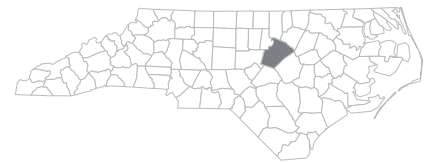


**THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF WAKE  
TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S  
Cybersecurity Program**



*The Cybersecurity program<sup>1</sup> was only recently established in 2017. In FY 2019-20, WTCC enrolled 575 students in the program. Of these students, one graduated with a certificate and 26 graduated with an associate degree in FY 2019-20.*



THE WAKE COUNTY  
SERVICE REGION, NC

**CAREER OUTLOOK**

The Cybersecurity program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include computer & information systems managers; project management specialists & business operations specialists; and computer systems analysts. Many of the Cybersecurity program students will enter the Wake County Service Region workforce.

Using the regional number of annual job openings for these occupations (539) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 WTCC completers that may fill these openings (27), we arrive at a gap of 512 job openings.<sup>2</sup> There are 581 unique job postings at the associate degree or below for these occupations in the Wake County Service Region. The top three posting companies are Wells Fargo; Accenture; and Deloitte.

**ALUMNI IMPACT**

Former students of WTCC's Cybersecurity program added \$187.7 thousand in income to the Wake County Service Region 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 TO OCCUPATION  
MAPPING METRICS IN THE WAKE  
COUNTY SERVICE REGION

Number of occupations	7
Jobs (2020)	22,800
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+1.1%
Annual openings (2020)	539
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$91,750

\* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS  
INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings  
increase per completer  
**\$947.7 thousand**

Total alumni impact  
in FY 2019-20  
**\$187.7 thousand**



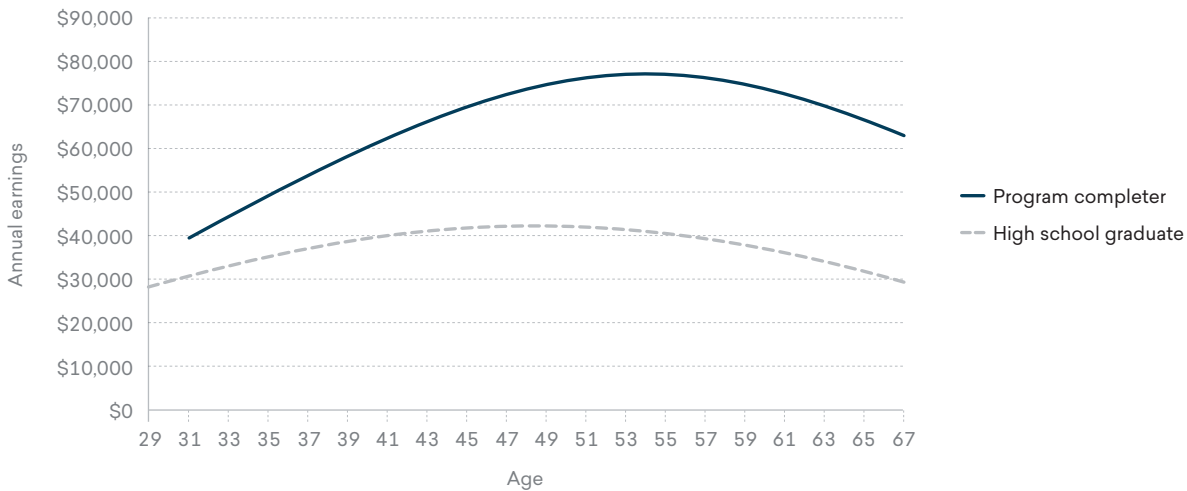
1 The Cybersecurity program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code: Computer & Information Systems Security/Information Assurance (11.1003).

2 For the purposes of this analysis, only WTCC 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 \$5.30 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 20.2%. 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 \$9.7 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 \$304.2 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 \$10.1 million in benefits.

Throughout the students' working lives, **North Carolina taxpayers** gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings  
**\$10.1 million**

