

2023-2024 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 collects 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 five-thousand, five-hundred and forty (5,540) 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 2023-24 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 three additional e-mail reminders at two-week intervals. Paper surveys were not completed for the 2023-24 Recent Alumni Survey, except for those completed by Radiography alumni. Three-hundred and fifteen (315) were returned for an overall response rate of 5.69%. The overall response rate showed a decrease of 2.2% compared to the previous year.

Table 1: Respondents by Degree or Certificate

	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS or BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Surveyed	2425	803	1203	1043	66	5540
Responded	111	65	66	65	8	315
% Responded	4.58%	8.09%	5.49%	6.23%	12.12%	5.69%

Survey Information

The survey of 2023-24 graduates received 94.92% of the 315 responses online. In 2023-24, paper surveys were only administered to Radiography program graduates.

Table 2: Survey Modality:

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Paper	0.90%	23.08%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.08%
Online	99.10%	76.92%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	94.92%
<i>Total</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>315</i>

Goals and Current Activity

Almost half of the respondents (44.27%) 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 (17.52%). A closer look by program at responses to "What was your main goal in completing a degree or certificate at SPC?" indicated that over two-thirds of the AA respondents (68.18%), over one-third of the BS/BAS respondents (35.38%), and over one-quarter of Lower Division Certificate respondents (28.79%) selected "Continue my education," while over one-third of AS respondents (35.38%) selected "Change career fields." Upper Division Certificate respondents selected "Change career fields" and "Continue my education" in equal measure (37.50%).

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	6.36%	35.38%	21.21%	12.31%	37.50%	17.52%
Earn More Money	6.36%	13.85%	19.70%	7.69%	25.00%	11.46%
Get a Promotion	4.55%	1.54%	0.00%	9.23%	0.00%	3.82%
Obtain Employment	3.64%	16.92%	24.24%	27.69%	0.00%	15.61%
Meet Certification/Training Needs	0.00%	3.08%	6.06%	1.54%	0.00%	2.23%
Continue My Education	68.18%	29.23%	28.79%	35.38%	37.50%	44.27%
Other	10.91%	0.00%	0.00%	6.15%	0.00%	5.10%
<i>Total</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>314</i>

A strong majority of respondents (93.61%) 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 (46.33%) of survey respondents indicated that SPC did "Exceptionally well" in helping them meet their goal, and 29.39% 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	51.35%	55.38%	35.38%	39.06%	50.00%	46.33%
Very Well	33.33%	26.15%	27.69%	28.13%	25.00%	29.39%
Adequately	14.41%	16.92%	24.62%	18.75%	12.50%	17.89%
Poorly	0.00%	1.54%	4.62%	6.25%	12.50%	2.88%
Not at All	0.90%	0.00%	7.69%	7.81%	0.00%	3.51%
<i>Total</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>313</i>

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 (69.39%), followed by "Earn more money" (35.03%), "Obtain employment" (24.49%), "Meet certification/training needs" (23.81%), and "Change career fields" (21.09%).

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	11.32%	40.00%	27.59%	11.86%	16.67%	21.09%
Earn More Money	26.42%	58.46%	24.14%	32.20%	66.67%	35.03%
Get a Promotion	7.55%	12.31%	6.90%	15.25%	16.67%	10.20%
Obtain Employment	16.98%	43.08%	24.14%	18.64%	16.67%	24.49%
Meet Certification/Training Needs	14.15%	41.54%	25.86%	22.03%	0.00%	23.81%
Continue My Education	86.79%	55.38%	67.24%	55.93%	66.67%	69.39%
Other	3.77%	4.62%	12.07%	11.86%	0.00%	7.14%
Total	106	65	58	59	6	294

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

Military Status

Just over one percent (1.27%) of the 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	0.90%	1.54%	1.52%	1.54%	0.00%	1.27%
No	99.10%	98.46%	98.48%	98.46%	100.00%	98.73%
Total	111	65	66	65	8	315

Of those responding that they were currently in the military, half (50.00%) were in the reserves, with the remaining half (50.00%) on active duty.

Table 7: Please select your military status.

