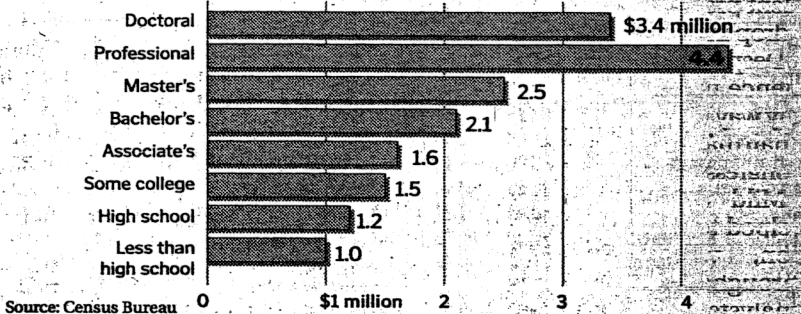


Education pays off

New data from the Census Bureau show that people with higher education levels earn more money over a lifetime.

Lifetime earnings estimates

Full-time workers ages 25 to 64



The Associated Press

Higher degree means higher pay, data show

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — What is the difference between a high school diploma and a medical degree? About \$3.2 million, according to the Census Bureau.

Someone whose education does not go beyond high school and who works full time can expect to earn about \$1.2 million between ages 25 and 64—a typical work-life period, according to demographers.

Graduating from college and earning advanced degrees translate into much higher lifetime earnings: an estimated \$4.4 million for physicians, lawyers and others with professional degrees; \$2.5 million for those with a master's degree; and \$2.1 million for college graduates.

The findings come from an agency survey being released today that charts the influence of education on lifetime earnings.

Not all students look at college as an investment, "but I'm sure parents do," said Jacqueline King, policy analyst with the American Council on Education, an advocacy group for higher education. "The challenge is to convince those high school students on the margins...that it is really worth

their time to go to college."

Kevin Malacek, a graduate student in American politics at American University in Washington, acknowledged that the time commitment was significant.

"But most people do find it worth it," he said. "They go to every single class, and they are trying to get the most out of their own dollar."

The survey was conducted between March 1998 and March 2000. All estimates are based on 1999 salaries and will probably increase as salaries rise over time, Census Bureau analyst Jennifer Day said.

The estimates do not account for inflation or for differences in the earnings potential of the various fields of study and degree majors. For instance, people with computer science degrees tend to earn more than those with social work degrees.

"It's pretty integral right now that you have a bachelor's degree," said Kaydee Bridges, a senior studying international relations at Georgetown University.

Disparities remain between men and women, especially among older workers with higher degrees. Men with professional degrees can expect to earn almost \$2 million more than women with the same education.

Consumer Income and Expenditure

Functional Distribution of Income - Year 2000 2002

Wages and Salaries	70%	72%
Corporate Profits	12%	9%
Proprietors Income	9%	
Interest	7%	8%
Rents	2%	

Personal Distribution of Income - 1999 2001

Highest 20%	50.2	49.4%
2nd 20%	23.6	23.2%
Middle 20%	14.6	14.9%
Second 20%	8.7	8.9%
Lowest 20%	3.5	3.6%

Disposition of Household Income - Year 2000 2002

Personal Consumption Expenditure	84%
Personal Taxes	16% 13%
Personal Saving	3% - 0

Composition of Personal Consumption Expenditure - Year 2000 2002

Services	58%	59%
Non-durable Goods	30%	29%
Durable Goods	12%	