

FIRST DESTINATION  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2024-25**



**SOUTH  
DAKOTA  
MINES**

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*[sdmines.com](http://sdmines.com)*



## ABOUT CAREER SERVICES

Career Services at South Dakota Mines works with students, employers, alumni, and the community to ensure that our students graduate ready for rewarding careers. South Dakota Mines students are highly sought after due to their professional development and strong academics.

Those who are counted as placed are in full-time positions within their field of study, graduate school, military services, and/or other services. Graduates who are still seeking placement in their field of study or who are placed outside their field of study are counted as not placed.

## REPORT METHODOLOGY

The Student Placement (First Destination) Survey gathers insights from South Dakota Mines graduates regarding their plans after graduation. This survey aligns with the data collection and reporting standards established by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) while also incorporating institution-specific elements relevant to our campus. Graduates are encouraged to participate in the survey during their final semester and up to six months after completing their degree. While completing the electronic survey is voluntary, participation is highly recommended. To maintain consistency across years, the Career Center oversees a structured process for data collection and reporting.

According to NACE, “positive outcomes” include graduates securing employment in industry, government, the military, or service organizations, as well as those enrolling in graduate or professional programs. International students returning to their home countries are also categorized under positive outcomes. Graduates who do not respond or indicate they are not actively seeking opportunities are excluded from reported data. The data collection period extends for six months after the academic year ends, covering graduates from August, December, and May.

To protect confidentiality, salary data is marked with an asterisk when fewer than three graduates from a specific program report their earnings in the full-time employment category. However, this information still contributes to aggregate calculations. Following NACE guidelines, salary details are only reported for those who have accepted full-time employment in industry and have provided salary information. The reported figures reflect self-reported annual base salaries and do not include bonuses or additional compensation.

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### CAREER SERVICES TEAM



**Corinne Heiberger**

Associate Vice President for Student Success



**Madison Fuegen**

Career Services Coordinator

# AY2025 UNDERGRADUATE OUTCOMES

**388**

Bachelor of Science  
Graduates

**94%**

Undergraduate  
Placement Rating

**192**

Unique Companies  
Hired Our Hardrockers



ACROSS **36 STATES**

**40% UNDERGRADUATES**  
PLACED IN SOUTH DAKOTA

**\$76,805**

Average Starting Salary

**\$4,769**

Average Bonus  
Offer

**\$3,906**

Average Relocation  
Stipend



MAJOR	AVERAGE STARTING SALARY	PLACED
Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences	*	100%
Applied Biological Sciences/Biology	*	75%
Biomedical Engineering	*	82%
Business Management in Technology	\$54,667	83%
Chemical Engineering	\$78,066	94%
Chemistry	*	100%
Civil Engineering	\$71,250	97%
Computer Engineering	\$81,300	100%
Computer Science	\$74,487	88%
Electrical Engineering	\$77,892	100%
Geological Engineering	*	100%
Geology	*	100%
Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management	\$75,638	100%
Math	*	80%
Mechanical Engineering	\$79,973	98%
Metallurgical Engineering	\$87,047	100%
Mining Engineering and Management	*	100%
Physics	*	71%
Pre-Professional Health Sciences	*	100%
Science, Technology, & Society	*	67%

\*Pursuing graduate degrees or fewer than 3 salary offers reported

## UNDERGRADUATE DESTINATIONS

## AY2025 TOP HIRING COMPANIES

Aagard  
Burns & McDonnell  
Caterpillar  
C-Lock  
Collins Aerospace  
Daktronics  
Driven Fire Consultants  
EVS, Inc  
Garmin  
Kiewit Corporation  
Kimberly Clark Corp  
Northrup Grumman  
Nucor  
Omnitech, Inc.  
RPM Innovations, Inc.



## AY25 TOP 12 STATES:

South Dakota (108)	Wyoming (13)	Arizona (6)
Minnesota (20)	Iowa (11)	Illinois (6)
Nebraska (16)	North Dakota (9)	Kansas (6)
Colorado (14)	Indiana (7)	Texas (6)

## STAYING IN SOUTH DAKOTA

**56** UNIQUE COMPANIES HIRED OUR HARDROCKERS

ACROSS **14 SOUTH DAKOTA CITIES**  
INCLUDING **28 BLACK HILLS COMPANIES**

**40%** PLACED IN SOUTH DAKOTA

**57%** SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS

**43%** NON-RESIDENTS



# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

ALL STUDENTS  
2024-2025

# 75%

of AY25 GRADUATES had an internship, co-op, or research experience

WITH EXPERIENCE:

# 97%

Placement Rating

# \$76,970

Average Salary Offer

WITHOUT EXPERIENCE:

# 82%

Placement Rating

# \$71,233

Average Salary Offer

➤ **\$5,737**  
DIFFERENCE



# 164

Employers Hired Our Hardrockers for Internships or Co-ops in AY25

ACROSS 32 STATES,  
FRANCE & GERMANY

# \$22.65

Average Hourly Wage

5% Freshmen

20% Sophomores

64% Juniors

6% Seniors

5% Graduate Students



# MASTER'S + PHD OUTCOMES

**143**

Graduates

**98%**

Placement Rating

**81**

Unique Companies  
Hired Our Hardrockers



ACROSS **27 STATES,**  
**GHANA & MALI**

**18** SOUTH DAKOTA COMPANIES  
**11** IN THE BLACK HILLS

## STAYING IN SOUTH DAKOTA

**29%** PLACED IN  
SOUTH DAKOTA

**63%** SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS  
**37%** NON-RESIDENTS

## **MISSION**

South Dakota Mines Career Services will successfully engage students in their career and professional development and will foster partnerships to connect students with employers, campus, and the community.

## **VISION**

Career Services at South Dakota Mines aims to empower Mines graduates to shape their personal and professional development to attain a rewarding career.



### **CAREER SERVICES**

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