2023-2024 GRADUATE FIRST DESTINATION SURVEY



Introduction

The Graduate First Destination Survey investigates the employment and enrollment in graduate/professional school activities of recent graduate degree recipients with the goal of estimating post-graduation outcomes rates. The target populations are certificate, master's, and doctoral degree recipients who graduated between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.

Initial data were gathered just before graduation via an online instrument. For those who did not respond to the initial survey, or indicated they were still seeking employment, a follow-up online survey invitation was sent to the graduate via email. A third follow-up to non-responders and those still seeking employment involved obtaining information from the graduate via social media. National Student Clearinghouse and Marquette University enrollment data were also utilized to place non-responders into the outcome category related to enrollment in additional graduate/professional school. Data collection ended on December 31, 2024; thus, outcomes reflect the first destination of the graduates up to that date.

Results

Response Rates

The overall response rate for those who graduated in the 2023-2024 academic year, including all follow-up contact, was 78%, an increase compared to previous years (71% for the 2021-2022 cohort and 68% for the 2022-2023 cohort). The tables below show response rates by college/school and degree level. The "Other" category includes the School of Dentistry (graduate programs only) and Graduate School.

Table 1. First Destination Survey Response Rates by College and Degree Type.

College/School	Number of Graduates	Number of Respondents	Response Rate
Arts and Sciences	141	119	84%
Business Administration	184	174	95%
Communication	22	20	91%
Education	116	105	91%
Engineering	64	53	83%
Health Sciences	157	141	90%
Nursing	304	159	52%
Other	17	9	53%
Overall	1,005	780	78%
Degree Level	Number of Graduates	Number of Respondents	Response Rate
Master's	761	577	76%
Ph.D.	189	162	86%
Certificate	55	41	75%
Overall	1,005	780	78%



First Destination Post-Graduation Outcomes

Graduates were grouped into one of several post-graduation outcomes based on their survey response. The categories are mutually exclusive. Other Not Seeking represents those engaged in post-graduation service, in the military full or part time, those planning to continue education, or students who indicated they were not engaged in an activity and were not actively seeking employment or enrollment in a graduate/professional program. Seeking Employment indicates those who were not engaged in any activity above and were still seeking employment as of December following graduation.

In 2023-2024, the percentage of graduates that are full-time employed (82%) slightly decreased from the last cohort (83%) and lower compared to 86% in 2021-2022.

Table 2. First Destination Outcomes by Graduating Cohort

	2019-2020 (n=485)	2020-2021 (n=632)	2021 - 2022 (n=719)	2022 - 2023 (n=692)	2023 - 2024 (n=780)
	(II—403)	(H-032)	(H-719)	(H-092)	(n-780)
Employed, full-time	80%	81%	86%	83%	82%
Employed, part-time	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	10%	7%	5%	5%	5%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	4%	6%	1%	3%	2%
Other Not Seeking	1%	1%	0%	0%	2%
Seeking Employment	4%	4%	4%	5%	6%

From the outcomes above, we can calculate a "fully engaged" percentage, which is the percentage of respondents who are employed full-time, in the military, in a stipend-paid service position, or attending graduate/professional school full-time.

The percentage of respondents who are "fully engaged" is shown below by college as well as by degree level. The fully engaged rate for the 2023-2024 cohort was 88.7%.

Table 3. First Destination Fully Engaged Rate by Graduating Cohort, College, and Degree Level

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College	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024		
Arts and Sciences	85.3%	92.0%	88.0%	82.7%	78.2%		
Business Administration	94.0%	95.7%	97.1%	98.0%	94.8%		
Communication	95.2%	94.4%	85.7%	93.3%	80.0%		
Education	96.2%	91.7%	93.2%	87.1%	85.7%		
Engineering	100.0%	93.8%	90.6%	95.5%	94.3%		
Health Sciences	88.9%	97.7%	94.1%	96.8%	90.8%		
Nursing	91.2%	91.8%	93.3%	86.0%	89.3%		
Overall	92.1%	93.8%	93.2%	91.5%	88.7%		
Degree Level	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024		
Doctoral	93.5%	96.6%	95.7%	96.3%	90.1%		
Master's	92.6%	93.4%	92.8%	90.8%	87.9%		
Certificate	77.8%	94.4%	90.9%	84.2%	95.1%		
Overall	92.1%	93.8%	93.2%	91.5%	88.7%		



First Destination Post-Graduation Outcomes by College

The information below shows the post-graduation outcome rates for seven colleges at Marquette. The Graduate School and School of Dentistry are omitted due to a low number of respondents.

