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Life After UMaine: The Employment and Educational Status of Baccalaureat Recipients, 2013-2014

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Life After UMaine

The Employment and Educational Status of 2013-2014 Baccalaureates

Office of Institutional Research
March 2016

With generous support provided by President Hunter, the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) mailed the *Life After UMaine* survey to 1,383 baccalaureate degree recipients who graduated in December 2013, May 2014, or August 2014.¹ Depending on the conferral date, 6–15 post-graduation months had elapsed at the time of the mailing.

OIR sent the initial survey in March 2015, with four follow-up prompts to nonrespondents between May and December. All mailings included the physical survey as well as a link to an online version. We received useable responses from 501 graduates (74 of whom used the online survey), which corresponds to a return rate of 36%. We summarize the employment and educational status of these 501 UMaine graduates in the pages that follow.

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 36% 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* (which can be found at <http://www.umaine.edu/oir>).

¹ Not included in this pool are (a) the 38 students with international addresses and (b) the 37 graduates who informed the Office of Student Records they did not want to be contacted. Further, there were 32 graduates for whom current addresses were not available.

Employment after graduation

As Figure 1 shows, three quarters of respondents 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.

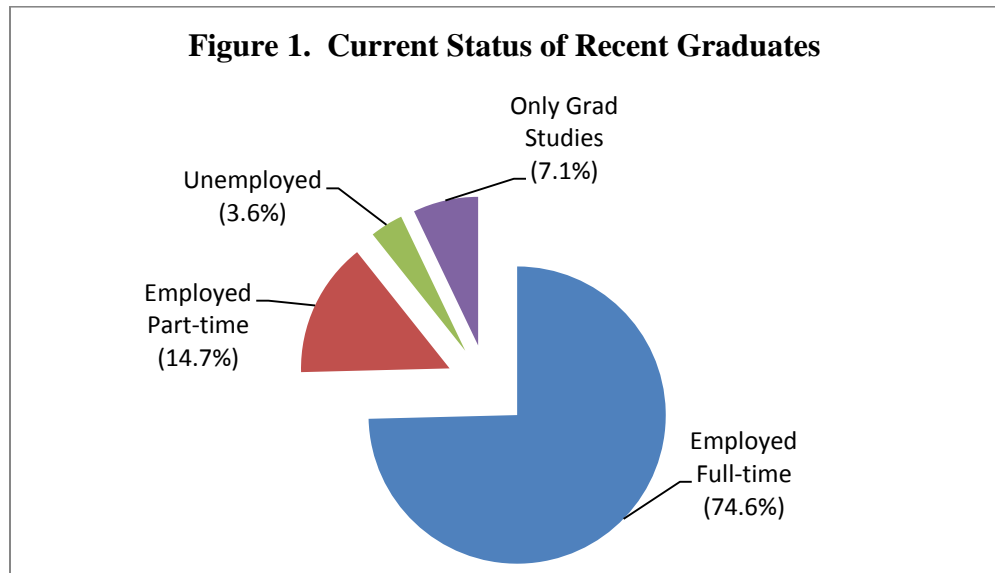
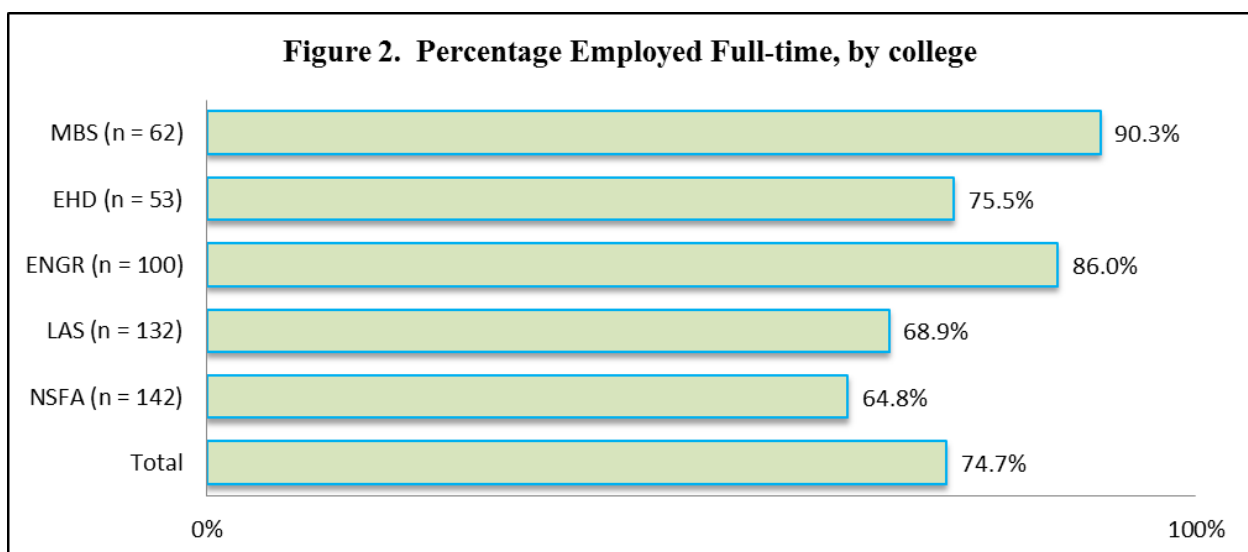


