



BETHEL UNIVERSITY

Executive Summary of 2020 CAS Alumni Surveys: 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year Alumni

These alumni survey results are for CAS students who graduated in 2019, 2015, and 2010.

What stands out:

- The 1-year and 5-year alumni **median income was higher** this year compared to last year.
- **Job satisfaction** was much **higher for 1-year and 5-year** alumni compared to previous years.
- The **1-year and 5-year alumni** were **less likely to be involved in leadership roles** compared to previous years.
- Gauging unemployment this year is a little tricky. **Unemployment that is not related to Covid is roughly the same as previous years.**
- A large percentage of our alumni are **involved in a faith community and attend church frequently.**
- The percentage of alumni who volunteered is still higher than the national average but lower than previous year. This is likely due to the pandemic.
- **Alumni** were significantly **more satisfied** with their **General Education experience** than current students. This may indicate that with age they come to appreciate (or understand) the purpose of our General Education.
- **Current students** gave higher ratings to their development of the **reconciler** core value compared to alumni.
- **One-year out alumni** gave **much higher ratings** for their **overall educational experience in their major** compared to last year.

At the end of this document you will find the responses to the prompt **“What experience while at Bethel had the biggest impact on you?”** There are many heartwarming responses and a few heartbreaking responses.

Primary Results:

- **Unemployment:** Given the pandemic, the results for unemployment were a little different this year compared to past years. 2.6% of 1-year, 2.3% of 5-year, and 0% of 10-year alumni said they were unemployed (not related to Covid) and seeking employment.
 - Another 3.9% for 1-year, 0% for 5-year and 0.74% of 10-year alumni said they were permanently laid off because of Covid.

- 4.5% of 1-year, 6% of 5-year, and 4.4% of 10-year alumni said they were temporarily furloughed because of Covid.
- **Job Satisfaction:** 88% for 1-year, 92% 5-year, and 92% for 10-year alumni. The national average for job satisfaction (at least somewhat satisfied) is 93% (according to a 2019 Gallup Poll). Job satisfaction was much higher for 1-year and 5-year alumni compared to previous years.
- **Job Preparation:** 87% of 1-year, 89% of 5-year, and 83% of 10-year alumni said they were at least somewhat satisfied with how their education at Bethel prepared them for their current position. The majority were satisfied or very satisfied.
- **Income.** Median income ranges for those employed full-time in each survey group: 1-year = \$45,001-50,000; 5-year = \$55,001-60,000; 10-year = \$60,001-65,000. The 1-year and 5-year alumni median income was higher this year compared to last year.
- **Continuing Education:** 25.5% of 1-year alumni are currently enrolled in an educational institution. This is similar to last year (25.8%). 30.6% of 5-year alumni are currently enrolled in an educational institution, which is a little higher than last year (26.47%) and the second year in a row with an increase (23% in 2018).
- **Preparation for Further Education:** For those who have continued their education, 83% for 1-year, and 79% for 5-year alumni report being satisfied or very satisfied with how Bethel prepared them for the educational program they have attended after Bethel (e.g., graduate school, medical school, etc.). The satisfaction ratings for 1-year alumni are higher compared last year.
- **Involvement in Faith Community.** Percentage of alumni who say they are involved in a faith community: 78% for 1-year, 75% for 5-year, and 78% for 10-year alumni. The involvement for 1-year alumni is a little lower than last year (83%) but still much higher than previous years (71%). The involvement of 5 and 10-year alumni is similar to previous years.
- **Frequent Church Attendance:** 64% of 1-year, 50% of 5-year, and 62% of 10-year alumni reported frequently attending church (Gallup Poll defines this as attending church almost every week or at least once a week). A 2019 Gallup Poll Survey found that 19% of 22-25 year olds frequently attend church, while 20% of 28-35 year olds frequently attend church.
- **High Volunteerism.** 56% of 1-year, 58% of 5-year, and 64% of 10-year alumni volunteered their time to a religious group or organization compared to 46% nationally (Gallup Poll results). 55% of 1-year, 69% of 5-year and 62% of 10-year alumni volunteered their time to other charitable causes compared to 49% nationally. Note that the numbers for all three alumni groups was lower compared to previous years. This is likely because the pandemic has limited traditional volunteer opportunities.
- **More Likely to Donate Money to Religious Organizations:** 68% of 1-year, 72% of 5-year, and 82% of 10-year alumni donated money to a religious organization compared to 55% nationally (Gallup Poll results). 61% of 1-year, 83% of 5-year, and 91% of 10-year alumni donated money to other charitable causes compared to 75% nationally.
- **Leadership Roles:** 40% of 1-year, 57% of 5-year, and 69% of 10-year alumni are involved in a leadership role in their work, school, church, or community. The 1-year and 5-year percentages are lower compared to previous years.

