



## **Graduate Follow-Up Survey 2010-2012 Results**

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Prepared by

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# Graduate Follow-Up Survey

## 2010-2012 Results

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### Overview

Each spring, the College of the Mainland (COM) conducts a follow-up survey of its graduates from the previous academic year. This study includes three years of data: students who graduated during academic years 2009, 2010, and 2011. The survey focuses on graduates' experiences at COM, their perceptions about the quality of the education they received, and information about their post-graduation educational activities and employment.

### Response Rates

Questionnaires were distributed to graduates by mail and by e-mail each year. As an incentive to participate, respondents were entered into random drawings to receive a \$50 gift card; in 2012, the incentive was increased to two \$50 gift cards. The response rate for the survey was 18% in both 2010 and 2011.

The 2012 survey was distributed in March to 714 graduates and was open for three weeks. A total of 94 completed surveys were returned for an overall response rate of 13%.

### Academic Characteristics

Overall, the academic characteristics of survey respondents have been consistent from year to year. The data show that associate degree earners accounted for the vast majority (82%) of respondents over the time period examined.

The field of study pursued most often was general studies, representing 27% of all responses. Nursing and business were the second and third most popular majors, accounting for 13% and 9% of all responses, respectively.

### Skills, Values, Licensing and Certification

Graduates responded to several questions concerning the skills, values and competencies they gained while attending COM. Table 1 displays the number and percentage of respondents who *agreed* or *strongly agreed* that the competencies listed had been developed as a result of their coursework at the College.

Most graduates (75% to 88%) agreed that they developed both their academic skills and their personal values while taking courses at COM.

**Table 1. Percent of Graduates Citing Development of Academic Skills and Personal Values as a Result of Coursework at COM**

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Academic Skills</b>								
Writing	248	85%	64	80%	101	86%	83	88%
Speech Analysis	242	83%	66	83%	97	83%	79	84%
Reading Comprehension	247	85%	68	85%	98	84%	81	86%
Speaking	240	82%	65	81%	98	84%	77	82%
Computer Literacy	235	81%	67	84%	94	80%	74	79%
Cultural Competence	241	83%	62	78%	99	85%	80	85%
Math	219	75%	59	74%	86	74%	74	79%
Critical Thinking	234	80%	61	76%	97	83%	76	81%
<b>Personal Values</b>								
Leadership Skills	237	81%	66	83%	95	81%	76	81%
Personal Enrichment Skills	257	88%	70	88%	102	87%	85	90%
Independence and Self-Reliance	248	85%	67	84%	100	85%	81	86%

## Post-Graduation Academic Activity

The survey includes several questions about graduates' academic activities since leaving the institution. Nearly all respondents (91%) expressed a desire to obtain a bachelor's degree or higher; however, that figure has dropped steadily from 96% in 2010 to 87% in 2012 (see Table 2). Still, 55% of graduates surveyed in 2012 had continued their education since leaving COM; the majority (88%) had enrolled in a public four-year or upper-level institution.

Graduates are also very likely to remain in-state, mostly in the greater Houston area, while furthering their education. Between 2010 and 2012, nearly half (47%) of the respondents reported that they were enrolled in school at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. During that same time period, less than 5% enrolled in a school out of state.

**Table 2. Educational Aspirations of Graduates**

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Bachelor's degree	108	41%	37	51%	36	37%	35	37%
Master's degree	94	36%	18	25%	38	39%	38	40%
Doctoral degree	18	7%	5	7%	8	8%	5	5%
Professional degree	16	6%	8	11%	4	4%	4	4%
Associate's degree	15	6%	3	4%	5	5%	7	7%
Certificate	4	2%	0	---	1	1%	3	3%
Specialist degree (e.g., Ed.S.)	3	1%	1	1%	2	2%	0	---
No Answer	5	2%	0	---	3	3%	2	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100%</b>

Tables 3 shows the most recent degrees pursued for respondents who had gone on to attend another institution of higher education. Most students (89%) reported working towards a bachelor's degree or higher after graduating from COM. The major reported most often overall was education (12%), followed by psychology (11%), nursing (10%) and business administration (9%). In the 2012 administration, one in five graduates responding to the survey (21%) enrolled in school was pursuing a degree in education.

