EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS: ANALYZING DATA FROM LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS, & SECURITY

This analysis of the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security cluster in the Commonwealth highlights important information for each of its five career pathways—Correction Services; Emergency & Fire Management Services; Law Enforcement Services; Legal Services; and Security & Protective Services.

What trends do we currently see? What trends may we anticipate?

- Over the next decade, the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security cluster is expected to experience a slightly higher percentage of job growth (11%) than the Commonwealth as a whole (9%).
- Although the Emergency & Fire Management Services pathway is projected to have the highest percentage of employment growth (16%) through 2024, the Security & Protective Services pathway will see the greatest increase in overall number of jobs (6,072) and have the most annual job openings (1,265) of all pathways in this cluster.
- The two occupations in this cluster that are expected to see more than 25% job growth by 2024 are Forensic Science Technicians (35% growth, 229 new positions, 51 annual job openings) and Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics (28% growth, 1,404 new positions, 222 annual job openings).

EDUCATION

Figure 1 shows the predominant level of education and training in each pathway. Education data was determined by Trailblazers based on US Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational education and training data.

Footnote 1: Reflects predominant education by the number of occupations in each pathway, not the number of workers.
EMployment

Figure 2 compares the estimated 2014 employment for each pathway to projected 2024 employment levels.

Data are provided by the Virginia Employment Commission.

Earnings and Growth

Figure 3 presents the size and median wages of the occupations in each pathway with the highest projected percentage of growth. Wage data are provided by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics program.

Figure 3: Earnings and Growth for Select Occupations in VA 2014-2024
(Size of circle represents annual number of job openings in the specific occupation)