

Iowa Wesleyan COLLEGE

Post-graduation Status Report for the Graduating Class of 2014



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At a Glance

The mission of Iowa Wesleyan College is to **prepare students to succeed in a changing global environment**



Iowa Wesleyan College values **service to others, preparation for a life of rewarding work, and acquisition of enduring knowledge**



Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide accurate information to facilitate data-informed decision-making within Iowa Wesleyan College. 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 College 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 2014 as well as return rates for various components of surveying.

Section 3—2014 Iowa Wesleyan Graduate Employment Overview

An overview of the data related to the Class of 2014, 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 Field Experience and Service Learning.



At a Glance

National and Regional Employment has improved in the last year



Unemployment Rates

National—5.6%

Iowa—4.1%

Illinois—6.2%

Missouri—5.4%



Employment prospects and weekly earnings are significantly better for holders of Bachelor's degrees



Section 1 — The Big Picture

Employment

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

Unemployment Rates

	December 2013	December 2014	Change
National	6.7%	5.6%	-1.1%
Iowa	4.2%	4.1%	-0.1%
Illinois	8.9%	6.2%	-2.7%
Missouri	6.0%	5.4%	-0.6%

Job Growth

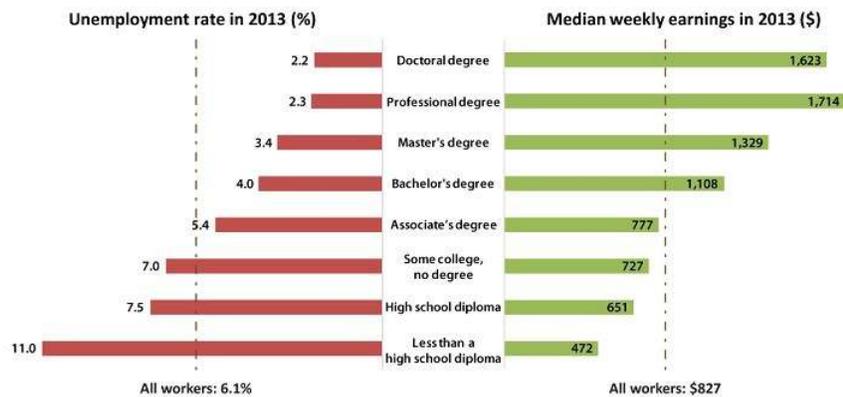
According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the four career fields with the greatest predicted growth between 2012 and 2022 are:

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.

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment



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



At a Glance

The data collection process took place from November 2014 to February 2015 using multiple methods



20.4% of the class of 2014 responded to this survey



Survey responses and employee knowledge resulted in information on 37.5% of the class of 2014

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Section 2 — Survey Methods

Methods

The data collection process for this report took place from November 2014 to February 2015. Data was gathered through an electronic survey that was emailed to eligible students. Responses were solicited using email contact to the graduating class beginning in November 2014. Social media posts were also made on Facebook and Twitter, using the IWC official accounts. A second round of emails was sent approximately one month later. These combined efforts resulted in a response rate of 13.8% (21 of 152).

In an effort to increase response rates, Career Development contact 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 10 surveys, bringing the response rate to 20.4% (31 of 152).

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 26 additional students, resulting in information gathered on 37.5% (57 of 152) of the Class of 2014.





