

Graduate Students: Post-Graduation Education and Employment

2015-16 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 2015-16 academic year.

Graduating Master/Doctoral Student Survey

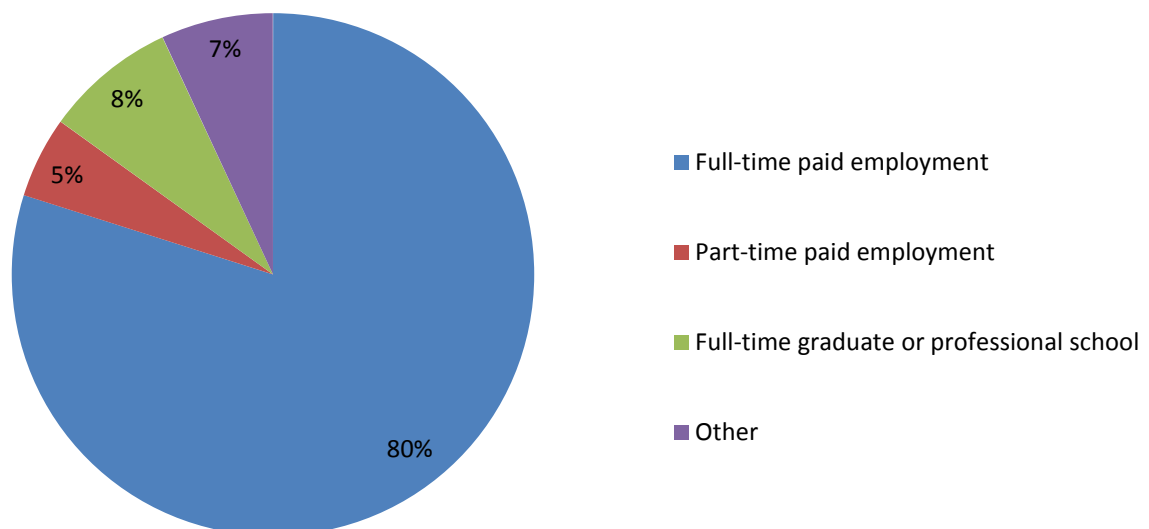
Each semester since fall 2013, students who have submitted a degree application by the deadline are sent an invitation to complete the online survey. The goal of this survey is to gather exit information from graduating students about their experiences at UofL. Respondents are asked about their perception 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 2015-16 academic year, 577 students responded to the survey. Students were asked to identify their most-likely principal activity upon graduation. Of the 418 respondents to the question, "what is your most likely principal activity upon graduation", approximately

- **80%** (334) indicated *full-time, paid employment*
- **8%** (34) indicated *full-time graduate or professional school*,
- **7%** indicated other main activities post-graduation [**0.5%** (2) indicated *starting or raising a family*, **3%** (12) indicated *military service*, **0.2%** (1) indicated *additional undergraduate coursework*, **0.2%** (1) indicated *part-time graduate or professional school*, and **3%** (13) indicated *other*]
- **5%** (21) indicated *part-time paid employment*,

