

# 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.*



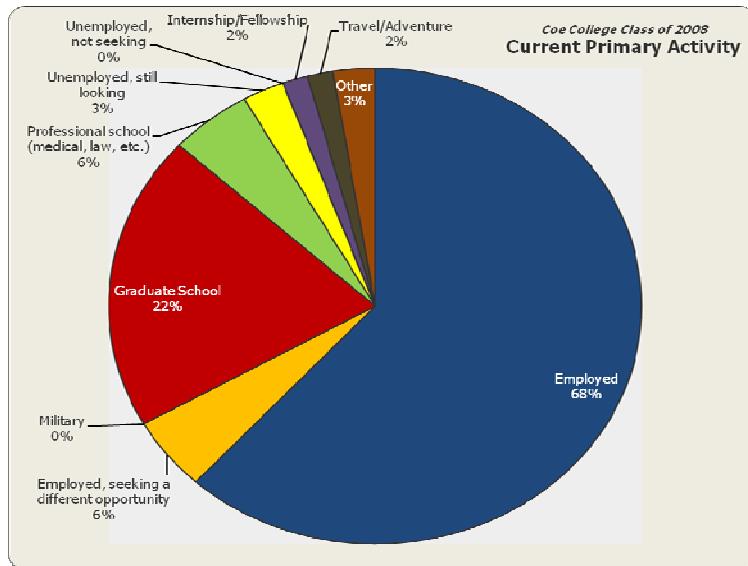
The following information was compiled by Coe College's Office of Career Services and Internships from Coe's Class of 2008 *First Destination Survey* and the Senior Survey Administered prior to graduation.

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:

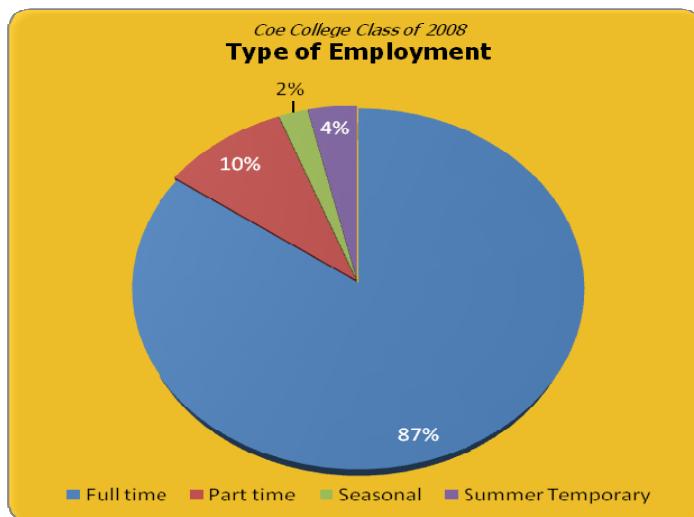
**Figure 1**



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**

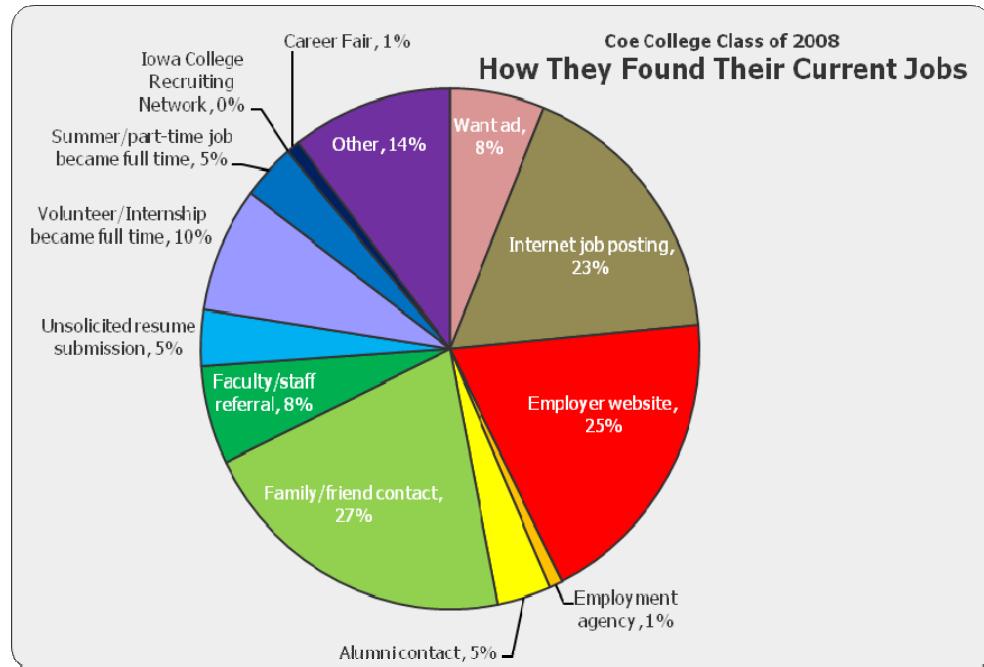


### **EMPLOYMENT SEARCH DETAIL**

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.

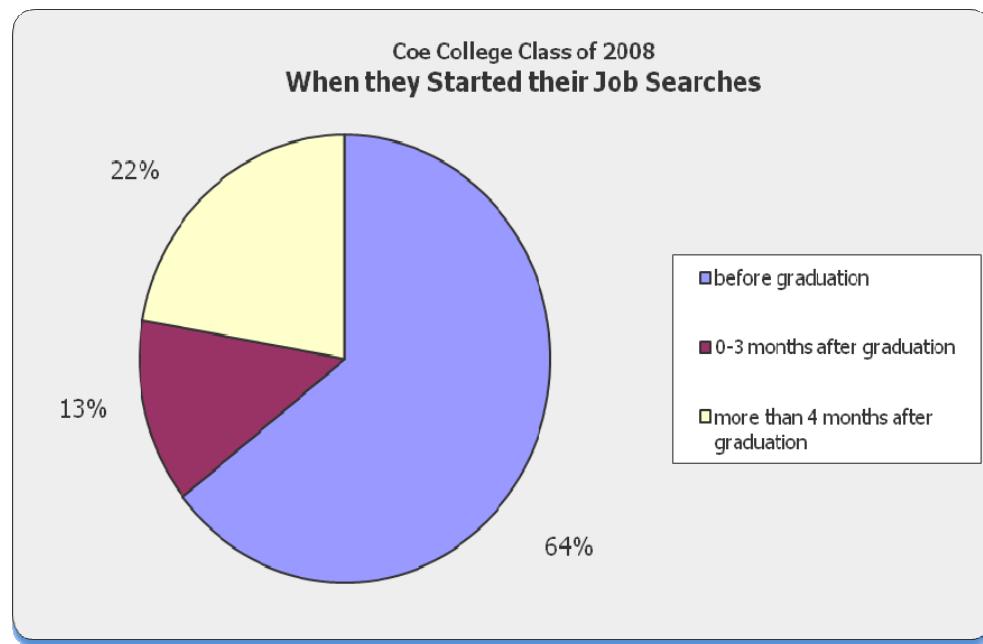
*Note: this information was not collected for those members of the Class of 2008 whose information was gathered through the pre-graduation Senior Survey.*

