SUMMARY

- **Four out of five** UAlbany students believe that participating in an internship experience is an important part of their academic preparation.
- **Over half** of UAlbany seniors either had full-time employment, part-time employment, or an internship experience in their field of interest before graduating.
- UAlbany students believe that their internship experience provided them with **valuable hands-on experience in a field of interest, time management skills, a sense of professionalism, and guidance in helping define personal career goals**.
- **Forty-seven percent** of UAlbany students **plan to go to graduate or professional school** immediately after graduation.
- Career Services’ programs and services most utilized by UAlbany students include **resume writing/reviewing assistance, on-campus job fairs, and individual career counseling**.
- **Half** of UAlbany seniors have **never** visited the Career Services Office.

OBSERVATIONS: BY THE NUMBERS

- **81%** agree that participating in an internship experience is an important part of their academic preparation.
- **55%** of UAlbany graduating seniors have had either full-time employment, part-time employment, or an internship experience in their field of interest.
- **47%** of UAlbany students plan to go to **graduate or professional school** immediately after graduation.
- **54%** of UAlbany business majors visit Career Services **several** times a semester, while **77%** of Social Sciences majors visit Career Services **only once per semester or less**.
- **51%** of UAlbany seniors have **never** visited the Career Services Office, compared to the **52%** of seniors at Large Public Universities who have never visited.
- **72%** prefer to participate in an internship placement during the **summer**.
- **59%** are interested in participating in an **international internship experience**.
STUDENTS’ PARTICIPATION

When asked which Career Services programs respondents participated in (Table 1, below), the primary reason cited included resume writing/reviewing assistance, on-campus job fairs, individual career counseling, and job search assistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th></th>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Resume writing/reviewing assistance</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Resume writing/reviewing assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>On-campus job fairs</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>On-campus job fairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Individual career counseling</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Job search assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Career or employment workshops</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Individual career counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Internship/co-op search assistance</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Internship/co-op search assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Career skills testing &amp; career assessments</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Graduate school information assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Practice interview sessions</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Career or employment workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Job search assistance</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Practice interview sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Graduate school information assistance</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Career skills testing &amp; career assessments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 - Career Services program participation

When asked why they had not used any Career Services-related resources (Table 2, below), respondents’ primary reasons were not being aware of services, being too busy, not having a need yet to utilize the services, and relying on other sources for career-related information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th></th>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Reason</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Reason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I was not aware of the services</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>I was not aware of the services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No need to yet (I am not ready to utilize their services)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Too busy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Too busy</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>I rely on other sources of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Already have a job</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>I do not think that Career Services can help me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Not interested</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>I already have a job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>I do not think that Career Services can help me</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Not interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>I reply on other sources for information</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>No need to yet (I am not ready to utilize their services)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Not helpful for my major</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Not helpful for my major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>One of my friends had a bad experience with Career Services</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>One of my friends had a bad experience with Career Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 - Reasons for not utilizing Career Services-related resources

- 36% of UAlbany seniors said they have already accepted a job offer or will be continuing a position in which they are already employed, compared to the 41% of seniors at Large Public Universities who are already employed.
- 39% of UAlbany seniors said they were not aware of the services available compared to the 30% of seniors at Large Public Universities who were unaware.
• **UAlbany students expressed that other helpful sources of career-related information are their academic advisor, faculty members, friends/peers, parents/other family members, and professionals in their field of interest.**

• **The least utilized sources include UAlbany alumni, Career Services staff, and online social networking sites.**

When asked why students had not completed an internship during their time at UAlbany, the most frequent responses included:
  - Not having enough time for an internship (48%)
  - Being **unable to afford taking an unpaid** internship instead of a paid job (41%)
  - Not knowing where to go to look for an internship opportunity (30%)

When asked what the best method of finding an internship opportunity is, UAlbany students said:
  - Networking with friends, family, and/or university alumni (30%)
  - Seeking guidance from Career Services (23%)
  - Seeking guidance from a faculty advisor (21%)
  - The Internet (14%)
  - Job fairs (11%)

**STUDENTS’ PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- **68%** agree that they have **gained skills/abilities that will be used after graduation** as a result of the career advice/counseling information received since enrolling at UAlbany.

- **59%** agree that they are **better able to articulate their values, attitudes, and beliefs** as a result of the career advice/counseling information received since enrolling at UAlbany.

- **57%** of students feel **better prepared to work with individuals from diverse backgrounds** as a result of the career advice/counseling information received since enrolling at UAlbany.

- **46%** of UAlbany students feel **better prepared to interview for jobs** compared to the 45% nationally.

- **56%** of UAlbany students expressed an **improvement in critical thinking/problem solving skills** as a result of the result of the career advice/counseling information received since enrolling at UAlbany.

- When asked one **valuable** thing that students learned through internship experience, the most frequent responses included:
  - Hands-on experience in field of interest
  - Time Management
  - Professionalism
  - Experience helped define personal career goals
When asked what the highest degree respondents plan to earn in their lifetime is, UAlbany students said:

- Master’s Degree (not an MBA) (39%)
- Ph.D./Doctorate (19%)
- Bachelor’s (16%)
- MBA (11%)
- JD (law degree) (7%)
- MD (medical degree) (6%)

When asked about plans immediately following graduation (Chart 1, below), fewer students said that they plan to begin their own business or to go to graduate or professional school as they progressed through their college career. However, a greater number of students said they plan to take time off, work for a private sector company or work for a non-profit organization as they approached graduation.

When asked what factors are very/moderately important to respondents when considering a job opportunity, the primary responses cited were:

- Benefits (94%)
- Future career opportunities (92%)
- Boss/supervisor that I respect (86%)
- Co-workers that I like being around (80%)
- Job responsibilities that are consistent with my major (78%)
- Organizational culture that matches my values (73%)
- **Company or organization is recognized as a leader in the field** (61%)
- A salary higher than my graduating peers (54%)

**METHODOLOGY & DEMOGRAPHICS**

Findings are based on the 2010 Career and Personal Aspirations survey completed by 1,104 University at Albany students between **April 6 and April 23, 2010**. The survey was developed in association with the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) and was administered electronically through StudentVoice by the Office of the Vice President for Student Success at UAlbany.

- **Mostly women** (59% women, 41% men).
- **Diverse** (63% white, 9% **African American/Black**, 9% **Asian/Pacific Islander**, 7% **Hispanic/Latino**).
- **Representative** of different class years (22% freshman, 20% sophomore, 29% juniors, 29% seniors).
- **Full-time** students (97% full time students).
- **Living on campus** (64% live on campus).
- **Involved** in student clubs (60% a member of at least one student club or organization).

**QUESTIONS**

Please direct any questions concerning this assessment brief to:

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University at Albany
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APPENDIX A: PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS (13 participating institutions)

1. Louisiana State University - Consortium 2010: Career and Professional Aspirations Student Survey
3. Missouri State University - Consortium: Career and Professional Aspirations Student Survey
4. Sam Houston State University - Consortium 2010: Career and Professional Aspirations Student Survey
5. Southern Illinois University, Carbondale - Consortium 2010: Career and Professional Aspirations Student Survey
6. Towson University - Consortium 2010: Career and Professional Aspirations Student Survey
8. University of Alabama - Consortium 2010: Career and Professional Aspirations Student Survey
13. Western Washington University - Consortium 2010: Career and Professional Aspirations Student Survey