

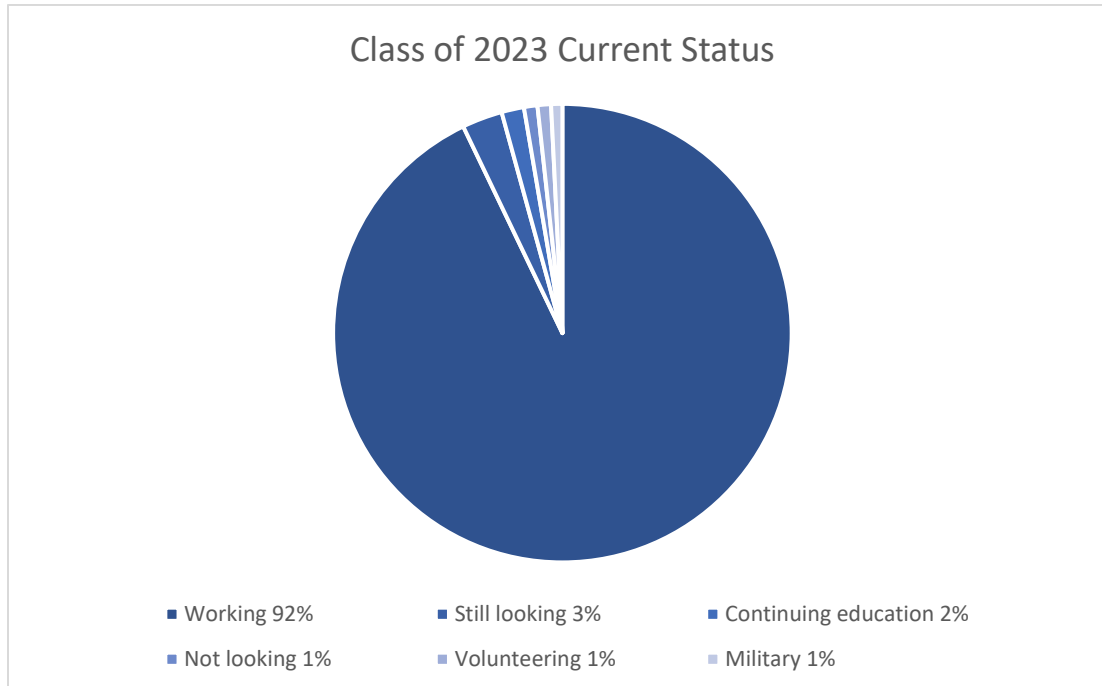
# First Destinations for the Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs Class of 2023: Findings & Analysis Saint Mary's University of Minnesota April 2025

The First Destination Report for the Class of 2023 (graduating July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023) is compiled and published annually by Career Services. This report includes information collected from the Schools of Graduate and Professional Program (SGPP) students' post-graduation from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. The data was obtained from the graduates through an online survey as part of their graduation.

A total of 1,305 graduates were surveyed with data available on 632 students, representing a 48% overall rate. Additional outreach was conducted via LinkedIn and internet research for graduates that had initially reported they were 'Still Looking' at graduation.

