Alumni Survey Report

2015

9/22/2015

2015 Alumni Survey Highlights

This brief provides an overview of the recent survey that was distributed to Alumni and that assesses students' experience while at Mt. SAC. The survey instrument was designed by a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Deans Group in 2013. It examines students' current college enrollment, employment status and their satisfaction with the education they received at Mt. SAC. The survey is distributed two years after receipt of their degree.   Invitations were distributed to 2,448 alum by U.S. Mail and online via email from January to March, 2015. Follow-up phone call reminders were conducted as time and as resources permitted. Overall, 413 respondents completed the survey (response rate = 17%).
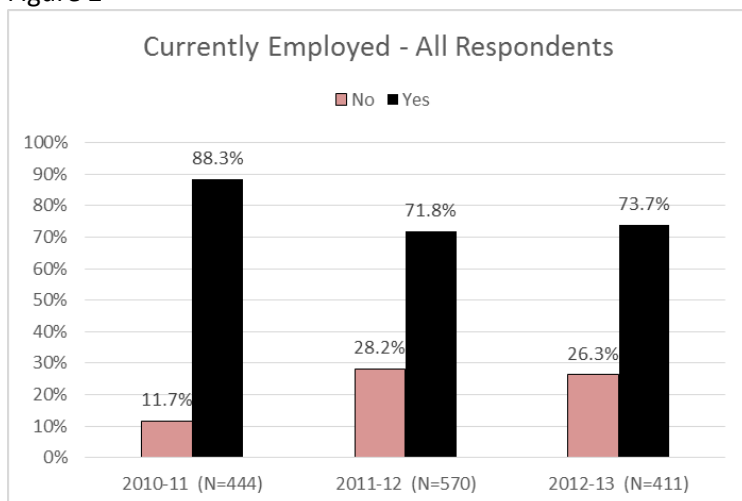
The first question of the Alumni survey asked respondents if they were currently enrolled in college. The following graphs include the results from all respondents in 2010-11 and 2011-12 Alumni Surveys, as well as the current survey (2012-13). In 2015, 54.2% (N=224) of the alumni respondents reported current enrollment in college (Figure 1). This was a slight decrease from the previous year.

Figure 1
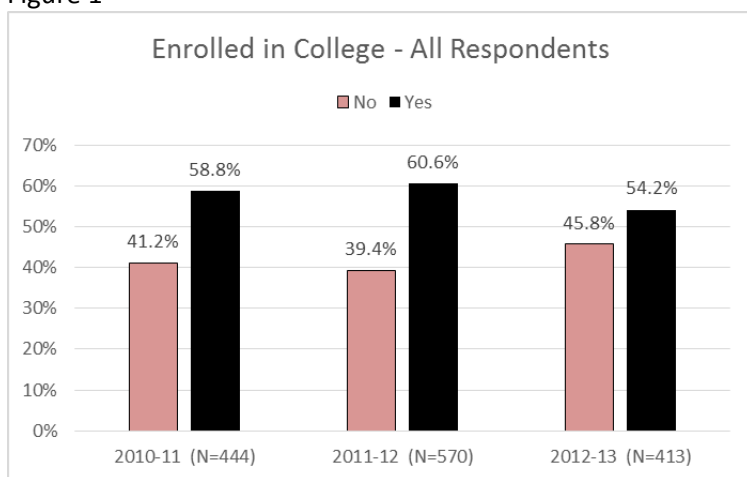
However, most of the survey respondents (73.7%, N=303) were currently employed (Figure 2). This is a slight increase from the previous year.

Figure 2

Prepared by Shannon Rider, Professional Expert - Research & Institutional Effectiveness, Mt. San Antonio College

