
South Puget Sound Community College

2011 Graduate Survey Report

Prepared by the SPSCC Office of Institutional Research
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Executive Summary

The 2011 graduate survey was administered in the spring of 2012 to students who graduated in the 2010-11 academic year with an academic degree or workforce degree and/or certificate. The response rate of 1,023 surveys was 22.8%. Respondents were closely divided between those who received an academic degree (49%) and those who received a workforce award (51%). The most frequent award was an Associate of Arts – DTA.

43.8% of respondents indicated they are continuing their education while 30.5% are working full-time. The percentage of graduates who are unemployed but seeking employment is down from last year at 6.0%. Students who responded to employer and job title questioning were placed into industry categories. The health care industry was the most frequent response. Employed graduates annual income had the most frequent response in the \$20,000 - \$30,000 category. 59% of employed graduates are working in a field directly or indirectly related to their studies. Respondents were more disappointed this year regarding the salary expectation as a result their SPSCC program. 43.4% of employed graduates felt their salary was less than expected, an increase from 2010. The same percentage (43.4%) indicated their job met their expectation as a result of completing their SPSCC program, a decrease from 2010. Graduates reported being well prepared or generally well prepared with some weaknesses regarding their preparation for work responsibilities.

43.8% of graduates are continuing their education. The top transfer school is University of Washington, combining responses for University of Washington and University of Washington Tacoma. The Evergreen State College is the second institution graduates are attending. An increase from last year of accepted transfer credit with 77.5% of respondents reporting 61-90 or more transfer credits were accepted at their respective institution. More than half indicated all their SPSCC credits transferred. SPSCC helpfulness concerning the transfer process was down with less respondents choosing “Helpful” and more respondents choosing “Not Helpful” in comparison with last year’s survey. Graduates also felt their preparation for upper division coursework was not as adequate as in the past. Only 35.3% felt “Very Well Prepared” for upper division coursework. Graduates who provided a valid GPA were analyzed, the mean GPA is 3.47.

The majority of graduates would attend SPSCC if starting their education over. 37% of graduates would not change their curriculum of study and 35% would select a different curriculum. The applicability and satisfaction with coursework at SPSCC remains in the strongly agree and somewhat agree categories as it was last year with a slight decrease this year in the mean of each category. The college wide abilities mean has increased in each category this year. The ability to think logically and critically was rated highest among graduates. Financial Aid service was the only service that exceeded the 2011 mean while the library mean remained the same. The decreased rating of service in each category was slight. Over sixty respondents offered suggestions and comments. There are positive remarks as well as many suggestions for improvement. Parking continues to be a consistent complaint.

Contents

Degree and Current Status	1
Table 1: Degrees Awarded to Respondents in 2010-2011	2
Table 2: Status of Respondents	3
Employment	3
Table 3: Employment Category	3
Figure 4: Employed Graduates Income Categories	4
Table 4: Pay Comparison as a Result of SPSCC Program	5
Table 5: Job Relative to Degree	5
Table 6: Job Comparison as a Result of SPSCC Program	5
Table 7: Preparation for Work Responsibilities	5
Education	5
Table 8: Transfer Institutions	6
Table 9: Credits Received for SPSCC Coursework	7
Table 10: Category of Transfer Credit Acceptance	7
Table 11: Helpfulness Regarding the Transfer Process	7
Table 12: SPSCC Preparation for Upper Division Coursework	7
SPSCC Effectiveness	8
Table 13: Evaluating Institution and Program Choice	8
Table 14: Applicability and Satisfaction with Coursework	8
College Wide Abilities	8
Table 15: College Wide Ability Evaluation	8
Campus Services	9
Table 16: Campus Services Evaluation	9
Figure 5: Service Comparison 2010 and 2011	9
Summary	10
Table 17: Survey Summary Trends	10
Appendix A: List of Job Title and Employer	12
Appendix B: Weaknesses or Deficiencies in SPSCC Preparation for Work Responsibilities	14
Appendix C: Specific Course Transition	15

Appendix D: Weakness or Deficiencies in SPSCC Preparation for Upper Division Coursework 16
Appendix E: Survey Administration..... 17

Degree and Current Status

This year's survey was primarily administered via e-mail. The unique e-mail address was used as the primary key to match student program data to the survey responses as oppose to a tracking number used in the past as the primary key. The surveys distributed via USPS had a pre-filled tracking # on the survey matched with the recipient prior to distribution. This is a change from relying on the graduate to fill in the tracking number within the survey. This method resulted in one response that could not be tied to program data and who will not be entered into the drawing for the gift card, a significant decrease of non tracked program data from previous years.

The results of this change enabled a more complete picture of program totals. While there were two hundred and thirty-three respondents of the survey, a total of two hundred and eighty-two awards were granted to these individuals, with fourteen students receiving multiple awards within the same 2010-2011 year. The most common combination was a workforce certificate then subsequent Associate Degree within the Program.

For the responses received, there is almost equal division between Academic Awards (48.6%) and Workforce Awards (51.4%) with an Associate in Arts – DTA as the most frequent award (42.2%), this was also the most frequent award in 2010 (32.5%). The AA-DTA was followed in frequency by Associate Degree Nursing – ADN and a Practical Nursing Certificate (Table 1).

