



**IOWA WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY | 1842**

**Post-graduation Status Report
for the
Graduating Class of 2015**



**Office of Career Development, Internships, and Service Learning
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At a Glance

Iowa Wesleyan University is a transformational learning community whose passion is to educate, empower and inspire students to lead meaningful lives and careers.



Iowa Wesleyan University values Learning and Community, Faith and Service, Discovery and Action, and Courage and Passion.



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Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide accurate information to facilitate data-informed decision-making within Iowa Wesleyan University. This report provides a tool to assist the college in fulfilling its mission to prepare students to succeed in a changing global environment. In addition, this report helps Iowa Wesleyan University examine its values of:

- ◆ Learning and Community
- ◆ Faith and Service
- ◆ Discovery and Action

Information gathered can be used by various entities of the University to evaluate outcomes of the Wesleyan experience, promote the value of the Wesleyan experience, identify areas for growth, and track progress toward growth. In addition, some of the information gathered is used for national, state and accreditation accountability measures.

Report Contents

This report is organized into five sections and an appendix.

Section 1—The Big Picture

Overview of National and State employment trends and the value of higher education.

Section 2—Survey Methods

Description of the methods used to collect data about the graduating class of 2015 as well as return rates for various components of surveying.

Section 3—2015 Iowa Wesleyan Graduate Employment Overview

An overview of the data related to the Class of 2015, including information on employment, wages, Service Learning and Field Experience.

Section 4— Conclusions

A brief summary of survey findings, considerations for future surveying and notes about Career Development are included.

Appendix

Data tables are broken down by division and majors, also including Internships and Service Learning.





At a Glance

National and Regional Employment has improved in the last year.



Unemployment Rates

National—5.4%

Iowa—3.8%

Illinois—6.0%

Missouri—5.7%



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Section 1 — The Big Picture

Employment

Recent trends point to an improving employment outlook nationally and regionally.

Unemployment Rates

	April 2014	April 2015	Change
National	6.2%	5.4%	-0.8%
Iowa	4.4%	3.8%	-0.6%
Illinois	7.4%	6.0%	-1.4%
Missouri	6.3%	5.7%	-0.6%

Job Growth

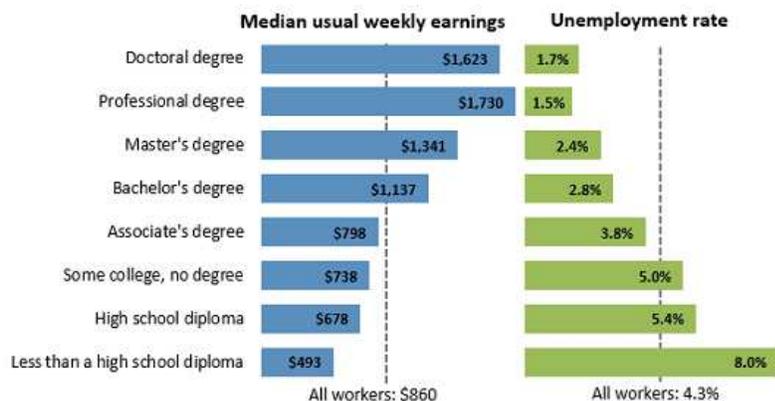
According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the four career fields with the greatest predicted growth between 2014 and 2024 are:

1. Healthcare Support Occupations
2. Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations
3. Construction and Extraction Occupations
4. Personal Care and Service Occupations

Investing in Higher Education

Despite the rising costs of higher education, lower unemployment rates and higher median earnings make higher education a wise investment. Data shows 11 of the 15 fastest growing occupations require some level of postsecondary education for entry.

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2015



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey





At a Glance

The data collection process took place from May 2015 to December 2015 using multiple methods.



