

**Harper College**  
**Results of 2010 Career Graduate Survey**

*Prepared by the Office of Research  
Teaming to serve research needs of the College  
December 8, 2011*

## Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the Career Graduate Survey of all 2010 graduates of Harper College career programs.

Similar to graduates in 2009, the overall responses were positive. Nearly seventy percent reported that their main objective in attending Harper was to obtain skills needed for a new job, while twenty percent reported taking coursework for transferring to another institution. Thirty-three percent of the 2010 graduate respondents are currently enrolled in another college or university.

More than seventy percent of the respondents reported being employed at least part-time, with forty percent of those respondents employed full-time. Of those not seeking employment, fifty percent stated that they were full-time students and only five percent indicated being a full-time homemakers. In addition twenty percent indicated “*other*” reasons for their lack of unemployment. In terms of job experience, more than sixty percent of the employed respondents were working in a job related to their Harper major, and employed graduates reported working an average of 30.5 hours per week with an average wage of \$16.62 per hour. Both the average number of hours worked and average wage are slightly lower than reported by 2009 graduates. The majority of 2010 respondents reported being “*satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*” with their jobs, which is consistent with 2009 graduates. Slightly more than thirty-five percent reported finding their jobs after leaving Harper; similarly thirty-one percent were employed before enrolling at Harper.

Graduates in 2010 were satisfied with their educational experiences at Harper. Approximately eighty percent of the respondents were either “*satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*” with 4 out of 5 categories involving their major program of study. Sixty-four percent were “*satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*” with information on current employment opportunities.

When respondents were asked to rate facets of Harper instruction, at least 90 percent of the respondents were “*satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*” with 3 out of 5 of the categories involving courses outside their major program. However when asked about Information on current employment opportunities and trends, only sixty-four percent indicated that they were “*satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*”; this is a slight decline from the seventy-one percent reported by the 2009 graduates. Eighty-eight percent were at least “*satisfied*” with their preparation for further education, slightly lower than the ninety-one percent reported in 2009. Similarly, Eighty-two percent were “*satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*” with the job preparation; a decline from the eighty-eight percent reported in the prior year. Despite the decline, this shows very positive outcomes for 2010 graduates.

In general, recent graduates of Harper’s career programs appear to be employed, satisfied in their job experience, and satisfied with the services and instruction that Harper provides. For most of the items in the table that asked about the use of various services provided by Harper, many students indicated “*did not use*”. This seems to be an expected trend with the Career program students based on data from previous years.

## Introduction

The Harper College Career Graduate Survey was conducted via mail during the fall 2010 semester. Harper alumni who graduated in fiscal year 2011 with A.A.S. degrees and various career program certificates were asked to participate. The questions on the survey are largely based on the Occupational Follow-Up Survey, which is required by ICCB for career programs under review. For those graduates whom did not return the mailed survey, the Career Graduate Survey was conducted via telephone<sup>1</sup> in the spring 2011 semester. Approximately 30% (n=655) of the graduates responded to the survey.

The report is organized into four sections: Executive Summary, Introduction, Results and Discussion, and Summary. The Executive Summary presents a synopsis of the overall results. The Introduction provides an overview of the report, specifically the process and basic organization of the data. The Results and Discussion Section displays the data in tabular format. The Summary section highlights results of interest.

## Results and Discussion

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics (racial/ethnic group, gender, and age group) for all 2,255 graduates in 2010, as well as the demographic characteristics of the graduates from the previous year.

**Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Graduates**

<b>Racial/Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Graduates 2009</b>		<b>Graduates 2010</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Asian/Pacific Islander	202	9%	234	10%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2	1%	6	< 1%
African American	44	3%	90	4%
Hispanic	185	9%	239	11%
White	1474	69%	1482	66%
Other/Unknown	192	9%	204	9%
<b>Gender</b>				
Female	1369	64%	1458	65%
Male	759	36%	797	35%

**Table 1: Continued**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Graduates 2009</b>		<b>Graduates 2010</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
18 and Under	28	28	55	2%
19 to 24	966	966	1061	47%
25 to 40	1004	1004	702	31%
Over 40	330	330	437	19%

<sup>1</sup> Beginning in 2005 with the survey of 2004 graduates, the survey was administered by telephone in an effort to increase response rate and shorten cycle time.

