PUBLIC INSIGHT®

SAMPLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE / ALUMNI OUTCOMES PROFILE

Where Our Alumni Landed

Education, career, and location outcomes for about 140,000 alumni of a large public college. Sample report, anonymized.

Prepared by Public Insight Data Corporation

TalentView talent market intelligence / September 2026

www.publicinsight.io

AT A GLANCE

The college that staffs its metro

140,000+
alumni and former students profiled, the largest population in this series

72%
live in the home metro, including 62% in the home county

67%
of those with a stated attainment level hold a bachelor's degree or higher

28,929
earned a bachelor's degree at the local public university after the college

$81.0K
median estimated compensation in their current role

~$6,000
average annual net price, the lowest of any college in this series

This profile follows about 140,000 people who list a large public two-year college in their education history. It draws on drawing on 308,365 education records, 513,837 job records, and 2,309,660 listed skills from the TalentView dataset. It is the largest population in this series by a factor of four.

Three things stand out. First, the college's alumni stay. 62% live in the home county and 72% in the home metro, and the share has risen with every cohort: three-quarters of alumni from the 2020s live in the county. The college's graduates are the workforce of the region's hospitals, schools, county government, and travel and transport industries.

Second, the college is a bridge to the bachelor's degree, and increasingly a destination for it. 28,929 alumni earned a bachelor's at the local public university, a transfer pipeline that dwarfs anything else in this series. But 12,784 earned their bachelor's degree at the college itself, and those graduates earn the same as those who transferred ($83,419 against $83,485).

Third, the degree is inexpensive and the return is strong. At an average net price of about $6,000 a year, the college's bachelor's degree pays for itself in under four years even on conservative assumptions, and the associate's degree returns many times its cost over a career. The caveat is the benchmark: measured against national high-school earnings, the associate's degree takes longer to pay back than it does against the home county's lower local wages.

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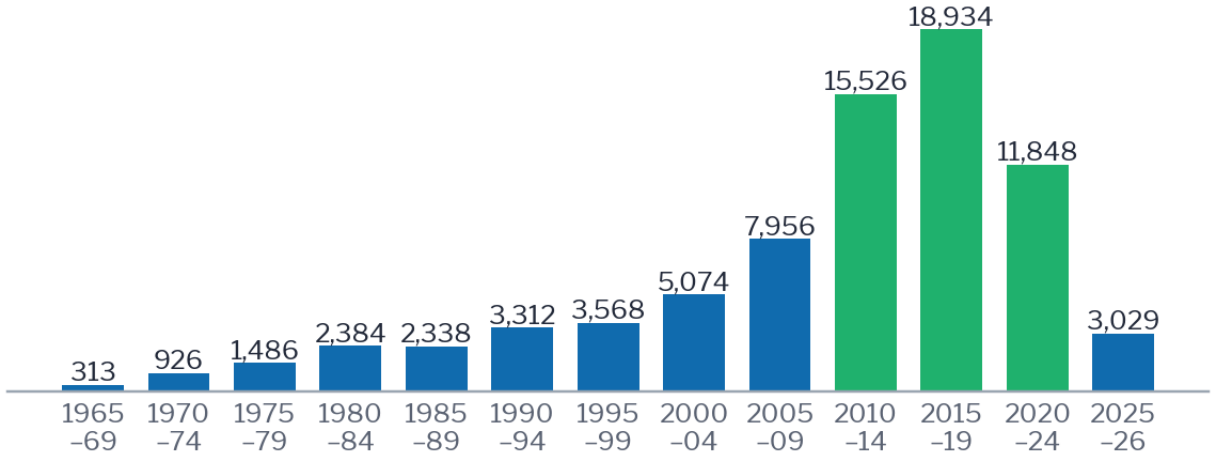
THE POPULATION

Who is in this profile

This is a young alumni base. The median age is 35, and 64% of the 76,732 people whose last enrollment can be dated left in 2010 or later. Where gender is known the split is 53% women and 47% men. It is also a working population: 75% of recent alumni with dated job records were already working before they left the college.

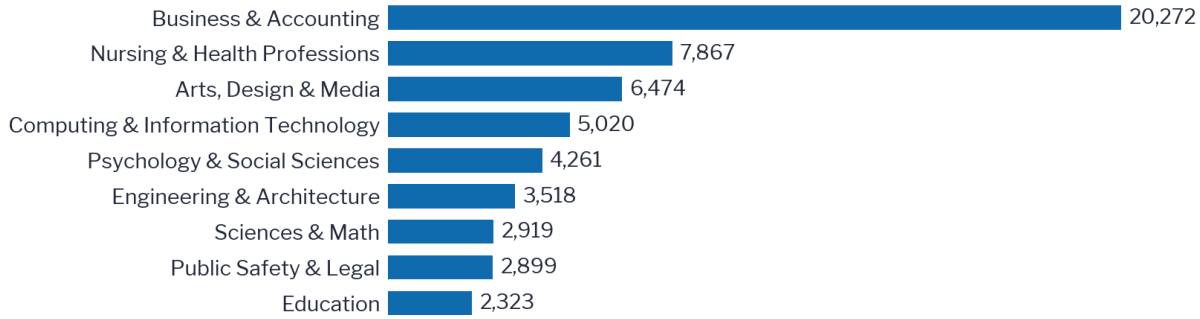
Last year of enrollment, by five-year period



People with a dated record at the college. Highlighted bars mark 2010 to 2024.

