



2000 Post-Graduation Survey

METHODS

Prior to Commencement in May 2000, all graduates were asked to complete and submit an online or written survey regarding their post-graduation plans. A senior financial aid meeting and two group e-mails generated 15% (N=39) completed questionnaires. Career Services then obtained written questionnaires from the graduates on the day of Commencement regarding their future plans. The graduates who checked "seeking employment" or those waiting for notification of graduate school acceptance were sent follow-up questionnaires early in Fall 2000. At the time of Commencement in May 2000, Career Services had obtained completed questionnaires from 50% (N=130) of the total graduates. Following that process, faculty, staff and student organizations were sent memos asking for information regarding graduates from whom no response had been received. With the assistance of Career Services staff, phone calling was conducted in November 2000. Data was gathered on 35 more graduates, bringing the total of completed questionnaires to 63%. Information on 50 additional graduates obtained from mailings was verified in December 2000 and January 2001 for a total of 82% completed questionnaires. Finally, phone calling by Career Services staff continued in January and February, obtaining data on another 40 graduates, bringing completed documentation to 98% (255 out of 261). Due to the fact that the average job or graduate-school search process takes approximately 6–12 months, the Post-Graduation Survey reflects placement of graduates approximately 10 months following the May 2000 Commencement.

RESULTS

The 2000 Distribution of Southwestern University Graduates Graph (see sidebar) represents the 261 graduates in various career and post-baccalaureate fields. Percentages of the total number of graduates have been utilized to calculate the breakdown in categories. Of the total number of graduates, 70% (N=183) were employed full-time while 22% (N=57) were accepted to and attended graduate, law, medical, theological and professional schools, or took continuing education classes. Additionally, 2% (N=4) were employed part-time and 2% (N=6) reported that they were seeking employment. Of the 2% (N=5) who reported "other/not seeking," several indicated personal and family reasons. Finally, "no information" was obtained from 2% (N=6) of the graduates.

Although the number of graduates was used to calculate all category percentages, the total number of respondents was used to calculate the percentage of graduates placed, which included those employed full time and those continuing their education full time. The quantitative study showed that out of 255 respondents, 94% (N=240) entered full-time, professional positions or advanced degree programs (see chart, page 2).

Southwestern University's 2000 graduating class was extremely successful in securing employment. The success rate was due, in part, to a strong economy and healthy job market, particularly in the state of Texas. In 2000, 77% (N=140) of the total graduates employed full-time acquired jobs within the state of Texas, while 13% (N=24) found employment in 14 other states and the District of Columbia. Additionally, 4% (N=7) obtained positions outside of the United States in locations such as Africa, England, Guatemala, Korea, Japan and the Czech Republic. The percentage of total graduates who secured full-time employment changed from 60% (158 out of 264) in 1999 to 70% (183 out of 261) in 2000 (up 10%).

Many 2000 Southwestern University graduates decided to further their education. Of the total graduates who continued their education, 49% (N=28) reported their acceptance and attendance at Texas institutions for graduate or professional study, while 39% (N=22) reported their acceptance and attendance to graduate schools in 13 other states. Additionally, 5% (N=3) furthered their education outside of the United States in countries such as Canada, France and Costa Rica. Of those who indicated "advanced coursework" on their questionnaires, the areas of study reported were teaching certification, computer programming, Spanish language study, art study and physical therapy. Overall, the percentage of graduates accepted to and attending post-graduate and other educational programs decreased from 33% (88 out of 264) in 1999 to 22% (57 out of 261) in 2000. This decrease likely is due to a combination of the strong economy and rising higher education costs.

Of the 57 graduates pursuing advanced degrees, 2% (N=1) reported that they also were working full-time and 7% (N=4) were working part-time. Furthermore, of the 183 graduates working full time, 3% (N=5) reported that they were continuing their educations part-time.

The graduates who were employed full-time attributed their success in the job search to: networking 33% (N=60), Career Services 10% (N=19), newspaper 7% (N=13), Internet 17% (N=31), career-related experience/internship 7% (N=12), SU professor 1% (N=1), employment agency 3% (N=5), other 17% (N=31) and not specified 6% (N=11). While the trend toward more employment being obtained via the Internet continued, networking, as in years past, remained the most common means of securing employment.

DISTRIBUTION OF SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY MAY 2000 GRADUATES



CONTINUING EDUCATION*

Graduate School	61%	N = 35
Law School	19%	N = 11
Medical School	7%	N = 4
Professional School	2%	N = 1
Theological School	2%	N = 1
Advanced Coursework	9%	N = 5

Of 57 students continuing their educations, 1 works full time and 4 work part time.

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT*

Business	42%	N = 76
Education	17%	N = 32
Fine Arts	4%	N = 7
Government	4%	N = 8
Health	2%	N = 4
High Tech	7%	N = 12
Media	8%	N = 15
Nonprofit	5%	N = 9
Research	3%	N = 5
Other	8%	N = 15

Of 183 students working full time, 5 are continuing their educations part time.

* Based on total respondents (N=255)

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