

BOSTON COLLEGE  
POST-GRADUATION PLANS SURVEY  
CLASS OF 2011



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## BOSTON COLLEGE POST-GRADUATION PLANS SURVEY CLASS OF 2011

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### 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, top career fields, the timing of offers and starting salary information, graduate school enrollment by program, degree, and institution, and the organizations where recent graduates choose to volunteer, among other areas. The information collected from graduating seniors provides valuable data for faculty, administrators, and employers to better serve students in their career-planning activities.

#### *Survey administration*

- Administered March 2011 through November 2011 to all members of the undergraduate Class of 2011
- Online administration
- 1,061 respondents (48.5% response rate)

#### *Survey highlights*

- Approximately 93% of those responding to the Class of 2011 Post-Graduation Plans Survey indicate that they plan to work full-time, attend graduate school full-time, volunteer full-time, or engage in a fellowship or post-graduation internship.
- The median salary reported by members of the Class of 2011 is \$54,000 with the middle 50% of students reporting salaries between \$42,000 and \$60,000.
- Of those respondents who have accepted a full-time job offer, half are employed in one of the following fields: Teaching, Consulting, Accounting (Public), Investment Banking, Finance, Auditing (Public).
- Almost one-fifth (18.9%) of survey respondents indicate that they are/will be pursuing a graduate degree full-time; another 1.7% are enrolled in part-time graduate study.
- Among recent graduates pursuing advanced degrees, close to one-quarter (23.8%) are pursuing education degrees and another quarter (24.7%) are pursuing law degrees.

## RESPONSE RATES BY SCHOOL

The online administration of the survey generated responses from approximately half of the Class of 2011; the Lynch School of Education (LSOE) had the highest response rate (54%) followed by the Carroll School of Management (CSOM) with a 52% response rate.

School	Number surveyed	Number of respondents	Response rate
College of Arts & Sciences (A&S)	1461	685	46.9%
Carroll School of Management (CSOM)	496	259	52.2%
Connell School of Nursing (CSON)	88	39	44.3%
Lynch School of Education (LSOE)	144	78	54.2%
<b>Total</b>	2,189	1,061	48.5%

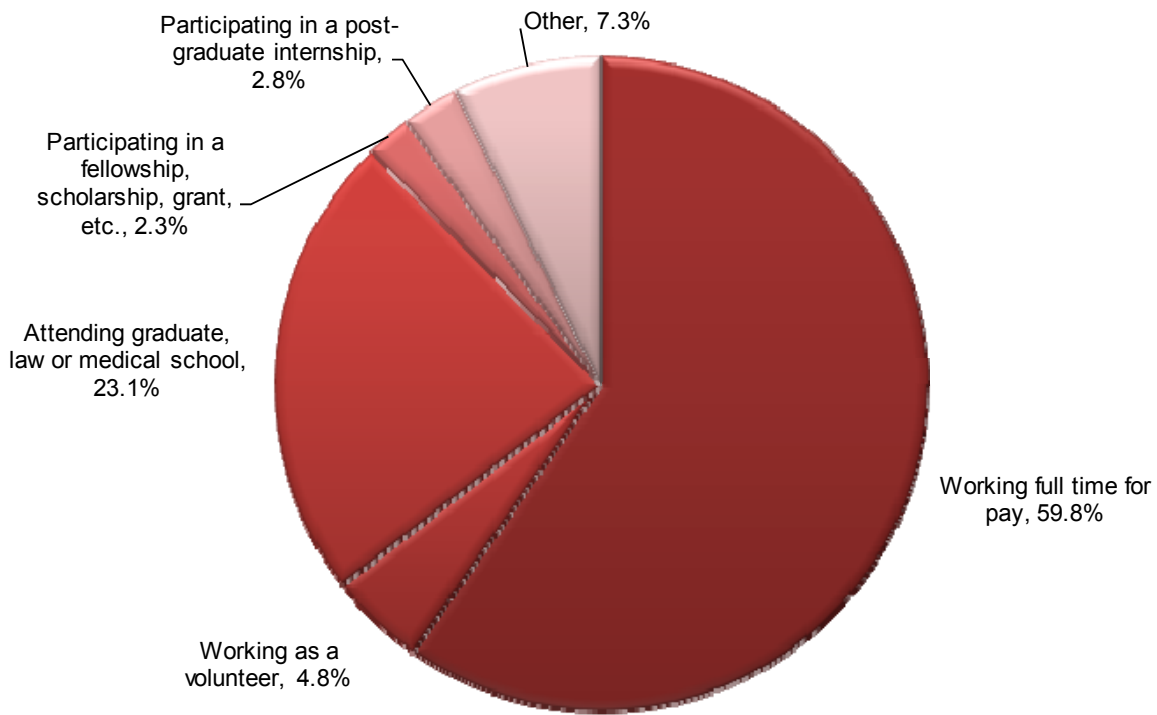
## PRIMARY ACTIVITY SIX MONTHS POST GRADUATION

