

BRIEF: Alumni Experiences – Advanced Degrees and Employment

When a survey of the 1991 and 1994 baccalaureate alumni was conducted, several questions were asked regarding current standing and the continuation of education beyond a UB undergraduate degree.

An 88% majority of the 950 respondents are employed. Approximately 35% of all respondents have earned at least one advanced degree, and another 7% are attending school in pursuit of their first advanced degree. In addition, 12.2% (41 of the 336) who have already completed one advanced degree, are currently in school for another degree.

	No advanced degree	Working on 1 st Advanced degree	Completed at least 1 advanced degree	Total
Number	545	69	335	950
Percent	57.4 %	7.3 %	35.3 %	100%

The breakdown of baccalaureate alumni current standing within their degree status is shown below.

Current Standing	Degree Status			Total	
	No advanced degree	Working on 1 st Advanced degree	Completed at least 1 advanced degree *	N	%
Employed full-time	84.2	-	79.8	727	76.5
Home full-time	4.8	-	.3	27	2.8
Military	.7	-	.9	7	.7
Employed part-time	6.6	-	4.2	50	5.3
Employed & part-time school	-	50.0	4.8	58	6.1
Unemployed & part-time school	-	2.9	.6	4	.4
Education full-time	-	36.2	6.7	48	5.1
Unemployed but looking for job	1.5	-	2.1	15	1.6
Unemployed – not looking	.7	-	.3	5	.5

* 41 with advanced degree are currently working on another degree

Nearly 75% of the advanced degrees obtained to date have been at the masters' level. There were no differences in the gender distribution across: a) whether the alum is, or is not in school now, or b) the type of advanced degree already obtained or c) where an advanced degree was obtained.

Type of highest degree	Where obtained		Total	
	UB	Elsewhere	N	%
Masters	43.0	57.0	251	74.9
Specialist	30.8	69.2	13	3.9
Professional	35.6	64.4	59	17.6
Doctorate	33.3	66.7	12	3.6
Total N	137	198	335	
Total %	40.9	59.1		100

The percent obtaining an advanced degree at UB within each degree area is shown below in descending order of the percent staying here for their advanced education. For those alumni with an advanced degree, over 40% went on to school at UB. Within the area of Health, nearly 78% of the persons who obtained an advanced degree did so at UB. Just over half of those who went on for an advanced degree in Math and Science also did so here.

Undergraduate Degree Area	Percent Obtaining Highest Advanced Degree at UB	Percent Currently Working in Undergraduate Degree Area
Health	77.8	94.3
Math & Science	51.6	23.3
Business	46.4	70.4
Architecture & Environment	41.7	91.7
Engineering & CIS	40.0	70.8
Arts & Letters	28.0	26.1
Social Science	26.9	67.3
Other	50.0	16.7
Overall	40.9	63.1

Over 60% of the alumni overall are currently working in the same general area as their undergraduate degree ($r=.586$). Math & Science, and Arts & Letters are major exceptions; both with approximately 75% working in other fields. Not surprisingly, given the specialty of the two areas, Health, and Architecture have the greatest percentages of alumni employed in the same field as their undergraduate degree.