

BC STUDENT OUTCOMES

the 2013 highlights

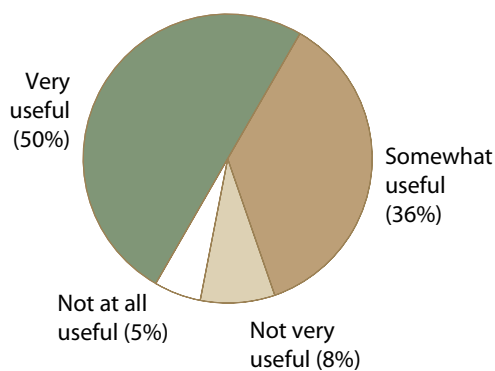
In 2013, four province-wide surveys collected information from over 30,000 former students who left diploma, associate degree, and certificate programs; baccalaureate programs; apprenticeship technical training; or the developmental studies of Adult Basic Education and English language training. The surveys were conducted with funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, the Industry Training Authority, Citizenship and Immigration Canada through the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, and from B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions.

The BC Student Outcomes program showcases the relevance of the post-secondary education provided to British Columbia's students. Many former students transition from their studies directly to employment, while others move on to further education. For example, the Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language training courses provided through developmental programs prepare students for post-secondary education. Likewise, Arts and Sciences programs that offer diplomas and associate degrees facilitate students' transfer to higher-level study. Baccalaureate programs prepare graduates for both further education and employment. People who graduate from applied diploma and certificate programs as well as apprenticeship programs typically transition directly into the labour force.

The data collected through BC Student Outcomes provide a unique link between post-secondary education and the labour market. The surveys provide information on graduates' employment outcomes, through labour force participation, employment, and unemployment rates, and through a wealth of information on employment characteristics and occupations. In addition, former students assess the relevance of their education to their employment and the usefulness of what they learned.

Usefulness of education

Employed respondents were asked how useful the knowledge and skills they acquired in their studies were to them in performing their jobs. Overall, 86 percent of the graduates from applied diploma and certificate programs, baccalaureate graduates, and former apprentices said *very* or *somewhat useful*.



OVERALL

In the Highlights

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

- 95% said the quality of instruction was *very good, good, or adequate*
- 72% of former Arts and Sciences students took further education
- 91% of graduates from applied programs were in the labour force; their unemployment rate was 9.8%

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; 7% were unemployed and 1% had a job lined up

Of the former **apprenticeship** students surveyed:

- 96% said the quality of instruction was *very good, good, or adequate*
- 84% said their training covered the standards used in their field
- 96% were in the labour force; the unemployment rate was 8.7%

Of the former **developmental** students surveyed:

- 97% said the quality of teaching was *very good, good, or adequate*
- 70% of ABE respondents and 62% of ESL respondents pursued further education
- 93% said they were *very well or somewhat prepared* for further education

DACSO

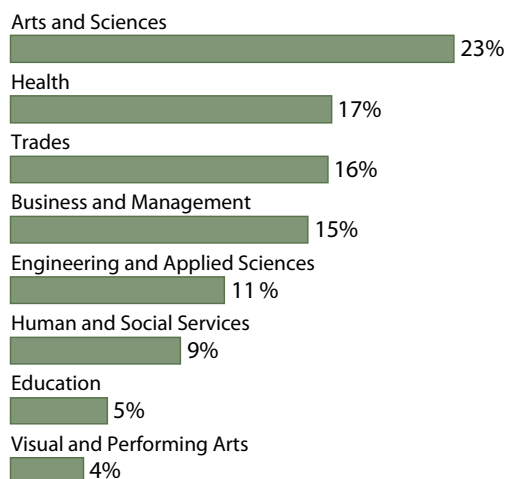
Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Students

The 2013 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey was conducted from January to June 2013 with former students who left their programs 9 to 20 months earlier. The survey response rate was 55 percent; there were 15,853 respondents from 19 public post-secondary institutions. The median age of respondents was 26 and over half (55 percent) were women.

Programs taken

The majority (77 percent) of the former diploma, associate degree, and certificate students surveyed had taken applied programs—the kind of program that is intended to lead to employment in a specific field, such as business manage-

