Completer and skills-building students at West Valley 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 909 students were surveyed and 283 (31%) students responded: 42% by email, 45% by phone, and 13% by SMS.

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

*Very Satisfied 34.0%  Satisfied 60.6%  Other 5.3%

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

*Very close 28.9%  Close 44.2%  Not close 26.8%

**How many hours per week are employed students working?**

*<20 hours 26.5%  20-40 hours 56.1%  40+ hours 17.5%

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

*0 months 21.8%  1-3 months 50.9%  4-6 months 16.4%  7+ months 10.9%
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

What is your current employment status?

More Key Results

$7.00 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars

39% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain

67% of respondents reported being gain

43% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university

95% 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.