

# **COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA**

## **Career Outcomes for 2004 Career Program Graduates**

**OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH**

**Report #153**

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## Career Outcomes for 2004 Career Program Graduates

November 2005<sup>1</sup>

In 2004, the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) awarded 616 associate degrees and 160 certificates in career-related programs. Compared with 2003, there were 66 more associate degrees and 25 more certificates awarded in 2004 (Figure 1).

**Figure 1**  
**Number of Associate Degrees and Certificates Awarded in Career-related Programs**  
**Academic Years 1997-2004**

Type of Award	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Associate Degrees	742	671	699	636	569	576	550	616
Certificates	181	199	175	188	162	134	135	160

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 twelve 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 2004.

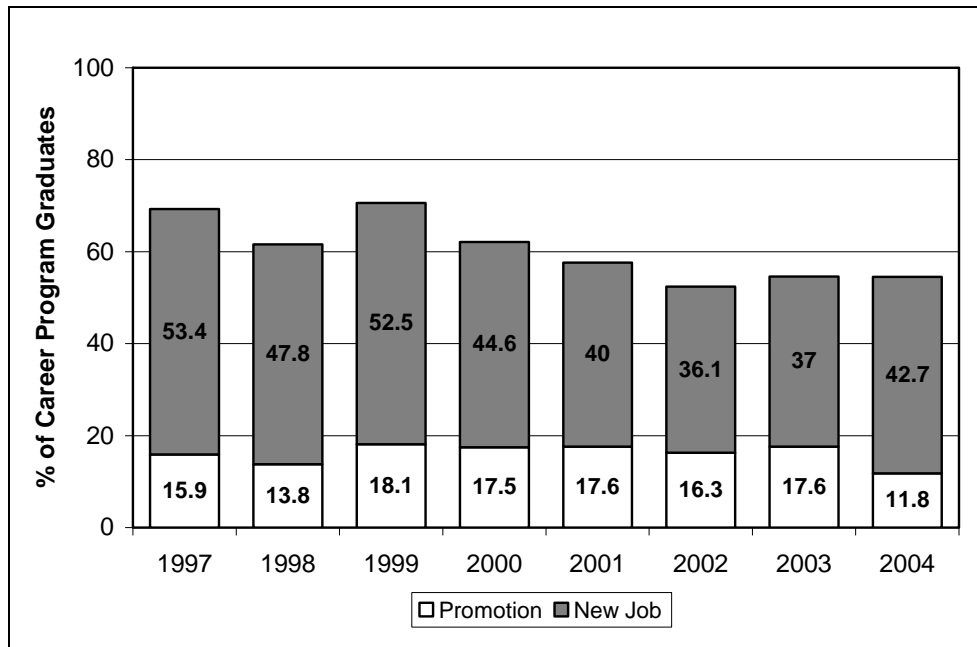
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<sup>1</sup> A parallel IR report highlighting the transfer experiences of 2004 graduates is titled [\*Transfer Outcomes: Responses to the 2004 Annual Graduate Survey \(November 2005\)\*](#).

As of October 2005, 195 career program graduates from 2004 returned completed questionnaires. Concerns of job loss and future employability motivated many of these students to participate in higher education. Thirty-nine percent (39%) 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.

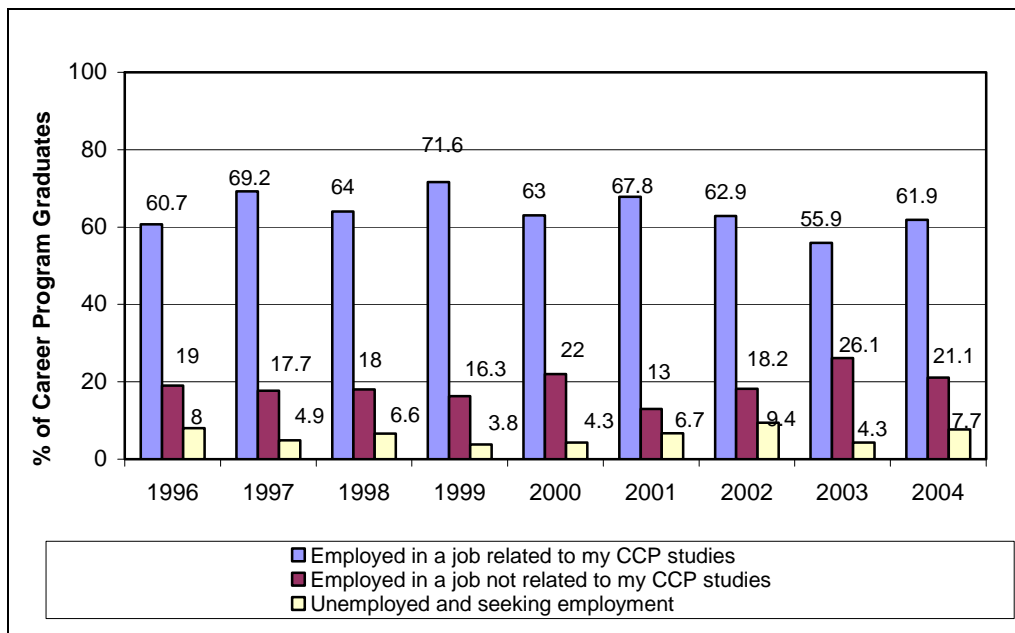
Compared with their immediate predecessors, the percentage of 2004 graduates working in a new job with a new employer increased. Forty-three percent (43%) of 2004 career graduates were employed in a new job at the time they took the survey, compared with 37% from the graduating class of 2003 (Figure 2). The percentage of graduates who received promotions subsequent to graduating decreased between 2003 and 2004, dropping from 17.6% of 2003 career program graduates to 11.8% of 2004 graduates. In combination, nearly 57% of 2004 career graduates had changed their employment status a short time after graduation.

