

2007 University of Washington Graduates, One Year After Graduation: Overview

Debbie E McGhee and Lioudmila Kourenina
April, 2009

INTRODUCTION

This Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) report outlines the methodology for the survey of 2007 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 7609 undergraduate and 3658 graduate students who received a degree from the University of Washington during the 2007 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 2007 were sent questionnaires beginning in mid-January, 2008, 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	1059	89	252	26.0
Spring	4462	481	1058	26.6
Summer	1129	134	220	22.1
Autumn	959	95	215	24.9
TOTAL	7609	799	1745	25.6
Graduate/Professional				
Winter	490	16	206	43.5
Spring	2190	85	855	40.6
Summer	472	29	167	37.7
Autumn	506	24	182	37.8
TOTAL	3658	154	1410	40.2

RESULTS

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

[2007 Graduate Survey Departmental Results](#)

Frequency tables of all undergraduate degree recipient responses and significant gender differences follow.

Bachelor's Degree Recipient Response Frequencies

Number of respondents (total) = 1745

Gender

	n	%
Male	677	38.8
Female	1068	61.2

Quarter degree awarded

	n	%
Winter	252	14.4
Spring	1058	60.6
Summer	220	12.6
Autumn	215	12.3

Even though you are not primarily a student, are you attending school?

	%
Yes, extension of / post-graduate in degree area	3.8
Yes, career related, new area	6.7
Yes, not career related	1.5
No	68.7
Missing	19.3

Describe your present job.

	%
Full-time, temporary	5.3
Full-time, not in career	12.4
Full-time, in career but likely to change	25.5
Full-time, permanent in career	27.9
Missing	19.7

What is your monthly income?

	%
Under \$1000	4.9
\$1000-1499	8.4
\$1500-1999	11.7
\$2000-2499	11.3
\$2500-2999	9.1
\$3000-3499	10.0
\$3500-3999	7.0
\$4000-4500	5.7
\$4500-4999	2.9
\$5000-5499	3.1
\$5500-5999	1.7
\$6000 or more	3.8
Missing	20.3

Given your training and degree, how would you describe your job?

	%
Definitely beneath level	15.4
Somewhat beneath level	20.2
Appropriate for level	42.9
Too advanced for level	.8
Missing	20.7

*Which of the following contributed directly to obtaining your present position?
(You may choose more than one.)*

	Marked	Not marked
Newspaper ads	1.8	98.2
Internet	28.5	71.5
Professional organization	4.4	95.6
Employment agency	5.1	94.9
Faculty advisor or committee	4.7	95.3
Networking or personal contacts	40.8	59.2
UW CCS	8.7	91.3

Are you employed while attending school?

	%
Yes, by the school I attend	4.0
Yes, part-time, but not by the school I attend	3.9
Yes, full time, but not by the school I attend	1.5
No	8.7
Missing	81.9

Which of the following best describes the level of your current educational program?

	%
Undergraduate	1.6
Terminal masters	1.5
Masters or doctoral	9.0
Professional	3.3
Vocational	.3
Other	1.3
Missing	83.0

(If not working and not a student) What is the primary reason you are not currently working?

	%
Volunteering	.4
Raising a family	1.1
Caring for ill relative	.1
Traveling or other activity	1.1
Looking for work	1.7
Deciding what to do	.6
Personal reasons	.3
Disillusioned / discouraged about job searches	.6
Missing	94.1

During the past year, how many hours each month, on average, did you devote to volunteer work or a community action program?

	%
None	44.1
1 to 3 hours	25.4
4 to 6 hours	10.1
7 to 10 hours	7.2
Over 10 hours	11.8
Missing	1.4

In the past year, approximately how much have you contributed monetarily to charities or philanthropies?

