

# BC STUDENT OUTCOMES

## the 2019 highlights

*Every year, BC Student Outcomes collects feedback from former students who took post-secondary programs. Student feedback is essential to maintain quality and relevance in the education system.*

*Outcomes surveys are conducted with funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, the Industry Training Authority, and from British Columbia's public post-secondary institutions. In 2019, over 28,000 former students were surveyed; key results from those surveys are presented here.*

*In 2019, 92 percent of the former post-secondary students surveyed were satisfied or very satisfied with the education or training they received.*

### Baccalaureate Graduates

- 45% took further studies
- 90% were in the labour force
- 5.9% was the unemployment rate
- 86% of those employed said the knowledge and skills they gained were useful in performing their jobs

### Associate Degree & University Transfer

- 75% took further studies
- 66% of those who took further studies received transfer credits
- 82% were satisfied with their transfer experience

### Diploma Students

- 93% were in the labour force
- 6.3% was the unemployment rate
- 88% of those employed were working full-time
- 77% of those employed were in an education-related job

### Certificate Students

- 94% were in the labour force
- 5.3% was the unemployment rate
- 83% of those employed were working full-time
- 82% of those employed were in an education-related job

### Apprenticeship Students

- 98% were in the labour force
- 3.0% was the unemployment rate
- 99% of those employed were working full-time
- 92% of those employed were in a training-related job

### Trades Foundation Students

- 92% were in the labour force
- 8.7% was the unemployment rate
- 92% of those employed were working full-time
- 81% of those employed were in a training-related job

### Trades-Related Vocational Students

- 98% were in the labour force
- 7.6% was the unemployment rate
- 97% of those employed were working full-time
- 81% of those employed were in a training-related job

# Baccalaureate Graduates



## BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES

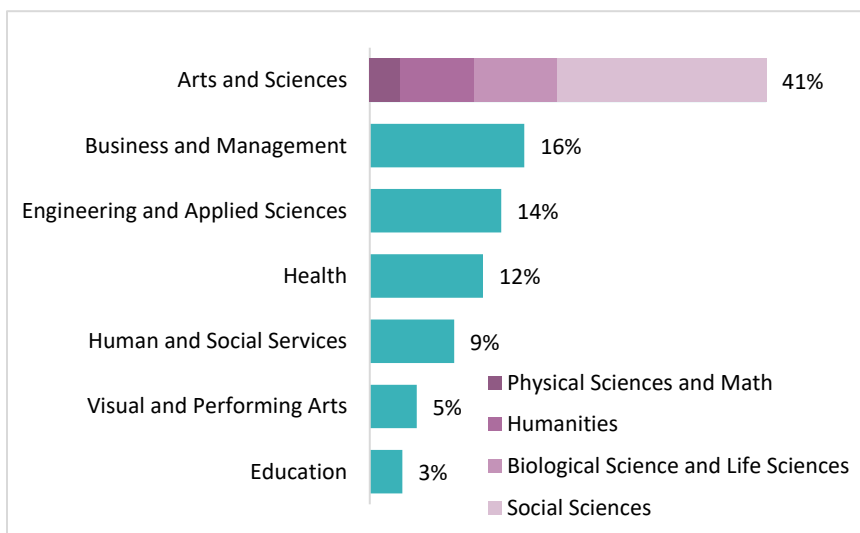
|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Eligible for survey | 22,900 |
| Respondents         | 10,035 |
| Response rate       | 44%    |
| Median age          | 26     |
| % Female            | 61%    |

**Baccalaureate students** are surveyed within two years of graduation.

Note: Data are from the 2019 BC Student Outcomes Survey of Baccalaureate Graduates.

## Baccalaureate Programs

The largest percentage of the baccalaureate graduates who were surveyed took an Arts and Sciences program, which includes Social Sciences, Humanities, Biological Science and Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences and Math programs.



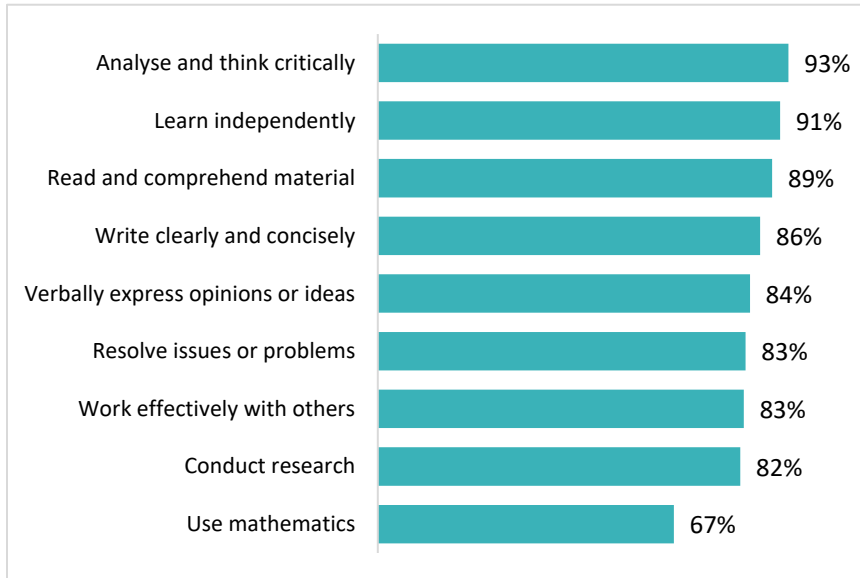
### **Baccalaureate Programs**

The largest group of baccalaureate graduates took Arts and Sciences programs.

Note: Programs are grouped using the BC CIP Cluster, a roll-up based on the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP). The Arts & Sciences CIP was expanded to include Social Sciences, Humanities, Biological Science & Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences & Math.

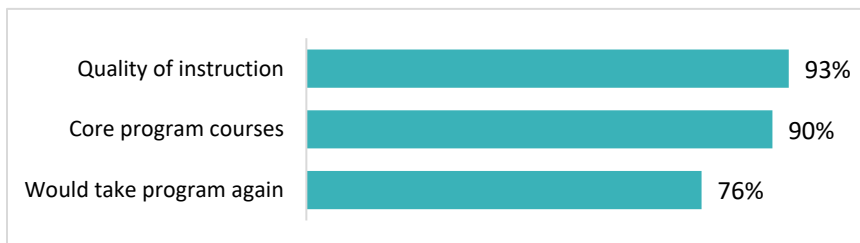
## Education Evaluations

The majority of baccalaureate graduates said their programs helped them develop skills, especially the ability to analyse and think critically.



Note: Percentages are of those who said the institution was *very helpful* or *helpful* in developing the selected skill, based on respondents who gave a rating on a four-point scale from *very helpful* to *not at all helpful*, excluding those who said *not applicable*.

Baccalaureate graduates were very likely to say the quality of instruction they received was *very good* or *good*. A large majority said the core program of required courses did a *very good* or *good* job providing a comprehensive understanding of their field of study. Three-quarters said they would take the same program again.



Notes: Percentages are of those who said the instruction and courses were *very good* or *good*, based on respondents who gave a rating on a four-point scale from *very good* to *very poor*, excluding those who said *not applicable*. The percentage of those who said they would take the same program again is based on all respondents who answered the question.

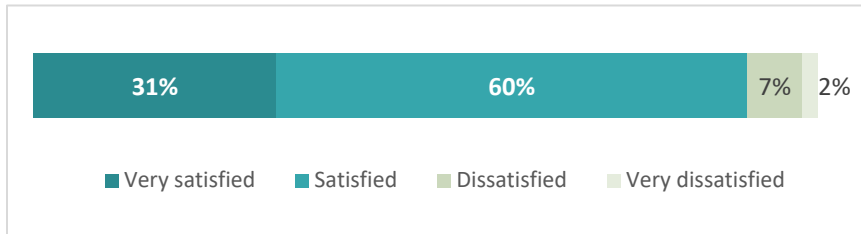
### **Skills Developed**

*Graduates said their programs helped them develop skills.*

### **Program Ratings**

*Graduates gave high ratings to aspects of their programs.*

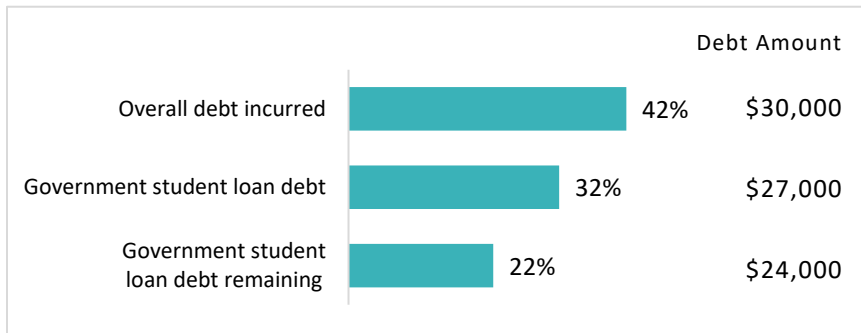
Most (91 percent) of the graduates surveyed said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the overall education they received from their program.



