

Measuring the Economic Success of Florida's Graduates

Economic Security Report 2017

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is the result of a partnership between the State of Florida and College Measures. It focuses on the median first-year earnings of recent graduates and completers¹ from Florida's public postsecondary educational institutions: the State University System of Florida (SUS), the Florida College System (FCS), and District Technical Centers (DTCs).²

The report documents the variation in first-year earnings among completers who earned degrees or certificates from these three systems of postsecondary education. The report also presents data on the percentage of completers from various institutions who received public assistance, as well as the percentage enrolled in continuing education programs. Debt accumulated by all students (not just graduates) is also reported. The results show that what a student studies, what type of postsecondary credentials they earn, and where they earn them matter.

Information in this report comes from three main data sources: the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) from the Florida Department of Education, Wage Record Interchange System 2 (WRIS2),³ and the Florida Department of Education's Office of Student Financial Assistance. The data discussed in this report reflect outcomes for graduates and completers in their first year after graduation for a five-year period from academic years 2010–11 to 2014–15. Although the data represent employment and earnings outcomes, the report does not include information about the occupations of completers and whether they are employed in their fields of study.

- 1 In this report, "graduates" is a term specifically used to identify any person who has earned a degree (e.g., associate, bachelor's, or master's). "Completers" is a more general term used to identify any person who has completed any level of postsecondary education (e.g., certificates, diplomas, bachelor's degrees, etc.).
- 2 The SUS includes 12 public universities (<http://www.flbog.edu/universities/>). The FCS comprises 28 public community colleges and state colleges, some of which now offer four-year bachelor's degrees (<http://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/colleges/>). Fifty-two DTCs offer certifications in a variety of career and technical education program areas (<http://fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/dist-ps-instit.shtml>). These three systems comprise Florida's public postsecondary educational system.
- 3 The WRIS2 program is a voluntary system whereby states can share aggregate employment and wage outcomes with other states. This enables us to report on the employment and earnings data of graduates from the State of Florida who are employed in other states. The current membership of the WRIS2 exchange includes 43 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. A map of participating states can be found at https://www.doleta.gov/performance/pfdocs/WRIS2_Status_Map.pdf. Although Florida's neighbor, Georgia, is currently a member of WRIS2, Alabama is not.

Florida College System and District Technical Centers

- The bachelor's degree and the associate in arts (A.A.) degree are the two most commonly awarded degrees in Florida. The A.A. degree is designed as a pathway to the bachelor's degree. The median first-year earnings of graduates with A.A. degrees are usually lower than those of graduates from many other degree and certificate programs. For example, the median first-year earnings of graduates with an associate in science (A.S.) degree were around \$8,700 higher than graduates with bachelor's degrees from SUS institutions and nearly \$16,000 higher than graduates with A.A. degrees who were in the labor market.
- The field of study can greatly affect early career earnings. The median first-year earnings of a graduate with an A.S. degree in Business Administration was \$31,824. A graduate with an A.S. degree in Nursing can earn an average of \$50,000, and graduates with an A.S. degree in Emergency Medicine Technology–Paramedic can earn even more.
- The average federal debt level per student in 2014–15 across Florida's colleges ranged from \$2,041 (Seminole State College of Florida) to more than \$3,500 (New College of Florida, Florida State College at Jacksonville, and Miami Dade College).
- DTCs issued far more career certificates than colleges in the State of Florida. Career certificates issued by DTCs accounted for almost 60% of all certificates awarded in the state.
 - However, completers with certificates from Florida's colleges were more successful at obtaining employment (78%) than completers with career certificates from DTCs (70%).
 - In addition, across the five-year period of study, median first-year earnings of graduates and completers from the FCS were higher (\$34,772) than the earnings of completers with certificates from DTCs (\$28,024). Several factors could be at play here. For example, colleges tend to enroll a much higher percentage of students in programs that traditionally have higher placement rates and earnings, such as Law Enforcement Officer, compared with other programs, such as Child Care Provider/Assistant.
- More than 20% of completers who earned career certificates from DTCs received public assistance, much higher than those who earned their certificates from institutions in the FCS.
- Students who earned associate degrees were less likely to have received public assistance than students who earned certificates.

State University System of Florida Degrees and Florida College System Bachelor's Degrees

- Median first-year earnings of graduates with bachelor's degrees from state universities varied from approximately \$23,600 (New College of Florida) to more than \$36,800 (Florida International University). Some of this variation is related to the economic climate in the areas of the state to which these campuses serve and where students choose to work.
- The median first-year earnings of bachelor's graduates from six universities (University of South Florida, Florida Atlantic University, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of North Florida, and Florida Gulf Coast University) were within \$1,000 of the state median, suggesting there are many university-based pathways into the labor market that employers value at roughly the same level.
- Psychology is one of the most popular fields of study in state universities. But graduates with degrees in Psychology tended to have low first-year earnings, almost \$7,000 less than the statewide median. Graduates with degrees in Biology, Criminal Justice, and English Language and Literature also fell at the bottom of the earnings distribution.
- Graduates with degrees in business-related fields—such as Business Administration, Finance, and Accounting—had, on average, high first-year earnings. However, the median first-year earnings of graduates with degrees in Marketing, another business-related field, were not as high.
- The average statewide federal loan amount per student was slightly more than \$6,500. Federal debt for students ranged from an average of around \$4,700 (Florida Gulf Coast University) to nearly \$9,300 (University of Florida). The data reflect the average federal student loan debt of all students (not just graduates) attending universities during 2014–15. Data also include federal student loans from Stafford, Perkins, Graduate PLUS, Parent PLUS, and TEACH programs. The average does not include private loans or other debt issued by nonfederal government sources that students may have sought to help finance their education.
- During the five-year study period, campuses in the FCS awarded slightly more than 24,000 bachelor's degrees. These degrees were concentrated in a small number of relatively high-paying fields. In turn, the median first-year earnings of graduates with bachelor's degrees from Florida's colleges (nearly \$43,000) were higher than those of graduates with bachelor's degrees from Florida's universities (around \$35,000).
- Graduates with master's degrees earned more, often far more, than graduates with only bachelor's degrees. The median first-year earnings of graduates with master's degrees was around \$50,000 compared with approximately \$35,000 for graduates with bachelor's degrees from Florida's universities.

Where the Jobs Are

The report also presents data on the industries and occupations that are likely to be most in demand over the next 10 years.

- The health care industry is projected to expand rapidly due to population growth, an aging population, and improved medical technologies.
- Another way to look at where the jobs are is to see which industries will be creating the most new jobs, regardless of the growth rate. Some fast-growing industries employ only a relatively small number of people; others are much larger. For example, Ambulatory Health Care Services and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services are expected to add many new jobs, and both have high rates of growth. In contrast, two industries, Food Services and Drinking Places and Administrative and Support Services, have lower rates of growth, but because they are such large industries, they will add many more jobs than most of the faster-growing industries.
- Some occupations will have a greater demand relative to supply, for example:
 - From 2016 to 2024, Florida's postsecondary educational institutions will award approximately 10,000 academic credentials for registered nurses. However, the industry demand is estimated to be around 17,000 nurses during this time, leaving a shortage of almost 7,000 trained individuals.
 - Similarly, Florida's colleges and universities will produce far fewer academic credentials for Securities and Financial Service Sales Agents than the projected industry demand, resulting in a shortage of some 1,900 trained graduates.

More findings are available at:

<http://www.launchmycareerFL.org>

In addition to <http://www.launchmycareerFL.org>, more information is also available at the following sites:

- What People Are Asking (<http://www.whatpeopleareasking.com/index.shtml>) contains job and wage data by area in Florida. It features fast growing jobs, what these jobs pay, and other information of interest to students and parents.
- Florida College Graduates Succeed (https://www.floridacollegesystem.com/data/florida_college_graduates_succeed.aspx) is an online business intelligence tool designed to provide access to employment and earnings information on FCS college graduates.
- Find My College Major (<http://findmycollegemajor.org/>) is a one-stop resource for students to explore the programs at colleges of interest, obtain information about the related occupation(s), and explore current career opportunities.
- Baccalaureate Follow-up Study (<http://flbog.edu/forstudents/gfs/>) offers a series of reports that provide students, parents, educators, and policymakers with information about the experiences of graduates after they complete a bachelor's degree.

INTRODUCTION

This report results from a partnership between the State of Florida and College Measures. It focuses on the median first-year earnings of recent graduates and completers from Florida's public postsecondary educational institutions: the State University System of Florida (SUS), the Florida College System (FCS), and District Technical Centers (DTCs). The report documents the variation in first-year earnings for completers who earned degrees or certificates from these three postsecondary education systems. The report also presents data on other outcomes, such as the percentage of completers who enrolled in further education. The report presents these data for *programs*, not just *institutions*, and reflects that the type of postsecondary credential completers earn, what they study, and where they study matter. The report begins by examining Florida's colleges and district technical centers and then focuses on bachelor's degrees granted by Florida's universities. The earnings of completers of Florida's professional programs are also reported. The report concludes with a forecast of the occupations in which employment growth is most likely to occur.

FLORIDA COLLEGES AND DISTRICT TECHNICAL CENTERS

Florida's public postsecondary system includes institutions in the FCS and DTCs, which are operated by school districts. FCS institutions offer a variety of programs, from bachelor's degrees and associate in arts (A.A.) degrees to career and technical programs. DTCs offer only career and technical education (CTE) programs and do not offer college credit programs.

The A.A. is designed for students who intend to earn a bachelor's degree later. CTE programs, such as the associate in applied science (A.A.S.) and associate in science (A.S.) degrees, are designed for students who are seeking employment immediately after graduation. These associate degree programs are designed as two-year courses of study, although students often take longer to successfully complete them.

Career certificate and college credit certificate programs are available in many specialties for students who want to spend less than two years in career preparation. Certificate programs fall into several categories:

- **Career certificate.** Career certificate programs are a series of vocational courses that prepare students for entry-level employment in specific career fields. The programs vary in length from 40 hours to more than 1,500 hours. Colleges and DTCs offer these certificate programs as non-college credit. Examples of career certificates include correctional probation officer, cosmetologist, culinary operator, firefighter, medical assistant, and practical nurse.
- **Applied technology diploma.** The applied technology diploma is a course of study that is part of an A.S. or A.A.S. degree program. The course of study is less than 60 credit hours and is designed to lead to employment in a specific occupation. Examples include dental assistant and emergency medical technician. An applied technology diploma may consist of career and technical education credit (clock hours) or college credit. When a student is seeking an applied technology diploma at a DTC or as a clock-hour program at a college, the clock hours are converted to semester hours when the student enters the A.S. or A.A.S. degree program.
- **Apprenticeship.** An apprenticeship is a combination of on-the-job training and related classroom instruction in which students learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation. Programs are sponsored by apprenticeship organizations in partnership with colleges and DTCs.
- **College credit certificates.** College credit certificate programs are a series of college credit courses that prepare students for entry-level employment in specific career fields or for career advancement. Generally, these certificates can be completed in one year or less. College credit certificate programs must be part of an A.S. or A.A.S. degree program. Examples include information technology technician, office specialist, computer programmer, and educational assistant. College credit certificates also may be called postsecondary vocational certificates.

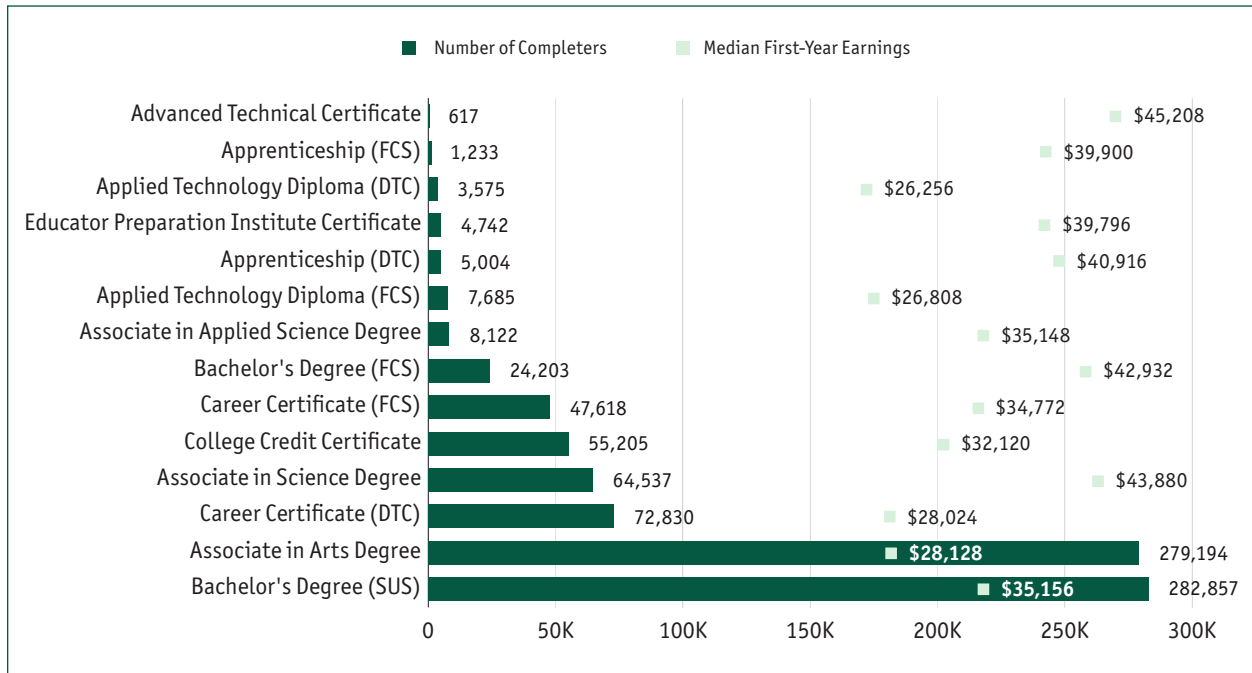
The data discussed in this report reflect outcomes for graduates and completers in their first year after graduation for a five-year period from academic years 2010–11 to 2014–15. As noted in the following pages, postcompletion earnings vary among students who finish with different credentials. In addition, longer courses of study do not always lead to higher earnings.

As Figure 1 shows, the A.A. degree is the second most commonly awarded postsecondary credential in Florida (second only to the bachelor's degree). The A.A. degree is designed as a pathway to a bachelor's degree. Compared with the A.A. degree, far fewer students completed career- and technical-oriented programs of study. For example, nearly 280,000 A.A. degrees were awarded during the study period, compared with approximately 64,500 A.S. degrees and 8,100 A.A.S. degrees. Together, Florida's colleges and DTCs awarded more than 120,000 career certificates, and colleges also awarded more than 55,000 college credit certificates.

Figure 1 also shows the median first-year earnings associated with each career- and technical-oriented credential. The lowest earnings were associated with completers of an applied technology diploma. Some of these completers may still be attending school while in the job market, thus lowering their earnings. With that in mind, the median first-year earnings of graduates with an A.S. degree were around \$17,500 more than those of completers with an applied technology diploma and more than \$8,500 *higher* than graduates with a bachelor's degree from an institution in the SUS. The median first-year earnings of graduates with an A.S. degree were also higher than those of graduates who completed the far less common A.A.S. degree.

Completers of certificate programs, on average, had higher first-year earnings than graduates with A.A. degrees. The median first-year earnings of graduates with A.A. degrees (\$28,128) were lower than those of completers with career certificates from Florida's colleges (\$34,772). However, completers of certificate courses, on average, had lower median first-year earnings than graduates with A.S. degrees (\$43,880) and A.A.S. degrees (\$35,148). The highest median first-year earnings (\$45,208) were achieved by the 617 completers of advanced technical certificates. Advanced technical certificates are generally designed for individuals who have already completed a two-year A.S. or A.A.S. degree and are seeking advanced, specialized preparation in a particular career field to supplement their degree.

Figure 1: Number of Postsecondary Academic Credentials Awarded and Median First-Year Earnings, Academic Years 2010–11 Through 2014–15



VARIATION IN FIRST-YEAR EARNINGS OF GRADUATES WITH ASSOCIATE DEGREES

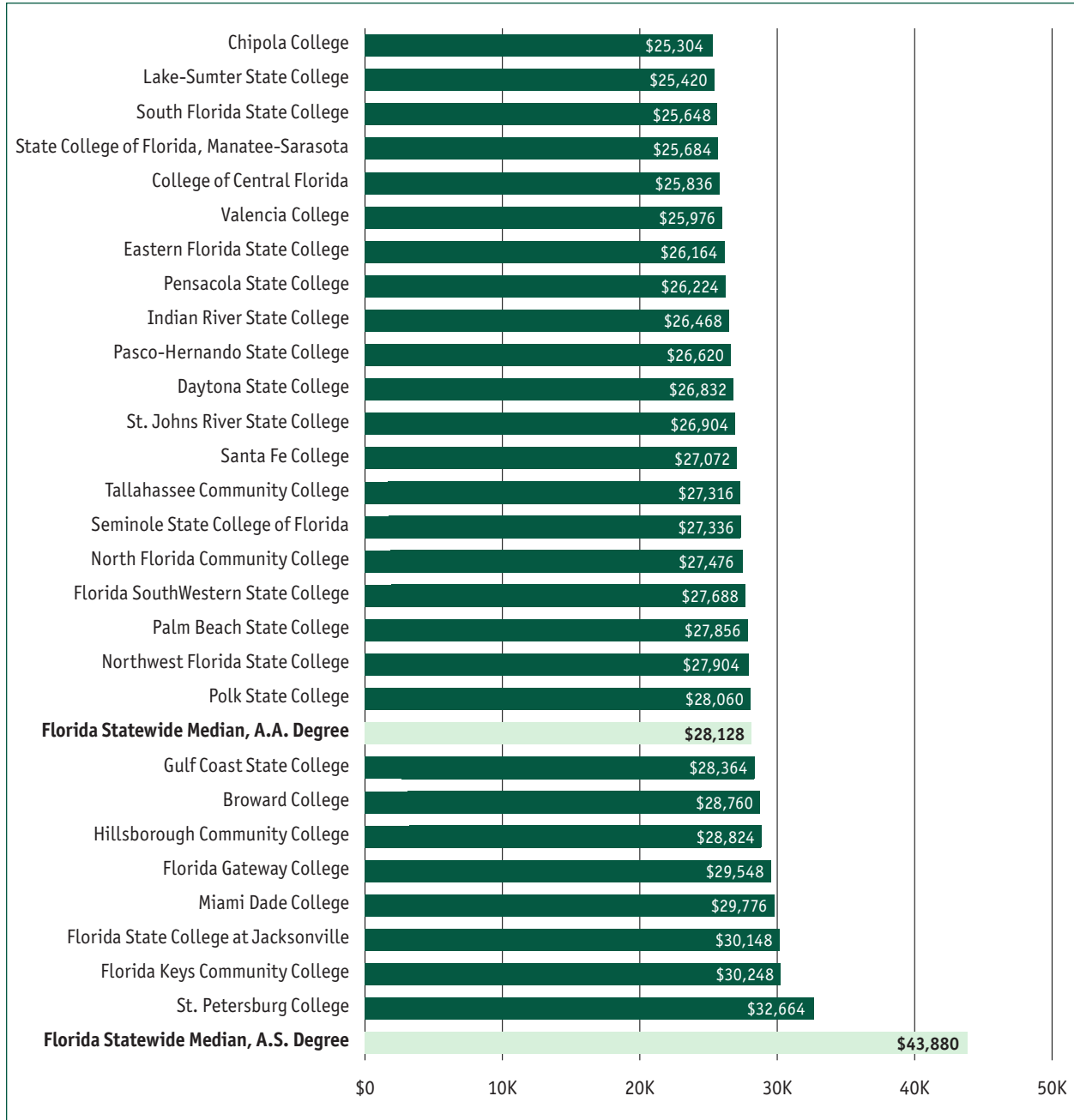
Associate in Arts Degree

After the bachelor's degree, the most common degree granted in Florida is the A.A. degree. Almost 280,000 A.A. degrees were awarded during the five-year study period. The A.A. degree is designed for students who plan to attend a four-year institution as a junior and complete a bachelor's degree program. The A.A. degree requires 36 credit hours of general education and 24 credit hours of electives.

As shown in Figure 1, the median first-year earnings of all graduates with A.A. degrees were slightly more than \$28,000. Figure 2 displays the median first-year earnings of graduates with A.A. degrees from specific colleges in Florida. More than \$7,000 separates the median first-year earnings of graduates from the college with the lowest (Chipola College, \$25,304) and highest earning graduates with A.A. degrees (St. Petersburg College, \$32,664).

Although this report does not explain these differences, note that Chipola College, South Florida State College, and Northwest Florida State College, all of which have low median earnings, are located in rural areas of the state. In contrast, two of the top three colleges (Florida State College at Jacksonville and St. Petersburg College) from which graduates who completed A.A. degrees earned the most are located in large metropolitan areas. Graduates of schools in urban areas who stay in those urban areas may have higher earnings.

Figure 2: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With A.A. Degrees, by College

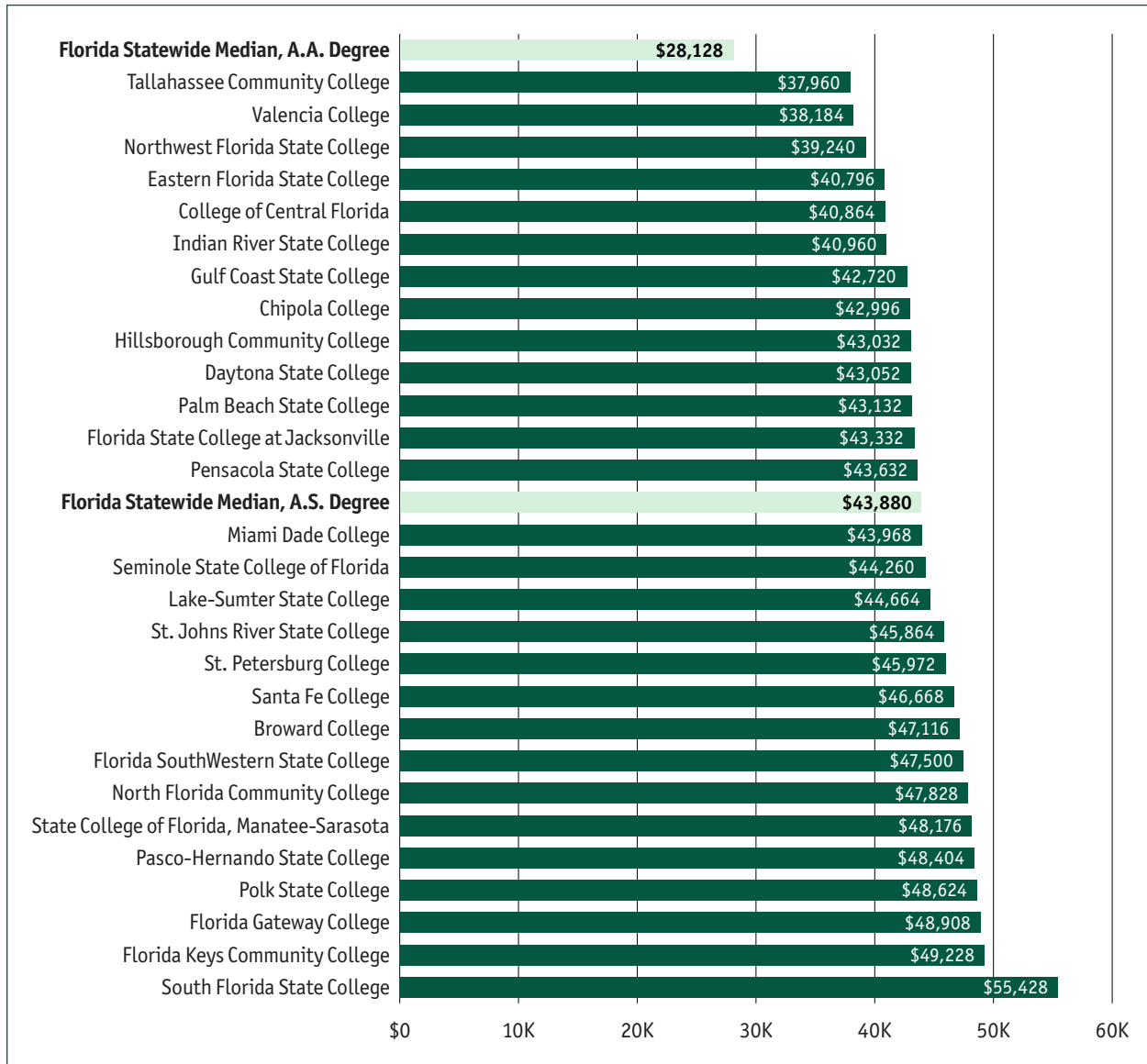


Associate in Science Degree

After the A.A. degree, the next most common two-year degree awarded in Florida is the A.S. degree. Over 64,000 A.S. degrees were awarded during the five-year study period. A.S. degree programs, like other CTE programs, are designed to prepare students who are planning to enter a specific occupation.

