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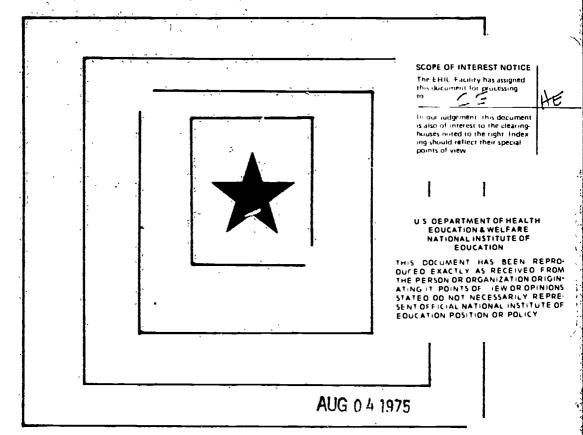
Followup

IDENTIFIERS Southern Illinois University Carbondale

ABSTRACT

Eliminating the unstable employment period for college graduates in the first year or two after graduation, the followup study of the Southern Illinois University (Carbondale) 1972 liberal arts graduates was undertaken in November, 1974. Of 735 liberal arts graduates in 1972, there were 375 respondents. The liberal arts graduates reflected a satisfactory employment rate when comparing their unemployment rates to national rates; their overall unemployment rate was 7.5 percent, ranging from a rate of 12.5 percent for unmarried males to 2.0 percent for married males. Graduates were engaged in a variety of careers (250 job titles) and showed a high level of employment, with over half earning over \$10,000 a year and three-fourths listing their job as having career potential. Their major difficulty seemed to be the long process of finding satisfactory employment. Since few of the liberal arts graduates had a job-related major, the results question the assumption that a job-related major is necessary for a satisfactory job. An alphabetized list of the careers of the responding liberal arts graduates itemizes the graduate's college major, career potential assessment, and his/her 1974 yearly salary. A raw data summary of the followup study is also included. (EA)

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SEMPLOYMENT SUCCESS TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION

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compiled by M.Walsh Ph.D.

The liberal arts have been receiving a bad press recently. The quality of education is not being questioned, however, but rather the ability of liberal arts graduates to get jobs, or at least to get good jobs. It is a rare person who has not heard reports of English majors driving cabs while the graduates of more job-related majors get the professional jobs typically associated with a college degree.

The trouble with all such reports—and even with the few existing studies—is that they describe at best only the period soon after graduation, which, in terms of jobs, is the most unstable period for college graduates. The first year or two after graduation is a time of discovery, a time of search, particularly for those who do not use college as career preparation. Information about the careers of liberal arts graduates would have a greater chance of long-term validity if it were gathered a year or two after graduation, once the graduates have had sufficient time to achieve employment stability.

With this as the rationale, a follow-up of the liberal arts graduates of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1972 was undertaken in November, 1974. The picture which emerges from this study is considerably different from the one which the news media and the few existing studies have given. While it does not ignore the difficulties which liberal arts graduates in the labor force have had in finding and deciding upon a career, it gives a picture of the substantial success which these graduates have had in the job market at a time when economic conditions would not seem to favor the liberal arts graduate. If a satisfactory rate and level of employment is the bottom line, then these graduates have done very well indeed.

The following results are particularly significant. First, the overall unemployment rate was 7.5%. While not a particularly low rate, it is important to note that it ranged from a rate of 12.5% for unmarried males to 2.0% for married males. During the period of the survey, the national unemployment rate went from 7.1% in December, 1974, to over 8% in early 1975. The national rate for men aged 20 to 24 (the group into which most male graduates fell) was just over 11% in December, 1974. The national rate for females in this same age group was an even higher 12.7%. For their age group, then, liberal arts graduates had a satisfactory rate of employment.

Second, graduates had an encouraging variety of careers--a list of 250 job titles was compiled in the course of the study.

Third, graduates had a high level of employment: over half were



earning over \$10,000 a year, and about three-fourths listed their job as having career potential. Only about 10% of the graduates employed full-time had neither the external rewards typically associated with a college degree nor the internal perception of career potential.

Fourth, the major difficulty facing liberal arts graduates seemed to be the long and often frustrating process of finding satisfactory employment, not the lack of satisfactory employment.

These results suggest that a number of assumptions which people often make about the relationship of education and jobs need to be scrutinized with greater care. For example, the results of this study question the assumption that the only way to find a satisfactory job is to have a job-related major. At the time of the study, 1972 liberal arts graduates had a highly satisfactory level of employment, but few, if any, had a job-related major. The assumption that a liberal arts major is only suitable for a narrow range of occupations is also not substantiated: the range of occupations which liberal arts graduates have entered shows that it is virtually impossible to predict career from college major. Liberal arts graduates enter a variety of careers, and most are satisfied with them.

