

MS UPL Alumni Survey Report 2020

1.1. Welcome to the 2020 Hunter College Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (MS UPL) Alumni Survey for Program Evaluation and Accreditation. The MS UPL program is now in its 5th year, and as a result, we felt the time was ripe to seek public service accreditation. The National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) is the official accreditation body for all schools of public affairs, public management, and public administration in the United States. As a part of this process, we need to build a better understanding of your professional experiences since graduating. The survey is designed to help us to:

- Better understand and track the career paths of our graduates.
- Explore the degree to which program objectives and goals (program objectives) are responsive to the changing demands experienced by public service leaders and managers.
- Ensure our curriculum (learning objectives) are responsive to the changing demands experienced by public service leaders and managers.
- Inform program planning and development in the future.
- Provide ongoing support for our graduates.

Please be assured that your responses will be kept completely confidential. The data from this survey will be used purely for program evaluation. Survey results will not be reported in any form that would identify you as an individual. There are no incentives for your participation in this survey. The study should take you around 15 minutes to complete. You have the right to withdraw at any time and for any reason, and without any prejudice. If you have any questions, please e-mail jill.gross@hunter.cuny.edu.

By clicking the button below, you acknowledge that you have read the above information, your participation in the study is voluntary, and that you are aware that you may choose to terminate your participation in the study at any time and for any reason, and without any prejudice.

I consent to be a participant in this study

Building an understanding of the relationship between academic and career goals.

2.1. During the year prior to your entry into the MSUPL Program, what was your employment status?

- Employed full time
- Employed full time, but seeking a new position
- Employed part time
- Employed part time, but seeking a new position
- Student
- Independently employed as a consultant
- Full time care giver
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Other

2.21. What sector are you currently employed in?

- Non-profits
- Public Sector
- Private Sector
- Public/Private Partnership

2.22. If you are employed in the public sector, please specify at what governmental scale?

- City, County, or other local government outside the U.S.
- City, County, or other local government in the U.S.
- State, provincial or regional government in the U.S.
- State, provincial or regional government outside the U.S.
- National or central government in the U.S.
- National or central government outside the U.S.
- International Organization

2.24. What area(s) does your current work focus on? (please check all that apply)


- Advocacy/Lobbying/Organizing
- Arts and Culture
- Community or Economic Development
- Communications/Information
- Education
- Environment
- Finance or Budgeting
- Health
- Housing
- Human Rights
- Human Services/Social Services
- Infrastructure, Transportation, Energy

3.2. Please indicate the degree of importance of each of the the following skills in relationship to your current job responsibilities?

	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important
Program Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Program Implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Program Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Qualitative Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quantitative Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Faculty Meeting 11/11/20
Prof. Jill Simone Gross

Table of Contents



Survey Instrument & Distribution	Page 3
Alumni: Demographics	Page 4
Alumni Data: Year Admitted & Employment Status When Admitted	Page 5
MS UPL Alumni Concentrations – Entering students and graduates	Page 6
Alumni Employment Data	Pages 7-8
Value of an MS UPL Degree	Pages 9-10

Survey Instrument & Distribution

Survey Design:

Three core themes explored:

1. Alumni Career Paths
2. The degree to which the program goals and course learning objectives are being met
3. The relationship between curricular goals and professional needs of alumni

Survey Instrument: 35 Questions (closed and open ended)

Distribution: The survey was sent through Qualtrics – March-May 2020

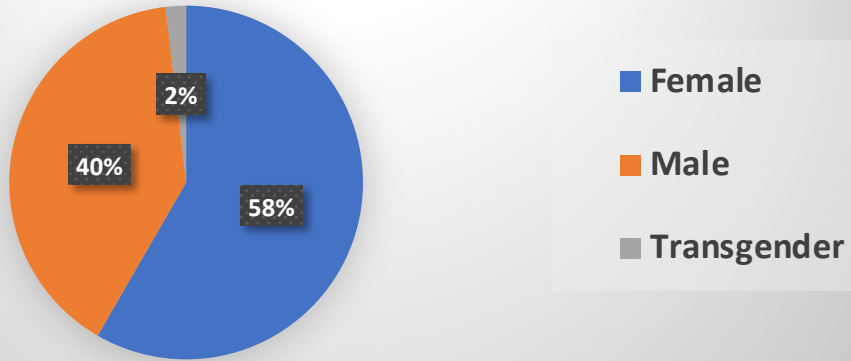
All students who had graduated from the MSUPL program as of Spring 2020 were emailed
72 students were emailed, 55 responded.

