

Research Report Prepared for the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship Board Meeting June 25, 2014

1. How does the stat about % of WSOS students landing jobs in their field of study compare to the % of all 4 year grads in WA State, landing jobs in their field?

According to our WSOS Post Graduation Employment survey, 65 percent of graduates (88 out of 136) seeking employment have found work in their field of study. Chi Square analysis detects a statistically significant difference in proportion of grads working in their field by their field of study. Findings show that proportionally, computer and information sciences and support services (86%), engineering (77%), health professions (76%) and engineering technologies (71%) were the most likely to report finding work in their field amongst grads entering the workforce.

To date, we have not identified WA State specific data to use as a comparison, but our numbers look favorable when compared to current national trends:

- Nationally, a 2013 study from CareerBuilder reports that nearly half (47 percent) of college-educated workers said their first job after college was not related to their college major.
- The picture for new STEM graduates nationally continues to be better compared to other areas of study; however, the trend has worsened for many since 2001 according to a study from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (Published March 2014). The study reports that a higher proportion of new graduates reported employment unrelated to their undergraduate major in 2009 than in 2001 for six of the 10 major fields of study: computer and information sciences (17 percent vs. 7 percent), engineering (13 percent vs. 7 percent), social sciences (40 percent vs. 33 percent), humanities (55 percent vs. 44 percent), business (20 percent vs. 15 percent), and other applied fields (32 percent vs. 21 percent).
- The same study reports that one year after graduation, unemployment rates increased between 2001 and 2009 for bachelor's degree recipients who majored in social sciences, humanities, health care, business, education, and other applied fields. In contrast, the 1-year unemployment rates of 2007–08 graduates who majored in computer and information sciences, engineering, and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields were not statistically different from 1999–2000 graduates who majored in the same fields.

2. Of the WSOS % that went on to grad school – what are those areas of study?

Proportionally, fields of study most likely to attend grad school instead of entering job market are: Physical Sciences (42%), Mathematics and Statistics (33%) and Biological and Biomedical Sciences (29%). Overall, there are no statically significant trends related to the decision to enter workforce or not based on field of study. (Please see table on next page.)

Enrolled in Graduate School by Field of Study

Field of Study	# Attending Grad School	%
BIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES.	15	37.5
COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES.	3	7.5
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES AND ENGINEERING-RELATED FIELDS.	1	2.5
ENGINEERING.	9	22.5
MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS.	4	10.0
NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION.	1	2.5
PHYSICAL SCIENCES.	5	12.5
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES/TECHNICIANS.	1	2.5
PSYCHOLOGY.	1	2.5
Total	40	100.0

3. Of the WSOS graduates that are in jobs, what were the colleges and what were the fields of study?

Employed in Field – Graduated Institution by Field

Graduated Institution	Biological & Biomedical Sciences	Computer & Information Sciences & Support Services	Engineering Technologies & Engineering-Related Fields	Engineering	Health Professions & Related Programs	Mathematics & Statistics	Natural Resources & Conservation	Physical Sciences	Science Technologies / Technicians	SAMPLE TOTAL	ALL GRADS
Bastyr University					2					2 (2%)	1%
Eastern Washington University					2					2 (2%)	3%
Gonzaga University	2				2					4 (5%)	2%
Pacific Lutheran University					2					2 (2%)	2%
Seattle Pacific University	1									1 (1%)	2%
Seattle University				1	2					3 (4%)	3%
The Evergreen State College							1			1 (1%)	2%
University of Washington-Bothell				2	1					3 (4%)	1%*
University of Washington-Seattle	14	7	3	13	1		1	1	1	41 (51%)	60%*
University of Washington-Tacoma		2	1		2					5 (6%)	0%*
Walla Walla University					1					1 (1%)	0.5%
Washington State University	1			3						4 (5%)	14%*
Washington State University-Spokane					4					4 (5%)	0%*
Washington State University-Vancouver		1		1			1			3 (4%)	0%*
Western Washington University	1					2		1		4 (5%)	4%
Whatcom Community College				1						1 (1%)	0%
SAMPLE TOTAL	19 (23%)	10 (12%)	4 (5%)	21 (26%)	19 (23%)	2 (2%)	3 (4%)	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	81 (100%)	95%

ALL GRADS	18%	9%	1%	19%	15%	7%	3%	6%	0.5%	78.5%
-----------	-----	----	----	-----	-----	----	----	----	------	-------

Employed in Field – By Race or Ethnicity and Gender

Race or Ethnicity	Gender		Subtotal by Race or Ethnicity	Total by Race or Ethnicity
	Male	Female		
American Indian or Alaska Native	2 (100%)	0 (0%)	2 (100%)	2 (2%)
Asian	12 (52%)	11 (48%)	23 (100%)	23 (27%)
Black or African American	0 (0%)	2 (100%)	2 (100%)	2 (2%)
White	23 (45%)	28 (55%)	51 (100%)	51 (61%)
Two or more races	4 (67%)	2 (33%)	6 (100%)	6 (7%)
Total by Gender	41 (49%)	43 (51%)	84 (100%)	84 (100%)

4. Incorporate method that will evaluate whether or not a bump in the 4th year award to \$7.5K actually results in students finishing faster.

We have added questions to the needs assessment section of the annual WSOS renewal survey that will document:

- Enrollment status (full time or part time)
- Time spent working
- Perceptions regarding their financial ability to cover school-related expenses

This will provide us with data that can then be correlated with WSAC Unit Record data (i.e.- scholarship dollars received and unmet need). The thought is that we can discern if increase in funds received drives down unmet need in meaningful enough way that it will correlate with less time spent working, more courses taken, less perceived difficulties making ends meet, etc. We can also track if those cohorts receiving new max amount are completing more often and/or more quickly.