



Graduate Satisfaction and Employment Survey

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Department of Institutional Research

2008/2009

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GRADUATE SATISFACTION AND EMPLOYMENT SURVEY - 2008/2009

INTRODUCTION

The Graduate Satisfaction and Employment Survey is conducted on an annual basis. We collect information from graduates to determine their employment status, as well as their level of satisfaction with the education received at UCN. This report contains survey results from students who graduated during the 2008/2009 academic year.

SCOPE OF THE SURVEY

We surveyed a total of 310 graduates from the University College of the North for the 2008/2009 academic year; 288 from the degree, diploma and certificate programs; and 22 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.

Certificate:

Basic Business Principles	e-Business Application Developer	Housing Management
Basic Drywall Applicator	Educational Assistant Certificate	Industrial Welding
Basic Electrical	Exploration Camp Training Entry Level	Law Enforcement
Computerized Business Applications	Facilities Basic Maintenance	Law Enforcement Corrections Officer
Computerized Business Skills	General Studies: College Preparation	Mature High School Diploma
Commercial Cooking	General Studies: Literacy	Mineral Processing
Commercial Cooking Aide	Health Care Aide	Preventative Dentistry Scaling
Carpenter Training Level 1	Heavy Duty Mechanic	Underground Core Mining Phase 2
Carpentry/Woodworking	Heavy Equipment Operator	Welder Training Level 1

Degree:

Bachelor of Arts	Baccalaureate Nursing Program (Joint University College of the North/ University of Manitoba program)
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Diploma:

Aboriginal Self Government	Dental Assistant
Business Administration Modular	Early Childhood Education
Business Administration Accounting	Electrical/Electronic Technology
Business Administration Management	Natural Resource Management Technology
Chemical Engineering Technology	Restorative Justice
Community Economic Development	

METHODOLOGY

A personalized cover letter was sent out to each graduate of the 2008/2009 academic year (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 December 15, 2009. Follow up phone calls were conducted during the month of January to increase response rates.

RESPONSE RATES

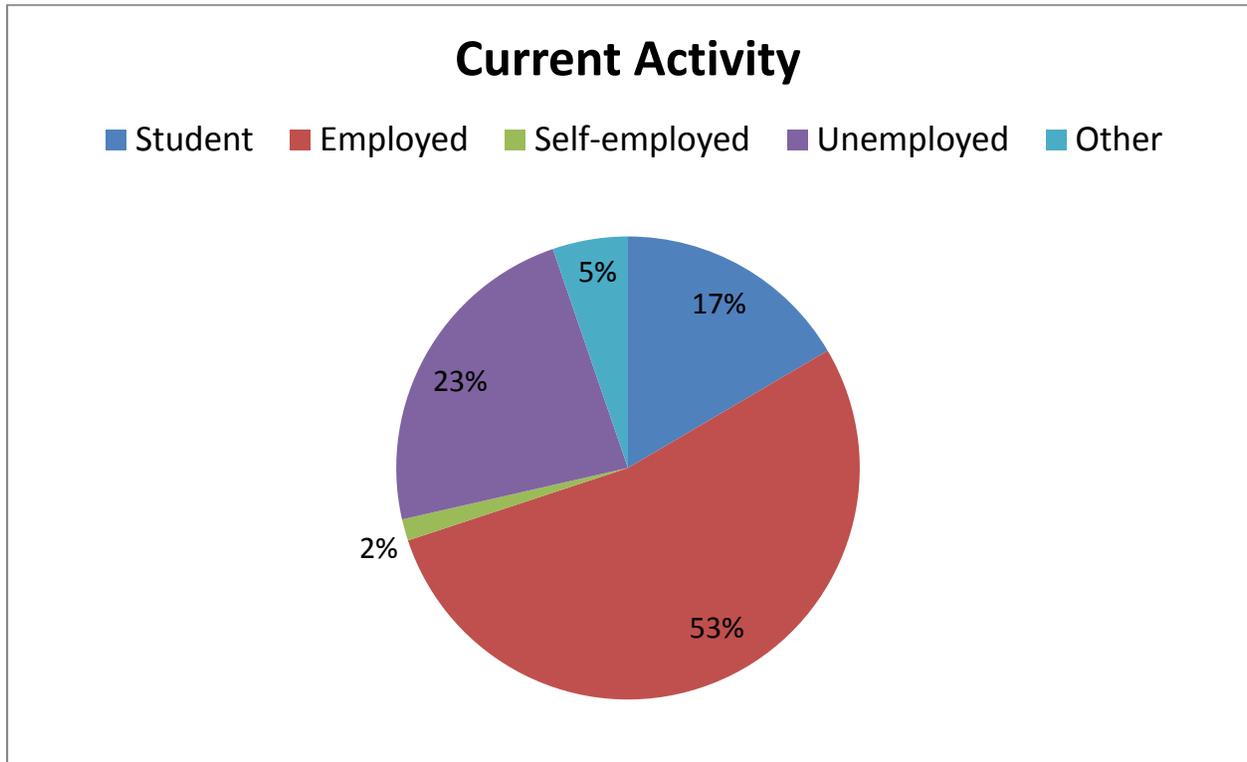
The following tables will summarize both response and cooperation rates. Response rates are calculated on the total number of responses received from all graduates of 2008/2009. Cooperation rates are calculated by the number of responses received from graduates who were able to participate in our survey. Graduates with out of date contact information (mailing address and phone number) were removed from the calculation to establish the cooperation rate.