**Table 3. Degree Most Recently Pursued by Graduates**

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Bachelor's degree	94	73%	27	79%	34	72%	33	69%
Master's degree	17	13%	2	6%	6	13%	9	19%
Associate's degree	13	10%	4	12%	5	11%	4	8%
Professional degree	2	2%	0	---	0	0%	2	4%
Certificate	2	2%	1	3%	1	2%	0	---
Doctoral degree	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100%</b>

When asked to rate how well they thought their educational experience at COM had prepared them for additional college-level work, 93% of respondents rated their preparation as *satisfactory* or *excellent*. The 2012 administration yielded the highest percentage of graduates reporting that their transfer preparation was *excellent* at 54%.

**Table 4. Ratings of College Transfer Preparation**

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Excellent	64	48%	14	41%	22	47%	28	54%
Satisfactory	45	34%	13	38%	19	40%	13	25%
Good in Some Areas Only	15	11%	4	12%	5	11%	6	12%
Fair	7	5%	2	6%	1	2%	4	8%
Inadequate	2	2%	1	3%	0	---	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100%</b>

Respondents who continued their education after graduation were also asked if they transferred any credits from COM toward additional college work. Nearly all students (96%) were successful in transferring at least some credits. Additionally, the number of students able to successfully transfer all of their credits has increased from 59% in 2010 to 73% in 2012.

Overall, the most often cited reason (62%) for failure to transfer classes to another institution was *course content*.

## Graduates' Employment Activities

Respondents were asked several questions about their employment activities. After graduating from COM, more than one-half of respondents (54%) were employed full-time or were self-employed. Twenty percent were employed on a part-time basis, and one-fourth (26%) were unemployed. The top four majors with five or more full-time employed graduates were fire protection technology (100%), pharmacy technician (89%), nursing (79%), and law enforcement (78%).

**Table 5. Employment Status of Graduates**

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	146	51%	49	62%	57	50%	40	43%
Not employed	75	26%	20	25%	35	30%	20	22%
Part-time	58	20%	10	13%	19	17%	29	31%
Self-employed	8	3%	0	---	4	3%	4	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of majors with five or more employed graduates surveyed, those with the largest percentage working in a related field were nursing (91%), process technology (83%), and occupational safety and health technology (80%). More than one-third of all employed graduates responding to the survey (36%) reported working in a job unrelated to their studies at COM.

Nearly one-half of employed respondents (49%) over the past three years had their current job prior to graduation (see Table 6). However, this figure has dropped to 43% in 2012 from a high of 53% in 2010. In a similar vein, in 2010, 12% of respondents engaged in a job search for six months or longer before finding employment; in 2012, nearly one in four (23%) searched for a job for at least six months after graduation. It is also interesting to note that only 2% of all respondents found their jobs through the college's job placement center; more than one-third (35%) were referred to jobs by friends or relatives, and an additional 29% cited other means of finding employment such as continuing a long-term job or directly applying for positions in-person and via the Internet.

**Table 6. Respondents' Ratings of Job Preparation by COM**

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Excellent	98	49%	28	47%	40	52%	30	45%
Good	68	34%	19	32%	25	32%	24	36%
Adequate	28	14%	11	19%	12	16%	5	8%
Inadequate	8	4%	1	2%	0	---	7	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100%</b>

Overall, respondents felt that COM is effectively preparing students to enter the workforce; a majority of respondents (82%) rated the employment preparation they received as *good* or *excellent*. In addition to using their acquired skills in the workplace, 12% of all graduates surveyed reported participating in volunteer activities related to their college training.