The number of graduates who self identified within specific ethnic groups remained consistent between both the 2009 and 2010 cohorts; with white being the overwhelming majority at more than sixty percent. Similarly, the majority (65%) of graduates were female. In terms of age, the largest proportion graduates were between 19 and 24 years old (47%).

The first question of the survey asks respondents for their main objective in attending Harper College. The following eight outlines the outcomes related data as reported by the respondents. For the purpose of comparison data, each table shows responses from both the 2009 and 2010 graduates.

**Table 2: Question 1 – Main Objective in Attending Harper**

What was your main objective in attending Harper College?	2009 (N=425)		2010 (N=655)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Obtain skills needed for entry into new or different job	285	67.1%	432	66.0%
Improve skills needed in present job	30	7.1%	56	8.5%
Explore courses to decide on a career	7	1.6%	12	1.8%
Take coursework for transfer to another college	81	19.1%	131	20.0%
Personal interest or self-improvement	22	5.2%	24	3.7%

More than sixty percent of the respondents indicated that their main objective at Harper was to obtain skills needed for entry into a new job, while approximately 20 % (n=131) reported that they were taking coursework in order to transfer to another college. Only slightly more than 8% (n=56) reported that they were attending Harper to improve skills needed in their present jobs.

**Table 3: Question 2 – Educational Status**

What is your educational status?	2009 (N=425)		2010 (N=655)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Have not been enrolled in a college/university since leaving Harper	260	61.2%	342	52.2%
Have been enrolled in another college/university since leaving this college but not currently enrolled	8	1.9%	27	4.1%
Currently enrolled in a field of study related to previous community college program	142	33.4%	217	33.1%
Currently enrolled in a field of study unrelated to previous community college program	15	3.5%	63	9.6%
No Response	N/A	N/A	6	0.9%

- Slightly more than fifty percent of respondents reported that they have not been enrolled in another college since leaving Harper.
- One-third of the surveyed graduates reported that they are currently enrolled in a field related to their previous program at Harper.

**Table 4: Question 3 – Employment Status**

<b>What is your present employment status?</b>	<b>2009 (N=425)</b>		<b>2010 (N=655)</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Employed full-time – 30 hours or more per week	200	47.1%	261	39.8%
Employed part-time – less than 30 hours per week	111	26.1%	206	31.5%
Full-time military service	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Unemployed, seeking employment	65	15.3%	72	11.0%
Unemployed, not seeking employment	48	11.3%	113	17.3%
No response	N/A	N/A	3	0.5%
<b>Of those unemployed and not seeking employment :</b>	<b>2009 (N=49)</b>		<b>2010 (N=85)</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Full-time student	30	61.2%	43	50.5%
Full-time homemaker	5	10.2%	5	5.9%
Health disability	3	6.1%	4	4.7%
Family responsibilities	5	10.2%	11	13.0%
Other	6	12.2%	22	25.9%

Seventy percent of the respondents indicated that they were employed at least part-time, with nearly forty percent (n=261) having full-time jobs. Of the seventeen of respondents who stated that they were unemployed and not seeking employment half were (n=43) were full-time students.

The respondents who were employed were asked to complete questions 4 through 9. Those not currently employed were asked to go directly to question 10. Data tables 5 through 9 report results for the employed respondents only.

**Table 5: Question 4 and 4-1 – Relationship of Current Job to College Program**

<b>How closely is your present job related to your former community college program?</b>	<b>2009 (N=308)</b>		<b>2010 (N=474)</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Related	195	63.3%	297	62.7%
Not related (please mark the one best reason why)	113	36.7%	177	37.3%
<b>Of those present jobs not related:</b>	<b>(N=100)</b>		<b>(N=176)</b>	
Preferred to work in another field	11	11.0%	25	14.2%
Found better paying job in another field	5	5.0%	13	7.4%
Could not find a job in my field of preparation	1	1.0%	44	25.0%
Worked previously in my field of preparation, but changed	24	24.0%	3	1.7%
Preferred not to move to new locality	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
Temporary job while in transition – either in college, between jobs, or summer employment	0	0.0%	65	36.9%
Took job in order to get preferred working hours	57	57.0%	3	1.7%
Did not complete program or pass licensing test to be eligible to work in my field	0	0.0%	3	1.7%
Health problems prevented me from working in my field of preparation	1	1.0%	1	0.5%
Other	N/A	N/A	19	10.8%

- A clear majority of respondents sixty-two percent (n=297) indicated that their present job was related to their former program at Harper.
- Of the respondents that indicated that their jobs were not related, only three percent did not complete program or pass licensing test to be eligible to work in my field. Most, thirty-six percent held temporary jobs while in transition to the next job or college.

