

# Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College



**Post-Graduation Survey  
Education Department  
2012**

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# Education

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## *Total Surveyed*

	Surveyed	Responded	Percentage
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>35%</b>
Early Childhood / Child Development	2	1	50%
K-Elementary Education	24	9	38%
K-Elementary Education/Mild Intervention	2	2	100%
Middle/High School English	2	0	0%
Middle/High School Life Science	0	0	0%
Middle/High School Math	0	0	0%
Middle/High School Social Studies	2	0	0%
Middle/High School Special Ed/Mild Intervention	2	1	50%
Non-Licensure	4	0	0%
P-12 Art Education	0	0	0%
P-12 Music Education	0	0	0%
P-3 Mild Intervention	13	5	38%

	Surveyed	Responded	Percentage
<b>Teacher Licensure Areas of Concentration</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>39%</b>
Early Childhood / Child Development	0	0	0%
K-Elementary Education	10	4	40%
K-Elementary Education/Mild Intervention	2	1	50%
Middle/High School English	2	1	50%
Middle/High School Life Science	0	0	0%
Middle/High School Math	1	1	0%
Middle/High School Social Studies	0	0	0%
Middle/High School Special Ed/Mild Intervention	2	0	0%
Non-Licensure	0	0	0%
P-12 Art Education	0	0	0%
P-12 Music Education	0	0	0%
P-3 Mild Intervention	1	0	0%

## *Employment Status*

	Response Number	Response Percentage
Employed full-time (within major)	18	72%
Employed part-time (within major)	1	4%
Employed full-time (outside major)	2	8%
Employed part-time (outside major)	0	0%
Self-employed/freelance (within major)	0	0%
Self-employed/freelance (outside major)	0	0%
Active duty military	0	0%
Service (i.e., Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.)	0	0%
Full-time volunteer	0	0%
Retired	0	0%
Not employed	3	12%
Not seeking employment	0	0%
Other	1	4%

## *Annual Salary*

	Response Number	Response Percentage
Under \$20,000	2	8%
\$20,000 - \$24,999	2	8%
\$25,000 - \$29,999	1	4%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	13	52%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	1	4%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	0	0 %
\$60,000 - \$69,999	0	0%
\$70,000 or more	1	4%

## *Employment Destinations*

SMWC Major(s)	Organization	Position	Location
P-3 Mild Intervention	Busy Bee's Academy	Teacher	Columbus, IN
K-Elementary Education	Christel House Academy	Elementary Art Teacher	Indianapolis, IN
K-Elementary Education	Clay Community Schools	3rd Grade Teacher	Brazil, IN
Middle/High School English	Danville Community School Corporation	English Teacher	Danville, IN
K-Elementary Education	Danville District 118	5th Grade Teacher	Danville, IL
P-3 Mild Intervention	Eastbrook Community Schools	Special Education Teacher	Van Buren, IN
K-Elementary Education	First Financial Bank	Application Processor	Terre Haute, IN
P-3 Mild Intervention	Forest Park Elementary School	Instructional Assistant	Brazil, IN
K-Elementary Education/Mild Intervention	Human Services, Inc.	Center Manager	Seymour, IN

K-Elementary Education	Jennings County Schools	1st Grade Teacher	North Vernon, IN
K-Elementary Education	Jennings County Schools	5th & 6th Grade Special Education Teacher	North Vernon, IN
K-Elementary Education	La Porte Community School Corporation	5th Grade Teacher	La Porte, IN
K-Elementary Education/Mild Intervention	Lawrenceburg Community School Corporation	MOCD Teacher	Lawrenceburg, IN
Middle/High School Special Ed/Mild Intervention	Mill Creek Community School Corporation	Special Education Teacher	Clayton, IN
K-Elementary Education	Narnia Nursery	Teacher	Ireland
K-Elementary Education	Second Baptist Childcare	Assistant Director	Lafayette, IN
P-3 Mild Intervention	South Central Area Special Education Cooperative	Developmental Preschool Teacher	Paoli, IN
Middle/High School Math	Southwest Dubois School Corporation	Math Teacher	Huntingburg, IN
K-Elementary Education	St. Anthony Catholic School	2nd Grade Teacher	Lakeland, FL
K-Elementary Education	U.S. Steel	Calibration Technician	Gary, IN
Middle/High School Special Ed/Mild Intervention	Vigo County School Corporation	Special Education Teacher - Middle/High School Alternative	Terre Haute, IN

