## Career Guide 1980



Supplement to The State News, May 23, 1980
State News Classifieds

## Summary of Recruiting Trends 1979-80

A Study of 471 Businesses, Industries, Governmental Agencies, and Educational Institutions and Employing New College Graduates
By John D. Singleton and L. Patrick Scheetz Ph.D.

This report is a summary of the Ninth Annual RECRUITING TRENDS SURVEY conducted by Placement Services at Michigan State University for 1979-80. Four-hundred and seventy one employers from a cross-section of business, industry overnment, and education were surveyed for this study. The results include information pertaining to trends in hiring new college graduates, anticipated starting salaries, campus recruiting activities and other related topics of interest to college recruiters, placement officers, educators, career counselors, and stu dents.

JOB OUTLOOK FOR GRADUATING

## CLASS OF 1979-80

According to many observers, our country is currently in a recession or on the threshold of one. Judging from the information received from employers in this study, however, the overall employ ment picture for new college graduates will not be affected by this condition. In fact, a slight increase $(1-2 \%)$ is anticipated in the number of college graduates hired this number of college graduates hired this
year over last year. For MBA graduates
the employment picture is expected to remain about the same as last year. The number of campus visits by prospective employers is expected to remain the same, or there will be a slight increase of $1-2$ percent at the most. Since last year was a good year for the placement of college good year for the placement of college graduates, the job market this year promises to still be good in light of this
survey. Currently, certain industrial and survey. Currently, certain industrial and
business groups are expected to recruit business groups are expected to recruit
more heavily while other groups expect to remain the same or even decline. Those expecting to recruit the heaviest are accounting, aerospace, electronics, merchandising/retailing, military and the petroleum industries. Electric equipment/machinery, food and beverage processing, hospitals and health services, hotels and motels, metals and metal products, utilities and research and consulting firms are expected to increase their hiring slightly ( $1-4 \%$ ). While this forecast speaks to the demand nationally, there is evidence of some soft spots. The most glaring example of this is in the automotive industry where a decrease is expected in the hiring of college graduates this year.

AVERAGE STARTING SALARIES
Starting salaries are expected to increase approximately $7-8$ percent for graduates in the highest demand areas, such as electrical, mechanical, chemical, and petroleum engineers and computer science majors. An increase of 5.6 percent in
starting salaries is forecasted for metal lurgical, and civil engineers; MBA's; marketing/sales; chemistry, accounting agriculture, math, and general business The lowest increases in starting salaries are expected for human ecolocy science, liberal for human ecology, social An interesting sidelight reveals that most An interesting sidelight reveals that most employers establish starting salary categories for all new graduates for particular degree levels and academic majors. This represents 65.4 percent of the employers. Thirty-four percent of the employers indicated that starting salaries are negotiable during the interviewing process in
their organizations
DEGREE LEVELS REQUIRED OF NEW HIRES

Of all the professional positions in the surveyed organizations, the bachelor's degree was the level of education in most demand. Approximately 1-10 percent of the positions require an associate's degree, $51-60$ percent a bachelor's degree, $1-10$ percent a master's degree and $1-10$ percent a doctoral degree. In these organizations, approximately $41-50$ per(continued on page 3 )

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continued from page 2)
cent of all salaried employees hold at least a bachelor's degree

ACADEMIC MAJORS IN DEMAND
The most significant increases ( $3-4 \%$ ) in demand for new college graduates are expected for petroleum engineering, computer science, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering. The majors in lowest demand (in relation to supply) are ocial science, education, human ecology and liberal arts. Employers summarize the out look for college graduates as especially good for individuals with degrees in technical areas or those with saleable kills.

