



2005 University of Washington Graduates, One Year After Graduation: Overview

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INTRODUCTION

This Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) report outlines the methodology for the survey of 2005 University of Washington (UW) graduates nine to twelve months post-graduation. This survey, which have been conducted annually or biennially since 1978, asks undergraduate and graduate degree recipients about post-graduate activities (especially employment and continuing education activities) and educational outcomes. This document provides links to the survey instruments and to several summary tables.

METHODOLOGY

Population

All 7926 undergraduate and 3485 graduate students who received a degree from the University of Washington during the 2005 calendar year were included in this survey.

Instruments

The paper version of the [undergraduate questionnaire](#) was a two-page scannable form. The majority of questions were presented using a closed-ended, forced-choice format. The questionnaire contained items concerning educational and occupational status. In addition, alumni were asked to rate their own level of ability in a variety of skill areas, the importance of those skills in relation to their current activities, and their satisfaction with the UW's contribution to their development in those areas. Respondents also provided global ratings of their UW education, and provided information about their volunteer and philanthropic activities. Open-ended questions included current job title, name of employer, field of study, and institution of continuing education.

The paper version of the [graduate/professional student questionnaire](#) was a single-page, two-sided, scannable form. Items in the questionnaire were very similar to those in the undergraduate version. Items were reworded as necessary to fit graduate and professional education).

Mailings

The undergraduate and graduate/professional degree recipient populations were surveyed simultaneously. Questionnaires were sent to graduates approximately eleven months after they were awarded their degrees, with the intention of providing as much time as possible for alumni to become established in post-graduate activities, while at the same time conducting mailings within the one-year forwarding time-frame allowed by the U.S. Postal Service. Graduates who received their degrees winter quarter 2005 were sent questionnaires beginning in mid-January, 2006, and spring quarter graduates were sent questionnaires in late-April. Summer and autumn quarter graduates were surveyed in early August.

Questionnaires were mailed along with a personalized cover letter, a business reply envelope, and a University of Washington decal (intended to be an incentive to respond to the survey). A second copy of the questionnaire, personalized letter, and business reply envelope were sent to all alumni who had not returned completed questionnaires within three weeks. The cover letter also informed alumni that they could respond to a Web-based version of the questionnaire if preferred.

Shown below are response rates by degree level and graduation quarter. Response rates were calculated by reducing the size of the original mailing by the number of questionnaires returned as undeliverable.

Survey Response Rates				
	Population N	Undeliv- erable	Completed questionnaires	Percentage returned
Undergraduate				
Winter	1158	140	312	30.6
Spring	4478	291	1169	27.9
Summer	1248	69	272	23.1
Autumn	1043	58	245	24.9
TOTAL	7927	558	1998	27.1
Graduate/Professional				
Winter	438	29	213	52.1
Spring	2093	136	756	38.6
Summer	450	35	173	41.7
Autumn	506	33	205	43.3
TOTAL	2981	200	1142	41.1

RESPONSE FREQUENCIES

Summary reports by department or program are available in PDF format:

[2005 Graduate Survey Departmental Results](#)

Frequency tables of all undergraduate degree recipient responses and significant gender differences can be found in the following linked document:

[Undergraduate Response Frequencies \(Overall\)](#)