

**University College**  

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**OF THE NORTH**

**Graduate Satisfaction and  
Employment Survey**

**2006/2007 Graduates**

**Survey Conducted: December 2007**

**Institutional Research  
January 2008**

# **GRADUATE SATISFACTION AND EMPLOYMENT SURVEY 2006/2007 GRADUATES**

## **INTRODUCTION**

University College of the North surveys its graduates on an annual basis. Data collected is related to the graduates' employment status, salary and occupation. Graduates are also asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the education received at the University College of the North.

The target group for this survey was made up of students who graduated from the University College of the North during the 2006/2007 academic year.

The analyzed data from the returned surveys is presented in this report.

## **SCOPE OF THE SURVEY**

A total of 298 graduates from the 2006/2007 University College of the North degree, diploma and certificate programs were surveyed. Graduates from the Apprenticeship programs were not included in this report.

Degree program surveyed was: Baccalaureate Nursing (Joint University College of the North / University of Manitoba Baccalaureate Nursing Program).

Diploma programs surveyed were: Administrative Assistant, Aboriginal Self Government, Business Administration (Accounting), Chemical Engineering Technology, Computer Programmer Analyst, Computer Systems Technology, Early Childhood Education, and Natural Resources Management Technology.

Certificate programs surveyed were: Applied Counseling Skills, Business Accountancy, Building Construction, Basic Electrical, Carpentry/Woodworking, Certificate in Computer Applications, Child Care Assistant, Civil/CAD Technology, Commercial Cooking, Commercial Cooking Aide, Computerized Business Applications, Computerized Business Skills, Cooks Helper, Dental Assisting, Educational Assistant, Facilities Basic Maintenance, General Studies – College Preparation, General Studies – Preparation for Health Careers, General Studies – Literacy, General Studies – Preparation for Technology, Health Care Aide, Heavy Duty Mechanics, Heavy Equipment Operator, Industrial Welding, Law Enforcement, and Mature High School Diploma.

## METHODOLOGY

A personalized cover letter was sent out to each graduate of the diploma and certificate programs of 2006/2007 informing them a survey was forthcoming. The surveys were sent out the following week. To increase response rates, we offered students a chance to win one of five prizes if their response was received by a specific date. Follow up phone calls were made to non-responding graduates. Graduates of the degree program were contacted by telephone only. Please see Appendix 1.

## RESPONSE RATES

The following table will summarize both response and cooperation rates. Response rates are calculated on the total number of responses from all graduates of 2006/2007. While calculating Cooperation rates we have not included those students we were unable to reach by mail and phone because their contact information was out of date.

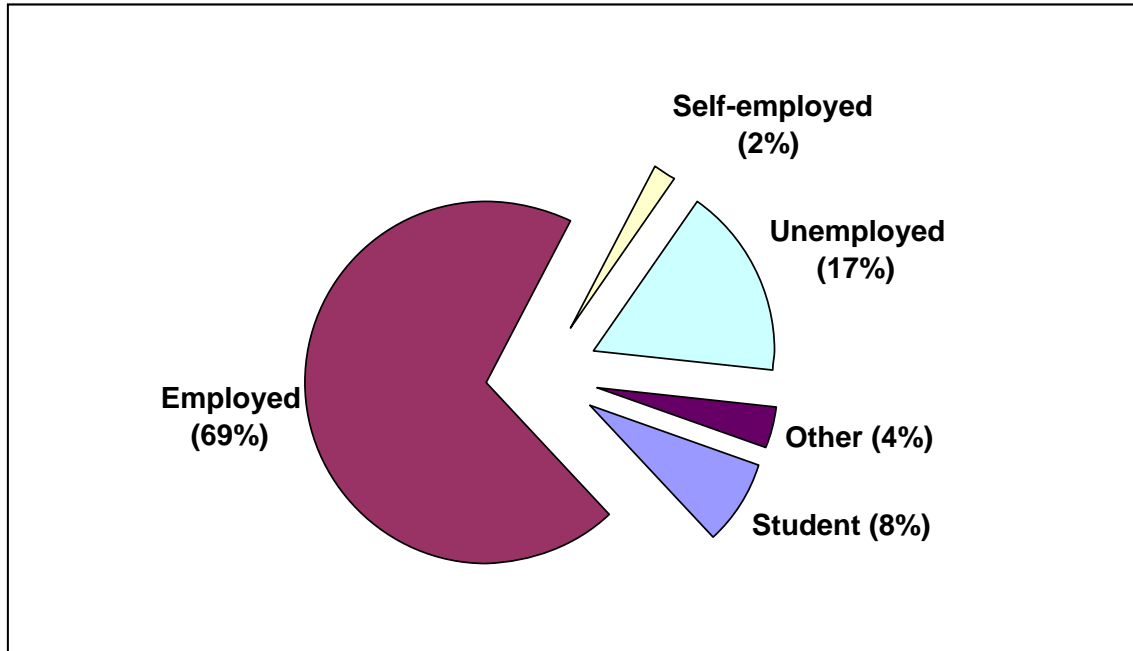
## RESULTS

Of the 298 graduates who were surveyed, 44 responded by mail and 61 responded by telephone for an overall total of 105 respondents, and a 35% response rate. We received an overall cooperation rate of 38%.

