



# Boston College First Destinations: Class of 2023

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## Executive Summary

The annual Boston College Post-Graduation Plans Survey tracks recent graduates' current and future professional and educational plans. The survey addresses topics such as the graduate's primary activity after graduation, the type of work and industry in which the graduate may be employed, the timing of job offers and starting salary information, graduate school enrollments by program, degree, and institution, and the organizations through which recent graduates engage in fellowships or service work.

Working as partners in this data collection effort, the Career Center and Institutional Research & Planning utilized a variety of resources to supplement information gathered via the traditional survey administration process, resulting in a valuable set of data that provides faculty, administrators, and employers with information that helps them better serve Boston College students in their career-planning activities. The survey administration process and data reporting methods both conform to the guidelines put forth by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), the leading resource for information on post-graduation plans, hiring forecasts, job market trends, benchmarks, and employment-related best practices.

### *Survey administration and data collection*

- Through surveys and other sources input was collected for 1,736 of the 2,265 members of the Class of 2023<sup>1</sup>, resulting in a knowledge rate 76.6%.
- The Boston College Post-Graduation Plans survey was administered from April 2023 through December 2023. 984 graduates responded to the survey, for an overall survey response rate of 43.4%.
- Information about another 752 individuals (an additional 33.2%) was retrieved from other sources, including the Boston College Carroll School of Management First Destinations Survey, the National Student Clearinghouse, internal Boston College sources, and public data.
- Data from the Boston College Carroll School of Management First Destinations Survey, the National Student Clearinghouse, Boston College graduate programs, and public sources were also sought for survey participants whose responses were incomplete; any additional information collected in that effort was merged with their survey responses.

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<sup>1</sup>The Class of 2023 includes students who graduated, or were expecting to graduate, in August 2022, December 2022, and May 2023. This definition of the graduating class marks a change from prior First Destination reports, where the class was defined as May graduates plus graduates from the previous December as well as students expecting to graduate in the summer following. As a result of this change, some individuals surveyed with the Class of 2023 were also included in the Class of 2022 survey and data collection

## Highlights

- Of the members of the Class of 2023 with input collected, more than 9 out of 10 (94.4%) are **employed** (including in a post-graduation internship and serving in the U.S. military), **attending graduate school, engaging in service/volunteering, or participating in a fellowship**. About 5.6% indicated they are seeking employment or enrollment in continuing education, or not seeking at this time.
  - Employed full time (on average 30 hours or more per week) 71.7%
  - Employed part time (on average less than 30 hours per week) 1.9%
  - Enrolled in a program of continuing education 16.6%
  - Participating in a post-graduation internship 0.9%
  - Participating in a volunteer or service program 1.8%
  - Participating in a fellowship, scholarship, grant, etc. 0.7%
  - Serving in the U.S. military 0.7%
  - Seeking employment or enrollment in continuing education 5.4%
  - Not seeking employment, education, etc. at this time 0.3%
- Of those employed full-time, the **median salary** reported by members of the Class of 2023 is \$71,000, with the middle 50% of students reporting salaries between \$54,000 and \$89,000.
- A **broad range of industries** is represented by those respondents who are employed (including those whose primary activity is the military or an internship), and includes areas such as financial services, healthcare, consulting and management, technology, communication and media, retail, law and public policy, education, accounting, entertainment, and social services. Industry categories are listed in descending order of frequency. Please see *Appendix A* for more details on which industries are included in each category listed.
  - Financial Services & Accounting 29%
  - Healthcare, Life & Physical Sciences, Environment 22%
  - Consulting, Business Services, & Entrepreneurship 15%
  - Technology & Engineering 10%
  - Government, Law, Public Policy 6%
  - Other 5%
  - Communications, Media, Marketing 4%
  - Education 4%
  - Non Profit & Social Impact 2%
  - Consumer Products & Retail 2%
  - Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Recreation 2%
- Among graduates who shared information about when they received offers of employment, the majority **received job offers by the end of their second semester senior year (84%)**.