**Figure 2**  
**Career Graduates Who Were Working in a New Job with a New Employer or Received a Promotion Shortly After Graduation**  
**1997 – 2004**



Compared to 2003 graduates, graduates in 2004 were nearly twice as likely to have been unemployed and actively looking for a job shortly after graduation. On a more positive note, graduates of career programs in 2004 were more likely (62%) than graduates in 2003 (56%) to be working in jobs that were related to their program of study (Figure 3) and graduates in 2004 were less likely than their predecessors to be working in a job unrelated to their CCP studies.

**Figure 3**  
**Relationship of Job to Program of Study**  
**1996 – 2004**



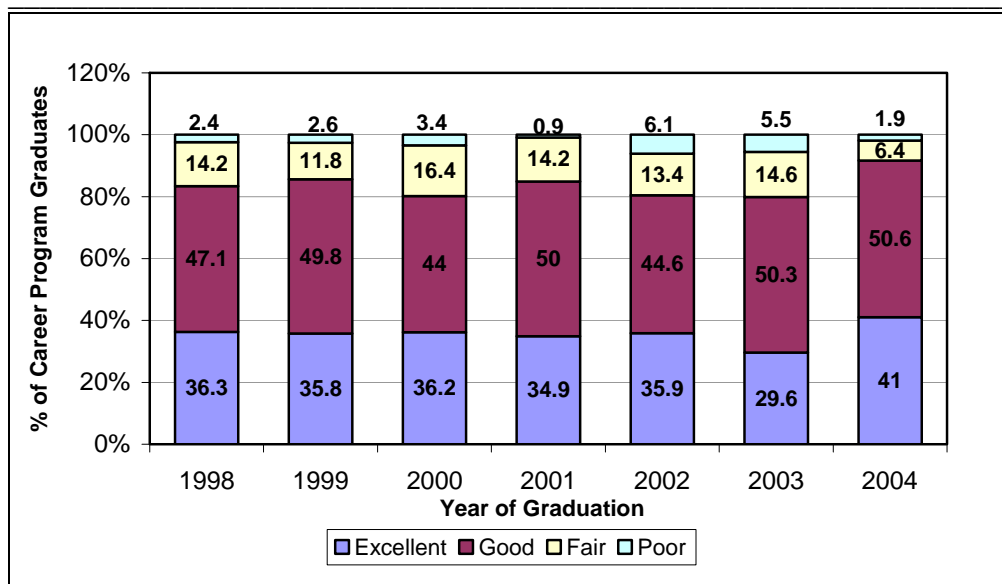
The average annual salary earned by 2004 career program graduates shortly after graduation was \$41,203 (Figure 4). The average salary for 2004 graduates has greatly increased from previous years.

**Figure 4**  
**Annual Salaries of Graduates Working in Full-Time<sup>2</sup> Jobs**  
**1996 – 2004**

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
2004	\$41,203

Most graduates value the career preparation they received while at the College. Compared to 2003 graduates, 2004 graduates who responded to the question were much more positive than their predecessors (Figure 5).