Where the credential is stated, 73,127 people hold an associate's degree and 12,776 a bachelor's degree from the college, which has awarded baccalaureates in selected fields for about two decades. About 37% of profiles do not state a level.

What they studied



Program area for the 58,558 people with a usable field of study, grouped from free-text entries. General associate-of-arts entries with no field are excluded, so transfer-track students are undercounted here.

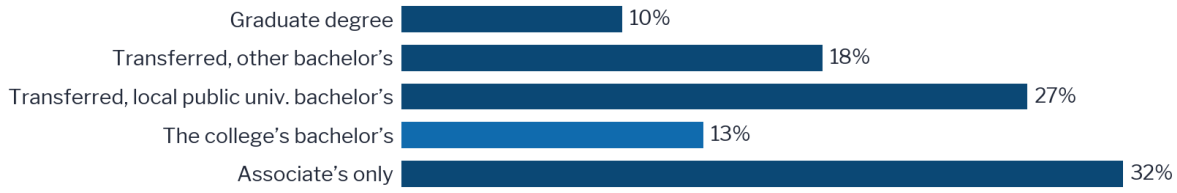
Business is the largest area by a wide margin, followed by nursing and the health professions, arts and media, and computing. Federal data show liberal arts and general studies as the largest award by far, most of it the transfer-oriented associate in arts, which explains why so many profiles list no specific field.

PATHWAYS

The associate's, the transfer, and the college's bachelor's

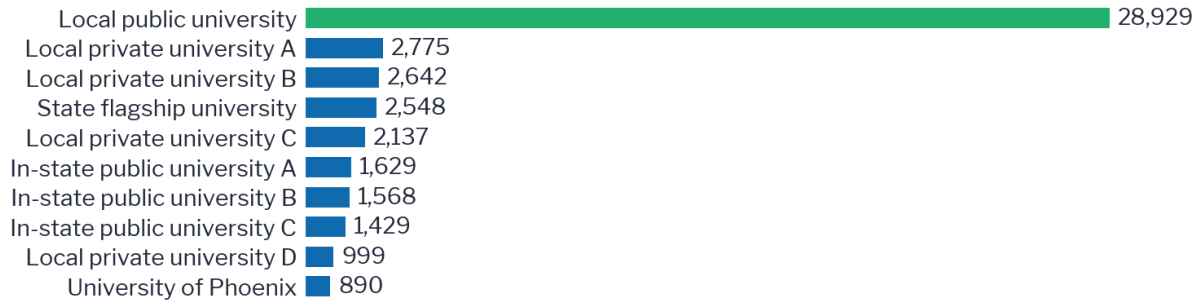
Alumni reach the bachelor's degree by several routes, and the data can separate them. Of the 96,969 people whose highest credential is known, the largest group transferred and earned a bachelor's at the local public university. Those who stopped at the associate's degree and those who earned a bachelor's at the college itself are the next largest, and about one in twelve reached a graduate degree.

How alumni finished their education



Share of the 96,969 people with a stated highest credential.

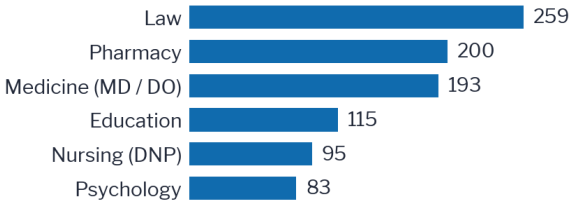
Where alumni earned bachelor's degrees elsewhere



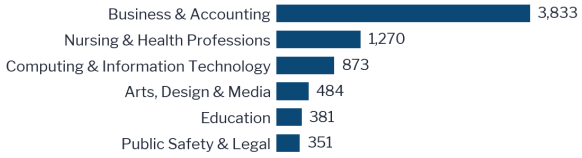
Number of alumni with a bachelor's or higher record at each institution.

The local public university accounts for 28,929 bachelor's degrees, more than ten times the next institution. Four local private universities form a second tier; the state flagship and three other public universities take students to the rest of the state.

