

Senior Exit Survey: UMBC Bachelor's Degree Recipients, December 2003 and May 2004

OIR October 2004

The Office of Institutional Research, in conjunction with the Career Development and Placement Center, administered a senior exit survey for undergraduates scheduled to receive their bachelor's degrees in both December 2003 and May 2004. Students picking up their regalia and floor passes for graduation at the bookstore were asked to fill out a one-page questionnaire. Of the 448 graduates attending Commencement in December 2003, and 952 in May 2004, 1060 (76%) completed the survey (see Table 1). Respondents were generally representative of the entire class population, with the highest percentage (47%) graduating in Science & Engineering areas. Like the population of all FY 2004 graduating seniors, the two most popular majors were Information Systems (19%) and Psychology (11%) (Table 2).

Education

The graduating students of the class of 2004 obtained degrees in 41 different majors. Of all of the respondents to the Exit Survey, 69% indicated that they were planning to attend graduate school (Table 3). One-third indicated that they had already applied to graduate school, with 69% of those having been accepted (Tables 5 and 6). The greatest proportion of those accepted (73%) planned to earn either a Master's degree or an MBA. Only 2% indicated that they would eventually obtain a Ph.D. degree and the remainder said that they were planning to get their M.D. (8%), J.D. (6%) or "Other" graduate degree (12%) (Table 7).

Work

Ninety-one percent of respondents said they plan to work after graduation (Table 8). Forty percent indicated they had found a job or would be continuing a job they already had (Table 9). Of the FY 2004 respondents who were either employed or starting a new job, 68% said their job was in the same field as their major (Table 10). Science & Engineering students had the greatest likelihood of working in the same field as their

major (81%) (Table 11). Forty-three percent of those employed or starting a new job reported earning \$40,000 or more (Table 12). The most commonly used job-search methods included: friend, family or faculty referral (58%), UMBC job fair (32%), non-UMBC online resume database (28%) and newspaper want ads (26%) (Table 13). Of the 745 students who indicated that they had some work experience, 52% said that they had more than one year full-time work experience (Table 14).

If you have any questions or comments please contact Robert O'Hara, Research Analyst, at the Office of Institutional Research. Email: rohara@umbc.edu phone: 410-455-2111

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and May 2004**

1. Response Rate Table

Respondents:	Dec-03	May-04	FY 2004
Those in Graduation Ceremony	448	952	1400
Those responding to the survey	392	668	1060
Response Rate:	88%	70%	76%
<i>All Degree Recipients</i>	<i>513</i>	<i>982</i>	<i>1495</i>
Total Response Rate:	76%	68%	71%

Survey Items:

Table 2. Major you are receiving a bachelor's degree in:

	Survey Respondents		FY 2004 Bachelors Degree Recipients	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Acting	2	0%	6	0%
Ancient Studies	4	0%	12	1%
American Studies	20	2%	41	2%
Dance	2	0%	2	0%
English	37	4%	71	4%
Modern Lang & Ling	7	1%	26	2%
Music	9	1%	12	1%
Philosophy	3	0%	7	0%
Theater	7	1%	12	1%
Visual & Performing Arts	83	9%	126	7%
Arts & Humanities Total	174	19%	315	18%
Biochemistry	32	4%	46	3%
Biology	86	10%	141	8%
Chemical Engineering	12	1%	9	1%
Chemistry	2	0%	3	0%
Computer Engineering	20	2%	31	2%
Computer Science	72	8%	149	9%
Electrical Engineering	1	0%	0	0%
Information Systems Management	160	18%	327	19%
Mathematics	10	1%	18	1%
Mechanical Engineering	26	3%	40	2%
Physics	3	0%	3	0%
Statistics	1	0%	2	0%
Science & Engineering Total	425	47%	769	45%
African Studies	2	0%	6	0%
Anthropology	5	1%	11	1%
Economics	26	3%	39	2%
Financial Economics	20	2%	39	2%
Geography	19	2%	28	2%
History	22	2%	63	4%
Political Science	19	2%	58	3%
Psychology	94	10%	186	11%
Sociology	23	3%	41	2%
Social Work	27	3%	69	4%
Social Science Total	257	28%	540	32%

	FY 2004 Respondents		FY 2004 Population of Degree Recipients	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Emergency Health Services	5	1%	17	1%
Health Administration and Policy	24	3%	34	2%
Health Related Total	29	3%	51	3%
Education	2	0%	0	0%
Interdisciplinary Studies	14	2%	23	1%
Other	4	0%	0	0%
Total	905		1708	

Table 3. Do you plan to attend graduate school?

Yes	614	69%
No	278	31%
Total	892	

Table 4. Those indicating they plan to attend graduate school by undergraduate major:

	Yes	No	Total	Percent Yes
Acting	2	0	2	100%
American Studies	12	7	19	63%
Ancient Studies	2	2	4	50%
Dance	0	2	2	0%
English	26	11	37	70%
Modern Lang & Ling	5	1	6	83%
Music	5	4	9	56%
Philosophy	3	0	3	100%
Theatre	3	4	7	43%
Visual & Performing Arts	31	50	81	38%
Arts & Humanities Total	89	81	170	52%
Biochemistry	30	2	32	94%
Biology	75	11	86	87%
Chemical Engineering	11	1	12	92%
Chemistry	2	0	2	100%
Computer Engineering	17	3	20	85%
Computer Science	41	30	71	58%
Electrical Engineering	0	1	1	0%
Information Systems Management	95	59	154	62%
Mathematics	10	0	10	100%
Mechanical Engineering	16	10	26	62%
Physics	3	0	3	100%
Statistics	0	1	1	0%
Science & Engineering Total	300	118	418	72%

Table 4. Those indicating they plan to attend graduate school by undergraduate major: cont.

