

Results from the *Senior Snapshot Survey*

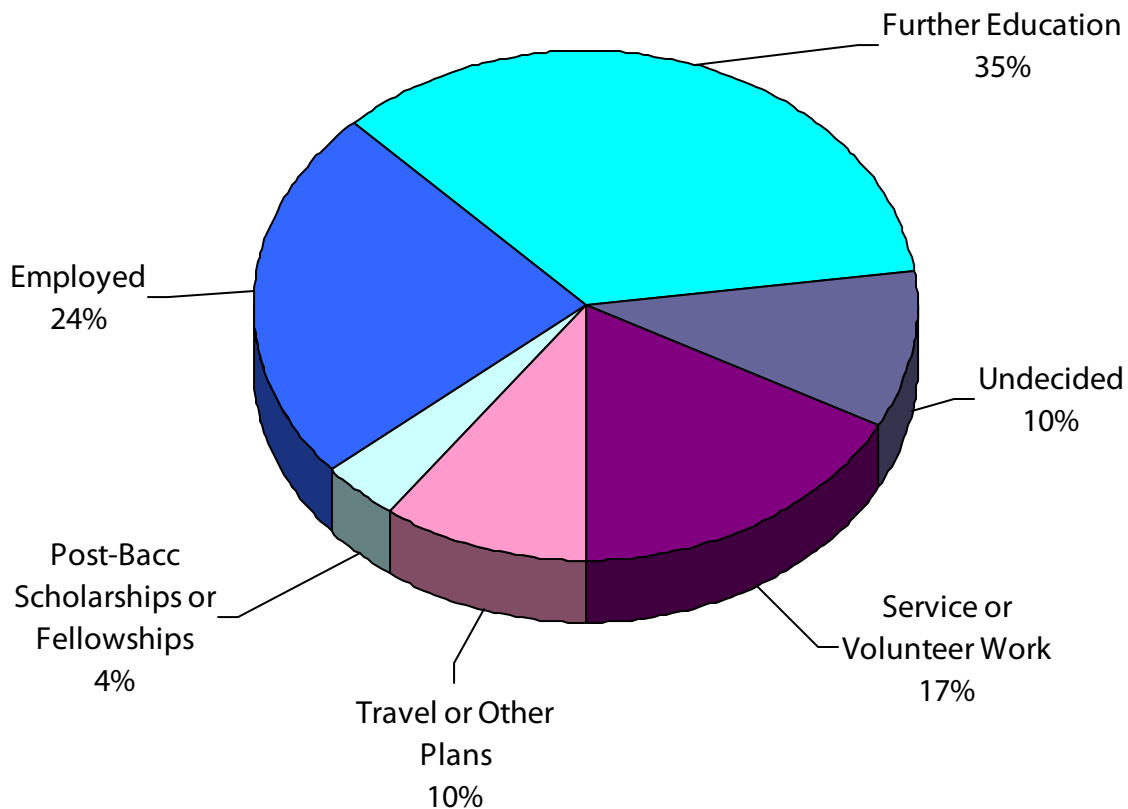
May 2010



In the spring of 2010, Grinnell College students scheduled for degree completion in May were invited to participate in a *Senior Snapshot* survey. The survey, jointly sponsored by the Career Development Office and Institutional Research, opened May 17. It was a web-based survey.

