Student Satisfaction & Success: Professional-Technical Programs

Board Ends Policy:

Skagit Valley College exists to provide the college district community with the skills and knowledge sufficient for enrichment, successful employment and/or educational achievement [E-3.]

Skagit Valley College shall embrace an open door policy and shall provide students and the community with user-friendly and efficient access to a learning-centered education [E-4]

Strategic Plan Goal/Objective:

Develop community partnerships that promote jointly the goals of the college and the needs of the community [Goal #5]

Increase Student Access and Success [Goal #3]

Cultivate an environment that encourages diversity and supports learning for all members of the college community [Goal #1]

April 5, 2005

Skagit Valley College
Where Learning Comes to Life
Executive Summary

Background:

This report provides the data for indicators of student success that include student progress rates, employment rates, and hourly wages after leaving the college. We also survey employers’ satisfaction with the SVC students they hire and their responses are included in this report.

Conclusions:

Students seeking an Associate in Technical Arts degree and attending college full-time are more likely to make substantial progress (complete four or more quarters and/or obtain a degree) than part-time students. The substantial progress rates for full-time professional/technical students are higher than the rates for transfer degree seeking students, but lower if they are part-time.

Eighty-one percent (81%) of the students in 2002-03 who completed a professional/technical certificate or degree program were employed nine months after leaving SVC, slightly higher than the system average (80%). The SVC leavers’ employment rate of 72% was just slightly lower than the 74% system average. Students who completed a unique, short-term certificate were the mostly likely to be employed (89%).

The average hourly wage of students who complete professional/technical programs and are working full time is $13.36. For students who left the college without applying and/or being awarded a degree or certificate and working full-time, the average hourly was slightly lower--$12.96. Degree and certificate holders employed full time were among the highest in terms of hourly wages$17.92 and $18.39, respectively. While students employed part-time both before and after college made gains in hourly wages, students working full-time did not.

The majority of employers indicate that students’ employability skills are superior or competent, and 76% indicate they would hire additional SVC students.

Change from Prior Year Monitoring:

There were no significant changes from last year in terms of substantial progress, employment rates, and employer satisfaction. System comparisons for wages were not available at this time.
Section I: Regional Employment Data

The most recent labor market information for the three counties in the SVC district are presented in Table 1.1 and the comparison of the unemployment rates for the state and selected counties are presented in Figure 1.1.

Table 1.1: Labor Market Information for SVC District Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Labor Force</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Unemployment</th>
<th>Unempl Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Island</td>
<td>31,900</td>
<td>29,900</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan</td>
<td>7,670</td>
<td>7,230</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skagit</td>
<td>55,280</td>
<td>51,080</td>
<td>4,190</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1.1: Unemployment Rate for Washington State and Selected Counties, January 2005

Section II: Student Progress Attainment

Substantial Progress

“Substantial Progress” for degree-seeking students is defined by the SBCTC as the completion of four or more quarters at the college and/or completion of a degree. This information is provided by college and for the system each year by the SBCTC using a cohort methodology that tracks students for two years. Figure 2.1 shows the substantial progress for SVC students who indicate a workforce related major for the three most recent cohorts.
Figure 2.1: Substantial Progress of Degree-Seeking Professional/Technical Students by Enrollment Status

Employment Rates

Figure 2.2 presents the employment rates calculated by the SBCTC for the college for both completers and leavers. As a point of reference, the 2002-03 system rates for completers and leavers are 80% and 74%, respectively.

Figure 2.2: Employment Rates for SVC Job Prep Students Nine Months after Leaving College
The remainder of the data in this section (Figures 2.4 through 2.9) was retrieved from the SBCTC database that links students to the Unemployment Insurance records for several states. This allows colleges to get valid employment information; however, the process creates a significant time lag. The most current data is for the job preparatory students who left SVC during 2003-03—and could be tracked. The total number of cases in the SVC database is 247.

Figure 2.4: Employment Rates for SVC Job Prep Completers Nine Months after Leaving College by Exit Status

![Employment Rates Chart]

**Employer Characteristics**

Figure 2.5: Employers by Location

![Employers by Location Chart]
Figure 2.6: Employers by Size

Hourly Wages

Figure 2.7: Hourly Wages for Leavers and Completers by Full-Time or Part-Time Employment
Figure 2.8: Hourly Wages by Exit Status and by Full-Time or Part-Time Employment

Figure 2.9: Hourly Wages Pre- and Post-College for Leavers and Completers by Full-Time or Part-Time Employment

Note: Students were selected only if their employment status (full-time or part-time) was the same both pre- and post-college.
Section III: Employer Satisfaction

Each year a subset of professional/technical programs, working collaboratively with Institutional Research and Career Counseling, send out surveys to the employers of recent graduates. The information provided in Figure 3.1 and 3.2 are the results from 152 returned employer surveys from 15 professional/technical programs.

Figure 3.1: Employer Satisfaction with Students’ Employability Skills

Figure 3.2: Employer willingness to “consider (or recommend to another manager) hiring additional graduates from SVC”
Board Plus/Delta
“What is good about this report?
What would you like to see changed?”

April 5, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>+</th>
<th>∆</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>