

Career Services at Virginia Tech

Post-Graduation Report 2009-2010 Executive Summary

Author: Catherine Copeland

2009-2010 grads: Who was surveyed and responded, and when:

- WHO: All bachelor's and associate's degree grads (N=5,331) completing in academic year 2009-2010 (Dec. 09 + May and summer 10) (based on Application For Degree [AFD] records with the office of the University Registrar) were surveyed. Response N=3,367; rate=63% (69% in 08-09 & 07-08).
- WHEN: Survey is open for six months after commencement for each sub-cohort (Dec | May+sum). Respondents whose plans are not firm have opportunities to update responses.
- DEFINITION: All stats refer to respondents, so "grads" or "graduates" refer to responding graduates.
- UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE / MAJOR DATA: Stats are for whole university, unless noted. Full report is online where stats can be viewed by college and by major. Reports are in the same format, and thus comparable, for seven classes of grads of academic years 2003-2004 through 2009-2010.

2009-2010 percentages with firm plans by university and colleges:

Who	Continuing education	Employed	Total continuing education or employed
Total university	27	49	76
AGRI	45	35	80
ARCH	13	52	65
BUS	12	67	79
ENGR	19	60	79
LAHS	31	42	73
NR	22	45	67
SCI	45	30	75

2009-2010 grads continuing education: 27%, up 1 point from prior yr.; up 5 points over 7 yrs.

- **Trending upward:** 27% is up one point over past two years: 08-09 and 07-08 both 26%. **Climb of five percentage points over seven years;** up from 22% in both 03-04 and 04-05.
- Of those continuing education, **type of degree remains steady:** most, **61%, pursuing a master's degree** (08-09=63%); **14% M.D. and other medical** (up from 11% in 08-09); **7% law** (same as 08-09); 6% another bachelor's degree (same in 08-09); **6% Ph.D.** (7% in 08-09); **3% D.V.M.** (same as 08-09); 1% other, including associate's degree.
- **For seven years, College of Science grads and College of Agriculture & Life Sciences grads continued education at the highest percentages (both 45% for 09-10)**, followed by College of LAHS grads (31% for 09-10).
- **College of Architecture & Urban Studies grads and College of Business grads continue education at the lowest percentages** (13%, 12% for 09-10 & 08-09; highest percentages for the seven years).

2009-2010 grads employment: 49%, down 1 percentage point from 08-09

- Percent of grads employed or with job offer: 09-10=49% 08-09=50%; lowest since 03-04 (48%); and down from peak levels in 07-08 and 06-07 (both 59%).
- "Plan to seek employment, but haven't yet started": 2% (3% for 08-09; 2% or 3% for prior years).
- Total still seeking / looking at options: 21%; down from 25% in 08-09 (which was highest point in seven years). Prior peak 03-04 (22%). Seven-year low of 14% for both 07-08 and 06-07.
- Employment related to career goals? Same as 08-09: "Very" 69%. "Somewhat" 31%. "Not" 0%.
- Employment related to major? "Very" 58%. "Somewhat" 28% (30% 08-09). "Not" 14% (12% 08-09).
- These stats show little change over seven years: **majority consistently report that employment is "very related" to both career goals and major.** Slight uptick in percentage reporting employment is not related to major; High of 14% in 09-10; low of 8% in 05-06.

See: [Highlights, seven years.](#)

How 2009-2010 employed grads found jobs:

- At **26% networking** ticked back up to **1st place** after two years in 2nd place.
- **“Worked for employer in the past”** at **25%** dropped, by 1 percentage point, back to 2nd place after two years in 1st place (all-time high of 29% in 08-09).
- Except for the College of Engineering for which networking is 2nd- or 3rd- ranked method, **networking is 1st or 2nd ranked method 47 times (1st place 30 times) out of 49 rankings** (6 other colleges and whole university, 7 years). **Agriculture & Life Sciences college 09-10 grads used networking to best effect with 45%** employed citing networking as the job source.
- Having **worked for the employer in the past** (through internship, summer or p-t job, volunteer work, etc.) **has been in 1st or 2nd place 42 times out of 56 rankings** (univ + 7 colleges, 7 years); and has trended upward over the seven years.
- **Career fairs** account for 3% of job source for two colleges (AGLS, LAHS), 4% for two colleges (NATR, SCI), 18% for BUS, 19% for ARCH&US, and 21% for ENGR, showing that these events represent a segment, and not all, of the job market for new graduates.
- [How employed grads found jobs, by university and colleges, seven years.](#)

Salary median:

- Same for 09-10 and 08-09 employed grads: median of \$47,000 down from 2007-2008 peak of \$48,000, but higher than all prior years (2006-2007 and 2005-2006 medians were \$45,000).
- [Salary medians, university and colleges, seven years.](#)

Career-related experience during college? Yes. Regrets about career planning? Yes.

- Grads are asked if they wished they had done anything differently related to planning for life after college. Consistently over seven years, half or more say yes; 58% of 09-10 and 08-09 grads said yes.
- **90%** of all respondents **had one or more types of career-related experience**. But a **third – 33% of all respondents – wished they’d gotten MORE** (highest since 34% in 03-04).
- Second highest regret: wished ... learned more and/or earlier about career options: 27% for 09-10 and 08-09; highest since same percentage in 03-04. [What grads wished they had done, university, 7 years.](#)

Who employs our grads?

- Over 800 organizations are reported by the nearly 1600 09-10 grads who stated they are employed. Five top-reported employers all together employ 8% of employed grads: U.S. Air Force (N=35; 2.2% of employed grads), U.S. Navy (N=27; 1.7%), Virginia Tech and U.S. Army tied (N=25; 1.5%), Northrop Grumman (N=19; 1.1%). Virginia Tech has been in the top five every year since 04-05.
- [Most-reported employers, seven-year list](#) shows employers reported by 5 or 6 or more grads over 7 years.
- About 200 grads (>12%) who report being employed decline to name their employing organization.
- List of all employers, job titles, locations, **by major** in [annual reports online](#).

The [full annual reports online](#) – viewable by **university**, **colleges** and **majors** – also include:

- Advice sources regarding graduate school planning.
- Sources of learning job search skills.
- Number of job offers and when grads began the job search.
- Whether a bonus came with the job offer (does for only 22% of employed), and amount, if so.
- Full list of employing organizations, job titles and locations, by undergrad major.
- Full list of degrees, programs of study, institutions and locations, by undergrad major.

Find each annual report and multi-year summaries at:

<http://www.career.vt.edu/PostGraduationSurveyReport/PostGrad.html>