Over 90% of those responding to the Class of 2011 Post-Graduation Plans Survey indicate that they plan to work full-time, attend graduate school, volunteer, or engage in a fellowship or post-graduation internship; the distribution of post-graduation status, however, varies substantially among schools. A total of 59.8% of respondents report that they plan to work full-time. CSOM graduates are the most likely to be working for pay (86.1%), followed by CSON graduates (82.1%). More than one-quarter of A&S and nearly half of LSOE graduates are attending graduate school and more than 5% of both A&S and LSOE graduates report that they are volunteering.

### Class of 2011, Primary activity

Activity	A&S	CSOM	CSON	LSOE	All Schools
Working full-time for pay	52.0%	86.1%	82.1%	29.5%	59.8%
Attending graduate, law, or medical school	27.2%	6.6%	12.8%	47.4%	23.1%
Working as a volunteer	5.8%	0.8%	-	11.5%	4.8%
Participating in a post-graduate internship	3.2%	1.9%	-	3.8%	2.8%
Participating in a fellowship, research grant, etc.	3.2%	0.4%	-	1.3%	2.3%
Other	8.6%	4.2%	5.1%	6.4%	7.3%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Primary activity of Class of 2011 graduates six months post graduation**



**Trends, Primary activity**

The percent of graduates reporting they plan to work full-time has increased from the previous two years, but is still less than 2008 levels. The percent planning to attend graduate school decreased from last year's high, but is still higher than 2008 levels.

Activity	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Working full-time for pay	66.6%	64.5%	58.7%	55.9%	59.8%
Attending graduate, law, or medical school	17.8%	22.1%	24.5%	28.1%	23.1%
Working as a volunteer	5.5%	5.2%	5.3%	6.6%	4.8%
Participating in a fellowship, research grant, etc.	1.4%	1.3%	3.1%	1.9%	2.3%
Internship/Other	8.6%	6.9%	8.4%	7.4%	10.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## TOP TEN CAREER FIELDS

Topping the list of career fields reported by 2011 graduates are consulting and teaching (12.4% and 9.8% of respondents who reported their field of employment, respectively).

### Class of 2011, Top ten career fields

Employment field	Total number reporting (N=378)	Percent of total # reporting
Consulting	47	12.4%
Teaching	37	9.8%
Accounting (Public)	24	6.3%
Investment Banking (Corporate Finance)	22	5.8%
Finance - Portfolio Management/Brokerage	21	5.6%
Financial/Treasury Analysis	20	5.3%
Auditing (Public)	18	4.8%
Investment Banking (Mergers and Acquisitions)	17	4.5%
Marketing – Sales	16	4.2%
Research (Technical/Scientific)	15	4.0%

## TOP EMPLOYERS

With regard to the companies and organizations hiring the greatest number of recent BC graduates, there is representation across a variety of employers, although those in the fields of accounting, financial services, and nursing, along with Teach for America, dominate the list of top employers.

### Class of 2011, Top employers (all companies/organizations employing at least four graduates are listed)

Employer	Total # employed	Employer	Total # employed
Teach for America	26	Georgetown University Hospital	5
Deloitte Consulting	19	Bank of America	4
Ernst and Young	15	Charles River Associates	4
PricewaterhouseCoopers	15	Google	4
Barclays Capital	14	Massachusetts General Hospital	4
Citigroup	14	Morgan Stanley Smith Barney	4
JPMorgan Chase	12	UBS Investment Bank	4
KPMG	10		

## TIMING OF EMPLOYMENT OFFERS

Among students who have received an offer of employment, the majority of full-time employed respondents had secured their positions prior to graduation; however, there was variation in the timing of offers across the colleges. (Note: "Employment field" labels are supplied by the National Association of Colleges & Employers.)