76% response rate

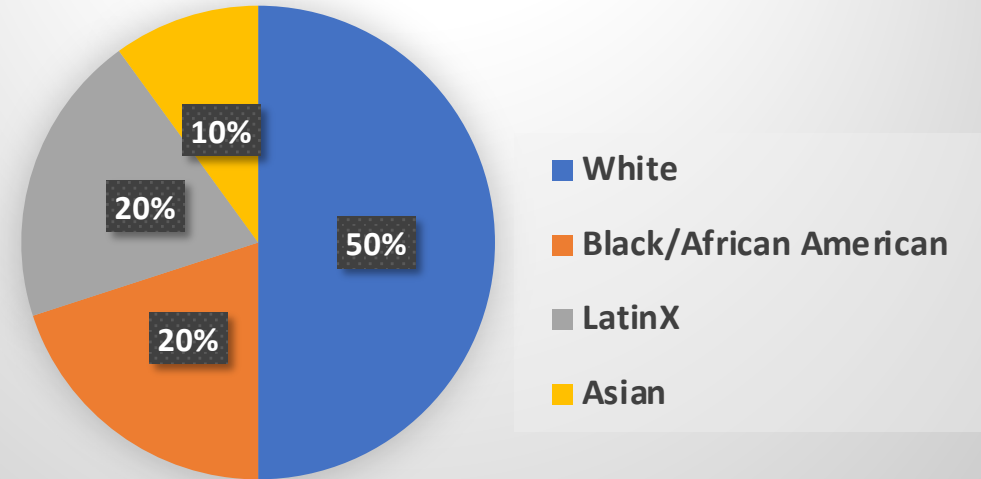
95% completion rate

Alumni Demographics

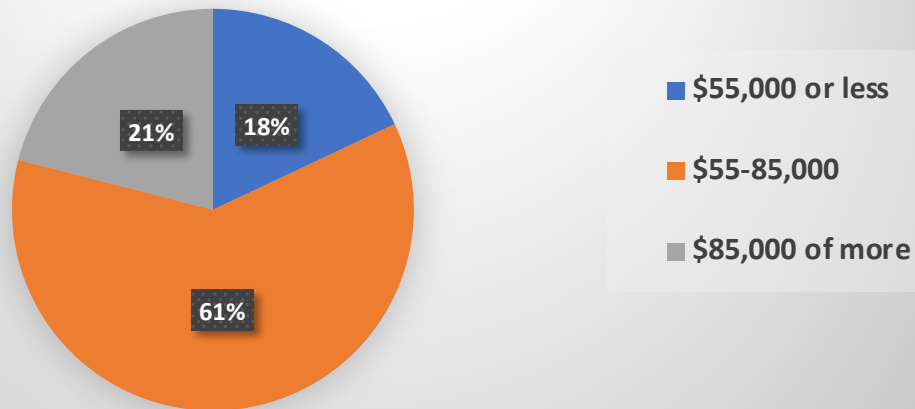
