TRADE SCHOOL VS. TRADITIONAL COLLEGE: EARNING POTENTIAL

Conventional wisdom has long held that a college degree was the key to higher earnings. But does a trade school education really hold you back financially? The numbers say you can actually come out ahead in the long run.

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

TRAINING & APPRENTICESHIP

MEDIAN STARTING SALARY

$59,100

HUMANITIES MAJOR

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE

MEDIAN STARTING SALARY

$49,700

2% ANNUAL RAISES AND COST OF LIVING INCREASE

RETIREMENT: AGE 65

LIFETIME EARNINGS

$3.9 MILLION

LIFETIME EARNINGS

$3.3 MILLION

Sources: 2017 Korn Ferry Study on starting salaries. Researchers gathered the data by analyzing the entry-level salaries of 145,000 positions from 700 companies and organizations around the country.

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