

# Graduate Students: Post-Graduation Education and Employment

## 2014-15 Executive Summary

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness (IE) administers three surveys related to graduate students' school and employment plans after graduation:

- **Graduating Master/Doctoral Student Survey** – administered to students at the time they apply for graduation
- **Graduation Card Initiative** – administered to students at the graduation ceremony
- **Recent Graduate Survey** – administered to students who have graduated within the past three academic years

In combination, these surveys provide useful information in regard to graduate school and employment activities about students' *initial* post-graduate plans, their more *solidified intentions* at the time of graduation, and their *actual* experiences post-graduation. This report summarizes selected student self-reported responses from the surveys that were conducted during the 2014-15 academic year.

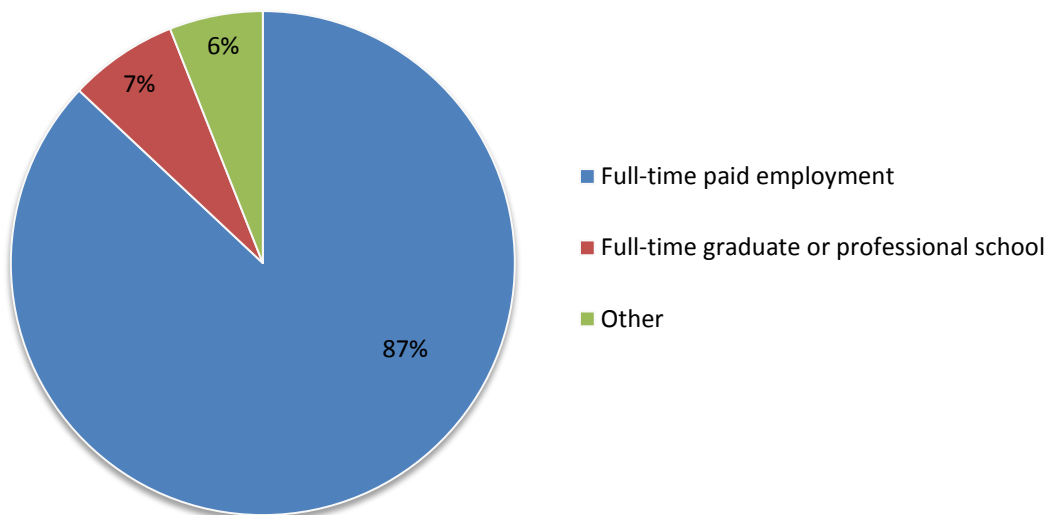
### Graduating Master/Doctoral Student Survey

Each semester since fall 2013, students who have submitted a degree application by the deadline are sent an invitation to complete the online survey. The goal of this survey is to gather exit information from graduating students about their experiences at UofL. Respondents are asked about their perception of and satisfaction with their time at UofL, including academic preparation, experience in their program, academic support services and facilities, other student services and programs, student activities, and their plans following graduation.

#### After Graduation

For the 2014-15 academic year, 464 students responded to the survey. Students were asked to identify their most-likely principal activity upon graduation. Of the 464 respondents, approximately **87%** (404) indicated *full-time, paid employment* as their anticipated main activity. Additionally, approximately **7%** (32) indicated *additional full-time graduate or professional school*, and approximately **6%** indicated other main activities post-graduation [**2%** (9) indicated *part-time paid employment*, **0.4%** (2) indicated *additional part-time graduate or professional school*, **0.2%** (1) indicated *additional undergraduate coursework*, **1%** (5) indicated *military service*, **1%** (3) indicated *starting or raising a family*, **0%** indicated *volunteer activity (i.e. Peace Corps)*, and **2%** (8) indicated *other*].