The status of those who returned the survey (Table 2) identified themselves with the most frequency as students (43.8%), with the next frequency of status as full-time employed (30.5%). In 2010, 45.6% identified as students and 25.2% as working full time.

Table 1: Degrees Awarded to Respondents in 2010-2011

Degree Program	Frequency	Percent
ASSOCIATE IN ARTS - DTA	119	42.20%
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING - ADN	11	3.90%
PRACTICAL NURSING-CERTIFICATE	11	3.90%
AAS - BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	10	3.55%
CIVIL DRAFTING-CERTIFICATE	9	3.19%
MECHANICAL DRAFTING-CERT	9	3.19%
ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTING-CERT	8	2.84%
AAS-COMPUTER AIDED DRAFT (CAD)	8	2.84%
ASSOCIATE IN BUSINESS DTA/MRP	7	2.48%
ASSOC IN SCIENCE AS-T TRACK 2	7	2.48%
AAS - ACCOUNTING	7	2.48%
AAS - MEDICAL ASSISTING	6	2.13%
AAS-INFO TECH DESKTOP SUPPORT	5	1.77%
AAS - COMPUTER NETWORK ADMIN	5	1.77%
AAS-LAND SURVEY/GEOMATICS TECH	5	1.77%
AAS - DENTAL ASSISTANT	5	1.77%
NURSING ASSISTANT-CERTIFICATE	5	1.77%
ACCOUNTING CLERK CERTIFICATE	4	1.42%
ASSOC IN SCIENCE AS-T TRACK 1	4	1.42%
BUILDING INFO MODELING CERT	4	1.42%
AAS - OFF ADM-ADMIN ASSISTANT	4	1.42%
DENTAL ASSISTANT-CERTIFICATE	3	1.06%
BUSINESS OPERATIONS-CERT	3	1.06%
AAS-FIRE & EMERGENCY SVCS TECH	3	1.06%
ASSOCIATE IN GENERAL STUDIES	3	1.06%
WEB DESIGN-CERTIFICATE	3	1.06%
AAS - CULINARY ARTS	3	1.06%
AAS - PARALEGAL	2	0.71%
FINANCIAL SERVICES-CERTIFICATE	1	0.35%
AAS - COMPUTER PROGRAMMING	1	0.35%
SUSTAIN PLANT PRODUCTION-CERT	1	0.35%
AAS - DATABASE MANAGEMENT	1	0.35%
MEDICAL ASSISTING-CERTIFICATE	1	0.35%
AAS - MEDICAL ADMIN ASSISTANT	1	0.35%
AAS-COMP PROGRAM APPLICATIONS	1	0.35%
AAS-EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	1	0.35%
AAS - LEGAL ADMIN ASSISTANT	1	0.35%
TOTAL AWARDS	282	100.00%

Table 2: Status of Respondents

Status	Frequency	Percent
Employed full-time	71	30.5%
Employed part-time	28	12.0%
Military	1	0.4%
Not employed, not seeking employment	4	1.7%
Not employed, seeking employment	14	6.0%
Other	8	3.4%
Retired	3	1.3%
Self-employed	2	0.9%
Student	102	43.8%
TOTAL STATUS	233	100.0%

Employment

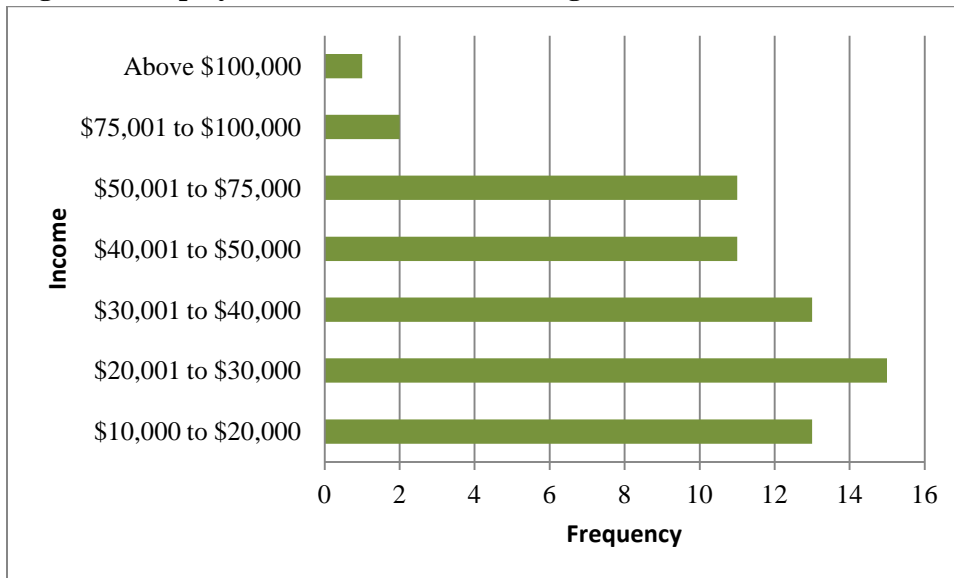
Of the ninety nine respondents who reported working full or part time, 75% disclosed their employer name and/or job title. The career path frequency (estimated by job title, Table 3) is in the health care field (29.7%). Several health care providers in the Puget Sound area were reported more than once as well as Boeing and SPSCC. One individual provided three employers. Those who identified themselves as “Student” did not fill in an employer. Appendix A displays the full list of respondent’s employers and job titles.

