

RESEARCH BRIEF

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RECENT ALUMNI SURVEY

This brief summarizes the results of the 2003-04 Recent Alumni Survey. The Recent Alumni Survey was designed to be administered to all graduates within the first year following their program completion and to serve multiple purposes such as:

- To obtain data to complete the yearly Follow-Up Report,
- To obtain data to supplement and meet Workforce criteria,
- To obtain information about current activities of College alumni, and
- To determine student satisfaction with career preparation

In order to obtain and fulfill the purpose of the survey, the Recent Alumni Survey was developed containing 12 items asking graduates about:

- Current employment information,
- Their educational status after leaving SPC,
- Their opinion on academic preparation received, and
- Their willingness to recommend SPC to others

The Recent Alumni Survey of 2003-2004 graduates was conducted from August 2004 through June 2005. Three thousand, two hundred and ninety-two (3,292) individuals who graduated from an Associate, Bachelors¹, and Certificate/Applied/Advanced (CT) program during the period of July 1, 2003 through May 2004 were included in the study. It should be noted here the Summer of 2003 was the first year for SPC to have Bachelor degree recipients and these graduates are included in follow-up process.

The survey was first administered by mail, then with a reminder sent out two weeks after the initial mailing. Furthermore, telephone surveying was conducted to acquire information from all graduates who did not respond by mail.

A total of 1,461 graduate responses were received. Of this total, 851 were received by mail and 610 responded by telephone. Responses were received from 694 A.A. graduates, 81 B.S./B.S.N. graduates, 364 A.S., and 322 CT./ATD/AAS graduates. Table 1 shows the number of surveys returned by type of award earned and the overall response rate of 44.4%.

Table I
Number of Graduates Surveyed and Responding by Awards

Awards	Numbered Graduated	Percent of Total	Number Responded	Percent Responded
A.A.	1,795	54.5	694	38.7
B. S./B.S.N./B.A.S.	124	3.8	81	65.3
A.S.	676	20.5	364	53.8
CT./ATD/ATC/VC	697	21.2	322	46.2
TOTAL	3,292	100	1,461	44.4

Summary of the current activities of the graduates shows that six (6) respondents enlisted in full-time military service. Of these, three (3) holds an A.A. degree, 1 hold an A.S. degree, and two (2) hold a CT.

In the employment section, all graduates were asked their employment status. Specifically, they were asked if they were employed, if their employment was related to their education, their job title, and their wages and/or annual salary.

SPC's two-year programs prepare students for continued academic work at a college or university (A.A.) or prepare students to enter the workforce (A.S., B.S./B.S.N./B.A.S., CT./ATD/AAS). However, small numbers of A.A. students indicated they were employed in a field related to their studies. Out of the 1,461 who responded to the questions regarding employment, 1,118 (76.5%) were employed and 645 (57.7%) stated that their current job was related to their SPC major. Since the A.S., B.S./B.S.N./B.A.S. and CT. programs are designed to prepare students for employment after graduation, it would be expected that the employed in field response would be strongly weighted toward job specific programs rather than the A.A. program. Figure 1 summarizes employment data by program type.

¹In Fall 2002, SPC began offering baccalaureate degrees (Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Applied Science). These programs will focus on preparing students to enhance their skills, knowledge, to reach higher levels of income, and increased personal/professional growth.

Note: In certain instances, the total number of students responding to a question does not add up to the total number who returned the survey (1,459).

For those employed in jobs related to their training, 538 (83.4%) provided their wage per hour. The hourly wage for the A.S. graduates employed in field related to their studies was slightly higher than the A.A. graduates who were employed in the field related to their studies. As expected the Bachelor graduates employed in field related to their studies were slightly higher than the A.S. graduates. The average hourly wage for 263 A.S. graduates, and who disclosed their wage, was \$16.45; for A.A. the amount was \$14.00; for B.S. graduates \$17.40, and CT. graduates the amount was \$15.00. The amounts earned varied by program with the most frequently reported wage per hour ranged from \$19.50 or more by 219 graduates. Figure 2 summarizes wage per hour.

