

Recent Graduate Survey of the Class of 2014

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UTM Career Centre

- **Mission:** To engage students in the career development process throughout their time at UTM and two years after graduation

As career educators, the UTM Career Centre helps students and recent graduates to:

- **Make career & academic plans, based on self-knowledge & career information**
- **Identify & seek relevant experience and relevant network connections during & after UTM**
- **Learn the process of lifelong career management**

Career Centre Context

- Rapidly changing world: globalization, technology, high youth unemployment and underemployment in Canada
- Students require assistance in exploring themselves and their career options
- Information needed: career requirements, labour market info, employer requirements plus assistance making sense of all this
- Students require skills in job searching, networking, professional behaviours, along with opportunities to interact with professionals and experiential learning opportunities

Respondent Information

- 347 out of 2117 Class of 2014 graduates responded during July 2015 (16.4% response rate)
- 99% of respondents were undergraduates
- 84% graduated in June 2014, 16% graduated in November 2014
- Response rate by degree was proportional to graduating class
- 8% were international students; 21% had international work or study experience

Activities Since Graduating (multiple options possible)

- 32% professional/graduate school
- 22% studies for professional designation
- 15% other studies
- 35% volunteering
- 17% travel/gap year
- 59% working

Summer 2015 Snapshot: majority working full-time; some unemployed; smaller group pursuing further education

Information for Employed Respondents

- Found position through: networking/cold calling/previous employer 50.8%; online job boards 32.6%
- Salary: of those working full-time, 50% are earning \$30,000-50,000; 29% are earning over \$50,000
- 67% felt their current positions was related to their program of study
- 73% felt their current position was related to their career goals

Skills Compared

Developed at University	Important in Career
Critical Thinking	Communication
Analytical Skills	Organizational Skills
Communication	Interpersonal Skills
Organizational Skills	Critical Thinking
Interpersonal Skills	Analytical Skills

Graduates' Feedback

- 77% used Career Centre services
- Value of Career Centre for preparing them for their career, both in career planning and job searching activities
- Importance of preparation throughout university; don't wait until 4th year theme
- Value of career “work” partnered with academic activities
- Need for career information and connections with the appropriate industry professionals

Conclusions

- Graduates are pursuing activities to help them reach their career goals; some challenges
- Graduates are developing key skills during their university studies that are related to their careers; many see relationship between studies and career
- Methods of finding employment reflect the importance of developing networking skills
- Graduates' comments indicated the importance of career preparation and value of engagement both inside and outside the classroom

Recommendations for Furthering Career Development of our Students

- Where applicable, incorporate career related assignments into course work; the Career Centre can assist
- Offer Career Counselling hours in your department (provided by the Career Centre)
- Partner with Career Centre to offer networking and career exploration events
- Feature Careers by Major on your site
- Career Centre staff can attend departmental meetings to share information and hear your questions