The next question asked respondents how closely related their current job is to their field of study at Mt. SAC. As indicated in Figures 3 and 4, over half of the respondents (53.6%, N=220) reported that their current job is "very related" or "somewhat related" to their field of study. More than one-third (36.3%, N=149) reported that their current job is "very related" to their field of study.
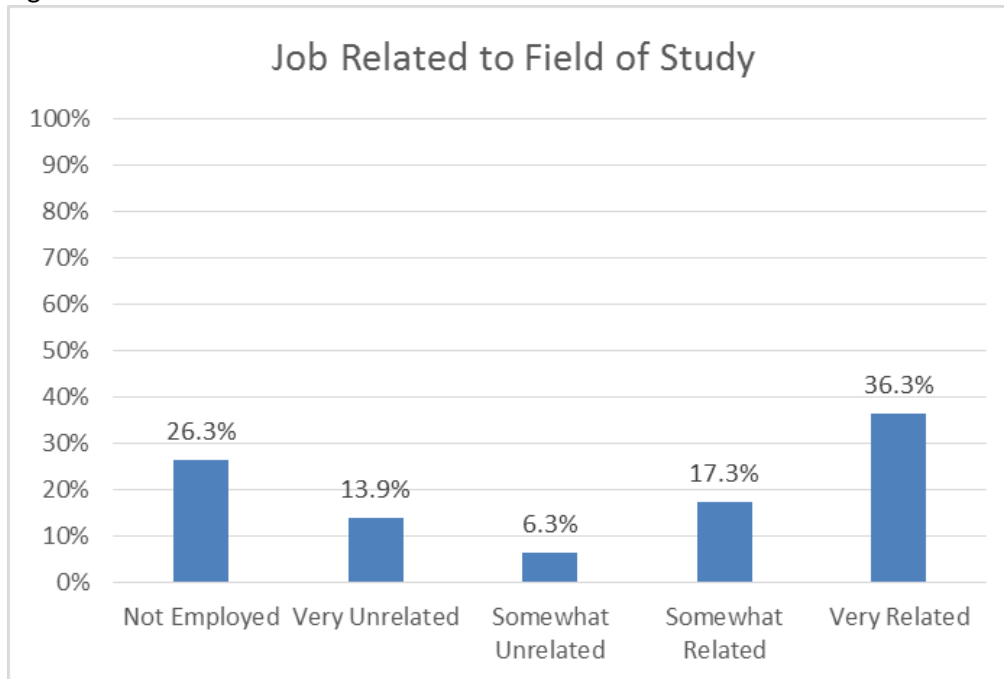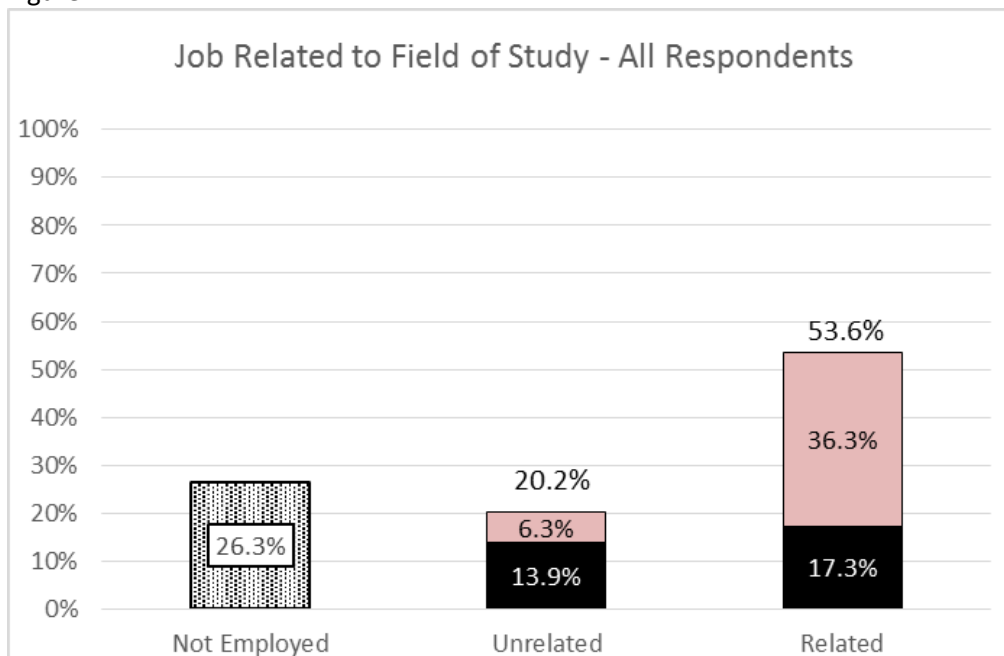
Figure 3

Figure 4

Prepared by Shannon Rider, Professional Expert - Research & Institutional Effectiveness, Mt. San Antonio College

The response categories were then broken down and examined by degree type. Figure 5 below illustrates the percentage of respondents that believe their degree or certificate was related or unrelated to their employment, by degree type.

Figure 5

Relation of Coursework to Employment by Degree Type	Not Employed	Very Unrelated	Somewhat Unrelated	Somewhat Related	Very Related
AA-Transfer	1.5%	0.5%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Associate in Arts	11.4%	5.4%	2.9%	6.8%	5.6%
Associate in Science	4.9%	5.1%	1.2%	4.1%	15.1%
Certificate 6 to < 18 units	4.4%	1.7%	0.2%	2.9%	5.4%
Certificate 18 to < 30 units	2.2%	1.2%	0.2%	1.2%	2.4%
Certificate 30 to < 60 units	1.9%	0.0%	1.0%	1.5%	7.1%
Grand Total	26.3%	13.9%	6.3%	17.3%	36.3%

Overall, alums with degrees were more likely to be "not employed" than those with certificates. However, alums with an Associate in Science degree were the most likely to report having a job "very related" to their field of study (15.1%, N=62 of total respondents in that category).

2015 Alumni Survey Qualitative Analysis

Respondents were asked three open-ended questions at the end of the 2015 Alumni survey. These questions were used to examine the respondents' satisfaction with their education, their opinion on what Mt. SAC has done especially well, and their opinion about how Mt. SAC might do better in preparing them for their field of study. Qualitative analyses of these responses were performed using NVivo 9 Software and the results are presented below.

