What Happened to the Queens College Graduates of 2023?

A Report from the Alumni Outcomes Working Group

QUEENS|CU NY COLLEGE

Summary Report

Spring 2024

Summary

It has always seemed strange that colleges never seemed to devote much effort to evaluating what happened to their graduates. In self-studies and program evaluations the emphasis was always on research productivity and evaluation of teaching, but little or nothing on how graduates were received and evaluated by the outside world.   One major problem was that it was difficult to gather accurate and comprehensive outcomes data. Alumni surveys tend to get response rates of 10-20%. We would know about our best students, but lack data about most of the rest. The response rate to the fall First Destination Survey (FDS) of all 2023 graduates was 14%.

But in the last few years, we now have been provided excellent data on salaries one, five, and ten years after graduation from the CUNY Wage Dashboard and the Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer at the US Census (PSEO Exploer). Each provides data on median salaries after 1, 5, & 10 years for the QC graduates of 2002-2022. This source, which draws on the unemployment insurance data of all 50 states, will have data on 50-70% of all our graduates in nearly every program.

We also have excellent data on the share of our baccalaureate graduates who seek further education from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), which has data on enrollment and degrees awarded for 98% of all U.S. college students. The surprising finding from this source is that, after seven years, 51% of our baccalaureate graduates have enrolled to pursue further education. Some 33% earned graduate degrees. To evaluate this in context, the share of the graduates of UC-Santa Barbara who earn graduate degrees is 33%; the share at UC-Santa Cruz is 35%. We are punching above our weight here, as our students are coming from much less privileged backgrounds than the students at those largely residential campuses. For the Class of 2023, the NSC was the unique source of outcomes data on 18.5% of alumni (21% of undergraduate alumni and 13% of graduates).

These sources give us exceptional outcomes data on earnings and further education, but we still didn't have information on who hired our graduates and how that came to pass. Then we learned that 61% of our baccalaureate graduates have Linkedin accounts, most of which have useful outcomes information. These provide information on job titles, employing firms, internships and certificates earned. During this past year, a working group of faculty, staff, and students* have been fully engaged in a project to look up the Linkedin profiles of all the QC baccalaureate and masters graduates of 2023. Student researchers have done most of the work here, with the generous support of the Zavi Gunn at the Center for Career Engagement and Internships and Associate Provost Nathalia Holtzman. The LinkedIn project has been the unique source of outcomes information for 30% of 2023 alumni.

What did we find? By combining results from these multiple sources, including records from the Center for Career Engagement and Internships (<1%) the CUNY Cap and Gown Survey (5%), and the First Destination Survey (12%), we were able to obtain outcomes information on 64% of the undergraduates and 70% of the master's graduates from the Class of 2023. About 25% of the baccalaureate graduates have immediately enrolled to seek further education; many more will follow as time passes. We have also collected lists of internships held and certificates earned which will help current students know what is available. We are preparing files for each department which we are sharing with department chairs and faculty. Each department will now have much more comprehensive and complete information on what happened to their graduates, which they can use to improve academic advising, mentoring and career preparation for their current students.

QC Alumni Outcomes Working Group
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The very capable students who did most of the work looking up and preparing the Linkedin data were Aniyah Battle, Andreia Duarte, Savitri Hariram, Amelia Ingram, Shunan Jin, Marc LaRosa, Gloria Livai, Kevin Sue-A-Quan.

