

Institutional Analysis, Assessment & Reporting

A Follow-up of 2005-2006 Graduates: Results from the Fall 2007 Alumni Survey March, 2008

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Abstract

This report summarizes the results of a survey of 2005-6 graduates. Among the findings from the 35% who responded were:

- ***Very few (3%) were unemployed and seeking employment***
- ***By graduation over half already had a full-time job***
- ***Over three-quarters were employed in the Treasure Valley***
- ***Almost 90% were using the knowledge and skills acquired through their education in their jobs***
- ***Over 90% felt adequately prepared for employment and continued education***
- ***Over half planned to continue their education and 22% were already doing so***
- ***Almost one-third had participated in an internship***

In the fall of 2007, students who graduated between the summer of 2005 and the spring of 2006 were sent a survey asking about their current employment and education activities as well as activities that they participated in while at Boise State. The survey was jointly sponsored by the Career Center and Institutional Analysis, Assessment, and Reporting. Of the 2,680 graduates who received the survey, 938 surveys were returned for a 35% response rate.

What are graduates currently doing? How well prepared were they to do it?

As shown by Figure 1 below, most (78%) graduates were working full-time. Only 3% were unemployed and seeking employment. Those with advanced degrees were most likely to be employed full-time and least likely to be seeking employment (see Table 1 for details).

Most graduates also planned on continuing their education (see Figure 2). Over half planned to continue at some point in time, while over 20% were currently continuing their educations on either a full-time or part-time basis. Those with advanced degrees were least likely to continue their education (see Table 2).

Graduates felt very well-prepared for graduate or professional school and for employment. Over 90% felt adequately prepared for both further education and their current employment (see Figure 3). Those with advanced degrees felt particularly well-prepared (see Table 3).

Figure 1. What best describes what you are currently doing in the area of employment?

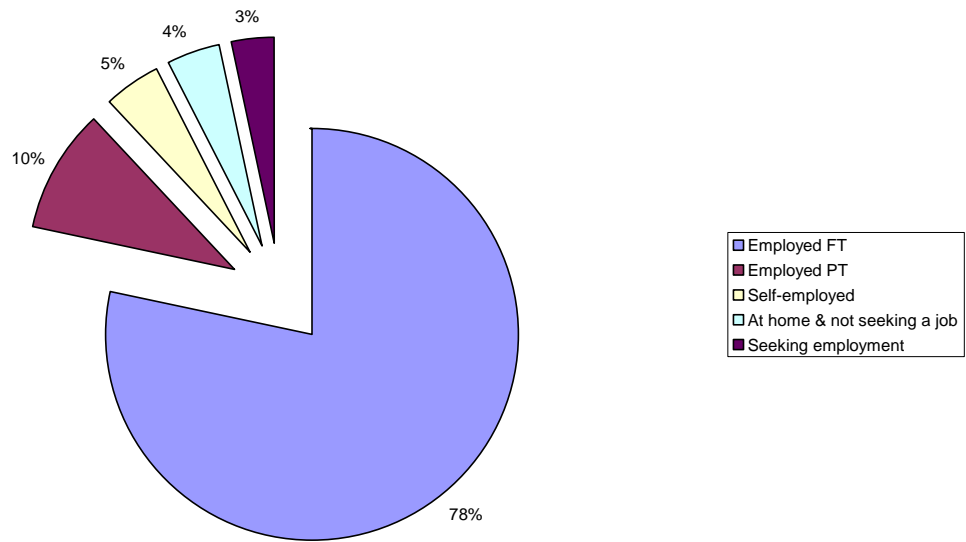
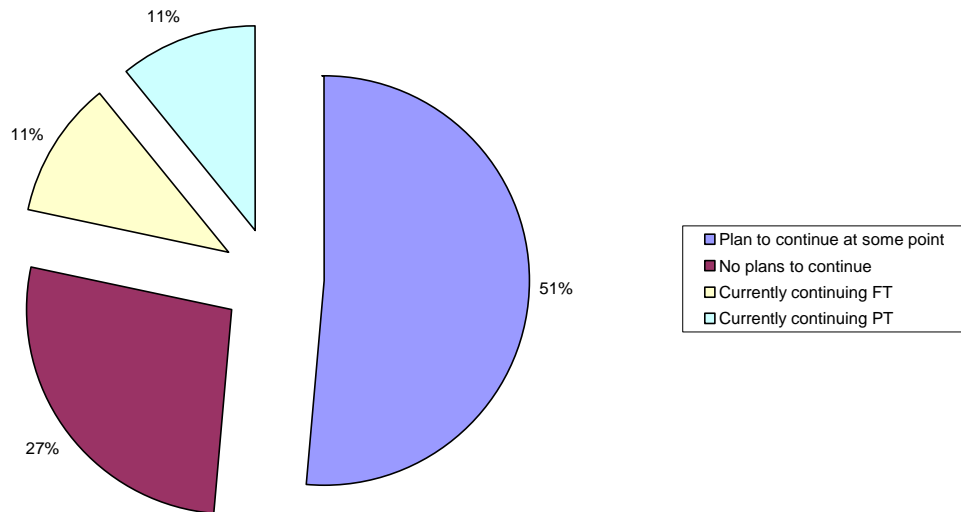


