

OFFICE OF
STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

DATA SPOTLIGHT

CHARTING STUDENT SUCCESS
THROUGH DATA & RESEARCH

NORTHERN VIRGINIA LABOR MARKET

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NOVA
Northern Virginia
Community College

VIRGINIA VS. NOVA SERVICE AREA: 2021

NORTHERN VIRGINIA LABOR MARKET

The service area of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) is comprised of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties, as well as the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park. NOVA's service area makes up 30% of Virginia's population and a third of its employment.^{1,2} Thus, understanding the Northern Virginia labor market is critical for both students and institutions to make informed decisions about education. There were over 26,000 job postings in NOVA's service area between May 2022 and April 2023 that requested an associate's degree. These postings included a wide range of industries and occupations, including healthcare, education, business and finance, and information technology.² NOVA graduates can go into a variety of high-paying, in-demand occupations.² In-demand occupations are those that are projected to grow at higher than the median average annual growth rate over the next five years, are projected to have above the 30th percentile of average annual openings, and have had more than 50 job postings in the last 12 months.

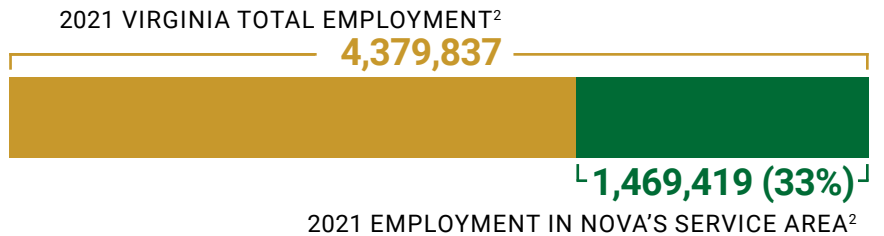
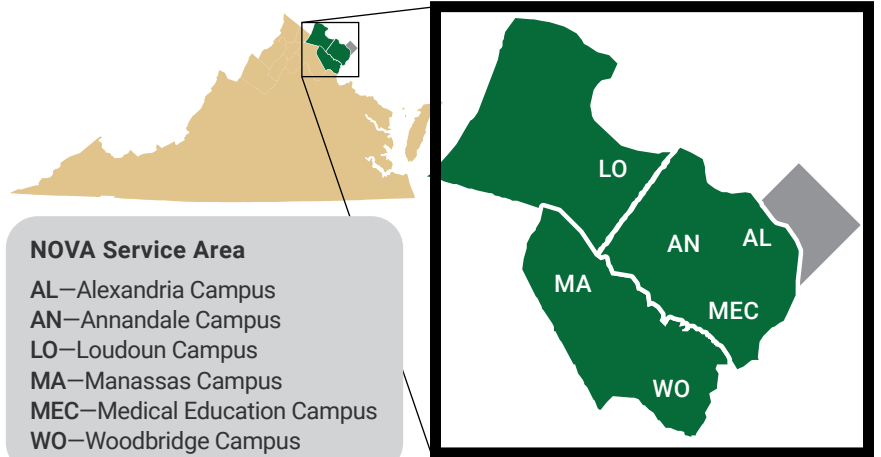
This issue presents labor market data for NOVA's service area, with comparisons to statewide data where possible. The data primarily comes from Lightcast Analyst, a proprietary data source providing regional labor market estimates.² Typical education levels come from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Projections Program, which provides national-level education and training information for each occupation.³ Industry sectors come from the 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which groups business establishments based on their primary business activities.⁴

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Redistricting Data. [https://data.census.gov/ table?q=population&g=040XX00US51_050XX00US51013_51059_51107_51153_51510_51600_51610_51683_51685](https://data.census.gov/table?q=population&g=040XX00US51_050XX00US51013_51059_51107_51153_51510_51600_51610_51683_51685).

² Lightcast Analyst (2023.2 release). <https://lightcast.io/>.

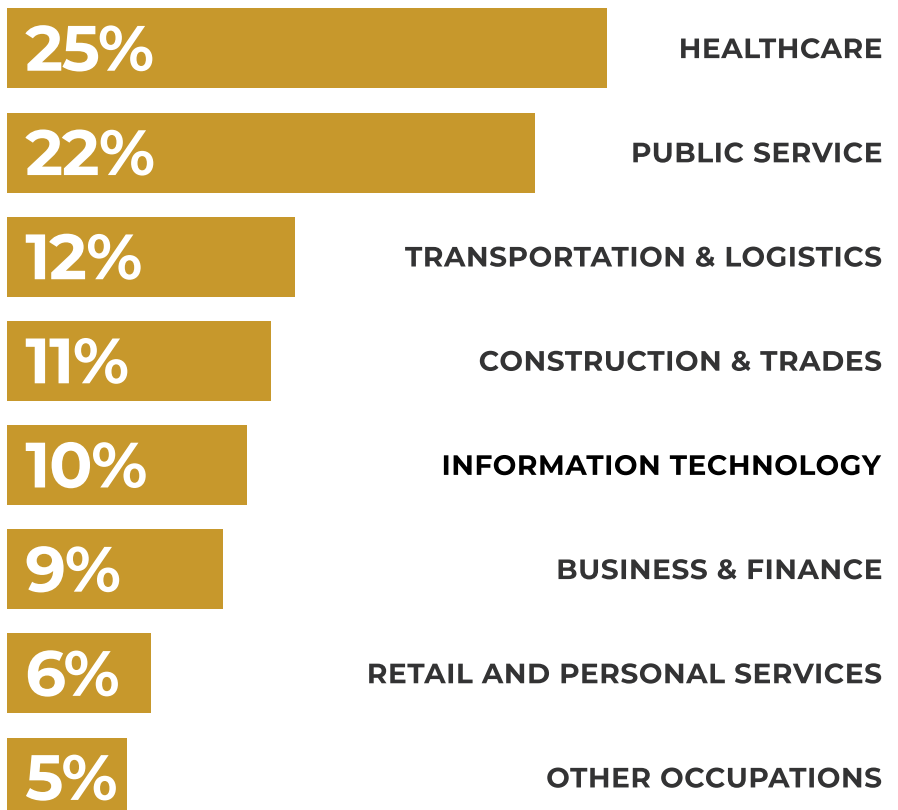
³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections Program, 2021. [https://data.bls.gov/projections/ occupationProj](https://data.bls.gov/projections/occupationProj).

