

# Class of 2007 Graduate Survey

## Summary of Results

### METHODS AND DATA ANALYSIS

During the summer of 2008, the Office of Career Services staff distributed graduate surveys to alumni who had graduated as part of the class of 2007. Respondents completed the survey online. 490 were sent to this particular class and 339 partial or complete surveys were returned, resulting in a 69% response rate. The gender representation and reported undergraduate majors of respondents seemed representative of a typical Hope College class.

Completed surveys were processed by the Office of Career Services with assistance from the Frost Center using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for data analysis.

### CURRENT STATUS

- **68.3% of respondents are employed**
- **16.3% of respondents are pursuing a graduate or professional degree and are not employed**
- **12.1% of respondents are both employed and pursuing a graduate or professional degree**
- **3.3% of respondents are neither employed nor continuing education**

<b>Current Status</b>			
	<b>Class of 2007 Frequency / Percent of Respondents</b>	<b>Class of 2006 Frequency / Percent of Respondents</b>	<b>Class of 2005 Frequency / Percent of Respondents</b>
Employed	231/68.3%	290/67.0%	288/69.4%
Attending graduate school, professional school, or continuing education	55/16.3	78/18.0	75/18.1
Both employed and in graduate/professional school	41/12.1	48/11.1	25/6.0
Not employed, not in graduate/professional school	11/3.3	17/3.9	27/6.5
Total	338/100.0%	433/100.0%	415/100.0%
Did not answer question	1/.3	0/0.0	0/0.0

A 1.1% increase in respondents who are employed full time was reported from 2006-2007. Additionally, a 1% increase in the percent of graduates both employed and pursuing graduate or professional study was noted.

A .7% decrease in the percent of graduates neither employed nor enrolled in graduate/professional school from 2006-2007, while not statistically significant, is interesting to consider when compared to the unemployment rate for the state of Michigan, which has risen almost 2 percentage points to 8.9% after hovering around 7.0 – 7.6% range since 2004.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Position titles of the respondents were classified into the following categories: Arts, Business, Communications, Education, Engineering, Government, Health Professions, Information Technology, Law, Religious Vocations, Sciences, Social Sciences and Other.

The top employment fields by frequency represented by 2007 graduates are Education, Business, and Health Professions, respectively, with Information Technology represented the least. These results compare very similarly to those of previous graduating classes.

Over 30% of 2007 graduates have employment in the “West Michigan” area, followed by the “Chicagoland Region” with 18.4% and the rest of Michigan with 12.1%.

Over 75% of respondents indicate being “very satisfied” or “satisfied” in their current employment. 9% of respondents report being “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied.” Nearly 16% of respondents report being “neither satisfied nor dissatisfied”.

## **GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

The top areas for graduate/professional studies for the class of 2007 include education, health professions, sciences, and social sciences respectively.

Over 44% of respondents attended graduate/professional schools in “Michigan,” with an additional 25% attending “Other Midwest” (non-Michigan) or “Chicagoland” institutions. Over 83% of respondents indicated current enrollment in the graduate/professional institution of their first choice, compared with over 89% of respondents from the previous class.

Nearly 59% of all respondents indicated plans to attend graduate/professional school in the future. Additionally, 56% of those that are currently working indicated plans to attend graduate/professional school.

## **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

Over 57% of respondents indicated participation in an internship as an experiential learning activity at Hope College, followed by volunteer activities, then extra-curricular leadership, and next a summer job. Approximately 97% of 2007 graduates indicated participation in experiential learning activities.

Over 95% of respondents indicated their experiential learning activities were very significant or slightly significant in their *preparation for a career or graduate/professional school*. Approximately 4% of respondents indicate these activities had no impact on *preparation for a career or graduate/professional school*.

Approximately 80% of respondents indicated their experiential learning activities were very significant or slightly significant in *gaining entry into a career or graduate/professional school*. Approximately 13% of respondents indicate these activities had no impact on *gaining entry into a career or graduate/professional school*. (Approximately 5% of respondents did not answer this question).

*End of Executive Summary*