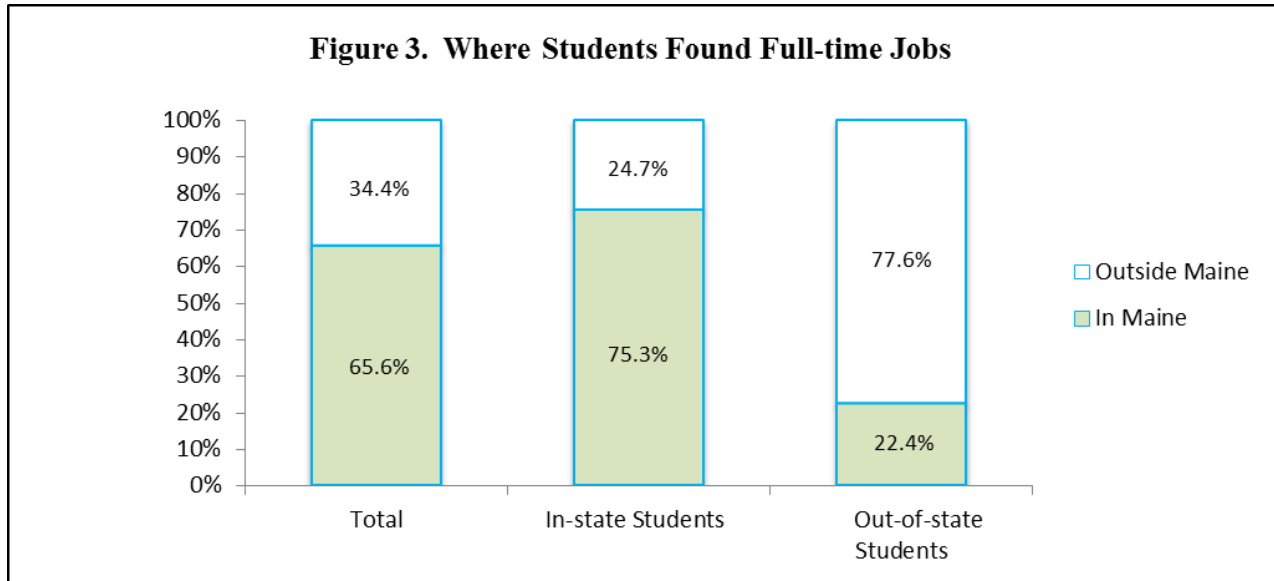
Figure 2 reveals the variability among colleges² in the percentage of respondents who are employed full-time. The highest employment rates are seen for MBS and ENGR graduates: 90% and 86%, respectively. In contrast, 65% of NSFA graduates reported full-time employment.



