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GRADUATE TRACER STUDY OF BS CRIMINOLOGY OF JRMSU MAIN CAMPUS DAPITAN CITY: ITS EMPLOYABILITY AND DESTINATION

Ed Neil O. Maratas

Abstract

Many higher institutions in the Philippines provide training to a variety of clients and these institutions were involved in the developing human resources through long and short – term programs. Hence their duty includes keeping track of the performance of their graduates. This study was conducted to trace the criminology graduates of Jose Rizal Memorial State University Main Campus, Dapitan City from SY 2010 – 2011 to 2013 – 2014 consisted of 77 sample selected in random included in the study. The majority of the respondents are in the age bracket 22 – 24 years old, male and with average grade bracket of 2.0 to 1.6 which was described as good. Further, only few admitted that they pursued further studies after taking their baccalaureate degree. And some of the reasons that they pursued further studies mostly agreed that it is because of their promotions and professional development. More than one – half of the graduates are unemployed or laid off during the interview and most of them have not taken and passed the licensure exam. Some of the reasons, why they are not employed is that they did not look for a job after graduation. While in terms of skills most found useful, majority of the graduates admitted that human relation found most useful in their current job. The majority of the employed graduates land their job within the province of the Zamboanga del Norte, mostly with contractual status, and the average waiting time to land a job is approximately of less than six (6) months. A number of them worked as security guards and part - time employees in some business establishments. Further, most of them have initial monthly income of Php 3,000 to Php 9,000 per month. However, majority of them are very satisfied and satisfied with their present job. GTS is conducted and included the industry sector and employers as respondents to determine the extent of perceived mismatch of academic and technical preparation provided by the educational institutions to student – clientele and the skills needed in the industry.

Keywords and Phrases: Graduate Tracer Study, BS Criminology, Employability and Destination

Introduction

Philippines as a developing country has been facing challenges for decades with structurally high unemployment and underemployment rates. The increasing population and labor force growth continues to outperform formal job creation. The jobs are not really created as fast as the universities handling out of the college diploma (De Ocampo, et..al., 2012). Thus, fresh graduates are facing pressure to compete in seeking jobs together with the growth of the population of young graduates. With this image of tertiary education institutions in the Philippines most likely tied to its reputation of producing excellent graduates who easily land a job after graduation. Graduate tracer study is the solution and common research to be conducted by HEIs to keep track on the employability and destination of their graduates.

According to Schomburg (2003), graduate tracer study would obtain information on the type of graduates who are most employable, who have academic experiences and competencies learned most useful in the workplace and personal academic background of the graduates. Rodriquez, S. M. and Romillo, JP E., (2011) added that tracer studies provide feedback on what relevant subjects find most useful in the programs offered, adequacy of skills and competence of the graduate produced after graduation. De Ocampo, et.al, (2012) pointed out and concluded that most young graduates still prefer the security of tenure in a job through the employment route, shortly after graduation. Lalican (2007) study showed that employer is particular with the graduates' major field, general weighted average (GWA), the nature of curriculum followed, the number of jobs taken by the graduates before the present employment, and the year they finish the course.

Meanwhile, Jose Rizal Memorial State University is one of the State Universities and Colleges in the Philippines located in Zamboanga del Norte that offered programs such in agriculture, business, engineering, teacher education, and criminology to name a few. This institution envisions becoming a center of excellence among institutions of higher learning in the local, national, and in the global arena. In-line with that, the JRMSU System has been submitting majority of programs to the accrediting agency, the AACCU, accredited level 1 and level 3, while some are in the preliminary survey. One of these programs is the Bachelor of Science in Criminology of the Main Campus. This program is intended for individuals who wish to have a career in the fields of law enforcement, security administration, crime detection and the like. It aimed to foster the values of leadership, integrity, accountability, and responsibility while serving fellowmen, community and the country as a whole. The course is comprised of CHED mandated general education subjects, profession-related and practicum or internship.

