

Abstract

The objectives of the research entitled “Motivation of Non-law Graduates to Study the Law-degree Program Offered by Thammasat University” were to study the motivation for professional advancement and social recognition and to study the relationship between demographic factors including work status and the motivation to pursue the open law-degree program for non-law graduates. While the total admission intake was 550, the sample consisted of 66 students with the student registration digit numbers starting with 49. Data was collected by using a questionnaire and analyzed using percentages, means and relationship analysis shown in terms of mean differences.

The results showed that the majority of the students were male, ages between 31 and 35, with a single status. They had been working for more than 10 years in either government or private organizations. Most had a degree in business administration and accountancy. They wanted to pursue the law degree program because it was in trend to do so.

Most students viewed that the law program would earn them more social recognition. The motivation ranging from the highest to the lowest were: drives from social personalities, prestige of the academic institution and social recognition after graduation. Differences in work responsibilities motivate students differently in all respects. Such factors as age differences, subject areas in the students' first degree and people who they were associated with motivated them to pursue further studies for career advancement.

The researcher suggested that since the students' decision to study at Thammasat University was based on prevalent social values, the institute should focus on teaching quality to avoid outside criticism that the university was acclaimed by current value perception.