As shown in Figure 3, the median first-year earnings of graduates with A.S. degrees were far higher (nearly \$43,900) than those earned by graduates with A.A. degrees (around \$28,100). The median first-year earnings of graduates with A.S. degrees varied substantially across colleges in Florida. At the high end, graduates with A.S. degrees from five colleges (Florida Keys Community College; Florida Gateway College; Polk State College; Pasco-Hernando State College; and State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota) had median first-year earnings above \$48,000, with graduates of South Florida State College earning more than \$55,000. In contrast, graduates with A.S. degrees from three colleges (Tallahassee Community College, Valencia College, and Northwest Florida State College) had median first-year earnings less than \$40,000.

Figure 3: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With A.S. Degrees, by College

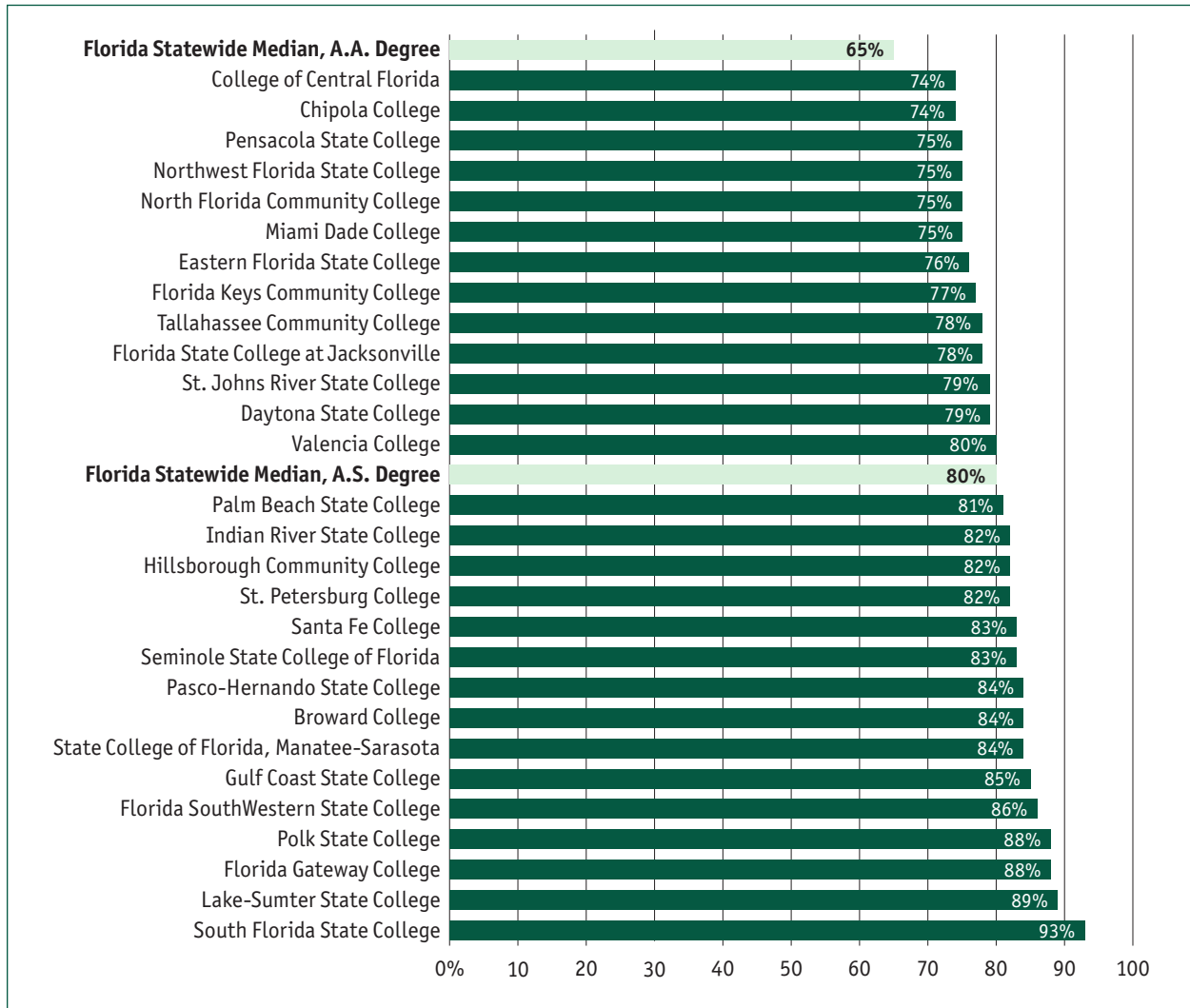


Employment Outcomes of Graduates With A.S. Degrees

Figure 4 shows the percentage of graduates with A.S. degrees who were employed one year after graduation, as reported in wage data from the Florida Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Wage Record Interchange System 2 (WRIS2) systems.⁴ Eighty percent of graduates with A.S. degrees were employed, but that percentage varied by institution, ranging from 74% to 93%. Overall, graduates with A.S. degrees were employed at higher rates than the statewide median rate for graduates with A.A. degrees. This is not surprising because A.S. degrees are designed for students who plan to enter employment, while A.A. degrees are designed for students who plan to earn a four-year bachelor's degree from a college or university.

4 The WRIS2 program is a voluntary system whereby states can share aggregate employment and wage outcomes with other states. This enables us to report on the employment and earnings data of graduates from the State of Florida who are employed in other states. The current membership of the WRIS2 exchange includes 43 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. A map of participating states can be found at https://www.doleta.gov/performance/pfdocs/WRIS2_Status_Map.pdf.

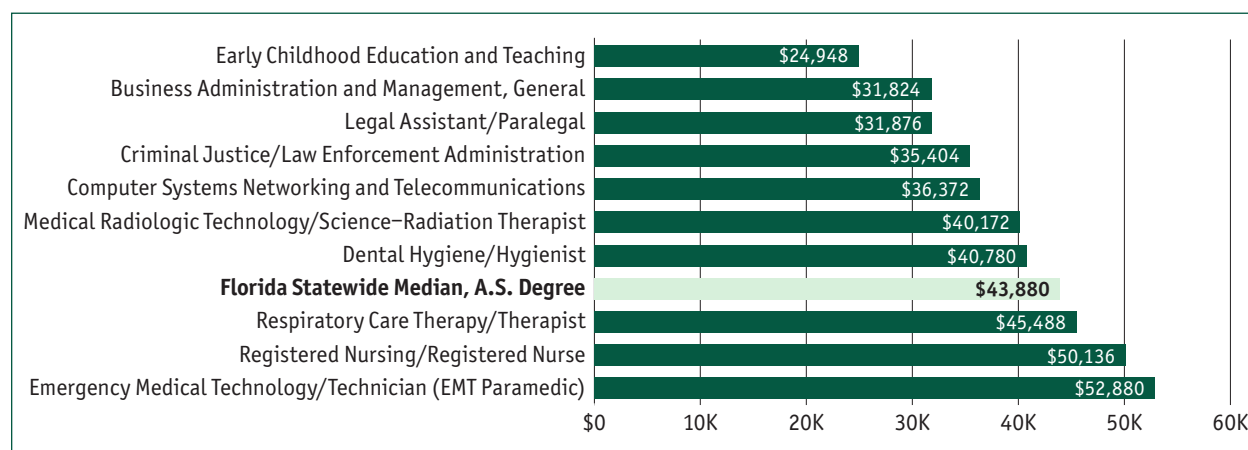
Figure 4: Employment Rates Among Graduates With A.S. Degrees, by College



What Students Study Matters

Graduates with A.A. degrees are classified into a single program of study (Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies⁵). However, graduates with A.S. degrees are classified across a range of programs of study, and graduates from some programs earn far more than graduates from others. Figure 5 identifies the median first-year earnings of graduates with A.S. degrees in the most popular programs of study. Median first-year earnings ranged from a low of \$24,948 (Early Childhood Education and Teaching) to nearly \$53,000 (Emergency Medical Technology/Technician [EMT Paramedic]).

Figure 5: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With A.S. Degrees From Popular Programs of Study Among Colleges in Florida



Combining the data presented in Figure 5 with the data in Table 1 shows that first-year earnings and rates of employment differ among graduates with A.S. degrees across programs at FCS institutions. About 70% of graduates with A.S. degrees in Business Administration and Management, General and Early Childhood Education and Teaching were employed one year after graduation. In contrast, more than 80% of graduates in health care-related professions, such as Emergency Medical Technology/Technician (EMT Paramedic), were employed. These types of data are potentially powerful for students who are interested in the prospects of the earnings of graduates with A.S. degrees from specific programs from specific colleges.

5 This classification and information about all other fields of study used in this report are defined by the U.S. Department of Education's Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code.

Table 1: Employment Outcomes for Graduates and Completers With A.S. Degrees in Popular Programs of Study Among Colleges in Florida

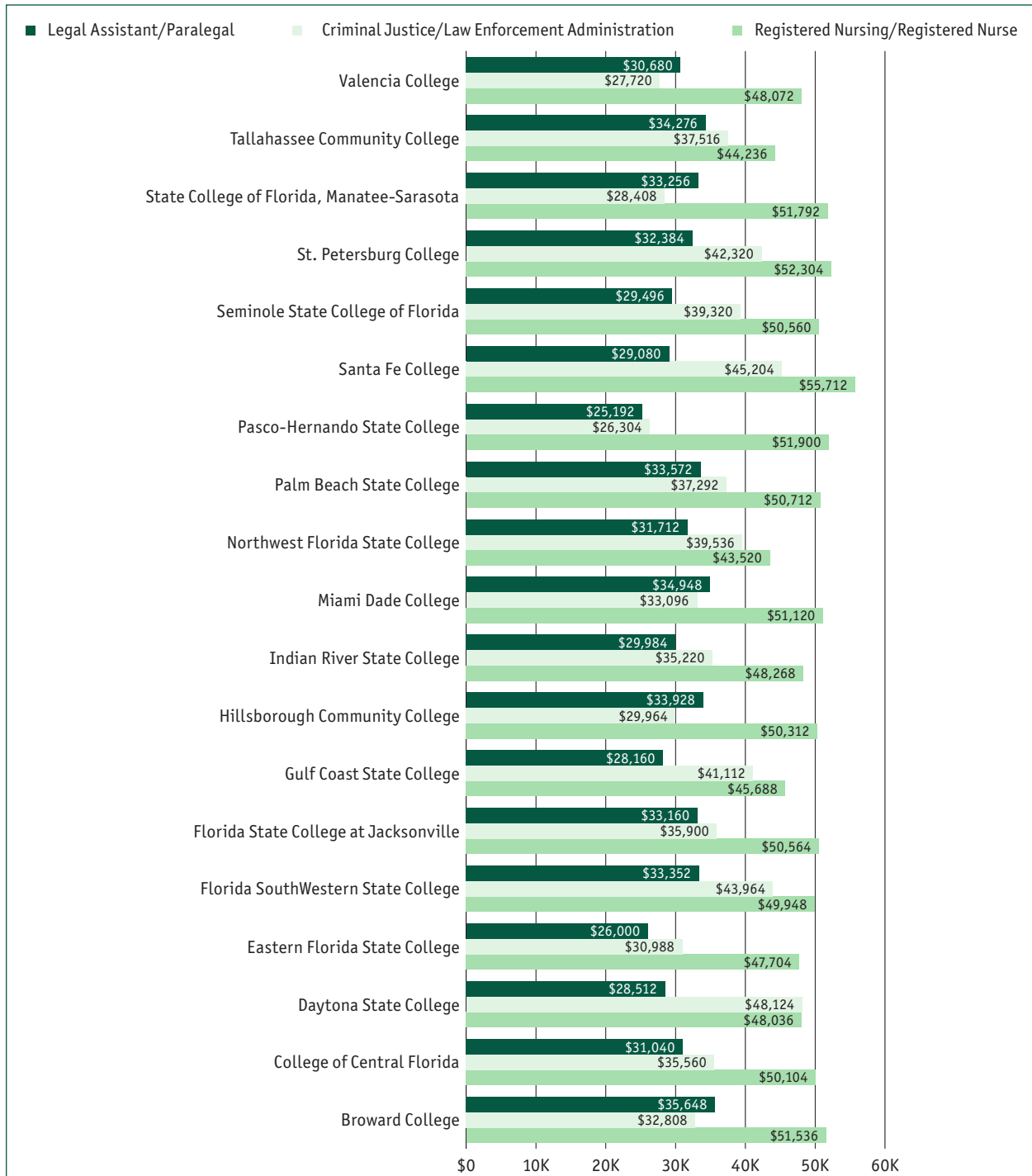
A.S. Degree Program	Number of Completers	Number Employed	Percent Employed
Business Administration and Management, General	2,169	1,528	70%
Early Childhood Education and Teaching	1,451	1,025	71%
Computer Systems Networking and Telecommunications	1,466	1,066	73%
Legal Assistant/Paralegal	2,681	2,027	76%
Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration	2,758	2,141	78%
Florida Statewide Median, A.S. Degree	64,537	51,945	80%
Dental Hygiene/Hygienist	1,453	1,177	81%
Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	1,411	1,197	85%
Medical Radiologic Technology/Science–Radiation Therapist	1,808	1,548	86%
Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	23,169	20,566	89%
Emergency Medical Technology/Technician (EMT Paramedic)	2,491	2,307	93%

Figure 6 displays the median first-year earnings of graduates with A.S. degrees from the three most popular programs in the state (Legal Assistant/Paralegal, Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration, and Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse) across the 19 colleges in Florida with sufficient data to meet reporting requirements. The variation across programs shows why this level of analysis is important.

Apart from one college (Daytona State College), median first-year earnings of graduates with degrees in Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration were lower, often significantly, than those of graduates with degrees in Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse. That said, median first-year earnings among graduates of Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration programs varied considerably across colleges, from about \$26,300 (Pasco-Hernando State College) to about \$48,000 (Daytona State College).

The range in first-year earnings was somewhat narrower among graduates of Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse and Legal Assistant/Paralegal. For nursing, earnings ranged from about \$43,500 (Northwest Florida State College) to more than \$55,700 (Santa Fe College). For legal assistants, first-year earnings ranged from nearly \$25,200 (Pasco-Hernando State College) to more than \$35,600 (Broward College).

Figure 6: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With A.S. Degrees From Three Popular Programs Among Colleges* in Florida



* This figure includes only those colleges that could provide sufficient data for all three programs.

Associate in Applied Science Degree

More than 8,000 students in Florida earned A.A.S. degrees from academic years 2010–11 to 2014–15. A.A.S. degrees focus on training students for direct entry into a specialized occupation in the workplace.

The median statewide earnings of graduates with A.A.S. degrees were \$35,148, around \$7,000 higher than those of graduates with A.A. degrees (\$28,128) but more than \$8,000 lower than those with A.S. degrees (\$43,880). The range in median first-year earnings among graduates with A.A.S. degrees varied substantially, from approximately \$28,700 (Seminole State College of Florida) to nearly \$46,000 (South Florida State College) (Figure 7).

Graduates with A.A.S. degrees from three colleges (Daytona State College, Valencia College, and Seminole State College of Florida) had median first-year earnings of less than \$30,000. In contrast, the median first-year earnings of graduates with A.A.S. degrees from two colleges (State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota and South Florida State College) were more than \$44,000. Again, these differences are affected by the distribution of graduates across programs, where graduates earn high-paying versus low-paying wages in the labor market, and by the location of the college (e.g., rural versus urban areas and those in the larger and higher paying regional economies in the state).

Figure 7: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With A.A.S. Degrees, by College

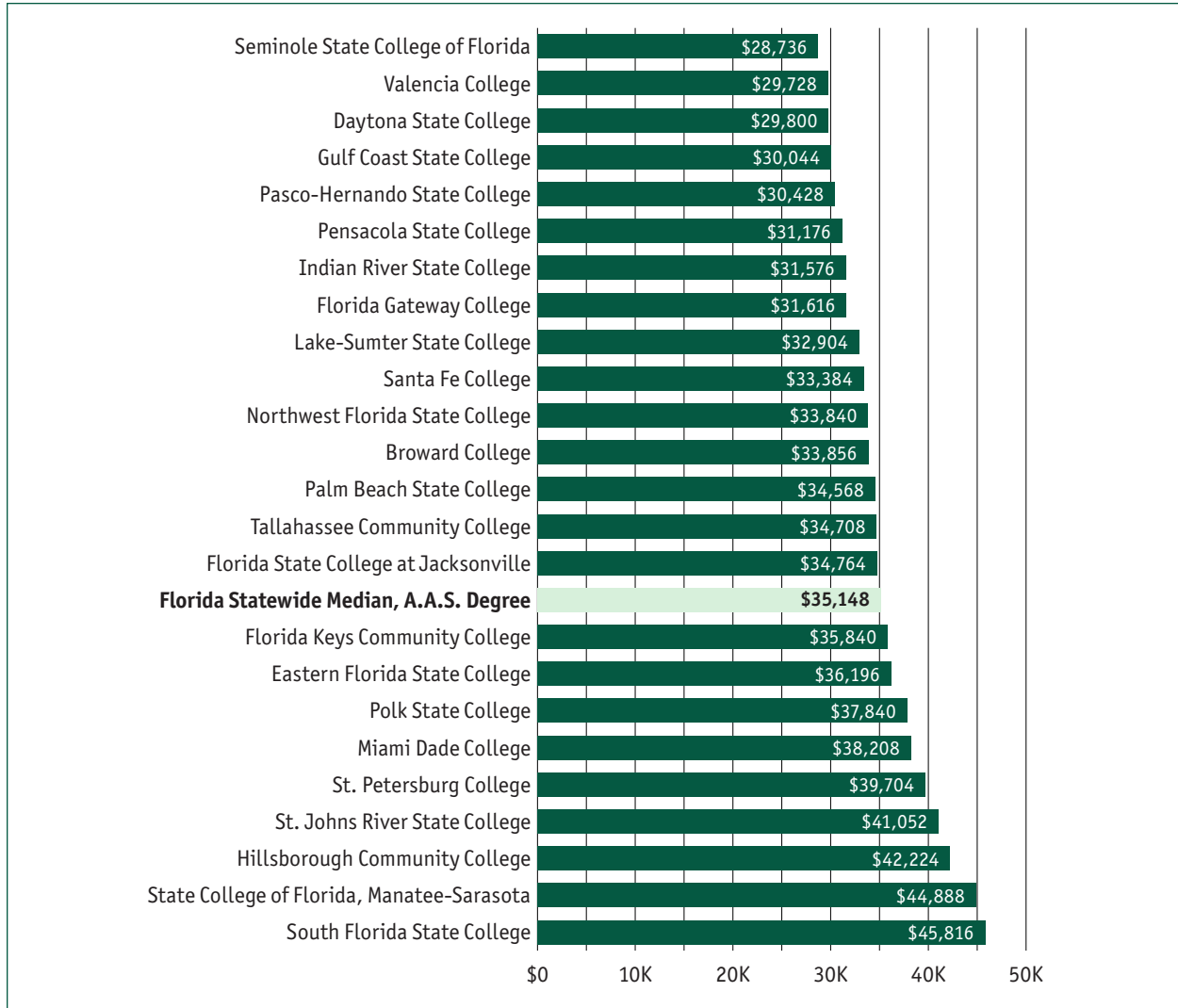


Table 2 shows employment outcomes for graduates with A.A.S degrees from FCS institutions. In four of the colleges (Northwest Florida State College, Pensacola State College, Florida Gateway College, and St. Petersburg College), fewer than 70% of graduates with A.A.S. degrees were employed, according to the employment database. At the high end of the scale, 94% of graduates from Florida Keys Community College and 89% of graduates from Seminole State College of Florida were employed. Of note, Northwest Florida State College, Pensacola State College, and Florida Gateway College are all located near other states, so some graduates from these colleges may be employed in those states that do not currently participate in WRIS2.

Table 2: Employment Outcomes for Graduates With A.A.S. Degrees, by College*

Institution	Number of Completers	Number Employed	Percent Employed
Northwest Florida State College	617	365	59%
Pensacola State College	1,243	825	66%
Florida Gateway College	18	12	67%
St. Petersburg College	19	13	68%
Pasco-Hernando State College	87	61	70%
Daytona State College	716	510	71%
Valencia College	201	146	73%
Lake-Sumter State College	143	104	73%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	385	283	74%
Gulf Coast State College	279	206	74%
Santa Fe College	211	156	74%
Indian River State College	626	465	74%
Tallahassee Community College	110	82	75%
Eastern Florida State College	169	126	75%
Palm Beach State College	266	200	75%
Broward College	851	674	79%
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	808	653	81%
Hillsborough Community College	570	466	82%
Polk State College	272	228	84%
Miami Dade College	154	130	84%
South Florida State College	251	219	87%
St. Johns River State College	33	29	88%
Seminole State College of Florida	66	59	89%
Florida Keys Community College	18	17	94%

* Only colleges with more than 10 completers or employed completers are included in this table.

Figure 8 shows a wide range in median first-year earnings among graduates with A.A.S. degrees in the most popular A.A.S. fields of study in the state. Median first-year earnings ranged from around \$24,400 (Restaurant, Culinary, and Catering Management/Manager) to \$51,000 (Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse). Median first-year earnings in other fields that exceeded the statewide median for A.A.S. degrees include Operations Management and Supervision; Medical Radiologic Technology/Science–Radiation Therapist; Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration; and Electrical, Electronic, and Communications Engineering Technology/Technician. In contrast and notably, graduates with A.A.S. degrees in Business Administration and Management, General had median first-year earnings below the Florida statewide median for graduates with A.A.S. degrees (Figures 8 and 9). This was also true for graduates with A.S. degrees (as shown in Figures 3 and 5).

