

Graduating Students: Employment after graduation, value of training, and job source.

□ This is the sixth and final report highlighting findings from the 2006 Graduating Students Survey involving 10,464 students at 25 universities. Throughout this report, we present the findings for all participating universities, for universities comparable in size and scope to the UofM, and for students at the UofM. Where possible, we also compare results with the 2003 and 2000 studies involving the UofM. Unless otherwise noted, reported differences are not statistically significant. Below, we provide a summary of students' employment plans in the first year after graduation, as well as their views on the value of their university training with respect to their post-graduation employment.

□ Table 1 shows the employment activities of graduating students in the first year after graduation. Please note that some students plan to do more than one of the activities listed in the table. At the time of the survey (that is, February or March 2006), overall:

About 50% of students are actively seeking work in the first year following graduation.

- ▶ One student in 3 had already arranged for a job following graduation. This includes 21% who had a full-time job arranged and 8% who had a part-time job arranged. These jobs were not necessarily related to their area of study.

Table 1: Employment activities in the first year after graduation

	All universities (n=10,464)	Comparable universities (n=4,011)	UofM		
			2006 (n=509)	2003 (n=496)	2000 (n=317)
Actively seeking work	47%	43%	39%	48%	51%
Not seeking work	17%	18%	19%	16%	17%
Have a job	33%	36%	41%	32%	33%
A full-time job	21%	23%	25%	20%	21%
A part-time job	8%	8%	11%	8%	8%
Two or more part-time jobs	3%	3%	3%	2%	1%
Self-employment or contract work	2%	3%	3%	4%	2%
No response	3%	3%	1%	4%	1%

Note: Respondents could choose more than one answer. Totals may sum to more than 100%.

- ▶ Almost half of the students said that they were actively seeking work, while less than 1 in 5 was not seeking employment.

- ▶ About 4 graduating students in 10 at the UofM reported having a job arranged, which is higher than students overall and higher than previously found in prior surveys with UofM students (please see figure 16).

Students in certain disciplines are more likely to find permanent full-time jobs.

- ▶ Overall, of the students who had already arranged for a full-time job, about 2 in 3 reported that these jobs are permanent. This represents about 14% of all students. Business students were not only more likely to have full-time employment arranged (34%), but they were significantly more likely than students overall to report having permanent full-time jobs (82% compared to 64% overall). Students in Engineering (89%) were also significantly more likely to report having permanent full-time positions. Students in Biological Science (12%) and Arts and Humanities (14%) were the least likely to have any jobs arranged.
- ▶ Students were asked about their perception regarding the availability of jobs in their major area of study. Overall the majority of students believed that there were some or many jobs (64%) in their area of study. UofM students (30%) were slightly more optimistic than students overall (27%) in saying that they thought there were many jobs in their field of study.

- ▶ Students in Professional programs (as defined by CUSC) were by far the most positive about their job prospects, with 54% believing that there are many jobs in their field. The second most optimistic students are those in Engineering programs (46%). The students who are most pessimistic about job prospects in their major field of study are those in Arts and Humanities, Social Science, and Biological Science, where less than 1 in 5 believe that there are many jobs. These differences are statistically significant.

□ Table 2 presents the value of students' university training in acquiring and doing their jobs.

- ▶ Of the students with either full or part-time jobs, half reported that their degree was required to get their job, almost 6 in 10 reported that their degree helped them get their job, and about the same proportion report that their job was very much (42%) or quite a bit (20%) related to the knowledge and skills acquired from their studies.

A majority of students report that their degree either helped them get their current job or was required for their employment.

	Current job: degree required	Current job: degree helped	Current job: related to knowledge acquired from study
Overall	50%	58%	62%
Engineering	91%	93%	86%
Professional	79%	79%	89%
Education	75%	76%	81%
Business	64%	72%	80%
Physical Science	59%	64%	55%
Other fields	50%	63%	68%
Social Science	32%	40%	42%
Biological Science	31%	40%	48%
Arts and Humanities	22%	35%	39%

- ▶ About 9 in 10 Engineering students reported that not only did their degree help them get a job, but that it was required. Conversely, Arts and Humanities, Biological Science, and Social Science students were the least likely to say that their degrees were either required or helped them get their jobs. These differences are statistically significant.
- ▶ Engineering students were statistically the most likely to be very satisfied (57%) with their current jobs, reflecting the fact that their jobs are most likely to be in their field of study. Arts and Humanities students were statistically the least likely to be very satisfied (23%).

□ Table 3 presents students' job sources.

- ▶ Almost half of the students with jobs reported having had assistance in finding their current job, most commonly from family and friends. Overall, 16% of students credited university resources (co-op placement and campus employment offices) with these placements. In 2006, more UofM students cited the Internet as sources of their job than in 2003 and 2000.

Assistance from family and friends and contacting an employer directly were the most common methods by which students found their current jobs.

