

**Career Services at Virginia Tech**  
**Post-Graduation Report Executive Summary for 2008-2009**  
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**Who was surveyed and responded:**

- All bachelor's and associate's degree grads (N=5,204) completing in academic year 2008-2009 (Dec. 08 + May and summer 09) (based on Application For Degree [AFD] records with the office of the University Registrar) were surveyed. Response N=3,566; rate = 69% (same as prior year).
- Survey is open for six months after commencement for each sub-cohort (Dec | May+sum). Respondents whose plans are not firm have opportunities to update responses.
- All stats refer to respondents, so "grads" refers to responding graduates.
- All stats are for the whole university, unless noted. In the full report online, all stats can be viewed by college and by major. Reports are in same format, and thus comparable, for six cohorts, grads of academic years 2003-2004 through 2008-2009.

**Employment:**

*Did the economy impact employment for the 2008-2009 grads? Evidence says yes.*

- Percent of 2008-2009 grads employed or with job offer (50%), lowest since 2003-2004 (48%), and down nine percentage points from peak level in 2007-2008 and 2006-2007 (both 59%).

*Are those employed settling for less? Evidence says no for most.*

Employment relation to career goals and relation to major:

- "Very related to career goals": 69%; down slightly from 73% in prior year. "Not related to career goals" remains 0%.
- "Very related to major": 58%; down from 64% in prior year. Reflects a shift to the "somewhat related" category: 30% (prior year: 27%), and the "not related" category: 12% (prior year 9%).
- These stats do not show significant changes over six years: the **vast majority consistently report that employment is "very related" to both career goals and major**, and the clear minority report that same is "not related" to either.

*Did grads just give up and not look for jobs? Evidence says no.*

- "Plan to seek employment, but haven't yet started" is very low and consistent with most prior years at 3% for 2008-2009 grads.

See: [Highlights, six years.](#)

**Still seeking employment:**

- 2008-2009 grads still seeking employment at last response is at the highest point (25%) in six years. Prior peak 2003-2004 (22%). Stat for both 2007-2008 and 2006-2007 was a six-year low of 14%.

**Continuing education:**

*Are more grads heading to grad school or other continuing education? Evidence says no.*

- No change between 2008-2009 and prior year (both 26%).
- This stat has remained very steady, moving upward by only four percentage points over six academic years.
- Of those continuing education, the type of degree remains steady: most pursuing a master's degree (63%); another bachelor's degree: 6%; other, including associate's degrees at 1%; law 7%, D.V.M. 3%, M.D. and other medical 11%; Ph.D. 7%.

**How grads found jobs:**

- Employed respondents are asked to cite first means of contact with employer whose job was accepted.

- “Worked for the employer before” was again the top method for the university as a whole (increased to 29% from 23%), and this year was the top method for all colleges except one. Last year it was the top method for only one college, and was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest method for all other colleges.
- Networking remains the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest method for the whole university and five of the seven colleges; is the 1<sup>st</sup> method for Science and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest method for engineering.
- Career fairs remain in the top-four methods list for the university and all colleges except LAHS.

### **Salary median:**

- Employed 2008-2009 grads: median of \$47,000 down from 2007-2007 peak of \$48,000, but higher than 2006-2007 and 2005-2006 median of \$45,000.

### **Career-related experience during college. Regrets?**

- Over 90% of all respondents had one or more types of career-related experience. But almost a third of all respondents wished they’d gotten more.
- Grads are asked if they wished they had done anything differently related to planning for life after college. Consistently over six years, half or more say yes.
- Of those who say yes, the top “I wish I had...” was to have gained more experience related to major or career goals. Of all 2008-2009 respondents, 32% had that regret. Past years’ stats range from 26% to 34%.

#### *So what are the reasons they didn’t get more experience?*

- This year we asked respondents – in the wisdom of hindsight – to score factors as “definitely a factor,” “slightly/possibly,” and “not.” 1,031 respondents scored these factors.
- Highest scoring factors were: not knowing all the ways and sources to look for and find experience, schedules too full, not realizing opportunities were available, and geographic considerations.
- Lower scoring factors related to: grades, finances, job search skills, and realizing the need for experience.

### **Who employs our grads?**

- Over 900 organizations are reported by the 2008-2009 grads. The top-reported employer is the U.S. Army, employing N=39, 2.3% of employed grads.
- [Most-reported employers, six-year list.](#)
- List of all employers, job titles, locations, by major in [online report](#).

### **The [full report online](#) also includes:**

- Advice sources regarding graduate school planning.
- Sources of learning job search skills.
- Number of job offers and when grads began the job search.
- Whether a bonus came with the job offer, and amount, if so.
- Full list of employing organizations, job titles and locations, by undergrad major.
- Full list of degrees, programs of study, institutions and locations, by undergrad major.

### **The online report is viewable by university, by college, and by major.**

Find each annual report and multi-year comparisons at:

<http://www.career.vt.edu/PostGraduationSurveyReport/PostGrad.html>