

# Measuring the Economic Success of Florida's Graduates

Economic Security Report **2018**

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# Executive Summary

**The Florida Economic Security Report details economic outcomes of recent completers from Florida’s public postsecondary educational institutions.** Data from the State University System of Florida (SUS), the Florida College System (FCS), and District Technical Centers (DTCs) are included in this report.<sup>1</sup>

The report aims to document the variation in earnings, employment, continuing education, and public assistance among completers who have earned degrees or certificates from these three systems of postsecondary education. The results show that economic outcomes are correlated with a student’s selected degree or certificate, credential level, and institution.

Information in this report comes from the following two data sources: the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) from the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Department of Education’s Office of Student Financial Assistance.

The data discussed in this report reflect outcomes for 870,958 completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011–12 to 2015–16. Throughout this discussion, outcomes one year after graduation refer to completers during the 2011–16 period. The data also include economic outcomes for 2011–12 completers five years after graduation. Throughout this report, all outcomes five years after graduation are for completers in the 2011–12 cohort.

Although the data represent employment and earnings outcomes, the report does not include information about the occupations of completers and whether they are employed in their field of study. All aggregate values reflect available data from postsecondary institutions.

The exploration of economic outcomes begins with a review of statewide outcomes. The report continues with a review of employment and wage outcomes (by credential and institution), continuing education trends, and rates of public assistance. The report concludes with a discussion on debt levels and labor market outlooks.

## Key Findings

- The most popular credentials among Florida completers are the bachelor’s degree awarded by State University System of Florida institutions, associate in arts degree, and associate in science degree.
- Completers with an advanced technical certificate received the highest median wages one year after graduation (\$44,436) across all programs and credential levels. Completers with an advanced technical certificate also received the highest median wages five years after graduation (\$59,368) across all programs and credential levels.
- Apprenticeship completers from Florida College System institutions had the highest rate of full-time employment (77%), across all credential levels and programs. Advanced technical certificate holders had the highest rate of employment in any form (85%) across all credential levels and programs.
- Completers of the associate in arts degree and college credit certificate most frequently continued education in another public institution, across all credential levels.
- Completers with a bachelor’s degree from a State University System of Florida institution had the lowest rate of public assistance, across all credential levels.

# Overview of Certificates and Degrees

The following certificates and degrees are discussed in the report:<sup>2</sup>

## Career Certificates

Career certificate programs are a series of vocational courses that prepare students for entry-level employment in specific career fields. The program of instruction is a part of an associate in science (A.S.) or associate in applied science (A.A.S.) program and is less than 60 credits of college-level courses. Career certificates can also be referred to as technical certificates.

## College Credit Certificates

College credit certificates are a series of college credit courses that prepare students for entry-level employment in specific career fields or for career advancement. Generally, these certificates can be completed in one year or less. College credit certificate programs must be part of an A.S. or A.A.S. degree program.

## Associate in Applied Science

The associate in applied science (A.A.S.) degree is a two-year technical degree designed to train students for direct entry into a specialized occupation in the workplace.

## Associate in Science

The associate in science (A.S.) degree is a two-year technical degree designed to prepare students who are planning to enter a specific occupation; it serves as a basis for admission to a related bachelor's degree program.

## Advanced Technical Certificate

Advanced technical certificates (ATCs) are programs of instruction that are less than 45 credit hours of college-level courses. ATCs are awarded to students who have already received an A.S. or A.A.S. degree and are seeking an advanced specialized planning program of study to supplement their associate degree.

## Associate in Arts

The associate in arts (A.A.) degree is designed for students who plan to attend a four-year institution as a junior and complete a bachelor's degree program. The A.A. degree is awarded upon the completion of 60 credit hours in a selected course of study, which includes the completion of a 36-credit-hour general education program.

## Bachelor's

The bachelor's degree is a four-year degree that is typically 120 credit hours; it may have an emphasis on science, liberal arts, or accommodating unique demands for entry into specific workforce sectors.

## Common Terms

**Any Employment** – refers to all levels of employment status (e.g., full-time, part-time)

**Completer** – any person who has completed any level of postsecondary education (e.g., certificate, diploma, bachelor's degree)

**Continuing Education** – refers to enrolling in another public postsecondary education program after completing a degree or credential program

**District Technical Center (DTC)** – a system of 52 centers that offer certifications in a variety of career and technical education program areas ([www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/dist-ps-instit.stml](http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/dist-ps-instit.stml))

**Florida College System (FCS)** – comprises 28 public community colleges and state colleges, some of which offer four-year bachelor's degrees ([www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/colleges/](http://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/colleges/))

**Full-Time Employment** – refers to earnings at or exceeding the hourly minimum wage

**Institution** – an individual organization awarding credentials (e.g., Broward College, University of North Florida)

**Popular Programs** – programs with the greatest number of completers

**Program** – a course of study leading to a certain credential (e.g., Psychology, Nursing)

**Public Assistance** – refers to the number of students who received food stamps or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

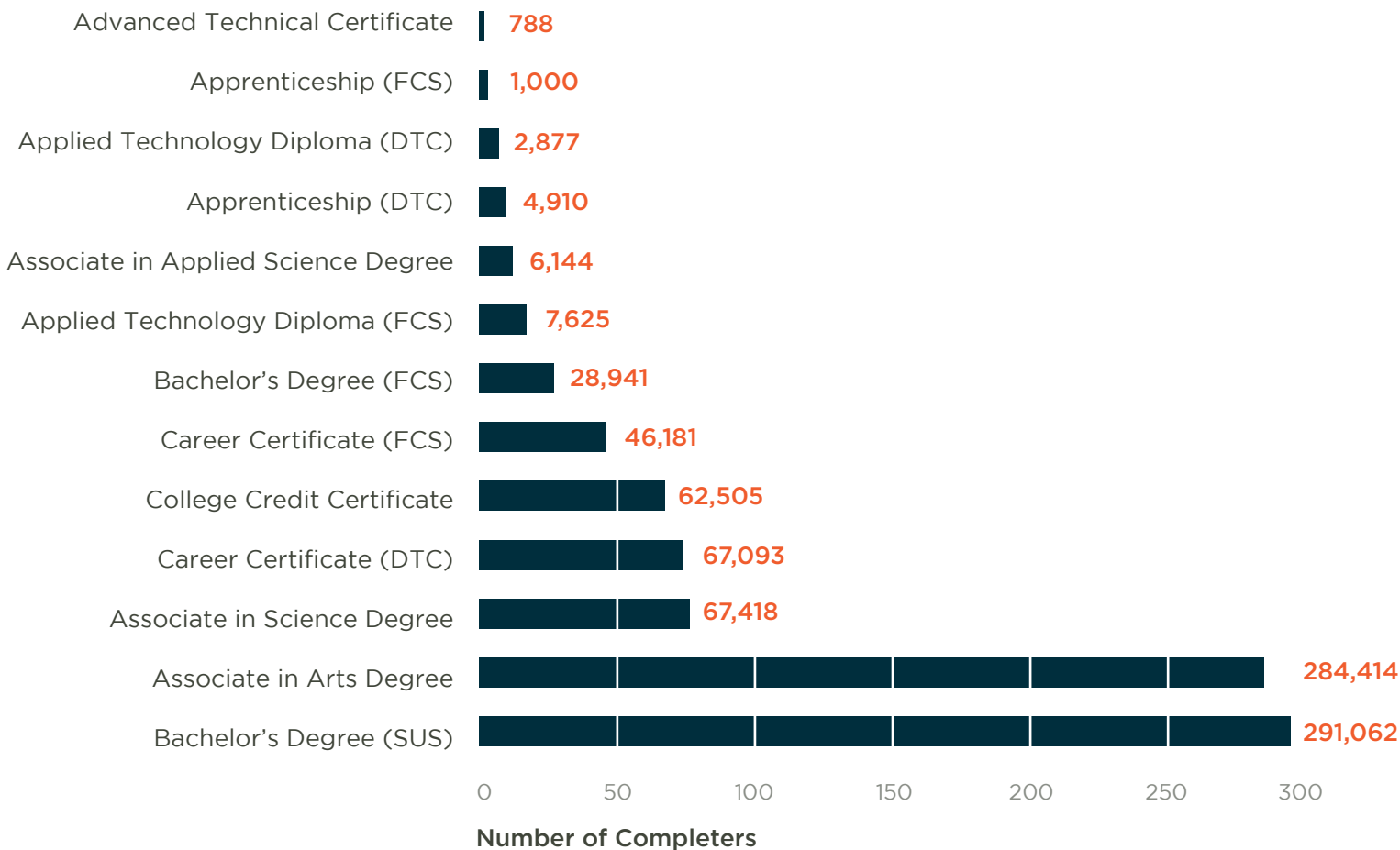
**State University System of Florida (SUS)** – contains 12 public universities ([www.flbog.edu/universities/](http://www.flbog.edu/universities/))

**System** – a coordinated body of public colleges (e.g., Florida College System [FCS], State University System [SUS])

# Statewide Outcomes

Figure 1 shows the number of Florida completers by credential level and system one year after program completion. Bachelor's degrees offered by State University System of Florida institutions are the most popular credential, followed by the associate in arts and associate in science degrees.

Figure 1. Total Completers by Credential Level and System, Statewide<sup>3</sup>



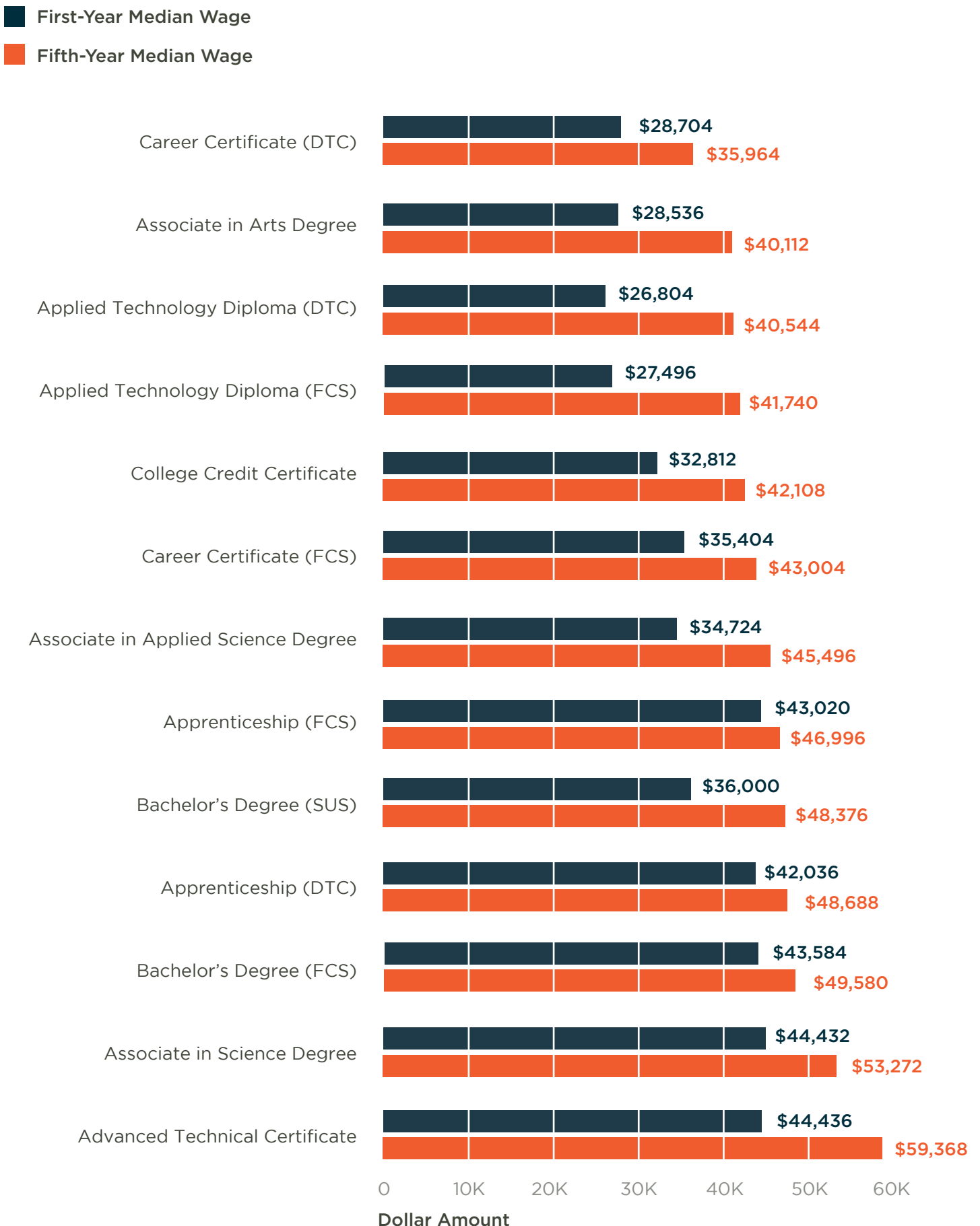
<sup>3</sup> Total Completers - 870,958  
Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.



The median wage across all postsecondary credential completers is \$36,840. **Figure 2 shows the statewide median first-year earnings and the statewide median fifth-year earnings by credential level and system.** Median first-year earnings range from \$26,804 to \$44,436.

Median fifth-year earnings range from \$35,964 to \$59,368. Advanced technical certificate completers earned the highest median wage among completers in their first year after graduation for a five-year period (2011-15) and completers five years after graduation (2011).

