



2017-2018 Recent Alumni Survey Research Brief

Research Briefs

Research Briefs are short publications prepared by the Departments of Institutional Effectiveness (IE) and Institutional Research (IR) that are intended to provide relevant information which assists in the performance improvement process used by St. Petersburg College (SPC). Research Brief topics include, but are not limited to, student achievement, state accountability measures, institutional survey results, student enrollment, and faculty/adjunct compensation.

Introduction

SPC annually conducts the Recent Alumni Survey to measure alumni satisfaction with SPC's education programs. The Recent Alumni Survey specifically collected information related to career preparation, preparation for continuing education, and the current employment information and educational status of former students. The data collected is used for the state-required annual Placement and Follow-up Report and as supplemental information to meet continuous improvement initiatives in workforce programs.

Graduates are sent one survey to complete, even in cases where they may have earned multiple degrees within the same year. In these cases, the reported number of surveys sent and responses received are counted once per degree or certificate awarded to the student.

Responses

The Recent Alumni Survey was administered to 6,780 graduates from Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Science (AS), Certificate programs (CT, ATD, ATC, PSAV, and PSVC), Bachelor of Science (BS), and Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degrees. The 2017-18 graduates were first contacted by e-mail and asked to complete an online survey. Those who did not respond to the initial e-mail were sent two additional e-mail reminders at two-week intervals. At the end of the two weeks following the third e-mail contact, a paper copy was mailed, and two weeks later, if no response was received, a second paper copy was mailed. A fourth e-mail message was the final point of contact with those who had not yet responded. Nine-hundred and seventy-three surveys were returned for an overall response rate of 14.35%. The overall response rate showed an increase of 1.71% compared to the previous year.

Table 1: Respondents by Degree or Certificate

	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS or BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Surveyed	3341	935	1222	1237	45	6780
Responded	395	179	170	221	8	973
% Responded	11.82%	19.14%	13.91%	17.87%	17.78%	14.35%

Survey Information

This was the fourteenth year that graduates were initially contacted electronically. The survey of 2017-18 graduates received 50.67% of the 973 responses online. This is an increase from the surveys administered to the 2016-17 graduates (43.99%) and the 2015-16 graduates (47.75%).

Table 2: Survey Modality:

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Paper	53.92%	46.37%	39.41%	51.58%	37.50%	49.33%
Online	46.08%	53.63%	60.59%	48.42%	62.50%	50.67%
<i>Total</i>	<i>395</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>221</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>973</i>

Goals and Current Activity

Almost half of the respondents (46.56%) from all degree and certificate programs reported that continuing their education was their main goal in completing a degree or certificate. "Change career fields" was the second most frequently selected goal among respondents (17.68%). A closer look by program at responses to "What was your main goal in completing a degree or certificate at SPC?" indicated that over one-third of the bachelor's degree-seeking students selected "Continue my education." Almost three-quarters of the AA students (70.63%) selected "Continue my education," while over one-third of the AS students (36.31%) selected "Change career fields." Lower Division Certificate students almost evenly selected "Change career fields" (28.24%) and "Continue my education" (29.41%), while three quarters (75.00%) of Upper Division Certificate students selected "Change career fields."

Table 3: What was your main goal in completing a degree or certificate at SPC?

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Change Career Fields	7.09%	36.31%	28.24%	11.31%	75.00%	17.68%
Earn More Money	5.82%	16.76%	11.76%	14.03%	12.50%	10.79%
Get a Promotion	2.53%	2.79%	2.94%	10.41%		4.42%
Obtain Employment	5.32%	14.53%	14.71%	17.19%		11.31%
Meet Certification/Training Needs	2.03%	5.59%	8.24%	4.52%		4.32%
Continue My Education	70.63%	21.79%	29.41%	38.01%	12.50%	46.56%
Other	6.58%	2.23%	4.71%	4.52%		4.93%
<i>Total</i>	<i>395</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>221</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>973</i>

A strong majority of respondents (94.23%) indicated that they were satisfied with the help they received from SPC in meeting their goal(s). When asked "How well did SPC help you meet your above goal," more than one-third (40.72%) of survey respondents indicated that SPC did "Exceptionally well" in helping them meet their goal, and 39.59% indicated "Very well."