Figure 2. What best describes what you are doing in the area of continuing your education?



Where are graduates working and how do they describe their jobs?

Most graduates (76%) were working in the Treasure Valley, though those with advanced degrees were more likely to be working outside the state (see Figure 4 and Table 4).

A majority of Boise State graduates had a job at the time of graduation, either because they were already employed at the time of graduation and continued in that job (32%) or they obtained a job prior to graduation (21%). Only 16% needed more than six months to get a job (see Figure 5). As shown by Table 5, graduates with advanced degrees were most likely to already be employed and continued in their jobs, while bachelor's degree recipients were least likely to continue in the same jobs they had prior to graduation. Baccalaureate graduates also took longer to find their jobs compared to other groups.

Figure 3. Level of preparation for employment and graduate school

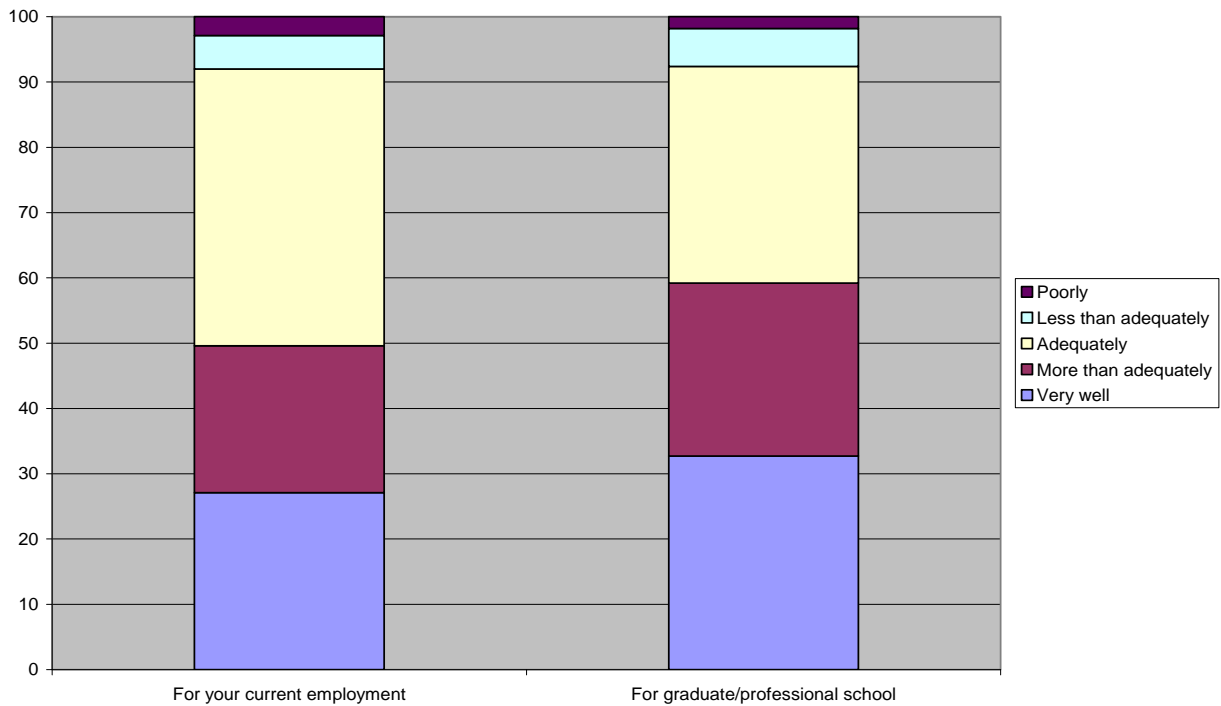


Figure 4. Location of full-time job

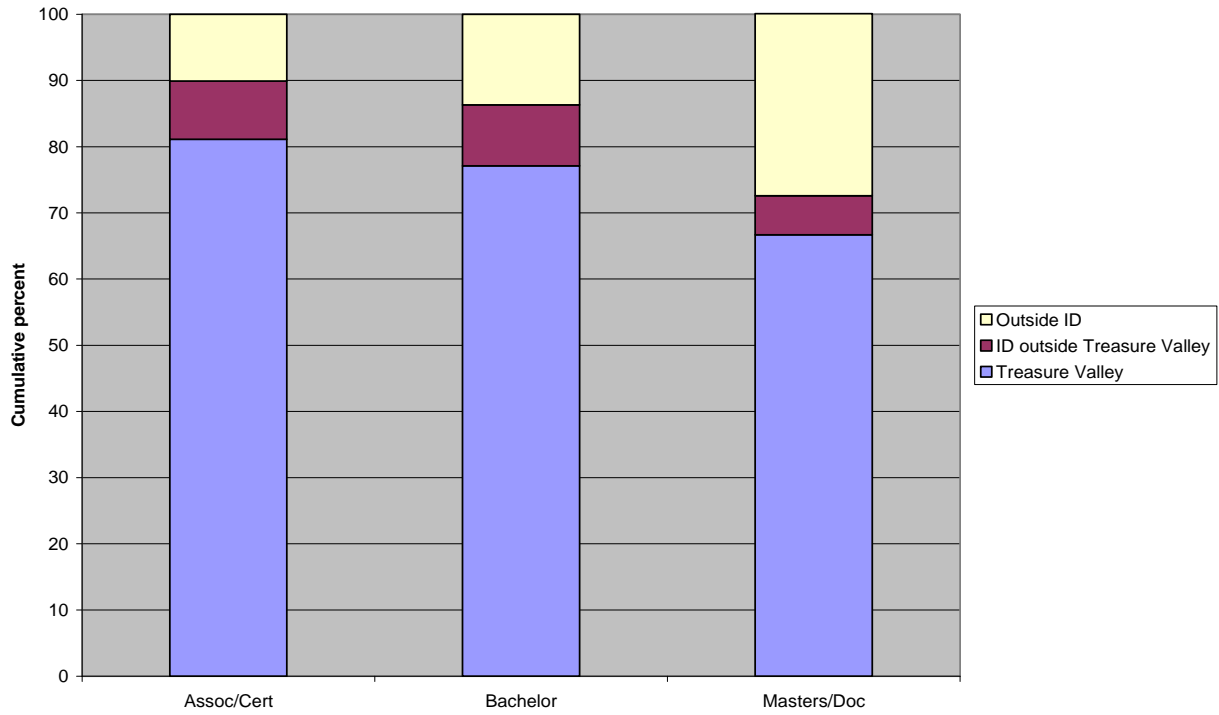
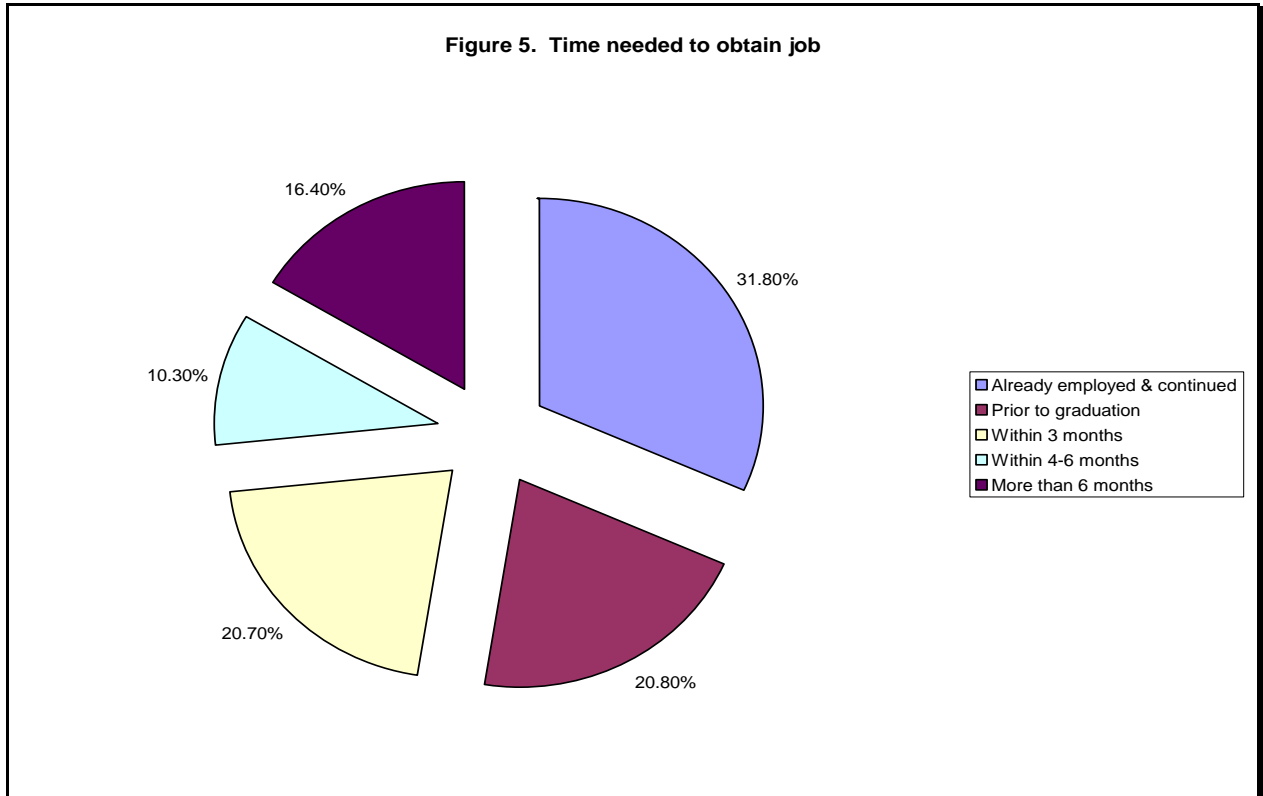


