

Southside Virginia Community College
Graduate Follow-Up Update
Class of 2006

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METHOD

Southside Virginia Community College has conducted one-year follow-up surveys of its graduates each year and issued composite reports on surveys of the Classes of 1985 through 1989 and 1990 through 1994. These reports contained information from five separate surveys, some of which were divided into two parts.

The present report gives an update for the class of 2006. 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). A sample of the survey forms used is given in Appendix A. Due to the small numbers involved, only summary data is presented.

For the Class of 2006, 228 responses to the Prospective Graduate Survey (Appendix A) were received from 528 surveyed graduates for the response rate of 43%. On the Graduate Follow-up Survey (Appendix A) mailed out approximately one year later, there were 202 responses from the 528 surveyed graduates, a response rate of 38%.

GOALS AND THEIR ACHEIVEMENT

First, prospective graduates responded to the question, “**What was your MAIN goal in attending SVCC?**” Table 1 gives the responses to this question. Fifty-seven percent of respondents gave one of the three career-oriented responses, and thirty-three percent had transfer to a four-year college as their main goal. Compared to the Class of 2005, there was a one percent decrease in career-oriented responses and the transfer-oriented response remained the same.

TABLE 1: MAIN GOAL IN ATTENDING SVCC

GOAL	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
To obtain skills to enter the job market	65	28.51
To obtain skills needed to change jobs	44	19.30
To improve skills for job I was doing	22	9.65
To prepare for transfer to 4-year college	76	33.33
Personal interest or self-enrichment	21	9.21

When asked whether their main goal was achieved, 95.6 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 four-point scale ranging from “Very Much” to “Not At All” or “Not Applicable”.

TABLE 2: EXTENT OF SATISFACTION WITH AREAS AND SERVICES

AREA OF SERVICE	% VERY MUCH	% SOMEWHAT	% VERY LITTLE	% NOT AT ALL	% N/A
Education	88.44	11.56	0	0	0
Instruction in your curriculum	78.32	21.24	0	.44	0
Course availability	61.40	33.77	4.39	.44	0
Relationship with faculty outside of class	65.20	22.91	8.37	.88	2.64
Course content	73.01	26.11	.88	0	0
Grading and testing	63.16	32.89	2.63	.88	.44
Program facilities (lab and equipment)	73.45	22.12	2.65	0	1.77
Advising	70.61	19.74	7.89	1.75	0
Computer Labs	78.32	16.37	1.33	0	3.98
Library Services	66.67	22.37	6.14	.44	4.39
Bookstore	59.47	29.96	7.49	2.20	.88
Registration	76.32	20.18	3.07	0	.44
Financial aid	60.96	19.74	3.51	2.63	13.16
Counseling	68.14	19.47	5.74	.88	5.75
Student Activities	54.82	24.56	10.09	.88	9.65
Career Services	52.63	26.32	7.02	1.75	12.28
Business Office/Cashier	65.35	22.81	6.14	.88	4.82
Admissions Office/Transcripts	75.88	20.61	3.07	0	.44
Overall Satisfaction	82.59	16.96	.45	0	0

Positive ratings, with 90% or more checking either “Very Much” or “Somewhat”, are seen in eight of the nine items pertaining to instruction: Education, Instruction in Your Curriculum, Course Availability, Course Content, Grading and Testing, Program facilities, Advising, and Computer Labs.

Among various college services rated, Registration and Admissions Office/Transcripts received the highest rating at 97%. Relatively small proportions of negative ratings (“very little” and “not at all”) were received by most services rated, with Student Activities (10.97 percent) and Bookstore (9.69 percent) being the highest. Almost 100% (99.5%) 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	66.82	28.70	1.79	2.24	.45
Speak clearly & effectively	65.92	29.15	2.24	2.69	0
Understand and use computers	68.16	26.01	2.69	2.24	.90

HELPFULNESS OF DEVELOPMENTAL COURSES

Sixty-three 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 were: 104 in reading, 110 in English (writing), and 146 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	62.70	15.87	3.97	0	0	17.46
Writing	63.36	15.27	3.82	0	1.53	16.03
Mathematics	68.15	17.83	4.46	2.55	0	7.01

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

Prospective graduates were then asked “On average, how much time did you spend working for pay during a typical week while attending SVCC?” Responses were “None” 21.08 percent, “1 to 10 hours” 10.76 percent, “11 to 20 hours” 20.63 percent and “more than 20 hours” 47.53 percent.

