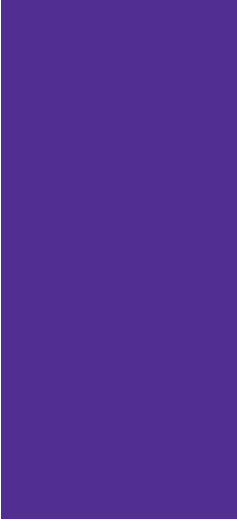
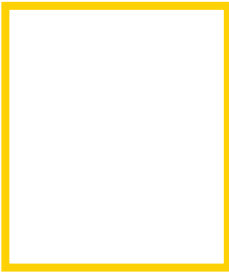




NYU

Wasserman Center  
for Career Development



# Life Beyond the Square

Undergraduate Class of 2020



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The New York University Wasserman Center for Career Development conducted its annual Life Beyond the Square survey of baccalaureate graduates, which encompasses those whose degrees were conferred between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Employment and enrollment in continuing education information was collected through December 30, 2020. This timetable is consistent with the National Association of Colleges and Employers' (NACE) First Destination Survey's revised Standards and Protocols. The following represents the major findings for the Class of 2020:

- » **90.0%** (3944 out of 4396) were either employed or enrolled in a graduate or professional school program during the data collection period. This represents a 5.2% decrease compared to the class of 2019, which may be indicative of the effects of COVID-19 on the job market for recent graduates. Of those who secured a post-graduation opportunity, **85.9%** (3389 out of 3944) were working, **11.9%** (471 out of 3944) were in graduate or professional school, and **2.1%** (84 out of 3944) reported both working and attending school.
- » The overall mean annual salary was **\$67,546<sup>1</sup>**, an increase of **4%** (**\$2,651**) from the mean salary for the Class of 2020. [NACE Class of 2020 Salary Projections](#) show slight variation, slight decrease, flat or slight increase across disciplines, while we see an increase, with nearly comparable salary disclosure as compared to 2019. Top average starting salaries by industry were: Computer Science/Technology **\$87,826**, Financial Services/Banking **\$81,262**, Engineering **\$76,429**, and Consulting **\$76,313**.
- » Of those who enrolled directly into graduate or other continuing education programs, the top general areas of study were: Life Sciences/Physical Sciences **31.2%**, Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities **25.6%**, Law **11.4%**, and Business at **10%**.
- » **73%** of those who secured employment indicated that they obtained their position directly through an NYU or Wasserman-related resource, including Handshake, career fairs, faculty and student networks, special recruiting and networking opportunities. This is up from last year's **59%**.
- » **25.2%** indicated that they secured their position as a promotion from a previous role. Additionally, **44.9%** received 2 or more job offers.
- » **82.4%** of survey respondents cited using the resources of the Wasserman Center for Career Development while at NYU.
- » **40.7%** secured their positions during their NYU program prior to graduation. An additional **26.8%** secured their position within three months of graduation. This brings the total percentage of students securing work within 3 months to 67.5%.
- » Of those graduates who held a part-time job or internship during their time at NYU, **93.2%** indicated they secured a post-graduation job or enrollment in graduate or professional school.
- » **95.3%** secured employment in the United States, of which **78.4%** work in the tristate area (NY, NJ, CT). **68.9%** of those working in the US are located in New York City. Outside of the Northeast, California was the most popular state for employment (**7.4%**). Graduates were working in **30** countries, with China/Hong Kong, South Korea, and United Kingdom as the top three global locations.
- » Graduates secured employment across **29** industries. The most popular industries where graduates secured opportunities include Financial Services/Banking at **15.4%**, Healthcare at **12.9%**, Entertainment/Media at **12.4%**, Computer Science/Technology at **8.5%** and Education/Teaching (including non-teaching jobs at universities) at **8.4%**.
- » After distributing an electronic survey by email and phone and using industry standard professional networking sites, post-graduation status was collected from **4,294** graduates out of the 6,456 who graduated from Summer 2019 through Spring 2020, which represents **66.5%** of the Class of 2020.

<sup>1</sup> This mean is taken from 1,122 salaries disclosed by recent graduates.



