

OPT Employment Alumni Panel & Workshop Events

 Public

Name of Assessment Project: OPT Employment Alumni Panel & Workshop Events

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

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Other Contacts: Providing Sixth College

Department: Other Career Services Center, International Center

Units/Departments Involved in Assessment Project:

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, Service, or Event Related to Assessment Project:

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 the OPT Employment Alumni Panel & Workshop events to explain the OPT process and give students the opportunity to network with international student alumni about career opportunities.

The OPT Employment Alumni Panel & Panel was a 2-day series on the OPT process and obtaining a job in America. The OPT Alumni Panel (Day 1) 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. The OPT Workshop event (Day 2) involved an International Student Advisor giving a presentation on the process students must complete in order to obtain OPT work authorization in the U.S. Students were given specific deadlines of when requirements needed to be met and were able to ask questions about specific scenarios.

Assessment Project Description: The objective of this assessment was to compile a comprehensive satisfaction review and benefits of the OPT Employment Alumni Panel & Workshop events. Students were given the opportunity to anonymously express their satisfaction with each OPT Employment 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 each OPT event. Data from all paper assessment were uploaded manually to Excel. The results of this assessment were used to determine the value of the OPT Employment Alumni Panel & Workshop events 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
- Satisfaction level of each event

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

- Report increased knowledge on job search strategies
- Report increased understanding of the process for obtaining OPT work authorization in the U.S. and how to discuss sponsorship with potential employers
- Report increased confidence on future job search

Relationship to Student Affairs: Advance a Plan for Personal, Academic, and Professional Success

Learning Outcomes:

Assessment Project Start: 4/1/2014

Assessment Project End: 4/2/2014

Population/Sample: 95 students attended the OPT Employment Alumni Panel & Workshop events. 91 attendees completed the assessment providing a 96% response rate. All attendees were international students with 17 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 each OPT Employment Alumni Panel & Workshop events by the Outreach Coordinators. Students were given the opportunity to anonymously express their satisfaction with each OPT Employment 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 event 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
 - 95 student participants
 - 62% RSVP'ed to event
 - 17 countries represented – 50% of students from China
 - All six colleges represented
 - Students from every grade level represented
 - 24 majors represented
- Benefit of participation in event (increase in knowledge and/or confidence in job search)
 - 81% of participants agreed they gained valuable insight and confidence on future job search
 - 97% of participants agreed they gained valuable insight on OPT work authorization process
 - 87% 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
 - 91% 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:

- 42% of participants agreed the OPT process presentation was the best part of the OPT Employment events

Student Comments/Feedback on OPT events:

- I really appreciate this workshop. I gained valuable insights that I wouldn't have gotten elsewhere
- Need bigger room and more food
- Very clear, very helpful
- Very helpful!

.....  OPT Workshop & Panel Assessment Results Infographic

Impact of Assessment: The assessment results were viewed by the OPT event 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 events among international students to increase participation
- Invite alumni panelists from a variety of majors so students with all career interests are able to participate

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. Since the OPT events were a continuing program, the OPT organizers used the

feedback from the Fall quarter assessment from the OPT event to revamp organization of these events. Findings from the initial program assessment indicated that students were interested in learning about the OPT process. To address student needs, the organizers incorporated a second day of the series dedicated to discussing the OPT work authorization application process. Attendance for the OPT Workshop event was higher than attendance for the OPT Alumni Panel event. For future OPT events, the OPT planning team will adjust the schedule so that the series is not back-to-back days. The Outreach Coordinators will also increase marketing efforts to international student organizations to increase attendance. Overall, the OPT events are of high interest for international students and they are learning the OPT process based on the findings. Surveys will be implemented for future OPT Alumni Panel Workshop events and compared with these existing findings.

**Supplemental
Information:**

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