



BC Student Outcomes

THE 2017 TO 2019 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES SURVEYS

Infographic Report of Findings

*The classes of 2015, 2016 and 2017,
two years after graduation*

*The 2017 to 2019 Baccalaureate Graduates Survey Infographic Report of Findings:
The classes of 2015, 2016, and 2017 Two Years After Graduation* has been
prepared by BC Stats for the BC Student Outcomes Research Forum.

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Introduction

The Baccalaureate Graduates Survey (BGS) is part of BC Student Outcomes, an ongoing research program that gathers information from former students for B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions and the Province of British Columbia. Since 1995, the BGS has been tracking baccalaureate graduates' outcomes.

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About the Report

This report presents a summary of the 2017, 2018, and 2019 surveys of 2015, 2016, and 2017 baccalaureate graduates. Twenty-one public post-secondary institutions in British Columbia participated in the BGS—eleven universities, seven colleges, and three institutes. Ninety percent of respondents were from universities and graduates from the three largest universities made up 65 percent of respondents overall.

There were a total of 70,135 graduates (23,715 in 2017, 23,520 in 2018, and 22,900 in 2019) who were eligible and invited to participate in the survey. Of these, 31,353 graduates completed the survey for an overall response rate of 45%. The response rate ranged from 44% to 45% each year.

Baccalaureate programs were organized into 10 program areas based on Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes.¹ Four of these program areas—Social Sciences, Humanities, Biological Science & Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences & Math—fall under Arts & Sciences. Graduates were most likely to have taken Social Sciences or Business and Management programs.

For reports by discipline, visit the [BC Student Outcomes website](#).

| Program Areas | Respondents | Percentage of Respondents |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Business and Management | 5,007 | 16% |
| Education | 1,597 | 5% |
| Engineering and Applied Sciences | 4,156 | 13% |
| Health | 3,624 | 12% |
| Human and Social Services | 2,682 | 9% |
| Visual and Performing Arts | 1,474 | 5% |
| Arts and Sciences: | | |
| Social Sciences | 6,856 | 22% |
| Humanities | 2,338 | 7% |
| Biological Science and Life Sciences | 2,684 | 9% |
| Physical Sciences and Math | 935 | 3% |
| Total Graduate Respondents | 31,353 | 100% |

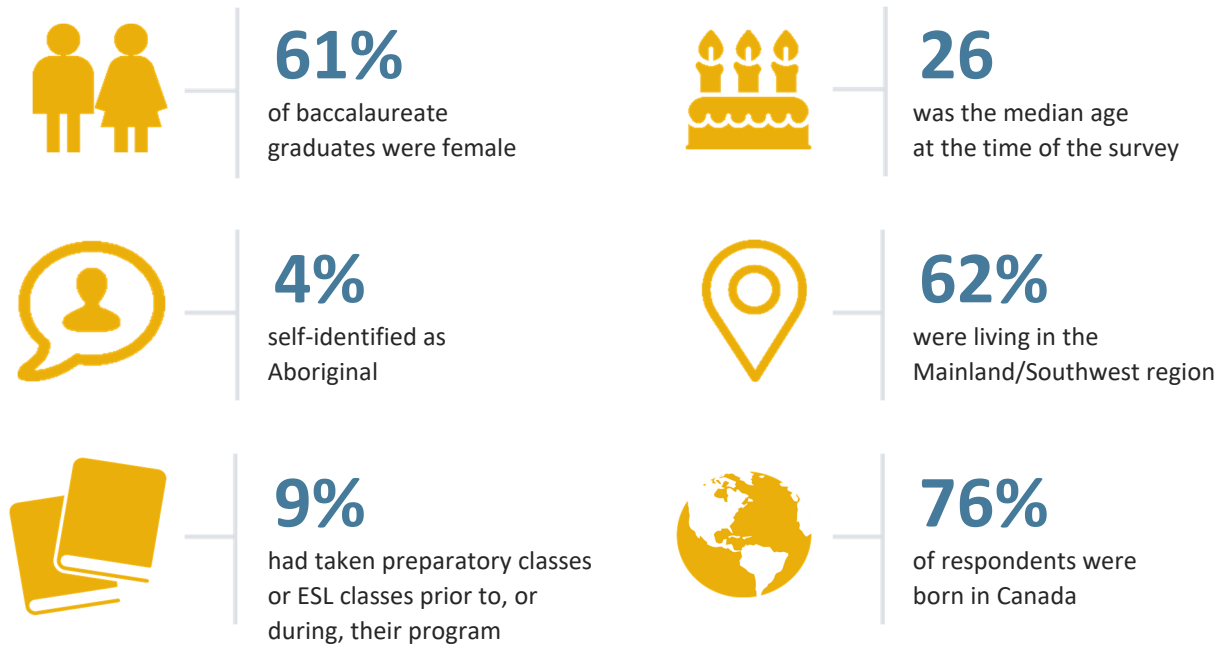
Social Sciences was the most common program area.

¹ The [Classification of Instructional Programs \(CIP\)](#) is a standard taxonomy used to describe educational programs. A standard method of grouping CIP codes into CIP clusters has been developed for use by the B.C. public post-secondary system. CIP 2016 was used for this report.

*Note:
Percentages in the report may not add to 100 due to rounding.*

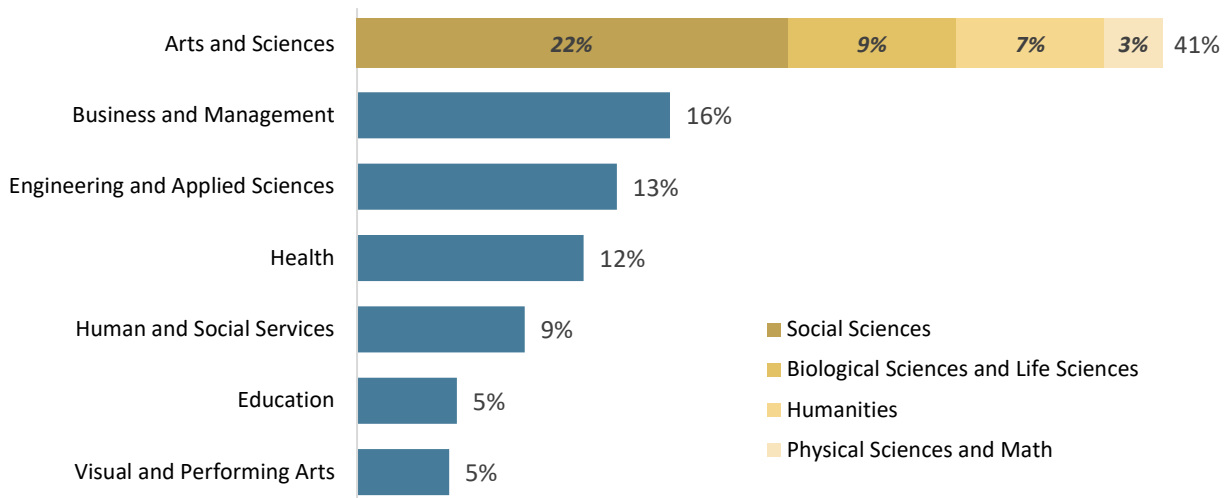
Who were the baccalaureate graduates surveyed in 2017, 2018, and 2019?

Baccalaureate graduates are surveyed two years after they complete their program.



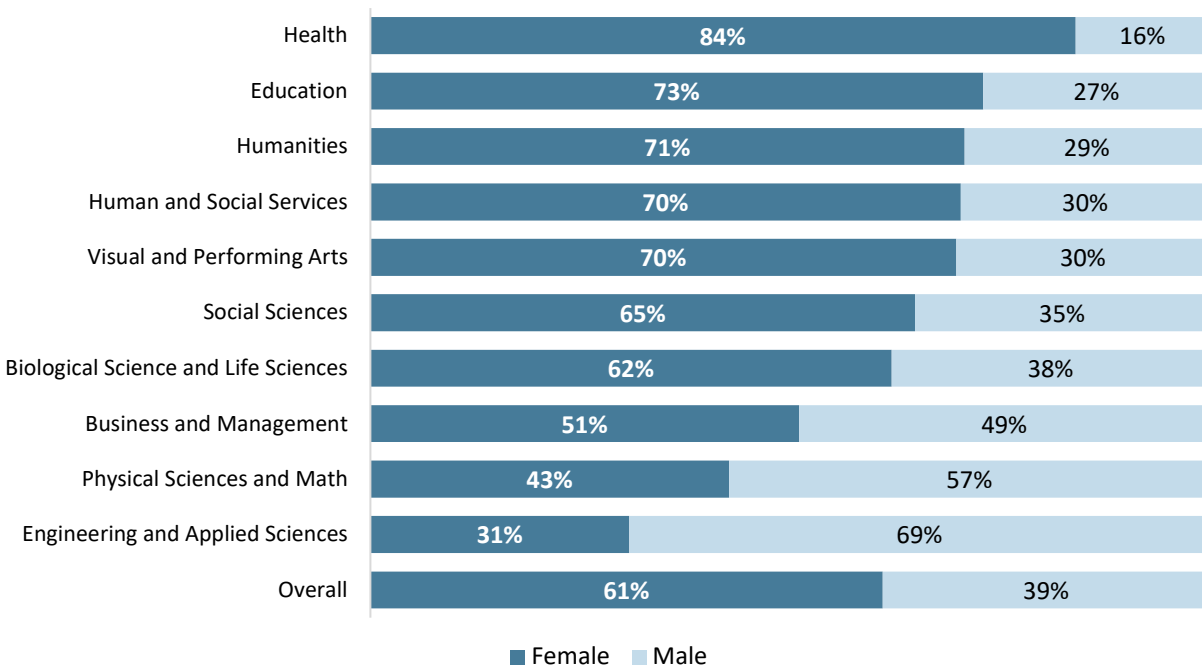
WHAT PROGRAMS DID THEY TAKE?

