Professional Master of Science and Technology Alumni Outcomes Survey 2018
In our technology driven economy, the benefits of higher education would seem obvious; however, some individuals and groups are openly questioning the value of university degrees. The only way to effectively show the value of any degree is with data.

The results of this inaugural PMST Outcomes Survey would not have been possible without participation from our Alumni. I want to personally say “thank you” for participating and would welcome the opportunity to talk with you further about the program.

The survey was sent out to the 192 graduates of the program and we had 51 respond—a response rate of over 26%. Just as important was the generosity in sharing information with nearly all surveys being complete and 88-98% of all fields for a given question were answered.

The word cloud below highlights the roles PMST alumni reported in the survey. I think it aligns well with the objectives of the program—to provide a program of study for students who want to develop science, technical and business skills required for management careers in technology-based industries, government agencies or non-profit organizations.

In highlighting the successes of our Alumni, I am confident the PMST program can reach scientist and engineers and provide an educational experience that will help them on their professional journey.

Sincerely,

Ray

Ray James Hoobler, Ph.D.
Director
Professional Master of Science and Technology program
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Of the 51 survey responses, 29 were from graduates of the Environmental track, 13 from the Biotechnology track, 6 from Science Instrumentation and 3 from the Computational Science track. (In the fall of 2016, the curriculum for this track was updated and the track renamed to Computational and Data Science to align with the increased demand in this field.

As a percentage, these numbers closely align with the programs of study of all alumni (top, facing page)
Approximately 20 graduate students join the cohort each year and historically the largest track was Environmental Science. Since 2013, we have seen a decrease in enrollment in this track, but steady enrollment in Biotechnology. The continued growth of new and established businesses in research park is expected to support continued interest and enrollment in the biotechnology track.

Over the last two years, we have seen significant growth in the Computational and Data Science track as many businesses seek to incorporate data analytics into their regular activities.

We are working to increase awareness of opportunities for graduates of the Science Instrumentation track.

'Most certainly, the professional experience project. I worked in engineering for years, but was always focused on improving existing products or processes. The PMST professional experience project gave me an opportunity to help create something entirely new. This opportunity gave me a glimpse of the entrepreneurial experience and an insight into the strategy of this realm by letting me experience the pains and joy of trying to create a prototype and determining a path to market, as well as convince others of that path.'
The most valuable part of the PMST program was being in a diverse group of people who all still had a similar goal, to improve themselves and their career in industry. It is nice to have a program that fills the gap between business and academics. I also loved being able to take classes in different departments than just biology. It gave me a much broader view of the technology field.\

Respondents to the survey were well distributed across the life of the program. Since 2016, the PMST program has preformed an annual exit survey to receive feedback from our graduates. Because of this interaction, we expected the response rate to be significantly higher for more recent graduates; however, the similar response rate between graduates from 2010-2013 and 2016-2017 was unexpected but welcome.

We look forward to continued dialog with and input from the PMST alumni community.
The range of responses by year of graduation to the Alumni Survey for the last five years was 17% (2014) to 46% (2016).

Of the 192 emails sent, 11 were returned as "undeliverable." Most of the undeliverable emails were sent to hotmail or yahoo accounts which have fallen out of favor with users. Several were to company email accounts or school email addresses that are no longer valid. Mobility between email platforms and the tendency for today's workers to move between employers presents a significant challenge in maintaining contact with Alumni.

The PMST program has established a LinkedIn group to serve as a way to maintain a professional, social network.

(https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3952695)
The location of alumni after graduation is very important to state policymakers. Utah is fortunate to have several technology sectors including biotechnology, software systems, software development, semiconductor manufacturing, and medical devices (and others) along the Wasatch Front with educational institutions and programs to support many of their recruitment needs.
Over half (57%) of all respondents are employed in business/industry. A substantial number of graduates from the Environmental Science track are employed in government positions.

Given the program’s focus, these numbers are not surprising and they highlight the diversity of graduate student interest outside academics—which is the focus of the PMST program.

'The cross-functional nature of the program. I loved going from Geochemistry to Ethics of Management. Getting me to think in various different ways was one of the most beneficial aspects of the program.'
In addition to their PMST degree:
• 12% of respondents obtained an additional graduate certificate,
• 6% earned an MBA,
• 4% earned a second master’s degree in a STEM field.

93.8% Employed Full-Time
2% not employed but seeking work

Nearly 40% of respondents relied on their personal network to find their current position.
In 2016, the 34,352 life sciences jobs at more than 1,000 companies accounted for $2.7 billion in employee compensation.

- UTAH LIFE SCIENCES INDUSTRY REPORT 2018

Utah businesses constantly face a shortage of talent to fill many high-paying, hi-tech positions.

-UTAH TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL (UTC) 2016 - 2017 Annual Report

Alumni Outcomes Survey:
Reported salary ranges for PMST graduates

5th year median salary for all masters programs at the University of Utah: $70,240

Utah system of Higher Education
The Professional Master of Science and Technology degree provides a program of study for students who want to develop science, technical and business skills required for management careers in technology-based industries, government agencies or non-profit organizations.

The PMST program is reviewed by the Commission on Affiliation of PSM programs.

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