



Recreation Program Alumni Survey 2008

Prepared by

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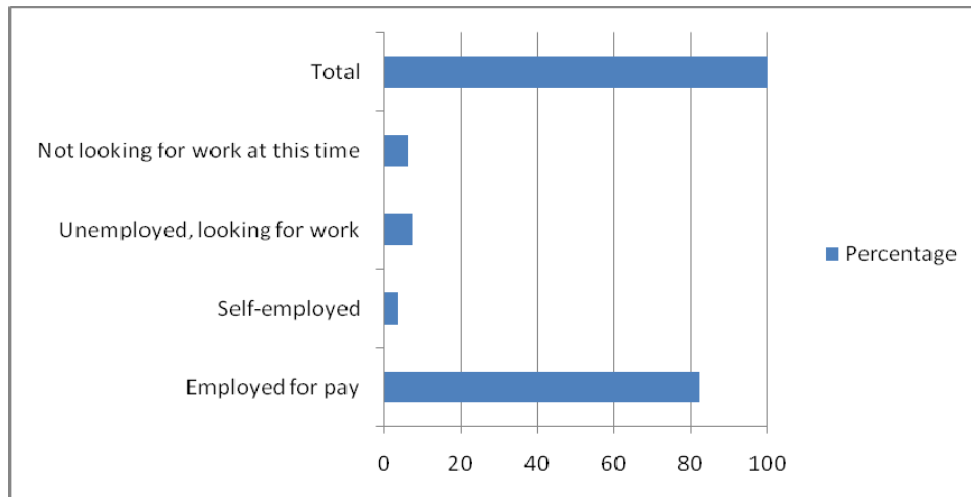
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Background Information

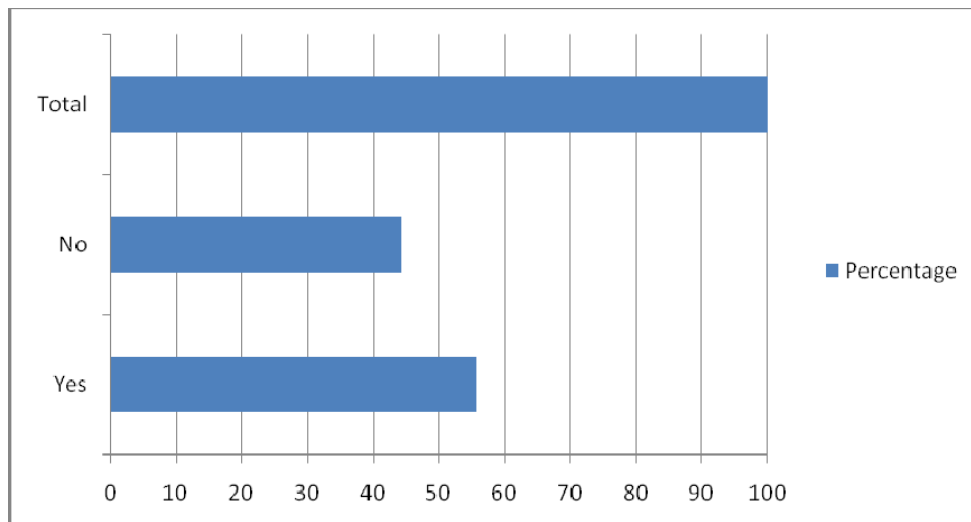
The purpose of the 2008 Recreation Program Alumni Survey was to query alumni from the recreation program who graduated between the years 2003 and 2008 for their perspectives on the Recreation program. The on-line survey was developed from versions used in years past with the help of Richard Frye in Testing and Assessment. Faculty reviewed the survey and had opportunity to comment on the content and layout. A total of 278 alumni students were identified from a database provided by Donna Janigo, Director of Constituent Records in University Advancement. After screening, the sampling frame was reduced to 241 alumni with identifiable e-mail addresses. The survey was launched on November 17, 2008. A total of 14 e-mails were returned as no longer functioning, providing a total sample size of 224. A reminder was sent one-week later on November 24th. The survey was pulled on December 8th after no responses had been received for 24 hours. A total of 79 surveys were returned, yielding a response rate of 35%. The following summarizes the results of the survey.