Figure 5. Time needed to obtain job



Almost 90% of respondents reported that they were using the knowledge and skills they acquired at Boise State either frequently or occasionally (see Figure 6). Those who had obtained advanced degrees or who had received an associate's degree or certificate were using their knowledge and skills most frequently (see Table 5). These two groups were also most likely to indicate that their jobs were "very related" to their career goals (see Figure 7 and Table 6). Overall, more than 80% of respondents indicated that they were satisfied with their current employment (see Table 7).

What activities did graduates report participating in while at Boise State University?

The most popular activity that students participated in was the internship experience, completed by almost one-third of respondents. In addition, about 25% completed a clinical, practicum, field work or student teaching experience. Slightly more (27%) reported belonging to students clubs or organizations. Other activities participated in by more than 10% of respondents included on- or off-campus student employment, service-learning, undergraduate or graduate research experience, or volunteer services. For details, see Figure 8 and Table 9.

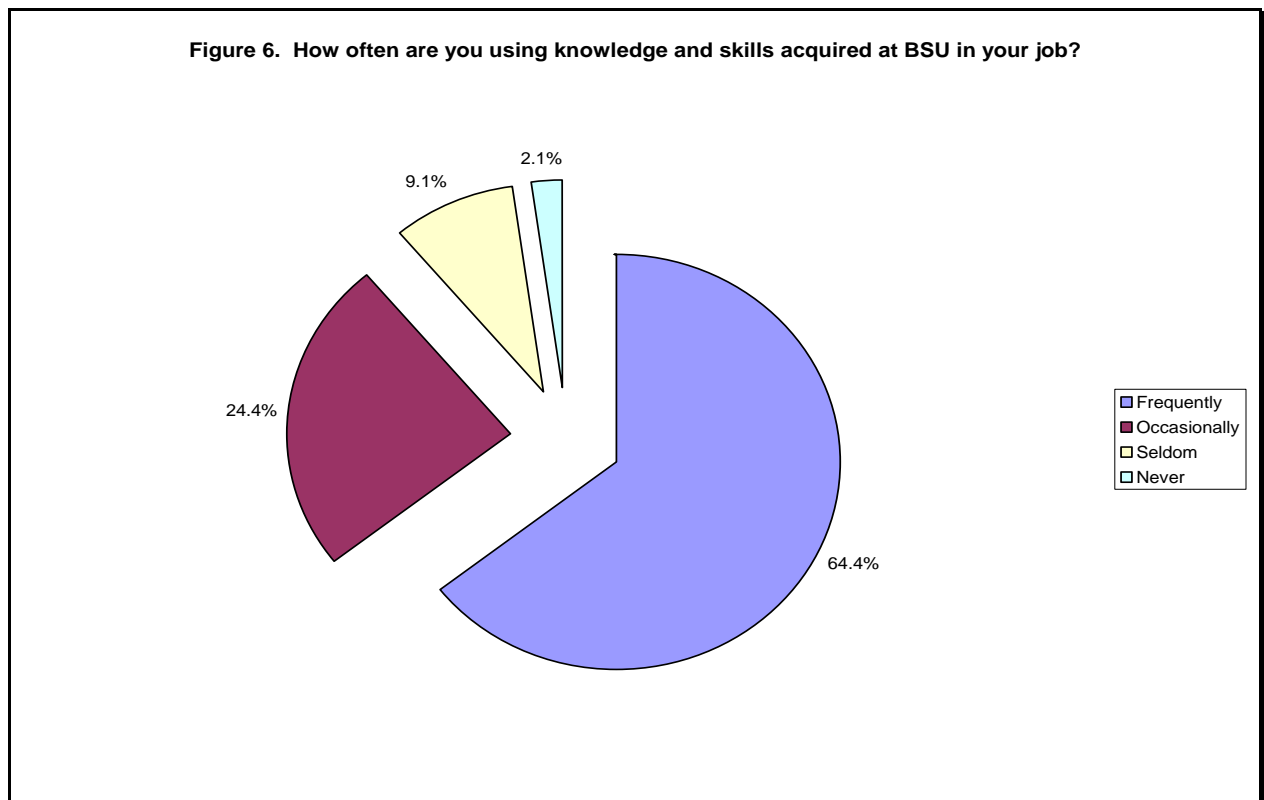


Figure 7. Do you consider your job related to your career goals?

