

EMPLOYER FEEDBACK SURVEY

**DAYTONA BEACH, PRESCOTT, COLLEGE OF CAREER EDUCATION,
AND CENTER FOR DISTANCE LEARNING**

**Given to Employers of 1998 Graduates
One and One Half Years after Receiving Their ERAU Degree**

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EMBRY-RIDDLE
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2000 Employer Feedback Survey was administered in January of 2000 to employers of the class of 1998 graduates from Daytona Beach, Prescott, College of Career Education (CCE), and Center for Distance Learning (CDL). Information presented in the Executive Summary is for all ERAU alumni employed in a degree-related job and not self-employed. It is based upon the responses of 175 supervisors to the Employer Feedback Survey, approximately one and one half years after the graduation of the recent alumni. Keeping with the “One University” theme, overall results from all campuses combined are provided here with further breakouts by campus, degree type, and major presented in the body of the report. Selected highlights include:

Job Descriptions:

Please note that the following job description statistics do not account for all ERAU graduates. They only define the ERAU graduate’s position, whose employer responded to the survey. For complete alumni statistics please refer to the 1999 Alumni Survey report published in May 2000.

- ◆ 98% of the graduate’s positions were full-time.
- ◆ 67% of the graduate’s positions were closely related to their ERAU degree.
- ◆ The largest fields of work were Military (31%), Airline (20%), and Aerospace Industry (18%). CCE graduates had a large impact on Military employment with 44% of CCE respondents being employed in that field.

Employers and Their Companies:

- ◆ 46% of employers knew between two and five ERAU graduates, while 20% knew only their employee. 34% knew over five Embry-Riddle graduates.
- ◆ Most employers (52%) supervised only one ERAU graduate (the recent alumnus). 36% supervised between two and five graduates. 12% supervised more than five graduates.
- ◆ 11% of the employers who responded to the survey were Embry-Riddle graduates themselves.
- ◆ When asked if they preferred to hire ERAU graduates over other graduates, 19% of employers agreed. Most employers were neutral (74%), while only 7% disagreed.

The ERAU Graduate:

- ◆ 90% of employers said that the education of the graduate met their company’s needs.
- ◆ 65% of the employers agreed that the graduate’s skill level was the same or better than other graduates. 31% were neutral, and only 5% disagreed.
- ◆ 97% of employers said the graduate was a valuable employee in their company.
- ◆ 86% of the employers agreed that the graduate was a good candidate for a promotion.

- ◆ Rating the usefulness of a set of sixteen general education skills, employers thought that the most useful general skill was “Responsible Actions and Decision Making” (90% responding “very useful”) and the least useful general skill was “Library Research” (only 19% of employers responding “very useful”).
- ◆ Employers felt that ERAU graduates were the most competent at “Independent Work” and “Working in Groups/Teams”, while they were the least competent in “Political and Economic Awareness” (73%, 73%, and 50% responding “excellent” or “very good”, respectively).
- ◆ When comparing ERAU graduates to other graduates, employers rated ERAU graduates higher than other graduates in every general skill listed. The largest difference was in “Independent Work” (73% selecting “excellent” or “very good” for ERAU graduates and 41% for other graduates). The smallest difference was in “Quantitative/Mathematics” (59% responding “excellent” or “very good” for ERAU graduates and 48% for other graduates).
- ◆ Employers also rated the usefulness of and competence level of the ERAU graduate and other graduates at several degree-specific skills provided by the degree program. The results from these questions are not included here; however, they have been submitted directly to the department.

INTRODUCTION

The Employer Feedback Survey was created to evaluate how well Embry-Riddle's academic programs are meeting employers' needs and expectations. This information is best obtained from the supervisors of recent graduates. The survey instrument used includes questions about the supervisor and his company, the ERAU graduate's overall performance, the usefulness of general and degree-specific skills in the field, and the graduate's level of competence at these skills. Employer participation allows Embry-Riddle to tailor its programs in order to produce graduates who are better prepared to succeed in the workplace.

This edition of the Employer Feedback Survey was modified only slightly from the last administration given in 1998. The survey has been conducted four times since its inception in 1992, including a pilot administration. The Employer Feedback Survey is now administered each spring to employers of recent graduates. A culminating report follows in the summer.

335 employers of graduates from all ERAU campuses received the survey in the spring of 2000. These were employers of alumni who stated on the 1999 Alumni Survey that they were employed in a job "closely related" or "somewhat related" to their ERAU degree and not self-employed. Of 315 deliverable surveys, 175 (56%) were completed and returned. The results were statistically weighted to correct for disproportionate response rates, so that findings are representative of all employers of 1998 ERAU graduates employed in a degree related job and not self-employed. Any numeric inconsistencies are due to the rounding of weighted data. This report provides figures and tables for the data, assorted by characteristics such as campus, degree type, and major. In some instances there are too few respondents to give an accurate result based upon a certain characteristic. In such cases the results are not reported. In the future, data for smaller programs will be combined with information obtained from prior administrations, allowing for representation and interpretation of all results, even on the degree program level.

Currently there is no trend information available. Previous administrations of the survey used employers of graduates who varied from one to five years out from their degree program, preventing data from being compared to this administration where graduates were one and one half years out. Ensuing administrations will gather the same data, allowing for trend information on all questions to be provided in future reports.

Detailed tables are provided in the appendices, along with the methodology, response rates, copies of survey materials, and the IR Preview for this study.