

AQUINAS COLLEGE

# **Class of 2019 First Destination Survey**

A PUBLICATION FROM CAREER SERVICES

AQ ADVANTAGE CENTER

AQUINAS COLLEGE

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

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PUBLICATION DATE:

APRIL 2020

# First Destination Survey

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THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF MACAYLA JONES, FIRST DESTINATION SURVEY STUDENT ASSISTANT IN THE CAREER SERVICES OFFICE, and TESSA SCHUTT, LEAD STUDENT WORKER, AQUINAS ADVANTAGE CENTER.

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# Table of Contents

Study Methodology	i
Survey Terms	ii
Response & Knowledge Rate	iii
Executive Summary	iv
First Destination Responses	9
<u>Part One: Undergraduate Level Findings</u>	10
Response, Knowledge, and Placement Rate	11
Primary Activity for Undergraduates	12
Response Rate by Major	13
Employment Correlation	
Internships	14
Study Abroad	15
Academic Research	16
Service Learning	17
<u>Part Two: Graduate Level Findings</u>	18
Response, Knowledge, and Placement Rate	19
Primary Activity for Graduate Students	20

# Table of Contents

<u>Part Three: Combined Undergraduate &amp; Graduate Results</u>	21
Means of Obtaining Position	22
Requirement of Degree	23
Teacher Certification by Major	24
Graduate/Professional School Enrollment	25
Graduates/Professional Schools Being Attended	26-28
Length of Job Search	29
Longitudinal Summary of Placement Rate	30
Income Level by Pay Schedule	31
<u>Appendices</u>	32
A. Response Rate	33
1. Employer’s Field or Industry	34
2. Employers/Organizations and Titles/Occupations	35-40
B. Knowledge Rate	41
1. Employers/Organizations and Titles/Occupations	42-47
C. Survey Tool	48
1. Handshake	49
2. Friendly Reminder	50
D. Supplemental Data	51
AQ Services Used & Interest in Helping AQ	52

# Survey Methodology

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On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, an invitation to participate in the 2019 First Destination Survey was emailed to all 2018-19 graduates of Aquinas College using Handshake. The survey sample included individuals who completed an undergraduate or graduate program with Aquinas College in either August 2018, December 2018, or May 2019. A number of different methods were used to contact recent graduates.

<b>Oct. 14, 2019</b>	FDS emailed to all graduates Email reminders were sent at predetermined intervals by Handshake  Emails were sent to both Aquinas email addresses and personal email addresses if provided
<b>Dec. 27, 2020</b>	Final reminder email sent. Reached out to graduates who originally stated they were “still looking”
<b>Jan. 10, 2020</b>	Online Survey Ended
<b>Jan.-Feb., 2020</b>	Acquired Knowledge Rate through LinkedIn, Facebook, and Handshake
<b>April 2020</b>	Submit to NACE.

*\*Handshake was used to collect and compile online survey responses. An explanation of the survey instrument can be found in Appendix C.*

# Survey Terms

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Following the [National Association of College and Employers \(NACE\)](#) Standards and Protocol;

**“Response Rate”** is defined as information that was gathered directly from those graduates who have returned the survey.

**“Knowledge Rate”** is defined as information gathered on graduates from other sources; i.e. LinkedIn, Facebook, parents, for those graduates who have not responded to the survey.

The National Association of College & Employers has partnered with Handshake to create a survey tool that allows colleges to collect data using the same timeline, procedures, and protocol. For this reason we decided to use Handshake for our 2017 First Destination Survey. This change allowed us to have additional information to share in our survey. An explanation of terms are below;

**“Online Submission”** is defined as a submission where a graduate completed and submitted their response online through the handshake portal.

**“Partial Submission”** is defined as a submission where a graduate started their response online through the handshake portal, never finished/submitted, but included all of the necessary information to count as a submission.

**“Never Completed”** is defined as a submission where a graduate started their response online through the handshake portal, but did not finish and did not have the necessary information to count as a submission.

**“Mailing Submission”** is defined as a submission where a graduate completed and submitted their response online through the use of the paper survey that was mailed to the graduates address.

**“No Response”** is defined as not receiving any form of response, as well as not being able to locate information for the Knowledge Rate.

Additional Information:

*\*Sample sizes may change based on the amount of responses received for a particular question*

# Response & Knowledge Rate

## Total Responses:

Number of Graduates	Type of Response
145	Submitted Responses
143	Knowledge Responses
77	No Response
<b>Total Number of Graduates= 365</b>	

## Response Rate:

Response Rate	Type of Response
128	Online Submission
17	Partial Response
<b>Total Response Rate= 145/365</b>	<b>39.7% of Graduates</b>

## Knowledge Rate & No Response:

Number of Graduates	Type of Response
143	Knowledge Rate
77	No Response
<b>Total: 220</b>	

## Knowledge Rate:

Number of Graduates	Location of Information
109	LinkedIn
14	Facebook
7	Handshake
13* added	Other
<b>Total Knowledge Rate: 143/365</b>	<b>39.2% of Graduates</b>

## Combined Rate:

Number of Graduates	Type of Response
145	Submitted Responses
143	Knowledge Responses
<b>Total Combined Rate= 288/365</b>	<b>78.9% of Graduates</b>

# Executive Summary

## Survey Response Rate:

Total Responses	% Total	Primary Activity
92	63.4%	Employed Full-Time
12	8.3%	Employed Part-Time
24	16.6%	Graduate/Professional School
6	4.1%	Service/Volunteer Work
11	7.6%	Seeking Employment
<b>Total Graduates Responded = 145</b>		

## Combined Response & Knowledge Rate:

Total Responses	% Total	Primary Activity
207	71.9%	Employed Full-Time
27	9.4%	Employed Part-Time
35	12.2%	Graduate/Professional School
7	2.4%	Service/Volunteer Work
12	4.2%	Seeking Employment
<b>Total Responses= 288</b>		

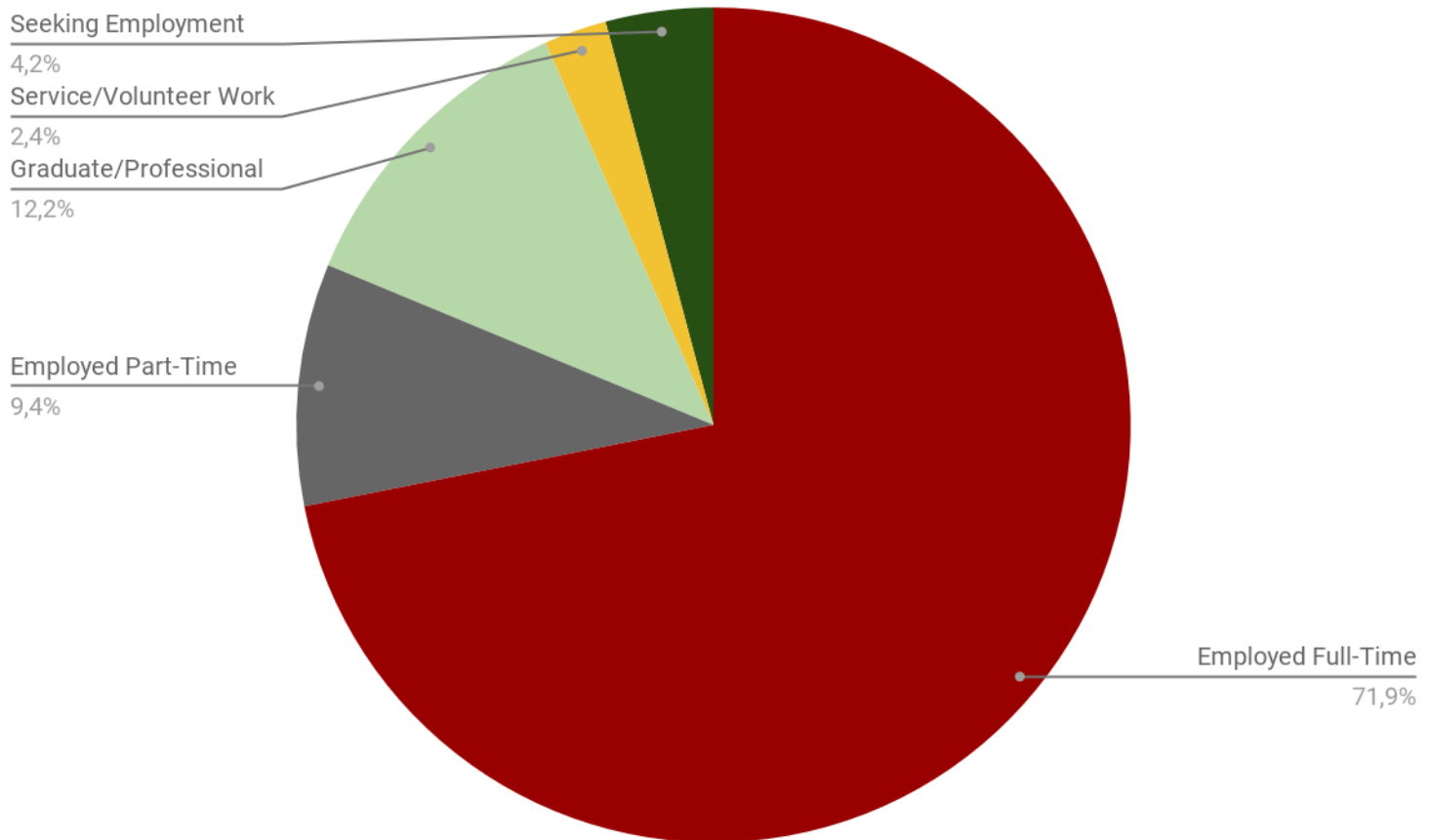
## Total First Destination Rate:

Total	% Total	Primary Activity
234	81.3%	Employed Full-Time/Part-Time
35	12.2%	Graduate/Professional School
7	2.4%	Service/Volunteer Work
<b>276/288 Total Responses</b>		<b>95.8% Placement Rate</b>



# First Destination Responses

## Primary Activity



n= 288

\*There are no graduates from the 2019 First Destination Survey currently enlisted in the Military as of March 4th, 2020.