Most likely principal activity upon graduation

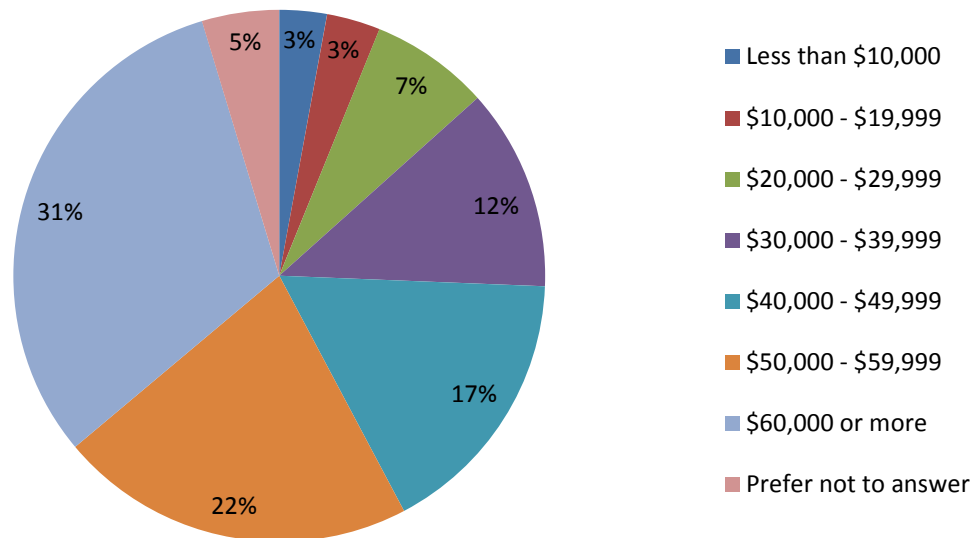


Salary

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 277 respondents, approximately

- **31%** reported that they would be making *\$60,000 or more* [**8%** (22) making \$60,000 - \$69,999, **6%** (17) making \$70,000 - \$79,999, **4.7%** (13) making \$80,000 - \$89,999, **3.6%** (10) making \$90,000 - \$99,999, **6%** (17) making \$100,000 - \$149,999, and **3%** (8) making \$159,000 or more.]
- **22%** (60) making \$50,000 - \$59,999,
- **17%** (46) making \$40,000 - \$49,999,
- **12%** (34) making \$30,000 - \$39,999,
- **7%** (20) making \$20,000 - \$29,999,
- **3%** (9) making \$10,000 - \$19,999,
- **3%** (8) making *less than \$10,000*, and
- **5%** (13) *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

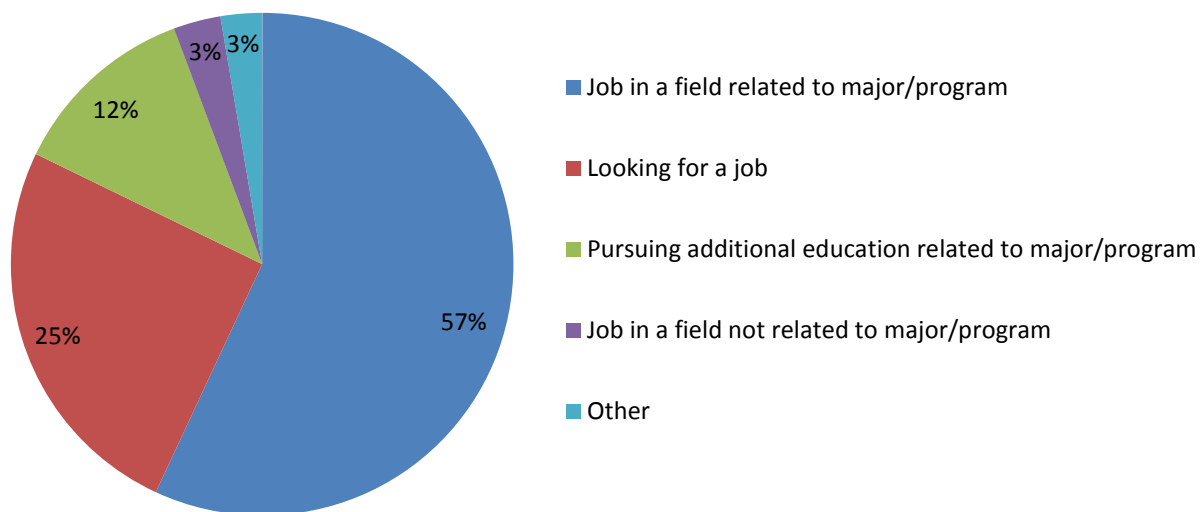
In fall 2015 and spring 2016, IE used graduation name cards to gather information about graduating students' post-commencement plans. All students carry a name card during the commencement ceremony. This card is used to ensure that the students stand in correct order and guide the announcer in the pronunciation 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 540 graduate students completed the survey in fall 2015 and spring 2016.

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** (564), not the total number of **respondents** (540) (the number of responses exceeds the number of individual respondents.)

When asked about their primary employment/education plans after graduation, **57%** (320) indicated that they *had a job in a field related to their major/program*, **25%** (142) of the responses from graduates indicated that they would be *looking for a job*, **12%** (68) that they *would be pursuing additional education related to their major/program*, **3%** (17) that they *had a job in a field not related to their major/program*, **0.3%** (2) that they *would be pursuing additional education not related to their major/program*, and **3%** (15) indicated *other* plans.

