



Life After UMaine

The Employment and Educational Status of
2019-2020 Baccalaureates

Office of Institutional Research and Assessment
June 2022

This report provides an overview of post-graduate information collected for students who graduated from the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias in December 2019, May 2020, or August 2020. Part one of this report summarizes the results from the Life After UMaine/UMM survey. Part two, which is a new reporting component, provides an outline of information collected from the National Student Clearinghouse regarding the enrollment of baccalaureate recipients in graduate programs. We conclude this report with an outline of the future plans for collecting post-graduate information.

Part One: Life After UMaine/UMM Survey

The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) mailed the *Life After UMaine/UMM* survey to 1,754 UMaine and 63 UMM baccalaureate degree recipients who graduated in December 2019, May 2020, or August 2020.¹ Depending on the conferral date, 7 to 24 post-graduation months had elapsed at the time of the mailing.

OIRA sent the initial survey in March 2021, with two follow-up prompts to nonrespondents occurring between June 2021 and December 2021. 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 usable responses from 262 UMaine graduates (201 of whom completed the online survey), corresponding to a return rate of 15%. We summarize the employment and educational status of these 262 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 15% 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 if one were to compare the results presented here with those reported in earlier editions of *Life After UMaine* (<http://www.umaine.edu/oira>).

¹ Included in this pool are 39 students whose addresses were undeliverable.

Employment after graduation

As Figure 1 shows, three-quarters of respondents have full-time employment, with 12.3% being employed part-time. Among those reporting full-time employment, 84% indicated their job is related to their UMaine degree.

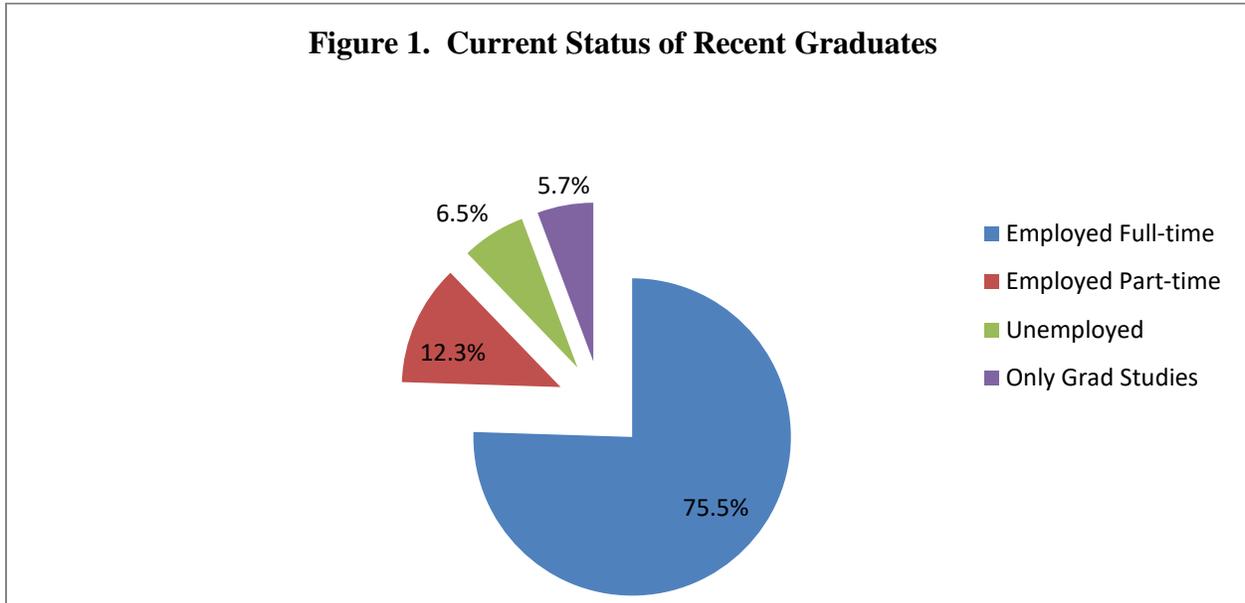
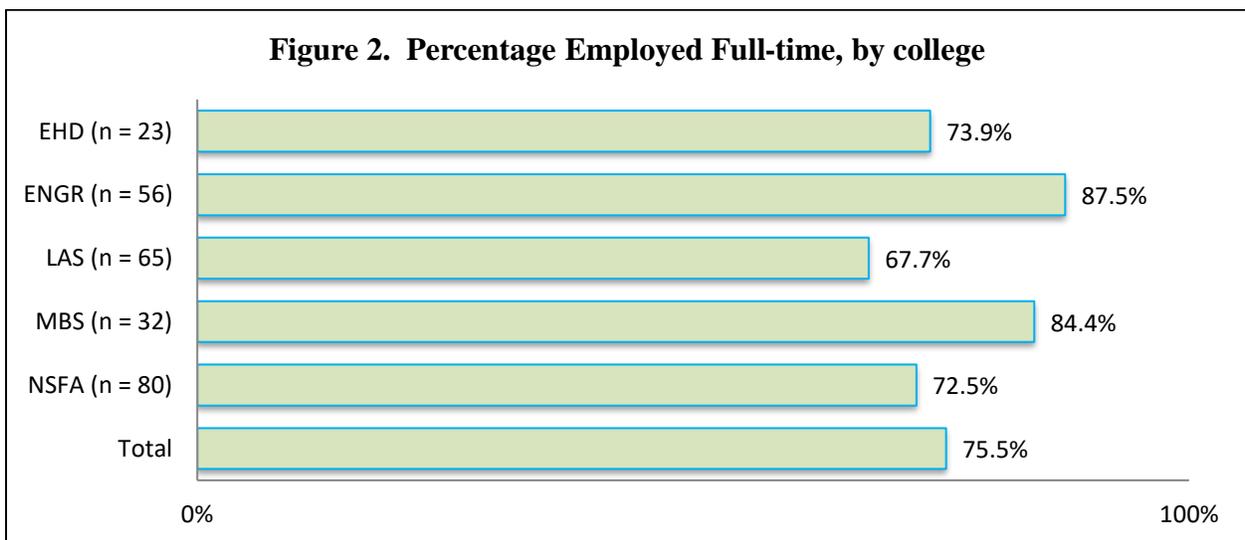


