

Life After UMaine
 The Employment and Educational Status of
 2006-2007 Baccalaureate Recipients

Office of Institutional Studies
 December 2008

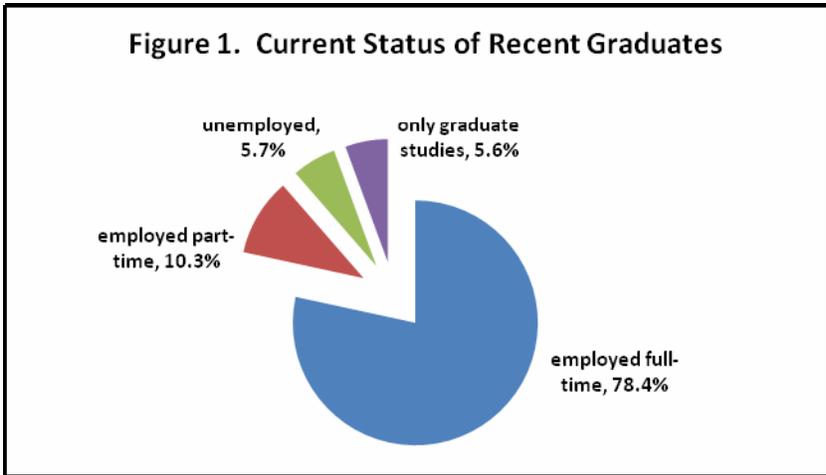
Introduction

The Office of Institutional Studies (OIS) mailed the *Life After UMaine* survey to 1,540 baccalaureate degree recipients who graduated in December 2006, May 2007, or August 2007.¹ Depending on the conferral date, 6 to 15 post-graduation months had elapsed at the time of the survey. OIS mailed follow-up surveys approximately 4, 8, and 12 weeks after the initial mailing to those who had not yet responded. 699 graduates provided useable responses, which corresponds to a return rate of 49%—comparable to that of previous surveys. Although the percentage of respondents by college is similar to the percentage of actual graduates by college (not varying by more than three percentage points), one should remain mindful of the return rate when generalizing these sample results to the population of UMaine baccalaureate degree recipients and, further, when considering differences between the results reported below and those obtained in previous surveys of baccalaureate recipients.

Below, we summarize the employment and educational status of these 699 UMaine graduates. Where we report data by college, we go further for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS)—given the variety of disciplines in this college—by distinguishing between humanities, physical sciences, and social sciences.

Employment after Graduation

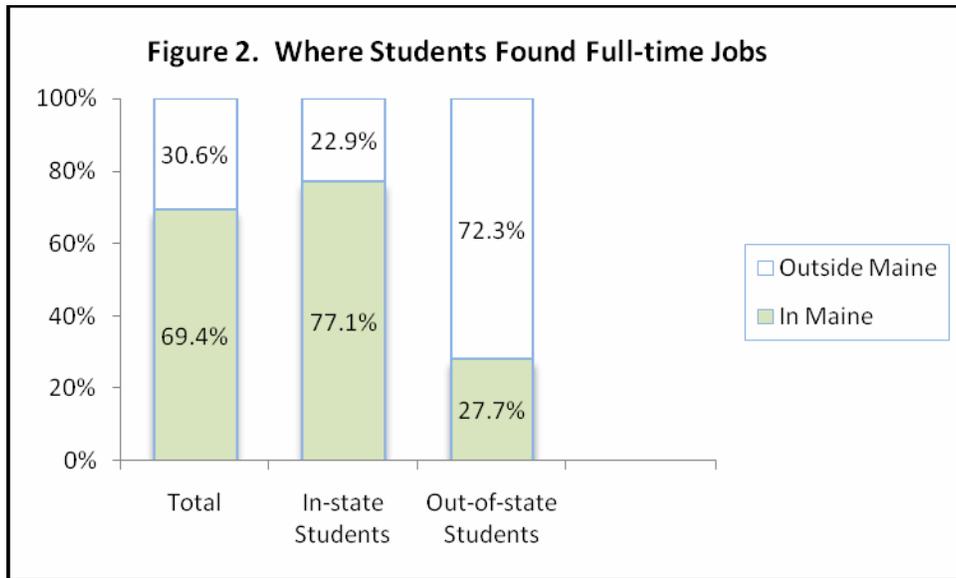
As Figure 1 shows, 78% of respondents have found full-time work and 10% are working part-time. Both statistics are comparable to last year’s survey of 2005-2006 baccalaureates. Among those reporting full-time employment, 81% indicated that their job is related to their UMaine degree. Individuals only pursuing graduate studies make up an additional 5.6% of respondents. (Further, 13% of the full-time employed and 59% of the part-time employed also are attending graduate school, for a total graduate school attendance rate among employed respondents of roughly 17%.) 5.7% of respondents are unemployed, compared to 3.4% last year.