Table 4. First Destination Outcomes by College

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024
College of Arts and Sciences	(n=93)	(n=111)	(n=117)	(n=127)	(n=119)
Employed, full-time	60%	73%	74%	65%	66%
Employed, part-time	2%	2%	3%	2%	6%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	26%	17%	12%	16%	12%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%
Other not seeking	0%	4%	4%	5%	3%
Seeking	11%	3%	5% I	11%	13% ▮
College of Business Administration	(n=98)	(n=161)	(n=140)	(n=149)	(n=174)
Employed, full-time	89%	91%	91%	97%	89%
Employed, part-time	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	5%	3%	5%	1%	5%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Other not seeking	2%	0%	1%	0%	3%
Seeking	3%	4%	3%	1%	2%
College of Communication	(n=20)	(n=18)	(n=14)	(n=15)	(n=20)
Employed, full-time	95%	83%	71%	80%	80%
Employed, part-time	0%	6%	7%	7%	5%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	5%	11%	14%	13%	0%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other not seeking	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%
Seeking	0%	0%	7%	0%	10%
College of Education	(n=52)	(n=48)	(n=73)	(n=93)	(n=105)
Employed, full-time	85%	77%	85%	84%	84%
Employed, part-time	0%	1%	1%	1%	5%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	6%	10%	4%	2%	2%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	6%	4%	3%	1%	0%
Other not seeking	2%	2%	3%	0%	3%
Seeking	2%	4%	4%	12%	7%
College of Engineering	(n=44)	(n=31)	(n=32)	(n=44)	(n=53)
Employed, full-time	80%	68%	72%	82%	77%
Employed, part-time	0%	3%	0%	0%	4%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	20%	26%	16%	11%	15%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	0%	3%	3%	2%	2%
Other not seeking	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%
Seeking	0%	0%	6%	5%	2%



	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
College of Health Sciences	(n=26)	(n=87)	(n=152)	(n=157)	(n=141)
Employed, full-time	92%	98%	94%	96%	90%
Employed, part-time	4%	0%	1%	3%	3%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Other not seeking	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Seeking	4%	1%	5%	1%	6%
College of Nursing	(n=144)	(n=170)	(n=180)	(n=100)	(n=159)
Employed, full-time	80%	73%	88%	63%	81%
Employed, part-time	1%	1%	4%	8%	3%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	10%	16%	2%	20%	6%
Other not seeking	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Seeking	3%	6%	2%	5%	8%

Table 5. First Destination Outcomes by Degree Type

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Doctoral	(n=45)	(n=87)	(n=117)	(n=108)	(n=162)
Employed, full-time	89%	95%	95%	95%	90%
Employed, part-time	0%	1%	3%	1%	4%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Other not seeking	4%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Seeking	2%	1%	2%	3%	6%
Master's	(n=424)	(n=527)	(n=580)	(n=565)	(n=577)
Employed, full-time	79%	79%	85%	81%	81%
Employed, part-time	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	11%	8%	6%	6%	5%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	4%	6%	1%	4%	2%
Other not seeking	1%	1%	2%	1%	3%
Seeking	4%	4%	4%	5%	7%
Certificate	(n=16)	(n=18)	(n=22)	(n=19)	(n=41)
Employed, full-time	81%	83%	77%	74%	76%
Employed, part-time	0%	0%	0%	11%	0%
Graduate/professional school, full-time	0%	11%	5%	5%	12%
Graduate/professional school, part-time	6%	0%	9%	5%	7%
Other not seeking	6%	0%	5%	0%	2%
Seeking	6%	6%	5%	5%	2%



Starting Region

Graduates indicated their current location. In 2022-2023, 77% of respondents are located in Wisconsin or Illinois post-graduation, remaining relatively consistent with 2022-2023 and 2021-2022.

Table 6. Starting Region by Graduating Cohort

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Wisconsin	64%	65%	62%	63%	63%
Illinois	11%	11%	14%	13%	14%
Other Midwest	8%	7%	6%	7%	6%
South	8%	8%	7%	7%	6%
West	5%	5%	7%	4%	7%
Northeast	4%	3%	2%	4%	2%
Outside U.S.	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%

Full-time Employment

Respondents who were full-time employed answered additional questions about their employment. Respondents in the military or in post-graduation stipend-paid service positions are excluded from this section.

Respondents were asked to indicate the relationship between their career goals and their full-time employment. The chart below represents a breakdown of respondents who answered "yes" to whether they consider their job to be related to their career goals and/or a path that will allow them to achieve their career goals. The Graduate School and School of Dentistry are omitted due to a low number of respondents.

