

BC STUDENT OUTCOMES

fact sheet

Occupational Skill Levels by Credential

Skill level is the amount and type of education and training required for an occupation.

Introduction

In 2013, the BC Student Outcomes surveys collected information from over 30,000 former students. The majority of respondents were employed at the time of the survey and they were asked to give information on their occupations. The information they provided was used to code their jobs according to the National Occupational Classification (NOC) system. The NOC codes were then used to aggregate respondents' jobs into occupational categories and to assign skill levels.

Over 30,000 former students responded to Student Outcomes surveys in 2013; the majority were employed.

In determining skill level, the experience required for entry and the complexity and responsibilities typical of an occupation are considered in relation to other occupations. Four skill level categories are identified in the NOC:

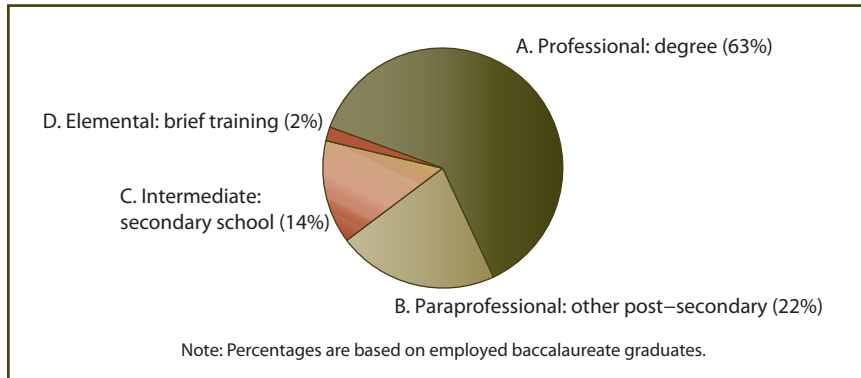
- A. Professional: Degree (bachelor's, master's, doctorate); includes Management
- B. Paraprofessional: Other post-secondary education (for credentials such as diplomas or certificates), apprenticeship, or equivalent in other training and work experience
- C. Intermediate: Secondary school, extensive on-the-job training
- D. Elemental: Brief work demonstration or on-the-job training

Most respondents to Student Outcomes surveys had taken programs that result in one of four credentials: a baccalaureate (bachelor's degree), diploma, certificate, or apprenticeship certification. Information on these four credentials and on occupation comes from three surveys: the Baccalaureate Graduates Survey, the Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes Survey, and the Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey. For more information on these surveys, see [BC Student Outcomes](#).

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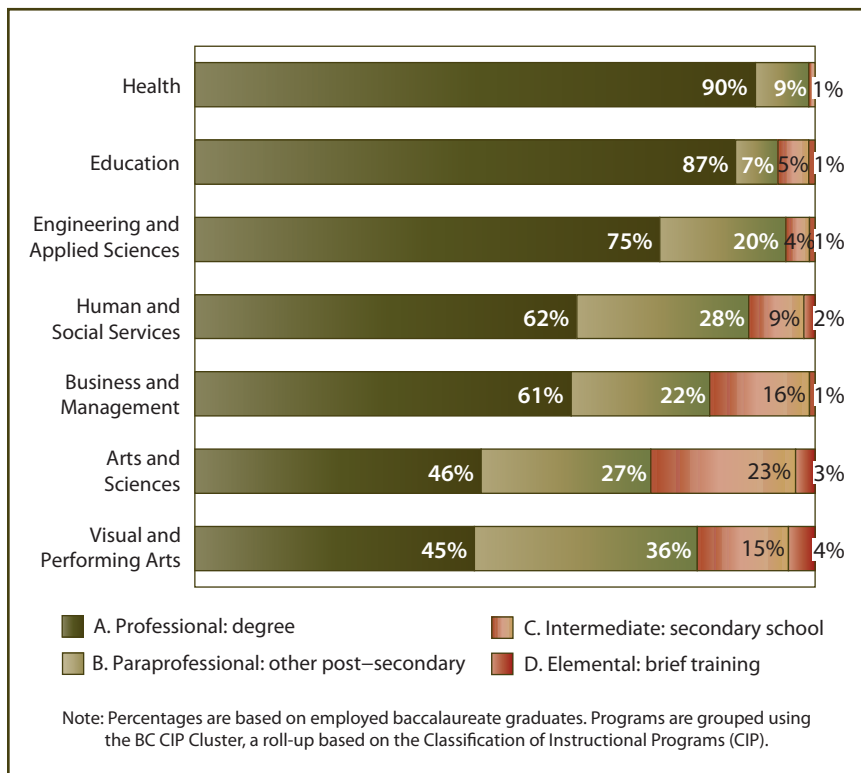
Credential: Baccalaureate

