2021

Springfield Technical Community College

Office of Assessment

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[GRADUATING STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS]

Executive Summary

Survey Respondents and Response Rate: 196 graduating students took the survey

In June 2021, students graduating with either an associate degree or certificate were surveyed using an online survey distributed through Qualtrics. Emails were sent out to 855 graduating students asking them to complete the graduating student survey. There were 196 usable responses for a response rate of 23%. Of these respondents, 165 (84%) are receiving an associate degree and 31 (16%) are receiving a certificate. There were 942 students receiving degrees in FY2021.

Employment Plans: 45% of new graduates are seeking new employment and 13% have already secured new positions

Graduates were asked about their current employment status, which includes military service. If graduates responded that they were either continuing employment or beginning new employment, they were asked about the relationship of their work to their STCC education as well as whether their work is or will be full- or part-time. Of graduates responding to this question, about 67% report being currently employed. About 13% of students have secured new positions as they graduate, whether they were already employed or not. About 45% of graduates are seeking new positions, whether they are currently employed or not. Many graduates are pursuing further education instead of or in addition to employment.

Continuing Education Plans: 62% of new graduates expect to continue their education

Graduates were asked whether they will be continuing their education within the next year and whether they will do so in a full- or part-time capacity. About 64% of graduates receiving associates degrees plan to continue their education within the year, with most planning to attend a 4-year college or university. About 47% of certificate graduates plan to continue their education, with the majority returning to STCC.

Perceived Educational Preparation: 92% of graduating students feel that STCC prepared them for continuing education

We asked graduates several questions about their educational experience at STCC including their overall preparedness, how their education at STCC had improved their academic and personal skills, and the barriers and supports they experienced in their efforts to complete their credentials. In response to a question about how well their STCC education had prepared them for further education, only eight students reported being either somewhat or very unprepared. Over 62% of all award recipients said they were very well prepared.

Perceived Educational Barriers: Family responsibilities, financial difficulties, and length of time since last in school as most frequent barriers to student success

We also asked graduates about the barriers they faced as they worked to obtain their credentials. Approximately 50% of associate degree students experienced either minor or major barriers to their education because of family responsibilities and financial difficulties. For certificate recipients, over 50% experienced either minor or major educational barriers due to not being in school for a long time.

Perceived Educational Supports: Faculty and learning activities pave the way for success

Finally, we asked students about the factors that helped them succeed in completing their credentials. For students receiving their associate degree, more than 90% cited faculty and/or instructors (in-class time) and in-class experience and activities as being a part of their completion success. For students receiving certificates, more than 90% cited faculty and/or instructors (in-class time) as being part of their completion success.

STCC Graduating Student Survey Results: 2021

Since 2013 the Office of Assessment has conducted a graduating student survey at Cap & Gown Pick-Up. This year, due to COVID-19, the survey was conducted using an online survey tool. All survey questions can be found in Appendix I. (Please note that not all totals equal 100% due to rounding.)

Survey Respondents and Response Rate: 196 graduating students took the survey

In June 2021, students graduating with either an associate degree or certificate were surveyed using an online survey distributed through Qualtrics. Emails were sent out to 855 graduating students asking them to complete the graduating student survey. There were 196 usable responses for a response rate of 23%. Of these respondents, 165 (84%) are receiving an associate degree and 31 (16%) are receiving a certificate. There were 942 students receiving degrees in FY2021.

Of the respondents who answered the questions on race/ethnicity, 28% identified as Hispanic, 49% as white, and 15% as black; 8% identified as other races or as multi-racial. There were 40% of respondents who identified as male and 59% who identified as female. We also asked students how old they were when they started their STCC education: 33% were 19 years old or younger; 22% were 20-24; 10% were 25-29, and 35% reported being 30 or older when they began their program.

Graduates were asked how long it took them to complete their credentials and from which program they were receiving it. The majority of students graduating with an associate degree graduated in 3 years or less. The majority of students graduating with a certificate graduated in 2 years or less. The list of programs represented by credential type can be found in Appendix II of this report.

