FIRST DESTINATION SURVEY RESULTS
CLASS OF 2018
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About the First Destination Survey

In 2018, the College of Coastal Georgia launched its fourth first destination survey of CCGA graduates. Prior to 2014-15, information on post-graduation plans was mostly anecdotal. The Office of Career Services spearheaded the First Destination Survey with support from the Office of the Registrar.

The 2018 survey was disseminated to 272 graduating seniors receiving either a Bachelor or Career Associate degree. Of the 272 students who graduated in May 2018, Career Services was able to obtain information on 258 graduates for an overall knowledge rate of 94.8%.

Importance of the First Destination Survey

This is the only centralized initiative focused on reporting the actual post-graduation plans of all CCGA undergraduates, regardless of academic discipline. The survey consists of baccalaureate-level graduates from American Studies, Biological Sciences, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood/Special Education, Business, Health Informatics, Hospitality & Tourism Management, Interdisciplinary Studies, Mathematics Secondary Education, Middle Grades Education, Nursing, and Psychology. Also represented are Career Associate-level graduates in Culinary Arts, Hotel Operations, Nursing, and Radiologic Science.

Survey results are invaluable to current students, assisting them to identify “what’s next” opportunities after graduation, and to the Office of Career Services’ planning – meeting post-graduation student needs. In addition, the First Destination Survey addresses data requirements set forth by the Higher Education Opportunities Act (HEOA), and it offers post-graduation outcomes information to a wide variety of interested constituents, including School Deans, faculty, prospective students and parents, and employers.

Supporting the CCGA Mission

First Destination Survey supports the College’s institutional mission given its particular focus on student preparation for the future. More specifically, “…Students are prepared for meaningful careers, advanced study, lifelong learning, and participation in a global and technological society. …”

Importance of Privacy

It is the policy of the Office of Career Services Office to maintain student privacy. Therefore, there were not any attached individual identifiers to statistical summary reports generated as a result of the information students provided in the First Destination Survey.
Executive Summary

Below are highlights from the 2018 report:

- 80% reported positive career outcomes; 60% reported full-time employment.
- 13% reported that they were planning to attend graduate school.
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates are employed at the highest initial rate of 86%
  (82.6% of Early Childhood/Special Education graduates are employed)
  (71% of Associate of Science in Nursing graduates are employed)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates earned the highest salary at an average of $49,800
  (Associate of Science in Nursing graduates averaged $49,414.29)
- 13% of graduates indicated plans to attend graduate school
- 90% of graduates planned to remain in Georgia after graduation
  (81% of graduates planned to remain in the Coastal Georgia region)
- 70% of graduates indicated they were employed in their field of study
- The most common sector for employment was Health Sciences with 42% of grads entering that field
  (18% of grads entered the Education field)
  (16% of grads entered the Business field)
Methodology

The 2018 First Destination Survey (FDS) at the College of Coastal Georgia realized its highest survey response rate in the last four years of dissemination. Career Services, in cooperation with the Office of the Registrar, collected survey data from 258 of 272 (94.8%) students graduating with either a bachelor’s or career associate degree.

The initial phase of survey dissemination was initiated through an email survey to all graduates. Responses were collected from 131 graduates in this initial survey. Also, paper surveys were distributed during graduation practice and during “Sign the Sails” tradition events, resulting in 212 responses, some of which had already responded to the emailed survey. Responses from these two collections were consolidated.

Career Services manually researched graduates through LinkedIn to garner additional knowledge. A secondary survey was administered to 145 students who either had no data or had indicated they were “Seeking Employment,” which resulted in updates to data already collected.

Finally, major specific surveys and emails were sent to particular faculty to obtain data and/or updates, primarily from the Nursing, Education and Radiology programs who also track their graduates for accreditation.

Overall, the first destination survey’s response rate was 94.8% (258/272) of total graduates.

Appendix A includes a copy of the original First Destination Survey instrument used to capture the information contained in this report.
To gauge the success of our programs, CCGA Career Services administers the First Destination Survey to all graduating students. For the Spring of 2018 class, outcome data was obtained from 94.8% of the 272 graduates.

**IMMEDIATE PLAN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed Full-time/</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend Grad School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeking Employment</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed Part-time</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer or Service Program</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*<2% each are participating in a post-graduate internship or entering the military.*

**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

85% of graduates completed experiential learning (Internships, Externships, Clinicals, Service-Learning) as part of their program of study. 81% of students participating in experiential learning reported positive outcomes.

**LOCAL IMPACT**

For graduates who entered the workforce, 81% accepted a position in the Coastal Georgia region and 90% remained in Georgia.

**RELEVANCE**

For graduates who entered the workforce, 70% reported taking jobs related to their field of study immediately after graduation.

