Five Facts from the Cornell Doctoral Alumni Career Outcomes Survey

A cross-sectional view of the employment status and career-related perceptions of Cornell’s doctoral alumni from degree years 1994-2014

1. Most alumni are working in a field related to their study and feel well-prepared.

- **95%** Work in a field closely-related to their PhD.
- **93%** Feel that Cornell prepared them for their career.
- **91%** Would choose Cornell if they could do it again.

2. Alumni from all disciplines work in all employment sectors.

- **Arts & humanities alumni**
  - 89% - Education
  - 8% - Business, industry, non-profit
  - 2% - Government, self-employed, other

- **Life sciences alumni**
  - 52% - Education
  - 34% - Business, industry, non-profit
  - 13% - Government, self-employed, other

- **Physical science & engineering alumni**
  - 35% - Education
  - 57% - Business, industry, non-profit
  - 9% - Government, self-employed, other

- **Social science alumni**
  - 72% - Education
  - 17% - Business, industry, non-profit
  - 11% - Government, self-employed, other

3. Alumni work at over 5,900 different organizations.

- **Top higher education employers:**
  1. Cornell
  2. Pennsylvania State
  3. (tie) Columbia
     - National Taiwan University
     - Ohio State
     - Rutgers
     - UC Berkeley

- **Top business/industry/other employers:**
  1. Intel
  2. Google
  3. IBM
  4. World Bank Group
  5. (tie) Corning, US Food and Drug Admin, US Dept. of Agriculture

4. Alumni work in over 95 countries.

- The proportion of alumni employed inside and outside the U.S. differs little across degree-year cohorts.

- **55%** Of international* alumni work in the U.S.
  * Based on citizenship while at Cornell.

5. Factors that helped alumni land jobs are consistent across employment sectors.

- **Factors that alumni say helped land their first job:**
  - Perceived quality of academic work
  - Cornell’s reputation
  - Reputation of graduate program

- **Skills that alumni think will help grads get a job:**
  - Academic and professional writing skills
  - Knowledge of research methods
  - Presentation of scholarship at a professional conference

Full results available online at gradschool.cornell.edu/career-outcomes-survey.