San Diego Mesa College

Completer and skills-building students at San Diego Mesa 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 2076 students were surveyed and 500 (24%) students responded: 26% by email, 62% by phone, and 12% by SMS.

- How satisfied are students with the education and training they received?
  - Very Satisfied: 38.0%
  - Satisfied: 54.8%
  - Other: 7.2%

- How many students secured a job that is closely related to their program of study?
  - Very close: 33.2%
  - Close: 37.1%
  - Not close: 29.7%

- How many hours per week are employed students working?
  - 40+ hours: 19.4%
  - >20 hours: 66.4%
  - <20 hours: 14.2%

- How many months did it take for students to find a job?
  - 0: 39.0%
  - 1-3: 35.8%
  - 4-6: 17.9%
  - 7+ months: 7.3%
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

![Hourly Wages Graph]

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

![Wage Change Graph]

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

![Wage Change Similarity Graph]

What is your current employment status?

![Employment Status Bar Chart]

More Key Results

- **$8.47** is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars
- **48%** is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain
- **71%** of respondents reported being employed for pay
- **47%** 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.

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.*