

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 419 556

JC 980 241

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 TITLE Employment Status of VCCS Students Fall Semester 1996.
 Research Report Series.
 INSTITUTION Virginia State Dept. of Community Colleges, Richmond.
 PUB DATE 1998-02-00
 NOTE 10p.
 PUB TYPE Reports - Research (143)
 EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
 DESCRIPTORS *Community Colleges; *Educational Research; Employers;
 Employment; Employment Level; Employment Patterns;
 Employment Statistics; Labor Market; Part Time Employment;
 School Demography; *Student Characteristics; *Student
 Employment; *Two Year College Students; Two Year Colleges
 IDENTIFIERS *Virginia Community College System

ABSTRACT

This report documents the employment status of Virginia Community College System (VCCS) students. In fall 1996, all 24 colleges involved in the study had at least a 50% working student population, and nearly 41% of all VCCS students were working full-time and also taking classes. A profile of business and industry showed that community colleges serve employees from all segments of the Virginia economy, with retail trade being a major employer for younger students. In addition, VCCS students are employed at the majority of Virginia's information and high-technology firms. Major groups in the services sector, the largest employer of VCCS students, include health, business, education, and engineering-management. The study found that 1) though males and females have the same rates of employment, males are more likely to work full-time; 2) if they are working, white, black, and Hispanic students are most likely to have full-time jobs; 3) new students are less likely to be working than returning students; 4) most VCCS students attend class part-time and work full-time, with the percentage of full-time employees increasing with age up to the 60-and-over category; and 5) the 18-21 age group has the highest percentage of working students. (YKH)

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Research Report Series

Employment Status of VCCS Students Fall Semester 1996

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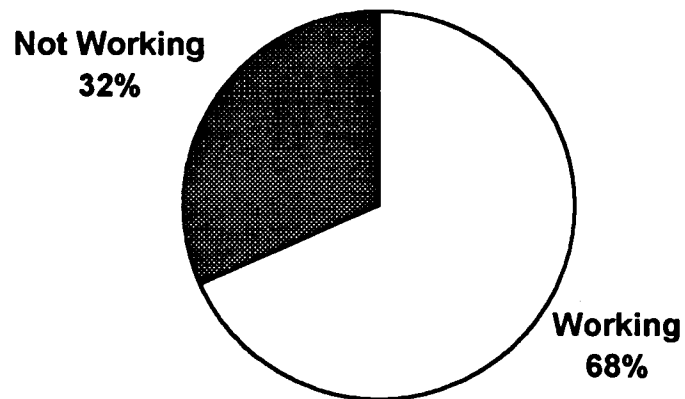
**Employment Status of
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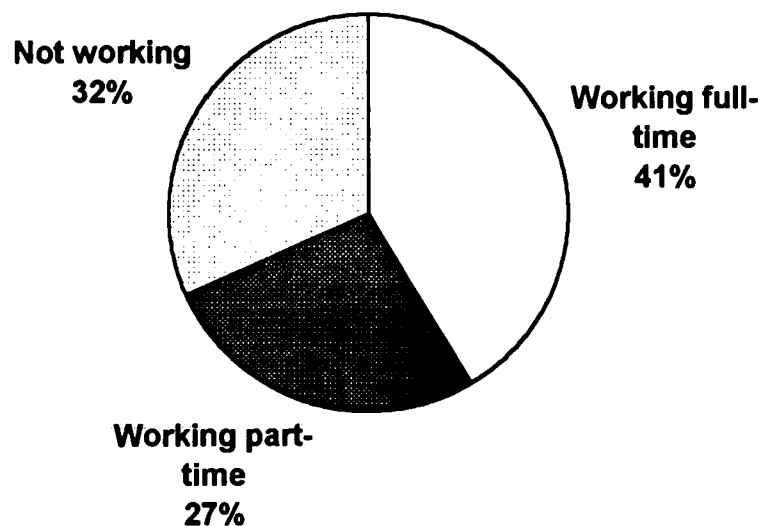
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February 1998

Nearly 70 percent of all community college students are working and taking classes at the same time. This was more than 80,000 students in fall 1996.



Of the over 80,000 working, over 60 percent or more than 50,000 students were employed full-time.