<u>Satisfaction with Mt. SAC</u>
In response to the open-ended question, "How satisfied are you with your education at Mt. SAC?" most respondents (N=310) responded very positively, stating they were Very/Extremely/Really/Greatly/Highly/Completely Satisfied. These indications of high satisfaction comprised the majority of responses at 78%. Only 1% of respondents indicated that they were not satisfied with their education (See Figure 6 and 7 below for other response categories and frequencies). In previous years, this question was presented as a six-point Likert scale, asking respondents to select an answer from a list rather than writing-in a response. There did not seem to be any qualitative benefit in asking respondents to write-in their own responses this year, as no other valuable information was provided from the responses and the coding/categorizing of the responses was time consuming.
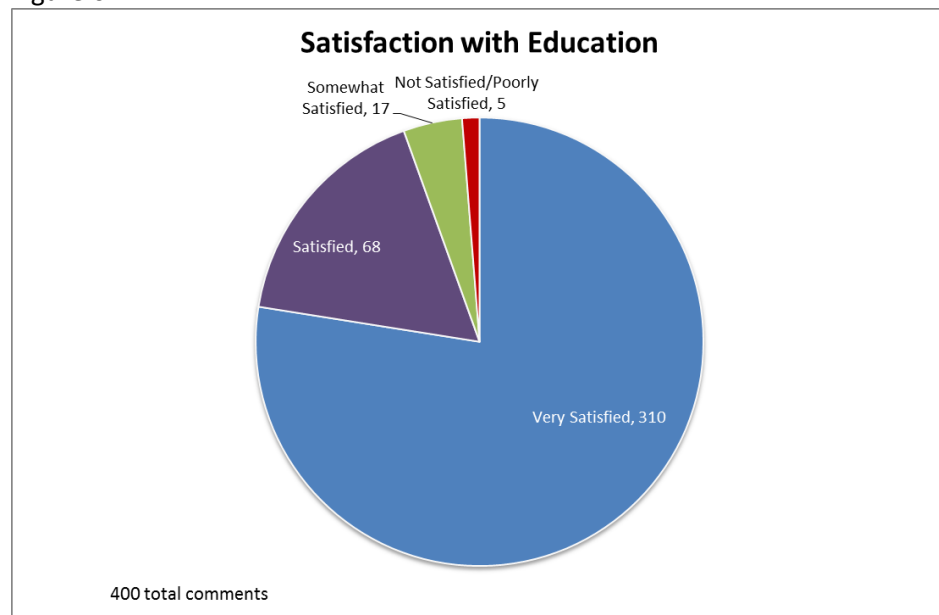
Figure 6

Figure 7

How satisfied are you with your education at Mt. SAC?		
	Count	**Percent**
Very/Extremely/Really/Greatly/Highly/Completely Satisfied	310	77.5%
Satisfied/Good	68	17.0%
Somewhat/Mostly/Fairly Satisfied	17	4.3%
Not Satisfied/Poorly Satisfied	5	1.3%
Total	**400**	**100.0%**

What has Mt. SAC done especially well?

Many of the respondents of the 2015 Alumni Survey wrote-in responses to the open-ended question "What has Mt. SAC done especially well?" This question elicited over 500 comments (N=508). As indicated in Figure 8, the respondents were most impressed with the faculty. Of the 508 comments made, 162 made positive reference to the faculty employed by Mt. SAC. Respondents found the faculty helpful and supportive and also valued their experience and passion for their field, stating: "All of my instructors genuinely care about their students' success"; "The staff and teachers are all very knowledgeable and professional without being too formal or unapproachable"; "They have professors with a lot of experience on their field, unlike other schools with professors who never actually practiced in their field"; "they were able to share their real life experiences and relate it to things the students would encounter in their careers."

Secondly, respondents were impressed with the quality of the programs offered at Mt. SAC, making statements such as: "the program at Mt. SAC is more detailed and intense than other schools, so in comparison to a fellow coworker, I felt like I understood more about the science involved in every day work and my confidence exuded, providing advancement at work." Respondents indicated that they value Mt. SAC's "challenging but beneficial curriculum."

Figure 8
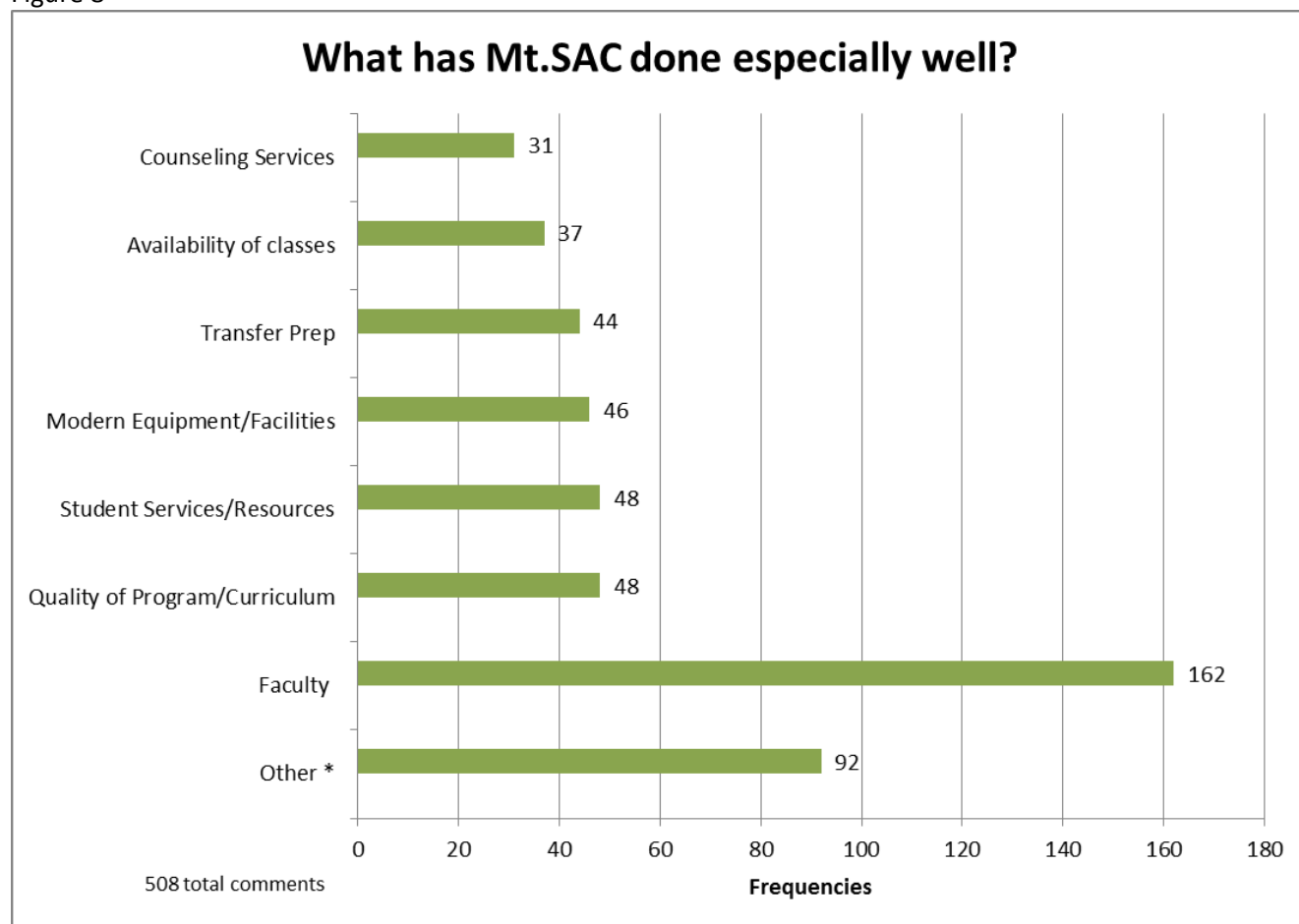
*Other category included responses such as: small class sizes, welcoming environment, accommodates working students, state exam prep, variety of course offerings

