

**All percentages are rounded to the nearest full point; therefore, they may not add to 100%. Additionally, graduates that double majored appear in multiple schools. As a result, combined school totals will exceed the total respondents.*

Class of 2009

A total of 1469 graduates were awarded baccalaureate degrees in August 2008, December 2008, and May 2009. 691 (47%) graduates responded to the survey. In an effort to increase the accuracy of our post-graduation activity data, Institutional Research provided additional graduate school attendance information secured through the Student Loan Clearinghouse, which resulted in our learning the post-graduation activities of an additional 152 (10%) graduates.

- 80 (50%) Arts & Communication graduates responded to the survey; *data was secured on 87* (55%) graduates.*
- 126 (49%) Business graduates responded to the survey; *data was secured on 140* (54%) graduates*
- 212 (47%) Culture & Society graduates responded to the survey; *data was secured on 267* (56%) graduates.*
- 109 (48%) Education graduates responded to the survey; *data was secured about 135* (59%) graduates.*
- 37 (44%) Engineering graduates responded to the survey; *data was secured on 46* (55%) graduates.*
- 57 (37%) Nursing & Exercise Science graduates responded to the survey; *data was secured on 69* (46%) graduates.*
- 110 (51%) Science graduates responded to the survey; *data was secured on 145* (68%) graduates.*

POST GRADUATION ACTIVITY

Graduate School Attendance

213 (31%) of those who *responded* indicated that they attended graduate school immediately after graduation. This marks a 2 percentage point decrease in comparison with the Class of 2008 but returned it to the level of the Class of 2007.

In addition we secured data on the Class of 2009 through the Student Loan Clearinghouse, a nationwide database of admissions data, and directly from area colleges not participating in the Clearinghouse. 364 (25%) of the Class of 2009 attended graduate school. This marks an increase of 2 percentage point decrease in comparison to the Class of 2008.

Employment

638 (92%) respondents indicated they were either working *and/or* attending graduate school in the first year after graduation. This is 2 percentage point decrease in comparison with the Class of 2008. 43 (6%) of the respondents indicated that they were unemployed and not attending graduate school (truly unemployed). This is more than 3 percentage points lower than the New Jersey unemployment rate of 9.6% as of July 2010.

A total of 543 (79%) graduates indicated they are employed. This marks a 5 percentage point increase in comparison with the Class of 2008. Their employment status is as follows (some respondents who indicated they were employed did not indicate if they were working full or part time):

- 400 (58%) indicated they were employed full time. This marks a 5 percentage point decrease in comparison with the Class of 2007
- 135 (20%) indicated they were employed part time
- 9 (1%) did not indicate if they were working full or part time but indicated they were working
- 95 (14%) indicated they were unemployed but were attending graduate school. This marks a 5 percentage point decrease in comparison with the Class of 2008.
- 43 (6%) indicated they were both unemployed and not attending graduate school.

Fields of Employment

Students pursue occupations in a variety of career fields. The 398 (73%) respondents that answered this item regarding employment fields are employed as follows:

10 (3%) in Arts	22 (6%) in Engineering	29 (7%) in Nursing
106 (27%) in Business	12 (3%) in Government	11 (3%) in Science
21 (5%) in Communication	5 (1%) in Health (non-med or nursing)	23 (6%) in Human/Social Service
14 (4%) in Computers	5 (1%) in Law or Law Related fields	31 (8%) in other fields
109 (27%) in Education	0 (0%) in Medicine	

Average Salaries

282 (71%*) respondents who were employed full time provided salary information.

All salary information is calculated using the actual salary the respondent provided or the median of the salary range selected by the respondent. Respondents that indicated their salaries fell below \$19,999 or above \$80,000 and did not include a precise amount were excluded from the calculations.

The mean reported salary for the respondents that met the above criteria is \$45,922. This reflects a 2% increase in comparison with the Class of 2008. Salaries ranged from a low of \$22,500 to a high of \$77,500.

** See Appendix A for a breakdown of salaries by major and school.*

Work Locations

Following graduation, 244 (74%) of those who indicated they were employed full time and indicated the location of their employment, indicated they were employed in New Jersey. This reflects a 7 percentage point decrease in comparison to the Class of 2008, further evidence of the impact of the high unemployment rate within New Jersey. New York employs the second largest number of these graduates at 35 (11%), an increase of 5 percentage points in comparison with the Class of 2008. Pennsylvania employs the third largest number of these graduates with 26 (8%), a 2 percentage point increase in comparison with the Class of 2008. An additional 24 (7%) are employed outside of NJ, NY and PA, in the following locales: Uganda (2), Arizona, California (2), Colorado (2), Connecticut, Delaware, Washington, D.C. (2), Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland (2), Massachusetts (3), Missouri, South Carolina, and Texas (3).