## ***Educational Status***

	<b>Response Number</b>	<b>Response Percentage</b>
<b>Enrolled full-time in graduate/professional school</b>	0	0%
<b>Enrolled part-time in graduate/professional school</b>	3	12%
<b>Enrolled full-time in additional undergraduate study</b>	0	0%
<b>Enrolled part-time in additional undergraduate study</b>	0	0%
<b>Enrolled in a certificate program</b>	0	0%
<b>Enrolled in a licensure program</b>	0	0%
<b>Applied but not accepted</b>	1	4%
<b>Not currently enrolled but plan to apply/attend within the next 3 years</b>	15	60%
<b>Not currently enrolled and have no plans to attend</b>	6	24%

## ***Educational Destinations***

<b>SMWC Major(s)</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Location</b>
K-Elementary Education/Mild Intervention	Ball State University	Special Education	Muncie, IN
P-3 Mild Intervention	Indiana University-Purdue University	Special Education	Fort Wayne, IN
Middle/High School Special Ed/Mild Intervention	University of Phoenix	Educational Leadership & Instruction	Phoenix, AZ

## ***Open-Ended Comments***

**Please describe the impact SMWC has had on your personal and professional success.**

SMWC has given me a dream that I have been trying [to] complete since I was 19 years old. It allowed me to fulfill a dream.

SMWC allowed me to finish my degree at my own pace and from home. After graduation, I was offered a teaching job immediately.

Being an individual with a visual impairment, I wondered if I could ever complete my goal of returning to college and getting a degree. I completed that goal, but have found that employers hesitate to hire someone such as myself even though I have the qualifications.

It has made me more confident in my abilities and I know that I will get a job. This is just a tough area to get a job in.

SMWC has helped me obtain the degree necessary to pursue a career I want to have. I was able to work at the school I student taught at, and I know that my experience there helped me get the job.

SMWC made a huge impact on my life. It gave me a great social life and taught me a lot about [e]ducation.

My experience provided me with the opportunity to learn while not attending school [physically]. With a wife, kids, and a job, traditional school would have been almost impossible and transferring in was a great decision. Since online classes require an abundance of writing, my writing skills have drastically increased which has resulted in additional knowledge of writing which helps my students and it helps me in a more [professional] manner.

I had an enjoyable time pursuing my degree. I was successful in my studies and received several academic awards. I found that most employers don't appear to care where an applicant earned their degree. Earning my degree and the St. Catherine [M]edal [have] helped [me] prove to myself and others that I am intelligent and am able to learn new things. Having a degree adds credibility in the education field.

SMWC helped me to [graduate] with the degree that I wanted.

SMWC has changed my life in so many ways. Without the WED program I would have never been able to return to school to obtain my teaching degree. I was a single mother, raising three daughters on my own, and running a child care business. Therefore, being able to do my schooling on my own time was a blessing. I now have a teaching job (with insurance)!

I learned a lot from my professors at SMWC; they provided a lot of advice, personal experiences, and were very helpful when I didn't understand a task/assignment. The opportunities that [Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College] provides help you prepare for future situation[s] that you could experience. I always recommend [Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College] when asked an opinion of what school is best or they should attend.

The professors in the education department prepared me to top notch ability to be ready as a new teacher, the [hands-on] environment and the passion for education pushed me to do my best.

The classes at SMWC stretched me as a person and as a professional. I had to think outside the box and for that I am grateful.

Excellent professors who cared for students and made an effort to connect even though it was an online program. Student teaching experience pushed me to provide practical assignments that really prepared me for first year of teaching. Love that we student taught in two different grade levels and schools!

SMWC was very accommodating for me to pursue my teaching license, while at the same time working part-time and raising small children. They prepared me greatly for the future and set the bar high academically. My adviser and other professors have continued to offer advice and be a support system.

It enabled me to obtain my teaching license and prepared me for the teaching profession.

I had been teaching for 5 years prior to enrolling. I worked under an emergency license while attending SMWC. My education gave me far more flexibility in my employment opportunities and deepened my professional skills.

I really just [needed] a quick program to get my license as I already [have] a bachelor's degree from a prestigious institution. SMWC was not a rigorous program and didn't have a great impact on my professional success.

