

2018-2019 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 6,570 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 2018-19 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. Eight-hundred and thirty-nine surveys were returned for an overall response rate of 12.77%. The overall response rate showed an decrease of 1.58% compared to the previous year.

Table 1: Respondents by Degree or Certificate

	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS or BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Surveyed	3203	968	1198	1151	50	6570
Responded	344	162	136	188	9	839
% Responded	10.74%	16.74%	11.35%	16.33%	18.00%	12.77%

Survey Information

This was the fifteenth year that graduates were initially contacted electronically. The survey of 2018-19 graduates received 61.26% of the 839 responses online. This is an increase from the surveys administered to the 2017-18 graduates (50.67%) and the 2016-17 graduates (43.99%).

Table 2: Survey Modality:

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Paper	38.66%	39.51%	43.38%	35.11%	33.33%	38.74%
Online	61.34%	60.49%	56.62%	64.89%	66.67%	61.26%
Total	344	162	136	188	9	839

Goals and Current Activity

Almost half of the respondents (47.85%) 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 (18.14%). 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 (36.90%) of the bachelor's degree-seeking students selected "Continue my education." Almost three-quarters of the AA students (74.71%) selected "Continue my education," while almost one-third of the AS students (32.10%) and Lower Division Certificate students (32.35%) and almost half of Upper Division Certificate students (44.44%) 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	7.27%	32.10%	32.35%	14.44%	44.44%	18.14%
Earn More Money	4.36%	16.67%	10.29%	15.51%	11.11%	10.26%
Get a Promotion	2.03%	4.32%	5.88%	10.70%		5.01%
Obtain Employment	5.23%	15.43%	11.03%	11.23%	11.11%	9.55%
Meet Certification/Training Needs	2.03%	4.94%	8.09%	4.28%	11.11%	4.18%
Continue My Education	74.71%	22.22%	27.21%	36.90%	22.22%	47.85%
Other	4.36%	4.32%	5.15%	6.95%		5.01%
Total	344	162	136	187	9	838

A strong majority of respondents (95.56%) 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," almost half (45.56%) of survey respondents indicated that SPC did "Exceptionally well" in helping them meet their goal, and 36.57% 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	45.64%	54.72%	37.78%	43.32%	44.44%	45.56%
Very Well	41.57%	26.42%	37.04%	35.29%	44.44%	36.57%
Adequately	10.17%	13.21%	18.52%	16.04%	11.11%	13.43%
Poorly	0.87%	2.52%	1.48%	1.07%		1.32%
Not at All	1.74%	3.14%	5.19%	4.28%		3.12%
Total	344	159	135	187	9	834

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 (63.23%), followed by "Earn more money" (31.17%), "Meet certification/training needs" (21.76%), "Obtain employment" (20.48%), and "Change career fields" (19.59%).

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	6.93%	42.57%	22.58%	21.84%	25.00%	19.59%
Earn More Money	12.95%	57.43%	26.61%	47.70%	12.50%	31.17%
Get a Promotion	4.82%	13.51%	12.90%	17.82%	12.50%	10.69%
Obtain Employment	9.34%	45.95%	18.55%	21.26%	25.00%	20.48%
Meet Certification/Training Needs	9.34%	38.51%	33.87%	21.84%	37.50%	21.76%
Continue My Education	84.04%	50.68%	48.39%	46.55%	25.00%	63.23%
Other	6.63%	4.05%	11.29%	6.32%	12.50%	6.87%
Total	332	148	124	174	8	786

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

Military Status

About one percent (1.20%) 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	0.87%	1.25%		2.16%	11.11%	1.20%
No	99.13%	98.75%	100.00%	97.84%	88.89%	98.80%
Total	344	160	134	185	9	832

Of those responding that they were currently in the military, about one-ninth (11.11%) were on active duty, with the remaining (88.89%) in the reserves.

Table 7: Please select your military status.