Figure 8: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With A.A.S. Degrees, by Popular Areas of Study

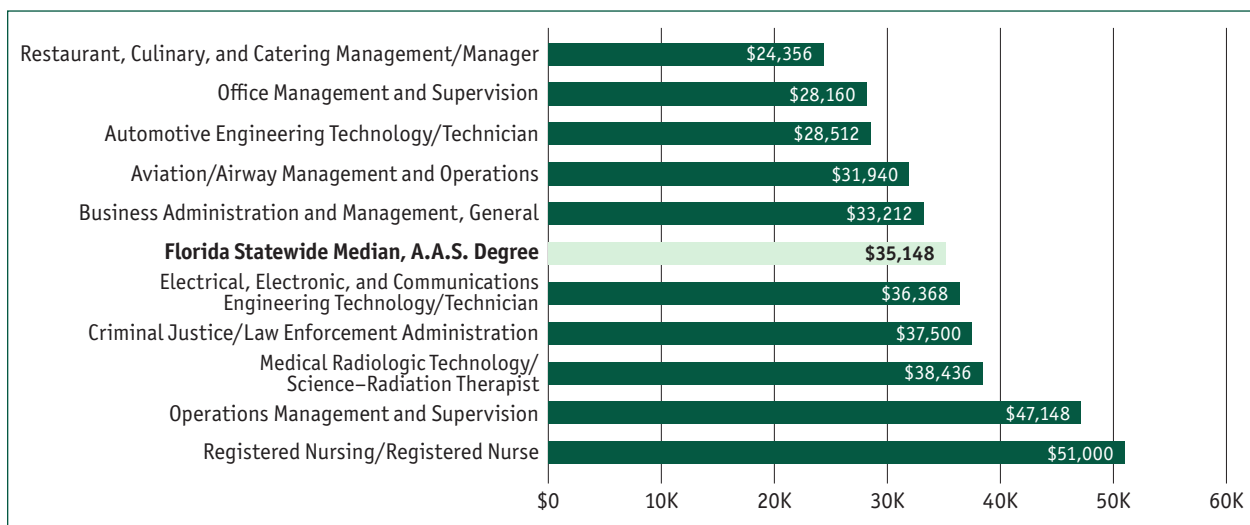
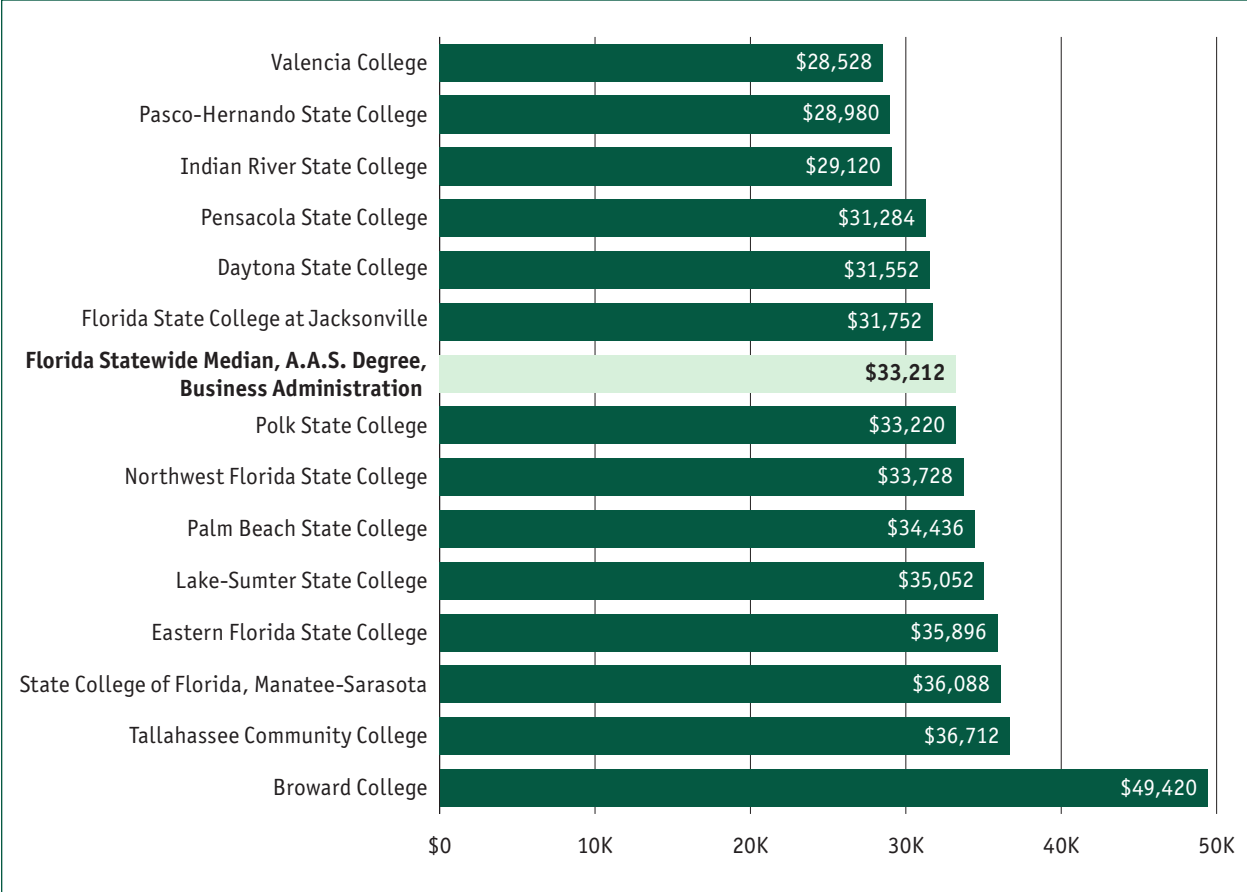


Figure 9 reports the range of median first-year earnings of graduates with A.A.S. degrees in Business Administration across the colleges that met reporting requirements. An earnings difference of more than \$20,000 separated Valencia College, whose graduates had the lowest median first-year earnings, from Broward College, whose graduates had the highest. The median first-year earnings of graduates with A.A.S. degrees in Business Administration from three colleges were less than \$30,000 (Indian River State College, Pasco-Hernando State College, and Valencia College). In contrast, graduates of Broward College had earnings of almost \$50,000, and for four other colleges (Tallahassee Community College, State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, Eastern Florida State College, and Lake-Sumter State College), median first-year earnings of graduates with A.A.S. degrees in Business Administration exceeded \$35,000.

Figure 9: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With A.A.S. Degrees in Business Administration, by College

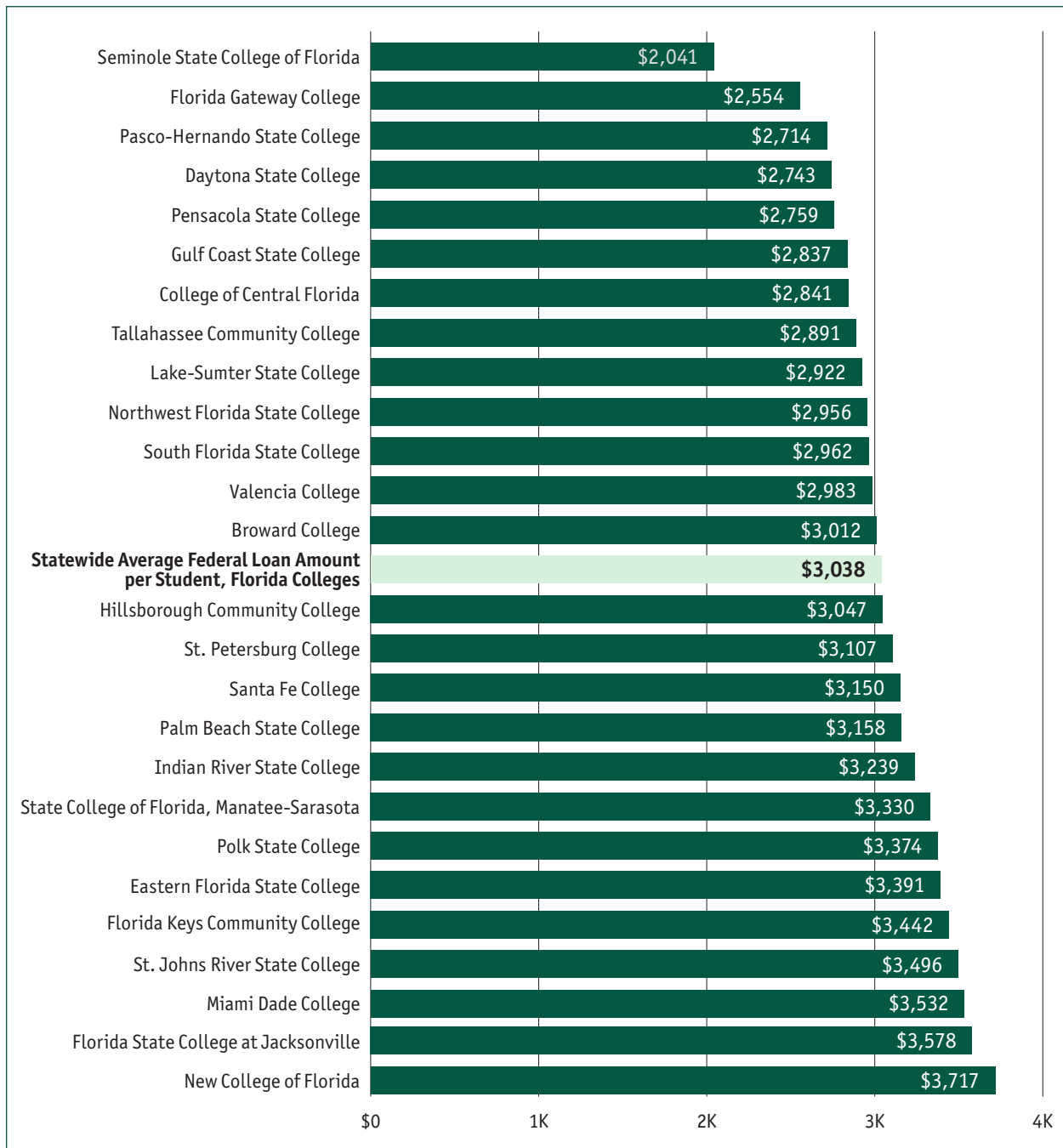


Debt Levels by College

The amount of student debt is a growing concern in Florida and across the nation. Compared with students who are pursuing bachelor's or advanced degrees, debt is not always as large a concern for those enrolled in shorter degree programs. Nonetheless, many students in colleges in Florida take out loans to help pay for their education. Figure 10 shows the average federal debt level per student in 2014–15 at each college in Florida. The range varies from around \$2,000 per student (Seminole State College of Florida) to more than \$3,500 per student (New College of Florida, Florida State College at Jacksonville, and Miami Dade College).

Each college self-reports data about debt to Florida's Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance. The data reflect the average federal student loan debt of all students (not just graduates) receiving federal loans in 2014–15. Data also include federal student loans from Stafford, Perkins, Graduate PLUS, Parent PLUS, and TEACH programs. The average student loan debt represents the total amount of student loans for 2014–15 at each college, divided by the number of students attending the college that academic year. The average does not include private loans or other debt issued by nonfederal government sources that students may have sought to help finance their education.

Figure 10: Average Federal Loan Amount per Student, by College, 2014–15



CAREER CERTIFICATES AND COLLEGE CREDIT CERTIFICATES

Large numbers of students enroll in Florida’s public postsecondary institutions to earn certificates or diplomas. Two of the most popular programs are career certificates and college credit certificates.⁶

This section highlights key patterns in all certificates awarded to more than 175,000 students during the five-year study period. Details about all programs, including those not analyzed in this report, are available at <http://www.launchmycareerFL.org>.

Career Certificates

Career certificate programs consist of a series of technical (non-college credit) courses that are designed to prepare students for entry-level employment in specific career fields (e.g., cosmetology, law enforcement, practical nursing). Institutions in the FCS and DTCs award these types of certificates. There are systemic differences in the fields in which these certificates are awarded, including type of school, median first-year earnings, and student outcomes.

As shown in Table 3, DTCs awarded more career certificates than Florida’s colleges (72,830 versus 47,618, respectively). However, students who completed certificates from FCS institutions were more successful at finding employment in the labor market. For example, 78% of completers of career certificates from FCS institutions found employment, compared with 70% of those from DTCs.⁷ In addition, the median first-year earnings were higher for completers from colleges (\$34,772) than the earnings of those with certificates from DTCs (\$28,024). This gap may be attributable to the mixture of programs offered by DTCs compared with those offered by FCS institutions. For example, FCS institutions enroll a much higher percentage of students in career certificate programs, such as Law Enforcement Officer, that traditionally have higher placement rates than other career certificate programs.

Table 3: Employment Outcomes of Completers With Career Certificates Awarded by FCS Institutions and District Technical Centers

Outcome	Career Certificate (FCS)	Career Certificate (DIST)
Median First-Year Earnings	\$34,772	\$28,024
Total Completers	47,618	72,830
Total Employed	36,910	50,799
Total Employed Percent	78%	70%

6 Additionally, more than 6,200 students completed apprenticeships during the five-year study period. Outcomes for different apprentice programs can be found on <http://www.launchmycareerFL.org>.

7 Part of this gap may be a function of the coverage of the UI wage data. For example, many of the occupations for which career certificates are awarded can lead to self-employment, which may not be captured in the UI data.

Career Certificates Awarded by District Technical Centers

Table 4 presents selected student outcomes for the most popular career certificate programs offered by DTCs. Median first-year earnings ranged from around \$21,000 (Patient Care Assistant) to more than \$36,000 (Practical Nursing).

Table 4: Employment Outcomes for Completers With Popular Career Certificates Awarded by District Technical Centers

Area of Study	Median First-Year Earnings	Number Employed	Percent Employed
Law Enforcement Officer	\$36,748	1,388	83%
Correctional Officer	\$36,292	1,059	87%
Commercial Vehicle Driving	\$35,368	1,541	69%
Practical Nursing*	\$33,799	7,098	82%
Firefighter	\$31,844	2,878	79%
Applied Welding Technologies	\$29,468	959	65%
Air Conditioning, Refrigeration, and Heating Technology	\$29,412	1,028	68%
Florida Statewide Median, Career Certificates, DTCs	\$28,024	50,799	70%
Electricity	\$26,072	802	69%
Child Care Center Operations	\$25,300	1,283	69%
Automotive Service Technology	\$24,496	1,606	64%
Phlebotomy	\$23,912	1,333	70%
Medical Assisting	\$23,036	1,159	74%
Commercial Foods and Culinary Arts	\$21,984	1,234	66%
Nursing Assistant (Long-Term Care)	\$21,728	1,274	69%
Nursing Assistant (Articulated)	\$21,604	1,280	68%
Patient Care Technician	\$21,508	1,277	67%
Cosmetology	\$21,368	1,841	58%
Patient Care Assistant	\$21,056	731	66%

* This is a weighted average between two Practical Nursing programs that are classified slightly differently across colleges in the state of Florida. One program is identified by the federal CIP code (51390100). The other program is identified by a Florida-specific program code (317060500).

Table 5 shows median first-year earnings and employment rates of completers of career certificates awarded by specific DTCs. Median first-year earnings varied widely across DTCs, from less than \$21,500 (South Dade Technical College and Sumter County Adult Education) to over \$35,000 (Fort Myers Technical College and George T. Baker Aviation Technical College).

Table 5: Employment Outcomes for Completers of Career Certificates, by District Technical Center

District Technical Center	Median First-Year Earnings	Number Employed	Percent Employed
South Dade Technical College	\$21,132	345	53%
Sumter County Adult Education	\$21,344	46	55%
D.A. Dorsey Technical College	\$22,208	135	67%
Wakulla County Adult and Community Education	\$22,264	70	65%
DeSoto County Adult Education Center	\$22,556	131	65%
Fred K. Marchman Technical College	\$22,968	302	62%
Technical Center for Career and Adult Education	\$23,108	675	65%
Orange Technical College–Westside Campus	\$23,380	901	65%
Brewster Technical College	\$24,016	559	67%
The English Center	\$24,240	478	54%
Aparicio-Levy Technical College	\$24,324	218	65%
Lively Technical Center	\$24,408	1,105	65%
Learey Technical College	\$24,532	771	72%
Cape Coral Technical College	\$25,328	762	73%
Lindsey Hopkins Technical College	\$25,460	1,112	62%
Tom P. Haney Technical Center	\$25,544	779	72%
Flagler Technical Institute	\$25,596	425	57%
Charlotte Technical College	\$25,756	742	74%
Radford M. Locklin Technical Center	\$26,040	302	59%
Orange Technical College–Orlando Campus	\$26,088	980	72%
Orange Technical College–Winter Park Campus	\$26,120	739	69%
Gadsden Technical Institute	\$26,392	64	67%
Traviss Technical College	\$27,012	1,060	74%
Ridge Technical College	\$27,028	1,400	74%
Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College	\$27,156	1,241	64%
Lorenzo Walker Technical College	\$27,348	1,254	76%
Marion Technical College	\$27,460	1,400	74%
Atlantic Technical College	\$27,508	1,848	68%
Riveroak Technical College	\$27,524	276	67%
Immokalee Technical College	\$27,912	435	69%
Manatee Technical College	\$27,912	2,283	75%

Table 5: Continued

District Technical Center	Median First-Year Earnings	Number Employed	Percent Employed
Pinellas Technical College–St. Petersburg Campus	\$27,996	1,921	72%
Florida Statewide Median, Career Certificates, DTCs	\$28,024	50,799	70%
Okaloosa Technical College and Choice High School	\$28,252	446	61%
Sheridan Technical College	\$28,464	3,313	64%
Technical Education Center of Osceola (TECO)	\$28,472	1,173	74%
Emerald Coast Technical College	\$28,552	276	73%
First Coast Technical College	\$28,708	1,788	72%
Lake Technical College	\$28,740	1,899	76%
William T. McFatter Technical College	\$28,796	2,452	69%
Erwin Technical College	\$28,800	1,908	73%
Withlacoochee Technical College	\$29,024	1,024	71%
Orange Technical College–Mid-Florida Campus	\$29,936	1,769	73%
Suncoast Technical College	\$30,008	1,328	77%
Pinellas Technical College–Clearwater Campus	\$30,112	1,507	69%
Florida Panhandle Technical College	\$30,976	1,012	67%
Big Bend Technical College	\$31,124	218	67%
George Stone Area Vocational Technical Center	\$31,304	1,165	69%
Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College	\$32,688	1,510	66%
Bradford-Union Technical Center	\$33,320	305	63%
Monroe County Adult and Community Education	\$34,636	17	49%
Fort Myers Technical College	\$35,388	2,475	80%
George T. Baker Aviation Technical College	\$36,924	517	78%

As noted previously, the gap in earnings could be driven in part by the labor market served by the different DTCs. The mix of program offerings will also affect overall earnings outcomes. DTCs that focus on higher-paying occupations and industries will have graduates with higher median first-year earnings than DTCs that graduate more students in lower earning occupations and professions.

Figure 11 shows the median first-year earnings of graduates with career certificates awarded by DTCs. Earnings outcomes varied considerably, ranging from \$21,132 (South Dade Technical College) to \$36,924 (George T. Baker Aviation Technical College).

Figure 12 shows the range of median first-year earnings of graduates from DTCs who completed a career certificate in Practical Nursing, compared with the overall median first-year earnings of completers among all career certificates awarded by that DTC. With the exception of Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College, the median first-year earnings for graduates with a career certificate in Practical Nursing exceeded the overall median first-year earnings among all completers from that DTC.

Figure 11: Median First-Year Earnings of Completers With Career Certificates, by District Technical Center

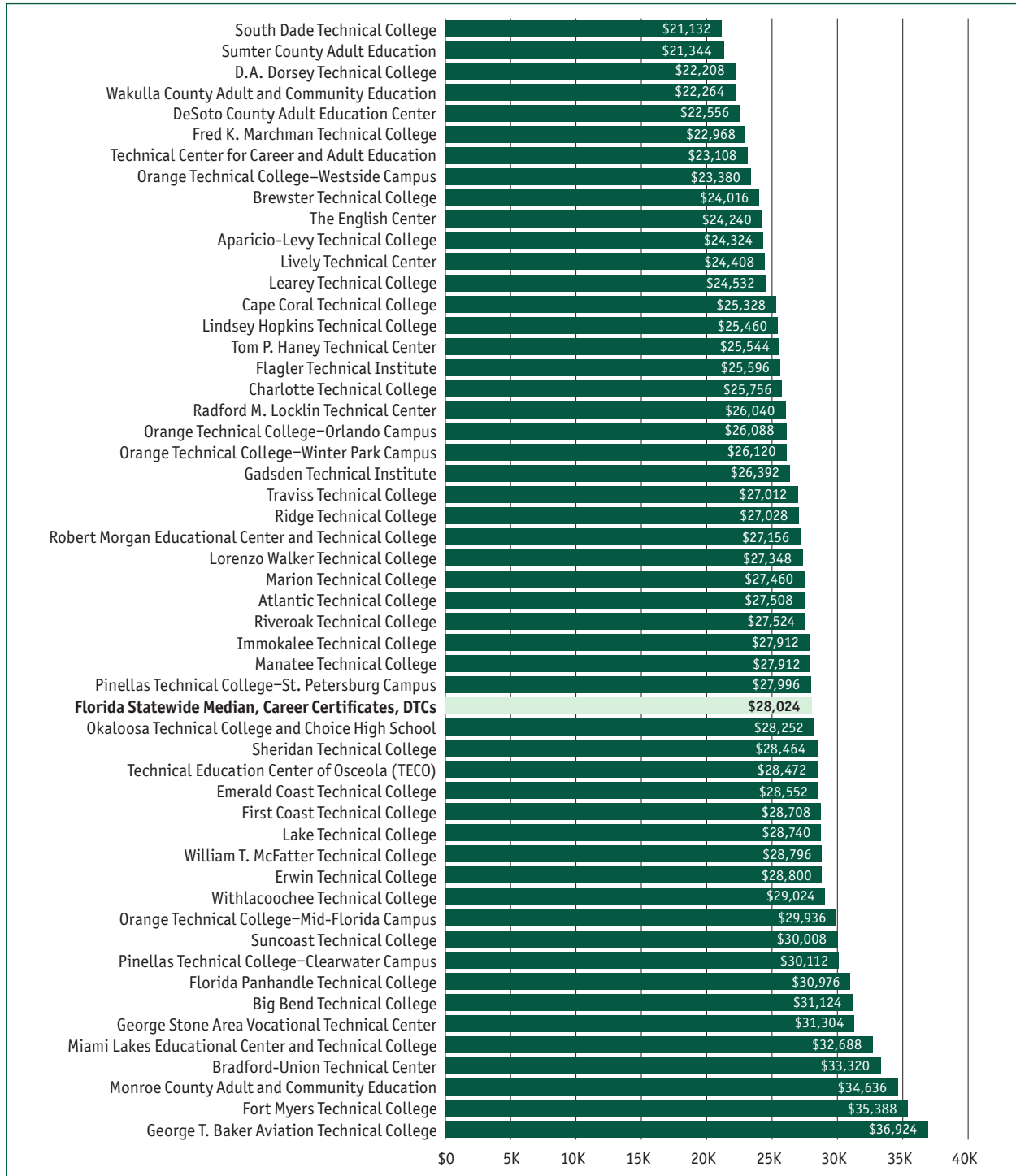
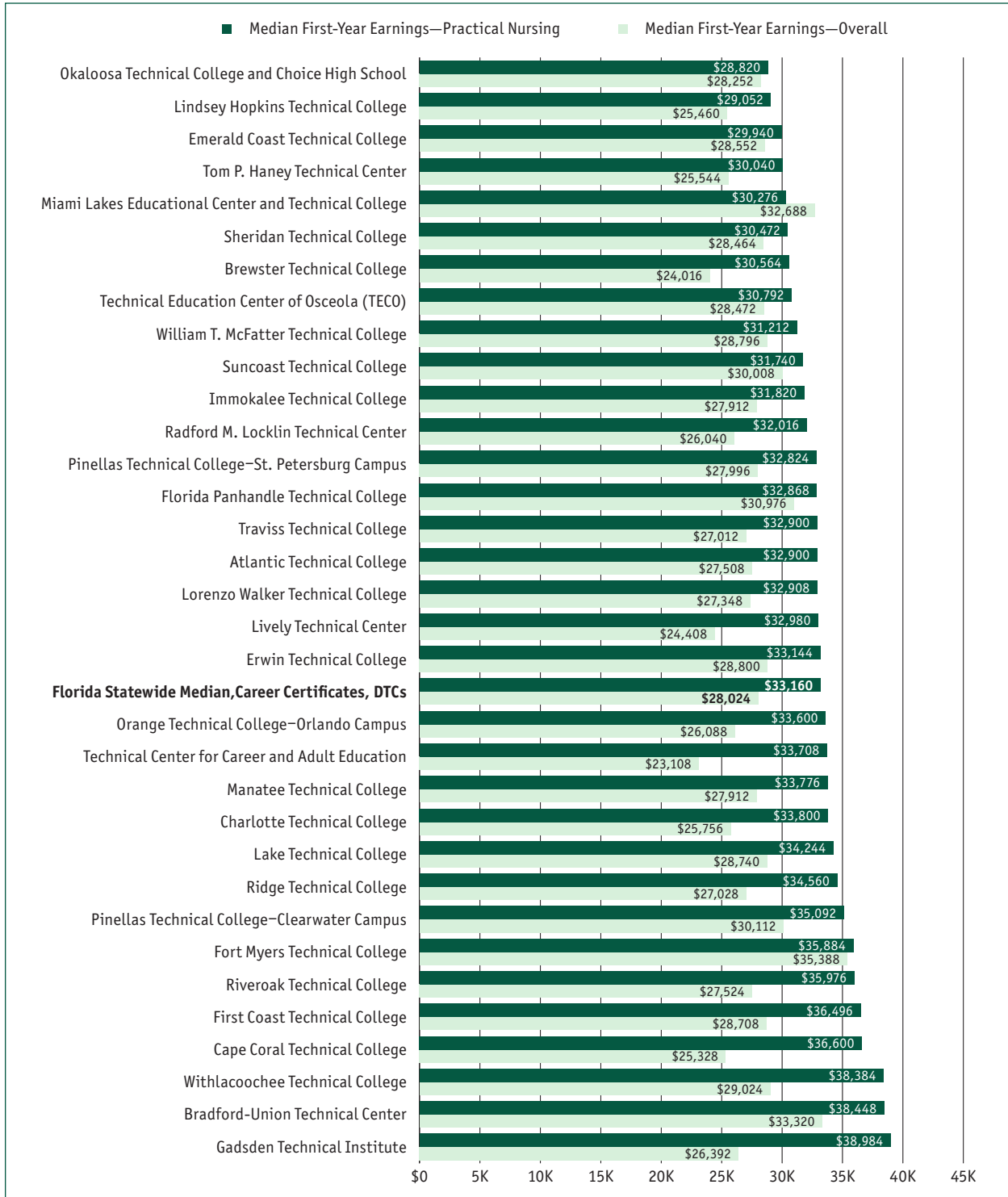