# Part One:

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## Undergraduate Level Findings

## Response Rate:

Number of Graduates	Number of Responses
329/365	136
<b>90.1% of all Graduates</b>	<b>41.3% of Undergraduates</b>

## Knowledge Rate:

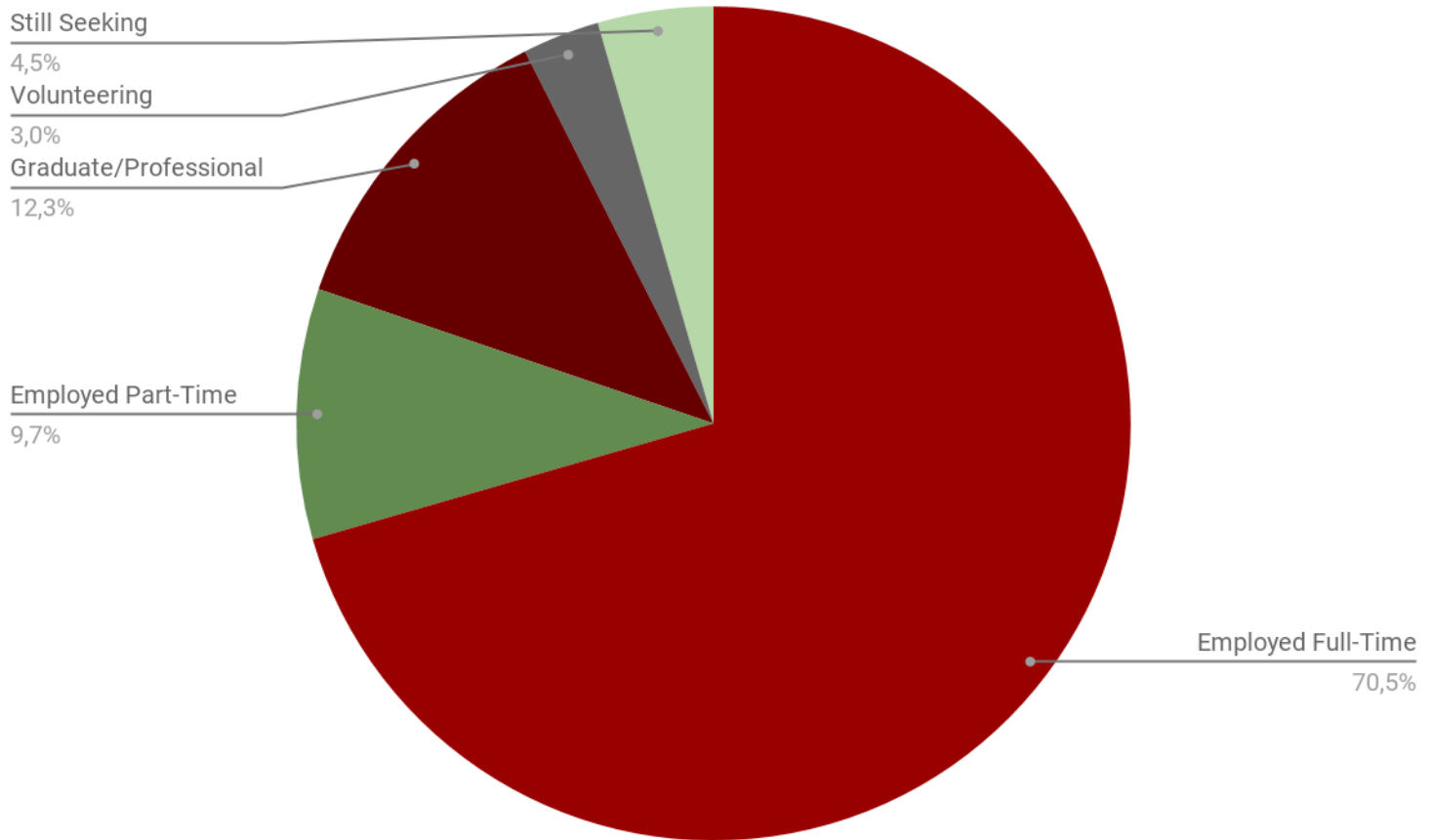
Number of Graduates	Number of Responses
329	129
<b>90.1% of all Graduates</b>	<b>39.2% of Undergraduates</b>

**The Knowledge Rate for  
undergraduate alumni = 39.2%**

## Placement Rate for Undergraduates:

Total	Total %	Primary Activity
215	81.1%	Employed Full-Time/Part-Time
33	12.5%	Graduate/Professional School
8	3.0%	Service/ Volunteer Work
<b>256/265</b>	<b>96.6%</b>	<b>Total Placement Rating</b>

## Primary Activity for Undergraduates



## Primary Activity Details

Employed Full-Time*	Employed Part-Time	Graduate/Professional School
189	26	33
68.5% of Responses	9.4% of Responses	12% of Responses

Volunteering	Seeking Employment
8	12
2.9% of Responses	4.3% of Responses

\*A large number of graduates did not indicate whether they worked full or part-time, and thus were assumed to be working full-time.

n= 268

## Response Rate By Undergraduate Major

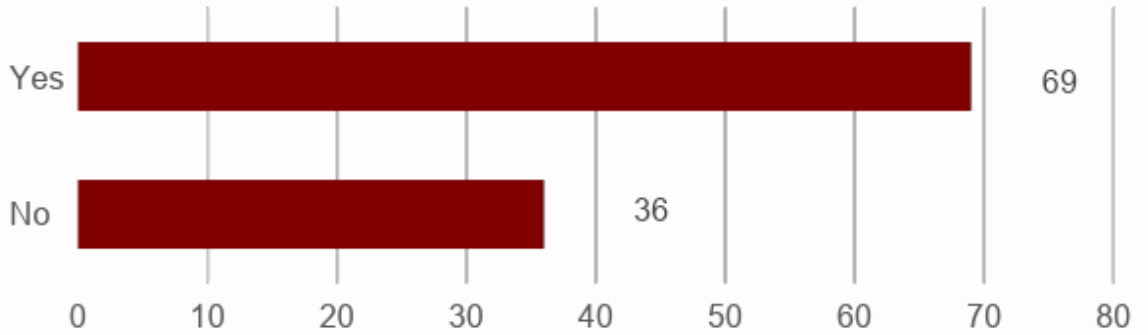
Accounting	1
Art: General	2
Art: Ceramics	1
Art: Painting	1
Athletic Training	6
Applied Science	1
Biology	12
Business Administration	65
Child Labor Specialist	2
Communication	10
Communication w/ Theater	1
Community Leadership	5
Computer Information Systems	3
Data Analytics	1
Early Childhood Education	5
Economics	1
Education: English	3
Education: Learning Disabilities	3
Education: Mathematics	1
Education: Physical/Health Impairment K-12	1
Elementary Education	7
English: General	3
English: Literature Emphasis	4
English: Writing Emphasis	5
Environmental Studies	2
Exercise Sciences	3

French	1
General Education	4
Geography	2
German	1
Health Science	1
History	2
International Business	5
Kinesiology w/Exercise Science	1
Management Information Systems	3
Mathematics	7
Music: General	1
Music: Performance Emphasis	1
Political Science	7
Professional Accountancy	2
Psychology	14
Sociology	1
Spanish	2
Sustainable Business	12
Theater	6
Theology	1
Translation and Interpretation: French	1
<b>MASTER LEVEL PROGRAMS</b>	
Master in the Art of Teaching (M.A.T.)	7
Master in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.A.C.)	1
Master in Management (M.M.)	4

\*Alumni who completed more than one major are counted twice including dual majors

# Internships & Employment Correlations

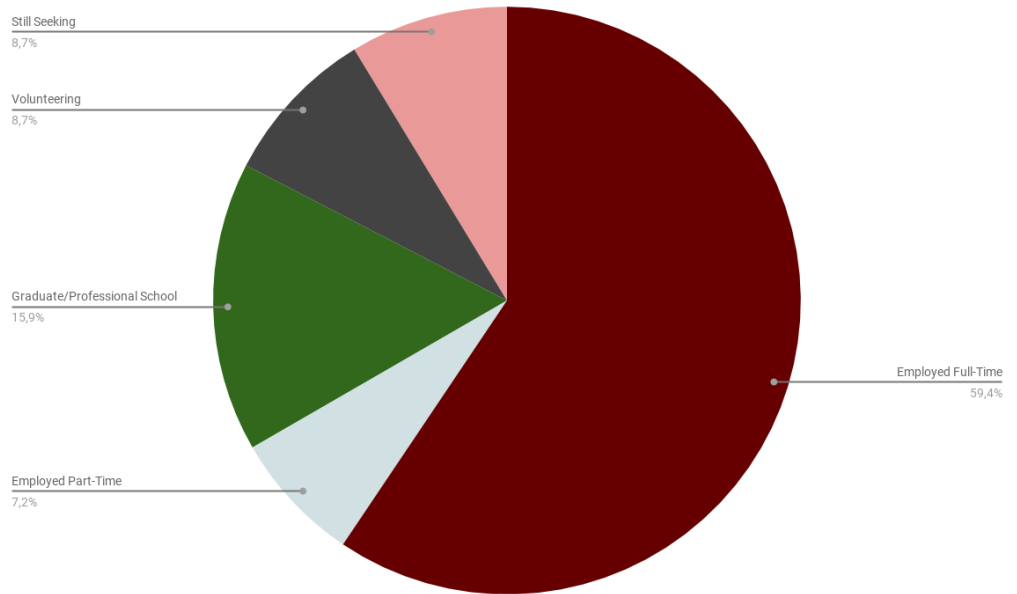
Did graduate participate in internships?



