

Career Services at Virginia Tech Post-Graduation Report 2011-2012 Executive Summary

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2011-2012 grads: Who was surveyed and responded, and when:

- WHO: We surveyed all bachelor's & associate's degree grads (N=5,597) completing in academic year 2011-2012; Dec. '11, May + summer '12 based on Application For Degree [AFD] records with University Registrar. Response N=3,172; rate=57% (same as 10-11; 63% in 09-10; 69% in 08-09 & 07-08). [Methodology](#).
- WHEN: Survey opens prior to commencement and closes six months after for each sub-cohort (Dec | May+sum). Respondents whose plans are not firm are periodically asked to update responses.
- DEFINITION: All stats refer to respondents, so "grads" or "graduates" means responding graduates.
- UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE / MAJOR DATA: Stats are for whole university, unless noted. Full report online: stats viewable by college and major. Reports in the same format, and thus comparable, for nine years: grads of academic years 2003-2004 through 2011-2012.

2011-2012 firm plans: 82%.

- **Up 4 percentage points from prior year.** Up for all colleges except two.

Who	Continuing education % (prior year %)	Employed % (prior year %)	Firm plans: continuing education or employed % (prior yr %)
Total Univ.	27% (up from 25%) Same as 09-10	55% (up from 53%) highest since 07-08	82% (up from 78%) highest since 07-08
AGLS	46 (42)	36 (42)	82 (84)
ARCH	11 (13)	61 (56)	72 (69)
BUS	11 (16)	72 (66)	83 (82)
ENGR	18 (18)	67 (63)	85 (81)
LAHS	31 (27)	43 (49)	74 (76)
NRE	21 (15)	44 (49)	65 (64)
SCI	46 (44)	36 (34)	82 (78)

- **See nine years for trends:** [Firm plans university and college, nine years.](#)

2011-2012 grads continuing education: 27%.

- **Up 2 percentage points from 10-11; same as 09-10.** Highest level and trending up since 03-04=22%.
- **By college, continuing education rates range from 11% - 46%** for 11-12 grads. Compared to prior year, 11-12 rates up for four colleges; same for one; down for two. SCI and AGLS grads continued education at the highest percentages (46%). LAHS follows at 31%. For all eight years, more SCI grads continue education than go to work. ARCH and BUS (11%) grads continue education at the lowest percentages for all nine years.
- **Type of post-undergrad degree remains steady:** master's degree=62%; M.D. and other medical=14%; law=5%; another bachelor's degree=5%; Ph.D.=7%; D.V.M.=4%.
- List of degrees, programs of study, institutions and locations, by undergrad major in [annual reports online](#).

2011-2012 grads employment: 55%.

- **Up 2 percentage points from prior year.** At highest point since 06-07 (59%). Up for four colleges; down for three.
- "Plan to seek employment, but haven't yet started": 2% (has been 2% or 3% in recent years). Total still seeking / looking at options: 15% same as prior year; down from 21% in 09-10 and 25% in 08-09 (the nine-year high). Nine-year low of 14% in both 07-08 and 06-07.
- **Quality of employment?**
Employment related to career goals? "Very" 70%. "Somewhat" 30%. "Not" 0%. Same as prior year.
Employment related to major? "Very" 62% (prior 2 years=58%). "Somewhat" 27%. "Not" 11%.
 Tiny tick up from prior year; best stats since 07-08.

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

How 2011-2012 employed grads found jobs:

#1 Worked for employer in the past=24% (through internship, summer or p-t job, volunteer work, etc.)

#2 Networking=22% (contacts through friends, family, employers, faculty/staff, alumni, fellow org members)

- **This is NOT new news!**
- **Worked for employer prior was #1 or #2 for last six years; job source for 22% to 29%.**
By college: job source for **20% to 36%** of employed 2011-2012 grads.
- **Networking was #1 or #2 for nine years; job source for 21% to 26%.**
#1 for AGLS, ARCH, LAHS, SCI; #2 for NRE; #3 for BUS & ENGR.
By college: job source for **17% to 31%** of 11-12 grads. 13% to 45% over nine years.
1st place for SCI all nine years and for LAHS and AGRI for eight years.
- **Career fairs #3 for six years: 17% for 11-12 grads; wide variance by college: 4% - 27%.**
Total university: trending up since 09-10 (14%); highest since 08-09 (18%).
Since prior year, up for five colleges; down for two
- **OCI/H4H #4 for seven years: 13% highest since 05-06 (14%)**
Wide variance by college: 0% - 25%. At #1 spot for BUS (25%) for 11-12; highest since 05-06.
#4 source for ENGR (13%) and SCI (10%)
- Career fairs, OCI/H4H represent a segment of the job market; rise reflects improving economy.
- [*How employed grads found jobs, by university and colleges, nine years.*](#)

Salary median:

- Highest in eight years: \$50,000 (N=1,300 reporting salary) for 11-12.
- **But they don't all tell.** Higher percentage of employed 11-12 grads reported salaries (79%) than in prior three years; still below four other prior years with 90% and 83% reporting. However three colleges at all-time low: 60% (NRE & ARCH), 61% (AGLS). BUS at highest reporting level (90%) since 04-05.
- [*Salary medians, university and colleges, nine years.*](#)

Career-related experience during college? Yes. Regrets about career planning? Yes.

- **58% wished they had done something differently related to planning for life after college.**
Consistently over eight years, half or more say yes; 58% said yes in the most recent four years.
- **91% of all respondents had one or more types of career-related experience.**
33% of all respondents **wished they'd gotten MORE** (same three years; trending upward since 04-05).
- **28% of all respondents wished learned more/earlier about career options; upward trend since 04-05.**
[*What grads wished they had done, university, nine years.*](#)

Who employs our grads?

- **Over 800 organizations** were reported by the 1645 11-12 grads who stated they are employed.
- **154 grads** (over 9%) who claimed employment **declined to name their employing organization.**
- **2nd most-frequently-named employer**, cited by N=26 grads, 1.57% of all employed, is **Virginia Tech**, which has been in the top five every year since 04-05.
- 1st place: Deloitte (28 grads; 1.7%); #3 Accenture (23 grads); #4 U.S. Army (20 grads).
- [*Most-reported employers, nine-year list*](#) shows employers reported by 5 or 6 or more grads over 8 years.
- List of all employers, job titles, locations, **by major** in [annual reports online](#).

The [full annual reports online](#) – viewable by **university**, **colleges** and **majors** – also include:

- 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 (does for 24% of employed), and amount, if so.