

# **FIT Undergraduate Alumni Survey Results Employment and Earnings of 2017-18 Graduates**

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Office of Institutional Research

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of Technology**

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# About the FIT Alumni Survey

FIT administers an annual survey of alumni who graduated during the previous academic year with either an associate or bachelor’s degree. This “one-year-out” survey focuses on graduates’ current education and employment status. A total of 3,663 graduates from the 2017-2018 academic year were surveyed and 725 responded, generating a 20% response rate (Table 1). Bachelor’s graduates were surveyed in May 2019, a year after graduation. Associate graduates were surveyed in January 2019. The earlier date for associate graduates is required for outcomes reporting related to FIT’s participation in the federal Perkins technical education grant program.

**Table 1. Response Rates by Degree Awarded and School**

|                                      | Number Surveyed | Number Responding | Response Rate |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Associate of Applied Sciences</b> |                 |                   |               |
| Art and Design                       | 841             | 200               | 24%           |
| Business and Technology              | 1083            | 223               | 21%           |
| Liberal Arts                         | 18              | 5                 | 28%           |
|                                      | <b>1942</b>     | <b>428</b>        | <b>22%</b>    |
| <b>Bachelor of Fine Arts</b>         |                 |                   |               |
| Art and Design                       | 599             | 108               | 18%           |
|                                      | <b>599</b>      | <b>108</b>        | <b>18%</b>    |
| <b>Bachelor of Science</b>           |                 |                   |               |
| Business and Technology              | 1096            | 183               | 17%           |
| Liberal Arts                         | 26              | 6                 | 23%           |
|                                      | <b>1122</b>     | <b>189</b>        | <b>17%</b>    |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                   | <b>3663</b>     | <b>725</b>        | <b>20%</b>    |

# Key Results

## Response Rates

Graduates from the 2017-2018 academic year were surveyed a year after graduation. A total of 3,663 graduates were surveyed and 725 responded, for a 20% response rate. (Table 1, page 1)

## Employment and School Attendance

Eighty-two percent of associate degree graduates reported that they continued their education after graduating. Far fewer of the bachelor's graduates (5%) reported continuing on to further schooling. (Tables 2A and 3A, pages 3-5)

Eighty-one percent of associate degree graduates who were not attending school were employed, with 14% being unemployed (seeking employment but not working), and 5% were neither working nor seeking employment. (Table 2C, page 4)

Eighty-six percent of bachelor's graduates were employed, with 70% reporting employment in a job related to their degree. Twelve percent were unemployed (seeking employment but not working) and two percent were neither working nor seeking employment. (Table 3B, page 5)

A placement rate, which is used for federal Higher Education Act reporting requirements, is calculated for students who are employed or seeking employment. This placement rate equals the number of employed graduates as a percentage of the total of employed graduates and those who are seeking employment. The placement rate was 68% for all associate degree graduates, 85% for associate graduates who were not attending school, and 88% for bachelor's degree graduates. (Tables 2C and 3B, pages 4-5)

## Earnings and Benefits

Among working graduates, 87% of bachelor's graduates and 79% of associate graduates who were not attending school worked full-time. Among bachelor's graduates who worked full-time, 77% earned more than \$40,000 per year and 81% had health insurance. Forty-eight percent of associate graduates not attending school earned more than \$40,000 per year and 62% had health insurance. (Tables 4A and 5, pages 6 and 8).

## New York Employment

Among working graduates, 83% stayed in New York State to work, 4% worked in New Jersey, and 2% worked outside the U.S. (Table 6, page 9)

# Employment and School Attendance

Respondents reported on their school attendance and employment outcomes. The employment outcomes included whether or not they were employed, employed in a related field, unemployed, or not seeking employment. A placement rate is calculated from the employment responses, which equals the number of employed graduates as a percentage of the total number of employed graduates and those who are seeking employment, but not working. Results are reported separately for associate and bachelor's degree graduates.

**Table 2: Associate Degree Employment and School Attendance Outcomes by School**  
**A. School Attendance**

| School Attendance        | All Schools |             | Art and Design |             | Business and Technology |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|                          | N           | %           | N              | %           | N                       | %           |
| Attending FIT            | 327         | 78%         | 148            | 76%         | 175                     | 80%         |
| Attending another school | 16          | 4%          | 7              | 4%          | 8                       | 4%          |
| Not attending school     | 77          | 18%         | 40             | 21%         | 37                      | 17%         |
|                          | <b>420</b>  | <b>100%</b> | <b>195</b>     | <b>100%</b> | <b>220</b>              | <b>100%</b> |

