



2021 HEDS Alumni Survey Employment Evaluation St. Olaf College

Dates of administration: May 3 – 31, 2021
Class of 2015 response rate: 20% (123 of 617)
Class of 2016 response rate: 22% (159 of 709)
Overall response rate: 21% (282 of 1,326)

This report shows alumni responses to questions about satisfaction with and characteristics of their first job after graduation as well as their current job.

Highlights:

- Two-thirds of alumni respondents (67%) have had 1-3 paying jobs since graduation, while an additional third have had 4 or more.
- Alumni respondents have more favorable views of their current job than their first paying job after graduation. Overall, 84% are satisfied with their current job, compared to 61% that were satisfied with their first job after graduation.
 - A greater proportion are doing work related to their undergraduate major (68% versus 59%) and using skills gained as an undergraduate (78% versus 67%).
 - They are also more likely to find their current job meaningful (78% versus 65%).
- Most alumni respondents (82%) found their first paying job within six months of graduation.
- Most alumni respondents (73%) reported current earnings from \$20,000 - \$79,999, with the largest proportion (32%) earning between \$40,000 and \$59,999.

	St. Olaf College 5-Year Cohort		All Other Alumni in 5- Year Cohort	
	n	%	n	%
How many paying jobs have you had since you graduated from this institution? (Q18)				
0	3	2%	29	1%
1	28	14%	1,276	20%
2	50	25%	1,870	29%
3	56	28%	1,610	25%
4	34	17%	777	12%
5 or more	33	16%	814	13%
Total	204	100%	6,376	100%
Please indicate whether each of the following descriptions applies to your CURRENT job. (Check all that apply) (Q23)				
Relates to my undergraduate major	125	68%	3,692	64%
Requires me to use skills I gained as an undergraduate	143	78%	4,419	76%
Is related to my desired career path	141	77%	4,491	78%

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	n	%	n	%
Is work I find meaningful	142	78%	4,518	78%
Allows me to continue to grow and learn	160	87%	5,012	87%
Pays enough to support my desired lifestyle	140	77%	4,224	73%
Pays health insurance benefits	162	89%	4,827	83%
Has opportunity for upward mobility	114	62%	4,010	69%
Is likely to continue until I wish to leave	157	86%	4,953	86%
Is in a desirable location	137	75%	4,481	77%
Overall, is a satisfying job	154	84%	4,682	81%
Number of Alumni Who Responded to This Question	183		5,782	
At what point did you secure your first paying job after graduating from this institution? Calculated by HEDS based on responses to Q19 and Q20				
While enrolled as an undergraduate.	94	46%	2,410	37%
During the first six months after graduation.	72	36%	2,698	41%
During the second six months after graduation.	15	7%	465	7%
More than a year after graduation.	19	9%	743	11%
I have not yet sought a paying job.	3	2%	182	3%
I have sought a paying job, but I have not yet found one.	0	0%	36	1%
Total	203	100%	6,534	100%
Please indicate whether each of the following descriptions applied to your first paying job after you graduated from this institution. (Check all that apply) (Q21)				
Was related to my undergraduate major	110	59%	2,890	54%
Required me to use skills I gained as an undergraduate	124	67%	3,298	62%
Was related to my desired career path	118	64%	3,266	62%
Was work I found meaningful	120	65%	3,112	59%
Allowed me to continue to grow and learn	139	75%	3,760	71%
Paid enough to support my desired lifestyle	98	53%	2,622	49%
Paid health insurance benefits	104	56%	2,997	56%
Had opportunity for upward mobility	74	40%	2,219	42%
Continued until I wished to leave	118	64%	3,572	67%
Was in a desirable location	128	69%	3,329	63%
Overall, was a satisfying job	113	61%	3,033	57%
Number of Alumni Who Responded to This Question	185		5,306	
Which of the following most accurately describes your current personal annual income before taxes? Please report your personal income, not your total household income. (Q34)				
No earned income	8	4%	290	5%
Less than \$20,000	16	8%	431	7%
\$20,000–\$39,999	38	19%	1,150	18%
\$40,000–\$59,999	64	32%	1,798	28%
\$60,000–\$79,999	43	22%	1,200	19%

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	n	%	n	%
\$80,000–\$99,999	13	7%	608	9%
\$100,000–\$119,999	5	3%	330	5%
\$120,000–\$139,999	3	2%	162	3%
\$140,000–\$159,999	0	0%	80	1%
\$160,000–\$179,999	4	2%	53	1%
\$180,000–\$199,999	0	0%	31	1%
\$200,000–\$219,999	0	0%	23	0%
\$220,000–\$240,000	2	1%	10	0%
More than \$240,000	1	1%	42	1%
I prefer not to respond	2	1%	238	4%
Total	199	100%	6,446	100%