**Figure 3**



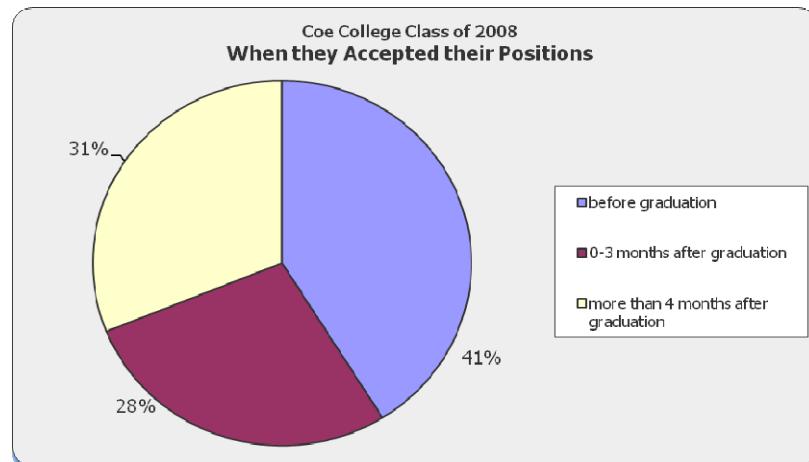
Research supports early and frequent use of a college career services office throughout a student's college career and Coe students are encouraged to make liberal use of the plentiful resources offered by the Career Services staff. Students are also advised to start their full-time job searches well 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 1/4 admitted that they did not start their job searches until more than 4 months later. Figure 4 shows this breakdown.

**Figure 4**



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).

