

FIRST DESTINATION REPORT

Preliminary Status Report - Class of 2008

Introduction

The Career Development Office conducted the first phase of the 30th annual First Destination survey of the graduating class at commencement practice on Saturday, May 10, 2008. The preliminary report offers a snapshot of how many graduates reported employment or graduate enrollment at the time of graduation. It also identifies the number of new graduates who may still require assistance in securing placement.

Overall, thirty-two percent (32%) of the graduates of the Class of 2008 reported employment or acceptance into a graduate program at the time of graduation. Specific statistics are detailed in the table below.

Preliminary FIRST DESTINATION Data – Class of 2008							
Class Year	Total Graduates (Dec 2007 / May 2008 / Aug 2008)	Total Surveys Collected at Graduation Practice	Graduates Employed at the Time of Graduation (Part Time & Full Time)	Graduates who are Continuing their Education Full Time	Total Graduates Placed (Employed, Continuing Education, or Both Simultaneously)	Graduates Who Reported Seeking Placement	Percentage Not Reporting
2008	324	189 (58%)	74 (23%)	29 (9%)	103 (32%)	86 (27%)	41%
2007	340	200 (59%)	58 (17%)	22 (6%)	76 (22%)	127 (37%)	41%
2006	285	177 (62%)	57 (20%)	25 (9%)	82 (29%)	95 (33%)	38%
2005	206	161 (78%)	42 (20%)	30 (15%)	72 (35%)	89 (43%)	22%
2004	225	181 (80%)	46 (20%)	35 (16%)	81 (36%)	100 (44%)	20%
2003	269	217 (81%)	64 (24%)	40 (15%)	104 (39%)	113 (42%)	19%

Both undergraduate and graduate students are included in the FIRST DESTINATION report statistics. According to NACE (the National Association of Colleges and Employers), studies show that most graduates land a job or enroll in further education within six to seven months of graduation. Different career fields can be affected by annual career trends. For example, many teaching positions do not become available until July, after the previous years' contracts have expired and educators make last minute decisions concerning retirement and position changes. Therefore, different graduates experience different job search challenges.

Labor market trends also play a role in job searching. Ohio, where many of our graduates seek positions, continues to enjoy an historically low unemployment rate, despite the highly publicized current downturn in the national economy (April 2008 – 5.5%, as reported by Ohio Job and Family Services). And, according to the NACE Job Outlook 2008 Spring Update,

employers nationally project hiring 8% more college graduates this year than in 2007. The following table illustrates the projected increase in college graduate hiring.

College Hires by Sector (Statistics Based on 210+ Companies Nationwide)			
Industry	2007 Hires <i>(Actual Reported)</i>	2008 Hires <i>(Projected Total)</i>	Percent Change
Service	10,928	11,269	3.1%
Manufacturing	10,753	11,599	7.9%
Govt/Nonprofit	1,497	1,949	30.0%
Total/Overall*	33,143	35,801	8.0%
<i>*Total data includes additional industries including Construction, Utilities, and Trade</i>			

Survey Overview

A First Destination 2008 Survey Form was distributed to all students who attended commencement practice on May 10, 2008. Responses were received from 187 graduates, resulting in a response rate of nearly fifty-eight percent (57.7%) (N = 324 graduating students). This is compared to a response rate of fifty-nine percent (59%) (N = 340 graduating students) for the Class of 2007 at last year's commencement practice.

Students who have not reported placement, or who reported placement but also noted that they are still seeking other employment, will receive a FIRST DESTINATION survey to complete via postal mail in November 2008. The form will also be available online. Placement data will be collected via email and other online sources January 2009 through May 2009, before the final report is compiled in summer 2009.

Conclusion

Many of our 2008 graduates have secured satisfying employment with organizations like Goodyear Tire & Rubber, State Auditor's Office, Marathon Oil, Fifth Third Bank, Americorps, Price Waterhouse Coopers, National City Bank, Ohio Agricultural Development Center, and the Department of Defense – Office of the Inspector General. Next school year, our teacher candidates will have classrooms at Florence City Schools (Florence, SC), Buckeye Central Local Schools (Bloomville, OH), Maricopa Unified School District (Maricopa, AZ), Mohawk Local Schools (Sycamore, OH), and Toledo Public Schools (Toledo, OH). Heidelberg graduates are pursuing further education at Master of Music: Choral Conducting at Kent State, Master of Counseling at Ball State, Master of Accountancy at Bowling Green State University, Master of Arts in Exercise Science at Dayton University, Master of Arts in Ancient Egypt Culture at Swansea University, the Biomedical Science Training Program at Case Western Reserve, the University of Toledo Law School, and the Doctor of Optometry Program at the Ohio State University among others.

For those still seeking employment, Career Development services continue to be available, free of charge, to all Heidelberg alumni. In follow-up contacts, alumni will be reminded about our continued support including resume and cover letter assistance, job postings online, and individualized job search advising.