

# Coe College Class of 2007 First Destination Survey Report

Prepared by Coe College Office of Career Services

## Career Services Mission Statement

*Empowering people to discover the importance of passion and personal fulfillment toward career and life goals.*



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).

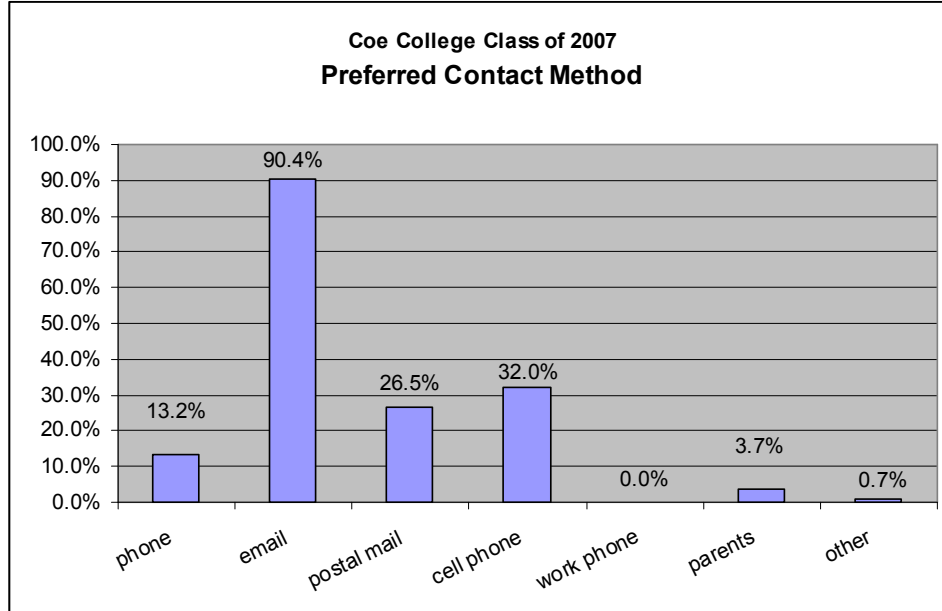
Alumni who did not respond to either email attempt or to the mailed version were then contacted by Career Services staff by telephone. Approximately three telephone attempts were made for each person, either by landline or cell phone, or through a parent. Attempts to contact alumni and to gather updated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

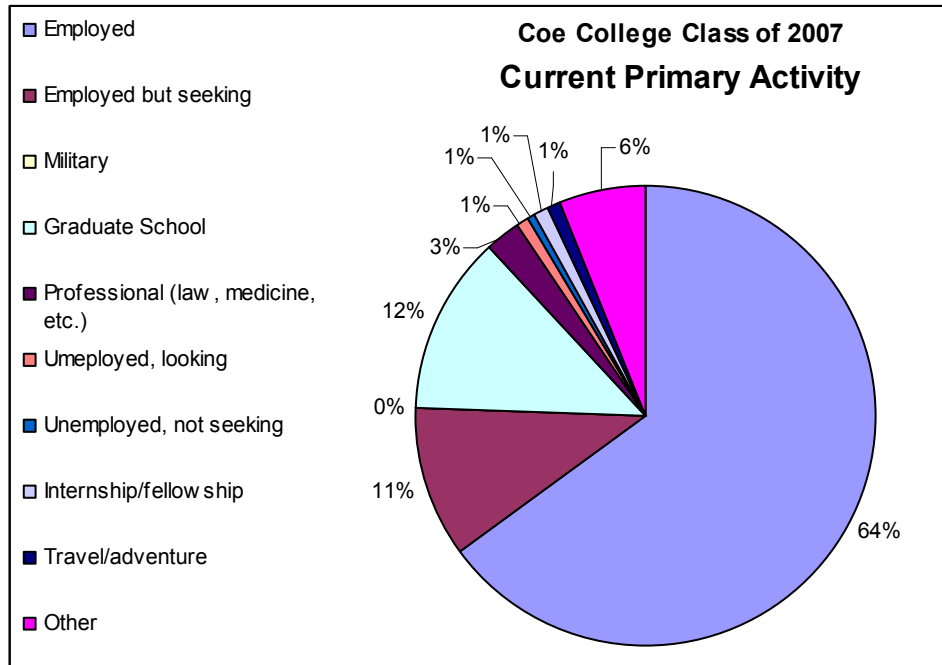
After all contact attempts had been completed, a total of 151 alumni from the Class of 2007 (out of 293 graduates) responded to the survey, a response rate of 52%. Note: Not all questions were answered by all Class of 2007 alumni.