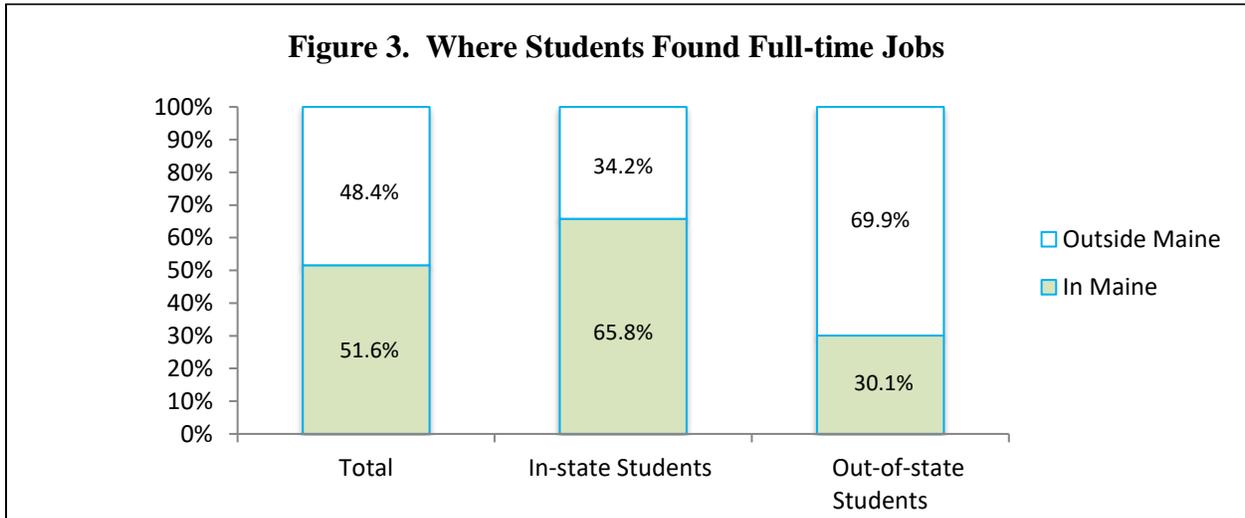
Figure 2 reveals the variability among colleges² in the percentage of respondents who are employed full-time. The highest employment rates are seen for ENGR and MBS graduates: 88% and 84%, respectively. In contrast, 68% of LAS graduates reported full-time employment.



