

THE 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

Each year, many thousands of students complete programs of study at British Columbia's post-secondary institutions. Student feedback provides information that is key to maintaining a high-quality, relevant education system. During 2010, four annual surveys were used to collect information from former students. These different surveys included former students who took apprenticeship technical training; baccalaureate programs; diploma, associate degree, and certificate programs; and from the developmental studies field, English as a Second or Additional Language (ESL) training. The surveys are conducted with funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, the Industry Training Authority, and from B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions.

About Student Outcomes

Findings from the student outcomes surveys are used by the Province of B.C. for labour market analysis, policy development, and accountability. Post-secondary institutions use the data to improve programs and services, and their academic and career counsellors draw on the results to advise prospective and continuing students. Students, parents, and the general public can view outcomes information through *Search BC Post-Secondary Student Survey Results* (<http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/SORSLite/SORSLiteHome.aspx>) or *Education Planner* (www.educationplanner.bc.ca).

For more information on BC Student Outcomes, please see <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca> or contact the institutional research department of any B.C. public university, college, or institute.

In the Highlights

Of the former apprenticeship students surveyed:

- ▶ 95% were very satisfied or satisfied with their in-school education
- ▶ 86% said the quality of instruction was very good or good
- ▶ 83% said their training covered the standards used in their field
- ▶ 97% were in the labour force; the unemployment rate was 11%

Of the baccalaureate graduates surveyed:

- ▶ 95% were very satisfied or satisfied with their education
- ▶ 95% said the quality of instruction was very good or good
- ▶ 54% took further education; 18% were currently studying full-time
- ▶ 87% were in the labour force; the unemployment rate was 7%

Of the former diploma, associate degree, and certificate students surveyed:

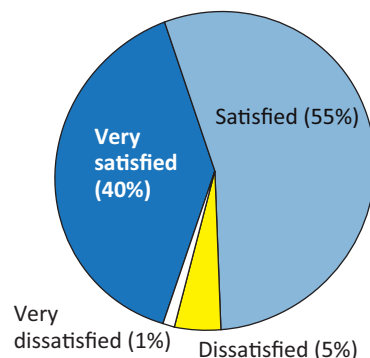
- ▶ 94% were very satisfied or satisfied with their education
- ▶ 82% said the quality of instruction was very good or good
- ▶ 80% of former Arts and Sciences students took further education
- ▶ 88% of respondents from Applied programs were in the labour force; the unemployment rate was 11%

Of the former developmental students (ESL only) surveyed:

- ▶ 94% were very satisfied or satisfied with their English language training
- ▶ 83% said the quality of teaching was very good or good
- ▶ 83% said their courses helped them develop English writing skills
- ▶ 62% pursued further education

Overall Satisfaction

The former post-secondary students who were surveyed in 2010 were satisfied with the education they received—in spite of labour market conditions that made finding employment more difficult than it has been for many years. Most of the respondents from all four surveys said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied*.





Apprenticeship Student Outcomes

Since 2005, the Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSO) Survey has collected information from former apprenticeship students who have completed the final level of their technical training. The 2010 APPSO survey was conducted by telephone from January to April of 2010; 2,750 former apprentices from 29 institutions (14 public and 15 private) were surveyed, 8 to 18 months after they completed their apprenticeship programs. The response rate was 56 percent.

Former apprenticeship students

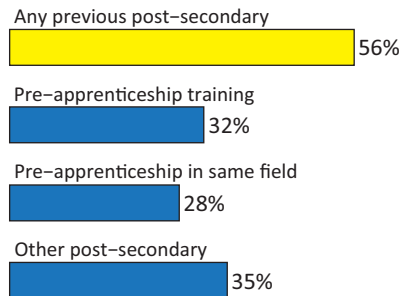
B.C. apprentices get most of their training on-the-job, but they are required to take several weeks of technical training in a classroom setting in each year of their apprenticeship. Although many of the apprentices surveyed in 2010 took their in-school training through private institutions, four out of five trained in a public post-secondary institution. Over half studied one of the construction trades—Electrician and Carpentry programs had the greatest number of respondents.

Most (95 percent) of the former apprenticeship students surveyed were male. Ninety percent of respondents were born in Canada, 7 percent were naturalized Canadians, and 2 percent were permanent residents or landed immigrants. Out of all respondents, 4 percent identified themselves as Aboriginal.

