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.

Survey Response Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Undeliverable</th>
<th>Completed questionnaires</th>
<th>Percentage returned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Undergraduate</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>1339</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>5356</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>938</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>1465</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>1209</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>9369</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>1582</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate/Professional</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>3040</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>35.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>5070</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>1608</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESULTS

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

2013 Graduate Survey Departmental Results