iSchool Career Placement Survey 2006

Overview
The School of Information surveyed the class of 2006 on their post graduation plans. The report summarizes the responses of the iSchool graduates that completed the survey by September 22, 2006. Specifically the report details salary information, position, employer and job-search methods.

Of the 38 graduates in the class of 2005, 21 responded to the survey. That represents a 55% overall response rate. Of the 21 respondents 76.2% percent accepted fulltime career positions; 4.8% are working part-time or in a temporary position, 4.8% started their own company and 9.5% are pursuing additional education.

Employment Status

- Full-time or Career Position: 80%
- Part-time or Temporary: 5%
- Started Own Business: 5%
- Pursuing Additional Education: 10%

Salaries and Compensation
For the purposes of this document, only those who reported full time or part time employment were taken into account for salary numbers. All of the respondents working in these positions reported their starting salary. The overall average salary for graduates was $86,000. Salaries ranged from $65,000 - $130,000. Salaries varied depending on 1) type of organization, 2) skills and experience, 3) level of position. Average starting salaries increased from 2005 to 2006. The average starting salary was $67,000 in 2003, $79,800 in 2004, and $80,019 in 2005. In addition to salary, a number of students also received additional compensation. This included medical, dental and vision coverage, retirement and pension plans stock options, relocation reimbursement, signing and yearly bonuses.
Job Search Methods
The following methods were used by students in looking for employment (in order of most used to lease used methods): friends, campus-wide career fair, iSchool career fair, professors, alumni, jobs@sims listserve, iSchool staff, online career sites, iSchool recruiting events, other non-career specific websites, and former internship or job sites. Students found their jobs by the following methods: friends, campus-wide career fair, other non-career specific websites, professors, alumni, former job or internship site, online career site, and the iSchool job fair.

Students began their job search as early as the fall of the second year in the program, with some waiting until after graduation to begin looking. It took an average of 4 ½ months from when students started the job search to when they accepted their job. Students who looked earlier tended to take longer and get more interviews and offers than those who started their search later. Students applied to an average of 5 jobs each, though this varied greatly as half of these reported to applying to two or fewer jobs, while nearly 20% reported applying to more than 10 jobs each.

Job Categories/Specialization
While the iSchool program does not designate specializations or degree tracks, the responses have been grouped into the following categories: Information Assurance, Information Design & Architecture, Human-Computer Interaction, Information Economics & Policy, and Sociology of Information.

Students reported the following as their primary focus during their iSchool studies: Information Design & Architecture (35%), Human-Computer Interaction (35%),
Information Economics & Policy (20%), and Sociology of Information (10%). 20% reported receiving the MOT Certificate.

Students reported the following as the closest match to their current job tasks: Information Design & Architecture (45%), Human-Computer Interaction (35%), Information Economics & Policy (10%), and Sociology of Information (10%).

Employers
Of the students that accepted full-time career positions 84% accepted positions in the private sector and 16% accepted public sector positions. Public sector positions included academic, government and non-profit jobs.

2006 employers include TIBCO Software Inc., California Digital Library, Global IP Sound, UC Berkeley, Oracle (2), Apple Computer (2), Quinstreet, Mark Logic, Google (2), PayPal, Yahoo, Dabble, IronPort Systems, and VMWare Inc.

Conclusion
Overall, the job market continues to improve. Salaries are rising and students are receiving multiple offers and search time is declining. Demand for students with the unique skills and experience of an iSchool education continues to be high.