

Madison Area Technical College Five-Year Longitudinal Study of 1997-98 Graduates

Summary Report

*from follow-up questionnaires, placement office
records, and five-year longitudinal survey*

September, 2004

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MADISON AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE FIVE-YEAR LONGITUDINAL STUDY
Information on August 1997, December 1997, and May 1998 Graduates
from follow-up questionnaires, placement office records, and five-year longitudinal study

INTRODUCTION

The five-year longitudinal study of 1997-98 graduates was conducted August through October 2003 in order to gather data regarding the activities and perceptions of students five years after they completed their educational programs. The primary objectives of the study were to:

- determine whether or not graduates of Madison Area Technical College (MATC) are successful in gaining employment and whether the employment is related to their field of training and to compare this same information five years later;
- compare initial graduate reactions to the educational training with feelings held five years later; and
- obtain information on salaries and employment location and to make other long-term comparisons, i.e., 6 months versus 5 years.

Collection and reporting of these data is mandated by the Wisconsin Technical College System Board (WTCSB) once every four years. Combining the results obtained in this study with those obtained in the graduate employment reports provides a more complete picture of graduate employment.

This is the second time the Research & Planning Department has been responsible for conducting the five-year longitudinal study and compiling the study results. The Research & Planning department has worked to upgrade methods of collecting and analyzing survey responses. This document is a summary of the highlights of the data collection effort. The actual response database for the five-year study is contained in a database, which may be queried to provide additional information as needed.

Improving the relatively low response rate of this effort remains a formidable challenge given the five-year timeframe.

METHOD

Each graduate was mailed a questionnaire with a postage-paid return envelope. Non-respondents received a postcard reminder and a subsequent second mailing if we still did not receive a response. Addresses were obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation through the WTCSB.

The 2003 survey population was comprised of 2,153 students who graduated in August 1997, December 1997, and May of 1998. Initial questionnaires were mailed in August 2003.

Of the 2,153 graduates, 1,215 were from two-year associate degree programs, 69 from two-year technical diploma programs, 261 from one-year technical diploma programs, and 608 from less than one-year technical programs.

Response rates: Information was obtained for 1,017 graduates -- a response rate of 47% (54% return rate for associate degree; 28% for two-year technical; 47% for one-year technical; and 36% for less than one-year.)

Some technical notes:

There are some discrepancies between the original six-month survey and five-year longitudinal survey populations. There are variables, such as deceased status, graduates with double majors who were only surveyed for one program in the longitudinal study, other state board edit requirements, and academic year changes for some graduates because of special circumstances, which affected the number of graduates being surveyed in the longitudinal study.

When looking at information in this comparison report, the user should keep in mind that respondents to each survey vary somewhat between the two surveys.

We have not included survey responses from graduates of correctional institution programs.

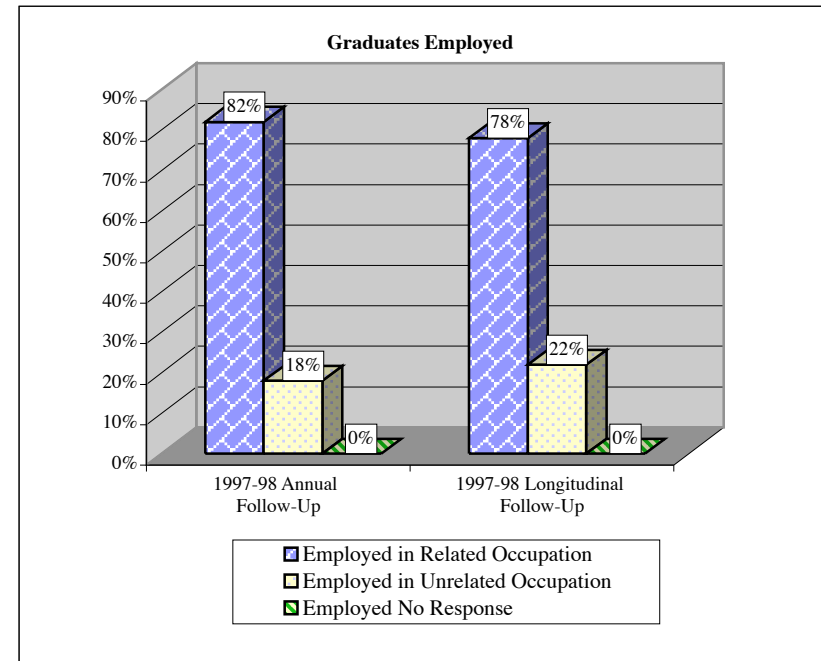
MADISON AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE FIVE-YEAR LONGITUDINAL STUDY