Time to Completion	Asso	ciates	Certificates		
	N %		Ν	%	
Less than 1 year	3	2%	9	29%	
1 year to less than 2 years	19	12%	10	32%	
2 years to less than 3 years	74	45%	7	23%	
3 years to less than 4 years	41	25%	4	13%	
4 years to less than 5 years	13	8%	0	0%	
5 years to less than 6 years	5	3%	0	0%	
6 or more years	10	6%	1	3%	
Total	165	100%	31	100%	



Employment Plans: 45% of new graduates are seeking new employment and 13% have already secured new positions

Graduates were asked about their current employment status, which includes military service. If graduates responded that they were either continuing employment or beginning new employment, they were asked about the relationship of their work to their STCC education as well as whether their work is or will be full- or part-time. Of graduates responding to this question, about 67% report being currently employed. About 13% of students have secured new positions as they graduate, whether they were already employed or not. <u>About 45% of graduates are seeking new positions</u>, whether they are currently employed or not. Many graduates are pursuing further education instead of or in addition to employment.

White and Hispanic students were more likely to be currently employed and not seeking a new position (white: 41%, Hispanic: 40%, black: 28%). Black students were more likely not to be currently employed, but seeking employment (black: 36%, white: 23%, Hispanic: 19%). Graduating students who identified as white were likely to be currently employed and seeking a new position (white: 22%, black: 20%, Hispanic: 15%). Students who identified as Hispanic were more likely to be currently employed and seeking a new position (white: 22%, black: 20%, Hispanic: 15%). Students who identified as Hispanic were more likely to be currently employed but had secured a new position (Hispanic: 12%, white: 8%, black: 8%) than students who identified as black or white.

Work Status	Associates (n = 164)	Certificates (n = 31)
Currently employed, NOT seeking new position	37%	29%
Currently employed, SEEKING new position	21%	23%
Currently employed, SECURED new position	10%	6%
Not employed, SEEKING position	21%	32%
Not employed, SECURED position	3%	6%
Not employed, NOT seeking position	7%	3%
Entering or continuing military service	0%	0%

Graduating students who reported being currently employed or having secured a new position were asked about their full-time versus part-time status. Twenty-five students had secured new positions as of this survey.

Work Hours	Associates		Associates		Certif	ficates
	Current Position (n = 112)	New Position (n = 21)	Current Position (n = 18)	New Position (n = 4)		
Full-Time Work	61%	81%	78%	100%		
Part-Time Work	39%	19%	22%	0%		

Graduates were also asked whether their current and/or new employment was related to the academic work they completed at STCC.

Work to STCC Relationship	Assoc	Associates Certificates		
	CurrentNewPositionPosition(n = 112)(n = 21		Current Position (n = 18)	New Position (n = 4)
Work Directly Related to STCC Education	29%	86%	56%	75%
Work Somewhat Related to STCC Education	34%	10%	6%	0%
Not Related	38%	5%	39%	25%

Lastly, graduates were asked how prepared they felt for their current and/or new employment as a result of the academic work they completed at STCC.

Work Preparation	Assoc	ciates	Certificates		
	CurrentNewPositionPosition(n = 112)(n = 21)		Current Position (n = 18)	New Position (n = 4)	
Very well prepared	62%	76%	72%	75%	
Somewhat prepared	16%	24%	17%	25%	
Somewhat unprepared	0% 0%		0%	0%	
Very unprepared	1%	0%	0%	0%	
STCC education played no role in preparation for position	21%	0%	11%	0%	



Continuing Education Plans: 62% of new graduates expect to continue their education

Graduates were asked whether they will be continuing their education within the next year and whether they will do so in a full- or part-time capacity. About 64% of graduates receiving associates degrees plan to continue their education within the year, with most planning to attend a 4-year college or university. About 47% of certificate graduates plan to continue their education, with the majority returning to STCC.