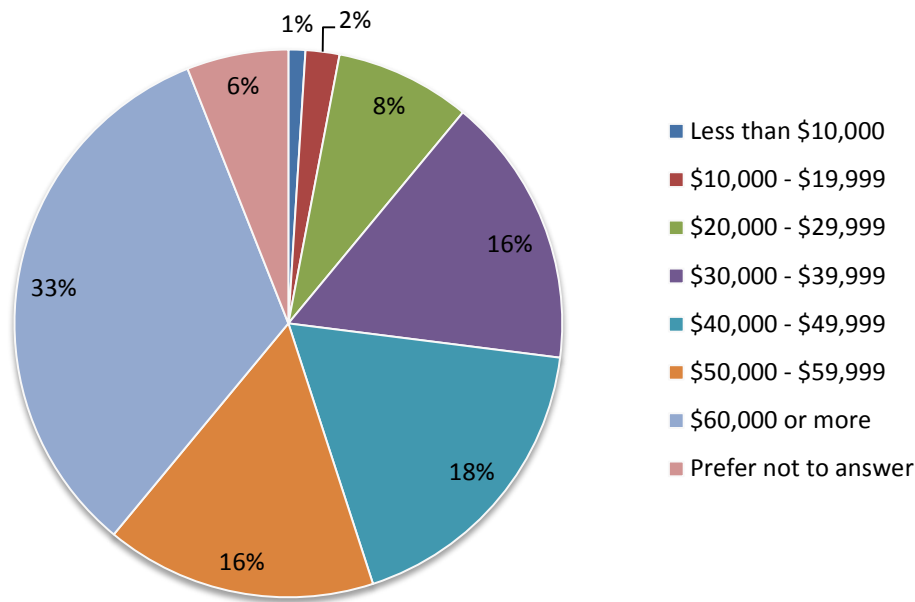
### Most likely principal activity upon graduation



## Salary

We asked those students who would be employed after graduation to provide an estimate of the annual pre-tax salary they would earn. Of the 271 respondents, approximately **18%** (48) reported that they would be making \$40,000 - \$49,999, **16%** (43) making \$50,000 - \$59,999, **16%** (42) making \$30,000 - \$39,999, **8%** (21) making \$20,000 - \$29,999, **2%** (5) making \$10,000 - \$19,999, **1%** (3) making *less than \$10,000*, and **33%** making \$60,000 or more [**13%** (36) making \$60,000 - \$69,999, **7%** (18) making \$70,000 - \$79,999, **6%** (15) making \$80,000 - \$89,999, **4%** (10) making \$100,000 - \$149,999, **2%** (6) making \$150,000 or more, and less than **1%** (1) indicated *another salary*]. **Six percent** (17) preferred not to answer

**If you have a job after graduation, please provide an estimate of the annual pre-tax salary you will earn.**



## Graduation Card Initiative

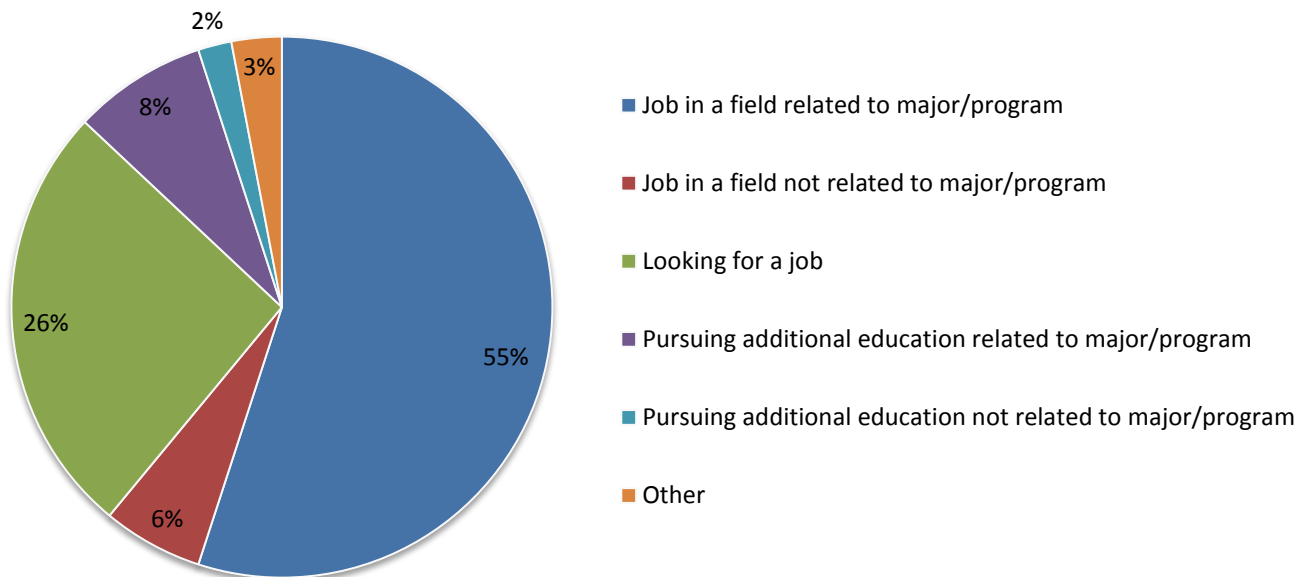
In fall 2014 and spring 2015, IE used graduation name cards to gather information about graduating students' post-commencement plans. All students carry a name card during the commencement ceremony. This card is used to ensure that the students stand in correct order and guide the announcer in the pronunciation of the graduates' name. A brief survey, asking only about post-graduate employment and educational plans, was printed on the reverse side of the card. Staff coordinators at the ceremony directed students to complete the survey. A total of 549 graduate students completed the survey in fall 2014 and spring 2015.