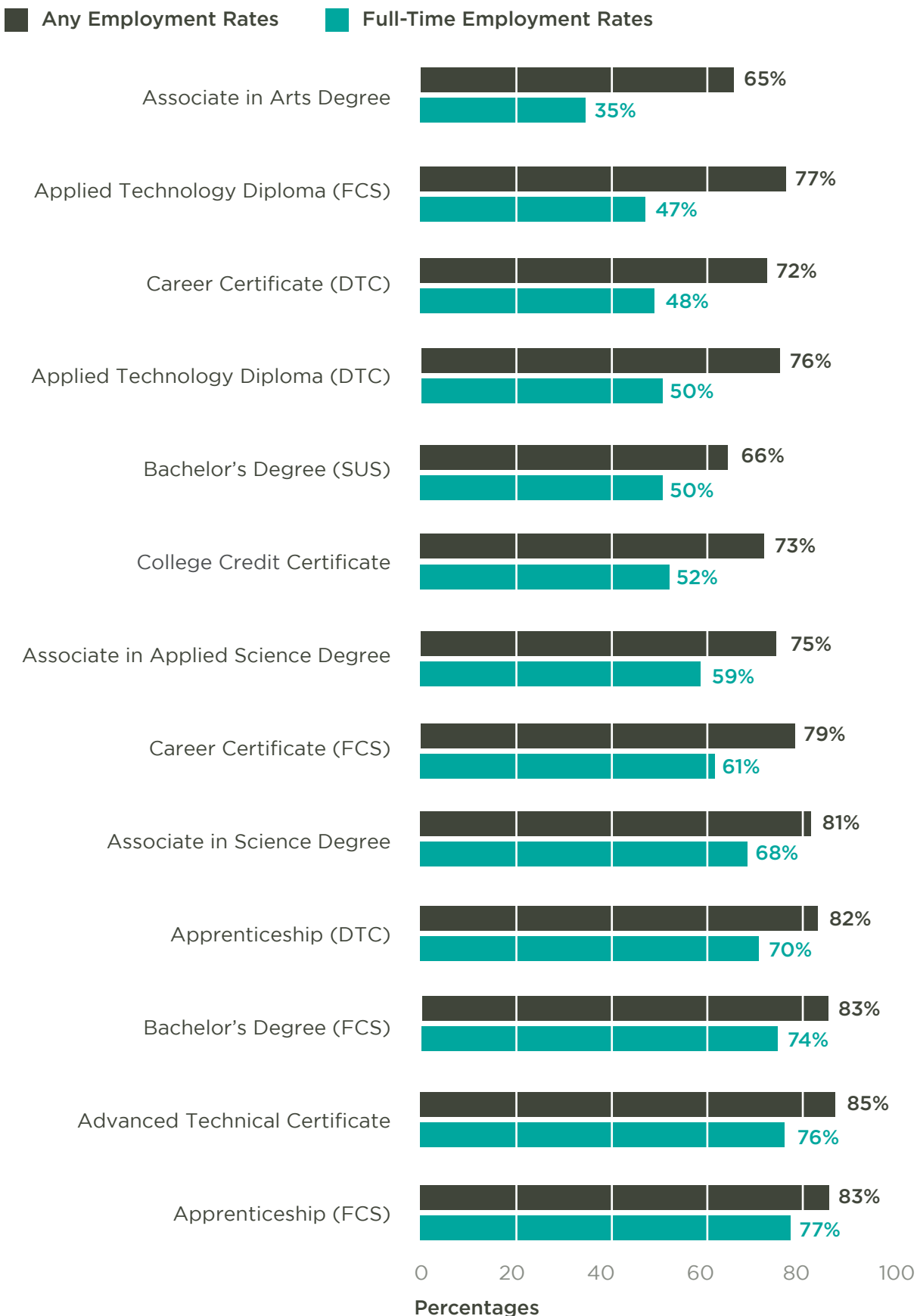
**Figure 2. First-Year and Fifth-Year Median Wages by Credential Level and System, Statewide<sup>4</sup>**



<sup>4</sup> First-Year Median Wages refer to Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16. Fifth-Year Median Wages refer to Completers in the 2011-12 cohort five years after completion.

**Figure 3** illustrates the rates of statewide employment (any and full-time) one year after program completion. The Florida College System apprenticeship program is the credential with the highest full-time employment rate, followed by the advanced technical certificate and Florida College System's bachelor's program.

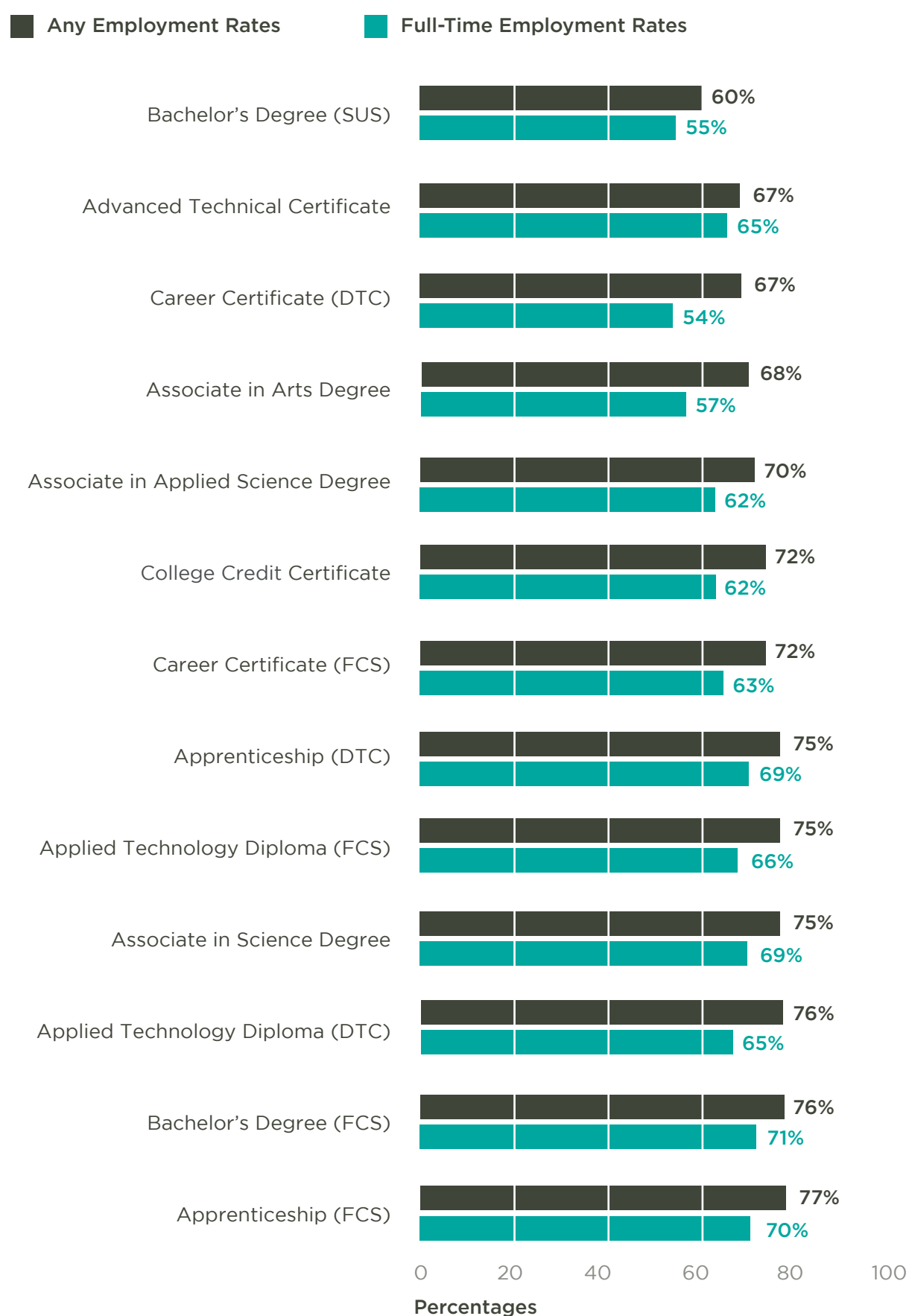
**Figure 3. First-Year Employment Rates by Credential Level and System, Statewide<sup>5</sup>**



<sup>5</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

**Figure 4** illustrates the rates of statewide employment (any and full-time) five years after program completion. At 71%, the Florida College System bachelor's degree is the credential with the highest full-time employment rate, followed by the Florida College System apprenticeship program and the associate in science.

**Figure 4. Fifth-Year Employment Rates by Credential Level and System, Statewide<sup>6</sup>**



<sup>6</sup> Completers in the 2011-12 cohort five years after graduation.

# Outcomes by Credential and Institution

## Career Certificates

Career certificate programs are a series of vocational courses that prepare students for entry-level employment in specific career fields. The program of instruction is a part of an associate in science (A.S.) or associate in applied science (A.A.S.) program and is less than 60 credits of college-level courses. Career certificates can also be referred to as technical certificates.

**Table 1** shows the outcomes of Florida career certificate completers one year after program completion. Completers from Florida College System institutions had higher median wages and employment rates than completers from District Technical Centers.

**Table 2** shows the outcomes of Florida career certificate completers five years after program completion. Consistent with outcomes one year after graduation, median wages five years after graduation were higher for completers from Florida College System institutions than for completers from District Technical Centers.

**Figure 5** shows the median earnings of career certificate holders one year after program completion for each District Technical Center, across all programs. Median first-year earnings range from \$21,012 to \$36,856. Completers from Fort Myers Technical College and George T. Baker Aviation Technical College received the highest median earnings one year after program completion.

**Table 1. First-Year Outcomes Among Career Certificate Completers by System<sup>7</sup>**

	Number of Completers	Median First-Year Wage	Any Employment	Any Employment (Rate)	Full-Time Employment	Full-Time Employment (Rate)
DTC	67,093	\$28,704	48,034	72%	31,909	48%
FCS	46,181	\$35,404	36,430	79%	28,102	61%

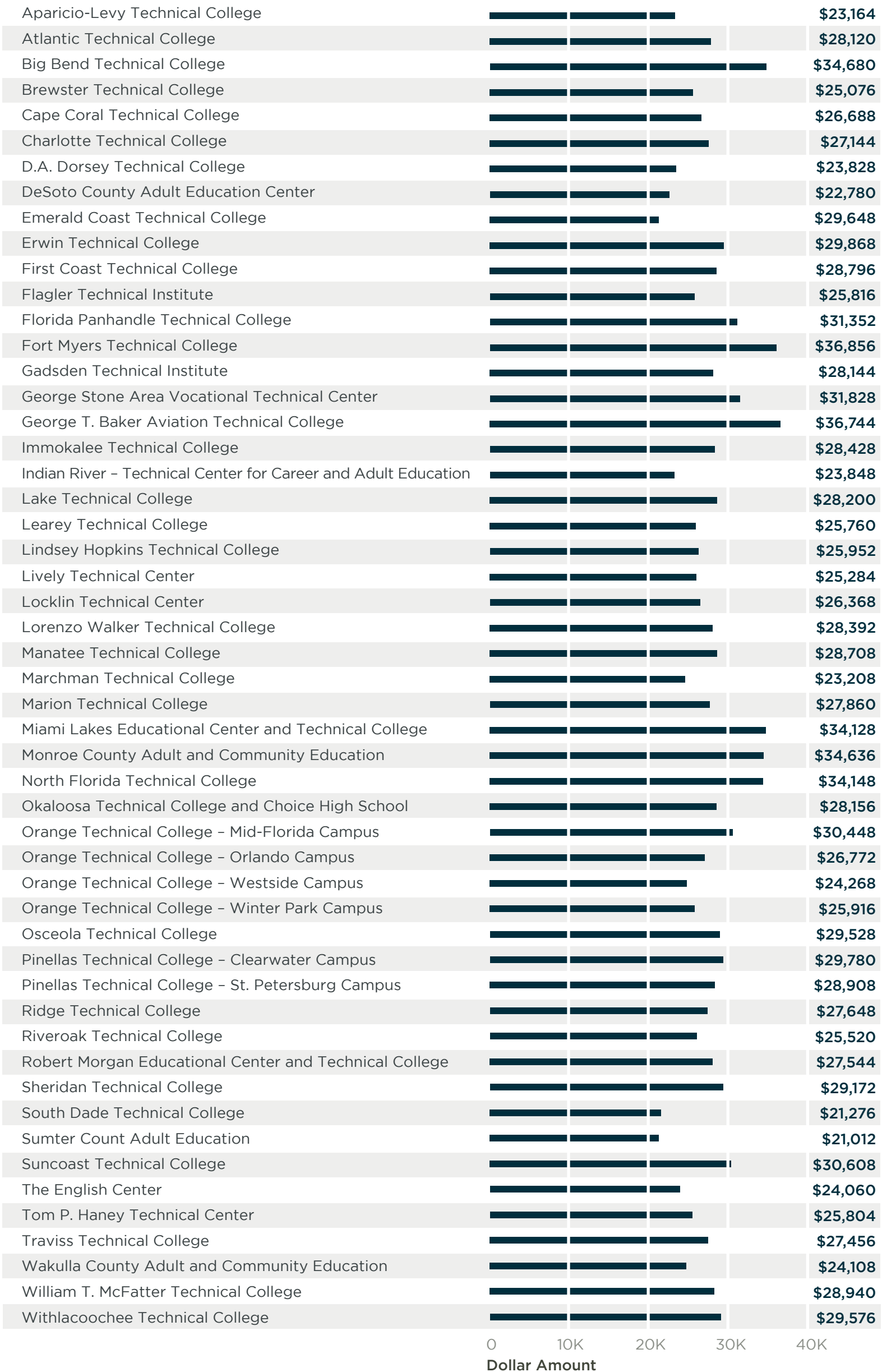
**Table 2. Fifth-Year Outcomes Among Career Certificate Completers by System<sup>8</sup>**

	Number of Completers	Median Fifth-Year Wage	Any Employment	Any Employment (Rate)	Full-Time Employment	Full-Time Employment (Rate)
DTC	15,680	\$35,964	10,519	67%	8,512	54%
FCS	9,485	\$43,004	6,848	72%	5,964	63%

<sup>7</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

<sup>8</sup> Completers in the 2011-12 cohort five years after graduation.

