

Overview Fact Sheet

The Florida College System plays a significant role in the state economy and is a sound investment from multiple perspectives. Students benefit from improved lifestyles and increased earnings. Taxpayers benefit from a larger economy and lower social costs. Finally, the state as a whole benefits from increased job and investment opportunities, higher business revenues, greater availability of public funds, and an eased tax burden.

INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

Student Perspective

- The Florida College System served **706,703** credit and **146,500** non-credit students in the 2011-12 reporting year.
- Education increases lifetime income. The average income at the career midpoint of someone with an associate's degree in Florida is **\$40,700**, 35% more than a student with a high school diploma.

Students enjoy a 16.8% rate of return on their educational investment.

- Throughout his or her working career, the average student's discounted lifetime income increases by **\$6.00** for every dollar invested in their college education from the Florida College System.
- Students enjoy an attractive **16.8%** average rate of return on their educational investment, recovering all costs (including tuition, fees, and forgone wages) in 9.1 years.

Social Perspective

- Higher earnings that accrue to students of the Florida College System and the associated increases in state income expand the tax base in Florida by more than **\$3.0 billion** each year.
- Florida will see avoided social costs amounting to **\$158.6 million** per year due to students of the Florida College System, including savings associated with improved health, reduced crime, and reduced welfare and unemployment.

Taxpayer Perspective

- The state government allocated **\$1.2 billion** in support of the Florida College System in FY 2011-12.
- For every dollar of this support, taxpayers see a cumulative return of **\$2.90** over the course of students' working careers (in the form of higher tax receipts and avoided costs).

- The state government sees a rate of return of **9.4%** on their support for the Florida College System. This return compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.

ECONOMIC GROWTH ANALYSIS

College Operations Effect

- The Florida economy annually receives roughly **\$1.3 billion** in income due to the operations of the Florida College System. This is a conservative figure adjusted to account for monies that leave the state economy or are withdrawn from the economy in support of the Florida College System.

Added income attributable to the accumulation of credits attained by former students of the Florida College System amounts to \$25.2 billion each year.

Student Spending Effect

- An estimated **5.2%** of students attending the Florida College System come from outside the state, bringing with them monies that would not have otherwise entered the state economy.
- The expenditures of out-of-state students generate roughly **\$24.9 million** in added income in Florida each year.

Productivity Effect

- The current Florida economy embodies an estimated **159.6 million** credits that have accumulated over the past 30-year period as thousands of former students from the Florida College System enter the workforce year after year.
- College skills translate to higher earnings for students and increased output of businesses. The added income attributable to the accumulation of credits from the Florida College System in the workforce amounts to around **\$25.2 billion** each year.