

Name: _____

The Benefits of Higher Education

Talk to one of your copilots or someone else you trust about the benefits of college. Whoever you choose will be your copilot for this activity. Be sure to thank your copilot for supporting you.

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO ASK YOUR COPILOT:

1. If he/she went to college: How has going to college helped you in your life?

2. If he/she did not go to college: How do you think going to college would have helped you? Did not going to college make a difference in your life?

3. How do you think going to college will affect my life?

4. What is the most important benefit of going to college?

Why College?

Intellectual

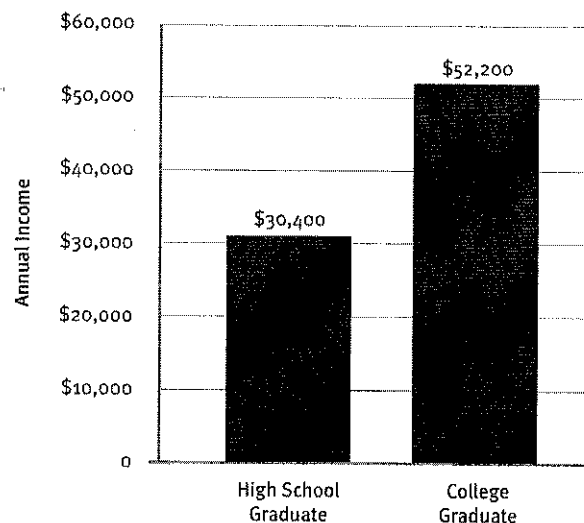
- You will be exposed to exciting new ideas and areas of study.
- You will get to pick your own classes, including the subjects and the time of day.
- You will increase your skills in reading, writing, math and analysis.
- You will have opportunities to work alongside professors doing cutting-edge research.
- You will have the opportunity to increase your knowledge of the world, of different cultures and your own, and about career options.

Developmental

- You will become more mature and independent because you will have complete responsibility for your own academic career.
- You can live in a dormitory or an apartment.
- You can make lots of new friends.
- You will be exposed to a vast array of cultures, philosophies and ways of life.
- You will experience a wide variety of student activities, including the opportunity to tutor, mentor, and study in another country.
- You will develop skills for successfully transitioning to adulthood and the world of work.

Financial

- You will be exposed to career and life experiences through internships and fellowships.
- You will increase your earning capacity.
 - A four-year college graduate earns almost \$1 million more than a high school graduate during his/her lifetime.
 - The average annual income of a four-year college graduate is about \$52,200, compared to the average annual income of \$30,400 for a high school graduate.
- You will benefit from better working conditions, including longer job tenure, more on-the-job training opportunities, and more responsibility and promotion opportunities.

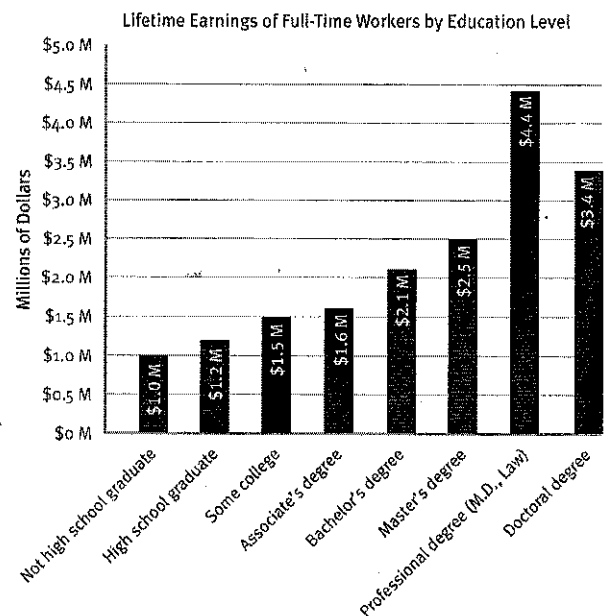
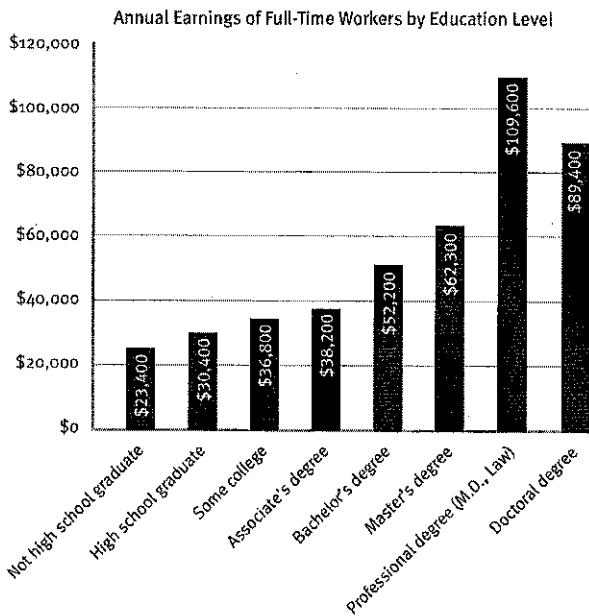


The More You Learn, the More You Earn

Worried about the cost of college? Sure, college costs money, with cost of attendance ranging anywhere from \$3,000 to \$30,000 per year. But going to college pays off in the long run. Plus, there is plenty of financial aid available for eligible students and families.

FACTS:

- A four-year college graduate (that is, someone with a bachelor’s degree) earns almost \$1 million more over his/her lifetime than a high school graduate.
- The average annual income of a four-year college graduate is about \$52,200, compared to the average annual income of \$30,400 for a high school graduate.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1998, 1999, 2000

We’re not saying that money is everything, or even the most important thing. But your investment in a college education will pay off in higher earnings over time. With a college education, you also can expect:

- Better working conditions
- Longer job tenure
- More on-the-job training opportunities
- More promotion opportunities

Most importantly, with a college education you gain the knowledge and skills that will help you throughout your life. So, before you say, “I can’t afford to go to college,” ask yourself, how can you afford NOT to go to college?

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I'm Excited about College

Talk to one of your copilots or someone else you trust. Whoever you choose will be your copilot for this activity. Be sure to thank your copilot for supporting you.

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO ANSWER:

1. What are you most excited about after learning about the many benefits of going to college?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU AND YOUR COPILOT TO DISCUSS AND ANSWER TOGETHER:

2. What are some of the activities you might want to participate in when you are in college?

3. What do you think you might want to study in college?

Extensions

You may wish to have a professor come talk to your students about the opportunities to work with professors in college. Another option is to invite a guest speaker to talk about life as a student or a study-abroad experience. You may also wish to have students do an Internet search for a college or university that interests them.