The Wasserman Center for Career Development has conducted the annual Life Beyond the Square survey since the 1990s to understand the post-baccalaureate outcomes of NYU undergraduates. The data collected are used to determine key statistics that will be meaningful to current and prospective students, including average salaries and the most popular choices for both employment and graduate or professional school enrollment. The Wasserman Center also uses the findings to create an employer engagement strategy and to inform the programs and resources offered to students each year. The survey is routinely conducted over a 6-month period following graduation in accordance with the National Association of Colleges and Employers' (NACE) [First Destination Survey Standards and Protocols](#).

## Overview

### METHODOLOGY

The target population consisted solely of individuals who, based on the official records of university data and student information systems, were awarded a bachelor's degree in September 2019, January 2020, or May 2020 from the following schools:

- College of Arts and Science
- Gallatin School of Individualized Study
- Global Liberal Studies
- Leonard N. Stern School of Business
- the Rory Meyers College of Nursing
- School of Professional Studies
- Silver School of Social Work
- Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
- Tandon School of Engineering
- Tisch School of the Arts

The purpose of this survey is to collect employment and graduate/professional school information for each of the graduates. Based on how individual questions were answered, the number of questions any one graduate would see varied. Median completion time of an individual survey was just under five minutes.

Graduates were first sent a link to an online survey via email. In addition, the Wasserman Center for Career Development implemented two phone banks to outreach to recent graduates in early Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 as well as two text messaging campaigns. For those who did not respond to either the repeat emails or phone inquiries, NACE-approved professional networking sites such as LinkedIn were used to obtain post-graduation status data. Additionally, the Wasserman Center included data from Handshake, the National Student Clearinghouse, the Office of Global Services, and outcomes information reported by faculty, staff and employers.

In order to incentivize graduates to take the survey, the Wasserman Center offered a chance to win Apple AirPods and a Bluetooth speaker to those recent graduates who completed the survey within the administration period. After data cleaning and implementing the additional outreach and research measures discussed above, information on 4,294 graduates was collected and analyzed. The list of bachelor's degree graduates contained records for 6,456 individuals. Thus, Wasserman was able to collect post-graduate outcomes information on 66.5% of the Class of 2020.

### MISSING VALUES/ROUNDING

Throughout the analyses, "missing values" (i.e., questions that the respondents did not answer) were omitted, as were "Unsure" or "Unknown" responses for most calculations. As illustrated in several charts, the total percentage does not equal 100% due to rounding. Some questions can only be reported using specific data sources (e.g., salary data is typically only available through survey responses). Where there is nuance requiring the data source, we have reported and notated the sole source. Additionally, Institutional Research Board (IRB) guidelines prohibit us from requiring respondents to answer all questions, so the number of responses to each question varies.



### DEMOGRAPHICS

The students included in this report provide a proportionate representation of the makeup of NYU’s Class of 2020 as illustrated below.

#### Responses By Gender\*

	Report Sample	Graduating Class
Female	60.6%	59.1%
Male	39.4%	40.8%
Not Specified	<0.1%	<0.1%

#### Responses By International/Domestic Status\*

	Report Sample	Graduating Class
Domestic	83.4%	80.7%
International	16.6%	19.2%
Not specified	<0.1%	<0.1%

\*The figures reported are for individuals with at least one data source. Multiple data sources may be combined within the data set to provide complete information.

\*\*Note: Categories per U.S. Department of Education IPEDS

#### Responses By Race/Ethnicity\*\*

	Report Sample	Graduating Class
American Indian / Alaskan Native	0.1%	0.1%
Asian	20.1%	19.8%
Black / African American	5.8%	5.8%
Hispanic / Latino	14.1%	13.2%
Multiracial <sup>2</sup>	4.6%	4.4%
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.2%
White	32.6%	31.2%
Not specified	N/A	<0.1%

## Career Development

### INTERNSHIPS AND PART-TIME JOBS

Internships and part-time jobs are a key component in preparing students for post-graduation opportunities. **93.2% of graduate respondents held part-time jobs and/or internships during their undergraduate experience.** Out of the 93.2% of graduates who held an internship or a part-time job, **97.6%** secured a job or enrollment in continuing education. In contrast, of graduates who reported that they did not hold an internship or part-time job, **89.1%** were employed or enrolled in graduate school. Part-time jobs and internships are routinely found in research to be an effective way to gain practical experience and to build the professional network needed to secure a job after graduation; they also often help to offset college-related expenses.

