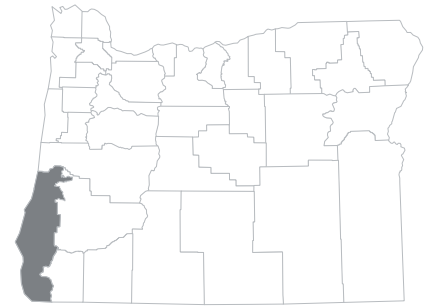




**SOUTHWESTERN**  
AN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**The Economic Value of Southwestern  
Oregon Community College**

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



THE SOUTHWESTERN SERVICE DISTRICT

**S**OUTHWESTERN Oregon Community College (Southwestern) creates value in many ways. The college plays a key role in helping students increase their employability and achieve their individual potential. The college draws students to the region, generating new dollars and opportunities for the Southwestern Service District.\* Southwestern provides students with the education, training, and skills they need to have fulfilling and prosperous careers. Furthermore, Southwestern is a place for students to meet new people, increase their self-confidence, and promote their overall health and well-being.

Southwestern influences both the lives of its students and the regional economy. The college supports a variety of industries in the Southwestern Service District, serves regional businesses, and benefits society as a whole in Oregon from an expanded economy and improved quality of life. The benefits created by Southwestern even extend to the state and local government through increased tax revenues and public sector savings.

This study measures the economic impacts created by Southwestern on the business community and the benefits the college generates in return for the investments made by its key stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. The following two analyses are presented:



### Economic impact analysis



### Investment analysis

All results reflect employee, student, and financial data, provided by the college, for fiscal year (FY) 2018-19. Impacts on the Southwestern Service District economy are reported under the economic impact analysis and are measured in terms of added income. The returns on investment to students, taxpayers, and society in Oregon are reported under the investment analysis.

\* For the purposes of this analysis, the Southwestern Service District is comprised of Coos and Curry Counties along with the following cities in Douglas County: Winchester Bay, Reedsport, and Gardiner.

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*Southwestern influences both  
the **lives of its students** and the  
**regional economy.***

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# Economic impact analysis

Southwestern promotes economic growth in the Southwestern Service District through its direct expenditures and the resulting expenditures of students and regional businesses. The college serves as an employer and buyer of goods and services for its day-to-day and construction operations. The college's activities attract students from outside the Southwestern Service District, whose expenditures benefit regional vendors. In addition, Southwestern is a primary source of higher education to the Southwestern Service District residents and a supplier of trained workers to regional industries, enhancing overall productivity in the regional workforce.

## Operations spending impact



Southwestern adds economic value to the Southwestern Service District as an employer of regional residents and a large-scale buyer of goods and services. In FY 2018-19, the college employed 427 full-time and part-time faculty and staff, 94% of whom lived in the Southwestern Service District. Total payroll at Southwestern was \$19 million, much of which was spent in the region for groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining out, and other household expenses. In addition, the college spent \$21.4 million on day-to-day expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services.

Southwestern's day-to-day operations spending added \$20.8 million in income to the region during the analysis year. This figure represents the college's payroll, the multiplier effects generated by the in-region spending of the college and its employees, and a downward adjustment to account for funding that the college received from regional sources. The \$20.8 million in added income is equivalent to supporting 431 jobs in the region.

## Construction spending impact



Southwestern invests in construction each year to maintain its facilities, create additional capacities, and meet its growing educational demands. In March 2018, Southwestern broke ground on a \$24 million Health and Science Technology building that will be completed in the year 2020. While the amount varies from year to year, these annual infusions of income and jobs have a substantial impact on the regional economy. In FY 2018-19, Southwestern's construction spending generated \$1.1 million in added income, which is equivalent to supporting 18 jobs. In addition, during FY 2019-20, the college is investing \$11 million in energy conservation and infrastructure upgrades, along with \$1.5 million in athletic facility upgrades. The \$36 million in spending will ripple through the regional economy, adding jobs and income. While a majority of these impacts are not included in this study because they

IMPACTS CREATED BY  
SOUTHWESTERN IN FY 2018-19



**\$20.8 million**  
Operations Spending Impact



**\$1.1 million**  
Construction Spending Impact



**\$3.1 million**  
Student Spending Impact



**\$79.4 million**  
Alumni Impact



**\$104.3 million**  
TOTAL IMPACT

- OR -

**1,979**  
JOBS SUPPORTED

occur outside the timeframe, it is recognized that they will create a significant impact in subsequent years.

