

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND

THINK BIG  WE DO™



SURVEY OF RECENT GRADUATES

SUMMARY OF RESULTS
FOR ACADEMIC YEARS
2005-06 THROUGH 2008-09

DECEMBER 2009

Office of Institutional Research
Career Services

Survey of Recent Graduates

For the last four academic years Career Services has conducted essentially the same survey of students who have recently graduated from the University of Rhode Island. Students from each degree conferral term (August, December, May) are invited to participate approximately six months after graduation. This report summarizes findings about employment and further education after graduation with a baccalaureate degree.

Survey Parameters

Academic year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Survey method	Paper	Web	Web	Web
Total surveyed	1942	1953	2112	2027
Total responses	373	306	314	304
Response Rate	19.2 %	15.7 %	14.9 %	15.0 %

Response rates are somewhat low but typical for web-based surveys and adequate for analysis. The demographic distributions of the response samples are similar to the survey populations; however, a comparison of the response samples to the non-response samples shows statistical differences ($p < 0.05$) for some of the demographic variables (gender, race/ethnicity, residency), although the particular variables are not the same each year. The most consistent difference between groups is that responders to the survey have higher academic preparation (as measured by SAT scores) and achievement (final grade point averages) than non-responders. Results should be judged accordingly.

Response rates by demographic category

(This is the fraction of the survey population that returned a response.)

Academic year of graduation	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total undergraduates	19.2%	15.7%	14.9%	15.0%
Gender				
Female	22.0%	16.6%	16.3%	14.8%
Male	14.9%	14.4%	13.0%	15.3%
Race/Ethnicity				
African-American	10.3%	12.1%	4.2%	10.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	15.6%	15.9%	4.5%	20.0%
Hispanic	18.8%	13.4%	5.7%	8.0%
Native American	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
White	19.7%	16.3%	15.8%	15.0%
Non-resident Alien	14.3%	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%
Not Reported	19.3%	13.2%	16.3%	17.8%
Residency Type				
In-state	17.2%	15.3%	13.9%	13.8%
Out-of-State	22.6%	16.3%	16.3%	17.0%
Regional	19.7%	13.6%	16.3%	17.7%
Other Country	18.2%	25.0%	10.5%	0.0%
Entry Status				
New	20.1%	16.5%	15.4%	n/a
Transfer	15.9%	11.9%	13.0%	n/a
Unknown Entry Status	--	15.4%	11.8%	n/a
College of Major Area of Study				
Arts & Sciences	19.3%	16.3%	13.5%	11.8%
Business Administration	18.0%	17.2%	16.3%	17.3%
Engineering	18.3%	16.3%	13.7%	24.1%
Environment & Life Sciences	19.8%	15.1%	21.2%	16.9%
Human Science & Service	20.2%	14.9%	12.7%	13.2%
Nursing	16.7%	7.4%	11.4%	16.0%
Continuing Education	28.6%	22.2%	12.5%	27.3%

Results

See charts below for details.

1. Present employment status.

Over 60% were employed full-time except in the latest year when the national and local economic recession has been severe. The proportion working part-time and unemployed but seeking work has grown over each of the four years.

2. Present Educational Status.

On average about 20% indicate they are enrolled in further education full-time. The proportion enrolled part-time and seeking admission within the next year has trended upward.

3. Length of Job Search.

The time needed to find a job has stayed fairly consistent. About half of the responses to this question indicate that the job search took only a month or less. Many students had begun a work-relationship with the employer while they were students. Another third found work within three months.

4. Relationship of Current Job to Area of Academic Study.

About two-thirds of the respondents to this question say that their current job is related to their area of study. Relationship to minor area was asked only in the first two years.

