

## In-Focus

# 2015 One-Year-Out Survey: Undergraduate Alumni Outcomes

Office of Institutional Research and Assessment | George Mason University

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## Overview

This report examines Mason alumni employment outcomes in relation to their college experiences. Data on Mason experiences were obtained from the 2013-14 Graduating Senior Survey (GSS) and the 2013-14 Career Plans Survey (CPS). Information about employment comes from the 2014-15 One-Year-Out Survey (OYO), which is administered annually to Mason alumni one year after graduation. This report focuses on all 835 undergraduate alumni who completed the 2015 OYO (some of whom also completed the 2014 GSS and the 2014 CPS).

**Table 1.** One-Year-Out Respondents by Major Categories

	Respondents (n=835)
Social Sciences	302 (36%)
Humanities	114 (14%)
Business	100 (12%)
Computer Science and Engineering	98 (12%)
Nursing/Health	98 (12%)
Sciences	86 (10%)
Visual and Performing Arts	37 (4%)

## Employment

- 83% of alumni who responded to the survey were employed within one year from graduation
- Of the 789 responding alumni who were either employed or seeking employment, 88% were employed within one year from graduation; 56% were employed within six months.

## Competence and Work Experience

- 84% of employed alumni reported competence in applying the ideas of their field/major outside of the classroom
- Alumni who were employed one year out were more likely to work for pay while they were in college than those who are not yet employed (82% vs. 71%)

**Figure 1.** Selected Mason Experiences by One-Year-Out Employment Status

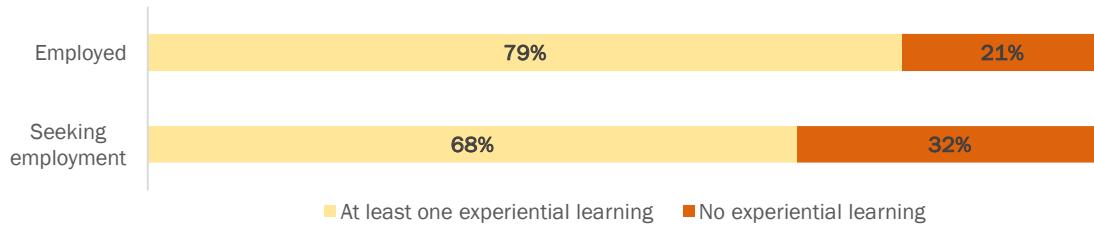


\* p<.05, t-test (two-tailed); ^ p<.05, Chi-square (2-sided); data source for employment status: 2015 OYO; data source for Mason experiences: 2014 GSS. Based on 532 employed and 71 seeking employment OYO respondents who also took the GSS.

## Participation in Experiential Learning

- Nearly half of all respondents reported they had participated in internship/practicum/field experiences or research as a student (Table 2)
- 79% of employed alumni reported they had participated in some kind of experiential learning while at Mason, compared to 68% of those still seeking employment at one year out (Figure 2)
- Employed alumni surpassed their unemployed peers in having jobs related to their career goals (Table 3)

**Figure 2.** Participation in Experiential Learning While at Mason by One-Year-Out Employment Status



Significant at  $p < .05$ , Chi-square (2-sided). Data source for employment status: 2014-15 OYO; data source for experiential learning: 2013-14 CPS. Based on 519 and 71 respondents from OYO for employed and seeking employment, respectively, who also took the CPS.