### Class of 2011, Timing of employment offers by school

Time Period	A&S	CSOM	CSON	LSOE	All Schools
Prior to senior year	12.0%	29.9%	7.1%	-	19.5%
First semester senior year	20.6%	39.7%	-	15.4%	28.4%
Second semester senior year	55.0%	27.3%	78.6%	53.8%	43.3%
Summer following senior year	10.5%	2.6%	14.3%	23.1%	7.4%
Fall following senior year	1.9%	0.5%	-	7.7%	1.4%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

### Class of 2011, Timing of employment offers prior to graduation by field of employment

Employment field	Prior to Senior Year	First Semester Senior Year	Second Semester Senior Year
Accounting/Auditing (Private) (N=4)	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%
Accounting/Auditing (Public) (N=42)	45.2%	47.6%	7.1%
Commercial Banking (N=6)	0.0%	83.3%	16.7%
Communications (N=14)	7.1%	-	57.1%
Computer Science (N=12)	8.3%	58.3%	33.3%
Consulting (N=46)	13.0%	63.0%	21.7%
Finance (Other) (N=44)	25.0%	36.4%	31.8%
Healthcare (Other) (N=5)	20.0%	-	60.0%
Human Resources (N=5)	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%
Investment Banking (N=55)	47.3%	43.6%	9.1%
Management (Trainee or General) (N=10)	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%
Marketing (N=37)	2.7%	8.1%	75.7%
Paralegal (N=14)	-	-	64.3%
Public Administration (N=8)	37.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Registered Nurse (N=12)	8.3%	-	75.0%
Research (N=18)	5.6%	5.6%	77.8%
Social Services (N=2)	-	-	50.0%
Teaching (N=37)	-	10.8%	83.8%
Other (N=4)	-	25.0%	50.0%

## PRIMARY RESOURCES USED TO OBTAIN CURRENT POSITION

Nearly half (47.8%) of the respondents who are working full-time indicated that they found their position through on-campus interviewing or other Career Center programs. This has increased slightly over the past three years: from 2008 to 2010 between 35-40% found their positions in that manner. The percent who noted networking or internships as the primary source declined from around 35% over the previous three years, to 27.5% in 2011.

### Class of 2011, Primary resources used to obtain current position

Resources	A&S	CSOM	CSON	LSOE	All Schools
EagleLink on-campus interviews	22.4%	51.4%	-	-	34.7%
Other EagleLink listings	6.3%	9.0%	-	8.3%	7.5%
Listings linked through Career Center website	2.3%	1.1%	-	-	1.6%
Other job listings (e.g., Internet, print)	17.8%	4.5%	25.0%	16.7%	11.7%
Career fair at BC	3.4%	1.1%	41.7%	-	3.5%
Career fair outside of BC	1.1%	-	-	-	0.5%
Career Center program	1.1%	-	-	-	0.5%
Networking	15.5%	13.6%	8.3%	41.7%	15.2%
Internship	11.5%	13.6%	-	16.7%	12.3%
Family business	1.1%	0.6%	-	-	0.8%
Employment agency	1.1%	-	-	8.3%	0.8%
Other	16.1%	5.1%	25.0%	8.3%	10.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Class of 2011, Primary resources used to obtain current position by field of employment

Employment field	N	EagleLink on-campus interviews	Networking	Internship	Other Career Center/ Eagle Link Program	Other job listings (e.g., print, Internet)	Other
Accounting/Auditing (Private)	4	50.0%	-	25.0%	-	25.0%	-
Accounting/Auditing (Public)	42	52.4%	14.3%	26.2%	4.8%	-	2.4%
Commercial Banking	5	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%	-	-	-
Communications	14	-	28.6%	14.3%	14.3%	35.7%	7.1%
Computer Science	12	41.7%	16.7%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	16.7%
Consulting	47	66.0%	6.4%	10.6%	14.9%	-	2.1%
Finance (Other)	44	47.7%	11.4%	11.4%	15.9%	9.1%	4.5%
Healthcare (Other)	5	-	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Human Resources	5	40.0%	40.0%	-	20.0%	-	-
Investment Banking	54	61.1%	3.7%	16.7%	9.3%	3.7%	5.6%
Management (Training/General)	10	10.0%	20.0%	20.0%	-	10.0%	40.0%
Marketing	37	8.1%	37.8%	10.8%	21.6%	5.4%	16.2%
Paralegal	13	30.8%	15.4%	-	15.4%	30.8%	7.7%
Public Administration	8	12.5%	12.5%	-	-	50.0%	25.0%
Registered Nurse	12	-	8.3%	-	41.7%	25.0%	25.0%
Research	18	5.6%	16.7%	5.6%	-	44.4%	27.8%
Social Services	3	-	33.3%	33.3%	-	-	33.3%
Teaching	37	2.7%	18.9%	-	18.9%	16.2%	43.2%
Other	4	25.0%	-	-	25.0%	50.0%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>34.8%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>