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):



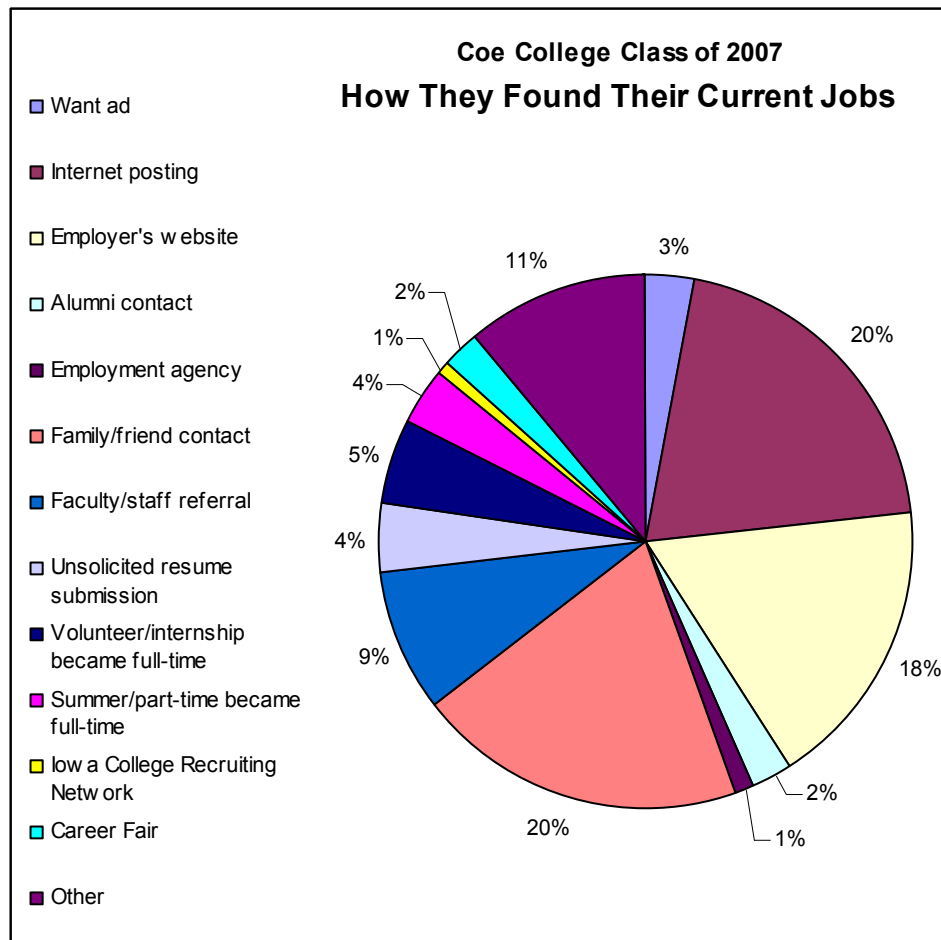
**Figure 2** gives a “snapshot” overview of what the Class of 2007 survey respondents reported doing one year after graduation.



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.

