

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Employment Outcomes Survey 2015

College of the Redwoods

Background

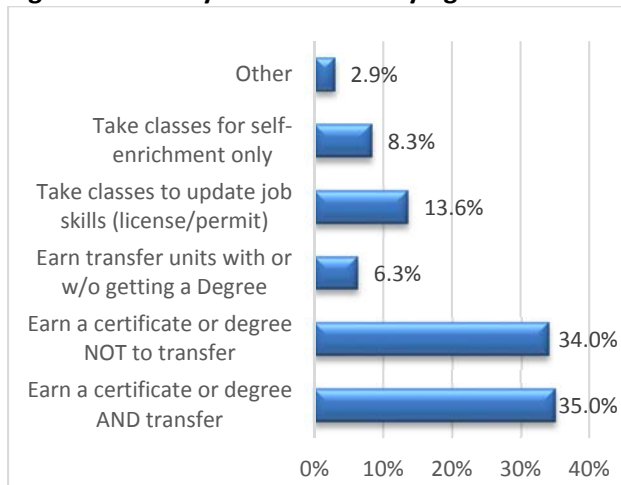
Skills-building students from College of the Redwoods were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2012-2013, and did not enroll in 2013-2014: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2015 by e-mail, 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 586 students were surveyed and 206 unduplicated students responded, 59 of whom responded by e-mail (28.6%), 107 by telephone (51.9%), and 40 (19.4%) by US Mail, for a total overall response rate of 35.1%.

Results

- Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at College of the Redwoods, and the majority (68.9%) 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 College of the Redwoods. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

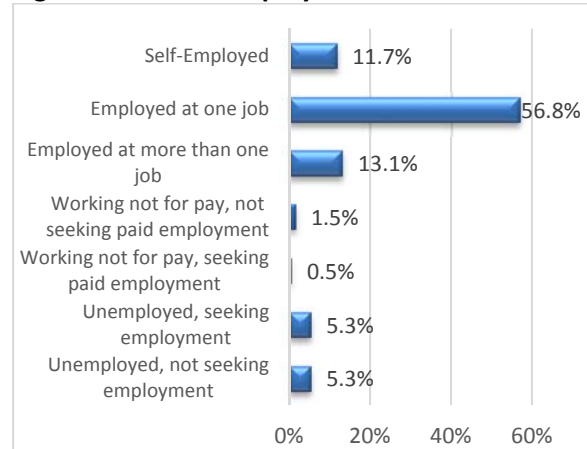
- ✓ I completed the program (91)
- ✓ My goals were met (89)
- ✓ I got a job (69)
- ✓ Relocation (41)

- 53.9% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at College of the Redwoods, and 36.4% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 90.3%.

- 22.3% of respondents indicated they had transferred to another College or University.

- 81.5% of respondents are employed for pay. Figure 2 shows the results.

Figure 2. Current Employment Status



- Overall, statewide, students who transferred have 1.9 times the likelihood of being unemployed and not seeking employment (6.2% for not transferring vs. 11.9% for transferring), likely because they are enrolled at a four year institution.

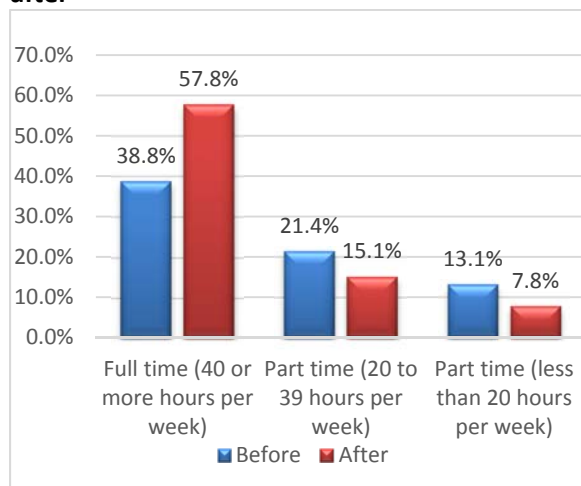
- Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study at College of the Redwoods. 56.9% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed 16.7% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 26.4% indicated their job is not related to their studies. When asked if they were actively seeking a job in another field, 86.8% of employed respondents said no.

- Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 90.9% reported finding a job and 9.1% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 86.6% found a job within six months (80.4% within three months).

- Of currently employed respondents, 16.0% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 15.4% between six months and one year, 30.8% between one and two years, 14.2% between two and three years and 23.7% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

- Before their studies, 38.8% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 57.8% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

Figure 3. Work status before studies/training and after



- The hourly wage of all respondents increased 38.2% from their hourly wage before their studies (\$14.92) to their hourly wage after completing their studies (\$20.62). 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:

- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (49)
- ✓ Prepared me for a possible new job (45)
- ✓ No impact on my employment (27)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (18)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (16)
- ✓ Enabled me to start my own business (13)

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 38.2% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at College of the Redwoods and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.