Table 4: How well did SPC help you meet your above goal?

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Exceptionally Well	43.77%	35.75%	30.77%	46.61%	50.00%	40.72%
Very Well	39.19%	45.25%	42.60%	33.48%	37.50%	39.59%
Adequately	12.98%	13.97%	18.34%	12.22%	12.50%	13.92%
Poorly	2.54%	2.23%	3.55%	1.81%		2.47%
Not at All	1.53%	2.79%	4.73%	5.88%		3.30%
Total	393	179	169	221	8	970

Participants were allowed multiple responses to the question, "Which of the following were you able to accomplish after obtaining your degree or certificate?" "Continue my education" was selected most often (65.90%), followed by "Earn more money" (26.21%), "Change career fields" (20.29%), "Obtain employment" (20.07%), and "Meet certification/training needs" (16.56%).

Table 5: Which of the following were you able to accomplish after obtaining your degree or certificate? (Select all that apply)

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Change Career Fields	10.50%	40.12%	24.16%	16.83%	75.00%	20.29%
Earn More Money	13.12%	47.09%	16.78%	40.59%	12.50%	26.21%
Get a Promotion	5.51%	9.30%	5.37%	19.31%		9.21%
Obtain Employment	9.71%	38.37%	22.82%	21.29%	37.50%	20.07%
Meet Certification/Training Needs	8.14%	25.58%	26.17%	16.83%	37.50%	16.56%
Continue My Education	83.46%	55.23%	55.03%	50.50%	50.00%	65.90%
Other	2.89%	5.23%	8.05%	7.92%		5.26%
Total	381	172	149	202	8	912

Note: The total may exceed 100% as this question allows multiple responses.

Military Status

About one percent (1.24%) of respondents indicated that they were in the military.

Table 6: Are you currently in the military?

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Yes	0.77%	1.68%	2.35%	0.91%		1.24%
No	99.23%	98.32%	97.65%	99.09%	100.00%	98.76%
Total	390	179	170	219	8	966

Of those responding that they were in the military, about one-quarter (25.00%) were on active duty, with the remaining (75.00%) in the reserves.

Table 7: Please select your military status.

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Active Duty	33.33%		25.00%	50.00%		25.00%
Reserve	66.67%	100.00%	75.00%	50.00%		75.00%
<i>Total</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>12</i>

Employment Status

Over three-quarters (80.21%) of respondents indicated that they were employed.

Table 8: What is your current employment status?

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Currently Employed Part-Time (Less than 29 Hours Weekly)	28.61%	11.73%	10.59%	9.55%		17.72%
Currently Employed Full-Time (30+ Hours Each Week)	45.10%	74.86%	66.47%	79.09%	87.50%	62.49%
Not Currently Employed, But Actively Looking	7.99%	8.38%	12.94%	5.91%		8.39%
Not Currently Employed And Not Actively Looking	18.30%	5.03%	10.00%	5.45%	12.50%	11.40%
<i>Total</i>	<i>388</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>965</i>

Respondents were asked to provide information regarding their wage per hour and/or approximate annual earnings. The average amounts earned by program are varied. While the most frequently reported hourly wage range for BS/BAS students (46.88%) and AS students (40.13%) was \$25.00 or more, AA students (34.40%) and Lower Division Certificate students (30.77%) most frequently reported earning \$10.00 - \$14.99, and Upper Division Certificate students (42.86%) most frequently reported earning \$20.00 - \$24.99.

Table 9: Please indicate your hourly wage (approximate annual equivalents listed as well).

