

# Southwestern University

## 2002 Post-Graduation Survey

### Methods

Prior to commencement in May 2002, all graduates were asked to complete and submit an on-line or written survey regarding their post-graduation plans. Two group emails generated 16% (N=50) completed questionnaires. Career Services then obtained written questionnaires from the graduates on the day of commencement, bringing the total of completed questionnaires to 38% (N=117). Graduates who checked "seeking employment" or those waiting for notification of graduate school acceptance were sent follow-up questionnaires during the summer of 2002. Twenty-four additional students responded, raising the total to 46% (N=141). Later, 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 and email follow-up was conducted in October and November 2002. Data was gathered on 71 more graduates, bringing the total of completed questionnaires to 70% (N=212). Information on seven additional graduates was obtained from mailouts in December 2002 for a total of 72% (N=219) completed questionnaires. Career Services staff continued phone call surveys throughout early 2003. These calls obtained data on an additional 85 graduates, which brought the completed documentation to 98% (297 out of 304).

An average job or graduate-school search takes approximately 6-12 months; the Post-Graduation Survey reflects placement of graduates approximately 10 months following the May 2002 commencement.

### Results

The 2002 Distribution of Southwestern University Graduates graph (see sidebar) represents the 304 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, 58% (N=176) were employed full-time while 25% (N=75) were accepted to and attended graduate, law, medical, theological and professional school, or took continuing education classes. Additionally, 7% (N=21) were employed part-time, and 6% (N=18) reported that they were seeking employment. Of the 2% (N=7) who reported "other/not seeking," graduates indicated family reasons, travel and unpaid volunteer/internship positions. Finally, "no information" was obtained from 2% (N=7) of the graduates.

Sixty-three of 304 students earned two majors. To reflect accurately the pursuits of students within a particular major, these 63 students are counted in each of their majors in the quantitative study (see charts, pages 2-4), bringing the total number of "majors" who graduated in 2002 to 367. Students who earned two majors responded "other/not seeking" in proportionately higher numbers than those earning one major. They were also seeking positions in slightly lower numbers than those earning one major. Therefore, the percentage of majors "not seeking" increased slightly to 3% (N=10), while the percentage of majors "seeking" decreased slightly to 5% (N=20), in comparison to the same breakdown for the percentages of total graduates (see pie chart, at right).

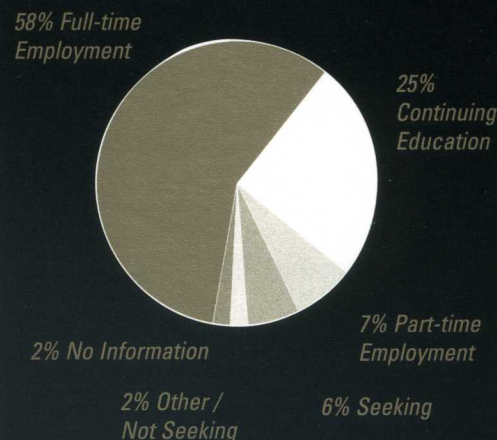
The total number of graduates and "majors" placed includes those employed full-time and those continuing their education. The percentages of those placed are calculated out of the actual respondents to the survey, rather than the total number of graduates or "majors" as for other category percentages in the survey. Eighty-three percent of responding graduates (N=251/304) and 83% of responding "majors" (N=304/367) entered full-time, professional positions or advanced degree programs (see chart, page 2).

Southwestern University's 2002 graduating class was very successful in securing employment. In 2002, 77% (N=135) of the total graduates employed full-time acquired jobs within the state of Texas, while 15% (N=26) found employment in 14 other states and the District of Columbia. Additionally, 7% (N=13) obtained positions outside of the United States in locations such as England, Costa Rica, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Romania and South Korea. Of those securing full-time employment, the percentage of total graduates decreased 5% from 63% (165 out of 264) in 2001 to 58% (176 out of 304) in 2002, reflecting a tighter job market than in preceding years.

Many 2002 Southwestern University graduates decided to further their education. Of the total graduates who continued their education, 65% (N=49) reported their acceptance and attendance at Texas institutions for graduate or professional study, while 32% (N=24) reported their acceptance and attendance to graduate schools in 16 other states and the District of Columbia. Of those who indicated "advanced coursework" on their questionnaires, the areas of study reported were teaching certification, specialized study (conducting, sculpture and flight instruction) and pre-requisites for medical school. Overall, the percentage of graduates accepted to and attending post-graduate and other educational programs increased slightly from 23% (62 out of 264) in 2001 to 25% (75 out of 304) in 2002. Of the 75 graduates continuing their education full time, 8% (N=6) also were working part-time.

The graduates who were employed full-time attributed their success in the job search to: networking 29% (N=51), directly contacting the organization 20.5% (N=36), Internet 16.5% (N=29), not specified 7% (N=13), career related experience /internship 6% (N=10), other 6% (N=11), Career Services 5% (N=8), employment agency 3% (N=6), newspaper 5% (N=8) and Southwestern professor 2% (N=4). Southwestern's 2002 graduates faced the tightest job market in recent years. Networking, contacting employers directly and the Internet helped graduates earn more jobs than in the recent past.

## Distribution of Southwestern University May 2002 Graduates



### Continuing Education

Field	Count	Percentage
Graduate School	37	49%
Law School	19	25%
Medical School	8	11%
Professional School	2	3%
Theological School	1	1%
Advanced Coursework	8	11%

*Of 75 students continuing their educations, six work part-time.*

### Full-time Employment

Field	Count	Percentage
Business	77	44%
Education	34	19%
Fine Arts	3	2%
Government	18	10%
Health	8	4.5%
High Tech	8	4.5%
Media	7	4%
Non-profit	9	5%
Other	5	3%
Research	7	4%

*Of 176 students working full-time, five are continuing their education part-time.*

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