Prospective graduates were also asked “To what extent did your SVCC program prepare you for responsible citizenship (e.g. better informed about your community and the political process)?” A high proportion checked either “Very Much (45.74%), or “Somewhat” (44.84%). To complete the picture, 7.17% checked “Very Little” and 2.24% checked “Not At All”.

Lastly, prospective graduates were asked the question “How much money did you borrow to pay for tuition, books and other educational expenses before you graduated from SVCC?” Since SVCC’s financial aid package is loan-free, it is not surprising that 69.06% checked “None”. Another 6.28% checked borrowed “less than \$1,000”, 10.31% checked borrowed “between \$1,000 and \$3,000”, 8.52% checked borrowed “between \$3,001 and \$5,000”, and 5.83% checked borrowed “more than \$5,000”.

Except for the comments which appear in Appendix B, this was the final area included in the Prospective Graduate Questionnaire.

FURTHER EDUCATION

Thirty-one percent of the graduates indicated they had pursued a bachelor’s degree after graduating from SVCC, with twenty-two percent currently enrolled full-time. Table 5 summarizes the responses of this question.

TABLE 5: PURSUING BACHELORS DEGREE

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes, full-time	44	22
Yes, part-time	11	5.50
Yes, completed a baccalaureate program	4	2.00
Yes, but stopped before graduation	3	1.50
No	138	69

Transfer institutions receiving the greatest numbers of SVCC graduates were Longwood (20), ODU (13) and Averett (3). Three students indicated they returned to SVCC for further education.

A total of forty-three graduates who transferred to other institutions reported their first-term-after transfer GPA. The mean for the group was 3.161 on a 4-point scale. Of those responding, 90.16 percent indicated that their current major was at least somewhat related to the curriculum they completed at SVCC, with 60.66 percent checking “Very Much” and 29.51 percent checking “Somewhat”, “Very Little” was checked by 9.84 percent.

When asked how well SVCC prepared them academically for the bachelor’s program 95.08 percent rated their preparation positively, checking either “Very Much (55.74 percent) or “Somewhat (39.34 percent). Only 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” 69.64 percent, “Somewhat” 17.86 percent, “Very Little” 8.93 percent, and “Not At All” 3.57 percent. Of the seven students who responded negatively, two did not graduate from the University Parallel curriculum.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Graduates were asked to respond to the question, “Are you currently employed?” Table 6 summarizes their responses.

TABLE 6: GRADUATES' EMPLOYMENT STATUS RESPONSES

STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes, full-time	138	67.98
Yes, part-time	28	13.79
No, seeking employment	9	4.43
No, not seeking employment	28	13.79

From the table, it is seen that over 80 percent of the graduates were working either full- or part-time. The SVCC graduate unemployment rate of 4.43 percent is slightly above the 4.26 percent service area average unemployment rate and well below the 8.11 percent reported in the 2005 graduate survey. Of those twenty-eight respondents who reported “No, not actively seeking employment”, six were not seeking employment because of family obligations, eleven were pursuing additional education, ten indicated other, and one graduate did not indicate a reason.

Of those employed 78.66 percent indicated their job was “Very Much” or “Somewhat” related to the curriculum they completed at SVCC. Table 7 summarizes the responses to this question. Of those responding “Very Little” (10.37 percent) or “Not At All” (10.98 percent), 8 of 35 had been pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree since graduation. For these respondents, it would seem that the current job was likely to be part-time or temporary while working toward their degree.

