



Post-Graduation Status Report for the Graduating Class of 2016



**Office of Career Development, Internships, and Service Learning
John Wesley Holland Student Union
319.385.6375**



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 service to others, preparation for a life of rewarding work, and acquisition of enduring knowledge.



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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:

- ◆ Service to others
- ◆ Preparation for a life of rewarding work
- ◆ Acquisition of enduring knowledge

Information gathered can be used by various entities of the college 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—2016 Iowa Wesleyan Graduate Employment Overview

An overview of the data related to the Class of 2016, including information on employment, wages, Service Learning and Field Experience.

Section 4— Conclusions

A brief summary of survey findings, considerations for future surveying and note 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—5.0%

Iowa—3.5%

Illinois—5.7%

Missouri—4.4%



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Section 1 — The Big Picture

Employment

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

Unemployment Rates

	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2016	Change
National	5.0%	4.7%	-0.3%
Iowa	3.8%	3.5%	-0.3%
Illinois	6.1%	5.7%	-0.4%
Missouri	4.6%	4.4%	-0.2%

Job Growth

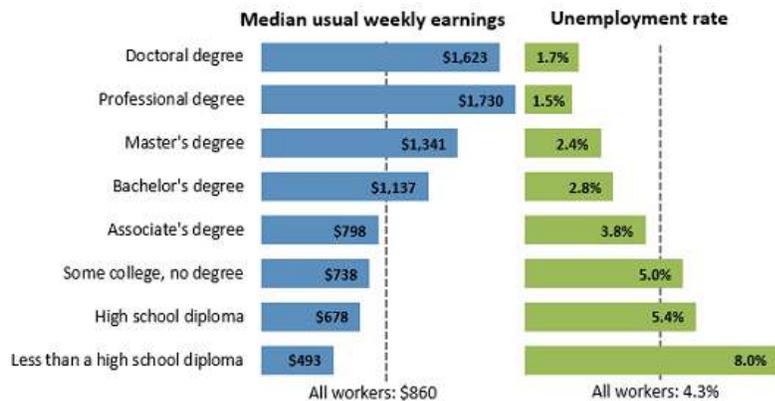
According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the four career fields with the greatest predicted growth between 2014 and 2024 are:

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 high costs of higher education, lower unemployment rates and higher median earnings make higher education a wise investment. For 11 of the 15 fastest growing occupations, some level of postsecondary education is typically required 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 2016 to May 2017 using multiple methods.



85% of the class of 2016 responded to this survey.



Survey follow-up information will be updated to reflect new data.



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Section 2 — Survey Methods

Methods

The data collection process for this report took place from May 2016 to March 2017. Data was gathered through a survey that was completed during the graduation rehearsal for both May and December graduations. Responses were solicited using a hard copy of the 2015-2016 Post-Graduate Survey. This resulted in a response of 85% (79 of 93).

Data will continue to be collected through May 2017.

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





At a Glance

62% of the class of 2016 graduated in the Fall semester.



