

SPDC survey indicates rise in success after graduation

Data from nine months after the class of 2017 graduated shows where they are now

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Data released from the Student Professional Development Center (SPDC) indicates that the class of 2017 was one of the most successful classes in Elon University's history.

FIRST DESTINATION SURVEY

The First Destination Survey is a questionnaire compiled by the SPDC, issued nine months after graduation.

The First Destination survey, conducted by the SPDC, issued nine months after graduation, was completed by 95 percent of Elon's class of 2017. The SPDC keeps track of graduate job offers and graduate school acceptances on a rolling basis, and graduates are also surveyed on graduation day, and several more times throughout their first few months after graduating. The data for this report is compiled from these results.

About 96 percent of graduates are either employed, completing post-graduate internships and fellowships, attending graduate school or working for a service organization. 84 percent of the class was employed nine months after graduating.

Roughly 24 percent of the class of 2017 were accepted into gradu-

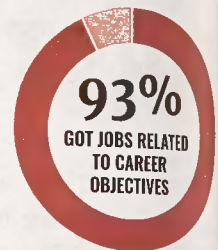
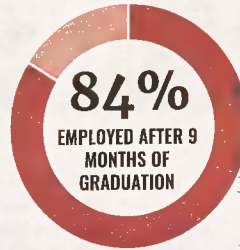
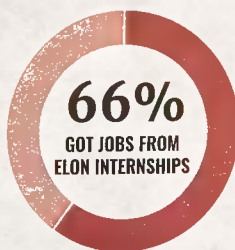
ate programs around the country, 93 percent of graduates said their jobs were related to their career objectives and only 2 percent of the class is still on the job market.

About 66 percent of those surveyed said they acquired jobs from internships completed during their time at Elon, with companies such as CBS Corporation, the Coca-Cola Company, Duke Energy and the U.S. Department of State.

Top organizations hiring Elon graduates include major economic corporations, from Bank of America and Goldman Sachs, to top media organizations, such as CNN and ABC News, as well as service organizations such as Teach for America and the Peace Corps.

The average salary for the class of 2017 is \$42,992, about \$1,875 more than the class of 2016.

The majority of the class



SOURCE: STATISTICS COURTESY OF THE SPDC
MEGHAN KIMBERLING | Design Lab

CLASS OF 2017 SUCCESS

“THE CAREER SKILLS THAT [STUDENTS] CAN LEARN WHILE AT ELON WILL CARRY INTO THE FUTURE AS THEIR CAREER JOURNEY UNFOLDS.”

TOM BRINKLEY
SPDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

has stayed in North Carolina post-graduation, with about 277 graduates remaining, with 17 percent in the Triangle and Triad regions. Following North Carolina, New York and Massachusetts host the second and third largest groups of graduates, respectively.

Tom Brinkley, executive director of the SPDC, believes the class of 2018 will show similar success.

“The overall job market across the nation continues to be strong, and unemployment is at a 17 year low,” he said.

More than the past 6 years, post-graduate success rates have increased, rising from 61 percent for the class of 2012, to 84 percent in 2017, while post-graduates securing jobs in the desired fields have remained steady over the past two years.

AVERAGE SALARY

\$42,992

The average salary for the class of 2017 is \$42,992, about \$1,875 more than the class of 2016.

The First Destination survey began in 2012, with the development of the SPDC on campus, with the mission of following a student's four-year plan through to post-graduation.

“Our purpose is to help prepare students for life after Elon, whether they choose to enter the workforce or attend graduate school,” Brinkley said. “The career skills that they can learn while at Elon will carry into the future as their career journey unfolds.”

Reduce, reuse, recycle plastic bottles into caps and gowns

Seniors don sustainable graduation robes made from plastic bottles

Nina Fleck
Copy Chief | @elonnewsnetwork

It's no secret that Barnes & Noble College at Elon University sees an influx of students toward the end of the year not only to return rental books, but also to grab their caps and gowns in time for graduation.

WHO MAKES THE GOWNS?

Oak Hall Cap & Gown supplies GreenWeaver gowns, which use 23 plastic bottles on average to produce one gown.

A lesser-known fact is that for the past seven years, Elon's caps and gowns have been made entirely of recycled plastic bottles.

Oak Hall Cap & Gown supplies GreenWeaver gowns, which uses 23 plastic

bottles on average to produce one gown.

“Recycled plastic bottles are processed to remove impurities such as labels and caps. The bottles are then chopped into fragments called ‘flakes,’” Oak Hall's website says. “Flakes are melted and then solidified into uniform pellets called ‘chips.’ Chips are melted again and extruded into continuous lament yarn.”

After that, the post-consumer plastic yarn is woven, dyed and fixed into commencement-ready form.

The bookstore distributes the



Senior Ryan Corning gets a composite photo taken in his new cap and gown that is made out of recycled materials. JESSICA RAFFOGEL | ELON NEWS NETWORK

caps and gowns at no upfront cost to the student, thanks to the university.

“Not everybody walks, so it changes year-to-year how much we actually hand out,” said Carly Mayer, the store manager of Barnes & Noble College at Elon.

But according to the 2018 Spring Registrar's Report, approximately 2,000 undergraduates will be graduating on May 19.

In other words, upward of 50,000 plastic bottles were recycled to create enough caps and gowns for Elon's graduating class this year.

To put this figure in perspective, 1 million plastic bottles are

CAP AND GOWN RECYCLABLES

50K

plastic bottles were recycled to create enough caps and gowns for Elon's graduating class of 2,000 this year.

91%

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purchased globally each minute, Sandra Laville and Matthew Taylor wrote in The Guardian last June, and 91 percent of plastic waste isn't recycled, Laura Parker reported to National Geographic last July.

But as it happens, these plastic caps and gowns can be further recycled.

Mayer says recycling the caps and gowns is an option, but not many students have done so directly after graduation because of accessibility and the physical nature of having graduation under the oaks. She speculates that students might not remember the attire is recyclable after graduating.

RECYCLING PROCESS

1. Recycled plastic bottles are processed to remove impurities such as labels and caps
2. The bottles are chopped into fragments called ‘flakes’
3. Flakes are melted and then solidified into uniform pellets called ‘chips’
4. Chips are melted again and extruded into continuous lament yarn
5. Post-consumer plastic yarn is woven, dyed and fixed into commencement-ready form

“I think the thought is that it's one more thing in the way during graduation,” Mayer said in regards to having recycling bins for the caps and gowns right after the ceremony. “It's something I'm working on for when we graduate in Schar Center. Then there's definite outlets whereas here, [under the oaks], everybody scatters. ... That's definitely something I'd like to do because otherwise, what do you need them for?”

In addition to Elon, approximately 350 schools around the country use GreenWeaver gowns, including neighboring schools Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“Elon University went with GreenWeaver in 2011 and was one of the first in the country,” said Mike Merritt, the Oak Hall representative for this area.

And according to Oak Hall, more than 4 million students have worn the GreenWeaver attire for their graduations.