Our mission is to empower people to clarify their values as they discover and develop their skills, abilities and passions for life.
Coe College’s Office of Career Services and Internships compiled the following information about the “first destinations” of the class of 2011; that is, their activities up to one year after graduating from Coe College. These activities included (but were not limited to) employment, graduate or professional school, the military, or other endeavors.

This report is an aggregate of information collected about the Class of 2011 through a First Destination Survey conducted one year after graduation, a Senior Survey administered prior to graduation, as well as other sources (such as social networking websites). It is intended to be a “snapshot” of what the members of the Class of 2011 were doing. Altogether, we were able to report on the post-graduation activities of 269 of these alumni, which represents 95% of the 284 graduates of the Class of 2011.

Current Activity

Figure 1 illustrates the activities reported by the Class of 2011 survey respondents up to one year after graduation:
Sixty-three percent of the Class of 2011 survey participants reported being employed; **this level of reported employment is 6 percentage points higher than reported by the Class of 2010 one year earlier.** Twenty-two percent stated that they were attending graduate or professional school such as medicine or law. Nine percent reported being employed but seeking a different opportunity. Four percent had an internship or fellowship, were involved in travel or adventure, or engaged in another activity. None of the Class of 2011 responding to the survey said they were unemployed and still looking for a job*.

*Note: These figures are reported based on information provided by Class of 2011 alumni who responded to a follow-up survey, indicated their plans in the 2011 Senior Survey, or otherwise provided information to Career Services about their post-Coe activities. Class of 2011 alumni whose activities were unknown to us cannot be described; other activity – including unemployment – may be therefore underreported.
Of those recent alumni who reported gainful employment up to one year following their 2011 graduation, 88% stated that they were employed in full-time, permanent positions, as illustrated in Figure 2:

Figure 2

![Pie chart showing employment types](image)

**JOB CLASSIFICATIONS**

The employment classifications of the jobs worked by the Class of 2011 survey participants are illustrated in Figure 3. Nearly 40% (38%) were in business-related occupations (Accounting, Advertising/Public Relations/Media, Bank/Finance/Insurance, Business Administration/Management, Retail/Sales/Marketing or Human Resources). Education (K-12, post-secondary, or student teaching) accounted for 23% of reporting graduates, and another 10% were in a science or healthcare-related field such as nursing, medicine, research or lab science.

None of the graduates self-reported the following categories: Graphic Arts, Government/Politics, Military, and Sports/Recreation/Hospitality. Nine percent reported “Other” categories of employment; these included college ministry, food service, nonprofit, regulatory affairs and quality assurance, organization/policy practice, and avionics engineering.
EMPLOYERS REPORTED BY THE CLASS OF 2011:

Adobe
AdTrack
Advanced Testing Laboratory
AEGON/Transamerica
African American Museum of Iowa
AmeriCorps VISTA
APAC Customer Services, Inc.
AT&T
Atlantic Theater Company
Aurora Fox Theater
Aurora University
Becker Tiling & Excavating
Benefit Solutions Incorporated
BGM Community Schools
Biruwa Ventures, Pvt. Ltd.