## B. Employment (All Associate Graduates)

|  | All Schools |             | Art and Design |             | Business and Technology |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|  | N           | %           | N              | %           | N                       | %           |
| Employed Subtotal                        | 231         | 56%         | 92             | 48%         | 137                     | 63%         |
| Employed, Not Related to Degree          | 111         | 27%         | 49             | 26%         | 61                      | 28%         |
| Employed, Related to Degree              | 120         | 29%         | 43             | 22%         | 76                      | 35%         |
| Not working, not seeking employment      | 74          | 18%         | 44             | 23%         | 30                      | 14%         |
| Unemployed, seeking employment           | 108         | 26%         | 56             | 29%         | 49                      | 23%         |
|  | <b>413</b>  | <b>100%</b> | <b>192</b>     | <b>100%</b> | <b>216</b>              | <b>100%</b> |
| Placement Rate (All Associate Graduates) |             |             |                |             |                         |             |
| (A) Employed subtotal                    | 231         |             | 92             |             | 137                     |             |
| (B) Employed + Seeking Employment        | 339         |             | 148            |             | 186                     |             |
| Placement Rate (A divided by B)          | 68%         |             | 62%            |             | 74%                     |             |

### C. Employment (Associate Graduates not Attending School)

|   | All Schools |             | Art and Design |             | Business and Technology |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|   | N           | %           | N              | %           | N                       | %           |
| Employed Subtotal   | 68          | 81%         | 36             | 82%         | 32                      | 80%         |
| Employed, Not Related to Degree                           | 22          | 26%         | 11             | 25%         | 11                      | 28%         |
| Employed, Related to Degree                               | 46          | 55%         | 25             | 57%         | 21                      | 53%         |
| Not working, not seeking employment                       | 4           | 5%          | 3              | 7%          | 1                       | 3%          |
| Unemployed, seeking employment                            | 12          | 14%         | 5              | 11%         | 7                       | 18%         |
|   | <b>84</b>   | <b>100%</b> | <b>44</b>      | <b>100%</b> | <b>40</b>               | <b>100%</b> |
| Placement Rate (Associate graduates not attending school) |             |             |                |             |                         |             |
| (A) Employed subtotal                                     | 68          |             | 36             |             | 32                      |             |
| (B) Employed + Seeking Employment                         | 80          |             | 41             |             | 39                      |             |
| Placement Rate (A divided by B)                           | 85%         |             | 88%            |             | 82%                     |             |

Eighty-two percent of associate degree respondents continued their education after receiving their associate degree – 84% of Business and Technology graduates and 80% of Art and Design graduates. Fifty-six percent of all associate degree respondents were employed – 63% of Business and Technology graduates and 48% of Art and Design graduates. A little more than half of the employed graduates had jobs related to their degree. Among all associate graduates, 29% worked in a related field, and 27% worked in an unrelated field. Related field employment was higher for Business and Technology graduates than Art and Design graduates, 35% compared to 22%.

However, employment rates for associate graduates are much higher for those graduates who are not continuing their education. Among school “leavers,” 81% were employed, with 55% being employed in a related field.

The placement rate for all associate graduates, which includes only those graduates who are employed or seeking employment, was 68% for all associate graduates, 74% for Business and Technology graduates, and 62% for Art and Design graduates (Table 2B).

The placement rate for associate graduates who were not attending school was 85% for all graduates, 82% for Business and Technology graduates, and 88% for Art and Design graduates (Table 2C).

**Table 3: Bachelor Degree Employment and School Attendance Outcomes by School**  
**A. School Attendance**

| School Attendance        | All Schools |             | Art and Design |             | Business and Technology |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|                          | N           | %           | N              | %           | N                       | %           |
| Attending another school | 15          | 5%          | 4              | 4%          | 11                      | 6%          |
| Not attending school     | 271         | 95%         | 100            | 96%         | 166                     | 94%         |
|                          | <b>286</b>  | <b>100%</b> | <b>104</b>     | <b>100%</b> | <b>177</b>              | <b>100%</b> |

**B. Employment Outcomes**

| Employment Outcomes                 | All Schools |             | Art and Design |             | Business and Technology |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|                                     | N           | %           | N              | %           | N                       | %           |
| Employed Subtotal                   | 252         | 86%         | 89             | 83%         | 158                     | 88%         |
| Employed, Not Related to Degree     | 48          | 16%         | 15             | 14%         | 30                      | 17%         |
| Employed, Related to Degree         | 204         | 70%         | 74             | 69%         | 128                     | 71%         |
| Not working, not seeking employment | 5           | 2%          | 1              | 1%          | 3                       | 2%          |
| Unemployed, seeking employment      | 36          | 12%         | 17             | 16%         | 19                      | 11%         |
|                                     | <b>293</b>  | <b>100%</b> | <b>107</b>     | <b>100%</b> | <b>180</b>              | <b>100%</b> |
| Placement Rate                      |             |             |                |             |                         |             |
| (A) Employed subtotal               | 252         |             | 89             |             | 158                     |             |
| (B) Employed + Seeking Employment   | 288         |             | 106            |             | 177                     |             |
| Placement Rate (A divided by B)     | 88%         |             | 84%            |             | 89%                     |             |

