



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 2005 Placement Report*. The following provides information on the post-graduate activities of **bachelor's degree** recipients from December 2004 and May, June, and August 2005. This report is based on responses from 1,144 out of 2,407 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. Most of the mailings were 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** from the Martin J. Whitman School of Management; **Karen McGee** from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications; **Rose Crisalli** from the College of Visual and Performing Arts; **Karen Davis** from Engineering and Computer Science; and **Felicia Otero-Haskins** from the College of Human Services and Health Professions.

The highlights of this year's report involve average salaries and the results of a new question added to the survey. First, average salaries for Syracuse University graduates rose significantly for the first time in several years. For the previous three years, salaries had failed to exceed the high of \$34,851 posted in 2001. For 2005, the **average salary** for Syracuse University graduates in 2005 was **\$36,800**, a 6 percent increase from the \$34,770 average for the Class of 2004. This ends a three-year slide that followed 10 years of steady increases. This salary increase, coupled with strong employment numbers, is great news for the Class of 2005 and hopefully indicates that we have finally recovered fully from the recession of 2001-2002.

The new question added to this year's survey measured when graduates received their positions. Consistent with national data, we found that the majority of students graduate without having a job. For 2005 graduates, **41 percent reported that they received their positions prior to graduation**. By six months after graduation, 90 percent of those who sought employment had obtained a job. There are interesting differences between the schools and colleges. The highest percentages of graduates who report that they received their position prior to graduation were from the School of Information Studies at 69 percent, Engineering and Computer Science at 66 percent and the Whitman School of Management at 59 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 (15 percent), Visual and Performing Arts (26 percent) and Arts and Sciences (28 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 career services for both students and young alumni.

Following are some additional highlights from this year's report:

- **The placement rate** (full-time employment plus graduate school attendance) for the Class of 2005 was **92.3 percent**, down from last year's rate of 95 percent but still higher than the 89 percent reported for 2003, 90.5 percent for 2002 and 90 percent for 2001.
- The number of graduates reporting **full-time employment** was **74 percent**. While this is a bit lower than the 77 percent reported last year it still represents a solid job market and is certainly better than the low of 71 percent seen in 2003.

- The perceived quality of employment for our graduates who responded still remains extremely high. For 2005, **92 percent of those employed indicated that their position was related to their career goals**. This is nearly identical to the numbers seen for the past three years.
- Graduate school attendance remained steady. For 2005 graduates, **18.3 percent** reported that they **are continuing their studies**. These results mirror the 18 percent reported for the past two years after steady increases from 16 percent in both 2002 and 2001, 14 percent 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 2005, **17 percent of respondents reported that they obtained their positions through on-campus recruiting**, up from 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 Management (38 percent) and Engineering and Computer Science (26 percent), continue to experience the greatest benefit from on-campus recruiting.
- The most effect method by which graduates continue to find positions is through developing their own employment leads. **Thirty-nine percent** of all respondents report that they obtained their position by either networking or applying directly to an organization. Students from Human Services and Health Professions (61 percent), Newhouse (52 percent) and Visual and Performing Arts (42 percent) are more likely to find jobs through making their own connections. This result emphasizes the importance of our counseling and programming services that are geared toward **helping students become more effective in networking and pursuing non-advertised jobs**.
- Technology is also having an increasing impact on the job search for students. For 2005, **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 The Center for Career Services to continue to enhance our technology resources and teach students how to effectively pursue opportunities through the use of technology.
- **Internships** remain one of the most effective ways of securing full-time employment for the Class of 2005 as **13 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.
- Of all graduates who reported that they are attending graduate school full-time from the Class of 2005, **29 percent** are enrolled at Syracuse University. **Fourteen percent** of graduates who report that they are attending graduate school full-time are in **law school**, slightly lower from the 16 percent reported last year. **Seven percent** report that they are attending medical programs, down from 12 percent the previous year.
- The geographic profile of our graduates remains virtually the same as past years. Our graduates found employment in 39 states and several foreign countries, (2 percent found employment abroad), but most stay within this region of the country. For 2005, **52 percent** of respondents who are employed full-time are working in **New York State**. Another 19 percent report working in one of the states adjoining New York (MA, CT, VT, NJ or PA.) For 2005, **9 percent** indicated that they were employed in Central New York. **Forty-eight percent** of respondents attending graduate school full-time are doing so in New York State with another 16 percent in adjoining states. In 2004, the percentage of respondents reporting full-time employment in New York State was 49 percent, and 41 percent reported attending graduate school full-time.

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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