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ABSTRACT

This study surveyed graduating seniors of East Carolina University relative to employment status immediately prior to graduation. The purpose of the study was to determine the number of graduating seniors who had accepted employment. Other variables investigated were as follows: students who had offers but were still seeking employment; students seeking employment but having no job offers; and students not seeking employment due to further studies, military obligations, etc. These variables were categorized by discipline. (Author)

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A REPORT ON EMPLOYMENT
STATUS OF GRADUATING SENIORS
AT EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
SPRING 1972

Prepared by

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Office of Institutional Research

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Introduction

In January of 1972, the Office of Institutional Research at East Carolina University, along with five other North Carolina senior institutions, was requested by the North Carolina Board of Higher Education to participate in a pilot study to investigate the employment status of currently graduating seniors in institutions of higher education in North Carolina. The project was designed to gather employment data from each institution and to analyze this data on a statewide basis in order to gain an overview of the nature of the current college-educated manpower seeking entrance into the immediate job market.

The first step in the design of the study was to survey the prospective graduates relative to employment status immediately prior to graduation. The purpose of this survey was to determine the number of graduating seniors who had accepted employment. For those not reporting employment at graduation, a tabulation was made of the distribution in the following categories: (1) Students who had offers but were still seeking employment, (2) Students seeking employment but having no job offers, and (3) Students not seeking employment due to further studies, military obligations, or other reasons.

Herein is a report on the aforementioned survey of the Spring Quarter 1972, graduates of East Carolina University.

I. Population:

The population for the survey was composed of all East Carolina University students who graduated at the end of Spring Quarter 1972.

II. Procedure:

- A. A list was compiled containing the names of all students who planned to complete degree requirements during Spring Quarter 1972, and had applied for graduation at the end of that quarter.
- B. Using the above list and computer assistance, a questionnaire was prepared for each student. The student's name, permanent address, degree, major, and date of graduation were taken from the file and preprinted on the questionnaire instrument and then distributed to the students. (For a sample questionnaire, refer to Appendix A.)
- C. The questionnaires were distributed about two weeks before graduation to the departments or schools from which the students were expected to graduate. After the student had completed the questionnaire, the questionnaires were returned to the Office of Institutional Research. After graduation, the questionnaires of the students who did not in fact graduate were deleted.

III. Findings:

(See Attached Tables)

IV. Comments:

- A. Seven hundred and twenty (720) students returned completed questionnaires to the Office of Institutional Research. There were 940 graduates Spring Quarter 1972. Hence 77% of the Spring graduates are accounted for in this report.
- B. Table I gives, by major, the number of graduates responding to the questionnaire, the number and percentages of those graduates who reported that they had accepted employment upon graduation. The percentage of graduates responding to the questionnaire who had accepted employment upon graduation appears low in all major fields. Library Science has the highest percentage (44%) reporting employment, followed by nursing with 41%.
- C. It is interesting to note Table II indicates 58% of all graduates who reported unemployment upon graduation were seeking employment but have had no employment offers. Additionally, of the 564 graduates reporting unemployment, 148 (26%) indicated that they were not seeking employment.

Implications

Similar data concerning degree output and employment status of Spring graduates for all participating institutions will be pooled so that summary reports will be possible. Hopefully, this will provide means for the observation of employment trends relative to current college trained manpower emerging from North Carolina senior institutions.

The information gained through this study will be checked for validity by a follow-up study of the employment status of these graduates at a later time. If studies such as this provide accurate and comprehensive information, it would seem that manpower supply and job market demand factors could play a significant role in higher education planning.

