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## Life After UMaine: The Employment and Educational Status of Baccalaureat Recipients, 2017-2018

Office of Institutional Research and Assessment

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Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, "Life After UMaine: The Employment and Educational Status of Baccalaureat Recipients, 2017-2018" (2019). *General University of Maine Publications*. 2120. [https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ\\_publications/2120](https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications/2120)

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## *Life After UMaine*

### The Employment and Educational Status of 2017-2018 Baccalaureates

Office of Institutional Research and Assessment  
June 2020

With generous support provided by the President's Office, the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) mailed the *Life After UMaine* survey to 1,641 baccalaureate degree recipients who graduated in December 2017, May 2018, or August 2018.<sup>1</sup> Depending on the conferral date, 6 to 15 post-graduation months had elapsed at the time of the mailing.

OIRA sent the initial survey in April 2019, with three follow-up prompts to nonrespondents occurring between July 2019 and January 2020. 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 432 graduates (118 of whom completed the online survey), corresponding to a return rate of 26%. We summarize the employment and educational status of these 432 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 26% 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/oira>).

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<sup>1</sup> Not included in this pool are (a) the 21 students with international addresses and (b) the 24 graduates who informed the Office of Student Records they did not wish to be contacted.

## Employment after graduation

As Figure 1 shows, more than three-quarters of respondents have full-time employment, with 11.1% being employed part-time. Among those reporting full-time employment, 87% indicated their job is related to their UMaine degree.

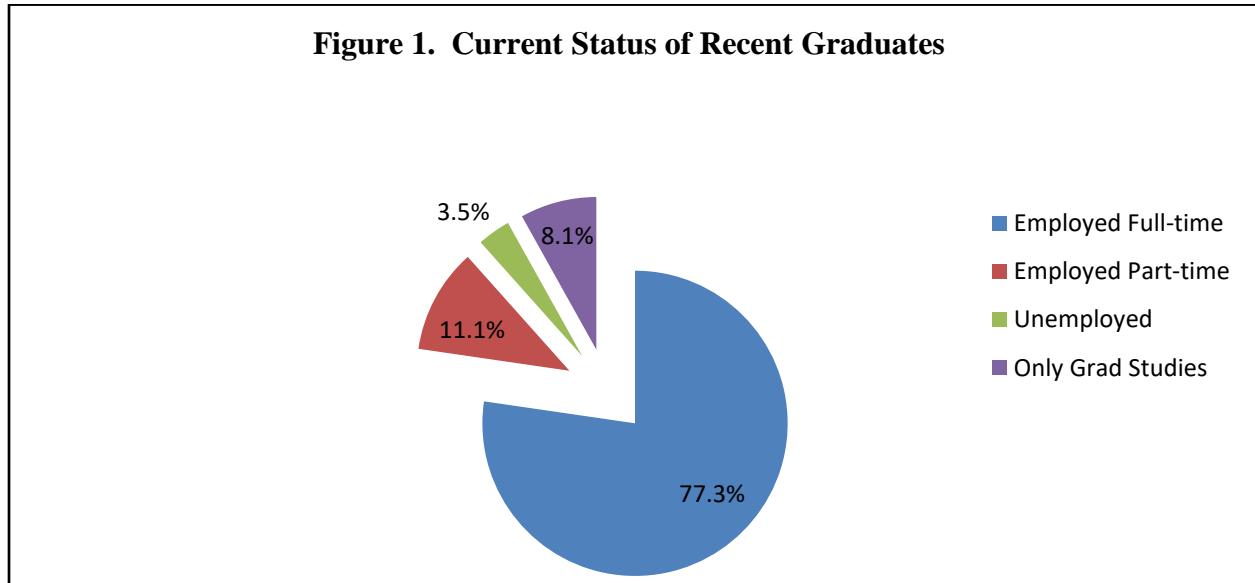
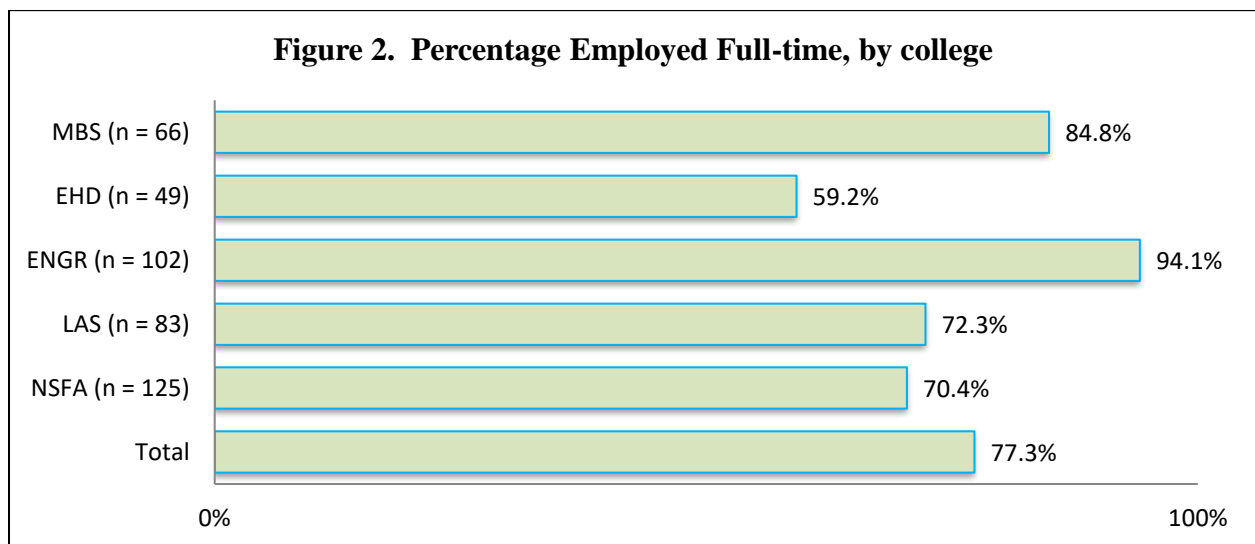


