

Uses for Follow-Up Studies of Graduates Results

Career and Further Education Study

Survey of Alumni Study

- **What is the difference between Ohio University's two follow-up studies of graduates (the Career and Further Education Study and the Survey of Alumni)?**
The one-year Career and Further Education Study surveys all degree (associate, bachelors, masters, doctoral and professional) graduates about one year after graduation. The questionnaire collects both employment information and further education information from graduates. Academic departments have the opportunity to develop their own department-specific questions to be included for their graduates. The five-year Survey of Alumni, on the other hand, surveys bachelors degree graduates about five years after graduation. The Survey of Alumni is conducted every two years and surveys two classes. The questionnaire collects information on employment information, further education information and outcomes assessment information. Academic colleges are given the opportunity to design college-specific question to be included for their graduates.
- **Why are follow-up surveys of graduates important?** Both the Career and Further Education and Survey of Alumni studies are part of Ohio University's university-wide outcomes assessment. Results from follow-up studies of graduates provide valuable assessment information that can better inform faculty and staff about the outcomes of their academic programs.
- **How do these results pertain to my academic unit?** Follow-up studies of graduates can assist your academic unit to determine how alumni view their academic experience. They provide the professional and vocational status of alumni. They present an assessment of the achievement of unit, college and institutional goals and objectives.
- **How can these results be used?** Follow-up surveys of graduates can be useful in many ways. *Note the examples that follow the list of uses.*
 1. As a resource of advising information for individual student educational and career development
 2. As feedback for faculty and staff for assessment
 3. As feedback for faculty for program curriculum development
 4. As feedback for faculty for general education curriculum development
 5. As feedback for faculty and staff for accreditation reviews
 6. As a resource for student job/internship placement contacts
 7. As an evaluative tool for the quality and/or use of student support services
 8. As a resource for the recruitment of new students (answering questions from prospective students and parents)
 9. As a resource of advising information for students seeking graduate/professional schools.

- **Example 1: Career & Alumni Data for Advising** - During an advising session a student asks you what the average salary of graduates in the field are expected to earn. The Career and Further Education table for your department provides the average salary of graduates one year after graduation and the Survey of Alumni could provide this information for graduates five years after graduation. Or if the student inquires about the types of job opportunities that are available in the field and with which employers, the list-wise data from either the Career or Alumni Study could provide some examples of actual jobs/employers or graduate schools for your advisee.
- **Example 2: Career & Alumni Data for Curriculum** – Assessment data may accompany requests to a college or university curriculum committee for additional courses or course revisions. The Survey of Alumni might reveal that the department’s graduates find themselves lacking a particular skill required for graduate school or employment. The department could use the results of the survey to support a request for a new course to teach that skill. This example could also apply to assessment of general education program, particularly with the use of the Survey of Alumni competencies assessment section.
- **Example 3: Career & Alumni Data for Recruitment** – Findings about the satisfaction of current graduates can be used to recruit new students to your academic program. Faculty and staff may find this information helpful when answering questions from prospective students and parents about program outcomes -- job opportunities, satisfaction, and graduate school. Publishing alumni satisfaction results in recruitment materials also provides information to prospective students and their parents. These data could be useful for both undergraduate and graduate recruiting.