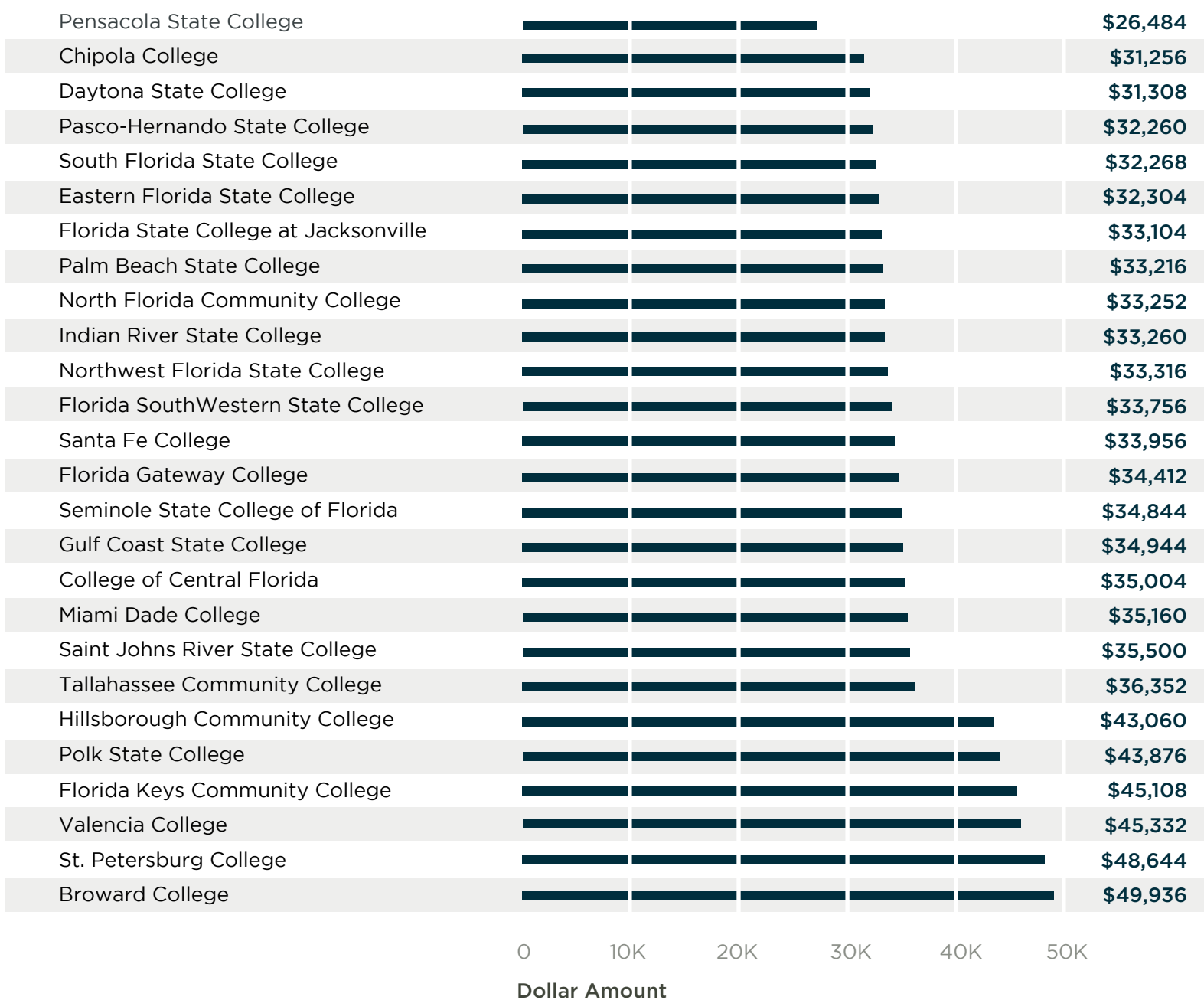
**Figure 5. First-Year Median Wages Among Career Certificate Completers, DTC Institutions Only<sup>9</sup>**



0 10K 20K 30K 40K  
Dollar Amount

**Figure 6** shows the median earnings of career certificate holders one year after program completion for each Florida College System institution, across all programs. Median first-year earnings range from \$26,484 to \$49,936. Completers from Broward College and St. Petersburg College received the highest median earnings one year after program completion.

**Figure 6. First-Year Median Wages Among Career Certificate Completers, FCS Institutions Only<sup>10</sup>**

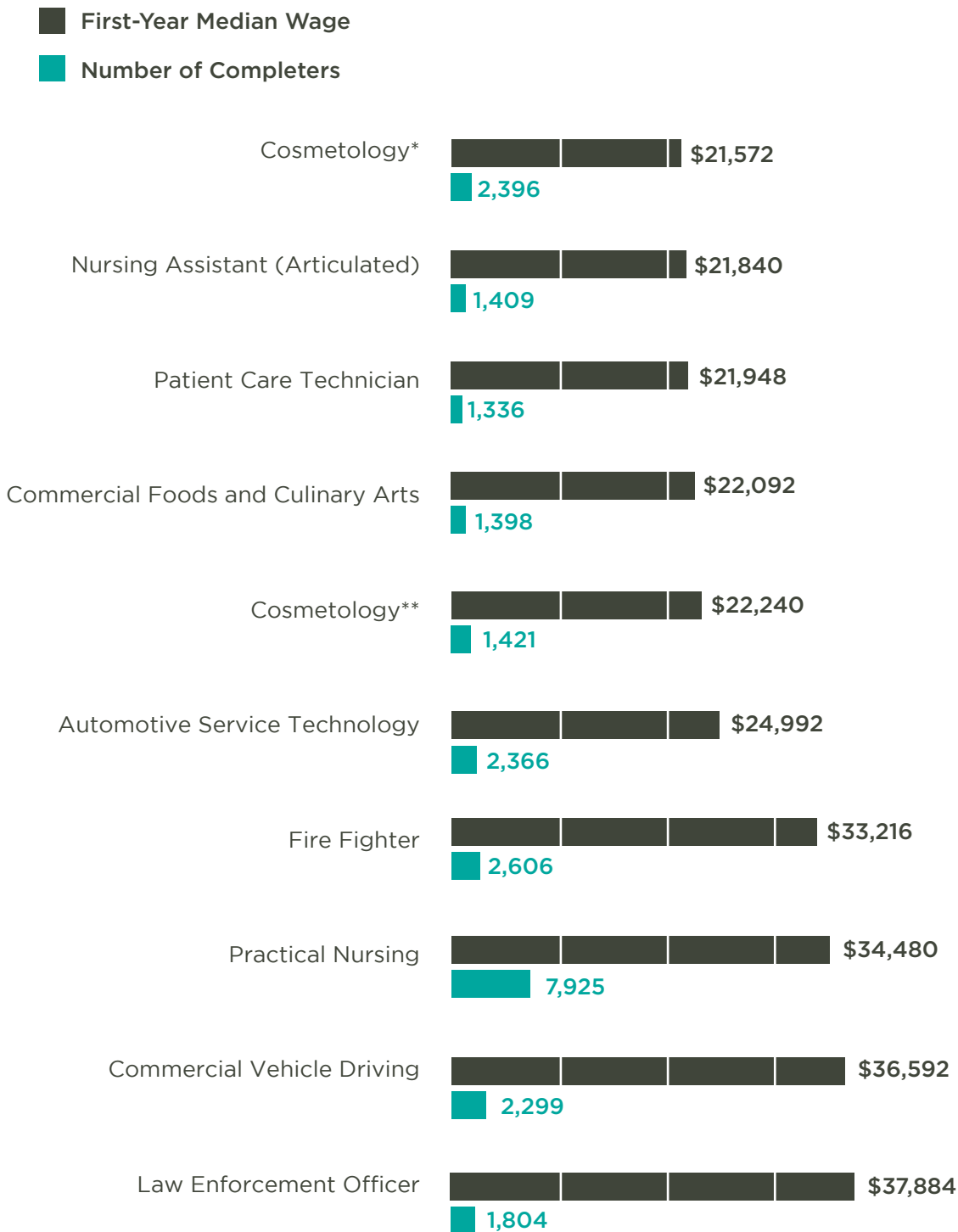


<sup>9</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

<sup>10</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

**Figure 7** highlights the median first-year earnings among the most popular career certificate programs offered by District Technical Centers. Median first-year earnings among the popular programs range from \$21,572 to \$37,884. Practical Nursing is the most popular career certificate program, and completers earned the highest median first-year wage among popular programs.

**Figure 7. First-Year Median Wages Among Completers of the Most Popular Career Certificate Programs, DTC Institutions Only<sup>11</sup>**



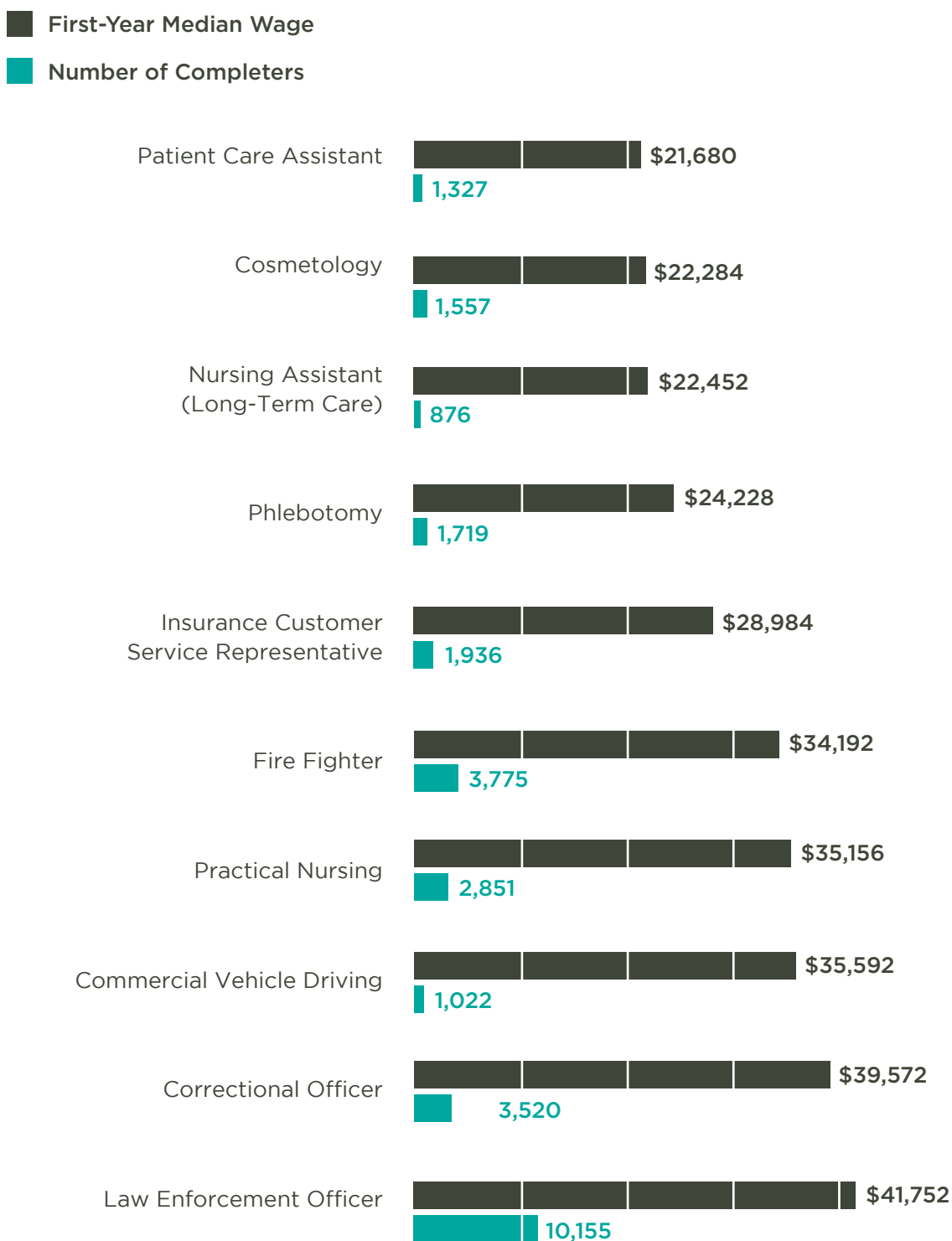
<sup>11</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

This chart includes two Cosmetology programs that are classified slightly differently across colleges in the state of Florida. One Cosmetology program (Cosmetology\*) is identified by the federal CIP code 0612040315. The other Cosmetology program (Cosmetology\*\*) is identified by the federal CIP code 0612040102.

**Figure 8** illustrates the median first-year earnings among the most popular career certificate programs offered by Florida College System institutions. Median first-year earnings among the popular programs range from \$21,680 to \$41,752. The Law Enforcement certificate is the most popular program, and its completers earned the highest median first-year wages among popular programs.

**Table 3** shows the rates of first-year employment (any and full-time) among career certificate completers for each District Technical Center, across all programs. At 66%, George T. Baker Aviation Technical College is the institution with the highest full-time employment rate, followed by Fort Myers Technical College and Suncoast Technical College.

**Figure 8. First-Year Median Wages Among Completers of the Most Popular Career Certificate Programs, FCS Institutions Only<sup>12</sup>**



<sup>12</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.



