



Education and Training

# 2007 ACT college graduates: Where are they now?

In summary

This publication provides a summary of a survey of students who were awarded a Year 12 Certificate in 2007.

## Key findings

Ninety-two percent of all students were employed or studying in 2008

More than 80 percent of all students were employed

Overall, 96 percent of students were satisfied with their college experience

Students who undertook a Vocational Education and Training (VET) course at school were more likely to be employed and less likely to be studying in 2008 than students who did not undertake a VET course

Students who speak a language other than English (LOTE) at home were more likely to be studying and less likely to be employed in 2008 than non-LOTE students.



## Key Outcomes

Table 1 provides an overview of three key outcome indicators covering employment, study and those who are either employed or studying by individual student and schooling characteristics for 2006 and 2007 year 12 graduates.

After completing year 12 in the ACT in 2007, 92.1 percent of all students surveyed reported that they were employed or studying in 2008. This is not significantly different from the 93.8 percent reported for the 2006 graduate survey. More than eight in 10 (81.5 percent) students were employed in paid work and about half (50.1 percent) of all students were currently studying (Table 1).

When comparing the 2007 graduates with 2006 graduates the following significant differences were identified:

- The proportion of students currently studying decreased from 57.0 percent to 50.1 percent. This difference was most notable for students who completed a Vocational Education and Training (VET) course, students with no UAI or a UAI less than 76 and Language Other Than English (LOTE) students.
- 2006 female graduates were more likely to be employed (84.1 percent) compared to males (79.0 percent). However, the 2007 graduate survey showed no significant difference between males and females.
- LOTE students were more likely to be studying while non-LOTE students were more likely to be employed for both surveys. However, the overall percentage of LOTE students employed and studying decreased between the 2006 (95.6 percent) and 2007 (88.9 percent) surveys.
- 2006 graduates who completed a VET course at school were more likely to be employed or studying than non-VET students. However, in 2007 there was no significant difference between the outcomes.

**Table 1: Percentage of students employed or studying by selected demographics, 2006-2007**

	Percentage employed		Percentage currently studying		Percentage employed or studying	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
<b>Sex</b>						
Females	84.1	81.4	56.3	49.7	94.0	92.5
Males	79.0	81.6	57.8	50.6	93.4	91.7
<b>LOTE</b>						
No	83.7	84.4	53.7	47.9	93.8	92.6
Yes	71.6	64.0	78.0	64.0	95.6	88.9
<b>VET course</b>						
No	78.9	79.6	56.5	53.5	92.4	91.6
Yes	87.1	84.0	57.8	45.6	96.4	92.8
<b>UAI group</b>						
1 - 65	85.6	86.2	54.0	47.3	95.3	94.7
66 - 75	82.1	81.4	60.2	50.7	94.2	91.5
76 - 85	78.4	78.9	63.1	61.8	93.1	93.9
86 - 95	76.0	74.7	65.6	65.0	92.2	93.1
96 - 100	65.3	62.0	78.9	74.0	93.2	91.6
No UAI	87.2	85.7	46.4	38.6	94.1	90.4
<b>Career counselling</b>						
No	84.7	84.4	58.9	52.9	95.0	94.2
Yes	80.4	80.0	56.7	49.6	94.1	91.2
Don't know	63.4	68.0	38.0	27.7	76.1	79.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>93.8</b>	<b>92.1</b>

Note: For comparative reasons the 2006 figures exclude the 2007 non-participating school.

## Study

Table 2 shows the percentage of students studying by student and schooling characteristics for 2007 year 12 graduates. Half (50.1 percent) of all students indicated that they were undertaking some study in 2008, with 40.9 percent studying full-time.

As a student's UAI increases, so does their tendency to undertake further study. About half of all students (50.7 percent) with a UAI between 66 and 75 were undertaking study in 2008, compared with almost three quarters of students (74.0 percent) with a UAI between 96 and 100.