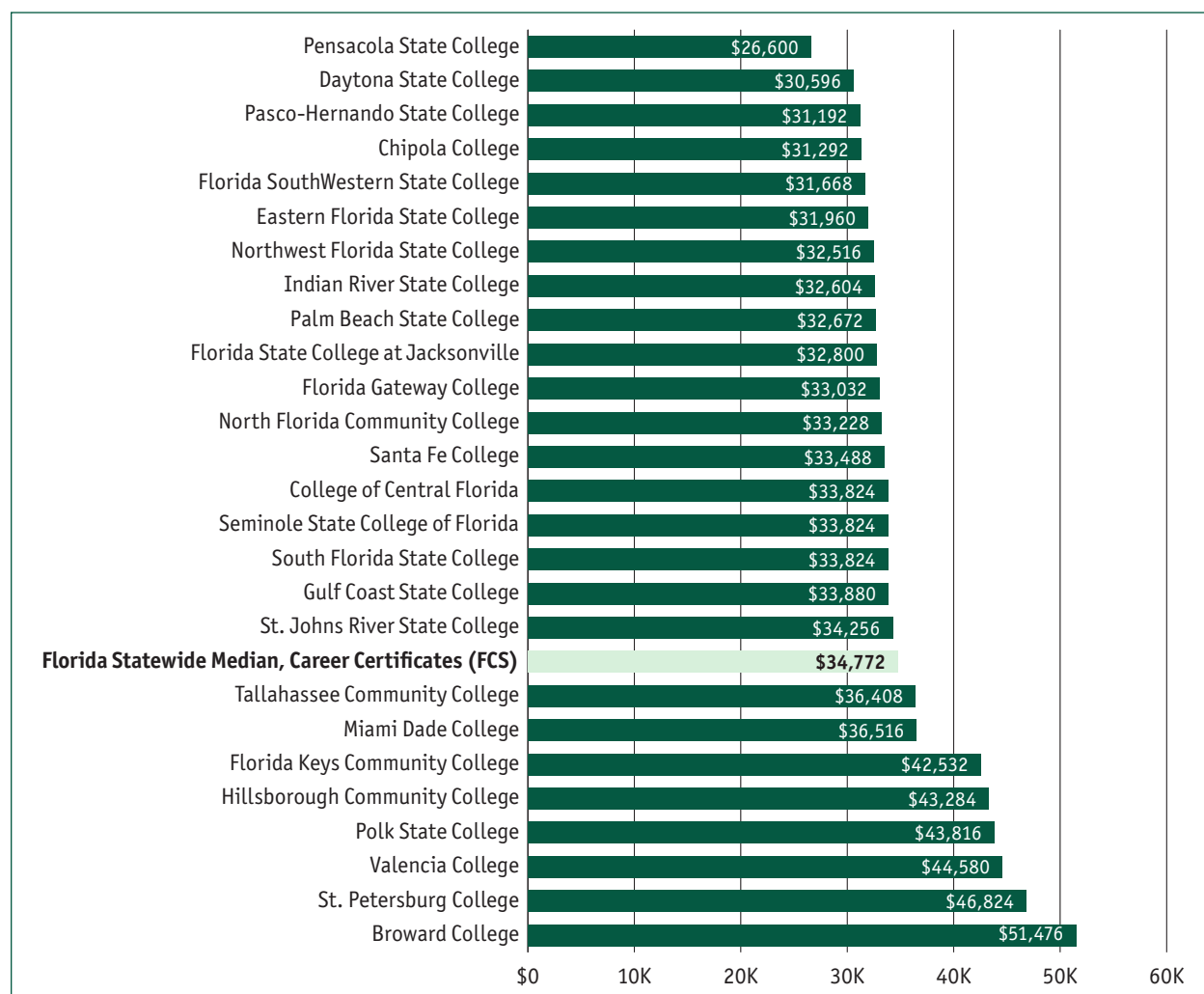
Figure 12: Median First-Year Earnings of Completers With Career Certificates Overall and Those With Career Certificates in Practical Nursing, by District Technical Center



Career Certificates Awarded by the Florida College System

Colleges in Florida also award career certificates, but not as many as awarded by DTCs. Colleges in Florida also produce career certificates in somewhat different areas than DTCs. As noted in Figure 13, the statewide median first-year earnings of completers with career certificates from FCS institutions were more than \$34,700. Only completers of career certificates from Pensacola State College had median first-year earnings of less than \$30,000. At the other end of the distribution, completers from six colleges (Florida Keys Community College, Hillsborough Community College, Polk State College, Valencia College, St. Petersburg College, and Broward College) had median first-year earnings of more than \$42,000. Of those, the median first-year earnings of completers from Broward College exceeded \$51,000. This broad range again shows why detailed program-level analysis is essential.

Figure 13: Median First-Year Earnings of Completers With Career Certificates, by College



College Credit Certificates

College credit certificate programs are a series of college credit courses (typically less than 60 credits) that prepare students for entry-level employment in specific career fields or for career advancement. The length of these programs varies, but generally they can be completed in one year or less, and they are part of an A.S. degree or an A.A.S. degree program. Programs are available in a wide range of vocations, from Information Technology Technician to Computer Programming. Florida's colleges awarded more than 55,000 college credit certificates during the five-year study period.

With statewide median first-year earnings around \$32,000, completers with college credit certificates had, on average, higher median first-year earnings than graduates with A.A. degrees and those who completed career certificates from DTCs. Completors from St. Johns River State College had the lowest median earnings, just over \$28,000. In contrast, completors with college credit certificates from South Florida State College, North Florida Community College, and Chipola College had median first-year earnings that exceeded \$41,000.

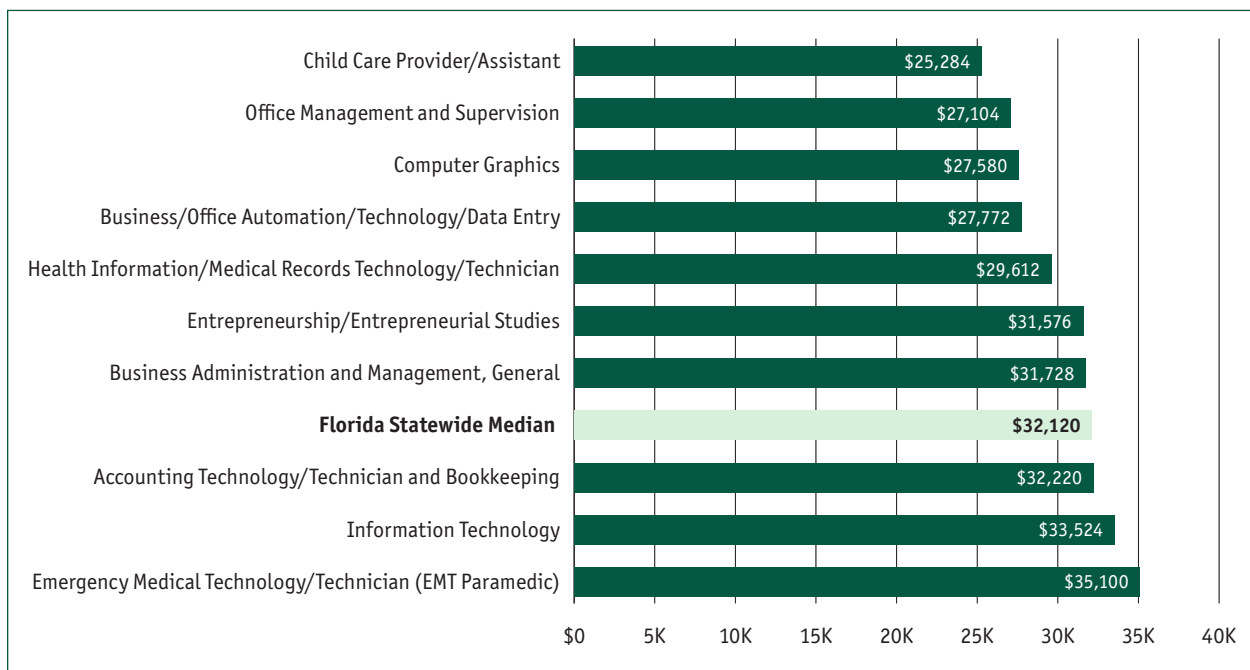
Table 6 shows that the percentage of completors found employed in the state also varies widely, ranging from 61% of completors from Eastern Florida State College to 84% from Chipola College.

Table 6: Employment Outcomes for Completers With College Credit Certificates, by College

College	Number of Completers	Median First-Year Earnings	Number Employed	Percent Employed
Eastern Florida State College	2,120	\$30,308	1,303	61%
St. Johns River State College	420	\$28,292	267	64%
Daytona State College	2,175	\$30,708	1,407	65%
Pensacola State College	686	\$29,124	449	65%
Northwest Florida State College	683	\$30,016	471	69%
Florida Gateway College	330	\$31,224	230	70%
Florida Keys Community College	97	\$30,240	68	70%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	3,644	\$32,816	2,562	70%
Seminole State College of Florida	6,821	\$31,756	4,887	72%
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	110	\$32,088	79	72%
Indian River State College	1,509	\$30,728	1,089	72%
Miami Dade College	5,064	\$31,744	3,672	73%
Florida Statewide Median, College Credit Certificate	55,205	\$32,120	40,052	73%
Valencia College	12,089	\$29,740	8,788	73%
Polk State College	469	\$28,648	341	73%
Lake-Sumter State College	150	\$32,388	110	73%
Santa Fe College	1,029	\$33,692	763	74%
Broward College	5,597	\$34,332	4,180	75%
College of Central Florida	1,428	\$32,816	1,070	75%
Tallahassee Community College	352	\$38,508	265	75%
Palm Beach State College	2,210	\$30,760	1,664	75%
Pasco-Hernando State College	472	\$37,336	359	76%
St. Petersburg College	1,979	\$39,676	1,508	76%
Hillsborough Community College	3,864	\$33,720	2,964	77%
Gulf Coast State College	321	\$34,092	252	79%
North Florida Community College	195	\$42,976	156	80%
Florida SouthWestern State College	1,147	\$33,348	945	82%
South Florida State College	140	\$43,508	116	83%
Chipola College	118	\$41,180	99	84%

Figure 14 identifies the median first-year earnings of completers with the most popular college credit certificates. Completers of college credit certificates in Child Care Provider/Assistant had the lowest median first-year earnings (\$25,284), followed by Office Management and Supervision (\$27,104). At the high end of the scale, completers of college credit certificates in Emergency Medical Technology/Technician (EMT Paramedic) had median first-year earnings around \$35,000, followed by Information Technology (\$33,524).

Figure 14: Median First-Year Earnings of Completers With College Credit Certificates in Popular Programs



LEVELS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Higher education is often viewed as one of the most productive forms of human capital investment that individuals and taxpayers make. Up to this point, this report has focused primarily on earnings that are associated with the completion of the most common degrees and certificates awarded in Florida. This section examines public assistance⁸—another indicator of the financial well-being of students who complete different programs.

Table 7 reports the percentage of completers found in the wage database receiving public assistance. Of note, the levels reported are not adjusted for differences in the skill level or income level of students who enrolled in these different programs—that is, these outcome measures are unadjusted for such factors known to affect student success.

The range in the percentage of completers receiving public assistance is large, usually falling substantially with more advanced credentials.

Twenty-three percent of students with career certificates from DTCs received public assistance, which is far higher than the percentage of students earning the same credential at Florida colleges. Similarly, the percentage of students completing apprenticeships at DTCs and receiving public assistance was higher than that of students who completed apprenticeships at Florida colleges.

8 For purposes of this report, public assistance includes a unique count of graduates and completers who received support or services from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and/or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Table 7: Level of Public Assistance, by Credential

Credential	Number of Completers	Number Who Received Public Assistance	Percent Public Assistance
Career Certificate (DTC)	72,830	16,789	23%
Apprenticeship (DTC)	5,004	723	14%
Applied Technology Diploma (DTC)	3,575	473	13%
Career Certificate (FCS)	47,618	6,141	13%
College Credit Certificate	55,205	6,288	11%
Associate in Applied Science Degree	8,122	878	11%
Apprenticeship (FCS)	1,233	110	9%
Associate in Arts Degree	279,194	23,966	9%
Applied Technology Diploma (FCS)	7,685	636	8%
Associate in Science Degree	64,537	5,244	8%
Bachelor's Degree (FCS)	24,203	1,735	7%
Certificate of Professional Preparation	201	11	5%
Advanced Technical Certificate	617	32	5%
Bachelor's Degree (SUS)	282,857	11,899	4%
Educator Preparation Institute Certificate	4,742	179	4%
Law, LLB or JD	4,724	131	3%
Master's Degree	80,937	1,384	2%
Pharmacy	2,858	47	2%
Specialist	1,268	19	2%
Doctorate Degree	12,138	65	1%

Completers With Career Certificates Who Received Public Assistance

Table 8 shows the percentage of completers of career certificates who received public assistance by DTC. More than 30% of graduates and completers from these DTCs received public assistance: South Dade Technical College, D.A. Dorsey Technical College, Sumter County Adult Education, Gadsden Technical Institute, Brewster Technical College, Wakulla County Adult and Community Education, Lindsey Hopkins Technical College, Riveroak Technical College, DeSoto County Adult Education Center, Lively Technical Center, Immokalee Technical College, The English Center, and Aparicio-Levy Technical College. Of these, more than 40% of completers from five (South Dade Technical College, D.A. Dorsey Technical College, Sumter County Adult Education, Gadsden Technical Institute, and Brewster Technical College) received public assistance.

Table 8: Completers With Career Certificates Who Received Public Assistance, by District Technical Center

District Technical Center	Number of Completers	Number Who Received Public Assistance	Percent Public Assistance
South Dade Technical College	645	320	50%
D.A. Dorsey Technical College	201	94	47%
Sumter County Adult Education	84	39	46%
Gadsden Technical Institute	95	44	46%
Brewster Technical College	840	366	44%
Wakulla County Adult and Community Education	107	41	38%
Lindsey Hopkins Technical College	1,806	640	35%
Riveroak Technical College	414	145	35%
DeSoto County Adult Education Center	203	69	34%
Lively Technical Center	1,704	566	33%
Immokalee Technical College	634	208	33%
The English Center	885	271	31%
Aparicio-Levy Technical College	338	102	30%
Big Bend Technical College	324	92	28%
Traviss Technical College	1,439	395	27%
Bradford-Union Technical Center	484	131	27%
Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College	2,303	619	27%
Learey Technical College	1,073	288	27%
Technical Center for Career and Adult Education	1,035	273	26%
Ridge Technical College	1,904	493	26%
Erwin Technical College	2,605	668	26%
Cape Coral Technical College	1,045	267	26%
Fred K. Marchman Technical College	489	123	25%
Orange Technical College–Westside Campus	1,388	345	25%
Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College	1,944	483	25%
Withlacoochee Technical College	1,445	352	24%
Pinellas Technical College–St. Petersburg Campus	2,675	650	24%
Florida Panhandle Technical College	1,504	362	24%
George Stone Area Vocational Technical Center	1,687	405	24%
Flagler Technical Institute	744	176	24%
Radford M. Locklin Technical Center	512	118	23%
Emerald Coast Technical College	378	87	23%
Tom P. Haney Technical Center	1,083	248	23%
Marion Technical College	1,891	429	23%
Sheridan Technical College	5,194	1,156	22%
Orange Technical College–Winter Park Campus	1,069	238	22%

Table 8: Continued

District Technical Center	Number of Completers	Number Who Received Public Assistance	Percent Public Assistance
Technical Education Center of Osceola (TECO)	1,582	341	22%
Charlotte Technical College	1,007	216	21%
Orange Technical College–Orlando Campus	1,357	280	21%
Manatee Technical College	3,052	629	21%
Atlantic Technical College	2,710	528	19%
Okaloosa Technical College and Choice High School	727	138	19%
Pinellas Technical College–Clearwater Campus	2,178	408	19%
Lake Technical College	2,502	467	19%
First Coast Technical College	2,476	462	19%
Orange Technical College–Mid-Florida Campus	2,428	421	17%
Lorenzo Walker Technical College	1,651	284	17%
Fort Myers Technical College	3,106	522	17%
William T. McFatter Technical College	3,545	523	15%
Suncoast Technical College	1,734	214	12%
George T. Baker Aviation Technical College	666	61	9%

The percentage of graduates and completers of career certificates who received public assistance varied widely across Florida’s colleges (Table 9). Twenty-three percent of completers from Florida Gateway College received public assistance. Additionally, 10% or more of completers from 17 other colleges received public assistance. In contrast, fewer than 5% of completers from two colleges (St. Petersburg College and Valencia College) received public assistance.

Table 9: Completers With Career Certificates Who Received Public Assistance, by College

College	Number of Completers	Number Who Received Public Assistance	Percent Public Assistance
Florida Gateway College	994	227	23%
North Florida Community College	472	102	22%
Pensacola State College	1,577	315	20%
South Florida State College	1,264	238	19%
College of Central Florida	1,142	196	17%
Daytona State College	3,287	546	17%
Chipola College	630	104	17%
Pasco-Hernando State College	1,911	281	15%
Indian River State College	3,034	445	15%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	6,967	1,012	15%
Eastern Florida State College	2,809	392	14%
Seminole State College of Florida	2,004	247	12%
Miami Dade College	3,695	433	12%
Palm Beach State College	5,447	635	12%
Gulf Coast State College	953	110	12%
Hillsborough Community College	2,614	295	11%
St. Johns River State College	814	90	11%
Santa Fe College	1,229	120	10%
Northwest Florida State College	576	47	8%
Tallahassee Community College	1,792	118	7%
Broward College	1,313	79	6%
Polk State College	595	27	5%
Valencia College	1,288	55	4%
St. Petersburg College	907	23	3%
Florida Keys Community College	178	—*	—*
Florida SouthWestern State College	140	—*	—*

* Fewer than 10 students received public assistance.

Completers With College Credit Certificates Who Received Public Assistance

The percentage of graduates and completers of college credit certificates who received public assistance varied considerably. As shown in Table 10, more than 10% of graduates and completers from 17 colleges received public assistance.

Table 10: Graduates and Completers With College Credit Certificates Who Received Public Assistance, by College

College	Number of Completers	Number Who Received Public Assistance	Percent Public Assistance
St. Johns River State College	420	84	20%
Daytona State College	2,175	399	18%
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	110	19	17%
College of Central Florida	1,428	243	17%
Indian River State College	1,509	241	16%
Pasco-Hernando State College	472	74	16%
Polk State College	469	69	15%
Pensacola State College	686	95	14%
Lake-Sumter State College	150	18	12%
Eastern Florida State College	2,120	254	12%
Florida Gateway College	330	39	12%
Miami Dade College	5,064	596	12%
Valencia College	12,089	1,399	12%
Gulf Coast State College	321	37	12%
Tallahassee Community College	352	40	11%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	3,644	408	11%
Seminole State College of Florida	6,821	758	11%
Hillsborough Community College	3,864	375	10%
Palm Beach State College	2,210	213	10%
Chipola College	118	11	9%
South Florida State College	140	13	9%
Santa Fe College	1,029	91	9%
Broward College	5,597	484	9%
St. Petersburg College	1,979	169	9%
North Florida Community College	195	15	8%
Florida SouthWestern State College	1,147	88	8%
Northwest Florida State College	683	52	8%
Florida Keys Community College	97	—*	—*

* Fewer than 10 students received public assistance.

DEGREES AND FIRST-YEAR EARNINGS AMONG GRADUATES FROM FLORIDA'S UNIVERSITIES

Figure 15 displays median first-year earnings of graduates with academic degrees (bachelor's, master's, specialist, and doctorate), and Figure 16 shows median first-year earnings of graduates with professional degrees⁹ awarded by Florida's universities. The three most common professional degrees are awarded in the fields of law, medicine, and pharmacy.

Figure 15 shows that earnings increase with every level of academic degree. For example, around \$15,000 separated the median first-year earnings of graduates with doctorate degrees from those with master's degrees. Similarly, around \$15,000 separated the median first-year earnings of graduates with master's degrees from those with bachelor's degrees from Florida's universities.