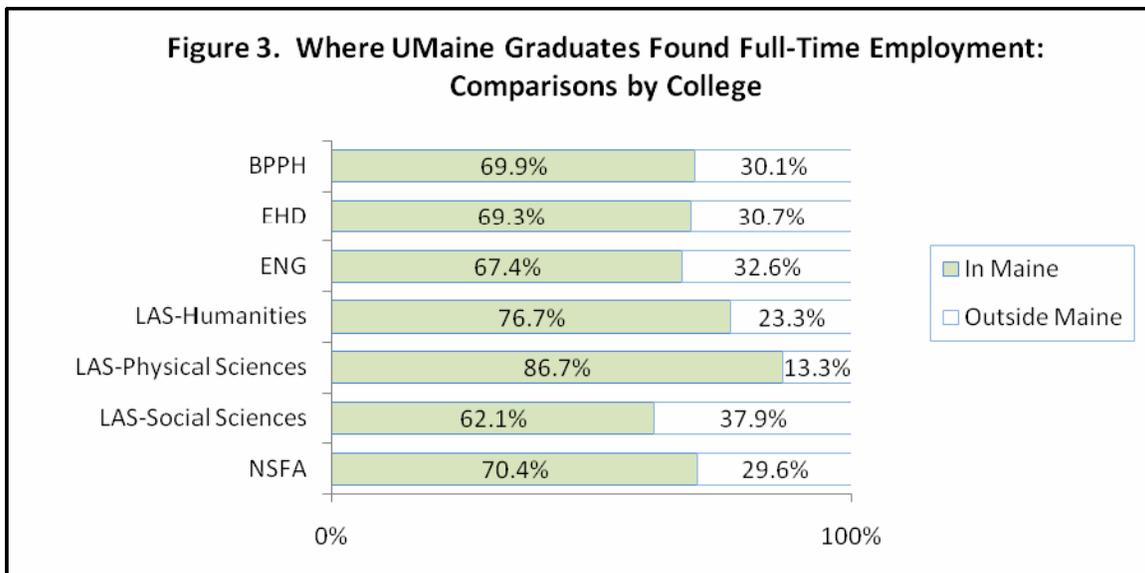
¹ The 37 international graduates were not surveyed. Further, there were 108 graduates for whom addresses could not be obtained.

Where are the Jobs?

69% of respondents who are working full-time have remained in Maine (Figure 2), virtually unchanged from last year. Not surprisingly, location of employment is related to one’s roots. Among respondents whose roots are in Maine, 77% of the full-time employed have remained in Maine (similar to last year); for those “from away,” the figure is 28% (up from 19% last year).



As Figure 3 shows, there are differences across the UMaine colleges with respect to location of employment. For example, 62% of LAS-Social Sciences graduates remained in Maine for full-time employment compared to 87% of graduates from LAS-Physical Sciences. The remaining disciplines fell between these two extremes.



What Do They Earn?

The median salary is \$34,100 for the 479 respondents who are employed full-time and who volunteered their annual income (see Table 1). This figure compares to \$35,000 from last year's survey. For those employed in Maine, the median salary is \$31,000 (versus \$33,500 last year); for those employed out of state, it is \$40,000 (unchanged from last year).

