Exploring Relationships between Employment Outcomes and Perceptions of Preparedness

Important Questions

- Do graduates of our programs gain employment?
- In what fields are our graduates employed?
- Do our graduates feel prepared for jobs in related fields?
- Is there a relationship between satisfaction with degree program and employment outcomes?
- Are there trends in employment and feelings of preparedness?

Alumni Survey

Survey of Recent Baccalaureate and Graduate Degree Recipients

- Administered annually to individuals who graduated in the previous year.
- Both web and phone versions of the surveys are used.
- Approximately 30 percent of baccalaureate and graduate degree recipients respond to the surveys.
- Core survey covers three main areas – Employment, Education and Satisfaction.
- Supplemental surveys contain departmental/program specific questions.
- Reports are available on Blackboard.

Core Survey Questions

- Employment
- Education
- Satisfaction

Alumni Survey Report

Q3 When did you secure your first job following receipt of your bachelor’s degree?
Q5 Are you currently employed (including self-employed)?
Q6 Are you seeking employment?
Q15 My degree program at NIU prepared me well for my current job.

Do graduates feel that their degree program prepared them for their jobs?

Is there a relationship between type of job and feelings of preparedness?

Feelings of preparedness for Graduates with Related and Unrelated Jobs

Q15 My degree program at NIU prepared me well for my current job.

Suggestions

- Alumni survey reports are most helpful when answering questions related to employment, further education, and overall perceptions of degree.
- Questions related to specific outcomes may need to be addressed through supplemental surveys.
- Creating visuals of data can help with interpretation and use.
- Care needs to be taken when combining survey results from multiple years.
- It’s a good idea to consult with Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation when using survey data.

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