



A TRACER STUDY ON THE BS CRIMINOLOGY GRADUATES IN CSU-PIAT CAMPUS

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ABSTRACT: *Cagayan State University as an institution of higher learning. It was established through Presidential Decree 1436 later amended by Republic Act 8292 by the integration of all publicly supported higher institutions in Cagayan. The university is composed of eight (8) campuses wherein Bachelor of Science in Criminology under the College of criminal justice Administration is offered only in four campuses: Aparri, Gonzaga, Sanchez Mira a Piat. The university campus for The BS Criminology program is located at Piat Campus, Piat Cagayan. This undertaking was conducted to determine the employability of the pioneer graduates of the BS Criminology of CSU at Piat. Specifically, it determined the profile of the graduates, first job after graduation, manner of finding the job, reasons for staying on the job, job searching period, and personal skills relevant to their present job. Findings of the study reveal that most of them are employed in the government sector, employed in their field of specialization and most of them are on a permanent status. The personal skills possessed by the respondents were found relevant in their present job.*

Keywords: *Tracer study, criminology, criminal justice administration, employability, pioneer graduates*

INTRODUCTION

Cagayan State University is an institution of higher learning. It was established through Presidential Decree 1436 later amended by Republic Act 8292 by the integration of all publicly supported higher institutions in Cagayan. The university is composed of eight (8) campuses wherein Bachelor of Science in Criminology under the College of criminal justice Administration is offered only in four campuses: Aparri, Gonzaga, Sanchez Mira a Piat. The university campus for The BS Criminology program is located at Piat Campus, Piat Cagayan.

The BS Criminology program in Piat was first offered in 2008 with its first batch in 2012 with thirty four (34) graduates. It was headed by Leon T. Mallabo, DPLA from 2008 to 2014.



With the aim of the college to undergo for accreditation in order to improve the quality of instruction and other areas like library, facilities, laboratory and the like, a change in the organizational structure took place with a new designated dean, the late Amelita I. Mangwag, a graduate of BS in Criminology in Baguio, and a holder of Master of Science in Criminology.

The college underwent Level I accreditation under the Accrediting Agency for Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCU) and one of the weaknesses identified by the team is the lack of tracer studies conducted in order to monitor graduates if they were able to land in a job six months after graduation.

The conduct of such study will identify effective and ineffective components in the programs. It will also determine the strengths and weaknesses of the program and the result of the study will be used to improve the curriculum, programs and activities as well as to enhance the learning experiences of the graduates.

At present, the college is headed by a university dean who supervises the different campuses offering the same program. With the number of batches that the college has produced from 2010, it is high time to conduct a tracer study of its graduates and in compliance with AACCU recommendations, hence, this study.

Graduate surveys provide rich experience about the whereabouts of graduates, which might help to broaden perspectives among administrators, faculty and students. Such information like the income, economic sector, current job title, working time, duration of search for the first job, methods of job search, values develop and practice in work, skills acquired are relevant for higher education institutions to note.

Noko and Ngulube (2013) traced records and archives management (RAM) graduates from the NUST for the purpose of establishing where they were and the relevance of skills acquired during university to the requirements of the job market. The study established that most graduates were employed in parastatals and were satisfied with the programme except in areas of industrial attachment and training and limited ICT focus/coverage in the curriculum.

In the study conducted by Lalican (2007) she emphasized that the acquisition of knowledge in the undergraduate specialization, skills and competencies will also promote productivity, efficiency and expertise in the graduates' present job.



STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This tracer study aimed to answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - 1.1 Age
 - 1.2 gender
 - 1.3 civil status
 - 1.4 region of origin
 - 1.5 highest degree earned
 - 1.6 Professional examinations passed
 - 1.7 present occupation
 - 1.8 employment status
 - 1.9 place of work
 - 1.10 first job after college
 - 1.11 job level position
 - 1.12 salary range
2. What are the reasons for employment / unemployment?
3. What are the reasons for staying on the job?
4. How long is the period in searching for a job from the date of graduation?
5. How relevant is the program to your present job?
6. What skills have you learned that are relevant to your present job?

STATISTICAL TOOL

The information and data that were gathered through the different techniques were organized, tabulated and collated for better analysis and interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1 Frequency and percentage Distribution of the Respondents according to Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
21 - 30	34	100
31-40	-	-
41-50	-	-
	34	100

Table 1 presents the frequency and percentage distribution according to age. As presented in the table, all the respondents are still in the age bracket of 21 – 30 years old. This implies



that the respondents are still young as they were just graduated from their baccalaureate degrees.

Table 2 Frequency and percentage Distribution of the Respondents according to Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	22	64.70
Female	12	35.29
	34	100

Table 2 presents the frequency and percentage distribution according to gender. As gleaned from the table, majority of the respondents are males with a frequency of 22 or 64.70 percent while there are 12 who are already female. This implies that the BS Criminology program is a male dominated degree.

Table 3 Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents according to Civil Status before the First Job

Civil Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	34	100
Married	-	-
	34	100

Table 3 presents the frequency and percentage distribution according to civil status. All the respondents are single before their first jobs. This implies that the respondents were focused in finding a job immediately after graduation as their number one priority.

Table 4 Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents according to Region of Origin

Region of Origin	Frequency	Percentage
Region 2	31	91.17
CAR	3	8.82
	34	100

As presented in Table 4, majority or 91.17 percent of the respondents are from Region 2 which implies that students who enroll in a school nearest to their place. Proximity is of prime consideration to lessen academic expenses.