The age of respondents at the time of the survey ranged from 18 to 61; almost one-third were 25 to 29, only 15 percent were 40 or older, and very few were over 50. Their median age was 28.

Over half (56 percent) of the former apprentices had taken some previous post-secondary education; 35 percent had taken post-secondary education other than specific pre-apprenticeship training. Just under one-third had taken pre-apprenticeship training—a trades foundation course or entry-level trades training—usually in the same trade as their apprenticeship.

Previous post-secondary education



Note: About 11 percent of respondents took pre-apprenticeship training *and* other post-secondary education.

Type of trade program taken, by institution sector

Trade Grouping	Public Institution	Private Institution	Total
Agriculture & Natural Resources Trades	<1%	<.5%	1%
Construction Trades	38%	14%	52%
Mechanic & Repair Technologies	23%	2%	24%
Personal & Culinary Services	4%	<.5%	4%
Precision Production Trades	16%	1%	17%
Transportation Trades	<1%	<.5%	1%
Total	82%	18%	100%

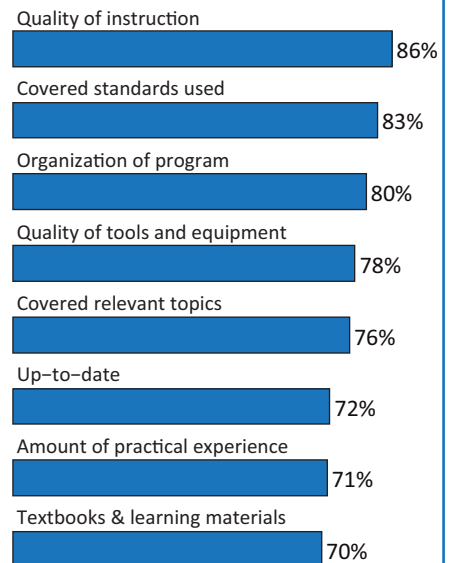
Note: Programs are grouped using the 2-digit CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs).

Evaluation of in-school experiences

When asked how well their in-school apprenticeship training helped them to develop skills, 82 percent of respondents said they were helped (*very well* or *well*) to develop skills in using mathematics appropriate to their field and in learning on their own. A majority of 78 percent said they were helped to develop skills in using the appropriate tools and equipment.

The former apprentices were asked to rate a number of aspects of their training, from the quality of instruction to the organization of the program and the training content. In each case, a majority of respondents gave a *very good* or *good* rating. The largest approval rating went to the quality of instruction: 86 percent of respondents said it was *very good* or *good*.

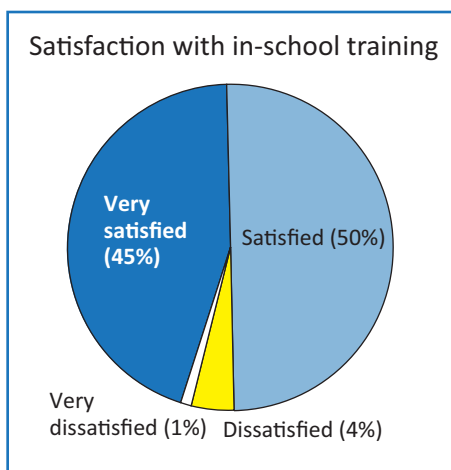
Ratings for aspects and content of training



Note: The percentages are those who said *very good* or *good*, out of all respondents who gave a rating, excluding those who said *not applicable*.

Almost all respondents (95 percent) said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the in-school education they received as part of their apprenticeship program.

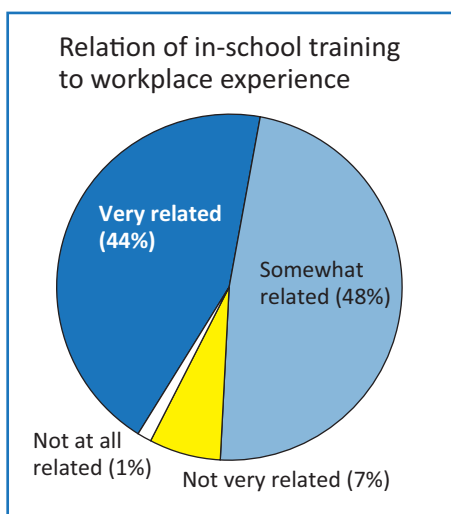
Overall satisfaction with in-school training has been consistently high since this survey began in 2005.



