

Life After UMaine
 The Employment and Educational Status of
 2007-2008 Baccalaureate Recipients

Office of Institutional Studies
 February 2010

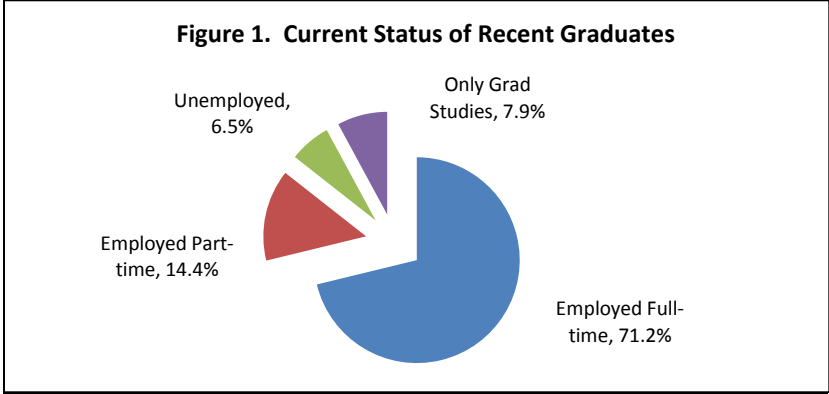
Introduction

The Office of Institutional Studies (OIS) mailed the *Life After UMaine* survey to 1,507 baccalaureate degree recipients who graduated in December 2007, May 2008, or August 2008.¹ 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. 621 graduates provided useable responses, which corresponds to a return rate of 42%. This is markedly lower than the response rate of previous surveys of UMaine baccalaureate recipients (49% to 53%), despite similar methodology. Although the percentage of respondents by college is similar to the percentage of actual graduates by college, one nevertheless should remain mindful of the return rate when generalizing these sample results to the population of UMaine baccalaureate recipients and, further, when considering differences between the results reported below and those obtained in previous years.

Below, we summarize the employment and educational status of these 621 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

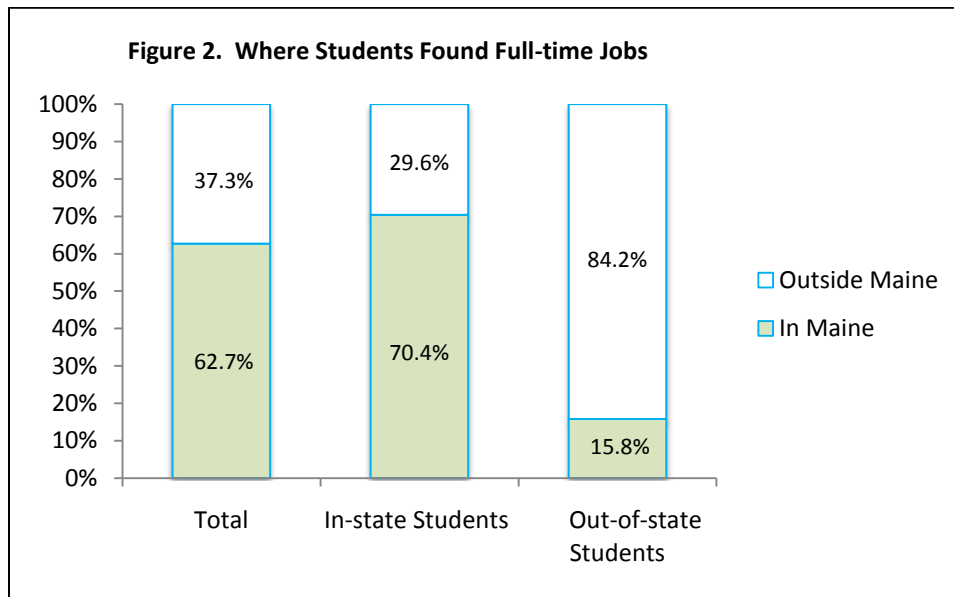
As Figure 1 shows, 71% of respondents have found full-time work (down from 78% in last year’s survey of 2006-2007 baccalaureates) and 14% are working part-time (up from 10%). Among those reporting full-time employment, 80% indicated that their job is related to their UMaine degree. Individuals only pursuing graduate studies make up an additional 7.9% of respondents. (An additional 22% of respondents reported enrolling in graduate school while working, resulting in a total of 30% enrolled in further education—an increase from 25% last year.)



