

## Department of Psychology – B.Sc. and B.A. Career Survey Results September 2014

Alumni who received their B.Sc. or B.A. in Psychology in the years 2006-2011 were requested to participate in a brief survey regarding their careers since graduation.

### **Participants**

For the B.Sc. alumni, of the 90 emails sent out, 18 valid responses were received; a response rate of 20%. Respondents included 7 males and 11 females. Participants ranged from 26 to 40 years old (Median = 29.5 years; Mode = 29 years; *Mean* = 30.50 years, *SD* = 3.62 years).

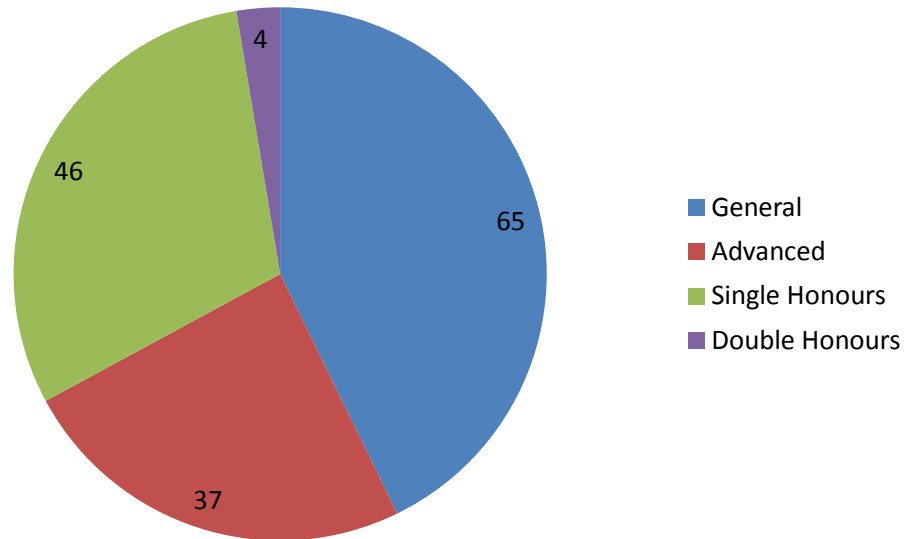
For the B.A. alumni, of the 532 emails sent out, 134 valid responses were received; a response rate of 25.19%. Respondents included 31 males, 102 females and 1 who did not indicate their sex. Participants ranged from 24 to 68 years old (Median and Mode = 29 years; *Mean* = 32.19 years, *SD* = 7.73 years).

Most individuals lived in Winnipeg ( $N = 74$ , 48.7%) or elsewhere in Manitoba ( $N = 18$ , 11.8%). The remainder resided across Canada ( $N = 44$ , 28.9%) or around the world ( $N = 16$ , 10.5%).

### **Type of Degree Received**

As shown in Figure 1, almost half of the participants received a General 3 year degree (42.8%), followed by a single honours degree (30.3%), the Advanced 4 year degree (24.3%), and finally the double honours degree (2.6%).