**Table 3. First-Year Employment Rates Among Career Certificate Completers, DTC Institutions Only<sup>13</sup>**

	<b>Full-Time Employment Rates</b>	<b>Any Employment Rates</b>
Aparicio-Levy Technical College	33%	65%
Atlantic Technical College	47%	71%
Big Bend Technical College	42%	67%
Brewster Technical College	46%	73%
Cape Coral Technical College	51%	76%
Charlotte Technical College	48%	76%
D.A. Dorsey Technical College	31%	68%
DeSoto County Adult Education Center	37%	65%
Emerald Coast Technical College	54%	74%
Erwin Technical College	52%	75%
First Coast Technical College	48%	74%
Flagler Technical Institute	36%	60%
Florida Panhandle Technical College	49%	68%
Fort Myers Technical College	62%	81%
Gadsden Technical Institute	40%	65%
George Stone Area Vocational Technical Center	49%	69%
George T. Baker Aviation Technical College	66%	79%
Immokalee Technical College	42%	70%
Indian River – Technical Center for Career and Adult Education	38%	68%
Lake Technical College	51%	77%
Learey Technical College	53%	73%
Lindsey Hopkins Technical College	40%	65%
Lively Technical Center	38%	67%
Locklin Technical Center	39%	62%
Lorenzo Walker Technical College	53%	77%
Manatee Technical College	50%	76%
Marchman Technical College	31%	66%
Marion Technical College	51%	76%
Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College	48%	69%
Monroe County Adult and Community Education	26%	52%
North Florida Technical College	45%	67%
Okaloosa Technical College and Choice High School	40%	64%
Orange Technical College – Mid-Florida Campus	51%	73%
Orange Technical College – Orlando Campus	48%	75%
Orange Technical College – Westside Campus	35%	68%
Orange Technical College – Winter Park Campus	44%	71%
Osceola Technical College	49%	75%
Pinellas Technical College – Clearwater Campus	55%	72%
Pinellas Technical College – St. Petersburg Campus	53%	73%
Ridge Technical College	49%	76%
Riveroak Technical College	40%	68%
Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College	41%	65%
Sheridan Technical College	44%	66%
South Dade Technical College	25%	58%
Sumter Count Adult Education	27%	59%
Suncoast Technical College	56%	79%
The English Center	34%	55%
Tom P. Haney Technical Center	45%	72%
Traviss Technical College	49%	75%
Wakulla County Adult and Community Education	37%	63%
William T. McFatter Technical College	44%	71%
Withlacoochee Technical College	51%	74%

**Table 4** shows the rates of first-year employment (any and full-time) among career certificate completers for each Florida College System institution, across all programs.

At 83%, Florida Keys Community College is the institution with the highest full-time employment rate, followed by Valencia College and Polk State College.

**Table 4. First-Year Employment Rates Among Career Certificate Completers, FCS Institutions Only<sup>14</sup>**

	Full-Time Employment Rates	Any Employment Rates
Broward College	76%	86%
Chipola College	56%	76%
College of Central Florida	68%	81%
Daytona State College	54%	78%
Eastern Florida State College	49%	77%
Florida Gateway College	54%	77%
Florida Keys Community College	83%	89%
Florida SouthWestern State College	69%	90%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	59%	75%
Gulf Coast State College	71%	86%
Hillsborough Community College	68%	81%
Indian River State College	55%	75%
Miami Dade College	61%	78%
North Florida Community College	57%	77%
Northwest Florida State College	66%	83%
Palm Beach State College	58%	78%
Pasco-Hernando State College	62%	80%
Pensacola State College	37%	62%
Polk State College	80%	85%
Saint Johns River State College	68%	86%
Santa Fe College	65%	81%
Seminole State College of Florida	63%	81%
South Florida State College	54%	78%
St. Petersburg College	78%	89%
Tallahassee Community College	72%	87%
Valencia College	80%	90%

<sup>13</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011–12 to 2015–16.

<sup>14</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011–12 to 2015–16.

# Outcomes by Credential and Institution

## College Credit Certificates

*College credit certificates are a series of college credit courses that prepare students for entry-level employment in specific career fields or for career advancement. Generally, these certificates can be completed in one year or less. College credit certificate programs must be part of an A.S. or A.A.S. degree program.*

**Table 5 shows the outcomes of Florida college credit certificate completers one year and five years after program completion.** Across all programs and institutions, these completers' median first-year earnings were \$32,812, and median fifth-year earnings were \$42,108. Within one year of completing, 73% were employed in any form and 52% were employed full-time. Within five years of completing, 72% were employed in any form and 62% were employed full-time.

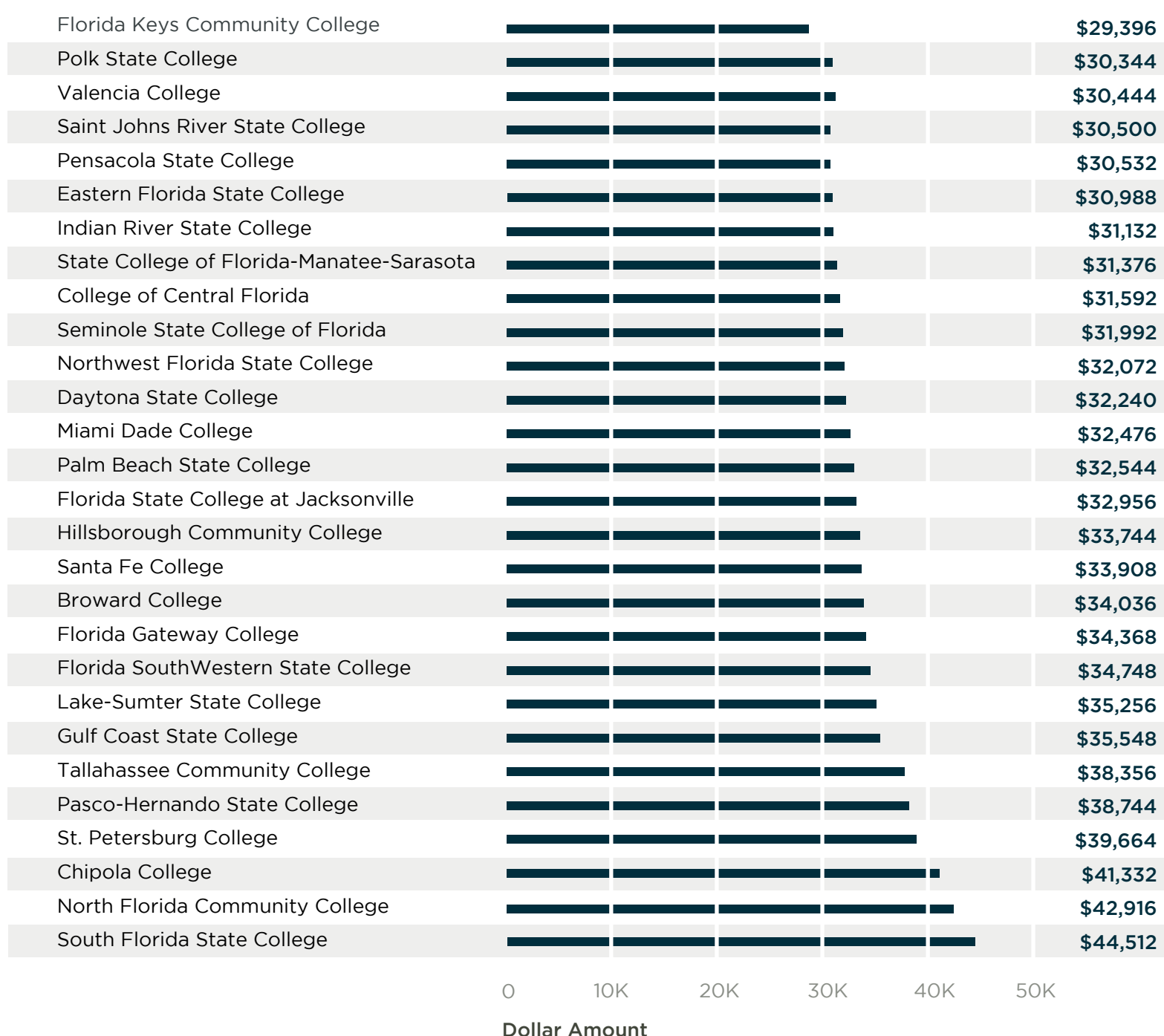
**Table 5. First- and Fifth-Year Outcomes Among College Credit Certificate Completers<sup>15</sup>**

	Number of Completers	Median First-Year Wage	Any Employment	Any Employment (Rate)	Full-Time Employment	Full-Time Employment (Rate)
First-Year Outcomes	62,505	\$32,812	45,679	73%	32,484	52%
Fifth-Year Outcomes	8,704	\$42,108	6,266	72%	5,429	62%

<sup>15</sup> First-Year Outcomes refer to Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16. Fifth-Year Outcomes refer to Completers in the 2011-12 cohort five years after completion.

**Figure 9** shows the median first-year earnings of all college credit certificate completers for each institution that offers them, across all programs. Median first-year earnings range from \$29,396 to \$44,512. Completers from South Florida State College received the highest median first-year earnings.

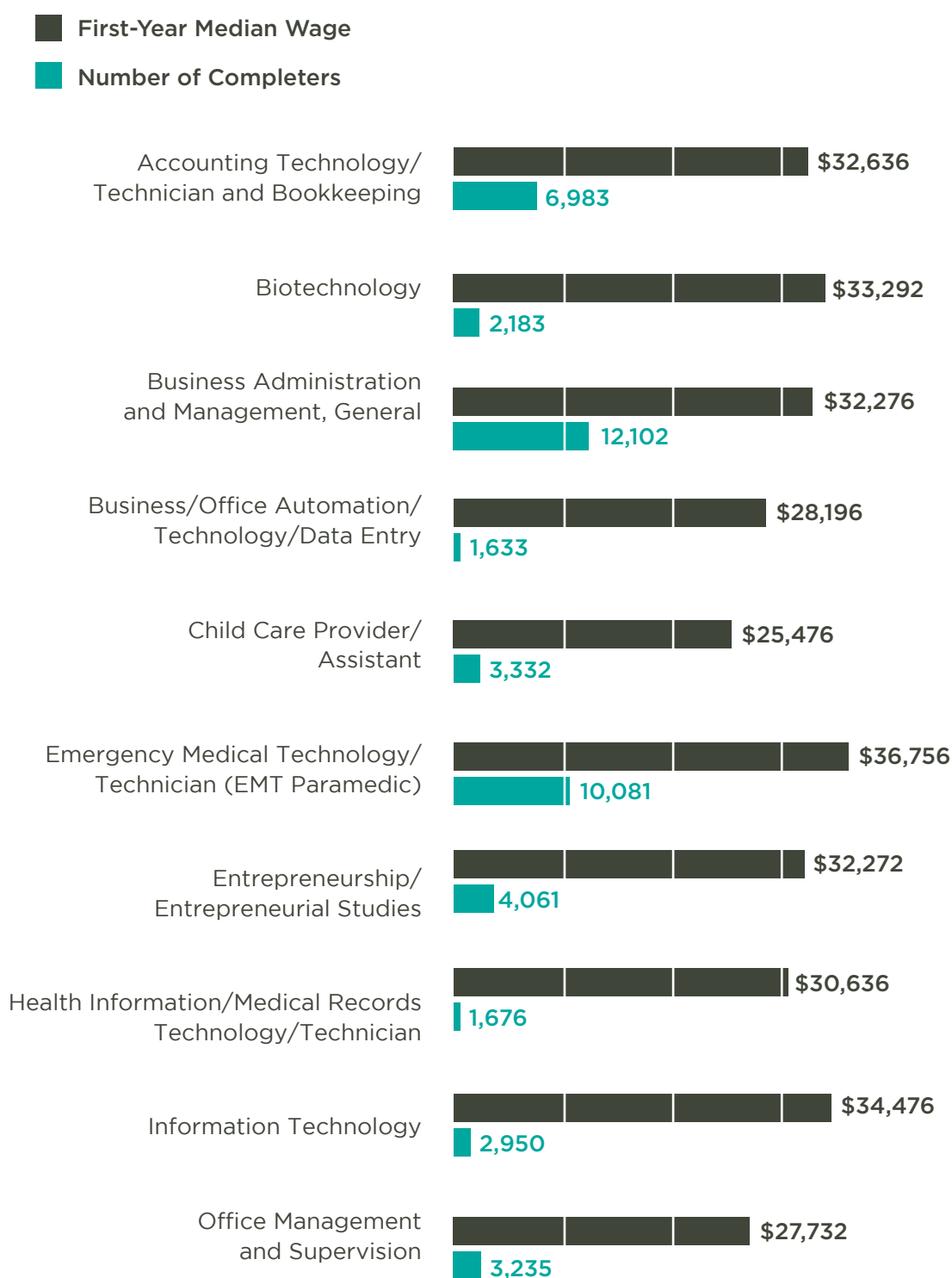
**Figure 9. First-Year Median Wages Among College Credit Certificate Completers, by Institution<sup>16</sup>**



<sup>16</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

**Figure 10** highlights the median first-year earnings among the most popular college credit certificates. Median first-year earnings among the popular programs range from \$25,476 to \$36,756. Business Administration and Management, General is the most popular college credit certificate, and its completers earned a median first-year wage of \$32,276.

**Figure 10. First-Year Median Wages Among Completers of the Most Popular College Credit Certificate Programs<sup>17</sup>**



<sup>17</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

**Table 6** shows the first-year employment rates among college credit certificate completers for each institution that offers them, across all programs. At 74%, South Florida State College is the institution with the highest full-time employment rate, followed by St. Petersburg College and North Florida Community College.

**Table 6. First-Year Employment Rates Among College Credit Certificate Completers, by Institution<sup>18</sup>**

	Full-Time Employment Rates	Any Employment Rates
Broward College	53%	74%
Chipola College	64%	81%
College of Central Florida	53%	75%
Daytona State College	45%	65%
Eastern Florida State College	40%	63%
Florida Gateway College	53%	74%
Florida Keys Community College	38%	65%
Florida SouthWestern State College	63%	83%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	50%	70%
Gulf Coast State College	59%	75%
Hillsborough Community College	56%	78%
Indian River State College	52%	73%
Lake-Sumter State College	54%	71%
Miami Dade College	55%	73%
North Florida Community College	64%	80%
Northwest Florida State College	51%	70%
Palm Beach State College	60%	76%
Pasco-Hernando State College	53%	72%
Pensacola State College	49%	66%
Polk State College	53%	70%
Saint Johns River State College	43%	63%
Santa Fe College	54%	75%
Seminole State College of Florida	48%	72%
South Florida State College	74%	82%
St. Petersburg College	65%	76%
State College of Florida-Manatee-Sarasota	45%	71%
Tallahassee Community College	61%	77%
Valencia College	49%	73%

<sup>18</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

# Outcomes by Credential and Institution

## Associate in Arts Degree

The associate in arts (A.A.) degree is designed for students who plan to attend a four-year institution as a junior and complete a bachelor's degree program. The A.A. degree is awarded upon the completion of 60 credit hours in a selected course of study, which includes the completion of a 36-credit-hour general education program.

