



Northern Vermont
UNIVERSITY

VSCs Proposal

**Growing Vermont's Mental Health and SUD Treatment
Workforce**

Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

Nolan T. Atkins
Provost, NVU
20 March, 2019

Multiple Pathways To Enhance the Substance Use and Mental Health Workforce

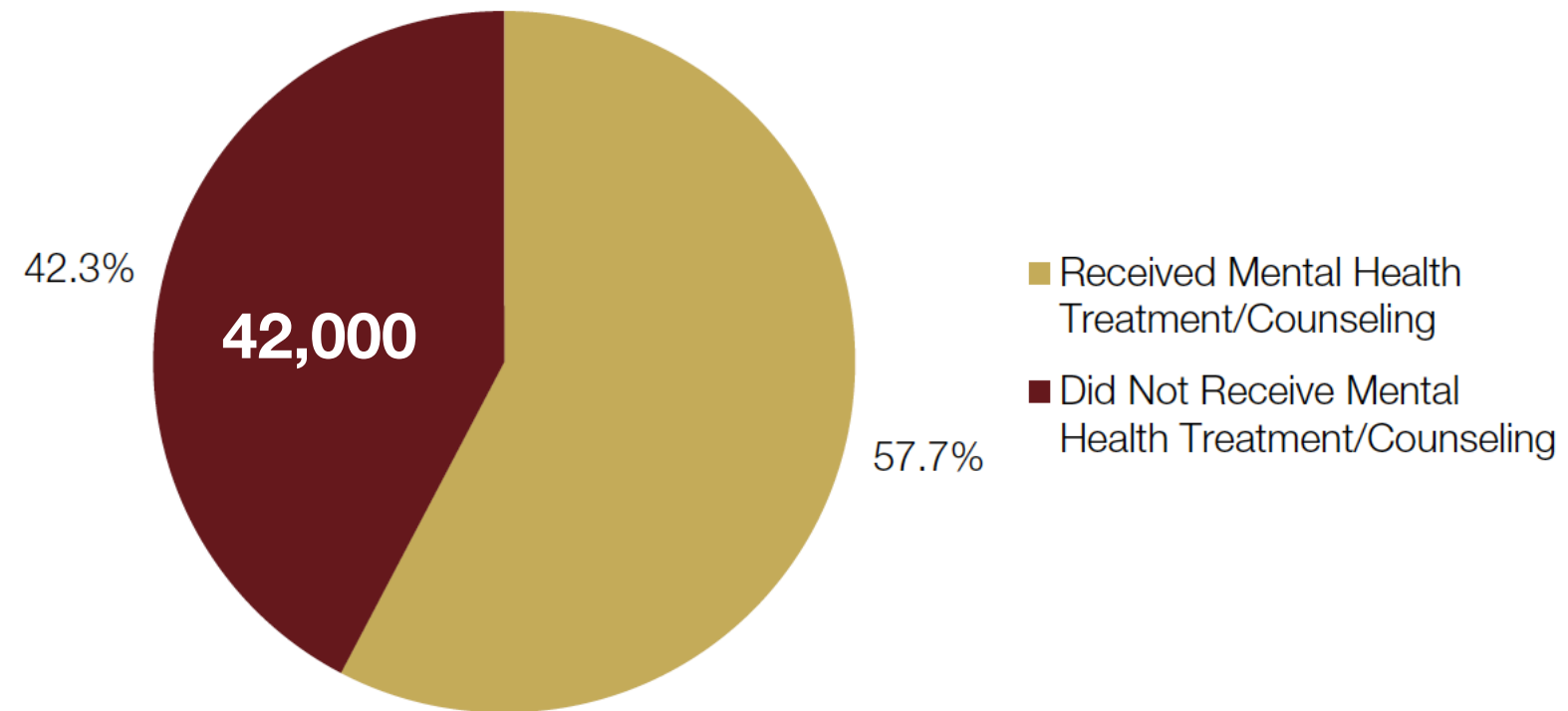
Master's Level: Increase the number of licensed Mental Health Counselors with a focus on addictions and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors

Baccalaureate Level: Increase the number of certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors by creating a new educational pathway that will outlive the life cycle of the grant

Associates Level: Increase the number of certified Apprentice Addictions Professionals

The Need

Past Year Mental Health Treatment/Counseling Among Adults Aged 18 or Older with Any Mental Illness (AMI)



Behavioral Health Barometer 2015: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health, 2010–2014.