Education Status	Associates (n = 163)	Certificates (n = 30)
At a 4-year college/university	45%	3%
In a new program at STCC	13%	40%
At a different 2 year college	4%	0%
At another non-degree educational program	2%	3%
I'm not beginning any additional education this year.	36%	53%

More students identifying as black plan to attend a 4-year college or university (black: 50%, Hispanic: 35%, white: 35%). White students were more likely to respond that they did not have immediate continuing education plans (white: 46%, Hispanic: 38%, black: 38%). Hispanic students were most likely to have plans to continue in another program at STCC (Hispanic: 25%, white: 13%, black: 8%).

Of those students pursuing additional education, about 71% plan to attend full time. Students identifying as black plan to attend full-time at a higher rate than those who identify as Hispanic or white (black: 73%, white: 71%, Hispanic: 67%).

Hours	Associates (n = 105)	Certificates (n = 14)
Full-Time Schooling	75%	36%
Part-Time Schooling	25%	64%

Perceived Educational Preparation: 92% of graduating students feel that STCC prepared them for continuing education

We asked graduates several questions about their educational experience at STCC including their overall preparedness, how their education at STCC had improved their academic and personal skills, and the barriers and supports they experienced in their efforts to complete their credentials.

In response to a question about how well their STCC education had prepared them for further education, only eight students reported being either somewhat or very unprepared. Over 62% of all award recipients said



they were very well prepared. Hispanic and white students reported higher levels of being very well prepared to continue their education than black students (Hispanic: 70%, white: 67%, black: 60%).

Educational Preparation	Associates (n = 105)	Certificates (n = 14)
Very well prepared	65%	43%
Somewhat prepared	29%	43%
Somewhat unprepared	5%	7%
Very unprepared	1%	7%
STCC education played no role in preparation for continuing education	1%	0%



To learn more specifically about the preparation of the graduates, we provided a list of educational and personal skills and asked students to rate how much their STCC experience had improved these abilities. Mean improvement responses were somewhat lower for certificate than associate degree holders, as might be expected given that they have spent less time at STCC to complete their credentials. All mean scores were between 3 (some improvement) and 4 (a lot of improvement). Of all the skills, graduates reported the largest gains in their abilities to think critically, research a problem and assess information to address it, get along with many different kinds of people, make and justify decisions, and consider a subject from multiple points of view. Black and Hispanic students reported the greatest gains in each of these skills.

Associate Degree Recipients:

	No					
Rate how your experience at	Improvement	A little	Some	A lot	Tremendous	
STCC improved your ability to:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Mean
Think critically	7%	10%	19%	39%	25%	3.65
Research a problem and assess information to address it	7%	10%	23%	38%	21%	3.56
Make and justify decisions	8%	11%	23%	40%	18%	3.48
Get along with many different kinds of people	7%	19%	18%	34%	23%	3.48
Use computers and common software, mobile devices or internet or cloud-based applications	10%	16%	16%	31%	26%	3.46
Consider a subject from multiple points of view	6%	15%	24%	38%	18%	3.46
Use evidence to support/oppose a point of view	8%	14%	22%	38%	18%	3.45
Better serve my community or society in general	10%	13%	23%	32%	22%	3.43
Contribute to group discussions and work	7%	18%	21%	37%	17%	3.40
Examine assumptions	10%	14%	28%	30%	18%	3.30
Give oral presentations	12%	15%	28%	31%	14%	3.20
Persuade others of your view	12%	17%	28%	32%	12%	3.16
Write clearly	14%	17%	23%	32%	14%	3.15
Use math to address day-to-day issues or problems	14%	20%	25%	27%	15%	3.09



Certificate Recipients:

Rate how your experience at STCC improved your ability to:	No Improvement (1)	A little (2)	Some (3)	A lot (4)	Tremendous (5)	Mean
Get along with many different kinds of people	13%	13%	13%	29%	32%	3.55
Think critically	10%	13%	23%	26%	29%	3.52
Make and justify decisions	13%	13%	17%	23%	33%	3.50
Research a problem and assess information to address it	16%	10%	19%	23%	32%	3.45
Contribute to group discussions and work	10%	16%	23%	23%	29%	3.45
Consider a subject from multiple points of view	10%	19%	19%	23%	29%	3.42
Use evidence to support/oppose a point of view	13%	19%	16%	23%	29%	3.35
Use math to address day-to-day issues or problems	13%	17%	17%	33%	20%	3.30
Use computers and common software, mobile devices or internet or cloud-based applications	13%	26%	10%	23%	29%	3.29
Better serve my community or society in general	17%	17%	17%	27%	23%	3.23
Examine assumptions	14%	14%	28%	28%	17%	3.21
Give oral presentations	19%	16%	19%	23%	23%	3.13
Persuade others of your view	20%	17%	17%	23%	23%	3.13
Write clearly	16%	16%	26%	26%	16%	3.10

