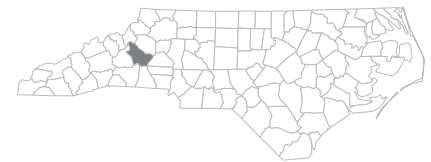


# THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S Basic Law Enforcement Training Program



The Basic Law Enforcement Training program<sup>1</sup> was established in 1974. In FY 2019-20, WPCC enrolled 40 students in the program. Of these students, 34 graduated with a certificate in FY 2019-20.



BURKE COUNTY, NC

## CAREER OUTLOOK

The Basic Law Enforcement Training program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include police & sheriffs patrol officers; transit & railroad police; and bailiffs. Many of the Basic Law Enforcement Training program students will enter the Burke County workforce.

Using the county number of annual openings for these occupations (nine) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 WPCC completers who may fill these openings (34), we arrive at a surplus of 25 student completers.<sup>2</sup> There are five unique job postings at the associate degree or below for these occupations in Burke County. The top three posting companies are NC Wildlife Resources Comm; United States Department of the Navy; and North Carolina Department of Public Safety.

## ALUMNI IMPACT

Former students of WPCC's Basic Law Enforcement Training program added \$1.2 million in income to the Burke 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 METRICS IN BURKE COUNTY

Number of occupations	7
Jobs (2020)	277
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+0.2%
Annual openings (2020)	9
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$40,928

\* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

### ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings  
increase per completer  
**\$218.5 thousand**

Total alumni impact  
in FY 2019-20  
**\$1.2 million**



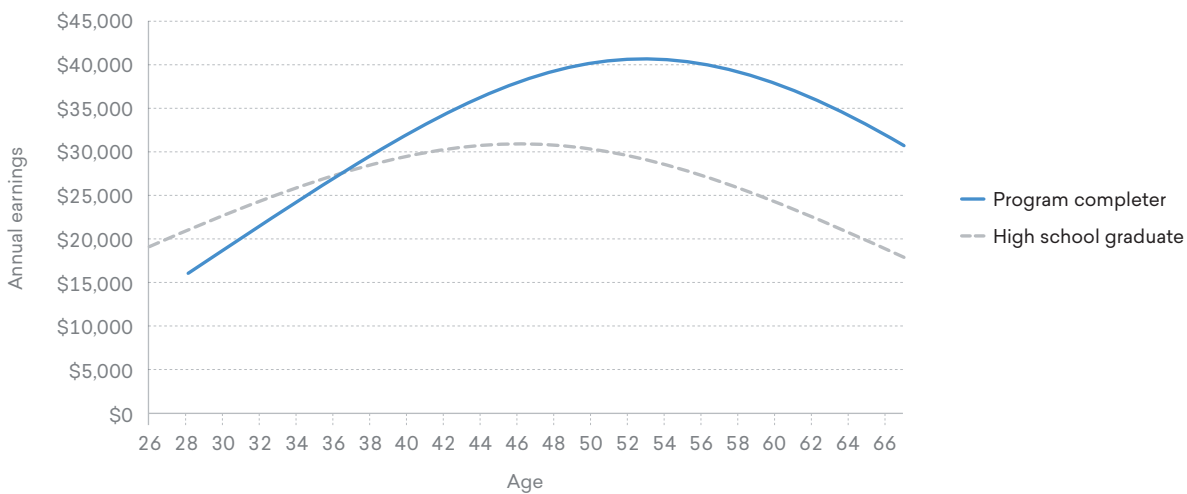
1 The Basic Law Enforcement Training program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code: Criminal Justice/Police Science (43.0107).

2 For the purposes of this analysis, only WPCC completers were considered when comparing to annual openings.

## STUDENT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

To earn a 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 \$11.70 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 40.8%. 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 \$863.5 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 \$30.3 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 \$893.8 thousand in benefits.

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

**\$893.8 thousand**

