



Graduate Destinations Survey Results

December 7, 2015

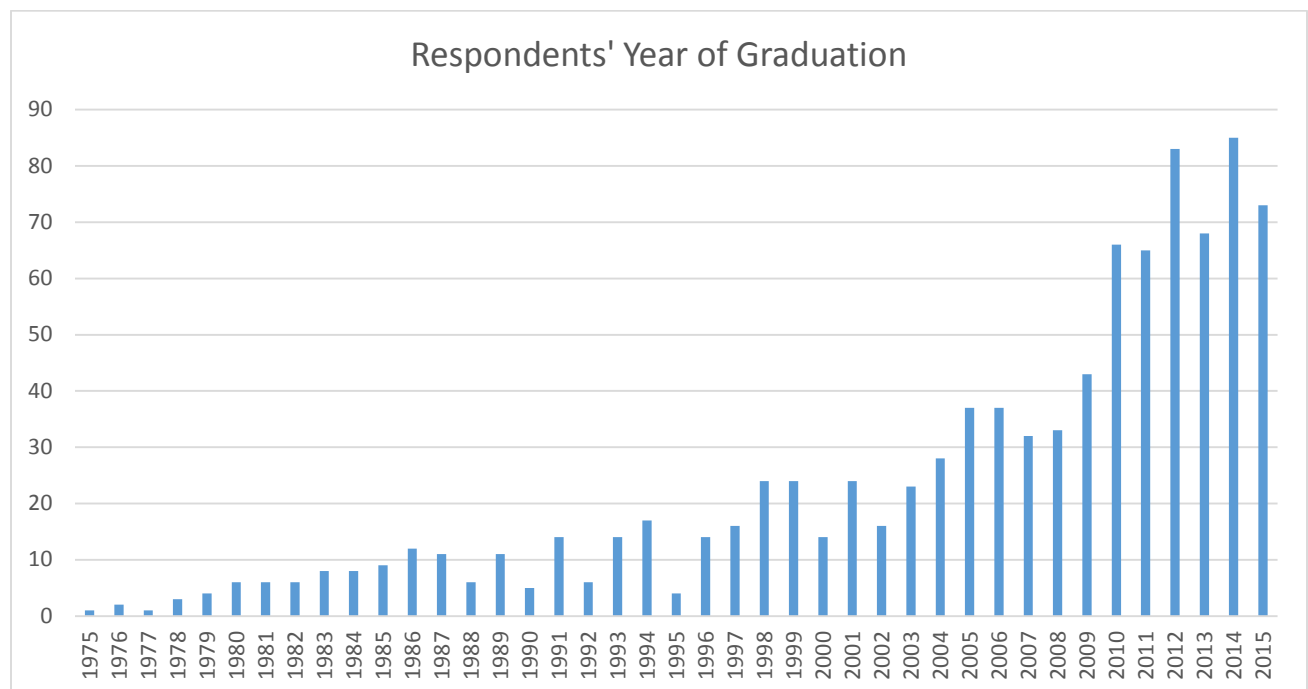
Introduction

In the 50th year anniversary of the university, the Alumni and Institutional Research offices collaborated to generate a new survey intended to reach as many alumni as possible with the hopes of measuring student success after graduating from UCCS. We were able to combine lists of alumni who were either registered with the Alumni Office or on record in the CU Student Information System. The 11-question survey asked former students about their destinations one year after graduating from UCCS and their current status today. It was an online survey distributed via email to 27,282 people in October and November of 2015; at the time of this report, there were 961 respondents. While the number of respondents calculates to a response rate of 3.5%, we are pleased to report results of the first-ever all-alumni survey.

