

The 2009 Highlights

Each year, many thousands of students complete programs of study at British Columbia's post-secondary institutions. Student feedback provides information that is key to maintaining a high-quality, relevant education system. During 2009, four annual surveys were used to collect information from former students. These different surveys were developed to focus on the type of students being surveyed and include former students from baccalaureate programs; diploma, associate degree, and certificate programs; apprenticeship technical training; and developmental studies (Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second or Additional Language (ESL)). The surveys were conducted with funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development and from B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions.

Almost all of the former students surveyed said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the education or training they received in their program of study.



In the Highlights

This year, for the first time, information from all of the 2009 student outcomes surveys is highlighted in one document.

- ▶ 94% of **former diploma, associate degree, and certificate students** were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with their education
- ▶ 82% said their program helped them develop the ability to analyse and think critically
- ▶ 78% of former Arts and Sciences students took further education
- ▶ 90% of respondents from Applied programs were in the labour force at the time of the survey; 10% were unemployed

- ▶ 93% of **former apprenticeship students** were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with their in-school education
- ▶ 85% said their in-school training helped them use mathematics
- ▶ 97% were in the labour force at the time of the survey; 8% were unemployed

- ▶ 95% of **former developmental students** were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with their education
- ▶ 61% of ESL respondents and 68% of ABE respondents took further studies
- ▶ 93% of ESL and 92% of ABE respondents who took further education said they were *somewhat* or *very well prepared*

- ▶ 94% of **baccalaureate graduates** surveyed were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with their education
- ▶ 53% took further education
- ▶ 88% were in the labour force at the time of the survey; 6% were unemployed

About Student Outcomes

Findings from the student outcomes surveys are used by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development for labour market analysis, policy development, and accountability. Institutions use the data to improve programs and services; their academic and career counsellors draw on the results to advise prospective and continuing students. Students, parents, and the general public can view outcomes information through Search BC Post-Secondary Student Survey Results (<http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/SORSLite/SORSLiteHome.aspx>) or Education Planner (www.educationplanner.ca).

For more information on BC Student Outcomes, please see <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Default/Home.aspx> or visit the institutional research department of any B.C. public university, college, or institute.



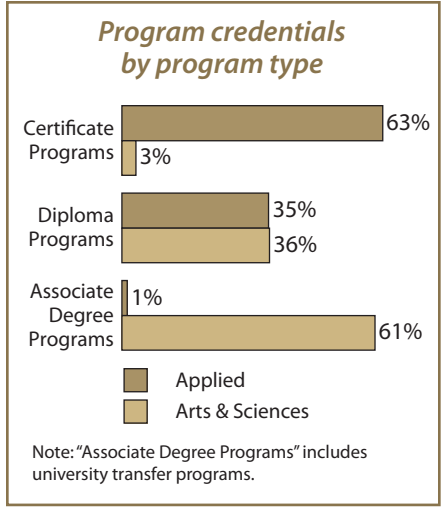
Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes

The 2009 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey was conducted January to June 2009. The survey targeted former students who had completed or nearly completed their programs 9 to 20 months previously—15,856 former students from 20 of B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions participated by telephone or online. Respondents were asked to evaluate their educational experiences and to talk about their labour force participation and further education. The overall response rate for the survey was 59 percent.

Former diploma, associate degree, and certificate students

Well over three-quarters of the former students surveyed had enrolled in Applied programs—programs that lead to employment in a specific field—while over one-fifth of the survey respondents had taken Arts and Sciences programs—programs that usually lead to further study. Most of the credentials associated with these programs were certificates or diplomas, although they differed according to program type; for example, the majority of credentials associated with Applied programs were certificates.

According to the post-secondary institutions' records, 88 percent of the survey respondents who had taken Applied programs were graduates—that is, they had applied for and received their credentials. On the other hand, only 17 percent of former Arts and Sciences students had official graduate status. The majority of these former students intend



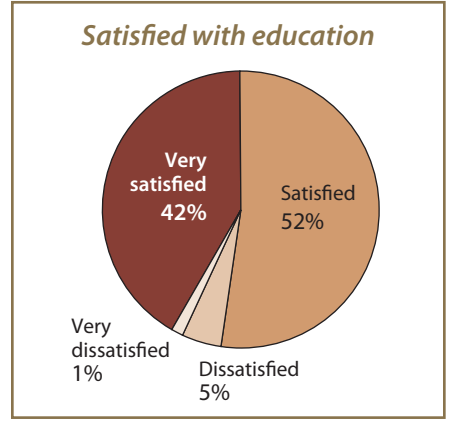
to pursue a baccalaureate and therefore usually do not apply for a lower-level credential, even if they are eligible.

