

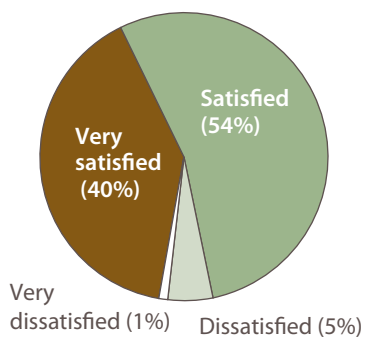
BC Student Outcomes

The 2011 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 2011, four annual surveys were used to collect information from former students who left apprenticeship technical training; baccalaureate programs; diploma, associate degree, and certificate programs; and the developmental studies of Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second or Additional Language (ESL). The surveys are conducted with funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, the Industry Training Authority, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, through the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation, and B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions.

Overall Satisfaction

Former students' overall satisfaction with their education is high; in 2011, 94 percent of all respondents to the outcomes surveys said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied*.



OVERALL

BC Student Outcomes gave voice to over 30,000 former post-secondary students in 2011. Through the four outcomes surveys, they let us know that the province's post-secondary system provided them with the skills and knowledge they needed to find employment or continue their education. They expressed their opinions regarding their study experiences and evaluated aspects of their programs. The information they gave is used for system-wide accountability and supports programming and policy decisions at B.C.'s public universities, colleges, and institutes, the Industry Training Authority, and the Ministry of Advanced Education.

In the Highlights

Of the former **apprenticeship** students surveyed:

- 84% said the quality of instruction was *very good* or *good*
- 82% said their training covered the standards used in their field
- 95% were in the labour force; the unemployment rate was 11%

Of the **baccalaureate** graduates surveyed:

- 94% said the quality of instruction was *very good* or *good*
- 54% took further education; 19% were currently studying full-time
- 88% were in the labour force; the unemployment rate was 7%

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

- 81% said the quality of instruction was *very good* or *good*
- 73% of former Arts and Sciences students took further education
- 89% of respondents from Applied programs were in the labour force; their unemployment rate was 11%

Of the former **developmental** students surveyed:

- 87% said the quality of teaching was *very good* or *good*
- 83% of ABE respondents said their courses helped them develop math skills, and 87% of ESL respondents said they were helped to develop English writing skills
- 71% of ABE respondents and 63% of ESL respondents pursued further education

Former Apprenticeship Students

Since 2005, the Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSO) Survey has collected information from former apprenticeship students who have completed their technical training. The 2011 APPSO survey was conducted by telephone and online from January to April of 2011; 3,599 former apprentices from 38 institutions (14 public and 24 private) were surveyed, 8 to 18 months after they completed their apprenticeship programs. The response rate was 55 percent. At the time of the survey, the median age of the former students who responded was 27. Most respondents (91 percent) were men.

Apprenticeship programs

A successful apprentice in B.C. is one who has earned a certificate or “ticket” by completing the required work hours and technical training and then passing examinations. Most of an apprentice’s training is on-the-job, but approximately one-fifth of the required instruction is in a classroom setting. Four out of five apprentices surveyed in 2011 took their in-school training through a public post-

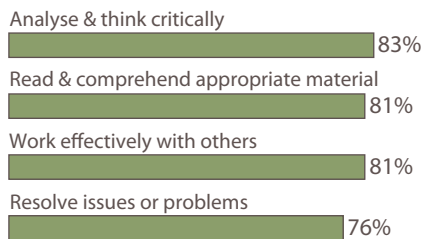
secondary institution and one in five, from a private institution. Almost half of the former apprenticeship students were in a construction trade program.

By the time they were surveyed, three-quarters (75 percent) of the former apprentices said they had received their British Columbia Certificate of Qualification or “ticket”—many with Interprovincial or Red Seal endorsement.

In-school training

Former apprenticeship students were asked to rate several aspects of their in-school training and to say how well their program helped them to develop skills. For each skill, a large majority of respondents said their program did *very well* or *well*. Respondents were most likely to say they were helped to develop the ability to *analyse and think critically*.

