



MA PHYSICS IMPACT TO GRADUATES' COMPETENCIES

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HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Most of the graduates learned about job vacancies through the company or agency contacting them and less than 10 percent came from university advertisement.
- ✓ The competency on knowledge, skill, attitude and performance were very much contributed by the completed course.
- ✓ Concepts and skills acquired from the completed course were very much utilized in the graduate's competency.
- ✓ Graduate students find their acquired degree very much beneficial with regards to promotion to higher position, improved self-esteem and more opportunities for expert services.
- ✓ The most common job description of the graduates is in the teaching profession.
- ✓ The completed course were very much acquired and very much contributed to the graduate's knowledge, skill, attitude and performance.

The impact of the course MA Physics to existing profession is indicative of the relevance of the course as a degree offering in the university. More effort could be given by the University in the advertisement of job vacancies.

INTRODUCTION

Academic institutions are motivated to do tracer studies to assess their programs. Since the Master of Arts in Physics Program under the Mathematics-Physics-Statistics Department have been offered almost two decades already to cater to the educational and professional developmental needs of the teachers, there had been no research on how the objectives and goals of the program has been translating to various developmental manifestations among the graduates. The effort is important because the department can determine whether its program is responding to the

educational needs of the teachers in its service areas amidst technological advancement, societal evolution and both country-wide and global challenges. While curricular change in a program is inevitable because of the fast-changing needs created by the dynamics of the time, it should be done so in response to some identifies needs that the existing programs are found not adequately catering. The study is necessary in order for the department to know whether its programs are still maximally impacting on the developmental lives of its graduates and future graduates.

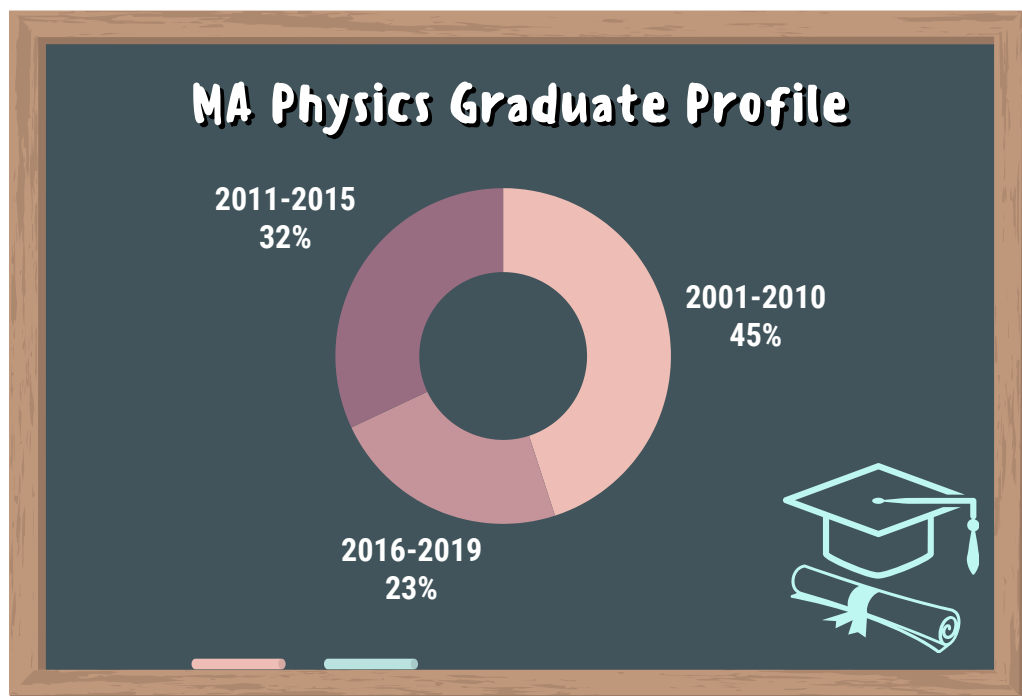


METHODOLOGY

The study is a descriptive-comparative research which used a questionnaire as the primary tool for collecting data. The items included are the source of information of job vacancy, the job description, the graduate's status of employment perceived, level of contributions of the degree completed to knowledge development, skills development, attitude change, and task performance of the graduate.

The respondents of the study are thirty-one (31) out of forty-seven (47) graduate students of the courses Master of Arts in Physics from 2001-2019. There were 14 respondents from 2001 to 2010 graduates, ten respondents from 2011-2015 graduates, and seven respondents from 2016 to 2019 graduates.

