

Introduction

The Graduate First Destination Survey investigates the employment and enrollment in graduate/professional school activities of recent graduate degree recipients with the goal of estimating post-graduation outcomes rates. The target populations are certificate, master's, and doctoral degree recipients who graduated between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

Initial data were gathered just before graduation via an online instrument. For those who did not respond to the initial survey, or indicated they were still seeking employment, a follow-up online survey invitation was sent to the graduate via email. A third follow-up to non-responders and those still seeking employment involved obtaining information from the graduate via social media. National Student Clearinghouse and Marquette University enrollment data were also utilized to place non-responders

First Destination Post-Graduation Outcomes

Graduates were grouped into one of several post-graduation outcomes based on their survey response. The categories are mutually exclusive. Other Not Seeking represents those engaged in post-graduation service, in the military full or part time, those planning to continue education, or students who indicated they were not engaged in an activity and were not actively seeking employment or enrollment in a graduate/professional program. Seeking Employment indicates those who were not engaged in any activity above and were still seeking employment as of December following graduation.

In 2020-2021, the percent of graduates that are full-time employed (81%) remained consistent with last cohort (80%), compared to 73% in 2018-2019 and 76% in 2017-2018.

Table 2. First Destination Outcomes by Graduating Cohort

	2017-2018 (n=480)	2018-2019 (n=512)	2019-2020 (n=485)	2020-2021 (n=632)
Employed, full-time	76%	73%	80%	81%
Employed, part-time	3%	3%	1%	1%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	6%	9%	10%	7%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	4%	5%	4%	6%
Other Not Seeking	1%	1%	1%	1%
Seeking Employment	10%	10%	4%	4%

First Destination Post-Graduation Outcomes by College

The information below shows the post-graduation outcome rates for seven colleges at Marquette. The Graduate School and School of Dentistry are omitted due to a low number of respondents.

Table 3. First Destination Outcomes by College

	2017-2018 (n=102)	2018-2019 (n=97)	2019-2020 (n=93)	2020-2021 (n=111)
College of Arts and Sciences				
Employed, full-time	67%	51%	60%	73%
Employed, part-time	4%	8%	2%	2%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	14%	24%	26%	17%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	2%	3%	1%	2%
Other not seeking	5%	0%	0%	4%
Seeking	11%	14%	11%	3%
College of Business Administration				
Employed, full-time	77%	93%	89%	91%
Employed, part-time	0%	0%	0%	0%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	1%	1%	5%	3%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	1%	0%	1%	1%
Other not seeking	0%	1%	2%	0%
Seeking	20%	5%	3%	4%




















































































	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
College of Communication	(n=21)	(n=14)	(n=20)	(n=18)
Employed, full-time	86% 	64% 	95% 	83% 
Employed, part-time	0%	0%	0%	6% 
Graduate/professional school, full-time	0%	21% 	5% 	11% 
Graduate/professional school, part-time	13% 	0%	0%	0%
Other not seeking	4% 	1% 	0%	0%
Seeking	5% 	14% 	0%	0%
College of Education	(n=68)	(n=63)	(n=52)	(n=48)
Employed, full-time	78% 	79% 	85% 	77% 
Employed, part-time	6% 	2% 	0%	1% 
Graduate/professional school, full-time	4% 	5% 	6% 	10% 
Graduate/professional school, part-time	1% 	0%	6% 	4% 
Other not seeking	1% 	2% 	2% 	2% 
Seeking	9% 	13% 	2% 	4% 
College of Engineering	(n = 54)	(n = 42)	(n=44)	(n=31)
Employed, full-time	80% 	71% 	80% 	68% 
Employed, part-time	0%	0%	0%	3% 
Graduate/professional school, full-time	11% 	14% 	20% 	26% 
Graduate/professional school, part-time	2% 	0%	0%	3% 
Other not seeking	0%	2% 	0%	0%
Seeking	7% 	12% 	0%	0%
College of Health Sciences	(n = 37)	(n = 39)	(n=26)	(n=87)
Employed, full-time	89% 	74% 	92% 	98% 
Employed, part-time	3% 	0%	4% 	0%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	0%	8% 	0%	0%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other not seeking	0%	0%	0%	1% 
Seeking	8% 	18% 	4% 	1% 
College of Nursing	(n = 118)	(n = 109)	(n=144)	(n=170)
Employed, full-time	74% 	65% 	80% 	73% 
Employed, part-time	4% 	4% 	1% 	1% 
Graduate/professional school, full-time	3% 	4% 	4% 	2% 
Graduate/professional school, part-time	13% 	19% 	10% 	16% 
Other not seeking	0%	0%	2% 	1% 
Seeking	6% 	8% 	3% 	6% 

Table 4. First Destination Outcomes by Degree Type

Starting Region

Graduates indicated their current location. In 2020-2021, 76% of respondents are located in Wisconsin or Illinois post-graduation, compared with 75% in 2019-

Full-time Employment

Respondents who were full-time employed answered additional questions about their employment. Respondents in the military or in post-graduation stipend-paid service positions are excluded from this section.