R.A. 7722 mandates the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to “monitor the performance of the programs and institutions of higher learning”. One way to do this is to conduct a graduate tracer study looking at the employability and destinations of the graduates. In addition, one of the documents needed in accreditation is tracer study. This prompted the researchers to conduct this graduate tracer study of Bachelor of Science in Criminology for its employability and destinations of BS Criminology graduates of Jose Rizal Memorial State University – Main Campus, Dapitan City. The result of the study will provide and track down its graduates, employment status, faculty development and the effectiveness of the curriculum designed for the program.

Objectives of the Study

This study was conducted to trace the criminology graduates of Jose Rizal Memorial State University – Main Campus, Dapitan City from 2010-2011 to 2013-2014. Specifically, it sought to determine their profile in terms of gender, age and their performance (average grade). To evaluate the employment status and destination of the graduates.

Methods

The researchers will be employed a descriptive survey method of research with the aid of a checklist questionnaire adopted from the study of Campiseño, & Maratas, (2014). The

respondents of the study are the BS Criminology graduates of Jose Rizal Memorial State University – Main Campus from SY 2010-2011 to 2013-2014. The list of names of graduates from the registrar’s office is then randomly selected. The target respondents will be asked to personally accomplish the survey form sent through snail mail, email or their close friends or contact persons. Cellular phone was also used to validate and verify information given by the target respondents in the survey form.

A frequency count, percentage, mean, were utilized as statistical tools in the study.

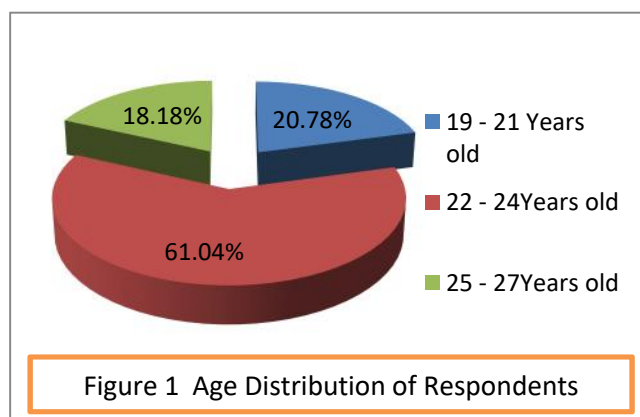
Results and Discussion

Out of 77 respondents included in the survey, 36 or 46.75% of them were employed, while there were 41 or 53.25% graduates unemployed.

Table 1 Frequency and Percent Distribution of Graduates as to School Year and Employment Status

School Year Covered	Employed		Unemployed		total	
	Freq.	Percent(%)	Freq.	Percent(%)	Freq.	Percent(%)
2010 – 2011	10	12.99%	4	5.19%	14	18.18%
2011 – 2012	3	3.90%	5	6.49%	8	10.39%
2012 – 2013	15	19.48%	16	20.78%	31	40.26%
2013 – 2014	8	10.39%	16	20.78%	24	31.17%
Total	36	46.75%	41	53.25%	77	100.00%

As presented in Table 1, most of the respondents in the study were graduates of batch 2012-1013 which comprised of 31 graduates. Of those 31 graduates, 15 of them were employed while 16 of the graduates were unemployed. Therefore, the chances that a BS Criminology graduates will be employed after graduation given that he/she is a graduate of SY 2012 – 2013 is approximately 48.39%.

