

**SOICC Employment Report**  
**1997-98 Graduates**  
**January 2001**

<http://www.tamucc.edu/~apaweb/>

**The Office of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness**

**Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

## Introduction

This report is the product of a pilot study organized by the *Texas State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee* (SOICC) in 1998. It is the third in a series of reports from the pilot project from SOICC. The purpose of this study is to answer the question: "What happens to students after they complete their education and enter the workforce?"

In the past, the answer to this question was estimated through alumni surveys that usually had low participation rates that, in turn, produced relatively unreliable results. The purpose of the SOICC approach is to find a more reliable way to track former students into the job market.

SOICC, through a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, introduced the *Automated Student and Adult Learner Follow-up System* for public universities in Texas beginning with the 1995-96 academic year. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi was one of the institutions participating in this first year experiment. As an extension to the first year study, SOICC provided data for the 1996-97 and the 1997-98 academic years under the same arrangements.

The SOICC program links Unemployment Insurance records maintained by the *Texas Workforce Commission* with *Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board* files of graduates. The end product is a file which includes the employer name, Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code of the employer, and quarterly wages earned by the individual, matched with the individual's major and degree earned. The specific job held by the individual is not identified in this report, only the general industrial classification of the employer.

The data file is very complete for graduates working in the state of Texas, but there are some exceptions. Excluded are graduates serving in the military, federal civil service, and postal service. In addition, employment outside of the state of Texas cannot be tracked at this time. Nonetheless, on a state-wide basis, in 1997-98 the SOICC data system identified the employment status of approximately 72% of Texas graduates. This rate is much higher and more accurate than could be obtained through traditional survey methods.

SOICC also provides an auxiliary service through an interagency agreement with the Survey Research Center at the University of North Texas to obtain payroll titles and other information for recent graduates employed in Texas. Only former students who were found to be working in the fourth quarter of 1998 were included in the survey. For TAMU-CC, 934 individuals were identified through this survey technique, and responses were obtained from employers for 664 (71% response rate).

The payroll titles, once obtained by interviewers, are translated into a standard occupational taxonomy for use in an automated computer algorithm that rates the training relatedness of the graduates' employment to their major. This algorithm or "crosswalk" from academic major to occupational code is controversial and problematic, especially for non-technical degrees from 4-year universities. TAMU-CC is working directly with SOICC to enhance and improve the quality of this crosswalk for universities. Additionally, interviewers obtain the city, county, and zip code of the location where the graduate works. This location can be different from the location provided by the Unemployment Insurance records because UI records report where paychecks originate rather than the physical location of an employee.

Graduates who found employment in the military, federal civil service or postal service are not included in the survey, as well as any graduates who found employment out of state. Also, there are many students who work for large employers that may not be represented because their employers used third party payroll processing entities that did not respond to the survey.

## Summary

The purpose of this report is to track the employment patterns of 1997-1998 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi graduates in the fourth quarter of 1998. This quarter was chosen to approximate the graduate's first employment after completion of their degree. From SOICC records, 1,173 graduates were tracked and classified into three categories: employed full-time, employed part-time, and missing. For the University as a whole, 839 graduates or 72% were employed full-time, 228 or 19% were employed part-time, and 106 or 9% had no employment records (missing). Additionally, 25 graduates were enrolled in a Texas public academic institution without an employment record. A total of 81 graduates or 7% were missing and had no education or employment record. A graduate with no record could mean he is unemployed, has left the state, or is working in federal civil service, the military, or the postal service.

Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code data were provided by the SOICC on a per graduate basis. The SIC Code provides information about the general industry in which the graduate is working but not the particular job the graduate is performing.

A total of 164 different four-digit SIC codes are represented among the 1997-98 graduates. University-wide, the fields that employ most of our graduates are listed in the table below. Fifty-four percent of the 1997-98 employed graduates work in these seven industries:

**Table 1**  
**Highest Employing SIC Codes**

<u>SIC Name</u>	<u>Number Employed</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Elementary & Secondary Schools	329	31%
Colleges, Universities, Professional Schools	97	9%
General Medical & Surgical Hospitals	80	8%
Executive & Legislative Offices Combined	40	4%
Individual & Family Social Services	34	3%
Help Services	27	2.5%
Junior Colleges and Technical Institutes	25	2%

*[The next highest employing SIC code industry has less than 20 employed.]*

Elementary and Secondary Schools is the number one employment category for College of Arts & Humanities graduates and College of Education graduates, and ranks third for graduates from the College of Science & Technology.

Table 2 illustrates median estimated annualized incomes for full-time employed graduates of different levels. University-wide, Bachelor degree graduates earned \$25,996, Master degree graduates earned \$32,100 and Doctoral graduates earned \$53,632. Table 2 also illustrates the median annualized estimated incomes for full-time employed graduates from each College of the University.

