

**Class of 1988
Grade 12 Follow-up. Five Years Later . . .
First Technical Report**

A report prepared for the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer

Prepared by:

Lesley Andres*

**Department of Educational Studies
Faculty of Education
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study was to conduct a *second* follow-up survey of the respondents to the 1989 Grade 12 Graduate Follow-up Survey Questionnaire of 1988 British Columbia high school graduates.

In May 1989, a survey of Grade 12 graduates was conducted by the British Columbia Research Corporation and the British Columbia Institute of Technology, under contract with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Job Training. The overall response rate was 53.5%, representing 23% of the entire cohort of 1988 high school graduates. Of the respondents, 74% reported that they had attended a post-secondary institution at some time during the 1988/89 year. Of the participants, 65% indicated that they attended a non-university institution, and 35% reported that they attended a university.

In 1993, a second follow-up survey of the 1989 survey sample was conducted. The purpose of the follow-up study was to collect longitudinal data about 1) those students still in the post-secondary system, 2) those who attended a post-secondary institution but have since graduated or left the system, 3) those who were not, at the time of the first survey, in the system but have since enrolled in a post-secondary program, and 4) those who have never participated in formal post-secondary education.

A mail-out survey questionnaire was sent to the 5,345 respondents to the 1989 study, of which 2077 (39%) responded. When undelivered questionnaires are taken into account, the adjusted response rate to the 1993 survey is 48%. The unadjusted response rate does, however, represent a full 9% of the entire cohort of British Columbia 1988 Grade 12 graduates.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STUDY

Post-secondary Participation

Post-secondary Attendance

Of the 2077 respondents to this questionnaire, 90.9% (n=1889) indicated that they had attended a post-secondary institution at some time since June 1988. Hence, only 9.1% (n=188) of the sample have never attended any type of post-secondary institution since high school graduation.

Of the respondents who occupied post-secondary places in the 1988-1989 year, 87% occupied places in public post-secondary institutions in British Columbia. This proportion remained the same in 1989-90, and declined only slightly in each subsequent year (1990-91, 86%; 1991-92, 86%; 1992-93, 83%).

The second most frequent type of institution attended was an out of province university. In 1988-89, almost 5% of places occupied by respondents to this survey were in out of province universities. Between 1988 and 1993, this number gradually increased, and by 1992-93, almost 10% of the post-secondary places occupied by participants in this study were at out of province universities.

Very few respondents moved out of province to attend community colleges (1.2 to 2.4%, depending on the year), private training institutions within British Columbia (1.2 to 2.0%) or outside the province (0.3 to 0.9%), or other types of post-secondary institution (2.3 to 3.5%).

Respondents indicated over 150 types of programs or fields of study in which they were enrolled.

Credentials Earned

Sixty percent (n=1132) of post-secondary participants in this study indicated that they had graduated from at least one type of post-secondary program. Of the graduates, 19% earned certificates, 25% diplomas, 54% bachelors degrees, 0.2% masters or professional degrees, and 2% earned tickets or other types of license.

Difficulties Experienced While Attending Post-secondary Institutions

Almost 40% of post-secondary participants indicated that they had experienced difficulties registering in courses required for their program. The most frequent problem encountered was that courses were full. Twenty-six percent indicated that they experienced difficulty registering in electives which were not required for their programs, and 12% experienced difficulty enrolling in courses because their grade point averages were not high enough. Under 2% of students claimed that they had experienced difficulty with child care arrangements. However, 22% of students indicated that getting financial aid posed a major problem.

Interinstitutional Transfer

Forty-eight percent of post-secondary participants indicated that, on commencing post-secondary studies, they had intended to transfer. Of those who intended to transfer from one post-secondary institution to another, 65% reported that they **actually did** transfer from one institution to another.

Those who actually did transfer from one institution to another, almost 50% indicated that during the transfer process they had experienced a loss of credit for course work completed and over one third reported that they had experienced difficulties registering for required courses at the transfer institution. Other difficulties included poor counselling and errors during the transfer process.

Thirty percent of post-secondary participants indicated that they had withdrawn, either temporarily or permanently, from a post-secondary institution without completing the program in which they were enrolled. Of those who withdrew from post-secondary institutions, 41% withdrew from a university, 18% from a university-college, 33% from a community college, 8% from a technical or vocational institute and 4% from another type of institution.

Financing Post-secondary Studies

Almost 60% of respondents indicated that they received parental support for their studies, and over two thirds indicated that they financed their studies through earnings from full time work.

Approximately 40% percent of post-secondary participants indicated that they had, at one time or another, received a student loan. Almost 60% of student loan recipients received less than \$10,000, 32% received between \$10,000 and \$20,000 and almost 10% had received over \$20,000.

THE LABOUR MARKET AND EDUCATION

Work

Almost all respondents (99.3%) indicated that, at some point since June 1988, they had been employed in paid work; only 0.7% had not been employed at all since graduating from high school. When asked to specify the number of jobs held since June 1988, almost 35% had held between one and three jobs, 44% held between four and six jobs, and 22% held more than seven jobs.

Unemployment and Underemployment

Forty-five percent of post-secondary non-participants and 53% of post-secondary participants indicated that, since high school graduation, they had been unemployed when they wanted to be employed, 41% of post-secondary non-participants and 47% of post-secondary participants reported that they had been unemployed for more than three consecutive months at least once since 1988, and 36% of post-secondary non-participants and 44% of post-secondary participants had been employed part-time when they wanted to be working full-time.

Individuals who have never participated in post-secondary education were almost twice as likely as post-secondary participants to have received unemployment insurance benefits and social insurance and welfare income. Very few post-secondary participants and non-participants reported receiving child care subsidy benefits.

Government Sponsored Training and Apprenticeship

Twelve percent of the sample indicated that they had participated in at least one provincial job creation or training program and 4% indicated that they had participated in a federal training program. The majority (59%) participated between zero and five months, and only 3% participated longer than twenty months. Only 3% indicated that they had completed an apprenticeship program and 2% indicated that they were currently enrolled, but had not yet completed their program. More than twice as many males as females reported participating in apprenticeship programs.

EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

Respondents were asked to indicate the highest level of education they WANTED and EXPECTED to achieve in their lifetimes. Nineteen of post-secondary participants and 71% of non-participants wanted to earn less than a bachelor's degree. Over 20% of non-participants expected to attain a secondary school diploma as their highest level of education, and only 9% of this group expect to earn a bachelor's degree or greater. Almost 70% of the post-secondary participant group expect to earn a bachelor's degree or higher.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Questionnaire respondents were comprised of 60% females and 40% males. Ninety-eight percent of the sample was born between 1969 and 1971; at the time of the survey their ages ranged from 22 to 24 years of age. Only slightly more than one quarter of the sample is married or living in a marriage-like relationship. Less than 6% of the sample have children. Of those with children, 76% have 1 child.