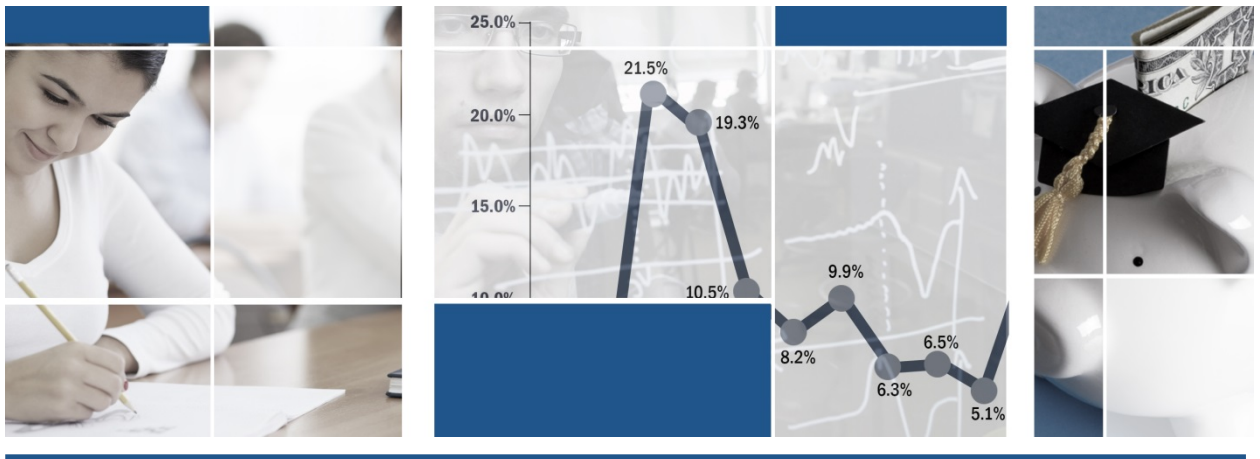


November 2016



Awards for 2015-16

Degree and Certificate Completions by Virginia's Public and Private Nonprofit Institutions

Overview

The information in this report details awards in 2015-16, with particular focus on in-state undergraduates at public and private nonprofit institutions. Presented are summaries of degree- and certificate-award totals in the public and private sectors, comparisons of 2015-16 in-state undergraduate degree awards to past years and to current estimates, and analyses of progress toward the degree goals of the Top Jobs Act (TJ21), which is a step toward achievement of the 1.5 million-award target of The Virginia Plan for Higher Education. Data on individual institutions are shown in an appendix. These data, as well as those on completions of non-degree credentials, are accessible on the Research section of the SCHEV website (<http://research.schev.edu/apps/info/Reports.Guide-to-the-Degrees-Awarded-Reports.ashx>).

All Awards at Public and Private Nonprofit Institutions in 2015-16

In 2015-16, Virginia public and private nonprofit institutions awarded a total of 119,934 degrees and certificates, compared to 115,577 in the previous year, representing a 2.3% increase.

Award Type	Public Two-years	Public Four-years	Private Four-years	Total
Undergraduate Certificates	14,729	144	489	15,362
Associate Degrees	18,956	61	1,489	20,506
Bachelor Degrees	0	38,012	16,449	54,461
First Professional Degrees	0	1,365	1,765	3,130
Master Degrees	0	10,877	10,419	21,296
Doctor Degrees	0	1,842	953	2,795
Post-graduate Certificates	0	1,378	1,006	2,384
Total Degrees	18,956	52,157	31,075	102,188
Total Awards	33,685	53,679	32,570	119,934

SCHEV staff's observations about average time-to-degree, average attempted credits and top majors appear in Appendix A.

All Degree Awards to In-State Undergraduates at Public Institutions

TJ21 set a goal for public institutions of awarding an additional 100,000 undergraduate degrees to in-state students between 2010-11 and 2024-25. Through the 2015-16 academic year, public two- and four-year institutions awarded an additional 17,983 qualifying associate and baccalaureate degrees. Awards last year were 6,901 above TJ21's baseline (42,825 in 2010-11).

