

Postgraduation Activities Report: Class of 2015

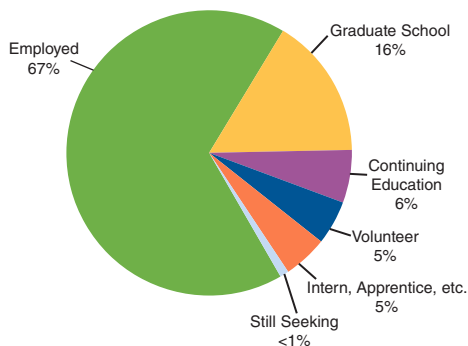
Findings from the Postgraduation Activities Survey administered by the Luther College Career Center

Introduction

The data collection process for this report took place from May 2015 to January 2016. For those students who had solidified their plans prior to graduation, the Career Center received their information in May 2015. For students who were still unsure about their plans, data were gathered through a survey in November 2015, followed by telephone calls, emails, and surveying current LinkedIn profiles of non-respondents in December 2015. Through these efforts the total response rate was 95.4%.

Postgraduation Activities

Post-college activities of the 2015 graduates were divided into nine categories: employed, which includes full-time and part-time employment (67%); enrolled in a graduate/professional school (16%); enrolled in continuing education (5%); participating in a volunteer or service program (5%); involved in an internship, student



teaching or apprentice program (5%); planning to attend graduate school but not yet enrolled (.8%); still seeking employment (.6%), serving in the U.S. military (0%) and not seeking employment or continuing education at this time (0%). A few categories deserve further explanation. Students in the “continuing education” category were enrolled in an undergraduate program to further their education, for example, to obtain a teaching license, or were participating in some other activity to gain the necessary credentials to enter their field of choice. The “employed” category includes students who were employed either full-time (91%) or part-time (9%). Per the U.S. Department of Labor, full-time employment is defined by working a minimum of 30 hours per week.

Career Goals: Are graduates doing what they want to do?

When asked if their employment was related to their career goals, 83% of employed May 2015 graduates responded affirmatively. If one includes those in graduate school and those continuing their education, this percentage jumps to 87%.

Graduates Pursuing Further Education

Among the 2015 graduates who elected to attend graduate or professional school, the largest percentage (40%) reported pursuing a master’s degree. Other advanced degrees being sought include medical (19%), doctorate (17%), professional master’s (9%), law



LUTHER COLLEGE

Contact Us

Website:
www.luther.edu

Email:
admissions@luther.edu

Phone:
(800) 458-8437
(563) 387-1287

Fax:
(563) 387-2159

Luther College
Admissions Office
700 College Drive
Decorah, Iowa 52101-1045

Career Center

Phone:
(563) 387-1025

Email:
career@luther.edu

Website:
www.luther.edu/careers/

©2016

(4%) and other degrees (11%). Iowa and Minnesota were top destination states for students pursuing graduate or professional school studies, with 22% and 13% respectively. Illinois followed with 9%, and Wisconsin attracted 7% of our students pursuing graduate study. The remaining 49% of surveyed students elected to continue their graduate studies in one of 20 other states, as well as two institutions abroad.

TOP GRADUATE SCHOOL DESTINATIONS (PERCENTAGE OF 2015 LUTHER GRADUATES)

Approximately 37% of the respondents were attending graduate school at one of the institutions listed in the table below. Two also reported studying overseas (Scotland and South Africa).

University of Iowa	8%
University of Minnesota—Twin Cities ...	4%
Des Moines University.....	3%
Loyola University—Chicago.....	3%
University of North Texas.....	3%
University of Wisconsin—Madison.....	3%
Washington University—St. Louis	3%
University of Pittsburg.....	2%
Virginia Tech—Blacksburg, Va.	2%

Employment Activities

The largest single career path for the class of 2015 was Education/Teaching, with 20% of Luther graduates pursuing jobs in that field. Business/Finance/Banking (10%), Accounting (7%), Computing/ Information Systems (7%), Nursing (7%), Merchandising/Sales/Marketing (6%), and Medicine/Health-related occupations (5%), round out the list of the top career paths. The table below summarizes the initial career paths pursued by 2015 graduates.

TOP CAREER PATHS (CLASS OF 2015 GRADUATES)

Education/teaching/administration...	20%
Business/finance/banking.....	10%
Computing/info systems	7%
Nursing	7%

Accounting.....	7%
Merchandising/sales/marketing	6%
Medicine/health-related occupations ...	5%
Hotel/restaurant/catering	3%
Consulting.....	2%
Insurance.....	2%
Publications/journalism.....	2%
Research/development.....	2%
Social services	2%
Sports/recreation	2%
Other/various	23%

Geographic Location of Employment

For those students who decided to join the workforce, the location of employment spans the nation. Minnesota was the top destination for May 2015 graduates, attracting 40% of the class. Iowa earned second place, with 28%. Wisconsin is home to 7% of graduates, Illinois 4%, and Colorado 2%. The remaining 19% of employed graduates found employment outside the five-state region.

