

## EMPLOYMENT OF RECENT GRADUATES

### KEY POINTS IN THIS SECTION

- Of Minnesota's postsecondary graduating class of 2014, 76 percent were employed in Minnesota two years after graduation.
- The level of award earned showed the greatest effect on wages earned by graduates.



**Individuals with education beyond high school earn more, on average, with each increased level of education.**

Increasing tuition costs and debt levels of graduates have led to questioning the value of college. Yet, an increasing number of occupations require training beyond high school even though not all jobs requiring a postsecondary credential pay equally.

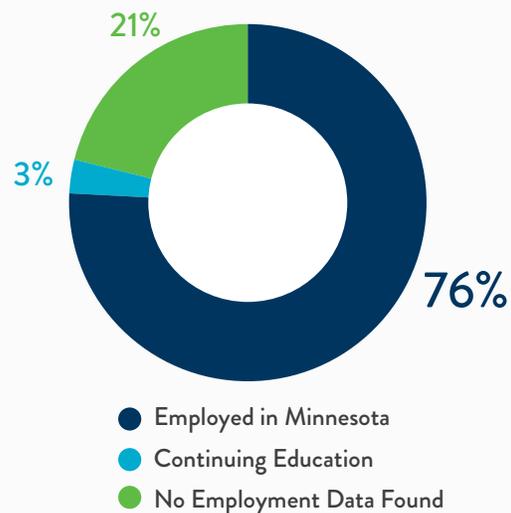


**Graduates are also more likely to be employed.**

Employers tend to favor job applicants who have attended college even though the jobs may not require college level skills; known as underemployment. "Between 2000 and 2012, the job market was so challenging for recent graduates that growing numbers were forced to

take jobs that didn't require bachelor's degrees, including low-wage and part-time jobs, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported in 2014. By 2012, about 44 percent were underemployed."<sup>1</sup>

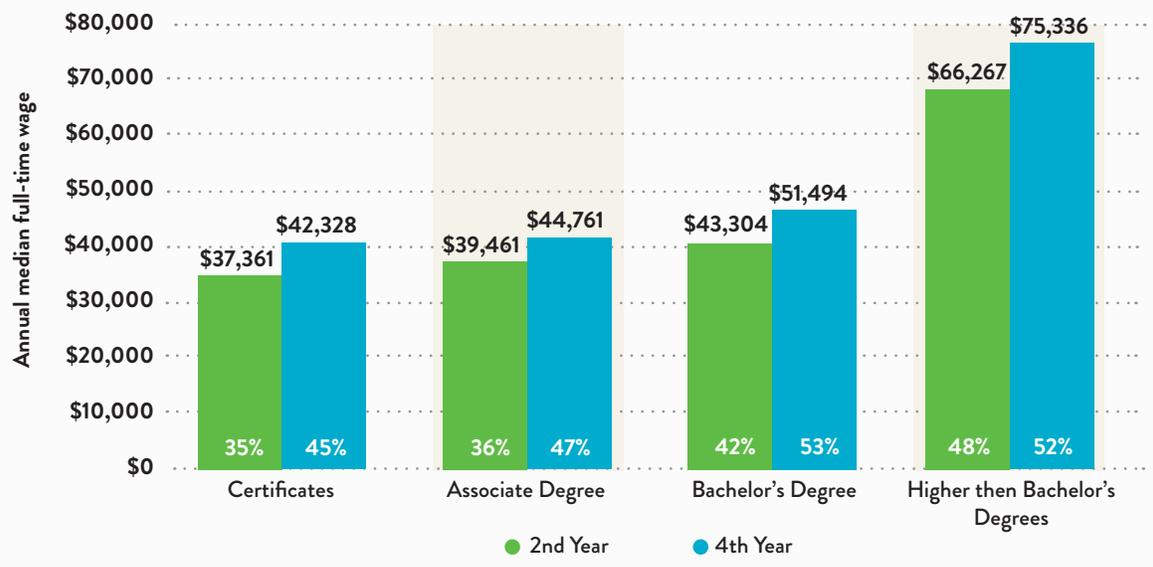
**76% Class of 2014 Graduates were Employed in Minnesota Second Year After Graduation**



