

San Diego State University Spring/Summer 2009 Graduates Outcome Survey Summary SDSU Career Services

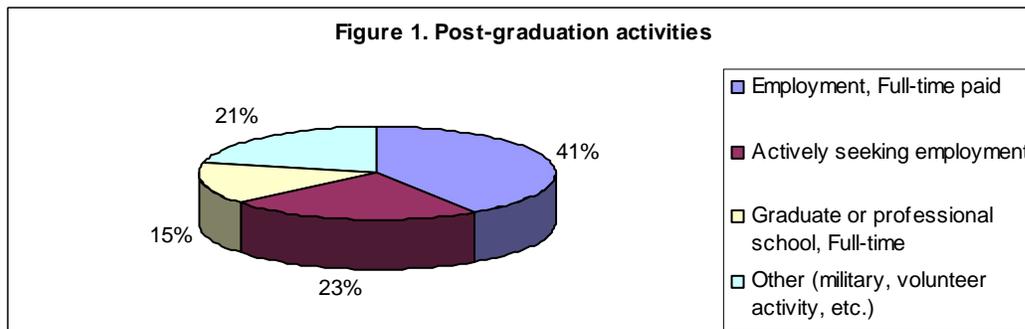
SDSU Career Services (<http://career.sdsu.edu>) conducted an outcomes survey of May 2009 graduates of San Diego State University. The survey had a response rate of 18% with 1,109 graduates responding. The response rate for this survey is lower than surveys conducted over the last two years, where response rates were averaging 35%. Two factors help explain the drop in responses – discouraged job seekers and decreased employment opportunities. Earlier this year, the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE, www.nacweb.org) cited the first factor as a possible explanation for the decreased job search activity by seniors graduating in May 2009.¹ NACE cited the second factor – decreased employment opportunities -- in their most recent salary survey².

Who responded?

The respondents were 33.8% male and 66.2% female. Of degrees earned, 72.3% received bachelor's degrees. The vast majority of respondents (96.3%) were enrolled at the Main Campus.

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

Full-time employment (40.8%) was the highest reported activity after graduation. Another 15.2% of respondents reported full-time 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
- A part-time job, internship, co-op

Sixty-seven percent (67.5%) of full-time employed respondents acquired their full-time job while they were a student at SDSU or shortly thereafter. The remaining 32.5% already possessed their

¹ *Spotlight Online*, May 13, 2009. "Fewer Grads Have Jobs, More Headed to Grad School."

² *NACE Salary Survey*, Summer 2009, p. 1. Cites a 33% decrease in salary offer reports from a year ago. *NACE Salary Survey*, Spring 2009, p. 1. Notes that employers expected to hire 22% less college graduates than the year previous.

job upon entering SDSU. The majority of students reported residing in San Diego (73.3%) and in other parts of California (16.1%).

What are SDSU graduates reporting as earnings?

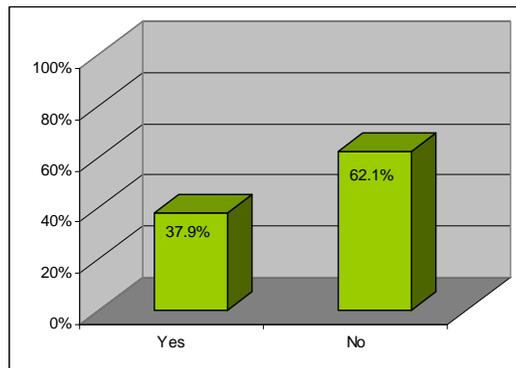
Respondents reported an overall median salary of \$40,000. Engineering students reported the highest salary followed by students in Health and Human Services.

School degree was obtained	N	Median Salary
Arts and Letters	86	35,000
Business	88	42,000
Education	46	42,500
Engineering	15	60,000
Health and Human Services	52	50,000
Professional Studies and Fine Arts	91	30,000
Sciences	57	40,000
Total	435	40,000

What Activities did SDSU graduates report?

A majority of the respondents (73.0%) possessed a part-time job or summer job while at SDSU. Nearly thirty-eight percent (37.95%) 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, 27.7% were offered and accepted permanent employment; 11.5% were offered employment but did not accept the offer.

Figure 2. Completed an Internship



What are May 2009 SDSU graduates telling us?

SDSU Career Services asked May 2009 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 well as being motivated to work hard and be persistent in their search. Other factors included the courses taken or earning a degree, professors and advisors, and developing a strong resume and interview skills.

We also asked May 2009 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. Respondents also suggested taking advantage of SDSU Career Services, gaining other forms of applicable work experience such as part-time jobs, being persistent, and applying to as many jobs as possible.

For additional information about this survey, please contact James J. Tarbox, Ph.D., Director of SDSU Career Services at jtarbox@mail.sdsu.edu.