



The University of Texas at Austin School of Information

Class of 2016 Employment Report



Prepared by the iSchool Career Development Office, January 2018

About This Report

The Class of 2016 for the School of Information at The University of Texas at Austin was comprised of **86 masters and PhD graduates** from May, August, and December of 2016. The School of Information's Career Development Office officially surveyed these graduates in 2017 via an online instrument distributed by email, with 56 respondents (representing a 65% response rate). Follow-up research via social media yielded additional employment data for 12 graduates, allowing the primary employment findings in this report to represent nearly 80% of the class as a strong representative of the group. The survey data is self-reported and the following results reflect aggregate responses to identify trends.

Key Points:

- School of Information graduates continue to have **strong employment prospects**, especially for technology-focused jobs.
- **Starting salaries have improved** with nearly 60% of graduates (59%) earning above \$50,000. Still, wide variations in starting salaries remain for different types of positions, with private sector positions offering more competitive compensation.
- **Graduates are satisfied with their jobs** with 84% reporting positive satisfaction.
- The speed-to-job timeframe is consistent with recent years, with nearly 80% of employed graduates **securing a job within 4 months of graduation**.
- **Graduates are more mobile**, with the percentage working in Texas dropping to 58% from 65% reported by the Class of 2015. Among other states, New York (6%), Illinois (6%), and California (4%) were top destinations.

How Long Did It Take to Secure a Job in 2016?

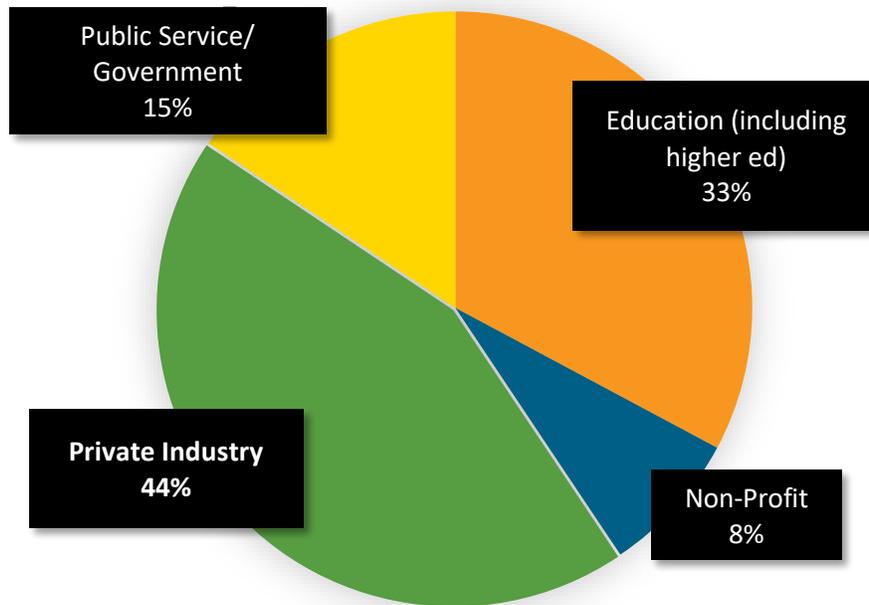
- 37% secured employment prior to or around graduation
- 78% secured employment within 4 months of graduation
- 88% secured employment within 9 months of graduation
- 94% secured employment within one year of graduation

