Office of Career Development
2018 Annual Report
**Introduction**

This report provides an overview of employment trends for 2018 graduates of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program, which includes students who completed their degrees in December 2017, May 2018 and August 2018. Prior to graduation, students are required to provide the Office of Career Development with their post-graduate plans pertaining to employment and further graduate education. Students who indicated they did not have post-graduate plans were surveyed for twelve months or until they secured employment, whichever came first. The total number of students surveyed was 55. The survey had a 98.18% response rate; the data in this report only includes information for those who responded to the survey.

**Post-Graduate Outcomes**

Ninety-eight percent of graduates seeking employment were employed within one year of graduation. As noted in the figure below, for the class of 2018, 90.74% of graduates sought employment, 1.85% pursued military service and 1.85% went on to further graduate education. Two students from this class indicated that they were not actively searching\(^1\) and one student identified as seeking employment\(^2\).

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.8\textwidth]{post_grad_outcomes.png}
\caption{Post Graduate Outcomes: Class of 2018}
\end{figure}

Similar to graduates from previous classes, the majority of students from the Class of 2018 sought full time employment post-graduation. As noted in the “Time to Employment Section”, students from

\(^1\) One student was an international student whose visa status changed during the past year, which restricted their ability to pursue employment during the survey period. The second student experienced a medical injury, which prevented them from working; however, they plan to begin the police academy in January 2020.

\(^2\) The student who identified as seeking employment applied and was accepted into a Ph.D. program at the College, but decided not to pursue further graduate education. In June 2019, the student returned to their home country to seek employment.
previous class years have secured full-time employment in the field at an average of over 98% by twelve months post-graduation.

**Overall Post Graduate Outcomes: Classes of 2014-2018**

- Employed: 92.14%
- Seeking Employment: 1.91%
- Not Seeking Employment: 0.74%
- Further Graduate Education: 4.57%
- Military: 0.64%

**Post Graduate Employment Outcomes: Classes of 2014-2018**
**Employment**

The majority of our MPA graduates who are seeking employment secure employment prior to or shortly after graduation. As noted in the chart below, of those that were searching, more than three-fourths of students from this class secured employment prior to graduation.

Our time to employment statistics are impacted by services provided by the Office of Career Development. Students work closely with the office throughout their search process. Each year, the
The Office of Career Development coordinates numerous events for students to network with relevant employers through informational sessions, preliminary interviews, bi-annual Public Service Job & Internship career fairs, employer visits and one-on-one meetings with hiring managers. These relationships help our students explore the vast career opportunities available to them within the public and private sectors.

In addition to the services provided by the Office of Career Development, our robust alumni network enables our students to make valuable professional connections. Through our alumni network, students have the opportunity to learn about emerging industry trends, identify employment opportunities and learn about various career strategies. Students can also connect with alumni through the University Career Advisory Network (UCAN), an online network platform provided by the University Alumni Association, for informational interviews, resume critiques and mock interviews.

The Office of Career Development continues to gather feedback from students as we aim to identify new ways to help them acquire essential career development skills, while making the necessary connections they need for a rewarding and empowering career in public service. This is accomplished through one-on-one meetings and post-event evaluations with career office staff.

**Employment Sector Comparisons**

As evidenced below, our MPA graduates pursue many different career paths within the public and private sectors. Within the class of 2018, 42.86% of graduates secured employment within state government. State government employers, such as the NYS Division of the Budget, Excelsior Service Fellowship Program, and NYS Department of Health, continue to be primary employers of our graduates.

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3 This student works with nonprofits as a communications and public affairs consultant on a contractual basis.
Employment by Sector: Classes of 2014-2018

- Overall (2014-2018)
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018

Employment by Sector: Overall Classes 2014-2018

- State Government
- Federal Government
- Foreign Government
- Private Firm
- Law/Legal
- Nonprofit
- Local Government
- Self-Employed

Pie chart showing the distribution of employment across sectors.
## Select Employment Information