### Student spending impact



Around 15% of students attending Southwestern originated from outside the region in FY 2018-19, and some of these students relocated to the Southwestern Service District to attend Southwestern. These students may not have come to the region if the college did not exist. In addition, some in-region students, referred to as retained students, would have left the Southwestern Service District if not for the existence of Southwestern. While attending the college, these relocated and retained students spent money on groceries, accommodation, transportation, and other household expenses. This spending generated \$3.1 million in added income for the regional economy in FY 2018-19, which supported 77 jobs in the Southwestern Service District.

### Alumni impact



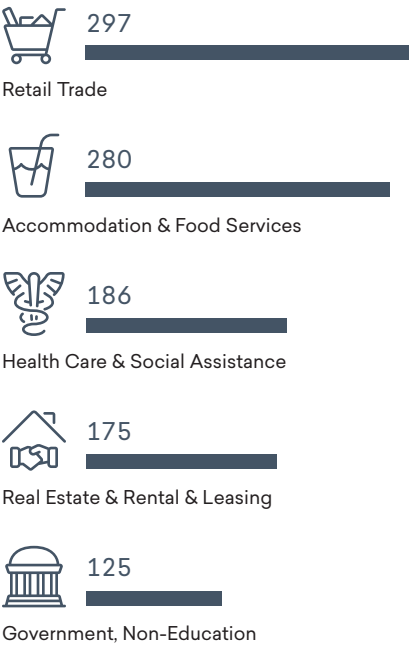
The education and training Southwestern provides for regional residents has the greatest impact. Since its establishment, students have studied at Southwestern and entered the regional workforce with greater knowledge and new skills. Today, thousands of former Southwestern students are employed in the Southwestern Service District. As a result of their Southwestern educations, the students receive higher earnings and increase the productivity of the businesses that employ them. In FY 2018-19, Southwestern alumni generated \$79.4 million in added income for the regional economy, which is equivalent to supporting 1,453 jobs.

### Total impact

Southwestern added \$104.3 million in income to the Southwestern Service District economy during the analysis year, equal to the sum of the operations and construction spending impacts, the student spending impact, and the alumni impact. For context, the \$104.3 million impact was equal to approximately 3.3% of the total gross regional product (GRP) of the Southwestern Service District. This contribution that the college provided on its own was larger than the Real Estate & Rental & Leasing industry in the region.

Southwestern's total impact can also be expressed in terms of jobs supported. The \$104.3 million impact supported 1,979 regional jobs, using the jobs-to-sales ratios specific to each industry in the region. This means that one out of every 23 jobs in the Southwestern Service District is supported by the activities of Southwestern and its students. In addition, the \$104.3 million, or 1,979 supported jobs, stemmed from different industry sectors. Among non-education industry sectors, Southwestern's spending and alumni in the Retail Trade industry sector supported 297 jobs in FY 2018-19. These are impacts that would not have been generated without the college's presence in the Southwestern Service District.

#### SOUTHWESTERN IMPACTS BY INDUSTRY (JOBS SUPPORTED)



**One out of every 23 jobs in the Southwestern Service District is supported by the activities of Southwestern and its students.**



# Investment analysis

An investment analysis evaluates the costs associated with a proposed venture against its expected benefits. If the benefits outweigh the costs, then the investment is financially worthwhile. The analysis presented here considers Southwestern as an investment from the perspectives of students, taxpayers, and society in Oregon.

## Student perspective



In FY 2018-19, Southwestern served 3,226 credit and 3,223 non-credit students. Including 788 dually enrolled high school students. These high school students take over 11,000 credits across nearly 3500 courses. Southwestern estimates that dually enrolled high school students saved over \$1.5 million in tuition and fee costs by enrolling early. In order to attend the college, students paid for tuition, fees, books, and supplies. They also took out loans and will incur interest on those loans. Additionally, students gave up money they would have otherwise earned had they been working instead of attending college. The total investment made by Southwestern's students in FY 2018-19 amounted to a present value of \$8.9 million, equal to \$5 million in out-of-pocket expenses (including future principal and interest on student loans) and \$3.9 million in forgone time and money.

