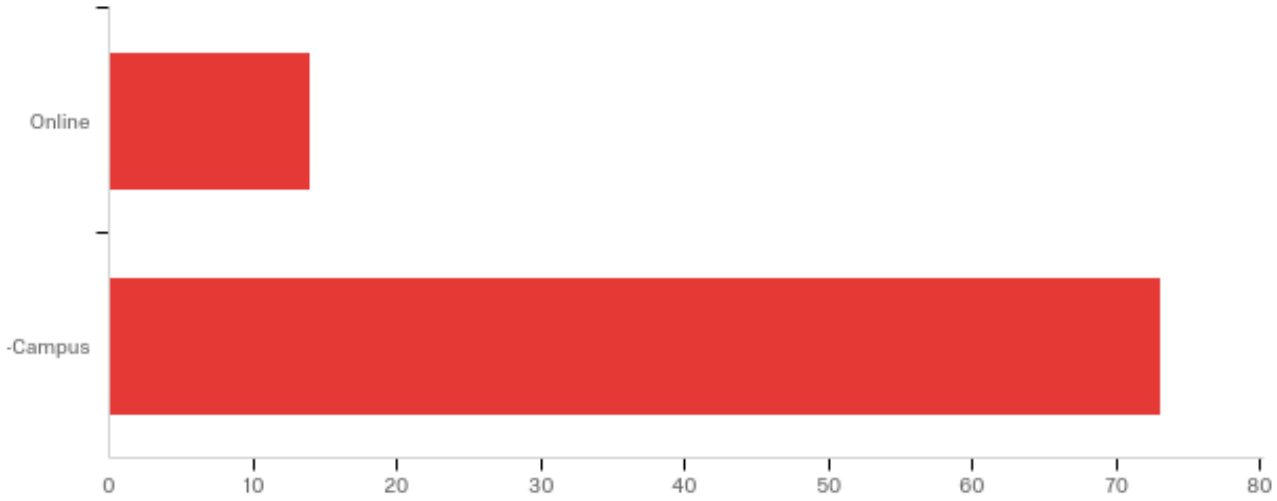
Alumni-Survey

Construction Engineering Technology (CET) Alumni Survey

September 6th 2019, 4:14 pm CDT

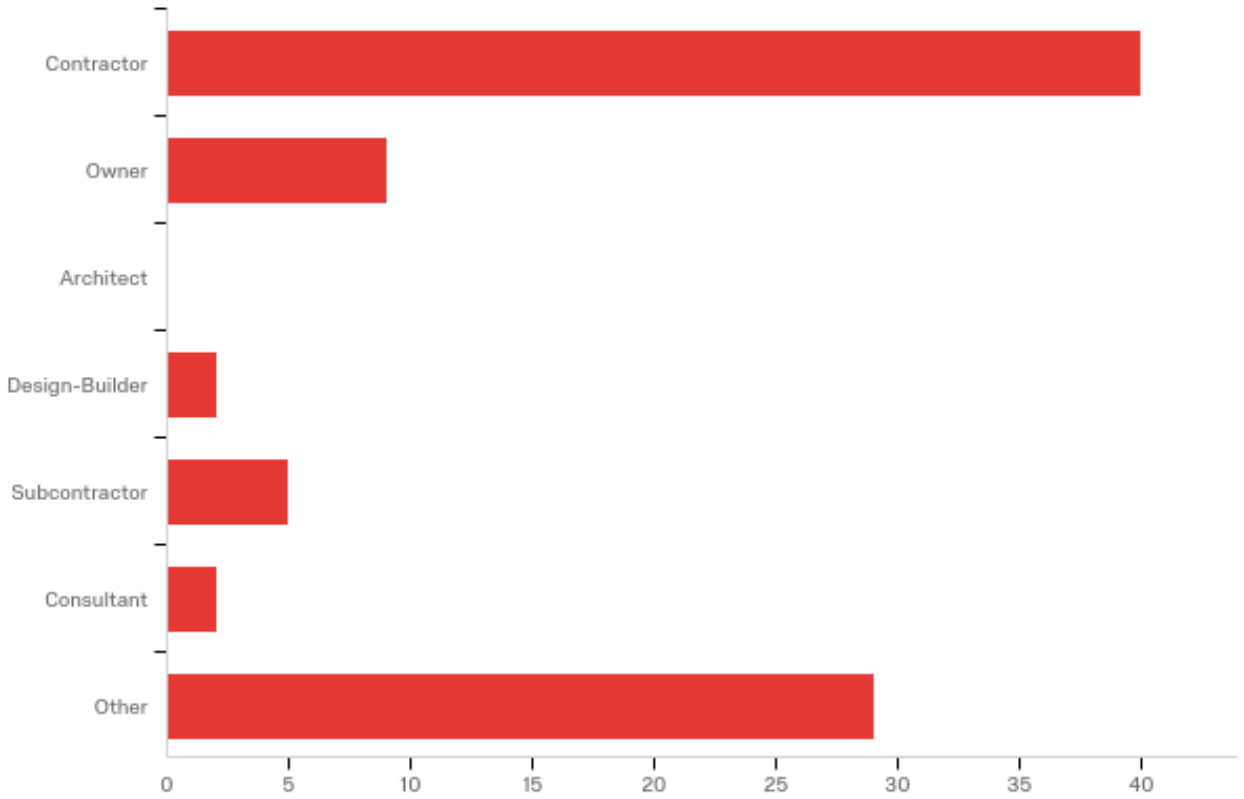
Q15 - I completed the Construction Engineering Technology degree program:



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	I completed the Construction Engineering Technology degree program:	1.00	2.00	1.84	0.37	0.14	87

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Online	16.09%	14
2	On-Campus	83.91%	73
	Total	100%	87

Q16 - I work for a(n):



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	I work for a(n): - Selected Choice	1.00	7.00	3.52	2.73	7.47	87

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Contractor	45.98%	40
2	Owner	10.34%	9
3	Architect	0.00%	0
4	Design-Builder	2.30%	2
5	Subcontractor	5.75%	5
6	Consultant	2.30%	2
7	Other	33.33%	29