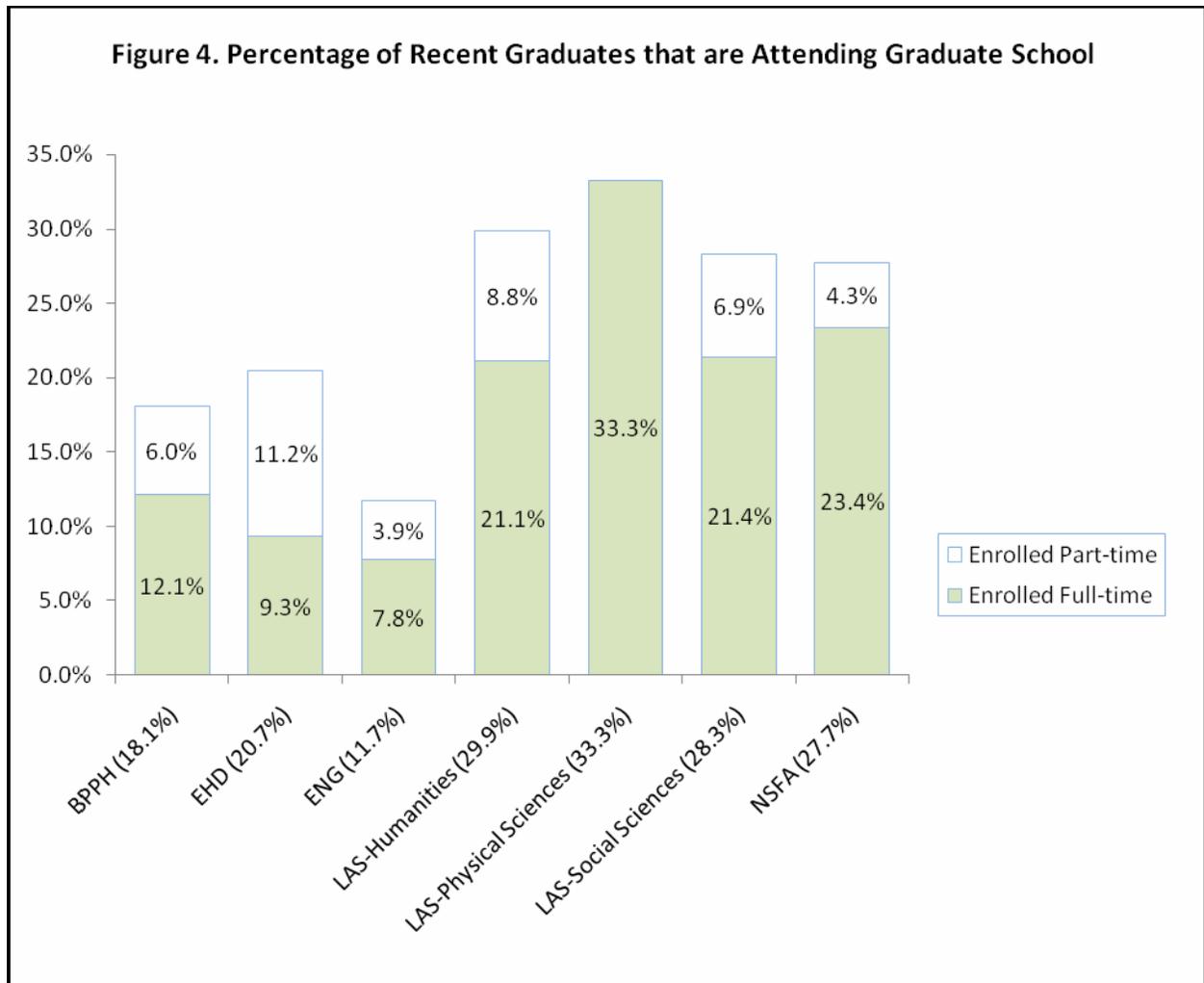
Not surprisingly, full-time median salaries vary by college. Among all respondents, for example, ENG graduates command the highest median salary, whereas the lowest median salary is for those receiving degrees in LAS-Social Sciences.

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>
BPPH	32,000	78	30,000	56	45,000	22
EHD	30,000	80	30,000	54	30,000	26
ENG	50,000	87	50,000	58	55,000	29
LAS-Humanities	30,000	27	30,000	21	32,500	6
LAS-Physical Sciences	33,500	14	31,500	12	39,500	2
LAS-Social Sciences	30,000	85	28,000	52	40,000	33
NSFA	36,000	97	35,000	67	39,000	30
UMaine Total²	34,100	479	31,000	330	40,000	149

Who is Attending Graduate School?

Roughly one quarter of respondents are enrolled either part-time (6.8%) or full-time (18%) in graduate studies. (This includes the 5.6% of respondents, shown in Figure 1, who report that graduate studies is their only pursuit.) As illustrated in Figure 4, percentages vary (predictably) by college. In the case of BPPH and ENG, for example, a smaller percentage of graduates go on to graduate studies (18% and 12%, respectively). In contrast, roughly one third of LAS graduates in the physical sciences do so. We also see differences among colleges with respect to the full-time/part-time breakdown, with larger percentages of graduates from LAS and NSFA enrolling full-time in graduate studies compared to their counterparts in BPPH, EHD, and ENG.

² Ten of the 370 full-time employed in Maine graduated with a Bachelor of University Studies degree from the Division of Lifelong Learning. While these individuals are included in the first two UMaine totals, they are not included in any college total.



How Well Did UMaine Prepare its Graduates?

Of the 416 respondents employed full-time in a job related to their UMaine degree, 83% believe their UMaine experience prepared them “very well” or “moderately well,” and 18% reported being “minimally prepared” or “uncertain” (both comparable to last year). Of the 158 respondents enrolled in graduate school (irrespective of employment status), 85% believe that UMaine prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” (versus 92% last year) and 15% report feeling “minimally prepared” or “uncertain” (7.9% last year).