**Q:** How much more does a college graduate earn over a lifetime?

**A:** College grads can expect to earn twice as much as non-college grads.

- Having a Bachelor’s degree is worth about $1.1 million more in lifetime earnings than an Associate’s degree.
- Workers with a Bachelor’s Degree earn 45% more than those with an Associate’s Degree.
- Workers with an Associate’s Degree or Some College earn 26% more than a High School Grad.

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**Expected average lifetime earnings by education level**

- **Bachelor’s degree:** $3.3 million
- **Associate’s degree:** $2.2 million
- **High school graduate:** $1.7 million

**Unemployment rates by education level, 2000-2009**

The unemployment rate for individuals with at least a bachelor’s degree is consistently about half the unemployment rate for high school graduates.

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**Sources:**

1. June 2010 Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce - Projections of Jobs and Educations requirements through 2018

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“All major regions that have achieved distinction in the world have some kind of major academic resources that they can turn to… that’s what Stanford and Berkeley did for Silicon Valley. That’s what Harvard and MIT did for Boston and Route 128, and it’s clearly what the University of Washington does for the Pacific Northwest.”

— Denis Hayes, Bullitt Foundation
Forecasts indicate by 2018, 63% of available jobs in the US will require at least some college education; 72% of these will require a bachelor's degree or better.

At current rates, our colleges/universities will have produced 3 million fewer college graduates than demanded by the labor market in 2018. Degree production would have to increase about 10% a year to eliminate this shortfall.

**Top States for jobs demanding postsecondary education**
(Washington, Colorado, Minnesota, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia)

**SOCIETAL BENEFITS**

**INCREASED VOTING:** College graduates vote at a higher rate than citizens who did not graduate college.

**INCREASED VOLUNTEERISM:** 43% of citizens with a BA or higher report that they volunteer at some during the year.

**INCREASED STATE TAX BASE:** College graduates have higher employment rates and contribute higher income earnings towards state taxes.

**STEM** (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) occupations will provide the sixth largest share of job openings in the economy over the next decade. In 2008, STEM occupations accounted for 7.3 million jobs (5%) of the total positions in the US economy.

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**SOURCES:**
1. June 2010 Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce - Projections of Jobs and Educations requirements through 2018
2. Center on Education and the Workforce forecast of educational demand through 2018