

# U grads face promising job market

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As recent U graduates take their first steps into the professional world this summer, they will reap the benefits of rising salary offers and a 20-percent increase in hiring statistics from 2006.

A heightened emphasis on college hiring and business growth and expansion are responsible for these statistics, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers. The statistics apply on a national level, but one extra advantage Utah's graduates may have is a high growth rate in the state's economy. This, on top of a shrinking labor pool, has caused a significant increase in the demand for workers at all levels, but especially for jobs requiring higher education.

Favorable statistics aside, graduates still face the daunting task of actually snagging a job.

Organizations such as the U's Lassonde New Venture Development Center help prepare upperclassmen for their post-graduation job search. The NVDC "brings together students from the business, engineering and science schools at the U and provides them a unique educational experience by working on the commercialization of university-developed technologies," said Troy D'Ambrosio, the center's president.

The center's focus is geared for students interested in top-paying starting salary jobs in 2007, which include chemical engineering (\$60,054), computer engineering (\$55,936) and Industrial/manufacturing engineering (\$54,769). ?

To become involved in the NVDC, students must apply in the spring for the next academic year. The only qualification the center requires is enrollment at the U. The NVDC accepts 16 to 18 students per year. ?

"Based on our students' feedback, the Lassonde program has played an important factor in interviewing and being hired," D'Ambrosio said.

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