The data gathered measured the level of utilization, contribution and acquisition of competency on knowledge, skill, attitude and task performance as well as the benefits gained from the completion of the course.



FINDINGS

Figure 1 presents the source of information of job acquired. Among the cited sources, most of the graduates learned about the job vacancy by the company or agency contacting them. The second ranked source of vacancy information is through advertisement, newspapers, magazines or fliers. Only seven percent (7%) was known through the university student/ alumni affairs office.

Figure 1: Information Source of Job Vacancy

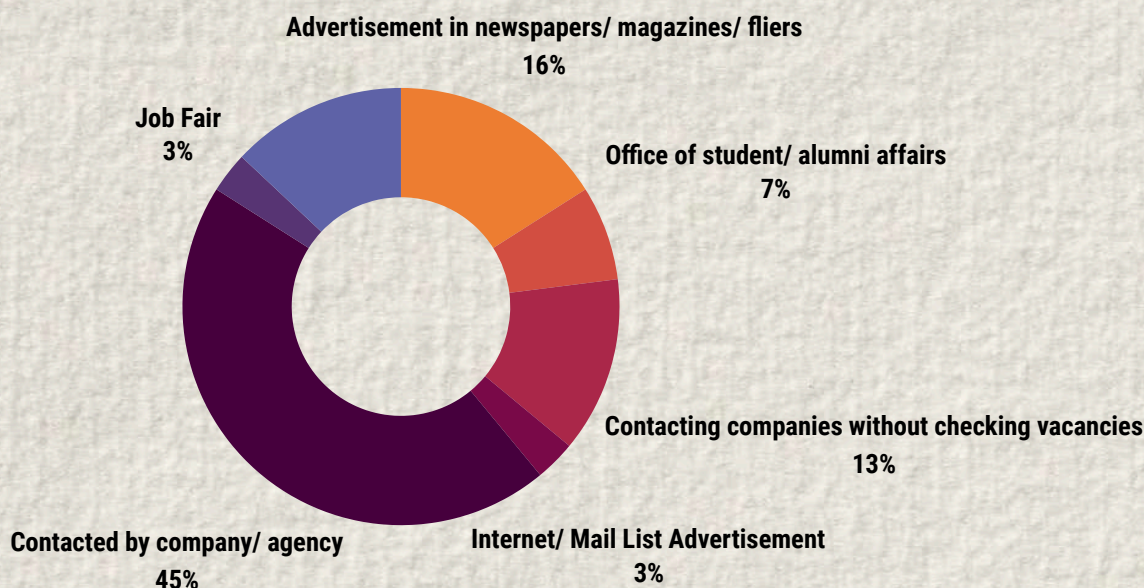
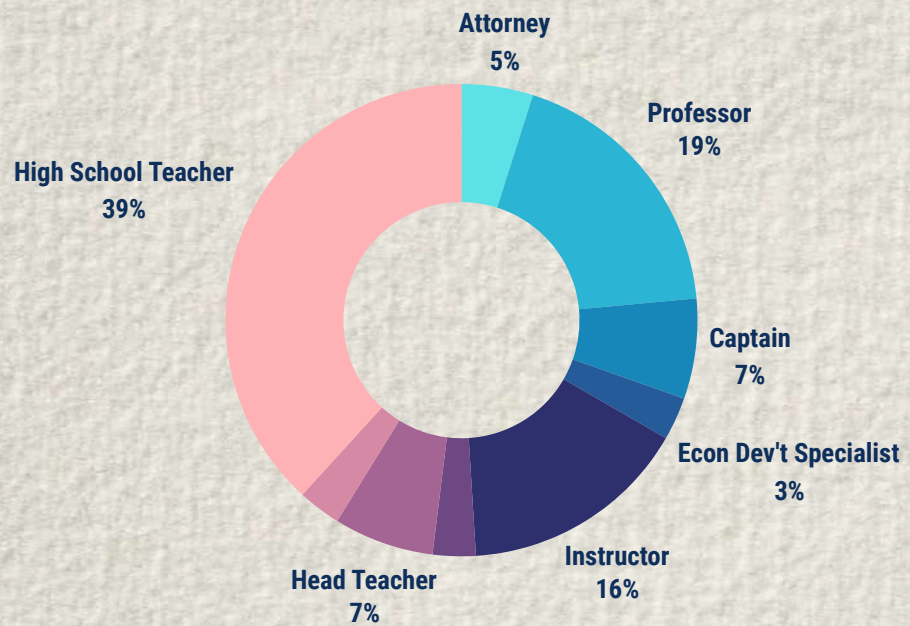


