

Boston College First Destinations: Class of 2020

Executive Summary

The purpose of the Boston College Post-Graduation Plans Survey is to track recent graduates' future plans via topics such as their primary activity six months post-graduation, employment industries, the timing of offers and starting salary information, graduate school enrollment by program, degree, and institution, and the organizations through which recent graduates engage in fellowships and service work.

Serving as partners in this data collection effort, the Career Center and Institutional Research & Planning have utilized a variety of resources to supplement information gathered via the traditional survey administration process, resulting in a set of information collected from graduating seniors that provides valuable data for faculty, administrators, and employers to better serve students in their career-planning activities. The survey administration process, and methods in which the data are reported, both conform to the guidelines put forth by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the leading resource for information on post-graduation plans, hiring forecasts, job market trends and employment-related best practices and benchmarks.

Survey administration and data collection

- The survey was administered online from May 2020 through December 2020 to all members of the undergraduate Class of 2020 and yielded a 48% response rate.
- Data from the National Student Clearinghouse, internal Boston College sources, and public data were compiled to supplement survey data, yielding an additional 25%.
- Input was collected for 1,622 students (a 73% knowledge rate).

Highlights

- Of the students with input collected, more than 9 out of 10 members of the Class of 2020 (93%) indicated that they are employed, attending graduate school, engaging in service/volunteering, or participating in a fellowship.
- Of those employed full-time, the median salary reported by members of the Class of 2020 is \$62,000 with the middle 50% of students reporting salaries between \$48,000 and \$75,000.
- A broad range of industries is represented for those respondents who are employed (including those whose primary activity is the military or an internship), and includes areas such as financial services, healthcare, consulting and management, technology, communication and media, retail, law and public policy, education, accounting, entertainment, and social services. The top industries represented across BC are: Financial Services & Real Estate (23%); Healthcare, Life & Physical Sciences, Environment (19%); and Business Services, Consulting, Management (11%).

- For graduates who are employed, the majority received job offers by the end of their second semester senior year (79%).
- While a majority of 2020 graduates remain in the Northeast (76%), graduates do move to all regions of the United States (in 38 states, not including D.C.), as well as 23 countries outside of the U.S.: Australia, Botswana, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Micronesia, Netherlands, Serbia, South Korea, Spain, United Kingdom
- Of those who are employed and who selected at least one resource, more than two-thirds (70%) of graduates used a Boston College Career Center resource to secure their employment (i.e., EagleLink (now Handshake) on-campus interviews, Other EagleLink (now Handshake) job postings, Career Center website, Career fair at BC, Career Center event or program, or networking through BC).
- The top job search resources utilized by those who are employed and selected at least one resource include: networking through BC (46%); networking beyond BC (43%); Career fair at BC (38%); and EagleLink (now Handshake) on-campus interviews (38%).
- Over three-fourths of respondents who selected at least one factor, (77%) cited “interested in the field” as a factor influencing post-graduation plans.
- While enrolled at BC, members in the Class of 2020 reported that they participated in the following activities: internship(s) (85% paid and/or unpaid, paid 71%, unpaid 49%); community service/volunteer work (outside of class) experience(s) (81%); student organization leadership roles (78%); on-campus job(s) (71%); Study abroad/global experience(s) (62%); research project(s) worked on with BC faculty (39%); service learning (as part of a course) experience(s) (35%); externship(s) or job shadow(s) (32%); and research project(s) worked on outside of BC (17%).
- Almost one-quarter (23%) of graduates indicated that they are pursuing a graduate degree as their primary activity after graduation. Of those attending graduate school, more than two-thirds (69%) are pursuing Master’s degrees and 11% are pursuing Doctorates (which includes: Ph.D., Ed.D., D.D.S., D.M.D., D.V.M., D.N.P., Psy.D., O.T.D.)
- Out of students pursuing a graduate degree, the top areas of study are: Business (20%), Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) (15%), Education (14%), and Law (13%).
- For those who are volunteering after their graduation from BC, about one-third (32.5%) are serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Class of 2020 graduates are also volunteering with a host of other service organizations, both domestic and international.