



# Information BRIEF

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## BACCALAUREATE FOLLOW-UP STUDY: A COMPARISON OF THE CLASSES OF 2015 AND 2014

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- The percent of graduates in the study who worked within one year of graduation was 93% for the Class of 2014 and 92% for the Class of 2015
- The percent of graduates who enrolled in additional education was 30% for both classes
- The percent of graduates who worked while enrolled in additional education was 23% for both classes
- The annual median wage for the Class of 2015 was \$39,100 while the median for the Class of 2014 was \$36,300

### Introduction

Students, parents, educators, and policy-makers need information regarding the employment outcomes of bachelor's degree recipients after they complete college. Students need better information to make decisions about education and employment. Parents and educators need that same information to guide students. Policy-makers across the country have shifted their focus from inputs (e.g., enrollments) to outputs (e.g., graduates who work). Employment estimates show that in the next four to eight years, jobs requiring bachelor's degrees or higher will account for somewhere between 15 and 30 percent of all job openings in Florida (2015-2023 Projections Statewide, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; *Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements Through 2020*, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce).

This report is one in a series of information briefs based on recent studies conducted by staff at the Board of Governors. This brief focuses on the employment and education outcomes of the Class of 2015 as compared to the Class of 2014. A comprehensive overview of employment and educational outcomes for both graduating classes is available in the on the Board's website <http://flbog.edu/forstudents/gfs/>.

**Baccalaureate Follow-up Study:  
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**Study Overview**

Records for 60,333 students who received baccalaureate degrees during the 2014-2015 academic year and records for 58,717 students who received baccalaureate degrees during the 2013-2014 academic year were used for the study. Both sets include graduates from 11 of the 12 institutions that make up the State University System of Florida (SUS). The newest SUS institution, Florida Polytechnic University, enrolled its first students in Fall 2015 and did not have any graduates to include. The SUS institutions award degrees in 28 fields of study.

As shown in the table below, employment and/or enrollment records were available for 89% the graduates of both classes. Data for the remaining graduates were not found. Employment information was available from Florida and from the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 40 additional states participating in WRIS 2 for the Class of 2015 analysis and 39 additional states participating in WRIS 2 for the Class of 2014 analysis. Enrollment data was available from the National Student Clearinghouse, which has a database of records from 3,600 colleges and universities nationwide. Refer to the full reports for more details regarding data sources.

**Table 1. Baccalaureate Graduates Found Working and/or Enrolled One Year After Graduation, by Graduating Class**

Outcome Measure	Class of 2014	Class of 2015
<b>Number of Degrees Awarded</b>	60,000	63,423
<b>Number of Graduates with Usable Records</b>	58,717	60,333
Percent of Degrees Awarded	98%	95%
<b>Number of Graduates Found</b>	52,431	53,490
Percent of Usable Records	89%	89%
<b>Number of Graduates Not Found</b>	6,286	6,843
Percent of Usable Records	11%	11%

Sources: Board of Governors staff analysis of data from the Florida Education & Training Placement Information Program, the National Student Clearinghouse, and the State University Data System.

Notes: Class of 2014 includes graduates whose degrees were granted in the Summer and Fall terms of 2013 and the Spring of 2014. Class of 2015 includes graduates whose degrees were granted in the Summer and Fall terms of 2014 and the Spring of 2015. Enrollments are counted within 14 months, or 426 days, of graduation. Graduates working within one year are counted if they worked at least one quarter within four quarters after graduation.

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Both studies were designed to answer the following four questions.

1. Do graduates get jobs?
2. Do graduates pursue additional education?
3. Do graduates work while pursuing additional education?
4. What are the starting salaries of graduates?

This brief compares the results for all four research questions for the Class of 2015 and the Class of 2014.

**Do graduates get jobs?**

More than 90% of graduates in both studies worked in Florida, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or in one of the 39 to 40 states participating in WRIS 2 within one year of graduating from a state university. A higher proportion of graduates from the study of the Class of 2015 worked full-time (71%) compared to those from the study of the Class of 2014 (66%).

**Do graduates pursue further education?**

Approximately 30% of graduates in both studies pursued additional education within one year of graduating from a state university.

**Do graduates work while pursuing additional education?**

One quarter of the graduates in both studies worked while enrolled in additional education within one year of graduating from a state university. A higher proportion of graduates from the Class of 2015 worked full-time while enrolled (51%) compared to those from the Class of 2014 (46%).

