



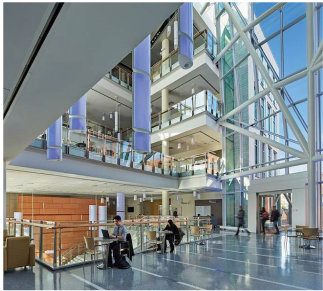
University of Massachusetts Boston
Boston's Public Research University

Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning

PLANS AFTER GRADUATION

Survey Results of UMass Boston 2021 Graduating Class

November 2021



The Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning (OIRAP) is the primary source for official campus statistics, complying with the federal, state, and university reporting standards and requirements. OIRAP conducts student surveys and special research studies in support of university policy formation, assessment, and accountability.

This report is written by the OIRAP Research Analyst for Institutional Effectiveness Fatema Binte Ahad.

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Background

The Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning (OIRAP) in partnership with the Office of Career Services and Internships launched the first ‘Graduating Student Survey’ in 2015. The pilot study affirmed the urgency of gathering data on student outcomes and post-graduation plans. The 2016 survey took a step forward with added measures. These additional measures showcased students’ post-graduation plans in greater detail, use of resources, overall experience, and willingness to get involved in the future as UMass Boston alumni. These measures, successfully, provided helpful insights to the administrators. In 2017, the survey instrument was revised in order to provide clarifications to the respondents, answer frequently asked questions to the administrators; and shortened for brevity. In 2018 and 2019, an almost identical version of the survey was employed. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, survey administration was postponed in 2020. The survey administration was resumed in 2021 with several changes. A set of updated post-graduation outcome questions was added that align with the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) First-Destination Survey. . Additionally, two sets of new metrics were included to understand students’ usage and experience of career center services and to measure students’ sense of belonging at UMass Boston. The graduating student survey allows UMass Boston to monitor student outcomes and satisfaction for both graduate and undergraduate students who have completed their program. The study intends to help—1) colleges build a more exhaustive profile, 2) offices evaluate students’ current usage of resources, and 3) administration acquire information for planning and policy purposes.

Methods

In 2021, we administered the survey in two phases, in May and August. During the first phase, a unique link was posted on the university’s learning management system-Blackboard, distributed via social media posts, and in commencement emails. There are two separate questionnaires; one for graduate and one for undergraduate students. Individual email invitations were sent in both phases through the Qualtrics survey platform. Invitations were sent to all students who graduated in Fall 2020, registered to walk in the commencement ceremony, and completed in Spring 2021; additionally students were included who intended to complete in Summer 2021. The lists of such graduate and undergraduate students were obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

Response Rate and Participants

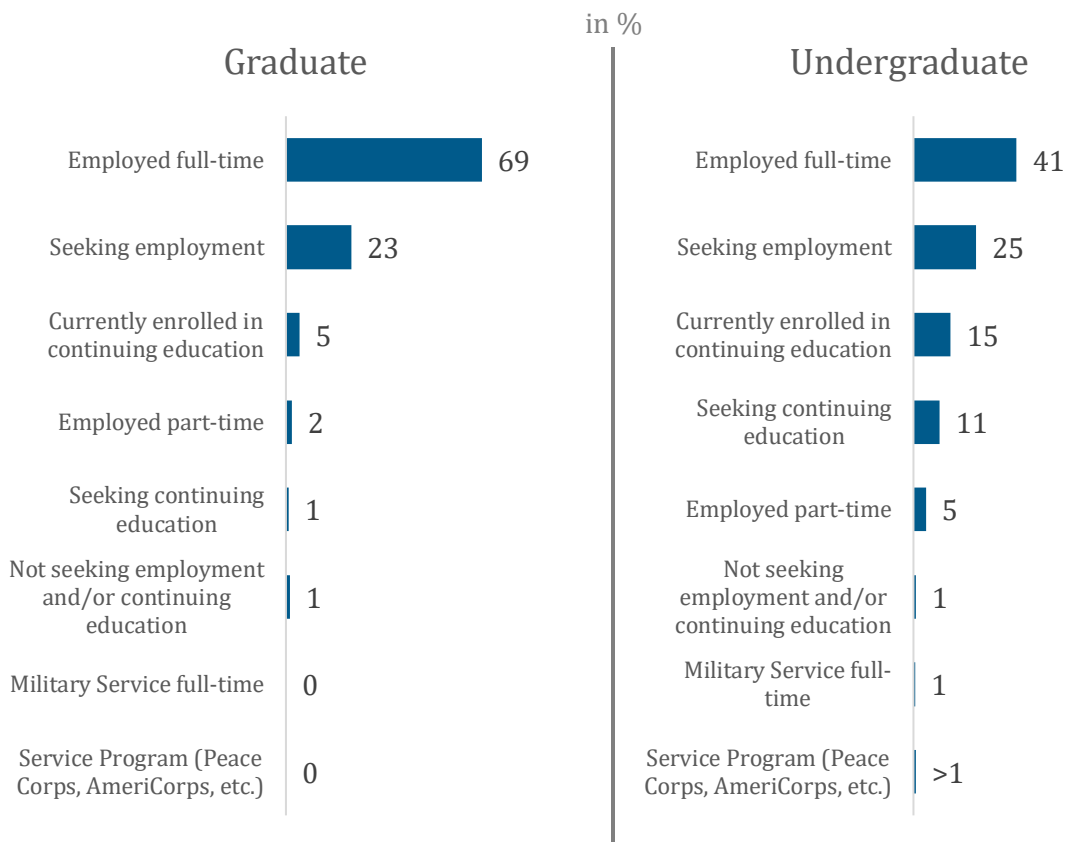
Duplicate responses and responses without a name and valid ID were removed prior to analysis. A total of 300 graduate and 670 undergraduate students participated in the survey. This yielded a response rate of 31 percent for the graduate and 24 percent for the undergraduate students. Graduate students include masters and doctoral or professional degree recipients. At the time of publication, the gender and ethnicity distribution of our 2021 graduating could not be determined as our official degree data will not be released until December 2021. When interpreting or generalizing the results, this needs to be considered. Any college-level generalization or comparison must be done with caution as each college has its unique characteristics and the number of total participants is smaller for some colleges than the others. Among respondents, 56 percent of undergraduate and 34 percent of graduate students were first-generation college students, that is, none of the parents or guardians received a bachelor’s degree. Response rate and frequency distribution for gender, ethnicity, and colleges can be found in Appendix A. Frequency distribution for all survey responses can be found in Appendix B.

