

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

Background

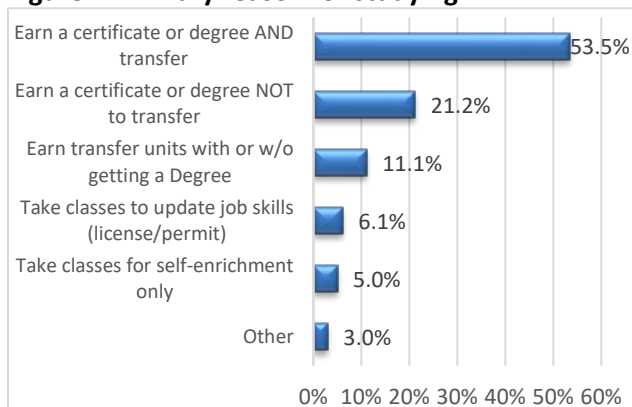
Skills-building students from West Hills College Lemoore were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2013-2014, and did not enroll in 2014-2015: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2016 by e-mail, 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 539 students were surveyed and 99 unduplicated students responded, 21 of whom responded by e-mail (21.2%), 65 by telephone (65.7%), and 13 (13.1%) by US Mail, for a total overall response rate of 18.4%.

Results

- Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at West Hills College Lemoore, and the majority (74.8%) 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 Lemoore. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

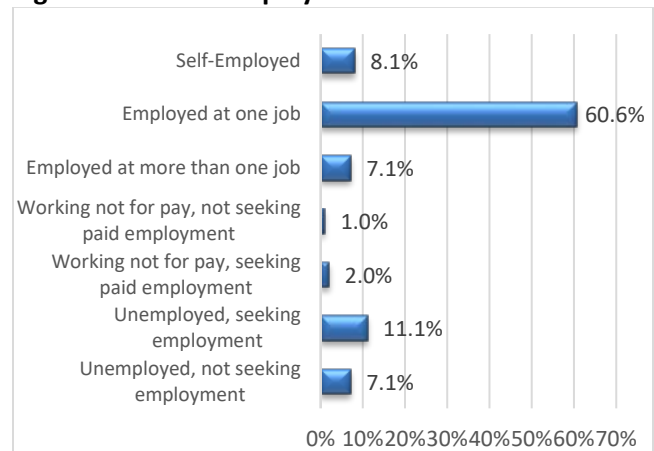
- ✓ My goals were met (43)
- ✓ I completed the program (43)
- ✓ Transferred to another school (36)
- ✓ I got a job (33)

- 53.5% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at West Hills College Lemoore, and 38.4% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 91.9%.

- 50.5% of respondents indicated they had transferred to another College or University.

- 75.8% 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.

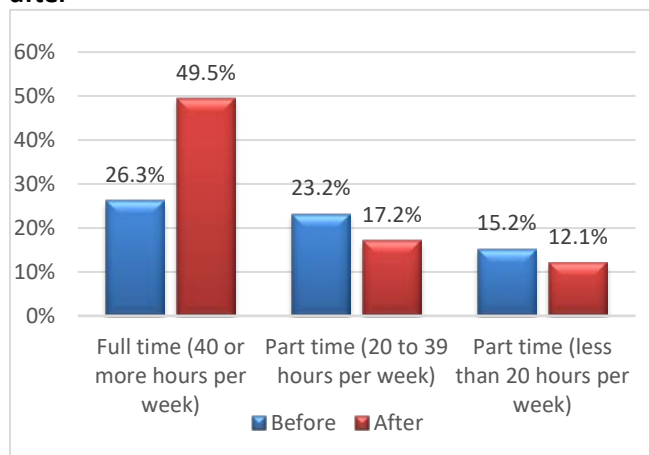
- Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study at West Hills College Lemoore. 38.8% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by 17.5% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 43.8% indicated their job is not related to their studies. When asked if they were actively seeking a job in another field, 10.4% of employed respondents said no.

- Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 72.2% reported finding a job and 27.8% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 84.9% found a job within six months (63.6% within three months).

- Of currently employed respondents, 17.5% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 16.3% between six months and one year, 18.8% between one and two years, 22.5% between two and three years and 23.8% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

- Before their studies, 26.3% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 49.5% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

Figure 3. Work status before studies/training and after



- The hourly wage of all respondents increased 47.8% from their hourly wage before their studies

(\$12.11) to their hourly wage after completing their studies (\$17.90). 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 (31)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (23)
- ✓ Prepared me for a possible new job (23)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (9)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (4)
- ✓ Enabled me to start my own business (2)

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 47.8% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at West Hills College Lemoore and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.