

V-TOP Fiscal Year 2025 Data Collection Grant Report

Overview of the Data Collection Grant

Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership (V-TOP) supported Virginian public higher education institutions by offering a one-time data collection grant. The grant, funded through V-TOP, assisted institutions in collecting, compiling, and reporting data on student internships.

The grant reporting period covered February 2024 to February 2025. Twelve public institutions were awarded up to \$100,000 each:

- James Madison University
- Longwood University
- Norfolk State University
- Old Dominion University
- Radford University
- The University of Virginia's College at Wise
- University of Mary Washington
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Military Institute
- William & Mary

Outcomes of the Data Collection Grant

Institutions collected data on student experiences, employer engagement and compensation, providing further insight into internship activity statewide.

Institutional Tracking Mechanism

The data collection grant provided funding to institutions to support data collection and tracking of student internships on and off campus. As a result of the grant funding, all of the 12 institutions created and implemented a tracking mechanism for student internships.

Tracking mechanisms include:

- Career Works
- Symplicity
- Handshake
- Qualtrics surveys
- 12Twenty
- uConnect

100%

of institutions developed a tracking mechanism to capture internships

Student Internship Outcomes

Across the 11 institutions that reported, 16,339 students were identified as completing an internship between February 2024 and February 2025.

Of those internships, 5,051 were identified as a paid internship, with an average pay rate of \$17.90 per hour.

Half of the institutions were able to report on post-internship full-time employment offers for their students. Approximately 33% (192) of students in that sample gained full-time employment through their internship.

16,339

Students were identified as completing an internship through the Data Collection grant

5,051

Interns were engaged in a paid internship



\$17.90

Average pay rate for student interns

Employer Engagement Outcomes

Grantees also tracked their interactions with employers on campus. Across seven institutions who reported, 25,089 employers recruited students for internships at their respective institutions. This number may include duplicate employers across institutions, and not all employers may have hired an intern.

Across the 10 institutions that reported, students completed their internships with employers representing more than 59 industries, including:

- Food & Beverage
- Government - Local, State & Federal
- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Information Technology

25,089

Employers recruited students for internships

Over 59

Industries represented

Successes of the Data Collection Grant

Grantees identified several successes their institutions experienced as a result of the data collection grant.

Provided Resources

Grantees reported that one major success of the data collection grant was funding for new positions, infrastructure and tracking mechanisms. Almost all of the grantees had no tracking mechanism in place to collect data on internships. The grant allowed for a centralized approach to better understand internships for some of the reporting institutions. For other institutions, the foundation for a centralized approach has been built, but more work is needed.

Provided New Insights

Multiple grantees reported that the grants gave them the ability to track data on industry and employer partners, which allowed them to make better informed decisions for students and to determine recruitment trends. Additionally, the grant helped to provide more guidance and better refined outreach to students.

“Our campus can help guide colleges /schools /programs with our ability to see “gaps” in opportunities... We will now have a tool that can quantify these data points compared to what our “guts” were telling us were missed opportunities.”