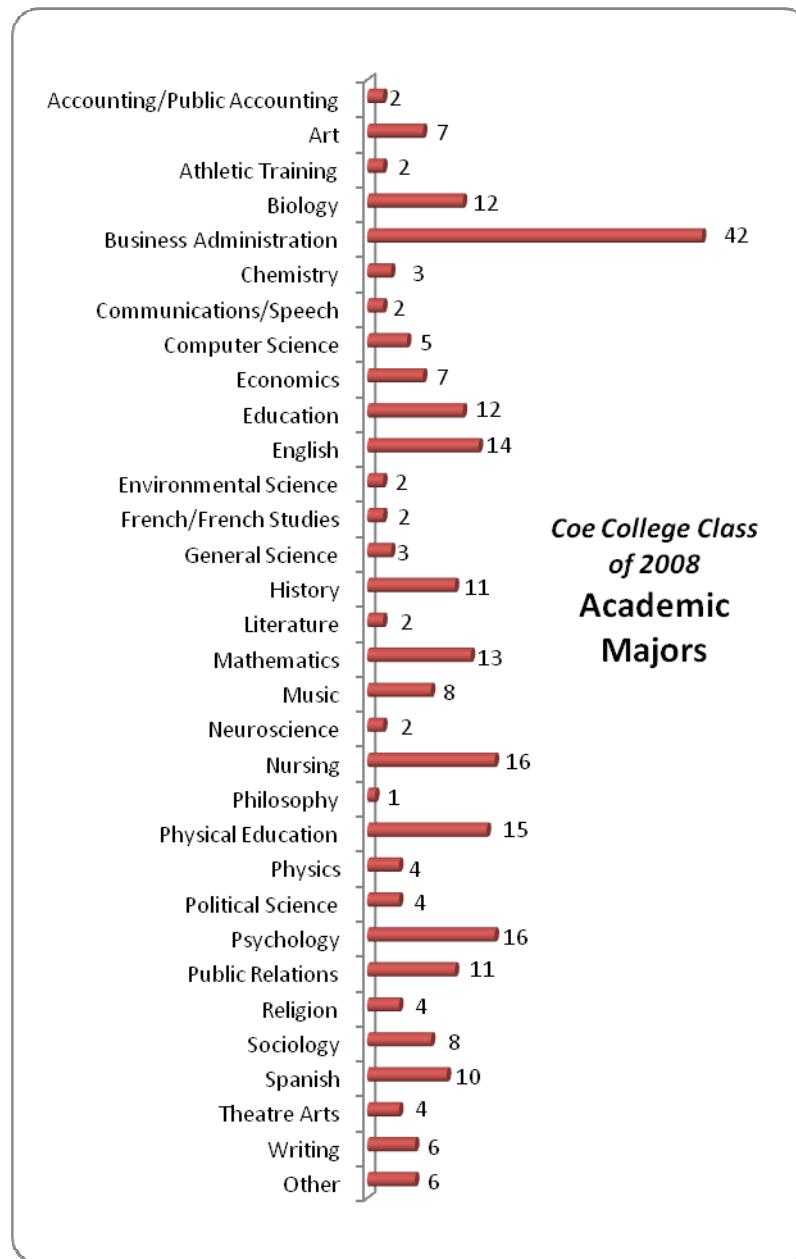
**Figure 5**



## **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:

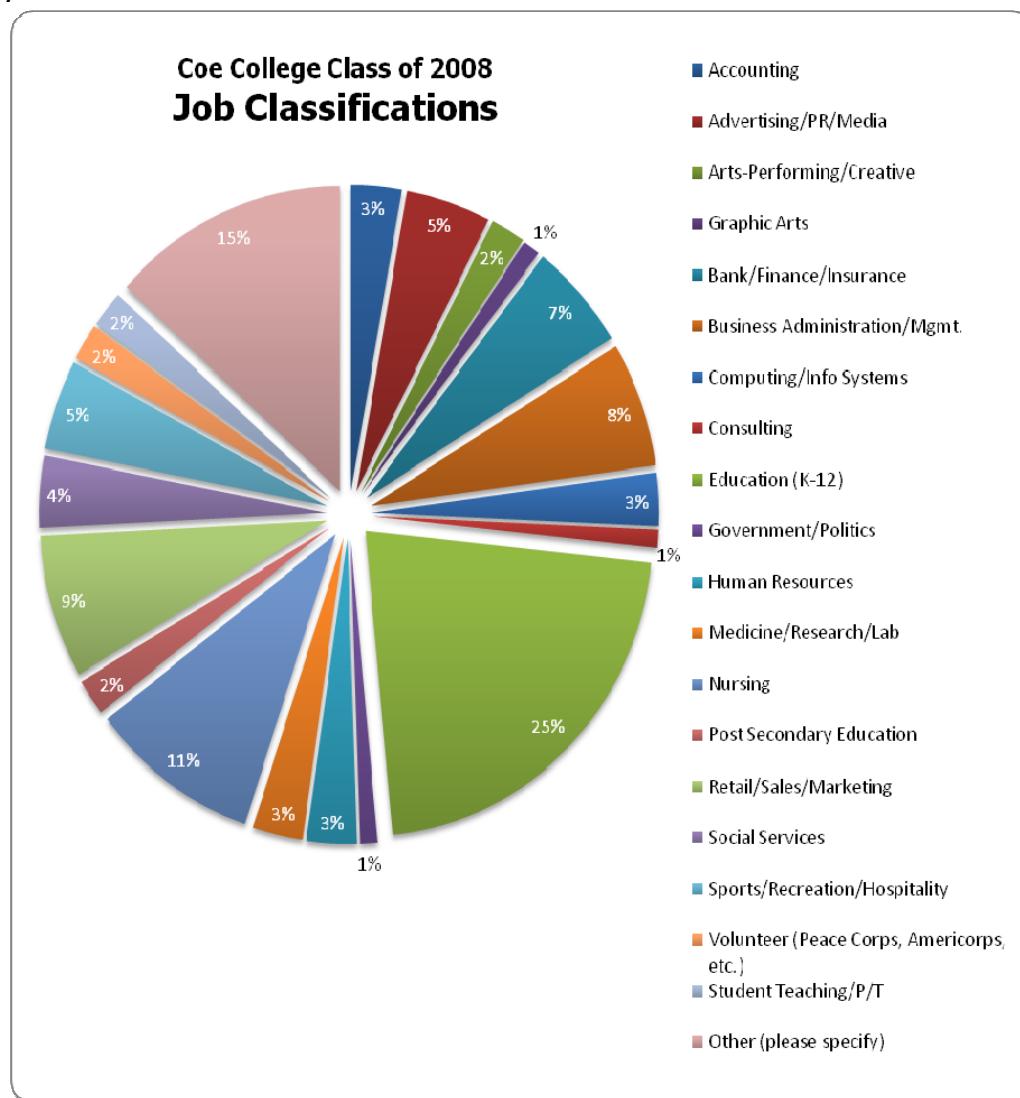
**Figure 6**



## **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.

**Figure 7**



## **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  
UW-Milwaukee Music Department  
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

