

CAPS survey finds average salaries on the rise for U of A graduates

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Senior News Editor

With spring convocation drawing closer, soon-to-be graduates worried about the prospect of entering the "real world" should take comfort in the results of a recent survey carried out by the University of Alberta's Career and Placement Services office.

CAPS, in conjunction with the University's Population Research Lab, followed 2012 U of A graduates from the class of 2000 and found that after five years they had an unemployment rate of 1.9 per cent—meanwhile the overall Canadian unemployment rate was at 6.8 per cent.

"If you're looking at things such as unemployment rate and salaries, the results are more positive than in the previous surveys [we've done]," Joan Schiebelbein, CAPS Manager of Advising Services, said.

According to the survey's results, U of A grads aren't only finding work post-degree but are also experiencing career advancement, as their yearly salaries rose from \$35 000 to \$39 999 in the first six months after graduation in 2000 to over \$50 000 in 2005.

As in the previous two phone surveys, participants were asked for details regarding their salaries, jobs and work environment at periods of six months, three years and five years after leaving school; however, this time they were also asked about the sector or industry that they worked in and whether they were employed while studying.

Schiebelbein explained that she

wasn't surprised to find 64 per cent of students had worked at some point when they were a student, but didn't expect to learn that 60.7 per cent of them indicated that at least one of the jobs that they held while enrolled at the U of A was related in some way to the position they got after graduation.

"The higher your level of education, the lower unemployment rate you will have [and] the better salary you'll pull in."

JOAN SCHIEBELBEIN,
CAPS MANAGER OF
ADVISING SERVICES

"So that was a bit of a nice surprise to see that people are getting career-related employment while they're students," Schiebelbein said.

Despite the positive results, the idea presented in the *Edmonton Journal's* 1 February, 2007 article that Arts grads "continue to lag far behind other degree-earners in finding work related to their studies," irks Schiebelbein.

"Arts graduates are not falling behind," Schiebelbein affirmed, stressing that a better indication of the value of an Arts degree is by looking at the fact that Arts grads are able to apply skills they earn at University in a variety of fields.

"That's the bad and good thing about an Arts degree: it's not specific

but it allows you a lot of opportunities and possibilities," Arts student Anna Johansen said. Johansen is in her final year of a English major with a Scandinavian studies minor.

Johansen, who works part-time as an Advanis Market Researcher, explained that the work she does transcribing and editing will be useful once she graduates this spring and starts job hunting.

"Obviously, you're not going to get a job writing papers," Johansen pointed out. "But that doesn't mean you're unemployable, what I hear is that a lot of companies and businesses are looking for people who can communicate effectively and that's where Arts students come [in]—they have the ability to communicate."

Schiebelbein also emphasized that Alberta's economic boom isn't the sole factor for the increasing success of U of A graduates in finding employment. In 2005, Alberta held the lowest unemployment rate of all the province, at 3.9 per cent, however, this was still 2 per cent higher than the rate held by University graduates.

"The economy does have a role to play but I don't think that's the whole story," Schiebelbein said, noting that even without the province's economic boom university graduates will always hold a distinct advantage over non-graduates.

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The next CAPS survey slated for completion in 2010 will be of 2005 graduates.

LIFE AND CAREERS AFTER GRAD

- Five years after graduation, there were no unemployed respondents from the faculties of Dentistry, Law, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Rehabilitation Medicine, and the schools of Library and Information Studies and Native Studies.
- Between the periods of six months and five-year after graduation, the proportion of U of A graduates who were self-employed had more than doubled to 8.9 per cent.
- Just over 38 per cent of respondents returned to school at some point in the five years following graduation. The

majority (52.6 per cent) continued their studies at the University of Alberta.

- The most successful work search method six months, three years and five years after graduation involved networking. For all three periods, approximately 42 per cent of respondents reported that they found out about the position they held from someone they knew.



Source: CAPS Employment Survey, 2000 University of Alberta Graduates

Employment results five years after grad (Faculty/Median Annual Income)

Agriculture/Forestry	\$50000-54999
Arts	\$40 000-44 999
Business	\$64 900-69 000
Dentistry	\$75 000 and above
Education	\$50 000-54 999
Engineering	\$65 000-69 999
Faculte Saint-Jean	\$45 000-49 999
Law	\$75 000 and above
Medicine	\$70 000-74 999
Nursing	\$60 000-64 999
Pharmacy	\$75 000 and above
Physical Education	\$40 000-44 999
Science	\$50 000-54 999

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- 8AM TO 11AM powerplant dinner (Menu service):
 - 2PM TO 6PM (Mon - wed)
 - 2PM TO MIDNIGHT (THURS-FRI) powerplant coffee house
- MON TO FRI 8AM TO 6PM

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powerplant >> THURS AND FRI >> 2-6 PM

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 5PM
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 5PM
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RATT'S TOP 10 LIST FOR JANUARY!

*as selected once again by a panel of staff and trusted regulars with a few arbitrary guesses.

- 10 >> Int'l Budokan V-Ball Team
- 9 >> Law Show Peeps
- 8 >> Engineering (85% of them anyway)
- 7 >> The New Projector!
- 6 >> K. Gold Guys/ Jim
- 5 >> Wed. Mixed Chorus
- 4 >> PS Warren
- 3 >> Shyam & Friday Phys Ed gang
- 2 >> UACS "geeks"
- 1 >> Colin & Tasha (newlyweds)

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