



# **Economic value of Georgian College**



**G**EORGIAN COLLEGE (Georgian) creates value in many ways. The college plays a key role in helping students increase their employability and achieve their individual potential. It draws students to the region, generating new dollars and opportunities for Georgian’s catchment area.\* Georgian provides students with the education, training, and skills they need to have fulfilling and prosperous careers. Furthermore, Georgian is a place for students to meet new people, increase their self-confidence, and promote their overall health and well-being.

Georgian influences both the lives of its students and the regional economy. The college supports a variety of industries, serves regional businesses, and benefits the provincial government through increased tax revenues and public sector savings. The benefits created by Georgian even extend to society as a whole in Ontario, which benefits from an expanded economy and improved quality of life.

This study measures the economic impacts created by Georgian on the business community and the benefits the college generates in return for the investments made by its key constituent groups—students, taxpayers, and society. The following two analyses are presented:

 **Economic impact analysis**

 **Investment analysis**

All results reflect employee, student, and financial data, provided by the college, for fiscal year (FY) 2022-23. Impacts on the Georgian catchment area economy are reported under the economic impact analysis and are measured in terms of added income. The returns on investment to students, taxpayers, and society in Ontario are reported under the investment analysis.



**Georgian influences both the lives of its students and the regional economy.**

\* For the purposes of this analysis, the Georgian catchment area consists of Bruce County, Dufferin County, Grey County, Simcoe County, and the District Municipality of Muskoka in Ontario.

# Economic impact analysis



Georgian promotes economic growth in its catchment area through its direct expenditures and the resulting expenditures of students and regional businesses. The college serves as an employer and buyer of goods and services for its day-to-day operations. The college's activities attract students from outside the Georgian catchment area, whose expenditures benefit regional vendors. In addition, Georgian is a primary source of postsecondary education to Georgian catchment area residents and a supplier of trained workers to regional industries, enhancing overall productivity in the regional workforce.

## Operations spending impact



Georgian adds economic value to its catchment area as an employer of regional residents and a large-scale buyer of goods and services. In FY 2022-23, the college employed faculty and staff equivalent to 2,109 full-time employees, 91% of whom lived in the Georgian catchment area. Total payroll at Georgian was \$155.5 million, much of which was spent in the region on groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining out, and other household expenses. In addition, the college spent \$143 million on day-to-day expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services.

Georgian's day-to-day operations spending added \$230.4 million in income to the region during the analysis year. This figure represents the college's payroll, the multiplier effects generated by the in-region spending of the college and its employees, and a downward adjustment to account for funding that the college received from regional sources. The \$230.4 million in added income is equivalent to supporting 3,287 jobs in the region.

## Student spending impact



Around 71% of credit students attending Georgian originated from outside the region in FY 2022-23, and some of these students relocated to the Georgian catchment area to attend the college. These students may not have come to the region if the college did not exist. In addition, some in-region students, referred to as retained students, would have left the Georgian catchment area if not for the existence of Georgian. While attending the college, these relocated and retained students spent money on groceries, accommodation, transportation, and other household expenses. This spending generated \$48.0 million in added income for the regional economy in FY 2022-23, which supported 1,082 jobs in the Georgian catchment area.

### Impacts created by Georgian in FY 2022-23



Operations spending impact

**\$230.4 million**

+



Student spending impact

**\$48.0 million**

+



Alumni impact

**\$1.4 billion**



Total economic impact

**\$1.7 billion**

OR

Jobs supported

**23,817**



## Alumni impact



The education and training Georgian provides for regional residents has the greatest impact. Since its establishment, students have studied at Georgian and entered the regional workforce with greater knowledge and new skills. Today, thousands of former Georgian students are employed in the Georgian catchment area. As a result of their Georgian educations, the students receive higher earnings and increase the productivity of the businesses that employ them. In FY 2022-23, Georgian alumni generated \$1.4 billion in added income for the regional economy, which is equivalent to supporting 19,448 jobs.

## Total impact

Georgian added \$1.7 billion in income to its catchment area economy during the analysis year, equal to the sum of the operations spending impact, student spending impact, and alumni impact. For context, the \$1.7 billion impact was equal to approximately 5.3% of the total gross regional product (GRP). This contribution that the college provided on its own is more than the entire wholesale trade industry in the region.

Georgian's total impact can also be expressed in terms of jobs supported. The \$1.7 billion impact supported 23,817 regional jobs, using the jobs-to-sales ratios specific to each industry in the region. This means that one out of every 15 jobs in the Georgian catchment area is supported by the activities of the college and its students. In addition, the \$1.7 billion, or 23,817 supported jobs, stemmed from different industry sectors. Among non-education industry sectors, Georgian's activity and alumni in the health care and social assistance industry sector supported 1,235 jobs in FY 2022-23. These are impacts that would not have been generated without the college's presence in the region.

### Top industry impacts (jobs supported)



5,505

Health care and social assistance



3,695

Retail trade



2,025

Accommodation and food services



1,369

Administrative and support, waste management, and remediation services



1,172

Professional, scientific, and technical services

**One out of every 15 jobs** in the Georgian catchment area is supported by the activities of the college and its students.