In 2015-16, in-state students completed 49,726 undergraduate degrees (associate and bachelor) at public institutions. This total is 1,713 (3.6%) above the prior year's tally; the total represents the continuing rebound from 2013-14's decline, which had been the first drop in

in-state undergraduate degree completions at public institutions since 1997-98. This total also represents a new all-time high in degree awards to in-state undergraduates.

In Spring 2015, public institutions had estimated a cumulative 47,026 degree awards to in-state undergraduate students in 2015-16; this number would have been a decrease of 357 (0.8%) from the total of 2013-14. However, the actual number of awards in 2015-16 is above the estimate for the year by 2,626 (5.6%).

Academic Year	Associate	Bachelor	Total	
			Actual	Estimate
2010-11	15,606	27,219	42,825	
2011-12	17,534	28,870	46,404	
2012-13	18,135	29,366	47,501	
2013-14	17,835	29,548	47,383	
2014-15	17,918	30,077	47,995	47,026
2015-16	18,585*	31,141*	49,726*	47,100

*Denotes an all-time high.

Associate-Degree Completions by In-State Undergraduate Students at Public Institutions

In 2015-16, in-state students completed 18,585 associate degrees at public institutions – 18,526 at two-year institutions and 59 at four-year institutions. The total is 667 (3.7%) greater than the prior year's tally.

The 667-award increase in associate degrees between 2014-15 and 2015-16 at the public two-year colleges is due to higher completions at eight community colleges with increases of 50 or degree awards over 2014-15:

	Net Increase	Percentage
Patrick Henry Community College	155	43.1%
Tidewater Community College	106	3.9%
Lord Fairfax Community College	92	14.9%
Northern Virginia Community College	77	1.4%
Wytheville Community College	77	26.6%
Southside Virginia Community College	68	11.7%
Southwest Virginia Community College	54	22.7%
Germanna Community College	50	6.4%

Bachelor-Degree Completions by In-State Undergraduate Students at Public Institutions

In 2015-16, in-state students completed 31,141 baccalaureate degrees at public institutions, a new all-time high. This total is 1,064 (3.5%) above 2014-15's tally, which had also been the all-time high.

The 1,064-award increase in bachelor degrees between 2014-15 and 2015-16 was attributable to small or moderate increases in completions at 14 of the 15 public four-year institutions, with the largest year-to-year growth at James Madison University.

TABLE 4: INCREASE IN DEGREE AWARDS OVER PRIOR YEAR (PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES)		
	Net Increase	Percentage
James Madison University	218	7.1%
George Mason University	170	4.0%
Virginia Commonwealth University	167	3.6%
Old Dominion University	130	3.8%
Radford University	92	5.3%
Virginia State University	83	14.8%
Christopher Newport University	52	4.9%

The one four-year public with a decline was Virginia Military Institute (-19; -8.5%). (See Appendix C for data on in-state undergraduate completions and degree estimates for all bachelor-awarding public institutions.)

Toward 100,000 Additional In-State Undergraduate-Degree Awards by 2025

The 47,995 degree completions by in-state undergraduate awards at public institutions in 2015-16 are 5,170 more than in 2010-11, the baseline year for the Top Jobs Act goal of 100,000 additional in-state undergraduate awards by 2025. In the four academic years since TJ21 was enacted, public institutions have awarded a total of 24,884 additional in-state undergraduate degrees toward the goal. These awards are important components of The Virginia Plan for Higher Education's target of 1.5 million degrees and workforce credentials between 2014 and 2030.

Over the past 12 years, annual degree-award growth rates in the range of 3.1% to 5.2% have been common. The 6,901-award rise since 2010-11 represents an overall increase of 16%, which averages to 3.2% per year. If the average rate of growth achieved since enactment of TJ21 continues, then the goal of 100,000 additional public-sector degree awards by 2025 is readily attainable.