In return for their investment, Southwestern's students will receive a stream of higher future earnings that will continue to grow throughout their working lives. For example, the average Southwestern associate degree graduate from FY 2018-19 will see annual earnings that are \$7,100 higher than a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in Oregon. Over a working lifetime,

STUDENTS SEE A HIGH  
RATE OF RETURN FOR THEIR  
INVESTMENT IN SOUTHWESTERN



**26.4%**

Average annual return for  
Southwestern students



**9.9%**

Stock market 30-year  
average annual return

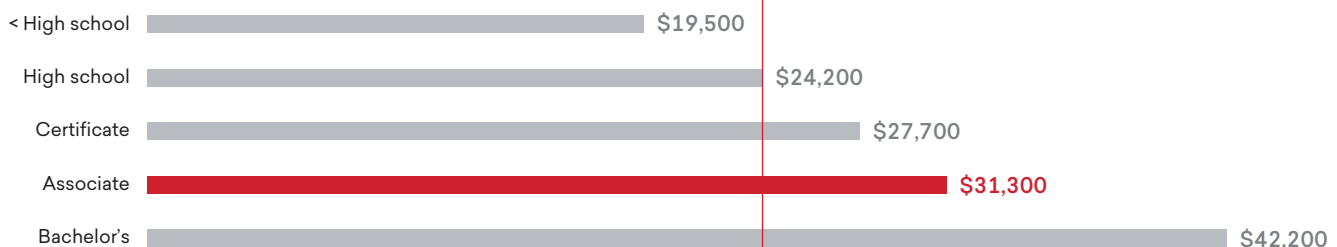


**0.8%**

Interest earned on savings account  
(National Rate Cap)

Source: Forbes' S&P 500, 1989-2018. FDIC.gov, 6-2019.

The average associate degree graduate from Southwestern will see an increase in earnings of **\$7,100** each year compared to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in Oregon.



Source: Emsi employment data.

the benefits of the associate degree over a high school diploma will amount to an undiscounted value of \$269.8 thousand in higher earnings per graduate. The present value of the cumulative higher future earnings that Southwestern's FY 2018-19 students will receive over their working careers is \$47.9 million.

The students' benefit-cost ratio is 5.4. In other words, for every dollar students invest in Southwestern, in the form of out-of-pocket expenses and forgone time and money, they will receive a cumulative value of \$5.40 in higher future earnings. Annually, the students' investment in Southwestern has an average annual internal rate of return of 26.4%, which is impressive compared to the U.S. stock market's 30-year average rate of return of 9.9%.


### Taxpayer perspective



Southwestern generates substantial benefits for taxpayers. These benefits to taxpayers consist primarily of taxes that the state and local government will collect from the added revenue created in the state. As Southwestern students will earn more, they will make higher tax payments throughout their working lives. Students' employers will also make higher tax payments as they increase their output and purchases of goods and services. By the end of the FY 2018-19 students' working lives, the state and local government will have collected a present value of \$14.1 million in added taxes.

Benefits to taxpayers will also consist of savings generated by the improved lifestyles of Southwestern students and the corresponding reduced government services. Education is statistically correlated with a variety of lifestyle changes. Students' Southwestern educations will generate savings in three main categories: 1) healthcare, 2) crime, and 3) income assistance. Improved health will lower students' demand for national health care services. In addition, students will be less likely to interact with the criminal justice system, resulting in a reduced demand for law enforcement and victim costs. Southwestern students will be more employable, so their reduced demand for income assistance such as welfare and unemployment benefits will benefit taxpayers. For a list of study references, contact the college for a copy of the main report. Altogether, the present value of the benefits associated with a Southwestern education will generate \$15 million in savings to state and local taxpayers.