		Total	100%	87

Q16_7_TEXT - Other

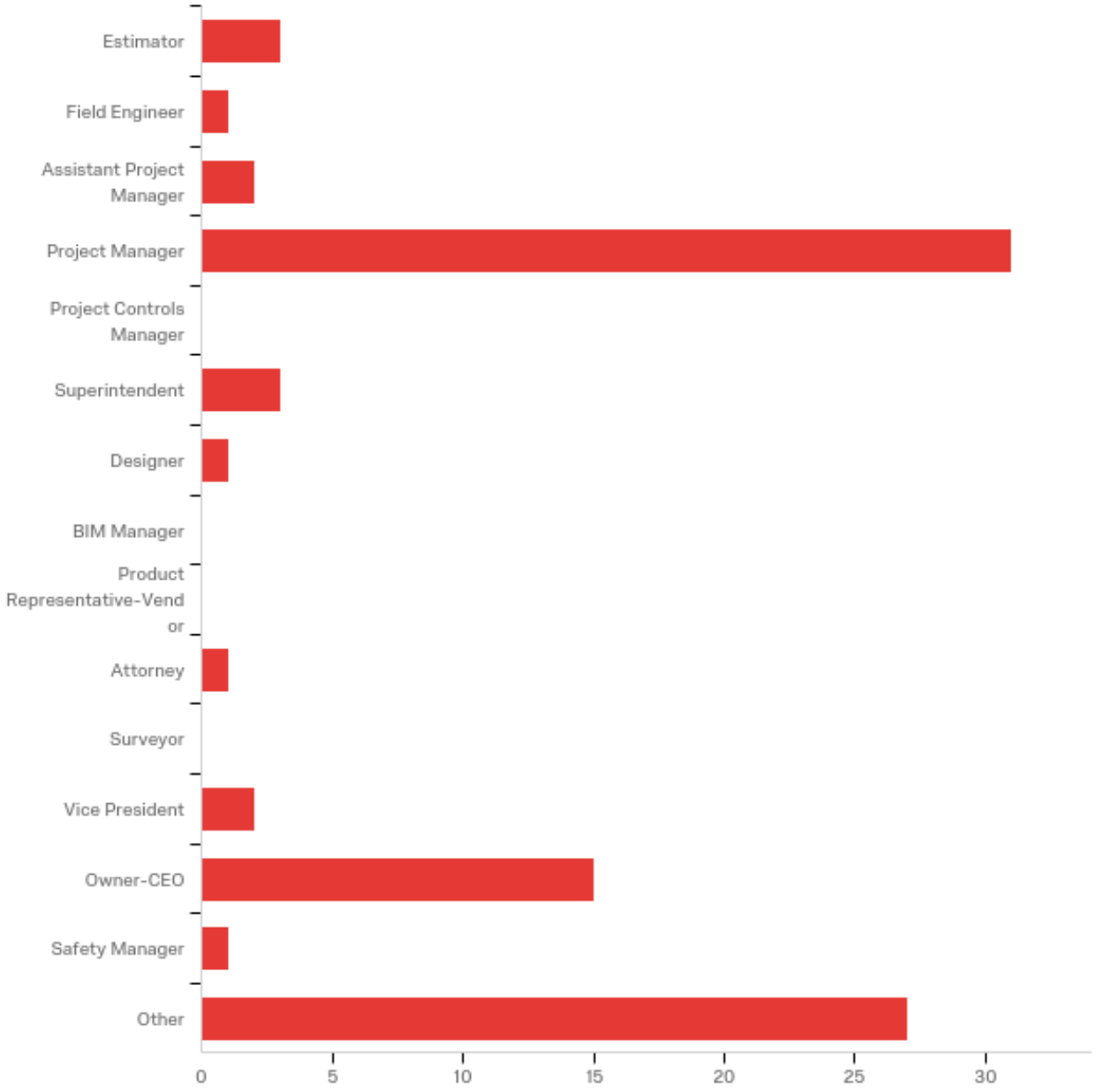
Other - Text
Home Builder
University
I am the Owner of the Company
Business Owner
Refinery
Insurance Company
Oil and Gas Specialty Chemical Company
unemployed
Retired
Myself
Oil&Gas Service Company
Retail
Tower Inspector
Federal Government
Contractor/Owner
Government Agency
Contractor, Subcontractor & Supplier
Law Firm
self- contractor
Car Dealership
I have multiple companies that I own.
Retired
government
Telecommunications Co.

Engineering

Department of the Army

Material Distributor

Q18 - My functional role is:



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	My functional role is: - Selected Choice	1.00	15.00	9.29	5.22	27.22	87

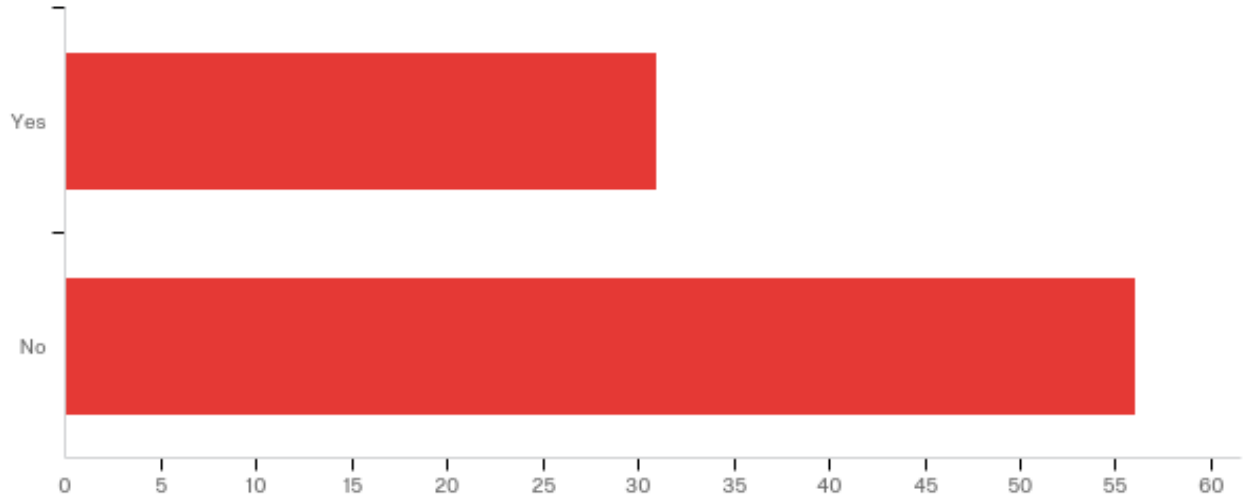
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Estimator	3.45%	3
2	Field Engineer	1.15%	1
3	Assistant Project Manager	2.30%	2
4	Project Manager	35.63%	31
5	Project Controls Manager	0.00%	0
6	Superintendent	3.45%	3
7	Designer	1.15%	1
8	BIM Manager	0.00%	0
9	Product Representative-Vendor	0.00%	0
10	Attorney	1.15%	1
11	Surveyor	0.00%	0
12	Vice President	2.30%	2
13	Owner-CEO	17.24%	15
14	Safety Manager	1.15%	1
15	Other	31.03%	27
	Total	100%	87

