



# 2010 Graduate Follow-up Study Results in Brief

## Graduate Follow-Up Survey 2010 Results in Brief

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### INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of the 2010 Graduate Follow-Up Survey, an extensive annual survey of NSCC graduates one year following graduation. Interviews were conducted through telephone by Corporate Research Associates; this survey explores employment and other graduate activities, as well as graduates' satisfaction with their experience at NSCC. This is the eleventh year that this survey has been commissioned directly by the NSCC and results continue to demonstrate that graduates succeed after graduation.

The 2010 survey was conducted during the period of June 30 to August 30, 2010, and interviewed the graduates of the Class of 2008-2009. To create a snapshot of employment and continued learning experiences of graduates approximately one year after graduation, a reference week of June 20 to 26, 2010 was used. There were 3701 graduates in the class of 2009<sup>1</sup> eligible for the survey, 1102 of whom participated in the survey. This number of respondents produces results that are accurate 95% of the time to within 2.5% of the stated result.

### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Results from the 2010 survey confirm that NSCC graduates continue to succeed after graduation.

2010 Graduate Follow-Up Survey Results						
Employment Outcomes	GFS 2005	GFS 2006	GFS 2007	GFS 2008	GFS 2009	GFS 2010
% of graduates participating in the labour force	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	96%
% of graduates employed	90%	91%	91%	92%	86%	87%
% of graduates employed in work related to field of studies	81%	83%	86%	88%	83%	80%
% of graduates who worked three or more months in the year following graduation	93%	91%	91%	94%	95%	90%
% of employed graduates living and working in Nova Scotia	94%	93%	93%	92%	94%	94%
Average annual earnings of working graduates employed full time in work related to field of study <sup>2</sup>	\$26,999	\$27,962	\$30,052	\$33,029	\$30,357	\$31,855
% of graduates satisfied with the overall NSCC experience	95%	95%	95%	96%	95%	95%

<sup>1</sup> This **excludes** graduates from the Adult Learning Program under School of Access and graduates with disability. The Adult Learning Program was removed as it is not a post secondary program and graduates with disabilities are being surveyed separately. Graduates who returned to NSCC full-time are also excluded because the primary purpose of the survey is to understand employment outcomes of NSCC graduates once they have left NSCC.

<sup>2</sup> During the data cleaning process, the annual salaries of respondents who reported earning less than \$13,416 annually while working 30 or more hours per week were excluded as this is below the minimum wage.

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### EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

Since NSCC became a Board-governed college in 1996, there have been consistently favorable employment outcomes for students after graduation.

The employment rate of NSCC graduates rose this year by 1%. The percentage of graduates who are employed in work related to their studies fell by 3%.

The slight increase in the NSCC graduate employment rate is relatively consistent with the current employment situation in the Province and the slight decrease in the unemployment rate. The graduate employment rates this year is consistent with the current economic state of the country and the fluctuation in employment rates.

The graduate employment rates by School are outlined below. Increases in employment rates were realized in the Schools of Applied Arts & New Media and in Business with slight decreases in the Schools of Health & Human Services and Trades & Technology.

Survey Year	Employment Rate of NSCC Graduates in the Labour Force	% of employed graduates in work related to studies
1996	73%	69%
1997	75%	74%
1998	80%	77%
1999	84%	78%
2000	84%	80%
2001	88%	82%
2002	86%	82%
2003	88%	78%
2004	88%	79%
2005	90%	81%
2006	91%	83%
2007	91%	86%
2008	92%	88%
2009	86%	83%
2010	87%	80%

Employment Rate of Graduates in the Labour Force By School										
School	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Applied Arts & New Media	87%	85%	85%	85%	90%	89%	85%	91%	84%	88%
Business	87%	84%	88%	88%	90%	91%	91%	91%	87%	89%
Health & Human Services	91%	90%	93%	93%	90%	95%	95%	96%	96%	93%
Trades & Technology	87%	87%	86%	87%	90%	90%	89%	90%	81%	80%
<b>OVERALL NSCC</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>87%</b>

### GRADUATE SATISFACTION

The Graduate Follow-Up Survey asks questions that are related to College satisfaction. Overall graduate satisfaction with the NSCC experience remains very high at 95%. As well, over 96% of all graduates indicated that they would be willing to recommend the College to others.

The importance of portfolio continues to be significant. Result showed that 91% of graduates were satisfied with the portfolio experience at NSCC, up by 4% from the previous class. The Class of 2008-2009 was the seventh graduating class to participate in portfolio education.