The most common program area was **Social Sciences**.



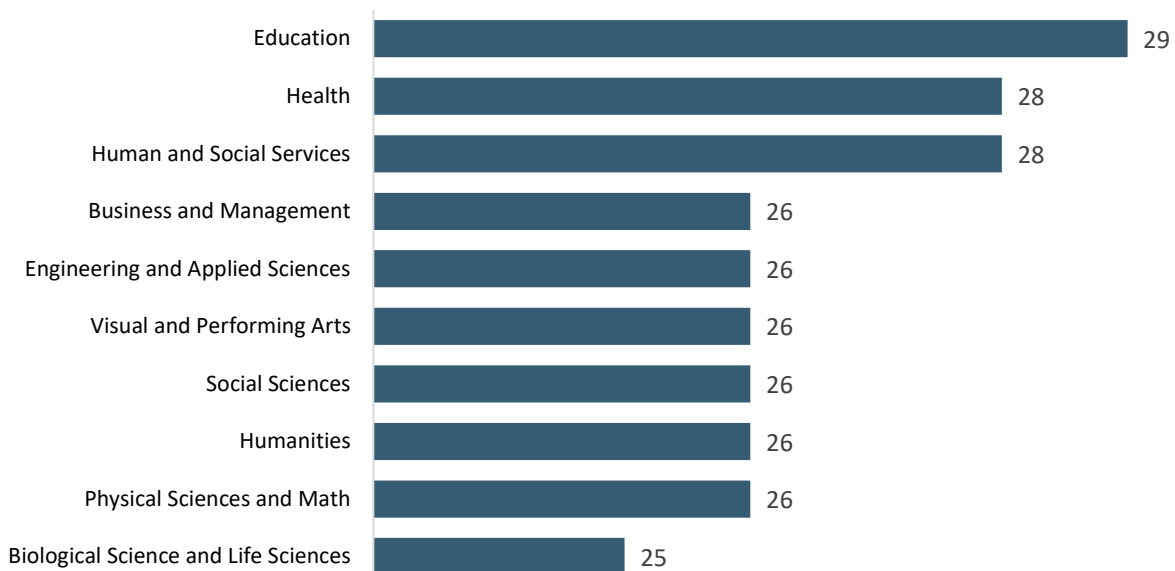
GENDER

In most program areas, **the majority of baccalaureate graduates were female.**



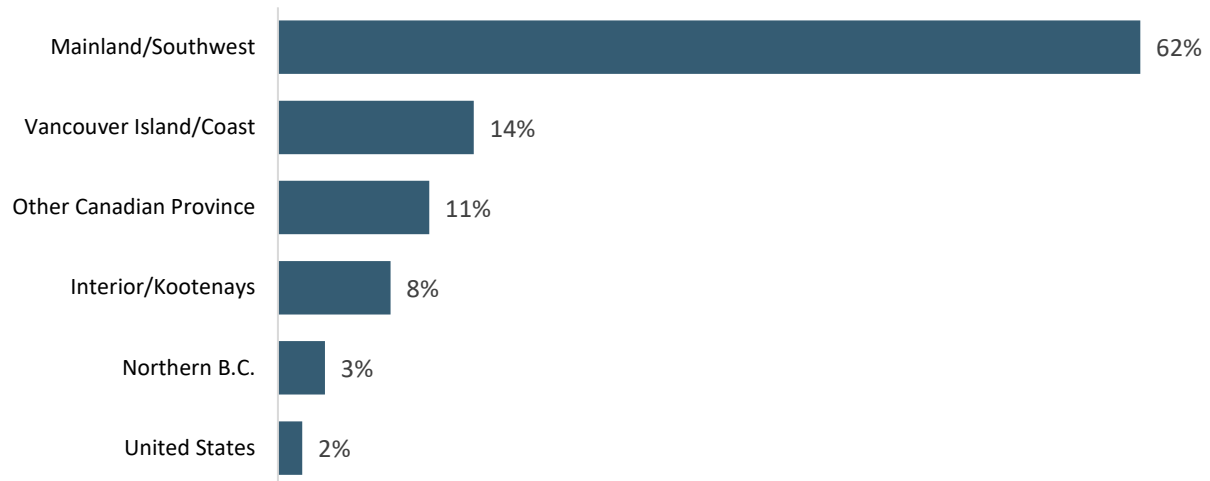
AGE

At the time of the survey, **26** was the **overall median age** of respondents.



CURRENT REGION OF RESIDENCE

Two years after graduating, the majority of graduates were **living in the Mainland/Southwest region.**



Note: Percentages are based on those respondents who provided a valid postal code.

What did they say about their education?

92% of graduates said they were **satisfied with their education.**



93%

said the **quality of instruction** was *very good or good*



75%

of graduates **would select the same program again**



89%

said the core program of required courses **provided a comprehensive understanding of their field of study**

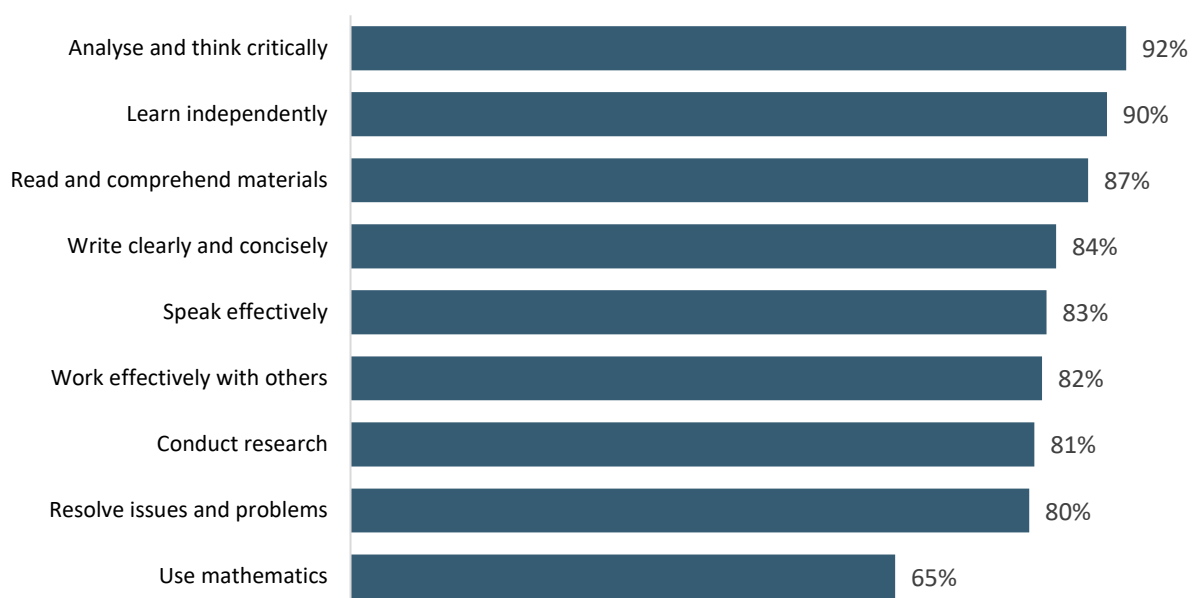


50%

participated in paid or unpaid work experience as part of their program

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

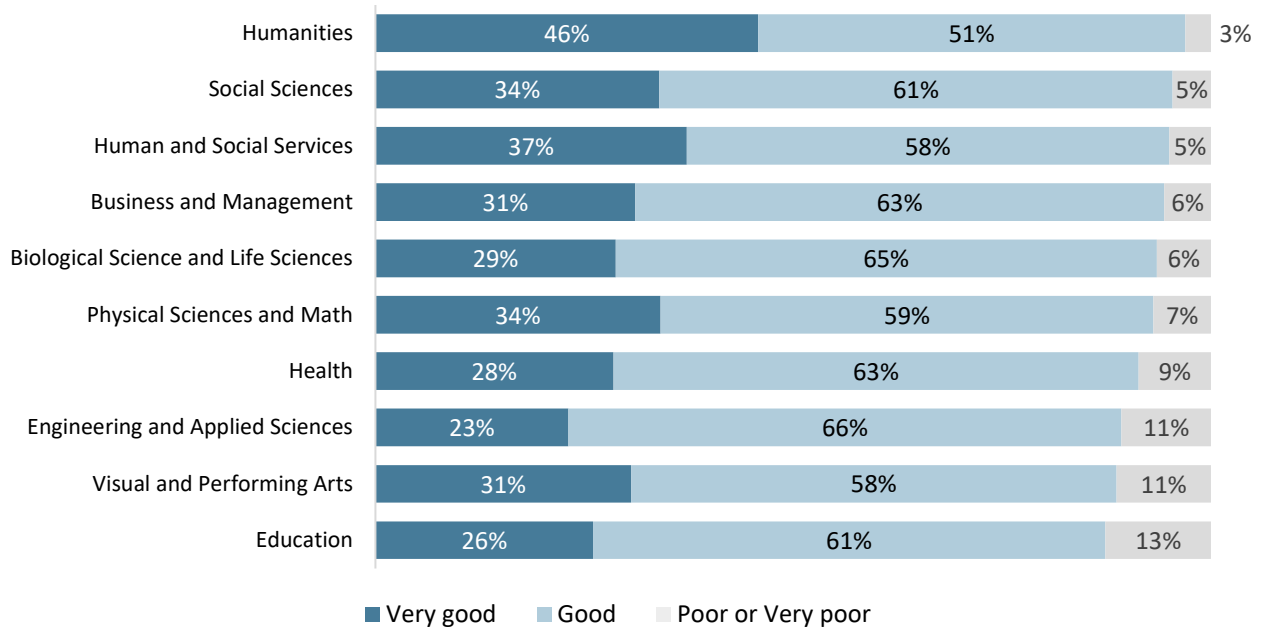
The majority of graduates said their program was *very helpful or helpful* in developing a number of skills.