Table 7. Employment Relationship to Career Goals by College/School and Degree Type

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
College	(n=161)	(n=338)	(n=299)	(n=357)	(n=364)
Arts and Sciences	100%	95%	96%	98%	93%
Business Administration	98%	95%	93%	95%	93%
Communication	100%	100%	100%	100%	89%
Education	100%	97%	98%	98%	98%
Engineering	100%	100%	94%	100%	100%
Health Sciences	100%	96%	100%	99%	97%
Nursing	98%	100%	100%	100%	99%
Overall	99%	97%	97%	98%	96%
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Degree Type	(n=161)	(n=338)	(n=299)	(n=357)	(n=364)
Doctoral	100%	98%	100%	98%	100%
Masters	99%	97%	97%	98%	95%
Certificate	100%	100%	100%	100%	93%
Overall	99%	97%	97%	98%	96%



Respondents were asked to indicate which of the following categories best describes the type of organization for which they work. The chart below shows a breakdown by college and degree type. The Graduate School and School of Dentistry are omitted due to a low number of respondents.

Table 8. Full-Time Employment Organization Type by College

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College	Organization	(N = 45)	(N = 72)	(N = 82)	(N = 53)	(N = 42)
Arts and Sciences	Education	56%	29%	41%	30%	43%
	Government	2%	11%	6%	11%	5%
	Industry	31%	42%	39%	36%	31%
	Not for profit	11%	18%	6%	13%	12%
	Other	0%	0%	7%	9%	10%
		(N = 44)	(N = 113)	(N = 66)	(N = 115)	(N = 117)
Business Administratio	r Education	23%	11%	9%	11%	9%
	Government	3%	2%	0%	2%	3%
	Industry	55%	81%	83%	78%	77%
	Not for profit	18%	0%	3%	4%	6%
	Other	1%	6%	5%	4%	4%
		(N = 19)	(N = 14)	(N = 10)	(N = 8)	(N=9)
Communication	Education	21%	21%	0%	0%	22%
	Government	0%	7%	0%	0%	11%
	Industry	58%	50%	80%	75%	33%
	Not for profit	21%	7%	10%	13%	33%
	Other	0%	14%	10%	13%	0%
		N = 34)	(N = 35)	(N = 54)	(N = 64)	(N = 66)
Education	Education	26%	69%	65%	63%	45%
Education	Government	6%	0%	2%	2%	6%
	Industry	68%	20%	20%	17%	20%
	Not for profit	0%	11%	9%	13%	18%
	Other	0%	0%	4%	6%	11%
	outer	0,0	0,0	470	0,01	
		(N=12)	(N = 19)	(N=22)	(N=24)	(N=17)
Engineering	Education	38%	21%	14%	17%	24%
	Government	4%	5%	9%	4%	0%
	Industry	25%	74%	77%	75%	76%
	Not for profit	25%	0%	0%	4%	0%
	Other	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%



		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
		(N = 22)	(N = 27)	(N = 50)	(N = 71)	(N = 59)
Health Sciences	Education	68%	37%	22%	28%	39%
	Government	0%	4%	2%	1%	2%
	Industry	18%	41%	23%	25%	32%
	Not for profit	5%	11%	28%	30%	15%
	Other	9%	7%	24%	15%	12%
		(N = 106)	(N = 116)	(N = 97)	(N = 61)	(N = 67)
Nursing	Education	8%	22%	11%	16%	19%
	Government	2%	4%	0%	3%	3%
	Industry	56%	58%	42%	10%	18%
	Not for profit	34%	11%	42%	61%	49%
	Other	1%	4%	4%	10%	10%

Table 9. Full-Time Employment Organization by Degree Type

		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Degree Type	Organization	(N = 36)	(N = 66)	(N = 66)	(N = 64)	(N = 66)
Doctoral	Education	78%	50%	48%	36%	42%
	Government	0%	6%	3%	3%	0%
	Industry	19%	27%	30%	27%	27%
	Not for profit	3%	12%	15%	27%	23%
	Other	0%	5%	3%	8%	8%
		(N = 271)	(N = 322)	(N = 305)	(N = 326)	(N = 299)
Master's	Education	23%	17%	20%	25%	23%
	Government	3%	4%	2%	3%	5%
	Industry	55%	63%	50%	45%	47%
	Not for profit	18%	11%	19%	18%	17%
	Other	1%	4%	9%	8%	8%
		(N = 12)	(N = 13)	(N = 16)	(N = 11)	(N = 15)
Certficate	Education	38%	8%	38%	18%	33%
	Government	4%	8%	0%	9%	0%
	Industry	25%	85%	50%	36%	27%
	Not for profit	25%	0%	13%	27%	33%
	Other	8%	0%	0%	9%	7%

The tables below show gross salaries of full-time, non-temporary employed graduates by college and degree type. Respondents in School of Dentistry and Graduate School are excluded due to low headcounts. Salary numbers exclude those active in the military, those in a post-graduation stipend-paid service position, those in a temporary position, and those employed as Medical Scribes.