Ratings of skills development during training

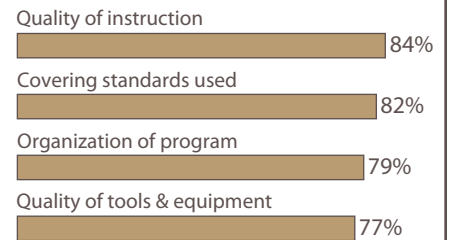


Note: Percentages are those who said their program did *very well* or *well* at helping them develop skills, out of respondents who answered the question, excluding those who said *not applicable*. A five-point scale (from *very well* to *very poorly*) was used.

APPSO

The former apprentices were asked to rate a number of aspects of their training, including the quality of instruction and the training content. In each case, a majority of respondents gave a *very good* or *good* rating. Respondents gave particularly high ratings to the *quality of instruction*. They also provided favourable ratings to *covering the standards being used in your field* and the *organization of the program*.

Ratings of in-school training

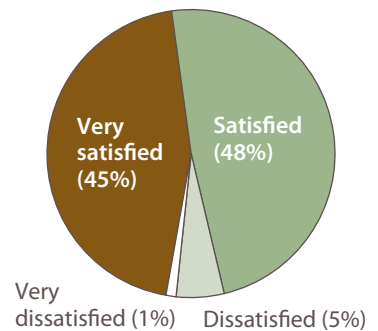


Note: Percentages are those who said the content of their training was *very good* or *good*, out of respondents who gave a rating, excluding those who said *not applicable*. A five-point scale (from *very good* to *very poor*) was used.

APPSO

Most respondents (93 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.

Satisfaction with in-school training



APPSO

Type of trade program taken in public or private institution

Program Grouping	Public	Private	Total
Agriculture Trades	<1%	<1%	1%
Construction Trades	33%	12%	45%
Mechanic & Repair Technologies	16%	2%	17%
Personal & Culinary Services	10%	1%	12%
Precision Production Trades	23%	1%	24%
Transportation Trades	<1%	1%	1%
Total	82%	18%	100%

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

Workplace training

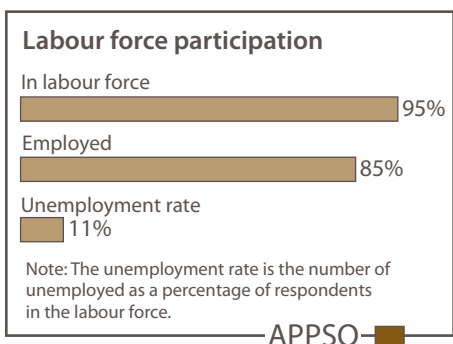
A very large majority (92 percent) of APPSO respondents said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their overall workplace training experience. This level of satisfaction with on-the-job training is consistent with previous years' ratings.



Likewise, most respondents said their in-school technical training was related—44 percent said *very related* and 47 percent said *somewhat related*—to their workplace experience. Very few said their in-school and workplace training were unrelated.

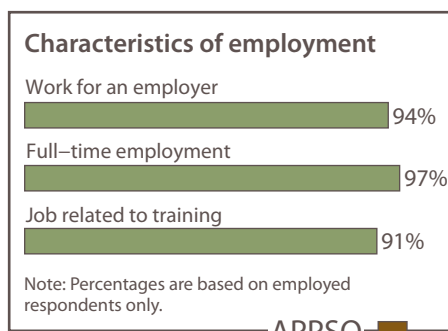
Labour force participation

Most (95 percent) of the former apprentices surveyed were in the labour force, that is, employed or looking for work. The unemployment rate (the number unemployed as a percentage of respondents in the labour force) was



11 percent—the same as that for the 2010 respondents to the APPSO Survey.

Almost all employed respondents had a job that was related to their training and most had a full-time position. Likewise, most respondents (94 percent) were employees rather than self-employed (6 percent).



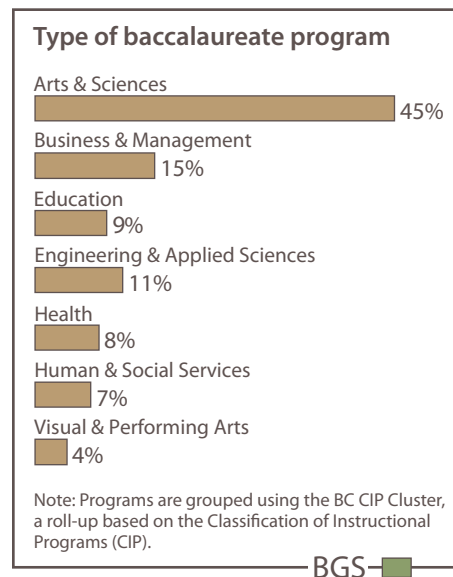
Former apprentices were asked to say how useful the knowledge and skills they gained through their program of studies had been in performing their job. A very large majority said they had been *very* or *somewhat useful* (58 percent and 35 percent).