## MEDIAN STARTING SALARIES BY SCHOOL

Salary information was provided by 342 students. Reported salaries ranged from \$42,000 at the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile to \$60,000 at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, with a median salary for all responding students of \$54,000. The median increased slightly from last year (\$50,000).

### Class of 2011, Starting salaries by school

Salary Range	A&S	CSOM	CSON	LSOE	All Schools
Number reporting	150	171	10	11	342
Median salary	\$45,000	\$56,000	\$50,500	\$36,500	\$54,000
25th percentile of range	\$35,000	\$53,000	\$47,750	\$31,000	\$42,000
75th percentile of range	\$55,000	\$69,000	\$60,000	\$45,000	\$60,000



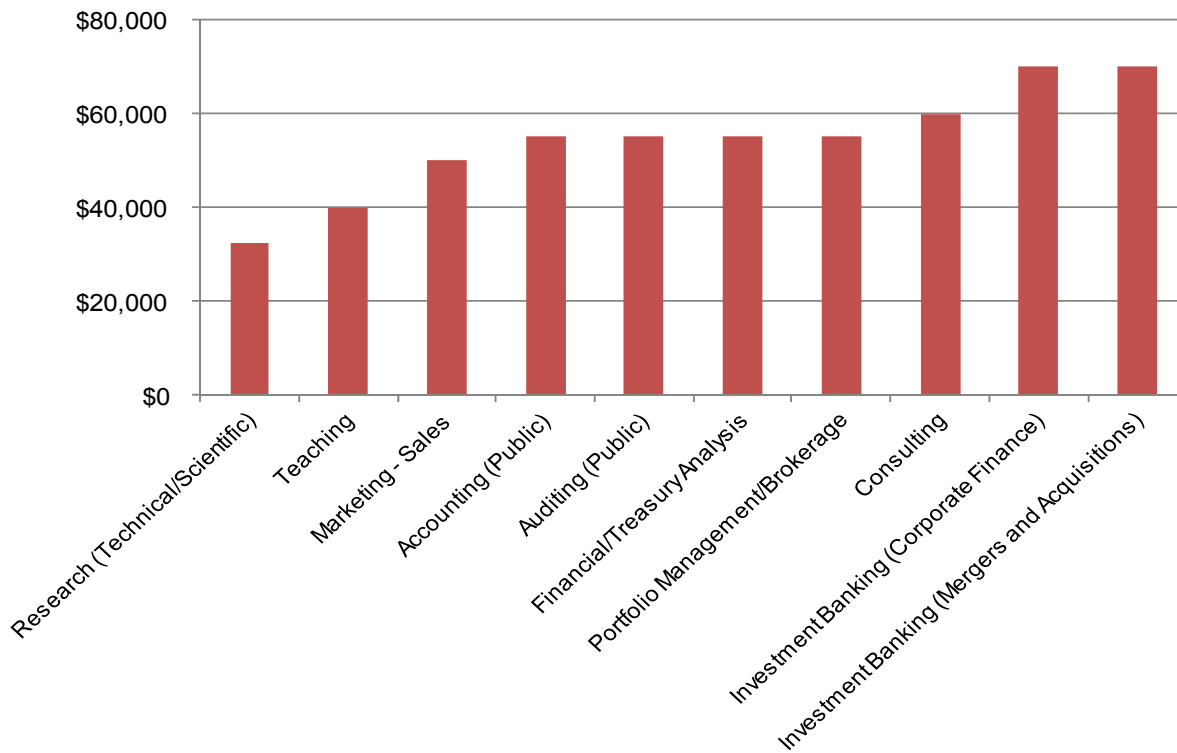
## MEDIAN STARTING SALARIES BY FIELD

Among the top career fields by number of survey respondents employed, the highest median starting salaries are in the fields of investment banking and consulting. Research (Technical/Scientific) had the lowest median starting salary of the group at \$32,250.

