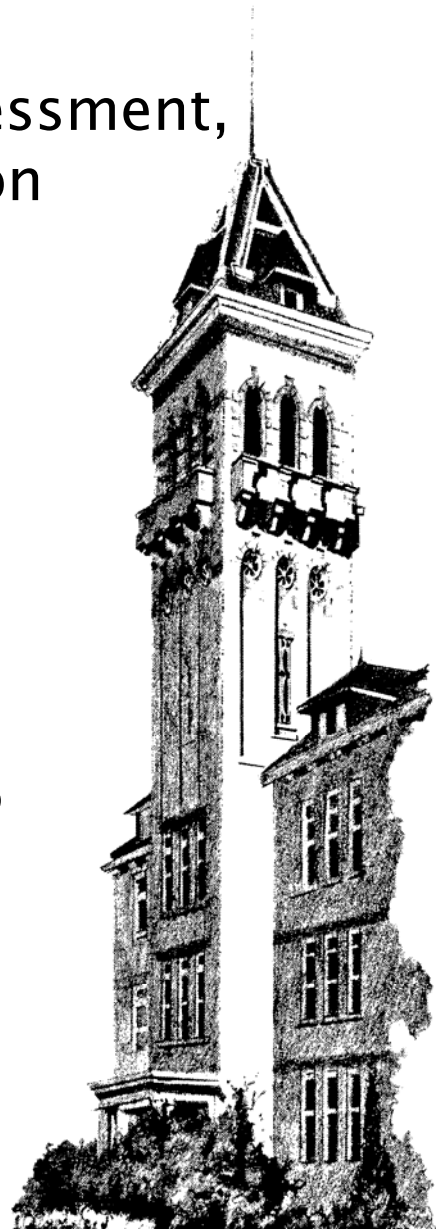


2006 EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION SURVEY OF RECENT USU GRADUATES

Craig Petersen
Roy Sleight
Office of Analysis, Assessment,
and Accreditation

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Utah State
UNIVERSITY



EMPLOYMENT/ EDUCATION SURVEY OF RECENT USU GRADUATES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During May and June, 2006, USU's Office of Analysis, Assessment, and Accreditation worked with academic departments in conducting a telephone survey of employment and graduate study by recent recipients of USU degrees. Each department was given a list of students who received bachelor's degrees from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005. Telephone numbers and other contact information were also provided to assist the departments in locating their students. To facilitate uniformity in the data generated, a survey instrument was developed that specified dialogue to be used and the manner of recording responses.

To make the task manageable, departments who awarded more than 50 degrees during the period were asked to survey a random sample of at least 50 students, while smaller departments were expected to contact as many of their students as possible. The response rate for a telephone survey was extremely high. A total of 1,612 alumni provided the requested information, which represents 84% of the individuals who were selected to be surveyed and over 50% of all those who received degrees during the period.

Because of the sampling procedure used, college and university totals are based on weighted averages of departmental data. Among the important findings of the study are the following:

- About 30% of recent USU graduates are continuing their education as a full- or part-time student and 25% are enrolled in graduate degree programs.
- 69% of those continuing their educations are in masters programs and about 10% are in professional programs such as medicine, dentistry, and law. About 40% of the students in graduate degree programs are enrolled at USU.
- Business is the most popular field of study for those in graduate degree programs.
- About 14% of alumni who are not full-time students do not have a full- or part-time job, but many of these individuals are not seeking employment.
- The unemployment rate of recent alumni looking for jobs is estimated at 2.5%, which is slightly below the nationwide rate of 3.0% for college graduates.
- Of those with full-time jobs, about 20% indicated that their job is unrelated to their USU degree.
- Nearly two-thirds of those with full-time jobs are working in Utah.
- About 60% of those with full-time jobs are working in the private sector and 20% are employed in public or private education.
- Fifty-one percent of respondents with full-time jobs provided salary information and department median starting salaries range from \$21,711 to \$51,672

For many of the questions, there is substantial variation in the responses between colleges and between the departments in a college. College and departmental breakdowns are provided in Appendix C of this report.