**Table 2**  
**Employment Facts by College**  
**for Graduates in 1997-1998 Cohort**

College	Degree	#Full-time Employed	Annualized Median Income	#Part-time Employed	Missing or #Un- Employed	Total
<b>A&amp;H</b>	Bachelors	152	\$22,320	91	27	270
	Masters	28	\$26,636	13	3	44
		180		104	30	314
<b>BUS</b>	Bachelors	96	\$28,696	22	15	133
	Masters	32	\$35,798	4	8	44
		128		26	23	177
<b>ED</b>	Bachelors	118	\$25,972	27	9	154
	Masters	207	\$31,496	30	12	249
	Doctorate	12	\$53,632	1	0	12
		337		57	21	415
<b>S&amp;T</b>	Bachelors	141	\$31,872	32	22	195
	Masters	53	\$33,528	9	10	72
		194		41	32	267
<b>Total</b>	BA/BS	507	\$25,996	172	73	752
	MA/MS	320	\$32,100	55	33	408
	EdD	12	\$53,632	1	0	13
		839		228	106	1,173

SOICC data allows an analysis of income earned by college, major, and level. Median income is used below because it is a more reliable measure of income central tendency (unusually high and low salaries do not influence the median.) The highest paid majors (estimated annualized median income earned) in each College are the following:

**Table 3**  
**Highest Estimated Annualized Median Salaries**  
**By College & Level**

Arts & Humanities:	
BM Music	\$27,652
MPA Public Administration	\$31,480
Business Administration:	
BBA Computer Info Systems	\$41,628
MBA Management	\$38,190
Education:	
BS Occupational Education	\$29,507
MS Educational Administration	\$33,768
EdD Educational Leadership	\$53,632
Science & Technology:	
BS Computer & Info Sciences	\$41,648
MSN Nursing	\$50,616

A total of 304 graduates re-enrolled in an institution of higher education in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1998. Of those who re-enrolled, 88%, or 266 students, re-enrolled at TAMU-CC in that quarter, while the other 12% enrolled at other institutions in Texas. 66% of those who enrolled for further education are employed full-time, 26% are employed part-time, and 8% do not have employment records. Some of the other institutions where students transferred include: Del Mar College (9), Texas A&M-Kingsville (5), Texas Southern University (3), University of Texas at San Antonio (3), Texas A&M-Main Campus (3), University of Houston (2), and University of Texas at Austin (2). Of the graduates who re-enrolled, 198 received Bachelor's degrees and 105 received Master's degrees, and one received a Doctorate degree from TAMU-CC during the 1998 Academic year. Table 4 outlines the re-enrolling students.

**Table 4**  
**TAMU-CC Graduates 1997-98 Academic Year**  
**Those Re-enrolled in an Institution of Higher Education**  
**During Fall 1998**

Total Graduates	1,173
Bachelor's Re-enrolled	198 (17%)
Master's Re-enrolled	105 (9%)
Doctorate's Re-enrolled	1

**Re-Enrolled and Employment**

	No Employment Record	Part-time Employed	Full-time Employed	Total
Bachelor's Degree Graduates	17	62	119	198
Master's Degree Graduates	8	16	81	105
Doctoral Degree Graduates	0	0	1	1

**Graduates Re-enrolled at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi**

Bachelor's Degree Graduates	174
Master's Degree Graduates	91
Doctoral Degree Graduates	1

Tables 5 through 8 illustrate the number and percent of full-time and part-time employed graduates by College and by major, along with the estimated median annualized full-time salary for the major.

**Table 5**  
**SOICC Information for Graduates 1997-1998**  
**Employment Facts by Major**

**College of Arts and Humanities**

Major	Degree	#degrees awarded	#Full-time	%Full-time	#Part-time	%Part-time	#Missing	%Missing	Est. Median Annual Full-time Salary
Communications	BA	36	19	53%	11	31%	6	17%	\$18,508
English	BA	28	14	50%	12	43%	2	7%	\$22,960
Psychology	BA	65	30	46%	26	40%	9	14%	\$20,024
Criminal Justice	BS	71	49	69%	18	25%	4	6%	\$23,232
History	BA	20	7	35%	8	40%	5	25%	\$24,140
Music	BM	7	6	86%	0	0%	1	14%	\$27,652
Spanish	BA	2	0	0%	2	100%	0	0%	NA
Political Science	BA	8	5	63%	3	38%	0	0%	\$14,416
Sociology	BA	17	11	65%	6	35%	0	0%	\$21,348
Art	BA	9	5	56%	4	44%	0	0%	\$14,564
Art	BFA	7	6	86%	1	14%	0	0%	\$23,520
English	MA	11	6	55%	4	36%	1	9%	\$25,536
Psychology	MA	12	7	58%	3	25%	2	17%	\$26,190
Public Administration	MPA	21	15	71%	6	29%	0	0%	\$31,480

<b>Total</b>		<b>314</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10%</b>	
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**Table 6**  
**SOICC Information for Graduates 1997-1998**  
**Employment Facts by Major**

