University of St. Thomas

2026

Alumni Survey Highlights

Alumni Engagement | UNIVERSITY OF St.Thomas

Table of Contents

Introduction 3

Likelihood to Recommend St. Thomas 3

Student Experience vs Alumni Experience 4

Areas of Engagement: 4

- Current level of engagement 4
  - Overall 4
  - By class decade 5
  - By location 6
- Areas of interest for future engagement 7

5 T's of Philanthropy 8

How Informed Alumni Feel 9

How Alumni Stay Informed about St. Thomas 9

Demographics of Respondents 10

- By location 10
- By class decade 10
- By college/school/program 11

Appendix 12

- Survey questions 12

Introduction

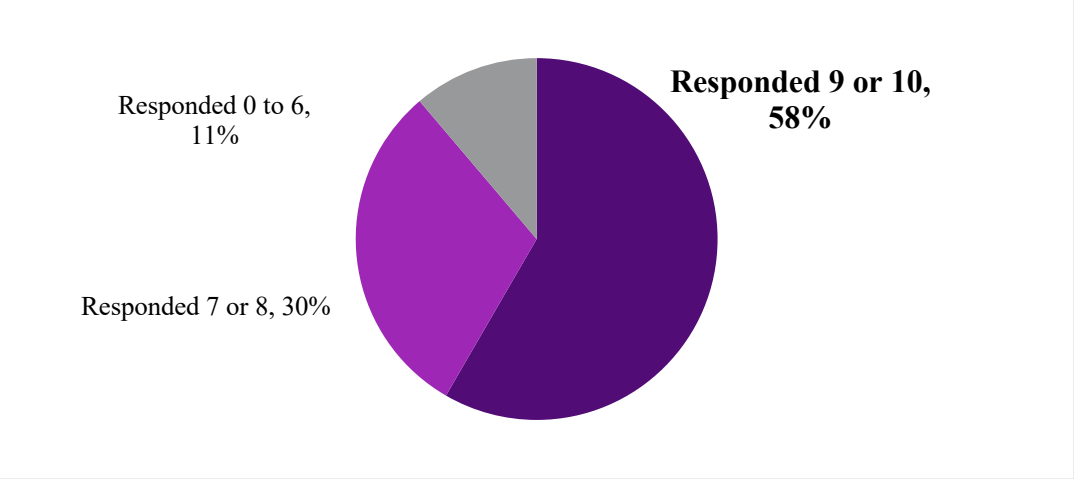
The 2026 alumni survey was conducted from Feb. 9 to March 10, 2026. The list of questions included in the survey can be found in the appendix.

A total of 1,139 **degreed** alumni participated in the survey spanning class years from 1955 to 2026. The largest cohort was graduates of the 2020s. Geographically, respondents spanned 43 states and 10 countries.

Likelihood to Recommend St. Thomas

When asked the question, "*How likely are you to recommend St. Thomas to a colleague, friend or family member?*", 88% of respondents answered with a 7 or higher on a scale from 0 (not at all likely) to 10 (extremely likely), as shown in the pie chart below.

88% of alumni are considered advocates in FY26, compared to **82**% in FY25 and **80**% in FY24.