Survey Findings

Post-Graduation Plans

One of the key focuses of this survey is post-graduation plans of the graduating class. Of those who responded to the survey, 69 percent of the graduate and 41 percent of the undergraduate students reported being employed full-time at the time of graduation. Another two percent of graduate and five percent of undergraduate students reported being employed part-time. Five percent of graduate and 15 percent of undergraduate students reported that they were enrolled in continuing education (including any certification program as well as degree programs). Figure 1 presents the post-graduation plans of our 2021 graduating class.

Figure 1: Post-graduation Plans

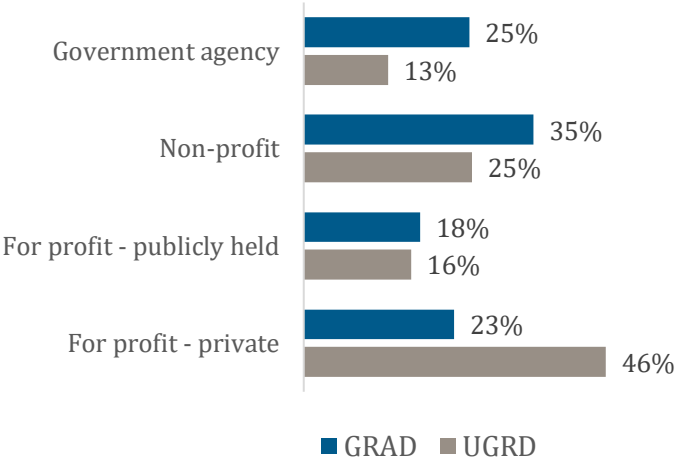


Employment

Those who reported being reported full or part-time at the time of taking this survey were asked a series of additional questions. These questions focused on specifics such as the nature of employment, the title of the position, employer name, annual salary and bonus, the closeness of the position to their career goals, and job location. A complete list of the reported employers is available upon request.

Of those students who reported being employed, 90 percent of the graduate and 88 percent of the undergraduate students reported working for an employer. One percent of the graduate and two percent of undergraduate students reported working as entrepreneurs. A higher percentage of the graduate students (25%) was employed at government agencies than the undergraduate students (13%). However, a higher percentage of undergraduate students (46%) was employed for for-profit private organizations than graduate students (23%). Figure 2 presents this information.

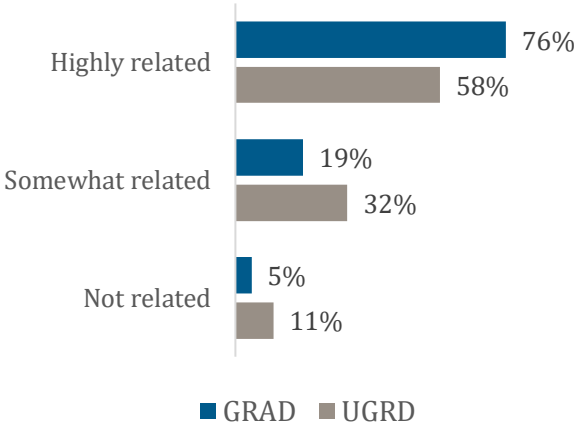
Figure 2: Employment Organization



Full-time employed graduate students ($n = 137$) reported an average annual salary of \$72,359 and undergraduate students ($n = 193$) reported \$56,024. Thirty-two percent of the graduate ($n=48$) and 28 percent of the undergraduate respondents ($n=59$) reported receiving a guaranteed bonus.

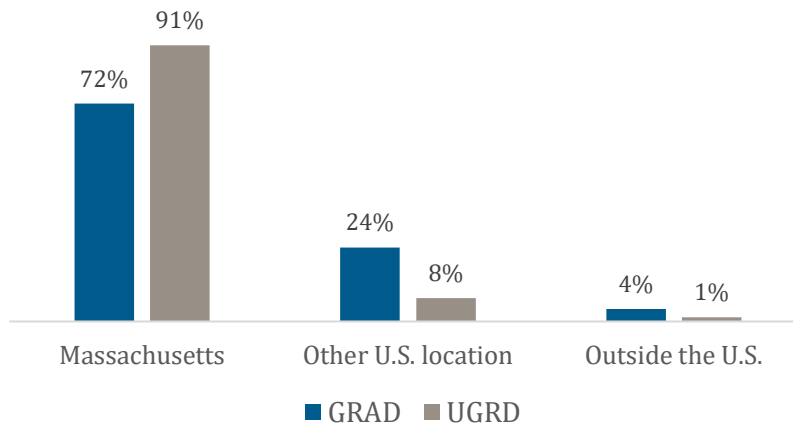
We asked the students to report how close the current job position/offer relates to their career goals (Figure 3). Graduate students are more likely to report (76%) *highly related* than the undergraduate students (58%).

