



INSIGHTS

on the college

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1998 Alumni: Two-Year Post-Graduation

As one activity to fulfill the objectives of a *Title V Strengthening Institutions Grant* from the Federal Government, the Office of Institutional Advancement surveyed 1,267 graduates from the class of 1998 in December 2000. The survey instrument used was the ACT Alumni Survey¹, which includes national norms. Questions on the survey were sectioned into the following:

- Demographics,
- Continuing education,
- Educational experiences, and
- Employment history.

Additionally, 16 questions related specifically to Mt. SAC were added to the survey in order to provide information on student satisfaction related to services and more detailed questions related to their current employment and transfer status (see end of newsletter, pages 5 and 6, for full text of questions). Alumni were asked to complete the survey, which contained numerous questions related to their satisfaction with their Mt. SAC education as well as their job activities after graduation.

A response rate of 17.8% was achieved (n=225) with an error rate of 6.7% (within reasonable limits for this study).

Demographics

- Most of the 1998 graduates now have their Associate or Bachelor's degree.
- Sixty-four percent were females.
- 30% of the alumni had a current income of greater than \$30,000/year.

¹ The ACT Alumni Survey for 2-year Colleges was used. Nationally, 16,710 students have completed the survey. They represent students from 53 postsecondary two-year colleges between 1992 and 1999. The normative data from this survey represent a composite of the data obtained by a number of institutions that administered the survey to their students between 1992 and 1999. The ACT Alumni Survey consisted of approximately 40 standard questions. Mt. SAC included an additional 16 questions specific to the College.

- More than 75% live within 24 miles of Mt. SAC.
- 28% said that their primary reason for attending Mt. SAC was convenience of location
- 57% are currently employed, while 31% are continuing their education
- 21% attended Mt. SAC for two years, 22% for three years and 17% for four years.
- Over 50% of those who returned their surveys had recently attended a four-year College or University.
- If they had to start over again, 85% said that they would choose to attend Mt. SAC and 63% said that they would choose the same program.
- Just over half (55%) felt that Mt. SAC had prepared them more than adequately for continuing their education.
- Of the 130 Alumni who transferred to a 4-year college/university, 38% felt that the mathematics courses at Mt. SAC had prepared them for the mathematics courses they later took.
- 42% of graduates would be willing to mentor a current Mt. SAC student.

Satisfaction

In general, the highest alumni satisfaction levels were found with the following items (see table).

Table 1. High Satisfaction Levels

Area of HIGH Satisfaction	Class of 1998 Satisfaction ²	National Norm Satisfaction
Mt. SAC in general	86% ↑	83%
Variety of courses	85% ↑	71%
Quality of instruction in their major area of study	89% ↑	78%
Attitude of faculty toward students	77% ↑	74%

The following areas had low satisfaction scores. Although the scores were low, in only two cases were the Mt. SAC scores lower than the national norms (see “concern for you as an individual”).

Table 2. Low Satisfaction Levels

Area of LOW Satisfaction	Class of 1998 Satisfaction ³	National Norm Satisfaction
Concern for you as an individual	46.3% ↓	59%
Attitude of College non-teaching staff toward students	44% ↓	54%

² Symbols indicate how the Mt. SAC satisfaction scores compare to the National Norms. “↑” indicates the Mt. SAC score is higher than the norm. “=” indicates the scores are equivalent. “↓” indicates the Mt. SAC score is below the national norm.

³ 29-38% of the responses were “neutral” (i.e., they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied).

Area of LOW Satisfaction	Class of 1998 Satisfaction ³	National Norm Satisfaction
Opportunities for personal involvement in campus activities	40%=	40%
Opportunities for student employment	33.3%↑	30%

Student Services

Among the services Mt. SAC offers, Student Services and the Learning Resource Center received the highest satisfaction level at 73%. Forty-two percentage of the alumni felt “very much” that the experience Mt. SAC offered for self-learning was helpful and, likewise, 41% thought that the writing experience they received was quite helpful.