Figure 1: Number of Respondents Per Degree Type



### Career Information

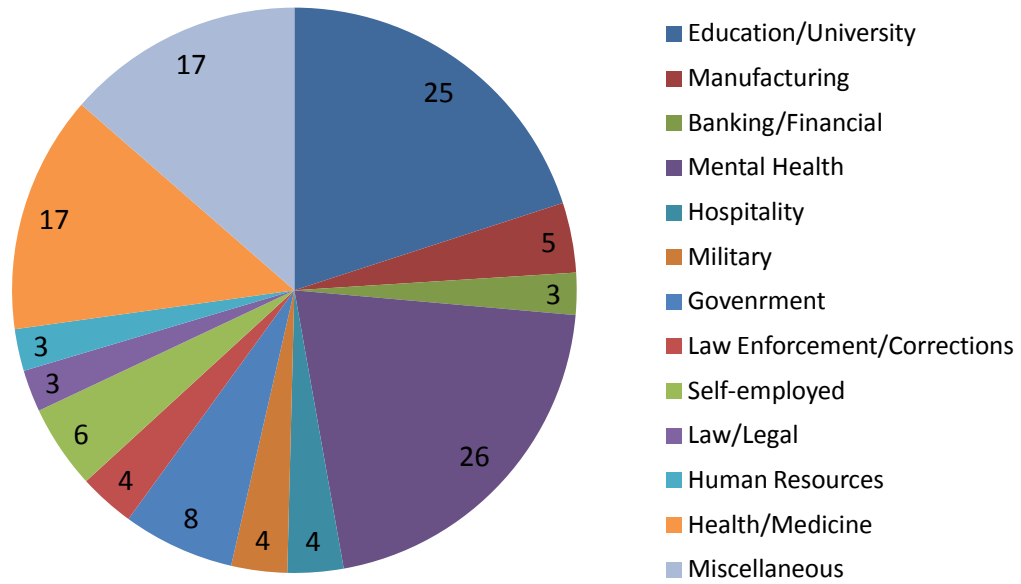
Only 25 (16.4%) of respondents indicated that they were currently unemployed. However, 64% ( $N = 16$ ) were still students, 20.0% ( $N = 5$ ) were on maternity leave, and 4.0% ( $N = 1$ ) was a stay at home parent. The remaining three had varied reasons for their unemployment: job didn't fit aspirations, just moved, and can't find employment.

Of the 127(83.6%) who were working, 107 (84.34%) were in a different job then when they were in University and 20 (15.7%) were in the same job they held during University.

In regards to their job, respondents indicated a wide variety of careers (see Figure 2). However, 77.8% of B.Sc. respondents and 48.9% of B.A. respondents indicated they had received another

degree (e.g., Education, Law, MA, MBA, MD, Social Work) prior to getting their current job.

Figure 2: Number of Respondents in Each Type of Industry



For the B.Sc. respondents, 9 (50%) indicated that their degree was needed to get their current job. However, 7 of the 9 who indicated it was not needed to get their current job indicated that their psychology degree was helpful in securing their current job ( $M = 29.14$ ,  $SD = 17.52$ ; range 0 not at all helpful to 100 extremely helpful).

For the B.A. respondents, 57 (51.4%) indicated that their degree was needed to get their current job. However, the 53 who indicated it was not needed to get their current job indicated that their psychology degree was helpful in securing their current job ( $M = 41.23$ ,  $SD = 30.34$ ; range 0 not at all helpful to 100 extremely helpful).

Across all participants, the types of information respondents indicated were most useful are listed in Table 1. However, five respondents indicated that their Psychology degree has not been useful at all for gaining employment (2 in health, 1 in hospitality, 1 in government, 1 unemployed).

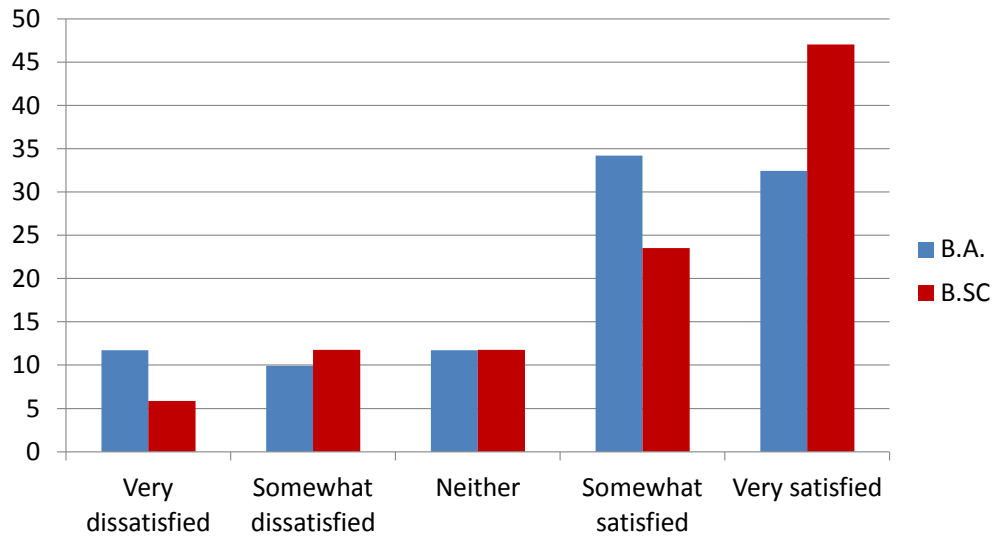
Table 1. Skills previous students found to be useful in their current careers: Listed by frequency

