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Life After UMaine: The Employment and Educational Status of Baccalaureat Recipients, 2014-2015

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Life After UMaine

The Employment and Educational Status of 2014-2015 Baccalaureates

Office of Institutional Research
March 2017

With generous support provided by President Hunter, the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) mailed the *Life After UMaine* survey to 1,499 baccalaureate degree recipients who graduated in December 2014, May 2015, or August 2015.¹ Depending on the conferral date, 6 to 15 post-graduation months had elapsed at the time of the mailing.

OIR sent the initial survey in March 2016, with four follow-up prompts to nonrespondents occurring between May 2016 and January 2017. All mailings included the physical survey as well as a link to an online version. We received useable responses from 493 graduates (83 of whom completed the online survey), corresponding to a return rate of 33%. We summarize the employment and educational status of these 493 UMaine graduates in the pages that follow.

Caveat: Although the distribution of respondents by college generally is not dissimilar to the distribution of graduates by college, one nevertheless should remain mindful of the 33% 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* (<http://www.umaine.edu/oir>).

¹ Not included in this pool are (a) the 35 students with international addresses and (b) the 25 graduates who informed the Office of Student Records they did not wish to be contacted.

Employment after graduation

As Figure 1 shows, three quarters of respondents have full-time employment, with 12% being employed part-time. Among those reporting full-time employment, 84% indicated their job is related to their UMaine degree.

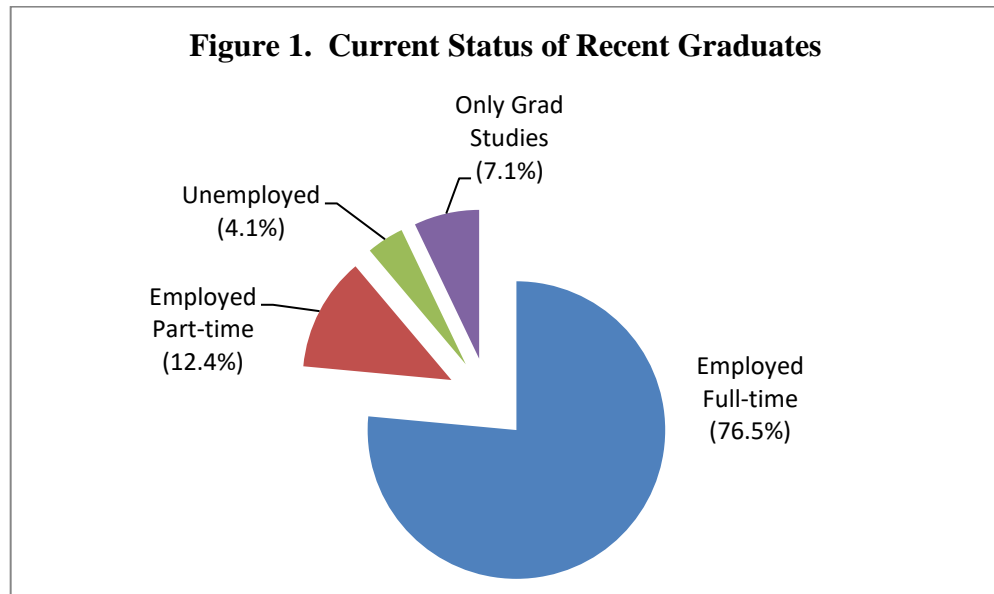
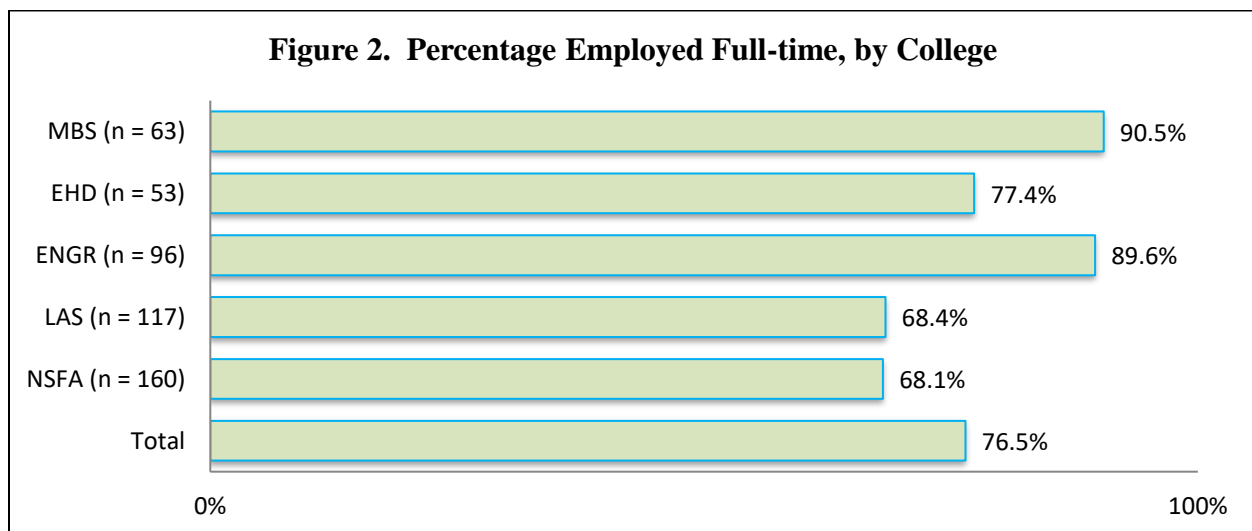


