Focus on Alumni and Outcomes

This newsletter highlights important findings and trends of Graduate Center doctoral and master’s graduates, based on surveys and other publicly available external data. Check our website for more detail on specific survey reports, our alumni career outcomes dashboards, and to see what’s new. Contact us at institutionalresearch@gc.cuny.edu to find out how we can help with your data needs and for program specific information.

Doctoral Graduate Outcomes

At the time of graduation, based on findings from five years of aggregated GC data from NSF’s Survey of Earned Doctorates:

- From 2014–2019, at the time of graduation, 71% of GC graduates secured work (postdoc=19%; non-postdoc employment=52%). 29% of graduates were still seeking employment.
- International graduates are the most likely to have already begun work at the time of graduation; Asian American graduates more than others are still seeking employment (37%).
- In 2019, compared to peer institutions (Carnegie classification of Highest Research Activity), fewer GC graduates reported they were still seeking employment at the time of graduation (22% vs. 27% for graduates at peer institutions).

Master’s Graduate Outcomes

At the time of graduation, based on a report documenting four years of aggregated findings from the Master’s Exit Survey,

- 72% of master’s graduates were employed at the time of their graduation (41% FT; 31% PT). As to career plans, 33% plan to continue in their current job, 29% are seeking new work, and 29% plan to pursue additional studies.
- For those with work at the time of graduation, 39% are/will be working in education/training. Other job sectors reported include IT/software development, editorial/writing, administrative/clerical, and project/program management.
- 98% of master’s graduates feel completing their master’s degree was worthwhile.

Doctoral Salary Outcomes

OIRE recently analyzed data from the Census Bureau’s PSEO Dashboard and the CUNY Wage Dashboard.

- OIRE published a brief on doctoral outcomes post-graduation, which provides detailed information on employment rate, location, industry, and salary by field.
- The figure on the right shows how doctoral alumni compare to CUNY bachelor’s degree undergraduate alumni salaries. Median doctoral alumni salaries stay stable at $25,000 higher than CUNY undergraduate alumni salaries for at least 10 years after graduation.
- Overall, median doctoral alumni salaries increase by $30,000 over the first 10 years after graduation.