

# RP Group CTE Employment Outcomes Survey for Certificate Completers Statewide Results 2012

---

## Background

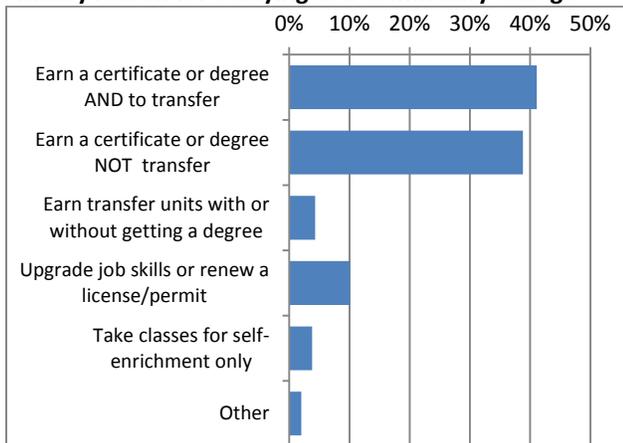
Students from 15 California Community Colleges who earned a certificate of 6 or more units or a vocational degree in 2009-2010 were surveyed in the first half of 2012. The survey, administered first by e-mail, then to non-responders by US mail, and then to non-responders by telephone, addressed student perceptions of their CTE program, employment outcomes, and how their coursework and training relate to their current career.

The sample consisted of 7,681 unduplicated certificate or vocational degree earners from the 15 colleges, 694 of whom responded by e-mail (9%), 935 by US mail (12%), and 962 by telephone (13%) for a total response rate of 34%.

## Results

- Respondents were asked what their primary reason was to study at their California Community College, and the majority (80%) 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

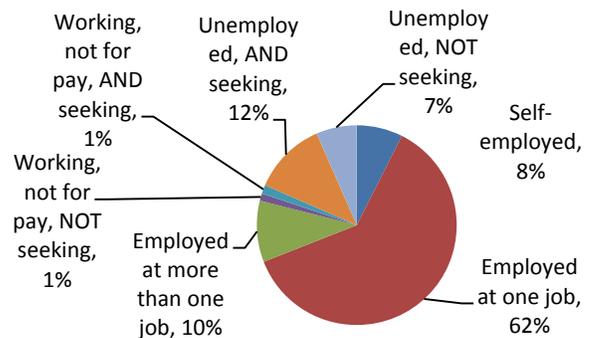


- 62% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at their Community College, and 32% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 94%.

- 30% of respondents indicated they had transferred to pursue a Bachelor’s Degree – within that category, 25% indicated they were pursuing a field of study related to their earned certificate/degree and 5% indicated they were pursuing a different field of study.

- 79% of respondents are employed for pay. Figure 2 represents the employment status of certificate/vocational degree earners.

**Figure 2**  
Current Employment Status

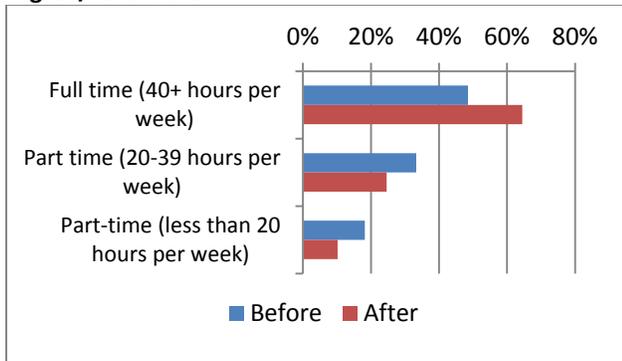


- Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study at their Community College. Over half (59%) indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by nearly a fifth (18%) indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 22% indicated their job is not related to their studies.

- Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 45% reported finding a job and 14% were still looking (the remaining respondents were not looking or were already employed). Of those with a successful job search, 77% found a job within six months (60% within three months).

- Before earning a degree or certificate, 49% of respondents worked full time. After earning a degree or certificate, 65% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

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



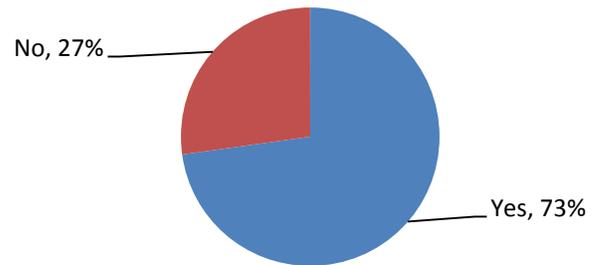
- The hourly wage of degree/certificate earners increased 39% from their hourly wage before their studies (\$17.92) to their hourly wage after completing a degree/certificate (\$24.92). Figure 4 shows the results.

**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 (73%) 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 earning a certificate or vocational degree is related to positive employment outcomes. The preponderance of certificate/degree completers are employed, are working in the same field as their studies or training, and are working full time.

Certificate/degree completers posted a 39% increase in their hourly wage after earning their credential and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received at their California Community College.