

NSCC 2021 Graduate Survey

nscc

Graduate Survey 2021

Results in Brief

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of the 2021 Graduate Survey, an extensive annual survey of NSCC graduates one year following graduation. Graduates were surveyed by telephone and online by Narrative Research to explore employment and other graduate activities, as well as graduates' satisfaction with their experience at NSCC. This is the twenty-second year that this survey has been commissioned by NSCC and results continue to demonstrate that graduates succeed after graduation.

The 2021 survey was conducted during the period of July 6 to October 18, 2021, and included the graduates of the Class of 2020. To create a snapshot of employment and continued learning experiences of graduates approximately one year after graduation, a reference week of June 20 to June 26, 2021 was used. There were 4,021 graduates in the class of 2020¹ eligible for the survey. The survey yielded participation from 1,563 graduates for an overall response rate of 39%.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Table 1. Summary of Employment and Overall Satisfaction Outcomes

2021 Graduate Survey Results ¹								
Employment Outcomes	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
% of graduates participating in the labour force ²	97%	97%	97%	96%	97%	97%	93%	94%
% of graduates employed ³	86%	88%	87%	87%	88%	90%	82%	83%
% of employed graduates working in a job related to field of studies ⁴	83%	85%	83%	81%	83%	87%	85%	80%
% of employed graduates living and working in Nova Scotia	91%	90%	92%	93%	92%	91%	94%	94%
Average annual earnings of working graduates employed full time in work related to field of study ⁵	\$38,556	\$36,837	\$36,853	\$37,426	\$38,395	\$39,943	\$41,192	\$41,861
% of graduates satisfied with the overall NSCC experience	92%	94%	95%	94%	95%	95%	93%	91%

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

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

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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 2021, this corresponded to an annual salary of \$20,202, which is a minimum wage of \$12.95 at 30 hours per week at 52 weeks. Outliers of \$100,000 or more were examined for salary validity.

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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	2021
Access, Education and Language	81%	68%	75%
Business and Creative Industries	90%	77%	81%
Health and Human Services	93%	92%	92%
Technology and Environment	89%	84%	83%
Trades and Transportation	89%	79%	78%
Overall NSCC	90%	82%	83%

GRADUATE SATISFACTION

Overall graduate satisfaction with the NSCC experience remains very high at 91%. Additionally, the importance of portfolio learning continues to be notable, albeit reduced compared to last year. Results showed that 81% of graduates were satisfied with the portfolio experience at NSCC. The Class of 2020 was the eighteenth graduating class to participate in portfolio education (Table 3).

Table 3. Graduate Satisfaction with NSCC

Graduate Satisfaction with NSCC								
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Overall satisfaction with NSCC experience	92%	94%	95%	94%	95%	95%	93%	91%
Overall satisfaction with Portfolio Learning	83%	86%	87%	86%	86%	88%	88%	81%

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	1,427	490	456	94%	359	97	79%	246	74%	\$34,996
Diploma	2,394	957	893	94%	760	133	85%	581	83%	\$43,061
Advanced Diploma	200	116	114	98%	91	23	80%	76	85%	\$51,728
Overall NSCC	4,021	1,563	1,463	94%	1,210	253	83%	903	80%	\$41,861

* 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.

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Results from the 2021 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 & Human Services continue to have the highest employment rate (92%). This school also has the highest percentage of graduates working in program-related occupations (92%). Graduates from the School of Technology and Environment experienced the highest average annual salary related to their field of study at \$47,445. The difference in average salaries by academic school varies, albeit less so than in 2020. The difference between the highest and lowest average annual salary by school in 2021 was \$14,273 compared to \$19,957 in 2020.