Q18_15_TEXT - Other

Other - Text
Procurement Mgr
Advisor
Owner
DIRECTOR
Inspector
Risk Control Consultant
Project Administrator for the Equipment Department
International Quality Control Manager/ Project Engineer
Sales and Safety Champion

Farmer
Retired
Applications Engineer
Project Superintendent
Director of Operations
Equipment manager
Architectural Procurement Coordinator
Salesman
Operations
Project Manager and Estimator
Retired
Executive Director
Owner
Director of Operations
Construction Representative/CM
Operations Manager
Account Manager

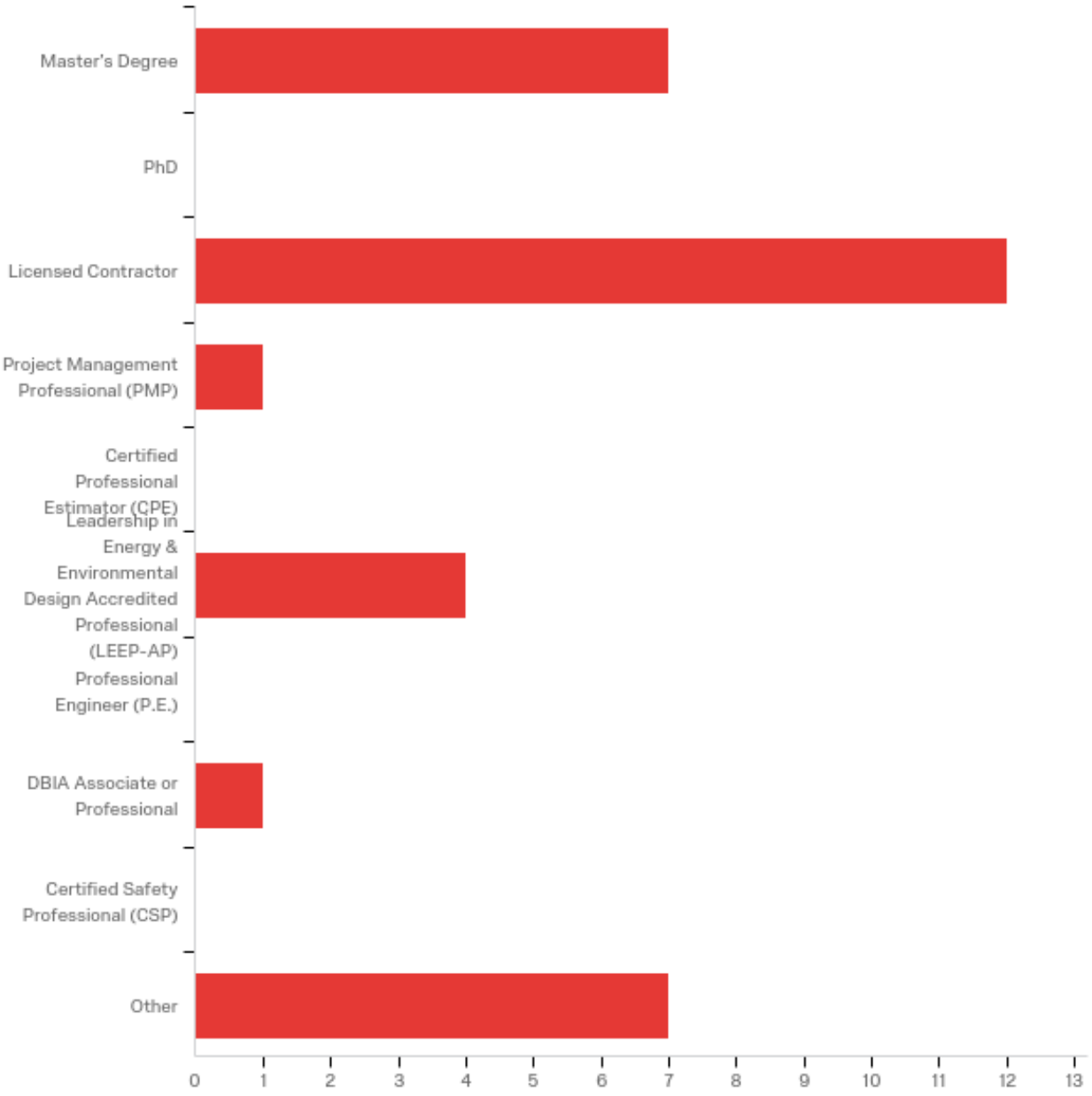
Q20 - Have you completed an advanced degree, professional licensing, or certifications since graduation?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Have you completed an advanced degree, professional licensing, or certifications since graduation?	1.00	2.00	1.64	0.48	0.23	87

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	35.63%	31
2	No	64.37%	56
	Total	100%	87

Q21 - If yes, please select from the following that apply or 'write in' under the 'Other' option.