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Active Duty	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%	N/A	50.00%
Reserve	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	50.00%
Total	1	1	1	1	0	4

Employment Status

Over three-fourths (78.66%) 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 (29 Hours or Less Each Week)	19.09%	4.62%	7.58%	9.23%	12.50%	11.46%
Self-Employed Part-Time (29 Hours or Less Each Week)	0.91%	3.08%	7.58%	1.54%	0.00%	2.87%
Currently Employed Full-Time (30+ Hours Each Week)	49.09%	76.92%	53.03%	73.85%	75.00%	61.46%
Self-Employed Full-Time (30+ Hours Each Week)	2.73%	3.08%	6.06%	0.00%	0.00%	2.87%
Not Currently Employed, But Actively Looking	8.18%	7.69%	18.18%	9.23%	12.50%	10.51%
Not Currently Employed And Not Actively Looking	20.00%	4.62%	7.58%	6.15%	0.00%	10.83%
<i>Total</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>314</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 Upper Division Certificate respondents (85.71%), AS respondents (61.54%), BS/BAS respondents (53.70%), and Lower Division Certificate respondents (41.86%) was \$25.00 or more, AA respondents (40.85%) most frequently reported earning \$15.00 - \$19.99 per hour.

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)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.85%	0.00%	0.44%
\$10.00 - \$14.99 (\$21,000 - \$30,999)	11.27%	1.92%	2.33%	7.41%	0.00%	6.17%
\$15.00 - \$19.99 (\$31,000 - \$41,999)	40.85%	17.31%	27.91%	24.07%	0.00%	27.75%
\$20.00 - \$24.99 (\$42,000 - \$51,999)	14.08%	19.23%	27.91%	12.96%	14.29%	17.62%
\$25.00 or more (\$52,000 or more)	33.80%	61.54%	41.86%	53.70%	85.71%	48.02%
<i>Total</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>227</i>

Almost two-thirds (63.79%) of employed respondents 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 60.00% to 87.04%, while graduates of the AA program reported lower (49.30%) field-related employment.

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

Answer	AA	AS	LD Ctf.	BS/BAS	UD Ctf.	Overall
Yes	49.30%	87.04%	60.00%	61.82%	71.43%	63.79%
No	50.70%	12.96%	40.00%	38.18%	28.57%	36.21%
<i>Total</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>232</i>

Educational Activity

In response to the question, "Are you continuing your education?" over three-fifths (62.84%) of the 296 respondents answered that they were. AA respondents (83.33%) reported continuing their education most often, with over three-fourths (77.05%) of Lower Division Certificate respondents and over half (52.46%) of AS respondents reporting continuing their education. BS/BAS (29.69%) 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	83.33%	52.46%	77.05%	29.69%	37.50%	62.84%
No	16.67%	47.54%	22.95%	70.31%	62.50%	37.16%
Total	102	61	61	64	8	296

Students reporting continuing their education were asked about their enrollment. Over three-fifths of AA respondents (62.82%) and Lower Division Certificate respondents (62.79%) and over half of AS respondents (58.62%) reported enrolling full-time, while over three-quarters of BS/BAS respondents (76.92%) and all (100%) Upper Division Certificate respondents reported enrolling 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)	62.82%	58.62%	62.79%	23.08%	0.00%	57.83%
Part-Time Student (11 or Less Credit Hours)	37.18%	41.38%	37.21%	76.92%	100.00%	42.17%
Total	78	29	43	13	3	166

Over four-fifths of respondents (83.73%) reported continuing their education in Florida. Over half (57.83%) of the respondents furthering their education indicated re-enrolling at SPC, and nearly one-fifth (14.46%) reported transferring to the University of South Florida, while nearly one-fifth (16.27%) transferred to an out-of-state institution.