Five percent of bachelor’s degree respondents continued their education after graduation. Eighty-six percent of all bachelor’s degree respondents were employed – 88% of Business and Technology graduates and 83% of Art and Design graduates. Most employed graduates had jobs related to their degree. Among all graduates (including Liberal Arts graduates), 70% worked in a related field and 16% worked in an unrelated field. Related field employment was 71% for Business and Technology graduates and 69% for Art and Design graduates (Table 3B). The placement rate, which is based on only those graduates who are employed or seeking employment, was 88% for all graduates, 89% for Business and Technology graduates, and 84% for Art and Design graduates.

# Job Characteristics

## Types of Employment

Graduates were asked how many hours they worked per week, whether they worked for an employer or for themselves, and the level of the positions that they held. Full-time work (35 or more hours per week) was the norm among bachelor’s graduates (87%) and associate graduates who were not attending school (79%). Associate graduates who were still in school were less likely to work full-time (18%).

Ninety-two percent of bachelor’s graduates worked for an employer, with 7% doing freelance work and 1% being self-employed. Almost three fourths (72%) of bachelor’s graduates had entry level positions, with 23% working beyond the entry level and 3% in supervisory roles.

Seventy percent of associate graduates who were not attending school worked for an employer, with 17% doing freelance work, and 13% being self-employed. Sixty percent had entry level positions, with 18% working beyond the entry level and 14% in supervisory roles.

**Table 4. Types of Employment**

### A. Full-Time/Part-Time Status

|              | Associate, in school |             | Associate, not in school |             | Bachelors  |             |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|              | N                    | %           | N                        | %           | N          | %           |
| Full-time    | 29                   | 18%         | 53                       | 79%         | 220        | 87%         |
| Part-time    | 136                  | 82%         | 14                       | 21%         | 32         | 13%         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>165</b>           | <b>100%</b> | <b>67</b>                | <b>100%</b> | <b>252</b> | <b>100%</b> |

### B. Employment Arrangement

|                                     | Associate, in school |             | Associate, not in school |             | Bachelors  |             |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|                                     | N                    | %           | N                        | %           | N          | %           |
| Self-employed in your own business  | 3                    | 2%          | 8                        | 13%         | 3          | 1%          |
| Freelancer                          | 16                   | 11%         | 11                       | 17%         | 17         | 7%          |
| Employee for a business, government | 133                  | 88%         | 44                       | 70%         | 226        | 92%         |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>152</b>           | <b>100%</b> | <b>63</b>                | <b>100%</b> | <b>246</b> | <b>100%</b> |



**C. Job Level**

|                               | Associate, in school |             | Associate, not in school |             | Bachelors  |             |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|                               | N                    | %           | N                        | %           | N          | %           |
| Intern                        | 35                   | 24%         | 4                        | 8%          | 4          | 2%          |
| Employee - Entry level        | 78                   | 53%         | 30                       | 60%         | 168        | 72%         |
| Employee - Beyond entry level | 29                   | 20%         | 9                        | 18%         | 53         | 23%         |
| Supervisor/Manager            | 5                    | 3%          | 7                        | 14%         | 8          | 3%          |
|                               | <b>147</b>           | <b>100%</b> | <b>50</b>                | <b>100%</b> | <b>233</b> | <b>100%</b> |

## Earnings and Benefits

Graduates reported on their earnings ranges and whether or not they received job related benefits such as health insurance, retirement, and paid vacation. Results are shown here for full-time workers only.

**Table 5. Earnings and Benefits for Graduates Employed Full-Time**

### 5a. Earnings

|                                | Associate, in school |             | Associate, not in school |             | Bachelors  |             |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|                                | N                    | %           | N                        | %           | N          | %           |
| \$20,000 or less               | 9                    | 31%         | 10                       | 19%         | 5          | 2%          |
| More than \$20,000 to \$30,000 | 5                    | 17%         | 4                        | 8%          | 16         | 7%          |
| More than \$30,000 to \$40,000 | 7                    | 24%         | 13                       | 25%         | 30         | 14%         |
| More than \$40,000 to \$50,000 | 1                    | 3%          | 15                       | 29%         | 75         | 34%         |
| More than \$50,000 to \$60,000 | 5                    | 17%         | 7                        | 13%         | 60         | 27%         |
| More than \$60,000             | 2                    | 7%          | 3                        | 6%          | 33         | 15%         |
|                                | <b>29</b>            | <b>100%</b> | <b>52</b>                | <b>100%</b> | <b>219</b> | <b>100%</b> |

