

Alumni Feedback Survey 2014

## Doctoral Report

Classes of 2011, 2012, & 2013

Office of Accreditation and Assessment

Teachers College Columbia University

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## INTRODUCTION

The Teachers College Alumni Feedback Survey 2014 was administered in July 2014. The purpose of the survey was to gather information from alumni on: their employment after graduating from Teachers College (TC); on enrollment for further education and professional activities since graduating from TC; on their perception of the importance of a set of TC learning outcomes to being successful, on how competent they perceive themselves to be, and their TC program effectiveness in developing that competence on those learning outcomes; their professional development experience, and professional development needs and interests for the future. The Teachers College Alumni Feedback Survey 2014 also served as a baseline for program reviews as part of the Middle States Accreditation Review in March 2016. . This report focuses on information collected from doctoral alumni across all programs.

### Survey Instrument

The questionnaire, developed by the Office of Accreditation and Assessment in consultation with program faculty, was reviewed and revised by the Survey Group. The Survey Group is one of the three self-study working groups organized by the Steering Committee for the decennial Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) re-accreditation at Teachers College. The questionnaire is comprised of 67 questions, most of which are closed-ended (see Appendix B for the survey instrument).

### Target Population and Administration

The target population was comprised of all Teachers College doctoral alumni who graduated between October 2010 and May 2013. A total of 587 doctoral alumni were surveyed. The survey was administered through Qualtrics, an online survey program.

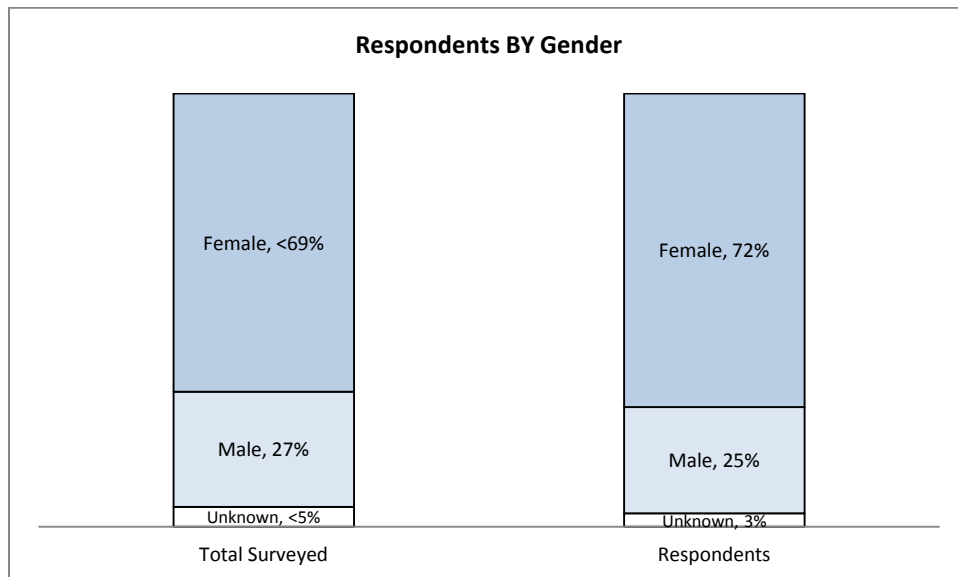
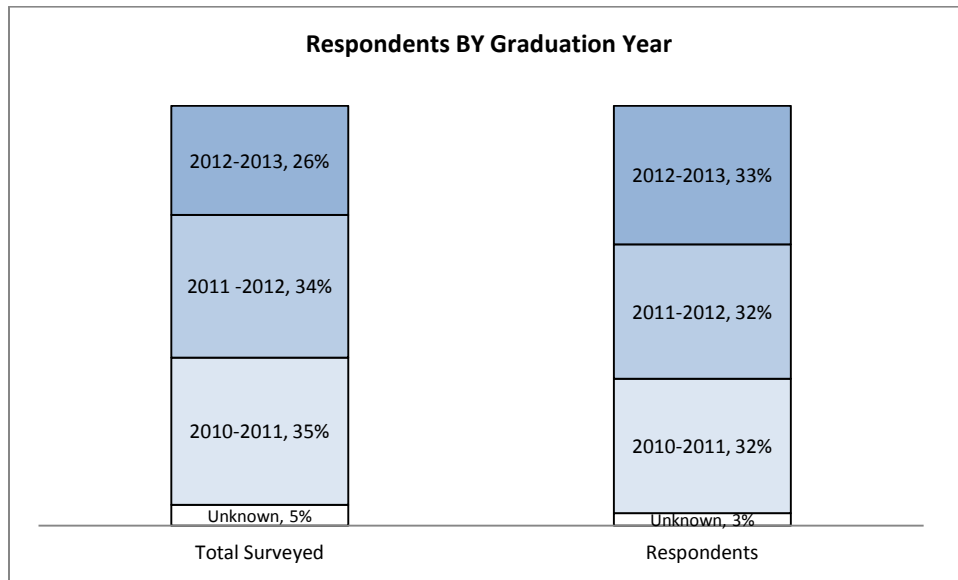
Of the 18 programs selected for the College's Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Self-Study, only one was a doctoral program. To personalize the call for survey participation, alumni who graduated from this particular doctoral program received a cover letter, requesting their participation, signed by a senior faculty member from that program. The other alumni who graduated from programs which did not participate in the MSCHE self-study received a cover letter signed by the Vice Provost. Non-respondents received three follow-up reminders. The survey was closed in November 2014.

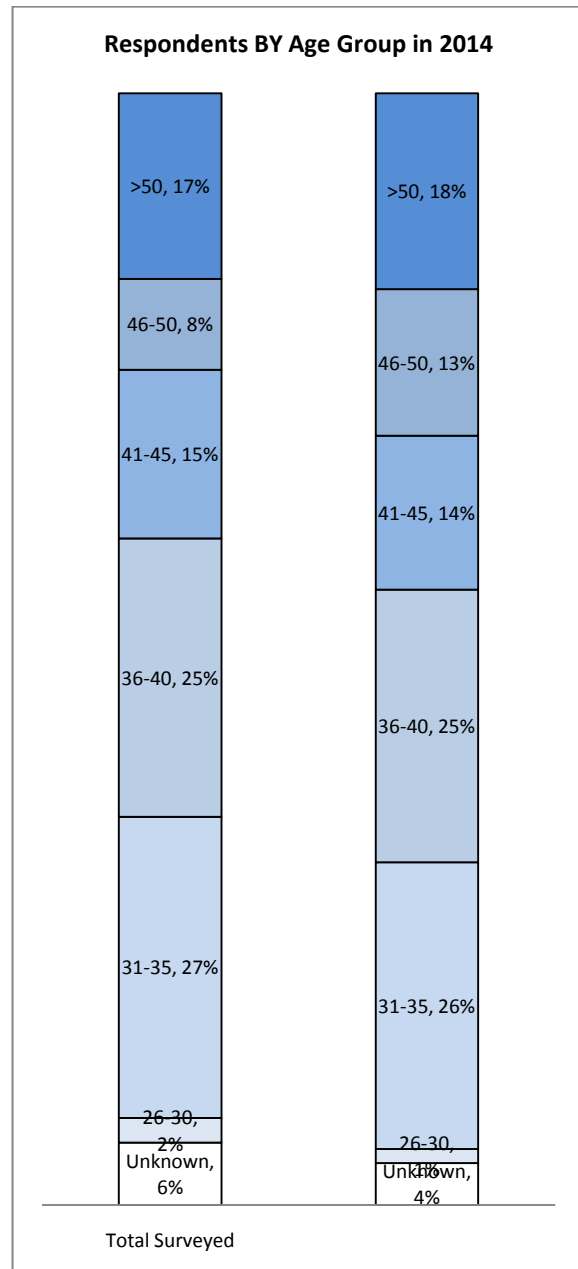
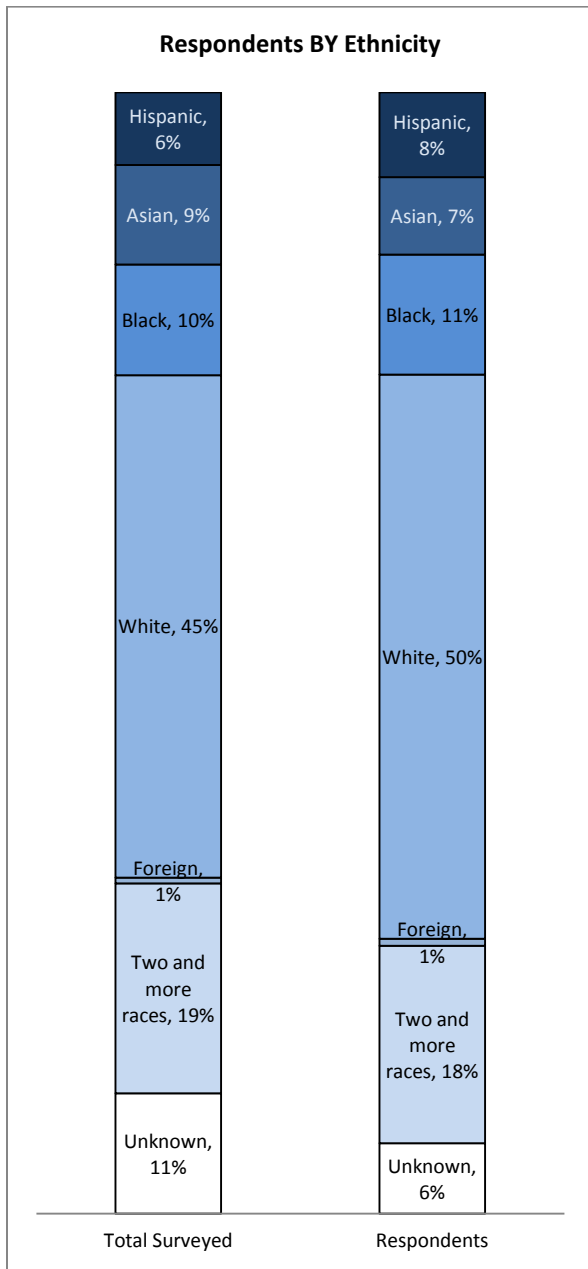
### Response Rate

Of the 587 doctoral alumni surveyed, 159 surveys were received, giving a response rate of 27%. Respondents represented 56 programs (see Appendix A for response rates by program).

### Characteristics of Respondents

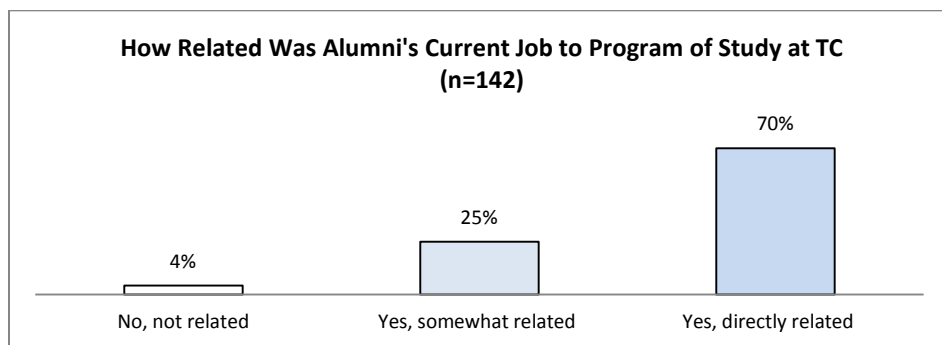
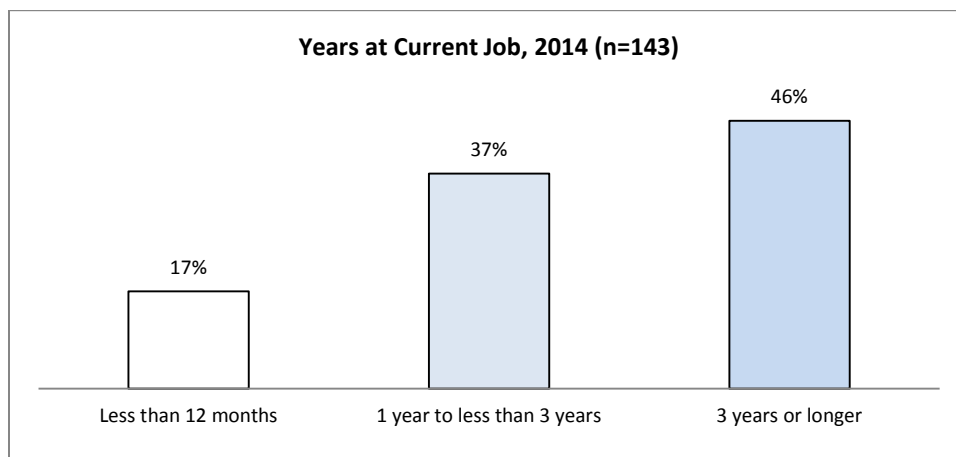
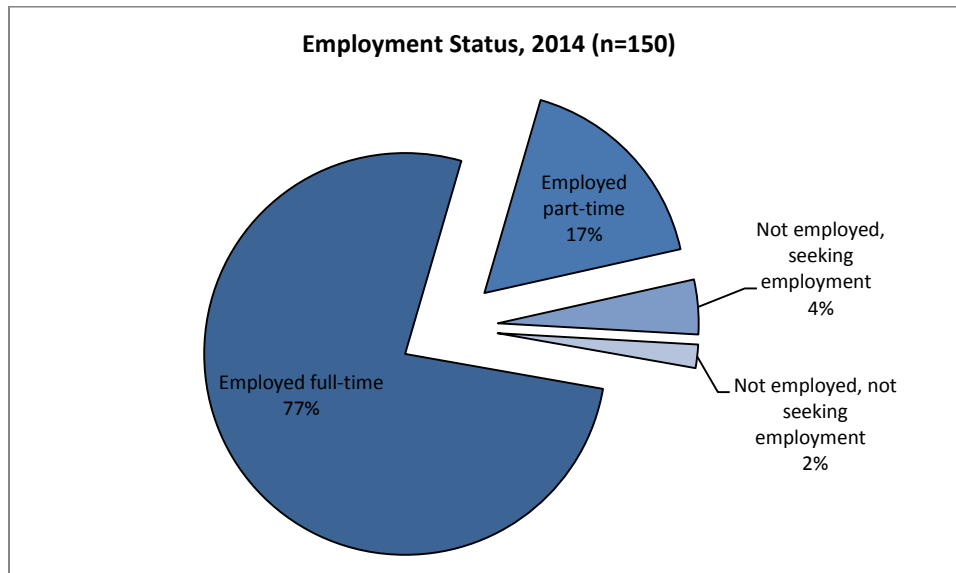
The charts in this section display the percentage of doctoral respondents compared to the total number of doctoral alumni surveyed by graduation year, gender, ethnicity, and age group in 2014. The percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding to integers.

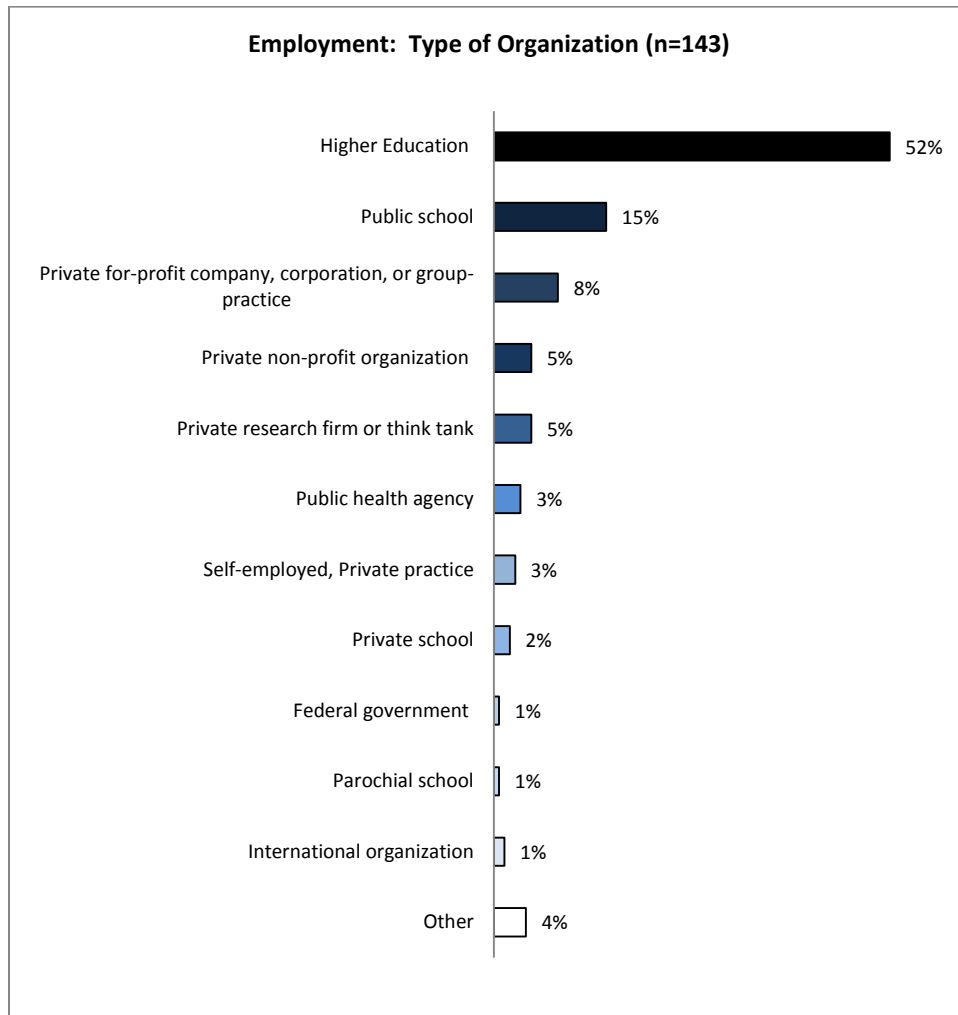


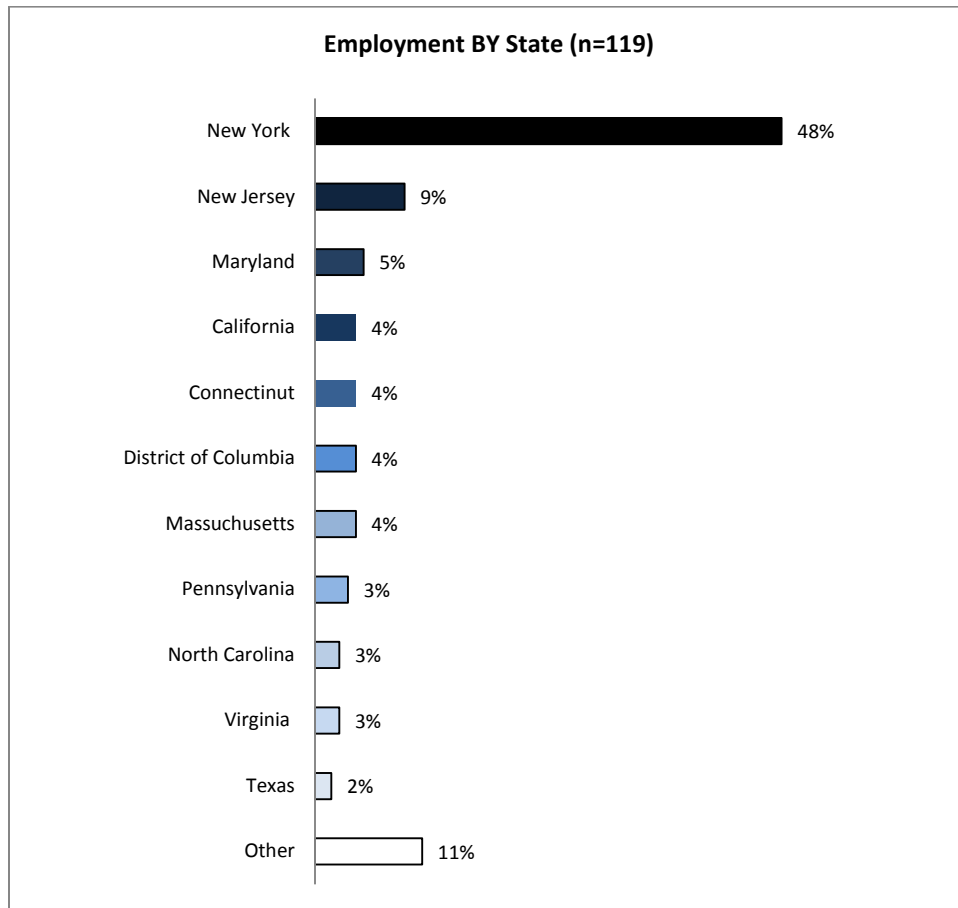


### EMPLOYMENT IN 2014

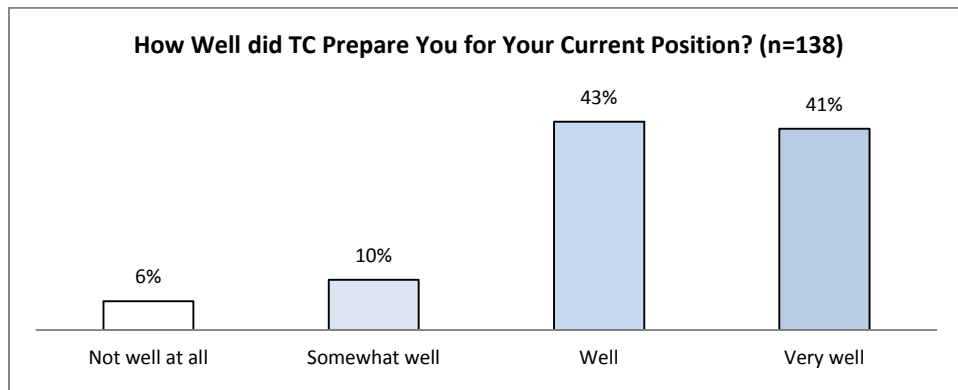
#### Current Employment



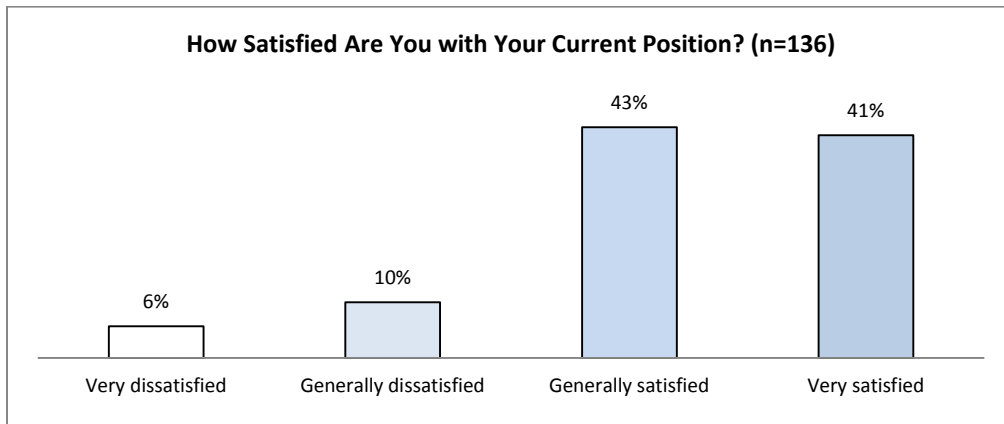




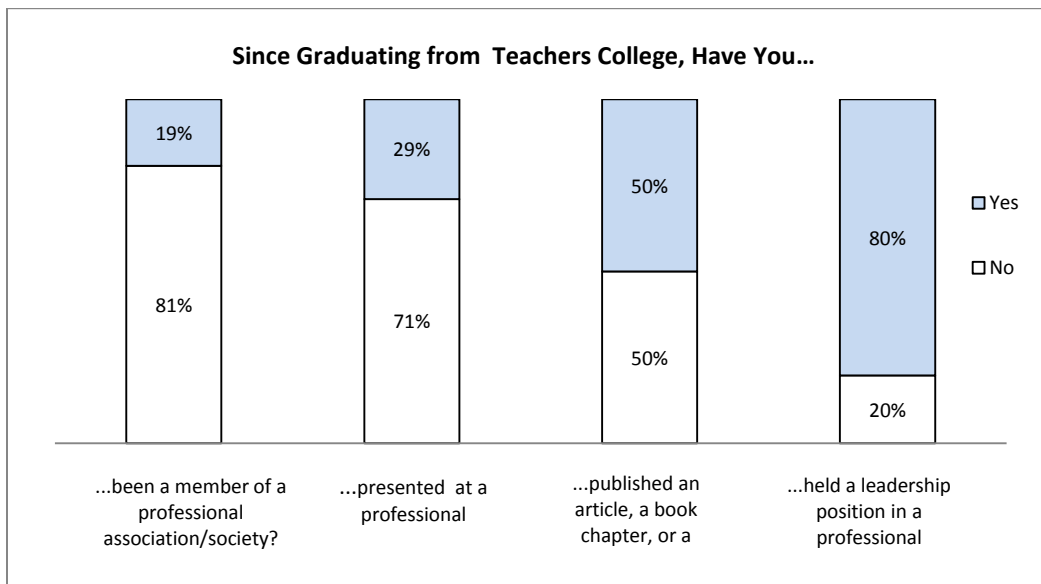
“Other” (11%) included employment of at least one alumnus in the states of Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.



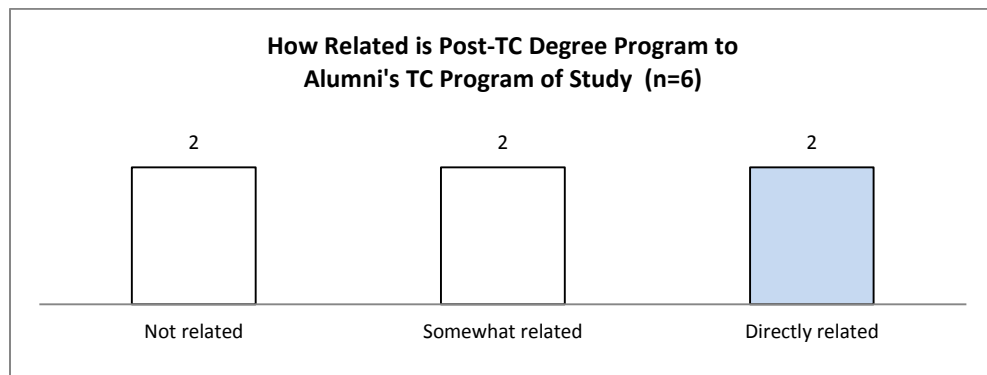
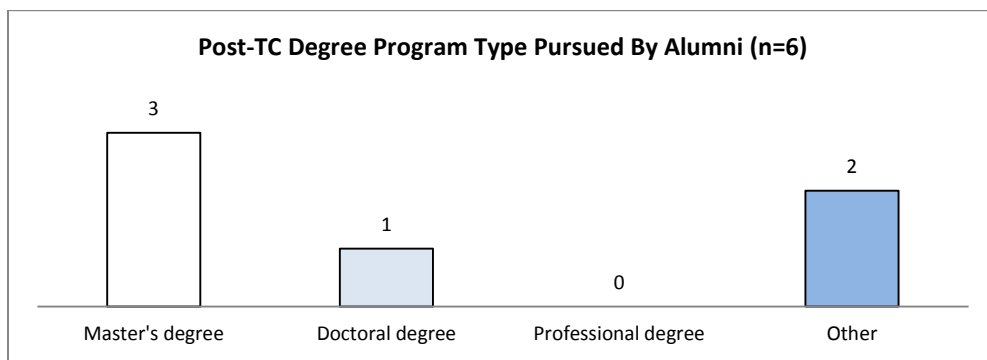
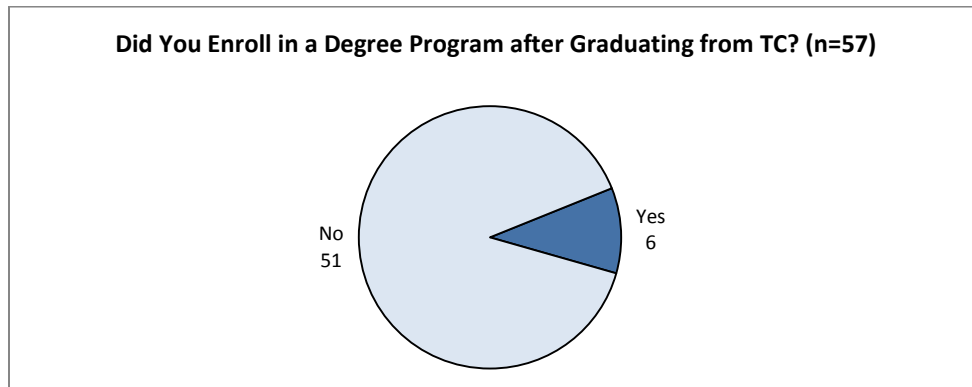




**Professional Activities since Graduation**



### FURTHER EDUCATION



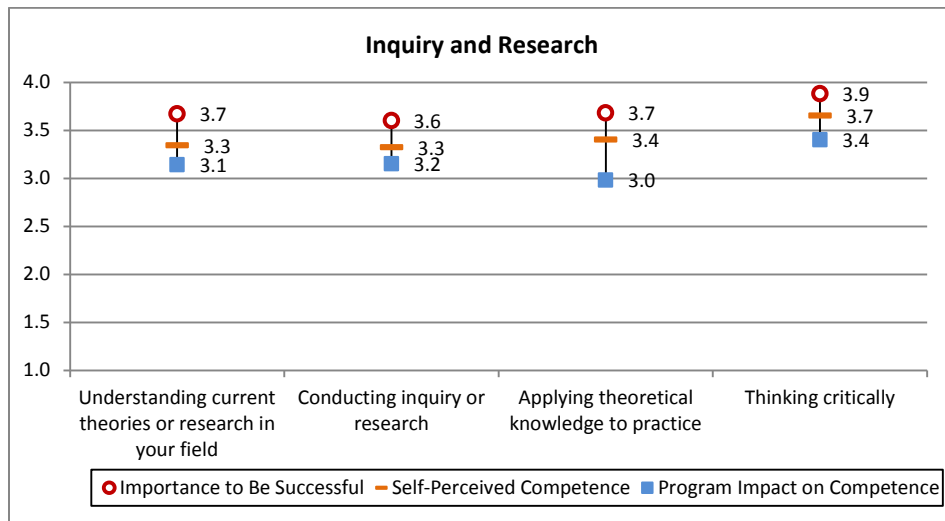
Of the six alumni who responded, four stayed in the State of New York to pursue their post-TC degree program, one in New Jersey, and another in Virginia. When asked how well TC prepared them for post-TC degree program studies, five alumni responded to this question and all five reported they were “very well” prepared.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

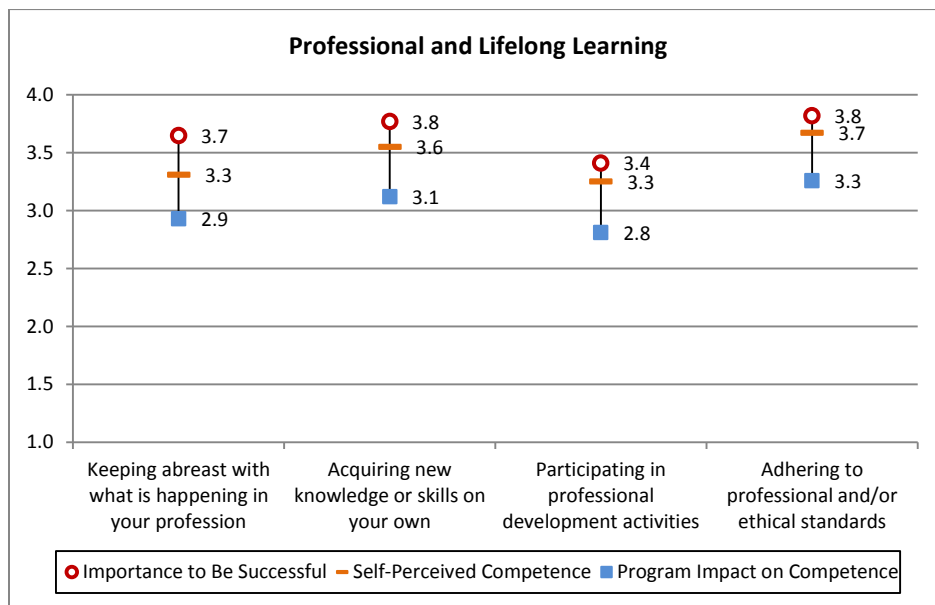
Alumni were asked to rate 16 competencies, also known as Teachers College learning outcomes, using a four-point scale from 1 (low) to 4 (high). Each of the 16 competencies is tied to one of four learning goals: (i) Inquiry and Research; (ii) Professionalism and Lifelong Learning; (iii) Communication, Collaboration, Leadership; (iv) Diversity, Multiculturalism, and Social Justice. For each competency (learning outcome), alumni rated how important they felt the competency was to them to being successful, how competent they felt, and how effective their TC program was in developing that competence in them.

<b>Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions</b>	<b>(a) How important to you are the following areas to be successful?</b>	<b>(b) Your competence in each area</b>	<b>(c) How effective was your TC program in developing that competence in you?</b>
	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Mean</b>
1. Understanding current theories or research in your field	3.7	3.3	3.1
2. Conducting inquiry or research	3.6	3.3	3.2
3. Applying theoretical knowledge to practice	3.7	3.4	3.0
4. Thinking critically	3.9	3.7	3.4
5. Keeping abreast with what is happening in your profession	3.7	3.3	2.9
6. Acquiring new knowledge or skills on your own	3.8	3.6	3.1
7. Participating in professional development activities	3.4	3.3	2.8
8. Adhering to professional and/or ethical standards	3.8	3.7	3.3
9. Communicating your ideas	3.9	3.5	3.3
10. Being an effective team member	3.7	3.5	3.1
11. Motivating other people in your job	3.5	3.3	2.7
12. Appreciating cultural diversity	3.7	3.6	3.3
13. Valuing perspectives different from your own	3.8	3.6	3.4
14. Working with diverse people or populations	3.7	3.5	3.3
15. Recognizing social problems or inequalities	3.7	3.5	3.3
16. Advocating for students or clients and/or their families	3.4	3.3	2.9

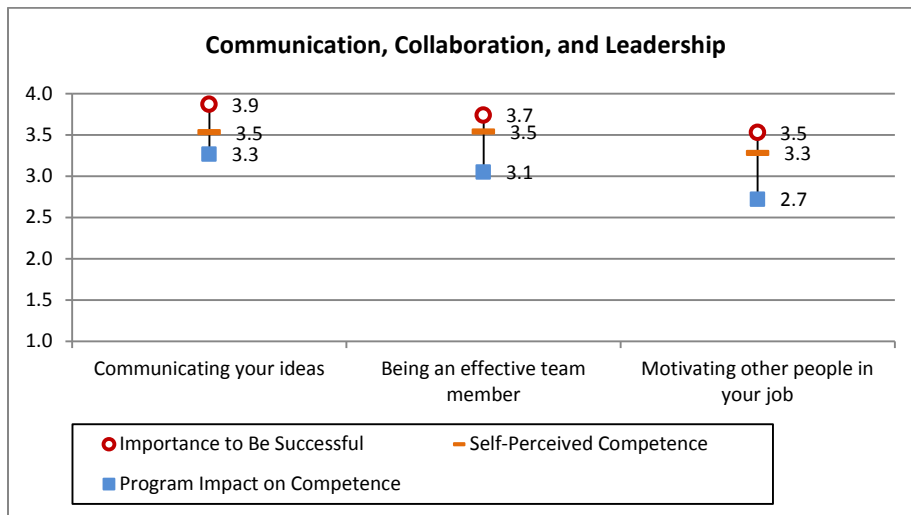
## Research, Scholarship, Inquiry



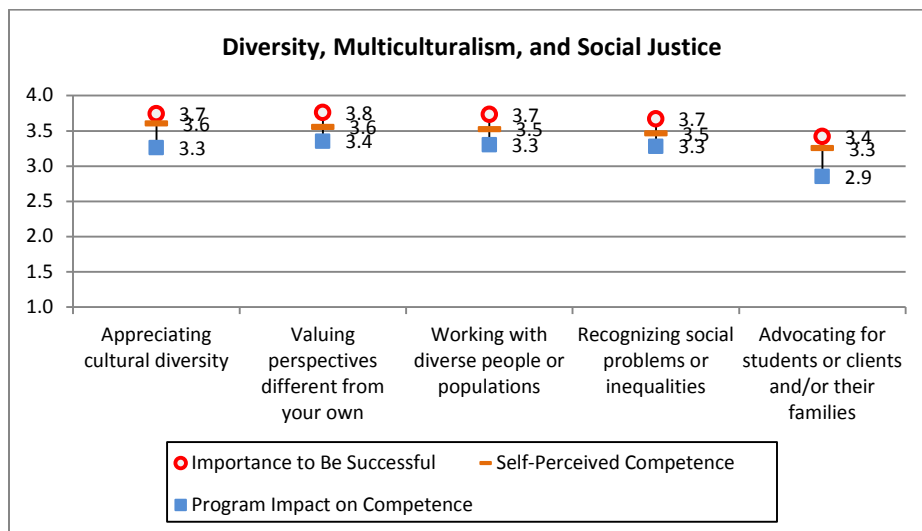
## Professionalism, Lifelong Learning, Professional Development



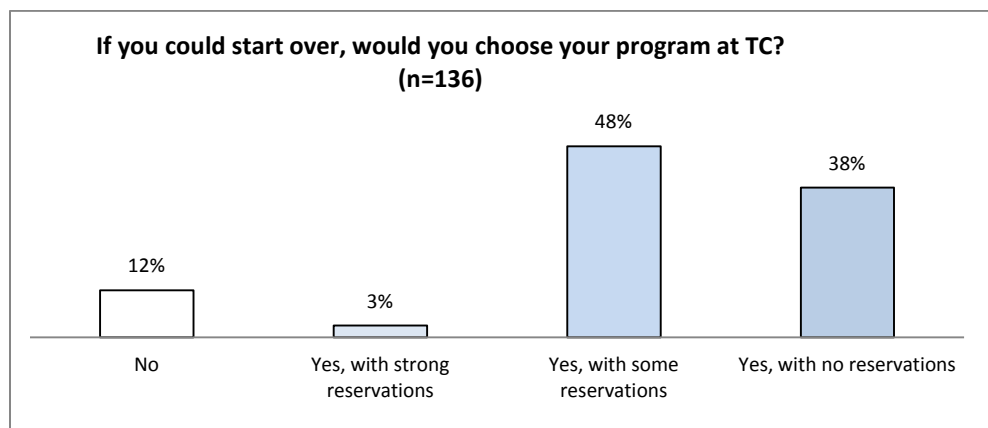
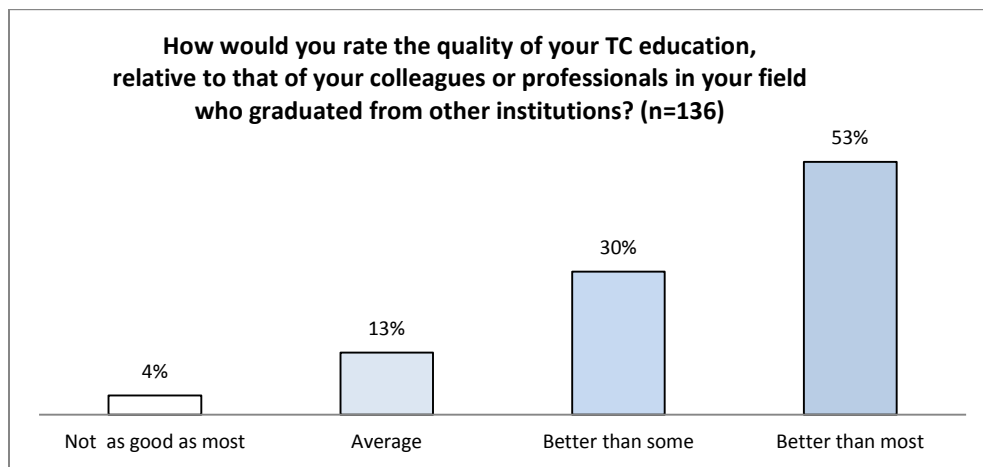
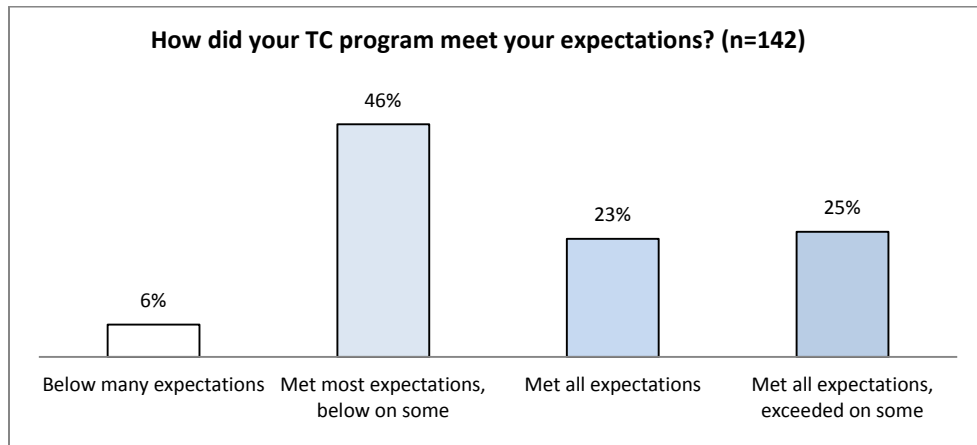
### Communication, Collaboration, Leadership

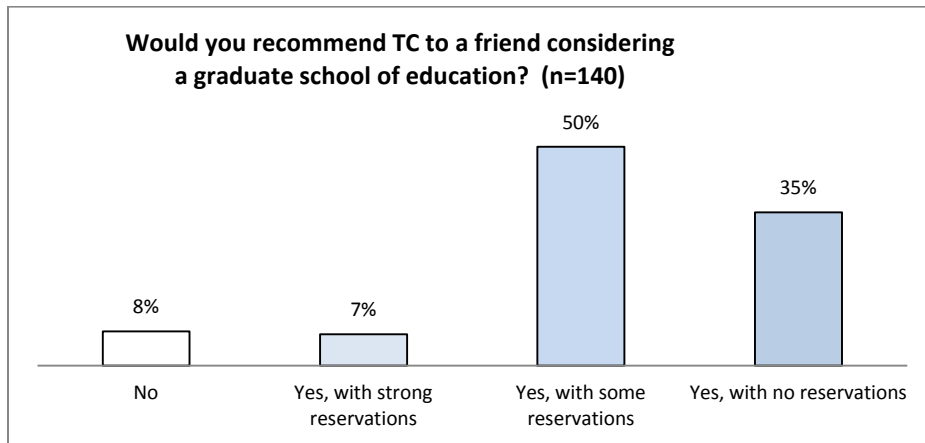


### Diversity, Multiculturalism, and Social Justice



### OVERALL SATISFACTION





**APPENDIX A: RESPONSE RATES BY PROGRAM**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Number Surveyed</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>
Administration Special Education	2	1	50%
Adult Education Guided Intensive Study	15	3	20%
Adult Learning and Leadership	16	4	25%
Anthropology	3	0	0%
Applied Anthropology	9	2	22%
Applied Behavior Analysis	8	0	0%
Applied Linguistics	6	2	33%
Art and Art Education	24	6	25%
Behavioral Nutrition	9	2	22%
Clinical Psychology	26	5	19%
Cognitive Studies in Education	22	5	23%
Communication, Computing, and Technology in Education	6	2	33%
Curriculum and Teaching in Physical Education	3	1	33%
Curriculum and Teaching	20	4	20%
Developmental Psychology	9	5	56%
Early Childhood Education	4	1	25%
Economics and Education	21	8	38%
Education Leadership	8	2	25%
Education Leadership Studies	1	0	0%
English Education	4	2	50%
Family and Community Education	1	0	0%
Gifted Education	3	2	67%
Health Education	29	6	21%
Higher and Post-Secondary Education	12	6	50%
History and Education	3	1	33%
Inquiry Education Leadership Practice	17	8	47%
Instructional Technology and Media	22	4	18%
Intellectual Disabilities / Autism	8	1	13%
Interdisciplinary Studies in Education	10	3	30%
International and Comparative Education	15	7	47%
International Educational Development	29	6	21%
Kinesiology	2	0	0%
Learning Disabilities	1	0	0%
Mathematics Education	36	11	31%
Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics	17	3	18%
Movement Science and Education	2	0	0%
Music and Music Education	29	20	69%
Nursing Education	5	2	40%
Nursing Executive	10	2	20%



Nutrition and Public Health	1	0	0%
Nutrition Education	3	0	0%
Philosophy and Education	10	3	30%
Physical Disability	4	1	25%
Politics and Education	8	1	13%
Psychological Counseling	20	1	5%
Religion and Education	1	0	0%
School Psychology	16	2	13%
Science Education	11	2	18%
Social-Organizational Psychology	13	5	38%
Sociology and Education	5	1	20%
Special Education	1	0	0%
Speech and Language Pathology	2	1	50%
Teaching of English	13	0	0%
Teaching of Social Studies	9	4	44%
TESOL	2	0	0%
Urban Education Leaders	1	1	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>27%</b>

## APPENDIX B: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

### Alumni Feedback Survey

#### Classes of 2011, 2012, & 2013

**1) Which of the following best describes your employment status at this time?**

1. Employed full-time (35 hours per week, or more)
2. Employed part-time (34 hours per week, or less)
3. Not employed, seeking employment
4. Not employed, not seeking employment

#### Current Employment, Full-time or Part-time

This section of the survey asks you to tell us a bit about your current employment.

**2) How long did it take to find and accept your current job, full- or part-time?**

1. Continued in the same job held while enrolled at TC
2. Accepted position prior to, or upon graduation
3. 1 to 6 months
4. 7 to 12 months
5. More than one year

**3) How long have you been working in your current job?**

1. Less than 12 months
2. 1 year to less than 3 years
3. 3 years or longer

**4) Is your current job related to your TC program of study?**

1. Yes, directly related
2. Yes, somewhat related
3. No, not related

**5) If your current job is not related to your TC program of study, please select all the reasons that apply:**

1. Could not find a job in my TC field of preparation
2. Could not find a job in area of geographical preference
3. Found better paying job in another field
4. Preferred work in another field
5. Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Not applicable

**6) Indicate the type of organization you are currently employed in. Please select the one best answer.**

1. Private non-profit organization (except education and international organization)
2. Private for-profit company, corporation, or group-practice
3. Private research firm or think tank
4. Self-employed, Private practice
5. U.S. military
6. Federal government (except military)
7. State and local government (except education)
8. Public school (any grade-level, pre-K to 12; includes charter and Head Start)
9. Private school (any grade-level from pre-K to 12; includes nursery and daycare centers)
10. Parochial school (any grade-level from pre-K to 12)
11. Higher Education (public or private)
12. Public health agency (hospitals; medical centers; health-related services)
13. International organization, based in or outside USA; e.g. the UN, OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)
14. Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**7) Name of current employer:** (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**8) In which country are you currently working?** (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**9) If USA, in which state are you currently working?** (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**10) If USA, in what city/town are you currently working?**

City/Town: (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**11) Your current job title:** (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**12) Are you certified or licensed in the area you are currently working in?**

1. Yes. (If yes, please list the certificates or licenses you currently hold)
2. No
3. Not applicable

**13) How well did TC prepare you for your current job?**

1. Not well at all
2. Somewhat well
3. Well
4. Very well
5. Not sure

**14) How satisfied are you with your current job?**

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Generally dissatisfied
3. Generally satisfied
4. Very satisfied
5. Ambivalent

**15) Is your current job the first you have had after graduating from TC? If you have changed positions within the same organization or company, please respond "No," and tell us a bit about your first position. We are interested in the career paths of our alumni.**

1. Yes, continued in the same job held while enrolled at TC
2. Yes
3. No

## First Job After Graduating from Teachers College

This section asks you to tell us about your first job, or your previous position within the same organization, since graduating from TC.

**16) How long did it take to find and accept your first job (or position), full- or part-time, after graduating from TC?**

1. Continued in the same job held while enrolled at TC
2. Accepted position prior to, or upon graduation
3. 1 to 6 months
4. 7 to 12 months
5. More than one year

**17) How long were you employed in your first post-TC job?**

1. Less than 12 months
2. 1 year to less than 3 years
3. 3 years or longer

**18) Was your first post-TC job related to your TC program of study?**

1. Yes, directly related
2. Yes, somewhat related
3. No, not related

**19) If your first post-TC job was not related to your TC program of study, please select all the reasons that apply:**

1. Could not find a job in my TC field of preparation
2. Could not find a job in area of geographical preference
3. Found better paying job in another field
4. Preferred work in another field
5. Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Not applicable

**20) Indicate the type of organization your first post-TC job was in. Please select the one best answer.**

1. Private non-profit organization (except education and international organization)
2. Private for-profit company, corporation, or group-practice
3. Private research firm or think tank
4. Self-employed, Private practice
5. U.S. military
6. Federal government (except military)
7. State and local government (except education)
8. Public school (any grade-level, pre-K to 12; includes charter and Head Start)
9. Private school (any grade-level from pre-K to 12; includes nursery and daycare centers)
10. Parochial school (any grade-level from pre-K to 12)
11. Higher Education (public or private)
12. Public health agency (hospitals; medical centers; health-related services)
13. International organization, based in or outside USA; e.g. the UN, OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)
14. Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**21) Your first post-TC job or position title: (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_****22) How well did Teachers College prepare you for your first post-TC job?**

1. Not well at all
2. Somewhat well
3. Well
4. Very well
5. Not sure

**23) How satisfied were you with your first post-TC job?**

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Generally dissatisfied
3. Generally satisfied
4. Very satisfied
5. Ambivalent

**24) Have you enrolled in a degree program since graduating from TC?**

1. Yes
2. No

### Further Education Since Graduating From Teachers College

This section asks you to tell us about your enrollment in graduate or professional school since graduation from TC. If you are furthering your studies at TC, or have since earned another degree at TC, this section would apply to you as well.

**25) What post-TC degree have you received or for which you are currently enrolled in? Please select all that apply.**

1. Professional degree (Law, Medicine, or other medical degrees)
2. Master's degree
3. Doctoral degree
4. Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**26) In the drop-down list, which one best describes the academic discipline you are currently enrolled in, or which you received your post- TC degree in ? If your academic discipline is not on the list, please provide its name in the text box below.**

**26a) If your post-TC academic discipline is not on the drop-down list above in item #26, please provide its name.**  
(Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**27) How related is your post-TC academic discipline to your program at Teachers College?**

1. Directly related
2. Somewhat related
3. Not related

**28) Name of university/institution from which you received your post-TC degree, or at which you are currently enrolled in:**

Name of university/institution: (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

29) If USA, in which state is the university/institution located? (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

30) If international, in which country is the university/institution located? (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

31) How well did Teachers College prepare you for your continuing education?

1. Not well at all
2. Somewhat well
3. Well
4. Very well
5. Not sure

### Professional Activities since Graduation

(32 – 35): Since graduating from TC, have you...

32) ... been a member of a professional association/society? YES/NO

33) ... presented at a professional conference? YES/NO

34) ... published an article, a book chapter, or a book? YES/NO

35) ... held a leadership position in a professional association? YES/NO

36) How did your TC program meet your expectations?

1. Below many expectations
2. Met most expectations, below on some
3. Met all expectations
4. Met all expectations, exceeded on some
5. Don't know

37) How would you rate the quality of your TC education, relative to that of your colleagues or professionals in your field who graduated from other institutions?

1. Not as good as most
2. Average
3. Better than some
4. Better than most
5. Don't know

**38) If you could start over, would you choose your program at TC?**

1. No
2. Yes, with strong reservations
3. Yes, with some reservations
4. Yes, with no reservations
5. Not sure

**39) Would you recommend Teachers College to a friend considering a graduate school of education?**

1. No
2. Yes, with strong reservations
3. Yes, with some reservations
4. Yes, with no reservations
5. Not sure

## Teachers College Learning Outcomes

**For 40 – 55: Please rate each learning outcome:**

**(a) How important to you are the following areas to be successful**

Response Scale: (1-Not Important; 2-Somewhat Important; 3-Important; 4-Very Important)

**(b) Your competence in each area**

Response Scale: (1-Not Competent; 2-Somewhat Competent; 3-Competent; 4-Very Competent)

**(c) How effective was your TC program in developing that competence in you**

Response Scale: (1-Not Effective; 2-Somewhat Effective; 3-Effective; 4-Very Effective)

- 40) Understanding current theories or research in your field
- 41) Conducting inquiry or research
- 42) Applying theoretical knowledge to practice
- 43) Thinking critically
- 44) Keeping abreast with what is happening in your profession
- 45) Acquiring new knowledge or skills on your own
- 46) Participating in professional development activities
- 47) Adhering to professional and/or ethical standards
- 48) Communicating your ideas
- 49) Being an effective team member
- 50) Motivating other people in your job



- 51) **Appreciating cultural diversity**
- 52) **Valuing perspectives different from your own**
- 53) **Working with diverse people or populations**
- 54) **Recognizing social problems or inequalities**
- 55) **Advocating for students or clients and/or their families**

## Professional Development

This section asks you to tell us about your professional development experience, and your professional development needs and interests for the future.

**56) In the past 12 months, did you participate in any professional development programs?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

**For 57 – 59: You indicated that you participated in professional development programs in the past 12 months:**

Response Scale: (1) None, (2) One, (3) Two, (4) Three, (5) Four, (6) Five or more

- 57) **How many?**
- 58) **How many were required by your employer or for licensing?**
- 59) **How many were paid for by an employer?**

**60) For FUTURE professional development, what is your preferred format?**

- 1. Face-to-Face
- 2. Online
- 3. Blended (combination of Face-to-Face and Online)

**61) For FUTURE professional development, with regards to length of workshops which of the following are you likely to participate in? Please select all that apply.**

- 1. Half day
- 2. One day
- 3. 2-3 days
- 4. One week
- 5. Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q62 – Q67): For FUTURE professional development, to what extent would you be interested in the following skill areas:  
(Not at all interested – Somewhat interested – Interested – Very interested)**

**62) Professional Skills**

(e.g. Consider topics specifically related to your day to day work - whether it be a particular software or a specific teaching method)

**63) Team & Leadership Skills**

(e.g. Learn strategies to motivate people you work with, mentor, enable conflict resolution, and guide team building)

**64) Communication Skills**

(e.g. Improve your abilities in public speaking, making presentations, getting published, motivational speaking, and utilizing social media most effectively)

**65) Analytic and Research Skills**

(e.g. Learn how to manage large datasets, conduct environmental scans, current methodologies in your field, and training in qualitative and quantitative software)

**66) Business Skills**

(e.g. Gain skills in creating a business plan, grant writing, report writing, project management, problem solving, and fundraising)

**67) Diversity**

(e.g. Develop cultural awareness, receive training in micro aggressions, learn culturally responsive strategies for working with specific populations)

- The End -