- While a majority of 2023 **graduates remain in the Northeast (78%)**, graduates do move to all regions of the United States (36 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico), as well as 24 countries outside of the U.S.: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Lebanon, Panama, South Korea, Spain, The Gambia, The Philippines, Turkiye, The United Kingdom, Vietnam, and Zambia. Note: includes graduates in all primary activities except military (includes employed, continuing education, volunteer, fellowship, and post-graduate internship).
- Among graduates who are employed and who shared information about the resources used in the job search, about **70% used a Boston College Career Center resource to secure their employment** (i.e., on-campus or virtual interviews arranged through the Career Center, Handshake job postings, Career Center website, Career fair at BC, Career Center event or program, or networking through BC).
- Among graduates who are employed and who shared information about the resources used in the job search, the **top job search resources utilized** include:
 

• Networking beyond BC	46%
• Networking through BC	45%
• Other job listings, including online sites and print	43%
• Handshake job posting (non on-campus interviews)	41%
• Previous internship	35%
• Career fair at BC	22%
• Career Center website	21%
• Interviews arranged through the Career Center	15%
• Career Center event or program	8%
- While enrolled at BC, members of the Class of 2023 reported that they participated in a number of **“high impact activities.”** Survey respondents reported participating in the following activities:
 

• Internship(s) – Paid and/or Unpaid <sup>2</sup>	84%
• Student organization leadership role(s)	73%
• Community service/volunteer work (outside of class)	73%
• On-campus job(s) (e.g., work study positions)	67%
• Research project(s) worked on with BC faculty	38%
• Study abroad/Global experience(s)	36%
• Service learning (as part of a course)	29%
• Externship(s)	27%
• Research project(s) worked on outside of BC	18%

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<sup>2</sup> A total of 84% of Class of 2023 graduates reported that they participated in at least one internship (paid and/or unpaid). A total of 68% reported they participated in at least one paid internship, and 47% reported they participated in at least one unpaid internship.

- About 16.6% of Class of 2023 graduates are **enrolled in a program of continuing education** as their primary activity after graduation. Of those, approximately two-thirds (68%) are pursuing Master’s degrees, 17% are pursuing Law degrees, 7% are pursuing Doctorates (which includes: D.D.S., D.M.D., D.N.P, D.P.T., and Ph.D.), 3% pursuing M.D. or D.O. degrees, and about 5% are pursuing a certificate, another degree, or are enrolled in a non-degree program.
- Among students enrolled in a program of continuing education, the top areas of study are: Law (18%), Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) (16%), Business (16%), and Education (14%).

• Law	18%
• Business	16%
• STEM	16%
• Education	14%
• Humanities or Social Sciences	5%
• Policy or Planning	5%
• Health	5%
• Social Work	4%
• Counseling	3%
• Medicine	3%
• Other <sup>3</sup>	3%
• Dentistry	2%
• Nursing	2%
• Fine and Performing Arts	2%
• Communications	1%

Note that students across degree types are categorized into areas of study: for example, for the Class of 2023, “Law” includes those pursuing JD and LLM degrees and “Nursing” includes those pursuing Associates, Master’s, and Doctorate-level degrees.

- Among graduates reporting that they are engaged in volunteering or service, about 38% are serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps or Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest. Class of 2023 graduates are also volunteering with a host of other service organizations, both domestic and international.

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<sup>3</sup> Programs categorized as “other” may include post-baccalaureate programs, sub-baccalaureate programs, and non-degree granting programs.

## Appendix A – Industries by Industry Groups

Industry Group	Individual Industry
Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Recreation	Arts
	Entertainment
	Sports/Recreation
Communications, Media, Marketing	Advertising and Public Relations
	Journalism, Media, and Publishing
	Marketing
	Online/Social Media
Consulting, Business Services, & Entrepreneurship	Consulting
	Entrepreneurship and Startp
	Hospitality/Food Services/Leisure
	Human Resources, Recruiting, and Staffing
	Professional Services
Consumer Products & Retail	Consumer Goods
	Fashion
	Food and Beverage Products
	Retail
Education	Education (Early Childhood)
	Education (Higher Education)
	Education (K-12)
Financial Services & Accounting	Accounting
	Banking/Finance
	Insurance
	Investment Management
	Real Estate
Government Law, Public Policy	Government (Federal)
	Government (State and Local)
	Law and Legal Services
	Law Enforcement, Investigation, and Security
	Military
	Public Policy
Healthcare, Life & Physical Sciences, Environment	Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals
	Environmental Services/Sustainability
	Healthcare and Healthcare Administration
	Medical Equipment and Supplies
	Research (Scientific)
Non Profit & Social Impact	Advocacy
	Foundation/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
	Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institutions
	Religious Organizations
	Social Impact Organizations
	Social Services
Technology & Engineering	Architecture & Planning
	Computer Software
	Cybersecurity
	Engineering Services
	Information Technology and Services
Other	Construction
	Manufacturing
	Other
	Research (Other)
	Transportation and Utilities