

2010 Graduate Follow-up Study Volunteerism Report

Graduate Follow-Up Survey 2010 Volunteerism Report

INTRODUCTION TO THE GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY AND THE VOLUNTEERISM REPORT

The Graduate Follow-Up Survey (GFS) is an extensive annual survey of NSCC graduates one year following graduation. Through telephone interviews conducted 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 graduates of the class of 2008-2009. There were 3301 graduates in the class of 2009¹ eligible for the survey, 1102 of whom participated. This number of respondents generates results that are accurate 95% of the time to within 2.5% of the stated result.

The 2010 survey included a number of questions that explored volunteerism among graduates. Graduates were asked whether or not they volunteered, how many hours per week they spent doing volunteer work, and where they volunteered. This report summarizes the responses to these questions.

PROFILE OF THE NSCC VOLUNTEER

Of the 1102 graduates surveyed, 315 reported that they had volunteered since graduating from NSCC. The volunteer rate has decreased by 2% since last year. This overall volunteer rate of 29% is lower than the provincial average of 55% and the national average of 46%.²

On average, respondents who volunteered in the last year did so for 6.3 hours each week. This level of volunteerism is a great deal higher than both the provincial and national averages and indicates that NSCC graduates are willing to volunteer even at a time when focus typically rests on career development.

Volunteerism	NSCC							Nova Scotia ²	Canada ²
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010		
Volunteer participation rate	31%	29%	29%	27%	29%	31%	29%	55%	46%
Average hours volunteered per week	5.4 hours	6.1 hours	5.9 hours	6.0 hours	6.0 hours	5.3 hours	6.3 hours	3.5 hours	3.2 hours

¹ 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.

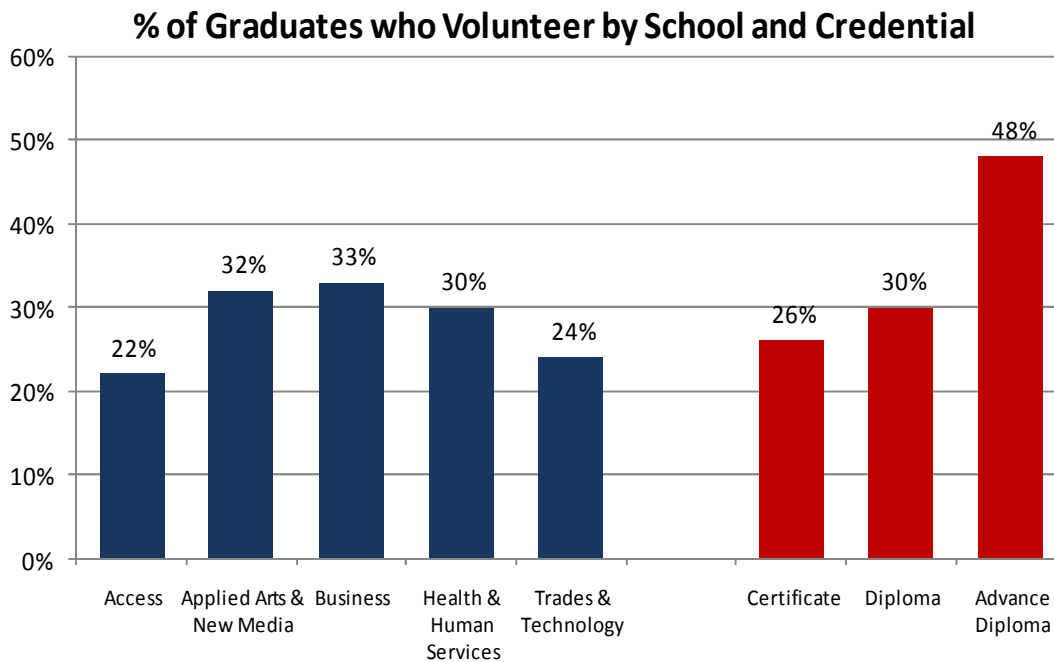
² Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians: Highlights on the 2007 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating. Statistics Canada, June 2009.

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VOLUNTEER RATES AND AVERAGE HOURS VOLUNTEERED PER WEEK

Overall, there are slight differences in the volunteer rates among the four Academic Schools. The percentage of graduates who volunteer ranges from 22% in the School of Access to 33% in the School of Business.