Table 1. Class of 2023 by Career Outcome

	UGRD		GRAD		Total	
No Info	**36%**	1,037	**30%**	357	**34%**	1,394
Enrolled	**25%**	710	**13%**	153	**21%**	862
Employed	**30%**	857	**53%**	620	**37%**	1,477
Not employed	**9%**	268	**4%**	42	**8%**	309
Total	100%	2,872	100%	1,172	100%	4,042

Table 2. Class of 2023 by Primary Data Source

Source	UGRD		GRAD		Total	
No Info	36%	1,037	30%	357	34.5%	1,394
CUNY C&G	5%	135	5%	63	4.9%	197
FDS	11%	328	13%	148	11.8%	476
HireQC	0.1%	2	0%		0.0%	2
LinkedIn	27%	773	39%	454	30.4%	1,227
NSC	21%	597	13%	150	18.5%	746
Total	100%	2,872	100%	1,172	100.0%	4,042

Table 3. Class of 2024 by Gender and Career Outcome

		UGRD		GRAD	
Men	No Info	40%	454	33%	108
	Enrolled	16%	183	17%	56
	Employed	33%	370	46%	150
	Not employed	11%	119	4%	14
	Total	100%	1126	100%	328
Women	No Info	33%	583	30%	249
	Enrolled	30%	526	12%	97
	Employed	28%	484	56%	469
	Not employed	9%	148	3%	28
	Total	100%	1741	100%	843
GNC	Enrolled	20%	1		
	Employed	60%	3	100%	1
	Not employed	20%	1		
	Total	100%	5	100%	1
Grand Total		100%	2,872	100%	1,172

Table 4. Class of 2024 by Race/Ethnicity and Career Outcome

		UGRD		GRAD	
AAPI	No Info	35%	290	29%	55
	Enrolled	20%	170	10%	18
	Employed	33%	280	56%	105
	Not employed	12%	99	6%	11
	Total	100%	839	100%	189
AI/AN	No Info	30%	3	29%	2
	Enrolled	40%	4		
	Employed	30%	3	71%	5
	Total	100%	10	100%	7
Black	No Info	37%	86	24%	18
	Enrolled	20%	47	7%	5
	Employed	35%	81	68%	52
	Not employed	9%	20	1%	1
	Total	100%	234	100%	76
Hispanic	No Info	35%	261	25%	66
	Enrolled	25%	185	13%	35
	Employed	31%	236	57%	150
	Not employed	9%	68	4%	10
	Total	100%	750	100%	261
Two or more	No Info	29%	26	29%	10
	Enrolled	31%	28	17%	6
	Employed	29%	26	54%	19
	Not employed	11%	10		
	Total	100%	90	100%	35
White	No Info	31%	190	31%	150
	Enrolled	36%	223	15%	72
	Employed	25%	156	50%	241
	Not employed	8%	50	3%	15
	Total	100%	619	100%	478
Nonresident	No Info	39%	55	32%	16
	Enrolled	21%	29	6%	3
	Employed	30%	43	52%	26
	Not employed	10%	14	10%	5
	Total	100%	141	100%	50
Unknown	No Info	66%	126	53%	40
	Enrolled	13%	25	18%	14
	Employed	18%	34	29%	22
	Not employed	4%	7		
	Total	100%	192	100%	76

Table 5. First Destination Survey (FDS) Respondents by Annual Salary

		UGRD		GRAD	
<$40K	Less than $30,000	22%	36	4%	5
	$30,000 - $39,999	15%	24	6%	7
	Total	**37%**	60	**10%**	12
$40k - $80k	$40,000 - $49,999	15%	25	6%	7
	$50,000 - $59,999	15%	25	9%	11
	$60,000 - $69,999	17%	27	27%	32
	$70,000 - $79,999	7%	11	25%	30
	Total	**54%**	88	**67%**	80
>$80k	$80,000 - $89,999	4%	6	9%	11
	$90,000 - $149,999	5%	8	13%	15
	More than $150,000	1%	2	1%	1
	Total	**10%**	16	**23%**	27
Grand Total	Total	100%	164	100%	119

Queens College Baccaluareate Outcomes

Class of 2023

85% Employed or continuing their education within 6 months.

74% In a position related to their degree.

66% Satisfied with their career activity.

$50,183 Mean Salary

30% making $60K or more

47% Employed

39% Continuing their education

<1% Seeking employment

20%

K-12 Education

20%

Accounting / Finance

7%

Healthcare