

JOB

SEARCH

First Destination Report

Class of 2019

Executive Summary

The data gathered through the annual First Destination Survey distributed by the Office of Career Services shows that Saint Francis University's overall employment/graduate school rate for the Class of 2019 remains competitive at 99% employed or attending graduate school within 9 months of graduation (97% employed or attending graduate school within 6 months).

Survey Overview

Total Students in Class of 2019 = 747

Total Survey Respondents = 647

Survey Knowledge/Response Rate = 87%

Methodology: The 2019 survey was distributed by Career Services to 747 undergraduate and graduate students who graduated in December 2018 and May or Summer of 2019. Each graduate received an email with a link to the survey and a paper copy of the survey by regular mail in November 2019. Two months later, in January 2020, non-respondents were contacted again by email and regular mail. Faculty, staff, advisors and academic departments were then contacted to obtain any available post-graduation information for non-respondents. In addition to the mailings and faculty contact, follow-up emails and phone calls were made to non-respondents. Social media tools (LinkedIn, Facebook, and Google) were also used to retrieve graduate information.



The full report is available at francis.edu/first-destination-report and contains data by major. Appendix A of the full report includes a copy of the survey tool.

Questions about this report can be directed to the Office of Career Services at 814-472-3019 or careerservices@francis.edu.

HIGHLIGHTS

99%

are employed or in
graduate school

within 9 months of graduation

\$50,000-\$59,000

Average Starting Salary

reported by Class of 2019

88%

reported
strengthened faith

found SFU instrumental in
developing faith and/or
values for life after college

*"Saint Francis University
taught me the importance of
incorporating my faith into my
everyday life and education,
and using my faith to serve
others."*



84%

believe experiential education matters

internships, field work, clinical rotations, student
teaching or other experiential opportunities were
instrumental in obtaining full-time employment

*"Within 6 months of graduation, I was offered three
jobs in my career. I got married, we purchased a
house together, and I made my first student loan
payment! Saint Francis provided me with the best
education I could have gotten and I have gotten to
apply it every day in the field that I love.
Go SFU! "*

Miranda (May) Smith, OT major

97%

align with their field of study

graduates employed or attending graduate
school or further education, are in a field
related to their program of study



Secured Employment/ Entered Graduate School

within 6 months = 97%

within 9 months = 99%

Placement Status (647 respondents)

Employed	466
Full-time, (414)	
Part-time (6)	
FT/PT status unknown (10)	
Employed and attending grad school (36)	
Graduate School	173
Volunteer or service program	4
Still seeking employment	2
Not seeking due to personal reasons	2

Salary Ranges (139 respondents)

\$0 - \$19,000	8
\$19,000 - \$24,999	5
\$25,000 - \$29,999	13
\$30,000 - \$39,999	18
\$40,000 - \$49,000	17
\$50,000 - \$59,000	27
\$60,000 - \$69,999	21
\$70,000 - \$79,000	10
\$80,000 - \$89,000	4
\$90,000 - \$99,000	9
Over \$100,000	7

Sampling of Jobs Obtained

Clinical Exercise Director
 Conservation Education Specialist
 Elementary Special Education Teacher
 Emergency Preparedness Officer
 Emotional Support Teacher
 Engineer
 Engineering Project Manager
 Environmental Engineer
 Family Counselor
 Field Technician
 Financial Accounting Advisor
 Financial Analyst
 IT Technician
 Librarian
 Mental Health Department Assistant
 Music Teacher
 Occupational Therapist
 Physician Assistant
 Quality Assurance/ISO 900 Manager
 Senior Laboratory Technician
 Social Worker
 Software Engineer
 Sports Coach
 Registered Nurse
 Revenue Tax Auditor

"Using the values taught at SFU have helped me achieve my goals and work responsibly. My experience of working hard during my time at college allowed me to work through difficult situations and meet deadlines at work. Also, being able to respect others despite differences allowed me to have a pleasant time with my co-workers. Being able to learn along the way is another quality I have used to achieve my goals."