About 54% of full-time employed respondents reported salary information on the survey (compared with 59% in 2022-2023 and 34% in 2021-2022).

Table 10. Salary Statistics for Full-Time Employed by Degree Type

Dogues	Voor	Number of	of Starting Salary					
Degree	Year	tespondent	25th percentile	Median	75th percentile			
Doctoral	2019-2020	14	\$40,000	\$48,500	\$55,000			
	2020-2021	39	\$53,000	\$70,000	\$84,000			
	2021-2022	39	\$56,000	\$76,500	\$119,000			
	2022-2023	54	\$72,500	\$80,000	\$105,000			
	2023-2024	62	\$65,000	\$82,000	\$120,000			
Master's	2019-2020	127	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$80,000			
	2020-2021	162	\$55,000	\$66,392	\$100,000			
	2021-2022	169	\$57,000	\$67,000	\$92,500			
	2022-2023	271	\$55,000	\$70,000	\$90,000			
	2023-2024	264	\$56,000	\$70,000	\$85,500			
Certificate	2019-2020	6	\$65,000	\$91,000	\$96,000			
	2020-2021	-	-	-	-			
	2021-2022	-	-	-	-			
	2022-2023	9	\$80,000	\$100,000	\$100,000			
	2023-2024	14	\$75,000	\$107,750	\$123,000			



Table 11. Salary Statistics for Full-Time Employed by College¹

C 11	**	Number of		Starting Salary		
College	Year	Respondents	25th percentile	Median	75th percentile	
Arts and Sciences	2019-2020		\$40,000	\$51,000	\$70,000	
	2020-2021	28	\$50,000	\$53,500	\$63,892	
	2021-2022	33	\$49,900	\$60,000	\$76,500	
	2022-2023	41	\$53,000	\$65,000	\$80,000	
	2023-2024	40	\$50,500	\$60,000	\$76,500	
Business Administrati	on 2019-2020	36	\$54,000	\$72,000	\$115,250	
	2020-2021	92	\$59,000	\$85,000	\$113,500	
	2021-2022	59	\$63,000	\$77,000	\$100,000	
	2022-2023		\$65,000	\$76,000	\$120,000	
	2023-2024		\$67,500	\$80,000	\$125,000	
Communication	2019-2020	9	\$41,000	\$42,000	\$57,000	
	2020-2021	_	-	-	-	
	2021-2022	_	_	_	_	
	2022-2023	_	_	_	_	
	2023-2024	6	\$50,000	\$52,500	\$59,000	
Education	2019-2020	21	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$50,000	
	2020-2021	12	\$38,750	\$44,837	\$55,000	
	2021-2022	29	\$45,000	\$52,000	\$60,000	
	2022-2023	61	\$49,000	\$54,500	\$65,000	
	2023-2024		\$50,000	\$55,000	\$60,000	
Engineering	2019-2020	10	\$59,924	\$70,000	\$80.000	
	2020-2021	9	\$75,000	\$85,000	\$90,000	
	2021-2022	12	\$58,500	\$77,200	\$98,750	
	2022-2023		\$75,000	\$80,000	\$90,000	
	2023-2024	16	\$71,500	\$82,000	\$110,000	
Health Sciences	2019-2020	10	\$49,000	\$54,000	\$62,000	
	2020-2021	21	\$68,000	\$55,000	\$76,000	
	2021-2022		\$62,000	\$76,800	\$100,000	
	2022-2023	67	\$60,000	\$76,086	\$95,000	
	2023-2024	54	\$60,000	\$70,000	\$77,500	
Nursing	2019-2020	44	\$53,000	\$64,000	\$94,000	
	2020-2021	34	\$57,000	\$63,200	\$89,000	
	2021-2022	36	\$63,000	\$85,500	\$110,500	
	2022-2023	48	\$70,000	\$80,000	\$102,000	

¹ Salary information omitted where N<5.



