

# NSCC 2020 Graduate Survey

***nscc***

# Graduate Survey 2020

## Results in Brief

### INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of the 2020 Graduate Survey, an extensive annual survey of NSCC graduates one year following graduation. Graduates were surveyed by telephone and online by Narrative Research (*formerly Corporate Research Associates*) to explore employment and other graduate activities, as well as graduates' satisfaction with their experience at NSCC. This is the twenty first year that this survey has been commissioned by NSCC and results continue to demonstrate that graduates succeed after graduation. As the 2020 Graduate Survey was conducted during a period of pandemic restrictions, additional questions were included in this year's survey to gain insight into how pandemic measures may have affected graduates' employment.

The 2020 survey was conducted during the period of July 15 to October 22, 2020, and included the graduates of the Class of 2019. To create a snapshot of employment and continued learning experiences of graduates approximately one year after graduation, a reference week of June 21 to June 27, 2020 was used. There were 3,900 graduates in the class of 2019<sup>1</sup> eligible for the survey. The survey yielded participation from 1,632 graduates for an overall response rate of 42%.

### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Table 1. Summary of Employment and Overall Satisfaction Outcomes

2020 Graduate Survey Results <sup>1</sup>								
Employment Outcomes	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
% of graduates participating in the labour force <sup>2</sup>	97%	97%	97%	97%	96%	97%	97%	93%
% of graduates employed <sup>3</sup>	86%	86%	88%	87%	87%	88%	90%	82%
% of employed graduates working in a job related to field of studies <sup>4</sup>	83%	83%	85%	83%	81%	83%	87%	85%
% of employed graduates living and working in Nova Scotia	89%	91%	90%	92%	93%	92%	91%	94%
Average annual earnings of working graduates employed full time in work related to field of study <sup>5</sup>	\$39,455	\$38,556	\$36,837	\$36,853	\$37,426	\$38,395	\$39,943	\$41,192
% of graduates satisfied with the overall NSCC experience	92%	92%	94%	95%	94%	95%	95%	93%

<sup>1</sup> This excludes graduates from the Adult Learning Program under School of Access, Education and Language as it is not a post-secondary program.

<sup>2</sup> Labour Force Participation Rate specifies the percent of respondents indicating they are working or looking for work.

<sup>3</sup> Employment Rate specifies the percent of those in the Labour Force that indicate they are working.

<sup>4</sup> Related employment rate specifies the percent of those employed who indicate their job is in a field directly or indirectly related to their field of study.

<sup>5</sup> Average annual salary includes those employed full time in a job related to their field of study. During the data cleaning process, the annual salaries of respondents who reported earning less than the minimum wage were excluded. For 2020, this corresponded to an annual salary of \$19,578, which is a minimum wage of \$12.55 at 30 hours per week at 52 weeks. Outliers of \$100,000 or more were examined for salary validity.

# Graduate Survey 2020 Results in Brief

## EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

Table 2. Employment Rates of Graduates in the Labour Force by School

Employment Rate of Graduates in the Labour Force By School		
School	2019	2020
Access, Education and Language	81%	68%
Business and Creative Industries	90%	77%
Health and Human Services	93%	92%
Technology and Environment	89%	84%
Trades and Transportation	89%	79%
<b>Overall NSCC</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>82%</b>

## GRADUATE SATISFACTION

Overall graduate satisfaction with the NSCC experience remains very high at 93%. Additionally, 90% of graduates reported that they were satisfied that their NSCC program prepared them for employment. 88% of graduates were satisfied with the portfolio experience at NSCC. The Class of 2019 was the seventeenth graduating class to participate in portfolio education.

Table 3. Graduate Satisfaction with NSCC

Graduate Satisfaction with NSCC								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Overall satisfaction with NSCC experience	92%	92%	94%	95%	94%	95%	95%	93%
Overall satisfaction with Portfolio Learning	83%	83%	86%	87%	86%	86%	88%	88%

## SUMMARY BY SCHOOL AND CREDENTIAL

Table 4. Employment Outcomes by Credential

Employment Outcomes by Credential										
	# Grads Eligible*	# of Responses	In Labour Force	% Labour Force	Number Employed	Seeking Employment	% Employed	# Employed Related	% Employed Related	Average Annual Salary**
Certificate	1,453	563	502	91%	392	110	78%	302	83%	\$34,724
Diploma	2,218	939	863	93%	720	143	83%	578	87%	\$42,305
Advanced Diploma	229	130	125	97%	107	18	86%	87	83%	\$52,850
<b>Overall NSCC</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>\$41,192</b>

\* Number of graduates eligible to participate in the survey.

\*\* Average annual salary includes those employed full time in a job related to their field of study.

