



## Five-Year Out Alumni Survey: The Class of 2006

### *Data on Career Outcomes and Further Study, Civic Engagement, and Alumni Connections*

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

##### **Overview:**

In the spring of 2012, 839 alumni who had earned an undergraduate degree from UMass Dartmouth (UMD) during the 2005-2006 academic year (AY) were invited to participate in the Five-Year Out Alumni Survey<sup>1</sup>. This survey of “the Class of 2006” collected information from alumni on career and graduate/professional school outcomes, alumni engagement, and civic engagement. A total of 146 alumni responded to the survey for an overall response rate of 17.4%. The full report includes basic descriptive information about the alumni survey participants and provides an overview of alumni responses to the four specific survey areas: overall satisfaction with the UMD experience, career and graduate/professional school outcomes, civic engagement since graduation, and interest in alumni connections. Findings from open comments are also included.

##### **Key Findings**

- *Overall Satisfaction with the UMass Dartmouth Experience*
  - The vast majority of Class of 2006 alumni (86.6%) were either satisfied or very satisfied with their undergraduate experience at UMD.
- *Career and Graduate/Professional School Outcomes*
  - Reportedly, 86.1% of all Class of 2006 survey respondents were employed full-time; the full-time employment rate for just those employed or seeking employment was 87.3%.
  - Class of 2006 respondents who were employed mainly held positions in one of the following three occupational categories: Management, Business, and Financial Operations Occupations (21.9%); Education, Training, and Library Occupations (21.2%); and Healthcare Practitioners, Support, and Technical Occupations (18.2%).
  - The average annual gross salary for those Class of 2006 alumni employed full-time who reported their exact salary was \$61,007.
  - Among Class of 2006 respondents who were employed, 78.8% indicated that they strongly agreed or agreed that their work fits with their desired career path. Additionally, 74.5% strongly agreed or agreed that UMD prepared them to be successful in the work force.
  - In open comments, alumni indicated the need for more career/job placement assistance both prior to graduation and following graduation.
  - Only a quarter (25.2%) of Class of 2006 respondents had neither engaged in further study since graduation from UMD nor planned to do so at some point.

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<sup>1</sup> Class of 2006 alumni with valid postal mail addresses were invited to participate in the survey. The survey is scheduled to be administered every three years. The next administration is planned for AY 2014-2015 with the Class of 2009.

- The three most commonly reported degree fields for Class of 2006 alumni involved in further study after graduation were Business, Management, Marketing (27.5%); Education (24.6%); and Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences (14.5%).
- The majority of Class of 2006 survey respondents who had attended or were currently attending graduate/professional school (87.0%) strongly agreed or agreed that UMD prepared them to be successful in further studies after graduation.
- UMass Dartmouth was most often named as the institution where Class of 2006 survey respondents had pursued or were pursuing further study.
- *Civic Engagement Since Graduation*
  - The three types of civic engagement activities that alumni most often participated in were professional/career organizations, civic/community organizations, and recreational organizations (e.g., sports club).
- *Interest in Alumni Connections*
  - When asked to indicate their level of interest in certain alumni activities, Class of 2006 alumni were most interested in “Networking Events;” nearly a quarter of them (23.9%) indicated that they were extremely interested or very interested in this type of activity.
  - Class of 2006 survey respondents interested in attending alumni events largely preferred that alumni events be held during weekend days (42.3%) or nights (32.0%).
  - When asked to indicate their preferred way of receiving information from Alumni Relations, the majority of Class of 2006 alumni (59.2%) preferred that Alumni Relations communicate with them via email, but about a third of them (34.5%) preferred to receive information via postal mail instead.
  - In open comments, alumni shared ideas for making connections with one another, such as major-specific events and regional events.

Note: The full report is available via the Internal Reports link found on the Institutional Research and Assessment website located at <http://www.umassd.edu/oir/>