**Table 6: Questions 5 and 6 – Hours Worked and Salary**

Question Text	2009		2010	
	N	Mean	N	Mean
On the average, how many hours do you work each week? Do not include overtime hours.	308	31.7	277	30.5
What is your present hourly salary before deductions? Include commission but not overtime pay.	117	\$18.54	277	\$16.62

- Harper graduates in 2010 reported working an average of 31.72 hours per week and earned an average hourly salary of \$16.62.
- The salary earned and hours worked are slightly lower than those reported by the 2009 graduates.

**Table 7: Question 7 – Job Satisfaction**

In general, how satisfied are you with your present job?	2009 (N=311)		2010 (N=468)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	148	47.6%	186	39.7%
Somewhat satisfied	103	33.1%	177	37.9%
Somewhat dissatisfied	45	14.5%	74	15.8%
Very dissatisfied	15	4.8%	31	6.6%

- Respondents reported a high level of job satisfaction with more than seventy-five percent being with “*satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*”.
- By comparison to last year data, slightly more graduates indicated that they were “*somewhat dissatisfied*” with their present job.

**Table 8: Question 8 – Time in Present Job**

When did you begin working in your present job?	2009 (N=311)		2010 (N=469)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Before entering the college program	135	43.4%	155	33.1%
While enrolled in the college program	51	16.4	148	31.5%
After leaving the college program	125	40.2%	166	35.4%

- The largest group of Harper graduates, thirty-three percent reported finding their job before leaving Harper. This is slightly lower than last year's forty-three percent.
- Similarly, thirty-five percent began working after leaving their college program.

**Table 9: Question 9 – Location of Employment**

Where is the location of your primary place of employment?	2009 (N=584)		2010 (N=470)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Within Harper College district	177	56.9%	261	55.6%
Outside Harper College district, but in Illinois	131	42.1%	201	42.7%
Outside Illinois	3	1.0%	8	1.7%

- A majority of respondents fifty-five percent indicated that they are employed within the Harper district.
- On the other hand, approximately forty percent indicated being employed outside Harper's district though in Illinois.

Questions 10, 11, and 14 ask respondents to report on their satisfaction with their experience at Harper: coursework in their major field of study, coursework outside their major field, and Harper's support services.

**Table 10: Question 10 – Satisfaction with Major Program of Study**

Rate your satisfaction with the following items as they pertain to skill courses in your major program of study.	2009		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Content of courses in your program	(N=423)		(N=643)	
Very satisfied	290	68.5%	432	67.2%
Somewhat satisfied	112	26.5%	194	30.2%
Somewhat dissatisfied	19	4.5%	16	2.1%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.5%	1	0.2%
Lectures, lab experiences, and group and individual projects	(N=421)		(N=642)	
Very satisfied	270	64.2%	410	63.9%
Somewhat satisfied	124	29.5%	191	29.7%
Somewhat dissatisfied	22	5.2%	34	5.3%
Very dissatisfied	4	1.1%	7	1.1%