Questions on Employment

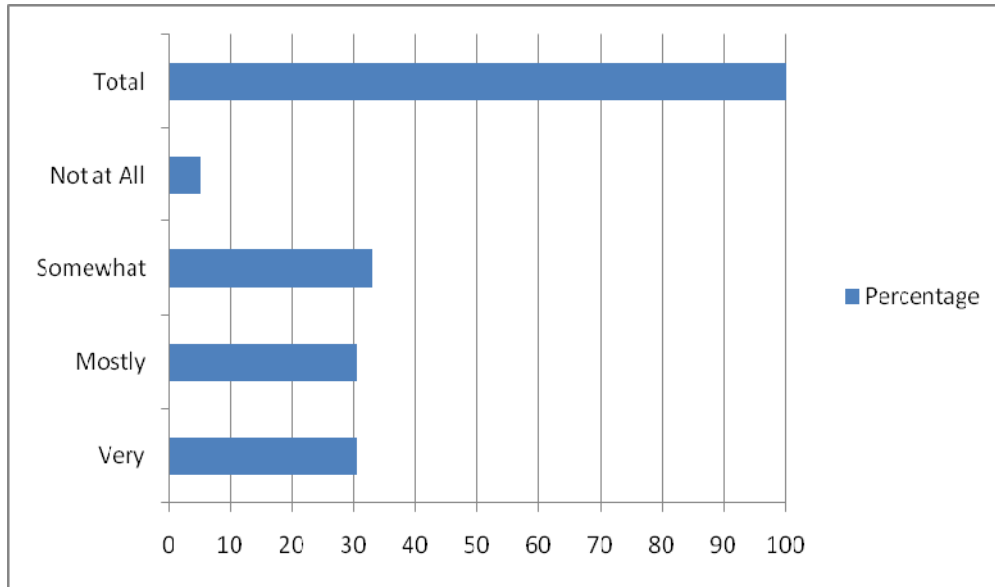
Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?



Are you currently working in the recreation field?



To what degree do you believe your recreation degree was helpful in preparing you for your current or most recent position



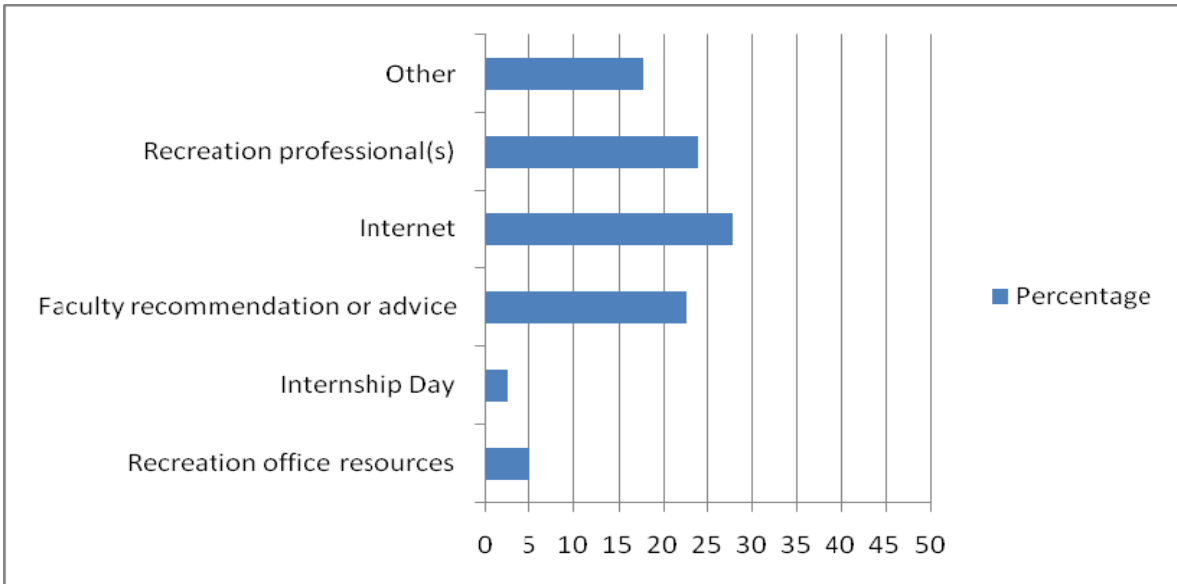
Questions on Recreation Program Elements

Responses based on scale: 1 = very, 2 = mostly, 3 = somewhat, 4 = not at all.