### Summary of Responses

	<i># Programs Surveyed</i>	<i># Graduates Surveyed</i>	<i># Respondents</i>	<i>Response Rate %</i>	<i>Cooperation Rate %</i>
Certificate	26	234	79	34%	36%
Diploma	10	36	15	42%	43%
Degree	1	28	11	39%	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>38%</b>

## CURRENT ACTIVITY OF RESPONDENTS



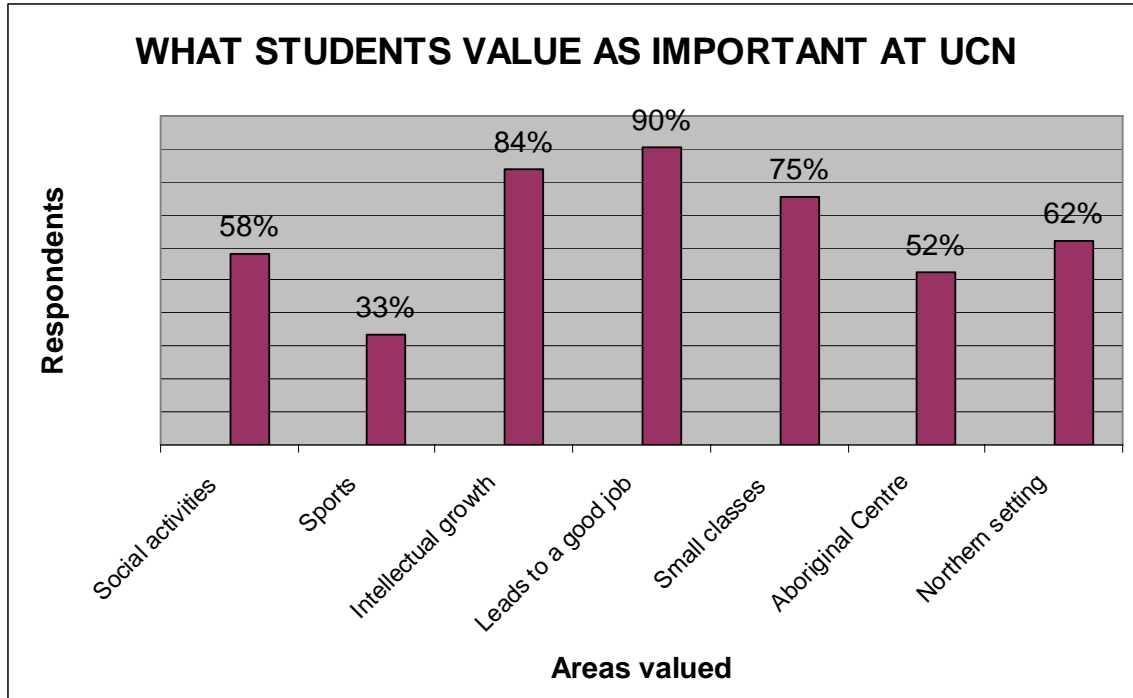
### **Survey results indicate that:**

- 69% of responding graduates are employed, and 2% are self employed, for an overall employment rate of 71%.
- 90% of employed graduates are employed full-time, and 10% are employed on a part-time basis.
- Of the graduates employed, 23% are taking courses to further their education while employed.
- 82% of responding graduates are employed in Northern Manitoba, 13% in Southern Manitoba, and 5% outside of Manitoba.
- 84% of those employed are working in a field related to the education received at the University College of the North.
- 47% of those employed were able to obtain employment prior to graduation, while an additional 42% found employment within the first three months after graduation.
- The average hourly wage on respondents was \$17.00 (range from \$8.20-\$30.00). The average annual salary reported was \$49,000 (range from \$24,000 – \$80,000).