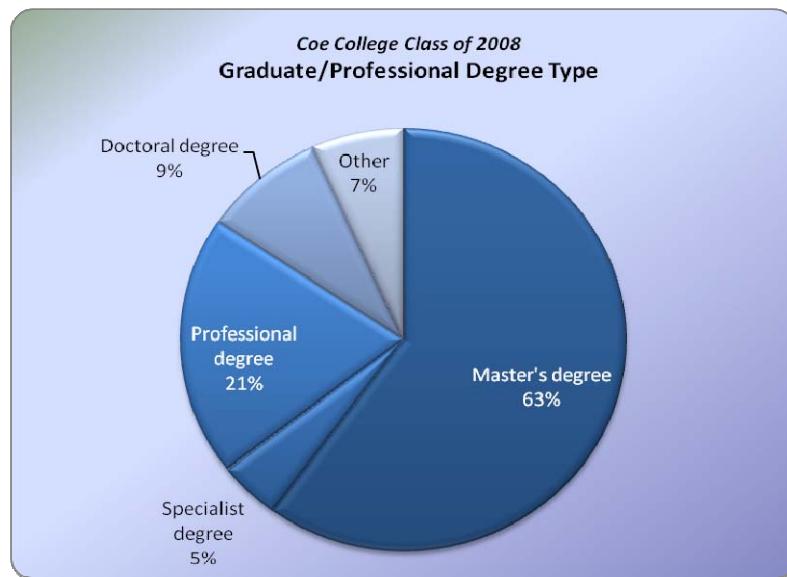
**Some of the JOB TITLES reported by the Class of 2008 include:**

Baseball Coach	Merchant
Basketball Coach	Mortgage Loan Consultant
Actuary	Music Instructor
Administrative Assistant	Pantry Chef
Advanced Programmer Specialist	Parent/Teen Educator
AmeriCorps NCCC/VISTA Member	Patient Care Technician
Art Instructor	Plant Manager
Football Coach	Police Officer
Wrestling Coach	Production Supervisor
Band Teacher	Production/Editorial Assistant
Bartender	Program Associate
Purchasing Manager	Public Relations Coordinator
Campus Staff Member	Quality Assurance Lab Technician
Civil Servant	Registered Nurse
Coach/Substitute Teacher	Research Editor/Writer
Commodities Trader	Residence Director
Communications Coordinator	RN, Medical/Surgical/Cardiovascular
Community Relations Director	Sales Representative
Airport Environmental Planner	School Support Project Manager
Customer Service Associate	Secretary/Office Manager
Division Recruiter	Senior Engineering Manager
Engineering Project Specialist	Small Animal Specialist
English Instructor in Japan	Social Coordinator/Pro Shop Operations
ER Staff Nurse	Software Engineer
Exercise Specialist/Personal Trainer	Spanish Teacher
Financial Analyst	Spokesmodel
Firefighter	Stagehand
Fleet Manager	Stained Glass Specialist
Futures Trader	Store Manager
Grounds Crew	Street Outreach
Health Science Research Specialist	Surveillance Manager
Health Screening Specialist	Tax Accountant
High School Choral Director	Technical Sales Specialist
Human Resources Specialist	Teller
Information Security Engineer	Trader Assistant
Inside Claims Representative Trainee	Travel Agent
Intake Coordinator	Unit Secretary
Job Site Supervisor	Youth Counselor
Lab Assistant	
Law Clerk	
Licensed Massage Therapist	
Loan Officer	
Marketing Director	
Membership Champion	