At a Glance

72% of the class of 2014 graduated in the spring semester



The graduating class of 2014 was made up of **36% males and 64% females**

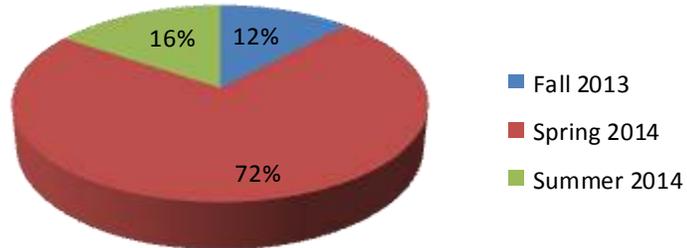


55% of the class of 2014 graduated from an Iowa high school

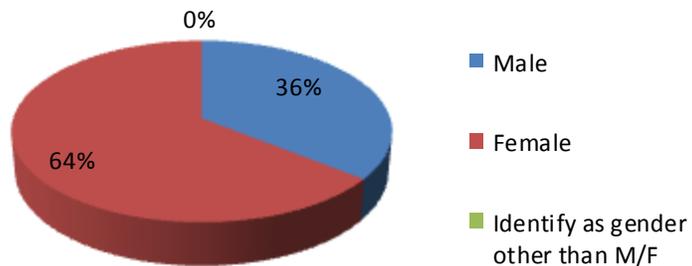


2014 Graduating Class Profile*

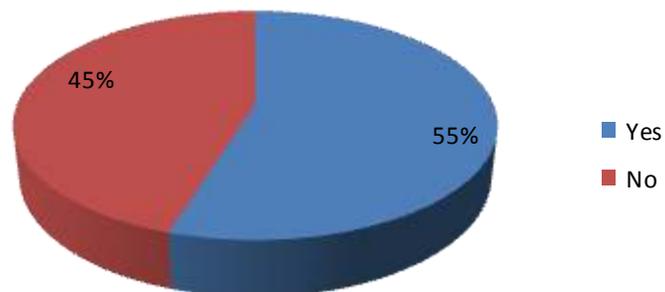
Graduation Term



Identification



Iowa High School Graduate



*Class profile information was compiled using graduate submitted survey responses



At a Glance

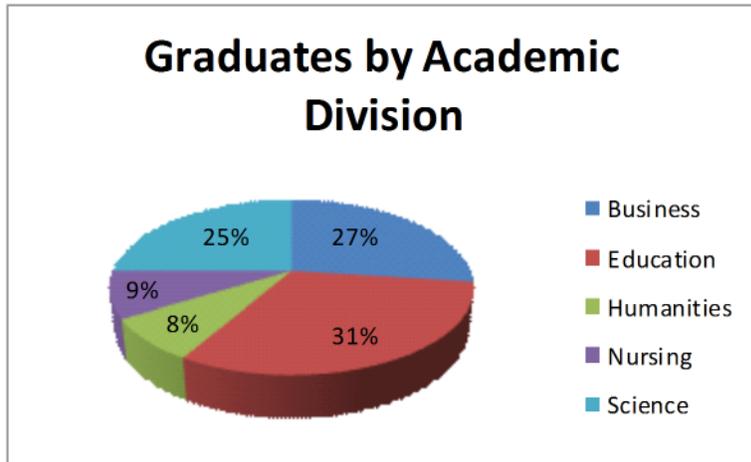
31% of the class of 2014 graduated from the Division of Education



A variety of employers hired 2014 graduates



Overview of the Class of 2014



Employing Organizations

- | | |
|--|---|
| Hy-Vee Inc.* | Burlington Notre Dame Schools |
| REM Iowa | Integrated DNA Technologies |
| Momentum Sports | West Liberty Foods |
| Insight Partnership Group | NSW Department of Education and Communities |
| Cambridge Investment Research* | Fairfield Public Library |
| CAL Community School | Best Western |
| Iowa Department of Corrections | Iowa Wesleyan College |
| Two Rivers Bank & Trust | Great River Health Systems |
| Fremont Mills School District | University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics* |
| United Presbyterian Home | Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility |
| Sunnybrook Assisted Living Center | TD&T CPAs and Advisors, P.C. |
| Mount Pleasant Community School District* | Iowa City West High School |
| CECO Building Systems | New London Community School District |
| Community Health Centers of Southeast Iowa | Christamore Family Treatment Center* |
| Burlington Community School District* | J.C. Harmon High School |
| Kent Corporation | Truth Foundation, Inc. |
| Coe College | Tucker's Music Studio |
| Davenport Community School District | |

* denotes employer hiring multiple graduates

*Class profile information was compiled using graduate submitted survey responses



