

1986 graduates participate in career survey--gave UCSD high marks in preparing them for employment and graduate school

June 25, 1987

Media Contact: Sandra Garrett, 534-3120

GRADUATES GIVE UCSD HIGH MARKS

In a recent survey, 1986 graduates from the University of California, San Diego gave the university high marks in preparing them for employment and graduate school.

More than 49 percent of 1,353 students who received bachelor degrees in June of 1986 responded to a career survey which asked them to provide information about their UCSD education, employment or pursuit of graduate studies.

The issues surveyed included how the graduates rated the quality of their UCSD education; how they felt the university had prepared them in several areas such as coping with change and pressure, research and quantitative skills; the type of experience they were pursuing (employment, continued educational experience, government or military service, etc.); employment status (full-time, part-time, looking;) the type of occupation in which they were employed; salaries; how they found their jobs; the importance of experience in obtaining a job and the type of graduate study being pursued.

"This is the fifth year we've conducted the survey and we're extremely pleased with the findings," said Neil Murray, director of the Career Services Center. "The survey has shown a high percentage of UCSD graduates find employment and qualify for graduate and professional school opportunities."

When asked to rate the quality of their UCSD education, 62 percent of the graduates rated it excellent, 33 percent satisfactory and only five percent rated it less than satisfactory. The graduates were also asked how well UCSD prepared them in the areas of coping with pressure and change, problem-solving ability, interacting with others, and quantitative, research, writing, technical, computer and speaking skills. Here, also, the results showed a high degree of approval.

An economics graduate commented, "UCSD is the best thing I ever did. It set me on a course of achievement for the rest of my life."

Seventy-two percent of the respondents sought careers, instead of continuing their education on a full-time basis. More than 80 percent of those who sought employment had found full-time jobs and an additional 12 percent had part-time jobs.

Forty-three percent of the graduates found employment in business or industry. The greatest concentration of graduates -- 29 percent -- was employed in technical professional jobs such as engineering or computer programming.

For the second consecutive year, the annual average salary of those employed full time was \$20,800. Salaries of technical professionals, which averaged \$27,100 annually, greatly inflated the overall average. Sales and managerial professionals averaged the next highest salaries at \$22,000 and \$20,200, respectively.

Of the respondents in the work force, 87 percent reported using the services provided by the Career Services Center. In fact, 18 percent found jobs through the Center. Thirty percent knew the employer or were referred by someone and 16 percent initiated the contact themselves. Thirteen percent had previous experience with their employer and 13 percent found their job through want ads.

Career-related, practical experience consistently correlated positively to success in the job market. Those with experience fared better than those who lacked it on several measures, including rate of employment, full-time employment, jobs related to education and career potential of jobs. Experienced workers out earned the inexperienced graduates an average of \$20,200 to \$17,500 and were more likely to find jobs through personal contacts.

Twenty-eight percent of the graduates continued their studies on a full-time basis. More than ever before, they were pursuing a broad range of studies. Of these students, 15 percent were pursuing medicine, 14 percent law, 13 percent other sciences, 13 percent other health fields, 10 percent engineering, 10 percent social sciences, nine percent education, seven percent arts/humanities, six percent business/management, two percent communications and one percent other professions.

A biology major who is continuing his education commented, "UCSD is an excellent college. It has prepared me for graduate work along with many other challenging situations."

(June 25, 1987)