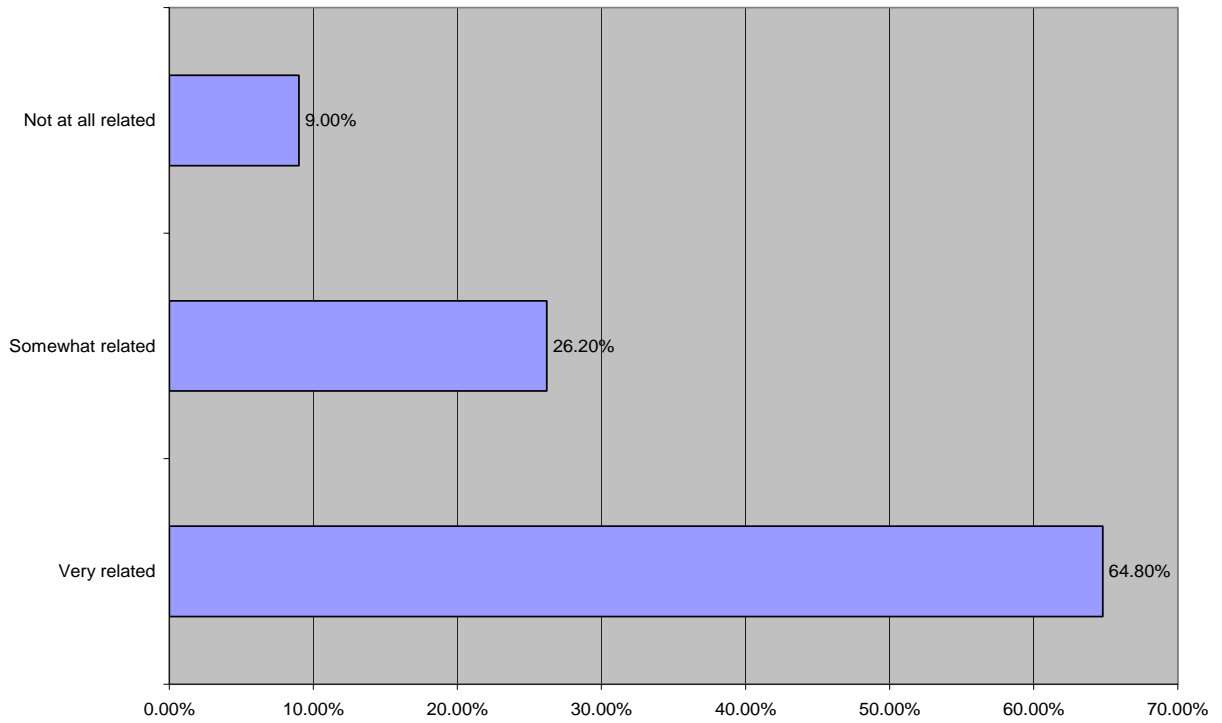
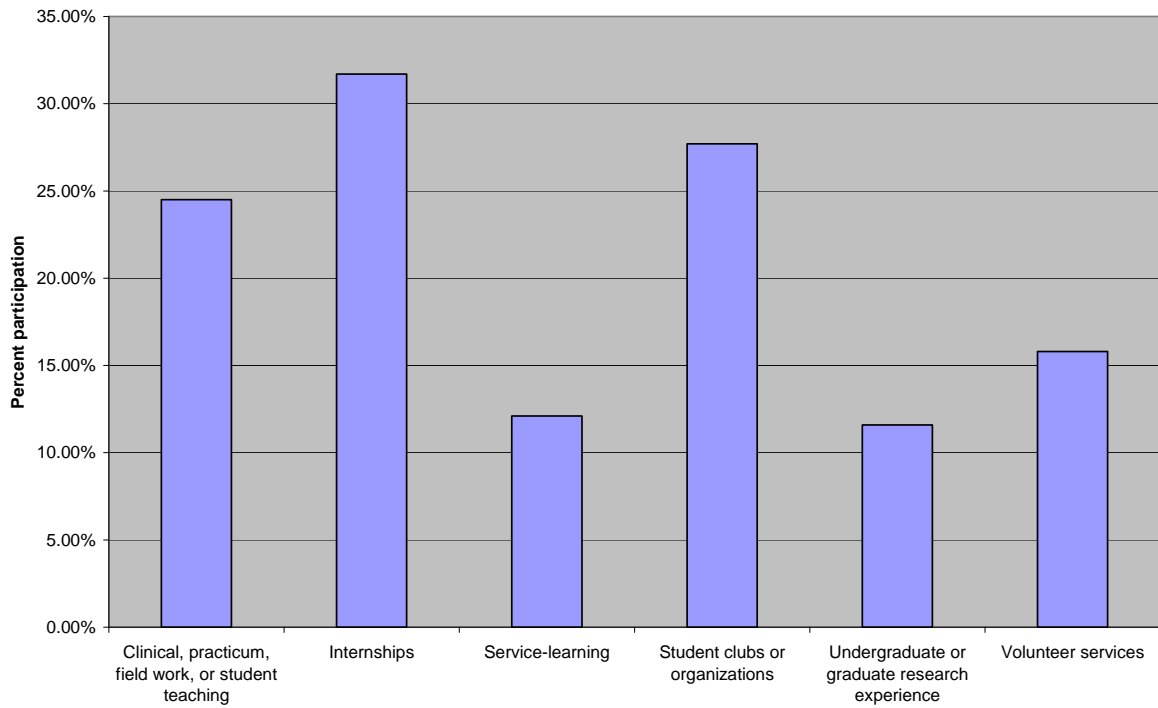


Figure 8. Participation in selected programs or activities



Other information available

This report provides a general overview of the alumni survey results. Full results are available to departments and colleges by contacting either the Career Center or Institutional Analysis, Assessment, and Reporting. Additional information available to departments and colleges includes school and program being pursued for further education, job titles and organizations where graduates are working, type or organization and industry where job is located, and salary ranges.

Appendix of Tables

Table 1. Current employment conditions based on degree obtained

			Degree Level			
			Less than Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Beyond Bachelor's Degree	Total
What best describes what you are currently doing in the area of employment?	I am employed full-time outside the home	Count	136	432	145	713
		% of group	76.8%	77.6%	84.3%	78.7%
	I am employed part-time outside the home	Count	19	55	11	85
		% of group	10.7%	9.9%	6.4%	9.4%
	I am self-employed	Count	5	29	7	41
		% of group	2.8%	5.2%	4.1%	4.5%
	I am caring for my home or my family and not seeking employment	Count	9	22	6	37
		% of group	5.1%	3.9%	3.5%	4.1%
	I am seeking employment	Count	8	19	3	30
		% of group	4.5%	3.4%	1.7%	3.3%
	Total	Count	177	557	172	906
		% of group	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 2. Educational plans by degree level