**College of Business**

Major	Degree	#degrees awarded	#Full-time	%Full-time	#Part-time	%Part-time	#Missing	%Missing	Est. Median Annual Full-time Salary
General Business	BBA	15	10	67%	3	20%	2	13%	\$27,080
Management	BBA	27	20	74%	4	15%	3	11%	\$29,566
Accounting	BBA	40	27	68%	7	18%	6	15%	\$26,044
Banking & Finance	BBA	14	10	71%	2	14%	2	14%	\$29,668
Computer Information Systems	BBA	14	13	93%	1	7%	0	0%	\$41,628
Marketing	BBA	23	16	70%	5	22%	2	9%	\$26,268
Management	MBA	38	26	68%	4	11%	8	21%	\$38,190
Accounting	MPA	6	6	100%	0	0%	0	0%	\$34,464
<b>Total</b>		<b>177</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13%</b>	

**Table 7**  
**SOICC Information for Graduates 1997-1998**  
**Employment Facts by Major**

**College of Education**

Major	Degree	#degrees awarded	#Full-time	%Full-time	#Part-time	%Part-time	#Missing	%Missing	Est. Median Annual Full-time Salary
Interdisciplinary Studies	BSIS	98	78	80%	16	16%	4	4%	\$25,972
Occupational Education	BS	16	12	75%	2	13%	2	13%	\$29,507
Kinesiology	BS	40	28	70%	9	23%	3	8%	\$27,294
Curriculum & Instruction	MS	57	51	89%	4	7%	2	4%	\$31,672
Special Education	MS	10	7	70%	2	20%	1	10%	\$28,020
Counseling & Guidance	MS	85	62	73%	17	20%	6	7%	\$30,430
Elementary Education	MS	7	5	71%	1	14%	1	14%	\$28,264
Reading	MS	12	11	92%	0	0%	1	8%	\$30,220
Occupational Education	MS	17	16	94%	0	0%	1	6%	\$39,548
Educational Administration	MS	45	42	93%	3	7%	0	0%	\$33,768
Educational Leadership	EdD	13	12	92%	1	8%	0	0%	\$53,632
Secondary Education	MS	11	9	82%	2	18%	0	0%	\$28,676
Educational Technology	MS	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	\$29,088
Interdisciplinary Studies	MA	3	3	100%	0	0%	0	0%	\$19,200
<b>Total</b>		<b>415</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5%</b>	

**Table 8**  
**SOICC Information for Graduates 1997-1998**  
**Employment Facts by Major**

**College of Science & Technology**

Major	Degree	#degrees awarded	#Full-time	%Full-time	#Part-time	%Part-time	#Missing	%Missing	Est. Median Annual Full-time Salary
Environmental Science	BS	20	14	70%	2	10%	4	20%	\$25,926
Computer & Info Sciences	BS	39	30	77%	5	13%	4	10%	\$41,648
Biology	BS	52	27	52%	20	38%	5	10%	\$13,804
Mathematics	BS	11	8	73%	1	9%	2	18%	\$27,501
Geology	BS	4	2	50%	0	0%	2	50%	\$24,832
Nursing	BSN	57	51	89%	1	2%	5	9%	\$36,736
Chemistry	BS	11	3	27%	2	18%	0	0%	\$30,956
Medical Technology	BS	4	3	75%	1	25%	0	0%	\$32,160
Health Science	BSHS	3	3	100%	0	0%	0	0%	\$38,812
Mariculture	MS	4	0	0%	1	25%	3	75%	NA
Computer & Info Sciences	MS	15	11	73%	2	13%	2	13%	\$30,000
Applied Biology	MS	22	19	86%	1	5%	2	9%	\$32,496
Mathematics	MS	4	3	75%	0	0%	1	25%	\$33,208
Nursing	MSN	22	17	77%	3	14%	2	9%	\$50,616
Biology	MS	5	3	60%	2	40%	0	0%	\$21,004
<b>Total</b>		<b>273</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12%</b>	

## **Methodology**

SOICC records from the 1997-98 academic year were provided to the Office of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness in the Spring of 2000. The data received were cleaned to suppress individual social security numbers in order to comply with confidentiality requirements. SPSS was used to analyze the ASCII data set from SOICC. The data provided by SOICC produced a file of 1,173 graduates for 1997-98 (December 1997, May 1998, August 1998).

CIP codes (indicating individual majors) and SIC codes (indicating employer industrial classification) were translated using look-up tables provided by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Employment for the fourth quarter of 1998 was used where available as the quarterly wage estimator and employment SIC code of record. Some individuals had multiple employers during the same quarter. In these cases, the SIC code of the employer of highest earnings for the quarter is reported.

Quarterly wages were multiplied by four to estimate annual salary. Estimated annual salaries over \$10,000 are called "full-time", estimated annual salaries between \$1 and \$10,000 are called "part-time." Those records having no quarterly wages or employer matches are called "missing." A graduate may be reported "missing" for the following reasons: (1) not working; (2) left the state; (3) employed in the military, federal civil service, or postal service. Aggregated quarterly and annual wages are reported here as mean wages and median wages.