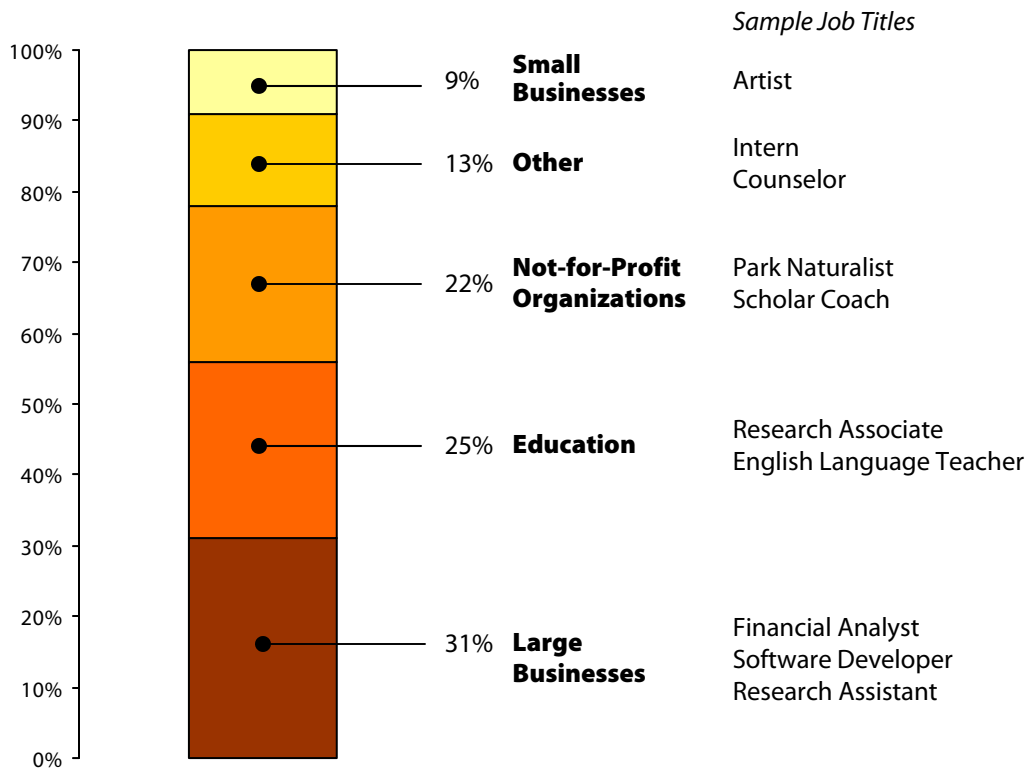
Out of a target population of 384 students, 154 submitted responses to the survey (40% response rate).

Graduates' plans for next year



Further Education includes plans for graduate or professional school, teaching certification, or other formal educational opportunities.
Post-Bacc Scholarships or Fellowships includes Fulbright, Watson, and other post-baccalaureate national scholarships and fellowships.
Service or Volunteer Work includes Peace Corps, Grinnell Corps, AmeriCorps, Teach For America and similar opportunities.
Undecided is self-reported information. Based on information for 149 students.

Graduates entering the workforce, by type of organization



Thirty-two students reported type or structure of employment.

33% of the survey respondents reported having significant interactions with Grinnell College alumnae/i through externships, shadowing, Grinnellink, internships, networking, or similar "connection" experiences.

Think back to your very first day at Grinnell. Compare your skills and abilities then to your skills and abilities today. Please indicate the extent to which Grinnell College enhanced your ability to...

	<u>Greatly</u>	<u>Moderately</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Not at All</u>
Write effectively	73.0%	20.9%	6.1%	0.0%
Use technology	19.0%	52.0%	23.6%	5.4%
Think critically	74.8%	20.4%	4.8%	0.0%
Manage time	36.5%	37.2%	21.6%	4.7%
Speak persuasively	38.5%	43.9%	14.9%	2.7%
Understand world issues	49.3%	39.2%	10.1%	1.4%
Be accountable for your own choices	46.6%	32.5%	18.2%	2.7%
Analyze quantitative data	45.9%	30.4%	19.6%	4.1%
Accomplish goals	38.5%	38.5%	18.2%	4.8%
Appreciate different cultures	50.0%	34.5%	12.8%	2.7%
Be a leader	41.5%	38.8%	13.6%	6.1%
Change the world for the better	42.8%	34.7%	18.4%	4.1%

How often did you...