			Degree Level			
			Less than Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Beyond Bachelor's Degree	Total
What best describes what you are doing in the area of continuing your education?	I plan on continuing my education at some point in time	Count	95	307	74	476
		% of group	53.1%	54.2%	43.0%	51.9%
	I have no plans to continue my education	Count	43	129	73	245
		% of group	24.0%	22.8%	42.4%	26.7%
	I am currently continuing my education Full-time	Count	28	62	8	98
		% of group	15.6%	11.0%	4.7%	10.7%
	I am currently continuing my education Part-time	Count	13	68	17	98
		% of group	7.3%	12.0%	9.9%	10.7%
	Total	Count	179	566	172	917
		% of group	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3. Level of preparation for graduate school and employment by degree level

		Degree Level							
		Less than Bachelor's Degree		Bachelor's Degree		Beyond Bachelor's Degree		Total	
		Count	% of group	Count	% of group	Count	% of group	Count	% of group
How well did Boise State prepare you for graduate/professional school? (Respond only if in school)	Very well	15	34.1%	42	30.9%	15	40.5%	72	33.2%
	More than adequately	11	25.0%	39	28.7%	9	24.3%	59	27.2%
	Adequately	16	36.4%	45	33.1%	8	21.6%	69	31.8%
	Less than adequately	2	4.5%	8	5.9%	3	8.1%	13	6.0%
	Poorly	0	.0%	2	1.5%	2	5.4%	4	1.8%
How well did Boise State prepare you for your current employment? (Respond only if working full-time)	Very well	56	34.8%	115	23.1%	51	32.1%	222	27.1%
	More than adequately	32	19.9%	105	21.1%	48	30.2%	185	22.6%
	Adequately	62	38.5%	232	46.6%	52	32.7%	346	42.3%
	Less than adequately	9	5.6%	28	5.6%	6	3.8%	43	5.3%
	Poorly	2	1.2%	18	3.6%	2	1.3%	22	2.7%

Table 4. Location of full-time job by degree level

			Degree Level			
			Less than Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Beyond Bachelor's Degree	Total
Region	In Treasure Valley	Count	120	361	102	583
		% of group	81.1%	77.1%	66.7%	75.8%
	In Idaho Outside Treasure Valley	Count	13	43	9	65
		% of group	8.8%	9.2%	5.9%	8.5%
	Outside Idaho	Count	15	64	42	121
		% of group	10.1%	13.7%	27.5%	15.7%
	Total	Count	148	468	153	769
		% of group	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 5. Length of time to first job by degree level

			Degree Level			
			Less than Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Beyond Bachelor's Degree	Total
When did you obtain your job after graduating from Boise State?	Already employed and continued in that job	Count	47	107	69	223
		% of group	32.9%	25.2%	51.5%	31.8%
	Obtained the job prior to graduation	Count	34	89	23	146
		% of group	23.8%	21.0%	17.2%	20.8%
	Obtained the job within three months of graduation	Count	31	93	21	145
		% of group	21.7%	21.9%	15.7%	20.7%
	Obtained the job within 4-6 months of graduation	Count	10	54	8	72
		% of group	7.0%	12.7%	6.0%	10.3%
	Obtained the job more than 6 months after graduation	Count	21	81	13	115
		% of group	14.7%	19.1%	9.7%	16.4%
Total	Count	143	424	134	701	
	% of group	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Table 6. Use of knowledge and skills on the job by degree level

			Degree Level			
			Less than Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Beyond Bachelor's Degree	Total
How often are you using knowledge and skills acquired at BSU in your job?	Frequently	Count	116	302	115	533
		% of group	70.7%	60.2%	71.4%	64.4%
	Occasionally	Count	37	131	34	202
		% of group	22.6%	26.1%	21.1%	24.4%
	Seldom	Count	8	56	11	75
		% of group	4.9%	11.2%	6.8%	9.1%
	Never	Count	3	13	1	17
		% of group	1.8%	2.6%	.6%	2.1%
	Total	Count	164	502	161	827
		% of group	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 7. Relationship of job to career goals by degree level