Respondents were asked to indicate the relationship between their career goals and their full-time employment. The chart below represents a breakdown of respondents who answered “yes” to whether they consider their job to be related to their career goals and/or a path that will allow them to achieve their career goals. The Graduate School and School of Dentistry are omitted due to a low number of respondents.

Table 6. Employment Relationship to Program by College/School and Degree Type



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Table 8. Full-Time Employment Organization by Degree Type

Degree Type	Organization	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Doctoral	Education	74%	55%	78%	50%
	Government	5%	12%	0%	6%
	Industry	15%	19%	19%	27%
	Not for profit	5%	10%	3%	12%
	Other	0%	5%	0%	5%
Master's	Education	28%	23%	23%	17%
	Government	2%	3%	3%	4%
	Industry	43%	53%	55%	63%
	Not for profit	23%	16%	18%	11%
	Other	5%	5%	1%	4%
Certificate (N = 6)	Education	33%	33%	38%	8%
	Government	0%	0%	4%	8%
	Industry	17%	33%	25%	85%
	Not for profit	23%	17%	25%	0%
	Other	5%	17%	8%	0%

Respondents were asked whether they were working for their employer before or while pursuing their Marquette graduate degree. The chart below indicates those that responded “yes” to the survey question by college and degree type. The Graduate School and School of Dentistry, as well as certificate degrees are omitted due to a low number of respondents.

Table 9. Percentage Working for Current Employer while Pursuing Marquette Graduate Degree by College and Degree Type

College/School	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Arts and Sciences	29%	29%	30%	22%
Business Administration	75%	63%	54%	65%
Communication	55%	25%	33%	25%
Education	52%	30%	32%	27%
Engineering	45%	39%	40%	33%
Health Sciences	17%	15%	17%	9%
Nursing	56%	45%	39%	25%
Degree Type				
Doctoral	41%	32%	28%	22%
Master's	25%	25%	25%	25%

Table 1 Salary Statistics for Full-Time Employed by Degree Type

Gp.opoe Employed by Degree Type

Students pursuing either Master’s or Ph.D. degrees were asked to indicate their field of study. Master’s degree data is excluded due to low headcounts. The “Other” category in the Doctorate degree category includes field such as Doctorate of Pediatric Medicine.

Table 13. Field of Study by those Pursuing a Ph.D.

Ph.D.	2017-2018 (n=14)	2018-2019 (n=30)	2019-2020 (n=34)	2020-2021 (n=28)
Arts & Humanities	36%	20%	18%	18%
Sciences	14%	47%	35%	36%
Business	0%	0%	3%	4%
Communication	14%	0%	6%	4%
Education	0%	3%	6%	11%
Engineering	29%	17%	21%	21%
Other	7%	3%	3%	4%
Unknown	15%	0%	0%	4%

Seeking Employment and Planning on Continuing Education

Graduates who indicated they were either seeking employment or planning to continue education were asked to comment on their job search or graduate/professional program search process. Respondents who reported that they were seeking employment and who responded to this follow-up question (n = 26) had the option to choose from a list of seven options to describe where they were in the process. All respondents who completed the “seeking employment” follow-up questions are included in the charts below, even those who indicated that they were also in another post-graduation outcome category (e.g. employed part-time and seeking employment). Respondents could check all that applied to them; therefore, the percentages across each row will not add up to 100%. Results for those planning to continue education are excluded due to a low number of respondents.

Table 14. Job Search Process Category of Graduates Seeking Employment

Number of	Year	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
52	2017-2018	67%	37%	4%	2%	21%	6%	6%	
59	2018-2019	80%	32%	7%	3%	17%	5%	0%	
15	2019-2020	60%	27%	0%	0%	30%	0%	13%	

Discussion

Results from this annual survey are distributed to many campus constituency groups and are used to inform current and future students of first destination post-graduation outcomes.

Results from previous years and results at the undergraduate level can be found at <https://www.marquette.edu/institutional-research-analysis/institutional-surveys.php>.

Data collection procedures follow the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) standards and protocols for the collection of graduating student initial career outcomes information for undergraduates. Marquette's Career Services Center submits Graduate First Destination Survey outcomes data, aggregated at the major level, to NACE for inclusion in NACE's yearly report on first destination outcomes, including national hiring and continuing education trends.

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