Perceived Educational Barriers: Family responsibilities, financial difficulties, and length of time since last in school as most frequent barriers to student success

We also asked graduates about the barriers they faced as they worked to obtain their credentials. Approximately 50% of associate degree students experienced either minor or major barriers to their education because of family responsibilities and financial difficulties. For certificate recipients, over 50% experienced either minor or major educational barriers due to not being in school for a long time.

Students identifying as black reported family responsibilities (black: 43%, white: 28%, Hispanic: 27%), not being in school for a long time (black: 28%, white: 19%, Hispanic: 15%), unclear academic or career goals

(black: 25%, Hispanic: 15%, white: 12%), job demands (black: 23%, white: 15%, Hispanic: 6%), financial difficulties (black: 22%, Hispanic: 17%, white: 16%), and personal and/or health challenges (black: 18%, Hispanic: 17%, white: 14%) as significant barriers more often than students identifying as white or Hispanic. Students identifying as Hispanic also reported it taking a while to find the program they wanted to complete (Hispanic: 15%, white: 9%, black: 8%), housing issues (Hispanic: 13%, black: 9%, white 2%), and their course load being too heavy (Hispanic: 13%, white: 7%, black: 5%) as significant barriers more often than students identifying as white or black.

Associate Degree Recipients:

Which barriers did you have to overcome to complete your STCC education?	Not a barrier (1)	Minor barrier (2)	Major barrier (3)	Mean
Family responsibilities	42%	28%	30%	1.89
Financial difficulties	50%	32%	17%	1.67
My academic or career goals were unclear	53%	31%	16%	1.63
I had not been in school for a long time	56%	28%	16%	1.59
Job demands	56%	31%	13%	1.57
Personal and/or health challenges	57%	29%	13%	1.56
I was not academically prepared when I started	55%	38%	8%	1.53
My course load was too heavy	56%	37%	7%	1.51
It took me a while to find the program I wanted to complete	65%	23%	12%	1.48
I didn't have a good place to study or complete my work	67%	22%	11%	1.44
After selecting my program, I had trouble finding the best path for completing it	65%	27%	8%	1.42
I had difficulty completing courses for my program	71%	25%	4%	1.33
Expectations of me were too low	73%	22%	5%	1.32
Housing issues	80%	13%	7%	1.27
Not enough access to tutors or other academic support	79%	16%	5%	1.26
It was difficult to get into the classes I needed	77%	22%	1%	1.24
Not enough access to advisors	83%	11%	5%	1.22



Certificate Recipients:

Which barriers did you have to overcome to complete your STCC education?	Not a barrier (1)	Minor barrier (2)	Major barrier (3)	Mean
I had not been in school for a long time	41%	34%	24%	1.83
Family responsibilities	52%	31%	17%	1.66
I was not academically prepared when I started	52%	38%	10%	1.59
Financial difficulties	59%	31%	10%	1.52
I didn't have a good place to study or complete my work	62%	31%	7%	1.45
My academic or career goals were unclear	66%	28%	7%	1.41
My course load was too heavy	69%	21%	10%	1.41
Expectations of me were too low	72%	17%	10%	1.38
It took me a while to find the program I wanted to complete	69%	24%	7%	1.38
It was difficult to get into the classes I needed	69%	28%	3%	1.34
Personal and/or health challenges	79%	7%	14%	1.34
Not enough access to advisors	71%	25%	4%	1.32
After selecting my program, I had trouble finding the best path for completing it	76%	17%	7%	1.31
Job demands	76%	21%	3%	1.28
I had difficulty completing courses for my program	79%	17%	3%	1.24
Not enough access to tutors or other academic support	86%	10%	3%	1.17
Housing issues	86%	14%	0%	1.14

Perceived Educational Supports: Faculty and learning activities pave the way for success

Finally, we asked students about the factors that helped them succeed in completing their credentials. For students receiving their associate degree, more than 90% cited faculty and/or instructors (in-class time) and in-class experience and activities as being a part of their completion success. For students receiving certificates, more than 90% cited faculty and/or instructors (in-class time) as being part of their completion success.