n= 105

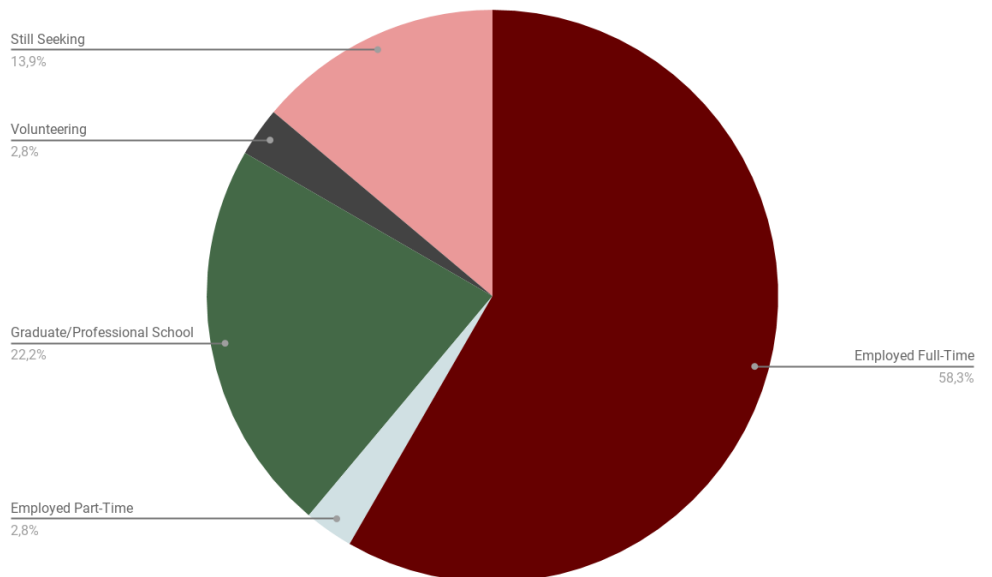
## Internship: Yes

Individuals who completed internships were less likely to still be seeking employment upon graduation.



