Completer and skills-building students at West Hills College Lemoore 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 480 students were surveyed and 121 (25%) students responded: 50% by email, 39% by phone, and 11% by SMS.

- How satisfied are students with the education and training they received?
  - Very Satisfied: 42.1%
  - Satisfied: 47.1%
  - Other: 10.7%

- How many students secured a job that is closely related to their program of study?
  - Very close: 43.2%
  - Close: 35.2%
  - Not close: 21.6%

- How many hours per week are employed students working?
  - 40+ hours: 25.3%
  - >20 hours: 63.2%
  - <20 hours: 11.5%

- How many months did it take for students to find a job?
  - 22.9%: 0
  - 20.0%: 1-3
  - 57.1%: 4-6
  - 7+: 22.9%
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

What is your current employment status?

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

More Key Results

$9.38 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars

62% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain

81% of respondents reported being employed

45% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university

89% 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.