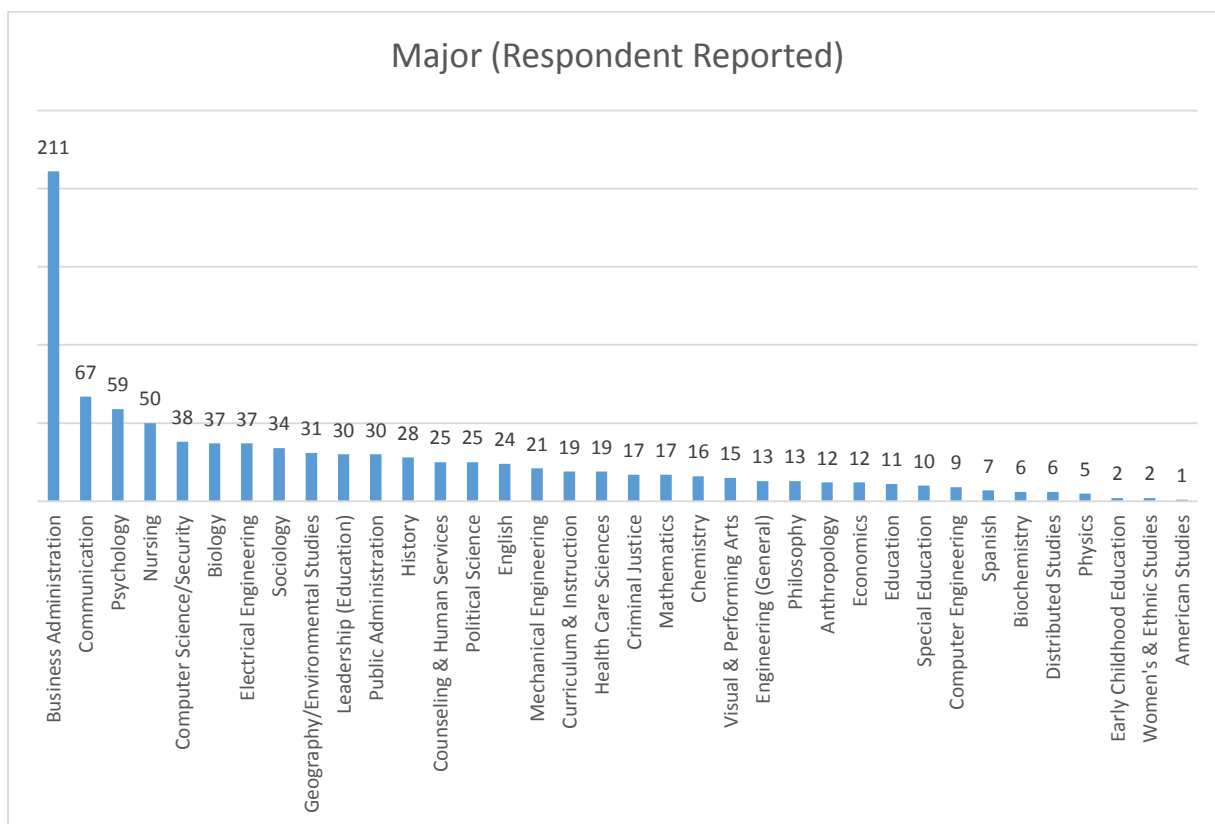
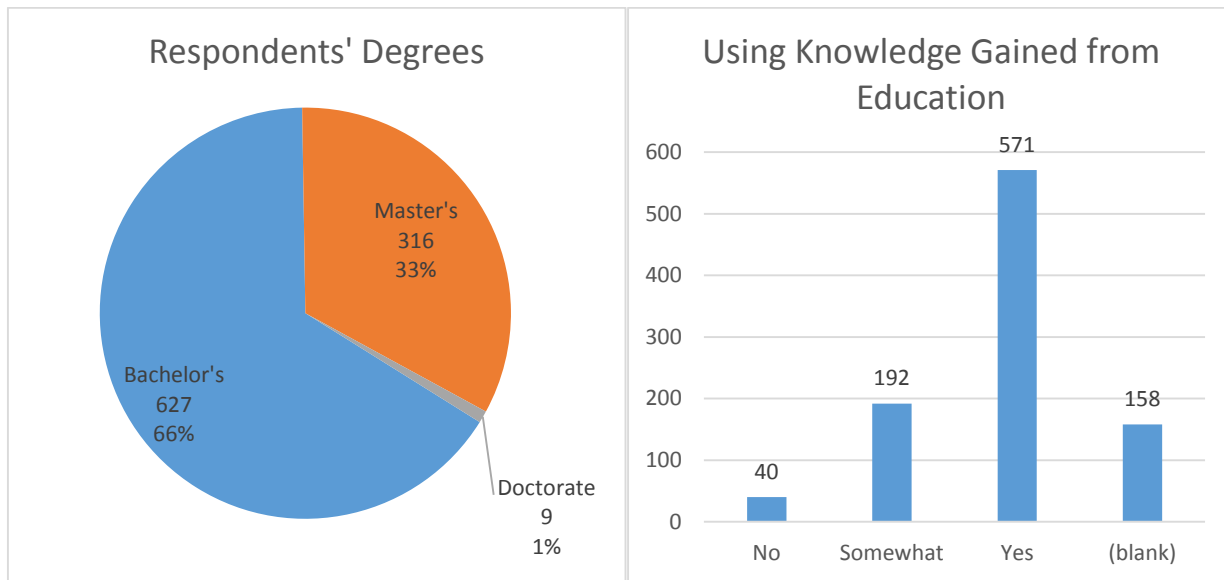
Results

