

From: Bob Otterson
Date: Fri, 25 Jan 2008 10:36:43 -0600
To: Jean Hunhoff
Conversation: SDSU in-state placement
Subject: SDSU in-state placement

Sen. Hunhoff,

I talked recently with both Brian Kaatz and Roberta Olson, deans of the College of Pharmacy and College of Nursing at South Dakota State University, respectively, regarding your question during Wednesday's budget hearing on the number of Pharmacy graduates who accept their first jobs in South Dakota. Even though you probably know the nursing numbers, I have added them for your reference.

Pharmacy

The College of Pharmacy has strong data for its graduates' first professional jobs after graduation. The average pharmacist in South Dakota starts between \$80,000 and \$82,000 annually, with some edging closer to \$85,000. The starting salaries in Minneapolis-St. Paul, on average, run about \$15,000 higher than they do in South Dakota, and Dean Kaatz said that several graduates take that first job elsewhere with the higher salary in mind. Some also take jobs in Phoenix where the starting salaries now are six figures. That said ... Dean Kaatz told me that he and his faculty receive a few phone calls every year from younger alumni who want to return to the Midwest, or South Dakota specifically, because they miss the quality of life. They call the College of Pharmacy looking for leads or market information.

The following data does not include students who accepted pharmacy residencies after graduation, and that creates a difference between this placement information and the numbers of graduates listed on page 21 of the 2008 Board of Regents Fact Book.

2005: 18 of 49 took first jobs in South Dakota (36.7 percent), 8 accepted residencies
2006: 17 of 43 took first jobs in South Dakota (39.5 percent), 16 accepted residencies
2007: 19 of 42 took first jobs in South Dakota (45.2 percent), 12 accepted residencies

As you may know, the College of Pharmacy has been working to create residency partnerships in South Dakota since history shows a correlation between residency location and first job after residency. The average number of residencies in recent years is about 12 per graduating class.

Nursing

Over time, 60 percent of SDSU Nursing graduates work in South Dakota, according to Dean Olson. Many of them start their careers

in other states and move back to the Midwest.

2006: 200 graduates total, 102 licensed in South Dakota, 51 percent

2007: 156 graduates total, 103 licensed in South Dakota, 66 percent

The 2007 number is somewhat incomplete because an additional 61 fall-semester graduates are in the licensing examination process now. (I know you understand this far better than I do!)

Combining the past two years, 57.6 percent of SDSU Nursing graduates are licensed in South Dakota. A higher percentage of graduates from the Rapid City program and the Sioux Falls accelerated option take their first jobs after licensing in South Dakota – 71.4 percent for Rapid City graduates and 75.6 for Sioux Falls.

I hope this answers your question. If you would like more information, please send me a reply or call me at the number below.

I will make a point to introduce myself to you during my next visit to Pierre. We had a full agenda this time!

Thank you for your questions.

Bob Otterson
Executive Assistant to the President
South Dakota State University
(605) 688-4165
robert.otterson@sdstate.edu
www.sdstate.edu