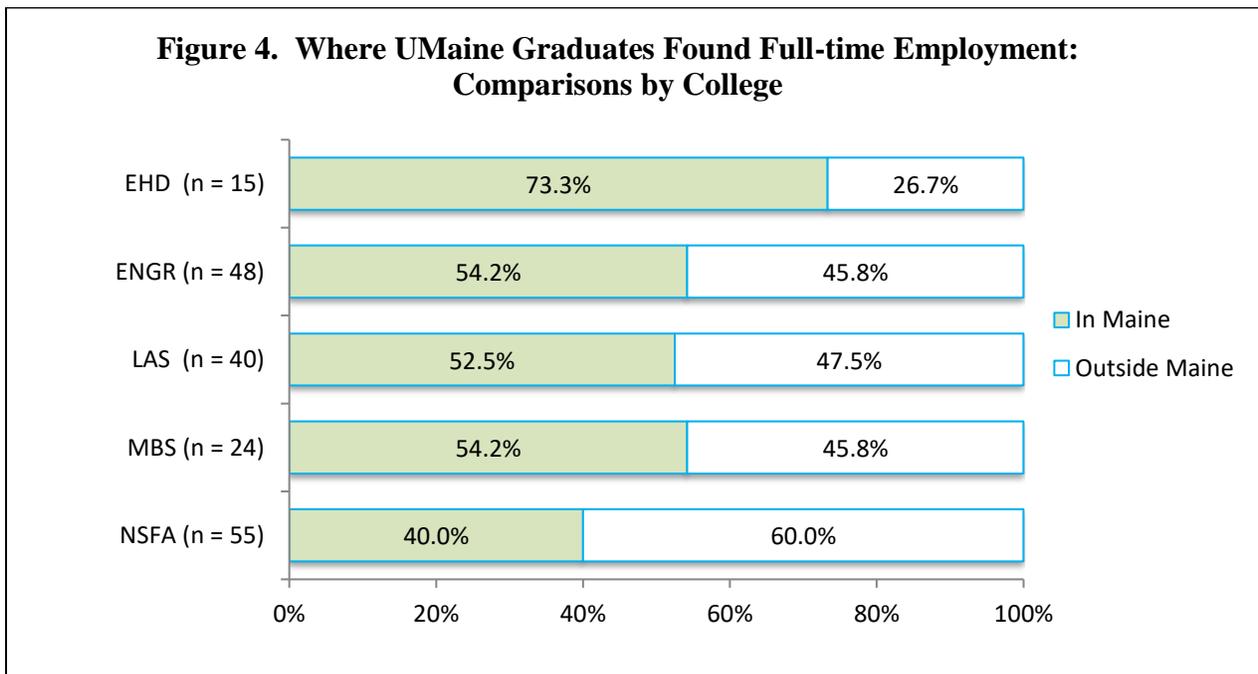
² The departmental composition of each college reflects its composition as of fall 2019. (EHD = College of Education and Human Development; ENGR = College of Engineering; LAS = College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; MBS = Maine Business School; and NSFA = College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture.)