**Table 10: Continued**

Rate your satisfaction with the following items as they pertain to skill courses in your major program of study.	2009		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Equipment, facilities, and materials	(N=421)		(N=643)	
Very satisfied	305	72.4%	446	69.4%
Somewhat satisfied	97	23.0%	166	25.8%
Somewhat dissatisfied	18	4.3%	28	4.4%
Very dissatisfied	1	0.2%	3	0.4%
Job preparation	(N=362)		(N=628)	
Very satisfied	214	59.1%	297	47.3%
Somewhat satisfied	108	29.9%	223	35.5%
Somewhat dissatisfied	31	8.7%	86	13.7%
Very dissatisfied	8	2.3%	22	3.5%
Preparation for further education	(N=387)		(N=632)	
Very satisfied	237	61.2%	327	51.8%
Somewhat satisfied	118	30.5%	229	36.2%
Somewhat dissatisfied	27	7.0%	62	9.8%
Very dissatisfied	5	1.3%	14	2.2%
Information on current employment opportunities and trends	(N=311)		(N=607)	
Very satisfied	118	37.9%	168	27.7%
Somewhat satisfied	104	33.4%	221	36.4%
Somewhat dissatisfied	64	20.6%	137	22.6%
Very dissatisfied	25	8.1%	81	13.3%
Overall, how satisfied are you that your program provided you with the skills for your job?	(N=368)		(N=616)	
Very satisfied	236	64.1%	347	56.3%
Somewhat satisfied	110	29.9%	209	34.0%
Somewhat dissatisfied	20	5.4%	39	6.3%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.6%	21	3.4%

- Approximately ninety percent of the respondents were either “*somewhat satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*” with four out of seven categories involving their major program of study.
- Nearly sixty-five percent were “*somewhat satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*” with information on current employment opportunities.



**Table 11: Question 11 – Satisfaction with General Education**

Rate your satisfaction with the following items as they pertain to skill courses outside your major program of study.	2009		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Content of courses outside your program	(N=130)		(N=377)	
Very satisfied	83	63.8%	177	47.0%
Somewhat satisfied	39	30.0%	130	34.5%
Somewhat dissatisfied	7	5.4%	57	15.1%
Very dissatisfied	1	0.8%	13	3.4%
Lectures, lab experiences, and group and individual projects	(N=127)		(N=376)	
Very satisfied	78	61.4%	166	44.1%
Somewhat satisfied	43	33.9%	131	35.0%
Somewhat dissatisfied	5	3.9%	63	16.7%
Very dissatisfied	1	0.8%	16	4.2%
Equipment, facilities, and materials	(N=128)		(N=377)	
Very satisfied	87	68.0%	192	51.0%
Somewhat satisfied	36	28.1%	112	29.7%
Somewhat dissatisfied	4	3.1%	62	16.4%
Very dissatisfied	1	0.8%	11	2.9%
Job preparation	(N=74)		(N=365)	
Very satisfied	38	51.4%	113	31.0%
Somewhat satisfied	19	25.7%	132	36.1%
Somewhat dissatisfied	14	18.9%	88	24.1%
Very dissatisfied	3	4.0%	32	8.8%
Preparation for further education	(N=91)		(N=372)	
Very satisfied	56	61.5%	152	41.0%
Somewhat satisfied	21	23.1%	130	34.9%
Somewhat dissatisfied	11	12.1%	69	18.5%
Very dissatisfied	3	3.3%	21	5.6%

At least seventy percent of the respondents were “*somewhat satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*” with four out of five of the categories involving courses outside their major program. This is noticeable change from last year in which more than ninety percent of the respondents were “*somewhat satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*” with three out of five of the categories involving courses outside their major program. Seventy-five percent were at least “*somewhat satisfied*” with their preparation for further education. Similarly, sixty-seven percent were “*somewhat satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*” with the job preparation, nearly ten percent less than 2009 respondents. The data in the above table displays very positive outcomes for both the 2009 and 2010 graduates, but does show a decline in some areas for 2010 respondents.

Questions 12 and 13 ask respondents to report on the instruction and convenience of Harper's various locations, respectively. Table 12 displays the results of how graduates rated the instruction at Harper College. For five of the seven items listed below, 90 percent of the respondents rate that aspect of instruction as either "excellent" or "good".