SOURCE: Minnesota Office of Higher Education and Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

<sup>1</sup>New York Times, June 8, 2014. "Degree? Check. Enthusiasm? Check. Job? Not So Fast: Brooklyn College Graduates Step In to Depressing Job Market." [www.nytimes.com/2014/06/09/nyregion/brooklyn-college-graduates-step-in-to-depressing-job-market.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/09/nyregion/brooklyn-college-graduates-step-in-to-depressing-job-market.html?_r=0)

Annual Median Wage of Minnesota College Graduates Increases with each Level of Education Class of 2012 graduates employed full-time, year-round in Minnesota during 2nd and 4th year after graduation



SOURCE: Minnesota Office of Higher Education and Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Note: Percent of 78,852 graduates working full-time, year-round after graduation shown at the bottom of each bar.



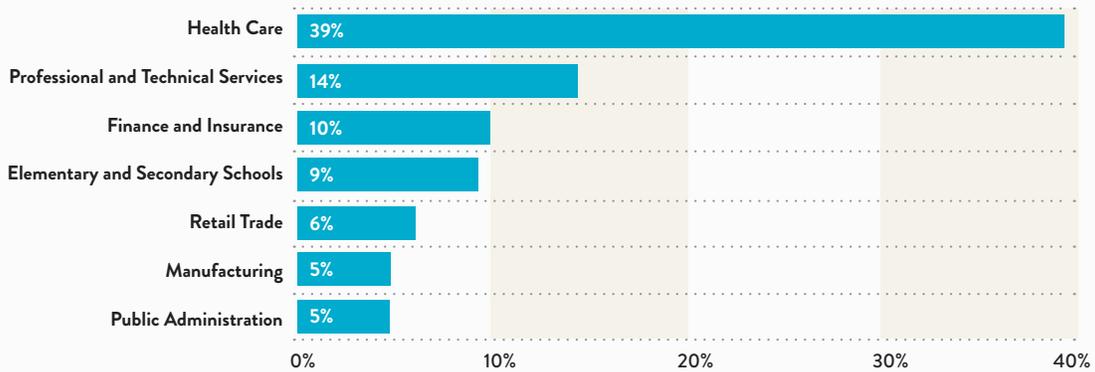
**Graduates working full time after graduation earned more at each additional level of education.**



**TRACKING OF RECENT GRADUATES WORKING IN MINNESOTA SHOWS:**

- Annual median wage was \$44,922 for all employed graduates working full-time, year round statewide during the second year after graduation. Wages increased to \$51,309 in the fourth year.
- Annual median wages were higher for graduates working in the Twin Cities than those working in Greater Minnesota.

**88% of Graduates are Employed in Top 7 Industries**  
 Class of 2013 graduates employed 3rd year after graduation



Source: Minnesota Office of Higher Education and Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development



**DATA SUGGESTS**

The health care industry sector employed 39 percent of class of 2013 graduates after 3rd year.

The largest number, or 28 percent, of certificates and degrees are awarded in health science fields and not surprisingly, the largest number of graduates work in health care. The health care industry is unique in a couple of ways compared to others within the state. Even though many health care occupations require postsecondary education and training for employment the skill level and wages are quite polarized. There are many minimum-wage jobs, such as home health aides, but also some of the highest-wage and skilled jobs for nurses and physicians. As a whole, it is an industry with good occupational job growth projections as a result.



**ABOUT THE GRADUATE  
 EMPLOYMENT OUTCOME TOOL**

The Graduate Employment Outcome Tool<sup>2</sup> provides data to view and compare employment outcomes of Minnesota postsecondary graduates working in Minnesota receiving differing levels of education and programs of study. The tool provides data on the employment and wages of past graduating classes from Minnesota postsecondary institutions who now work in the state.

Employment data are not available by occupation of the employee but only by one of the 22 industry sectors of the employer. As a result, it is difficult to accurately attribute whether a graduate's employment is directly related to their field of study.

<sup>2</sup><http://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/graduate-employment-outcomes>