Senior Women Survey Results 1982

Denison University

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MELLON SENIOR WOMEN CAREER SURVEY

May 1982

A total of 79 out of 221 graduating senior women responded to this survey.

The following is a break-down of the respondents by majors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soc/Anthropology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Designed</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MELLON SENIOR WOMEN CAREER SURVEY

May 1982

Item #1: What are your immediate career plans after graduation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Employment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Graduate School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Law School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Medical School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Management Training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Time off</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Job Hunting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MELLON SENIOR WOMEN CAREER SURVEY

May 1982

Item #2: If different from your immediate career plans, what are your long-range career plans?

Ranking per answer on Item #2:

Work in a museum (2)
Photo journalism
Law (5)
Nursing doctorate (2)
Teacher (4)
Interior designer/architecture
Start a business
Personel/Management
Money manager or commercial lender
Market Researcher
Physician (2)
International marketing
Magazine work or owner of small business
Anthropologist
Journalist
Advertising (2)
Physical Therapist
Work in Christian education; Presbyterian minister
Theologian
Work with Ohio State Historical Society
Professional theatre
Headbuyer for Bergdorf Goodman
Diplomat/Development programs
Industrial psychologist
Exercise physiologist
Management (5)
Systems programmer
Publishing/Women's Studies
Marriage and family
Geology professor
Senior Account Executive
Art Administration/Dance Therapist
Finance
Owner of day care center
Politics
Investment
Graphic Arts
Physics researcher
Talk show hostess
No comment (14)
Costuming or fashion
Academia
MELLON SENIOR WOMEN CAREER SURVEY

May 1982

Item #3: Identify in rank order the strongest influences in your career decision-making process.

Ranking per answer on Item #3:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Influence</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Life Planning Office</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Teacher</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professors</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship/Summer Job</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Others by specific answers:

- Personal interest (20)
- Dr. Schaff
- Taking courses in school (2)
- Friends in similar fields
- January term at Union
- Talents
- Brother
- Growing up in steel family
- Sister
- Professional meeting attendance
- Mellon program

- Experiences
- Outside reading
- Job market
- Experience with General Physics at Denison
Item #4: Are there ways in which Denison might have been more helpful to you in deciding on a career direction? Please specify. (Responses are typed verbatim.)

Denison has been a great influence for my decision in career direction. The only way that Denison could be more helpful is to pay for all my graduate school education, but I know that's a little too much to ask! Denison has really helped a lot as far as my decisions on career options.

I think the Mellon Program was a wonderful experience. I was able to be part of it in both my majors. The weakness lies in the Career Planning Office. I do not feel it was a worthwhile experience at all, in all ways.

Not really--I was basically decided already.

Perhaps if I had more performance experience I might definitely pursue an acting job specifically. Or if I'd have taken the social sciences earlier in my 4 years I might possibly have majored in soc. or psych.

YES!!! It's too corporation-oriented, merely an exercise in learning how to kiss enough asses in order to climb a corporate ladder. Some of us at D.U. aren't at all interested in that kind of thing. We need more diversity, more down-to-earth-alternatives.

The Mellon Program trip to New York helped the most--would advise more stress on Career Advising Network.

No, I decided my career choice on my own and with my mother's help.

I have avoided interaction with the Career/Life Planning Office intentionally since its focus and emphasis is not geared toward my interests. Also, I really haven't planned my career whatsoever, though I've thought a lot about it. The Mellon Program offered me the most helpful opportunities to speak with professionals involved in fields of intrigue to me.

More interaction and advice from advisors. Teachers for the most part seem very apathetic--especially in Math department.

Not really.

No. Career Planning Office was not very helpful in finding a job with my major.

Get rid of Pat Somers. Have a career exploration program starting from freshman year. Have CPO more open to the students. Personally, I dislike going into that place. I've heard other students say the same thing. It needs to be better organized. Maybe even part of the library so that everyone could use its resources.

No.

I don't think so.

More knowledgeable in this field (since it is new--I don't really expect much help because no one really knows what this field entails.
I feel that the internship program is very helpful in ones career choice. I hope that more of these type of opportunities will be available in the future.

No, I don't think so—they try but I'm being indecisive on my own.

Perhaps by getting off the ground a peer counseling group done by seniors and volunteers for underclassmen.

Probably--I am still so lost

Yes, by sending seniors copy of jobs being offered in different areas.

Yes, they could have made it explicit that it was necessary to decide early what you wanted to do so that you could work toward that goal.

Possibly—as a math major I could have been forced to take physics for the degree; then I might have saved sometime in preparing myself for grad school study in physics. Other than this, no.

The graduate office offers little knowledge in the pursuit of art related careers. Likewise with career planning.

No

Yes, but I'm not sure they could have done more. I guess I would have liked to have known more possibilities that were open to me with my background and experience.

I felt totally removed from career planning because I was looking at grad schools.

More workshop exploring possibilities--particularly in majors (diff. department should have workshops)

The career planning office needs improvement. I think it is understaffed and thus could use another full time person. For being such an important part of any college, Denison's Career planning office should have top priority. Also the office tends to emphasize business types of jobs. Granted a great majority of students are interested in business but many students are not.

No

I think that just having the information available--which Career/Life Planning does--is the most helpful. We should not come to a Liberal Arts school to get a job but rather to get an education. If that is the primary focus careers are easy.

The Mellon Program trip to New York helped me the most--would advise more stress on Career Advising network.

Not necessarily
By providing more information on technical opportunities.

Very limited in career opportunities—Anything other than business is not stressed enough and the help to really pursue these careers is not readily available. Encourage looking sooner!

I wish I had known and taken advantage of the Career Planning Office sooner.

Yes the Career planning office is so involved in finding corporate jobs for "business" people that I feel they have ignored the students interested in social work, and alternatives to corporate employment.