Below are examples of places of employment for the Class of 2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Position Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center for Internet Security</td>
<td>Cybersecurity Intelligence Analyst</td>
<td>East Greenbush, NY</td>
<td>Nonprofit-Domestic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excelsior Service Fellowship Program- Executive Chamber, Policy Team</td>
<td>Excelsior Service Fellow</td>
<td>Albany, NY</td>
<td>State Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government of the Netherlands, Ministry of France, Directorate Foreign Finance Affairs</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>Den Hagg, The Netherlands</td>
<td>Foreign Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Inc.</td>
<td>Chief of Staff</td>
<td>Rochester, NY</td>
<td>Nonprofit-Domestic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Service for Human Rights</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
<td>Nonprofit/NGO-International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Association for the Education of Young Children</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Albany, NY</td>
<td>Nonprofit-Domestic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals</td>
<td>Manager of Policy and Innovation</td>
<td>Albany, NY</td>
<td>Nonprofit-Domestic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYC Department of Corrections</td>
<td>Correctional Standards Review Specialist, Policy Analyst</td>
<td>East Elmhurst, NY</td>
<td>Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission</td>
<td>Data and Policy Analyst</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Department of Environmental Conservation</td>
<td>Mined Land Reclamation Specialist</td>
<td>Schenectady, NY</td>
<td>State Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Division of the Budget</td>
<td>Budget Fellow</td>
<td>Albany, NY</td>
<td>State Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Education Department</td>
<td>Education Finance Specialist II</td>
<td>Albany, NY</td>
<td>State Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Office of the State Comptroller</td>
<td>State Program Examiner</td>
<td>Albany, NY</td>
<td>State Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Authority of New York &amp; New Jersey</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>State Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Anne’s County, Department of Planning and Zoning</td>
<td>Senior Planner</td>
<td>Centreville, MD</td>
<td>Local Government</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Like past graduates, the Class of 2018 secured competitive salaries within the field. The average salary of this class was $58,302. Graduates with a salary below $40,000 did not have prior work experience. Two students had untraditionally low salaries. One of these students took an entry-level position with an employer who was willing to increase the salary up to $40,000 by the end of the 2019 year. The other student was accepted into the New York State Senate Fellowship program that has a set salary for participants.
Overall, the graduates from the Classes of 2014-2018 experienced an average salary increase of 63%. We anticipate this trend to continue as our students gain valuable skills in their internships and coursework that make them competitive candidates in the field.
**Geographic Location**

The graduates surveyed in this report secured employment in various geographic locations; however, more than half of the students secured positions within the Capital District. This is consistent with graduates of previous classes, as noted in the figure below, and is unsurprising considering the College’s location.

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**Employment by Geographic Region: Class of 2018**

- Capital District: 61.22%
- New York City: 12.26%
- New York State (excludes Capital District and NYC): 6.12%
- Mid-Atlantic: 6.12%
- West: 8.16%
- South: 4.08%
- International: 0.84%

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**Employment by Geographic Region: Overall Classes of 2014-2018**

- Capital District: 62.84%
- New York City: 11.51%
- Washington, DC: 7.66%
- New York State (excludes Capital District and NYC): 5.12%
- New England: 3.70%
- Mid-Atlantic: 1.88%
- West: 0.74%
- South: 1.48%
- Midwest: 1.11%
In an effort to expand our students’ geographic footprint, in March 2019, the College hosted its first Career Spring Break Trip. This four-day and three-night experience provided an opportunity for twelve graduate students and two undergraduate students to meet with employers within the field through various informational sessions that featured key alumni. During the trip, students participated in small group dinners with local alumni and in a larger networking event at a local restaurant. In order to prepare students for this experience, the Office of Career Development, alongside the Office of Alumni Relations, facilitated a pre-departure training to help them learn key strategies on how to best leverage this time. Additionally, students submitted their resume to our digital resume book that was sent to participating employers prior to the trip. This type of experience helped to increase students’ access to our D.C. alumni network, while broadening their awareness of the various career pathways available to them.

**Summary**

The results of our survey continue to demonstrate the value of the Master of Public Administration degree, as evidenced by our students’ successful employment rate and the breadth of positions they have secured domestically and internationally. In the next academic year, the Office of Career Development will continue to work alongside our alumni and employer network to provide relevant workshops, informational sessions, networking opportunities and events that will assist future graduates with securing meaningful employment and connections in the field.