Beyond The Baccalaureate:
Survey of UCSD Bachelor Degree Recipients

In fall of 1997, the Office of Student Research and Information/Student Affairs surveyed a total of 5,150 former undergraduates - five years, three years, and one year after graduating from UCSD\(^1\). The survey results provide valuable information on the current educational and employment activities of former students and the relationship of these activities to the undergraduate experience at UCSD. Selected highlights from the study are presented below.

\(^1\)Surveys were mailed to a random sample of former undergraduates, stratified by ethnicity, from the classes of 1991-92 (n=1950), 1993-94 (n=1750) and 1995-96 (n=1450). Responses were weighted to adjust for disproportionate sampling. After excluding undeliverable surveys, response rates for the three years were 27%, 34%, and 34%, respectively. The margin of error for the three samples is +/- 5% (1991-92), +/- 4% (1993-94), +/-5%(1995-96). For more information, contact the office of Student Research & Information, mail code 0021, UCSD, La Jolla, CA, 92093-0021.

### Current Status of Undergraduate Degree Recipients

#### Post-baccalaureate Educational Activities:

- Most UCSD undergraduates continue their educational pursuits well beyond the baccalaureate; over half (51%) enroll in an advanced degree program within the first year of graduation.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earned Advanced Degree</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently Enrolled in First Advanced Degree Program</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned Advanced Degree and Currently Pursuing Another</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Post-Baccalaureate Educational Activity</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor Degree Only/Plan to Pursue Advanced Degree In Future</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
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#### Post-baccalaureate Employment/Other Activities

- The vast majority of former undergraduates are fully employed and/or pursuing additional educational opportunities.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed Full Time</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed Part Time</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate School Full-time/Part-time</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Employment</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeking Employment</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring for Family/Other Activities</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On average, 20% of all former UCSD undergraduates go on to earn a master’s degree, 17% complete a professional doctorate, while 6% earn an academic doctorate (e.g. Ph.D., Ed.D.).

The most popular area of graduate study is Medicine/Health, followed by the Sciences, Business, and Education.
Overall, 95% of all former undergraduates consider the education they received at UCSD as having prepared them well for graduate study.

"UCSD's Math department prepared me for graduate school at UCLA, and I see many other students who were not prepared by their undergraduate institution".
(Female, Mathematics, 1993-94)

"UCSD was the best decision I have ever made. The academics were excellent and really prepared me for the rigors of basic science at Harvard School of Dental Medicine. I would without doubt attend UCSD again."
(Male, Biochemistry and Cell Biology, 1993-94)

Employment: Facts and Figures

A large percentage of former undergraduates pursue careers in the field of Business/Finance. Education, Law, and Medicine are also popular career fields among UCSD alumni. As former students gain experience and professional status, salaries tend to increase. The average salary for those students who earned a bachelor's degree in 1995/96 is $36,000.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average Annual Salary</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Average Annual Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business/Finance</td>
<td>$54,000</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/Counseling</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law/Attorney</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>$47,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>$41,000</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciences (Life/Physical/Social)</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$31,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Prgmr/Analyst</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>$62,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>$54,000</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Occupations</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$41,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 Rounded to the nearest thousand.
2 Includes sales, marketing, human resources.
The vast majority of former undergraduates (85%) regard the education they received at UCSD as having prepared them well for their current field of employment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Field</th>
<th>Percentage in Agreement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Well/Well Prepared for Employment</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Occupations</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law/Attorney</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/Counseling</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Prgrmr/Analyst</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciences (Life/Physical/Social)</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"There's nothing like being able to put "UCSD Graduate" on your resume. This is particularly true in San Diego's software industry, where UCSD graduates make up probably half the employees."
(Female, Literature/Writing, 1991-92)

"Attending UCSD was the best choice I could have made for myself. My positive experience can mostly be attributed to Cognitive Science faculty and staff. Plus, the reputation of the Department got me a job."
(Male, Cognitive Science, 1995-96)

When being considered for employment, a degree from UCSD is viewed as being important to perspective employers -- as important as major field of study and recommendations; work experience, however, continues to be the most important consideration in hiring decisions.
Problem solving, interpersonal skills, and speaking skills are cited as the most important skills relevant to the current activities of former undergraduates. Problem solving, reasoning, and writing skills, however, are cited as the areas in which UCSD provided the best preparation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem Solving Skills</th>
<th>98%</th>
<th>.......</th>
<th>93%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal Skills</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>.......</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking Skills</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>.......</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasoning Skills</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>.......</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Skills</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>.......</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Skills</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>.......</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>.......</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to Function in Ethnically Diverse Env.</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>.......</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Skills</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>.......</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding of Science and Technology</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>.......</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Different Philosophies and Cultures</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>.......</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding of History, Society, Political Affairs</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>.......</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art/Music/Literature Appreciation</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>.......</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The UCSD Experience: A Look Back

Overall, former undergraduates are most satisfied with the quality of faculty instruction and the availability and content of the courses they encountered while enrolled at UCSD. Increased satisfaction ratings in the areas of academic advising and opportunities for research, as reported by the 1995/96 graduating class, provide supporting evidence for the success of campus efforts aimed at improving the undergraduate experience in these areas.
Among former undergraduates, the campus environment is viewed as being safe, friendly, and welcoming, and most (9 out of 10) would recommend UCSD, as well as their undergraduate college, to others.

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campus was safe and secure</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students were friendly</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felt welcome at UCSD</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching faculty were approachable/helpful</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative staff were helpful</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Overall, my experience at UCSD was a positive one. It was a wonderful place to earn my undergraduate degree and I would recommend the campus to others."
(Female, Psychology, 1991-92)

"The five college structure allows students to feel comfortable within a large university. I did not feel like a "number". However, I would have enjoyed more interaction with the other colleges as well. Overall UCSD was definitely a challenging and positive experience."
(Female, Political Science, 1995-96)