

# Trades Foundation Programs as Preparation for Apprenticeship

## FACT SHEET

October 2011

From the 2010 survey

In 2010, a large majority (79 percent) of the Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey respondents took Applied programs—programs that lead to employment in a specific field. Of those who took Applied programs, 24 percent (2,960 respondents) had enrolled in trades Foundation programs (previously called Entry Level Trades Training). Foundation programs are relatively short programs designed to give students the key skills and knowledge needed for entry into a particular trade. Most Foundation programs link to, and provide credit towards, apprenticeship training. In 2010, 14 B.C. public post-secondary institutions offered nearly 50 Foundation programs.

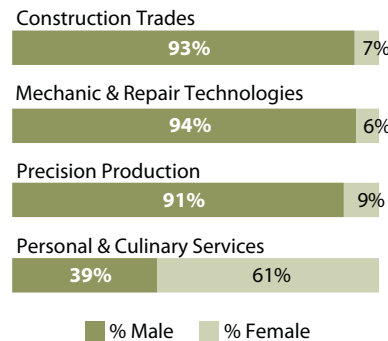
### Who took Foundation programs?

Respondents from Foundation programs were much more likely to be male than respondents from other Applied programs (84 percent compared with 35 percent) and tended to be younger, with a median age of 22 compared with 27.<sup>1</sup> A slightly higher percentage of Foundation respondents identified themselves as Aboriginal (6.3 percent compared with 4.4 percent of other Applied respondents). Sixteen percent of respondents who took Foundation programs said their country of origin was not Canada; of those, 28 percent said they were permanent residents or landed immigrants. In 2010, the majority of respondents from Foundation programs had studied in either the Construction Trades

(33 percent) or Mechanic and Repair Technologies program areas (30 percent), although one-fifth of respondents had studied Precision Production and 15 percent had been in Personal & Culinary Services. Three percent had been in other programs.<sup>2</sup>

In each program area, a large majority of respondents from Foundation programs were male except for Personal & Culinary Services, where more than half were female.

In most Foundation program areas, almost all respondents were male

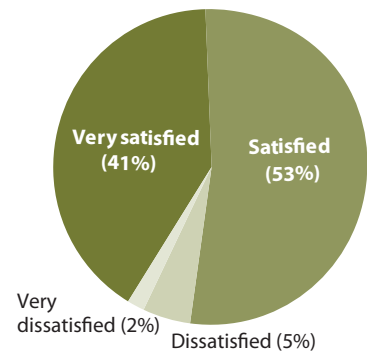


Note: Programs have been grouped according to the 2-digit Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) coding.

### How did they evaluate their training?

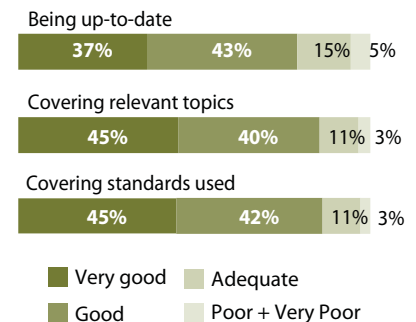
Nearly all (93 percent) of the respondents from Foundation programs said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the education they received and the majority (82 percent) said that they had *completely* or *mostly met* their most important objective for enrolling.

Most respondents from Foundation programs were satisfied with the education they received

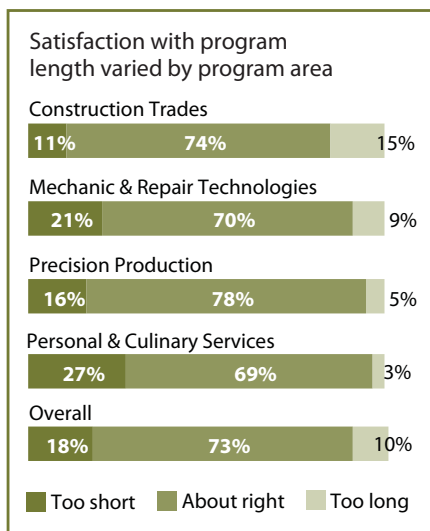


When asked to rate their program's courses in certain areas—being up-to-date, covering the topics most relevant to their field, and covering the standards used in their field—most respondents from Foundation programs gave a rating of *very good* or *good*.