Type of diploma, associate degree, and certificate program taken

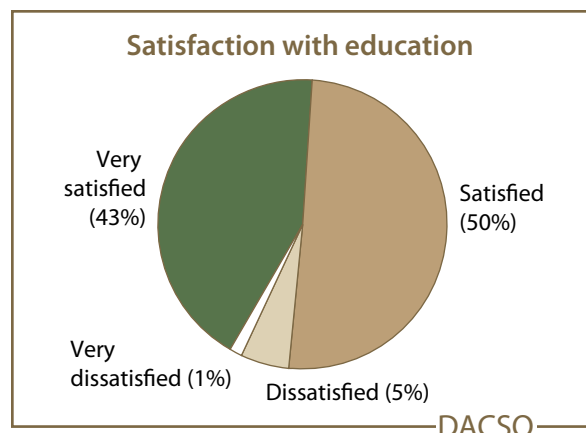
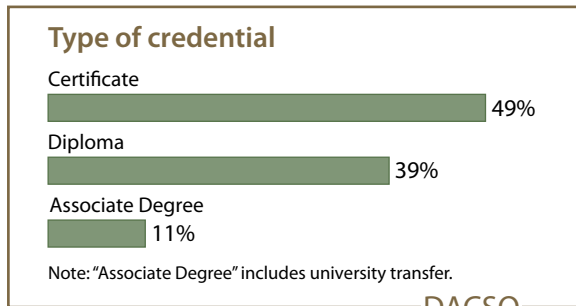


Note: Programs are grouped using the BC CIP Cluster, a roll-up based on the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP).

DACSO

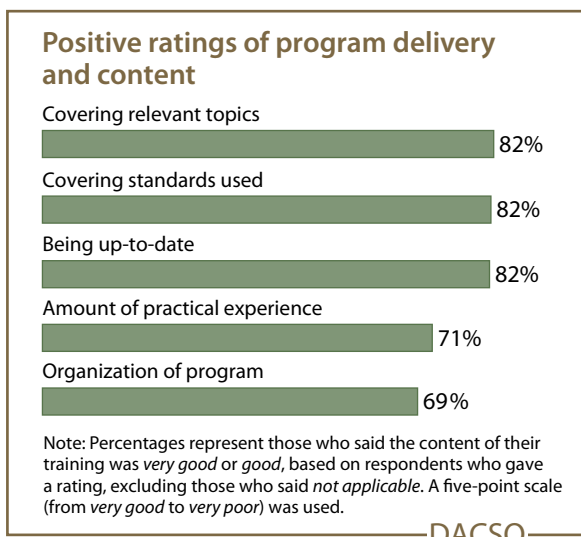
ment or health technology. The remaining respondents (23 percent) had taken Arts and Sciences programs, which typically lead to further study.

Almost half (49 percent) of the former students surveyed had taken programs that offered a certificate as the credential.



Evaluating education

Most (93 percent) respondents said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the education they received.



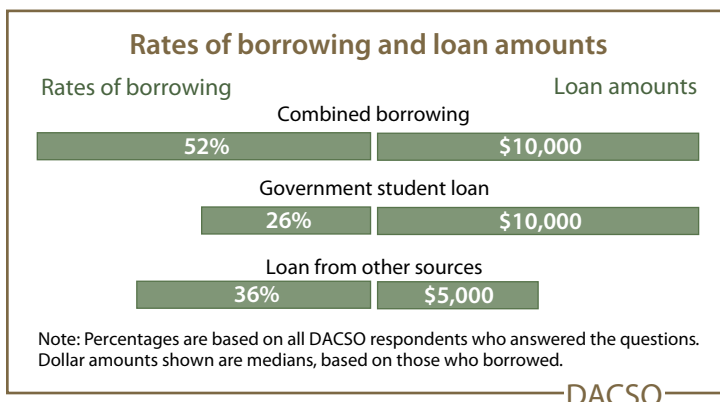
The majority (95 percent) of former students said the quality of instruction was *very good*, *good*, or *adequate*. Respondents gave high ratings to the course content of their programs, such as *covering relevant topics* (82 percent) or *covering the standards used in their field* (82 percent).

Funding their education

Just over half (52 percent) of the former diploma, associate degree, and certificate students had borrowed to finance their studies, either from a government student loan program or from another source. For those who borrowed, the median amount was \$10,000.

Over one-quarter (26 percent) of respondents borrowed from government student loan programs, while over one-third (36 percent) borrowed from other sources. About one in ten (11 percent) had both a government student loan *and* debt from other sources.

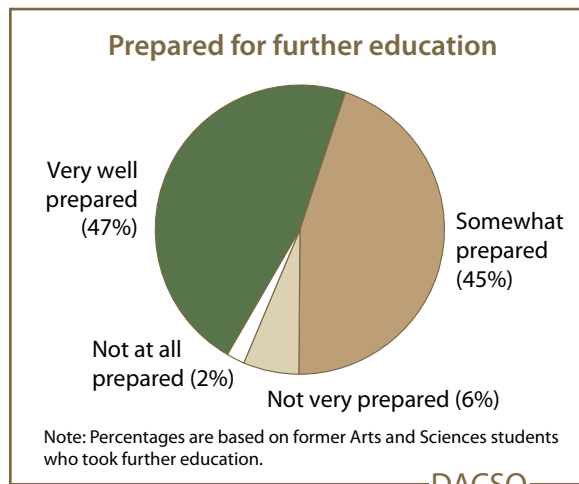
Some respondents experienced difficulties due to financial constraints: 13 percent interrupted their studies and 17 percent had to take their program part-time for financial reasons.