TABLE 7: TO WHAT EXTENT IS YOUR SVCC PROGRAM RELATED TO YOUR CURRENT OCCUPATION

RATINGS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Very Much	96	58.54
Somewhat	33	20.12
Very Little	17	10.37
Not At All	18	10.98

Graduates were also asked, “To what extent does your SVCC program help you perform in the workplace?” Table 8 presents the responses to this question.

TABLE 8: TO WHAT EXTENT DOES YOUR SVCC PROGRAM HELP YOU PERFORM IN THE WORKPLACE?

RATINGS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Very Much	88	53.99
Somewhat	47	28.83
Very Little	15	9.2
Not At All	13	7.98

From the table, 82.82 percent felt their SVCC preparation helped them “Very Much” or “Somewhat” to perform in the workplace. Of those checking “Very Little” (9.2 percent) or “Not At All” (7.98 percent), 7 of 28 had been pursuing a bachelor’s degree since graduation from SVCC. Thus, it is likely the current job for those respondents was part-time or temporary while pursuing a higher degree.

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?” A number of graduates responded to this question. Their responses are given also in Appendix B. The topics appearing most frequently among these suggestions were related to three areas: clinical experience/lab (6), more hands on experience (6) and accounting/business/econ (4). Eighteen students indicated that there was no improvement needed.

FULL-TIME SALARIES

One hundred and nine graduates who were employed full-time reported their salaries. Full-time employment was defined as 35 hours or more weekly. Table 10 below summarizes the salaries reported.

TABLE 10: FULL-TIME SALARIES REPORTED BY GRADUATES, 2000

ANNUAL SALARY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
\$6,000-9,999	0	0
\$10,000-14,999	11	10.09
\$ 15,000-19,999	10	9.17
\$ 20,000-24,999	24	22.02
\$ 25,000-29,999	14	12.84
\$ 30,000 and up	50	45.87

The average annual salary reported by these 109 respondents was \$30,584.06, an increase from the 2005 survey. The range was \$10,000 to \$200,000, and the median was in the \$30,000 and up category.

Any additional comments graduates made about their experience at SVCC are compiled in Appendix

B.

APPENDIX A

2006 Graduate Surveys

SVCC PROSPECTIVE GRADUATE QUESTIONNAIRE (2006)

Please check appropriate boxes within each

(1-3) (for office use)

(4-12) Social Security # _____ Name _____

SECTION A – GOALS AND EVALUATIONS

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

- (13) 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

2. Was your goal achieved?

- (14) 1. Yes (if Yes, go to question 3)
 (15) 2. No (if No, please explain _____)

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

		Very Much	Somewhat	Very Little	Not At All	N/A
16	Education					
17	Instruction in your curriculum					
18	Course availability					
19	Relationship with faculty outside of class					
20	Course content					
21	Grading and testing					
22	Program facility (lab and equipment)					
23	Advising					
24	Library services					
25	Bookstore					
26	Registration					
27	Financial Aid					
28	Counseling					
29	Student activities					
30	Career services					
31	Business Office/Cashier					
32	Admissions Office/transcripts					
33	Computer Labs					
34	Overall satisfaction with SVCC					

4. To what extent did your SVCC education contribute to your ability to:

		Very Much	Somewhat	Very Little	Not At All	N/A
34	Write clearly and effectively					
35	Speak clearly and effectively					
36	Understand and use computers					

5. Did you enroll in any developmental course(s) while attending SVCC?

- (37) 1. Yes, If yes, please rate your satisfaction with the following developmental courses in preparing you for credit courses.
 2. No

		(1) Very Satisfied	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5) Very Dissatisfied	N/A
38	Reading						
39	Writing						
40	Mathematics						

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

- (41) 1 None 2 1 to 10 hours 3 11 to 20 hours 4 more than 20 hours

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

- (42) 1 Very Much 2 Somewhat 3 Very Little 4 Not At All

8. How much did you borrow to pay for tuition, books, and other educational expenses before you graduated from SVCC?

- (43) 1 None
 2 Less than \$1,000
 3 \$1,001 to \$3,000
 4 \$3,001 to \$5,000
 5 more than \$5,000