Doctoral and professional degrees, by field



The college's bachelor's degrees, by program area



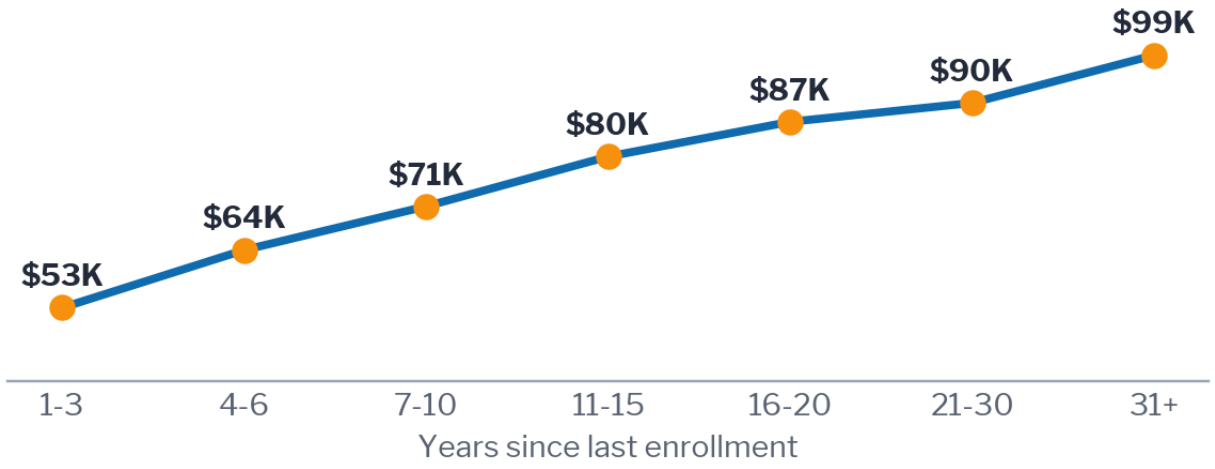
18,072 alumni (13%) hold a graduate degree, most from the local public university and two local private universities. 2,526 reached the doctoral or professional level, with law, pharmacy, and medicine leading.

CAREER OUTCOMES

What they earn

Across the 128,641 people with a compensation estimate, the median is $80,988, and the middle half falls between $53,593 and $126,338. These are the data supplier's estimates for each person's current role, not reported wages, so medians are used throughout and the figures are best read as comparisons between groups.

Median estimated compensation by years since leaving

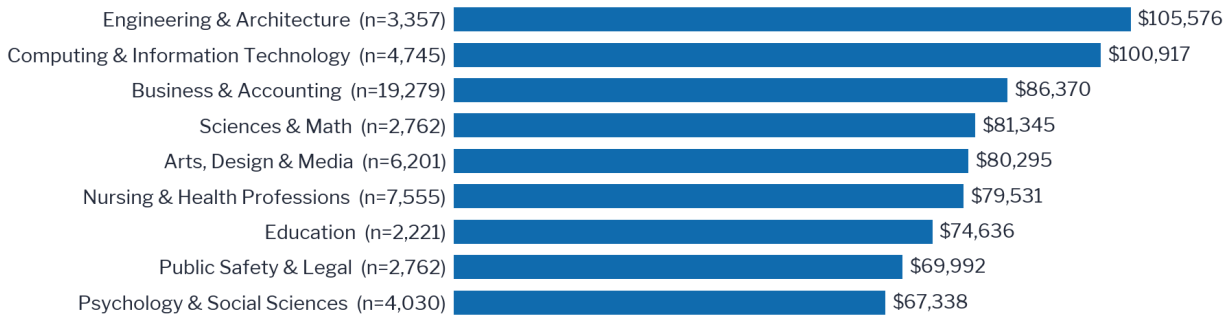


Median estimated compensation by educational pathway

n is the number of people with a compensation estimate.

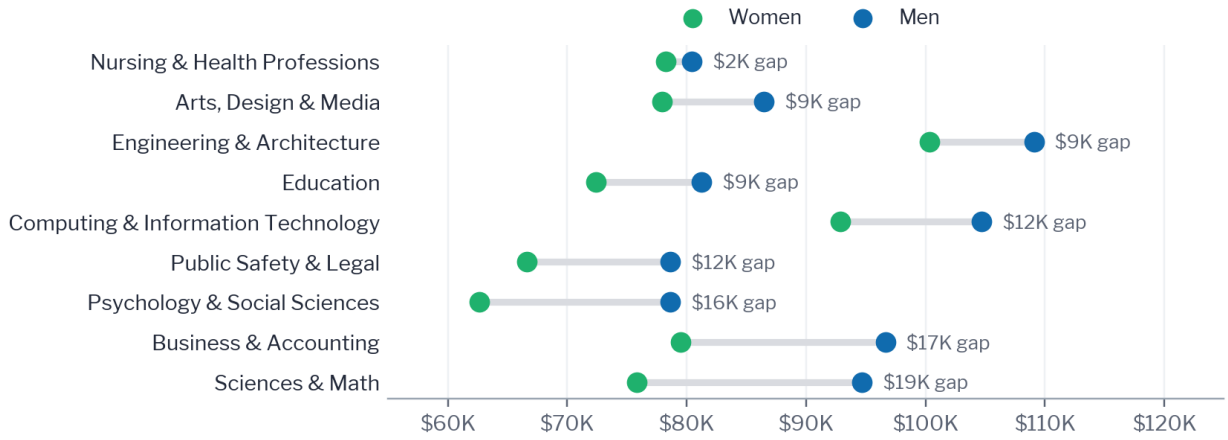
The pathway chart carries the central finding of this report. Alumni who earned their bachelor's degree at the college ($83,419) earn the same as those who transferred to the local public university for it ($83,485), and only slightly less than those who transferred elsewhere. The bachelor's degree adds about $10,000 a year over the associate's degree alone, and a graduate degree another $20,000.

