Completer and skills-building students at Sierra 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 1978 students were surveyed and 697 (35%) students responded: 29% by email, 57% by phone, and 14% by SMS.

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

- Very Satisfied: 55.9%
- Satisfied: 35.6%
- Other: 8.5%

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

- Very close: 37.3%
- Close: 32.3%
- Not close: 30.4%

How many hours per week are employed students working?

- 40+ hours: 17.5%
- >20 hours: 11.3%
- <20 hours: 71.2%

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

- 0: 13.4%
- 1-3: 31.7%
- 4-6: 38.4%
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

What is your current employment status?

More Key Results

$5.75 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
79% of respondents reported being employed for pay
46% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university
92% 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.