Baccalaureate Graduates

The 2011 Baccalaureate Graduates Survey (BGS) targeted former students who graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2009. Information was collected on their employment outcomes, further education, and overall satisfaction—9,830 graduates responded, by telephone or online, from 21 to 33 months after they completed their studies. The response rate was 52 percent. The median age of respondents was 27, and almost two-thirds (62 percent) were women.

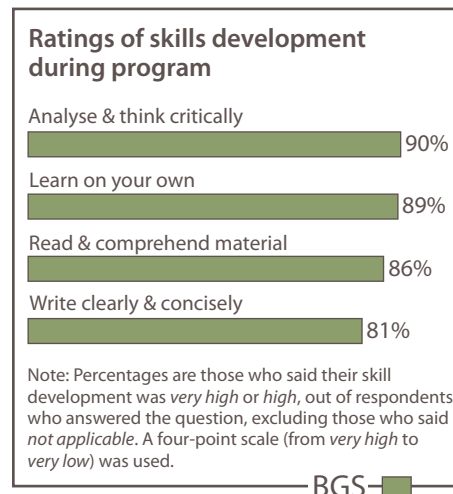
Baccalaureate programs

The graduates who responded to the BGS had taken a variety of programs for their degree, although almost half (45 percent) had graduated from an Arts and Sciences program.



Education evaluation

The BGS respondents were asked to rate the extent to which their institutions helped them develop certain skills during

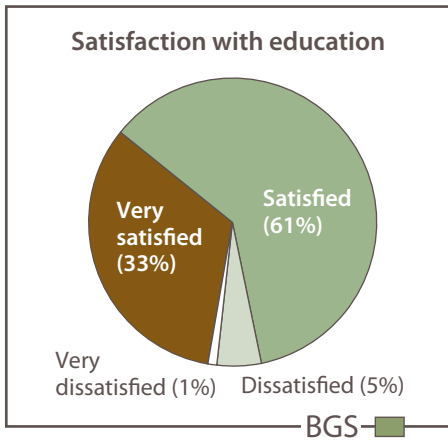


BGS

their studies. Large majorities gave their skill development *very high* or *high* ratings.

Nine out of ten respondents (89 percent) said their required courses were *very good* or *good* in terms of providing a comprehensive or full understanding of their field of study. An even larger majority (94 percent) rated the quality of course instruction in their program as *very good* or *good*.

Most of the graduates surveyed (94 percent) said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the education they received from their program.

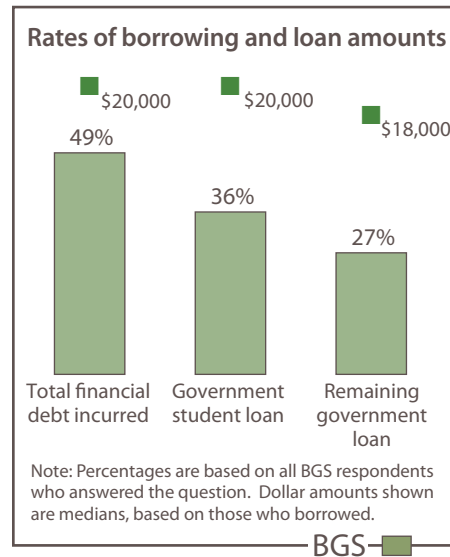


Student Finances

BGS respondents were asked to estimate the amount of financial debt—from student loans or other sources—they incurred to cover education and living expenses associated with the education program they completed in 2009. Almost half (49 percent) said they had debt; the median amount borrowed was \$20,000.

