

FIT Undergraduate Alumni Survey Results Employment and Earnings of 2020-21 Graduates

Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

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**Fashion Institute
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Table of Contents

About the FIT Alumni Survey	1
Key Results.....	2
Employment and School Attendance	3
Job Characteristics	6
Internship Experiences.....	10

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 3,539 graduates from the 2020-2021 academic year were surveyed and 809 responded, generating a 23% response rate (Table 1). Bachelor’s graduates were surveyed in June 2022, a year after graduation. Associate graduates were surveyed in February 2022. 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
Associate of Applied Sciences			
Art and Design	844	291	34.5%
Business and Technology	1,021	291	28.5%
Liberal Arts and Sciences	15	4	26.7%
	1880	586	31.2%
Bachelor of Fine Arts			
Art and Design	611	92	15.1%
	611	92	15.1%
Bachelor of Science			
Business and Technology	1,009	128	12.7%
Liberal Arts and Sciences	39	3	7.7%
	1,048	131	12.5%
Grand Total	3539	809	22.9%

Key Results

Response Rates

Graduates from the 2020-2021 academic year were surveyed a year after graduation. A total of 3,539 graduates were surveyed and 809 responded, for a 23% response rate. (Table 1, page 1)

Employment and School Attendance

Ninety-one percent of associate degree graduates reported that they continued their education after graduating, nearly all of them at FIT. Far fewer of the bachelor's graduates (7%) reported continuing on to further schooling. (Tables 2A and 3A, pages 3, 5)

Seventy-three percent of associate degree graduates who were not attending school were employed, 23% were unemployed (seeking employment but not working), and 3% were neither working nor seeking employment. (Table 2C, page 4)

Eighty percent of bachelor's graduates were employed, with 62% reporting employment in a job related to their degree. Sixteen percent were unemployed (seeking employment but not working) and four percent were neither working nor seeking employment. (Table 3B, page 6)

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 59% for all associate degree graduates, 75% for associate graduates who were not attending school, and 83% for bachelor's degree graduates. (Tables 2C and 3B, pages 4-5)

Earnings and Benefits

Among working graduates, 84% of bachelor's graduates and 82% of associate graduates who were not attending school worked full-time. Among bachelor's graduates who worked full-time, 82% earned more than \$40,000 per year and 80% had health insurance. Forty-six percent of working associate graduates not attending school earned more than \$40,000 per year and 66% 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, 5% worked in New Jersey, 9% worked in other states, and 3% 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 N	All Schools %	Art and Design		Business and Technology	
			N	%	N	%
Attending FIT	512	90%	253	90.0%	255	90.1%
Attending another school	7	1%	4	1.4%	3	1.1%
Not attending school	49	9%	24	8.5%	25	8.8%
	568	100%	281	100.0%	283	100.0%

* Four School of Liberal Arts and Sciences respondents are still attending FIT; due to the small number, SLAS information is not always broken out.

B. Employment (All Associate Graduates)

Employment Outcomes	All Schools N	All Schools %	Art and Design		Business and Technology	
			N	%	N	%
Employed Subtotal	275	48%	99	34.6%	175	61.0%
(Employed, Not Related to Degree)	(150)	(26%)	(60)	(21.0%)	(90)	(31.4%)
(Employed, Related to Degree)	(125)	(22%)	(39)	(13.6%)	(85)	(29.6%)
Not working, not seeking employment	114	20%	71	24.8%	41	14.3%
Unemployed, seeking employment	188	33%	116	40.6%	71	24.7%
	577	100%	286	100.0%	287	100.0%
Placement Rate (All Associate Graduates)						
(A) Employed subtotal	275		99		175	
(B) Employed + Seeking Employment	463		215		245	
Placement Rate (A divided by B)	59%		46%		71%	

C. Employment (Associate Graduates not Attending School)

Employment Outcomes	All Schools N	All Schools %	Art and Design		Business and Technology	
			N	%	N	%
Employed Subtotal	48	73%	22	64.7%	26	81.3%
(Employed, Not Related to Degree)	(14)	(21%)	(7)	(20.6%)	(7)	(21.9%)
(Employed, Related to Degree)	(34)	(52%)	(15)	(44.1%)	(19)	(59.4%)
Not working, not seeking employment	2	3%	2	5.9%	.	.
Unemployed, seeking employment	16	24%	10	29.4%	6	18.8%
	66	100%	34	100.0%	32	100.0%
Placement Rate (Associate graduates not attending school)						
(A) Employed subtotal	48		22		26	
(B) Employed + Seeking Employment	64		32		32	
Placement Rate (A divided by B)	75%		69%		81%	

Table 3: Bachelor Degree Employment and School Attendance Outcomes by School

A. School Attendance

School Attendance	All Schools N	All Schools %	Art and Design		Business and Technology	
			N	%	N	%
Attending another school	16	7%	9	10.3%	7	5.6%
Not attending school	200	93%	78	89.7%	119	94.4%
	216	100%	87	100.0%	126	100.0%

*Only three students from the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences responded; due to the small number, SLAS information is not always broken out.

B. Employment Outcomes

Employment Outcomes	All Schools N	All Schools %	Art and Design		Business and Technology	
			N	%	N	%
Employed Subtotal	177	80%	68	75.6%	107	84.3%
(Employed, Not Related to Degree)	(41)	(19%)	(19)	(21.1%)	(21)	(16.5%)
(Employed, Related to Degree)	(136)	(62%)	49	54.4%	(86)	(67.7%)
Not working, not seeking employment	8	4%	2	2.2%	6	4.7%
Unemployed, seeking employment	35	16%	20	22.2%	14	11.0%
	220	100%	90	100.0%	127	100.0%
Placement Rate (All Bachelor's Graduates)						
(A) Employed subtotal	177		68		107	
(B) Employed + Seeking Employment	212		88		121	
Placement Rate (A divided by B)	83%		77%		88%	

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 (84%) and associate graduates who were not attending school (82%). Associate graduates who were still in school were much less likely to work full-time (19%).