Another category that attained numerous positive comments was the quality and availability of services and resources for students on campus. Respondents found the resources available to students to be well organized and abundant: "They have a lot of great programs and resources that students can use besides the classes. It really was the other programs that helped me, programs like teacher prep, the honors program, and labs really make Mt. SAC what it is."; "Organizing the college experience enough to make it easy for an incoming new college student - the administration office, financial aid office, transfer services, bursars office, bookstore, and health services have always been so friendly and kind in helping me get my questions answered and tasks completed in the most easiest and convenient ways." An outline of the services mentioned by the respondents is summarized in Figure 9.

Figure 9

Student Service/Resource	Count
In General - Amount of, Availability of,	22
DSPS	8
Writing Assistance/Tutoring	7
Website	3
Employment Resources	3
Honors Program	2
Bridge Program	2
Library	1
Total	48

How might Mt. SAC do better?

Overall, the negative comments about Mt. SAC were much fewer than the positive ones, with only 335 comments made about how the college could do better. The most popular concern was the availability of classes. Respondents had concerns that, "it's often very difficult to get classes because there are too many students and not enough sections" and "it took longer to finish due to closed or full classes."

Availability of Classes
- Full/Closed classes
- Not enough sections for the amount of students
- Need more night classes and other options for class times

Another main concern was the lack of assistance with finding gainful employment after graduation. Forty eight comments were made about the need for job placement resources. Respondents conveyed that having "some type of help to get a job or prepare a job application would help greatly" and that "help with job placement, resume help, interviewing skills" would be   Part of the respondents' concerns with being able to obtain employment after their time at the college was related to the suggestion that Mt. SAC start providing more job-specific, specialized classes and internship opportunities: "Offer classes in 'real world' settings, offer classes more closely related to what's needed to get and keep a job"; "Provide internships or more practical, real world scenarios to help translate book knowledge into true understanding."

