



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Center for Career Services

The Center for Career Services is pleased to present the results of the *Syracuse University Class of 2006 Placement Report*. The following provides information on the post-graduate activities of **bachelor's degree** recipients from December 2005 and May, June, and August 2006. This report is based on responses from 1,052 out of 2,204 bachelor's degree recipients, representing **48 percent of the graduating class**.

Most of the information in this report was received in response to an online survey e-mailed to graduates in October 2005, with reminder e-mails sent in November and January 2006 and a postal mailing sent in December 2005. This report represents a collaborative effort between the Center for Career Services and individual schools and colleges. We would especially like to thank all of our colleagues in the Career Services Network who contributed information to this year's report: **Connie Caldwell** from the School of Architecture; **Debra Eischen** from the School of Information Studies; **Ed Pulaski** and **Rose Crisalli** from the Martin J. Whitman School of Management; **Karen McGee** from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications; and **Karen Davis** from Engineering and Computer Science.

Each year the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) surveys employers to determine their expectations for hiring college graduates. In their publication, *Job Outlook 2006*, the projections for 2006 graduates were very encouraging as NACE reported that employers expected to increase hiring of college graduates by nearly 14 percent, most believed that competition for graduates was increasing and that starting salaries would rise accordingly. These projections were certainly reflected in the outcome for the graduates in Syracuse Universities Class of 2006, particularly in the following results.

- The proportion of graduates reporting **full-time employment** was **79 percent**, the highest employment rate we have seen since 80 percent for the Class of 2000. This compares with 74 percent in 2005, 77 percent in 2004, and 71 percent in 2003.
- The perceived quality of employment for our graduates who responded still remains extremely high. For 2006, **94 percent of those employed indicated that their position was related to their career goals**. This is the highest rate that we have seen since we began asking the question and it certainly reflects the quality of jobs that are available to SU graduates.
- The **average salary** for Syracuse University graduates in 2006 was **\$39,111**, a 6% increase from \$36,800 average for 2005 graduates which was also a 6 percent increase from the \$34,770 average for the Class of 2004. These increases followed a three year period when salaries either stagnated or declined, a sure sign that employers are competing for college graduates.
- Another measure of the strength of the job market for 2006 graduates was that **73% obtained their position by three months after graduation**, compared to 68% in 2005.

While the Class of 2006 entered a strong job market, the projections and early indications for the Class of 2007 is even brighter. In *Job Outlook 2007*, NACE reports that employers, across all sectors, plan to hire nearly 20% more new college graduates in 2007 than they did in 2006.

Early results from NACE's *Salary Survey* indicate that entry level salaries are rising again this year and signing bonuses are returning in greater numbers. Employers cite business growth and expansion as reasons for the increases and we expect that this year's graduates will benefit greatly by these improved conditions.

Following are some additional highlights from the *Class of 2006 Placement Report*:

- **The overall placement rate** (full-time employment plus graduate school attendance) for the Class of 2006 is **95 percent** matching the recent high for the Class of 2004 and a solid improvement from last year's **92.3 percent**.
- Consistent with national data, we found that the majority of students still graduate without having a job. For 2006 graduates, **41 percent reported that they received their positions prior to graduation** – the same as last year. By six months after graduation, 95 percent of those who sought employment had obtained a job. There are understandable differences between the schools and colleges. The highest percentages of graduates who receive their position prior to graduation were from the School of Architecture at 60 percent, the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science at 59 percent and the Whitman School of Management at 57 percent. This is understandably consistent with the high number of students in these schools and colleges who receive their positions through either internships or on-campus recruiting activities. On the other end, graduates from Newhouse (18 percent), Arts and Sciences (33 percent) and Visual and Performing Arts (35 percent) have the lowest percentages of graduates who have jobs at graduation. These results reflect real differences in the nature of the job market for various fields and the importance for a wide range of career assistance for both students and young alumni.
- As expected in a strong job market, Graduate School attendance experienced a slight decrease. For 2006 graduates, **16 percent** reported that they **are continuing their studies**. These results represent a drop from the 18 percent reported for the past three years and a return to the 16 percent rate in both 2002 and 2001. When good opportunities are plentiful, fewer students tend to continue their studies. This was certainly reflected in the last strong job market when only 14 percent continued their education in 2000, 13 percent in 1999, and 9 percent in 1998.
- On-campus recruiting continues to be an important source of jobs for many graduates. Overall for 2006, **18 percent of respondents reported that they obtained their positions through on-campus recruiting**, continuing the increase from 17 percent in 2005 and the 15 percent reported in 2003 and 2004, but still falling short of the recruiting boom years of 2001 and 2000 when 21 percent and 23 percent, respectively, found positions through on-campus recruiting. Graduates from Architecture (42 percent), Management (37 percent) and Information Studies (16 percent), experienced the greatest benefit from on-campus recruiting.
- The most effective method by which graduates continue to find positions is through developing their own employment leads. **Thirty-eight percent** of all respondents report that they obtained their position by either networking or applying directly to an organization. Students from Education (63 percent), Human Services and Health Professions (52 percent), Newhouse (52 percent), Arts and Sciences (50 percent), and Visual and Performing Arts (46 percent) are more likely to find jobs through making their own connections. This result emphasizes the importance of maintaining strong career counseling and programming services that are geared toward **helping students become more effective in networking and pursuing non-advertised jobs**.
- **Internships** remain one of the most effective ways of securing full-time employment for the Class of 2006 as **17 percent indicate that they obtained their position as a result**

of an internship or previous position with their employer. This supports the continuing trend for employers to view their internship programs as the most effective method they have to recruit new college graduates. It also supports the importance of internships to the overall career development of college students.

- Technology is also having an increasing impact on the job search for students. For the past two years, **15 percent cite the internet** as the method for obtaining their position – up from 13 percent in 2004 and 11 percent in 2003. This indicates how essential it is for career services at Syracuse University to continue to enhance the technology resources and teach students how to effectively pursue opportunities through the use of technology.
- Of all graduates who reported that they are attending graduate school full-time from the Class of 2005, **26 percent** are enrolled at Syracuse University. **Seventeen percent** of graduates who report that they are attending graduate school full-time are in **law school**, up from 14 percent last year and the 16 percent reported for 2004. **Fourteen percent** report that they are attending medical programs, up from 7 percent last year and the 12 percent for 2004.
- The geographic profile of our graduates remains virtually the same as past years. Our graduates found employment in 37 states and several foreign countries, (2.5 percent found employment abroad), but most stay within this region of the country. For 2006, **51 percent** of respondents who are employed full-time are working in **New York State**. Another 18 percent report working in one of the states adjoining New York (MA, CT, VT, NJ or PA.) For 2006, **8 percent** indicated that they were employed in Central New York. **Fifty-four percent** of respondents attending graduate school full-time are doing so in New York State with another 23 percent in adjoining states. In 2005, the percentage of respondents reporting full-time employment in New York State was 52 percent, and 48 percent reported attending graduate school full-time.

The remainder of this report provides full detail for each of Syracuse University's schools and colleges. Again, we greatly appreciate the help we have received from our colleagues in compiling this year's placement data. We also welcome comments and suggestions from the Syracuse University community regarding future improvements to our survey process or reporting format. Please feel free to contact us directly with your questions or thoughts. Thank You!

Michael Cahill
Director