Completer and skills-building students at Palomar 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 2765 students were surveyed and 817 (30%) students responded: 40% by email, 51% by phone, and 9% by SMS.

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

- Very Satisfied: 36.2%
- Satisfied: 56.2%
- Other: 7.6%

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

- Very Close: 47.6%
- Close: 23.0%
- Not Close: 29.4%

How many hours per week are employed students working?

- 40+ hours: 70.7%
- >20 hours: 17.4%
- <20 hours: 12.0%

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

- 0: 32.6%
- 1-3: 37.1%
- 4-6: 16.1%
- 7+ months: 14.3%
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

- $8.00 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars
- 53% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain
- 84% of respondents reported being employed for pay
- 34% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university
- 92% 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.