

**THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF
COASTAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S
Associate in Arts Program**



The Associate in Arts program¹ was established in 1985. In FY 2019-20, CCCC enrolled 2,713 students in the program. Of these students, 282 graduated with an associate degree in FY 2019-20.



ONSHOW COUNTY, NC

CAREER OUTLOOK

The Associate in Arts program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include human resources specialists; general & operations managers; and marketing managers. Many of the Associate in Arts program students will enter the Onslow County workforce.

Using the county number of annual openings for these occupations (364) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 CCCC completers that may fill these openings (282), we arrive at a gap of 82 job openings.² There are 495 unique job postings at the associate degree or below for these occupations in Onslow County. The top three posting companies are United States Marine Corps; General Dynamics Corporation; and Lowe's Companies, Inc.

ALUMNI IMPACT

Former students of CCCC's Associate in Arts program added \$8.3 million in income to the Onslow County economy in FY 2019-20. This figure represents the increased wages collected by former students active today in the county 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
ONSHOW COUNTY**

Number of occupations	18
Jobs (2020)	10,362
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+0.5%
Annual openings (2020)	364
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$47,697

* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

**ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS
INCREASE AND IMPACT**

Lifetime earnings
increase per completer

\$396.1 thousand

Total alumni impact
in FY 2019-20

\$8.3 million



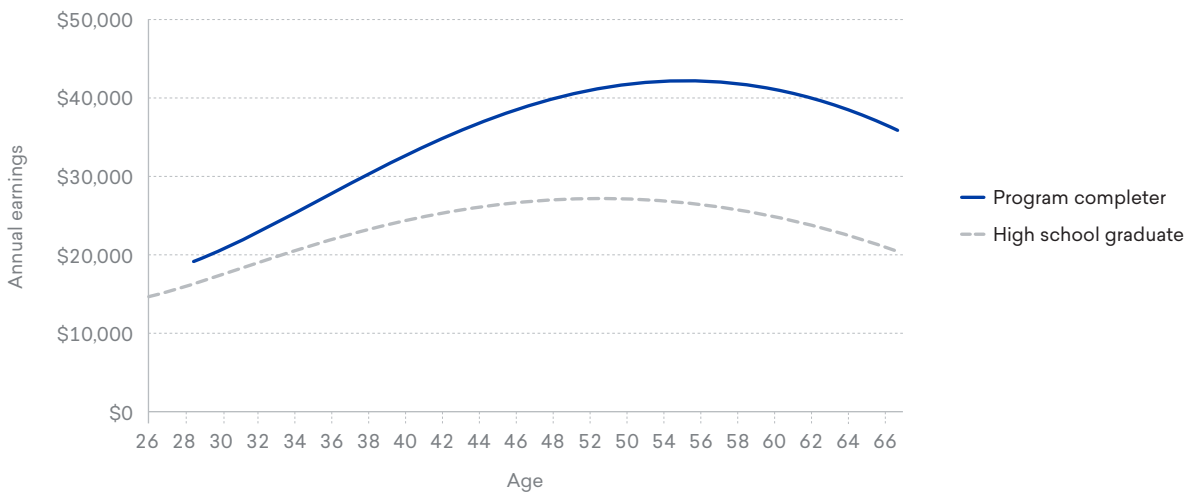
1 The Associate in Arts program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code: Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies (24.0101).

2 For the purposes of this analysis, only CCCC completers were considered when comparing to annual openings.

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 \$5.00 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 17.4%. 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 \$10.6 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 \$578.5 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 \$11.1 million in benefits.

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



\$11.1 million