Completer and skills-building students at College of the Desert were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2017-2018, and did not enroll (or were minimally enrolled) in 2018-2019: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in 2020 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 1237 students were surveyed and 232 (19%) students responded: 51% by email, 38% by phone, and 11% by SMS.

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

- Very Satisfied: 48.5%
- Satisfied: 37.2%
- Other: 14.3%

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

- Very close: 48.2%
- Close: 25.0%
- Not close: 26.8%

How many hours per week are employed students working?

- 40+ hours: 15.8%
- >20 hours: 10.3%
- <20 hours: 73.9%

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

- 0: 39.7%
- 1-3: 30.2%
- 4-6: 6.3%
- 7+: 6.3%
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

What is your current employment status?

More Key Results

$7.00 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars

50% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain

75% of respondents reported being employed for pay

41% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university

86% 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.

For 2020, current data was used when available, data collected on pre-pandemic outcomes was used when current data was unavailable.

*The option of “Furloughed” was only available to respondents who took the survey version initiated after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.