Studying again

The former students who had taken Arts and Sciences programs were very likely to continue their education. At the time they were surveyed, two-thirds (66 percent) were studying again, while others had already completed programs of further study. In all, almost three-quarters (72 percent) of the former Arts and Sciences students had taken or were taking further education.

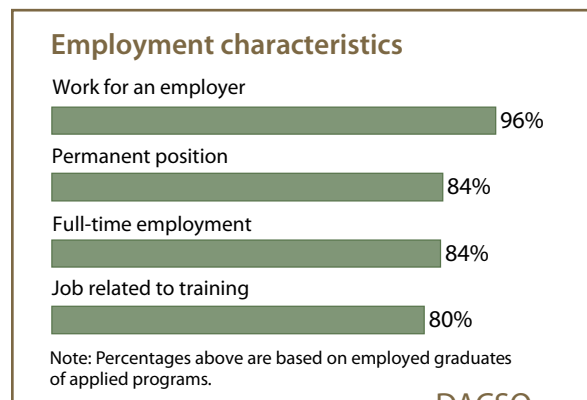
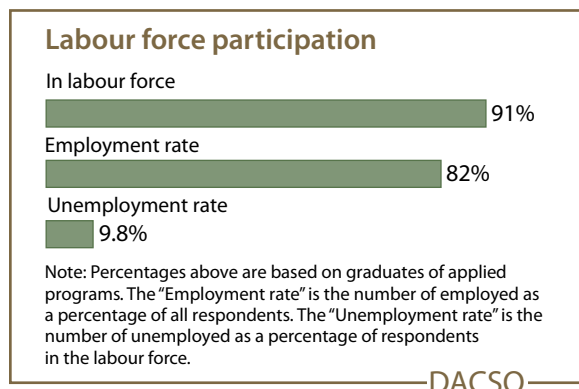
Most (92 percent) of the respondents from Arts and Sciences programs who went on to further studies said their diploma, associate degree, or certificate program had prepared them for their further education.



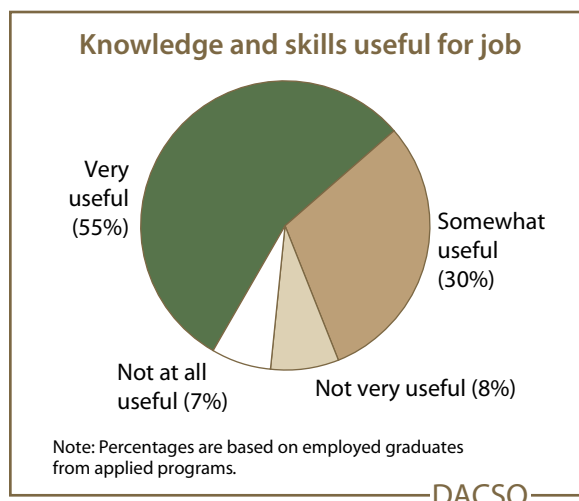
Putting education to work

Most (91 percent) of the respondents who graduated from applied programs were in the labour force—either employed or looking for work. The unemployment rate for these graduates was 9.8 percent.

Most employed graduates from applied programs worked for an employer—only 4 percent were self-employed. Typically, working graduates had full-time employment in a permanent position that was related to their education.



A large majority (86 percent) of employed graduates from applied programs said that the knowledge and skills they gained through their studies were useful to them in the performance of their job.



Baccalaureate Graduates

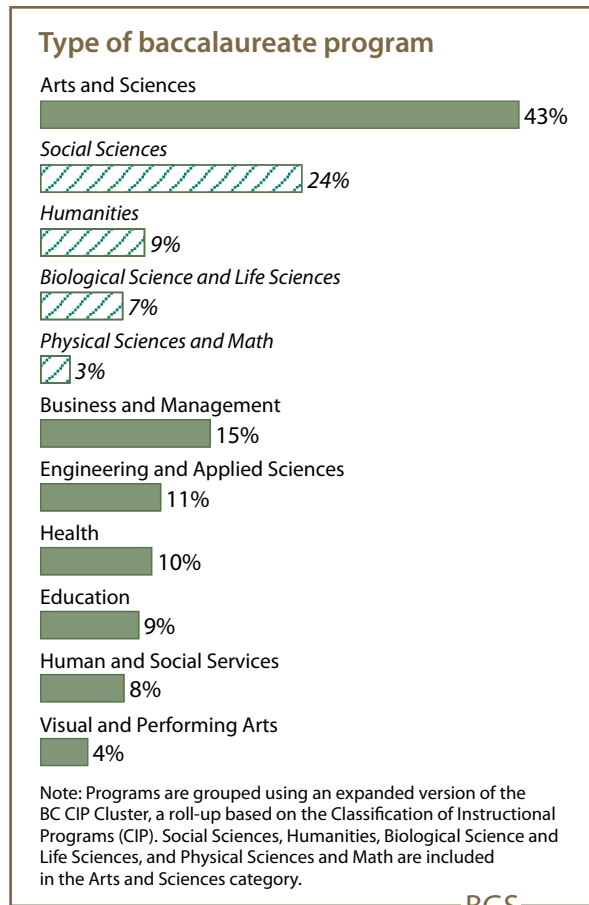
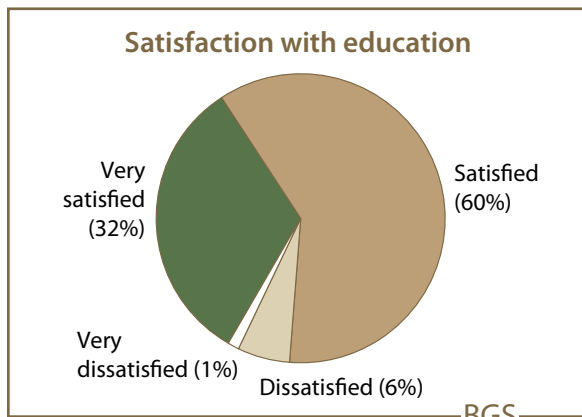
The 2013 Baccalaureate Graduates Survey (BGS) was conducted from September 2013 to January 2014 with former students who graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2011. The net survey response rate was 52 percent; there were 8,802 respondents from 20 public post-secondary institutions. The median age of respondents was 27, and 62 percent were women.

