

University of Washington Undergraduate Degree Recipients, Five and Ten Years After Graduation (2002): Frequencies and Cohort Comparisons

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INTRODUCTION

This Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) report outlines the year 2002 survey of five- and ten-year undergraduate alumni. This year's survey population consisted of 1996-97 and 1991-92 alumni. These surveys, which have been conducted annually or biennially since 1978, ask degree recipients about post-graduate activities and educational outcomes. This document provides hyperlinks to the survey instrument and to response frequency tables that include significance tests comparing the responses of the two cohorts of alumni.

METHODOLOGY

Population

All students who received a baccalaureate degree from the University of Washington Seattle campus during the 1991-92 or 1996-97 academic years were included in this study.

Instrument

The graduate survey was printed on a four-page scannable form. The majority of questions were presented using a closed-ended, forced-choice format. For open-ended items, responses were manually entered into the survey database. The first side contained questions concerning educational and occupational status. On the second page, alumni were asked to rate a variety of skills with regard to 1) their own level of ability, 2) the importance of these skills in relation to their current activities, 3) the extent to which UW impacted their development in those areas, and 4) their satisfaction with UW's contribution. On the third page, respondents reported the frequency of their exposure to various educational opportunities and practices, rated the sufficiency of that exposure, and provided global ratings of their UW education. On the fourth page, respondents reported information about their volunteer and philanthropic activities. Open-ended questions asked for graduate school and job information, and provided an opportunity for final comments.

The cover letter informed alumni that they could respond to a web-based version of the survey if they so desired.

[Graduate Survey \(scannable form\)](#)

[Graduate Survey \(Web version\)](#)

Mailings

The first mailing took place on September 20, 2002. 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 by November 11, 2002.

The total number of returned questionnaires is shown below. Response rates were calculated by reducing the size of the original mailing by the number of questionnaires returned as undeliverable. Web-based responses totaled 350 respondents, or 14.77% of the total number of surveys returned.

Survey Response Rate

	Population N	Undeliverable	Completed Questionnaires	Percentage Returned
1996-97 Graduates (Five-Year)	6,351	1,249	1,261	24.8%
1991-92 Graduates (Ten-Year)	5,127	787	1,105	25.5%
TOTAL	11,478	2036	2,370	25.1%

RESPONSE FREQUENCIES

Response frequencies and cohort comparisons are provided here in PDF format:

[Response frequency tables](#)