



BETHEL UNIVERSITY

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

This alumni survey went out to all Seminary students who graduated in 2019, 2015, and 2010.

Primary Results:

- **Low unemployment rates:** 2.9% for 1-year, 0% for 5-year, and 0% for 10-year alumni.
- **Temporary Layoff Due to COVID-19:** 2.9% for 1-year, 0% for 5-year, and 5.7% of 10-year alumni.
- **Improved Employment Satisfaction:** Alums were asked if their employment satisfaction had improved since earning their seminary degree. 70% for 1-year, 73% 5-year, and 71% for 10-year alumni. (Lower for 1-year and 5-year alums compared to last year.)
- **Job Preparation:** 85% for 1-year, 93% for 5-year, and 84% for 10-year said they were at least somewhat satisfied with how their education at Bethel prepared them for their current position.
- **Job Satisfaction:** 85% for 1-year, 91% for 5-year, and 94% for 10-year out alumni. The national average for job satisfaction (at least somewhat satisfied) is 93% (according to a 2019 Gallup Poll).
- **Employed in Field Related to Graduate Degree:** 79% for 1-year out, 71% for 5-year out, and 56% for 10-year out alumni. Percentage of those alumni not employed in a field related to their graduate degree who would prefer to employed in a field related to their graduate degree: 30% for 1-year, 21% for 5-year, and 40% for 10-year alumni.
- **Income.** Median income ranges in each survey group: 1-year = \$40,001-45,000; 5-year = \$50,001-55,000; 10-year = \$45,001-50,000. The 1-year and 10-year median income is lower than last year, but the 5-year median income was higher.
- **Continuing Education:** 24% of 1-year, 19% of 5-year, and 14% 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: 88% for 1-year, 93% for 5-year, and 90% for 10-year alumni.
- **Higher Volunteerism.** 82% of 1-year, 82% of 5-year, and 76% of 10-year alumni volunteered their time to a religious group or organization compared to 50% nationally (Gallup Poll results). 52% of 1-year, 78% of 5-year and 68% of 10-year alumni volunteered their time to other charitable causes compared to 43% nationally.
- **More Likely to Donate Money:** 91% of 1-year, 95% of 5-year, and 86% of 10-year alumni donated money to a religious organization compared to 59% nationally (Gallup Poll results). 79%

of 1-year, 93% of 5-year, and 89% of 10-year alumni donated money to other charitable causes compared to 75% nationally.

- **Leadership.** 76% of 1-year, 90% of 5-year, and 88% of 10-year alumni are involved in a leadership role in their work, school, community, or place of worship.
- **Academic Challenge.** 97% of 1-year (much higher than last year), 95% of 5-year, and 89% of 10-year alumni gave a rating of 5 or higher (7-point scale) to the item “Do you feel you were challenged enough academically in your degree program?” **All of these results were higher compared to last year.**

Core Values. The Reconciler ratings for 1-year and 5-year alumni were lower compared to last year.

Percentage of Seminary 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	82%	85%	81%
Character-builder	91%	78%	83%
Reconciler	67%	68%	74%
World Changer	67%	68%	75%
Christ-follower	73%	76%	86%
Truth Seeker	79%	73%	83%
Salt & Light to the World	76%	68%	80%

Reconciler ratings for 1-year and 5-year alums was significantly lower than last year.

Satisfaction Items. These satisfaction ratings are similar to last year, except for the much higher satisfaction with instruction your program, overall educational experience in your program, academic advising, for the 1-year and 10-year alumni (see chart below).

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

Question	1-year alumni	5-year alumni	10-year alumni
Faith-integration in coursework	88%	78%	89%
Instruction in your program	94%	79%	92%
Overall educational experience in degree program	88%	78%	89%
Academic Advising	76%	56%	74%
Environment for Spiritual Growth	76%	76%	71%
Leadership Development	76%	71%	71%
Community life experience	48%	61%	60%
Overall educational experience at Bethel	85%	82%	83%

Open-ended Responses

What did you like best about your academic program at Bethel?

1-year Alumni

The teachers

The diverse professors, variety of literature/authors, integrated approach to study.

The support and patience of many of the professors.

