

FETPIP'S Five Year SPC Graduates Follow-Up

Recently the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program Office (FETPIP) released a report about the activities of the St. Petersburg College's (SPC) graduates over the last five years. FETPIP is a data collection system that obtains follow-up information on former community college students including job employment, continuing postsecondary education activities, military association, and public assistance participation and incarceration status.

Each year FETPIP publishes an Annual Outcomes Report containing basic data focusing on employment and continuing postsecondary education of community college graduates. The purpose of the report is to provide information to colleges about the previous year's graduates that can be used by them for the program review process and that program directors and parents can use to counsel students to make successful education and career choices.

The information about SPC graduates is collected by FETPIP one year after program completion. FETPIP matches the social security numbers of students identified as completing programs to data files from various state agencies. If data about a graduate is not found, the system removes those names from the data provided to the college. SPC uses an unique system of surveying all its graduates and making telephone calls as necessary to supplement the data provided by FETPIP in order to make available the most comprehensive data possible about the activities of its graduates.

While the information discussed herein from FETPIP reflects only data collected directly by that office, it is important in that it provides five years of trends and enables program directors to compare year-to-year performance of SPC lower division graduates. Data includes the companies where the students are working, the Florida colleges and universities where graduates are continuing their education, and the earnings of those employed.

SPC College A.A. Degree Graduates

Table 1 shows the number of SPC degree graduates and compares it to the number found by FETPIP for each year. The number of students graduating from SPC's A. A. degree program was over 1,600 per year for each of the five years. Students matched by FETPIP increased from a low of 87.8% in 1997-98 to a high of 90.7%.

Table 1. SPC Associate in Arts Compared to FETPIP Matches

	1997-98	%	1998-99	%	1999-00	%	2000-01	%	2001-02	%
SPC Graduates	1,979		1,747		1,699		1,691		1,709	
# Matched	1,737	87.8	1,553	88.9	1,530	90.0	1,513	89.5	1,550	90.7

Table 2 shows the activities of the A.A. degree graduates found by FETPIP one year after graduation. The purpose of the A. A. degree is to prepare students for transfer to a college or university. The majority of students earning this degree have met this goal (56.1% in 1997-98; 56.3% in 2001-02). Furthermore, each year over 70% of A. A. graduates did enroll in an educational institution of some type. Interestingly the percent of graduates re-enrolling in a community college almost doubled from 1997-98 (7.4%) to 2001-02 (14.2%).

Table 2. Activities of SPC Associate in Arts Graduates Found By FETPIP

	1997-98	%	1998-99	%	1999-00	%	2000-01	%	2001-02	%
# Matched	1,737	87.8	1,553	88.9	1,530	90.0	1,513	89.5	1,550	90.7
Employed (not continuing education)	473	23.9	395	22.6	292	17.2	298	17.6	333	19.5
Military	2	.1	0	0	1	.1	1	.1	8	.5
University	1,061	53.6	970	55.5	1,006	59.2	1003	59.3	918	53.7
Private College	49	2.5	46	2.6	29	1.7	45	2.7	44	2.6
Community College	146	7.4	133	7.6	189	11.1	153	9.0	243	14.2
Public Schools	6	.3	9	.5	13	.7	13	.8	4	.2
Placed	1,264	72.8	1,158	74.6	1,238	80.9	1,215	80.3	1,217	78.5

SPC College A.S. Degree/PSV Certificate Graduates

. Table 3 shows the number of SPC vocational degree and certificate graduates and compares it to the number found by FETPIP for each year. The number of students graduating from SPC's vocational programs has increased from 746 in 1997-98 to 1,328 in 2001-02. FETPIP was able to match approximately 89% of each year's graduates.

Table 3. SPC Vocational Degree Graduates and Certificates Compared to FETPIP Matches

	1997-98	%	1998-99	%	1999-00	%	2000-01	%	2001-02	%
SPC Graduates	746		1,033		1,209		1,312		1,328	
# Matched	659	88.3	921	89.2	1,073	88.8	1,154	88.0	1,169	88.0

For many students enrolled in A. S. degree or PSV certificate programs the primary purpose of a college education is to obtain a job or to upgrade job skills to obtain a promotion. Table 4 shows the activities of the graduates found by FETPIP one year after graduation. Students identified as employed are covered by the Florida Unemployment Insurance System.