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### **Knowing what you know now, what might you have done differently?**

I would have contacted SMWC years earlier.

I would have finished my degree years ago.

Not attended SMWC

I would have built more connections within the school. I would have taken the Praxis II before graduation because I am now struggling to find the time and income to do so.

Nothing

I wish I would have transferred in immediately instead of attending my second college. I wish [I] would have researched special education programs before [switching] school[s] because I [wasted] two years and a lot of money on my second college.

I wish I had researched starting pay in the education field more closely. I have received many offers, but the starting pay is not able to support [me] and [my] family. Knowing what I know now, I doubt I would choose the same path. I wouldn't have earned a degree in education if I knew the starting pay was so low and the benefits were so bad. I am searching for a way to make a difference in the lives of children, but I realize that public education is not a place for me. I value the experience of earning a diploma, but feel that it may have been time and money wasted.

I would have [gone] to school right after high school.

I wish I would have been a bit more involved in activities at SMWC as well as at the schools I worked in through my field experiences and student teaching, however being a single mom of young children it makes it difficult to do those extra things after school.

I would have researched student loans more closely, on the surface they seem like a [good] idea but they get you in the end.

I would have gotten my K-6 Special Education [degree], not just Pre-3. Although I would rather work with that age group, the opportunity that was available to me was in a K-6 school. I had to get a temporary permit for grades 4-6.

I only [wish] I would have been advised while I was a student to become highly qualified in a content area in addition to my special ed license. Unfortunately, no one knew that it would affect me getting a job later.

Nothing

I would probably have pursued a degree in [g]uidance and [c]ounseling rather than education.

I was thankful to be a proactive individual as most of my professors were not helpful in my career path. I didn't feel supported from anyone in career services either. I finished the program in less than one year because I worked hard to do so and pushed the limit in every possible way to receive credit from previous courses, test out of certain criteria, and overload with hours.

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### **What advice do you have for current students?**

Use all the resources that SMWC has to offer. They are loving caring people that want to see you reach your goal.

Stay strong and study hard! SMWC gives you the means to be successful.

I wasn't a typical student, so I'm not sure I could give a student [with a] disability much advice.

Keep the faith and keep working. It is so worth it and getting my degree at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods was one of the best decisions that I have ever made.

If you're an education major, take the Praxis II before graduation.

Have fun and follow your heart.

Balance your time effectively. You have multiple classes with multiple assignments due at various times [so] organization and time management will be your best friend[s] with the online curriculum.

Have an alternate plan. I was fortunate enough to have another career. Realize that your passion may not be profitable. Research the job market well. There is a big difference between "average salary" and "starting salary".

I would encourage them to attend SMWC.

Take one day and one assignment at a time and you will get through it.

Advice that I would give current students would be to take advantage of the opportunities offered to you; be involved as much as possible without "stretching" yourself too far. Also, don't be [afraid] to take a chance with something new.

Take in everything SMWC has to offer. [I]t is an amazing place that will change your life. SMWC creates strong, independent women that will make an impact on our world.

Stick with it!!!!!!! If a 50 year old can do it...anyone can.

Ask teachers [a lot] of questions to know as much as you can about students, curriculum, lesson planning, etc.

If you are pursuing a special ed. license, focus on a content area as well and take the Praxis test early. It is much easier to take those tests when you have studied and prepared for it. You won't be able to get a job without being highly qualified for it.

Work hard and don't lose sight of your end goal. Do things that will make you stand out from your peers.

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**What courses would have been helpful to you in preparing for your current position and/or application to graduate school?**

None

Writing an actual FBA or IEP for special education. I feel as if some of the curriculum danced around things rather than providing me with the information needed to be successful in the classroom. I was scared going into my student teaching because none of my courses allow me to write IEP's which is one of my responsibilities. I learned this by student teaching and after my job experience.

Current trends in education need more focus. With the exceptions of Pamela Gresham and Izzy Lindner, my instructors did not seem to be well informed on the latest trends in education.

Courses that would have been helpful to me for my current position would be something in finance since I am working in the mortgage department at a bank.

Special Ed Law

If I had known that I would have this job, I would have taken more upper elementary classes.

A course focused on practical aspects of the classroom such as classroom management, creating a class syllabus, and how to effectively create and grade assessments.