**Overall Satisfaction**  
*Baccalaureate graduates were satisfied with their education.*

## Funding

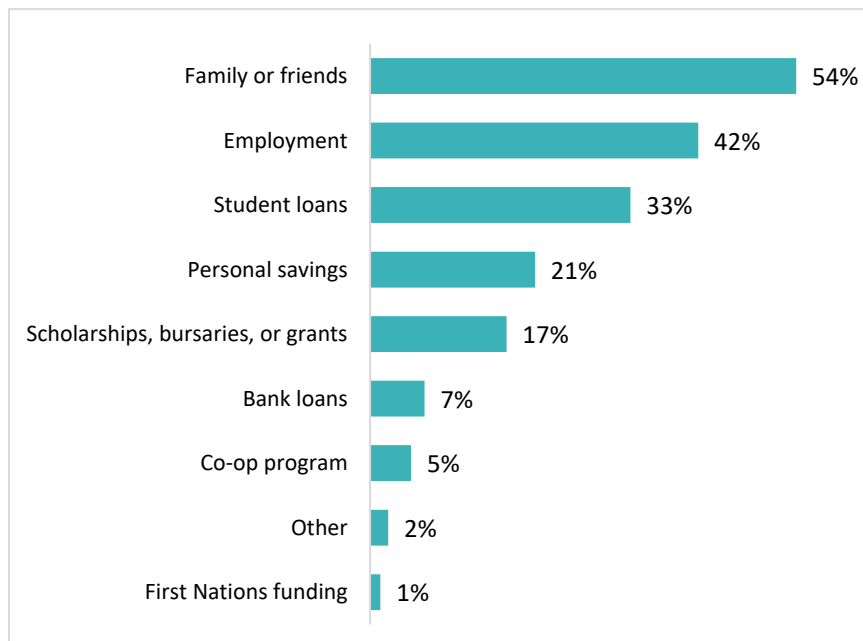
Fewer than half of baccalaureate respondents incurred debt for their studies. For those who had debt, the total median amount borrowed was \$30,000. Almost one-third of respondents had government-sponsored student loan debt. Two years after graduation, just over one-fifth of respondents had government student loan debt remaining.



**Borrowing and Debt**  
*Fewer than half of the graduates incurred debt for their program.*

Notes: Percentages are based on respondents who gave valid answers to the questions about finances. *Overall debt incurred* includes government student loan debt. *Government student loan debt remaining* is at the time of the survey. When asked how much government student debt they incurred, respondents were asked not to include any loan reduction they may have received. Loan amounts shown are medians, based on those who had debt.

The two most important sources of funding for baccalaureate graduates were family or friends and employment.



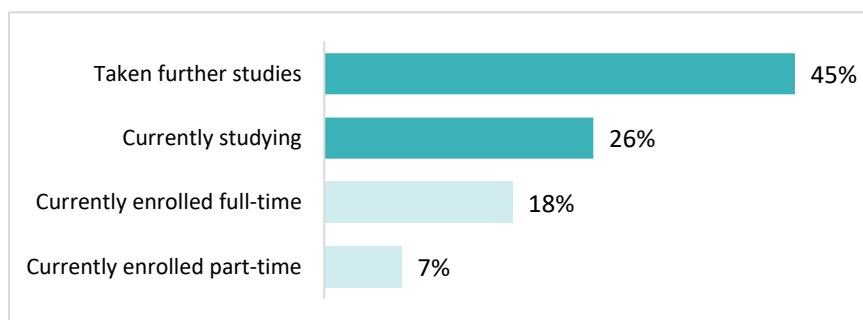
**Sources of Funding**

*Graduates' top sources of funding were family or friends and employment.*

Note: Respondents could pick two top sources of funding, therefore percentages add to more than 100.

**Further Education**

Since graduating, many respondents went on to further education; more than one-quarter were studying at the time they were surveyed.

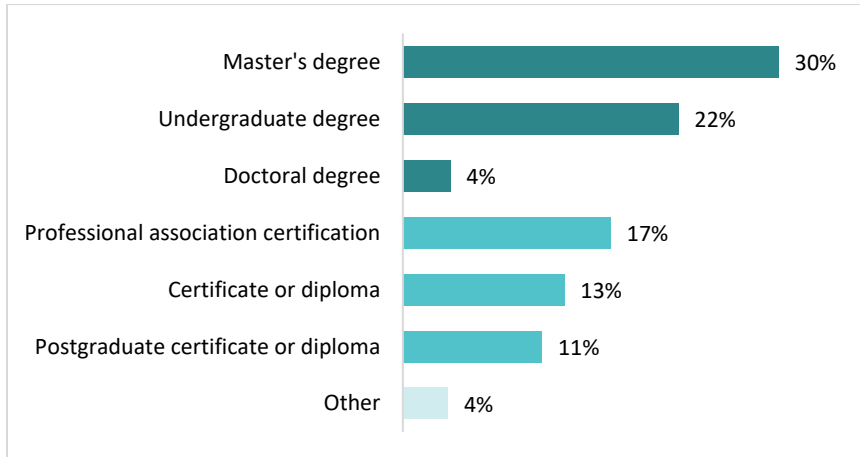


**Further Education**

*Almost half of the graduates went on to further study.*

Notes: Taken further studies includes those currently enrolled. Currently enrolled means the respondent was enrolled at the time of the survey.

Over half of the baccalaureate graduates who continued their education chose an advanced degree program or another undergraduate program. Many others studied for professional certification or took courses for certificates or diplomas.



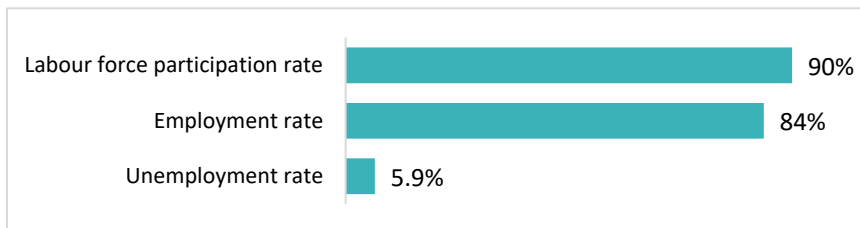
Note: Percentages are based on those who took further education.

**Further Education Type**

*Over half of the graduates who continued their education went on to another degree program.*

**Employment**

The labour force participation rate for baccalaureate graduates was high, with 90 percent of respondents in the labour force, working or looking for work.

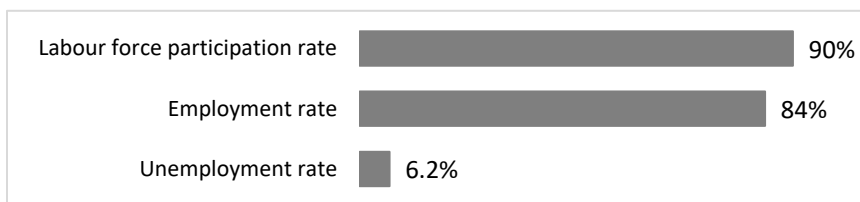


Notes: The *labour force participation rate* is the number of respondents employed or looking for work as a percentage of all respondents. The *employment rate* is the number employed as a percentage of all respondents. The *unemployment rate* is the number of unemployed as a percentage of respondents in the labour force.

**Employment Outcomes**

*Baccalaureate graduates had very good employment outcomes.*

In last year's survey, baccalaureate graduates reported similar labour force and employment rates.

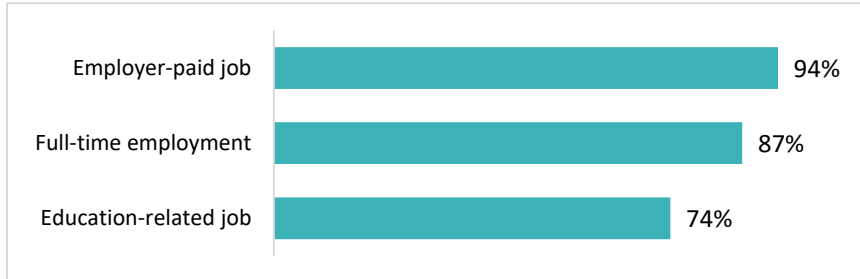


Note: Data are from the 2018 BC Student Outcomes Survey of Baccalaureate Graduates.

**2018 Employment Outcomes**

*The employment outcomes from the 2019 and 2018 surveys are similar.*

Most employed graduates were working full-time when they were surveyed, typically in a job related to their baccalaureate education. The majority worked for an employer—only 6 percent were self-employed.



