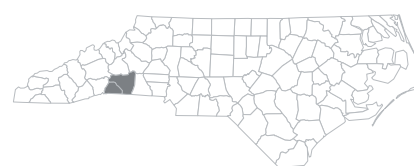


THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S Human Services Technology–Animal Assisted Interactions Program



The Human Services Technology–Animal Assisted Interactions program¹ was recently established in 2019. In FY 2019-20, ICC enrolled three students in the program.



THE ICC SERVICE AREA, NC

CAREER OUTLOOK

The Human Services Technology–Animal Assisted Interactions program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include therapists; physical therapist assistants; and physical therapist aides. Many of the Human Services Technology–Animal Assisted Interactions program students will enter the ICC Service Area² workforce.

Using the regional number of annual job openings for these occupations (three) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 ICC students that may fill these openings (three), we see ICC is meeting the needs of regional employers.³ The top three posting companies are Encompass Health; Association of Clinicians for the Underserved; and Better Help.

PROGRAM TO OCCUPATION MAPPING METRICS IN THE ICC SERVICE AREA

Number of occupations	4
Jobs (2020)	60
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+0.4%
Annual openings (2020)	3
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$49,961

* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

ALUMNI IMPACT

Given ICC's Human Services Technology–Animal Assisted Interactions program was recently established, students have not yet completed the program and entered the regional workforce. However, as they do, they will provide an alumni impact to the ICC Service Area economy. This figure will represent the increased wages collected by former students active 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. The alumni impact will grow over time as students continue to graduate from ICC's Human Services Technology–Animal Assisted Interactions program and accumulate in the regional workforce.

ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings
increase per completer
\$48.7 thousand

¹ The Human Services Technology–Animal Assisted Interactions program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code: Animal-Assisted Therapy (51.2313).

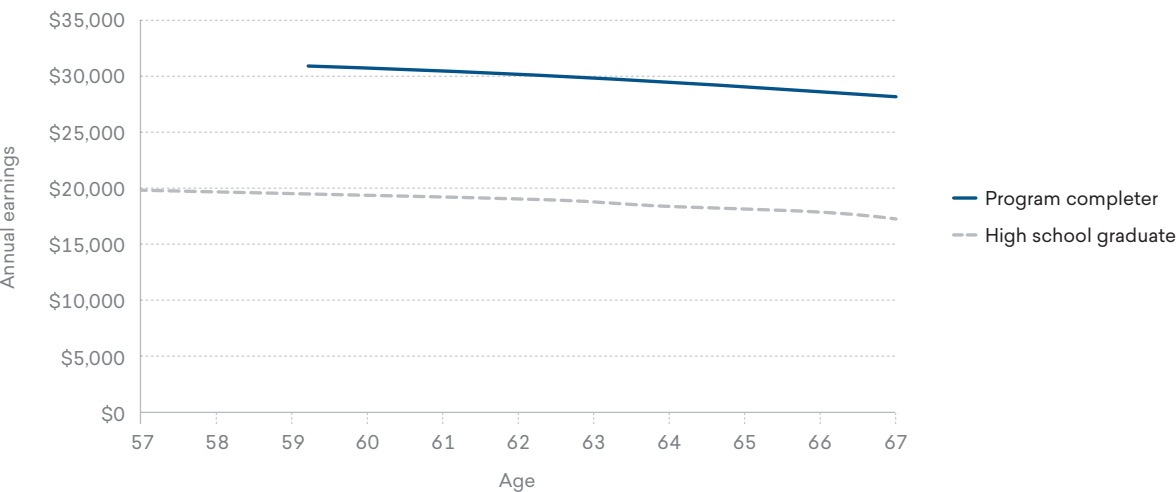
² For the purposes of this analysis, the ICC Service Area is defined as Polk and Rutherford Counties.

³ For the purposes of this analysis, only ICC students were considered when comparing to annual openings.

STUDENT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

To earn a degree or certificate in the program, students experience costs in the form of 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 \$1.20 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 7.2%.

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



TAXPAYER BENEFITS

Taxpayers will receive an estimated present value of \$5.8 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 \$396.7 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 \$6.2 thousand in benefits.

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

\$6.2 thousand