**What are the starting salaries of graduates?**

The overall median wage for the Class of 2015 (\$39,100) was \$2,800 higher than the median wage for the Class of 2014 (\$36,300). While the median wage increased between six and nine percent for graduates overall, the increases were not evenly distributed as noted below. However, two years of data do not indicate a trend. Additional analyses are underway to analyze salaries over a longer period of time to identify possible trends.

- The median wage for female graduates from the Class of 2014 was \$4,400 less than the median for male graduates. Female graduates from the Class of 2015 had a median wage that was \$5,500 less than the median for male graduates.
- The median wage for Black/ African American graduates from the Class of 2014 was \$3,100 less than the median for all graduates. Black/ African American graduates from the Class of 2015 had a median wage that was \$3,500 less than the median for all graduates.
- The median wage for Hispanic graduates from the Class of 2014 was \$600 more than the median wage for all graduates. Hispanic graduates from the Class of 2015 had a median wage that was \$100 less than the median for all graduates.

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- For White graduates, the median wage for graduates from the Class of 2014 was \$500 more than the median for all graduates. White graduates from the Class of 2015 was \$1,000 more than the median wage for all graduates.

**Table 2. Comparison of Salary Outcomes for the Classes of 2014 and 2015**

Type of Graduate	Class of 2014 Median	Class of 2015 Median	Median Difference in \$ (2015 - 2014)
All Graduates	\$36,300	\$39,100	\$2,800
Black/African American Graduates	\$33,200	\$35,600	\$2,400
Difference from All Graduates	(\$3,100)	(\$3,500)	(\$400)
Hispanic	\$36,900	\$39,000	\$2,100
Difference from All Graduates	\$600	(\$100)	(\$700)
White	\$36,800	\$40,100	\$3,300
Difference from All Graduates	\$500	\$1,000	\$500
Male	\$39,100	\$42,500	\$3,400
Female	\$34,700	\$37,000	\$2,300
Difference (Female - Male)	(\$4,400)	(\$5,500)	(\$1,100)

Sources: Board of Governors staff analysis of data from the Florida Education & Training Placement Information Program and the State University Data System. Class of 2014 N=32,163. Class of 2015 N=34,798.

Notes: Class of 2014 includes graduates whose degrees were granted in the Summer and Fall terms of 2013 and the Spring of 2014. Class of 2015 includes graduates whose degrees were granted in the Summer and Fall terms of 2014 and the Spring of 2015. Wages reflect annualized quarterly wages reported in the 4th quarter after the degree was granted. Full-time employment status was based on employment status during the fourth quarter following graduation. Includes degree recipients who were only working full-time and those who worked full-time while enrolled in additional education.

**Conclusion**

The outcomes for the Class of 2015 were generally comparable to the outcomes for the Class of 2014 except in regards to the starting salaries. The difference between the median wages for Black/ African American and all graduates was \$3,100 for the Class of 2014 and there was a difference of \$3,500 for the Class of 2015. The difference between the median wages for females and the median wage for male graduates also increased from \$4,400 for the Class of 2014 to \$5,500 for the Class of 2015.

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**Data Sources & Notes**

The analysis utilized individual-level data for graduates from the State University Data System (SUDS) maintained by the Florida Board of Governors. These records were matched to records in the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) and the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) to determine employment and education outcomes.

Data reported in this information brief include graduates whose degrees were granted in the Summer and Fall terms of 2015 and the Spring of 2015 in the Class of 2015. The Class of 2014 includes graduates whose degrees were granted in the Summer and Fall terms of 2013 and the Spring of 2014. Enrollments were counted within 14 months, or 426 days, of graduation. Graduates who worked within one year were counted if they worked at least one quarter within four quarters after graduation. Full- and part-time employment status was based on employment in the 4th quarter following graduation. The outcomes reported in this brief also include graduates who worked while pursuing further education.

**Additional Information**

For more information about the study or other outcomes for the Classes of 2015 and 2014, refer to the full reports, available on the Board's website <http://flbog.edu/forstudents/gfs/>. Details about the methodology, data sources, and data limitations are also available in the full reports.

**Staff Contact**

Dr. Christy England  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Research and Policy  
Academic and Student Affairs  
(850) 245-0466  
[christy.england@flbog.edu](mailto:christy.england@flbog.edu)