



Southwest
Virginia Community College

OPPORTUNITY PROFILE



COLLEGE OVERVIEW

- Southwest Virginia Community College is a two-year institution of higher education established as part of a state-wide system of community colleges serving primarily the residents of the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, and Tazewell. The College operates under policies established by the State Board for Community Colleges and a College Advisory Board. The institution is financed primarily by State funds supplemented by contributions from the participating localities. The College operates on the semester system and is open on a year-round basis.



**Southwest Virginia
Community College**

PROGRAMS

Offering more than 80 programs of study, Southwest has served more than 115,000 students since 1967. A 2019 alumni survey revealed that 98% of Southwest's graduates recommend the college. Programs of study include administration of justice, business, education, engineering and technology, general studies (transfer), industry and manufacturing, and science/health technologies. In addition to classes being offered at the college's main campus, the Lebanon Center, Bluefield Center, and Booth center in Grundy, online classes are available.

In addition to these credit-based programs, the Southwest Virginia Community College Workforce and Continuing Education department offers fast-track training and industry recognized credentials. The Workforce and Continuing Education program also offers customized, cost-effective training solutions for employers.

New additions at Southwest include a new School of the Arts, an expanded Agriculture program, Honors College, 14 NJCAA sports teams, and 5 club sports. These programs are designed to benefit students and the community-at-large, with impacts going beyond the college's campus.

Southwest Virginia Community College has financial aid options that make paying for a college education easier. In addition to low tuition rates compared to 4-year or private colleges, tuition-free options are available for residents of Buchanan County and recent high school graduates residing in Russell and Tazewell Counties. In-state tuition rates are available for West Virginia residents living in the counties of Mercer, McDowell, Summers, Monroe, or Greenbrier.

In addition to serving students, Southwest is impacting its service area with more than \$165 million annually, according to a new study. Read more about the [Economic Impact Study](#) findings.

PEOPLE, CULTURE, TEAM

MISSION

Southwest Virginia Community College, a comprehensive two-year institution, provides quality educational and cultural enrichment opportunities for lifelong learners, workforce and community.

VISION

Southwest Virginia Community College transforms lives, strengthens communities and inspires excellence.

HISTORY

The 1966 General Assembly of Virginia authorized the establishment of a state-wide system of comprehensive community colleges and appointed a separate State Board to develop a Master Plan for a state-wide system of community college education in Virginia. The Master Plan designated a community college to be established in the area serving the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson (partial), Russell, and Tazewell.

A delegation of local citizens met with State officials to determine the feasibility of immediate development of a community college for the region. A local College Board was appointed in the summer of 1967. The Local Board recommended that the college be named Southwest Virginia Community College and that Dr. Charles R. King be appointed as president.

The College opened to students in the fall of 1968 with an initial enrollment of 710 students. Fall 2010 credit enrollment was 3,758 unduplicated headcount students.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

- › Administration of Justice & Human Services
- › Business
- › Education
- › Engineering & Information Technology
- › General Studies-Transfer
- › Industry & Manufacturing
- › Science & Health Technologies

COMPANY VALUES

Student Centered Learning – SWCC believes that students are the primary reason we exist and our purpose is to help them achieve their goals and aspirations.

Student Success – SWCC recognizes the potential in individuals and assists them in obtaining their highest level of attainment.

Excellence – SWCC strives for excellence in instruction and service through rigorous academic and professional standards.

Inclusiveness and Collaboration – SWCC reaches out to the communities and partners it serves, supporting and assisting them in achieving their goals.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

Southwest Virginia Communities

A visit to the region, also known for its hospitality and incredible craftspeople, will make you feel like you're already home, and maybe you are...it's another side of Virginia and it's an incredible place to spend a lifetime! Southwest Virginia showcases its natural beauty through the Appalachian Mountains, one of the oldest ranges in the world, and the most biodiverse rivers in the world and infinite opportunities for outdoor adventures.

Cultural exhibits and arts are as interwoven in Southwest Virginia's heritage as are the mountains that surround the region. Nearly every town in the region features theaters where touring companies and musicians once brought their latest shows. Today, these small theaters have been renovated to be centers for a cultural renaissance, bringing live music and theater to beautiful and historic spaces. Art centers and galleries, such as the [Southwest Virginia Cultural Center and Marketplace](#), offer visitors the chance to see and buy original art and crafts made right here.



FAMILY FUN

SWVA boasts a vibrant culture that is bursting with a robust music heritage, outdoor adventure, arts and culture, spectacular scenery, and natural resources.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Whether you're into biking, hiking, fishing, bird watching, horseback riding, water sports or rock climbing, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

HIT THE TOWN

Fresh produce and local ingredients are always on the table in SWVA. With a region full of towns with rich culture and nightlife, you're sure to stay busy.

RECREATION IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

In Southwest Virginia, it's all about the journey...and the destination. You will never have to worry about finding something here that will keep you moving. Our scenic region boasts a vibrant culture that is bursting with a robust music heritage, outdoor adventure, arts and culture, spectacular scenery, and rich natural resources. If you're an outdoor enthusiast, the number of experiences available are limitless. If you're a music lover, you've come to the right place because we're all about country, bluegrass, and much more! And if you simply want to enjoy the views, take it slow and easy and enjoy the beauty of Southwest Virginia, we don't blame you one bit!



BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

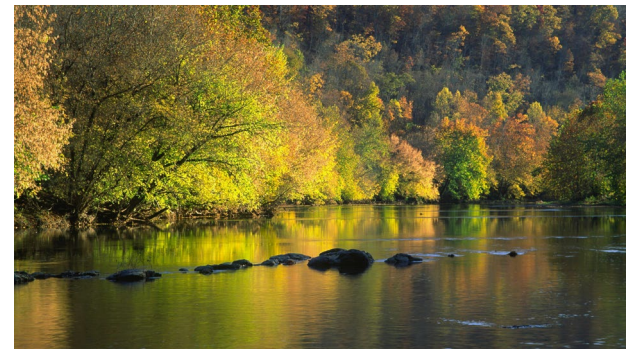
The Southwest Virginia Mountain Brew Trail is an unforgettable travel adventure that allows you to discover vibrant micro and craft brewing scene found throughout Southwest Virginia. Virginia, which has a long and fascinating history regarding distilled drinks, produced the first batch of whiskey on American soil way back in 1620. A tradition has followed, with numerous distilleries and tasting rooms throughout Southwest, Virginia.

- › Bristol Station Brews & Taphouse
- › Buffalo Mountain Brewery
- › Chaos Mountain Brewery
- › Hammer and Forge Brewing Company
- › The River Company Brewing
- › Wolf Hills Brewing
- › Five Mile Mountain Distillery
- › Franklin County Distilleries
- › Stone Mountain Distilling
- › Davis Valley Distillery
- › And many more!

WINERIES

The picturesque mountainsides of Southwest Virginia are home to several well-established wineries, thanks in large part to a good climate for growing grapes, as well as a loamy and gravelly soil with good drainage and stunning elevations. Throughout the region, you will find a wide variety of enjoyable wines, ranging from reds and whites to sweet and limited releases.

- › Abingdon Vineyards
- › Beliveau Estate Winery
- › Blacksnake Meadery
- › Chateau Morrisette Winery
- › Davis Valley Winery
- › Firefly Vineyards
- › Giles Mountain Vineyard and Winery
- › Iron Heart Winery
- › JRB Vineyards and Winery
- › And many more!



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Southwest Virginia is home to 11 state parks. Outdoor lovers can choose from any number of activities to enjoy including hiking, biking, camping, kayaking, and much more!

- › Spearhead Trails' Original Pocahontas OHV trail system
- › Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail
- › High Knob
- › Burke's Garden
- › Clinch River/Clinch River Farms
- › The New River
- › Appalachian Trail
- › Beagle Ridge Gardens, Herb, and Lavender Farm
- › Beartown Wilderness, Bland
- › Lick Mountain Excursions
- › New River Fly Fishing
- › George Washington & Jefferson National Forest
- › Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserve
- › Numerous campgrounds and scenic drives
- › Numerous walking, running, biking trails
- › And more!

BENEFITS

Benefit	Employer/Employee Paid
Medical, Dental, Vision	Wide range of State Health Benefit Plans that include basic medical, dental, prescription drug coverage, behavioral health, Employee Assistance Programs, and free wellness visits
Employee Assistance Program	
Health Care Flexible Spending Account, Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account	A pre-tax benefit option to cover medical and dependent expenses such as daycare, after school care, and other fees
Group Life Insurance (Basic Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance)	100% employer paid- equal to the new employee's annual salary, rounded to the next highest thousand, and multiplied by two *For accidental death: coverage is equivalent to annual salary multiplied by four
Virginia Sickness and Disability Program (VSDP)	Provides a fixed amount of sick leave, personal/family leave, short-term disability, long-term disability, and long-term care insurance with 100% of premiums paid by the state -Short-Term Disability: Must satisfy a one-year waiting period but provides income replacement for up to 125 workdays -Long-Term Disability: approved at conclusion of short-term disability coverage and covers 60% of income and 80% of income for catastrophic conditions
Annual Leave	Accrued or earned after each semi-monthly pay period and is based on years of service
Parental Leave	New parents who qualify via birth, adoption, foster, or custodial care and meet the eligibility criteria may take up to 320 hours of parental leave
Retirement	Through the Virginia Retirement System, the employee contributes a mandatory 5% of their salary per pay period. You can retire with full benefits at normal social security age with at least 5 years of service
Available Voluntary Saving Plans	-Deferred Compensation Plan: covered by the IRS 457 regulations and provides addition retirement savings -Tax-Deferred Annuities (TDA): contribute tax-free dollars to an annuity program and can receive a Cash Match of up to \$20.00 per pay period, if eligible -Cash Match: Could receive a cash match for a TDA or DCP of up to 50% of your contribution
Holidays	12 Paid Holidays
Educational Assistance	VCCS offers financial support for tuition and mandatory fees for coursework that is job-related and/or part of a degree program. Professional development for non-credit courses or certifications are also supported.
Community Service Leave	Employees may receive up to 16 hours of paid leave per year to provide services as a volunteer member of a service organization or through authorized school assistance.
Other Miscellaneous Programs	CommonHealth Wellness Program, Worker's Compensation, Virginia College Savings Plan, membership with Virginia Credit Union, Discount Programs for health/fitness/hotels/car rentals/cell phone services/travel, and other insurance and savings programs