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**
Access, Education and Language	213	75	63	85%	47	16	75%	22	65%	\$33,208
Certificate	145	44	34	77%	22	12	65%	2	20%	-
Diploma	68	31	29	97%	25	4	86%	20	83%	\$32,651
Business and Creative Industries	1,228	523	482	93%	390	92	81%	264	74%	\$37,777
Certificate	424	169	156	93%	124	32	79%	86	74%	\$33,662
Diploma	714	301	274	92%	228	46	83%	151	75%	\$37,944
Advanced Diploma	90	53	52	98%	38	14	73%	27	73%	\$45,338
Health and Human Services	823	330	306	94%	282	24	92%	235	92%	\$43,563
Certificate	189	74	73	100%	68	5	93%	59	94%	\$34,938
Diploma	617	249	226	91%	208	18	92%	170	91%	\$46,472
Advanced Diploma	17	7	7	100%	6	1	86%	6	100%	-
Technology and Environment	671	316	309	98%	255	54	83%	214	86%	\$47,445
Certificate	42	16	14	88%	11	3	79%	6	60%	-
Diploma	544	248	244	99%	201	43	82%	169	86%	\$45,569
Advanced Diploma	85	52	51	98%	43	8	84%	39	93%	\$56,415
Trades and Transportation	1,086	319	303	96%	236	67	78%	168	72%	\$38,905
Certificate	627	187	179	96%	134	45	75%	93	70%	\$35,107
Diploma	451	128	120	95%	98	22	82%	71	73%	\$41,745
Advanced Diploma	8	4	4	100%	4	0	100%	4	100%	-
Overall NSCC	4,021	1,563	1,463	94%	1,210	253	83%	903	80%	\$41,861

* Number of graduates eligible to participate in the survey.

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SUMMARY BY SCHOOL AND CLUSTER

When the survey results are broken down by cluster, differences in employment outcomes are more variable. In 2021, Health and Wellness had the highest employment rate (95%), while the Marine group (100%), followed by Health and Wellness (96%), and Surveying, Mapping and Geomatics (95%) graduates had the highest related employment. Surveying, Mapping and Geomatics grads reported the highest average salary of all the clusters at \$56,061, appreciably higher than the average salary in this field in 2020 (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**
Access, Education and Language	213	75	63	85%	47	16	75%	22	65%	\$33,208
Academic Upgrading and Skills Development	125	36	27	75%	18	9	67%	2	20%	-
Education	66	29	28	97%	24	4	86%	20	87%	\$32,651
Language & Cultural Studies	22	10	8	89%	5	3	63%	0	0%	-
Business and Creative Industries	1,228	523	482	93%	390	92	81%	264	74%	\$37,777
Business	825	365	340	94%	279	61	82%	197	78%	\$38,958
Creative & Digital Media	174	80	70	88%	53	17	76%	24	51%	\$36,183
Culinary & Tourism	229	78	72	95%	58	14	81%	43	75%	\$31,431
Health and Human Services	823	330	306	94%	282	24	92%	235	92%	\$43,563
Health & Wellness	534	208	197	96%	188	9	95%	177	96%	\$45,637
Social & Community Supports	289	122	109	90%	94	15	86%	58	82%	\$36,926
Technology and Environment	671	316	309	98%	255	54	83%	214	86%	\$47,445
Engineering Technologies	274	118	116	98%	99	17	85%	82	85%	\$45,385
Environment, Sustainability and Natural Resources	109	51	49	96%	38	11	78%	27	75%	\$41,142
IT & Data Analytics	205	101	100	99%	79	21	79%	69	90%	\$48,458
Surveying, Mapping & Geomatics	83	46	44	98%	39	5	89%	36	95%	\$56,061
Trades and Transportation	1,086	319	303	96%	236	67	78%	168	72%	\$38,905
Building & Manufacturing	709	200	189	96%	150	39	79%	111	74%	\$38,207
Marine	39	12	11	92%	9	2	82%	9	100%	-
Transportation	338	107	103	96%	77	26	75%	48	63%	\$33,907
Overall NSCC	4,021	1,563	1,463	94%	1,210	253	83%	903	80%	\$41,861

* 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 display (-).