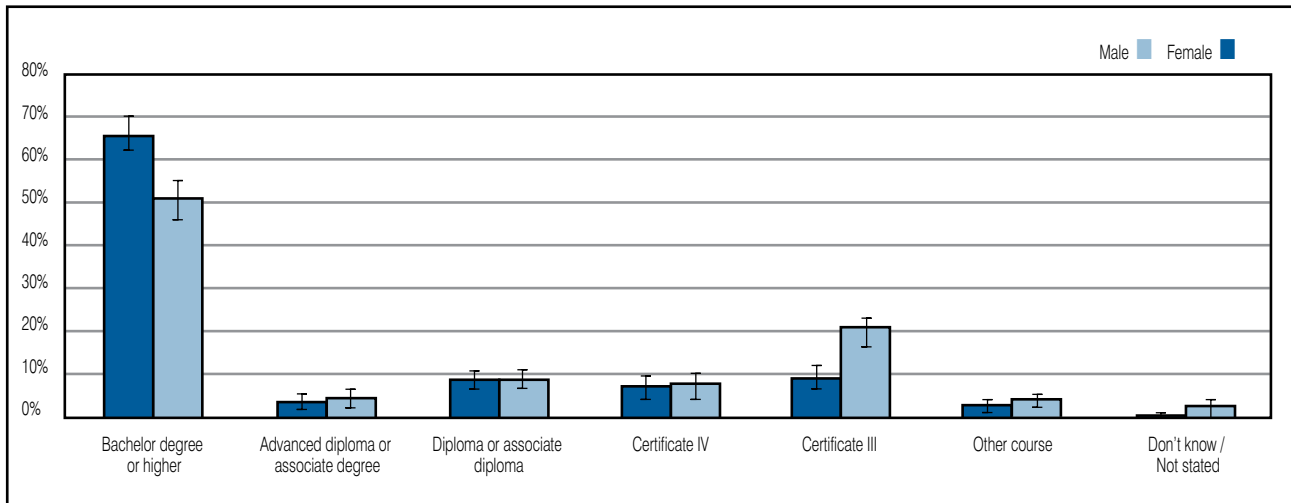
**Table 2: Percentage of students studying by selected demographics, 2007**

	Studying			Not studying	Total
	Part-time	Full-time	Total		
<b>Sex</b>					
Females	7.8	41.9	49.7	50.3	100.0
Males	10.7	39.9	50.6	49.3	100.0
<b>LOTE</b>					
No	9.8	38.0	47.9	52.1	100.0
Yes	5.6	58.4	64.0	35.7	100.0
<b>VET course</b>					
No	6.9	46.6	53.5	46.4	100.0
Yes	12.4	33.1	45.6	54.4	100.0
<b>UAI group</b>					100.0
1 - 65	9.5	37.8	47.3	52.7	100.0
66 - 75	7.0	43.7	50.7	49.3	100.0
76 - 85	4.1	57.7	61.8	38.2	100.0
86 - 95	2.0	63.1	65.0	35.0	100.0
96 - 100	0.0	74.0	74.0	26.0	100.0
No UAI	15.3	23.2	38.6	61.3	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The majority (58.9 percent) of 2007 year 12 graduates who were studying reported that they were studying at a Bachelor Degree level or higher, 14.7 percent at Certificate III level, 8.8 percent at Diploma or Associate Diploma level, 7.5 percent at Certificate IV level, 4.4 percent at Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree level and 3.8 percent at other lower levels.

A greater proportion of females were studying at a Bachelor Degree level or higher – 65.8 percent of females compared to 50.9 percent of males. The proportion of males studying at Certificate III level was more than twice the proportion of females studying at that level – 20.1 percent of males compared to 9.7 percent of females (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Percentage of students studying by level and sex, 2007**



Note: The error bars reflect the 95% confidence intervals and where they overlap indicates there is no statistical difference between the results.

Table 3 shows a breakdown of the main reason for studying in 2008 by selected demographics. Overall, almost one in two (48.4 percent) students reported that they were undertaking their study because “it’s a course that interests me”, with the next most popular reason being “to get/start/help in a job/business” (30.3 percent).

For students who did not have a UAI about one third (35.9 percent) reported their main reason for studying was “to get/start/help in a job/business”, followed by “it’s a course that interests me” (33.1 percent).

A higher percentage of males (12.0 percent) compared to females (3.3 percent) said their main reason for studying was because it was “part of apprenticeship/traineeship” whereas a higher percentage of females (8.5 percent) compared to males (4.6 percent) reported studying “to improve my education”.

