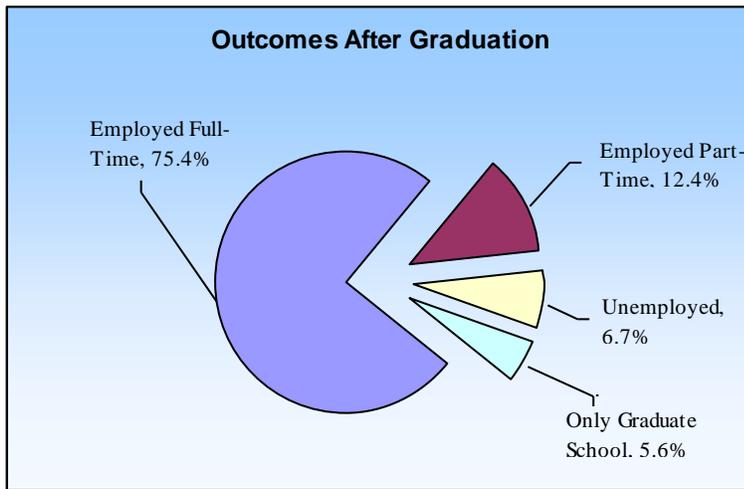


Introduction

The Office of Institutional Studies recently completed a survey of the 1,456 individuals receiving UMaine baccalaureate degrees in December, 2003, and in May and August, 2004. A total of 728 degree recipients returned the survey for a response rate of 55% (40 students with international addresses were not mailed surveys and there were an additional 92 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 conferral date.

Figure 1.



Employment after Graduation

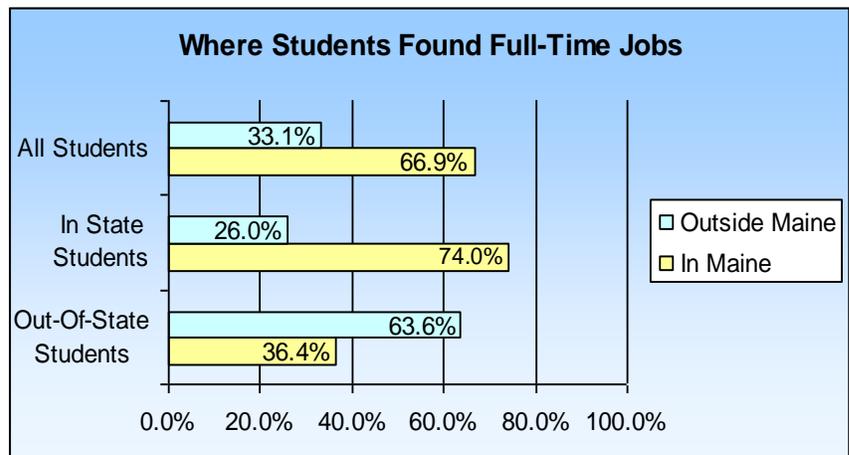
Of those graduates that reported being employed, 75.4% found full-time work (down somewhat from 77.6% last year), while 12.4% were working part-time, an increase of only 0.8% from last year. Individuals only involved in graduate school comprised an additional 5.6% of 2003/04 graduates (the same as last year) while 6.7% of the respondents were unemployed, up slightly from 5.2% last year (Figure 1). 80.8% of those reporting

full-time employment indicated that their job was related to their degree. In addition, 11.7% of recent graduates working full-time and 58.6% of recent graduates working part-time were also attending graduate school, for a total graduate school attendance rate of 24.6% (n = 179), similar to the previous year.

Figure 2.

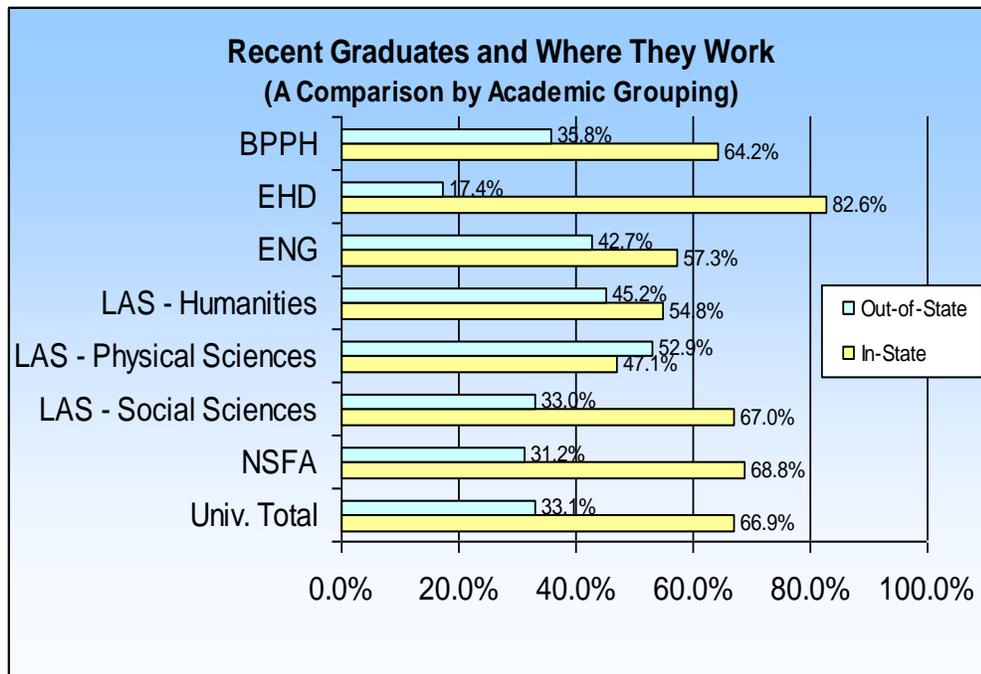
Where are the Jobs?