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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**
Academic Upgrading and Skills Development	125	36	27	75%	18	9	67%	2	20%	-
Building & Manufacturing	709	200	189	96%	150	39	79%	111	74%	\$38,207
Certificate	365	104	101	98%	80	21	79%	55	69%	\$37,376
Diploma	344	96	88	94%	70	18	80%	56	81%	\$38,911
Business	825	365	340	94%	279	61	82%	197	78%	\$38,958
Certificate	276	112	104	95%	86	18	83%	64	76%	\$34,804
Diploma	465	204	187	92%	157	30	84%	108	82%	\$38,911
Advanced Diploma	84	49	49	100%	36	13	73%	25	71%	\$46,024
Creative & Digital Media	174	80	70	88%	53	17	76%	24	51%	\$36,183
Certificate	54	23	19	83%	14	5	74%	2	20%	-
Diploma	120	57	51	89%	39	12	76%	22	59%	\$36,183
Culinary & Tourism	229	78	72	95%	58	14	81%	43	75%	\$31,431
Certificate	94	34	33	97%	24	9	73%	20	87%	\$29,222
Diploma	129	40	36	95%	32	4	89%	21	66%	\$33,696
Advanced Diploma	6	4	3	75%	2	1	67%	2	100%	-
Education	66	29	28	97%	24	4	86%	20	87%	\$32,651
Engineering Technologies	274	118	116	98%	99	17	85%	82	85%	\$45,385
Environment, Sustainability and Natural Resources	109	51	49	96%	38	11	78%	27	75%	\$41,142
Certificate	24	8	7	88%	6	1	86%	2	40%	-
Diploma	60	30	30	100%	22	8	73%	16	76%	\$37,483
Advanced Diploma	25	13	12	92%	10	2	83%	9	90%	-

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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**
Health & Wellness	534	208	197	96%	188	9	95%	177	96%	\$45,637
Certificate	180	69	68	100%	64	4	94%	58	97%	\$35,311
Diploma	354	139	129	93%	124	5	96%	119	96%	\$50,106
IT & Data Analytics	205	101	100	99%	79	21	79%	69	90%	\$48,458
Diploma	184	89	88	99%	70	18	80%	61	90%	\$46,810
Advanced Diploma	21	12	12	100%	9	3	75%	8	89%	-
Language & Cultural Studies	22	10	8	89%	5	3	63%	0	0%	-
Certificate	20	8	7	88%	4	3	57%	0	0%	-
Diploma	2	2	1	100%	1	0	100%	0	0%	-
Marine	39	12	11	92%	9	2	82%	9	100%	-
Certificate	21	3	2	67%	1	1	50%	1	100%	-
Diploma	10	5	5	100%	4	1	80%	4	100%	-
Advanced Diploma	8	4	4	100%	4	0	100%	4	100%	-
Social & Community Supports	289	122	109	90%	94	15	86%	58	82%	\$36,926
Certificate	9	5	5	100%	4	1	80%	1	33%	-
Diploma	263	110	97	89%	84	13	87%	51	82%	\$36,731
Advanced Diploma	17	7	7	100%	6	1	86%	6	100%	-
Surveying, Mapping & Geomatics	83	46	44	98%	39	5	89%	36	95%	\$56,061
Certificate	18	8	7	88%	5	2	71%	4	80%	-
Diploma	26	11	10	100%	10	0	100%	10	100%	\$52,800
Advanced Diploma	39	27	27	100%	24	3	89%	22	96%	\$59,431
Transportation	338	107	103	96%	77	26	75%	48	63%	\$33,907
Certificate	241	80	76	95%	53	23	70%	37	71%	\$32,334
Diploma	97	27	27	100%	24	3	89%	11	46%	\$39,213
Overall NSCC	4,021	1563	1463	94%	1210	253	83%	903	80%	\$41,861

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