

RESEARCH BRIEF

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Employment Rates and Median Salary of NOVA Graduates: 2013-14 through 2015-16

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) provides employer and job seeker services, unemployment benefits, and labor market information. The VEC maintains data that is required by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for all Virginia businesses covered by unemployment insurance.¹ Excluded from these data are the following groups within the workforce: military personnel, federal civilian employees, and self-employed individuals.²

Based on data from the VEC, the following tables present the portions of students who were employed by the fourth quarter of their year of graduation from NOVA.³ Also included are tables that present median salary information for full-time employed graduates. Employment status and median salary data are both shown by degree type, gender, and NOVA campus for the past three academic years.

Employment Status of NOVA Graduates³

Table 1 shows the employment rates of NOVA graduates for the last three academic years.

- For all three years, the majority of students who graduated from NOVA were employed (either full- or part-time). The highest rate of full-time employment was for NOVA graduates from 2014-15 (35%).

Table 1. Employment Status of NOVA Graduates: 2013-14 through 2015-16

NOVA Graduation Year	Total	Full-Time Employed		Part-Time Employed		Not Employed	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
2013-14	6,598	2,188	33.2%	2,052	31.1%	2,358	35.7%
2014-15	6,771	2,396	35.4%	2,094	30.9%	2,281	33.7%
2015-16	6,939	2,377	34.3%	2,015	29.0%	2,547	36.7%

¹From the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) website: <http://www.vec.virginia.gov/>

²Self-employed individuals include independent contractors and workers for small agricultural and fishing businesses.

³Employment status is by the fourth quarter of their year of graduation from NOVA. Example: For the 2013-14 graduates, employment status is by the fourth quarter of 2014. However, please note that 2015-16 data is preliminary, VEC data is available only up to the third quarter of 2016.

Figure 1. Employment Status of NOVA Graduates: 2013-14 through 2015-16

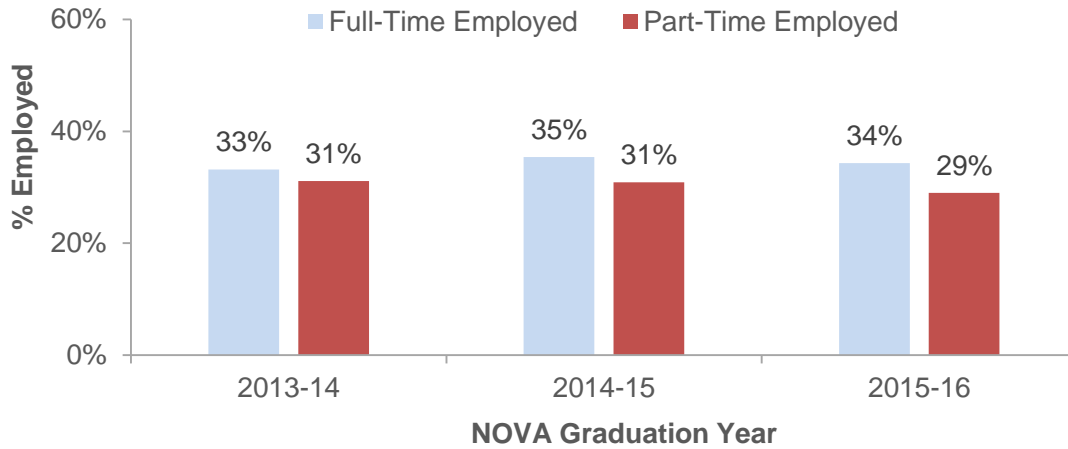


Table 2 and Figure 2 show the employment rates of NOVA graduates by degree type for the past three academic years.

- Regardless of the type of credential earned, nearly two-thirds of NOVA graduates were employed.