When they first enrolled in their recent programs, almost half of the former students who responded to the survey had already taken some post-secondary education; many already had a credential. Women were more likely than men to have taken previous post-secondary education and to have achieved prior credentials.

More women than men were eligible for and participated in the survey. Female respondents tended to be a little older; at the time of the survey, their median age was 26, compared with 24 for men.

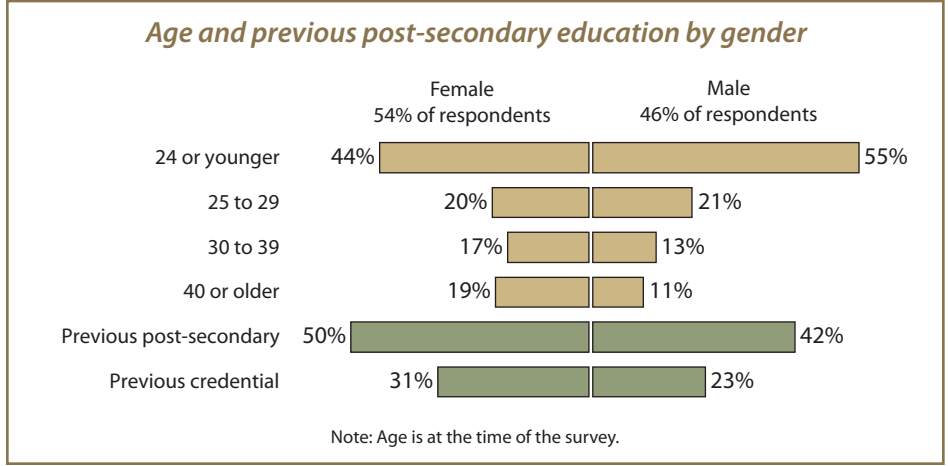
Evaluation of education

Most respondents were satisfied with the education they received—94 percent said they were *satisfied* or *very satisfied*.

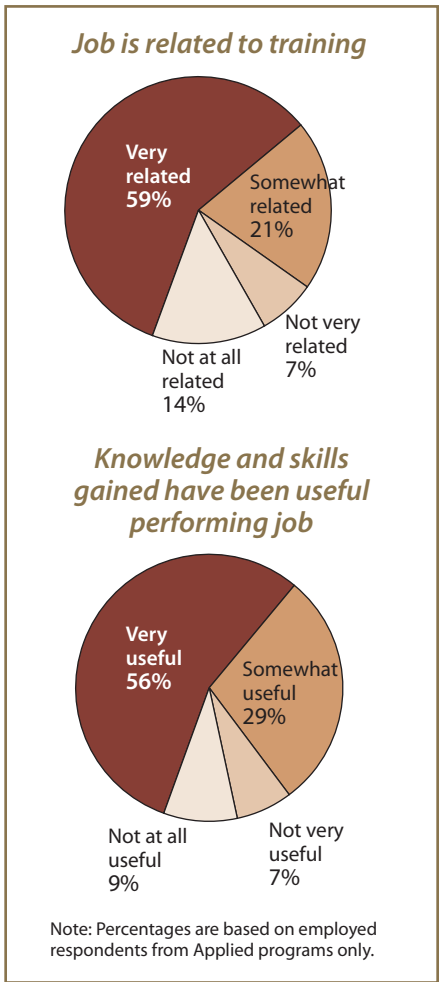


Large majorities of the former students surveyed said their programs did *well* or *very well* at providing them with opportunities to develop certain skills. As in past years, most respondents gave high ratings to the abilities to work effectively with others and to analyse and think critically.