Median estimated compensation by program area



Engineering and architecture ($105,576) and computing ($100,917) lead, followed by business. Nursing and the health professions sit near the median, which reflects the many medical assistants and technicians in that group alongside registered nurses. Psychology and social sciences ($67,338) and public safety are lowest.

The gap between men and women, by program area



Median estimated compensation for women and men who studied in the same area. Areas with at least 150 of each.

Overall the median for men is $93,110 and for women $74,545. The gap is narrowest in nursing and health, where licensure standardizes pay, and in engineering, and widest in the sciences, business, and psychology. These comparisons are not adjusted for occupation, hours, or experience.

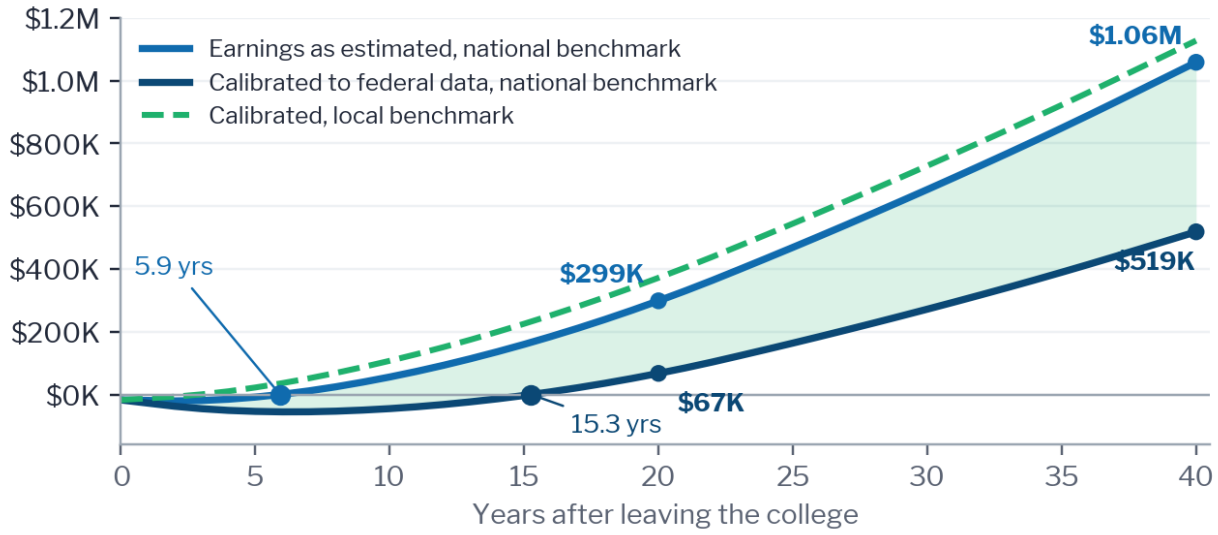
RETURN ON INVESTMENT

What the college's degrees return

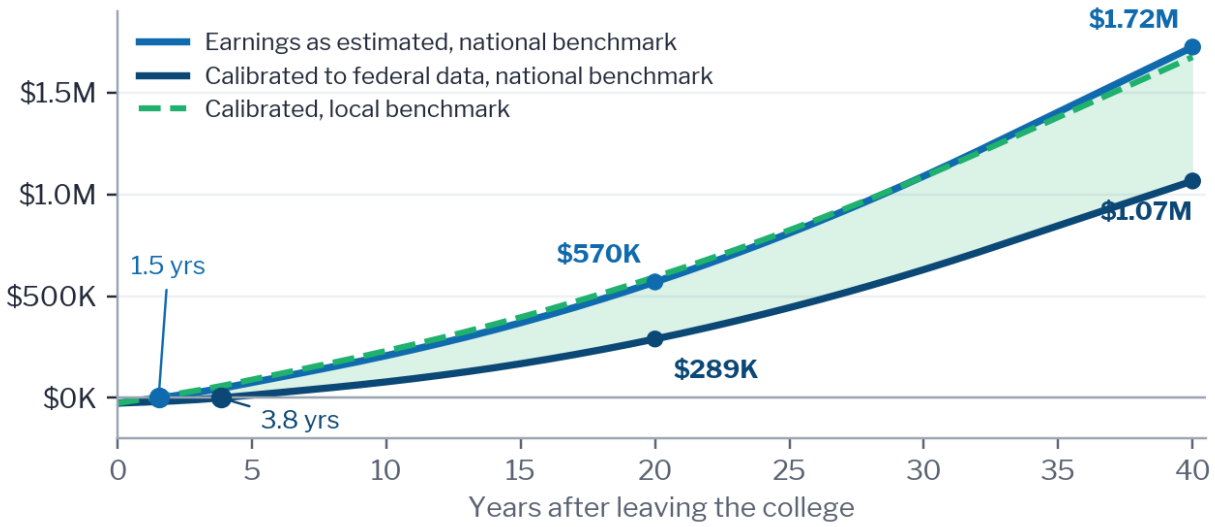
The college's average net price is about $6,000 a year, the lowest in this series by a wide margin, so return on investment is less a question of whether than of how fast. Two degrees are modeled: the associate's, costed at three years of net price (about $17,000) and measured on alumni whose highest credential is an associate's degree (14,615 people); and the college's bachelor's, costed at four and a half years (about $26,000) and measured on alumni whose highest credential is the college's bachelor's (5,235 people).