### 5b. Benefits

|                            | Associate, in school |             | Associate, not in school |             | Bachelors  |             |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|                            | N                    | %           | N                        | %           | N          | %           |
| <b>Health Insurance</b>    |                      |             |                          |             |            |             |
| Yes                        | 13                   | 46%         | 31                       | 62%         | 174        | 81%         |
| No                         | 15                   | 54%         | 19                       | 38%         | 42         | 19%         |
|                            | <b>28</b>            | <b>100%</b> | <b>50</b>                | <b>100%</b> | <b>216</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| <b>Retirement Benefits</b> |                      |             |                          |             |            |             |
| Yes                        | 9                    | 32%         | 24                       | 48%         | 157        | 73%         |
| No                         | 19                   | 68%         | 26                       | 52%         | 58         | 27%         |
|                            | <b>28</b>            | <b>100%</b> | <b>50</b>                | <b>100%</b> | <b>215</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| <b>Paid Vacation</b>       |                      |             |                          |             |            |             |
| Yes                        | 13                   | 46%         | 28                       | 56%         | 187        | 87%         |
| No                         | 15                   | 54%         | 22                       | 44%         | 28         | 13%         |
|                            | <b>28</b>            | <b>100%</b> | <b>50</b>                | <b>100%</b> | <b>215</b> | <b>100%</b> |

Among bachelor's graduates, 77% of full-time workers earn over \$40,000 per year, with 34% in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 range, 27% in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 range, and 15% earning \$60,000 or more. The distribution of earnings for associate degree recipients who did not attend school

is lower than that of the bachelor’s graduates. At the low end, a larger proportion of associate graduates (26% compared to 9%) earned \$30,000 or less. Also, a lower percentage (6% compared to 15%) were in the more than \$60,000 earnings range.

Most of the graduates who had full-time jobs had fringe benefits. Among bachelor’s graduates, 80% received health insurance, 73% had retirement benefits, and 87% had paid vacation. The rates for associate graduates who were not in school were lower—62% had health insurance, 48% had retirement benefits, and 56% had paid vacation.

## Local employment

**Table 6. Location of Employment**

|                  | Associate, in school |     | Associate, not in school |     | Bachelors |     | All Respondents |     |
|------------------|----------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|-----------|-----|-----------------|-----|
|                  | N                    | %   | N                        | %   | N         | %   | N               | %   |
| New York         | 137                  | 90% | 41                       | 67% | 198       | 83% | 376             | 83% |
| New Jersey       | 9                    | 6%  | 3                        | 5%  | 4         | 2%  | 16              | 4%  |
| Outside U.S.     | 1                    | 1%  | 6                        | 10% | 9         | 4%  | 16              | 4%  |
| California       | 1                    | 1%  | 4                        | 7%  | 4         | 2%  | 9               | 2%  |
| Pennsylvania     | 1                    | 1%  | 1                        | 2%  | 4         | 2%  | 6               | 1%  |
| All Other States | 4                    | 3%  | 6                        | 10% | 20        | 8%  | 30              | 7%  |

Eighty-three percent of all working respondents worked in New York State following graduation. Four percent worked in New Jersey, 4% worked outside the U.S., 2% worked in California, 1% in Pennsylvania, and 7% in all other states combined.

## Internship Experiences

Students were also asked if they had a for-credit internship and whether it led to a job or a job offer. Among all respondents reporting a for-credit internship, 31% said that the internship led to a job or an offer. The rate was 31% for bachelor's graduates as well as for associate graduates who were not attending school (Table 7b).

**Table 7a. Did you have a credit-bearing internship?**

|  | Associate, not in school |             | Bachelor's |             | All respondents reporting for-credit internship |             |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|---|-------------|
|  | N                        | %           | N          | %           | Total   | %           |
|  | <b>76</b>                | <b>100%</b> | <b>277</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>353</b>                                      | <b>100%</b> |
| Yes  | 10                       | 13%         | 59         | 21%         | 69  | 20%         |
| No   | 22                       | 29%         | 131        | 47%         | 153   | 43%         |
| I did not have a credit-bearing internship | 44                       | 58%         | 87         | 31%         | 131   | 37%         |

**Table 7b. Did your credit-bearing internship lead directly to a job or job offer with the employer?**

|     | Associate, not in school |             | Bachelor's |             | All respondents reporting for-credit internship |             |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|---|-------------|
|     | N                        | %           | N          | %           | Total   | %           |
|     | <b>32</b>                | <b>100%</b> | <b>190</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>222</b>                                      | <b>100%</b> |
| Yes | 10                       | 31%         | 59         | 31%         | 69  | 31%         |
| No  | 22                       | 69%         | 131        | 69%         | 153   | 69%         |