Table 3: Employment Category

Employment Category	Frequency	Percent
Clerical	11	14.9%
Education	2	2.7%
Fire and Security	3	4.1%
Health Care	22	29.7%
Other	7	9.5%
Sales	4	5.4%
Service	15	20.3%
STEM	10	13.5%
Total	74	100.0%

Those who reported working full or part time, 74% reported their income (Fig. 1). The highest frequency is \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually (22.7%). The next highest frequency was equal between \$10,000 to \$20,000 and \$30,000 to \$40,000. The 2010 report indicated equal highest frequency between \$10,000 to \$20,000 and \$40,000 to \$50,000 (5.8%). The 2011 frequencies indicate a more evenly distribution between the different categories, with the mean in the \$20,000 and \$30,000 category.

Figure 4: Employed Graduates Income Categories



Working graduates were not as positive regarding their pay expectation and job expectations as a result of completing their degree program. 44.7% employed felt their salary met their expectation as a result of their SPSCC program (Table 4). This is a significant decrease from 2010, where 66.7% felt their salary expectation was met. 43.4% of the employed graduates felt their salary was less than expected, an increase from 2010 when 20% felt their salary did not meet expectation. 11.8% experienced better than expected salary, and in 2010 this figure was 12.7%.

There is a slightly positive shift compared to last year for students working in their field of study. 59% indicated their job is either related directly or indirectly to their program of study while 41% are employed in an unrelated field (Table 5). 43.4% indicated their job met their expectation as a result of completing their SPSCC program and 39.5% indicated their job did not meet their expectation (Figure 7).

The majority of respondents (76.8%) indicated they were well prepared or generally well prepared with some weaknesses (Appendix B) regarding preparation for work responsibilities. This is approximately the same as 2010 but is worth noting a different distribution among the two categories, with this year's respondents indicating more weaknesses than last year. Those who indicated they were not prepared increased to 9.8% from the 2010 survey of 4.7% (Table 7). The weaknesses noted were across the spectrum; taking the wrong class, a particular skill set was lacking or outdated, not enough depth to the class, and inadequacy compared to peers.

Table 4: Pay Comparison as a Result of SPSCC Program

How does this <i>pay compare</i> to what you expected as a result of completing your SPSCC program?		2010	2011
	Better than expectation	12.7%	11.8%
	About as expected	66.7%	44.7%
	Below expectation	20.6%	43.4%

Table 5: Job Relative to Degree

Is your current job related to the program in which you received your degree?		2010	2011
	Yes, directly related	36.9%	38.2%
	Yes, indirectly related	20.0%	21.1%
	No, not related	43.1%	40.8%

Table 6: Job Comparison as a Result of SPSCC Program

How does your <i>current job compare</i> to the type of job you expected to have as a result of completing your SPSCC program?		2010	2011
	Better than expectation	19%	17.1%
	About as expected	52.4%	43.4%
	Below expectation	28.6%	39.5%

Table 7: Preparation for Work Responsibilities

How well did SPSCC prepare you for your work responsibilities?		2010	2011
	I was very well prepared	54.7%	37.8%
	I was generally well prepared with some weaknesses	20.3%	39.0%
	I was moderately well prepared with some clear deficiencies	20.3%	13.4%
	I was not well prepared	4.7%	9.8%

Education

Of the one hundred and two graduates (43.8%) who identified themselves as current students, ten students did not indicate a transfer institution, fifteen responses other than “student” filled in the academic school as well. The total responses to the query of institution name was one hundred and seven respondents, exactly the same number as 2010. The lead transfer institutions last year were WSU, SPSCC, and St. Martin’s. 2011 graduates transferred to TESC, UW, WWU and St. Martin’s (Table 8). However, combining the responses of UW-Tacoma and UW, the University of Washington slightly edged out TESC as the top transfer school.

Table 8: Transfer Institutions

Institution	Frequency	Percent
Austin Community College	1	0.9%
Bethel University	1	0.9%
Brandman University	1	0.9%
Central Washington University	8	7.5%
Centralia Community College	1	0.9%
City University	1	0.9%
Clover Park Technical College	2	1.9%
DigiPen Institute of Technology	1	0.9%
DLI	1	0.9%
Eastern Washington University	4	3.7%
ERAU Daytona Beach	1	0.9%
The Evergreen State College	18	16.8%
Excelsior	1	0.9%
Fayetteville State University	1	0.9%
Florida Atlantic University	1	0.9%
Kaplan University	1	0.9%
National College of Technical Instruction	1	0.9%
New Hope Christian College	1	0.9%
Northwest University	1	0.9%
Pacific Lutheran University	2	1.9%
Saint Martin's University	10	9.3%
South Puget Sound Community College	6	5.6%
University of Idaho	1	0.9%
University of Southern California	1	0.9%
University of Washington	9	8.4%
University of Washington Tacoma	10	9.3%
Washington State University	2	1.9%
Washington State University - Spokane	1	0.9%
Washington State University Vancouver	1	0.9%
Western Governor's University	2	1.9%
Western Oregon university	1	0.9%
Western Washington University	12	11.2%
Whitworth University	1	0.9%
Willamette University	1	0.9%
TOTAL	107	100.0%

