



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 2008 Placement Report*. The following provides information on the post-graduate activities of **bachelor's degree** recipients from December 2007 and May, June, and August 2008. This report is based on responses from 918 out of 2,308 bachelor's degree recipients, representing **40 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 2008, with reminder e-mails sent in November and again in January 2009. 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; **Barbara Settel** from the School of Information Studies; **Angela Petrucco** from the Martin J. Whitman School of Management; **Monica Roberts** from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications; and **Karen Davis** from Engineering and Computer Science.

As expected, the job market for the Class of 2008 remained strong. In spite of the beginning signs of an economic downturn the outcome for graduates in 2008 compared favorably with those in 2007. However, there were a couple of interesting differences.

- The **average salary** for all Syracuse University graduates in 2008 was **\$42,400**, up significantly from \$39,731 in 2007, representing a 7% increase. This mirrors a nationwide trend reported by the National Association of Colleges and Employers - <http://www.naceweb.org/press/display.asp?year=2008&prid=288>
- Another interesting measure of the strength of the job market for 2008 graduates was that **79% obtained their position within three months after graduation** compared to 70 percent for 2007. More graduates also obtained their jobs prior to graduation. For 2008 graduates, **43 percent reported that they received their positions prior to graduation**, up from 33 percent in 2007 and even greater than the 41 percent reported in 2006. More encouraging, by six months after graduation, 97 percent of those who sought employment had obtained a job.


Of course, 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 Information Studies at **78 percent**, L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science at **72 percent**, the Whitman School of Management at **63 percent** and the School of Architecture at **47 percent**. This is 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 the School of Education (20 percent), Newhouse (27 percent), and Arts and Sciences (33 percent), have the lowest percentages of graduates who have jobs at graduation. All schools are fairly equal after six months. These results reflect real differences in the nature of the job market for various fields and the importance for a wide range of career services for both students and young alumni.

The rest of the results for the 2008 graduates are remarkably similar to the previous year. Following are some additional highlights from the *Class of 2008 Placement Report*:

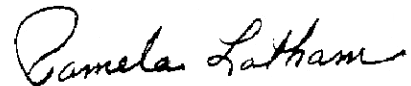
- **The overall placement rate** (full-time employment plus graduate school attendance) for the Class of 2008 remained high at **94 percent**, comparable to the 95% reported for the past two years.
- The proportion of graduates reporting **full-time employment** was **76 percent**. This compares with 77 percent in 2007, 79 percent in 2006, 74 percent in 2005, and 77 percent in 2004.
- Graduates reporting that they **are continuing their studies** represented **18 percent** of respondents for the Class of 2008, the same as last year.
- The perceived quality of employment for our graduates who responded still remains extremely high. For 2008, **94 percent of those employed indicated that their position was related to their career goals** compared to 93 percent in 2007.
- Overall for 2008, **17 percent of respondents reported that they obtained their positions through on-campus recruiting**, up from 14% in 2007, and more consistent with the 19 percent in 2006 and 17 percent in 2005. Graduates from the School of Information Studies (35%), Architecture (33 percent), and Management (27 percent) experienced the greatest benefit from on-campus recruiting.
- **Internships** remain one of the most effective ways of securing full-time employment for the Class of 2008, as **18 percent indicated that they obtained their position as a result of an internship** or previous position with their employer.
- Still, the most effective method by which graduates find positions continues to be through developing their own employment leads. **Forty percent** of all respondents report that they obtained their position by either networking or applying directly to an organization. Students from the School of Education (80 percent), Newhouse (56 percent), Human Services and Health Professions (50 percent), and Arts and Sciences (45 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**.
- Of all graduates who reported that they are attending graduate school full-time from the Class of 2008, **26 percent** are enrolled at Syracuse University. Other schools that were popular for 2008 graduates are Columbia University, New York University, SUNY Buffalo and Northwestern. **Sixteen percent** of graduates who report that they are attending graduate school full-time are in **law school**, down slightly from 19 percent last year and the 17 percent reported for 2006. **Thirteen percent** report that they are attending medical programs, compared to 15 percent last year and the 14 percent for 2006.
- The geographic profile of our graduates remains very similar to past years. Our graduates found employment in 38 states and several foreign countries, (3.1 percent found employment abroad), but most stay within this region of the country. For 2008, **49 percent** of respondents who are employed full-time are working in **New York State**. Another 21 percent report working in one of the states adjoining New York (MA, CT, VT, NJ or PA.) For 2008, **10 percent** indicated that they were employed in Central New York, the same as last year. **Forty-eight percent** of respondents attending graduate school full-time are doing so in New York State with another 19 percent in adjoining states. In 2007, the percentage of respondents reporting full-time employment in New York State was 49 percent, and 55 percent reported attending graduate school full-time.

While the Class of 2008 achieved success in the job market, there is plenty of reason to be concerned about the prospects for the Class of 2009. According to a recent study conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), employers expect to hire 22 percent fewer new grads from the college Class of 2009 than they hired from the Class of 2008. Also according to NACE, the overall average offer to a 2009 bachelor's degree graduate is down 2.2 percent from the average posted in Spring 2008. While this news is not encouraging, it is important for this year's graduates to realize that there are still plenty of great opportunities available in all career fields. Success in the current job market can be achieved by all graduates who develop a focus for the type of things they want to do, are able to uncover a range of opportunities and are capable of effectively presenting themselves to potential employers. For help with this type approach, we encourage all graduates who are seeking employment to continue to work with the university's career centers to help them pursue and obtain opportunities that are appropriate to their interests and skills.

The remainder of this report provides full detail for each of Syracuse University's schools and colleges. The full report for this year, as well as previous years, can be found on our website at <http://careerservices.syr.edu>. 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!



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