

September 1, 2020

# Findings from 2011- 12 to 2018-19 Surveys of QCC Certificate and Associate Graduates

This report summarizes the employment and educational status of QCC alumni six months after graduating and who responded to surveys administered by the Central Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. Over the last eight years, a total of 2,017 QCC alumni participated in this survey, spanning between Fall 2011 and Spring 2019.





## Executive Summary

Every year, the Central Office of Institutional Research administers a CUNY-wide survey of recent graduates. This report combines results from surveys of Queensborough students who graduated between Fall 2011 and Spring 2019 and centers on trends in employment and educational status six months after graduating.

Over three-fourths (75.7%) of all respondents were pursuing further education six months after graduating from QCC, with or without being employed simultaneously. A further seventeen percent reported working without pursuing further education, and seven percent reported that they were neither pursuing education nor working.

## Administration of the Survey

All surveys were conducted via mail except for the survey of 2018-2019 graduates, when CUNY transitioned to an online version. The survey of 2011-2012 graduates is based on respondents who graduated in Fall 2011, Spring 2012, and Summer 2012. This reporting scheme was maintained until the survey of 2015-2016 graduates. Starting with the survey of 2016-2017 graduates, students were invited based on whether they graduated in the same academic year (e.g. Summer 2016, Fall 2016, and Summer 2017).

Combined, there were 2,017 respondents to the employment and educational questions discussed in this report, out of 17,141 students who graduated during this time. This resulted in a response rate of 11.76% and a margin of error of 2.05%. Most majors were proportionally represented in the surveys, with the exceptions of Nursing Science (NS), which was slightly over-represented, and Liberal Arts and Science (LA), which was under-represented. Nursing Science majors stood out as having at least three-fourths of graduates both pursuing further education and employment at the six-month mark. The response rate appears to have been decreasing over time, but the move to an online survey for the 2018-2019 graduates resulted in an uptick.

**Table 1: Status Six Months After Graduating from QCC**

<b>Response Rate by Graduation Year</b>			
<b>Graduation Year</b>	<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>Total Graduates in this Year</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>
2011-12	410	1,751	23.4%
2012-13	331	1,968	16.8%
2013-14	175	1,973	8.9%
2014-15	209	2,141	9.8%
2015-16	199	2,268	8.8%
2016-17	209	2,254	9.3%
2017-18	187	2,315	8.1%
2018-19	297	2,471	12.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>17,141</b>	<b>11.8%</b>

