

Recent Graduates Class of 2021

February 2023

The Minnesota Private College Council annually surveys member institutions to collect data on the post-graduation outcomes of recent graduates. The Council compiles responses that member institutions receive from their own graduates.

These results reflect the experiences of a large majority of our graduates. All eighteen member institutions participated in the survey.¹ For the participating institutions, we have data on 67% of the class of 2021. Response rates and participation differ by institution and question, and member institutions employed a variety of methodologies. For background and project limitations, please see pages 3 and 4.

Our graduates add to the quality of Minnesota’s workforce.

- 68% of the class of 2021 stayed in Minnesota.²

Our graduates are ready to move on to careers and further education.

- 93% of the class of 2021 graduates were employed, in the military, pursuing additional education, or engaged in volunteer service (i.e., Peace Corps or mission work.)
 - 75% of graduates listed employment as their primary activity.
 - 70% were employed full-time.
 - 5% were employed part-time.
 - 16% listed continuing education as their primary activity.
 - 1% listed volunteer service as their primary activity.
 - 0.5% listed military service as their primary activity.
- Looking at the remaining 7% of the class of 2021:
 - 5.8% were seeking employment.
 - 0.6% were seeking continuing education.
 - 0.5% were not seeking employment or continuing education.

¹ Bethany Lutheran College submitted data only for the current location of their Class of 2021.

² Concordia University-St. Paul was not included in this calculation since a substantial portion of their respondents attended the Portland, Oregon campus, and therefore, would not be “staying in Minnesota.” The calculation would be 66% staying in Minnesota if these data were included.

Nearly half of graduates continuing their education attended Minnesota institutions. Over half of those graduates continuing their education (57%) enrolled in master's degree programs.

- 16% of the class of 2021 were enrolled in continuing education. Of those continuing their education:
 - 96% were enrolled full-time.
 - 47% were enrolled at Minnesota institutions.
 - 29% at Minnesota Private College Council member institutions
 - 11% at the University of Minnesota
 - 3% at Minnesota State universities
 - 4% at another Minnesota institution
 - Master's degrees were the most popular programs for those continuing their education.
 - 57% were enrolled in a master's program.
 - 18% were enrolled in a professional program.
 - 13% were enrolled in a PhD program.
 - 2% were pursuing an additional bachelor's degree.
 - 6% were completing a bachelor's degree (e.g. student teaching).
 - 3% were enrolled in a certificate program.
 - 2% were enrolled in another type of program.

Due to rounding, sums may not equal totals.

Recent Graduates 2021 Response Rate by Institution

Institution	Bachelor's Degree Recipients	Number of Graduates with Data	Share of Graduates with Data	Survey time frame
Augsburg University	529	363	69%	December 2020 to July 2022
Bethany Lutheran College*	110	110	100%	-
Bethel University	557	335	60%	September 2022 to October 2022
Carleton College	458	255	56%	September 2021 to October 2021
College of Saint Benedict	463	282	61%	March 2021 to January 2022
Concordia College	414	341	82%	April 2021 to January 2022
Concordia University, St. Paul	1,171	760	65%	October 2020 to January 2022
Gustavus Adolphus College	467	410	88%	May 2021 to April 2022
Hamline University	430	228	53%	March 2022 to June 2022
Macalester College	451	408	91%	May 2021 to December 2021
Minneapolis College of Art and Design	148	68	46%	December 2021 to May 2022
Saint John's University	393	207	53%	March 2021 to January 2022
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota	244	103	42%	May 2021 to February 2022
St. Catherine University	564	359	64%	May 2020 to May 2022
St. Olaf College	675	601	89%	April 2021 to December 2021
The College of St. Scholastica	683	338	49%	September 2021 to August 2022
University of Northwestern	477	130	27%	October 2021 to March 2022
University of St. Thomas	1,371	1,139	83%	June 2021 to November 2021
MPCC Total	9,605	6,437	67%	

Note: Response rates vary due to survey timing, number of contacts and method of contact. See Survey Methodology section for more information.

*There is no survey time frame associated with this institution as data not collected through survey.

Survey Methodology

This report collects the results of surveys of recent graduates conducted by each member institution. We receive aggregate results for a set of items that are common to the surveys and combine them for sharing with the group. We also use this data to highlight our colleges' contribution to Minnesota's labor force and graduate degree enrollment in advocacy efforts. All eighteen member institutions were able to participate. For the surveys:

- The total number of graduates with data was 6,437 (note not all questions have data for all graduates).
- The total number of 2021 graduates from the 18 participating institutions were 9,605.
- The overall response/knowledge rate was 67%.

Different response rates among the participating colleges means that the results may not be representative of the full population of graduates. Data presented are not weighted by the number of graduates, as the survey response rates by institutions vary greatly.

Data collection methods vary among member institutions. A few institutions send a single mailing of the survey; others use mixed methods such as sending multiple mailings, request for web surveys and follow-up telephone calls. Additionally, there has been growth in the use of web-based surveys and data from LinkedIn and Facebook. These different collection methods greatly impact the final response/knowledge rate and ultimately affect how representative the survey results are of the graduating class. Not all survey respondents answered every question, so response rates varied by question as well. In the results reported above, we calculate percentages based on the number of responses to each question, not to the total number of surveys returned.

The timing of the survey distribution also varies widely among member institutions. Some institutions begin data collection before graduation, while other institutions start and conduct their survey six to twelve months after graduation. This variation contributes to inconsistencies in the data, particularly with respect to the employment items. Given these variations in data collection and response rates, the results of the survey should be interpreted cautiously.

This project would not be possible without the cooperation and support of staff at our member institutions. If you have questions or comments about this report, please contact the Minnesota Private College Council.