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Less than \$10.00 (Less than \$21,000)	13.83%	2.63%	6.15%	1.56%	14.29%	7.21%
\$10.00 - \$14.99 (\$21,000 - \$30,999)	34.40%	19.74%	30.77%	10.94%		24.64%
\$15.00 - \$19.99 (\$31,000 - \$41,999)	21.99%	25.66%	26.92%	20.31%	28.57%	23.20%
\$20.00 - \$24.99 (\$42,000 - \$51,999)	7.80%	11.84%	22.31%	20.31%	42.86%	14.55%
\$25.00 or more (\$52,000 or more)	21.99%	40.13%	13.85%	46.88%	14.29%	30.41%
<i>Total</i>	<i>282</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>763</i>

Over sixty percent (64.49%) of those employed indicated that their current position was related to their studies. The completers of workforce degree programs (BS/BAS, AS, and Lower and Upper Division Certificates) reported higher levels of field related employment in a range of 65.65% to 85.71%, while graduates of the AA program reported lower (44.68%) field-related employment.

Table 10: Is your current position related to your studies?

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Yes	44.68%	81.05%	65.65%	78.76%	85.71%	64.49%
No	55.32%	18.95%	34.35%	21.24%	14.29%	35.51%
<i>Total</i>	<i>282</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>766</i>

Educational Activity

In response to the question, "Are you continuing your education?" almost two-thirds (61.00%) of the 941 respondents answered that they were. AA students (84.60%) reported continuing their education most often, with over half of AS (58.48%) and Lower Division Certificate (53.33%) respondents reporting continuing their education. BS/BAS (28.37%) and Upper Division Certificate (14.29%) respondents were less likely to report continuing their education.

Table 11: Are you continuing your education?

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Yes	84.60%	58.48%	53.33%	28.37%	14.29%	61.00%
No	15.40%	41.52%	46.67%	71.63%	85.71%	39.00%
<i>Total</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>215</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>941</i>

Students reporting continuing their education were asked about their enrollment. Nearly two-thirds (61.09%) of AA respondents reported enrolling full-time, while over one half of AS (53.76%) and BS/BAS (60.42%) were enrolled part-time. Over two-thirds (65.79%) of Lower Division Certificate students were enrolled part-time.

Table 12: What is your current enrollment status?

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Full-Time Student (12 or More Credit Hours)	61.09%	46.24%	34.21%	39.58%		52.55%
Part-Time Student (11 or Less Credit Hours)	38.91%	53.76%	65.79%	60.42%	100.00%	47.45%
<i>Total</i>	<i>311</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>529</i>

The majority of students (94.06%) reported continuing their education in Florida. Over half (58.74%) of the respondents furthering their education indicated re-enrolling at SPC, and nearly one-fifth (19.33%) reported transferring to the University of South Florida.

Table 13: Please identify the institution at which you are continuing your education:

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
St. Petersburg College	51.74%	78.95%	89.47%	18.37%		58.74%
University of South Florida	26.18%	9.47%	2.63%	18.37%	100.00%	19.33%
University of Florida	4.10%	2.11%	1.32%	2.04%		3.16%
University of Central Florida	3.79%	3.16%		4.08%		3.16%
Florida State University	1.26%			2.04%		0.93%
Other In-State	8.20%	3.16%	6.58%	26.53%		8.74%
Out-of-State	4.73%	3.16%		28.57%		5.95%
<i>Total</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>538</i>

Students who were continuing their education were also asked if they were enrolled through the University Partnership Center (UPC), and about two percent (2.01%) of the 546 respondents indicated that they were.

Table 14: Are you currently enrolled through SPC University Partnership Center?

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Yes	2.22%	2.08%	2.67%			2.01%
No	97.78%	97.92%	97.33%	100.00%	100.00%	97.99%
<i>Total</i>	<i>316</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>546</i>

The graduates continuing their education were asked "How well did SPC prepare you for continuing your education?" Satisfaction levels were notable, with 79.74% of the respondents indicating that their SPC studies prepared them either "very well" or "exceptionally well" for continuing their education.

Table 15: How well did SPC prepare you for continuing your education?

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Exceptionally Well	39.31%	36.17%	31.58%	57.41%		39.41%
Very Well	41.19%	40.43%	42.11%	31.48%	100.00%	40.33%
Adequately	15.41%	22.34%	23.68%	9.26%		17.13%
Poorly	3.46%	1.06%	2.63%			2.58%
Not at All	0.63%			1.85%		0.55%
<i>Total</i>	<i>318</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>543</i>

When asked, "Would you recommend your program at SPC to others?" over nine-tenths (93.1%) of the 889 respondents selected "yes."