⁴ North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). <https://www.census.gov/naics/>.



LABOR MARKET LANDSCAPE

The following chart shows the share of regional employment that falls within each occupation group for all occupations that typically require some college, a postsecondary non-degree award, or an associate's degree, as of 2021.^{2,3}



Note: Occupations falling into more than one occupation group have been placed in their primary group.

TOP NORTHERN VA EMPLOYERS HIRING FOR ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES

The top employers hiring associate's degree holders cover a wide range of industries, including health care, education, and professional, scientific, and technical services.²

EMPLOYER	INDUSTRY SECTOR	UNIQUE POSTINGS
INOVA HEALTH SYSTEM	HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	833
HCA HEALTHCARE	HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	362
NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	353
GENERAL DYNAMICS	AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE*	349
ACCENTURE	PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	313

Notes: Unduplicated number of postings in NOVA Service Area from May 2022 through April 2023 specifically requesting an associate's degree.

*While General Dynamics is typically classified under the NAICS system as an Aircraft Manufacturing company, its work encompasses many other areas; Aerospace and Defense is used here to encompass those other areas

SPECIALIZED SKILLS AND CREDENTIALS

Specialized skills requested on job postings requiring an associate's degree covered a wide range of occupations, including those in healthcare, business and finance, and information technology. Security clearance was by far the most requested credential on regional job postings between May 2022 and April 2023. This is different from Virginia as a whole, where security clearance was only the 6th most requested credential. However, most of the top credentials requested on job postings requiring an associate's degree, both in NOVA's Service Area and statewide, were for healthcare professions.²

SPECIALIZED SKILLS		CREDENTIALS	
SKILL	NUMBER OF POSTINGS	CREDENTIAL	NUMBER OF POSTINGS
NURSING	3,594	SECURITY CLEARANCE	5,078
AUDITING	2,278	REGISTERED NURSE (RN)	3,332
ACCOUNTING	1,974	LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN)	2,595
MARKETING	1,885	VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE	2,380
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	1,668	BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) CERTIFICATION	1,802

Note: Unduplicated number of postings in NOVA Service Area from May 2022 through April 2023 specifically requesting an associate's degree.

NORTHERN VA HIGH-WAGE, IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

NOVA applied degree program graduates can go into a variety of high-paying, in-demand occupations.²

DENTAL HYGIENISTS



PROJECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL OPENINGS

208

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGES

\$97,873

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHERS



PROJECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL OPENINGS

47

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGES

\$84,618

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRERS



PROJECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL OPENINGS

45

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGES

\$68,883

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS



PROJECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL OPENINGS

144

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGES

\$68,168

Note: The wages shown here are the median wage of all people employed in that occupation in NOVA's service area—actual wages may vary based on employer, education level, years of experience, and other factors. Applied degree program refers here to all A.A.S., A.A.A., and certificate programs offered at NOVA.

LEARN MORE

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF



NOVA LABOR MARKET INTELLIGENCE

NOVA's Labor Market Intelligence (LMI) team within the Office of Strategic Insights conducts research on the economy and the labor market in Northern Virginia. The LMI team produces reports, interactive dashboards, and other resources. Faculty and staff can also request data on specific occupations, credentials, skills, or programs.

Visit the NOVA LMI website at: <https://www.nvcc.edu/lmi>.



CAREER COACH

Career Coach is a service from Lightcast that allows students to browse occupations and see regional data, as well as what NOVA programs (if any) can help prepare students for those occupations. Students can also take a career assessment, and veterans can find occupations related to their military occupation.

Visit NOVA's Career Coach page at: <https://nvcc.lightcastcc.com/>.



NOVA BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

Business Engagement and Career Services includes career counselors, who directly support students, with the business engagement team, who directly support workforce and employer demands. Students also have direct access to resources that support professional and life choices that have the potential to increase their social and economic mobility.

Learn more about NOVA Career Services at: <https://www.nvcc.edu/career-services/index.html>.



ADVISING

NOVA is committed to helping students become effective agents for lifelong learning and personal development through informed planning and decision-making. NOVA's Advising Services enhance student success by holistically supporting, teaching, and connecting students to college programs and resources that help students achieve their academic, career, or personal goals.

Learn more about Advising at: <https://www.nvcc.edu/advising/index.html>.

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