Occupation	376	99.7%
Occupation Sector Not Known	1	0.3%
Total Full-Time Employed Respondents	377	100.0%

<sup>5</sup> We based these groupings on the Standard Occupational Classification system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics ([http://www.bls.gov/soc/major\\_groups.htm](http://www.bls.gov/soc/major_groups.htm)).

## Who is attending graduate school?

About one quarter of respondents are enrolled either part-time (5%) or full-time (18%) in graduate studies. (This includes the 7% of respondents, shown in Figure 1, who report that graduate study is their only pursuit.) Further, another 15% had plans to enroll within 6-9 months of completing the survey. 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 86% of ENGR graduates are employed full-time, which throws interpretive light on the observation in Figure 5 that only 9% 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, 93% believe their UMaine experience prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for their job, and only 7% 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): 92% believe UMaine prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for graduate studies, and 8% report feeling “minimally prepared” or “uncertain.”

