



Special Edition Newsletter

Fall Back to School

August 2007 • Issue 37 • Page 1 of 8

Inside this issue:

Most Lucrative College Degrees	1
U.C. to Conduct Survey	2
U.C. ID Cards	2
Parking Permits	2
Tuition Payment Plans	2
Meet Your Program Advisor	3
Tutoring News	3
U.C. Bookstore	3
U.C. Staff News	3
It's a Jungle Out There	4
Financial Aid Loan Rates	4
Disability Services	5
Getting Your GPA Back on Track	5
Scholarship Luncheon	5
Balancing Your Life	6
Efficient Note-Taking	7

Most Lucrative College Degrees

Nine out of 10 employees see competition for qualified graduates according to a new survey. Why it pays to be a nerd.

By Rob Kelley, CNNMoney.com Staff Writer

July 12, 2007 : 9:35 AM EDT

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) —

The salaries of new college graduates jumped across the board this year, as demand increased, according to a new survey.

Nearly nine out of 10 employers reported that they're seeing more competition for new college graduates than in past years, according to a study by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). "This continues the positive trend reported in the Winter and Spring issues of *Salary Survey*," Marilyn Mackes, NACE executive director, said in a statement, referring to the association's quarterly report.

The results suggest that the increased hiring is translating directly into higher average starting salary offers.

The students who made out the best were chemical engineering majors. They earned

an average 5.4 percent more than last year, bringing their average to \$59,361, according to the survey.

Computer engineering majors were offered \$56,201, up 4.8 percent.

Mechanical engineering grads offers' rose 4.6 percent to \$54,128. Electrical engineering grads' offers increased by 3.2 percent to \$55,292. Civil engineers earned \$48,509, up 5.4 percent.

Computer science majors saw salaries rise 4.1 percent to \$53,396, while information sciences grads received a 4.6 percent increase to \$50,852.

The average offer for economics graduates was \$48,483, while finance grads received a mean of \$47,239. There is no prior data for these majors because they were grouped together in earlier studies.

Management of information

systems majors posted a 4.2 percent increase to \$47,648. Marketing graduates averaged \$40,161, up 6.1 percent.

Accounting grads' average rose 2.3 percent to \$46,718, while business administration and management graduates saw their average rise 3.9 percent to \$43,701.

Good news for liberal arts

Liberal arts graduates also saw broad increases. Political science majors' offers averaged 5.9 percent more to \$34,590. English majors' averages rose 5.3 percent to \$32,553.

Psychology majors averaged \$31,631, up 4.7 percent, while sociology majors earned 3.5 percent more at \$32,033.

History majors were offered an average of \$33,768, up 3.3 percent

University Center to Conduct Comprehensive Student Survey

Student Input Impacts Service

Sioux Falls – Periodically, staff at University Center conduct surveys to determine student satisfaction and student needs. Student input always result in changes to processes and services based on what students say. This fall, students will have the latest chance to impact their learning environment.

Students will be randomly chosen to participate in the survey. Some students will

receive a survey on technology, for example, while others may receive one on advising, student services, academics, etc. The plan is to break them into smaller surveys to encourage students to take a few minutes to provide feedback.

Based on past surveys, the University Center has acted on student input. For example, tutoring was increased, a financial aid position was

added, the new facilities will include food service, and much more. Identifying and meeting student needs and evaluating effectiveness are the reasons for the surveys.

If you receive a request to complete a survey this fall, please do. Your opinion counts.



University Center ID Cards

With the changing of the name from USDSU to South Dakota Public Universities and Research Center, or University Center for short, comes a new design of the ID cards. The new card features the UC logo and the logos of all six of South Dakota's public universities. Students who are currently enrolled may exchange their USDSU card

for a new University Center card at the University Center Business Office any time during business hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-7pm, and Fridays 9am-5pm).

New students may get a UC ID card once they have registered for classes. There is no charge for new students or for the exchange of a USDSU

card for a UC ID card. Replacement of lost, stolen or damaged cards is \$10. UC ID cards with applied debit funds are used for accessing the printers at UC, making copies and purchasing merchandise at the UC Bookstore.