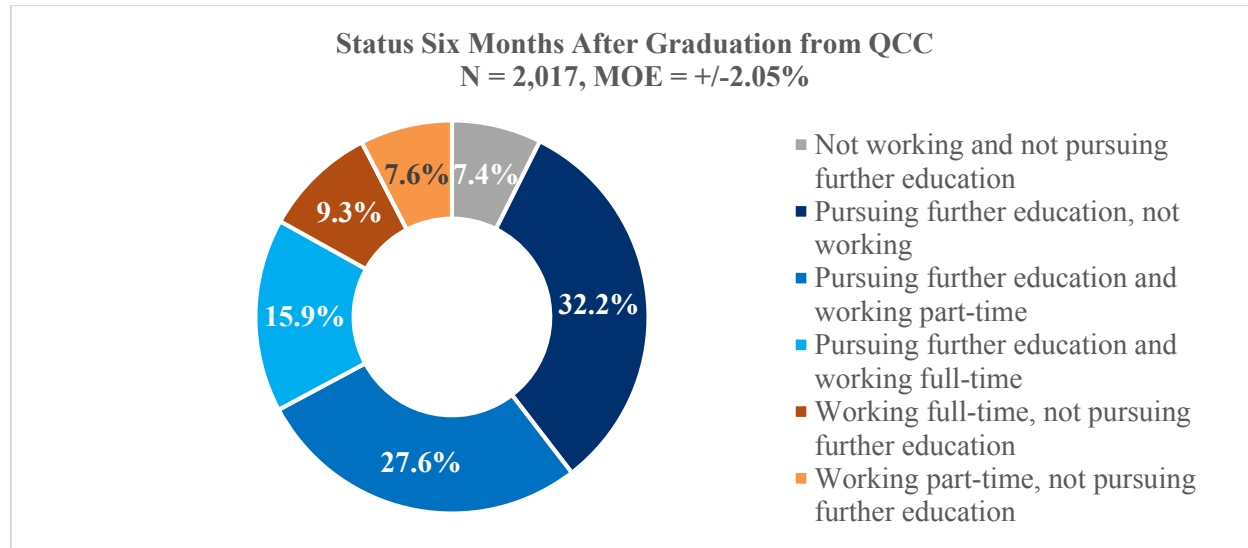
## Summary of Findings

### Employment/Education Status Six Months After Graduating from QCC: Overall

About one-third of the 2,017 respondents (32.2%) reported pursuing further education and not working six months post-graduation. An additional 43.5% reported pursuing education while working either full-time or part-time. Almost seventeen percent (16.9%) of graduates reported working either full- or part-time but not pursuing further education. 7.4% of respondents were neither working nor pursuing further education six months post-graduation. In total, over three-fourths (75.7%) reported that they were pursuing further education, with or without being employed simultaneously. Likewise, 60.4% reported that they were working six months post-graduation, with or without simultaneously pursuing further education.

**Table 2: Status Six Months After Graduating from QCC**

<b>Status Six Months After Graduating From QCC</b>		
<b>Status</b>	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Not working and not pursuing further education	149	7.4%
Pursuing further education, not working	649	32.2%
Pursuing further education and working part-time	557	27.6%
Pursuing further education and working full-time	321	15.9%
Working full-time, not pursuing further education	188	9.3%
Working part-time, not pursuing further education	153	7.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

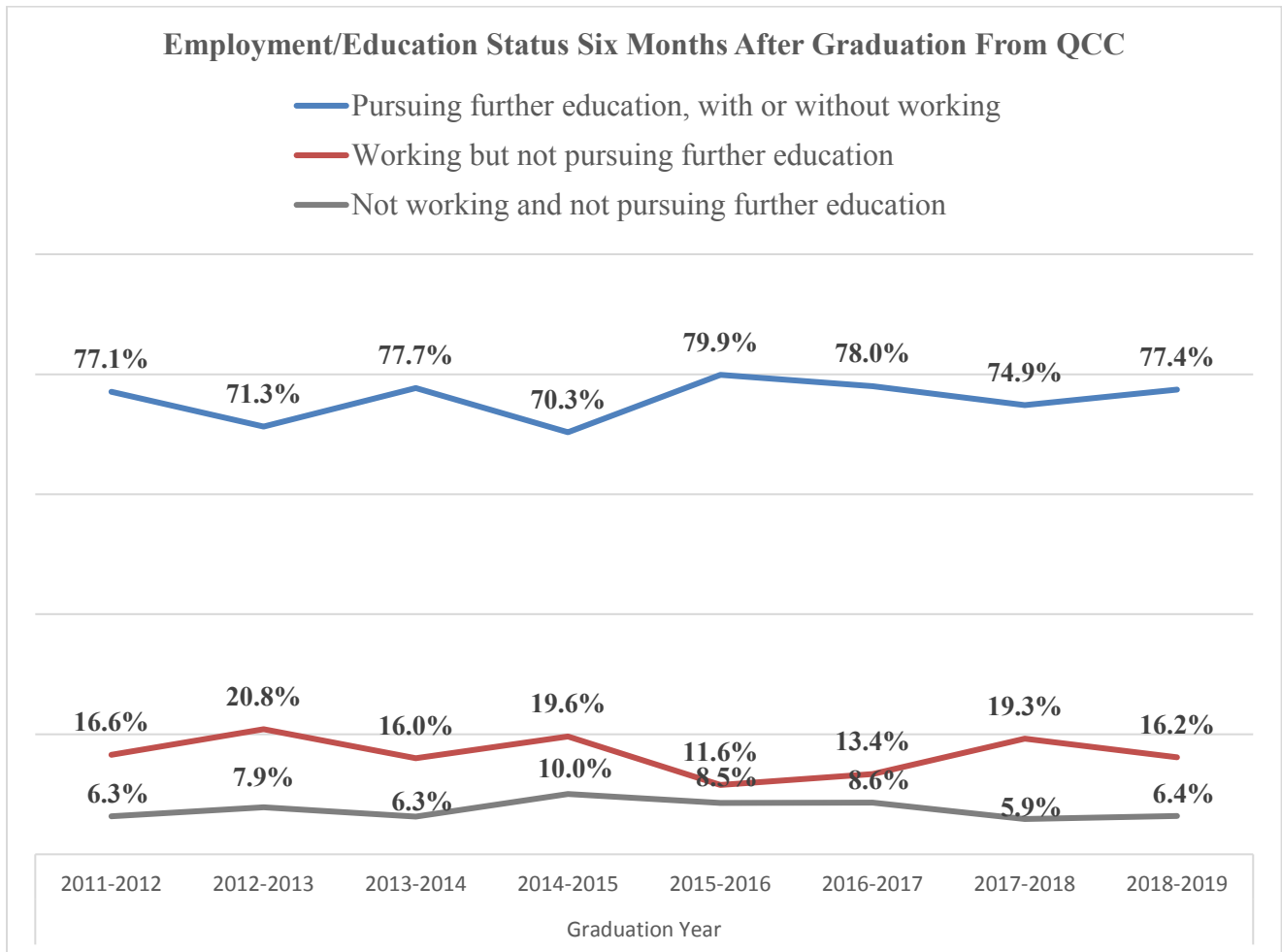
**Graph 1: Status Six Months After Graduating from QCC****Employment/Education Status Six Months After Graduating from QCC: Yearly Trends**