In addition to these well-known academic degrees, Florida offers several specialist degree programs that are designed for individuals who want to develop advanced knowledge and skills beyond the master's degree but who do not want to pursue a doctorate. Median first-year earnings of graduates with specialist degrees fell closer to the earnings of those with master's graduates than they did to the earnings of graduates with doctorate degrees. More information about the earnings associated with these degrees is presented later in this report.

Figure 16 shows the median first-year earnings of graduates with professional degrees. Law school graduates, after passing the bar exam, are fully licensed to practice law. Median first-year earnings (\$46,748) of law school graduates are about \$3,300 less than the median first-year earnings of all graduates with master's degrees in the state. The median first-year earnings of graduates with medical degrees are higher, at \$51,792. However, medical school graduates are not fully licensed as physicians until they complete their internship requirements. Because of these factors, graduates of other professional programs tend to earn far more than medical school graduates during their early years of employment.

⁹ These are post-baccalaureate programs of study that are designed to provide the training necessary for completers to enter into a profession.

Figure 15: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Academic Degrees From Universities, by Degree

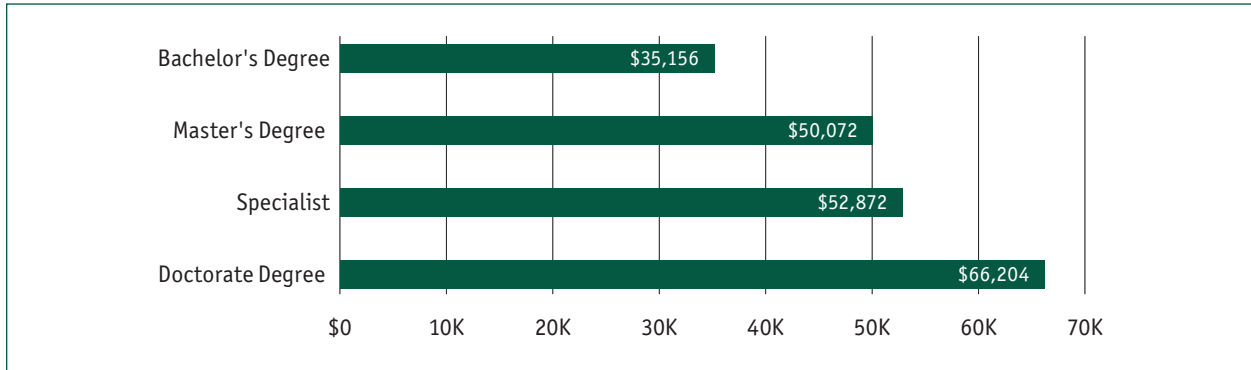
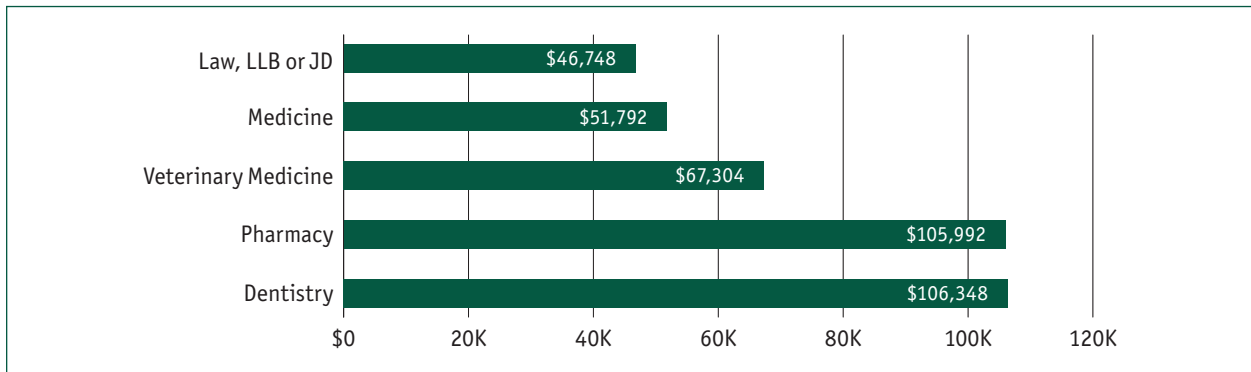


Figure 16: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Professional Degrees From Universities, by Degree



First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Bachelor's Degrees

The bachelor's degree is the most common degree awarded in the United States. Historically, a bachelor's degree has been a good investment. According to data from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, graduates with bachelor's degrees nationwide earn on average approximately 65% per year more than high school graduates, and graduates with bachelor's degrees are far less likely to be unemployed.¹⁰

However, these national data mask differences in the labor market outcomes of graduates with bachelor's degrees. As is evident in the figures in this section, the return on investment among graduates from universities varies widely by institution and by major. In short, graduates do not earn just a bachelor's degree; they earn a degree from a specific college or university and in a specific program. These choices have consequences for graduates when they enter the labor market. The data in this report and on the College Measures Launch My Career website enable readers to delve deeper into this variation.

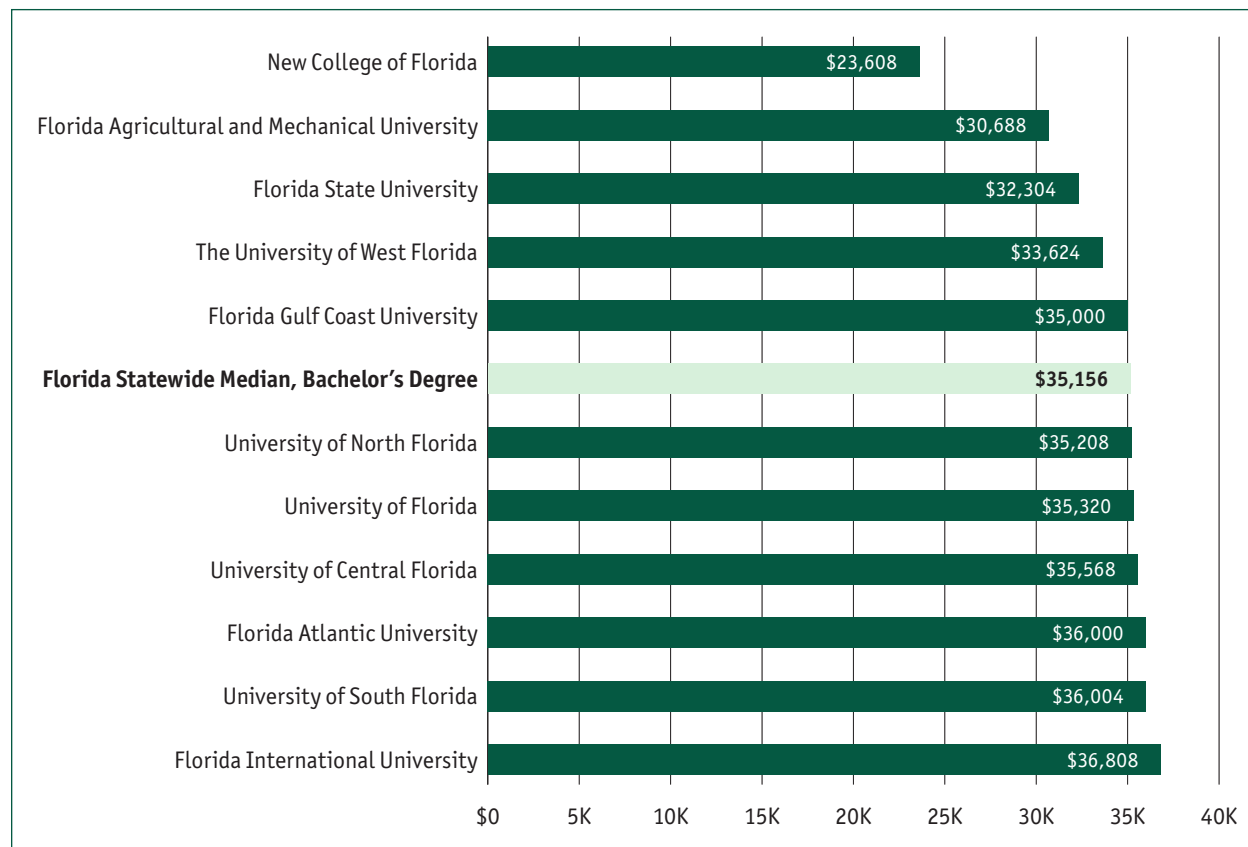
Variation by University

Figure 17 shows the median first-year earnings of graduates with bachelor's degrees by university.¹¹ Median first-year earnings of such graduates varied substantially, ranging from \$23,608 (New College of Florida) to more than \$35,200 (Florida International University, University of South Florida, Florida Atlantic University, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, and University of North Florida). Of note, universities serve different economic areas of the state, and both Florida Atlantic and Florida International universities are located in one of the highest earnings areas in Florida.

¹⁰ http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm

¹¹ Data for Florida Polytechnic University are not included in this report, because the university was established by law in 2012. Data for New College of Florida are not included in several tables in this report because it does not use the same classification of instructional programs as other public universities in the state that allow their data to be reported at the program level.

Figure 17: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Bachelor’s Degrees, by University



After New College of Florida, the next four universities with graduates having the lowest median first-year earnings included one of the state’s two flagship institutions: Florida State University. One possible reason for the lower median first-year earnings of graduates of this university is that more of their graduates are likely pursuing further studies. Statewide, 65.4% of graduates with bachelor’s degrees were matched with wage data. The match rate, however, was only 57.5% for graduates of Florida State University. However, almost 6,900 graduates of Florida State University have been identified as pursuing further studies. These data suggest that the flagship universities in the state’s system of higher education play a broader role than regional campuses, whose graduates are more likely to enter the state’s labor market directly after graduation.

Of note, the median first-year earnings of graduates from five schools (Florida Atlantic University, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of North Florida, and Florida Gulf Coast University) were within \$1,000 of each other, suggesting that there are many university pathways into the labor market that are roughly valued at the same level by employers.

Variation by Fields of Study

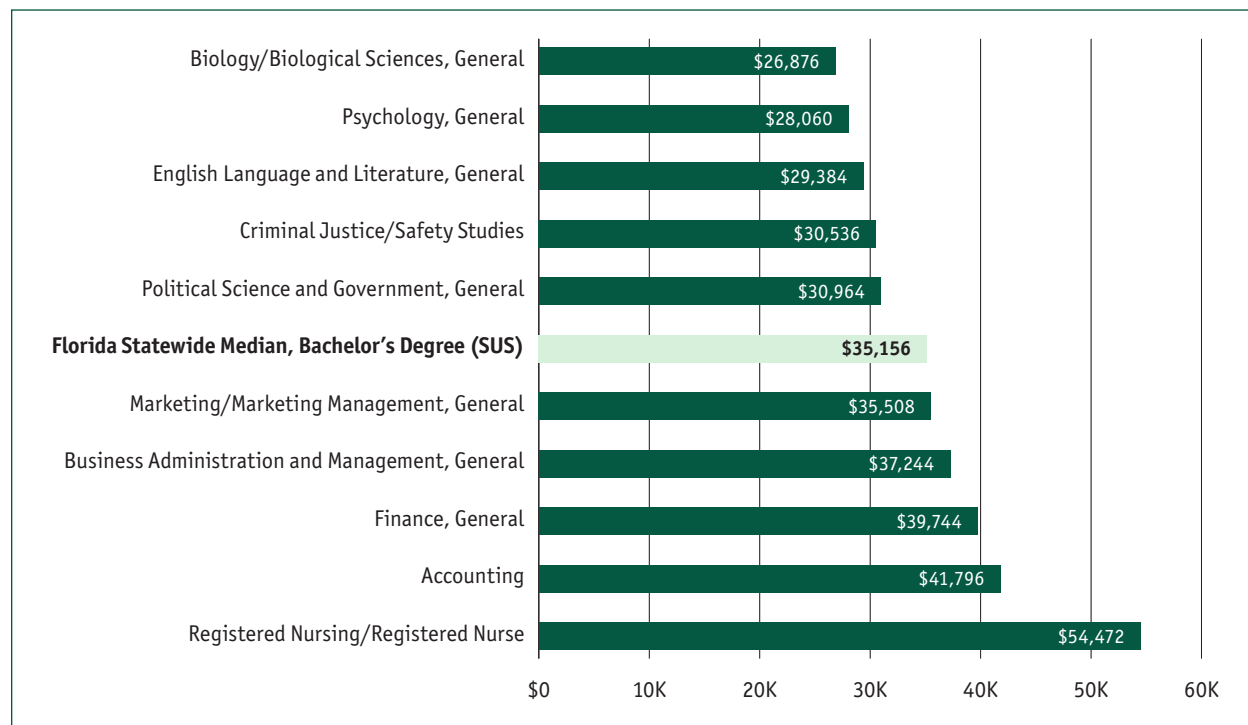
Figure 18 displays the median first-year earnings of graduates from the most popular fields of study in Florida. The median first-year earnings varied considerably between the lowest and highest paying fields. Graduates with degrees in Biology/Biological Sciences General had the lowest first-year earnings, around \$8,000 less than the statewide median.¹² Graduates with degrees in four other fields (Psychology, General; English Language and Literature, General; Criminal Justice/Safety Studies; and Political Science and Government, General) also fell at the bottom of the earnings distribution.

Graduates who majored in business-related fields (Business Administration and Management, General; Finance, General; and Accounting) were among the highest first-year earners. Graduates with degrees in Accounting were the highest paid among these popular programs. However, graduates with degrees in Marketing/Marketing Management, General another business-related field, had first-year earnings barely above the statewide median.

Graduates with degrees in Registered Nursing had average first-year earnings that were over \$19,000 higher than the statewide median, which places them among the highest paid graduates in the state.

12 Graduates with degrees in Biology had low median first-year earnings, but they often experienced high rates of growth in earnings. Several years after graduation, the average earnings of graduates with degrees in Biology are often higher than the earnings of graduates in other fields who may have earned more immediately after graduation.

Figure 18: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates From Popular Bachelor’s Degree Programs, by Program



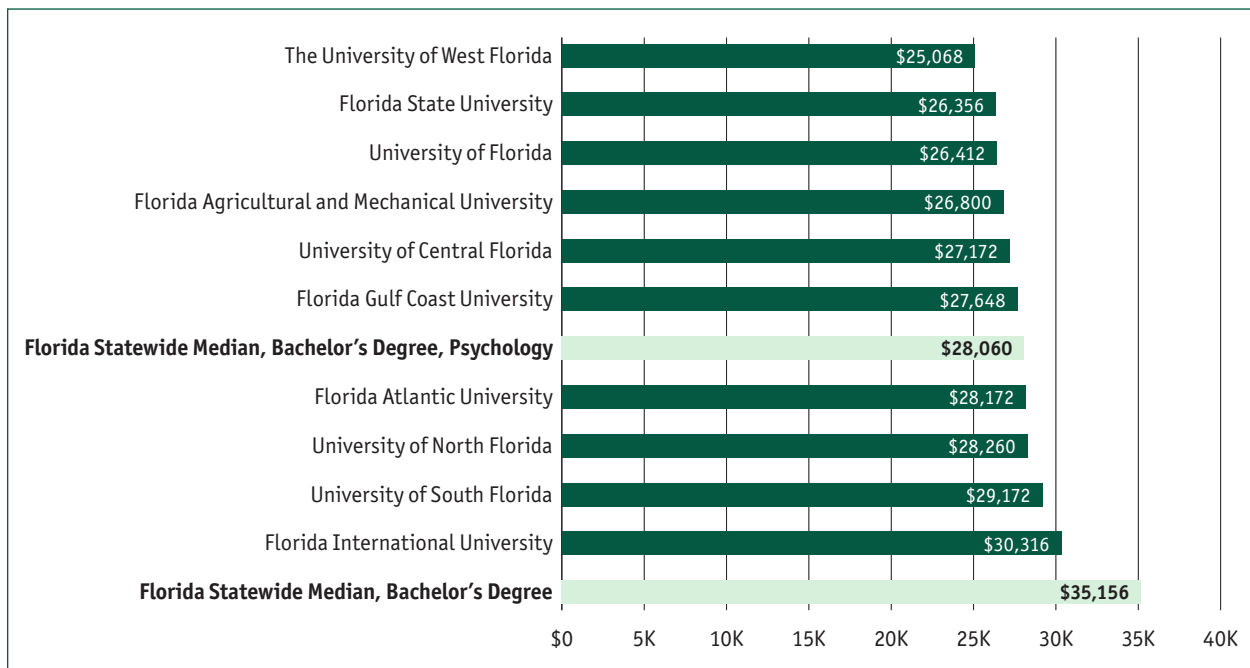
Variation Across Fields of Study in Different Universities

The median first-year earnings in the same fields varied substantially across universities. Figures 19–21 show the earnings of graduates from two of the most popular undergraduate programs in the state, Psychology and Business, plus data on the earnings of graduates in two important STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields: Biology and Mathematics.

These figures display the median first-year earnings for each area of study and the statewide median first-year earnings for all bachelor’s degrees. This allows a comparison of the relative performance of each area of study and offers a sense of how well graduates from that area of study fare in the labor market relative to all graduates with bachelor’s degrees from state universities. Again, differences in the size and strength of regional economies across the state affect some of the outcomes.

Psychology is the most popular major on many campuses. The median first-year earnings of graduates with bachelor’s degrees in Psychology were lower than the statewide median for all recipients of bachelor’s degrees (Figure 19). More than \$5,200 separated the lowest median first-year earnings of graduates with bachelor’s degrees in Psychology (The University of West Florida) from the highest median first-year earnings (Florida International University).¹³

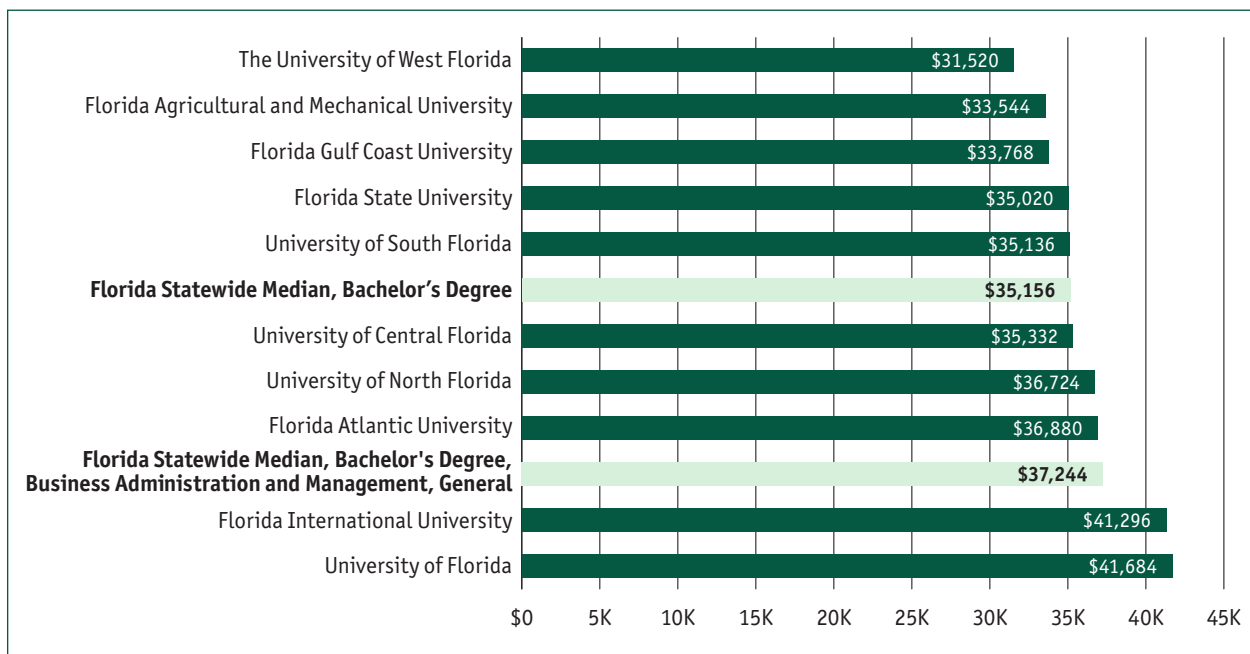
Figure 19: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Bachelor’s Degrees in Psychology, by University



13 When considering the wage data from the state’s flagship universities, remember that many of their graduates may pursue additional advanced training or seek work out of state in an area not covered by WRIS2.

Graduates with degrees in Business Administration and Management tended to earn more than the relatively low first-year earnings of graduates with degrees in Psychology. In fact, the median first-year earnings of graduates of business-related programs statewide were higher (by approximately \$2,000) than the statewide median for all bachelor's degrees (Figure 20). That said, median first-year earnings of graduates with the same degree varied by university, as approximately \$10,000 separated the median first-year earnings of graduates from The University of West Florida with those from University of Florida. The earnings range among graduates with bachelor's degrees in Business was far greater than that of graduates with degrees in Psychology.

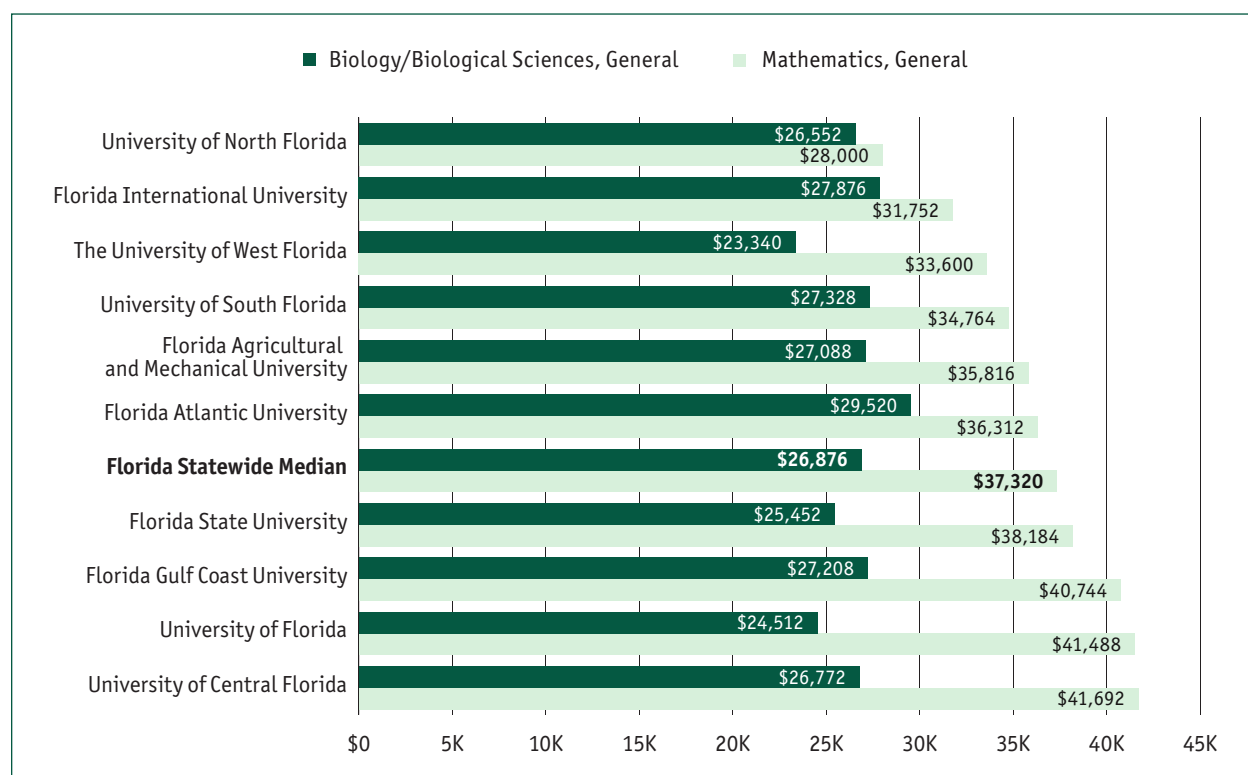
Figure 20: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Bachelor's Degrees in Business Administration and Management, by University



Like most states, Florida is interested in increasing the number of graduates with degrees in the STEM fields. Note in Figure 21, that the median first-year earnings of graduates with degrees in Biology were lower than those of graduates with degrees in Mathematics from the same university. In the case of the University of North Florida, the difference is small, but the difference in earnings between the two majors is more than \$10,000 for graduates from several other universities. Based on median first-year earnings, the labor market clearly rewards recent graduates with degrees in Mathematics more so than most graduates with other degrees, including Biology.

