



CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

**A SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO A SURVEY OF CWU GRADUATE SCHOOL ALUMNI WHO GRADUATED
DURING THE 2016/2017 ACADEMIC YEAR**

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I. INTRODUCTION AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

During the spring quarter of 2018 Central Washington University (CWU) surveyed 157 alums who graduated during the 2016/2017 academic year with graduate degrees.

- The survey was administered online via email
- It only included alums who graduated with graduate degrees
- A pre-survey announcement was sent to 50% of the alums as a test to see if it helped response rates (it didn't improve the response rate much)
- Initial invitation emails were sent on April 10, 2018
- Two reminder emails were sent on April 18 and April 26
- A word mock-up of the survey is included in Appendix 1
- The survey was relatively short. CWU has quite a bit of information about the alums, e.g., race, ethnicity, DTA agreements, etc. Those variables were included as "embedded values" in Qualtrics to shorten the survey

Sixteen graduates answered the survey out of 157 alums with a graduate degree from CWU for a response rate of 10.2%. The response rate was disappointing. In the future, it may help response rates if all contacts come from alums' home departments.

Limitations

The following summary results are from a small sample with only 16 responses and should not be assumed to represent the population of all 2016/2017 alums with graduate degrees.

II. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Positive results include:

- 75% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that CWU helped them "7b. become productive and enlightened citizens."
- 88% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that "8a. I am very satisfied with my education from Central Washington University."
- 88% of alums agreed or strongly agreed that "8b. The curriculum provided useful perspectives on critical issues facing my profession."

Negative results include:

- Only 44% of alums with graduate degrees "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that CWU helped them become a "responsible citizen." This is quite a bit lower than previous surveys. Maybe the reason is that this survey was only administered to alums one year out of college. Maybe it was the low response rate. CWU should track this carefully.
- The average salary for alums who answered this survey was only \$32,000. See question 12.
- Respondents gave low average ratings to two NSSE "Inclusiveness and Engagement with Cultural Diversity" topical module questions. See question six on page 5.

III. ALL RESPONSES

1. Which of the following best describes your current primary status?

Question	# of Responses	% Responses
Employed for pay full time	12	75%
Employed for pay part time	0	0%
Participating in a volunteer or service program	0	0%
Serving in the military	0	0%
Enrolled in a program of continuing education	1	6%
Planning to continue education but not yet	0	0%
Seeking employment	2	13%
Not seeking employment or further	0	0%
Other (please describe)	1	6%
Total Responses	16	100%

Responses to "Other:" Alumni

2. If you are working would you please tell us your job title and the organization you work for.

If you are a graduate student, would you please tell us where you are enrolled and what degree you are pursuing?

Colorado School of Mines. Ph.D.
CPA for Moss Adams
Director of Program Development at Central Washington University Alumni Association
I am a full time high school teacher
Interim Director of Concurrent Enrollment, Central Washington University
Marketing & Communications Director - The First Tee of South Puget Sound
Masters in Higher Ed at CWU
Senior Accountant @ Community Health Plan of Washington
Senior Firefighter with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Staff Writer, Reviews.com / Red Ventures
Stormwater Technician, City of Wenatchee
Trainer, WA State
yes, I am enrolled in my degree area

3. Where do you live (nearest city and state)?

Cle Elum, WA	Marysville, WA
Denver, CO	Monroe, WA
East Wenatchee, WA	Seattle, WA
East Wenatchee, WA	Seattle, WA
Ellensburg, WA	Seattle, WA
Ellensburg, WA	Susanville, CA
Kent, WA	WA
Leavenworth, WA	

4. How important are each of the following competencies to your career?

(medians are highlighted with a dark background)

	Critical	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Not at all important
a. Thinking critically - check your and others' assumptions; consider multiple perspectives from various sources, etc.	69%	31%	0%	0%	0%
b. Written communications – purpose, organization, development, mechanics	75%	25%	0%	0%	0%
c. Oral communications – vocal delivery, gestures, eye contact, good listening	81%	19%	0%	0%	0%
d. Quantitative reasoning - apply quantitative tools and computer skills to solve problems; comprehend symbolic representations	31%	31%	38%	0%	0%
e. Information literacy - critically evaluate data sources as you gather relevant information	50%	44%	6%	0%	0%

