

Gallaudet University 2009 Annual Survey of Recent Graduates

December 2007 through August 2008 Alumni

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Highlights

Background

The Annual Survey of Recent Graduates is an annual survey produced by the Office of Institutional Research. The survey is sent to recent undergraduate and graduate alumni approximately one year after graduation. The survey is administered in the fall to those who graduated December through August of the preceding year. This survey sent to recent graduates is in addition to a longer more comprehensive survey sent to all alumni, but on a less frequent basis (historically every 5-10 years). The comprehensive alumni survey was last administered by the Gallaudet Research Institute in 2006.

Post-graduation employment experience

- 80% of bachelor's degree alumni who responded to the survey stated that they worked either full-time or part-time during some period after graduation, while 88% of graduate degree alumni said the same.
- The percentage of alumni pursuing additional education or who are working full- or part-time during the year after graduation has increased over the past three years.

Employment Fields

The most common fields for employment for recent Gallaudet alumni are:

- a) Education, Training, and Library Occupations (e.g., *teacher, professor, ASL instructor, substitute teacher, curriculum and assessment coordinator*);
 - b) Community and Social Services Occupations (e.g., *vocational rehabilitation counselor, employment support specialist, domestic violence advocate, counselor, social worker, case manager, residential counselor*); and
 - c) Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (e.g., *audiologist, speech-language pathologist, research audiologist assistant, pediatric neuropsychology fellow, doctor of audiology*).
- 75% of Gallaudet University alumni are working in the three fields listed above.

Internship participation

- 73% of recent alumni participated in an internship while at Gallaudet.
- 98% of graduate degree alumni who participated in an internship stated the internship helped them very much or some for employment after graduation; while 71% of bachelor's degree alumni said the same thing.

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Satisfaction

- 69% of bachelor's level alumni stated that that Gallaudet prepared them for their occupation very well or adequately, while 95% of graduate-level alumni reported the same.

Background

The Annual Survey of Recent Graduates is an annual survey produced by the Office of Institutional Research. The survey is sent to recent undergraduate and graduate alumni approximately one year after graduation. The survey is administered in the fall to those who graduated December through August of the preceding year. For example, this year's survey administered in the fall of 2009 was sent to those who graduated between December 2007 and August 2008. Recent alumni receive the survey 14-20 months after they graduate.

This survey sent to recent graduates is in addition to a longer more comprehensive survey sent to all alumni, but on a less frequent basis (historically every 5-10 years). The comprehensive alumni survey was last administered by the Gallaudet Research Institute in 2006.

Survey Design

- Survey consisted of 19 items:
 - 5 demographic questions
 - 2 internship experience questions
 - 3 additional education questions
 - 9 employment questions
- Survey was redesigned for the 2009 mailing in order to:
 - Comply with an agreement between Gallaudet University and NTID to report each alumnus in up to ten categories to be reported to the U.S. Department of Education through the GPRA report.
 - Align questions with questions on the most recent comprehensive alumni survey conducted by the Gallaudet Research Institute in 2006.
 - Align employment categories to the standard occupational classification developed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

Survey Participation

The survey was sent to 334 alumni of Gallaudet University (undergraduate and graduate) who graduated between December 2007 and August 2008. Surveys were sent electronically to alumni for whom email addresses were available. Alumni without email, but with mailing addresses, were sent a paper copy of the survey with a cover letter inviting them to either complete the survey online or on paper, to be returned in a stamped response envelope. A handful of alumni without email or valid mailing addresses on record were located through the use of social networking sites. 93% of undergraduate alumni had valid addresses, while only 88% of graduate alumni had valid addresses. Alumni received two reminder mailings via email and through the mail.

2009 Annual Survey of Recent Graduates

The university is working to improve collection of post-graduation addresses through better coordination and sharing of alumni addresses among campus units. For example, in May 2009 the Career Center/Enrollment Marketing/Office of Institutional Research disseminated an “exit survey” to graduating seniors and graduate students. Addresses gathered were shared with the Alumni Office.

