

University College

OF THE NORTH

**Graduate Satisfaction and
Employment Survey**

2007/2008 Graduates

Survey Conducted: November 2008

**Institutional Research
February 2009**

GRADUATE SATISFACTION AND EMPLOYMENT SURVEY 2007/2008 GRADUATES

INTRODUCTION

Graduates of the University College of the North are surveyed on an annual basis. The data collected is related to employment status, salary and occupation. Graduates are also asked to indicate their level of satisfaction relating to 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 2007/2008 academic year.

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

SCOPE OF THE SURVEY

A total of 328 graduates were surveyed from University College of the North for the 2007/2008 academic year; 308 from the diploma and certificate programs; and 20 students from the Baccalaureate Nursing Program (joint degree program University College of the North / University of Manitoba program). Graduates from the Apprenticeship programs were not included in this report.

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

Diploma programs surveyed were: Administrative Assistant, Aboriginal Self Government, Business Administration (Accounting, Marketing and General by Distance), Chemical Engineering Technology, Computer Programmer Analyst, Community Economic Development, Early Childhood Education, Facilities Technician, Natural Resources Management Technology, Recreation Leadership and Restorative Justice.

Certificate programs surveyed were: Applied Counselling Skills, Basic Business Principles, Basic Electrical, Carpentry/ Woodworking, Civil/CAD Technology Certificate, Commercial Cooking, Commercial Cooking Aide, Computerized Business Applications, Computerized Business Skills, Dental Assisting, Educational Assistant, Facilities Basic Maintenance, General Studies-College Preparation, General Studies-Preparation for Health Careers, General Studies-Literacy, General Studies-Non Program, General Studies-Preparation for Technology, Health Care Aide, Heavy Duty Mechanics, Heavy Equipment Operator, Industrial Welding, Law Enforcement, Mature High School Diploma.

METHODOLOGY

A personalized cover letter was sent out to each graduate of the 2007/2008 degree, diploma and certificate programs 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 January 2/09. Follow up phone calls were made to non-responding graduates.

RESPONSE RATES

The following tables will summarize both response and cooperation rates. Response rates are calculated on the total number of responses from all graduates of 2007/2008. 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.

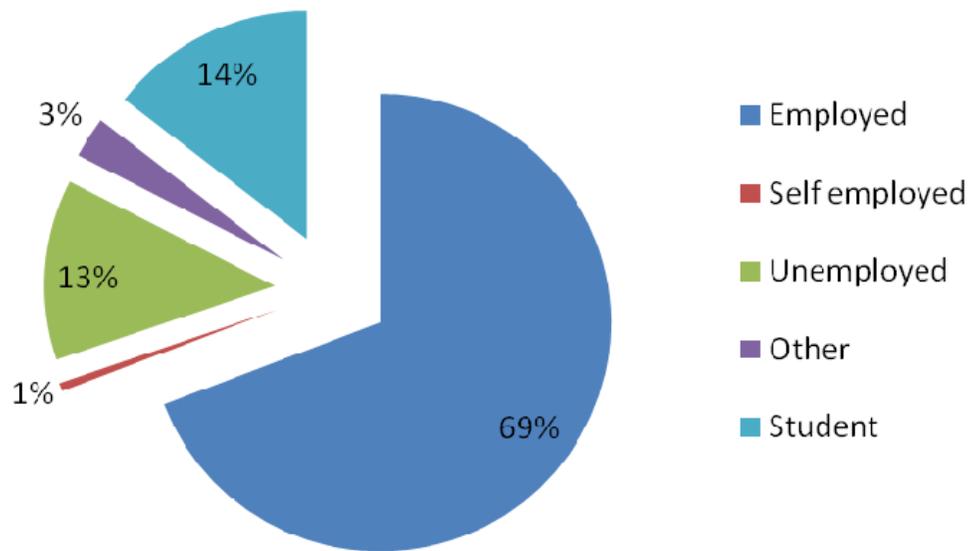
RESULTS

Of the 328 graduates who were surveyed, we received 52 responses by mail, 108 by phone, for an overall total of 160 respondents, and a 49% response rate. 93 graduates had out of date contact information (address/phone), for a cooperation rate of 68%.