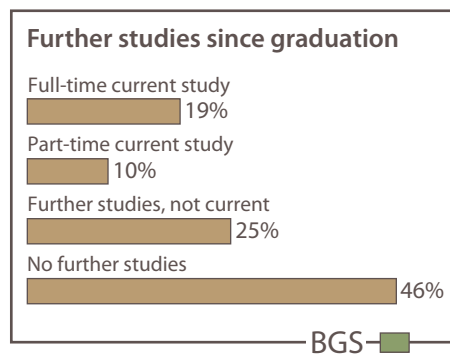
Over one-third (36 percent) of respondents had incurred government-sponsored student loan debt—the median amount of this debt was also \$20,000. At the time of the survey, over one-quarter (27 percent) of respondents still had student loan amounts left to repay. Of those

who had received a government student loan, 23 percent had repaid it in full.



Further education

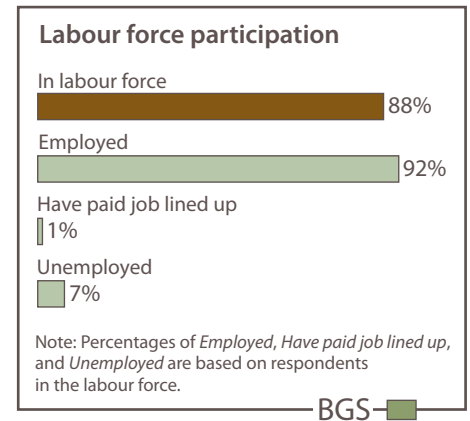
Over half (54 percent) of the BGS respondents had enrolled in further education since they graduated in 2009. Of these respondents who had taken further studies, over half were studying at the time of the survey.



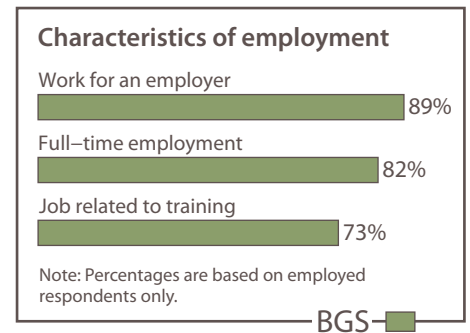
Of the respondents who went on to pursue another degree, a large majority (88 percent) said their baccalaureate had prepared them *very well* or *well* for their further studies.

Labour force participation

The majority of the graduates surveyed were in the labour force, that is, employed or looking for work. The unemployment rate—the number unemployed as a percentage of respondents in the labour force—was relatively low at 7 percent.



Employed respondents were likely to be working full-time in a position paid by an employer—only 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 their baccalaureate program.



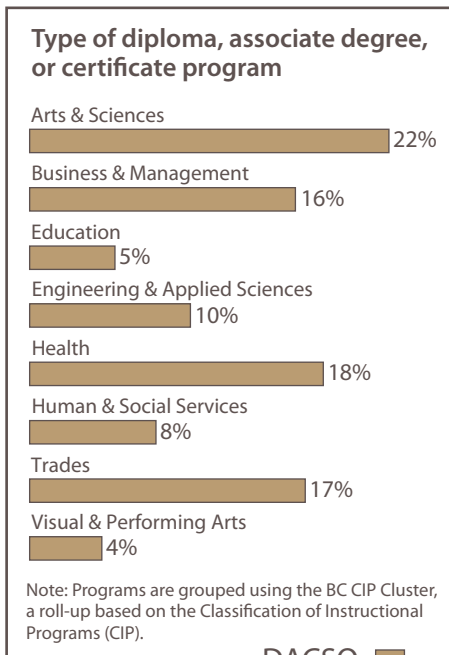
A large majority (84 percent) of employed respondents said the knowledge, skills, and abilities they acquired during their baccalaureate education were *very useful* or *somewhat useful* to them in their work.

Former Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Students

The 2011 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey was conducted January to June 2011. The survey targeted former students who had completed or nearly completed their programs 9 to 20 months previously—14,697 former students from 19 of B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions participated by telephone or online. The overall response rate was 55 percent. The median age of respondents was 25, and over half (57 percent) were women.

