

Southside Virginia Community College
Graduate Follow-Up Update
Class of 2009

By
Chad Patton and
Anne T. Yancey
Office of Institutional Research
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METHOD

Southside Virginia Community College conducts a one-year follow-up survey of its graduates annually. This report presents the results for the graduating class of 2009. Some questions and respondents' choices of responses have been changed from previous surveys due to an assessment mandate from the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV). Due to the small number of respondents, only summary data is presented.

There were 680 potential respondents for this study. A total of 309 were received from the Prospective Graduate Survey(Appendix A) giving a 45% response rate. On the Graduate Follow-up Survey(Appendix B) mailed out approximately one year later, there were 198 responses giving a 29% response rate.

GOALS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

First, prospective graduates responded to the question, “**What was your MAIN goal in attending SVCC?**” Table 1 gives the responses to this question. Fifty-four percent of respondents gave one of the three career-oriented responses, and forty-two percent had transfer to a four-year college as their main goal. Compared to the Class of 2008, there was an eight percent increase in career-oriented responses and the transfer-oriented response decreased by four percent.

TABLE 1: MAIN GOAL IN ATTENDING SVCC

GOAL	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
To obtain skills to enter the job market	101	32.7
To obtain skills needed to change jobs	52	16.8
To improve skills for job I was doing	14	4.5
To prepare for transfer to 4-year college	129	41.7
Personal interest or self-enrichment	13	4.2

When asked whether their main goal was achieved, 95.5 percent of those responding answered “yes”. This is very similar to most previous studies.

EVALUATIONS OF SPECIFIC AREAS AND SERVICES

Prospective graduates were then asked to evaluate their experience at SVCC in a number of areas.

Table 2 depicts the proportion of those checking each choice on a five-point scale ranging from “Very Satisfied” to “Very Dissatisfied” or “Not Applicable”.

TABLE 2: EXTENT OF SATISFACTION WITH AREAS AND SERVICES

AREA OF SERVICE	% Very Satisfied	% Satisfied	% In Between	%Dissatisfied	% Very Dissatisfied	N/A
Education	55.3	40.1	4.2	0	0	.3
Instruction in your curriculum	48.9	45	6.2	0	0	.7
Course availability	37.7	43.8	14.9	2.3	1.6	.3
Relationship with faculty outside of class	41.6	44.5	9.4	1.9	0	3.2
Course content	42.2	53.6	3.6	.3	0	.3
Grading and testing	41	53.7	4.2	.7	0	.3
Program facilities (lab and equipment)	44.2	44.8	7.8	.3	0	2.9
Advising	48.2	37.5	9.7	3.6	.6	1.6
Computer Labs	44.8	44.8	5.5	1.0	0	4.5
Library Services	37.7	43.2	10.7	.6	.3	7.5
Bookstore	36	41.7	15.2	3.2	1.9	3.6
Registration	47.2	46	4.5	1.3	0	1.0
Financial aid	45.6	27.5	7.8	2.6	1.6	15.9
Counseling	41.5	35.3	9.2	1.0	.7	12.7
Student Activities	33.3	37.5	10.4	1.6	0	17.2
Career Services	32.1	38	9.5	1.3	0	19.3
Business Office/Cashier	33.1	42.9	11.4	1.0	.3	12.3
Admissions Office/Transcripts	41.7	47.6	5.8	.3	.6	3.9
Building and Grounds	44.2	48.2	4.3	0	.3	3.0
Campus Security	44.3	46	5.5	1.0	.3	3.2
Overall Satisfaction	53.4	42.7	3.2	.3	0	.3

Positive ratings, with 90% or more checking either “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied”, are seen in four of the nine items pertaining to instruction: Education, Instruction in Your Curriculum, Course Content, and Grading and Testing.

Among various college services rated, Registration received the highest rating at 93%. Relatively small proportions of negative ratings (“Dissatisfied” and “Very Dissatisfied”) were received. Ninety-six percent were satisfied with their overall experience at SVCC.

SATISFACTION WITH BASIC SKILLS PREPARATION

Prospective graduates were also asked to rate their satisfaction with the preparation they received at SVCC in terms of basic skills needed in everyday life: Writing clearly and effectively, Speaking clearly and effectively, and Understanding and using computers. Table 3 summarizes the proportions of responses in each category. Prospective graduates appeared to feel extremely positive about their SVCC preparation in all three areas.

TABLE 3: SATISFACTION WITH BASIC SKILLS PREPARATION

BASIC SKILLS	% VERY MUCH	% SOMEWHAT	% VERY LITTLE	% NOT AT ALL	% N/A
Write clearly & effectively	56.6	33.7	5.2	2.3	2.6
Speak clearly & effectively	53.7	34.5	5.9	2.0	3.9
Understand and use computers	57	27	8.8	2.9	4.6

HELPFULNESS OF DEVELOPMENTAL COURSES

Fifty-four percent of respondents indicated they had taken at least one developmental course while attending SVCC. The number of prospective graduates taking courses in the three major developmental areas was: 111 in reading, 122 in English (writing), and 166 in mathematics. Table 4 gives the proportions of response in each category.

