



## 2004-2005 RECENT ALUMNI SURVEY A RESEARCH BRIEF

### Research Briefs

The dissemination of relevant information is a critical component of the performance improvement process. Research briefs are one mechanism used by St. Petersburg College (SPC) for this purpose. Research Briefs are short publications prepared by the Department of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (IRE) that are intended to provide relevant important information regarding a variety of College-related topics. These topics include, but are not limited to, student achievement, state accountability measures, institutional survey results, student enrollment, and faculty/adjunct compensation.

### Introduction

As in previous years, SPC has conducted a Recent Alumni Survey designed to measure alumni satisfaction with SPC's vocational programs. Specifically, the Recent Alumni Survey was designed to gain insight into an alumnus's perceptions of the quality of career preparation, and determine the current activities of former students such as employment information and educational status. In addition, the data are collected for state required annual Placement & Follow-up Report and supplemental information to meet Workforce criteria.

Respondents of the Recent Alumni Survey have included graduates from Associate in Science/Associate in Applied Science (AS/AAS) and certificate programs. In Fall 2002, SPC began offering baccalaureate degrees (Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Applied Science). These technical programs focus on preparing students to enhance their skills, knowledge, reach higher levels of income, and increase personal/professional growth. Since Summer 2003, Bachelor degree graduates are included in the follow-up process.

### Data Collection

The Recent Alumni Survey was administered to 2004-2005 program completers which included individuals who graduated from a Bachelors (BS, BAS), Associate (AA, AS, AAS), Certificate (ATC, PSAV, PSVC) or Applied/Advanced (ATD) degree program. The graduates are first contacted by mail, and then followed up by phone calls to those who did not respond to mailings.

Recent Alumni Surveys were sent out to 3,417 program completers. There were 1,494 surveys returned for a response rate of 43.7%. It should be noted that 2006 was the first year for an on-line survey to be included in follow-up process with 100 graduates responding. Table 1 summarizes the program completers and responses by program.

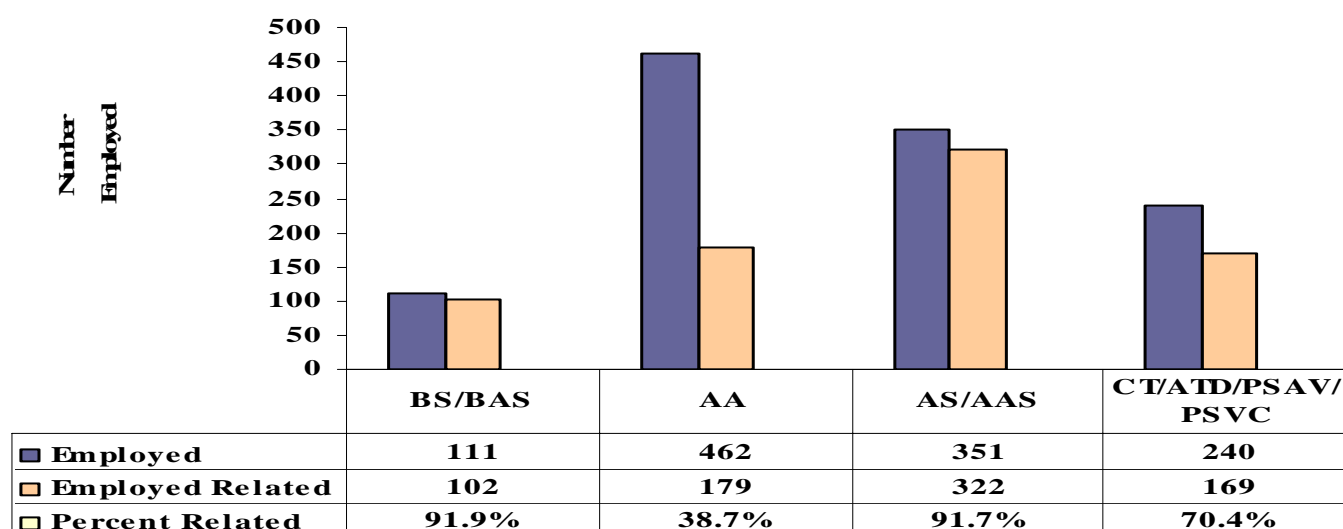
**Table 1**  
**Number of Graduates Surveyed and Responding by Awards**

Awards	Numbered Graduated	Percent of Total	Number Responded	Percent Responded
BS/BAS	220	6.4	117	53.2
AA	1,810	53.0	715	39.5
AS/AAS	697	20.4	377	54.1
CT/ATD/ATC/PSAV/PSVC	690	20.2	285	41.3
TOTAL	3,417	100	1,494	43.7

## Results

This research brief focuses on the 1,494 graduates who responded. Seventy-eight percent (77.9%) stated they were employed with the majority (66.3%) of those employed indicating that their current position was related to the program completed at SPC. As expected, the completers of terminal degree programs (BS, BAS, AS, AAS, CT and ATD programs) reported higher employment levels (84.5%) than graduates of the AA program (38.7%). The employment data are summarized in Figure 1 below. In addition to employment and education status, students are considered placed if they are engaged in full-time military service. For this pool of graduates, there were eleven (11) respondents who indicated they are in military service.

