



## Career and Technical Student Follow-up 2009-10

September 2011

### Introduction

Each year, the Office of Planning and Effectiveness uses Perkins funding to complete a follow-up of Career and Technical students. The purpose of this report is to measure student's perception of how well the program prepared them for their career and to support continuous improvement efforts. It does this by collecting student's feedback about the college and the student's program. Currently, this survey is the only instrument available to provide annual feedback for individual programs. Because program sample sizes are small, the results of this survey can only be used as indicators. At the college level, this report provides data to benchmark and set goals for student outcomes related to program completion.

A total of 780 students were surveyed for the 2009-10 report. These students fell into two groups. Graduates completed a transcriptable degree or certificate during the 2009-10 academic year, and leavers stopped attending classes after earning 45 or more career or technical credits in a single program. For the 2009-10 report, Planning and Effectiveness surveyed 561 graduates and 219 leavers. A total of 176 students: 148 graduates, 26 leavers, and 2 unknown status responded to the survey, for a 23% response rate (26% for graduates, and 12% for leavers).

### Highlights

- 82% of students feel they accomplished their primary goal during their time at Clark College.
- 45% of employed graduates earned more than \$18 an hour when surveyed.
- 72% of employed graduates were employed in their field of study.
- 78% of students reported that Clark College prepared them in their program of study.
- 79% of students reported feeling that Clark College prepared them in a manner consistent with current industry standards.
- 64% of graduates were satisfied or very satisfied with their current employment situation.

## Methodology and Definitions

Students who had an email address on file were first contacted via email. Students who did not respond to the email were then sent a paper survey. If they did not respond to the survey, they were sent a follow-up postcard. Students who received a paper survey could either return the paper survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or they could complete the electronic version. Of the 780 students surveyed, 176 students responded (23%). This response rate is acceptable.

**Graduates** are students who earned a transcribed degree or certificate during the 2009-10 academic year. Of the 561 graduates, 148 responded (26%). Transcriptable degrees and certificates do not include short-term training program completions or short-term program certificates.

**Leavers** are students who were enrolled in a career/technical program with an intent to complete a degree or certificate and who had earned 45 or more career/technical credits before leaving the college. Twelve (12) of those credits must have been earned in the previous two years. Of the 219 leavers, 26 responded (12%).

The term **student** refers to both graduates and leavers.

## Goal Accomplishment

★ 82% of students reported they accomplished their primary goal.

While the majority of students reported they accomplished their primary goal, almost one in five students did not. Their responses are listed below, grouped by the primary goal they indicated. Of the students (31) who indicated they did not accomplish their goal, half were leavers (16).

### **If NO, please explain why you do not feel you accomplished your primary goal in attending Clark College -- grouped by primary goal**

#### **Earn a certificate**

- Although the certificate doesn't really prepare you for the test for coding
- Was not able to receive proper demonstrations due to instructors lack of up to date certifications
- I don't feel that I was taught everything that I could have been and I don't feel that the teacher was well equipped to teach

#### **Earn an Associate's Degree**

- Present employment environment is not conducive to planned goal
- They cancelled my course in Electronics Technology
- Still attending classes in pursuit of a degree.
- I'm incarcerated now and the facility I'm at doesn't give me the access that I need to accomplished my goals.
- I am still enrolled, I had gotten a certificate for completing IBEST but still continuing for AA
- Not finished am still going for an AA Degree at attending WSU.
- Classed were hard to manage due to when they were time & quarter. need more choices.
- The ECE guidance counselor messed up on the classes I should take so I was left missing one class.
- I had to take a break due to work and family priorities. I did complete phelbotomy cert. program but could not get hired anywhere very displeased.
- I feel I possess the level of skills and knowledge to have earned an AAS in Automotive Technology, but do not have the time for one welding class that is required.
- Still in process

#### **Improve or gain new skills**

- Skills learned or gained in said program did not help move into a new career field.
- Clark did not offer the classes I wanted. Many classes listed in the college catalog were not taught due to lack of instructor. Had to substitute classes out of my area of interest
- Program did not prepare for employment
- Have not found full time work w/benefits
- Would like to take remaining classes to finish Medical Office Specialist degree
- It was hard for me with no experience in computers to be pushed so fast through the computer classes. The people who do well are those who know already how to work programs.
- I learned nothing that I couldn't learn on my own
- Didn't have money to complete second year
- I would like more classes in this field
- I would like to have seen more teacher instuction in class. One hour, I felt was too brief.