Diploma, associate degree, and certificate programs

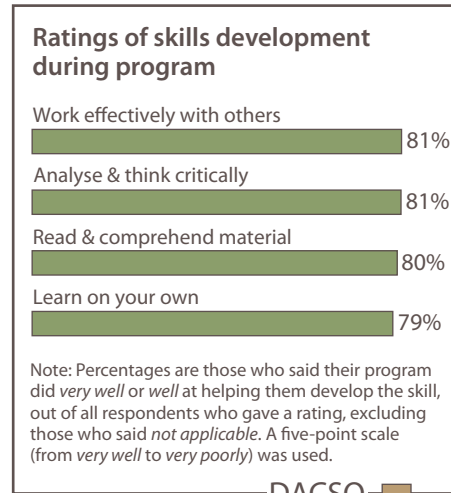
Over one-fifth (22 percent) of the survey respondents had been in Arts and Sciences programs—programs that typically lead to further study. Almost four-fifths (78 percent) of the former students surveyed had taken Applied programs,



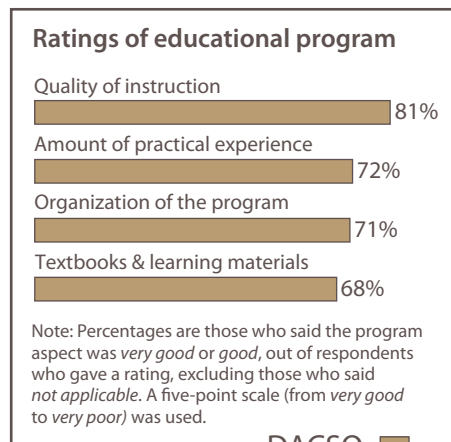
which are intended to lead to employment in a specific field, such as business management, communications, or health technology.

Education evaluation

DACSO respondents 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. The abilities to *work effectively with others* and to *analyse and think critically* were given positive ratings by the largest proportions of respondents.

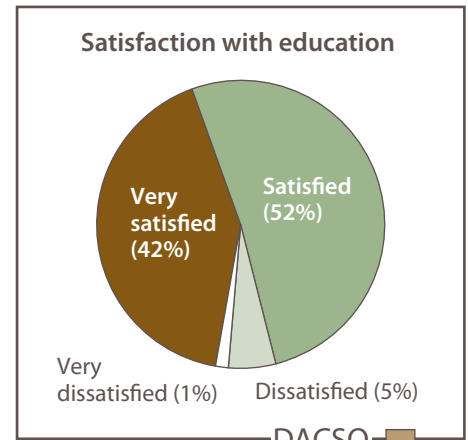


Former students were also asked to rate certain aspects of their program. In par-



ticular, the *quality of instruction* received a *very good* or *good* rating from a large majority (81 percent) of respondents.

Most (93 percent) of the former students surveyed said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the education they received through their program.



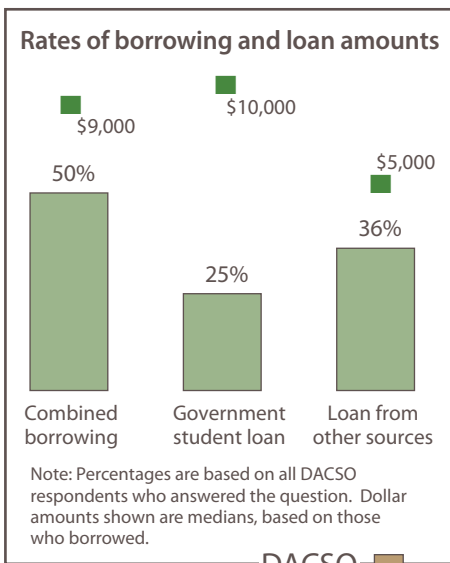
The respondents were also asked if they had met their most important objective for enrolling—83 percent said it had been *completely* or *mostly met*.

Student Finances

Exactly half of the former diploma, associate degree, and certificate students who were surveyed had borrowed to finance their studies, either from a government student loan program or another source. For those who borrowed, the median amount of this overall debt was \$9,000.

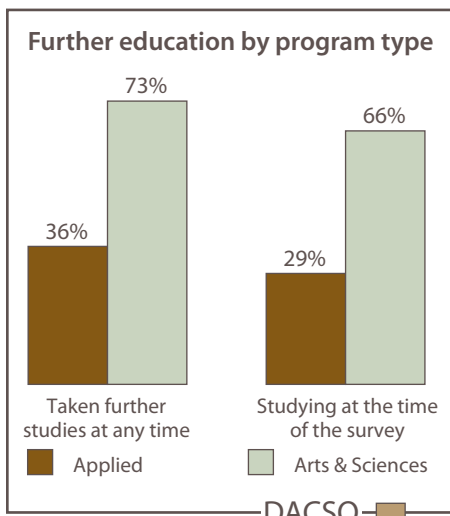
One-quarter of survey respondents had received a government student loan; the median amount they borrowed was \$10,000. Although a higher percentage (36 percent) of respondents had borrowed from other sources, the median amount of debt from non-governmental loans was lower at \$5,000.