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, 65.8% of the full-time employed have remained in Maine; for those "from away," 30.1% 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 less than three fourths of EHD graduates remained in Maine for full-time employment compared with 40% of NSFA graduates.



What do they earn?

The median salary is \$45,250 for the 162 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, \$49,000.

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.

| Table 1. Median Salaries of the Full-time employed* | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|--|----------|
| College | Median Salary | | Median Salary (in Maine) | | Median Salary (outside Maine) | |
| | \$ | N | \$ | N | \$ | N |
| MBS | 55,000 | 22 | 54,075 | 11 | 55,000 | 11 |
| EHD | 36,000 | 13 | 35,500 | 11 | -- | 2 |
| ENGR | 65,000 | 43 | 62,500 | 22 | 65,000 | 21 |
| LAS | 37,400 | 37 | 34,500 | 20 | 44,000 | 17 |
| NSFA | 40,000 | 45 | 53,000 | 17 | 36,500 | 28 |
| Total³ | 45,250 | 162 | 40,000 | 83 | 49,000 | 79 |

*Median salaries are only presented where the number of respondents is greater than 5.

³ UMaine total 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.⁴ As shown in Table 2, more than half (60%) of those employed full time are working in occupations related to architecture/engineering, healthcare, business, or education. Reported median salary for respondents is shown for each occupation sector.* These range from a low of \$32,000 per year for those working in educational instruction and library occupations to a high of \$67,000 per year for those working in architecture and engineering occupations.

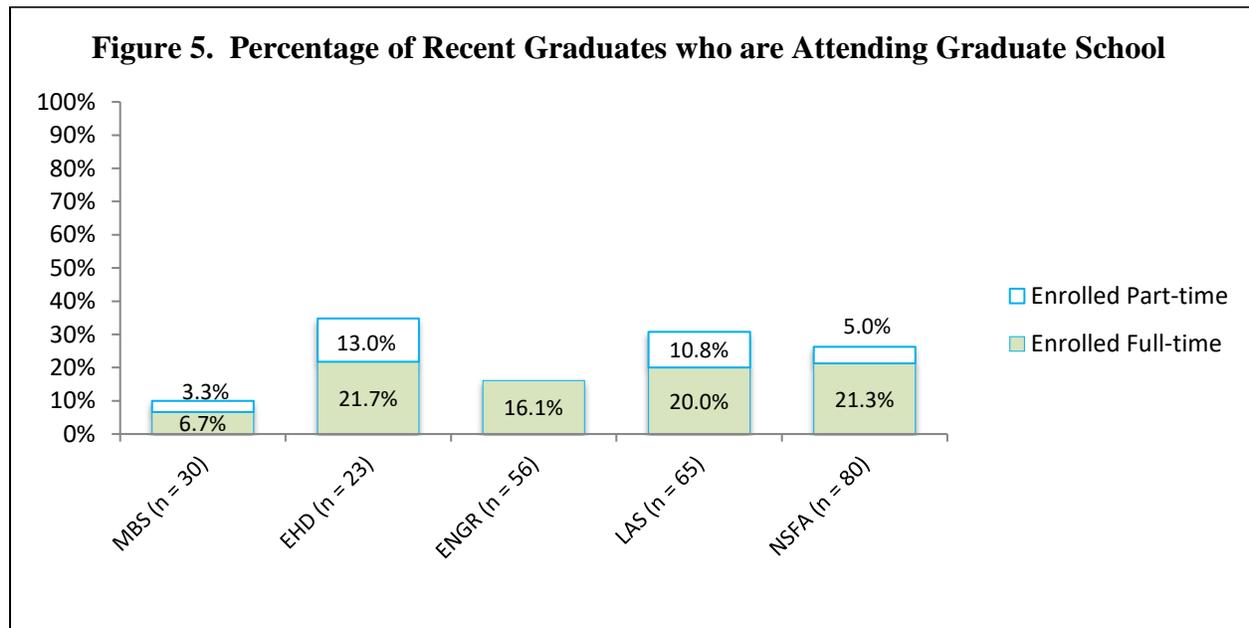
| Sector | <i>n</i> | % of all full-time employed | Median salary | |
|--|----------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------|
| | | | <i>n</i> | \$ |
| Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 36 | 18.3% | 30 | 67,000 |
| Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 31 | 15.7% | 26 | 47,000 |
| Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 26 | 13.2% | 24 | 49,000 |
| Educational Instruction and Library Occupations | 25 | 12.7% | 23 | 32,000 |
| Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | 11 | 5.6% | 9 | 51,000 |
| Management Occupations | 8 | 4.1% | 7 | 55,000 |
| Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | 7 | 3.6% | 7 | 37,000 |
| Sales and Related Occupations | 6 | 3.0% | 6 | 32,500 |
| Community and Social Service Occupations | 5 | 2.5% | 4 | * |
| Military Specific Occupations | 5 | 2.5% | 4 | * |
| Computer and Mathematical Occupations | 4 | 2.0% | 4 | * |
| Legal Occupations | 4 | 2.0% | 4 | * |
| Personal Care and Service Occupations | 4 | 2.0% | 4 | * |
| Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 3 | 1.5% | 2 | * |
| Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | 2 | 1.0% | 2 | * |
| Production Occupations | 2 | 1.0% | 2 | * |
| Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 2 | 1.0% | 2 | * |
| Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 2 | 1.0% | 0 | * |
| Protective Service Occupations | 1 | 0.5% | 1 | * |
| Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | 1 | 0.5% | 1 | * |
| Full-Time Employed Respondents Reporting Occupation | 185 | 93.9% | 162 | * |
| Occupation Sector Not Known | 12 | 6.1% | 0 | * |
| Total Full-Time Employed Respondents | 197 | 100 | 162 | 45,250 |