Students identifying as black identified family inspiration, support, or encouragement (black: 75%, white: 73%, Hispanic: 63%), academic advisors (black: 70%, Hispanic: 58%, white: 46%), being a role model for others (black: 68%, Hispanic: 58%, white: 44%), classmate inspiration, support, or encouragement (black: 61%, Hispanic: 52%, white: 47%), other, non-family inspiration, support, or encouragement (black: 61%, Hispanic:



50%, white: 41%) faculty and/or instructors (out-of-class time) (black:58%, Hispanic: 50%, white: 48%), college staff (not faculty or advisors) (black: 58%, Hispanic: 31%, white: 28%), out-of-class homework and projects (black: 54%, Hispanic: 50%, white: 41%), and campus activity group or club (black: 35%, Hispanic: 19%, white: 14%) as major success factors more frequently than students identifying as Hispanic or white. Students identifying as Hispanic identified faculty and/or instructors (in-class time) (Hispanic: 85%, white: 78%, black: 75%) and in-class experience and activities (Hispanic: 79%, white: 65%, black: 64%) as more important for their success than students identifying as black or white.

What factors helped you succeed in completing your STCC education?	Not a factor (1)	Minor factor (2)	Major factor (3)	Mean
Faculty and/or instructors (in-class time)	6%	19%	75%	2.70
In-class experience and activities	5%	30%	64%	2.59
Family inspiration, support, or encouragement	15%	17%	68%	2.52
Faculty and/or instructors (out-of-class time)	14%	38%	48%	2.34
Academic advisors	17%	33%	51%	2.34
Being a role model for others	16%	38%	47%	2.31
Out-of-class homework and projects	13%	45%	42%	2.28
Classmate inspiration, support, or encouragement	21%	31%	47%	2.26
Other, non-family inspiration, support, or encouragement	19%	38%	42%	2.23
Internship, clinical placements, or other career/program- related experience	39%	16%	45%	2.06
College staff (not faculty or advisors)	30%	39%	30%	2.00
Campus activity group or club	57%	23%	19%	1.62

Associate Degree Recipients:



Certificate Recipients:

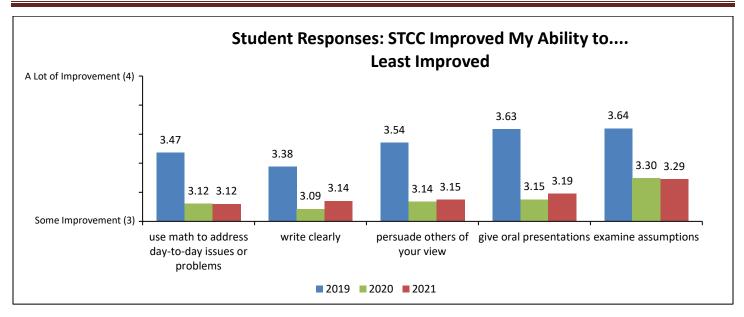
What factors helped you succeed in completing your STCC education?	Not a factor (1)	Minor factor (2)	Major factor (3)	Mean
Faculty and/or instructors (in-class time)	8%	19%	73%	2.65
In-class experience and activities	12%	12%	77%	2.65
Family inspiration, support, or encouragement	12%	19%	69%	2.58
Out-of-class homework and projects	12%	38%	50%	2.38
Being a role model for others	19%	23%	58%	2.38
Academic advisors	23%	19%	58%	2.35
Faculty and/or instructors (out-of-class time)	23%	23%	54%	2.31
Classmate inspiration, support, or encouragement	27%	27%	46%	2.19
Other, non-family inspiration, support, or encouragement	31%	19%	50%	2.19
College staff (not faculty or advisors)	23%	38%	38%	2.15
Internship, clinical placements, or other career/program- related experience	38%	15%	46%	2.08
Campus activity group or club	65%	23%	12%	1.46