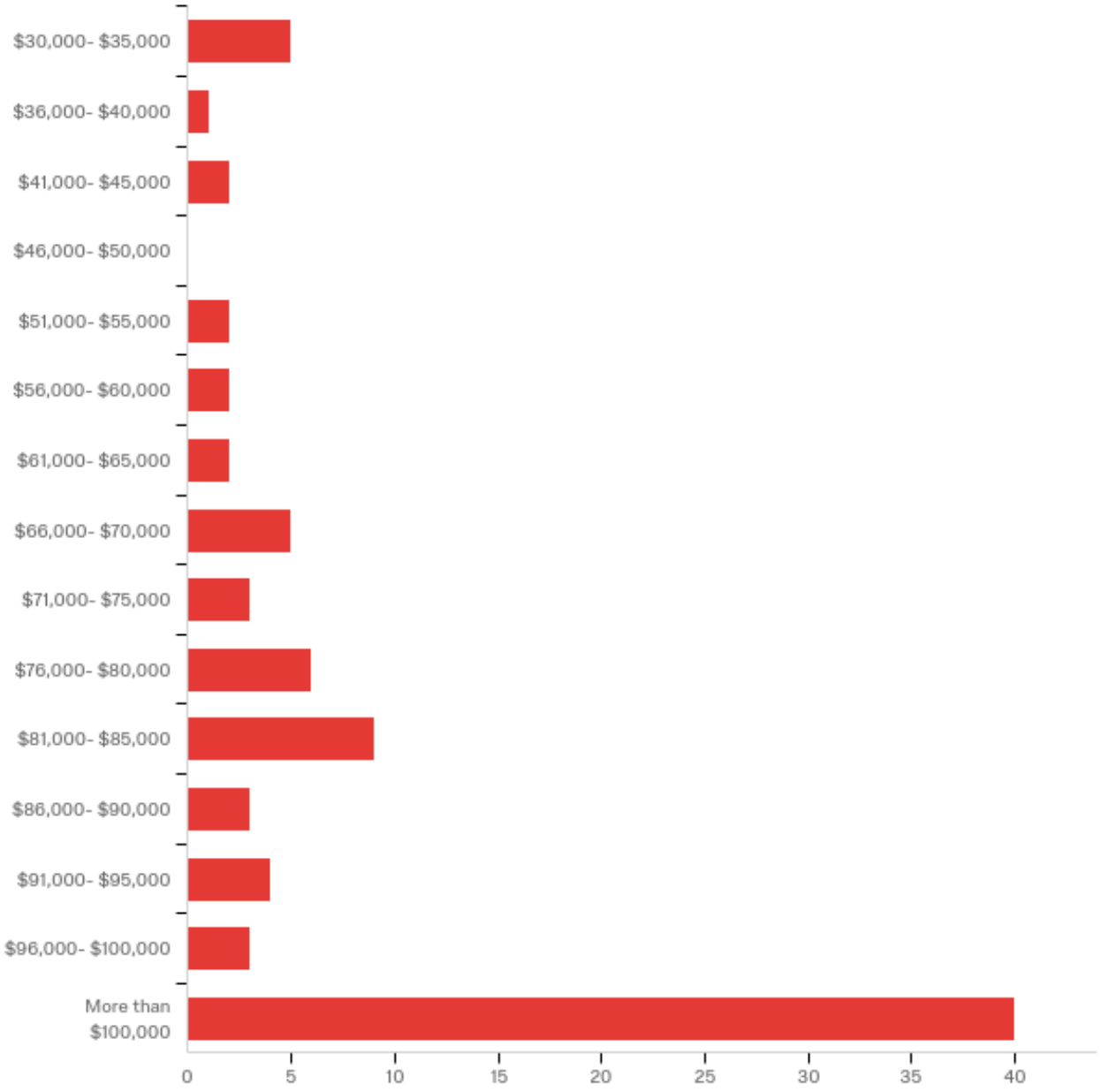
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Master's Degree	21.88%	7
2	PhD	0.00%	0
3	Licensed Contractor	37.50%	12
4	Project Management Professional (PMP)	3.13%	1

5	Certified Professional Estimator (CPE)	0.00%	0
6	Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEEP-AP)	12.50%	4
7	Professional Engineer (P.E.)	0.00%	0
8	DBIA Associate or Professional	3.13%	1
9	Certified Safety Professional (CSP)	0.00%	0
10	Other	21.88%	7
	Total	100%	32

Q21_10_TEXT - Other

Other - Text
CHFM, CEM, CHC
API 510 and 570
NCCER
Certified Emergency Healthcare Professional
Army Core CQM Certified
J.D. and licensed attorney in MS
LEAN CM

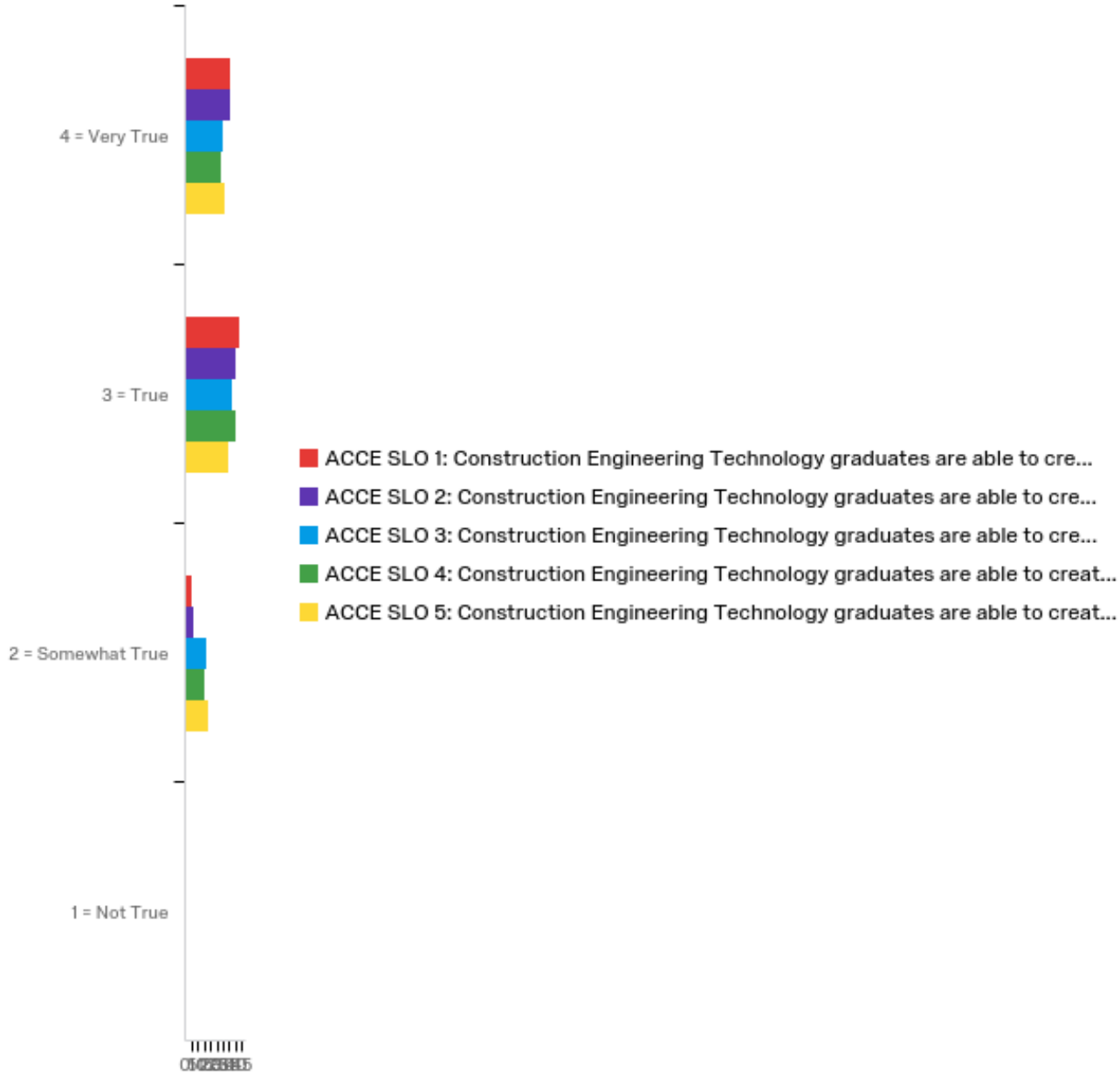
Q22 - Please select the box that is closest to your current salary:



