
POST-GRADUATION ACTIVITIES SUMMARY REPORT

SPRING AND SUMMER 2009 GRADUATES

In the spring of 2009, Naropa University Career Services and Alumni Relations set out to gather information from recent Naropa graduates about their post-graduation activities. Our purpose for gathering this information was 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.

The data collection process was four-fold and began in April 2009. First, we collected data through a paper survey we distributed at the spring 2009 Clearance Fairs. We then sent an online survey to spring and summer 2009 graduates six months out from spring graduation in November. During the third phase, we contacted all Administrative Directors 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, two work-study students called graduates from whom we had not heard. As a result we received information from 55% of undergraduate alumni (count: 32) and 63% of graduate alumni (count: 115), who graduated spring and summer 2009.

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

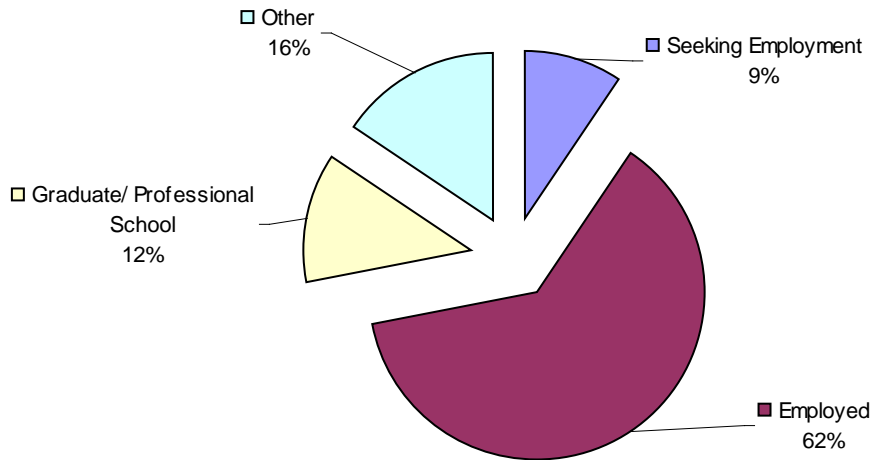
Post-Graduation Activities

The first graphs of this report summarize the post-graduation activities of our summer and spring 2009 graduates. These activities fall into four broad categories: *employed*, *seeking employment*, *graduate/professional school*, and *other*. A brief explanation of the *employed* and *other* categories is necessary to understand the variety of sub-categories included under each. If a respondent selected *employed*, this includes full-time, part-time, or temporary positions as well as internships. The *other* category includes respondents who are taking time off, traveling, or indicated another reason for not falling into the other three categories.

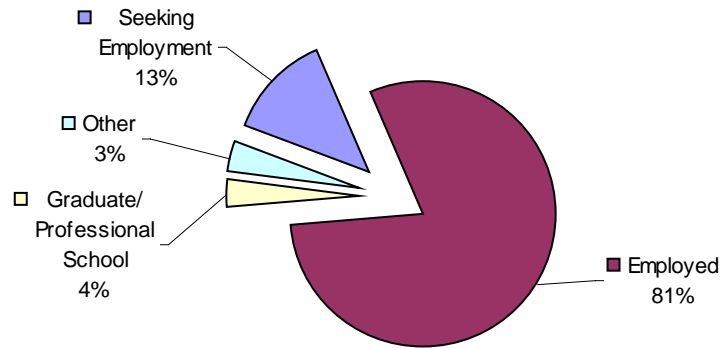
While 91% of undergraduates and 87% of graduates indicated they were working, attending graduate or professional school, or engaging in another activity, 9% of undergraduates and 13% of graduates are still seeking employment. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national unemployment rate reported in April 2010 was 9.9%¹. Given this statistic, the number of spring and summer 2009 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 be employed in a non-related field of work and chose to indicate they are seeking employment more aligned with their degree program. These statistics are something we would like to pay particular attention as we continue to gather data from our graduates year to year.

¹ Employment Situation Summary: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>

Post-Graduation Activities (Undergraduate)

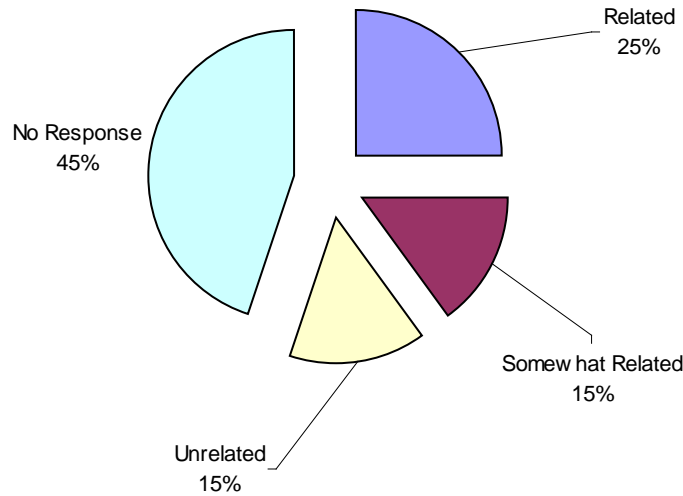


Post-Graduation Activities (Graduate)