ACADEMIC TRAINING REQUIRED BY EMPLOYERS

An ability to write and speak effectively is cited by employers as the greatest need of college graduates for entry into full-time work. Other requirements of college graduates are: an ability to accept more responsibility and to follow through on an assigned task, a greater concern for productivity, and more emphasis on
quality of work performed. These are followed closely by a need for more ambition/motivation, desire to for more better work habits, and greater dependability. Employers are generally asking that graduates have a better understanding and awareness of the business world in a practical sense and more effective interpersonal skills. Business and industry employers indicated that they would like to see more technically trained graduates leaving our institutions of higher learning Education employers indicated that they would like to see more graduates in fields of industrial arts, math, science a special education

MORE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING DEMANDEI

The experiences of most employers with cooperative education programs and in ternships has been excellent. Employers look very favorably upon students who have participated in work experience programs. Employers stress that practica work experiences are helpful and enhanc he chances of employment for college rraduates. According to employers, the students are better adjusted to the real

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world and better able to look into a career from personal experiences. Employers are also using co-op and internship programs or recruiting full-time personnel after graduation.

## FACTORS AFFECTING WHO IS HIRED

When recruiting new college graduates for employment, the ability to get things done. initiative, honesty, and integrity were rated as the most important factors io employers. Next on their list and rated important were dependability, common sense, oral communication skills, inter personal skills, and adaptability. Factors almost always leading to negative employ ment decisions include little interest poor reason for wanting job, indication of poor/undesirable work habits, and un satisfactory verbal skills.

According to the surveyed employers, approximately $51-60$ percent of all candi dates are rejected during or immediately following the campus interviews. Of the candidates interviewed on campus by the surveyed employers, only $1 \cdot 10$ percent eventually begin work within that organization

FREQUENCY OF CAMPUS VISITS
Most employers visit their primary col leges and universities for recruiting about twice each year. Of the surveyed em
ployers, 9.4 percent visit their primary schools more often and 32.3 percent visit only once each year

## EFFECTIVENESS OF

PLACEMENT SERVICES
When seeking the best advice for planning their careers, college students were encouraged by prospective employers to use their college placement offices. In the opinions of employers, the college place ment office is the best place to seek caree advice. The second best source wa mployers themselves. The importance o ollege placement offices was further highlighted when employers reported that approximately 41.50 percent of their new ollege graduates generally come from on-campus interviewing. Responses to want ads, write-ins, job listings with placement offices, and walk-ins were cited s the next most productive sources of new ollege hires. Many employers (68.80 ant lists of courses in credential files of lacement offices, and some employer laceme employer ble through plasement offies. Placenai ble through placement offices. Placemen offices are encouraged by the surveyed employers to become more familiar with the problems of employers.

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD GRADES

Participating employers ranked 51 factors continued on page 4


## Recruiting

continued from page 3) in order of importance in the employment decision. Contrary to popular belief that grades are first in importance, grades rank 8 in that list of factors. Several factors like 8 in that list of factors. Several tactors like the ability to get things done" rate higher. Most employers do not have a minimum grade point average for hiring college graduates, although 20.6 percent do require a minimum. Of those employers with a minimum grade point average requirement, 58.4 percent required a GPA of 2.5 or higher and 22.4 percent required a 3.0 or higher.
continued on page 5


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## Recruiting Trends 79-80

continued from page 4 REFERENCE CHECKS IN SELECTION PROCESS

Most employers ( $84.1 \%$ ) check references when considering new college graduates for employment in their organizations References are checked most often $(64.6 \%)$ before the job offer is made. Other employers check references after the initial interview, after the second inter iew, and after the site interview. Some employers ( $12.7 \%$ ) check references after the individual has been given a job offer Nine employers check references after the job offer is accepted or after the individua
has started on the job. Most reference checks are done by telephone ( $70.1 \%$ ), some by letter, and a few by credit bureaus and personal visits.

VOCATIONAI. AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

Vocational and psychological testing for employment purposes is declining. Only 13.4 percent of the surveyed employers used vocational and psychological testing when considering new college graduates for employment. Of those 63 employers, only 26 use vocational and psychological esting more today than they did 5 years
ago. Generally, tests of this type are designed specifically for the employer's needs.

PREPARING FOR CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

Most employers are pleased with the interviewing preparation displayed by college students. Employers recommend that students read the employers' literature available in their placement office libraries, be ready to describe their career goals, present a well-prepared resume at the interview, and ask good questions.