### Class of 2011, Median salaries by top ten fields of employment

Employment field	Number reporting	Median salary	Salary range
Investment Banking (Mergers and Acquisitions)	16	\$70,000	\$50,000 - \$125,000
Investment Banking (Corporate Finance)	20	\$70,000	\$32,000 - \$75,000
Consulting	43	\$60,000	\$38,000 - \$72,080
Accounting (Public)	24	\$55,000	\$52,000 - \$62,000
Auditing (Public)	18	\$55,000	\$52,000 - \$59,000
Financial/Treasury Analysis	19	\$55,000	\$42,000 - \$65,000
Portfolio Management/Brokerage	19	\$55,000	\$40,000 - \$70,000
Marketing - Sales	12	\$50,000	\$30,000 - \$100,000
Teaching	33	\$40,000	\$12,000 - \$53,890
Research (Technical/Scientific)	12	\$32,250	\$26,000 - \$55,000

### Median salaries by top ten fields of employment



**Class of 2011, Reported starting salaries by field of employment**

Employment field/job type	N	Average	Minimum	Maximum
<b>Finance</b>				
Accounting (Private)*	3			
Accounting (Public)	24	\$55,000	\$52,000	\$62,000
Auditing (Private)*	1			
Auditing (Public)	18	55,000	52,000	59,000
Commercial Banking (Consumer)*	1			
Commercial Banking (Lending)*	4			
Consulting	43	60,000	38,000	72,080
Financial/Treasury Analysis	19	55,000	42,000	65,000
Insurance (Claims)*	3			
Insurance (Underwriting)*	1			
Investment Banking (Corp Finance)	20	70,000	32,000	75,000
Investment Banking (Mergers & Acquisitions)	16	70,000	50,000	125,000
Investment Banking (Real Estate)*	3			
Investment Banking (Sales & Trading)	11	70,000	50,000	70,000
Management Trainee (Entry-Level)	6	43,500	13,000	55,000
Management, General (Mid to Upper Level)*	2			
Portfolio Management/Brokerage	19	55,000	40,000	70,000
<b>Public Administration</b>				
Executive, Legislative & General*	3			
Law Enforcement*	1			
Military*	3			
Urban/Regional Planning*	1			
<b>Computer Science</b>				
Computer Programming*	2			
Computer Systems Analysis*	3			
Technical/Computer Support*	4			
Other Computer Related*	3			
<b>Social Services</b>				
Social Work*	2			
<b>Healthcare</b>				
Administrative (Healthcare)*	1			
Registered Nurse	10	50,500	36,500	60,000
Other Health Related*	2			

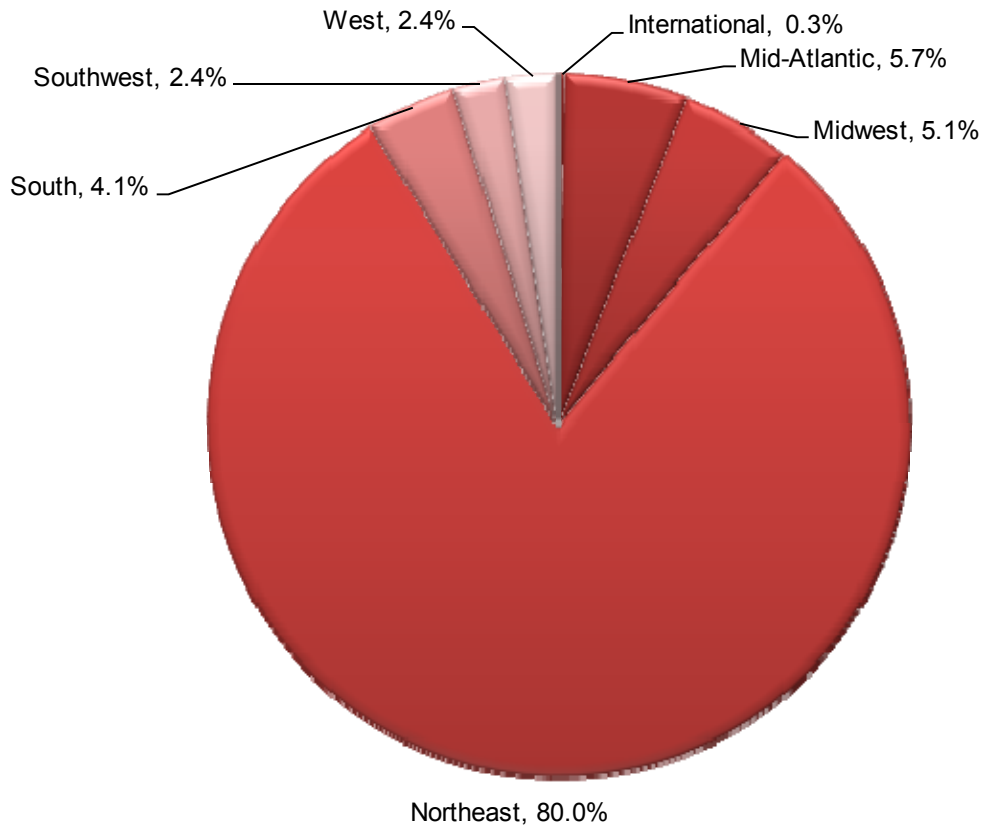
\* Salary data are only presented for fields with more than five cases.

