

## **SUMMARY OF THE NEW ALUMNI EMPLOYMENT AND POST-BACCALAUREATE EDUCATION SURVEY FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1998**

### ***Survey Background***

Last fall, with the help of the Alumni Office and the Vice President of Student Development and Campus Life, the Institutional Research Office mailed a short survey to all undergraduate students who graduated during 1998 asking them about their employment and post-baccalaureate educational activities. A copy of the survey is in the appendix of this report. The survey was mailed to 1,492 students with addresses in the United States asking them for their help in completing the survey and to return it within four weeks in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided. Those addresses that were no longer valid were removed from the mailing list and a follow-up mailing was sent out to those who did not initially respond. The source of the information is the alumni data base and therefore follows that database's conventions. Thus one of the majors listed in this report is certification and is listed as a 'major' in the College of Education and Human Services. All told a third, or 483 alumni, responded to the questionnaire. While this is often the completion rate for this type of survey we need to explore ways, perhaps a small enclosed incentive, to increase the response rate. All tables are found in the appendix. Table 1 summarizes response rates by majors.

### ***Results***

Since some majors had few graduates and/or few respondents, results are presented at the college/school and university levels throughout the text. The survey began by asking respondents what they were currently doing in terms of work and post-baccalaureate education activities.

#### **% Alumni Indicating They Are Employed or Attending Graduate School**

<b>School/College</b>	<b>Employed</b>		<b>Graduate School</b>	
	<b>FT</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>FT</b>	<b>PT</b>
Education & Human Services	82.6%	15.7%	3.5%	16.5%
Humanities & Social Sciences	76.5%	11.2%	16.5%	14.7%
Science & Mathematics	73.7%	7.0%	21.1%	8.8%
Business	93.1%	3.4%	3.4%	2.3%
Arts	69.7%	21.2%	15.2%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>80.3%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>

Eighty percent of the responding alumni reported they were employed full-time, 13.2 percent were working part-time and an additional 3.7 percent were seeking employment. As well, 8.0 percent reported they were at home managing a household and 13.4 percent reported they were attending graduate school full-time and 13.2 percent were attending part-time. Because some alumni were doing more than one activity at a time, percents do not add to a hundred for this question.

The overall strength of the economy is reflected in the high employment rate of alumni but not surprisingly there is some variation in employment figures when we look at schools and colleges. For example, graduates from the School of Business have a particularly high rate of full-time employment, 93.1 percent and a very small percent of part-time employment. Those who graduated with majors in the arts tend to have a lower full-time employment rate and a higher part-time rate and graduates from the College of Science and Mathematics are more likely to go directly into graduate school as full-time students.

### ***START HERE FOR ALL WHAT FOLLOWS IS FROM BUSINESS REPORT***

Nearly all employed alumni are working for companies located in New Jersey; four companies are in New York City, two are in Pennsylvania, one is in Connecticut and one is in California. Seventeen respondents

report that they work for companies with 50 or less employees. Another eight are in companies with between 50 and 150 employees; 21 in companies with 200-1,000 employees; 10 in companies with 1,001 - 5,000 employees and 14 in companies with over 10,000 employees. Respondents were also asked to indicate within which industries their companies fell. Accounting, sales, financial services and the other category headed up the list.

The average starting salary was \$34,064. Salaries ranged from \$19,000 to \$115,000 for the 73 alumni answering this question. There were:

- 9 in the \$19,000 - \$24,999 range;
- 14 in the \$25,000 - \$29,999 range;
- 27 in the \$30,000 - \$34,999 range;
- 8 in the \$35,000 - \$39,999 range;
- 6 in the \$40,000 - \$44,999 range;
- 3 in the \$45,000 - \$49,999 range;
- 1 in the \$50,000 - \$54,999 range;
- 1 in the \$55,000 - \$59,999 range;
- 4 in the \$60,000 and over range.

When asked how related their jobs were to their major, 55.6 percent said their jobs were very related. Another 35.8 percent reported that their jobs were somewhat related and the rest, 8.6 percent, said they were working in fields not related to their MSU major.

Job satisfaction was relatively high for Business graduates; 54.3 percent said they were very satisfied with their jobs; another 39.5 percent reported they were somewhat satisfied and only 3.7 percent said they were not satisfied.

Eight respondents were enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program. The majors pursued were: law, psychology, finance and international finance, computer science, technology management and business.