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Please select the box that is closest to your current salary:	1.00	15.00	11.55	4.27	18.22	87

#	Answer	%	Count
1	$30,000- $35,000	5.75%	5
2	$36,000- $40,000	1.15%	1
3	$41,000- $45,000	2.30%	2
4	$46,000- $50,000	0.00%	0
5	$51,000- $55,000	2.30%	2
6	$56,000- $60,000	2.30%	2
7	$61,000- $65,000	2.30%	2
8	$66,000- $70,000	5.75%	5
9	$71,000- $75,000	3.45%	3
10	$76,000- $80,000	6.90%	6
11	$81,000- $85,000	10.34%	9
12	$86,000- $90,000	3.45%	3
13	$91,000- $95,000	4.60%	4
14	$96,000- $100,000	3.45%	3
15	More than $100,000	45.98%	40
	Total	100%	87

Q25 - The American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING MEASURES BY SELECTING THE NUMBER ON THE SCALE FROM 1 TO 4:



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	ACCE SLO 1: Construction Engineering Technology graduates are able to create written communications appropriate to the construction discipline.	1.00	3.00	1.64	0.59	0.35	85
2	ACCE SLO 2: Construction Engineering Technology graduates are able to create oral	1.00	4.00	1.68	0.67	0.45	85

	presentations appropriate to the construction discipline.						
3	ACCE SLO 3: Construction Engineering Technology graduates are able to create a construction project safety plan.	1.00	4.00	1.87	0.76	0.58	85
4	ACCE SLO 4: Construction Engineering Technology graduates are able to create construction project cost estimates.	1.00	4.00	1.88	0.74	0.55	85
5	ACCE SLO 5: Construction Engineering Technology graduates are able to create construction project schedules.	1.00	3.00	1.85	0.76	0.58	85

#	Question	4 = Very True		3 = True		2 = Somewhat True		1 = Not True		Total
1	ACCE SLO 1: Construction Engineering Technology graduates are able to create written communications appropriate to the construction discipline.	42.35%	36	51.76%	44	5.88%	5	0.00%	0	85
2	ACCE SLO 2: Construction Engineering Technology graduates are able to create oral presentations appropriate to the construction discipline.	42.35%	36	48.24%	41	8.24%	7	1.18%	1	85
3	ACCE SLO 3: Construction Engineering Technology graduates are able to create a construction project safety plan.	35.29%	30	43.53%	37	20.00%	17	1.18%	1	85
4	ACCE SLO 4: Construction Engineering Technology graduates are able to create construction project cost estimates.	32.94%	28	47.06%	40	18.82%	16	1.18%	1	85
5	ACCE SLO 5: Construction Engineering Technology graduates are able to create construction project schedules.	37.65%	32	40.00%	34	22.35%	19	0.00%	0	85

Q26 - What do you consider the strengths of your degree in Construction Engineering Technology?

What do you consider the strengths of your degree in Construction Engineering Technology?
Opened the door to get into the profession.
Managing projects
Scheduling and Estimating
Knowledge of construction materials, and the strong emphasis on the importance of safety.
The development and promotion of a team-approach to create a collaborative working environment has proven very helpful & rings true in my experience in the industry.
The overall knowledge of the staff that was there when I was in the program. They all had many years in the industry and they had us well prepared when we finished. There were so many different contractors coming in and speaking to us and we were able to ask all the questions we wanted to and I think that really prepared us for the real world.
Exercises that involve field experience.
Learning computer programs for construction related activities. Learning to speak well to a group. Statics and Strengths, Structures
Network of relationships that were made while in school. Basis of knowledge was a good start to the education I received the first few years out.
General knowledge of all areas of construction process
Scheduling and Estimating
Exposure to technology and conceptual building knowledge
The program gave a lot of information in all the different aspects of construction. This allowed graduates to know the right questions to ask.
Broad understanding of the different construction disciplines
Scheduling, estimating, drafting (by hand and AutoCAD in the 90s), and construction materials.
The well rounded classes and teachers
knowledge of construction terminology, ability to understand reports, day to day activities, general estimating, general planning
the strengths include; intrusive curriculum, job preparation & broad career options
Critical thinking and communication.
Mrs. Kemp safety class, Even though I took my online my group and we worked really well together, We learned so much it was great. We each took something away from our research for our safety book.
It helped me get my foot in the door as a Project Manager with construction companies local to Hattiesburg, MS. Having an OSHA 30 card was an added benefit during my job search out of college. My degree gave me just enough knowledge to be familiar with construction and maybe that's the intent. We need more Superintendents in the field and less Project Managers. Coming out of college I did not feel I had the ability to be a Superintendent, but did feel that a Project Manager role was more suitable.