Primary employment/education plans after graduation

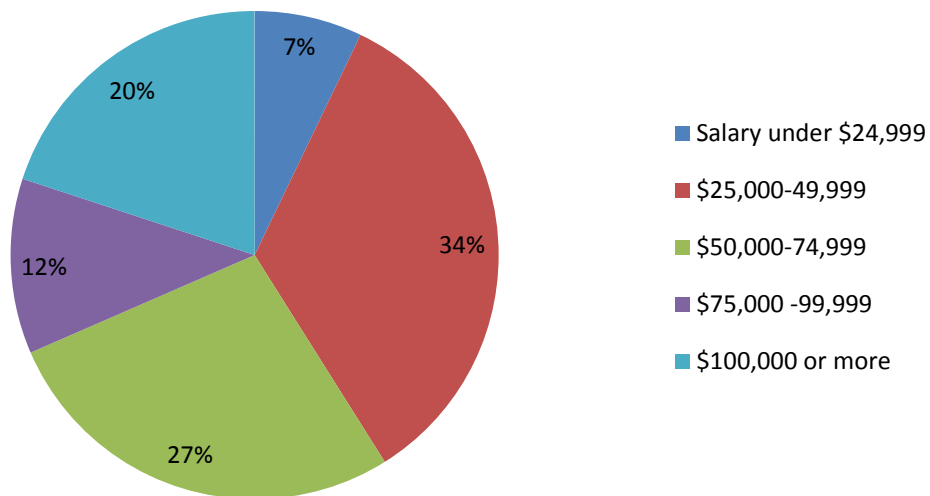


Salary

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 336 respondents, approximately

- **34%** (114) making \$25,000 - \$49,999,
- **27%** (92) making \$50,000 - \$74,999,
- **20%** (67) making \$100,000 or more,
- **12%** (39) making \$75,000 - \$99,999, and
- **7%** (24) reported that they would be making a salary *under \$24,999*

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



Recent Graduate Survey

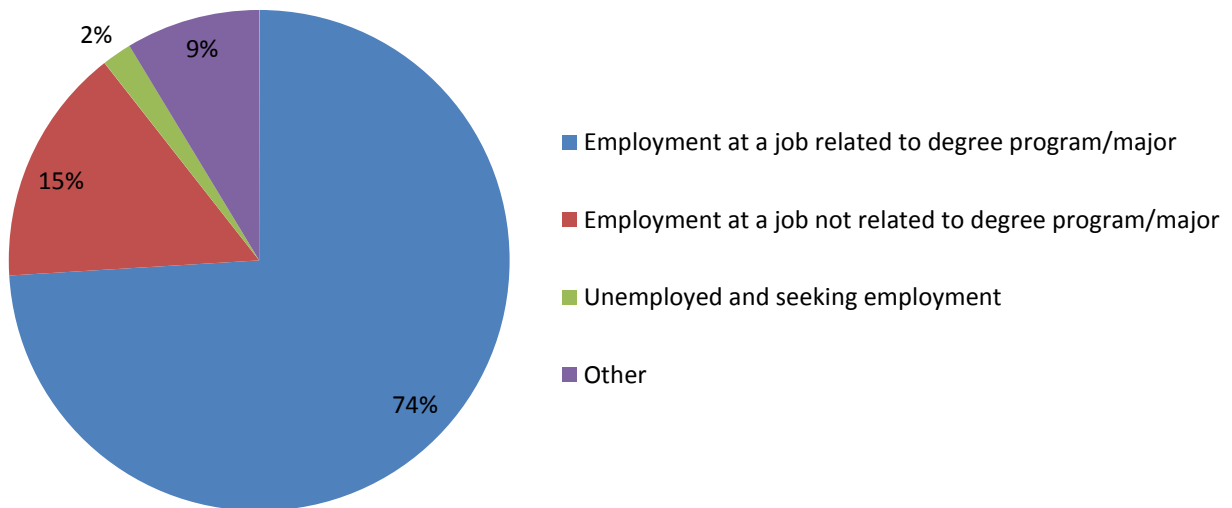
In spring 2016, IE surveyed graduate students who graduated during the 2013-14 or 2014-15 academic year. This survey is intended to be an assessment of the quality and effectiveness of our academic programs and services, and students' career and job placement post-graduation. Questions are asked pertaining 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 417 survey respondents 45% (186) graduated in 2013-14 and 55% (231) graduated in 2014-15.