TABLE 4: HELPFULNESS OF DEVELOPMENTAL COURSES

%Very Satisfied.....RATING.....%Very Dissatisfied

COURSE	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Reading	35.4	24.3	1.7	0	0	38.7
Writing	35.6	29.3	0	0	0	35.1
Mathematics	43.1	33.2	5	1.0	0	17.8

All three developmental course areas were perceived to be very helpful in preparing the respondents for credit courses.

Prospective graduates were asked questions about online courses they had enrolled in while attending SVCC. The first question was: “Please indicate the number of online courses you have taken at SVCC.” Eight percent indicated they did not take any online courses. Sixty-three percent indicated they took 1-5 online courses. Nineteen percent took 6-10 online courses, seven percent took 11-15 online courses and four percent took 16 or more online courses.

The prospective graduates were then asked about the level of satisfaction with their online courses. Seventy-four percent were either very satisfied or satisfied with their online courses. Eighteen percent were somewhat satisfied. Five percent were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their online courses and three percent indicated N/A.

The final item concerning online courses was: “Please select the statement which best describes the workload of online courses to seated courses at SVCC.” The outcome can be seen in the Table 5 below.

TABLE 5: WORKLOAD OF ONLINE COURSES TO SEATED COURSES

GOAL	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Online courses require much more work than seated courses	35	11.7
Online courses require more work than seated courses	72	24.2
Online courses require about the same amount of work as seated courses	166	55.7
Online courses require less work than seated courses	23	7.7
Online courses require much less work than seated courses	2	.7

Prospective graduates were then asked “On average, how much time did you spend working for pay during a typical week while attending SVCC?” Sixty-eight (22%) responded to “None” , thirty-four (11%) responded to “1 to 10 hours”, sixty-four (20.7%) responded to “11 to 20 hours” and one-hundred forty-five (46.9%) responded to “more than 20 hours”.

Lastly, prospective graduates were asked “To what extent did your SVCC program prepare you for responsible citizenship (e.g. better informed about your community and the political process)?” Two-hundred sixty-five checked either “Very Much (38.2%), or “Somewhat” (47.6%). To complete the picture, thirty-three (10.7%) checked “Very Little” and thirteen (4.2%) checked “Not At All”.

Any additional comments prospective graduates made about their experience at SVCC are available upon request from the Office of Institutional Research.

FURTHER EDUCATION

Thirty-five percent of the graduates indicated they had pursued a bachelor's degree after graduating from SVCC, with twenty-nine percent currently enrolled full-time. Table 6 summarizes the responses of this question.

TABLE 6: PURSUING BACHELORS DEGREE

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes, full-time	55	28.8
Yes, part-time	7	3.66
Yes, completed a baccalaureate program	3	1.57
Yes, but stopped before graduation	2	1.05
No	124	64.9

Transfer institutions receiving the greatest numbers of SVCC graduates were Longwood(10), ODU(8), VaTech(6) and Averett and VCU(3). One student indicated they returned to SVCC for further education.

A total of fifty-three graduates who transferred to other institutions reported their first-term-after transfer GPA. The mean for the group was 3.23 on a 4-point scale. Of those responding, 81.82 percent indicated that their current major was at least somewhat related to the curriculum they completed at SVCC. "Very Little" and "Not at All" was checked by 18.18 percent.

When asked how well SVCC prepared them academically for the bachelor's program 95.31 percent rated their preparation positively, checking either "Very Much (40.63 percent) or "Somewhat (54.69 percent). Five percent gave negative ratings in this area. Further analysis revealed that, of the three respondents giving a negative response, one did not graduate from the University Parallel curriculum.

Respondents were also asked, "If you transferred to a public four-year college in Virginia, how satisfied were you with the transfer process?" Responses were "Very Much" 56.52 percent, "Somewhat" 32.61 percent, "Very Little" 4.35 percent, and "Not At All" 6.52 percent. All five students who responded negatively graduated from the University Parallel curriculum.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Graduates were asked to respond to the question, “Are you currently employed?” Table 7 summarizes their responses.

TABLE 7: GRADUATES’ EMPLOYMENT STATUS RESPONSES

STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes, full-time	105	54.4
Yes, part-time	40	20.73
No, seeking employment	25	12.95
No, not seeking employment	23	11.92

From the table, it is seen that over 75 percent of the graduates were working either full- or part-time. The SVCC graduate unemployment rate of 12.95 percent is above the 10.1 percent service area average unemployment rate and below the 14.16 percent reported in the 2008 graduate survey. Of those twenty-three respondents who reported “No, not actively seeking employment”, three were not seeking employment because of illness, two had family obligations, eight were pursuing additional education, eight indicated other, and two graduates did not indicate a reason.