By the time of the survey, 83 percent of those surveyed said they had passed their certification exams and received their Trades Qualification, Certificate of Qualification, or Interprovincial Certification.

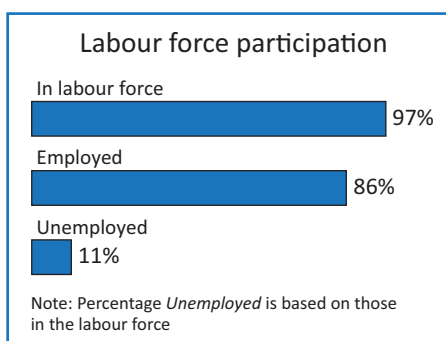
Workplace experiences

The level of satisfaction with former apprentices' workplace training was very high: 93 percent said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their overall workplace training experience. A similarly high percentage of respondents said their workplace experience was related to their in-school training.

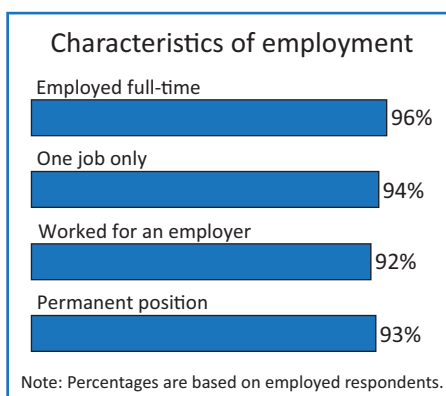


Labour force participation

At the time of the 2010 survey, almost all former apprenticeship students were in the labour force (employed or looking for work). The unemployment rate of 11 percent was higher than it was for the 2009 respondents (8 percent), reflecting the slump in employment for apprenticeable occupations in B.C. that occurred in the months preceding the 2010 survey.



The typical employed respondent had one job and worked full-time in a permanent position. Most worked for an employer; 8 percent were self-employed. The median hourly wage of employed respondents was \$29.



Former students were asked to say how useful the knowledge and skills they gained through their program of studies had been in performing their job. A very large majority (96 percent) said what they learned had been useful: 61 percent said *very useful* and 35 percent said *somewhat useful*.

Baccalaureate Graduates

The 2010 *Baccalaureate Graduates Survey (BGS)* collected information from degree graduates on their employment outcomes, further education, and satisfaction with their studies. The survey targeted those who graduated in 2008—9,437 former students responded by telephone or online, from 21 to 33 months after they completed their studies. The response rate was 53 percent.

Baccalaureate graduates

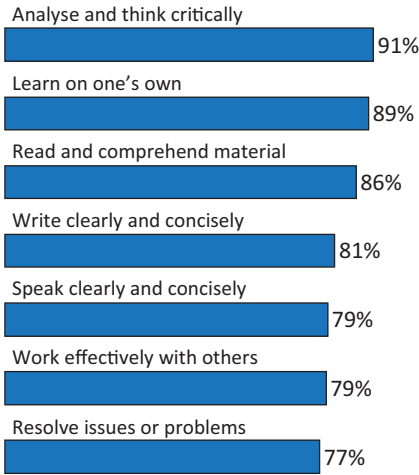
When they were surveyed, the baccalaureate respondents had a median age of 27—the median age for females and males was the same. Almost two-thirds (63 percent) were female, and 3 percent of respondents identified themselves as Aboriginal.

Education evaluation

The former students surveyed were asked to rate the degree to which their institution helped them develop skills. Large majorities of respondents gave their institutions *very high* or *high* ratings for skill development.

A large majority of 90 percent said their core program of required courses was *very good* or *good* in terms of providing for a comprehensive or full understanding of their field of study. An even larger majority of 95 percent rated the quality of course instruction in their program as *very good* or *good*.

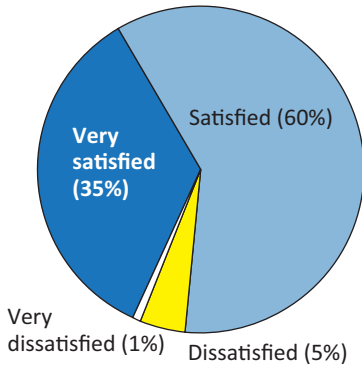
Ratings of the degree of help received for skill development



Note: Percentages are those who gave their institution a *very high* or *high* rating at helping them develop the skill, out of all respondents who gave a rating, excluding those who said *not applicable*.