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

⁴ 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).

Who is attending graduate school?

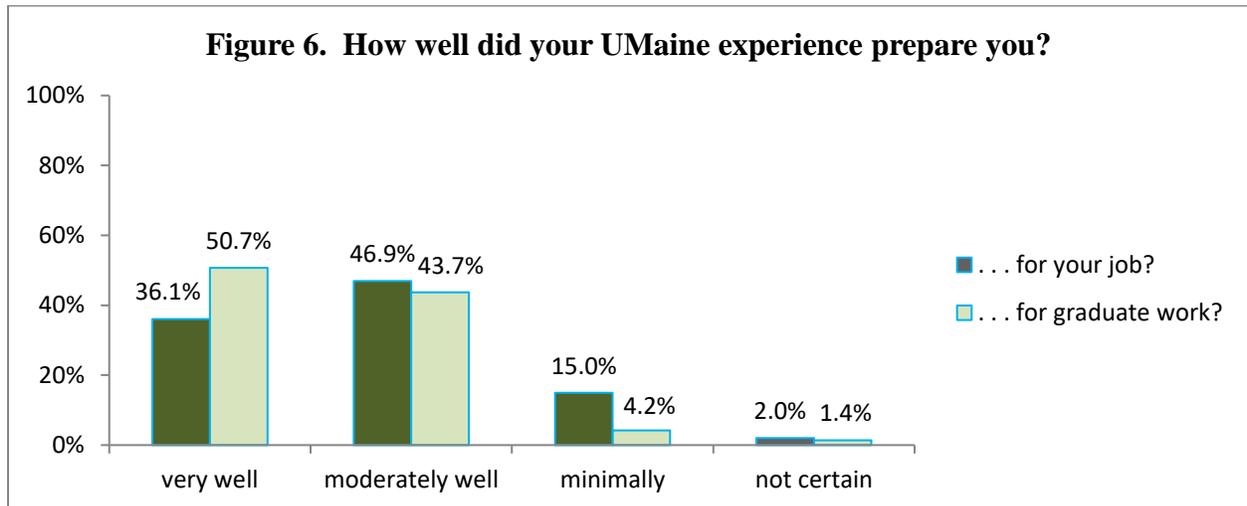
Nearly one-fourth of respondents are enrolled either part-time (6.2%) or full-time (18.1%) in graduate studies⁵. (This includes the 5.7% of respondents, shown in Figure 1 who report that graduate study is their only pursuit.) Further, another 14.3% planned to enroll in graduate school within 6-9 months 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 less than one quarter of EHD graduates report full-time enrollment in graduate school. This throws interpretive light on the observation in Figure 2 that 73.9% of EHD graduates are employed full-time.



