

# 1993 Graduates

## FIVE YEARS AFTER GRADUATION • 1998 SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

### About the 1998 Survey Highlights

The *1998 Survey Highlights* summarize the results of a five-year follow-up survey of 1993 graduates from baccalaureate programs at the University of British Columbia, the University of Victoria, and Simon Fraser University.

The class of 1993 was interviewed at two points in time: in 1995, two years after graduation and in 1998, five years after graduation. Interviewing this cohort twice provided an opportunity to look at the transitions that took place over the three-year period between surveys. Of 9,932 eligible 1993 graduates, 7,490 participated in the two-year out survey and 4,744 in the five-year out survey. Eighty-six percent of those surveyed in 1998 had been surveyed in 1995.

These surveys were conducted by the University Student Outcomes Project, which is a long-term

research project dedicated to gathering student outcomes information for British Columbia's universities and the Province of British Columbia. The University Presidents' Council and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology established the project. It is directed by the University Outcomes Working Committee and is managed by the Centre for Education Information.

Since 1995, the project has been tracking outcomes of baccalaureate graduates from British Columbia's public universities. Currently five institutions participate: University of Northern British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, and Royal Roads University. Graduates are asked about satisfaction with their program, their skill development, their employment and further education outcomes, and about their sources of financing for education.

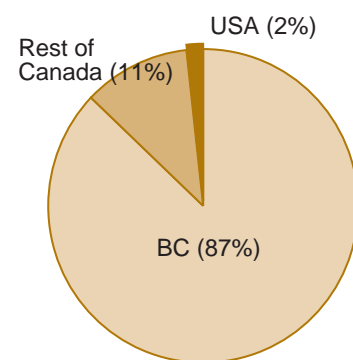
#### In the Survey Highlights

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### Where are 1993 university graduates five years after graduation?

Five years after graduation the majority of 1993 graduates surveyed were living in BC (87%). Of the 13 percent who left BC, most stayed in Canada. The top two reasons for leaving the province were employment (34%) and further education (30%).

A small percentage of respondents—only 1.7 percent—left Canada for the USA. This result was similar to the national average of 1.5 percent reported by Statistics Canada in the National Graduate Survey of 1993 graduates.



*Residence of 1998 respondents*

## Are graduates satisfied with their education?

Five years after graduation, 86 percent of respondents reported being either satisfied or very satisfied with their university experience. There was not a great deal of variation in the levels of satisfaction across program areas. Overall, only 2 percent said they were “very dissatisfied.”

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*The majority of graduates were satisfied with their university experience.*

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Arts	88%
Education	83%
Applied Science	85%
Science	84%
Business	85%
Fine Arts	84%
Health Professions	89%
Social Professions	90%
Total	86%

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*1998 respondents “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with program*

Those who reported they had learned a significant amount were also likely to report they were satisfied with their program. Of those students who reported they developed their “ability to analyze and think critically” to a “great extent,” 92 percent indicated they were satisfied with their program—of those who did not report developing this ability, only 42 percent indicated they were satisfied.

Two-thirds of all graduates surveyed said that they would take the same program again. However, fewer Arts (60%) and Sciences (61%) respondents said they would take the same program again, compared with those who enrolled in fields of study like Education (76%), Health (75%), and Business (75%).

## How many graduates enrol in further education?

When surveyed two years after graduation, 29 percent of graduates were enrolled in further education. Five years after graduation, the rate dropped to 18 percent.

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*Two-thirds of graduates enrolled in some further education.*

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Arts	78%
Education	51%
Applied Science	62%
Science	72%
Business	72%
Fine Arts	70%
Health Professions	62%
Social Professions	62%
All Programs	69%

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*1998 respondents enrolled in further education since graduation*

In all, 69 percent of 1998 respondents had enrolled in some form of further education since graduation, and of those, 59 percent reported they had pursued some further university education. The majority of graduates who did not pursue further university studies took specific professional training or certification.

Over two-thirds of graduates surveyed cited “professional development” or “career goals” as their reason for taking further education. The “desire to study at an advanced level” or “general interest/personal development” were the second most common reasons, each reported by 17 percent of graduates.