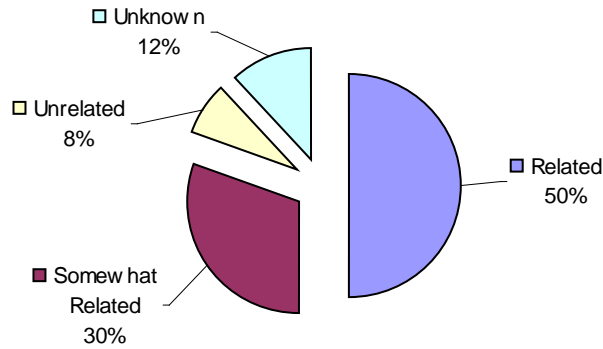


We also wanted to know whether the respondents that are *employed* are in a field that is related to the program or major from which they graduated. We indicated that their employment positions are related to some degree if the graduate was required to complete their specific program or major to qualify for the position; they are using knowledge and skills in the position they acquired through their program or major; or they are in an entry-level position required in order to obtain a job for which they were trained. Forty percent of undergraduates who are employed indicated that their positions were related or somewhat related to the major compared to 80% of graduates, which makes sense given the nature of undergraduate and graduate programs at Naropa.

Relation of Employment to Major (Undergraduate)



Relation of Employment to Program (Graduate)



Employment Activities

In reviewing the data of employed graduates, we were able to categorize their career paths, which reveal interesting, but not surprising, trends about what our alumni do after graduation. The most common career path for undergraduates is in “Education and Training”, while “Counseling and Mental Health” proved the most common for graduates, which aligns with the number of psychology graduates from Naropa. The following two tables summarize the career paths of our spring and summer 2009 graduates.

Career Path Summary (Undergraduate)	Percentage
Art and Communication	15%
Business and Administration	15%
Education and Training	25%
Environmental and Natural Resources	10%
Health and Healing	15%
Hotel/Restaurant/Catering	10%
Human Services	5%
No Response	5%

Career Path Summary (Graduate)	Percentage
Art and Communication	7%
Business and Administration	9%
Counseling and Mental Health	39%
Education and Training	20%
Environmental and Natural Resources	5%
Health and Healing	3%
Human Services	8%
Publishing and Writing	3%
Recreation	3%
Transportation	1%
Unknown	2%

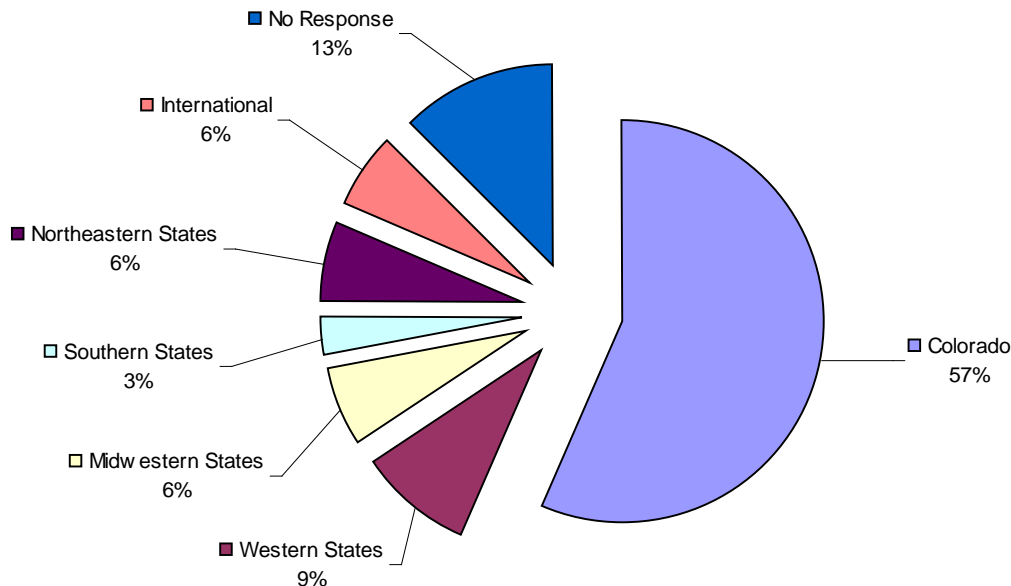
Self-employment

As Naropa prepares students to enter the world, we noticed a special finding within this group. When we looked at the responses of both undergraduates and graduates, nearly nine percent of those who indicated they were employed were self-employed. This statistic was mostly made up of those who pursued private practice but also included performing arts and sustainability work. This is a statistic we plan to intentionally gather in subsequent years.