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SURVEY SUMMARY

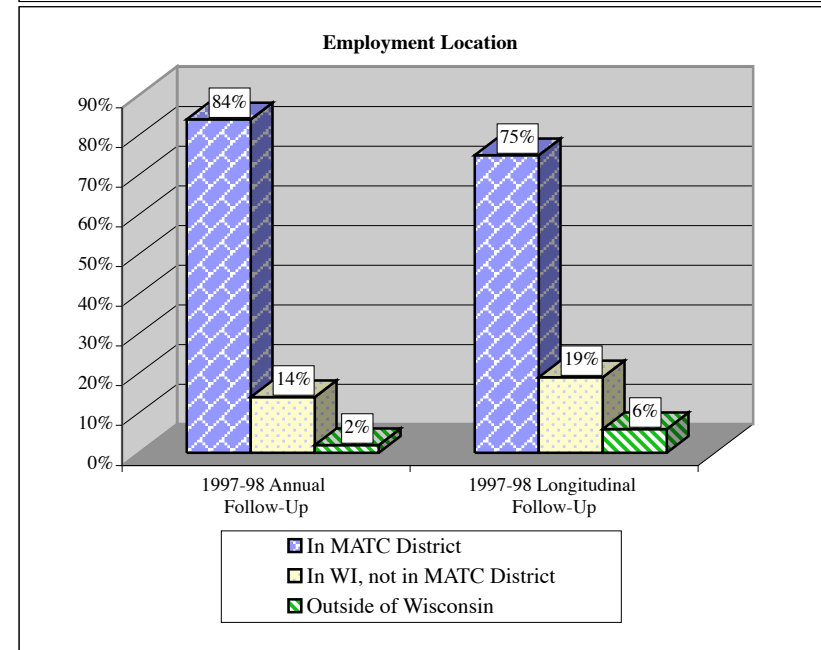
	1997-98 Annual Graduate Follow-Up Study Survey Results (3/1999)*		1997-98 Five-Year Study Longitudinal Study Survey Results (9/2004)*	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Graduates Surveyed	2361		2153	
Graduate Responses	1531	65%	1017	47%
Available for employment (employed, seeking)	1420	93%	952	94%
Graduates Employed	1343	95%	933	98%
Employed in Related Occupation	1097	82%	728	78%
Employed in Unrelated Occupation	243	18%	201	22%
Employed No Response	3	0%	4	0%
Seeking Employment	77	5%	19	2%
Not in Labor Market (seeking and not seeking)	187		84	



EMPLOYMENT LOCATION

(total employed, related and non-related)

	1997-98 Annual Graduate Follow-Up Study Survey Results (3/1999)*		1997-98 Five-Year Study Longitudinal Study Survey Results (9/2004)*	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
In MATC District	1069	84%	686	75%
In Wisconsin, not in MATC District	175	14%	173	19%
Outside of Wisconsin	28	2%	56	6%



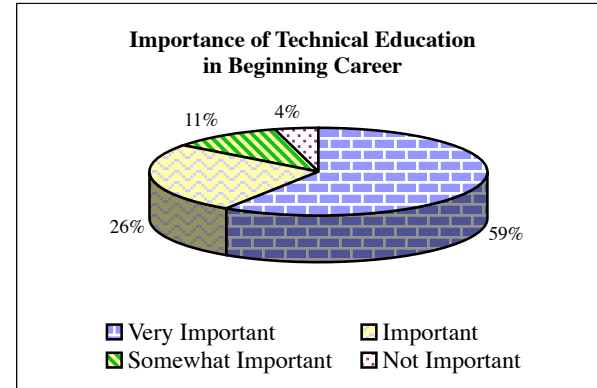
*does not include correctional institution program graduate information

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Summary Results from Additional Five-Year Longitudinal Study Survey Questions

