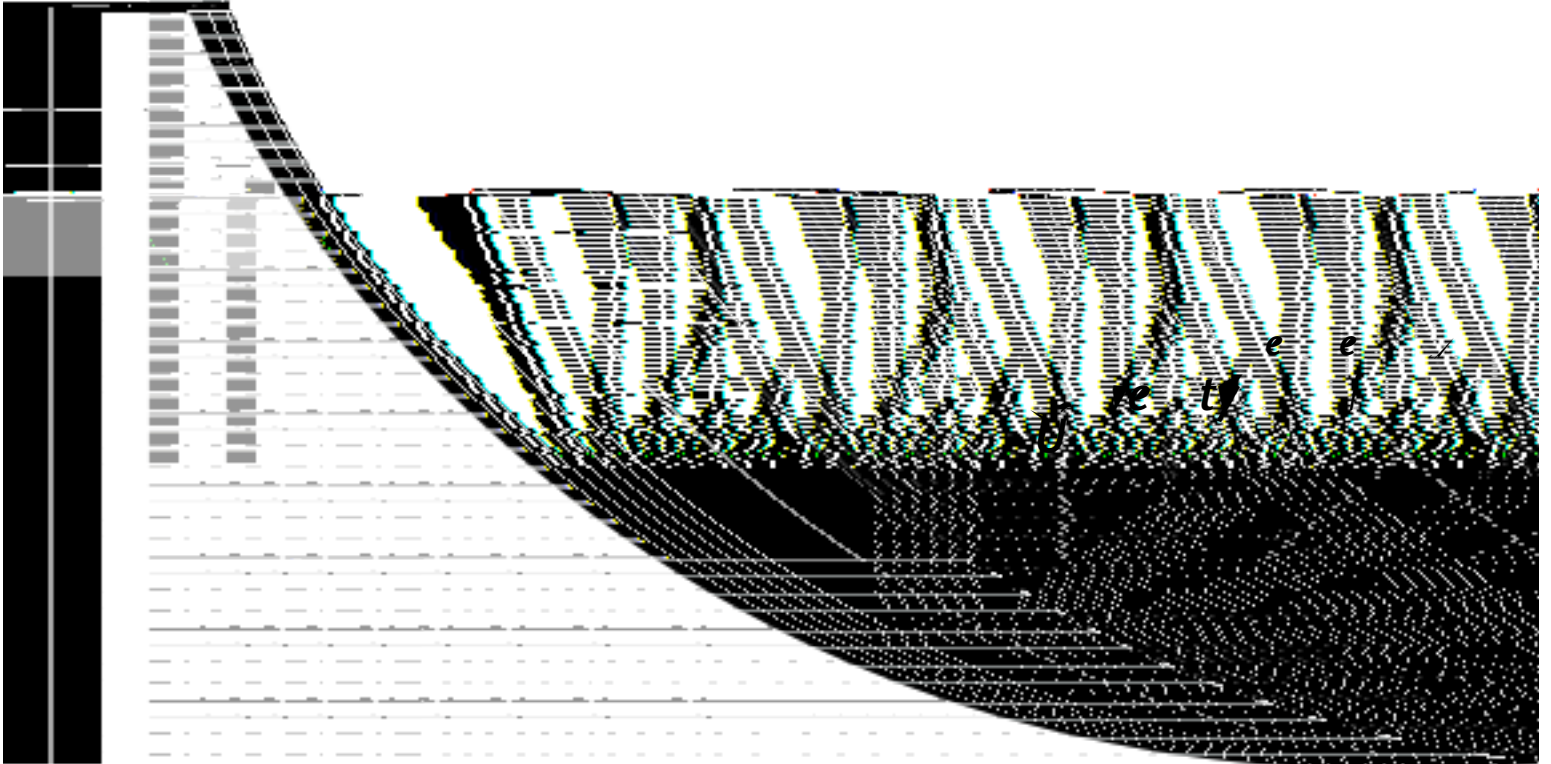


# *University of Alaska Graduate Survey 2012*



**McDowell**

Research Based Consulting

***University of Alaska  
Graduate Survey  
2012***

U n i v e r s i t y















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# Introduction and Methodology