Figure 1 Employment

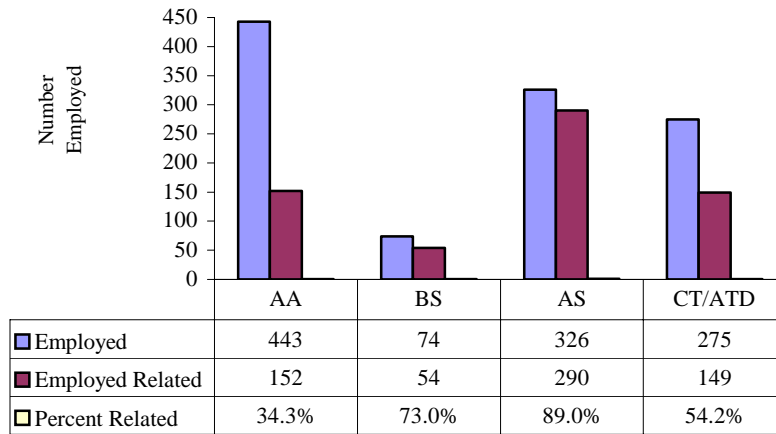


Figure 2 Wage Per Hour

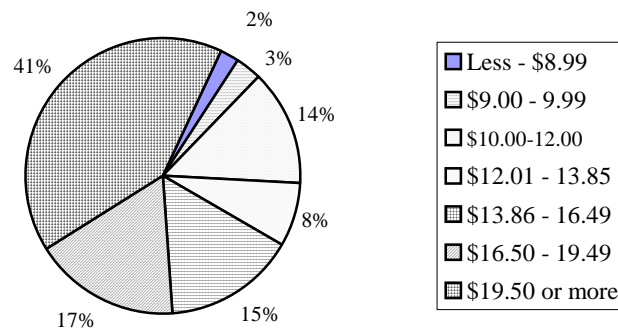
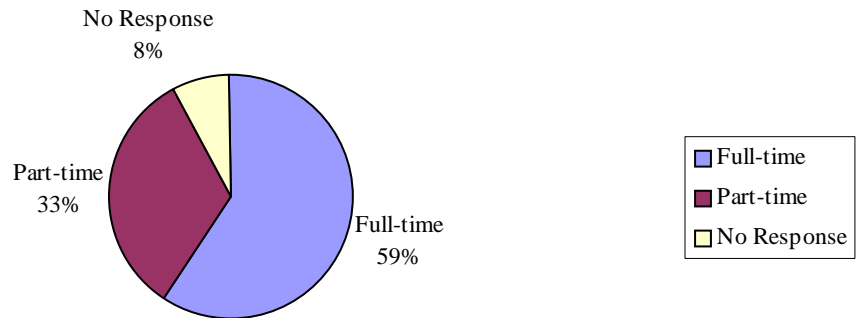


Table 2 shows that of the 1,461 respondents, 832 (57.0%) reported they were continuing their education. As expected, the percentage of A.A. graduates continuing their education was greater than other program completers. Eighty-one percent (81.8%) of A.A. graduates are furthering their education in a four-year or two-year college. This compares 35.7% of both A.S. and Certificate completers who are continuing their education. Of the 832, 489 were enrolled full-time, 277 were enrolled part-time and 66 didn't indicate their enrollment status – Figure 3.

Table 2 Continuing Education

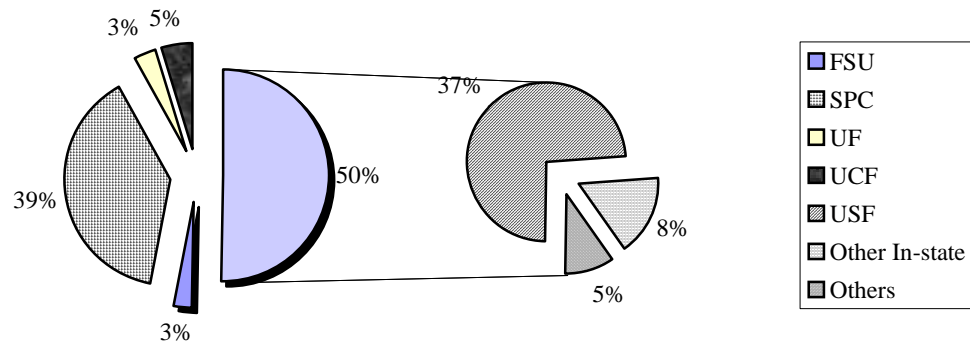
Awards	Respondents	ENROLLMENT			
		Continuing Education	Part-time	Full-time	Unknown
A.A.	694	568 81.8%	140 24.6%	382 67.3%	46 8.1%
B. S./B.S.N./B.A.S.	81	19 23.4%	9 47.4%	6 31.6%	4 21.0%
A.S.	364	109 29.9%	43 39.4%	61 56.0%	5 4.6%
CT./ATD/ATC/VC	322	136 42.2%	85 62.5%	40 29.4%	11 8.1%
TOTAL	1,461	832 57.0%	277 33.3%	489 58.8%	66 7.9%

Figure 3 Enrollment Status



The majority of students (95.0%) who continued their education remain in Florida. Figure 4 shows the number of respondents who indicated that they are continuing their education at Florida state universities and colleges. Additionally, of those furthering their education the majority are re-enrolling at SPC (321 or 39.1%) or transferring to the University of South Florida (305 or 37.1%).

Figure 4 - Institutions Attending



The survey gathered additional information on the program satisfaction of graduates with their studies in preparing them for their chosen career; the majority (937 or 64.1%) indicated that their studies prepared them for work/school after SPC. Additionally, 87.3% (1,276) stated that they would recommend SPC to others.

The responses confirmed that SPC academic programs are achieving their intended objectives of preparing students to gain employment and/or continuing their education.

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