## Summary

The purpose of this analysis was to describe the academic characteristics, community college experiences and post-graduation employment activities of COM graduates from academic years 2009 - 2011.

There were several major findings from the analysis:

- Since 2010, more students are aspiring to ultimately obtain graduate degrees. Larger percentages are also actively pursuing graduate degrees after leaving COM.
- Increased numbers of students are choosing to major in education, nursing, and business when they transfer to other institutions.
- In 2012, more than half (54%) of those responding rated their transfer preparation at COM as *excellent*.
- The 2012 figures also report the largest percentage of students (73%) being able to transfer all of their credits to other institutions.
- The percentage of students engaging a job search for six or more months after graduation nearly doubled since 2010.

# Appendix

## Distribution of Academic Characteristics of Respondents

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Most Recent Degree Earned from COM</b>								
Associate Degree	184	73%	60	75%	54	70%	70	74%
Certificate (one year or less)	43	17%	19	24%	13	17%	11	12%
Certificate (more than one year)	11	4%	1	1%	2	3%	8	9%
Other	8	3%	0	--	4	5%	4	4%
Core Curriculum	3	1%	0	--	3	4%	0	--
No Answer	2	1%	0	--	1	1%	1	1%
<b>Field of Study</b>								
General Studies	69	27%	23	29%	22	29%	24	26%
Business Administration	34	14%	10	13%	9	12%	15	16%
Nursing	34	14%	8	10%	10	13%	16	17%
Petrochemical Process Technology	21	8%	8	10%	7	9%	6	6%
Natural Science	17	7%	4	5%	5	6%	8	9%
Teaching	10	4%	2	3%	6	8%	2	2%
Child Development/Education	9	4%	2	3%	1	1%	6	6%
Pharmacy Technician	9	4%	4	5%	1	1%	4	4%
Criminal Justice	7	3%	4	5%	2	3%	1	1%
Fire Protection Technology	7	3%	3	4%	4	5%	0	--
Health Information Management	7	3%	3	4%	2	3%	2	2%
Law Enforcement	5	2%	2	3%	2	3%	1	1%
Mathematics	4	2%	1	1%	1	1%	2	2%
Occupational Health and Safety Technology	4	2%	1	1%	0	--	3	3%
Cosmetology	3	1%	0	--	2	3%	1	1%
Music	3	1%	1	1%	2	3%	0	--
Medical Assistant	2	1%	0	--	1	1%	1	1%
Computer Information Systems	1	0%	1	1%	0	--	0	--
Dental Hygiene	1	0%	0	--	1	1%	0	--
Drafting	1	0%	1	1%	0	--	0	--
Emergency Medical Services	1	0%	1	1%	0	--	0	--
Geographic Information Systems	1	0%	1	1%	0	--	0	--
Real Estate	1	0%	0	--	0	--	1	1%
Welding	1	0%	0	--	0	--	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>77*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Respondents were allowed to indicate multiple majors, therefore totals may exceed 100%.

\*One double-major indicated.



**Graduates' Attempts at Licensing or Certification Exams Related to Course of Study**

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Do Not Plan to Attempt	128	44%	28	36%	60	51%	40	43%
Attempted	89	31%	25	32%	34	29%	30	32%
Plan to Attempt	71	25%	25	32%	23	20%	23	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Type of Institution Most Recently Attended Since Graduation**

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Public 4-year, or upper level, college or university	110	85%	29	85%	37	80%	44	88%
Public 2-year college	18	14%	4	12%	8	17%	6	12%
Private college or university	2	2%	1	3%	1	2%	0	---
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Graduates' Most Recently Attended Institutions**

