WORKFORCE PREPARATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES
AVERAGE FIRST-YEAR EARNINGS: TENNESSEE

What Is Measured?
Average earnings within one-year of program completion, by program area and degree type

Who Is Counted?
Graduates of associate degree and certificate programs in Tennessee Community Colleges between summer 2005 and spring 2006

What It Tells Us
There was wide variation in first-year earnings among graduates of the most popular associate degree and certificate programs in Tennessee. Graduates in health professions and related programs earned, on average, $46,606 while family and consumer sciences/human sciences certificate completers earned, on average, only $22,877. On average, Associate degree graduates earned more than certificate completers in five of the six fields.

Why It’s Important

ABOUT THE DATA
Data are reported in five-year cohorts; the cohort reported here draws from students who graduated between Summer 2005 and Spring 2006. Wage data are obtained by matching Social Security numbers of graduates with Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development unemployment insurance records for the third through sixth quarters after graduation. Only graduates employed in Tennessee during that period are counted; self-employed individuals, federal employees and those working outside of Tennessee are excluded. Program areas are reported by CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) code. Six popular program areas shown here are chosen by College Measures. Data are available for other CIP codes at www.collegemeasures.org. Data are inflation adjusted to constant 2011 dollars according to the Consumer Price Index.

DATA SOURCE