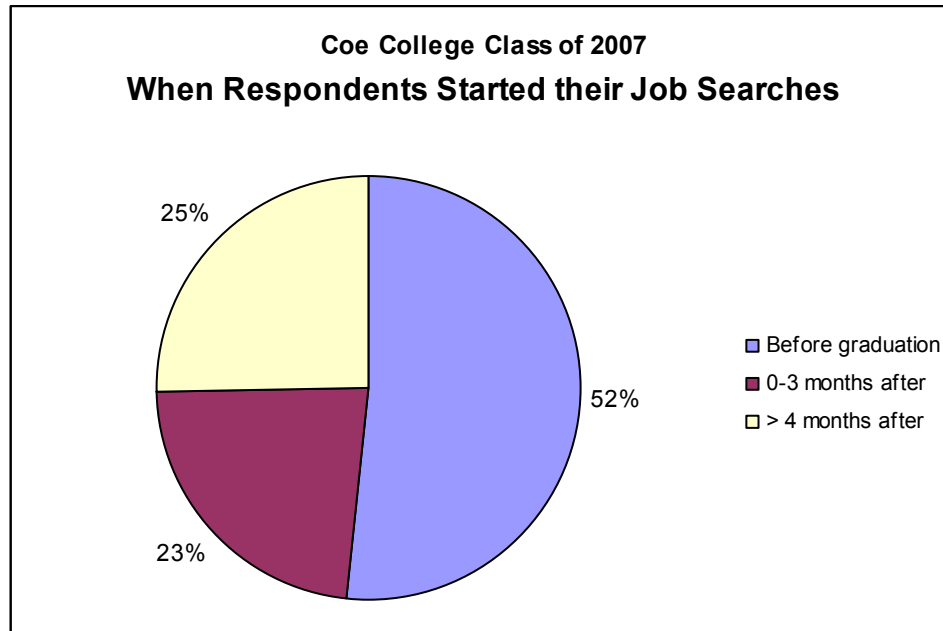
Figure 3



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 1/4

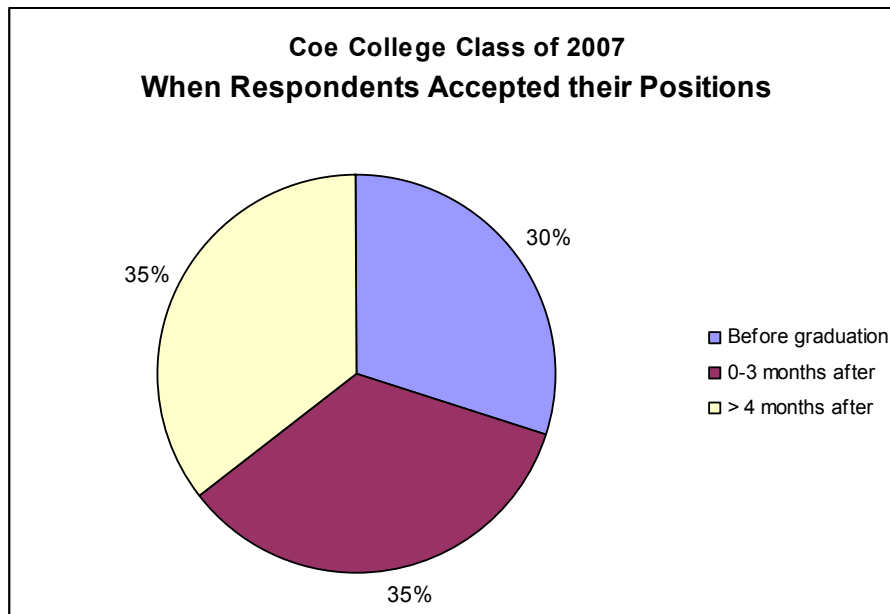
admitting that their job searches did not start until more than 4 months later. [Figure 4](#) shows this breakdown.

[Figure 4](#)



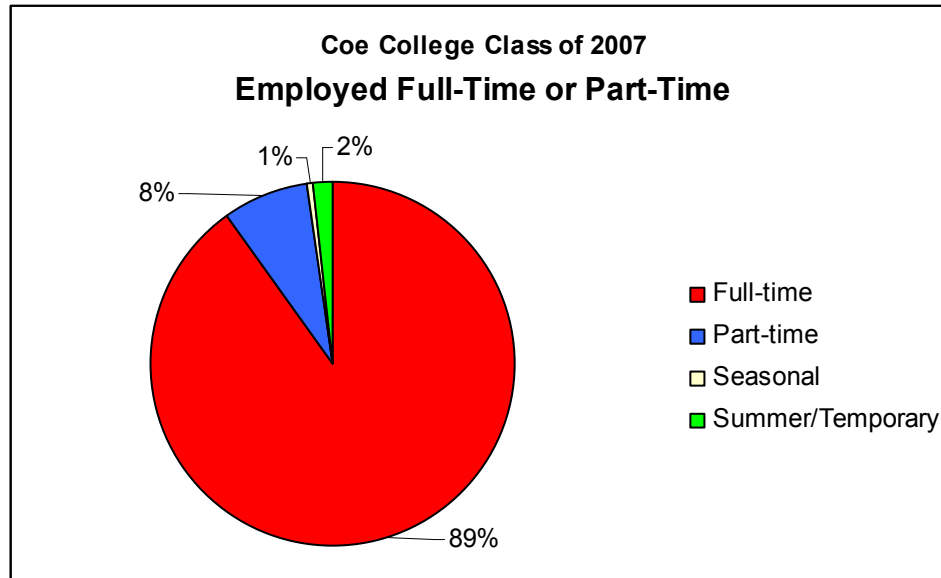
Predictably, a large percentage of respondents (70%) did not accept their job offers until after graduation; over 1/3 of respondents accepted their positions more than 4 months after their graduation dates. This is illustrated in [Figure 5](#):