**Table 7 shows the outcomes of Florida associate in arts completers one and five years after program completion.** Across all institutions, these completers' median first-year earnings were \$28,536, and median fifth-year earnings were \$40,112. Within one year of completing, 65% were employed in any form and 35% were employed full-time. Within five years of completing, 68% were employed in any form and 57% were employed full-time.

**Table 7. First- and Fifth-Year Outcomes Among Associate in Arts Completers<sup>19</sup>**

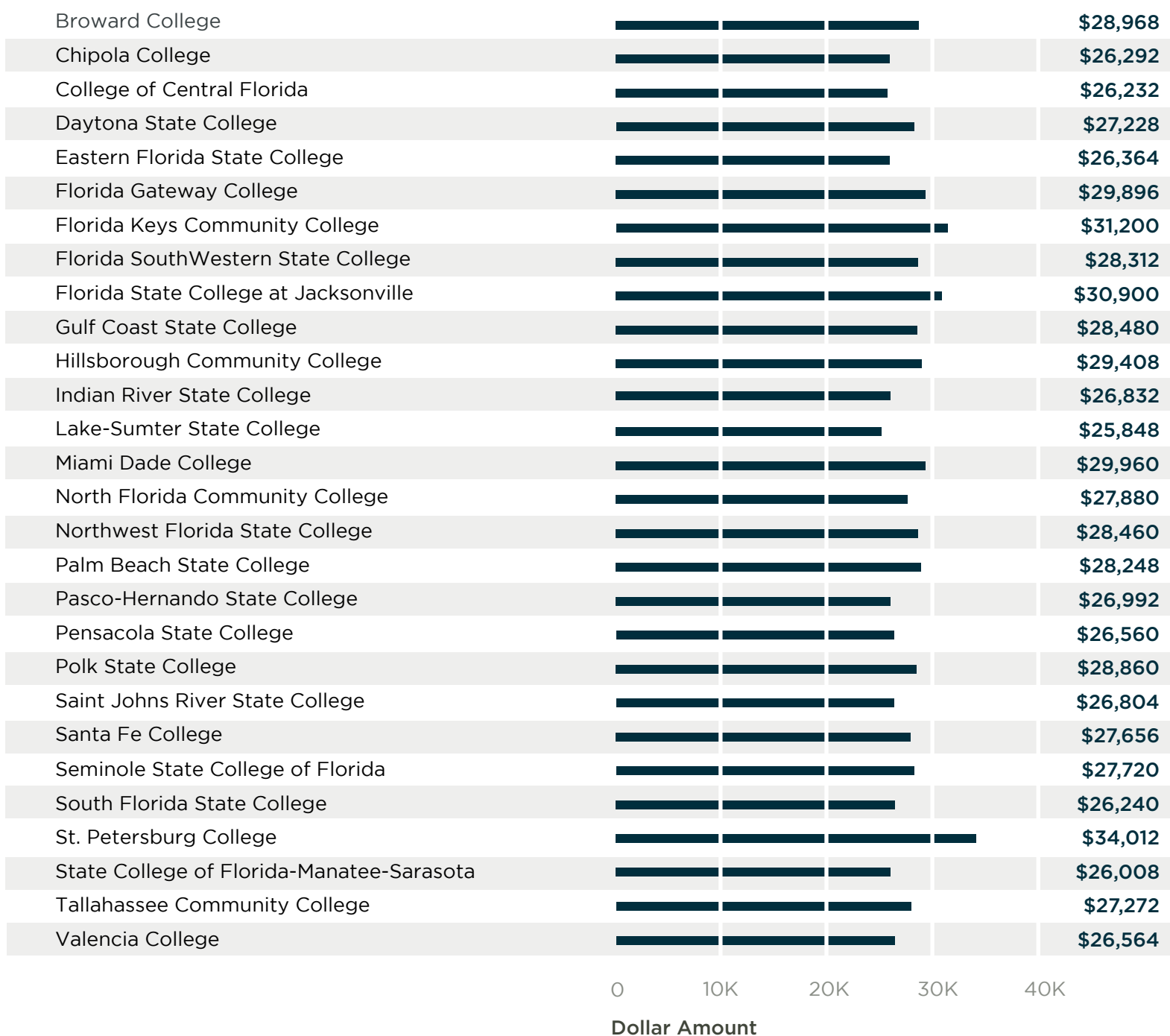
	Number of Completers	Median First-Year Wage	Any Employment	Any Employment (Rate)	Full-Time Employment	Full-Time Employment (Rate)
First-Year Outcomes	284,414	\$28,536	186,145	65%	98,913	35%
Fifth-Year Outcomes	61,685	\$40,112	41,676	68%	34,951	57%

<sup>19</sup> First-Year Outcomes refer to Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16. Fifth-Year Outcomes refer to Completers in the 2011-12 cohort five years after completion.

**Figure 11** shows the median first-year earnings of all associate in arts completers for each institution that offers them, across all programs.

Median first-year earnings range from \$25,848 to \$34,012. Completers from St. Petersburg College received the highest median first-year earnings.

**Figure 11. First-Year Median Wages Among Associate in Arts Completers, by Institution<sup>20</sup>**



<sup>20</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.



**Table 8** shows the first-year employment rates among associate in arts completers for each institution that offers them. St. Petersburg College is the institution with the highest full-time employment rate, followed by Florida SouthWestern State College and Florida State College at Jacksonville.

**Table 8. First-Year Employment Rates Among Associate in Arts Completers, by Institution<sup>21</sup>**

	Full-Time Employment Rates	Any Employment Rates
Broward College	37%	66%
Chipola College	21%	56%
College of Central Florida	33%	64%
Daytona State College	33%	64%
Eastern Florida State College	27%	61%
Florida Gateway College	33%	64%
Florida Keys Community College	37%	59%
Florida SouthWestern State College	41%	70%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	39%	66%
Gulf Coast State College	30%	60%
Hillsborough Community College	37%	68%
Indian River State College	32%	64%
Lake-Sumter State College	31%	65%
Miami Dade College	38%	64%
North Florida Community College	28%	57%
Northwest Florida State College	26%	56%
Palm Beach State College	39%	69%
Pasco-Hernando State College	33%	68%
Pensacola State College	27%	59%
Polk State College	35%	68%
Saint Johns River State College	31%	65%
Santa Fe College	26%	59%
Seminole State College of Florida	35%	68%
South Florida State College	29%	61%
St. Petersburg College	42%	68%
State College of Florida-Manatee-Sarasota	32%	65%
Tallahassee Community College	25%	62%
Valencia College	34%	70%

<sup>21</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

# Outcomes by Credential and Institution

## Associate in Science Degree

*The associate in science (A.S.) degree is a two-year technical degree designed to prepare students who are planning to enter a specific occupation; it serves as a basis for admission to a related bachelor's degree program.*

**Table 9 shows the outcomes of Florida associate in science completers one and five years after program completion.**

Across all programs and institutions, these completers' median first-year earnings were \$44,432, and median fifth-year earnings were \$53,272; within one year of completing, 81% were employed in any form and 68% were employed full-time. Within five years of completing, 75% were employed in any form and 69% were employed full-time.

**Table 9. First- and Fifth-Year Outcomes Among Associate in Science Completers<sup>22</sup>**

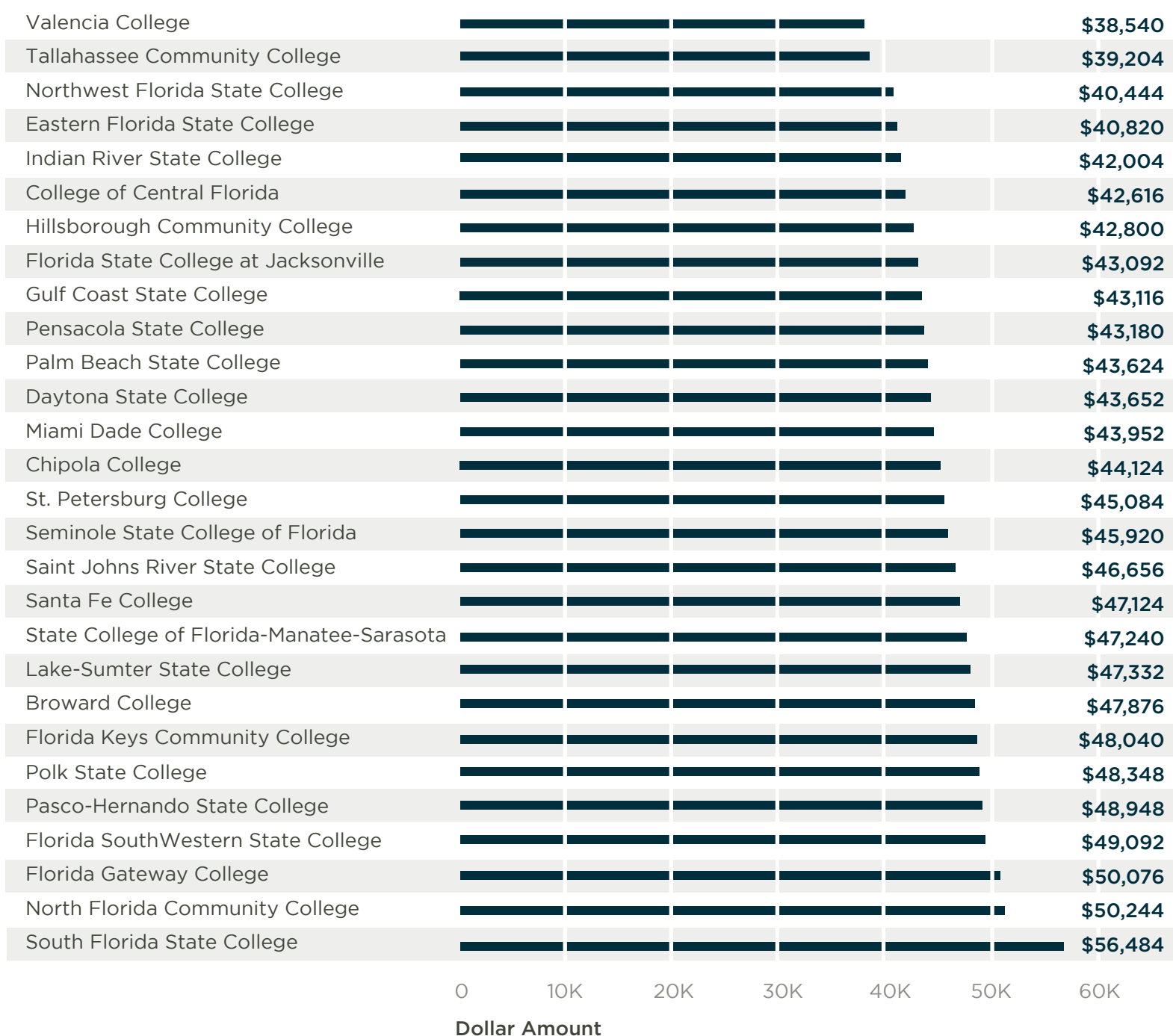
	Number of Completers	Median First-Year Wage	Any Employment	Any Employment (Rate)	Full-Time Employment	Full-Time Employment (Rate)
First-Year Outcomes	67,418	\$44,432	54,303	81%	45,984	68%
Fifth-Year Outcomes	12,350	\$53,272	9,295	75%	8,500	69%

<sup>22</sup> First-Year Outcomes refer to Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16. Fifth-Year Outcomes refer to Completers in the 2011-12 cohort five years after completion.

**Figure 12** shows the median first-year earnings of all associate in science completers for each institution that offers them, across all programs.

Median first-year earnings range from \$38,540 to \$56,484. Completers from South Florida State College received the highest median first-year earnings, followed by completers from North Florida Community College and Florida Gateway College.

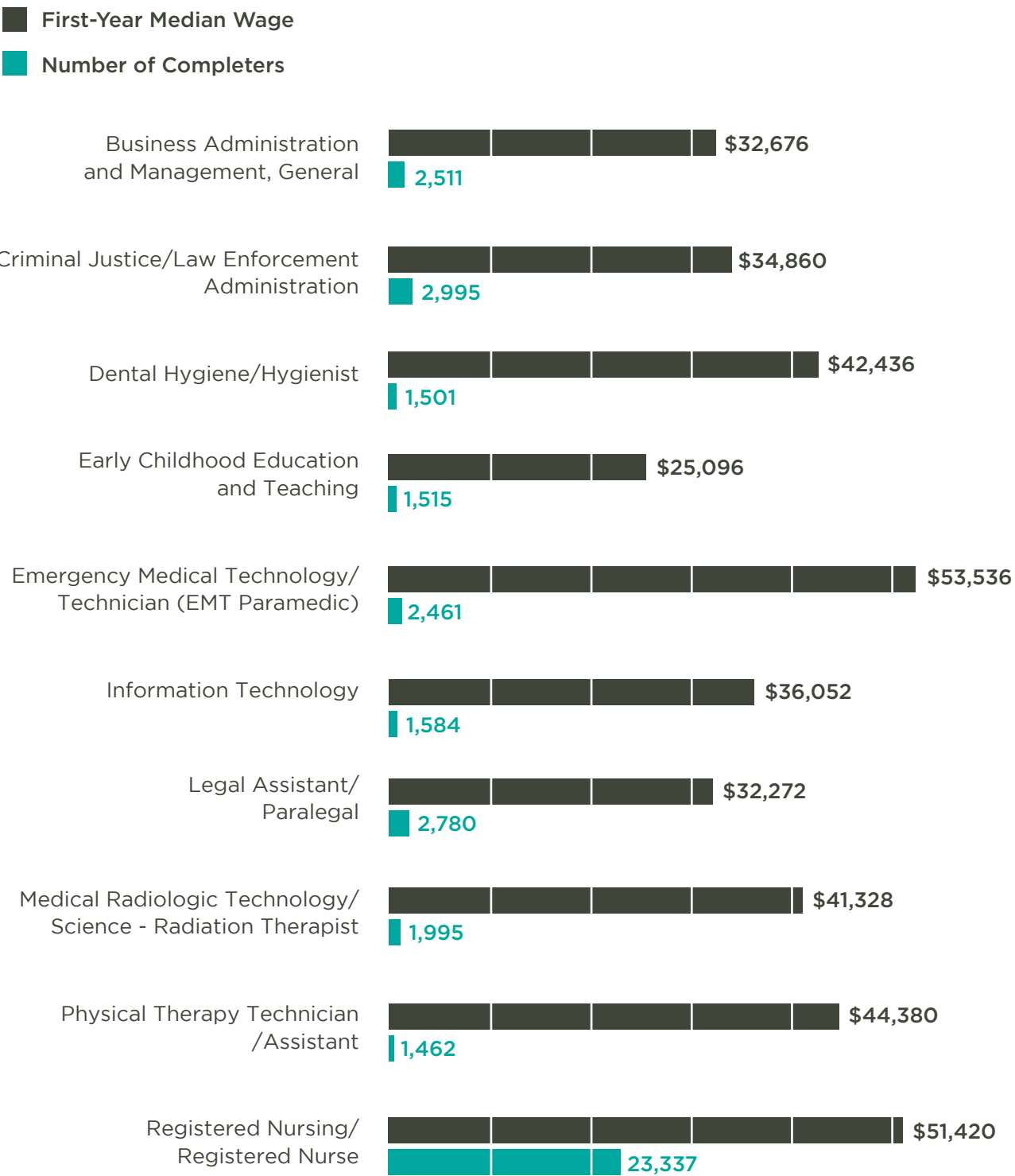
**Figure 12. First-Year Median Wages Among Associate in Science Completers, by Institution<sup>23</sup>**



<sup>23</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

**Figure 13** highlights the median first-year earnings among the most popular associate in science programs. Median first-year earnings among the popular programs range from \$25,096 to \$53,536. Registered Nursing was the most popular associate in science degree, and its completers earned a median first-year wage of \$51,420.