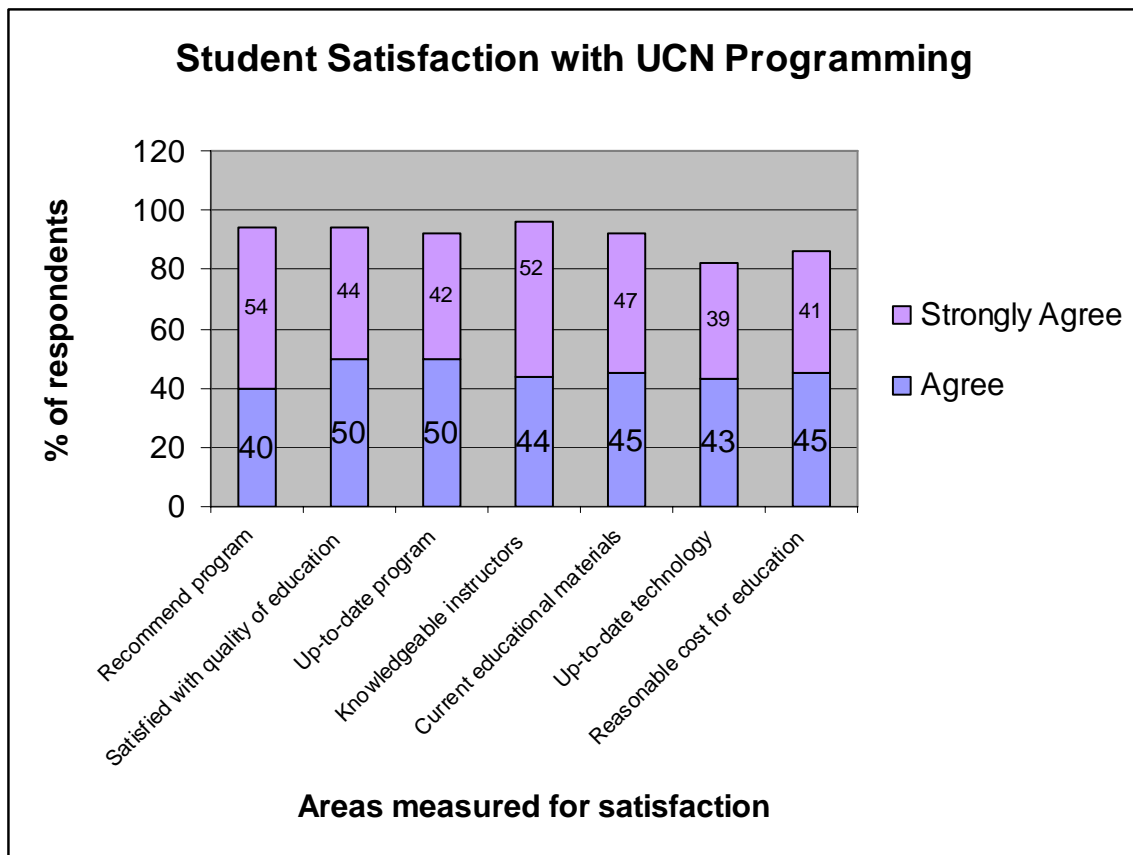
- The top two reasons for unemployment are: 28% are not looking for work at this time; 22% feel there are very few jobs available in the occupational area for which they received their education.
- 43% of graduates that are furthering their education are enrolled in a University College.
- 75% of graduates received some form of financial support while attending their most recent program.

## MOST VALUED AT UCN

The top three areas that graduates identified as being valued by them while attending the University College of the North was the opportunity to obtain the knowledge and skills leading to a good job (90%), the nurturing of intellectual growth in general (84%), and small classes (75%).



## SATISFACTION LEVELS



- 94% of respondents would recommend the program they took at UCN to others.
- 94% of respondents were overall satisfied with the quality of education received at UCN.
- 92% of respondents felt that their program was up-to-date.
- 96% of respondents felt their instructors were knowledgeable in the areas they taught.
- 92% of respondents felt the educational materials used in their program were current.
- 82% of respondents felt the technology used in their program was appropriate to industry standards.
- 86% of respondents felt that the cost of their program was reasonable for the education provided.

## CONCLUSION

The Graduate and Satisfaction and Employment Survey report for the 2006/2007 graduates has provided evidence that graduates of University College of the North continue to be successful in finding employment, and continue to express high levels of satisfaction. Graduates from University College of the North degree, certificate and diploma programs were captured in this report. Apprenticeship programs were not included.

Survey results also show that 47% of our employed graduates were able to obtain employment prior to graduation, with an additional 42% finding employment within the first 3 months after graduation. 82% of our graduates are staying in Northern Manitoba to work. The average annual salary for the responding graduates is \$49,000, which is a small increase to those reporting in 2005/2006.

43% of the graduates that have chosen to further their post-secondary education by either taking courses while employed, or by returning to school full-time, are enrolled in a University College.

This year University College of the North asked our most recent graduates if they have experienced difficulties obtaining housing and/or daycare. Though the lack of housing and daycare has been identified across Manitoba, only 10% of our graduates that answered our question had experienced difficulties obtaining housing, and only 13% have self-identified having trouble obtaining childcare. Though it is good to know that the majority of our responding graduates have not experienced these difficulties, it also raises a question of how many students we are unable to retain until graduation because they have experienced difficulties in these areas.

The response rates for the 2006/2007 Graduate Satisfaction and Employment Survey has decreased by 2% from the previous year. We will continue to mail out surveys and follow up with non-respondents by phone call to increase response rates. Employment and satisfaction levels are high, which is remaining relatively constant from year to year.

The University College of the North will continue to gather information on the employment status and satisfaction levels of our graduates as we strives to plan for and develop new certificates, diplomas and degree programs in the future.

University College of the North  
January, 2008