5. How strongly do you agree or disagree that CWU prepared you for each of these competencies?
 (medians are highlighted with a dark background)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a. Thinking critically - check your and others' assumptions; consider multiple perspectives from various sources, etc.	31%	63%	6%	0%	0%
b. Written communications – purpose, organization, development, mechanics	44%	38%	13%	6%	0%
c. Oral communications – vocal delivery, gestures, eye contact, good listening	25%	56%	0%	19%	0%
d. Quantitative reasoning - apply quantitative tools and computer skills to solve problems; comprehend symbolic representations	25%	44%	13%	19%	0%
e. Information literacy - critically evaluate data sources as you gather relevant information	31%	44%	19%	6%	0%

6. How much did your coursework at CWU emphasize the following?
 (medians are highlighted with a dark background)

	Very Much	Quite a bit	Some	Very Little
Recognize your own cultural norms and biases	0%	38%	31%	31%
Explore your own background through projects, assignments, or programs	13%	25%	13%	50%

7. These next few questions relate to CWU's Mission. How strongly do you agree or disagree that your education from CWU helped you...? (Medians are highlighted with a dark background.)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a. become a responsible citizen.	19%	25%	44%	13%	0%
b. become a productive and enlightened (informed, good learner, insightful) individual.	31%	44%	19%	6%	0%

8. Please select the response that best describes your opinion about your education at CWU. (Medians are highlighted with a dark background.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a. I am very satisfied with my education from Central Washington University.	38%	50%	13%	0%	0%
b. The curriculum provided useful perspectives on critical issues facing my profession.	50%	38%	13%	0%	0%

9. Why did you choose to attend CWU for your graduate degree? Please select all that apply.

	Responses	- % -	Data Bars 0 to 1
Campus size	1	6%	
Student/faculty ratio	1	6%	
Location of campus	10	63%	
Cost	11	69%	
Legacy (tradition, other family membe	2	13%	
Program	10	63%	
Friends attended	2	13%	
Academic reputation	5	31%	
Likelihood of obtaining a job after you	2	13%	
Other (please describe)	5	31%	

Other:

Advisor
Excelente faculty (Geology Department)
Full assistantship
online masters
Program was offered online - this was the primary reason

10. How likely are you as an alum to do the following?

	Likely	Not likely	Did not answer	Likely Data Bars
a. Mentor CWU students	44%	50%	6%	
b. Identify job opportunities for fellow CWU graduates	75%	25%	0%	
c. Attend local Alumni Association Events	31%	69%	0%	
d. Read the monthly Alumni E-Newsletter	38%	63%	0%	
e. Read the Central Connections Magazine	38%	63%	0%	
f. Promote CWU to others	81%	19%	0%	
g. Network with other Alumni	69%	31%	0%	
h. Visit the CWU website	69%	31%	0%	
i. Use a printed or online alumni directory	31%	69%	0%	
j. Provide leadership by serving on boards, committees...etc.	44%	56%	0%	
k. Give to Scholarships or Programs	25%	69%	6%	
l. Attend or volunteer for general Alumni and University events	38%	63%	0%	
m. Visit CWU Alumni LinkedIn and Facebook pages	50%	50%	0%	

11. How likely are you as an alum to attend the following events?

	Likely	Not likely	Did not answer	Likely Data Bars
a. Networking	50%	50%	0%	
b. Young Alumni	31%	69%	0%	
c. Homecoming Weekend	19%	81%	0%	
d. Social Events	25%	75%	0%	
e. Professional Development	50%	50%	0%	
f. Academic Specific Programs	50%	50%	0%	
g. Fundraising Events	19%	81%	0%	
h. Alumni Travel Opportunities	31%	69%	0%	
i. Family/Children Oriented Events	25%	75%	0%	
j. Regional Network Events	56%	44%	0%	
k. Educational Lectures	56%	44%	0%	
l. Athletic Events	50%	50%	0%	
m. Performing Arts Programs	44%	56%	0%	

12. What are your approximate, yearly, pre-tax, earnings?

The estimated average earnings of alums with graduate degrees who graduated during the 2016/ 2017 academic year is approximately \$32,000 annually.