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

- (44) 1 Yes 2 No

COMMENTS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

**SVCC GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP
(2006)**

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 need 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. What is your current annual gross salary before deductions? _____
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 Your initials _____

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 POSSIBLE

APPENDIX B

COMMENTS

2006 Prospective Graduate Questionnaire Comments

- OBS 7: SVCC is a good community college. I would recommend anybody to go there.
- OBS 8: I think it's a great college with good teachers!
- OBS 9: I feel that all the faculty and staff at SVCC does a great job.
- OBS 14: I have had the pleasure and privilege to have had some of the best instructors who were very willing to work with me so I could obtain my degree. This school also has some of the nicest and most helpful faculty.
- OBS 17: The person who had the most influence for me while attending SVCC was _____. I enjoyed his classes and learned more from him than any other faculty member here. I will never forget him!
- OBS 24: Great experience!!
- OBS 25: It was a great experience.
- OBS 26: Keysville campus should have students who are graduating stay in Keysville and students at the Alberta Campus should stay in Alberta.
- OBS 28: Thanks for people like _____.
- OBS 50: Thank you for all the help!
- OBS 57: I love the atmosphere and the continued help from the staff in any area you needed.
- OBS 58: Overall it is a good starting point in a young person's life that wanted to attend a four year college.
- OBS 60: Excellent experience.
- OBS 67: I went from not being interested in going to college and deciding to work instead for a few years in construction to coming here, and now I'll be attending a 4-year university (UVA). I never in my life thought I could get into UVA and I owe it all to SOUTHSIDE, Thanks!
- OBS 68: SVCC is a wonderful place to continue your education.
- OBS 71: Did not like the way the Physical Geo. Coarse was taught.
- OBS 72: My experience at SVCC was fun and very exciting getting to know the people at the college. They really helped me get through the hard times I had in my classes which made me continue with my schooling. I would like to thank each and everyone that made it possible, especially _____.

- OBS 74: I have enjoyed the student teacher interaction! I loved every moment. Go force!
- OBS 78: I really enjoyed my experience at SVCC.
- OBS 87: Overall, this is a nice college and I would recommend anyone to register for classes here.
- OBS 88: I enjoyed it very much!
- OBS 89: Thank you.
- OBS 94: _____ and the staff at the Emporia Campus made SVCC a great experience for me.
- OBS 95: SVCC is a great college. Need to extent to a 4 year college.
- OBS 108: Teachers are wonderful. I love the availability of classes on the internet and outside of SVCC (South Hill).
- OBS 111: I was miss-informed about “transfer” and “non transfer” classes that in turn caused me to take the wrong classes and have to pay for additional classes in order to graduate. _____ was a wonderful help in correcting this in the end.
- OBS 114: I loved the staff and everyone was very informative in getting their students prepared for the workforce.
- OBS 115: I enjoyed being a student at SVCC. I would recommend this college to other adults.
- OBS 117: I had transferred to SVCC from Halifax Community College in Roanoke Rapids, NC. I found this school to have so much more to offer! The professors and student activities were great!! I really felt at home while attending SVCC and will greatly miss it next year!
- OBS 136: This is a wonderful college. I thank everyone for their time, patience, and a good quality education.
- OBS 142: Everyone at SVCC was very friendly and helpful.
- OBS 145: My learning experience at SVCC was very helpful in life and the workplace.
- OBS 146: I have enjoyed my educational experience here. I would recommend it to others and I intend to take more classes.
- OBS 147: I would like to thank the faculty and staff for all the help they gave me while I was a student.

