West Valley College

Completer and skills-building students at West Valley 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 and text message (SMS). 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 540 students were surveyed and 44 (5%) students responded: 0% by email and 100% by SMS.

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

- 52.4% Very Satisfied
- 40.5% Satisfied
- 7.1% Other
- 0% Other

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

- 48.0% Very Close
- 40.0% Close
- 12.0% Not Close

How many hours per week are employed students working?

- 68.0% 40+ hours
- 20.0% >20 hours
- 12.0% <20 hours
- 0% Other

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

- 44.4% 0
- 22.2% 1-3
- 22.2% 4-6
- 11.1% 7+
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

![Bar chart showing hourly wages before and after training](chart1.png)

$16.00 before training vs. $25.26 after training.

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

![Bar chart showing hourly wages of transfer and non-transfer students](chart2.png)

$12.50 for transfer students vs. $17.00 for non-transfer students before training, increasing to $25.70 for transfer students vs. $24.00 for non-transfer students after training.

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

![Bar chart showing wage change by similarity](chart3.png)

$5.00 for Not Close, $11.73 for Close, and $0.00 for Very Close.

What is your current employment status?

![Bar chart showing employment status](chart4.png)

- Employed At One Job: 57.1%
- Self-Employed: 17.1%
- Unemployed, Seeking Work: 14.3%
- Unemployed, Not Seeking Work: 5.7%
- Employed At More Than One Job: 5.7%
- Unpaid Work, Seeking Paid Work: 5.7%
- Unpaid Work, Not Seeking Paid Work: 5.7%

More Key Results

- $9.25 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
- 80% of respondents reported being employed for pay
- 50% 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.