



Education & Training

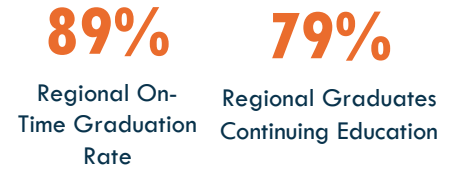
With an existing workforce of over 720,000 and world-class education and training centers, the Gateway Region has the people you need to staff your company and the resources to take your team and business to the next level.

K-12 Education

The region's eight communities have a strong stock of award-winning K-12 schools, with over 84,000 enrolled students and 6,000 annual high school graduates.

	K-12 Enrollment (2016-2017)	Annual High School Graduates (2016-2017)
Gateway Region	84,279	6,167
Richmond MSA	196,796	13,789
Virginia	1,288,166	89,699

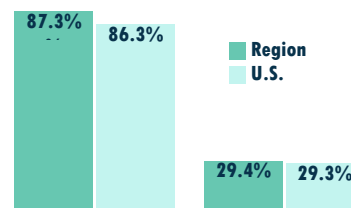
Source: Virginia Department of Education, 2016-2017 data



Higher Education

The workforce draw area's higher education institutions produce over 20,000 degrees and certificates each year, contributing to over 140,000 statewide.

Degree Attainment



	2-Year Degrees & Certifications	4-Year Degrees	Post-Graduate Degrees	Total Higher Ed
VGR Workforce Area ¹	6,185	10,543	3,916	20,644
Virginia	46,288	63,884	30,616	140,788

Source: JobsEQ, 2015-2016 data

¹The Virginia's Gateway Region workforce area includes the communities located within a 45-minute drive time radius from the center of the Gateway Region. The VGR workforce area's communities are the following: cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Emporia and the Amelia, Brunswick, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Greensville, Hanover, Henrico, Isle of Wright, James City, Powhatan, Prince George, New Kent, Nottoway, Southampton, Surry, and Sussex counties.





Local Colleges & Universities

The 2- and 4-year colleges and universities that serve the region are in sync with local employers, providing courses, curricula and technology relevant to their workforce training needs.

John Tyler Community College is the fifth-largest college in the Virginia Community College System and offers more than 50 programs, 14 associate's degrees, eight certificates and 30 career studies certificates, serving over 10,000 students. The college formed partnerships with local employers and Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing participants such as Rolls-Royce who donate the same machinery used in their facilities to maximize applicability of the college's training to local employer needs.

Reynolds Community College is the companion community college for John Tyler in the Richmond metro area. While the latter is focused more on logistics and manufacturing industries concentrated in the Gateway Region in particular, Reynolds specialized in information technology and physical and social sciences.

Richard Bland College, the two-year counterpart to the **College of William and Mary**, is one of the oldest colleges in the country and an important generator of associate's degrees for the region.

Virginia State University boasts a strong and diverse liberal arts program and Virginia's only manufacturing engineering degree and logistics technology degree programs. The campus also offers cutting-edge food production training via its agricultural extension, Randolph Farm.

Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia is the largest public university in Virginia, with strong programs across the board including a medical/research university, engineering and business schools, fine arts and a marketing/branding center.

University of Richmond is a private liberal arts university with a premier law school and business and strong liberal arts curriculum. All students are funded to complete a semester of study outside the area, adding a global mindset to the workforce produced locally.

Other Universities in Virginia

With attractive options for living and working, and with well-established local corporate-university linkages, the region's workforce has access to the resources and output from universities and colleges across the state, including **Virginia Tech**, the **University of Virginia**, **Old Dominion University**, **George Mason University**, **James Madison University**, and **Longwood University**.





Workforce Development

Virginia Jobs Investment Program

The Virginia Jobs Investment Program (VJIP) helps offset recruiting and training costs incurred by companies that are either creating new jobs or implementing technological upgrades. In addition to offering direct funding, VJIP provides additional consulting assistance with workforce-related challenges and organizational development workshops.

Manufacturing Skills Institute

The Manufacturing Skills Institute, founded by Virginia Manufacturers Association and ECPI University, is an industry certification system for meeting the needs of high-tech employers in advanced materials, biotech/biomedical, semiconductor manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and other fields. It focuses on competencies of Math & Measurement, Quality & Business Acumen, and Spatial Reasoning & Manufacturing Technology. After training and assessment are delivered either at an education partner or company location, the institute awards certification for [Manufacturing Technicians](#) or [Specialists](#). Skills trained include machine programming, CAD, precision measurement, machine troubleshooting and maintenance, etc.

Community College Workforce Alliance

A partnership between John Tyler Community College, Reynolds Community College and the local business sector, the Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA) offers customized training for companies located in the region and strong training programs that evolve to meet newer requirements in Lean Six Sigma, project management, process improvement and American Production and Inventory Control Society. CCWA can train in all five areas of the supply chain certification, as well as workplace technology, leadership/supervisory training, business writing, communication and project management, and more.

Apprenticeship Programs

The most prominent local apprenticeship program is the Advanced Manufacturing Apprentice Academy Center (AMAAC) hosted by the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing. The academy adds to the local pipeline of skilled workers ready to apply themselves immediately in open positions in advanced manufacturing. Besides the academy, local employers work with the Virginia Department of Labor to create intensive apprenticeship program for Rolls-Royce, which the company then implemented at numerous global operations. CCWA received funding in 2015 to lead a 5-year apprentice program to produce at least 330 apprentices in advanced manufacturing and IT.

Industry & Employer-Specific Information

Contact us for additional education and workforce development details.