Employment field/job type	N	Average	Minimum	Maximum
<b>Marketing</b>				
Advertising	7	\$47,000	\$35,000	\$50,000
Brand/Product Management*	4			
Buyer/Merchandising*	1			
Customer Service*	3			
Distribution*	1			
Marketing Research*	4			
Sales	12	50,000	30,000	100,000
<b>Communications</b>				
Media Planning*	1			
Production (Communications)*	4			
Public Relations	6	35,000	30,000	45,000
Writing/Editing*	1			
<b>Other</b>				
Actuarial*	2			
Human Resources/Industrial Relations*	5	50,000	45,000	60,000
Mathematician/Statistician*	1			
Paralegal	12	40,000	30,500	45,000
Religious Occupation*	1			
Research (Nontechnical)*	3			
Research (Technical/Scientific)	12	32,250	26,000	55,000
Teaching	33	40,000	12,000	53,890

\*Salary data are only presented for fields with more than five cases.

## GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF EMPLOYED GRADUATES

While the majority of survey respondents noted employment in the Northeast, all areas of the United States were cited; the only international destination represented was the Bahamas. This geographic distribution has remained fairly constant for the past four years.



## GRADUATE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM/DEGREE TYPE

Almost one-fifth (18.9%) of the survey's respondents indicated that they are currently pursuing graduate degrees full-time; another 1.7% are enrolled part-time. Of the respondents reporting a degree program, almost one quarter are pursuing education degrees (23.8%) and another quarter are pursuing law degrees (24.7%).

### Class of 2011, Distribution of graduate program enrollments

Graduate Degrees	Number reporting	Percent of respondents
<b>Master's Degrees</b>		
Education (M.A., M.A.T., M.Ed.)	53	23.8%
Humanities or Social Sciences (M.A., Other)	18	8.1%
Natural/Applied Science or Math (M.A., M.S.)	12	5.4%
Fine and Performing Arts (M.A., M.F.A.)	3	1.3%
Business (M.S., M.B.A.)	16	7.2%
Health, Policy, or Planning (M.P.H., M.P.P., M.P.A)	5	2.2%
Social Work (M.S.W.)	4	1.8%
Communications (M.A., M.S.)	6	2.7%
Counseling (M.A.)	4	1.8%
Nursing (M.S.)	2	0.9%
Other Master's (M.A., P.A.)	3	1.3%
<b>Ph.D.</b>		
Humanities or Social Sciences	7	3.1%
Sciences or Math	5	2.2%
Applied Doctorates (D.P.T., Pharm.D., Other)	4	1.8%
<b>J.D.</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>24.7%</b>
<b>M.D.</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8.5%</b>
<b>D.D.S./D.M.D.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>D.V.M.</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Students in joint degree programs are listed by the highest degree they are planning to obtain.