Remember, these patterns reflect earnings of graduates in their first year after graduation. Patterns may change over time. Data for longer term outcomes are available at the Launch My Career website: <http://www.launchmycareerFL.org>.

Figure 21: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Bachelor’s Degrees in Biology or Mathematics, by University



Enrollment Patterns in Continuing Education of Students With Bachelor’s Degrees

As is the case nationwide, the bachelor’s degree is the highest degree that most students in Florida’s universities will attain. Statewide, about 17% of graduates with bachelor’s degrees continue their education in Florida one year after graduation.¹⁴ Table 11 shows the rate of continuing enrollment was within 2 percentage points of the state median for eight of the 11 universities. Only three universities fell outside this tight cluster. At the high end, about 23% of graduates with bachelor’s degrees from the University of Florida were enrolled in continuing education. In contrast, graduates with bachelor’s degrees from New College of Florida were 10 percentage points *below* the state median—only 7% of its graduates were enrolled in continuing education in the state. Similarly, only 13% of graduates from the University of North Florida were enrolled in continuing education.

Table 11: Percentage of Students With Bachelor’s Degrees Who Were Enrolled in Continuing Education, by University

Institution	Percent Continuing Education
New College of Florida	7%
University of North Florida	13%
University of Central Florida	15%
Florida Gulf Coast University	16%
Florida Atlantic University	16%
The University of West Florida	17%
University of South Florida	17%
Florida Statewide Median, Bachelor’s Degree (SUS)	17%
Florida State University	18%
Florida International University	18%
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	18%
University of Florida	23%

14 This can be full time or part time. Data show only whether students were enrolled, not whether they completed an advanced degree or certificate. These enrollment data are for students enrolled within the state of Florida and do not include students who may be studying in other states.

Table 12 shows the percentage of students continuing their education among the most popular fields of study.¹⁵ Despite the tight clustering of universities around enrollment in continuing education, there is substantial variation across fields. For example, among all of the fields listed in Table 12, graduates with bachelor’s degrees in Business Administration and Management and Finance were less likely to be enrolled in continuing education in the state. But note that graduates with bachelor’s degrees in Accounting, another popular business-related program, had high rates of enrollment in continuing education. Around 30% of graduates with degrees in Accounting were enrolled in continuing education. Graduates with bachelor’s degrees in Health Services/Allied Health/Health Sciences, General were also more likely than graduates from most other programs to be continuing their education. And 38% of graduates with a bachelor’s degree in Social Work were doing so—the highest percentage from these popular fields of study. Much of this variation is likely associated with occupations where a graduate degree or post-baccalaureate certification is typically required for professional practice.

Table 12: Percentage of Students With Bachelor’s Degrees Who Were Enrolled in Continuing Education, by Popular Area of Study

Program	Percent Continuing Education
Business Administration and Management, General	10%
Finance, General	12%
Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	12%
Elementary Education and Teaching	12%
English Language and Literature, General	15%
Political Science and Government, General	18%
Criminal Justice/Safety Studies	20%
History, General	20%
Psychology, General	22%
Biology/Biological Sciences, General	27%
Accounting	30%
Health Services/Allied Health/Health Sciences, General	33%
Social Work	38%

¹⁵ Each program had more than 1,000 students in continuing education.

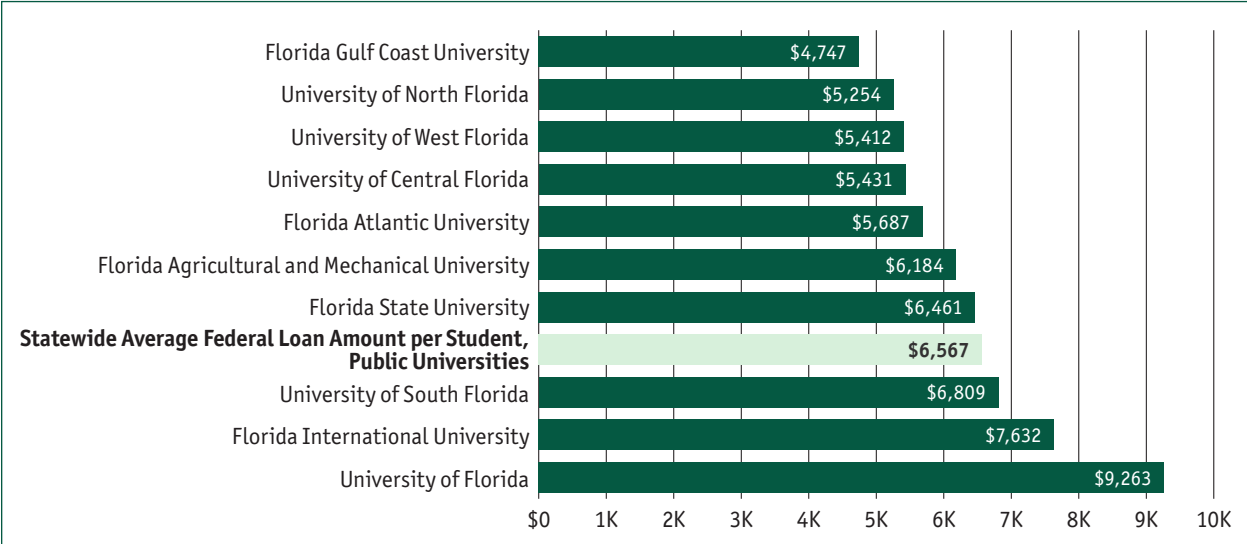
Debt Levels Among Students in Florida’s Universities

Student debt is a growing concern nationwide. Totaling more than \$1 trillion, student debt now surpasses outstanding credit card debt and automobile loans and is second only to home mortgages.¹⁶ Many students default on their loans, and because student loans cannot be discharged in bankruptcy, the consequences of accumulating debt that cannot be paid off can be long term and financially devastating.

Similar to the debt levels reported previously for Florida’s colleges, data on debt are reported by each public university. The data reflect the average federal student loan debt of all students (not just graduates) attending universities during 2014–15. Data also include federal student loans from Stafford, Perkins, Graduate PLUS, Parent PLUS, and TEACH programs. The average student loan debt represents the total amount of student loans for 2014–15 at each university, divided by the number of students attending the university that academic year. The average does not include private loans or other debt issued by nonfederal government sources that students may have sought to help finance their education.

As shown in Figure 22, the average statewide federal loan amount per student was slightly more than \$6,500. However, the range varied among universities, from approximately \$4,750 (Florida Gulf Coast University) to more than \$9,250 (University of Florida). Because this disbursement amount includes loans to both graduate and undergraduate students, there may be some upward bias on the amount reported in research universities, such as Florida State University and the University of Florida.

Figure 22: Average Federal Loan Amount per Student, by University, 2014–15



16 The Federal Reserve Bank of New York issues periodic reports on the level of student debt. See for example, <http://www.newyorkfed.org/newsevents/news/research/2015/rp150217.html>.

Bachelor's Degrees Earned at Florida State Colleges

In many states, including Florida, two-year colleges have been awarding bachelor's degrees. The authority to award bachelor's degrees is usually limited to more technical areas that are aligned with the career orientation of certificates and associate degrees that are core to the mission of two-year colleges.

During the five-year study period, colleges in the state of Florida awarded over 24,000 bachelor's degrees. This was less than 10% of the number of bachelor's degrees granted by the Florida university system. Moreover, these degrees were concentrated in a small number of areas of study (Table 13).

Table 13: Bachelor's Degrees Awarded by Colleges in Florida, by Area of Study

Area of Study	Number of Bachelor's Degrees	Percent of Bachelor's Degrees
Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	32	0%
Natural Resources and Conservation	—*	—*
Communications Technologies/Technicians and Support Services	—*	—*
Legal Professions and Studies	172	1%
Visual and Performing Arts	218	1%
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	265	1%
Engineering Technologies and Engineering-Related Fields	271	1%
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	327	1%
Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	1,265	5%
Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Related Protective Services	1,586	7%
Education	3,817	16%
Health Professions and Related Programs	5,774	24%
Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	10,231	42%
Total	24,211	100%

* Numbers suppressed for privacy reasons.

Table 14 shows the median first-year earnings of graduates with bachelor’s degrees awarded by Florida’s colleges by area of study. The areas of study listed in Table 14 are relatively high-paying. Not surprising then, the median first-year earnings of graduates with bachelor’s degrees from Florida’s colleges (about \$42,900) were higher than those of graduates with bachelor’s degrees from Florida’s universities (about \$35,150, as shown in Figure 19), which offer bachelor’s degrees in more areas of study, including many in traditional arts and humanities.

Earning outcomes varied across areas of study. The median first-year earnings for graduates with bachelor’s degrees in Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse¹⁷ were about \$65,000, which exceeded the statewide median for bachelor’s degrees from colleges by more than \$22,000. The median first-year earnings for graduates with bachelor’s degrees in Business Administration, Management and Operations, Other were approximately \$37,600, which fell below the statewide median for bachelor’s degrees from colleges by approximately \$5,000.

Table 14: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Bachelor’s Degrees Awarded by Colleges, by Area of Study¹⁸

Area of Study	Number of Completers	Median First-Year Earnings
Health Services/Allied Health/Health Sciences, General	42	\$106,928
Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	4,320	\$65,252
Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	30	\$58,688
Dental Hygiene/Hygienist	271	\$53,192
Medical Radiologic Technology/Science–Radiation Therapist	31	\$53,100
Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology/Technologist	30	\$52,768
Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering Technology/Technician	42	\$52,140
Construction Engineering Technology/Technician	34	\$49,928
Computer/Information Technology Services Administration and Management, Other	684	\$48,784
Fire Services Administration	21	\$46,564
Computer Systems Networking and Telecommunications	229	\$46,172

17 In 2010, the U.S. Department of Education reclassified Nursing/Registered Nurse (CIP code 51.1601) to Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse (CIP code 51.3801). Some institutions granted both degrees during the transition. This represents the weighted average of those two CIP codes.

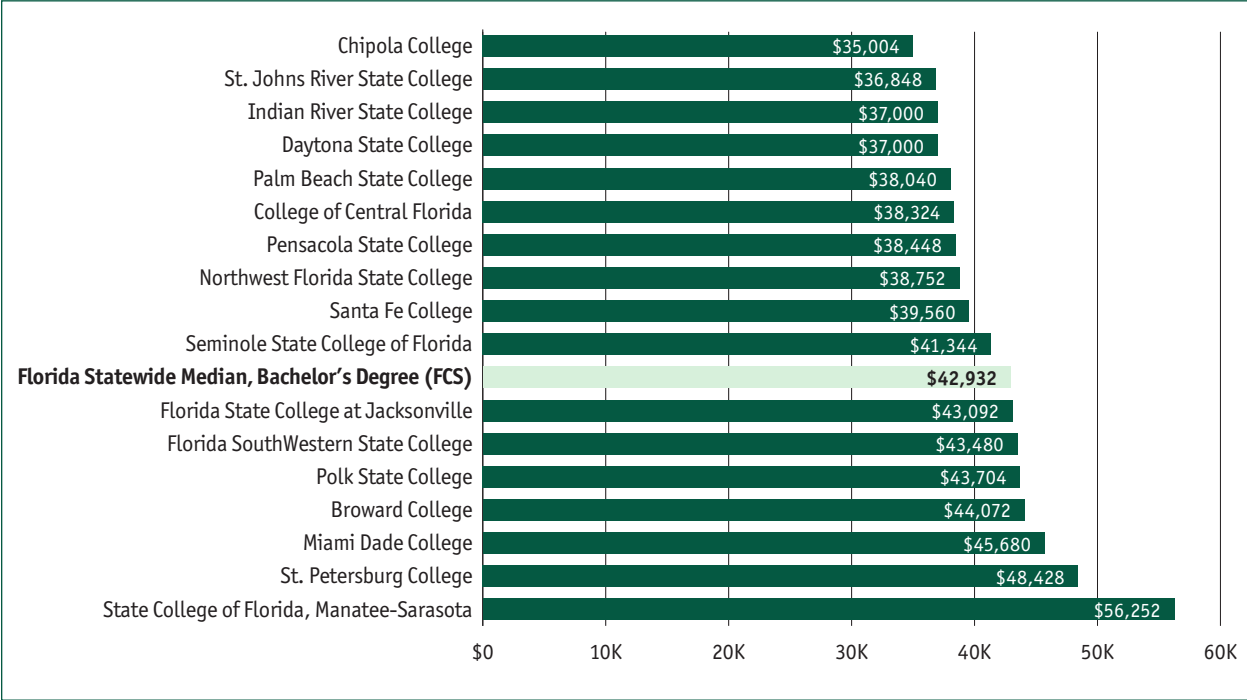
18 Note: A bachelor’s in Applied Science degree in Allied Health from Miami Dade College includes a Physician’s Assistant pathway. The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant requires all Physician Assistant Programs by 2020 to award a graduate degree. Also, during the years covered by this report, the nursing programs that offered a bachelor’s degree in Nursing (B.S.N.) through the FCS were considered post-licensure programs, meaning that students entering these programs already had a Registered Nurse license and were completing additional coursework to receive a B.S.N. These two cases should serve as a reminder that the data reported here reflect a specific timeframe and that, given the dynamic nature of Florida’s postsecondary system, readers are encouraged to go to the websites of colleges and universities to review any program changes that may have taken place since these data were collected.

Table 14: Continued

Area of Study	Number of Completers	Median First-Year Earnings
Information Technology	352	\$45,188
Engineering Technologies and Engineering-Related Fields, Other	169	\$44,180
Logistics, Materials, and Supply Chain Management	15	\$43,224
Florida Statewide Median, Bachelor's Degrees, FCS	24,203	\$42,932
Architectural Engineering Technology/Technician	16	\$41,492
Special Education and Teaching, General	1,196	\$40,176
Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Related Protective Services, Other	1,451	\$40,100
Biology Teacher Education	72	\$39,796
Health Services Administration	494	\$39,776
Veterinary/Animal Health Technology/Technician and Veterinary Assistant	125	\$39,164
Purchasing, Procurement/Acquisitions and Contracts Management	522	\$39,108
Mathematics Teacher Education	287	\$39,052
Management Information Systems, General	184	\$39,032
Business Administration and Management, General	577	\$39,000
Elementary Education and Teaching	1,354	\$38,448
Early Childhood Education and Teaching	670	\$37,996
English/Language Arts Teacher Education	37	\$37,716
Business Administration, Management and Operations, Other	8,727	\$37,672
Science Teacher Education/General Science Teacher Education	70	\$37,548
International Business/Trade/Commerce	165	\$36,716
Public Administration	65	\$36,480
Health/Health Care Administration/Management	332	\$35,588
Natural Resources Management and Policy, Other	111	\$35,328
Legal Assistant/Paralegal	172	\$34,924
Orthotist/Prosthetist	99	\$34,156
Animation, Interactive Technology, Video Graphics, and Special Effects	142	\$33,784
Finance, General	41	\$33,748
Criminal Justice/Safety Studies	114	\$33,368
Interior Design	94	\$33,308
Energy Management and Systems Technology/Technician	10	\$31,676
Cinematography and Film/Video Production	124	\$30,916
Human Services, General	262	\$30,704
Biology/Biological Sciences, General	210	\$30,528
Education, Other	131	\$30,364
Biomedical Sciences, General	55	\$30,060
Mass Communication/Media Studies	32	\$29,760

Figure 23 shows the median first-year earnings of graduates with bachelor’s degrees by colleges that had more than 100 graduates. Median first-year earnings ranged from approximately \$35,000 (Chipola College) to more than \$56,000 (State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota).

Figure 23: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Bachelor’s Degrees, by College



First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Master’s Degrees

Public higher education institutions in Florida awarded more than 80,000 master’s degrees during the five-year study. Nearly 64% of these graduates were found in the matched student record/UI wage database and WRIS2 dataset used for this report.

Graduates with master’s degrees were rewarded in the labor market. The median first-year earnings of graduates with master’s degrees in Florida were approximately \$50,000 compared with less than \$35,200 for graduates with bachelor’s degrees from universities. Some of this is attributable to the fact that many graduates with master’s degrees are older and already in careers, so their earnings are likely higher. Further work is needed to separate the added value of the skills learned when attaining a master’s degree from the characteristics of the graduates who earn them. But as the data show, graduates with master’s degrees earn more, often far more, than graduates with only bachelor’s degrees.

Like the first-year earnings of graduates with bachelor's degrees, the first-year earnings of graduates with master's degrees varied considerably by area of study and institution. For area of study, the earnings gained for having a master's degree, not just a bachelor's degree, ranged from approximately \$7,000 (Social Work) to approximately \$26,000 (Business Administration and Management, General and Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse). Clearly, the extent of the benefit of earning a master's degree is associated with area of study (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Bachelor's or Master's Degrees, by Popular Fields of Study

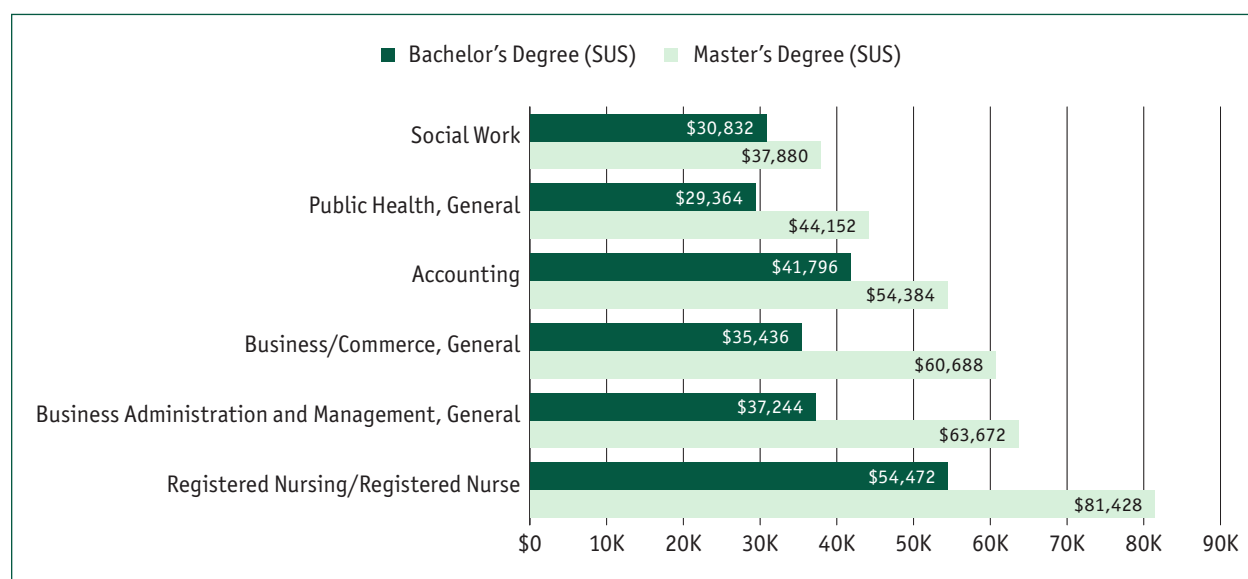
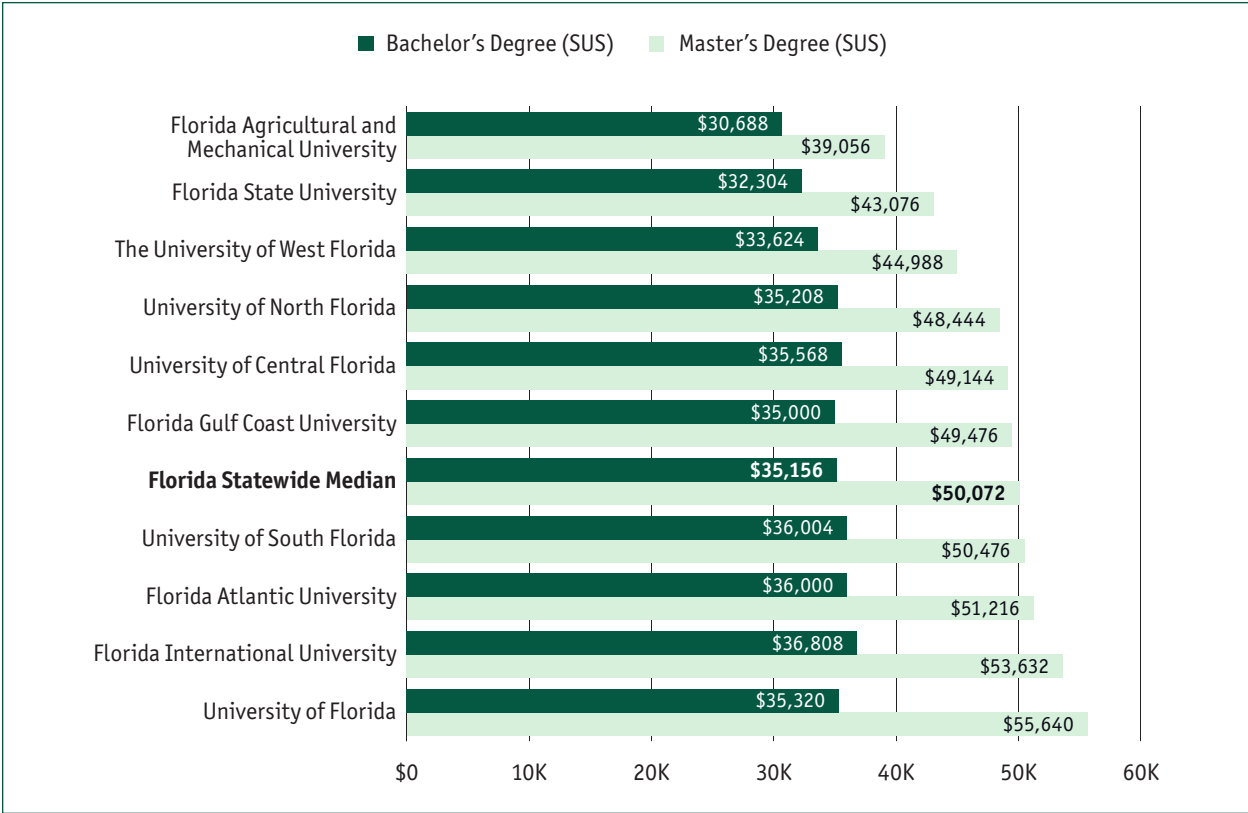


Figure 25 shows that the median first-year earnings of graduates with master's degrees differ across institutions. Graduates with master's degrees from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) University had median first-year earnings of less than \$40,000, and those from The University of West Florida and Florida State University were less than \$45,000. In contrast, graduates with master's degrees from four universities (University of Florida, Florida International University, Florida Atlantic University, and University of South Florida) had median first-year earnings of more than \$50,000.