37.3% of the class of 2015 responded to this survey



Survey responses and employee knowledge resulted in information on **46.9%** of the class of 2015



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Section 2 — Survey Methods

Methods

The data collection process for this report took place from May 2015 to December 2015. Data was gathered through a survey that was completed during the graduation rehearsal. Responses were solicited using email contact to the graduating class beginning in November 2015. Social media posts were also made on Facebook and Twitter, using the IWU official accounts. A second round of emails was sent approximately one month later. These combined efforts resulted in a response rate of 20% (23 of 115).

In an effort to increase response rates, Career Development contacted academic and athletic departments. Instructors, advisors and coaches were asked to reach out to those students they are still in contact with and encourage them to complete the survey. This resulted in the completion of an additional 20 surveys, bringing the response rate to 37.3% (43 of 115).

Instructors, advisors and coaches were then asked to provide any knowledge they had of the employment or continuing education status of their respective students. This resulted in information on 11 additional students, resulting in information gathered on 46.9% (54 of 115) of the Class of 2015.

No assumptions were made about employment status. Non-responses were not factored in the percentages reported.





At a Glance

64% of the class of 2015 graduated in the spring semester



The graduating class of 2015 was made up of 23% male and 72% female.

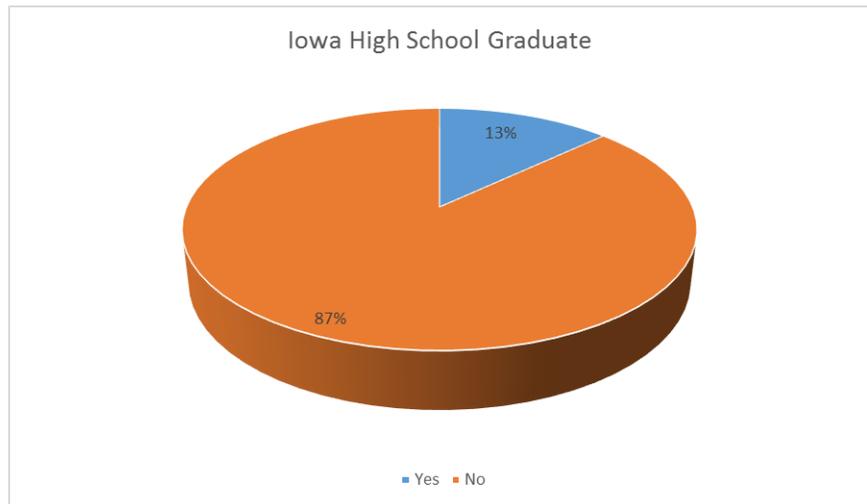
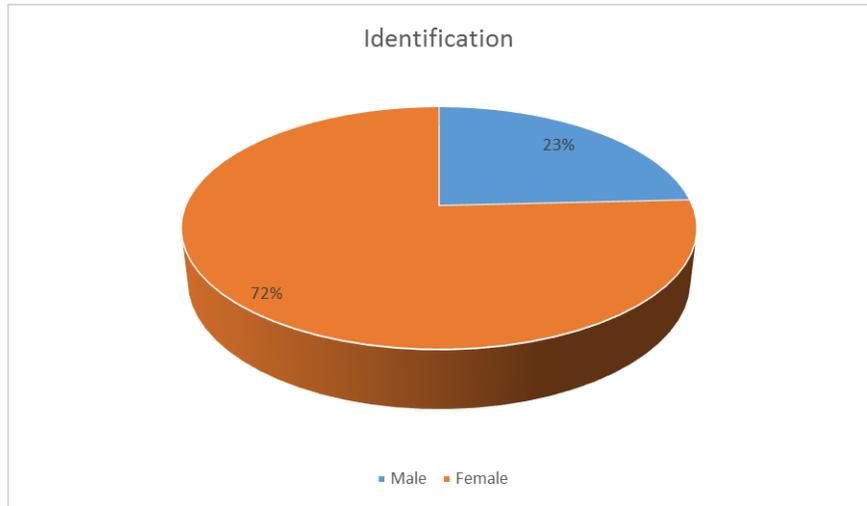
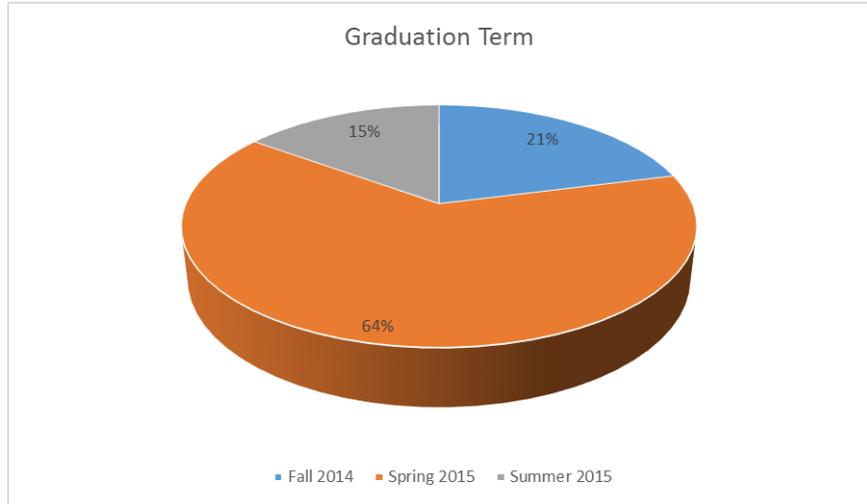