Student Experience vs Alumni Experience

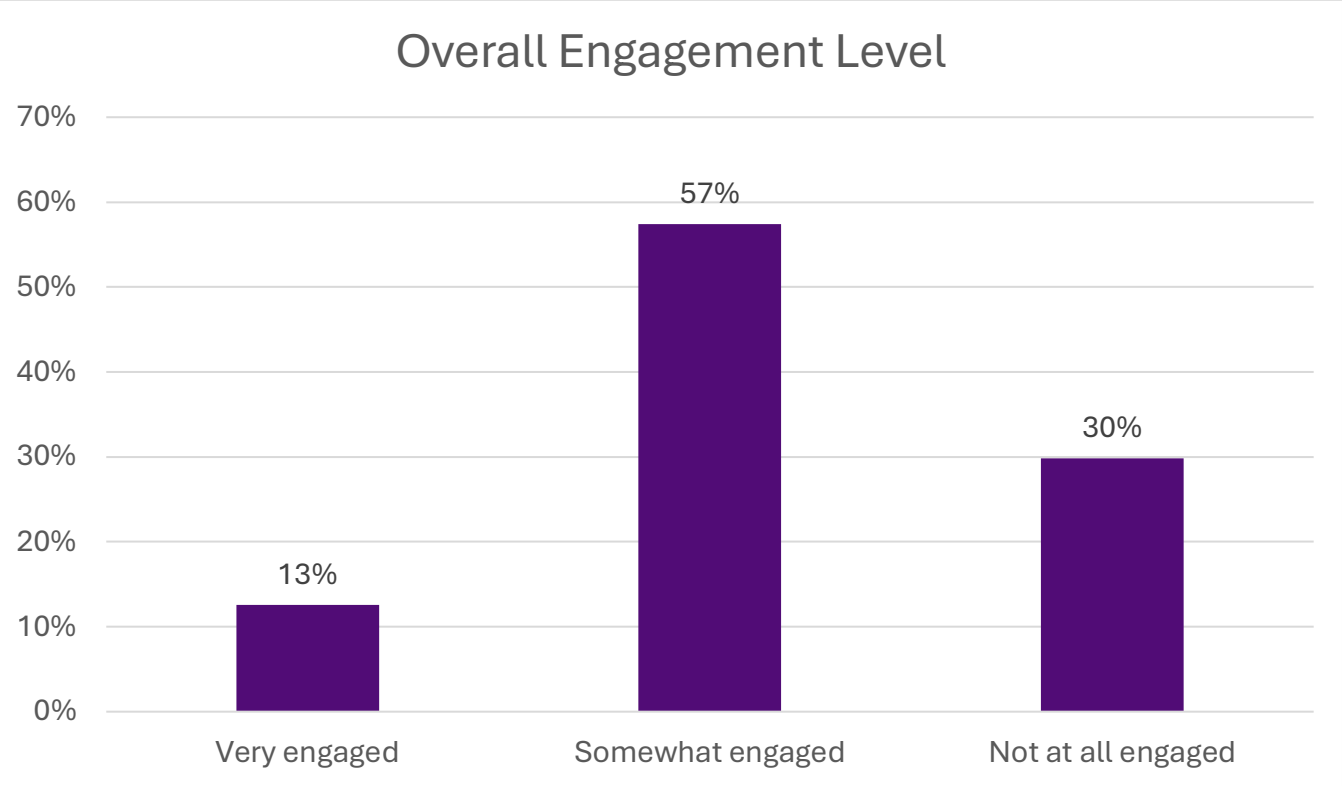
Survey respondents were asked to rate their experience as a STUDENT and ALUM at St. Thomas. As shown in the chart below, **91%** rated their student experience as good, while **54%** expressed having a good alum experience. Importantly, this pattern held true for both undergraduates and graduates, suggesting a shared sentiment and continuity of experiences across different academic levels. We also see an 11% increase since 2024 in the percentage of alumni who report having a good experience as an alum.

Areas of Engagement:

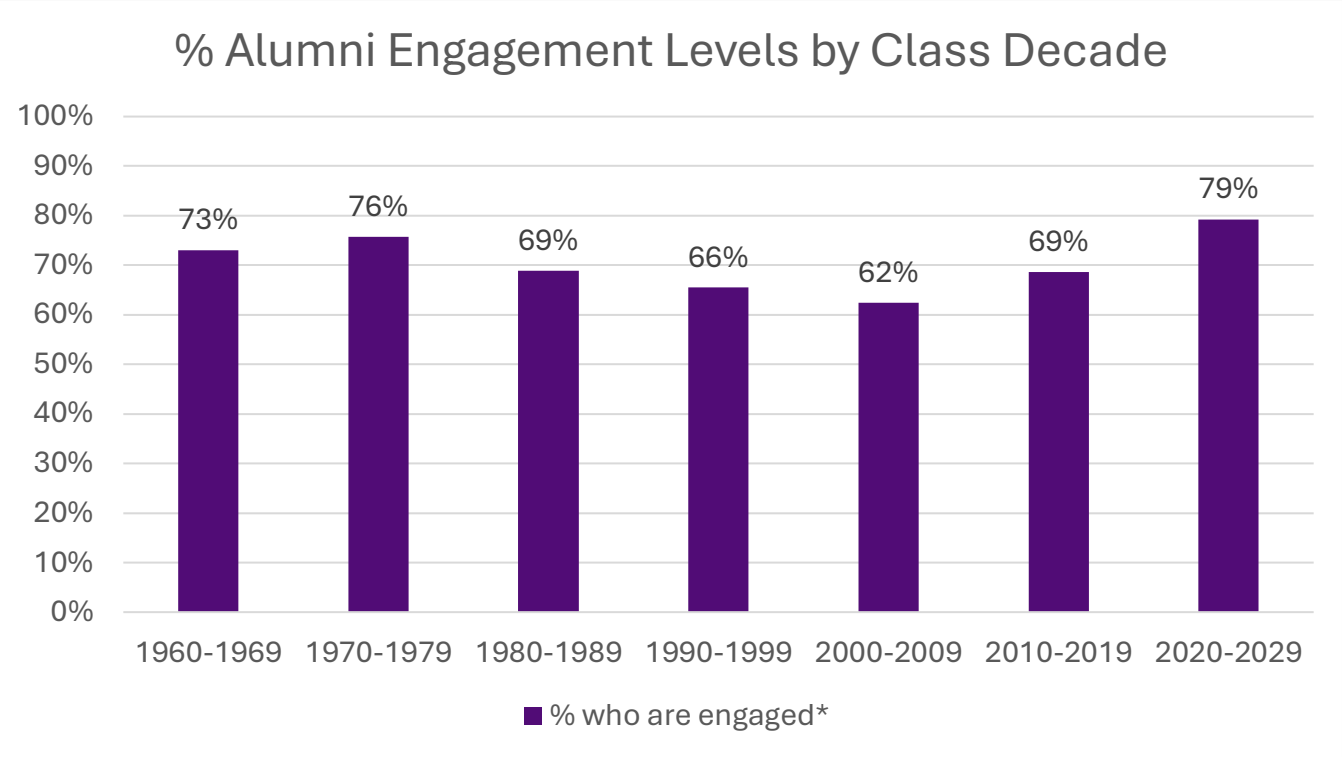
Current level of engagement

The survey sought insights into participants' current level of engagement with St. Thomas, defining "engagement" as how involved you are with St. Thomas or how connected you feel. The subsequent findings, illustrated in the graphs below, reveal reported engagement levels among respondents. Notably, our analysis uncovered a **significant correlation** between the student experience and their reported current levels of engagement.

