

# MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE CLASS OF 1997 ONE YEAR AFTER GRADUATION

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SURVEY

### *Survey and Sample*

During academic year 1997, Montclair State University graduated slightly over 1,400 undergraduate students. The Offices of Institutional Research and Career Development, with the assistance of the Alumni Office, surveyed these undergraduates to see what they were doing one year after graduating from MSU.

During the fall 1998 semester each graduate was mailed a survey with a cover letter explaining the project and a stamped, self-addressed return envelope. A second mailing was sent a month later to those who initially did not respond. A copy of the survey instrument is included at the end of this report. All told, 40 percent of those surveyed responded to the questionnaire, an acceptable completion rate. The surveys were coded by undergraduate major and then entered into a database. Table 1, also at the end of the report, shows the response rates for each major. Please note that if a major is not reported in this table, there are no completed surveys for that particular major. Also questions have varying response rates because respondents do not necessarily answer all questions.

### *What career and post-baccalaureate activities are undergraduates engaged in one year after graduating from Montclair State University?*

Eighty percent of the respondents report they are working full-time and an additional eight percent are employed on a part-time basis. Another three percent are not employed but not looking for work. Only two percent are not employed and are looking for work. Not surprisingly, there are some variations in employment figures when we look at the schools and colleges from which respondents graduated. Table 2 summarizes this information.

**Table 2**  
**Percent of Respondents Who Are Working and/or Attending Graduate School**

School/College:	% Employ- ed Full- Time	% Employ- ed Part- Time	% Seeking Employ- ment	% Not Seeking Employ- ment	% In Graduate School Full-Time	% In Graduate School Part-Time
Arts	82.4	7.8	2.0	0.0	7.8	7.8
Business	93.8	0.8	0.0	3.1	0.8	1.6
Ed & Hum Serv	78.6	6.8	2.9	2.9	3.9	1.9
Hum & Soc'l Sci	74.8	9.8	1.2	3.3	10.6	6.1
Science & Math	73.8	11.5	3.3	1.6	18.0	11.5
Total	80.2%	7.6%	1.9%	3.0%	8.1%	5.4%

%'s may not add to a hundred because respondents were able to choose more than one activity.

Business School graduates have the highest full-time employment rate, 94 percent. While those from the College of Science and Math have the lowest employment rate, 74 percent, this group has the highest graduate school attendance rates, 18 percent full-time and 12 percent part-time. Science and math graduates are more likely to attend graduate programs right after graduating from MSU and they often attend as full-time students rather than entering the market place on a full-time basis.

***In what type of industries are graduates working?***

Graduates are working in many fields across New Jersey. Only four percent list their companies outside the state and most are in the neighboring state of New York. Half the respondents are concentrated in three industries: 22 percent are employed in the field of education and related educational services; 16 percent are in firms whose major concerns are in banking, finance, insurance or accounting; and 14 percent are in hospital, health care or pharmaceutical companies. Graduates from the School of Business, 42 percent, are understandably most often employed in financial-related firms such as banks, insurance and accounting firms. Also not surprisingly, 40 percent of the graduates from the College of Education and Human Services are in the field of education. The wider importance of the education field is seen in the significant number of art, science and math, and humanities and social science graduates that are also employed in this area: 36, 22 and 26 percents, respectively. Table 3 summarizes this information for each of the university’s colleges and schools.

**Table 3  
Type of Industry Employing 1997 MSU Graduates**

	Retail/ Advertse	Comm Telecom	Govt Admin	Non- Profits	Educ	Health	Manuf	Hotel	Accting	Other	School as % of Total
SCHOOL/ COLLEGE :	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Arts	22.2	27.8	0.0	8.3	36.1	11.1	11.1	2.8	2.8	5.6	21.8
Business	13.6	6.4	4.8	1.6	5.6	6.4	4.8	1.6	42.4	12.8	24.2
Ed & Hum Serv	6.3	3.1	2.1	4.2	39.6	28.1	3.1	8.3	4.2	1.0	18.6
Science & Math	4.1	8.2	0.0	0.0	22.4	26.5	12.2	2.0	6.1	18.4	9.5
Hum & Soc'l Sci	5.7	10.4	4.7	10.9	25.6	8.5	3.3	2.4	9.5	19.0	40.8
Industry Total	8.5%	8.9%	3.4%	6.1%	23.3%	13.3%	4.9%	3.2%	15.4%	12.9%	100.0%
N of Responses	45	47	18	32	123	70	26	17	81	68	527

