

Becoming a Student-Centered College

LABOR MARKET

3 out of every 20
people in our
service area
live in poverty.

STUDENT CENTERED COLLEGE

Ensuring every member of our community has access to our college and equitable opportunities for success in our college. Improving lives – one student at a time – is VC's way of supporting a stronger community.

POVERTY RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program produces single-year estimates of income and poverty for all U.S. states and counties.

SERVICE AREA POVERTY

VC's seven county service area averages a 15.3% poverty rate. This is higher than the US nationwide rate of only 13.1%.

SERVICE AREA EDUCATION

Having less than a high school education almost triples the chance of living in Texas poverty versus having an associate degree according to US Census educational attainment and poverty data.

VC will align efforts to the job market in the region.

Creating viable, inter-related pathways that allow students to choose their best mix of 'learn and earn' is a challenge. When done well, students could enter as a nurse's aid and – over time – complete as a registered nurse. The challenge is making sure VC credentials match our service area's job market, and making sure those credentials lead to a living wage that supports our alumni in living and choosing their best life.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Are there careers in our service area that require skills VC can provide for which VC does not currently offer training?
- Are there programs at VC that do not lead to living wages?
- Does VC partner with area employers to ensure graduates of those programs have access to additional pathways for promotion and advancement?

(Questions from Texas Guided Pathways)

Population with less than a high School Diploma

	Age: 18-24	Age: 25+
Texas	15.2%	16.8%
Calhoun	26.6%	19.3%
DeWitt	20.4%	19.0%
Gonzales	23.3%	22.1%
Jackson	14.9%	16.8%
Lavaca	14.9%	14.7%
Refugio	28.1%	19.3%
Victoria	18.2%	16.8%

(Source: US Census & American Community Survey 2018)

SUGGESTED METRICS

- % of degrees/certs with potential to earn a living wage
- THECB Working or Enrolled