**Figure 13. First-Year Median Wages Among Completers of the Most Popular Associate in Science Programs<sup>24</sup>**



<sup>24</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

**Table 10** shows the rates of first-year employment (any and full-time) among associate in science completers for each institution that offers them, across all programs.

South Florida State College is the institution with the highest full-time employment rate, followed by Florida Gateway College and Florida SouthWestern State College.

**Table 10. First-Year Employment Rates Among Associate in Science Completers, by Institution<sup>25</sup>**

	Full-Time Employment Rates	Any Employment Rates
Broward College	72%	83%
Chipola College	63%	71%
College of Central Florida	65%	77%
Daytona State College	62%	77%
Eastern Florida State College	61%	76%
Florida Gateway College	83%	89%
Florida Keys Community College	66%	76%
Florida SouthWestern State College	79%	87%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	67%	78%
Gulf Coast State College	75%	84%
Hillsborough Community College	69%	82%
Indian River State College	66%	82%
Lake-Sumter State College	78%	88%
Miami Dade College	63%	77%
North Florida Community College	73%	78%
Northwest Florida State College	58%	71%
Palm Beach State College	70%	82%
Pasco-Hernando State College	72%	83%
Pensacola State College	59%	72%
Polk State College	76%	87%
Saint Johns River State College	65%	78%
Santa Fe College	72%	83%
Seminole State College of Florida	72%	84%
South Florida State College	87%	91%
St. Petersburg College	72%	83%
State College of Florida-Manatee-Sarasota	74%	85%
Tallahassee Community College	68%	79%
Valencia College	64%	80%

<sup>25</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

# Outcomes by Credential and Institution

## Associate in Applied Science Degree

*The associate in applied science (A.A.S.) degree is a two-year technical degree designed to train students for direct entry into a specialized occupation in the workplace.*

**Table 11 shows the outcomes of Florida associate in applied science completers one and five years after program completion.** Across all programs and institutions, these completers' median first-year earnings were \$34,724, and median fifth-year earnings were \$45,496; within one year of completing, 75% were employed in any form and 59% were employed full-time.

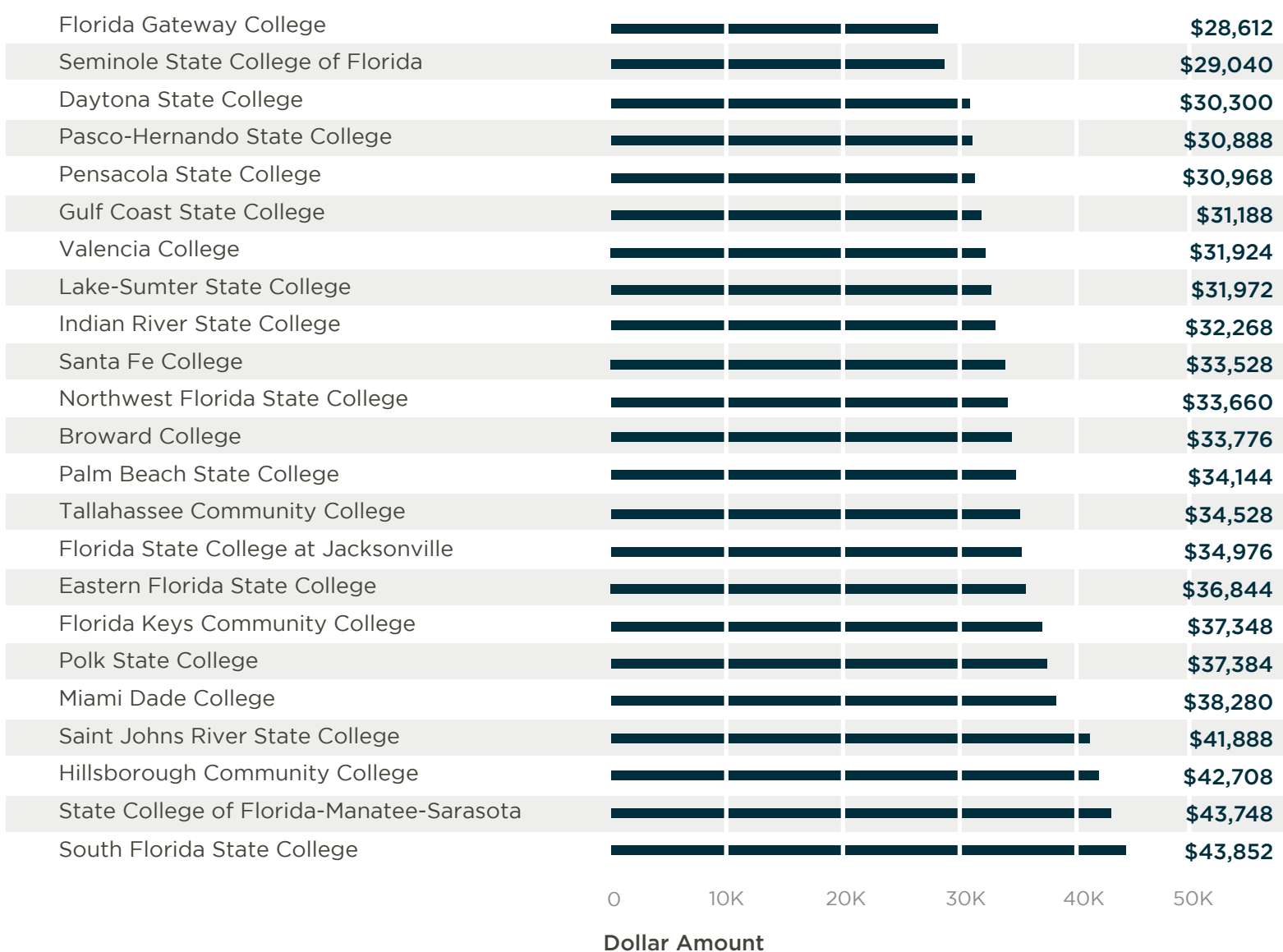
**Table 11. First- and Fifth-Year Outcomes Among Associate in Applied Science Completers<sup>26</sup>**

	Number of Completers	Median First-Year Wage	Any Employment	Any Employment (Rate)	Full-Time Employment	Full-Time Employment (Rate)
First-Year Outcomes	6,144	\$34,724	4,578	75%	3,636	59%
Fifth-Year Outcomes	2,222	\$45,496	1,557	70%	1,373	62%

<sup>26</sup> First-Year Outcomes refer to Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16. Fifth-Year Outcomes refer to Completers in the 2011-12 cohort five years after completion.

**Figure 14** shows the median first-year earnings of all associate in applied science completers for each institution that offers them, across all programs. Median first-year earnings range from \$28,612 to \$43,852. South Florida State College completers received the highest median earnings, followed by State College of Florida-Manatee-Sarasota and Hillsborough Community College.

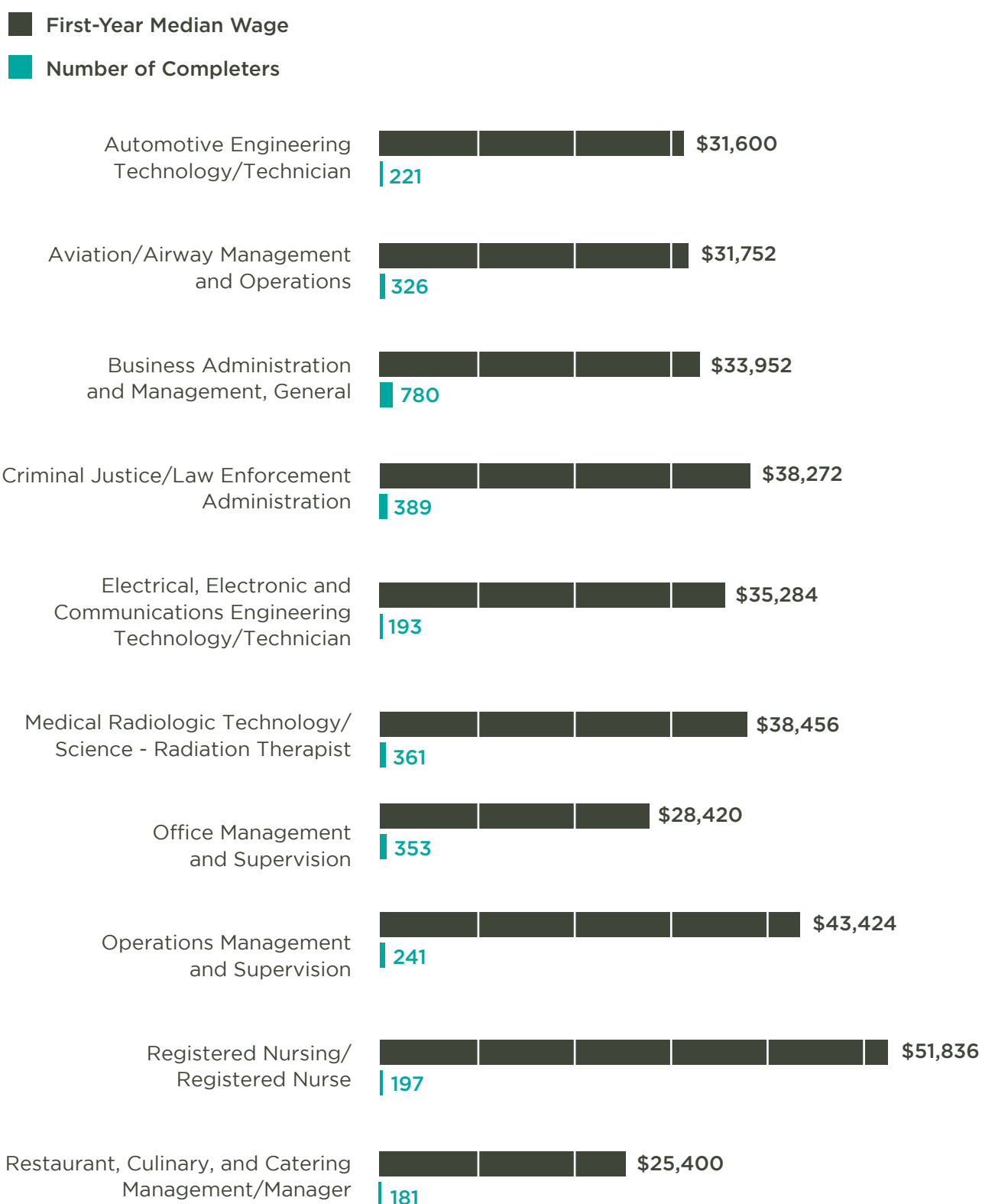
**Figure 14. First-Year Median Wages Among Associate in Applied Science Completers<sup>27</sup>**



<sup>27</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

**Figure 15** highlights the median first-year earnings among the most popular associate in applied science programs. Median first-year earnings among the popular programs range from \$25,400 to \$51,836. Business Administration and Management, General, was the most popular associate in applied science degree, and completers earned a median first-year wage of \$33,952.

**Figure 15. First-Year Median Wages Among Completers of the Most Popular Associate in Applied Science Programs<sup>28</sup>**



<sup>28</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.



**Table 12** shows the first-year employment rates among associate in applied science completers for each institution that offers them, across all programs. Saint Johns River State College is the institution with the highest full-time employment rate, followed by South Florida State College and Seminole State College of Florida.

**Table 12. First-Year Employment Rates Among Associate in Applied Science Completers, by Institution<sup>29</sup>**

	Full-Time Employment Rates	Any Employment Rates
Broward College	66%	80%
Daytona State College	52%	72%
Eastern Florida State College	58%	72%
Florida Gateway College	43%	57%
Florida Keys Community College	61%	89%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	63%	74%
Gulf Coast State College	57%	75%
Hillsborough Community College	69%	80%
Indian River State College	56%	74%
Lake-Sumter State College	57%	74%
Miami Dade College	72%	85%
Northwest Florida State College	46%	61%
Palm Beach State College	55%	73%
Pasco-Hernando State College	47%	71%
Pensacola State College	48%	66%
Polk State College	67%	82%
Saint Johns River State College	84%	95%
Santa Fe College	60%	72%
Seminole State College of Florida	73%	88%
South Florida State College	75%	87%
State College of Florida-Manatee-Sarasota	71%	81%
Tallahassee Community College	63%	75%
Valencia College	56%	76%

<sup>29</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

# Outcomes by Credential and Institution

## Bachelor's Degree

The bachelor's degree is a four-year degree that is typically 120 credit hours; it may have an emphasis on science, liberal arts, or accommodating unique demands for entry into specific workforce sectors.