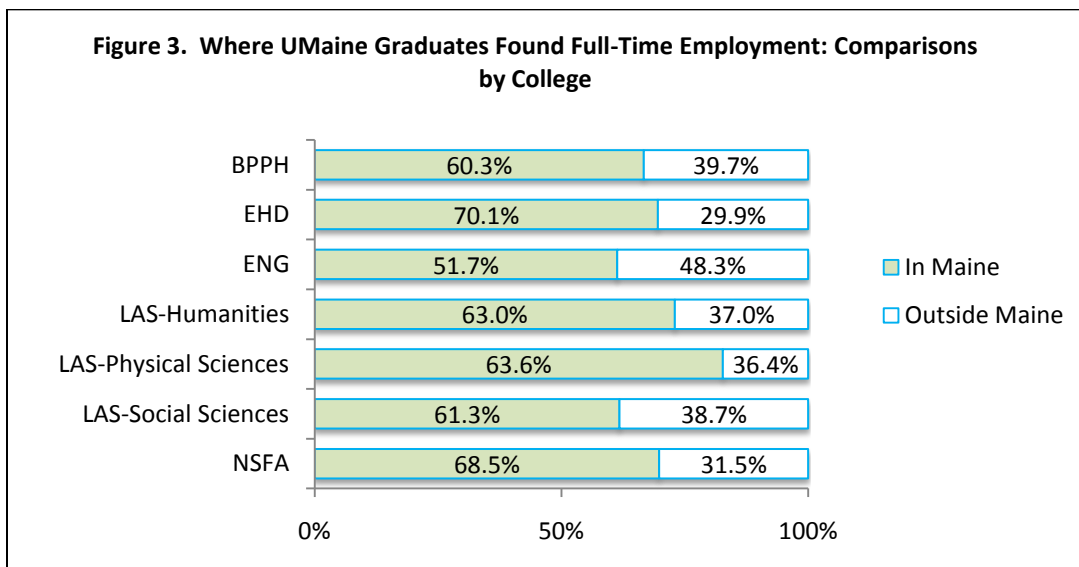
¹ The 25 international graduates were not surveyed. Further, there were 15 graduates for whom addresses could not be obtained.

Where are the Jobs?

63% of respondents who are working full-time have remained in Maine (Figure 2), which is six percentage points less than what was reported last year. Not surprisingly, location of employment is related to one's roots. Among respondents whose roots are in Maine, 70% of the full-time employed have remained in Maine (a seven percentage point decrease from last year); for those "from away," the figure is 16% (down from 28% last year).



As Figure 3 shows, there are differences across the UMaine colleges with respect to location of employment. For example, 52% of ENG graduates remained in Maine for full-time employment compared to 70% of graduates from EHD. The remaining disciplines fell between these two extremes.



What Do They Earn?

The median salary is \$36,000 for the 369 respondents who are employed full-time and who volunteered their annual income (see Table 1). The median salary is \$32,000 for those employed in Maine; for those employed out of state, it is \$40,000.