TABLE I
GRADUATES* REPORTING EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR

Major Field	Graduates Reporting	Number Reporting Employment	Percent Reporting Employment
Biology	21	4	19
Business	114	29	25
Education	135	37	27
Allied Health	39	9	23
Industrial & Technical Education	9	3	33
Health & Physical Education	39	4	10
Art	21	3	14
Music	30	5	17
Drama & Speech	4	1	25
French	4	1	25
Spanish	7	1	14
Nursing	29	12	41
Home Economics	22	6	27
English	35	2	6
Library Science	16	7	44
Mathematics	26	3	12
Physics	10	1	10
Chemistry	6	1	17
Psychology	34	3	9
History	43	8	19
Geography	26	9	35
Political Science	22	7	32

TABLE I

GRADUATES* REPORTING EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR

(Continued)

Major Field	Graduates Reporting	Number Reporting Employment	Percent Reporting Employment
German	2	0	0
Sociology	17	0	0
Anthropology	5	0	0
Geology	4	0	0
TOTAL	720	156	22

*Spring Quarter Graduates Only.

TABLE II

GRADUATES* NOT REPORTING EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR AND BY REASON

Major Field	Still Seeking Employment, But Have Had Previous Offer	Still Seeking Employment, But Have Not Had Previous Offer	Not Seeking Employment Due To Further Studies	Not Seeking Employment Due To Military Obligations	Not Seeking Employment For Other Reasons	Total Reporting Unemployment	Percent Reporting Unemployment
Biology	1	9	5	1	1	17	81
Business	11	56	6	6	6	85	75
Education	16	68	4	1	9	98	73
Allied Health	9	15	5	0	1	30	77
Ind. & Tech. Educ.	3	3	0	0	0	6	67
Health & P. E.	1	21	9	1	3	35	90
Art	2	13	2	0	1	18	86
Music	2	13	7	0	3	25	83
Drama & Speech	2	1	0	0	0	3	75
French	0	3	0	0	0	3	75
Spanish	1	3	1	0	1	6	86
Nursing	7	7	2	0	1	17	59
Home Economics	3	11	2	0	0	16	73

TABLE II

GRADUATES* NOT REPORTING EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR AND BY REASON

(Continued)

Major Field	Still Seeking Employment, But Have Had Previous Offer	Still Seeking Employment, But Have Not Had Previous Offer	Not Seeking Employment Due To Further Studies	Not Seeking Employment Due To Military Obligations	Not Seeking Employment For Other Reasons	Total Reporting Unemployment	Percent Reporting Unemployment
English	5	22	2	0	4	33	94
Library Science	4	4	0	0	1	9	56
Mathematics	1	14	8	0	0	23	88
Physics	1	2	6	0	0	9	90
Chemistry	1	3	1	0	0	5	83
Psychology	1	13	11	2	4	31	91
History	6	19	6	1	3	35	81
Geography	1	9	5	2	0	17	65
Political Science	2	7	5	0	1	15	68
German	0	1	1	0	0	2	100
Sociology	3	13	0	0	1	17	100

TABLE II

GRADUATES* NOT REPORTING EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR AND BY REASON
(Continued)

Major Field	Still Seeking Employment, But Have Had Previous Offer	Still Seeking Employment, But Have Not Had Previous Offer	Not Seeking Employment Due To Further Studies	Not Seeking Employment Due To Military Obligations	Not Seeking Employment For Other Reasons	Total Reporting Unemployment	Percent Reporting Unemployment
Anthropology	0	3	2	0	0	5	100
Geology	0	0	3	1	0	4	100
TOTAL	83	333	93	15	40	564	78

*Spring Quarter Graduates Only.

APPENDIX A (Continued)

- Yes, temporary-type employment in North Carolina
- Yes, temporary-type employment in Southeast (Not in North Carolina)
- Yes, temporary-type employment elsewhere

12. Type of employer . . (check one) . .

- Private
- Public (Federal, State, etc.)

13. Monthly Salary Accepted . . . _____

14. If you have accepted employment (either temporary or permanent) are you satisfied with it?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure yet

15. Have not accepted . . (check one) . .

- Still seek employment, but have had previous offer
- Still seek employment, but have not had previous offer
- Not seeking employment due to further studies
- Not seeking employment due to military obligations
- Not seeking employment for other reasons