



HEDS Alumni

Higher Education Data
Sharing Consortium
Alumni Survey

St. Olaf College, Summer 2012

Selected items related to employment

Dates of Administration: June 6, 2012 - July 4, 2012
Method of Administration: GetSurveyed (Administered by HEDS)

Invited to Participate
(all alumni with valid email addresses):
Class of 2007: 506
Class of 2008: 493
Class of 2009: 455
Class of 2010: 444

Number of Respondents (% response rate):
Class of 2007: 144 (28%)
Class of 2008: 177 (36%)
Class of 2009: 164 (36%)
Class of 2010: 152 (34%)

Highlights:

- Just over a third of the respondents from each graduating class found their first paying job while still enrolled at St. Olaf, with over another third finding a job within the first six months. The remaining graduates (less than a third) may have not sought a job until after pursuing further education, or are still pursuing further education.
- 55%-61% of respondents in each class said their first paying job was related to their undergraduate major.
- About three-quarters of respondents in each class said their first job used important skills gained as an undergraduate.
- About two-thirds of respondents in each class said the work in their first paying job was related to their desired career path.
- 70%-79% of respondents in each class said the work in their first paying job was meaningful.
- About three-quarters of respondents in each class said their first job was satisfying overall, and they continued until they wished to leave.
- 70%-79% of respondents in each class said their undergraduate experience prepared them considerably or sufficiently for their current career.

At what point did you secure your first paying job after graduating from your undergraduate institution? (Select one)

	Class of 2007		Class of 2008		Class of 2009		Class of 2010	
While enrolled as an undergraduate.	49	35%	61	35%	57	36%	64	43%
During the first six months after graduation.	51	36%	64	37%	65	41%	38	26%
During the second six months after graduation.	7	5%	11	6%	9	6%	11	7%
More than a year after graduation.	24	17%	18	10%	7	4%	10	7%
I have not yet sought a paying job; I am a full-time student or engaged in other activities.	11	8%	18	10%	18	11%	23	16%
I have sought a paying job but have not yet found one.	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	2	1%
Total	142	100%	172	100%	157	100%	148	100%

How many paying jobs have you had since you graduated? (Select one)

	Class of 2007		Class of 2008		Class of 2009		Class of 2010	
I am currently in my first paying job after receiving my undergraduate degree.	30	23%	32	21%	29	21%	48	39%
I have had at least two paying jobs since receiving my undergraduate degree.	94	72%	118	77%	94	68%	65	53%
I have had a job since receiving my undergraduate degree, but I am currently unemployed	7	5%	4	3%	15	11%	10	8%
Total	131	100%	154	100%	138	100%	123	100%

Please indicate whether each of the following descriptions applied (applies) to your first paying job after you graduated from your undergraduate institution:

	Class of 2007		Class of 2008		Class of 2009		Class of 2010	
Was related to my undergraduate major.	78	60%	84	55%	85	61%	73	59%
Used important skills I gained as an undergraduate.	107	82%	120	78%	100	72%	92	75%
Was related to my desired career path.	88	67%	100	65%	90	65%	85	69%
Was work I found meaningful.	102	78%	120	78%	97	70%	97	79%
Allowed me to continue to grow and learn.	109	83%	130	84%	112	81%	100	81%
Paid enough to support my desired lifestyle.	94	72%	104	68%	86	62%	79	64%
Paid health insurance benefits.	90	69%	104	68%	91	65%	64	52%
Continued until I wished to leave.	109	83%	118	77%	113	81%	92	75%
Overall was a satisfying job.	102	78%	124	81%	100	72%	100	81%
Total	131		154		139		123	

If your current job is your first paying job after graduation or you are unemployed, please SKIP this question and proceed to the next question. Otherwise, please indicate whether each of the following descriptions applies to your *current* job.

	Class of 2007		Class of 2008		Class of 2009		Class of 2010	
Is related to my undergraduate major.	59	63%	76	66%	62	66%	40	63%
Uses important skills I gained as an undergraduate.	78	84%	103	89%	80	85%	53	84%
Is related to my desired career path.	77	83%	92	79%	76	81%	41	65%
Is work I find meaningful.	85	91%	101	87%	76	81%	50	79%
Allows me to continue to grow and learn.	88	95%	99	85%	81	86%	55	87%
Pays enough to support my desired lifestyle.	71	76%	74	64%	68	72%	42	67%
Pays health insurance benefits.	77	83%	85	73%	71	76%	33	52%
Is likely to continue until I wish to leave.	87	94%	104	90%	84	89%	53	84%
Overall, is a satisfying job.	82	88%	104	90%	79	84%	54	86%
Total	93		116		94		63	

Overall, to what extent did your undergraduate experience prepare you for your current career?

	Class of 2007		Class of 2008		Class of 2009		Class of 2010	
4 - Considerably	54	38%	65	37%	73	45%	64	43%
3 - Sufficiently	47	33%	68	39%	54	34%	40	27%
2 - Somewhat	34	24%	34	19%	20	12%	28	19%
1 - Very little	8	6%	8	5%	14	9%	16	11%
<i>Total</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>100%</i>
Mean	3.06		3.09		3.16		3.03	

Which of the following most accurately describes your current annual income, before taxes?

	Class of 2007		Class of 2008		Class of 2009		Class of 2010	
16 - I prefer not to respond	5	4%	3	2%	6	4%	3	2%
8-15 - More than \$119,999*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
7 - \$100,000 to \$119,999	4	3%	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%
6 - \$80,000 to \$99,999	3	2%	4	2%	3	2%	1	1%
5 - \$60,000 to \$79,999	16	11%	9	5%	14	9%	9	6%
4 - \$40,000 to \$59,999	38	27%	45	26%	26	16%	25	17%
3 - \$20,000 to \$39,999	51	36%	64	37%	54	34%	46	31%
2 - Less than \$20,000	20	14%	37	22%	29	18%	54	36%
1 - No earned income	5	4%	9	5%	26	16%	10	7%
<i>Total</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>172</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>100%</i>

* categories 8-15 collapsed; no respondents