Job Outlook for Graduates

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), overall hiring expectations for new graduates remain positive, although the college recruitment expectations for the future are uncertain.

When NACE surveyed employers last fall, employers projected a 16% gain in hiring, but when these same employers were surveyed in February 2008, the percentage lowered to just 8%. While this is still an increase in hiring projections, it is not as robust as first predicted.

Several industries are projecting double digit hiring—utilities, nonprofit, and government. However, the effects of the downturn in construction and finance industries are being felt in other portions of the economy.

Regionally, only the South appears to be undergoing a decline in recruiting plans, while the Midwest and Northeast are increasing the number of college recruits that they will hire.

While Saint Louis University’s Career Services has not noticed a reduction in the number of job postings or on-campus recruiters this spring semester, we are cautiously optimistic about the future.

One thing that is changing in the recruiting cycle is that many employers hire May graduates in the fall of the students senior year. This means that students need to be creating their job search plan two semesters prior to graduating if they want the competitive jobs.

What should seniors be doing when they arrive on campus in the fall?

1. Remind students that it typically takes three to six months to secure employment. Longer in a slow economy!
2. Update their resume and have a career counselor critique it. Employers typically spend less than 30 seconds reviewing a resume, so it must be concise yet attractive to the eye.
3. Work with a career counselor to create a job search plan.
5. Attend the fall career fair to get an opportunity to interact with employers.
6. Create a Job Search Agent in Career Services’ database to keep abreast of new job postings.

NACE Job Outlook 2008 Spring Update.

Check out our Career-Casts, featuring five-minute interviews with area professionals, interns, and alumni! Go to careers.slu.edu and listen from your computer or iPod!
Going Global is a new resource available to Saint Louis University students and alumni. These career guides are the ultimate international job seeker’s guide!

This massive research tool contains more than 35,000 resources for finding international internships and jobs both in the U.S. and abroad.

There are more than 40 city guides from around the country, and more than 20 different country career guides from such countries as France, Germany, Spain, and China.

Each career guide contains job search resources, information on employment opportunities and trends, industry-specific trade and professional organization information and links, business resources, work permits and visa regulations, resume writing guidelines, and cultural and interviewing advice.

To access Going Global, students must log into our jobs database, formerly called Career SLeUth.

If you have any questions or want a personal tour of the site, call Tyene Neal at 977-2817.

Top Five Reasons for Students to use Career Services

1. We treat all students on an individual basis.
2. Our career counselors are knowledgeable in current recruiting trends.
3. We offer career assessments and card sorts to help students learn more about themselves.
4. Students who use our services report that they are satisfied with their experience.
5. It’s never too early to learn what careers fit with their majors, interests, and skills.

Career Services has posted more than 3,000 jobs during the past year and average 234 open internships per month.