

# RP Group CTE Employment Outcomes Survey for Program Leavers

## Statewide Results

### 2012

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#### Background

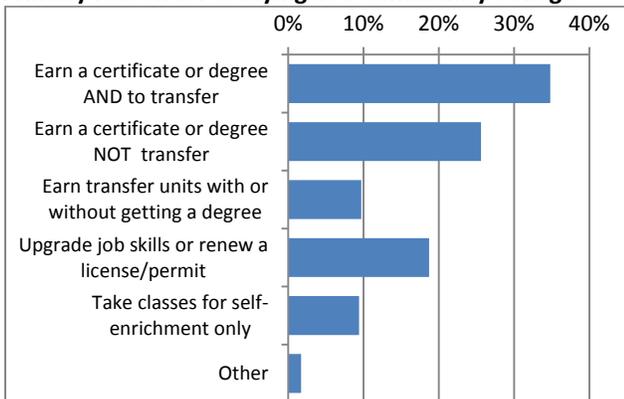
Students from 15 California Community Colleges who earned 12+ units in the same vocationally TOP-coded courses by the 2009-2010 academic year but did not enroll in 2010-2011 were surveyed in the first half of 2012. The survey, administered first by e-mail, then to non-responders by US mail, and then to non-responders by telephone, addressed student perceptions of their CTE program, employment outcomes, and how their coursework and training relate to their current career.

The sample consisted of 7,424 students, 487 of whom responded by e-mail (7%), 486 by US mail (7%), and 926 by telephone (13%) for a total response rate of 26%.

#### Results

- Respondents were asked what their primary reason was to study at a Community College, and the majority (60%) indicated earning a certificate or degree (with or without transfer). Figure 1 shows the results.

**Figure 1**  
Primary reason for studying at a Community College

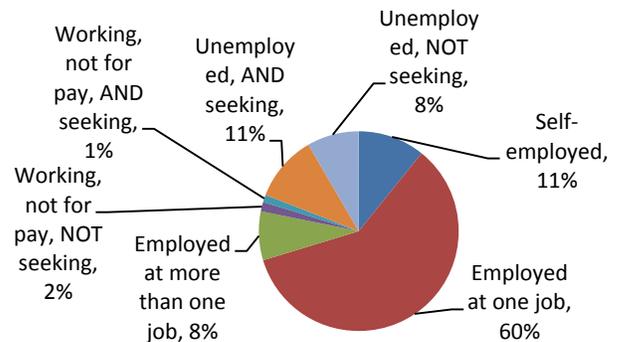


- 58% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at their Community College, and 33% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 91%.

- 34% of respondents indicated they had transferred to pursue a Bachelor’s Degree – within that category, 28% indicated they were pursuing a field of study related to their earned certificate/degree and 6% indicated they were pursuing a different field of study.

- 78% of respondents are employed for pay. Figure 2 represents the employment status of vocational students who did not complete a formal program.

**Figure 2**  
Current Employment Status



- Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study at their Community College. Half (50%) indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by a fifth (20%) indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 30% indicated their job is not related to their studies.

- Former students were asked why they left their program of study prior to earning a degree or certificate. There were 17 possible responses, including “other.” Respondents were asked to mark all that apply; the top three *most* frequently cited responses were:

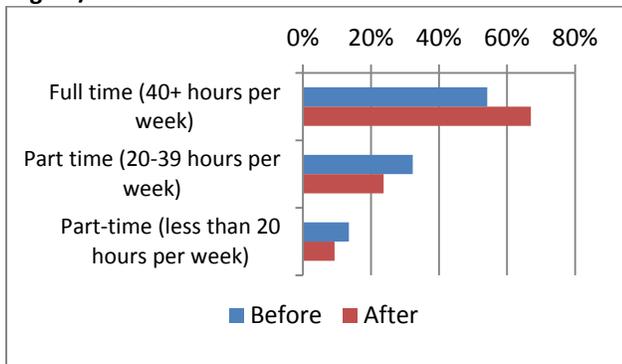
1. My goals were met
2. I transferred to another school
3. I completed the program

The three *least* frequently cited responses were:

1. I needed more ESL and/or basic skills coursework to be successful
2. Semester is too long
3. I need more time to decide what I want

- Before beginning their studies/training, 54% of respondents worked full time. After taking courses and leaving the college, 67% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

**Figure 3**  
Work status before studies/training and after earning a degree/certificate



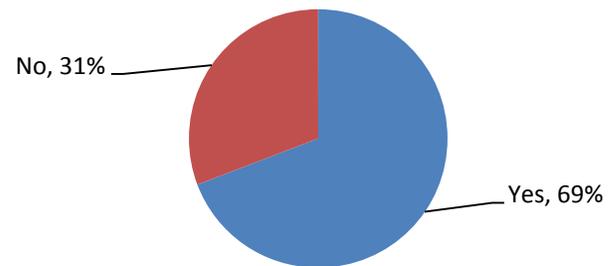
- The hourly wage of those who completed studies but did not earn a degree/certificate increased 25% from their hourly wage before their studies (\$18.41) to their hourly wage after completing a degree/certificate (\$22.93). Figure 4 shows the results.

**Figure 4**  
Increase in earnings from before studies/training to after earning a degree/certificate



- Finally, respondents were asked if they were interested in taking more classes or training in their field in the near future. The majority (69%) responded affirmatively. Figure 5 shows the results.

**Figure 5**  
Interest in furthering studies in field



### Summary and Conclusions

The results of the survey showed that taking at least twelve units of vocational coursework in the same program (determined by 2-digit TOP code), even without earning a certificate or vocational degree, is related to positive employment outcomes. The majority of those who completed 12 or more units of vocational coursework are employed for pay, are working in the same (or close to the same) field as their studies or training, and are working full time. Even without earning a certificate or degree, vocational students posted a 25% increase in their hourly wage after their studies and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received at their Community College.