

Post Graduation Career Services

October 2000

Purpose

The goal of this survey was to determine the level of interest seniors have in potential Penn State Career Services following graduation.

Implications/Highlights

A majority of seniors graduating this year (86%) had used one or more resources offered through Career Services. Students were potentially interested in future job vacancy listings, alumni and professional networking, and continued access to on-campus career fairs; they were also willing to pay approximately \$40 for each potential alumni career service.

Participation Rate

N = 705 (64%) agreed to participate

N = 392 (36%) did not agree to participate

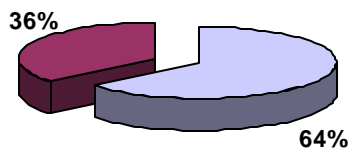


Figure 1. Participation rate

Findings

A majority (86%) of seniors used at least one of the resources offered through Career Services.

Use of Career Services Resources

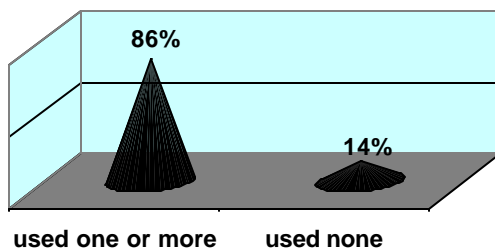


Figure 2. A majority of graduating students used one or more Career Services resources

Mean Number of Times Used

1.78	met on-campus interviewer
1.65	attended a career fair
1.64	used a self-directed career search program
.76	met with a career services staff member
.63	attended a workshop (resumes, job search, interviewing)
.62	used career library materials
.14	participated in a career discussion group
.008	took a career decision-making course

Statistically significant at the .05* level

A third (33%) of the seniors in the survey have a job lined up following graduation; 40% plan to look for a job; 19% expect to attend graduate school. The rest are thinking of doing military service (3%), traveling (2%), volunteer work (1%) or starting their own business (1%).

Students were asked about their potential interest in different career services after graduating. A fifth to a third were interested in these potential alumni career services.

37%	information on alternative careers
36%	interview preparation and practice
32%	identifying specialized training opportunities
32%	resume preparation and review
31%	identifying international opportunities
30%	individual career planning sessions
and	
22%	career management seminars

At least half were interested in job vacancy/web resume listings, alumni and professional socializing and networking, financial and retirement planning, and access to on-campus career recruiters and job fairs.

Future Interest in Specific Career Services

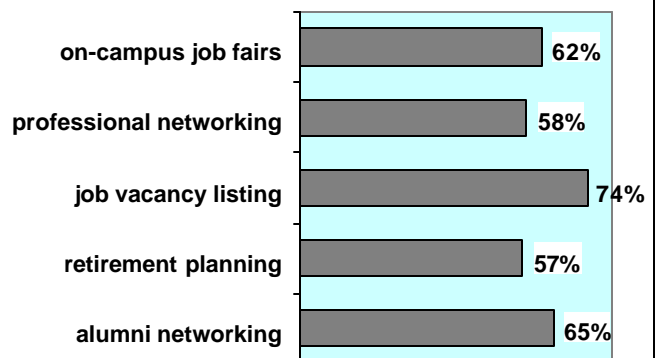


Figure 3. More than half were interested in accessing specific career services following graduation

More of the women than men were interested in future resume preparation and review,* identification of international opportunities,* and information on alternative careers.*

For further information, please contact Dr. Betty Moore at the Student Affairs Research and Assessment Office.

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Student Affairs

Those seniors who had used one or more Career Services resources while currently enrolled were more likely to express interest in future services as alumni. *

More of the minority students than non-minority students were interested in future career management seminars * and individual career planning services.*

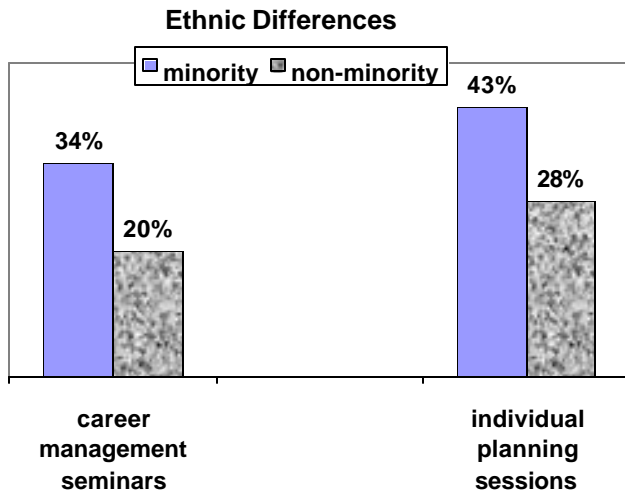


Figure 4. More minority students than non-minority students were interested in career management seminars and individual career planning services after graduation

About the same proportion of students said they would prefer to use alumni career services located in major cities with lots of Penn State alumni (45%), at both University Park and other Penn State campuses (42%), at the PSU Pittsburgh or Philadelphia Centers (35%), or at the University Park campus (35%).

