

# Lake Land College Post Graduate Survey Report

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**Spring 2013**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In 2012, Lake Land assembled a small group of administrators and faculty to generate a survey for students who have graduated from Lake Land. This group consisted of three administrators, two division chairs and one faculty member. Based on discussions during these meetings and reviewing several post graduate surveys from other colleges and universities, the committee identified a list of questions it would like to pursue from its graduates. Questions on the survey focus on employment information, additional education, and general educational goals. Once finalized the survey was posted to survey monkey for data collection.

In the spring of 2013, a list of college students (excluding students graduating through the correctional programs) who graduated anytime between 2005 and 2010 was pulled from Lake Land's database. Using the email addresses in the system, these 3,422 students received an email requesting their participation in the post grad survey. Participating students entered their student identification number and answered their questions. After the initial email, 546 email addresses bounced back as undeliverable. The physical addresses for these 546 students were pulled, if possible. Of these 546 students, 466 had addresses in the system. These students were then sent a survey using the US postal service. Eighty of these students has no email or physical addresses on file and did not receive the survey. At least 20 additional surveys were returned to sender without forwarding addresses.

Of the 3,422 students, 2,876 received a survey via email with a reminder email two weeks later. Of these 2,876 students, 369 responded to the survey for a response rate of 13% for emailed surveys. Of the 466 students who received the survey through the postal service, 29 replied through the mail. The response rate for the mailed version of the survey was 6%. This response rate may be underrepresented because these students were also able to access the survey online. The overall response rate for this survey using both email and postal mail approaches with one follow up via email is 12%.

## **GRADUATE DEMOGRAPHICS**

Using the student identification numbers provided by the students in the survey, Lake Land matched the demographic information from the database to the survey responses. Of the 398 respondents, 16 did not provide correct identification numbers. As a result, these 16 students are excluded from the demographic information. So the following numbers and percentages are based on a total of 382 students.

Of the 382 students with demographic information, 255 (66.8%) are women and 127 (33.2%) are men. Only 92 (24.1%) of the respondents had taken a dual credit course in high school before attending Lake Land College.

Over half of the survey respondents (52.1%) are under age 30. Almost one fourth (24.9%) of the respondents are between 30 and 39 and 9.9% are in their forties. Only 13.1% are ages 50 and up. The vast majority of respondents (88.2%) are in district residents. Around 8% of respondents are out of district residents, 3.7% are out of state residents and less than one percent is residents of a foreign country. Most of the respondents (95.5%) are white while the remaining 4.5% are non-white.

Slightly more than half of the respondents (54.7%) received an associate in applied science (36.1%), an associate in liberal science (2.1%) degree, or a certificate (16.5%) as the highest degree received from Lake Land College. Of the remaining 45.3%, 17.3% received an associate in arts degree, 1.3% received an associate in engineering science, and 26.7% received an associate in science degree as the highest degree received from Lake Land College.

A first generation college student is defined as a student with parents (both mother and father) that have no more than an associate degree. For example, a student whose mother has a high school diploma/GED and father has an associate degree is a first generation college student. A student whose mother has a bachelor's degree and father has a high school diploma is not a first generation college student. Three fourths of the survey respondents (74.9%) are first generation college students.

### **GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT**

Around two-thirds of the graduates (66.7%) are currently working full time and 13.6% are working part time. Of the 12.1% currently not working, 5.3% are seeking employment, 4.0% are not seeking employment, and 2.8% are not seeking employment because they are pursuing a four year degree at a university or college. An additional 7.5% are working either part (3.0%) or full (4.5%) time while pursuing a four year college degree.