Response rate

172 alumni responded to the survey for an overall response rate of 57%. The 2009 response rate was an improvement over response rates from previous years and is typical of or better than response rates for alumni surveys at comparable institutions.

Career	Graduates	Invalid addresses	%	Surveys distributed to valid addresses	%	Responded	Response rate of those with valid addresses
Undergraduate	196	14	7%	182	93%	87	48%
Graduate	138	16	12%	122	88%	85	70%
Total	334	30	9%	304	91%	172	57%

Survey Analysis

Hearing status

- Hearing status did not impact the response rate of the alumni.
 - 70% of the alumni from this time period are deaf and hard of hearing, while 68% of respondents to the survey were deaf or hard of hearing.
 - 60% of the graduate degree alumni included in this survey are hearing; and 59% of the graduate degree alumni who responded to the survey are hearing.

Career	Deaf	%	Hard of Hearing	%	Hearing	%	TOTAL
Undergraduate	75	86%	7	8%	5	6%	87
Graduate	30	35%	5	6%	50	59%	85
Total	105	61%	12	7%	55	32%	172

Internship participation

- 73% of recent alumni participated in an internship while at Gallaudet.
- 98% of graduate degree alumni who participated in an internship stated the internship helped them very much or some for employment after graduation; while 71% of bachelor’s degree alumni said the same thing.

Career	Internship participation	Internship participation rate	Did your internship experience help you prepare for employment after graduation?							
			Very much	%	Some	%	Very little	%	Not at all	%
Undergraduate (N=87)	62	71%	19	31%	25	40%	16	26%	2	3%
Graduate (N=85)	64	75%	50	78%	13	20%	1	2%	0	0%
Total	126	73%	69	55%	38	30%	17	13%	2	2%

Additional education after graduation

- 60% of bachelor’s level alumni and 73% of graduate level alumni stated that they had enrolled in an additional educational program after graduating from the university.

Educational program type	Post-graduation educational experience		Total (N=172)
	Undergraduate (N=87)	Graduate (N=85)	
Distinct attendance ^a	52	62	114
%	60%	73%	66%
Bachelor’s	15	3	18
%	17%	4%	10%
Master’s	23	17	40
%	26%	20%	23%
Certificate	6	4	10
%	7%	5%	6%
Specialist	2	4	6

^a Respondents were allowed to check all that apply. Distinct headcount is total number of respondents that selected at least one of the additional educational options. Participation in the categories “Bachelor’s” through “Non-credit” are not distinct categories and therefore the sum of these categories may exceed the distinct headcount.

2009 Annual Survey of Recent Graduates

%	2%	5%	3%
Doctoral	3	17	20
%	3%	20%	12%
Vocational/technical	4	4	8
%	5%	5%	5%
Non-credit	13	23	36
%	15%	27%	21%

Post-graduation employment experience

- 80% of bachelor's degree alumni who responded to the survey stated that they worked either full-time or part-time during some period after graduation, while 88% of graduate degree alumni said the same.

Career	Employed either full-time or part-time at some time since graduation						Employed either full-time or part-time at the time of the survey	
	<i>Full-time</i>	%	<i>Part-time</i>	%	TOTAL	%	Total	%
Undergraduate (N=87)	54	62%	16	18%	70	80%	61	70%
Graduate (N=85)	74	87%	1	1%	75	88%	78	92%
Total (N=172)	128	75%	17	10%	145	84%	139	81%

Employed and pursuing additional education three-year trend

- The percentage of alumni pursuing additional education or who are working full- or part-time during the year after graduation has increased over the past three years. Each alumnus is counted in only once when computing this data table. Those who are in the labor force seeking employment, but not employed, are not counted in this percentage.

