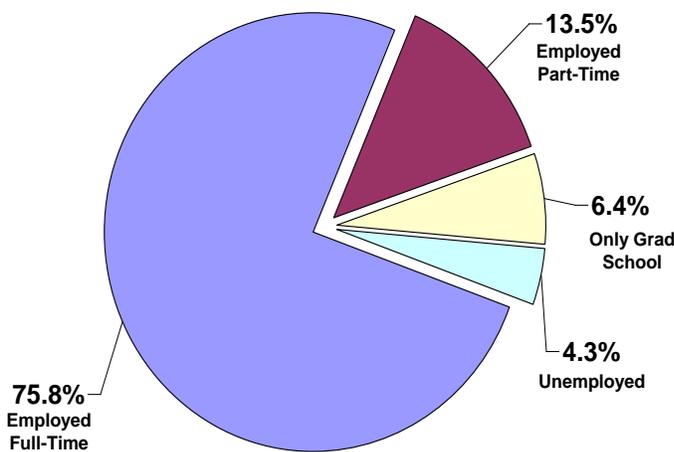


Introduction

The Office of Institutional Studies recently completed a survey of the 1,296 individuals receiving UMaine baccalaureate degrees in December, 2001, and in May and August, 2002. A total of 641 degree recipients returned the survey for a response rate of 53% (36 students with international addresses were not mailed surveys and there were an additional 51 graduates for whom no address could be obtained). The following report summarizes the employment and educational status of those UMaine graduates, which at the time of the survey six to fifteen months had elapsed, depending on graduation date.

Figure 1. Outcomes After Graduation



Employment After Graduation

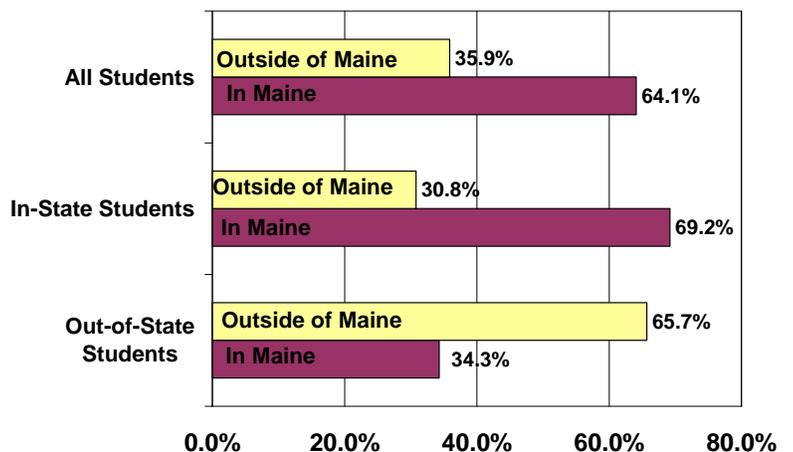
Of those graduates that reported being employed, 75.8% found full-time work while 13.5% were working part-time. Individuals only involved in graduate school comprised an additional 6.4% of 2001/02 graduates while 4.3% of the respondents were unemployed (Figure 1). Only 83% of those reporting full-time employment indicated that their job was related to their degree. In addition, 11.5% of recent graduates working full-time and 42.7% of recent graduates working part-time were also attending graduate school, for a total graduate school attendance rate of 24.5% (n = 157), an increase of 6% over the previous year.

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Where are the jobs?

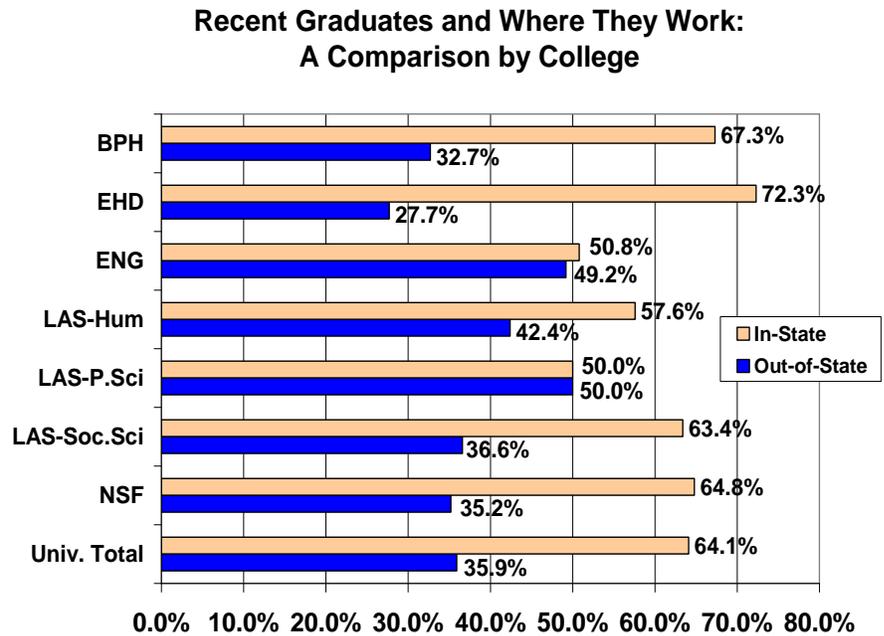
Almost two-thirds (64.1%) of the graduates in 2001/2002 that reported working full-time remained in Maine, which is about the same as last year. Not surprisingly, the location of graduates' work differed between those originally from Maine and those not from Maine. Among the graduates from Maine, 69.2% remained in Maine (representing a decrease of 4.5% from