Approximately 32% of students indicated specific courses would have made transfer easier, which continues to rise from the past years. Students who indicated specific courses that would have been helpful had a list from specific courses to general feelings about preparedness (Appendix C). One response indicating it would have been helpful to plan an academic career at SPSCC with a particular four-year institution in mind.

The acceptance of transfer credit was higher this year than in 2010 with 77.5% reporting 61-90 credits or more transferred (Table 9). One hundred and nineteen students weighed in concerning courses that would have made transfer easier. 68.1% indicated there were not any courses for an easier transition. 61.6% of students indicated all of their credits transferred a decrease from 2010. Those institutions that accepted more than half of SPSCC credits increased slightly from last year (Table 10). The generalized rating of “less than half of my credits” is 11.6%, up from 2010. Courses that students indicated did not transfer are in Appendix C.

Table 9: Credits Received for SPSCC Coursework

How many transfer credits did you receive for your SPSCC coursework?		2010	2011
	More than 90 credits		28.9%
61-90		39.7%	44.2%
46-60		12.4%	7.5%
31-45		4.1%	6.7%
16-30		4.1%	3.3%
0-15		10.7%	5.0%

Table 10: Category of Transfer Credit Acceptance

Please selection the option that best describes your transfer of credits. My transfer institution accepted.....		2010	2011
	All of my credits		68.5%
More than half of my credits		25.2%	26.8%
Less than half of my credits		3.6%	11.6%
Did not accept any of my credits		2.7%	0%

SPSCC helpfulness concerning information about the transfer process rated lower this year than in 2010 (Table 11). Students did not rate “Helpful” as high as last year while those that found SPSCC “Not Helpful” increased. Preparedness for upper level course work also decreased (Table 12) from 44.2% in 2010 to 35.3% in 2011. Those that did not feel well prepared increased from 2.7% in 2010 to 6.9% in 2011. Identified weaknesses or deficiencies are listed in Appendix D.

Table 11: Helpfulness Regarding the Transfer Process

How helpful was SPSCC in informing you about your transfer credits and the transfer process?		2010	2011
	Helpful		37.5%
Somewhat helpful		38.3%	39.7%
Not helpful		24.2%	29.8%

Table 12: SPSCC Preparation for Upper Division Coursework

How well did your coursework at SPSCC prepare you for your upper division coursework? I was...		2010	2011
	Very well prepared		44.2%
Generally well prepared		42.5%	37.1%
Moderately well prepared		10.6%	20.7%
Not well prepared		2.7%	6.9%

Eighty-six students returned their GPA information. Only students who provided a transfer institution were considered for this calculation. The Evergreen State College was eliminated due to their alternative grading methodology. The average GPA of the 2011 survey is 3.48, slightly higher than last year (3.38).

SPSCC Effectiveness

37% of respondents would not change anything about their education which is down from last year (Table 13). The difference in the numbers from the last year flowed down to indicate students would still attend but adjust their curriculum or select a 2-year or 4-year university.

Graduates' applicability and satisfaction with SPSCC coursework (Table 14) is down slightly from 2010. The frequency of those that selected the "Strongly Agree" and "Somewhat Agree" is consistent with the 2010 survey. Generally students agreed their coursework was applicable to their goals beyond SPSCC and the quality of instruction both in and out of their field were above average.

Table 13: Evaluating Institution and Program Choice

If you were starting your education all over again, which would you do?	2010	2011
	Attend SPSCC and enroll in the same curriculum	52.3%
Attend SPSCC but enroll in a different curriculum	27.9%	34.9%
Attend a different two-year college	5.8%	8.6%
Go directly to a four-year college/university	14.0%	18.9%
Not go to college at all	0%	.6%

Table 14: Applicability and Satisfaction with Coursework

<i>Applicability and Satisfaction with Coursework at SPSCC</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>
Courses provided me with the skills to apply in my chosen field*	68	1	5	3.78	1.244
Courses provided me with the skills to be successful at transfer institution**	88	1	5	3.95	1.027
Satisfaction with quality of instruction within my field	179	1	5	3.94	1.1
Satisfaction with quality of instruction outside my field	175	1	5	4.02	0.956

*Data analyzed only for those who reported working **Data analyzed only for those who reported transferring

College Wide Abilities

The college wide abilities categories are higher this year than last year. The highest frequencies of responses were "Strongly Agree" and "Somewhat Agree" across all abilities. Critical thinking was the ability with the strongest agreement while multi-cultural awareness had the least agreement but worth noting still in the "Strongly Agree" and "Somewhat Agree" categories. Overall, students are positive concerning the abilities obtained as a result of their time at SPSCC and feel confident in these key abilities after leaving SPSCC.