Baccalaureate programs taken

Many baccalaureate graduates (43 percent) had taken an Arts and Sciences program: Social Sciences, Humanities, Biological Science and Life Sciences, or Physical Sciences and Math.

Evaluating education

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

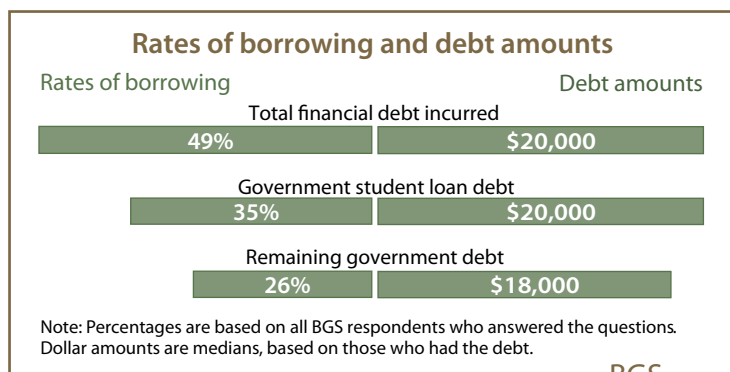


The majority (89 percent) of the graduates said their core program courses were *very good* or *good* at providing for a comprehensive understanding of their field of study. An even larger majority (94 percent) said the quality of instruction had been *very good* or *good*.

Three-quarters (76 percent) of respondents said they would select the same program again.

Funding their education

Almost half (49 percent) of the bachelor degree graduates surveyed incurred debt to pay for their program of study; for those who had debt, the median amount was \$20,000. Over one-third (35 percent) of graduates had borrowed from a government student loan program; however, by the time of the survey, only 26 percent of respondents had student loan debt remaining.

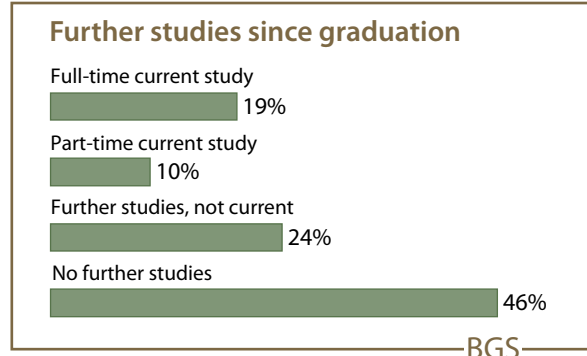


Some respondents noted that their financial situation had an impact on their studies: 11 percent interrupted their education for financial reasons, and 18 percent attended part-time.

Studying again

Over half (54 percent) of the former baccalaureate students had enrolled in other post-secondary education since they graduated in 2011, and over half of those were studying at the time of the survey. Almost one-fifth (19 percent) of respondents were currently enrolled in full-time study.