Job Placement Resources
- Provide internships and "hands-on experiences"
- Provide job application, interview and resume preparation services
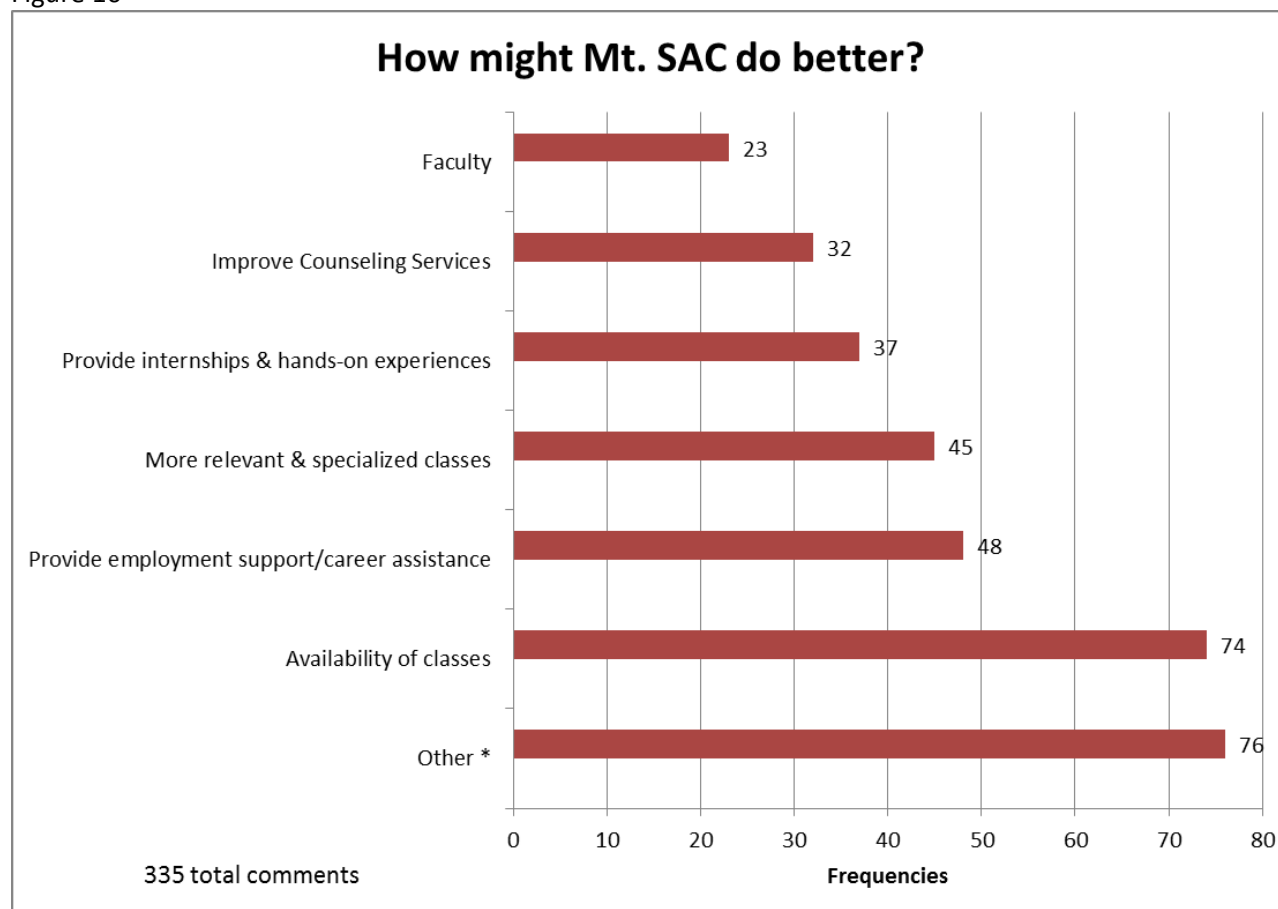
A large amount of comments also addressed the need to improve some of the counseling services provided to students. Some respondents had suggestions for more counselors, stating it was difficult to get an appointment with their counselor when needed. Suggestions were also made to provide more training for counselors so that they could deliver quality counseling which is specific for each program or field of study: "Have more Counselors so appointments won't have to be booked so far out"; "From the beginning I think they should give you a counselor that is knowledgeable in your particular field, lack of knowledge of which classes are needed lead to wasted time."

Improve Counseling Services
- Difficult to get an appointment
- More training for counselors
- Provide specific counselors for specific programs

Please see Figure 10 below for a summary of the "What could Mt. SAC do better?" responses.

Figure 10

How might Mt. SAC do better?

| Category	Frequency
Faculty	23
Improve Counseling Services	32
Provide internships & hands-on experiences	37
More relevant & specialized classes	45
Provide employment support/career assistance	48
Availability of classes	74
Other *	76

335 total comments

Frequencies

*Other category included responses such as: more clubs, better equipment and labs, offer Bachelor's degrees, ease of registration, improve tutoring services, more guest speakers, affordability

CTE Program Students

Responses to the survey were separated and examined by CTE status. Of the 413 total Alumni Survey respondents, 275 were categorized as CTE alum. Figure 11 illustrates the difference in employment status between CTE and non-CTE respondents. 77% (N=212) of CTE students reported they were currently employed, which is higher than the percentage of non-CTE students (67%).

Figure 11
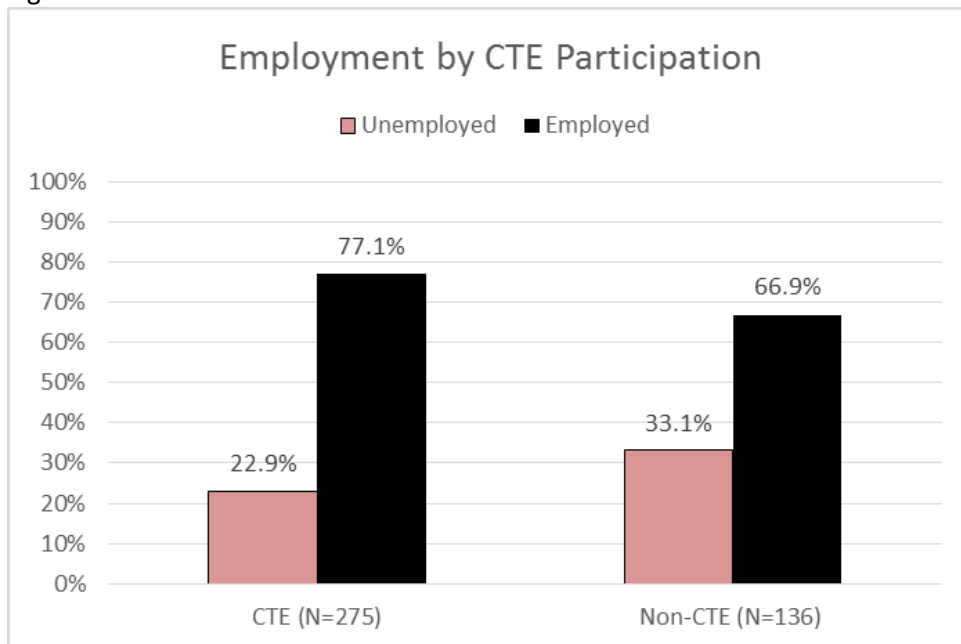
The results for this year were then compared with last year (see Figure 12 below) and the trend remains that CTE students report a slightly higher employment rate than non-CTE students.