There are no clear downward or upward patterns with regard to education and employment status by graduation year, although fluctuations are common.

**Table 3: Status Six Months After Graduating from QCC: Yearly Trends**

<b>Employment/Education Status Six Months After Graduation From QCC--Percent</b>								
Status	Graduation Year							
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Not working and not pursuing further education	6.3%	7.9%	6.3%	10.0%	8.5%	8.6%	5.9%	6.4%
Pursuing further education, not working	36.8%	33.2%	33.7%	31.1%	27.6%	31.6%	23.5%	33.3%
Pursuing further education and working full-time	15.4%	11.8%	13.1%	13.9%	19.6%	20.1%	19.8%	16.5%
Pursuing further education and working part-time	24.9%	26.3%	30.9%	25.4%	32.7%	26.3%	31.6%	27.6%
Working full-time, not pursuing further education	8.5%	10.3%	6.3%	12.0%	10.1%	7.7%	12.3%	8.1%
Working part-time, not pursuing further education	8.0%	10.6%	9.7%	7.7%	1.5%	5.7%	7.0%	8.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>297</b>

**Graph 2: Status Six Months After Graduating from QCC: Yearly Trends**



## Appendix

### A.1. Representation of Survey Respondents--Gender

Of the 1,994 respondents with a known gender, 66 percent are female, compared with 57 percent of all graduates during this time, indicating that women are over-represented in the survey by almost nine percentage points.

**Table 4: Gender of Survey Respondents**

<b>Gender of Respondents by Graduation Year</b>									
Gender of Respondents	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
Male	134	128	53	64	65	73	66	93	676
Female	265	197	120	144	133	134	121	204	1,318
UNKNOWN	11	6	2	1	1	2			23
Total	410	331	175	209	199	209	187	297	2,017
Total--Male/Female	399	325	173	208	198	207	187	297	1,994
Percent Female-- Respondents	66.4%	60.6%	69.4%	69.2%	67.2%	64.7%	64.7%	68.7%	66.1%
Percent Female--All Graduates in Year	57.7%	56.2%	56.5%	56.5%	57.5%	58.0%	57.6%	58.2%	57.3%
Percentage Point Difference	8.7%	4.4%	12.9%	12.8%	9.7%	6.7%	7.1%	10.5%	8.8%

## A.2. Representation of Survey Respondents--Ethnicity

Of the 1,994 respondents with known ethnicities, Asian/Pacific Islanders and Blacks appear to be proportionally represented compared to all graduates over the same period. However, Hispanics have consistently been under-represented in the survey across all survey years examined. In total, they are under-represented by almost five points compared to all Hispanics who graduated during this time. White graduates have a pattern of being over-represented in the survey, in total by about four percentage points compared to all White graduates during this period.