Table 2. Employment Status of NOVA Graduates by Degree Type: 2013-14 through 2015-16

NOVA Degree	2013-14			2014-15			2015-16		
	Total	Employed		Total	Employed		Total	Employed	
		#	%		#	%		#	%
A.A.	472	300	63.6%	446	290	65.0%	445	287	64.5%
A.S.	3,917	2,506	64.0%	4,024	2,665	66.2%	4,168	2,660	63.8%
A.A.A./A.A.S	946	626	66.2%	940	620	66.0%	918	577	62.9%
Certificate	1,263	808	64.0%	1,361	915	67.2%	1,408	868	61.6%
Total	6,598	4,240	64.3%	6,771	4,490	66.3%	6,939	4,392	63.3%

Figure 2. Employment Status of NOVA Graduates by Degree Type: 2013-14 through 2015-16

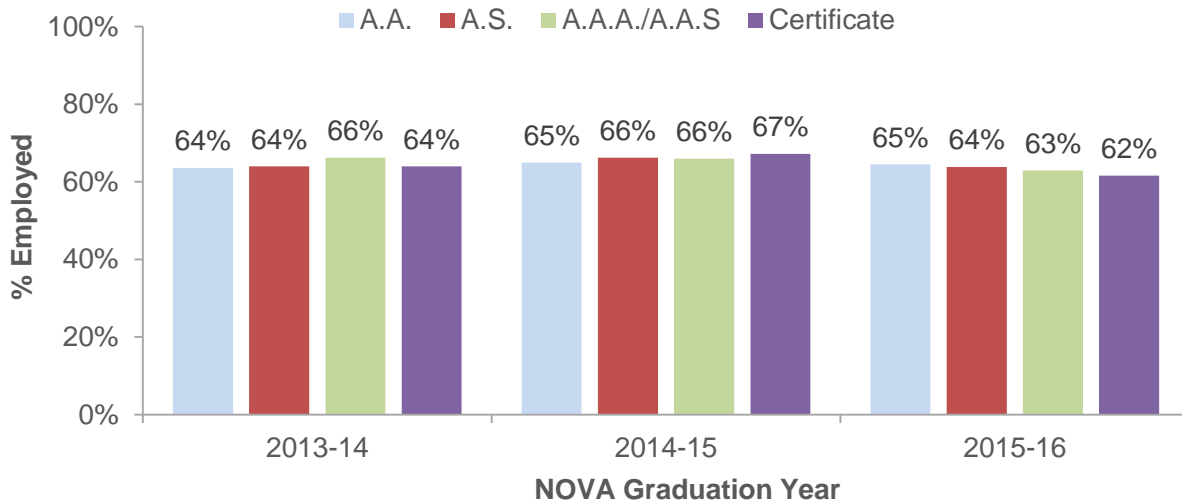


Table 3 displays the employment rates of NOVA graduates by gender.

- Female students were employed full-time at a higher rate than male students following graduation from NOVA (up to 2.5 percentage points higher).

Table 3. Employment Status of NOVA Graduates by Gender: 2013-14 through 2015-16

Gender	2013-14			2014-15			2015-16		
	Total	Employed		Total	Employed		Total	Employed	
		#	%		#	%		#	%
Male	2,947	1,867	63.4%	2,981	1,936	64.9%	3,153	1,967	62.4%
Female	3,651	2,373	65.0%	3,790	2,554	67.4%	3,786	2,425	64.1%
Total	6,598	4,240	64.3%	6,771	4,490	66.3%	6,939	4,392	63.3%

Table 4 shows the employment rates of NOVA graduates by NOVA campus.

- NOVA graduates from the Medical Education Campus were employed at the highest rate (69 to 74 percent) and graduates from the Alexandria Campus were employed at the lowest rate (56 to 60 percent).

Table 4. Employment Status of NOVA Graduates by Campus: 2013-14 through 2015-16

Campus	2013-14			2014-15			2015-16		
	Total	Employed		Total	Employed		Total	Employed	
		#	%		#	%		#	%
Alexandria	1,275	767	60.2%	1,295	778	60.1%	1,238	690	55.7%
Annandale	1,917	1,190	62.1%	1,950	1,248	64.0%	2,021	1,261	62.4%
Loudoun	972	642	66.0%	1,080	753	69.7%	1,076	719	66.8%
Manassas	859	597	69.5%	886	635	71.7%	1,010	690	68.3%
MEC	595	416	69.9%	570	420	73.7%	607	417	68.7%
Woodbridge	980	628	64.1%	990	656	66.3%	987	615	62.3%
Total	6,598	4,240	64.3%	6,771	4,490	66.3%	6,939	4,392	63.3%

Median Salary of Full-Time Employed NOVA Graduates⁴

Tables 5 through 8 and Figure 3 show the median salary of full-time employed NOVA graduates by degree type, gender, and campus.

- The median salary of all full-time employed NOVA graduates (A.A., A.S., A.A.A./A.A.S., and Certificate) was the highest in 2014-15 (\$32,648).