# Investment analysis



An investment analysis evaluates the costs associated with a proposed venture against its expected benefits. If the benefits outweigh the costs, then the investment is financially worthwhile. The analysis presented here considers Georgian as an investment from the perspectives of students, taxpayers, and society in Ontario.

## Student perspective



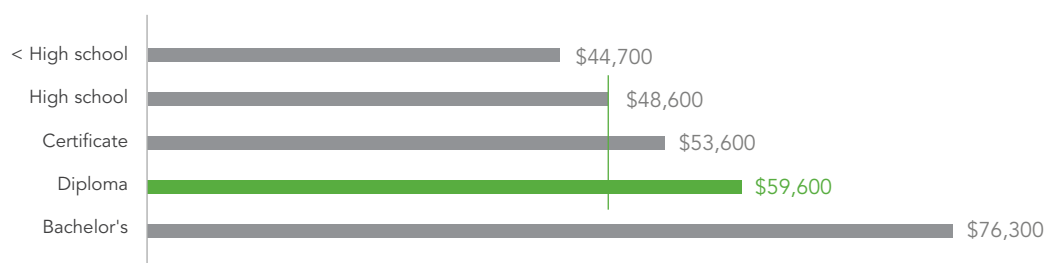
In FY 2022-23, Georgian served 23,188 credit and 5,755 non-credit students. In order to attend the college, students paid for tuition, fees, books, and supplies. Additionally, students gave up money they would have otherwise earned had they been working instead of attending college. The total investment made by Georgian's students in FY 2022-23 amounted to a present value of \$429.2 million, equal to \$156.7 million in out-of-pocket expenses and \$272.5 million in forgone time and money.

In return for their investment, Georgian's students will receive a stream of higher future earnings that will continue to grow throughout their working lives. For example, the average Georgian diploma graduate from FY 2022-23 will see an increase in earnings of \$11,000 each year compared to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in Ontario. Over a working lifetime, the benefits of the diploma over a high school diploma will amount to an undiscounted value of \$396,000 in higher earnings per graduate. Altogether, Georgian's FY 2022-23 students will receive \$774.6 million in higher future earnings over their working lives, as a result of their education and training at the college.

The students' benefit-cost ratio is 1.8. In other words, for every dollar students invest in Georgian in the form of out-of-pocket expenses and forgone time and money, they will receive a cumulative value of \$1.80 in higher future earnings. The students' investment in Georgian has an average annual internal rate of 13.4%.



The average diploma graduate from Georgian will see an increase in earnings of **\$11,000** each year compared to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in Ontario.



Source: Derived from data supplied by Statistics Canada and the Lightcast CRIO model.



## Taxpayer perspective



Georgian generates more in tax revenue than it takes. These benefits to taxpayers consist primarily of taxes that the provincial government will collect from the added revenue created in the province. As Georgian students earn more, they will make higher tax payments throughout their working lives. Students' employers will also make higher tax payments as they increase their output and purchases of goods and services. By the end of the FY 2022-23 students' working lives, the provincial government will have collected a present value of \$590 million in added tax revenue.

Benefits to taxpayers also consist of savings generated by the improved lifestyles of Georgian students and the corresponding reduced government services. Education is statistically correlated with a variety of lifestyle changes. Students' Georgian educations will generate savings in three main categories: 1) health care, 2) crime, and 3) income assistance.

Improved health will lower students' demand for health-care services. In addition, students will be less likely to interact with the criminal justice system, resulting in a reduced demand for law enforcement and reduced victim costs. Georgian students will be more employable, so their reduced demand for income assistance, such as welfare and unemployment benefits, will benefit taxpayers. Altogether, the present value of the benefits associated with a Georgian education will generate \$22.6 million in savings to provincial taxpayers.

Total taxpayer benefits amount to \$612.6 million, the present value sum of the added taxes and public sector savings. Taxpayer costs are \$79.7 million, equal to the amount of provincial government funding Georgian received in FY 2022-23. These benefits and costs yield a benefit-cost ratio of 7.7. This means that for every dollar of public money invested in Georgian in FY 2022-23, taxpayers will receive a cumulative value of \$7.70 over the course of students' working lives. The average annual internal rate of return for taxpayers is 46.3%, which compares favorably to other long-term investments in the public and private sectors.

For every dollar of public money invested in Georgian, taxpayers will receive a cumulative value of **\$7.70** over the course of students' working lives.

## Social perspective



Society as a whole in Ontario benefits from the presence of Georgian in two major ways. Primarily, society benefits from an increased economic base in the province. This is attributed to higher student earnings and increased business output, which raise economic prosperity in Ontario.

