

## Are Students Getting Employed in Their Field of Study?

There are two primary indicators of whether students are employed in their field: percentage in a job closely related to field of study and top five industries of employment. Both of these metrics can be found on the [LaunchBoard Community College Pipeline](#) under the Employment tab. This information is displayed in easy-to-read charts and table formats, and can be viewed by college, region, or statewide. Users can select programs information at the TOP6, TOP4, sector, all-CTE, all non-CTE, and all programs level. Looking at both metrics will help ascertain if the skills taught in a program lead to employment in a related field.

### Percentage in a Job Closely Related to Field of Study

The most well-known metric on employment in students' fields of study, which is incorporated into the Chancellor's Office Vision for Success, comes from a question on the CTE Outcomes Survey. Students self-report whether they are employed in the same or similar field as their program of study.

Survey data is useful, because it allows for students to evaluate whether they are applying the skills they learned in college. However, it does have some limitations. The CTE Outcomes Survey is only sent to career education students that have graduated or taken at least nine units, and responses represent only a subset of all exiting students, which means that results may be based on a small number of people at the sector or TOP code level.

For more information on the CTEOS, visit the [Santa Rosa Junior College CTE Outcomes Survey](#) website.

### Top Five Industries of Employment

Another LaunchBoard metric identifies the top five industry sectors that students are working in, as defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code. Industry sectors reflect groupings of similar types of employers, such as construction or retail. Industry sector information comes from the California Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage File. NAICS codes are based on the activity that generates the majority of a business' revenue. They are self-assigned by employers and are usually provided on administrative, survey, or census reports collected by the government. Information from the UI file is only available for completers and skill-builders with valid social security numbers, and is not used in the Vision for Success goal regarding students who are employed in their field of study.

This metric is especially useful to consider if a program's related occupations align with a specific industry sector or a limited number of sectors. For example, if a program trains medical assistants, then NAICS codes should include health-related sectors. However, if a program trains business information workers, then students could work in many different industry settings including both construction and retail.

When a company reports earnings for a worker as part of the UI wage data to the state, that individual is considered to be employed in the sector no matter what occupation that worker is in. If the student is a business information worker at a company with a utilities NAICS code, then that person is considered to be working in the utilities sector. Or, a student could graduate with an associate degree in telecommunications technology, but be working as an office clerk (not using skills acquired as part of the degree), and still be counted as working in the utilities sector.

Another complicating factor when considering NAICS codes is that some industry sectors may rely heavily on hiring workers through temporary agencies. Students hired through these sorts of third party agencies will be counted as working in “Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services” (see Sector 56 below) even though they may actually be working in a completely different sector like construction.

### NAICS codes

In the LaunchBoard, the top five industry sectors shown are at the two-digit level.

**Sector 11: Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting** sector comprises establishments primarily engaged in growing crops, raising animals, harvesting timber, and harvesting fish and other animals from a farm, ranch, or their natural habitats.

**Sector 21: Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction** sector comprises establishments that extract naturally occurring mineral solids, such as coal and ores; liquid minerals, such as crude petroleum; and gases, such as natural gas. The term mining is used in the broad sense to include quarrying, well operations, beneficiating (e.g., crushing, screening, washing, and flotation), and other preparation customarily performed at the mine site, or as a part of mining activity.

**Sector 22: Utilities** sector comprises establishments engaged in the provision of the following utility services: electric power, natural gas, steam supply, water supply, and sewage removal. Within this sector, the specific activities associated with the utility services provided vary by utility: electric power includes generation, transmission, and distribution; natural gas includes distribution; steam supply includes provision and/or distribution; water supply includes treatment and distribution; and sewage removal includes collection, treatment, and disposal of waste through sewer systems and sewage treatment facilities.

**Sector 23: Construction** sector comprises establishments primarily engaged in the construction of buildings or engineering projects (e.g., highways and utility systems). Establishments primarily engaged in the preparation of sites for new construction and establishments primarily engaged in subdividing land for sale as building sites also are included in this sector.

**Sector 31-33: Manufacturing** sector comprises establishments engaged in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products.

**Sector 42: Wholesale Trade** sector comprises establishments engaged in wholesaling merchandise, generally without transformation, and rendering services incidental to the sale of merchandise. The merchandise described in this sector includes the outputs of agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and certain information industries, such as publishing.

