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## Life After UMaine: The Employment and Educational Status of Baccalaureat Recipients, 2015-2016

Office of Institutional Research and Assessment

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## *Life After UMaine*

The Employment and Educational Status of  
2015-2016 Baccalaureates

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Office of Institutional Research  
April 2018

With generous support provided by President Hunter, the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) mailed the *Life After UMaine* survey to 1,561 baccalaureate degree recipients who graduated in December 2015, May 2016, or August 2016.<sup>1</sup> 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 2017, with four follow-up prompts to nonrespondents occurring between May 2017 and January 2018. All mailings included the physical survey as well as a link to an online version. As a methodological complement, a link to the online survey appeared on the Facebook page of the UMaine Alumni Association.

We received useable responses from 464 graduates (110 of whom completed the online survey), corresponding to a return rate of 30%. We summarize the employment and educational status of these 464 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 30% 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>).

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<sup>1</sup> Not included in this pool are (a) the 33 students with international addresses and (b) the 26 graduates who informed the Office of Student Records they did not wish to be contacted.

## Employment after graduation

As Figure 1 shows, almost four fifths of respondents have full-time employment, with 9% being employed part-time. Among those reporting full-time employment, 88% indicated their job is related to their UMaine degree.

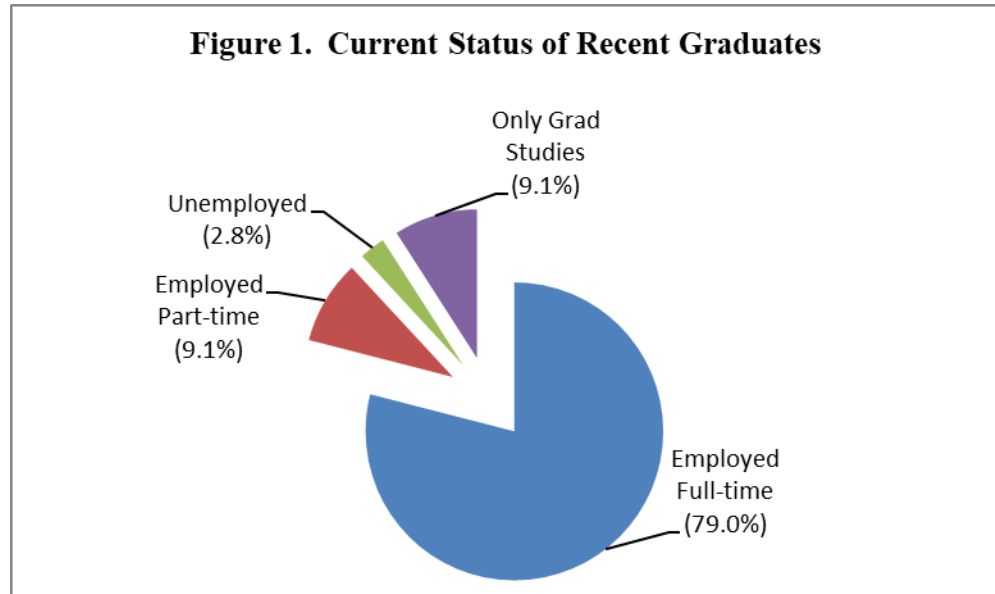
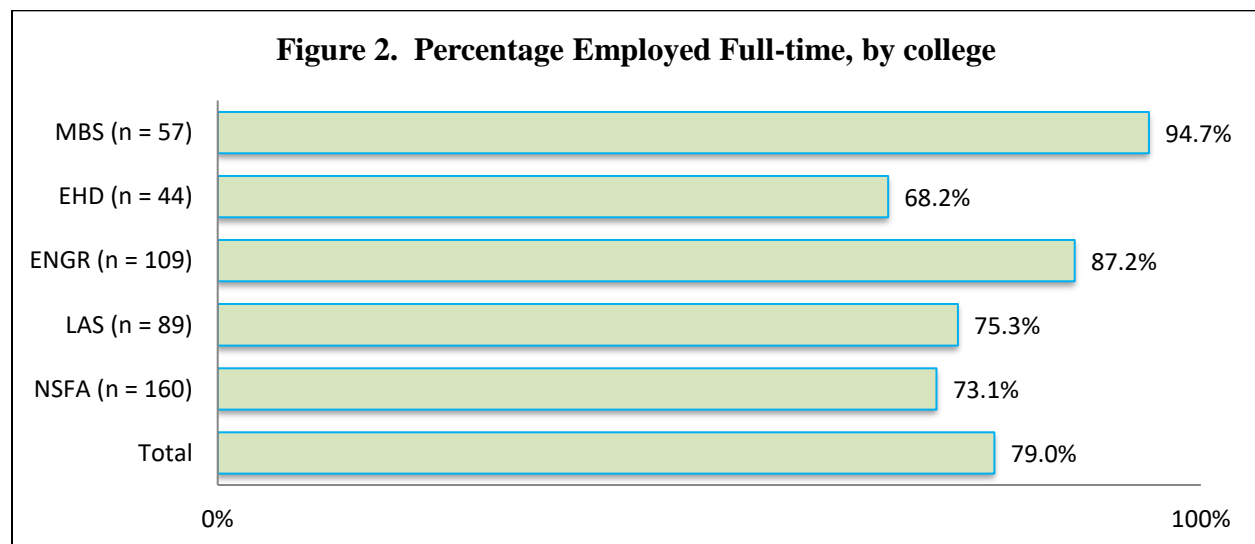