Table 15: College Wide Ability Evaluation

<i>College Wide Abilities</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>
Communicate Effectively	178	1	6	4.95	1.075
Think logically and critically	178	1	6	5.06	0.973
Evaluate and process symbolic and quantitative data	178	1	6	4.92	1.01
Understand myself in relation to others in a multicultural world	178	1	6	4.89	1.214
Understand ethical responsibilities and consequences	177	1	6	4.92	1.145

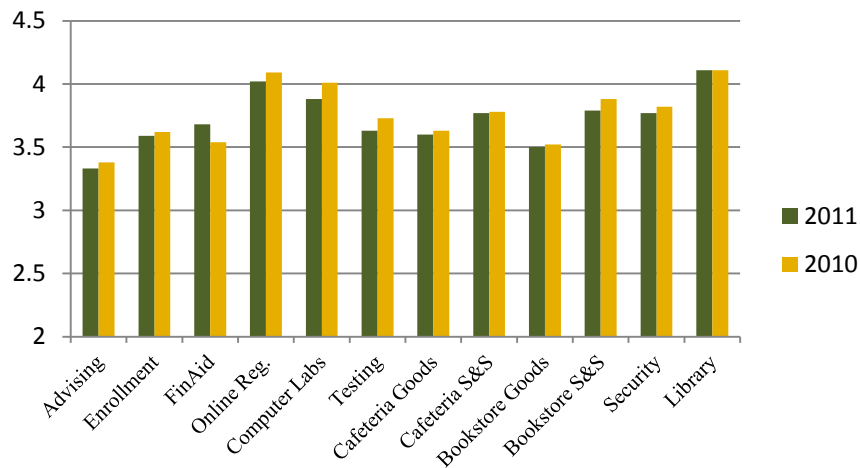
Campus Services

Financial Aid service was the only service that exceeded the 2011 means (Fig. 5) while the library mean remained the same as last year and was again rated the highest among graduates. However, the decreased rating of service in each category was slight and graduates rated services with “Satisfied” as the most frequent response followed by “Very Satisfied” and “Neutral”. Over sixty respondents offered suggestions and comments. There are many positive remarks as well as suggestions for improvement. Students remarked they enjoyed their program of study and time at SPSCC with accolades to faculty and staff, “...very talented and knowledgeable professors at SPSCC”. Opportunities for improvement were noted with several graduates mentioning service area improvements, faculty comments, job placement struggles, communication between departments and several indicating it would be helpful to build their curriculum around the entry requirements of the intended four year institution as well as suggestions for service areas. High prices for books and parking remains a consistent complaint.

Table 16: Campus Services Evaluation

<i>Campus Services</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>
Academic Advising	177	1	5	3.33	1.368
Enrollment Services	175	1	5	3.59	1.195
Financial Aid	145	1	5	3.68	1.189
Online Registration	170	1	5	4.02	0.929
Computer Labs	156	1	5	3.88	0.850
Placement Testing	153	1	5	3.63	0.985
Cafeteria Goods	134	1	5	3.60	1.034
Cafeteria Services and Staff	133	1	5	3.77	1.005
Bookstore Goods	171	1	5	3.50	1.097
Bookstore Services	170	1	5	3.79	1.039
Campus Security	158	1	5	3.77	0.937
Library	161	1	5	4.11	0.866

Figure 5: Service Comparison 2010 and 2011



Summary

This graduate survey revealed a decrease in several areas in comparison with 2010. The expectation and preparedness for employment, continued education, and services has declined from the 2010 survey. A comparison of percentages between 2010 and 2011 for each question is displayed in Table 17. Income and job expectation disappointment is higher than last year for employed students. Transfer students were not as confident in upper division coursework and more graduates indicated SPSCC was not helpful in the transfer process. Job relationship to degree award is a positive change from last year. The financial aid office exceeded their rating from last year, while advising invokes a more negative response than other services. Action plans are in development for survey rewording of academic advising as well as a preliminary plan to administer service questions more closely to actual time of graduation. The frequency of “Satisfied” is highest in all service categories. The college wide abilities is an area that had an increase in all areas, reflecting the effort the college as a whole has invested toward these initiatives.

Table 17: Survey Summary Trends

Survey Question	2010	2011
Pay compared to expectation was better	12.7%	11.8%
Pay compared to expectation was met	66.7%	44.7%
Pay compared to expectation was below	20.6%	43.4%
Job was directly related to degree	36.9%	38.2%
Job was indirectly related to degree	20.0%	21.1%
Job was not related to degree	43.1%	40.8%
Job expectation was better	19.0%	17.1%
Job expectation was met	52.4%	43.4%
Job expectation was below	28.6%	39.5%
Well prepared for work responsibilities	54.7%	37.8%
Generally well prepared for work responsibilities	20.3%	39.0%
Moderately well prepared for work responsibilities	20.3%	13.4%
Not well prepared for work responsibilities	4.7%	9.8%
Yes specific courses would have made transfer easier	26.0%	32.0%
No there were not specific courses for smoother transfer	74.0%	68.1%
Transfer institution accepted all my credits	68.5%	61.6%
Transfer institution accepted half or more of my credits	25.2%	26.8%
Transfer institution accepted less than half of my credits	3.6%	11.6%
Transfer institution accepted none of my credits	2.7%	0.0%
SPSCC was very helpful informing of the transfer process	37.5%	30.6%
SPSCC was somewhat helpful informing of the transfer process	38.3%	39.7%
SPSCC was not helpful of the transfer process	24.2%	29.8%
Well prepared for upper division coursework	44.2%	35.3%
Generally well prepared for upper division coursework	42.5%	37.1%
Moderately well prepared for upper division coursework	10.6%	20.7%
Not well prepared for upper division coursework	2.7%	6.9%
Transfer GPA	3.38	3.48
Attend SPSCC and enroll in the same program	52.3%	37.1%