Students, parents, and educators should not, it seems, be mesmerized by degrees and programs of study that look like job titles. They should realize that the analysis and understanding of ideas may be more effective occupational preparation than something that seems more immediately relevant. A student's choice of major is obviously his or her own choice, but the decision should not be based on the assumption that liberal arts graduates are not employable.

The following table is an alphabetized list of the careers of those liberal arts graduates who responded to the follow-up study. The careers a grouped according to the kind of organization worked for--whether it was a business concern, an educational organization, etc.

In order to give some depth to what might otherwise be a fairly sterile list, selected information about the careers is also provided:

1. The graduate's college major;

2. An assessment of whether the position has career potential;

3. Yearly salary (as of 1974).

One should begin reading in the column on the left and move to the right: each line represents the responses of one graduate concerning his/her particular career. By the way, the term "Stopgap" (which can occur in the column under "Career Potential") has occasionally mislead readers: it means that the graduate perceived the job as temporary.

Following this list of careers is a Raw Data Summary of the Liberal Arts Follow-Up Study from which the list was derived. This summary should be self-explanatory.



OCCUPATION	COLLEGE MAJOR	CAREER POTENTIAL	YEARLY SALARY (1974)
BUSINESS/INDUSTRY			
Account Representative Accountant Accounting Clerk Accounting Manager Administrator-Nursing Home Advertising Account Exec Advertising Representative Ass't Aud. Student Loans Ass't Customer Serv Mgr Assistant Manager Assistant Manager Assistant Personnel Dir. Assistant Store Manager Auditor Baker Bank Teller Bank Teller Branch Manager Buyer Calculator System Sales Carpet Cleaner Casualty Claim Adjuster Chief Sales Engineer Claim Representative Claims Adjuster Clerical ClerkRailroad	Math Psych Psych Math Psych Hist Phil Math Pol Sci Soc Econ Eng Psych Special Pol Sci Psych Hist Soc Pol Sci Psych Psych Hist Soc Pol Sci Psych	Stopgap Stopgap Definite Definite Possible Definite Definite Definite Stopgap Stopgap Definite Stopgap Possible Stopgap Stopgap Stopgap Stopgap Stopgap Stopgap Possible Stopgap	\$8000-\$10000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 Above \$15000 \$10000-\$13000 Above \$15000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$8000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$5000-\$8000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$5000-\$8000 \$10000-\$13000 \$5000-\$8000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000
ClerkRailroad Commodity Clerk Communications Consultant Company Sales Marketing Computer Programmer Computer Programmer Computer Programmer Correctional Counselor Credit Correspondent Delta Stewardess Department Manager Dept MgrDiscount Store Difference Analyst District Sales Manager District Sales Manager Division Manager Document Control Co-ord Editor Electrician Employment Supervisor orgineer	Hist Econ Psych Hist Soc Math Soc Pol Sci Eng Anthro Soc Psych Soc Span Hist Soc Span Hist Psych Math	Stopgap Definite Definite Possible Definite Stopgap Definite Fossible Possible No Answer Definite Possible Definite Definite Definite Definite Stopgap Definite Stopgap Definite Stopgap Definite Stopgap	\$10000-\$13000 \$8000-\$10000 \$13000-\$15000 \$13000-\$15000 \$13000-\$15000 \$13000-\$15000 \$8000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000 Above \$15000 \$8000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000