Time Span from Graduation to Employment

307 (78%) of the 328 (60%) respondents to this item indicated they had secured employment within six months of graduation.

119 (30%) respondents secured employment prior to graduation. This reflects a 10 percentage point decrease in comparison with the Class of 2008. Graduates of the School of Business (52%) and School of Engineering (41%) were the most likely to secure employment prior to graduation.

226 (58%) respondents secured employment within the first 3 months after graduation.

307 (78%) respondents secured employment within the first six months after graduation.

372 (95%) respondents secured employment within one year of graduation.

Number of Offers

128 (32%) of the respondents who were working full time received more than one job offer. This reflects a 4 percentage point decrease in comparison with the Class of 2008 and a 17 percentage point decrease in comparison with the Class of 2007. The number of employment offers received ranged from 1 to 6, with respondents receiving a mean of 1.48 offers of employment per graduate, which reflects a 6% decrease in comparison with the Class of 2008.

Job Satisfaction

Using a likert scale of 5 high to 1 low, graduates indicated the level of satisfaction they felt with their jobs. 274 (86%) of the respondents employed indicated an above average or high level of job satisfaction. The average satisfaction score for the 318 (79.5% of those employed full time) respondents to this item was 4.27 which marks a 2% increase in comparison with the Class of 2008.

Relationship between Academic Major and Position Obtained

Graduates indicated the relationship between their academic major and the position they obtained since graduation. Of the 677 (98%) respondents:

- 400 (59%) respondents indicated a direct relationship between their academic major and the position they obtained. This reflects a 10 percentage point decrease in comparison with the Class of 2008.
- 157 (23%) respondents indicated an indirect relationship between their academic major and the position they obtained. This reflects a 4 percentage point increase in comparison with the Class of 2008.
- 85 (13%) respondents indicated there was no relationship between their academic major and the position they obtained. This reflects a 1 percentage point increase in comparison with the Class of 2008.
- 35 (5%) respondents indicated that they were unemployed and not attending graduate/professional school.

Internship Participation

523 (76%) of the respondents indicated they had participated in an internship or practicum experience during their undergraduate careers – this reflects a 7 percentage point increase in comparison to the Class of 2008 and a 2 percentage point increase in comparison with the Class of 2007.

Graduates indicated that, on average, they spent 2.69 semesters or summers interning and participated in an average of 2.49 experiences (some students interned multiple semesters with the same employer, which is why the number of experiences is smaller than the length of time spent in internships). This reflects a 2% increase in the length of time, summers or semesters, students spend interning during their undergraduate careers, in comparison to the Class of 2008.

Receipt of Career Advice from Faculty

518 (75%) of the respondents to this item, indicated that they received career advice from faculty in their departments or programs prior to graduation. This reflects a 28 percentage point increase in comparison with the Class of 2008 which may, in part be due to a refinement of the question. This item was reworded this year. Instead of asking whether or not students had received advice from faculty regarding their post-graduation plans, students were asked if they had received the following from faculty “advisement on post graduation career plans,” “advisement on internships,” and “advisement on graduate or professional school options.” If they indicated any of the following they were considered to have received career advice from faculty. They responded as follows:

- 392 (57%) indicated they had received advice from faculty on post graduation career plans
- 309 (45%) indicated they had received advice from faculty on internships
- 291 (42%) indicated they had received advice from faculty on graduate or professional school options.

652 (94%) respondents secured advice from faculty or the Career Center regarding career, internships or graduates school planning. This reflects a 2 percentage point increase in comparison with the Class of 2008.

Usage of Career Services

566 (82%) of the self respondents indicated they had utilized Career Services during their academic careers. This reflects a 4 percentage point increase in comparison with the Class of 2008. Using a likert scale of 5 high to 1 low, graduates who utilized Career Services were asked to rate the service provided. The average rating was 3.77.

460 (67%) respondents reported utilizing TCNJ recruitment programs (i.e., internship programs and resources, job listings/binders, on-campus recruitment and Career Days). This reflects a 2 percentage point decrease in comparison with the Class of 2008.

TCNJ’s Preparation of Students’ for Their Career

Respondents rated how TCNJ prepared them for their current position utilizing a five-point scale* (i.e., excellent to poor). Of the 671 (97%) respondents, 511 (76%) rated their preparation as excellent or above average.