Attend SPSCC and enroll in a different program	27.9%	34.9%
Attend a different 2-year college	5.8%	8.6%
Go directly to a four year college	14.0%	18.9%
Not go to college at all	0.0%	0.6%
The courses I took provided me with the ability to successfully apply within my chosen field	4.08	3.78
The courses I have taken provided me with the skills to be successful at my transfer institution	4.19	3.95
I was satisfied with the overall quality of the instruction within my major field	4.11	3.94
I was satisfied with the overall quality of the instruction outside my major field	4.02	4.02
Communicate effectively	4.24	4.95
Think Logically and Critically	4.34	5.06
Evaluate and process symbolic and quantitative data	4.05	4.92
Understand myself in relation to others in a multicultural world	4.30	4.89
Understand ethical responsibilities and consequences	4.20	4.92
Academic advising	3.38	3.33
Enrollment Services	3.62	3.59
Financial aid office	3.54	3.68
Online registration	4.09	4.02
Computer labs	4.01	3.88
Placement Testing	3.73	3.63
Cafeteria Goods	3.63	3.60
Cafeteria Services and Staff	3.78	3.77
Bookstore Goods	3.52	3.50
Bookstore Services and Staff	3.88	3.79
Campus Security	3.82	3.77
Library	4.11	4.11

Appendix A: List of Job Title and Employer

Employers	
Advance Equipment Co /and/ South Puget Sound CC	McDonalds
Affirma Consulting	North Thurston School District
AHC	Nutriom, LLC
All City Cleaning Services	Paclab
Allied Barton Security	PAML
Area on Aging Agency	Pierce Transit
AT&T mobility	Providence St Peters Hospital
Boeing	Pulmonary Consultants
Caesars Entertainment Corporation	Quinault Indian Nation
Capital Medical Center	Sears
City of Lacey	Shelton Cinemas
Cosmo Specialty Fibers	Sidwell air freight
Cutter's Point Coffee	Simpson Door Company
Damar Aerosystems	SPSCC
David's Bridal	Squaxin Island Legal Department
DaVita	St Clare Hospital
Department of Corrections	St. Joseph Medical Center
Department of Health	Starbucks Coffee Company
Dept of L & I	Target
Dr. deJesus	Total Care
DSHS	Tumwater School District
East Olympia fire Dist. 6	Univera, Inc
Employment Security Department	US Postal Service
Evergreen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center	Vantage Community Management
Extencare/evergreen nursing and rehab	WA State Auditor
Genothen Holdings LLC	Washington State Dept of Revenue
Group Health	Washington State Dept. of Transportation
Guild Mortgage Co.	Welco
James Gang Ranch	Western Institutional Review Board
Jefferson Healthcare	Western State Hospital
Madigan Army Medical Center	William M Steely, MD
Manorcare	Woodland Park Zoo
Mary Zielinski	Zingaros Espresso

Job Titles

Job Titles	
Accessioner	Manager - Denials Management Team
Accounting Assistant	Materials Supply Tech
Accounts Receivable Specialist II	NC Programmer
Adjudicator	Network Management Assistant
Administrative Assistant	Night Custodial
Assistant Operator	Office nurse/ surgical 1st assistant
Barista	Orthodontic Assistant
CAD/Documentation Spec /and/ Inst.Supp.Tech-1	Orthopedic RN
Caregiver	Owner
Cashier	Para-Educator
Claims Representative, Interpreter	Part-time firefighter
Classroom Support Tech 2	PC Support Technician
CNA	Project Drafter
Consultant Sales Representative	Pulmonary Function Test Tech
Correction Officer	Resident Care Manager
Crew	RN
Disbursement Coordinator	Route Driver International Specialist
Engineer	Rural Letter Carrier
Independent Caregiver	Sales Floor Team Member
ITS	Sawfiler
Land Survey Tech	Security Officer
Lead courier/trainer	Shift Supervisor
Lead Mechanic	Stall Cleaner
Lead Software Developer	Wedding Consultant
Logistics Coordinator	Wing Skin Prep Mech B
LPN	Wireless Sales
Mail Processing Driver Lead	WorkFirst Services Specialist

Appendix B: Weaknesses or Deficiencies in SPSCC Preparation for Work Responsibilities