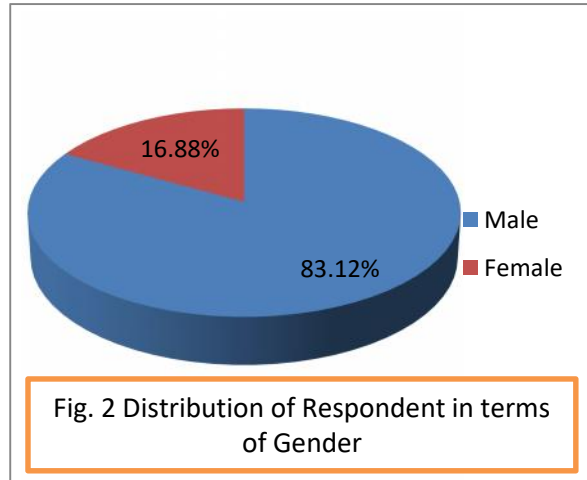


Age

Majority (61.04%) of the respondents are within the age bracket 22 to 24 years old; 18.18% are in the bracket 25 to 27 years old. Noted that it covered from 2010-2011 to 2013 – 2014 graduates, thus some (20.78%) are fresh graduates within the age bracket of 19 to 21 years old.

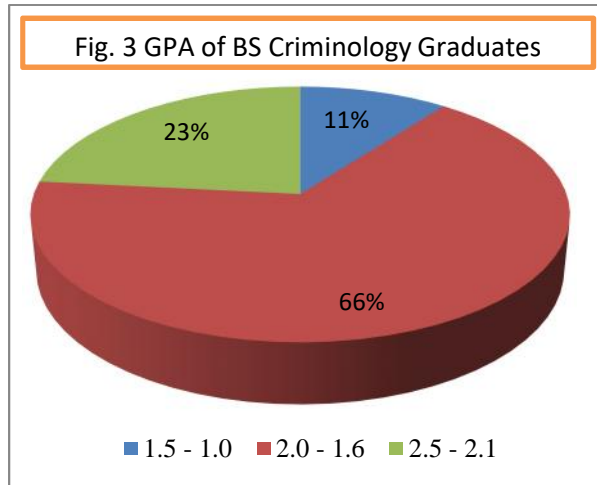
Gender

As to gender, majority of the respondents (83.12%) are male while few (16.88%) of them were female as shown in Fig.2. The data showed that there who female hook interest in the field of serving and protecting the country. The result provides sufficient evidence to conclude that there is gender equality in the BS Criminology.



General Point Average

The average grade of Graduates was also determined and is presented in Fig. 3. As presented in the Figure, majority (66.0%) of the graduates got a GPA bracket 2.0 to 1.6 respectively. while only few (11%) of them with GPA bracket 1.5 to 1.0 which is described as “Very Good” performance. On the other hand, 23% of the graduates got a GPA of 2.5 to 2.1



This is an impressive result that mostly BS Criminology graduates possessed worthy performance despite the hectic and rigid training they go through.

Graduates Reason for Pursuing Further Studies

Of the 77 BS Criminology graduates included in the study, only 18.18% admitted that they continued for further studies after they finish their baccalaureate degree. This means that only 1 or 2 out of 10 BS Criminology graduates pursue or have plan to enroll in the graduate program. On the other hand, the main reason why graduates pursued for further studies

it is because of their professional development as presented in Table 1. While 42.86% of the graduates agreed that it is for their promotion once they land a job or for promotional rank. With the foregoing findings the researchers suggest that graduates must continue their studies to broader their educational outlook, at the same time to gain advantage over competent applicant as far as employment is concerned.

Table 1 Graduates Who Pursued Further Study	Reasons		Total
	Professional Development	Promotion	
Yes	8(57.14%)	6(42.86%)	12(18.18%)
None	-	-	63(81.82%)
Total	8(57.14%)	6(42.86%)	77(100.00%)

Employment and PRC Board Exam Status of BS Criminology Graduates

Employment status and PRC board exam status of graduates is presented in Table 2. As presented in the table, more than one-half (53.25%) of the graduates are unemployed or laid off at the time of the conduct of the study, while 46.75% are employed graduates of which 21 or 27.27% passed the PRC board exam. There are 15 or 19.48% of the graduates employed but without license as Criminologist. This is due to the fact that most of the respondents are fresh graduates and still waiting the PRC result. In contrast, there are 14 or 18.18% of the graduates with license as Criminologist, however, did not find or land a job.

