

Post Graduation Plans Questionnaire: Responses from December 2009 and May 2010

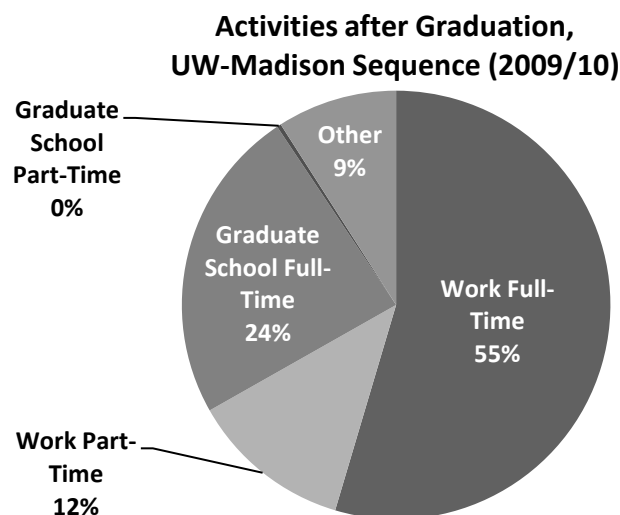
The Post-Graduation Plans Questionnaire is distributed to those undergraduates who indicate their intent to graduate via the Student Center in the term the questionnaire is implemented. The questionnaire is fielded twice a year, for December graduates and May graduates. The responses are then matched to eventual degree recipients for the given term, and results are analyzed based on the population of degree recipients.¹ The following pages summarize a portion of data collected from the questionnaire.

Highlights from 2009-10 graduates:

- 55% of 5,776 degree recipients answered at least the first question of the survey.
- 81% of graduates plan to either work full-time or attend graduate school full-time.
- Among those who primarily plan to work, 52% intend to work in Wisconsin after graduation.
- Graduates from the School of Nursing were the most likely to report that they planned to work full-time after graduation (85%).
- Graduates from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S) were the most likely to report that they planned to attend graduate school full-time after graduation (36%).

A by-major analysis provides more detail:

- Graduates of Business: Actuarial Science were the most likely to plan to work full-time (94%).
- Graduates of Communicative Disorders were the most likely to plant to attend graduate school full-time (72%).
- Eight percent or more of the respondents in the following majors reported their primary activity after graduation would be to volunteer: Anthropology, French, Gender and Women’s Studies, International Studies, Philosophy, and Political Science.



¹ The questionnaire is not distributed to those who complete degrees in the summer term. Among 5,776 December 2009 and May 2010 bachelor’s degree recipients, 55% (3,169) answered at least the first question on activities after graduation.

Activities after Graduation

The question about activities after graduation serves two purposes. First, this question serves as our response to the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA). For the VSA, a set hierarchy for responses exists, which prioritizes work/employment over graduate school, regardless of part-time or full-time status of work. The table below reflects this sequence of responses.

**Activities after Graduation (VSA Sequence),
December 2009 and May 2010 Post Graduation Plans Questionnaire**

Response Rate: 55% (3169 of 5776)	Duplicated		Unduplicated		Cumulative Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Work Full-Time	1,730	44%	1,730	55%	55%
Work Part-Time	476	12%	387	12%	67%
Graduate School Full-Time	939	24%	755	24%	91%
Graduate School Part-Time	84	2%	10	0%	91%
Additional Coursework	86	2%	26	1%	92%
Military	42	1%	27	1%	93%
Volunteer	214	6%	75	2%	95%
Start a Family	55	1%	2	0%	95%
Other	263	7%	157	5%	100%
Total	3,889	100%	3,169	100%	-

For our own internal reports, we place full-time graduate school above working part-time in the hierarchy. The following table reflects the sequence of responses used in our accountability report.

**Activities after Graduation (UW-Madison Sequence),
December 2009 and May 2010 Post Graduation Plans Questionnaire**

Response Rate: 55% (3169 of 5776)	Duplicated		Unduplicated		Cumulative Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Work Full-Time	1,730	44%	1,730	55%	55%
Graduate School Full-Time	939	24%	841	27%	81%
Work Part-Time	476	12%	301	9%	91%
Graduate School Part-Time	84	2%	10	0%	91%
Additional Coursework	86	2%	26	1%	92%
Military	42	1%	27	1%	93%
Volunteer	214	6%	75	2%	95%
Start a Family	55	1%	2	0%	95%
Other	263	7%	157	5%	100%
Total	3,889	100%	3,169	100%	-

Note: Total may exceed 100% due to rounding.

