

Job Placement of Graduate Students.

We conducted a careful follow-up study of our Ph.D. graduates in 1991. First we will summarize those findings, then update them for both M.S. and Ph.D. graduates for the 10 years from 1993 through 2002.

The 1991 Ph.D. Follow-Up Study.

Our department has awarded the M.S. degree since 1942, and was approved to award the Ph.D. degree in 1979. From 1979 through 1991, 53 doctoral degrees were awarded. A concerted effort to track these graduates led to career data on all but one of these doctoral alumni.

Overall, 21 (40%) of the Ph.D. graduates had obtained administrative or tenure track faculty positions at colleges or universities. An additional (21%) held research scientist or postdoctoral research fellow positions at the time of our survey. Ten (19%) were in lecturer or instructor positions, and 12 (23%) held applied positions as program directors or therapists. Two (3%) pursued further study in a related discipline.

Academic Administration. Four Ph.D. graduates worked in academic administration, three as Deans and one as Assistant Vice-Chancellor. Their universities included University of Wisconsin-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, and the State University of New York-Buffalo.

Professors. Our doctoral graduates worked as professors both within the U.S. and overseas. Within the U.S. their employers ranged from small colleges (e.g. Wheelock College) to large universities (e.g. University of Arizona, Rutgers, Syracuse). Five of the campuses in the University of Wisconsin System had professors from our department.

The Post-Doctoral Training Programs in which our graduates pursued further study included highly selective positions, such as at the Max Plank Institute for Human Development and Education in Berlin, and the Clinical Research Training Program in Adolescence Program at the Michael Reese Hospital of the University of Chicago.

Instructor positions were at settings ranging from large universities (e.g. Iowa State) to 2-year technical colleges.

Applied positions ranged from University Extension Specialist to program director for a developmental screening program for infants and children.

Overall, the department and campus (for which a formal report was written) were pleased with both the high quality of positions attained by our doctoral graduates, and the mix of types of positions. About half our Ph.D. graduates had gone into academic or

research positions, while the other half had pursued positions primarily in teaching, outreach, or applied programs.

Update through 2002.

We keep informal records on our M.S. and Ph.D. graduates and, although incomplete, these records can be used to paint a more recent picture of the careers to which we have launched our graduate alumni. Looking at the 10-year period from 1993 through 2002, we awarded 36 Masters Degrees and 51 Doctoral Degrees.

M.S. Careers. Of the 36 M.S. degrees awarded, we have information on the careers of 26. Nearly half of these, 12 of the 26 (46%), went on to doctoral programs (either with us or at another university).

Almost a quarter (6 of the 26) were employed as teachers or lecturers, or in applied programs for families. Another 6 were employed as either researchers (3) or as therapists (3). The teaching positions were quite varied, ranging from a Lead Teacher for the Bing Laboratory Preschool at Stanford University to instructor at technical colleges. Those who had positions as therapists had gained additional training for these jobs, since our department does not offer this training. The applied positions were also quite varied. One M.S. graduate worked as a market research analyst for a Health Maintenance Organization. Another directed an Even Start Program in Texas, while a third directed a family service organization serving the Latino population in Chicago.

Ph.D. Careers. Of the 51 Ph.D. degrees awarded, we have information of the careers of all but 4. Over half (55%) have obtained academic positions, either as tenure-track faculty (n=23) or in academic administration (n=3). Nearly one-third (32%) have positions directing applied programs for families (n=9) or as teachers / lecturers (n=6). The remaining Ph.D. graduates were employed as university Extension Specialists (n=2), research scientists (n=2), or as therapists (n=2).

Overall.

The general picture has not changed from the earlier period (1979-1991) to the more recent period (1993-2002). About half our Ph.D. graduates go into academic positions as faculty or administrators, while the other half work in applied positions as program directors, teachers, researchers, or therapists.

Perhaps surprisingly, the general picture for M.S. graduates is somewhat similar. About half are on the “academic” track, moving from the M.S. degree into doctoral study. The other half use their M.S. degree and training in applied positions.

This mixture of careers is very much in line with our department’s mission, as well as the University’s land-grant mission.