The collaboration between offices proved to be critical. Not only did we identify valid email addresses for 27,282 people among 36,358 records, but we also improved participation by 242 respondents or 25% of all respondents who otherwise would have been excluded had either office used their own mailing list.

There were respondents for every graduation year between 1975 and 2015 (UCCS opened in 1965 and was accredited by the Higher Learning Commission in 1972). Approximately 25% said they graduated before 2000, another 25% between 2000 and 2008, and the remaining 50% graduated in 2009 or since.



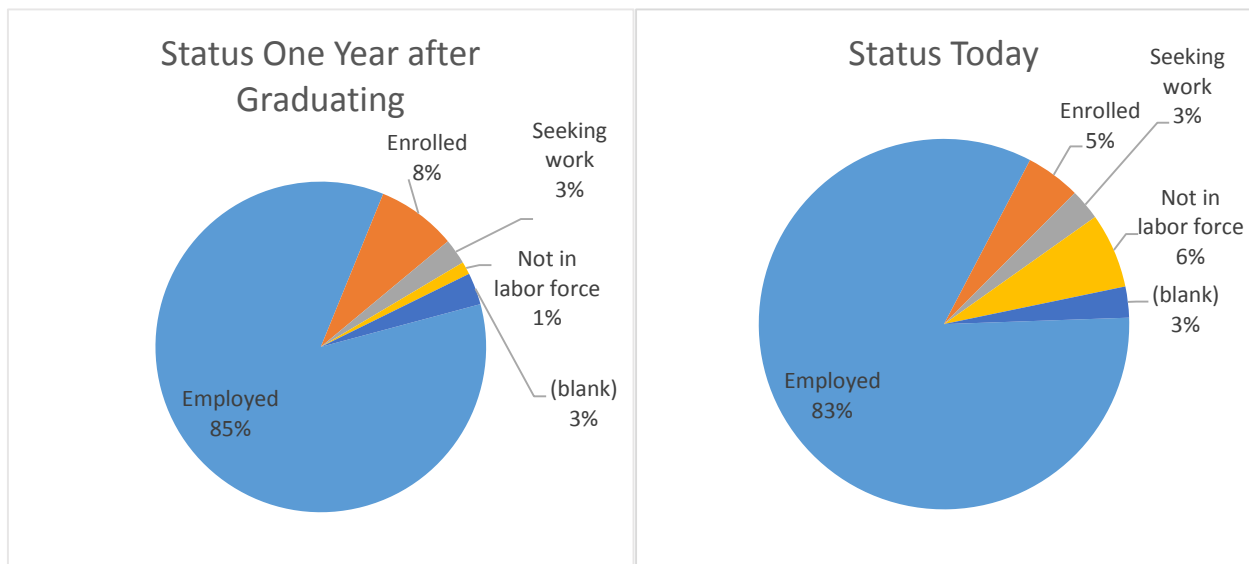
Respondents earned baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees in at least 36 different disciplines, with 571 (83%) reporting they are using knowledge gained from their UCCS education. Another 192 (28%) indicated they use such knowledge sometimes and 40 (6%)¹ said they do not use knowledge gained from their education.



