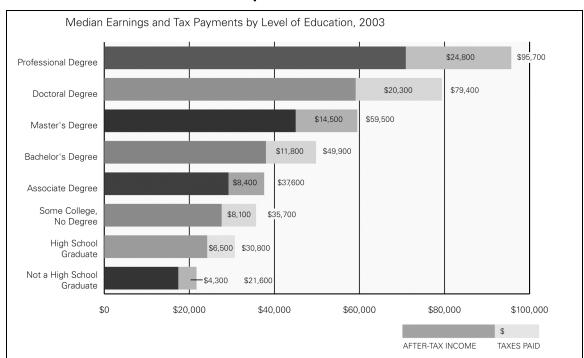
Annual Income Depends on Level of Education:



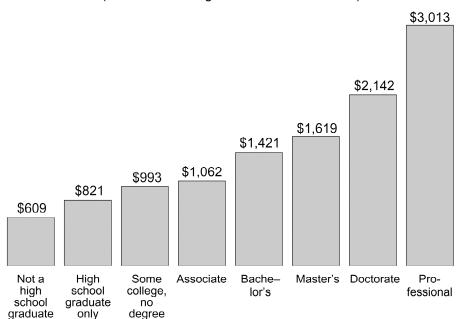
Note: Includes full-time year-round workers age 25 and older.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004a, PINC-03; Internal Revenue Service, 2004, Table 3; McIntyre, et al., 2003; calculations by the authors.

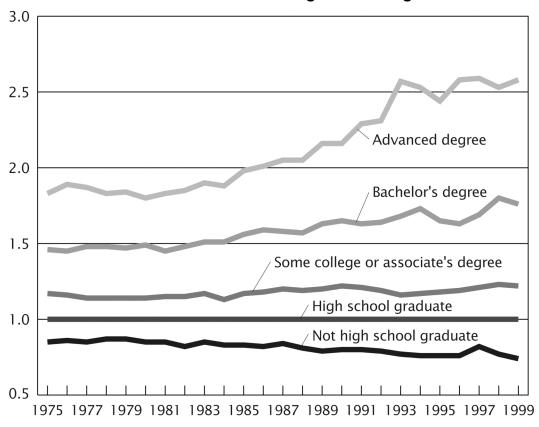
The bars in this graph show median earnings at each level of education. The light-colored segments at the end of the bars represent the average federal, state, and local taxes paid at these income levels. The dark-colored segments show after-tax income.

Get a Degree, Make a Million:

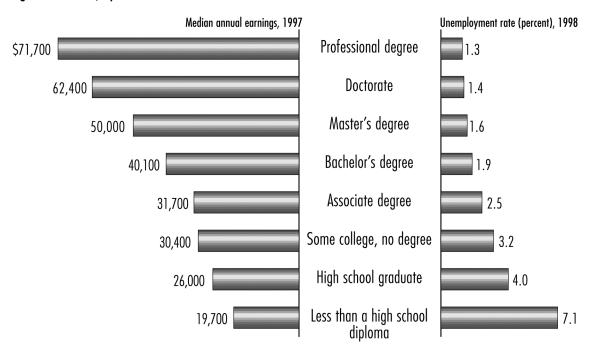
(Work-Life Earnings in thousands of dollars)



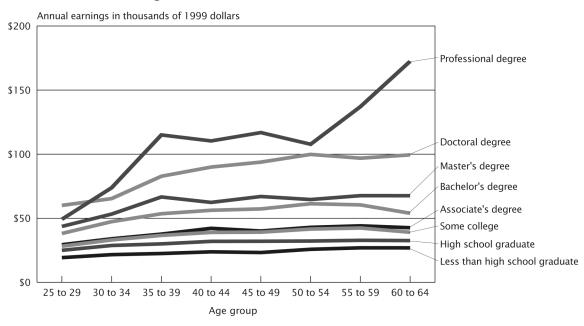
The Influence of Education on Earnings Has Changed Over Time:



Earnings and unemployment for year-round, full-time workers age 25 and over, by educational attainment

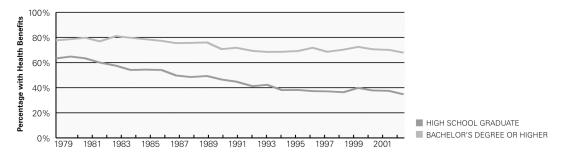


Annual Earnings Also Varies Over One's Lifetime With Education:

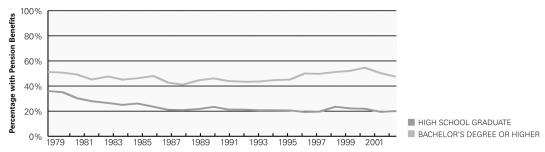


There Are Hidden Costs and Sources of Stress:

Percentage of Private Sector Entry-Level Workers Covered by Employer-Provided Health Insurance, by Level of Education, 1979–2002



Percentage of Private Sector Entry-Level Workers Covered by Employer-Provided Pension Benefits, by Level of Education, 1979–2002

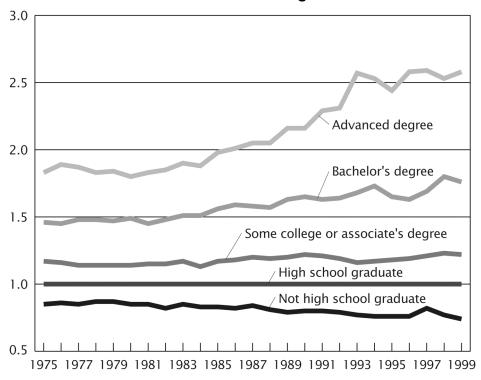


Note: Entry-level workers are those with terminal high school or college degrees and one to five years of work experience. Includes individuals ages 18–64 working at least 20 hours per week. Coverage is defined as employers paying at least part of the cost.

Sources: Bernstein, Mishel, and Allegretto, 2005, Table 2.14 and Table 2.15. Calculations by the Economic Policy Institute.

Economic Security Strongly Depends On One's Level of Education

Look At This One Again:



A College Degree Is Becoming More And More Important,
And There Are Things Happening in the World
That Are Causing This Effect To Accelerate!