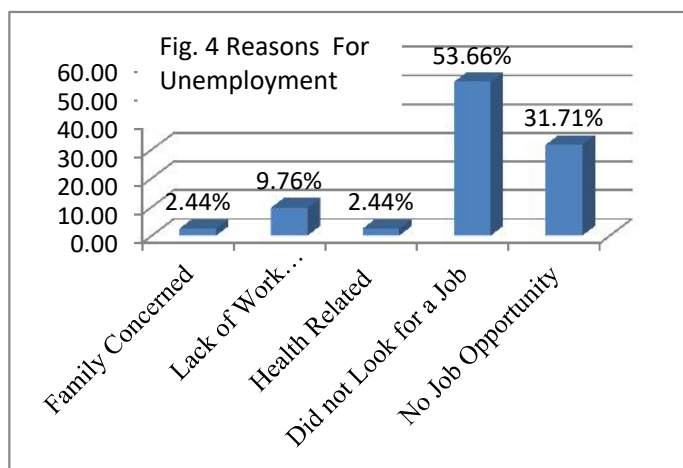
Further findings revealed that the graduates are employed locally, there are 28 or 77.78% of the employed graduates situated within the province. While there are 8 or 22.22% of the graduates employed outside the province like in Misamis Occidental, Cagayan de Oro City, Cebu, Zamboanga City to name a few.

Table 2 Frequency and Percent Distribution of Graduates by Employment and PRC Board Exam Status

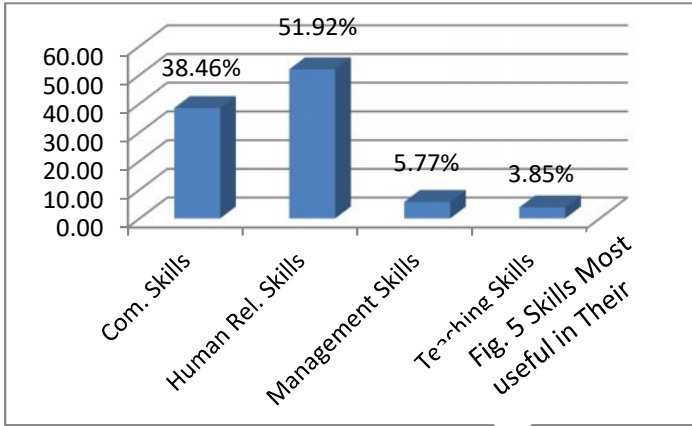
Employment Status	PRC Board Exam		Total
	With/Passed	Without	
Employed	21(27.27%)	15(19.48%)	36(46.75%)
Unemployed/Laid Off	14(18.18%)	27(35.06%)	41(53.25%)
Total	35(45.45%)	42(54.54%)	77(100.00%)

Reasons for Non Employment

Of the unemployed graduates, majority (53.66%) of them admitted that they did not look for a job after graduation or laid off during the period of the survey as shown in Fig 4. Some (31.71%) disclosed that there was no job opportunity; 9.76% has lack of work experience and 2.44% of the graduates divulged of health related problems and family concerned for them not find a job. This implies that most of them did not put effort to find a job as they are still taking time to rest after 4 years in college.