¹ All 40 reported being employed. The most common majors among them were Business Administration (7), Psychology (6), Geography (4), Biology (3), and Electrical Engineering (3).

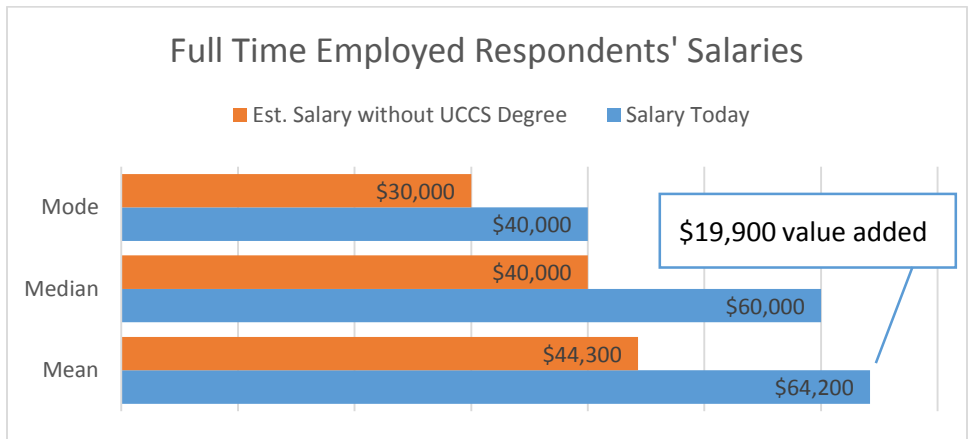
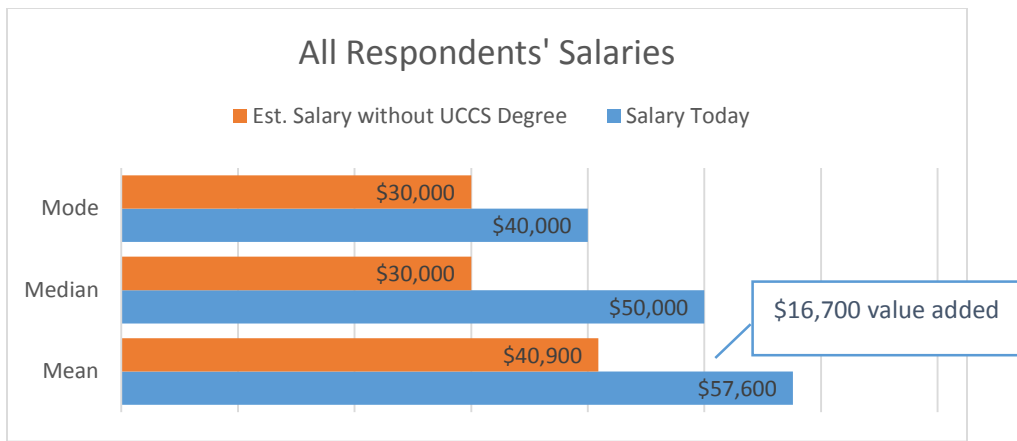
To gauge the success of students who earned degrees, we asked respondents to reveal their current employment status today and their employment status one year after graduating. Of the respondents, 85% said they were employed and another 8% were enrolled in higher education one year after graduating from UCCS. Today, the figures are 83% and 5%, respectively. Only 2% were unemployed one year after graduating and 3% are unemployed today.