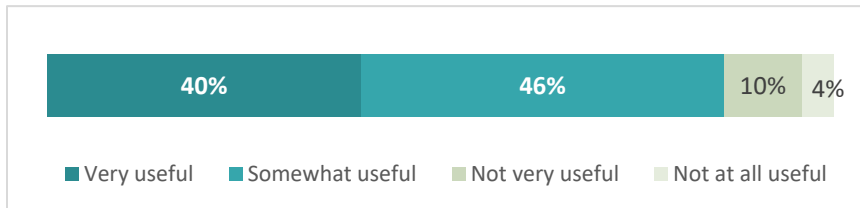
**Employment Characteristics**

*Employed baccalaureate graduates worked in positions with very favourable characteristics.*

Notes: Percentages are based on employed respondents. *Full-time employment* is 30 or more hours per week. The percentage for *education-related job* is of those who said their job was *very* or *somewhat related*.

Respondents who were full-time employees reported a median salary of \$55,000 per year; the median salary for part-time employees was \$22,598.

The majority (86 percent) of employed graduates said that the knowledge and skills they gained through their baccalaureate programs were *very* or *somewhat useful* in the performance of their jobs.






**Usefulness of Knowledge and Skills**

*The knowledge and skills gained from baccalaureate programs were useful for employment.*

Note: Percentages are based on employed respondents.

# Associate Degree, Diploma, and Certificate Students

|                     | <br>ASSOCIATE DEGREE &<br>UNIVERSITY TRANSFER STUDENTS | <br>DIPLOMA<br>STUDENTS | <br>CERTIFICATE<br>STUDENTS |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eligible for survey | 3,351                                                                                                                                   | 11,115                                                                                                   | 8,557                                                                                                        |
| Respondents         | 1,597                                                                                                                                   | 6,039                                                                                                    | 5,019                                                                                                        |
| Response rate       | 48%                                                                                                                                     | 54%                                                                                                      | 59%                                                                                                          |
| Median age          | 23                                                                                                                                      | 25                                                                                                       | 31                                                                                                           |
| % Female            | 60%                                                                                                                                     | 53%                                                                                                      | 74%                                                                                                          |

**Associate Degree, Diploma, and Certificate students** are surveyed within two years of completing or leaving their programs.

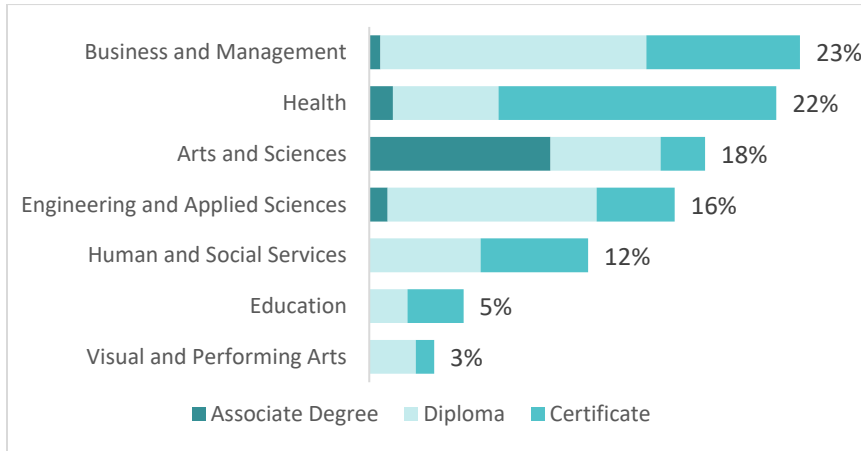
Note: Numbers are from the 2019 BC Student Outcomes Survey of Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Students.

## Associate Degree, Diploma, and Certificate Programs

*Note that there are no trades programs included with the associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs. Also note that the associate degree grouping includes university transfer programs.*

Nearly one-quarter of the former students surveyed had taken a Business and Management program, of which a majority were diploma programs. Over two-thirds of Health programs were taken for a certificate credential, while in the Arts and Sciences, students tended to seek associate degree credentials.





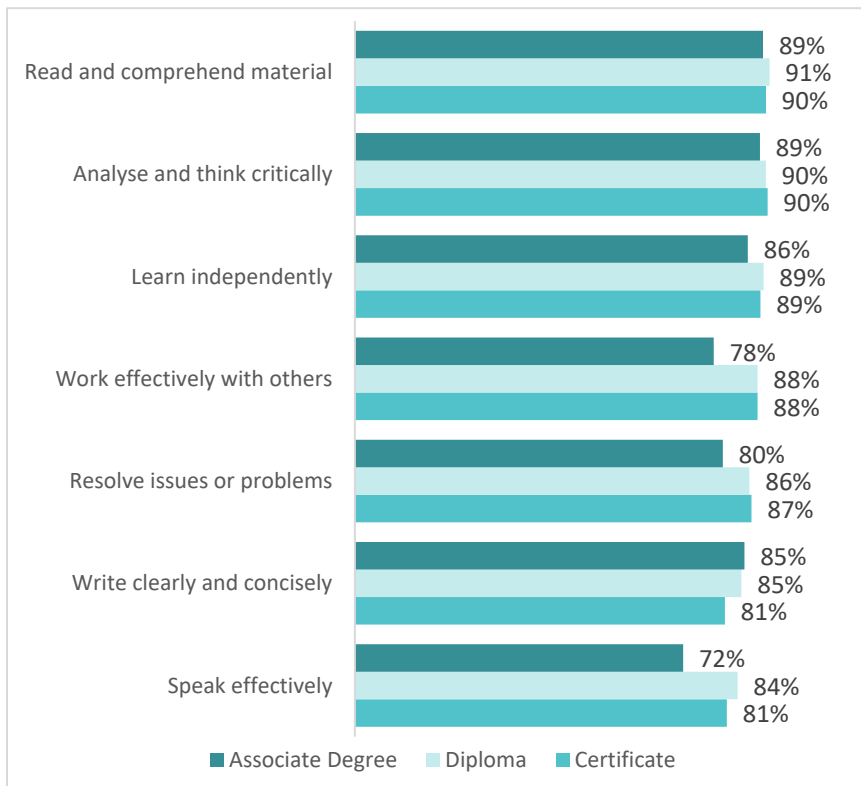
**Programs Taken**

*Business and Management diploma programs and Health certificate programs were the most commonly taken programs.*

Notes: Programs are grouped using the BC CIP Cluster, a roll-up based on the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP). Credentials have been grouped so that associate degree includes university transfer programs; diploma includes advanced and post-degree diplomas; certificate includes post-degree certificates.

**Education Evaluations**

The majority of former students said their program helped them to develop certain skills, especially the abilities to read and comprehend material and to analyse and think critically.



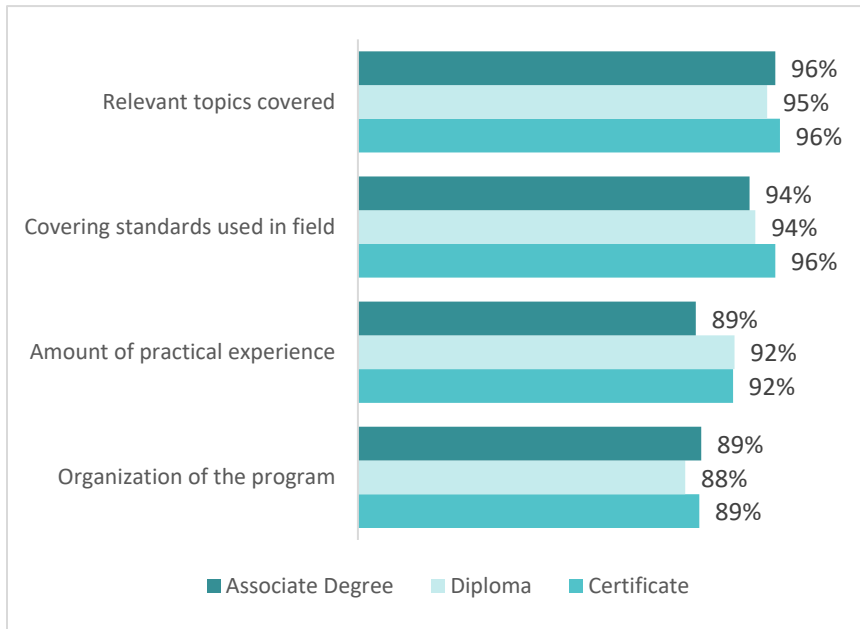
**Skills Developed**

*Former students said their programs helped them develop useful skills.*

Note: Percentages are of respondents who said their program was very helpful or helpful in developing the selected skill, based on those who gave a rating on a four-point scale from very helpful to not at all helpful.