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|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 227 (37%) excellent | 122 (18%) average | 11 (2%) poor |
| 284 (42%) above average | 27 (4%) below average | |

Quality of Academic Experience

Graduates assessed the overall quality of their academic experience. Respondents utilized a five-point scale* (i.e., excellent to poor). Of the 679 (98%) respondents, 620 (91%) assessed their academic experience as excellent or above average.

336 (49%) excellent
284 (42%) above average

53 (8%) average
4 (<1%) below average

2 (<1%) poor

GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

Current Graduate/Professional School Attendance

263 (38%) of the respondents indicated that they had applied to attend graduate school immediately after graduation. This reflects an 11 percentage point decrease in comparison to the Class of 2008. Of those 263 who applied to graduate and professional school, 116 (44%) of indicated that they had developed a contingency plan. This reflects a 12 percentage point increase in comparison with the Class of 2008. Typically, in a slow economy graduate school attendance increases as graduating students delay moving into the work world; therefore, the 11 percentage point decrease in students applying to graduate school may appear surprising. However, the graduate application process is typically a one year process and many students may not have realized the economic situation we would be in upon graduation a year in advance of graduation. Later in the survey you will see that plans to attend within the first two years increased significantly, indicating that the economic impact on graduate school attendance may be one year delayed for the Class of 2009. 81% of those that applied enrolled in further study in their first year out of school.

The accuracy of survey data is limited to the point that the respondent pool reflects the entire class. However, when reporting graduates pursuit of further study immediately after graduation, through the use of the Admissions Clearinghouse, we report on the entire Class of 2009. The combination of the clearinghouse and self reporting identified that a total of 364 (25% of entire class) pursued further study immediately following graduation. Of the survey respondents directly reporting their graduate school attendance, 213 (31%) of survey respondents are currently enrolled in graduate/professional school. Appendix C indicates the schools all our graduates are attending and program of study, if available.

Future Plans for Graduate Study

**Planned further study includes those who are currently enrolled in Graduate/Professional School who intend to go farther than their current degrees.*

404 (58%) graduates indicated that they plan to attend graduate/professional school in the future. 512 (74%) of respondents either are attending or definitely plan to attend in the future. Additionally, 122 (19%) indicate that they are unsure as to whether they will attend graduate or professional school in the future. Should they also choose to attend, 93% of the Class of 2009 will pursue further study at some time.

181 (48%) respondents plan to attend within the first 2 years after graduation. This marks a 14 percentage point increase in comparison with the Class of 2008 and a 10 percentage point increase in comparison with the Class of 2007. This could be attributed to recent economic conditions and may reduce as the economy improves.

320 (85%) respondents plan to attend within the first four years after graduation. This marks a 6 percentage point increase in comparison with the Class of 2008.

371 (98%) respondents plan to attend within the first 6 years after graduation.

Areas of Current & Intended Study

Graduates of the Class of 2009 who indicated they are attending (222 – 32%) or plan to attend (397 – 57%) further study indicated they will pursue the following fields (number and percent of total respondents to item).

Field of Study	Those currently attending		Those planning to attend		Field of Study	Those currently attending		Those planning to attend	
Arts	4	2%	18	5%	Humanities	7	3%	10	3%
Business	11	5%	75	19%	Human/ Social Svcs	14	6%	22	6%
Communications	6	3%	18	5%	Law/Law Related	33	15%	23	6%
Computers	3	1%	6	2%	Medicine	20	9%	22	6%
Education	44	20%	92	23%	Nursing	6	3%	29	7%
Engineering	17	8%	13	3%	Science	17	8%	18	5%
Government	7	3%	11	3%	Social Sciences	9	4%	29	7%
Health Related	16	7%	10	3%	Other	7	3%	23	6%

Current Degrees and Highest Degree Level Sought

204 (98%) of those currently attending responded to the degree level they are pursuing. In addition, 642 (93%) graduates provided information on the highest degree level they intended to pursue. Of those intending to pursue advanced degrees:

Degree Level	Currently Pursuing		Highest Degree Planned	
Bachelors	0	0	283	44%*
Certificate	5	2%	1	<1%
Masters	119	59%	105	16%
Specialist	4	2%	107	17%
Doctorate	31	15%	79	12%
Professional	44	22%	66	10%

* Note: there is an apparent contradiction in this data in that 74% of the graduates indicated that they planned to pursue further study yet 44% indicated they would not pursue education beyond the Bachelors degree. 53 (8%) of those currently enrolled in a Masters program indicated the highest degree they wished to pursue to be a Bachelors degree. 3 (<1%) of those currently pursuing a Specialists degree indicated that the highest degree they would pursue would be a Bachelors degree.