Figure 12
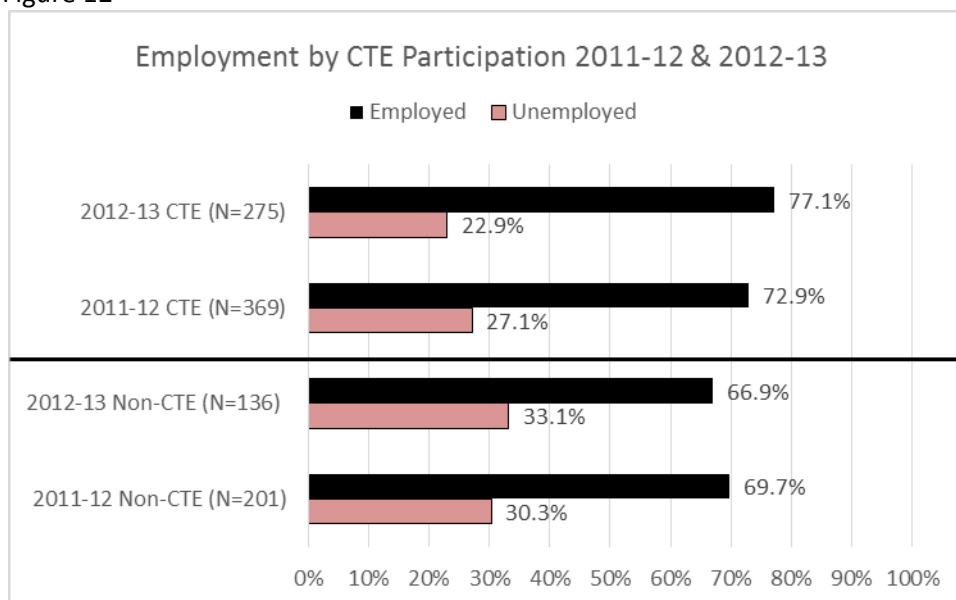
Figures 13 and 14 illustrate the breakdown of CTE alum who responded to the question, "How closely is your current job related to your field of study at Mt. SAC?" As shown in the tables below, the majority of respondents indicated that their employment was either "somewhat related" or "very related" to their coursework, (59.3% or N=163). Only 17.8% (N=49) of CTE alum report that their coursework was "somewhat unrelated" or "very unrelated" to their coursework.
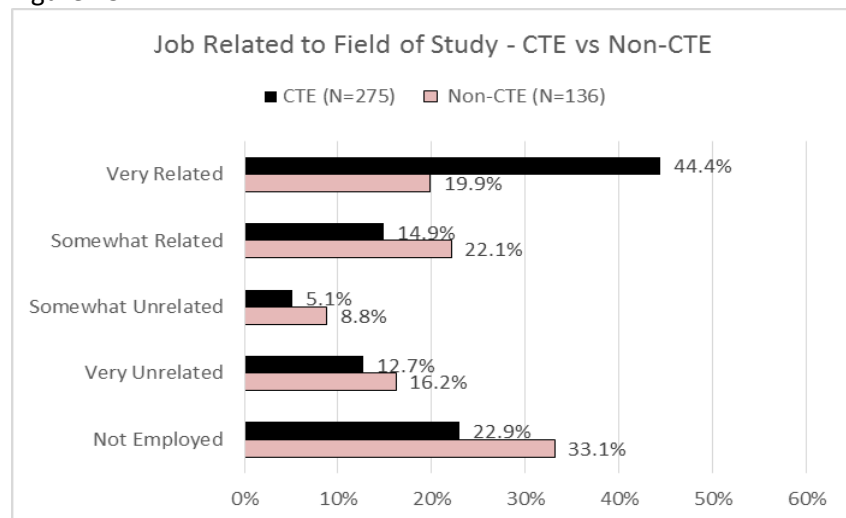
Figure 13

Relation of Coursework to Employment by Degree Type	Not Employed	Very Unrelated	Somewhat Unrelated	Somewhat Related	Very Related	Grand Total
Associate in Arts	9	3	3	4	1	20
Associate in Science	20	21	5	16	61	123
Certificate 6 to < 18 units	18	6	1	11	21	57
Certificate 18 to < 30 units	9	5	1	5	10	30
Certificate 30 to < 60 units	7	0	4	5	29	45
Grand Total	63	35	14	41	122	275

Figure 14

Relation of Coursework to Employment by Degree Type	Not Employed	Very Unrelated	Somewhat Unrelated	Somewhat Related	Very Related	Grand Total
Associate in Arts	3.3%	1.1%	1.1%	1.5%	0.4%	7.3%
Associate in Science	31.7%	7.6%	1.8%	5.8%	22.2%	44.7%
Certificate 6 to < 18 units	28.6%	2.2%	0.4%	4.0%	7.6%	20.7%
Certificate 18 to < 30 units	14.3%	1.8%	0.4%	1.8%	3.6%	10.9%
Certificate 30 to < 60 units	11.1%	0.0%	1.5%	1.8%	10.5%	16.4%
Grand Total	22.9%	12.7%	5.1%	14.9%	44.4%	100.0%

These results were compared with the non-CTE respondents' results and are summarized in Figure 15 below. CTE students report a much greater instance of having a job that is "very related" to their field of study than non-CTE students (44.4% vs 19.9%). CTE respondents also report slightly less instance of having a job that is unrelated to their field of study.