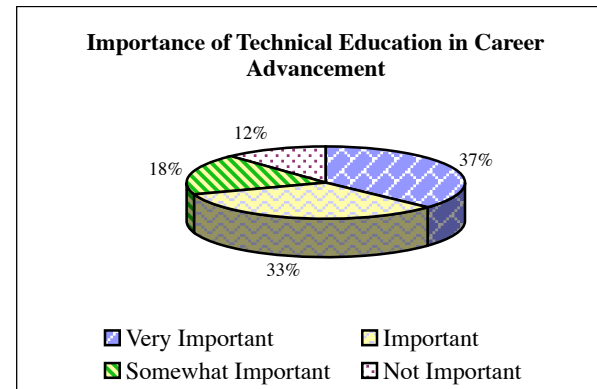
1.) Importance of technical education in beginning career:

	Total Number of Responses	As a Percent of Total Resps.
Very Important	600	59%
Important	263	26%
Somewhat Important	108	11%
Not Important	41	4%
<i>total response to question</i>	1012	100%



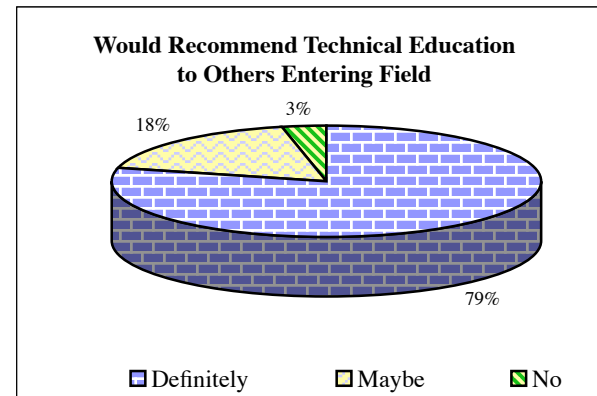
2.) Importance of technical education in career advancement:

	Total Number of Responses	As a Percent of Total Resps.
Very Important	369	37%
Important	327	33%
Somewhat Important	183	18%
Not Important	119	12%
<i>total response to question</i>	998	100%



3.) Would recommend technical education to others entering field:

	Total Number of Responses	As a Percent of Total Resps.
Definitely	798	79%
Maybe	179	18%
No	34	3%
<i>total response to question</i>	1011	100%



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4.) Since graduation from our college, have taken any additional career-related courses:

Yes
No
total response to question

Total Number of Responses	As a Percent of Total Resps.
467	46%
540	54%
1007	100%

4.) Yes, have taken any additional career-related courses at:

Technical College
College/University
Other

Total Number of Responses	As a % of 467 Potential Responses
212	45%
187	40%
100	21%

5.) Have received any other degree/diploma since graduation from our college:

Yes
No
total response to question

Total Number of Responses	As a Percent of Total Resps.
168	17%
844	83%
1012	100%

5.) Yes, have received any other degree/diploma since graduation:

Masters Degree
Bachelors Degree
Associate Degree
Technical Diploma/Certificates
Business/Industry/Organization Certificate
Not Clearly Identified
total response to question

Total Number of Responses	As a Percent of Total Resps.
9	5%
69	41%
28	17%
24	14%
9	5%
29	17%
168	100%

6.) Jobs held since graduation:

0...
1...
2...
3...
4...
5...
More than 5...
total response to question

Total Number of Responses	As a Percent of Total Resps.
11	1%
369	36%
330	33%
179	18%
62	6%
32	3%
32	3%
1015	100%

7.) Jobs held related to technical education program since graduation:

0...
1...
2...
3...
4...
5...
More than 5...
total response to question

Total Number of Responses	As a Percent of Total Resps.
91	9%
472	47%
281	28%
111	11%
34	3%
7	1%
12	1%
1008	100%

8.) Times been promoted or advanced in career since graduation (excluding annual salary increases):

0...
1...
2...
3...
4...
5...
More than 5...
total response to question

Total Number of Responses	As a Percent of Total Resps.
370	37%
258	26%
187	19%
109	11%
39	4%
18	2%
18	2%
999	100%

11.) If you are working in a job that is not related to your training, please indicate the reason (check one):

Worked previously in related job, but changed to advance
Found I enjoyed another type of work more
Unable to find related job in my geographic area
Could earn more in another field of employment
Other
total response to question

