

2013 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 2013 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.

METHOD

Population

The original population included 16,055 persons who received a degree from the University of Washington during the 2013 calendar year. After removing those cases with missing or non-domestic addresses, there remained 14,439 cases. The final sample included 9369 undergraduate and 5070 graduate and professional 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 2013 were sent questionnaires beginning in early March, 2014, and spring quarter graduates were sent questionnaires in late April. Summer and autumn quarter graduates were surveyed in mid-September.

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	1339	27	236	18.0
Spring	5356	308	938	18.6
Summer	1465	68	210	15.0
Autumn	1209	70	198	17.4
TOTAL	9369	473	1582	17.8
Graduate/Professional				
Winter	593	16	200	34.7
Spring	3040	136	944	32.5
Summer	763	39	258	35.6
Autumn	674	56	206	33.3
TOTAL	5070	247	1608	33.3

RESULTS

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

[2013 Graduate Survey Departmental Results](#)