

Career Development Graduate Survey Report 2010-2011

The office of Career Development e-mailed a survey link to 905 PLU alumni who graduated in December 2010/January 2011, May 2011 or August 2011. Several reminder e-mails were sent out and all students with telephone numbers on file were called at least once to encourage responding to the survey. Out of the 905 survey links sent, 346 alumni completed the survey (38% response rate).

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Out of the 346 alumni who completed the survey, 86.2% reported obtaining a bachelor's degree, and 13.8% a master's degree. Of those graduating with either a bachelor's or master's degree, 12.6% indicated receiving a teacher's certificate as part of their education. Responses were received from across the divisions and schools within PLU with 24% reporting receiving their degree in the Social Sciences, 16.8% from the School of Business, 16.5% in the Natural Sciences, 16.2% from the Humanities, 12.7% each from the School of the Arts and the School of Education and Movement Studies, and 11% from the School of Nursing.

CURRENT STATUS:

The largest percentage of recent graduates who returned the survey reported being employed full-time and not attending graduate school (46.2%). In the remaining categories, 22.5% are employed part-time and not attending graduate school, 12.6% indicated they are enrolled in graduate school, 6.5% are volunteering, 1% each is in military service or traveling. Additionally, 7.7% of recent graduates are seeking employment. These numbers are not a complete picture of what our recent graduates are currently doing, as many of them fit into multiple categories. Several of the respondents included in the 'Employed Part-time' category indicated they are also actively seeking full-time employment.

EMPLOYMENT:

Relationship to major/degree: In looking at how related their current job is to their college major, just under half of the graduates who are currently employed rate their current job as highly related to their major (48.1%), 14.1% rate their job as moderately related, 17.2% rate their job as slightly related, and 20.6% rate their job as not at all related to their major. When looking only at respondents who obtained their bachelor's degree, those numbers shift slightly, with 44.4% reporting their current job as being highly related to their major, 13.6% rate their job as moderately related, 19.2% rate their job as slightly related, and 22.9% rate their job as not at all related.

Alignment with career aspirations: In looking at how well their current position aligns with their career aspirations, 35.8% of the graduates who are currently employed rate their current position as highly aligned with their career aspirations, 29.8% rate their position as moderately aligned, 17% rate their position as slightly aligned, and 17.4% rate their position as not at all aligned with their career aspirations. When looking only at respondents who obtained their bachelor's degree, those number shift slightly, with 30.4% of the graduates who are currently employed rate their current position as highly aligned with their career aspirations, 30.9% rate their position as moderately aligned, 18.4% rate their position as slightly aligned, and 20.3% rate their position as not at all aligned with their career aspirations.

Salary Range: Of those currently employed, 9.9% reported an annual salary of \$55,000 or more; 10.3% reported an annual salary of \$45,000-\$54,999; 13.1% reported an annual salary of \$35,000-\$44,999; 17.9% reported an annual salary of \$25,000-\$34,999; 16.7% reported an annual salary of \$15,000-\$24,999; and 32.1% reported an annual salary of \$14,999 or less. The percentage of respondents in the lowest salary category increases when only the responses from undergraduate alumni are considered, with the responses submitted by those who obtained a master's degree filtered out. For the recent graduates

Submitted by: Ruth Rogers and Dawn Clark

answering this question who received a bachelor's degree, 36.1% indicated an annual salary of \$14,999 or less. In the other income categories, 4.9% reported an annual salary of \$55,000 or more; 8.3% reported an annual salary of \$45,000-\$54,999; 12.7% reported an annual salary of \$35,000-\$44,999; 19.5% reported an annual salary of \$25,000-\$34,999; and 18.5% reported an annual salary of \$15,000-\$24,999.

How current position was found: In the 2010-11 Recent Graduate Survey, employed respondents were asked to indicate how they found their job. The results showed that 40.6% of respondents reported they found their job through networking, 16.3% found their job on the employer's website, 15.9% utilized online ads, 8.8% found employment through internship/student teaching/work study positions, 1.2% found their job at the Career & Internship Fair and .4% used College Central Network. Typical responses from the 16.7% of respondents who answered "Other" included employed at company before graduation, temp agencies, and self-employment.

