



Is College Worth It?

Americans with four-year college degrees made 98 percent more an hour on average in 2013 than people without a degree. That's up from 89 percent five years earlier, 85 percent a decade earlier and 64 percent in the early 1980s. (Source: New York Times analysis of Economic Policy Institute data)

67% of college freshman say the chief benefit of college is higher earnings.

Just shy of three-quarters of Americans said a degree is important to attaining a better quality of life, yet 89 percent said colleges need to change to better serve today's students. While 67 percent believe higher education is "available," only 23 percent think it's affordable.

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/inside_higher_ed/2014/02/gallup_higher_education_poll_college_graduates_aren_t_prepared_for_the_workforce.html

Thirty-one percent of student respondents say a degree isn't worth the cost, and 53% say colleges should be responsible for helping students get jobs (Public-opinion poll from Gallup and the Lumina Foundation; April 17, 2015).

A survey of parents released in June, 2015 by Discover Student Loans found that 95% believe college is somewhat or very important to their child's future. They have reason; In 2012, full-time workers with bachelor's degrees earned 60% more than workers with just a high school diploma.

A 2014 study by Burning Glass, a labor analytics firm, found that 42% of management job holders had bachelor's degrees, but 68% of job postings require them. In computer and mathematical jobs, 39% of employees had bachelor's degrees, but 60% of job listings called for them.

As a 2012 economic analysis by The Hamilton Project, a policy research group, concluded; "The cost of college is growing, but the benefits of college-and, by extension, the cost of not going to college-are growing even faster."

Just 55% of the younger group (18-24 year old) in the poll thought that a four-year degree was "very important" for a good career while 53% of the older respondents (25-29 years old) though it was "very important". Roughly 1/3 of each group thought a degree was "somewhat important", with the reaming one-in-eight in each case considering college not important at all (Source: Allstate/*National Journal* Heartland Monitor Poll).

The nation's capital is also the most educated state or territory in America; it is the only place where a majority of people between ages 18 and 65 have at least an associate's degree state (Source: "The Relationship Between Student Debt and College Competition," Ben Miller, June 26, 2015).