Gender



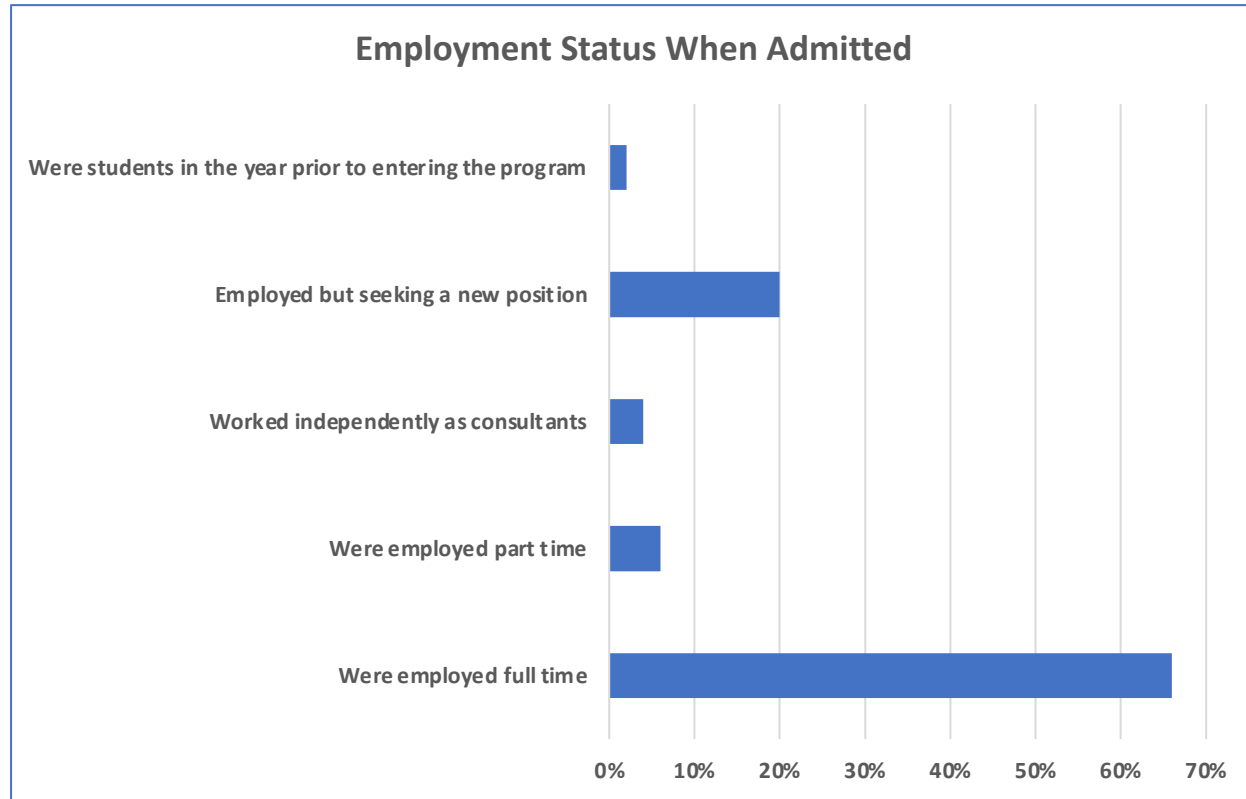
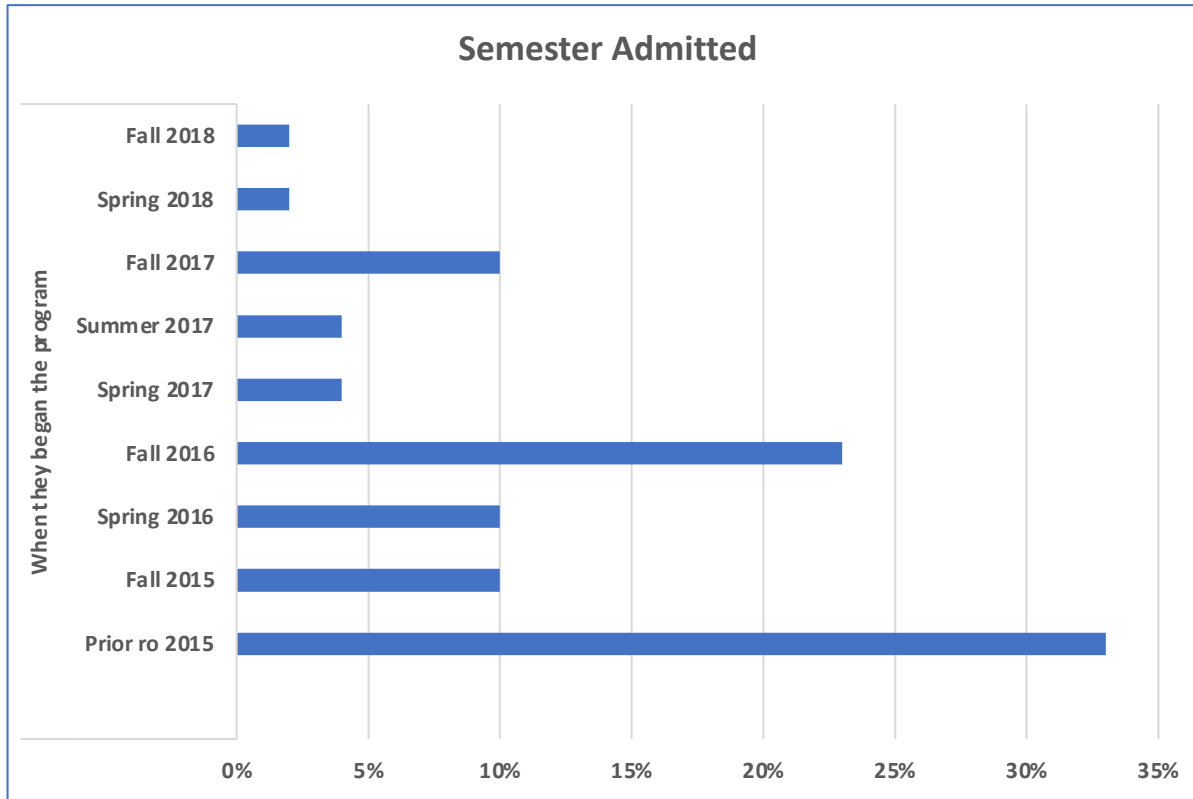
Race/Ethnicity