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## Introduction

# Satisfaction with University of Alaska

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- Most graduates were either satisfied or very satisfied with their overall academic experience (87 percent) and their overall education (88 percent) at UA.
- Net satisfaction with intellectual and personal growth was also high: 89 percent for intellectual growth and 84 percent for personal growth.
- Graduates were most likely to report being very satisfied with their personal growth at UA than any other aspect of their experience. Exactly half of graduates said they were very satisfied with their personal growth. Forty-eight percent were very satisfied with their intellectual growth, 41 percent with their overall academic experience, 40 percent with their overall education, and 33 percent with preparation for their career.
- One in ten graduates reported they were dissatisfied with preparation for their career at UA, while 72 percent were satisfied or very satisfied, and 17 percent were neutral. UAS graduates were more likely to be satisfied with career preparation (85 percent) than graduates from the other MAUs (70 percent each for UAA and UAF).
- Aside from career preparation, graduate dissatisfaction with other aspects of their UA experience was low, accounting for 2 to 5 percent of respondents in each category.
- UAS graduates were more likely to be very satisfied with their UA experience in every category, while UAA graduates were least likely. Over half (51 percent) of UAS graduates were very satisfied with their overall academic experience, compared to 43 percent of UAF graduates and 38 percent of UAA graduates. Half of UAS graduates were very satisfied with their overall education, compared to UAF graduates (41 percent) and UAA graduates (38 percent). UAS graduates were more likely to report being very satisfied with their intellectual growth (59 percent) than UAF graduates (48 percent) or UAA graduates (45 percent). For personal growth, 60 percent of UAS graduates were very satisfied, compared to 54 percent of UAF graduates and 46 percent of UAA graduates.
- Among the different degree types, BA graduates were least likely to be satisfied with their career preparation (62 percent), compared to 80 percent of MA/PhD graduates and 77 percent of AA/CT graduates. BA graduates also were least likely to report satisfaction with their overall academic experience (83 percent), compared to 91 percent of MA/PhD graduates and 89 percent of AA/CT graduates. Though BA graduates reported slightly lower levels of satisfaction with the other categories, those differences fell within the margin of error.
- Graduates classified as “distance” students (those who took half or fewer of their classes in person) rated their UA experience similarly to non-distance students in all categories except for career preparation. “Distance” graduates were more likely to report satisfaction with their career preparation at UA, with 82 percent satisfied or very satisfied compared to 69 percent of non-distance students.
- For several aspects of the UA experience, graduates from all fields of study, with the exception of Engineering, gave similar ratings. (comparing net satisfaction):

For overall academic experience, graduates from most fields of study rated their experience similarly (ranging from 86 to 89 percent satisfied). Fewer Engineering graduates were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience (80 percent).

For overall education, Engineering graduates were again least likely to report satisfaction (79 percent), compared to 84 percent of Voc/Ed graduates and 88 to 91 percent of graduates from each other field of study.

For intellectual growth, 87 to 93 percent of graduates from each field, aside from Engineering, reported satisfaction with this aspect of their experience, with 83 percent of Engineering graduates satisfied.

- Graduates rated their experience differently depending on their field of study for personal growth and career preparation:

For personal growth, the largest proportion of graduates to report being satisfied or very satisfied were those from Math/Science/Computer (89 percent) and Health (87 percent) fields of study, followed closely by Educati





## Plans at Start of Degree Program

- Most (91 percent) UA graduates reported that when they started their UA degree/certificate program, they planned to obtain a degree/certificate at UA. A small proportion of graduates had planned to transfer to another school (4 percent), and 5 percent responded that they had no formal plans. Plans reported by graduates were similar for all campuses.
- MA/PhD graduates were more likely to say they plan





## Choice of Field of Study

- Just over half (53 percent) of graduates said that, given the chance to start college over again, they would choose the same field of study, while 27 percent responded maybe, and 17 percent said they would not choose the same field.
- MA/PhD graduates were the most likely to say they would choose their field of study again (61 percent), while BA graduates were the most likely to say they would not (20 percent).
- Math/Science/Computers (65 percent), Engineering (64 percent) and Health graduates (64 percent) were the most likely report they would choose the same field of study again.
- Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences (22 percent), followed by Business/Public Administration and Voc/Ed graduates (20 percent each) responded most frequently that they would not choose the same field of

# Factors in Degree Attainment

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Graduates were asked about the importance of various factors in helping them attain their degree: support from friends/classmates, family, UA faculty, UA staff, and the Career Services Center; availability of financial aid; ability to work while going to school; ability to take some/all classes online; and love of learning/subject matter.