Overall

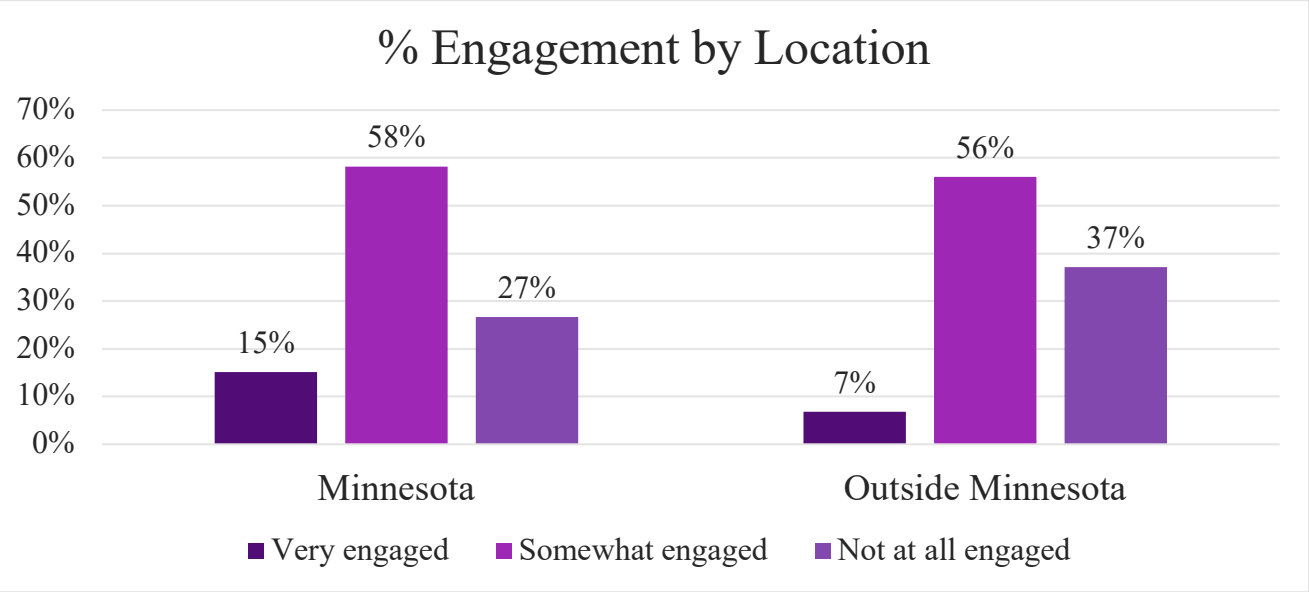


By class decade



* Engaged = very engaged + somewhat engaged

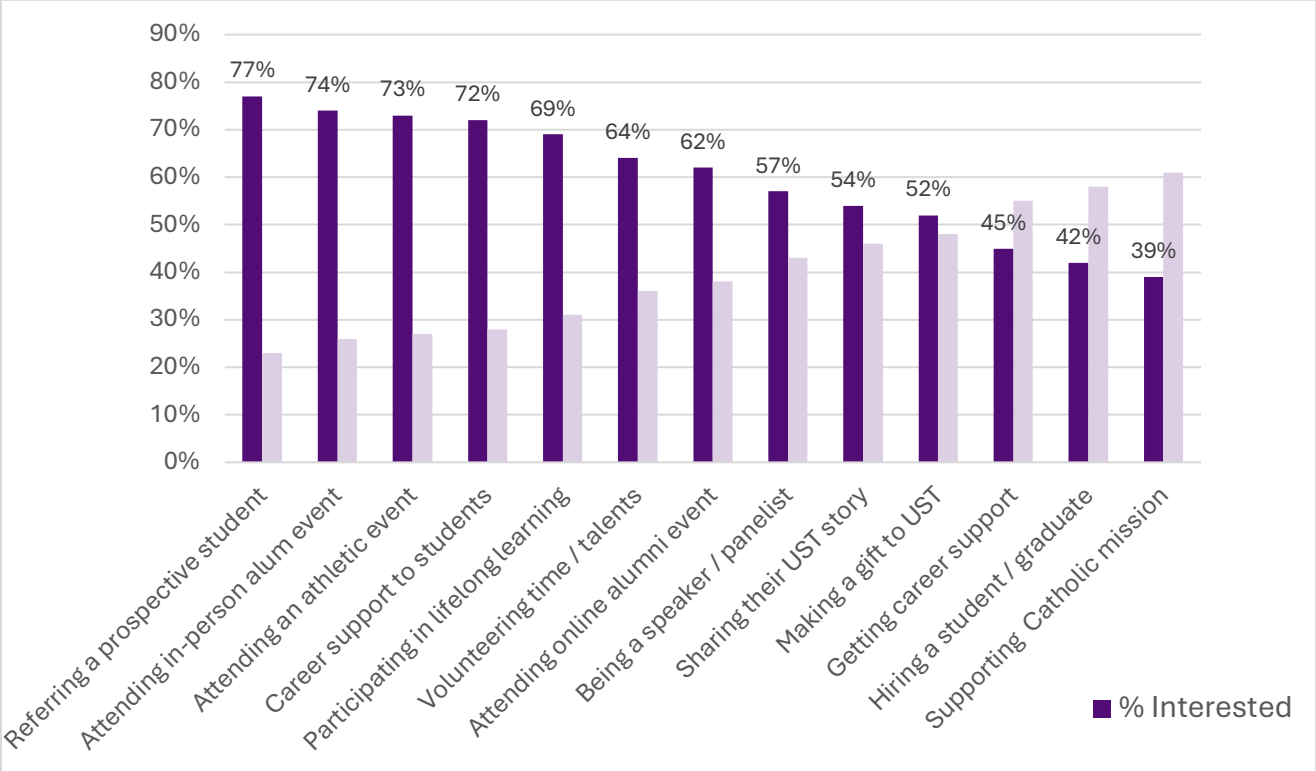
By location



73% of respondents who live in Minnesota reported being engaged (somewhat engaged or very engaged). This is an **increase** from FY25 where reported engagement in Minnesota was **62%.** Engagement outside Minnesota increased by 7% from 2025.

Areas of interest for future engagement

Alumni were asked: "As you think about possible future engagement with St. Thomas, please indicate your level of interest in engaging in each of the following ways:"