13% of the class of 2015 graduated from an Iowa high school



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2015 Graduating Class Profile*



*Class profile information was compiled using graduate information from Registrar





At a Glance

33% of the class of 2015 graduated from the Division of Education.

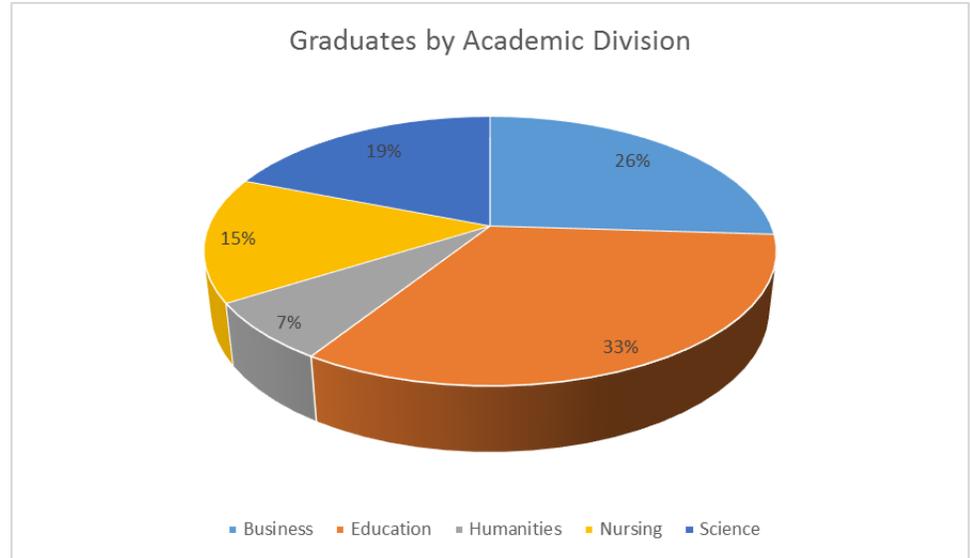


A variety of employers hired 2015 graduates



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Overview of the Class of 2015