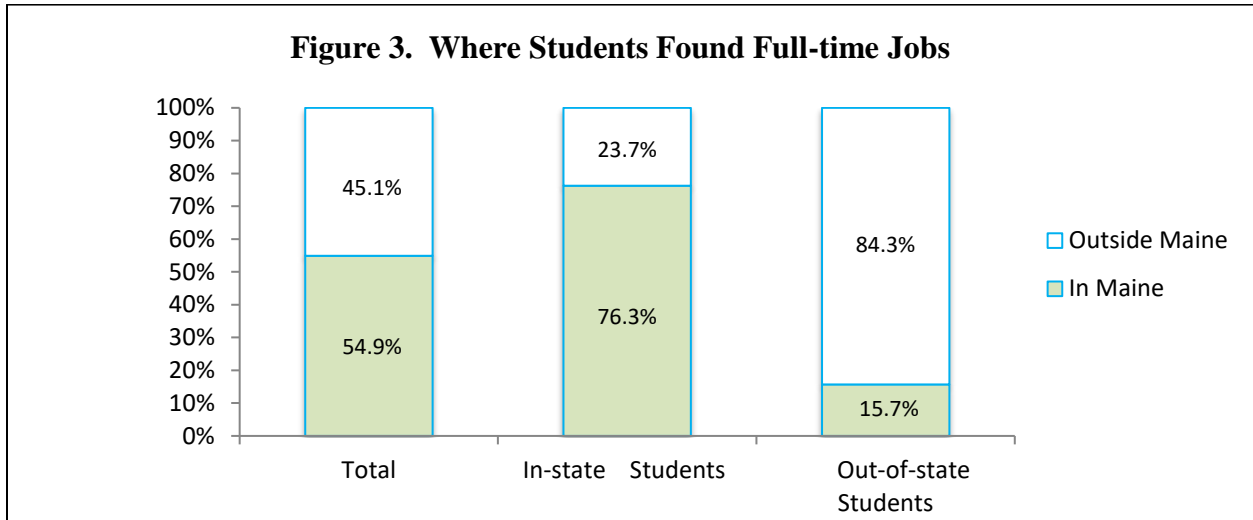
Figure 2 reveals the variability among colleges<sup>2</sup> in the percentage of respondents who are employed full-time. The highest employment rates are seen for ENGR and MBS graduates: 94% and 85%, respectively. In contrast, 59% of EHD graduates reported full-time employment.