Similarly, 95 percent said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the education they received from their program of study.

Satisfaction with education



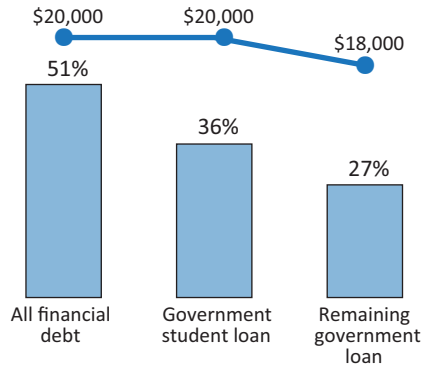
Student finances

BGS respondents were asked to estimate the amount of debt—from student loans or other sources—they incurred to cover education and living expenses associated with the education program they completed in 2008. Slightly more than half

of those who responded to the question said they had debt; the median amount for those who borrowed was \$20,000.

Over one-third (36 percent) of respondents said they had incurred government sponsored student loan debt. The median amount for those who had this type of debt was \$20,000. Respondents were also asked to estimate the amount of government student loan they had remaining at the time they were surveyed—23 percent of those who had a government loan had repaid it in full.

Rates of borrowing and loan amounts



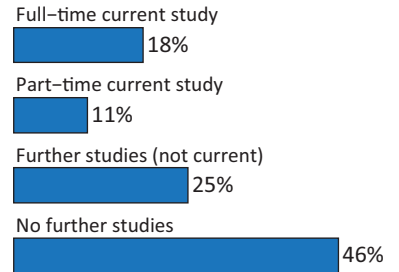
Note: Percentages are based on all respondents who answered the question. Dollar amounts shown are medians, based on those who have debt.

Further education

At the time of the survey, over half of the graduates said they had taken other formal post-secondary education or training. More than half of those respondents were currently studying and of those students, almost two-thirds were attending full-time.

The students who were enrolled in degree programs were asked if their earlier program had prepared them academically for their current studies—87 percent said they had been *very well* or *well prepared*.

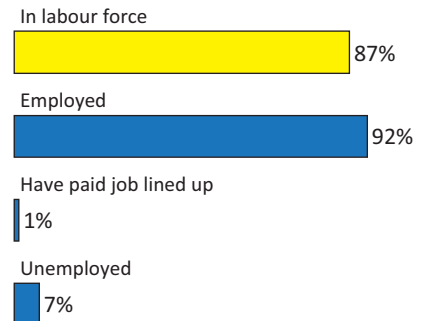
Further study since 2008 graduation



Labour force participation

The majority of the graduates surveyed were in the labour force, that is, employed or looking for work. The unemployment rate was relatively low at 7 percent.

Labour force participation

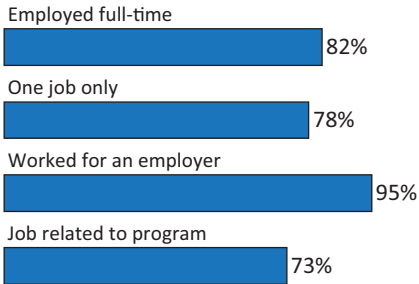


Note: *Employed*, *Have paid job lined up*, and *Unemployed* percentages are based on those in the labour force.

Employed respondents were likely to be working full-time in a position paid by an employer—5 percent were self-employed, while 6 percent worked for an employer and were self-employed. Almost three-quarters of those with a job said it was *very* or *somewhat related* to the program they graduated from.

The median annual salary for employed respondents was \$45,000; for those with full-time employment, it was \$48,000. (Salary amounts are based on main job, for those who had more than one.)

Characteristics of employment



Note: Percentages are based on employed respondents.

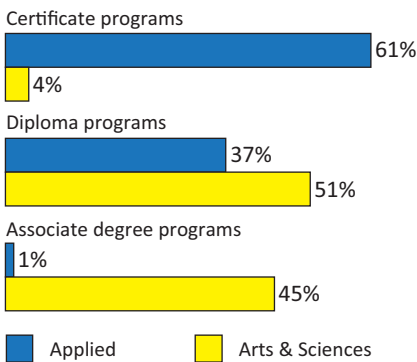
A large majority of employed respondents said the knowledge, skills, and abilities they acquired during their baccalaureate education were useful to them in their work: 85 percent said they were *very useful* or *useful*.