Employing Organizations

Mercy Medical Center	District 300 Education
North Fayette School District	Grownmark
Premier 1 Supplies	REM Iowa
GRHS - Klein Center	Wal-Mart
Optimae Life Services*	Henry County Health Center
National Management Resources	Coast Inc.
Young House Family Services	Einstein Properties
Kansas City School District	Christamore Family Treatment
Multicare Health Organization	Washington Journal
Kent Corporation*	Liberty Tax
Clickstop	Ceco Building Systems
Lifetime Fitness	Fairfield Public Library
Ross Dress for Less	Integrated DNA Tech.
City of Richardson	West Liberty Foods
Crossmark	Henry County *
Healthcare Practitioners	Little Company of Mary Hospitals
Wagler Studio	University of Iowa Hospitals
Hometown Veterinary Care	

* denotes employer hiring multiple graduates

*Class profile information was compiled using graduate submitted survey responses





At a Glance

68% of the class of 2015 is employed following graduation.



11% of the class of 2015 is in graduate school or planning to continue their education.



82% of 2015 graduates are in positions that relate to their major.

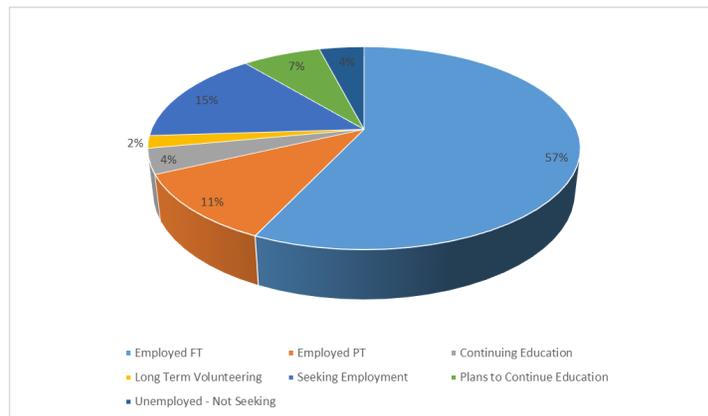


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Section 3 —2015 Iowa Wesleyan Graduate Employment Overview Post-Graduation Employment Status*

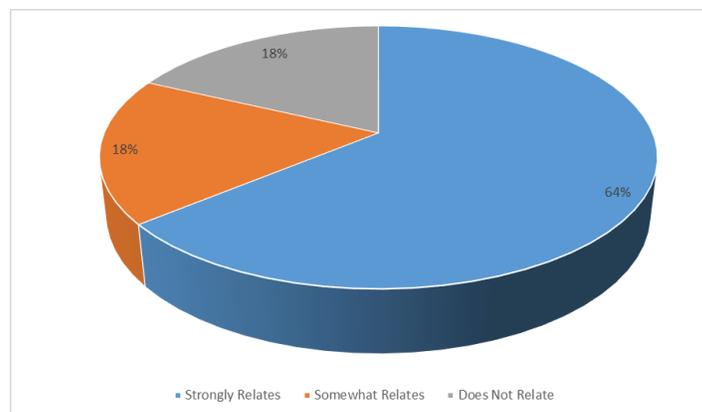
In determining post-graduation employment status, graduates were grouped into each of these categories. The percentage for each is below. Only those categories with respondents are included in the graphics.

- ◆ **Employed Full-Time (57%)** - including full-time paid internships
- ◆ **Employed Part-Time (11%)** - including part-time paid internships
- ◆ **Continuing Education (4%)** - Master's degree, PhD, JD, professional certificate program, etc.
- ◆ **Long-term Volunteering (2%)** - Peace Corp, Teach for America, etc.
- ◆ **Seeking Employment (15%)** - actively looking for employment
- ◆ **Planning to Continue Education (7%)** - actively seeking out educational programs
- ◆ **Unemployed—Not Seeking (4%)** - are not actively looking for employment by choice (e.g. homeschooling children)



Relationship of Position to Major of Study*

Relationship of the current positions to major of study was evaluated for all graduates and those in graduate schools.



*Employment status and relationship of positions to major of study were compiled using submitted responses and anecdotal information gathered from IWU faculty and staff.





