

Two-thirds of the employed biological science majors became biological technicians.

One-half of the employed chemistry majors became chemists.

Graduates who secured jobs not directly related to their majors were using their training in a variety of ways.

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### What did the graduates earn?

The women graduates who were employed full time had average salaries of \$3,141 a year. Four-fifths earned between \$2,500 and \$4,000. In almost all instances these were starting salaries.

Variations among earnings were noted as follows:

#### By occupation:

Teachers averaged \$3,197 a year.

The best paying jobs averaged:

- \$3,900—chemists
- 3,848—mathematicians, statisticians
- 3,438—nurses

The lowest paying jobs averaged:

- \$2,420—sales clerks, retail workers
- 2,684—bank and insurance workers
- 2,704—typists (not including secretaries and stenographers)

#### By undergraduate major:

Salaries were higher for those who had secured training in fields with a shortage of qualified workers: Annual salaries averaging between \$3,400 and \$3,670 were received by graduates who had majored in physical sciences, nursing, other health fields, and mathematics; and between \$2,660 and \$3,000 by majors in art, languages, psychology, journalism, and music.

### How many graduates were continuing their education?



Among the 81,000 graduates, 18 percent were continuing to attend school, half of them on a full-time basis, and half part time. Most of the latter group were employed. Almost two-thirds of the full-time students were working toward a master's degree; a few toward a doctorate; and most of the others toward a certificate for teaching or some other type of work.

Education led the fields of graduate study, followed by English, business and commerce, and sociology and social work.

Two-thirds of the 82 percent of the graduates not attending school said they planned to do some advanced study in the future.

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### What did the graduates think about future employment?

Among every 100 graduates:

- 26 wanted a career
- 16 expected to work indefinitely, but were not planning a career
- 12 expected to work only as necessary
- 46 preferred not to work after marriage, except briefly.

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# Employment of Women College Graduates

## Class of 1955

*What they were doing  
in early 1956*

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
James P. Mitchell, *Secretary*

WOMEN'S BUREAU  
Alice K. Leopold, *Director*

Leaflet 26—1956

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# Employment of Women College Graduates

Class of 1955—

## Survey of graduates in early 1956

*Were they working, studying, or at home?  
What kinds of jobs did they have?  
Were their jobs related to their majors?  
How much were they earning?*

These are some of the questions students and counselors ask as they wonder about job opportunities and consider the college courses a student should take to prepare for them.



Some answers have been provided in a questionnaire survey conducted by the Women's Section of the National Vocational Guidance Association and the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor.

Information was supplied in the winter of 1955-56 by a sample of recent graduates selected scientifically from colleges in all sections of the country. They represented the 81,000 women who received bachelor degrees in June 1955 from women's or coeducational colleges and universities. Their degrees were divided about evenly between B. A.'s and B. S.'s.

## Who were the women surveyed?

Of every 100 graduates—

### By age:

- 24 were under 22 years of age
- 49 were 22 years of age
- 19 were 23 to 29 years of age
- 8 were 30 years of age or over

### By marital status:

- 64 were single (some were engaged)
- 34 were married (over two-thirds of these were working wives)
- 2 were widowed, divorced, or separated

### By undergraduate major, there were:

- 35 in education
- 12 in English and foreign languages
- 11 in social sciences
- 8 in fine arts
- 8 in home economics
- 7 in natural sciences and mathematics
- 4 in business and commerce
- 3 in nursing
- 12 in other subjects

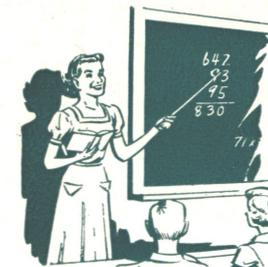
### By current employment status:

- 80 were employed
- 9 were attending school full time
- 4 were seeking work
- 7 were not seeking work

A copy of the full report, entitled, "Employment After College: Report on Women Graduates, Class of 1955," can be obtained by writing to:

Women's Bureau  
U. S. Department of Labor  
Washington 25, D. C.

## What kinds of jobs did the employed graduates secure?



Teaching continues to be the most popular profession of college-educated women. Three out of five of the employed graduates became teachers. A substantial proportion of the others got

jobs as secretaries, typists, or clerks. The remainder were in a wide variety of occupations, such as copywriter, dietitian, draftsman, editor, home economist, librarian, mathematician, reporter, social worker, statistician, and store manager or buyer.

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## How did the jobs of these graduates relate to their major subjects?

More than four-fifths of the employed graduates indicated some relationship between their current jobs and their college majors. They also reported that their jobs were the type hoped for and represented a step forward in their vocational development.

Among the many graduates who found employment in occupations directly related to their major subjects:

Almost all—95 percent—of the employed education majors became teachers.

At least half of the employed graduates who had majored in physical education, English, music, history, home economics, and mathematics also became teachers.

Nine-tenths of the employed nursing majors became nurses.