Figure 1 Employment



For those employed in jobs related to their training, 387 (50.1%) provided their wage per hour and 313 (40.5%) reported annual earnings. The average hourly wage for AS/AAS graduates was \$16.43; for AA graduates \$11.99; for BS/BAS graduates \$16.37, and for CT/ATD/PSAV/PSVC graduates the amount was \$13.24. Although the amounts earned varied by program, the most frequently reported wage per hour was \$19.50 or more (142 graduates). The hourly wage for the AS graduates employed in field related to their studies was significantly higher than AA graduates. For those who reported their income annually, the common range of income was \$30,000 to 39,999. Table 2 summarizes wage per hour and annual salary. Samples of job titles reported by graduates are shown in Table 3.

Table 2: Wage per Hour

Hourly Wage	BS/BAS	AA	AS/AAS	CT/ATD/PSAV/PSVC	TOTAL
Less - \$8.99	1	9	2	2	14
\$9.00 - \$9.99	0	21	6	7	34
\$10.00 - \$12.00	3	25	19	16	63
\$12.01 - \$13.85	0	20	20	7	47
\$13.86 - \$16.49	4	14	23	6	47
\$16.50 - \$19.49	3	10	18	9	40
\$19.50 or more	12	11	108	11	142

## Annual Salary

Annual Earnings	BS/BAS	AA	AS/AAS	CT/ATD/ PSAV/PSVC	TOTAL
\$20,000 - \$29,999	3	11	9	10	33
\$30,000 - \$39,999	44	9	30	23	106
\$40,000 - \$49,999	8	12	43	26	89
\$50,000 - \$59,999	10	10	25	10	55
\$60,000 - \$69,999	7	1	2	6	16
\$70,000 or more	4	2	4	4	14

Table 3: Sample Types of Jobs Held by SPC Graduates

BS/BAS	AA/AS/AAS	CT/ATD
Director of Facility Service	Landscape Designer and Installer	Group Counselor
Customer Services Representative	Lean Facilitator	Behavioral Technician
Owner	Loan Officer	Economic Self-Sufficiency Specialist
Purchasing Manager	Licensed Practical Nurse	Family Support Worker II
Database/Marketing Manager	Group Counselor	Parent Educator
Mathematics Teacher	Health Info Specialist	HIM Support Technician
Elementary Teacher	Veterinary Technician	Insurance Administrator
Exceptional Education Teacher	Information Support Specialist	Patient Access Services Rep II
Network Technical Support Specialist	Instrumentation and Controls Designer	RN Care Manager
Registered Nurse		Inside Sales Representative

Of those who responded, 844 (56.5%) reported they were continuing their education. It is interesting to note that more than 28% of the baccalaureate graduates are continuing their education. The majority of AA graduates (82.7%) are continuing their education and 62.3% are enrolled full-time. In addition, 33.2% of both AS and Certificate completers are continuing their education, however, the majority are enrolled part-time. Table 4 summarizes continuing education.

Table 4: Continuing Education

Awards	Respondents	Continuing Education	Part-time	ENROLLMENT Full-time	Unknown
BS/BAS	117	33 28.2%	20 60.6%	11 33.3%	2 6.1%
AA	715	591 82.7%	147 24.9%	368 62.3%	76 12.9%
AS/AAS	377	113 30.0%	61 54.0%	43 38.1%	9 8.0%
CT/ATD/ATC/PSAV/PSVC	285	107 37.5%	73 68.2%	31 29.0%	3 2.8%
TOTAL	1,494	844 56.5%	301 35.7%	453 53.7%	90 10.7%

The majority of students (94.8%) continued their education in Florida. Table 5 shows the number of respondents that indicated that they are continuing their education at Florida state universities and colleges. Of the respondents furthering their education, the majority are re-enrolling at SPC (352 or

42.0%) or transferring to the University of South Florida (282 or 33.6%). Table 6 provides areas of study in which the 2004-05 graduates were enrolled.