## **GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL**

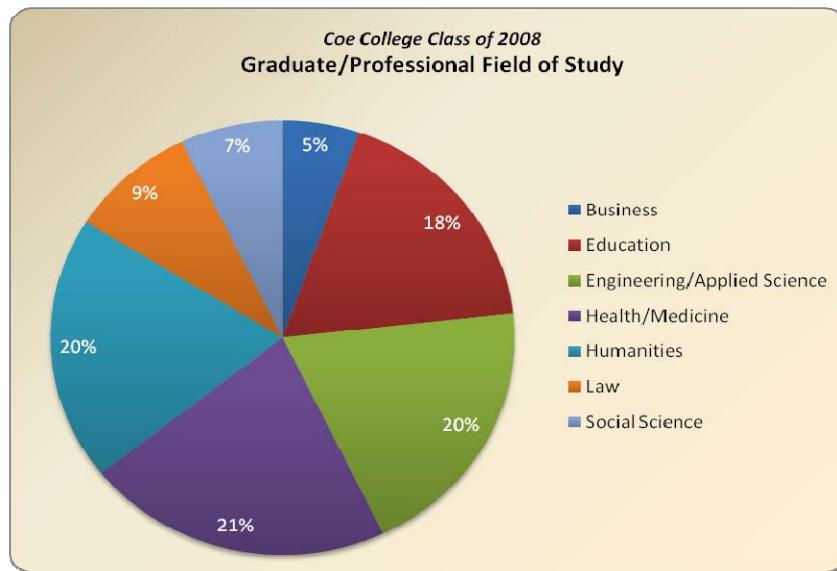
While much of the Class of 2008 reported working full-time during the year following graduation, 28% of them were continuing their educations in graduate school, professional school, or in another area. Of those alumni, 63% are pursuing Master's degrees, 9% were pursuing PhDs, and 21% were pursuing professional 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).

