

Graduate students at UCSD highly successful in finding jobs

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Graduate students who completed programs leading to the Ph.D. degree at the University of California, San Diego this past year have been highly successful in finding jobs.

A recently completed campus survey, conducted by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research at UCSD, shows that 95 percent of the graduate students reported as seeking positions have been successful in their search. At present 108 of 113 recent - or soon to be - Ph.D. recipients have jobs, mainly in industry, research, or teaching.

According to Dr. Roy Harvey Pearce, Acting Dean of Graduate Studies, despite the generally tight job market across the country, it appears that most of the nation's top graduate students have been accepted into teaching or post-doctoral research positions or have found suitable jobs off the campuses.

"The job situation is not too bad for graduate students from the 50 or so schools that make up the Association of Graduate Schools," Pearce said. "These are the schools, such as Harvard, Yale, Michigan, and the University of California, that have traditionally given graduate degrees and now grant about 75 percent of all Ph.D.'s in the country each year.

"The problem comes," he said, "from those schools that have begun to offer the Ph.D. only since the end of the Second World War. Their student-to-job ratio is down."

Pearce said the reason for the success of UCSD graduate students in finding jobs is twofold. "First of all it has to do with the kind and quality of Ph.D. candidates that we turn out. Our graduate programs are innovative and offer a great deal of flexibility. Our students do a good deal of work in related fields as well as deeply concentrating on a small area of study."

"Secondly," he said, "it has to do with the type of students we get. Our programs and departments are well known and therefore we get many more applicants than we can accept. For this reason we make sure that we take only the first rate students.

"The old rule still holds," Pearce said. "The absolutely first-rate Ph.D.'s do get jobs - often before Christmas while they are still in class. This is especially true now for minority students," he said.

"The important thing that is developing at UCSD," Pearce said, "is that our new departments are placing people. Our social science departments are starting to produce Ph.D.s with good results in the job market."

The student job survey is designed to help the graduate departments decide on how many new students to take in each year.

We base our graduate enrollment on several things: our strong commitment to undergraduate education, the style of teaching in each graduate department, and the job market," Pearce said. "However, a very interesting pattern has developed this year. Normally, only about one half of those graduate students who are accepted

actually came to UCSD. The departments take this into account and accept more students than they would normally enroll.

"This year," Pearce said, "the indication is that a much higher percentage will enroll. Certainly more and more students want to come to UCSD for graduate work, despite what the national picture looks like.

"We want to grow in our graduate enrollment, but we shall also work with departments in order to insure that the style and quality of the programs will not be weakened by numbers. Moreover, we shall not grow too fast. Our obligation, as I regularly tell graduate students, is to accept only as many students as we can properly train and send on to promising post-Ph.D. careers."

Pearce said one of the major tasks now facing colleges and universities is the development of non-academic jobs for Ph.D.'s.

"This is happening in the sciences and the social sciences but not yet in the humanities. Non-academic jobs must be developed for the humanities if we are to maintain the quality we now have," he said.

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