A majority preferred that alumni career services be delivered via an online educational workshop format.

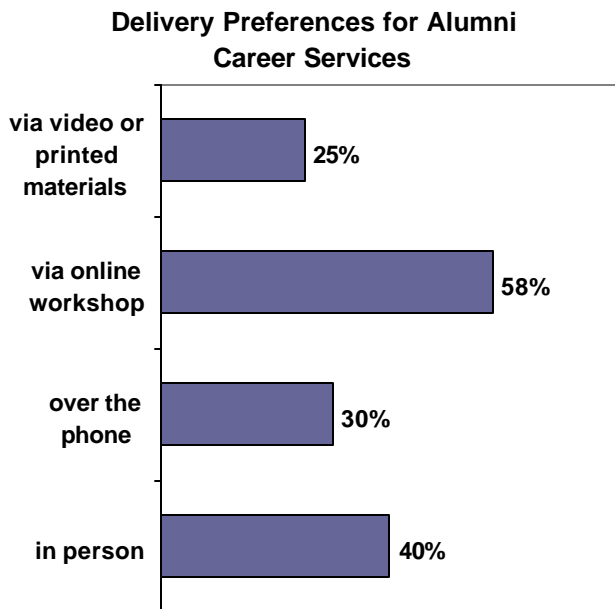


Figure 5. Online workshops preferred over phone, personal, video or printed materials

Nearly two-thirds of the students thought it would be better to advertise alumni career services through e mail (64%) vs. direct mail (21%) or web pages (15%).

Students indicated a willingness to pay for alumni career services.

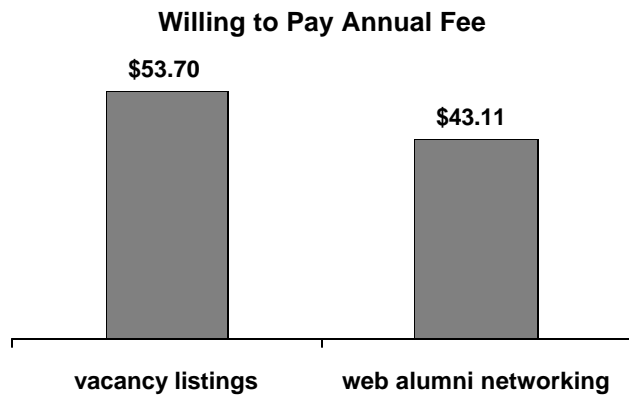


Figure 6. Students are willing to pay annual fees for job vacancy listings and web-based alumni networking

Willing to Pay For Alumni Career Services

- \$53.76 individual career planning sessions
- \$49.70 resume preparation and review
- \$47.64 interview preparation and review
- \$46.14 career management seminars
- \$39.81 assistance focused on job-seeking techniques
- \$34.60 information on alternative careers

A fourth of the students (28%) felt it would be advantageous to use Penn State alumni career services because of the special PSU-employer connections.

Three-fourths of graduating seniors were satisfied with their Penn State undergraduate education and most (89%) said they would choose to come to Penn State again.

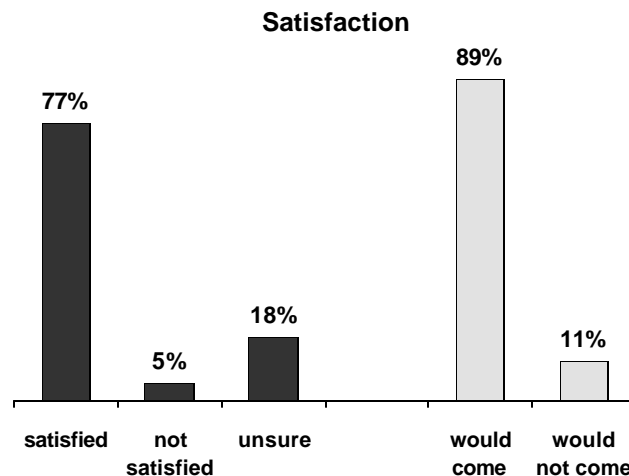


Figure 7. Three-fourths of the graduating seniors were satisfied with their Penn State undergraduate education and 89% would choose Penn State again