Alumni were given a list of ten MSU offices and services and asked to indicate which ones, if any, helped them get their current positions. The offices/services listed were: career services, career fair, co-operative education, departmental internships, departmental bulletin boards, career library, campus-based corporate information sessions, on-campus recruiting, jobtrack or college central and fraternity/sorority contacts. Overall the services listed were not the ones used by graduating business seniors in their search for positions. The list needs to be reviewed for next year's survey because their may not be enough choices or an open-ended question may be better at gathering this information. The most frequently chosen service, 23.6 percent, was the career services office; followed by on-campus recruiting efforts, 15.7 percent; career fairs, 10.1 percent and departmental internships, 6.7 percent.

Respondents were also asked to rate how important a list of 14 skills that one might develop while pursuing a college education were in relation to their personal/professional success. Skills were rated on a four point scale: 1=no importance, 2=minor importance, 3=moderate importance and 4=major importance. Listed below are the skills and the percent reporting that the skill was of major importance.

<b>Skill</b>	<b>% Saying of Major Importance</b>
Oral communication skills	82.0%
Time management and organizational skills	82.0
Critical thinking/problem solving skills	66.2
Computer skills/information management	61.8
Written communication skills	53.9
Using effective leadership skills	52.8
Working with people from various back-	

grounds and cultures	49.4
Making a lifelong commitment to learning	36.0
Research skills(accessing information, collecting data etc.)	35.9
Mathematical skills	31.5
Understanding domestic and international issues	15.7
Foreign language skills	6.7
Exercising ones responsibilities as a citizen	4.5
Applying scientific methods	2.2

### **THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

Of the total population, 249 alumni graduated as Business Administration majors and four as Economics majors. Eighty-nine, or 35 percent, of these Business School alumni responded. The following results represents the responses of these 89 undergraduate 1998 Business School graduates.

#### ***Results***

Respondents were asked what they were currently doing in terms of work and post-baccalaureate education activities. Ninety percent of the business school alumni reported they were employed full-time, 3.3 percent were working part-time and 2.2 percent were seeking employment. As well, 5.6 percent reported they were managing a household and 5.6 percent reported they were attending graduate school (full- or part-time). Because some alumni were doing more than one activity at a time, percents do not add to a hundred for this question.

Nearly all employed alumni are working for companies located in New Jersey; four companies are in New York City, two are in Pennsylvania, one is in Connecticut and one is in California. Seventeen respondents report that they work for companies with 50 or less employees. Another eight are in companies with between 50 and 150 employees; 21 in companies with 200-1,000 employees; 10 in companies with 1,001 - 5,000 employees and 14 in companies with over 10,000 employees. Respondents were also asked to indicate within which industries their companies fell. Accounting, sales, financial services and the other category headed up the list.

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**RESPONSE RATES FOR FALL 1998 UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI**

<b>SCHOOL AND MAJOR</b>	<b>NUMBER OF GRADUATES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>COMPLETION RATE, %</b>
<b>EDUCATION &amp; HUMAN SERVICES</b>			
ALLIED HEALTH	15	4	26.7
CERTIFICATION	180	65	36.1
HEALTH EDUCATION (HLTH) ???	11	4	36.4
HUMAN ECOLOGY	54	26	48.1
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	29	7	24.1
RECREATION PROFESSIONS	40	14	35.0
COLLEGE TOTAL	329	120	36.5
<b>HUMANITIES &amp; SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>			
ANTHROPOLOGY	16	3	18.8
CLASSICS	2	0	0.0
COMMUNICATION SCI & DISORDERS	1	1	100.0
ENGLISH	96	20	20.8
FRENCH	4	0	0.0
GENERAL HUMANITIES	10	2	20.0
GERMAN	1	0	0.0
HISTORY	63	17	27.0
ITALIAN	1	0	0.0
LINGUISTICS	10	5	50.0
PHILOSOPHY	6	3	50.0
POLITICAL SCIENCE	88	30	34.1
PSYCHOLOGY	200	63	31.5
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	3	0	0.0
SOCIOLOGY	88	26	29.5
SPANISH	10	2	20.0
COLLEGE TOTAL	599	172	28.7
<b>SCIENCE &amp; MATHEMATICS</b>			
BIOCHEMISTRY	11	5	45.5
BIOLOGY	81	29	35.8
COMPUTER SCIENCE	34	10	29.4
CHEMISTRY	17	7	41.2
GEOGRAPHY	8	0	0.0
GEOSCIENCE	4	3	75.0
MATHEMATICS	13	3	23.1
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	6	1	16.7
COLLEGE TOTAL	174	58	33.3
<b>BUSINESS</b>			
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	255	89	34.9
ECONOMICS	6	1	16.7
SCHOOL TOTAL	261	90	34.5
<b>ART</b>			
ART	62	19	30.6
ART/STUDIO	9	2	22.2
COMMUNICATION STUDIES (CMST)????	23	4	17.4
DANCE	4	2	50.0
MUSIC	11	2	18.2
MUSIC THERAPY	4	1	25.0
SPEECH & THEATRE	6	1	16.7
THEATRE	6	2	33.3
SCHOOL TOTAL	125	33	26.4
ALL FALL 1998 UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI (RESPONSES INCLUDE 10 WITHOUT MAJORS)	1488	483	32.5