The 2013 Baccalaureate Graduates Survey was answered by 8,802 former students who graduated in the calendar year 2011. A large majority (81 percent) of those respondents were employed, and of those employed respondents, almost two-thirds (63 percent) were in professional positions requiring a degree.



Two-thirds of employed baccalaureate graduates were in professional occupations.

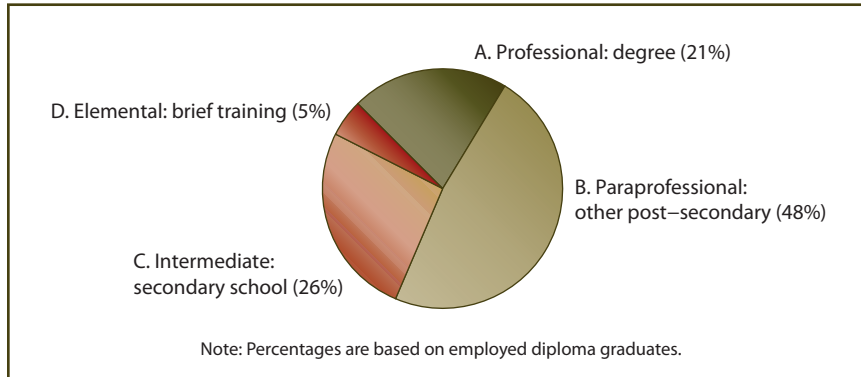
There were some differences by type of program; for example, graduates of Health programs were the most likely to be working in a professional occupation (90 percent), while former Visual and Performing Arts students were the least likely (45 percent).



Graduates of Health programs were the most likely to be working in a professional occupation.

