Report shows job success rate

Most grads hold major-related jobs

By MARIAN GREEN
Of the Emerald

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles on the job-market success of college graduates.

Many students find themselves caught in the dilemma of whether to major in an area of interest or in a field that guarantees a job.

If you decide in favor of a job, a Career Planning and Placement report that indicates which majors are getting jobs for students could help you make the right choice.

According to the report, 75 percent or more of the graduates with bachelor's degrees had full-time jobs. The report published last year used information obtained from 1978 University graduates.

The 14 of 20 departments responding for the report included architecture, anthropology, computer science, economics, English, mathematics, sociology, accounting, management, marketing, business, community service and public affairs, education and journalism.

Three of the departments — management, marketing and computer science — had a job success rate of 100 percent.

However, six departments said one-sixth or more of their graduates with bachelor degrees were unemployed. They were art education, biology, political science, pyschology, telecommunications and music.

About 68 percent of bachelor's degree graduates report their jobs were major-related and had "definite" career potential. For those graduating with a master's or and a doctorate, the figures were higher.

Graduates of professional schools and colleges reported greater career potential than students in the arts and sciences.

In general, 68 percent of those with bachelor's degrees reported they were employed full-time, 15.2 percent reported part-time employment, and 16.1 percent reported unemployment. Of the unemployed, 7.1 percent were looking for work.

When these figures were adjusted for national unemployment averages, about 75 percent of the graduates were employed full-time.

Although the nation's economy has suffered recently, "the trends are still true," says Larry Smith, director of the Career Planning and Placement Center.

"Last year, 170 companies came to campus to recruit for jobs. That demand is just as strong this year, despite what we've heard — that fewer jobs are available."

However, the report failed to point out an important factor about the University's academic emphasis, Smith cautions.

"One of the things that many people are not aware of is that we've got about 60 percent of our students graduating with professionally related majors every year. That's a bit of information we often overlook.

"We've got a stong emphasis on professional areas as well as the softer liberal arts areas."

The placement center currently is planning an annual survey of job trends.

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Enrollment cuts can mend higher ed, Lieuallen says

By GREG WASSON
Of the Emerald

Editor's Note: This is the first in a two-part series on funding and higher education.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh's budget proposal sends 10 percent of the state's revenues to higher education. But state systems chancellor Roy Lieuallen says that's just not enough to halt Oregon education's slide into mediocrity.

Lieuallen says the quality of higher education has been deteriorating for the past decade, listing three examples to support his contention.

"One of them," Lieuallen says, "is that the number of students served by each faculty member has gone up 6 or 7 percent. Whenever the number of students to be served goes up, the quality of educational services available to each individual goes down."

"The second reason is that the library support has eroded. Our budget has simply not kept up with inflation, and our libraries are undernourished.

"And the third important factor has to do with salary levels. When one segment of the society starts getting a smaller share of the salary money, inevitably, some of the better people in the organization are going to be moving to other enterprises.

"When you move these able people, you have a negative impact on quality."

Most legislators agree with the chancellor's assessment, and one member of the money-controlling Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Vera Katz, D-Portland, offers a suggestion.

"For the size of this state, we have too many institutions. My battle with the chancellor and the board of higher education is to force them to look at how we can pull back and raise the level of the remaining institutions."

But Lieuallen says closing one of the state's seven colleges and universities is not the answer.

"If you close an institution and permit the people enrolled to go elsewhere, you have to put operating money with those people wherever they go. So basically the only way you cut costs or improve quality and maintain your present level of support is to reduce the number of people you serve."

Lieuallen says the state will lose if such reductions are forced.

Tomorrow: Where can additional money come from?

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