*Total taxpayer benefits amount to **\$15.6 million**, the present value sum of the added tax revenues and public sector savings.*




**STUDENT PERSPECTIVE**

**\$47.9 million**  
Present value benefits

**\$8.9 million**  
Present value costs

**\$39 million**  
Net present value


Benefit-cost ratio	Rate of return
5.4	26.4%



**TAXPAYER PERSPECTIVE**

**\$15.6 million**  
Present value benefits

**\$17.9 million**  
Present value costs



**SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE**

**\$148.4 million**  
Present value benefits

**\$51.2 million**  
Present value costs

**\$97.2 million**  
Net present value

Benefit-cost ratio	Rate of return
2.9	n/a*

\* The rate of return is not reported for the social perspective because the beneficiaries of the investment are not necessarily the same as the original investors.

Total taxpayer benefits amount to \$15.6 million, the present value sum of the added taxes and public sector savings. Taxpayer costs are \$17.9 million, equal to the amount of state and local government funding Southwestern received in FY 2018-19.

### Social perspective



Society as a whole in Oregon benefits from the presence of Southwestern in two major ways. Primarily, society benefits from an increased economic base in the state. This is attributed to higher student earnings and increased business output, which raise economic prosperity in Oregon.

Benefits to society also consist of the savings generated by the improved lifestyles of Southwestern students. As discussed in the previous section, education is statistically correlated with a variety of lifestyle changes that generate social savings. Note that these costs are avoided by the consumers but are distinct from the costs avoided by the taxpayers outlined above. Healthcare savings include avoided medical costs associated with smoking, alcohol dependence, obesity, drug abuse, and depression. Savings related to crime include reduced security expenditures and insurance administration, lower victim costs, and reduced expenditures by the criminal justice system. Income assistance savings include reduced welfare and unemployment claims. For a list of study references, contact the college for a copy of the main report.

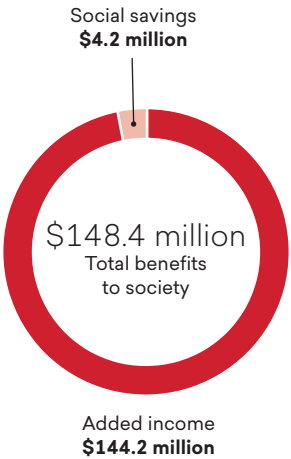
Altogether, the social benefits of Southwestern equal a present value of \$148.4 million. These benefits include \$144.2 million in added income through students' increased lifetime earnings and increased business output, as well as \$4.2 million in social savings related to health, crime, and income assistance in Oregon. People in Oregon invested a present value total of \$51.2 million in Southwestern in FY 2018-19. The cost includes all the college and student costs.

The benefit-cost ratio for society is 2.9, equal to the \$148.4 million in benefits divided by the \$51.2 million in costs. In other words, for every dollar invested in Southwestern, people in Oregon will receive a cumulative value of \$2.90 in benefits. The benefits of this investment will occur for as long as Southwestern's FY 2018-19 students remain employed in the state workforce.

### Summary of investment analysis results

The results of the analysis demonstrate that Southwestern is a strong investment for all three major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. As shown, students receive a great return for their investments in an Southwestern education. At the same time, taxpayers' investment in Southwestern returns more to government budgets than it costs and creates a wide range of social benefits throughout Oregon.

SOCIAL BENEFITS IN OREGON FROM SOUTHWESTERN



# Conclusion

The results of this study demonstrate that Southwestern creates value from multiple perspectives. The college benefits regional businesses by increasing consumer spending in the region and supplying a steady flow of qualified, trained workers to the workforce. Southwestern enriches the lives of students by raising their life-time earnings and helping them achieve their individual potential. The college benefits state and local taxpayers through increased tax receipts and a reduced demand for government-supported social services. Finally, Southwestern benefits society as a whole in Oregon by creating a more prosperous economy and generating a variety of savings through the improved lifestyles of students.

## About the study

Data and assumptions used in the study are based on several sources, including the FY 2018-19 academic and financial reports from Southwestern, industry and employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, outputs of Emsi's Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix model, and a variety of studies and surveys relating education to social behavior. The study applies a conservative methodology and follows standard practice using only the most recognized indicators of economic impact and investment effectiveness. For a full description of the data and approach used in the study, please contact the college for a copy of the main report.

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**multiple perspectives.**

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