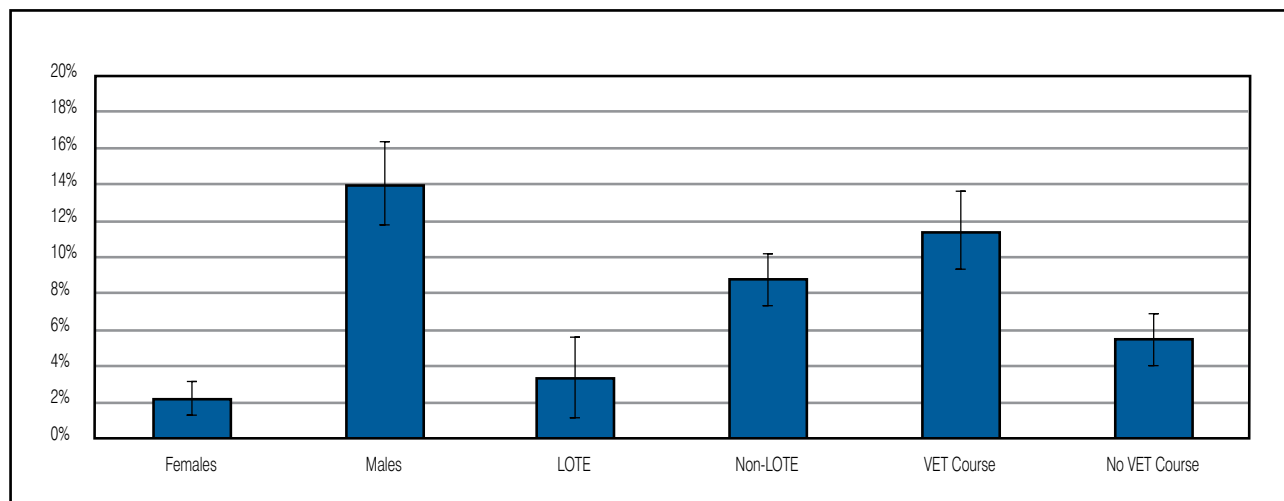
**Table 3: Percentage of students by main reason for study and selected demographics, 2007**

	It's a course that interests me	To get/start/help in a job/business	Part of an apprenticeship/traineeship	To improve my education	Other	Don't know	Total
<b>Sex</b>							
Females	49.3	30.7	3.3	8.5	6.8	1.4	100.0
Males	47.5	29.9	12.0	4.6	5.8	0.2	100.0
<b>VET course</b>							
No	51.3	27.9	6.1	7.3	6.5	0.8	100.0
Yes	43.7	34.1	10.0	5.4	5.9	0.9	100.0
<b>UAI group</b>							
1 - 65	48.2	31.1	7.0	7.5	5.4	0.9	100.0
66 - 75	52.6	30.5	5.0	5.9	5.9	0.0	100.0
76 - 85	53.1	32.4	2.2	5.3	5.9	1.1	100.0
86 - 95	59.1	22.9	0.5	7.4	8.4	1.7	100.0
96 - 100	66.8	19.2	0.0	6.2	7.8	0.0	100.0
No UAI	33.1	35.9	18.1	6.8	5.4	0.7	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Overall, eight percent of the 2007 year 12 graduates surveyed were undertaking an apprenticeship/traineeship in 2008 (Figure 2). However, this percentage varied significantly for selected demographics:

- Male graduates were six times more likely than females to be undertaking an apprenticeship
- Non-LOTE students were more than twice as likely to be undertaking an apprenticeship than LOTE students
- Students who undertook a VET course at school were twice as likely to be undertaking an apprenticeship than students who did not undertake a VET course

**Figure 2: Percentage of students currently undertaking apprenticeships by selected demographics, 2007**



Note: The error bars reflect the 95% confidence intervals and where they overlap indicates there is no statistical difference between the results.

Table 4 details the student's labour force status by whether a student reported to be undertaking study in 2008. Of the students who were employed, almost half (48.5 percent) were also studying. Of the students who were not in the labour force, more than half (56.0 percent) were studying. Of the students who were not employed and seeking part time work, about three quarters (74.9 percent) were studying.

