

Career Outcomes from Liberal Arts

Promoting liberal arts colleges to
professional-minded applicants and their
parents

Kaye-Lani Laughna, Davidson College
Vandana Murjani, Emerald Heights International School
Grace Robertson-Lloyd, Grinnell College
Anna Wise, Hamilton College



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Agenda

Introductions

Case Study: The Emerald Heights School

Counseling Parents and Students about LACs and Careers across India

Resources and support from LACs

How to talk about careers from LACs: Grinnell Case Study

Post Chat GPT World: Changes in Job Preparation. What Does the Workplace Require?

Success Stories: International LAC alumni

Questions



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Case Study: The Emerald Heights International School

SAKSHI S, MILLSAPS COLLEGE

- A brilliant STEM scholar, 97% GPA IX,X,XI,XII, several positions in IT tech fests, MY SQL, Java+ , Mentored juniors on Java+, Perfect scorer in IP in XI,
- Also possessed interest in dance, writing, psychology, leadership and more..
- Nurtured in a traditional middle class Indian family with IIT always the ultimate aim.
- Sakshi did the research, works hard and was accepted to many colleges including Millsaps
- ***Now the challenge: Why should Sakshi and her parents choose Millsaps, an LAC over the others?***



Skills Developed in LACs

Skills LACs are known for in the US, but maybe not as much abroad:

- Flexible education system: allows for interdisciplinary learning and thinking
- Connections with faculty: research collaborations, mentorship, personalize LoRs
- Focus on communication: What's the purpose of a good idea if you can't express it?
- “Soft” skills: Critical thinking, analytical reasoning, collaboration, creativity and application to “real world”
- Common Mission: Develop thinkers, leaders, and moral citizens

How to communicate to the parents?

- Decoding the rankings game with data and stories of success



Sakshi, Today



“I am in Mississippi, and I possess a house and a car of my own, which brings immense satisfaction to me. My parents completely believe in LACs now, and speak about its beauties with people around. My college has provided me with a broad perspective, critical thinking abilities, and a strong support network, all of which have been essential in my ongoing professional journey. Currently, I am working as a business analyst at **Blue Cross Blue Shield**, which is one of the biggest **health insurance company both statewide and nationally.**

“While the core plays the significant role in my job today, the real success and joy comes from the skills/knowledge gained from other disciplines. “

Currently, I am focused on advancing my corporate career.

Now, my younger brother is in the same journey, which is seamless for him, unlike mine.....”



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The Need for Skills

- New education policy seeks to address the educational reformation suggesting unemployment in India is often due to lack of skills-based degrees.

https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English_0.pdf

- Book -employers seek skills-based learning, such as critical thinking, ability to communicate, ability to work with people from different backgrounds

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbescoachescouncil/2024/04/08/17-attributes-employers-expect-employees-to-foster-in-themselves/>

There is a gap- how do we address to students and parents?



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The image is a screenshot of the Business Today website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'bt Business Today' logo, 'MODIN' branding, and 'ICICI Direct' logo. Below this is a secondary navigation menu with links for 'HOME', 'BUDGET 2024', 'MAGAZINE', 'BT TV', 'MARKET TODAY', 'TECH TODAY', 'MONEY TODAY', 'MUTUAL FUNDS', and 'INDUSTRY'. A third navigation bar includes 'PMS Today', 'Immersives', 'Economic Indicators', 'UPSTART', 'India', 'Weather', and 'NRI'. The main content area on the left contains two paragraphs of text. The right side features a large photograph of a dense crowd of young people, likely students, with a text box overlaid on the bottom right of the photo.

bt Business Today MODIN ICICI Direct

HOME BUDGET 2024 MAGAZINE BT TV MARKET TODAY TECH TODAY MONEY TODAY MUTUAL FUNDS INDUSTRY

PMS Today Immersives Economic Indicators UPSTART India Weather NRI

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Further, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has underscored the gravity of the problem, reporting that as of 2022, Indian youth accounted for 82.9% of the overall unemployed population, with 65.7% of such individuals having finished secondary or higher education. This figure represents a significant interruption to India's ability to fully realize its long-celebrated demographic dividend.

The major factor compounding India's employment problems and the reason for high unemployment among India's youth is the continual skill mismatch between the abilities and skills required by the labour market and those provided in India's education system. While progress has been achieved in increasing access to basic and secondary education, the shift from classroom to career frequently leaves many graduates unprepared to meet the rapidly changing demands of today's industry.

As of March 2024, the urban unemployment rate for those aged 15 and above declined to 6.7%, down from 6.8% in the same quarter the previous year.