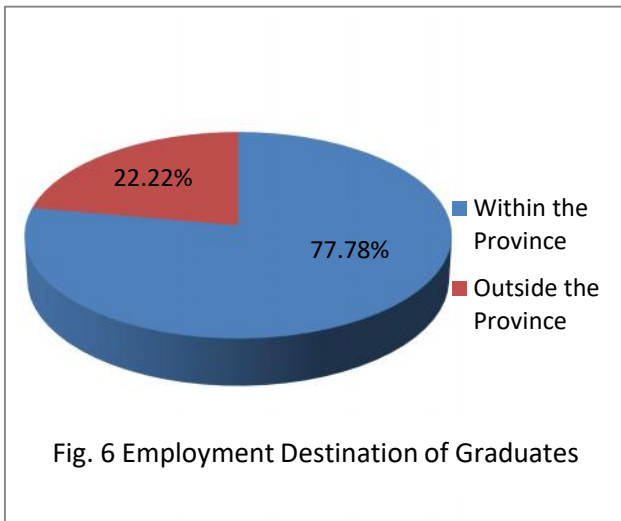
Skills Most Found Useful In Their Job



Majority (51.92%) of the graduates admitted that human relation skills found most useful in their current job as presented in Fig. 5. Other than that, 38.46% of the respondents disclosed that communication skills rank as next most found useful skills in their job. Management and teaching skills ranked the least as most useful skills in their current job. This means that there are BS Criminology graduates who enter into business and education sector.

Employment Destination of Graduates

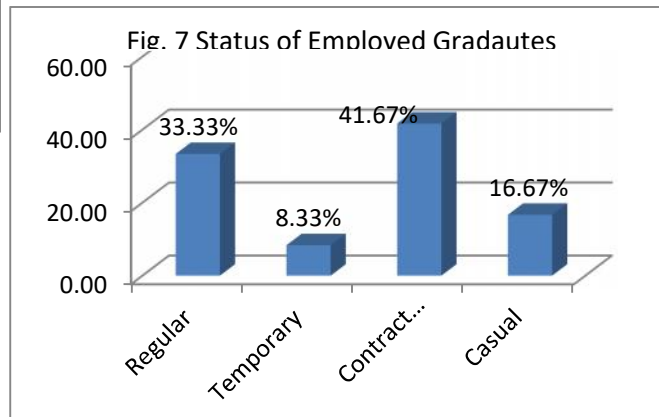
Majority (77.78%) of the employed graduates land their job within the province of Zamboanga del Norte as shown in Fig. 6. While only 22.22% of the employed graduates are outside of the province. This means that only 2 out of 10 are employed graduates migrate to other provinces.



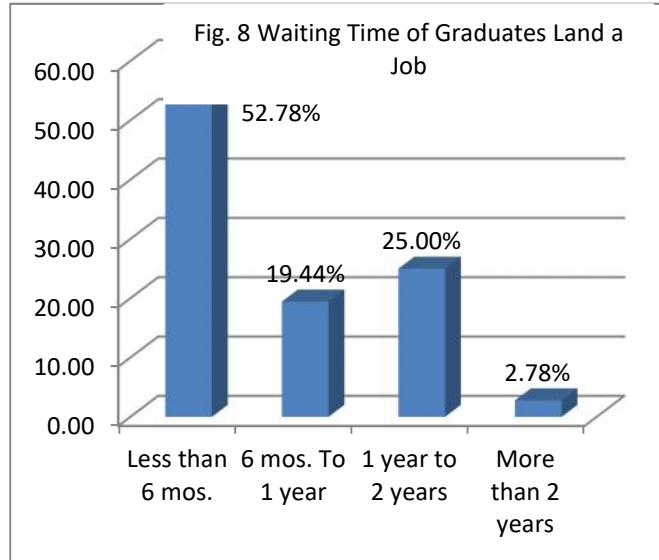
Status of Employed Graduates

Fig. 7 presents the status of employed graduates. Among the respondents that are currently employed, mostly (41.67%) of the employed graduates are contractual employees, 33.33% of them are regular employee's, and 16.67% of the graduates are casual employees. Only 8.33% are currently temporary employees.

