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## Engineering graduates reap highest salaries

By Cynthia Hutchinson  
Staff Reporter

Engineering graduates usually find job hunting easier and salaries higher than most other graduates, according to recent surveys.

For the second consecutive year, petroleum engineering graduates were offered higher average starting salaries (\$30,636) than any other job field. Chemical and electrical engineering, (including computer engineering), brought the second- and third-highest offers at \$28,428 and \$27,396, according to the College Placement Council's July 1985 report.

The report includes job offers made to graduating seniors between Sept. 1, 1984, and Aug. 31, 1985. UNL was one of 187 placement offices participating in the survey.

Prospective computer science graduates were offered starting salaries at \$24,984. That figure is 1.8 percent higher than last year's starting salaries. Most disciplines posted a 3 percent to 5 percent salary increase over last year. Humanities graduates had the only decrease.

The survey said the slow growth in computer science was a surprise and "this high demand discipline did not have as strong a year as expected."

The spring 1984 "Occupational Outlook Quarterly" predicted that computer programming jobs, between 1985 and 1995, will increase by 70 percent over 1984 levels and computer service technicians jobs will increase the most at 97 percent. Computer systems analysts jobs are expected to increase by 85 percent.

In the survey, business graduates accounted for 27 percent of the 44,479 total job offers made to persons with bachelor's degrees. Engineering seniors accounted for 55 percent of the offers.

The job market for the various business disciplines was described by the report as a "mixed bag" — some areas of business did better than others.

The number of jobs offered to accounting majors was second to offers to electrical engineering majors. Accounting salaries averaged \$20,364.

Accounting offers aren't as "accelerated" as engineering offers, but accounting is traditionally a strong market, said Gerry Phaneuf, director of UNL's career planning and placement center.

Marketing graduates also received more offers than last year and had average starting salary

offers of \$18,576, 4 percent higher than last year.

General business graduates, including management, received fewer offers than last year.

In a survey of master's degree candidates, MBA's accounted for 48 percent of 5,612 total job offers while master's of engineering accounted for 36 percent.

The "Occupational Outlook Quarterly" said administration jobs are growing faster in electronic components, manufacturing and data processing, adding that health administration jobs will "grow faster than average."

**Liberal arts graduates are in demand. More companies are looking for well-rounded people who aren't specialized in one area.**

Gerry Phaneuf  
UNL career planning and placement director

Phaneuf said health professions are "booming." Medical professions had a greater increase in beginning offers (12.9 percent) than any other discipline. Placement sources say the increase can be attributed to a health consciousness in America and the increasing number of elderly people.

Liberal arts graduates are in demand Phaneuf said. More companies are looking for well-rounded people who aren't specialized in one area, he said.

Last year there was a significant increase in the number of companies recruiting UNL liberal arts graduates, he said.

"Often times they are more valuable to a corporation. Companies are becoming more aware that arts and science graduates are just as marketable as business graduates," Phaneuf said.

The CPC survey showed that liberal arts graduates received starting offers that were 6.4 percent higher than last year, bringing their salaries up to about \$18,540.

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