

# OVERVIEW

## Introduction

The Longitudinal Follow-Up Survey is conducted once every four years to gather data regarding the activities and perceptions of students five years after their graduation from Wisconsin's Technical colleges.

The primary objectives of this survey is to examine the changes in selected characteristics, employment, and educational circumstances five years after graduation to assist in planning, marketing, and evaluating technical college programs. The information in this document may be useful to help students in making career choices, to assist instructors in determining the effectiveness of teaching, and to ascertain the need for revision in various program curricula. It is a one-time snapshot that provides interesting broad findings and suggests areas for more detailed analysis and questionnaire revision.

## Methodology

In the spring of 2007, the Wisconsin Technical College System office (WTCS) generated a list of 2001-02 graduates as recorded in that year's six-month follow-up study for each college. Many of these records were matched to the Department of Transportation's records to obtain current addresses. The colleges then surveyed these graduates through December. A total of **17,833** graduates were surveyed statewide with **7,316** responding, resulting in a **41** percent response rate. Response rates varied significantly among colleges. These responses were submitted to the Wisconsin Technical College System office for compilation of this statewide report. A copy of the survey instrument is included as Appendix A. Basic concepts and measures used throughout the report are defined below.

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 worked for pay or profit at the time of the survey. Individuals in any of these groups may be employed full-time or part-time (less than 35 hours per week). A person is considered **unemployed** if he or she performed no work for pay or profit at the time of the survey but was looking for work. Survey respondents who are employed classify their jobs as **related** or **not related** to the training they received.

Annual salary figures are reported for respondents who indicate they 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. To ensure confidentiality, there must be a minimum of four employed-related respondents in order to publish an average or mean salary for any given program. (Please note that some respondents did not include their salary in the survey.)