*Interested = Very interested + Somewhat interested

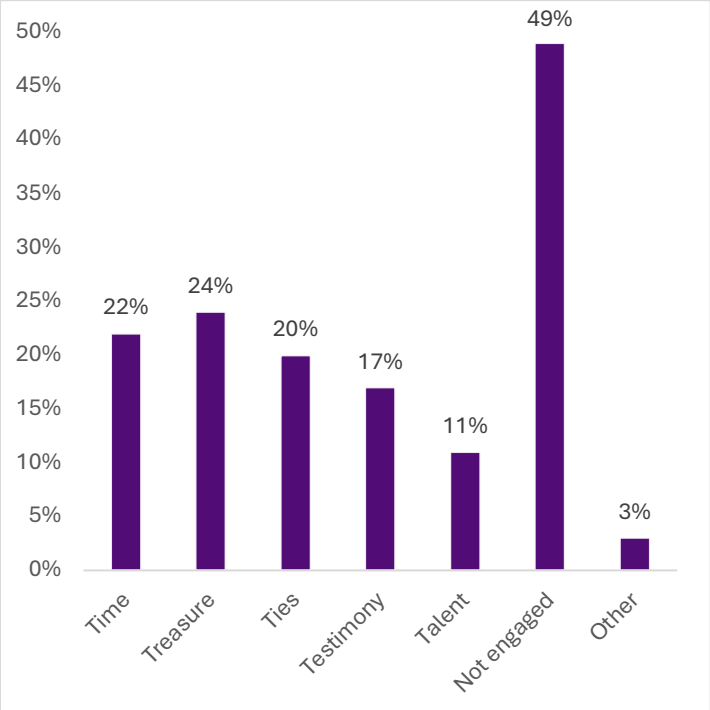
5 T's of Philanthropy

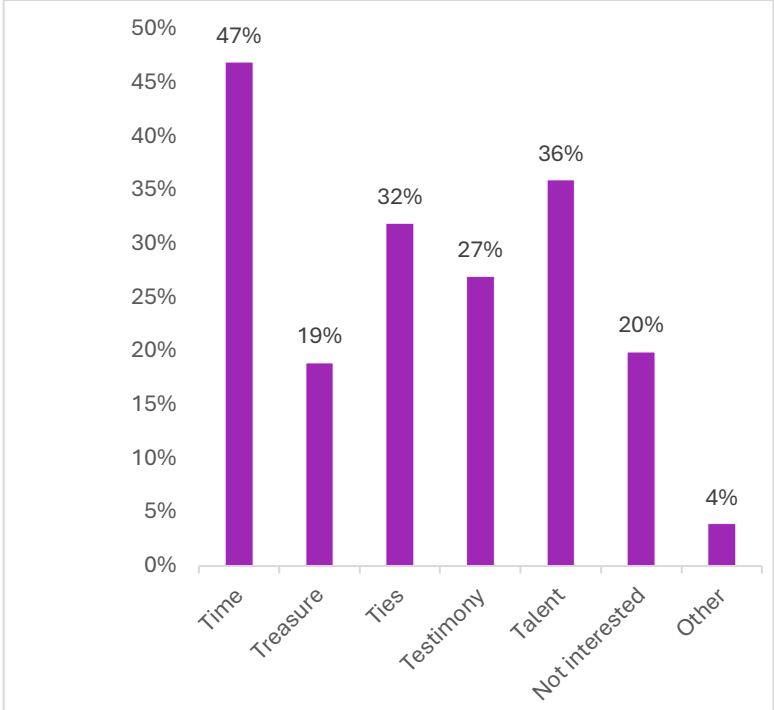
Current Engagement vs. Future Interest in the 5 T's
Nearly half of survey respondents (49%) indicated they are not currently engaged with St. Thomas philanthropy. However, when asked about future interest, that figure drops to 20%, suggesting meaningful latent potential among alumni who have not yet found their entry point into giving back.