“Vermont needs an infusion of Masters prepared clinicians now and into the future to fill the increased demand for this skills set going forward”

HR Director for the Clara Martin Center

Tuition Scholarships for Mental Health Counseling Graduate Programs

Objective: Expand the number of licensed mental health counselors

Our Graduate Counseling Programs:

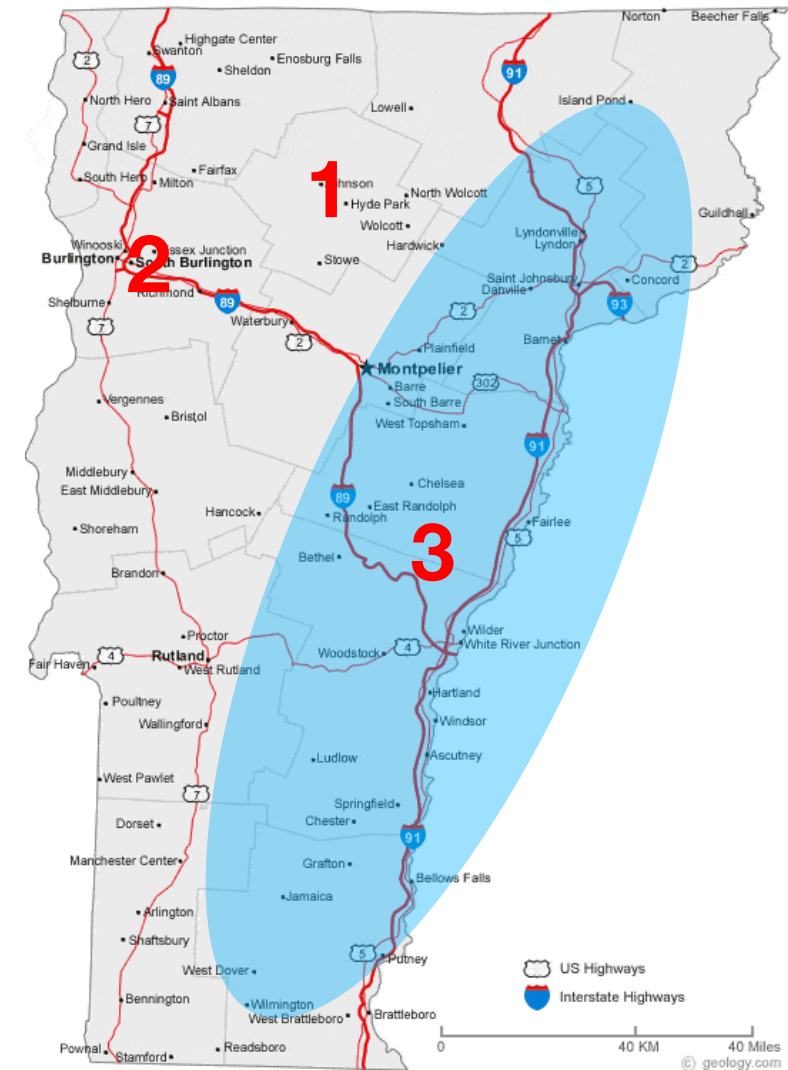
1. NVU-Johnson: MA with a concentration addictions

- face-to-face delivery evenings and weekends
- typically takes three years to complete as a part-time student

2. Program in Clinical Mental Health – MS with a concentration in addictions

- face-to-face weekend intensive once a month – courses offered in Williston

3. *NEW* - Funding will allow us to build a more flexible delivery model that will outlive grant termination and serve the NEK, central, and southern VT



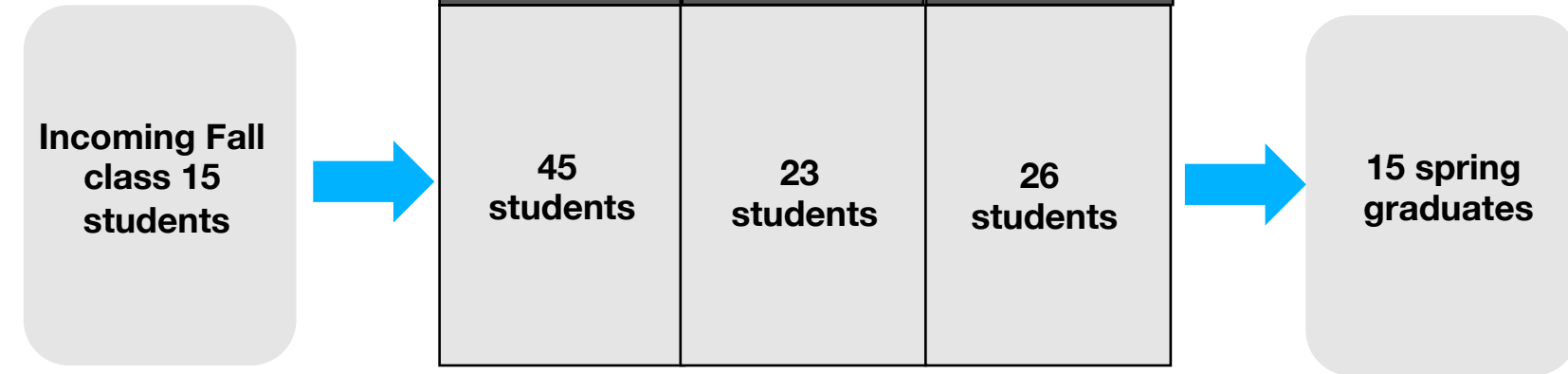
Tuition Scholarships for Mental Health Counseling Graduate Programs – New Students