Figure 2. Graduate Position/ Designation



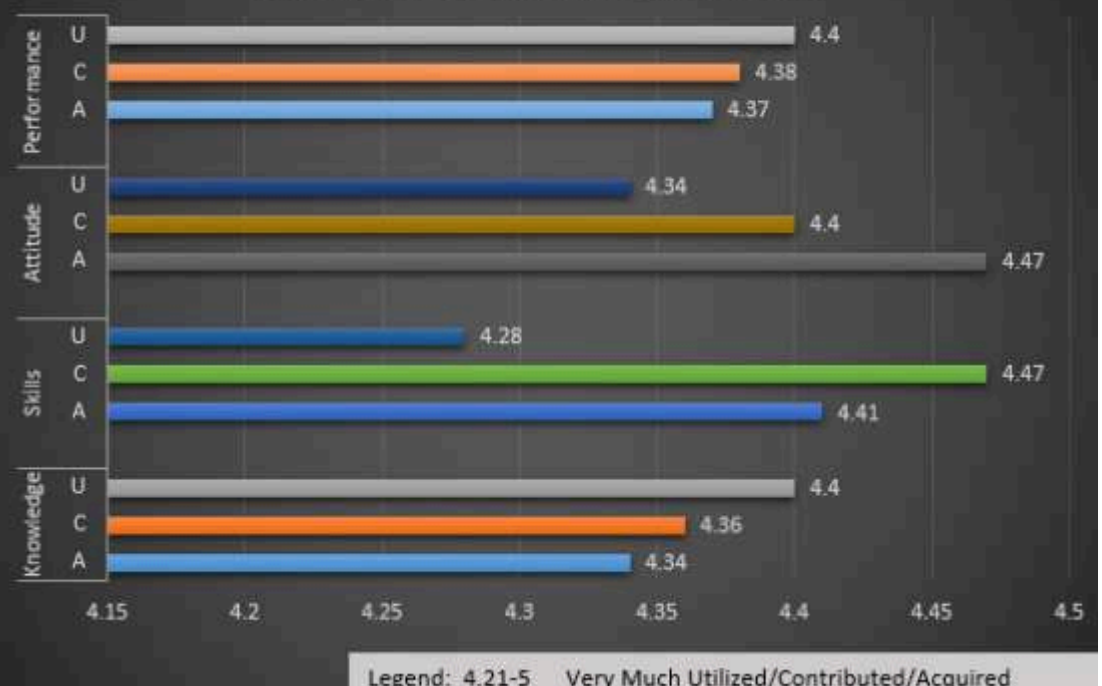
The most common job description of the graduates as presented on Figure 2, is high school teacher. This is followed by professor and instructor. This implies that most graduates are employed in the academe.

employment
Self-Esteem
mean
position Expert
Opportunities
higher status Change
Services
Improved
Promotion
BENEFITS

Graduate students find their acquired degree very much beneficial with regards to promotion, higher position, improved self-esteem and more opportunities for expert services.

Graduates of the course Masters of Arts in Physics very much acquired and contributed to knowledge, skill, attitude and performance from the degree completed. The completed course were very much utilized also. This implies that the completed course had a great impact on the development of the graduate's competency.

Figure 4. Level of Utilization, Contribution and Acquisition of Competency from MA Physics Course





CALL TO ACTION



The university with the Office of Human Resources can spearhead or form a job vacancy information site where graduates could be informed of possible job applications.



With the spearheading of the Office of Academic Affairs, a university policy could be formulated to include a representative of the degree program graduates in the conduct of the department's curriculum enhancement.



The university Office of Academic Affairs could also spearhead the formulation of a policy of regularly conducting a tracer study of every degree program offered whose result could be used as an additional basis in the curriculum enhancement.



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ABOUT THE MATERIAL

Informing Policy and Practice is published quarterly by the Institute of Social Research and Development and R & E Publications Office of Benguet State University. It synthesizes findings from research and development activities, or presents results of quick survey and opinion poll on social, economic, and policy issues and concerns affecting the Cordillera region. It also distills the key messages and provides recommendation for the information and consideration of relevant stakeholders and policymakers.

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