QUESTION 1 ARE YOU CURRENTLY (CHOOSE AS MANY AS APPLY):

SCHOOL AND MAJOR	EMPLOYED		NOT EMPLOYED			GRAD SCHOOL		TOTAL
	FULL TIME	PART TIME	AT HOME	SEEKS WORK	NOT SEEKING	FULL TIME	PART TIME	
<b>EDUCATION &amp; HUMAN SERVICES</b>								
ALLIED HEALTH	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	5
CERTIFICATION	58	6	4	1	1	1	15	86
HEALTH EDUCATION ?	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
HUMAN ECOLOGY	14	6	4	0	2	2	2	30
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	5	2	0	0	0	1	1	9
RECREATION PROFESSIONS	14	1	1	0	0	0	0	16
TOTAL (5 responses missing)	95	18	9	1	3	4	19	149
COLLEGE PERCENTS (based on 115)	82.6	15.7	7.8	0.9	2.6	3.5	16.5	129.6
<b>HUMANITIES &amp; SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>								
ANTHROPOLOGY	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
CLASSICS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COMMUNICATION SCI & DISORDERS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
ENGLISH	16	3	2	1	0	2	0	24
FRENCH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GENERAL HUMANITIES	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
GERMAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HISTORY	12	4	2	1	1	2	2	24
ITALIAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LINGUISTICS	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	6
PHILOSOPHY	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
POLITICAL SCIENCE	22	1	1	1	0	5	4	34
PSYCHOLOGY	46	7	5	0	0	11	16	85
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOCIOLOGY	23	3	0	0	0	3	3	32
SPANISH	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
COLLEGE TOTAL (2 responses missing)	130	19	10	3	1	28	25	216
COLLEGE PERCENTS (based on 170)	76.5	11.2	5.9	1.8	0.6	16.5	14.7	127.1
<b>SCIENCE &amp; MATHEMATICS</b>								
BIOCHEMISTRY	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	7
BIOLOGY	23	2	0	0	1	5	2	33
COMPUTER SCIENCE	9	0	0	1	0	0	2	12
CHEMISTRY	4	0	0	0	1	2	0	7
GEOGRAPHY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GEOSCIENCE	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
MATHEMATICS	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	5
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
COLLEGE TOTAL (1 response missing)	42	4	1	1	3	12	5	68
COLLEGE PERCENTS (based on 57)	73.7	7.0	1.8	1.8	5.3	21.1	8.8	119.3
<b>BUSINESS</b>								
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	80	3	5	2	0	3	2	95
ECONOMICS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SCHOOL TOTAL (3 responses missing)	81	3	5	2	0	3	2	96
SCHOOL PERCENTS (based on 87)	93.1	3.4	5.7	2.3	0.0	3.4	2.3	110.3
<b>ART</b>								
ART	15	3	2	0	0	1	0	21
ART/STUDIO (ASTD) ????	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
COMMUNICATION STUDIES (CMST) ????	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
DANCE	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
MUSIC (MUPR)?????	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
MUSIC THERAPY (MUTH) ????	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
SPEECH & THEATRE	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
THEATRE	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
SCHOOL TOTAL (0 responses missing)	23	7	2	0	1	5	0	38
SCHOOL PERCENTS (based on 33)	69.7	21.2	6.1	0.0	3.0	15.2	0.0	115.2
1998 UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI TOTAL	371	61	37	17	18	62	61	567
1998 UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI PERCENTS	80.3	13.2	8.0	3.7	3.9	13.4	13.2	122.7