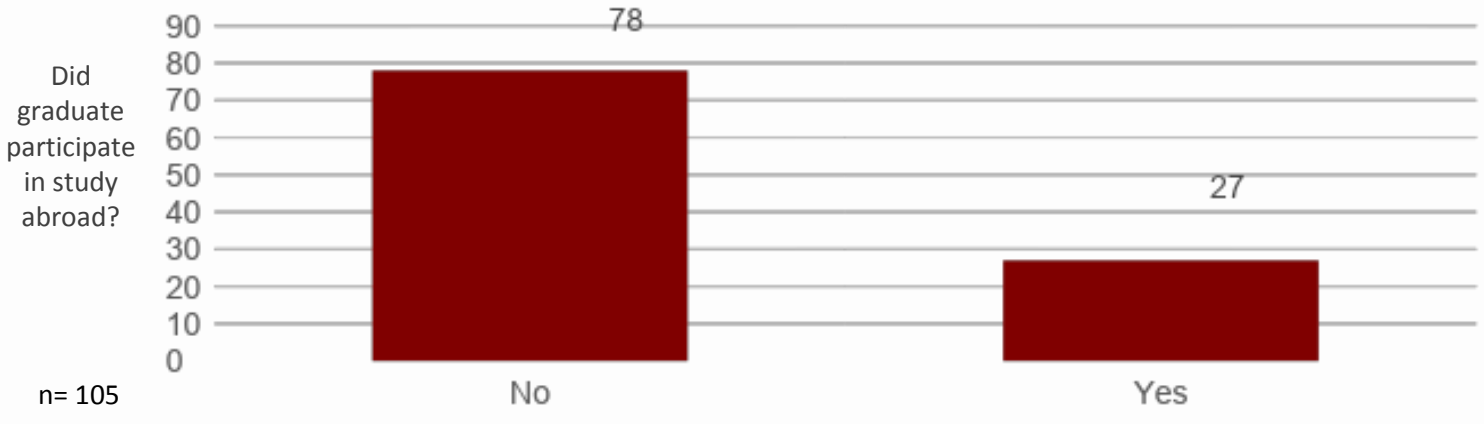
n=69

## Internship: No



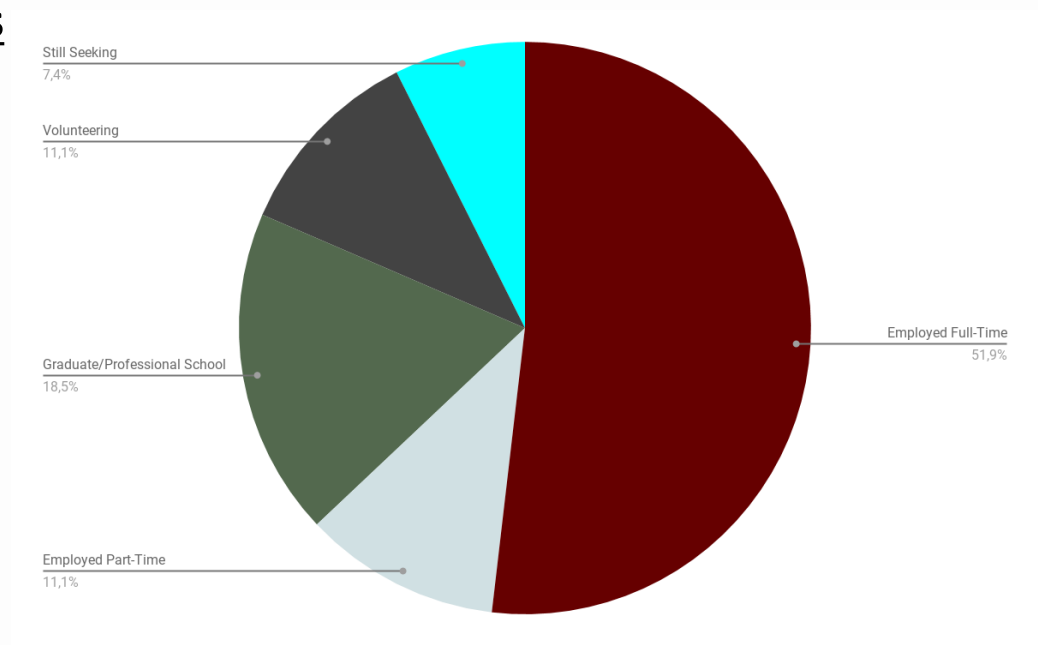
n=36

# Study Abroad & Employment Correlations

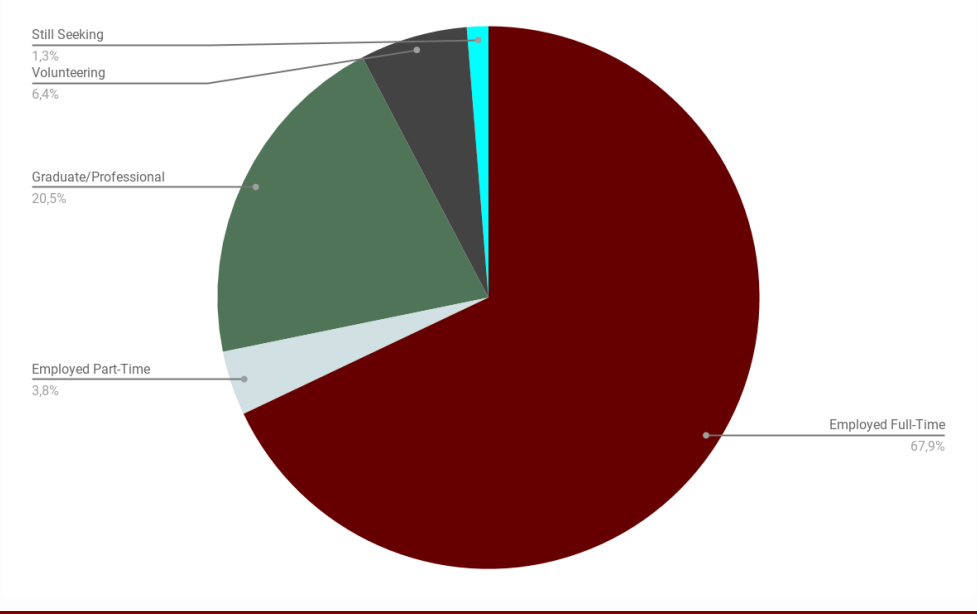


## Study Abroad: Yes

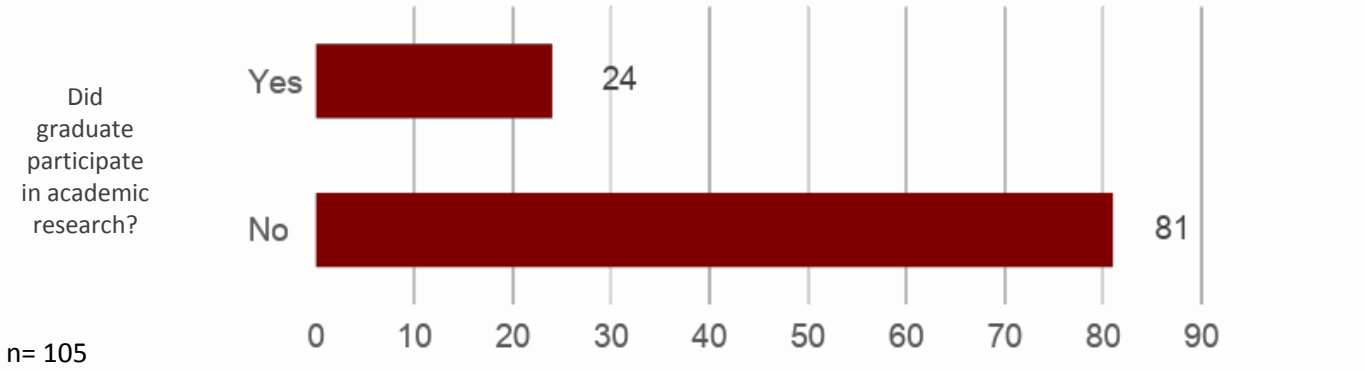
Graduates who studied away showed higher rates of volunteerism which may be a direct result of global and cultural competency.



## Study Abroad: No

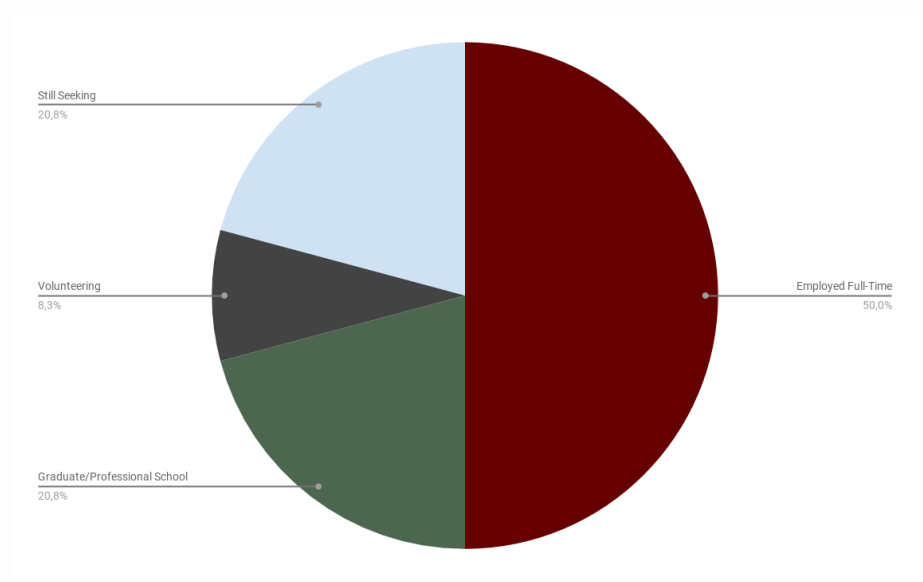


# Academic Research & Employment Correlations

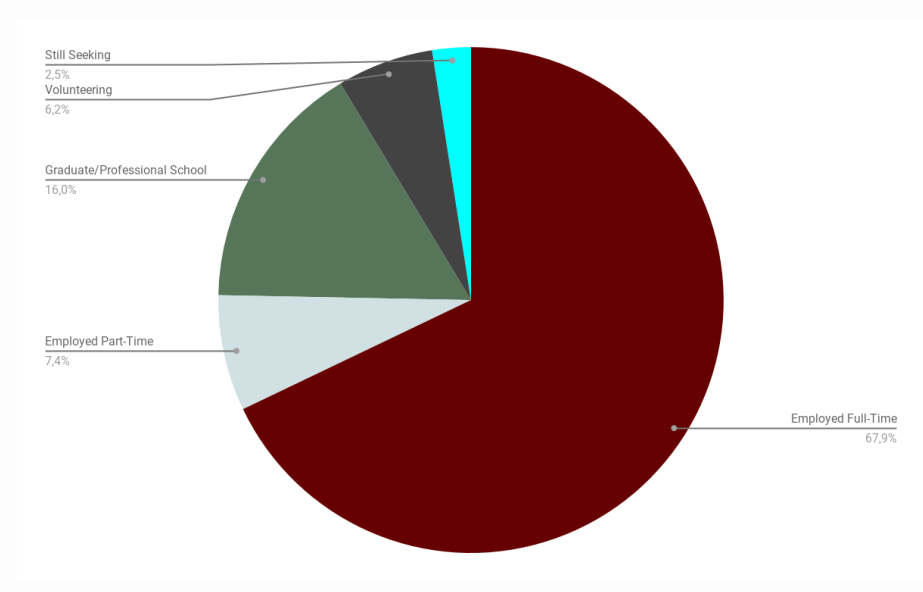


## Academic Research: Yes

Graduates who completed academic research showed higher rates of attending graduate/professional school at advanced levels.

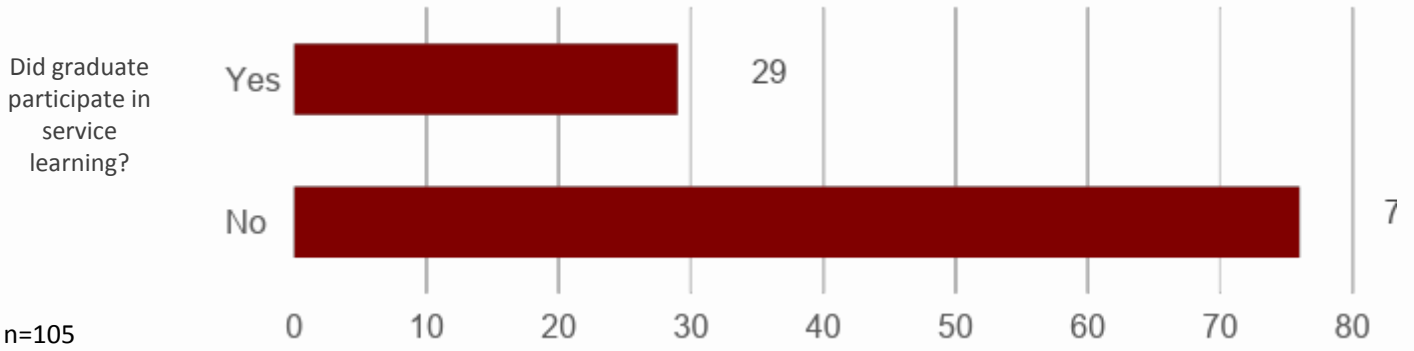


## \*Academic Research: No



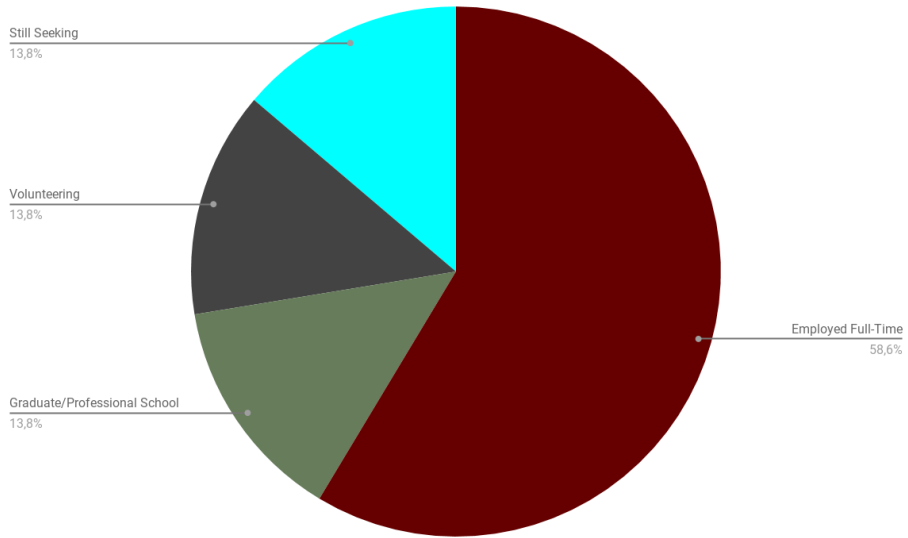


# Service Learning & Employment Correlations

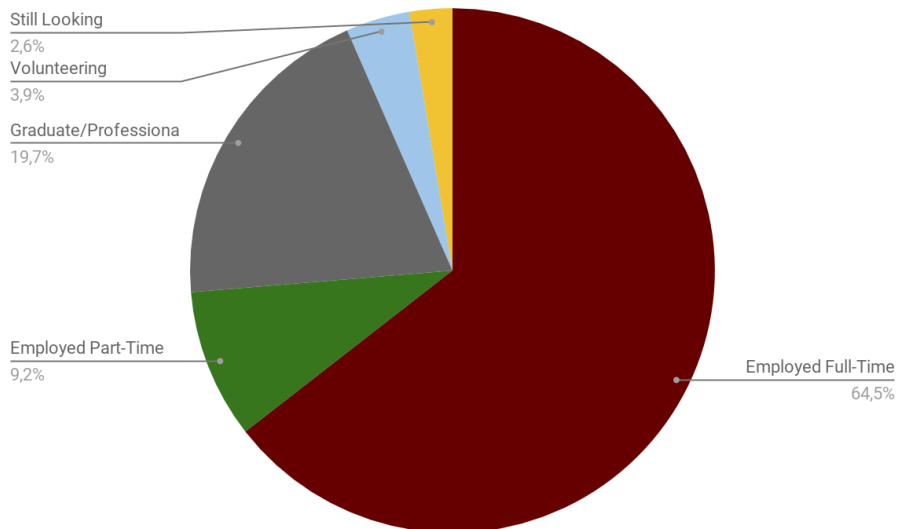


## Service Learning: Yes

Graduates who participated in service learning secured full and part time employment related to their major.



