

**THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF
BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S
Associate Degree in Nursing Program**



The Associate Degree in Nursing program¹ was established in 1989. In FY 2019-2020, 39 students graduated from the ADN program, which accepts up to 54 students each fall.



BLUE RIDGE SERVICE AREA, NC

CAREER OUTLOOK

The Associate Degree in Nursing program primarily leads students to become registered nurses. Many of the Associate Degree in Nursing program students will enter the Blue Ridge Service Area² workforce.

Using the regional number of unique job postings for these occupations (595) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 Blue Ridge completers that may fill these openings (39), we arrive at a gap of 556 job postings.³ The top three posting companies are BAYADA Home Health Care; Advent Health Partners; and Interim HealthCare of the Upstate.

ALUMNI IMPACT

Former students of Blue Ridge's Associate Degree in Nursing program added \$4.6 million 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 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.

**PROGRAM TO OCCUPATION
MAPPING MEASURES IN THE
BLUE RIDGE SERVICE AREA**

Number of occupations	6
Jobs (2020)	2,481
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+0.5%
Annual openings (2020)	97
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$50,752

* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

**ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS
INCREASE AND IMPACT**

Lifetime earnings increase per completer
\$665.4 thousand

Total alumni impact in FY 2019-20
\$4.6 million

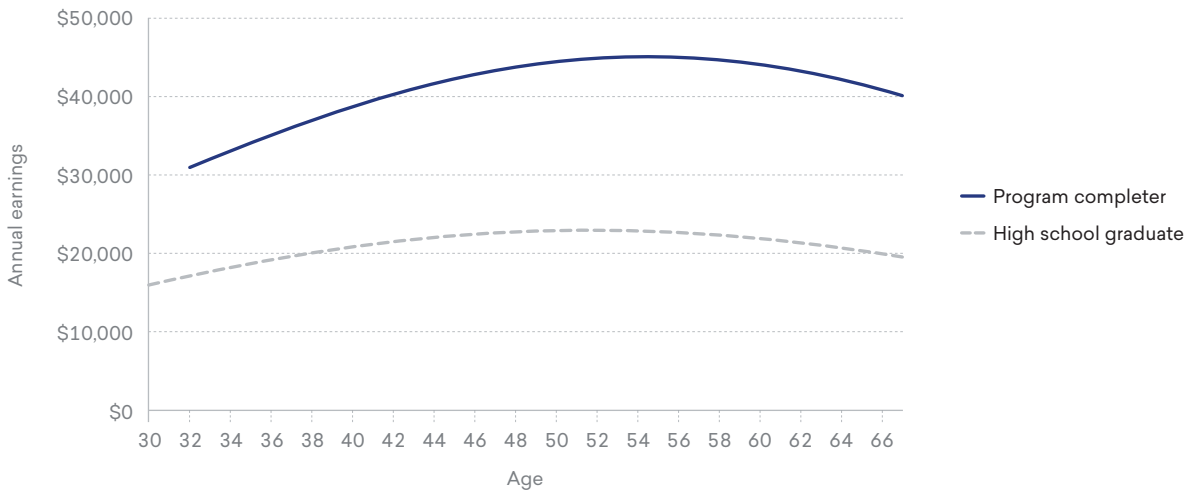


1 The Associate Degree in Nursing program is defined by the following CIP codes: Practical Nursing, Vocational Nursing & Nursing Assistants, Other (51.3999) and Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse (51.3801).
2 For the purposes of this analysis, the Blue Ridge Service Area is defined as Henderson and Transylvania Counties.
3 The number of job postings may be conservative given employers, such as hospitals, may hire multiple workers using one job posting. Also, for the purposes of this analysis, only Blue Ridge completers were considered when comparing to unique job postings.

STUDENT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

To earn a degree 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 \$11.80 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 54.3%. 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



TAXPAYER BENEFITS

Taxpayers will receive an estimated present value of \$2.4 million 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 \$50.6 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 \$2.4 million in benefits.

Throughout the students' working lives, **North Carolina taxpayers** gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings
\$2.4 million