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
University of Houston-Clear Lake	60	47%	17	52%	20	43%	23	48%
University of Houston	14	11%	3	9%	5	11%	6	13%
University of Texas-Arlington	7	5%	0	---	3	6%	4	8%
UTMB School of Nursing	6	5%	2	6%	3	6%	1	2%
College of the Mainland	5	4%	3	9%	2	4%	0	---
Texas Southern University	5	4%	0	---	2	4%	3	6%
San Jacinto College	3	2%	1	3%	1	2%	1	2%
University of Houston-Downtown	3	2%	2	6%	1	2%	0	---
Blinn College	2	2%	0	---	1	2%	1	2%
Alvin Community College	1	1%	0	---	0	---	1	2%
Baylor University	1	1%	1	3%	0	---	0	---
DeVry University	1	1%	1	3%	0	---	0	---
Eastern Kentucky University	1	1%	0	---	0	---	1	2%
Galveston College	1	1%	0	---	0	---	1	2%
Lamar College	1	1%	0	---	0	---	1	2%
Prairie View A&M University	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
San Jacinto College	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
Southwestern Assemblies of God University	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
Stephen F. Austin State University	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
Tarleton State University	1	1%	1	3%	0	---	0	---
Texas A&M University-College Station	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
Texas Tech University	1	1%	0	---	0	---	1	2%
University of Central Oklahoma	1	1%	0	---	0	---	1	2%
University of Cincinnati	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
University of North Texas	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
University of Oklahoma	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
University of Phoenix	1	1%	0	---	0	---	1	2%
University of Texas at Austin	1	1%	0	---	0	---	1	2%
University of Texas at Dallas	1	1%	0	---	0	---	1	2%
University of Texas-Health Science Center	1	1%	1	3%	0	---	0	---
University of Texas-San Antonio	1	1%	1	3%	0	---	0	---
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Field of Study Most Recently Pursued by Graduates**

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Education	15	12%	3	6%	5	10%	7	21%
Psychology	14	11%	8	17%	3	6%	3	9%
Nursing	13	10%	2	4%	6	12%	5	15%
Business Administration	12	9%	2	4%	6	12%	4	12%
Accounting	7	5%	2	4%	3	6%	2	6%
Engineering	7	5%	3	6%	2	4%	2	6%
General Studies	7	5%	2	4%	3	6%	2	6%
Kinesiology	7	5%	2	4%	4	8%	1	3%
Criminal Justice/Criminology	6	5%	0	---	4	8%	2	6%
Biology	5	4%	3	6%	2	4%	0	---
Allied Health Sciences	4	3%	3	6%	0	---	1	3%
Communication	3	2%	2	4%	1	2%	0	---
Healthcare Administration	3	2%	2	4%	1	2%	0	---
History	3	2%	1	2%	1	2%	1	3%
Social Work	3	2%	3	6%	0	---	0	---
Interdisciplinary Studies	2	2%	1	2%	0	---	1	3%
Occupational Safety and Health Technology	2	2%	1	2%	1	2%	0	---
Art History	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
Biological Science	1	1%	1	2%	0	0%	0	---
Computer Science	1	1%	1	2%	0	---	0	---
Dental Hygiene	1	1%	1	2%	0	---	0	---
Humanities	1	1%	1	2%	0	---	0	---
Law Enforcement	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
Mathematics	1	1%	1	2%	0	---	0	---
Natural Science	1	1%	0	0%	0	---	1	3%
Nutrition	1	1%	0	---	0	---	1	3%
Pharmacy	1	1%	1	2%	0	---	0	---
Physics	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
Political Science	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
Pre-Pharmacy	1	1%	1	2%	0	---	0	---
Process Technology	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
Sociology	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
Sports Medicine	1	1%	0	---	1	2%	0	---
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Transfer Credit Acceptance

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All credits transferred	87	66%	20	59%	30	64%	37	73%
Some credits transferred	40	30%	14	41%	14	30%	12	24%
Did not attempt to transfer credits	3	2%	0	---	2	4%	1	2%
No credits transferred	2	2%	0	---	1	2%	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Length of Job Search and Job Referral Sources