Table 16: Would you recommend your program at SPC to others?

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Yes	93.94%	92.07%	89.26%	92.23%	100.00%	92.46%
No	6.06%	7.93%	10.74%	7.77%		7.54%
Total	363	164	149	206	7	889

General Education Outcomes

The 2017-18 Recent Alumni Survey administration process included survey questions to assess the graduates' level of satisfaction in areas of general education outcomes. Graduates were asked to rate their preparation of general education skill areas on a 5-point Likert scale with labels from "1-Poor" to "5-Excellent." Based on the results, graduates believe SPC prepared them in the majority of their general education skills areas. Of the 25 outcome areas, one received a mean score of 4.50 or higher, nineteen received mean scores between 4.18 and 4.46, and five received mean scores between 3.77 and 3.98.

Table 17: Preparation Ratings for Recent Graduates

	N	Mean	St. Dev.
Communicating Clearly and Effectively with Others Through:			
<i>Speaking</i>	924	4.18	0.79
<i>Listening</i>	922	4.26	0.79
<i>Reading</i>	922	4.32	0.76
<i>Writing</i>	922	4.27	0.76
Your Use of Mathematical and Computational Skills:			
<i>Comfort with mathematical calculations</i>	922	3.80	0.92
<i>Using computational skills appropriately</i>	918	3.98	0.88
<i>Accurately interpreting mathematical data</i>	916	3.77	0.94
Using the Following Forms of Technology:			
<i>E-Mail</i>	913	4.59	0.71
<i>Word Processing</i>	912	4.42	0.82
<i>Spreadsheets</i>	912	3.85	1.05
<i>Databases</i>	910	3.87	1.01
<i>Internet Research</i>	910	4.44	0.75
Thinking Logically and Critically to Solve Problems:			
<i>Gathering and assessing relevant information</i>	913	4.38	0.72
<i>Inquiring about and interpreting information</i>	911	4.33	0.73
<i>Organizing and evaluating information</i>	912	4.36	0.74
<i>Analyzing and explaining information to others</i>	911	4.24	0.78
<i>Using information to solve problems</i>	911	4.37	0.72
Working Effectively with Others in a Variety of Settings:			
<i>Participating as a team player (e.g., group projects)</i>	910	4.29	0.80
<i>Working well with individuals from diverse backgrounds</i>	908	4.44	0.74
<i>Using ethical courses of action</i>	909	4.46	0.72

<i>Demonstrating leadership skills</i>	909	4.31	0.80
Appreciating the Importance of Lifelong Learning:			
<i>Showing an interest in career development</i>	910	4.43	0.75
<i>Being open to new ideas and challenges</i>	909	4.43	0.72
<i>Willingness to take on new responsibilities</i>	909	4.42	0.76
<i>Pursuing additional educational opportunities</i>	909	4.36	0.81

Conclusion

Results from the 2017-18 Recent Alumni Survey indicated that over four-fifths (80.21%) of the graduates who responded are employed. Almost two-thirds (64.49%) of those are employed in a field related to their studies. The AS, BS/BAS, and Upper Division Certificate programs reported the highest rates of related employment (81.05%, 78.76%, and 85.71% respectively). Wage earnings varied by degree or certificate awarded. Overall, 30.41% of respondents reported wages of \$52,000 or more (up from 26.65% in 2016-17), and 24.64% reported wages between \$21,000 and \$30,999 (down from 27.94% in 2016-17). The highest wages were reported most often among BS/BAS and AS respondents, at 46.88% (down from 50.00%) and 40.13% (up from 27.21%) respectively. Additionally, AA degree respondents reported the highest rate of continued education (84.60%), and 61.09% of those were enrolled full-time. Overall, nearly two-thirds (61.00%) of SPC graduates are pursuing further education. SPC graduates also reported high levels of satisfaction in the areas of general education outcomes associated with the general education skills. Most recent alumni (96.87%) reported SPC had prepared them adequately for continued education, and the majority of respondents (92.46%) would recommend their program to others.