TABLE 5: DEGREE AWARDS TO IN-STATE UNDERGRADUATES BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS			
Academic Year	Degrees	% Change	Net Change
2000-01	28,790		
2001-02	29,673	3.1%	883
2002-03	31,220	5.2%	1,547
2003-04	31,900	2.2%	680
2004-05	32,926	3.2%	1,026
2005-06	34,367	4.4%	1,441
2006-07	35,247	2.6%	880
2007-08	36,557	3.7%	1,310
2008-09	38,233	4.6%	1,676
2009-10	39,966	4.5%	1,733
2010-11	42,825	7.2%	2,859
2011-12	46,404	8.4%	3,579
2012-13	47,501	2.4%	1,097
2013-14	47,383	-0.3%	-118
2014-15	47,995	1.3%	612
2015-16	49,726	3.6%	1,713

If, however, growth is slower or even negative, as it was in 2013-14, then the Commonwealth would need to put in place strategies to increase completion. In 2011-12 (the first year for TJ21 tracking), degree completions by in-state undergraduates at public institutions exceeded 2010-11 by 8.4%, which was the highest rate of growth in recent history. But from 2011-12 to 2012-13, comparable completions grew by only 2.4%, which was the lowest rate of growth in almost a decade. And, as detailed in Table 5, the rate of growth from 2012-13 to 2013-14 turned negative (-0.3%). However, growth from 2014-15 to 2015-16 rebounded to 3.6%.

Over the past five years, rates of degree-completion growth by in-state undergraduates at public institutions had been slowing for both associate and bachelor awards with most recent year indicating a strong rebound.

TABLE 6: ASSOCIATE DEGREE COMPLETION, NET CHANGE	
2010-11 to 2011-12	12.4%
2011-12 to 2012-13	3.4%
2012-13 to 2013-14	-1.7%
2013-14 to 2014-15	0.5%
2014-15 to 2015-16	3.7%

TABLE 7: BACHELOR DEGREE COMPLETION, NET CHANGE	
2010-11 and 2011-12	6.1%
2011-12 and 2012-13	2.4%
2012-13 and 2013-14	0.7%
2013-14 and 2014-15	1.8%
2014-15 and 2015-16	3.5%

Public institutions' cumulative degree estimates for in-state undergraduate awards through 2021-22 produced in Spring 2015 project annual increases at rates in the range of 0.2% to 1.4%, which would be considerably below the growth rates achieved between 2001-02 and 2011-12

but within the range (1.1% to 1.2%) needed to reach the TJ21 goal, which would maintain progress toward The Virginia Plan goal of 1.5 million awards by 2030. If there were to be no further growth in degree completions (and no decreases), cumulative increase in awards would top out just below 87,000. However, an annual increase of just one percentage point each year would take the state to nearly 110,000.

Undergraduate-Degree Completions by In-State Students at Private Nonprofit Institutions

In 2015-16, in-state students completed 7,179 undergraduate degrees (304 associate and 6,875 bachelor) at private nonprofit institutions. This total represents a new high in undergraduate-degree awards and is 213 (3.2%) above the prior year's tally, which had been the most ever.

Academic Year	Associate	Bachelor	Total	
			Actual	Estimate
2010-11	172	5,858	6,030	
2011-12	228	6,368	6,596	
2012-13	232	6,583	6,815	
2013-14	222	6,683*	6,905	
2014-15	314	6,659	6,973	6,953
2015-16	304	6,875	7,179	7,088

*Denotes an all-time high.

The 68-award (1%) increase in private nonprofit institutions' in-state undergraduate degree awards between 2014-15 and 2015-16 is due mainly to substantial increases at four institutions, which more than offset decreases at two. The largest year-to-year growth is shown on the following table:

	Net Increase	Percentage
Liberty	140	7.3%
Shenandoah	72	8.8%
Bridgewater	67	24.6%
Hampden-Sydney	45	32.1%

The largest declines were at Hampton (-36; -16.8%) and Averett University's non-traditional programs (-34; -16%).

(See Appendix D for data on completions and degree estimates for all undergraduate-degree-awarding private nonprofit institutions.)