Figure 15

Job Related to Field of Study - CTE vs Non-CTE
CTE (N=275)   Non-CTE (N=136)

Very Related: CTE 44.4%, Non-CTE 19.9%
Somewhat Related: CTE 14.9%, Non-CTE 22.1%
Somewhat Unrelated: CTE 5.1%, Non-CTE 8.8%
Very Unrelated: CTE 12.7%, Non-CTE 16.2%
Not Employed: CTE 22.9%, Non-CTE 33.1%

CTE alum responses for the same question were then further broken down by respondents who obtained a degree vs. respondents who obtained a certificate. As illustrated in Figure 16 and 17, there is not much difference in the "very related", "somewhat related" or "somewhat unrelated" categories. However, respondents with degrees did report a significantly higher instance of having a job that is "very unrelated" to their field of study than respondents with certificates.
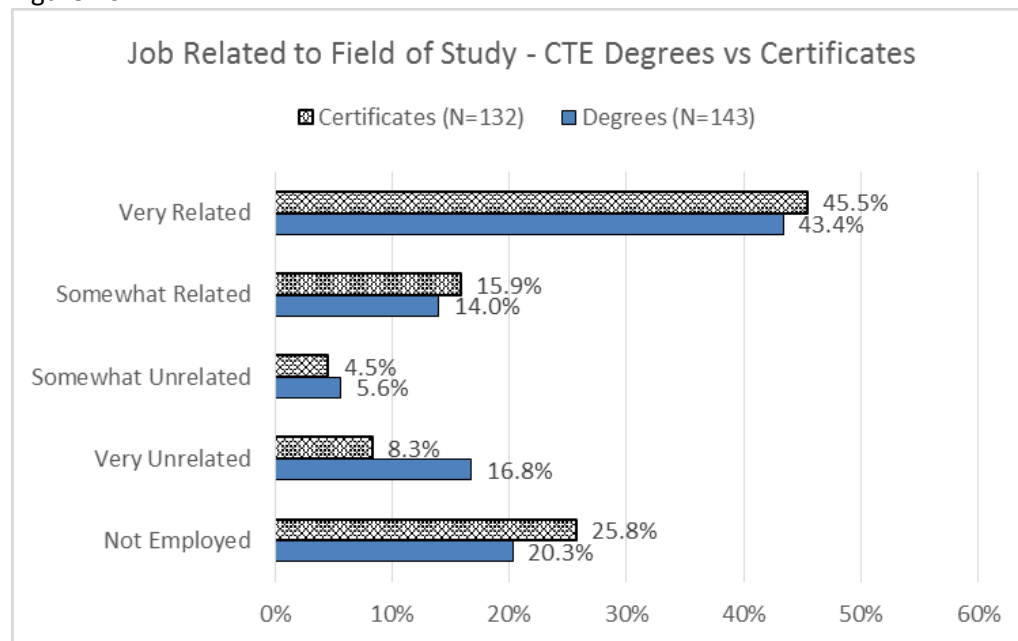
Figure 16

Figure 17

Relation of Coursework to Employment by Degree Type	Not Employed	Very Unrelated	Somewhat Unrelated	Somewhat Related	Very Related	Grand Total
Degrees	29	24	8	20	62	143
Certificates	34	11	6	21	60	132
Grand Total	63	35	14	41	122	275

Results by Program

In alignment with the annual reporting of job placement rates for students completing certificate programs and CTE (career-technical education) degrees to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) , the employment rates reported by alumni in the 2015 survey were broken down by program and displayed in the table below. Also shown below are the results by program for the question about whether respondents are currently enrolled in college and how closely their current job is related to their field of study. **Note: Employment rates reflect only those who responded to the survey.**

Figure 18

Results by CTE Program

CIP Code/Program/(Number of Respondents)*	Currently Enrolled in College?			Currently Employed? - Yes/No			How closely is your current job related to your field?					
	No	Yes	N	No	Yes	N	Not Employed	Very Unrelated	Somewhat Unrelated	Somewhat Related	Very Related	N
01.06/Applied Horticulture (8)	75%	25%	8	0%	100%	8	0%	13%	13%	13%	63%	8
11.02/Computer Programming (7)	29%	71%	7	43%	57%	7	43%	0%	0%	29%	29%	7
15.05/Environmental Control Technologies (14)	64%	36%	14	21%	79%	14	21%	0%	0%	29%	50%	14
19.07/Child Care (25)	24%	76%	25	29%	71%	24	29%	8%	0%	17%	46%	24
22.03/Paralegal (7)	71%	29%	7	14%	86%	7	14%	29%	0%	14%	43%	7
43.01/Law Enforcement (8)	50%	50%	8	13%	88%	8	13%	13%	13%	0%	63%	8
43.02/Fire Technology (15)	73%	27%	15	20%	80%	15	20%	20%	7%	13%	40%	15
49.01/Commercial Flight & Aviation Science (16)	88%	13%	16	13%	88%	16	13%	31%	6%	13%	38%	16
50.04/Photography/Fashion/Interior Design (14)	43%	57%	14	29%	71%	14	29%	36%	7%	7%	21%	14
51.08/Vet Tech/Livestock Management (5)	100%	0%	5	20%	80%	5	20%	0%	0%	20%	60%	5
51.09/Allied Health (19)	74%	26%	19	16%	84%	19	16%	11%	0%	5%	68%	19
51.10/Histologic Tech (5)	100%	0%	5	40%	60%	5	40%	0%	0%	0%	60%	5
51.15/Psych Tech/Alcohol Drug Counseling (18)	61%	39%	18	18%	82%	17	18%	0%	6%	0%	76%	17
51.16/Nursing (14)	93%	7%	14	0%	100%	14	0%	7%	0%	0%	93%	14
52.01/General Business (18)	22%	78%	18	33%	67%	18	33%	17%	17%	22%	11%	18
52.02/Business Management (14)	36%	64%	14	36%	64%	14	36%	7%	0%	14%	43%	14
52.03/Accounting (13)	62%	38%	13	15%	85%	13	15%	23%	0%	31%	31%	13
52.04/Adminstrative Assistant (7)	71%	29%	7	29%	71%	7	29%	14%	14%	14%	29%	7
Grand Total	**58%**	**42%**	**227**	**23%**	**77%**	**225**	**23%**	**13%**	**5%**	**15%**	**44%**	**225**