Most former students surveyed said the quality of instruction was *very good*, *good*, or *adequate*, as follows: associate degree, 96 percent and both diploma and certificate 95 percent. (Respondents could choose from a 5-point scale, from *very good* to *very poor*.)

Many former students gave favourable ratings to aspects of their programs and to course content, especially the relevance of the topics covered to their field of study and covering the standards used in their field.

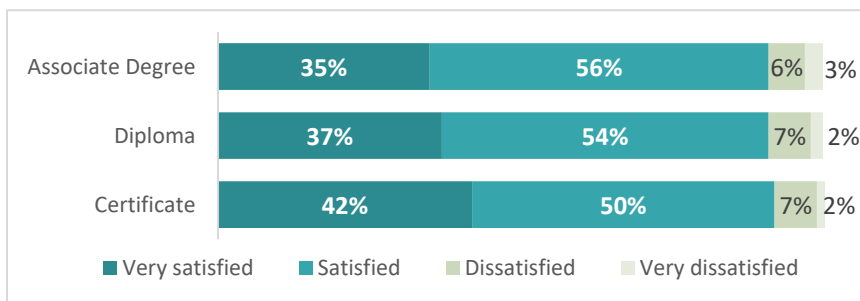


**Program Ratings**

*Former students gave favourable ratings to many aspects of their programs.*

Note: Percentages are of respondents who said the selected aspect of their training was *very good* or *good*, based on those who gave a rating on a five-point scale from *very good* to *very poor*, excluding those who said *not applicable*.

Overall satisfaction with education was high; most (91 percent) of the former students surveyed were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the programs they took.

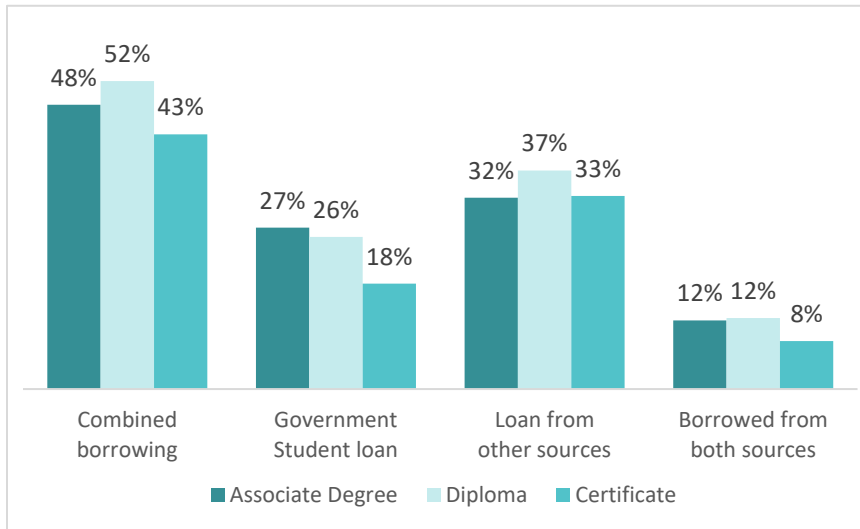


**Overall Satisfaction**

*Most former students were satisfied with their education.*

## Funding

Across all associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs, just under half (48 percent) of the respondents had borrowed to fund their education: 23 percent had received government student loans, and 35 percent borrowed from other sources—10 percent had both government loans and loans from other sources.

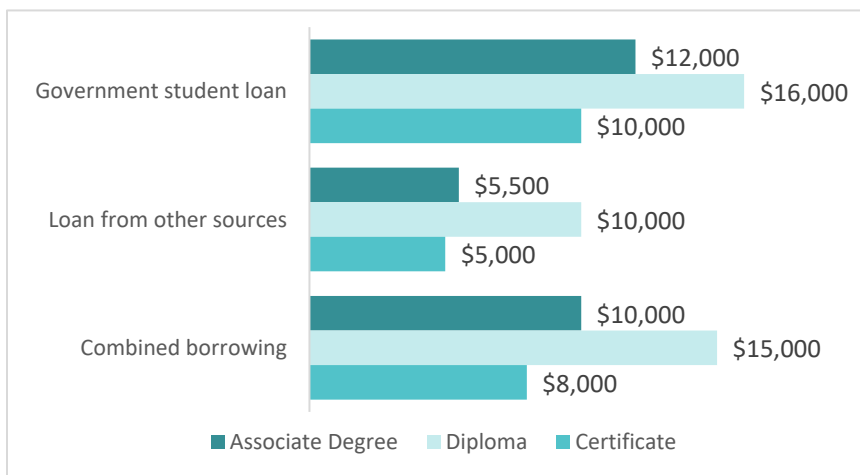


### Borrowing Rates

*Approximately half of the former students surveyed had borrowed to fund their studies.*

Notes: *Combined borrowing* includes everyone who borrowed, whether from the government student loan program or from another source or both.

The amount borrowed varied by the type of loan and by credential. Overall, the median amounts borrowed were as follows: \$13,000 in government student loans, \$6,000 in loans from other sources, and \$11,000 in combined borrowing.



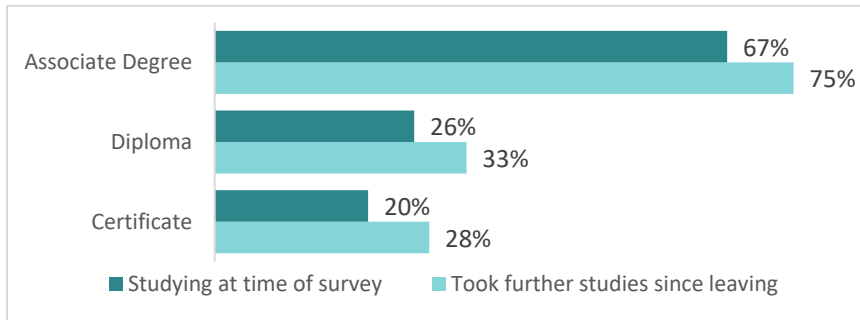
### Loan Amounts

*The median amounts borrowed varied by credential.*

Note: Loan amounts are medians, based on those who borrowed. The *combined borrowing* includes all borrowed amounts, whether from the government student loan program, from another source or from both.

## Further Education

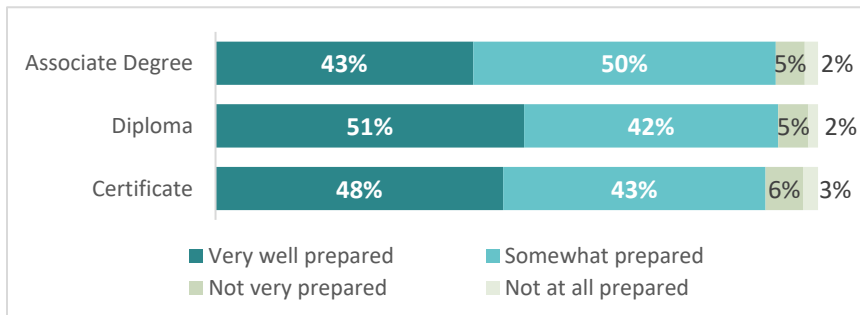
Since leaving their programs, 36 percent of former diploma, associate degree, and certificate students took further education. At the time of the survey, 29 percent of respondents were enrolled in further studies. Former associate degree students were the most likely to have gone on to further education.



### Further Education

*The majority of former associate degree students continued their education.*

Most (92 percent) of the respondents who took further studies said they were *very well* or *somewhat prepared* by their program.

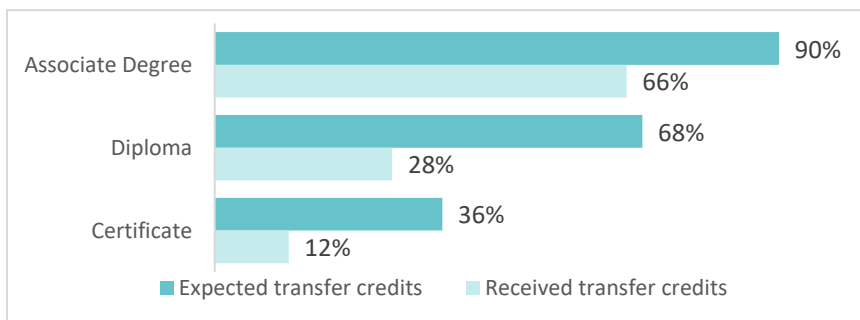


### Prepared for Further Studies

*Most of those who took further studies said their programs prepared them for their additional education.*

Note: Percentages are based on respondents who took further studies.

Overall, 69 percent of the respondents who took further education at a different post-secondary institution said they expected to get transfer credits. The majority of former associate degree, diploma, and certificate students who expected credits received them.