Figure 3: Closeness of Job and Career Goals



More than seven out of ten graduate students (72%) and most of the undergraduate students (91%) plan to remain in Massachusetts for work (Figure 4). Graduate students (24%) were more likely to report migrating to another state for employment compared to undergraduate students (8%).

Figure 4: Job Location

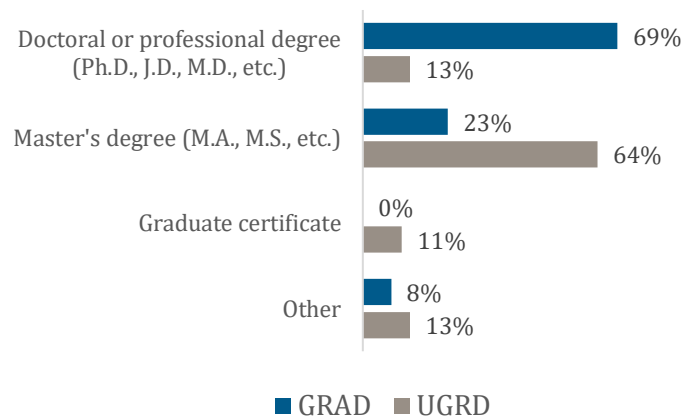


The top three occupational sectors for graduate degree recipients are K-12 education (21%), higher education (15%), and health professions (10%). The top three occupational sectors for undergraduate degree recipients are health professions (13%), nursing (12%), and K-12 education (8%).

Post-Graduation Education Plans

Respondents who reported being enrolled in continuing education (graduate $n=14$, undergraduate $n=94$) were asked to provide their field of study, name of college/university, and the type of degree. Of those that are currently enrolled, 69 percent of graduate students reported pursuing a doctoral or professional degree and 64 percent of undergraduate students reported pursuing a master's degree (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Type of Degree

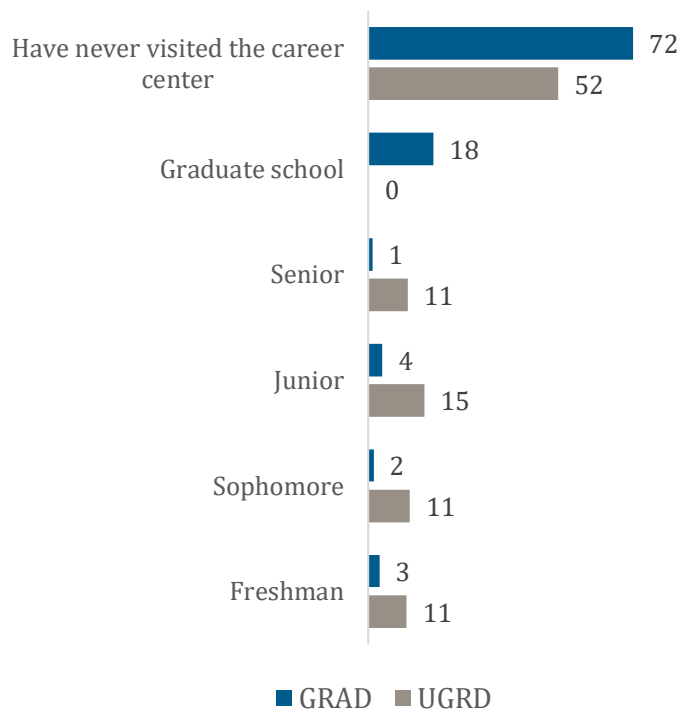


Those who indicated seeking continuing education were also asked about their intended field of study, name of intended college/university, type of degree, and the current state of their educational plans. This information can be provided upon request.