Starting Salaries Vary by Position and Industry

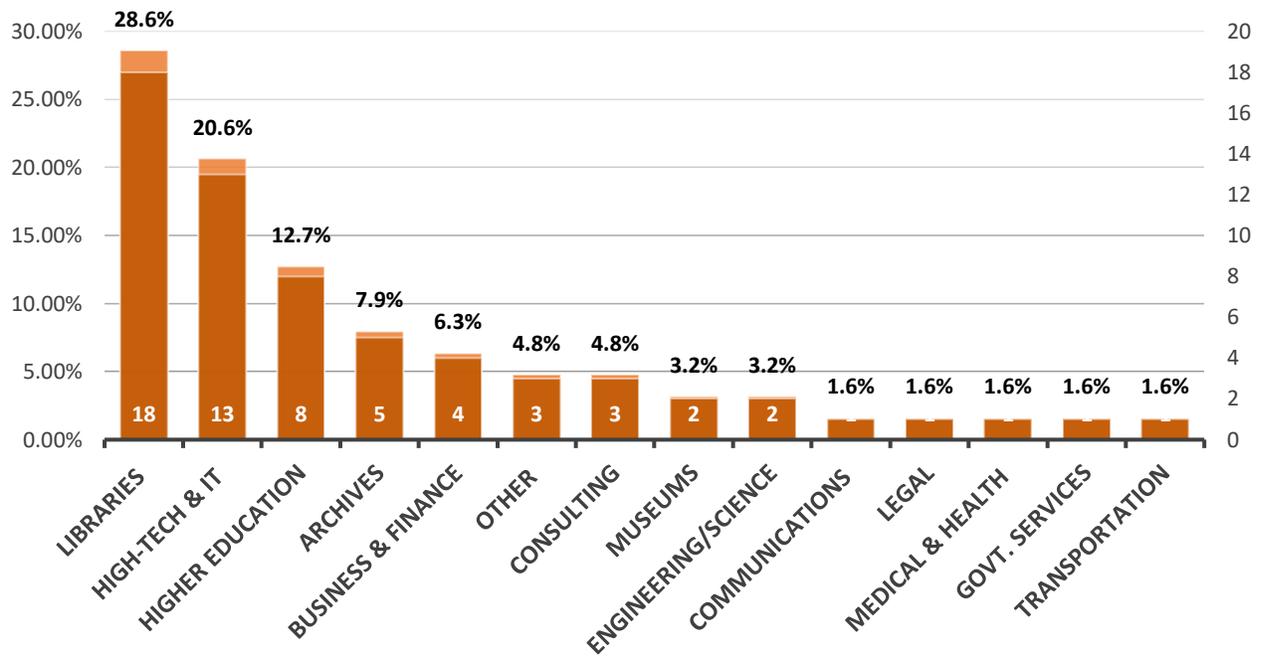
- Average salary for all jobs is approximately **\$62,000** (at upper end of range)
- Average salary for Private Sector jobs is approximately **\$77,000**
- Average salary for UX-related jobs is approximately **\$86,000**

The diversity of the information profession continues to be reflected in the wide variety of job titles reported for graduates as well as the various sectors and types of organizations in which they are employed. Of note: employment in private industry led all other sectors for 2016 graduates, though libraries remained the top type of employment area.

Employment by Sector - 2016



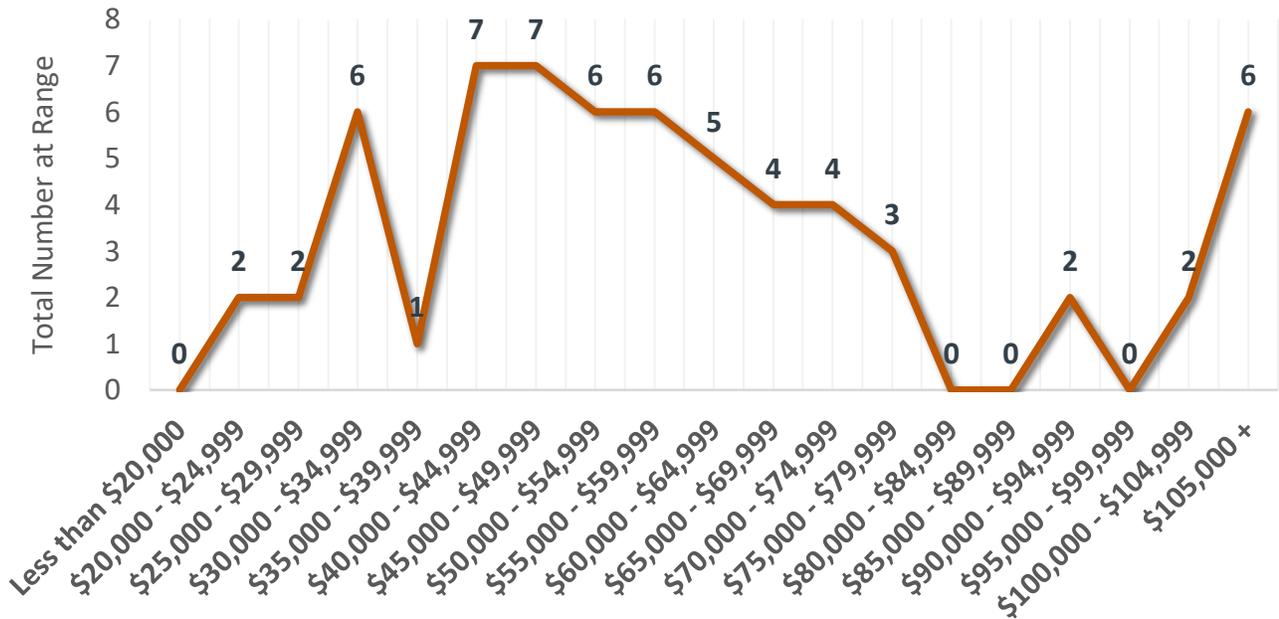
Placement by Type of Employing Industry - 2016