	%
Less than \$100	55.6
\$100-250	19.1
\$250-500	9.1
\$500-1000	6.2
Over \$1000	7.9
Missing	2.2

*Rate yourself on each of the following abilities. We want your most accurate estimate on how you see yourself.
(1 = Poor, 3 = Good, 5 = Excellent)*

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Missing	Mn
Writing effectively	.3	3.5	22.3	45.6	26.4	1.9	4.0
Speaking effectively	.9	7.8	33.7	38.5	17.2	1.9	3.6
Critically analyzing written information	.1	2.7	25.3	42.5	26.9	2.6	4.0
Defining and solving problems	.1	1.6	22.0	46.1	27.2	3.0	4.0
Working and or learning independently	.1	1.3	12.5	38.7	44.1	3.3	4.3
Working cooperatively in a group	.3	2.4	17.9	40.7	35.2	3.5	4.1
Using a foreign language	31.4	27.9	15.5	8.5	13.0	3.7	2.4
Understanding and appreciating the arts	4.8	18.5	34.4	20.9	18.0	3.5	3.3
Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods	4.5	18.1	31.9	26.1	15.8	3.8	3.3
Understanding and applying quantitative principles and methods	4.2	14.4	31.0	30.0	16.2	4.1	3.4
Understanding and appreciating diverse philosophies and cultures	1.3	6.3	22.3	34.1	32.4	3.7	3.9
Understanding the interaction of society and the environment	1.1	6.2	25.9	36.9	25.4	4.4	3.8
Working effectively with modern technology, especially computers	.6	3.7	18.6	38.0	35.6	3.5	4.1
Locating info needed to help make decisions or solve problems	.2	1.5	16.6	42.3	35.7	3.7	4.2
Using knowledge, ideas or perspectives gained from major	.5	2.6	20.3	40.1	32.7	3.8	4.1
Using knowledge gained from outside of your major field	.2	3.8	28.8	41.7	21.1	4.2	3.8
Using management or leadership capabilities	1.4	8.7	27.6	34.8	23.8	3.8	3.7
Recognizing rights, responsibilities, privileges as citizen	.9	6.1	24.5	36.2	28.3	4.1	3.9

*How important is each of these abilities to your current primary activity?
(1 = Not important, 3 = Important, 5 = Essential)*

	Not important	Somewhat impt.	Important	Very important	Essential	Missing	Mn
Writing effectively	6.3	10.1	20.5	27.6	30.5	5.0	3.7
Speaking effectively	1.3	6.4	18.3	32.0	36.8	5.2	4.0
Critically analyzing written information	4.5	8.9	18.9	28.0	33.5	6.2	3.8
Defining and solving problems	.7	4.3	15.9	32.0	40.2	6.9	4.1
Working and or learning independently	1.2	4.2	18.2	31.0	38.7	6.8	4.1
Working cooperatively in a group	2.1	6.0	16.3	29.2	39.6	6.9	4.1
Using a foreign language	50.1	19.4	11.8	6.6	5.2	6.9	1.9
Understanding and appreciating the arts	46.1	22.2	12.8	6.1	6.4	6.5	2.0
Understanding applying scientific principles or methods	24.0	18.5	18.9	15.5	16.4	6.6	2.8
Understanding applying quantitative principles or methods	14.6	15.1	24.8	20.5	17.8	7.3	3.1
Understanding appreciating diverse philosophies and cultures	10.9	16.3	23.0	21.5	21.4	6.9	3.3
Understanding interaction of society and environment	12.0	18.1	24.6	20.9	17.4	7.0	3.1
Working effectively with modern tech especially computers	2.7	4.4	14.3	27.7	44.3	6.6	4.1
Locating information needed to make decision or solve problem	1.6	3.2	14.0	30.1	44.3	6.8	4.2
Using the knowledge, ideas or perspectives gained from major or field	7.7	11.3	21.0	23.2	29.8	6.9	3.6
Using knowledge gained from outside of your major field	4.1	12.1	29.7	27.2	19.4	7.5	3.5
Using management or leadership capabilities	3.4	9.9	21.4	30.1	28.5	6.8	3.8
Recognizing rights, responsibilities, privileges as citizen	8.7	15.0	26.4	19.0	23.8	7.2	3.4