- Three



Three-quarters each of Health and Math/Science/Computer graduates reported love of learning/subject matter was very important, followed closely by 72 percent of Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences graduates. Engineering graduates were the least likely to cite this factor as very important, at 48 percent.

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- Overall, the percentage of UA graduates choosing “very important”





- Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences graduates were most likely to cite availability of financial aid as most important (22 percent). Engineering and Education graduates were least likely to cite this factor (13 percent each), followed by Voc/Ed graduates (14 percent).
- The ability to work while going to school was cited by a significantly larger proportion of graduates in Voc/Ed (23 percent) and Business/Public Administration and Education (19 percent each) than graduates in the other fields of study. Math/Science/Computer graduates were least likely to cite this factor (8 percent).
- Support from UA faculty was identified as most important by 19 percent of Math/Science/Computer graduates, a larger percentage than from the other fields of study. Only 5 percent of Health graduates reported this factor as most important.
- For 18 percent of Education graduates, the ability to take some/all classes online was most important, a factor that was cited as most important by only 1 percent of Math/Science/Computer graduates.
- Engineering graduates were more likely to cite support of friends/classmates as most important (19 percent) than graduates from other fields of study. This factor was identified as most important by 6 to 9 percent of graduates from each other field of study.

T T		2011		2012		2011	
		=1,15	=1,019	=582	=,98		

# Activities, Work, and Internships While Attending UA

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Activities, Work, and Internships

- Overall, 55 percent of UA graduates participated in at least one group or activity while attending UA. By campus, UAF graduates were more likely to have participated (64 percent) than UAA graduates (52



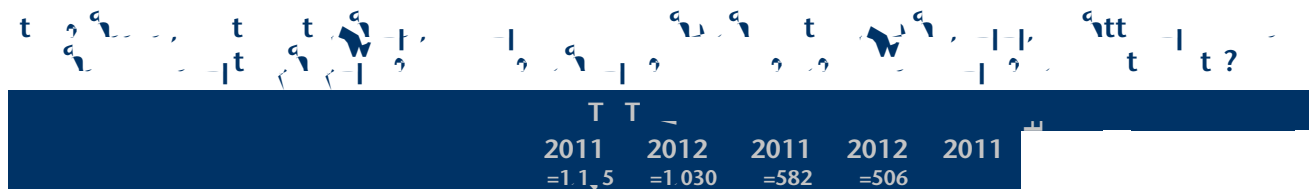


## Distance Education

- Just over three-quarters (76 percent) of UA graduates attended most or all of their classes in person, leaving 24 percent who can be identified as “distance” students. UAS graduates were much more likely to be distance students: 64 percent attended half, some, or none of their classes in person, compared to 20 percent of UAA graduates and 16 percent of UAF graduates.
- The percentage of distance students varies considerably by degree type. MA/PhD graduates were most likely to be distance students, with 35 percent attending half, some, or none of their classes in person. In comparison, BA graduates were least likely to be distance students (10 percent); 27 percent of AA/CT graduates were identified as distance students.
- Education graduates were most likely to be distance students (59 percent), followed by Business/Public Administration (30 percent) and Health graduates (29 percent). Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences (18 percent) and Engineering graduates (11 percent) were less likely to be distance students. Very few Math/Science/Computer and Voc/Ed graduates were distance students (3 percent for each field of study).
- Forty-two percent of distance students attended some of their classes in person, while 31 percent reported attending about half of their classes in person, and the remaining 27 percent attended none of their classes in person.

### Trends

- The proportion of distance to non-distance students was similar over the past two years, with the percentage of graduates who reported taking half, some, or none of their classes in person at 24 percent in both 2011 and 2012. Results by campus were also similar between the two years.