Use of Career Services

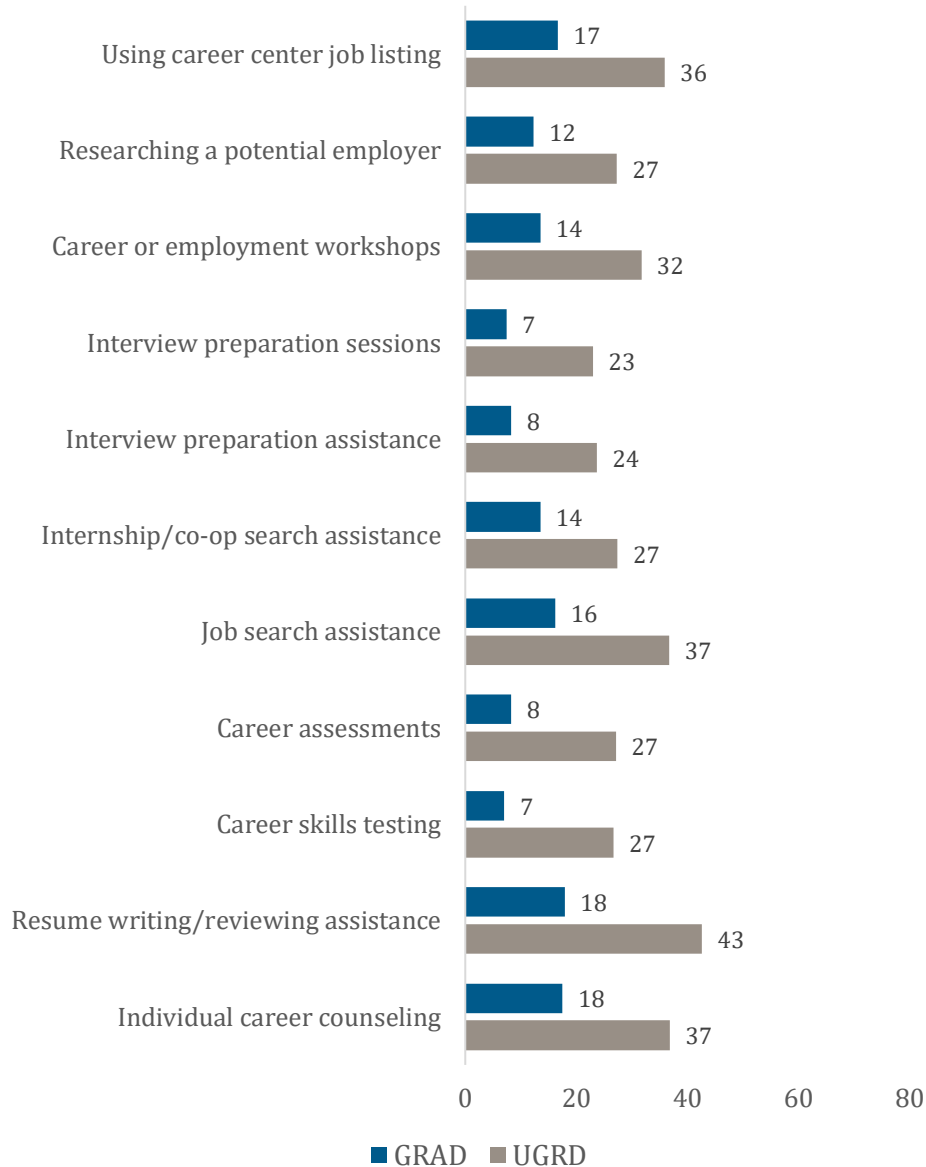
The graduating class was asked to report the year when they first visited UMass Boston’s Career Center (Figure 6). Of those who responded to this survey, nearly three out of four (72%) percent of the graduate and more than half (52%) of the undergraduate students indicated that they have never visited the career services.

Figure 6: Percent of Students’ Year of First Visit to School’s Career Center



Graduates were also asked to rate the services they used from the Office of Career Services and Internships. Please see Tables 18A and 18B in appendix B for this information. Generally, undergraduate students were more likely to report having used at least one service than were graduate students. Eighteen percent of the graduate and 43 percent of the undergraduate students used resume writing/reviewing assistance. Eighteen percent of graduate and 37 percent of the undergraduate students used individual career counseling. Also, 16 percent of the graduate and 37 percent of the undergraduate students used job search assistance (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Percent of Students who Used a Service