*How satisfied are you with the University of Washington's contribution to your development in each area?
(1 = Not at all, 3 = Somewhat, 5 = Very)*

	Not at all	Little	Somewhat	Mostly	Very	Missing	Mn
Writing effectively	.7	4.9	19.3	41.4	28.1	5.7	4.0
Speaking effectively	1.8	10.9	30.7	33.0	17.9	5.8	3.6
Critically analyzing written information	.5	2.6	18.0	43.0	29.2	6.8	4.0
Defining and solving problems	.4	2.8	21.3	42.9	25.2	7.4	4.0
Working and/or learning independently	.9	4.1	16.9	39.8	31.2	7.1	4.0
Working cooperatively in a group	1.2	4.5	20.2	35.4	31.2	7.5	4.0
Using a foreign language	28.9	17.0	20.5	14.5	10.4	8.7	2.6
Understanding and appreciating the arts	10.3	18.9	26.4	22.6	14.2	7.7	3.1
Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods	5.2	13.7	25.6	30.0	17.8	7.6	3.4
Understanding and applying quantitative principles and methods	4.2	11.6	26.5	33.3	16.6	7.7	3.5
Understanding and appreciating diverse philosophies and cultures	2.6	8.1	21.5	32.6	27.5	7.6	3.8
Understanding the interaction of society and the environment	3.3	9.9	25.3	32.6	21.5	7.4	3.6
Working effectively with modern tech especially computers	2.5	10.3	24.7	34.3	21.1	7.2	3.7
Locating information needed to make decision or solve problem	.6	4.4	22.8	37.6	27.5	7.1	3.9
Using the knowledge, ideas or perspectives gained from major or field	.6	2.8	16.6	36.0	36.6	7.4	4.1
Using knowledge gained from outside of your major field	1.5	7.5	29.7	35.0	18.2	8.0	3.7
Using management or leadership capabilities	4.3	15.9	30.5	26.8	15.1	7.4	3.4
Recognizing rights, responsibilities, privileges as citizen	6.4	14.6	28.8	25.0	17.5	7.7	3.4

*In general, how satisfied are you with your UW education with regard to each of the following?
(1 = Not at all, 3 = Somewhat, 5 = Very)*

	Not at all	Little	Somewhat	Mostly	Very	Missing	Mn
Quality of instruction in your major field	.5	1.4	9.5	48.5	38.3	1.9	4.3
Quality of instruction outside of your field	1.2	4.6	23.8	48.8	18.6	2.9	3.8
Interaction with faculty outside of the classroom	5.3	15.2	25.6	29.7	21.8	2.4	3.5
Assistance by faculty in pursuing your career	14.2	20.4	23.0	21.4	18.1	2.9	3.1
Assistance in finding employment	25.0	23.2	22.5	13.3	10.4	5.6	2.6
Academic advising	9.1	18.0	24.8	25.6	19.9	2.7	3.3
Your readiness for a career	6.7	11.7	25.6	34.0	19.0	2.9	3.5
Your readiness for advanced education	3.6	6.8	20.1	35.6	31.6	2.4	3.9

*Please rate the usefulness of the following programs of the Center for Career Services.
(1 = Not at all, 4 = Mostly)*

	Not at all	Little	Somewhat	Mostly	Mn
Campus interviews	64.8	8.0	12.9	9.6	4.7
Counseling	44.5	17.1	22.6	10.9	4.8
Placement credential file	73.1	9.4	9.6	2.7	5.3
Job listing service	49.9	13.5	19.8	12.0	4.8
Job search seminars	62.2	11.9	15.5	5.5	4.8

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	Strongly Agree	Missing	Mn
If I had to make my college choice over again, I would choose the UW	3.8	3.6	8.3	29.4	50.8	4.1	4.2

While attending UW, did you participate in any of the following activities? (Answer all that apply.)