## Working While Attending UA

- Three-quarters (74 percent) of respondents worked during their final year of school at UA, including 80 percent of UAS graduates, 74 percent of UAA graduates, and 72 percent of UAF graduates.
- MA/PhD graduates were most likely to have worked during their final year before graduating from UA (81 percent), while 74 percent of AA/CT graduates reported working. BA graduates were least likely to have worked, at 69 percent.
- Distance graduates were significantly more likely to have worked (84 percent), versus non-distance graduates (71 percent).
- Of those who worked during the final school year before graduating, 68 percent worked off-campus, 18 percent worked on-campus, and 14 percent worked on-campus.



- Among graduates who reported working their final year, 61 percent said that at least some of their work was related to their degree or certificate program. UAS graduates (78 percent) were more likely to report work related to their degree or certificate program than UAF (65 percent) or UAA graduates (55 percent).
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## Internships

- Over one-

- The percentage of graduates reporting their internship was











graduates.

## Using UA Knowledge and Skills

- Most employed graduates reported using the skills and knowledge learned from their degree or certificate program in their current position: 58 percent of employed graduates reported using the skills and knowledge on a daily basis; 14 percent on a weekly basis; 4 percent monthly; and 20 percent reported rarely using the skills and knowledge.
- MA/PhD graduates were more likely to report using their skills on a daily basis, at 68 percent. This compares to 54 percent of AA/CT graduates and 51 percent of BA graduates.
- Eight in ten Education (81 percent) and Health graduates (80 percent) reported they use their UA knowledge daily. A little over half of Business/Public Administration (55 percent), Engineering (55 percent), Math/Science/Computer (53 percent), and Voc/Ed graduates (53 percent) reported

## Industries

- Employed graduates were most likely to work in education (26 percent), followed by health care/social services (14 percent) and government (13 percent).
- Differences between MAUs generally fell within the margin of error, aside from the percentage of UAS students employed in education (44 percent, compared to 26 percent of UAF graduates and 21 percent of UAA graduates).
- Distance graduates were over twice as likely to be employed in education than non-distance graduates (43 percent distance, versus 20 percent non-distance).

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- Overall, the proportion of employed UA graduates in each industry remained fairly consistent between 2011 and 2012 aside from a decrease in health care/social services employment (from 18 to 14 percent, a further drop from 21 percent in 2010). UAA was the only MAU with a significant drop in health care/social services employment, from 25 to 16 percent.
- The percentage of UAF graduates who reported working in the education industry fell from 34 percent in 2011 to 26 percent in 2012, while education employment fell only slightly (2 percent) for UAA graduates and remained steady for UAS graduates.









## Salary and Benefits

- The most frequently cited salary among all graduates was between \$50,001 and \$75,000, at 20 percent of graduates, followed by \$35,001 to \$50,000 (17 percent). The mean annual salary earned was \$37,500. The percentage of graduates in each salary category was generally similar across MAUs. UAS graduates reported the highest mean annual salary, at \$40,700, followed by UAF graduates at \$37,700 and UAA graduates at \$36,600.
- AA/CT and BA graduates were more likely to report salary ranges \$35,000 and lower, while MA/PhD graduates were more likely to report salary range above \$35,000. The largest proportion of MA/PhD reported salaries between \$50,001-\$75,000 (37 percent), BA graduates were mostly likely to cite the \$35,001-\$50,000 range (19 percent), and AA/CT graduates were most likely to report \$25,001 to \$35,000 or under \$15,000 (17 percent for each category).
- Twelve percent of graduates reported they do not currently earn any income. AA/CT (16 percent) and BA graduates (15 percent) were more likely than MA

- Two-thirds of respondents report they receive health insurance in their current position, the most commonly reported benefit. Sixty-five percent reported receiving

## Loans

- Two new questions in 2012 asked respondents about their student loans. Half of graduates said they took out loans to complete their degree or certificate, with similar rates among the different MAUs (52 percent for UAA, 47 percent for UAS, and 44 percent for UAF).
- Among those who took out loans, the average amount borrowed was \$29,000. UAA respondents reported an average loan amount of \$30,000; UAF graduates reported an average of \$29,000; and UAS graduates reported an average of \$26,000.