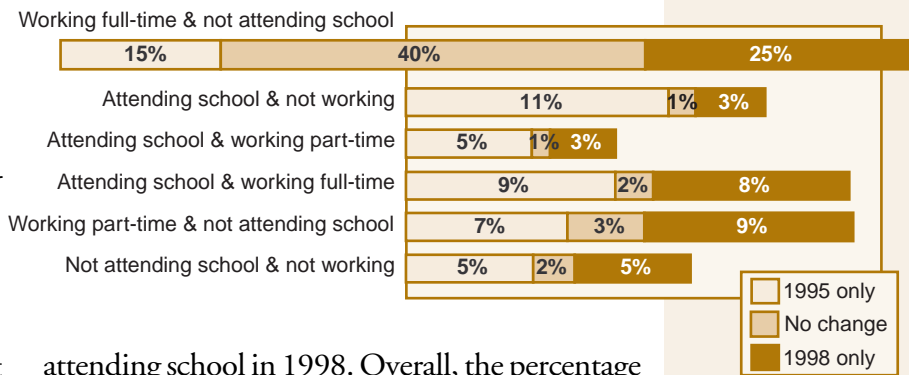
Five years after graduation, only 7 percent of respondents cited lack of suitable job opportunities with their current education level as a reason for continuing their education. This was lower than the 16 percent who cited this reason two years after graduation.

## What are graduates' transition patterns?

The surveys revealed that there were a variety of transitional paths from school to work among university graduates. The graph to the right illustrates that many graduates went directly from school to full-time work, while others participated in some combination of work and school—either full-time or part-time—or did not work or study. The graph also shows the percentages of students whose employment or educational situation did not change from 1995 to 1998.

The top bar of the graph shows that of those graduates who responded to both surveys, 40 percent were working full-time and not attending school in both 1995 and 1998. Fifteen percent of graduates—the far left segment of the top bar—were also working full-time and not attending school in 1995; however, by 1998 their work and study situation had changed. The far right segment shows the 25 percent of graduates who moved from some other combination of work and study in 1995 to working full-time and not

*Many graduates experienced indirect transitions to work from school.*



attending school in 1998. Overall, the percentage of graduates working full-time and not attending school increased from 55 percent in 1995 to 65 percent in 1998.

For a small minority of respondents, transition to work was slow. Comparing the unemployment rates of graduates two and five years after graduation, there was a decline from 3.4 percent to 2.1 percent. The declines in unemployment rates over the three-year interval were most dramatic in fields where initial unemployment was highest. In Fine Arts, the rate fell from 9.3 percent to 4.3 percent, and in Arts the rate fell from 4.2 percent to 2.1 percent.

When asked how transition into employment could be improved, 36 percent of respondents said that opportunities for students to do some career-related work while in the program would help. Very few students (6%) suggested that job search seminars would ease the transition.

*transitions from school to work*

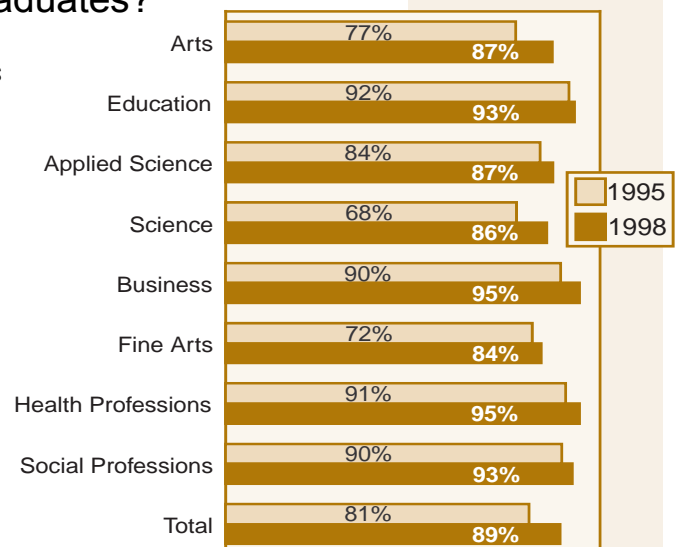
*graduates employed in both survey years*

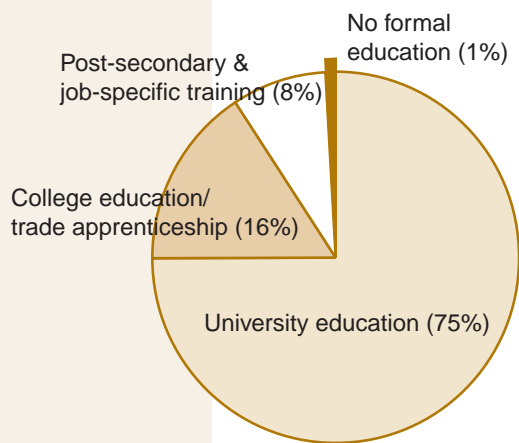
## What are the employment outcomes for BC graduates?

Most graduates surveyed were employed both two and five years after graduation, 81 percent and 89 percent respectively.

Self-employed graduates accounted for 15 percent of employed graduates in 1998, as compared to 10 percent in 1995.

About half of the respondents had changed jobs in the three years between surveys. Business graduates were the most likely (68%) and Education graduates the least likely (32%) to experience a job change. Of those who changed jobs, Health, Education, and Social graduates noted their new positions were more related to their education—for all other program areas the reverse was true.

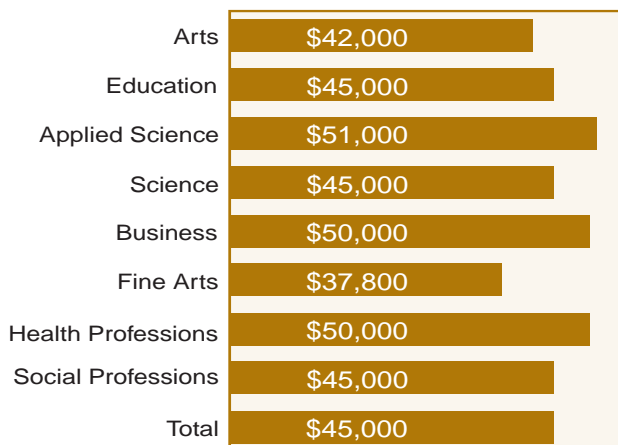




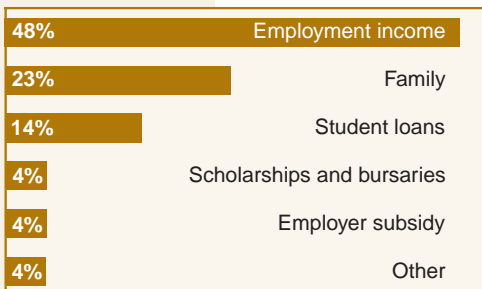
*skill level required for employment*

The majority of employed graduates were better paid in 1998 than in 1995. The median annual full-time salary for graduates rose from \$34,400 in 1995 to \$45,000 in 1998—an increase of over 30 percent. Job satisfaction increased over this period as well. Five years after graduation, 73 percent of working respondents were more satisfied with their job than with the job they had in 1995.

Three-quarters of all employed graduates were working in jobs requiring a university education, while 16 percent were employed in positions requiring college or trade level education. Fewer than 10 percent of employed respondents were in jobs that required only secondary school education and specific job training.



*1998 median salary*



*sources of funding*

### How did graduates finance their education?

Graduates' primary source of funding for financing their university education was employment income (48%). Financial support from family members (23%) was second, followed by student loans (14%).

Forty-four percent of graduates incurred debt—the median amount was \$12,500, and the mean was \$15,200. Twelve percent of respondents had less than \$5,000 in debt, while 10 percent of respondents incurred debt over \$30,000. After five years, 48 percent of those with debt had repaid their loans.

*After five years, almost half of graduates with debt had repaid their loans.*

## University Student Outcomes



**University Outcomes Working Committee**



The report of findings from the 1998 five year follow-up survey of 1993 baccalaureate graduates was prepared for The University Presidents' Council of British Columbia by Walter Sudmant, from the University of British Columbia and Joanne Heslop, from Simon Fraser University.

This summary, *1993 Graduates: 1998 Survey Highlights*, and the report, *1998 Five Year Follow-Up Survey of 1993 Baccalaureate Graduates from BC's Public Universities*, are available on the Internet from The University Presidents' Council of BC: <http://www.tupc.bc.ca>.

Limited quantities of print copies are available by e-mailing: [publications@ceiss.org](mailto:publications@ceiss.org).