

The University of Tennessee at Martin

Class of 2019 First Destination Survey - Introduction and Methodology

Introduction

Each year, the Office of Career Planning and Development surveys the University of Tennessee at Martin's graduating class to evaluate their post-graduation endeavors. Each graduate is asked what they are primarily doing after graduation by checking one of the options given. Survey respondents may then indicate which of the following options best fits:

- Working
- Volunteering
- Continuing Education
- Military
- Fellowship
- Still Looking
- Not Seeking

In addition to primary post-graduation activity, each respondent is asked to specify the name of employer, graduate, or professional school as well as city and state.

The information collected from the First Destination Survey (FDS) provides valuable insight into the wide variety of opportunities available to the University of Tennessee at Martin graduates.

Methodology

The chief method by which data was collected from members of the Class of 2019 was the individually administered electronic survey distributed through Handshake. Each member of the Class of 2019 was invited to take the survey by email. To increase the survey response rate, additional efforts were made to learn about the post-graduation plans of the Class of 2019.

Six months after graduation, emails were sent to members of the class who had not responded, had an incomplete response or originally responded "still seeking" to the survey. Then, phone calls were made to members of the class who had not responded, had an incomplete response or originally responded "still seeking" to the survey. At that time, an abridged variation of the survey was performed over the phone. The phone calls generated a considerable number of responses. Finally, any remaining class members with no response are searched on LinkedIn and Facebook to identify any self-reporting information.

We obtained post-graduation information on 918 of the 1278 Class of 2019 graduates by using the aforementioned methods. Thus, 71.8 percent of the Class of 2019's post-graduation activities were chronicled. For the purposes of the survey, the Class of 2019 is defined as those who completed undergraduate degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin within the Colleges of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, Business and Global Affairs, Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Humanities and Fine Arts in August 2018, December 2018, and May 2019.