The return is what alumni earn above workers with only a high school diploma. Three scenarios are shown. The first uses earnings as estimated in this dataset against the national high-school median ($50,232). The second scales earnings down by 18% to match the federal College Scorecard figure for the college's completers (about $49,000 four years out). The third keeps that calibration but uses the home county's high-school median of about $35,000.

Associate's degree: cumulative net gain after repaying its cost



The college's bachelor's degree: cumulative net gain after repaying its cost



Return by degree and scenario

Degree and scenario	Cost	Payback	Net gain, 20 yrs	Net gain, 40 yrs
Associate's, as estimated, national benchmark	~$17,000	5.9 yrs	$299,000	$1,059,000
Associate's, calibrated, national benchmark	~$17,000	15.3 yrs	$67,000	$519,000
Associate's, calibrated, local benchmark	~$17,000	2.9 yrs	$372,000	$1,128,000
Bachelor's, as estimated, national benchmark	~$26,000	1.5 yrs	$570,000	$1,724,000
Bachelor's, calibrated, national benchmark	~$26,000	3.8 yrs	$289,000	$1,066,000
Bachelor's, calibrated, local benchmark	~$26,000	1.3 yrs	$594,000	$1,675,000

By program, associate's-only alumni in computing and business show the largest calibrated 20-year gains against the national benchmark, at roughly $223,000 and $160,000; health and arts alumni who stopped at the associate's degree show little gain on that strict basis, largely because those groups are young and early in their careers. Against the local benchmark every program is positive within a few years.

How to read this. The college's bachelor's degree pays back in under four years in every scenario. The associate's degree pays back in 3 to 6 years on local or as-estimated terms, but 15 years against the national benchmark, because early-career associate's alumni in the home metro earn close to what a high-school graduate earns nationally. The local benchmark is the more relevant one for an open-access college whose students are overwhelmingly local. These figures describe completers; the college's graduation rate is in the mid-40s. Taxes and loan interest are excluded.

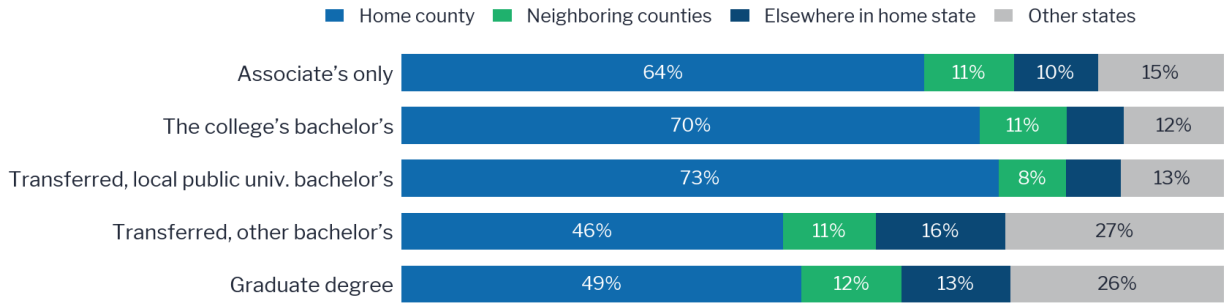
SPOTLIGHT

The transfer pipeline and the college's bachelor's

No relationship in this series comes close to that between the college and the public university in the same county. 35,669 alumni, 26% of the whole population, have a record there, and 28,929 earned a bachelor's degree there. The university is also the leading source of graduate degrees for the college's alumni, the top first employer of recent graduates, and, with 1,205 alumni on staff, one of the largest employers. The two institutions function as a single system for much of the county.

The college's bachelor's degree is the newer story. 12,784 alumni earned one, most in business and supervision, nursing, and information technology. On every measure in this data they match the transfer route: median compensation of $83,419 against $83,485 for transfers to the local university, and a similar rate of staying in the home county (70% against 73%). For students who cannot leave work or family to transfer, the college's own baccalaureate delivers the same outcome at a lower price.