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Active Duty	33.33%					11.11%
Reserve	66.67%	100.00%		100.00%	100.00%	88.89%
Total	3	2		3	1	9

Employment Status

Over three-quarters (79.18%) 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)	27.11%	14.47%	12.69%	6.99%	11.11%	17.69%
Currently Employed Full-Time (30+ Hours Each Week)	41.40%	74.21%	64.18%	84.95%	77.78%	61.49%
Not Currently Employed, But Actively Looking	9.62%	6.92%	15.67%	4.84%		8.90%
Not Currently Employed And Not Actively Looking	21.87%	4.40%	7.46%	3.23%	11.11%	11.91%
Total	343	159	134	186	9	831

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 (56.47%) and AS students (47.52%) was \$25.00 or more, AA students (40.43%) and Lower Division Certificate students (29.70%) most frequently reported earning \$10.00 - \$14.99, and Upper Division Certificate students reported an even split (50.00% each) between earning \$20.00 - \$24.99 and earning \$25.00 or more.

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)	13.19%	3.55%	3.96%	1.18%		6.41%
\$10.00 - \$14.99 (\$21,000 - \$30,999)	40.43%	15.60%	29.70%	5.88%		23.97%
\$15.00 - \$19.99 (\$31,000 - \$41,999)	19.15%	19.86%	23.76%	19.41%		19.85%
\$20.00 - \$24.99 (\$42,000 - \$51,999)	8.09%	13.48%	21.78%	17.06%	50.00%	14.20%
\$25.00 or more (\$52,000 or more)	19.15%	47.52%	20.79%	56.47%	50.00%	35.57%
Total	235	141	101	170	8	655

Over sixty percent (61.20%) 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 57.14% to 80.58%, while graduates of the AA program reported lower (40.00%) field-related employment.

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

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Yes	40.00%	80.58%	57.84%	76.92%	57.14%	61.20%
No	60.00%	19.42%	42.16%	23.08%	42.86%	38.80%
Total	235	139	102	169	7	652

Educational Activity

In response to the question, "Are you continuing your education?" almost two-thirds (60.42%) of the 816 respondents answered that they were. AA students (86.98%) reported continuing their education most often, with nearly half of AS (47.17%) and over half of Lower Division Certificate (60.61%) respondents reporting continuing their education. BS/BAS (22.91%) and Upper Division Certificate (37.50%) 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	86.98%	47.17%	60.61%	22.91%	37.50%	60.42%
No	13.02%	52.83%	39.39%	77.09%	62.50%	39.58%
Total	338	159	132	179	8	816

Students reporting continuing their education were asked about their enrollment. Nearly two-thirds (63.64%) of AA respondents reported enrolling full-time, while over one half of AS (53.03%) and Lower Division Certificate (58.11%) were enrolled part-time. Almost three-quarters (74.07%) of BS/BAS respondents and all (100.00%) Upper Division Certificate respondents 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)	63.64%	46.97%	41.89%	25.93%		54.83%
Part-Time Student (11 or Less Credit Hours)	36.36%	53.03%	58.11%	74.07%	100.00%	45.17%
Total	275	66	74	27	3	445

The majority of students (94.12%) reported continuing their education in Florida. Over half (55.46%) of the respondents furthering their education indicated re-enrolling at SPC, and about one-fifth (20.31%) 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	46.79%	67.14%	87.18%	22.22%	66.67%	55.46%
University of South Florida	29.29%	5.71%	3.85%	14.81%		20.31%
University of Florida	4.29%	1.43%				2.84%
University of Central Florida	3.57%	4.29%	1.28%	3.70%		3.28%
Florida State University	1.79%	1.43%	1.28%	3.70%		1.75%
Other In-State	9.64%	11.43%	3.85%	33.33%	33.33%	10.48%
Out-of-State	4.64%	8.57%	2.56%	22.22%		5.90%
Total	280	70	78	27	3	458

Students who were continuing their education were also asked if they were enrolled through the University Partnership Center (UPC), and about two percent (2.81%) of the 462 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	2.87%	4.29%	2.53%			2.81%
No	97.13%	95.71%	97.47%	100.00%	100.00%	97.19%
Total	279	70	79	31	3	462