**Table 12: Question 12 – Rating Harper Instruction**

Rate the instruction at Harper College.	2009		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Class Size	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Excellent	270	63.5%	397	60.6%
Good	117	27.5%	211	32.2%
Average	34	8.0%	42	6.4%
Poor	3	0.7%	0	0.0%
Not applicable	1	0.2%	5	0.8%
Quality of instruction	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Excellent	245	57.6%	368	57.2%
Good	140	32.9%	235	35.9%
Average	33	7.8%	40	6.1%
Poor	5	1.2%	8	1.2%
Not applicable	2	0.5%	4	0.6%
Course content	(N=424)		(N=655)	
Excellent	252	59.4%	376	57.4%
Good	151	35.6%	241	36.8%
Average	20	4.8%	32	4.9%
Poor	1	0.2%	1	0.2%
Not applicable	0	0%	5	0.8%
Fairness of grading	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Excellent	254	59.8%	387	59.1%
Good	141	33.2%	211	32.2%
Average	27	6.4%	40	6.1%
Poor	3	0.6%	11	1.7%
Not applicable	0	0%	6	0.9%
Faculty teaching ability	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Excellent	247	58.1%	370	56.5%
Good	141	33.2%	221	33.7%
Average	32	7.5%	48	7.3%
Poor	5	1.2%	11	1.7%
Not applicable	0	0%	5	0.8%
Faculty concern for students	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Excellent	256	60.2%	360	55.0%
Good	127	29.9%	208	31.8%
Average	32	7.5%	62	9.5%
Poor	10	2.4%	18	2.7%
Not applicable	0	0%	7	1.1%
Faculty availability	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Excellent	260	61.2%	372	56.8%
Good	126	29.6%	196	29.9%
Average	31	7.3%	59	9.0%
Poor	6	1.4%	14	2.1%
Not applicable	2	0.5%	14	2.1%

**Table 13: Question 13 – Rating Course Convenience of Harper Locations**

Rate the location of the courses taken in terms of convenience.	2009		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Harper main campus – Palatine	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Very convenient	348	81.9%	455	69.5%
Convenient	57	13.4%	159	24.3%
Not convenient	10	2.4%	19	2.9%
Not applicable	10	2.4%	19	2.9%
No response	--	--	3	0.5%
Northeast Center – Wheeling	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Very Convenient	44	10.3%	69	10.5%
Convenient	24	5.6%	45	6.9%
Not convenient	10	2.3%	37	5.6%
Not applicable	347	81.6%	491	75.0%
No response	--	--	13	2.0%
WEB or Internet based – from home or office	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Very convenient	162	38.1%	220	33.6%
Convenient	36	8.5%	70	10.7%
Not convenient	5	1.2%	21	3.2%
Not applicable	222	52.2%	331	50.5%
No response	--	--	13	2.0%
Harper Professional Center – Schaumburg	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Very convenient	11	2.6%	34	5.2%
Convenient	2	0.5%	24	3.7%
Not convenient	0	0%	4	0.6%
Not applicable	412	97%	577	81.1%
No response	--	--	16	2.4%

*Slightly lower percentages related to survey items in the 2010 reflect the inclusion of the number of non-respondents.*

- In rating the course convenience of Harper locations, more than fifty percent of the respondents identified four of the five locations as “not applicable”.
- More than ninety percent rated the Harper main campus as “convenient” or “very convenient”.

Rate your satisfaction with each office or service listed below.	2009		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Financial Aid services	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Very satisfied	78	18.4%	114	17.4%
Somewhat satisfied	35	8.2%	81	12.4%
Somewhat dissatisfied	19	4.5%	43	6.1%
Very dissatisfied	14	3.3%	34	5.2%
Did not use	279	65.6%	379	57.9%
No response	--	--	4	0.6%
Career planning	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Very satisfied	63	14.8%	74	11.3%
Somewhat satisfied	38	8.9%	118	18.0%
Somewhat dissatisfied	9	2.1%	68	10.4%
Very dissatisfied	11	2.7%	44	6.7%
Did not use	304	71.5%	348	53.1%
No response	--	--	3	0.5%
College transfer planning	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Very satisfied	52	12.2%	80	12.2%
Somewhat satisfied	29	6.8%	78	11.9%
Somewhat dissatisfied	13	3.1%	55	8.4%
Very dissatisfied	6	1.4%	28	4.3%
Did not use	325	76.5%	405	61.8%
No response	--	--	9	1.4%
Counseling	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Very satisfied	55	12.9%	121	18.5%
Somewhat satisfied	28	6.6%	109	16.6%
Somewhat dissatisfied	6	1.4%	54	8.2%
Very dissatisfied	5	1.2%	31	4.7%
Did not use	331	77.9%	332	50.7%
No response	--	--	8	1.2%
Tutoring	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Very satisfied	61	14.4%	103	15.7%
Somewhat satisfied	36	8.5%	78	11.9%
Somewhat dissatisfied	7	1.6%	36	5.5%
Very dissatisfied	7	1.6%	21	3.2%
Did not use	314	73.9%	412	62.9%
No response	--	--	5	0.8%
Library/audio visual services	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Very satisfied	206	48.5%	242	36.9%
Somewhat satisfied	57	13.4%	187	28.5%
Somewhat dissatisfied	8	1.9%	45	6.9%
Very dissatisfied	1	0.2%	7	1.1%
Did not use	153	36.0%	169	25.8%
No response	--	--	5	0.8%
Student activities	(N=423)		(N=655)	
Very satisfied	44	10.4%	69	10.5%
Somewhat satisfied	22	5.2%	72	11.0%
Somewhat dissatisfied	5	1.2%	31	4.7%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.5%	9	1.4%
Did not use	350	82.7%	467	71.3%
No response	--	--	7	1.1%