Figure 25 also compares the earnings between master’s and bachelor’s degrees. Differences ranged from approximately \$8,300 (Florida A&M University) to more than \$20,000 (University of Florida). These within-university differences, to some degree, take into account the differences in local labor markets and confirm (a) the value of the master’s degree and (b) that great differences can exist in the added value of the master’s degree. Of note, earnings outcomes reported at the university level reflect the mix of majors within each degree level. Data from universities that graduate more students in higher-paying programs, such as Business or Nursing, will demonstrate higher earnings over data from universities that graduate more students in lower-paying areas, such as Social Work.

Figure 25: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Bachelor’s or Master’s Degrees, by University



Specialist Degrees

During the five-year study, Florida's universities awarded more than 1,000 specialist degrees. As noted previously, the specialist degree is an advanced degree designed for people who want to develop skills beyond the master's level but who are not interested in pursuing a doctorate degree. Most specialist degrees awarded were concentrated in education-based professions, such as Curriculum and Instruction, and Educational Leadership and Administration.

Figure 26 displays the median first-year earnings of graduates with specialist degrees for all programs in Florida. Median first-year earnings varied widely: Approximately \$25,000 separated the lowest median first-year earnings (Marriage and Family Therapy/Counseling) from the highest median first-year earnings (Education, General). Clearly, choosing the right specialty for this type of degree can have a significant impact on earnings.

Figure 26: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Specialist Degrees, by Program

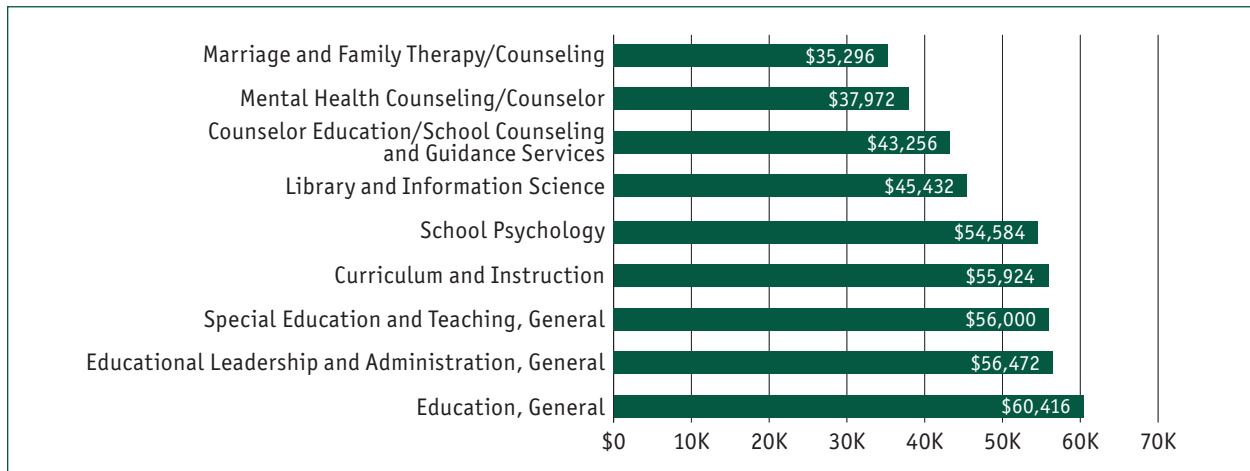
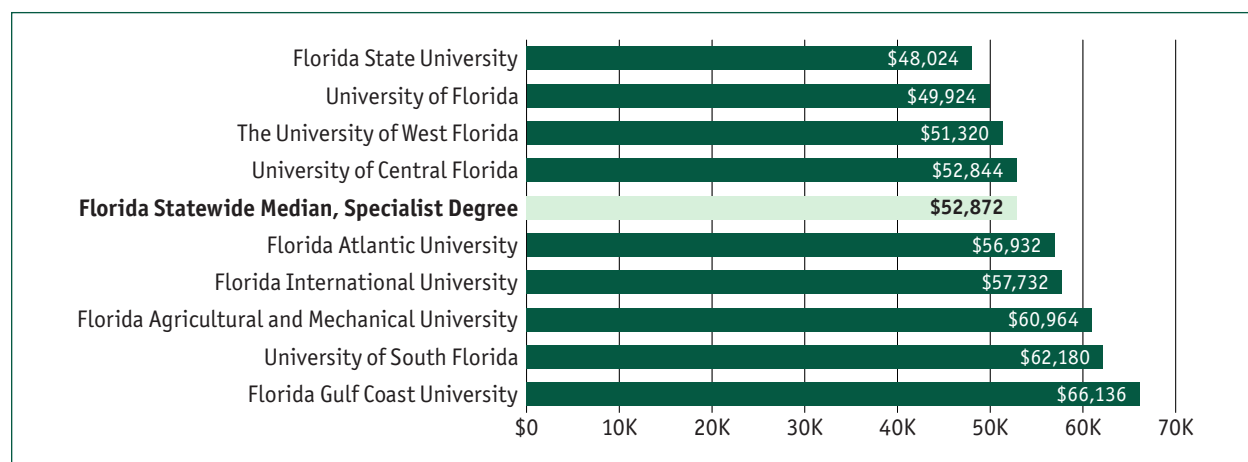


Figure 27 displays the median first-year earnings of graduates with specialist degrees by university. Here again, median first-year earnings varied considerably, ranging from less than \$50,000 (Florida State University and University of Florida) to more than \$65,000 (Florida Gulf Coast University). Graduates tended to experience greater earnings if they attended universities in larger metropolitan areas.

Figure 27: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Specialist Degrees, by University



As noted previously, one of the main values of the data used in this report is that they are built around the earnings of graduates from specific programs offered by specific universities. This allows a more detailed analysis than the area of study or the institutional-level analysis presented in Figures 26 and 27.

Figures 28 and 29 report data on the earnings of graduates at all three levels of post-baccalaureate degrees (master's, specialist, and doctorate) for two popular specialties: Educational Leadership and Administration (2,331 master's, 393 specialist, and 361 doctorate degrees) and Curriculum and Instruction (1,895 master's, 298 specialist, and 517 doctorate degrees).

Only one university (University of Florida) awarded all three degrees in both Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes. However, even these limited data validate the value of the specialist degree while reinforcing the importance of students carefully choosing a program and institution.

Figure 28 reports the program-level data for the largest specialist degree program in the state, Educational Leadership and Administration. Substantial gains can be had statewide by earning either the specialist or doctorate credentials after the master’s degree. Although graduates with doctorate degrees in Educational Leadership and Administration had higher median first-year earnings than their counterparts with specialist degrees, they also invested more resources in earning that degree. For students who do not want to or cannot invest that extra time and money, the specialist degree may be a viable option.

Figure 28: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Credentials in Educational Leadership and Administration, by Post-Baccalaureate Credential

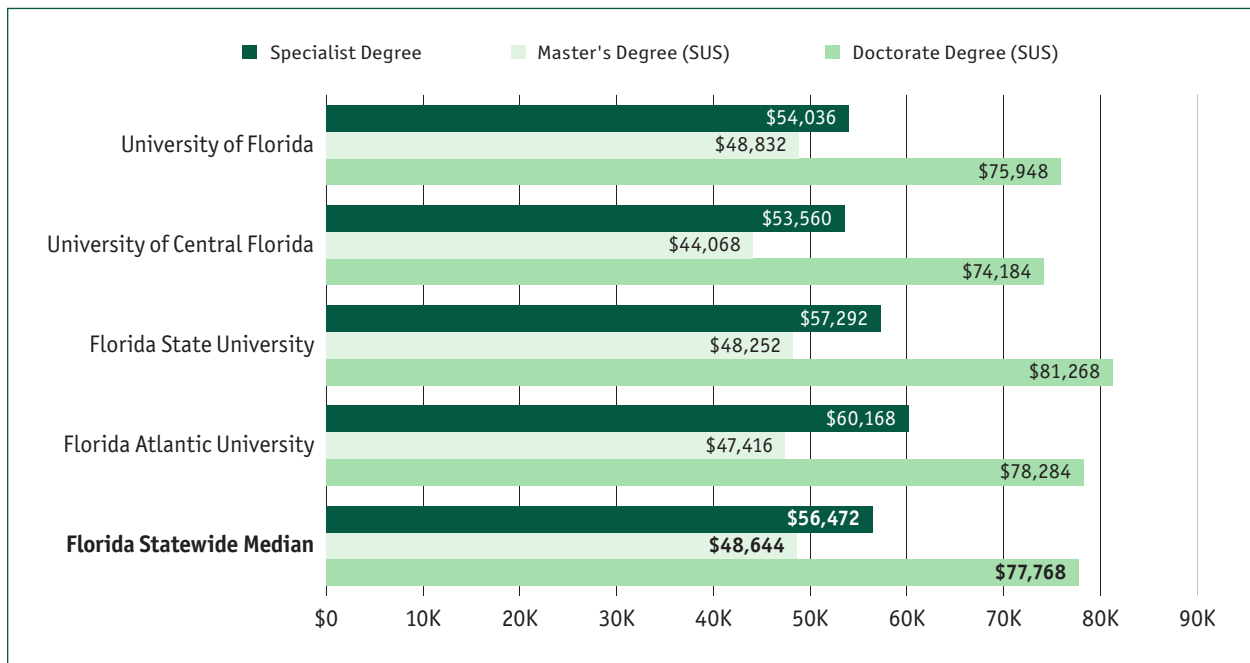
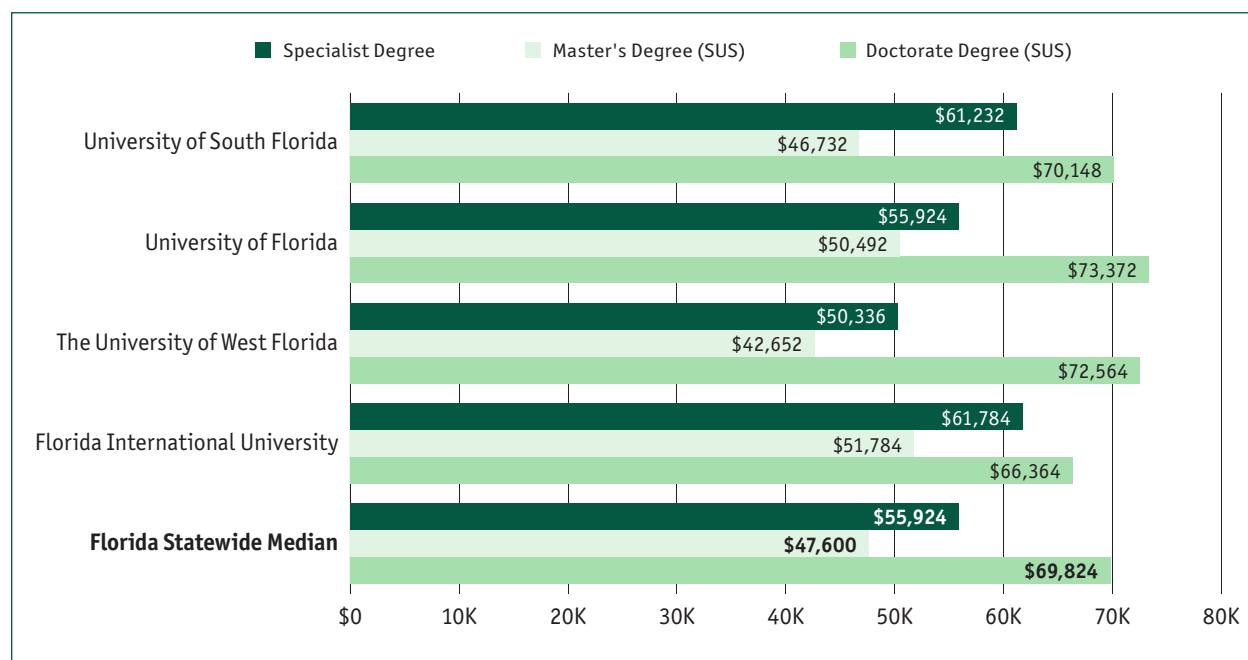


Figure 29 displays the median first-year earnings of graduates at each of the three levels of post-baccalaureate credentials for the field of Curriculum and Instruction. Statewide, graduates with doctorate and specialist degrees in this field earned more than graduates with master's degrees. This is also true for programs at each of the universities.

Figure 29: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Credentials in Curriculum and Instruction, by Post-Baccalaureate Credential



Professional Degrees

Table 15 reports the median first-year earnings of graduates of three professional doctorate degrees in Florida: Medicine, Law, and Pharmacy.

Graduates with professional degrees in Medicine made almost the same in their first year after graduation, regardless of the institution from which they graduated¹⁹; median first-year earnings were approximately \$52,000. But as noted previously, this is likely the result of the structure of the profession, whereby the majority of medical school graduates first serve as interns, which is an essential step to gaining a license to practice medicine unsupervised.

¹⁹ This is based on data from three medical schools in Florida. Data for graduates of Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, and University of Central Florida were not included in the database.

Far more variation was found among graduates with professional degrees in Law. Given the time and money spent earning a law degree, the return on investment, at least in the short term, seems to be low. Graduates of Florida A&M University Law School had median first-year earnings of more than \$41,300, approximately \$4,000 less than graduates from Florida State University and approximately \$5,000 less than graduates from Florida International University. Law graduates from University of Florida had the highest median first-year earnings, more than \$53,800.

Florida’s three pharmacy programs met reporting requirements, and although over \$6,000 separated the first-year earnings of graduates from University of South Florida from graduates of University of Florida, the median first-year earnings of graduates from all programs topped \$100,000—almost twice the earnings of law graduates in most cases.

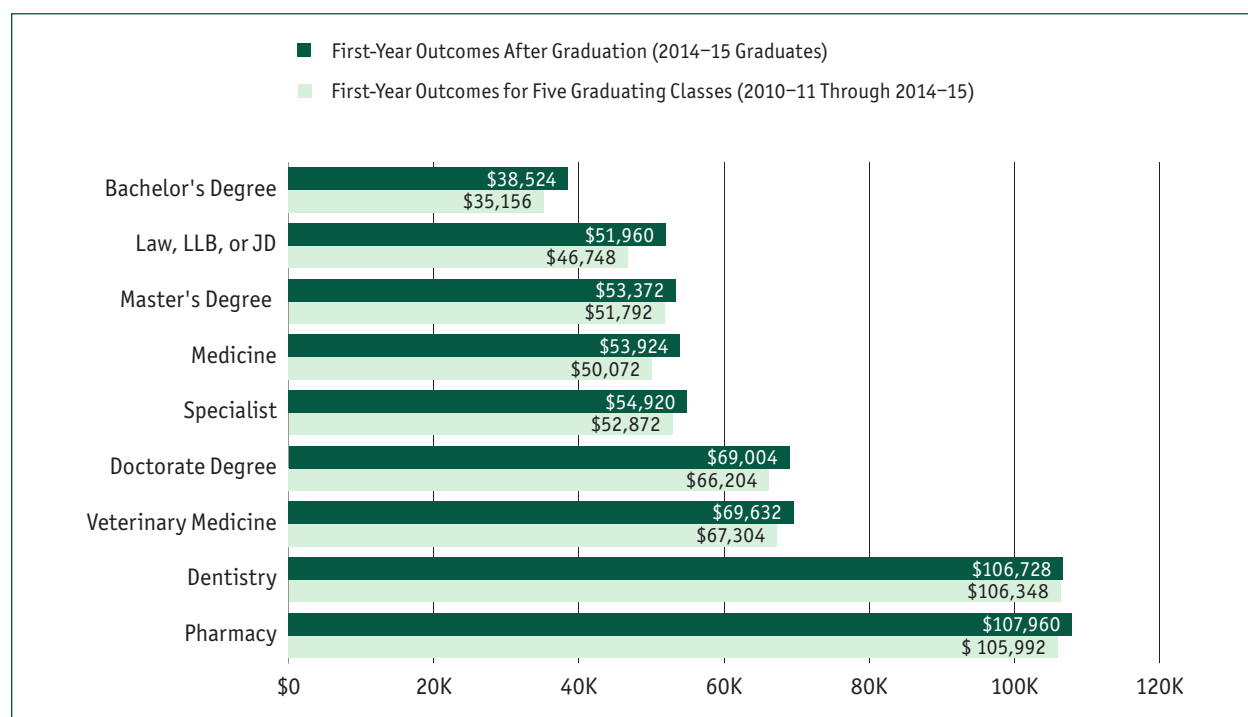
Table 15: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates With Professional Degrees, by Degree and University

Institution	Median First-Year Earnings
Medicine Degrees	
Florida State University	\$50,584
University of Central Florida	\$51,520
University of South Florida	\$51,520
Florida International University	\$52,408
University of Florida	\$52,428
Florida Atlantic University	\$53,924
Law Degrees (Law, Bachelor of Law, or Juris Doctor)	
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	\$41,324
Florida State University	\$45,696
Florida International University	\$46,380
University of Florida	\$53,816
Pharmacy Degrees	
University of South Florida	\$100,896
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	\$105,068
University of Florida	\$106,484

Changes in First-Year Earnings Among Graduates From Universities

The median first-year earnings of graduates during the five-year study period can be compared in isolation with those from 2014–15. Although many programs will not have a sufficient number of graduates to enable reporting consistent with confidentiality constraints, reporting at higher levels of aggregation is possible (Figure 30). A minimum of 10 graduates is required to allow reporting for this project. Results are suppressed when fewer graduates appear on any specific project.

Figure 30: Median First-Year Earnings of Graduates From Universities, by Degree



Where the Jobs Are

Although this report primarily focuses on the first-year earnings of graduates for academic years 2010–11 through 2014–15, clearly the earnings that graduates command are not only a function of the programs from which they graduate but also of the strength of the labor market into which they enter. The following section provides information about the demand for jobs, including information on the fastest-growing industries and occupations forecast through 2024. This section also provides information on the top 10 jobs statewide that require a postsecondary credential, where the demand for workers is projected to surpass the supply of workers. This section aims to supplement the earnings data presented throughout this report to help students anticipate where the demand for workers may be strongest across Florida in the coming years.

As students consider their educational options, two factors are important: the size and growth rates of the industries into which they might find employment. Table 16 shows that in June 2017, the largest industry sectors in Florida were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (20.4% of total employment); Professional and Business Services (15.5%); Education and Health Services (14.9%); Leisure and Hospitality (14.0%); and Government (12.8%). Together, these five industries accounted for nearly 78% of Florida’s total nonagricultural employment.

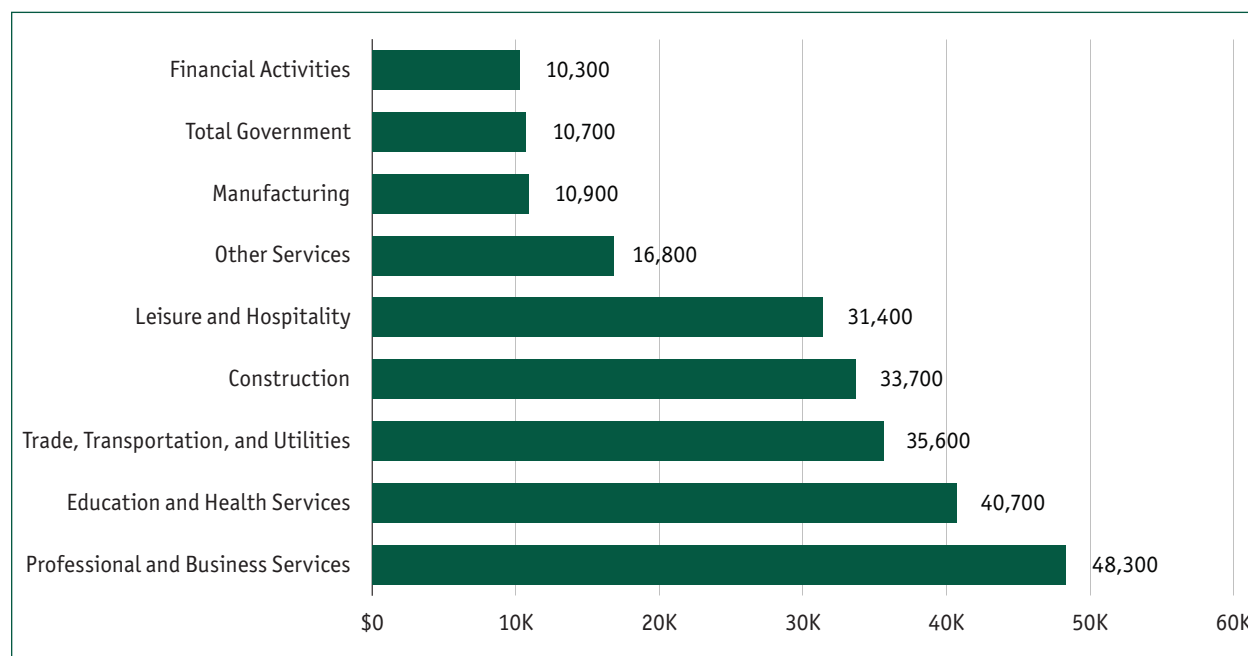
Table 16: Nonagricultural Employment in Florida, by Industry, June 2017 (Seasonally Adjusted)²⁰

Industry	Jobs	% of Total
Total	8,601,600	
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,753,600	20.4%
Professional and Business Services	1,329,200	15.5%
Education and Health Services	1,277,500	14.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	1,200,500	14.0%
Total Government	1,105,300	12.8%
Financial Activities	556,300	6.5%
Construction	506,400	5.9%
Manufacturing	365,900	4.3%
Other Services	365,100	4.2%
Information	136,100	1.6%

²⁰ Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Program, released June 21, 2017. Prepared by Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

Figure 31 presents the number of jobs gained by industry between 2016 and 2017. Fewer than 11,000 jobs were added in the Financial Activities, Total Government, and Manufacturing sectors; and two sectors experienced growth of more than 40,000 jobs. The largest gain was in the Professional and Business Services sector, which added more than 48,000 jobs.

Figure 31: Number of Jobs Gained in Florida From June 2016 to June 2017, by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted), Nonagricultural Sectors²¹



Long-term projections of growth by industry and occupation may be more important than short-term growth trends. Clearly, finding employment in a rapidly expanding industry or occupation is easier than finding one in a slow-growth industry. Table 17 shows the industries in which growth is most likely to occur through 2024. The two fastest-growing industries are related to health and education. With growth of 25.3% between 2016 and 2024, Ambulatory Health Care Services is projected to be the fastest growing field. Health care industries are also projected to grow rapidly due to population gains, the aging population, and improved medical technologies. Similarly, the rapid growth in educational services may reflect the continued growth in the number of families moving to Florida.

21 Source: <http://www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/data-center/statistical-programs/current-employment-statistics>

Table 17: Forecast of the Fastest Growing Industries* in Florida Through 2024²²

Rank	Industry	2016–2024 Change	
		Number	Percent
1	Ambulatory Health Care Services	118,151	25.3
2	Educational Services	32,317	19.9
3	Specialty Trade Contractors	58,556	18.8
4	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	34,138	18.1
5	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	92,473	17.7
6	Construction of Buildings	15,910	16.8
7	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	3,235	15.6
8	Management of Companies and Enterprises	14,445	14.8
9	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	8,079	14.2
10	Electronics and Appliance Stores	6,037	14.1

* Includes industries with a minimum of 10,000 jobs in 2016.