Barriers for program entry:

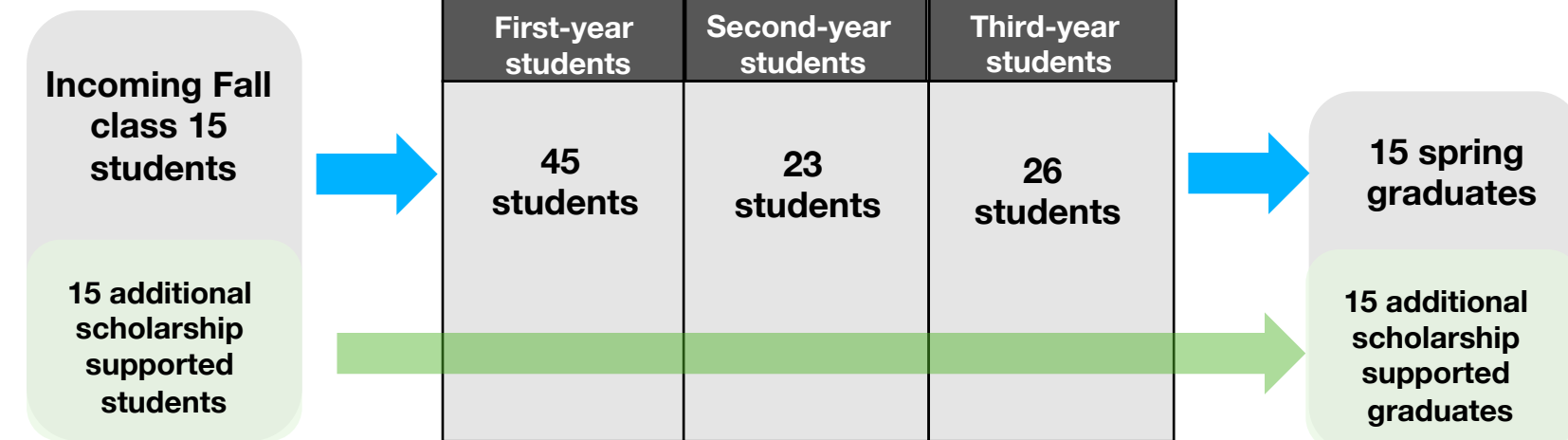
- Cost (\$37k)
- Debt relative to entry salary



Current Program



Scholarship Support for New Students



Scholarship Impact on New Students

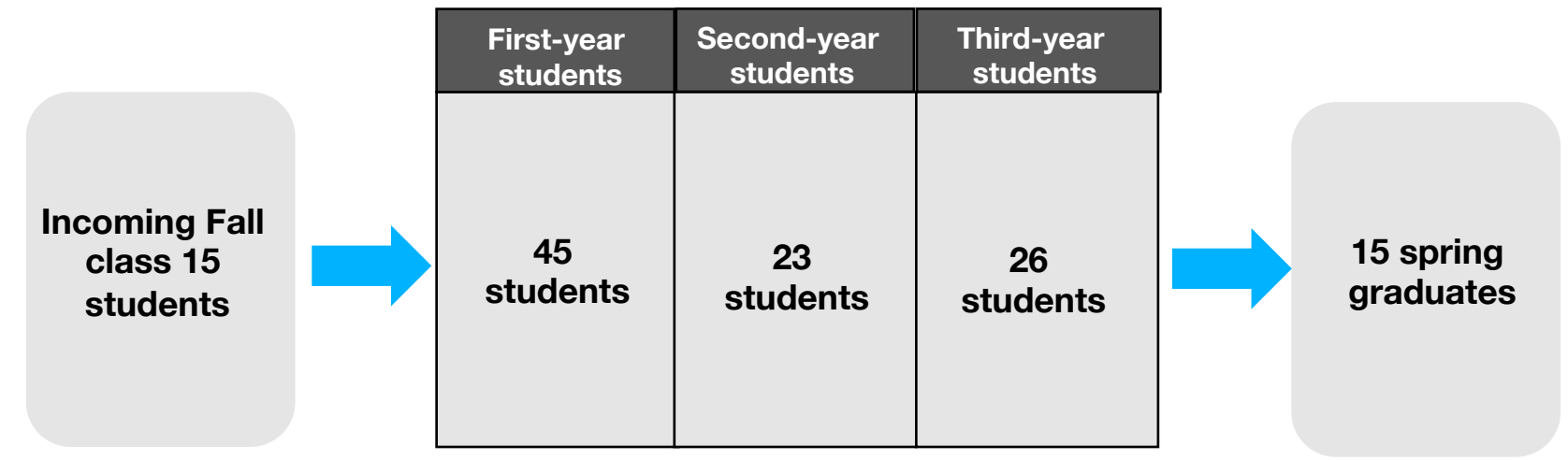
Current Tuition Expense	With Scholarship Support
\$37k	\$16,900
	(tuition rate is equivalent to CCV)

