NYU | Wasserman Center for Career Development
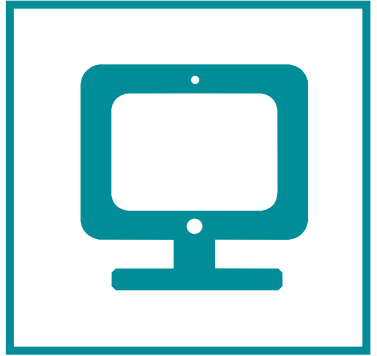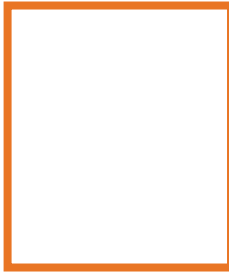
Graduate Career Outcomes Survey
Class of 2020

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Introduction

The New York University Wasserman Center for Career Development conducted its 2020 Graduate Career Outcomes Survey, which captures the career outcomes of NYU students who graduated with a Master's degree, Doctoral degree, or an Advanced Certificate, from the schools listed below, between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. This timetable is consistent with the [National Association of Colleges and Employers' recommendations](#). The goal of this survey is to gain an understanding of graduates' employment and ongoing education activities.

Career outcomes for graduate students are impacted by many of the factors tied to the university setting including academic program selection, on-campus involvement/networking, and career development activities. In addition, these outcomes may also be impacted by factors not tied to the university setting including prior work experience, a broader network of professional colleagues, and current employment upon the start of a degree program. This report summarizes the findings from the Class of 2020.

Overview

METHODOLOGY
The survey questions were based primarily on the NACE standards, with minor adjustments to include school-specific post-graduate survey questions. Graduates were first sent a link to an online survey via email. In addition, the Wasserman Center for Career Development implemented two phone banks to outreach to recent graduates in early Summer 2020 and Fall 2020, as well as two text messaging campaigns. For those who did not respond to either the repeat emails or phone inquiries, NACE-approved professional networking sites such as LinkedIn were used to obtain post-graduation status data. Additionally, the Wasserman Center included data from Handshake, the National Student Clearinghouse, the Office of Global Services, and outcomes information reported by faculty, staff and employers.

In order to incentivize graduates to take the survey, the Wasserman Center offered a chance to win Apple Airpods and a Bluetooth speaker to those recent graduates who completed the survey within the administration period. Additionally, the Wasserman Center included data from Handshake, the National Student Clearinghouse, Office of Global Services, and outcomes information reported by faculty, staff and employers.

The target population consisted solely of individuals who, based on the official records from the university student information system, received an advanced degree (Master's or Doctoral degree) or an Advanced Certificate in either September 2019, January 2020, or May 2020 from the following schools:

> Gallatin School of Individualized Study
> Graduate School of Arts & Science
> Rory Meyers College of Nursing
> School of Global Public Health
> School of Professional Studies
> Silver School of Social Work
> Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
> Tandon School of Engineering including Center for Urban Science and Progress

Information on **4461** graduates who obtained an advanced degree and/or an Advanced Certificate was collected and analyzed. The list of graduates contained records for **7062** degrees conferred to **6956 graduates**. Thus, Wasserman was able to collect post-graduate outcomes information on **64.1%** of the Class of 2020.

MISSING VALUES/ROUNDING
Throughout the analyses, "missing values" (i.e., questions that the respondents did not answer) were omitted, as were "Unsure" or "Unknown" responses for most calculations. As illustrated in several charts, the total percentage does not equal 100% due to rounding. Additionally, Institutional Research Board (IRB) guidelines prohibit us from requiring survey participants to answer all questions, so the number of responses to each question varies.

DEMOGRAPHICS
The students included in this report (survey sample) provide a proportionate representation of the makeup of NYU's Class of 2020 as illustrated below.

Population Breakdown	BY DEGREE/CERTIFICATE	
	Survey Sample*	**Overall Population**
Master's Degree	92.3%	92.7%
Doctoral Degree	7.1%	6.5%
Advanced Certificate	.6%	.8%

*This is the population of graduate alumni, for whom we have information, broken down by degree type.

Career Outcomes

CAREER OUTCOMES RATE
The career outcomes rate for the Class of 2020 is **93.6%.** The career outcomes rate is the total number of graduates who secured a position or enrollment in a continuing education program divided by the total number of graduates who sought opportunities. **4.1%*** of graduates included in the career outcomes rate reported continuing education as their career outcome. **90.3%*** of graduates included in the career outcomes rate reported employment as their career outcome. Of those, **68.8%** secured their jobs by or within 3 months of graduation.
* There is a small overlap in outcomes rate percentages as some graduates selected the response option to indicate that they are working and in school.

Career Outcomes Rate	BY DEGREE/CERTIFICATE	
Degree Type	**Percentage**
Master's Degree	93.2%
Doctoral Degree	98.4%
Advanced Certificate	100%

Employment

POSITION TYPE AND INDUSTRY
Employment was categorized into one of ten position types and one of thirty industries.