**Table 4: Percentage of students studying by labour force status, 2007**

	No	Yes	Don't know	Total
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Full-time	72.3	27.7	0.0	100.0
Part-time	32.3	67.7	0.0	100.0
<b>Not employed, seeking work</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Full-time	79.3	20.7	0.0	100.0
Part-time	25.1	74.9	0.0	100.0
Either full-time or part-time	46.0	43.5	10.5	100.0
<b>Not in labour force</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Of the 2007 year 12 graduates surveyed who were not studying in 2008, 34.5 percent reported their main reason for not studying as "taking a gap year", 28 percent indicated that they had "got a job", 13.6 percent "didn't feel ready for study at the moment" and 11.4 percent were "travelling" (Table 5).

Four in 10 students (42.6 percent) who were not studying and did not get a UAI reported their reason for not studying was because they "got a job", while about 22.5 percent indicated that they were "taking a gap year".

**Table 5: Percentage of students by main reason for not studying and selected demographics, 2007**

	Taking a gap year	Got a job	Not ready for study	Travelling	Other	Don't know	Total
<b>Sex</b>							
Females	37.0	21.9	14.3	13.5	13.1	0.2	100.0
Males	31.8	34.4	12.9	9.1	11.1	0.6	100.0
<b>VET course</b>							
No	41.4	24.2	10.3	13.1	10.4	0.6	100.0
Yes	26.5	32.3	17.4	9.4	14.2	0.2	100.0
<b>UAI group</b>							
1 - 65	35.2	16.1	20.3	10.0	18.5	0.0	100.0
66 - 75	45.2	18.0	10.1	19.9	6.0	0.8	100.0
76 - 85	58.0	12.0	7.8	16.1	6.1	0.0	100.0
86 - 95	49.8	9.0	13.9	17.0	9.3	1.0	100.0
96 - 100	50.1	4.2	6.4	18.8	20.6	0.0	100.0
No UAI	22.5	42.6	14.1	7.1	13.3	0.4	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Labour Force Status

Table 6 shows a summary of the labour force status of 2007 year 12 graduates in 2008. More than eight in 10 (81.5 percent) students reported having a paid job. Of all students surveyed, 8.3 percent reported not currently having a paid job and actively looking for work, with more than two thirds of these students looking for part-time work as opposed to full-time work.

**Table 6: Percentage of students by labour force status, 2007**

	Number	Percentage
<b>In Labour Force</b>	<b>3298</b>	<b>89.8</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>2992</b>	<b>81.5</b>
Full-time	1438	39.2
Part-time	1554	42.3
<b>Not employed, seeking work</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Full-time	81	2.2
Part-time	207	5.6
Either full-time or part-time	19	0.5
<b>Not in Labour Force</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>10.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3672</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Participation rate</b>		<b>89.8</b>
<b>Unemployment rate</b>		<b>9.3</b>

# Satisfaction

Figure 3 summarises the responses of 2007 year 12 graduates to seven satisfaction questions regarding their experience in years 11 and 12 in the ACT. Responses of strongly agree or agree were classified as “positive”, responses of strongly disagree or disagree as a “negative” and responses of neither agree nor disagree as “neutral”.

More than nine in 10 students gave a positive response to the following statements about their year 11 and 12 experience:

- It was satisfying and rewarding (92.9 percent)
- A range of subjects were available (93.4 percent)
- Overall, it was worthwhile (95.8 percent).