Question	M	SD
How helpful do you think the individual projects were in preparing you for your current or most recent professional position	2.04	.884
How helpful do you think the group projects were in preparing you for your current or most recent professional position?	1.99	.913
How important were the field-based experiences that were a part of your courses in preparing you for your current or most recent professional position	1.82	.958
Please rate the overall quality of instruction you received in the Recreation degree program in your courses.	1.51*	.618
How helpful was the advising by Recreation faculty in selecting appropriate courses in your support area?	1.82	.944
How helpful was the advising by Recreation faculty in helping you explore different career opportunities ?	2.16	1.055
How helpful was the advising by Recreation faculty in helping you address personal matters while you were a student?	1.80*	.939
How helpful was your internship experience in preparing you for your current or most recent professional position?	1.85	1.014

Significantly different than 2 = mostly at $p < .05$

Which of the following was most helpful to you in finding an internship?



Other

Open-Ended Responses

I should have had an advisor push me to do something different!!!! (i found my internship at the WWU rec center)

Internet search, my advisor was useless

Friends

Previous employer

Friends that had interned for company

Phase when we had to go to at least 4 different recreation places to see what they do

Classmates

Using the internet, to find what I wanted

Friend

Personal search

Friends Connections

Questions about Specific Course Content

How relevant and useful were the below courses and topic areas in preparing you for your current or most recent position

Responses based on scale: 1 = very, 2 = mostly, 3 = somewhat, 4 = not at all.

Topic Areas	M	SD
Professional foundations (history, philosophy, values)	2.19	.935
Principles and contemporary issues related to the profession	2.00	.832
Program planning	1.78*	.901
Management	1.87	.853
Assessment	1.73*	.970
Leadership	1.68*	.840
Program evaluation	2.18	.917

Significantly different than 2 = mostly at $p < .05$

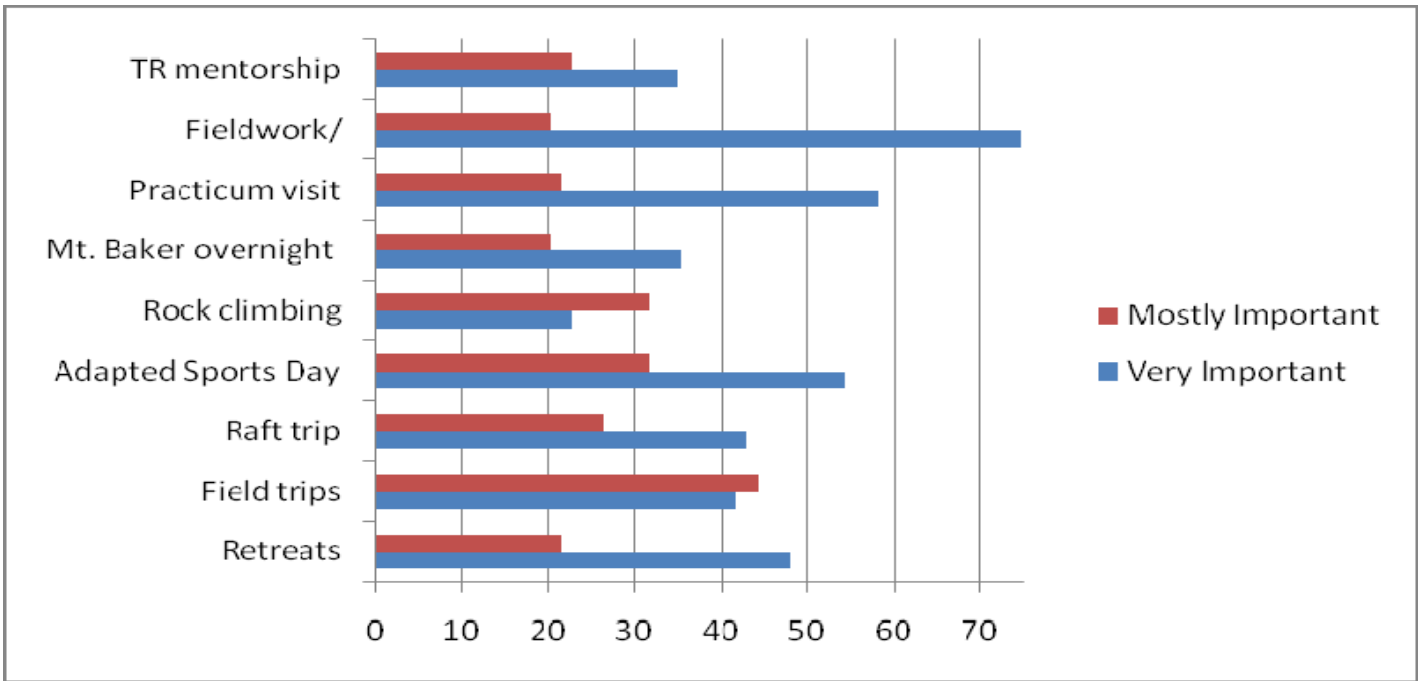
For the below set of skill areas, please first rate yourself at the time you started Phase I (scale at left), and second, rate yourself at the time you completed Phase IV.