The integration of theology, history and biblical studies. The BSSD faculty was small, but a powerhouse of scholarship.

I loved getting to learn from the amazing, engaging professors.

I appreciated the cohort structure, our core professors, and the integration of ministry experience with learning. I am grateful for the grace, support, and development (I definitely live into my calling far better than before). I also enjoyed intensives on campus and having a group of other people doing the same work to rely on and help me.

The opportunity to discuss with other students

Professors.

Very caring and competent professors.

I enjoyed learning from a diverse range of professors.

Loved the cohort experience and the majority of my professors

The cohort model and specific professors. I was not interested in connecting with my cohort when I began the program as I didn't have time and it wasn't a place I wanted to invest the little time I did have. However, my cohort was very supportive of me and engaged me. It became a huge place of learning, conversation, and support for me. The way they were able to translate academic knowledge into usable experience was the core of what made this program for me.

The small class sizes and the professors.

The program professors.

The intensives! They were absolutely phenomenal. We had an amazing cohort who I still am in touch with today. We also had some wonderful professors.

The professors were excellent and a great course workload and content

The people - professors and classmates.

Great professors.

My theology courses and professors.

I liked that I was able to view the Bible and other learning disciplines through many perspectives. The personal and spiritual development classes helped me to take a step back from issues to view them more objectively.

I really appreciated and enjoyed my entire program but the in-person intensives were definitely a highlight of my Bethel experience.

The course material and assignments and the people.

The cohort model. Having a program director and set of core staff in the program allowed for meaningful connections with professors and enabled to have more cumulative content development throughout the program based on shared experience in previous courses. I also enjoyed the connection I developed with my cohort by having the same classmates throughout my program.

The evangelical environment that is equally committed to biblical authority/faithfulness and fostering dialogue and openness.

The cohort experience

I really appreciated how Bethel is not just accepting but actually celebrates women in ministry. As a female Pastor it was really great to be at a place that loved me.

Professors in person classes were best

Scriptural focus; multiple perspectives; opportunities for deeper dives and academic rigor; personal relationships with faculty.

Three centered focus!

5-year Alumni

What did you like best about your academic program at Bethel?

the sem pm cohort and professors/staff who challenged me to understand I had a limited/narrow lens of Christianity.

I found exceptional community. There were a few great professors.

I loved the faculty and how genuine and loving they were. They really took the time to invest in us as individuals and teach us how to be great therapists.

About personal life transition

Professors' professional expertise/experiences integrated with learning.

The challenging my Biblical beliefs, and the cohort I was learning with.

Religious diversity of cohort

integration

My professors were very knowledgeable and encouraging.

Teachers and Staff. They were so compassionate and caring...

How it gave a broad enough experience that it hit outside of my concentration area but also trained well within that area.

Interacting with the brilliant minds of the faith

The staff. Community.

The time and care the professors gave to each student for their formation and education.

Interactions with professors. Face-to-face.

Interdenominational/ecumenical learning

In my Church History, New Testament and Theology classes in particular, the instruction was incredible. The level of expertise, the digestible presentation and balance of faith and academics were a gift.

Variety of theological beliefs, not pigeon holed or forced into any one specific branch

I know that I marked very satisfied on most of the survey questions, but it's true—I loved my connection with the professors & student community, the quality of curriculum, the life and leadership integration into my studies, & the excellence it pushed me to strive towards. I think I like it all “best.”

professors and cohort

Was truly life transformational.

The D.Min. staff, teachers, fellow students, education - everything!

Subject matter

Professors

Interaction with the faculty, especially the ones who cared more about how we thought than what we thought.

Most of the professors I had.

My dissertation opened up a whole new world of insight for me.

I loved the whole experience. Getting to meet on campus each semester for intensives and be with my cohort and instructors face to face was a valuable part of the program.

I really thrived under the cohort model and actually being on campus. As a verbal processor and a relational person, learning in a group and having common context as we encountered each new class was very beneficial and helped us to thrive together.

The small cohort model.

Very much enjoyed the academic environment

I could take classes one or two at a time while working in my field and pay for my education without taking out a loan

The instructors at the Seminary of the East were very humble, capable men and their class presentations were exceptional

I was able to learn leadership theory that I couldn't get in any undergrad program.