**Sector 44-45: Retail Trade** sector comprises establishments engaged in retailing merchandise, generally without transformation, and rendering services incidental to the sale of merchandise.

**Sector 48-49: Transportation and Warehousing** sector includes industries providing transportation of passengers and cargo, warehousing and storage for goods, scenic and sightseeing transportation, and support activities related to modes of transportation. Establishments in these industries use transportation equipment or transportation related facilities as a productive asset. The type of equipment depends on the mode of transportation. The modes of transportation are air, rail, water, road, and pipeline.

**Sector 51: Information** sector comprises establishments engaged in the following processes:

- 1) Producing and distributing information and cultural products
- 2) Providing the means to transmit or distribute these products as well as data or communications
- 3) Processing data

**Sector 52: Finance and Insurance** sector comprises establishments primarily engaged in financial transactions (transactions involving the creation, liquidation, or change in ownership of financial assets) and/or in facilitating financial transactions.

**Sector 53: Real Estate and Rental and Leasing** sector comprises establishments primarily engaged in renting, leasing, or otherwise allowing the use of tangible or intangible assets, and establishments providing related services. The major portion of this sector comprises establishments that rent, lease, or otherwise allow the use of their own assets by others. The assets may be tangible, as is the case of real estate and equipment, or intangible, as is the case with patents and trademarks.

**Sector 54: Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services** sector comprises establishments that specialize in performing professional, scientific, and technical activities for others. These activities require a high degree of expertise and training. The establishments in this sector specialize according to expertise and provide these services to clients in a variety of industries and, in some cases, to households. Activities performed include: legal advice and representation; accounting, bookkeeping, and payroll services; architectural, engineering, and specialized design services; computer services; consulting services; research services; advertising services; photographic services; translation and interpretation services; veterinary services; and other professional, scientific, and technical services.

**Sector 55: Management of Companies and Enterprises** sector comprises:

- 1) Establishments that hold the securities of (or other equity interests in) companies and enterprises for the purpose of owning a controlling interest or influencing management decisions
- 2) Establishments (except government establishments) that administer, oversee, and manage establishments of the company or enterprise and that normally undertake the strategic or organizational planning and decision-making role of the company or enterprise

**Sector 56: Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services** sector comprises establishments performing routine support activities for the day-to-day operations of other organizations. These essential activities are often undertaken in-house by establishments in many sectors of the economy. Activities performed include: office administration, hiring and placing of personnel, document preparation and similar clerical services, solicitation, collection, security and surveillance services, cleaning, and waste disposal services.

**NOTE:** Workers who are employed in Sector 56 may be hired through a temporary agency to perform work in other industry sectors.

**Sector 61: Educational Services** sector comprises establishments that provide instruction and training in a wide variety of subjects. This instruction and training is provided by specialized establishments, such as schools, colleges, universities, and training centers. These establishments may be privately owned and operated for profit or not for profit, or they may be publicly owned and operated. They may also offer food and/or accommodation services to their students.

**Sector 62: Health Care and Social Assistance** sector comprises establishments providing health care and social assistance for individuals. The industries in this sector are arranged on a continuum starting with

those establishments providing medical care exclusively, continuing with those providing health care and social assistance, and finally finishing with those providing only social assistance. The services provided by establishments in this sector are delivered by trained professionals.

**Sector 71: Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation** sector includes a wide range of establishments that operate facilities or provide services to meet varied cultural, entertainment, and recreational interests of their patrons.

**Sector 72: Accommodation and Food Services** sector comprises establishments providing customers with lodging and/or preparing meals, snacks, and beverages for immediate consumption. The sector includes both accommodation and food services establishments because the two activities are often combined at the same establishment.

**Sector 81: Other Services (except Public Administration)** sector comprises establishments engaged in providing services not specifically provided for elsewhere in the classification system. Establishments in this sector are primarily engaged in activities such as equipment and machinery repairing, promoting or administering religious activities, grantmaking, advocacy, and providing dry cleaning and laundry services, personal care services, death care services, pet care services, photofinishing services, temporary parking services, and dating services.

**Sector 92: Public Administration** sector consists of establishments of federal, state, and local government agencies that administer, oversee, and manage public programs and have executive, legislative, or judicial authority over other institutions within a given area. These agencies also set policy, create laws, adjudicate civil and criminal legal cases, provide for public safety and for national defense.

For more information, visit the US Census Bureau NAICS: <https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/>