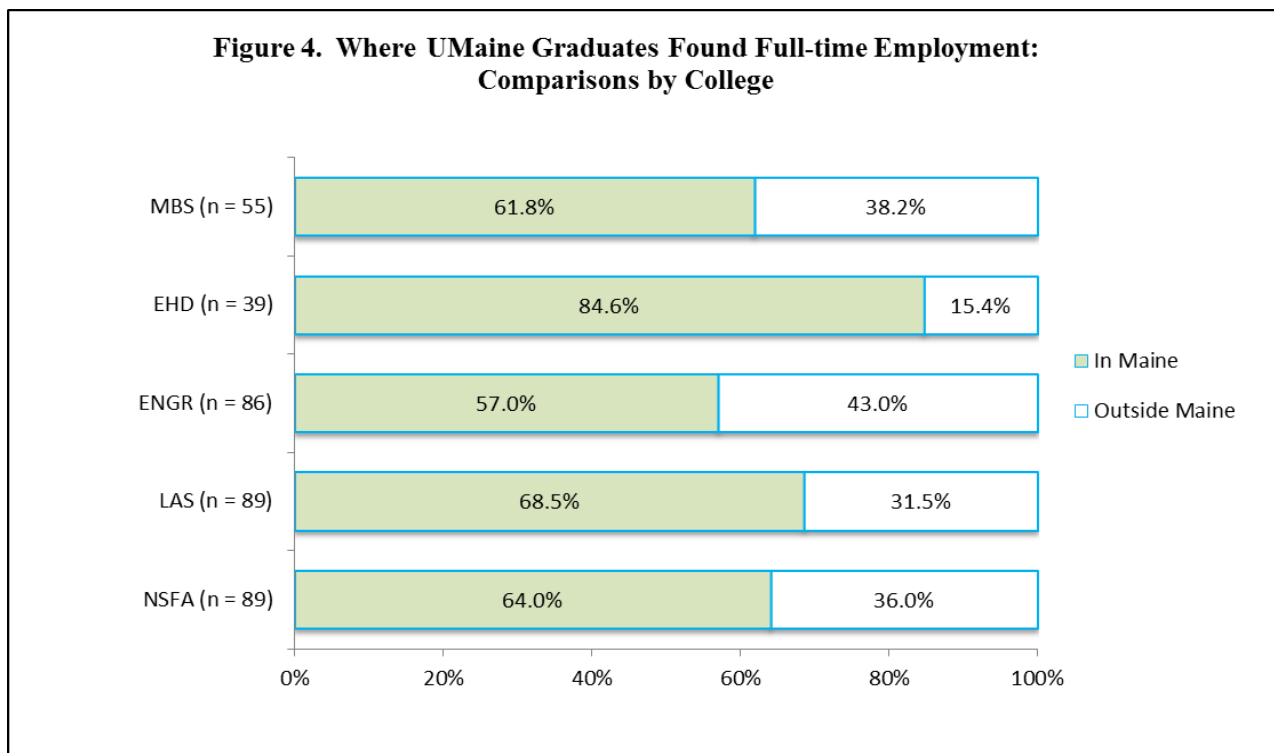
² The composition of each college reflects its composition as of fall 2015. (MBS = Maine Business School; EHD = College of Education and Human Development; ENGR = College of Engineering; LAS = College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and NSFA = College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture.)

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 rooted in Maine, roughly three quarters of the full-time employed have remained in Maine; for those "from away," 22% 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, 85% of EHD graduates remained in Maine for full-time employment compared with 57% of ENGR graduates.



What do they earn?

The median salary is \$40,000 for the 336 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, \$45,000.

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.

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	42,000	54	36,500	33	50,000	20
EHD	30,000	35	30,500	30	30,000	5
ENGR	57,000	77	55,000	43	60,000	34
LAS	30,264	82	30,000	57	37,500	24
NSFA	39,000	83	38,500	52	40,000	29
UMaine Total³	40,000	336	35,000	219	45,000	113

³ UMaine totals also include one Public Management graduate and four from the Bachelor of University Studies program. Further, UMaine totals include four 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?