Employment After Mt. SAC

- 59% felt that they were prepared for their current occupation.
- 53% felt that their current occupation was related to their College major.

Problem Areas with First Job After Graduation

- Finding a job that paid enough (55/156; 36%)
- Finding the kind of job I wanted (41/158; 26%)
- Finding a job for which I was trained (36/156; 23%)

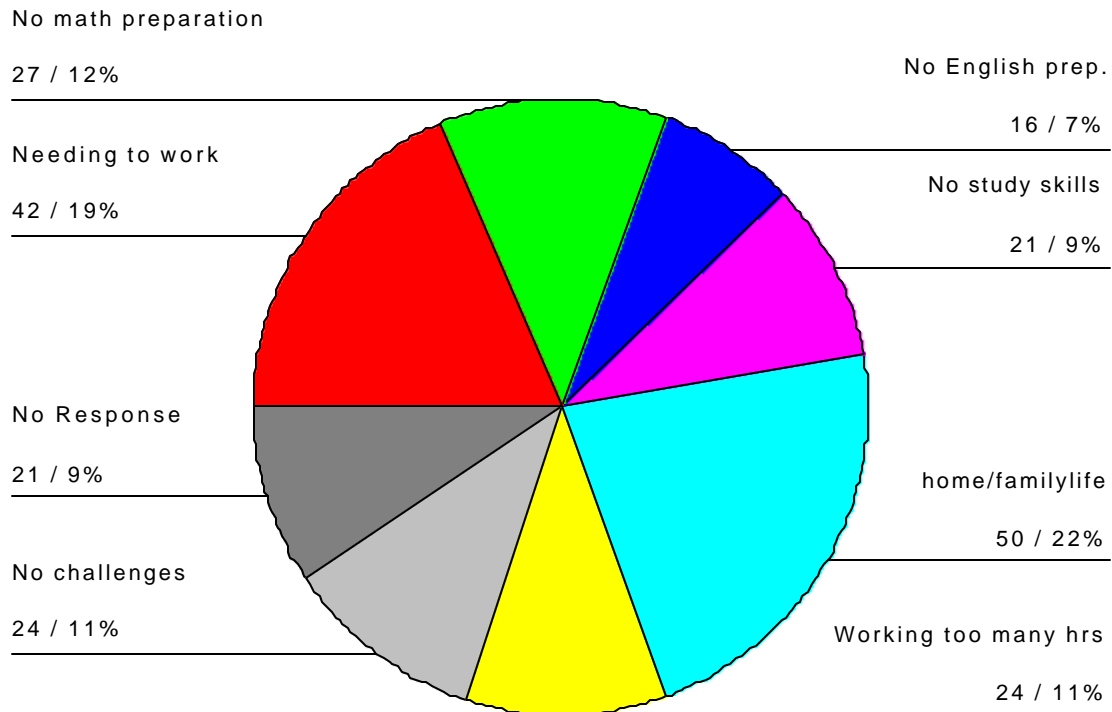
Non-Problem Areas with First Job After Graduation

- Deciding what I wanted to do (98/160; 61%)
- Knowing how to find job openings (92/155; 59%)
- Scheduling interviews (111/156; 71%)
- Writing a resume, Vita, or letter of introduction (103/156; 66%)
- Completing job applications (136/154; 88%)
- Finding a job where I wanted to live (107/154; 70%)
- Race/sex discrimination (134/157; 85%)

Greatest Challenge

When alumni were asked “What was your greatest challenge to your success while enrolled at Mt. SAC?”, 22% indicated that “Balancing home/family obligations with college work” was their greatest challenge (see pie chart).

Greatest challenge while at Mt. SAC



Conclusion

Overall, the data indicates that 1998 Alumni are satisfied with the education Mt. SAC provided and in some cases were able to successfully transfer to other educational institutions.

In general, Mt. SAC rated above the national norms related to the satisfaction of community college alumni. Charts and graphs related to this study can be found on the Research and Institutional Effectiveness web-site at:

<http://www.mtsac.edu/college/institutional/research/insights.html>.