Where alumni live, by educational pathway



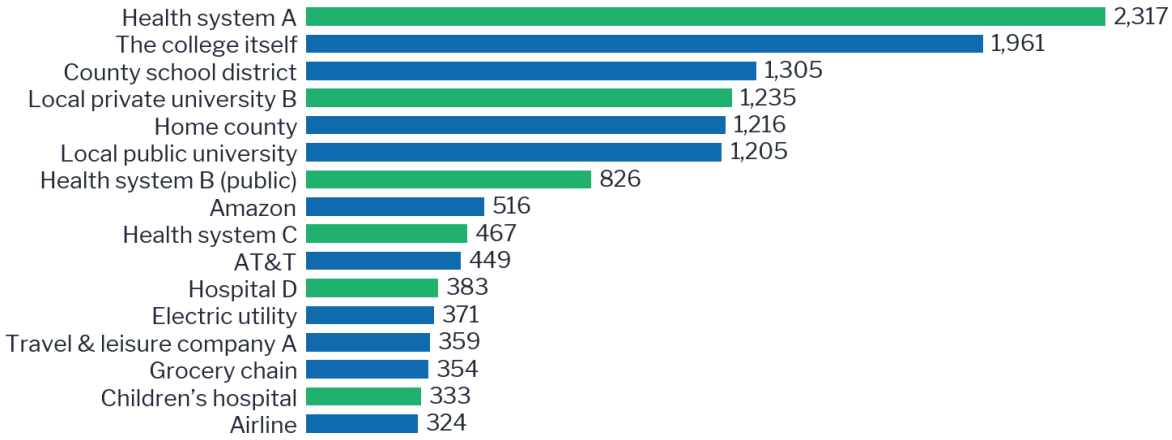
The pathway also predicts geography. Alumni who transferred to a university outside the county, or who went on to graduate school, are the most likely to have left: only 46% of those with a bachelor's from any other institution live in the home county, against 64% of those who stopped at the associate's. Retaining a student through the local university or the college's own bachelor's, in other words, also retains a worker for the county.

CAREER OUTCOMES

Where they work

Alumni are spread across 36,229 employers, but the top of the list is a directory of the metro's anchor institutions. The largest private health system is first with 2,317, ahead of the college itself. The county school district, county government, the local public university, and a local private university follow, then the public hospital system. In all, about 13,174 alumni work for a hospital, health system, or medical practice, and about 5,938 for the county, the city, the school district, or the college.

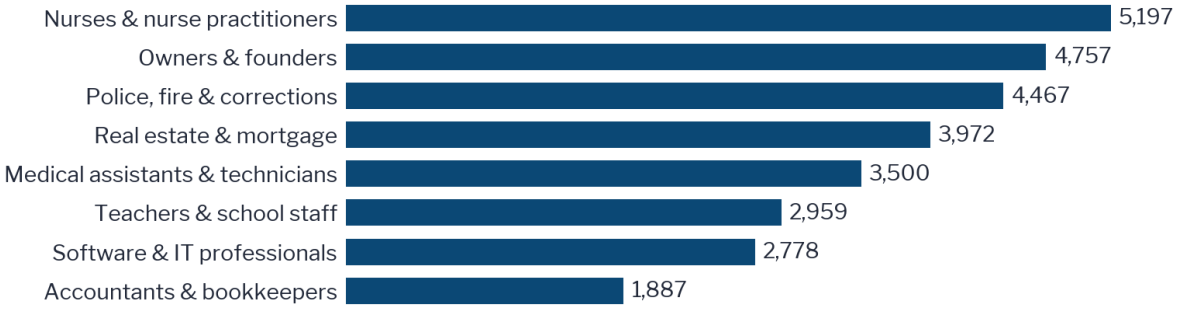
Largest current employers of alumni



Current employer on profile. Related entities are combined and names replaced with generic labels. Health systems highlighted.

Two industries are distinctly local. The travel and leisure companies headquartered in the metro employ 1,071 alumni, and the airlines and airport another 789. The electric utility, a grocery chain, and Amazon round out the list.

Alumni in the professions, by current job title



Counts based on keywords in current job titles; categories are not exhaustive.

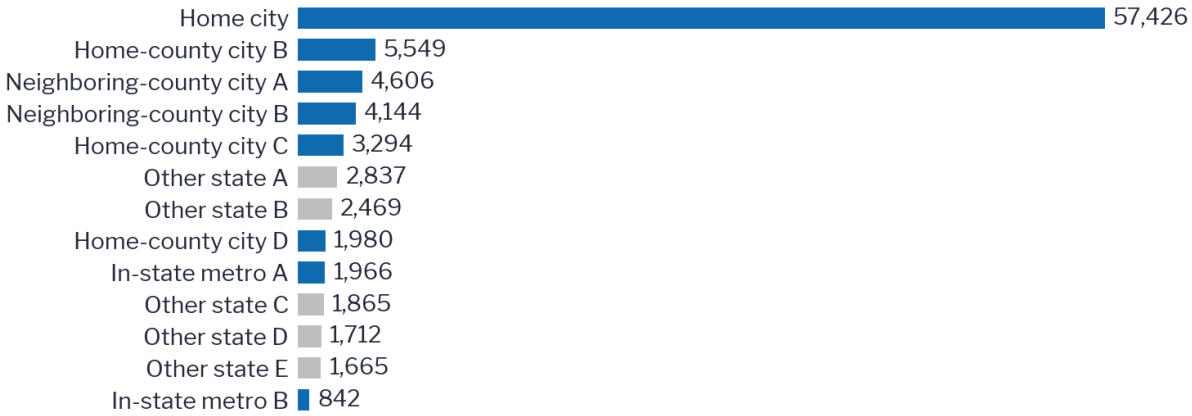
By title, nursing is the largest profession at 5,197, followed by owners and founders, police, fire, and corrections, and real estate and mortgage professionals, the last two being signatures of the local economy. Among alumni who left the college in 2010 or later, the most common first employers are the local public university, the college itself, a local private university, the largest health system, and the school district.

LOCATION

Where they live

Of the 112,816 alumni with a known location, 62% live in the home county and another 11% in the two neighboring counties. 10% live elsewhere in the home state, and 17% in other states.