**Table 2.** Participation in Specific Experiential Learning Activities While at Mason by One-Year-Out Employment Status

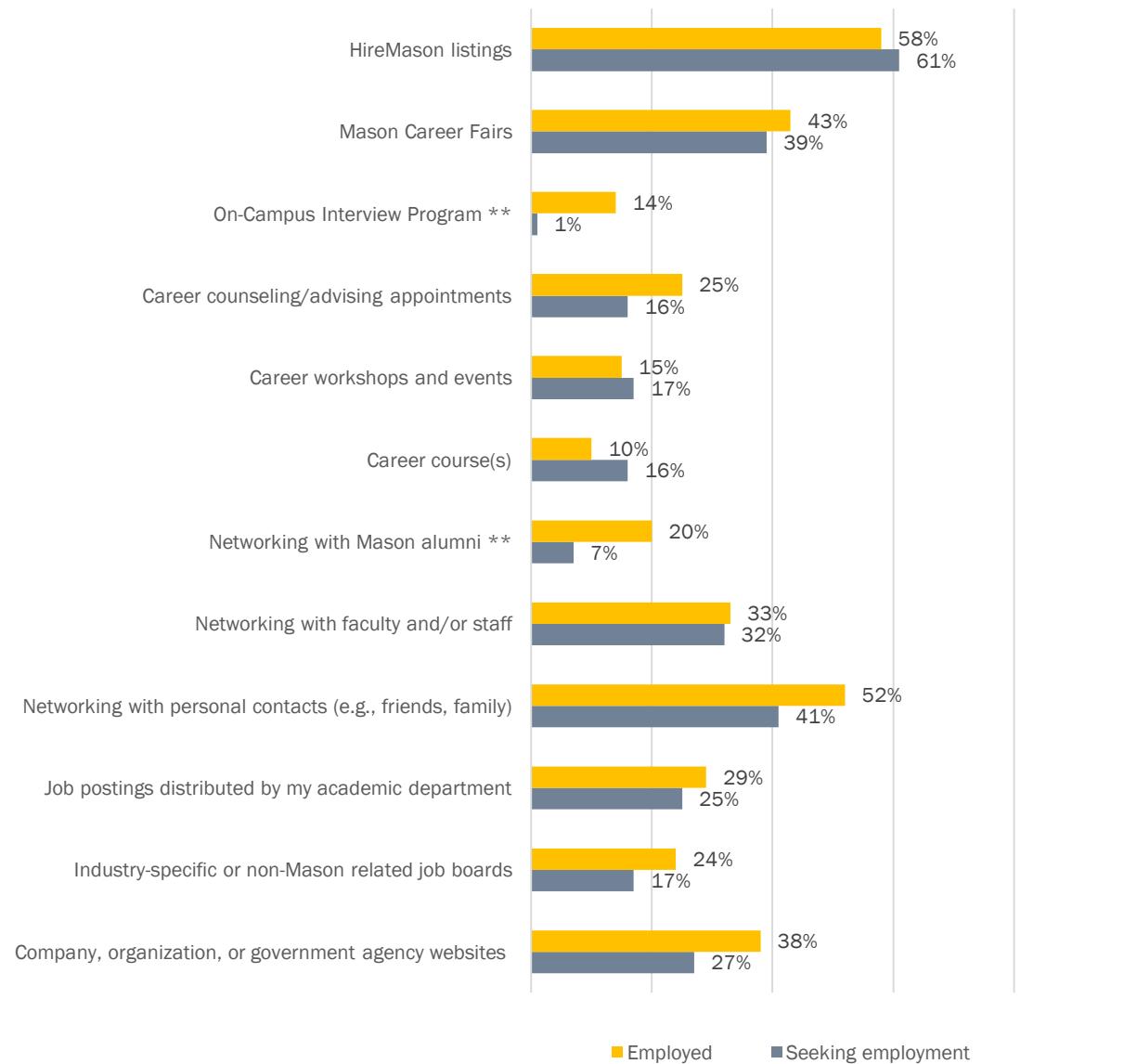
	Employed	Seeking Employment	Sig
Internship/practicum/field experience/or field studies	51%	41%	
Cooperative education	3%	0%	
Study abroad	14%	18%	
On-campus job	28%	23%	
Part-time job related to my career goals	35%	20%	*
Full-time job related to my career goals	10%	1%	*
Research position	9%	9%	
Leadership position in student organization	31%	21%	

Percentages are for "participation"; \*  $p < .05$ , Chi-square (2-sided); data source for employment status: 2014-15 OYO; data source for experiential learning: 2013-14 CPS; based on 519 and 71 OYO respondents for employed and seeking employment, respectively, who also took CPS. Respondents could select multiple categories.

## Use of Career Services and Resources

- A significantly higher percentage of employed alumni reported that they participated in an on-campus interview program or networked with Mason alumni while they were students at Mason (14% employed vs. 1% seeking employment, and 20% vs. 7%, respectively)
- The two groups were similar in using other Mason career services such as HireMason Listings and Mason Career Fairs

