Completer and skills-building students at Merritt 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 772 students were surveyed and 261 (34%) students responded: 22% by email, 63% by phone, and 15% 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?

![Bar chart showing hourly wages before and after training, with wages before schooling at $19.23 and wages after schooling at $25.00.](chart1)

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

![Bar chart showing wage changes for transfer and non-transfer students, with hourly wages of $26.00 before training and $25.00 after training for both groups.](chart2)

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

![Bar chart showing wage changes for different levels of similarity, with wage changes of $3.50, $6.00, and $6.25 for Not Close, Close, and Very Close, respectively.](chart3)

What is your current employment status?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed At One Job</td>
<td>56.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed At More Than One Job</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed, Seeking Work</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Employed</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed, Not Seeking Work</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furloughed*</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid Work, Not Seeking Paid Work</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More Key Results

$5.77$ is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars

30% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain

80% of respondents reported being employed for pay

23% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university

90% 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.*