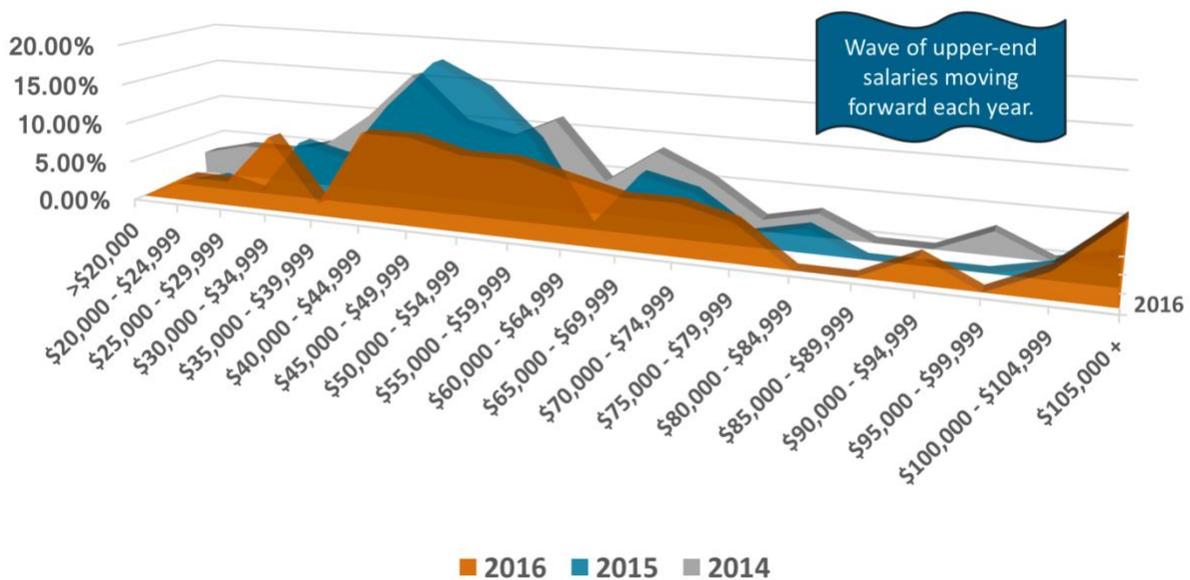
Charts represent data for 64 graduates.

Starting salaries for graduates showed growth from 2015 to 2016, with increases in the mid-range category of \$60,000 to \$64,999 as well as the upper-range category of \$90,000 to \$94,999.

Class of 2016 Starting Salary



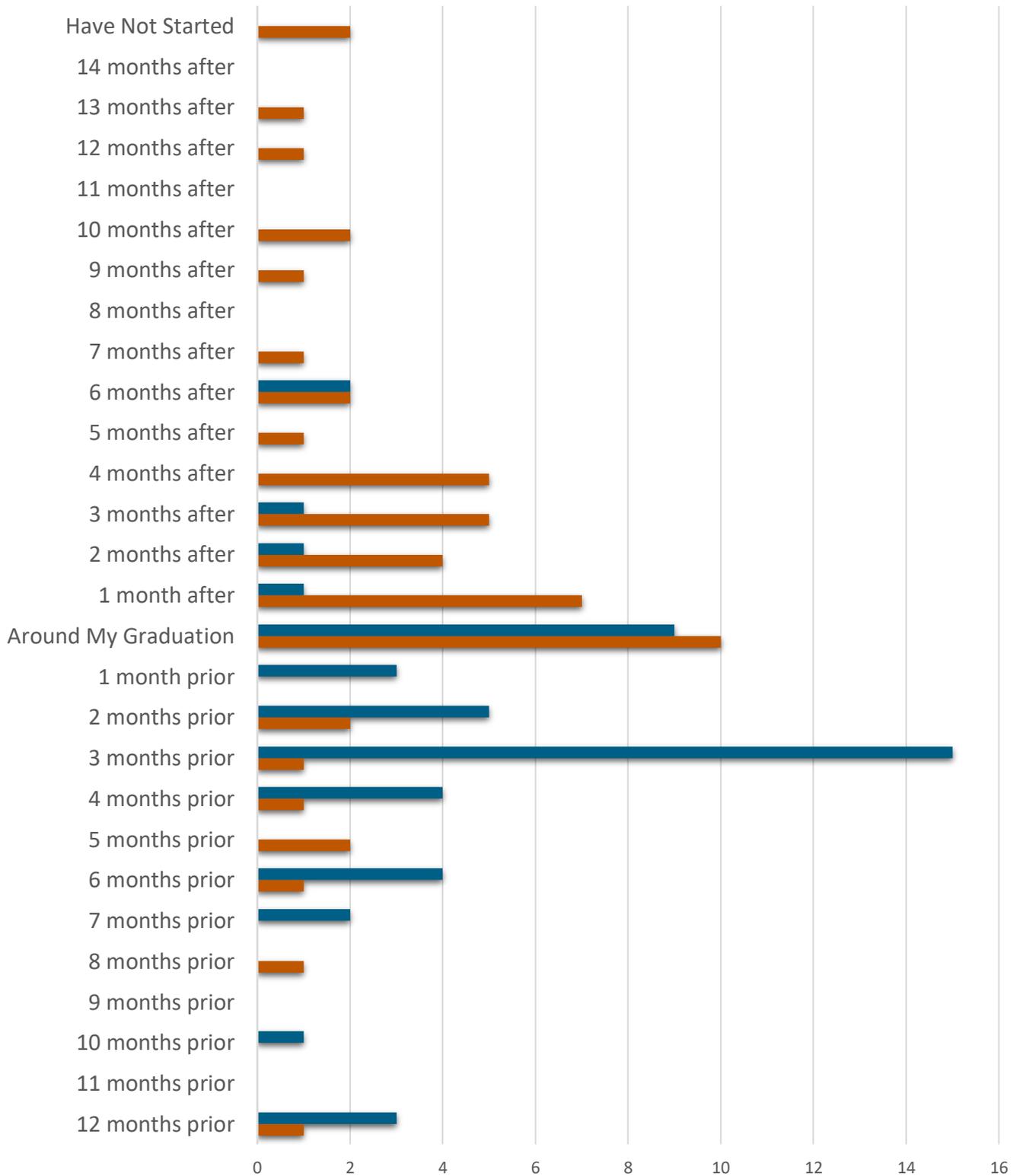
Salary Ranges as Percentage



Source: Salary group by percent, as reported by 63 graduates in 2016, 69 in 2015, and 70 in 2014.

Began Job Search vs. Secured a Job (in relation to graduation) - 2016

■ Began Job Search ■ Secured a Job

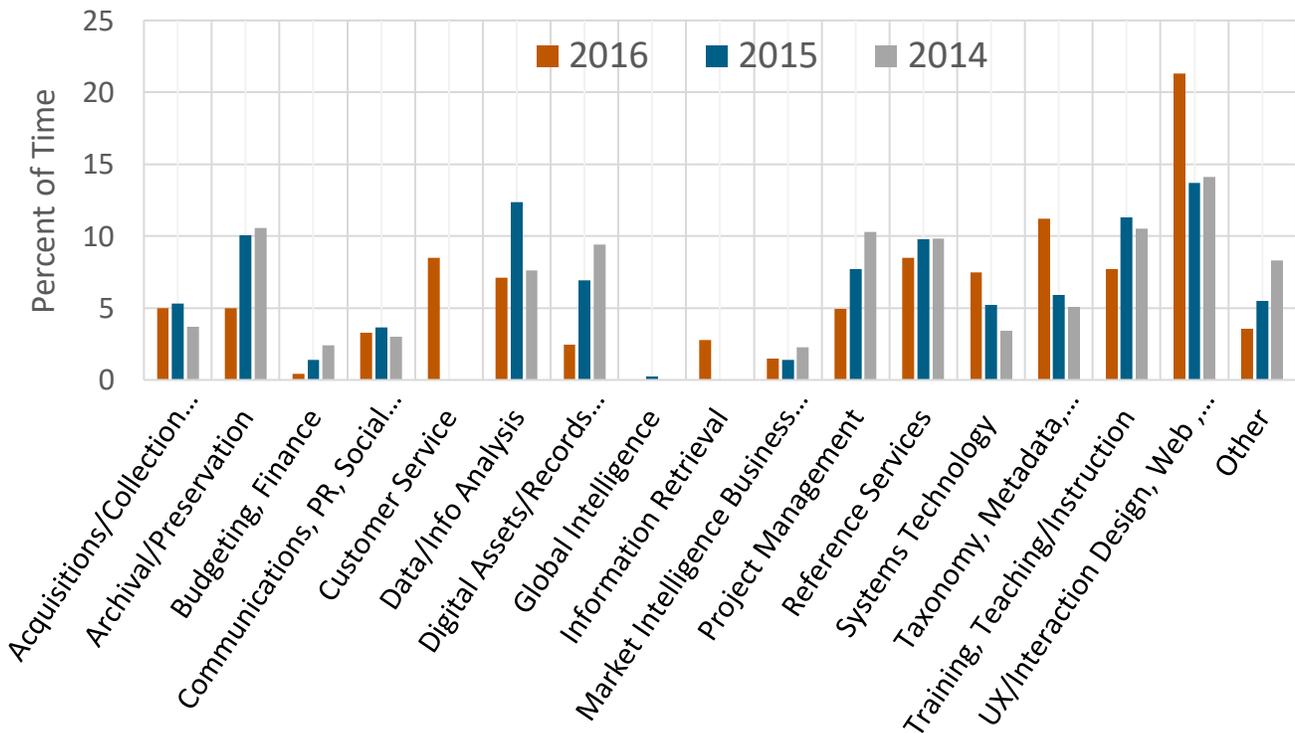


Data represents 51 responses.

Keywords in Job Titles - 2016

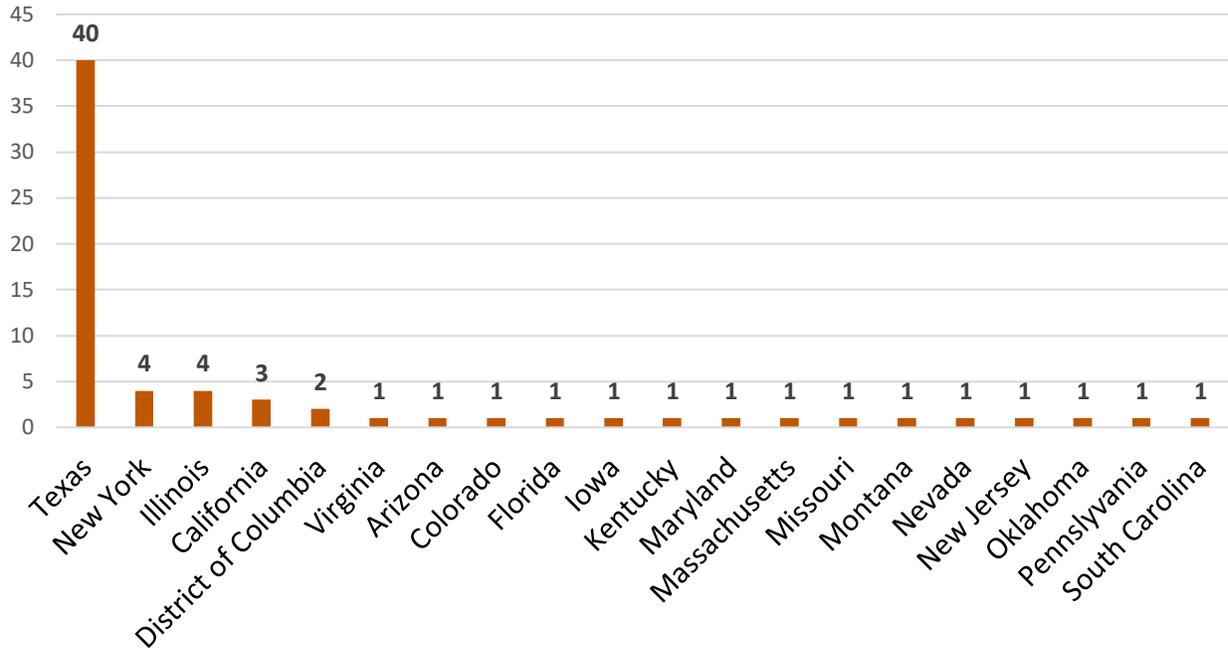


Skills Utilized for Job: Three-Year Trend



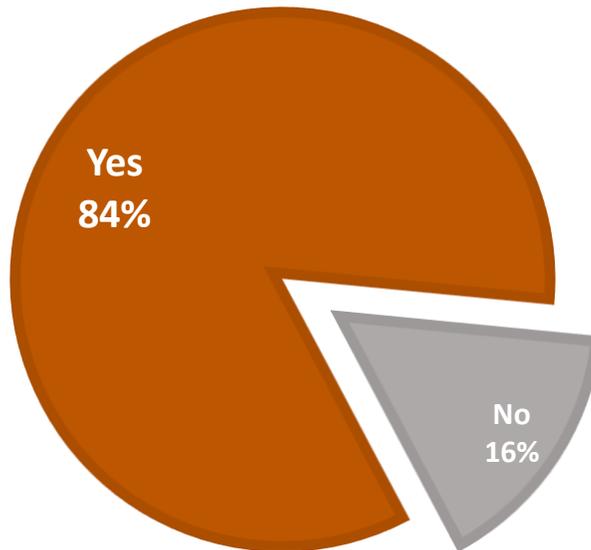
Data represents self-reported responses to "What percentage of your time do you use the following skills on the job?" (total = 100)

Placement by Geography - 2016



Note: No international placements were reported.

Are You Satisfied with Your Current Position?



Data represents 51 responses.

Advice from the Class of 2016

It was very useful to set up weekly updates for available job postings using the iCareers portal.

Use on-campus resources, career fairs and build relationships with the recruiters.

Mock interviews with the career director with feedback afterward, and distance-interview room scheduling were both so helpful.

A strong online portfolio is essential to the job search to this extent: no profile = no interview. It's that simple.

Start early. Your internship is your best resource.

Just apply as much as you can and you will get interviews eventually! Keep your portfolio up to date and spend time designing your portfolio, show your project process and final deliveries. A good portfolio is important to help you stand out among all other applicants.

It really helped to start doing informational interviews with alumni/contacts, as well as networking through different professional groups and associations, really early.

It took longer than I expected, and future graduates should be encouraged to start searching during their capstone course.

I think the most useful thing the career office did for me during my job hunt was to provide me with a list of alumni to reach out for career advice.

Tip to pass along for people searching in the archives/records management fields: I've found that many of the SAA listservs (snap, arr, metadata) and, in particular, the blog ArchivesGig were super helpful in hearing about relevant job postings.

I find "analyst" roles are great fits for iSchoolers because they tend to balance critical thinking and analytical reasoning with technology and other skills.

Staying on top of listservs for new job postings was vital.

I attended many career fairs and took as many internship or project opportunities that would help me meet people and develop a more well-rounded skill-set.

Going to networking events at the iSchool and keeping in touch/socializing with my classmates was what landed me two internships and eventually a full-time job.