Former diploma, associate degree, and certificate students

Almost four-fifths (79 percent) of former students surveyed had taken Applied programs, which are intended to lead to employment in a specific field, such as business management, communications, or health technology. Included in the Applied category are trades Foundation or pre-apprenticeship training programs; 19 percent of respondents had taken this type of training. Over 60 percent of the credentials associated with Applied programs were certificates (6 to 12 month).

Over one-fifth of the survey respondents had been in Arts and Sciences programs—programs that typically lead to further study. Roughly half of the former Arts and Sciences students had taken diploma programs, and just under half had been in associate degree or university transfer programs (12 to 24 month programs).

Program credentials by program type

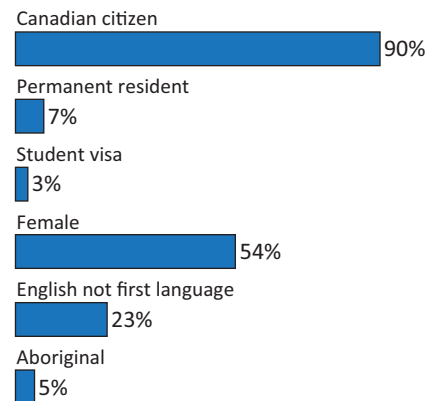


Note: Associate degree programs include university transfer.

Almost half (49 percent) of all the former students who responded to the survey had been in certificate programs, while 40 percent had taken diploma programs. Only 11 percent of respondents overall had been enrolled in associate degree or university transfer programs.

At the time of the survey, the median age of all respondents was 24. There were differences by gender: female respondents tended to be older, with a median age of 26, compared to 23 for males. Over half of the respondents were female, about 5 percent identified themselves as Aboriginal, and almost one-quarter said that English was not their first language. Most respondents (90 percent) were Canadian citizens, either Canadian born (75 percent) or naturalized (15 percent).

Demographics of respondents



Approximately half of all respondents had taken post-secondary studies before their recent programs. Women were much more likely than men to have had previous post-secondary education: 54 versus 43 percent.

Education evaluation

The former students surveyed were asked how well their programs did at helping them develop certain skills. For each item, a large majority of respondents said their program did *very well* or *well* at providing opportunities for skill development.

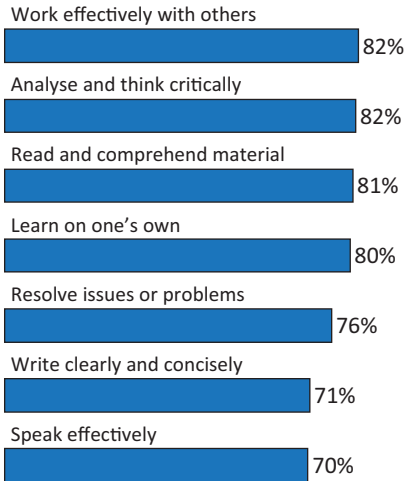
Large majorities also gave high ratings to their courses, saying they were *very good* or *good* at covering the topics most relevant to their fields, covering the standards used, and being up-to-date.



Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes

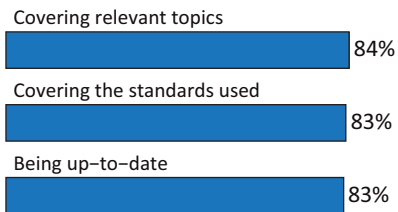
The 2010 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey was conducted January to June 2010. The survey targeted former students who had completed or nearly completed their programs 9 to 20 months previously—15,612 former students from 20 of B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions participated by telephone or online. The overall response rate for the survey was 60 percent.

Evaluation of the opportunities provided for skill development



Note: Percentages are those who said their program did *well* or *very well* at helping them develop the skill, out of all respondents who gave a rating, excluding those who said *not applicable*.