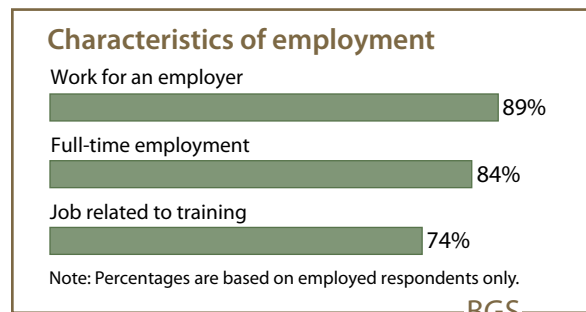
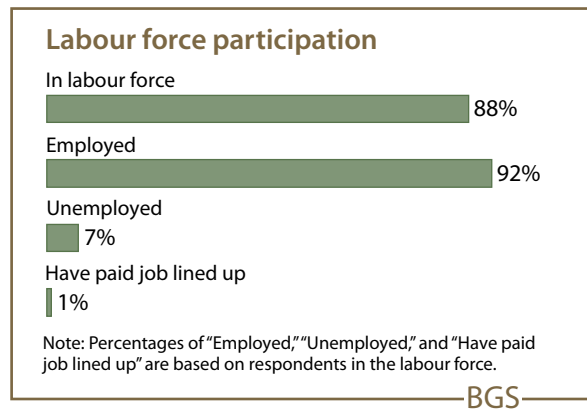
Approximately half (49 percent) of those who went on to further education entered another degree program (undergraduate, master's, or doctoral); a large majority (85 percent) said their baccalaureate had prepared them *very well* or *well* for these further studies.



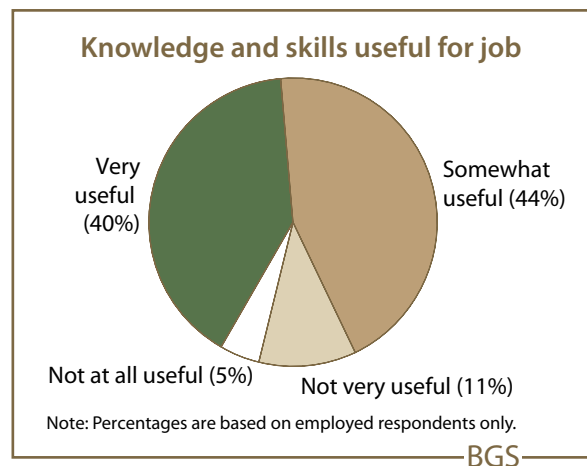
Putting education to work

The majority (88 percent) of the graduates surveyed were in the labour force—employed or looking for work. Of those in the labour force, 92 percent were employed, 7 percent were unemployed, and 1 percent had a job lined up.

The majority (84 percent) of employed graduates worked full-time. Typically, they worked for an employer—only 5 percent were self-employed, while 7 percent were self-employed *and* worked for an employer. Almost three-quarters (74 percent) of employed respondents said their job was *very related* or *somewhat related* to their baccalaureate program.



A large majority (85 percent) of those who were employed said that the knowledge and skills they acquired during their baccalaureate education were *very* or *somewhat useful* to them in their work.



Apprenticeship Students

The 2013 Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSO) Survey was conducted from January to April of 2013 with former apprenticeship students who had completed their in-school or technical training 8 to 18 months earlier. There were 3,486 respondents from 38 institutions (24 private, 14 public), for a response rate of 56 percent. The median age of respondents was 27; 89 percent were men, and 11 percent were women.

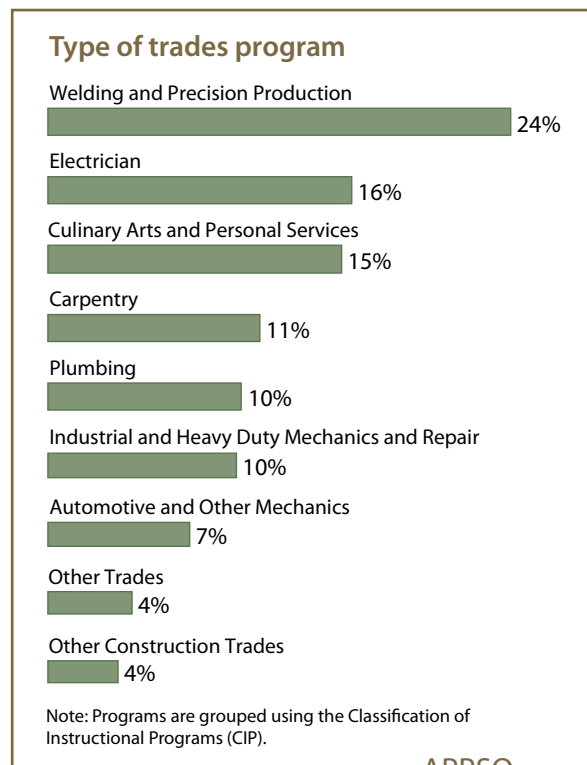
Trade programs taken

An apprenticeship in British Columbia combines work-based training and classroom learning, leading to a credential or “ticket” that signifies the former apprentice is qualified to work in a skilled trade. There are over 100 trade programs available in the province.

