

Matching Employer Needs With IS Curriculum: An Exploratory Study

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Abstract

Educators in the fields of Information Systems (IS) and Information Technology (IT) encounter a continuing challenge to insure that their courses and curriculum stay up to date with the technological changes in the field as well as being relevant to the business community. This paper summarizes the results of an employer survey conducted in one state university's service area. It is similar to other employer surveys in querying job-hiring expectations, but unique in that it queries the detailed job skills required for specific occupations. Survey results indicated that programmers and network specialists had the highest anticipated hiring in the 2003-2004 period. By drilling down to the detailed job requirements for the above positions it was found that a high degree of systems analysis and database knowledge was fundamental for these positions. The survey results may be used to help IS departments plan their curriculum to meet employer needs.

Keywords: ACM curriculum, IS curriculum, IS education, IT employment, IT skills