**Table 5: Institutions Attending**

Awards	SPC	USF	UF	UCF	FSU	Other In-state	Out of State	Total
BS/BAS	8 2.3%	9 3.2%				6 7.8%	8 18.2%	31 3.7%
AA	182 51.7%	256 90.8%	41 100.0%	21 91.3%	20 100.0%	53 68.8%	18 40.9%	591 70.4%
AS	82 23.3%	11 3.9%		1 4.4%		9 11.7%	7 15.9%	110 13.1%
CT/ATD/ATC/PSAV/PSVC	80 22.7%	6 2.1%		1 4.4%		9 11.7%	11 25.0%	107 12.8%
TOTAL	352 42.0%	282 33.6%	41 4.9%	23 2.7%	20 2.4%	77 9.2%	44 5.2%	839 100.0%

**Table 6: Sample Areas of Studies SPC Graduates Enrolled**

BS/BAS	AA/AS/AAS	CT/ATD
MS Public Administration	Business Management	Associate in Arts
MS Technology Management	BAS Public Safety	BS Veterinary
MS Teaching	Administration	BA Technology Mgmt
MS Reading	BS Veterinary	BAS Public Safety
MS Mental Health Counseling	Dental Hygiene BAS	Paramedic
MS Integrating Technology in the Classroom	Mental Health	Multimedia
MS Management Information Systems	Exercise Science	Nursing
MS Nurse Practitioner	Psychology	Law Enforcement
MS Business Administration	Education	International Business
	Music Education	Interactive Media
	Anthropology	

The following tables (Table 7 and 8) rate respondents’ satisfaction levels with employment preparation and preparedness to continue their education. The majority of respondents who indicated they were employed (86.9%) rated their satisfaction levels with the preparation received for their current position. Eighty-two percent (82.2%) rated the quality of preparation as, adequately, very well or exceptionally well. This varied from a low 69.8% for AA graduates to a high of 95.2% for BS/BAS. Likewise, over 80.0% of graduates employed in a field related to their studies felt SPC prepared them for their chosen career. Satisfaction levels were impressive where 98.5% of the graduates indicated that their SPC studies prepared them to continue their education. In addition, ninety-seven percent (96.6%) of the respondents would recommend SPC to others (Table 9).

**Table 7: Level of Satisfaction in Relation to Employment**

Prepared for Current Position							Prepared in Field Relatedness		
Awards	Respondents	Exceptionally Well	Very Well	Adequately	Poor	Not At All	Respondents	Yes	No
BS/BAS	103	39 37.9%	45 43.7%	14 13.6%	0 0.0%	5 4.9%	78	74 94.9%	4 5.1%
AA	355	42 11.8%	109 30.7%	97 27.3%	7 2.0%	100 28.2%	89	78 87.6%	11 12.4%
AS/AAS	331	83 25.1%	175 52.9%	55 16.6%	2 0.6%	16 4.8%	279	270 96.8%	9 3.2%
CT/ATD/PSAV/ PSVC	222	26 11.7%	112 50.5%	34 15.3%	5 2.3%	45 20.3%	128	124 96.9%	4 3.1%
TOTAL	1011	190 18.8%	441 43.6%	200 19.8%	14 1.4%	166 16.4%	574	546 95.1%	28 4.9%

**Table 8: Level of Satisfaction in Relation to Continuing Education Preparedness**

Awards	Respondents	Exceptionally Well	Very Well	Adequately	Poor	Not At All
BS/BAS	27	11 40.7%	15 55.6%	1 3.7%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
AA	482	132 27.4%	275 57.1%	68 14.1%	2 0.4%	5 1.0%
AS/AAS	106	26 24.5%	61 57.5%	17 16.0%	0 0.0%	2 1.9%
CT/ATD/PSAV/ PSVC	97	17 17.5%	59 60.8%	19 19.6%	1 1.0%	1 1.0%
TOTAL	712	186 26.1%	410 57.6%	105 14.7%	3 0.4%	8 1.1%

**Table 9: Recommend SPC**

Awards	Respondents	Yes	No
BS/BAS	108	108 100.0%	0 0.0%
AA	602	586 97.3%	16 2.7%
AS/AAS	345	334 96.8%	11 3.2%
CT/ATD/PSAV/ PSVC	263	245 93.2%	18 6.8%
TOTAL	1318	1273 96.6%	45 3.4%



### Conclusion

In conclusion, the results showed that over three-quarters (77.9%) of graduates are in the labor market and two-thirds (66.3%) are employed in a field related to their studies. The graduates employed in field have an hourly wage of \$19.50 or more per hour or an annual salary of \$30,000 to 39,999. In addition, 94.8% are continuing their education in the State of Florida. The placement of SPC graduates indicates that the programs' objectives are being met; that is, the majority of AA completers are continuing their education; BS/BAS are being hired; and vocational completers are being placed either in fields related to their studies, continuing their education and/or in the military.