

# THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S Health Science Professions Program



The Health Science Professions program<sup>1</sup> was established in 1967. In FY 2019-20, SCC enrolled 628 students in the program. Of these students, 28 graduated with a certificate and 123 graduated with an associate degree in FY 2019-20.



THE SCC SERVICE AREA, NC

## CAREER OUTLOOK

The Health Science Professions program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include registered nurses; clinical laboratory technologists & technicians; and medical dosimetrists, medical records specialists, & health technologists & technicians, all other. Many of the Health Science Professions program students will enter the SCC Service Area<sup>2</sup> workforce.

Using the regional number of unique job postings for these occupations (547) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 SCC completers that may fill these openings (151), we arrive at a gap of 396 job postings.<sup>3</sup> The top posting companies are LifePoint Health; HCA Healthcare; Angel Medical Center; and Harris Regional Hospital.

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

Number of occupations	41
Jobs (2020)	2,935
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+1.6%
Annual openings (2020)	131
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$46,343

\* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

## ALUMNI IMPACT

Former students of SCC's Health Science Professions program added \$13.9 million in income to the SCC 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.

### ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings  
increase per completer

**\$493.4 thousand**

Total alumni impact  
in FY 2019-20

**\$13.9 million**



<sup>1</sup> The Health Science Professions program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes: Medical Office Management/Administration (51.0705), Health Information/Medical Records Technology/Technician (51.0707), Medical/Clinical Assistant (51.0801), Occupational Therapist Assistant (51.0803), Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant (51.0806), Emergency Medical Technology/Technician (EMT Paramedic) (51.0904), Respiratory Therapy (51.0908), Surgical Technology (51.0909), Medical Sonography (51.0910), Radiography (51.0911), Medical Laboratory Technology (51.1004), Phlebotomy (51.1009), Nursing (51.1105), Human Services Technology Substance Abuse (51.1501), Human Services Technology (51.1599), Opticianry (51.1801), Therapeutic Massage (51.3501), Associate Degree Nursing (51.3801), and Nurse Aide (51.3902).

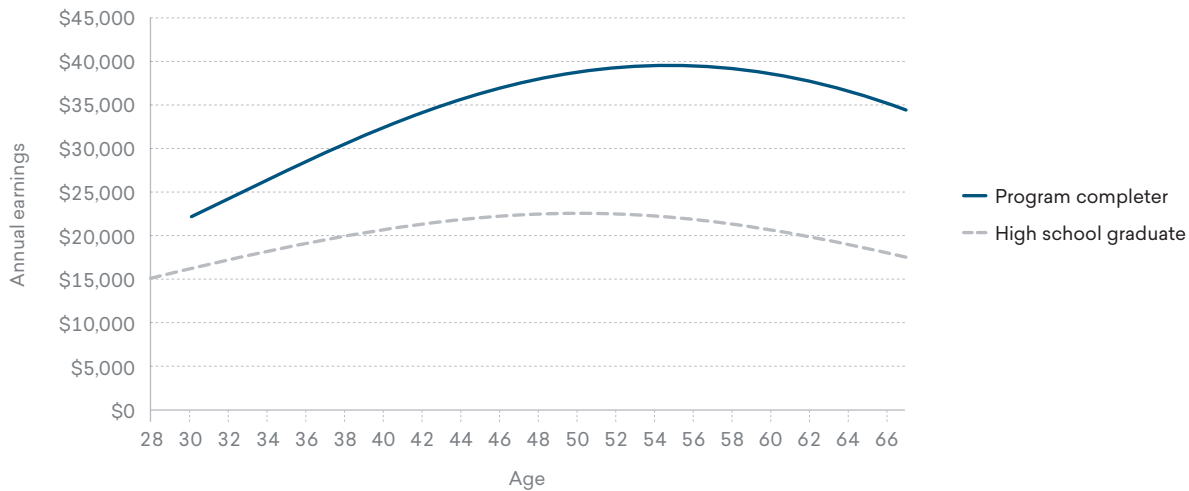
<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this analysis, the SCC Service Area is defined as Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties.

<sup>3</sup> The number of job postings may be conservative given employers, such as hospitals, may hire multiple workers using one job posting. Also, for the purposes of this analysis, only SCC completers were considered when comparing to unique job postings.

## 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 \$7.10 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 26.0%. 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 \$6.8 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 \$243 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 million in benefits.

Throughout the students' working lives, **North Carolina taxpayers** gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings  
**\$7 million**