Toward a “Comparable Increase” in In-State Undergraduate Degree Awards by Private Nonprofit Institutions

The 7,179 degree completions by in-state undergraduates at private nonprofit institutions in 2015-16 are 1,149 more than in 2010-11, the baseline year for TJ21’s goal for these institutions to produce an increase in awards by 2025 that is “comparable” to the TJ21’s target for public institutions. This increase occurred despite the closure of two institutions – Saint Paul’s and Virginia Intermont – during the period.

SCHEV staff has estimated that a comparable increase in private nonprofits’ undergraduate awards to in-state students would be at least an additional 15,000 awards by 2025. In the five academic years since TJ21 was enacted, private nonprofit institutions have awarded 4,321 additional undergraduate degrees, which represent an average annual rate of growth of 3.8%. Such a growth rate is more than adequate to achieve TJ21’s “comparable increase” of 15,000 awards. Indeed, if there is no growth in degree awards after this year, and no decrease in the total, the total cumulative increase by 2024-25 will be 14,662.

Academic Year	Degrees	% Change	Annual Growth
2000-01	4,305		
2001-02	3,899	-9.4%	-406
2002-03	3,505	-10.1%	-394
2003-04	3,869	10.4%	364
2004-05	4,934	28.4%	1,100
2005-06	5,167	4.7%	233
2006-07	5,579	8.0%	412
2007-08	5,654	1.3%	75
2008-09	5,622	-0.6%	-32
2009-10	5,587	-1.0%	-55
2010-11	6,030	7.9%	443
2011-12	6,596	9.4%	566
2012-13	6,815	3.3%	219
2013-14	6,905	1.3%	90
2014-15	6,973	1.0%	68
2015-16	7,179	3.2%	213

However, this average rate of growth is heavily influenced by the significant increase between 2010-11 and 2011-12, which was 9.4%. In the three years following, the rates declined to 3.3%, 1.3%, and finally between 2013-14 and 2014-15, a 1% annual increase, before this most recent increase of 3.2%.

Becoming the Best-Educated State in the Nation by 2030

To achieve the Commonwealth's goal of becoming the best-educated state in the nation by 2030, SCHEV has estimated that Virginia colleges and universities need to award 1.5 million undergraduate degrees, certificates and workforce credentials between 2014-15 and 2029-30. At this point, 176,104 undergraduate degrees and certificates have been awarded to all students, by all institutions, public and nonprofit private. Current estimates are that a sustained overall growth of 1% per year will result in 1,534,000 awards. While this is good news and is likely achievable, we know that it may not be enough as other states are making the same attempt. Further, any number of factors, such as net in-state migration and a slowing in the growth in the number of high-school graduates, could create challenges to meeting this goal.

Although The Virginia Plan does not include degrees from for-profit institutions in the 1.5 million target, Virginia residents with degrees from this sector do contribute to the overall level of educational attainment in the state. Based on national data, these institutions awarded approximately 6,000 associate degrees and 4,500 bachelor degrees in 2015-16.

Finally, the recently introduced New Economy Workforce Credential Program will add yet more credentials of value to the count. A mere three months into its existence, nearly 1,400 Virginians have enrolled in programs at Virginia's Community Colleges and the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center. These noncredit credential programs are specifically targeted to existing workforce needs thus have specific value to the Commonwealth's goals.

APPENDIX A:**Institutions' Average Time-to-Degree, Average Attempted Credits, and Top Majors in 2015-16**

Typically, we talk about institutional efficiency and effectiveness in terms of graduation rates, which are based on the number and percentage of an entering cohort of students finishing in a specified number of years. Measuring “Average Time-to-Degree,” specified in elapsed years, provides insight to how long students take to complete a degree. The companion metric, “Average Credits-to-Degree,” provides insight into the efforts students make to complete on time. It also could be an indication of student preparation and as well the impact of federal policy on student behavior. In all cases, we see that new first-time in college (FTIC) students who enroll as full-time in their first semester attempt more credits than required for the degree, while part-time students tend to be closer to “just enough.” As one can observe, Virginia’s elapsed Time-To-Degree metric compares favorably to the measure reported by the National Student Clearinghouse, which does not separate by full- and part-time at entry.