Table 4. Activities of A.S. Degree/PSV Certificate Graduates Found by FETPIP

	1997-98	%	1998-99	%	1999-00	%	2000-01	%	2001-02	%
# Matched	659	88.3	921	89.2	1,073	88.8	1,154	88.0	1,169	88.0
Employed	637	96.7	881	95.7	1006	93.8	1076	93.2	1,071	91.6
Employed Related	461	70.0	583	63.3	483	45.0	394	34.1	616	52.7
Military	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	.4
Continuing Education	56	8.5	136	14.8	334	31.1	383	33.2	250	21.4
Placed	517	78.5	719	78.1	817	76.1	777	67.3	871	74.5

Students are considered “placed” if they are (1) continuing their education, (2) working in a job related to the SPC program completed, or (3) in the military. While the number of students employed remained over 90% each year, the number found employed in a job related to the SPC program decreased from 70% in 1997-98 to 52.7% in 2001-02. On the other hand, the number of students continuing their education rose in the same time period from 8.5% to 21.4%. For every year, except 2000-01, the percentage of students considered placed was over 70%.

Table 5 shows the companies who employed three or more 2001-02-program completers. All employment findings are based on the fall of each year (4th quarter 2002; October – December). For the year 2001-02 there were 1,071 graduates employed, of these 1,025 or 95.7% of those are employed in the state of Florida. Eight hundred thirty-five (835) remained in the Tampa Bay area to work, 645 (62.9%) remained in Pinellas county; 130 (12.7%) in Hillsborough county and the remaining 60 (5.9%) are employed in Manatee, Pasco, and Sarasota counties.

Summary

SPC’s two-year programs are designed to prepare students to enter the workforce (A.S. degree/PSV Certificate) or to continue their education at another postsecondary institution (A. A. degree). The overall report shows employment rate for graduates with an A.S. Degree or certificate in any type of employment at 93.9%; 2,357 (51.0%) in training-related employment; 5 (.1%) in military; and 1,159 (23.3%) continued their education. Likewise, data shows that 77.3% of 7,883 A.A. degree graduates (who were found) were placed. The majority of the found A. A. degree graduates (5,171 –65.6%) who continued their education attended a four-year college or university; 909 (11.5%) attended community colleges and other public schools; and 12 (.2%) in the military. This report shows that of the graduates found by FETPIP, who completed programs from 1997-98 to 2001-02 have achieved their goals.

Table 5. Top Employers for SPC 2001-02 Program Completers (PSV, PSVC)

Employer	Industry	Employed	Percent of Total
Pinellas County Sheriff's	Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activity	87	21.2
City of St. Petersburg FL	Executive, Legislative and General Gov't	31	7.6
Morton F. Plant Hospital	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	25	6.1
Mease Hospital Inc Trustees	Hospitals	24	5.9
Bayfront Medical Center	Hospitals	20	4.9
Largo Medical Center Hospital	Hospitals	17	4.1
Lifefleet Southeast Inc	Ambulatory health Care Services	16	4.0
St. Petersburg College	Educational Services	15	3.7
City of Largo	Executive, Legislative and General Gov't	14	3.4
All Children's Hospital Inc	Hospitals	14	3.4
Nielsen Media Research Inc	Professional and Technical Services	7	1.7
City of Clearwater	Executive, Legislative and General Gov't	7	1.7
City of Gulfport	Executive, Legislative and General Gov't	7	1.7
City of Pinellas Park	Executive, Legislative and General Gov't	7	1.7
Pinellas County School board	Educational Services	6	1.5
St. Anthony's Hospital Inc	Hospitals	6	1.5
Raymond James	Management of Companies and Enterprises	5	1.2
Pinellas County Board of	Executive, Legislative and General Gov't	5	1.2
Krall & Tollon Oakhurst	Professional and Technical Services	5	1.2
Florida Health Sciences Center	Hospitals	5	1.2
Palms of Pasadena Hospital	Hospitals	5	1.2
Galencare Inc	Hospitals	4	1.0
Publix Super Markets Inc	Warehousing and Storage	4	1.0
Verizon Florida Inc	Telecommunications	4	1.0
Bar Group Inc	Administrative and Support Services	4	1.0
Manatee County Sheriff's	Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activity	4	1.0
Heartland Employment Services	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	4	1.0
Octex Corporation	Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	3	.7
Raytheon Company	Computer and Electronics Product Manufacturing	3	.7
Sears Roebuck and Co	General Merchandise Stores	3	.7
Ivans Corporation	ISPS, Search Portals, and Data Processing	3	.7
Critical Intervention Services	Administrative And Support Services	3	.7
SMH	Hospitals	3	.7
City of St. Pete Beach	Executive, Legislative and General Gov't	3	.7
City of Tarpon Springs	Executive, Legislative and General Gov't	3	.7
Florida Veterinary Specialists	Professional and Technical Services	3	.7
Medical Management	Professional and Technical Services	3	.7
Gevity HR VLP	Administrative and Support Services	3	.7
New Port Richey Hospital Inc	Hospitals	3	.7