Summary of Results
2013 survey of undergraduates who gradated between
September 1, 2011 and August 30, 2012

This survey was for Concordia graduates who earned their B.A., B.S. or B.B.A. degrees in December 2011, May 2012 or August 2012. This is part of a survey required by the Minnesota Private College Council. There were 399 total graduates, 145 (36.3%) of whom responded to the survey. This is comparable to other years of the survey.

93 of 173 (53.7%) of cohort students responded
52 of 226 (23%) of traditional program students responded

Of the 145 respondents:
105 were working full-time
5 were employed part-time
10 were in school and still working full-time
5 were in school and working part-time
6 were self-employed
5 were unemployed and seeking full-time work
1 was on a volunteer internship
1 was unemployed and not seeking full-time work

33 (22.7%) indicated that they had continued on to graduate school - and 20 of these were enrolled at Concordia St. Paul.
Students were asked the open ended question – How has your education at Concordia prepared you for your next stage in life? Here are their responses, broken out by college and also showing the major/program of the respondent.

**College of Business**

Finishing my undergraduate degree helped me to realize that I needed to continue my learning efforts for continued career advancement. (cohort – marketing)

It prepared me to transition to a new area of the company I was currently with. Also helped my credibility within the company because of the knowledge I had gained. (cohort – marketing)

It prepared me very well and completing it helped me get a new job. (cohort – marketing)

I think it provided me with the credentials needed to advance in my career. (cohort – marketing)

Prepared me to better perform in my current position and enabled me to continue my education. (cohort - marketing)

Networking ( cohort – marketing)

Open further opportunities within my current role as well as begin my progression in to new endeavors. (cohort – marketing)

Getting a Bachelors in Marketing allowed me to move from a Sales Manager Position into a Product Manager position. More pay and less travel and I am in line to be Director of Marketing in a few years. (cohort - marketing)

YES! (cohort – marketing)

The degree broke through and allowed me to interview and be qualified for jobs.. Prior to getting the degree it was difficult just getting an interview. (cohort - marketing)

It gave me the minimum required degree to advance my career (cohort – marketing)

The courses and professors provided skills that I was not able to get in my current job role at that time but help when I started to plan my career with my current employer. (cohort – marketing)

By getting the degree in OML, I was able to have the confidence to apply for my current position in a higher level position. (cohort – organizational management)

Hopefully is has better prepared me for leadership positions....if I ever get one (cohort – organizational management)
The degree and program were subpar at best...not worth it! (cohort – Organizational Management)

Needed the degree for credibility (cohort - organizational management)

It allowed me to be qualified for a position that required a degree. (cohort – Organizational Management)

To be a better critical thinker & a more well-rounded individual compared to when I started my program. (cohort – organizational management)
now questioning if indeed I am prepared (cohort – organizational management)

Research methodology was helpful. (cohort – organizational management)

helped learning more advanced critical thinking and lifelong learning skills (cohort – Organizational Management)

Sadly I don't think it helped. Employers are looking to experience rather than education. The job market is too flooded to take a chance on a new graduate. I feel like working and going to school puts me at a disadvantage because people still care more about my current job more than my education. (cohort – Organizational Management)

I don't think the degree changes much in life, but rather the experience to obtain one. (cohort – organizational management)

I provided me with tools and techniques to lead. Unfortunately education is not enough and experience is required as well so it’s hard to just get a job where I went with only a degree. (cohort – Organizational Management)

It provided the necessary tools to advance in my career. (cohort – Organizational Management)

It gave me the education and knowledge on how a work cell could be better and how to deal with people in a different and more successful way than I did before my schooling. (cohort – organizational management)

It allowed me to get into grad school and better allowed me to run by business better. (cohort – organizational management)

very well (cohort – organizational management)

It helped me focus on what I wanted to do, by giving me a vehicle to get to where I needed to be. (cohort – organizational management)

I have the degree and no one can take this away from me and the employer cannot say that "you don't have a degree" (cohort – organizational management)
I received a promotion at work, and now the door is open for other opportunities that require a 4-year degree. (cohort – organizational management)

I accomplished a goal I have wanted to accomplish. (cohort – organizational management)

The degree helped prepare me for the PHR exam which I passed on the first try. It has also helped to increase my standing with my peers at work. They are more inclined to follow my guidance now that I have a degree in my field. (cohort – Human Resource Management)

I feel I am a more well-rounded HR professional. My degree has prepared me for graduate school. (cohort – human resource management)