Total Number of Responses	As a Percent of Total Resps.
18	9%
48	24%
34	17%
47	24%
49	25%
196	100%

MADISON AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE FIVE-YEAR LONGITUDINAL STUDY

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Type of Degree/Program Title	1997-98 Annual Graduate Follow-Up Study Survey Results (3/1999)								1997-98 Five-Year Longitudinal Study Survey Results (9/2004)							
	No. of Graduates Surveyed	Status Known	Employed		Salary (Related) ¹			No. of Graduates Surveyed	Status Known	Employed		Salary (Related) ¹				
			In Labor Market	Related to Training	No. Responses	Monthly				In Labor Market	Related to Training	No. Full-time Salary Resps.	Monthly			
						Full-time Average	Full-time Low						Full-time High	Full-time Average	Full-time Low	Full-time High
Two-Year Associate Degree																
Accounting	89	67	60	41	37	1914	1100	3500	89	48	47	35	29	2958	2080	4060
Administrative Assistant-Info. Processing	18	18	16	14	12	1713	1213	2083	17	9	6	6	5	2490	2116	2833
Administrative Assistant-Secretarial	8	7	7	7	4	1805	1440	1981	8	6	6	5	5	2842	2278	3417
Agricultural Equipment Technology	14	10	10	7	6	2006	1430	3750	14	10	9	8	8	2719	1733	4583
Architectural Technician	26	15	15	13	11	1908	1387	2708	26	10	9	7	6	3836	2773	6250
Associate Degree Nursing	104	68	67	65	56	2544	1885	3043	104	57	56	56	33	3807	2560	5546
Automotive Technology	14	10	8	7	7	1734	1083	2080	14	7	7	6	4	3444	2773	4583
Biotechnology Laboratory Technician	10	9	6	6	6	1842	1573	2083	9	5	5	4	4	3099	2813	3333
Business Mid-Management	56	36	31	20	17	2008	1361	3500	54	28	23	16	14	3443	1995	10833
Child Care & Development	20	12	10	8	8	1429	1326	1603	18	11	11	10	9	1876	1387	2667
Civil Engineering Technology	12	10	10	9	5	2088	1733	2500	11	8	8	7	7	3152	2816	3583
Commercial Art	47	32	26	24	19	2082	1560	2667	46	20	20	14	10	3231	2167	4833
CIS-Midrange Analyst/Programmer	30	20	18	16	16	2709	1917	3033	30	14	13	8	7	3877	3346	4667
CIS-Operations	12	10	8	8	7	2439	2112	2917	11	7	6	5	5	3467	2695	4392
CIS-Programmer/Analyst	86	67	66	65	55	2873	2123	4667	85	49	48	43	37	4732	3466	6667
Court & Conference Reporting	3	3	3	2	1	---	---	---	3	3	3	2	1	3750	3750	3750
Culinary Arts	8	3	2	2	2	1708	1423	1993	8	4	4	3	3	2236	1499	3000
Dental Hygienist	31	25	23	21	20	3015	1370	3813	31	20	20	20	8	4089	3185	4535
Diesel Equipment Technology	13	9	9	9	9	1892	1300	2253	13	7	7	6	5	2757	1993	4167
Dietetic Technician	10	8	7	6	3	2115	2115	2115	10	6	5	3	3	2271	2080	2583
Electron Microscopy Technician	9	9	6	4	4	2446	2000	2883	9	7	7	4	4	3366	2773	4000
Electronics	28	17	17	11	8	2265	1647	2773	28	16	15	9	7	3236	2426	4500
Fashion Marketing	8	4	4	3	2	2083	2083	2083	8	2	2	2	2	3242	2817	3667
Finance	27	18	17	11	8	1966	1127	3167	26	15	14	11	11	3407	1560	6250
Fire Protection Technician	16	8	5	1	1	2583	2583	2583	16	8	8	6	6	3246	1473	4500
Hospitality & Tourism Management	28	15	13	10	8	1665	1040	2115	27	15	14	7	6	3599	2634	5417
Human Services Associate	36	28	23	18	18	1544	1094	1953	36	20	17	12	10	2683	2167	3250
Industrial Welding Technician	5	3	3	3	3	4144	1517	8666	5	2	0	0	---	---	---	---
Insurance Services Associate	4	2	2	1	1	1917	1917	1917	4	2	2	1	1	3333	3333	3333
Interior Design	16	12	11	10	10	1685	1127	2083	16	10	7	5	5	3824	2500	6667
Laboratory Animal Technician	5	5	4	4	3	1967	1872	2123	5	5	5	4	4	2804	2116	3206
Liberal Studies	104	61	28	7	6	2592	1668	3333	96	37	26	13	10	2712	2167	3986
Marketing	50	29	27	24	21	1934	1100	4167	48	23	21	16	12	3547	2080	6250
Mechanical Design Technician	23	18	16	16	15	2470	1733	4250	23	15	15	14	13	3772	2600	5083
Medical Laboratory Technician	15	12	10	9	8	1705	1305	1885	15	12	11	7	6	2931	2299	3917
Medical Office Mid-Management	5	2	2	1	1	1647	1647	1647	5	2	2	2	2	2108	2083	2132
Medical Secretary	5	2	1	1	1	---	---	---	5	1	1	1	1	1690	1690	1690
Occupational Therapy Assistant	30	25	20	18	18	2064	1560	2600	30	17	16	15	10	2720	2153	3469
Paramedic Technician	9	8	8	8	6	2245	1456	2806	9	7	7	7	7	4042	2556	5633
Photography	13	9	9	6	5	1811	1170	2600	13	8	8	5	2	2958	2750	3167
Police Science	40	37	35	27	17	1723	1248	2773	37	18	17	16	14	3152	2080	4333
Printing & Publishing	14	10	10	10	8	1895	1400	2600	14	7	6	5	4	3075	2860	3494