**If NO, please explain why you do not feel you accomplished your primary goal in attending Clark College  
-- grouped by primary goal**

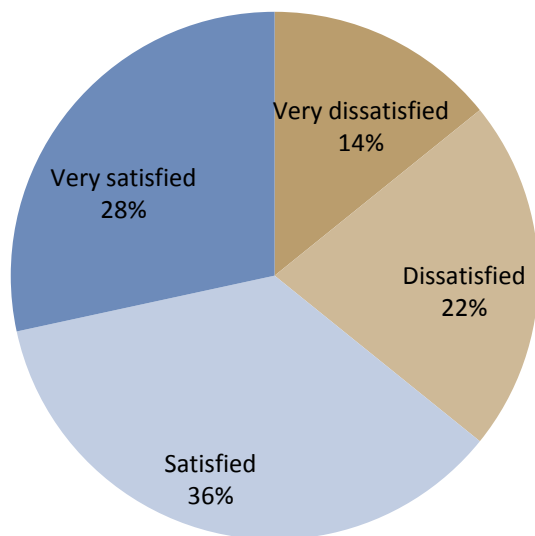
Other goals

- I have not obtained by goal of getting into nursing, and so plan to continued my education
- No job, No job referrals, No Career Counseling
- Cash flow

★ 64% of all graduates were satisfied with their current employment situation.

Graduates were asked “How satisfied are you with your current employment situation? (whether employed or not?)” While almost two thirds of graduates who responded were satisfied, there were a total of 58 who were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their current employment situation.

### Graduate's Satisfaction with Current Employment Situation



### Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied with Current Employment Situation (N=58)

Employment Situation	Number
Full-time, in field	5
Full-time, not in field	7
Full-time, field unknown	2
Part-time	16
Unemployed	26
Not seeking, unknown	3

## Current Employment

★ 67% of students were employed. Of those graduates who wanted to work, 75% were employed.

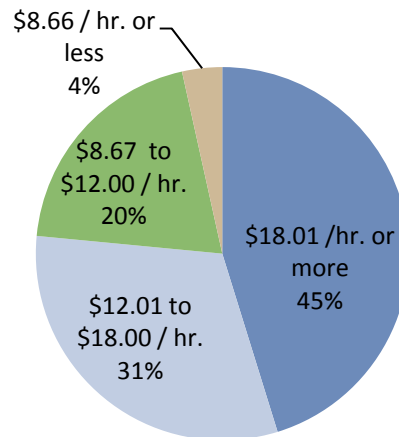
	Employment by status			
	Employed full-time	Employed part-time	Unemployed	Not employed – not looking
Graduates (n=144)	42%	26%	23%	8%
Leavers (n=26)	35%	19%	29%	8%
TOTAL (n=170*)	41%	26%	25%	8%

\* 6 students did not provide enough information for this analysis.

Of the 115 employed students, 62% are working full-time and 38% are working part-time.

★ 74% of employed graduates earned more than \$12.00 per hour. 45% earn more than \$18.00 per hour.

## Wage Category of Employed Graduates

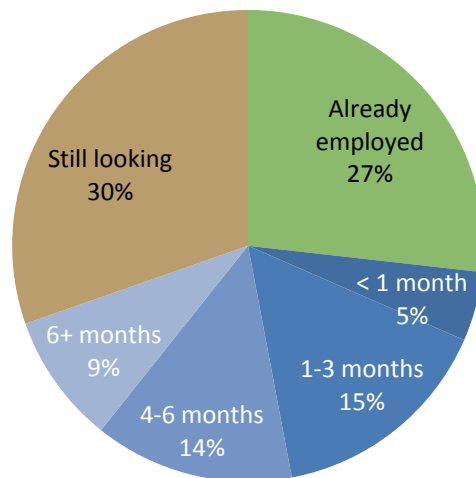


★ 57% of employed students were employed in Vancouver, and an additional 12% were employed in other Washington locations. 31% were employed out of state (22% in Portland, 6% elsewhere in Oregon, and 3% in other states).

★ 87% of employed students were working locally (Clark, Skamania, Klickitat, Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties).

★ 39% of students were not able to find employment within 6 months. Another 27% were already employed and the other third found employment within 6 months.

### Length of Time to Employment



★ More than 70% of working students were employed in their field of study.

	Employed in field of study by status	
	Yes	No
Graduates (n=96)	72%	28%
Leavers (n=14)	71%	29%

Data note: This table only includes those students who reported employment.