DACSO



Further education

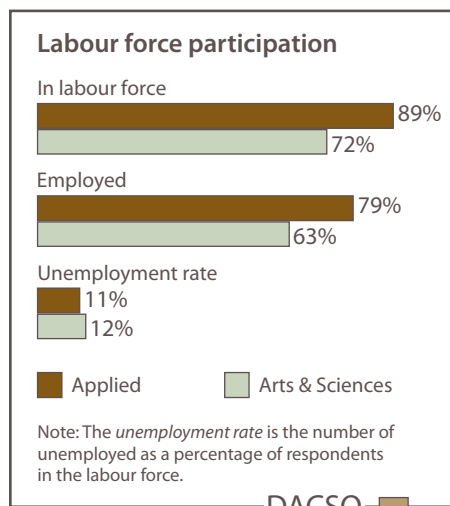
Nearly half (44 percent) of all DACSO respondents had taken further education or training; over one-third were studying at the time of the survey. There are some major differences in rates of further study depending on program type—those who took Arts and Sciences programs were much more likely to be 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*.



In 2011, a majority (70 percent) of DACSO respondents who continued their education at a different institution had expected to transfer course credits from their previous studies. Of those who expected transfer credits, a large majority (86 percent) got the credits they expected. Not quite as many (78 percent) were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their transfer experience.

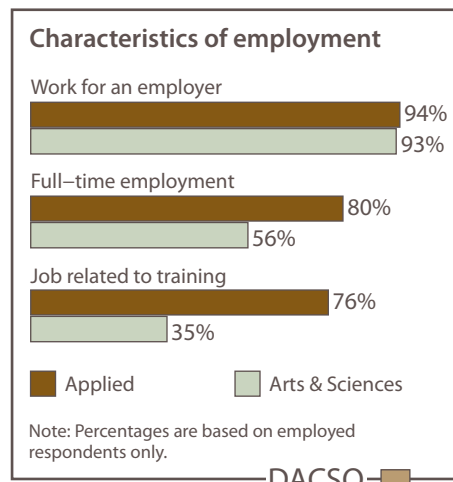
Labour force participation

A large majority (85 percent) of the former students surveyed were in the labour force—employed or looking for work. There was a pronounced difference in labour force participation between respondents from Applied programs and those from Arts and Sciences. Since the former Arts and Sciences students were likely to be studying again at the time of the survey, they were less likely to be in the labour force. The unemployment rates of the two groups were similar.



Most employed respondents, whether from Applied or Arts and Sciences programs, worked for an employer; only 6 percent were self-employed. Respondents from Applied programs, whose education was intended to lead to employment, were much more likely to have a training-

related job, while Arts and Sciences respondents, many of whom were also studying at the time, were less likely to have full-time employment.



Over three-quarters (77 percent) of DACSO respondents said that the knowledge and skills they gained in their program were useful to them in the performance of their jobs. There was a significant difference between the responses of former students depending on their program type; a large majority (82 percent) of former students from Applied programs said the knowledge and skills they learned were *very* or *somewhat useful*, while just over half (54 percent) of former Arts and Sciences students said the same.





Former Developmental Students

The purpose of the 2011 Developmental Student Outcomes Survey was to ask former Adult Basic Education (ABE) and domestic English as a Second Language (ESL) students who studied at the intermediate level or higher, to evaluate their educational experiences and to report on their transitions to the labour market and further education. The survey was conducted by telephone and online from January to April of 2011, 8 to 18 months after students left their courses. There were 1,697 ABE and 812 ESL respondents; the response rates were 44 and 48 percent, respectively. The median age of the ABE respondents was 24 and over half (57 percent) were women. The ESL respondents were older and more likely to be female: their median age was 34 and two-thirds (68 percent) were women.