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	44.16%	83.33%	81.40%	15.38%	0.00%	57.83%
University of South Florida	27.27%	3.33%	0.00%	15.38%	0.00%	14.46%
University of Florida	10.39%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.82%
University of Central Florida	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Florida State University	2.60%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.20%
Other In-State	5.19%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	66.67%	5.42%
Out-of-State	10.39%	13.33%	18.60%	46.15%	33.33%	16.27%
Total	77	30	43	13	3	166

Students who were continuing their education were also asked if they were enrolled through the University Partnership Center (UPC), and none (0%) of the 163 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	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
No	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
<i>Total</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>163</i>

The graduates continuing their education were asked "How well did SPC prepare you for continuing your education?" Satisfaction levels were notable, with over four-fifths (80.49%) 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	51.95%	37.93%	41.86%	46.15%	100.00%	46.95%
Very Well	33.77%	44.83%	27.91%	30.77%	0.00%	33.54%
Adequately	11.69%	17.24%	25.58%	15.38%	0.00%	16.46%
Poorly	0.00%	0.00%	4.65%	7.69%	0.00%	1.83%
Not at All	2.60%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.22%
<i>Total</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>164</i>

When asked, "Would you recommend your program at SPC to others?" over nine-tenths (91.54%) of the 272 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	94.74%	92.98%	87.72%	87.50%	100.00%	91.54%
No	5.26%	7.02%	12.28%	12.50%	0.00%	8.46%
<i>Total</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>272</i>

General Education Outcomes

The 2023-24 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, four received mean scores between 4.52 and 4.62, seventeen received mean scores between 4.11 and 4.48, and four received mean scores between 3.81 and 3.90.

Table 17: Preparation Ratings for Recent Graduates

	N	Mean	St. Dev.
Communicating Clearly and Effectively with Others Through:			
<i>Speaking</i>	267	4.22	0.82
<i>Listening</i>	267	4.35	0.76
<i>Reading</i>	266	4.39	0.80
<i>Writing</i>	266	4.30	0.81
Your Use of Mathematical and Computational Skills:			
<i>Comfort with mathematical calculations</i>	269	3.86	0.96
<i>Using computational skills appropriately</i>	266	4.11	0.90
<i>Accurately interpreting mathematical data</i>	268	3.81	0.99
Using the Following Forms of Technology:			
<i>E-Mail</i>	265	4.62	0.64
<i>Word Processing</i>	265	4.48	0.80
<i>Spreadsheets</i>	265	3.90	1.06
<i>Databases</i>	265	3.87	1.09
<i>Internet Research</i>	265	4.48	0.74
Thinking Logically and Critically to Solve Problems:			
<i>Gathering and assessing relevant information</i>	265	4.52	0.66
<i>Inquiring about and interpreting information</i>	265	4.40	0.71
<i>Organizing and evaluating information</i>	265	4.45	0.74
<i>Analyzing and explaining information to others</i>	265	4.32	0.75
<i>Using information to solve problems</i>	265	4.42	0.70
Working Effectively with Others in a Variety of Settings:			
<i>Participating as a team player (e.g., group projects)</i>	260	4.43	0.73
<i>Working well with individuals from diverse backgrounds</i>	259	4.53	0.69
<i>Using ethical courses of action</i>	259	4.55	0.67
<i>Demonstrating leadership skills</i>	259	4.24	0.87
Appreciating the Importance of Lifelong Learning:			
<i>Showing an interest in career development</i>	259	4.47	0.73
<i>Being open to new ideas and challenges</i>	259	4.45	0.73
<i>Willingness to take on new responsibilities</i>	259	4.43	0.72
<i>Pursuing additional educational opportunities</i>	259	4.39	0.80

Conclusion

Results from the 2023-24 Recent Alumni Survey indicated that over three-quarters (78.66%) of the graduates who responded are employed. Over three-fifths (63.79%) of those are employed in a field related to their studies. The AS, Upper Division Certificate, and BS/BAS programs reported the highest rates of related employment (87.04%, 71.43%, and 61.82% respectively).

Wage earnings varied by degree or certificate awarded. Overall, 48.02% of respondents reported wages of \$52,000 or more (down from 51.34% in 2022-23), and 27.75% reported wages between \$31,000 and \$41,999 (up from 22.26% in 2022-23). The highest wages were reported most often among AS and Upper Division Certificate respondents, at 61.54% (down from 67.33% in 2022-23) and 85.71% (up from 71.43% in 2022-23) respectively.

AA degree respondents reported the highest rate of continued education (83.33%), and 62.82% of those were enrolled full-time. Overall, over three-fifths (62.84%) 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 (96.95%) reported SPC had prepared them adequately for continued education, and the majority of respondents (91.54%) would recommend their program to others.