

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S Information Technology Program



The Information Technology program¹ was established in 1997. In FY 2019-20, Blue Ridge enrolled 54 students in the program. Of these students, three graduated with a certificate and seven graduated with an associate degree in FY 2019-20. The remaining students were enrolled with the intent of returning the next year to work on completing their degree.



BLUE RIDGE SERVICE AREA, NC

CAREER OUTLOOK

The Information Technology program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include computer user support specialists; computer programmers; software developers & software quality assurance analysts & testers; and information security analysts. Many of the Information Technology program students will enter the Blue Ridge Service Area² workforce.

Using the regional number of annual job openings for these occupations (five) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 Blue Ridge completers that may fill these openings (10), we arrive at a surplus of five student completers.³ There are 11 unique job postings at the associate degree or below for these occupations in the Blue Ridge Service Area.⁴ The top three posting companies are Clean Streak Incorporated; Collins Aerospace; and Electrolux.

PROGRAM TO OCCUPATION MAPPING MEASURES IN THE BLUE RIDGE SERVICE AREA

Number of occupations	6
Jobs (2020)	176
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+2.1%
Annual openings (2020)	5
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$73,787

* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

ALUMNI IMPACT

Former students of Blue Ridge's Information Technology program added \$985.5 thousand in income to the Blue Ridge Service Area economy in FY 2019-20. This figure represents the increased wages collected by former students active today

ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings
increase per completer

\$570.5 thousand

Total alumni impact
in FY 2019-20

\$985.5 thousand



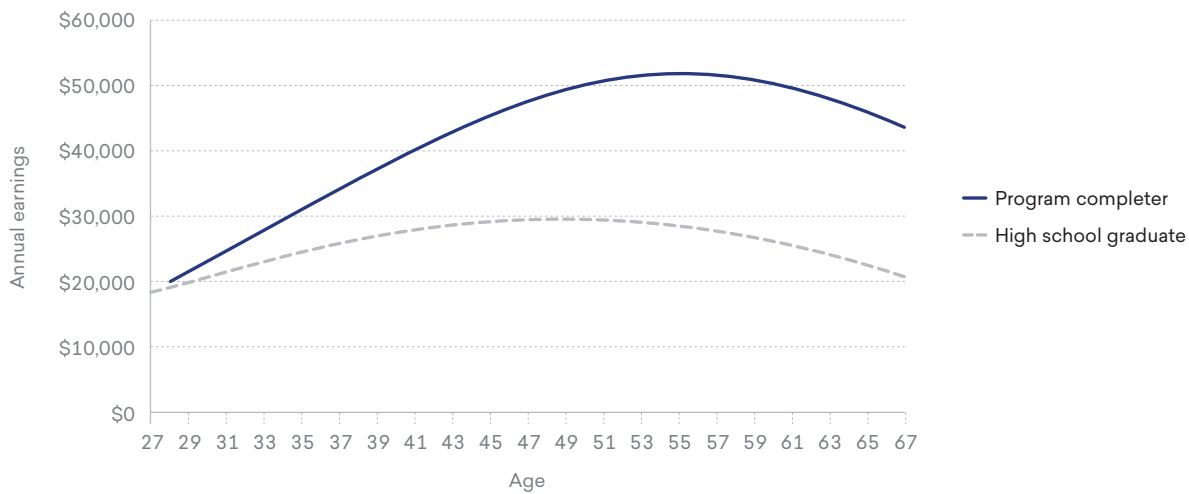
1 The Information Technology program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code: Information Technology (11.0103).
2 For the purposes of this analysis, the Blue Ridge Service Area is defined as Henderson and Transylvania Counties.
3 For the purposes of this analysis, only Blue Ridge completers were considered when comparing to annual openings.
4 Job openings and job postings come from different data sources and can therefore differ from each other. They both provide insights into local employer demand. Job openings are from government data sources and, while lagged, can be more stable. Job postings reflect real-time employer demand but can have more fluctuations. Job postings may be a conservative measure of demand given students could be qualified for a remote position.

in the regional workforce as a direct result of their education, the increased output of businesses that employ these students, and the multiplier effects that occur.

STUDENT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

To earn a degree or certificate in the program, students experience costs in the form of tuition and fees, books and supplies, and the opportunity cost of attending school instead of working. In return for this investment, students can earn higher wages. For every dollar students invest in their education in the program, they will receive \$10.70 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 30.8%. This is an impressive return, especially when compared to the U.S. stock market 30-year average return of 10.6%.

LIFETIME EARNINGS OF A PROGRAM COMPLETER COMPARED TO A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE



Source: Emsi Burning Glass impact model.

TAXPAYER BENEFITS

Taxpayers will receive an estimated present value of \$984.5 thousand in added tax revenue stemming from the students' higher lifetime earnings and the increased output of businesses. Savings to the public sector add another estimated \$30.4 thousand in benefits due to a reduced demand for government-funded social services in North Carolina. Throughout the students' working lives, North Carolina taxpayers will receive a total of \$1 million in benefits.

Throughout the students' working lives, **North Carolina taxpayers** gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings



\$1.0 million