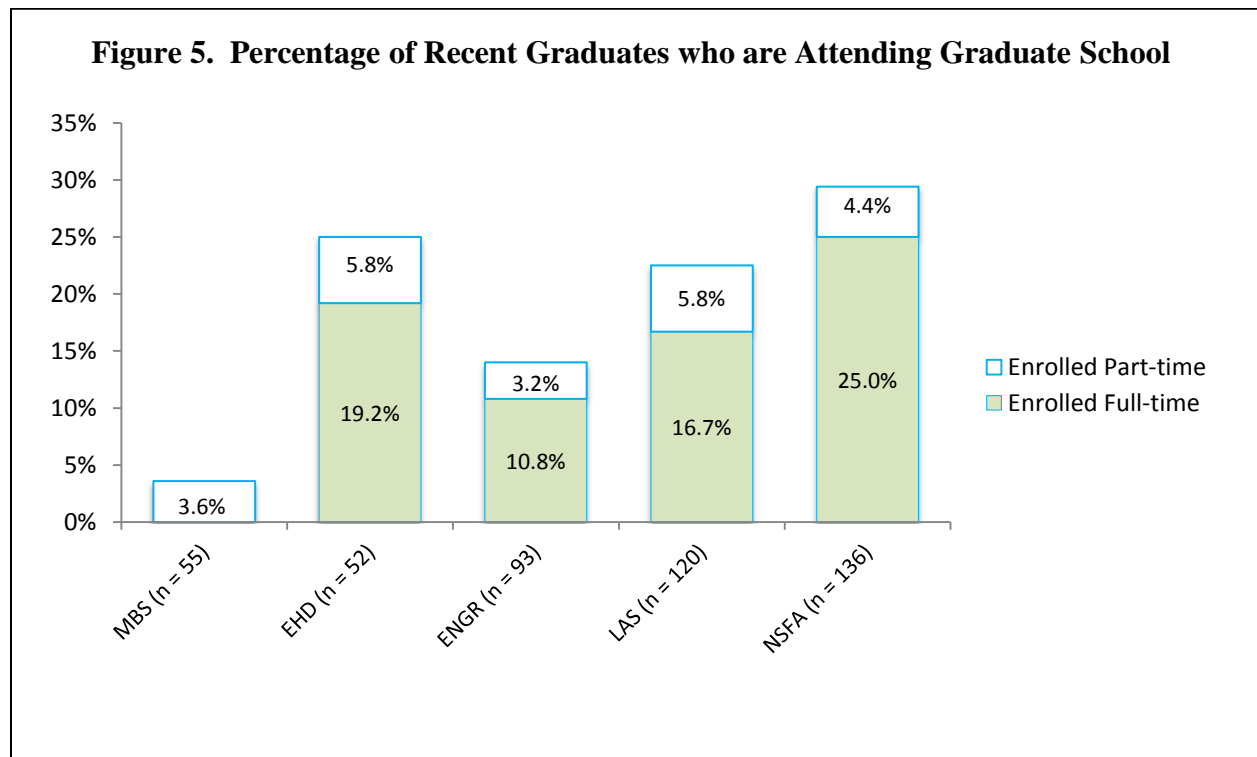
Using the place of employment and occupation/job title provided by employed respondents, we grouped the full-time employed according to occupational sector.⁴ As shown in Table 2, nearly two thirds of those employed full-time are working in occupations related to architecture/engineering, healthcare occupations,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

Table 2. Broad Occupation Sectors (Employed Full-Time).		
Sector	Total	
	<i>n</i>	% of all full-time employed
Architecture & Engineering Occupations	65	17.6%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	48	13.0%
Business & Financial Occupations	39	10.5%
Education, Training, & Library Occupations	39	10.5%
Management Occupations	38	10.3%
Sales & Related Occupations	23	6.2%
Life, Physical, & Social Science Occupations	21	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	16	4.3%
Community & Social Service Occupations	15	4.1%
Computer & Mathematical Occupations	13	3.5%
Office & Administrative Support Occupations	11	3.0%
Healthcare Support Occupations	9	2.4%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations	8	2.2%
Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations	8	2.2%
Military-Specific Occupations	4	1.1%
Personal Care & Service Occupations	4	1.1%
Protective Service Occupations	3	0.8%
Production Occupations	2	0.5%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations	1	0.3%
Legal Occupations	1	0.3%
Full-Time Employed Respondents Reporting Occupation	368	99.5%
Occupation Sector Not Known	2	0.5%
Total Full-Time Employed Respondents	370	100.0%

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?

About one fifth of respondents are enrolled either part-time (5%) or full-time (16%) in graduate studies. (This includes the 5% of respondents, shown in Figure 1, who report that graduate study is their only pursuit.) Further, another 17% 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 90% of MBS graduates are employed full-time, which throws interpretive light on the observation in Figure 5 that only 4% of MBS graduates went on to graduate school.



How well did UMaine prepare its graduates?

Of the respondents employed full-time in a job related to their UMaine degree, 94% believe their UMaine experience prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for their job, and only 6% report being “minimally prepared” or “uncertain” in this regard (Figure 6). This general sentiment is shared by those enrolled in graduate school (irrespective of employment status): 85% believing UMaine prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for graduate studies, and 15% feeling they were “minimally prepared” or “uncertain.”

