

ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: BENEFITS OF COLLEGE AND CAREER EDUCATION

The **knowledge, fulfillment, self-awareness,** and **broadening of horizons** that come from a college experience can transform your life — and the lives of those around you — in valuable ways. **More security, better health, closer family,** and **stronger community,** in addition to **greater wealth,** are the real value of a college education. (College Bound Advocacy & Policy Center)

Less than High school: **\$30,780**

High school graduate: **\$38,792**

Some college or associate's degree: **\$44,720**

Bachelor's degree: **\$64,896**

Advanced degree (master's professional and doctoral degrees): **\$90,844**

AVERAGE INCOME BY EDUCATION LEVEL

(Bureau of Labor Statistics)

WHY SHOULD I GO TO COLLEGE?

There is a growing, **massive wage gap** between college-educated and less-educated young professionals. Young adults with an **associate's degree** earn an average of **\$5,000 more per year** than those with a high school diploma (Kena et al., 2016).

Young professionals with a high school diploma are **3 times more likely** to be unemployed than young professionals with a **Bachelor's degree.**

Individuals with a college degree are **much more likely to receive employer-provided health insurance** than those with only a high school diploma. The likelihood of reporting **health to be very good or excellent is 44% greater.**

A college degree can lead to a stronger community. Individuals with a college degree are **more than twice as likely to volunteer** as those with only a high school diploma. College graduates' **neighborhood interactions and trust are significantly higher.** (Lumina Foundation, College Bound Advocacy & Policy Center).

THERE'S MORE THAN JUST ONE CHOICE WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT

Life after high school has more college and career education options than you might think! The new Washington College Grant isn't just for college students—it also supports income-eligible apprentices enrolled in approved programs. **Apprenticeships** can get you **on-the-job**, hands-on training for a **trade**, and Washington College Grant can help pay for **tuition**, instructional fees, and materials. Students have more access to **financial aid** than ever before. This means more students are eligible to receive **state financial aid**, and they have more options to choose from. Check **wsac.wa.gov/WCG** for more information.

GOOD TO KNOW:

What you study in college matters. Some degrees are in higher demand and lead to careers with higher pay. Currently, degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), health and business lead to the highest entry level pay.

OCT: GRADE 9 and 10

