

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S Forest Management Technology Program



The Forest Management Technology program¹ was established in 1987. In FY 2019-20, MCC enrolled 47 students in the program. Of these students, nine graduated with a certificate and 13 graduated with an associate.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, NC

CAREER OUTLOOK

The Forest Management Technology program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include forest & conservation technicians; forest & conservation workers; and foresters. Many of the Forest Management Technology program students will enter the Montgomery County workforce.

Using the county number of annual job openings for these occupations (six) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 MCC completers that may fill these openings (22), we arrive at a surplus of 16 student completers.² There are 11 unique job postings at the associate degree or below for these occupations in Montgomery County. The top three posting companies are the Department of Agriculture; Eckerd Corporation; and the Forest Service.

PROGRAM TO OCCUPATION MAPPING METRICS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Number of occupations	11
Jobs (2020)	217
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+0.1%
Annual openings (2020)	6
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$40,691

* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

ALUMNI IMPACT

Former students of MCC's Forest Management Technology program added \$556.4 thousand in income to the Montgomery 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.

ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings
increase per completer
\$327.1 thousand

Total alumni impact
in FY 2019-20
\$556.4 thousand



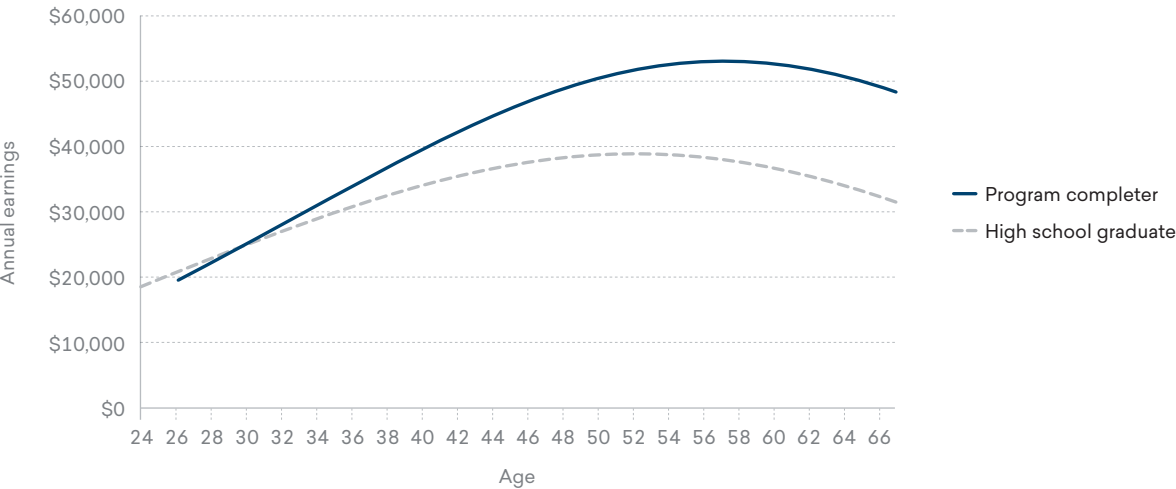
¹ The Forest Management Technology program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code: Forest Management/Forest Resources Management (03.0506), Forestry, General (03.0501), Forest Technology/Technician (03.0511), and Forestry, Other (03.0599).

² For the purposes of this analysis, only MCC 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 \$3.80 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 14.7%. 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 \$416.8 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 \$36.4 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 \$453.2 thousand in benefits.

Throughout the students' working lives, **North Carolina taxpayers** gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings
\$453.2 thousand

