

Annual Survey of California 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 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 expected graduates. 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.

During the 2009-13 period, invitations were sent to expected Spring-term graduates only (N = 5,000 - 5,500). Since Spring 2014, however, survey invitations have been sent to both Fall- and Spring-term graduates (N = 7,500 - 8,000), thereby enlarging the number of potential and actual respondents.

The summary data presented here encompass survey responses from the five most recent survey terms, with year-by-year responses shown in most cases. The data displays are divided into the three sections listed on the left and briefly described below:

- **Immediate Post-Graduation Plans:** these displays show the number and percent of respondents with immediate plans for employment, further education, volunteer work, public service, military service, and/or to raise a family.
- **Plans for Paid Employment** are of three kinds: whether graduates have such plans, their anticipated employment sector, and the certainty of their plans.
- **Plans for Further Education:** include whether graduates have such plans, the discipline in which further study is planned, the highest degree planned, and the certainty of their plans.

Each of the three sections outlined above is organized in a similar fashion, with options to bring up separate displays by College, Larger Departments, or Smaller Departments. Drop-downs that appear after users click on the first two of these links, allow the display of separate figures for individual Colleges or the Larger Departments. Within each such display, comparison figures appear on the right for either all respondents, in the case of the College displays, or for those earning degrees in programs housed in specific Colleges.

In cases where the number of annual responses is relatively small, the third link to displays for Smaller Departments is useful. Within it, only collective five-year counts and percentages appear.