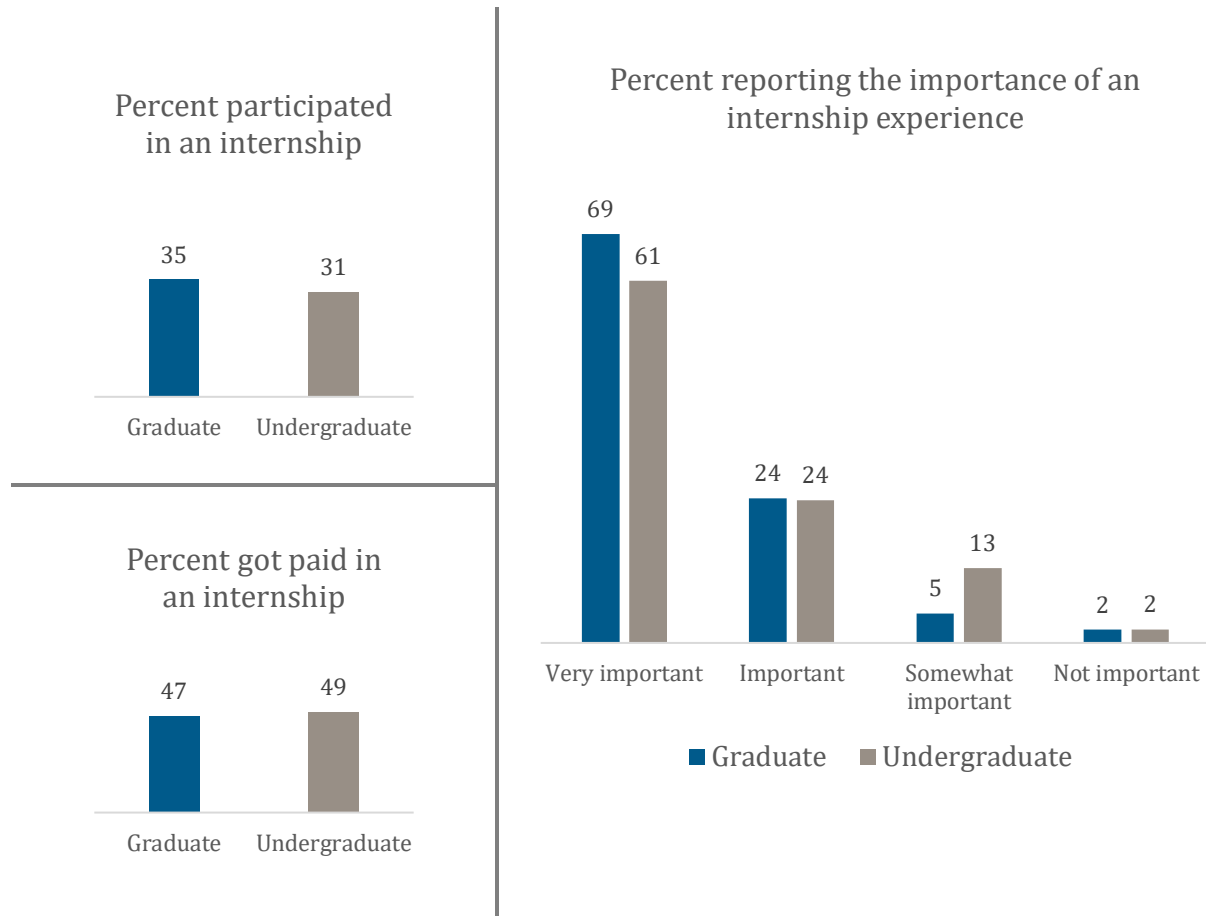


Internship Participation

Thirty-five percent of the graduate students and 31 percent of the undergraduate students participated in an internship. Respondents who reported internship participation were asked additional questions regarding the number of internships they participated in, and if compensation was received. Of those who participated in an internship, 36 percent of the graduate and 36 percent of the undergraduate students reported participating in two or more internships. Forty-seven percent of graduate students and 49 percent of undergraduate students received monetary compensation for an internship.

Nearly seven out of ten graduate (69%) and more than three out of five undergraduate (61%) students indicated that the internship experience was *very important* in preparing them for their desired career (Figure 8). A full list of all employers for internship participation can be provided upon request.

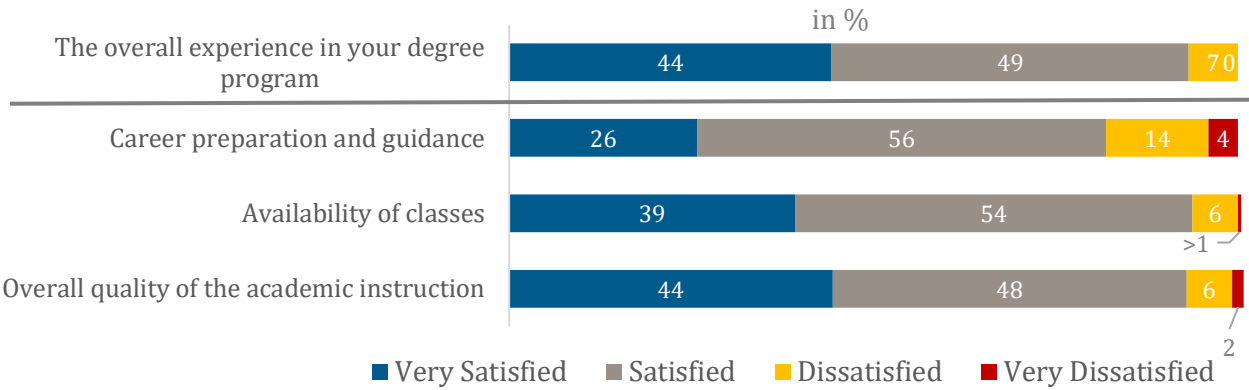
Figure 8: Internship Experience



Satisfaction with the Program

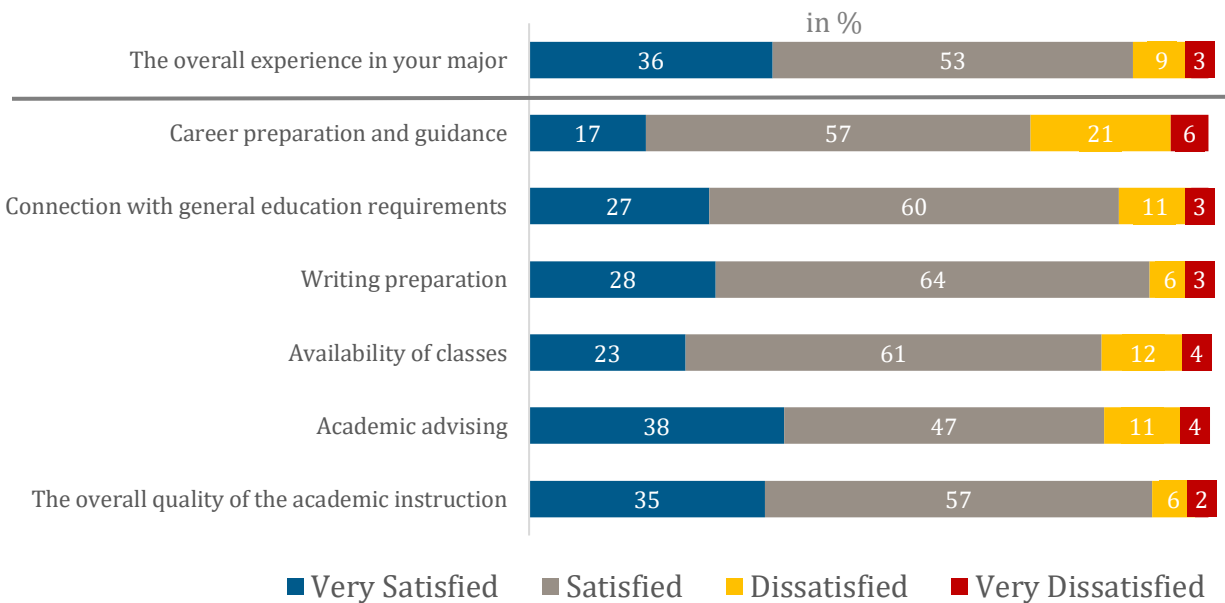
Respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with various aspects of their degree program. Most of the graduate-level students (92%) reported being *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with the overall quality of the academic instruction. Eighteen and six percent reported being *dissatisfied* or *very dissatisfied* with career preparation and guidance and availability of classes, respectively. Most (93%) of the graduate students indicated being *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with the overall experience in their degree program. Figure 9 presents graduate students' satisfaction with their program.