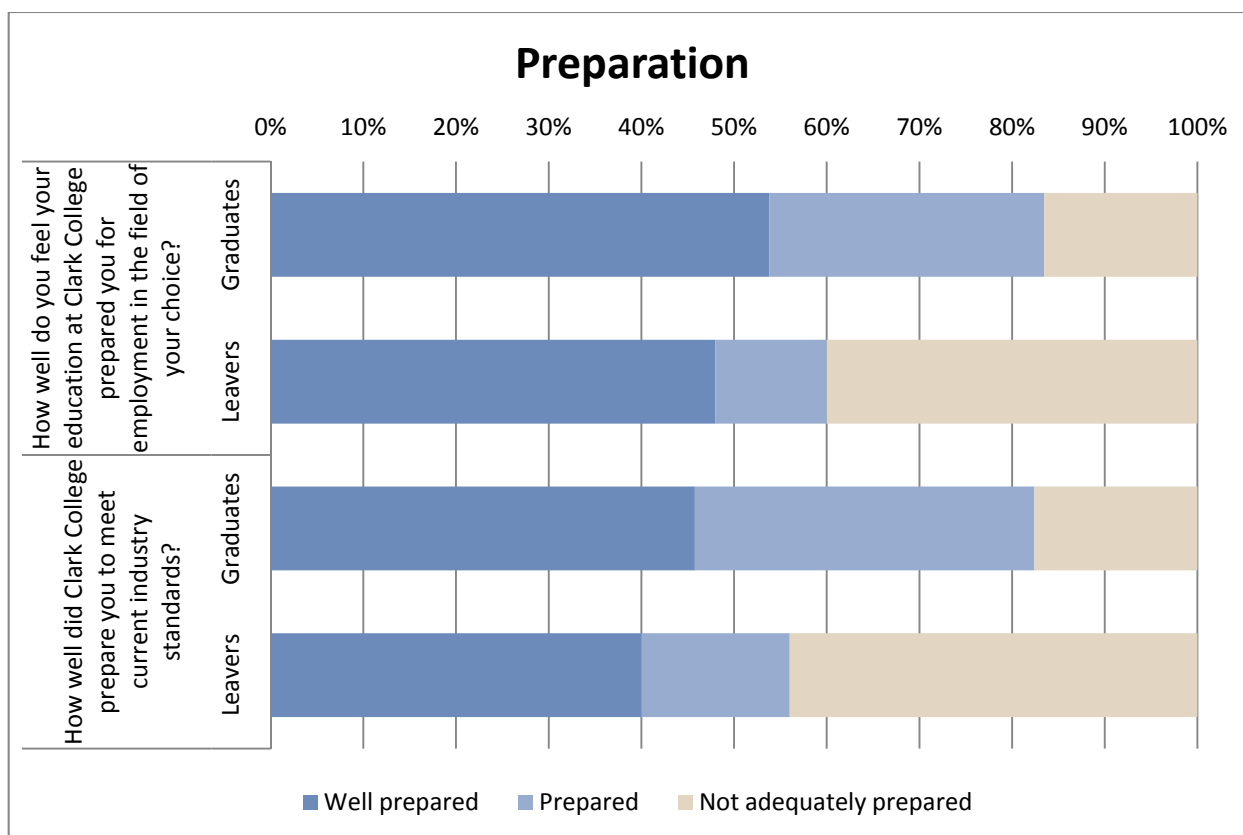
Students working out of their field of study were asked for an explanation. Most have been unable to find jobs in their fields of study, or have found that entry level jobs do not pay enough to meet their needs. While others do not have the experience necessary in the field.

<b>Graduates' responses to, "If you are currently working in a job or continuing school in a field that is <u>not</u> related to your coursework at Clark College, please explain why. "</b>	
<b>Program</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Accounting	Could not find any response to resumes I sent out for job entry level jobs.
Accounting	Haven't finished going to Clark yet.
Accounting	Needed a job and taxes are kinda related to accounting but I was hoping to get something more related to accounts receivable or payable
Business Administration	Having an associates degree in this job market does not get you very far when you have a mortgage and family to feed, I could not take an entry level job and the position that I have was available at the time I was looking.
Business Technology	Most Admin Assist jobs require more accounting experience then I have
Certified Network Administrator	Rough Employment environment
Data Systems	Could not find a job in that field right now.
Data Systems	It become available & no other jobs or interviews were happening
Data Systems	Unable to even get interview in field of study.
Diesel Technology	No adequate positions in this state
Graphic Communications	Currnet job has some taks related to degree; economy for design is bad right now
Larch BTEC programs	Incarcerated at Larch Correction at this time
Medical BTEC	Employers want experience
Medical BTEC	I applied for multiple jobs in my field for several months and ended up with a position that is different but has similarities.
Medical BTEC	I decided to come back to Clark for the Medical Assistant program and my current employer is willing to work around my school schedule
Medical BTEC	I had to have something to survive. I can't do much with my AAS degree I have been told by vocational agencies
Medical BTEC	Medical reasons
Medical BTEC	When I started going to Clark, I applied for a workstudy job and when I received workstudy, I was hired at the Financial Aid Office and now permanently work as a part time worker.
Medical Radiography	Can't find an X-Ray job.
Microcomputer Support Specialist	My degree and cc relate to my job it was my workstudy my past experience helped
Nursing	They don't have an open RN position. I am still looking for an RN job.
Nursing	Unable to find work as a Registered Nurse
Nursing	While looking a job in nursing field