## Service Learning: No



# Part TWO:

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## Graduate Level Findings

## Response Rate

Number of Graduates	Number of Responses
36/365	12
9.9% of all Graduates	33.3% of Graduate Students

**The Response Rate for graduate alumni = 33.3%**

## Knowledge Rate

Number of Graduates	Number of Responses
36	9
9.9% of all Graduates	25% of Graduate Students

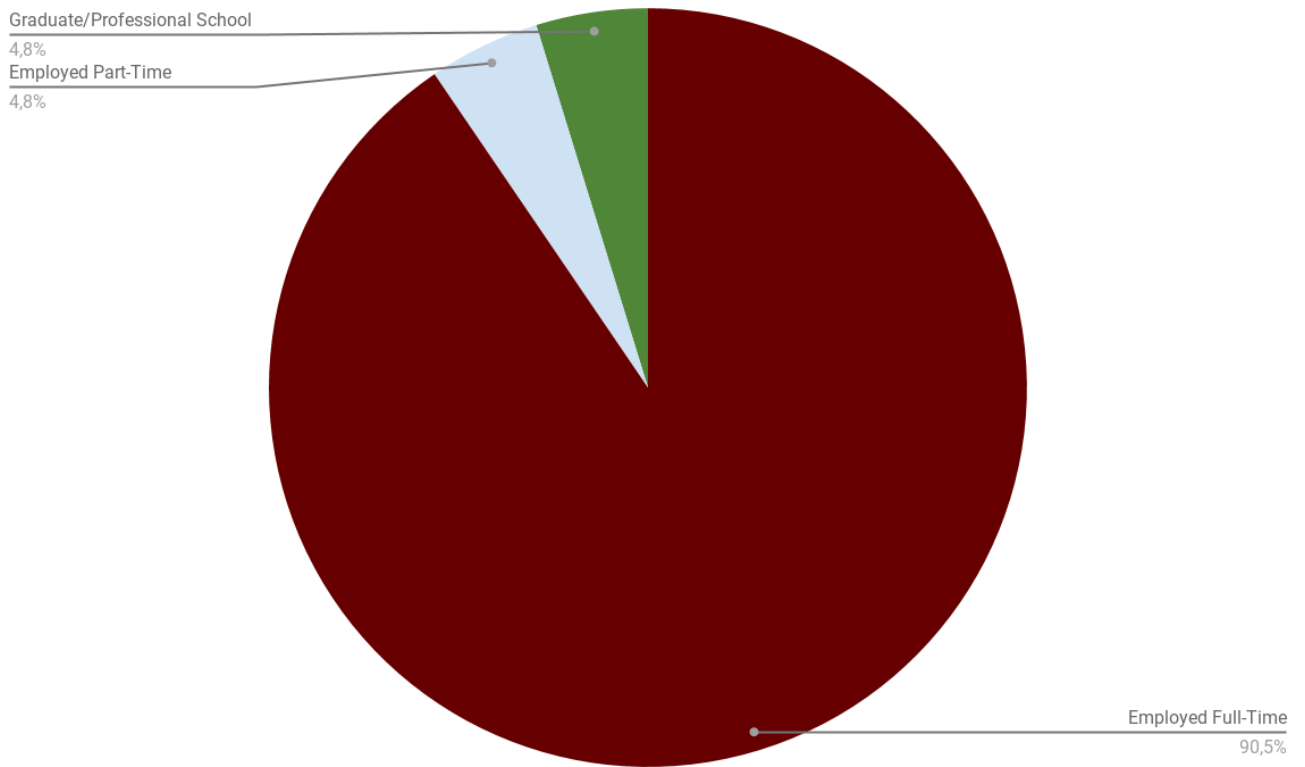
**The Knowledge Rate for graduate alumni = 25%**

## Placement Rate for Graduate Students

Total	% Total	Primary Activity
21	100%	Employed Full/Time
<b>21/21 Responses</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total Placement Rating</b>

**The Total Placement Rate for graduate alumni = 100%**

## Primary Activity of Graduate Level Alumni



## Primary Activity Details

Employed Full-Time	Employed Part-Time	Graduate/Professional School
19	1	1
90.5% of Responses	4.8% of Responses	4.8% of Responses

Volunteering	Seeking Employment
0	0
0.0% of Responses	0.0% of Responses

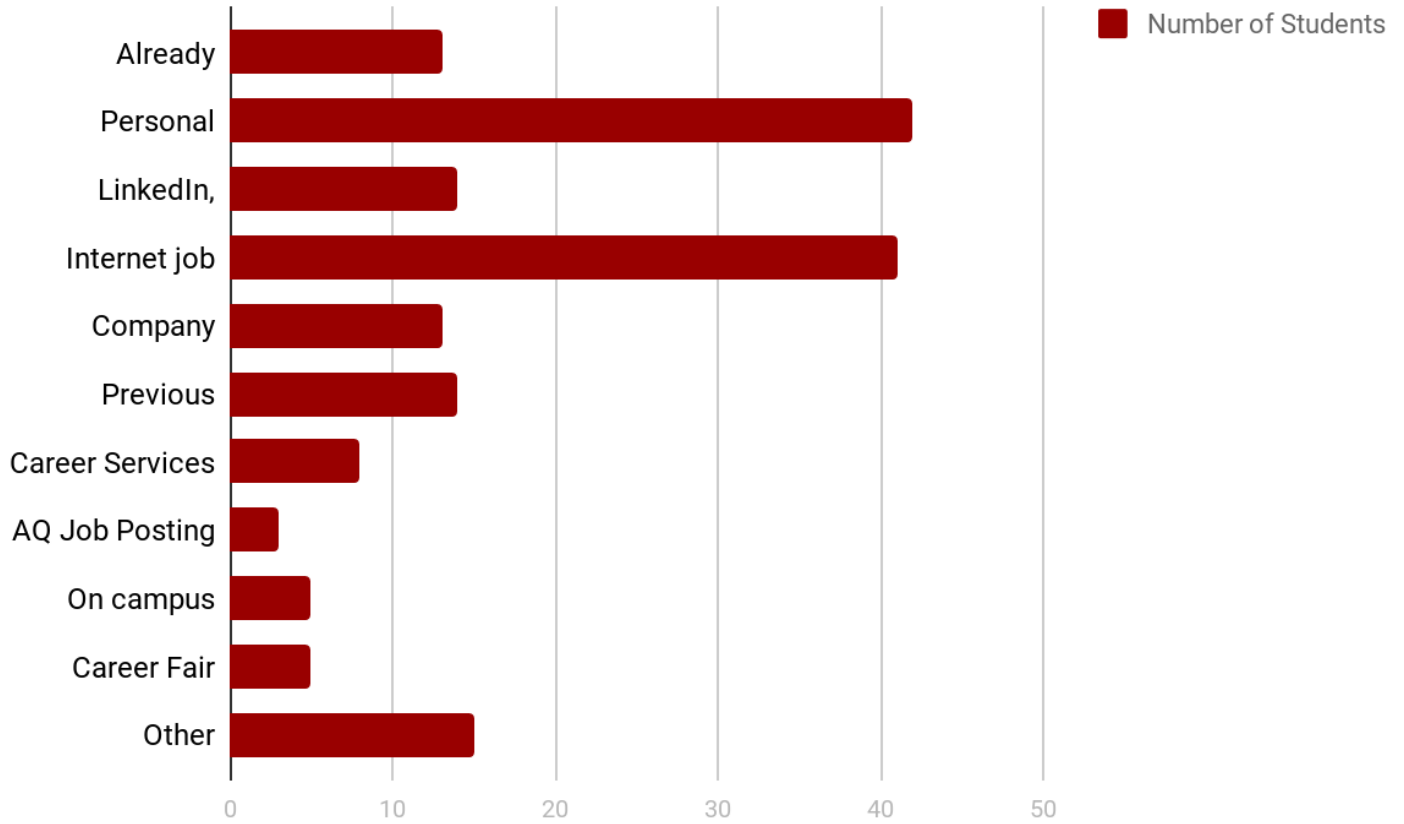
n= 21

# Part Three:

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Combined Undergraduate &  
Graduate Results