**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 10**

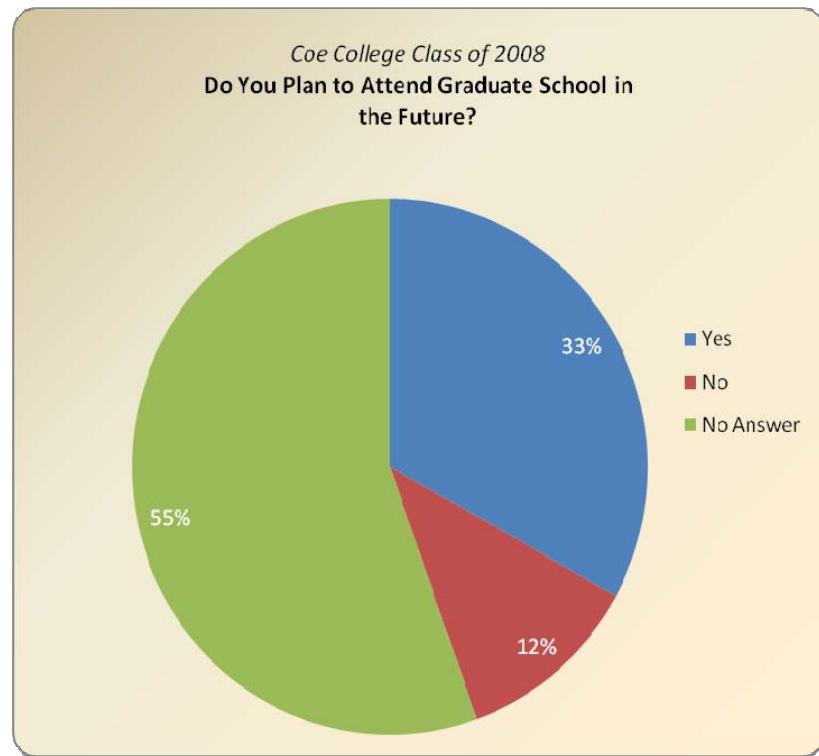
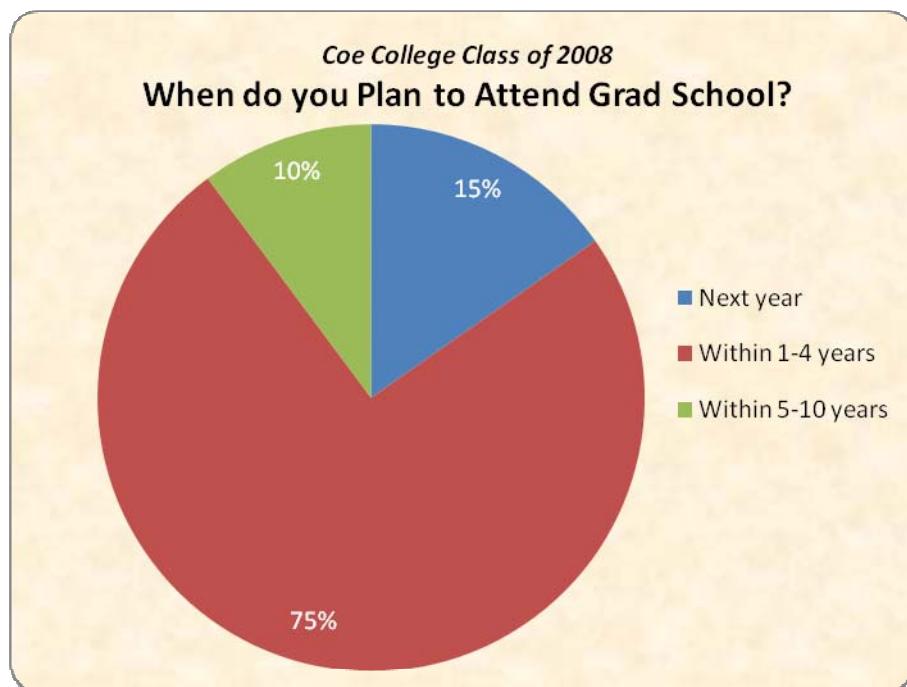


Figure 11 shows that, of the alumni who have future plans to go to graduate school, 75% have plans to go within the next 4 years:

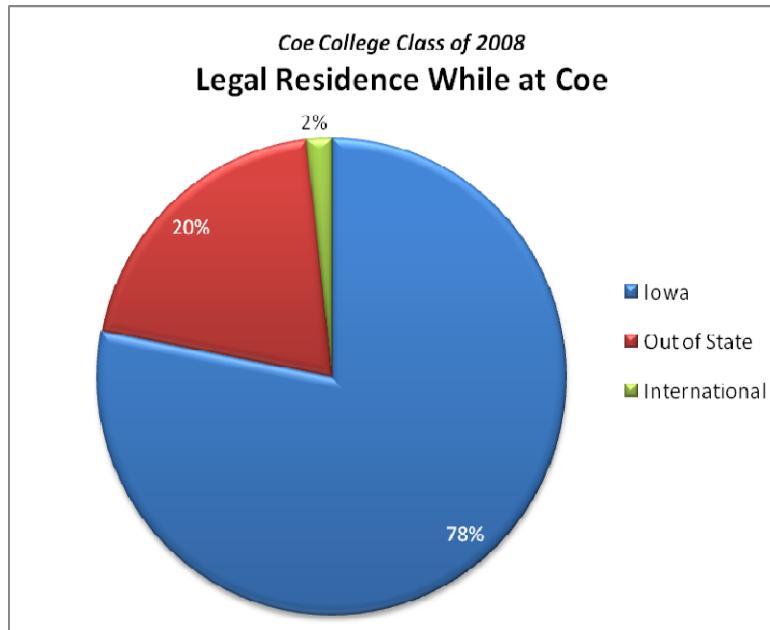
**Figure 11**



## **GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION**

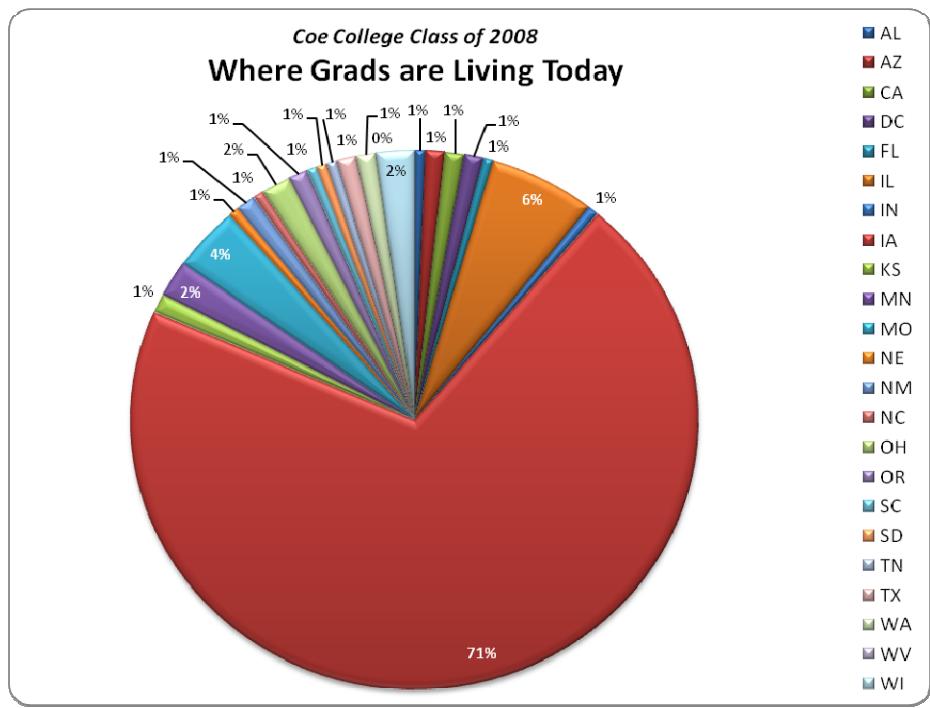
Of the Class of 2008 graduates who participated in these surveys, 78% originated from the state of Iowa, as depicted in Figure 12:

**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).

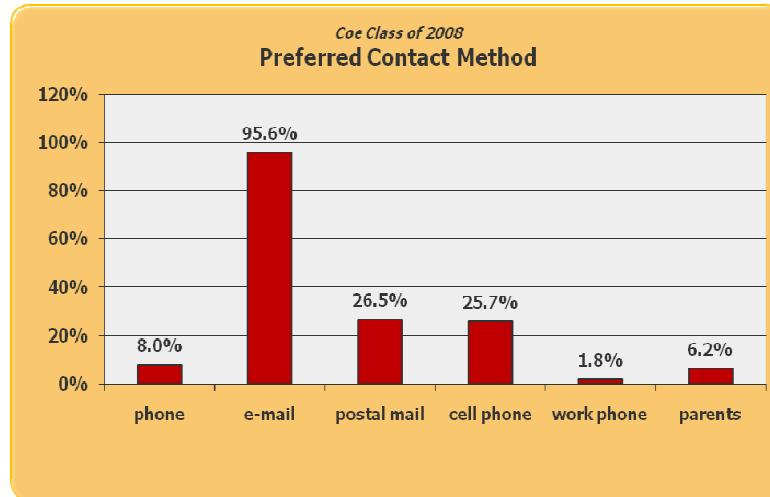
**Figure 13**



## **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**



*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.

### Career Services and Internships Staff

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