* Programs with less than 5 respondents have been removed for confidentiality purposes

January 11, 2015

Student Name
Student Address
Student Address

Dear Student Name,

We are writing on behalf of Mt SAC to request your help with an important project. We are conducting a survey of Mt. SAC alumni to ask you about your experiences at the college. You were selected to be a part of this project because you recently obtained a degree or certificate from Mt SAC. As a token of our appreciation for your participation in this important study, upon receipt of your completed questionnaire (online or paper), the college will enter your name in a drawing for **one of three Mt. SAC gift bag (sweatshirt, license plate holder and a water bottle) prizes.**

If you prefer to complete the survey on-line, you may do so at http://www.mtsac.edu/surveys/2015. Please enter this code INSERT code to start the survey. This code can also be found at the top of the paper survey as well as the bottom of this letter. If you prefer to complete the survey using the enclosed form, we have included a pre-addressed, postage paid envelope for your convenience in returning the survey. Please note that your responses will only be used for the institution's improvement purposes and will be completely confidential.

If you have already completed this survey online, please disregard this letter. Please complete the survey by February 27, 2015. Thank you in advance for your participation in this important project. If you have any questions about the administration of the survey, please contact Annel Medina at amedina95@mtsac.edu or 909-274-5505.

http://www.mtsac.edu/surveys/2015   CODE: INSERT CODE

Sincerely,

Marisa Fierro
Director of Development and Alumni Relations
Mt. SAC Alumni Association

*Please remember that even though you've left Mt. SAC, you're still part of the "Mountie Family." The College remains a resource for you and we want you to stay in touch. Visit the Alumni Association website http://www.mtsac.edu/alumni/   for more info about how to stay involved. Congratulations and best of luck!

2015 Mt. San Antonio College Alumni Survey

Mt. San Antonio College asks for your assistance in completing this survey. Your answers will tell us how we have done in providing programs that enabled you to have a career after graduation or continue with your education. Your responses will be used for the institution's improvement purposes and will be kept confidential (i.e., only the Research Office, Deans, and Associate Deans may know what you said). In our public documents, if we use extracts from your survey responses your name will never be revealed so as to maintain confidentiality. Please return the survey to us in the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope. Questions? Contact us at (909) 274-5505 or amedina95@mtsac.edu

Please mark responses like this with a black ink pen: ●   Not like this: ⊗ ⊘

	Yes	**No**

1. Are you currently enrolled in college?   O   O

1a. If yes, which college (s)? _____

1b. If yes, why are you in college currently?
_____

2. What was your field of study at Mt. SAC? _____

3. How closely is your current job related to your field of study at Mt. SAC?

O Not Employed **(Go to Question 4)**
O Very Related
O Somewhat Related
O Somewhat Unrelated **(If "Somewhat Unrelated", Go to Question 5)**
O Very Unrelated **(If "Very Unrelated", Go to Question 5)**

4. **(If you selected "Not Employed" for Question 3)** Why are you not currently employed?
_____

5. **(If you selected "Somewhat Unrelated" or Very Unrelated" for Question 3)** Have you applied to jobs related to your field of study?
_____
_____

6. Please select the type of industry that closely matches your field of study at Mt. SAC.

O Accounting
O Administration of Justice
O Animal Science
O Animation
O Aviation
O Business Management
O Computer Information Systems
O Culinary Arts
O Early Childhood Education
O Electronics
O EMS
O Fashion
O Fire
O Graphic Design
O Health Care
O Histologic Technician
O Horse Ranch Management
O Hospitality, Restaurant Management
O HVAC

O Illustration
O Industrial Design
O Integrated Pest Management
O Interior Design
O Livestock Production
O Landscape Design
O Manufacturing
O Nutrition
O Ornamental Horticulture
O Paralegal
O Park and Sports Turf Management
O Pet Science
O Photography
O Radio Broadcasting
O Real Estate
O Registered Veterinary Technician
O Television, Video, Film
O Welding
O Other_____

7. How satisfied are you with your education at Mt. SAC?
_____
_____

8. In your opinion what has Mt. SAC done especially well (attach a separate page if necessary)
_____
_____

9. In your opinion, how might Mt. SAC do better in preparing you for your field of study?
(Please consider listing feedback other than parking issues.)
_____
_____