EMPLOYERS' TOUGHEST RECRUITING PROBLEMS

This year the toughest recruiting problem was convincing individuals to relocate to
the organizations geographical location according to employers. The next problem most frequently cited was finding enough qualified minorities and women, and hiring qualified graduates within the starting compensation constraints. Competition between firms and competition for the outstanding candidates were also men tioned often. In recent years, employer have noticed an increase competition from other employers, constant increases in salaries resulting in a compression problem with establishedemployees, more emphasis on college recruiting, and in reased competition and demand for technical graduates.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JOB SEEKERS
(continued on page 6 )

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MANPOWER

## Summary of Recruiting Trends 79-80

continued from page 5 )
Employers have the following recommendations for new college graduates on how to get a job with their organizations: prepare for interviews, research any organization you are interviewing or , isiting, submit job applications, sign up for campus interviews, use your Place ment Services, earn good GPA's, se realistic career goals, show a genuine interest in work for an organization, gain prior work experiences (summer employ ment, part-time, co-op), have a well prepared resume, be enthusiastic, sell yourself, be aggressive/persistent/asser tive, enroll in a high demand academic
major, present a good appearance, be willing to work hard have a good work attitude, and demonstrate good communication skills.

TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR NEW HIRES

Most employers ( $96.1 \%$ ) have training programs for new hires. On the average. these training programs included $9-10$ hour of training each week during the first 6 months on the job. By far the most prevelant type of training is on the-job training (OJT); 418 employers have this. A distant second is orientation training.

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TURNOVER OF NEW COLLEGE HIRES
New college hires leave at the rate of 5-6 percent during the first year, according to the surveyed employers. A few employers $(34.9 \%)$ stated that 7 percent or more of their new hires left during the first year. Turnover rates vary greatly depending upon employer type too. Most new college graduates leave their first organization during the first two years because they eceive a better job offer. As a second
able to adapt

MANPOWER FORECASTING
Many employers ( $68.2 \%$ ) use manpower forecasting when establishing quotas for new college hires. One year is the usual time span for these projections ( $48.5 \%$ ) Approximately 22.4 percent of the em ployers use 5 years as the time projection. Some emplovers $18.9 \%$ are not usin manpower forecasting because they have not found an acceptable system.

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Located across from Abbott Hall

(continued from page 6) MOTIVATING NEW COLLEGE HIRES

Motivating new college graduates is most readily accomplished by providing them with interesting work, promotion, and growth within the organization, according to employers. To a lesser extent, they are motivated by a full appreciation of work done, good wages, a feeling of being in on things, and good working conditions.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WITH MOST JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Almost one third of the surveyed em ployers (29.9\%) did not know which geographical region in the United States would be the easiest for new college graduates to find jobs. Of those employers who rated the regions, Southcentral who rated the regions, Southcentral
(Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Kansas, Loui(Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Kansas, Loui siana, etc.). Northcentral (Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota, etc.), and Southwest (California, Nevada, Hawaii, New Mexico, Arizona, etc.) were rated highest. Those regions with the lowest ratings were Southeast. Northeast, and Northwest.


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## in landing the job.

## Resume importance stressed

"A resume is an advertising promotional piece that touches on all things that influence your qualifications and that is geared to represent your best interests," said Edwin B. Fitzpatrick, of MSU Place ment Services.

The Placement Services offers a manual which deals with these considerations.
This manual says that for the best appeal to a prospective employer, a resume should be a summary of background, experience and ambitions. In addition, the candidate
for a job must give the impression that he knows what he wants
The resume should be constructed in a logical easy to follow sequence Everything should fall into place
The employment candi date should also have a clear employment objec tive. But the candidate should not overwhelm the employer with this state ment.
For the best results, the resume should be no longer than one page. Employers react negatively to a multipage resume, on the whole.

Most employers have stacks and stacks of and can only scan them. I is important to get the most pertinent information on one page.
The resume should also be visually attractive. It should be appealing to the eye.

Fitzpatrick also said that professional copy services should be used.

The most problem areas in student resumes are usually past employment and education description. These are the most im
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portant parts of the resume.

Most students tend to underwrite their educational background. Education is a major qualifier for employers, said Fitzpatrick.
A good resume can often be ruined by a bad cover letter. Just as much thought should be given to the cover letter as was given to the resume.
Advice and counselling on questions pertaining to resume difficulties is available in Placement Services from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

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