Boulder’s Dinner Theatre
Byers-Evans House Theatre Company
Cedar Rapids Downtown District
Chick-fil-A
City of Cedar Rapids
City of Fresno
Coe College
Coleman Landscaping
Coleman Vision
Collins Community Credit Union
CRST
Cub Creek Foundation
Daniel Arthur’s
Durant Community School District
Ebay
Elmcrest Country Club
Fairfield Community School District
Finish Line
First Funding Inc.
Frew Nations Group
Genesis Medical Center
Goodwill Industries of Iowa
GreatAmerica Leasing Corporation
Handicapped Development Center
Heartland Center
Hillesheim Construction
Home Choice
Hy-Vee
Illinois State University
Integrated DNA Technologies
International Institute of Minnesota
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Iowa Campus Compact/Coe College
Iowa City Community School District
Iowa Health Home Care
Iowa Health System
Iowa Laser Technology, Inc.
Jacobsen Johnson & Viner, PLC
Jefferson High School
JoAnn Fabrics
Kemin Industries, Inc.
Keystone Apartments
KTVO-TV
Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity
Laura Ingalls Designs
Lifetouch
Limolink
Linn Mar Community Schools
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Marion High School
Marion Physical Therapy
Mercer
Mercy Medical Center
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
Mulligan’s Irish Pub
NewLink Genetics
Next Generation Wireless (U.S. Cellular)
Noel Levitz
Nursing and Therapy Services of Colorado
Organizing for America
Otter Creek
PerBlue
Petersen Motors
Pioneer HiBred International
Pleasant Valley Schools
Positive Sports Training, Inc.
Pricewaterhouse Coopers
Principal Financial Group
QBE First
Quincy Community Theatre
Regis Corporation
Reinsurance Group of America
Reutzel Pharmacy/Aim Healthcare
Physician’s Choice Sleep Center
Rockwell Collins
Rose Theatre
Shawnee Theatre
Sitting Bull School
Spanish Ministry of Education
Spee-Dee Delivery
Springville Community Schools
St. Luke’s Child and Adolescent Unit
St. Luke’s Hospital
St. Mary’s Hospital - Mayo Clinic
State Game Lodge
State of Iowa
Teach for America
Tektivity
Terry Lockridge & Dunn
Texas Road House
The Boeing Company
The Cleveland Clinic
The Fulbright Program
The University of Iowa
The University of Iowa Community Credit Union
Tricia Ballad
Trinity Church in the City of Boston
Trust Consultants
U of CA, Davis
U.S. Marine Corps
U.S. National Guard
U.S. Navy
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics
University of Northern Iowa
Upward Bound - Coe College
US Army Nurse Corps
US Xpress Enterprises
VIADeSIGN
Victoria’s Secret
Walgreens
Waterloo Community School District
Webster City Community Schools
Wells Fargo
Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare
Writer’s House
Yellowbook
JOB TITLES REPORTED BY THE CLASS OF 2011:

2nd Lieutenant
Account Executive
Account Manager
Accountant
Accounts Payable Specialist
Actor/Choreographer
Actuarial Analyst
Administrative Assistant
Admissions Counselor
Ambassador
Chronic Disease Outreach Coordinator
AmeriCorps VISTA
Attendance Improvement Team
Art Specialist
Art Teacher (AK-5)
Assistant Auditor
Assistant Cross Country/Track & Field Coach
Assistant Residence Life Coordinator
Asst Wrestling Coach/Director of Fitness
Assurance Associate
Astronomy/Foundations of Science Teacher
Athletic Trainer
Auditor
Band Director
Baseball Coach
Brand Strategist
Business Education Teacher
Buyer
Camp Counselor
Campus Staff Member
Carpenter
Certified Teacher
Chief Umpire
Claims Processor
Clinical Research Associate
Computer Specialist
Construction
Credit Analyst
Customer Analyst
Development Coordinator
Director
Drama Instructor
Ebay Seller
Elementary PE Teacher
Elementary Teacher
Employment Opportunities Coordinator
Field Organizer
Financial Advisor
Financial Assistant I
Financial Services Representative
Food Industry
Founder, BuzzSessions Theatre Press Blog
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant
Graphic Designer
Graphic Designer & PR Consultant
Group Marketing Representative
High School Math Teacher
Home Care CAN
Housing First Project Coordinator
Human Resources
Individual Investment Specialist
IT Project Specialist
Law Clerk
Lead Teacher
Manager
Marketing and Communications Specialist
Marketing and Sales Administrative Assistant
Marketing Coordinator
Med/Surg Cardiothoracic RN/BSN
Music Administrator
Music Teacher
National Carrier Representative
Office Manager
Ophthalmic Assistant
Patient Care Technician
Payroll Management & Field Coordinator
Pediatric Home Health Care Nurse
Photographer
Physical Education Teacher
Physician Extender/Athletic Trainer
Platoon Leader, 2nd Lt.
Production Scientist I
Production Stage Manager
Professional Actor, Writer, and Director
Program Assistant
Project Coordinator
Quantitative Biologist
Recreation Specialist
Recruiting Assistant
Registered Nurse
Registered Nurse - Birth Center
Registered Nurse - Pediatric ICU
Regulatory Affairs Specialist
Research Assistant
Researcher
Resident Artist in Ceramics
Retail Wireless Consultant
RN/BSN
Sales Associate
Sales Consultant
Sales Coordinator
Sales Manager
Senior Educational Leadership Consultant
Server
Service Clerk
Software Engineer
Special Education Teacher
Specialist - Network Support
Staff Accountant
Staff Nurse
Stocker
Supervisor
EMPLOYMENT SEARCH DETAIL

One of Career Services’ charges is to facilitate Coe students’ understanding of effective job search strategies. Research shows that successful searches involve the use of multiple employment search resources, with personal networking and interaction generally regarded as the most effective. The Class of 2011 First Destination Survey reflects this.