Graduate and Professional Education

Those pursuing graduate/professional school were asked to indicate the type of degree they are pursuing and the field of study of the degree. The survey also collected the names of the schools, although that information is not included within this report.

About 65% of those pursuing graduate/professional school are pursuing a Doctorate degree. The "Other" category includes degrees such as a Law (J.D.) Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S), Medical degree (M.D., D.O.), Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.), or another professional doctorate or degree or certificate.

Table 12. Degree Pursued by those Continuing Education

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	
Degree Type	(n=42)	(n=40)	(n=30)	(n=33)	(n=34)	
Master's degree	14%	23%	3%	9%	18%	
Ph.D.	81%	70%	77%	82%	65%	
Other	5%	9%	20%	9%	18%	

Students pursuing either Master's or Ph.D. degrees were asked to indicate their field of study. Master's degree data is excluded due to low headcounts. The "Other" category in the Doctorate degree category includes fields such as Doctorate of Pediatric Medicine.

Table 13. Field of Study by those Pursuing a Ph.D.

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Ph.D.	(n=34)	(n=28)	(n=23)	(n=27)	(n=22)
Analytics, Data Science					4%
Arts & Humanities	18%	18%	13%	15%	18%
Sciences	35%	36%	39%	44%	27%
Business	3%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Communication	6%	4%	4%	4%	0%
Education	6%	11%	4%	4%	9%
Engineering	21%	21%	17%	19%	27%
Other	3%	4%	17%	15%	18%

[&]quot;Analytics, Data Science" was added as a category in this section for the 2023-2024 cohort.

Seeking Employment and Planning to Continue Education

Graduates who indicated they were either seeking employment or planning to continue education were asked to comment on their job search or graduate/professional program search process. Respondents who reported that they were seeking employment and who responded to this follow-up question (n = 52) had the option to choose from a list of seven options to describe where they were in the process. All respondents who completed the "seeking employment" follow-up questions are included in the charts below, even those who indicated that they were also in another post-graduation outcome category (e.g. employed part-time and seeking employment). Respondents could check all that applied to them; therefore, the percentages across each row will not add up to 100%.

Table 14. Job Search Process Category of Graduates Seeking Employment

			Job Sea	arch Process - Se	eking Employm	ent (select all th	at apply)	Have Not Other				
Number of		Applying	Interviewing	Planning to	Taking a Gap-	Researching	Have Not	Other				
Respondents	Year	. rpprymg	Interviewing	Relocate First	Year	Jobs	Started	Other .				
15	2019-2020	60%	27%	0%	0%	30%	0%	13%				
26	2020-2021	62%	19%	4%	4%	19%	4%	8%				
32	2021-2022	59%	38%	3%	0%	34%	9%	3%				
51	2022-2023	65%	29%	4%	0%	24%	10%	2%				
52	2023-2024	63%	21%	8%	0%	19%	12%	6%				

Respondents who reported that they were planning to continue their education and who responded to this follow-up question (n = 18) had the option to choose from a list of seven options to describe where they were in the process. All respondents who completed the "planning to continue education" follow-up questions are included in the charts below, even those who indicated that they were also in another post-graduation outcome category. Respondents could check all that applied to them; therefore, the percentages across each row will not add up to 100%.

Table 15. Program Search Process Category of Graduates Planning to Continue Education

			Program Search	h Process - Plan	ning to Continue	Education (sele	ct all that apply	all that apply)				
Number of Respondents	Year	Applied & Waiting to Hear Back	Studying for Tests	Researching Programs	Taking a Gap- Year	Thinking but Not Committed	Applying	Other				
5	2019-2020	0%	20%	40%	40%	80%	40%	0%				
8	2020-2021	0%	0%	38%	0%	38%	38%	25%				
12	2021-2022	8%	8%	25%	42%	25%	25%	8%				
13	2022-2023	0%	8%	54%	46%	38%	23%	8%				
18	2023-2024	11%	0%	39%	28%	28%	39%	6%				

Discussion

Results from this annual survey are distributed to many campus constituency groups and are used to inform current and future students of first destination post-graduation outcomes.

Results from previous years and results at the undergraduate level can be found at https://www.marquette.edu/institutional-research-analysis/institutional-surveys.php.

Data collection procedures follow the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) standards and protocols for the collection of graduating student initial career outcomes information for undergraduates. Marquette's Career Services Center submits Graduate First Destination Survey outcomes data, aggregated at the major level, to NACE for inclusion in NACE's yearly report on first destination outcomes, including national hiring and continuing education trends.

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