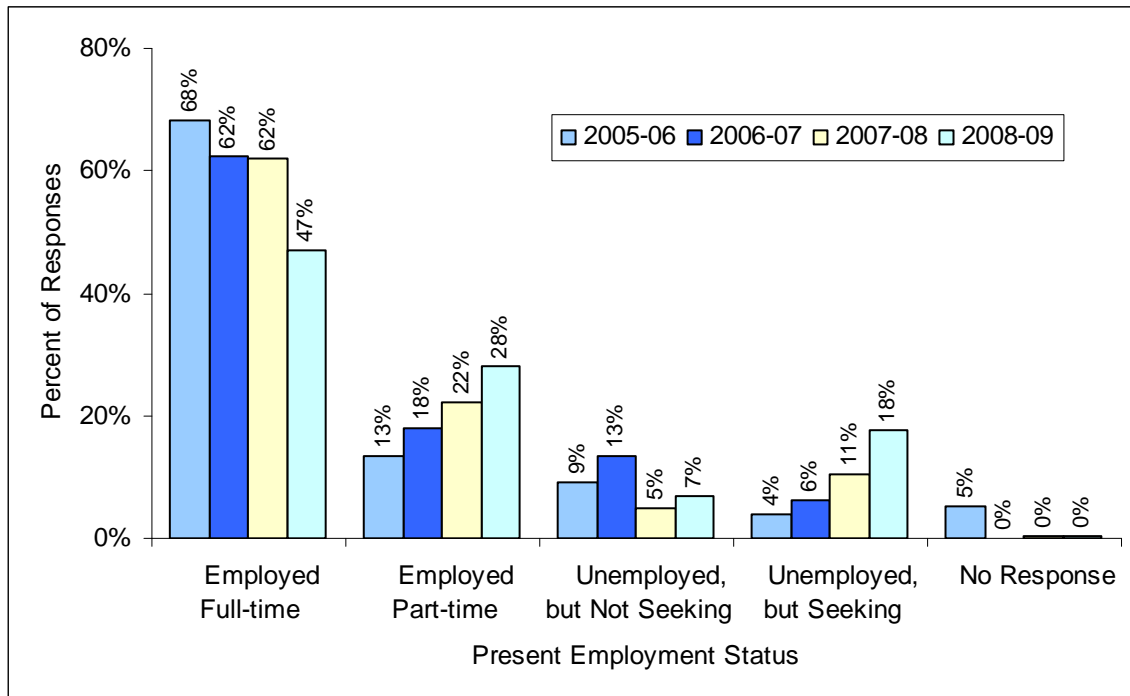
5. Average Salary by College of Academic Major Area of Study.

Average annual salaries were calculated for baccalaureate degree recipients answering to this question (on average about half of all respondents). Among the undergraduate colleges, Nursing and Engineering majors earn the highest salaries. Results have been fairly consistent, but give only a general idea of salary levels. Apparent trends may be artifacts of sample size.

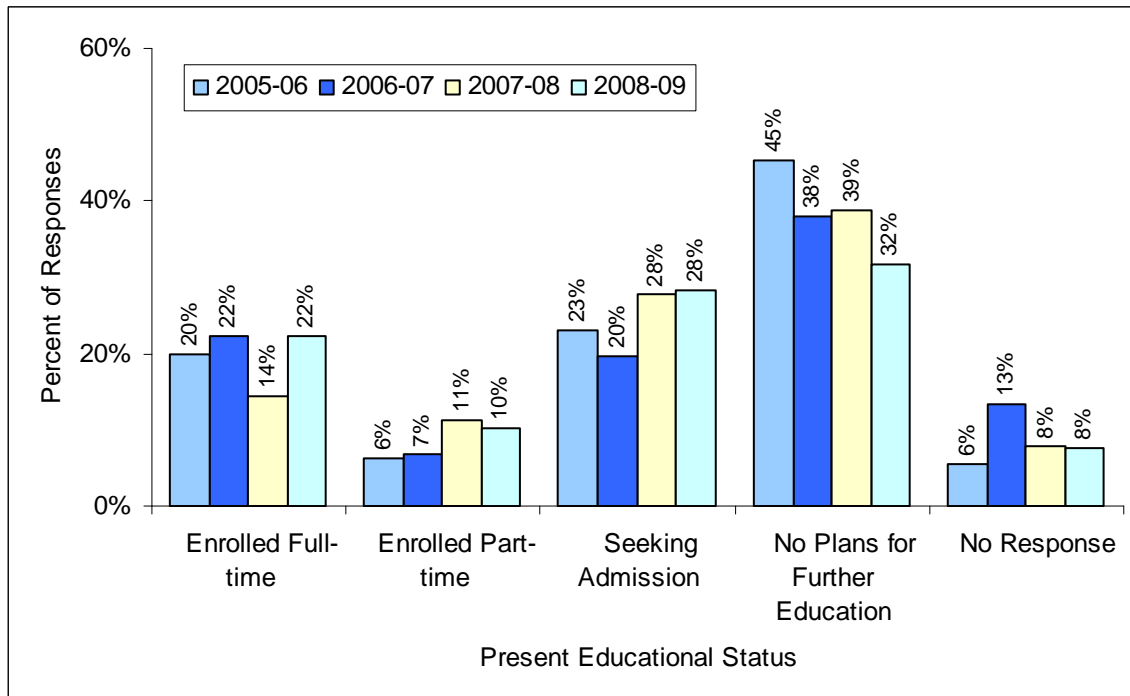
6. Satisfaction with URI Education as Preparation for Employment.