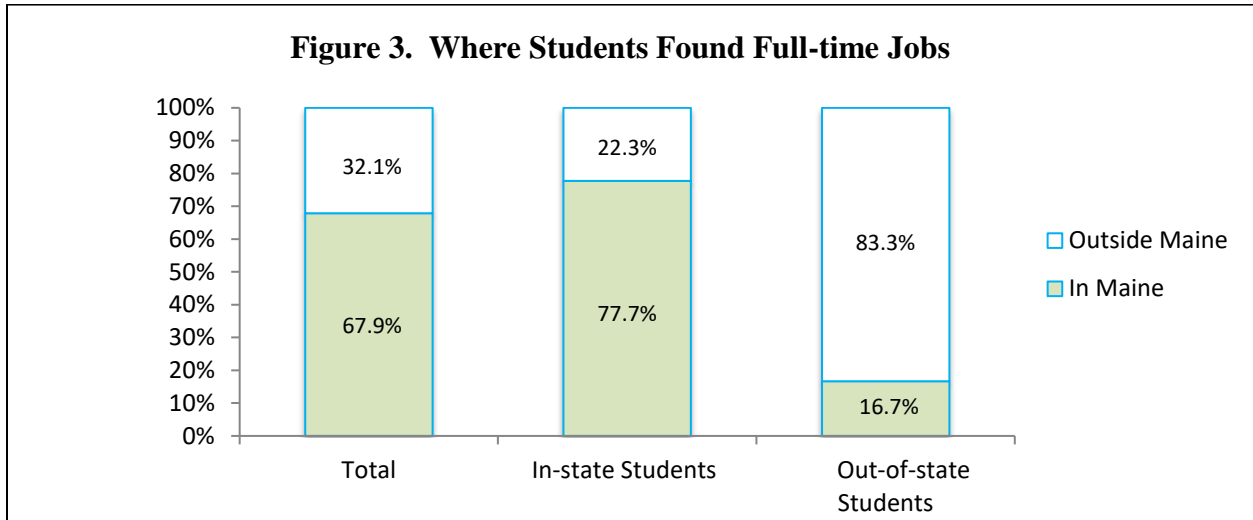
Figure 2 reveals the variability among colleges² in the percentage of respondents who are employed full-time. The highest employment rates—roughly 90%—are seen for MBS and ENGR graduates. In contrast, 68% of NSFA and LAS graduates reported full-time employment, as did 78% of EHD graduates.