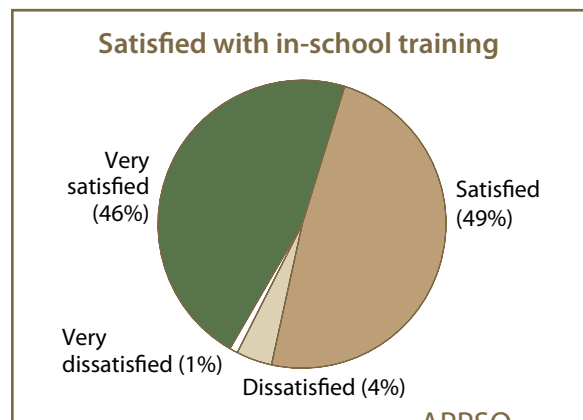
When apprentices meet the requirements for their ticket, which includes completing in-school technical training, work-based training, and passing examinations, they are certified to practice their trade. By the time they were surveyed in 2013, 89 percent of the former apprentices had received a British Columbia Certificate of Qualification—many with Interprovincial or Red Seal endorsement.

Almost one-quarter (24 percent) of those surveyed had taken a Welding and Precision Production trades program. This was followed by Electrician (16%), Culinary Arts and Personal Services (15%), and Carpentry (11%).

Although the majority of apprenticeship training is on-the-job, approximately 20 percent is done in a classroom setting. Four out of five (82 percent) of the former apprentices surveyed in 2013 took their required technical training at a public post-secondary institution, while the others (18 percent) studied at private institutions.



APPSO



APPSO

Rating in-school training

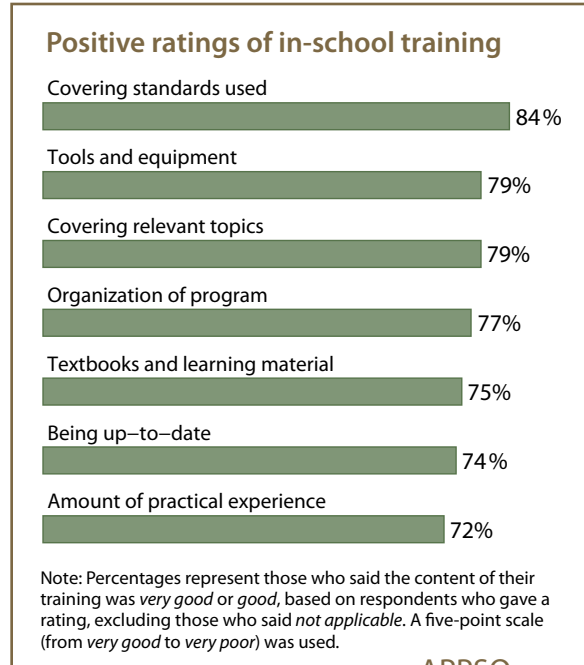
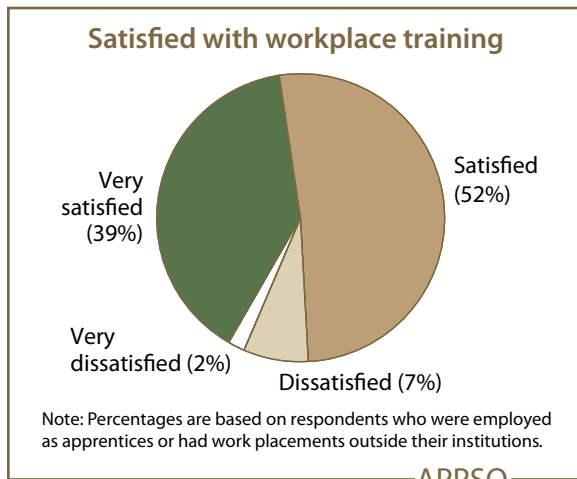
Overall, most (95 percent) of the former apprentices surveyed were satisfied with their in-school training.

Most respondents (96 percent) said the quality of instruction they received was very good, good, or adequate.

The majority of respondents gave high ratings to many aspects of their training. In particular, covering the standards used in the field was rated as *very good* or *good* by 84 percent of those surveyed.

Training in the workplace

A large majority (91 percent) of the former apprentices surveyed were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the work-based training they received.

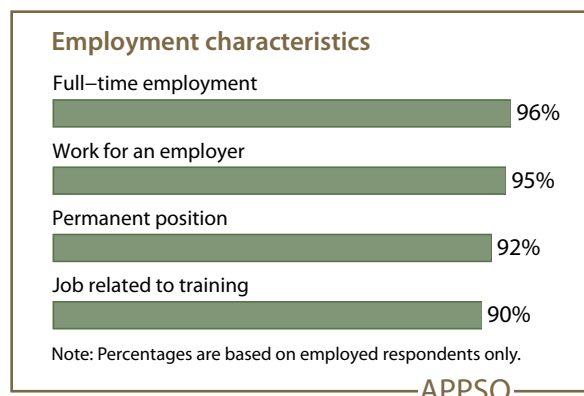
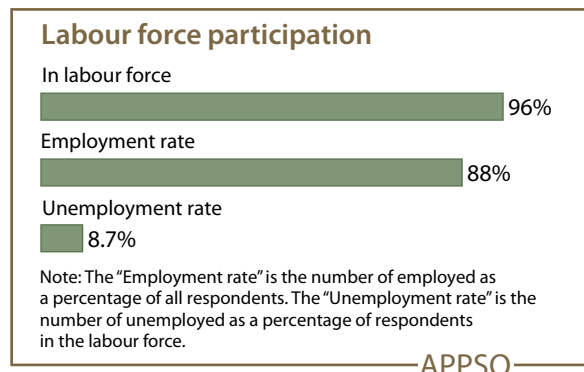


A similarly large majority (90 percent) of respondents said their in-school training was related to their workplace training: 41 percent said *very related* and 49 percent said *somewhat related*.

