WORKFORCE PREPARATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES
MEDIAN QUARTERLY EARNINGS: VIRGINIA

Median quarterly wages of Virginia community college exiters, six months later, and two years later

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<th>Time of exit</th>
<th>Six months later</th>
<th>Two years later</th>
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<td>Median quarterly wages</td>
<td>$4,800</td>
<td>$5,900</td>
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What Is Measured?
Median quarterly earnings six months and two years after exiting

Who Is Counted?
Virginia Community College students enrolled in spring 2007 and not enrolled in any two- or four-year institutions in fall 2007

What It Tells Us
The median quarterly earnings of spring 2007 Virginia Community College exiters was $4,800 immediately after they left their community colleges. Exiters experienced the highest earnings growth within the next six months, when their quarterly earnings rose to $5,900. Their earnings increased more modestly over the subsequent year and a half to $6,500.

Why It’s Important
Many students enroll in community colleges to gain new skills so that they can improve their employment prospects. Recent studies have found that median earnings for those with associate degrees are higher than median earnings for high school graduates (Baum, Ma, & Payea, 2010). Even among students who do not complete a degree, the average effect of attending a community college is estimated at a 10 percent increase for women and 9 percent for men (Belfield & Bailey, 2011). Fewer studies have examined vocational certificates at the national level, but their results are consistent with the research on associate degrees, with certificate recipients showing a substantial advantage in earnings (Bosworth, 2010).

ABOUT THE DATA
Exiters: Virginia Community College students enrolled in spring 2007 and not enrolled in any two- or four-year institutions in fall 2007. Graduates made up 7 percent of the exiters in spring 2007.

Earnings data come from Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage records from Virginia, Washington, DC, and the nearby states of Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. UI earnings records do not include self-employed, military, and federal employees.

DATA SOURCE