

Future Plans of Spring 2008 CSU Fullerton Bachelor’s Degree Candidates

The CSU, Fullerton Office of Institutional Research and Analytical Studies administered a one question web-based survey to 4,640 anticipated spring 2008 Bachelor degree recipients. The question asked was formulated by The Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) for use in the College Portrait.

What is MOST LIKELY to be your PRINCIPLE activity upon graduation?

- Employment, full-time paid
- Employment, part-time paid
- Graduate or professional school, full-time
- Graduate or professional school, part-time
- Additional undergraduate coursework
- Military service
- Volunteer service (e.g., Peace Corps)
- Starting or raising a family
- Other, please specify

The web-based survey was open for responses for two weeks starting at the beginning of April 2008. Three reminder emails were sent including a final reminder with a notice of the survey closing date. The survey generated 1,429 responses (31% response rate).

Sex Distribution

Women responded to the survey at a greater percentage than their representation in the invited population. They were 1.8 times more likely to participate in the survey than men. The table below details the distribution of participants and non-participants.

	Participated		Invited, but did not participate		Total Invited to Participate	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Men	422	29.5%	1398	43.5%	1820	39.2%
Women	1007	70.5%	1813	56.5%	2820	60.8%
Total	1429	100.0%	3211	100.0%	4640	100.0%

Ethnic Distribution

Asian/Pacific Islander students responded at a lower percentage than their representation in the invited population. White students responded at a higher percentage than their representation in the invited population. The table below details the distribution of participants and non-participants.

	Participated		Invited, but did not participate		Total Invited to Participate	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
American Indian/Alaska Native	8	.6%	15	.5%	23	.5%
Black	37	2.6%	109	3.4%	146	3.1%
Hispanic	412	28.8%	868	27.0%	1280	27.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	269	18.8%	734	22.9%	1003	21.6%
White	524	36.7%	1038	32.3%	1562	33.7%
Unknown	138	9.7%	328	10.2%	466	10.0%
Non-Resident Alien (International)	41	2.9%	119	3.7%	160	3.4%
Total	1429	100.0%	3211	100.0%	4640	100.0%

College of Major

Arts (ARTS) and Business students (CBE) responded at a lower percentage than their representation in the invited population. Health and Human Development (HHD) and Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) students responded at a higher percentage than their representation in the invited population. The table below details the distribution of participants and non-participants.

	Participated		Invited, but did not participate		Total Invited to Participate	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
ARTS	71	5.0%	236	7.3%	307	6.6%
CBE	263	18.4%	783	24.4%	1046	22.5%
COMM	201	14.1%	514	16.0%	715	15.4%
ECS	28	2.0%	71	2.2%	99	2.1%
HHD	297	20.8%	503	15.7%	800	17.2%
HSS	510	35.7%	953	29.7%	1463	31.5%
NSM	59	4.1%	151	4.7%	210	4.5%
Total	1429	100.0%	3211	100.0%	4640	100.0%

Student Status at Initial Enrollment

Students initially enrolling as first-time freshmen and undergraduate transfer students responded at a percentage similar to their representation in the invited population. The table below details the distribution of participants and non-participants.

	Participated		Invited, but did not participate		Total Invited to Participate	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
First-time Freshmen	443	31.1%	1037	32.3%	1480	32.0%
Undergraduate Transfer	983	68.9%	2169	67.7%	3152	68.0%
Total	1426	100.0%	3206	100.0%	4632	100.0%

Units Taken in Last Enrolled Semester

Students enrolled full-time (12 or more units attempted in last enrolled semester) responded to the survey at a greater percentage than their representation in the invited population. Students enrolled full-time in their last semester were 1.4 times more likely to respond than part-time students. The table below details the distribution of participants and non-participants.

	Participated		Invited, but did not participate		Total Invited to Participate	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Full-time	880	61.6%	1726	53.8%	2606	56.2%
Part-time	549	38.4%	1485	46.2%	2034	43.8%
Total	1429	100.0%	3211	100.0%	4640	100.0%

Survey Results

The principle activity for the majority of spring 2008 CSU Fullerton bachelor degree recipients (both men and women) will be employment (full- or part-time). Men were more likely than women to cite full-time employment as their primary activity. Women were more likely than men to plan to attend graduate or professional school (full-time).

	Men		Women		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Employment, full-time paid	247	58.5%	497	49.4%	744	52.1%
Employment, part-time paid	14	3.3%	34	3.4%	48	3.4%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	86	20.4%	291	28.9%	377	26.4%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	23	5.5%	67	6.7%	90	6.3%
Additional undergraduate coursework	9	2.1%	11	1.1%	20	1.4%
Military service	10	2.4%	0	.0%	10	.7%
Volunteer service (e.g., Peace Corps)	5	1.2%	9	.9%	14	1.0%
Starting or raising a family	1	.2%	20	2.0%	21	1.5%
Other, please specify	27	6.4%	78	7.7%	105	7.3%
Total	422	100.0%	1007	100.0%	1429	100.0%

Full-time students are less likely to cite full-time employment and more likely to cite full-time graduate or professional school compared to those enrolled part-time in their last semester.

