

Job outlook good for 1996 college graduates

STAFF REPORTS

The job outlook for the class of 1996 looks bright. Many companies, including several of the Fortune 500, have stepped up on their campus recruiting at colleges and universities across the country, experts at USC's Career Center said.

"College students with good academic backgrounds and meaningful work experience should have good opportunities," said Larry Salters, director of the Career Center.

The best national projections suggest the hiring of new college graduates should go up as much as 4.7 percent this year.

This reaffirms the improvements of the past two years, which followed a four-year decline, according to the national collegiate Employment Research Institute in East Lansing, Mich.

Alsa Mosley, USC's placement director, says recruiting and hiring of USC students reflect the national trend.

"On campus, the biggest demand this year has been for computer science and computer engineering majors," she said. "Recruiters are looking for students who have software development and software application skills."

The retailing and service industries also continue to be big recruiters for new

graduates, along with the health care professions, Mosley said.

Salters said for all majors, computer literacy and a command of popular office technology continue to be sought-after attributes in future employees.

"New college graduate can make themselves more marketable by showing an ability to adapt to changing technological trends," Salters said.

Students are getting conflicting information about their job prospects, based on news reports of massive corporate layoffs and downsizing. But, Salters said, many companies cutting positions are still recruiting.

"They are getting rid of people with the skills they don't need and replacing them with employees with the skills they do need," Salters said. "This is why computer proficiency is increasingly more important."

Internships and co-op experiences continue to be deciding factors in who will have jobs come graduation day, Mosley said.

"It's more impressive these days to have a 3.2 grade point average and meaningful work experience that it is to have a 4.0 and none," Salters said.

Even with the job market looking bright for 1996, new graduates who

haven't started their job searches yet will face a tougher time, Mosley said.

"It takes six to nine months to execute a good job search," she said. "The ones who are starting their job searches now are already six-to-nine months behind."

Salters and Mosley said it's never too early for college students to begin thinking about what jobs they can find when they graduate.

Students are encouraged to seek help from their colleges' career placement centers as early as their freshman years. But for graduating seniors who haven't found jobs, they offer the following tips:

- If you don't have any work

experience, find an internship or volunteer to work for a company. Consider "shadowing" a professional in your field for a day or two.

- Don't delay your job search.
- Graduate school may not be the answer to not having a job. In many fields, adding degrees to a resume that doesn't include any job experience could do little but increase a student's debt.
- Be willing to relocate. College towns can't absorb all the graduates who would like to stay.

Congratulations December Grads!

The Staff of **The Gamecock** wishes you a successful future!




Congratulations!


To: **Brandy Woodier**

From: **Eddie**

*I Love You! I Love You!
I Love You! Infinity plus one!*



Congratulations!



To: **Jeffery Allan Cropp**

From: **Tiffany Williams**


Congratulations! Go out in the world and make a difference. God Bless You and I Love You.

Congratulations!


To: **Brenda Jackson**

From: **Gloria Watts**

Congratulations to you on such a joyous occasion in your life.



Congratulations!




To: **Brandy Woodier**


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*We're so proud of you Sweetie!
We all knew you could do it!*


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