February 2008 • Career planning  Career planning is important for students preparing for graduation, and being aware of what jobs are available and how to prepare for interviews is vital in obtaining a job. This month we look at students’ perceptions and plans related to careers and share information on resources offered by professionals in Student Affairs and Academic Support.

Students say University experience has helped them acquire job or work-related knowledge and skills
Forty-nine percent of students said they learned about a job through the Career Center’s resources, and more than 92 percent of students surveyed said that their college experience had helped them prepare for their careers.

Most students stay in South Carolina after graduation
Though undergraduate students at the University hail from 49 states and 63 foreign countries, the majority of them remain in South Carolina following graduation.

Student perceptions of and experience in the job market vary
In a recent survey, almost 98 percent of students reported plans to secure a job before or soon after graduation.

A recent alumni survey showed that many former students did find jobs before leaving the University. Most others found jobs within a year after graduating.

Post-graduation plans vary for South Carolina students
Students who said that they didn’t plan to get a job or attend graduate school immediately after graduation reported plans to travel, take time off, continue in their current job or volunteer with organizations such as the Peace Corps or Ameri-Corps.
Resources to help make our students better students

Career Center
www.sc.edu/career

The Career Center provides University-bound high school students, current students, faculty, staff and alumni with career information, counseling and testing and contact with potential employers. Other services offered by the center include:

JobMate: Students and alumni looking for jobs can register online to gain access to part-time and full-time job listings, as well as internship information.

InterviewStream and Perfect Interview: Students who want to improve their interview skills can access Perfect Interview from their personal computer if they have a webcam, and appointments can also be made to use the software at the Career Center. Both programs allow users to choose different subjects for mock interviews, and users can send their recorded interview to a Career Center staff member for critiques.

Optimal Resume: This web-based program assists students in creating a polished resume based on their major and career goals. Students can create and manage up to five resumes in various formats and can have their resumes critiqued by a Career Center staff member.

Career Fairs: The Career Center sponsors several career fairs throughout the year for students looking for regional or national employment. General career fairs host employers from a variety of industries, while career-specific fairs are designed for students interested in a particular field.

On-call counseling: Counseling is available without an appointment 1-4 p.m. weekdays. Most resume and cover letter critiques take place during this time.

Career library: The library houses specialized information to assist students and alumni with career needs. Print, electronic and interactive resources are available on topics ranging from salary data and market trends to career planning and employer research.

Tip sheets and videos: These informative sheets and videos can be downloaded from the Career Center's Web site and cover topics such as sample interview questions, dining etiquette and salary negotiation.

Pre-Professional Advising
www.sc.edu/oppa

Students interested in careers in law, medicine or other health-related professions and planning to apply to related professional schools may seek assistance from the Office of Pre-Professional Advising. The office assists South Carolina students with preparing for and applying to professional schools by providing information and advice, coordinating job shadowing and professional school tours and offering other helpful services.