

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA

Career Outcomes for 2003 Career Program Graduates

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

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In 2003, the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) awarded 550 associate degrees and 135 certificates in career-related programs. Over the past six years there has been a significant decline in the number of associate degrees and certificates awarded to students. Compared with 1997, there were 192 fewer associate degrees and 46 fewer certificates awarded to 2003 graduates (Figure 1).

Figure 1
Number of Associate Degrees and Certificates Awarded in Career-related Programs
Academic Years 1997-2003

Type of Award	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Associate Degrees	742	671	699	636	569	576	550
Certificates	181	199	175	188	162	134	135

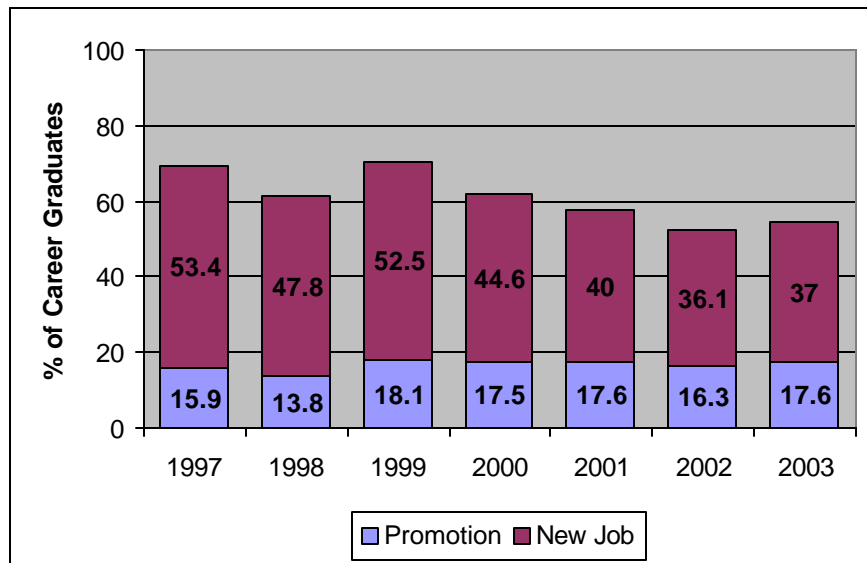
Over the last several years, the Office of Institutional Research has included a standard set of employment-related items on the questionnaire used to survey the College's recent graduates. This survey, which is typically completed eight to nine months after commencement, gathers information concerning the graduate's employment status, the relationship of the graduate's current job to their program of study at CCP, annual salary, and the graduate's assessment of the career preparation they received while attending the College. The information provided in this report includes CCP graduates from 1997 up through 2003.

As of October 2004, 200 career program graduates from 2003 returned viable questionnaires. Concerns of job loss and future employability motivated many of these

students to participate in higher education. Forty-three percent (43%) enrolled at the College because of potential or actual loss of a job or concerns about the lack of future job opportunities in their field of employment.

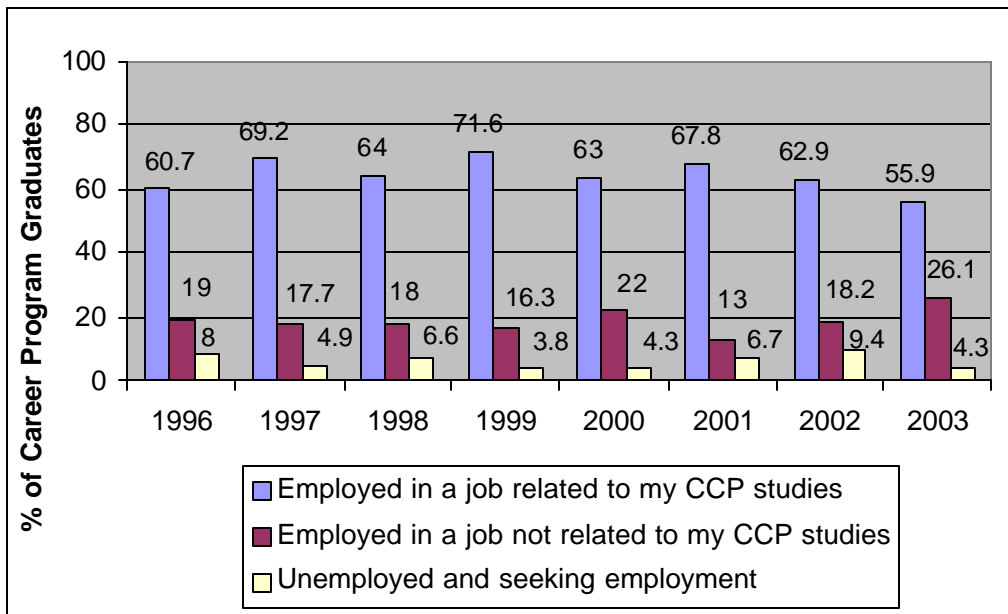
Compared with their immediate predecessors, the percentage of 2003 graduates working in a new job with a new employer increased slightly. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of 2003 career graduates were employed in a new job at the time they took the survey, compared with 36% from the graduating class of 2002 (Figure 2). The percentage of graduates who received promotions subsequent to graduating also increased slightly between 2002 and 2003, changing from 16.3% of 2002 career program graduates receiving promotions to 17.6% of 2003 graduates. In combination, nearly 55% of 2003 career graduates had changed their employment status a short time after graduation; in 2002 this figure was 52%.