High growth rates do not necessarily mean many new jobs will be created. For example, Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing has a projected annual growth rate of 15.6%, but only 3,200 or so new jobs will be created by 2024. Another way to look at where the jobs likely will be is to see which industries will be creating the most new jobs, regardless of the growth rate. Table 18 presents the 10 industries in which the most jobs are likely to be created.

Ambulatory Health Care Services is a large industry that is expected to grow rapidly in the coming years. Similarly, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services is expected to add numerous new jobs and has a high rate of growth. Food Services and Drinking Places and Administrative and Support Services have lower growth rates, but because they are large industries, they will add many more jobs than the fastest-growing industries listed in Table 17.

22 Source: <http://www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/data-center/statistical-programs/employment-projections>

Table 18: Forecast of the Industries* Gaining the Most New Jobs in Florida Through 2024²³

Rank	Industry	2016–2024 Change	
		Number	Percent
1	Ambulatory Health Care Services	118,151	25.30
2	Food Services and Drinking Places	100,898	13.40
3	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	92,473	17.70
4	Administrative and Support Services	80,856	13.10
5	Local Government	67,868	9.20
6	Specialty Trade Contractors	58,556	18.80
7	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	34,138	18.10
8	Educational Services	32,317	19.90
9	Hospitals	29,779	10.20
10	Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries	22,592	12.90

* Includes industries with a minimum of 10,000 jobs in 2016.

23 Source: <http://www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/data-center/statistical-programs/employment-projections>

Growth in Occupations

Considering growth in occupations is also important. Table 19 shows the 10 occupations projected to grow fastest through 2024. Half of these require only a college credit certificate of the sort awarded by FCS institutions and DTCs.

Table 19: Forecast of the Fastest Growing Occupations* in Florida Through 2024²⁴

Rank	Occupation	2016–2024 Change		Median Hourly Wage, 2016	Florida Education Level	BLS Education Level
		Percent	Number			
1	Nurse Practitioners	34.20	4,623	\$45.53	Master's or Higher Degree	Master's Degree
2	Physician Assistants	32.80	2,726	\$47.73	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree
3	Physical Therapist Assistants	29.70	2,417	\$30.03	Associate Degree	Associate Degree
4	Home Health Aides	28.60	12,551	\$10.92	College Credit	No Formal Requirement
5	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	26.60	2,093	\$30.30	College Credit	Associate Degree
6	Brickmasons and Blockmasons	25.80	1,446	\$17.16	College Credit	High School
7	Operations Research Analysts	25.60	2,533	\$28.52	Master's or Higher Degree	Bachelor's Degree
8	Web Developers	25.10	3,314	\$27.82	College Credit	Associate Degree
9	Physical Therapists	24.50	5,836	\$40.96	Master's or Higher Degree	Doctorate Degree
10	Medical Assistants	23.90	19,606	\$14.62	College Credit	College Credit

* Includes industries with a minimum of 10,000 jobs in 2016.

Where Is the Greatest Demand Relative to Supply?

Table 20 is based on Florida's Occupational Supply/Demand report that compares total supply (education/training graduates by occupation) against short-term demand (employer-posted Internet job ads by occupation).

The supply gap is the difference between occupational demand and supply. These are occupations in which students will likely experience higher probabilities of finding employment. Entry, median, and experienced earnings for each occupation are also shown, so students can determine likely earnings for the occupation.

24 Source: <http://www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/data-center/statistical-programs/employment-projections>

Table 20: Supply Gap in 10 Occupations Requiring a Bachelor's Degree or More²⁵

Occupation	Total Supply	Long-Term Demand	Supply Gap or Overage	Ratio of Supply to Demand	Current Year Employed	Entry Level Hourly Wage	Median Hourly Wage	Experienced Hourly Wage	Florida Education Level	BLS Education Level
Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents	8	685	-677	0.01	22,836	\$17.51	\$29.05	\$56.29	Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree
Directors, Religious Activities and Education	62	450	-388	0.14	11,082	\$12.35	\$18.42	\$23.57	Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree
Physical Therapists	525	730	-205	0.72	12,872	\$29.24	\$40.96	\$47.94	Master's Degree or Higher	Doctorate Degree
Business Teachers, Postsecondary	0	163	-163	N/A*	4,537	\$25.78	\$47.63	\$73.20	Bachelor's Degree	Doctorate Degree
Librarians	63	183	-120	0.34	6,168	\$19.55	\$27.14	\$32.85	Master's Degree or Higher	Master's Degree
Surveyors	8	125	-117	0.06	3,133	\$17.12	\$27.11	\$37.10	Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree
Career/ Technical Education Teachers, Secondary School	161	234	-73	0.69	7,392	\$21.44	\$30.06	\$36.08	Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree
Accountants and Auditors	3,815	3,864	-49	0.99	84,892	\$20.96	\$29.98	\$40.33	Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree
Rehabilitation Counselors	43	92	-49	0.47	2,864	\$12.75	\$17.11	\$20.42	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree
Veterinarians	116	144	-28	0.81	4,693	\$30.10	\$45.47	\$55.55	Master's Degree or Higher	Doctorate Degree

* Not applicable.

Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents, with a short-term supply gap of over 1,000 qualified people and earnings of more than \$55 per hour for experienced agents, presents the largest numerical shortfall for one of the highest-paying fields. Florida projects a shortage of over 600 qualified people to fill jobs as Industrial Engineers. Projected short-term shortfalls for Speech-Language Pathologists and Physical Therapists are also quite large.

²⁵ Source: <http://www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/products-and-services/indicators-of-jobs-in-demand-requiring-a-bachelor-degree>

HIGHER EDUCATION PAYS BUT WAGES VARY ACROSS PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau have documented the “big payoff” for higher education,²⁶ but this report shows that the payoff varies considerably from program to program and from institution to institution. The bottom line: The type of postsecondary credentials that completers earn, and where they earn them, matter.

Most notably, the labor market clearly places a high value on technical associate degrees. And for many students, some certificates may represent an efficient pathway into the labor market. At the bachelor’s degree level, the data show that graduates from many campuses in the state, not just the state’s best-known ones, earn, on average, roughly the same first-year wages.

In short, many pathways to good earnings are available to students in Florida, and the data made available in this report and on Florida’s Launch My Career website (<http://www.launchmycareerFL.org>) can help students find such earnings.

As students and others consider these data, some of the cautions put forward earlier in this report should be reiterated. Although the report documents wide variations in the first-year earnings of graduates from different programs, these variations have not been explained, leaving this issue open to further analysis. For example, the credentials of incoming students vary across institutions; missions vary across institutions; and many schools serve regional labor markets where earnings vary. And the data reported here are all short-term results from the labor market. In the long term, graduates with bachelor’s degrees tend to increase their earnings faster than those with associate degrees, so the short-term differences documented here may erode over time. Indeed, prospective students are encouraged to look at the longer term earnings data on Florida’s Launch My Career website: <http://www.launchmycareerFL.org>.

Furthermore, postsecondary education has many rewards in addition to boosting earnings. However, if a student borrows \$50,000 and is earning \$25,000, he or she likely will be so consumed by trying to pay off the loans as to have little time to enjoy the other rewards.

To reiterate, knowing about variations in the economic payoff of degrees and programs of study is important—and further analysis may be needed to better understand specific institutional and program implications and nuances. The data reported here, however, should be made widely accessible to the public and should inform students, their families, taxpayers, and their representatives about the labor market outcomes of programs, degrees, and colleges.

26 <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p23-210.pdf> and more recently <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/acs-14.pdf>.

APPENDIX

Table 21: Percent of Graduates Found in Earnings Database, by University

Institution	Percent of Completers of Bachelor's Degrees With Earnings Data	Percent of Completers of Master's Degrees With Earnings Data
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	66%	63%
Florida Atlantic University	72%	74%
Florida Gulf Coast University	72%	80%
Florida International University	68%	70%
Florida State University	57%	51%
Florida Statewide Median	65%	64%
New College of Florida	39%	—
The University of West Florida	65%	64%
University of Central Florida	70%	72%
University of Florida	51%	51%
University of North Florida	75%	77%
University of South Florida	70%	68%

Table 22: Percent of College Graduates and Completers Found in Earnings Database, by Degree and Institution

Institution	Percent of Graduates/ Completers With Wage Data
Associate in Applied Sciences Degree (FCS)	
Broward College	79%
College of Central Florida	100%
Daytona State College	71%
Eastern Florida State College	75%
Florida Statewide Median, A.A.S. Degree	
74%	
Florida Gateway College	67%
Florida Keys Community College	94%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	74%
Gulf Coast State College	74%
Hillsborough Community College	82%
Indian River State College	74%
Lake-Sumter State College	73%
Miami Dade College	84%
North Florida Community College	100%
Northwest Florida State College	59%
Palm Beach State College	75%
Pasco-Hernando State College	70%
Pensacola State College	66%
Polk State College	84%
Santa Fe College	74%
Seminole State College of Florida	89%
South Florida State College	87%
St. Johns River State College	88%
St. Petersburg College	68%
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	81%
Tallahassee Community College	75%
Valencia College	73%
Associate in Arts Degree (FCS)	
Broward College	65%
Chipola College	57%
College of Central Florida	63%
Daytona State College	64%
Eastern Florida State College	60%

Table 22: Continued

Institution	Percent of Graduates/ Completers With Wage Data
Florida Statewide Median, A.A. Degree	65%
Florida Gateway College	64%
Florida Keys Community College	60%
Florida SouthWestern State College	70%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	65%
Gulf Coast State College	60%
Hillsborough Community College	67%
Indian River State College	63%
Lake-Sumter State College	66%
Miami Dade College	64%
North Florida Community College	57%
Northwest Florida State College	56%
Palm Beach State College	68%
Pasco-Hernando State College	68%
Pensacola State College	59%
Polk State College	67%
Santa Fe College	58%
Seminole State College of Florida	67%
South Florida State College	61%
St. Johns River State College	64%
St. Petersburg College	67%
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	65%
Tallahassee Community College	62%
Valencia College	70%
Associate in Science Degree (FCS)	
Broward College	84%
Chipola College	74%
College of Central Florida	74%
Daytona State College	79%
Eastern Florida State College	76%
Florida Statewide Median, A.S. Degree	80%
Florida Gateway College	88%
Florida Keys Community College	77%
Florida SouthWestern State College	86%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	78%
Gulf Coast State College	85%

Table 22: Continued

Institution	Percent of Graduates/ Completers With Wage Data
Hillsborough Community College	82%
Indian River State College	82%
Lake-Sumter State College	89%
Miami Dade College	75%
North Florida Community College	75%
Northwest Florida State College	75%
Palm Beach State College	81%
Pasco-Hernando State College	84%
Pensacola State College	75%
Polk State College	88%
Santa Fe College	83%
Seminole State College of Florida	83%
South Florida State College	93%
St. Johns River State College	79%
St. Petersburg College	82%
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	84%
Tallahassee Community College	78%
Valencia College	80%
College Credit Certificate (FCS)	
Broward College	75%
Chipola College	84%
College of Central Florida	75%
Daytona State College	65%
Eastern Florida State College	61%
Florida Statewide Median, College Credit Certificate	
Florida Gateway College	70%
Florida Keys Community College	70%
Florida SouthWestern State College	82%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	70%
Gulf Coast State College	79%
Hillsborough Community College	77%
Indian River State College	72%
Lake-Sumter State College	73%
Miami Dade College	73%
North Florida Community College	80%
Northwest Florida State College	69%
Palm Beach State College	75%

Table 22: Continued

Institution	Percent of Graduates/ Completers With Wage Data
Pasco-Hernando State College	76%
Pensacola State College	65%
Polk State College	73%
Santa Fe College	74%
Seminole State College of Florida	72%
South Florida State College	83%
St. Johns River State College	64%
St. Petersburg College	76%
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	72%
Tallahassee Community College	75%
Valencia College	73%
Career Certificate (FCS)	
Broward College	85%
Chipola College	77%
College of Central Florida	76%
Daytona State College	76%
Eastern Florida State College	76%
Florida Statewide Median, Career Certificates, FCS	78%
Florida Gateway College	76%
Florida Keys Community College	89%
Florida SouthWestern State College	89%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	74%
Gulf Coast State College	84%
Hillsborough Community College	80%
Indian River State College	73%
Miami Dade College	78%
North Florida Community College	75%
Northwest Florida State College	82%
Palm Beach State College	75%
Pasco-Hernando State College	77%
Pensacola State College	62%
Polk State College	85%
Santa Fe College	79%
Seminole State College of Florida	80%
South Florida State College	79%
St. Johns River State College	84%
St. Petersburg College	89%
Tallahassee Community College	86%
Valencia College	90%

Table 23: Percent of Completers of Career Certificates Found in Earnings Database, by District Technical Center

District Technical Center	Percent of Completers With Wage Data
Aparicio-Levy Technical College	65%
Atlantic Technical College	68%
Big Bend Technical College	67%
Bradford-Union Technical Center	63%
Brewster Technical College	67%
Cape Coral Technical College	73%
Charlotte Technical College	74%
D.A. Dorsey Technical College	67%
DeSoto County Adult Education Center	65%
Dixie County Adult Center	50%
Emerald Coast Technical College	73%
Erwin Technical College	73%
First Coast Technical College	72%
Flagler Technical Institute	57%
Florida Statewide Median, Career Certificates, DISTs	70%
Florida Panhandle Technical College	67%
Fort Myers Technical College	80%
Fred K. Marchman Technical College	62%
Gadsden Technical Institute	67%
George Stone Area Vocational Technical Center	69%
George T. Baker Aviation Technical College	78%
Immokalee Technical College	69%
Lake Technical College	76%
Learey Technical College	72%
Lindsey Hopkins Technical College	62%
Lively Technical Center	65%
Lorenzo Walker Technical College	76%
Manatee Technical College	75%
Marion Technical College	74%
Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College	66%
Monroe County Adult and Community Education	49%
Nature Coast Technical High-Adult (Also known as Suncoast Technical Education Center)	83%
Okaloosa Technical College and Choice High School	61%
Orange Technical College-Mid-Florida Campus	73%
Orange Technical College-Orlando Campus	72%
Orange Technical College-Westside Campus	65%
Orange Technical College-Winter Park Campus	69%
Pinellas Technical College-Clearwater Campus	69%
Pinellas Technical College-St. Petersburg Campus	72%

Table 23: Continued

District Technical Center	Percent of Completers With Wage Data
Radford M. Locklin Technical Center	59%
Ridge Technical College	74%
Riveroak Technical College	67%
Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College	64%
Sheridan Technical College	64%
South Dade Technical College	53%
Sumter County Adult Education	55%
Suncoast Technical College	77%
Technical Center for Career and Adult Education	65%
Technical Education Center of Osceola (TECO)	74%
The English Center	54%
Tom P. Haney Technical Center	72%
Traviss Technical College	74%
Wakulla County Adult and Community Education	65%
William T. McFatter Technical College	69%
Withlacoochee Technical College	71%

METHODOLOGY

Completers Cohort 2010–11 to 2014–15

The cohort includes graduates and completers during their first year after graduation from public postsecondary educational institutions for each academic year 2010–11 to 2014–15. Florida’s public postsecondary educational institutions include the State University System of Florida, the Florida College System, and District Technical Centers. The data for this cohort reflect employment, earnings, continuing education, and public assistance for the fall following graduation. In general, completers appear only once in the database. However, it is possible for completers to appear across multiple tables. For example, students in Emergency Medical Technology A.S. programs may be awarded EMT certificates as part of their A.S. degrees, which would allow them to work while continuing with their degrees and therefore would influence the median wages of their degrees.

Key Concepts

Median first-year earnings and continuing education are key concepts related to the employment and continuing education outcomes used throughout this report. The rates reported are combined five-year rates for graduates in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. This approach provides sufficient data at the local program level to enable students, parents, and other stakeholders to view more complete results. The minimum number of graduates to allow reporting for this project is 10. Results are suppressed when fewer graduates appear on any specific topic.

The median is the middle score in a distribution, and the first-year earnings of graduates reported here reflect the five-year median. Annualized calendar year fourth quarter (October–December) earnings of graduates for each year were arranged by institution from lowest to highest, and the middle value was selected for each institution and from a combined sorted statewide list. Wage data from the Florida Unemployment Insurance (UI) and the Wage Record Interchange System 2 (WRIS2) are the underlying sources of the employment and earnings data. Some information, such as wages for sole proprietorships and federal employees, may not be included in the data.

UI wage records provide information about employment and earnings only. The records do not provide data about the occupations in which graduates are employed; therefore, it is not possible to know whether graduates are employed in their fields of study or other fields.

The continuing education data reflect a five-year average. The number of students enrolled in higher education in the academic year following graduation for academic years 2010–11 to 2014–15 was summed and divided by the total number of graduates across the five years. Out-of-state continuing education is not included in this report.

Outcome data related to graduates and completers and continuing education are provided by the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP). FETPIP, located in the Florida Department of Education, is a data collection and consumer reporting system established by Florida law to provide follow-up data on former students and program participants who have graduated, exited, or completed a public education or training program in the state of Florida.

Definitions

Area of Study

The Area (or Field) of Study Code and Program refer to the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP). CIP was developed and is maintained by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). According to NCES, "The [CIP] provides a taxonomic scheme that supports the accurate tracking and reporting of fields of study and program completions activity. CIP was originally developed by the U.S. Department of Education's [NCES] in 1980, with revisions in 1985, 1990, 2000, and 2010."²⁷ For more information about CIP codes, visit NCES's website: <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/>.

Number of Completers

The total number of students who completed or graduated from a program in the cohort.

Employment Records

Employment data obtained from the Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage records, as provided by the Florida Department of Revenue and the Wage Record Interchange System 2 (WRIS2).

First-Year Full-Time Earnings

The earnings of completers during the fourth quarter (October–December) following graduation. The earnings are equal to or exceed the full-time threshold. The full-time threshold equals the hourly minimum wage, multiplied by 40 hours per week, multiplied by 13 weeks. Earnings are annualized by multiplying by four.

Total Found Employed Percentage

The number of completers with earnings divided by the total number of completers.

Total Found Employed Full-Time Percentage

The number of completers with earnings at or exceeding the full-time threshold divided by the total number of completers.

Median First-Year Earnings

The median is the middle score in a distribution, and the first-year earnings of graduates reported here reflect the five-year median. Annualized calendar year fourth quarter (October–December) earnings of graduates for each year were arranged by institution from lowest to highest, and the middle value was selected for each institution and from a combined sorted statewide list.

²⁷ <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>

Found Continuing Education Percentage

The number of completers who were enrolled at a State University System of Florida institution or Florida College System institution in the fall and spring semesters following graduation or completion of an educational program divided by the total number of completers.

Public Assistance Percentage

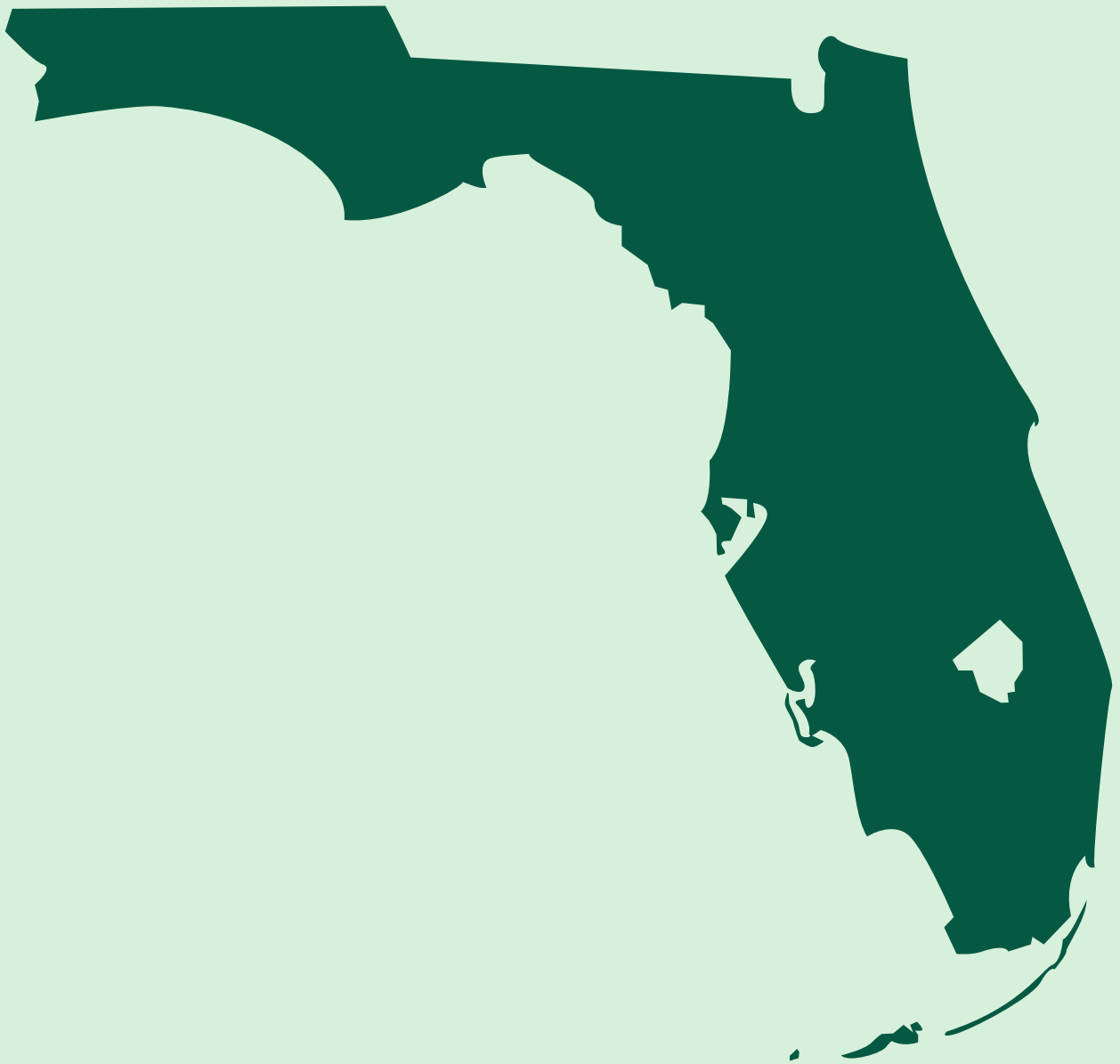
The number of completers who received public assistance from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program during the fourth quarter of the year divided by the total number of completers.

Student Loan Debt

The total average amount of student loans for 2014–15 at a public postsecondary educational institution, divided by the number of students attending the school for that same period.

Data Disclosure

The data provided for the cohorts include only completers with valid Social Security numbers, and the earnings represent completers who met the full-time threshold. The full-time threshold equals the hourly minimum wage, multiplied by 40 hours per week, multiplied by 13 weeks. Earnings and public assistance data reflect the fourth quarter of the year (October–December). The earnings are annualized by multiplying by four. Finally, the records are unduplicated between years; therefore, students are represented only once per year. Data on student loan debt are self-reported by each public educational institution at the institution level. The data reflect the average student loan debt of all students (i.e., those who were enrolled and those who graduated) at that public postsecondary educational institution in 2014–15, divided by the number of students who were enrolled. The data include federal student loans from Stafford, Perkins, Graduate PLUS, Parent PLUS, and TEACH programs.



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