



A TRACER STUDY ON THE BS CRIMINOLOGY GRADUATES OF 2014 AT 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, Piat and Sanchez Mira. 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 second batch graduates (2014) of the Bachelor of Science in Criminology of CSU at Piat campus. 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, law enforcement, criminology 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, Piat and Sanchez Mira. 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. The second batch in 2013 has twenty seven (27) graduates. The third batch of graduates in 2014 has twenty two (22) graduates. The college was headed by Leon T. Mallabo, DPLA from 2008 to 2014.

It was during the first semester of school year 2014 – 2015 that there was a change in administration wherein a new dean was appointed in order to comply with the minimum requirements required by the Accrediting Agency for Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP). This is an agency that accredits state colleges and universities who would want to acquire an accredited status. It requires that the baccalaureate degree of the dean shall be Bachelor of Science in Criminology, a graduate of Master of Science in Criminology and a holder of Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology or any allied program.

Aside from the educational qualification of the dean, the university shall also comply with other requirements in other areas like library holdings are updated, facilities shall be compliant with some standards, state-of-the-art laboratory equipment, swimming pool, firing range and many more.

During the initial visit of AACCUP, it was found out that the college has no tracer studies conducted to monitor the whereabouts of graduates. It was recommended that there has to be tracer studies conducted in order to know if graduates have found jobs immediately after graduation or at least six months after graduation.

For that, the first tracer study was conducted in December 2017 for the first batch of graduates. It is also for this reason, that the researches are continuously undertaking tracer studies to monitor the second batch of graduates (2013). This is the third tracer study for the college. In this way, it will identify the aspects in the criminology program that need improvements.

At writing time, the college is headed by a qualified 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 tracer studies of its graduates and in compliance with AACCUP recommendations, hence, this study.

As mentioned in the first tracer study conducted by Guadamor and Eusebio (2017) graduate surveys provide rich experience about the whereabouts of graduates, which might help to broaden perspectives among administrators, faculty and students.



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 first job after graduation
 - 1.10 manner of finding a job
2. What are the reasons for Reasons for Staying on the Job?
3. How long is the period in searching for a job from the date of graduation?
4. 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	22	100
31-40	-	-
Total	22	100

Table 1 presents the frequency and percentage distribution according to age. As gleaned from the table, all the respondents are 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	8	36.36
Female	14	63.63
Total	27	100

Table 2 presents the frequency and percentage distribution according to gender. As presented in the table, majority of the respondents are females with a frequency of 14 or 63.63 percent while there are 8 or 36.36 percent who are male. This implies that in this batch of graduates, females are more in this 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	22	100
Married	-	-
Total	22	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	22	100
Total	22	100

Table 4 presents that all respondents are from Region 2 which implies that students enroll in a school nearest to their place. Proximity is of prime consideration to them 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	22	100
Master's Degree	-	-
Total	22	100

As gleaned from Table 5, all of the respondents have finished college which implies that no one has continued schooling because they have looked for a job immediately after college.



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

Eligibility	Frequency	Percentage
Board (PRC)	20	90.90
Others	2	9.09
Total	22	100

As presented in Table 6, the eligibility that graduates have passed after graduation. Twenty or 90.90 percent of the respondents 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	15	68.18
Employee (private)	2	9.09
Unemployed	5	22.72
Total	22	100.00

Table 7 presents that there are 15 or 68.18 percent of the respondents are employed in the tri-bureaus of the DILG and AFP, 5 or 22.72 percent are unemployed while two (2) or 9.09 are employed in a private company. It implies 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, there are some who had no luck to be accommodated in agencies that could match their educational qualifications.

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

Status of employment	Frequency	Percentage
Contractual	2	11.76
Permanent	15	88.23
Total	17	100.00

There are 15 or 88.23 percent of the graduates who are permanently employed, while 2 or 11.76 percent are on a contractual basis. Those who passed the board examination and are employed as law enforcers are permanent while the rest preferred to be employed as teachers in private institutions under contractual status.



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

First Job after College	Frequency	Percentage
No job	5	22.72
Private sector	2	9.09
Government Sector	15	68.18
Total	22	100.00

Out of the twenty two (22) BS Criminology graduates, most of them (15 or 68.18 percent) are employed in the government sector while 2 or 9.09 percent are employed in the private sector. Five 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	6	35.29
Friends recommendation	2	11.76
Walk-in application	9	52.94
Total	17	100.00

The manner by which the graduates find a job is presented in Table 10. One of the noted manners how graduates find a job after graduation was their contact with the Guidance Counsellor for an exit conference. They were guided on how to search for a job and were taught how to prepare application documents. Majority or 52.94 percent of the graduates found a job through walk-in application and 2r 11.76 percent though friends' recommendation. The data implies that the graduates exerted their best efforts in order to find a job.

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

Reasons	Frequency *
Financial benefit	17
Proximity to residence	3
To help brothers and sisters to pursue higher education	16
Satisfied with the job	17

***Multiple response**

The reasons of the respondents for staying in the job they are in are reflected in Table 11. It reflects that the foremost reasons as claimed by all the respondents are for financial benefits 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	2	11.76
1 year to 2 years	15	88.23
Total	17	100

Table 12 reflects the waiting period for the graduates to land on a job. The graduates took a long period of time before they could land on a job with two who were able to land on a job as early as from 6 months to 1 year. It can be noted that the most of the respondents after graduation, they still need to take the licensure examination in order to land on a permanent job.

Table 13 Personal Skills of Respondents Relevant to their Present Job

Skills	Frequency*
Communication skills	17
Human Relations Skills	15
Problem solving skills	16
Investigative skills	16

*Multiple response

Table 13 presents that BS Criminology graduates are trained to be equipped of several skills as their weapon to compete in the global market for employment. As disclosed 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. That in this batch of BS Criminology graduates, it is female-dominated.
2. Most of the graduates passed the BS Criminology board exams.
3. Passing the Criminologist Licensure Examination gives the holder a better opportunity 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 BS Criminology program.
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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