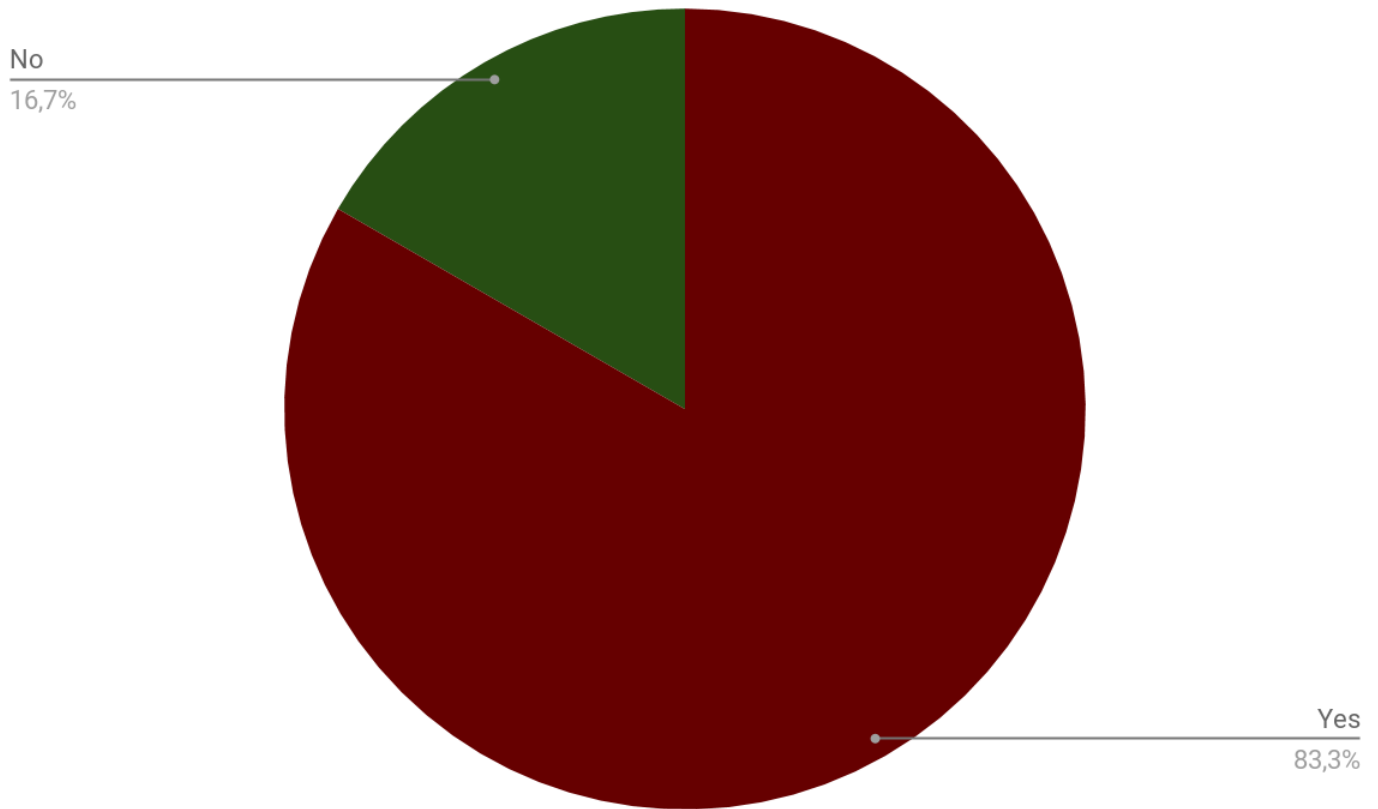
## Means of Obtaining Position



n= 173

## Requirement of Degree

Is your position related to your degree?



n= 18

## Teacher Certification by Major

<b>Primary Major</b>	<b>Secondary Major</b>	<b>Level of Certification</b>
Elementary Education		Elementary
Learning Disabilities K-12	Elementary Education	Elementary
English		Elementary
Physical or Health Impairment	Early Childhood Education	Elementary
Elementary Education	Early Childhood Education	Elementary
Elementary Education	Early Childhood Education	Elementary
Elementary Education	Spanish	Elementary



# Graduate/Professional School Enrollment

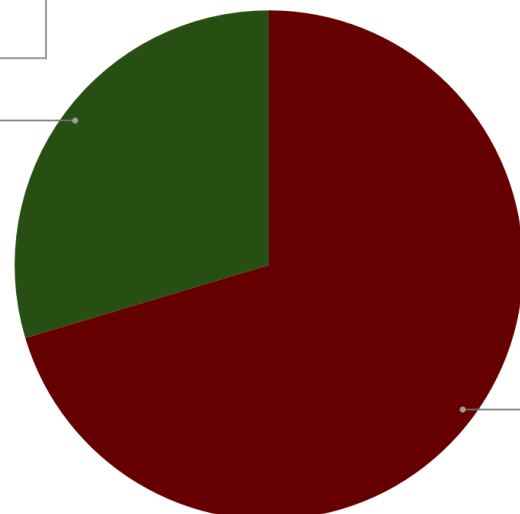
Program	Number of Graduates
Art	1
Athletic Training	2
Biology	6
Business Administration	1
Business Administration/Communication Dual	1
Business Administration/Sports Mgmt Dual	2
Chemistry	1
General Education	1
Geography	1
History	1
Kinesiology w/ Exercise Science Concentration	2
Mathematics	1
Political Science	4
Psychology	2
Sociology	1

## Enrollment by Degree Level

All 27 students pursuing graduate/professional school completed their undergraduate degree at Aquinas College.

## Graduate/Professional Field of Study Related to Undergraduate Program

Not Related  
29,6%



Related  
70,4%

n= 27

## Graduate/Professional Schools Being Attended

College	Location	Program of Study	Degree
A.T. Still University of Health Sciences	Kirkville, MO		Doctorate
Aquinas College	Grand Rapids, MI		Masters
Aquinas College	Grand Rapids, MI	Management-Organizational Leadership	Masters
Aquinas College	Grand Rapids, MI	Education	Masters
Center For Thomistic Studies - University of Saint Thomas	Houston, TX	Philosophy	Doctorate
Central Michigan University	Ypsilanti, MI	Philosophy of Neuropsychology	Doctorate
Davenport University	Grand Rapids, MI	Business Administration	Masters
Grand Valley State University	Allendale, MI	Physical Therapy	Doctorate
Grand Valley State University	Allendale, MI	Physical Therapy	Masters
Grand Valley State University	Allendale, MI	Biomedical Sciences	Masters

## Graduate/Professional Schools Being Attended

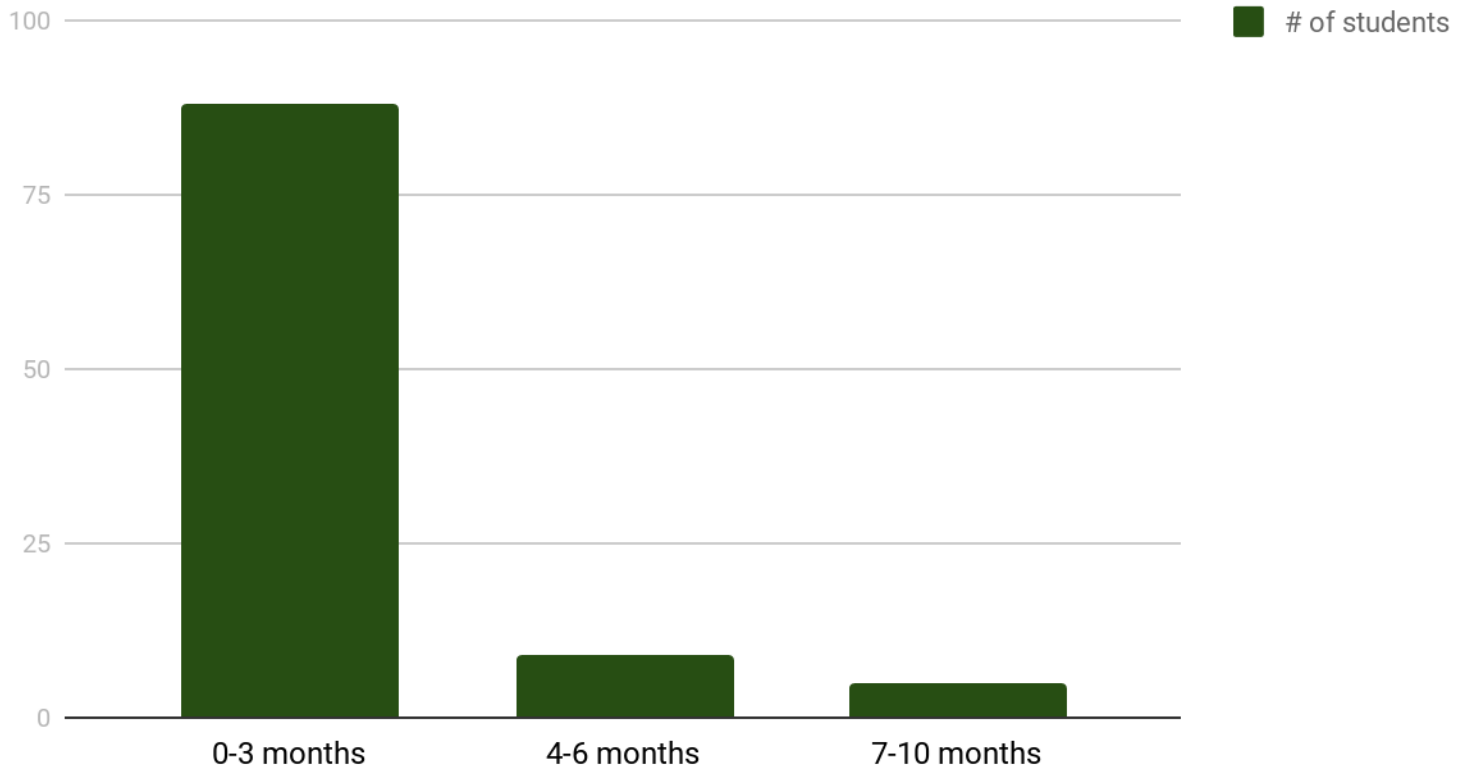
College	Location	Program of Study	Degree
Houston University of St. Thomas	Houston, TX	Philosophy	Masters
John Marshall Law School	Chicago, IL	Law, Juris Doctor	Masters
Lindenwood University	St. Charles, MO	Sports Management	Masters
McKendree University	Lebanon, IL	Business Administration	Masters
Michigan State University	East Lansing, MI	Plant Breed, Genetics, & Biotech	Doctorate
Michigan State University	East Lansing, MI	Law School	Masters
Michigan State University	East Lansing, MI	Law	Masters
New York University	New York City, NY	Irish and Irish American	Masters
Ohio State University	Columbus, OH	Chemistry- Organic Chemistry	Doctorate
Purdue University	West Lafayette, IN		Masters
Technical University of Munich	Munich, Germany	Technical Environmentalism	Bachelors
Texas Women's University	Denton, TX	Physical Therapy	Doctorate
University of Amsterdam	Amsterdam, Netherlands	Sociology	Masters
University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI	Higher Education	Masters