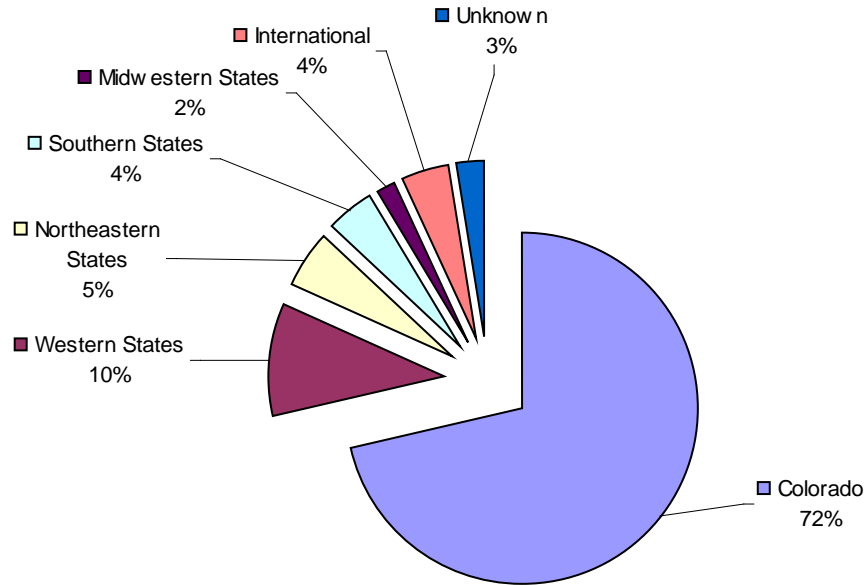
Geographic Location of Graduates

With 1,400 of our 5,000 alumni residing in the Front Range area, we wanted to understand the geographic location of Naropa’s spring and summer 2009 graduates. As you will see in the following charts, 68% (57% of undergraduate and 72% of graduate) of all spring and summer 2009 graduates reside in Colorado. According to statistics of the summer and fall class of 2009, 29% of graduates and 25% of undergraduates were from Colorado, which means more graduates choose to stay in the state than the number we recruit from the state. This is important information to hold in terms of the impact Naropa graduates have on the region.

Geographic Location (Undergraduate)



Geographic Location (Graduate)



Post-graduation Status by Program and Major

The table on the last page of this report provides a summary of much of the data on which we based this report. We organized the table by undergraduate majors and graduate programs. Undergraduates who majored in more than one area are represented in each major. Thus, the distribution will not align with the number of spring and summer 2009 graduates.

Conclusion

We hope this reports summarizes some of the more interesting information about Naropa’s spring and summer 2009 graduates. We have already begun the process of gathering data from fall 2009 and spring 2010 graduates and plan to produce similar reports in the years to come. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact ssteward@naropa.edu or 303.245.4863.²

² We would like to extend a special thank you to Chee Xiong and Capella Zhuang (work-study students), who graciously called graduates for information. Capella also offered her advanced skills in Excel and development of charts and tables in this report, which was invaluable.

Post-Graduation Status by Undergraduate Major and Graduate Program

	Distribution of Majors	# Responding	% Responding	% Seeking Employment	% Employed	% Attending Graduate/ Professional School	% Other
Undergraduate Major							
Contemplative Psychology	12	7	58%	0%	57%	43%	0%
Early Childhood Education	6	3	50%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Environmental Studies	7	3	43%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Interdisciplinary Studies	8	6	75%	17%	33%	0%	50%
Music	5	2	40%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Peace Studies	1	1	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Religious Studies	6	3	50%	33%	67%	0%	0%
Traditional Eastern Arts	7	6	86%	17%	50%	17%	17%
Visual Arts	1	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Writing and Literature	5	3	60%	0%	33%	0%	67%

	Distribution of Programs	# Responding	% Responding	% Seeking Employment	% Employed	% Attending Graduate/ Professional School	% Other
Graduate Program							
Contemplative Education	10	5	50%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Contemplative Psychotherapy	13	7	54%	29%	71%	0%	0%
Creative Writing	5	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Environmental Leadership	20	15	75%	33%	67%	0%	0%
Interdisciplinary Studies	3	3	100%	0%	67%	33%	0%
Master of Divinity	4	3	75%	0%	67%	33%	0%
Religious Studies	4	2	50%	0%	50%	50%	0%
Somatic Counseling Psych	11	8	73%	13%	75%	0%	13%
Theater: Contemporary Performance	16	11	69%	18%	64%	0%	18%
Theater: Lecog	6	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Transpersonal Counseling Psychology	56	40	71%	3%	98%	0%	0%
Transpersonal Psychology	13	7	54%	29%	57%	0%	14%
Writing and Poetics	22	14	64%	14%	79%	7%	0%

Note: The sums of percent distributions may not always equal 100 because of rounding. Also, due to administrative issues, the number of graduates may not align with departmentally held data.