

RESEARCH BRIEF

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FLORIDA PLACEMENT INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENT COMPLETERS

The Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP), an office within the Florida Department of Education, is charged with the responsibility of identifying the placement of former students. FETPIP matches the social security numbers of former students to data housed in state and federal agencies and provides the resulting follow-up information to university/community college/vocational-technical administrators and policy makers.

The colleges annually provide information to FETPIP about their program completers and leavers as the initial step in the follow-up process. "Completers" are defined as students who complete an A.A./A.S. degree or vocational certificate program; "leavers" are defined as students who do not complete a program and who do not re-enroll in the college for two consecutive semesters. Using student social security numbers, FETPIP searches the records of the Florida State University System for A.A./A.S. degree completers who may be continuing their education at an upper division public university, the military records for students enlisted in all branches of the service, and the State Department of Labor and Employment Security for students who are employed in the State of Florida. FETPIP provides the colleges with each student's job title and work location.

St. Petersburg Junior College supplements this information by surveying those students whose names were provided to FETPIP. This supplementary step captures data about students not obtained through the FETPIP process. Used in conjunction with the FETPIP data, the college's placement rate for students who complete vocational programs is calculated. State law provides that unless 70% of students who complete a community college vocational program are placed in field over a three year period, it must undergo program review. Based on the results of this review, the program may be maintained/deleted by the college. "In-field placement" is defined as employment as a worker in the major completed, enrollment in continuing education in a postsecondary institution, or enlistment in the military.

The SPJC survey follow-up of 1990-91 completers has been completed and of the 2,665 completers reported to FETPIP who also were surveyed, 2,382 students informed the college about their current primary activity as shown in Table 1. Overall 80% of the SPJC completers

TABLE 1
A.A./A.S. DEGREE & VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE COMPLETERS
Results of SPJC Placement Surveys

	Surveys Mailed	Surveys Returned	Percent Returned	Current Activity			Total Placed	Percent Placed
				Continuing Education	Employed in Field	Military		
A.A. Degree	1819	1604	88%	1332	92	6	1430	79%
A.S. Degree/ Voc. Certificate	846	778	92%	86	612	4	702	83%
All Completers	2665	2382	89%	1418	704	10	2132	80%

were "placed in-field." For A.A. degree completers, although 79% were considered as being "placed in-field," 74% indicated they were enrolled in an institution continuing their education.

FETPIP located a total of 2,396 SPJC student completers: 741 vocational completers and 1,655 A.A. degree completers. The analysis provided by FETPIP shows the number of vocational students they located, the number employed, and the percent employed for a full quarter (defined as those students working a minimum of 12 weeks and earning at least \$2,039). SPJC is compared to the same categories statewide in Table 2. The primary thrust in the FETPIP analysis is employment; some of the students may be employed and, also, be attending an educational institution. This number, therefore, is a duplicated count. Nevertheless, since the same criteria were used statewide, the comparison shows some interesting relationships.

Overall, 79% of SPJC vocational completers were employed compared to 74% statewide; 82% were employed for a full quarter compared to 76% statewide. A similar comparison (not shown in the table) for vocational leavers revealed that 69% of SPJC student vocational leavers were employed for a full quarter compared to 62% statewide.

TABLE 2 A.S. DEGREE/VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE COMPLETERS EMPLOYED Comparison of SPJC to All Public Community Colleges						
	St. Petersburg Junior College			Statewide Community Colleges		
	Number Located	Number Employed	Percent Employed Full Quarter*	Number Located	Number Employed	Percent Employed Full Quarter*
Female						
White	479	383	84%	6,568	4,796	80%
Black	28	22	82%	1,286	921	69%
Asian	5	4	100%	106	69	75%
Hispanic	6	5	60%	479	361	76%
All Others	0	0	0%	67	37	78%
Total	518	414	84%	8,506	6,184	73%
Male						
White	204	160	78%	4,885	3,677	79%
Black	7	6	67%	499	387	79%
Asian	5	3	100%	77	46	74%
Hispanic	3	3	0%	301	229	79%
All Others	4	3	100%	46	25	72%
Total	223	175	77%	5,808	4,364	73%
All Students	741	589	82%	14,314	10,548	76%

*Full Quarter = those working a minimum of 12 weeks and earning at least \$2,039.

In summary, by several criteria, the placement of SPJC students indicates that program goals are being met; that is, the majority of A.A. degree completers are continuing their education and vocational completers are employed in the major field.