The survey helped to update the mailing list of the Class of 1998 and will serve as a basis for future longitudinal satisfaction studies with Mt. SAC alumni.

Mt. SAC Alumni Survey 2000
 ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR
 SECTION V

INSTRUCTIONS

In an effort to obtain information more relevant to Mt. San Antonio College, we ask that you complete these additional questions.

Fill in your responses to these additional questions in Section V of the “blue shaded” survey. Please note that the responses in Section V are arranged vertically. Your responses are IMPORTANT and will be kept strictly CONFIDENTIAL. We encourage you to answer these questions in relation to your experience at Mt. SAC.

ADDITIONAL SURVEY QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding these surveys, please call us at (909) 594-5611, x4259. *Thank you.*

1. How long did you attend Mt. SAC?

- A Less than one year
- B 1 year
- C 2 years
- D 3 years
- E 4 years
- F 5 to 9 years
- G 10 or more years

2. Did you earn a certificate(s) from Mt. SAC?

- A Yes
- B No

3. Did you earn a degree(s) from Mt. SAC?

- A Yes
- B No

4. Did you attend any other two-year college PRIOR TO attending Mt. SAC?

- A Yes
- B No

5. Did you attend any other two-year college AFTER attending Mt. SAC?

- A Yes
- B No

6. How many hours did you work while attending Mt. SAC?

- A Not employed
- B Employed 1-9 hours
- C Employed 10-19 hours
- D Employed 20-29 hours
- E Employed 30-39 hours
- F Employed 40+ hours

7. If you are now employed, please mark the answer that best applies to your situation:

- A I am employed in a **full-time** career position that matches the educational program I completed at Mt. SAC.
- B I am employed **part-time** in a position that matches the educational program I completed at Mt. SAC.
- C I am employed **full-time** in a position that is NOT related to my course of study at Mt. SAC.
- D I am employed **part-time** in a position that is NOT related to my course of study at Mt. SAC.
- E I am unemployed and am looking for work.
- F I am unemployed by choice.

8. How certain was your decision regarding a major?

- A Very certain
- B Somewhat certain
- C Not certain

9. What was your greatest challenge to your success while enrolled at Mt. SAC?

- A Needing to work to support myself
- B Lack of math preparation
- C Lack of English (reading and writing) preparation
- D Lack of good study skills
- E Balancing home/family obligations with college work
- F Working too many hours
- G No challenges

10. While you attended Mt. SAC, did you ever enroll in ANY of the following math classes?

- A Pre-Algebra (MATH 50)
- B Beginning Algebra (MATH 51)
- C Intermediate Algebra (MATH 71)
- D Did not enroll in any of the above math classes

11. If you transferred to a four-year university, where did you attend?

- A University of California (UC) campus
- B California State University (CSU) campus
- C Independent College/University
- D Out-of-State College/University
- E Did not transfer

12. Who was the most helpful in your transfer preparation?

- A Counselor
- B Educational Advisor
- C Professor
- D Parents/Relative
- E Friend
- F Other
- G Did not transfer

13. Did you take any math classes at a four-year college/university?

- A Yes
- B No
- C Did not transfer

14. How well did you feel the preparatory math classes indicated in Question 10 prepared you for your four-year college/university math class?

- A Very much
- B Much
- C Neutral
- D Little
- E Very little
- F Transferred, but did not take Ques. 10 classes
- G Did not transfer

15. If you answered YES to Section I, Item L, of the “blue shaded” survey which indicated that you do plan to attend Mt. SAC in the future, what is the MAJOR reason you would attend?

- A To satisfy job/career requirements
- B To learn a new occupation
- C To increase earning power
- D To obtain or maintain a license or certification
- E To obtain a degree
- F For general self-improvement
- G Other
- H Does not apply

16. Would you be willing to mentor a Mt. SAC student?

- A Yes
- B No

Thank you for completing this survey.