Of those employed 70.14 percent indicated their job was “Very Much” or “Somewhat” related to the curriculum they completed at SVCC. Table 8 summarizes the responses to this question.

TABLE 8: TO WHAT EXTENT IS YOUR SVCC PROGRAM RELATED TO YOUR CURRENT OCCUPATION

RATINGS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Very Much	79	54.86
Somewhat	22	15.28
Very Little	16	11.11
Not At All	27	18.75

Graduates were also asked, “To what extent does your SVCC program help you perform in the workplace?” Table 9 presents the responses to this question.

TABLE 9: TO WHAT EXTENT DOES YOUR SVCC PROGRAM HELP YOU PERFORM IN THE WORKPLACE?

RATINGS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Very Much	81	55.86
Somewhat	30	20.69
Very Little	17	11.72
Not At All	17	11.72

From the table, 76.55 percent felt their SVCC preparation helped them “Very Much” or “Somewhat” to perform in the workplace.

Graduates were asked further to respond to the following question, “Based on your current job requirements, what areas in your SVCC program of study need improvement?” Thirty-one graduates responded to this question. Their responses are given in Table 10. The topics appearing most frequently among these suggestions were related to three areas: “Clinical Skills” (9), “Keyboarding Requirement” and Technology Updates (2 each).

Table 10: BASED ON YOUR CURRENT JOB REQUIREMENTS WHAT AREAS IN YOUR SVCC PROGRAM NEED IMPROVEMENT?

AREA	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Blind Side Backing	1	2.86
Clinical Skills	9	25.71
CFR, FED Regulations, OSHA	1	2.86
Classroom knowledge for teaching	1	2.86
Computer skills	1	2.86
Delegation of work	1	2.86
Electrical schematics	1	2.86
Human Service process	1	2.86
Interface pgm/plc & lab view	1	2.86
Keyboarding requirement needed	2	5.72
Marketing	1	2.86
Math	1	2.86
Management & Employee Relations	1	2.86
Offer more computer classes	1	2.86
Focus more on core skills	1	2.86
More hands on	1	2.86
More Law Enforcement classes	1	2.86
More Vocational classes	1	2.86
Need more than the basics	1	2.86
Offer industry and tech field pgm	1	2.86
Require an Ethics class	1	2.86
Spanish	1	2.86
Specific job requirements	1	2.86
Technology updates	2	5.72
Time management and critical thinking	1	2.86

FULL-TIME SALARIES

One hundred and one graduates who were employed full-time reported their salaries. Full-time employment was defined as 35 hours or more weekly. Table 11 below summarizes the salaries reported.

TABLE 11: FULL-TIME SALARIES REPORTED BY 2008 GRADUATES

ANNUAL SALARY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Less than \$10,000	4	3.96
\$10,000-\$19,999	14	13.86
\$20,000-\$29,999	23	22.77
\$30,000-\$39,999	34	33.66
\$40,000-\$49,999	15	14.85
\$50,000-\$59,999	6	5.94
\$60,000 and up	5	4.95

The median salary was in the \$30,000-39,999 category.

Any additional comments graduates made about their experience at SVCC are available upon request from the Office of Institutional Research.

APPENDIX A

2009 Prospective Graduate Survey

2009 Prospective Graduate Survey

1. Default Section

* 1. Please enter your Student ID Number.

* 2. First Name:

* 3. Middle Initial:

* 4. Last Name:

5. Would you like to be a part of the SVCC Alumni Society? By joining, you will receive a newsletter, invitations to a variety of college events, and a license plate frame for your vehicle. If you would like to join please select yes and give us your most frequently used email address and your current mailing address. Also, please note that the Alumni Association has a Facebook which you are welcome to join by logging on to <http://tinyurl.com/svccfacebook>

No

Yes! Here is my current contact information (BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME, CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS, AND PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS). Your information will be sent to the Alumni office and not associated with the results of this survey.

* 6. Please select the program from which you are planning to graduate from the pop-up menu on the right.

Program:

* 7. Please tell us which campus you primarily attended.

Christanna Campus in Alberta and its off-campus sites

John H. Daniel in Keyville and its off-campus sites

* **8. What was your MAIN goal in attending SVCC? (Check only one, please)**

- 1. To obtain skills to enter the job market.
- 2. To obtain skills needed to change jobs.
- 3. To improve skills for job I was doing.
- 4. To prepare for transfer to a 4-year college.
- 5. Personal interest or self-enrichment.