Over two thirds (66.9%) of the graduates in 2003/2004 that reported working full-time remained in Maine, which is a 5.2% decrease from 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, 74% remained in Maine (representing a



decrease of 6.9% from last year) and 26% left Maine for work. Of those graduates not from Maine, 36.4% remained in Maine to work after graduation (up from 35.4% last year) while 63.6% left Maine to work, down from 64.6% last year (Figure 2).

Figure 3.



The proportion of graduates remaining in Maine to work differed by academic grouping of the graduates. 82.6% of graduates from the College of Education and Human Development, 68.8% of graduates from the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry & Agriculture, and 67% of graduates from the College or Liberal Arts & Sciences – Social Sciences remained in Maine. (Figure 3).

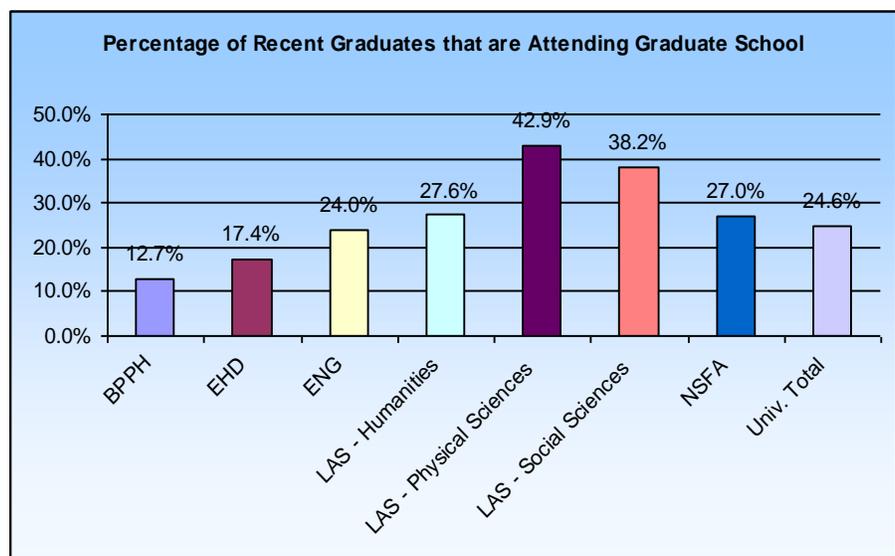
How Well Did UMaine Prepare its Graduates?

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” (both figures similar to last year). Of those graduates enrolled in graduate school (regardless of their employment status, n = 179, or 24.6% of respondents), 88.1% felt UMaine had prepared them “Very Well” or “Moderately Well” (down slightly from 89.6% last year), and 11.9% reported feeling “Minimally Prepared” or “Uncertain”.

Figure 4.

Who is Attending Graduate School?

24.6% (n = 179) of 728 respondents reported being enrolled in graduate studies (regardless of their employment status). The academic groupings of these graduates that had the highest rate of graduate school attendance were the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences-Physical Sciences (42.9%),



College of Liberal Arts & Sciences- Social Sciences (38.2%) and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences- Humanities (27.6%). The academic groupings that had the lowest proportion of graduates attending graduate school were the College of Business, Public Policy, and Health (12.7%), and the College of Education and Human Development (17.4%).

What Do They Earn?

The median salary of the 452 graduates who reported being employed full-time (and who reported their annual income) was \$32,000, up from \$30,000 last year. The median salary for those employed in Maine full-time was \$30,000 (up from \$28,000 last year), and for those that worked outside the state it was \$35,000 (up from \$34,000 last year).

Median salaries of those working full-time varied by academic grouping. For example, among all respondents, the median salary of graduates from the College of Engineering was highest at \$45,000, and the median salary of those receiving degrees from the College of Education & Human Development was the lowest at \$25,000 (Table 1).

Table 1.

College	Median Salary		Median Salary (In Maine)		Median Salary (Outside Maine)	
	\$	n	\$	n	\$	n
Business, Public Policy, & Health	35,000	118	35,000	76	35,250	42
Education & Human Development	25,000	72	24,750	58	34,500	14
Engineering	45,000	67	43,000	37	50,000	30
LAS- Humanities	27,150	28	26,500	15	27,300	13
LAS- Physical Sciences	35,000	15	33,000	6	35,000	9
LAS- Social Sciences	29,000	76	27,000	53	33,000	23
Natural Sciences, Forestry, & Agriculture	28,000	68	26,000	47	31,000	21
UNIVERSITY TOTAL	32,000	452	30,000	298	35,000	154

Method

The survey was mailed to baccalaureate degree recipients, who graduated in December, 2003, May, 2004, and August, 2004. Follow-up surveys were mailed approximately four, eight and twelve weeks after the initial mailing to those who had not yet responded. Survey recipients were also given the option of completing the survey on-line, with 59 choosing to respond electronically (8.1% of total respondents). A total of 728 graduates provided usable responses to the survey, yielding a return rate of 55% (40 graduates with international addresses were excluded from the mailings; there were an additional 92 graduates for whom addresses could not be obtained). At the time of the survey, six to fifteen months had elapsed since graduation, depending on conferral 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.