- **Marriages.** One-year out alumni are a little more likely to be married compared to what is seen nationally; 28% of 1-year alumni report being married. Nationally, 20% of 23-year olds are married.
- **Few Divorces.** Of those who have been married, 3.1% of 5-year alumni and 6.6% of 10-year alumni have been divorced. The percentage who say they have been divorced is a little higher compared to past years.

Satisfaction Items. There is a consistent level of satisfaction with the overall educational experience in their major. As with previous years, **Alumni** were significantly **more satisfied** with their **General Education experience** than current students. This may indicate that with age they come to appreciate (or understand) the purpose of our General Education.

Percentage of alumni and CAS Students who are satisfied or very satisfied with the following:

Question	Year	1-year alumni	5-year alumni	10-year alumni	CAS Students
Faith-integration in major courses	2019	73%	66%	76%	69%
	2020	75%	70%	66%	70%
Instruction you received in your primary major	2019	80%	78%	86%	78%
	2020	85%	80%	83%	78%
Overall educational experience in major	2019	75%	80%	83%	81%
	2020	85%	81%	80%	80%
Academic Advising	2019	71%	59%	61%	66%
	2020	70%	62%	55%	69%
General Education	2019	64%	63%	73%	52%
	2020	65%	64%	65%	49%
Environment for Spiritual Growth	2019	62%	56%	61%	57%
	2020	55%	58%	56%	61%
Leadership Development	2019	60%	48%	49%	61%
	2020	61%	57%	58%	56%
Bethel Community Life Experience	2019	59%	66%	64%	58%
	2020	66%	64%	66%	60%
Overall educational experience at Bethel	2019	77%	75%	77%	78%
	2020	81%	73%	76%	80%

Academic Challenge. Current students and alumni are asked “Do you feel you were challenged enough academically in your primary major?” They respond to this item on a 1 (not at all) to 7 (definitely) scale. This year the challenge ratings were similar for current students and alumni.

Mean Ratings for the Item “Do you feel you were challenged enough academically in your primary major?” for Alumni and CAS Students by Year

	Year	Academic Challenge Mean Rating
1-year alums	2019	5.64
	2020	5.74
5-year alums	2019	5.70
	2020	5.65
10-year alums	2019	5.70
	2020	5.69
CAS students	2019	5.95
	2020	5.74

1 = not at all, 7 = definitely

Support

Current students and alumni are asked “Do you feel you received enough support in your primary major or program?” They respond to this item on a 1 (not at all) to 7 (definitely) scale. Surprisingly, current students give lower ratings for support compare to alumni.

Mean Ratings for the Item “Do you feel you received enough support in your primary major or program?” for Alumni and CAS Students

	Year	Support Mean Rating
1-year alums	2019	5.81
	2020	6.02
5-year alums	2019	5.81
	2020	5.76
10-year alums	2019	5.87
	2020	5.89
CAS students	2019	5.68
	2020	5.63

1 = not at all, 7 = definitely

Core Values. *Learner* is still the top-rated core value that graduating seniors and alumni say their experiences at Bethel helped them develop. Interestingly CAS students rate Reconciler much higher than alumni do.

Percentage of alumni and CAS Students who agree or strongly agree that their experiences at Bethel helped them develop Core Values by Year

Core Value	Year	1-year alumni	5-year alumni	10-year alumni	CAS students
Learner	2020	83%	81%	74%	79%
	2019	84%	79%	83%	76%
Christ-follower	2020	72%	72%	64%	67%
	2019	73%	63%	70%	62%
Truth Seeker	2020	72%	75%	66%	66%
	2019	80%	72%	74%	64%
Character-builder	2020	74%	74%	67%	72%
	2019	71%	69%	68%	71%
Salt & Light to the World	2020	56%	55%	56%	61%
	2019	61%	57%	51%	60%
Reconciler	2020	53%	62%	58%	69%
	2019	57%	50%	55%	66%
World Changer	2020	45%	51%	55%	58%
	2019	58%	49%	48%	59%

Open-ended Responses to the question “What experience while at Bethel had the biggest impact on you?”

1-year Alumni

The overall building of lifelong friendships and passion I developed for Jesus had the biggest impact

My experience on res-life staff

Being an RA for 2 1/2 years

mostly chapel

My internship course but specifically the class portion. As a class/ small group we were able to freely talk about our fears or concerns as we move on.

