Coe College Class of 2008
First Destination Survey Report

Prepared by Coe College Office of Career Services and Internships

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 and Internships from Coe’s Class of 2008 First Destination Survey and the Senior Survey Administered prior to graduation.

The purpose of the survey is to acquire a “snapshot” view about what kind of activities Coe’s recent graduates are participating in, including employment, graduate school, or other endeavors, up to one year after matriculating from the college. Over all, 66% of the Class of 2008 responded to one of the surveys.
CURRENT ACTIVITY

Figure 1 gives a “snapshot” overview of what the Class of 2008 survey respondents reported doing up to one year after graduation:

Figure 1

Over two-thirds of the Class of 2008 (68%) survey participants is employed and nearly one-quarter (22%) were attending graduate school; an additional 6% were in a professional program such as medicine or law. Only 3% said that they were unemployed and still looking for a job. It is important to note that when class members were contacted for this survey, they were reminded that one of the benefits offered to them as Coe alumni were the no-fee services provided by Coe’s Career Services office, including career and/or graduate school exploration.

Of those students who reported gainful employment one year following their 2008 graduation from Coe, 87% were employed full-time, as illustrated in Figure 2:

Figure 2
Employment Search Detail

When working with clients, both students and alumni, one of our Career Services’ goals is to help them understand that the most effective job search strategy is to use multiple resources. The Class of 2008 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 23% and 27% of respondents, respectively. Figure 3 illustrates these and other methods reported by the survey respondents.

Note: this information was not collected for those members of the Class of 2008 whose information was gathered through the pre-graduation Senior Survey.

Figure 3
Research supports early and frequent use of a college career services office throughout a student’s college career and Coe students are encouraged to make liberal use of the plentiful resources offered by the Career Services staff. Students are also advised to start their full-time job searches well before their graduation dates. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (64%) reported starting their job searches before graduation, and 35% said that they did not start looking until after graduation; almost ¼ admitted that they did not start their job searches until more than 4 months later. Figure 4 shows this breakdown.

**Figure 4**

![Pie chart showing when Coe College Class of 2008 started their job searches](image)

Although more than half of respondents (59%) did not accept their job offers until after graduation and nearly 1/3 of respondents accepted their positions more than 4 months later, more than 40% of the Class of 2008 reported having a job offer in hand before they graduated (see Figure 5).

**Figure 5**

![Pie chart showing when Coe College Class of 2008 accepted their positions](image)
UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR
A wide range of liberal arts majors were well-represented by the members of the Class of 2008. The following chart, Figure 6, shows the academic majors reported by the Class of 2008 who participated in the survey process:

Figure 6

[Bar chart showing the distribution of academic majors among the Class of 2008. The majors are listed vertically, with the number of students in each major indicated by the length of the bar. The majors include Accounting/Public Accounting, Art, Athletic Training, Biology, Business Administration, Chemistry, Communications/Speech, Computer Science, Economics, Education, English, Environmental Science, French/French Studies, General Science, History, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Neuroscience, Nursing, Philosophy, Physical Education, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Public Relations, Religion, Sociology, Spanish, Theatre Arts, Writing, and Other.]
JOB CLASSIFICATIONS

Figure 7 shows the classifications of the jobs held by the Class of 2008 survey respondents; 26% are in business-related occupations (Accounting, Advertising/Public Relations/Media, Banking/Finance, Business Administration/Management, or Human Resources). 25% are in K-12 Education, and 9% are in Retail/Sales/Marketing.

Here are some of the employers reported by the Class of 2008:

- AEGON USA, LLC Companies
- American Laser Center
- Archer Daniels Midland
- Arthrocare Sports Medicine
- Augustana College
- Bergan Paulsen & Company
- Cargill
- Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust
- Cedar Rapids Community Schools
- Cedar Rapids Country Club
- Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival
- Cedar Rapids Kernels
Cedar Rapids Symphony School
City of Cedar Rapids
Coe College
CRST
Dension Community School District
Diversity Focus
Dunkerton Community School
Eagle Market Makers
Edina Public School
Foundation 2
Four Oaks
Fraser Child and Family Center
Ft. Madison High School
Genesis Medical Center
Genova Technologies
GIT Diagnostics, Inc.
GNC
Grand Casino & Resorts
Granite City Restaurant
GreatAmerica Leasing Corporation
Grinnell High School
Hallberg, Jacobsen, Johnson & Viner, P.L.C.
Hawkeye Steel Products, Inc.
Home Concept/LampsUSA
IACE Travel
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Iowa City Police Department
Iowa Farmer Today
Iowa State University
Kansas Campus Compact
Kindred Health
Krause Gentle, L.C.
Kuder, Inc.
Lane Bryant
Lewis Central Community Schools
Lisbon Community School District
Litton Loan Servicing LP
Louisa County Extension
Mautz Paint
Mercy Medical Center
Mount Vernon High School
Mountainair Public Schools
Nationwide Mutual
Noble Network of Charter Schools
Northland Fitness
Northshore University Healthsystem
Novelis Corp
Pendergast School District
Petco
Pitney Bowes
Planned Parenthood of East Central Iowa
Primerica
Principal Financial Group
Quality Concrete Co
Regis Middle School
Ricondo & Associates, Inc.
Rockford Fire Department
Rockwell Collins
Rowe-Clark Math & Science Academy
Ruffalo Cody
Sam's Club
Sanford Wellness Center
Seabrook Island Racquet Club
Silliker Labs
Social Security Administration
St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School
St. Joseph Medical Center
St. Louis Children's Hospital
St. Luke's Hospital
Starry Elementary
Tanager Place
Teach for America
The Graphic Edge
The Midwest Athletic Club
Trio Upward Bound
U.S. Bank
United Fire Group
United Hands
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
University of Northern Iowa
VA Medical Center
Vinton Police Department
W.H.A.T. Theatre
Wabash College
Waukee Community School District
Wells Fargo
West Branch Middle School
Willow Brook Center
Winfield-Mt. Union Community School District
Youth Law Center
Some of the JOB TITLES reported by the Class of 2008 include:

- Baseball Coach
- Basketball Coach
- Actuary
- Administrative Assistant
- Advanced Programmer Specialist
- AmeriCorps NCCC/VISTA Member
- Art Instructor
- Football Coach
- Wrestling Coach
- Band Teacher
- Bartender
- Purchasing Manager
- Campus Staff Member
- Civil Servant
- Coach/Substitute Teacher
- Commodities Trader
- Communications Coordinator
- Community Relations Director
- Airport Environmental Planner
- Customer Service Associate
- Division Recruiter
- Engineering Project Specialist
- English Instructor in Japan
- ER Staff Nurse
- Exercise Specialist/Personal Trainer
- Financial Analyst
- Firefighter
- Fleet Manager
- Futures Trader
- Grounds Crew
- Health Science Research Specialist
- Health Screening Specialist
- High School Choral Director
- Human Resources Specialist
- Information Security Engineer
- Inside Claims Representative Trainee
- Intake Coordinator
- Job Site Supervisor
- Lab Assistant
- Law Clerk
- Licensed Massage Therapist
- Loan Officer
- Marketing Director
- Membership Champion
- Merchant
- Mortgage Loan Consultant
- Music Instructor
- Pantry Chef
- Parent/Teen Educator
- Patient Care Technician
- Plant Manager
- Police Officer
- Production Supervisor
- Production/Editorial Assistant
- Program Associate
- Public Relations Coordinator
- Quality Assurance Lab Technician
- Registered Nurse
- Research Editor/Writer
- Residence Director
- RN, Medical/Surgical/Cardiovascular
- Sales Representative
- School Support Project Manager
- Secretary/Office Manager
- Senior Engineering Manager
- Small Animal Specialist
- Social Coordinator/Pro Shop Operations
- Software Engineer
- Spanish Teacher
- Spokesmodel
- Stagehand
- Stained Glass Specialist
- Store Manager
- Street Outreach
- Surveillance Manager
- Tax Accountant
- Technical Sales Specialist
- Teller
- Trader Assistant
- Travel Agent
- Unit Secretary
- Youth Counselor
GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL
While much of the Class of 2008 reported working full-time during the year following graduation, 28% of them were continuing their educations in graduate school, professional school, or in another area. Of those alumni, 63% are pursuing Master’s degrees, 9% were pursuing PhDs, and 21% were pursuing professional degrees such as medicine or law. This is illustrated in Figure 8:

Figure 8

Of those responding class members who were in graduate school, 21% were studying in a healthcare or medical-related field, 20% were in engineering and applied science, 20% were studying a humanities-related field such as art or music, 18% were pursuing post-graduate degrees in education, 9% were in law, 7% were in the social sciences, and 5% were in business (see Figure 9).
Coe’s Class of 2008 is represented at many fine institutions, including the following:

- East Carolina University
- Columbia University
- University of California – Irvine
- University of California – Davis
- University of Northern Iowa
- University of Iowa
- Dallas Institute of Funeral Service
- UCLA
- University of Texas
- University of Oregon
- University of Southern Missouri
- Valparaiso University School of Law
- University of Kansas
- University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
- Northwestern University
- Logan College of Chiropractic
- Princeton Theological Seminary
- Louisiana State University
- Thomas M. Cooley Law School
- Florida International University
- Bowling Green State University

As of the time this information was collected, 28% of the Class of 2008 reported being in graduate or professional school; however, 1/3 of survey participants indicated plans to attend in the future, as shown in Figure 10:
Figure 11 shows that, of the alumni who have future plans to go to graduate school, 75% have plans to go within the next 4 years.
**GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION**

Of the Class of 2008 graduates who participated in these surveys, 78% originated from the state of Iowa, as depicted in Figure 12:

**Figure 12**

Nearly 71% of the Class of 2008 survey respondents stayed in Iowa after graduating from Coe, and about 6% moved to Illinois. The remaining 23% have pursued their post-college interests all over the United States, in 22 different states as well as the District of Columbia (see Figure 13).

**Figure 13**
**BEST WAY TO REACH THE CLASS OF 2008**

In order to know the best method for contacting Coe alumni in the future, we asked the question “What are the best ways to reach you?” As the following chart (Figure 14) depicts, email was by far the preferred contact method:

**Figure 14**

![Preferred Contact Method Chart]

*Note: percentages add up to greater than 100% because each respondent was allowed to choose more than one preferred contact method.*

**HOW SURVEY RESULTS WERE GATHERED:**

The information was gathered through the Senior Survey, administered just before graduation, as well as through a follow up survey conducted one year after graduation.

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). Attempts to contact alumni and to gather updated contact information were also made via online social networking sites such as Facebook.

After all contact attempts had been completed, a total of 182 alumni from the Class of 2008 (out of 293 graduates) responded to the survey, a response rate of 66%. Note: Not all questions were answered by all Class of 2008 alumni.

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