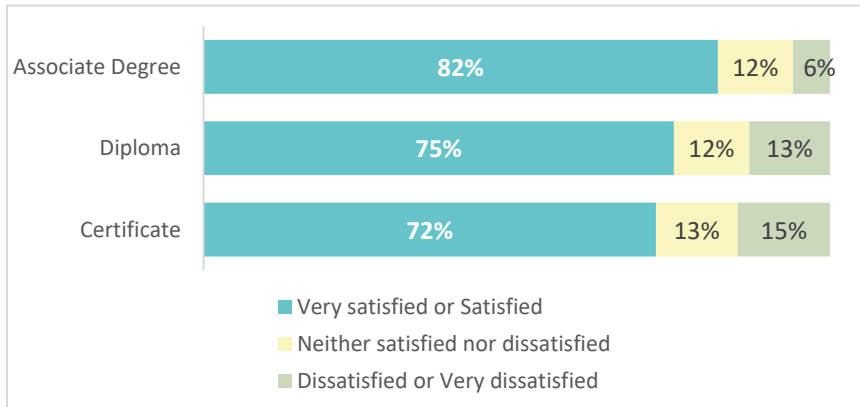


### Transfer Credits

*Most of the former associate degree students expected transfer credits.*

Note: Percentages are based on respondents who continued their education at a different institution.

Of those who expected transfer credits, a majority (78 percent) were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the experience.



**Satisfied with Transfer**

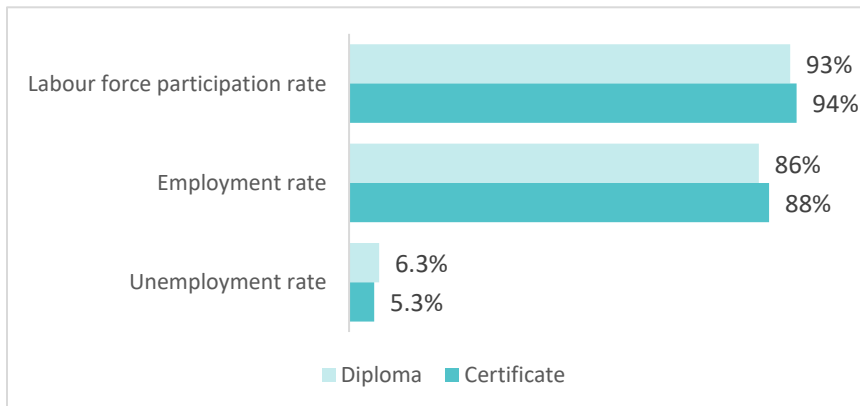
*The majority of those who expected transfer credits were satisfied with the transfer experience.*

Note: Percentages are based on respondents who expected transfer credits.

**Employment**

*Results are reported for diploma and certificate graduates only. Former associate degree students are less likely to be in the labour market and more likely to pursue further education.*

Most of the graduates from diploma and certificate programs were participating in the labour force at the time of the survey; that is, they were working or looking for work.

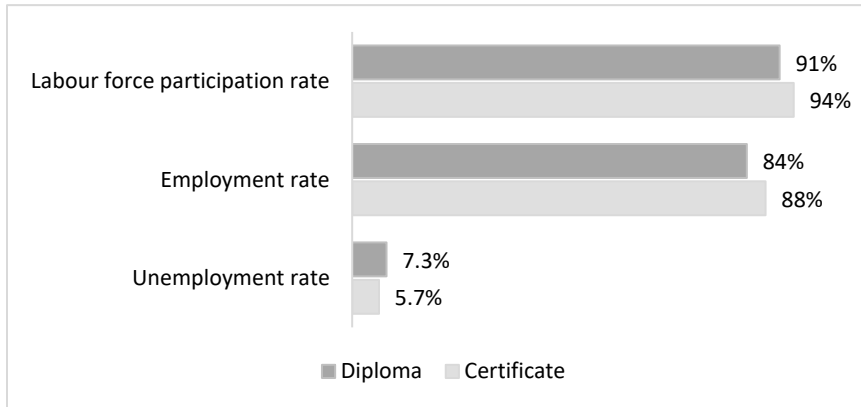


**Employment Outcomes**

*Diploma and certificate graduates had high labour force participation and employment rates.*

Notes: Percentages are based on graduates of diploma and certificate programs only. The *labour force participation rate* is the number of respondents employed or looking for work as a percentage of all respondents. The *employment rate* is the number employed as a percentage of all respondents. The *unemployment rate* is the number of unemployed as a percentage of respondents in the labour force.

In last year's survey, diploma and certificate graduates reported similar labour force and employment outcomes.

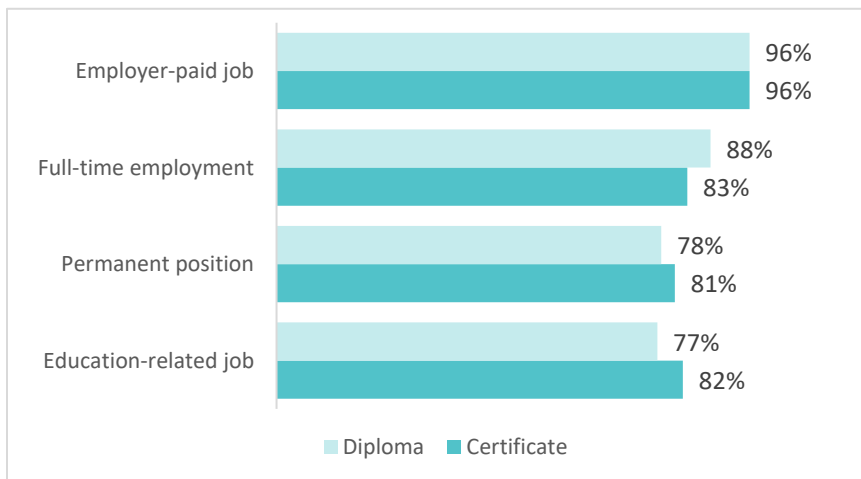


**2018 Employment Outcomes**

*The 2019 and 2018 employment outcomes results are similar.*

Note: Data are from the 2018 BC Student Outcomes Survey of Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Students.

Employment outcomes for graduates of diploma and certificate programs were good: most respondents were working in an employer-paid, permanent position, typically full-time. Approximately 4 percent were self-employed.



**Employment Characteristics**

*Most of the employed diploma and certificate graduates had jobs with very favourable characteristics.*

Notes: Percentages are based on employed graduates of diploma and certificate programs only. *Full-time employment* is 30 or more hours per week. The percentages for *education-related job* are of those who said their job was *very or somewhat related*.

The median hourly wage for diploma and certificate graduates who were employed full-time was \$23.50; for those employed part-time, it was \$21.00.

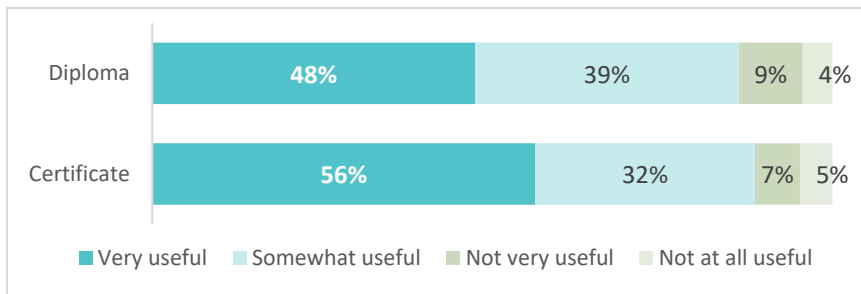


**Hourly Wage**

*Median hourly wages were somewhat lower for diploma respondents who were working part-time.*

Notes: Amounts are medians, based on employed graduates of diploma and certificate programs only. Full-time employment is 30 or more hours per week.

A large majority of diploma and certificate graduates (86 percent and 89 percent, respectively) said the knowledge and skills they gained from their training were *very useful* or *somewhat useful* in the performance of their jobs.






**Usefulness of Knowledge and Skills**

*Diploma and certificate graduates gave high ratings to the usefulness of the knowledge and skills they acquired.*

Notes: Percentages are based on employed graduates of diploma and certificate programs only.

# Trades Students

|                     |  APPRENTICESHIP |  TRADES FOUNDATION |  TRADES-RELATED VOCATIONAL |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eligible for survey | 4,969                                                                                            | 5,032                                                                                               | 465                                                                                                         |
| Respondents         | 2,637                                                                                            | 2,498                                                                                               | 247                                                                                                         |
| Response rate       | 53%                                                                                              | 50%                                                                                                 | 53%                                                                                                         |
| Median age          | 29                                                                                               | 22                                                                                                  | 28                                                                                                          |
| % Female            | 7%                                                                                               | 19%                                                                                                 | 16%                                                                                                         |

*Apprenticeship, Trades Foundation, and Trades-Related Vocational students are surveyed within two years of completing their programs.*

Note: Numbers are from the 2019 BC Student Outcomes Surveys of Apprenticeship, Trades Foundation, and Trades-Related Vocational Students.

