

UK Institutional Research Brief:

Bachelor's Degree Recipients'

Pursuit of Additional Education

and Employment

Summer 2005

The Office of Institutional Research recently studied where baccalaureate recipients attend college and where they are employed after graduating from the University of Kentucky. This two-phase investigation focused on students who earned their bachelor's degrees from UK in 2002-03 and 2003-04. In studying the educational pursuits of alumni, institutional research staff arranged with the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to search its database in an effort to identify UK graduates who had continued their education at other postsecondary institutions.¹ The NSC furnished information on specific institutions where students have attended since graduating from UK. Unfortunately, the NSC does not maintain information on students' degree level. Thus, it was not possible to determine with certainty the number of students who were pursuing graduate-level studies at other institutions.

After searching the NSC database, IR staff examined enrollment files at UK to determine the number of recent baccalaureate recipients who have either taken additional coursework or enrolled in graduate programs here. Some of the students who continued their education at UK after graduation may have subsequently enrolled at colleges and universities identified by the NSC during the first phase of this study.

In studying the employment of alumni during the second phase of this research, IR staff relied upon the survey responses of alumni who earned their undergraduate degrees from UK in 2002-03. The IR office mails a two-page survey to undergraduate and graduate alumni in odd-numbered years. The response rate for the 2005 Undergraduate Alumni Survey was 25 percent. Alumni were asked about their employment status, the environment in which they worked, and their salaries for full-time employment.

Major Findings of Phase I: Educational Pursuits of Alumni

- This study examined the subsequent enrollment records of 3,338 students who earned an undergraduate degree from UK in 2002-03 and 3,373 students who received a bachelor's degree in 2003-04.

¹ Over 90 percent of the nation's postsecondary institutions submit enrollment records to the National Student Clearinghouse database. It is possible that a few UK graduates were not identified as pursuing additional education because they subsequently enrolled in institutions that do not submit data to the NSC database.

- A search of the NSC database found that 21.0 percent (701 students) of the class of 2002-03 and 16.9 percent (571 students) of the class of 2003-04 had enrolled at another postsecondary institution after completing their undergraduate degree at UK.
- As of February 2005, 29 students from the class of 2002-03 and 14 students from the class of 2003-04 had earned degrees from other postsecondary institutions.
- Based on the combined classes of 2002-03 and 2003-04, the top institutions where UK graduates sought additional education were: the University of Louisville (187), Lexington Community College (152), Eastern Kentucky University (113), Northern Kentucky University (82), Georgetown College (23), Morehead State University (23), and Jefferson Community College (23).
- Of those recent graduates who pursued additional education at another postsecondary institution . . .
 - One in five (20.2%) was enrolled at a two-year community or technical college.
 - One in three (32.9%) was enrolled at a doctoral research extensive institution.
- The last two classes have produced graduates who have continued their studies at some of the finest public and private universities in the nation, including: Vanderbilt University (7), Yale University (6), Northwestern University (6), University of Wisconsin – Madison (6), University of California – Berkeley (5), University of Virginia (4), Princeton University (2), and Johns Hopkins University (2).
- A search of records at UK found that 23.2 percent (776 students) of the class of 2002-03 and 18.0 percent (608 students) of the class of 2003-04 subsequently enrolled at UK after receiving their undergraduate degrees here.

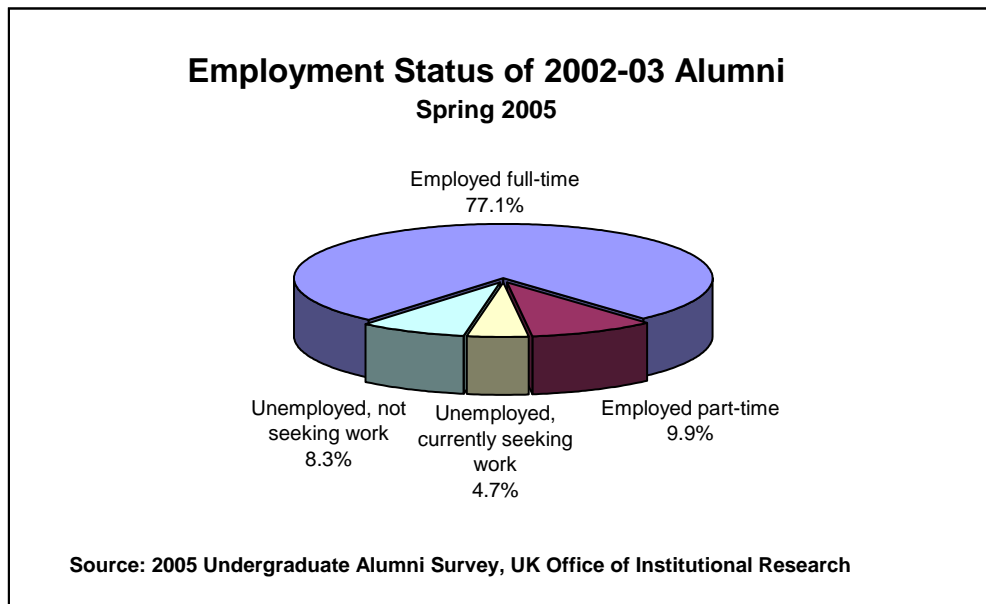
Of those baccalaureate recipients from the classes of 2002-03 and 2003-04 who continued their education at UK . . .

