

Recent Graduates Report:
Results for the class of 2015

Released November 2016

Minnesota Private College Council member institutions collaborate on surveying our recent graduates to gain a better sense of their plans and employment after graduation. The Council aggregates responses that the individual institutions receive from their own graduates within one year of commencement.

Key findings about the class of 2015

- 72% of our new graduates stayed in Minnesota.
- 20% of our new graduates enrolled in continuing education.
- 85% of our new grads were employed (so yes, some are combining work with pursuing an advanced degree).
- Employment levels were consistent with where they were 10 years ago.
- Voluntary service and military service attracted a small but committed group of our new graduates (6%).

The tables that follow show details for the class of 2015, as well as data over 10 years. These results reflect the experiences of a large majority of our graduates; we have data from 70% of the class of 2015 at 15 institutions. But response rates and participation do vary by institution and question, as do methodology. For background and project limitations, please see page 4.

Results

I. RESIDENCE AFTER GRADUATION

72% of 2015 graduates listed Minnesota as their state of residence after graduation.
4,876 responses

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Minnesota	66%	73%	76%	65%	67%	66%	66%	68%	68%	72%
Iowa	4%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Illinois	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%
North Dakota	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%	4%	2%	3%	2%	1%
South Dakota	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Wisconsin	1%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%
Other States	20%	13%	11%	19%	14%	18%	19%	17%	18%	16%
Foreign Country	3%	3%	3%	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

II. EMPLOYMENT AFTER GRADUATION

73% of 2015 Minnesota private college graduates were employed full-time after graduation.
4,908 responses

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Employed Full-Time	76%	77%	70%	60%	68%	71%	70%	69%	72%	73%
Employed Part-Time	10%	8%	14%	16%	15%	16%	13%	15%	12%	12%
Volunteer Service	5%	6%	5%	7%	7%	7%	6%	5%	5%	5%
Military Service	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Not Employed, Seeking	4%	5%	6%	9%	4%	3%	7%	7%	4%	4%
Not Employed, Not Seeking	3%	3%	4%	6%	5%	1%	4%	4%	6%	6%

Note: Some of these respondents are also continuing their education while working. Our data do not allow us to identify the overlap. See below for information on continuing education

III. CONTINUING EDUCATION AFTER GRADUATION

20% of 2015 Minnesota private college graduates pursued additional education in the year following graduation. Of these students, 86% indicated they were enrolled full-time.
5,549 responses

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Pursuing Additional Education	24%	22%	24%	24%	26%	30%	22%	20%	20%	20%
Enrolled Full-Time	86%	86%	72%	88%	81%	83%	90%	84%	87%	86%
Enrolled Part-Time	14%	13%	28%	13%	19%	17%	10%	16%	13%	14%

Note: Some of these respondents are also employed, but our data do not allow us to distinguish between those who are and those who are not. See above for information on employment.

29% of 2015 graduates who were continuing their education chose to do so at an MPCC institution.
870 responses

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
MPCC Institution	25%	21%	19%	22%	25%	24%	25%	27%	23%	29%
University of Minnesota	16%	16%	17%	16%	14%	21%	15%	13%	14%	13%
State University (MnSCU)	5%	5%	4%	7%	4%	4%	3%	2%	4%	4%
Other MN Institution	9%	9%	10%	6%	9%	6%	7%	7%	7%	8%
Outside Minnesota	46%	49%	50%	50%	49%	44%	51%	51%	53%	46%

50% of 2015 graduates continuing their education were pursuing Master's level programs.
976 responses

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Ph.D.	13%	16%	14%	11%	14%	15%	15%	16%	18%	14%
Professional	23%	26%	25%	23%	25%	21%	22%	23%	21%	22%
Master's degree	49%	44%	49%	50%	47%	48%	48%	48%	46%	50%
Certificate	4%	3%	5%	4%	5%	3%	3%	4%	3%	6%
Completing Bachelor's program (e.g. student teaching) or pursuing additional Bachelor's	7%	7%	4%	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	8%	6%
Other programs	5%	3%	4%	7%	4%	5%	6%	4%	5%	3%

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

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Health Service / Medicine	22%	28%	31%	31%	33%	33%	30%	34%	34%	36%
Biological / Physical Sciences/ Math	17%	12%	10%	11%	10%	14%	16%	13%	14%	13%
Social Sciences / Public Administration	13%	8%	12%	11%	10%	10%	8%	10%	9%	10%
Law / Legal Studies	11%	10%	9%	8%	10%	6%	7%	8%	8%	8%

Other disciplines include:

- Business/Accounting (5%)
- Education (6%)
- Engineering/Architecture (3%)
- Humanities (4%)
- Information Technology (1%)
- Music/Art (3%)
- Seminary/Theology (3%)
- Social Work (5%)
- Other fields (6%)

Survey Method

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. We also use this data to highlight our colleges' contribution to Minnesota's labor force and graduate degree enrollment in advocacy efforts. Fifteen member institutions were able to participate.¹ We know that:

- The total number of graduates with data was 5,831 (note not all questions have data for all graduates).
- The total number of 2015 graduates from the 15 participating institutions was 8,366.
- Our overall response/knowledge rate was 70%.

Different response rates among the participating colleges may mean that the results may not be representative of the full population of graduates. Data presented are not weighted by the number of graduates, as the survey response rates by institutions vary greatly.

Data collection methods vary among member institutions. A few institutions send a single mailing of the survey; others use mixed methods such as sending multiple mailings, request for web surveys and follow-up telephone calls. Additionally, there is growth in the use of web-based surveys, and data from LinkedIn and Facebook. These different collection methods greatly impact the final response rate and ultimately affect how representative the survey results are of the graduating class. 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 start and continue their survey six to twelve months after graduation. This variation contributes 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.

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 Council.

¹ Carleton is not included in report due to low survey response rates. MCAD data is only included in Residence after Graduation due to low response rates on other questions.

Recent Graduates 2016 Response Rate by Institution

Institution	Total Undergraduate Degree Recipients	Number of Graduates with Data	Response/ Knowledge Rate	Survey time frame
Augsburg College	568	442	78%	April 2015 to July 2016
Bethany Lutheran College	106	101	95%	Dec. 2014 to June 2015
Bethel University	571	177	31%	Sept. 2016 to Oct. 2016
Carleton College	na	na	na	
College of Saint Benedict	476	460	97%	Nov. 2015 to April 2016
St. Catherine University	604	459	76%	Nov. 2015 to Jan. 2015
The College of St. Scholastica	840	606	72%	Jan. 2016 to May 2016
Concordia College, Moorhead	587	402	68%	April 2015 to Feb. 2016
Concordia University, St. Paul	489	141	29%	Oct. 2015 to April 2016
Gustavus Adolphus College	614	509	83%	May 2015 to June 2016
Hamline University	460	370	80%	Jan. 2016 to July 2016
Macalester College	442	348	79%	Dec 2015 to April 2016
Minneapolis College of Art and Design	122	*	*	June 2016 to Oct 2016
Saint John's University	398	370	93%	March 2014 to March 2015
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota	272	114	42%	June 2015 to May 2016
St. Olaf College	651	584	90%	April 2015 to Jan 2016
University of St. Thomas	1,288	748	58%	July 2015 to Jan. 2016
<i>MPCC Total*</i>	8,366	5,831	70%	

*NOTE: MCAD data are included in the Residence after Graduation data, with data on all 122 graduates. The response rates to other questions were too low and thus excluded from the survey. Totals above exclude MCAD.

Note: Response rates vary due to survey timing, number of contacts and method of contact. See Survey Method section for more information.