

BRIEF: Profiles of Graduating Seniors (2007 - 2009)

This brief presents profiles of UB graduates based on results from the *Senior Exit Survey*, administered every semester. Data used here are from spring 2007, spring 2008, and spring 2009 respondents. Among the 2007 graduates (2617), 914 completed the survey (34.9%). Since 2007 respondents are more likely to be female and to graduate with higher grades but are less likely to be under-represented minorities as compared to all spring 2007 graduates, survey data are weighted according to these three variables to better approximate the responses of all graduates. Of the 2,525 spring 2008 graduates, 810 completed the survey (32.1%), and survey data are weighted by gender and grades. Of the 2,731 spring 2009 graduates, 512 completed the survey (18.7%). As compared to all spring 2009 graduates, respondents are more likely to be female (59.4% vs. 50.3%), more likely to have entered the university at first-time freshmen (66.6% vs. 62.8%) and to have better grades (3.25 vs. 3.10). Thus, 2009 survey data are weighted according to these three variables. Table 1 displays their demographic and educational characteristics.

Table 1: Demographic and Educational Characteristics of UB Graduates

Characteristic	2007	2008	2009
Average Age	23	22	23
U.S. Citizenship (%)	88.5	91.2	91.6
Geographic Region of Origin			
Western New York (%)	45.4	45.3	46.6
Other New York (%)	52.0	51.6	46.9
Out of State (%)	2.7	3.2	6.3
Race/Ethnicity			
White (%)	65.8	71.1	70.9
African American (%)	7.3	4.9	7.1
Asian/Pacific Islander (%)	8.0	9.3	7.3
Hispanic or Puerto Rican (%)	4.1	2.6	2.1
Native American (%)	0.5	0.7	0.1
Other/Unknown (%)	14.3	11.5	12.5
School/College of Primary Major			
Architecture and Planning (%)	2.8	4.0	1.4
Arts and Sciences (%)	55.8	50.1	51.5
Engineering and Applied Sciences (%)	16.0	13.0	16.5
Management (%)	15.2	17.6	17.7
Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (%)	4.6	5.8	6.0
Nursing (%)	2.1	3.8	4.7
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (%)	0.3	0.2	0.0
Public Health (%)	2.4	3.1	2.2
Combined Degree Programs/Other (%)	0.8	2.5	0.0
UB Status			
Entered UB as Freshmen	69.1	66.9	61.5
Educational Opportunity Program (%)	3.5	3.3	3.1
Honors Student (%)	25.5	26.9	27.6
Average Credit Hours Completed at UB	115.0	116.0	113.0
Average Cumulative UB QPA	3.17	3.16	3.21

Time Allocation and Engagement During Enrollment at UB

Figure 1 displays activities which occupied students more than 16 hours per week during their last year of enrollment. Many students continue to devote more time to working than to studying, but the percentage of students working 16 or more hours per week decreased among 2009 graduates. Table 3 shows undergraduate career participation rates for graduates for a variety of activities thought to be indicators of student engagement.

Figure 1. Percentage of Students Spending 16 or More Hours Per Week in Various Activities.

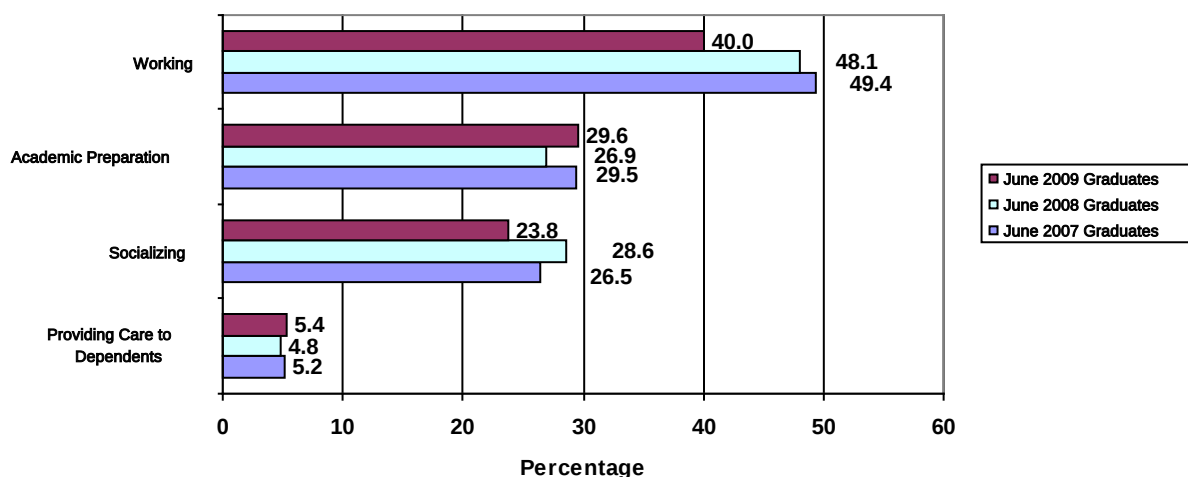


Table 3: Percentage of Students Ever Participating in Engaging Activities

Engaging Activities	2007	2008	2009
Academic Activities			
Asked questions in class	94.4	91.6	90.9
Bored in class	90.6	97.8	97.8
Came late to class	72.3	72.3	70.4
Completed independent study	33.8	26.7	29.5
Contributed to class discussion	95.3	94.9	95.3
Discussed ideas from readings or classes outside of class	94.0	94.3	90.9
Failed to complete homework on time	55.6	48.4	45.8
Missed class due to employment	40.3	30.9	23.4
Participated in international educational experience	9.7	9.0	11.5
Served as a subject in research project	67.5	66.7	63.0
Skipped class	85.5	85.9	81.3
Spent significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	88.1	98.3	99.0
Thought critically	98.3	99.8	99.2
Tutored another student	62.8	55.0	55.6
Was a guest in a faculty member's home	29.5	21.5	20.1
Worked harder than believed possible to meet instructor's expectations	91.0	92.1	94.8
Worked on research project with faculty member outside of class	19.9	24.5	24.7
Non-Academic Activities			
Attended Campus Activities and Events	89.1	93.7	92.6
Participated in Extracurricular Activities/Student Organizations	81.9	79.4	80.8
Performed Community Service or Volunteered	78.0	74.6	73.1
Socialized with Someone from Another Racial/Ethnic Group	85.9	97.7	98.2

Life After UB: Future Plans

Graduates' responses to items assessing their future plans are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Existing Loan Debt and Future Plans

	2007	2008	2009
Living Location after Graduation			
In New York	69.8	73.7	69.7
In the US outside of New York	24.1	22.5	26.9
Outside of the US	6.1	3.7	3.5
Educational Loan Debt			
Leaving UB with Educational Debt	72.4	71.5	70.8
Median Amount of Debt	\$15,000-19,999	\$15,000-19,999	\$15,000-19,999
Post Graduation Plans			
Have Secured or Seeking Employment	53.4	54.3	52.3
Continuing Education	31.8	37.8	41.0
Median Expected Starting Salary	\$30,000-39,999	\$30,000-39,999	\$40,000-49,999

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