## Graduate Outcomes

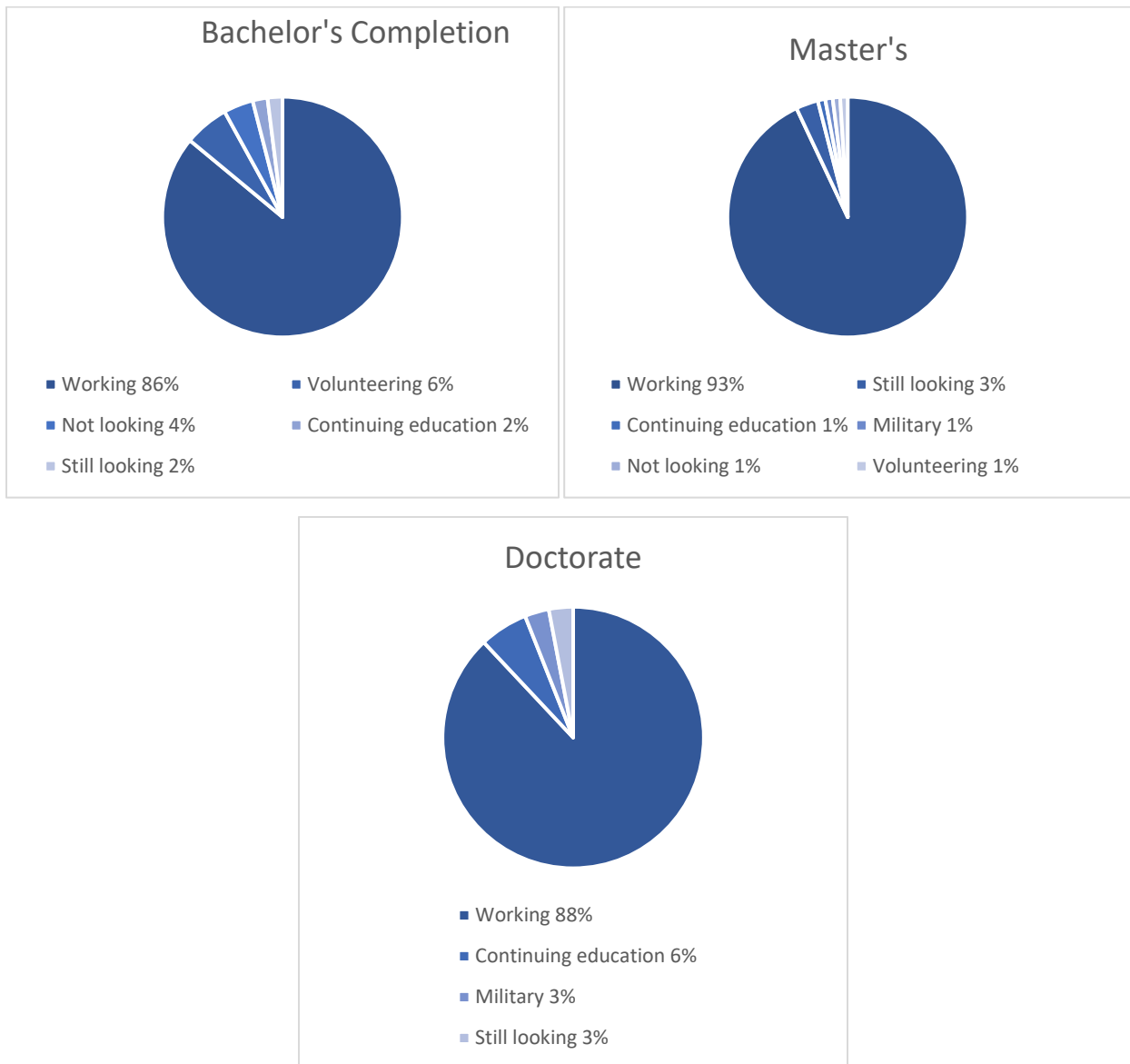
Of the 632 respondents, 587 (92%) are working, 10 (2%) are continuing education, five (1%) are serving in the military, and six (1%) are participating in a long-term volunteer placement. Eighteen graduates (3%) were still looking for opportunities at the time they completed the survey. Six (1%) reported they were not seeking.



## Graduate Outcomes by Degree Level

Of the 632 respondents, 50 earned bachelor's degrees, 523 earned master's degrees, and 32 earned doctoral degrees. The remaining 27 (4%) respondents earned certificates (16) and advanced certificates (11).