At a Glance

79% of the class of 2014 is employed full-time



7% of the class of 2014 is in graduate school



A total of 89% of the class of 2014 is employed or in graduate school



93% of 2014 graduates are in positions that relate to their major

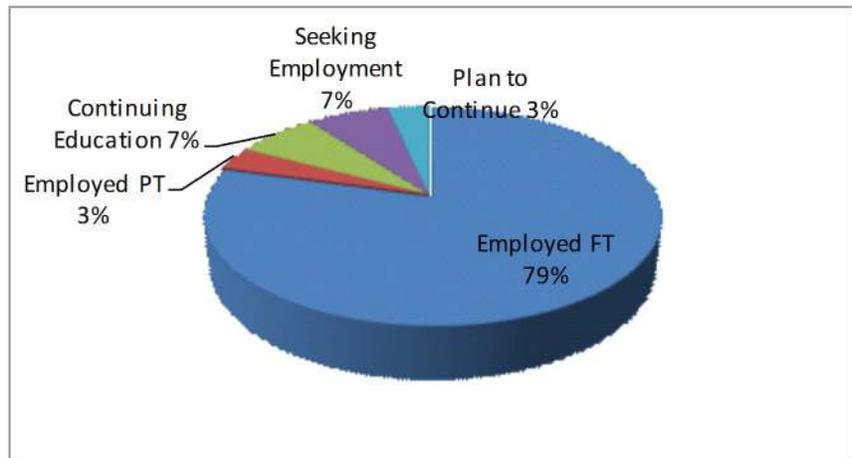


Section 3 —2014 Iowa Wesleyan Graduate Employment Overview

Post-Graduation Employment Status*

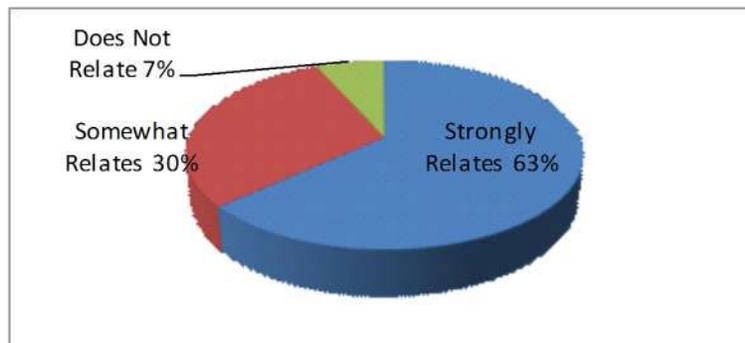
In determining post-graduation employment status, graduates were grouped into each of these categories. The percentage for each is shown below. Only those that have respondents are included in the graphics.

- ◆ **Employed Full-Time (79%)** - including full-time paid internships
- ◆ **Employed Part-Time (3%)** - including part-time paid internships
- ◆ **Continuing Education (7%)** - Master's degree, PhD, JD, professional certificate program, etc.
- ◆ **Long-term Volunteering (0%)** - Peace Corp, Teach for America, etc.
- ◆ **Military Service (0%)**
- ◆ **Seeking Employment (7%)** - actively looking for employment
- ◆ **Planning to Continue Education (3%)** - actively seeking out educational programs
- ◆ **Unemployed—Not Seeking (0%)** - are not actively looking for employment



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 and anecdotal information gathered from Iowa Wesleyan faculty and staff.



At a Glance

A total of **83%** of 2014 graduates are located in Iowa



78% of graduates report an annual salary of up to \$40,000

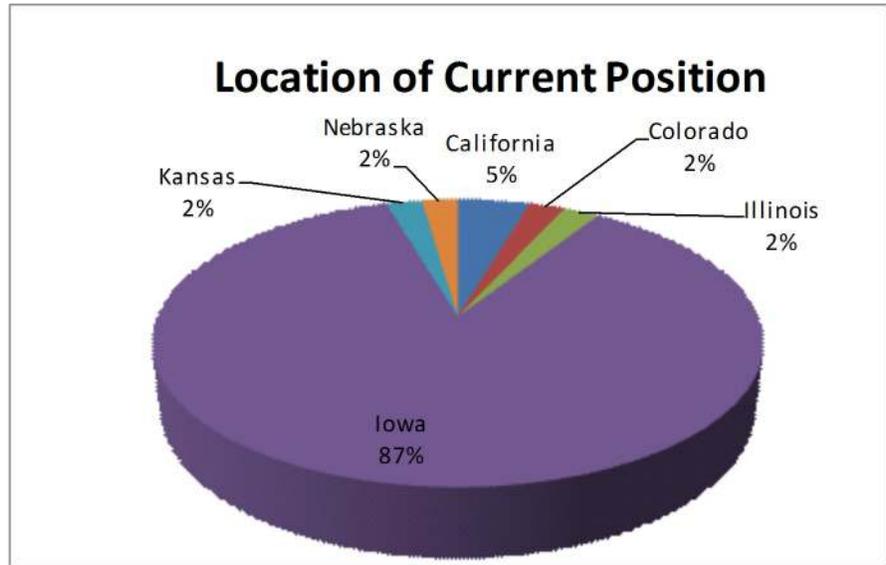


22% have a salary of over \$40,000



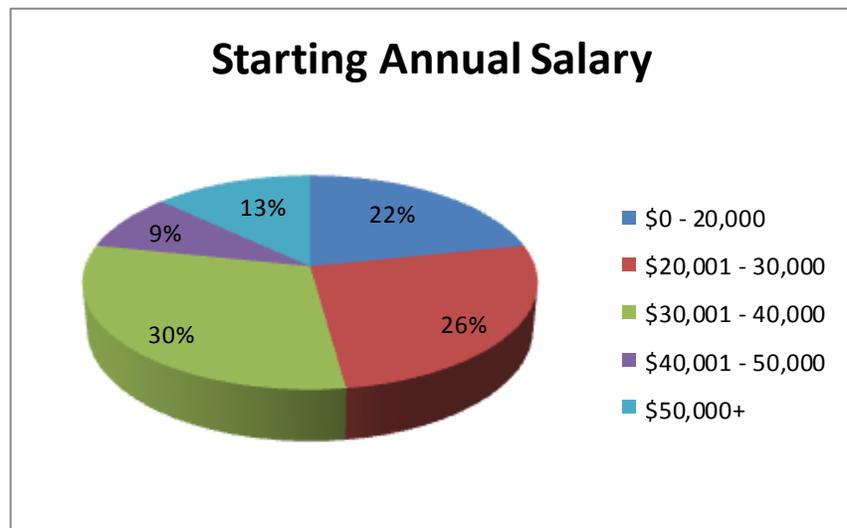
Location of Current Position*

Iowa Wesleyan has a predominantly Midwestern footprint in terms of the location of the class of 2014. 89% of respondents were located in Midwestern states, including Iowa, Illinois, Kansas and Nebraska. Of these respondents, 83% were located in Iowa.