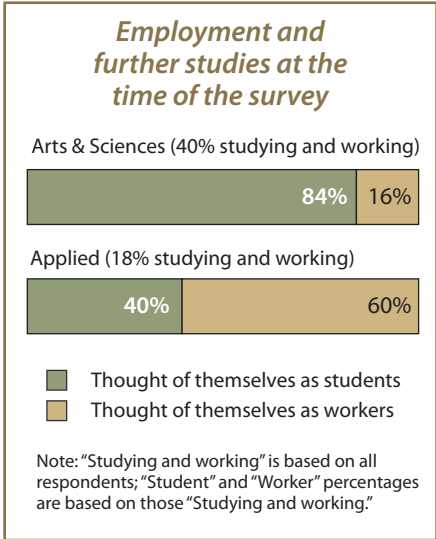
Another measure of satisfaction with education relates to the goals of the former students. A large majority (88 percent) of the respondents to the 2009 survey said they *completely* or *mostly met* their most important objective for enrolling.



Sciences programs were much less likely to be in employment that was related to their studies.



Many of those who were employed continued their studies, particularly those who had taken Arts and Sciences programs. Of those who were working and studying at the time of the survey, the former Arts and Sciences students were the most likely to say they thought of themselves as students, not workers. Respondents from Applied programs who were working and studying at the time of the survey were much more likely to say they thought of themselves as workers.



Apprenticeship Student Outcomes

Since 2005, the Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSO) Survey has collected information from former apprenticeship students who have completed the final level of their technical training. The 2009 APPSO survey was conducted by telephone in February and March of 2009 with 2,099 former apprentices who completed their training in 27 post-secondary institutions (14 public and 13 private). The overall response rate was 59 percent.

Type of trade program and institution sector

Trade grouping	Private institution	Public institution	Total
Agriculture trades	0%	1%	1%
Construction trades	16%	35%	52%
Mechanic technologies	2%	24%	26%
Personal and culinary services	0%	4%	4%
Precision production trades	1%	14%	15%
Transportation trades	2%	0%	2%
Total	22%	78%	100%

Note: Programs are grouped using the 2-digit CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs).

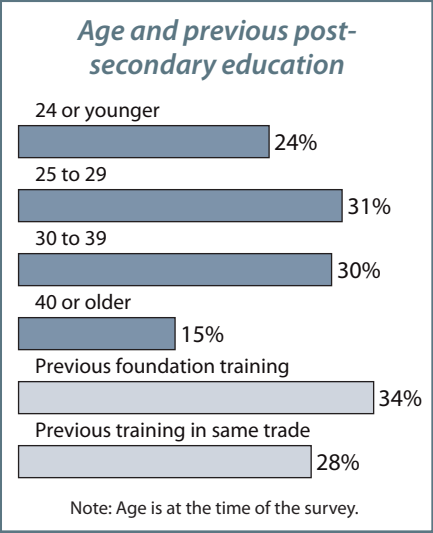
Former apprenticeship students

While apprentices in B.C. get most of their training in a workplace, they take several weeks of technical training at a post-secondary institution or training organization in each year of their apprenticeship. About one-fifth of the respondents to the 2009 survey had trained in a private institution or organization; the rest took their required technical training at a public post-secondary institution.

Over half of the former apprentices who responded to the 2009 survey trained in the construction trades. The majority in construction trained to be an electrician, a carpenter, or a plumber.

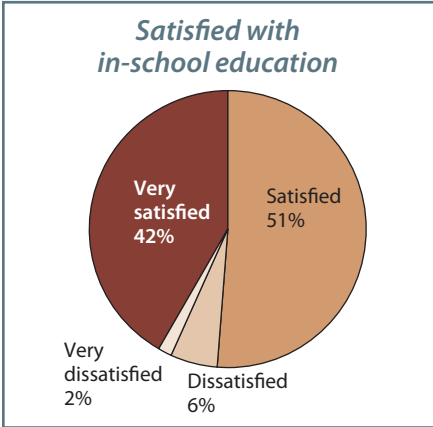
At the time of the survey, the typical former apprenticeship student was a male in his late twenties, although reported ages ranged from 18 to 60. Very few of the respondents to the survey were female—only 4 percent.

Before starting their apprenticeships, over one-third of the survey respondents had taken previous entry-level or trades foundation training, and most of that training was in the same trade as their apprenticeship.