- OBS 151: Everyone went out of their way to help, and I would recommend that before you go to a 4 year college, come here first. I went to a four year right away, and it was very hard so I transferred back here. Now I am on my way to an engineering school.
- OBS 158: The staff and faculty have been immensely cooperative while attending SVCC.
- OBS 165: I have enjoyed the interaction with faculty and students I have while taking classes.
- OBS 166: My experience at SVCC has been great. I have learned so much, as well as, enjoyed my time here. I have enjoyed the teachers in the business department, such as _____ and _____.
- OBS 167: I really appreciate those staff members who were encouraging and very helpful in my experience at SVCC. I have really learned a lot not only in my classes but about myself as a person, and SVCC has overall been positive in my growth. Thank you.
- OBS 175: Overall very good rating.
- OBS 183: I am going to miss being around very nice people. The staff is very respectable.
- OBS 185: I was very pleased with my experience at SVCC. The education I have received has helped me tremendously with my job performance. Thank you.
- OBS 202: My learning experience at SVCC has been a good one. I enjoyed being here and I have learned a lot. There is one teacher that I would like to thank for being there when I needed her. I had a lot of classes under her. The teacher is _____.
- OBS 210: I want to thank the counseling. It was a lot smoother process with the efforts of their work ethics.
- OBS 217: _____ was the best!

**2006 SVCC Graduate Follow-Up Survey
Comments**

Question #4- Based on your current job requirements, what areas in your SVCC program of study need improvement?

- OBS 1- Communication. I should have taken public speaking.
- OBS 2- Maybe a little more time in the shop-working on equipment.
- OBS 3- None.
- OBS 6- None
- OBS 7- Employees, business hours, laws and how they can be applied to life.
- OBS 10- Nothing except human services.
- OBS 13- Job Placement Assistance
- OBS 14- Nothing
- OBS 16- LPN- need more management education dealing with managing CNA's starting IV's, and mental health-(most people have a psych diagnosis).
- OBS 22- None
- OBS 23- Nursing skills lab experience and equipment available.
- OBS 26- Computer Skills, typing
- OBS 27- More Psychological courses
- OBS 28- Lab time
- OBS 31 - None
- OBS 32 - None
- OBS 33 - None
- OBS 35 - None
- OBS 36 - None
- OBS 37 - Need more business writing courses and more business math, economic and budgeting courses.
- OBS 38 - None – excellent preparation
- OBS 43 - Accounting and Business
- OBS 44 - More clinical time

- OBS 49 - Need a program for a Bachelor's Degree
- OBS 56 - More hands on training
- OBS 59 - Letter writing
- OBS 60 - Excel
- OBS 62 - More hands on (different skills, ex IV's, trach)
- OBS 65- More hands on job readiness
- OBS 67 - Accounting
- OBS 74 - More hands on experience
- OBS 76 - Majoring in Engineering would have helped me.
- OBS 83 - Need more clinicals.
- OBS 88 - Because of my job requirements and the type of work that I do, I'm not using much of the program that I studied.
- OBS 92 - Math
- OBS 100 - Can think of none.
- OBS 101- I had 15 years dialysis experience as a LPN so no areas here apply.
- OBS 150 - The requirements of most programs should not be so difficult or stressful to even enter a program.
- OBS 156 - Math
- OBS 162 - Map reading and log book.
- OBS 166 - Computerized documentation
- OBS 168 - Clinical lab science program needed.
- OBS 172 - AAS fire science.
- OBS 179 - Math
- OBS 180 - I would like to see a program we could get a bachelor's degree in Human Services through SVCC.

OBS 194 - Hands on clinical experience.

COMMENTS

OBS 1- Overall, I found my experience at SVCC to be very self rewarding, informative, and a pleasant learning environment. Thank you for the service you provide to our community.

OBS 6- My experience at SVCC was good. I enjoyed my instructors expressing their professional experiences relating to the courses they were teaching. I am very satisfied with the level of education I received from Southside Community College Daniel Campus.

OBS 7- The first two years was going back to school. History, Sciences, Art, etc. Get to what people need to succeed and stop wasting time learning about BC times and Biology. If I was in the medical field sure, not in business! I need to work not socialize with teachers. Those skills might be needed for younger students but older students need to work! Been there, done that, so let get to what we need to succeed not what to use on a game show!

OBS 10- Great experience!!

OBS 12- My experiences at SVCC were very positive, helpful in building my self-esteem, and the instructors were a driving force that helped me make the proper career choices for my future. SVCC definitely gave me the proper start and push in the right direction in a career. Thank you.