Degree Level	Working	Continuing Education	Military	Volunteering	Not Seeking	Still Looking	Total
Bachelor's	43	1	0	3	2	1	50
Master's	493	5	3	3	3	16	523
Doctorate	28	2	1	0	0	1	32
Advanced Certificate	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
Certificate	12	2	1	0	1	0	16



## Salary and Employers

The average annual salary of the 402 graduates who responded to the salary question was \$78,558 (full-time, US-based workers). The average annual salary for Bachelor's Completion graduates (27) is \$82,950. The average salary for Certificate and Advanced Certificate graduates (13) is \$75,972. The average salary for Master's graduates (347) is \$78,220, and for Doctoral graduates (15) is \$80,713.

The top employers of the Class of 2023 represent many leading international, national, and regional organizations, including but not limited to: Abbott; Allina Health; Anoka-Hennepin School District; Big Lake Schools; CARE Counseling; Children's Minnesota; District 196; Edges Wellness Center, LLC; Fairview Health Services; Fernbrook Family Center; Hopkins Public Schools; Lakeville Area School District; LynLake Centers for WellBeing; Mahtomedi Public Schools; Mayo Clinic; Numa Psychotherapy; Nystrom & Associates, LTD; Optum; Robbinsdale Area Schools; RSM US LLP; Saint Mary's University of Minnesota; St. Michael-Albertville Public Schools; Saint Paul Public Schools; Self-Employed; South Washington County Schools; State of Minnesota; Target; UnitedHealth Group; Wells Fargo; and Wiley.

## Primary Career Goal at Time of Enrollment

459 (73%) of the 632 graduates responded what their primary career goal was at the time they began at Saint Mary's:

What was your primary career goal?	Total	%
Advancing my career	194	42%
Advancing my career in the same industry or job function	84	18%
Obtaining my first job in my desired field	60	13%
Changing to a new industry or job function	48	11%
Moving into a leadership role	46	10%
Other (Advancing education, financial independence, personal goal, job requirements, etc.)	12	3%
Starting my own business	10	2%
I cannot recall	5	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Achieving Career Goals

Of the 459 respondents, 75% (343) reported meeting the career goals they had when they enrolled at Saint Mary's.

- 74% reported their Saint Mary's education was very helpful to extremely helpful in achieving their career goals.
- 81% were likely or extremely likely to recommend Saint Mary's and their program to others.
- 41% were likely or extremely likely to consider completing additional degrees or certificate programs at Saint Mary's University.

## Status at Beginning of Education

At the time SGPP students began their education at Saint Mary's they reported the following status.

What was your status when you began your program?	# of Responses	%
Employed full-time (30+ hours/week)	382	73%
Employed part-time	43	8%
Full-time student	39	7%
Applying to graduate or professional programs	13	3%
Self-employed/Employed as an entrepreneur	10	2%
Actively seeking employment	9	2%
Other (parent, casual RN, teaching, unemployed, etc.)	6	1%
Freelance/gig/contract work	6	1%
Volunteering	5	1%
Military	5	1%
Post-graduate internship or fellowship	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*More than one answer was routinely selected by graduates; percentage is based on overall number of responses, 520, and not on the number of students who responded, 459.

## Career Change

Of the 459 graduates who responded, 50% (229) experienced a job or career change while enrolled at Saint Mary's.

How did your job or career change?	Total	%
Move to new organization	122	53%
New job function within organization	46	20%
Internal promotion	44	19%
No longer employed	14	6%
Started own business	3	2%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>100%</b>