two-year associate degree programs continued on next page

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	No. of Graduates Surveyed	Status Known	Employed		Salary (Related) ¹			No. of Graduates Surveyed	Status Known	Employed		Salary (Related) ¹						
			In Labor Market	Related to Training	No. Responses	Monthly				In Labor Market	Related to Training	No. Full-time Salary Resps.	Monthly					
						Full-time Average	Full-time Low						Full-time High	Full-time Average	Full-time Low	Full-time High		
<i>two-year associate degree continued from previous page</i>																		
Radiography	14	14	12	10	6	2002	1907	2121	14	10	9	8	6	3940	3199	5546		
Real Estate Brokerage	11	4	4	4	2	1500	1500	1500	10	3	2	1	---	---	---	---		
Recreation Services	12	4	2	1	1	1560	1560	1560	12	6	6	2	2	2130	1733	2527		
Respiratory Care Practitioner	18	17	15	15	13	2332	2139	2797	16	11	10	10	6	4040	3182	4836		
Supervisory Management	22	19	19	13	12	2758	1586	4167	20	11	11	8	7	3682	2750	5417		
Travel Services	9	5	5	4	4	1160	1040	1280	9	4	4	2	1	2600	2600	2600		
Veterinary Technician	47	36	35	34	33	1458	1127	2080	46	30	28	21	18	2141	1716	2652		
Visual Communications	12	7	6	5	4	1862	1387	2366	12	4	4	3	3	2733	2253	3380		
Subtotal Two-Year Associate Degree	1246	879	771	639	548	2132	1040	8666	1215	657	608	481	383	3344	1387	10833		
Two-Year Technical Diploma																		
Advanced Auto Body & Paint Technician	12	7	7	4	4	1755	1560	2167	12	1	1	0	---	---	---	---		
Automotive Technician	15	5	5	4	3	1589	1387	1733	14	4	4	4	3	3225	2037	4000		
Diesel/Heavy Equipment Technician	10	6	6	5	5	1893	1300	2489	9	2	2	2	2	2262	1750	2773		
Industrial Maintenance	13	12	12	12	11	2280	1907	2660	13	4	4	4	4	3306	3092	3640		
Machine Tooling Technics	22	18	17	13	13	1938	1600	2600	21	8	8	6	6	3355	2253	5083		
Subtotal Two-Year Technical Diploma	72	48	47	38	36	1987	1300	2660	69	19	19	16	15	3170	1750	5083		
One-Year Technical Diploma ²																		
Accounting Assistant	11	9	7	4	3	2080	2080	2080	11	6	6	5	4	2529	1915	2860		
Auto Body & Paint Technician	5	4	4	2	1	1300	1300	1300	5	2	2	1	1	2366	2366	2366		
Baking/Pastry Arts	2	1	1	1	1	---	---	---	2	1	1	0	---	---	---	---		
Barber/Cosmetologist	18	8	7	7	7	1459	1137	1750	18	6	4	3	1	4583	4583	4583		
Data Entry Operations	5	4	3	0	---	---	---	---	5	1	1	0	---	---	---	---		
Dental Assistant	11	11	11	11	6	1625	1603	1647	11	7	6	6	3	2461	2418	2535		
Drafting - Architectural	11	6	6	5	4	2197	1473	3333	11	4	4	4	4	3125	2550	3750		
Food Service Production	4	3	3	3	1	1213	1213	1213	4	1	1	0	---	---	---	---		
Legal Transcriptionist	6	6	6	6	4	1573	1430	1720	6	5	4	3	2	2799	2266	3333		
Medical Assistant	34	27	24	23	20	1543	1300	1702	34	12	11	10	7	2248	1846	2600		
Medical Transcriptionist	3	3	3	3	3	---	---	---	3	2	2	2	2	1900	1747	2053		
Motorecycle, Marine & Outdoor Power Pro	12	9	7	5	2	1300	1213	1387	12	4	3	1	1	2080	2080	2080		
Office Assistant	22	15	10	7	7	1424	1213	1733	22	8	3	1	1	2296	2296	2296		
Optometric Technician	9	8	7	7	5	1793	1586	1907	9	5	5	5	5	2467	2270	2600		
Pharmacy Technician	6	5	5	4	4	1481	1099	1705	6	4	3	2	1	2482	2482	2482		
Practical Nursing	59	36	31	29	29	2149	1521	2750	56	24	23	22	12	2909	2532	3986		
Printing	3	3	3	3	3	1644	1300	1907	3	2	1	0	---	---	---	---		
Small Business Operation	9	5	5	4	3	1907	1733	2080	8	5	5	4	2	2917	2917	2917		
Surgical Technician	15	12	11	11	7	1688	1403	1907	15	12	12	10	6	3116	2418	4246		
Welding	9	3	3	2	1	960	960	960	9	3	3	2	2	4038	2946	5130		
Wood Technics	13	11	9	5	5	1885	1213	2773	11	9	8	3	3	3437	3333	3562		
Subtotal One-Year Technical Diploma	267	189	166	142	116	1728	960	3333	261	123	108	84	57	2791	1747	5130		