Responses to this question are moderately to very positive. The question was asked slightly differently in the four years; the 3-point scale in 2006-07 has been rescaled for comparison.

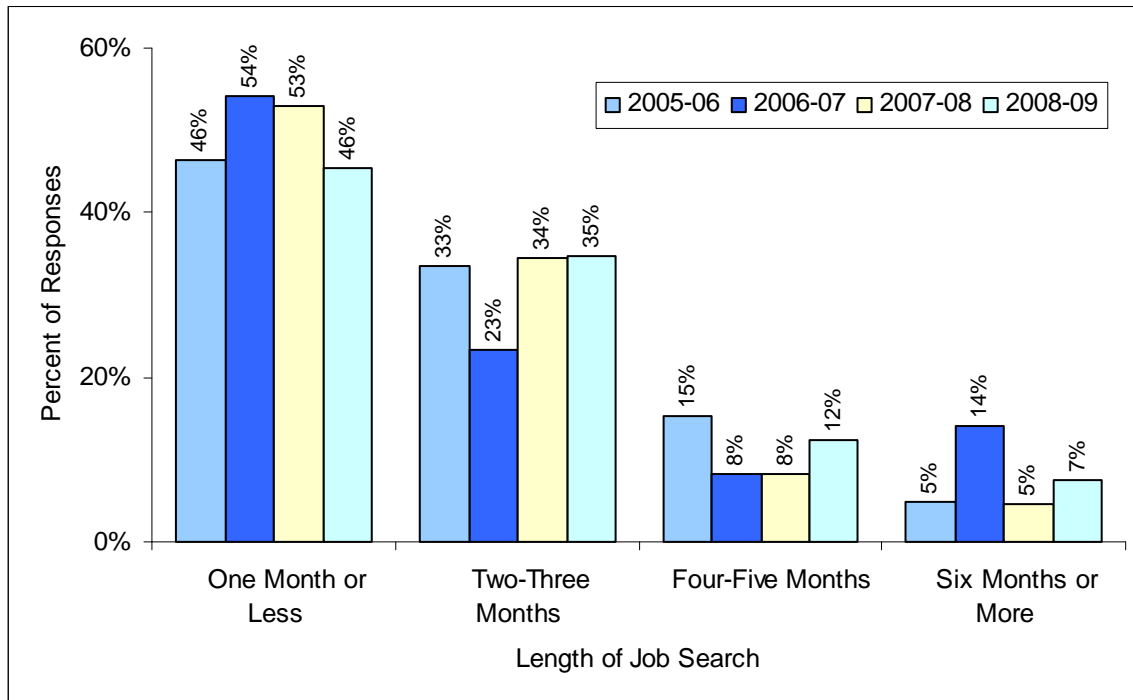
1. Present employment status



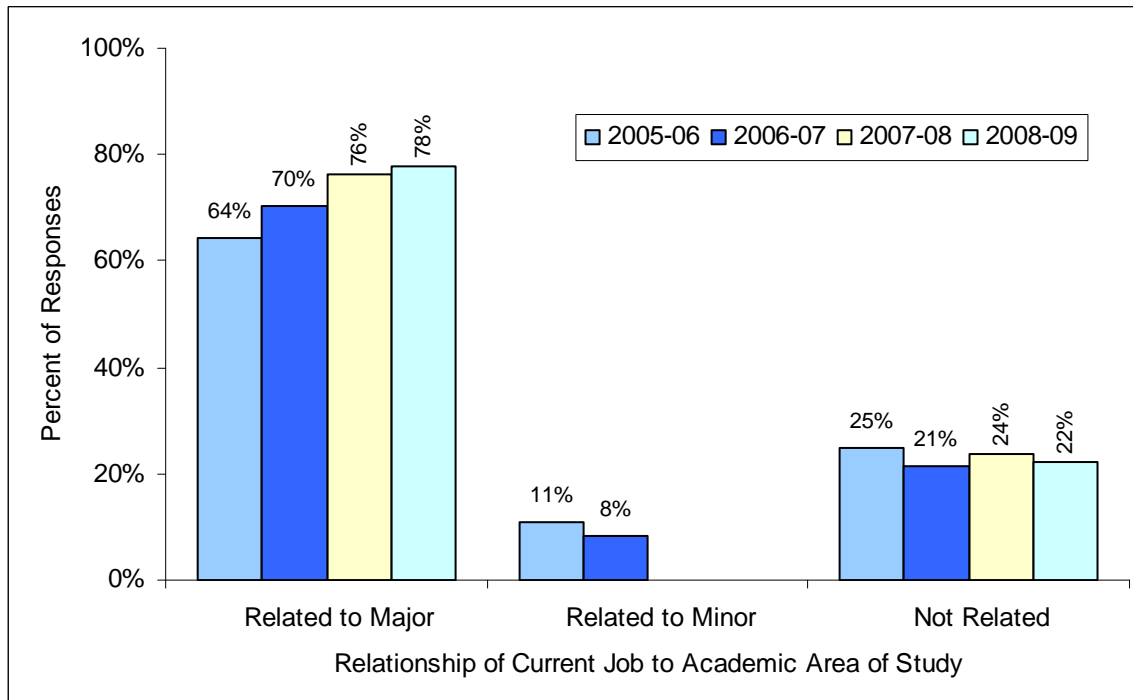
2. Present Educational Status



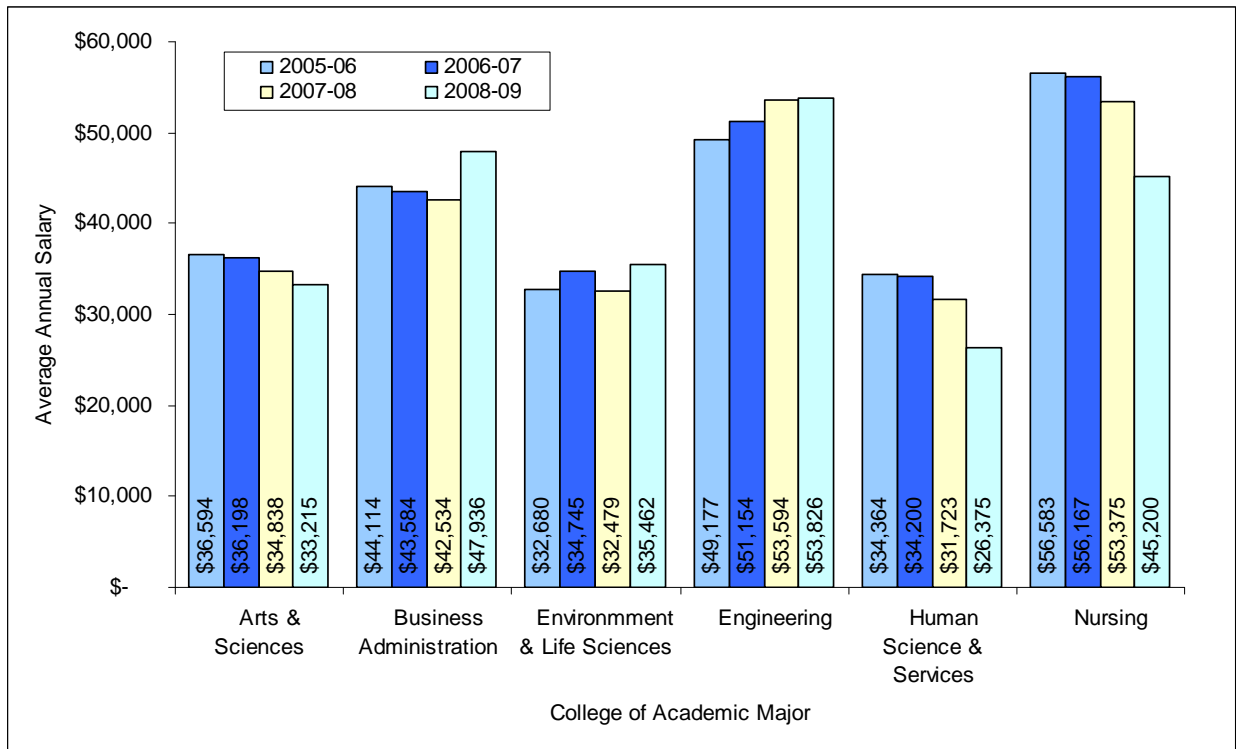
3. Length of Job Search



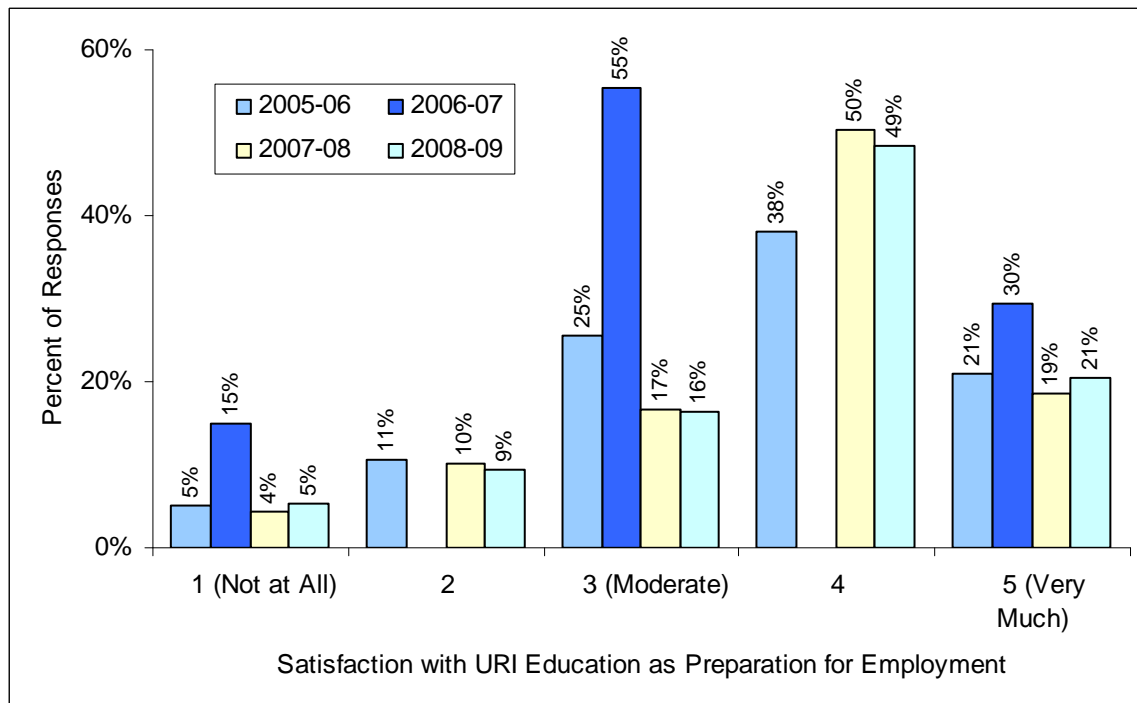
4. Relationship of Current Job to Area of Academic Study.



5. Average Salary by College of Academic Major Area of Study.



6. Satisfaction with URI Education as Preparation for Employment.



Conclusions

Surveys conducted over four consecutive years provide consistent information about the employment and education of recent graduates from the University of Rhode Island. Upon receiving their undergraduate degrees, most students found full-time employment within three months in jobs related to their major area of study. The recent economic recession, however, is making it harder to find full-time employment. Consequently, students are pursuing further education. Average salaries of fully-employed graduates range from \$30,000 for majors in the College of Human Science and Services to \$50,000 for the College of Nursing. Graduates were satisfied with the preparation for a career that their education at URI provided.

For more information about Career Services, please visit <http://career.uri.edu> or email career@etal.uri.edu