

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF HALIFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S Public Safety Program



The Public Safety program¹ was established in 2006. In FY 2019-20, HCC enrolled 584 students in the program. Of these students, two graduated with an associate degree and the majority were workforce students.



THE ROANOKE VALLEY, NC

CAREER OUTLOOK

The Public Safety program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include emergency management directors; public safety telecommunicators; and emergency medical technicians & paramedics. Many of the Public Safety program students will enter the Roanoke Valley² workforce.

Using the regional number of annual job openings for these occupations (41) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 HCC completers that may fill these openings (two), we arrive at a gap of 39 job openings.³ There are 12 unique job postings at the associate degree or below for these occupations in the Roanoke Valley. The top three posting companies are: Kennametal Inc.; Halifax County School District; and Acrt, Inc.

PROGRAM TO OCCUPATION MAPPING MEASURES IN THE ROANOKE VALLEY

Number of occupations	25
Jobs (2020)	960
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+0.5%
Annual openings (2020)	41
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$42,252

* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

ALUMNI IMPACT

Former students of HCC's Public Safety program added \$6.7 million in income to the Roanoke Valley 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.

ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings
increase per completer

\$264.6 thousand

Total alumni impact
in FY 2019-20

\$6.7 million



¹ The Public Safety program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes: Criminal Justice/Police Science (43.0107), Fire Prevention & Safety Technology/Technician (43.0201), Emergency Medical Technology/Technician (EMT Paramedic) (51.0904), and Criminal Justice/Safety Studies (43.0104).

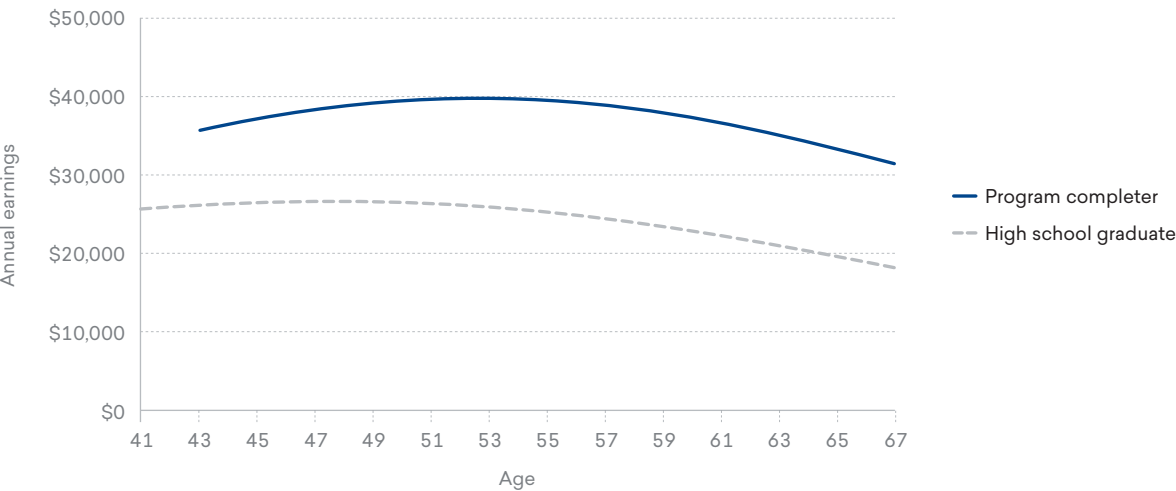
² For the purposes of this analysis, the Roanoke Valley is defined as the following ZIP codes in Halifax and Northampton Counties: 27823, 27839, 27843, 27850, 27870, 27874, 27890, 27887, 27844, 27831, 27832, 27876.

³ For the purposes of this analysis, only HCC 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 \$3.90 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



TAXPAYER BENEFITS

Taxpayers will receive an estimated present value of \$2.6 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 \$252.6 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 \$2.8 million in benefits.

Throughout the students' working lives, **North Carolina taxpayers** gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings
\$2.8 million