Career Percent employed and/or pursuing additional educational programs

2009 Annual Survey of Recent Graduates

	2007 Survey <i>Fall '05-Summer '06 Alumni</i>	2008 Survey <i>Fall '06-Summer '07 Alumni</i>	2009 Survey <i>Fall '07-Summer '08 Alumni</i>
Undergraduate	82%	89%	90%
Graduate	93%	98%	99%
Total	89%	93%	94%

Employment by occupational group

The most common fields for employment for recent Gallaudet alumni are:

- d) Education, Training, and Library Occupations (e.g., *teacher, professor, ASL instructor, substitute teacher, curriculum and assessment coordinator*);
- e) Community and Social Services Occupations (e.g., *vocational rehabilitation counselor, employment support specialist, domestic violence advocate, counselor, social worker, case manager, residential counselor*); and
- f) Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (e.g., *audiologist, speech-language pathologist, research audiologist assistant, pediatric neuropsychology fellow, doctor of audiology*).

- 75% of Gallaudet University alumni are working in the three fields listed above.
- Workforce projections of jobs through 2018 list Education, Community Services and Healthcare to be among the top five job categories requiring postsecondary education. (Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce)

Major standard occupational group ^b	Undergraduate		Graduate		TOTAL		Primarily involves service to deaf or hard of hearing people	% of total
		%		%		%		
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	30	44%	39	49%	69	47%	60	87%
Community and Social Services Occupations	11	16%	13	16%	24	16%	23	96%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations			17	22%	17	12%	11	65%

Satisfaction

^b Occupational groups are determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Standard Occupational Classification major groups. (See **Appendix B** for the results in relation to all 23 occupational groups.)

2009 Annual Survey of Recent Graduates

- 60% of bachelor's degree alumni state that their occupation is highly or moderately related to their major or program of study at Gallaudet, while 94% of graduate-level degree alumni report the same relationship.

How closely related is your current occupation to your major or program of study at Gallaudet?

Career	<i>Highly related</i>		<i>Moderately related</i>		<i>Slightly related</i>		<i>Not related</i>	
		%		%		%		%
Undergraduate (N=75)	21	28%	24	32%	20	27%	10	13%
Graduate (N=83)	62	75%	16	19%	2	2%	3	4%
Total	83	53%	40	25%	22	14%	13	8%

- 76% of bachelor's level alumni are very satisfied or fairly satisfied with their employment, while 92% of graduate-level alumni are similarly satisfied.

How satisfied are you with your employment?

Career	<i>Very satisfied</i>		<i>Fairly satisfied</i>		<i>Dissatisfied</i>		<i>Very dissatisfied</i>	
		%		%		%		%
Undergraduate (N=72)	23	32%	39	54%	9	13%	1	1%
Graduate (N=82)	51	62%	25	30%	4	5%	2	2%
Total	74	48%	64	42%	13	8%	3	2%

- 69% of bachelor's level alumni stated that that Gallaudet prepared them for their occupation very well or adequately, while 95% of graduate-level alumni reported the same.

Overall, how well do you think Gallaudet prepared you for your occupation?

Career	<i>Very well</i>		<i>Adequately</i>		<i>Poorly</i>		<i>Not at all</i>	
		%		%		%		%
Undergraduate (N=78)	19	24%	35	45%	20	26%	4	5%
Graduate (N=83)	46	55%	33	40%	2	2%	2	2%
Total	65	40%	68	42%	22	14%	6	4%

Salary range information

- On average, bachelor degree alumni stated that they are earning \$20,000-\$29,999 a

year, one year after graduation.

- On average, graduate degree alumni stated that they are earning \$30,000-\$39,000 a year.

Annual salary ranges

Salary ranges	Undergraduate (N=72)	%	Graduate (N=80)	%	TOTAL	%
Less than \$10,000	14	19%	5	6%	19	11%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	14	19%	3	4%	17	10%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	13	18%	9	11%	22	13%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	18	25%	17	21%	35	20%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	9	13%	13	16%	22	13%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	1	1%	12	15%	13	6%
\$60,000 - \$69,999	2	3%	7	9%	9	5%
\$70,000 - \$79,999	1	1%	7	9%	8	5%
\$80,000 - \$89,999			4	5%	4	2%
\$90,000 - \$99,999			1	1%	1	1%
\$100,000 or more			2	3%	2	2%

Survey limitations and concerns

The Office of Institutional Research found upon review of the survey responses that there were some questions, particularly those that were open-ended, that should be redesigned and rephrased to ensure higher quality responses. For example allowing respondents to write in their program or major information allowed for a variety of naming possibilities and at times responses didn't provide enough detail that program-level specific data could be identified.