OBS 14- I enjoyed my experience at SVCC. In the future, I plan to go back to college to get a bachelor's degree. Although, it is hard for me to find a permanent job with the degree I have, I hope sooner or later someone will give me a chance; but for now, I'll continue to work as a temp. I wish SVCC much success. GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU!

OBS 15- Enjoyed attending SVCC- my advisor-(_____) was very helpful to me. I think SVCC is a great asset to our community. Everyone that I came in contact with at SVCC- shows a genuine concern for students.

OBS 16- I had wonderful instructors-_____, _____, and _____. I feel like they did a great job on educating us, being fair, and knowledgeable in the job tasks that are required. It's a great program that gives you clinical experience and I was able to attend the classes, work full time, and still graduate with honors. Also, the reason I chose to attend this program even though I had to commute 45 minutes when gas was high was because it was only a 12 month program with a great reputation. I'd recommend it to anyone wanting to be a nurse!

OBS 21- My experience at SVCC was probably one of the best choices I have ever made. By attending SVCC before transferring to a four-year college actually prepared me for the college experience. Almost all of my credits transferred, and I am actually going to get to graduate a semester early. I would definitely recommend to any high school graduate to attend SVCC before going to a four year college.

OBS 22- The teachers I had, for the most part, were outstanding and really dedicated to teaching.

OBS 23- The nursing theory is excellent. The nursing technical skills aspect of the program needs more funding to allow for a better experience for the students. The equipment is old and hard to get access to. Other than clinical lab I hardly had any hands on practice.

OBS 25 - I would like to see more database and Unix type classes offered.

OBS 26 - I found my experience from SVCC to help me in many areas of my career. I would also like to pursue my bachelor's degree in the future, if I could do online classes at home.

OBS 31 - I have enjoyed my experience at SVCC tremendously.

OBS 32 - I thoroughly feel that my experience at SVCC has prepared me for a better job and future.

OBS 33 - Many of the instructors at SVCC are just as good, if not better, educators than those at Longwood. Some of your instructors, especially _____ at the Estes Center, and _____ and _____ in Keysville, really helped me prepare for success in my higher level classes.

OBS 37 - Overall, my experience with SVCC was a pleasant one. I am not one that likes to take classes unless I feel them to be useful, especially for an older student as myself. Substituting classes on a more specific level (business writing, business math) would be useful more than generalized classes.

OBS 40 - I am 51 years old and it is hard to find a good paying job at this age. I applied at three state parks last year and never heard a thing. I put resumes in at several other jobs with no luck. _____ is a great teacher. I enjoyed SVCC and most of the courses I took. I wish you offered a psychology degree.

OBS 42 - Teachers and the student life were beyond expectations. I enjoyed my time at the college.

OBS 45 - I'm helping with a family owned business and my salary is based on profits made from sales of property.

OBS 48 - I really enjoyed the online classes.

OBS 51 - It was a great experience for me and I'm very pleased that I decided to pursue this career through SVCC.

OBS 54 - Instructors were at all times professional, friendly and eager to assist in all aspects of the training endeavor. The training evolution was not only educational but enjoyable as well. I would heartily recommend this course to anyone looking to acquire the proper truck driving skills needed to safely succeed in this field.

OBS 55 - I can not find a job in my field.

OBS 63 - I do not plan on staying with this company. I am going to attend the SVCC campus at Fort Pickett for diesel schooling this coming fall. I am doing this with the hopes that one day I can have my own shop.

OBS 64 - My experience at SVCC was very rewarding. I earned my degree for my own personal satisfaction. If I feel that later on in my life I would want to continue my education, I will look at SVCC for courses to take.

OBS 65 - Please have more internships in information systems technology or administrative technology. There are older students having to come back to school and they need this.

OBS 69 - I have answered all of the questions that I think are suitable for your survey.

OBS 71 - I began classes with Averett University in November, 2006 but after my first class I found out that my husband's military job was transferring to the Lynchburg area. I plan to pursue my bachelor's degree with Averett's program in Lynchburg. I will major in business administration. Transferring to Averett was so easy. All of my credits were accepted.

