The following information was compiled by Coe College’s Office of Career Services from the Class of 2007 First Destination Survey.

The First Destination Survey is an annual survey of Coe alumni conducted approximately one year after their graduation. The purpose of the survey is to take a snapshot of the activities our alums are participating in such as employment, graduate school, or other endeavors.

The survey was developed in a hard-copy format designed for use through postal mail or for collecting information from alumni over the telephone, as well as in an electronic format using the online survey tool, the secure version of Survey Monkey. Initially, the survey was distributed twice via email with a link to the online version; alumni for whom we did not have an updated email address or who did not respond to the emailed survey were sent a hard copy of the survey through postal mail (their choices were to fill out the hard copy and return it via postal mail or to fill out the survey online through a link provided in the hard-copy correspondence).

Alumni who did not respond to either email attempt or to the mailed version were then contacted by Career Services staff by telephone. Approximately three telephone attempts were made for each person, either by landline or cell phone, or through a parent. Attempts to contact alumni and to gather updated contact information were also made via online social networking sites such as Facebook.

For those alumni who still had not responded to the survey after all these attempts, an additional effort was made to reach them through a Career Services Student Assistant.

After all contact attempts had been completed, a total of 151 alumni from the Class of 2007 (out of 293 graduates) responded to the survey, a response rate of 52%. Note: Not all questions were answered by all Class of 2007 alumni.
The last two years we have asked our alums the question “What are the best ways to reach you?” As the following chart (Figure 1) depicts, email was by far the preferred contact method:

**Figure 1** (note: percentages add up to greater than 100% because each respondent was allowed to choose more than one preferred contact method):

![Preferred Contact Method Chart](chart1)

Figure 2 gives a “snapshot” overview of what the Class of 2007 survey respondents reported doing one year after graduation.

**Figure 2**

![Current Primary Activity Pie Chart](chart2)
64% of survey respondents are employed and 15% are attending graduate school/professional schools; only 1% said that they are unemployed and still looking for a job. It is important to note that when alumni are contacted for this survey, they are reminded that one of the benefits offered to them as Coe alumni are the no-fee lifelong services provided by Coe’s Career Services office, including career and/or graduate school exploration.

When working with clients, both students and alumni, we help them understand that the most effective job search strategy is to use multiple resources. The Class of 2007 First Destination Survey asked respondents to report the sources through which they identified or were connected to their current positions, and they were asked to select all the strategies that they used. The two most popular strategies, the use of an Internet job posting and making a contact through friends or family, were used by 20% of respondents. Figure 3 illustrates these and other methods reported by the survey respondents.

Figure 3

![Pie chart showing how Coe College Class of 2007 found their current jobs.]

Throughout their college careers, Coe students are encouraged to visit Career Services early and often, and they are advised to start their full-time job searches well before their graduation dates. Although just over half (52%) of survey respondents reported starting their job searches before graduation, 48% said that they did not start looking until after graduation, with almost ¼
admitting that their job searches did not start until more than 4 months later. Figure 4 shows this breakdown.

Figure 4

![Figure 4](image)

Predictably, a large percentage of respondents (70%) did not accept their job offers until after graduation; over 1/3 of respondents accepted their positions more than 4 months after their graduation dates. This is illustrated in Figure 5:

Figure 5

![Figure 5](image)
Of those students who reported gainful employment one year following their 2007 graduation, nearly 90% are employed full-time, as illustrated in Figure 6:

**Figure 6**

![Pie chart showing employment status of Coe College Class of 2007 students.](chart)

Where is Class of 2007 alumni working, then? Here are some of the organizations as reported by survey respondents:

- Henderson Mine
- Cellular Dynamics International
- Rockwell Collins
- Pella Regional Health Center
- Marion Independent Schools
- Walgreen's
- The ARC
- The Gap
- McGladrey & Pullen, LLP
- St. Ambrose University
- Quad City Steamwheelers
- Alliant Energy
- Friend and Company Fine Jewelers
- Mercy Medical Center
- Deck the Walls
- Primerica Financial Services
- U of I Carver College of Medicine
- Veridian Credit Union
- Loyola University Chicago
- Estes Park School District
- Des Moines Public Schools
- Mulligan's Pub

