Completer and skills-building students at Merced 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 1236 students were surveyed and 295 (24%) students responded: 35% by email, 50% by phone, and 15% by SMS.

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

- Very Satisfied: 38.3%
- Satisfied: 29.6%
- Other: 16.3%

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

- Very close: 43.0%
- Close: 27.4%
- Not close: 29.6%

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

- 40+ hours: 12.8%
- >20 hours: 20.1%
- <20 hours: 67.1%

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

- 0: 18.1%
- 1-3: 27.8%
- 4-6: 12.5%
- 7+: 41.7%
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

![Hourly Wages Chart]

$14.50 before schooling, $20.00 after schooling.

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

![Wage Change Chart]

$14.25 (Transfer), $17.27 (Transfer), $14.50 (Non-Transfer), $23.00 (Non-Transfer).

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

![Wage Change - Similarity Chart]

$2.00 (Not Close), $3.25 (Close), $11.50 (Very Close).

What is your current employment status?

![Employment Status Chart]

- Employed At One Job: 63.1%
- Unemployed, Seeking Work: 11.0%
- Employed At More Than One Job: 9.5%
- Unemployed, Not Seeking Work: 7.2%
- Self-Employed: 6.5%
- Furloughed: 1.1%
- Unpaid Work, Seeking Paid Work: 1.1%
- Unpaid Work, Not Seeking Paid Work: 0.4%

More Key Results

$5.50 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars

38% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain

80% of respondents reported being employed for pay

47% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university

84% 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.