Sharing living quarters with others my age. I gained lasting friendships, as well as skills to navigate conflicts and differing needs.

England Term was probably the biggest, most impactful experience throughout my time at Bethel. It was the semester I grew the most and made the deepest relationships with those on the trip.

Getting married

Minoring in Biblical & Theological studies and being mentored by those professors to grow/own my faith

All my biblical and theological classes were exceptional, they made me think and grow the most out of any of my classes. I also loved participating in welcome week.

educational equity

Running XC and track

This question is hard to answer! My semester abroad with the Comm department definitely had the biggest impact on me. Never had I experienced such freedom and exploration before. It was an unforgettable experience with meeting new people and seeing so many things that I only ever dreamed of.

Connecting with professors and classmates

The people-peers and professors affected my learning, choices, and probably most importantly my character development. Would not be where I am today without them.

The Bethel Football experience changed my life for the better.

Vespers and chapel were great ways to continue to grow spiritually because of the community of people that attended these events.

Discussions with professors.

Studying abroad in 2017 with the communications department.

Dorm life

I became a follower of Jesus!

Being in a sport

Studying Abroad in Guatemala and taking my J tag.

Being an RA

Being a peer tutor.

The student and professor relationship.

Community! I learned so much from faculty and friends in other specialties and I'm forever changed. I feel like I left Bethel as a well-rounded person understanding more about God and the world because of my exposure to people with different interests and thoughts!

Developing close friendships with other students.

Covenantal relationships class

Deep conversations with friends/classmates

Living with my roommates

Club hockey, being a business major, tennis team

Community Bethel offered.

my nursing externship experience

Changing my major at the end of junior year and all the new professors I had helped me so much to still graduate at the end of summer my senior year. Did not need to come for another semester.

Clinicals

Being an RA & my friends

The time I spent with the men in my freshman dorm. I lived with the guys from my floor for all four years and they became my best friends. I was also deeply impacted by the great wisdom and compassion of professors during each of their classes, and the film discussions I frequently had with professor.

Getting to work with children in lower income schools and finding ways to bring diversity into these and every classroom

Though my experience was for my minor and not my major - study abroad.

My on campus job really forced me to grow as a leader, in my interpersonal skills and in learning new skills in general

People living out their faith

Studying abroad led me to build connections and relationships I value today while discovering incredible things about myself and my relationship with Christ.

Making personal connections with professors

A break up.

Hearing the opinions of others and seeing how they feel about the world and having to stand with people who don't have voices at Bethel and in the community. I've learned from others to stand up for people and to educate those whose opinions are discriminating or oppressing others who may be in the Bethel community themselves.

Finding life long friends and growing in my faith and independence.

Living with multiple different people with different perspectives

realizing that I could triple major changed my entire career path and became a big part of my identity. it was the hardest thing I've ever done, but I proved to myself that with determination, I can do almost anything

Being a part of the baseball team.

One of my old professor was a mentor for me during a big chunk of my time at Bethel. He often helped me think and process through a lot of things on my mind and brought many new perspectives into my mind.

The biggest positive experience was studying abroad in Guatemala.

Friends that impact my faith

My clinical experiences

Athletic Training Program Hockey career

Working at the library and having a little family there

Studying abroad in Spain.

The professors, methods of research communication course, the studio - a place to hangout within my major

Studying abroad in Segovia, Spain with Bethel's Spain Term

Playing on a sports team with a bunch of Christian dudes

Again, the professors

The opportunity to be supported in my growth while I explored and asked questions. My freshman year of college (before I transferred to Bethel), I lost myself. Bethel, and the Bethel community provided me with a space to rediscover myself and who I wanted to become -- a community that supported my growth without making me feel bad about my journey. Not an isolated incident or single experience, but the most important in my personal development is an overarching attitude of supporting the journey and encouraging development without attempts to indoctrinate to one belief set.

Practicums

Working as a Resident Assistant.

Making lifelong friends

The relationship with faculty.

Student senate

Being a part of cross country and track teams.

Welcome week really pushed me socially and in how I thought of myself as a leader. It was worth every challenge

Studying abroad, it changed my perspective on everything and helped me grow as a person.

Working alongside Donna Johnson for Pray First.

The relationships with friends, faculty, and staff. They have been amazing and life changing for sure

Learning

It's pretty hard to think of one, maybe mighty men.

Having classes and professors that pushed me to think outside of ways I've ever thought before and challenged me to question how I had always thought is what impacted me the most.

interim trips (Taiwan and India)

Studying abroad in Europe had the largest impact on me. Also, working for the student newspaper and covering joyful and heartbreaking stories.