[Figure 5](#)



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



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

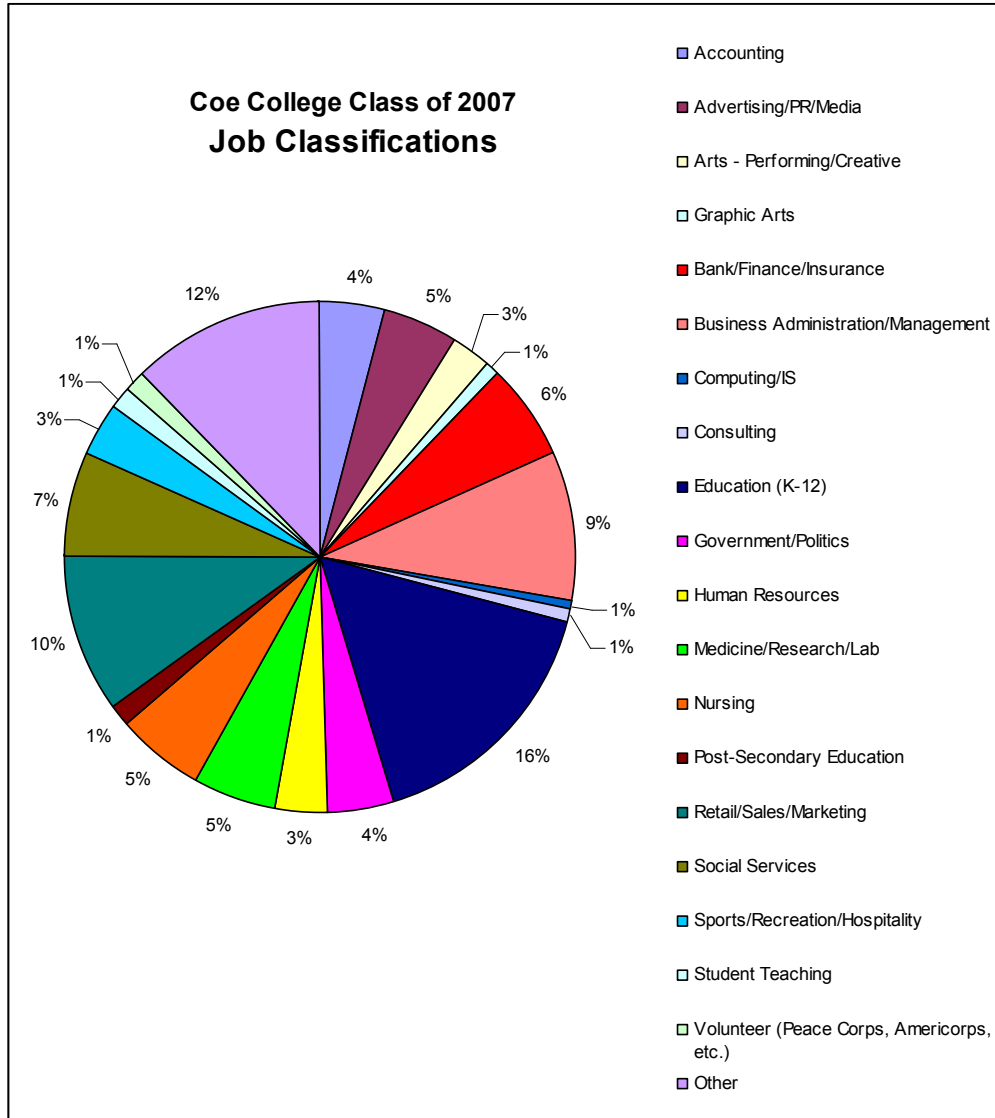
- |                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Henderson Mine                    | Wells Fargo                           |
| Cellular Dynamics International   | Mayo Clinic                           |
| Rockwell Collins                  | Bickford Cottage Assisted Living      |
| Pella Regional Health Center      | Larimer Center for Mental Health      |
| Marion Independent Schools        | Comprehensive Community Solutions     |
| Walgreen's                        | Xavier High School                    |
| The ARC                           | Iowa Dept. of Human Services          |
| The Gap                           | Bowling Green State University        |
| McGladrey & Pullen, LLP           | University of Michigan News Service   |
| St. Ambrose University            | Oyster Adams Bilingual Middle School  |
| Quad City Steamwheelers           | Biotest Pharmaceuticals               |
| Alliant Energy                    | Northwestern Mutual                   |
| Friend and Company Fine Jewelers  | Quaker Oats                           |
| Mercy Medical Center              | Tanager Place                         |
| Deck the Walls                    | Silliker Labs, Inc.                   |
| Primerica Financial Services      | St. Luke's Hospital                   |
| U of I Carver College of Medicine | Iowa Democratic Party                 |
| Veridian Credit Union             | Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education |
| Loyola University Chicago         | Advocacy Strategies                   |
| Estes Park School District        | Terry Dowd, Inc.                      |
| Des Moines Public Schools         | Northwestern Mutual Financial         |
| Mulligan's Pub                    | 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 Skrivaneķ 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