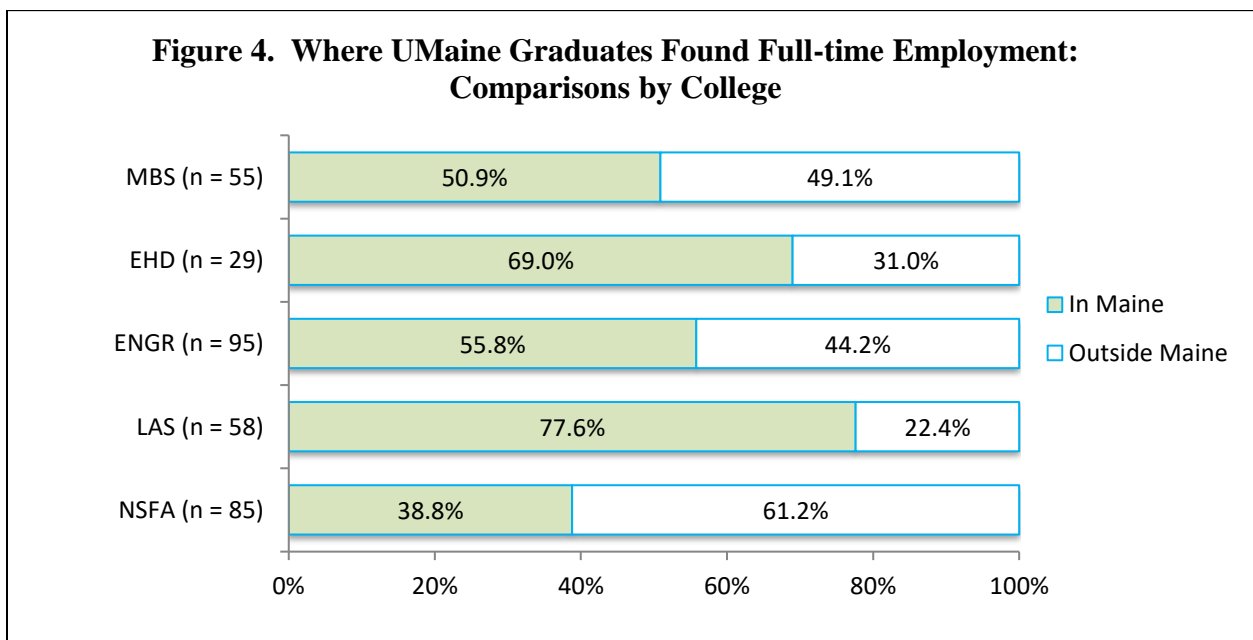
<sup>2</sup> The departmental composition of each college reflects its composition as of fall 2019. (MBS = Maine Business School; EHD = College of Education and Human Development; ENGR = College of Engineering; LAS = College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and NSFA = College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture.)

## Where are the jobs?

A little more than half 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, 76% of the full-time employed have remained in Maine; for those "from away," 16% 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, slightly more than three fourths of LAS graduates remained in Maine for full-time employment compared with 39% of NSFA graduates.



### What do they earn?

The median salary is \$45,500 for the 277 respondents who are employed full-time and volunteered their annual income (Table 1). The median salary is \$45,000 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 EHD the lowest. Regardless, overall median salaries are 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>N</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>MBS</b>	44,000	44	40,000	23	50,000	21
<b>EHD</b>	36,000	26	35,000	17	38,000	9
<b>ENGR</b>	64,000	82	64,500	46	63,500	36
<b>LAS</b>	41,000	49	41,000	37	45,250	12
<b>NSFA</b>	40,000	72	40,000	29	40,000	43
<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>	45,500	277	45,000	152	48,000	125

<sup>3</sup> UMaine total also includes four 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 (57%) of those employed full time are working in occupations related to architecture/engineering, business, healthcare, or education. Reported median salary for respondents is shown for each occupation sector.\* These range from a low of \$27,000 per year for those working in personal care and service occupations to a high of \$70,00 per year for those working in computer and mathematical occupations.