Preparedness Weakness or Deficiency
I already had this job before I started SPSCC
Any weakness or deficiencies were my own and had nothing to do with SPSCC
Human Biology was the requirement for my degree, I really needed human anatomy. Probably not this program's fault.
I obtained a transfer degree from SPSCC, I'm not yet finished with my education.
I studied things not practical to use without further education
Needed more depth in some areas that were glossed over too quickly
Needed more hands on experience with passing medications. I realize this was a long time ago and the program has probably changed.
OB and peds experience was lacking
paperwork, med orders, communicating with pcps
Some of the Administrative Assistant classes aren't as "with the times" as they could be. I also think that the InDesign class should be replaced with a class on MS Publisher which is a far more common program.
Various leadership skills as well as no training in Access
I feel that my education was inadequate compared to my peers at work.
No sheet metal experience obtained from SPSCC.
Current Job is not in field of study
I was not confident in applying book knowledge; poor reporting skills (shift report, transfer report), poor physical communication skills, poor actual pt/family teaching skills; poor time management/prioritization
I will be prepared when I get a job in my field.
The problem with what I learned is that computer programs change every 2 years and It's almost been 2 years since I graduated and I can't find employment with my degree.

Appendix C: Specific Course Transition

Transfer Courses for Easier Transition
Accounting
ASL or Foreign Language
Biology
Business
C Programming
Calculus
Chemistry
Criminal Justice 101
Diverse History Courses
English
General Education
International Relations
Intro to Creative Arts
Intro to Electrical Engineering
Journalism
Math 108
Micro Economics
Microprocessor Course
Music Theory
Philosophy
Religion
Religion and Western Culture
Research Preparation
Time Management

Courses Not Accepted at Transfer Institution
Any credits over 60
CHEM 110
CIS 105
CIS Classes
CNA 101 & 102
General Education
Half of CAD class credits
MCOM 114
PE 182
Spanish 1
Those that didn't apply to my major

Appendix D: Weakness or Deficiencies in SPSCC Preparation for Upper Division Coursework

Preparedness Weakness or Deficiencies
As expected, the workload of my current courses is much more demanding
did not attend SPSCC expecting to transfer. needed more math skills
Did not take as many lower division credits for my major as possible, could have been instructed to do so
Finance for business students and quantitative methods for stats
I would have hoped to have been better prepared for Organic Chemistry and the second part of Physics (Electricity and Magnetism)
Just not touching on a couple aspects of the subject that teachers at the university talk about in the intro class and then again in the upper-division course.
The programs utilize quite different skills. Lit reviews at SPSCC were helpful for writing skills. UWT BSN program goes out of its way to help with transition to upper division. Really the transition has not been hard academically.
There was not enough readings at SPSCC. Rather than focusing on attendance teachers should focus more on student comprehension of difficult reading
amount of material covered in classes, pace of class
classes focus more on memorization rather than analyzing
courses too general and not challenging enough
Difficulty of classes at SPS is a joke.
Elementary technical math was a joke and your school should allow smarter students to take a higher level math course.
English
Even though I received A's in eng101 and 102 I was unprepared for university level writing.
I was prepared because I attended other universities before transferring. If I had just taken classes at SPSCC I don't think I would have been prepared for the workload of my classes. But I attended two other universities before attending SPSCC
Public speaking
quarters to semester
the course work at SPSCC was more hands on than the upper division course work
time-management, research tactics, writing proficiency
My advisor was not helpful in having me target my future education, and as such I was held back a full year.
None of the science or math classes I took at SPSCC prepared me for the classes I have now
SPSCC's "advanced" courses are still far below work expected at a four year college. It's a struggle to maintain current course work and study all the information that I'm already expected to know
The classes at PLU are very rigorous. I thought I would be ahead of those that did not take any community college classes. I was not prepared at all.

Appendix E: Survey Administration

1,023 graduate surveys for those graduating in 2010-11 were sent out in April of 2011. 959 of these were sent out via e-mail and 64 were sent USPS to those graduates who did not have an e-mail address on file. Of those respondents, 227 of the e-mail recipients responded and 6 of the USPS responded. Indicating e-mail is a more efficient and effective administration of the survey. The response rate of 233 surveys indicates a 22.8% response rate.

A change from previous surveys was the use of e-mail address as the primary key to match respondents to an internal tracking number. Those that did not have an e-mail had a prefilled tracking number on the survey. Eliminating this step provided a more robust collection of program data. Due to the late administration only one reminder was sent out to e-mail addresses that did not respond. This was effective and in the future, more reminders will be sent out.

Dear 2010-11 SPSCC Graduate,

We would like to invite you to participate in a short 2010-11 Graduate Survey. The purpose of the survey is to obtain your opinion about SPSCC, your experience as a student, and your transfer or employment preparedness following your time at SPSCC. The information collected will shape decisions regarding our students growing and changing needs. To access your personalized survey, please follow the link provided below:

www.surveymonkey.com

All information gathered is confidential and individual responses will be aggregated and summarized. We reach out to our business community to shape our curriculum and would appreciate your response to the Employment Section on the graduate survey. We will never individually identify survey respondents when contacting our partners.