Volunteer participation rates are somewhat different across credential. Graduates from the Advanced Diploma programs volunteer the most, at a rate of 48%. About 30% of diploma graduates and 26% of certificate graduates are volunteers.

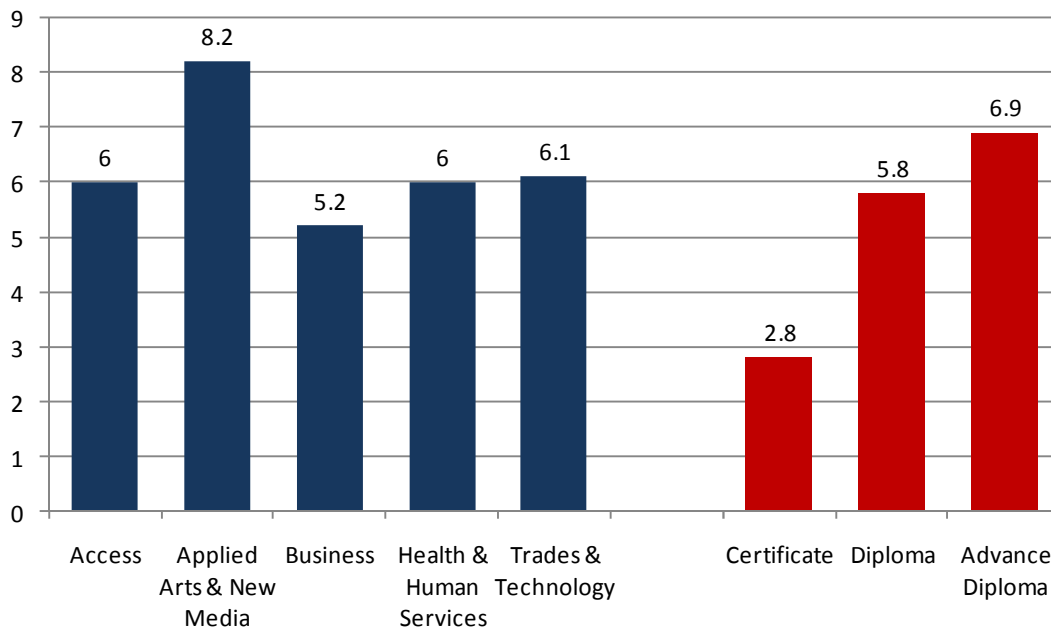


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The average number of hours spent volunteering ranges from 5.2 hours per week in the School of Business to 8.2 hours per week in the School of Applied Arts and New Media. The graduates of programs from the School of Health and Human Services realized the largest increase from the previous year in the number of average volunteer hours reported, up from 3.6 hours to 6.0 hours. The Schools of Trades and Technology and Applied Arts and New Media graduates reported a slight increase in the average number of volunteer hours reported while the School of Business remained the same.

With respect to program credential, the largest change from the previous year in reported average volunteer hours was realized in the certificate program graduates, down from 5.5 hours to 2.8 hours. Advanced diploma graduates volunteer on average 4.1 hours more than certificate graduates and 1.1 hours more than diploma graduates.

Average Hours Volunteers per Week by School and Credential



VOLUNTEER AND GRADUATE OUTCOMES

	All Graduates	Volunteers	Non-Volunteers
Labour Force Participation Rate	96%	96%	96%
Employment Rate	87%	89%	86%
Employment Relatedness Rate	80%	79%	81%
Average Annual Salary	\$31,855	\$32,656	\$31,544

When specific employment outcomes are examined across volunteers and non-volunteers, results are slightly different. Results suggest that volunteers enjoy a slightly higher rate of employment and slightly higher average annual salary.

The employment relatedness rate decreased from the previous year for both volunteer and non-volunteer graduates by 3.0% and 2.0% respectively.

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CONCLUSION

The combined effort of Canadian volunteers helps to strengthen Canadian society and build a prosperous future³. Results from the 2010 Graduate Follow-up Survey indicate that NSCC graduates are a part of this process.

Results also indicate that, since most respondents are employed, graduates see volunteerism as an addition to their professional lives. In fact, graduates who volunteer typically experience equivalent or better employment outcomes than those who do not volunteer.

It is hoped that NSCC students and graduates will continue to see the tangible and intangible benefits of volunteering, resulting in stronger communities and a stronger province.

³ Volunteer Canada Website (www.volunteer.ca)