**Table 13** shows the outcomes of Florida bachelor's completers one year after program completion. A much greater share of graduates completed bachelor's degree programs from State University System of Florida institutions than Florida College System institutions. Notably, completers from Florida College System institutions had higher median wages and employment rates than completers from State University System of Florida institutions.

**Table 14** shows the outcomes of Florida bachelor's completers five years after program completion. Consistent with outcomes one year after graduation, median wages and employment rates were higher for completers from Florida College System institutions than for completers from the State University System of Florida institutions.

**Figure 16** shows the median first-year earnings of all bachelor's completers for each Florida College System institution, across all programs. Median first-year earnings range from \$30,324 to \$61,676. Completers from Florida Gateway College received the highest median first-year earnings, followed by completers from Pasco-Hernando State College and Gulf Coast State College.

**Table 13. First-Year Outcomes Among Bachelor's Completers by System<sup>30</sup>**

	Number of Completers	Median First-Year Wage	Any Employment	Any Employment (Rate)	Full-Time Employment	Full-Time Employment (Rate)
FCS	28,941	\$43,584	23,980	83%	21,361	74%
SUS	291,062	\$36,000	191,844	66%	146,507	50%

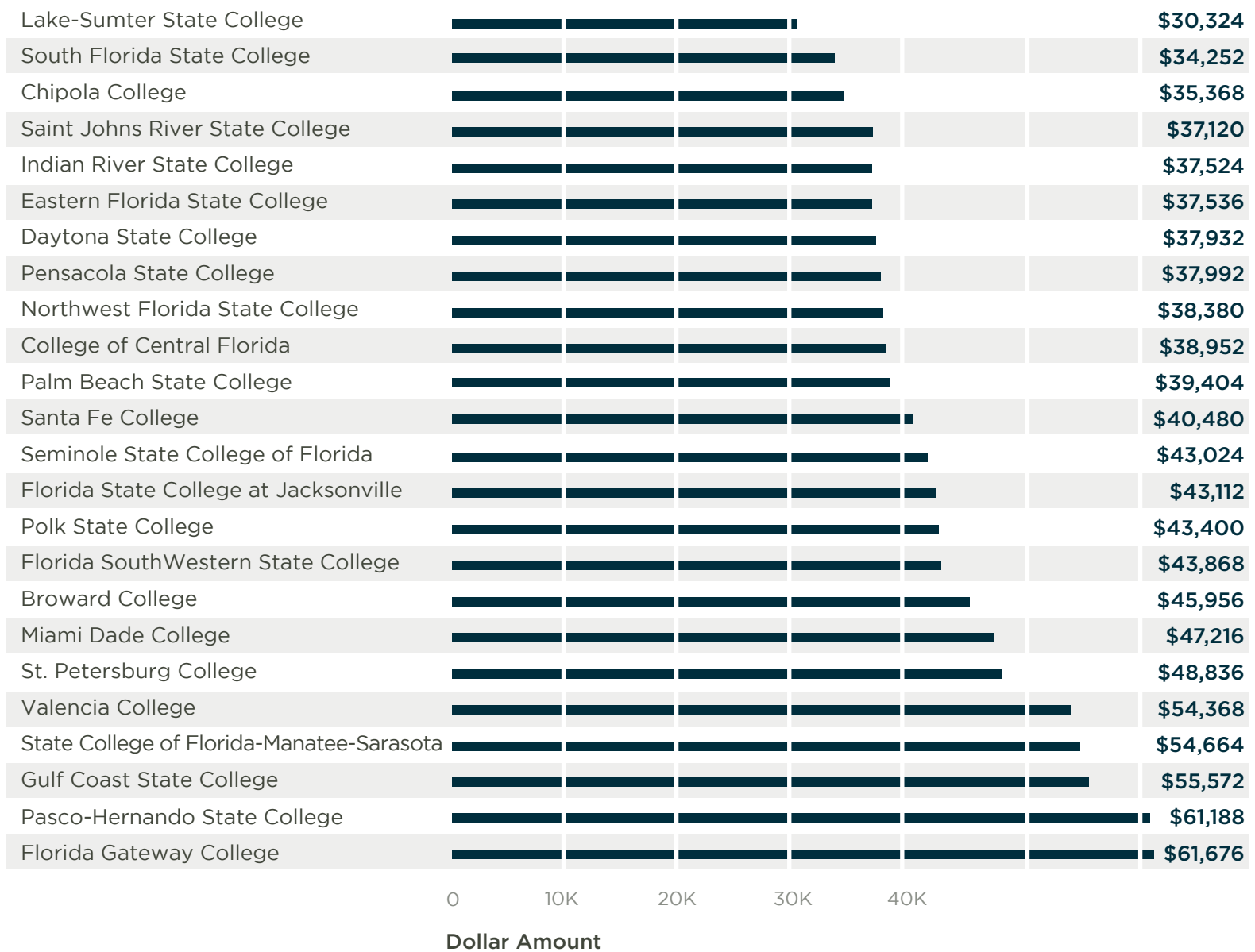
**Table 14. Fifth-Year Outcomes Among Bachelor's Completers by System<sup>31</sup>**

	Number of Completers	Median Fifth-Year Wage	Any Employment	Any Employment (Rate)	Full-Time Employment	Full-Time Employment (Rate)
FCS	3,947	\$49,580	3,004	76%	2,790	71%
SUS	55,407	\$48,376	33,194	60%	30,184	54%

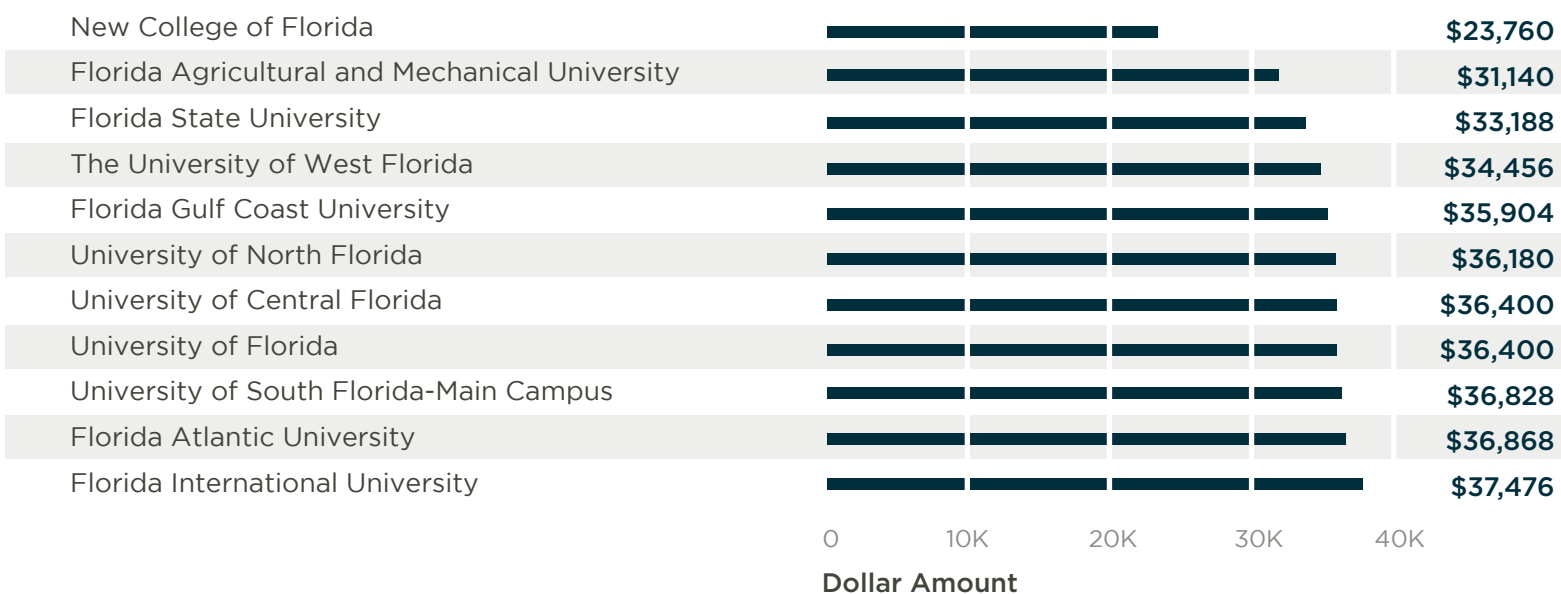
<sup>30</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

<sup>31</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

**Figure 16. First-Year Median Wages Among Bachelor's Completers, FCS Institutions Only<sup>32</sup>**



**Figure 17. First-Year Median Wages Among Bachelor's Completers, SUS Institutions Only<sup>33</sup>**



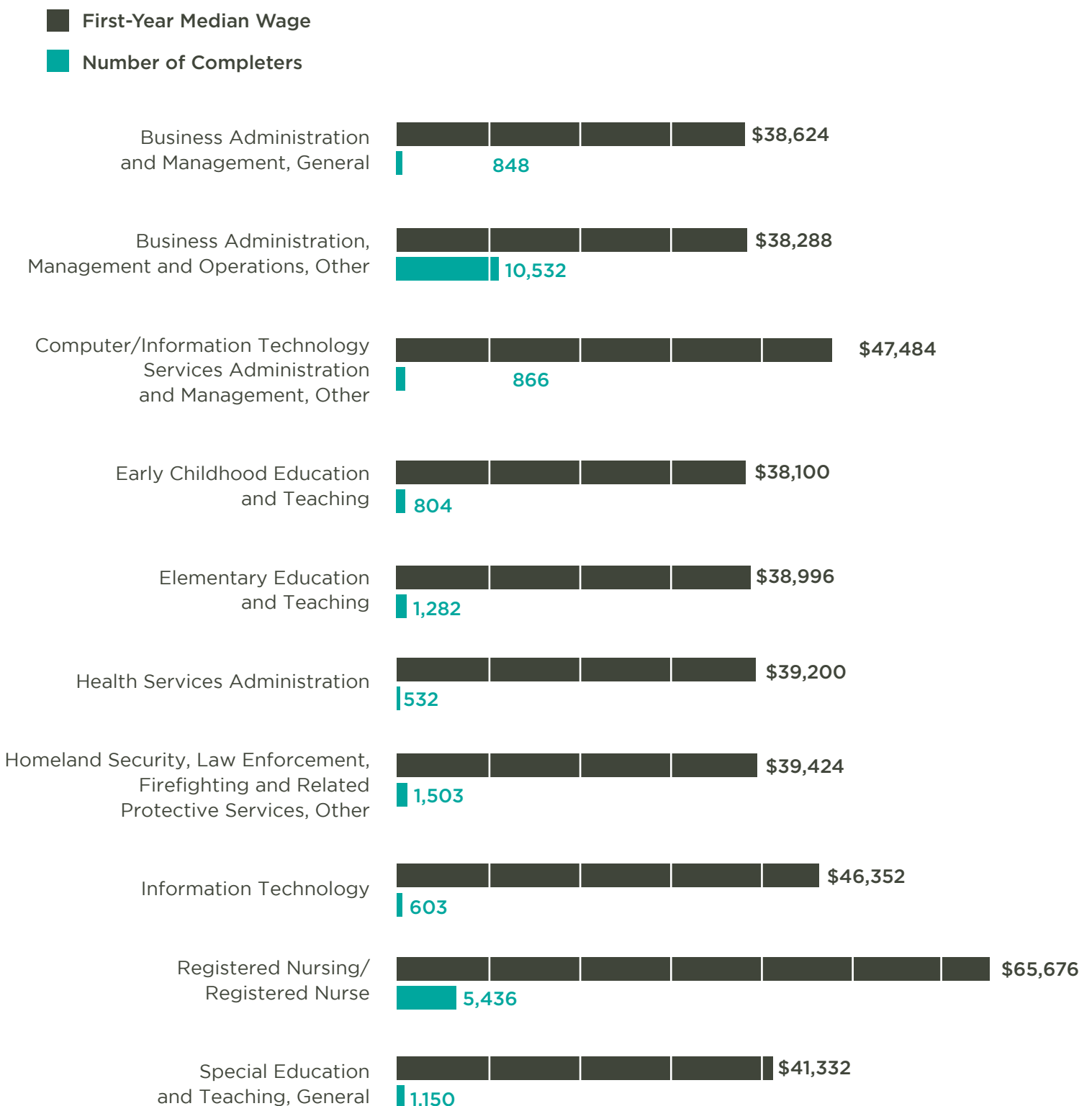
<sup>32</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

<sup>33</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

**Figure 17** shows the median first-year earnings of all bachelor's completers for each State University System of Florida institution, across all programs. Median first-year earnings range from \$23,760 to \$37,476. Completers from Florida International University received the highest median first-year earnings, followed by completers from Florida Atlantic University and University of South Florida-Main Campus.

**Figure 18** highlights the median first-year earnings among the most popular bachelor's programs offered by Florida College System institutions. Median first-year earnings among the popular programs range from \$38,100 to \$65,676. Business Administration, Management and Operations, Other was the most popular bachelor's degree among Florida College System institutions; its completers earned a median first-year wage of \$38,288.