Note: Percentages are based on respondents who indicated that the skill was applicable to their field of study. The percentage who reported the skills as *not applicable* ranged from 1% to 4%, with the exception of *Use mathematics* for which 22% said *not applicable*.

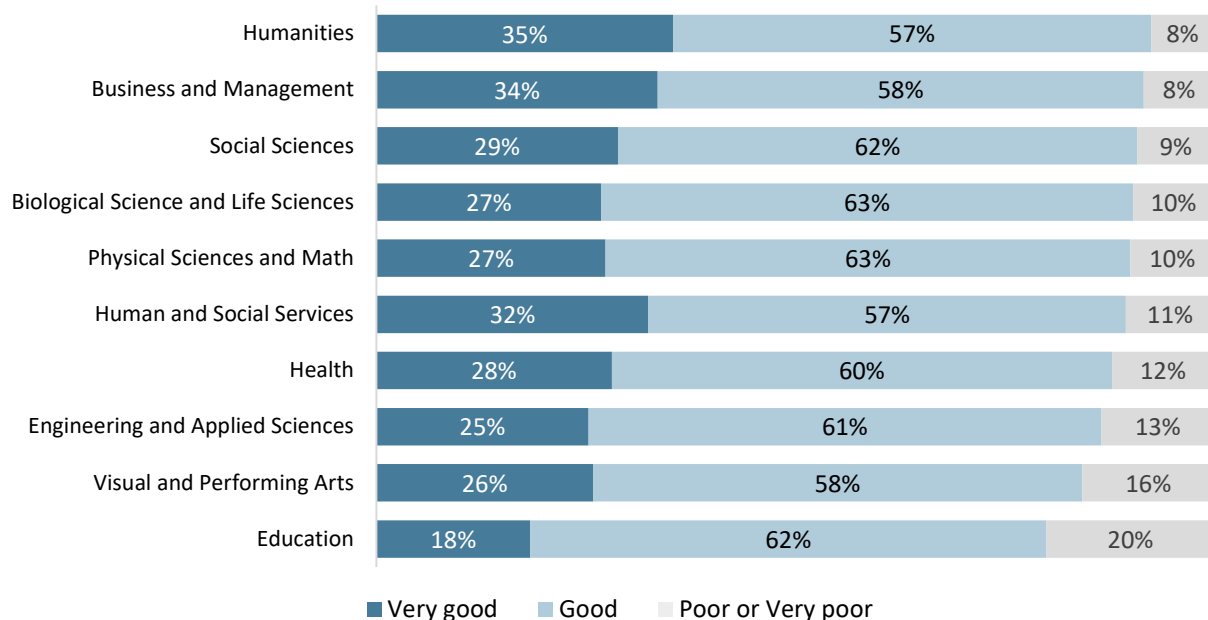
QUALITY OF COURSE INSTRUCTION

93% said the **quality of course instruction** was *very good* or *good*.



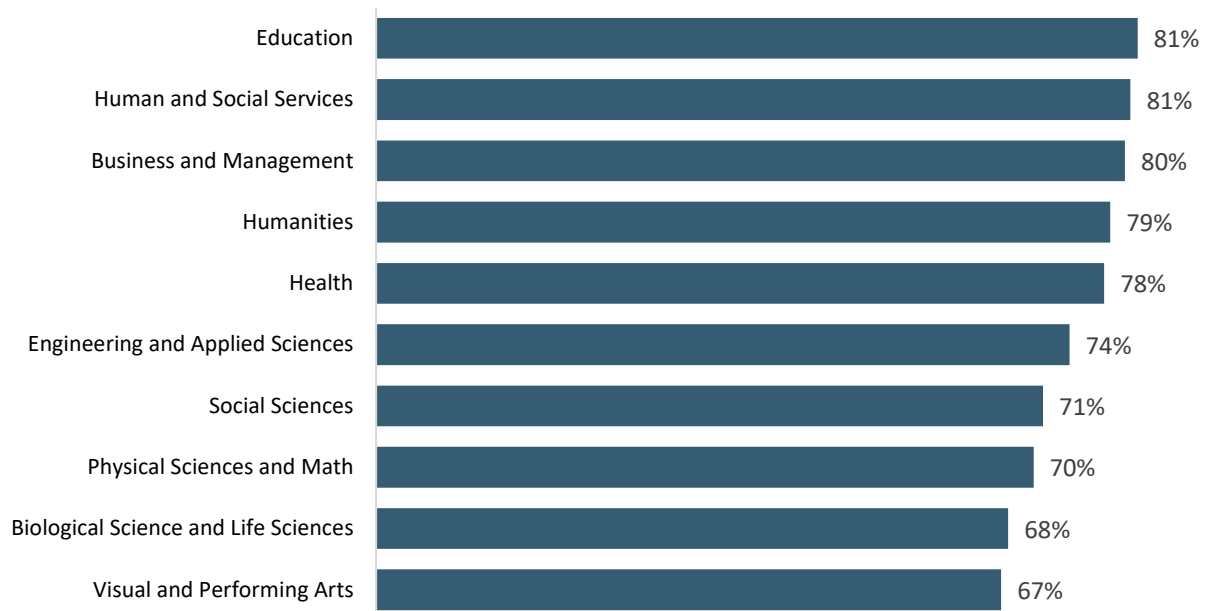
QUALITY OF CORE PROGRAM COURSES

89% said the core program of required courses provided a **comprehensive understanding of their field of study**.



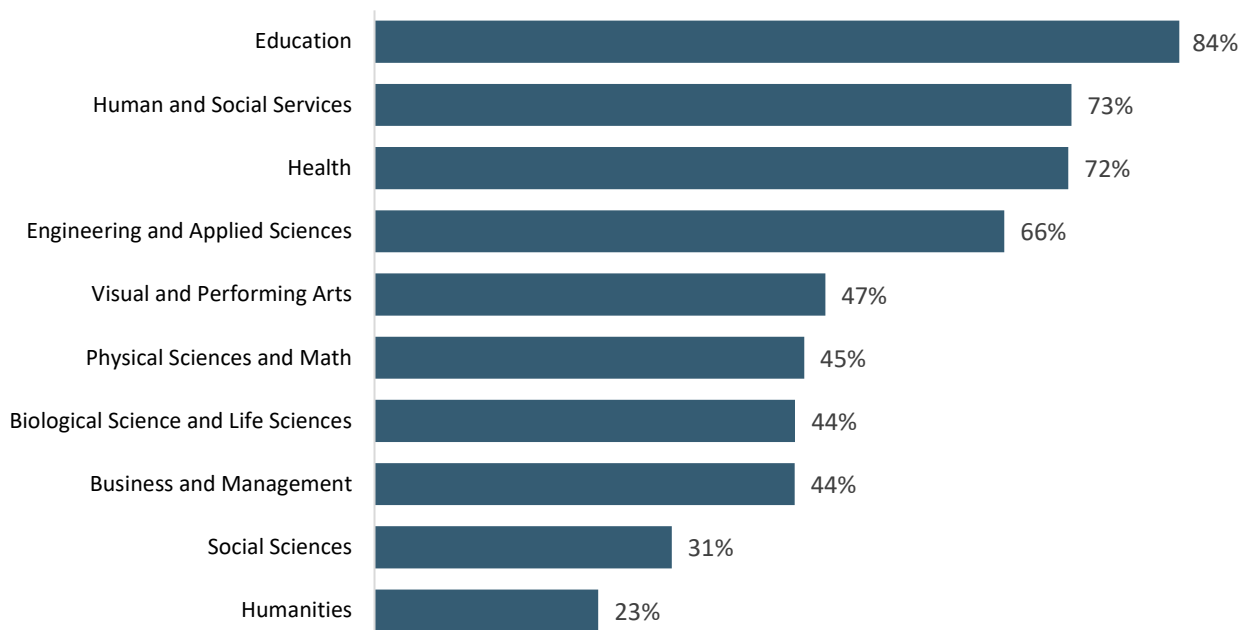
WOULD SELECT SAME PROGRAM AGAIN

75% of all graduates said they would **select the same program again**.