Participating in the wind symphony

Two things in very different ways. One was living in the dorms and the beautiful, strong knit community that was constantly surrounding me. Secondly, the rigor of science classes helped me develop confidence in my abilities and outstanding time management.

Studying Abroad

Studying abroad in Guatemala had the biggest impact on my life. I have since been back to visit friends I made while there, and I now financially support those friends who are missionaries in Guatemala.

I loved being a part of the Biokinetics and Spanish programs and they both expanded my worldview. I was also a part of the cross country and track teams. Those teams are where I found my main

community and made lasting friendships. Being a college runner is also one of the ways I was able to grow the most during college. It challenged me but also became another support system for me.

Clinical experiences, debriefing with fellow students about difficulties balancing school and life

I would say that my experience working with Residence Life had the biggest impact on me (besides the friends I found while at Bethel!). It was a very unique, relational and welcoming work environment and the community was structured in a way to promote teamwork and ongoing encouragement throughout the years that I was a part of it. That is a workplace I will forever miss.

Studying abroad

Studying Abroad and being a student manager in the DC

Playing a sport

Study abroad

Professors and the tight-knit campus (both physically and socially) which promoted relationships

Cross country. That team means the world to me the coaches and teammates got me through a lot. Coach has always been there for me since day one.

Studying abroad my junior year interim in Europe.

Being an RA had a huge impact on me as well as TA-ing. Through both of these experiences, the relationships I developed have left a lasting impact.

Opportunities to be challenged intellectually, relationally, and spiritually

Relationships built with incredible friends

Operations research was a really good class and gave me good material to talk about during interviews. Also Real Analysis has helped me think logically.

Having professors that prayed to open class.

Writing my Senior Thesis paper had the largest impact on me, it forced me to actually sit down and do real research. This was common for all my history classes, and I didn't do any of this outside of my history courses.

The relationships i developed, the personal growth i went through

Study abroad

Studying abroad with the Bethel Europe '17 team

Mission trip to Belize

Professor involvement

Being an RA for two years.

Econ class and my track and field coaches and teammates

Studying abroad

Serving the Bethel Community as an RA and then ARD

Professors caring about me outside of the classroom. These professors were Bethel to me.

Teammates and professors

Small classes

Too many to choose from... If I had to pick, I would say the Royals Investment Fund. I was able to gain real job experience while in school and learned from professionals that helped me enhance my skills in many areas (i.e. investments, communication, creativity, leadership, faith, ethics, business systems, etc.)

While at Bethel I have met lifelong friends, even one that helped me get into the right Master's program for me. They helped me navigate assignments and papers, and also helped me with navigating challenging personal life experiences through a shared devotion to God. Without the close friends I made at Bethel, I would not be where I am today and I do not know if I could have made it through college without them.

Bethel Choir

Being an RA

The community and res life

5-year Alumni

What experience while at Bethel had the biggest impact on you?

I was part of the track team and made many great friends through it.

The people I met and peers that became life long friends who I know Will always be there for me no matter the situation.

Completing my research project and presenting it at the American Chemical Society conference

Study abroad

The caring staff compared to some schools who do not care about someone's personal life vs school work

My friend group beyond school has been greatly shaped by my freshman year of college. My roommates are now friends for life.

clinical practice and tutoring my fellow students

My economics senior seminar course

My experience working on The Clarion was tremendously impactful, but the dedicated mentoring I received from professors was by far the most meaningful. As I wrestled with complex issues in my journalism education and beyond, my professors were available, engaged, and invested in my overall development.

Meeting my wife

Being on the Spring Break Missions teams

The overall community feel.

Community and Jesus being the center

Mentoring from education staff

My study abroad experience and my professors. I also made my best friends there so the student life experience.

Antioch Way, Student Manager, Study Abroad

Working for Summer conference services under Housing Lead supervisor

I made my lifelong best friends

Discussions with friends (i.e. roommates)

The faith community at large.

The freshmen lounges in the dorm rooms. That is the best way to meet people. My brother (also an alumnus) told me to do my homework outside of the library and my room, and I'm so glad I did because I met my now husband in Nelson's 3rd floor lounge as well as all the friends that I will keep the rest of my life.

Study Abroad Guatemala term

I can't point to one specific experience, but my connections with my friends were quite impactful.

The sense of trust on campus that was just present, walking through the halls and knowing you felt safe and that the professors cared and showed that by praying in classes and getting to know who we were. Also dorm life and socializing on and off campus.

Studying abroad with the Communication Studies Europe Term.

Being on the Track and Field team.