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	No. of Graduates Surveyed	Status Known	Employed		No. Salary Responses	Salary (Related) ¹			No. of Graduates Surveyed	Status Known	Employed		No. Full-time Salary Resps.	Salary (Related) ¹		
			In Labor Market	Related to Training		Full-time Average	Full-time Low	Full-time High			In Labor Market	Related to Training		Full-time Average	Full-time Low	Full-time High
<i>Less Than One-Year Technical Diploma</i> ²																
Basic Police Recruit School	93	72	71	71	31	2640	1900	4583	90	34	34	31	27	3631	1400	5000
EMT-Basic	168	85	76	38	18	2522	1040	5417	129	38	35	19	7	3098	1560	7083
EMT-Intermediate	39	31	30	25	9	1655	900	2652	34	16	16	13	8	2664	1595	3833
Farm Business & Production Management	29	12	11	10	3	4071	2500	6667	29	12	12	12	8	7450	1200	20833
Fire Service Certificate	40	23	17	6	1	2583	2583	2583	29	12	12	7	7	3458	2329	4376
Medical Coding Specialist	28	19	15	14	12	1953	1499	2600	27	14	14	12	11	2757	2192	3250
Nursing Assistant	379	173	139	114	97	1411	800	2208	270	92	75	53	22	2239	1474	4333
Subtotal Less Than One-Year Diploma	776	415	359	278	171	2010	800	6667	608	218	198	147	90	3383	1200	20833
GRAND TOTALS ²	2361	1531	1343	1097	871	2059	800	8666	2153	1017	933	728	545	3288	1200	20833

¹For unusually high/low salary information, care should be taken when interpreting for the following reasons:

- a) high salaries may be due to employment before graduation or enrollment or self-employment
- b) low salaries may be due to employment in trained area on a volunteer basis (such as some EMT graduates)

²Does not include survey responses from graduates of correctional institution programs.