

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S Criminal Justice & Public Safety Program



The Criminal Justice & Public Safety program¹ was established in 1974. In FY 2019-20, SCC enrolled 1,868 students in the program. Of these students, three graduated with an associate degree in FY 2019-20.



THE SCC SERVICE AREA, NC

CAREER OUTLOOK

The Criminal Justice & Public Safety program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include compliance officers; detectives & criminal investigators; and lifeguards, ski patrol, & other recreational protective service workers. Many of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety program students will enter the SCC Service Area² workforce.

Using the regional number of annual job openings for these occupations (115) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 SCC completers that may fill these openings (three), we arrive at a gap of 112 job openings.³ There are 40 unique job postings at the associate degree or below for these occupations in the SCC Service Area. The top hiring organizations are Sheriff's departments, local municipalities, and hospitals within the SCC Service Area.

ALUMNI IMPACT

Former students of SCC's Criminal Justice & Public Safety program added \$15.9 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.

PROGRAM TO OCCUPATION MAPPING METRICS IN THE SCC SERVICE AREA

Number of occupations	24
Jobs (2020)	2,607
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+1.9%
Annual openings (2020)	115
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$41,898

* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings
increase per completer
\$277.4 thousand

Total alumni impact
in FY 2019-20
\$15.9 million



1 The Criminal Justice & Public Safety program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes: Criminal Justice/Safety Studies (43.0104), Fire Services Administration (43.0202), and Emergency Medical Technology/Technician (EMT Paramedic) (51.0904).

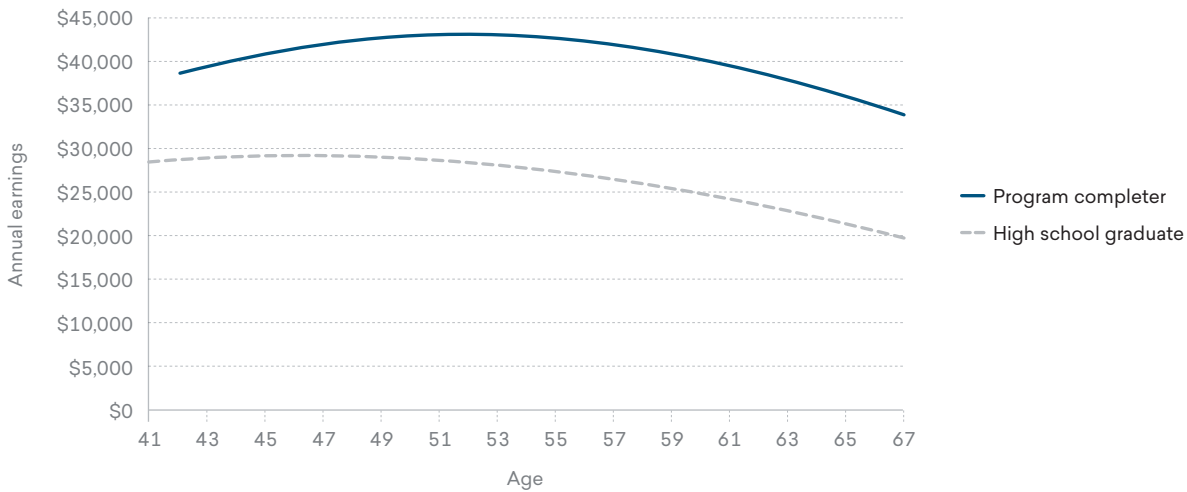
2 For the purposes of this analysis, the SCC Service Area is defined as Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties.

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

STUDENT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

To earn a degree 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 \$6.20 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 55.6%. 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 \$4.2 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 \$432 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 \$4.7 million in benefits.

Throughout the students' working lives, **North Carolina taxpayers** gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings
\$4.7 million