At a Glance

A total of **79%** of 2015 graduates are located in Iowa



39% of graduates report an annual salary of at least \$30,000



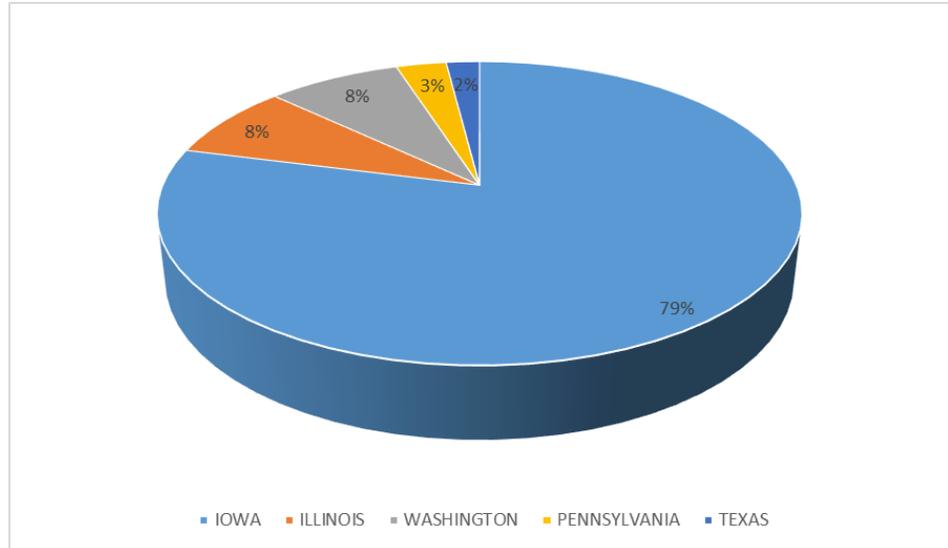
17% have a reported salary of over \$50,000



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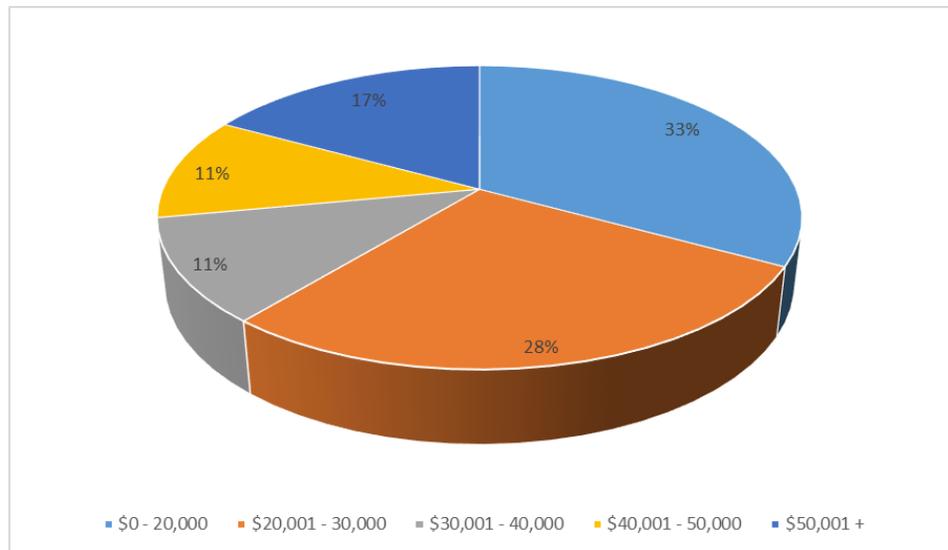
Location of Current Position*

Iowa Wesleyan has a predominantly Midwestern footprint in terms of the location of the class of 2015. 87% of respondents were located in Midwestern states, including Iowa and Illinois. Of these respondents, 79% were located in Iowa.



Starting Annual Salary*

Iowa Wesleyan graduates reported their beginning annual salary, excluding benefits. Of those reporting, 39% identified a salary of at least \$30,000 per year while 17% reported a salary of over \$50,000 per year.