	One Year after Graduating	Today
Full time employment	704 (73%)	701 (73%)
Part time employment	83 (9%)	68 (7%)
Enrolled in higher education	75 (8%)	46 (5%)
Enrolled and employed	33 (3%)	31 (3%)
Seeking employment	24 (2%)	26 (3%)
Not in labor force	12 (1%)	63 (7%)

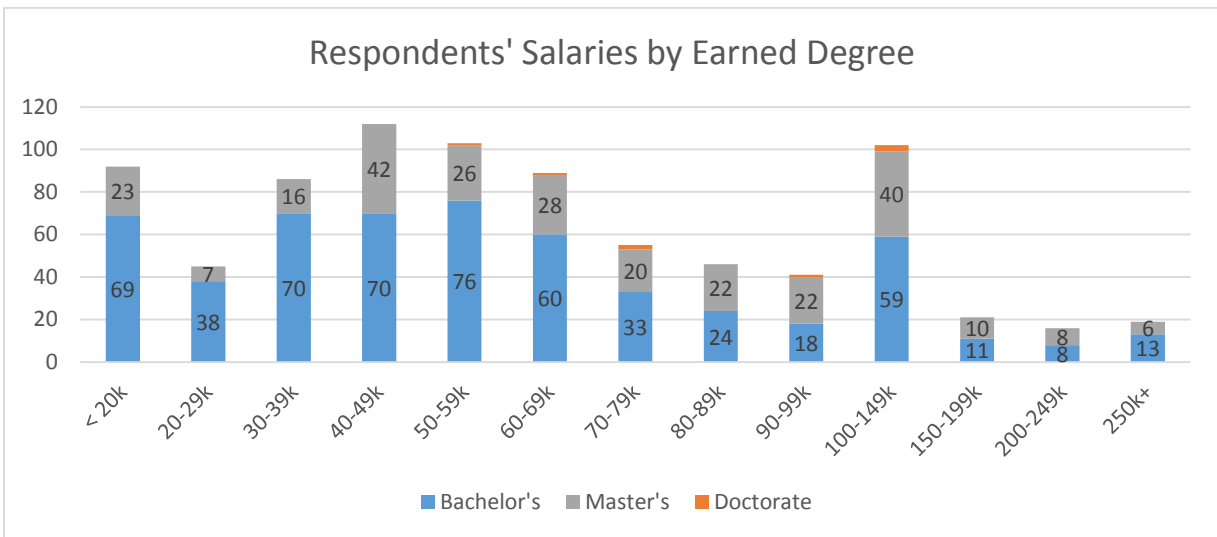


To help gauge the value of higher education and the monetary worth of a degree from UCCS, we asked respondents to evaluate the added value of their degree by reporting their current salary in comparison to what they think their salary would be without their UCCS degree. The alumni reported an average current salary² of \$57,600 compared to an average estimated salary without a degree at \$40,900 for an estimated value added of \$16,700. The estimated value added is even greater -- \$19,900 -- among alumni who are currently employed full time.

² Salary was collected via a set of 10k salary ranges except those at the higher end which are in 50k ranges (100-149k, 150-199k, 200-250k, and 250k+) therefore the "average" is an average response among 13 categories rather than actual salaries.



