

OVERVIEW

The Graduate Follow-Up Survey gathers data annually regarding the activities and opinions of students approximately six months after their graduation from Wisconsin's Technical Colleges. The primary objective of the survey is to: Identify the current activities of program graduates; to determine the extent to which current activities are related to the graduates' educational programs; provide feedback for career awareness and planning efforts and data to facilitate program planning, evaluation and development.

METHODOLOGY

The 16 colleges in the Wisconsin Technical College System surveyed their program graduates. A total of 23,085 graduates received surveys with 16,574 responding, resulting in a response rate of 72 percent. A copy of the survey instrument is included as Appendix A. Basic concepts and measures used throughout the report are defined below.

Much of the information in this report summarizes the responses of graduates who were in the labor force. The labor force includes all employed and unemployed respondents except those who are unemployed and not seeking employment. A person is considered employed if he or she works for pay or profit, full or part time, at the time of the survey. Full time employment is defined as 35 or more hours per week; part-time is less than 35 hours per week.

The survey asked respondents to classify their jobs as related or not related to the training they received. In the data tables beginning on page 6, those who indicate their job is related to their training are counted in the employed-related category, a subset of the employed category.

The median salary for graduates of a given program is calculated based on respondents who are employed full-time in jobs related to their training. The median salary is the mid-point of salaries reported with half of the salaries below and half above the mid-point. A minimum of four employed-related respondents must have reported their salary in order for it to be published.



“Technical colleges are very valuable because they teach you the technical skills that you need for on the job. Going to other colleges, yes, you get book knowledge, but the technical skills are really what you’ll need to have when you’re in the workforce.”

*-Dawn,
Lakeshore Technical College*