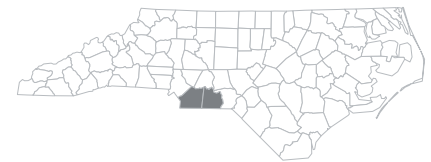


# THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF SOUTH PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S Public Safety Program Area



*The Public Safety program area<sup>1</sup> was established in 1999. In FY 2019-20, SPCC enrolled 2,008 students in the program area. Of these students, 53 graduated with a certificate and eight graduated with an associate degree in FY 2019-20.*



THE SPCC SERVICE AREA, NC

## CAREER OUTLOOK

The Public Safety program area can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include emergency management directors; police & sheriff's patrol officers; and compliance officers. Many of the Public Safety program area students will enter the SPCC Service Area<sup>2</sup> workforce.

Using the regional number of annual job openings for these occupations (100) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 SPCC completers that may fill these openings (61), we arrive at a gap of 39 job openings.<sup>3</sup> There are 76 unique job postings at the associate degree or below for these occupations in the SPCC Service Area. The top three posting companies are Atrium Health; Union County; and Wells Fargo & Company.

## ALUMNI IMPACT

Former students of SPCC's Public Safety program area added \$7.5 million in income to the SPCC Service Area 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.

### PROGRAM AREA TO OCCUPATION MAPPING METRICS IN THE SPCC SERVICE AREA

Number of occupations	25
Jobs (2020)	3,017
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+1.2%
Annual openings (2020)	100
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$52,906

\* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

### ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings  
increase per completer  
**\$188.2 thousand**

Total alumni impact  
in FY 2019-20  
**\$7.5 million**

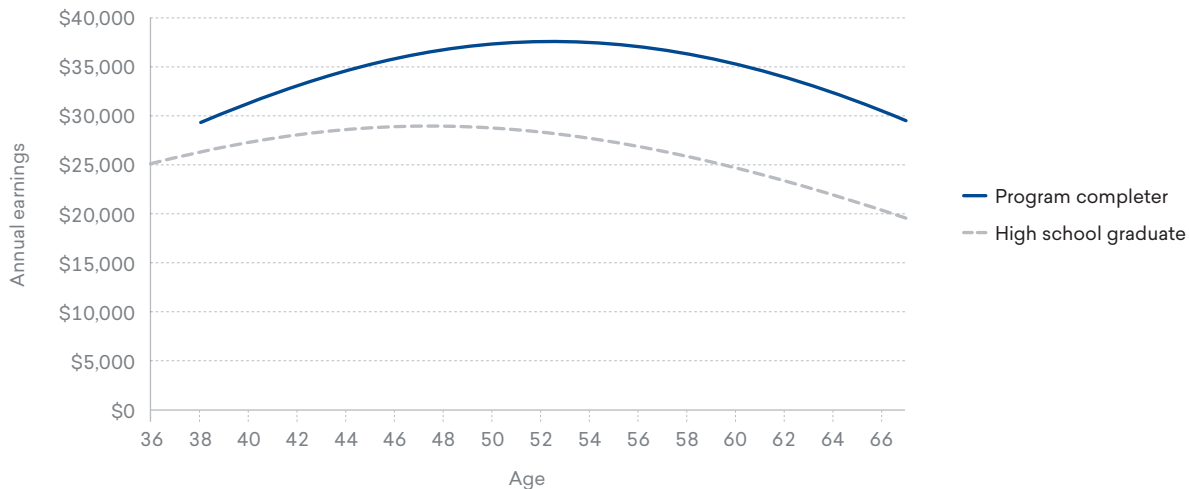


- 1 The Public Safety program area is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes: Criminal Justice/Police Science (43.0107), Criminal Justice/Safety Studies (43.0104), Emergency Medical Technology/Technician (EMT Paramedic) (51.0904), Crisis/Emergency/Disaster Management (43.0302), and Fire Prevention & Safety Technology/Technician (43.0201).
- 2 For the purposes of this analysis, the SPCC Service Area is defined as Anson and Union Counties.
- 3 For the purposes of this analysis, only SPCC credit completers were considered when comparing to annual openings.

## STUDENT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

To earn a degree or certificate in the program area, 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 area, they will receive \$6.00 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 39.4%. 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 AREA COMPLETER COMPARED TO A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE



## TAXPAYER BENEFITS

Taxpayers will receive an estimated present value of \$6.9 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 \$445.4 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 \$7.3 million in benefits.

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

**\$7.3 million**