**Table 14: Continued**

Rate your satisfaction with each office or service listed below.	2009		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Registration procedures	(N=424)		(N=655)	
Very satisfied	273	64.4%	237	36.2%
Somewhat satisfied	101	23.8%	257	39.2%
Somewhat dissatisfied	29	6.8%	97	14.8%
Very dissatisfied	15	3.6%	43	6.6%
Did not use	6	1.4%	16	2.4%
No response	--	--	5	0.8%
Access for disabled on campus	(N=424)		(N=655)	
Very satisfied	105	24.8%	82	12.5%
Somewhat satisfied	17	4.1%	60	9.2%
Somewhat dissatisfied	4	0.9%	17	2.6%
Very dissatisfied	1	0.2%	6	0.9%
Did not use	297	70.0%	482	73.6%
No response	--	--	8	1.2%
Availability of computers for out-of-class use	(N=423)		(N=655)	
Very satisfied	251	59.4%	269	41.1%
Somewhat satisfied	57	13.5%	167	25.5%
Somewhat dissatisfied	4	0.9%	62	9.5%
Very dissatisfied	1	0.2%	17	2.6%
Did not use	110	26.0%	136	20.8%
No response	--	--	4	0.6%
Career Center	(N=423)		(N=655)	
Very satisfied	287	20.5%	95	14.5%
Somewhat satisfied	40	9.4%	104	15.9%
Somewhat dissatisfied	5	1.2%	28	4.3%
Very dissatisfied	1	0.2%	15	2.3%
Did not use	292	68.7%	404	61.7%
No response	--	--	9	1.4%
Academic Advising	(N=425)		(N=655)	
Very satisfied	133	31.3%	155	23.7%
Somewhat satisfied	65	15.3%	150	22.9%
Somewhat dissatisfied	33	7.8%	96	14.7%
Very dissatisfied	17	4.0%	52	7.9%
Did not use	177	41.6%	198	30.2%
No response	--	--	4	0.6%

*Slightly lower percentages related to survey items in the 2010 reflect the inclusion of the number of non-respondents.*

- In the above table, more than sixty percent of the students indicated “*did not use*” as related to their use of the Career center..
- With the exception of “*registration procedures*” all services listed above were rated noticeably lower by the 2010 graduates than the 2009 graduates.

Question 15 asks about the respondents' appreciation for diversity and varying cultures and Harper.

**Table 15: Question 15 – Diversity at Harper**

As a result of my experiences at Harper, I have a better appreciation for diversity and different cultures and values?	2009 (N=421)		2010 (N=655)	
	Number	Number	Number	Percent
Definitely yes	108	25.7%	276	42.1%
Yes	233	55.3%	263	40.2%
No	77	18.3%	102	15.6%
Definitely no	3	0.7%	7	1.1%
No response	--	--	7	1.1%

- Most respondents indicated that they had a better appreciation for diversity and different cultures as a result of their experiences at Harper.
- Approximately fifteen percent (n=102) of the participants indicated that they did not have a better appreciation for diversity and different cultures as a result of their experiences at Harper.

Questions 16 and 17 ask respondents if they would recommend Harper to others and return themselves

**Table 16: Question 16 – Student Recommendation of Harper**

Would you recommend Harper College to your friends and family?	2009 (N=424)		2010 (N=655)	
	Number	Number	Number	Percent
Definitely yes	244	57.5%	406	62.0%
Yes	170	40.1%	229	35.0%
No	6	1.4%	13	2.0%
Definitely no	4	1.0%	4	0.6%
No response	--	--	3	0.5%

Eighty-seven percent of Harper graduates would recommend Harper to their friends and family. This is consistent with the responses of the 2008 graduates.