Lance Skutch, accounting/finance major

Sampling of Employers

AmeriServ
Aspirant
Bank of America
CenClear Child Services, Inc
Chan Soon-Shiong Institute of Molecular Medicine
Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Cleveland Clinic
Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children
Ernst & Young
Johns Hopkins Hospital
JP Morgan Chase & Co
Maple Tree Cancer Alliance
Mars Wrigley through APEX Systems
Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc.
Naval Nuclear Laboratory
PennDOT
Philips
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
Raytheon
University of Maryland Medical Center
UPMC
U.S. Army
U.S. Department of the Treasury

" I'd like to thank SFU for my job search success. I had three internships with the help of Career Services. I was also able to participate in resume building sessions to prepare me for graduation. After I graduated, I landed a full time job with a large global company where I make a difference every day. With the help of the staff in Career Services, and my former professors teaching me the vital skills I needed, I was able to get my job and easily got into my graduate program. "

Samantha Knepper, business major

"After graduating in May 2019, I began my career as a registered nurse in July. The last 5 months of employment have been challenging but overall rewarding. Hearing patients express their gratefulness of my care and employers recognizing me for being a team player are surely some of my highlights. UPMC Altoona patients have the option to donate to a fund in honor of someone who stood out to them during their hospital stay and I have received two so far. If not for my SFU values and background I wouldn't be here today! "

Kathryn Nazaruk, nursing major

60%

States

where the most members of the Class of 2019 are employed or attending graduate school (463 respondents)

Pennsylvania	276
Florida	26
Colorado	21
Maryland	18
California	17
North Carolina	11
Ohio	11
Virginia	9
Outside of the US	6

Sampling of Graduate Schools

California University of PA
Canisius University
Chatham University
Columbus College of Art & Design
Chatham University
Gannon University
George Mason University
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Loyola University Maryland
Marymount University
Misericordia University
Mount Saint Mary's University
Ohio State University
Penn State Dickinson Law
Penn State University
Purdue University
Saint Francis University
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of Texas
West Virginia University School of Osteopathic Medicine
Wilmington University
Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

Data by School

Shields School of Business

	Employed	Graduate School Only	Employed & Attending	Seeking Employment	Other
Undergrad	61%	39%	13%	0%	<1%
Grad	98%	1%	2%	1%	0%
Total	79%	20%	8%	<1%	<1%

School of Health Sciences and Education

	Employed	Graduate School Only	Employed & Attending	Seeking Employment	Other
Undergrad	47%	52%	<1%	0%	<1%
Grad	98%	1%	<1%	<1%	0%
Total	73%	26%	<1%	<1%	0%

School of STEAM

	Employed	Graduate School Only	Employed & Attending	Seeking Employment	Other
Undergrad	59%	33%	9%	0%	8%

Francis Worldwide

	Employed	Pursuing Next Degree	Employed & Attending School	Seeking Employment	Other
Bachelor	95%	5%	15%	0%	0%
Associate	60%	20%	20%	0%	20%
Total	78%	12%	18%	0%	10%

Historical Overview (5 Years)

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Number of Graduates	747	698	766	764	761
Response Rate	647 (87%)	597 (86%)	656 (86%)	642 (84%)	638 (84%)
Total Employed	466 (72%)	439 (74%)	492 (75%)	461 (72%)	490 (77%)
Employed Full-time	414 (89%)	394 (90%)	420 (86%)	349 (76%)	426(87%)
Employed Part-time	6(1%)	14 (3%)	25 (5%)	8 (2%)	10 (2%)
Employed - FT/PT status unknown	10 (2%)	11 (2%)	46 (9%)	104 (22%)	54 (11%)
Attending Graduate School Only	173 (27%)	152 (25%)	155 (24%)	145 (23%)	138 (22%)
Seeking Employment	2 (<1%)	11 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	5 (0.8%)
Other	2 (<1%)	3 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	4 (<1%)
Not Seeking -Personal Reasons Volunteering or Service	4 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)



Winding Path to a First Destination

Jenna Ponticello, '19

Every Saint Francis student follows a different path to becoming the person that they are meant to be. For Jenna Ponticello, the path has been more winding than for most of her peers, but her remarkable resilience is taking her where she wants to go.

During her junior year, she was diagnosed with brain cancer. Two brain surgeries, 34 radiation treatments, and 12 rounds of chemotherapy later she finished her degree just a little later than planned thanks to her resilience and the dedication of her faculty in the Shields School of Business.

In early March, following her year of chemotherapy, Jenna began her first full-time job post-graduation. Jenna was thrilled to become a Health Unit Coordinator on the Oncology floor of UPMC Shadyside, the very hospital that had been treating her over the last three years. Yet her own fight with cancer is not over. Her first Monday on the job, she finished her new employee orientation and some job shadowing with her new supervisor, but by Wednesday, a routine follow up found that the cancer had come back again for a third time. With COVID-19 cases surging worldwide her oncologist placed her on medical leave on March 10 to await surgery. She happily reports that the surgery went well, and she is looking forward to getting the go-ahead to resume work in July and finish her first full work week.