

2006 CAREER FAIR EMPLOYER SURVEY

The Career Fair Employer survey was designed to study how potential employers view UI student preparedness. The responses for the current survey come from employers who attended the 2006 Career Fair held in October at the ASUI Kibbie Dome.

Out of 159 employers, 109 responded, a sixty-eight percent (68%) response rate and a marked increase of forty-eight percent (48%) from 2004, and sixteen percent (16%) higher than the 2002 survey. This year's ratings of UI students in several specific areas of preparedness were consistent with results from 2002. Although data are available from 2004, the extremely low response rate that year makes any comparisons with the data unreliable. In 2004, only 23 out of 115 employers completed the survey, for a twenty percent (20%) response rate. This year's higher response rate was the result of improved survey distribution and collection procedures.

The types of organizations differ somewhat from the previous year's results. In 2006, seventeen percent (17%) of the respondents were from business/financial services, seventeen percent (17%) from sales organizations, sixteen percent (16%) from government agencies, ten percent (10%) represented manufacturing firms, and sixteen percent (16%) of respondents were from engineering firms. The remaining types of organizations included biotech/pharmaceuticals, energy/petroleum, hospitality, law enforcement/security, non-profit/philanthropy, and "Other" (primarily communications and architecture/construction). Organization designation in 2006 was much more specific than in previous years, so data were not compared; also, 21 employers self-described as more than one type.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of responding employers said they have hired UI graduates in the past, up four percent (4%). Of those who responded *yes* to hiring UI graduates in the past, ninety-six percent (96%) reported they were either *very satisfied* or *satisfied* (down 4% from 2004) with their performance. Interestingly, when asked how well prepared UI student were compared to students from other institutions, the number has continued to rise in recent years. Fifty-nine percent (59%) reported that they were either *much better* or *better* prepared (up three percent [3%] from 2004 and six percent [6%] from 2002). Thirty-six percent (36%) reported that UI students demonstrated *the same* level of preparation as students from other institutions.

Employers were also asked to rate U Idaho students on several specific skills and abilities developed in the core education program. The percent of responses scoring either *excellent* or *good* in these areas were: oral communication 82% (down 6% from 2002), general knowledge 76% (up 1%), written communication 72% (down 1%), knowledge and competence in area of major 72% (unchanged from 2002), critical thinking/problem solving 61% (down 1%), creativeness 60% (up 2%), and teamwork 58% (up 8%).

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University of Idaho 2006 Career Fair Employer Survey

The University of Idaho is interested in getting feedback from employers about their perceptions of student preparedness. While we recognize that your interaction with our graduates may be somewhat limited, we would appreciate your candid feedback.

Type of organization:

Biotech/pharmaceutical	1.8%	Government	15.6%	Non-Profit/Philanthropy	0.9%
Business/Financial Services	17.4%	Hospitality	3.7%	Retail/Sales	16.5%
Education	10.1%	Law Enforcement/Security	2.8%	Science/Research	4.6%
Energy/Petroleum	2.8%	Manufacturing	10.1%	Other	22.9%
Engineering/Technology	15.6%	Natural Resources	1.8%		

Majors of interest: Engineering (all), business/finance, "All majors"

1. Have you hired University of Idaho graduates in the past?

	2006	2004	2002
Yes	79%	71%	70%
No	21%	28%	30%

If yes, in general how satisfied has the company been with their performance?

	2006	2004	2002
Very Satisfied	63%	50%	44%
Satisfied	35%	50%	40%
Somewhat Satisfied	1%	0%	0%
Dissatisfied	1%	0%	0%
Very Dissatisfied	0%	0%	0%
Don't Know	0%	0%	14%

2. Based on your conversations today and your past hiring, how well prepared are University of Idaho students compared with other institutions you visit?

	2006	2004	2002
Much Better Prepared	5%	4%	5%
Better Prepared	53%	52%	51%
Same	36%	43%	45%
Less Prepared	5%	0%	0%
Much Less Prepared	0%	0%	0%

3. Please rate the University of Idaho students in the following areas:

	2006 (%) N = 109					2004(%) N = 23					2002(%) N = 71				
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Written Communication	10	61	3	0	25	23	54	4	0	18	14	59	2	0	25
Oral Communication	20	62	13	2	2	23	73	4	0	0	27	61	10	0	2
General Knowledge	10	66	16	1	7	23	59	14	0	4	12	63	20	2	3
Critical Thinking/ Problem Solving	13	48	9	0	29	15	60	10	0	15	10	52	8	0	31
Teamwork	10	48	10	0	33	20	55	5	0	20	11	39	11	0	39
Knowledge & Competence	17	55	9	0	19	19	57	5	0	19	14	58	3	0	24
Creativeness	12	48	14		25	14	62	5	0	19	5	53	8	2	32