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-Humanities.²

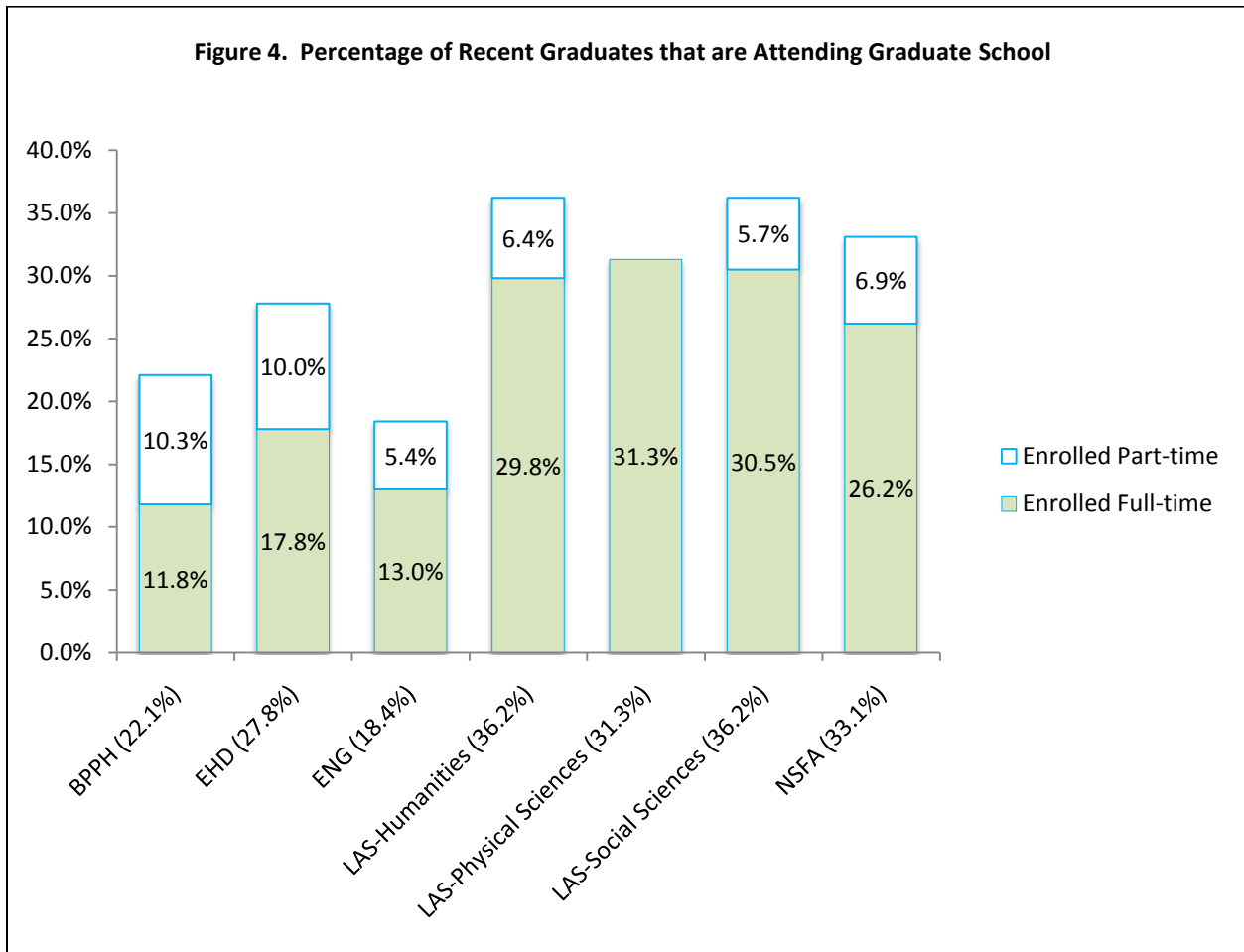
Table 1. Median Salaries of the Full-time Employed.						
College	Median Salary		Median Salary (in Maine)		Median Salary (outside Maine)	
	\$	<i>N</i>	\$	<i>n</i>	\$	<i>n</i>
BPPH	36,000	49	32,500	28	40,000	21
EHD	30,000	56	30,000	41	32,000	15
ENG	52,000	82	50,000	43	55,000	39
LAS-Humanities	27,127	24	26,175	15	39,000	9
LAS-Physical Sciences	31,000	8	31,000	6	35,000	2
LAS-Social Sciences	30,000	54	26,000	33	32,000	21
NSFA	40,000	91	40,000	62	40,000	29
UMaine Total³	36,000	369	32,000	231	40,000	138

Who is Attending Graduate School?

Almost one-third (30%) of respondents are enrolled either part-time (7.7%) or full-time (22.1%) in graduate studies. (This includes the 7.9% 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 (22% and 18%, respectively). In contrast, roughly one-third of LAS graduates. 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 Given the small *N*s (coupled with the 42% response rate), these subgroup medians should be interpreted cautiously.

³ The UMaine totals also include five Bachelor of University Studies recipients.



How Well Did UMaine Prepare its Graduates?

Of the 318 respondents employed full-time in a job related to their UMaine degree, 91% believed their UMaine experience prepared them “very well” or “moderately well,” and 6% reported being “minimally prepared” or “uncertain.” Of the 171 respondents enrolled in graduate school (irrespective of employment status), 92% believed that UMaine prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” and 8% reported feeling “minimally prepared” or “uncertain.”