

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI SURVEY
December 2002, May 2003 and Summer 2003 Graduating Classes

Background

Commencing in the fall 2000 semester, the Office of Alumni Affairs, the Career Development Center, and the Office of Institutional Research cooperated to develop and implement a series of alumni surveys. All of the offices participated in the questionnaire development, after which each office had specific responsibilities in the survey process.

During the spring 2004 semester, the Office of Alumni Affairs generated a list of appropriate fall 2002, spring 2003, and summer 2003 graduates. The involved offices then coordinated the administration of survey returns via multiple mailings and a phone bank. Special thanks go to the Alumni Office work-study, Michelle Gondek for her efforts in entering and formatting the data. The Office of Institutional Research tabulated the data, and generated this report.

The study methodology, caveats, comparative overall return rates, and item specific responses (for this and previous alumni surveys) are located at the end of this summary.

Section One
Summary of
Total Responses by Survey Items

Employment

- 68.9 % of the respondents were *employed full-time*, 8.8% were *employed part-time*, 1.5% were in the military, 3.2% were unemployed seeking employment, 1.7% were unemployment not seeking employment, and 15.9% were *continuing their education*. Thus, 95.1% of the respondents were either employed or continuing their education.
- Of the employed graduates, 37.2% considered their *position entry level* in a career they hope to pursue, 25.6% considered their position *interim employment* related to eventual career goals, 17.9% considered their position *unrelated to eventual career goals*, and 19.3% indicated *none of the above*.
- Regarding *two digit career codes*, the highest percentages were in education-teaching 24.8%, and nursing 7.6%.
- 54.5% of the employed respondents indicated their position was *closely related* to their PSU major, 24.0% indicated it was *somewhat related*, and 21.4% indicated it was *not related*.
- 41.6% of the employed respondents indicated they were *earning* more than \$30,000 a year.

Continuing Education

- Of those respondents indicating they were *continuing their education*, 63.8% were full-time, and 36.2% were part-time.
- Respondents *were continuing their education* at 51 different institutions. The highest numbers of students were continuing their education at PSU with 38, followed by SUNY Albany with 16.

Evaluation of Services

- 90.8% of the respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with “*PSU Classroom Instruction.*”
- 79.5% of the respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with “*PSU Course Offerings.*”
- 85.2% of the respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with “*PSU Individual Assistance by Instructors.*”
- 77.9% of the respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with “*PSU Classroom Facilities.*”
- 85.7% of the respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with “*PSU Library & Research Services.*”
- 25.7% of the respondents indicated they had no basis for opinion with “*PSU Science Labs & Equipment,*” the remaining 59.5% were satisfied or very satisfied.
- 6.2% of the respondents indicated they had no basis for opinion with “*PSU Computer Labs & Services,*” the remaining 79.6% of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied.
- 81.6% of the respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with “*PSU Class Scheduling.*”
- 3.2% of the respondents had no basis for opinion on “*PSU Academic Advising,*” the remaining 65.1% were satisfied or very satisfied.
- 53.3% of the respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with “*PSU Career Development.*”
- 19.1% of the respondents had no basis for opinion on “*PSU Financial Aid Program,*” the remaining 61.1% were satisfied or very satisfied.
- 1.0% of the respondents had no basis for opinion on “*PSU Registration Procedures,*” the remaining 79.0% were satisfied or very satisfied.
- 18.0% of the respondents had no basis for opinion on “*PSU Student Life Services,*” the remaining 71.2% were satisfied or very satisfied.
- 22.3% of the respondents had no basis for opinion on “*PSU Dormitories,*” the remaining 61.5% were satisfied or very satisfied.
- While 17.2% of the respondents had no basis for opinion on “*PSU Food Services,*” the remaining 59.3% were satisfied or very satisfied.

Skills Assessment

- 95.6% of the respondents indicated their PSU experience assisted them in skill attainment from moderate to very great in “Communicating Effectively.”
- 95.8% of the respondents indicated their PSU experience assisted them in skill attainment from moderate to very great in “Analyzing & Solving Problems.”
- 96.0% of the respondents indicated their PSU experience assisted them in skill attainment from moderate to very great in “Finding Information.”
- 95.2% of the respondents indicated their PSU experience assisted them in skill attainment from moderate to very great in “Quantitative Skills & Abilities.”
- 96.8% of the respondents indicated their PSU experience assisted them in skill attainment from moderate to very great in “Thinking Clearly and Critically.”
- 86.9% of the respondents indicated their PSU experience assisted them in skill attainment from moderate to very great in “Computer Literacy.”

- 85.6% of the respondents indicated their PSU experience assisted them in skill attainment from moderate to very great in “Civic Responsibility/Public Services.”
- 88.4% of the respondents indicated their PSU experience assisted them in skill attainment from moderate to very great in “Ethical Values.”
- 92% of the respondents indicated their PSU experience assisted them in skill attainment from moderate to very great in “Understanding & Pursuit of Diversity.”

Section Two

Item Responses by PSU Majors

Percentages can be analyzed either within a major or between majors!

This section provides data for all appropriate items in the survey by individual PSU majors and options. These data can be useful for departmental reviews and accreditation purposes. This information can be utilized to ascertain if alumni are employed or continuing their education while providing evaluation and assessment data on specific items.

Section Three

Employers and Job Titles by Major

This section provides employers and job titles for PSU majors and their options. Salary information is not listed in order to maintain confidentiality. This information can be utilized to ascertain where alumni are employed and provides self-reported information on their job titles.

Methodology

This is the fourth alumni survey conducted by the Office of Alumni Affairs, Career Development Center, and the Office of Institutional Research. This survey was administered to PSU alumni that graduated in December 2002, May 2003, and Summer 2003 graduating classes.

The Office of Alumni Affairs generated names of appropriate alumni with available contact information. Multiple mailings were then employed in addition to a phone bank increase survey responses. Please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs regarding the processes utilized to contact and solicit survey returns. By November 1, 2004 all useable returns were collected and sent to the Office of Institutional Research. The data were entered into an SPSS package for analysis.

Caveats

- This is a perceptual survey and responses may be impacted by a number of extraneous variables.
- The survey data were entered exactly as self-reported by alumni.
- Some respondents did not answer all appropriate items, thus there are discrepancies in item counts
- Return rates varied by individual major and option. Thus, when reviewing those rates, it is important to examine *the number of respondents for the respective item, and major/option.*
- The data analyses were based on all responses including “no basis for opinion” as appropriate. Data can be extracted for individual areas by using the tables to “recalculate responses without the “no basis for opinion.”
- Different methodologies were employed when soliciting return rates for alumni surveys listed in this document. These ranged from mailing questionnaires with follow-up phone calls to only

utilizing phone banks without previous mailings etc. As such, comparisons between surveys should be viewed with caution.

Additional analyses are available from the Office of Institutional Research. The results of this study can be used to develop indirect assessment measures while serving as a starting point for further explorations.

Return Rates

The following rounded table provides comparative return rates on the most recent alumni surveys. The data are generated by PSU major and include the number of surveys sent and received, and the useable return rates. The 2003 alumni survey had a 39.0% return rate. Thus, comparisons with previous surveys that had higher return rates may not be necessarily be valid.

2001 Survey	2002 Survey	2003 Survey
43.0	31.0	39.0

***2001 Alumni Survey included the fall 2000, spring 2001 and summer 2001 graduates

***2002 Alumni Survey included the fall 2001, spring 2002 and summer 2002 graduates

***2003 Alumni Survey included the fall 2002, spring 2003 and summer 2003 graduates