OBS 73 - I'm glad I received the knowledge from SVCC about truck driving. I am planning to drive for a different company next week. I gained a lot from the teaching at the truck driving school through SVCC.

OBS 79 - I liked the smaller school experience and felt that professors cared. It was very easy to make friends at SVCC.

OBS 85 - SVCC is a great community college to start an education after high school or to begin a new career.

OBS 87 - I'm still job hunting. I'm looking for a job in my field Information Systems Technology.

OBS 88 - First of all I would like to say that all of the faculty that taught the classes in my curriculum were very knowledgeable and covered the material so it could be understood. The support specialist who coordinated your classes to correspond with your studies was very helpful and courteous. If I had college age children just coming out of high school I would surely recommend SVCC to them and anyone else that wanted to further their education. I went back to school after forty years and losing a job I worked at for thirty four years. It was a struggle but with the help I received I did a lot better than I first thought I would. So, thanks to each of you.

OBS 91 - The pre-engineering program was a great opportunity to advance my education and I could never thank SVCC enough for all it did in helping me achieve my goal to earn an Associates Degree before graduating from high school.

OBS 95 - Much has changed since I was in college in the sixties. Today there is loud music, foul language, cell phones, totally sloppy attire and lack of respect and manners. These things were a big shock to me. For a business setting, this would not be condoned or tolerated.

The academics were both challenging and enjoyable. The instructors were well versed and fair with their instruction even though many of the younger students thought they weren't. Many thought it to be demanding.

There also needs to be an expanded apprentice program for all programs. You need to address your security and sense of urgency. You appear to have too many overlapping functions.

OBS 96 - Your school was very helpful to me. I just can't seem to get work right now, but I would recommend this school to everyone. Thank you for your help.

OBS 97 - I had a job, but the position was eliminated and changed to a different title while I was out on maternity leave. Now I am currently looking for another job.

OBS 99 - SVCC could benefit by employing more professional teachers and coordinating their efforts in their respective departments. While professors like _____, _____ do an excellent job in the English department, professors such as _____, _____, and _____ seem distinctly inept and out of place. The Biology department in particular needs enormous revisions! They are out of touch with new technology.

OBS 101 - More hands on clinical experience is needed with good preceptors. SVRMC did not offer a lot. CMH would be better for students to get a variety of experience and to actually see or perform versus book learning. Nursing is a constant learning experience but needs to be based on a strong foundation.

OBS 102 - You should have checked to see what program I was entered and received certificates for. This survey was a waste of my time. I only completed it because of the instructors of SVCC Truck Drivers Training Program do a great job to help each person in the program to succeed.

OBS 104 - After attending SVCC for three years, I finally came to the conclusion that SVCC led me in the wrong direction. Instead of putting me in transfer classes they had me in just associate classes. This took a lot of my time and money wasted. I'm currently seeking another associate degree at J. Sargeant Reynolds so I can become a degree seeking student at ODU. SVCC did no good for me at all.

OBS 106 - SVCC has helped me in my occupation a lot. When I graduated from CDL school Hurricane Katrina had just hit. My opportunities expanded further than the earth's horizon. For the next 18 months, I worked an average of 12-14 hours a day seven days a week. It was not easy, but you have to work hard to play hard.

OBS 107 - I feel that SVCC prepared me for the courses I took at Ferrum. I had a wonderful experience at SVCC and I received two degrees while there.

OBS 119 - The experience was good. There are no jobs available for electronics technicians in this area.

OBS 120 - I had a great experience at SVCC and I'm looking to come back to study a different field, but I haven't made up my mind when I going to come back. I will be back though.

OBS 121 - I enjoyed the classes I took.

OBS 123 - I really enjoyed going to SVCC. I had an outstanding instructor and adviser, _____. I also enjoyed my other classes as well. I don't know if I will ever use my degree in the criminal justice field, but my education can't be taken from me.

