

Perkins Employment Survey: Classes of 2004-2012

Each year, the IR department sends out surveys to students who graduated approximately 12-18 months previously. This survey is completed to meet the requirements of our Perkins grants with the timing dictated by the conditions of the grant.

This report provides a longitudinal review of data from these surveys beginning with the Class of 2004 (graduation dates: 9/2003, 1/2004, 5/2004) through Class of 2012 (graduation dates: 9/2011, 1/2012, 5/2012). Each Class was surveyed in the Spring/Summer of the following year (e.g., Class of 2008 was surveyed in Spring 2009). In addition to the first survey sent, an additional one to two surveys are sent to students who do not initially respond. Through 2006, a company was contracted by STCC to do the survey including telephone outreach. Due to budget reductions, the survey is now conducted entirely in-house by the IR department.

Survey Response Rates

Class Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Graduates	899	1182	875	828	1020	922	1069	1050	941
Respondents	410	420	294	333	230	334	325	336	289
Response Rate	46%	36%	34%	40%	23%	36%	30%	32%	31%

Who Responds?

This survey asks graduates about their employment and continuing education status as of the time they receive the survey. Although the response rate declined as of 2008, the proportion of students reporting some employment or ongoing education remained relatively steady. This suggests that students complete the survey when they have “something positive” to report.

Class Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Respondents reporting either current employment or education	94%	92%	94%	94%	93%	88%	92%	91%	93%

Over these nine class years, 34% of students from all programs respond to the survey. Some programs consistently have higher than average response rates (e.g., NURS, 47%; PTAS: 57%) and some of our larger degree areas have lower than average response rates (e.g., LTGS, 30%; BTCM: 28%).

In short, the respondents are not representative of the graduating classes as a whole.

Employment Information

Graduates are asked about their current employment status which includes military service. Of students responding to this question, about 86% of graduates report being employed over the nine Class Years. The rate of employment dips beginning with the 2008 Class (surveyed in Spring 2009).



Class Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Employed	90%	88%	91%	90%	86%	83%	85%	85%	82%
Not Employed	2%	4%	4%	3%	10%	9%	11%	9%	11%
Not in Workforce	8%	8%	5%	7%	5%	8%	4%	6%	7%

Graduates who report being employed are asked about their full-time versus part-time (including per diem) status. Full-time employment of graduates decreased beginning with the 2008 Class.

Class Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Full Time Work	69%	76%	73%	75%	67%	59%	62%	57%	65%
Part Time Work	31%	24%	27%	25%	33%	41%	38%	43%	35%

Lastly, graduates were also asked whether their employment was related to the academic work they completed at STCC. The proportion of graduates working in areas related to their education declined beginning with the 2009 Class (surveyed in Spring 2010).

Class Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Work Related to STCC Education	72%	72%	73%	70%	70%	65%	62%	65%	67%
Not Related	28%	28%	27%	30%	30%	35%	38%	35%	33%

Education Information

Graduates are asked about whether they are currently continuing their education and whether it is related to their education at STCC. Over the nine class years, on average 41% of graduates are continuing their education and nearly 74% of those students are completing additional academic work that is related to their field of study at STCC.

Class Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Continuing Education	47%	44%	44%	38%	38%	38%	36%	38%	42%
Not Continuing	53%	56%	56%	62%	62%	62%	64%	62%	58%

Class Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Continuing Edu Related to STCC Edu	77%	72%	65%	69%	69%	83%	79%	77%	73%
Not Related	23%	28%	35%	31%	31%	17%	21%	23%	27%

