

2017 Destination Survey Report

Compiled by the MSU Career Services Network

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FULL REPORT CAN BE FOUND AT: CAREERNETWORK.MSU.EDU

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Methodology and Highlights

The **Destination Survey** is administered annually by the Michigan State University (MSU) Career Services Network. It attempts to document the post-graduate outcomes of MSU students who have received a bachelor's degree during the spring and summer semesters, offering a snapshot of their progress as they transition out of college

Methodology

The college-based Career Consultants and other colleagues coordinated data collection efforts within their own colleges, but all utilized the Destination Survey System and a common set of questions. Beyond the online survey, data was collected through other sources, including:

- Emails from individual students reporting their outcomes
- Information from departments that were aware of specific student placements
- Reports from employers indicating recent hires
- Information mined from *LinkedIn* and other social networking resources
- Direct calls to graduates.

While these additional data gathering methods are not research oriented, they are consistent with the goal of gathering information on as many students as possible. *Only data that practitioners deemed legitimate and verifiable were included in the dataset.* We will therefore use the term **knowledge rate** or “the percent of graduates for which the institution has reasonable and verifiable information concerning the graduates’ post-graduation career activities” (NACE <http://www.nacweb.org/knowledge/assessment/first-destination-survey-standards.aspx>) throughout the report.

Survey Pool

The survey targeted only undergraduate students who graduated in Spring and Summer 2017. The initial pool was generated by the Office of the Registrar’s *intent to graduate* list. However, the Network eliminated records of students who may have initially responded but, in fact, did not graduate until after August 2017. The final list of graduates are those with Spring and Summer 2017 conferred degrees in the MSU student information system as of quarter term in fall 2017.

Time Frame

Individual colleges timed the survey launch dates differently: some started sending email requests to complete the survey the fall before graduation; others waited until several weeks after graduation in hopes of receiving more definitive placement responses. Subsequent waves of surveys were sent throughout the fall semester following graduation to non-responders and to those whose initial response classified them as *unplaced* at the end of the summer. The window to survey for the purposes of this snapshot closes approximately six months after summer graduation.

The additional data gathering methods described above were engaged throughout the collection period, but were amplified at the end of the fall semester following graduation and beginning of

winter. Although the official survey portal closed at the end of January 2018, the Career Services Network continued to accept data from colleges and departments that gathered outcome information through instruments other than the Destination Survey.

Outcome Terms

In this report, outcomes have been divided into three categories:

- **Career Outcome** which includes: **employment; continuing education**, including pursuing graduate school (i.e., admitted to a specific program), an additional degree, or completing a certification requirement (i.e. teaching certification); **starting a business**; or **pursuing other commitments**, which covers personal endeavors such as extended travel, writing a novel or starting a family.
- **Unplaced**, which includes students actively seeking employment, waiting on admission to a graduate program, or uncertain about plans at the close of data collection.

Tabulations

Multiple majors or dual degree graduates were counted once within each college in which they were awarded a degree for the college reports. Honors students are included in the tabulations for their respective college but also counted in the Honors College section. Duplications were eliminated for the *MSU – All Colleges* section.

Highlights

- Overall career outcomes and knowledge rate remain was at or near 10 year highs
 - 2017 Overall MSU knowledge rate at 82% just below high of 2015 (84%)
 - 2017 Overall MSU career outcomes rate at 10 year high of 95% tied with 2016
 - 2017 Overall MSU employment rate also at high of 65% tied with 2016
 - 2017 Employment in the state of Michigan at high of 64% tied with 2016

Knowledge Rate:

- 7 of the 15 colleges reported a knowledge rate equal to or higher than in 2016
- 1 of the 15 colleges raised their knowledge rate over 10% compared to 2016

Career Outcomes Rate:

- All 15 colleges reported a career outcomes rate greater than 85%
- 9 of the 15 colleges reported a career outcome rate equal to or greater than 95%

Teacher Certification:

- First-year placement tracking of graduates who completed their full year teaching internship resulted in a 95% response rate and 100% placement rate.