

Post-College Outcomes Report

Academic Affairs Committee
January 14, 2019



Original Charge

Council would like to be able to point to the success of Virginia graduates in securing employment, earning wages, and contributing to the civic life of their communities. Ideally, those graduates would also contribute to the health of Virginia--economically, socially, and culturally--by staying in Virginia, or returning to Virginia (after graduate school, for example). This information, combined with institutional assessments of student learning and existing wage and debt data, can contribute to a more nuanced picture of the quality and value of higher education in Virginia.

Task Force (met May through December 2018)

Kartik Athreya

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Lois Myers

University of Virginia

Jodi Fisler

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Catherine Finnegan

Virginia Community College System

Kathleen Powell

College of William & Mary

Ashley Lockhart

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

John Hathcoat

James Madison University

Christina Whitfield

State Higher Education Executive Officers Association

Tod Massa

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Joseph Lyons

Virginia State University

John Bailey Jones

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Robyn McDougle

Virginia Commonwealth University

Joseph G. DeFilippo

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Major Outcomes

1. Such a project is, in fact, feasible, as well as groundbreaking in its scope and scale;
2. There were essentially two major methodologies of implementation from which to choose — custom designed vs existing national provider;
3. Either option comes with a significant cost due to the scale of the research required to provide sufficient depth of information; and
4. This survey is best implemented as a longitudinal study, and not a one-off venture.

Plus: *caveat to take a multiplicity of factors into account in any assessment of program quality.*

Feasibility

- Contact information for graduates in SCHEV data for last 10 years: 580,000 out of 1,000,000

Criterion	Custom-designed	National provider
Validity	New questions, scales internally validated	Tested, validated scales
Customization	Completely	Partially - can add custom questions; some changes may carry additional costs
Benchmarking	Limited to comparisons among similar publicly available datasets or summary reports from other sources for variables already collected	National benchmarking against large database including by type of institution (e.g., AAU, research university) for variables already collected
Ownership of data, methods	SCHEV	National provider and SCHEV
Data analysis	Ability to break down the data into any demographic category with sufficient numbers of cases	Ability to break down the data into any demographic category with sufficient numbers of cases

Costs (approximating)

\$640,000:

- public institutions, including community colleges
- state level data
- institution level data

\$1.25M:

Same as above, plus:

- program level data
- gender/race/ethnicity data (not necessarily for *all* programs or *all* institutions)

\$1.8M:

Same as above, plus:

- TAG-eligible private institutions

Survey Question Domains

- Basic Identifying Info
- Basic Employment Info
- Employment-Education Relation
- Satisfaction
- Debt
- Civic Engagement