Student Employment Status¹

Students who work and those who are regularly employed as a percent of all fall enrollments:

	Working	Working Full-time
Blue Ridge	78	44
Central Virginia	73	44
D. S. Lancaster	66	35
Danville	68	38
Eastern Shore	65	30
Germanna	70	38
J. S. Reynolds	81	54
John Tyler	78	55
Lord Fairfax	73	44
Mtn. Empire	53	23
New River	68	37
Northern Va.	63	41
Patrick Henry	78	52
Paul D. Camp	68	36
Piedmont Va.	78	50
Rappahannock	66	35
Southside Va.	65	35
Southwest Va.	57	33
Thomas Nelson	71	43
Tidewater	66	37
Va. Highlands	61	30
Va. Western	75	45
Wytheville	63	34
VCCS	68	41

No college had fewer than 50 percent of students working. For five colleges, working student percentages approached 80 percent of the total student population, the highest being J. Sargeant Reynolds C.C. at 81 percent.

For several colleges, over half of the total student population was working full-time while enrolled.

¹ Employment information obtained through an agreement with the Virginia Employment Commission to use unemployment insurance wage records for academic planning and evaluation. College-specific student records with employer information are available for college use. Federally owned employers are not included.

A profile of the businesses and industries employing VCCS students shows that community colleges serve employees from all segments of the Virginia economy.

Percentage of Employers by Major Division of Economic Activities

	VCCS	All
Major SIC Division	Student	Virginia
	Employers	Employers
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	2.6	.9
Mining	.4	.4
Construction	7.5	6.0
Manufacturing	7.1	13.2
Transportation	3.6	6.2
Wholesale Trade	6.2	4.6
Retail Trade	26.2	18.4
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	5.5	5.3
Services	39.1	38.2
Public Administration	1.5	6.5
Nonclassifiable	.4	.2

Using standard classification divisions for business and industry, the distribution of firms employing VCCS students is similar to that for all employers in Virginia. One exception, not unexpected, is in Retail Trade, a major employer generally and provider of flexible, part-time employment to younger students.

VCCS student employers profiled above numbered over 20,000 or more than 10 percent of all businesses and industries in Virginia.

Information and high technology firms¹ are more likely to be an employer of a community college student. VCCS students are employed at over 50 percent of Virginia's "high tech" firms.

¹Subdivisions of the major groups on the next page were combined to approximate the Information and Technology Sectors of NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

Services providers, as is the case for most Virginians, employ most VCCS students. Major groups in the Services sector employing the largest number of students are Health, Business, Education, and Engineering-Management.

Number and percent of working VCCS students by type of business and industry. Categories are major groups of SIC divisions.

	Number	Percent			
AGRIC-LIVESTOCK	43	0.1	WHOLESALE-DURABL	1699	2.0
AGRIC-SERVICES	677	0.8	WHOLESALE-NONDUR	1094	1.3
FORESTRY-FISH	9	0.0	RETAIL-HDWE/BLDG	839	1.0
COAL MINING	587	0.7	RETAIL-GEN MERCH	3885	4.6
OIL AND GAS	8	0.0	RETAIL-FOOD	4490	5.3
NONMETAL MINING	104	0.1	RETAIL-AUTO/GAS	1698	2.0
CONSTRUC-BLDG	579	0.7	RETAIL-APPAREL	1716	2.0
CONSTRUC-HEAVY	472	0.6	RETAIL-HOME FURN	1402	1.7
CONSTRUC-TRADE	1560	1.9	RETAIL-EAT/DRINK	9167	10.9
MFG- FOOD	506	0.6	RETAIL-MISC	3643	4.3
MFG- TOBACCO	106	0.1	FINANCE-DEPOSIT	1904	2.3
MFG- TEXTILE	753	0.9	FINANCE-NONDEPOS	566	0.7
MFG- APPAREL	275	0.3	FINANCE-SECURITI	76	0.1
MFG- LUMBER/WOOD	320	0.4	FINANCE-INSUR CO	696	0.8
MFG- FURNITURE	341	0.4	FINANCE-INS SRVS	286	0.3
MFG- PAPER	423	0.5	FINANCE-REAL EST	809	1.0
MFG- PRNT/PUBLSH	868	1.0	FINANCE-HOLDING	65	0.1
MFG- CHEMICALS	443	0.5	SERVICE-LODGING	1281	1.5
MFG- PETRO REFIN	8	0.0	SERVICE-PERSONAL	875	1.0
MFG- RUBBER/PLAS	442	0.5	SERVICE-BUSINESS	5777	6.9
MFG- LEATHER	13	0.0	SERVICE-AUTO	531	0.6
MFG- GLASS/CONCR	200	0.2	SERVICE-REPAIR	197	0.2
MFG- METALS	207	0.2	SERVICE-MOVIES	718	0.9
MFG- FAB. METALS	336	0.4	SERVICE-AMUSMNT	1188	1.4
MFG- MACH/COMPUT	758	0.9	SERVICE-HEALTH	7289	8.7
MFG- ELEC EX COM	997	1.2	SERVICE-LEGAL	604	0.7
MFG- TRAN EQUIP	976	1.2	SERVICE-EDUCAT	5737	6.8
MFG- INSTRUMENTS	274	0.3	SERVICE-SOCIAL	2487	3.0
MFG- MISC	100	0.1	SERVICE-MUS/GAL	128	0.2
TRAN-LOCAL TRANS	170	0.2	SERVICE-CLUBS	728	0.9
TRAN-MTR FREIGHT	431	0.5	SERVICE-ENG/MGT	2705	3.2
TRAN-WATER	86	0.1	SERVICE-HSEHOLD	276	0.3
TRAN-AIR	829	1.0	SERVICE-MISC	22	0.0
TRAN-SERVICES	198	0.2	PUBLIC ADMIN	3839	4.6
TRAN-COMMUNICAT	840	1.0	NONCLASSIFIABLE	95	0.1
TRAN-ELEC/GAS	515	0.6	Total Students Working	84058	