	Total		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Length of Job Search</b>								
Had a job and continued after graduation	94	49%	31	53%	37	51%	26	43%
Obtained a job less than six months after graduation	43	22%	11	19%	19	26%	13	21%
Obtained a job six or more months after graduation	29	15%	7	12%	8	11%	14	23%
Obtained a job just prior to graduation	26	14%	9	16%	9	12%	8	13%
<b>Job Referral Sources</b>								
Friend or relatives	68	35%	19	33%	24	33%	25	41%
Other	56	29%	18	31%	22	30%	16	26%
Online job search/placement service	33	17%	9	16%	12	16%	12	20%
Faculty member	17	9%	7	12%	6	8%	4	7%
Employment agency	7	4%	3	5%	3	4%	1	2%
Newspaper advertisement	8	4%	2	3%	4	5%	2	3%
COM Job Placement Center	3	2%	0	---	2	3%	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Employment Status of Graduates by Major (2010 - 2012)**

	N	Full-Time		Part-Time		Self-Employed		Unemployed	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
General Studies	79	26	33%	20	25%	1	1%	32	41%
Nursing	39	31	79%	3	8%	1	3%	4	10%
Business	26	16	62%	3	12%	1	4%	6	23%
Process Technology	24	14	58%	4	17%	0	---	6	25%
Natural Science	21	1	5%	11	52%	0	---	9	43%
Child Development/Education	19	7	37%	9	47%	0	---	3	16%
Health Information Management	9	2	22%	1	11%	1	11%	5	56%
Law Enforcement	9	7	78%	1	11%	0	0%	1	11%
Pharmacy Technician	9	8	89%	0	---	0	0%	1	11%
Criminal Justice	7	5	71%	0	---	1	14%	1	14%
Fire Protection Technology	7	7	100%	0	---	0	---	0	---
Medical Assistant	6	3	50%	1	17%	0	---	2	33%
Accounting	5	2	40%	1	20%	2	40%	0	---
Occupational Safety and Health Technology	5	3	60%	2	40%	0	---	0	---
Mathematics	4	3	75%	0	---	0	---	1	25%
Business Technology	3	3	100%	0	---	0	---	0	---
Computer Information Systems	3	1	33%	0	---	0	---	2	67%
Music	3	0	---	1	33%	0	---	2	67%
Cosmetology	2	1	50%	0	---	1	50%	0	---
Emergency Medical Services	2	2	100%	0	---	0	---	0	---
No Answer	2	2	100%	0	---	0	---	0	---
Drafting	1	1	100%	0	---	0	---	0	---
Real Estate	1	0	---	1	100%	0	---	0	---
Welding	1	1	100%	0	---	0	---	0	---
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>26%</b>

**Relation of Employed Graduates' Jobs to Field of Study (2010 - 2012)**

	N	Related to Field		Unrelated to Field	
		N	%	N	%
General Studies	47	15	32%	32	68%
Nursing	35	32	91%	3	9%
Process Technology	18	15	83%	3	17%
Business	18	11	61%	7	39%
Child Development/Education	16	10	63%	6	38%
Natural Science	12	7	58%	5	42%
Law Enforcement	8	6	75%	2	25%
Pharmacy Technician	8	6	75%	2	25%
Fire Protection Technology	7	3	43%	4	57%
Criminal Justice	6	3	50%	3	50%
Occupational Safety and Health Technology	5	4	80%	1	20%
Accounting	5	3	60%	2	40%
Health Information Management	4	3	75%	1	25%
Medical Assistant	4	2	50%	2	50%
Business Technology	3	3	100%	0	---
Cosmetology	3	2	67%	1	33%
Mathematics	3	2	67%	1	33%
Emergency Medical Services	2	2	100%	0	---
Computer Information Systems	1	1	100%	0	---
Music	1	1	100%	0	---
Real Estate	1	1	100%	0	---
Welding	1	1	100%	0	---
Drafting	1	0	---	1	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>36%</b>