Figure 2
Career Graduates Who Were Working in a New Job with a New Employer or Received a Promotion Shortly After Graduation
1997 – 2003



Compared to 2002 graduates, grads in 2003 were half as likely to have been unemployed and actively looking for a job shortly after graduation. Graduates of career programs in 2003 were less likely (56%) than graduates in 2002 (63%) to be working in jobs that were related to their program of study (Figure 3). On the other hand, graduates in 2003 were more likely than their predecessors to be working in a job unrelated to their CCP studies.

Figure 3
Relationship of Job to Program of
Study and Unemployment Status
1996 – 2003



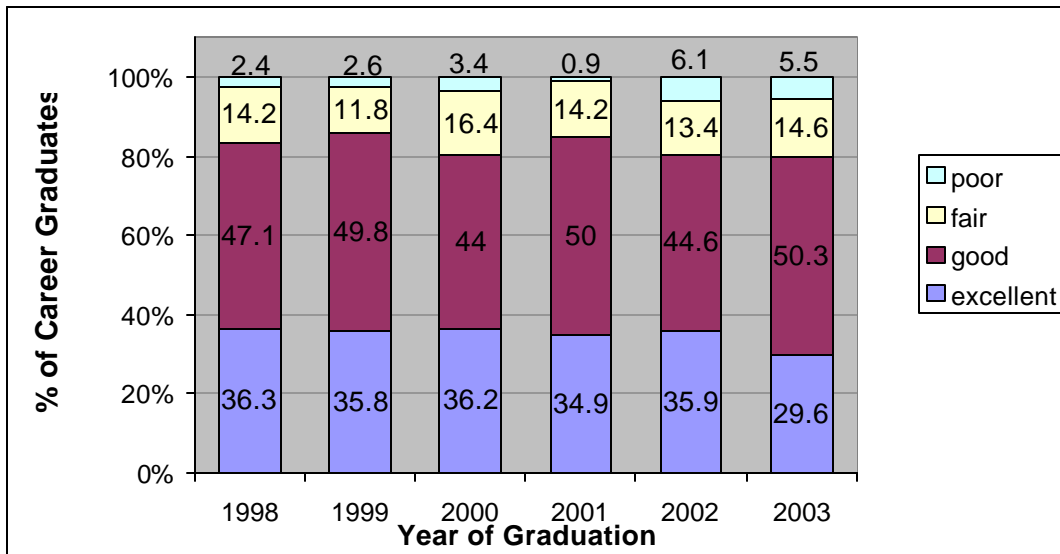
The average annual salary earned by 2003 career program graduates shortly after graduation was \$37,103 (Figure 4). This represented a decrease of \$1,800 from the average annual earnings reported by 2002 career graduates, and may be a reflection of the decrease of 2003 graduates who were working in their field of study.

Figure 4
Annual Salaries of Graduates Working in Full-Time¹ Jobs
1996 – 2003

Grad Year	Mean
1996	\$27,534
1997	\$26,402
1998	\$30,592
1999	\$30,980
2000	\$32,189
2001	\$37,923
2002	\$38,903
2003	\$37,103

While most graduates value the career preparation they received while at the College, 2002 and 2003 graduates who responded to the question were slightly less positive than their predecessors (Figure 5).

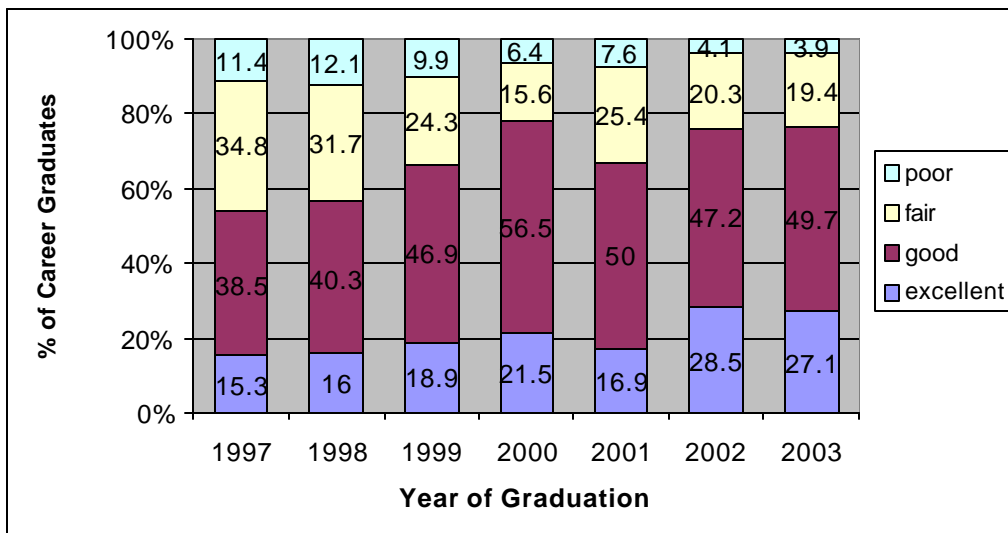
Figure 5
Career Program Graduates Assessment of Their Preparation for the Workplace
1998 – 2003