**Table 17: Question 17 – Future Educational Plans at Harper**

Would you return to Harper for educational or personal enrichment courses in the near future?	2009 (N=425)		2010 (N=655)	
	Number	Number	Number	Percent
Definitely yes	185	43.5%	363	55.4%
Yes	206	48.5%	247	37.7%
No	26	6.1%	38	5.8%
Definitely no	8	1.9%	4	0.6%
No response	--	--	3	0.5%

Approximately ninety-three percent of Harper graduates would return for educational or personal enrichment courses in the near future. This is consistent with the responses of the 2008 graduates.

## Summary

The 2010 Career program graduates were very positive about their experiences at Harper. The vast majority of graduates indicated that their main objective was to obtain job skills for entry into a new or different job. The percentage of respondents that indicated taking coursework to transfer to another college remained constant at approximately twenty percent between 2009 and 2010.

As in previous years, the skills acquired in the Career programs at Harper were beneficial to the graduates in seeking and acquiring employment. Most respondents, seventy percent, reported being employed at least part-time with nearly forty percent being employed full-time. It should be noted that in 2009 fifty percent of the respondents indicated that they were employed full-time. Additionally, more than sixty percent of the respondents reported working in a field that was related to their college program. The Career graduates of 2010 averaged 30.5 hours per week and earned an average wage of \$16.62 per hour. Nearly eighty percent of Harper graduates in 2010 reported being satisfied with their present employment situation. This is very consistent with the responses of the graduates of 2007 - 2009.

Consistent with the experiences of graduates in recent years, most respondents in 2010 were satisfied with all aspects of their major program of study and with their general education courses. Also consistent with graduates in previous years, Harper career graduates continued to rate instruction favorably, especially regarding course content and class size.

The graduates' survey responses varied greatly as related to listed college services. For most of the items listed as college services, at least twenty percent of the surveyed students indicated they did not use many of them. With the exception of "*registration procedures*" all services listed were rated somewhat lower by the 2010 graduates than the 2009 graduates. Interestingly, ninety-seven percent stated that they would recommend Harper to family and/or friends. In addition, more than ninety percent indicated that they would return to Harper in order to take educational or personal enrichment courses. This is consistent with the responses of 2009 graduates.

As previously stated in this report, recent graduates of Harper's career programs appear to be employed, satisfied in their job experience, and satisfied with the services and instruction that Harper provides. This is a positive trend which has continued since 2004. As evidence of this, the graduates indicated that they would be willing to recommend Harper to their family and friends. However, it can be argued that many graduates did not receive the full benefit of what Harper has to offer because often the respondents indicated that they did not use many of the services offered to watch. Although it is not uncommon, it may be useful to explore the reasons why graduates do not use many of the Harper service.

**Appendix  
Survey Instrument**



# Career Graduate Follow-up Survey



Harper College

HARPER COLLEGE 2006 CAREER GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP

Congratulations on your graduation from Harper College. In order to improve programs and services, we need your feedback concerning the time you spent at Harper. Your responses will be kept confidential.

Please take a few moments to complete the survey and return it in the enclosed pre-stamped envelope. Thank you!

Survey number

00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00

Use pencil/black ink

1. What was your main objective in attending Harper college? Mark ONE response.

- a. Obtain skills needed for entry into new or different job
- b. Improve skills needed in present job
- c. Explore courses to decide on a career
- d. Take coursework for transfer to another college
- e. Personal interest or self-improvement

2. What is your educational status? Mark ONE response.

- a. Have not been enrolled in a college/university since leaving Harper
- b. Have been enrolled in another college/university since leaving this college but am not currently enrolled
- c. Currently enrolled in field of study related to previous community college program
- d. Currently enrolled in field of study unrelated to previous community college program

3. What is your present employment status? Mark ONE response a-e.

- a. Employed full-time - 30 hours or more per week
- b. Employed part-time - less than 30 hours per week
- c. Full-time military service
- d. Unemployed, seeking employment
- e. Unemployed, not seeking employment - mark ONE reason below, if "e" selected.
  - 1. Full-time student
  - 2. Full-time homemaker
  - 3. Health disability
  - 4. Family responsibilities
  - 5. Other - specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Continue with questions 4 through 9 only if employed. If not employed skip to question 10.