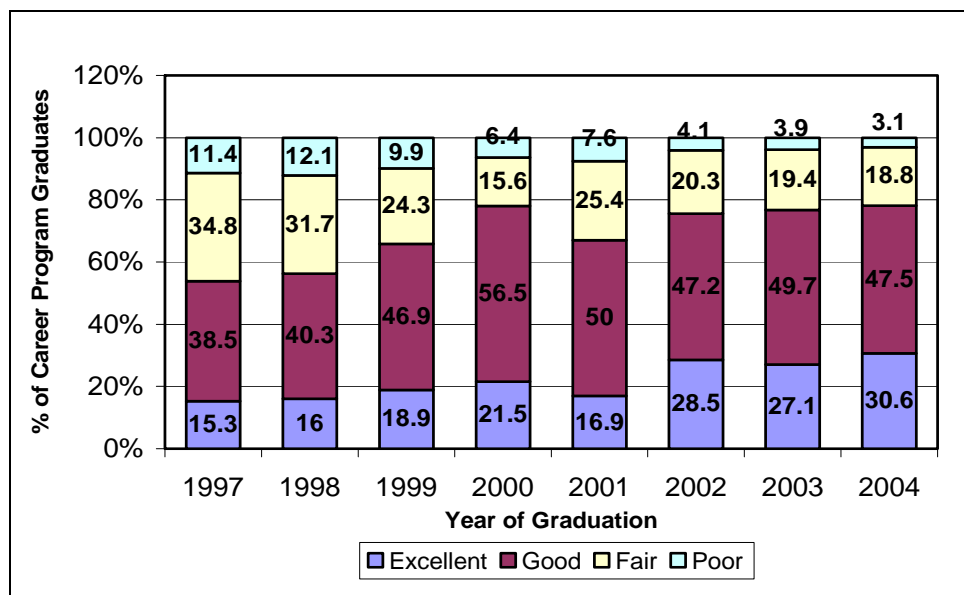
**Figure 5**  
**Career Program Graduates Assessment of Their CCP**  
**Preparation for the Workplace**  
**1998 – 2004**



<sup>2</sup> Full time employment was defined as 30 hours or more per week.

When asked specifically about their computer technology preparation, the majority of 2004 career program graduates were very positive in their assessment of the College (Figure 6). Nearly forty-eight percent (48%) felt the College did a “good” job in providing them with the computer skills required for their job, and another 31% felt their preparation was “excellent”.

**Figure 6**  
**Career Program Graduates Assessment of Their Computer**  
**Technology Preparation for the Workplace**  
**1997 - 2004**



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) other, miscellaneous suggestions.

Most graduates were satisfied with their CCP education as preparation for their current jobs. Many of the positive comments showed appreciation of the instructors/advisors. “CCP was a wonderful experience for me. All my advisors were informative and helpful” and “There were excellent tutors at the Learning Lab. They helped me tremendously” were two comments that show this appreciation.

The majority of the suggestions related to internship and clinical experiences were graduates that wished they had more training, especially clinical training. “Participation in more admissions and discharges in the clinical setting” and “Hands on experience, or a field trip” were two suggestions in this category.

In the Suggestions Related to Curriculum/Course Improvements, graduates generally wanted more classes that relate to their careers. Two comments that reflect this are; “Matching classroom experiences to corporate needs” and “If CCP offered a Histology program, it would have allowed me to advance in the science field”. Graduates also suggested that more computer skills would be useful under the Technological Issues cluster. “For accounting majors, advanced Excel and other accounting software would have been helpful”.

## 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 were great
I can't think of anything, CCP prepared me well.
CCP was a wonderful experience for me. All my advisors were informative and helpful.
Everything was great.
There were excellent tutors at the Learning Lab. They helped me tremendously.
Exploring the cultural diversity at CCP to prepare me for a better transition into the work force.
I am not sure if I could have gained any additional knowledge to help me with my current job. It is a more learn as you go position.
I got everything from CCP and I always wanted to thank our professors.
The instructors were excellent & most informative about disease processes and how they affect the whole person.
My experiences were fine at the time I attended CCP; nothing more, nothing less.
None!
Nothing, CCP even helped me get my job
I was satisfied with the curriculum.
I got the experience of being a Medical Technician from studying at CCP.

#### Suggestions Related to Internship/Clinical Experiences/Job Placement

More Clinical Rotations
Clinical, especially in community health
Hands on training; applying the concepts students learn.
Hands on experience, or a field trip.
More clinical experience
More clinical time
More medical surgery clinicals
Participation in more admissions and discharges in the clinical setting
Preparation for searching for jobs and more resume help.
Help with job placement.

#### Suggestions related to curriculum/course improvements

Accounting projects and practices in analyzing financial statements.
If CCP offered a Histology program, it would have allowed me to advance in the science field.
In Behavioral Health a course in documentation and a DSM course would have been helpful.
Matching classroom experiences to corporate needs.
Professionals who work in the field visiting our classes for Q&A sessions.
Help with speaking skills
Offer a Leadership Studies & Management certificate and Computer Operations certificate

#### Suggestions related to technological issues

For accounting majors, advanced Excel and other accounting software would have been very helpful.
Medical Coding, computer class

## Other

Better way to communicate oh the phone with teachers; better teacher availability.
For the job I want, counseling for women and children in a crisis state of life would be helpful
Getting references from teachers, as I was a 4.0 student.
More clubs for older people
More dedicated teachers who really care and want to be helpful to students and it not only be about the salary.
My job is actually helping me with the nursing program at CCP.
Should have taken more MH classes