

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Employment Outcomes Survey 2013

Ventura College

Background

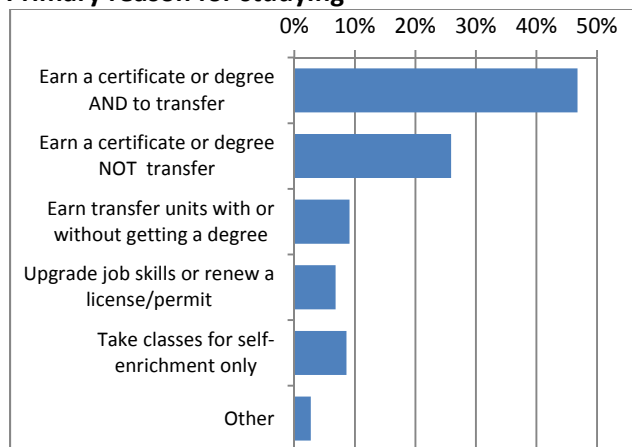
Skills-building students from Ventura College were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2010-2011, and did not enroll in 2011-2012: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2013 first by e-mail, then by US mail, then by telephone. The survey addressed student perceptions of their CTE program, employment outcomes, and how their coursework and training relate to their current career.

The sample consisted of 1,120 unduplicated students, 48 of whom responded by e-mail (4%), 90 by US mail (8%) and 85 by telephone (8%) for a total response rate of 20%.

Results

- Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at Ventura College, and the majority (73%) 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 Ventura College. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

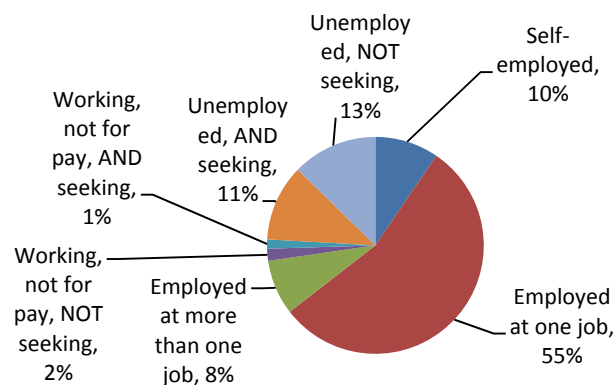
- ✓ I completed the program (74)
- ✓ My goals were met (72)
- ✓ I transferred to another school (54)
- ✓ I got a job (37)
- ✓ I didn't have enough time for classes (27)
- ✓ Classes I needed were not available (27)

- 48% of former students were "very satisfied" with the education and training they received at Ventura College, and 44% were "satisfied" for an overall satisfaction rate of 92%.

- 39% of respondents indicated they had transferred to a 4-year institution to pursue a Bachelor's Degree.

- 73% of respondents are employed for pay. Figure 2 shows the results.

Figure 2
Current Employment Status



- Overall, statewide, students who transferred have twice the likelihood of being unemployed and not seeking employment, likely because they are enrolled at a four year institution.

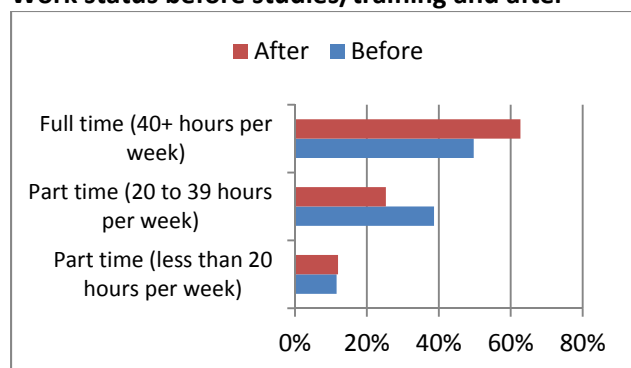
- Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study at Ventura College. Nearly half (45%) indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by a fifth (20%) indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 34% indicated their job is not related to their studies.

- Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 28% reported finding a job and 9% were still looking (the remaining respondents were not looking or were already employed). Of those with a successful job search, 82% found a job within six months (65% within three months).

- 66 respondents (6%) indicated they obtained an industry certification or licensure and 17 (2%) indicated they obtained journey-level status in the same field of study after finishing their coursework.

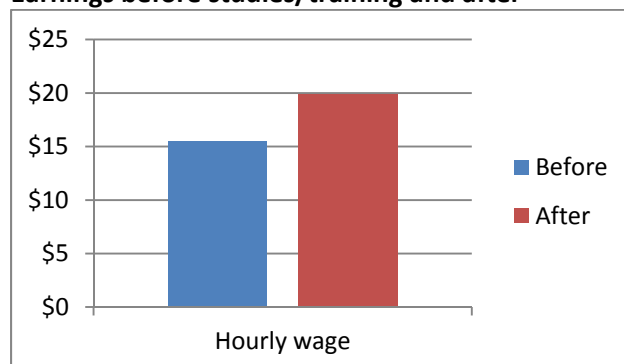
- Before their studies, 50% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 63% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

Figure 3
Work status before studies/training and after



- The hourly wage of all respondents increased 28% from their hourly wage before their studies (\$15.51) to their hourly wage after completing their studies (\$19.87). Figure 4 shows the results.

Figure 4
Earnings before studies/training and after



- Respondents were asked what impact their coursework had on their employment. Here are the reasons, listed in rank order of frequency:

- ✓ No impact on my employment (78)
- ✓ Prepared me for a possible new job (42)
- ✓ stay in my current job (42)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (38)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (21)
- ✓ Enabled me to start my own business (6)

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 28% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at Ventura College and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.