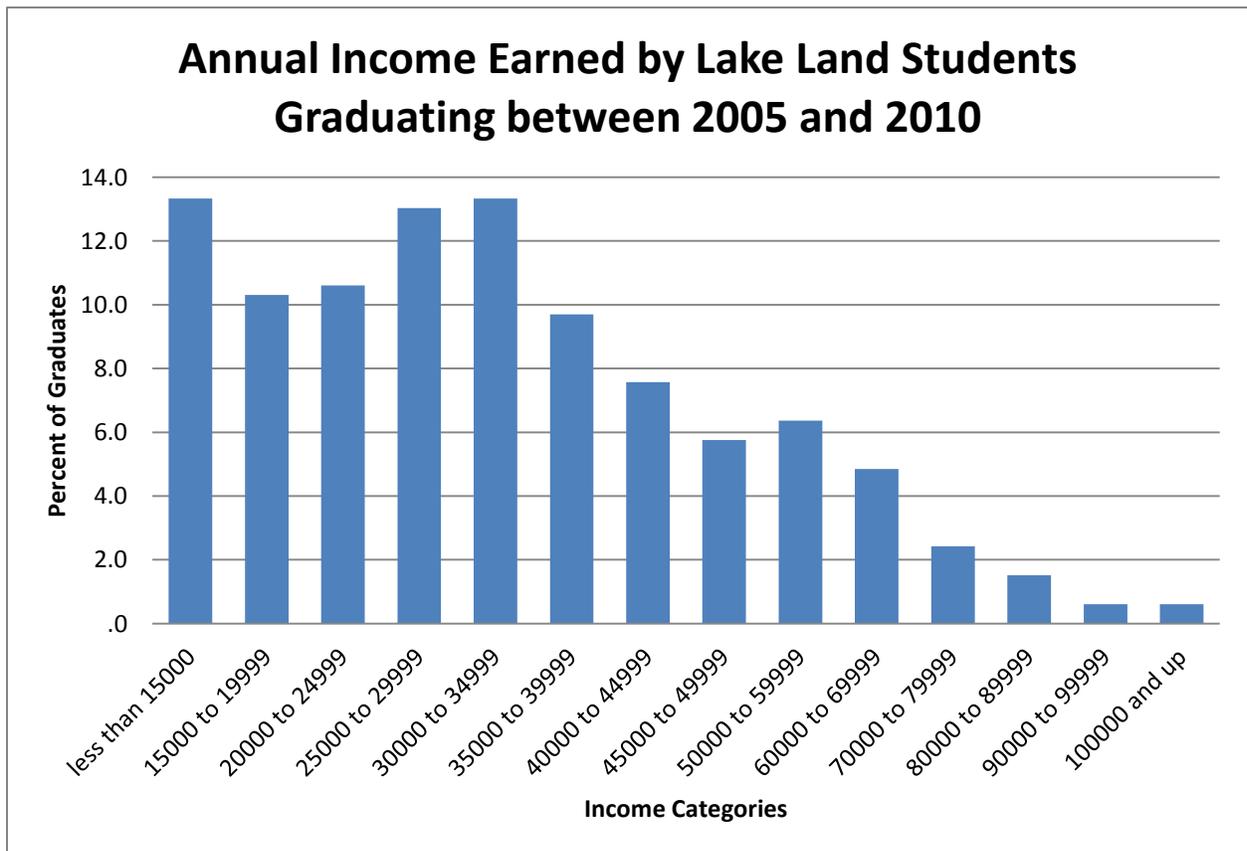
For over 80% of the graduates it took less than 6 months to find a job. In fact 70.7% found a job within three months of graduation and an additional 10.8% found a job within six months. It took six to 12 months to find a job for 8.4% of the graduates with a job and over a year for 10.2% to find a job.

Over half of the graduates work in some type of business, industrial, or commercial industry (30.9%) or in some type of health care agency (21.5%) (i.e., hospital, medical practice, dental practice, etc.). Almost 15% of graduates work in education for a college or university (9.4%) or in elementary or secondary education (4.7%). An additional 12.1% are self-employed or classified their employer as self-employed. Around 8.2% of graduates work for federal, state, or local government agencies and 5.3% work for nonprofit agencies.

Forty-five percent of the graduates had a job closely related to the program of study at Lake Land College, and 24.7% had a job related to their degree, and the remaining 30.3% had a job unrelated to their degree. About three fourths of the graduates (74.9%) are satisfied or very satisfied with their current job and 16.2% are somewhat satisfied with their job. Only 6.2% are dissatisfied with their job and 2.7% are somewhat dissatisfied with their job. The majority of respondents (59.1%) indicated that

Lake Land College had prepared them well for their current career path, and an additional 28.8% felt that their education from Lake Land had adequately prepared them for their career path. Only 6.8% of the graduates reported feeling their degree inadequately prepared them for their career and 5.4% felt their degree poorly prepared them for their career. Over one-third of the respondents (36.3%) feel they are underemployed in their currently position. Over 94% feel they are underemployed in terms of salary, while only 2.6 feel underemployed in responsibilities and 1.7% feel underemployed in both salary and responsibilities.

