Selected Characteristics of the Class of 2015

Findings from the Senior Exit Survey Conducted Spring 2015
Administration of the 2015 Pre-Graduation Survey

• The survey was conducted online; graduating seniors were invited to take the survey via emails containing a link to the survey and also via a link from the commencement web page
• 412 students responded; this constitutes about 40% of the 2014-15 undergraduate completers at Eastern
Employment Picture for the Class of 2015
Survey respondents were asked several questions related to current and future employment. They were asked:

1) what their current employment situation was (at the time of graduation)
2) how much their current job paid per week if they had a job
3) how much money they anticipated they would be earning at 3, 12, and 24 months after graduation (in terms of annual salary)
4) how they see their current job if employed
   * ‘just a job’
   * a career opportunity
   * a job with a deeper meaning
5) what type of job they seek in terms of those same three levels of importance
About half of the students who responded the survey (57%) reported that they had jobs at the time of May 2015 graduation. 33% are looking for employment, 10% have plans other than employment, and the status of the remaining 1% is unknown.

Which of the following best describes your CURRENT employment status?

- I have a job. 57%
- I am not employed, but I am seeking employment. 33%
- I am not employed, but I have other plans. 10%
- No response. 1%
The largest segment (31%) of the graduates with jobs were earning under $10,000 per year. Just over a quarter (27%) were earning about $10,000 to $20,000.

**Approximate income from current job**

*(Base: all graduates who provided data that could be used to estimate annualized earnings from current employment; N = 164)*
A quarter (25%) of the graduates expected to be earning under $10,000 per year by three months after graduation. Just under a fifth (18%) predicted they would earn about $10,000 to $20,000.

Approximate income from job, three months out

(Base: all graduates who provided data that could be used to estimate predicted earnings from employment; N = 267)
A fifth (20%) of the graduates expected to be earning approximately $30,000 to $40,000 per year by a year after graduation. Just under a fifth (18%) predicted they would earn about $40,000 to $50,000.

**Approximate income from job, twelve months out**

(Base: all graduates who provided data that could be used to estimate predicted earnings from employment; N = 261)
Class of 2015
Anticipated Income: TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS after graduation
Source: 2015 Senior Exit Survey

- Just under a fifth (18%) of the graduates expected to be earning around $40,000 to $50,000 per year by two years after graduation. About a sixth (17%) predicted they would earn about $50,000 to $60,000.

**Approximate income from job, twenty-four months out**
*(Base: all graduates who provided data that could be used to estimate predicted earnings from employment; N = 262)*

![Bar chart showing income distribution](chart.png)
Just over half (56%) of the graduates who had a job at the time of graduation saw their job as ‘just a job’. Less than three of ten (29%) saw the job as a career opportunity.

Meaning of job held at the time of graduation

(Base: all graduates who answered the item “Which of the following statements best describes how meaningful your CURRENT job is to you?”; N = 253)
Half (50%) of the graduates said they were seeking a job that offers a career opportunity. Less than half (46%) said they were seeking a job with deeper meaning.

**Meaning of job sought in the future**

(Base: all graduates who answered the item “Which of the following statements best describes what you are seeking in a FUTURE job?”; N = 329)

- 50% seeking a career opportunity
- 46% seeking deeper meaning
- 4% seeking a new job

I just need a new job.

I am looking for a career opportunity.

I seek more than just a job or a career; I want my work to have a deeper meaning.
Seven out of 10 (70%) of the 2015 graduates said Eastern provided effective career-related experiences. Just over a fifth (22%) rated this aspect of Eastern as ‘neutral.’

**Practical Experiences Related to Your Career**

(Base: all graduates who answered the item “How effective was your Eastern education in providing practical experiences related to your career?”; N = 345)
Academic Plans for the Future
Approximately one fifth (18%) will definitely be pursuing additional education next year. About 16% are enrolled in a program leading to a graduate degree, and 2% are working toward teacher certification.

Approximately half (48%) plan to apply for graduate school or teacher certification. Another 27% do not plan to apply for further education.
Which of the following best reflects your immediate plans for further education?

- I have already enrolled in a FULL-TIME program leading to a graduate degree.
- I have already enrolled in a PART-TIME program leading to a graduate degree.
- I have already enrolled in a teacher certification program.
- I have applied for admission to certification or graduate degree program(s) but have not yet enrolled.
- I have not applied for admission to any certification or graduate degree programs but plan to do so.
- I have not applied for admission to any certification or graduate degree programs and do not plan to.

76% had not applied to any grad school or certification program at graduation time.
14% already enrolled full-time in a graduate program.
6% had already enrolled in a full-time program leading to a graduate degree.
2% had already enrolled in a part-time program leading to a graduate degree.
2% had already enrolled in a teacher certification program.
48% plan to apply.
27% do not plan to apply.