4. How closely is your present job related to your former community college program?

- a. Related - (go directly to question 5)
- b. Not related - (answer question below before going to question 5)

If your present job is NOT related to your college program, what is the ONE BEST reason why?

- a. Preferred to work in another field
- b. Found better paying job in another field
- c. Could not find a job in my field of preparation
- d. Worked previously in my field of preparation, but changed
- e. Preferred not to move to new locality
- f. Temporary job while in transition - either in college, between jobs, or summer employment
- g. Took job in order to get preferred working hours
- h. Did not complete program or pass licensing test to be eligible to work in my field
- i. Health problems prevented me from working in my field of preparation
- j. Other - specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Continue on next page

PN 07-540m

5. On the average, how many hours do you work each week? Do not include overtime hours. 60 hrs. **MAXIMUM**.

Hours

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

\_\_\_\_\_ hours worked per week.

6. What is your present hourly salary before deductions, including commission but not overtime pay.

Dollars Cents

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

\$\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_ hourly salary

(Note: If employed full time and do not know the hourly salary, use the following guide to convert the salary:  
 Weekly salary divided by 40 = salary per hour  
 Monthly salary divided by 173 = salary per hour  
 Annual salary divided by 2,080 = salary per hour)

7. In general, how satisfied are you with your present job? Mark **ONE** response.

- a. Very dissatisfied
- b. Somewhat dissatisfied
- c. Somewhat satisfied
- d. Very satisfied

8. When did you begin working in your present job?

- a. Before entering the college program
- b. While enrolled in the college program
- c. After leaving the college program

9. Where is the location of your primary place of employment?

- a. Within Harper College district
- b. Outside Harper College district, but in Illinois
- c. Outside Illinois

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
10. Rate your satisfaction with the following items as they pertain to skill courses in your major program of study: Mark the <b>ONE</b> that most clearly represents the opinion.				
a. Content of courses in your program.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Lectures, lab experiences, and group and individual projects.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Equipment, facilities, and materials.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Job preparation.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Preparation for further education.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Information on current employment opportunities and trends.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Overall, how satisfied are you that your program provided you with the skills required for your job?.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Rate your satisfaction with the following items as they pertain to general education or other courses outside your major program of study: Mark the <b>ONE</b> that most clearly represents the opinion.				
a. Content of courses outside of your program.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Lectures, lab experiences, and group and individual projects.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Equipment, facilities, and materials.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Job preparation.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Preparation for further education.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Continue on next page

PN 07-540m

12. Please rate the instruction in general in each of the following:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Not applicable
a. Class size.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Quality of instruction.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Course content.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Fairness of grading.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Faculty teaching ability.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Faculty concern for students.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Faculty availability.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Please rate the location of the courses taken in terms of convenience:

	Very convenient	Convenient	Not convenient	Not applicable
a. Harper main campus in Palatine.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Northeast Center in Wheeling.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. WEB or Internet based from home or office.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Harper Professional Center in Schaumburg.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Other - specify:.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Rate your satisfaction with each office or service listed below:  
Mark the ONE that most clearly represents the opinion.

	Did not use	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
a. Financial Aid services.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Academic advising.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Career planning.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. College transfer planning.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Counseling.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Tutoring.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Library/audio visual services.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Student activities.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Registration procedures.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Access for disabled on campus.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Availability of computers for out-of-class use.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Career Center.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. As a result of my experiences at Harper, I have a better appreciation for diversity and different cultures and values.....

	1. Definitely no	2. No	3. Yes	4. Definitely yes
15. As a result of my experiences at Harper, I have a better appreciation for diversity and different cultures and values.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. On a one to four scale where one is "definitely no" and four is "definitely yes", would you recommend Harper College to your friends and family? .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. Would you return to Harper for educational or personal enrichment courses in the near future? .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. On a one to four scale where one is "definitely no" and four is "definitely yes", would you recommend Harper College to your friends and family? .....

17. Would you return to Harper for educational or personal enrichment courses in the near future? .....

Continue on next page

PN 07-540m