Current Salary



Alumni Data



63% were seeking a career change
37% were already employed in their desired field.

MS UPL Alumni Concentrations

Urban Policy (51% of entering students/59% of graduates)

Created **Specialized Concentration** (27% entering students/23% of graduates)

Criminal Justice x2

City planning & architecture

Economic Development x2

Education Policy x 4

Urban resiliency policy and planning

Transportation

Youth Policy

International Development

Neighborhood Development (8% of entering students/12% of graduates)

Non-profits (6% of entering students/ 6% of graduates)

Undecided (8% of entering students)

Employment Data

75% of graduates reported that they **were employed** upon completion of the MS UPL Degree

25% of graduates were **not employed** when they completed the program

Of this group, it took anywhere from **1-10 months to locate employment.**

The following factors were very important/important for finding employment:

- **Professional networks (77%)**
- **Weekly News Letter (58%)**
- **Faculty mentors (54%)**
- **Internships and volunteering (46%)**
- **MSUPL Alumni (38%)**
- **GUPA Graduate Urban Policy and Planning Association at Hunter (38%)**
- **Workshop client (31%)**
- **Departmental email (31%)**

Where are alumni working?

We asked alumni to tell us a bit about their current employment:

- **10% work in education**
- **9% public policy**
- **8% communication/information**
- **7% in housing**
- **7% in community or economic development**
- **7% urban planning**
- **6% advocacy/lobbying/organizing**
- **5% youth development**
- **4% in Human services**
- **4% transportation**
- **3% human rights**
- **3% arts and culture**
- **3% in environment**
- **11% other (Community engagement, resilience, technology, 'government, sustainability, real estate & construction, evaluation, capacity building, behavioral analysis, geography)**

Reported Benefits of the MS UPL Degree

We asked alumni about their professional experiences since graduating:

- **61%** indicated that they had **used the MS UPL degree to change their career path.**
- **36%** indicated that they had used their degrees for the purposes of **promotion,**
- **6%** indicated that they had used their degrees to find **new jobs in the same career path.**

What did alumni value about the MS UPL Degree?

We asked alumni about the value of their degree in a variety of areas. The following are those areas where they felt their **degree had either been very important or important:**

- **Understanding the principles of urban governance 55%/13%**
- **Getting a new job 51%/29%**
- **Assessing community needs and assets 50%/25%**
- **Participating in the policy process 44%/13%**
- **Taking on a leadership role 42%/24%**
- **Working with diverse populations 40%/23%**
- **Moving up the career ladder 39%/37%**
- **Improving my salary 39%/22%**
- **Working in community 38%/18%**
- **Communication 34%/20%**
- **Networking 33%/23%**
- **Management 33%/18%**
- **Promoting civic engagement 28%/23%**
- **Keeping my job 18%/23%**
- **Team building 18%/23%**