In the VSA sequence, a student who is working part-time and attending graduate school full-time is reported as working part-time in the unduplicated count. In the UW-Madison sequence, a student who is working part-time and attending graduate school full-time will be reported as attending graduate school full-time in the unduplicated count.

Among 2009/10 respondents, many of the “Other” respondents could be classified as working as well. Students who were completing an internship or starting their own business often selected “Other” instead of one of the work/employment options. For future terms, we have revised the question to clarify that these graduates should select work full-time or part-time if they are starting their own business or completing an internship.

Working in Wisconsin

Among the 2,206 respondents who indicated that they intended to work after graduation, 61% responded to a question asking if they would be working in Wisconsin. Among these individuals, 52% indicated that they would be working in Wisconsin upon graduation.

Next Degree Goal Among Graduates, Post Graduation Plans Questionnaire, December 2009/May 2010

Next Degree Pursuing	Percent of Respondents
Other graduate or professional program	25%
Master of Science (MS)	24%
Medicine, Doctor of (MD)	11%
PhD	10%
Master of Arts (MA)	8%
None/Not Degree Seeking	6%
Physical Therapy, Doctor of (DPT)	4%
Pharmacy, Doctor of (PharmD)	2%
Social Work, Master of	2%
Bachelor's level	2%
Veterinary Medicine, Doctor of (DVM)	2%
Dentistry (DDS or DMD)	2%
Business Administration, Master of (MBA)	1%
Fine Arts, Master of (MFA)	1%
Library and Information Studies, Master of	1%
Audiology, Doctor of	0%

Next Degree Pursued

Among the 1,109 graduates who indicated that they would be attending graduate school or completing additional coursework, 87% responded to a question asking them to indicate their next degree goal. Among these respondents, the highest percentage of graduates indicated they would be completing a Master of Science or “other” graduate or professional program.²

² At the time of this questionnaire a “Juris Doctor (J.D.)” was omitted from the available responses. This response option will be included in the next implementation of the questionnaire and will likely reduce the percentage that select “other” graduate or professional program.

Plans after Graduation by School/College

Depending on the school/college a student graduated from, differences exist in students' plans after graduation. The table below summarizes the distribution of students' reported plans by school/college.

Activities after graduation, December 2009 and May 2010 Post Graduation Plans Questionnaire
Results by School/College

	CALS	Business	Education	Engineering	SoHE	L&S	Nursing
Work Full-Time	45%	75%	57%	61%	69%	47%	85%
Grad School Full-Time	36%	13%	27%	30%	13%	30%	3%
Other	19%	12%	16%	9%	19%	22%	12%
Work (Any)	54%	79%	68%	63%	79%	59%	95%
Grad School (Any)	36%	13%	27%	30%	13%	30%	3%
Other	9%	8%	5%	7%	9%	10%	2%
Response Rate	61%	64%	51%	67%	58%	54%	59%
Number of responses	336	372	165	344	151	1692	94

Note: The School of Medicine and Public Health and the School of Pharmacy are excluded from these results due to small numbers of respondents/graduates within those schools. This table reflects unduplicated counts (primary activities) of graduates.

Graduates from the School of Nursing were the most likely to report planning to work full-time after graduation, with 85% of graduates indicating that they intended to work full-time. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) had the lowest percentage of graduates planning to work full-time, with just 45% indicating that they intended to work full-time.

However, CALs graduates were the most likely to plan to attend graduate school full-time, with 36% planning to continue their education in graduate school. The School of Nursing had the lowest percentage of graduates planning to attend graduate school full-time, with just 3% indicating that they intended to attend graduate school full-time.

Plans after Graduation by Degree-Major

Just as results vary by school/college, graduate plans also vary by degree-major. The table on the following page reflects plans after graduation among the majors where at least twenty graduates responded to the questionnaire. Among these majors, Business: Actuarial Science graduates were the most likely to plan to work full-time, with 94% of graduates intending to work full-time. Communicative Disorders had the lowest percent of graduates planning to work full-time, with 15% of graduates indicating they will work full-time.

Communicative Disorders also had the highest percentage of graduates continuing on to graduate school full-time, with 72% of graduates indicating they planned to attend graduate school full-time. Business: Actuarial Science, Elementary Education, and Retailing graduates reported the lowest percentage of intended full-time graduate school attendance, with 0% of respondents indicating that were going to attend graduate school full-time.