We received a 43% response rate (133/310) to our survey. We were unable to contact 26% of our graduates because their mailing address and phone numbers were out of date. We received an overall cooperation rate of 58% (133/230).

Summary of Responses

	<i># Programs Surveyed</i>	<i># Graduates Surveyed</i>	<i># Respondents</i>	<i>Response Rate %</i>	<i>Cooperation Rate %</i>
Certificate	27	231	98	42%	62%
Diploma	11	56	29	52%	60%
Degree	2	23	6	26%	26%
Total	40	310	133	43%	58%

CURRENT ACTIVITY



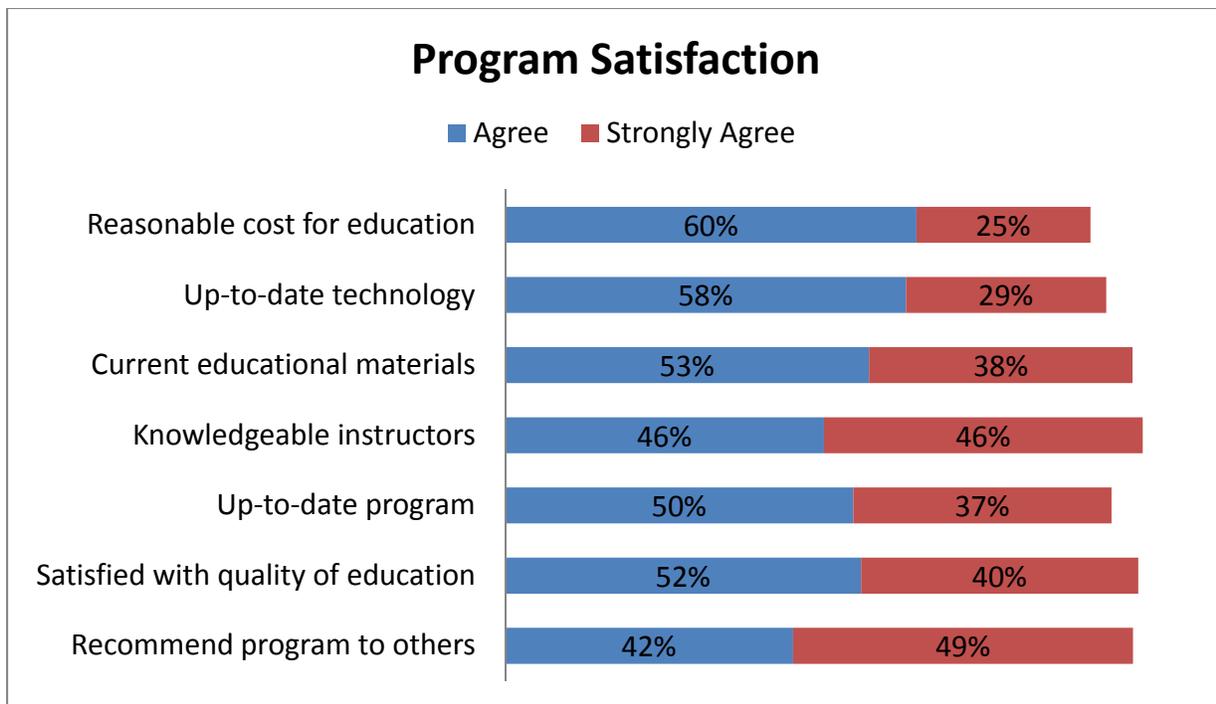
Collecting employment statistics of recent graduates allows UCN to monitor employment trends and to ensure we are responding to the needs of our students and stakeholders.

Survey Results show:

- 53% of responding graduates were employed; 2% were self-employed; overall employment rate of 55%.
- 84% of those employed are working full-time and 21% had indicated they are taking courses to further their education while they are employed.
- 48% of graduates accepted their first job prior to graduation, while an additional 43% accepted their first position within the first three months after graduation.
- 71% of those employed are working in a position related to the education they received at UCN.
- 78% of graduates are employed in Northern Manitoba.
- Average hourly wage reported was \$16.71; maximum hourly wage \$34.00; minimum hourly wage \$8.80.
- Average annual salary reported was \$44,000; maximum annual salary \$100,000; minimum annual salary \$15,000.
- UCN assisted 16% of graduates in finding employment through work experience, clinical placement, and job placement boards.

- 17% of recent graduates have returned to school and 78% of those are enrolled in a university college.
- 23% of recent graduates were unemployed; 1/3 of those unemployed were not looking for work at the time of this survey; 30% felt there were very few jobs available in the occupational area for which they received their education; 13% felt there were few job openings in the places they wished to work; and 15% did not have sufficient work experience in the area in which they received their education.