I believe that I am one of the fortunate graduates from my cohort that is actually employed as a Human Resource manager. The HRM program really gave me the added education and knowledge needed to work in the HR field. Overall it was a great experience! (cohort – human resource management)

It helped me to have a more broad understanding of HR/business (cohort – human resource management)

Opened the door to the area of business I wanted to get into (cohort – human resource management)

Well my degree prepared me for HR...but I can't find a job in that field (cohort – human resource management)

It has prepared me very well (cohort – human resource management)

By going back to school and obtaining my degree I was able to obtain a role at Target Headquarters in Human Resources. (cohort – human resource management)

Gave me more confidence (cohort – human resource management)

It has helped me see HR in a bigger "Leadership" roll versus the "employee" (cohort – human resource management)

It gave me a better chance at getting jobs since most require 4 year degrees. (cohort – human resource management)

One of my goals in life was to obtain a Bachelor’s Degree which I have done. I have not been able to obtain a job though in the degree that I received. I am continuing to look for a job in this field. (cohort – human resource management)

Gave me a degree that held me back from being promoted further in my career (cohort, unknown major)

gave me the degree to open doors for interviews (cohort – criminal justice)
Confidence was gained to pursue next degree (cohort – criminal justice)

It made my resume' more attractive to my employer for future promotion opportunities (cohort – criminal justice)

Gave me the educational background I needed to secure the type of job I was looking for. (cohort – criminal justice)

Not much. Would like if it also help me start up my next stage i.e.; hands-on job (trad – accounting)

It was a pre-requisite for the MBA program and having online learning under my belt and being disciplined in my learning work ethic makes the MBA program enjoyable. Learning how to write papers in APA format reduced the fear of graduate work. I love Concordia, the professors, the process, the support, the experience! I have confidence that I would never have achieved without my degree. (cohort – human services)

Without my degree I wouldn't have my current job. (trad – finance)

It helped broaden my perspective. I was able to take a 6 month internship after graduation in Central America because of my time at Concordia. (trad – business management)

It made me more aware of all the different fields that come into play in business, and how they all work together to make a company more successful. (trad – business)

I really don't feel it did. I am working twice as hard now to pay back the huge debit for my education. I wish I had waited a year or two in order to get the lower rates now offered. I also felt that it's terrible that I had attended a Missouri syn church and didn't qualify for a student discount after being a member of over twenty years and an Alumni from Concordia Academy. (cohort – business management)

It gave me tools to look forward in life. But has not given me open doors to new employment (cohort – business)

Added a depth to my understanding of the food industry. (cohort – food retail management)

My Concordia bachelor’s degree immediately opened the doors of opportunity. Before I graduated I worked odd jobs with dead end potential. After graduating, I was promoted immediately. Now I can say have a career. Thank you for the opportunity Concordia (trad – marketing management)

College of Education and Science

The Degree I received directly prepared me for my current position. Playing in sports, taught me how to manage my time, work as a team and how to respond to stress. (trad – exercise science)
I hope that my degree has provided enough background to fulfill the requirements for an IT Project Manager or Business Analyst role. (cohort – Information Technology Management)

Excellent at preparing in the skill of time management. I am attempting to apply for positions more closely related to my field of study. Also, all around collaboration skills. (cohort – Information Technology Management)

Did not (cohort – Information Technology Management)

I have found the ITM program at Concordia to be the perfect beginning step to obtaining my MBA. The pace, content, and expectations did a fantastic job of preparing me for success at the graduate level. Additionally as a direct result of applying what I learned in the ITM program I have been promoted to a management position within my technology team. (cohort – Information Technology Management)

it hasn't improved my work life directly (cohort – Information Technology Management)

The degree provided learning and resources I've been able to apply to my job on a daily basis. It has given me confidence and a desire to continue learning -and to continue schooling when timing is right. (cohort – Information Technology Management)

Helped with resume (cohort – Information Technology Management)

The program touched on some interesting and trending topics in technology and I wanted more so I enrolled in another technology program after the BA. I also hold a job in the technology industry. (cohort – Information Technology Management)

It got me back into the promotion track at work. (cohort – Information Technology Management)

We are currently selling our home and relocating to the twin cities. Once settled I will begin searching for a job as a business analyst or project manager. (cohort – Information Technology Management)