- Wells Fargo
- Mayo Clinic
- Bickford Cottage Assisted Living
- Larimer Center for Mental Health
- Comprehensive Community Solutions
- Xavier High School
- Iowa Dept. of Human Services
- Bowling Green State University
- University of Michigan News Service
- Oyster Adams Bilingual Middle School
- Biotest Pharmaceuticals
- Northwestern Mutual
- Quaker Oats
- Tanager Place
- Silliker Labs, Inc.
- St. Luke’s Hospital
- Iowa Democratic Party
- Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education
- Advocacy Strategies
- Terry Dowd, Inc.
- Northwestern Mutual Financial
- URrelay, Inc.
Centurion Stone
Hy-Vee Drugstore
Illinois Bone and Joint Institute
ProQuest
AEGON
Sports Club
Hiawatha/BE's Coins
Oelwein Community School District
Stamats Communications
Linn-Mar School District
Barter Theatre
University of Northern Iowa
Riverdale School District
Berthel Fisher & Company
Cedar Rapids Community Schools
Archer Daniels Midland
Chicago Red Stars
Standard Chartered Bank
Winfield-Mt. Union School District
Wagner College
North Linn Community School District
Epilepsy Foundation
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
2nd Story Software
Plus English Academy
Dale Lee Distributing Company
Esquire Insurance
Swedish American Hospital
Coe College
Yellowbook
ISU Office of Greek Affairs
COVANCE
Kearney Hub
Ashford University
Enterprise Rent-a-Car
The Travelers Companies
National Institutes of Health
Smithsonian Institution
Rome(ing) Tours
SIA Tulkojumu birojs Skrivanek Latvia
HACAP
Ortho Rx (Physicians Clinic of Iowa)
Progressive Rehabilitation Associates
Longterm Care Options
Chrome Horse Saloon and Slophouse
Springtides, Inc.
Virginia City Players
Cumulus Media
Americorps
Lee County Bank & Trust
East Central School District
Deep River-Millersburg Schools
Springville Community Schools
Fraser Child and Family Center
Figure 7 shows the classifications of the jobs held by the Class of 2007 survey respondents; 23% are in a business-related occupation (Accounting, Advertising/Public Relations/Media, Banking/Finance, Business Administration/Management, or Human Resources). 16% are in K-12 Education, and 10% are in Retail/Sales/Marketing.

Figure 7
Some of the job titles reported by the Class of 2007 include:

- Digital Photographer
- Middle School Music Teacher
- Nurse – Birth Care Center
- Environmental Educator
- Americorps Service Member
- Receptionist
- Research Specialist
- Senior Trading Associate
- ER Nurse
- Substitute Teacher
- Senior Certified Pharmacy Technician
- Program Supervisor
- Asst. Jr. Brand Logistics Coordinator
- Assurance Associate
- Head Defensive Line Coach
- Semi-Pro Football Player
- Mgr, Orthopedics Specialists Complex
- Customer Service Representative
- Administrative Assistant
- Chief Accountant
- Design Consultant
- Senior Regional Leader
- Athletic Trainer
- Loan Officer
- Technology Teacher
- Grade School Teacher
- Graduate Research Assistant
- Personal Banker
- Operating Room Nurse
- Director of Life Enrichment
- Counselor
- Participant Contact Specialist
- Investment Analyst
- English Tutor
- Community Partnership Coordinator
- Art Teacher
- Social Worker II
- Greek Life Graduate Assistant
- Editorial Assistant
- Middle School English Teacher
- Credit Analyst
- Project/Proposal Coordinator
- Therapy Trainee

- Team Lead
- Financial Representative
- Production Associate
- Treatment Counselor
- Market Analysis Coordinator
- Microbiologist
- Campaign Manager
- Assistant Language Teacher
- Advocacy/Public Affairs Manager
- Project Manager
- Recruiting Coordinator
- Communication Assistant
- Stone Mason
- Manager of Store Operations
- Foreign Language Assistant Editor
- Pediatrics/Obstetrics RN
- Contact Center Specialist
- Personal Trainer
- Professional Numismatist
- Media Production Coordinator
- Barter Player
- Sales Representative
- Head Athletic Trainer
- Branch Account Manager
- Advertising Coordinator
- Paraeducator
- Merchandiser
- Sponsorship Intern
- Product Manager
- K-12 Vocal Music Teacher
- Master Electrician
- Kindergarten Teacher
- Head Softball Coach
- Services Coordinator
- Staff Accountant II
- High End Marketing Representative
- Agency Principal/Owner
- Archives Assistant
- Preliminary Pages Coordinator
- Study Technician
- Regional Reporter
- Matriculation Coordinator
- Customer Account Specialist
Of the Class of 2007 graduates who participated in this survey, nearly 3/4 originated from the state of Iowa, as depicted in Figure 8:

Figure 8

As illustrated in Figure 9, almost 40% of the Class of 2007 survey respondents moved on to lives outside of Iowa after graduation:

Figure 9
A wide range of liberal arts majors were well-represented by the members of the Class of 2007 who responded to the survey. The following chart, Figure 10, shows the academic majors reported by the Class of 2007 who took the first destination survey.

Figure 10
While much of the Class of 2007 reported working full-time one year after graduation, 15% of them are in graduate/professional school in a wide variety of fields. Of those alumni, close to 2/3 are pursuing Master’s degrees, as illustrated in Figure 11:

Figure 11

Of those class members who are in graduate school, 29% are studying in a healthcare or medical-related field, 17% are in business, 14% are pursuing post-graduate degrees in education, and 11% are studying a humanities-related field such as history (see Figure 12).

Figure 12
Coe’s Class of 2007 is represented at many outstanding institutions, including the following:

- University of Colorado
- University of Michigan
- San Francisco State University
- University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
- University of Minnesota
- DePaul University
- Duke University
- University of Montana
- University of Northern Iowa
- Hamline School of Law
- Missouri University of Science and Technology
- Bowling Green State University

As of the time of this survey, 15% of the Class of 2007 reported being in graduate/professional school; however, the vast majority of the class (nearly ¾) indicated plans to attend in the future, as shown in Figure 13:

Figure 13

![Figure 13: Pie chart showing 71% of Class of 2007 plan to attend graduate school in the future]

Figure 14 show that, of the alumni who have future plans to go to grad school, nearly 80% have plans to go within the next 4 years:

Figure 14

![Figure 14: Pie chart showing 23% next year, 19% within 1-4 years, and 58% within 5-10 years]