Graduates' responses to, "If you are currently working in a job or continuing school in a field that is <u>not</u> related to your coursework at Clark College, please explain why. "	
Paralegal	Starting pay in my field of study begin at \$5 or more per hour less than my current pay. I cannot afford to take that large of a pay cut.
Pharmacy Technician	I haven't found a job in my field of study
Welding	Can't find a job in welding not enough experience

## Students' Preparation

- ★ 78% of graduates indicated that Clark College prepared them for employment in their field of study.
- ★ 79% of graduates indicated that Clark College prepared them in a manner consistent with current industry standards.





★ 43% of students (75) indicated areas of improvement for their program of study.

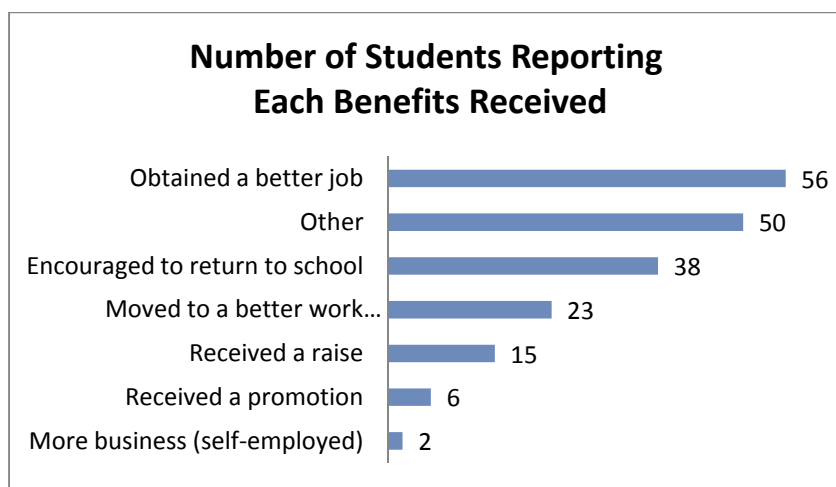
Skills specific to a program will be included in the individual program reports. Only items with broader applicability are included in this report.

**What additional skills would have been helpful for you to learn in your program?**

- State of art computer languages
- Probably more hands on experience classes
- Patient interaction from beginning to end in the clinic setting
- More practice time on basic clinical requirements
- Paperwork in the real world, charts
- Organization, delegation, prioritizing
- More troubleshooting for software and hardware.
- Hands on classes - not learning about how-to from a book
- More information and experience with the electronic health record
- Skills related to finding jobs in the industry
- More interactive classroom activities with the outcome including a better understanding of the material being presented
- More hands on training - less academic - it is a vocational career
- Need a Clinical Coordinator and mentoring after the classroom experience to place students in clinical sites for externship and follow progress
- More emphasis on interviewing skills and behavioral interviewing technique
- More demonstration from instructor in a classroom
- More actually doing the stuff I was learning
- Instructors that work in current related job fields
- Examples/ simulated equipment students have access to, to prepare them for related fields
- I think that a more complete review class would be helpful
- A combination of classes, doing more hands on, rather than class after class of lecture
- Communication Skill
- Communication Customer Service
- Class on Outlook
- A slower pace and more preliminaries

## Employment Benefits

- ★ 130 of the 176 students (74%) reported receiving at least one benefit from their coursework at Clark College.



- 62% of students indicated that they have current or future educational plans.

Current or Future Educational Plans	Students	Percent
No current or future educational plans	65	37%
Transfer to a 4-year institution	43	24%
Return to Clark College for personal enrichment classes	32	18%
Return to Clark College for job-related classes	29	16%
Return to Clark College for an Associate degree	28	16%
Return to Clark College for prerequisites	13	7%
Attend another community college	8	5%

Note: Respondents can be in multiple categories

## Other Comments

Students responding to the survey were asked if there was anything else they would like to tell us. Comments specific to a program will be included in the individual program reports. Many students took the opportunity to express thanks to the College and to specific individuals. A number of students commented on programs at Clark College which help students access education:

- I started in the Displaced Homemakers program, and I am very grateful for that program and for well rounded education I received at Clark.
- I believe I-Best program helps a lot of women who like to work in ECE field.
- I-Best Welding is a fail.
- Thanks for your I-Best program. It was the best.
- Please bring HC back to Larch Corrections Center, as well as other educational opportunities. Education will keep men from coming back to prison. There are bright minds in here that are looking for a way out.