Starting Annual Salary*

Iowa Wesleyan graduates reported their beginning annual salary, excluding benefits. Of those reporting, 78% identified a salary of up to \$40,000 per year while 22% reported a salary of over \$40,000 per year.



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



At a Glance

57% of the 2014 graduates believe their field experienced helped shape their career path



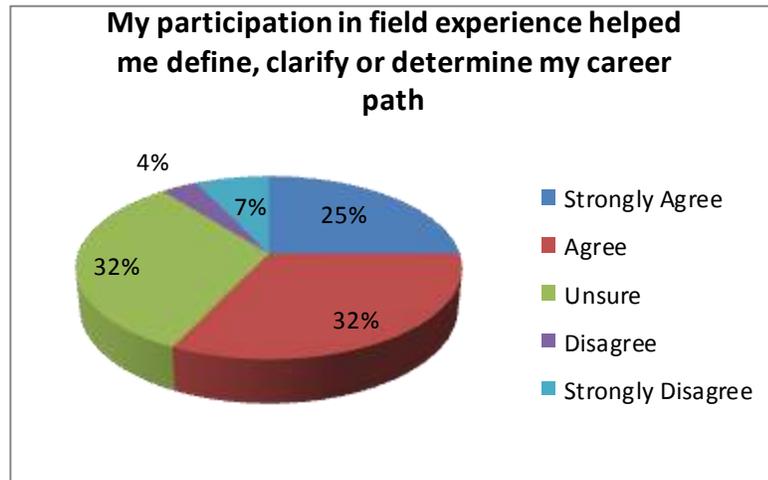
50% of 2014 graduates were offered a position in the organization that hosted their field experience



Field Experience*

Field Experience is a staple of the Iowa Wesleyan educational experience; all students are required to participate in this experiential learning process. For the purpose of this section, field experience 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 Field Experience. Results are shown below.



*Field Experience information was compiled using graduate submitted survey responses



At a Glance

72% of 2014 graduates reported some involvement in community service activities



71% of 2014 graduates believe their service learning experience has continued to be valuable after graduation

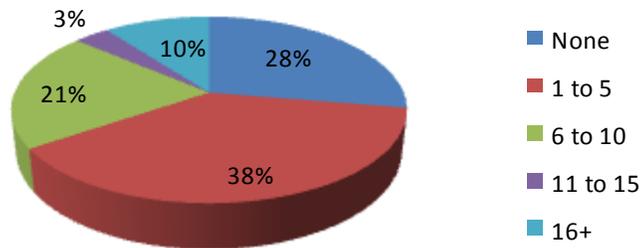


Service Learning*

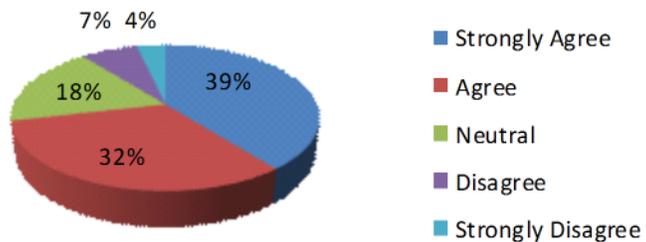
The center for Service Learning is an integral part of the Wesleyan experience for students. All students are required to complete courses with a service learning component embedded in the curriculum. A significant number of respondents reported developing and enhancing skills through service learning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

A total of 34% 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.

Hours per Month Devoted to Service



Skills, abilities or attitudes I developed or enhanced through service learning have proven valuable in my current situation



*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



Section 4 — Conclusions

Conclusions for the Class of 2014

Survey Results indicated:

- ◆ Graduates who were continuing their education tended to be in 1 of 2 majors of study: Business Administration or Exercise Science and Wellness.
- ◆ Despite the focus on Service Learning, no respondents 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	41	11	26.8
Education	48	17	35.4
Humanities	12	5	41.7
Nursing	13	9	69.2
Science	38	15	39.5

About Career Development

From the day they step on the Iowa Wesleyan College campus, the Office of Career Development is here to assist students. We provides 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 College graduates.