Campus Services Students Use to Prepare for Life after Graduation

Prepared at the Request of

Judy Sakaki – Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

By

Gillian Butler, SARI

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Survey Background and Methods

In Fall 2005, Student Affairs convened the Senior Experience Committee to explore the scope of services offered and needed by UC Davis students as they prepare for life after graduation. At the behest of the committee, Student Affairs Research and Information (SARI) undertook a Quick Survey to determine the extent of usage of relevant services offered to incipient graduates, and their evaluation of these services.

From January 21st 2006 to January 30th 2006, SARI delivered a Quick Survey to all enrolled UC Davis undergraduates via the MyUCDavis portal (http://my.ucdavis.edu). A total of 2781 current undergraduates responded to the Quick Survey (13% of the enrolled undergraduate population). Respondents included 569 freshmen, 550 sophomores, 734 juniors, and 928 seniors.

Students were asked to identify which of the list of services below they had used to prepare for life after graduation. Respondents were then asked to evaluate each of the services they had used on a 3-point scale where

3 = Very useful,
2 = Somewhat useful and
1 = Not at all useful.
Quick Poll
Which, if any, of the following campus services or resources have you used to help prepare yourself for life after graduation?

- Career advising
- Pre-graduate/professional school advising
- Non-academic (personal) counseling
- Career workshop/fair
- Pre-graduate or professional school workshop/fair
- On-campus interview (employer or recruiter)
- Internship
- Faculty advice
- Alumni networking
- Path to Success website
- Undergraduate research opportunities
- Student leadership opportunities
- Other
- None
### Results

Respondents indicated that the services they had most often used to prepare for life after graduation were internships (29%), faculty advice (20%), career workshops or fairs (17%), and career advising (17%). Respondents were less likely to report having used graduate or professional school advising (16%) or to have attended a graduate/professional school workshop or fair (6%). It should be noted, however, that UC Davis baccalaureate recipients are more likely to work full-time than to attend a postgraduate institution directly upon graduation (about 60% vs. 40% historically).* Results are shown in Figure 1.

![Usage of Campus Services to Prepare for Life After Graduation](image)

As might be expected, postgraduate preparation services were more widely used as students neared graduation. About 60% of freshmen indicated that they had used none of the listed services while only 20% of seniors reported that they had used none at all. Females reported higher usage for all the listed services than did males, with the exception of on-campus interviews. Mexican-American and White/Caucasian students most often reported having used none of the services (40% and 39%, respectively).

Ratings of the usefulness of services varied considerably. Students gave research opportunities, internships, faculty advice, and personal counseling the highest mean

* SARI Report 318.
usefulness ratings. Career advising, workshops, and fairs were perceived as less useful, along with the Path to Success website (which was, however, sparsely used).

Figure 2.