



MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – Most university graduates pursue post-secondary studies beyond their first degree

June 23, 2020

Fredericton (NB) - A study released today by the Maritime Province Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) reveals that 65% of the Class of 2012 Maritime university graduates pursued another postsecondary program within six years of completing a first degree.

The most popular programs pursued are graduate degrees: 44% of graduates pursued a master's degree or PhD. Another 17% enrolled in a second bachelor's degree, including 7% who enrolled in a Bachelor of Education, 16% enrolled in a college program or apprenticeship, and 7% enrolled in a professional degree such as medicine or law.

"Pursuing another credential after a first degree is a common pathway for Maritime university graduates", said Commission CEO Catherine Stewart. "Many students intend to pursue a graduate or professional degree before they even start university." The Commission conducted a survey of grade 12 Maritime high school students in 2014 and found that 65% of university-bound students intended to complete a credential above a bachelor's degree.

The main reasons to pursue further education were career-related: 29% said it was part of their chosen career path and 29% said it was for career advancement or a promotion. Twelve percent of graduates who pursued further studies did so to learn more about a subject.

Graduates in the labour force reported that the education they pursued after their first degree was necessary for their current job (75%), was related to their current job to at least some extent (90%), and they used skills learned at least to some extent (93%).

"What is interesting is the extent to which graduates said their programs were related to their job. More than 60% of graduates chose 'to a great extent' when asked how much the programs they pursued after their first degree were related to their current job" added Ms. Stewart.

The Class of 2012 Six Years On: Pursuing Education After a First Degree report provides statistics on programs pursued after a first degree. Additional statistical tables with provincial breakdowns can be found on the Commission's website at: www.mphec.ca

The total sample of 2,630 respondents represents 25% of the total Class of 2012 bachelor's graduate population of the 14 universities in the Maritime provinces that offer undergraduate degrees. The report focuses on 1,901 first degree holders and results have a margin of error of $\pm 2.2\%$, 19 times out of 20. All statistics presented have been generated from weighted data; data were weighted on the basis of the university of graduation and gender.



MPHEC
Maritime Provinces
Higher Education
Commission

CESPM
Commission de
l'enseignement supérieur
des Provinces maritimes

The MPHEC was established in 1974. The MPHEC is an arm's length organization accountable to the ministers responsible for postsecondary education in the Maritimes. The Commission comprises 20 members representing universities, the public-at-large (including students), and the three Maritime provincial governments. The Commission's mandate is to give first consideration to improving and maintaining the best possible service to students as lifelong learners.

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