**Figure 18. First-Year Median Wages Among Completers of the Most Popular Bachelor's Programs, FCS Institutions Only<sup>34</sup>**

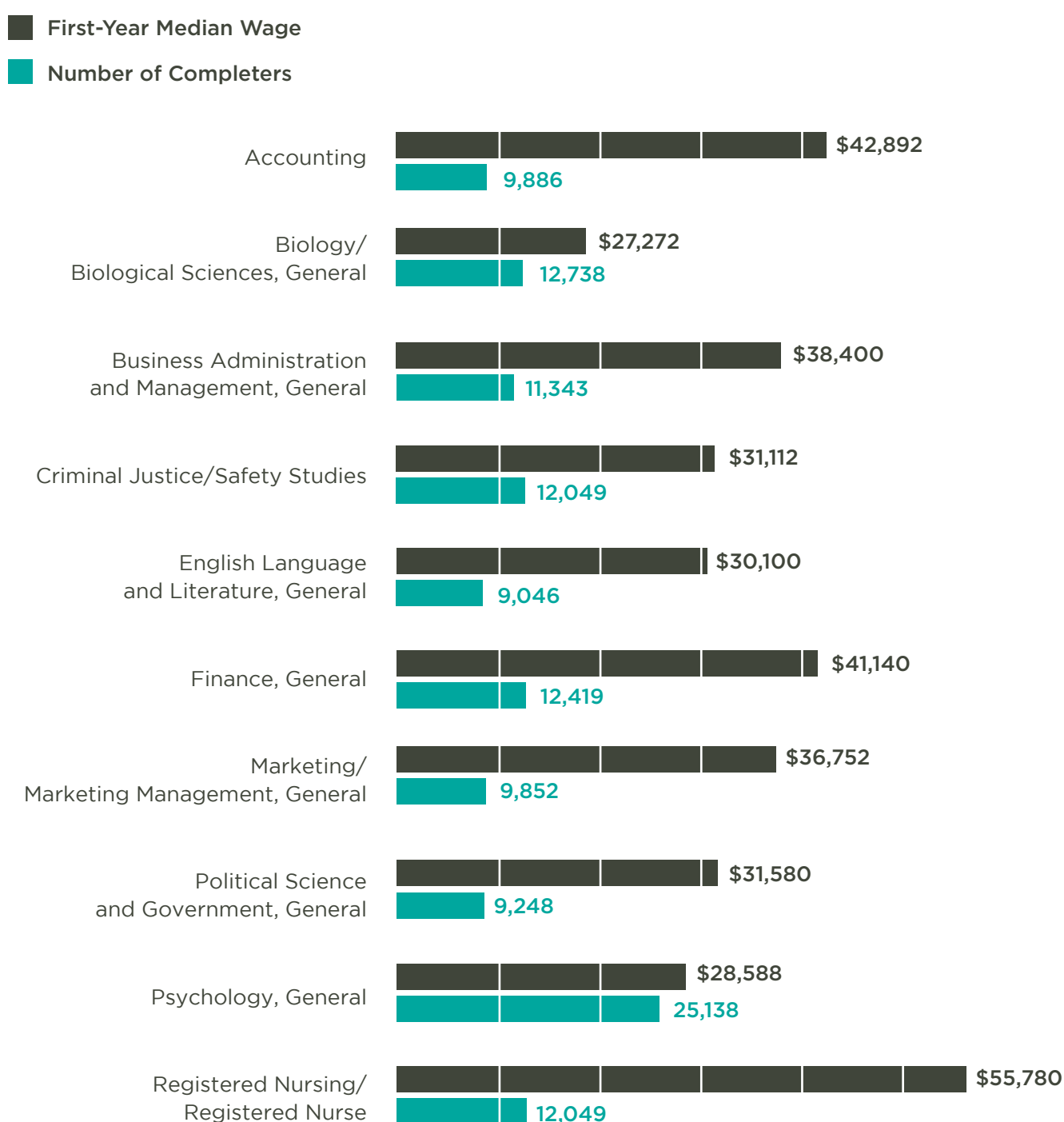


<sup>34</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

**Figure 19** illustrates the median first-year earnings among the most popular bachelor's programs offered by State University System of Florida institutions. Median first-year earnings among the popular programs range from \$27,272 to \$55,780. Psychology, General was the most popular bachelor's degree among State University System of Florida institutions, and completers earned a median first-year wage of \$28,588.

**Table 15** shows the rates of first-year employment (any and full-time) among bachelor's completers for each Florida College System institution, across all programs. Pasco-Hernando State College is the institution with the highest full-time employment rate, followed by Florida Gateway College and Florida SouthWestern State College.

**Figure 19. First-Year Median Wages Among Completers of the Most Popular Bachelor's Programs, SUS Institutions Only<sup>35</sup>**



<sup>35</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

**Table 15. First-Year Employment Rates Among Bachelor's Completers, FCS Institutions Only<sup>36</sup>**

	Full-Time Employment Rates	Any Employment Rates
Broward College	77%	85%
Chipola College	77%	83%
College of Central Florida	71%	81%
Daytona State College	67%	78%
Eastern Florida State College	63%	76%
Florida Gateway College	82%	85%
Florida SouthWestern State College	82%	89%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	71%	80%
Gulf Coast State College	79%	85%
Indian River State College	69%	82%
Lake-Sumter State College	70%	84%
Miami Dade College	75%	84%
Northwest Florida State College	70%	80%
Palm Beach State College	73%	81%
Pasco-Hernando State College	83%	91%
Pensacola State College	63%	73%
Polk State College	77%	88%
Saint Johns River State College	70%	85%
Santa Fe College	73%	83%
Seminole State College of Florida	72%	80%
South Florida State College	66%	77%
St. Petersburg College	77%	84%
State College of Florida-Manatee-Sarasota	79%	85%
Valencia College	79%	87%

<sup>36</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

**Table 16** illustrates the rates of first-year employment (any and full-time) among bachelor's completers for each State University System of Florida institution, across all programs.

University of North Florida is the institution with the highest full-time employment rate, followed by Florida Atlantic College and Florida Gulf Coast University.

**Table 16. First-Year Employment Rates Among Bachelor's Completers, SUS Institutions Only<sup>37</sup>**

	Full-Time Employment Rates	Any Employment Rates
New College of Florida	22%	40%
University of Florida	35%	52%
Florida State University	41%	58%
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	46%	66%
The University of West Florida	48%	65%
Florida International University	55%	68%
University of South Florida-Main Campus	55%	71%
University of Central Florida	55%	71%
Florida Gulf Coast University	57%	73%
Florida Atlantic University	58%	73%
University of North Florida	60%	75%

<sup>37</sup> Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

# Continuing Education

Between academic years 2011-12 and 2015-16, 341,401 completers across all programs and institutions engaged in continuing education one year after program completion. The following section details the level of continuing education across credential levels.

**Table 17** shows the level of continuing education participation across credential levels. The number of completers continuing their education one year after program completion, by credential level, ranges from 39 to 198,992. Completers with an associate in arts degree most frequently engaged in continuing education. The level of continuing education by credential level five years after program completion ranges from 5 to 10,060. Five years after graduation, completers with an associate in arts degree were still the most frequent degree holders engaging in continuing education.

**Table 17. Level of Continuing Education by Credential Level and System<sup>38</sup>**

	Continuing Education (First-Year Outcomes)	Continuing Education Rates (First-Year Outcomes)	Continuing Education (Fifth-Year Outcomes)	Continuing Education Rates (Fifth-Year)
Advanced Technical Certificate	154	20%	5	6%
Applied Technology Diploma (DTC)	893	31%	134	16%
Applied Technology Diploma (FCS)	3,962	52%	278	19%
Apprenticeship (DTC)	907	18%	60	5%
Apprenticeship (FCS)	39	4%	18	5%
Associate in Applied Science Degree	1,760	29%	256	12%
Associate in Arts Degree	198,992	70%	10,060	16%
Associate in Science	23,976	36%	1,590	13%
Bachelor's Degree (FCS)	2,794	10%	223	6%
Bachelor's Degree (SUS)	48,865	17%	4,120	7%
Career Certificate (DTC)	13,473	20%	1,665	11%
Career Certificate (FCS)	11,918	26%	1,353	14%
Postsecondary Vocational Certificate	33,668	54%	1,386	16%

<sup>38</sup> First-Year Outcomes refer to Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16. Five-Year Outcomes refer to Completers in the 2011-12 cohort five years after completion.



# Levels of Public Assistance

Higher education is often viewed as one of the most productive forms of human capital investment that individuals and taxpayers make. Up to this point, this report has focused primarily on earnings that are associated with the completion of the most common degrees and certificates awarded in Florida. This section examines public assistance<sup>39</sup>—another indicator of the financial well-being of students who complete different programs.

One year after program completion, 72,498 completers received public assistance. The following section details the level of public assistance across degree programs.

**Table 18 illustrates the level of public assistance across all programs and institutions.** Career certificates awarded by District Technical Centers are the credentials with the highest rate of completers receiving public assistance, followed by apprenticeships awarded by District Technical Centers and applied technology diplomas awarded by District Technical Centers. Five years after program completion, career certificates, apprenticeships, and applied technology diplomas awarded by District Technical Centers remained the credential levels with the highest rate of completers receiving public assistance.

<sup>39</sup> For purposes of this report, public assistance includes a unique count of graduates and completers who received support or services from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and/or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

**Table 18. Level of Public Assistance by Credential Level and System, Statewide<sup>40</sup>**

	Public Assistance (First-Year Outcomes)	Public Assistance Rates (First-Year Outcomes)	Public Assistance (Fifth-Year Outcomes)	Public Assistance Rates (Fifth-Year Outcomes)
Bachelor’s Degree (SUS)	11,727	4%	984	2%
Advanced Technical Certificate	49	6%	N/A	N/A
Bachelor’s Degree (FCS)	1,977	7%	166	4%
Applied Technology Diploma (FCS)	570	7%	69	5%
Associate in Science	5,459	8%	450	4%
Apprenticeship (FCS)	83	8%	16	5%
Associate in Arts Degree	23,997	8%	3,140	5%
Postsecondary Vocational Certificate	6,759	11%	601	7%
Associate in Applied Science Degree	671	11%	98	4%
Career Certificate (FCS)	5,516	12%	786	8%
Applied Technology Diploma (DTC)	396	14%	80	10%
Apprenticeship (DTC)	680	14%	102	9%
Career Certificate (DTC)	14,614	22%	2,153	14%

<sup>40</sup> First-Year Outcomes refer to Completers in their first year after graduation over a five-year period from academic years 2011-12 to 2015-16. Fifth-Year Outcomes refer to Completers in the 2011-12 cohort five years after completion.

# Federal Student Loan Borrowing

The amount of student debt is a growing concern in Florida and across the nation. Compared with students who are pursuing bachelor's or advanced degrees, debt is not always as large a concern for those enrolled in shorter degree programs. Nonetheless, many students in Florida colleges take out loans to help pay for their education.

Each college self-reports data about debt to Florida's Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance. The data reflect the average federal student loan debt of all students (not just graduates) receiving federal loans in 2015-16. Data also include federal student loans from Stafford, Perkins, Graduate PLUS, Parent PLUS, and TEACH programs. The average student loan debt represents the total amount of student loans for 2015-16 at each college, divided by the number of students

attending the college that academic year. The average does not include private loans or other debt issued by nonfederal government sources that students may have sought to help finance their education.

**Table 19** shows that the majority of students who take out federal loans attend 4-year public state universities. On average, these students borrowed \$6,626 in the 2015-16 academic year. Students of 2-year public state colleges borrowed less than half on average (\$3,148) during the same year. Students who attended public vocational/technical institutions borrowed federal loans less frequently, and the amount borrowed was far less on average (\$250).

**Table 19. Average Federal Loan Disbursement by Student and Number of Students Receiving Federal Loans by Sector, 2015-16**

	Average Federal Loan	Number of Students Receiving Federal Loans
Public Vocational/Technical	\$250	13
2-Year Public Community College	\$3,148	156,394
4-Year Public State University	\$6,626	239,244

# Labor Market Information

The earnings that graduates command are a function not only of the programs from which they graduate, but also of the strength of the labor market into which they enter. The following section provides information on the number of jobs by industry and job forecasts through 2025. This section aims to supplement the earnings data presented throughout this report to help students anticipate where the demand for workers may be strongest across Florida in the coming years.

**Table 20 illustrates the total jobs by industry.** The greatest percentage of jobs are found in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, followed by Professional and Business Services and Education and Health Services.

**Table 20. Jobs Count and Share of Total Industry, Statewide (Seasonally Adjusted, Nonagricultural Sectors)**

	September 2018	% of Total
<b>Total Nonagricultural Employment</b>	<b>8,847,300</b>	
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,774,500	20%
Professional and Business Services	1,367,500	15%
Education and Health Services	1,324,900	15%
Leisure and Hospitality	1,263,300	14%
Total Government	1,099,100	12%
Financial Activities	584,500	7%
Construction	552,700	6%
Manufacturing	377,400	4%
Other Services	360,200	4%
Information	137,400	2%

**Table 21 illustrates job forecasts by industry through 2025.** Education and Health Services is expected to experience the greatest percentage growth (17%) and the largest share of total jobs ( $n = 226,305$ ).

**Table 21. Job Growth Estimates (Share of Total) by Industry, Statewide (Seasonally Adjusted)**

	2017 - 2025 Job Growth	%
Education and Health Services	226,305	17.0%
Construction	69,030	12.8%
Professional and Business Services	183,806	13.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	133,642	10.8%
Financial Activities	47,270	8.2%
Other Services (Except Government)	29,559	8.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	129,159	7.2%
Government	66,850	6.0%
Manufacturing	10,941	2.9%
Information	906	0.7%
Mining	35	0.8%

## Conclusion

**The 2018 Florida Economic Security Report shows that higher education credentials are correlated with earnings upon program completion.** However, the payoff varies by credential level, program, and institution. Generally, completers with technical degrees (e.g., advanced technical certificate, associate in science) receive higher wages.

Please note that these data should be considered with caution. Although the report documents wide variations in earnings of graduates from different programs, these variations have not been explained, leaving this issue open to further analysis. For example, the credentials of incoming students vary across institutions; missions vary across institutions; and many schools serve regional labor markets where earnings vary. Moreover, the data reported here are all short-term results from the labor market and also do not reflect outcomes for students who were employed outside of Florida. Prospective students are encouraged to look at the longer term earnings data on Florida's Launch My Career website:

To reiterate, knowing about variations in the economic payoff of degrees and programs of study is important—and further analysis may be needed to better understand specific institutional and program implications and nuances. The data reported here, however, should be made widely accessible to the public and should inform students, their families, taxpayers, and their representatives about the labor market outcomes of programs, degrees, and colleges.