Completer and skills-building students at Cuesta College were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2016-2017, and did not enroll (or were minimally enrolled) in 2017-2018: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2019 by e-mail, text message (SMS), and telephone. The survey addressed student perceptions of their CTE program, employment outcomes, and how their coursework and training relate to their current career. A total of 1241 students were surveyed and 409 (33%) students responded: 37% by email, 53% by phone, and 10% by SMS.

**How satisfied are students with the education and training they received?**

- Very Satisfied: 61.2%
- Satisfied: 34.6%
- Other: 4.2%

**How many students secured a job that is closely related to their program of study?**

- Very Close: 50.3%
- Close: 24.2%
- Not Close: 25.5%

**How many hours per week are employed students working?**

- 40+ hours: 17.5%
- >20 hours: 59.7%
- <20 hours: 22.7%

**How many months did it take for students to find a job?**

- 0: 42.9%
- 1-3: 11.8%
- 4-6: 10.1%
- 7+: 35.3%
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

What were the hourly wages of transfer students and non-transfer students—before training versus after training?

Does the similarity between job and program of study influence wage gains?

More Key Results

$7.25 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars

52% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain

80% of respondents reported being employed for pay

51% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university

96% of respondents reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their training.

Conclusion

The results of the survey showed that completing CTE studies and training—which or not a credential is earned, whether or not a student transfers—is related to positive employment outcomes. The preponderance of respondents are employed and are working in the same field as their studies or training. Notably, students realize a greater wage gain after completing their studies if they secure a job that is similar to their program of study.