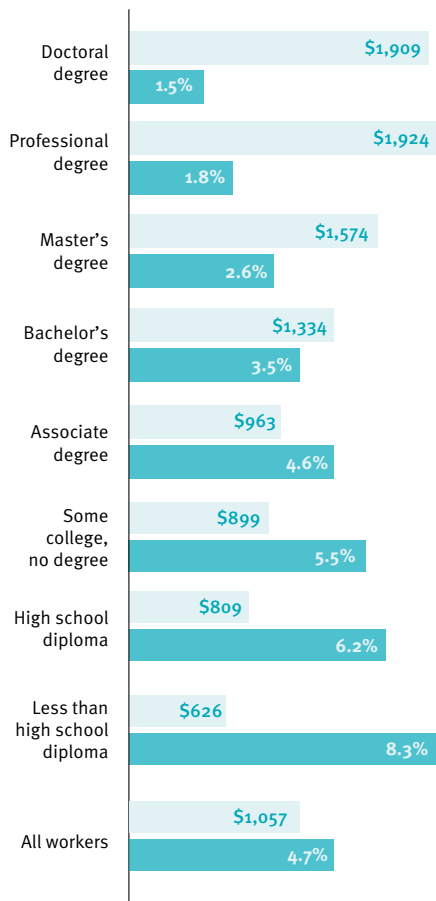


Why go to college?

Education pays



■ Median usual weekly earnings
■ Unemployment rate

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, 2021
 Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

Making the decision to go to college requires thought and careful planning. You must consider your goals in life—both educational and personal—and then decide how college might help you achieve those goals. As you weigh your options, consider some of the benefits of completing a college degree:

College is fun!

There are many interesting college classes to choose from—many more options than in high school. College also offers the opportunity to meet new people from different places with diverse backgrounds and different experiences than yours. It is fun connecting, discussing and learning from others, in class as well as social events.

Broadens perspective

College will help expand your knowledge in a variety of ways, and add to your understanding of the world. Opportunities to experience living and studying abroad, through study abroad programs, will expand your horizon and help make new friends from around the world.

More earning power

College grads generally earn higher pay than those with less formal education. Higher pay enables you to buy nice things, save for the future and help people or causes in need.

Job security

During times when the economy is slow, those with more education have a greater chance of keeping their jobs longer or finding new jobs more quickly than those with less education.

The chart to the left shows how the level of education corresponds to weekly earnings and job retention. It shows that the more education you have, the higher your wages and the greater your chances of being employed.

Employment options

Jobs these days require more technical skills and qualifications than ever before. In a technology-driven workforce, jobs that seemed simple before are becoming more complex and require advanced training to perform. These skills can be gained through a college degree or certificate. A college education gives you a competitive edge in a rapidly changing workforce. Completion of a college degree or certificate shows commitment and the ability to learn and apply new information to complete a long-range goal.

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Be happy

People who attend college report they have more job satisfaction than those who did not attend. They typically live healthier lifestyles and are more likely to have access to employer-provided benefits, including medical insurance, retirement plans and paid time off. Research has also shown that college attendees are more involved in their communities through higher levels of volunteering and voting.

More life choices/options

Having a college degree opens up numerous job possibilities for you in addition to providing overall personal satisfaction. When you are able to choose work from a wider range of options, you are more likely to find a career that fits your interests or even your passion. Additionally, you are not

limited to one career; you can always return to school to attain a higher degree or certificate in other areas of study and change your career path to something new!

Take some time to think of yourself as a college student—what you would study, where you would enroll, how you would pay tuition and fees. If you can see yourself as a college student, go for it! There are plenty of resources available to help you get started down that path.

Need more information?

The College Place is here to help you with free college-planning resources and personal advice. Visit our website at www.ecmc.org/TCP.