	Total n=1,008	UAA n=93	UAF n=363	UAS n=1,212
Did you take out a student loan to complete your degree or certificate?				
Yes	49%	52%	44%	47%
No	51	48	56	53
What was the average amount of your student loan?				
Less than \$5,000				

## Difficulty of Finding a Job

- Over half (52 percent) of employed graduates reported the process of getting a job was easy or very easy, while 45 percent said it was difficult or very difficult. The results were similar across degree types.
- UAF graduates were the most likely to report a difficult or very difficult process (49 percent), compared to 44 percent of UAA graduates and 39 percent of UAS graduates.
- Among fields of study, Education graduates were most likely to report a difficult or very difficult job-seeking process, at 56 percent. Engineering (46 percent), Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences (46 percent), and Voc/Ed (45 percent) graduates were the next most likely to report a difficult process.
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- Almost half (46 percent) of employed graduates report that they put a lot of effort into their job search. Twenty-

## Geographical Area

- Among employed graduates, 84 percent focused their job search within Alaska, followed by 8 percent who focused in the Pacific Northwest and 5 percent outside of the U.S.
- Education graduates were the most likely to report focusing their job search on Alaska (91 percent). Math/Science/Computer graduates were the least likely, at 76 percent.

## Trends

- The proportion of graduates focusing their job search in each geographic area was similar between 2011 and 2012.
- The two largest changes were the proportion of UAF graduates who focused their search in the Pacific Northwest (increased by 7 percent), and the proportion of UAS graduates searching in Alaska (decreased by 7 percent).

(use percent entered; started most or during/after degree)









## Sources for Current Position











Investment (percentage)

	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Business	18%	16%	18%	17%	113	103	39	7.8





## Future Enrollment Plans

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It is important to note that the results of the regression analysis are not statistically significant (p > 0.05) and therefore do not provide any evidence of a relationship between the variables.

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# UA Graduate Profile

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The following information shows results from data provided by the University of Alaska on their graduate population. Survey data closely matched these percentages.



## Fields of Study

Following are definitions of the seven fields of study analyzed in this report. The University of Alaska provided these definitions.

Accounting	Office Digital Media
Accounting Technician	Office Foundations
Admin Office Supp	Office Management & Technology
Administration of Justice	Office Occupations
Applied Accounting	Office Support
Applied Business	Office Technology











## Other Responses

Following are "other" responses.

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ANSEP  
Cisco netriders  
Commuter student services  
Faculty activities outside of school  
Fund raising  
Graduate research  
Math club  
Ptk member  
Student ambassador  
Student art shows  
Student employment  
Student employment  
Study abroad  
Study abroad  
Teaching assistant  
Veterans club  
Volunteer work at museum  
Volunteer work outside of UA

CDAC, Nanook traditions  
Club related to minor  
Clubs outside of major  
Clubs unrelated to major  
Deathnet  
Family housing events for UAF  
Graduate research assistant  
Juggling club (gravity works)  
Pen pal through AmeriCorps  
Rural human services  
Student veterans  
UAF student ambassador program  
Watched volleyball and basketball games  
Worked as a ta

Assisted in an AHIMA seminar  
Journalism independent study internship  
PITAAS

t - t t e e S e r e e ?

Haven't used it yet  
I would have to pay for their services  
Never took the time to use it  
No director & office was short-staffed  
Other students had bad experiences  
Staff not very helpful when I inquired  
Still working towards another degree  
Told by faculty they didn't have job help  
Used my academic advisor  
Was anticipating grad school next

⌘  
Attempted... Not helpful/relevant  
I am retired and came back to school  
I am self-employed.  
I felt they were ill prepared to aid me.  
I used it after I



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Clinical research  
Coaching  
Cosmetology  
Development/fundraising  
Dog care services  
Engineering  
Engineering  
Horticulture  
Hydrographic surveying  
Lab tech  
Native owned company  
Private school  
Research  
Research  
Research  
Research  
Small business  
Teaching Assistant as Graduate  
Student





Server  
Skilled laborer  
Staff Nurse at Hospital  
Student  
Substitute teacher  
Substitute teacher and art instructor  
Supply chain

Medical record assistant  
Minimum wage worker meat  
New accounts representative  
New media producer  
Orthodontic assistant/Safeway employee  
Personal care assistant  
Planner  
Police officer  
Post Office contractor  
Post-doc  
Postdoctoral fellow  
Probation officer  
Production assistant  
Receptionist, medical assistant  
Self-employed photographer  
Sr Petroleum engineer  
Stylist  
Substance abuse counselor  
Substitute teacher  
Substitute teacher  
Teachers assistant  
Teaching assistant  
Tech support / system admin  
Trainer/presenter/speaker  
Tree planter  
Unlicensed post-doctoral psychologist  
VP of Land & Resources  
Waitress, flower sales  
Web designer

