Completer and skills-building students at Shasta 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 1349 students were surveyed and 344 (26%) students responded: 34% by email, 56% by phone, and 10% by SMS.
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

- Wages before schooling: $14.75
- Wages after schooling: $20.00

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

- Transfer:
  - Wages before schooling: $14.50
  - Wages after schooling: $22.00
- Non-Transfer:
  - Wages before schooling: $14.75
  - Wages after schooling: $20.00

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

- Not Close: $2.00
- Close: $4.00
- Very Close: $8.25

More Key Results

$5.25 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars
36% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain
82% of respondents reported being employed for pay
35% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university
91% 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.*