Parking Permits

Parking Permits are no longer required at University Center; however, vehicles will be ticketed for parking in faculty/staff or handicap spaces without the appropriate permits. Visitors will also be ticketed for parking in the visitor spaces after the one hour limit.

Tuition Payment Plans through SDePay and Nelnet

SD Board of Regents and University Center are excited to announce a new on-line tuition payment plan through SDePay and Nelnet Business Solutions, formerly FACTS Management Co. This is an interest free payment option for students with current tuition balances.

The on-line payment plan option will be available July

21 for the fall 2007 term. Students, and those whom they have designated as authorized payers, can access the FACTS payment plan through WebAdvisor and SDePay. The sooner the payment plan is established, the lower the monthly payment. Apply now!

- Fall Student Tuition Statements will be available on SDePay the first week of August.
- Fall 2007 tuition charges are due September 6, 2007

Meet Your Program Advisor at U.C. This Fall!

We want to make it easy for you to get acquainted with your program advisor!

If you have recently declared your major, you may be interested in meeting with the University advisor assigned to your major/program. Starting at the end of August, University advisors for UC programs are coming to Sioux Falls to

advise students. These advisors will be at University Center on a regularly scheduled basis during the fall 2007 semester for your convenience. Days and times that advisors will be at UC will be posted on our website at www.SDUniversityCenter.org and throughout our building.

Contact Sandy Van Ormer at 605-367-5650 or email her at sandy.vanormer@SDUniversityCenter.org to learn more about these times and/or to schedule a time to meet with your university program advisor.

Tutoring News

Mission

To provide support enhancing academics offered at University Center by inspiring learners to develop and advance their skills and abilities.

Hello, my name is Nancy Rumney; I am now coordinating the Tutoring Services here at University Center. Aaron Anthony has worked hard to put together a comprehensive and professional tutoring program and I look forward to continuing the excellence he

has established. Thank you, Aaron!

Thank you also to all the spring 2007 tutors: Asa Ashraf, Adam Boyd, Tim Bryan, Amanda Grimes, Angie Muller, Don Myers, Wes Parry, Kara Pitchford, and Michaela Stump, and to instructors like Dr. Sara Madsen, and Instructors Ken Green and John Hollingsworth who always provide support to our tutors.

Adam Boyd, Tim Bryan, and Don Myers have continued to tutor during the summer and

as always have done an excellent job inspiring learners! Michael Reopelle and Ling Sandbulte are two of our newest tutors.

The tutors can assist students in Math, English, Macro and Micro Economics and Chemistry. Their hours of availability, as well as sign up sheets, are available in Room 280. Hours are also posted on the bulletin boards and on the website. If you have any questions please contact me at 367-8412 or nancy.rumney@sduniversitycenter.org

University Center Bookstore

The University Center Bookstore will have extended hours prior to the beginning of the fall semester. The bookstore will be open from 8:00 am until 7:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 8:00 am until 5:00 pm on Fridays beginning August 30th through September 13th. After September 13th, the Bookstore's hours will be 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

on Fridays. Students wishing to obtain textbooks are asked to bring a copy of their class schedule to ensure the correct books are purchased.

Return Policy

If students need to return a textbook, the receipt must accompany the return. New books must be original condition, free from writing, highlighting or showing any usage. Textbook bundles must

contain all original components and software must be in original sealed package. Any textbook bundle that states no returns if opened will not be refunded if opened. Textbook refunds or exchanges will be given from the beginning of the semester through the university's last day to add or drop (census date) a course without charge when accompanied by a receipt. Please consult the university's calendar for the census date.

University Center Staff News

Congratulations to Sarah Rasmussen and her husband Casey, who became parents of a daughter, Samantha Grace, on May 31st. Sarah is the Assistant Director of Academic Coordination.

Dr. Sharon Sopko and Denise Heidebrink, from the Office of Academic Coordination presented "Advising in a Multi-Institutional Satellite Campus: A Model of Adventures" at the NACADA Conference in Duluth, Minnesota on May 30th.

Julie Rajdl, Accounting Assistant at the University Center Business Office, was appointed as the off-campus representative to the USD Career Service Advisory Council. Julie assumed her duties in July and will remain on the Council for the next two years. Julie replaced Jill Toland who recently completed her tenure.