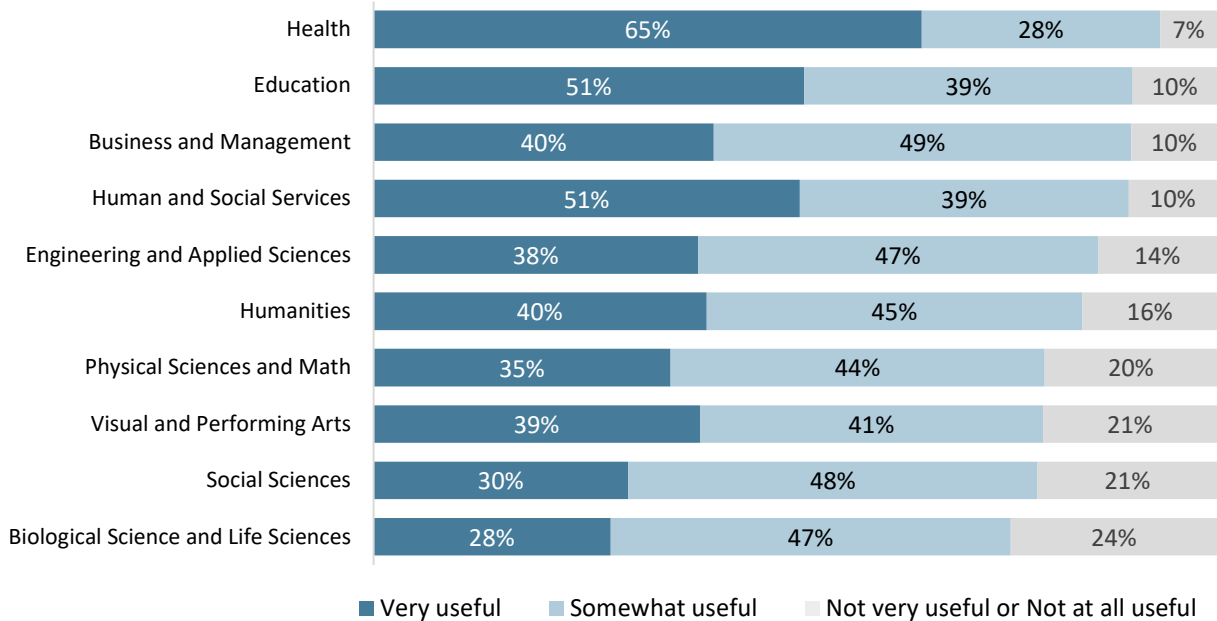
PARTICIPATED IN WORK EXPERIENCE

50% participated in paid or unpaid work experience as part of their program (*e.g., internship, practicum, volunteer requirement*).



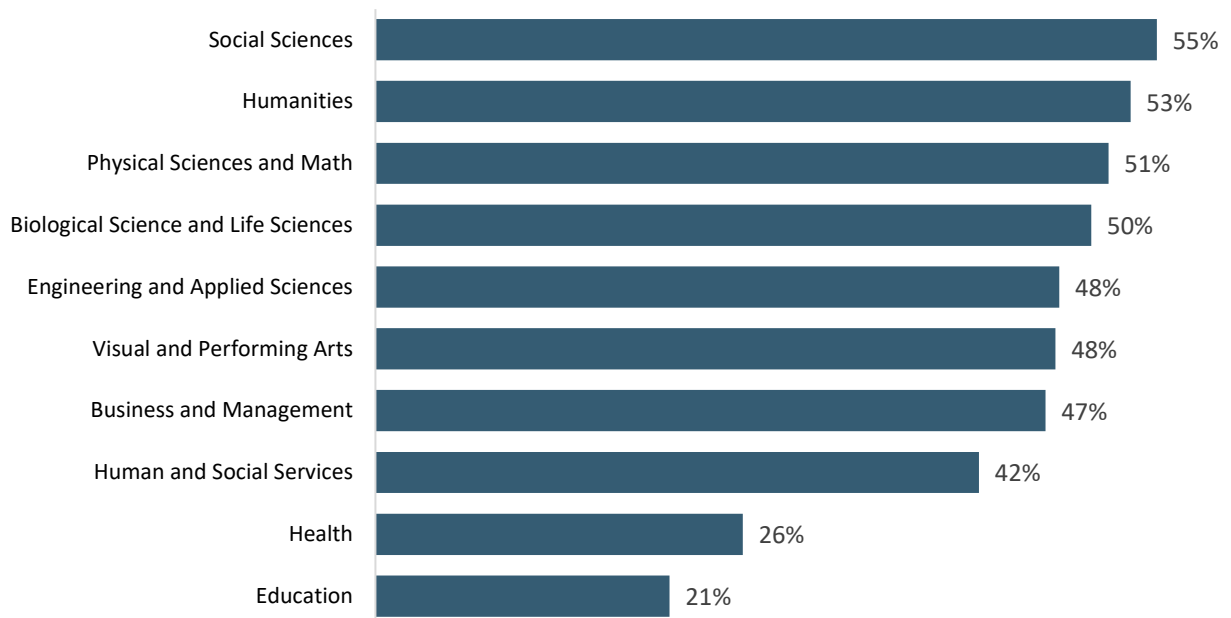
USEFULNESS OF EDUCATION IN THEIR WORK

85% of employed graduates said the **knowledge and skills acquired in their program** were *very useful* or *somewhat useful* in their work.



DIFFICULTY SCHEDULING CLASSES

46% said they **had difficulty scheduling classes** because they were either not available, not offered, always full, or had restricted enrolment.



How did graduates finance their education?

45%

borrowed money to support their education



\$27,000

was the median amount **borrowed** for their education

34%

of respondents **received government student loans**



\$25,000

was the median amount **received in government student loans**

13%

Had to **interrupt their studies** for financial reasons

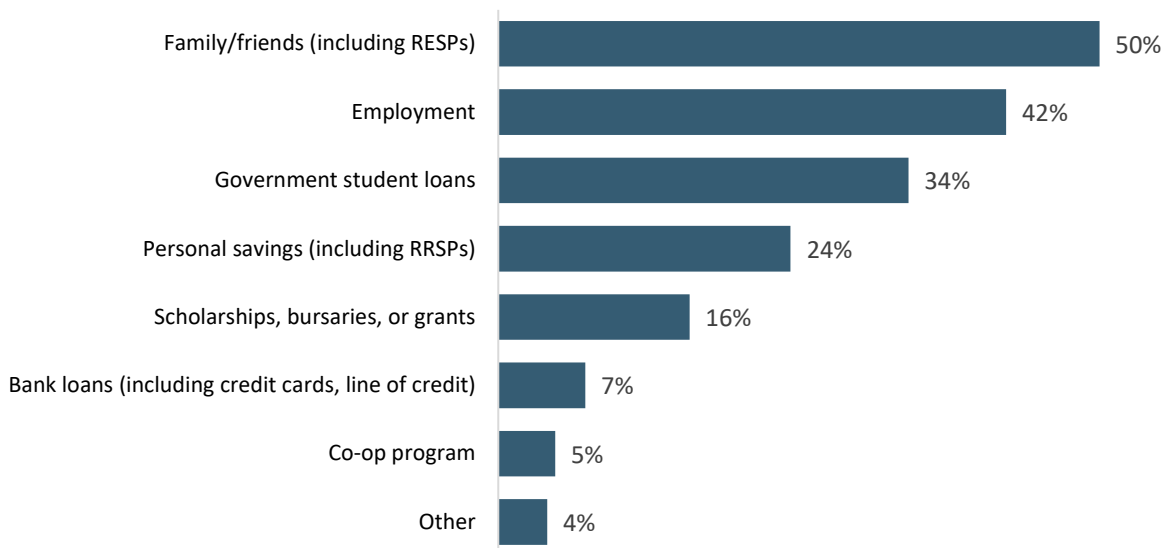


21%

took part, or all, of their program on a **part-time basis** for financial reasons

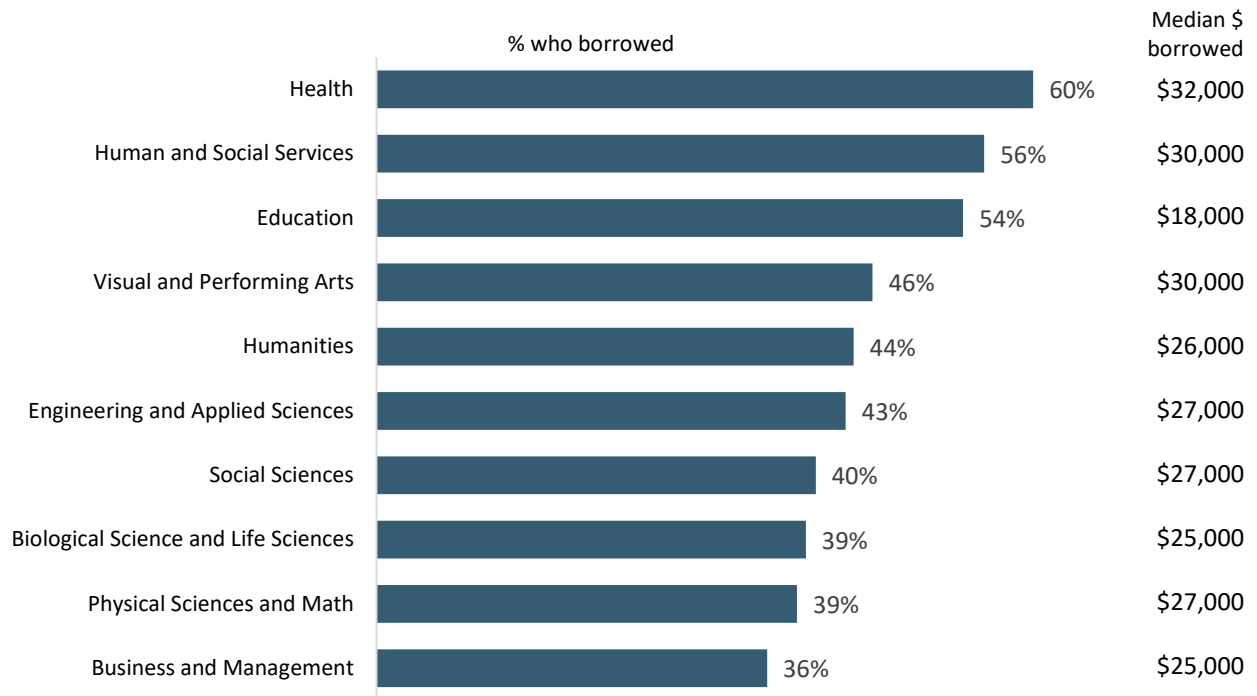
TOP SOURCES OF FUNDING

Family or friends and **employment** were the most common funding sources mentioned by graduates.