Definitions of the 5T's of Philanthropy;

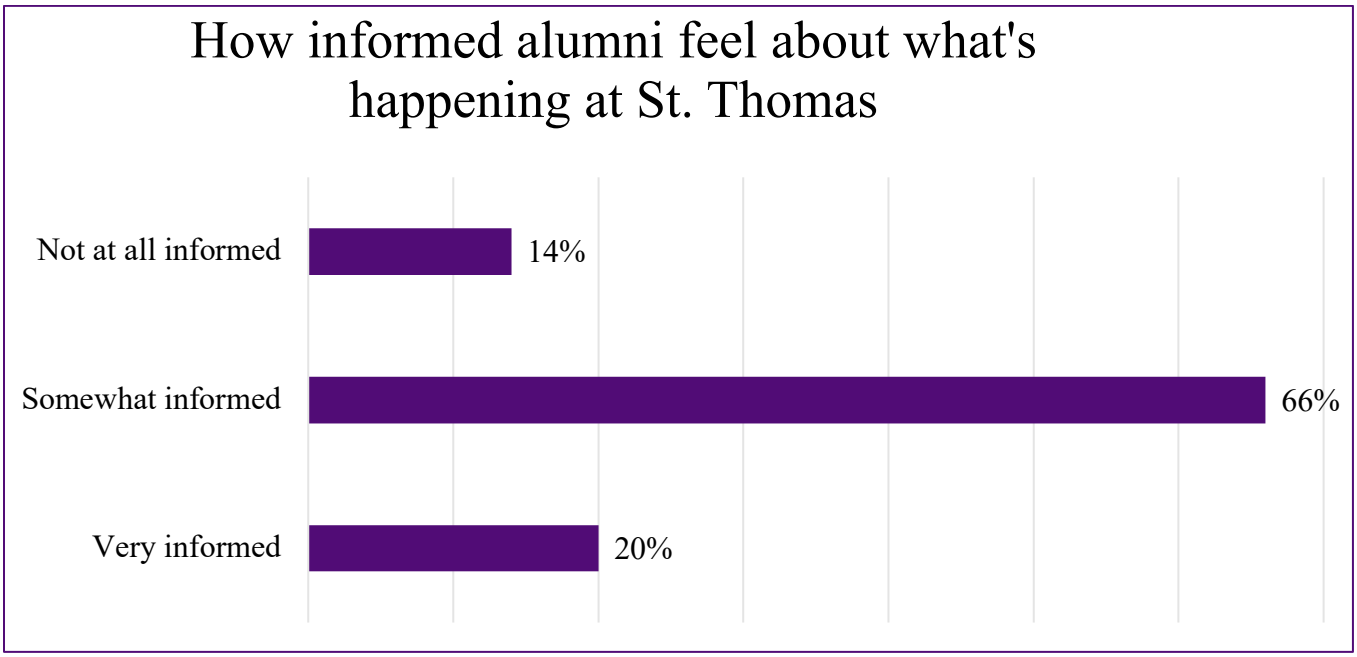
- **Time** – Attending events, mentoring, speaking
- **Treasure** – Financial giving of any size
- **Ties** – Making introductions, networking with Tommies
- **Testimony** – Sharing your St. Thomas story, referring a prospective student for admission
- **Talent** – Offering professional expertise, serving on a board/committee

These findings point to a significant opportunity to re-engage alumni through experiential and relationship-based programming — particularly around Time and Talent — as a gateway to deeper and potentially broader philanthropic involvement.

