

Five powerful ways a college degree
can transform your life and lifestyle.

FIVE WAYS A COLLEGE DEGREE PAYS

BETTER
HEALTH
STRONGER
COMMUNITY
MORE
SECURITY
GREATER
WEALTH
CLOSER
FAMILY

For most students who go to college, the increase in their lifetime earnings far outweighs the costs of their education. That's a powerful argument for college. But more income is by no means the only positive outcome you can expect. 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 other equally valuable ways. More security, better health, closer family and stronger community, in addition to greater wealth, are the real value of a college education.

BETTER HEALTH

Better health makes everything else possible. It gives you the strength to take on life's challenges. To enjoy the opportunities that come your way. College is where you can build the knowledge and skills to maintain better health.

Young adults with a 4-year college degree are

much less likely to be obese

than those with only a high school diploma.

Obesity Among Adults Ages 25 and Older, by Age and Education Level, 2008
Sources: NCHS, 2008 National Health Interview Survey, calculations by the authors.

STRONGER COMMUNITY

Stronger community means more cooperation, more collaboration — and more progress in understanding and solving the issues we face as a society. College is where you can shape your views on those issues. Find your voice. And build a stronger community.

Individuals aged 18 to 24 with a 4-year college degree were

much more likely to vote in the 2008 election

than those with only a high school diploma.

Voting Rates Among U.S. Citizens Ages 18–24, by Education Level, 2008
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008.

MORE SECURITY

More security means less worry. Less worry that you won't be able to support yourself or the people you love. That you'll have to rely on others to get by. College is a way to achieve independence. To achieve more security.

Individuals with a 4-year college degree are

about half as likely to be unemployed

as those with only a high school diploma.

Unemployment Rates of Individuals Ages 25 and Older, by Education Level, 2009
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010c.

GREATER WEALTH

Greater wealth means more choices. Whatever your dreams — owning a home, traveling the world — college is the way to support a richer life. The way to find a career that delivers greater wealth.

Individuals with a 4-year college degree

earn an average of \$22,000 more per year

than those with only a high school diploma.

Median Earnings of Full-Time Year-Round Workers Ages 25 and Older, by Education Level, 2008
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009; Internal Revenue Service, 2008; Davis et al., 2009.

CLOSER FAMILY

Closer family comes from sharing life experiences, from passing on knowledge, from inspiring the next generation to achieve even more than the last. College is an opportunity for you to broaden your world, to create the foundation for a closer family.

Children of parents with a 4-year college degree are

much more likely to be read to every day

than children of parents with only a high school diploma.

School Readiness of Preschool Children Ages 3–5, by Parents' Highest Education Level, 2007
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2007.

See all the ways a college degree can enhance your life and lifestyle:

ycg.org/edpays

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