	No	Yes	Missing
Community volunteer service	38.9	57.8	3.3
Community service as a part of a UW course (service learning)	66.1	30.4	3.6
A public service internship or other work-based learning (pay for credit)	64.6	31.9	3.5
Faculty research beyond being a research subject	74.4	21.8	3.8

For those you marked 'yes,' how has your participation contributed to your preparation for your current primary activity? (1 = No contribution, 4 = Strong contribution)

	No contribution	Small contribution	Moderate contribution	Strong contribution	N/A	Mn
Community volunteer service	14.7	14.8	15.8	10.9	43.7	2.4
Service learning	7.2	7.9	8.5	6.1	70.4	2.5
Internship/work-based learning	2.2	4.2	8.8	16.0	68.7	3.2
Faculty research	2.5	4.5	6.1	8.3	78.5	2.9

Significant Gender Differences

Describe your present job.

	Male (n=544)	Female (n=857)	Total
Part-time	8.5%	13.5%	11.6%
Full-time, temporary	6.6%	6.5%	6.6%
Full-time, not in career	11.6%	17.9%	15.4%
Full-time, in career but likely to change	28.7%	33.7%	31.8%
Full-time, permanent in career	44.7%	28.4%	34.7%

Cramer's V = .177

What is your monthly income?

	Male (n=35)	Female (n=68)	Total
Under \$1000	3.5%	7.8%	6.1%
\$1000-1499	6.9%	12.8%	10.5%
\$1500-1999	10.2%	17.5%	14.7%
\$2000-2499	12.1%	15.5%	14.2%
\$2500-2999	9.5%	12.7%	11.4%
\$3000-3499	13.0%	12.2%	12.5%
\$3500-3999	11.9%	6.9%	8.8%
\$4000-4500	9.1%	6.0%	7.2%
\$4500-4999	4.6%	3.1%	3.7%
\$5000-5499	6.9%	2.0%	3.9%
\$5500-5999	3.7%	1.2%	2.2%
\$6000 or more	8.7%	2.4%	4.8%

Cramer's V = .284

Which of the following job search resources contributed directly to obtaining your present position? (% 'yes.')

	Male	Female	<i>Cramer's V</i>
UW Center for Career Center (CCS)	12.6%	6.2%	.11

(If not working and not a student) What is the primary reason you are not currently working?

	Male (n=35)	Female (n=68)	Total
Volunteering	5.70%	7.40%	6.80%
Raising a family	0.0%	29.40%	19.40%
Caring for ill relative	0.0%	2.90%	1.90%
Traveling or other activity	22.90%	16.20%	18.40%
Looking for work	34.30%	25.00%	28.20%
Deciding what to do	14.30%	7.40%	9.70%
Personal reasons	2.90%	5.90%	4.90%
Disillusioned/discouraged about job searches	20.00%	5.90%	10.70%

Cramer's V = .425

During the past year, how many hours per month, on average, did you devote to volunteer work or a community action program?

	Male (n=661)	Female (n=1059)	Total
None	49.6%	41.6%	44.7%
1 to 3 hours	25.9%	25.8%	25.8%
4 to 6 hours	8.6%	11.2%	10.2%
7 to 10 hours	6.4%	7.8%	7.3%
Over 10 hours	9.5%	13.5%	12.0%

Cramer's V = .094

Rate yourself on each of the following abilities. (1 = Poor, 3 = Good, 5 = Excellent)

	Gender	n	M	SD	t
Defining and solving problems	Male	653	4.11	.74	4.12
	Female	1040	3.96	.77	
Working and or learning independently	Male	649	4.21	.77	-3.96
	Female	1039	4.35	.73	
Understanding and appreciating the arts	Male	646	3.08	1.11	-6.48
	Female	1038	3.44	1.11	
Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods	Male	645	3.51	1.07	5.68
	Female	1034	3.20	1.10	
Understanding and applying quantitative principles and methods	Male	643	3.67	.99	8.06
	Female	1030	3.25	1.09	
Understanding and appreciating diverse philosophies and cultures	Male	643	3.74	1.04	-6.48
	Female	1038	4.05	.91	
Understanding the interaction of society and the environment	Male	640	3.70	.98	-4.62
	Female	1029	3.91	.90	
Working effectively with modern technology, especially computers	Male	647	4.19	.84	4.22
	Female	1037	4.09	.89	
Recognizing rights, responsibilities, privileges as citizen	Male	640	3.79	.95	-3.14
	Female	1034	3.94	.92	