The Career Planning office could have been better. I received absolutely no guidance (and I did try!)

They (the Career Planning office) didn't know a thing about publishing schools or companies. It would be beneficial if it would expand its knowledge in a lot of fields (I've heard the same complaint from many students).

Although the career planning office (Mrs. Tegtmeyer) helped me secure some addresses to write to, the college was not particularly helpful in my career directions. Next year there are at least 10 senior geology women who could use some help....maybe a few interviews....

They were very helpful

Not really. I believe they've offered me enough to guide me. I believe that what counts above all is individual decisions.

I don't think we are given that many ways to explore different fields. This applies to both men and women. My course work is what helped me the most. Also there is no real help in deciding on majors that are helpful to the specific job market.

Not really, I knew basically what I wanted to do before I came here and my advisor made sure I took the courses I would need and the courses he thought would be of interest to me. He also discussed career options with me early in my Denison career.

No--I had decided

Right now I say yes they could have been more helpful, but I don't know how. I haven't had the time to devote to job searching as I probably should have.
Yes— I had a very difficult time finding people who would help me in telling me how to go about doing what I wanted to do. I feel in my case the psyc. department should be more helpful in helping the majors continue in their field of interest.

Career/Life Planning Office needs to update and be more sincere and caring— i.e. Pat Somers— I had 1 appointment and after 10 minutes I finished talking and all she said was "fine, I can't help you." I might as well have gone to my bank clerk.

Probably not; I didn't use the facilities much.

Not a career direction— Interviewing process is faulty.

Yes, The CPO could have provide a more diverse selection of on-campus interviews. I felt in going through the interview process I was so wrapped up in the thing I lost perspective as to my real goals and objectives— but most of all my interests.

They had no info. on available references. No idea about where to go to find info. I visited w/Sam Schaff who was initially helpful and in the end did not follow up concerning info on various grad. schools. I wonder if he ever first inquired because I phoned once and info was immediately sent to me.

No, I am very satisfied w/the variety of instructive opportunities available.

Not really. I just wish I would have been here all 4 years rather than entering as a Junior. It takes a while for one to get involved, hold positions, and make a name for herself. I am almost certain that if I had been here 4 years, I would have a job in my pocket. I was very active in student government, leadership roles, photography, and the like in H.S. If I had 4 years at Denison I'd have been a real busybody. I'm only ¼ of what I what I should be now.

Denison should from one's freshman year have perhaps a one week seminar devoted to the investigation of careers. Things like interest tests and self discovery should also be stressed.

Not really, I knew basically what I wanted to do before I came here so my advisor made sure I took the courses I would need and the courses he thought would be of interest to me. He also discussed career options with me early in my Denison career.

Yes, by sending seniors copy of jobs being offered in different areas.

Personally, more information on my personal career interest. Denison has very little information on Retail, Advertising, International Marketing...
Encourage advisors and professors to discuss career goals with students early (freshman). No one bothered to ask me what I wanted to do or offered suggestions or help. Not that I expected them to, but it would have been a big help to have started thinking about it before sr. year.

More specific courses that could be applied to business—a better accounting course.

Encourage freshmen to do internships

Stronger and more diverse Career Planning Interview possibilities.

Nope

No

No

No not really, I knew for awhile that I wanted to travel after graduating so interviewing for jobs was not a number 1 priority.

There were a lot of workshops and material for our use. I'm not sure Denison could do more it's up to the individual to take advantage of various serries (sic).

My only suggestion is that Denison get people from more creative fields to visit and recruit. As a woman who has spent her first 22 years of life disciplining an acting and writing talent, you will perhaps understand that recruiter from Banks, insurance companies, gas companies, etc. are of no interest to me.

I think support provided by advisors and professors helps a great deal.

I wish someone would have more clearly explained to me the process of applying to graduate school. It's a serious endeavor and early coaching would have been helpful. I gave such a presentation (i.e., "How to Apply to Grad School") at Washington College, MD, this past April and I think the students found it very helpful.

I felt a little bit "out of it" in the C.P. office because I didn't have any interviews there nor did I need the workshop because "artsy" interviews are held in places other than the C.P. Office. It might be nice to bring a few theatres, museums, dance co's in to interview there in the future...
MELLON SENIOR WOMEN CAREER SURVEY

May 1982

Item #5: Has your mother been employed outside the home, or is she currently? If so, for approximately how many years?

Ranking per answer on Item #5:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not</th>
<th>Previously</th>
<th>Currently</th>
<th>Average Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>10.2 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Of those reporting length of employment, 24 mothers have worked for 10 years or longer.
MELLON SENIOR WOMEN CAREER SURVEY

May 1982

Item #6: Do you think a woman can successfully manage a career and family simultaneously? Why, or why not?

Ranking per answer on Item #6:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>72</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Qualified "yes" with age of children: 10

Qualified "yes" with support of spouse and family: 24

Qualified "yes" with support through outside help: 8
MELLON SENIOR WOMEN CAREER SURVEY

May 1982

Item #7: Have you been aware of The Mellon Program?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have you attended or participated in any Mellon-sponsored events?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1981-82 Visiting Professionals 53
1980-81 Visiting Professionals 22
1979-80 Visiting Professionals 9
1978-79 Visiting Professionals 8
Summer Math Workshop 2
Career Exploration Trips 8
"Right Out of History" film 2
Copenhagen Conference, 1980 2
"A Tale of '0'" (slide/tape program) 10
AAAS Meeting in Toronto '81 or Washington, D.C. '82 3
"Dinner Party" Field Trip to Cleveland 3
Gender Issues in Science Conference, 1982 3
Other (funding for J-Term or conference participation, informal advising with Mellon Coordinator, etc.) 7