## Graduate/Professional Schools Being Attended

College	Location	Program of Study	Degree
University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI	Pharmacology	Masters
University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI	Environmental Justice and Conservation Ecology	Masters
University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI	Higher Education	Masters
University of Notre Dame	Saint Joseph, IN	Biology	Doctorate
Unknown			
Vanderbilt University	Nashville, TN	Nursing	Masters
Wayne State University	Detroit, MI	Library Science	Masters
Western Michigan University	Kalamazoo, MI	Geography	Masters

## Length of Job Search

Length in Months (Offer-Start date)

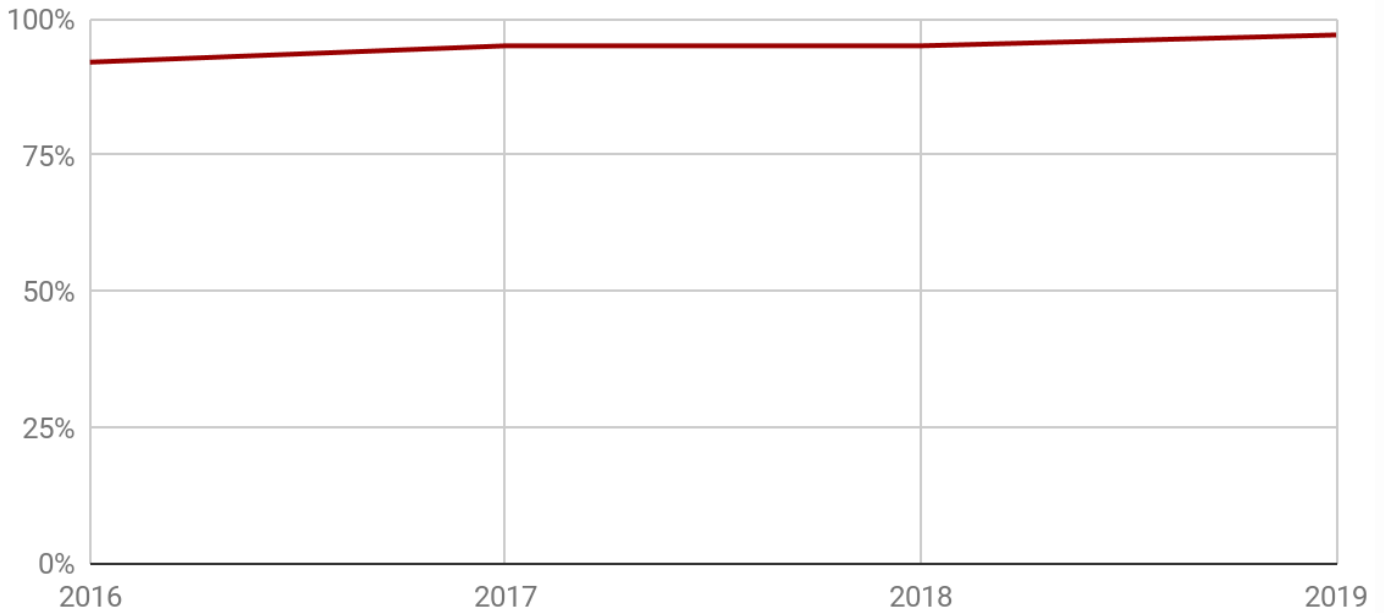


n= 102

**86% of graduates were offered and accepted a job proposal in only 0-3 months**

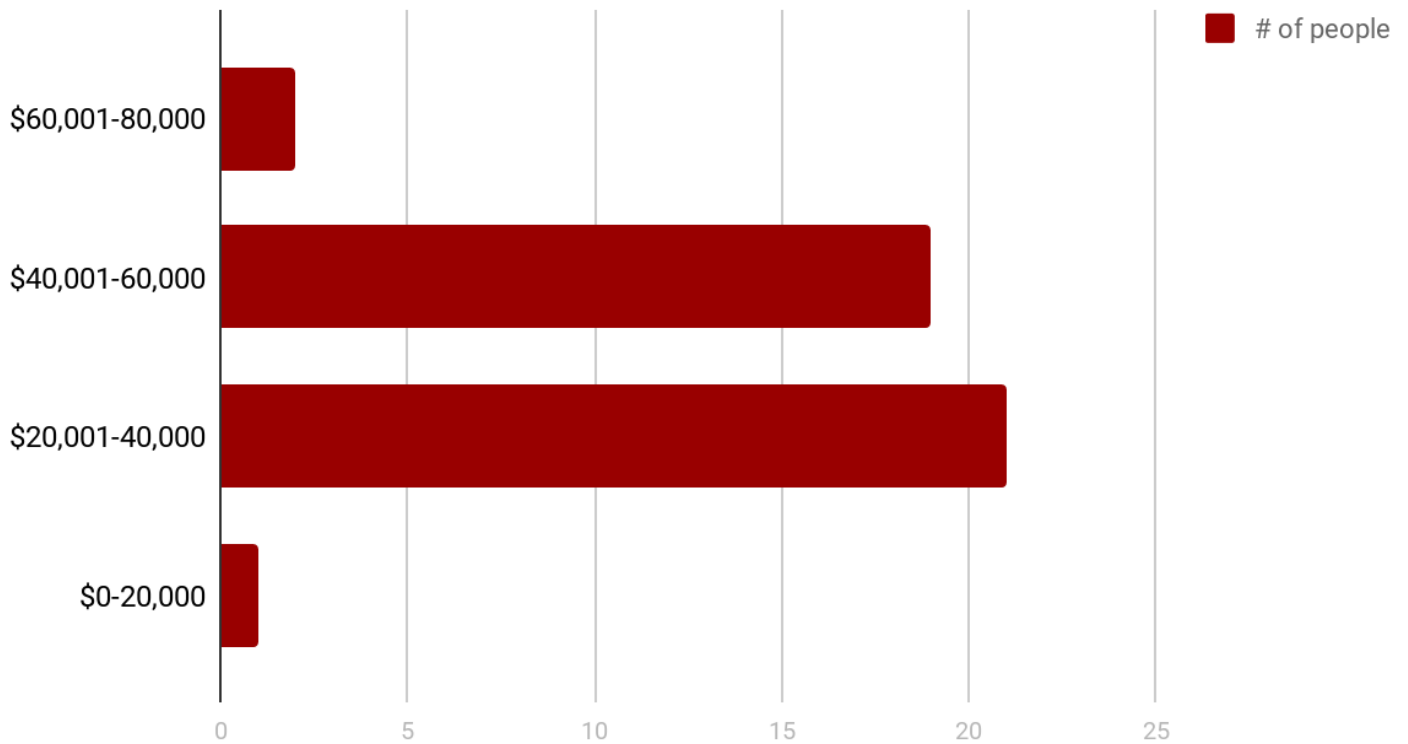
# Longitudinal Summary of Placement Rate

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
# of Graduates	477	450	417	423	406	418	430	410	388	389	376	356	365
% of Employed Graduates	81%	72%	73%	65%	67%	76%	71%	82%	80%	79%	81%	83%	78%
% of Continuing Education Graduates	17%	20%	22%	19%	18%	12%	13%	12%	10%	11%	10%	10%	7%
<b>Overall Placement Rate</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>97%</b>