### After Graduation

Respondents were asked to indicate their *primary* employment/education plans after graduation, but some selected more than one activity. Therefore, the percentages reported below and on the pie chart that follows are the percentages of total number of *responses* (579), not the total number of *respondents* (549) (the number of responses exceeds the number of individual respondents.)

When asked about their primary employment/education plans after graduation, **55%** that they *had a job in a field related to their major/program*, **26%** of the responses from graduates indicated that they would be *looking for a job*, **8%** that they *would be pursuing additional education related to their major/program*, **6%** that they *had a job in a field not related to their major/program*, **2%** that they *would be pursuing additional education not related to their major/program*, and **3%** indicated *other* plans.

### Primary employment/education plans after graduation



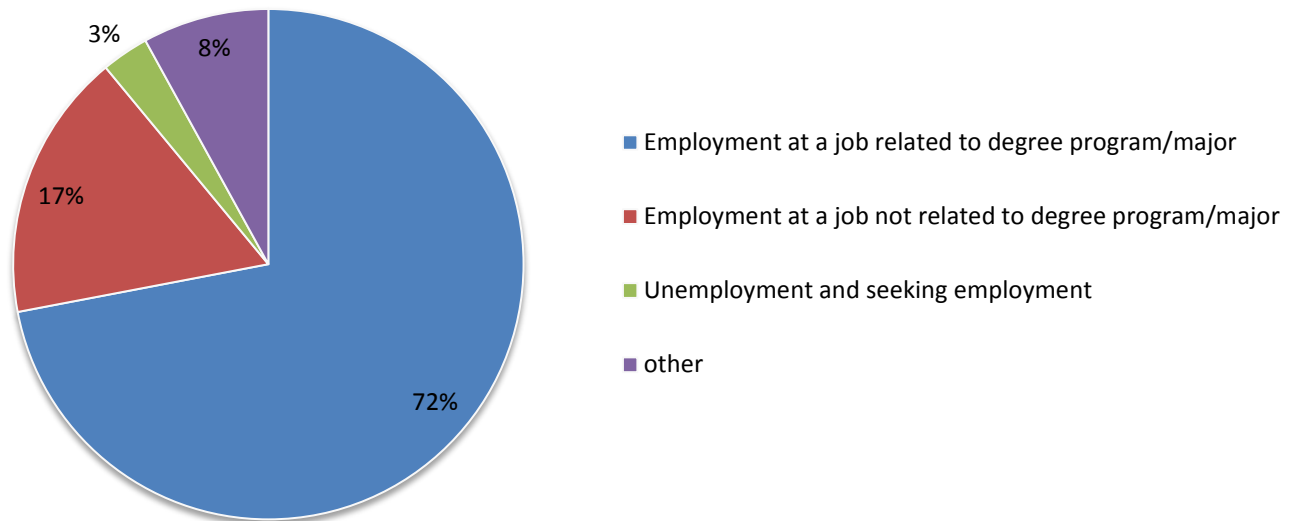
## Recent Graduate Survey

In summer 2014, IE surveyed graduate students who graduated during the 2011-12 or 2012-13 academic year. This survey is intended to be an assessment of the quality and effectiveness of our academic programs and services, and students' career and job placement post-graduation. Questions are asked pertaining to students' overall college experience at UofL; their school/college, department, and program; their perceived impact of earning their degree; and their current employment and educational status. Only responses related to employment and education post-graduation are included below. Of the 353 survey respondents **47%** (165) graduated in 2011-12 and **53%** (188) graduated in 2012-13.

