

Medical Sciences 2015 survey result analysis

In the fall of 2015, Health Sciences Graduate Studies office conducted a survey of graduate program alumni to follow through with the recommendations from the Graduate Program Heads Retreat in December 2014, which showed a need for more career-related information for current and prospective students. The purpose of the survey was twofold: to collect career-related information from the program alumni and to identify transferrable skills that the students need to develop while in the program for their future successful careers in the chosen field. Most FHS graduate programs participated in the project and the results of the survey will be presented individually for each participating program. Below is the data related to **Medical Sciences** graduate program alumni.

Total number of responses: 36

Demographics of respondents

Highest degree received from Medical Sciences

- Doctorate 17 (including 2 MD/PhD)
- Masters 19

Timing of graduation

Graduated from the program	# of responses	%
Within the last 5 years	3	8
5 to 10 years ago	6	17
11 to 20 years ago	5	14
More than 20 years ago	22	61

Current Employment (all respondents)

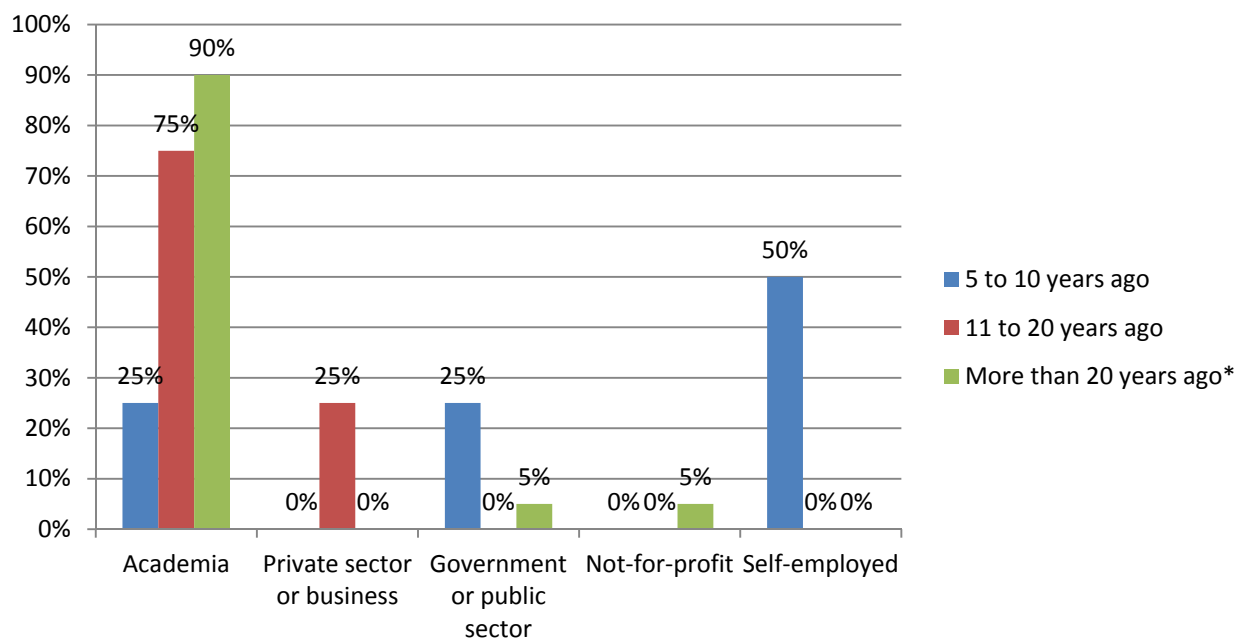
Employed full-time	27
Employed part-time	3
Pursuing further education full-time	2
Other (post doc)	1
Retired	3

Those that are employed full-time, 21 (78%) work in academia, and 6 are not (2 are in private sector, 2 in government of public sector, 1 is self-employed, 1 works for non-profit).

The data is different for those that graduated more recently: out of 4 respondents that graduated 5 to 10 years ago, only 1 is employed in academia as a teaching faculty, and out of 3 respondents graduating within 5 years none is currently working full-time.

Out of 3 respondents that graduated within last 5 year, one is currently a Post Doctoral Fellow, another person is pursuing a professional designation, and the third individual is working part-time in a government or public sector.

Fields of Employment (of those that are working full time)



*doesn't include those that retired

Job search after graduation

Answers to the question **How did you obtain your first position upon graduation?** yielded the following responses by those that graduated **within last 10 years**:

I applied to a job posting	2
I pursued further education	3
I networked with professionals in the field (e.g. through networking events, LinkedIn, informational interviews, etc.)	1
I was connected through my supervisor	1
I was connected through a friend or family member	1
Other (I was already employed when I took the PhD part time)	1

Current geographical location of Medical Sciences Alumni

- Auckland, New Zealand
- Brampton, ON
- Halifax, NS
- Hamilton, ON
- Kansas City, Missouri, USA
- London, ON
- Miami, FL, USA
- Mississauga, Ontario

Nairobi, Kenya
Omaha, NE, USA
Ottawa, ON
Pembroke, ON
Perth, Western Australia
St Catharines, ON
Toronto, ON

Skill relevance to current positions

The top relevant transferrable skills were identified by those that graduated **within last 10 years** (9 respondents) as follows:

- Teamwork (56%)
- Research and analytical skills (44%)
- Interpersonal skills (44%)

The top relevant transferrable skills were identified by those that graduated **more than 10 years ago** (27 respondents) as follows:

- Critical thinking (44%)
- Research and analytical skills (41%)
- Leadership (41%)
- Problem solving (41%)

Financial management was also mentioned as an important skill by one of the respondents.

Answers to the question ***If a graduate were to pursue your type of career, what soft/transferrable skills among the skills listed below should be emphasized by their graduate program?*** indicated the following responses by those that graduated **within last 10 years**:

- Critical thinking (78%)
- Research and analytical skills (78%)
- Teamwork (67%)
- Leadership (56%)

The answers to the same question by those that graduated **more than 10 years ago** yielded the following results:

- Critical thinking (70%)
- Research and analytical skills (63%)
- Teamwork (59%)
- Verbal communication skills (59%)

Answers to the question ***When you started your first job after graduation, what soft/transferrable skills among the skills listed below did you wish you had (but did not)?*** did not produce any tangible

results, which may be indicator that the program largely prepared its students for successful careers upon graduation.

A number of participants provided their contact information and expressed their agreement to be contacted and participate in the program events. The program will use this information accordingly.