
POST-GRADUATION ACTIVITIES SUMMARY REPORT

FALL 2009, SPRING 2010, AND SUMMER 2010 GRADUATES

Naropa University Career Services and Alumni Relations have completed their second year of gathering data from recent Naropa graduates about their post-graduation activities. Our purpose for gathering post-graduation information is to develop this summary report of the findings, which we hope will provide current and prospective students with information useful for selecting majors and exploring career paths and to provide the Naropa community with information about the post-graduation activities of our recent graduates. For this report, we summarized data from fall 2009, spring 2010, and summer 2010 graduates.

This year, the data collection process was four-fold. First, we collected data through a paper survey we distributed at the Fall 2009 Clearance Fairs and Spring 2010 Clearance Fairs¹. We then sent an online survey to fall 2009, spring 2010, and summer 2010 graduates six months from spring 2010 graduation. During the third phase, we contacted all academic departments in December to gather any information they might hold about post-graduation activities of their respective graduates. In the fourth and final round of data collection, a work-study student² called graduates from whom we had not heard. As a result we received information from 77% (count: 81) of undergraduate alumni – up from a 55% response rate last year – and 50% (count: 93) of graduate alumni – down from a 63% response rate last year.

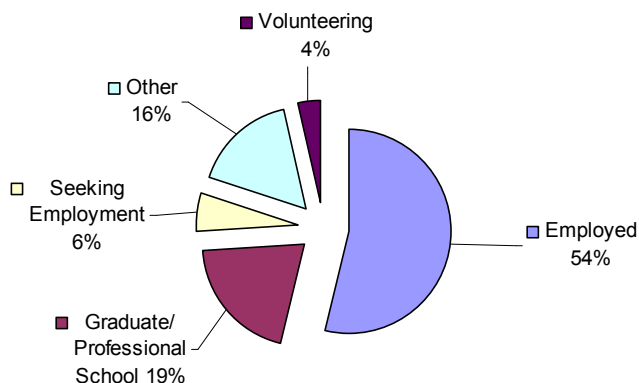
This report summarizes some of the more interesting findings and also includes a table at the end, which breaks down data by undergraduate major and graduate program. Throughout the report, we refer to graduates generally as “respondents”, and we distinguish between undergraduate-level graduates and graduate-level graduates simply as “undergraduates” and “graduates”.

Post-Graduation Activities

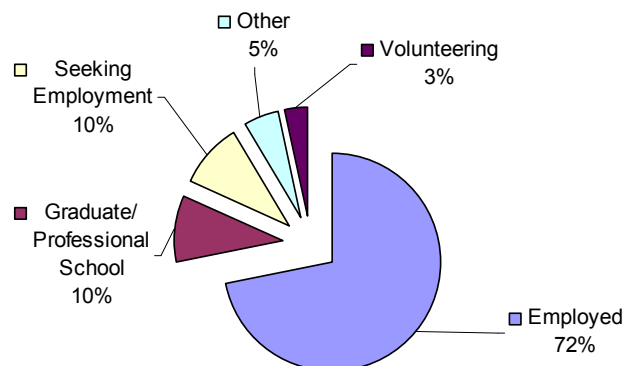
The first graphs of this report summarize the post-graduation activities of our respondents. The activities fall into five broad categories: *employed*, *seeking employment*, *graduate/professional school*, *volunteering*, and *other*. If a respondent selected *employed*, this includes full-time, part-time, or temporary positions as well as internships. The *other* category includes respondents who were taking time off, traveling, or indicated another reason for not falling into the other four categories.

While 94% of undergraduates and 90% of graduates indicated they were working, attending graduate or professional school, or engaging in another activity, 6% of undergraduates and 10% of graduates were still seeking employment. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national unemployment rate reported in April 2011 was 9.0%³. Given this statistic, the number of fall 2009, spring 2010, and summer 2010 alumni still seeking work from graduate programs is a concern. However, in our data collection, we encouraged respondents to choose the one category that best fits their activities, so some may have been employed in a non-related field of work and chose to indicate they were seeking employment more aligned with their degree programs.

Post-Graduation Activities (Undergraduate)



Post-Graduation Activities (Graduate)



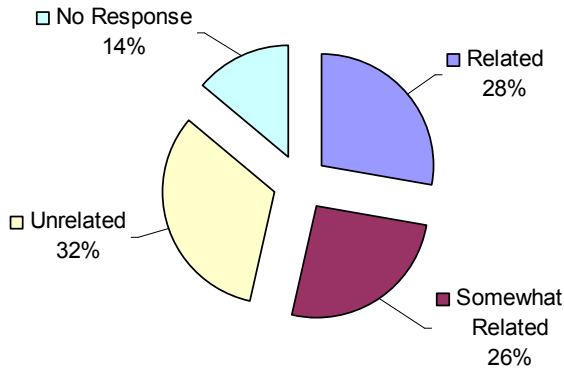
¹ All graduating students of Naropa are required to attend a Clearance Fair prior to the end of their last semester in order to receive clearance for graduation. We only used data from the Clearance Fair surveys if respondents knew specifically what they were going to do after graduation, including going directly into an employment position, attending graduate/professional school, or volunteering.

² We would like to extend a special thank you to Haruna Tsuchiya (work-study student), who graciously called undergraduates and graduates for information and helped with the analysis of data and creation of this report.

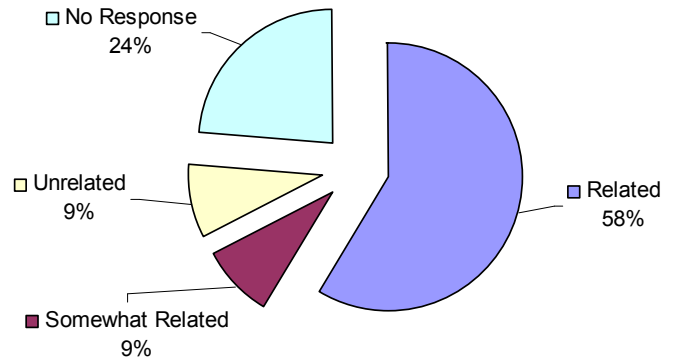
³ Employment Situation Summary: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>

We also wanted to know whether the respondents that were *employed* were in a field that were *related* to the undergraduate major or graduate program from which they graduated. Thus, in our surveys, we indicated that respondents' employment positions were *related* to some degree if they were required to complete their specific program or major to qualify for positions; they were using knowledge and skills in positions they acquired through their major or program; or they were in entry-level positions required in order to obtain a job for which they were trained. Fifty-four percent of undergraduates, who were *employed* indicated that their positions were *related* or *somewhat related* to the major compared to 67% of graduates. Last year, we found that only 40% of undergraduates were in positions *related* or *somewhat related* to their major, so we are pleased to see the increase of 14%. On the other hand, 80% of graduates last year had positions *related* or *somewhat related* to their programs, so the decline of 13% this year is of concern to us. Yet, we also should note that 24% of graduates did not respond to this question at all. We are curious to see how this data trends over the next several years.

Relation of Employment to Major (Undergraduate)



Relation of Employment to Program (Graduate)



Employment Activities

In reviewing the data of *employed* respondents we were able to categorize their career paths, which reveal trends about what our alumni do after graduation. The most common career path for undergraduates was in “Health/Healing/Retreats” followed by “Education and Training”. Last year, we found “Education and Training” to be most common with this group. For graduates, it was not surprising that again this year “Counseling and Mental Health” proved the most common career path given the number of counseling psychology and psychotherapy graduates from Naropa. The following two tables further summarize the career paths of our undergraduates and graduates.

Career Path Summary (Undergraduate)	Percentage
Arts and Communication	9%
Business and Administration	9%
Computers and Technology	2%
Counseling and Mental Health	5%
Education and Training	16%
Environmental and Natural Resources	7%
Health/Healing/Retreats	21%
Hotel/Restaurant/Catering	16%
Human Services	5%
Publishing and Writing	5%
Sales	5%

Career Path Summary (Graduate)	Percentage
Arts and Communication	4%
Business and Administration	7%
Counseling and Mental Health	34%
Education and Training	22%
Environmental and Natural Resources	1%
Health/Healing/Retreats	1%
Human Services	12%
Legal	1%
Production	1%
Publishing and Writing	1%
Sales	1%
No Response	10%

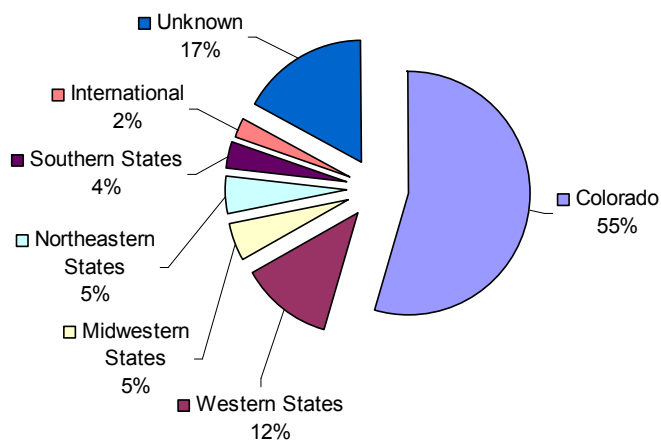
Self-employment

Last year's data revealed that 9% of respondents who indicated they were *employed* were either self employed or independently contracted. This year, nearly 11% of respondents were either self employed or independently contracted. This statistic primarily consists of those who were pursuing private practice but also includes people in performing and visual arts, writing, business, and care taking. In our dynamic world of work, we suspect this trend may increase.

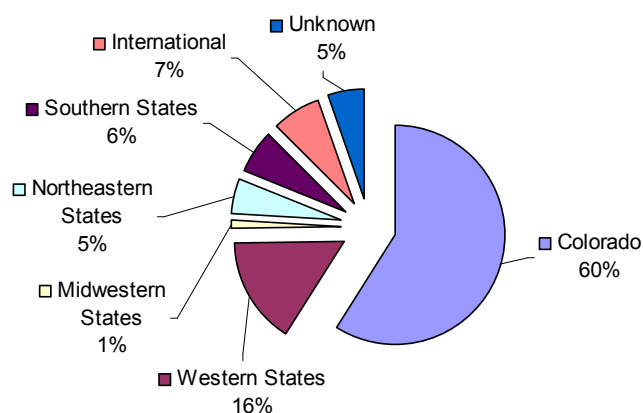
Geographic Location of Respondents⁴

We know many of our alumni choose to reside in Colorado upon completion of their degrees. Therefore, we wanted to formally track the geographic location of respondents. As you will see in the following charts, 57% (55% of undergraduates and 60% of graduates) of all respondents reside in Colorado, which is down from 67% of last year's respondents. According to statistics from Naropa University Admissions, we typically attract of 28-30% of undergraduate students and 29-31% graduate students from Colorado, which means far more alumni choose to stay in Colorado than the number we recruit from the state and that Naropa undergraduates and graduates have a significant impact on the region. Furthermore, Naropa's mission statement states that we prepare students to "meet the world as it is and change it for the better". In considering this vision, we wonder how we might encourage our alumni to extend their education to other locations, so the world can witness and experience their wonderful wisdom and skills.

Geographic Location (Undergraduate)



Geographic Location (Graduate)



Post-graduation Status by Program and Major

The final tables⁵ on page 4 summarize much of the data on which we based this report. We organized the table by undergraduate majors and graduate programs. Undergraduates with more than one major are represented in each major. Thus, the distribution will not align with the total number of the fall 2009, spring 2010, and summer 2010 graduates.

⁴ For the undergraduates, the Geographic Location chart categories on page 4 represent the following states: Midwestern States (IA, IL, MI, and WI); Northeastern States (CT, ME, and NY); Southern States (TX and WV); and Western States (AZ, CA, HI, OR, and UT). For the graduates, they represent: Midwestern States (MI); Northeastern States (MD, NJ, NY, and PA); Southern States (FL, GA, and VA); and Western States (AZ, CA, ID, NM, OR, WA, and WY).

⁵ The sums of percent distributions may not always equal 100 because of rounding. Also, due to the timing of when degrees are granted, the number of graduates may not align with departmentally held data.

Post-Graduation Status by Undergraduate Major

Undergraduate Major	Distribution of Majors	# Responding	% Responding	% Employed	% Graduate/ Professional School	% Seeking Employment	% Volunteering	% Other
Contemplative Psychology	35	26	74%	46%	35%	8%	0%	8%
Early Childhood Education	6	5	83%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Environmental Studies	8	6	75%	83%	0%	0%	0%	17%
Interdisciplinary Studies	15	12	80%	50%	8%	0%	8%	33%
Music	3	3	100%	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
Peace Studies	1	1	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Performance	7	4	57%	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%
Religious Studies	7	1	14%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Traditional Eastern Arts	16	9	56%	33%	11%	11%	22%	22%
Visual Arts	5	3	60%	67%	0%	0%	0%	33%
Writing and Literature	15	9	60%	33%	22%	11%	0%	33%

Post-Graduation Status by Graduate Program

Graduate Program	Distribution of Programs	# Responding	% Responding	% Employed	% Graduate/ Professional School	% Seeking Employment	% Volunteering	% Other
Contemplative Education	11	4	36%	75%	25%	0%	0%	0%
Contemplative Psychotherapy	14	7	50%	57%	0%	14%	14%	14%
Creative Writing	17	3	18%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Environmental Leadership	8	3	38%	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
Indo-Tibetan Buddhism	3	2	67%	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%
Indo-Tibetan Buddhism with Language	5	5	100%	40%	40%	0%	0%	20%
Master of Divinity	4	4	100%	75%	0%	0%	0%	25%
Religious Studies	2	1	50%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Somatic Counseling Psychology	9	7	78%	71%	14%	14%	0%	0%
Theater: Contemporary Performance	14	7	50%	14%	14%	71%	0%	0%
Theater: Lecog	13	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Transpersonal Counseling Psychology	52	35	67%	86%	6%	3%	0%	6%
Transpersonal Psychology	18	8	44%	63%	0%	13%	25%	0%
Writing and Poetics	15	7	47%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Conclusion

We hope this report summarizes some of the more interesting information about our fall 2009, spring 2010, and summer 2010 graduates. We have already begun the process of gathering data from fall 2010 and spring 2011 graduates and look forward to sharing information with you next year. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact steward@naropa.edu or 303.245.4863.