

2009 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 2009 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

The original population included 12,436 persons who received a degree from the University of Washington during the 2009 calendar year. After removing those cases with missing or non-domestic addresses, there remained 11,958 cases. The final sample included 8007 undergraduate and 3951 graduate students.

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. Graduates who received their degrees winter quarter 2009 were sent questionnaires beginning in early March, 2010, and spring quarter graduates were sent questionnaires in early May. Summer and autumn quarter graduates were surveyed in early October.

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). 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 letters informed alumni that they could respond via a Web-based 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.

	Population N	Undeliv- erable	Completed questionnaires	Percentage returned
Undergraduate				
Winter	1146	55	259	23.7
Spring	4504	238	1052	24.7
Summer	1199	79	226	20.2
Autumn	1158	68	244	22.4
TOTAL	8007	440	1781	23.5
Graduate/Professional				
Winter	561	27	213	39.9
Spring	2284	80	893	40.5
Summer	535	24	203	39.7
Autumn	571	20	228	41.4
TOTAL	3951	151	1537	40.4

RESULTS

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

[2009 Graduate Survey Departmental Results](#)