Increasing the response rate of the survey is an on-going goal for the Office of Institutional Research. In order to increase the response rate, OIR will continue to work very closely with the Alumni Office, Career Center, Registrar's Office and academic departments to track down students and improve the survey's response rate.

Resources

- The Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce Executive Summary "Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2018"
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' "Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) User Guide."

2009 Annual Survey of Recent Graduates

Appendix A: 2009 Survey of Recent Graduates Summary Table
 Using the categories defined in the joint agreement by Gallaudet and NTID in reporting Alumni outcomes to the U.S. Department of Education

2009 Survey of Recent Graduates (December 2007 through August 2008 Alumni)						
Data Reporting Category	Undergraduates	% of Undergraduates	Graduates	% of Graduates	Total	% of Total
A. Employed full-time	55	61%	71	58%	126	70%
B. Seeking work (unemployed)	5	6%	1	1%	6	3%
C. Working part-time	17	20%	8	6%	25	13%
D. Not seeking work (inactive/not in the labor force)	5	6%	0	0%	5	3%
E. Transition full-time	7	8%	1	1%	8	4%
F. Education part-time	4	5%	0	0%	4	2%
G. Unknown	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%
H. Internships, practices, and other unpaid educational experiences	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total who returned the survey	87	100%	85	100%	172	100%
Total number of respondents (total number of graduates (I+J))	87	44%	85	52%	172	52%
I. Number without addresses (cannot mail survey)	14	7%	15	12%	29	9%
J. Number not responding to survey	45	48%	37	37%	137	40%
Total number of graduates	196	100%	138	100%	334	100%
Rates	Undergraduate Respondents	% of Undergraduate Respondents	Graduate Respondents	% of Graduate Respondents	Total Respondents	% of Total Respondents
Employed/Labor Force rate (A + B + C)/(Total respondents)	77	89%	84	99%	161	94%
Transition rate (E + F + I)/(Total respondents)	0	0%	1	1%	7	4%
Inactive rate (D)/(Total respondents)	5	6%	0	0%	5	3%
Unknown rate (G)/(Total respondents)	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%
	87	100%	85	100%	172	100%
Response rate	% of Undergraduates		% of Graduates		% of Total	
Total number of respondents/total number of graduates	44%		70%		57%	

Appendix B: Current employment by major standard occupational group and service to deaf or hard of hearing people

Major standard occupational group ^c	Undergraduate		Graduate		TOTAL		Primarily involves service to deaf or hard of hearing people	
		%		%		%		% of total
Management Occupations	4	6%			4	3%	2	50%
Business and Financial Occupations	4	6%			4	3%	2	50%
Computer and Mathematical Occupations								
Architecture and Engineering Occupations								
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	4	6%	3	4%	7	5%	6	86%
Community and Social Services Occupations	11	16%	13	16%	24	16%	23	96%
Legal Occupations								
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	30	44%	39	49%	69	47%	60	87%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	2	3%			2	1%		
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations			17	22%	17	12%	11	65%
Healthcare Support Occupations	2	3%	4	5%	6	4%	5	83%
Protective Service Occupations			1	1%	1	1%	1	100%
Food Preparation and Servicing Related Occupations								
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations								
Personal Care and Service Occupations	3	4%	1	1%	4	3%	2	50%
Sales and Related Occupations	2	3%			2	1%	2	100%
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	6	9%			6	4%	1	17%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations								
Construction and Extraction Occupations								
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations								
Production Occupations								
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations								
Military Specific Occupations			1		1	1%		
TOTAL RESPONDENTS	68		79		147		116	79%

^c Occupational groups are determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Standard Occupational Classification major groups.