

Class of 2005 Post-Graduation Survey University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Summary and Highlights

The eighth university-wide post-graduation survey yielded the following:

- All the graduating classes were surveyed, yielding a 29% response rate
 - 92% are employed, in graduate school, or both (8.9% reported they did not wish to be employed after graduation; this is a national trend).
 - 91% indicated a sense of pride and connection to UNC Charlotte
 - 81% indicated that their education adequately prepared them for their careers
 - 95% indicated that their majors prepared them well for graduate school
 - 84% plan to pursue further education
 - 86% are satisfied with their current employment
 - 87% stayed with jobs held prior to graduation or obtained employment within 6 months of graduation
 - Primary reason students stayed and completed their degrees: excellent reputation of their department of study, career options, and geographic location of UNCC
 - 71% indicated using at least one University Career Center service
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The college with the greatest proportion of graduates responding to the survey was the College of Education at 33.8%. The overall response rate for the August 2004, December 2004, and May 2005 graduates was 28.7%. The median salary for reporting undergraduates was \$30,080 and for graduates was \$47,500. The highest paid undergraduates were from the College of Engineering at \$42,850 (median) and the highest paid graduate student alumni were from the College of Health and Human Services \$60,000 (median). The undergraduate median male salary was \$7,000 higher than the median female salary (\$36,000 vs. \$29,000). However, female engineering students reported \$11,030 higher earnings than males.

The College of Engineering reported the highest percentage employed or attending graduate school at 96.6%, while the college of Information Technology had the lowest at 70.6%. This is partially related to the ability of students on F-1 visas to obtain sponsorships. College of Education graduates reported the highest level of satisfaction (93.3%) as well as the highest percent reporting careers related to their field of study (99%). Sixty percent of the respondents report holding career related positions while enrolled at UNC Charlotte, including Co-ops, 49erships, internships, and assistantships.

Of the respondents who report the locations of their current employment, 70% are in North Carolina, with the remainder in 31 states, Japan and China. The most frequently identified employers of graduates are Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (34), Wachovia (24), Bank of America (19), UNC Charlotte (17), Carolinas Healthcare System (14), Cabarrus County Schools (12), Rowan-Salisbury Schools (11), General Electric (9), Lincoln County Schools (9) and Northeast Medical Center (9).

Eighty-six percent of those responding said that they worked while in school. Of those who worked, thirty percent of the undergraduate students worked an average of more than 30 hours per week and 52 percent worked 16 to 30 hours. Among the graduate students, 36 percent worked more than 40 hours per week on average and 23 percent worked 31 to 40 hours per week while in school.

Overall, 38% indicated they did not complete their degree in the time they had planned. The majority of graduates (81%) indicated that working while they were in school was positive or did not affect their academics negatively.

Main reasons cited for working during college:

- Paid for personal expenses- 75%
- Necessary for tuition, room, board, books- 46%
- Helped me organize my time- 20%
- Was beneficial in helping prepare me for a career- 32%

Respondents provided high marks to UNC Charlotte in the following areas:

- 84% agreed that they received good quality instruction in their majors
- 86% would likely or very likely choose their major as well as UNC Charlotte all over again
- 91% were neutral to in strong agreement that they were well prepared to successfully complete post graduation certification exams or licensure in their field
- 95% felt they were provided with a supportive learning environment
- 99% felt they will be able to make a valuable contribution to their chosen profession and society
- 99% understand the need for life-long learning

The 28.7 percent response rate to the survey precludes generalization about the experiences and opinions of the graduating class of 2004-05. Overall, the response rates and responses are however similar to previous surveys.

The median ages for the current respondents were 23 years old for undergraduate students and 30 years old for graduate students. The majority of respondents (60%) are females. One quarter of the respondents identify themselves as members of a racial or ethnic minority group.

The survey instrument for undergraduate student included 51 questions and the graduate student survey included 46 questions. Most questions were common to the two surveys. The questions focused on educational experiences, job searches, and employment. The large number of questions and the increasing length of the survey may be responsible for shrinking response rates.

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