Completer and skills-building students at Irvine Valley College 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 1070 students were surveyed and 388 (36%) students responded: 34% by email, 57% by phone, and 9% by SMS.

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

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

How many hours per week are employed students working?

How many months did it take for students to find a job?
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

- Wages before schooling: $17.50
- Wages after schooling: $28.00

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

- Transfer: $15.00 to $24.00
- Non-Transfer: $20.00 to $30.00

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

- Not Close: $2.75
- Close: $5.00
- Very Close: $5.08

What is your current employment status?

- Employed At One Job: 51.3%
- Unemployed, Seeking Work: 17.7%
- Self-Employed: 9.3%
- Employed At More Than One Job: 8.7%
- Unemployed, Not Seeking Work: 7.8%
- Furloughed*: 2.6%
- Unpaid Work, Not Seeking Paid Work: 1.4%
- Unpaid Work, Seeking Paid Work: 1.2%

More Key Results

- $10.50 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
- 71% of respondents reported being employed
- 51% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university
- 94% 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.