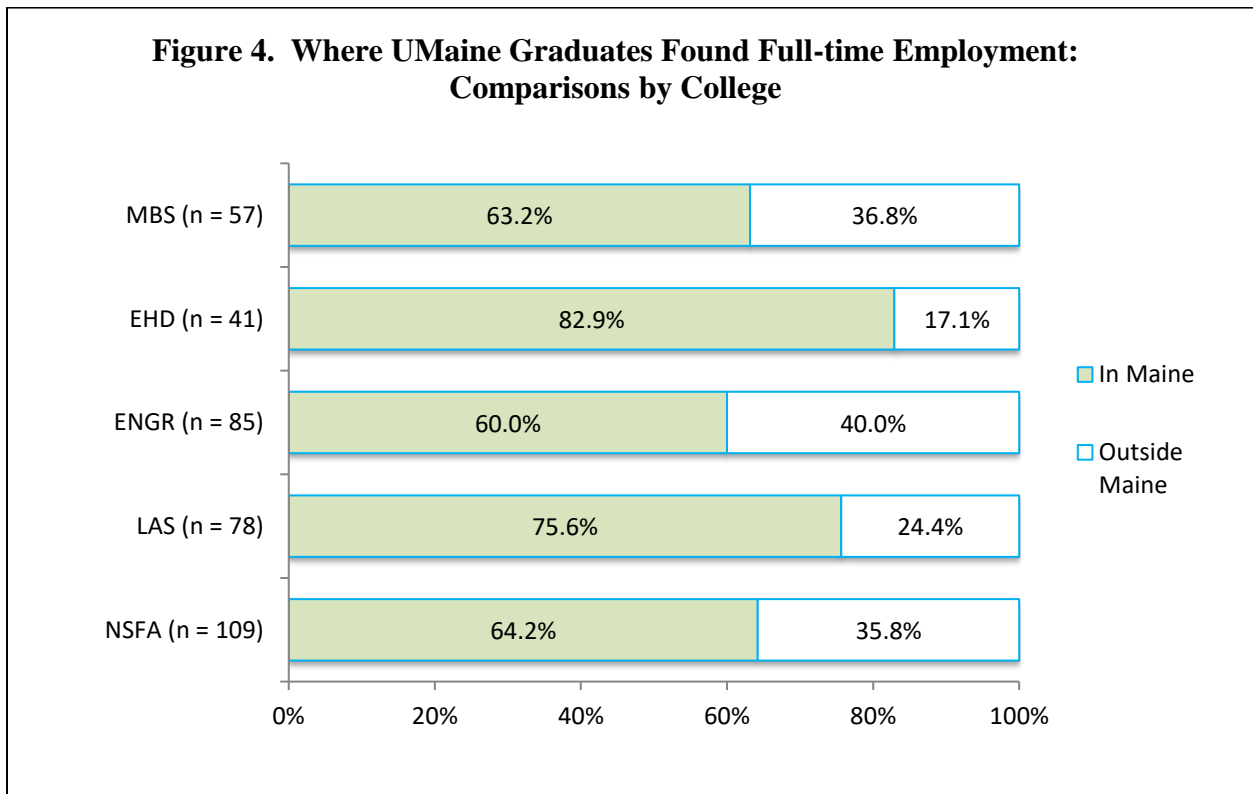
² The departmental composition of each college reflects its composition as of fall 2016. (MBS = Maine Business School; EHD = College of Education and Human Development; ENGR = College of Engineering; LAS = College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and NSFA = College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture.)

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," 17% 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, 83% of EHD graduates remained in Maine for full-time employment compared with 60% of ENGR graduates.



What do they earn?

The median salary is \$40,000 for the 333 respondents who are employed full-time and who volunteered their annual income (Table 1). The median salary is \$36,000 among those employed in Maine; for those employed elsewhere, \$49,500.

Not surprisingly, full-time median salaries vary by college. Among all respondents, for example, ENGR graduates command the highest median salary and LAS 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	40,000	53	36,400	33	50,000	20
EHD	33,000	39	33,000	32	34,000	7
ENGR	60,000	77	56,288	44	61,500	33
LAS	32,000	72	30,000	55	47,500	15
NSFA	38,000	88	35,000	57	40,000	31
UMaine Total³	40,000	333	36,000	225	49,500	106

³ UMaine totals also include four graduates from the Bachelor of University Studies program. Further, UMaine totals include two 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?