Graduate Survey Trends: Writing and math continue to be least improved for our students, non-academic barriers most common, faculty still leading student success factor

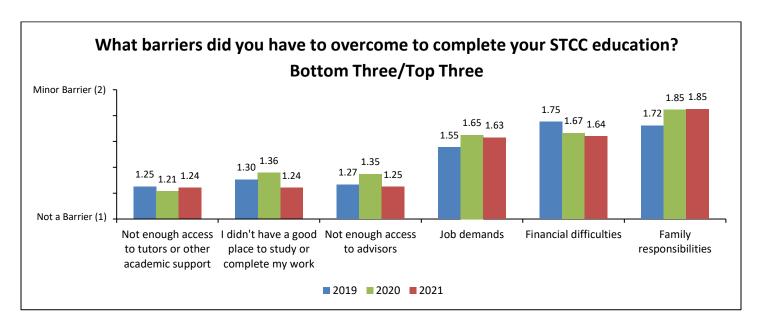
The College now has seven years of graduating student survey data. The graduating student survey was first administered in 2013 and has been done annually at cap and gown pickup. The paragraphs below summarize some of the noteworthy trends for 2021.

Since the College started collecting data on graduating students, the ability to write clearly and the ability to use math to address day-to-day issues or problems have consistently been reported as the least improved by graduating students. In 2021, using math day-to-day was the least improved with a mean of 3.12 and writing clearly was second least improved with a mean of 3.14. In comparison, the abilities that showed the most improvement in 2021 were thinking critically (3.63), researching a problem and assessing information to address it (3.54), and getting along with many different kinds of people (3.49).





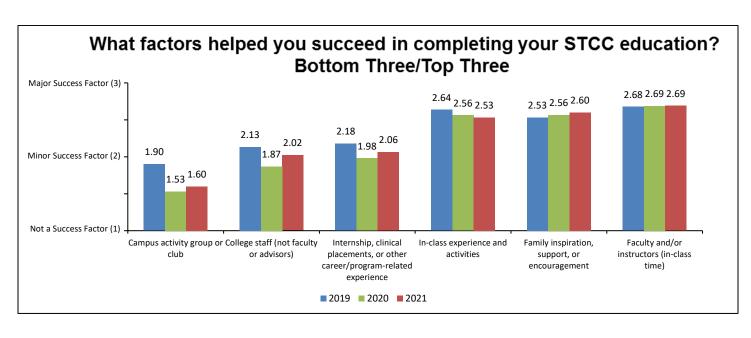
Family responsibilities and financial difficulties have consistently been the largest barriers to student success at Springfield Technical Community College for the last three years. In 2021, the mean for family responsibilities was 1.85 and the mean for financial difficulties was 1.64. In comparison, the barriers that have had the least impact on our students' success in 2021 were not enough access to advisors (1.25), not having a good place to study or complete my work (1.24), and not enough access to tutors or other academic support (1.24).



Faculty and/or instructors has been one of the top success factors for our students since the Graduating Student Survey was first administered in 2013. In 2021 the mean for in-class time with faculty and/or instructors was 2.69. In-class experience and activities (2.53) and family inspiration, support, or



encouragement (2.60) have also been consistently in the top three for the last three years. In comparison, the success factors that have had the least impact on our students' success in 2020 were internships, clinical placements, or other career/program-related experience (2.06), college staff who are not faculty or advisors (2.02) and campus activity groups or clubs (1.60).





Appendix I: Graduating Student Survey

Congratulations on your degree! We want to learn more from you to improve the college, programs, and courses so that even more students can be successful at STCC. Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts and experiences!! As you graduate, you become a STCC alumni member. We hope you will become an active STCC alumni member and continue to provide feedback and guidance to the college. Happy graduation, Class of 2019!