The graduates continuing their education were asked "How well did SPC prepare you for continuing your education?" Satisfaction levels were notable, with 78.21% 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	41.13%	43.28%	36.84%	25.81%		39.43%
Very Well	42.20%	31.34%	28.95%	45.16%	66.67%	38.78%
Adequately	15.60%	22.39%	27.63%	25.81%	33.33%	19.39%
Poorly	1.06%	1.49%	5.26%	3.23%		1.96%
Not at All		1.49%	1.32%			0.44%
Total	282	67	76	31	3	459

When asked, "Would you recommend your program at SPC to others?" over nine-tenths (94.37%) of the 782 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	97.51%	90.07%	89.84%	95.40%	100.00%	94.37%
No	2.49%	9.93%	10.16%	4.60%		5.63%
Total	321	151	128	174	8	782

General Education Outcomes

The 2018-19 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, two received mean scores of 4.50 or higher, eighteen received mean scores between 4.16 and 4.49, and five received mean scores between 3.72 and 3.97.

Table 17: Preparation Ratings for Recent Graduates

	N	Mean	St. Dev.
Communicating Clearly and Effectively with Others Through:			
<i>Speaking</i>	786	4.16	0.79
<i>Listening</i>	785	4.31	0.76
<i>Reading</i>	786	4.29	0.77
<i>Writing</i>	781	4.20	0.79
Your Use of Mathematical and Computational Skills:			
<i>Comfort with mathematical calculations</i>	786	3.75	0.96
<i>Using computational skills appropriately</i>	787	3.97	0.86
<i>Accurately interpreting mathematical data</i>	786	3.72	0.93
Using the Following Forms of Technology:			
<i>E-Mail</i>	780	4.58	0.67
<i>Word Processing</i>	776	4.44	0.76
<i>Spreadsheets</i>	774	3.86	1.02
<i>Databases</i>	773	3.81	1.01
<i>Internet Research</i>	775	4.44	0.77
Thinking Logically and Critically to Solve Problems:			
<i>Gathering and assessing relevant information</i>	779	4.40	0.69
<i>Inquiring about and interpreting information</i>	779	4.33	0.73
<i>Organizing and evaluating information</i>	776	4.37	0.72
<i>Analyzing and explaining information to others</i>	778	4.25	0.78
<i>Using information to solve problems</i>	777	4.39	0.70
Working Effectively with Others in a Variety of Settings:			
<i>Participating as a team player (e.g., group projects)</i>	770	4.29	0.80
<i>Working well with individuals from diverse backgrounds</i>	770	4.49	0.71
<i>Using ethical courses of action</i>	768	4.50	0.70

<i>Demonstrating leadership skills</i>	770	4.26	0.83
Appreciating the Importance of Lifelong Learning:			
<i>Showing an interest in career development</i>	771	4.44	0.71
<i>Being open to new ideas and challenges</i>	771	4.48	0.68
<i>Willingness to take on new responsibilities</i>	770	4.46	0.69
<i>Pursuing additional educational opportunities</i>	768	4.39	0.75

Conclusion

Results from the 2018-19 Recent Alumni Survey indicated that nearly four-fifths (79.18%) of the graduates who responded are employed. Almost two-thirds (61.20%) of those are employed in a field related to their studies. The AS, BS/BAS, and Lower Division Certificate programs reported the highest rates of related employment (80.58%, 76.92%, and 57.84% respectively). Wage earnings varied by degree or certificate awarded. Overall, 35.57% of respondents reported wages of \$52,000 or more (up from 30.41% in 2017-18), and 23.97% reported wages between \$21,000 and \$30,999 (down from 24.64% in 2017-18). The highest wages were reported most often among BS/BAS, Upper Division Certificate, and AS respondents, at 56.47% (up from 46.88%), 50.00% (up from 14.29%), and 47.52% (up from 40.13%) respectively. Additionally, AA degree respondents reported the highest rate of continued education (87.98%), and 63.64% of those were enrolled full-time. Overall, nearly two-thirds (60.42%) 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 (97.60%) reported SPC had prepared them adequately for continued education, and the majority of respondents (94.37%) would recommend their program to others.