

Job market looks bright

Graduates can look forward to a brighter, if only a bit brighter, job market this year according to the College Placement Council's (CPC) January report. This season may be "another harbinger of brighter employment prospects for this year's college graduates."

The report states that employers expect to hire 12 per cent more graduates in 1976-77 than last year.

Although job prospects are up from last year, they are still below the same point in 1974 and 1975, said Don Sutton, UNL placement office assistant director.

According to the report, substantial increases in the number of job offers are evident at all degree levels: 20 per cent bachelors; 28 per cent masters and 20 per cent doctoral.

Sutton said the placement office sees little change in the job market for graduates.

"We see little fluctuation in the number of companies that are coming to interview this year," he said. "But those companies are becoming more selective than in the past."

Previously, Sutton said, companies have been willing to talk with a variety of students. Now they limit themselves to a few; those referred by instructors or those with majors that qualify them for available job openings, he said.

Sutton said most interviewing companies are looking for engineers. The

CPC report states that a new interest has risen in the fields of nuclear engineering, engineering physics and geological sciences.

In addition to engineers, the greatest number of companies interviewing are looking for business and accounting majors, Sutton said.

This does not mean only these positions are available because the companies that interview have more than a few positions to fill, Sutton said.

"But students shouldn't think that just because a company doesn't come to UNL to interview there aren't jobs available. There are jobs, students just have to go out, look for them and get them," he said.

Sutton said graduates will probably find work but they may have to start out on a lower level than they had planned.

"Don't go to graduate school just because you can't get a job because there is no guarantee that a master's degree will qualify you for one," he said.

Sutton said that "we could be seeing a trend where students that hold their masters, find that they are over-qualified for available jobs."

The job situation looks like it could improve, but will take time, he said.

Sophomore and junior students can't expect that things will be "perfectly rosy" by the time they graduate, Sutton added. "The improvement will be slow and I don't think we will ever again see the time where a graduate has six or seven job offers."



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