



Report: Graduate Destinations Survey, 2019 Graduates

Survey Overview

The Graduate Destinations survey is administered three times a year to undergraduate and graduate students who are six months out from graduation. This report summarizes the responses of University of Colorado Boulder graduates who graduated in May, August, or December 2019.

Response Rates

For 2019 graduates, there was a response rate of 29%; 2,407 respondents. Of these, 1,575 were Bachelor's graduates (response rate 26%) and 832 were graduate students (response rate 38%).

Note that not all graduates completed all questions, so the number of respondents per question varies, provided in the parenthesis below

Primary Activity

Most graduates are employed—74% of bachelor's, 74% of master's and 91% of doctoral graduates. Furthermore, most graduates are employed *full-time*—59% of bachelor's, 67% of master's and 82% of doctoral graduates. A fair number of graduates are also pursuing graduate school—14% of bachelor's, 17% of master's, and 1% of doctoral graduates. Finally, 9% of bachelor's, 7% of master's, and doctoral graduates are unemployed and seeking employment.

	Bachelor's Graduates (n = 1,575)*	Master's Graduates (n = 553)*	Doctoral Graduates (n = 279)*
Employed	74%	74%	91%
Full-time	59%	67%	82%
Part-time	10%	4%	5%
Self-employed/freelance	2%	2%	4%
Volunteer/Service Work (e.g., AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, etc.)	2%	0%	0%
Military Service	1%	0%	0%
Graduate School	14%	17%	1%
Full-time Graduate or Professional	11%	16%	1%
Part-time Graduate or Professional	0%	1%	0%
Medical/Dental/Nursing	1%	0%	0%
Law School	1%	0%	0%
Other	12%	9%	9%
Unemployed and seeking employment	9%	7%	5%
Other (including parenting or starting/raising a family, traveling, sick or unable to work, not seeking employment, or other)	3%	2%	4%

* Percentages may not sum to subtotal percentage or 100% due to rounding

Employed Graduates

Job satisfaction (n = 1,821)

83% of employed respondents report being extremely satisfied, very satisfied, or satisfied with their jobs:

- 24% are extremely satisfied
- 33% are very satisfied
- 26% are satisfied
- 13% are somewhat satisfied
- 4% are not at all satisfied

Necessity of degree (n = 1,829)*

Among employed respondents, **76%** report that their degree was required or gave an advantage in current position:

- 46% reported the degree was required/expected by employer
- 30% said they could have possibly gotten the position without the degree, but the degree gave them an advantage
- 22% felt they could have gotten their current position without a degree
- 3% were unsure

Program/Major skills (n = 1,823)*

91% of employed respondents report that their program/major(s) taught them the skills they are using in their current position to some degree:

- 20% said the skills were taught “extremely well”
- 40% said “fairly well”
- 30% said “somewhat well”
- 9% said “not well at all”

Relation of job to major (n = 1,831)*

79% of employed respondents report that their position was completely, considerably, or somewhat related to their major:

- 35% said “Completely related to major”
- 27% said “Considerable relation to major”
- 18% said “Some relation to major”
- 10% said “Little relation to major”
- 11% said “Not related to major”

Top employers for 2019 Graduates (n = 1,802)

Five or more 2019 graduates work at the following organizations:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. University of Colorado Boulder | 13. Amazon |
| 2. University of Colorado (unspecified) | 14. ScribeAmerica |
| 3. Lockheed Martin | 15. US Navy |
| 4. University of Colorado Anschutz | 16. Medtronic |
| 5. National Renewable Energy Laboratory | 17. Raytheon |
| 6. Self-Employed | 18. Qualcomm |
| 7. Deloitte | 19. Charles Schwab |
| 8. Ball Aerospace | 20. Northrop Grumman |
| 9. Gusto | 21. National Center for Atmospheric Research |
| 10. Zayo Group | 22. Boulder Community Hospital |
| 11. NASA | 23. Boeing |
| 12. KPMG | |

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Top industries for 2019 grads

Bachelor's graduates (n = 1,187)

- 1) Other (9%) (*common "other" response categories: research, technology, advertising and marketing, recreation, recruiting*)
- 2) Health Care and Social Assistance (8%)
- 3) Financial Industry (7%)
- 4) Computer/Information Technology (6%)
- 5) Education (6%)
- 6) Academics (5%)

Master's, doctoral, and other post-bachelor's graduates: (n = 676)

- 1) Academics (18%)
- 2) Education (11%)
- 3) Computer/Information Technology (9%)
- 4) Aerospace (8%)
- 5) Law (6%)

Job Search

- Bachelor's graduates who used Career Services found full-time employment within 6 months at a higher rate than those who did not use Career Services (62% vs. 55%, 533/851 vs. 398/724 graduates).
- Many (57%) bachelor's graduates who found full-time employment within 6 months started their search at least 2 months before graduation (n = 502/887).

Top ways to find employment (n = 1,835)

- 1) Internet job search or company website (27%)
- 2) Friend/colleague/networking (21%)
- 3) Already worked there (18%)
- 4) Other (9%) (*Most "other" open responses fall under "internet job search"*)
- 5) Internship/co-op (7%)
- 6) Academic Department/Faculty Advisor (5%)
- 7) CU Career Services/Handshake (4%)
- 8) CU Career Fair (3%)

Graduate school – Bachelor's Graduates Only

- For bachelor's graduates not currently in graduate school (n = 1,246), **79%** are considering an advanced degree and 21% are not interested in pursuing an advanced degree.
- For bachelor's graduates currently in graduate school (n = 243), **78%** of respondents who are currently in graduate school were accepted into their first-choice graduate school and 14% into their second choice; 8% were not accepted to first or second choice.

Top graduate schools for 2019 bachelor graduates: (n = 228)

- 1) University of Colorado at Boulder (27%)
- 2) University of Colorado at Denver (6%)
- 3) University of Denver (4%)
- 4) Johns Hopkins University (3%)
- 5) Georgia Institute of Technology – Main Campus (2%)
- 6) Colorado State University (2%)
- 7) Regis University (2%)
- 8) University of Washington – Seattle (2%)

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