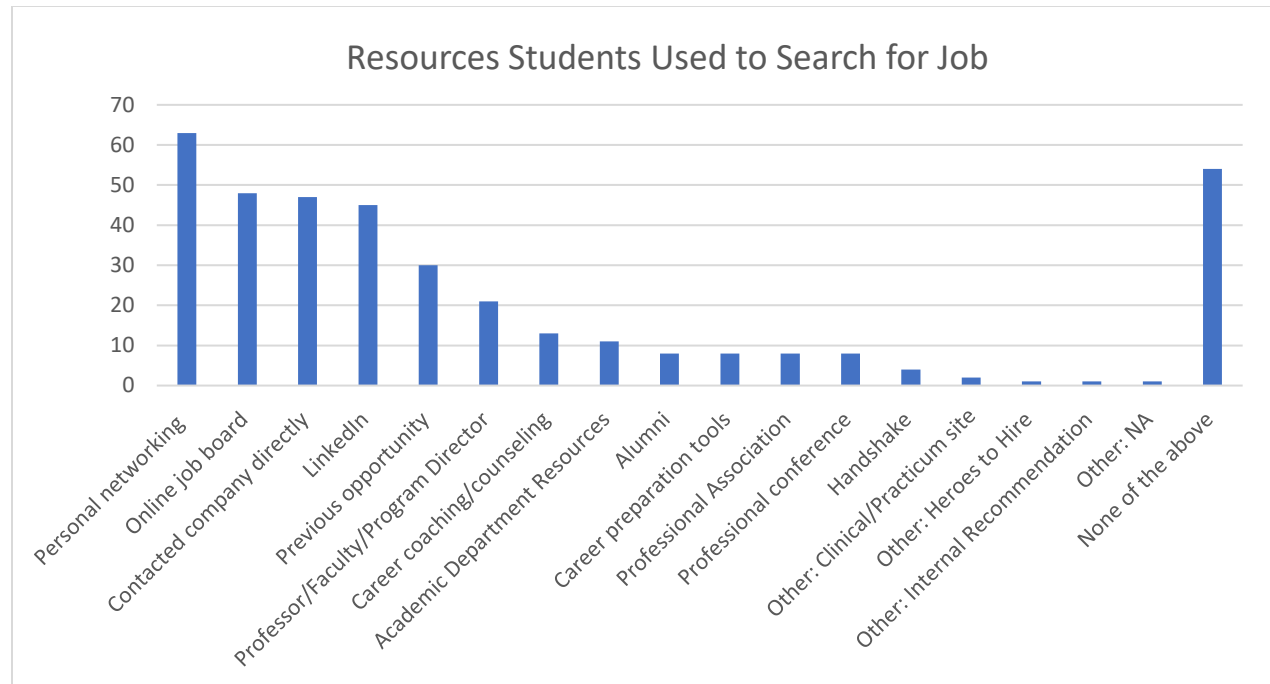
341 (74%) reported that their salary increased since enrolling in their program.

351 (76%) reported being currently employed in their field of study.

## Job Search Resources & Career Services Utilization

As Career Services launched in the Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs (SGPP) in Spring 2022, respondents were asked about the resources they used to assist them with their search and the role of Career Services in order to obtain baseline data.

A total of 229 respondents indicated that they utilized the following resources to search for or apply to the opportunity they accepted. Respondents could indicate multiple resources and a total of 373 resources were selected.



