

# Career & Technical Education (CTE) Employment Outcomes Survey 2013 Foothill College

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## Background

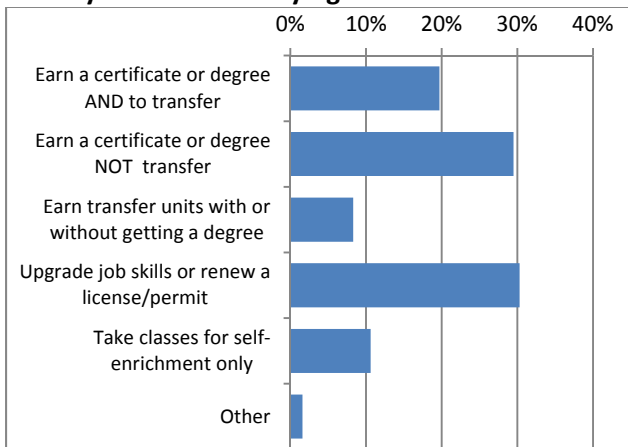
Skills-building students from Foothill College were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2010-2011, and did not enroll in 2011-2012: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2013 first by e-mail, then by US mail. 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 1,838 unduplicated students, 133 of whom responded by e-mail (7%), 128 by US mail (7%) for a total response rate of 14%.

## Results

- Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at Foothill College, and half (49%) 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 Foothill College. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

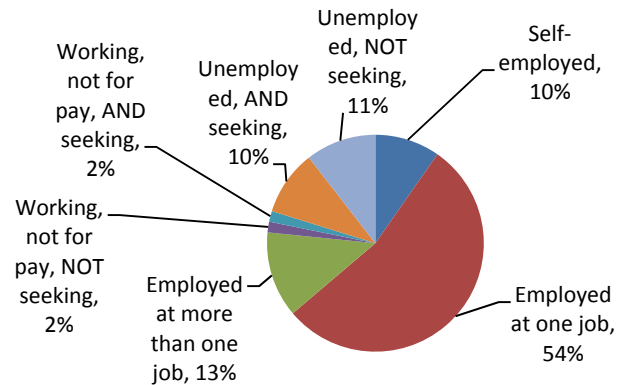
- ✓ My goals were met (105)
- ✓ I completed the program (100)
- ✓ I got a job (53)
- ✓ I transferred to another school (39)
- ✓ Classes I needed were not available (35)
- ✓ I didn't have enough time for classes (34)

- 56% of former students were "very satisfied" with the education and training they received at Foothill College, and 33% were "satisfied" for an overall satisfaction rate of 89%.

- 24% of respondents indicated they had transferred to a 4-year institution to pursue a Bachelor's Degree.

- 77% 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.

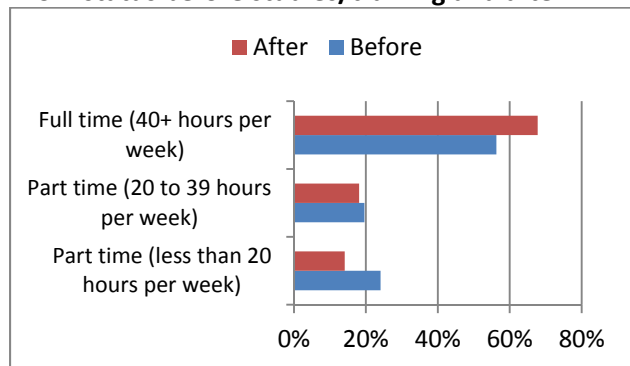
- Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study at Foothill College. Over half (60%) indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by a fifth (21%) indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 20% indicated their job is not related to their studies.

- Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 38% reported finding a job and 10% were still looking (the remaining respondents were not looking or were already employed). Of those with a successful job search, 76% found a job within six months (57% within three months).

- 80 respondents (4%) indicated they obtained an industry certification or licensure and 26 (1%) indicated they obtained journey-level status in the same field of study after finishing their coursework.

- Before their studies, 56% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 68% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

**Figure 3**  
**Work status before studies/training and after**



- The hourly wage of all respondents increased 25% from their hourly wage before their studies (\$27.48) to their hourly wage after completing their studies (\$34.28). 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:

- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (69)
- ✓ Prepared me for a possible new job (61)
- ✓ No impact on my employment (56)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (35)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (21)
- ✓ Enabled me to start my own business (17)

### 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 25% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at Foothill College and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.