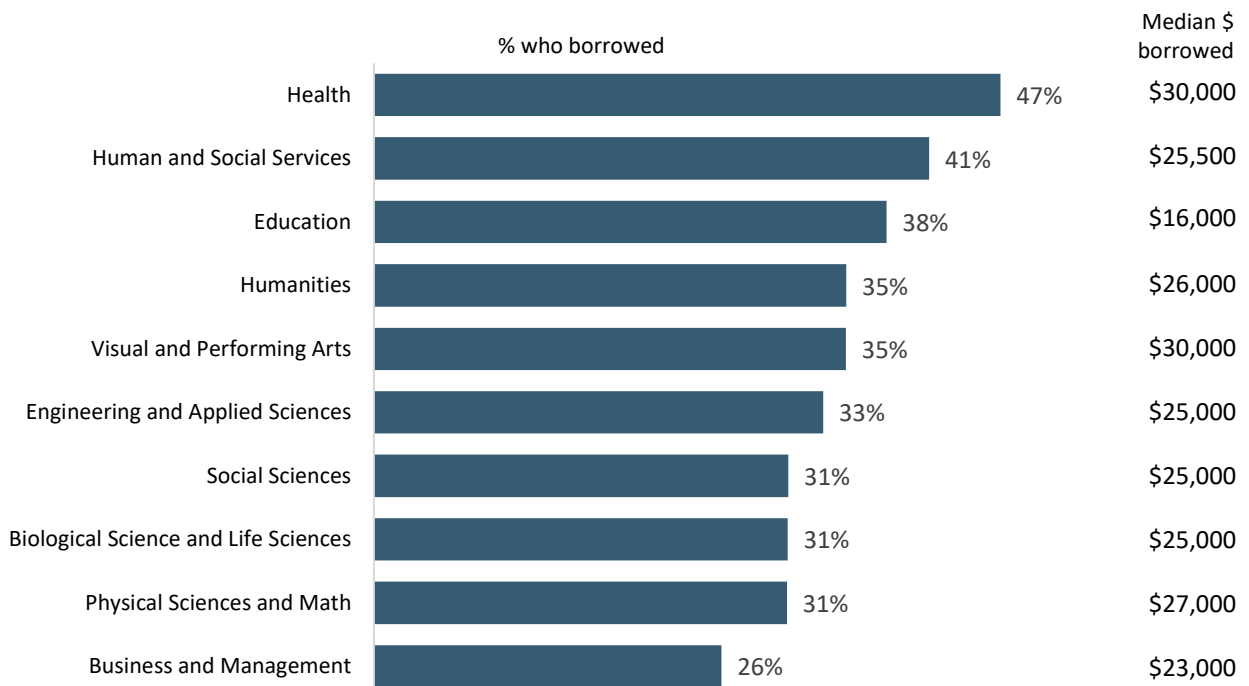
Note: Respondents indicated their top two sources of funding. Percentages add to more than 100.

BORROWED TO FINANCE THEIR EDUCATION



Note: The percentages shown are based on all respondents who gave a valid response. The amounts of debt reported are based on those who said they incurred any amount of financial debt during the undergraduate program they completed.

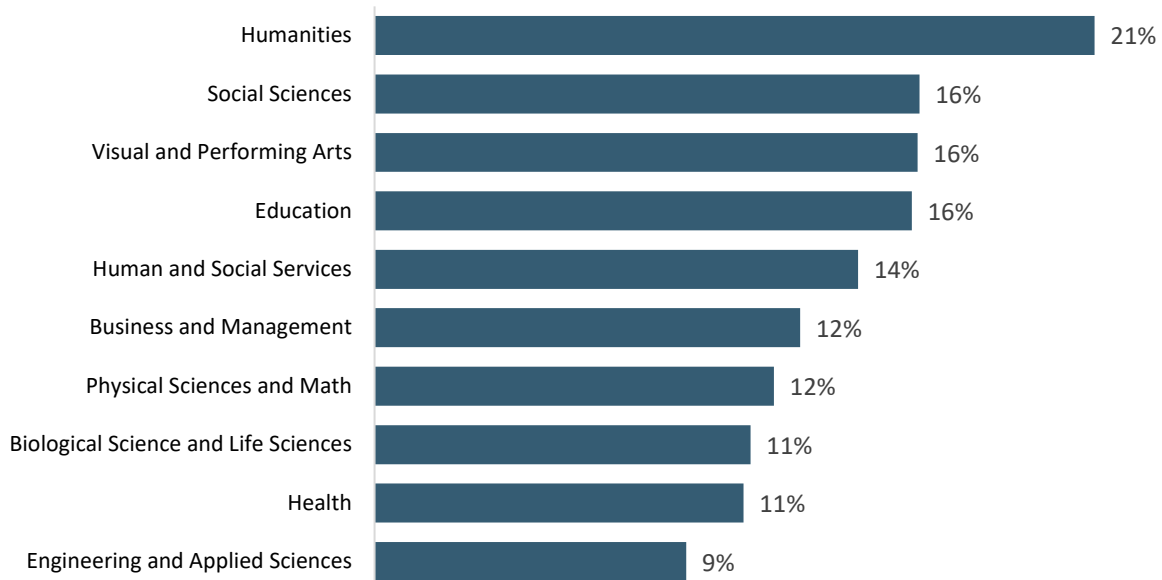
RECEIVED GOVERNMENT STUDENT LOANS



Note: The percentages shown are based on those respondents who said they received government student loans during the undergraduate program they completed.

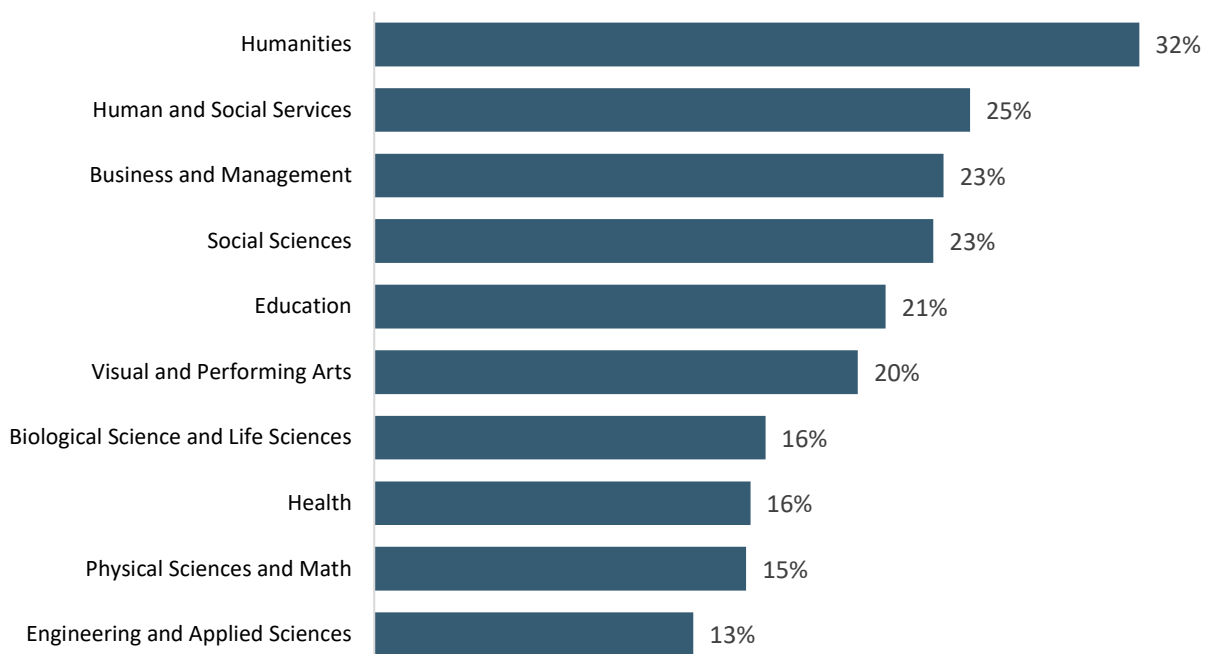
INTERRUPTED STUDIES FOR FINANCIAL REASONS

Humanities graduates had the highest rate of having to interrupt their studies for financial reasons.