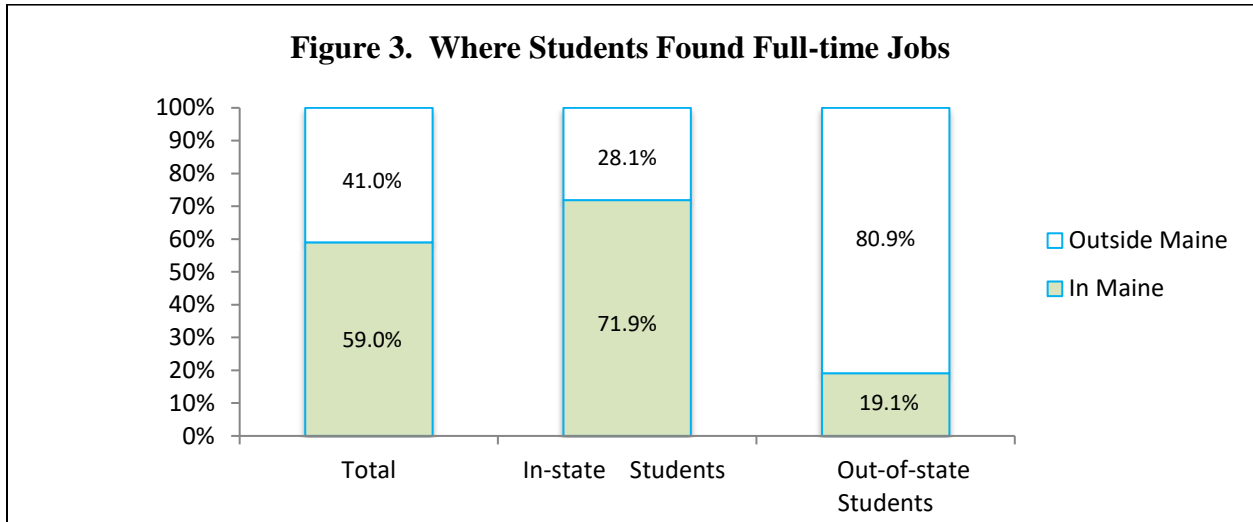
Figure 2 reveals the variability among colleges<sup>2</sup> in the percentage of respondents who are employed full-time. The highest employment rates are seen for MBS and ENGR graduates: 95% and 87%, respectively. In contrast, 68% of EHD graduates reported full-time employment.