Figure 9: Satisfaction with the Program- Graduate Level



Criteria, related to the major and student success, was added for the undergraduate students. Twenty-seven percent reported being *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* with career preparation and guidance, 16 percent with the availability of classes, and 15 percent with the academic advising. The majority of the students (89%) reported that they were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with the overall experience in their major (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Satisfaction with the Program- Undergraduate Level



Eighty-five percent of graduate and 73 percent of undergraduate students rated their overall experience with UMass Boston as either *excellent* or *good* (Figure 11). Similar satisfaction levels were reported for the likelihood to recommend UMass Boston (Figure 12). The majority of the graduate (78%) and undergraduate (72%) students reported the likelihood of recommending UMass Boston as either *excellent* or *good*.

Figure 11: Satisfaction with Overall Experience (in %)

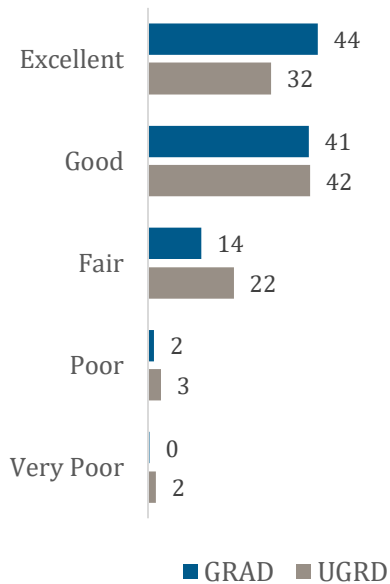
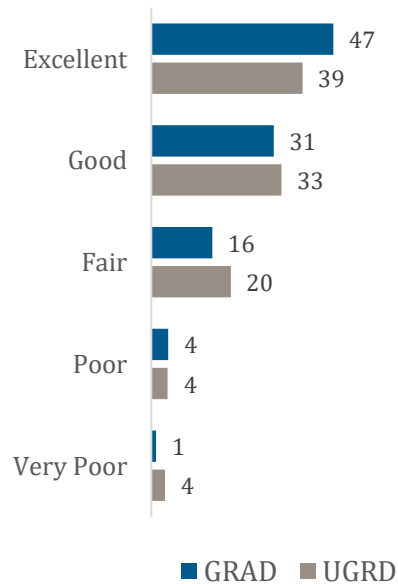


Figure 12: Likelihood to Recommend UMass Boston (in %)



Sense of Belonging

New in 2021, the graduating class was asked to report on their sense of belonging at UMass Boston. In general, graduate students reported feeling a higher sense of belonging than undergraduate students (Figure 13). Three out of four graduate students (75%) and 66 percent of the undergraduate student felt that they belong to this institution.

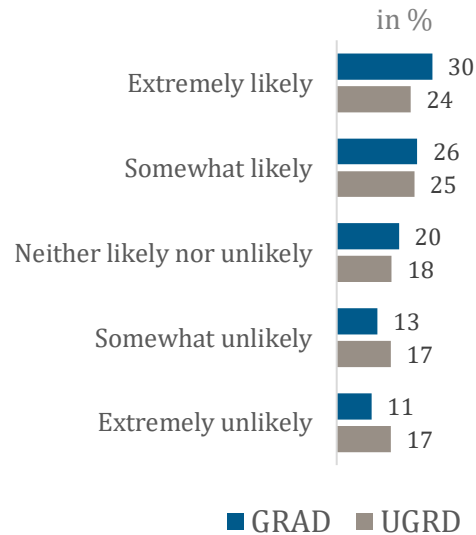
Figure 13: Sense of Belonging at UMass Boston



Possibility to Choose Online Learning in the Future

Given their experience with remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, graduating students were asked to indicate how likely they would be to choose online learning in the future (Figure 14). More than half (56%) of the graduate and nearly half (49%) of the undergraduate students indicated that they are either *extremely likely* or *highly likely* to choose online learning for their future learning.

Figure 14: Likelihood of Choosing Online Learning in the Future



OIRAP is constantly figuring out ways to improve the research designs and instruments that would meet the needs of UMass Boston. Suggestions are welcome.