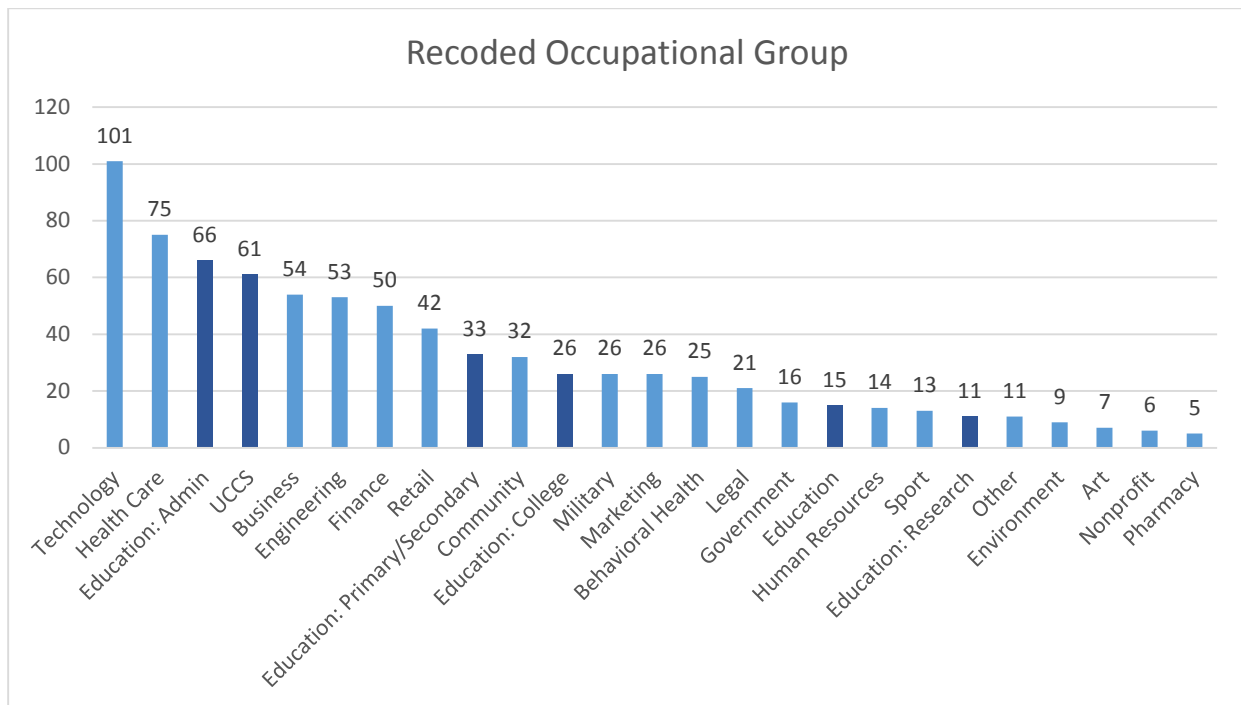
While the mode, median, and mean salary describe the central tendencies, the actual distribution of salaries by degree reveals a more diverse pattern. Below, we see there are just as many respondents earning 100-149k as those earning 50-59k, led by 112 respondents earning 40-49k. The number of respondents earning <20k is also noteworthy (but only 11% of these respondents are employed full-time).



Respondents who are *employed full-time today* report an average salary of 60-69k. Majors in WEST, Spanish, VAPA, and Criminal Justice report the lowest salaries while several Engineering and Computer Science disciplines report the highest salaries. In the table below, the highlighted cells represent the mean or average response for each major among full-time employed respondents.

	< 20k	20-29k	30-39k	40-49k	50-59k	60-69k	70-79k	80-89k	90-99k	100-149k	150-199k	200-249k	250k+
Women's & Ethnic Studies	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Visual & Performing Arts	0	4	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal Justice	0	1	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Early Childhood Education	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anthropology	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Economics	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Health Care Sciences	0	2	3	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Education	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
English	0	1	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Counseling	1	1	2	6	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Geography	2	2	3	2	2	3	0	2	1	1	1	0	0
History	0	0	7	4	2	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Leadership	0	2	2	8	0	2	3	2	0	2	0	0	0
Sociology	2	1	1	5	6	3	2	1	1	2	0	0	0
Communication	0	1	8	13	9	1	7	2	1	5	0	0	0
Physics	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Biochemistry	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Philosophy	0	0	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Curriculum & Instruction	0	0	1	3	3	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
Mathematics	1	0	2	2	1	2	2	1	0	2	0	0	0
Psychology	1	1	6	3	3	3	1	3	4	2	0	0	0
Mechanical Engineering	0	0	0	0	2	5	3	0	2	2	0	0	0
Public Administration	0	0	1	2	4	3	3	2	2	2	1	0	0
Biology	0	0	7	2	2	3	0	0	0	3	0	1	3
Other	0	1	3	4	5	4	2	3	2	5	1	0	1
Nursing	0	0	1	4	7	8	3	3	2	6	1	0	1
Business Administration	0	4	7	19	17	21	7	11	12	29	7	10	5
Computer Engineering	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0
Chemistry	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1
Political Science	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	3
Computer Science	0	0	0	0	5	4	4	3	1	8	3	1	0
Distributed Studies	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1
Engineering	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	0
Electrical Engineering	1	0	0	2	0	1	3	3	1	7	5	4	2
Total	10	25	74	95	94	78	48	43	33	93	22	16	17