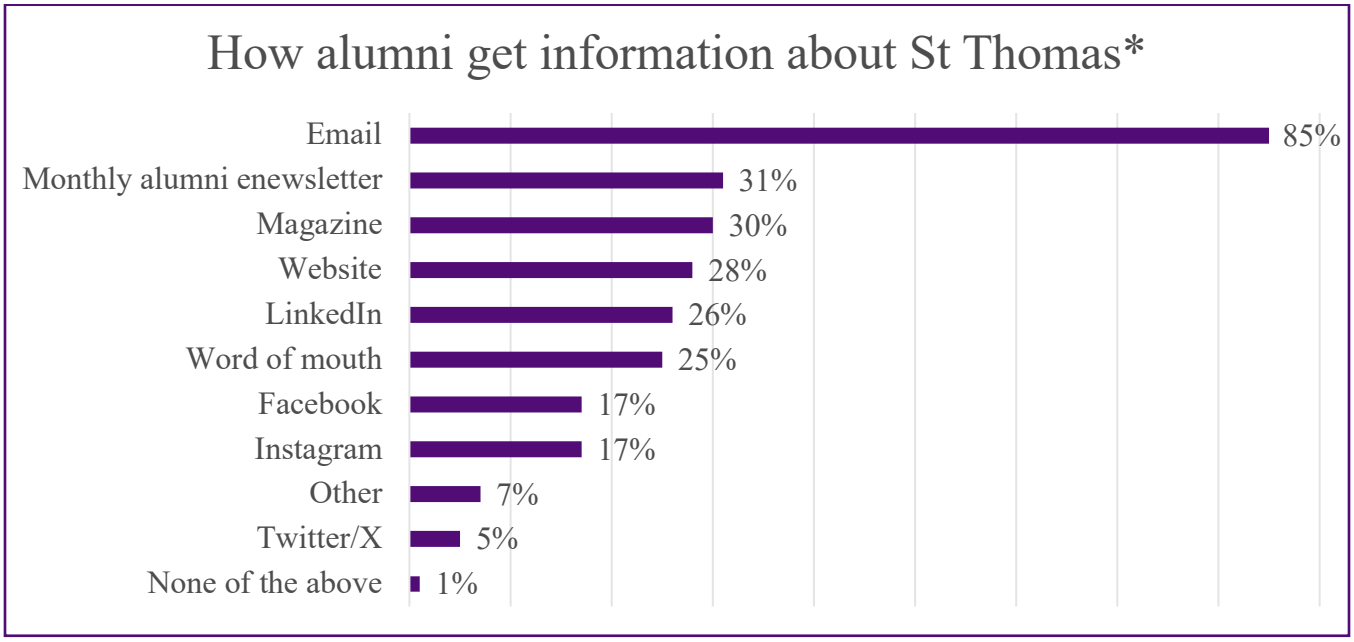




How Informed Alumni Feel



How Alumni Stay Informed about St. Thomas

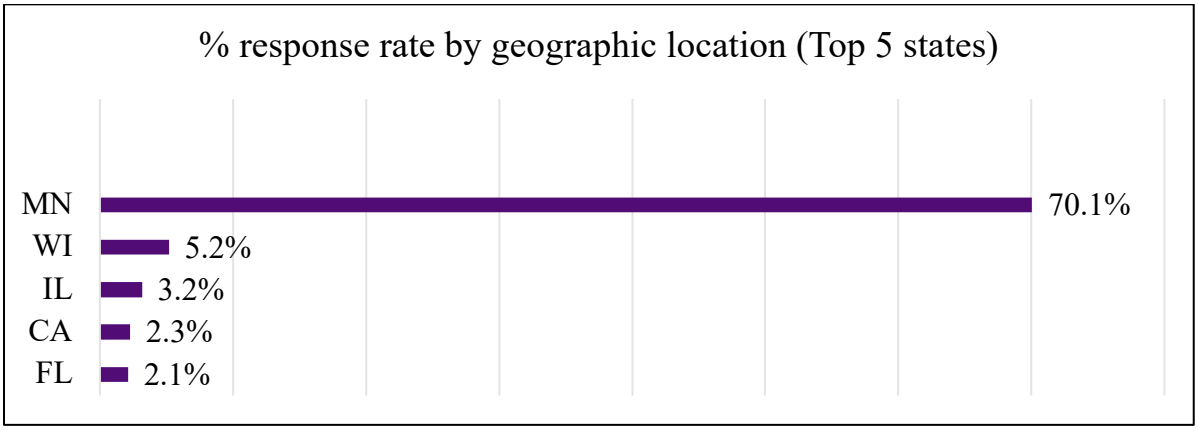


* There is overlap as most alumni use multiple sources of information.