## Trades Training in B.C.

An apprenticeship is a combination of on-the-job training and classroom learning that leads to a trades credential or "ticket" to practice a trade, usually within four years. Approximately 20 percent of an apprentice's time is spent on technical training, which is delivered through a public post-secondary institution or private training organization.

An apprentice in a traditional apprenticeship program who completes required levels of in-school training, passes exams, and receives a recommendation from a sponsoring employer will receive a Certificate of Qualification (C of Q) from the Industry Training Authority (ITA). For progressive credential programs, the ITA offers apprenticeship certification for completion of each level of training in a traditional apprenticeship. Most (92 percent) of the respondents to the 2019 Survey of Apprenticeship Students were from traditional apprenticeship programs.

By the time they were surveyed in 2019, 90 percent of former apprentices, from traditional and progressive credential programs, had received their Certificate of Qualification.



Trades foundation programs, which usually offer training in both classrooms and in-shop settings, are designed to give students the key skills and knowledge needed for entry into a particular trade. Most foundation programs link to apprenticeship and can provide credit for the first level of technical training and for some of the work-based training hours that are required to complete an apprenticeship.

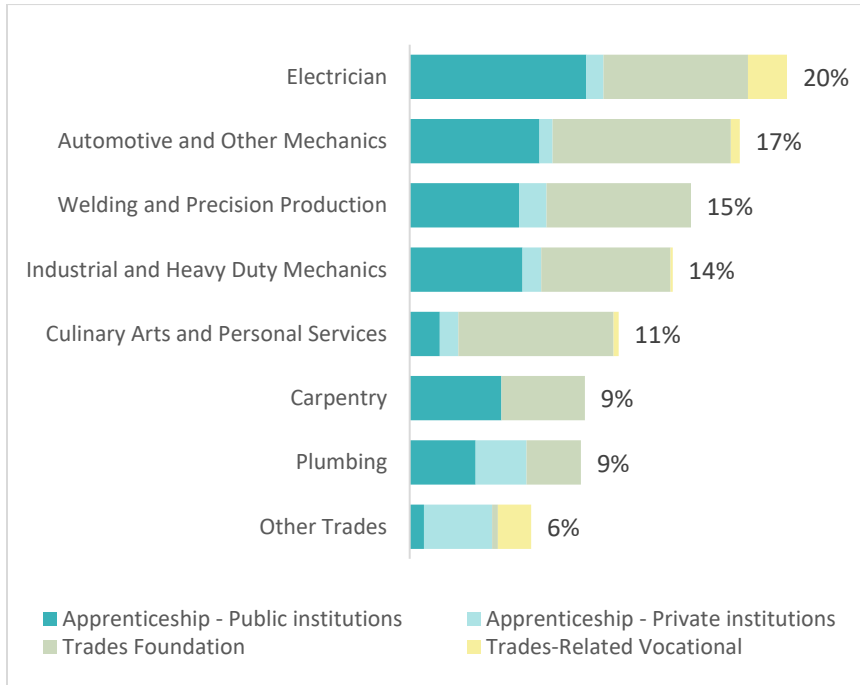
Trades-related vocational programs are those that are not part of the apprenticeship pathway. They offer a blend of academic and practical skills and provide expertise that is broader than foundation training.

## Programs

More trades survey respondents took Electrician programs than any other trades program. The largest group of apprentices took Electrician programs, and while many trades foundation students took Electrician programs as well, slightly larger proportions trained in Automotive and Other Mechanics and Culinary Arts and Personal Services programs.

The largest group of programs for trades-related vocational students was Electrician and consisted of programs related to power engineering. The group designated as Other Trades includes a range of different programs, from Railway Conductor and Plant Operator to Wireless Communications Technician.

The majority of former apprentices took their training in a public post-secondary institution, while approximately 23 percent did their in-school studies at a private training organization.



**Trades Programs Taken**  
*One-fifth of all the former trades students surveyed had taken Electrician programs.*

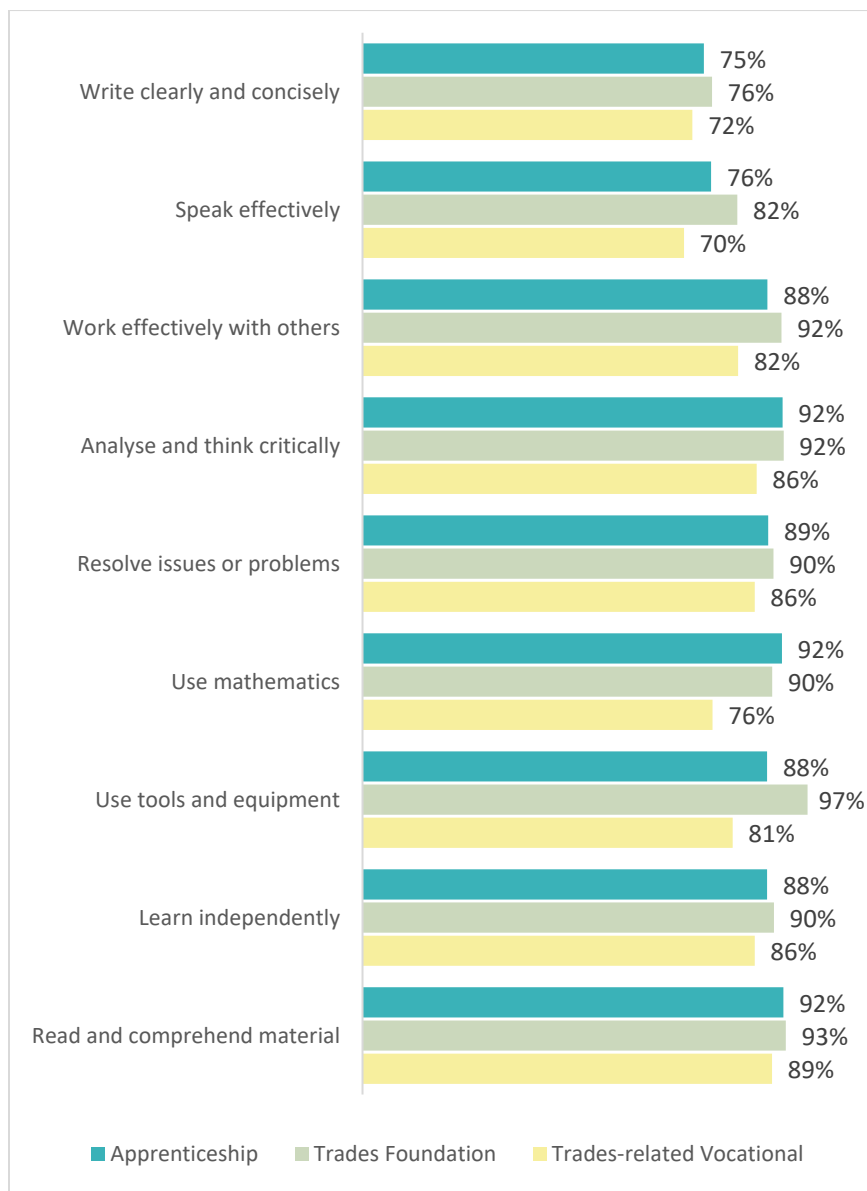
Note: Programs were grouped using the [Classification of Instructional Programs](#).

## In-School Training Evaluations

The majority of the former trades students surveyed gave high ratings to their program or in-school training for helping them develop skills. In particular, a large majority of former apprentices said their training helped them develop the skills to read and comprehend material appropriate to their field, use mathematics, and to analyse and think critically. Former trades foundation students were most likely to say they were helped to develop skills using tools and equipment, while former trades-related vocational students most often said their training helped them develop skills to read and comprehend material.

