Introduction of Hypothesis

Since 2002 Career Services has been using Banner to track students’ use of services while enrolled at MSUB: counseling appointments, Cooperative Education internships, PT and community service work study jobs, and credential files. CareerLink, a jobs database service, was implemented F06.

These data for 2002-2009 were compiled in Access for the Class of 2009 grads (X08 + F08 + S09) and linked to their employment outcomes as identified in the annual grad survey conducted by Career Services 6-18 months after May graduation.

The Class of 2009 included 900 grads, 699 (78%) of whom responded to the survey. Joe W. Floyd, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Sociology, analyzed Class of 2009 outcome data in PASW/SPSS as he did for Classes of 2006-2008 grads.

We hoped to identify the positive impact of interaction with Career Services on grads’ employment: Grads who used Career Services were employed at higher rates than grads who did not use Career Services.

Summary of Selected Findings

For the second year, respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with Career Services; 92.3% of the 233 respondents who answered this question said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the services they received from Career Services. Mean satisfaction = 1.67 (1 is very satisfied).

58% of all grads used services while they were students, an increase from Class of 2008 when 54% of all grads used Career Services. Some 2009 grads used multiple services: career counseling (239 grads), CareerLink (441 grads), PT jobs (80 grads), Cooperative Education internships (184 grads), credential files (22 grads), and/or community service work study (70 grads). Mean number of services used = 1.15.

86.6% of those receiving two services were employed, compared with 79.7% employment of those receiving no services and 75.8% of those receiving one service; statistically significant at p=.055. COE grads (81.1%) were most likely to be employed in their major, followed by Allied Health (65.3%), Business (62.6%), COT (53.7%) and Arts & Sciences (36.9%).

By College, CAHP students used the most services (2.15), followed by COB (1.46), CAS (1.19), COT (.76) and COE (.73); p<.000. Colleges of Allied Health and Business require their students to register for internships with Cooperative Education.

Generally, older respondents used fewer services. Respondents who used 1, 2, or 3 services had a mean age of 30.38 while respondents who used no services had a mean age of 32.56; statistically significant at p=.004. For females, there was no statistically significant relationship between being presently employed and number of services used. However, for males there was a significant relationship as males who received 2 services were the most likely to be presently employed (90%).

This year 5% of respondents indicated they were seeking employment, down from 8% of respondents in Class of 2008. 43.1% of grads (388) were employed in major; 90.72% of these were employed FT in major. 61.2% (551) of grads were presently employed with 85.66% of them (472) employed FT.

Among grads who were employed, 9.9% found jobs through Career Services (Cooperative Ed/CareerLink) while 37.6% worked for their current employer prior to graduation. 29% found employment through “Other” means, while 17.9% found jobs online. 41.3% of respondents had found jobs within 6 months of graduation.
No statistically significant relationships with Cooperative Education internships in any College were found between being presently employed, being employed in major, or being employed full-time in major.

Conclusions

Our hypothesis was that students who used Career Services were employed at higher rates than those who used no services. We did find that 86.6% of respondents who received two services were employed compared with 79.7% of those who received 0 services; statistically significant (p=.055). 92.3% of those using Career Services rated themselves as “satisfied” or “very satisfied.”

5% of grads were unemployed, compared with Montana’s unemployment rate of 6.7% (reported by the Department of Labor & Industry in March 2010) with national unemployment at 9.7%. In the Class of 2008, 8% of respondents reported themselves as unemployed when Montana’s unemployment rate was 6.1% as reported in March 2009; national unemployment was 8.9%.

37.6% of respondents worked for their present employer before graduation; this is up from Class of 2008 findings (26.2%). These people would likely not seek assistance from Career Services and therefore bias the findings of employment. People who don’t use Career Services are those who already have a job, while people who seek services need additional help and as a result are not as employable.