*Locations and salary information were compiled using graduate submitted survey responses





At a Glance

75% of the 2015 graduates believe their field experienced helped shape their career path.



43% of 2015 graduates were offered a position in the organization that hosted their internship.



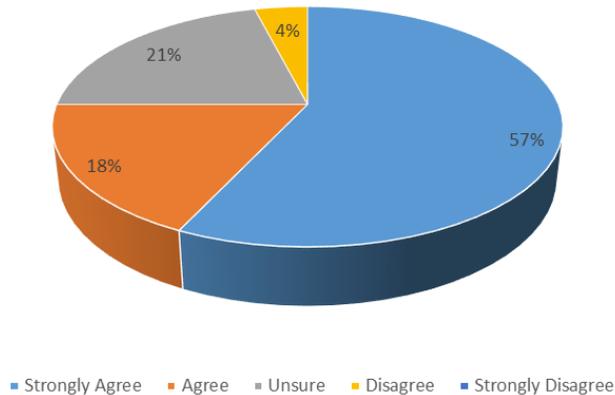
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Internships*

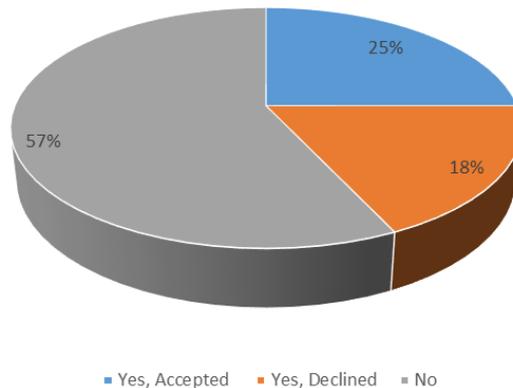
Internship experience is a foundation of the Iowa Wesleyan educational program; all students are required to participate in this experiential learning process. For the purpose of this section, internships includes nursing clinical rotations and student teaching experiences. Overall, in assessing the value of their experiences, graduates looked favorably upon its impact.

Graduates were asked to evaluate the degree to which they agreed with statements about their internship. Results are shown below.

My Participation in an Internship helped me define, clarify, or determine my career path.



Were you offered continued employment with the organization in which you completed your internship?



*Internship information was compiled using graduate submitted survey responses





At a Glance

76% of 2015 graduates reported some involvement in community service activities.



76% of 2015 graduates believe their service learning experience has continued to be valuable after graduation.

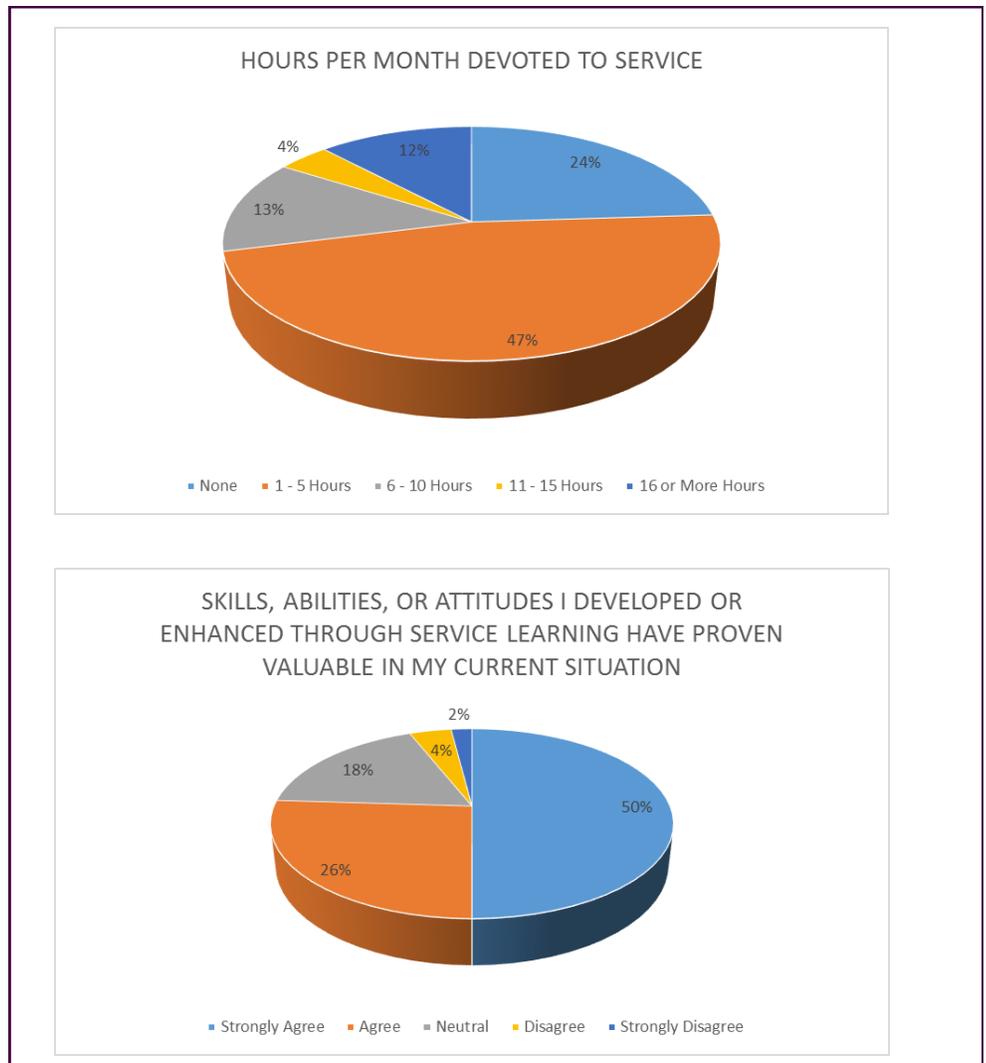


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Service Learning*

Service Learning is a cornerstone of the Iowa Wesleyan experience for students. All students are required to complete four courses with a service learning component embedded in the curriculum. A significant number of respondents reported developing and enhancing skills through service learning experiences. Moreover, this translated to students reporting continued devotion to service outside of their educational requirements.

A total of 29% of respondents reported spending more than 5 hours per month devoted to service activities. Research suggests that as a community member becomes more settled and engaged in their community, the number of service hours likely increase.



*Service Learning and Civic Engagement information was compiled using graduate submitted survey responses.





At a Glance

Many graduates credited Service Learning and Field Experience with helping them develop job skills



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Section 4 — Conclusions

Conclusions for the Class of 2015

Survey Results indicated:

- ◆ Graduates who were continuing their education tended to be in 1 of 2 majors of study: Business Administration or Fine Arts.
- ◆ Despite the focus on Service Learning, only two students were currently involved in long-term volunteer service. However, many cited service learning's role in helping them develop skills.
- ◆ Field Experience was credited by many for helping them develop skills used in their current position.
- ◆ Validity of survey results is questionable for divisions with a low survey response rate. The table below shows the number of graduates and the response rate in each division.

Division	# of Grads	Survey Responses	Percentage
Business	30	12	40
Education	38	16	42
Humanities	8	6	75
Nursing	17	8	47
Science	22	12	55

About Career Development

From the day they step on the Iowa Wesleyan University campus, the Office of Career Development is here to assist students. We provide students with guidance and support as they assess career interests, explore occupations, transition through a career change, proceed through the job search process and prepare for the professional workplace. Services are available to students and alumni. Additionally, Career Development supports faculty and staff by providing instruction that supplements course curriculum and collecting and disseminating information related to employment and the continuing education of Iowa Wesleyan University graduates.