The graduating class of 2016 was made up of **23% male and 77% female.**

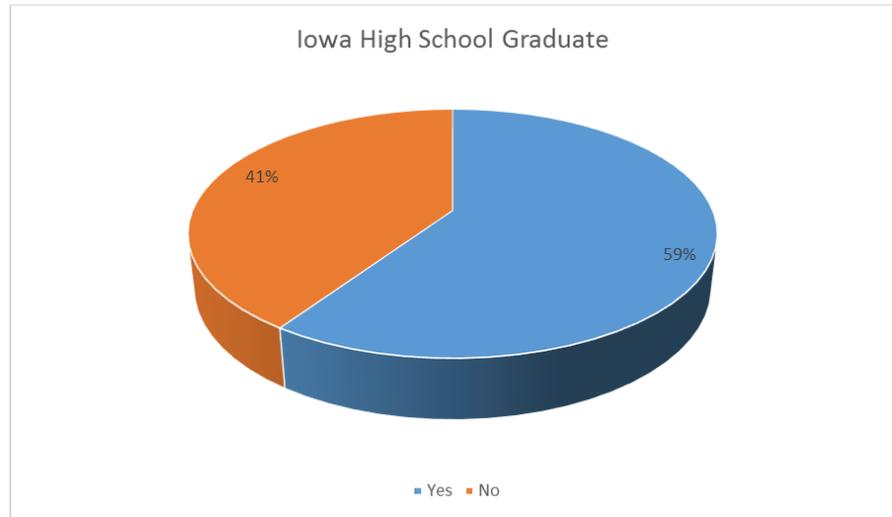
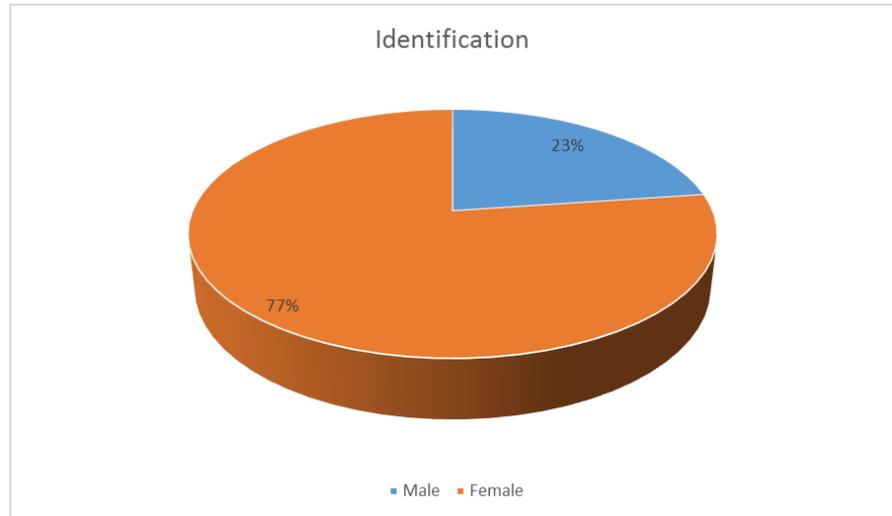
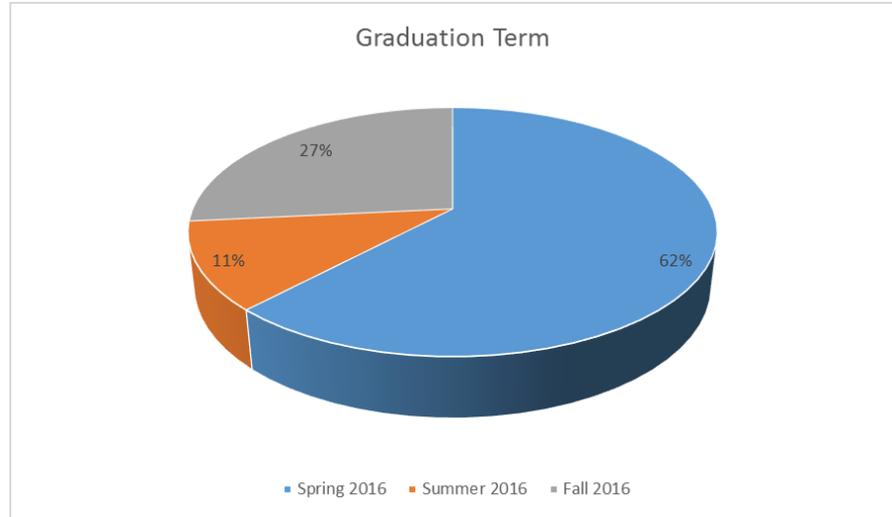


59% of the class of 2016 graduated from an Iowa high school.



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2016 Graduating Class Profile*



*Class profile information was compiled using graduate submitted survey responses





At a Glance

25% of the class of 2016 graduated from the Division of Education.