Current Employment

When asked about their current employment status, of the 416 who responded, approximately

- **74%** (308) indicated *employment at a job related to their degree program/major*,
- **15%** (64) *employment at a job not related to their degree program/major*,
- **9%** who indicated other main employment statuses [**0.2%** (1) *unemployed and not seeking employment*, **0.2%** (1) *military service*, **0.7%** (3) *raising a family*, and **7.5%** (31) who indicated *other*].
- **2%** (8), *unemployed and seeking employment*

Current employment status



Level of Employment

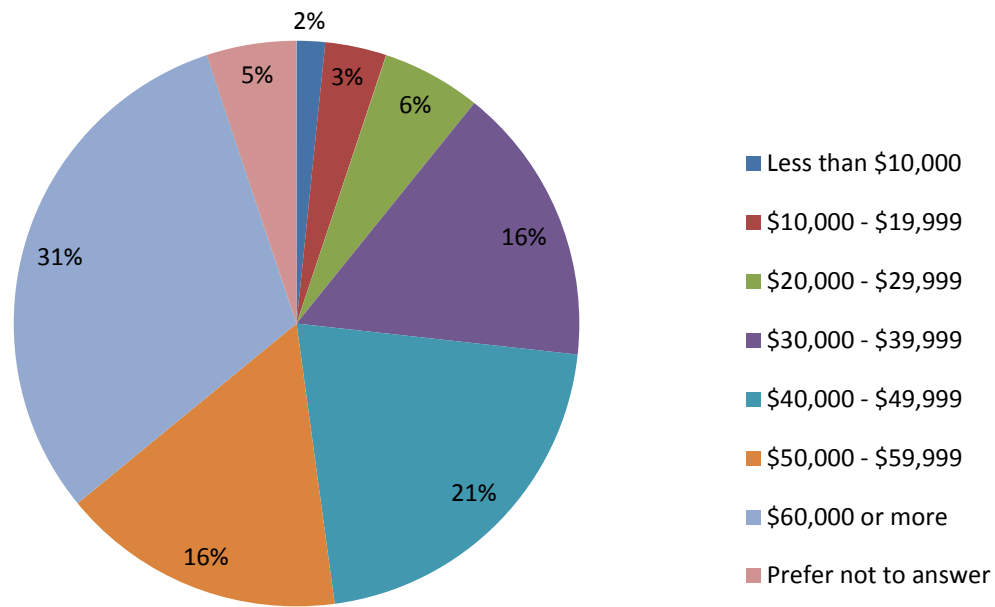
We asked those students who were currently employed to indicate their *level* of employment. Of the 372 respondents, approximately **93%** (345) reported working full-time, while **7%** (27) reported working part-time.

Salary

We asked those students who were employed to provide their annual pre-tax salary. Of the 370 respondents, approximately

- **31%** reported that they would be making *\$60,000 or more* [**11%** (42) making *\$60,000 - \$69,999*, **6.5%** (24) making *\$70,000 - \$79,999*, **5%** (18) making *\$100,000 - \$149,999*, **3.8%** (14) making *\$80,000 - \$89,999*, **3%** (11) making *\$90,000 - \$99,999*, **1.4%** (5) making *\$150,000 or more,*]
- **21%** (78) making *\$40,000 - \$49,999*,
- **16%** (59) making *\$30,000 - \$39,999*,
- **16%** (60) making *\$50,000 - \$59,999*,
- **6%** (21) making *\$20,000 - \$29,999*,
- **3%** (13) making *\$10,000 - \$19,999*,
- **2%** (6) making *less than \$10,000*, and
- **5%** (19) *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 graduate degree from UofL. Of the 416 question respondents, approximately **81%** (335) indicated that they had not enrolled or taken additional courses, while **19%** (81) indicated that they had.