	% of 16	Data Bars 0 to 100%
less than \$20,000 annually	13%	
\$20,000 to \$39,999	13%	
\$40,000 to \$59,999	44%	
\$60,000 to \$79,999	13%	
\$80,000 to \$99,999	13%	
\$100,000 or over	6%	

13. How could CWU have improved your learning experience?

Better Instruction	3
Increased offerings	2
Increased academic funding	1
Great experience	1

14. What did CWU do best to help improve your learning?

Be persistent, be involved with your peers.
Hire qualified and effective staff, good at communicating information. Provide abundant opportunities for additional learning
Hired full-time, tenure-track professors and gave them time for research. You're still going to do that, right? Right?
Offer online Ph.D. with qualified teachers.
Small class sizes allowed more one-on-one instruction.
When I started at CWU, my classes were challenging. Fortunately, I went into major classes right away because I had a direct transfer degree.
The college of business had professors that really made us think. Not just challenged but inspired. Hands-on activities, real-life examples, student participation, and high standards of conduct in the classroom made the learning experience great.
Those skills help me succeed in the real world.

APPENDIX 1

MOCK-UP OF THE GRADUATE SURVEY

Hello,

I am writing today to invite your feedback as a graduate of Central Washington University. Your feedback will help inform our ongoing efforts to improve the student experience of all students at CWU. Please take a few minutes to provide some important information about your current activities in addition to your educational experience at Central. Your feedback will be completely confidential and aid in understanding how students benefit from their experience at CWU.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful response.

Dr. James L. Gaudino President, Central Washington University

CWU is an

AA/EEO/Title IX Institution. For accommodation e-mail: DS@cwu.edu.

1. Which of the following BEST describes your current PRIMARY status?

- Employed for pay full time (on average 30 hours or more per week)
 - Employed for pay part time (on average fewer than 30 hours per week)
 - Participating in a volunteer or service program (e.g., Peace Corps)
 - Serving in the military
 - Enrolled in a program of continuing education
 - Planning to continue education but not yet enrolled
 - Seeking employment
 - Not seeking employment or further education
 - Other (please describe) _____
-

2. If you are working would you please tell us your job title and the organization you work for?
 If you are a graduate student, would you please tell us where are enrolled and what degree you are pursuing?

3. Where do you live (nearest city and state)?

4. How important are each of the following competencies to your career?

	Critical	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Not at all important
a. Thinking critically - check your and others' assumptions; consider multiple perspectives from various sources, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Written communications – purpose, organization, development, mechanics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Oral communications – vocal delivery, gestures, eye contact, good listening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Quantitative reasoning - apply quantitative tools and computer skills to solve problems; comprehend symbolic representations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Information literacy - critically evaluate data sources as you gather relevant information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



5. How strongly to you agree or disagree that CWU prepared you for each of these competencies.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a. Thinking critically - check your and others' assumptions; consider multiple perspectives from various sources, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Written communications – purpose, organization, development, mechanics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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e. Information literacy - critically evaluate data sources as you gather relevant information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. How much did your coursework at CWU emphasize the following?

	Very much	Quite a bit	Some	Very little
Recognize your own cultural norms and biases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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7. How strongly do you agree or disagree that your education from CWU helped you...?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a. become a responsible citizen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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8. Please select the response that best describes your opinion about your education at CWU.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a. I am very satisfied with my education from Central Washington University.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. The curriculum provided useful perspectives on critical issues facing my profession.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Why did you choose to attend CWU for your graduate degree? Please select all that apply.

- Campus size
- Student/faculty ratio
- Location of campus
- Cost
- Legacy (tradition, other family members attended)
- Program
- Friends attended
- Academic reputation
- Likelihood of obtaining a job after you graduate
- Other (please describe) _____

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	Likely	Not likely
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f. Academic Specific Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Fundraising Events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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- \$80,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 or over

13. How could CWU have improved your learning experience?

14. What did CWU do best to help improve your learning?
