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OU students successful in tough job market

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

In a survey of 2001-2002 Oakland University graduates conducted by **Career Services**, 89 percent found employment within six months of graduation, indicating that even during this slow economy, OU graduates are finding success in the job market.

"These figures are reasonable during a tough job market," said Bob Thomas, director of Career Services. "Obviously there has been an economic downturn, but these numbers are consistent with national figures. The statistics are comparable to those from the 1991-92 survey, which was our last recession."

About 27 percent of the August and December 2001 and April and June 2002 graduates responded to the survey.

Among the average annual salaries reported, undergraduates earned \$34,611. School of Engineering and Computer Science undergraduates topped the list with an average of \$46,192.

School of Nursing students led graduate students with an average salary of \$92,429. Of the seven graduate nurses who submitted salary information, four are nurse anatomists, who make on average \$120,000 due to the liability insurance they have to pay, according to Thomas.

The graduate student average was \$57,782. Of the total group, 91 percent are employed in a field related to their major.

"We're seeing mixed signs from the economy now," Thomas said. "We're seeing a better job market with small companies in the service sector, and with technical suppliers to some extent. But any significant improvement will be driven by an upturn in the auto industry."

"I think we've bottomed out and are on the upturn. Our students are finding jobs. I think the 2004 graduates will see a better job market than the 2001-2002 graduates, not a boom market, but somewhat better."

OU graduates and alumni are encouraged to use the resources available to them in the Career Services Office, where employers continue to post full- and part-time jobs, internships and co-ops. The office will resume its seminars, workshops and panels on employment-related topics in September.

"My advice to graduates who are entering the job market is to be as broad as possible in your employment objective and make sure you're prepared with an excellent resume and portfolio. Be prepared to sell yourself within a short period of time," Thomas said.

The professional advisers in Career Services can assist students with career and employment needs. Visit the **Career Services** Web site or contact their office at (248) 370-3250 or **careers@oakland.edu**.

SUMMARY

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