Position Type	ALL RESPONDENTS		Top Industries	ALL RESPONDENTS	
Position Type	**Percentage**	**Industries**	**Percentage**
Employed by an Organization	83.8%	Education/Teaching	18.6%
Temporary/Contract Work Assignment	4.8%	Health Care	17.4%
Internship	3.7%	Computer Science/Technology	13.4%
Entrepreneur	3.2%	Financial Services/Banking	8.0%
Freelance (Independent contractor/consultants)	1.9%	Non-Profit/Social Services	7.3%
Fellowship/Post-Doctoral Appointments	1.5%	Entertainment/Media	4.1%
Faculty non-tenure track position	0.6%	Real Estate	4.0%
Faculty tenure track position	0.3%	Marketing/Advertising/PR	3.3%
Voluntary Service	0.3%	Science/Research	2.9%
Other	0.1%	Consulting	2.2%

The industries reported for Master's degree recipients are distributed across a variety of sectors, fairly comparably to all degrees. Position type is heavily concentrated in the Employed by an Organization category **(84.2%).**

Position Type	MASTER'S DEGREE		Top Industries	MASTER'S DEGREE
Position Type	**Percentage**	**Industries**	**Percentage**
Employed at an existing organization	84.2%	Health Care	17.1%
Temporary/Contract Work Assignment	4.9%	Education/Teaching	16.6%
Internship	4.0%	Computer Science/Technology	13.9%
Entrepreneurial/Self-Employed	3.0%	Financial Services/Banking	8.5%
Freelance	2.0%	Non-Profit/Social Services	7.8%
Fellowship/Post-Doctoral Appointments	1.0%	Real Estate	4.4%
Volunteer/Service Work	0.3%	Entertainment/Media	4.4%
Faculty non-tenure track position	0.3%	Marketing/Advertising/PR	3.5%
Faculty tenure track position	0.1%	Consulting	2.3%
Other	0.1%	Fashion/Retail/Consumer Products	2.3%

Doctoral graduates' position types and industries are heavily concentrated; the top three position types account for **over 90% (91.7%)** of placements. When compared to Master's degree graduates, education/teaching represents more than a third, **40.4%** (but less than half) of all placements and science/research rises to a top three position.

Position Type	DOCTORAL DEGREE		Top Industries	DOCTORAL DEGREE
Position Type	**Percentage**	**Industries**	**Percentage**
Employed at an existing organization	79.3%	Education/Teaching	40.4%
Fellowship/Post-Doctoral Appointments	7.4%	Health Care	18.6%
Entrepreneurial/Self-Employed	5.0%	Science/Research	13.0%
Temporary/Contract Work Assignment	2.7%	Computer Science/Technology	8.1%
Faculty tenure track position	2.3%	Pharmaceutical/Biotech	3.2%
Faculty non-tenure track position	1.7%	Financial Services/Banking	2.8%
Freelance	0.7%	Non-Profit/Social Services	2.1%
Internship	0.3%	Consulting	2.1%
Volunteer/Service Work	0.3%	Entertainment/Media	1.4%
Other	0.3%	Government/Military	1.4%

The reported industries for graduates who earned Advanced Certificates are reflective of their area of study.

Position Type	ADVANCED CERTIFICATE		Top Industries	ADVANCED CERTIFICATE
Position Type	**Percentage**	**Industries**	**Percentage**
Employed at an existing organization	67.3%	Health Care	37.5%
Entrepreneurial/Self-Employed	12.2%	Education/Teaching	29.2%
Internship	6.1%	Transportation/Warehousing	20.8%
Temporary/Contract Work Assignment	6.1%		
Freelance	4.1%		
Faculty non-tenure track position	2.0%		
Fellowship/Post-Doctoral Appointments	2.0%		

EMPLOYMENT LOCATION
94.1% of domestic and **92.9%** of international graduates reported an outcome of employed or employed and continuing education. Of those who reported both employment and an employment location, **98.8%** of domestic and **81.0%** of international graduates remain in the United States.

Continuing Education

4.1% of graduates reported an outcome of continuing education. Of the number of graduates reporting this outcome, **49.5%** were domestic and **50.5%** were international graduates. The continuing education breakdown by degree and certificate level is included in the table below. This is the proportion of those who are continuing education and/or working and continuing education as a proportion of all outcomes types.

Continuing Education	BY DEGREE/CERTIFICATE	
Degree Type	**Percentage**
Advanced Certificate	7.4%
Doctoral Degree	2.9%
Master's Degree	4.2%

Career Development

Overall, 71.5% of graduates used Wasserman Center resources to support their career development during enrollment. Services include individual career coaching appointments, career development workshops, events and access to the many Wasserman Center career resources available to students. **73.7%** cited using an NYU resource in helping them to secure their post graduate outcome. Specifically, **76%** of Doctoral graduates **and 73.5%** of Advanced Certificate graduates and Master's graduates used an NYU resource to secure their outcome. These NYU-related resources include the Handshake career development platform, the On-Campus Recruitment program, Career Fairs, NYU staff members, employer presentations, NYU events, NYU career emails, online mentor databases, and promotions from positions secured through NYU.

Conclusion

New York University graduates are among the most successful in the country and are perceptive, experienced, and well-prepared for their lives beyond NYU. Our graduate outcomes rate for the Class of 2020 is **93.6%.** We saw a slight decrease in our graduate student outcomes rate when compared to the Class of 2019 **(95.7%)** and we attribute this to many factors, most notably the impact of COVID-19 on the job market for recent graduates. There is an increase in the number of recent graduates who are seeking employment and seeking continuing education compared to prior years. This is on par with analysis by the Department of Labor Statistics, which marked the national unemployment rate at 13%[1] in May 2020, when the majority of the Class of 2020 were entering the workforce.

The NYU Wasserman Center for Career Development partners with academic departments, employers, and the entire University community to support students and alumni through strategically planned initiatives, career education programming, and development of and connections to resources. It is our mission to empower our students and alumni to succeed at every stage of their career by creating opportunities for them to develop the skills, experiences, and connections they need to thrive in a dynamic global economy.

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[1] Unemployment rates were higher in May than a year earlier in All 389 metropolitan areas. (2020, July 09).