	Yes	No	Total	Percent Yes
Africana Studies	1	1	2	50%
Anthropology	4	1	5	80%
Economics	15	11	26	58%
Financial Economics	12	8	20	60%
Geography	9	10	19	47%
History	18	4	22	82%
Political Science	14	4	18	78%
Psychology	74	20	94	79%
Sociology	15	8	23	65%
Social Work	25	2	27	93%
Social Science Total	187	69	256	73%
Emergency Health Services	3	2	5	60%
Health Administration and Policy	21	3	24	88%
Health Related Total	24	5	29	83%
Education	0	1	1	0%
Interdisciplinary Studies	11	3	14	79%
Other	3	1	4	75%
Total	614	278	892	69%

Table 5. Have you applied to graduate school?

	Number	Percent
Yes	210	33%
No	431	67%
Total	641	

Table 6. If you've applied to graduate school, have you been accepted?

	Number	Percent
Yes	128	69%
No	58	31%
Total	186	

Table 7. If you've been accepted to graduate school, which degree are you seeking?

	Number	Percent
MA/MS	55	43%
MBA	38	30%
PhD	3	2%
MD	10	8%
JD	7	5%
Other	15	12%
Total	128	

Table 8. Do you plan to work after graduation?

	Number	Percent
Yes	810	91%
No	81	9%
Total	891	

Table 9. If yes, will you be:

	Number	Percent
I am looking or will be looking for a job	549	60%
I will be starting a new job	174	19%
I will continue I a job I already have	194	21%
Total	917	

Table 10. If you either will be starting a new job, or have a job that you are continuing, is the job in the same field as your major?

	Number	Percent
Yes	408	68%
No	191	32%
Total	599	

Table 11. If your job is in the same field as your major, what was your undergraduate major?

	Job in Same Major:		Total	Percent Yes
	Yes	No		
Acting	0	1	1	0%
American Studies	5	12	17	29%
Ancient Studies	1	2	3	33%
Dance	1	1	2	50%
English	15	9	24	63%
Modern Lang & Ling	3	2	5	60%
Music	2	3	5	40%
Philosophy	1	1	2	50%
Theatre	4	2	6	67%
Visual & Performing Arts	50	16	66	76%
Arts & Humanities Total	82	49	131	63%
Biochemistry	10	4	14	71%
Biology	36	17	53	68%
Chemical Engineering	7	1	8	88%
Chemistry	0	0	0	
Computer Engineering	11	1	12	92%
Computer Science	43	4	47	91%
Electrical Engineering	0	0	0	
Information Systems	25	4	29	86%
Information Systems Management	56	17	73	77%
Mathematics	5	0	5	100%
Mechanical Engineering	13	2	15	87%
Physics	1	0	1	100%
Statistics	0	0	0	
Science & Engineering Total	207	50	257	81%

Table 11. If your job is in the same field as your major, what was your undergraduate major? Cont.

	Yes	No	Total	Percent Yes
Africana Studies	1	0	1	100%
Anthropology	1	4	5	20%
Economics	15	5	20	75%
Financial Economics	12	3	15	80%
Geography	6	4	10	60%
History	5	13	18	28%
Political Science	7	3	10	70%
Psychology	36	30	66	55%
Sociology	5	12	17	29%
Social Work	10	6	16	63%
Social Science Total	98	80	178	55%
Emergency Health Services	1	4	5	20%
Health Administration and Policy	14	4	18	78%
Health Related Total	15	8	23	65%
Education	1	0	1	100%
Interdisciplinary Studies	3	3	6	50%
Other	2	1	3	67%
Total	408	191	599	68%

Table 12. If employed, what is your annual salary?

	Number	Percent
Less than \$29,999	50	32%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	39	25%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	34	22%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	23	15%
\$60,000 or more	9	6%
Total	155	

Table 13. What methods did you use in your job search?

	Yes	Percent Yes
UMBC on-campus interviews	125	18%
Job binders in UMBC Career Center	67	10%
UMBC job fair	221	32%
UMBC resume database	118	17%
UMBC Career Center advisors/staff	88	13%
UMBC online job listings	101	15%
Non-UMBC job fair	151	22%
Non-UMBC online resume database	193	28%
Friend/family/faculty referral	403	58%
Newspaper want-ads	181	26%
UMBC Career Center website	76	11%
Weekly e-mail employment announcements	101	15%
Total Respondents	689	

Table 14. Previous full-time work experience?

	Number	Percent
Less than 1 year	355	48%
1 - 2 years	152	20%
2 - 4 years	97	13%
4 or more years	141	19%

Total

745