<b>Useful Skills</b>	<b>Frequency of responses</b>
Statistics	27
General Psychology Coursework	26
Public Speaking/Presentation Skills	24
Writing Skills/Communication	18
Critical Thinking/Analytic Skills	12
Research Experience	11
Clinical/Mental Health Knowledge	11
Time Management/Deal with Deadlines/Organization	7
Dealing with People in General	7
Behavioural Analysis/Modification	4
Statistical Package (SPSS)	2
Information literacy	2

*Note.* Participants could list as many items as they wanted

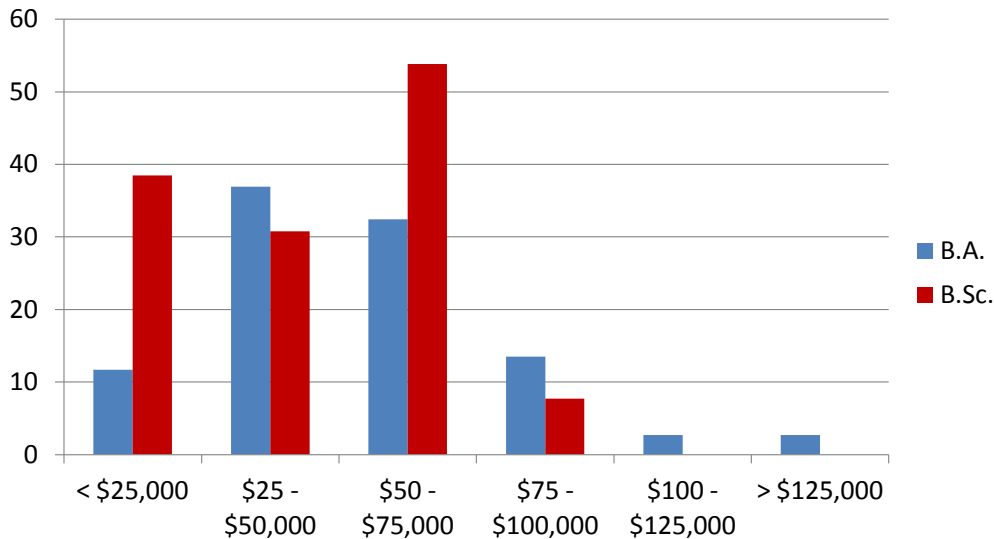
On average individuals were satisfied to somewhat satisfied with current employment. Consistent with their satisfaction levels, respondents indicated that they expected to remain in their current job for about 3 years.

Figure 3: Percentage Respondents Indicating Satisfaction with Current Career



Most individuals indicated that their salary was in the \$25,000 - \$75,000 range.

Figure 4: Percentage of Respondents Indicating Each Self-reported Salary Range



The number of B.Sc. respondents was low, so the correlations between variables should be examined with caution. Graduation year was negatively but non-significantly correlated with salary,  $r(13) = -.17, p < .561$ . Individuals who graduated earlier reported higher salaries. Graduation year was correlated with satisfaction,  $r(13) = .47, p = .09$ , and with expectations for staying in the current position,  $r(13) = -.51, p = .08$ . Individuals who graduated earlier expected to change position sooner than individuals who graduated more recently.

For B.A. respondents, graduation year was negatively correlated with salary,  $r(99) = -.44, p < .001$ . Individuals who graduated earlier reported higher salaries. Graduation year was not correlated with satisfaction,  $r(99) = -.11, p = .30$ , but was correlated with individuals expectations for staying in the current position,  $r(99) = -.28, p = .006$ . Individuals who graduated earlier expected to change position sooner than individuals who graduated more recently.