## Employment

### CAREER OUTCOMES RATE

The career outcomes rate is the total number of graduates who secured a position or enrollment in a continuing education program divided by the total number of graduates who sought opportunities. **The career outcomes rate for the Class of 2020 is 90.0%.**

#### Career Outcomes Rate By School

School	Percentage
College of Arts and Science	90.1%
Gallatin School of Individualized Study	88.5%
Global Liberal Studies	92.7%
Leonard N. Stern School of Business	95.0%
Rory Meyers College of Nursing*	87.9%
School of Professional Studies	94.0%
Silver School of Social Work	96.2%
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development	89.4%
Tandon School of Engineering	89.9%
Tisch School of the Arts	82.1%

Note: A small number of respondents (19) were not seeking employment or continuing education, and thus were removed from the career outcomes calculations, per NACE guidelines.

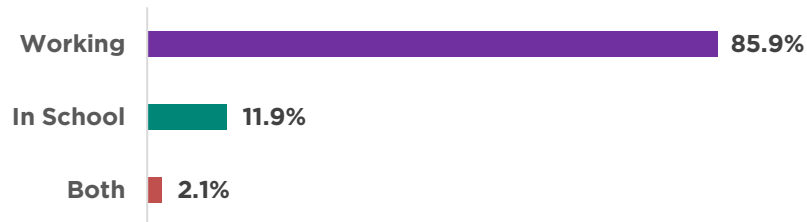
<sup>2</sup> Identified as selecting “two or more races” in the student information system.



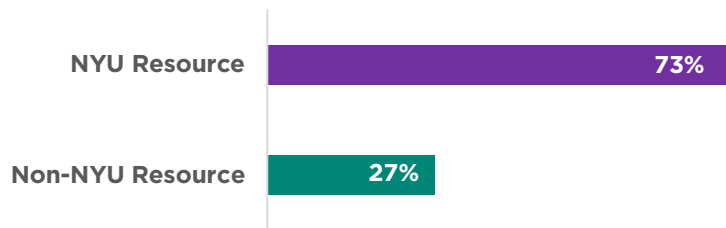
Although the overall job outlook for bachelor’s level nurses remains quite strong, nursing has historically had a lower career outcomes rate in this report due to the timing of the nursing board exams (NCLEX). These board exam results, upon which securing a job often depends, become available several months into the Life Beyond the Square data-collection period. Thus, nursing graduates start their job search significantly later than graduates in other schools.

### CAREER DESTINATIONS

Of the 3944 graduates who were either employed or continuing their education, **85.9%** were working (compared to 83.8% last year), **11.9%** were in school (compared to 12.6% last year), and **2.1%** were both working and in school (compared to 3.6% last year).

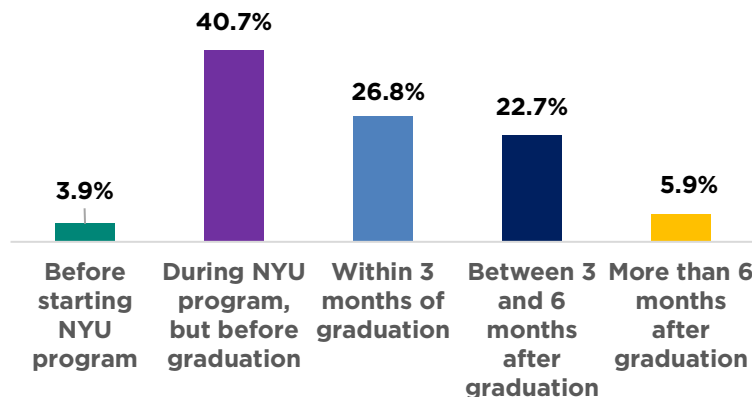


**73%** of those working indicated they obtained their position through an NYU resource. These resources include Wasserman programs and services, such as Handshake, the On-Campus Recruitment program, career fairs, and employer presentations, as well as NYU faculty and staff connections, NYU events, NYU career emails, online mentor databases, and promotions from positions secured through NYU. This value is an increase from the Class of 2019, where **59%** of graduates indicated obtaining their position through at least one NYU resource.



