

Assessment Progress Report  
Construction Management  
April 1, 2011

For Calendar Year: 2010

Date submitted to college committee: April 1, 2011

Date Posted on college assessment website:

By: Jim Carr

Overall Rating:

1. Student learning goals addressed this year:
  - a. The ability to recognize, rationalize, and solve construction problems. (*Critical Thinking*)
  - b. The ability to effectively use oral, written, and non-verbal communications. (*Verbal Literacy*)
2. Learning outcomes/ objectives for those goals addressed this year:
  - a. Calculate and price the material and labor for a construction project
  - b. Create documents that convey concepts that relate to a specific construction project.
3. Courses & activities were assessed:
  - a. CNMG 4345 - Construction Management (Capstone Course) and Alumni
4. Methods used:
  - a. A survey of alumni was conducted and a review of the results of the AIC Construction Fundamentals Exam was conducted.
    1. Graduating seniors are required to take the Certified Professional Construction (CPC) Level One Examination as an exam in the Capstone course. The exam is used as a tool to assess the retention of knowledge in topical content areas that are the foundation of construction education. The nationally administered examination has a maximum score of 300 with a minimum passing score of 210. The exam has ten segments, each relates to the department's learning objects. Each segment has a

minimum passing score of 70 percent. The entire examination has a minimum passing score of 70 percent.

The segments include:

- a. Communication Skills
- b. Engineering Concepts
- c. Management Concepts
- d. Materials, Method and Plan Reading
- e. Bidding and Estimating
- f. Budgeting, Costs and Cost Control
- g. Planning, Scheduling, and Control
- h. Construction Safety
- i. Surveying and Project Layout
- j. Project Administration

5. What are the assessment findings? How did you analyze them?

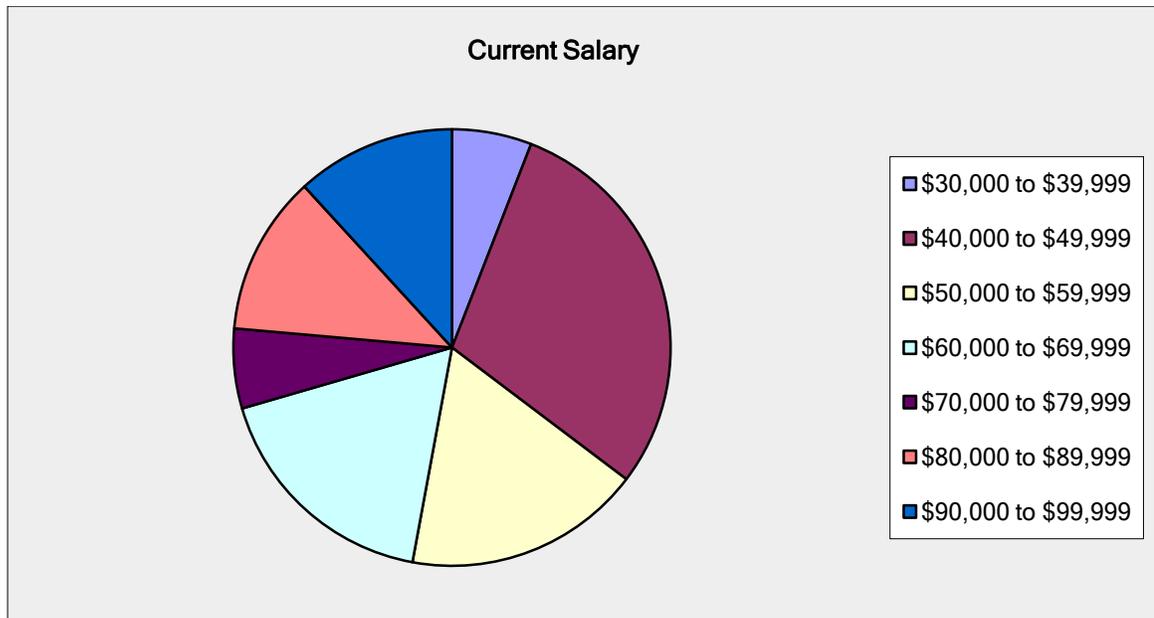
a. Graduating seniors

- i. The average score of UALR students in the Communication Skills area of the CPC exam have continued to be below the minimum acceptable score for several semesters. Since the addition of research reports in four construction management courses has resulted in minimal increases in the average scores we interviewed recent test takers to determine what was included in the Communication Skills segment. It was determined that this segment of the exam concentrated on a specific form for a Request for Information that has not been included in any construction or rhetoric course taught at UALR.

b. Alumni

- i. All of the alumni that submitted the survey would recommend the UALR Construction Management Department to individuals. 55.6% of the respondents indicated that the department prepared them very well for their careers while the remainder replied that their preparation was more than adequate. All of the respondents' initial and current jobs are in a segment of the construction industry.
- ii. All of the alumni reported that they would definitely encourage an individual interested in a career in construction to enroll in UALR's program.
- iii. Several respondents verified anecdotal information that "Hands On" experiences needed to be increased.

iv. The following graph represents the current salary of the respondents:



- c. Analysis of Alumni
  - i. Members of the faculty reviewed and discussed the survey responses.
- 6. What conclusions were drawn and what decisions were made as a result?
  - a. The writing of specific construction communications will be introduced in at least one construction management course.
  - b. The alumni survey suggested that we had a satisfactory program in place. Some of the responses indicated that some improvement in the Bidding and Estimating courses may be needed. Especially in the use of computer based estimating. This weakness is backed up by the scores of graduating seniors in the CPC exam. The faculty member in this area is revising the course content to include more computer related activities and other skills needed in this area.