

San Diego State University Spring/Summer 2010 Graduates Outcome Survey Summary SDSU Career Services

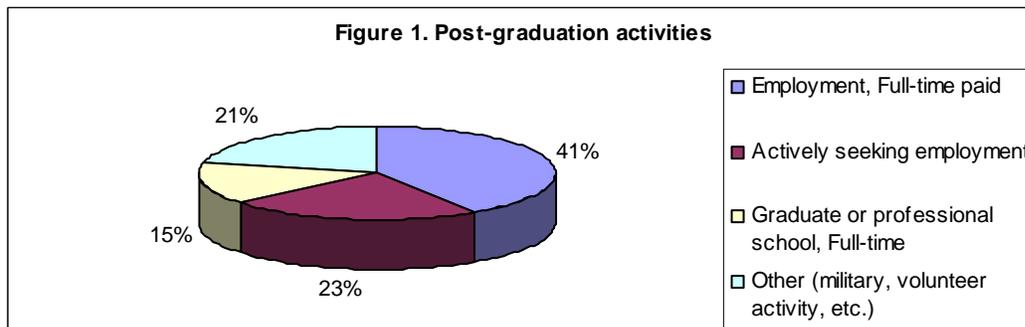
SDSU Career Services (<http://career.sdsu.edu>) conducted an outcomes survey of May/summer 2010 graduates of San Diego State University. The survey had a response rate of 15.7% with 983 graduates responding. The response rate for this survey is lower than that of December 2009 (34%), and similar to May 2009 (18%). Two factors help explain the drop in responses – limited email reminders and survey length. Both factors are under review.

Who responded?

The respondents were 32% male and 68% female. Of degrees earned, 72.3% received bachelor's degrees. The vast majority of respondents (96.5%) were enrolled at the Main Campus.

What are SDSU graduates doing, and how did they get there?

Full-time employment (41.14%) was the highest reported activity after graduation. Another 15% of respondents reported enrollment in graduate or professional school. Twenty-three percent of respondents self-identified as actively seeking employment. The remaining 21% identified post-SDSU activities such as serving in the military, part-time work, part-time education, volunteer activities, and starting a family.



Respondents identified the following as the most common methods they used to locate and learn about employment opportunities:

- A friend, faculty or relative
- An internet listing (including SDSU Career Services' On-Campus Interviews)
- A part-time job, internship, co-op

Sixty-four percent (64%) of full-time employed respondents acquired their full-time job while they were a student at SDSU or shortly thereafter. The remaining 36% already held their job upon entering SDSU. The majority of students reported residing in San Diego (73%) and in other parts of California (15%). The remaining 12% of respondents reported living in other areas of the U.S.

What are SDSU graduates reporting as earnings?

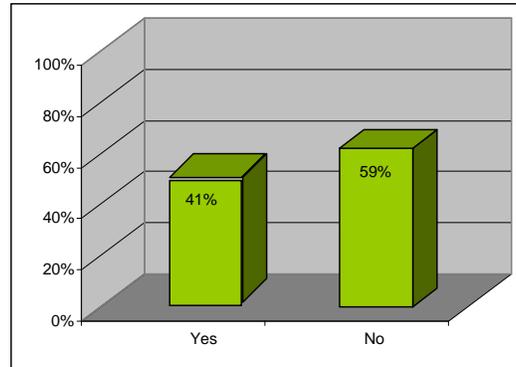
Respondents reported an overall average salary of \$42,634.¹ The median was \$39,000, and the mode was \$40,000.

¹ This figure is down seven percent from December 2009, when the overall average reported salary was \$45,390, with an overall survey response rate of 34%.

What Activities did SDSU graduates report?

A majority of the respondents (68%) possessed a part-time job or summer job while at SDSU. Forty-one percent (41%) of respondents reported completing an internship or co-op while at San Diego State University. Of those who engaged in an internship or co-op, 26% were offered and accepted employment. Another 10% were offered employment but did not accept the offer.

Figure 2. Completed an Internship

**What are May 2010 SDSU graduates telling us?**

SDSU Career Services asked May 2010 graduates to tell us about those factors that led to success in their job search and/or post-baccalaureate study acceptance. Graduates cited “networking” as the number one contributing factor to their success in acquiring jobs and acceptance into post-baccalaureate studies. Gaining relevant work experience was another high contributing factor, as were being motivated to work hard and being persistent in their job search. Other factors included using Aztec Career Connection (career.sdsu.edu), attending career fairs, earning a degree, working with professors and advisors, and developing strong resumes and interviewing skills.

We also asked May 2010 graduates what advice they would offer to current students who will be starting job searches and/or advanced study in the next year or two. Participating in an internship was the highest reported advice respondents offered closely followed by starting the job search process early (before graduation) and networking. Related comments addressed the need to remain active in the job search, especially in a challenging economy, and to apply to as many opportunities as possible. Respondents also suggested taking advantage of SDSU Career Services. This advice is based on actual experience since 50% of respondents reported using SDSU Career Services.²

² Seventy-eight (78%) of respondents reported knowing of SDSU Career Services.