



BETHEL UNIVERSITY

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

We surveyed Bethel Graduate School alumni who graduated in 2019, 2015, and 2010.

Highlights:

- Graduate School alumni gave significantly higher ratings compared to previous years in their satisfaction with a number of areas such as **faith integration, overall educational experience, academic advising, environment for spiritual growth, and leadership development.**
- 1-year out alumni gave much higher ratings on the **core values** compared to previous years.
- **Median incomes** are much higher for 1-year and 5-year alumni compared to previous years.

Primary Results:

- **Unemployment:** Given the pandemic, the results for unemployment were a little different this year compared to past years. 3.7% of 1-year, 5% of 5-year, and 8.33% of 10-year alumni said they were unemployed (not related to Covid) and seeking employment.
 - Another 3.7% for 1-year, 0% for 5-year and 0% of 10-year alumni said they were permanently laid off because of Covid.
 - 1.85% of 1-year, 5% of 5-year, and 0% of 10-year alumni said they were temporarily furloughed because of Covid.
- **Job Satisfaction:** 82% for 1-year, 86% 5-year, and 95% for 10-year alumni. The national average for job satisfaction (at least somewhat satisfied) is 93% (according to a 2019 Gallup Poll).
- **Job Preparation:** 92% for 1-year, 90% for 5-year, and 91% for 10-year 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.
- **Employed at Position while at Bethel:** 46% of 1-year, 24% of 5-year, and 14% of 10-year alumni reported being employed in their current position while at Bethel.
- **Income.** Median income ranges for those employed full-time in each survey group: 1-year = \$80,001-85,000; 5-year = \$75,001-80,000; 10-year = \$70,001-75,000. The median income is much higher this year than in previous years for 1-year and 5-year alumni and a little lower for 10-year alumni.
- **Continuing Education:** 8% of 1-year, 4% of 5-year, and 4% of 10-year alumni are currently enrolled in an educational institution.

- **Involvement in Faith Community.** Percentage of alumni who say they are involved in a faith community: 80% for 1-year, 72% for 5-year, and 79% for 10-year alumni.
- **Volunteerism.** 52% of 1-year, 56% of 5-year, and 70% of 10-year alumni volunteered their time to a religious group or organization compared to 46% nationally (Gallup Poll results). 65% of 1-year, 65% of 5-year and 68% of 10-year alumni volunteered their time to other charitable causes compared to 49% nationally. Volunteer percentages are lower for all schools at Bethel this year. This is likely due to the pandemic.
- **More Likely to Donate Money:** 70% of 1-year, 77% of 5-year, and 92% of 10-year alumni donated money to a religious organization compared to 55% nationally (Gallup Poll results). 78% of 1-year, 91% of 5-year, and 92% of 10-year alumni donated money to other charitable causes compared to 75% nationally.
- **Leadership.** 54% of 1-year, 75% of 5-year, and 83% of 10-year alumni are involved in a leadership role in their work, school, community, or place of worship. These percentages are much lower compared to previous years.

Core Values. The ratings for almost all of the core values were significantly higher this year compared to previous years for the 1-year out alumni.

Percentage of Graduate School alumni who agree or strongly agree that their experiences at Bethel helped them develop in the following Core Values:

| Core Value | 1-year alumni | 5-year alumni | 10-year alumni |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Learner | 91%* | 76% | 75% |
| Character-builder | 89%* | 71%* | 75% |
| Reconciler | 80% | 60% | 64% |
| World Changer | 80%* | 65% | 59% |
| Christ-follower | 74%* | 56% | 71%* |
| Truth Seeker | 71%* | 60% | 79%* |
| Salt & Light to the World | 74%* | 60% | 62% |

* indicates significantly higher agreement compared to previous years.

Satisfaction Items. Each alumni group gave significantly higher ratings compared to previous years for several of the areas. For the 1-year out alumni, ALL ratings were significantly higher.

Percentage of Graduate School alumni who are satisfied or very satisfied with the following:

| Question | 1-year alumni | 5-year alumni | 10-year alumni |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Faith-integration in coursework | 87%* | 71% | 79%* |
| Overall educational experience in your degree program | 89%* | 87%* | 79% |
| Academic Advising | 72%* | 77%* | 67%* |
| Environment for Spiritual Growth | 74%* | 72%* | 71%* |
| Leadership Development | 81%* | 72%* | 67% |
| Community life experience | 58%* | 66%* | 58%* |
| Overall educational experience at Bethel | 83%* | 89%* | 88%* |

* indicates significantly higher satisfaction compared to previous years.

Academic Challenge. Alumni are asked “Do you feel you were challenged enough academically in your program?” They respond to this item on a 1 (not at all) to 7 (definitely) scale. GS alumni rate the academic challenge they received higher than CAS alumni.

Mean Ratings for the Item “Do you feel you were challenged enough academically in your program?” for GS and CAPS Alumni

| | Academic Challenge Mean Rating |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1-year alums | 5.87 |
| 5-year alums | 6.13 |
| 10-year alums | 6.38 |
| CAS 1-yr alums | 5.74 |

1 = not at all, 7 = definitely

Support

Mean Ratings for the Item “Do you feel you received enough support in your program?” for GS and CAPS Alumni

| | Support Mean Rating |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1-year alums | 5.98 |
| 5-year alums | 5.96 |
| 10-year alums | 5.92 |
| CAS 1-year alums | 6.02 |

1 = not at all, 7 = definitely

Sample Open-ended Responses to the Question:

What was the most valuable aspect of your education at this institution?

1-year Alumni

I loved my small cohort who have become great friends of mine. I also loved working with the professors who were all veterans or current teachers. Their experience was valuable to me.

Supportive faculty and integration of faith

The cohort learning was a special part of the process.