Clinical with great leaders

My time at Bethel was filled with many experiences that I look back on and know it made a big impact on my life. If I had to pick just one, I would say that my International Business Trip to Europe had a major impact on how I looked at myself, the world, and the world of business. I learned so much, and grew closer to my classmates. It allowed us all to bond in a way that once we got back to the classroom setting, we had a group of others who supported our education and us as a person. It made for a very rewarding final semester of learning.

Participation in GlobeMed

My professors had the biggest impact on me. They are inspiring and I loved the impact they made on the Bethel community.

Professor XXX and her trusting me to be her TA and assist on special projects

Robotics J-term class with Professor Adam Johnson

Dorm living

Welcome Week

The life long relationships I built.

Study abroad

Teaching in the Child Development Center

My involvement with extracurricular activities, i.e. worship ministries

the people and the atmosphere (professors, coaches, peers, DC workers)

Relationships - with the professors and community; and I grew spiritually

Study abroad in Guatemala

Student teaching, welcome week, and being an RA.

Opportunities to network, socialize and meet new friends

Living in community with friends that have remained my closest friends (even years after graduating)

As a transfer my entire experience at Bethel had a tremendous impact on me becoming the man I am today. From my sport coaches to my academic advisor, everything was amazing.

Econ Sem

Learning in a community of people I trusted and respected.

My education and varsity athletics. I knew the professors and my coach actually cared about me as a person. I wasn't just a student and an athlete, I was a person too.

Study abroad and on-campus jobs (admissions, residence life, sports information, events), and the continued lasting relationship with those professors and staff after my time at Bethel.

The community and the push to work through conflict and seek understanding

My leadership role within Student Activities and any faith-related experiences (Vespers, chapel, dorm activities)

Being involved with Campus Outreach

I played college hockey and was the captain for two years. I never knew how many ways "leadership" would present itself in my life. Not only did I learn how to be a captain on the ice but also in the locker room, the classroom, the church, the work place etc. I was in the position to impact MANY people around me in my life, which I have took with me in my everyday life post undergrad. I now am at Bethel again for my masters program!

I met my wife and my closest friends

Leadership in United has shaped me as a person and my career.

The community! Having a community that is centered on Christ has created lasting friendships since. 5 years later and I still meet weekly with Bethel girls for bible study. The events and traditions of Bethel also help build these relationships.

Studying abroad for a semester and a j-term

Living with brothers in Christ

It's hard to narrow it down to a single experience, but I think everything comes back to relationships that were made there. I made my best friends through Welcome Week, a Vespers worship team, and in my nursing classes.

Being invited to my professors home for thanksgiving when they found out I had no place to go.

Study abroad in Europe

My interim World War I trip

Developing friendships in the community.

Community

the semester I spent in Uganda with Best Semester's Uganda Studies Program

My relationships built with friends and professors

My quality roommates who played a very formative role in my life

My friendships for life

My relationships with faculty

My sophomore year roommate is now one of my very best friends. I loved the quality and faith-based education, but I think the relationships I gained from attending Bethel are just as important and impactful.

The way my mental health needs were continually minimized, ignored, demonized. In a time of deep hurt and pain I turned to peers and support staff for support and was met with ignorance and incompetence.

Involvement in Student Government

Being an RA

Having a few great professors who really cares about their students inside and outside of the class and about their futures.

Campus life and dorm living

The guidance of my professors

The faculty

Study abroad, Guatemala

Broomball Club

Relationships- people who truly cared for each of us- you could see connections being made, life long bonds formed and ppl who believed in us

Definitely my semester in Spain!

The community.

Student Life, specifically living with friends/roommates who are now best friends

My time studying abroad on England Term

The community, without a doubt. Never in my life will I ever be able to have such impactful life conversations, see so many close friends, and have so much fun in one place... all of which are possible on a walk from the dorms to class.

Studying abroad, the community, the relationships with teachers and other staff on campus. There are so many good things that had positive impacts.

My time in Student Activities/BSG. Having the opportunity to be a part of such a tight-knit community and to be a leader within the organization was life changing.

Some of the most impactful things that happened to me while at Bethel happened outside of Bethel. When I was required to go outside the classroom setting, I experienced some amazing things that have made a lasting impact on my perspective and vision of what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ

Combining Christ and Education for sure

studying abroad.

Having the "Happy Lab" was a wonderful experience. It allowed those in the Math and Computer Science majors to have a shared community space. I created many lifelong friends and I also learned the most in there.

Playing softball and my small major community

Forensics and debate team

Playing sports while being a student developed a good work ethic, important time management skills, and allowed me to grow in a community of similar minded Christians.

Vespers