

**Title** : **The Follow-up Study of the Graduates, Suranaree University of Technology, 1996**  
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### **Abstract**

The main aims of this institutional research were four folds: one is to study employment conditions of the 1996 SUT graduates. Second is to study their opinions concerning curriculum and instruction and such main services of the University as the registrar's office, dormitory, and student activities. Third is to study the job supervisors' opinions regarding SUT graduates' characteristics and their working capability. And the final one is to study the academic advisors' opinions regarding the graduates' characteristics and academic capability for graduate study.

The samples were 163 male and 75 female graduates, 76 job supervisors, and 25 academic advisors.

Two sets of instruments for data collecting were the official questionnaires developed by the Ministry of the University Affairs and the one constructed by the researchers. The data given by the graduates were collected during their annual graduation commencement in October 1997, while they were registering for the graduation commencement. The data given by the job supervisors were collected by mail. And the researchers collected the data from the academic advisors directly from where they work. The data were analyzed using percentage and arithmetic means. The opinion data were compared based on the standard scale of John Best.

The research findings were as follows:

1. 147 of 238 graduates or 61.76 percent of the graduates were employed within five months after graduation
2. 61 of 238 graduates or 25.63 percent of the graduates were not employed within five months after graduation.
3. 30 or 12.61 percent of the graduates were accepted to pursue a higher degree at the graduate schools.

4. 96 % of the graduates from the School of Transportation Engineering were employed. This percentage was the highest of all.

5. Most of the graduates' employers were the private firms in Bangkok and in its vicinity area. Only 6.12 percent of the graduates got their jobs in the government sectors.

6. Most of the employed graduates' first month salaries were higher than 10,000 baht; 48.84 percent were higher than 14,000 baht; Only 24.03 percent were lower than 10,000 baht.

7. The graduates rated the overall University curriculum as good or high, except the general education as moderate. As for the lecturer's instructional performances, they were rated as good in every aspect.

8. As for some University services: the registrar's office, the dormitory, the student activities, and the supportive services in the lecture building, they were rated as moderate.

9. The graduates' job supervisors rated the graduates' overall characteristics and working capability as good. When studied them in details, it was found that the social skills, the working skills, and management skills were rated as good or high. Only the communicative skills were rated as moderate.

10. The opinions of the graduates' academic advisors showed that the graduates from the Institute of Agriculture Technology were rated as moderate whereas the ones from the Institute of Industrial Technology were rated as high or good.

From this research, the following recommendations can be further applied:

1. The study of the working conditions of the 1996 graduates should be followed up. It should be studied at least for one whole year to investigate the working conditions and their development.

2. There should be more studies about the aspects that were rated moderate by the graduates so that related improvements could be made.