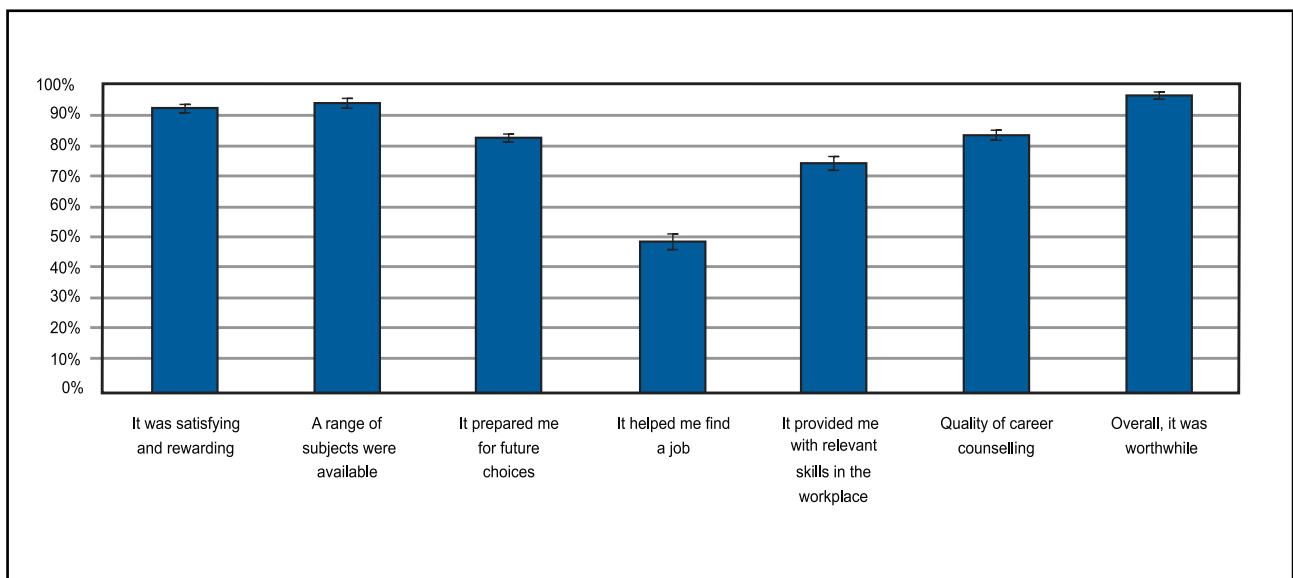
About four in five students gave a positive response to the statement that their year 11 and 12 experience “prepared them for future choices” (82.7 percent) and provided “quality of career counselling” (83.3 percent).

However, about a third of students gave a negative response to the statement that their year 11 and 12 experience “helped them find a job” (33.2 percent).

Around 17 percent of students gave a negative response to the statement that their year 11 and year 12 experience “provided them with relevant skills in the workplace”.

There was no significant difference between the overall satisfaction reported by students who undertook career counselling while still at college (96.7 percent) and those that did not (94.9 percent).

**Figure 3: Percentage of students who gave a positive response to statements about their year 11 and 12 experience, 2007**



# Scope and Methodology

Conducted in 2008, 2007 ACT college graduates: where are they now? is a survey of students who successfully completed year 12 in the Australian Capital Territory in 2007. The survey was undertaken so that findings may inform the ACT Department of Education and Training, the Office of the Board of Senior Secondary Studies (OBSSS), universities, Vocational Education and Training providers and schools to ensure that ACT senior school education remains relevant and is of the highest quality.

The sample was drawn from the OBSSS administrative records and the population of interest was defined as those students who were awarded a year 12 certificate from an ACT college or the Canberra Institute of Technology in 2007. The population excluded full fee paying students usually resident overseas and one independent school that chose not to take part in the survey this year.

Prior to the survey being undertaken a primary approach letter was sent to all potential respondents. This provided information about the purpose and importance of the study, the broad content of the survey, the amount of time the interview would take and confidentiality provisions. The survey was undertaken by telephone from 14 July to 3 August 2008 and where possible the information was obtained directly from the student. In some cases a parent or guardian supplied the information where the student could not be contacted directly.

A total of 3672 students were identified as being in-scope for the survey. Of the 2614 students contacted via telephone, 1993 completed the survey, providing a response rate of 76 percent.

In Figures 1 and 2 of this publication, 95 percent confidence intervals (displayed as error bars) have been included. The confidence interval provides information on the reliability of the result and indicates that if the survey were conducted 100 times, then in 95 times, the percent of respondents with a particular characteristic would be within the confidence limits given. For instance, 65.8 percent  $\pm$  4.5 percentage points means that there is a 95 percent chance that the true percentage (for the population) lies between 61.3 percent and 70.3 percent.

## Explanatory Notes

**Career counselling** in schools may include one on one or group discussion between students and career advisors, industry experts and representatives from universities and CIT about various aspects of student pathways planning, such as course choices, work experience and developing a resume.

**Currently studying** refers to respondents who were actively undertaking some study at the time of the survey, including those attending university, TAFE, undertaking an apprenticeship or those repeating Year 12.

**Labour Force Status** provides data on whether a person was employed (full or part-time), unemployed (looking for full or part-time work) or not in the labour force at the time of the survey. Labour Force Status was derived from responses to a number of questions on the survey form.

**Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses** in schools are accredited vocational courses which are designed around Training Packages endorsed by specific industry areas and successful completion may lead to the award of a Vocational Certificate or Statement of Attainment.

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