Completer and skills-building students at West Valley College were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2015-2016, and did not enroll (or were minimally enrolled) in 2016-2017: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2018 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 1004 students were surveyed and 338 (34%) students responded: 51% by email, 41% by phone, and 7% by SMS.

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

- Very Satisfied: 37.2%
- Satisfied: 55.5%
- Other: 7.3%

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

- Very close: 31.8%
- Close: 19.7%
- Not close: 48.5%

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

- 40+ hours: 24.1%
- >20 hours: 64.3%
- <20 hours: 11.6%

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

- 0: 19.4%
- 1-3: 16.7%
- 4-6: 22.2%
- 7+: 41.7%
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

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

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

What is your current employment status?

More Key Results

$4.70 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars

21% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain

92% of respondents reported being employed for pay

45% 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.