

# Summary of Survey Results

Every six years we survey selected graduating classes to find out what you are doing, as well as to see if modifications that we make to the program affect perceptions of how we are doing as a department. For example, we have changed how we do academic advising and we want to know if we have improved the process. With your feedback we can assess this and other decisions. Similarly, we modify the curriculum from time to time, so we are interested in what types of courses you think have been important to your careers. This past April we surveyed our 1990, 1995, 2001, and 2006 graduates. We received over 225 surveys back, and I want to express my appreciation to those who completed the survey. Armed with these survey results, we thought we would take this opportunity to tell you some things about yourselves.

When you graduated, 64% of you took positions in public accounting, 9% went the government or other not-for-profit organizations, 18% went with industry, and 8% went elsewhere. In 2001 we had the fewest number of graduates go into public accounting, 54%, and in 2006 we had the largest number go into public accounting, 82%. Three, eight, fourteen, or nineteen years later, 28% you are still in public accounting (the largest percentage is in the 2006 graduating class). The oldest two graduating classes suggest the percentage in public accounting is holding at around 16%, 15% of you are with a government or not-for-profit organization, 38% of you are in industry, 16% work in some other capacity, and 2% are doing something else.

When you were at Tech, 77% were considered to be Virginia residents; now only 62% claim Virginia as the place of residence. Interestingly, the latest graduating class (2006) had the fewest number of in-state students, 72%, in the survey.

Fifty-six percent of you are CPAs (76% and 68% for the two older classes surveyed), and 17% of you hold some other professional designation. Many individuals hold more than one certification. The fewest number of CPAs comes from the 2001 class, 25%. This reflects the fact that we had so many information systems graduates in 2001.

When asked to rank the courses most important to achieving your current position, 45% said that financial accounting courses were the most important, 5% said that cost managerial courses were, 18% thought systems courses were, 17% selected audit, and 12% considered tax as the most important. Not surprisingly, the 2006 graduates ranked audit and tax courses higher, 31% and 22% respectively.

We also asked you to consider the courses that you thought were the least important to you in achieving your current position, 47% of you thought the tax courses were the least important. Financial accounting and auditing courses received scores 1% and 6% respectively. Cost management and information systems courses both received scores of 19%.

We asked you to rank advising to see if we could see improvement in how we are doing. Seventeen percent of the 2006 class thought that we were doing a superior job in academic advising versus 2%, 14%, and 12% for earlier graduating classes. With regard to career advising, 15% of our 2006 grads thought we were doing a superior job versus 0%, 7%, and 6% for earlier graduating classes. I know that some of your memories may not be as sharp in this

area, but we figure it goes both ways. Thus, we feel like some changes that the college and department have made in the advising area are paying off.

Your responses to a couple of questions made us feel good. When we asked you how many would recommend the department to a perspective student, 98% of you said that you would. We also asked you to think back to when you entered the work force and to compare the preparation that you received at Tech to graduates from other programs entering the work force with you. The responses were anchored on a five point scale with 5 being Much Better Prepared and 1 being Not Prepared Nearly as Well. Eighty-one percent of you checked either 4 or 5. When we asked you to give an overall evaluation of the department, 88% rated the department either superior or above average.

Many of you also provided us with written comments and we are very appreciative. Most of the comments reflected quite favorably on your experience at Tech. A few expressed criticisms in certain areas. We are trying to address most of the concern areas, but in some cases circumstances limit what we can do. And again THANK YOU, THANK YOU for taking time to fill out the survey.