OCCUPAT'ON	COLLEGE MAJOR	CAREER POTENTIAL	YEARLY SALARY (1974)
BUSINESS/INDUSTRY			
Flight Attendant	Soc	Possible	\$10000-\$13000
File Clerk	Hist	Stopgap	Below \$5000
Hotel Manager	Eng	Definite	\$10000-\$13000
Industrial Sales Service	Pol Sci	Possible	\$10000-\$13000
Insurance Adjuster	Hist	Definite	\$10000-\$13000
Insurance Adjuster	Soc	Possible	\$8000-\$10000
Insurance Adjuster	Pol Sci	Stopgap	\$8000-\$10000
Insurance Agent	Psych	Definite	\$8000-\$10000
Insurance Supervisor	Psych	Definite	\$10000-\$13000
Inventory Control	Psych	Possible	\$10000-\$13000
Inventory Control Clerk	Phil	Other	\$8000-\$10000
Jr Computer Programmer	Math	Definite	\$13000-\$15000
Lab Technician	Hist	Possible	\$10000-\$13000
Laborer	Psych	Stopgap	\$10000-\$13000
Leasing Coordinator	Psych	Unconcerned	\$13000-\$15000
Legislative Lobbyist	Pol Sci	Definite	Above \$15000
Machine Assembler	Pol Sci	Stopgap	\$5000-\$8000
Maintenance Supervisor	Special	Other	\$10000-\$13000
Management Trainee Meat Cutter	Pol Sci	Definite	\$10000-\$13000
Medical Data Court	Pol Sci	Other	\$13000-\$15000
Medical Data Coordinator Meter Reader	Phil	Possible	\$8000-\$10000
Mgr (Currency Exchange)	Pol Sci	Definite	\$10000-\$13000
Mgr Modern Oper Design	Pol Sci	Possible	\$5000-\$8000
Mgr Trainee - Hardware	Pol Sci	Definite	\$10000-\$13000
Office Manager	Psych Pol Sci	Stopgap	\$5000-\$8000
Office Technician		Definite	Above \$15000
Oil Field Worker	Eng Anthro	Possible	\$8000-\$10000
Operations Manager	Hist	Unconcerned Possible	\$10000-\$13000
Owner of Masonry Firm	Hist	Definite	\$13000-\$15000
Owner of Motel	Pol Sci	Unconcerned	Above \$15000 \$10000-\$13000
Paralegal Office Manager	German	Definite	\$10000-\$13000
Parts Manager	Hist	Stopgap	\$5000-\$8000
Personnel Dept	Pol Sci	Stopgap	\$5000-\$8000
Personnel Secretary	Psych	Definite	\$5000-\$8000
Photographer Assistant	Psych	Possible	\$10000-\$13000
Procedure Analyst	Soc	Stopgap	\$10000-\$13000
Production Control	Eng	Definite	\$10000-\$13000
Production Planner	Math	Definite	\$10000-\$13000
Production Supervisor	Psych	Definite	Above \$15000
Purchasing Agent	Psych	Definite	\$10000-\$13000
Purchasing Data Supervisr	Hist	Possible	\$10000-\$13000
Rate Clerk Secretary	Phil	Stopgap	\$5000-\$8000
Rea. Estate Broker Rea. Estate a.esman	Soc	Definite	Above \$15000
	Span	Definice	\$8000-\$10000
Realtor Associate Receptionist For Attorney	Spai	Definite	\$13000-\$15000
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Phil	Possible	Belcw \$5000



OCCUPATION	COLLEGE MAJOR	CAREER POTENTIAL	YEARLY SALARY (1974)
BUSINESS/INDUSTRY			
Record Store Owner Rental Manager Reporter Editor Newspaper Reservation Info Clerk Restaurant Manager Revenue Requirements Route Sales/Delivery Sales Sales & Consultant Sales Agent Sales Engineer Sales Manager Sales Manager Sales Representative Salesman Salesman Salesman Salesman Secretary S	Eng Hist Pol Sci Soc Math Hist Soc Psych Hist Soc Psych Soc Pol Sci Pol Sci Pol Sci Hist Eng Eng Psych Hist Eng Eng Psych Hist Eng Eng Psych Hist Pol Sci Pol Sci Pol Sci Hist Eng Psych Hist Eng Psych Hist Pol Sci Pol Sci Pol Sci Pol Sci Pol Sci Hist Eng Psych Hist Pol Sci Eng Psych Hist Pol Sci Eng Psych Hist Pol Sci	Definite Stopgap Definite Definite Stopgap Definite Unconcerned Stopgap Other Definite Stopgap Definite Stopgap Possible Stopgap Possible Stopgap Definite Possible Definite Definite Definite Definite Definite Definite	\$5000-\$8000 \$8000-\$10000 \$5000-\$8000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$13000-\$15000 Below \$5000 \$5000-\$8000 \$10000-\$13000 (no answer) \$5000-\$8000 \$10000-\$13000 Above \$15000 \$8000-\$10000 (no answer) \$13000-\$15000 \$8000-\$15000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$13000-\$15000 \$13000-\$15000 \$13000-\$15000 \$13000-\$15000 \$13000-\$15000 \$13000-\$15000 \$13000-\$13000 \$13000-\$13000 \$13000-\$13000 \$13000-\$13000 \$13000-\$13000
Stockboy Store Manager Supervisor Foreman Systems Analyst Systems Analyst	Eng Soc Geog Math Math	Stopgap Stopgap Definite Definite Definite	Below \$5000 \$13000-\$15000 Above \$15000 \$13000-\$15000 \$13000-\$15000
Systems Analyst/Comp Prog lx Shelter Annuity Rep	Eng Psych	Definite Stopgap	\$8000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000