¹ Full time employment was defined as 30 hours or more per week.

When asked specifically about their computer technology preparation, the majority of 2003 career program graduates were very positive in their assessment of the College (Figure 6). Nearly fifty percent felt the College did a “good” job in providing them with the computer skills required for their job, and another 27% felt their preparation was “excellent”.

Figure 6
Career Program Graduates Assessment of Their Computer
Technology Preparation for the Workplace
1997 - 2003



Career program graduates also provided thoughtful suggestions for improving the job preparation experience for future students. These comments, which appear in the Appendix, can be categorized into five general types: 1) affirmations of the College’s efforts in the area of career preparation; 2) suggestions related to the quality and quantity of internship, clinical experiences available to students, and help in job placement; 3) suggestions related to curricular or course improvements; 4) suggestions related to technological improvements; and 5) suggestions related to counseling and support.

Appendix A

How could your CCP education have been more helpful to you in preparation for your current job?

Positive comments with no suggestions for change

All the things I learned at CCP were helpful
CCP experiences helped me to write academic papers
I am currently an electrician. I am studying Journalism and Public Relations. CCP was helpful to me because I want to change careers.
I am now willing and able to learn new things
I feel fully prepared
Lesson plan good strong structure in the field I am in
Nothing, because I have decided to change my field, and I am in retail until I can enter school to educate myself in my new field
Nursing counselors were excellent!
Overall, everything was very informative.
Professors were excellent
The experience was fine. I didn't think I'd be getting into [this] field so I didn't take courses that apply to it. However several courses I've taken apply regardless (i.e. Math, English, etc)
Very helpful instructors

Suggestions Related to Internship/Clinical Experiences/Job Placement

A little more involved in the work and studies department on the job help while going to school
Career/Job fairs with training opportunities
Extended time for clinical rotations
Externship
In the field training or more hands on lab classes
Job placement help
More "practicum-like" experience early on; more skill assessments
More clinical
More than just one semester of practicum experience
More work experiences
A two-week course in how to find a job in my field.
Nothing for my current job
Offering research projects where students have the option to participate with the [research] process
The paralegal Dept should have offered a longer internship to prepare me with enough experience to obtain a job within my chosen field.

Suggestions related to curriculum/course improvements

Additional real estate courses
Business management skills
Communication
Comprehensive diverse education
If I had known early on what classes to take
It would have been useful to have a Finance course or two
Maybe a class on balancing finances
Maybe a course on stress management
More business courses would have been helpful
More help in letter and memo writing
More classes in the cancer registry
More psychology classes

Psychology. Course would have been more helpful, to add an asset to my business.
The science courses that I've taken and computer course
Time Management Course

Suggestions related to technological issues

Computer classes which relate to criminal justice students
Computer Skills
Computer training at entry level could have gone at a slower rate. I didn't learn much. I taught myself
Computers
I should have taken some computer classes
Learning different PC applications
More computer classes, management curriculum
More computer courses
More medical record computer related classes, more classes in the cancer registry
More use of Computer Technology
Nursing Lab equipment should be updated!!
Staff should have kept students more in touch with technological advances in the field they are teaching

Counseling/ Support Suggestions

Peer counseling, or students helping students
More support, example: study groups, teacher aids, teachers being more supportive and encouraging
More guidance from counselors in what classes to take that would apply to furthering my education
I think a program for older returning and even first time students would benefit from kind of support group or seminars
Advice on what was needed to further my education in a university

Other

At CCP I experienced some instructors that weren't flexible to working parents
Child Care Assistance
Classes that involved the adult learner coming back to classes to advise or help the adult learner since they have other responsibilities
The graduation process needs changing. Students should be advised that they have to register for graduation, the process was stressful
Diversity of student population
Offer a Bachelor's degree program
How to get a business license and more info on non-profit organizations (working for?)
Joining student government and other organizations
Learn how to communicate with others effectively
Nothing, because I have decided to change my field, and I am in retail until I can enter school to educate myself in my new field
My experiences at CCP are pretty much unrelated to my current job
Organizational skills related to note writing and more info on CBH, DOC, FIR, BHSI regulations
Submitted some things to CCP newspaper that were rejected, could've helped writing career. Was more focused on a job with a 4 yr degree.