Among those majors where a large percent of students indicated that they had a plan other than employment or graduate school, several majors had at least eight percent of their graduates planning to volunteer as their primary activity. These majors included: Anthropology, French, Gender and Women's Studies, International Studies, Philosophy, and Political Science.

Post Graduation Plans Questionnaire: Responses from the December 2009 and May 2010 Collections

Activities After Graduation, Major-level Responses
Post Graduation Plans, December 2009 and May 2010

Major	Work FT	Grad FT	Other	Work Any	Grad Any	Other
Biology	33%	50%	17%	44%	50%	6%
Political Science	40%	34%	26%	50%	34%	16%
Economics	66%	20%	14%	73%	20%	7%
History	47%	24%	29%	64%	26%	10%
Business: Finance, Investment and Banking	82%	9%	9%	86%	9%	5%
Psychology	34%	43%	23%	47%	43%	10%
English	44%	26%	29%	62%	28%	10%
Communication Arts	63%	11%	26%	79%	11%	11%
International Studies	56%	10%	33%	70%	10%	20%
Spanish	40%	26%	35%	61%	28%	11%
Business: Marketing	83%	6%	11%	87%	6%	6%
Mechanical Engineering	65%	22%	13%	68%	23%	8%
Nursing	85%	3%	12%	95%	3%	2%
Sociology	60%	29%	11%	66%	29%	5%
Biochemistry	32%	60%	9%	37%	60%	4%
Journalism	63%	6%	31%	75%	9%	16%
Zoology	50%	36%	14%	55%	36%	9%
Business: Management and Human Resources	65%	12%	23%	74%	12%	14%
Business: Accounting	52%	34%	14%	57%	34%	9%
Business: Risk Management and Insurance	87%	5%	7%	89%	5%	5%
Legal Studies	44%	47%	9%	45%	47%	7%
Civil Engineering	73%	21%	6%	73%	21%	6%
Mathematics	42%	46%	12%	44%	46%	10%
French	42%	19%	40%	69%	19%	13%
Nutritional Sciences	21%	38%	42%	48%	38%	15%
Business: Real Estate and Urban Land Economics	83%	6%	11%	85%	6%	9%
Biomedical Engineering	31%	64%	5%	31%	64%	5%
Human Development and Family Studies	38%	36%	26%	50%	36%	14%
Anthropology	32%	34%	34%	51%	34%	15%
Industrial Engineering	63%	29%	7%	66%	29%	5%
Consumer Affairs	80%	5%	15%	85%	5%	10%
Kinesiology	25%	68%	8%	30%	68%	3%
Communicative Disorders	15%	72%	13%	26%	72%	3%
Computer Sciences	82%	13%	5%	85%	13%	3%
Electrical Engineering	59%	27%	14%	62%	27%	11%
Elementary Education	86%	0%	14%	89%	0%	11%
Business: Actuarial Science	94%	0%	6%	94%	0%	6%
Genetics	47%	39%	14%	53%	39%	8%
Biological Aspects of Conservation	55%	33%	12%	58%	33%	9%
Philosophy	55%	24%	21%	64%	24%	12%
Medical Microbiology and Immunology	37%	60%	3%	37%	63%	0%
Social Welfare	31%	45%	24%	38%	45%	17%
Art	61%	4%	36%	89%	4%	7%
Art History	36%	4%	61%	64%	4%	32%
Retailing	88%	0%	12%	96%	0%	4%
Gender and Women's Studies	48%	20%	32%	68%	20%	12%
Life Sciences Communication	64%	12%	24%	76%	12%	12%
Personal Finance	88%	4%	8%	96%	4%	0%
Microbiology	48%	43%	9%	52%	43%	4%
Business: International Business	67%	14%	19%	76%	14%	10%
Geography	48%	24%	29%	62%	24%	14%
Chemistry	40%	55%	5%	45%	55%	0%

Further Exploration

This document reflects just a short summary of information collected via the Post Graduation Plans Questionnaire. Responses to questions on industry of employment, name of employer, expected salaries, intended field of study, and next institution attending are available, as well as other data provided through the questionnaire responses. This data can be accessed in one of two ways. Academic Planning and Analysis will complete reports with detail at the school/college or major level upon request. In addition, users of InfoAccess can obtain authorization for a data view containing responses to the questionnaire. Information about data contained in this data view and instructions for authorization are available at:

http://www.doit.wisc.edu/infoaccess/dataviews/Student%20Administration/Retention%20and%20Logitudinal%20Studies/STDNT_POST_GRAD_PLANS_UGRD.htm

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