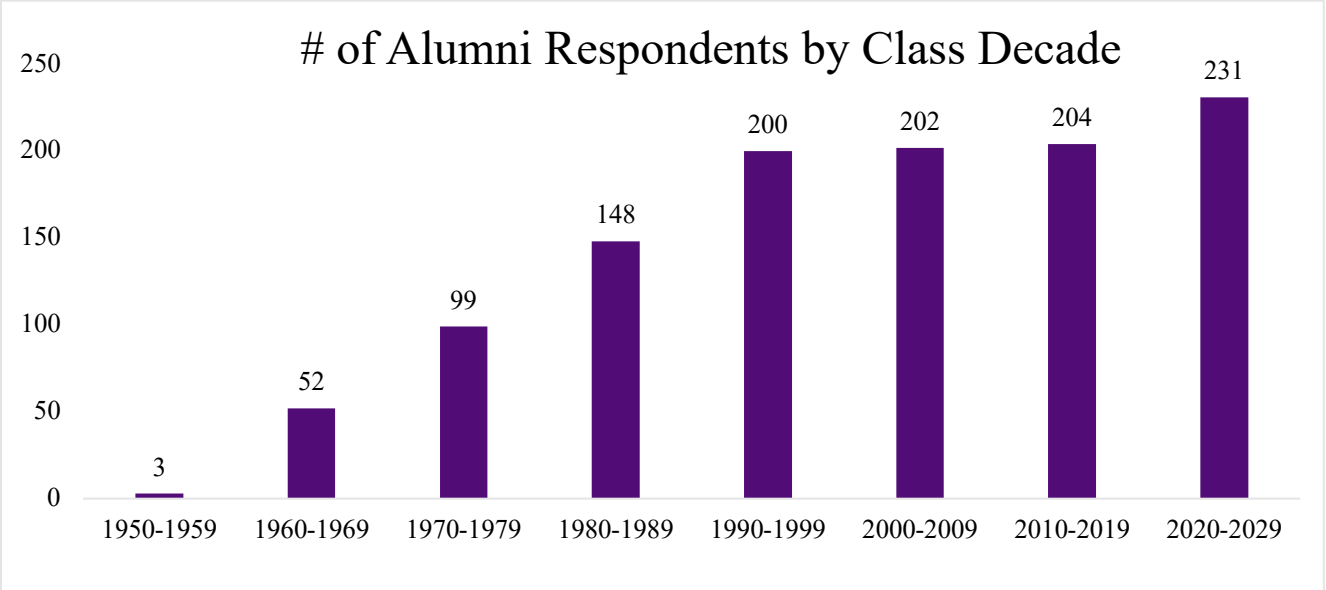
Demographics of Respondents

By location

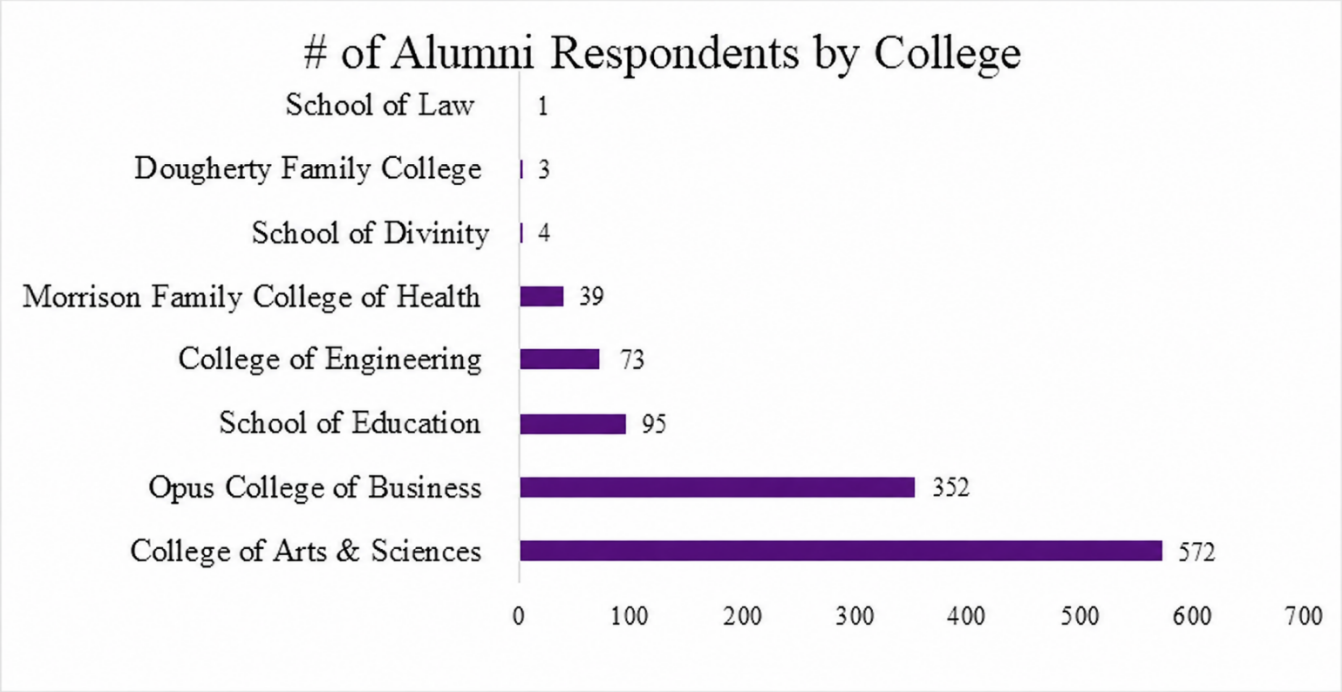
The graph below shows survey participation by geographic location. Respondents represented a total of 43 states. The breakdown below is very similar to previous surveys.



By class decade



By college/school/program



APPENDIX

Survey questions

Alumni Survey 2026 Questions

Intro: The University of St. Thomas is committed to deepening connections with our alumni community. You are a valued member of the Tommie Network, and your feedback is vital. We want to learn about your interests, motivations and philanthropic perspectives—including the ways you choose to engage with St. Thomas. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey by March 6. Your thoughts will inform our offerings and opportunities. Those who complete the survey will have the opportunity to be entered into a drawing for a Tommie Alumni Prize Pack. Thank you for your time and feedback!

