

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF MITCHELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S Criminal Justice Program



The Criminal Justice program¹ was established in 1975. In FY 2019-20, Mitchell enrolled 120 students in the program. Of these students, 34 graduated with a certificate and five graduated with an associate degree in FY 2019-20.



IREDELL COUNTY, NC

CAREER OUTLOOK

The Criminal Justice program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include detectives & criminal investigators; bailiffs; and police & sheriffs patrol officers. Many of the Criminal Justice program students will enter the Iredell County workforce.

Using the county number of annual job openings for these occupations (103) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 Mitchell completers who may fill these openings (39), we arrive at a gap of 64 job openings.² There are 153 unique job postings at the associate degree or below for these occupations in Iredell County. The top three posting companies are Lowe's Companies, Inc.; Allied Universal; and Iredell County.

ALUMNI IMPACT

Former students of Mitchell's Criminal Justice program added \$2.8 million in income to the Iredell 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 IREDELL COUNTY

Number of occupations	25
Jobs (2020)	3,222
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+1.7%
Annual openings (2020)	103
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$61,230

* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings
increase per completer

\$270.6 thousand

Total alumni impact
in FY 2019-20

\$2.8 million



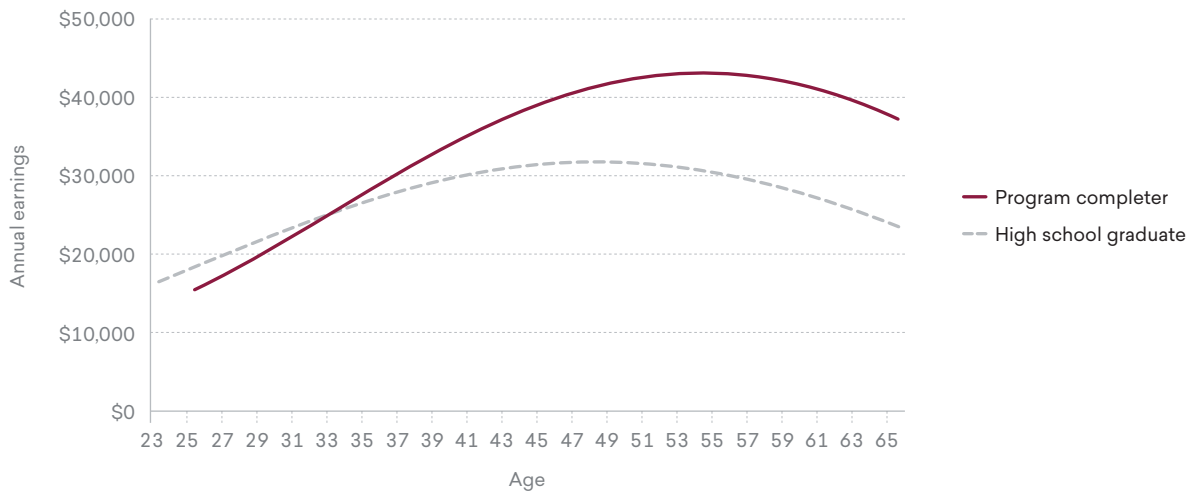
¹ The Criminal Justice program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes: Security & Loss Prevention Services (43.0109), Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting & Related Protective Services, Other (43.9999), Criminal Justice/Police Science (43.0107), Corrections (43.0102), Law Enforcement Record-Keeping & Evidence Management (43.0115), and Criminal Justice/Safety Studies (43.0104).

² For the purposes of this analysis, only Mitchell completers 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 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 \$7.60 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 22.5%. 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 \$1 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 \$54.8 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 \$1.1 million in benefits.

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



\$1.1 million