⁵ These percentages also include one graduate from the Bachelor of University Studies program.

How well did UMaine prepare its graduates?

Of the respondents employed full-time in a job related to their UMaine degree, 83% 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): 94% believing UMaine prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for graduate studies, and 6% feeling they were “minimally prepared” or “uncertain.”

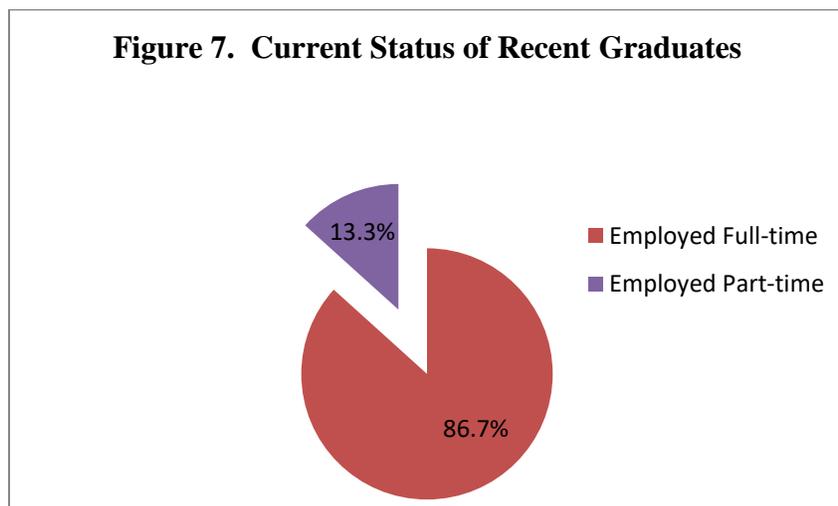


Life After UMaine Machias (UMM)

OIRA contacted 63 baccalaureate degree recipients who graduated from UMM during the same timeframe⁶. We received usable responses from 15 graduates corresponding to a return rate of 24%.

Employment after graduation

As Figure 7 shows, more than four-fifths of the 15 respondents have full-time employment, with the remainder being employed part-time. Among those reporting full-time employment, everyone indicated their job is related to their UMM degree.



How well did UMM prepare its graduates?

Of the respondents employed full-time in a job related to their UMM degree, 90% believe their UMM experience prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for their job, and 10% feel that they were “minimally prepared”.

⁶ Included in this pool is one student whose address was undeliverable.

