Completer and skills-building students at San Diego Mesa 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 1960 students were surveyed and 502 (26%) students responded: 41% by email, 53% by phone, and 6% by SMS.

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

- Very Satisfied: 35.3%
- Satisfied: 56.8%
- Other: 7.8%

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

- Very Close: 29.0%
- Close: 29.2%
- Not Close: 41.8%

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

- 40+ hours: 21.4%
- >20 hours: 9.0%
- <20 hours: 69.6%

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

- 0: 39.1%
- 1-3: 14.8%
- 4-6: 13.3%
- 7+: 32.8%
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

- $9.00 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars
- 60% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain
- 78% of respondents reported being employed for pay
- 49% 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.