For the time I was there, for me out coming out of USM was the the basic fundamentals of estimating practices and procedures. I also thought the Project Controls curriculum was a strength.

technical aspects

I feel like the number of oral presentations really helped me early in my career as an assistant project manager.

The broad range of classes required. There was an appropriate balance of business, engineering, and building sciences related courses.

Scheduling, estimating, project management, safety

Mechanical aptitude and project management skills obtained

Problem solving

I feel as though my CET degree helped open the door for me to multiple opportunities. I was able to receive 2 Internships and my first job out of college due to my relationships made through the program. I was able to learn a substantial amount from all the project mgt, estimating and scheduling classes that I use every day in my current Project Manager role. I really enjoyed being a part of the ABC Student Constructors and the ABC Competition Team.

Provides a strong foundation for understanding core principles of the industry.

The courses related to design, estimating, safety, and scheduling are each strengths.

The vast array of topics covered by the program

General knowledge of all aspects of the construction industry thru various project types. Also a better understanding of some of the inner workings of how a project should flow.

An initial exposure to the varying aspects of the construction industry - safety, quality control/assurance, accounting, estimating, scheduling, project management, soils, basic engineering courses, etc.

Safety Training, Well rounded curriculum that touches a lot of the building blocks of construction and design

Learning to use different types of scheduling software. Opens up a wide range of career paths.

The wide verity of topics covered

Communication skills, blue print reading skills, and estimating skills.

Scheduling and Planning element Project Management

Familiarity with construction management

The program's approach to business, law, and construction principles has been extremely helpful in my career.

It gave me the foot in the door to be able to work for a company and truly learn what I needed with real world experience.

Understanding methods of cost estimating and project management

Scheduling, safety and estimating

Hands on learning.

Learning the administrative side of managing a project.

The theory and computer work is great

Estimating, schedule, project management, mathematics, etc....

The required internship for the students.

Safety, Estimating, Project Controls
Communication
The broad range knowledge of has allowed me to move from various functions of construction management over the course of my career and given me the tools I need for at least a working knowledge of the disciplines that intertwine and interact with Construction Management. Though, without a doubt the foundation in estimating and preconstruciton has given me the abilities that I have excelled with to get to this point and I wouldn't be where I am without them.
Project Controls, Scheduling, Plans & Specs, building materials
I think it is a great program. The program needs additional surveying classes.
Having basic knowledge of creating construction safety plans, and project schedules.
Engineering related technical course work.
To advance form your current position into other opportunities and positions by having a degree in CET.
Communication Skills, estimating, scheduling
My ability to read prints. Develop estimates. Provide my skills in a safe manor. Excel and Microsoft excellence
Critical thinking and analysis
Received a solid base of knowledge in areas I deal with on a daily basis as a project manager and estimator.
N/A
Left with a good general foundation for the construction industry.
Team work Reading drawings accurately Schedule tracking Project closeout
The ability to see the overall picture rather than one discipline. The many focuses and well-rounded education topics are extremely helpful.
A broad-based engineering and construction framework that provides a foundation to do either.
Estimating and engineering economics.

Q27 - What do you consider the weaknesses of your degree in Construction Engineering Technology?

What do you consider the weaknesses of your degree in Construction Engineering Technology?
Need more hands-on experience. Would recommend students to do more internships
Computer programs
Oral Communication
Project management in regard to office protocols, procedures, meeting types, etc. Who knew there would be so many???
More emphasis on creating and delivering oral presentations would have potentially been more beneficial, although those presentations required in the classroom were beneficial.
I can’t think of any right off hand. This degree has opened up many great opportunities for me.
The cost of a degree.
You never really grasp the idea nor is it presented that this job and most jobs in this field are extremely stressful the higher up you get.
I realized after I got out that a construction is about business more than engineering. I am glad the program gave me a basis of engineering knowledge. However, since I got out I have used more business skills than engineering skills. I wish the program had prepared me more for that.
Business courses and resource planning, etc.
Not enough focus on Buisness Management for future Owners of companies
Not enough focus on the sequence of the building processes.
Construction is learned in the field, you can't do an estimate unless you know how much something costs, you learn that in the field or with experience. The same applies to scheduling a project or putting together a safety plan.
Nothing specific at this time
More emphasis on commercial construction. We had a lot of emphasis on residential construction during my years.
Due to my career now as a Risk control consultant, I have learned that safety is a vital role in our construction industry. While I did not anticipate this career path in risk control, i wish I had a little more discussions on construction safety. I was very lucky to have Doris Kemp be my professor in construction safety. It is vital for PMs or supers to have a in depth understanding of safety, crane safety, etc. to not only price projects correctly but to manage them.
field activities and what it truly takes to complete a task, hands on experience
n/a
Engineering principals. I was able to learn on the fly post school because I had been exposed to it. The instructors leading the engineering classes while I attended weren’t the most engaged nor challenging. I likely wasn’t the best student either. Overall I enjoyed my time at USM in the construction program. Also, I would love to see USM become ABET accredited.
surveying, if this is still not be taught being touch by someone that really knows surveying. Students should be outside learning their step offs and how to use the equipment. I still remember my surveying class and still know with a little refresher on the equipment.

Having Survey as a Freshman level course is a mistake in my opinion. Most graduates forget everything they have learned prior to their senior year. Surveying is one of the first things most of our interns are tasked with. I would also recommend more oral presentations and blue print reading courses.

Not enough focus on the the contracting and legal side of the industry. The new curriculum may have addressed this but construction management is not always about plans and specifications.

How to manage the people aspect of the business

I wish the estimating programs had been more in depth, as I was an estimator for several years.

The inability to sit for the FE and PE License

I would have like to see construction having their own building.

None noted

Nothing

I feel like there should be more classes based around reading and understanding how to navigate Architectural, MEP, Structural and Civil Drawings. I think that is a large hurdle with every person that is starting out in a new construction role. As a Project Manager/Estimator, we are expected to be a jack of all trades but we need to understand Construction Drawings in detail. They should also understand how to review and approve Submittals and Shop Drawings of all kind. In my role, I am very client facing so I feel as though any classes that can help with building presentation skills is important. I have to run meetings, take meeting minutes and develop new business so this is critical with what I do every day.

Does not provide sufficient cost control skills or use of industry leading software.