Satisfaction Rate of Graduates									
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Overall satisfaction with NSCC experience	96%	94%	94%	95%	95%	95%	96%	95%	95%
Willingness to recommend NSCC to others	--	--	97%	97%	97%	97%	98%	96%	96%
Overall satisfaction with Portfolio Learning experience	--	--	85%	87%	86%	89%	90%	87%	90%

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### SUMMARY OF RESULTS BY ACADEMIC SCHOOL AND CREDENTIAL TYPE

Results from the 2010 survey are presented in more detail in the following summary tables, which break down results by academic school and by credential type.

Results indicated that employment outcomes vary slightly by academic school.

Graduates from the School of Health & Human Services continue to have the highest employment rate (93%). It also has the highest percentage of graduates working in program-related occupations (92%). These results are consistent with the results from last year's survey.

Over 20% of graduates also pursued further education, the vast majority of which is part-time studies or short term courses (10%). Several respondents indicated that they enrolled full-time in a college or university program (7%) and registered in the apprenticeship program (3%).

Graduates from the Schools of Applied Arts & New Media and Trades & Technology experienced the highest average annual earnings related to their field of study at \$34,736 and \$34,876 respectively.

The difference in average salaries by academic school varies, but the gap between the highest and lowest average salaries narrowed from the previous year. The difference between the highest and lowest average annual salary in 2010 is \$6,689.

Survey Results by School	Access <sup>3</sup> (GEAS)	App Arts & New Media	Business	Health & Human Services	Trades & Tech	Total - All Grads
Number of Graduates	62	483	857	935	1364	3701
Number of Graduates Returning to NSCC	44	105	41	23	58	270
Number of Graduates Ineligible for Survey		17	36	38	38	130
Number of Graduates Eligible for Survey	18	361	780	874	1268	3301
Number Responding to Survey	9*	127	262	283	421	1102
Number of Respondents in Labour Force (working or looking for work)		124	246	267	410	1055
% of respondents in Labour Force		98%	94%	94%	97%	96%
Number of Respondents Employed		109	218	249	329	913
Employment Rate of Labour Force Participants		88%	89%	93%	80%	87%
Number of Employed in Work Related to Field of Study		73	160	219	249	701
% of Employed in Work Related to Field of Study		68%	79%	92%	78%	80%
Number not Employed		15	28	18	81	142
Number not Seeking Employment		4	15	10	5	34
Average Annual Salary of those employed full time in work related to field of study		\$34,736	\$28,187	\$28,593	\$34,876	\$31,855
Number of Graduates who Pursued Further Education		19	51	72	74	222
% of Graduates who Pursued Further Education		15%	19%	25%	18%	20%

<sup>3</sup> This excludes graduates from the Adult Learning Program under School of Access and graduates with disability. Both of these groups of graduates participated in graduate follow-up surveys sponsored jointly by the NS Department of Education and NSCC in 2010.

\*Results not reported as there were less than 10 respondents

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Survey Results by Credential Type	Certificate	Diploma	Advanced Diploma	Total - All Graduates
Number of Graduates	1789	1797	115	3701
Number of Graduates Returning to NSCC	196	74		270
Number of Graduates Ineligible for Survey	61	57	12	130
Number of Graduates Eligible for Survey	1533	1665	103	3301
Number Responding to Survey	513	556	33	1102
Number of Respondents in Labour Force (working or looking for work)	490	533	32	1055
% of respondents in Labour Force	96%	96%	97%	96%
Number of Respondents Employed	418	467	28	913
Employment Rate of Labour Force Participants	85%	88%	88%	87%
Number of Employed in Work Related to Field of Study	317	360	24	701
% of Employed in Work Related to Field of Study	78%	82%	86%	80%
Number not Employed	72	66	4	142
Number not Seeking Employment	14	18	1	33
Average Annual Salary of those employed full time in work related to field of study	\$30,281	\$32,366	\$40,348	\$31,855
Number of Graduates who Pursued Further Education	97	119	6	222
% of Graduates who Pursued Further Education	19%	21%	18%	20%

When survey results are broken down by credential type, differences in employment outcomes are mainly subtle ones.

Diploma graduates earn, on average, \$2,085 more than Certificate graduates. Advance Diploma graduates earn, on average, \$7,982 more than Diploma graduates.

The percentage of graduates who pursued some type of education during the year after graduation was relatively consistent across credentials. This includes professional development as well as more formal education.