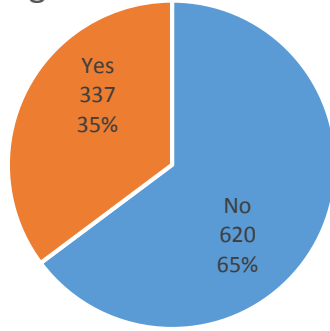
Many of the respondents are currently working in various occupations within Education, Health, or Technology. The occupational groups in the survey were meant to be general representations of common Standard Occupational Codes offered by the Department of Labor, but those values are recoded based upon the employer and brief job descriptions provided by respondents. Recoding was necessary because our survey, for example, inadvertently excluded an option for Technology which was one of the most common responses in the “other” option. We also wanted to recode jobs that may be more specific to UCCS degrees; the “Environment” recode is a good example of jobs in natural resource management that would otherwise be reported as Government. Another example is mental health counseling which is recoded into Behavioral Health rather than Health Care. Also, the values for Education (212 responses) are recoded into smaller groups of Research, Primary/Secondary Teaching, College Teaching, Administration, and any employment at UCCS. The Education occupations are shown with darker blue bars in the Occupational Group chart below.



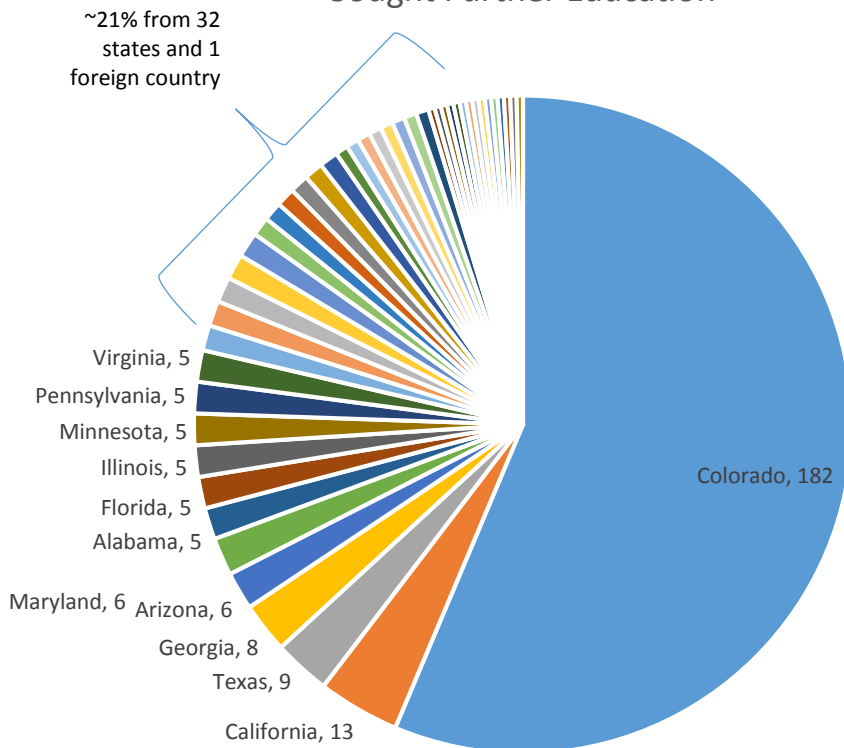
In addition to employment, we consider student success to include the pursuit of further education. Our annual alumni surveys reveal approximately 1/3 of respondents intend to seek further education while concomitant analyses from the National Student Clearinghouse suggest fewer alumni actually enroll within a year of graduating. However, this survey corroborates results from ongoing annual alumni surveys; 35% of respondents said they sought further education³ at over 140 institutions in 46 states. The most common institutions were, in order: UCCS, UC Denver/Anschutz, University of Denver, University of Colorado (unspecified campus), Regis University, University of Phoenix, Colorado Technical University, Colorado State University, and UC Boulder. The pie chart below depicting states of these institutions underscores the typical pattern of mobility among UCCS students: the majority live in Colorado while the others are dispersed all over the United States with few concentrations in any particular state.