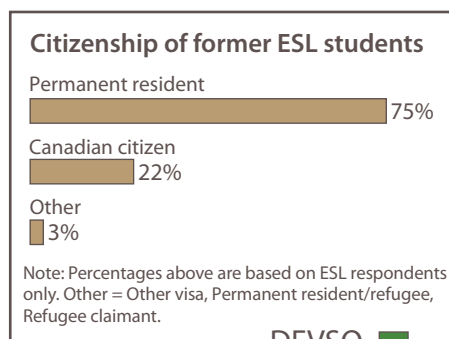
Developmental studies

Adult Basic Education provides upgrading courses that may lead to a high school diploma or enable students to qualify for post-secondary programs. English as a Second Language programs provide language instruction and information about Canadian culture, society, and the workplace to people who are learning English as an additional language.

To be eligible for the DEVSO Survey, former students must have taken several developmental courses, at least one at the intermediate level or higher. For ABE, the intermediate level is roughly equivalent to grade 10 and for ESL, it articulates to Access level 6 or Canadian Language Benchmark level 5.

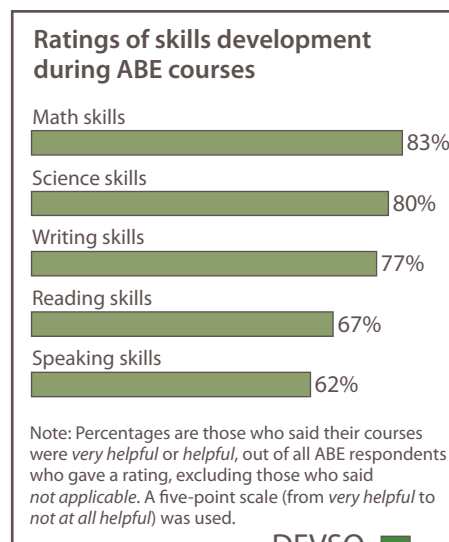
Former ESL students

Almost all (98 percent) of the former ESL students surveyed were born outside Canada. At the time of their ESL studies, three-quarters of respondents were permanent residents and over one-fifth were Canadian citizens.



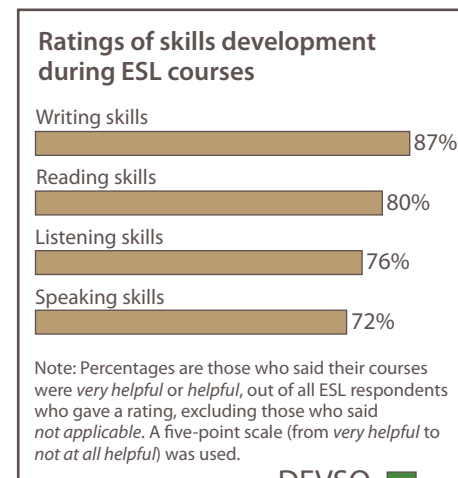
Education evaluation

Former ABE students were asked how helpful their courses had been in their development of a range of skills. For each skill, a majority said their courses had been very helpful or helpful. Respondents were most likely to give high ratings to the help received developing math skills.

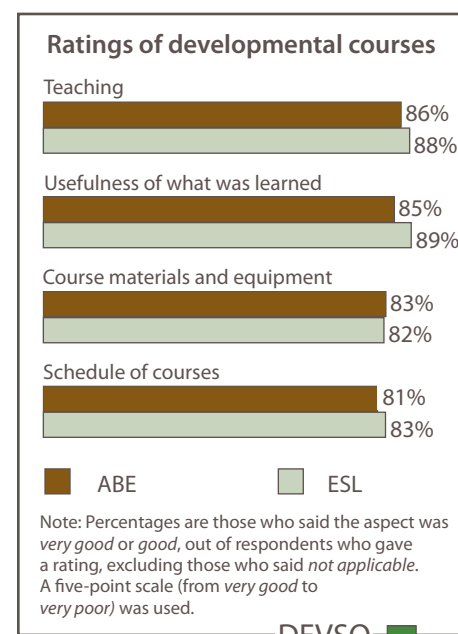


ESL respondents were asked to say how much their courses helped them develop

English skills. They were most likely to give high ratings to the help received developing writing skills.

