METHODOLOGY

Data Collection:
Career Development Services (CDS) collects First Destination data in an ongoing process whereby graduating students can self-report at any time, before or after graduation, as appropriate. University of Central Missouri (UCM) graduates can report this information when they have received and accepted a job offer, have been accepted into a graduate program, received a commission to one of the armed services, signed a commitment to participate in a service program, etc.

CDS conducts a campaign centered on each graduation. Graduating students who have firmly established plans are asked to complete the Graduate Follow-up Survey (GFS) online when they apply for graduation. The Office of the Registrar mails a postcard reminder to complete the survey to each graduating student with their diploma. International and domestic graduates who have already self-reported through the methods listed above, are removed from the full list to create a pool of graduates the Career Center will need to call.

At the six-month mark following graduation, Office of Technology downloads a comprehensive list of graduates from Banner. International Student Services supplies the Career Center a comprehensive list of International Graduates' employment information ("Knowledge") from the Department of Homeland Security – Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SVIS).* This information is uploaded into our GFS calling survey.

CDS actively attempts to contact each of the graduates in this pool using the following methods:

1. Four attempts are made to contact each graduate in person by phone.

After the fourth attempt by phone:

2. The survey is e-mailed out to the remaining graduates.
3. The remaining list is broken down by Academic Department and sent to faculty to gain "Knowledge" on the graduate. *
4. Other sources, mostly electronic media, are used to gain "Knowledge" about the graduate's first destination. *

* "Knowledge" is defined by NACE as information that is both reasonable and verifiable. The target goal for UCM's "Knowledge" rate goal is 60%.

Salary averages are computed and reported using averages of $5,000 ranges. Isolated reports of salaries that were higher than $150,000, and lower than $15,000, were intentionally removed to avoid skewing, or distorting, the overall salary averages.

Any questions regarding the report methodology, can be directed to CDS at careers@ucmo.edu, or by calling 660-543-4985.