Summary of Responses

	<i># Programs Surveyed</i>	<i># Graduates Surveyed</i>	<i># Respondents</i>	<i>Response Rate %</i>	<i>Cooperation Rate %</i>
Certificate	23	210	102	49%	65%
Diploma	13	98	47	48%	75%
Degree	1	20	11	55%	79%
Total	39	328	160	49%	68%

Current Activity of Responding Graduates



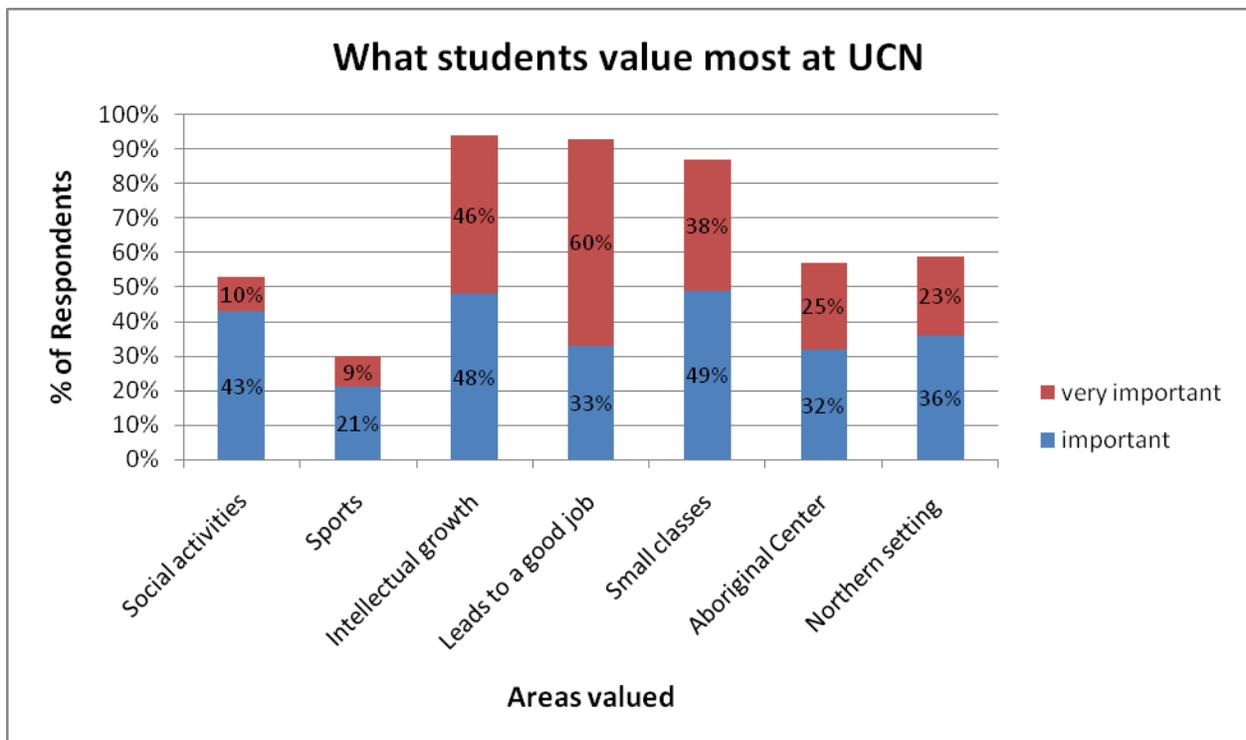
Survey results indicate that:

- 70% of graduates are employed; 1% are self employed; overall employment rate of 71%.
- 82% of employed graduates are employed full-time; 18% are employed on a part-time basis.
- 25% of employed graduates are taking courses to further their education while employed.
- 50% of graduates that have chosen to further their education while employed, or are full-time students are enrolled in a University College.
- 86% of responding graduates are employed in Northern Manitoba; 8% in Southern Manitoba; and 6% outside of Manitoba.
- 82% of those employed are working in a field related to the education they received at the University College of the North.
- 49% of those employed were able to obtain employment prior to graduation; 43% found employment within the first three months after graduation.
- \$16.31 is the average hourly wage (range from \$8.00-\$33.00). The average annual salary is \$33,400 (range from \$14,500 – \$51,600).