HOW WELL DID PLU PREPARE YOU?

Of the recent graduates who responded to the survey, 22.5% indicated their experience at PLU prepared them for their current job/schooling exceptionally well, 31.4% reported they were prepared more than adequately, and 34.2% stated they were adequately prepared. Conversely, 9.8% indicated less than adequately and 2.2% reported they were not at all prepared for their current job/schooling. Without knowing the makeup of the 12% who feel less than adequately, or not at all, prepared, it is difficult to determine the contributing factors. Are they in a job that is really related to their degree field but somehow do not feel that their experience at PLU prepared them for it or are they in an unrelated job that is outside what they felt their time at PLU was preparing them for?

WHAT EXPERIENCES AT PLU HELPED YOU IN MAKING DECISIONS?

The recent graduates were asked 'Who and/or what experiences at PLU helped you in making decisions regarding your current situation?' Respondents were allowed to select more than one resource if applicable so the percentages reflect the respondents' selection of multiple categories. The highest percentage of alumni respondents (63.1%) indicated that a specific professor helped in their decision-making process. Also utilized were academic advisors (40.3%), extracurricular experiences (37.8%), internship/student teaching experiences (37.3%), classes (30.9%), staff members or PLU offices (28.3%), career counselors (21.9%), peers (20.2%), and 'other' (9.9%).

WHAT RESOURCES AT PLU DID YOU USE?

The recent graduates were asked to identify what resources they used to plan their next step after graduation. Respondents were allowed to select more than one resource if applicable so the percentages reflect the respondents' selection of multiple categories. Of those recent graduates who responded, 67.9% reported utilizing faculty members to plan their next step; 38.6% used Peers and Alumni, 38.2% used an Internship/Student Teaching Experience, 25.7% used a Staff Member or PLU Office, 23.9% used handouts (resume writing, cover letters, interviewing, etc.), 21.1% used the Wang Center, 16.8% used a Student Leadership Experience, 16.4% used workshops (resume writing, job search, interviewing, etc.), 15.4% used one-to-one career counseling, 12.1% used the Career, Internship & Graduate Program Fair, 8.9% used the Career Development website, 7.9% used assessment tools (MBTI, Strong Interest Inventory, etc.), 5.7% used College Central Network, and 6.1% marked "other."

WHERE ARE OUR GRADUATES WORKING?

- 4-Tell Inc
- Aaron Brothers
- Accounting Principals, Inc
- ACS
- Acumed
- Aerospace Systems Design Lab
- Alaska Airlines
- Allrecipes.com
- Americorps (4)
- Andean Center for Latin American Studies
- Anvil international
- Apple
- ASCAP
- Associated Recreation Council
- Auburn School District (2)
- Behavior Counseling Associates
- Bellingham Asthma, Allergy & Immunology
- Bellevue School District
- Best Buy
- Bicoastal Media
- Big Foot Java
- BNY Mellon
- Boeing
- Boise State University
- Boys & Girls Club (3)
- Bralco Metals
- Catalyst Community Partners
- Catholic Community Services
- Central Pacific Bank
- Central Washington University (2)
- Charlotte Russe
- Children's Home Society of WA
- Clearview Animal Hospital
- Clover Park School Dist. (3)
- Columbia State Bank
- Comfort Dental
- Communities in Schools of Auburn
- Communities In Schools of Puyallup
- Community and Family Services
- Copacino & Fujikado LLC.
- Country Aire Technologies
- CRC Insurance Services, Inc
- CSTC
- Cycle University
- Datasphere Technologies
- Distribution Services Inc
- Drs. Duncan and Thrift
- ECS Limited
- Edgeworks Climbing, Inc
- ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission
- El Centro de la Raza
- Emergency Medical Scribe Systems (2)
- Entercom
- Exotic Metals Forming Co LLC
- Exploration Academy
- Fairfax Family Health Center
- Famous Dave's
- Federal Way Public Schools (2)
- Fidelity Accounting Tax Service
- Four Seasons Design
- FPSD
- Franklin Pierce School Dist.
- Franz Family Bakery
- Fred Meyer
- Frontier Communications
- Fujikoshi Technical High School
- Full Life Care
- Garfield Book Company
- Gastroenterology Associates
- Genelex
- Gordon Trucking, Inc
- Grays Harbor County Juvenile Detention
- Group Health Cooperative
- Half-Price Books
- Hawthorne & Co
- HindSite Interactive, Inc
- Highline School District
- The Hi-Liners
- Home Depot
- Homestreet Bank
- Huntsville City Schools
- Indochine
- Inspectorate
- Instituto Familiar de la Raza
- International House of Prayer-Northwest
- International School of Myanmar
- Iowa Geological Survey
- Jackson Fish Market
- Kealananea Massage
- Kent School District
- KLComputax
- KONG TV-BELO
- KPLU Radio
- KVHRC
- Kyrene del Norte Elementary School
- Lake Waubesa Bible Camp
- LAW Fund
- Legacy Emanuel Hospital
- London Couture LLC
- Lutheran Volunteer Corps
- Macy's
- Madigan Healthcare System (3)
- McClatchy Newspapers (2)
- The Meat Shop of Tacoma
- Mighty-O Donuts
- Ministry of Education in Spain
- Michigan State University
- Molly Maid
- Montana State University
- Monroe Harding, Inc)
- Morgan Stanley
- Mount Rainier Lutheran High
- Mt Si Lutheran Church
- MultiCare
- Nike
- Nippon Express
- Nordstrom
- North Auburn Rehab
- Northshore School District
- North Thurston School District
- Northwest Cadence
- Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
- Norwegian American Weekly
- Olive Garden
- Olympic Family Practice
- Open Arms of Minnesota