The literature course could have used much better material for the reading assignments. The public speaking course gave the impression that this delivery method had never been used before. The Autocad in the graphics course did not always operate properly. There was a writing course instructor that wanted the reference source mentioned in the body of the writing, but was vague in relating this detail until half way through the semester.

N/A

The main weakness that I see is the lack of general field experience required to get a degree. Most people graduating with a degree in the construction engineering technology field don't have near enough experience and knowledge in the bottom and middle levels of a project to fully understand how to design and complete most mid to major projects.

There was more of an emphasis on vertical construction. Horizontal and infrastructure work was not introduced nearly to the degree that residential and commercial fields were.

Actual workplace training: RFIs, Submittals, Project Cost Reports, Pay Applications, Buyout Scopes of Work

Would like to have had more construction law type classes. Only had one when I was there. The estimating classes I took while in the program were of no use other than learning how to do some take off.

The lack of technology that was introduced to us as a student

Scheduling skills

Estimating and Blueprint Reading

Real world construction

None, I found the program to be extremely comprehensive.

There was not enough hands on situations

Practical experience

Need more exposure to actual projects

Classroom scenarios do not always translate to real world applications.

Not enough big General Contractors/Construction Mangers being involved with the program for co-ops/internships

I think there is a bigger focus needed for field knowledge a semester co op would be a good addition

Building systems

The students today have a hard time communicating without technology. They need to learn how to have a conversation with a person without wanting to look down at a phone or any other device.

Not having the full accreditation of an Engineering degree

n/a

I received exactly what I signed up for. I honestly cannot think of anything that I would consider a weakness.

taxes

There is no substitute for hands on experience. Providing classes that would partner with the private sector to get field experience would be helpful.

It was more booked based, than real life application based.

None

None.

Scheduling. We should have been taught in P6.

N/a

It didn't prepare for the practices of managing projects, just the theory. Didn't teach much about common processes such as submittals, RFIs, reading plans, flow of communication in a project, etc. Would have been good to go through example projects to see how it works in practice. Need to teach more about the organization of an estimate on the GC side and putting together assemblies in estimating software. We learned a lot about takeoff and using numbers given in RS Means to come up with values, but little about gathering subcontractor quotes, analyzing scopes, comparing scopes, what to look out for and where holes in scopes might be. Then how to organize all subcontractor quotes to make sure you have a whole job covered.

N/A

Earthwork estimation

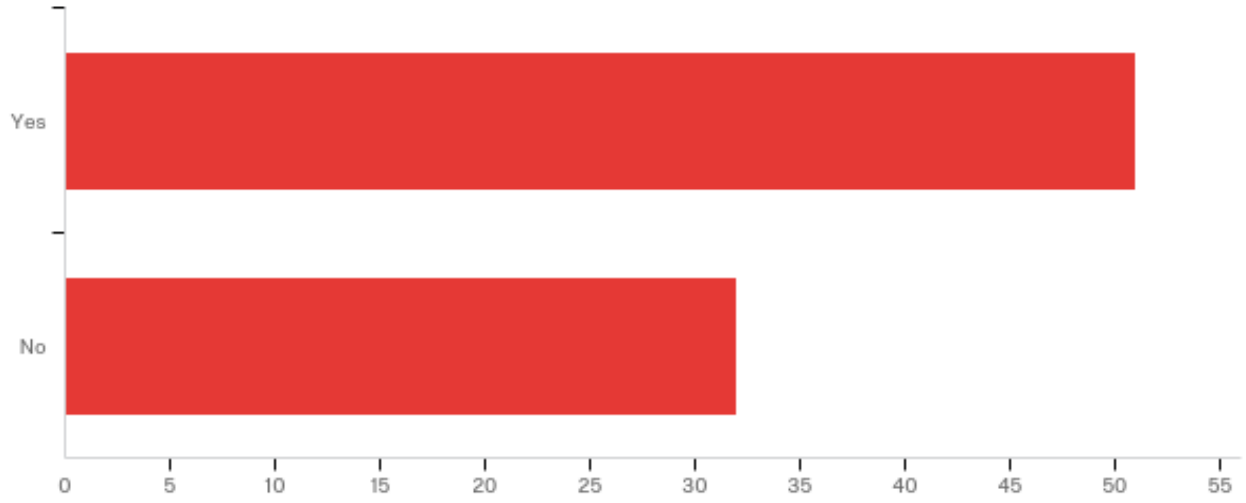
Building a schedule from scratch Creating an estimate from scratch (two different estimating teachers two different ways to try and learn was difficult) General on the job experience before entering work force Project management class to be more informative of HOW to be a good project manager coming right out of school

Scheduling classes were completed using MS Project. Most companies that I have worked with use Primavera P6. There’s a very big difference between the interfaces of these programs but the skill set in actually developing the schedule is the same.

Not enough consistency in the professionalism in the professors.

Scheduling

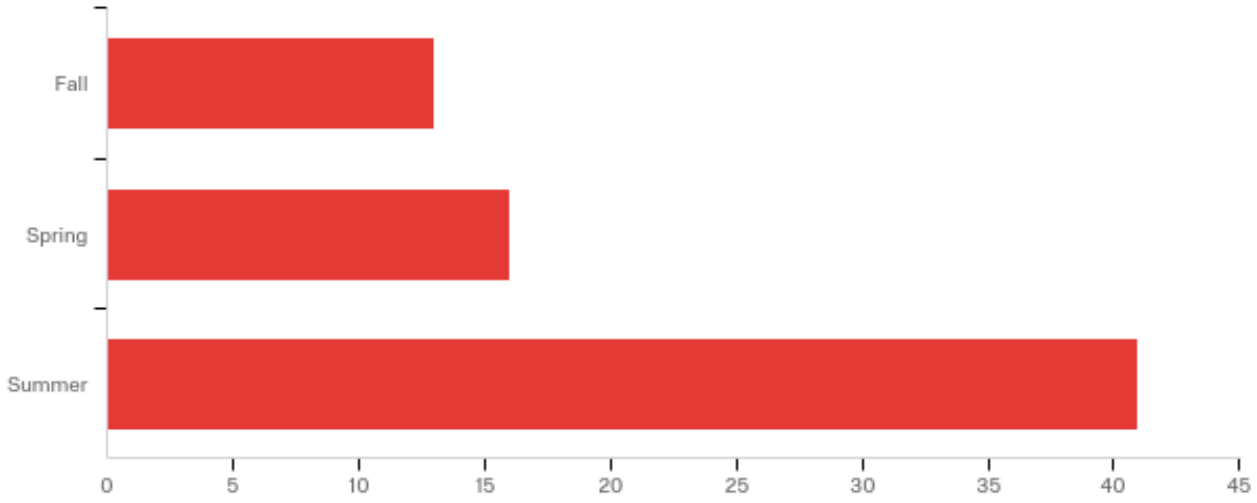
Q28 - Did you complete an internship while in the Construction Engineering Technology program?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Did you complete an internship while in the Construction Engineering Technology program?	1.00	2.00	1.39	0.49	0.24	83