	<u>Very Often</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Never</u>
Discuss grades or assignments with instructors?	15.6%	32.0%	51.0%	1.4%
Talk about career plans with faculty members or your advisor?	10.2%	28.6%	57.1%	4.1%
Work with faculty members on activities other than course-work (committees, student life activities, etc.)?	6.8%	14.2%	50.7%	28.3%
Discuss ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, etc.)?	49.0%	29.9%	19.7%	1.4%
Have serious conversations with students who were very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values?	28.6%	34.7%	30.6%	6.1%
Have serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own?	34.5%	30.4%	31.7%	3.4%
Talk about career of graduate/professional school plans with a member of the Career Development Office?	0.7%	4.8%	49.6%	44.9%

Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you received at Grinnell?

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>
37.8%	41.9%	16.2%	4.1%

Relative frequencies generally based on 148 responses.

Think back to your Tutorial class. Please indicate the extent to which the Tutorial enhanced your ability to...

	<u>Greatly</u>	<u>Moderately</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Not at All</u>
Think clearly	17.8%	36.3%	33.6%	12.3%
Speak persuasively	15.2%	29.0%	36.5%	19.3%
Write effectively	24.1%	33.8%	27.6%	14.5%
Acquire new skills and knowledge	21.9%	37.7%	30.1%	10.3%
Be successful in other courses	18.5%	39.7%	29.5%	12.3%

How well did your Grinnell College experience...

	<u>Extremely Well</u>	<u>Very Well</u>	<u>Reasonably Well</u>	<u>Not Very Well</u>
Prepare you for employment after college	14.4%	35.6%	34.9%	15.1%
Prepare you for graduate or advanced education	48.6%	36.1%	14.6%	0.7%
Prepare you to become a community leader	22.8%	37.2%	32.4%	7.6%
Provide for your emotional development	24.7%	34.2%	28.1%	13.0%
Encourage a personal expression of spirituality	15.7%	14.3%	33.6%	36.4%
Provide for your physical well-being	20.1%	34.7%	30.6%	14.6%
Help you develop your personal values	41.0%	31.9%	23.6%	3.5%
Prepare you to use your knowledge and abilities to serve the common good	41.6%	36.6%	16.2%	5.6%

Relative frequencies generally based on 144 responses.

How likely is it that you would recommend Grinnell College to a friend or relative?

<u>Definitely would</u>	<u>Probably would</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>Probably not</u>	<u>Definitely not</u>
61.4%	24.1%	13.1%	1.4%	0.0%

When asked how many courses were taken that contained substantial content regarding environmental sustainability, **69%** of those who responded had taken at least one course while at Grinnell College.

"The most valuable aspect of my Grinnell education has been the exposure and opportunity to interact and meet the people. While here I have interacted with so many outstanding people (both professors and peers)."

"The extraordinary people that I have met, the work ethic that my time here has instilled in me, and the amount that I have learned about equality and community."

"Being a student at Grinnell made me more conscious of global issues and I loved the international diversity of the campus."

"Critical thinking with a holistic perspective."

"The most valuable aspect of my Grinnell education was living in the dorms, eating with other students at all (or almost all) my meals and experiencing academia as a community. I loved talking about other students' classes during lunch and linking them to classes or experiences I'd had."

"Open intellectual environment, actual freedom of speech, opportunity to develop relationships due to small size of school, access to faculty and services, liberal amount of funds for research and MAPs."

"Learning to think for myself and having the confidence to at least suggest a new idea."

"The freedom to explore all my academic areas of interest as well as the freedom to explore who I am and who I am becoming."

"Learning to think critically, to write well, and to value other's opinions."

"Beyond the classroom, I appreciated the opportunities to work with faculty and staff on committees such as the Rosenfield Program and Alt Break. The work of the committee and the results of this work (i.e. Seminars and AI Break Service trips) were as important as the classroom education I received here."

"The most valuable aspect of Grinnell is the freedom that self-governance provides. I loved the self-governance principle at Grinnell because it challenged me to be a better person, someone who is mature, responsible, caring. There were a lot of people at Grinnell who were genuinely good. It was great being around those people. I think this may be a by-product of Grinnell's unique location in the heartland. The atmosphere was great. It was a wonderful space to grow."