Acknowledgments

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Appendices

Appendix A: Response Rate and Demographics

Table 1: Response Rates

2019 graduating class		
	Graduate	Undergraduate
Invited	928	2674
Opted out/bounced	13	-
Number of responses	294	662
Response Rate	32%	25%

Table 2: Demographics- Gender

	GRAD (n=294)	UGRD (n=662)
Female	72%	65%
Male	28%	35%
Unknown	-	>1%

Table 3A: Demographics- Race/Ethnicity

	GRAD (n=294)	UGRD (n=662)
American Indian/Alaska Natives	-	-
Asian	7%	14%
Black/African American	13%	19%
Hispanic/Latino	5%	17%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Island	-	-
Non-Resident Alien	15%	7%
Not Specified	2%	4%
Two or more races	4%	3%
White	54%	38%

Table 3B: Respondents by College x

	GRAD		UGRD	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Education and Human Development	96	33	29	4
Liberal Arts	49	17	268	40
Management	73	25	87	13
Nursing & Health Sciences	22	8	105	116
School of Policy and Global Studies	21	7	2	>1
School for the Environment	13	4	15	2
Science & Mathematics	19	7	157	24

Appendix B: Frequency Tables

Table 4: Post Graduation Plans

Which of the following best describes your post-graduation plans?				
	GRAD		UGRD	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Employed full-time	201	69	273	41
Employed part-time	5	2	36	5
Currently enrolled in continuing education	14	5	99	15
Seeking continuing education	3	1	71	11
Seeking employment	66	23	168	25
Not seeking employment and/or continuing education	4	1	7	1
Service Program (Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, etc.)	0	0	3	>1
Military Service full-time	0	0	5	1

Table 5: Employment

Which of the following best describes your employment?		
	GRAD	UGRD
<i>n</i>	179	250
Working for an employer	90%	88%
Entrepreneur	1%	2%
Temp/Contract work	1%	4%
Freelance	1%	1%
Post-Graduate Fellowship/Internship	8%	5%

Note: based on those who answered *employed full-time* and *employed part-time* in Table 4.

Table 6: Organization

Which of the following best describes your employment?		
	GRAD	UGRD
<i>n</i>	176	228
For profit - private	23%	46%
For profit - publicly held	18%	16%
Non-profit	35%	25%
Government agency	25%	13%

Note: based on those who answered *employed full-time* and *employed part-time* in Table 4.

Table 7: Average Salary and Bonus

The number that accepted a full-time job or staying at their current position		
	GRAD	UGRD
<i>n</i>	137	193
Mean Annual Salary	\$72,359	\$56,024
National Average	-	\$72,173
Reported receiving a bonus (<i>n</i>)	48	59

Notes: Based on those who answered *employed full-time* and *employed part-time* in Table 4. Data for the national average came from NACE Salary Projection. The reported hourly rate was multiplied by 2080 hours to calculate a yearly approximation. Possible outliers were removed.

Table 8: Closeness of Job and Career Goals

	GRAD	UGRD
<i>n</i>	173	234
Highly related	76%	58%
Somewhat related	19%	32%
Not related	5%	11%

Note: based on those who answered *employed full-time* and *employed part-time* in Table 4.

Table 9: Job Location

What is the location of your full-time job?		
	GRAD	UGRD
<i>n</i>	170	234
Massachusetts	72%	91%
Other U.S. location	24%	8%
Outside U.S.	5%	1%

Note: based on those who answered *employed full-time* and *employed part-time* in Table 4.

Table 10A: Top Five Occupational Sector-Graduate Program

Which occupational sector BEST describes your current employment or the position you accepted and will be starting after graduation?		
	Count	Percent
<i>n</i>	172	-
Education K12	36	21%
Higher Education	26	15%
Health Professions	17	10%
Finance	12	7%
Government / Public Administration	11	6%

Note: based on those who answered *employed full-time* and *employed part-time* in Table 4.

Table 10B: Top Five Occupational Sector-Undergraduate Program

Which occupational sector BEST describes your current employment or the position you accepted and will be starting after graduation?		
	Count	Percent
<i>n</i>	234	-
Health Professions	31	13%
Nursing	29	12%
Education K12	19	8%
Biotechnology / Biomedical / Pharmaceuticals	15	6%
Computer and Information Technology	11	5%

Note: based on those who answered *employed full-time* and *employed part-time* in Table 4.

Table 11: Type of Degree Sought by Students that are Currently Enrolled in Continuing Education

Type of Degree?		
	GRAD	UGRAD
<i>n</i>	13	94
Graduate certificate	-	11%
Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)	23%	64%
Doctoral or professional degree (Ph.D., J.D., M.D., etc.)	69%	13%
Other	8%	13%

Note: based on those who answered *currently enrolled in continuing education (including any certification program as well as degree programs)* in Table 4.

Table 12: Plans for Seeking Continuing Education

Which of the following best estimates the current state of your educational plans?		
	GRAD	UGRAD
<i>n</i>	3	64
Accepted and deferred admission until a later date	-	11%
Placed on the waiting list, no acceptances	-	-
Still awaiting responses, no acceptances	-	11%
Will be applying this coming fall	-	48%
Not applying this fall, but might apply at a future date	-	30%

Note: based on those who answered *seeking continuing education* in Table 4. Grad fields were left blank intentionally due to a small *n*.

Table 13: Internship Participation

Did you participate in an internship?		
	GRAD	UGRD
<i>n</i>	262	585
Yes	35%	31%
No	65%	69%

Table 14: Number of Internship participation

How many internships did you participate in as a UMass Boston student?				
	GRAD		UGRD	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1	55	64%	111	64%
2	21	24%	35	20%
3	5	6%	16	9%
4	2	2%	4	2%
5 or more	3	4%	7	4%
Total	86	100%	173	100%

Note: Based on those who answered *yes* in Table 13.