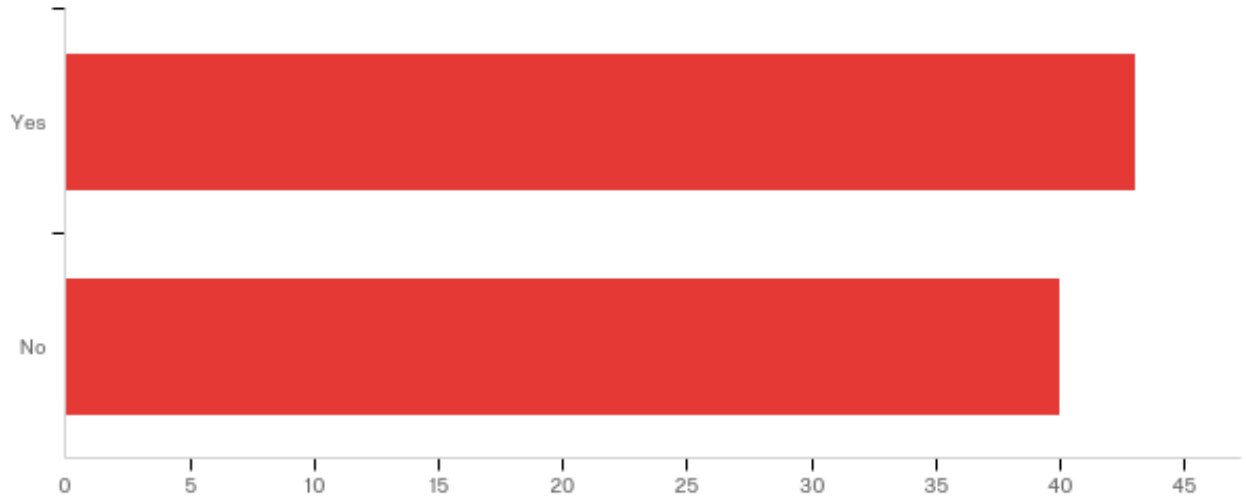
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	61.45%	51
2	No	38.55%	32
	Total	100%	83

Q29 - What semester did you complete your internship? (mark all that apply if you interned more than one semester)



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Fall	18.57%	13
2	Spring	22.86%	16
3	Summer	58.57%	41
	Total	100%	70

Q30 - Were you offered a job by the company hosting your internship?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Were you offered a job by the company hosting your internship?	1.00	2.00	1.48	0.50	0.25	83

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	51.81%	43
2	No	48.19%	40
	Total	100%	83

Q31 - Other comments:

Other comments:

None
After changing my intended area of study from Architecture to Construction Engineering Technology and deciding to attend the University of Southern Mississippi as a transfer student, life truly began to unfold. The knowledge, wisdom, and true expertise revealed to me through this program has accelerated my career and provided me the required “tools” necessary to maintain success in this industry. Having just met 6 years of career experience in this field I am proud to say that due to the aid, assistance, and direction of the professors at the University of Southern Miss, my career goals and life achievements have been set, met, and re-established steadily as life continues on this path. Thank you all in the best way that words can express. SMTTT!
I did not take that offer, I had other offers that were more local to centra MS.
I am very proud of the fact that I am a Southern MS graduate of the Construction Engineering Technology program. It is because of the Blessings of God and the degree that I received from USM that has allowed me to excel in this industry. I never imagined I would be where I am today, doing the size projects that we are currently doing. Thank you USM and the Construction Engineering Technology department.
There are a lot of great things about the Construction Engineering program. However, the more involved the industry is in the degree the more valuable it will become.
Overall my degree prepared me to succeed in the field, I would advise adding a cost control/ job accounting piece that would focus on job accounting during a project to determine profitability as well as a company accounting program for someone who wanted to run a company at some point.
I was hired on with the GC that I interned with for 5 semesters. I worked with them for another 8 years after graduation.
Thanks for taking the time to reach of to me!
i did get a job based off of the job fair, the construction job fair and all of the job fairs were one of the most beneficial things i did.
All classes related to Project Mgt, Scheduling, Reading Construction Drawings and Estimating will be the most critical to develop into a PM with a General Contractor.
I believe this program helped me become who I am today, but I do believe that the people coming out of this and other engineering fields should have at least 2 years experience in doing the actual field work from a shovel to a transit and beyond before they actually get their degree. I constantly work with engineers from all over that design the work I do but can not tell me how it is supposed to work.
I was very happy with my experience at USM and the construction engineering technology program and am very grateful for my time there.
The company I interned with offered me a position and I took it. Within a year and a half, the company downsized and I had to find employment elsewhere. That's when I found my current employer.
Got a job offer even before graduation from a top 3 general contractor on the country.
Thanks for everything, this program was an integral stepping stone to my success. Hello Mrs. Kemp, hope all is well, you were a great teacher, I really appreciate everything you did for me.
I declined the job offer and accepted one with an engineer consulting firm.
Keep up the Great Work!! SMTTT!!!!
As a whole, I don't think the construction engineering technology program was bad. Looking back on it, it was not necessarily the right program for me, but I did learn a few thing that have come in handy in my career today. I

worked as an assistant construction manager for two years prior to my current job as a CAD tech.

None

Q.30. I was already working for a construction company as an APM when I completed my internship.

Good program, needs to be updated as much as possible to keep up with industry, same estimating teacher needs to be senior project teacher, get more women into the classes/industry because of their attention to detail, you can give them all the classes they can handle but most of all I think it is important to teach HOW to be a better project manager coming into the field as a new graduate.