

**THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE  
TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S  
Nursing Program**



*The Nursing program<sup>1</sup> was established in 1970. In FY 2019-20, A-B Tech enrolled 261 students in the program. Of these students, 123 graduated with an associate degree in FY 2019-20.*



THE WESTERN GATEWAY, NC

**CAREER OUTLOOK**

The Nursing program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include registered nurses; nurse midwives; and nurse practitioners. Many of the Nursing program students will enter the Western Gateway<sup>2</sup> workforce.

Using the regional number of unique job postings for these occupations (1,153) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 A-B Tech completers that may fill these openings (123), we arrive at a gap of 1,030 job postings.<sup>3</sup> The top three posting companies in the Western Gateway are Emerald Health Services; HCA Healthcare; and BAYADA Home Health Care.

**ALUMNI IMPACT**

Former students of A-B Tech's Nursing program added \$10.2 million in income to the Western Gateway 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  
WESTERN GATEWAY

Number of occupations	4
Jobs (2020)	6,253
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+0.4%
Annual openings (2020)	171
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$71,564

\* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS  
INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings increase per completer

**\$829.6 thousand**

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Total alumni impact in FY 2019-20

**\$10.2 million**

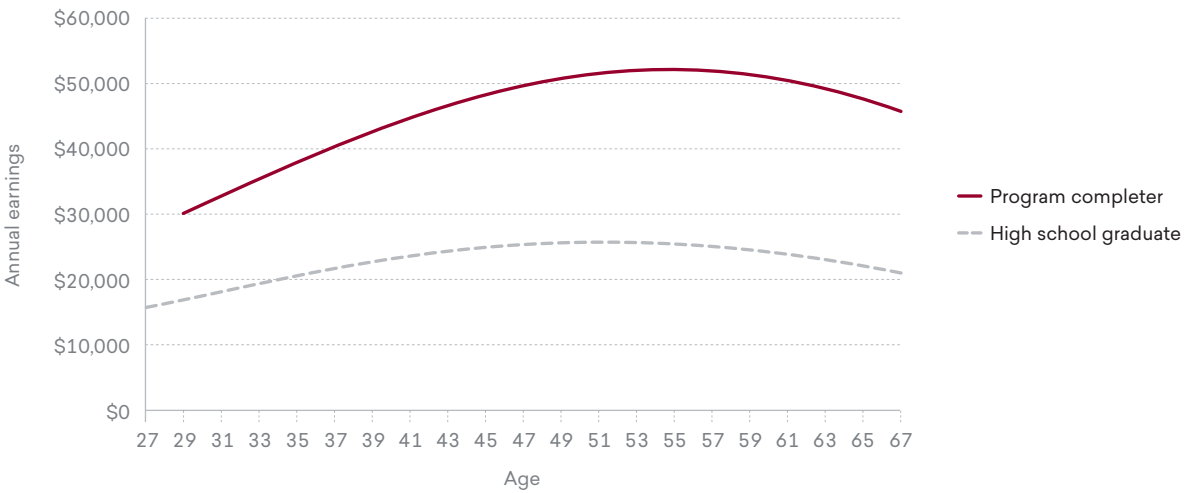


1 The Nursing program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code: Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse (51.3801).  
2 For the purposes of this analysis, Western Gateway is defined as Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and McDowell Counties.  
3 The number of job 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 A-B Tech completers were considered when comparing to unique job postings.

## 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 \$9.20 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 \$3.5 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 \$89.1 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 \$3.6 million in benefits.

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

**\$3.6 million**