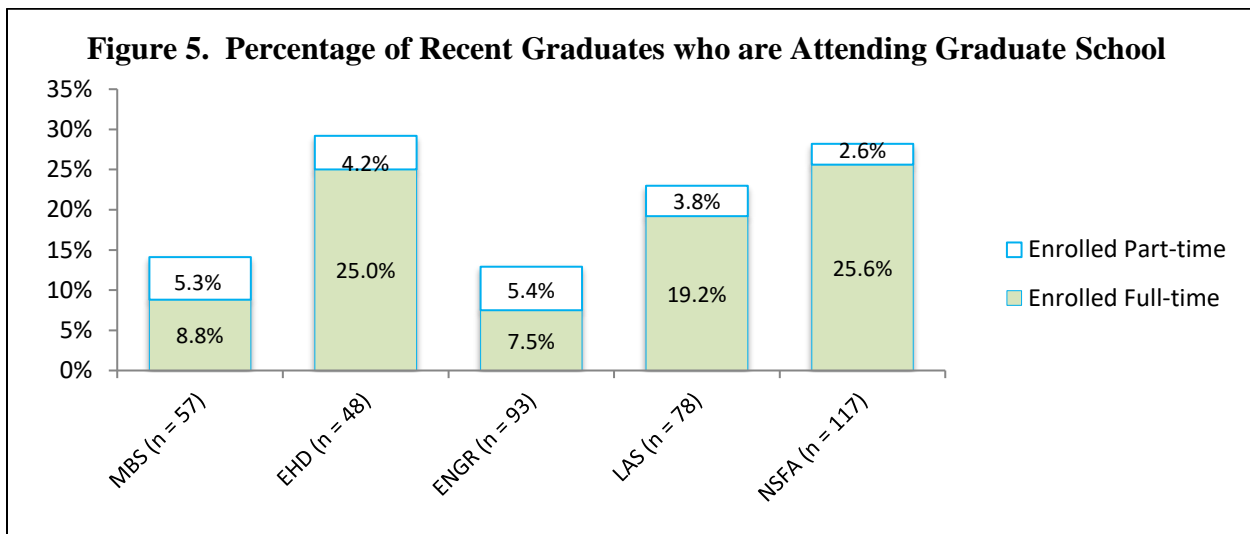
<b>Table 2. Broad Occupation Sectors (Employed Full-Time).</b>				
<b>Sector</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>% of all full-time employed</b>	<b>Median salary</b>	
			<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>\$</b>
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	71	21.3	62	63,000
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	43	12.9	39	45,000
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	39	11.7	32	50,000
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	37	11.1	30	32,600
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	21	6.3	17	70,000
Management Occupations	17	5.1	15	46,000
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	14	4.2	12	40,000
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	12	3.6	8	31,500
Sales and Related Occupations	12	3.6	12	50,000
Production Occupations	11	3.3	8	45,400
Community and Social Service Occupations	8	2.4	8	35,000
Personal Care and Service Occupations	7	2.1	6	27,000
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	7	2.1	7	32,000
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	6	1.8	5	35,000
Military Specific Occupations	5	1.5	5	64,000
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	4	1.2	3	*
Healthcare Support Occupations	3	.9	2	*
Protective Service Occupations	3	.9	3	*
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	3	.9	3	*
Construction and Extraction Occupations	3	.9	3	*
Legal Occupations	2	.6	2	*
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	1	.3	1	*
Full-Time Employed Respondents Reporting Occupation	329	98.8	282	
Occupation Sector Not Known	4	1.2	2	*
Total Full-Time Employed Respondents	333	100.0	284	45,500

\* Median salary is only shown for occupations reported by at least five respondents.

<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?

One-fifth of respondents are enrolled either part-time (4.5%) or full-time (17.3%) in graduate studies. (This includes the 8.1% of respondents, shown in Figure 1 who report that graduate study is their only pursuit.) Further, another 14.3% 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 see that one quarter of EHD graduates report full-time enrollment in graduate school. This throws interpretive light on the observation in Figure 2 that 59% of EHD graduates are employed full-time.



## How well did UMaine prepare its graduates?

Of the respondents employed full-time in a job related to their UMaine degree, 92% 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): 85% believing UMaine prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for graduate studies, and 15% feeling they were “minimally prepared” or “uncertain.”