Thank you for assisting SPSCC in our research. Your response will directly influence improvements and changes for our current and future students. As a Thank You, you will be entered into a drawing for a \$75 Safeway gift card provided by the South Puget Sound College Foundation. Please complete the survey no later than May 20, 2012 for full consideration in the drawing.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tuia
Director of Institutional Research
South Puget Sound Community College
jtuia@spscc.ctc.edu

Please note: If you do not wish to receive further emails from South Puget Sound Community College Institutional Research, please click the link below, and you will be automatically removed from our mailing list.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/optout.aspx>

2010-11 Graduate Survey

Section I. Current Status

1. Which of the following best describes your current status?

- a) Employed full-time, b) Employed part-time, c) Student, d) Not employed, seeking employment, e) Self-employed, f) Not employed, not seeking employment, g) Retired, h) Other _____

Section II. Employment

If you are currently employed, please provide the following information about your employer. If you are not currently employed, please skip to Section III.

2. Name and address of your employer _____

Your job title _____

3. Please provide a name and email address where an Employer Survey can be sent:

4. What is your annual income?

- a) Under \$10,000, b) \$10,000-\$20,000, c) \$20,001-\$30,000, d) \$30,001-\$40,000, e) \$40,001-\$50,000,
f) \$50,001 - \$75,000, g) 75,001-\$100,000, h) Above \$100,000

5. How does this pay compare to what you expected as a result of completing your SPSCC program?

- a) Better than expected b) About as expected c) Not as good as expected

6. Is your current job related to the program in which you received your degree?

- a) Yes, directly related b) Yes, indirectly related c) No, not related

7. How does your current job compare to the type of job you expected to have as a result of completing your SPSCC program?

- a) Better than expected b) About as expected c) Not as good as expected

8. How well did SPSCC prepare you for your work responsibilities?

- a) I was very well prepared, b) I was generally well prepared with some weaknesses, c) I was moderately well prepared with some clear deficiencies, d) I was not well prepared (Please list weaknesses or deficiencies _____)

Section III. Transfer Education

If you are continuing your education, please answer the following questions about your transfer experience. If you are not continuing your education, please skip to Section IV.

9. What is the name of the college or university you are currently attending? _____

10. How many transfer credits did you receive for your SPSCC coursework?

- a) 0 – 15 credits, b) 16-30 credits, c) 31-45 credits, d) 46-60 credits, e) 61-90 credits, f) More than 90 credits

11. Are there specific courses that would have made your transfer to a 4 year school easier?

- a) No, b) Yes (please list suggested courses _____)

12. Please select the option below that best describes your transfer of credits:

- a) My transfer institution accepted all of my credits, b) My transfer institution accepted half or more of my credits, c) My transfer institution accepted less than half of my credits, d) My transfer institution did not accept any of my credits
Please list any courses that your transfer institution did not accept: _____

13. How helpful was SPSCC in informing you about your transfer credits and the transfer process?

- a) Helpful; I was well informed about which credits would count for my transfer and how to transfer
b) Somewhat helpful: I was somewhat informed about which credits would count and how to transfer
c) Not helpful: I was not informed about which credits would count or how to transfer

14. How well did your coursework at SPSCC prepare you for your upper division coursework?

- a) I was very well prepared, b) I was generally well prepared, with some weaknesses, c) I was moderately well prepared with some clear deficiencies, d) I was not well prepared (Please list weaknesses or deficiencies _____)

15. What is your current cumulative GPA at your transfer institution? _____

2010-11 Graduate Survey

Section IV. SPSCC Effectiveness:

16. If you were starting your education all over again, which would you do?

- a) Attend SPSCC and enroll in the same curriculum
- b) Attend SPSCC but enroll in a different curriculum
- c) Attend a different two-year college
- d) Go directly to a four-year college/university
- e) Not go to college at all

17. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

		Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
a.	The courses I took provided me with skills and abilities that I was able to successfully apply within my chosen career.						
b.	The courses I have taken provided me with the necessary skills to be successful at my transfer institution.						
c.	I was satisfied with the overall quality of the instruction within my major field.						
d.	I was satisfied with the overall quality of the instruction outside my major field.						

18. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	My experience at SPSCC enabled me to...	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
a.	Communicate effectively						
b.	Think logically and critically						
c.	Evaluate and process symbolic and quantitative data						
d.	Understand yourself in relation to others in a multicultural world						
e.	Understand ethical responsibilities and consequences						

19. In thinking about your experience at SPSCC, please indicate your level of satisfaction with each of the following services:

		Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A
a.	Academic advising						
b.	Enrollment services						
c.	Financial aid office						
d.	Online registration						
e.	Computer labs						
f.	Placement testing						
g.	Cafeteria goods						
h.	Cafeteria services and staff						
i.	Bookstore goods						
j.	Bookstore services and staff						
k.	Campus security						
l.	Library						

20. How familiar are you with the South Puget Sound Community College Foundation?

- a) Very familiar
- b) Somewhat familiar
- c) Not at all familiar

21. Would you be interested in receiving communication from the College Foundation?

- a) Yes (your tracking number will be used to identify your contact information)
- b) No

22. Please provide any other comments or feedback you may have about how we can better serve students in the future: