

## Selected GVSU findings from the 2008 Michigan Post Higher Education Survey

Following is a report of responses provided by April 2007 GVSU graduates to the 2008 Michigan Post Higher Education Survey. The survey was designed and conducted by The Presidents' Council, State Universities of Michigan (PCSUM) to investigate the reasons that graduates give for remaining in or leaving Michigan, and to monitor the post-graduation career and educational progress of public university graduates. GVSU Graduates who earned their degrees in April 2007 were invited to complete the survey online. This group would normally have been asked to complete GVSU's Career Services Survey, but they were excluded from that survey to avoid duplication.

Of 1,955 degree recipients, 354 responded, for a response rate of 18%. Seventy-nine percent of GVSU respondents had earned bachelors degrees, while 21% had earned graduate degrees.

PCSUM will eventually publish a full analysis of the statewide data and post it on their website (<http://www.pcsu.org/reports.html>). If you have questions about data specific to GVSU, please contact Philip Batty at 331-8648. For more extensive employment statistics, please visit the Career Services website (<http://www.gvsu.edu/careers/>).

### Employment / Subsequent Enrollment (by degree level and discipline)

Level	Discipline	N	% employed	% employed in field related to discipline	% in school	% not employed or in school
Bachelors	Agriculture, Related Sciences, Packaging	1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Architecture, Urban Planning, Landscape Architecture, Interior Design	1	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Biological and Biomedical Sciences	21	57.1%	33.3%	38.1%	4.8%
	Business, Management, Marketing, Accounting	30	93.3%	66.7%	6.7%	0.0%
	Communication, Journalism and Related Programs	25	84.0%	60.0%	12.0%	4.0%
	Computer and Information Sciences	6	83.3%	83.3%	0.0%	16.7%
	Education	17	82.4%	70.6%	0.0%	17.6%
	Engineering	7	85.7%	71.4%	14.3%	0.0%
	English Language and Literature/Letters	12	75.0%	50.0%	0.0%	25.0%
	Foreign Languages	11	72.7%	54.5%	27.3%	0.0%
	Health Professions, Nursing, and Related Clinical Sciences	19	63.2%	57.9%	36.8%	0.0%
	History	8	50.0%	25.0%	37.5%	12.5%
	Kinesiology, Movement Science, Exercise Physiology	5	40.0%	40.0%	60.0%	0.0%
	Law, Legal	2	100.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Mathematics and Statistics	12	75.0%	75.0%	25.0%	0.0%
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	4	50.0%	50.0%	25.0%	25.0%	

Level	Discipline	N	% employed	% employed in field related to discipline	% in school	% not employed or in school
Bachelors (cont.)	Natural Resources, Parks Recreation, and Conservation	4	75.0%	50.0%	0.0%	25.0%
	Other Humanities	3	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	33.3%
	Other Social Sciences, Pol Sci, Public Policy	29	72.4%	48.3%	13.8%	13.8%
	Physical Sciences, Physics	8	50.0%	25.0%	37.5%	12.5%
	Psychology	28	46.4%	39.3%	46.4%	7.1%
	Public Administration and Social Service Professions	16	56.3%	37.5%	43.8%	0.0%
	Security and Protective Services	2	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%
	Visual and Performing Arts, Fine Arts	5	100.0%	80.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	All	277	70.4%	52.3%	22.0%	7.6%
Masters	Business, Management, Marketing, Accounting	11	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Communication, Journalism and Related Programs	1	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Computer and Information Sciences	3	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Education	19	84.2%	84.2%	5.3%	10.5%
	Engineering	1	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Health Professions, Nursing, and Related Clinical Sciences	5	100.0%	80.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Law, Legal	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	Medicine- Human, Osteopathic, Dental, Veterinary	4	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Public Administration and Social Service Professions	28	89.3%	85.7%	0.0%	10.7%
	All	73	90.4%	87.7%	1.4%	8.2%

Of those who indicated they were currently employed, 74% are still living in Michigan, while 22% are living elsewhere in the US and 3% are living abroad. They reported the industries in which they were employed as follows:

Industry	% of GVSU respondents
Accounting	1.2%
Aerospace	0.4%
Agriculture, environment, natural resource management	0.4%
Automotive manufacturing and design	2.4%
Biological sciences	0.8%
Business, management, finance, banking	5.6%
Chemical, pharmaceutical	0.8%
Communications, media, advertising, public relations	3.6%
Computer sciences, programming, networking, databases	2.8%
Consulting	1.2%
E-commerce	0.4%

<b>Industry</b>	<b>% of GVSU respondents</b>
Education	24.6%
Engineering, engineering technologies	1.2%
Fine / performing arts	0.8%
Government, public policy, politics	2.0%
Health, medical, dental	13.9%
Hospitality, entertainment	6.4%
Human / social services, social work	5.6%
Information technology	1.2%
Insurance, real estate, financial management	2.8%
Journalism, writing	0.8%
Law, legal professions	1.6%
Library, museum, archives	0.4%
Manufacturing (non-automotive)	3.2%
Mathematics, statistics	0.4%
Non-profit organizations	7.1%
Oil, mining	0.4%
Retail, wholesale, distribution	5.6%
Sports, fitness	0.4%
Trades, construction	0.4%
Transportation, utilities	0.8%
Veterinary medicine	0.4%
Military	0.4%
Miscellaneous	0.4%
	<b>100.0%</b>

One-quarter of GVSU respondents who were currently employed indicated that they worked in the job prior to earning their degree. Forty-two percent found their job within three months; 25% took 3 to 6 months; 4% took 6 to 9 months; and 3% took 10 months or more.

Following are the reasons unemployed GVSU respondents gave for being unemployed ( n = 25 ):

I am seeking employment and waiting to hear on possible offers	36%
I am unable to find employment in my career field	32%
I am unable to find employment in the geographical location in which I want to live	28%
Stay-at-home parent	4%

Resources used by successful and unsuccessful job seekers:

	<b>% of currently employed students who used resource in most recent successful job search ( n = 262 )</b>	<b>% of currently unemployed students who used resource in current job search ( n = 25 )</b>
Career Services Office	21%	56%
Faculty contacts	15%	44%
Family contacts	20%	56%
Company web sites	37%	72%
Electronic job board	32%	72%
Professional journals	4%	20%
Newspaper	21%	84%
Friends	32%	72%
Other	24%	24%

*How well do you feel your GVSU education prepared you for entry into your current position?*  
 (currently employed respondents only)

	<b>Bachelors</b>	<b>Masters</b>
Very well	44%	49%
Somewhat well	47%	43%
Not very well	6%	5%
Not well at all	3%	3%

Currently employed respondents were also asked to describe any ways they feel they could have been better prepared for entry into their current position. By far the most common response was that opportunities for internships should be expanded, facilitated and possibly be made mandatory. A few respondents also called for more “real-life” content in coursework, and for better academic advising.

Students who participated in internships or co-op assignments were asked to assess the value of that experience:

<b>Contribution to...</b>	<b>Overall educational experience at GVSU</b>		<b>Your chosen career path</b>		<b>Your current job</b>	
	<b>B</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>Degree level</b>						
Very valuable	53%	66%	61%	66%	47%	63%
Somewhat valuable	38%	30%	29%	27%	31%	27%
Not too valuable	7%	4%	7%	7%	15%	7%
Not valuable at all	2%	-	3%	-	7%	2%