**Skills Developed**

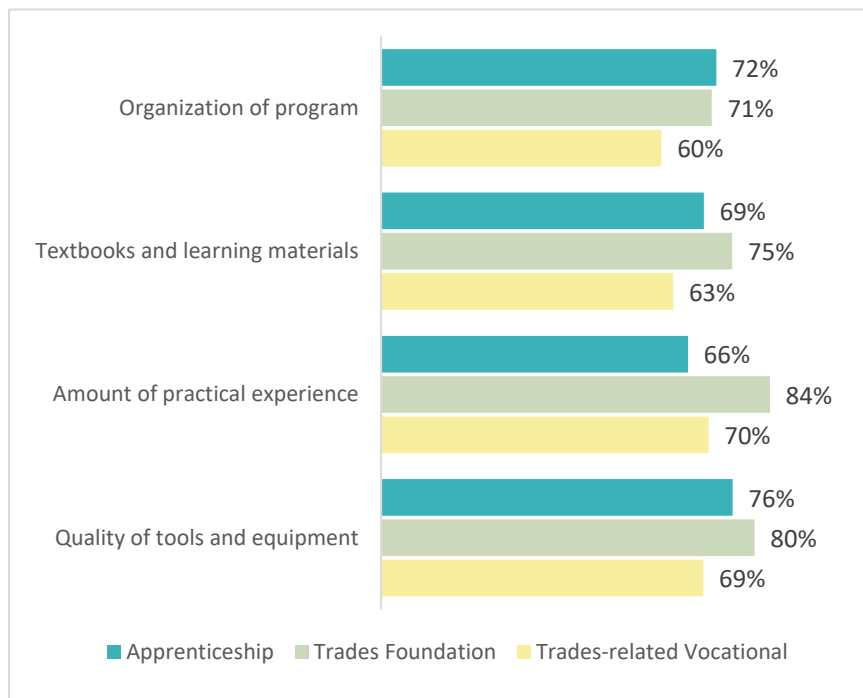
*Former students said their programs helped them develop skills.*



Note: Percentages are of respondents who said their program was *very helpful* or *helpful* in developing the selected skill, based on those who gave a rating on a four-point scale from *very helpful* to *not at all helpful*, excluding those who said *not applicable*.

Most former trades students surveyed said the quality of instruction was *very good*, *good*, or *adequate*: apprenticeship, 95 percent; trades foundation, 95 percent; and trades-related vocational, 93 percent. (Respondents could choose from a five-point scale, from *very good* to *very poor*.)

A majority of the former trades students rated certain aspects of their programs *very good* or *good*.

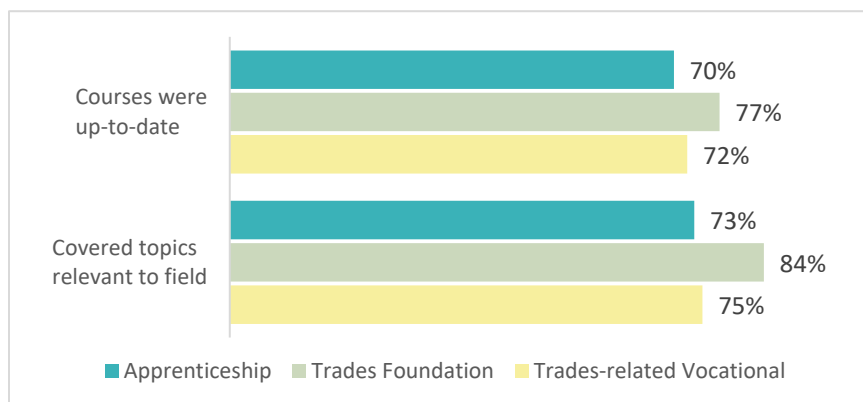


**Program Ratings**

*Selected aspects of training were given favourable ratings.*

Note: Percentages are of respondents who said the selected aspect of their education was *very good* or *good*, based on those who gave a rating on a five-point scale from *very good* to *very poor*, excluding those who said *not applicable*.

Likewise, there were aspects of their training courses that got *very good* or *good* ratings. In particular, former trades foundation students gave favourable ratings to their program courses' coverage of topics relevant to their fields.

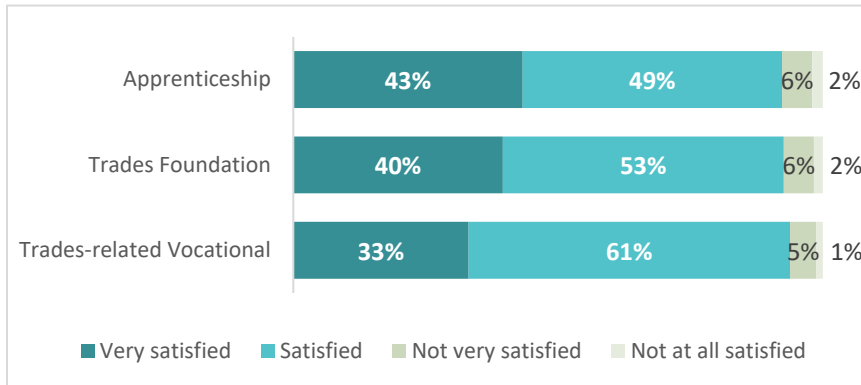


**Course Ratings**

*Former trades foundation students gave high ratings to their courses' coverage of relevant topics and timeliness.*

Note: Percentages are of respondents who said the selected aspect of their education was *very good* or *good*, based on those who gave a rating on a five-point scale from *very good* to *very poor*, excluding those who said *not applicable*.

Most (93 percent) of the trades survey respondents were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their program or in-school training.



**Overall Satisfaction**

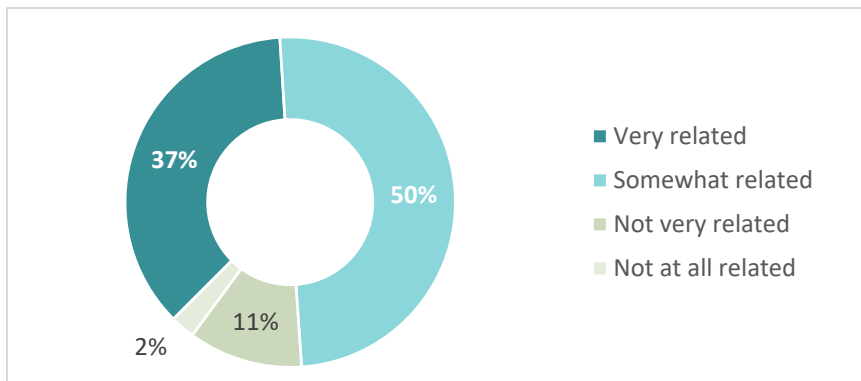
*Most former trades students were satisfied with their training.*

**Workplace Training**

*Questions about workplace experiences are asked of former apprenticeship students only.*

Of the former apprenticeship students surveyed, 98 percent had been employed as an apprentice or had a work placement outside their training institution.

A large majority (86 percent) said their in-school training was *very* or *somewhat related* to their workplace experience.

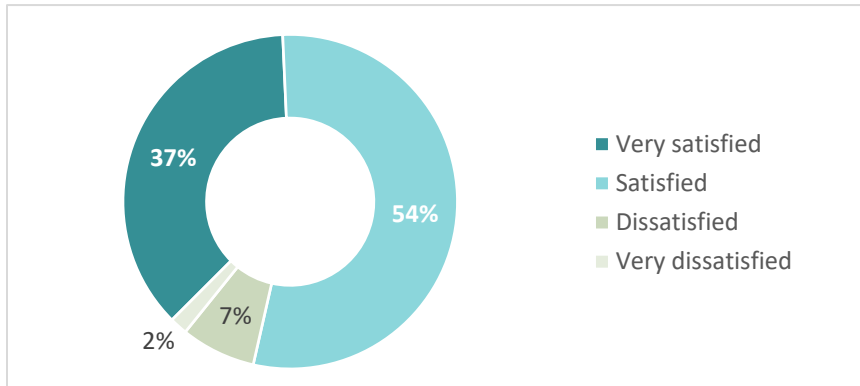


**In-School Training Related**

*Former apprenticeship students said their in-school training was related to their workplace experience.*

Note: Percentages are based on respondents who were employed as apprentices or who had work placements outside their institutions.

Most (91 percent) of the respondents who were employed as apprentices or who had work placements outside their institutions were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their workplace experience.



**Satisfied with Workplace**

*Former apprenticeship students were satisfied with their workplace training.*

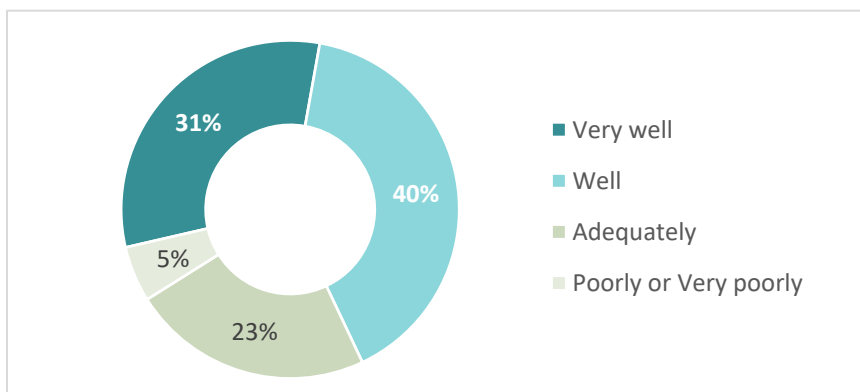
Note: Percentages are based on respondents who were employed as apprentices or who had work placements outside their institutions.