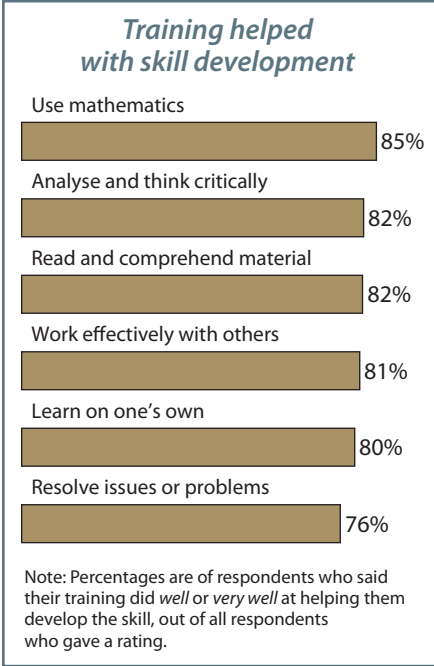
Evaluation of in-school experiences

Apprenticeship training is largely done on-the-job—the time spent in classroom or technical training makes up only about 15 percent of an apprenticeship. Most former apprentices said they were satisfied with the in-school education they received.



The former apprentices who were surveyed were asked how well their technical training helped them develop certain skills—skills that are useful in the workplace although not necessarily directly related to their trade. The largest percentage of respondents said that their

training helped them develop the ability to use mathematics.



By the time of the survey (8 to 18 months after they finished their final year of technical training), 82 percent had passed their certification exams and had received their Trades Qualification, Certificate of Qualification, or Interprovincial Certification.

Evaluation of workplace experiences

Three-quarters of the former apprentices surveyed said they found an apprenticeship sponsor in less than one month. Well over half of the respondents had only one employer for their apprenticeship, although at least one-fifth had three or more employers during the course of their training.

Most of those surveyed (91 percent) said they were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with their overall workplace experience.

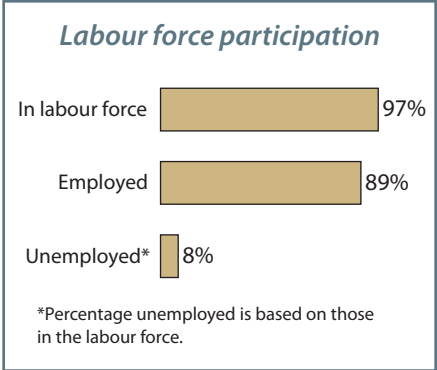
Likewise, 91 percent of respondents said their in-school technical training

was *somewhat* or *very related* to their workplace experience.



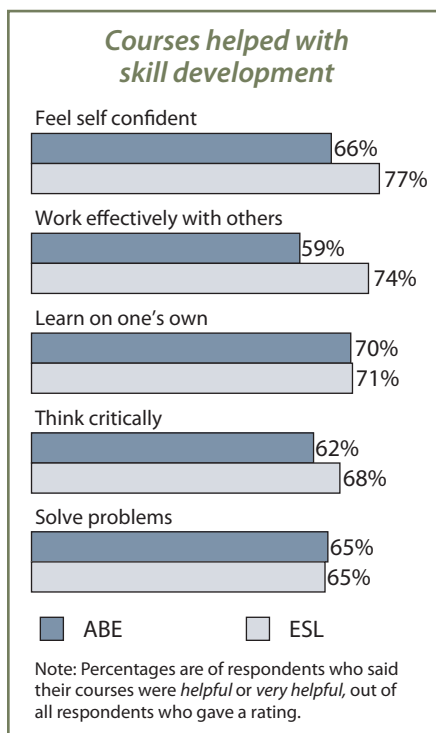
Labour force participation

At the time of the survey, almost all former apprenticeship students were in the labour force—employed or looking for work. The unemployment rate of 2009 APPSO respondents is higher than it was in previous years, reflecting the economic conditions of 2008/2009.