Ratings of course content

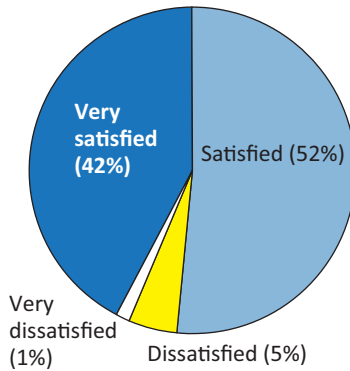


Note: Percentages are those who said their course content was *very good* or *good*, out of all respondents who gave a rating, excluding those who said *not applicable*.

A majority of 82 percent said the quality of instruction they received throughout their program of study was *very good* or *good*. When asked to rate their overall satisfaction with the education they received, 94 percent said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied*.

The former students were also asked if they had met their most important objective for enrolling—84 percent said it had been *completely* or *mostly met*.

Satisfaction with education

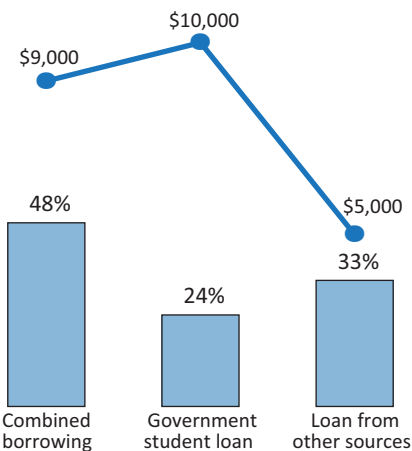


Student finances

Almost half (48 percent) of the former students surveyed had borrowed to finance their studies, either from a government student loan program or other source. Almost one-quarter of respondents had a student loan, and one-third borrowed from other sources. Approximately 9 percent of respondents borrowed from the government loan program *and* other sources.

The median amount borrowed (by the 48 percent who borrowed from government student loan programs or other

Rates of borrowing and loan amounts



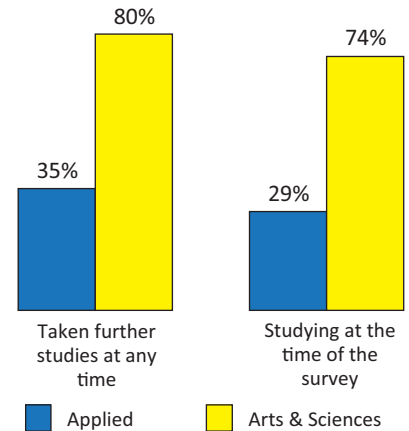
Note: Percentages are based on all respondents who answered the question. Dollar amounts shown are medians, based on those who have debt.

sources combined) was \$9,000. Although a higher percentage of former students borrowed from sources other than the government loan program, the median amount of these other-source loans was significantly lower than the student loan amount.

Further education

Nearly half (45 percent) of all respondents said they had taken, or were currently taking, further education or training; 38 percent were studying at the time the survey was administered. There are some major differences in rates of further study depending on program type—those who took Arts and Sciences programs were much more likely to be continuing their studies. Most of the respondents who took further education said their programs prepared them for their ongoing learning: 92 percent said they were *very well* or *somewhat prepared*.

Further education by program type

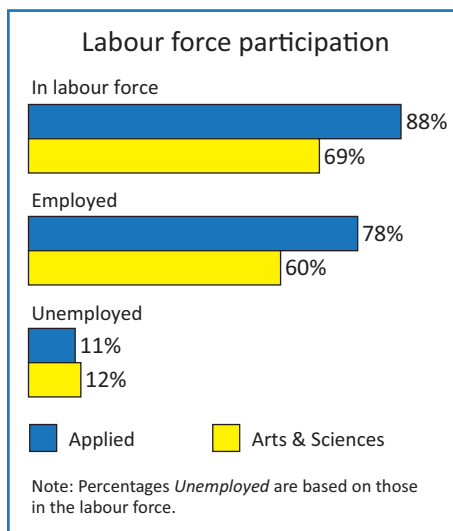


Of the former trades Foundation students who were surveyed, 42 percent were successful at getting apprenticeship placements. Most of these new apprentices (96 percent) said they had been *very well*, *well*, or *adequately prepared* by their Foundation training.