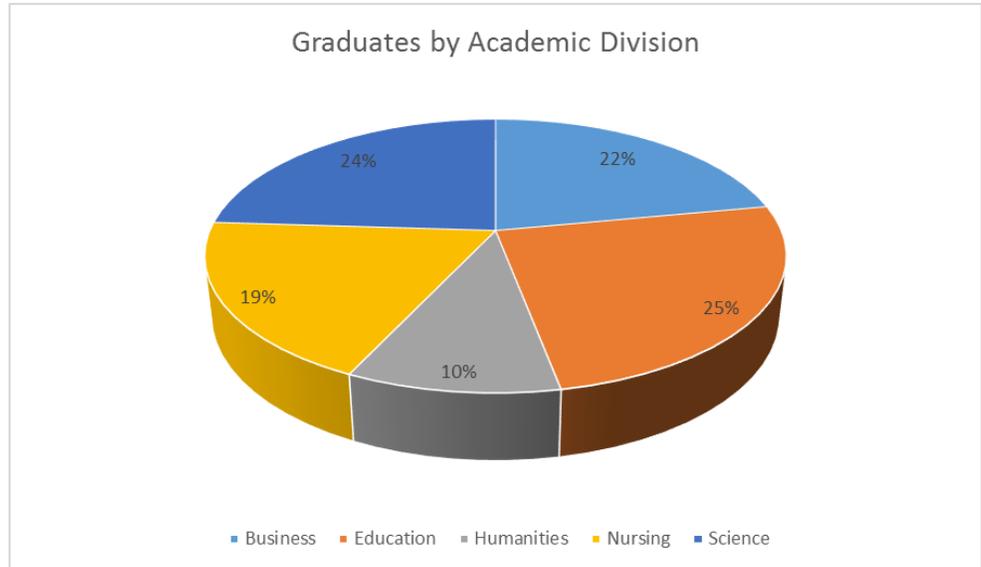


A variety of employers hired 2016 graduates.



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Overview of the Class of 2016



Employing Organizations

Allsteel	Raise Em Up Early Learning
Anamosa HS	Regional Utility Services Systems
CRW Finishing	Southeast Comm. College
Christamore Family Treatment*	State Police
Community Action Head Start	Sunrise Terrace Care Center
Community Action of SE Iowa*	Trinity Hospital Muscatine
FMCH	University of Iowa
First Resources	U of I Hospitals*
HCHC	Upstream Functional Medicine
Illini West HS	VA Hospital
MPC Enterprises, INC	Victory Lane Suspension
Members Comm. Credit Union	Walmart
MPCSD	Washington County
Mt. Pleasant Library	Washington School District
New Choices, INC	Younghouse Family Treatment
Pence Elementary	

*Denotes multiple positions hired

*Class profile information was compiled using graduate submitted survey responses





At a Glance

53% of the class of 2016 is employed following graduation.



18% of the class of 2016 is in graduate school or planning to continue their education.



85% of 2016 graduates are in positions that relate to their major.

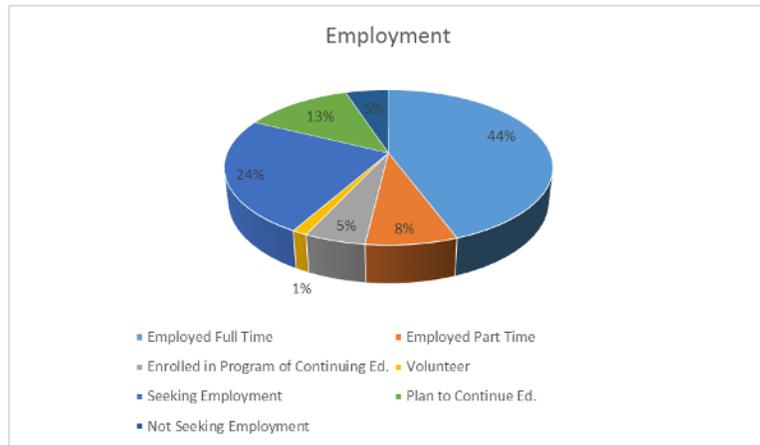


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Section 3 —2016 Iowa Wesleyan Graduate Employment Overview Post-Graduation Employment Status*

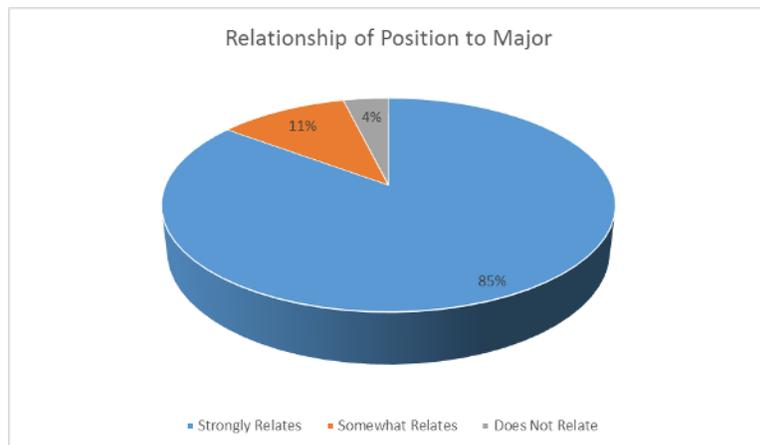
In determining post-graduation employment status, graduates were grouped into each of these categories. The percentage for each is shown below.

- ◆ **Employed Full-Time (44%)** - including full-time paid internships
- ◆ **Employed Part-Time (8%)** - including part-time paid internships
- ◆ **Continuing Education (5%)** - Master's degree, PhD, JD, professional certificate program, etc.
- ◆ **Long-term Volunteering (1%)** - Peace Corp, Teach for America, etc.
- ◆ **Seeking Employment (24%)** - actively looking for employment
- ◆ **Planning to Continue Education (13%)** - actively seeking out educational programs
- ◆ **Unemployed—Not Seeking (5%)** - 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 graduate submitted responses.





At a Glance

A total of **81%** of 2016 graduates are located in Iowa



66% of graduates report an annual salary of at least \$30,000



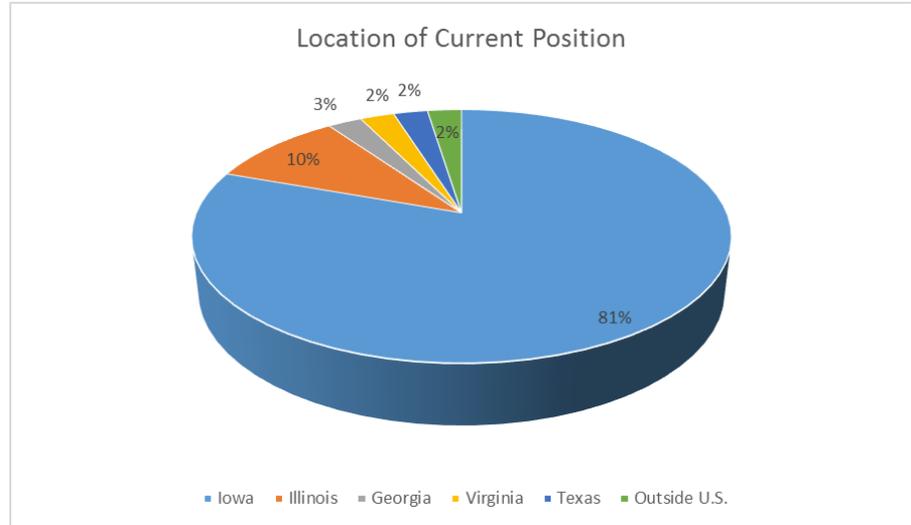
22% have a reported salary of over \$50,000



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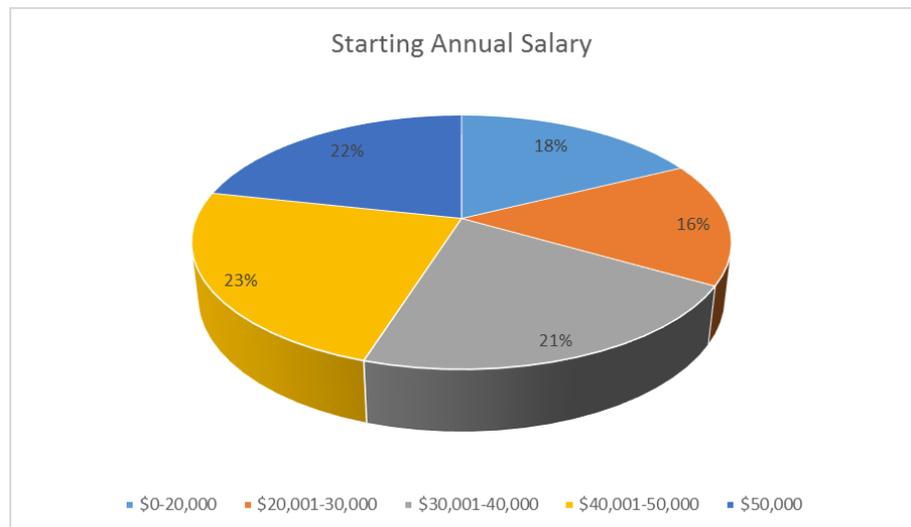
Location of Current Position*

Iowa Wesleyan has a predominantly Midwestern footprint in terms of the location of the class of 2016. 91% of respondents were located in Midwestern states, including Iowa and Illinois. Of these respondents, 81% were located in Iowa.



Starting Annual Salary*

Iowa Wesleyan graduates reported their beginning annual salary, excluding benefits. Of those reporting, 66% identified a salary of at least \$30,000 per year while 22% reported a salary of over \$50,000 per year.



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





At a Glance

76% of the 2016 graduates believe their field experienced helped shape their career path.



32% of 2016 graduates were offered a position in the organization that hosted their internship.

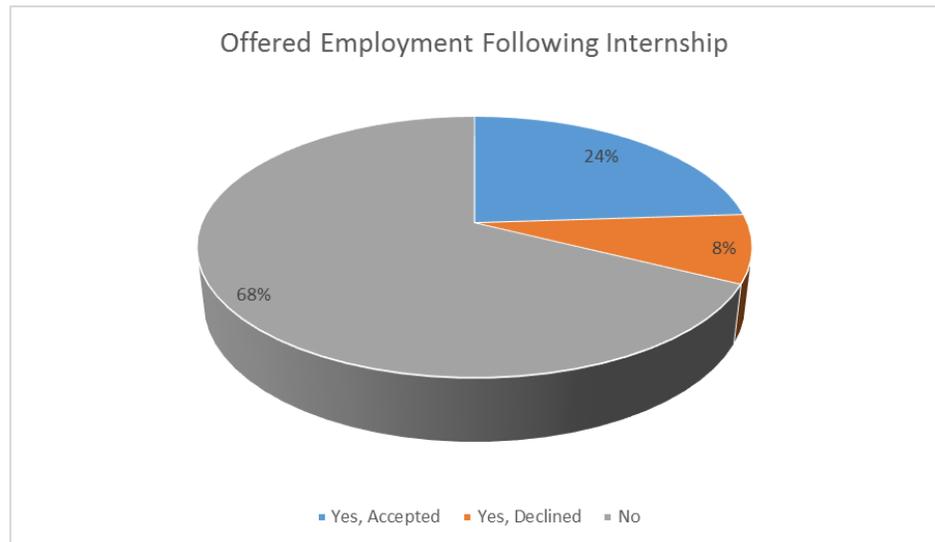
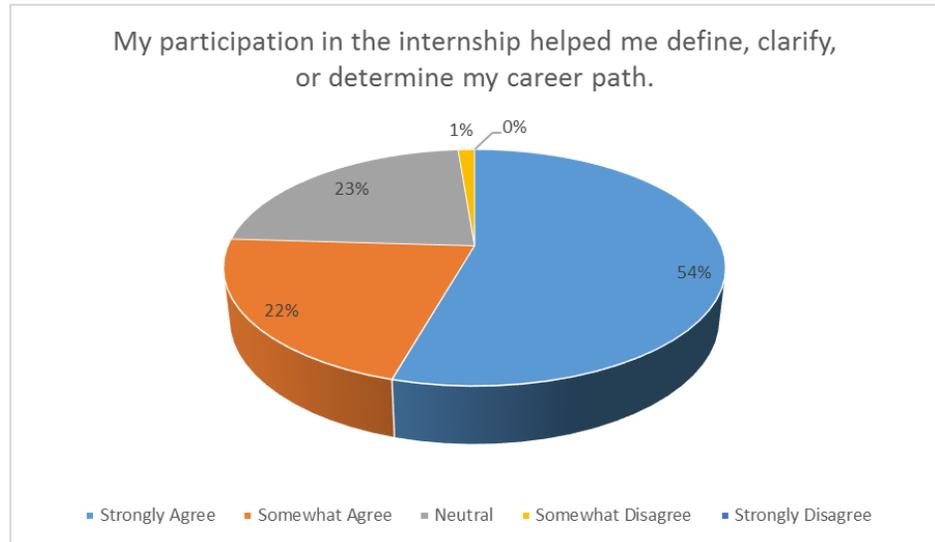


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Internships*

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.



*Internship information was compiled using graduate submitted survey responses





At a Glance

71% of 2016 graduates reported some involvement in community service activities.



76% of 2016 graduates believe their service learning experience has continued to be valuable after graduation.

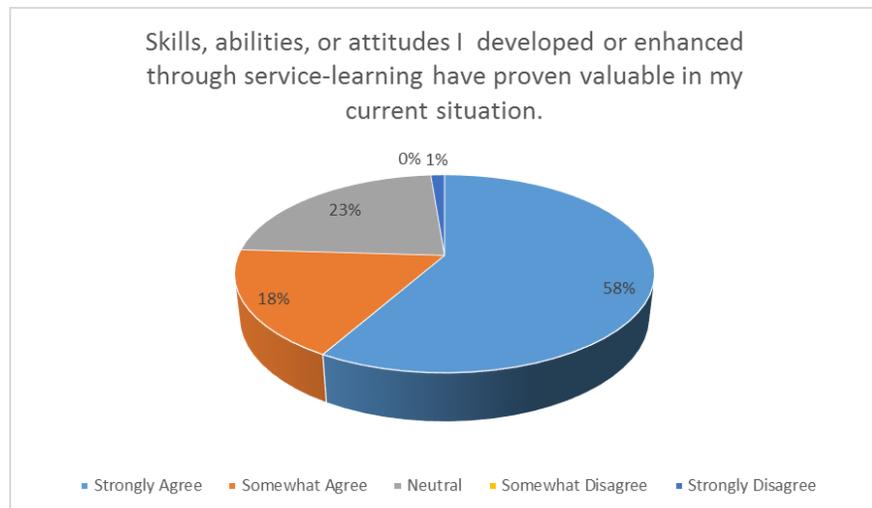
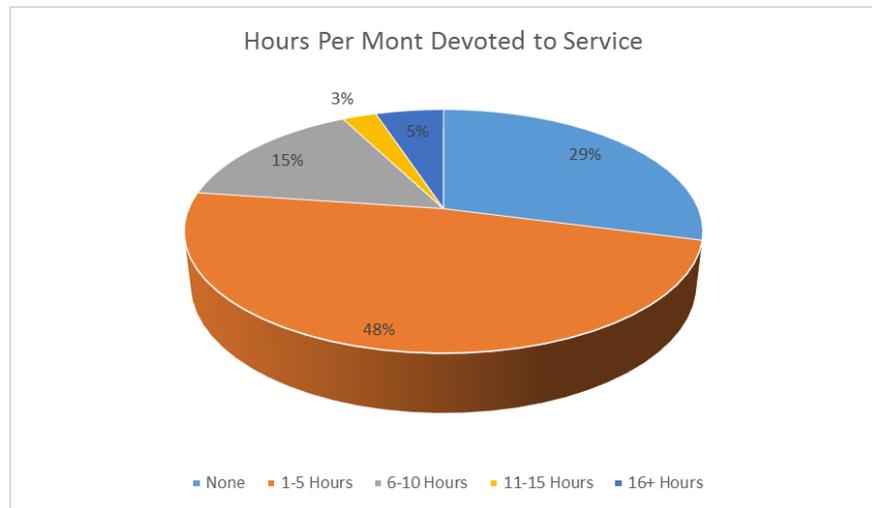


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Service Learning*

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 23% of respondents reported spending more than 5 hours per month devoted to service activities. While this number is somewhat low, it may be attributed to the individual's situation of adjusting to a new job and/or community. This number would likely increase as they become more settled and engaged in their communities.



*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 2016

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 one student was 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.
- ◆ The number of responses indicating they were seeking employment is a high number, however, 11 of these responses were Education majors with 9 graduating in December.
- ◆ 9 graduates also indicated they were seeking employment, but had at least one job offer.
- ◆ A higher number of employed graduates is expected with follow-up survey results collected over the course of the year.

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.