**TOP INDUSTRIES**

For graduates who reported they were working, industries included:

- 42% Health Sciences
- 18% Education
- 16% Business
- 9% Hospitality
- 4% Government
- 4% Social Services

**GRADUATE SCHOOL**

For graduates who indicated they were continuing their education, here are their intended institutions:

- The University of Georgia
- College of Coastal Georgia
- Valdosta State University
- Tuskegee University
- Troy University

**EARNING POTENTIAL**

For graduates who reported salary information, average salary rose over 2017 grads by 5% to:

$39,823

www.ccca.edu/careerservices
careerservices@ccga.edu
912-279-5717
Findings

Overall, 60% of respondents indicated they were employed full-time at or immediately after graduation. By comparison, 53.4% of all college students were employed full-time according to the 2016 NACE First Destination Survey Report (the most recent report available at this time). See Figure 1.

The average annual salary for all CCGA graduates employed full-time was $39,823. This represents a 5% increase over 2017 graduates. Part-time employed graduates averaged $17,824 per year.

Highest earners were Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates with an average of $49,414. This group was closely followed by Associate of Science in Nursing graduates with an average of $49,414.

Likewise, Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates were employed full-time at the highest rate (86.4%), followed by Early Childhood/Special Education majors (82.6%).

Overwhelmingly, CCGA graduates remained in the state of Georgia after graduation (90%) and 81% remained in the coastal Georgia region. However, 3.5% went to Florida while the remainder were spread out in states including Colorado, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and New York.

The majority of graduates were employed in their field of study, with 70% indicating such. Over 42% of graduates were employed in the Health Sciences sector.

Source: First Destinations for the College Class of 2016, NACE.
Congratulations on your upcoming graduation!
You’ve worked long and hard on your degree and you certainly deserve it! To better help CCGA provide the degree programs and services that students and alumni need, I hope you will take a few moments to tell us about your plans after graduation.

This information will be used to further develop degree programs as well as career programming to ensure the value and integrity of your degree and of those to come after you. Your individual information will be kept completely confidential and will only be shared as an aggregate of all responses from the class of 2018.

Thank you for your time and best of luck!

Brian M. Weese, MBA
Director of Career Development
College of Coastal Georgia

Which one of the following BEST describes your PRIMARY status after graduation? Please select only ONE of the following categories:

- Employed Full-Time (on average 30 hours or more per week) (1)
- Employed Part-Time (on average 30 hours or less per week) (2)
- Participating in a volunteer or service program (ex: Peace Corps) (3)
- Serving in the US Military (4)
- Enrolled in a program of continuing education (ex: Graduate School) (5)
- Seeking Employment (6)
- Planning to continue education, but not yet enrolled (7)
- Not seeking employment or continuing education at this time (8)

Please select the category which best describes your employment

- Employed in all other work categories (most common/typical job situation) (5)
- Self Employed (1)
- Employed in a temporary/contract work assignment (2)
- Employed freelance (paid per job) (3)
- Employed in a postgraduate internship or fellowship (4)
Please provide the following information concerning your employment:
(this information will be kept confidential, you will never be identified directly with this info)

Employer Name (8) ________________________________________________
City, State, Country: (2) ________________________________________________
Job title (5) ________________________________________________
Annual base salary: (4) ________________________________________________

Which of these categories best describes the sector your job is in?

Business (1)
Communications/Media (2)
Education (3)
Fine Arts (4)
Government/Civil Service (5)
Health Sciences (6)
Military (7)
Non-Profit (8)
Science/Research (9)
Social Services (10)
Other (11)

Is this employment in your major/field of study?

Yes (1)
No (2)

If your PRIMARY status is participating in a volunteer service program, please provide the following information about your assignment:

Organization Name: (1) ________________________________________________
Assignment Location - city, state, country: (2) __________________________
Role or title: (3) ________________________________________________

If your PRIMARY status is serving with the U.S. Military, please provide the following information about your assignment:

Branch: (1) ________________________________________________
Rank: (2) ________________________________________________
If your PRIMARY status is enrolled in a program of continuing education, please provide the following information concerning your education.

Institution name: (1) ________________________________________________

City, State, Country: (2) ________________________________________________

Program of Study: (3) ________________________________________________

Degree you are pursuing: (4) ________________________________________________

Check the below "outside the classroom" activities you participated in:

Service-Learning Classes (2)
Internship (3)
Practicum (4)
Student Teaching (5)
Clinicals (6)
Other (7)

As a whole do you feel these experiences were helpful in preparing you for employment?

Yes (1)
No (3)
Did not participate in these activities (4)

Did you utilize services through the Career Center while at CCGA? (This includes Job Fairs, Workshops, resume writing, applying for jobs in Coastal CareerLink and more)

Yes (1)
No (2)
Not sure (3)

How helpful was Career Services in preparing for life after college?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of agreement:</th>
<th>Very Helpful (19)</th>
<th>Somewhat Helpful (20)</th>
<th>Neutral (21)</th>
<th>Somewhat Unhelpful (22)</th>
<th>Not Helpful (23)</th>
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Please add any thoughts or comments on Career Services that you feel would be helpful to us.

________________________________________________________________

End of Block: 2018 Graduate First Destination Survey