- Three in ten (29.7%) were enrolled as seniors, post-baccalaureates, auditors, or nondegree-seeking students at the undergraduate level.
- One in ten (10.6%) was registered as a nondegree-seeking student at the graduate level.
- Nearly half (47.7%) were pursuing degrees in master's-level programs.
- Two percent were pursuing doctoral degrees.

- One in ten (10.0%) was enrolled in a first-professional program.

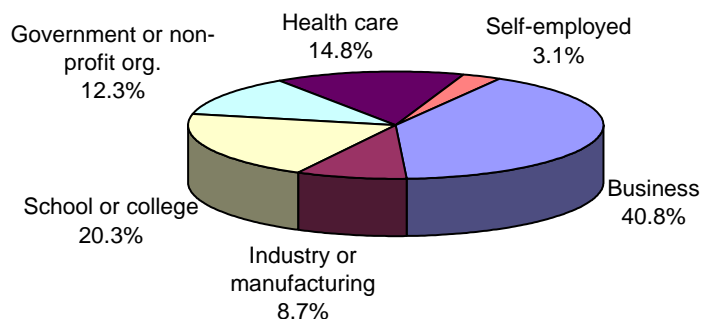
Major Findings of Phase II: Employment Status of Alumni

- A total of 828 graduates of the class of 2002-03 completed the Undergraduate Alumni Survey in spring 2005.
- Over three-quarters (77.1%) of alumni indicated that they were employed full-time.
- One in ten alumni (9.9%) reported being employed on a part-time basis, less than 35 hours a week.



- Two of five (40.8%) alumni reported that they were employed in the business sector.
- One-fifth (20.3%) of alumni indicated that they worked at a college or school.
- Only 3.1 percent of alumni reported being self-employed.

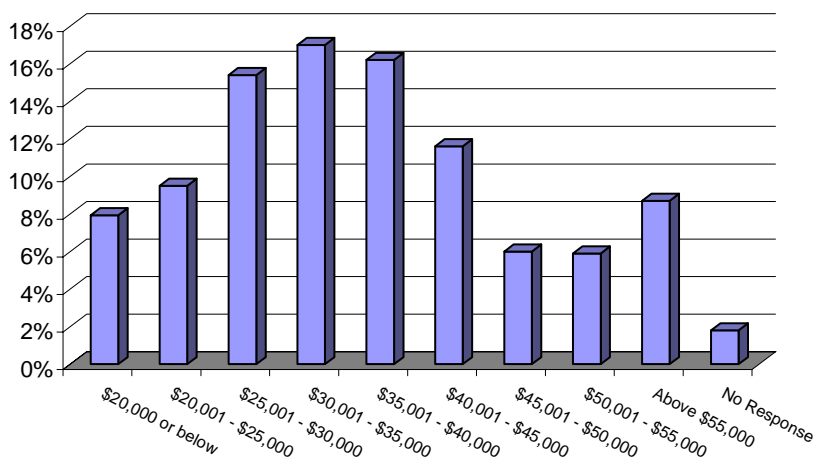
Environment Where 2002-03 Alumni Are Employed Spring 2005



Source: 2005 Undergraduate Alumni Survey, UK Office of Institutional Research

- Half of the alumni who reported salaries for full-time jobs indicated that they made \$35,000 or more per year
- The most commonly reported salary range (mode) was \$30,001 - \$35,000. Nearly one in five alumni (17.0%) reported earning a salary in this range.
- Less than one in ten alumni earned more than \$55,000 per year.

Distribution of Undergraduate Alumni Salaries for Full-time Jobs Spring 2005



Source: 2005 Undergraduate Alumni Survey, UK Office of Institutional Research