

Postgraduate Success Survey Results

Excerpted from a narrative by Mark Peltz and Lesley Wright, co-chairs, Postgraduate Success Working Group

The Postgraduate Success Working Group encountered a perception among various constituents on campus that Grinnellians thought pursuing a career with a for-profit organization was anti-Grinnellian. Yet when we asked individuals on campus if for-profit careers were consistent with a Grinnell education, many said yes.

Intrigued by this paradox, we surveyed all 282 faculty members, 485 staff members, and 1,632 students (a total of 2,399 individuals) last semester; 46 percent of the faculty, 31 percent of the staff, and 24 percent of the students responded.

We found:

- 97 percent of the campus believes a career working for nonprofit organizations is consistent with Grinnell's core values. (No surprise there.)
- 83 percent of faculty and staff and 84 percent of students believe that working for for-profit organizations is consistent with Grinnell's core values or have no strong opinion against it. (Who knew?)

So clearly, most Grinnellians don't have an anti-for-profit bias — in fact, there's remarkable support for for-profit careers here (if not quite the almost unanimous support that nonprofit careers enjoy).

Another interesting finding: respondents generally agreed that the top contributors to postgraduate success are:

- a well-rounded education,
- internships (rated particularly high by students),
- the ability to translate classroom skills to career skills (rated particularly high by members of faculty and staff),
- advanced research,
- campus and volunteer leadership positions, and
- lifelong learning.

Percentage of those who do not agree--or who are perceived to not agree--with the following statement:

A career working in for-profit organizations is consistent with Grinnell's core values.

What do these groups think about one another?	...believe a majority of other faculty disagree	...believe a majority of other staff disagree	...believe a majority of other students disagree
faculty...	15%	5%	27%
staff...	30%	16%	33%
students...	16%	7%	39%
"I personally disagree"	8%	17%	16%
	faculty	staff	students

** All other respondents believe a career with a for-profit organization is consistent with Grinnell's core values, or they do not have a strong opinion on the matter.*