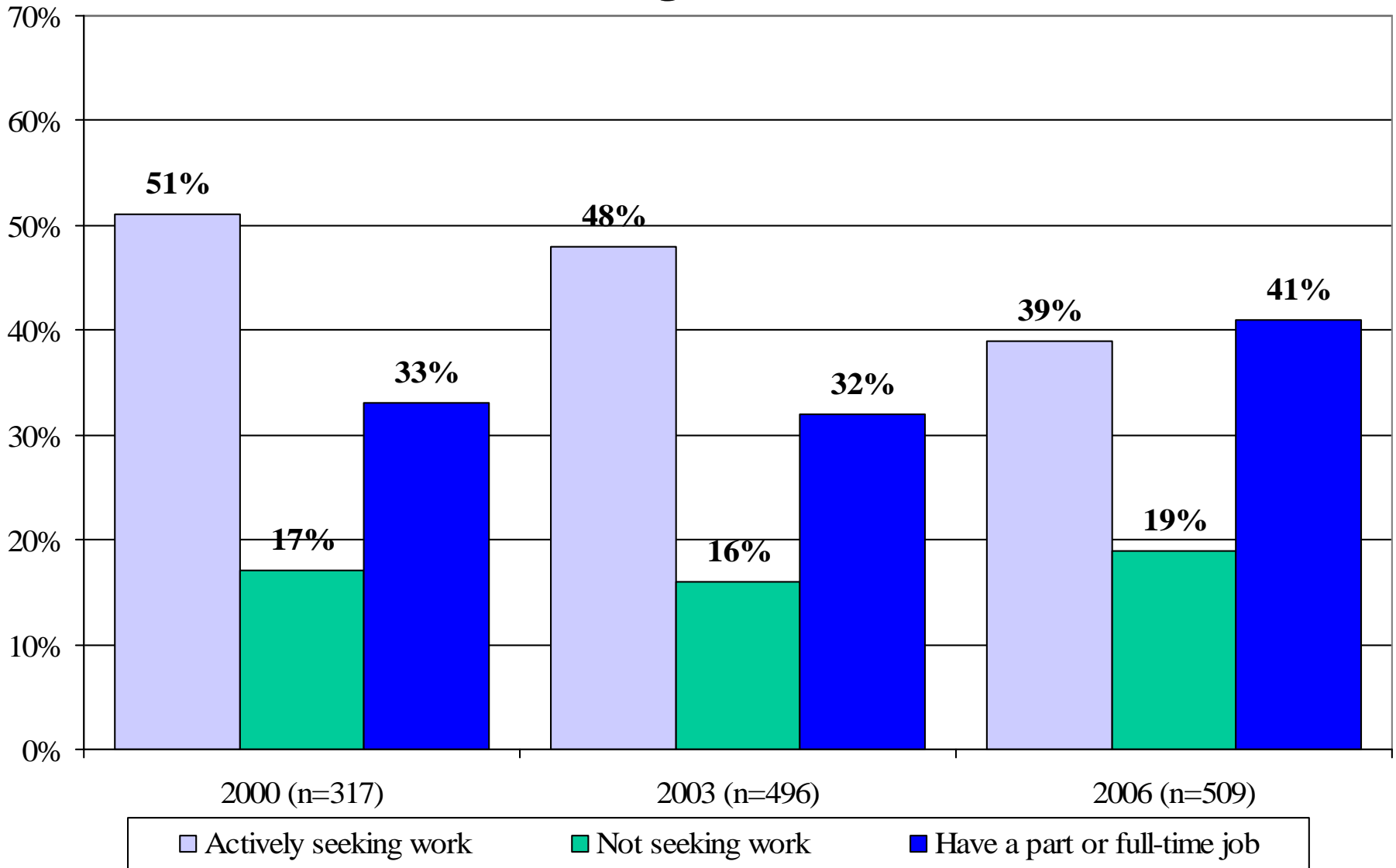
	All universities (n=3,470)	Comparable universities (n=1,436)	UofM		
			2006 (n=208)	2003 (n=158)	2000 (n=101)
Assisted by others (net)	47%	50%	46%	40%	48%
Family or friends	26%	24%	21%	20%	13%
From co-op placement	10%	11%	8%	4%	9%
Campus employment office	6%	9%	14%	9%	18%
Independently (net)	41%	39%	40%	41%	39%
Contacted employer	20%	21%	16%	23%	14%
Answered job ad	10%	8%	13%	11%	11%
Internet	7%	7%	6%	3%	1%
Contacted previous employer	5%	4%	6%	3%	11%

Note: Respondents could choose more than one answer. Totals may sum to more than 100%.

- ▶ After graduating, students with jobs expect to be making an average of about \$33,000 annually.

Figure 16

Employment activities in the first year after graduation: UofM undergraduate students



Note: Non-responses are not shown in the chart. Percentages will not sum to 100%