

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Employment Outcomes Survey 2016 West Hills College Coalinga

Background

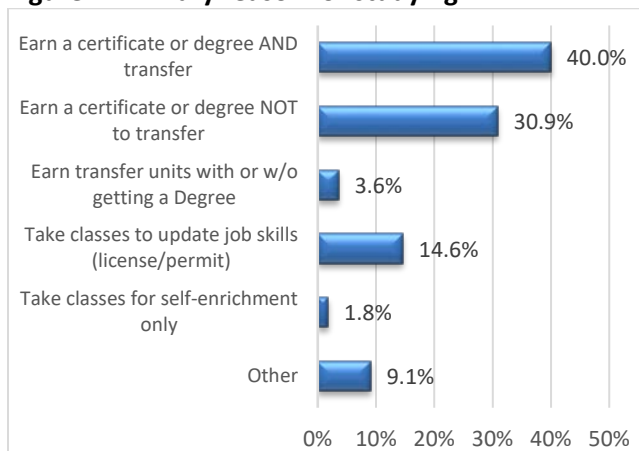
Skills-building students from West Hills College Coalinga were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2013-2014, and did not enroll in 2014-2015: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2016 by e-mail, 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 417 students were surveyed and 55 unduplicated students responded, 8 of whom responded by e-mail (14.6%), 37 by telephone (67.3%), and 10 (18.2%) by US Mail, for a total overall response rate of 13.2%.

Results

- Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at West Hills College Coalinga, and the majority (70.9%) 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 West Hills College Coalinga. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

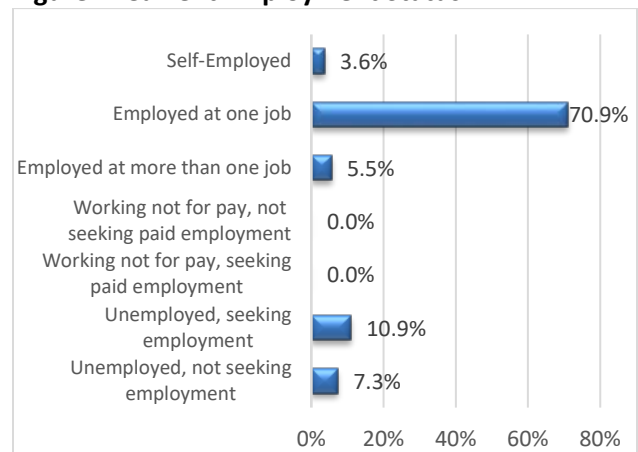
- ✓ I completed the program (32)
- ✓ My goals were met (27)
- ✓ I got a job (16)
- ✓ I stopped attending for a while but then I returned (12)

- 50.9% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at West Hills College Coalinga, and 45.5% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 96.4%.

- 25.4% of respondents indicated they had transferred to another College or University.

- 80.0% 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.

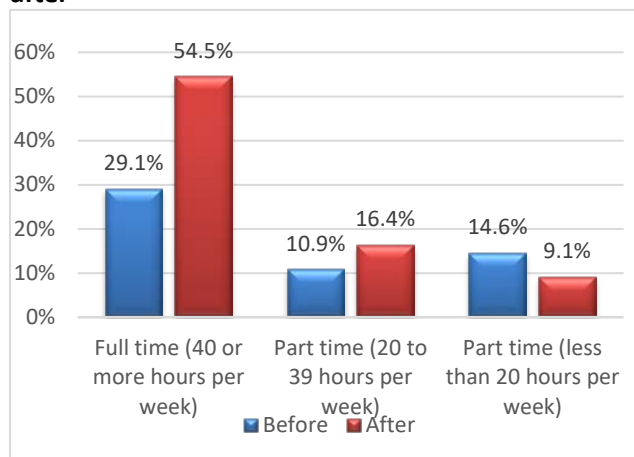
- Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study at West Hills College Coalinga. 45.6% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by 21.7% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 32.6% indicated their job is not related to their studies. When asked if they were actively seeking a job in another field, 17.3% of employed respondents said no.

- Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 66.7% reported finding a job and 33.3% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 72.7% found a job within six months (59.1% within three months).

- Of currently employed respondents, 8.9% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 17.8% between six months and one year, 33.3% between one and two years, 20.0% between two and three years and 20.0% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

- Before their studies, 29.1% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 54.5% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

Figure 3. Work status before studies/training and after



- The hourly wage of all respondents increased 51.9% from their hourly wage before their studies

(\$12.41) to their hourly wage after completing their studies (\$18.85). 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:

- ✓ No impact on my employment (15)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (13)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (9)
- ✓ Prepared me for a possible new job (9)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (3)
- ✓ Enabled me to start my own business (1)

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 51.9% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at West Hills College Coalinga and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.