OBS 124 - I received a certificate in Medical Office Assisting in May of 2006. I have not yet found a job pertaining to what I went to school for. I have put applications in at different places, have had some interviews, but did not receive the job. I think that maybe if the study of Medical Office Assisting had an internship, it would help a lot. Most places want some experience, even though you have a certificate.

OBS 125 - I learned a lot of information about corrections in the Criminal Justice classes that have helped me a lot in being a Corrections Officer.

OBS 127 - I loved the Estes Center! I just wish you could get the RN program there.

OBS 131 - My experience at SVCC was exciting and fulfilling. I can't find a job in my program of study. I need assistance in preparing or finding a job in my program of study. Does the college have a job assistance program for graduates? I plan to obtain a bachelor's degree in the near future.

OBS 134 - I wish that my hours were a little more flexible so I can continue to take more classes.

OBS 136 - Without SVCC, I would have never attended college at all. The convenience and the affordability of community colleges has been a blessing for many older students with families (like myself). I'll always be grateful that SVCC brought knowledge to me, and with just a little effort, I'm a wiser and better person.

OBS 141 - I really enjoyed attending SVCC. It was very helpful and the staff is exceptional.

OBS 145 - SVCC has successful in preparing me for my profession. I'm currently on the waiting list to drive professionally for the Swift Trucking Company. I'm preparing daily logs as we confirm my future employment.

OBS 154 - My experience helped me adjust to the college curriculum.

OBS 156 - Great experience!

OBS 160 - My experience at SVCC was wonderful. I wish you would offer some classes for Longwood to help out the student trying to pursue a BA degree. I think that it should start with a few internet classes and then offer a few seated classes. The time that I went to SVCC was wonderful and I would not change anything about it. Please consider classes for Longwood for people whom travel as time is very limited.

OBS 162 - Would it be wrong for the school to ask the students what positions he or she are interested in OT road, local or short haul. Have a list of companies that offer these positions or be able to suggest good companies. More team work is needed.

OBS 163 - SVCC was very helpful to me in my career choice. The instruction in my class was very thorough. I would recommend SVCC to anyone interested in furthering their education.

OBS 169 - I think that the experience was great. The instructors are wonderful and so helpful. It is a great school all around.

OBS 179 - SVCC has really served me well. The staff was the best and I will always suggest to anyone who wants to go to college they should start at SVCC first. I love SVCC. Thanks to all.

OBS 180 - A program in Human Services that you could get a bachelor's degree is needed at SVCC. Thanks for the caring instructors for their hard work.

OBS 183 - It was a great experience attending SVCC. However, I feel that if I had known about classes I would need after completing my Bachelor's program, I would have been more prepared and ready to graduate on time.

OBS 184 - I enjoyed my experience at SVCC and I feel that it prepared me for Longwood University.

OBS 185 - I attained my degree in an appropriate time.

OBS 187 - I really enjoyed attending SVCC and hope to take a few more classes at the college.

OBS 188 - The instructors at the South Boston site are good trainers and very patient.

OBS 189 - My experience at SVCC was a great one. It gave me the motivation and drive that I needed to re-enter the work world and achieve goals that I have tried in the past. I am trying to go further and pursue my bachelor's degree because I have higher goals. Thanks to SVCC, it started there and I'm very grateful for that.

OBS 190 - I had the best time of my life.

OBS 191 - Thanks again for everyone's help! There is no way I'd be where I am without SVCC and its staff.

OBS 193 - The job at Hillside is only for summer. In the fall I will be pursuing a BA in Modern Languages (Spanish) and getting teacher certified as well. SVCC has helped me quickly finish my General Education classes so now all I have to focus on are my majors. Thank you!

OBS 197 - I was disappointed with the counselors and the length of time it took me to graduate because of the advice and help during class scheduling times.

OBS 198 - Contact from an outsider may cause personnel to mark me as a trouble maker and make me a target for downsizing.

OBS 204 - You should add a paralegal program.

OBS 205 - I enjoyed my course taken. The experience was enjoyed to the fullest extent.