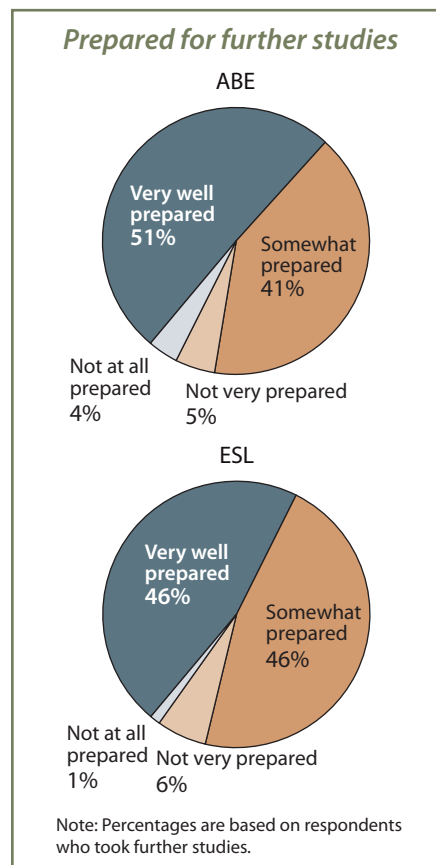
The majority of employed former apprentices reported that their jobs were related—*very* or *somewhat*—to their technical training. Likewise, a large percentage said the knowledge and skills they gained from their studies were useful in the performance of their jobs.

The former students surveyed were asked if their courses had helped them develop certain skills—overall, former ESL students were somewhat more likely than those who took ABE studies to say their courses were *very helpful* or *helpful*. For example, over three-quarters of ESL respondents said their courses helped them to feel self-confident, compared with two-thirds of former ABE students who said the same.



any time, well over half of the former ESL students and a large proportion of the former ABE students were studying for a certificate or diploma. Almost a third of the ABE respondents were pursuing a baccalaureate.

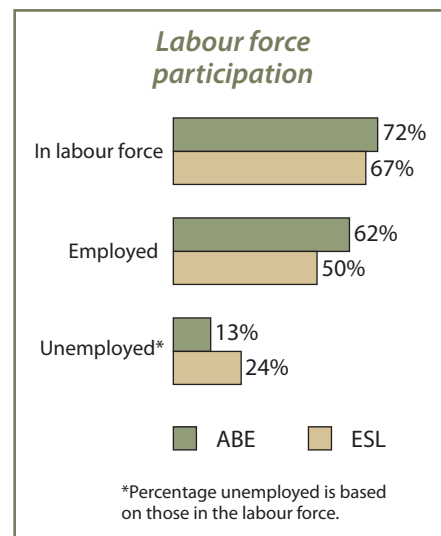
Large majorities said their ABE or ESL courses prepared them (they said



they were *very well* or *somewhat prepared*) for the courses they enrolled in since.

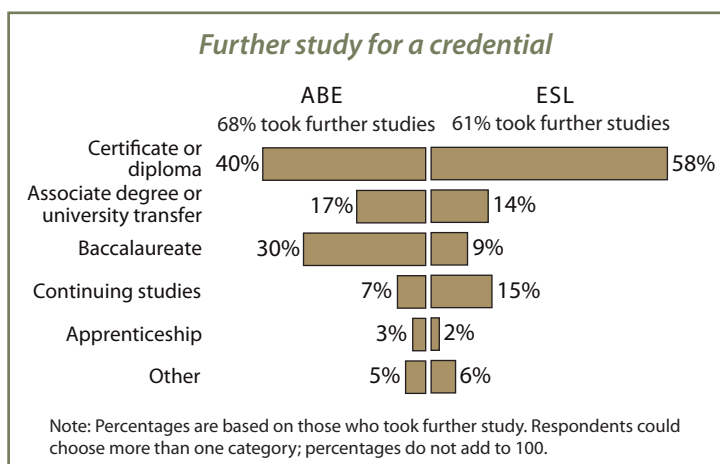
Labour force participation

Labour force participation rates for the DEVSO respondents were lower than the rates of other former students, reflecting their high rates of continuing education. The labour force participation and unemployment rates of the ABE respondents were similar to those of DACSO Arts and Sciences respondents.



Further education

Approximately two-thirds of survey respondents were either studying again at the time of the survey or had taken further studies at some point after leaving their ABE or ESL courses. Of those who took further education at



Former ABE students said the knowledge and skills they gained in their courses have been useful in performing their jobs; 56 percent said they were *very* or *somewhat useful*. Of the former ESL students who used English at work, 75 percent said their English language training was *helpful* or *very helpful*.