1. On a scale of 1-10, how likely are you to recommend St. Thomas to a colleague, friend or family member?

2. How would you rate your experience as a student at St. Thomas? (Good, Fair, Poor)

3. How would you rate your experience as an alumnus/alumna of St. Thomas? (Good, Fair, Poor)

4. Do you consider yourself a St. Thomas donor? (Yes, No)

5. How would you describe your current level of engagement with St. Thomas? For the purposes of this survey, we define "engagement" as how involved you are with St. Thomas or how connected you feel. Very engaged (3), Somewhat engaged (2) Not at all engaged (1)

    a. (If not at all or somewhat engaged) What is your primary barrier to engagement? (Select one.)

    Geographic location (4)

    Lack of availability (i.e., personal or professional commitments). (6)

    Events offered do not meet my interests (8)

    Unaware of engagement opportunities (9)

Other (10) _____

6. As you think about possible future engagement with St. Thomas, please indicate your level of interest in engaging in each of the following ways.(Levels of interest include not interested, somewhat interested and very interested).

Attending an in-person alumni event (e.g., Alumni and Friends Christmas Luncheon, Finding Forward, St. Thomas Day, etc.)

Attending an online alumni event (e.g., Pray It Forward, educational webinar, etc.)

Participating in lifelong learning (e.g., Selim Center, certificates, non-degree, graduate degrees or programs, etc.

Attending an athletic event (e.g., tailgate, pregame social, game, etc.

Providing career support/advice or mentorship to current students

Hiring a student or graduate for internship/position

Getting career support for your professional journey

Sharing your St. Thomas story

Participating as a speaker/panelist at events or in the classroom

Supporting the mission and Catholic identity (e.g., Mass, Chapel Arts Series, Vespers of Remembrance, etc.)

Referring a prospective student for admission to St. Thomas

Making a gift to St. Thomas

Volunteering your time and/or talents (e.g., serving on a board, participating in a community volunteer event, participating in a focus group, etc.)

7. Which of the 5 T's of St. Thomas philanthropy are you most involved with at St. Thomas? (Select all that apply.)

Time – Attending events, mentoring, speaking (1)

Talent – Offering professional expertise, serving on a board/committee (2)

Treasure – Financial giving of any size (3)

Ties – Making introductions, networking with Tommies (4)

Testimony – Sharing your St. Thomas story, referring a prospective student for admission (5)

Not currently engaged (6)

Other (please specify) (7) _____

8. Which of the 5 T's are you most interested in getting involved with going forward? (Select all that apply.)

Time – Attending events, mentoring, speaking (1)

Talent – Offering professional expertise, serving on a board/committee (2)

Treasure – Financial giving of any size (3)

Ties – Making introductions, networking with Tommies (4)

Testimony – Sharing your St. Thomas story, referring a prospective student for admission (5)

Not interested (6)

Other (please specify) (7) _____

The next few questions help us learn more about your interests and motivations as a donor. (Do you consider yourself a donor? If yes….

a. When you think about giving treasure (financial gifts) to St. Thomas, what most inspires or motivates your gift? (Select all that apply.)

Academic excellence (1)

Athletics (4)

Catholic mission and ministry (6)

College or school affinity (i.e. College of Arts and Sciences, School of Engineering, etc.) (8)

Personal experiences as a student or alum (11)

Student experiences (14)

Student scholarships (12)

Other (please specify): _____ (13)

b. How clearly do you understand the impact of your gift?

Very clearly (3)

Somewhat clearly (2)

Not at all (1)

c. How can St. Thomas better share about the impact of giving?

Do you consider yourself a donor? If no…

a. If you were to consider making a gift to St. Thomas, what would most inspire or motivate that decision? (Select all that apply.)

Academic excellence (1)

Athletics (4)

Catholic mission and ministry (6)

College or school affinity (i.e. College of Arts and Sciences, School of Engineering, etc.) (8)

Personal experiences as a student or alum (11)

Student experiences (14)

Student scholarships (12)

Other (please specify): _____ (13)

b. What has prevented you from making a gift to St. Thomas? (Select all that apply.)

Financial barriers (1)

Not sure where gifts go (4)

Not feeling connected (6)

Prefer to support other causes (8)

Never been asked (11)

Unsure of impact (12)

Other (please specify): _____ (13) _____

9. What types of St. Thomas stories interest you? (Select all that apply.)

St. Thomas in your community (1)

Alumni stories (12)

Faculty research (6)

Student success (9)

Programmatic/colleges or schools (8)

Other (please specify): _____ (10)

10. Is there a faculty or staff member who made an impact on your experience at St. Thomas? (Yes, No)

11. How informed do you feel about what's happening at St. Thomas?

Very Informed (3)

Somewhat informed (2)

Not at all informed (1)

12. How do you currently receive information about St. Thomas? (Select all that apply.)

Email (1)

Website (2)

LinkedIn (3)

Instagram (4)

Facebook (5)

X (6)

St. Thomas Magazine (digital) (7)

Alumni Newsletter (email) (8)

Word of mouth (from other alumni, faculty, staff) (9)

None of the above (10)

Other (11) _____

13. Please enter up to three words or phrases that describe your current relationship with St. Thomas.

14. Is there anything else you would like to share?

15. Would you be willing to participate future online surveys, qualitative studies, discussions and/or interviews regarding St. Thomas to provide additional insights? Yes, No