

Graduating Student Report 2024-2025

Survey Process

The Career Connection Center collaborates with academic departments to collect post-graduate plans from all Stevenson University students on an annual basis. The list of graduating students is obtained from the Registrar's Office through reports in Informer. The electronic survey, created using Microsoft Forms, is distributed by the Career Connection Center. Outreach is conducted by the Career Connection Center via email to individuals who applied for graduation before graduation. The Career Connection Center also partners with other faculty to identify student outcomes. Professional staff and student workers from the Career Connection Center telephone students to personally obtain post-graduation information. When the calls do not culminate in a survey completion, Career Connection staff attempt to connect multiple times via email. When unable to personally connect with a graduate, the information is also retrieved from LinkedIn and Facebook profiles, but only if it can be verified with confidence. Career Advisors reach out personally to graduates who indicated they were still seeking a position to give information on services and how to schedule an appointment. The complete survey for the 2024-2025 report closed six months after the end of May 2025. Note: due to multiple individuals reporting double majors and rounding, totals can be slightly above or slightly below 100.0%.

In 2024-2025, there were 847 graduates from Stevenson University, including Stevenson University Online. Of those 847 students, survey responses for 594 graduates were completed, resulting in a 70.1% knowledge rate. The term "knowledge rate" defines the percent of graduates for which the institution has reasonable and verifiable information concerning the graduates' post-graduation career activities.

The following outcomes are standard as part of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) First Destination Survey protocols.

Data by Percentage of Response

Working full-time (30+ hours/week): 63.3%

Serving in the US Military: 0.5%

Participating in a volunteer or service program: 0.3%

Working part-time by choice (less than 30 hours/week): 9.4%

Working part-time, seeking full-time: 3.0%

Enrolled in a program of continuing education: 12.0%

Planning to continue education: 1.3%

Not seeking employment or continuing education: 0.3%

Seeking employment: 10.6%

Executive Summary

Each year, the Career Connection Center leads the collection of “first-destination” data from our graduates. Our purpose is to track the success of our graduates as they head into employment or continuing education. Stevenson has a strong history of success year-over-year.

Approximately 88.1% of our undergraduates matriculate to employment or graduate school, which is slightly ahead of National Association of Colleges and Employers regional averages (86.6%) and national averages (85.7%). For the academic year 2024-2025, we have knowledge of 70.1% of our undergraduate and graduate program’s first destinations and can report that 89.1% have achieved a positive first-destination outcome. A positive outcome includes working, going to graduate school or planning to enroll, working as a volunteer or with a service program, or in the military.

Stevenson University graduates are working in fields related to their studies. We asked: “To what extent is your major or area of study at Stevenson related to your current position?” We received 263 responses, of which 245 (93.1%) reported they are working in a field related or somewhat related to their major.

While our first destination positive outcome percentage experienced a slight decrease, we view this change in the context of a challenging and rapidly shifting job market. Across industries, employers continue to navigate economic uncertainty, evolving business needs, and changes in hiring practices, factors that have impacted the pace and timing of recruiting cycles.

A few key reasons for this shift include:

- **Market Contraction:** Several industries that traditionally recruit large numbers of new graduates such as finance, technology, and consulting have implemented more cautious hiring strategies over the last year. This has temporarily slowed the number of offers extended.
- **Evolving Hiring Timelines:** Many employers are moving toward multiple interview stages and more extended decision windows, meaning some graduates are still actively transitioning into roles at the time of reporting.
- **Higher Competition for Roles:** With an increased number of applicants and limited openings in certain fields, graduates have faced a more competitive landscape than ever before.

Despite these challenges, we are encouraged by the strong performance of our graduates. An 89% positive outcome reflects their resilience, adaptability, and competitiveness in an increasingly complex employment landscape. It is also important to note that we did not receive First Destination Survey responses from approximately 30% of graduating students; additional responses from this group could have further influenced the final outcome.