Most respondents from Foundation programs rated their training as *very good* or *good*



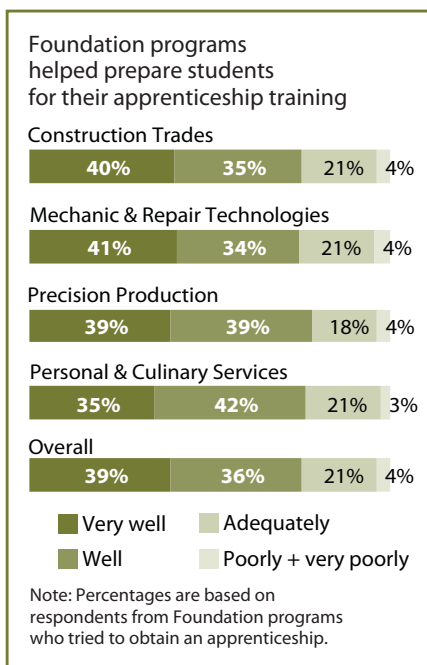
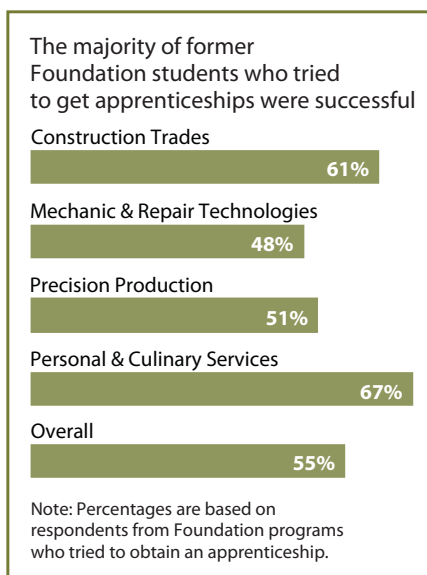
Overall, the majority (73 percent) of respondents from Foundation programs felt the length of their training was about right. This was true for each of the main program areas, although former Personal & Culinary Services students were the most likely to say their program was too short and those from Construction Trades programs were the most likely to say their program was too long.



## Did they go on to apprenticeships?

Since taking their training, over three-quarters of respondents who took Foundation programs tried to gain employment as apprentices. Of those who tried to get an apprenticeship, 55 percent were successful. The percentage of those who became apprentices varied somewhat by program area.

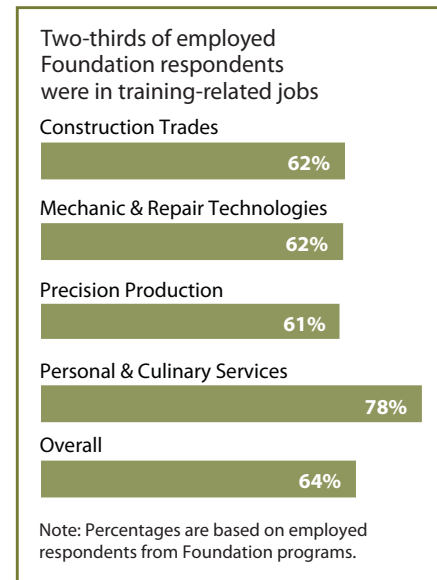
Just over three-quarters (76 percent) of former Foundation students who obtained an apprenticeship found that their program helped prepare them for apprenticeship training.



## What were their employment outcomes?

At the time of the survey nearly all respondents from Foundation programs (90 percent) were in the labour force; that is, they were employed or looking

for work. Seventy-three percent of foundation respondents were employed and, of those, 87 percent were employed full-time. Nearly two-thirds of employed Foundation respondents said their training was *very related* or *somewhat related* to their training. By program area, this percentage ranged from 61 percent of former Precision Production students to 78 percent of those from Personal & Culinary Services programs.



## Endnotes

1. Age is at the time of the survey.
2. The trades Foundation programs were grouped using the 2-digit Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes. The Other category includes Engineering Technologies/Technicians; Transportation and Materials Moving; Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences; and Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services.



For more information on British Columbia student outcomes and the Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey, please see <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Default/Home.aspx>.