## Graduate Survey 2020 Results in Brief

Results from the 2020 survey are presented in more detail in the following summary tables, which break down results by academic school and credential type.

Graduates from the School of Health and Human Services continue to have the highest employment rate (92%). This school also has the highest percentage of employed graduates working in program-related occupations (96%). Graduates from the School of Technology and Environment experienced the highest average annual earnings related to their field of study at \$48,135. The difference in average salaries by academic school varies. The difference between the highest and lowest average annual salary by school in 2020 was \$19,957.

*Table 5. Employment Outcomes by School and Credential*

Employment Outcomes by School and Credential										
	# Grads Eligible*	# of Responses	In Labour Force	% Labour Force	Number Employed	Seeking Employment	% Employed	# Employed Related	% Employed Related	Average Annual Salary**
<b>Access, Education and Language</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>\$28,178</b>
Certificate	133	57	44	80%	27	17	61%	5	42%	-
Diploma	45	22	19	86%	16	3	84%	13	87%	-
<b>Business and Creative Industries</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>\$38,983</b>
Certificate	414	195	175	91%	130	45	74%	104	85%	\$35,915
Diploma	678	313	283	92%	220	63	78%	156	80%	\$38,909
Advanced Diploma	104	57	55	96%	47	8	85%	35	76%	\$45,294
<b>Health and Human Services</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>\$39,720</b>
Certificate	264	107	98	93%	92	6	94%	83	95%	\$34,373
Diploma	550	246	233	95%	212	21	91%	182	96%	\$41,625
Advanced Diploma	21	12	11	100%	9	2	82%	8	100%	-
<b>Technology and Environment</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>\$48,135</b>
Certificate	24	9	9	100%	7	2	78%	4	57%	-
Diploma	545	236	219	95%	184	35	84%	156	86%	\$45,775
Advanced Diploma	90	59	57	97%	49	8	86%	42	86%	\$59,191
<b>Trades and Transportation</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>\$38,651</b>
Certificate	618	195	176	91%	136	40	77%	106	79%	\$34,178
Diploma	400	122	109	90%	88	21	81%	71	82%	\$44,517
Advanced Diploma	14	2	2	100%	2	0	100%	2	100%	-
<b>Overall NSCC</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>\$41,192</b>

\* Number of graduates eligible to participate in the survey.

\*\* Average annual salary includes those employed full time in a job related to their field of study. Groups with less than 10 salary respondents show (-).

# Graduate Survey 2020

## Results in Brief

### SUMMARY BY SCHOOL AND CLUSTER

When the survey results are broken down by cluster, differences in employment outcomes are more variable. In 2020, the Marine group had the highest employment rate (100%), while Education (100%) and Surveying, Mapping and Geomatics (100%) graduates had the highest related employment. Surveying, Mapping and Geomatics grads reported the highest average salary of all the clusters at \$50,834 (Table 6).

Table 6. Employment Outcomes by School and Cluster

Employment Outcomes by School and Cluster										
	# Grads Eligible*	# of Responses	In Labour Force	% Labour Force	Number Employed	Seeking Employment	% Employed	# Employed Related	% Employed Related	Average Annual Salary**
<b>Access, Education and Language</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>\$28,178</b>
Academic Upgrading and Skills Development	120	49	38	81%	24	14	63%	5	42%	-
Education	42	20	17	85%	14	3	82%	13	100%	-
Language & Cultural Studies	16	10	8	80%	5	3	63%	0	0%	-
<b>Business and Creative Industries</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>\$38,983</b>
Business	790	395	367	94%	288	79	78%	226	85%	\$39,677
Creative & Digital Media	184	82	74	91%	57	17	77%	29	60%	\$40,900
Culinary & Tourism	222	88	72	84%	52	20	72%	40	80%	\$31,527
<b>Health and Human Services</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>\$39,720</b>
Health & Wellness	520	229	219	96%	207	12	95%	196	98%	\$40,278
Social & Community Supports	315	136	123	92%	106	17	86%	77	92%	\$38,228
<b>Technology and Environment</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>\$48,135</b>
Engineering Technologies	344	142	132	96%	116	16	88%	99	85%	\$48,312
Environment, Sustainability and Natural Resources	80	43	38	88%	34	4	89%	23	72%	\$49,493
IT & Data Analytics	159	71	70	99%	54	16	77%	44	83%	\$45,035
Surveying, Mapping & Geomatics	76	48	45	96%	36	9	80%	36	100%	\$50,834
<b>Trades and Transportation</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>\$38,651</b>
Building & Manufacturing	695	219	198	91%	153	45	77%	118	78%	\$36,070
Marine	47	13	13	100%	13	0	100%	12	92%	-
Transportation	290	87	76	88%	60	16	79%	49	84%	\$33,417
<b>Overall NSCC</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>\$41,192</b>

\* Number of graduates eligible to participate in the survey.