With Virginia’s entry into Complete College America (CCA), SCHEV has submitted a tremendous amount of state-level data to CCA. This includes various subgroups of students for Time-to-Degree and Credits-to-Degree metrics. Once CCA has finished its collection, the data of all participating states will be published allowing direct comparisons. SCHEV staff also has produced the data for each institution and will be publishing that soon.

TABLE A.1: Public two-year colleges		
	Ave. Time-to-Degree (Elapsed Years)	Ave. Credits-to-Degree
FTIC, Full-Time at Entry	3.9	112
FTIC, Part-Time at Entry	6.4	92
FTIC, Full-Time at Entry, Dual Enrollment Credit	2.9	110
Comparison with National Student Clearinghouse	5.6	
Top Five Most Popular Majors	Number Grads	Percentage of Total
Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies	3,918	21%
General Studies	2,350	12%
Social Sciences, General	1,919	10%
Business Administration and Management, General	1,903	10%
Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	1,246	7%

	Ave. Time-to-Degree (Elapsed Years)	Ave. Credits-to-Degree
FTIC, Full-Time at Entry	4.5	135
FTIC, Part-Time at Entry	6.5	122
FTIC, Full-Time at Entry, Dual Enrollment Credit	4.4	146
Comparison with National Student Clearinghouse	5.6	
New Transfer, Full-Time at Entry	3.5	88
New Transfer, Part-Time at Entry	4.3	69
Top Five Most Popular Majors	Number Grads	Percentage of Total
Psychology, General	2,550	7%
Biology/Biological Sciences, General	2,152	6%
Business Administration and Management, General	1,382	4%
Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	1,279	3%
Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies	1,192	3%

	Ave. Time-to-Degree (Elapsed Years)	Ave. Credits-to-Degree
FTIC, Full-Time at Entry	4.5	129
FTIC, Part-Time at Entry	5.6	122
FTIC, Full-Time at Entry, Dual Enrollment Credit (n=50)	4.8	152
Comparison with National Student Clearinghouse	5.4	
New Transfer, Full-Time at Entry	4.5	84
New Transfer, Part-Time at Entry	5.6	67
Top Five Most Popular Majors	Number Grads	Percentage of Total
Business Administration and Management, General	2,059	13%
Psychology, General	2,025	12%
Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	1,199	7%
Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, Other	1,184	7%
Religion/Religious Studies	1,005	6%

**APPENDIX B:
Public Institutions' Associate-Degree Awards to In-State Students, 2015-16**

Institution	Awards in 2015-16			Estimates for 2015-16		
	N	Change from 2013-14		N	Difference between Awards and Estimates*	
		N	%		N	%
Total Public Four-year	59	-2	-3.3%	51	8	15.7%
Norfolk State University	1	-10	-90.9%	1	0	
Virginia State University	1	-2	-66.7%	1	0	
Virginia Tech	57	10	21.3%	49	8	16.3%
Total Public Two-Year	18,526	669	3.8%	16,932	1,594	9.4%
Richard Bland College	205	-8	-3.8%	260	-55	-21.2%
VCCS	18,321	677	3.8%	16,672	1,649	9.9%
Blue Ridge CC	576	-26	-4.3%			
Central Virginia CC	442	-7	-1.6%			
Dabney S. Lancaster CC	110	8	7.8%			
Danville CC	258	-4	-1.5%			
Eastern Shore CC	33	-33	-50.0%			
Germanna CC	831	50	6.4%			
J Sargeant Reynolds CC	929	-18	-1.9%			
John Tyler CC	791	36	4.8%			
Lord Fairfax CC	715	92	14.8%			
Mountain CC	246	26	11.8%			
New River CC	427	17	4.2%			
Northern Virginia CC	5,563	77	1.4%			
Patrick Henry CC	515	155	43.0%			
Paul D Camp CC	101	-20	-16.5%			
Piedmont Virginia CC	537	36	7.2%			
Rappahannock CC	239	-3	-1.24%			
Southside Virginia CC	650	68	11.7%			
Southwest Virginia CC	292	54	22.7%			
Thomas Nelson CC	896	15	1.7%			
Tidewater CC	2,902	106	3.8%			
Virginia Highlands CC	223	-46	-17.1%			
Virginia Western CC	678	17	2.6%			
Wytheville CC	367	77	26.6%			
Total Public Institutions	18,585	667	3.7%	16,983	1,602	9.4%