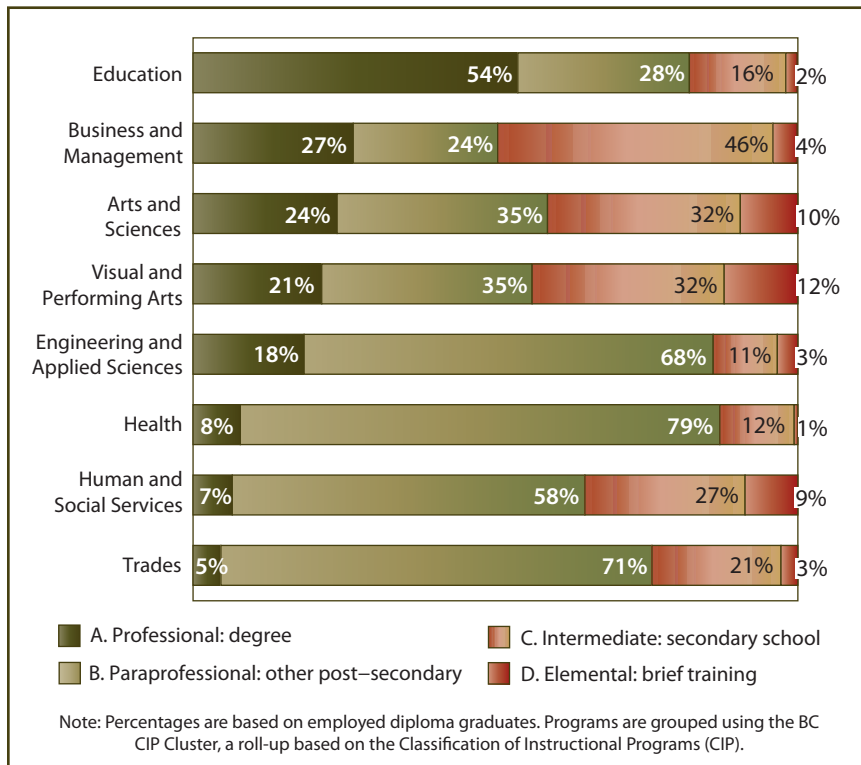
Credential: Diploma

The 2013 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey collected information from 4,100 former students who graduated from a diploma program.¹ A majority (79 percent) were employed at the time of the survey, which was 8 to 20 months after they finished their program. The largest proportion (48 percent) of employed respondents were in paraprofessional occupations that required a skill level equivalent to non-degree post-secondary education. A further 21 percent were in positions requiring a degree.



Almost half of the employed respondents from diploma programs were in paraprofessional occupations.

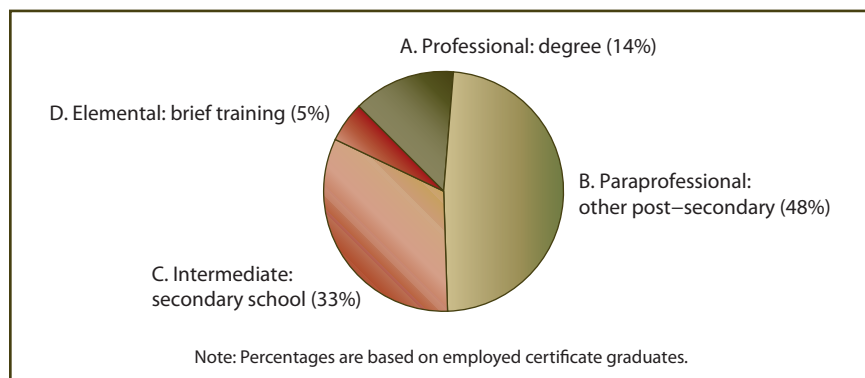
There were some significant differences in occupation by program. Diploma graduates from Education programs were the most likely to be in professional occupations (54 percent). Respondents who graduated from a diploma program in Health were the most likely to be in paraprofessional occupations (79 percent), such as medical lab technologist, dental hygienist, and animal health technologist.



Diploma graduates from Education programs were the most likely to be in professional occupations.