\*\* Average annual salary includes those employed full time in a job related to their field of study. Groups with less than 10 salary respondents show (-).

# Graduate Survey 2020

## Results in Brief

### BY CLUSTER AND CREDENTIAL

Further detail is provided by cluster and credential (Table 7).

Table 7. Employment Outcomes by Cluster and Credential

Employment Outcomes by Cluster and Credential										
	# Grads Eligible*	# of Responses	In Labour Force	% Labour Force	Number Employed	Seeking Employment	% Employed	# Employed Related	% Employed Related	Average Annual Salary**
<b>Academic Upgrading and Skills Development</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Building &amp; Manufacturing</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>\$36,070</b>
Certificate	397	129	119	93%	91	28	76%	71	79%	\$35,016
Diploma	298	90	79	89%	62	17	78%	47	76%	\$37,951
<b>Business</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>\$39,677</b>
Certificate	274	144	132	93%	98	34	74%	86	88%	\$35,631
Diploma	431	205	191	95%	152	39	80%	110	84%	\$40,509
Advanced Diploma	85	46	44	96%	38	6	86%	30	81%	\$44,998
<b>Creative &amp; Digital Media</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>\$40,900</b>
Certificate	61	26	22	88%	17	5	77%	7	70%	-
Diploma	123	56	52	93%	40	12	77%	22	58%	\$38,192
<b>Culinary &amp; Tourism</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>\$31,527</b>
Certificate	79	25	21	84%	15	6	71%	11	79%	-
Diploma	124	52	40	80%	28	12	70%	24	89%	\$29,022
Advanced Diploma	19	11	11	100%	9	2	82%	5	56%	-
<b>Education</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Engineering Technologies</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>\$48,312</b>
Certificate	14	4	4	100%	4	0	100%	1	25%	-
Diploma	330	138	128	96%	112	16	88%	98	88%	\$48,279
<b>Environment, Sustainability and Natural Resources</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>\$49,493</b>
Diploma	49	25	20	80%	17	3	85%	12	80%	\$33,338
Advanced Diploma	31	18	18	100%	17	1	94%	11	65%	-

\* Number of graduates eligible to participate in the survey.

\*\* Average annual salary includes those employed full time in a job related to their field of study. Groups with less than 10 salary respondents show (-).

Continued on next page

# Graduate Survey 2020

## Results in Brief

Employment Outcomes by Cluster and Credential										
Continued	# Grads Eligible*	# of Responses	In Labour Force	% Labour Force**	Number Employed	Seeking Employment	% Employed	# Employed Related	% Employed Related	Average Annual Salary***
<b>Health &amp; Wellness</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>\$40,278</b>
Certificate	252	103	95	94%	90	5	95%	81	95%	\$34,245
Diploma	268	126	124	98%	117	7	94%	115	100%	\$45,104
<b>IT &amp; Data Analytics</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>\$45,035</b>
Diploma	147	64	63	98%	49	14	78%	40	83%	\$43,074
Advanced Diploma	12	7	7	100%	5	2	71%	4	80%	-
<b>Language &amp; Cultural Studies</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-</b>
Certificate	13	8	6	75%	3	3	50%	0	0%	-
Diploma	3	2	2	100%	2	0	100%	0	0%	-
<b>Marine</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>-</b>
Certificate	20	4	4	100%	4	0	100%	3	75%	-
Diploma	13	7	7	100%	7	0	100%	7	100%	-
Advanced Diploma	14	2	2	100%	2	0	100%	2	100%	-
<b>Social &amp; Community Supports</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>\$38,228</b>
Certificate	12	4	3	75%	2	1	67%	2	100%	-
Diploma	282	120	109	92%	95	14	87%	67	91%	\$35,453
Advanced Diploma	21	12	11	100%	9	2	82%	8	100%	-
<b>Surveying, Mapping &amp; Geomatics</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$50,834</b>
Certificate	10	5	5	100%	3	2	60%	3	100%	-
Diploma	19	9	8	100%	6	2	75%	6	100%	-
Advanced Diploma	47	34	32	94%	27	5	84%	27	100%	\$52,278
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>\$33,417</b>
Certificate	201	62	53	87%	41	12	77%	32	80%	\$30,417
Diploma	89	25	23	92%	19	4	83%	17	94%	\$38,325
<b>Overall NSCC</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>1632</b>	<b>1490</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>1219</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>\$41,192</b>

\* Number of graduates eligible to participate in the survey.

\*\* Average annual salary includes those employed full time in a job related to their field of study. Groups with less than 10 salary respondents show (-).