Legend:

- Column 1 Retail, Merchandising, Advertising
- Column 2 Communications, Telecommunications, Publishing
- Column 3 Government Administration & Services
- Column 4 Social Services, Volunteer, Non-Profits
- Column 5 Education and Related Fields
- Column 6 Hospitals, Health Care, Pharmaceuticals
- Column 7 Manufacturing
- Column 8 Recreation Facilities, Restaurants, Hotels
- Column 9 Finance, Banking, Insurance, Accounting
- Column 10 Other Industries

***How related are graduate jobs to the MSU major?***

As Table 4 shows over three quarters of the respondents say that their major is very or somewhat related to their current jobs. This is particularly the case for those graduating from the College of Education and Human Services. Those graduating from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences on the other hand, are somewhat more likely to be in a job not related to their major.

**Table 4**  
**Relationship of Job to MSU Major**

<b>School/College:</b>	<b>% Very Related</b>	<b>% Somewhat Related</b>	<b>% Not Related</b>
Art	56.8	18.2	25.0
Business	50.4	41.9	7.8
Ed & Hum Serv	66.7	15.6	17.7
Science & Math	57.6	27.2	15.2
Hum & Soc'l Sci	28.8	31.7	39.4
Total	45.7 %	29.8 %	24.5 %

***How satisfied are graduates with their jobs?***

Table 5 shows that slightly over half of the graduates say they are very satisfied with their jobs. An additional 40 percent say they are somewhat satisfied and only nine percent say they are not at all satisfied. Art School graduates are particularly satisfied with their jobs; 64 percent report they are very satisfied. Those who were in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences are less likely to say they are very satisfied; only 45 percent say they are. This may be related to the fact that these graduates are also more likely to report that they are not working in a position related to their major.

**Table 5**  
**Degree of Satisfaction with Job**

<b>School/College:</b>	<b>% Very Satisfied</b>	<b>% Somewhat Satisfied</b>	<b>% Not At All</b>
Art	63.6	27.2	9.1
Business	54.1	40.2	5.7
Ed & Hum Serv	55.8	36.8	7.4
Science & Math	53.1	40.8	6.1
Hum & Soc'l Sci	45.3	42.9	11.8
Total	51.7 %	39.6 %	8.8 %

***How many students had a cooperative education experience or internship while they were at MSU?***

Respondents were asked about any cooperative education experience or internship they may have participated in while at Montclair State University. Overall, 26 percent had an internship and 25 percent took a co-op course; some had both and some took these courses more than once. Again, as table 6 shows there are some school and college differences in participation rates.

**Table 6**  
**Participation Rates for Coop and Internship Experiences**

<b>School/College:</b>	<b>% Having an Internships</b>	<b>% Taking a Coop Course</b>
Art	33.3	25.5
Business	30.2	14.7
Education & Human Services	34.0	31.1
Humanities & Social Sciences	22.4	29.3
Science & Mathematics	14.8	14.8
Total	26.3%	24.6%
Number of Responses	155	145

A few examples of the comments and suggestions respondents wrote best explains what participants gained from their experiences as interns and co-op students. One graduate wrote, *“participating in the co-op program or intern program is a valuable experience. It gives the student some real world experience. In some cases, one can secure a job before graduating, which is a nice feeling.”* Another person wrote, *“MSU co-op program gave me the real chance to face the real world and it also made my career life more stable.”* As well, someone wrote, *“Related internships and co-ops are very beneficial and should be required for at least one semester.”*

A final report will be distributed to each department chair summarizing the responses given by that particular department’s majors. It will also include a complete list of any comments and suggestions that may have been included.