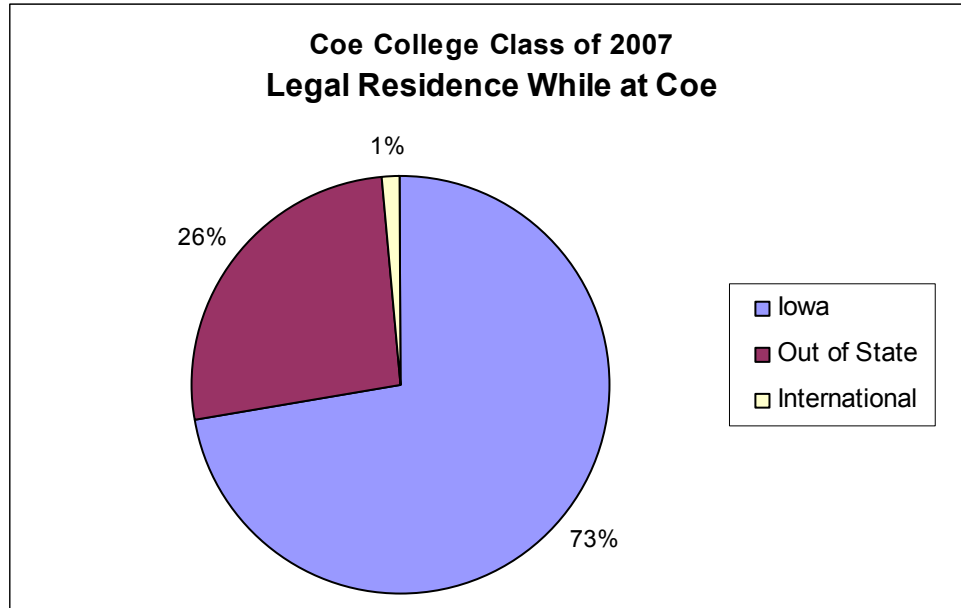
Some of the job titles reported by the Class of 2007 include:

Digital Photographer	Team Lead
Middle School Music Teacher	Financial Representative
Nurse – Birth Care Center	Production Associate
Environmental Educator	Treatment Counselor
Americorps Service Member	Market Analysis Coordinator
Receptionist	Microbiologist
Research Specialist	Campaign Manager
Senior Trading Associate	Assistant Language Teacher
ER Nurse	Advocacy/Public Affairs Manager
Substitute Teacher	Project Manager
Senior Certified Pharmacy Technician	Recruiting Coordinator
Program Supervisor	Communication Assistant
Asst. Jr. Brand Logistics Coordinator	Stone Mason
Assurance Associate	Manager of Store Operations
Head Defensive Line Coach	Foreign Language Assistant Editor
Semi-Pro Football Player	Pediatrics/Obstetrics RN
Mgr, Orthopedics Specialists Complex	Contact Center Specialist
Customer Service Representative	Personal Trainer
Administrative Assistant	Professional Numismatist
Chief Accountant	Media Production Coordinator
Design Consultant	Barter Player
Senior Regional Leader	Sales Representative
Athletic Trainer	Head Athletic Trainer
Loan Officer	Branch Account Manager
Technology Teacher	Advertising Coordinator
Grade School Teacher	Paraeducator
Graduate Research Assistant	Merchandiser
Personal Banker	Sponsorship Intern
Operating Room Nurse	Product Manager
Director of Life Enrichment	K-12 Vocal Music Teacher
Counselor	Master Electrician
Participant Contact Specialist	Kindergarten Teacher
Investment Analyst	Head Softball Coach
English Tutor	Services Coordinator
Community Partnership Coordinator	Staff Accountant II
Art Teacher	High End Marketing Representative
Social Worker II	Agency Principal/Owner
Greek Life Graduate Assistant	Archives Assistant
Editorial Assistant	Preliminary Pages Coordinator
Middle School English Teacher	Study Technician
Credit Analyst	Regional Reporter
Project/Proposal Coordinator	Matriculation Coordinator
Therapy Trainee	Customer Account Specialist



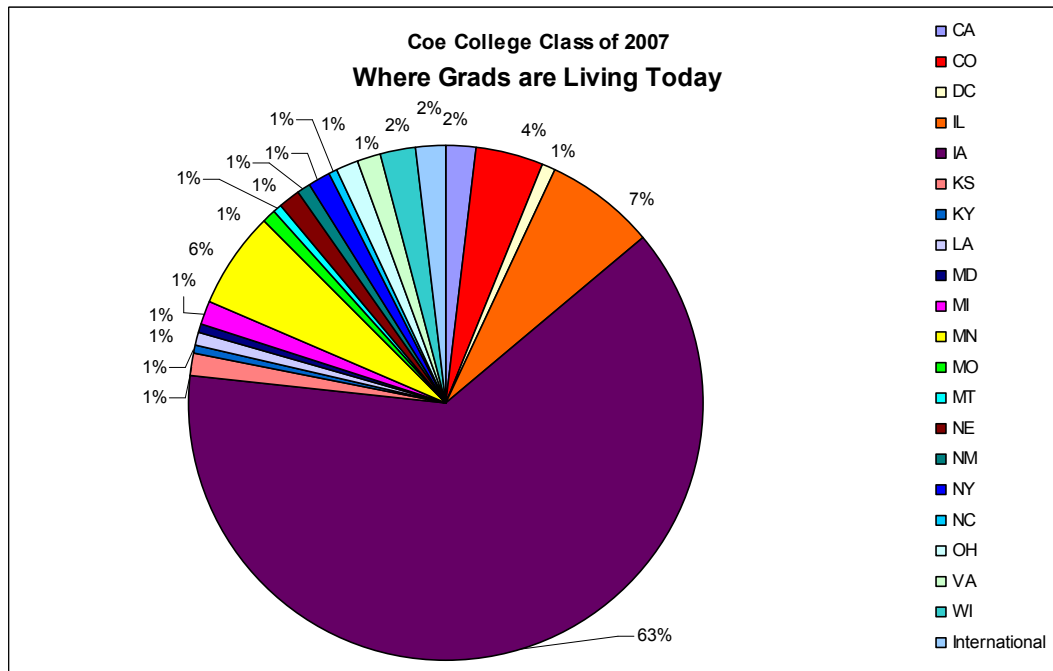
Of the Class of 2007 graduates who participated in this survey, nearly 3/4 originated from the state of Iowa, as depicted in Figure 8:

Figure 8



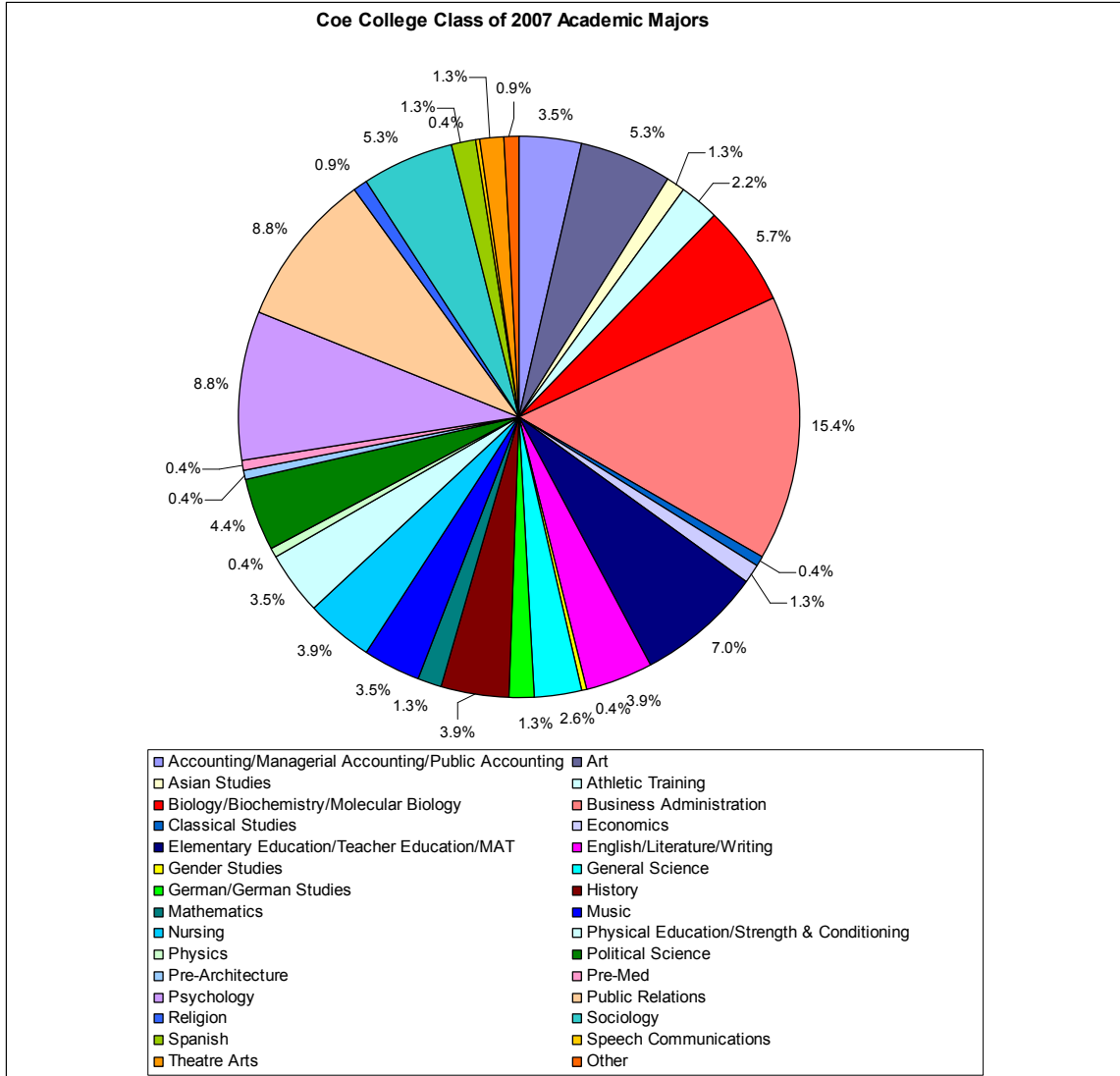
As illustrated in Figure 9, almost 40% of the Class of 2007 survey respondents moved on to lives outside of Iowa after graduation:

Figure 9



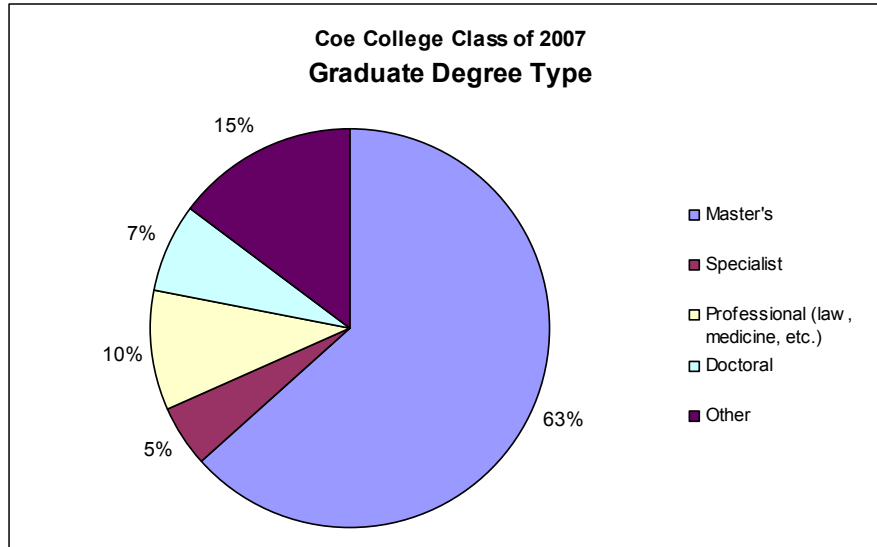
A wide range of liberal arts majors were well-represented by the members of the Class of 2007 who responded to the survey. The following chart, Figure 10, shows the academic majors reported by the Class of 2007 who took the first destination survey.

**Figure 10**



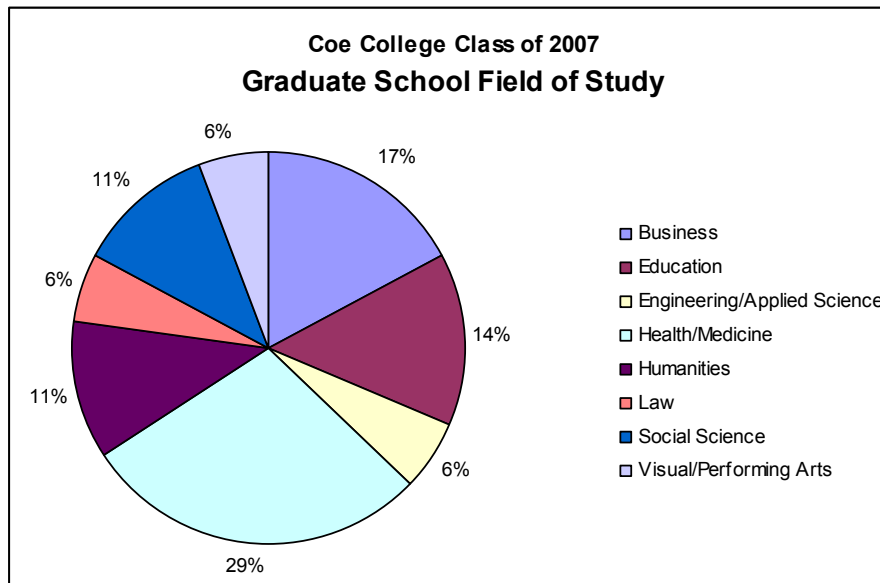
While much of the Class of 2007 reported working full-time one year after graduation, 15% of them are in graduate/professional school in a wide variety of fields. Of those alumni, close to 2/3 are pursuing Master's degrees, as illustrated in Figure 11:

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  $\frac{3}{4}$ ) indicated plans to attend in the future, as shown in Figure 13:

Figure 13

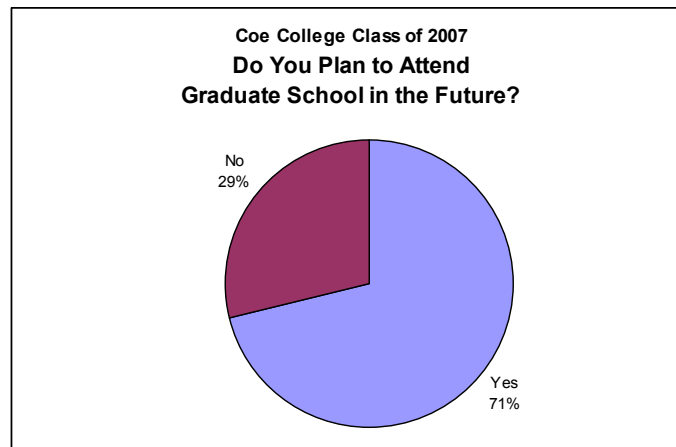


Figure 14 show that, of the alumni who have future plans to go to grad school, nearly 80% have plans to go within the next 4 years:

Figure 14