Table 15: Internship Compensation

Did you get paid for your internship?		
	GRAD	UGRAD
<i>n</i>	88	173
Yes	47%	49%
No	53%	51%

Note: Based on those who answered yes in Table 13.

Table 16: Importance of Internship in Preparation for the Desired Career

How important was your internship experience in preparing you for your desired career?		
	GRAD	UGRD
<i>n</i>	88	173
Very important	69%	61%
Important	24%	24%
Somewhat important	5%	13%
Not important	2%	2%

Note: Based on those who answered yes in Table 13.

Table 17: First Career Center Visit

In which college year did you first visit your school's career center?		
	GRAD	UGRD
<i>n</i>	253	550
Freshman	3%	11%
Sophomore	2%	11%
Junior	4%	15%
Senior	1%	11%
Graduate school	18%	-
Have never visited the career center	72%	52%

Table 18A: Career Resources Used by Graduate Students

GR	Not at all helpful	Not very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	Extremely helpful	Did not use
Individual career counseling	2	1	9	3	2	83
Resume writing/reviewing assistance	2	2	6	5	3	82
Career skills testing	2	1	1	2	1	93
Career assessments	2	1	4	1	1	92
Job search assistance	2	2	7	4	1	84
Internship/co-op search assistance	4	2	2	3	4	87
Interview preparation assistance	2	0	3	1	2	92
Interview preparation sessions	2	1	1	2	2	93
Career or employment workshops	2	0	5	5	1	87
Researching a potential employer	2	2	4	3	3	88
Using career center job listing	2	3	7	4	1	83

Note: (in %)

Table 18B: Career Resources Used by Undergraduate Students

UG	Not at all helpful	Not very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	Extremely helpful	Did not use
Individual career counseling	3	3	14	11	6	63
Resume writing/reviewing assistance	2	1	13	15	11	57
Career skills testing	3	3	9	8	5	73
Career assessments	2	3	9	9	4	73
Job search assistance	3	6	13	9	6	63
Internship/co-op search assistance	3	5	10	6	3	73
Interview preparation assistance	3	2	7	8	5	76
Interview preparation sessions	3	2	6	7	5	77
Career or employment workshops	3	2	10	10	7	68
Researching a potential employer	3	3	8	10	5	73
Using career center job listing	3	4	12	10	7	64

Note: (in %)

Table 19: Parental Education

What is the highest level of education completed by either of your parents (or those who raised you)?		
	GRAD	UGRD
<i>n</i>	246	528
Did not finish high school	6%	12%
High school diploma or G.E.D.	14%	27%
Attended college, but did not complete degree	5%	9%
Associate's degree (A.A., A.S., etc.)	8%	8%
Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)	28%	25%
Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)	24%	14%
Doctoral or professional degree (Ph.D., J.D., M.D., etc.)	14%	5%

Note: Does not include *unknown* responses.

Table 20A: Satisfaction with Major- Graduate

	The overall quality of the academic instruction	Availability of classes	Career preparation and guidance	The overall experience in your degree program
<i>n</i>	250	250	243	248
Very Dissatisfied	2%	0%	4%	0%
Dissatisfied	6%	6%	14%	7%
Satisfied	48%	54%	56%	49%
Very Satisfied	44%	39%	26%	44%

Table 20B: Satisfaction with Major- Undergraduate

	The overall quality of the academic instruction	Academic advising	Availability of classes	Writing preparation	Connection with general education requirements	Career preparation and guidance	The overall experience in your major
<i>n</i>	539	538	538	537	536	535	539
Very Dissatisfied	2%	4%	4%	3%	3%	6%	3%
Dissatisfied	6%	11%	12%	6%	11%	21%	9%
Satisfied	57%	47%	61%	64%	60%	57%	53%
Very Satisfied	35%	38%	23%	28%	27%	17%	36%

Table 21: Overall UMass Boston Experience

How would you rate your overall UMass Boston experience?		
	GRAD	UGRD
<i>n</i>	248	542
Excellent	44%	32%
Good	41%	42%
Fair	14%	22%
Poor	2%	3%
Very Poor	0%	2%

Table 22: Likelihood to Recommend UMB

How would you rate the likelihood that you will recommend UMass Boston to another student?		
	GRAD	UGRD
<i>n</i>	249	542
Excellent	47%	39%
Good	31%	33%
Fair	16%	20%
Poor	4%	4%
Very Poor	1%	4%

Table 23: Likelihood of Choosing Online Learning in the Future

Given your experience with remote learning in the past year, how likely are you to choose online learning in the future?		
	GRAD	UGRD
<i>n</i>	247	538
Extremely likely	30%	24%
Somewhat likely	26%	25%
Neither likely nor unlikely	20%	18%
Somewhat unlikely	13%	17%
Extremely unlikely	11%	17%

Table 24A: Sense of Belonging at UMass Boston-Graduate

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement:					
	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
I can be myself at this institution	3%	2%	11%	19%	65%
I feel that I am valued as an individual	2%	4%	12%	24%	58%
I feel that I am a member of the community	3%	9%	18%	26%	43%
I feel that I belong at this institution	2%	6%	16%	29%	46%

Table 24B: Sense of Belonging at UMass Boston-Undergraduate

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement:					
	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
I can be myself at this institution	5%	4%	13%	27%	52%
I feel that I am valued as an individual	6%	6%	18%	29%	41%
I feel that I am a member of the community	6%	10%	24%	29%	31%
I feel that I belong at this institution	5%	6%	23%	29%	38%