

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF WILSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S Public Safety Program



The Public Safety program¹ was established in 1961. In FY 2019-20, WCC enrolled 1,260 students in the program. Of these students, 35 graduated with a certificate and nine graduated with an associate degree in FY 2019-20.



WILSON COUNTY, NC

CAREER OUTLOOK

The Public Safety program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include public safety telecommunicators; police & sheriffs patrol officers; and labor relations specialists. Many of the Public Safety program students will enter the Wilson County workforce.

Using the county number of annual openings for these occupations (17) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 WCC completers who may fill these openings (44), we arrive at a surplus of 27 student completers.² There are 16 unique job postings at the associate degree or below for these occupations in Wilson County. The top three posting companies are Merck & Co., Inc.; BB&T Corporation; and Wilson County Schools.

ALUMNI IMPACT

Former students of WCC's Public Safety program added \$9.2 million in income to the Wilson 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 WILSON COUNTY

Number of occupations	8
Jobs (2020)	635
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+0.4%
Annual openings (2020)	17
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$52,583

* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings
increase per completer
\$277.9 thousand

Total alumni impact
in FY 2019-20
\$9.2 million



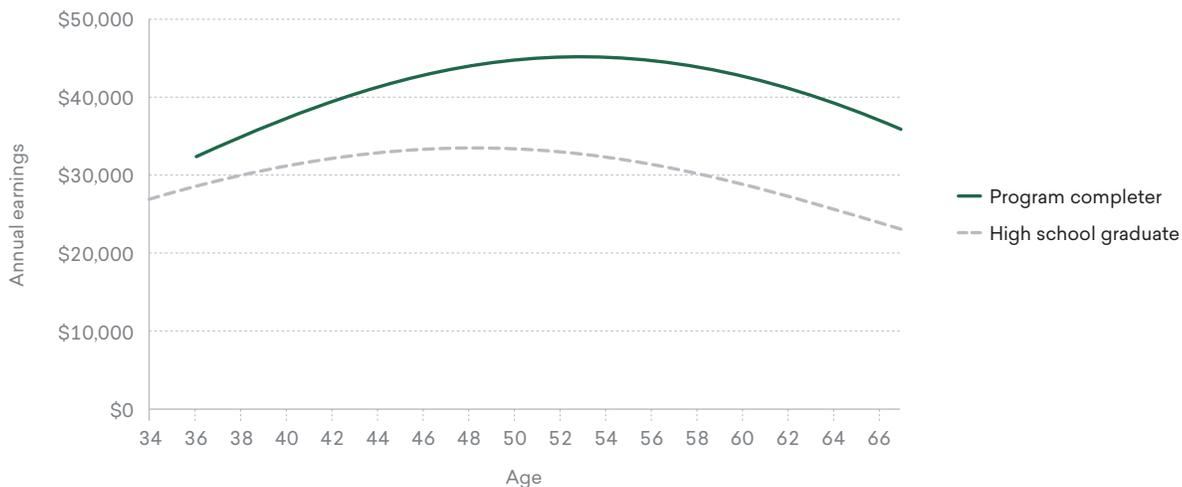
1 The Public Safety program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code: Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration (43.0103).

2 For the purposes of this analysis, only WCC 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 \$5.40 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 32.5%. 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



TAXPAYER BENEFITS

Taxpayers will receive an estimated present value of \$12.8 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 \$627.7 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 \$13.4 million in benefits.

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

\$13.4 million