## GRADUATE SCHOOLS OF ATTENDANCE

The array of institutions attended by Class of 2011 graduates varies by the degree and field of study pursued. Listed below is a sample of the graduate schools currently being attended by members of the Class of 2011, by primary field of study (number of students enrolled is included in parentheses). (Note: these data are self-reported by survey respondents – they are not supplied by the institution. Enrollment numbers include full- and part-time students.)

### Sample of graduate schools of attendance by the Class of 2011

#### Law

Boston College Law School (5)  
Boston University School of Law (5)  
Suffolk University Law School (4)  
Columbia University (3)  
Northeastern University (3)

#### Education

Boston College (35)  
Columbia University (3)  
Northwestern University (2)  
Brown University (1)  
Tufts University (1)

#### Social Sciences

Boston College (1)  
Boston University (1)  
CUNY Graduate Center (1)  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1)

#### Humanities

Boston College (5)  
Courtauld Institute (1)  
Harvard University (1)  
University of Edinburgh (1)

#### Medicine

Tufts University School of Medicine (5)  
Boston University (1)  
Indiana University (1)  
University of Massachusetts (1)  
University of California – Los Angeles (1)

#### Natural and Applied Sciences

Tufts University (4)  
Columbia University (1)  
Cornell University (1)  
University of Pennsylvania (1)  
University of Rhode Island (1)

#### Social Work

Boston College (3)  
Columbia University (1)

#### Business

Boston College (10)  
New York University (2)  
St. John's University (1)  
University of Miami (1)

## VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

Comparable to the results for the Class of 2010, 4.8% of Class of 2011 members indicated that they are volunteering full-time post their Boston College graduation. While volunteer sites were both domestic and international, the highest proportion of students are volunteering with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in such cities as Anchorage, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia.

### Class of 2011, Organizations for which graduates are volunteering full-time

Organization	Number reporting	Percent of respondents
Jesuit Volunteer Corps	10	31.3%
Peace Corps	4	12.5%
Rostro de Cristo	3	9.4%
City Year	2	6.3%
Amate House	1	3.1%
Blue Engine	1	3.1%
Colorado Vincentian Volunteers	1	3.1%
El Centro de la Raza	1	3.1%
Holy Wisdom Academy	1	3.1%
LU - CHOICE	1	3.1%
Marquette University High School	1	3.1%
Maryknoll Brothers and Sisters	1	3.1%
Open Door Mission Fndtn. for Rehabilitation	1	3.1%
Operation Breakthrough	1	3.1%
University of Detroit Jesuit High School	1	3.1%
Working Boys Center	1	3.1%
World Teach	1	3.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>

## INTERNSHIPS

Nineteen members of the Class of 2011 reported that they have secured post-graduation internships. The internships range in duration from one season to one year.

### Class of 2011, Internship duration

Time Frame	Number reporting	Percent of respondents
3 months	9	47.4%
4 months	2	10.5%
6 months	2	10.5%
1 academic year	3	15.8%
1 calendar year	1	5.3%
Unknown	2	10.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Class of 2011, Organizations where graduates are interning for at least six months

Organization	Number reporting
Colleges of the Fenway	1
Jesuit High School, Portland, OR	1
Merrill Corporation	1
New York Yankees	1
PlumChoice, Inc.	1
USA Hockey	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>



## FELLOWSHIPS

Of the survey respondents from the Class of 2011, 20 reported that they have been accepted into a fellowship program. The following table lists the fellowship programs to which graduates have been accepted. The Fulbright Fellowship was the most frequently cited fellowship program.

### Class of 2011, Fellowship participation

Program	Number reporting
Fulbright Fellowship	6
Arizona Republic	1
CDS International	1
DC Teaching Fellows/New Teacher Project	1
DIRECTV	1
NYC Department of Education	1
Oglethorpe University and Gray Matters Capital	1
Spanish Ministry of Education	1
The John Jay Institute	1
U.S. Department of State	1
United for Sight	1
University in Vietnam	1
University of Warsaw	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

## CONCLUSION

Between 2007 and 2010 there was a slight upward trend in the percent of Boston College graduates who planned to enroll in graduate school, and a slight downward trend in the percent who planned to work full-time. The results for the Class of 2011 did not follow this trend, and the percent planning to attend graduate school was five percentage points lower than for the Class of 2010. It will be interesting to monitor the results for future classes to assess whether this change was specific to the Class of 2011, or whether it marks the beginning of a new trend.