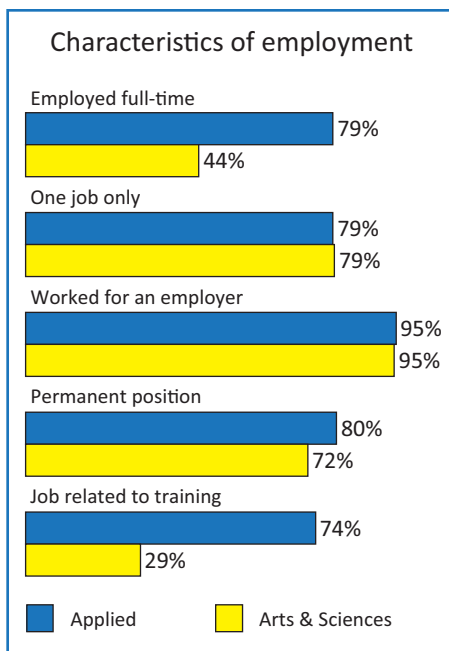
Labour force participation

Former Arts and Sciences students, who had high participation rates in further education, were less likely than respondents from Applied programs to be in the labour force. The labour force includes those who are employed and those who are looking for work. The unemployment rate—the percentage of unemployed in the labour force—for both groups was similar.



For those who were employed at the time of the survey, the majority had one job only, and most worked for an employer: only about 5 percent were self-employed. Employment differed between respondents from Applied programs and those from Arts and Sciences. Those from Applied programs, whose education was intended to lead to employment, were much more likely to say their job was related to their training and more likely to be working full-time in a permanent position.

There were also significant differences in the reported wages of the two groups. The median hourly wage for respondents from Applied programs was \$18.50; for former Arts and Sciences students, it was \$14.00. (Those amounts include part-time employment and are calculated for main



job only. Since almost three-quarters of Arts and Sciences respondents were studying again at the time of the survey, they were much more likely to have part-time employment.)

Over three-quarters (76 percent) of employed respondents agreed that the knowledge and skills they learned from their studies were useful to them in the performance of their jobs. Once again, there was a significant difference between the responses of former students depending on their program type. Respondents from Applied programs were much more likely to say their training helped them perform their jobs: 81 percent said the knowledge and skills they learned were *very* or *somewhat useful*, compared with 49 percent of former Arts and Sciences students who said the same.

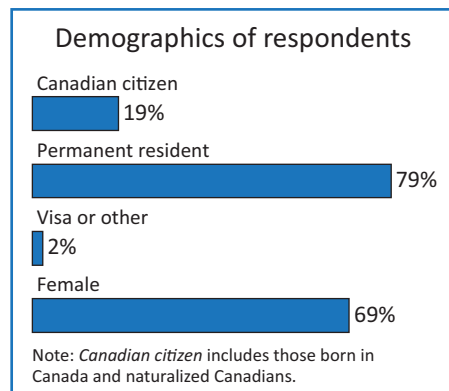
Developmental Student Outcomes

Since 2009, the Developmental Student Outcomes (DEVSO) Survey has collected information from former domestic English as a Second Language (ESL) students, who studied at the intermediate level or higher. They were asked to evaluate their educational experiences and to report on their transitions to the labour market and further education. The 2010 DEVSO Survey was conducted by telephone and online in February and March of 2010, 8 to 18 months after students left their ESL courses. There were 885 respondents, making the response rate 48 percent.

Former developmental students

The former ESL students who were surveyed tended to be older than DACSO survey participants: the median age for females who had taken English language training was 34, and the median age for males was 32. Well over two-thirds of the former ESL students who were surveyed were female.

Most of the respondents came from outside Canada; only 2 percent were Canadian born. By the time of the survey,

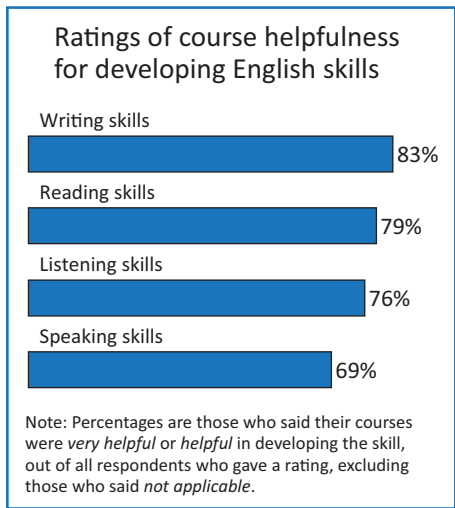


17 percent of those not born in Canada were Canadian citizens and a large majority were permanent residents.

