



MINNESOTA'S PRIVATE COLLEGES
COUNCIL • FUND • RESEARCH FOUNDATION

*Providing a Tradition of Quality
for a Changing World,
One Student at a Time*

Recent Graduates Follow-Up Survey Graduates of 2008

October 2009

The Minnesota Private College Research Foundation is pleased to release the results of the Recent Graduates Follow-up Survey, Graduates of 2008. Minnesota Private College Council member institutions collaborate on surveying our recent graduates to gain a better sense of our graduates' plans and employment after graduation. The Minnesota Private College Research Foundation coordinates the effort to aggregate responses the individual institutions receive from their own graduates.

This report summarizes the results of the surveys that were completed by more than half of the 8,262 students who graduated in 2008 from our member institutions. The survey results highlight the connections our graduates maintain to Minnesota and their success at obtaining employment. In addition, the results show the importance they put on continuing their education.

The specific survey results for the graduates of 2008 are detailed below, next to the results from recent years. The timing of survey completion by member institutions still varies greatly, from the day of graduation to nine months after graduation. This and other limitations of the survey are detailed in the discussion of survey methodology.

The Minnesota Private College Research Foundation would like to note that this project would not be possible without the cooperation and support of many contacts at our member institutions. If you have questions or comments about this report, please contact the Minnesota Private College Research Foundation.

Augsburg College
Bethany Lutheran College
Bethel University
Carleton College
College of Saint Benedict
College of St. Scholastica
Concordia College, Moorhead
Concordia University, St. Paul
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
Macalester College
Minneapolis College of
Art and Design
St. Catherine University
Saint John's University
Saint Mary's University
of Minnesota
St. Olaf College
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Survey Results

In the results shown below, percentages are based on the number of graduates responding to each particular question. Data represent responses for 16 of the 17 member institutions.

Percent of Total Graduates responding: 54%

Total Graduates Completing Survey: 4,449

Response Rates by Institution: 21% - 96%

I. RESIDENCE AFTER GRADUATION

More than past years, 76 percent of 2008 graduates listed Minnesota as their state of residence after graduation.

2,683 responses

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Minnesota	76%	73%	66%	65%	68%	65%	67%
Wisconsin	2%	1%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%
North Dakota	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%
Illinois	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Iowa	0.7%	0.7%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
South Dakota	3%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Other State	11%	13%	20%	18%	17%	19%	18%
Foreign Country	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%

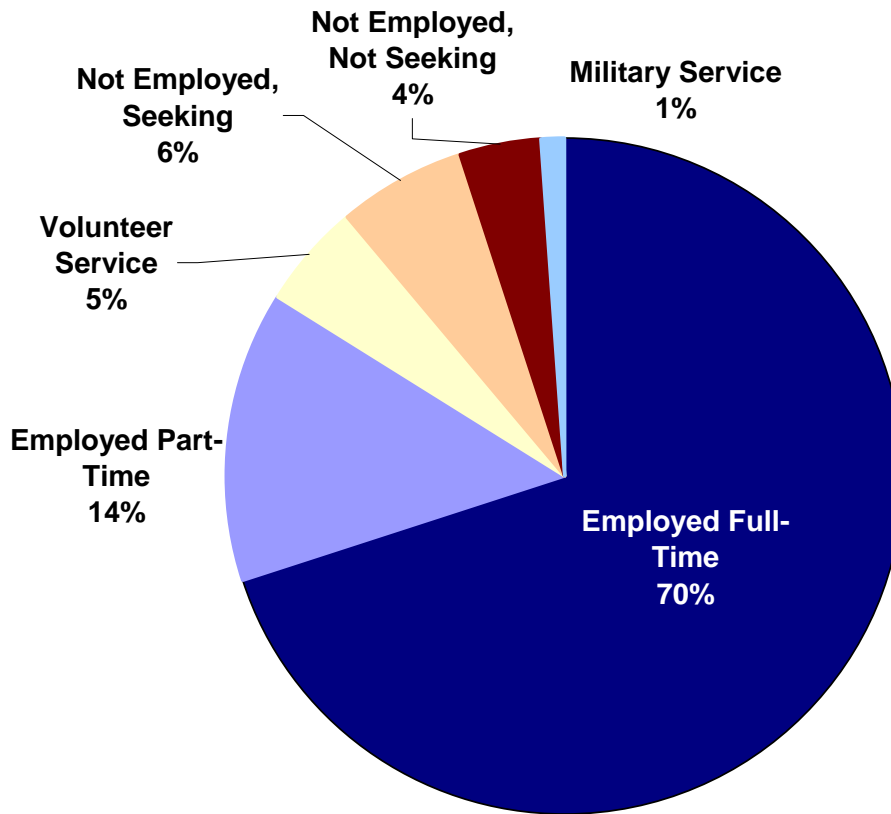
II. EMPLOYMENT AFTER GRADUATION

Seventy percent of 2008 Minnesota private college graduates are employed full-time after graduation, less than in past years.

2,606 responses

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Employed Full-Time	70%	77%	76%	77%	78%	77%	77%
Employed Part-Time	14%	8%	10%	10%	9%	10%	10%
Volunteer Service	5%	6%	5%	5%	6%	5%	6%
Not Employed, Seeking	6%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Not Employed, Not Seeking	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%
Military Service	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%

70% of Recent Graduates Are Employed Full-Time



Note: The question regarding “employment” and “continuing education” represents responses of all recent graduates. The overlap, or percent found employed and continuing education is not represented. Further, neither question focuses on a subset of just continuing education or just employed.

III. CONTINUING EDUCATION AFTER GRADUATION

Nearly a quarter of 2008 Minnesota private college graduates seek advanced degrees after graduation. Of these students, 72 percent indicated they were continuing their education full-time.

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Graduates Pursuing Additional Education	24%	22%	24%	25%	21%	24%	25%
Enrolled Full-Time	72%	86%	86%	88%	90%	88%	82%
Enrolled Part-Time	28%	13%	14%	12%	10%	12%	18%

Half of 2008 graduates who are continuing their education chose to do so at an institution in Minnesota.

1,150 responses

	2008	2007	2006	2005
MPCC Institution	19%	21%	25%	20%
University of Minnesota	17%	16%	16%	15%
State University	4%	5%	5%	3%
Other MN Institution	10%	9%	9%	6%
Outside Minnesota	50%	49%	46%	55%

Almost half of 2008 graduates continuing their education are pursuing Master's level programs.

1,092 responses

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Ph.D.	14%	16%	13%	13%	13%	14%	14%
Professional	25%	26%	23%	26%	23%	24%	22%
Master's degree	49%	44%	49%	51%	49%	44%	47%
Certificate	5%	3%	4%	2%	3%	5%	4%
Completing Bachelor's level program (e.g. student teaching) or pursuing additional Bachelor's degree	2%	7%	7%	6%	9%	7%	6%
Other programs	2%	3%	5%	3%	3%	5%	7%

Health services and medical fields continue to be the most frequently chosen advanced degree field of study.

1,053 responses in 2007

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Health Service / Medicine	31%	28%	22%	25%	23%	20%	25%
Biological / Physical Sciences/ Mathematics	10%	12%	17%	15%	16%	16%	13%
Social Sciences / Public Administration	12%	8%	13%	9%	9%	9%	10%
Law / Legal Studies	9%	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%	10%

Survey Methodology

This report collects the results of individual surveys of recent graduates conducted by each member institution. We receive aggregate results for a set of items that are common to the surveys and combine them for sharing with the group. Sixteen of the 17 member institutions were able to participate and different response rates among the participating colleges mean that the results are not representative of the full population of graduates. The data presented are not weighted by number of graduates, as the survey response rates by institutions vary greatly. Results weighted by number of graduates do not vary significantly from what we have presented here.

Data collection methods vary among member institutions. A few institutions send a single mailing of the survey; others send multiple mailings and make telephone follow-up calls. Some institutions used web-based surveys. These different collection methods greatly impact the final response rate and ultimately affect how representative the survey results are of the graduating class. Collectively, the Graduates of 2008 survey had a 54 percent response rate, with 4,449 graduates completing surveys. However, the range of response rates by institution varied widely, from 21 percent to 96 percent. Moreover, not all surveys included all of the questions, and not all survey respondents answered every question, so response rates varied by item as well. In the results reported above, we calculate percentages based on the number of responses to each question, not to the total number of surveys returned.

The timing of the survey distribution also varies widely among member institutions. Some institutions hand out the survey at graduation. Other institutions mail the survey six to eight months after graduation. This variation contributed to inconsistencies in the data, particularly with respect to the employment items. Colleges that survey graduates after eight months are likely to see higher rates of employment and lower rates of “seeking employment” than are those that distribute the survey at graduation. Given these limitations in data collection and response rates, the results of the survey should be interpreted cautiously.

Recent Graduates 2008 Response Rate by Institution

Institution	Total Undergraduate Degree Recipients	Number of Graduates Completing Survey	Response Rate
Augsburg College	514	129	25.1%
Bethany Lutheran College	102	76	74.5%
Bethel University	573	180	31.4%
Carleton College	461	317	68.8%
College of Saint Benedict	424	399	94.1%
College of St. Catherine	557	354	63.6%
College of St. Scholastica	676	349	51.6%
Concordia College, Moorhead	609	475	78.0%
Concordia University, St. Paul	471	100	21.2%
Gustavus Adolphus College	596	386	64.8%
Hamline University	435	221	50.8%
Macalester College*	na	na	na
Minneapolis College of Art and Design	167	57	34.1%
Saint John's University	441	421	95.5%
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota	243	146	60.1%
St. Olaf College	693	276	39.8%
University of St. Thomas	1,300	563	43.3%
<i>MPCC Total</i>	8,262	4449	53.8%

* Macalester College did not participate.