Table 5. Median Salary of Full-Time Employed NOVA Graduates: 2013-14 through 2015-16

NOVA Graduation Year	Median Salary
2013-14	\$32,314
2014-15	\$32,648
2015-16	\$30,435

Table 6 (next page) shows the median salary of full-time employed NOVA graduates by degree type.

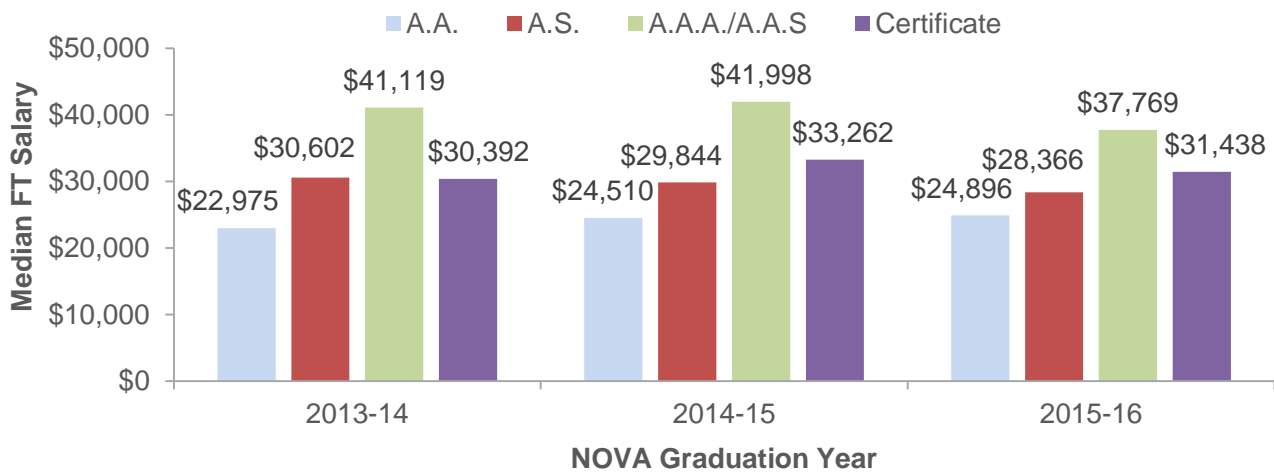
⁴Full-Time employed - if hourly rate of highest salary for the most recent quarter > \$7.25 (hourly federal minimum wage rate) then the student is assumed to be full-time. Due to lack of employment status information in the VEC dataset, full-time/part-time status was derived from wage data. That is, hourly earnings were calculated using quarterly wage data with an assumption of 40-hour work week. This classification is only a proxy for the actual employment status, which is currently not available. Hourly Rate = Wages by 13 weeks * 40 hours.

- Graduates with A.A.A./A.A.S. had the highest median salary (over \$37,000) and graduates with A.A. degrees had the lowest median salary (under \$25,000).

Table 6. Median Salary of Full-Time Employed NOVA Graduates by Degree Type: 2013-14 through 2015-16

NOVA Degree	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
A.A.	\$22,975	\$24,510	\$24,896
A.S.	\$30,602	\$29,844	\$28,366
A.A.A./A.A.S	\$41,119	\$41,998	\$37,769
Certificate	\$30,392	\$33,262	\$31,438

Figure 3. Median Salary of Full-Time Employed NOVA Graduates by Degree Type: 2013-14 through 2015-16



The following tables show the median salaries of full-time employed NOVA graduates by gender (Table 7) and by campus (Table 8).

- For each of the academic years shown here, male students earned a higher median salary than female students.
- NOVA graduates from the Medical Education Campus earned the highest median salaries (over \$34,000).

Table 7. Median Salary of Full-Time Employed NOVA Graduates by Gender: 2013-14 through 2015-16

Gender	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Male	\$34,147	\$34,260	\$32,030
Female	\$31,128	\$31,933	\$29,436

Table 8. Median Salary of Full-Time Employed NOVA Graduates by Campus: 2013-14 through 2015-16

Campus	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Alexandria	\$32,788	\$30,892	\$29,942
Annandale	\$30,452	\$32,110	\$29,273
Loudoun	\$31,372	\$31,501	\$31,867
Manassas	\$29,974	\$30,090	\$29,579
MEC	\$39,340	\$44,322	\$34,770
Woodbridge	\$32,566	\$32,984	\$28,997