### Current Employment

When asked about their current employment status, approximately **72%** (252) indicated *employment at a job related to their degree program/major*, **17%** (60) *employment at a job not related to their degree program/major*, **3%** (9), *unemployment and seeking employment*, and approximately **8%** who indicated other statuses [**0.3%** (1) *raising a family*, **0.3%** (1) *military service*, **0%** (0) *unemployment and not seeking employment*, **0%** (0) *participating in a national or international service program (i.e. Peace Corps)*, and **7%** (25) who indicated *other*].

### Current employment status



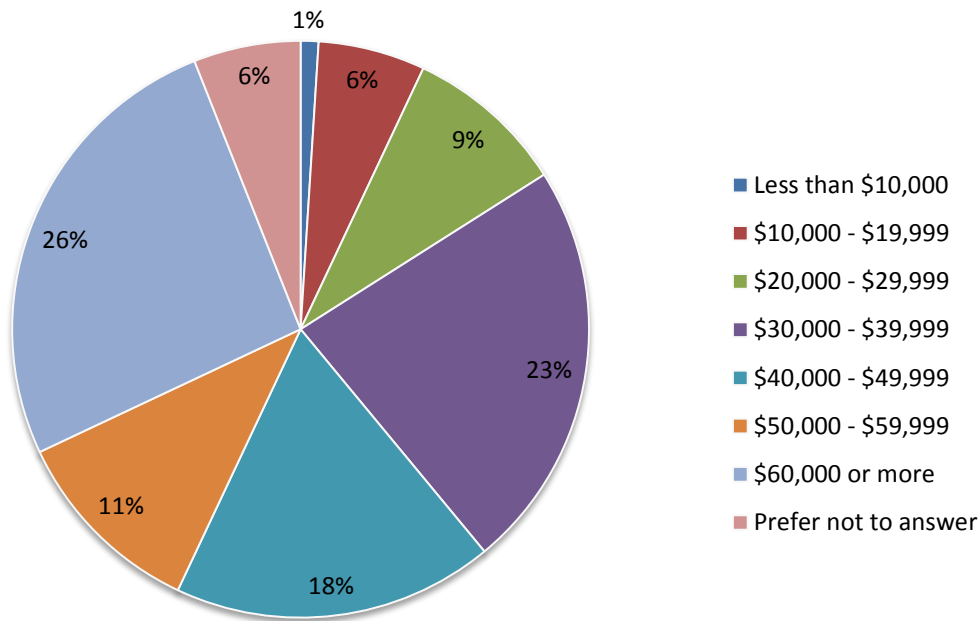
### Level of Employment

We asked those students who were currently employed to indicate their *level* of employment. Of the 310 who responded, approximately **90%** (278) reported working full-time, while **10%** (32) reported working part-time.

## Salary

We asked those students who were employed to provide their annual pre-tax salary. Of the 307 respondents, approximately **23%** (71) reported that they would be making \$30,000 - \$39,999, **18%** (56) making \$40,000 - \$49,999, **11%** (35) making \$50,000 - \$59,999, **9%** (26) making \$20,000 - \$29,999, **6%** (19) making \$10,000 - \$19,999, **1%** (3) making *less than \$10,000*, and approximately **20%** making \$60,000 or more [**9%** (28) making \$60,000 - \$69,999, **6%** (18) making \$70,000 - \$79,999, **5%** (16) making \$80,000 - \$89,999, **4%** (11) making \$100,000 - \$149,999, **1%** (3) making \$90,000 - \$99,999, **1%** (3) making \$150,000 or more.] **Six percent** (17) preferred not to answer.

## Annual pre-tax salary



## Additional Education

Recent graduates were asked if they had enrolled in a graduate/professional program or taken additional coursework since earning their undergraduate degree from UofL. Of the 349 respondents, **74%** (260) indicated that they had not enrolled or taken additional courses, while **26%** (89) indicated that they had.