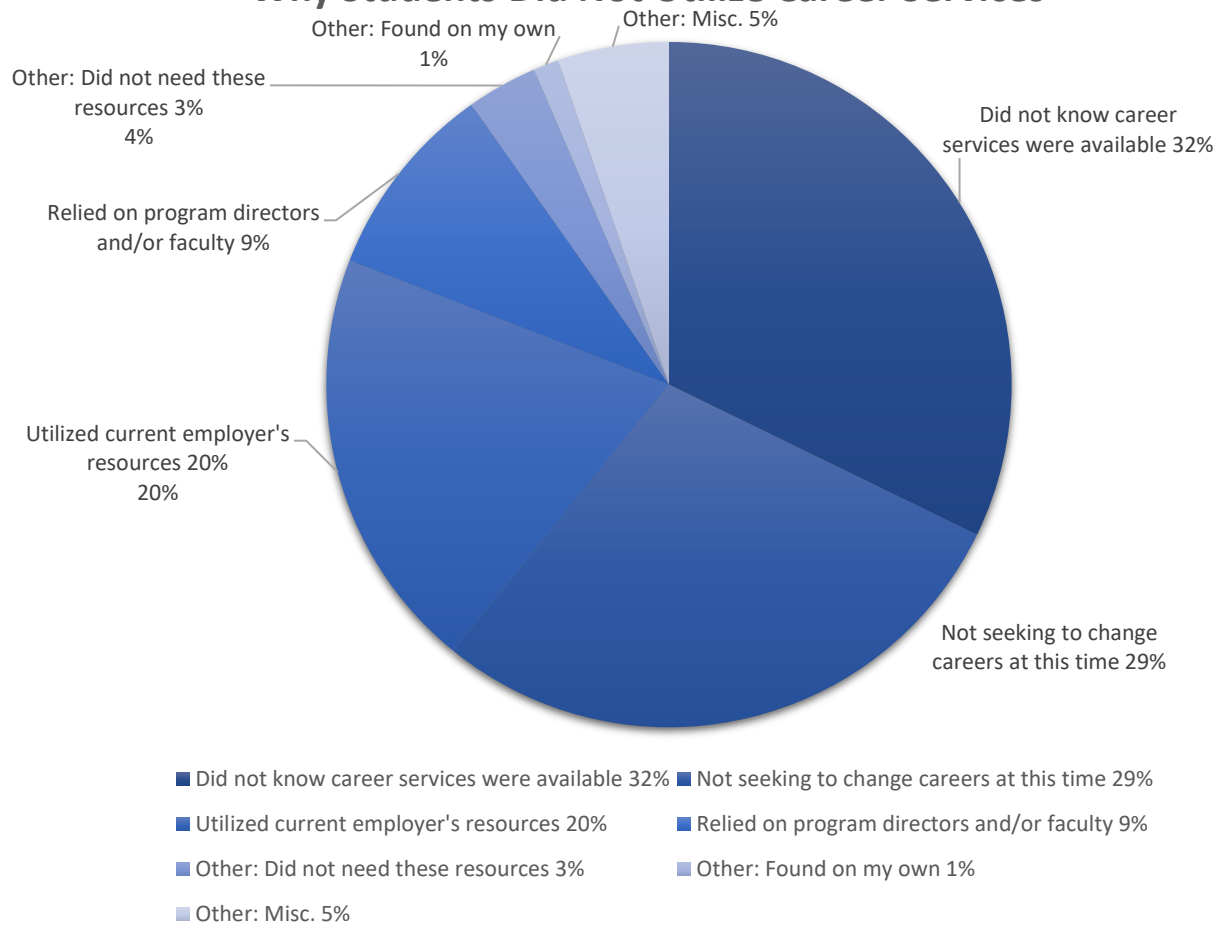
Graduates were asked which Career Services resources, services, and support they utilized for their job search and a total of 459 graduates responded. 419 respondents (91%) indicated that they did not use Career Services. A total of 40 respondents indicated that they utilized the following Career Services:

Which services resources or support did you utilize from Career Services (check all that apply)?	Total
Career Services website	20
Career coaching/advising	18
Attended workshops	10
Handshake	10
Participated in events	7
<b>*Total</b>	<b>65</b>

\*The **Total** is based on total number of responses received and not a distinct total number of graduates responding.

Further analysis was conducted on the 419 respondents (91%) who had not utilized Career Services to provide deeper insight as the office continues to expand its offerings. Given that Career Services became available in Spring 2022, it was anticipated that a significant portion (32%) of respondents would cite a lack of awareness as the primary reason for non-use. This number is expected to decline over time as awareness grows, leading to increased engagement with Career Services resources, programs, and support in future reports. The findings also highlight the importance of collaborating with program directors and faculty to ensure they are informed about Career Services and can help connect students with these valuable resources.

## Why Students Did Not Utilize Career Services



Questions regarding this report can be referred to Kerri Carlson Anderson, Director, Career Services, [kscarlso@smumn.edu](mailto:kscarlso@smumn.edu).