

New job adjustment difficult

Graduates with internships adapt to work quicker, official says

By Joel Strauch
Staff Reporter

Graduation day may leave graduates with challenges for which they are unprepared, one UNL faculty member said.

Graduates who begin a job in a professional work setting may have difficulty adjusting, said Sandra Corbitt, the assistant director of UNL's Career Planning and Placement Center.

Corbitt said most students' work experiences were limited to part-time jobs they had in high school and college.

"These jobs have a much more relaxed atmosphere and are fairly easy to adjust to," she said.

Most graduates entering the professional work environment, however, may have problems dealing with the hierarchy, understanding what behaviors are appropriate and knowing what policies their employers might have on issues such as dating co-workers, Corbitt said.

Students going to work full time will experience the same feelings that they had when they first entered the university, Corbitt said.

"They are in a new environment, and they have to get used to it," she said.

Corbitt said there was one way to make the transition a little easier:

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— Corbitt
assistant director of Career Planning and Placement Center

"Internships are the easiest, fastest and most productive way to assimilate into these settings," she said.

"They give students a chance to learn about the job firsthand while still being in a protected environment.

"Interns have fewer responsibilities and are given more time to learn the job requirements," she said.

Graduates may also be unprepared for additional financial expenses, Corbitt said.

Graduates, she said, "may not have needed transportation and now they have to buy a car, or they might have lived with roommates in a sparse house and now they have to pay everything themselves and furnish their apartment."

Another unexpected expense is clothing.

Before graduation, students may have had only one suit for interviews, and some jobs demand they wear a

suit to work every day, she said.

If their job is far away from home, graduates also may lack the support networks they had in school.

"Most students have family nearby, or at least friends who they can turn to when they have problems," Corbitt said, "but if their job is halfway across the country, they have to do things on their own."

"Students need to view these adjustments as challenges, not problems. Challenges can be exciting, but people want to avoid problems," Corbitt said.

"Some students do view (these adjustments) as problems and try to avoid them by returning to school," she said. "But if they just stick with it, they usually settle in within two or three months."

International stint sharpens skills

By Beau Finley
Staff Reporter

Studying abroad can be a valuable career move according to Susan Dahm, coordinator of the UNL's study abroad program.

Dahm said studying in another country provided a student with a valuable edge when entering the work force.

"International experience adds one more marketable skill that can help your resume," Dahm said. "Especially in the international markets, it's a great indicator of experience."

Junior Lisa Schurke, who studied in Japan for a semester, said the experience she received was more valuable than things she has learned in the classroom.

"I got a better education (studying

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— Dahm,
UNL study abroad coordinator

in Japan)," Schurke said. "The experience you get teaches you so much more than you learn in school."

Many people agree with Schurke, Dahm said, as the number of students traveling abroad has increased from previous years.

Dahm said there are other reasons to study abroad than merely the experience.

"After traveling abroad, students return with a confidence that they can handle whatever goes on," Dahm said. "If they can deal with this challenge, they can handle anything."

Studying abroad can also get an individual out of school and into the job market more quickly.

Schurke said her trip to Japan and her planned trip to Asia again this summer will give her enough credits to graduate in three and a half years of school.

See ABROAD on 10

Grads bypass job market for more school

By Sam Kepfield
Staff Reporter

With that coveted diploma in hand, some graduates will immediately march off into the "real world" of suits, briefcases and nine-to-five lives.

But in an increasingly complex world, where a bachelor's degree is becoming the norm rather than the exception, more and more graduates are marching off the stage straight into the halls of academia. Having the initials M.A., Ph.D., M.B.A. or J.D. behind your name on a resume is not just a luxury, it may be necessary in some cases.

Dr. Merlin P. Lawson, dean of graduate studies, said graduate school enrollment increased 18 percent in

the past four years. Behind that figure, Lawson said, was a concurrent increase in inquiries, applications and admissions.

Lawson attributed the rise to two factors. The first factor, and probably most important, is that many students find graduate work is necessary to make them more competitive in a tougher job market. The second factor is a perceived economic slump.

Applications for the 150 spots in each class at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Law are increasing, Becky Colberg of the admissions office said. Applications for the class entering in the college in 1993 number 940, the same as last year. This number is up from 679 in 1988, 770 in 1989 and 908 in 1990.

Nebraska, she said, was not typical of law schools across the country, where admissions leveled off several years ago.

Reasons for applications to the law college echo those of graduate admissions. Some discover they cannot easily find jobs in the market and decide that law school is an attractive option. Others simply want a change of career.

Students considering graduate or law school should begin making inquiries early — at least a year before planned entrance — and do the same with all application and financial aid/scholarship forms (usually due in January or February for fall applicants).

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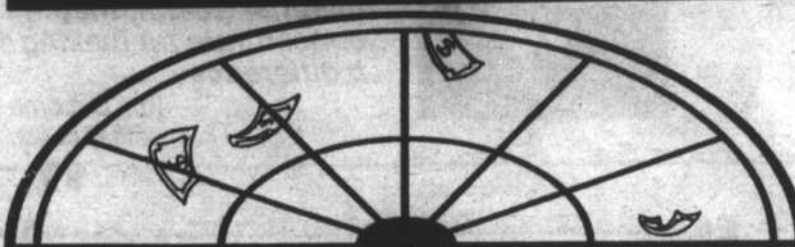
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