Annual Survey of Cal State Northridge Graduates

Launched in 2008-09, Cal State Northridge’s Annual Survey of CSUN Graduates is a comprehensive survey of the immediate educational and occupational plans of each year’s baccalaureate degree recipients. Survey questions cover graduates’ plans for both paid employment and further education during their first post-graduation year. Where relevant, respondents are asked to specify their likely employment sectors and the disciplines in which they plan to pursue further academic study. Finally, respondents are asked to indicate how definite their current plans are.

Initial administration of the new survey took place in Spring 2009, with similar procedures followed in each subsequent year. In late April or early May, e-mail invitations from the university’s President are sent to all expected graduates. Until 2014, only likely Spring-term graduates were approached (N=5,000-5,500); since then, both Fall and Spring term graduates have received invitations to participate (N=7,500-8,000). After several reminders, scheduled one-to-two weeks apart, the survey closes at the end of May. By this time, close to one-third of the invitees have generally followed the link to the electronic survey site and provided the requested information about their immediate plans. Such a response rate is good for surveys of this sort.