Table 5 Frequency and percentage Distribution of the Respondents according to Highest Educational Attainment

Highest Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
College Degree	33	97.05
Master's Degree	1	2.94
Total	34	100



As gleaned from Table 5, majority or 97 percent of the respondents have finished college whereas there is only one who pursued graduate studies. This implies that most of the respondents have looked for a job after college.

Table 6 Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents according to Eligibility

Eligibility	Frequency	Percentage
Board (PRC)	19	55.88
CSC	2	5.88
TESDA	1	2.94
Others	12	35.29
Total	34	100

Table 6, presents the eligibility that graduates have passed after graduation. Majority have passed the Criminologist Licensure Examination being administered by the Professional Regulation Commission. This implies that most of the graduates have undergone the examination in order to become a licensed criminologist.

Table 7 Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents according to Present Occupation

Present work/Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Policeman/military/jailman/Fireman	20	58.82
Teaching	3	8.82
Office worker	2	5.88
Not employed	7	20.58
OFW	1	2.94
Security Guard	1	2.94
Total	34	100.00

As shown in Table 7, more than half of the total respondents are employed in the tri-bureau of the DILG and AFP, 7 or 0.58 are not employed while others are employed either as office worker, OFW, and security guard. It can be inferred that graduates of the BS Criminology program preferred to join the law enforcement agencies in order to better apply what they have learned in College. However, others who had no luck to be accommodated in agencies that could match their educational qualification are underemployed considering that some are employed in areas out of their fields of specialization.

Table 8 Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents according to Status of Employment

Status of employment	Frequency	Percentage
Contractual	7	25.92
Permanent	20	74.07
Total	27	100.00



Of the 27 employed graduates, most of them (20 or 74.07%) are permanent while 7 or 25.92% are on a contractual basis. Those who passed the board examination and who are employed as law enforcers are permanent while the rest who were not able to pass the board exam are hired on a contractual status. It should be noted however that 1 board passer is among those who are still on a contractual status due to lack of available position to be filled in the agency where he is employed.

Table 9 Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents according to first Job after Graduation

First Job after College	Frequency	Percentage
No job	7	20.58
Private sector	7	20.58
Government Sector	20	58.82
Total	34	100.00

Of the total number of 34 BS Criminology graduates, most of them (20 or 58.82%) are employed in the government sector while 7 or 20.58% are employed in the private sector. Seven graduates were not lucky enough to land on a job after graduation. The data would imply the demand of Criminology graduates in the law enforcement agencies.

Table 10 Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents according Manner of Finding a Job

Manner of Finding a Job	Frequency	Percentage
Job orientation in school	10	37.03
Job fair	5	18.51
Internet Searching	1	3.71
Friends recommendation	1	3.71
Walk-in application	9	33.33
Placement agencies	1	3.71
Total	27	100.00

Table 11 reflects the manner by which the graduates find a job. Prior to the exit of the graduates from the school, they have to undergo exit conference in the office of the Guidance Counsellor to guide them on how to search for a job. As revealed by 10 graduates, they were able to find a job as a result of job orientation in the school while others found a job through internet searching, friends' recommendation, walk-in application, and placement agencies. The placement agency is true to only 1 who works as OFW. The data implies that the graduates resorted to the most possible means by which they could find a job.



Table 11 Distribution of Respondents' Reasons for Staying on the Job

Reasons	Frequency *
Financial benefit	27
Proximity to residence	9
To help brothers and sisters to pursue higher education	25
Satisfied with the job	27

- Multiple response

Table 11 reflects the reasons of the respondents for staying in the job they are in. The foremost reasons as claimed by all the respondents are for financial benefit and satisfied with the job. Other reasons given were proximity to residence and to help brothers and sisters pursue higher education. This finding would imply that respondents are committed to their job.

Table 12 Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents according to Job Searching Period

Job searching period	Frequency	Percentage
6 months to 1 year	3	11.11
1 year to 2 years	20	74.07
2 years to 3 years	4	14.82
Total	27	100

The waiting period for the graduates to land on a job is reflected in Table 12. Apparently, graduates took a long period of time before they could land on a job with only a few who were able to land on a job as early as from 6 months to 1 year. It can be inferred that the period when the respondents graduated, there were no vacancies and need of criminology graduates.

Table 13 Personal Skills of Respondents Relevant to their Present Job

Skills	Frequency*
Communication skills	24
Human Relations Skills	27
Problem solving skills	21
Investigative skills	20

- Multiple response

Graduates of the BS Criminology Degree are trained to be equipped of several skills as their weapon to compete in the global market for employment. As revealed by the respondents, their human relations skills, communication skills, problem-solving skills and investigative skills are relevant in their present job. It was further claimed, that they easily adjusted themselves in their respective jobs because of the skills possessed.



CONCLUSION

From the findings of the study, the following conclusions are drawn:

1. The BS Criminology degree is male-dominated.
2. Most of the graduates passed the BS Criminology board exams.
3. Passing the board exam for Criminologist is a guarantee for immediate employment and permanency in the job.
4. Most of the graduates are employed in their fields of specialization on a permanent status.
5. Graduates took a long period before getting employed.
6. The skills possessed by the graduates are relevant to their present job.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the findings and conclusions, the following are recommended:

1. Tracer study should also be conducted to all graduates of the College both BS Criminology and Police Administration Graduates.
2. Yearly update of the employment status of the graduates should be made to determine their status.
3. The Guidance Placement Service should help graduates seek for employment to minimize underemployment of its graduates.

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