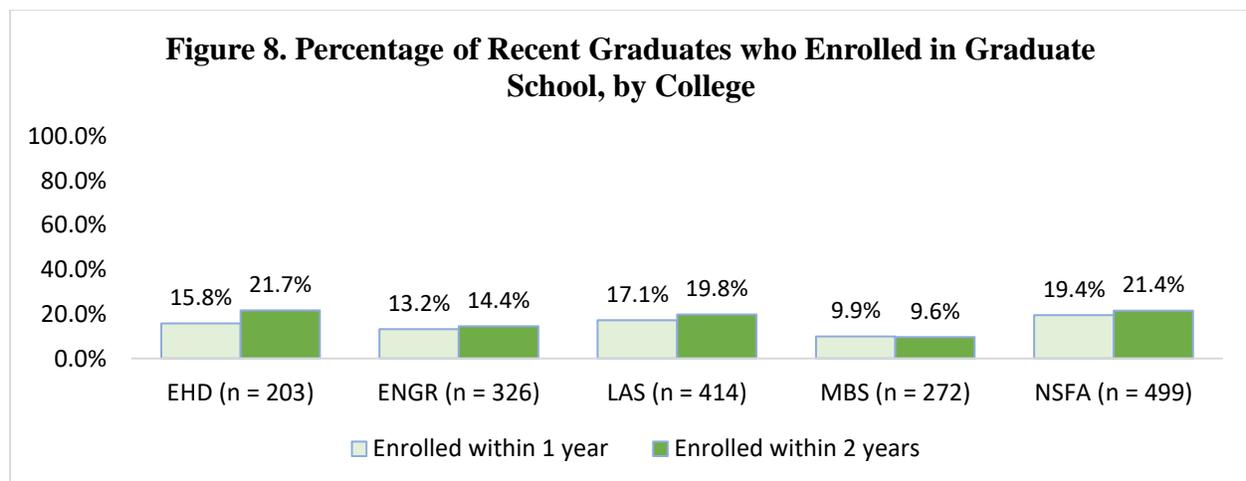
Part II. Graduate Program Matriculation

The National Student Clearinghouse is a non-federal, independent, nonprofit organization that serves as a repository for student data on enrollment and degree attainment. Nearly 3,600 institutions of higher education participate in the Clearinghouse enrollment verification service, capturing over 97% of currently enrolled college students in the United States⁷.

OIRA used this service to supplement the survey findings with data on graduate school attendance for the 2019-2020 UMaine and UMM baccalaureate recipients.

Out of the 1,766 UMaine baccalaureate recipients⁸, 16% enrolled in graduate school⁹ within one year of graduation. An additional 2% had enrolled during the second year, totaling 18% who had enrolled within two years of graduation. Additionally, out of 63 UMM graduates, 5% enrolled in graduate school within one year of graduation and an additional 6% had enrolled during the second year, totaling 11% who had enrolled within two years of graduation.

As illustrated in Figure 8, these percentages differ by college. For example, we see that only 10% of MBS graduates enrolled in graduate school within two years of graduation. In comparison, more than one fifth of NSFA graduates enrolled in graduate school during the same timeframe. All percentages are, however, generally higher for graduate school matriculation within two years.¹⁰ The most notable difference between two-year and one-year entry into graduate education was seen among the EHD graduates: 16% had enrolled in graduate studies within one year, but an additional 6% enrolled during the second year.



⁷ <http://www.studentclearinghouse.org/colleges/studenttracker/>

⁸ UMaine and UMM totals represent the true unduplicated headcount. These numbers might differ from the total number of students who were mailed the survey as some have opted out of survey participation.

⁹ Bachelor's degree students were submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse to capture enrollment in a graduate program within the time specified after their degree completion.

¹⁰ Headcount is duplicated across colleges (i.e., individual students may be counted in more than one college); consequently, the total of all colleges may be higher than the unduplicated headcount.

Looking Ahead: Transition to First Destination Survey

Moving forward, UMaine and UMM are transitioning to using the First Destination Survey. The First Destination Survey is a process of data collection for recent graduates that not only relies on a survey, but also can include information collected from phone call campaigns, LinkedIn scraping, and the National Student Clearinghouse. The protocols for the First Destination Survey, which were designed by National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), suggest surveying at graduation and then again six months later. The ultimate goal is to achieve a 65% knowledge rate, which is “the percent of graduates for which the institution has reasonable and verifiable information concerning graduates’ post-graduation career activities” ([First Destination Survey Standards and Protocols](#)). The First Destination Survey should include a base set of common items (e.g., current employment status, salary), as well as institution-specific items if relevant. Institutions that achieve a 65% knowledge rate can submit information collected through the common items to NACE and in return be able to benchmark against other institutions.

UMaine and UMM conducted a pilot of the First Destination Survey with the May 2021 graduates (report will be published later this summer) and will be fully implementing the survey for the August 2021, December 2021, and May 2022 undergraduate degree recipients this year.