

## **Employability of BSIT Graduates of Central Philippines State University – Main Campus**

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The Asian Conference on Society, Education & Technology 2015  
Official Conference Proceedings

### **ABSTRACT**

This research focused on the employability of BSIT graduates. The study covered 170 graduates of CPSU-Main Campus, school year 2012-2014. A standardized questionnaire was employed to gather data. Cross tabulation, frequency, percentage distribution, and chi-square test were utilized.

Findings showed majority of the respondents were employed locally in private sector, had regular status, waiting time of 3 months below prior to first employment, and had above weighted general average. There were no significant associations between employment and tenurial status to the batch they belong, gender, civil status, age, weighted general average, waiting time, location of employment and awards received.

However, there was a significant association on the respondents' tenurial status to the batch they belong, gender, salary, type of organization employed, and awards received. Majority of the respondents would like to acquire more training in computer technology. Data encoder was the top career perceived by the respondents they can be effective 5 years from now. Those interested in IT should focus in their studies, shows hardwork, resourcefulness to be successful. The university was recommended because it's affordable. As perceived by the respondents, the College of Computer Studies offers quality education and suggested improving the laboratory facilities, establishing an alumni website to maintain the partnership between graduates and the university.

**Keywords:** tracer study, BSIT, CPSU

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## **Introduction**

A tracer study measures the relevance of vocational training and a management tool for planning and monitoring of programmes, provide information for programmatic changes, review of training curricula and help monitor the delivery of training Lange (2001). Similarly, Schomburg (2003) shares that graduate survey results are important for “analysis of relationship between higher education and work.” Moreover, Millington (2001) states that “they provide quantitative structural data on employment and career, the character of work and related competencies, and information on the professional orientation, and experiences of their graduates.” Additionally, the collected data is an important indicator of the quality of higher education.

In the Philippines, the Commission on Higher Education requires all HEIs to conduct a tracer study and is equally reflected as one of the required documents by any higher education accrediting body such as the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP), Inc.

The Central Philippines State University in its quest in providing quality education and in producing globally competitive graduates has been able to hurdle the AACUP level 1 accreditation in most of its curricular programs. One of the requirements for the AACUP accreditation is a tracer study. As mentor of the College of Computer Studies, and upon sharing ideas and visions with co-mentors in relation to the graduates of the BSIT program the researcher was motivated to conduct this study in determining the employability of BSIT graduates of SY 2012-2014.

## **The Problem and Its Scope**

This study determined the employment status of BSIT graduates during S.Y. 2012-2014. Specifically, it investigated the association between employment and tenurial status of BSIT graduates and their profile.

## **Methodology**

The subjects of the this study were the BSIT graduates from school year 2012-2014 of the Central Philippines State University with a total of 170 respondents. This study utilized the descriptive research or quantitative method to determine the employment and tenurial status of the respondents and their profile. Adapted questionnaires were used and distributed personally, through e-mail, facebook, skype and telephone interview to gather data.

## **Statistical Tools Used**

Cross tabulation, frequency, percentage distribution, and chi-square test were employed in analyzing and interpreting the data.

## **Conclusions**

Most of the BSIT graduates from Batch 2012; female; aged 22 to 24 years old; single; had a salary of more than Php 10,000 to Php 15,000; and had been employed. Moreover, majority of the respondents were employed; had a regular tenurial status; worked on the private companies or organizations; had a waiting time of 3 months and

below; and worked locally. Majority of the respondents got an above average general weighted average (more than 1.94); and 76.5% did not receive neither academic nor service awards. There were no significant associations between the employment status of the BSIT graduates and to the batch they graduated from; gender; and civil status.

There were significant associations between the employment status of the BSIT graduates and to their age; general weighted grade average; and awards received. There were no significant associations on the tenurial status of the BSIT graduates and to their age; civil status; waiting period; location of employment; and general weighted average. There were significant associations on the tenurial status of the graduates and to their batch they belong; gender; salary; type of organization they were employed; and awards received.

Most of the BSIT graduates would like to acquire more training on computer technology, work-out the application to work abroad, and to pursue Master of Science in Information Technology or other related graduate courses.

Data encoder was the top career the BSIT perceived that they can be effective 5 years from now followed by technical support specialists and systems analyst.

Graduates advised the incoming BSIT students to focus on their studies; shows hardwork; and be resourceful to be a successful student.

The university had 86.7% recommendation rate among the BSIT graduates to the incoming freshmen students. Affordability was the main reason of recommending the university.

Common perceptions of the graduates on the College of Computer Studies were provides quality education and train students develop skills in programming and networking.

Graduates suggested improving the College of Computer Studies buildings and classrooms, and improvement of the laboratory facilities must be given the top priority.

Establishment of an alumni website must be materialized to ensure strong partnership between the graduates and the university.

## **Recommendations**

It is therefore recommended to: review the curriculum to determine what subject to phase out and what must be added; align the skills of the IT students needed by the industry; and design to prepare graduates and demonstrate the core competencies expected to them in the workplace. Improvement of the computer laboratories equipped with state-of-the-art facilities such as: more computer units installed with licensed software (educational/instructional) in programming, multimedia, productivity, and utility; LCD projector; Alternative Learning Board/Electronic Board; and provide WiFi (Wireless Fidelity) accessible to all IT students. Improvement of the College of Computer Studies building, classrooms and amenities. The instructional competence of the faculty members must be strengthened and upgraded to help students acquire knowledge, skills and values necessary in job placement; hire additional faculty members preferably MS in Information Technology to teach programming subjects; seminars and educational tours must be conducted to update IT students on the standards and trends of information technology; establishment of an Alumni Website to foster strong relationship between the graduates and the university and to encourage graduates' participation in taking the lead of planning, organizing, directing and implementing the programs of the University and the CCS department as a whole. Lastly, a tracer study must be conducted annually to achieve accurate determination of the status of graduate's employment.

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