WMU 2019-2020 Teacher Education Graduates’ Job Search Satisfaction Data from the Michigan Department of Education 2020 Year Out Survey

The Michigan Department of Education changed their survey questions for First Year Teachers in 2020. Therefore, we can only provide one year of data from the new survey below. Subsequent pages provide data and analysis of prior years’ data.

As the table below indicates, WMU first year teachers overwhelmingly reported being employed in a school setting (100%) and in the Michigan school district in which they completed their internships (97%). Only 42% of survey respondents reported that they were employed in a teaching position in those school settings, however.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th></th>
<th>No</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed in a School Setting</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed in Michigan</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed in Internship District</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed in a Teaching Position</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chart below illustrates the extent to which WMU’s first-year teachers believe that WMU provided opportunities and resources to aid their job search. Respondents overwhelmingly indicated that WMU prepared them well for the teaching job market.
Western Michigan University 2019 graduates continue the upward trend of finding teaching positions fairly easily and being happy with those first teaching positions.

In your opinion, how difficult was it to find a job in your content area(s)?

- **Very Easy**: 34% (2019), 39% (2018), 47% (2017)
- **Somewhat Easy**: 12% (2019), 17% (2018), 22% (2017)
- **Somewhat Difficult**: 22% (2019), 32% (2018), 26% (2017)
- **Very Difficult**: 2% (2019), 6% (2018), 9% (2017)

Satisfaction with First Teaching Position

- I found employment in my content area(s), and was happy with my teaching placement.
  - 84% (2019), 82% (2018), 78% (2017)
- I found employment in my content area(s), but was not happy with my teaching placement.
  - 0% (2019), 5% (2018), 10% (2017)
- I did not find employment in my content area(s), and am still searching for a job in my content area(s).
  - 0% (2019), 17% (2018), 25% (2017)
- I did not find employment in my content area(s), and am considering employment outside of teaching.
  - 0% (2019), 3% (2018), 6% (2017)
Over 90% of first year WMU prepared teachers felt that their job search was easier because WMU provided resume building opportunities and has a positive reputation among prospective employers. They also wish that WMU had better supported them during their job search, prepared them for the job search, and promoted more networking for new teachers.

Percentage of 2019 First Year Teachers who Agreed that WMU’s teacher preparation program aided their job search because we

- holds a positive reputation among prospective employers: 92%
- provided opportunities for resume building: 93%
- provided opportunities for interview preparation: 82%
- provided good advice on job placement opportunities: 78%
- promoted networking for new teachers: 75%
- prepared me well for the teaching job market: 70%
- supported me in my job search: 67%