STUDIED PART-TIME DUE TO FINANCES

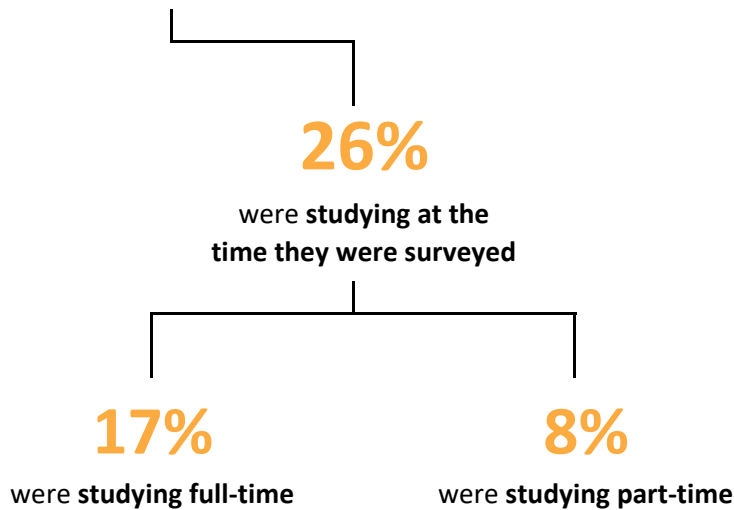
The need to take some, or all, of their program on a part-time basis due to finances was **highest among Humanities graduates**.



Did baccalaureate respondents continue their education after graduation?

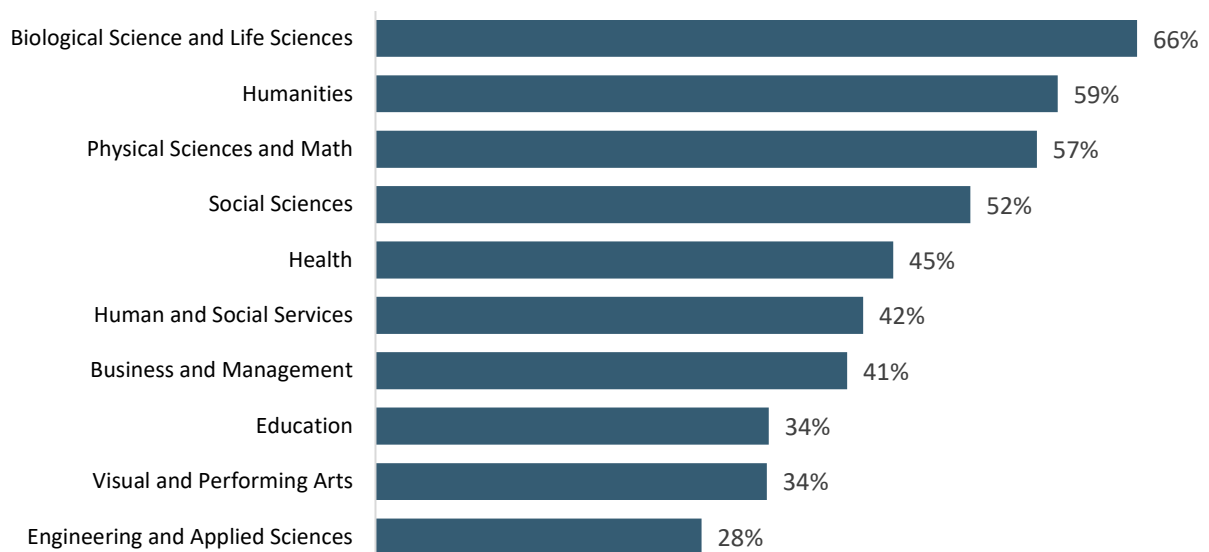
46%

of graduates **continued their education** after graduating with their baccalaureate degree



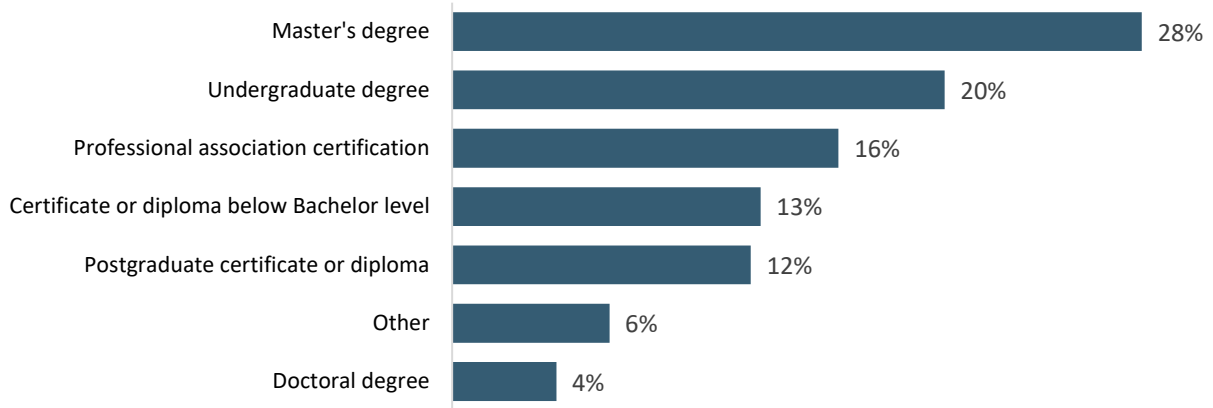
FURTHER EDUCATION BY PROGRAM

Graduates from **Arts and Sciences programs** tended to enrol in further education.



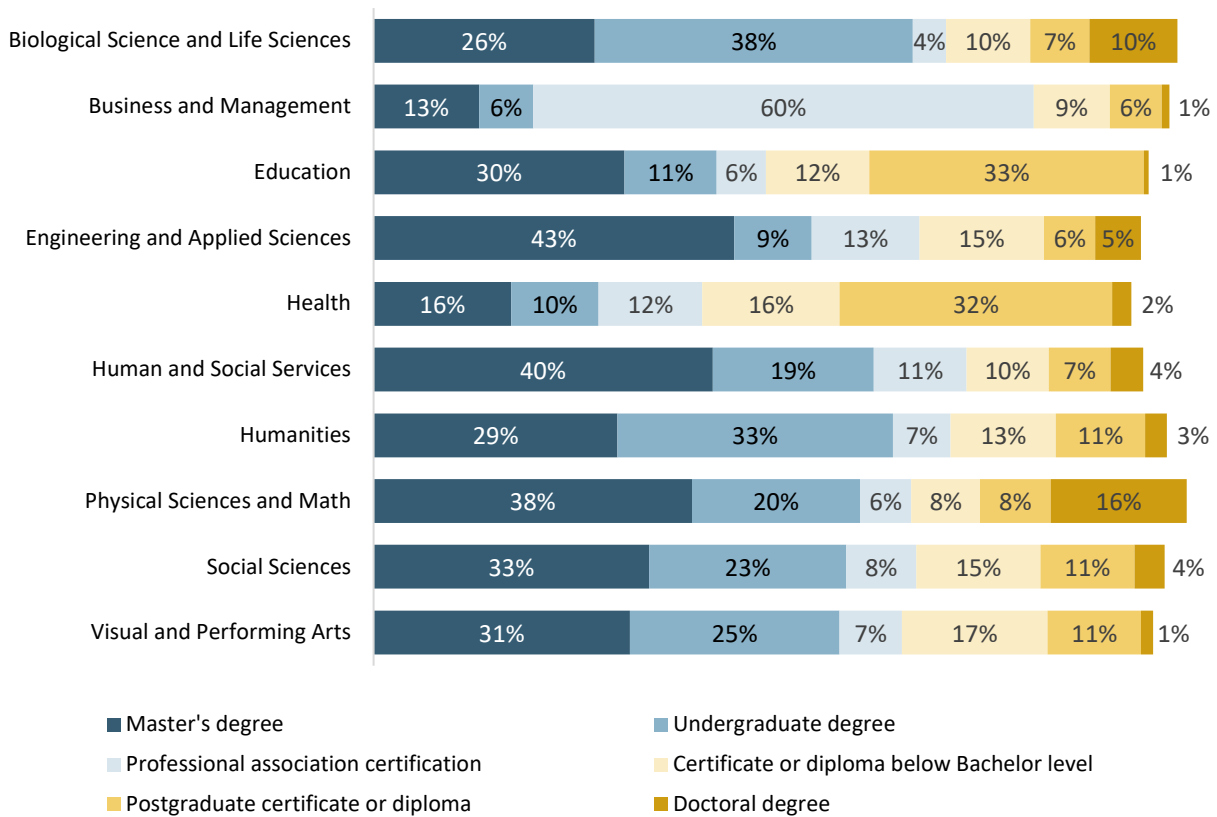
TYPES OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Of those who continued their education, **more than one-quarter were enrolled in a Master's degree program.**



TYPE OF FURTHER EDUCATION BY PROGRAM AREA

The type of further education pursued **varied by program area.**



Note: Percentages are based on respondents who said they took further education after completing their baccalaureate program. The *Other* category has not been included in this chart.

What were the employment outcomes of baccalaureate graduates?

90%

were **in the labour force**
(working or looking for work)

84%

of all respondents **were employed**

6.0%

of those in the labour force
were **unemployed**



OF THOSE WHO WERE EMPLOYED...