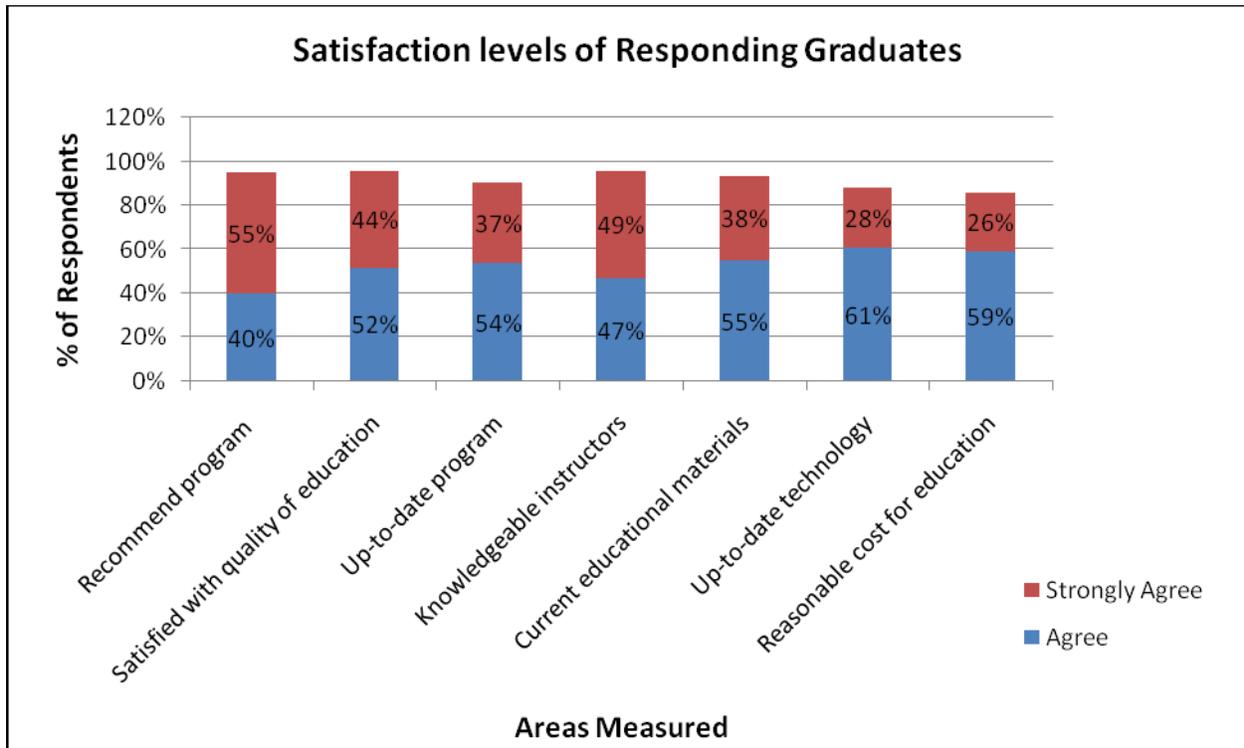
- 52% of those unemployed are not looking for work at this time; 16% feel there are very few job openings in the places they wish to work; with an additional 16% who feel they do not have sufficient work experience in the occupational area for which they received their education.
- 79% of graduates received some form of financial support while attending their most recent program.

MOST VALUED AT UCN

The top three areas identified as being most valued by responding graduates while attending the University College of the North were the nurturing of intellectual growth (94%); opportunity to obtain the knowledge and skills leading to a good job (93%); and small classes (87%).



SATISFACTION LEVELS



- 95% of responding graduates would recommend the program they took at UCN to others.
- 96% are satisfied with the overall quality of education received at UCN.
- 91% feel the program they took at UCN was up-to-date.
- 96% of respondents felt their instructors were knowledgeable in the areas they taught.
- 93% felt the educational materials used in the program were current.
- 89% of respondents felt the technology used in the program was appropriate to industry standards.
- 85% of respondents agree that the cost of their program was reasonable for the education provided.

CONCLUSION

The University College of the North had a 30% increase in our cooperation rate for the Graduate Satisfaction and Employment Survey (38% in 2006/2007, 68% in 2007/2008). We received 1/3 of graduate responses by mail, and 2/3 were received by phone. We were unable to contact 28% of the 2007/2008 graduates of UCN because their contact information is out of date.

The 2007/2008 graduates of the University College of the North continue to be successful in finding employment. Survey results show that 70% of responding graduates are employed, and 82% of those are employed full-time and working in a field related to their education. 49% of graduates were able to obtain employment prior to graduation, with an additional 43% finding employment within the first three months after graduation. 86% of responding graduates are employed in Northern Manitoba. The average annual salary for responding graduates is \$33,400, which is a decrease from those reporting in 2006/2007. This may be due to the increase in cooperation rates from the certificate and diploma programs.

UCN graduates continue to express high levels of satisfaction with the education they received at University College of the North. 95% of responding graduates would recommend their program to others, and 96% were satisfied with the overall quality of education, and felt their instructors were knowledgeable in the areas they taught.

The Graduate Satisfaction and Employment report 2007/2008 captures graduates of University College of the North's degree, diploma, and certificate programs. UCN will continue to gather information on the employment status and satisfaction levels of our graduates.

University College of the North
February 2009