Selected Employers

Students pursued employment across a wide variety of regional, national, and international organizations. The table highlights a few of the employers arranged by broad industry groupings, followed by the number of Luther graduates they hired. The list is not exhaustive, but it does provide a snapshot of where Luther graduates are contributing.

SELECTED EMPLOYERS OF 2015 GRADUATES—NUMBER OF HIRES

Business:

Wells Fargo.....	6
Deloitte.....	5
Target.....	5
EY.....	4

Social Sciences/Education:

Iowa schools.....	26
Minnesota schools.....	24
Wisconsin schools.....	6
Illinois schools	2

Sciences:

Mayo Clinic.....	19
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics ...	3
Intergrated DNA Technology.....	2
Elite Medical Services	2

Technology:

Epic.....	10
Fastenal	3
IBM	1
Hormel.....	1

Volunteer Service

Five percent of the class of 2015 pursued volunteer service as their initial career path after leaving Luther. To be classified in this category, students must have committed to at least 10 months of consecutive service. Eight Luther graduates chose to volunteer with Americorps, serving primarily in Iowa and Minnesota. Two students went to the Lutheran Volunteer Corps and two graduates chose Young Adults in Global Mission. Three additional students chose to serve abroad in the following organizations: Peace Corps (going to Burkina Faso in West Africa), Love Volunteers (going to Cape Town, South Africa), and CEDEI in Gram, Colombia. Other graduates chose a variety of regional nonprofits across the country.

Migration of Iowa/Non-Iowa Residents

For several years Iowa legislators have focused on the migration of college-educated individuals. Graduates who pursue employment or graduate school in and out of Iowa are commonly referred to as “brain gain/brain drain”. The charts above and below reflect the migration of Luther graduates for employment and graduate school, categorized by their respective home state, or state of residency. For example, of the Iowa residents who are employed, 77% were working in the state of Iowa while 23% accepted employment in another state. Of the Iowa residents

enrolled in graduate school, 52% are attending an Iowa institution while 48% enrolled in an institution in another state. The charts also include migration data for Luther graduates from both Minnesota and Wisconsin.

**RESIDENCY OF STUDENTS
LOCATION OF EMPLOYMENT**

	Iowa	Minn.	Wis.	Other
Iowa	77%	14%	3%	6%
Minn.	6%	91%	2%	1%
Wis.	5%	5%	90%	0%
Other	22%	33%	4%	41%

**RESIDENCY OF STUDENTS
LOCATION OF GRADUATE SCHOOL**

	Iowa	Minn.	Wis.	Other
Iowa	52%	9%	0%	39%
Minn.	11%	32%	16%	42%
Wis.	0%	17%	50%	33%
Other	0%	6%	0%	94%

Applied Learning

Of May 2015 Luther graduates, 75% engaged in one or more internships, student teaching, discipline-related research or other clinical/practicum experiences while at Luther. In general, these experiences occur after the freshman year, primarily during the junior and senior years, and are taken as a part of a student’s course of study (for credit), as a supplement to one’s studies (non-credit), or both. Some programs at Luther have a required applied learning component as part of the degree program, such as Education, Nursing, Social Work and Women & Gender Studies.

Conclusions

The Class of 2015 graduated as the U.S. economy’s unemployment rate has gradually improved from a 6.7% rate January 2014 to 5.7% as of January 2015. Based on seven years of survey data, Luther graduates have consistently found employment, entered graduate school, and sought

volunteer opportunities at the same rate, regardless of economic conditions.

Postgraduation Status according to Major

The table on the last page summarizes the data that contributed to this report. The table is organized according to majors. Students who majored in more than one area are represented in each of the majors they obtained; therefore, the distribution of majors listed in the table does not correspond to the number of 2015 graduates. Raw numbers are in boldface and outside of the parentheses in each category, when available.

A Final Word about Careers

In today’s society, we are surrounded by numbers and statistics. We use this information to make and/or justify decisions. Therefore, it is very easy and tempting to examine and use numbers as the sole information in the career decision-making process. If only it were that simple. Pinning down a career, as with many decisions in life, is a difficult process. Many factors must be considered in the selection process, some of which are very difficult to quantify.

Ultimately, the selection of one’s life work is about the identification of one’s self, values, interests, gifts, and passions. The discovery of one’s sense of vocation is a process that data cannot capture. Rather, it’s a process that will evolve in our graduates’ lives over time. It also involves the feeling of being called to work and serving in sometimes unpredictable ways. Charts, graphs, and numbers simply cannot capture this.

The staff in the Career Center—in partnership with faculty, staff, alumni, parents, employers, and friends of Luther College—support students as they become self-sufficient in the career planning process, leading to a meaningful life and satisfying work.

Quick Facts

95.4%

was the response rate for the survey of May 2015 Luther College graduates.

87%

of Luther College graduates in May 2015 reported that their employment was related to their career goals.