How important is each of these abilities to your current primary activity (1 = Not important, 3 = Important, 5 = Essential)

	Gender	n	M	SD	t
Defining and solving problems	Male	626	4.23	.87	2.81
	Female	998	4.09	.94	
Using a foreign language	Male	628	1.79	1.15	-3.03
	Female	1014	1.97	1.23	
Understanding and appreciating the arts	Male	631	1.83	1.12	-3.81
	Female	1001	2.07	1.28	
Understanding applying scientific principles or methods	Male	626	3.06	1.42	5.67
	Female	1003	2.65	1.42	
Understanding applying quantitative principles or methods	Male	623	3.43	1.27	7.42
	Female	995	2.93	1.33	
Understanding appreciating diverse philosophies and cultures	Male	624	2.98	1.30	-7.31
	Female	1001	3.46	1.28	
Understanding interaction of society and environment	Male	625	2.95	1.28	-4.91
	Female	998	3.27	1.28	
Using a broad range of knowledge, ideas, or perspectives gained from your major	Male	626	3.72	1.22	3.04
	Female	998	3.53	1.30	
Recognizing rights, responsibilities, privileges as citizen	Male	621	3.18	1.29	-4.77
	Female	999	3.59	1.26	

*How satisfied are you with the University of Washington's contribution to your development in each area?
(1 = Not at all, 3 = Somewhat, 5 = Very)*

	Gender	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>
Writing effectively	Male	636	3.87	.88	-3.66
	Female	1010	4.03	.87	
Working and or learning independently	Male	623	3.95	.91	-3.28
	Female	998	4.09	.86	
Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods	Male	621	3.60	1.10	4.23
	Female	991	3.36	1.13	
Understanding and applying quantitative principles and methods	Male	623	3.67	1.05	4.96
	Female	988	3.40	1.07	
Understanding and appreciating diverse philosophies and cultures	Male	616	3.66	1.10	-4.45
	Female	997	3.89	1.01	
Understanding the interaction of society and the environment	Male	624	3.49	1.08	-4.47
	Female	991	3.73	1.03	
Working effectively with modern technology, especially computers	Male	626	3.75	1.04	2.86
	Female	994	3.60	1.02	
Recognizing rights, responsibilities, privileges as citizen	Male	615	3.20	1.13	-4.19
	Female	995	3.45	1.16	

*In general, how satisfied are you with your UW education with regard to each of the following?
(1 = Not at all, 3 = Somewhat, 5 = Very)*

	Gender	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>
Assistance in finding employment	Male	634	2.85	1.36	6.69
	Female	1009	2.42	1.25	
Academic advising	Male	658	3.43	1.21	3.31
	Female	1040	3.22	1.26	
Your readiness for a career	Male	655	3.58	1.09	2.75
	Female	1039	3.42	1.17	

Please rate the usefulness of the following programs of the Center for Career Services (1 = Did not use, 4 = Very useful).

	Gender	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>
Campus interviews	Male	642	1.87	1.10	6.56
	Female	1021	1.52	.95	
Job search seminars	Male	641	1.72	.99	3.36
	Female	1020	1.56	.92	

While attending UW, did you participate in any of the following activities? (Percent responding 'yes.')

	Male	Female	<i>Cramer's V</i>
Community volunteer service	53.9%	63.9%	.10
Community service as part of a UW course (service learning)	24.3%	36.0%	.11
A public service internship or other work-based learning	28.1%	36.1%	.08

*For those you marked 'yes,' how has your participation contributed to your current primary activity
(1 = No contribution, 4 = Strong contribution)*

	Gender	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>
Community volunteer service	Male	340	2.29	1.04	-2.62
	Female	642	2.47	1.09	