



Memorandum

December 16, 2005

To: Interested Colleagues

From: Jocelyn Milner

Subject: 2005 ACT Alumni Outcomes Survey
(UW-Madison Bachelor's Degree Recipients, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03)

Copy: Margaret Harrigan

In the summer of 2005 UW System Administration fielded a survey of recent bachelor's degree recipients (2, 3 and 4 years after graduation) through ACT. Selected results from the survey will be included in the UW-System annual accountability report, *Achieving Excellence*. Attached is a brief summary report of survey responses from UW-Madison alumni. Data compiled from alumni at 34 other public 4-year institutions are provided for comparison purposes.

Some key findings:

- 97.5% were employed or continuing their education: 71% of graduates were employed full-time, 6% were employed part-time, 15% were in school full-time, and 5% were in school part-time and employed. Only 1% of respondents were unemployed and seeking employment.
- 40% had no loan debt (compared with 37% nationally); 45% had loan debt of \$10,000 or more (42% nationally).
- In their current job, 29% were making more than \$50,000 (16% nationally); 73% were making over \$30,000 (55% nationally).
- Graduates identified the following outcomes as the most important skills for success: verbal communication skills, defining and solving problems, getting along with others from various backgrounds, effective written communication skills, living professional/personal life according to own standard/ethic.
- Graduates identified the following outcomes as skills on which their UW-Madison education had the biggest impact: written communication skills, accessing/using a variety of

information sources, defining and solving problems, thinking objectively about beliefs/attitudes/values, working cooperatively in groups/as a team.

- Choosing from a list of aspects of college life, students were most satisfied with the following: the variety of courses offered, the overall quality of instruction, the quality of major, acceptance of individuals regardless of sexual orientation, preparation for future academic study.
- Choosing from a list of statements, graduates most strongly agree with the following: overall, the school had an intellectually stimulating atmosphere; academic success was encouraged/supported at this school; there was a sense of personal safety/security on the campus.
- Choosing from a list of student services, graduates were most satisfied with the quality of library services and materials.

If you have questions about this survey, please contact me or Margaret Harrigan.

Attachment