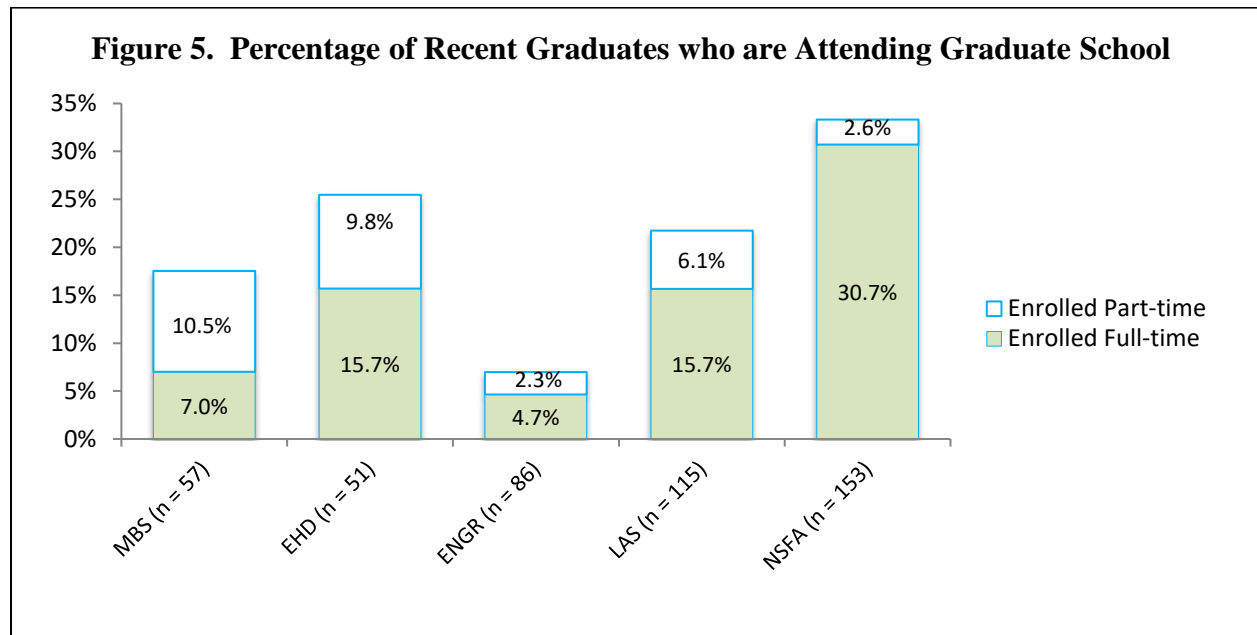
Using the place of employment and occupation/job title provided by employed respondents, we grouped the full-time employed according to occupational sector.⁴ As shown in Table 2, almost half of those employed full-time are working in occupations related to education, architecture/engineering, or business.

Sector	Total	
	<i>n</i>	% of all full-time employed
Education, Training, & Library Occupations	63	16.7%
Architecture & Engineering Occupations	62	16.4%
Business & Financial Occupations	59	15.6%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	30	8.0%
Computer & Mathematical Occupations	21	5.6%
Life, Physical, & Social Science Occupations	21	5.6%
Management Occupations	18	4.8%
Community & Social Service Occupations	17	4.5%
Healthcare Support Occupations	17	4.5%
Sales & Related Occupations	17	4.5%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	11	2.9%
Office & Administrative Support Occupations	10	2.7%
Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations	7	1.9%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations	7	1.9%
Military-Specific Occupations	5	1.3%
Construction & Extraction Occupations	4	1.1%
Production Occupations	4	1.1%
Personal Care & Service 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%

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?

Nearly 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% planned to enroll in graduate school 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 ENGR graduates are employed full-time, which throws interpretive light on the observation in Figure 5 that only 7% of ENGR 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, 91% believe their UMaine experience prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for their job, and only 9% 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): 88% believing UMaine prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for graduate studies, and 12% feeling they were “minimally prepared” or “uncertain.”