			Degree Level			
			Less than Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Beyond Bachelor's Degree	Total
Do you consider your job related to your career goals?	Very related	Count	119	285	135	539
		% of group	71.7%	56.4%	83.9%	64.8%
	Somewhat related	Count	34	164	20	218
		% of group	20.5%	32.5%	12.4%	26.2%
	Not at all related	Count	13	56	6	75
		% of group	7.8%	11.1%	3.7%	9.0%
	Total	Count	166	505	161	832
		% of group	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 8. Satisfaction with current employment by degree level

			Degree Level			
			Less than Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Beyond Bachelor's Degree	Total
How satisfied are you with your current employment?	Very satisfied	Count	64	197	81	342
		% of group	39.0%	39.2%	50.3%	41.3%
	Satisfied	Count	64	198	66	328
		% of group	39.0%	39.4%	41.0%	39.6%
	Neutral	Count	24	69	7	100
		% of group	14.6%	13.7%	4.3%	12.1%
	Dissatisfied	Count	5	32	7	44
		% of group	3.0%	6.4%	4.3%	5.3%
	Very dissatisfied	Count	7	7	0	14
		% of group	4.3%	1.4%	.0%	1.7%
	Total	Count	164	503	161	828
		% of group	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 9. Program participation at Boise State University by degree level

Activity:	Participated:		Degree Level			Total
			Less than Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Beyond Bachelor's Degree	
ASBSU	No	Count	173	539	165	877
		% of group	96.6%	94.9%	95.9%	95.4%
	Yes	Count	6	29	7	42
		% of group	3.4%	5.1%	4.1%	4.6%
Clinical, Practicum, Field work or Student Teaching	No	Count	117	442	135	694
		% of group	65.4%	77.8%	78.5%	75.5%
	Yes	Count	62	126	37	225
		% of group	34.6%	22.2%	21.5%	24.5%
Graduate Assistantship	No	Count	179	555	126	860
		% of group	100.0%	97.7%	73.3%	93.6%
	Yes	Count	0	13	46	59
		% of group	.0%	2.3%	26.7%	6.4%
Internship	No	Count	143	353	132	628
		% of group	79.9%	62.1%	76.7%	68.3%
	Yes	Count	36	215	40	291
		% of group	20.1%	37.9%	23.3%	31.7%
National Student Exchange	No	Count	179	559	172	910
		% of group	100.0%	98.4%	100.0%	99.0%
	Yes	Count	0	9	0	9
		% of group	.0%	1.6%	.0%	1.0%
Off-Campus Student Employment	No	Count	153	456	155	764
		% of group	85.5%	80.3%	90.1%	83.1%
	Yes	Count	26	112	17	155
		% of group	14.5%	19.7%	9.9%	16.9%
On-Campus Student Employment	No	Count	163	467	156	786
		% of group	91.1%	82.2%	90.7%	85.5%
	Yes	Count	16	101	16	133
		% of group	8.9%	17.8%	9.3%	14.5%
Study Abroad	No	Count	179	548	166	893
		% of group	100.0%	96.5%	96.5%	97.2%
	Yes	Count	0	20	6	26
		% of group	.0%	3.5%	3.5%	2.8%

Table 9. Program participation at Boise State University by degree level (continued)

Activity:	Participated:		Degree Level			Total
			Less than Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Beyond Bachelor's Degree	
Service Learning	No	Count	151	493	164	808
		% of group	84.4%	86.8%	95.3%	87.9%
	Yes	Count	28	75	8	111
		% of group	15.6%	13.2%	4.7%	12.1%
Student Clubs/Organizations	No	Count	145	372	147	664
		% of group	81.0%	65.5%	85.5%	72.3%
	Yes	Count	34	196	25	255
		% of group	19.0%	34.5%	14.5%	27.7%
Student Leadership Program	No	Count	171	538	168	877
		% of group	95.5%	94.7%	97.7%	95.4%
	Yes	Count	8	30	4	42
		% of group	4.5%	5.3%	2.3%	4.6%
Undergraduate or Graduate Research Experience	No	Count	169	497	146	812
		% of group	94.4%	87.5%	84.9%	88.4%
	Yes	Count	10	71	26	107
		% of group	5.6%	12.5%	15.1%	11.6%
Volunteer Services	No	Count	152	465	157	774
		% of group	84.9%	81.9%	91.3%	84.2%
	Yes	Count	27	103	15	145
		% of group	15.1%	18.1%	8.7%	15.8%