

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Employment Outcomes Survey 2015 Foothill College

Background

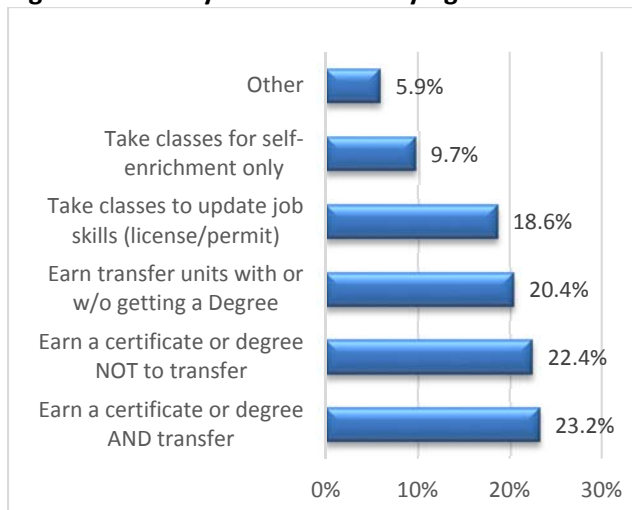
Skills-building students from Foothill College were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2012-2013, and did not enroll in 2013-2014: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2015 by email and phone. 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 1,796 students were surveyed and 393 unduplicated students responded, 132 of whom responded by e-mail (33.6%) and 261 by telephone (66.4%) for a total overall response rate of 21.9%.

Results

- Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at Foothill College, and the majority (45.5%) indicated earning a certificate or degree (with or without transfer). Figure 1 shows the results.

Figure 1. Primary reason for studying



- Respondents were asked why they stopped taking classes at Foothill College. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

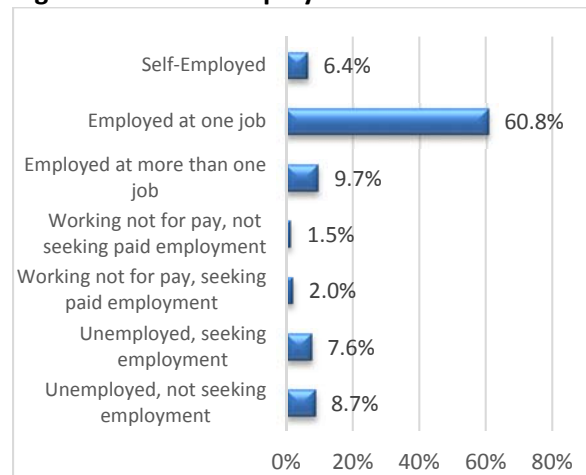
- ✓ My goals were met (213)
- ✓ I completed the program (177)
- ✓ Transferred to another school (115)
- ✓ I got a job (113)

- 52.7% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at Foothill College, and 37.4% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 90.1%.

- 36.6% of respondents indicated they had transferred to another College or University.

- 76.8% of respondents are employed for pay. Figure 2 shows the results.

Figure 2. Current Employment Status



- Overall, statewide, students who transferred have 1.9 times the likelihood of being unemployed and not seeking employment (6.2% for not transferring vs. 11.9% for transferring), likely because they are enrolled at a four year institution.

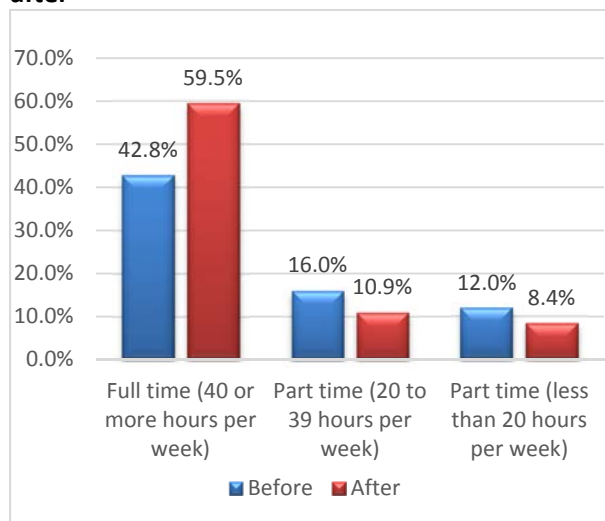
- Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study at Foothill College. 54.9% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed 23.2% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 21.9% indicated their job is not related to their studies. When asked if they were actively seeking a job in another field, 83.7% of employed respondents said no.

- Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 84.7% reported finding a job and 15.3% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 87.4% found a job within six months (72.6% within three months).

- Of currently employed respondents, 16.6% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 16.6% between six months and one year, 25.1% between one and two years, 12.7% between two and three years and 29.0% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

- Before their studies, 42.8% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 59.5% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

Figure 3. Work status before studies/training and after



- The hourly wage of all respondents increased 42.8% from their hourly wage before their studies (\$21.96) to their hourly wage after completing their studies (\$31.35). Figure 4 shows the results.

Figure 4. Earnings before studies/training and after



- Respondents, including those who had transferred, were asked what impact their coursework had on their employment. Here are the responses, listed in rank order of frequency:

- ✓ Prepared me for a possible new job (81)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (76)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (53)
- ✓ No impact on my employment (44)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (31)
- ✓ Enabled me to start my own business (14)

Summary and Conclusions

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, are working in the same field as their studies or training, and are working full time. Respondents overall posted a 42.8% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at Foothill College and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.