Based on a scale of 1 = no mastery; 3 = average mastery; 5 = full mastery for someone your age and experience

	Started Phase <i>M</i>	Finished Phase <i>M</i>	Diff?	Sig
Writing effectively	3.46	4.00	-.544	.000
Speaking effectively	2.96	3.89	-.924	.000
Critically analyzing written information	3.11	3.91	-.797	.000
Defining and solving problems	3.24	3.92	-.684	.000
Working and/or learning independently	3.75	4.14	-.392	.000
Working cooperatively in a group	3.38	4.27	-.886	.000
Understanding and appreciating differing philosophies/cultures	3.33	4.20	-.873	.000
Understanding the interaction of society and the environment	3.00	4.06	-1.063	.000
Working effectively with technology, especially computers	3.35	3.86	-.506	.000
Using a broad range of knowledge, ideas, and perspectives	3.25	4.05	-.797	.000
Using management/leadership capabilities	2.89	4.03	-1.139	.000
Understanding organizations and how people behave in them	2.67	3.85	-1.177	.000
Being able to respond to moral dilemmas	3.18	4.10	-.924	.000

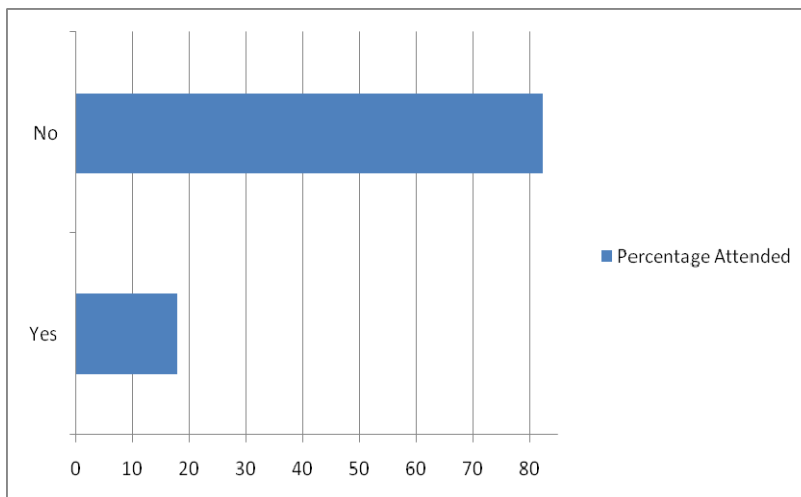
Questions about Phase Activities

Rate each of the following activities according to its overall value to your education at WWU.