Providing me with a foundation in my area of study to use in a practical setting and to face challenges using my education and experiences from both Concordia and in life. Concordia also helped me to stay grounded in faith and keep God at hands reach in everything I do. (cohort – Family Life Ed)

After receiving my degree in Family Life Education, I was hired as a Case Manager working with youth and young adults. The classes that I took in the program help me relate and communicate with my clients. (cohort – family life education)

It gave me the education/degree that fits my experience and life-learned skills. It opened doors. (cohort – Family Life Ed)

It gave me the credentials I needed to land a better paying job, as well as the knowledge base to be a successful preschool teacher. (cohort – child development)
Taught me about the importance of self-reflection and working on myself to improve my professional work. (cohort – child development)

completing my degree has given me a sense of accomplishment as well as confidence in myself as I continue to work in my field as well knowing that I am equipped to look for other more challenging opportunities within my field if I so desire. (cohort – child development)

It gave me the qualifications necessary to pursue and secure a job advancement. (cohort – child development)

Completed my teaching credential and I am following my dream coaching football! (trad – physical education/health)

Was able to get into graduate school. The internships helped me get a job in my field right out of college. (trad – psychology)

It prepared me by me that education that is needed. (trad – psychology)

Gave me a teacher position at the child care center where I've been at for 5.5 years. (trad – early childhood education)

Prepared me for advance clinical work and instructing health classes. (cohort – kinesiology)

It continues to pay dividends as I continue to put my undergrad to use in my field. (cohort – exercise science)

I honestly cannot say if my degree has helped to prepare me for my next stage in my life. I know that I did learn new things while at Concordia; however, I do not know if my time there taught me enough to help me be ready or excel in my next stage of life. Time will tell if it has. (cohort – exercise science and kinesiology)

Biggest waste of 50Gs ...now working a job I didn't even need a degree for and it's outside my field of study (cohort – kinesiology)

Broadened my knowledge of the field I am in. (cohort – pulmonary science)

Promotion to Manager (cohort – pulmonary science)

Put me in the 1% of people in this world who graduated from college (trad – kinesiology)

Organization (trad – sports management)

Helped me figure out what I wanted to do with my life and showed me that I really wanted a job working with kids. (individually designed major in Education – General Studies)

It prepared me to be an educator. (trad - elementary education)
Looks good on a resume (double major – exercise science and biology)

Not very well (trad – early childhood education)

Much of what I learned in education classes (especially development), I use for my daughter and soon-to-be baby #2. (trad – K-12 music education)

I needed a four year degree for my job. (trad -elementary ed/special ed)

To be a real teacher someday soon, I hope. I am loving substitute teaching, but would rather be full time employed as a teacher (trad - elementary education)

My degree program prepared me by giving me the tools to always striving to be better and to never give up. In the job market today you will hit many closed doors but it only takes one to show what an asset you could be. (traditional – criminal justice)

**College of Arts and Letters**

Finished my Bachelor’s Degree at CSP. Couldn’t obtain the MA without it. I’m an adult returning student and came back after a 15 year break where I served in the US Air Force. (trad - history)

The degree allowed for increased opportunities. However unable to find a job in my field without an advanced degree or prior experience. (trad – English)

When my kids reach school-age, I will be able to get back into the workforce and feel confident about getting a job because of my degree. (trad – English)

It prepared me to be an effective communicator no matter the medium as well as in-person. I am able to take my ideas and develop them into the message I need for an audience. (trad – English, professional writing emphasis)

It made me aware of where I wanted to continue with my career and created a stable base on which I could launch into my graduate program (trad – music and theater)

Lots of practical experience in my field, which I still use, though not for my full time job. Also any BA allows me more job opportunities. (trad – theater)

It prepared me to have higher pay in my job than one with an A.A degree or some college. (trad – communication studies)

I loved my degree because it not only helps me in my profession, but with my personal life as well. I consider my degree extremely valuable! (trad – communication studies)

I’m the director of communications for USA Baseball, so they communications that I studied at Concordia is directly applied to my work every day. (trad – communication studies)
My degree gave me a wide range of tools that greatly prepared me for my career path, but it was most of the experiences outside of the classroom and connections with staff and faculty that really shaped me into an employable individual. (trad – individually designed major of Social Service and Outreach)

It gave me management skills and social skills vital to the position that I am in now (Management and Head Server at a restaurant). (trad – individually designed Urban Community Outreach)

My degree helped get me the initial interview for my current position. (trad – individually designed major of Art Design)