**Figure 3.** Use of Mason Resources/Services for Job Search While at Mason by One-Year-Out Employment Status

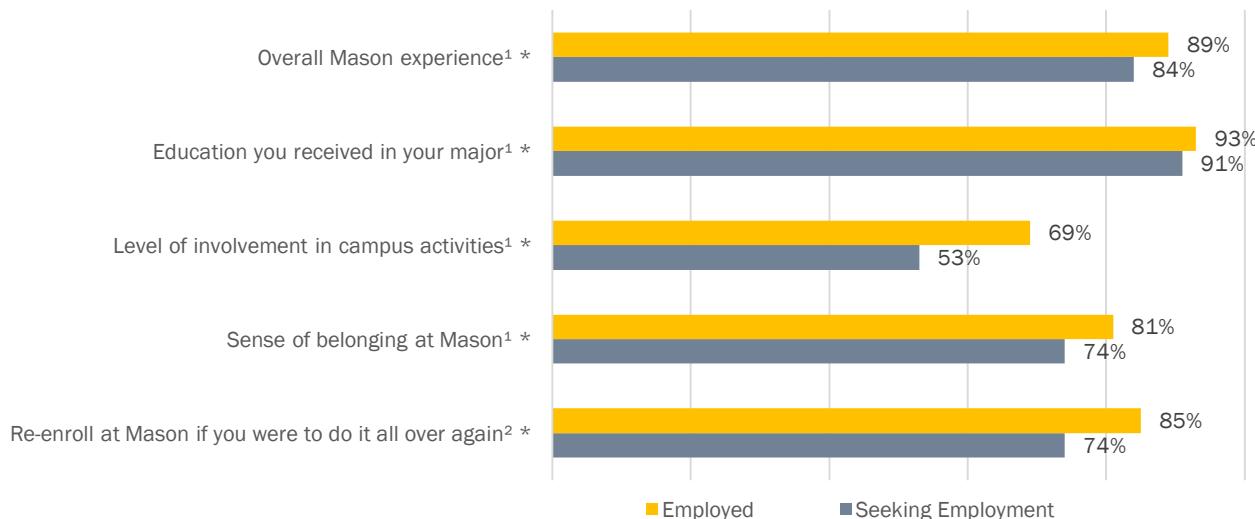


Respondents could select multiple categories; \*\* p<.01, Chi-square (2-sided); data source for employment status: 2014-15 OYO; data source for use of Mason resources/services: 2013-14 CPS; based on 519 and 71 OYO respondents for employed and seeking employment, respectively, who also took the CPS.

## Satisfaction, Preparation for Work, and Salary

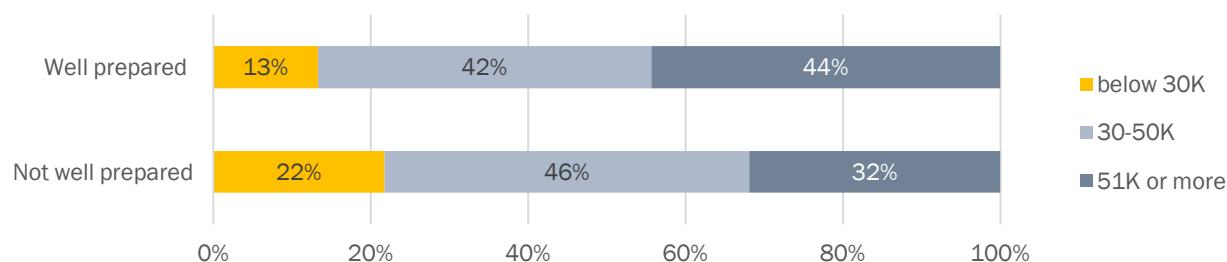
- Alumni who were employed one year out graduated with a significantly higher level of satisfaction with the Mason experience on all measures than those seeking employment (Figure 4).
- Alumni distribution across salary levels was significantly different by their perceived preparation for work ( $p<0.05$ , Chi-Square). For example, alumni who agreed that their degree helped prepare them for their current job were more likely to earn more than \$50,000 than those who did not agree that they were well prepared (44% vs. 32%, Figure 5).

**Figure 4.** Satisfaction with Mason Experience by One-Year-Out Employment Status



<sup>1</sup>Percentages are for “very satisfied” and “satisfied” combined; <sup>2</sup>percentages are for “definitely yes” and “probably yes” combined; \*  $p < .05$ , t-test (2-tailed); data source for employment status: 2014-15 OYO; data source for satisfaction: 2013-14 GSS; based on 534 and 70 OYO respondents for employed and seeking employment, respectively, who also took the GSS.

**Figure 5.** Perceived Preparation for Work and Salary Range



Percentages for “well prepared” are based on “strongly agree” and “agree” responses combined (to the OYO question: do you agree that the skills and concepts you learned from your degree/program have helped to prepare you for your current work?); percentages for “not well prepared” are based on “strongly disagree” and “disagree” responses combined; based on self-reported data from OYO respondents who were employed full time; N=399 and 138 for “well prepared” and “not well prepared” groups, respectively.