PROGRAM SATISFACTION

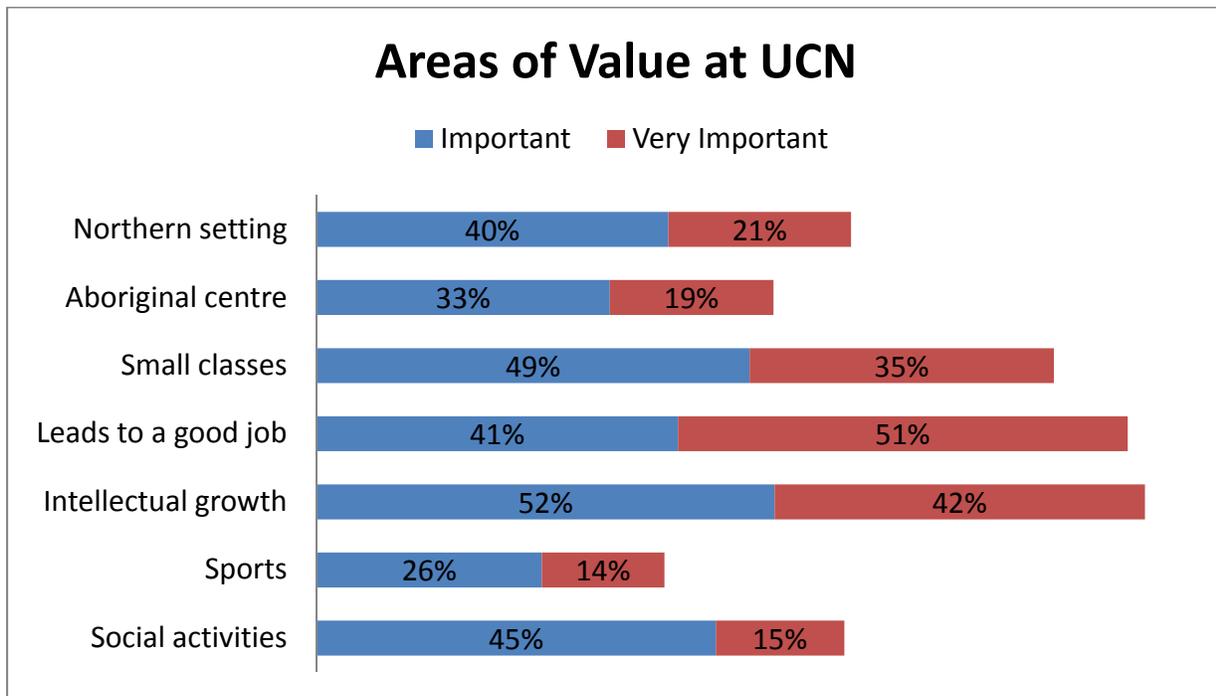


Graduates of the University College of the North continue to report high levels of satisfaction with their overall program.

- 91% of graduates would recommend the program to others.
- 92% feel satisfied with the overall quality of education received at the University College of the North.
- 87% feel the program they graduated from was up to date.
- 92% of graduates felt that the instructors were knowledgeable in the areas they taught.
- 91% felt that the educational materials (texts, workbooks, handouts, etc) used in the program were current.
- 85% felt the technology used in the program was appropriate to industry standards.

- 85% of graduates felt that the cost of taking the program was reasonable for the education provided.
- 87% of responding graduates received some form of financial support while attending the program in which they graduated from.

MOST VALUED AT UCN



We asked respondents to identify which areas they valued while attending the University College of the North. The top three areas identified as being most valued by responding graduates were the nurturing of intellectual growth (94%); the opportunity to obtain the knowledge and skills leading to a good job (92%); and small classes (84%).

CONCLUSION

The Graduate Satisfaction and Employment survey captures graduates of UCN's certificate, diploma, and degree programs. The overall response rate for the survey was 43% which is small decrease from 2007/2008. We were unable to contact 26% of recent graduates due to out of date contact information which represents an overall cooperation rate of 58%.

The 2008/2009 graduates of the University College of the North saw a significant decrease in employment rates from the previous year (70% in 2007/2008; 55% in 2008/2009). It should be noted that although the rate of unemployment had increased by 10% from the previous year, a third of those unemployed were not looking for work at the time of the survey. Of those employed, 71% are working in a position related to the education they received. Graduates of UCN continue to be successful in finding employment with 48% obtaining their first job prior to graduation, and another 43% securing employment within the first three months after graduation. Over ¾ of graduates remain in Northern Manitoba to work which contributes to a skilled workforce and an educated populace for social and economic development of the North. The average annual salary reported by respondents was \$44,000, which is a significant increase from those who reported the previous year.

Graduates continue to express high levels of satisfaction with the education they received at UCN. Over 90% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of education received at UCN and would recommend their program to others. The majority of respondents felt that their instructors were knowledgeable in the areas they taught, and that educational materials used in the program were current.

The University College of the North will continue to gather information on the employment status and satisfaction levels of our graduates on an annual basis.