³ Seeking further education includes alumni who returned to higher education for professional certification.

Sought Further Education



States of Institutions Attended Among Respondents Who Sought Further Education



Summary

We are encouraged by the general positivity of the survey results. We received an impressive array of respondents who earned degrees as early as 1975 in at least 36 disciplines; 97% were enrolled or employed one year after graduating and 90% are enrolled or employed today; they estimated their UCCS degree enhanced their salaries by \$16,700 to \$19,900; those employed full-time today earn approximately \$60,000-69,000 in a range of occupations including technology, health care, and education; and, finally, we learned that 35% of respondents pursued further education, mostly in Colorado.

Instrument

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Default Question Block



50th Anniversary Graduate Destinations Survey

Were you referred to this survey while requesting a transcript from UCCS?

Yes

No

In which year did you graduate from UCCS? (Indicate your most recent graduation year if you graduated more than once.)

Which degree did you earn?

Bachelor's

Master's

Doctorate

Other, please specify:

Please select the primary major of the degree you most recently earned at UCCS. If you earned a degree within the College of Business, please select Business Administration since the various options are not listed here.

Anthropology

Biochemistry

Biology

Business Administration

Chemistry

Communication

Computer Engineering

Computer Science/Security

Counseling & Human Services

Criminal Justice

Curriculum & Instruction

Distributed Studies

Early Childhood Education

Economics

Electrical Engineering

Engineering (General)

English

Game Design & Development

Geography/Environmental Studies

Health Care Sciences

History

Leadership (Education)

Mathematics

Mechanical Engineering

Nursing

Philosophy

Physics

Political Science

Psychology

Public Administration

Sociology

Spanish

Special Education

Visual & Performing Arts

Women's & Ethnic Studies

Other, please write in:

Please mark the status that best fits you both (a) one year after graduating from UCCS, and (b) your current status today.

One year after graduating from
UCCS, I was...

My status today is...

employed full time

employed part time

seeking employment

enrolled in higher
education

employed and enrolled
in higher education

not in the labor force

In your current job, are you using the skills and knowledge you gained at UCCS?

Yes

No

Somewhat

In which general sector of the economy are you employed? Check all that apply.

Business / Finance

Community / Social Services

Construction / Transportation / Maintenance / Trades

Education

Entertainment / Arts / Sports

Government

Health Care / Medicine

Legal

Personal Care / Childcare

Military / Defense

Retail / Wholesale / Small Business

Other:

Could you provide more detail about your current job?

Job title:

Company:

City & State:

Short description of
work:

Please indicate your current annual salary and estimate what you think it would be had you not graduated from UCCS.

	Your current salary:	What your salary would be without your UCCS degree:
Less than \$20,000		
\$20 - 29,000		
\$30 - 39,000		
\$40 - 49,000		
\$50 - 59,000		
\$60 - 69,000		
\$70 - 79,000		
\$80 - 89,000		
\$90 - 99,000		
\$100 - 149,000		
\$150 - 199,000		
\$200 - 249,000		
\$250,000 or more		
I do not wish to disclose.		

Have you earned (or are you in the process of earning) another degree or certificate since graduating from UCCS?

Yes

No

Where did you earn your additional degree (or where are you attending now)?

Name of institution:

Location (state):

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