Tuition Scholarships for Mental Health Counseling Graduate Programs – Current Students

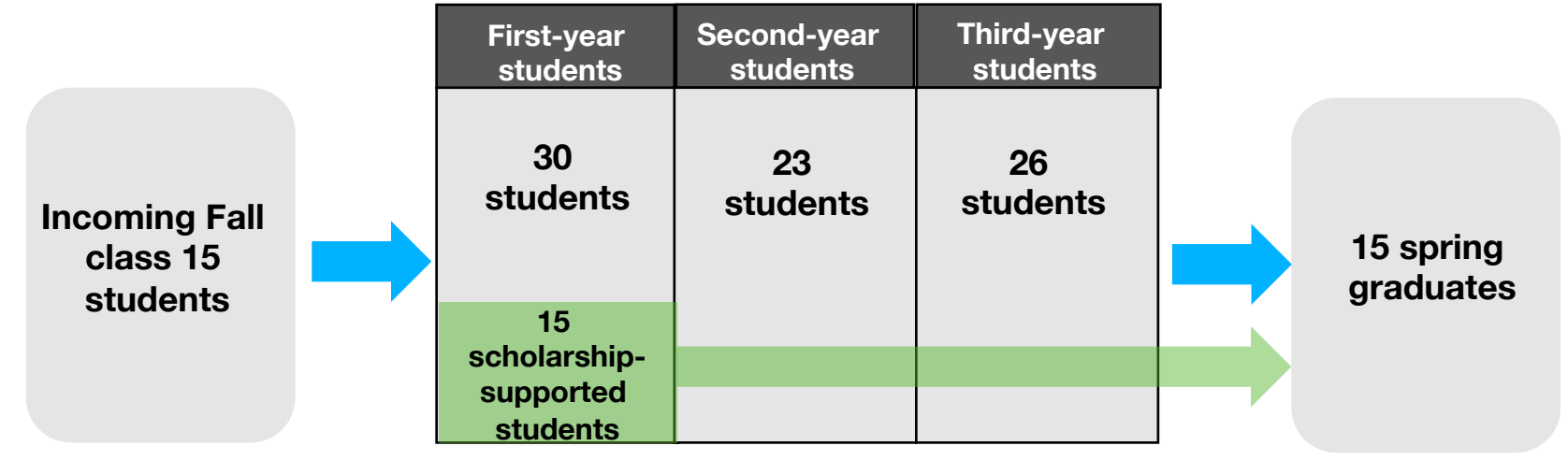


Current Students Supported	
NVU-J	20
Williston	15

Current Program



Scholarship Support for Current Students



Residency requirement upon graduation

Scholarship Impact on Current Students

Current Cost	\$37k
With Scholarship Support	\$31.6k

Alcohol and Drug Counseling (ADC) Pathway

Objective: Create a pathway for Alcohol and Drug Counselor Certification

Work with Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) to create the 270 hours of required course work

ADC Certification = 270 hours of course work + 4000 hours supervised work experience + national exam

Alcohol and Drug Counseling (ADC) Pathway

Objective: Create a pathway for Alcohol and Drug Counselor Certification

✓ **Courses will be made available to:**

- Baccalaureate students (e.g., Applied Psychology and Human Services)
- Master's students seeking licensure (LADC)
- Incumbent workers

✓ **Tuition-free access for :**

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
20 students	20 students	20 students

✓ **Courses will be offered beyond termination of grant**

✓ **The ADC pathway does not presently exist in the state of Vermont**

Apprentice Addictions Professional (AAP)

Objective: Increase the number of certified AAPs

AAP certificate = course work + AAP examination

- Offer CCV course “Addiction, an Introduction to Clinical Studies” tuition free
- Offer CU course “Substance Use and Addictions” tuition free

Summary of Funding Impact

During the life-cycle of the grant – scholarship support for:

- Masters-level Mental Health Counseling: 45 new and 35 current students (80 total)
- Alcohol and Drug Counseling coursework: 60 students
- Apprentice Addictions Professional coursework: up to 126 students

What we are creating that outlives the life cycle of the proposed funding:

- A new flexibly delivered Mental Health Counseling Program providing access throughout the state
- A new ADC pathway – does not presently exist in the state of Vermont

Thank you

Questions?