Waiting Time to Land a Job

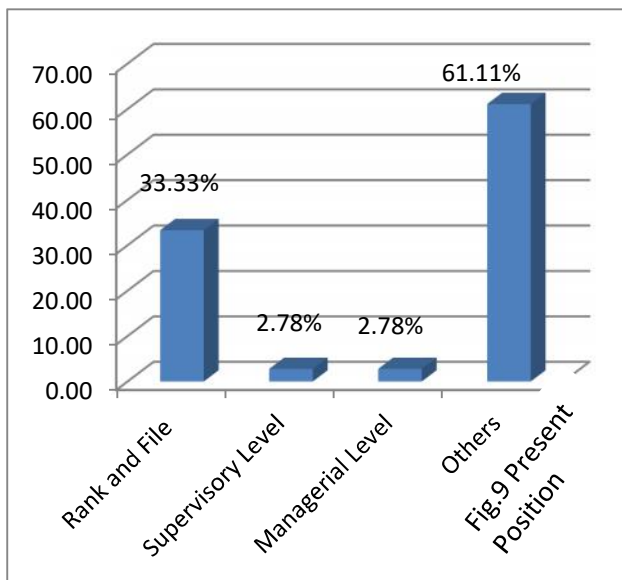


Coming closely is the waiting time of the graduates to land in their current job after graduation as presented in Fig. 8. At a glance, majority (52.78%) of the employed graduates have waiting time of less than 6 months. Unfortunately, these are with contractual or casual status in their respectively employer. There are about 25% of the graduates whose waiting time is ranging from 1 year to 2 years, while there are 19.44% whose waiting time is between 6 months to 1 year respectively. However, there are about 2.78% of the graduates whose waiting time is about more than 2 years. This finding revealed that most companies do not hire or accept applicants without license



Present Position of Employed Graduates

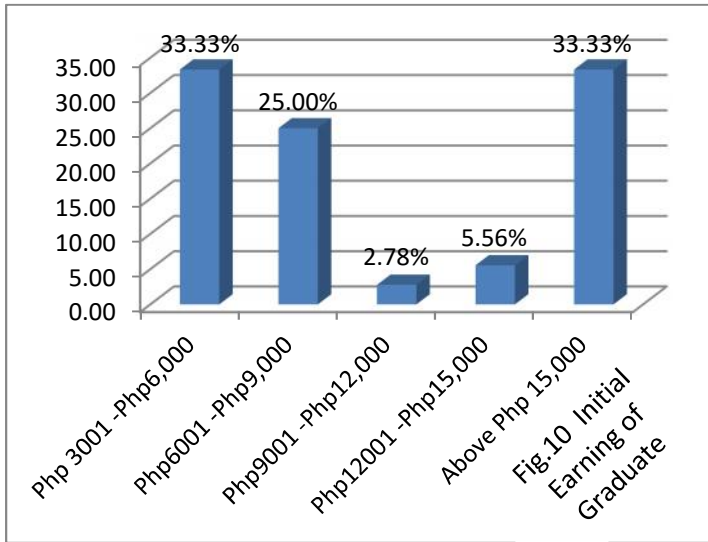
The present position of the employed graduates is presented in Fig. 9. As presented in the table, majority (61.11%) of the employed BS Crim. graduates are security guards and part time employees in some business establishments. While 33.33% are in rank – and – file positions. Only 2.78% of the employed graduates rank in supervisory and managerial position.



Initial Earnings of the Graduates

Figure 10 presents the percentage distribution of employed graduates in terms of their initial earnings. As presented in the figure, mostly (33.33%) of the graduates have initial earning between Php3000 to Php 9000 and above Php 15,000 respectively, while only 2.78% of the employed graduates have initial earning between Php9000 to Php12000.

Satisfaction of Graduates with their present Employer

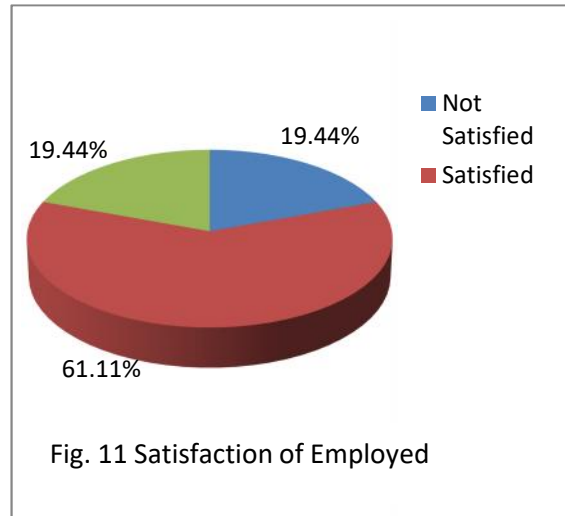


Presented in Fig. 11 is the satisfaction of employed graduates in their present job destination. The data revealed that majority (61.11%) of the employed graduates are satisfied with their present job while 19.44% of them admitted that they are very satisfied and same data reflected as not satisfied. For every 10 employed graduates expectedly approximately there are 6 to 7 of them are satisfied to very satisfied with their present job. This is due to the fact that most of

