

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
California Community College Career & Technical Education Employment Outcomes Survey
(CTEOS)

Background

The CTEOS has been administered by Santa Rosa Junior College for the past five years, and participation has risen from 15 colleges taking part in the pilot year to 71 colleges participating in 2015/2016.

How the CTEOS Works

The survey is administered to community college students who earn at least 9 CTE units and stop enrolling for at least one year, whether or not they earned an award – the survey includes both completers and skills builders. Cohort parameters are first provided to the Chancellor's Office MIS (Management Information Systems) unit, which in turn provides a data set that includes information on each student, obviating the need to ask redundant questions on the survey itself, such as ethnicity, for example. Surveys are then sent to the student via e-mail, then paper surveys are mailed to non-respondents, and finally non responding students are called and the survey is administered verbally. This process has yielded a respectable 25% response rate. Annual survey administration commences in January and concludes in May, and final reports and data sets are available by the end of June.

Benefits to Participating Colleges

Each participating college will receive a customized report summarizing a variety of employment outcomes for their CTE students. In addition, a CTEOS tab has been added to the CTE Launchboard as a part of the CTE Data Unlocked Initiative which visually displays key findings. Finally, full data sets will be available to each college containing all survey data and associated MIS data elements for all students included in the cohort.

Participating Colleges have reported they used survey information for the following purposes:

- Program improvement such as curriculum alignment related to the mission of the program, collaboration with industry partners, and developing internships
- Enrollment management, such as student recruitment, outreach and marketing to increase enrollment and to adjust course offerings to meet student demand
- To make changes to program and/or degree offerings such as aligning degrees to industry needs and standards
- To promote the program with industry partners in order to grow the number of partnerships and increase program donations
- Accreditation, Perkins and other reporting

Requirements of Participating Colleges

After the cohort has been identified, participating colleges must provide contact information for each student, as that is not available from Chancellor's Office MIS. Each college will be asked to

identify a local contact person to coordinate the provision of student contact information, and to facilitate communication.

Why the CTEOS Was Selected

The CTEOS began as a grassroots project emanating from CCCAOE (California Community Colleges Association of Occupational Education) and the Research & Planning (RP) Group to collect data and information on CTE students not available elsewhere. Specifically, while other sources such as the EDD Unemployment Insurance Wage Data can provide data on income, they cannot provide other information that is key to the CTEOS: detailed employment status and relationship of employment to CCC training/field of study. Further, the CTE Outcomes Survey includes unemployed, federal employees and those working out of state, and also includes many additional data elements such as student transfer status, satisfaction with training/program of study, and much more information. In 2015/2016, 71 California Community Colleges participated, a number which has grown over the five years of the survey as colleges have found the information to be useful in program evaluation and in documenting outcomes for CTE students.

For More Information

To better understand the data and information available from the CTEOS, view the CTEOS tab on the CTE Launchboard, and visit the CTEOS project website: <http://cteos.santarosa.edu>