**Pathway to Apprenticeship**

*Questions about getting an apprenticeship are asked of trades foundation students only.*

After finishing their foundation programs, 83 percent of former trades foundation students tried to find employment as apprentices. Of those former students, 82% obtained an apprenticeship.

A majority (71%) of those who became apprentices said their program prepared them *very well* or *well* for their apprenticeship training.



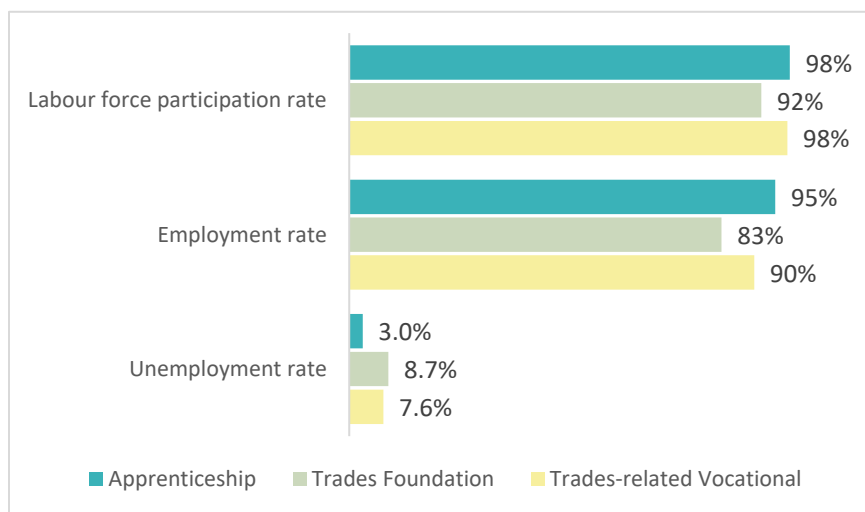
**Prepared for Apprenticeship**

*A majority of the trades foundation students who became apprentices were well prepared.*

Note: Percentages are based on respondents who became apprentices.

## Employment

Former apprenticeship students had a very high labour force participation rate; almost all respondents were working or looking for work. The participation rates for former trades foundation and trades-related vocational students were also high. Employment rates varied a little more but were good overall.

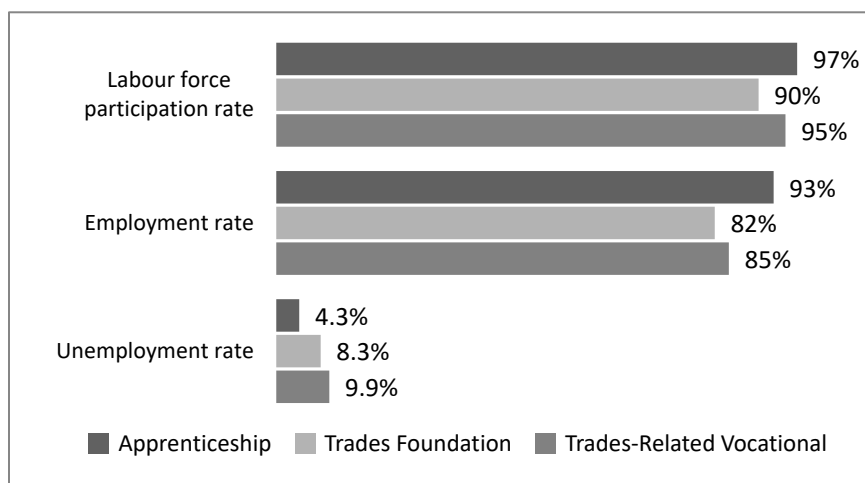


### Employment Outcomes

*Former trades students participated in the labour force at high rates.*

Notes: The *labour force participation rate* is the number of respondents employed or looking for work as a percentage of all respondents. The *employment rate* is the number of employed as a percentage of all respondents. The *unemployment rate* is the number of unemployed as a percentage of respondents in the labour force.

The former students who were surveyed in 2018 had the following results:

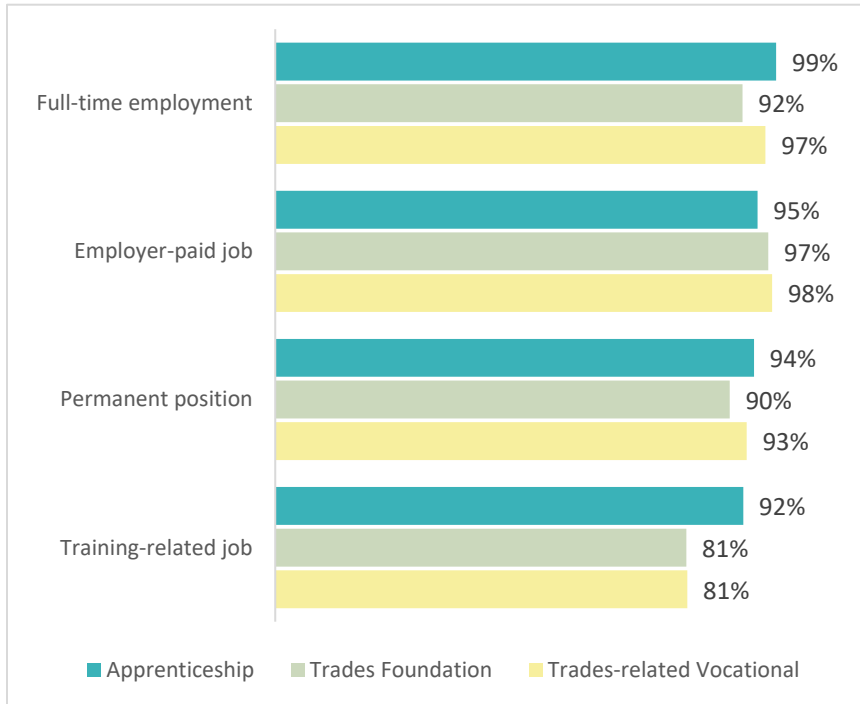


### 2018 Employment Outcomes

*In both 2018 and 2019, former apprentices were most likely to have favourable employment outcomes.*

Note: Data are from the 2018 BC Student Outcomes Survey of Apprenticeship, Trades Foundation, and Trades-Related Vocational Students.

The characteristics of employment for trades respondents were very good. Nearly all employed respondents were working full-time, and most were in permanent positions, typically employer-paid. The majority of former trades students were in a job related to their training.



**Employment Characteristics**

*The characteristics of former trades students' employment were very favourable.*

Notes: Percentages are based on employed respondents. *Full-time employment* is 30 or more hours per week. The percentages for *training-related job* are of those who said their job was *very* or *somewhat* related.

The median hourly wage varied considerably, depending on the type of training completed. Not surprisingly, those who completed their apprenticeship training earned more per hour than the former trades foundation students, who were just starting their apprenticeships or other employment.



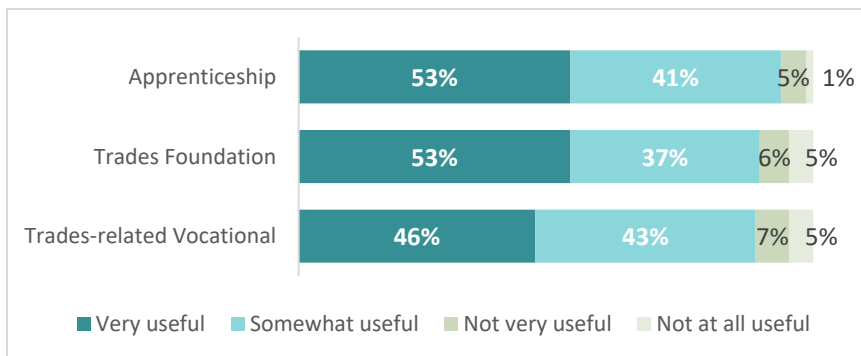


Notes: Amounts are medians, based on employed respondents. Full-time employment is 30 or more hours per week.

**Hourly Wage**

Median hourly wages differed among the trades groups, varying according to the amount of training and level of experience.

Most employed trades respondents (apprenticeship: 94 percent; trades foundation: 90 percent; trades-related vocational: 89 percent) said that the knowledge and skills they gained from their training were *very useful* or *somewhat useful* in the performance of their jobs.



Notes: Percentages are based on employed respondents. Respondents chose from a four-point scale, from *very useful* to *not at all useful*.

**Usefulness of Knowledge and Skills**

Former trades students gave high ratings to the usefulness of the knowledge and skills they gained through their training.

## About BC Student Outcomes

Findings from the BC Student Outcomes surveys are used by the Province of British Columbia 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 on the [BC Student Outcomes website](#).