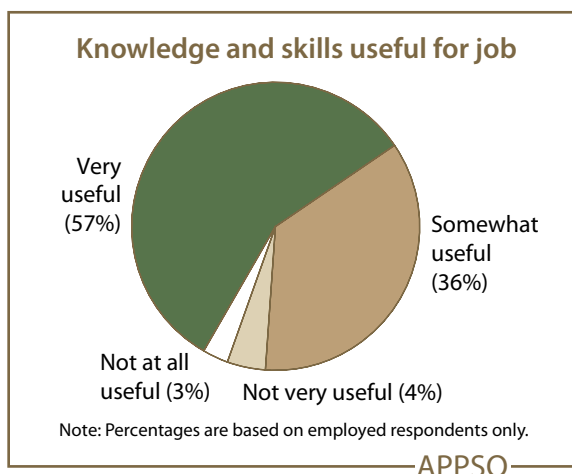
Putting skills to work

Most (96 percent) of the former apprentices surveyed were in the labour force—employed or looking for work. Their unemployment rate was 8.7 percent at the time of the survey.

The employment characteristics were very favourable for working respondents. Typically, former apprentices had full-time work and permanent positions in jobs that were related to their training. As well, most worked for an employer (95 percent) rather than being self-employed (5 percent).



Most (93%) of the employed former apprentices said that the knowledge and skills they learned through their in-school training were useful in the performance of their jobs.



Developmental Students

The 2013 Developmental Student Outcomes (DEVSO) Survey was conducted between January and April of 2013 with former Adult Basic Education (ABE) and domestic English as a Second language (ESL) students who studied at the intermediate level or higher. The former students were surveyed 8 to 18 months after they left their courses. The survey response rate for ABE was 45 percent and for ESL, 48 percent.

There were 1,735 respondents from 18 public post-secondary institutions who had taken ABE courses. Their median age was 24, and 58 percent were women. There were 804 respondents who had taken ESL courses from 15 public post-secondary institutions. Their median age was 33, and 68 percent were women. Almost all (98 percent) of the former ESL students surveyed were born outside Canada. At the time of their studies, 81 percent were permanent residents, and 16 percent were naturalized Canadians.

Developmental studies taken

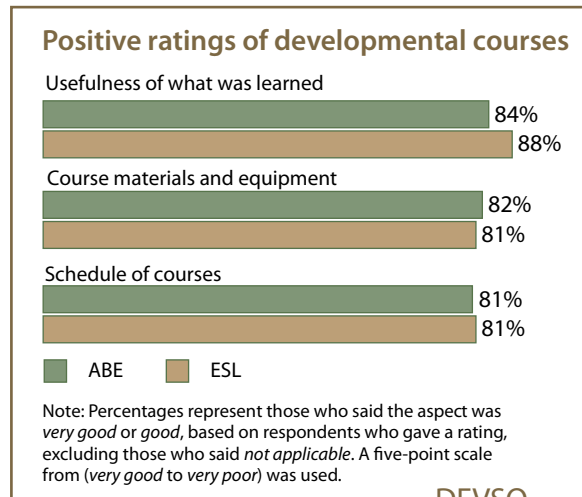
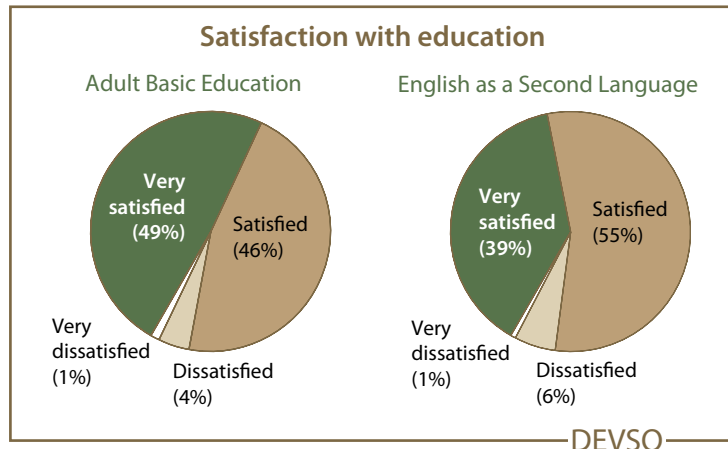
Adult Basic Education (ABE) provides students with upgrading courses that enable them to qualify for academic or career programs or help them meet prerequisites for other post-secondary programs. The former ABE students who were surveyed in 2013 had taken several courses, at least one at the intermediate level, which is roughly equivalent to Grade 10.