Q1 What is the PRIMARY degree you are receiving? If you are receiving more than one degree or certificate, please answer based on the degree you consider to be your main area or focus.

- **O** Associates Degree
- Certificate
- Q2 About how long did it take you to finish this degree or certificate?
- O Less than 1 year
- **O** 1 year to less than 2 years
- **O** 2 years to less than 3 years
- **O** 3 years to less than 4 years
- 4 years to less than 5 years
- **O** 5 years to less than 6 years
- O 6 or more years



Q3 Rate how your experience at STCC improved your ability to:

	No improvement	A little improvement	Some improvement	A lot of improvement	Tremendous Improvement
write clearly	Ο	О	Ο	Ο	Ο
give oral presentations	0	0	•	0	•
persuade others of your view	О	0	•	•	0
examine assumptions	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο
think critically	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο
use evidence to support/oppose a point of view	0	Ο	0	0	0
make and justify decisions	0	0	0	0	•
use math to address day-to-day issues or problems	0	0	0	O	0
research a problem and assess information to address it	0	O	0	O	0
use computers and common software, mobile devices or internet or cloud- based applications	0	O	0	O	O
contribute to group discussions and work	0	0	0	0	•
consider a subject from multiple points of view	0	0	0	O	0
get along with many different kinds of people	0	0	0	O	0
better serve my community or society in general	0	Ο	0	Ο	0



Q4 Continuing Education: If you are pursuing additional education (within the year) upon receiving your degree or certificate from STCC, where are you continuing?

- **O** In a new program at STCC
- **O** At a different 2 year college
- **O** At a 4-year college/university
- **O** At another non-degree educational program
- **O** I'm not beginning any additional education this year.

If students answered that they would be continuing their education, they were also asked Q5 and Q6.

Q5 Will you be attending college full or part time?

- Full Time
- Part Time

Q6 As a result of your education at STCC, how prepared do you feel to pursue your post-graduation education plans?

- Very well prepared
- **O** Somewhat prepared
- **O** Somewhat unprepared
- **O** Very unprepared
- **O** STCC education had no role in preparing me for my post-graduation education plans

Q7 Employment Activity: If you are currently employed or seeking employment upon receiving your degree or certificate

at STCC, what is your status?

- **O** I am currently employed and not seeking a new position
- **O** I am currently employed and seeking a new position
- **O** I am currently employed and have secured a new position
- **O** I am not currently employed but am seeking employment
- O I am not currently employed but have secured a new position
- **O** I am not seeking employment
- **O** I am entering or continuing military service

If students answered that they were currently employed, they were also asked Q8, Q9, and Q10.

Q8 Is your CURRENT position full or part time?

- O Full Time
- O Part Time

Q9 Is your CURRENT job related to the STCC degree/certificate you completed?

- **O** Yes, it is directly related.
- **O** It is somewhat related.
- No, it is not related.

Q10 As a result of your education at STCC, how prepared do you feel in your CURRENT employment?

- **O** Very well prepared
- **O** Somewhat prepared
- **O** Somewhat unprepared
- Very unprepared
- **O** STCC education had no role in preparing me for my CURRENT employment

If students answered that they had secured new employment, they were also asked Q11, Q12, and Q13.

Q11 Is your NEW position full or part time?

- Full Time
- Part Time
- Q12 Is your NEW job related to the STCC degree/certificate you completed?
- Yes, it is directly related.
- **O** It is somewhat related.
- No, it is not related.

Q13 As a result of your education at STCC, how prepared do you feel in your NEW employment?

- **O** Very well prepared
- **O** Somewhat prepared
- **O** Somewhat unprepared
- $\mathbf{O} \ \ \text{Very unprepared}$
- O STCC education had no role in preparing me for my NEW employment

Q14 Which barriers did you have to overcome to complete your STCC education? Please indicate if each was: Not a barrier, Minor barrier, or Major barrier.