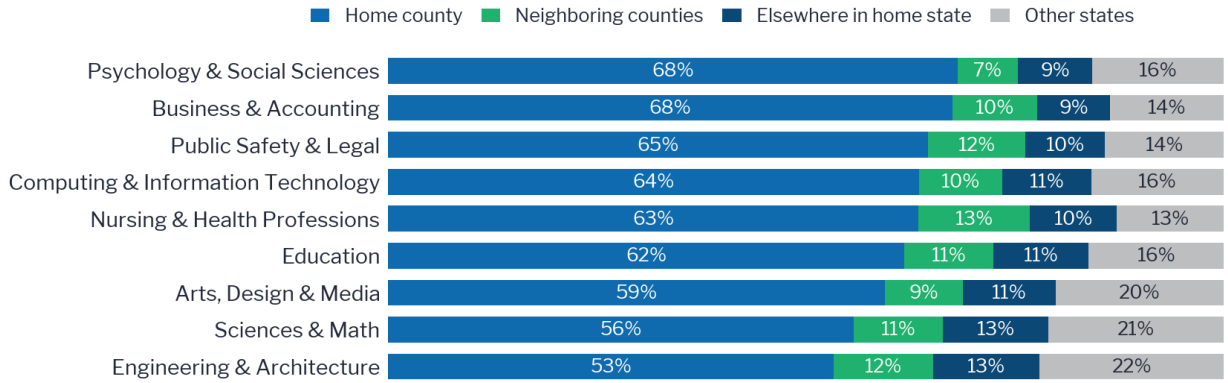
Largest alumni hubs



In-state communities in blue; other states in gray.

The home city alone is home to 57,426 alumni, and three other cities in the county each hold thousands more. The largest hub outside the home metro has fewer alumni than the third-largest city in the county. The median is $77,568 in the home county and $90,255 in other states, a smaller premium for leaving than at most schools in this series.

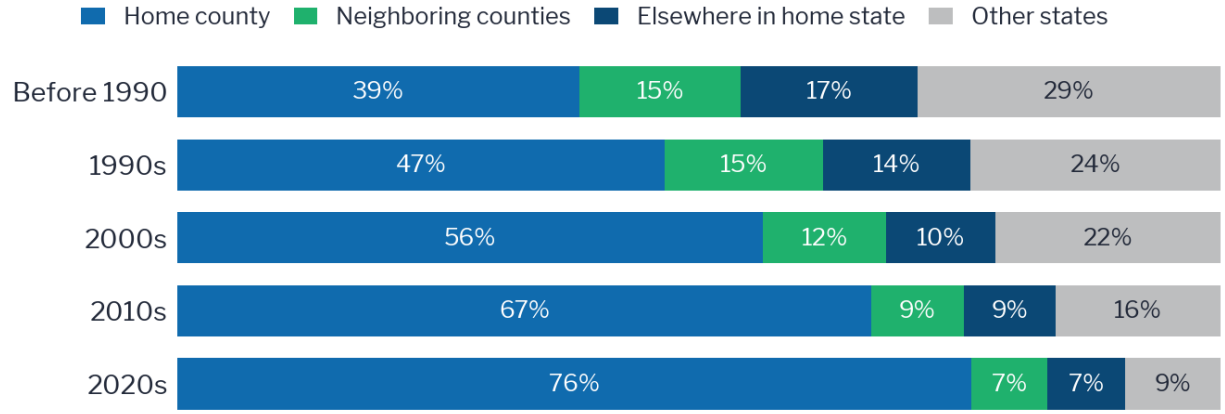
Where alumni live, by program area



Sorted by share living in the home county.

Business, psychology, public safety, and computing alumni are the most likely to stay in the county. Engineering (53%) and the sciences keep the fewest, and both send about a fifth of their alumni out of state.

Where alumni live, by decade they left



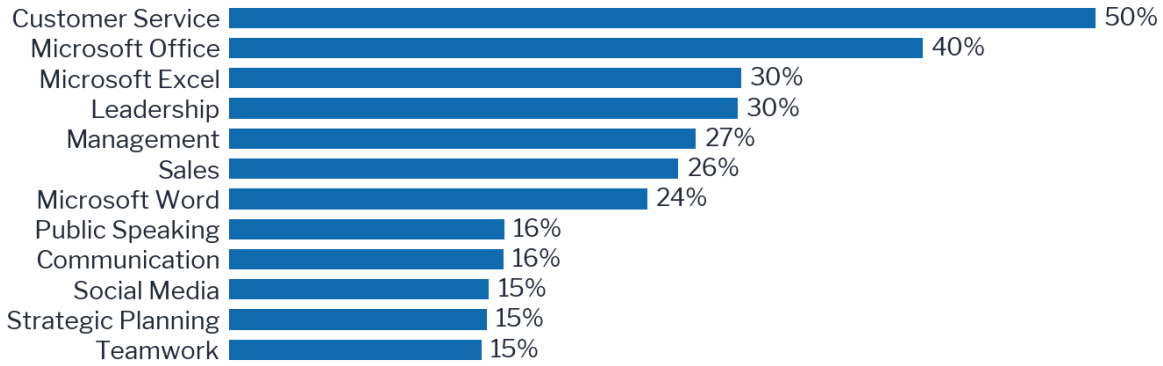
The trend over time is the strongest in the series. Among alumni from before 1990, 39% live in the home county and 29% in other states. Among those from the 2010s the figures are 67% and 16%, and among the 2020s 76% and 9%. Part of this is time, since people move over a career, but the shift is large enough to reflect a real change: the college's recent alumni are staying home, and the county's employers are absorbing them.