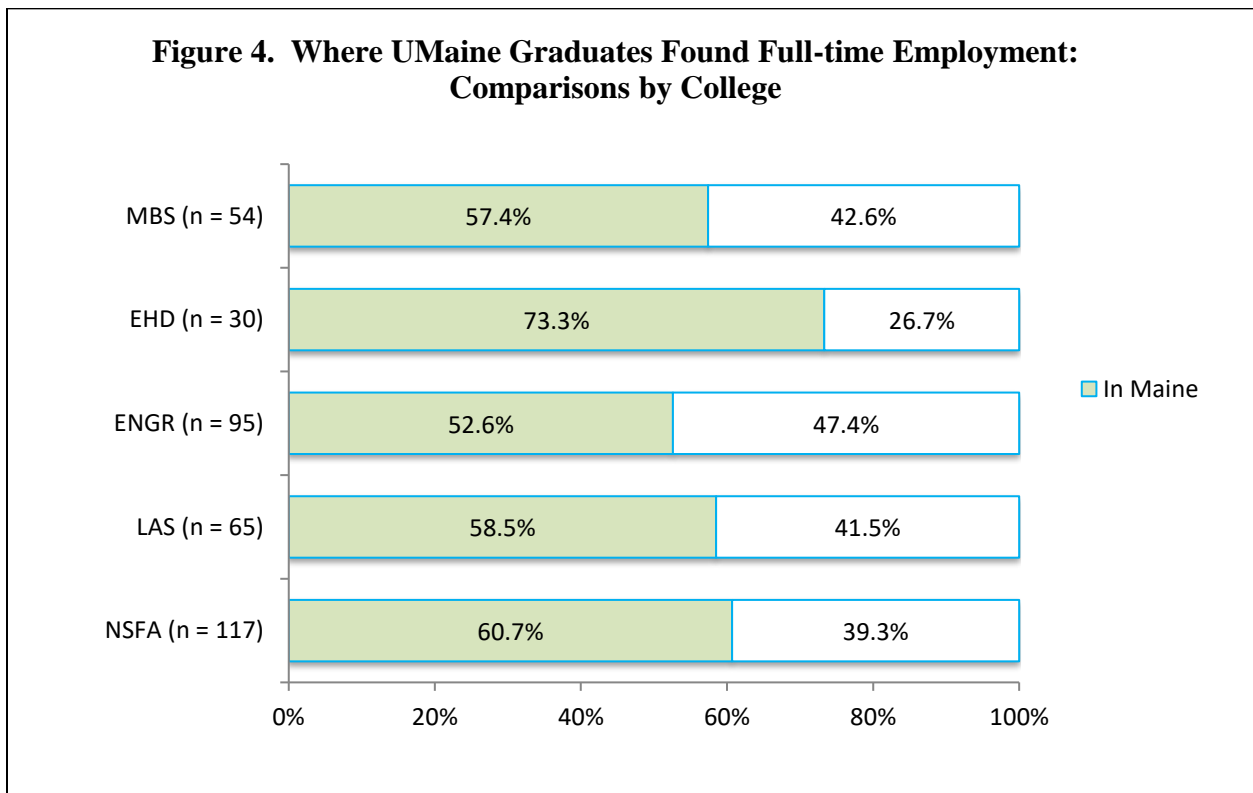
<sup>2</sup> The departmental composition of each college reflects its composition as of fall 2017. (MBS = Maine Business School; EHD = College of Education and Human Development; ENGR = College of Engineering; LAS = College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and NSFA = College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture.)

## Where are the jobs?

Approximately three fifths 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, 72% of the full-time employed have remained in Maine; for those "from away," 19% 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, about three quarters of EHD graduates remained in Maine for full-time employment compared with 53% of ENGR graduates.



### What do they earn?

The median salary is \$43,000 for the 308 respondents who are employed full-time and volunteered their annual income (Table 1). The median salary is \$40,000 among those employed in Maine; for those employed elsewhere, \$48,000.

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.

<b>Table 1. Median Salaries of the Full-time Employed.</b>						
<b>College</b>	<b>Median Salary</b>		<b>Median Salary (in Maine)</b>		<b>Median Salary (outside Maine)</b>	
	<b>\$</b>	<b><i>N</i></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><i>N</i></b>
<b>MBS</b>	46,750	46	45,000	26	50,000	20
<b>EHD</b>	34,460	26	34,419	21	37,000	5
<b>ENGR</b>	57,500	82	56,100	42	58,000	40
<b>LAS</b>	33,000	59	30,000	34	35,000	25
<b>NSFA</b>	38,000	93	40,000	55	35,500	38
<b>UMaine Total<sup>3</sup></b>	43,000	308	40,000	180	48,000	128

<sup>3</sup> UMaine totals also includes two graduates from the Bachelor of University Studies program.