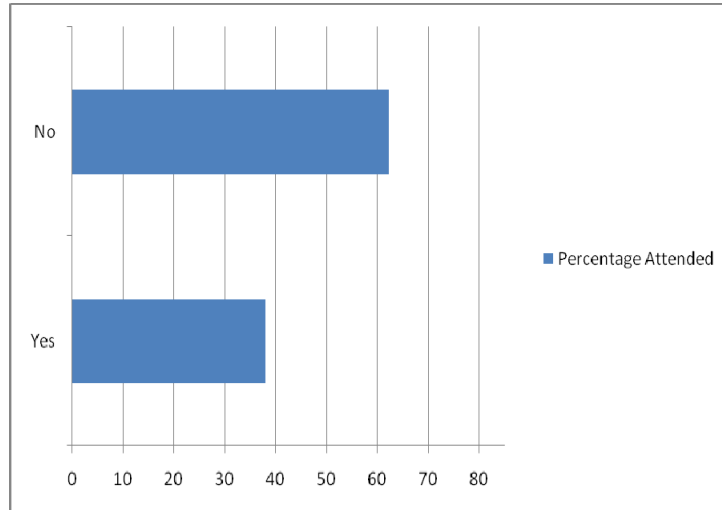


General Questions

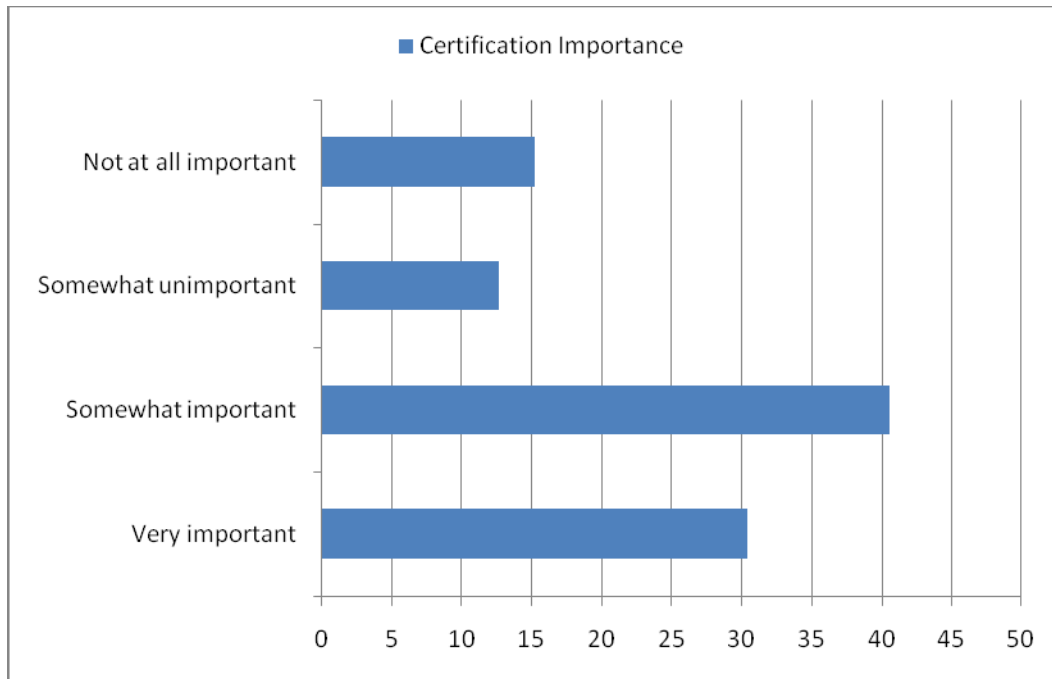
Have you ever attended an alumni picnic or other alumni event?



Have you attended graduate school, certificate programs, or other educational experiences since graduation?



How important is certification to your professional development and advancement?



What certifications have you received?

Certification	Yes	No
CPRP	0	79
CTRS	12	67

Do you keep in touch with members of your phase?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes I keep in touch	45	57.0
No I do not keep in touch	7	8.9
Occasionally I run into people from my Phase	27	34.2
Total	79	100