## Income Level by Pay Schedule

### Annual Salary



**Average Annual Salary:**

**\$42,874**

# Appendices

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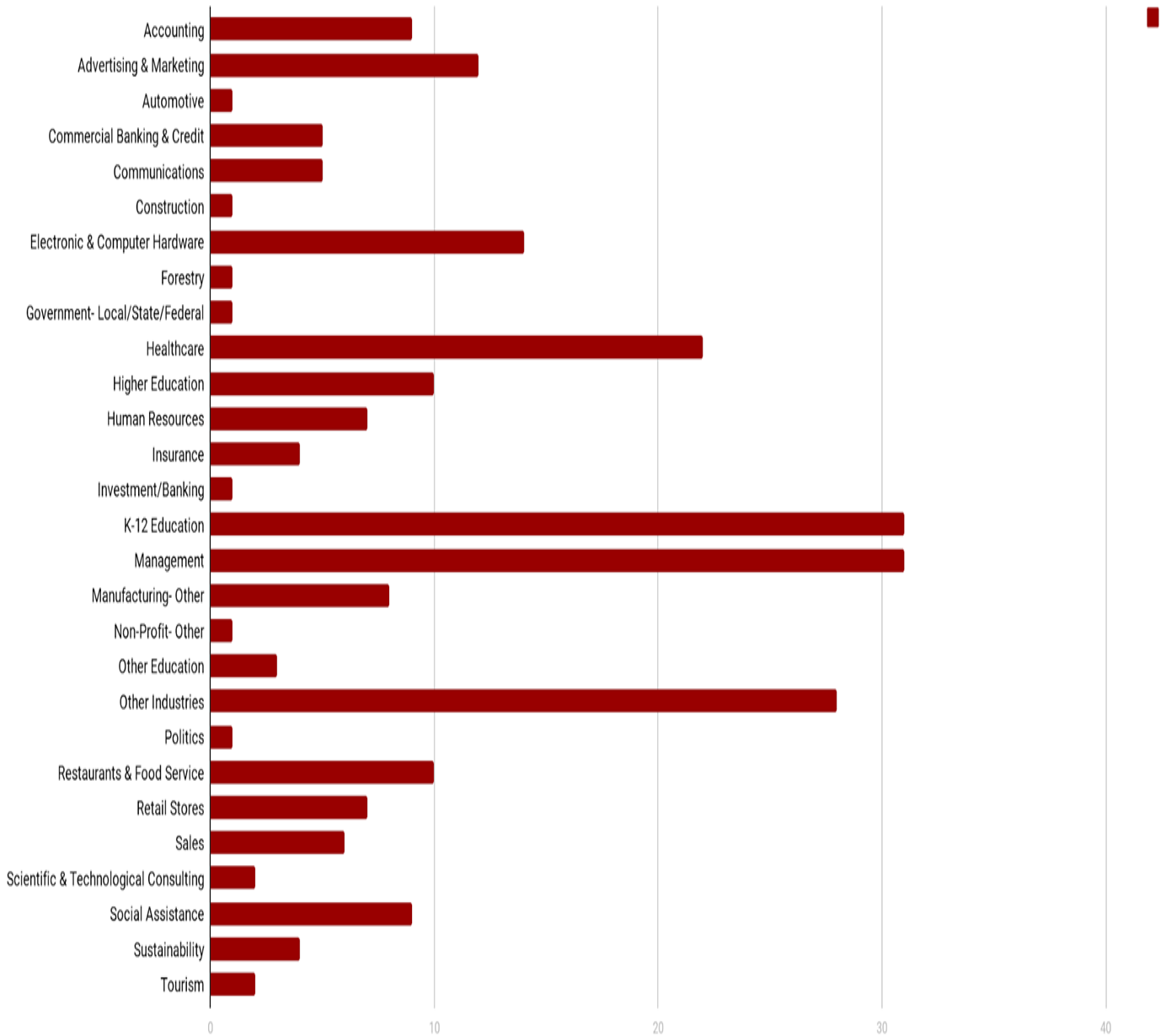
# APPENDIX A:

Response Rate  
Employers Field or Industry  
Employers & Occupations

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# Employer's Field or Industry

# of Students



The majority of graduates in the Advertising, PR, and Marketing & Management fields hold **managerial and administrative** positions

# APPENDIX C:

Survey Tool

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# Handshake

Handshake is an online resource for college students and graduates to market themselves to more diverse opportunities with potential employers. Handshake has also partnered with NACE and offers additional services for the First Destination Survey for colleges and universities.

This is the second year Career Services has decided to use Handshake for the First Destination Survey. We used Handshake as the means for creating and distributing the survey, as well as collecting and organizing data results.

The first step was uploading the graduates from August 2019, December 2018, and May 2019 to the student portal. Once this was completed, we were able to create our survey through handshake, and distribute it through the website. Handshake has now included an automatic feature which reminds students to complete the survey in various intervals. As graduates submitted their responses, the website then collected the data from each response, and the software organized the data in to downloadable excel spreadsheets.

Once we received the total response rate, we started acquiring the Knowledge Rate. We used Handshake as a tool to not only record the knowledge rate, but also indicate where the knowledge rate information was gathered for each individual student.

When we finished receiving surveys, Handshake then automatically compiled and organized NACE formatted data. Our responsibility was to download the information, review it, and submit it to NACE.



# WHAT ARE YOU UP TO SINCE GRADUATION?



YOUR FRIENDS AT AQ WANT TO KNOW!

## AQUINAS COLLEGE

### HOW'S IT GOING?

We hate to NAG, and NAG and NAG, but we haven't heard back from you yet. We're excited to hear what you've been up to since graduation to learn how we can help you with your career goals!



Please take 5-10 minutes to complete the **First Destination Survey** online at [AQUINAS.EDU/DESTINATION](http://AQUINAS.EDU/DESTINATION)

After completing the survey, your name will automatically get entered into our prize drawing. **RESPOND BY DECEMBER 31 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN UP TO \$250 IN AMAZON GIFT CARDS!**

#### QUESTIONS?



616-632-2126 / [dmh005@aquinas.edu](mailto:dmh005@aquinas.edu)

### AQUINAS COLLEGE

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Grand Rapids, MI 49506

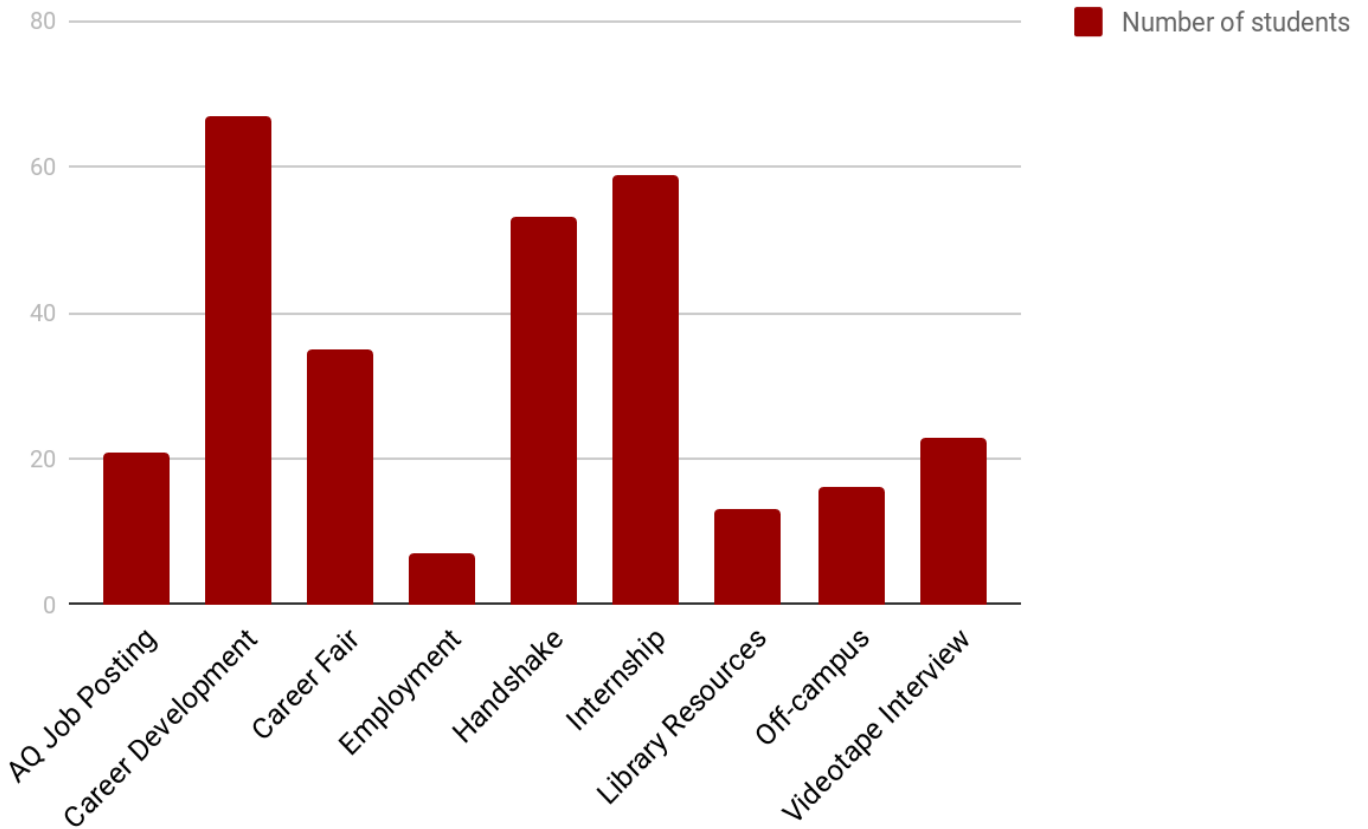
NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Grand Rapids, MI  
PERMIT NO. 101

# APPENDIX D:

Supplemental Data

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## Aquinas College Services Used



## Interest in Volunteering for Aquinas College