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OCCUPATION	COLLEGE MAJOR	CAREER POTENTIAL	YEARLY SALARY (1974)
BUSINESS/INDUSTRY	<u> </u>		
Tech Asst: Metal Engr Truck Driver Truck Driver Typesetter	Eng Soc Pol Sci Eng	Definite (no answer) Stopgap Possible	\$10000-\$13000 Above \$15000 Above \$15000 \$10000-\$13000
GOVERNMENT			
Administrative Assistant Administrative Assistant Air Traffic Control Spec Assistant City Manager Caseworker City Planner Claims Examiner Clerk Typist Co-ord: Career Counseling Computer Programmer Computer Programmer Computer Programmer Coordinator: Devel Disabl Correctional Academy Division of Youth Services IL Dept Pub Aid Case Aide Industrial Representative Letter Carrier Medical Asst Consultant Mental Health Specialist Mental Health Specialist Mental Hygiene Therapist Neighborhood Worker Parole, Prob. Supervisor Police Youth Officer Postal Clerk Probation Officer Postal Clerk Probation Officer Psychologist Public Aid Caseworker Public Info Specialist Rehabilitation Counselor Senior Personnel Analyst Socialworker Caseworker Space Planning Specialist Supt Public Aid Trooper (State Police)	Eng Pol Sci Math Pol Sci Hist Pol Sci Anthro Psych German Psych Eng Psych Soc Soc Psych Hist Psych Psych Soc Psych S	Possible Definite Definite Stopgap Definite Stopgap Stopgap Definite Definite Definite Definite Definite Possible Other Stopgap Possible Unconcerned Definite Definite Possible Stopgap Possible Stopgap Definite Possible Stopgap Definite	\$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$8000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000 \$10000-\$13000
Urban Planner III Youth Service Counselor Youth Officer	Geog Pol Sci Pol Sci	Other Definite Definite	\$13000-\$15000 \$10000-\$13000 Above \$15000



OCCUPATION	COLLEGE MAJOR	CAREER POTENTIAL	YEARLY SALARY (1974)
EDUCATION			
Administrative Assistant Asst Dir - Research Computer Operator Cook Dir Of Men's Housing Elementary Teacher English Teacher French Spanish Teacher Health Professions Advsr High School English Teach High School Teacher High School Teacher Museum Preparator/Curator Permanent Substitute Reading Teacher Research Secretary School Psychologist Secretary IV Secretary Transcriber Secretary-Stenographer Sr. High Eng Teacher Supervisor: Handicapped Teacher	Special Math Math Psych Span Eng French Soc Ength Poth Soc Ength Poth Ance Special Psych Soc Ength Psych Soc French Eng Spech Psych Soc French Eng Spech Eng	Possible Definite Stopgap Possible Definite Definite Definite Possible Stopgap Definite Possible (no answer) Possible (no answer) Possible Unconcerned Definite Stopgap Possible Other Definite Definite Definite Stopgap Possible Other	\$8000-\$10000 \$1000C-\$13000 \$8000-\$10000 Below \$5000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$8000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000 \$10000-\$13000 \$8000-\$10000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$5000-\$8000 \$10000-\$13000 \$5000-\$8000 \$5000-\$8000 \$5000-\$8000 \$5000-\$8000 \$5000-\$8000 \$5000-\$8000 \$5000-\$8000 \$5000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000 \$5000-\$8000 \$5000-\$10000 \$5000-\$8000
OTHER NON-PROFIT Activity Director Activity Therapy Co-ord Assist Dir Of Admin Assistant Workshop Dir Asst Dir Of Membership Asst Dir, Campus Ministry	Psych Psych Psych Psych Psych Hist	Definite Definite Stopgap Possible Possible Unconcerned	\$8000-\$10000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$8000-\$10000 \$13000-\$15000 Below \$5000
A		•	