## What occupational sectors are represented?

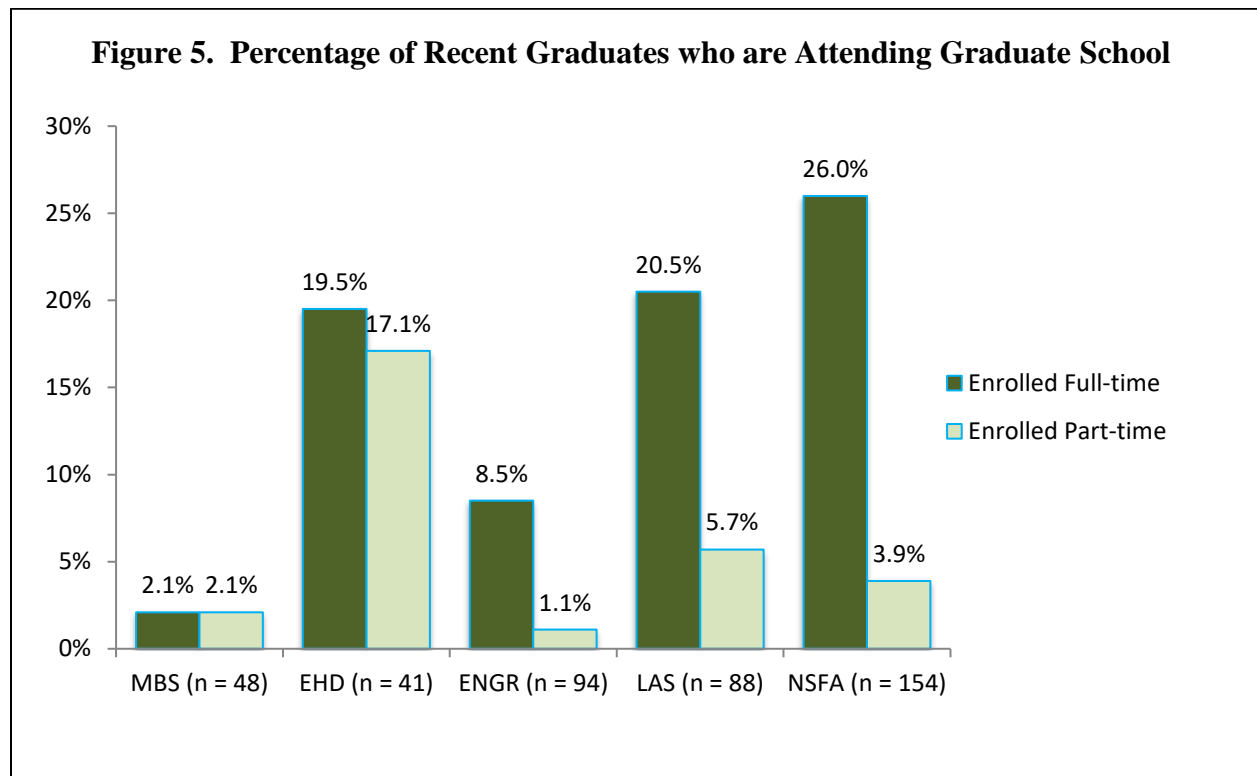
Using the place of employment and occupation/job title provided by employed respondents, we grouped the full-time employed according to occupational sector.<sup>4</sup> As shown in Table 2, more than half (56%) of those employed full-time are working in occupations related to architecture/engineering, healthcare, education or business.

<b>Table 2. Broad Occupation Sectors (Employed Full-Time).</b>		
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Total</b>	
	<i>n</i>	<b>% of all full-time employed</b>
Architecture & Engineering Occupations	75	20.5
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	47	12.9
Education, Training, & Library Occupations	46	12.6
Business & Financial Occupations	38	10.4
Office & Administrative Support Occupations	19	5.2
Management Occupations	17	4.7
Community & Social Service Occupations	14	3.8
Sales & Related Occupations	14	3.8
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations	14	3.8
Construction & Extraction Occupations	14	3.8
Life, Physical, & Social Science Occupations	12	3.3
Personal Care & Service Occupations	11	3.0
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	9	2.5
Healthcare Support Occupations	9	2.5
Computer & Mathematical Occupations	7	1.9
Military-Specific Occupations	6	1.6
Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations	5	1.4
Production Occupations	5	1.4
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	1	0.3
Full-Time Employed Respondents Reporting Occupation	363	99.5
Occupation Sector Not Known	2	0.5
<b>Total Full-Time Employed Respondents</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>4</sup> We based these groupings on the Standard Occupational Classification system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics ([https://www.bls.gov/soc/2018/major\\_groups.htm](https://www.bls.gov/soc/2018/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 9% of respondents, shown in Figure 1 who report that graduate study is their only pursuit.) Further, another 13% planned to enroll in graduate school within 6-9 months of completing the present 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 95% 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, 93% believe their UMaine experience prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for their job (Figure 6). This general sentiment is shared by those enrolled in graduate school (irrespective of employment status): 92% believing UMaine prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for graduate studies, and 8% feeling they were “minimally prepared” or “uncertain.”