Academic advisor for UAS  
Accounts Receivable in the Medical Field  
Booking manager  
CNA  
Cultural interpreter cruise ship  
Education associate  
Fire fighter  
GIS  
Giving direct service to special people  
Grants manager  
Human resource technician III  
Human resources  
Human resources  
Medical coder  
Nursing home administrator  
Roustabout  
Tutor





Computer science  
Counseling education  
Dietetics  
Digital art  
Digital art  
Digital art and art  
Emergency management  
Environment & society  
Fine art  
Fine art  
Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management.  
History  
History  
Integrated nutrition  
Journalism and Public Communications  
Justice  
Justice  
Logistics  
M.A. in Cultural Sustainability  
Marketing and Legal Studies  
Music, performance  
Nursing  
Paramedic technology  
Professional counseling  
Psychology  
Public administration  
Social work  
Student affairs

Art History and Visual Culture  
Art of Acting  
Clinical psychology



Outside of AK  
Something in Seattle.  
University of Arizona  
University of California  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Hawaii  
University of Iowa  
University of Michigan  
University of Michigan  
University of Missouri  
University of TN  
University of Trømso, Norway  
University of Washington  
Washington



Architectural design  
Atmospheric Science  
Communication  
Computer Science  
Mass media

Health Care Management  
journalism  
Web Development

# Survey Instrument

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See attached.

# University of Alaska 2012 Graduate Opinion Survey





- 9 Professional services firm (law, engineering, consulting, etc.)
- 10 Media organization (radio, newspaper, TV, etc.)
- 11 Mining/oil company
- 12 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**7b. What was your hourly wage for your internship?**

- 01 \$0; unpaid
- 03 \$9.00-\$11.99/hour
- 05

- |    |                           |    |   |
|----|---------------------------|----|---|
| 02 | Starting/raising a family | 06 | Additional graduate or professional study |
| 03 | Military/armed services   | 07 | Other: _____                              |
| 04 | Volunteer service         | 08 | Don't know                                |

**IF Q10 code 01 (Employment) or code 03 (Military/armed services), proceed to Q11. ALL OTHERS skip to Q23.**

**11. Which statement best describes your current employment status? (Check only one)**

- 01 Employed **full-time year-round**
- 02 Employed **part-time year-round**
- 03 Employed **full-time seasonally**
- 04 Employed **part-time seasonally**
- 05 Unemployed, currently looking for work (skip to Q 23)
- 06 Unemployed, not looking for work (skip to Q 23)
- 99 Don't know (skip to Q 23)

**12. In what industry are you currently employed? (Check only one)**

- |    |  |    |                             |
|----|--|----|-----------------------------|
| 01 | Government                             | 10 | Health Care/Social Services |
| 02 | Mining/Oil                             | 11 | Media/Communications        |
| 03 | Fishing/Seafood                        | 12 | Education                   |
| 04 | Tourism/Hospitality                    | 13 | Arts                        |
| 05 | Finance/Insurance/Real Estate (E) -16t |    |                             |

- 23 Sales representative
- 24 Social worker
- 25 Specialist
- 26 Supervisor
- 27 Teacher/instructor/principal
- 28 Technician/technologist
- 29 Therapist/counselor
- 30 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**14. Which of the following benefits do you receive in your current position?**

(Check all that apply)

- |                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01 Health insurance               | 05 Paid leave                      |
| 02 Company-funded retirement plan | 06 Education reimbursement program |
| 03 Self-funded retirement plan    | 07 None of the above               |
| 04 Stock options                  | 08 Don't know                      |

**15. In your current position, how often do you use skills and knowledge learned from your UA degree or certificate program?**

- |           |            |               |
|-----------|------------|---------------|
| 01 Daily  | 03 Monthly | 05 Don't know |
| 02 Weekly | 04 Rarely  |               |

**16. When did you start working**



04 Trade journal  
05

11 Job Fair