them are temporary to regular and rank – and – file to managerial position in their respective destination.

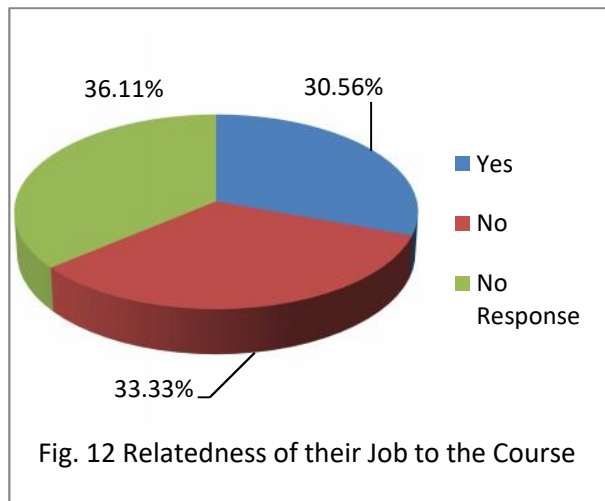
Relatedness of their Job to the Course

Of the 36 employed graduates, 30.56% of them admitted that their present job is related to their course as presented in Fig. 12. 33.33% of them said that their job was not related to their course. However, there are 36.11% undecided or no response yet during the interview.



As to the reasons why their job is not related with their field majority (75.00%) of them admitted that there was an opening in the field which they immediately applied for.

The researchers gather suggestions from the respondents the needed requirements and qualifications to improve the competitive edge of JRMSU graduates in their field of training.



Of the listed suggestions, review and update the curriculum and syllabi rank first as priority suggestions among respondents. Second, upgrade the facilities like computers and laboratories, libraries and etc. Provide a job placement program for graduating student especially to BS Criminology students coming third in the rank. Lastly, they suggested that the number of students inside the classroom may be limited to 35 students or less per class session.

Conclusions

Fresh graduates are facing pressure to compete in seeking a job considering the growth of the population in the country and in the international arena as well. Based on the foregoing findings, the following conclusions are hereby drawn. The BS Criminology graduates perform well while they were studying their course. It can be concluded further that to pursue further studies after taking their baccalaureate degree will rank them in advance or higher position in their current employment. Some did not put effort to find a job as they are still taking time to rest after 4 years in school. The graduates possessed a human relation skill which particularly can help in the organization and assist in achieving the career success. The graduates land their job within the province of Zamboanga del Norte. Hence, the institution (JRMSU) is offering BS Criminology program whose graduates are in demand in the province of Zamboanga del Norte. In terms of employment status, the graduates are employed aligned to their course.

Recommendations

From the foregoing conclusions, the following are hereby recommended. It is recommended that a Graduate Tracer Study of BS Criminology program is conducted every year particularly in the College of Arts and Sciences. That GTS is one of the research programs integrated into every department of JRMSU to track down the destination and labor employment of their graduates. GTS may be conducted by Alumni Affairs and included the industry sector and employers as respondents to determine the extent of perceived mismatch of academic and technical preparation provided by the educational institutions to student – clientele and the skills needed in the industry. Further studies will be conducted to determine which of the factors affect the employability of graduates. Benchmarking will be conducted by BS Criminology program head/coordinator to learn from the best practices of other HEIs offering BS Criminology programs and centers which produced young and competency criminologists.

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