Chris Assmus and Jill Toland from the Office of Academic Coordination have become members of the SD College Personnel Association.





It's a Jungle Out There ... Be Careful

Financial Aid Loan Rates

Rates are effective July 1, 2007— June 30, 2008

6.62% Federal Stafford Loans

- During in-school, grace, or deferment
- Based on the 91-day T-bill plus 1.7%, not to exceed 8.25%

7.22% Federal Stafford Loans

- During repayment
- Based on the 91-day T-bill plus 2.3%, not to exceed 8.25%

8.02% Federal PLUS Loans

- Based on the 91-day T-bill plus 3.1%, not to exceed 9.00%

Interest rates are variable and may change annually

Scholarship Scams

What about scholarship search services?

Many private scholarship search services provide sources of financial assistance. If you decide to use a search service, check its reputation by contacting the Better Business Bureau or a state attorney general's office. You can search for scholarships yourself at www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov or at www.sduniversity-center.org.

How can I tell if these search services are scams?

Are there any signs I should look for?

Be careful when searching for information on student financial aid. Estimates show that families lose millions of dollars every year to scholarship fraud. The College Scholarship Fraud Prevention Act protects against fraud in student financial assistance.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) cautions students to look for these telltale lines:

- "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."

- "You can't get this information anywhere else."
- "I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship."
- "You've been selected by a 'national foundation' to receive a scholarship."
- "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered.

Make sure the information you receive and offers for assistance are legitimate. Don't fall prey to fraud. To file a complaint with the FTC, or for free information, call

1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357). The TTY number is **1-866-653-4261**. Or visit www.ftc.gov/scholarship-scams.

Identity Theft

What happens if someone steals my identity and gets a student loan in my name?

For Stafford Loans and PLUS Loans, this is considered false certification of loan eligibility, and the loan might be discharged.

How can I avoid identity theft?

- Don't throw credit card applications you don't want into the trash. Cut them into several pieces, or shred them, so no one can retrieve them and

apply for credit in your name.

- Safeguard your Social Security number at all times. You generally have to provide it to your employer or your bank, but if a business wants it, ask why it's needed and how it will be used before you give it out. There probably is no legitimate reason for any business to need this type of information. Never give your Social Security number or driver's license number to anyone who calls you on the phone or contacts you online saying they need this information to verify your identity.

- Never give personal or financial information over the phone or the Internet unless you initiated the contact.

- If you decide to apply for our federal student aid programs over the Internet, do so at: www.fafsa.ed.gov or through www.FederalStudentAid.gov which are official U.S. Government Web sites that are protected from unauthorized disclosure. Keep your PIN and, your online student identifier in a secure place and never give it to anyone.

Congratulations

To Sharlen Krause, who successfully defended her dissertation and was awarded her EdD in Adult and Higher Education. Dr. Krause is the Director of Student Services at University Center.

Disability Services

University Center staff coordinates disability services with your home school. Services are individualized for your learning needs and are determined by the nature of the disability and available resources. Every attempt is made to ensure that courses, program and services are accessible to you.

We can help you make arrangements for any service to which you are entitled. One resource that is available in the computer lab is Kurzweil

and ZoomText will soon be available. Other possible support services could include:

- Classroom accommodations
- A distraction free testing environment
- Extended test time
- Note-taking assistance
- Reader and textbook recording services

All students who are seeking special assistance of accom-

modations should contact Sharlen Krause 367.8465 at University Center or the Office of Disability Services at your home school to register for services, Ernetta Fox, USD (605) 677-6389, Nancy Crooks, SDSU (605) 688-4504 Keith Bundy, DSU (605) 256-5121 or Karen Gerety, NSU (605) 626-2371. Also, check our website <http://sduniversitycenter.org>. Click on: • **Current Students**, • **Students Services**, and • **Disability Services**.