**Table 5: Ethnicity of Survey Respondents**

Ethnicity of Respondents by Graduation Year									
Ethnicity of Respondents	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
American Indian or Native Alaskan	1	2	1		2	1		6	13
Asian or Pacific Islander	104	93	44	63	43	63	60	79	549
Black	81	59	41	45	53	42	43	88	452
Hispanic	75	65	45	49	48	48	39	68	437
White	138	106	42	51	52	53	45	56	543
UNKNOWN	11	6	2	1	1	2			23
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>2,017</b>
<b>Total--Known Ethnicity</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>1,994</b>
Percent Asian—Respondents	26.1%	28.6%	25.4%	30.3%	21.7%	30.4%	32.1%	26.6%	27.5%
Percent Asian--All Graduates in Year	25.8%	26.1%	27.3%	28.6%	26.1%	29.5%	31.5%	29.5%	28.2%
Percent Point Difference	0.3%	2.5%	-1.9%	1.7%	-4.4%	0.9%	0.6%	-2.9%	-0.7%
Percent Black—Respondents	20.3%	18.2%	23.7%	21.6%	26.8%	20.3%	23.0%	29.6%	22.7%
Percent Black--All Graduates in Year	16.6%	21.2%	21.3%	21.7%	22.4%	20.9%	21.5%	23.5%	21.3%
Percent Point Difference	3.7%	-3.0%	2.4%	-0.1%	4.4%	-0.7%	1.5%	6.2%	1.4%
Percent Hispanic—Respondents	18.8%	20.0%	26.0%	23.6%	24.2%	23.2%	20.9%	22.9%	21.9%
Percent Hispanic--All Graduates in Year	22.7%	24.0%	26.8%	27.4%	26.9%	27.9%	27.3%	28.0%	26.5%
Percent Point Difference	-3.9%	-4.0%	-0.8%	-3.8%	-2.7%	-4.7%	-6.4%	-5.1%	-4.6%
Percent White—Respondents	34.6%	32.6%	24.3%	24.5%	26.3%	25.6%	24.1%	18.9%	27.2%
Percent White--All Graduates in Year	35.0%	28.2%	24.3%	21.7%	24.0%	20.8%	19.1%	18.0%	23.4%
Percentage Point Difference	-0.4%	4.4%	0.0%	2.8%	2.2%	4.8%	5.0%	0.8%	3.8%



### A.3. Representation of Survey Respondents--Major

Of the 2,000 respondents with a known major, most are proportionally represented in the survey. The exceptions are NS (Nursing) students, who are over-represented (by 2.77%), and LA (Liberal Arts) students, who are under-represented (by 4.22%).

**Table 6: Major of Survey Respondents with Known Major**

<b>Majors of Survey Respondents with Known Major</b>				
Major	Count	% of Total	% of 2011-2012 to 2018-2019 Graduates	
			with Major	% Difference
AF	5	0.25%	0.18%	0.07%
AM	4	0.20%	0.13%	0.07%
ARC	1	0.05%	0.18%	-0.13%
ART	11	0.55%	0.51%	0.04%
BA	56	2.80%	2.46%	0.34%
BC	1	0.05%	0.06%	-0.01%
BH	3	0.15%	0.15%	0.00%
BL	2	0.10%	0.08%	0.02%
BM	24	1.20%	1.25%	-0.05%
BS	23	1.15%	0.72%	0.43%
BT	305	15.25%	15.29%	-0.04%
BW	4	0.20%	0.08%	0.12%
BY	3	0.15%	0.29%	-0.14%
CHY	3	0.15%	0.05%	0.10%
CJ	158	7.90%	8.62%	-0.72%
CSS	2	0.10%	0.15%	-0.05%
CT	20	1.00%	1.48%	-0.48%
DA	38	1.90%	2.16%	-0.26%
DAN	1	0.05%	0.07%	-0.02%
DC	1	0.05%	0.01%	0.04%
DD	7	0.35%	0.41%	-0.06%
DP	45	2.25%	1.70%	0.55%
EH	1	0.05%	0.02%	0.03%
EM	15	0.75%	0.85%	-0.10%
EN	1	0.05%	0.02%	0.03%
ET	15	0.75%	0.93%	-0.18%
FA	50	2.50%	2.47%	0.03%
HS	121	6.05%	6.12%	-0.07%
LA	617	30.85%	35.07%	-4.22%
LE	61	3.05%	2.60%	0.45%
LS	88	4.40%	4.68%	-0.28%

<b>Majors of Survey Respondents with Known Major</b>				
Major	Count	% of Total	% of 2011-2012 to 2018-2019 Graduates	
			with Major	% Difference
MA	36	1.80%	1.45%	0.35%
ME	19	0.95%	1.13%	-0.18%
MO	3	0.15%	0.20%	-0.05%
MT	8	0.40%	0.50%	-0.10%
MUS	4	0.20%	0.10%	0.10%
NH	30	1.50%	1.10%	0.40%
NPS	7	0.35%	0.22%	0.13%
NS	115	5.75%	2.98%	2.77%
NY	7	0.35%	0.17%	0.18%
PBH	1	0.05%	0.02%	0.03%
PE	13	0.65%	0.92%	-0.27%
PL	2	0.10%	0.04%	0.06%
PSYC	1	0.05%	0.01%	0.04%
SF	4	0.20%	0.11%	0.09%
TC	4	0.20%	0.14%	0.06%
THE	7	0.35%	0.30%	0.05%
TM	36	1.80%	1.04%	0.76%
TX	17	0.85%	0.66%	0.19%
Total	2,000	100.00%	99.90%	0.10%