74%

were in a
program-related job

88%

were
working full-time

19%

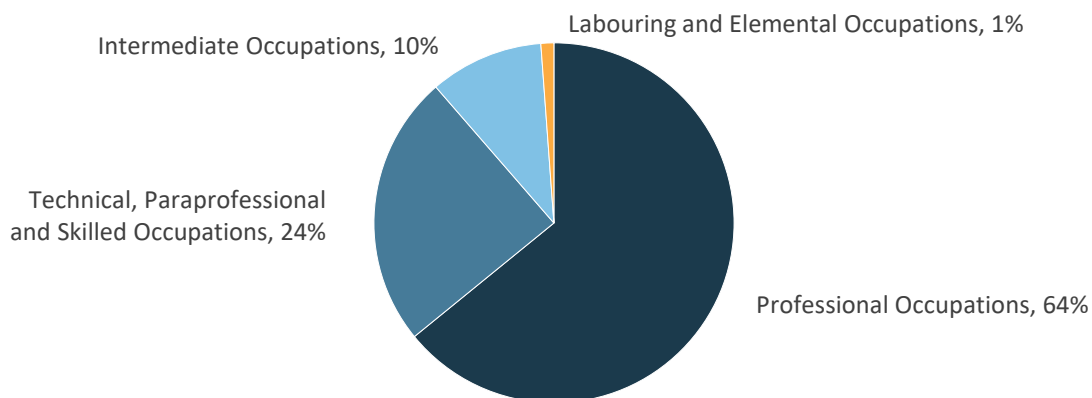
had
two or more jobs

\$54,600

was the
median annual salary
at their main job

SKILL LEVEL OF JOBS

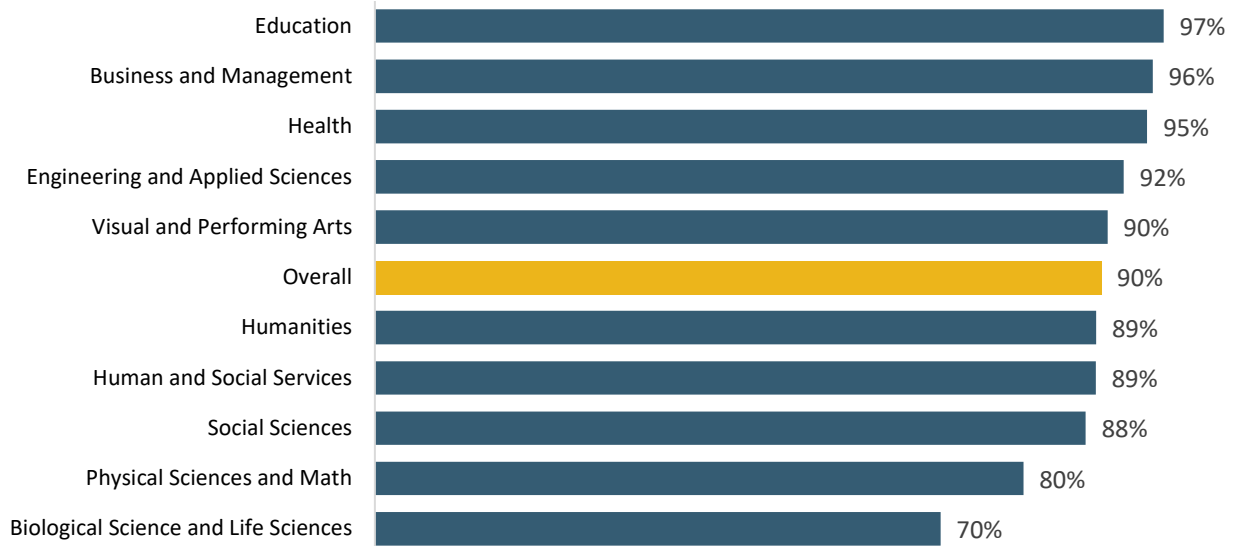
The majority of those employed were in **professional occupations**.



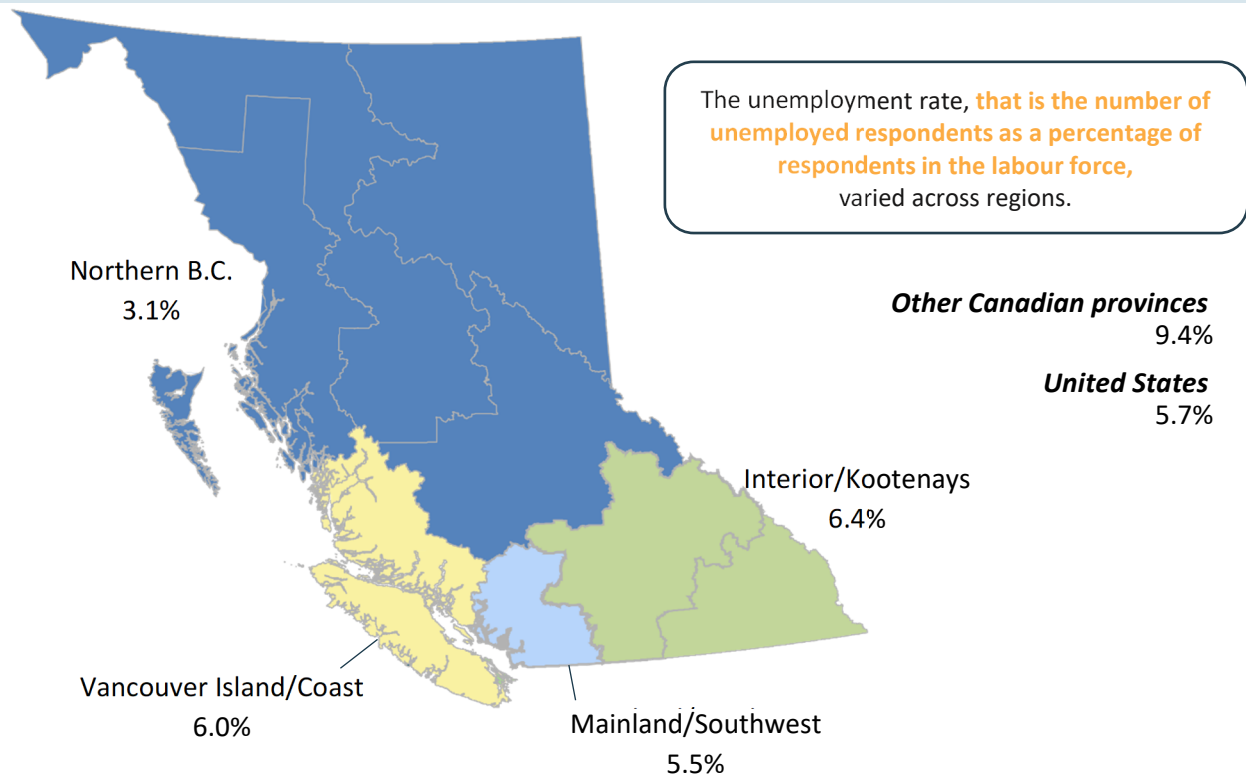
Note: The Skill Level is coded according to the National Occupational Classification (NOC). Professional occupations usually require a university education. Technical, paraprofessional, and skilled occupations usually require a college education or apprenticeship training. Intermediate occupations usually require secondary school and/or occupation-specific training. Labouring and elemental occupations are occupations for which on-the-job training is usually provided. Information on the 2016 NOC can be found here: <https://noc.esdc.gc.ca/>

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

At the time of the survey, **9 out of 10 graduates were in the labour force** (that is, working or looking for work).



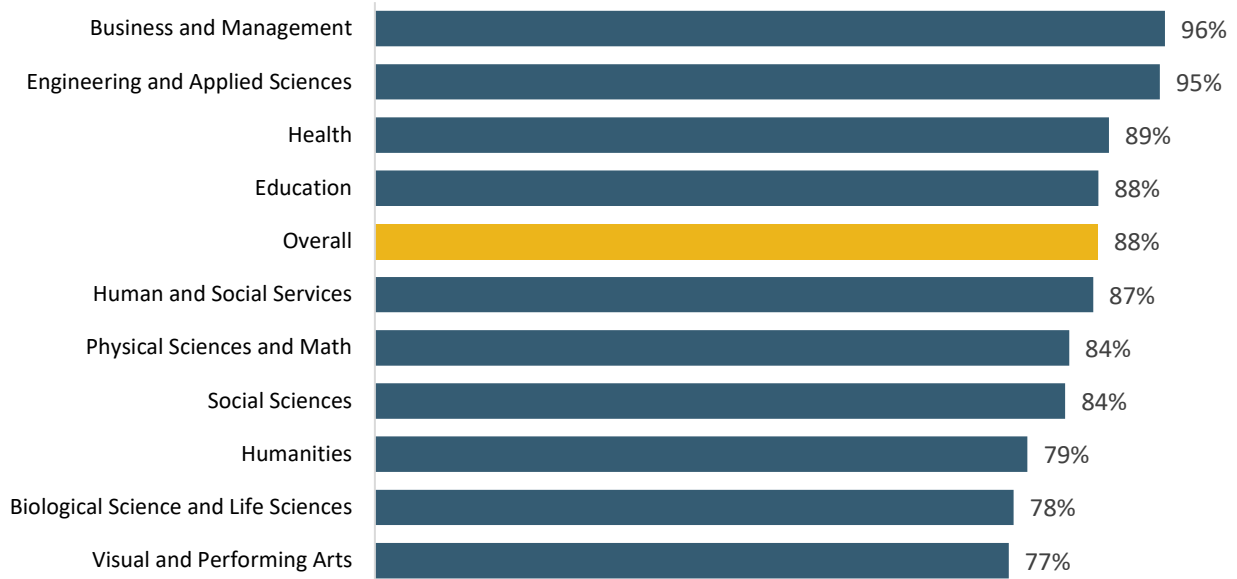
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Note: The unemployment rate for each region was based on the respondents' postal code at the time of the survey. Respondents whose location was unknown at the time of the survey were not included in the analysis.