* **9. Was your goal achieved?**

- 1. Yes.
- 2. No (if No, please explain in the space below)

Explained :

*** 10. To what extent were you satisfied with each of these aspects of your SVCC plan? (Mark one response for each listed area)**

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	In Between	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A (I did not use this service at SVCC)
1. Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Instruction in your curriculum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Course availability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Relationship with faculty outside of class	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Course content	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Grading and testing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Program faculty (lab and equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Advising	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Library services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Bookstore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Registration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Financial Aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Student activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Career services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Business Office/Cashier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Admissions Office/Transcripts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Computer Labs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Building and grounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Campus safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Overall satisfaction with SVCC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*** 11. To what extent did your SVCC education contribute to your ability to perform the following tasks.**

	Very Much	Somewhat	Very Little	Not At All	N/A
1. Write clearly and effectively	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Speak clearly and effectively	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Understand and use computers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* 12. Did you enroll in any developmental course(s) while attending SVCC? If so, please rate your satisfaction with these courses with the following question.

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

13. Please rate your developmental courses. If you did not take developmental courses while attending SVCC you may skip this question.

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A
1. Reading	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Writing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Mathematics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 14. Please indicate the number of online courses you have taken at SVCC.

- I did not take any online courses at SVCC. (PLEASE SKIP TO #17)
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16 or more

15. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with online courses at SVCC.

- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied
- N/A

16. Please select the statement which best describes the workload of online courses to seated courses at SVCC.

- Online courses require much more work than seated courses.
- Online courses require more work than seated courses.
- Online courses require about the same amount of work as seated courses.
- Online courses require less work than seated courses.
- Online courses require much less work than seated courses.

* **17. On average, how much time did you spend working for pay during a typical week while attending SVCC?**

- None
- 1 to 10 hours
- 11 to 20 hours
- More than 20 hours

* **18. To what extent did your SVCC program prepare you for responsible citizenship (e.g. better informed about your community and political process)?**

- Very Much
- Somewhat
- Very Little
- Not At All

19. Which of the following best describes your employment status while attending SVCC?

- I was unemployed while attending
- I worked part time while attending
- I worked full time while attending

20. Please feel free to make any additional comments about your experience at SVCC. We encourage you to describe extreme positive and/or negative experiences with particular aspects of your experience with us.

APPENDIX B

2009 Graduate Follow-up Survey

**SVCC GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP
(2009)**

Please make corrections to the information below if necessary.

**PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE
BOXES WITHIN EACH
CATEGORY BELOW**

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

1. Are you currently pursuing a bachelor's degree?
1 Yes, full-time
2 Yes, part-time
3 Yes, completed a baccalaureate program
4 Yes, but stopped before graduation
5 No (skip to Employment Information below)

2. Name of college attended: _____

3. What was your first term after transfer GPA? _____

4. To what extent is this bachelor's degree related to your SVCC program?
1 Very Much 2 Somewhat 3 Very little 4 Not at all

5. To what extent did your SVCC program prepare you academically for the bachelor's program?
1 Very Much 2 Somewhat 3 Very little 4 Not at all

6. If you transferred to a public four-year college in Virginia, how satisfied were you with the transfer process?
1 Very Much 2 Somewhat 3 Very little 4 Not at all

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

1. Are you currently employed?
1 Yes, full-time
2 Yes, part-time
3 No, actively seeking employment (skip to Question 9)
4 No, not actively seeking employment (please indicate reason below, then skip to Question 9)
A Illness
B Military
C Family obligations
D Pursuing additional education
E Other _____

(OVER)

2. To what extent is your SVCC program related to your current occupation?
 1 [] Very Much 2 [] Somewhat 3 [] Very little 4 [] Not at all
3. To what extent does your SVCC program help you perform in the workplace?
 1 [] Very Much 2 [] Somewhat 3 [] Very little 4 [] Not at all
4. Based on your current job requirements, what areas in your SVCC program of study needs improvement? _____
5. Please complete ALL the information below regarding your present employment.

 JOB TITLE

 NAME OF EMPLOYER

 STREET ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER

 CITY OF EMPLOYER

 STATE ZIPCODE

6. Please indicate in what category your current annual gross salary is before deductions?
 Less than \$10,000 \$10,000-\$19,999 \$20,000-\$29,999
 \$30,000-\$39,999 \$40,000-\$49,999 \$50,000-\$59,999
 \$60,000 and above

7. On how many hours per week of employment is your annual gross salary based?

8. In order for us to assess our performance in preparing you, may we have your permission to contact your employer?

Yes No Please initial for approval _____

Employer phone number _____

9. Please feel free to make additional comments about your experience at SVCC.

COMMENTS

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE
 PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM IN THE PRE-PAID ENVELOPE AS SOON AS POSSI**