Been a little disappointed with your GPA? You would be surprised to know that students have less than perfect GPAs for many reasons. Some students took college courses years ago and will admit that studying wasn't their main focus back then. Now, they are coming back and it can take a few semesters of good grades before their GPA truly reflects their current aptitude, rather than their college experiences, from their first go round. Some students are starting out for the first time, either after starting a family or working on a first career. Getting into the groove of "college" is a different challenge than day-to-day challenges with family and/or a job, and making the

Getting Your GPA Back on Track

transition into the expectations of college can take a toll on the GPA. Whatever the reason for the less than perfect GPA, here are some tips on getting your GPA back on track:

- Take it slow—take one or two classes that you think you'll enjoy, that aren't your toughest subjects. This will ease you back into the expectations of college.
- Enroll in GS 143—Mastering Lifetime Learning Skills, a class offered at University Center through SDSU which is a great way to learn or relearn how to be a good student.
- Retake classes that you have grades you are not happy with, or classes that are important to your major in which you would like to refresh

your skills in.

- Get hooked up with a tutor — whether it be one-on-one or in a study group, University Center offers free tutoring in Math, English, ELL and Chemistry. Ask your instructor as well if class study groups can be formed. Getting help on something you don't understand is a great way to increase your GPA and make a connection to other students.

If you have tried all these options or you don't think any of them would work for you, stop in and meet with an advisor to discuss options right for you.

Welcome back! Good luck in the Fall 2007 Semester!

Scholarship Luncheon

University Center hosted a scholarship luncheon on April 24th at Minerva's. The event was held to honor the students that received scholarships and to show appreciation to the sponsors of the scholarships.

The scholarship winners for the 06-07 academic year were:

Rotary Scholarship:

Nicole Stauffacher
Jill Toland
Gretchen Larson
Kristi Feucht

Robert and Dr. Judy Nissen Scholarship:

Kristi Feucht

Donna Ohling Scholarship:

Angelia Drawbridge
Mitchell Gesinger
Amanda Bonnema

Congratulations to all the recipients!

Balancing Your Life:

Ideas on meeting the needs of family, work, and school



If you are just beginning your academic career or have completed a few semesters, the topic of balance is one that is a part of your life. The challenge of meeting demands from your family, work, and professors means that you must adapt new ways of thinking about your life and your connection to something greater than yourself. The following, adapted from www.learn-source.com, are methods for meeting all of these demands are useful in developing a new perspective and increasing your enjoyment of your educational journey.

1. Define your Goals

It is important for anyone who is heading back to school to define their goals surrounding their education. However, goal setting is particularly important if you also have a family at home to manage. By setting definite goals, not only will you be able to better work towards achieving your aspirations, but your family will also be knowledgeable about what it is you want to achieve. Moreover, goal setting can help you to cut back on activities that aren't contributing to your family or education.

- Brainstorm a list of things that you want to get out of going to school. Include things such as: completing tests and assignments, earning credits towards diplomas, learning new work or computer skills, or achieving educational goals that will further your career.

- On graph paper, choose the goals that you feel are most important to you. Write each goal along the top of the sheet.
- Underneath each goal, write what you need to do to achieve that goal. This may include researching information, studying chapters in online or written texts, or writing essays or reports.
- Share this goal chart with the members in your family. Be sure to tell all of your family members why these goals are important to you. Don't be afraid to ask them for help in order to achieve these goals (this may include maintaining quiet periods during the day, or helping out with the household chores). This will help to involve your family directly with your education.

2. Organize your Time

When you are managing a family and juggling schoolwork, it can often seem like there isn't enough time in the day to get everything done. By creating a timetable, you can be sure to get the time needed to do your schoolwork and have time left-over to be with your family. When creating your time management timetable include:

- Be sure to investigate the times when your children will be at school, activities, or appointments.
- Consider when you need to work or schedule off time for holidays.
- Create times that you will need to dedicate for school classes and studying.

- Post this timetable on your fridge or another central spot in your home, so everyone knows just what you need to get done.
- Be sure to include free time everyday so you can talk with your partner or children. During this time make yourself available for everyone in your family.

3. Learn to be Flexible

No matter how much you plan, sometimes things are going to come up out of the blue. Learn to accept these unforeseen events and try to plan around them.

- Get studying done ahead of time, in case an emergency comes up before a big test or exam.
- Try to arrange flexible daycare should you be unable to look after your children at certain times.
- Talk with your employer about working different hours or working from home.

