



BOSTON COLLEGE POST-GRADUATION PLANS SURVEY CLASS OF 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Boston College Post-Graduation Plans Survey is to track recent graduates' future plans via topics such as their primary activity six months post-graduation, employment industries, the timing of offers and starting salary information, graduate school enrollment by program, degree, and institution, and the organizations through which recent graduates engage in fellowships and service work.

Serving as partners in this data collection effort, the Career Center and Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment have utilized a variety of resources to supplement information gathered via the traditional survey administration process, resulting in a set of information collected from graduating seniors that provides valuable data for faculty, administrators, and employers to better serve students in their career-planning activities. The survey administration process, and methods in which the data are reported, both conform to the guidelines put forth by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the leading resource for information on post-graduation plans, hiring forecasts, job market trends and employment-related best practices and benchmarks.

Survey administration and data collection

- The survey was administered online from April 2017 through December 2017 to all members of the undergraduate Class of 2017 and yielded a 51% response rate.
- Data from LinkedIn, The National Student Clearinghouse, and internal Boston College sources (e.g., exit survey data from Athletics, the schools of Education and Management, University Advancement) were compiled to supplement survey data, yielding an additional 29%.
- Input was collected for 1,797 students (a 79.6% knowledge rate).

Survey highlights

- As has been the trend for the past 10 years, more than 9 out of 10 members of the Class of 2017 (96%) indicated that they are employed, attending graduate school, engaging in service/volunteering, or participating in a fellowship.
- The median salary reported by members of the Class of 2017 is \$55,000 with the middle 50% of students reporting salaries between \$44,000 and \$67,000.

- A broad range of industries is represented for those respondents who are employed, and includes areas such as financial services, healthcare, consulting and management, technology, communication and media, retail, law and public policy, education, accounting, entertainment, social services, and transportation. The top industries represented across BC are: Financial Services & Real Estate (22.3%); Healthcare, Life & Physical Sciences, Environment (16.0%); and Business Services, Consulting, Management (12.3%).
- While a majority of 2017 graduates remain in the Northeast (77.0%), graduates do move to all regions of the United States (in 42 states), as well as 32 countries outside of the U.S. including: Australia, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Great Britain, Honduras, India, Japan, Mozambique, Peru, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, and Uganda.
- More than 7 in 10 (71.0%) graduates used a Boston College career resource to secure their employment. Top resources utilized include: EagleLink on-campus interviews (44.1%), career fairs at BC (40.1%), networking through BC (40.1%) and networking beyond BC (42.5%).
- Being “interested in the field” was the most-often cited factor (61.7%) influencing post-graduate plans. Likely contributors to the planning process were students’ experiences while at BC, which included interning (86.7%), volunteering (83.5%), working on campus (67.0%), and studying abroad (63.9%).
- One-fifth (20.1%) of graduates indicated that they are pursuing a graduate degree as their primary activity after graduation. Of those attending graduate school, more than half (61.5%) are pursuing Master’s degrees and 14.3% are pursuing Doctorates.
- Out of graduates pursuing a graduate degree, the top areas of study are: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) (19.6%), Education (17.7%), Law (14.6%), Medicine (9.9%), and Business (9.6%).
- For those students who are volunteering after their graduation from BC, over a third (41.8%) are serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Class of 2017 graduates are also volunteering with a host of other service organizations, both domestic and international.
- Trends since 2013 demonstrate an *increase* in the number of students pursuing employment after graduation. That is, for the Class of 2013, 66.9% reported employment after graduation versus 72.6% for the Class of 2017.