



University of Washington Undergraduate Degree Recipients Five and Ten Years After Graduation (2006): Frequencies and Cohort Differences

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INTRODUCTION

The Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) has administered surveys to five- and ten-year undergraduate alumni biennially since 1978. This report summarizes the Year 2006 survey of five- and ten-year undergraduate alumni conducted by the Office of Educational Assessment. This year the survey population was 2000-01 and 1995-96 graduates. The alumni survey asked participants about their current activities, their experiences at the UW, and how they feel their UW undergraduate education has impacted their current activities. Significant differences between responses of the two cohorts of alumni are noted, where applicable.

METHODOLOGY

Population

All students who received a baccalaureate degree from the University of Washington Seattle campus during the 2000-01 or 1995-96 academic years were included in this study. Student degree information was obtained from the University of Washington student database. Student address information was obtained from the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Instrument

The graduate survey was designed to determine the educational and occupational status of alumni, assess acquired skills, gather global ratings of the UW educational experience, and collect information on volunteer and philanthropic activities both while at the University of Washington and currently. Skills assessment included: 1) self-ratings of ability, 2) perceived importance of those skills for current activities, 3) the extent to which UW affected development of those skills, and 4) satisfaction with UW's contribution to that development. Global ratings pertained to: 1) degree of exposure to a variety of educational opportunities and practices, 2) satisfaction with education received at UW, and 3) extent of preparation for post-college activities. The majority of questions were presented using a closed-ended, forced-choice format. Open-ended questions were used to collect graduate school and job information, and to provide an opportunity for general comments.

The graduate questionnaire was printed on a four-page scannable form, but alumni could choose to respond to a web-based version instead.

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

Mailings

The first mailing took place over the first two weeks of October, 2006. Questionnaires were mailed along with a personalized cover letter, a business reply envelope, and a Husky decal. During the first week of December, a second mailing was sent to all alumni who had not returned a questionnaire or completed it online. Those who could not be contacted due to bad address information were excluded from follow-up.

The total number of responses within each cohort is shown below. Response rates were calculated by reducing the size of the original mailing by the number of survey packets returned as undeliverable. Web-based responses totaled 291, or 17% of all completed questionnaires.

Survey Response Rates

Cohort	Population <i>N</i>	Undeliverable	Completed <i>n</i>	Completed %
2000-01 graduates (five-year alumni)	5,036	460	883	19.3%
1995-96 graduates (ten-year alumni)	4,541	370	833	20.0%
TOTAL	9,577	1,311	1,965	19.6%

RESPONSE FREQUENCIES

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

[Response frequency tables](#)