4. Set Aside Family Time

It can be hard for even the closest of families to find time to spend together on a regular basis. And if you are going back to school, you might not have very much free time left. Here are some ways to ensure that you get some time to spend with everyone in your family:

- Set aside one evening every week, which you can dedicate to your family. Use this time to talk, watch movies, or play games.

Balancing Your Life *(Continued)*

- Set up a "date night" so that you can spend quiet time with your partner or spouse.
- Arrange to study with your children. Not only does this allow you to spend more time with them, but it can also help your children learn proper study techniques.
- Ask your partner to prepare lunches and dinners on busy days of the week.
- Make one night a week takeout night, so that you don't have to devote time to preparing and cleaning up after meals.
- Ask your children to participate in household chores. Be sure to assign chores that are age appropriate and explain to your children why it is important that they help out.
- Learn to say no. Refer to your goal chart and only agree to do those activities that will help you achieve those goals.

5. Learn to Share Tasks

Even the most ambitious of people can't take on every task on their own. You may find yourself bogged down in work responsibilities, household chores, and schoolwork if you try to do everything yourself. To avoid burn-out, be sure to delegate responsibilities to those around you:

6. Share School with Your Family

Even though you are the one going back to school, it doesn't mean that your family doesn't want to be involved in your education. Be sure to share information about your school experiences with all family members:

- Tell them what courses you are signing up for.
- Describe any achievements that you are particularly proud of.
- Discuss new information that you have learned around the dinner table.
- Ask your family members for input about assignments or projects that you are doing.

Adapted from www.learn-source.com/education/family_school

Efficient Note-Taking

It is highly recommended that you take notes when attending class. Notes are a great addition to other course materials. They reinforce the course lecture and help you to better remember the material covered. When taking notes, remember the basics:

- Write as clearly and concisely as possible.
- Use a loose-leaf notebook and divide it into class sections rather than using a spiral notebook.
- Clearly date and place a title on each page of notes as you are taking them.
- Rewrite the notes and combine all old notes and lecture notes into a new single set of notes or an outline. Replace the old notes in a loose-leaf binder with the new ones.
- Sit towards the front of the classroom to ensure that you can see and hear the instructor, and also to avoid distractions.
- Be a good listener and focus on the lecture at hand. If you cannot keep up with the instructor, write down key points or use a recorder to tape the lecture.
- Pay close attention to the information that the instructor deems most important. They will sometimes clue you into information they find important. Oftentimes, this information will be included on their exams.
- The instant the lecture has concluded, try to write down on a separate sheet of paper everything that you remember from the lecture.
- During your study session following the lecture, take a plain sheet of paper and try to recall information from the previous lectures.
- Repeat the recall process several times to assist you in committing the information to memory.
- If there is something that you do not comprehend, ask the instructor.

**For more study tips,
pick up a copy of
"Tips for a
Successful College
Career"
Or visit with a
Student Services
Advisor at
605-367-5640**

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

- **August 23**—New Student Orientation (5:00-7:00 pm) • **August 24**—New Student Orientation (10:00 am-12:00 pm)

SEPTEMBER

- **September 3**—Labor Day Holiday (**Offices Closed**)
- **September 4**—Fall 2007 Semester Begins (**Tuesday only classes that meet once a week will meet**)
- **September 13**—Last day to drop a full semester class and receive a full refund & Last day to add a full semester class

OCTOBER

- **October 8**—Native American Holiday (**No Classes/Offices Closed**)

NOVEMBER

- **November 7**—New Student Information Night — **TELL YOUR FRIENDS!**
- **November 7**—Last day to withdraw from the University (**All CLASSES**) and be eligible for a prorated refund
- **November 19**—Last day to drop a full semester class or withdraw from ALL classes and receive a “W” - NO REFUND
- **November 12**—Veterans Day Holiday (**No Classes/Offices Closed**)
- **November 22-25**—Thanksgiving Recess (**beginning November 21st at 5:00 pm-No Classes/Offices Close at 7:00 pm on November 21st**)
- **November 26**—Thanksgiving Recess Ends (**Classes Resume at 8:00 am**)

DECEMBER

- **December 17-21**—Final Exams Week • **December 21**—Semester Ends

The University of South Dakota
2205 Career Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57107-1304

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #7400
SIOUX FALLS SD