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

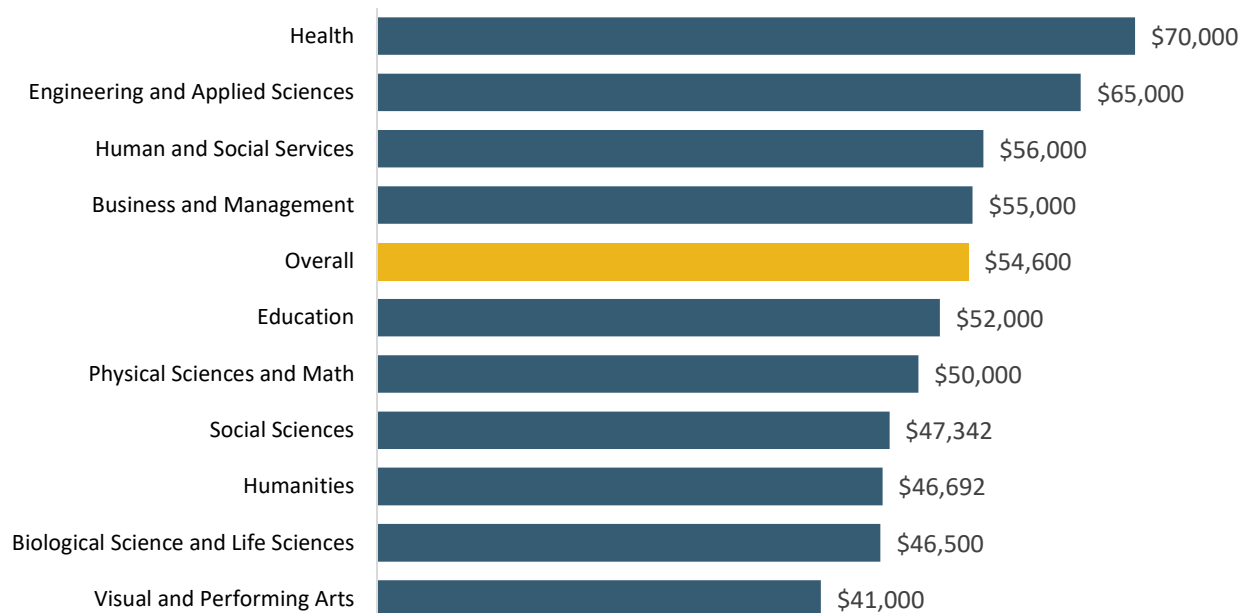
The **majority of employed graduates** were working full-time.



Note: Percentages are based on the respondents' main job.

MEDIAN INCOME

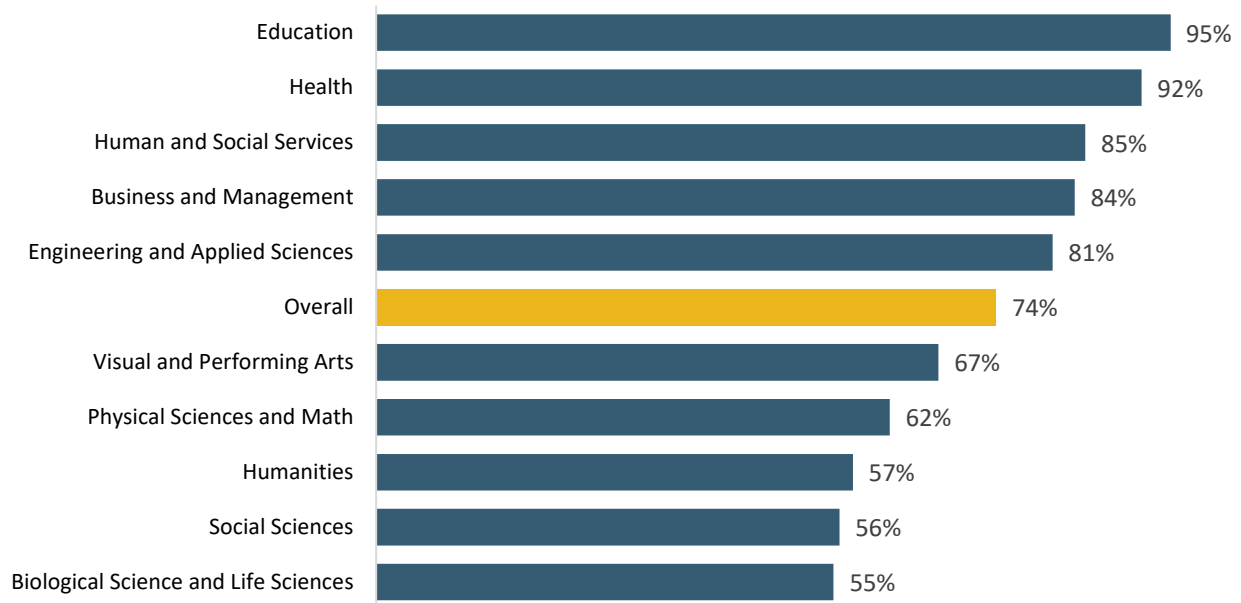
Two years post-graduation, **Health graduates reported the highest median income.**



Note: The results presented are based on those respondents who reported being employed full-time at the time of the survey. If the respondent had more than one job, they were asked to report their salary based on their main job.

IN A PROGRAM-RELATED JOB

Arts and Sciences graduates were least likely to say **their main job was related to their program of study.**



About BC Student Outcomes

The annual Baccalaureate Graduates Survey (BGS) is one of the BC Student Outcomes surveys that collects information from former post-secondary students. Those who respond are asked to evaluate their educational experiences and to talk about their employment and further education. For more information, please visit the [BC Student Outcomes website](#).

Survey Methodology

Cohort

The 2017, 2018, and 2019 surveys of baccalaureate graduates collected feedback from B.C. baccalaureate graduates two years after they completed their degree. The valid survey cohort consisted of 70,135 baccalaureate graduates from B.C. public universities, colleges, and institutes. Twelve percent of the cohort (n = 8,636) were international students. Graduates for whom no contact data were available were excluded.

There were 21 B.C. post-secondary institutions that participated in this project—eleven were classified as universities, seven were colleges, and three were institutes. The following table lists the participating institutions, the number of graduates who were eligible for the survey, the number of respondents, and the response rates.

| Institution | Cohort | Respondents | Response Rate |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| University of British Columbia | 23,562 | 9,562 | 41% |
| Simon Fraser University | 15,063 | 6,373 | 42% |
| University of Victoria | 9,518 | 4,399 | 46% |
| Kwantlen Polytechnic University | 2,926 | 1,451 | 50% |
| Thompson Rivers University | 2,782 | 1,377 | 49% |
| University of the Fraser Valley | 2,633 | 1,224 | 46% |
| British Columbia Institute of Technology | 2,456 | 1,223 | 50% |
| Vancouver Island University | 2,303 | 1,216 | 53% |
| University of Northern British Columbia | 1,701 | 796 | 47% |
| Capilano University | 1,384 | 626 | 45% |
| Douglas College | 1,246 | 656 | 53% |
| Emily Carr University of Art and Design | 1,098 | 573 | 52% |
| Royal Roads University | 991 | 486 | 49% |
| Langara College | 886 | 516 | 58% |
| Okanagan College | 564 | 288 | 51% |
| Camosun College | 500 | 269 | 54% |
| Vancouver Community College | 232 | 122 | 53% |
| North Island College | 117 | 82 | 70% |
| Nicola Valley Institute of Technology | 89 | 62 | 70% |
| Justice Institute of BC | 71 | 40 | 56% |
| College of the Rockies | 13 | 12 | 92% |
| Overall | 70,135 | 31,353 | 45% |

Note: University of British Columbia includes both the Okanagan and Vancouver campuses.

Data Collection

The Baccalaureate Graduates Survey was administered as a mixed-mode survey, with interviews conducted by telephone and online using an integrated Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI)/ Computer Assisted Web Interview (CAWI) system. A field test cohort of former students was randomly selected from the available institutional samples. Full telephone survey administration, and online survey administration, was undertaken from September through January for each survey year.

A total of 31,353 survey completions were obtained, for a final response rate of 45 percent. There were 2,624 international student respondents.

More than two-thirds (69 percent) of all surveys were completed online.

Analysis and Reporting

BC Stats was responsible for cleaning and validating the data received from the data collection contractor. Based on these data—the responses to the survey questionnaire—the necessary variables were derived for analysis and reporting. Results from the most recent survey are available at <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca>.

Limitations

The former students who responded to the survey—45 percent of those who were eligible—were those from the cohort who could be located and who agreed to be surveyed. Students who remained in B.C. might have been easier to locate to participate in the survey. Those who responded to the survey may not be representative of all former students.

Percentages

For consistency and ease of presentation, most percentages in the report text, tables, and charts have been rounded and may not always add to 100.

Unless otherwise noted, each percentage is based on the number of students who gave a valid response to the question—those who refused the question, or said *don't know*, were not included in calculations.