SKILLS

What they can do

105,771 alumni list skills on their profiles, a median of 17 each. Customer service leads, listed by half of alumni, followed by the Microsoft Office tools, leadership, management, and sales. 17% list a second language, translation, or bilingual ability, a reflection of the college's role in a county where most residents speak a language other than English at home.

Most common skills



Share of alumni with at least one listed skill who list each one.

Beneath that general layer, listed skills line up with what people studied. The table shows skills distinctly concentrated in each program area relative to alumni as a whole.

Program area	Signature skills (share of that area's alumni listing each)
Nursing & Health Professions	Nursing 22%, BLS 13%, Patient Education 11%, Patient Safety 18%, Clinical Research 11%
Business & Accounting	Accounting 12%, Account Management 11%, Negotiation 13%, Sales Management 12%, Inventory Management 10%
Computing & Information Technology	C++ 19%, Java 22%, Linux 14%, JavaScript 17%, Python 12%
Engineering & Architecture	Revit 10%, AutoCAD 29%, MATLAB 10%, Engineering 16%, Construction Management 11%
Arts, Design & Media	Video Editing 14%, Video Production 12%, Adobe Creative Suite 12%, Graphic Design 14%, Photography 14%
Public Safety & Legal	Legal Research 13%, Legal Writing 11%, Research 14%, Training 16%, Public Speaking 19%
Education	Lesson Planning 12%, Classroom Management 12%, Educational Leadership 11%, Curriculum Development 14%, Curriculum Design 10%
Sciences & Math	Data Analysis 12%, Teaching 11%, Research 21%, PowerPoint 12%, Problem Solving 13%

TAKEAWAYS

What this means for the college

- **The college's bachelor's degree works, and the data proves it.** Its graduates earn the same as those who transferred to the local university and stay in the county at a similar rate, at a fraction of the price. That is the strongest possible argument for expanding baccalaureate programs and for telling prospective students about them.
- **The local public university is a partner on a scale no other pairing in this series approaches.** More than a quarter of all alumni have a record there. The articulation, advising, and data-sharing between the two institutions shape outcomes for tens of thousands of people.
- **Retention is the story of the last two decades.** Three-quarters of recent alumni live in the home county, up from under half a generation ago. The college is now, more than ever, the county's workforce engine, and its relationships with the health systems, the school district, the county, and the travel and transport industries are the ones that matter.
- **The return depends on the benchmark, so choose it carefully.** Against local wages, the associate's degree pays back in about three years. Against a national high-school benchmark it takes fifteen. When making the value case, use the local comparison and say why.
- **Completion and the next step are the levers.** The associate's degree alone yields a median of $72,937; a bachelor's adds about $10,000 a year and a graduate degree $30,000. Every student moved from the associate's to a bachelor's, at the college or the local university, is a measurable gain.
- **Health care is the largest destination and the most standardized on pay.** About 13,174 alumni work in health care, nursing is the largest profession by title, and it is the one field where women and men earn the same. Nursing and allied health capacity is the most direct lever the college has on both regional need and equity.
- **Bilingual alumni are an asset worth naming.** Nearly one in five alumni with listed skills claims a second language or bilingual ability. For employers in an international metro, that is a differentiator the college can market.

About the data

Source and population. Records come from the TalentView talent market dataset maintained by Public Insight Data Corporation (www.publicinsight.io), built from publicly available professional profiles. The population is every profile listing the college in its education history: about 140,000 people, including those who attended without completing a credential. People in professional and office careers are more likely to keep an online profile than those in trades, service, and clinical support work, so the population skews toward the college's transfer and baccalaureate students. **Anonymized sample:** institution, place, and employer names are replaced with generic labels; cost figures are rounded.

Coverage. Education records exist for everyone; work history for 86%; skills for 77%; location for 82%; compensation for 93%. About 37% of profiles do not state the level of their credential and about 58% do not state a usable field of study. Percentages are calculated on the people for whom the item is known. Compensation figures are the data supplier's estimates for each person's current role, not reported wages, and medians are used in place of averages.

Definitions. Program areas were grouped from free-text fields of study using keyword rules and are approximate. The home county and the neighboring counties are defined by lists of municipalities. The local high-school earnings benchmark is the 2024 American Community Survey median for full-time workers with a high school diploma in the home county, combining women and men. Net price, graduation rate, and Scorecard earnings are from IPEDS and the College Scorecard.

PUBLIC INSIGHT®

See where your graduates land.

This profile was built with TalentView, Public Insight's talent market intelligence platform. The same analysis can be produced for any college or university: where alumni studied next, where they work, what they earn, and where they live.

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