

OPT Alumni Panel Workshop

 Public

Name of Assessment Project: OPT Alumni Panel Workshop

Name(s) of Person(s) Responsible for Assessment Project: Out of State and International Student Outreach Coordinator (Shawn Fore)

Email Address:

sfore@ucsd.edu

Phone Number: (858) 822-6978

Other Contacts:

Providing Department: Sixth College

Other Units/Departments Involved in Assessment Project:

Career Services Center, International Center

Program, Service, or Event Related to Assessment Project: Department Overview:

As the number of out-of-state and international students increases, UC San Diego has adopted new initiatives to meet the unique needs of these student populations and increase student satisfaction. The Outreach Coordinator Department works in the colleges to assist non-resident students with transition to UC San Diego and helps these students get acclimated to campus life and California culture. The focus is on international and out-of-state students, but Coordinators also outreach to California students as well to create campus community and give students the opportunity to meet others from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

The Outreach Coordinators conduct student needs assessments and provide support through outreach, marketing and introducing campus resources to students. They also implement campus wide and college programming and events to connect non-resident students with each other, increase interactions between domestic non-resident students, and introduce non-resident students to the local San Diego and greater California regions. Housed in the colleges, Shawn Fore is responsible for Sixth, Revelle, and Warren Colleges and Malina Doherty is responsible for Marshall, Muir, and Roosevelt Colleges.

Program Overview:

Many international students come to UC San Diego to pursue a degree in hopes of gaining employment in the United States after graduation. International students must follow strict governmental guidelines when seeking employment and complete the Optional Practical Training (OPT) work authorization process. The Outreach Coordinators partnered with Career Services, the International Center, and the Alumni Office to implement a OPT Alumni Panel Workshop to explain the OPT process and give students the opportunity to network with international student alumni about career opportunities.

The OPT Alumni Panel Workshop consisted of 5 international student alumni speaking about their experiences with the OPT work authorization process. Students were able to ask questions about job searching and also had the chance to network with alumni at the conclusion of the panel.

Assessment Project Description: The objective of this assessment was to compile a comprehensive satisfaction review and benefits of the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop event. Students were given the opportunity to anonymously express their satisfaction with the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop event. The evaluation requested demographic information of student, satisfaction rating, and free response from students on what they liked/did not like from event. The Outreach Coordinators distributed hardcopies of the assessment instrument at the end of the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop. Data from all paper assessment were uploaded manually to Excel. The results of this assessment were used to determine the value of the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop and to make improvements to the program for the upcoming quarters.

The main purpose of the assessment project was to assess:

- Number of participants attending the event
- Benefit of participation in event (increase in knowledge and/or confidence in job search)
- If students would attend other similar career-related events in the future

Unit/Program Specific Goals and Learning Outcomes: As a result of participating in the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop, students will be able to:

- Report increased knowledge on job search strategies and process for obtaining OPT work authorization in the U.S.
- Report increased confidence on future job search
- Become aware of campus resources that are here to support their co-curricular success and development

Relationship to Student Affairs: Not related to any SALOs

Learning Outcomes Assessment Project Start: 9/30/2013

Assessment Project End: 9/30/2013

Population/Sample: 76 students attended the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop. 70 attendees completed the assessment providing a 92% response

rate. All attendees were international students with 16 countries represented and 50% of participants from China. All sixth UC San Diego colleges and all levels of the student body were represented.

Type of Assessment: Satisfaction study
Other Assessment Type(s):
Assessment Methods: Surveys
Other Assessment Method(s):

Data Collection Tools: Hard-copies of the survey were distributed at the end of the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop by the Outreach Coordinators. Students were given the opportunity to anonymously express their satisfaction with the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop event. The evaluation requested demographic information of student, satisfaction rating, and free response from students on what they liked/did not like from event.

Data Analysis Methods: Data from all paper assessment were compiled and uploaded manually to Excel by Outreach Coordinators.

Presentation of Findings: The results of this assessment were used by the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop organizers (Outreach Coordinators, Career Services, International Center, and Alumni Office) to improve OPT programs for the following quarter based on student feedback. Assessment results were also shared with the Non-Resident Student Engagement (NRSE) committee.

Progress: 100%

Link Assessment Project in Campus Labs Baseline :

Name	Source
No items to display.	

Summary of Findings: The main purpose of the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop assessment project was to assess the following. The data provided the following results:

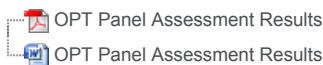
- Number of participants attending the event
 - 76 student participants
 - 66% RSVP'ed to event
 - 16 countries represented – 50% of students from China
 - All six colleges represented
 - Students from every grade level represented
 - 29 majors represented
- Benefit of participation in event (increase in knowledge and/or confidence in job search)
 - 87% of participants agreed they gained valuable insight and confidence on job search
 - 78% of participants agreed they gained valuable insight on OPT work authorization process
 - 71% of participants agreed they gained an understanding of how to discuss VISA and sponsorship
- If students would attend other similar career-related events in the future
 - 93% of participants stated they would attend a similar career-related OPT event
 - 90% of participants stated they would tell a friend to attend a similar career-related OPT event

In addition to findings directly correlated with learning outcomes, the assessment also illustrated the following results:

- 45% of participants agreed the alumni panelists were the best part of the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop

Student Suggestions for next OPT Panel:

- Alumni with different majors
- Encourage panelists to speak more
- Explain terminologies like sponsorship
- Info about VISA & sponsorship
- Info on OPT application process
- Shorter student Q&A
- Larger room
- Longer Event
- Longer student Q&A
- Microphone for panelists - Hard to hear
- More alumni panelists
- More food
- More interaction & flyer about OPT process



Impact of Assessment: The assessment results were viewed by the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop organizers (Outreach Coordinators, Career Services, International Center, and Alumni Office). Assessment results were also shared with the Non-Resident Student Engagement (NRSE) committee. The findings were used to:

- Improve the OPT programs for the following quarter based on student feedback
- Increase awareness and advertising of OPT Alumni Panel Workshops among international students to increase participation

- Invite alumni panelists from a variety of majors so students with all career interests are able to participate
- Incorporate a component of the event to discuss OPT work authorization application process

Lessons Learned: The assessment results identified key findings of student satisfaction, benefit of participation in event, and student interest in attending similar events in the future. The assessment results correlated with the majority of the program specific goals; however, the assessment did not include a question on whether students became aware of campus resources to support their co-curricular success. This specific goal was assumed since the OPT Alumni Panel Workshop organizers attended the event and spoke to participants about campus departments and services available to them, but the survey did not specifically address whether students gained knowledge of these resources. In the future, the OPT program organizers will include a survey question that addresses each program goal.

Surveys will be implemented for future OPT Alumni Panel Workshop events and compared with these existing findings.

**Supplemental
Information:**

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