#### **A.4. Percent of Survey Respondents Pursuing Further Education by Major**

1,845 respondents had a known major and a determinable educational status. In Table 7 on the next page, majors are highlighted if the total sample size of respondents was greater than 30. Of these majors, most had the majority of graduates pursuing further education. The only exceptions were the Medical Office Assistant (MA) and Massage Therapy (TM) programs, both career degree programs. While also listed as career-track degrees, both Accounting (BA) and Nursing Science (NS) had three-fourths of their graduates indicating that they were pursuing further education.

**Table 7: Percent Pursuing Further Education (with and without Working) by Known Major**

<b>Percent Pursuing Further Education (with and without Working) by Known Major</b>		
Major	Percent Pursuing Education	Total Respondents
AF	100.0%	5
AM	100.0%	4
ARC	100.0%	1
ART	60.0%	10
BA	82.7%	52
BC	0.0%	1
BH	0.0%	3
BL	50.0%	2
BM	54.5%	22
BS	50.0%	20
BT	81.5%	275
BW	0.0%	4
BY	100.0%	3
CJ	80.6%	144
CSS	100.0%	2
CT	77.8%	18
DA	66.7%	33
DAN	100.0%	1
DC	100.0%	1
DD	50.0%	6
DP	72.1%	43
EH	0.0%	1
EM	83.3%	12
ET	66.7%	15
FA	64.4%	45
HS	78.9%	114
LA	77.1%	576
LE	89.7%	58
LS	87.3%	79
MA	47.1%	34
ME	36.8%	19
MO	33.3%	3
MT	50.0%	8
MUS	100.0%	3
NH	100.0%	30
NPS	100.0%	6
NS	75.0%	108
NY	100.0%	7

<b>Percent Pursuing Further Education (with and without Working) by Known Major</b>		
Major	Percent Pursuing Education	Total Respondents
PBH	100.0%	1
PE	100.0%	11
PL	50.0%	2
PSYC	100.0%	1
SF	100.0%	3
TC	33.3%	3
THE	85.7%	7
TM	34.4%	32
TX	5.9%	17
Total	75.6%	1,845

#### **A.5. Percent of Survey Respondents Working by Major**

1,845 respondents had a known major and a determinable educational status. In Table 8 on the next page, majors are highlighted if the total sample size of respondents was greater than 30. Of these majors, most had the majority of graduates working six months after graduation. The only exceptions were the Digital Arts and Design (DA) and Liberal Arts and Science—Math and Science (LS) programs. As expected, the percent of graduates who were working was higher for the career degrees, such as Massage Therapy. Nursing Science (NS) graduates had both high levels of employment and education post-graduation.

**Table 8: Percent Working (with and without Pursuing Further Education) by Known Major**

<b>Percent Working (with and without Pursuing Further Education) by Known Major</b>		
Major	Percent Working	Total Respondents
AF	100.0%	5
AM	50.0%	4
ARC	100.0%	1
ART	70.0%	10
BA	65.4%	52
BC	100.0%	1
BH	66.7%	3
BL	100.0%	2
BM	63.6%	22
BS	80.0%	20
BT	60.4%	275
BW	25.0%	4
BY	66.7%	3
CJ	67.4%	144
CSS	100.0%	2
CT	55.6%	18
DA	48.5%	33
DAN	100.0%	1
DC	100.0%	1
DD	100.0%	6
DP	58.1%	43
EH	100.0%	1
EM	58.3%	12
ET	26.7%	15
FA	57.8%	45
HS	54.4%	114
LA	56.9%	576
LE	60.3%	58
LS	49.4%	79
MA	67.6%	34
ME	57.9%	19
MO	100.0%	3
MT	75.0%	8
MUS	66.7%	3
NH	80.0%	30
NPS	83.3%	6
NS	80.6%	108
NY	57.1%	7

<b>Percent Working (with and without Pursuing Further Education) by Known Major</b>		
Major	Percent Working	Total Respondents
PBH	100.0%	1
PE	36.4%	11
PL	50.0%	2
PSYC	100.0%	1
SF	33.3%	3
TC	100.0%	3
THE	28.6%	7
TM	78.1%	32
TX	100.0%	17
Total	61.4%	1,845