The faculty. Everyone that surrounds and supports the PA program are incredible to work with. They provided education that pushed us to our limits and walked alongside us through the process. Most importantly, they encouraged us in our faith walk, and constantly emphasized the importance of integrating our faith into our future medical practice.

My professors were a wealth of knowledge and expertise.

The sense of community, the availability of instructors and advisor.

Online learning resources

The "faith" element

Real life examples and the applicability of the subject matter in my work setting. Forcing me to see things differently.

The staff

Focus on reconciling science and faith. Strong science program.

The professors and Christian perspective

The flexibility.

I felt the course were relevant to the degree

Faith integration

The focus on faith and being a good leader.

The professors made themselves available

I enjoyed the professors and their investment in my education and personal life.

No entrance exam requirements, all online, global management focus available

I truly enjoyed the support from the school. I especially want to note the support I received during a significant health challenge I experienced. The academic instructional team was exceptional and I learned a lot about my field of study and leadership.

The coaching support was wonderful. It encouraged me to look at my abilities through a different lens and explore possibilities out of my comfort zone.

That it allowed me to work and go to school full time.

The cohort model

The teachers!

The faculty really cared about us as people. They developed us into excellent physician assistants as well as excellent people.

They are EXTREMELY supportive

I liked that I could continue to work full-time while working on my masters. The support & guidance from instructors & advisors were vital in helping me develop skills to become a therapist, find an internship that was right for me, & allowed me to care for & support my family (care for my ailing mother & attend my kids school activities) with a message that my family is important while pursuing my education.

Residency classes.

Cheap way to get an MBA

Almost all of my classes involved a devotional reading, prayer or Bible verse that connected in some way to our lesson. I enjoyed this aspect being brought in to academia.

I liked learning in a cohort and working through one class at a time.

I like the fact that it was a rigorous program that was paced in a way that allowed progress as well as learning.

The cohort model...getting to know others. Working with and learning from colleagues.

Professors

Faith and academics combined into one program while obtaining an MBA.

I think the program had good intentions

I appreciated learning about Followership because it greatly impacted my worldview and relationships with supervisors that I was struggling to work with.

The faculty of the P.A. program

I loved the opportunities I had to integrate my learnings with real world problems immediately. I started a new position within months of enrolling in the MASL program. The program trajectory was a huge asset to my new role and supported my development along the way. I believe the timing of my program was a gift and has been critical to my success today.

I am assuming this survey is reflecting on my experience in the MBA program because that was one year ago while my undergraduate experience was 6 years ago. But either way, the faculty have always been my favorite part of Bethel. All of my professors were inspiring - in school, career, life. They care about their students and are so kind. Of course they're highly knowledgeable, too.

Instructors

The integration of faith and work

Community and professors

Community; faith-based; support online/in person

I loved most of my classes and professors.

Online option

5-year GS Alumni

Faculty support

It was such a positive experience. I had great professors and advisors, and I loved the leadership program.

The professors kept us engaged with a variety of learning activities.

I loved the academic challenge and the opportunity to learn from colleagues who were doing very different things within the educational community from me. Plus, I loved meeting new people and making new friends who have continued to be colleagues and friends since completing my program. I also strongly encourage the doctoral level program to keep a summer residency in place, which is where people develop relationships that enhance them personally and professionally. I also thought the step by step support to get through that dissertation was very helpful with residency classes focused to help us write and research and finish up.

I loved the cohort, in person model. Also loved the hands on, practical teaching from professionals currently in the business world. It wasn't too heavy on theory.

cohort system

I loved the faith integration. I was part of the first graduating class of the PA program. I was very impressed that the faculty took our feedback and made changes each semester.

The online cohort option fit well with my life, having a family and children. The ability to get licensed in two different areas at the same time. Getting to know professors and fellow students.

The cohort plan to stay with the same group of people.

The cohesiveness of my cohort and the support of all staff.

The staff and my cohort

The MA communication program changed my life for the better.

Cohort option, 1 class at a time and Relatability of professors

The ability to create relationships within the cohort that allowed And challenged growth as a person and clinician and learn through a faith driven program. There was support on multiple levels not just academically but spiritually and personal development

The program instructors. They were more like an academic family. They were extremely approachable, supportive and nurturing.

It was challenging and real-world applicable

Great instructors

The focus on ethics. Doing what is right even if it is harder.

Being in an MBA program with others that were working full-time and understood the demands of the program, family, work, and church responsibilities.

The support and attention to my educational experience.

The program was fully online but still provided opportunities for collaboration within the cohort.

I liked the flexibility of our program. It allowed me to work and continue my education.

Distance Learning was available. Staff were willing to travel 2 hrs to do my student teaching observations. They supported me in helping me complete my thesis.

It fit well with working full time and I appreciated the course work.

Advisor for My MAOL analysis

The international makeup of students. I also like the fact that though it is a religious organization, it doesn't cram that aspect down your throat.

At the time Bethel had professors with Business experience and a fair amount of academic rigor.

Learning, growing personally, and the mentoring from the professors

It was online. Quality instructors.

It was online, and that's what I needed since I was a full-time working mother.

The faculty and community

cohorts

Faith integration with leadership theory

My advisor. The support was amazing.

Tailored to working adults; practical courses that prepared me for teaching

Teachers

Learning from fellow students

Prepared me for my job.

I love the fact that my professors were not Ph.D's and instead were practitioners first.

I enjoyed the cohort format. Going through our program with a group of peers was very helpful. They offered support and encouragement and I'm still in touch with many of them today.

The cohort model was engaging. I enjoyed the relationships I built during the program.

The faculty was very helpful and knowledgeable.

The instructors were 90% very good, knowledgeable, and caring. I only had one instructor who didn't enjoy his position there and it reflected in his work. I also like the challenging cohort I was in the program alongside.