Benefits to society also consist of the savings generated by the improved lifestyles of Georgian students. As discussed in the previous section, education is statistically correlated with a variety of lifestyle changes that generate social savings. Note that these costs are avoided by the consumers but are distinct from the costs avoided by the taxpayers outlined above. Health-care savings include avoided

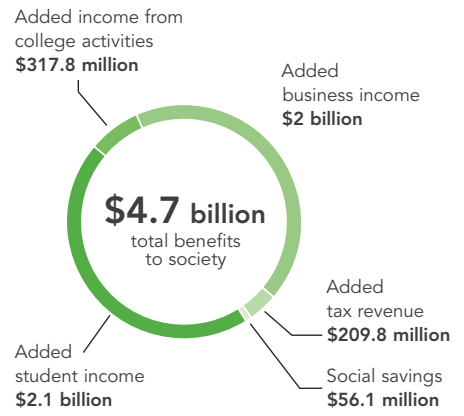


medical costs associated with smoking, alcohol dependence, obesity, and mental illness. Crime savings include reduced criminal justice system expenditures, lower victim costs, and increased productivity of individuals who are working rather than spending time in custody. Income assistance savings include the reduced demand for employment insurance benefits and employment-related social assistance.

Altogether, the social benefits of Georgian equal a present value of \$4.7 billion. These benefits include \$4.6 billion in added income through students' increased lifetime earnings and increased business output, as well as \$56.1 million in social savings related to health, crime, and income assistance in Ontario. People in Ontario invested a present value total of \$504.6 million in Georgian in FY 2022-23. These costs include all college and student costs.

The benefit-cost ratio for society is 9.3, equal to the \$4.7 billion in benefits divided by the \$504.6 million in costs. In other words, for every dollar invested in Georgian, people in Ontario will receive a cumulative value of \$9.30 in benefits. The benefits of this investment will occur for as long as Georgian's FY 2022-23 students remain employed in the provincial workforce.

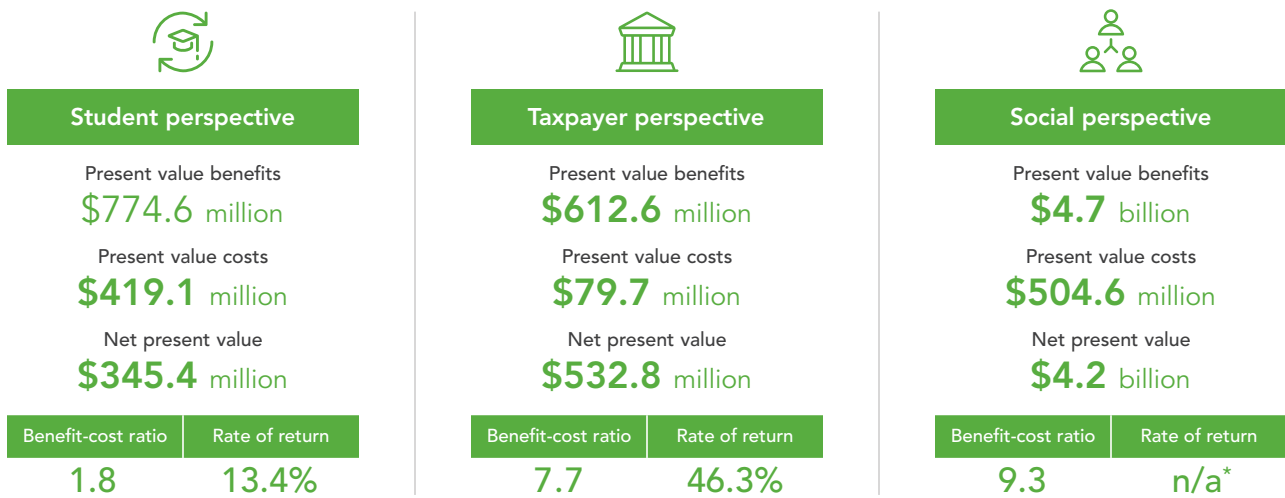
Social benefits in Ontario from Georgian



Source: Lightcast impact model.

### Summary of investment analysis results

The results of the analysis demonstrate that Georgian is a strong investment for all three major groups—students, taxpayers, and society. As shown, students receive a great return for their investments in a Georgian education. At the same time, taxpayers' investment in Georgian returns more to government budgets than it costs and creates a wide range of social benefits throughout Ontario.



\* The rate of return is not reported for the social perspective because the beneficiaries are not necessarily the same as the original investors.

# Conclusion

The results of this study demonstrate that Georgian creates value from multiple perspectives. The college benefits regional businesses by increasing consumer spending in the region and supplying a steady flow of qualified, trained workers to the workforce. Georgian enriches the lives of students by raising their lifetime earnings and helping them achieve their individual potential. The college benefits provincial taxpayers through increased tax receipts and a reduced demand for government-supported social services. Finally, Georgian benefits society as a whole in Ontario by creating a more prosperous economy and generating a variety of savings through the improved lifestyles of students.



## About the study

Data and assumptions used in the study are based on several sources, including the FY 2022-23 academic and financial reports from Georgian, industry and employment data from Statistics Canada, outputs of Lightcast's Canadian Regional Input-Output model, and a variety of studies and surveys relating education to social behaviour. The study applies a conservative methodology and follows standard practice using only the most recognized indicators of investment effectiveness and economic impact. For a full description of the data and approach used in the study, please contact Georgian for a copy of the main report.

The results of this study demonstrate that Georgian creates value from **multiple perspectives**.



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