	Not a barrier	Minor barrier	Major barrier
I was not academically prepared when I started	0	0	О
I had not been in school for a long time	0	0	О
My academic or career goals were unclear	0	0	О
Expectations of me were too low	0	0	o
It took me a while to find the program I wanted to complete	0	0	О
After selecting my program, I had trouble finding the best path for completing it	0	0	О



It was difficult to get into the classes I needed	0	0	O
I had difficulty completing courses for my program	0	0	O
My course load was too heavy	0	0	O
I didn't have a good place to study or complete my work	0	О	О
Not enough access to advisors	0	0	O
Not enough access to tutors or other academic support	Ο	О	О
Financial difficulties	Ο	О	Ο
Job demands	Ο	О	Ο
Housing issues	Ο	О	Ο
Family responsibilities	Ο	О	Ο
Personal and/or health challenges	Ο	О	O
Other (please describe)	0	0	O

Q15 What factors helped you succeed in completing your STCC education? Please indicate if each was: Not a factor, Minor factor, or Major factor.

	Not a success factor	Minor success factor	Major success factor
Faculty and/or instructors (in-class time)	Ο	O	O
Faculty and/or instructors (out-of-class time)	0	O	Ο
Academic advisors	Ο	0	O
College staff (not faculty or advisors)	0	O	O
In-class experience and activities	•	O	O
Out-of-class homework and projects	0	O	O
Internship, clinical placements, or other career/program-related experience	Ο	O	O



Campus activity group or club	0	0	О
Classmate inspiration, support, or encouragement	0	0	О
Family inspiration, support, or encouragement	Ο	О	О
Other, non-family inspiration, support, or encouragement	Ο	Ο	О
Being a role model for others	0	0	О
Other (please describe)	Ο	0	0

Q16 Ethnicity (This information is used for statistical purposes only and is optional.) Please choose one answer.

- **O** Hispanic or Latino/a
- **O** NOT Hispanic or Latino/a

Q17 Race (This information is used for statistical purposes only and is optional.) Please choose one or more answers.

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- □ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White

Q18 Gender Identity (This information is used for statistical purposes only and is optional.) Please choose one answer.

- O Male
- $\mathbf{O} \ \ \mathsf{Female}$
- O Other

Q19 WHEN YOU BEGAN your education at STCC, how old were you? (This information is used for statistical purposes only and is optional.) Please choose one answer.

- O 19 or Younger
- 20 to 24
- **O** 25 to 29
- O 30 or Older



Appendix II: Graduate Respondents by Credential and Program

No. Associates	by Program
LTGS.AA	32
NURS.AS	16
CITS.AS	11
BTCM.AS	7
DMIR.AS	6
CSET.AS	5
ENGR.AS	5
HLTH.AS	5
HTHC.AA	5
MECH.AS	5
BUSN.AS	4
MCBS.AS	4
ACCT.AS	3
CSCI.AS	3
LECJ.AS	3
RSPC.AS	3
SURG.AS	3
APSY.AA	2
BIOL.AS	2
CART.AS	2
CRJT.AS	2
DHYG.AS	2
ECTR.AS	2
ELEC.AS	2
FIRE.AS	2
MLTD.AS	2
MOAA.AS	2
OCCP.AS	2
PMGT.AS	2
PTAS.AS	2
ARBT.AS	1

No. Associates	s by Program
BIOT.AS	1
BMET.AS	1
CDMT.AS	1
CHLD.AS	1
CLLS.AS	1
DAUD.AS	1
EDSE.AA	1
ENGY.AS	1
ESET.AS	1
HIIM.AS	1
HSSW.AA	1
LEOT.AS	1
LTTR.AA	1
MANG.AS	1
MAST.AS	1
OAAP.AS	1
PROG.AS	1
TPRD.AS	1
Total	165

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No. Certificates	s by Program
CDA.COC	6
ENGY.COC	5
MEDA.COC	5
BCMT.COC	2
EROB.COC	2
MEDC.COC	2
MOAA.COC	2
CLER.CRT	1
CNCO.COC	1
COSM.CRT	1
CSET.COC	1
DPHO.COC	1
FIRE.COC	1
PROG.COC	1
Total	31