Eighty-nine percent of bachelor’s graduates worked for an employer, with 5% doing freelance work and 6% being self-employed. Most bachelor’s graduates had entry level positions (63%), with 26% working beyond the entry level and 7% in supervisory roles.

Eighty percent of associate graduates who were not attending school worked for an employer, with 16% doing freelance work, and 4% being self-employed. Sixty-seven percent had entry level positions, with 13% working beyond the entry level and 13% 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	43	18.8%	41	82.0%	149	84.2%
Part-time	186	81.2%	9	18.0%	28	15.8%
Total	229	100.0%	50	100.0%	177	100.0%

B. Employment Arrangement

	Associate, in school		Associate, not in school		Bachelors	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Self-employed in your own business	10	4.7%	2	4.1%	11	6.3%
Freelancer	19	9.0%	8	16.3%	9	5.1%
Employee for a business, government	183	86.3%	39	79.6%	155	88.6%
Total	212	100.0%	49	100.0%	175	100.0%

C. Job Level

	Associate, in school		Associate, not in school		Bachelors	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Intern	38	19.0%	3	6.5%	7	4.3%
Employee - Entry level	108	54.0%	31	67.4%	102	63.0%
Employee - Beyond entry level	37	18.5%	6	13.0%	42	25.9%
Supervisor/Manager	17	8.5%	6	13.0%	11	6.8%
	200	100.0%	46	100.0%	162	100.0%

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. Earning and Benefits for Graduates Employed Full-Time

5a. Earnings

	Associate, in school		Associate, not in school		Bachelors	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
\$20,000 or less	6	14.3%	3	7.3%	6	4.1%
More than \$20,000 to \$30,000	13	31.0%	5	12.2%	5	3.4%
More than \$30,000 to \$40,000	8	19.0%	14	34.1%	16	10.8%
More than \$40,000 to \$50,000	8	19.0%	9	22.0%	41	27.7%
More than \$50,000 to \$60,000	2	4.8%	8	19.5%	35	23.6%
More than \$60,000	4	9.5%	1	2.4%	42	28.4%
\$100,000 or more	1	2.4%	1	2.4%	3	2.0%
	42	100.0%	41	100.0%	148	100.0%

5b. Benefits

	Associate, in school		Associate, not in school		Bachelors	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Health Insurance						
Yes	14	35.9%	27	65.9%	117	79.6%
No	25	64.1%	14	34.1%	30	20.4%
	39	100.0%	41	100.0%	147	100.0%
Retirement Benefits						
Yes	16	41.0%	21	52.5%	109	74.7%
No	23	59.0%	19	47.5%	37	25.3%
	39	100.0%	40	100.0%	146	100.0%
Paid Vacation						
Yes	17	43.6%	28	68.3%	132	90.4%
No	22	56.4%	13	31.7%	14	9.6%
	39	100.0%	41	100.0%	146	100.0%

Local employment

Table 6. Location of Employment

	Associate, in school		Associate, not in school		Bachelors		All Respondents	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
New York	194	92%	30	61%	137	79%	361	83%
New Jersey	9	4%	4	8%	8	5%	21	5%
Outside U.S.	1	0%	6	12%	8	5%	15	3%
Florida	.	.	3	6%	6	3%	9	2%
Connecticut	4	2%	1	2%	1	1%	6	1%
All Other States	4	2%	5	10%	13	8%	22	5%

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, 26% said that the internship led to a job or an offer. The rate was 30% for bachelor’s graduates, while 24% of associate graduates who were not attending school said that the internship led to a job or an offer (Table 7b).

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

	Associate, not in school		Bachelors		Total	%
	N	%	N	%		
Yes	17	27%	114	55%	131	49%
No	46	73%	92	45%	138	51%
Grand Total	63	100%	206	100%	269	100%

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

	Associate, not in school		Bachelors		Total	%
	n	%	n	%		
Yes	4	24%	30	26%	34	26%
No	13	76%	84	74%	97	74%
Grand Total	17	100%	114	100%	131	100%

Satisfaction with FIT Education

Alumni answered a general set of questions about whether they would choose FIT again, whether they would choose the same major, and whether they would recommend FIT to someone they knew. Most alumni (75%) said they “probably” or “definitely” would attend FIT again. Fewer alumni (63%) said they would “probably” or “definitely” choose the same major again, and 79% said they would “probably” or “definitely” recommend FIT to someone else (Table 8). Alumni from the School of Art and Design were slightly more satisfied at the Associate’s level than Baker School of Business and Technology, while the reserve was true at the Bachelor’s level.

Table 8. General Satisfaction with FIT

All Respondents	Total	Yes	% Yes
Would you attend FIT again?	290	218	75%
Would you choose the same major?	290	184	63%
Would you recommend FIT to others?	290	230	79%

School of Art and Design					
Associate, not in school			Bachelors		
#Respondents	Yes	%	#Respondents	Yes	%
34	25	74%	92	65	71%
34	23	68%	92	57	62%
34	27	79%	92	68	74%

Baker School of Business and Technology					
Associate, not in school			Bachelors		
#Respondents	Yes	%	#Respondents	Yes	%
33	23	70%	128	104	81%
33	20	61%	128	81	63%
33	25	76%	128	109	85%