

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA PLACEMENT STUDY  
OF 1998-1999 GRADUATES**

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SUBMITTED BY

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“HELPING PROSPECTIVE, CURRENT, AND FORMER STUDENTS ACCOMPLISH THEIR  
EDUCATIONAL, CAREER, AND LIFE GOALS”

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1,468 UND alumni who graduated in December 1998, May 1999, and August 1999 were mailed a questionnaire seeking demographic and employment information, of which 878 returned questionnaires (60% net response rate).
- 97.1% indicated being either employed or currently a student. 89.3% indicated that their current position is directly related or somewhat related to the education they received at UND.
- 192 graduates are pursuing additional education, of which 62 are pursuing further education at UND.
- Respondents reported residing in 42 states, 3 Canadian provinces, and 5 foreign countries. 62.4% of respondents are residing in North Dakota or Minnesota. North Dakota retained 268 (30.8%) of the 870 respondents.
- North Dakota retained 206 (47.8%) of the 431 UND graduates who graduated from high school in North Dakota.
- 51.5% of respondents think there are job opportunities for them in their area of interest in North Dakota, 38.3% of respondents indicated that if a job were available in their area of interest they would want employment in North Dakota.
- Respondents indicated the following reasons most frequently for why they would like employment in North Dakota: close to family, high quality of life/standard of living, like the community/state.
- Respondents indicated the following reasons most frequently for why they would not or are unsure if they would want employment in North Dakota: low salaries, limited career advancement opportunities, entertainment/cultural activities, proximity to family, employment options for spouse, like living in metropolitan areas, weather.
- Questions regarding annual salary were optional, of the 497 respondents the average annual salary was \$32,259, and the median annual salary was \$30,000.
- 45.7% of respondents indicated that they participated in an internship program or cooperative education program while attending UND.

In November 2000 a study was conducted to determine the status of recent University of North Dakota (UND) graduates. Graduates earning a bachelors degree from UND in December 1998, May 1999, or August 1999 were mailed a questionnaire seeking demographic and employment information (See Appendix A). Current mailing addresses were obtained for 1468 of these graduates. A total of 878 completed questionnaires were returned by mail. This provided a net response rate of 60%, which was comparable to previous years when additional phone interviews were conducted to increase the response rate.

#### DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

277 (31.9%) of the respondents graduated in December 1998, 504 (58.0%) graduated in May 1999, and 88 (10.1%) graduated in August of 1999. 405 (46.2%) of the graduates are male, and 472 (53.8%) are female (See Appendix B, Table 1). 431 (50.0%) of the respondents graduated from High School in North Dakota, 258 (29.9%) graduated from High School in Minnesota, and 173 (20.1%) graduated from High School outside of North Dakota.

#### EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

When asked to indicate employment status, 833 of the respondents (97.09%) indicated being either employed or currently a student. 738 (86.0%) reported being employed, 95 (11.1%) reported being currently a student, and 25 (2.9%) reported being unemployed (See Appendix B, Table 2(a & b) for a breakdown by college).

In reference to the employment status of all 873 respondents (with 15 not responding), 197 (23.0%) are seeking other employment (regardless of whether currently employed or not), 566 (66.0%) indicated that they are not seeking employment, and 95 (11.0%) indicated that they are currently students. Of the 25 unemployed graduates, 12 indicated that they were seeking employment, and 13 indicated that they were not seeking employment.

When asked to indicate "how closely their current position is related to the education they received at UND", 841 graduates responded. Of the 841 respondents, 751(89.3%) indicated that their current position is either "directly related" or "somewhat related" to the education they received at UND. 538 or 64.0% indicated "directly related", 213 or 25.3% indicated "somewhat related", and 90 or 10.7% indicated "not at all related". (See Appendix B, Table 3 for a breakdown by college).

#### PURSUING ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Currently, 192 graduates are pursuing additional education, 65 are part-time students and 127 are full-time students; 62 are pursuing a degree at UND (See Appendix B, Table 4). Furthermore, 6 are pursuing a second bachelor's degree, 93 are pursuing a Master's degree, 8 are pursuing a Ph.D., 13 are attending medical school, and 13 are attending law school (See Appendix B, Table 5 for additional degrees being pursued).