75%

of Luther College May 2015 graduates participated in one or more out-of-classroom learning activities, defined as the following: internship for credit, internship not for credit, campus-based research and off campus-based research, practicums, clinicals, and/or student teaching experiences.

99.4%

of responding May 2015 Luther College graduates were employed full time or part time, attending graduate or professional school, volunteering, or continuing their education at the time survey data were gathered.

For more information about the Luther College Career Center, please visit career.luther.edu or call (563) 387-1025.

Major	Distribution of Majors	# Responding	% Responding	Seeking Advanced Degrees	Employed FT	Employed PT	Continuing Education	Internship, Apprenticeship, or Student Teaching	Plan to attend Grad School but not yet enrolled	Volunteer	Still Seeking	Not Seeking Employment
Accounting	22	21	95%	-	19 (90%)	-	0%	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	-	-	-
Africana Studies	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthropology	9	8	89%	-	6 (75%)	1 (12.5%)	-	1 (12.5%)	-	-	-	-
Art	27	26	96%	1 (4%)	14 (54%)	4 (15%)	2 (8%)	5 (19%)	-	-	-	-
Athletic Training	6	6	100%	(100%)	5 (83%)	1 (17%)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biblical Languages	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biology	77	75	97%	27 (36%)	33 (44%)	1 (1%)	4 (5%)	5 (7%)	-	3 (4%)	2 (3%)	-
Chemistry	8	8	100%	4 (50%)	3 (38%)	-	1 (12%)	-	-	-	-	-
Classics/Greek/Latin	4	4	100%	1 (25%)	2 (50%)	-	-	1 (25%)	-	-	-	-
Communication Studies	29	28	97%	2 (7%)	18 (64%)	-	3 (11%)	3 (11%)	-	2 (7%)	-	-
Computer Science	16	16	100%	-	16 (100%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dance	6	6	100%	1 (16.5%)	4 (67%)	1 (16.5%)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Economics	17	17	100%	-	14 (82%)	1 (6%)	-	2 (12%)	-	-	-	-
Elementary Education	45	44	98%	-	38 (86%)	-	2 (5%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	2 (5%)	-	-
English	32	28	86%	4 (14%)	9 (32%)	6 (21%)	1 (4%)	2 (7%)	1 (4%)	5 (18%)	-	-
Environmental Studies	20	19	95%	-	10 (53%)	5 (26%)	-	2 (10.5%)	-	2 (10.5%)	-	-
French	6	6	100%	-	3 (50%)	2 (34%)	1 (16%)	-	-	-	-	-
German	5	5	100%	1 (20%)	4 (80%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health/Health Education	8	8	100%	1 (12%)	7 (88%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
History	20	18	90%	2 (11%)	8 (44%)	2 (11%)	-	2 (11%)	1 (6%)	3 (17%)	-	-
Interdisc./Indiv.	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
International Studies	18	18	100%	-	11 (61%)	-	-	3 (16.5%)	-	3 (16.5%)	1 (6%)	-
Management	45	45	100%	-	41 (91%)	1 (2.2%)	1 (2.2%)	2 (4.4%)	-	-	-	-
Mathematics/Math Statistics	28	27	96%	6 (22%)	18 (67%)	-	3 (11%)	-	-	-	-	-
Music	54	53	98%	8 (15%)	27 (51%)	4 (8%)	7 (12%)	4 (8%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	-
Nordic Studies	1	1	100%	-	-	-	1 (100%)	-	-	-	-	-
Nursing	26	26	100%	0%	23 (88%)	3 (12%)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Philosophy	8	8	100%	2 (25%)	5 (62.5%)	-	-	1 (12.5%)	-	-	-	-
Physical Ed.	7	7	100%	4 (57%)	3 (43%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Physics	6	5	83%	3 (60%)	2 (40%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Political Science	27	27	100%	4 (15%)	13 (48%)	1 (4%)	2 (7%)	4 (15%)	-	3 (11%)	-	-
Psychology	56	51	91%	12 (23%)	33 (65%)	3 (6%)	-	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	-	-
Religion	13	12	92%	3 (25%)	5 (42%)	-	2 (16.5%)	-	-	2 (16.5%)	-	-
Russian Studies	3	3	100%	-	3 (100%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social Work	17	15	88%	7 (47%)	4 (27%)	1 (6.5%)	1 (6.5%)	-	-	2 (13%)	-	-
Sociology	13	12	92%	2 (17%)	5 (42%)	2 (17%)	1 (8%)	1 (8%)	-	1 (8%)	-	-
Spanish	13	12	92%	2 (17%)	5 (42%)	1 (8%)	1 (8%)	2 (17%)	-	1 (8%)	-	-
Theatre/Dance	11	11	100%	2 (18%)	6 (55%)	2 (18%)	1 (9%)	-	-	-	-	-
Women's & Gender Studies	2	1	50%	1 (100%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	698	670										

Note: Data includes students with more than one major.