OCCUPATION	COLLEGE MAJOR	CAREER POTENTIAL	YEARLY SALARY (1974)
OTHER NON-PROFIT			
Child Care Worker Clerk Program Aide Driver Ed Coordinator Family Counselor Intern Pastor Mental Health Technician Psychiatric Technician Rehab Counselor Research Fellow Vocational Counselor Work Supervisor	Phil Psych Hist Soc Soc Psych Psych Psych Psych Soc Psych	Definite Stopgap Definite Definite Definite Stopgap Stopgap Definite Definite Definite	\$5000-\$8000 \$5000-\$8000 \$10000-\$13000 Above \$15000 \$5000-\$8000 \$8000-\$10000 \$10000-\$13000 \$8000-\$10000 \$8000-\$10000 \$5000-\$8000
OTHER			
Activity Therapist Bus Driver Golf Professional Officer Manager Physician Assistant Rehb Counselor Supervisor Mail Room	Psych Soc Soc Pol Sci Eng Psych Phil	Stopgap Stopgap Definite Definite Definite Definite Stopgap	\$5000-\$8000 \$13000-\$15000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$10000-\$13000 \$8000-\$10000



RAW DATA SUMMARY

Number of 1972 liberal arts graduates: 735

Number of graduates with available current addresses: 617 Number of respondents: 375 Response rate: 60.8%

ALL GRADUATES

Personal Data

Sex: 65.6% male 34.4% female

Marital Status: 47.7% married 49.1% not married 3.3% other

Teaching Certification: 15.8% yes 84.2% no

Labor Force Status

14.1% not in labor force

85.9% in labor force

unemployment rate: 7.5% of those in labor force

Enrollment Status

70.4% not enrolled in a college or university

11.5% enrolled part-time

18.1% enrolled full-time

62.5% of full-time enrollees in graduate school 37.5% of full-time enrollees in professional school

Advanced Degree Status

12.0% holding advanced degree

GRADUATES EMPLOYED FULL-TIME

Type of Employing Organization

58.1% business/industry 6.4% other non-profit

15.5% government 14.3% education 3.4% other 2.3% military

Career Area (selected)

18.0% management 7.8% counseling

14.1% sales and marketing 9.0% teaching 7.8% counseling 6.3% clerical 9.0% teaching 5.1% research and investigation

Type of Business/Industry (selected)

14.9% banking/insurance 9.7% manufacturing industrial goods 14.9% retail/wholesale trade 7.8% transportation/public utilities

9.7% manufacturing consumer 7.1% service industries goods

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   Size of Business/Industry
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48.7% one of the largest 7.9% smaller than most 21.1% larger than most 2.6% one of the smallest

19.7% about average in size

Relationship of Job to Major Field of Study

20.4% directly related 19.6% not related: by own choice 28.8% somewhat related 31.2% not related: nothing related found

Job Satisfaction

76.5% yes 23.5% no

Job Assessment

49.0% definite career potential 22.2% possible career potential 4.2% uninterested in career potential 3.1% other 21.5% temporary: until better job found

Annual Earnings

2.7% below \$5,000 33.0% \$10,000-\$12,999 18.4% \$5,000-\$7,999 10.3% \$13,000-\$14,999 26.4% \$8,000-\$9,999 9.2% \$15,000 and above

ALL GRADUATES

Evaluation of Liberal Arts Degree (If you had it to do all over again.

43.3% the same or another liberal arts 23.4% job-related major maior 6.0% other 27.2% liberal arts major plus job-related courses

The Major Goal of Education: While in College Vs. the Present

While in College At Present Well-rounded general education 71.4% 43.2% Detailed grasp of a special field 23.5% 22.4% Training and skills for an occupation 5.1% 34.3%

Need for Career Preparation in Academic Programs

73.6% yes 22.9% no 3.5% no answer

Suggestions for Future Students

45.9% a better idea of what they would like to do 49.9% consideration of a wider range of careers

45.9% more marketable skills

36.0% ability to conduct an effective job search 18.7% need for an early search

15.5% other (including 8% suggesting work experience)



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT CARBONDALE

The College of Liberal Arts at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale has the following departments: Anthropology, Computer Science, Economics, English, Foreign Languages and Literatures (French, German, Russian, Spanish), Geography, History, Linguistics, Mathematics, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Religious Studies. A student may also form a "Special Major" in several areas or may select courses from several disciplines that relate to his or her particular goal.

Minors are offered in: African Studies, Asian Studies, Chinese, Comparative Literature, Earth Science, Greek, Japanese, and Latin, as well as in most of those areas listed as majors.

Within the various departments several additional concentrations are also available, such as Creative Writing in the English Department and Urban Planning in the Geography Department.

The College has recently worked out a joint program with the School of Technical Careers here at SIU-C. The program is called LibTech, and it is a way of integrating a liberal arts education with technical career training.

For more information about the College of Liberal Arts, a letter or call to the Dean's Office, College of Liberal Arts, will receive prompt attention. The telephone number is (618) 453-2466.

