Completer and skills-building students at City College of San Francisco were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2018-2019, and did not enroll (or were minimally enrolled) in 2019-2020: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units (noncredit cohorts earned a noncredit vocational/CTE award or completed at least 48 CTE hours in that year). The survey was administered in 2021/2022 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 3663 students were surveyed and 1155 (32%) students responded: 43% by email, 38% by phone, and 20% by SMS.

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

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

How many hours per week are employed students working?

How many months did it take for students to find a job?
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

[Bar chart showing median hourly wages before and after training, with $20.00 before and $30.00 after.]

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

[Bar chart showing median wage change for transfer and non-transfer students, with $17.50 for transfer and $21.17 for non-transfer before training, $29.50 for transfer and $30.00 for non-transfer after training.]

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

[Bar chart showing median wage change for jobs not close, close, and very close to program of study, with $2.50 for not close, $6.00 for close, and $10.00 for very close.]

What is your current employment status?

[Bar chart showing current employment status, with 18.5% Employed At One Job, 14.3% Employed, Seeking Work, 11.2% Self-Employed, 1.1% Employed At More Than One Job, 8.5% Unemployed, Not Seeking Work, 5.3% Unpaid Work, Not Seeking Paid Work, 0.3% Furloughed, 0.7% Unpaid Work, Seeking Paid Work.]

More Key Results

$10.00 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars
50% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain
74% of respondents reported being employed for pay
29% 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 and 2021, 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. Furloughed is removed from the calculation of being employed for pay.*