Overall most students work, but what are the differences among VCCS student subgroups?

Student Demographics

Gender	Working FT	Working PT	Not Working
Female	40%	28%	32%
Male	44%	25%	31%
Race/Ethnicity			
American Ind	33%	28%	39%
Black	40%	27%	33%
Asian	36%	27%	37%
Other	35%	26%	39%
Hispanic	42%	22%	36%
White	42%	27%	31%
Age			
Under 18	2%	55%	43%
18 to 21	24%	50%	26%
22 to 24	46%	27%	27%
25 to 34	52%	16%	32%
35 to 44	54%	11%	35%
45 to 59	55%	9%	36%
60 and over	24%	13%	63%

Student/Academic Characteristics

Student Status	Working FT	Working PT	Not Working
First-time	24%	42%	34%
Returning	46%	23%	31%
Transfer	44%	21%	35%
Enrollment Status			
Full-time	18%	47%	35%
Part-time	50%	19%	31%
Program			
College Transfer	36%	33%	31%
Occ-Technical	42%	25%	33%
Unclassified	46%	23%	31%
Developmental Coursework			
Math only	30%	39%	31%
English only	28%	41%	31%
Math & English	19%	49%	32%
None	44%	24%	32%

Generally, working versus not working varies more with student demographics than with academic program or course-taking factors. Most VCCS students work unless they are very young or of retirement age.

How much they work, whether full- or part-time, does vary with several characteristics. As would be expected, course load is also a factor.

Gender

- Likelihood of working is about the same for males and females, but more males are employed full-time.

Race/Ethnicity

- Minority students are slightly less likely to be working. If working, white, black, and Hispanic students are more likely to have full-time jobs.

Age

- The youngest(18 and under) and oldest(60 and over) groups are least likely to be working, but this youngest category has the highest percentage of students working part-time.
- The '18 to 21' age group has the highest percentage of working students, 74 % for full- and part-time combined. The '22 to 24' group is next most likely to be employed.
- Generally, percentages of students employed full-time increase with age up to the '60 and over' category.
- After age 18, the percentage of students not working increases with each increasing age category.

Status

- New students, first-time and transfer, are less likely to be working than returning students.
- Returning and transfer students are much more likely to be employed full-time.

Course Load

- Most VCCS students attend class part-time and work full-time. Full-time students are more likely to work only part-time.
- It is noteworthy that 20 percent of the students carrying a full load also hold down a full-time job.

Student Major

- Working or not varies little with program area. Transfer majors are more likely to work part-time. More O-T and unclassified students work full-time.

Developmental

- The working-not working percentages are nearly the same regardless of developmental requirements, but developmental students are much less likely to be working full-time.



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Author(s): <i>EARL McHEWITT, Va. Community College System</i>	
Corporate Source:	Publication Date: <i>Feb 1998</i>

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