In addition to language training, English as a Second Language (ESL) programs provide information on Canadian culture, society, and the workplace. ESL courses provide students with the language skills they need to enter other post-secondary programs. The former ESL students who were surveyed had taken a number of courses, at least one that articulated to Canadian Language Benchmark level 5.

Evaluating studies

Overall, most respondents (94 percent) said they were satisfied with the ABE or ESL courses they took. While the percentages of ABE and ESL respondents who said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies were similar, ABE respondents were more likely to say they were *very satisfied*.

Respondents to the 2013 Developmental Student Outcomes Survey gave high ratings to aspects of their courses, in particular, to the usefulness of what they learned. A very large

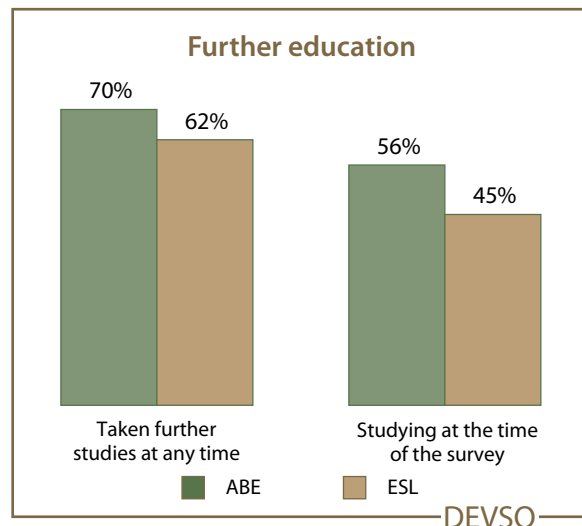


majority (88 percent) of ESL respondents said the usefulness of what they learned was *very good* or *good*.

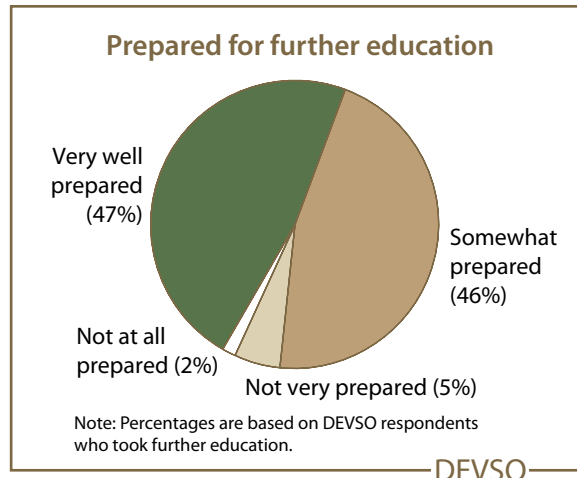
Large majorities of ABE and ESL respondents (96 and 97 percent, respectively) said the quality of teaching was *very good*, *good*, or *adequate*.

Going on to further education

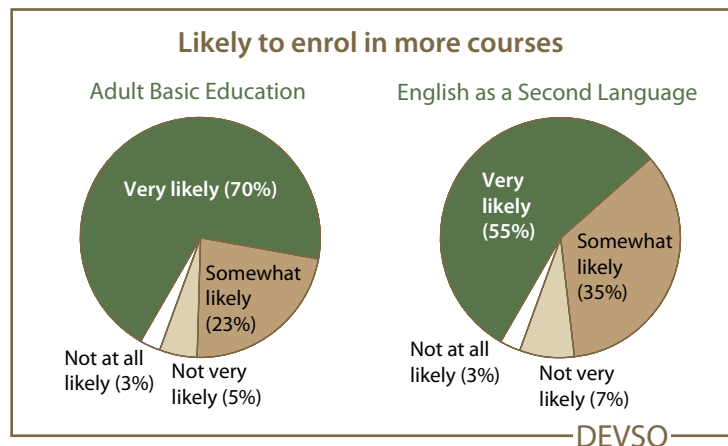
Two-thirds (67 percent) of the former developmental students surveyed went on to further education. At the time of survey, over half (53 percent) were enrolled in a program of study. ABE respondents were more likely than ESL respondents to be studying.



Most (93 percent) of the respondents who went on to further education said they had been *very well* or *somewhat prepared* by their developmental courses. Former ABE and ESL students had similar responses to this question.



All respondents were asked how likely they were to enrol in more courses at a B.C. college, institute, or university. Most (91 percent) responded that they were *very* or *somewhat likely*. A majority (70 percent) of ABE respondents said they were *very likely* to continue studying.



About BC 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; 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).