

## University of Washington Undergraduate Degree Recipients, Five and Ten Years After Graduation (2000): Methodology and Response Frequencies

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### INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the Year 2000 survey of five- and ten-year undergraduate alumni conducted by the Office of Educational Assessment.<sup>1</sup> This year the survey population was 1994-95 and 1989-90 graduates. The alumni survey asks participants about their current activities, their experiences at the UW, and how they feel their UW undergraduate education has impacted their current activities.

### METHODOLOGY

#### Population

All students who received a baccalaureate degree from the University of Washington Seattle campus during the 1989-90 or 1994-1995 academic years were included in this study.

#### Instruments

The graduate survey was a four-page, double-sided, scannable form. The first page contained questions on educational and occupational status. On the second and third pages, alumni rated themselves on a variety of academic skills, and indicated the perceived necessity of those skills in relation to their current activities, the UW's contribution to skill development, and their satisfaction with their skill level. All questions were in closed-ended, forced-choice format, with the exception of written answers about current job title and name of employer, or field of study and institution of continuing education. The fourth page queried about volunteer activities within the previous year. Written responses were manually entered into the survey database.

[Graduate Survey](#)

#### Mailings

The first mailing took place in May, 2000. Questionnaires were mailed along with a personalized cover letter, a self-addressed, stamped envelope for survey return, and a Husky decal. A second copy of the questionnaire, a personalized letter and a return envelope were sent to all alumni who had not returned completed questionnaires within three weeks of the original mailing.

The cover letter also informed alumni that they could respond to a Web-based version of the survey if they so desired. [The website is linked here.](#)

The total number of returned questionnaires is shown below. Response rates have been adjusted by reducing the size of the original mailing by the number of alumni who were deceased, declined to participate, or for whom addresses were unavailable or incorrect.

### Survey Response Rate

	Population N	Undeliverable	Completed Questionnaires	Percentage Returned
<b>1994-95 Graduates (five-year)</b>	5,637	196	1,462	26.9%
<b>1989-90 Graduates (ten-year)</b>	4,694	128	1,125	24.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	10,331	314	2,587	25.8%

### RESPONSE FREQUENCIES

Response frequencies for each of the items on the Graduate Survey are provided in PDF format:

[Response frequency tables](#)

All significant differences between the groups have been noted and are accompanied by the appropriate test statistic (*t* or chi-square).

Here are a few observations of note:

- Five- and ten-year alumni differed in their current activities in expected ways. Compared to their younger counterparts, ten-year alumni reported higher incomes, were more likely to have undertaken graduate-level coursework, and were less likely to be contemplating a career change. The two groups did not differ on demographic variables such as race and gender.
- Five year alumni expressed more satisfaction with the UW's contribution to their computing skills, ability to work cooperatively in groups, and a number of humanities-related skills (e.g., writing and speaking effectively, understanding the interaction of society and the environment, learning about diverse cultures).
- Although five-year alumni were more likely than 10-year alumni to strongly agree that they would choose the UW again, the overall the rating on that item was high (4.1 on a 5-point scale). Ratings were generally not very high, however, on items specifically pertaining to satisfaction with advising and career assistance.

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<sup>1</sup>See also [earlier reports](#).