Figure 2. Where Students Found Full-Time Jobs



last year) and 30.8% left Maine for work. Of those graduates not from Maine, 34.3% remained in Maine to work after graduation (down from 40.7% last year) while 65.7% left Maine to work (Figure 2). When examined by college, the majority of students do stay in Maine to work. However, there is a noticeable difference with the College of Engineering and College of Liberal Arts & Sciences-Physical Sciences, where %49 of Engineering graduates and 50% of Physical Science graduates choose to work out-of-state (Figure 3).

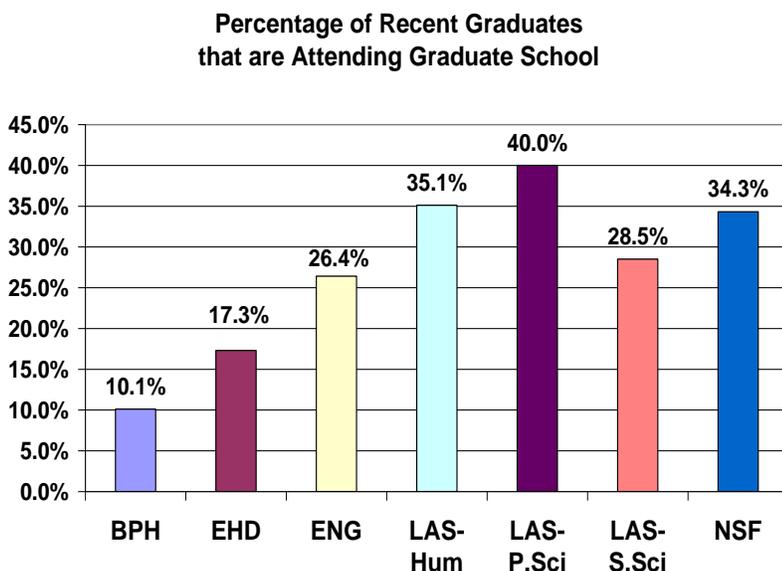
Figure 3.



How well did UMaine prepare its graduates?

Of those employed full-time in a job that was related to their area of study 83.4% believed that their UMaine experience prepared them “Very Well” or “Moderately Well” and only 16.6% reported being “Minimally Prepared” or “Uncertain”. Of those graduates enrolled in graduate school (regardless of their employment status, n = 157, or 24.5% of all respondents), 92.6% felt UMaine had prepared them “Very Well” or “Moderately Well”, and 7.4% reported feeling “Minimally Prepared” or “Uncertain”.

Figure 4.



Who is attending graduate school?

24.5% (n = 157) of the 638 respondents to the survey reported being enrolled in graduate studies (regardless of their employment status). The colleges of these graduates that had the highest rate of graduate school attendance were the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences – Physical Sciences (40%), College of Liberal Arts & Sciences – Humanities (35.1%), and the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, & Agriculture (34.3%). The colleges that had the lowest proportion of graduates attending graduate school were the College of Business, Public Policy, and Health (10.1%) and the College of Education and Human Development (17.3%) (Figure 4).

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What do they earn?

The median salary of the 405 graduates who reported being employed full-time (and who reported their annual income) was \$28,000. The median salary for those employed in Maine full-time was \$26,000 and for those that worked outside the state it was \$32,000.

Median salaries of those working full-time varied by college. For example, among all respondents the median salary of graduates from the College of Engineering was highest at \$42,000 and the median salary of those receiving degrees from the College of Liberal Art & Sciences - Humanities was the lowest at \$23,000 (Table 1).

Table 1.

College	Median Salary		Median Salary (In Maine)		Median Salary (Outside Maine)	
	\$	N	\$	N	\$	N
Business, Public Policy, & Health	35,000	94	31,000	64	36,000	30
Education & Human Development	24,000	83	24,000	62	25,000	21
Engineering	42,000	62	40,000	31	49,000	31
LAS- Humanities	23,000	29	21,000	19	30,000	10
LAS- Physical Sciences	27,500	11	26,750	6	30,000	5
LAS- Social Sciences	26,000	62	26,000	42	27,000	20
Natural Sciences, Forestry, & Agriculture	27,000	59	24,500	38	30,000	21
UNIVERSITY TOTAL	28,000	405	26,000	405	32,000	405

Note: cell sizes should be considered when comparing medians in the table above

Method

The survey was mailed to 1,296 baccalaureate degree recipients, who graduated in December, 2001, May, 2002, and August, 2002. Follow-up surveys were mailed approximately four and eight weeks after the initial mailing to those who had not yet responded. A total of 641 graduates provided usable responses to the survey, yielding a return rate of 53% (36 graduates with international addresses were excluded from the mailings; there were an additional 51 graduates for whom addresses could not be obtained). At the time of the survey six to fifteen months had elapsed, depending on graduation date. The proportion of respondents by college did not vary from the proportions in the population of all graduates by college by more than three percent.