Survey respondents were asked to report all of the sources they employed to ultimately land their current jobs. The most popular referral source, accounting for 21% of all successful job leads for the Class of 2011, was personal contact through friends or family. An additional 21% of job leads came through other personal referral methods, including a volunteer position, internship, summer job, or part-time job transitioning to full-time (12%), a referral from a Coe faculty or staff member (5%), or a referral from a Coe alumnus (4%). Altogether, personal connections accounted for 42% of job leads.

The use of an internet job posting website was the second most cited strategy (19% of leads) and employer websites accounted for 18% of respondents’ job leads.

Note: Responses to this question may be skewed because many employers require all job applicants to use an online application at some point in the recruiting process, regardless of how they were initially connected to the job in question.
Ten percent of respondents cited other sources for their job leads. These included the following:

- “Reached out to the recruiter”
- “...part of my graduate student agreement”
- “LinkedIn. Recruiter [sought] me out”
- “Undergraduate involvement within the fraternity”

Figure 4 illustrates the employment methods reported by the survey respondents.

**Figure 4**

![Coe College Class of 2011: How They Found Their Current Jobs](image)

*Note: This information was collected from the Class of 2011 First Destination Survey only.*

Coe students are encouraged to start their full-time job searches well before their graduation dates; more than one-half (52%) reported starting their job searches before graduation. Those who started their job searches after graduation accounted for 48% of respondents; nearly one-fifth admitted that they did not start their job searches until more than four months later.

Compared to the previous class, these graduates planned ahead; only 41% the
previous class started job searching before graduation day. This may reflect the current economy; the Class of 2011 may have responded to concerns about job prospects by initiating job searches earlier than previous graduates. **Figure 5** illustrates these percentages.

**Figure 5**

*Coe College Classes of 2010 & 2011*  
When They Started Their Job Searches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Class of 2011</th>
<th>Class of 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>before graduation</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-3 months after graduation</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more than 4 months after graduation</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Due to rounding, figures may not add up to 100%.*

The Class of 2011 started their searches earlier than the previous class, and this is reflected in the proportion of students with a job offer by graduation day (35% of the Class of 2011, compared to 30% of the Class of 2010). The total percentage with job offers either by graduation day or within three months afterwards was relatively stable (63% of the Class of 2011, compared to 61% of the previous class).

Although 65% of the Class of 2011 survey respondents did not accept a job
until after graduation, they fared marginally better than the previous class, securing their post-graduation jobs at a slightly faster pace than the Class of 2010. See Figure 6.

Figure 6

Coe College Classes of 2010 & 2011
When They Accepted Their Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Class of 2011</th>
<th>Class of 2010</th>
<th>more than 4 months after graduation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>before graduation</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-3 months after</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>graduation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

Much of the Class of 2011 reported working full-time during the year following graduation, but nearly one-quarter of survey respondents (22%) reported that they were continuing their education in graduate school, professional school, or in another area. Of those, 55% were pursuing Master’s degrees, 16% were in doctoral (Ph.D.) programs, and 19% were in professional degree programs such as medicine or law school. Three percent were in engineering programs and 7% were pursuing another type of credential such as a teacher certification. This is illustrated in Figure 7:
Of those responding class members who reported attending graduate school, over one-third (35%) were in graduate school for engineering or an applied science. Healthcare or a medical-related field accounted for 19% of the graduates reporting, 13% were in education, 9% were in social sciences, and 9% were in law school. Eight percent were in business, and the humanities (art, music, creative writing, or a related field) made up 7% of responding graduates. This is illustrated in Figure 8.
Coe’s Class of 2011 was represented at the following graduate and professional institutions:

Allen College
Arizona State University
Aurora University
Clarkson University
Columbia University
Dominican University
Drake University
Emerson College
Florida International University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Hamline University
Illinois State University
Iowa State University
Marquette University
Mary Mount College
Mercy College of Health Sciences
Minnesota State University

Morningside
North Carolina State University
Penn State University
St. Ambrose University
The University of Iowa
The University of Iowa College of Medicine
Tulane University
University of California, San Diego
University of Manchester
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri, St. Louis
University of Nebraska
University of Northern Iowa
University of Oklahoma, Tulsa
University of Oregon
University of South Dakota
University of Texas
Washington University, St. Louis
William Mitchell College

UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR

Figure 9 depicts the wide range of liberal arts majors represented by the Class of 2011. This information was gathered from the Class of 2011 master list retained in the Coe College Alumni Office. The number represented is greater than the total number of Class of 2011 alumni because many had more than one major.

Figure 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting/Public Accounting</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Studies</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Training</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Science</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre Arts</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing/Creative Writing</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coe College Class of 2011 Academic Majors
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Of the Class of 2011 graduates who participated in these surveys, 63% originated from the state of Iowa, 31% came from other states, and 6% came from other countries. This is depicted in Figure 10:

Figure 10

![Pie chart showing the geographical location of the Class of 2011 graduates.](image)

Figure 11 illustrates the current location of the Class of 2011. Of those responding to the survey, 59% stayed in Iowa after graduating from Coe, 7% moved to Illinois, 6% went to Minnesota, 4% went to California, and 3% went to Colorado. 17% moved to other states within the U.S.

Four percent of the Class of 2011 survey respondents reported living outside of the United States; countries included Nepal, Spain, China, and Mongolia. As a whole, the Class of 2011 went further afield than the Class of 2010. In total, there were 24 states represented by this class’s survey respondents, compared to 16 states represented by the Class of 2010. The Class of 2010 did not report any alumni living outside the U.S. one year after graduation, whereas 4% of the Class of 2011 survey respondents reported doing so.
HOW COE HELPED STUDENTS PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE

Coe College is intentional about developing educational programs and engaging in individual career counseling to facilitate students’ preparation for life after college. Practical support is offered by Career Services through workshops, events, and individual counseling, among other opportunities.

Alumni from the Class of 2011 were asked to offer their opinions about the most helpful aspects of their Coe College experience. Eighty-two percent of respondents said that they had used Career Services when they were students. The two most popular activities were the individual appointments with a career counselor, cited by 26% of respondents, and a workshop offered by Career Services (23%). Figure 12 illustrates the responses.
**Figure 12**

**Coe College Class of 2011**

*What college activities best prepared you for life after college?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Service/Service Learning</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Dinner</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Services workshop</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Planning workshop in a classroom</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual appointment(s) with Career Counselor</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOW SURVEY RESULTS WERE GATHERED**

The information for this report was gathered through the Senior Survey, administered just before graduation, and the First Destination Survey conducted one year later. The latter survey was developed in an electronic format using an online survey tool called *Survey Monkey*. The survey was distributed twice via email with an online link. We made other attempts through online social networking sites such as LinkedIn and Facebook to contact 2011 alumni to gather updated information. All survey and social networking information was then combined for this report.

A total of **269 alumni** from the Class of 2011 (out of 284 graduates) were represented in this report, accounting for 95% of the class.

*Note: Not all questions were answered by all survey respondents.*
CONCLUSION

This report provides a variety of information from different sources about the “first-destination” activities of the Coe College Class of 2011 up to one year after graduation. Questions related to this report may be directed to any of the Career Services staff listed below.

2011 – 2012 Career Services Staff

Diana Rae Patten, M.A.
Career Services & Internship Director

Michelle McIllece, M.B.A.
Career Services Coordinator

Judi Dirks, A.A.
Administrative Assistant

Jenny Noyce, B.A.
Graduate Assistant (University of Iowa)

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Peyton Frank
Ethan Lawrence
Jason Maldonis
Hannah Vanourney
Jessica Wilson

Summer Student Assistants – Student Affairs

Isaac Fox-Poulsen – 2011
Alan Reed – 2012

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Special thanks to community editors
Denise Marie Mineck and Mike Benge.