

2006/07 Graduate Employment Survey - Highlights

In 2008, College of the North Atlantic conducted a Graduate Employment Survey (GES) with graduates of CNA in the year 2006/07. The goal of the 2006/07 Graduate Employment Survey is to provide future students with up-to-date curricula and programs and enable them to prepare effectively for the labour market. The 2006/07 GES provides pertinent information on graduate employment, career planning, satisfaction levels and further studies.

Response Rate

- With 1,981 graduates in the sample and 783 responses, the 2006/07 GES had a 39.5 per cent response rate.
- The response rate was highest in the focus area of *Information Technology*, at 71.4 per cent of graduates.
- *Health Sciences* (47.5 per cent), *Business Studies* (45.7 per cent) and *Applied Arts* (42.3 per cent) also had higher than average response rates.
- Male graduates of 2006/07 outnumbered female graduates by 13.0 per cent, however female graduates had a higher response rate to the GES. About 43.7 per cent of female graduates responded to the survey, compared to 36.3 per cent of male graduates.

Employment

- During the period between their graduation and the completion of the 2006/07 GES, 95.5 per cent of CNA graduates were employed, an increase of 3.1 per cent since 1999/00.
- The highest employment rate was for *Health Sciences* graduates, at 100.0%. Industrial Trades graduates had the second highest rate, at 96.4% and Tourism and Natural Resources graduates had a 96.2% employment rate.

Program Related Employment

- 87.2 per cent of employed respondents to the GES were working in occupations directly or somewhat related to their CNA program. The highest levels of program related work were in the fields of *Health Sciences* (98.3%), *Engineering Technology* (94.8%) and *Business Studies* (87.1%). This shows that CNA's programs are keeping tune with industry needs.
- CNA graduate employment in jobs directly related to training increased by 16.1 per cent from 1997/98 to 2006/07.

Full-time work

- CNA graduates are hard workers! In total, 90.0 per cent of employed CNA graduates were working in full-time positions. At least 61.1 per cent of them worked 40 or more hours per week, while 28.9 per cent worked 30 to 39 hours per week.
- Graduates of *Engineering Technology* (98.7%), *Tourism and Natural Resources* (94.1%) and *Industrial Trades* (93.4%) programs had the highest levels of full-time work.

Location of employment

- 81.9 per cent of employed graduates were working in Newfoundland and Labrador, while 12.3 per cent were working in Alberta.
- *Business Studies* graduates had the highest level of working right here in Newfoundland and Labrador – 91.7 per cent. *Health Sciences* graduates were also likely to be working in this province 90.0 per cent found jobs here. About 88.6 per cent of *Information Technology* graduates were working in Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as 86.4 per cent of *Applied Arts* respondents.
- *Engineering Technology* and *Industrial Trades* graduates were the most likely to find work away, and Alberta was the major secondary location of jobs for these graduates. *Engineering Technology* showed 57.7 per cent of its employed graduates working in Newfoundland and Labrador and 29.5 per cent in Alberta. For *Industrial Trades*, 79.1 per cent of employed graduates worked in Newfoundland and Labrador, and 17.1 per cent in Alberta.

Wages

- The median wage for graduates in program related jobs was \$16.01 to \$20.00 per hour. With high rates of full-time work, these graduates were earning from about \$29,000 to \$42,000 per year (or \$1,920 to \$3,500 per month) within a year and a half of graduating.
- The highest wages were in *Engineering Technology* where the median wage range was \$20.01 to \$24.00 per hour. *Health Sciences* and *Information Technology* graduates reported median wage ranges of \$16.01 to \$20.00 per hour.
- Wage levels of CNA graduates increased considerably from 1997/98 to 2006/07. The percentage of respondents earning \$12.00 or more per hour increased from 36.0 per cent in the 1997/98 GES to 45.0 per cent in the 1999/00 GES to 55.9 per cent in the 2006/07 GES.

Satisfaction with training

- CNA scored very high in student satisfaction - 97.7 per cent said they would recommend College of the North Atlantic to others and 95.3 per cent said they would recommend their program to others.
- Satisfaction with the overall quality of training was also high, with a rating of “excellent” or “very good” by 85.1 per cent of graduates. The highest ratings were given by graduates *Information Technology, Business Studies, Health Sciences* and *Applied Arts*.
- There was a high level of satisfaction with CNA programs as preparation for employment in the field: 85.4 per cent of respondents said they were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their readiness for the labour market. The best results for this measure were in *Tourism and Natural Resources, Health Sciences, Business Studies*, and *Information Technology*.

Further Studies

- About one in every seven CNA graduates were enrolled in further studies, and almost 50.0 per cent of these were pursuing their studies at CNA.

87.2% of employed CNA graduates of 2006/07 were working in program related jobs by 2008, comparing well to a Colleges Ontario study which listed the rate of program related employment for graduates of George Brown College in 2006/07 at 88.8%.

- Areas with the highest rates of graduate further studies were *Business Studies, Applied Arts, Industrial Trades* and *Engineering Technology*.
- Those with the highest rates of graduate further studies at CNA were *Industrial Trades, Tourism and Natural Resources* and *Information Technology*.
- Areas with the highest rates of graduates’ pursuing degree programs were: *Engineering Technology* and *Business Studies*.