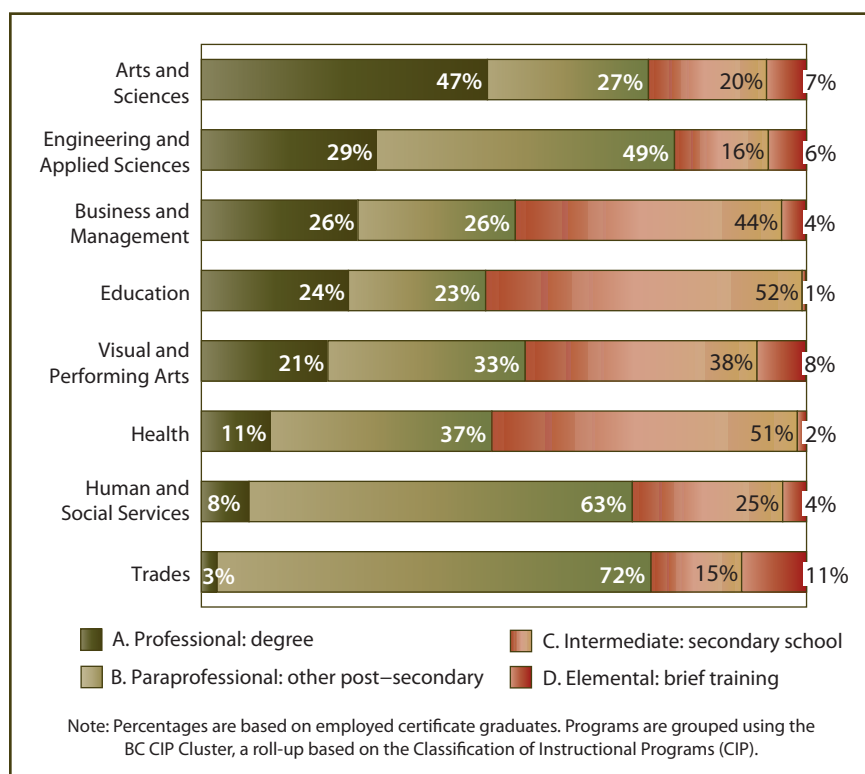
Credential: Certificate

In 2013, 7,440 graduates from certificate programs responded to the DACSO Survey. At the time they took the survey, which was 8 to 20 months after finishing their programs, 83 percent of certificate graduates were employed. Almost half (48 percent) of the employed graduates were in paraprofessional occupations that required a skill level equivalent to non-degree post-secondary education, while a third (33 percent) were in intermediate positions, which required secondary school-level skills.



Almost half of the employed graduates from certificate programs were in paraprofessional occupations.

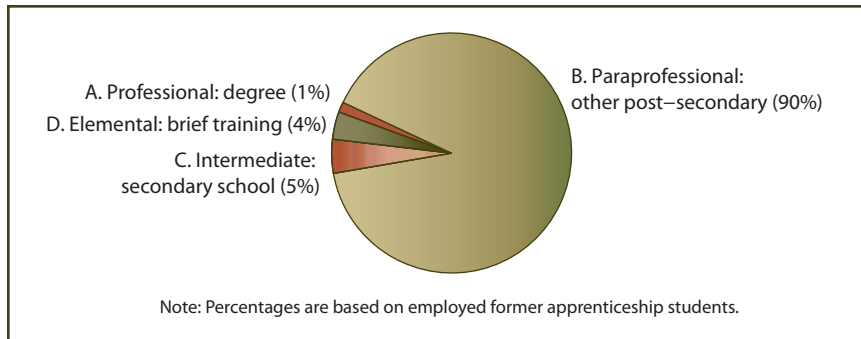
Almost half (47 percent) of the graduates from Arts and Sciences programs were in professional occupations, while close to three-quarters (72 percent) of former Trades students were employed, or apprenticing, in paraprofessional occupations, such as electrician, carpenter, or motor-vehicle mechanic.



The largest proportion of the employed graduates from Arts and Sciences programs were in professional occupations.