**Enrollment Projections and Degree Estimates are not provided for individual community colleges.*

APPENDIX C: Public Institutions' Bachelor-Degree Awards to In-State Students, 2015-16						
Institution	Awards in 2015-16			Estimates for 2015-16		
	N	Change from 2013-14		N	Difference between Awards and Estimates*	
		N	%		N	%
Total Public Four-year Institutions	31,141	1,064	3.5%	30,135	1,006	3.3%
Christopher Newport University	1,125	52	4.9%	1,140	-15	-1.3%
College of William and Mary	1,095	15	1.4%	1,078	17	1.6%
George Mason University	4,413	170	4.0%	4,346	67	1.5%
James Madison University	3,304	218	7.1%	3,050	254	8.3%
Longwood University	904	32	3.7%	893	11	1.2%
Norfolk State University	867	21	2.5%	657	210	32.0%
Old Dominion University	3,572	130	3.8%	3,658	-86	-2.4%
Radford University	1,843	92	5.3%	1,738	105	6.0%
University of Mary Washington	901	14	1.6%	820	81	9.9%
University of Virginia	2,781	48	1.8%	2,660	121	4.6%
University of Virginia's College at Wise	295	11	3.9%	247	48	19.4%
Virginia Commonwealth University	4,750	167	3.6%	4,580	170	3.7%
Virginia Military Institute	205	-19	-8.5%	233	-28	-12.0%
Virginia State University	645	83	14.8%	530	115	21.7%
Virginia Tech	4,441	30	0.7%	4,505	-64	-1.4%

APPENDIX D: Private Nonprofit Institutions' Undergraduate-Degree Awards to In-State Students, 2015-16						
Institution	Awards in 2015-16			Estimates for 2015-16		
	N	Change from 2013-14		N	Difference between Awards and Estimates*	
		N	%		N	%
Total Private, NonProfit, Four-year Institutions	6,875	213	3.2%	6,834	41	0.6%
Appalachian College of Pharmacy	0	0		0	0	
Averett University	115	-3	-2.5%	119	-4	-3.4%
Averett University Non-Traditional	172	-34	-16.5%	217	-45	-20.7%
Bluefield College	176	1	0.6%	268	-92	-34.3%
Bridgewater College	339	67	24.6%	282	57	20.2%
Christendom College	25	1	4.2%	26	-1	-3.9%
Eastern Mennonite University	175	-15	-7.9%	176	-1	-0.6%
Eastern Virginia Medical School	0	0		0	0	
Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine	0	0		0	0	
Emory and Henry College	147	15	11.4%	124	23	18.6%
Ferrum College	182	-25	-12.1%	185	-3	-1.6%
George Washington University	79	-1	-1.3%	60	19	31.7%
Hampden-Sydney College	185	45	32.1%	148	37	25.0%
Hampton University	178	-36	-16.8%	48	130	270.8%
Hollins University	74	0		80	-6	-7.5%
Jefferson College of Health Sciences	182	16	9.6%	190	-8	-4.2%
Liberty University	2,166	148	7.3%	2,119	47	2.2%
Lynchburg College	329	-30	-8.4%	325	4	1.2%
Mary Baldwin University	212	-24	-10.2%	162	50	30.9%
Marymount University	368	-15	-3.9%	437	-69	-15.8%
Randolph College	70	2	2.9%	71	-1	-1.4%
Randolph-Macon College	230	18	8.5%	200	30	15.0%
Regent University	236	9	4.0%	384	-148	-38.5%
Roanoke College	238	-1	-0.4%	245	-7	-2.9%
Shenandoah University	322	72	28.8%	280	42	15.0%
Southern Virginia University	21	-3	-12.5%	42	-21	-50.0%
Sweet Briar College	51	-12	-19.0%			
University of Richmond	181	-8	-4.2%	243	-62	-25.5%