It’s an adage often repeated in the Department of Architectural Engineering at Penn State, and quite true. Despite the downturn in the economy over the past few years, the AE Department is still pleased to boast a 100% job placement rate for our graduating students! In previous years, the placement rate has held steady at 100%, often with multiple job offers from some of the largest and most respected firms in the building industry. The AE department stands out at Penn State and among other leading universities for our outstanding efforts with regard to professional development and placement opportunities for our students.

The AE undergraduate program provides our students with a fundamental understanding of all building systems, coupled with an in-depth capability in a chosen option area. Our breadth of technical knowledge includes architectural, structural, mechanical, lighting/electrical, and acoustical, as well as project activities such as management, design, construction methods, economics, and building operations. With this unique engineering diversity, graduates are capable of effectively communicating and integrating with all members of the A/E/C profession, and of playing an active role in the coordination of complex building projects. AE students possess a sharp professional edge. This is acquired from the professional projects performed throughout their academic career, as well as unique industry interaction and real world experience gained through a variety of sources such as, the AE Practitioner Instructor Program, the annual PACE Round Table and Research Seminars, the Alumni Mentoring Program, as well as numerous guest lecturers, field trips, and building/construction site visits.

The AE Department maintains an active and comprehensive placement program. Since 1994, the AE Department has conducted the annual AE Career Fair, which is designed to put companies in touch with our 5th year seniors, as well as students who are available for co-op, summer and advanced degree (graduate) industry and research positions. The AE Career Fair brings together more than 125 companies annually who are interested in recruiting students specializing in all aspects of the design and construction of buildings. The 19th annual AE Career Fair was held on September 25, 2012 at the Bryce Jordan Center on the University Park campus.
Each year we also conduct a voluntary exit survey to obtain historical information relative to salary offers, acceptances, employment details, and related information such as student placement preferences. This published Salary Survey is a useful recruiting tool for companies and includes a variety of information related to salaries and employment trends, with separate categories of data for the BAE and MAE degree programs and internship wages.

The AE Department staff also assists numerous individual companies with arrangements for recruiting visits to campus throughout the academic year.

In addition, the AE Department maintains an Alumni Placement Website for companies interested in posting available positions to recruit AE alumni for entry-level through senior management positions. This is a free service provided as a courtesy to the alumni of the AE Department and the A/E/C building industry companies who hire them.

The Department of Architectural Engineering at Penn State strives to be an academic program that is committed to the quality of the education its students receive, dedicated to assist and mentor with those important first career steps post-graduation, and to maintaining a strong, life-long connection with its alumni!