The former students who were born outside of Canada often had high levels of previous post-secondary education: 72 percent had studied at the post-secondary level and 50 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Of all respondents, 62 percent had taken previous English language training.

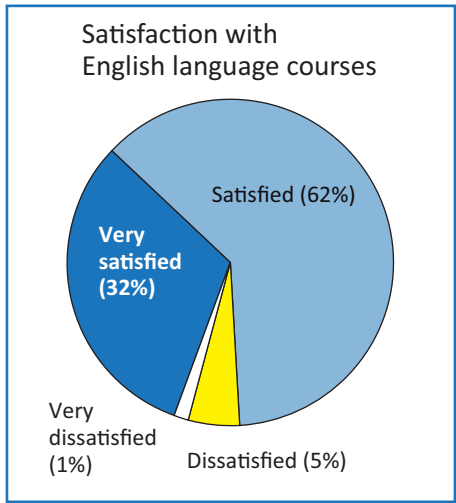
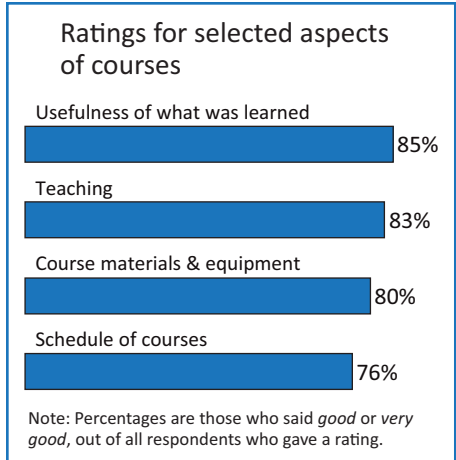
Education evaluation

Former students were asked to rate the helpfulness of their courses with regard to development of English skills: writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Most respondents said they found their courses to be *helpful* or *very helpful*. They were most likely to give high ratings to the help received to develop writing skills.



Former students were asked to rate aspects of their training—a large majority said the usefulness of what they learned was *very good* or *good*. The quality of teaching received a *very good* or *good* rating from 83 percent of respondents.

Survey respondents rated their overall satisfaction with the English language training courses they took—94 percent said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied*.



A majority of 82 percent said their courses were *very helpful* or *helpful* to them in achieving their most important goal for enrolling.

Further education

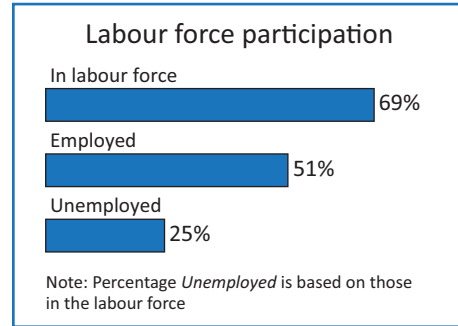
At the time of the survey, 46 percent of former students were enrolled in a program of study or taking courses other than English language training. Of those who were not studying again when surveyed, 28 percent had taken courses since leaving their ESL studies. In all, 62 percent of respondents pursued some form of further education after leaving their ESL studies.

Most (91 percent) of the former students who took any further education said they had been *very well* or *somewhat pre-*

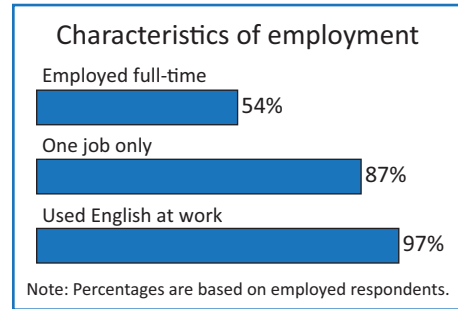
pared for the studies they enrolled in after leaving their ESL courses.

Labour force participation

At the time of the survey, 69 percent of former students were in the labour force, that is, employed or looking for work. The rate of labour force participation is similar to the rate of the DACSO former Arts and Sciences students and reflects ESL students' high level of participation in further education.



For those who were employed, over half were employed full-time, most had only one job, and almost all used English at work. The median salary was \$12.00. (This amount includes part-time employment and is calculated for main job only.)



The employed respondents who said they used English at work were asked if their ESL training had helped them to use the language in their workplace. Over three-quarters (76 percent) said they found their training *very helpful* or *helpful* in using English at work.