The survey asked respondents to indicate their annual income in 14 different salary ranges from \$15,000 and under to \$100,000 and up. As the chart below indicates, 13.3% of students reported a salary of \$15,000 or under. Of these 44 students, 33 (75%) work part time. Slightly more than 10% earn annual incomes between \$15,000 and 19,999 and \$20,000 and 24,999. Two thirds of the graduates (23 or 67.6%) earning between \$15,000 and 19,999 work full time while 77% of respondents earning between \$20,000 and 24,999 are full time employees. Around one fourth of the respondents (26.3%) earn between \$25,000 and 34,999 annually, and 94.2% of these individuals work full time. About 10% of the survey participants reported earning between \$35,000 and 40,000 annually and all but one of these individuals report working full time. Almost 30% of respondents report earning more than \$40,000 annually, of which 95.9% work full time.



## ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Of the 384 respondents who answered additional education questions, 202 (52.6%) indicated that sought additional education after graduating from Lake Land. Of the 202 seeking additional education, 12 (5.9%) sought an additional certificate and 25 (12.4%) sought a second associate degree. The majority of respondents (177 or 87.6%) pursued a bachelor's degree. In addition to the bachelor's degrees, some of the respondents also obtained a Master's degree (22.8%), a medical degree (1.5%), a law degree (> 1%), or a PhD (> 1%). Over three fourths of the students (76.6%) seeking additional education indicated that Lake Land had prepared them well for their additional degree(s), and 20% indicated that Lake Land prepared them adequately for their education. Only 3.5% felt inadequately or poorly prepared for additional education after graduating from Lake Land College.

Many of the students pursuing additional education provided the names of the colleges or universities they attended after graduating from Lake Land College. Thirty seven of the 202 graduates (18.3%) pursuing additional education transferred to more than one college after attending Lake Land. Some of these thirty seven graduates may have transferred to a third college/university for their advanced degrees (i.e., master's, medical, law, etc.) after receiving a bachelor's degree.

Of the 202 students seeking additional education, 199 provided information related to the transfer colleges/universities they attended. Over 40% of the graduates transferred to Eastern Illinois University to acquire additional education. Around 9% indicated they attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and another 6.5% reported attending Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Several additional students related that they attended Southern Illinois University but did not specify Carbondale or Edwardsville. The other common transfer colleges/universities included University of Illinois at Champaign (3.5%), Indiana State University (3.0%), and Illinois State University.

## GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS

The survey asked eight questions related to some of the general education goals identified by Lake Land College. These goals relate to problem solving, critical thinking, foundational knowledge, and diversity. The survey asked respondents to indicate their agreement on a five point likert scale with the questions in the table below from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5) with the middle response option being neutral (3). The table below provides the frequency of responses. It merges the strongly agree and agree responses as well as the strongly disagree and disagree responses and provides the mean for each question. When examining the means from the responses, the higher the mean the more strongly the graduates agree with the statement. Based on the findings, respondents felt very happy with the acquired knowledge and skills applicable to their present careers. 83.9% of these respondents strongly agreed or agreed with this statement and the mean is 4.25. The respondents also agree (84.3%) that they gained a broad general education in different fields of knowledge while at Lake Land College. The average response to this statement is 4.23. Almost 80% of respondents agree that Lake Land improved their problem solving skills. The mean response to this statement is 4.10.

<b>Table 1: Percent and Means of Graduates Responses to General Education Goal Related Questions</b>				
While a student at LLC, I...	% Agree Responses	% Neutral Responses	% Disagree Responses	Mean
Acquired knowledge and skills applicable to my present career.	83.9%	9.4%	6.8%	4.25
Gained a broad general education in different fields of knowledge.	84.3%	11.7%	3.9%	4.23
Improved my ability to write clearly and effectively	73.3%	22.3%	4.4%	4.02
Acquired skills to speak clearly and effectively	75.8%	18.3%	6.0%	4.00
Improved my ability to comprehend written material	74.7%	20.6%	4.7%	3.99
Expanded my ability to use computers effectively	70.0%	23.5%	6.5%	3.97
Improved my problem solving skills	79.2%	17.1%	3.7%	4.10
Improved my ability to accept and understand people with different values and beliefs	74.2%	21.1%	4.4%	4.02

#### **ATTITUDES TOWARD LAKE LAND**

The final two questions on the survey asked respondents to describe their present attitude toward Lake Land College. When asked about their general attitude towards Lake Land College, the majority of respondents (89.8%) indicate a positive or strongly positive attitude. An additional 6.5% described their current attitude as somewhat positive. Only 1.1% conveyed a negative or strongly negative attitude toward the College while the remaining 2.6% stated their attitude as somewhat negative. When asked if they could start over would they attend Lake Land, 90.9% reported that they would attend Lake Land again.