Completer and skills-building students at Merced 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 1249 students were surveyed and 335 (27%) students responded: 43% by email, 53% by phone, and 4% by SMS.

- **How satisfied are students with the education and training they received?**
  - Very Satisfied: 44.9%
  - Satisfied: 7.2%
  - Other: 47.9%

- **How many students secured a job that is closely related to their program of study?**
  - Very Close: 32.0%
  - Close: 40.3%
  - Not Close: 27.7%

- **How many hours per week are employed students working?**
  - 40+ hours: 25.0%
  - >20 hours: 6.3%
  - <20 hours: 88.7%

- **How many months did it take for students to find a job?**
  - 0: 46.5%
  - 1-3: 12.1%
  - 4-6: 11.1%
  - 7+ months: 30.3%
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

![Hourly Wage Chart]

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

![Wage Change Chart]

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

![Wage Change Similarity Chart]

What is your current employment status?

![Employment Status Chart]

More Key Results

- **$7.37** is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars
- **58%** is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain
- **83%** of respondents reported being employed for pay
- **37%** of respondents reported transferring to another college or university
- **93%** of respondents reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their training.

Conclusion

The results of the survey showed that completing CTE studies and training—whether 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.