

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Employment Outcomes Survey 2016 Foothill College

Background

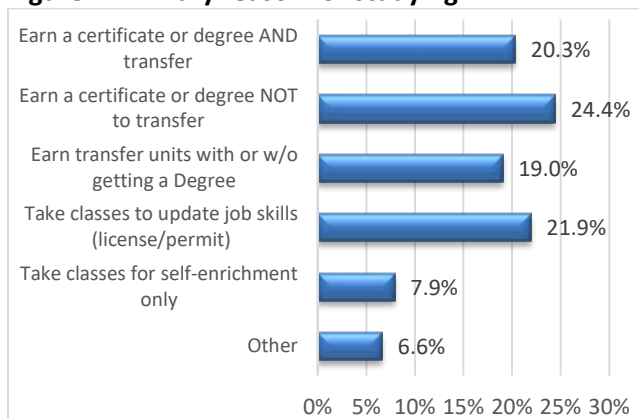
Skills-building students from Foothill College were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2013-2014, and did not enroll in 2014-2015: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2016 by e-mail, telephone and US mail. 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 2,050 students were surveyed and 533 unduplicated students responded, 99 of whom responded by e-mail (18.6%), 351 by telephone (65.9%), and 83 (15.6%) by US Mail, for a total overall response rate of 26.0%.

Results

- Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at Foothill College, and the majority (44.7%) 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:

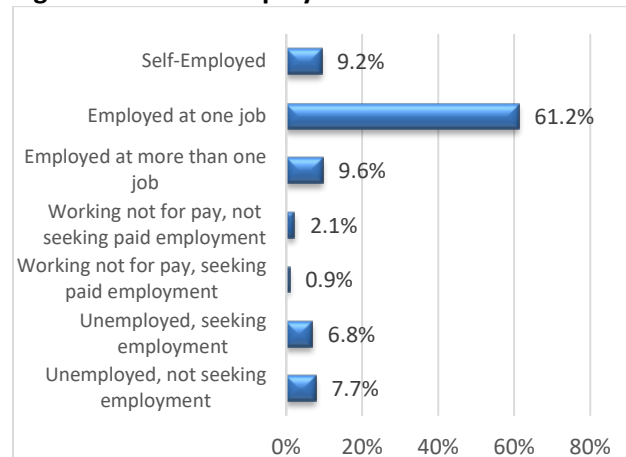
- ✓ My goals were met (300)
- ✓ I completed the program (218)
- ✓ Transferred to another school (134)
- ✓ I got a job (129)

- 52.7% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at Foothill College, and 36.4% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 89.1%.

- 30.8% of respondents indicated they had transferred to another College or University.

- 79.9% of respondents are employed for pay. Figure 2 shows the results.

Figure 2. Current Employment Status



- Overall, statewide, students who transferred have 1.7 times the likelihood of being unemployed and not seeking employment (7.1% for not transferring

vs. 12.0% for transferring), likely because they are enrolled at a four year institution.

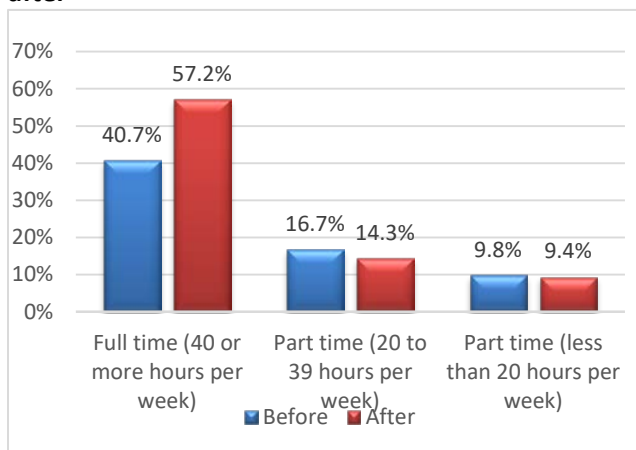
- Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study at Foothill College. 58.4% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by 24.6% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 17.1% indicated their job is not related to their studies. When asked if they were actively seeking a job in another field, 4.7% of employed respondents said no.

- Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 86.6% reported finding a job and 13.4% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 90.2% found a job within six months (78.2% within three months).

- Of currently employed respondents, 13.8% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 15.1% between six months and one year, 27.1% between one and two years, 14.4% between two and three years and 28.2% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

- Before their studies, 40.7% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 57.2% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

Figure 3. Work status before studies/training and after



- The hourly wage of all respondents increased 51.5% from their hourly wage before their studies (\$22.90) to their hourly wage after completing their studies (\$34.69). 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 (143)
- ✓ No impact on my employment (130)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (96)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (49)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (34)
- ✓ Enabled me to start my own business (25)

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 51.5% 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.