	Enrolled Full-time in Last Semester		Enrolled Part-time in Last Semester		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Employment, full-time paid	425	48.3%	319	58.1%	744	52.1%
Employment, part-time paid	27	3.1%	21	3.8%	48	3.4%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	279	31.7%	98	17.9%	377	26.4%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	46	5.2%	44	8.0%	90	6.3%
Additional undergraduate coursework	13	1.5%	7	1.3%	20	1.4%
Military service	8	.9%	2	.4%	10	.7%
Volunteer service (e.g., Peace Corps)	8	.9%	6	1.1%	14	1.0%
Starting or raising a family	11	1.3%	10	1.8%	21	1.5%
Other, please specify	63	7.2%	42	7.7%	105	7.3%
Total	880	100.0%	549	100.0%	1429	100.0%

Students who entered as first-time freshmen were more likely to cite full-time graduate or professional school than students who initially entered as undergraduate transfers.

	First-time Freshmen		Undergraduate Transfer		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Employment, full-time paid	224	50.6%	520	52.7%	744	52.1%
Employment, part-time paid	22	5.0%	26	2.6%	48	3.4%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	139	31.4%	238	24.1%	377	26.4%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	19	4.3%	71	7.2%	90	6.3%
Additional undergraduate coursework	7	1.6%	13	1.3%	20	1.4%
Military service	2	.5%	8	.8%	10	.7%
Volunteer service (e.g., Peace Corps)	8	1.8%	6	.6%	14	1.0%
Starting or raising a family	1	.2%	20	2.0%	21	1.5%
Other, please specify	21	4.7%	84	8.5%	105	7.3%
Total	443	100.0%	986	100.0%	1429	100.0%

For respondents who were enrolled full-time in their last semester, differences between primary activities of first-time freshmen and undergraduate transfer students almost disappear.

	First-time Freshmen (Enrolled Full-time)		Undergraduate Transfer (Enrolled Full-time)		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Employment, full-time paid	157	49.1%	268	47.9%	425	48.3%
Employment, part-time paid	15	4.7%	12	2.1%	27	3.1%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	109	34.1%	170	30.4%	279	31.7%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	13	4.1%	33	5.9%	46	5.2%
Additional undergraduate coursework	5	1.6%	8	1.4%	13	1.5%
Military service	2	.6%	6	1.1%	8	.9%
Volunteer service (e.g., Peace Corps)	4	1.3%	4	.7%	8	.9%
Starting or raising a family	1	.3%	10	1.8%	11	1.3%
Other, please specify	14	4.4%	49	8.8%	63	7.2%
Total	320	100.0%	560	100.0%	880	100.0%

The most frequent response for respondents who chose “Other” was a dual pursuit of “Work and Graduate School”. Attending a credential program was the second most frequent response in the “Other” category. The table below details the responses to the “Other” category.

	Men		Women		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Work and Grad School	11	40.7%	28	35.9%	39	37.1%
Attend a Credential Program	1	3.7%	17	21.8%	18	17.1%
Travel/Recreation	3	11.1%	11	14.1%	14	13.3%
Other Educational Pursuits	2	7.4%	8	10.3%	10	9.5%
Internship	3	11.1%	3	3.8%	6	5.7%
Start own Business	4	14.8%	1	1.3%	5	4.8%
Seek Employment/career change	2	7.4%	2	2.6%	4	3.8%
Auditioning	0	.0%	2	2.6%	2	1.9%
Continuing in Existing Employment	0	.0%	2	2.6%	2	1.9%
Moving Back Home	1	3.7%	0	.0%	1	1.0%
Part-time work and Internship	0	.0%	1	1.3%	1	1.0%
Start family and Work	0	.0%	1	1.3%	1	1.0%
Study and Apply for Graduate School	0	.0%	1	1.3%	1	1.0%
Work and other Educational Pursuits	0	.0%	1	1.3%	1	1.0%
Total	27	100.0%	78	100.0%	105	100.0%

Discussion and Conclusions

The primary activity for spring 2008 CSU Fullerton bachelor degree recipients will be employment and the second most frequent primary activity will be attending graduate or professional school. This is true across sex, ethnic, units attempted in the last semester of enrollment and student type at admissions groupings. Small portions of our graduates will pursue additional undergraduate education, military or volunteer service or plan to start a family. A small portion will also pursue multiple primary activities.

The overrepresentation of women and the underrepresentation of Business and Arts students in the respondent pool may have led to a slightly lower percentage of students whose primary activity is employment and a slightly higher percentage of students whose primary activity is attending graduate or professional school. Any difference in potential responses based on the sex and college of major makeup of the respondents would not change the finding that the most frequent activity of spring 2008 bachelor degree recipients will be employment and the second most frequent activity will be attending graduate or professional school.