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Professor prepares students for real world

July 19, 2011 by [On The Record Editor](#)
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By [Isaac Wright](#) / Senior Staff Writer -

While some UNT graduates jump into the real world unsure if they'll land a job, one professor in the College of Business tracks career opportunities across the state to gauge the job market and prepare his students.

Jerry Dake, a senior lecturer for the information technology and decision sciences department, said of the 35 to 40 students majoring in decision sciences, almost every one will net a job right after graduation, if not before.



Photo By Jun Ma/ Staff Photographer- Jerry Dake, a senior lecturer, sits at his desk.

"We have more job openings than students to fill them," Dake said. "The only time it was difficult for us was the spring of 2009. All of our students got jobs, but it just took them a month or two longer. Normally, all our students who want jobs have them when they graduate."

Dake said although companies may never post an ad in the classifieds for a 'decision scientist,' their skills are in high demand.

Decision science is a field that includes data analysis, and careers range from financial analysts and marketing analysts, data mining and logistics.

Dake said his students are learning specialized skills that companies want to take advantage of. Graduates of the program are often recruited by companies like Frito Lay, General Motors Financial and Yum! Brands, the largest restaurant chain owner in the world, Dake said.

"Our students compete very well," Dake said. "We've gotten more than one letter saying 'Your product has done very well. We'll take more of them.'"

However, Dake doesn't let his students dive head first into the job market unaided. Since 2006, he has tracked the job openings across the state that decision science majors typically take.

In the middle of each month, Dake goes to CareerBuilder.com and records the number of open positions listed for analysts and other decision science-related professions. He compiles the data into a spreadsheet, and after nearly five years, the table paints a picture of the economic crisis of 2008, emerging business trends and skills sought after by employers.

Dake started recording the data as a response to changes in the world of analytics and business when faculty in the decision sciences program began predicting what new technologies, such as Cloud computing and data mining, were going to thrive.

Dake said that information allowed them to prepare students for the ever-changing world of technology and business.

"If we were correct, then we could begin not only thinking about where to send our students, we would know

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where to send our students and what companies were asking for our jobs in this Texas area," Dake said. "If we were right, we could begin looking at where our students should go now, but we also get a glimpse of the future."

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temp: 62.1 F (16.7 C)

humidity: 92%

wind: Calm

precip: 0.01 in/hr

pressure: 30.23" (1023.6
mb)

station: **KTXDENTO11**

hardware: Davis Vantage
Vue

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