LACs and Career Development Support

Research Opportunities: summer, semester, independent, co-authoring

Grant Funding: underfunded internships, curricular opportunities

Student Visa Support and Associated Employment Benefits

Career Development Specialist

On-campus Employment

Career Treks and Networking

Job Shadowing



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Letting the “Best Kept Secret” Out

Grinnell College Case Study:

- 1,700 undergraduate students
- 22% international, 85+ citizenships represented
- Class of 2027 - 12.7% acceptance rate
- Open curriculum school
- 3 advisers from day one - academic, residence life, and career
- Post-Graduate Support - Careers, Life, and Service
 - Funding for summer internships (\$2000 - \$5000 per student)
 - Funded summer research with professors (\$3,400 per student)
 - Funding for wardrobes, flights for interviews
 - Externships and internships (alumni network)
 - Industry treks (alumni network)
- 2.5 billion dollar endowment

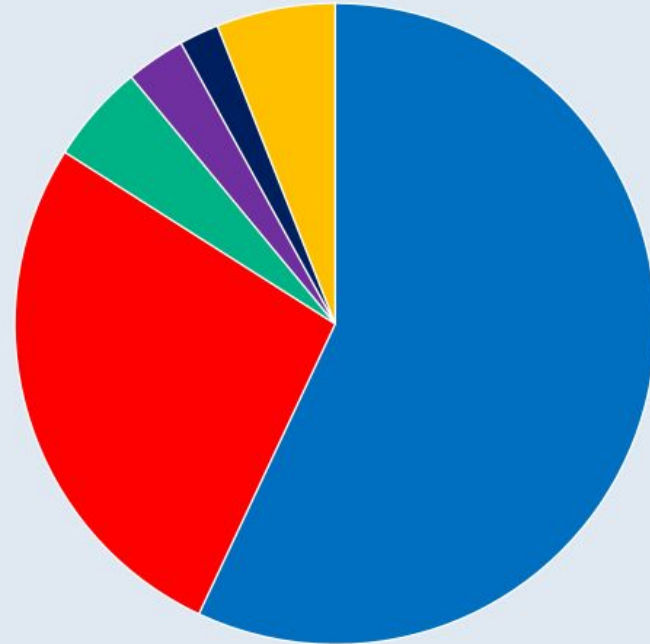


FIRST DESTINATIONS

- **88%** of graduates are admitted to their first- or second-choice graduate program
- **7th** in the nation for per-capita Ph.D. production
- **97%** of graduates attain positions related to their career goals

Data reflects graduates from the last four graduating classes

- 57% - Employment
- 27% - Graduate/Professional School
- 5% - Post-Graduate Service
- 3% - Fellowship
- 2% - Continuing Education
- 6% - Other



[Explore](#)
[Live](#)

Bringing Career Prep into a Post- ChatGPT World

Many feel like the whole world has changed since we all met ChatGPT November 2022
What will the impact of LLMs and AI be on the global workforce economy by the time you are ready to graduate?

The importance of interdisciplinary skills has never been greater.

Reality: The title on your degree might not be the title in your first job and the title when you retire. Instead, how do you prepare to be a flexible, problem solver who can interact with people who are different than you? What can you do that the robots cannot?



In the Media

NY Times: Some banks are considering cutting 66% of (entry level) analyst classes.

“It will be the revenge of the liberal arts graduates,” one senior Wall Street banker told Financial News. “You have an infinitely smart companion who can automatically perform tasks like modelling and deck creation, so the skill set that will be most prized is critical thinking, creativity, taking the data and advancing it to come up with new ideas.”



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Leadership Testimonials

CEO of Priceline (St Lawrence alum): “What you learn is how to learn and you learn to take pleasure in it. As a LAC graduate, I think you have a broad understanding not just of how businesses work but how people work. I think I was well prepared to address a variety of problems that come up in the context of a large business organization. Those skills are at play every day.”

CEO of Goldman Sachs (Hamilton alum): “I’ll tell you one thing we’re finding less and less...that is an important skills set that we actually find in students from Hamilton or other LAC backgrounds is an ability to write.”

Steve Jobs: (Reed College) “Technology alone is not enough. It’s technology married with the liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields the results that makes our hearts sing.

Barack Obama: (Occidental College): Oxy “started giving me a sense of what a purposeful life might look like”



THESE SCHOOLS HAVE PRODUCED



9%

of **FORTUNE 500** CEO's graduated
from Private Liberal Arts Colleges



23%

of **US Educated** Nobel Laureates



27%

of **US Presidents**



14%

of Tenured **Harvard Law** Professors

source: LiberalArtsColleges.co

Hamilton Outcomes

Resources: Career Advisor, ALEX Advisor, Interstride, Alumni Career Network (GOLD)

97% of graduates have 1+ internship/research, 70% have 3+

Successful international alumni South/Central Asia:

- Kamila Shamsie '94, Pakistan, award-winning author
- Dhanika D S '15, Sri Lanka, Deputy Chief of Party, USAID Sri Lanka Energy Program
- Jafar S '21, Uzbekistan, Investment Analyst at Deutsche Bank
- Mukund J '22, India, Research Analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
- Jampel P '26, Bhutan, film actress and climate activist