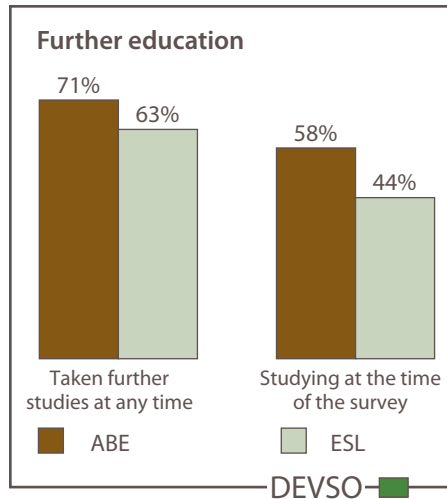
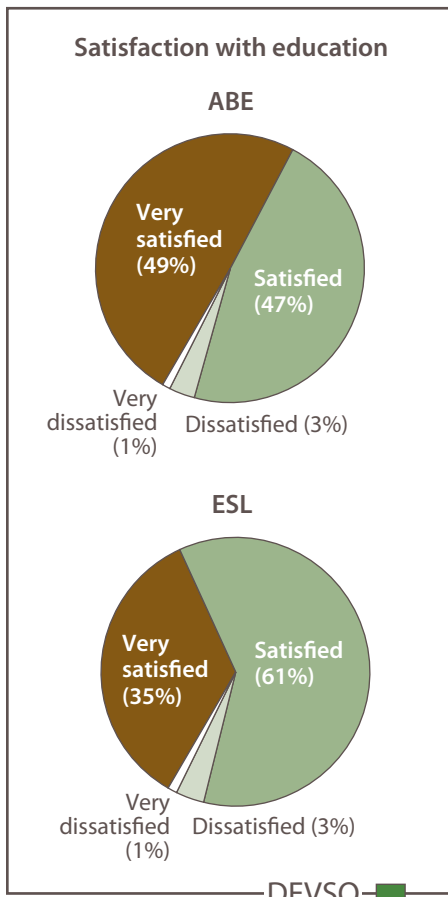


Survey respondents were also asked to rate certain aspects of their courses. The majority of respondents gave ratings of good or very good to all items; in particular, respondents gave high ratings to the quality of the teaching and the usefulness of what was learned.



DEVSO

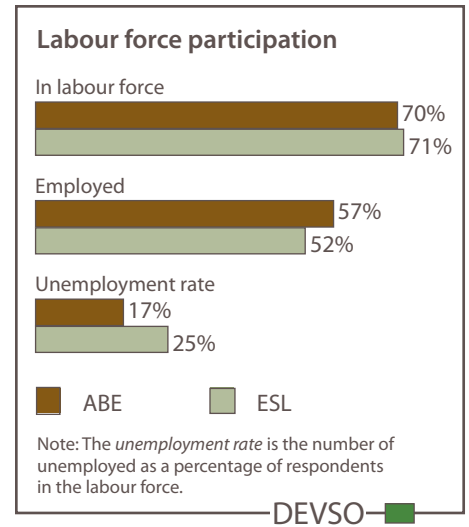
Almost all respondents (96 percent) said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the ABE or ESL courses they took.



Most (94 percent) of the respondents who took further education said they had been *very well* or *somewhat prepared* by their ABE and ESL courses.

Labour force participation

The labour force participation and employment rates of DEVSO respondents at the time of the survey reflected their high level of enrolment in further education. The labour force participation rate of former ABE students was similar to that of the DACSO Arts and Sciences respondents.



Over half of the employed respondents were working full-time: 54 percent of ABE respondents and 62 percent of ESL respondents worked full-time.

The employed former ABE students said the knowledge and skills they gained through their courses were useful in the performance of their jobs: 57 percent said they were *very* or *somewhat useful*. Of the former ESL students who used English at work, 80 percent said their English language training was *very helpful* or *helpful*.

Further education

A majority (68 percent) of DEVSO respondents went on to take further education after completing their ABE and ESL courses. At the time of the survey, over half (53 percent) were enrolled in a program of study.

About the Student Outcomes surveys

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; 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 (outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/SORSLite/SORSLiteHome.aspx) or Education Planner (www.educationplanner.bc.ca). For more information on BC Student Outcomes, please see outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Default/Home.aspx or contact the institutional research department of any B.C. public university, college, or institute (look for addresses here: outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Default/Contacts.aspx).