**40.7%** of employed graduates had secured their position before graduation. An additional **26.8%** of employed graduates secured their positions within 3 months of graduation, and **22.7%** of students reported securing their position between 3 and 6 months of graduation.

\*The data source for this question is solely survey responses.



**25.2%** of employed graduates secured their positions through a promotion from the organization where they were already employed in an internship or other role, a slight increase from 24.7% last year.



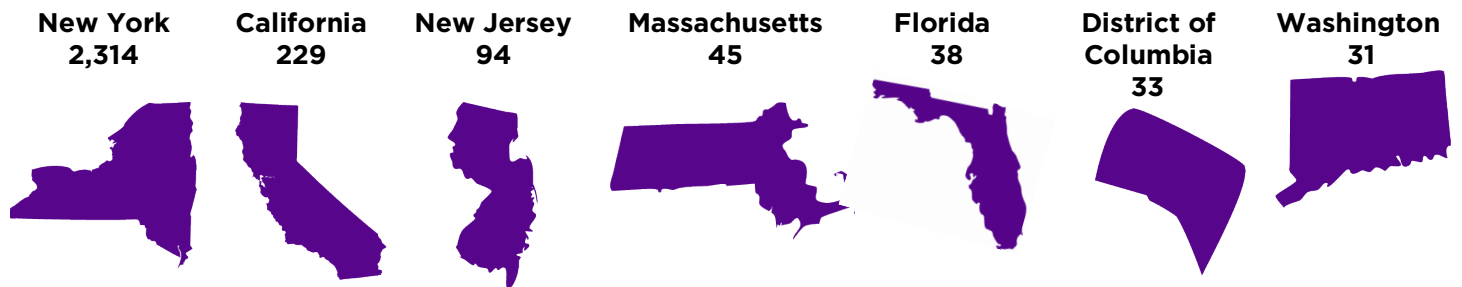
## EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONS

### Domestic Employment

Of graduates who are working, **95.3%** are in the United States, with the majority of those staying in the New York City metropolitan area. **77.7%** of employed international students are working in the United States.

### TOP US LOCATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT

By Number of Graduates



### Global Employment

**144** graduates reported working abroad in **30** countries. There are slightly more graduates working outside of the US than there were in the Class of 2019 (131) who worked across 38 countries.

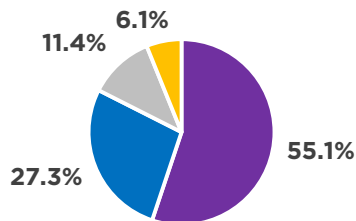
### TOP GLOBAL LOCATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT

By Number of Graduates



## NUMBER OF JOB OFFERS

**44.9%** of graduates reported receiving two or more job offers, a decrease from 50.5% for the Class of 2019.

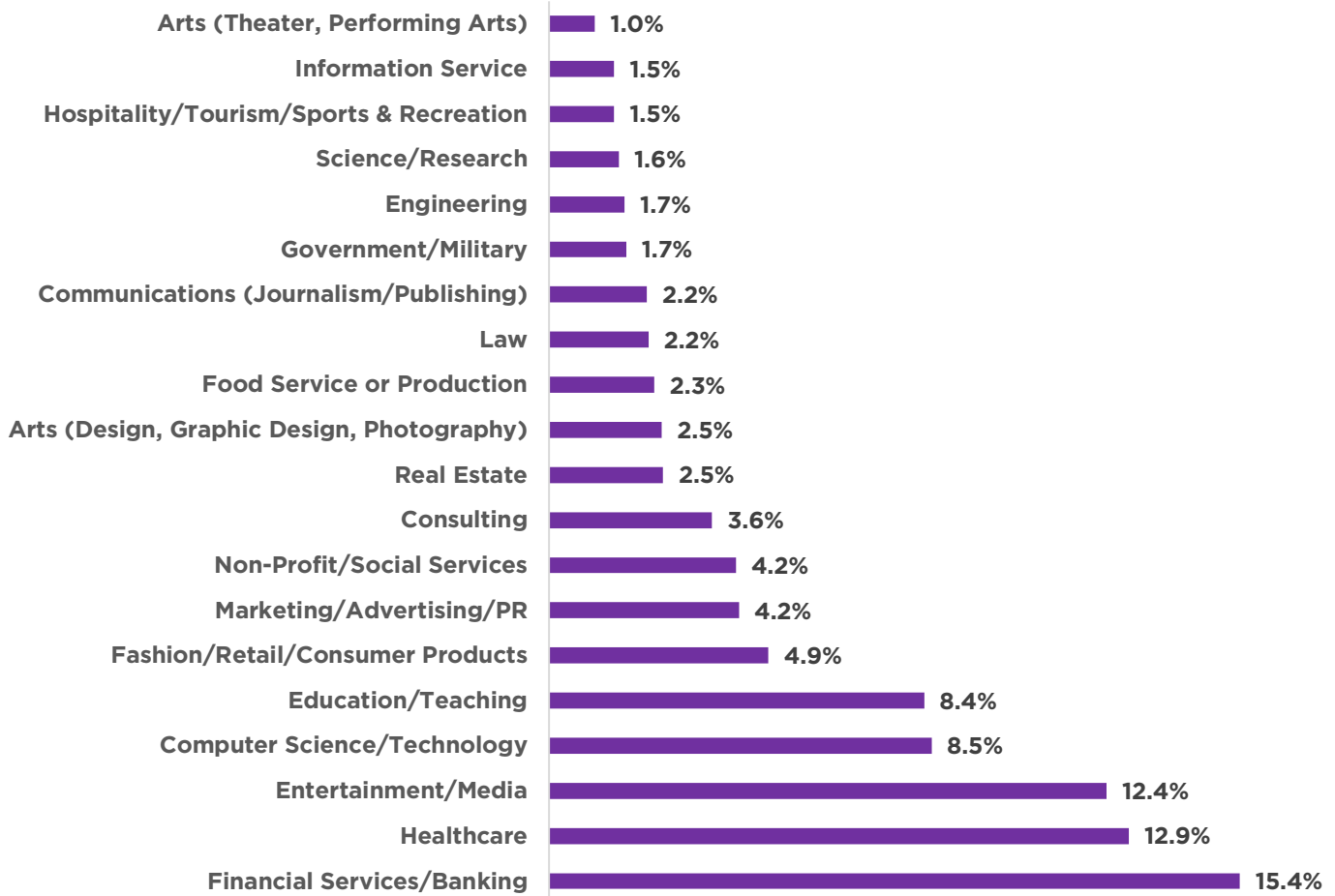


■ One offer ■ Two offers ■ Three offers ■ Four or more offers



**EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

Listed below are the top 20 industries employing the Undergraduate Class of 2020. Financial Services/Banking is the most popular industry, while Healthcare is second, followed by Entertainment/Media in third. Healthcare’s rise to the top three may be an indicator of increased demand for recent graduates to enter the workforce immediately.



*Note:* Industries such as Pharmaceutical/Biotech, Telecommunications, Transportation/Warehousing, Energy, Insurance, Materials/Construction, and Architecture/Landscaping each contributed less than 0.9% to the total. An “Other” category contributed to 8.9% of the total and has been omitted.



**SALARIES**

The mean annual salary for the Class of 2020 is **\$67,546**, an increase from \$64,895 for the Class of 2019. This mean does not include signing bonuses or other compensation, such as relocation expenses. The mean signing bonus was **\$10,444**, which is greater than the Class of 2019 (\$9,415).

\*Data points with less than 10 entries (n = 10) are not reported.