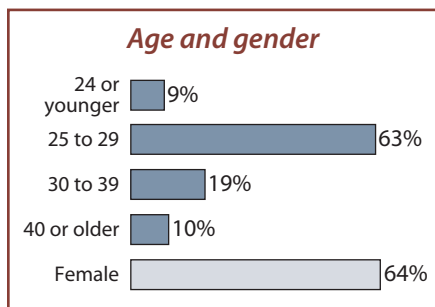
Baccalaureate Graduates

The Baccalaureate Graduates Survey (BGS) gathers information from graduates on their employment outcomes, further education, and satisfaction with their degree studies. The survey targets those who have been graduates for two years; they participate in the survey anywhere from 21 to 33 months after leaving their studies. Since 2005, the survey has expanded in scope to include baccalaureate graduates from 22 public degree-granting institutions in B.C.—research universities, teaching universities, colleges, and institutes.

The 2009 survey of 2007 graduates was conducted via telephone and online from September to the end of December, 2009. Information was collected from 9,609 graduates; the gross response rate was 52 percent.

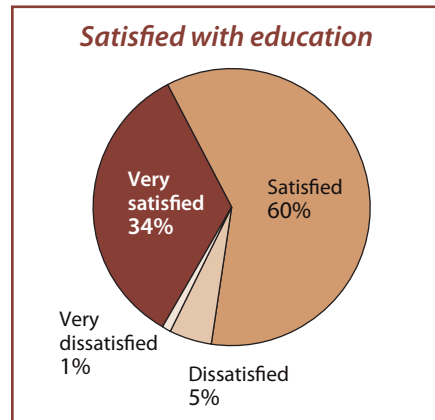
2007 Baccalaureate Graduates

Almost two-thirds of the 2007 baccalaureate graduates who were eligible for and participated in the survey were female. At the time of the survey, the majority of graduates were between the ages of 25 and 29.



Evaluation of education

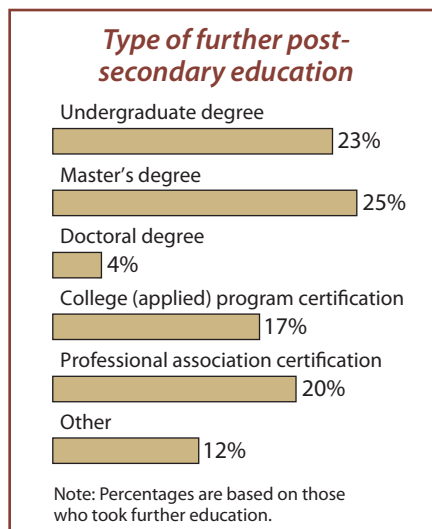
Most of the graduates surveyed—94 percent—said they were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with the education they received in their degree program.



Further education

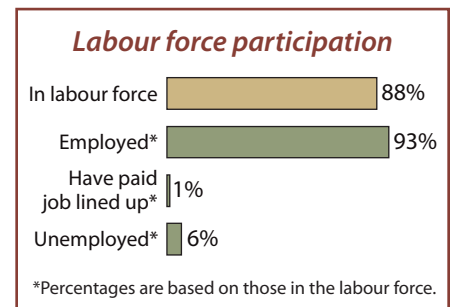
Over half of the baccalaureate graduates surveyed said they had taken other formal post-secondary education or training since they graduated. At the time of the survey, a significant number—18 percent of respondents—were studying full time, while 10 percent were studying part time.

Over half of the respondents who went on to further education sought another degree, and the majority of those students were pursuing a graduate degree. A sizeable number of respondents were working toward a professional association certification, while others were studying for college-level certification in an applied program.



Labour Force Participation

The labour force participation rate of the graduates surveyed was high—most respondents were working or looking for work. The unemployment rate was relatively low at 6 percent.



The majority of the graduates who were employed said their job was *very* or *somewhat related* to the program they took. Likewise, a sizeable majority said the knowledge, skills, and abilities they gained during their baccalaureate education were *very* or *somewhat useful* in their work.