Grinnell Outcomes

Notable Alumni:

- Co-founder of Intel & co-inventor of the microchip - Robert Noyce '49
- Chipper Cash - African fintech service, founded in 2018 by Ham Serunjogi '16 (Uganda) and Maijid Moujaled '14 (Ghana)
- Amazon.com's former VP of Web Technology, Joel Spiegel '78
- Prime minister of Romania, Florin Cîțu '96
- Kumail Nanjiani '01 (Pakistan): comedian, actor, director (The Big Sick, Silicon Valley, Marvel's Eternals, The Colbert Show, Portlandia, etc)
- Cornell Capital & former Chairman of Merchant Banking Division at Goldman Sachs, Henry Cornell '76
- Harry Hopkins (class of 1912!), architect of the New Deal under President FDR



Davidson Outcomes and Testimonials

Class of 2024 International Graduates

- McKinsey and Company (Dallas and Minneapolis)
- Research Associate at Duke University's Human Vaccine Institute
- Investment Banking at Deutsche Bank in NYC
- PhD in Medical Physics, University of Wisconsin - Madison
- PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology, Duke University
- PhD in Neuroscience, Northwestern University
- AccessibleAI Researcher
- Software Engineer at Oracle



Davidson Outcomes and Testimonials

Testimonials from Parents and Current Students

Parent

Parent

Studnet

Studnet



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Shobhita B, EHIS Alum at Beloit

I have found the best version of myself. In my first semester, I took a multitude of classes, ranging from media studies to Japanese, from international politics to creative writing. In my second semester, I even took calculus, a subject I had always feared, along with history and human rights courses. Therefore, only within a year, I know so much more about the world: both quantitative and qualitative... This environment forces me to think for myself, to be creative, to be loud and confident in class, to speak my mind, to initiate and to constantly learn, learn, learn.

I am challenged in my classes daily. Most of the professors have rigorous assignments with a heavy focus on writing skills. The aim behind this is to prepare students for graduate school. Furthermore, research is always encouraged. I have already written multiple 10-30 page documents: a policy brief and a political theory essay. This has contributed significantly to my growth. It has allowed me to write down my thoughts in ways that are professional and impactful. I share very personal relationships with my professors, who not only know me by name but also by my personality. They are constantly giving strict feedback with the intent to push me, and the more they push, the better I get...

Ever since, I have been elected as the Academic Senator and a Beloit Student Government Funding Board Member...I have maintained my position on the Dean's List as a 4.0 student. I was at the top of my class for Calculus - something I could never have imagined possible.



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“The professors genuinely want you to exceed, regardless of how good/bad you are performing in a course. Instead of just focusing on the toppers, they make sure to give everyone a fair chance at succeeding in the course. Every professor holds office hours and they appreciate you taking time out of your schedule to discuss the subject or even ask questions about an assignment.”

Sienna, Union College



“I think that coming to Denison is one of the best decisions I've made. I'm so sure that I did the right thing that it makes all the usual senior year worries about "prestige, acceptance rates, majors" seem extremely trivial”.

Suryansh Agrawal, Denison University



Questions and Discussion

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Meet Shobhita Bhardwaj...Beloit College

I have found the best version of myself. In my first semester, I took a multitude of classes, ranging from media studies to Japanese, from international politics to creative writing. In my second semester, I even took calculus, a subject I had always feared, along with history and human rights courses. Therefore, only within a year, I know so much more about the world: both quantitative and qualitative. I maintain a 4.0 GPA and plan to continue that. This environment forces me to think for myself, to be creative, to be loud and confident in class, to speak my mind, to initiate and to constantly learn, learn, learn.

I am challenged in my classes daily. Most of the professors have rigorous assignments with a heavy focus on writing skills. The aim behind this is to prepare students for graduate school. Furthermore, research is always encouraged. I have already written multiple 10-30 page documents: a policy brief and a political theory essay. This has contributed significantly to my growth. It has allowed me to write down my thoughts in ways that are professional and impactful. I share very personal relationships with my professors, who not only know me by name but also by my personality. They are constantly giving strict feedback with the intent to push me, and the more they push, the better I get. I spent at least an hour a week with a professor outside of class, in their office hours. This allows me to feel a connection with them, and also allows for them to get to know me and to trust me with internships or opportunities they get.

Ever Since, I have been elected as the Academic Senator and a Beloit Student Government Funding Board Member. I have founded my own club for intercultural exchange with a team of 10 people. I work for multiple places on campus: the School of Environment and Sustainability as well as for the School of Economics and Business. I have maintained my position on the Dean's List as a 4.0 student. I was at the top of my class for Calculus - something I could never have imagined possible.