Mean Salary By School	
School	Mean
College of Arts and Science	\$62,635
Gallatin School of Individualized Study	\$54,492
Global Liberal Studies	\$53,052
Leonard N. Stern School of Business	\$78,747
Rory Meyers College of Nursing	\$81,516
School of Professional Studies	\$71,954
Silver School of Social Work*	N/A
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development	\$49,173
Tandon School of Engineering	\$79,521
Tisch School of the Arts	\$45,143

Mean Salary By Gender	
Gender	Mean
Female	\$62,711
Male	\$73,700
Not Specified*	N/A

Mean Salary By International Status	
Status	Mean
Domestic	\$66,575
International	\$74,398

Top Industries by Mean Salary*	
Industry	Mean
Computer Science/Technology	\$87,827
Financial Services/Banking	\$81,262
Engineering	\$76,429
Consulting	\$76,313
Accounting	\$73,167
Healthcare	\$66,075
Real Estate	\$64,130
Arts (Design, Graphic Design, Photography)	\$61,231
Government/Military	\$58,920
Entertainment/Media	\$54,844
Marketing/Advertising/PR	\$53,426
Fashion, Retail, Consumer Products	\$52,389

Mean Salary By Race / Ethnicity*	
Ethnicity	Mean
American Indian/Alaska Native	\$65,000
Asian	\$73,877
Black/African American	\$66,921
Hispanic	\$63,577
Multiracial*	\$59,223
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A
White	\$62,414
Not Specified	\$70,631



## Continuing Education

Overall, **14.1%** of Class of 2020 graduates are enrolled in a continuing education program full-time or pursuing a degree program while working. **11.9%** are enrolled in continuing education only. For those currently not attending a post-bachelor's program, **75.1%** reported intentions to enroll in graduate or professional school in the next five years.

### Continuing Education Enrollment By School

Overall Percent Continuing Education as an Outcome	14.1%
*The below figures represent the distribution by school of those graduates who are continuing education and/or working while continuing education	
School	Percentage
College of Arts & Science	19.9%
Global Liberal Studies	22.5%
Gallatin School of Individualized Study	13.5%
Rory Meyers College of Nursing	0.4%
School of Professional Studies	15.3%
Silver School of Social Work	36.0%
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development	18.2%
Leonard N. Stern School of Business	6.9%
Tandon School of Engineering	16.2%
Tisch School of the Arts	5.5%

The **top 10** areas of study for those continuing education are listed below by the percentage of those enrolled.

### Continuing Education Enrollment By Area of Study

Area of Study	Percentage
Life Sciences, Physical Sciences	31.2%
Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities	25.6%
Law	11.4%
Business (MBA, Accounting, Finance, Economics)	10.0%
Engineering	4.4%
Medicine/Pre-Med	3.4%
International Affairs, Government or Policy (MPA, MPP, IR)	3.2%
Education	3.0%
Computer Science/Technology	2.0%
Social Work	1.4%
Fine Arts	1.2%

Note: Students who indicated they were in graduate or professional school but did not provide details about what they were studying were excluded from the above calculations.



## Conclusion

New York University graduates are among the most successful in the country. The career outcomes rate for the undergraduate Class of 2020 is **90.0%**. The decrease in outcomes rate compared to the prior year may be attributed to many factors, including the impact of COVID-19 on the job market for recent graduates. We see an increase in the number of recent graduates who are seeking employment and seeking continuing education compared to prior years. This is on par with analysis by the Department of Labor Statistics, which marked the national unemployment rate at 13%<sup>3</sup> in May 2020, when the majority of the Class of 2020 were entering the workforce.

Graduates work in a wide variety of industries and for a variety of employers. That said, **57.6%** are working in the top five industries of Financial Services/Banking, Healthcare, Entertainment/Media, Computer Science/Technology, and Education/Teaching. A majority (**78.4%**) are working in the tristate area, with more than **68.9%** of students employed in the United States working in New York City.

NYU graduates are committed to graduate and professional school attendance with **14.1%** enrolled in post-graduate academic programs during the data collection period. For those not currently enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program, **75.1%** indicated that they intend to pursue such study within five years, which is a substantial increase from prior years (41.5% in 2019).

NYU graduates are perceptive, experienced, and well-prepared to launch their careers. The NYU Wasserman Center for Career Development partners with academic departments, employers, and the entire University community to support students and alumni through strategically planned initiatives, career education programming, and development of and connections to resources.

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<sup>3</sup> Unemployment rates were higher in May than a year earlier in All 389 metropolitan areas. (2020, July 09).