Submitted by: **Ruth Rogers and Dawn Clark**

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Health & Science University
- PLU (4)
- Pain du Monde Café
- Parkland Light & Water Company
- Parametric Portfolio Associates
- Payless Shoe Source
- Peninsula Family Medical Center
- Peninsula School District
- Peterson Sullivan LLP
- Pierce County Library
- Pierce County Parks & Recreation
- Pinnacle Physical Therapy and Medical Wellness
- Pi Plus Tutors
- The Portland Clinic
- Poulsbo First Lutheran Church
- Princeton Theological Seminary
- Proctor Sales
- Providence St. Peter Hospital (5)
- PSA Healthcare
- Puyallup – Parks and Recreation
- Puyallup School District (2)
- Rainbow Center
- Riverside Fire and Rescue
- Safe Streets Campaign
- Safeway
- School Specialty Student Planning & Development
- Schuchart/Dow
- The Scribe Source
- Seattle Children's Hospital (3)
- The Seattle Times
- Sedro Woolley School Dist.
- Shared Housing Services
- Sichuan University
- Sketchers USA
- Sogeti (USA)
- Sojourner Family Peace Center
- Sound Exteriors
- South Sound YMCA
- St Anthony Hospital
- St. Francis Hospital
- St. Joseph Medical Center (4)
- Starbucks
- State of Washington
- Sterling Reference Labs
- Sumner School District
- Symetra Financial
- T. Rowe Price
- Tacoma School District (3)
- Target (2)
- The Threshold Group
- Thurston Energy
- Top Nodes
- Toray Composites America
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America
- Tualatin Hills United Soccer Club
- Tutor Time International Nursery and Kindergarten, Hong Kong
- UC Berkeley
- University of British Columbia
- University of Chicago
- University of Delaware
- University of Idaho
- University of Iowa
- University of Phoenix
- University of Utah
- University of Washington
- University of Victoria
- US Army (2)
- US House of Representatives
- United States Navy
- UWMC
- VA Puget Sound Healthcare System
- Vadis (2)
- Valley Medical Center (2)
- Varolii Corporation
- Vibrant USA
- Virginia Mason Medical Center
- Volt Workforce Solutions
- Volunteers of America Western Washington (2)
- Voto Health Care, Inc.
- Washington County Schools
- Washington State Employment Security Department
- WA State Health Care Authority
- WB Games Kirkland Studio
- Wells Fargo Financial Services
- Western Washington University
- World Vision
- The Write Angle, Inc.
- Wunderman Impact Through 24-seven Creative Staffing Agency
- Xavient Information Systems
- YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties
- Zones, Inc. (2)
- Zulily