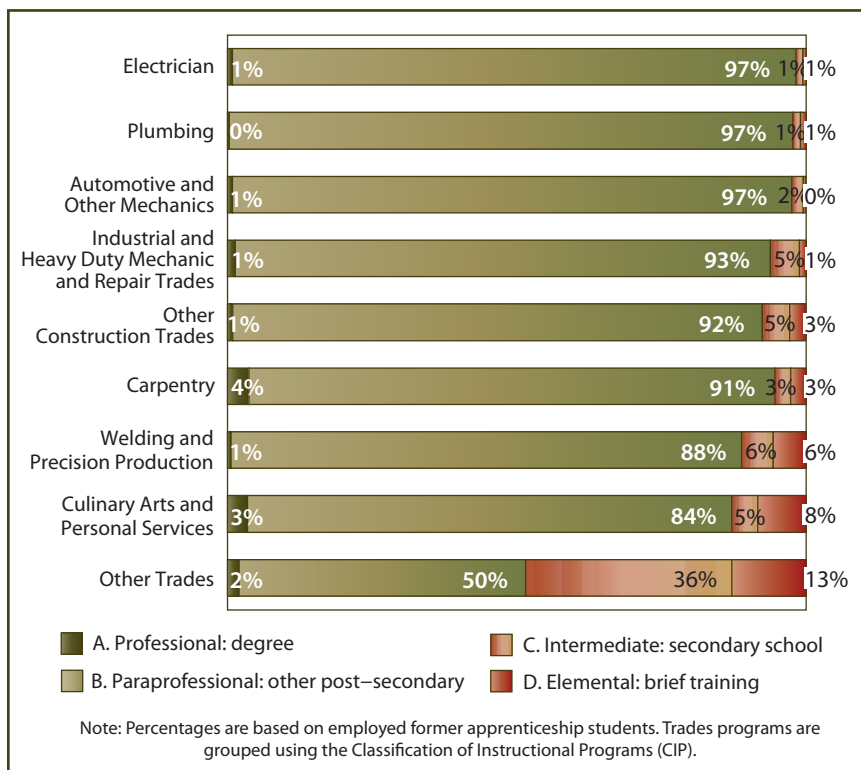
Credential: Apprenticeship

The Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey in 2013 was conducted with 3,484 former apprentices who completed their technical training 8 to 18 months before.² The majority (88 percent) of respondents were employed, and of those employed former apprentices, 90 percent had jobs that were paraprofessional, which includes apprenticeship training. This means almost all were in positions that related to their training.



Almost all former apprentices were in occupations that were classified as paraprofessional.

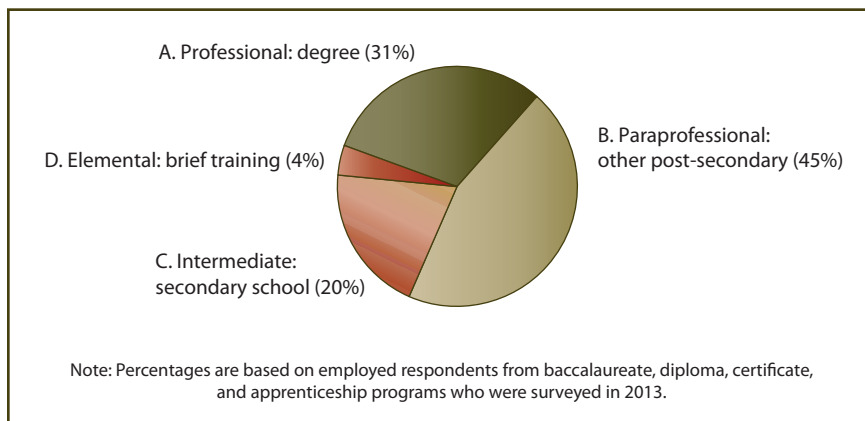
There were very few differences by trade program group. Respondents who had taken one of the “Other Trades” (including construction/heavy equipment, horticulture, landscaping, and mobile crane operation) were the least likely to be in paraprofessional occupations. A significant number of these former apprentices were in Intermediate occupations and were employed, for example, as heavy equipment operators or truck drivers.



There were few differences by trade program group; most apprenticeship respondents had jobs appropriate to their level of education.

Overall

The occupational skill levels of the jobs held by B.C.'s post-secondary graduates correspond well with the credentials awarded, especially for baccalaureate graduates and former apprentices. Overall, three-quarters (76 percent) of the employed baccalaureate, diploma, certificate, and apprenticeship graduates surveyed in 2013 had professional or paraprofessional occupations.



Overall, three-quarters of the employed baccalaureate, diploma, certificate, and apprenticeship graduates surveyed in 2013 had professional or paraprofessional occupations.

Endnotes

1. The DACSO results presented in this Fact Sheet are filtered for graduates only.
2. Although their technical training was complete, not all of the former apprentices who responded had received their Certificate of Qualification by the time of the survey—according to the 11 percent who did not achieve certification, the most common reason was insufficient work hours.

The BC Student Outcomes annual surveys collect information from former post-secondary students, who are asked to evaluate their educational experiences and to talk about their employment and further education. Information in this fact sheet came from the 2013 Baccalaureate Graduates Survey, the 2013 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes Survey, and the 2013 Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey. For more information, see the [BC Student Outcomes](#) website.

About BC Student Outcomes