

What You Need To Know About College & FAFSA

Opportunity Cost Of College Versus Work

By choosing to forego college, a person may miss out on the chance to gain higher-level qualifications and skills that will help them become competitive in today's highly competitive job market and settle for a job on a much lower pay scale with limited career advancement prospects.

In contrast, attending college is an investment in the future, providing access to courses and educational opportunities that can give students the tools and qualifications needed for successful professional careers. College is known for providing a better return on investment than just about any other educational opportunity since it offers students both knowledge and practical experience. This can include learning how best to present themselves professionally, as well as networking with potential employers and mentors in their industry. Additionally, college graduates tend to earn higher salaries than those without degrees.

Finally, there is an intangible benefit associated with completing college: gaining confidence in one's own abilities and having proof that you are capable of achieving goals through dedication and hard work. Attending college also gives people access to social circles they might not have had before – like joining student organizations or taking part in extracurricular activities – thus helping them make lifelong friendships along the way that can open doors later down the road.

Average Salaries For Various College Careers

Depending on the individual's educational aspirations, there are various options available when deciding which pathway to pursue. For some, taking an associate's or bachelor's degree may be a suitable solution for entry into their desired field. Others may require additional qualifications such as a master's or doctoral degree.

It is also important to keep in mind that each educational path has its own associated costs that can vary greatly depending on factors such as the type of institution attended and any financial aid or scholarships received. For example, tuition fees and living expenses can vary significantly between public universities, private universities, and community college programs.

In terms of post-secondary education leading to a potential increase in income for a chosen career path, this can depend on various factors such as the field itself (some professions offer higher salaries than others) and experience within that profession along with any specialized skills acquired during one's studies. It is also worthwhile considering any potential returns on investments made into obtaining additional qualifications that can potentially lead to higher salaries over time.

How FAFSA & Scholarships Can Help With Financial Aid

Families and caregivers often choose to help pay for the education and training of younger family members because it provides these young individuals with a valuable opportunity to

excel in school, gain helpful skills, and secure a better future. College financial aid, such as the Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), can be used by students to apply for grants, loans and work-study programs that can help cover the cost of tuition. FAFSA serves as an important source of assistance for those who may not have enough resources to otherwise afford college tuition.

When applying for financial aid through FAFSA, a student will need to provide information like their Social Security number, driver's license number, tax records and other financial documents such as bank statements or investment account statements. Depending on the financial situation of the student's family, they may also be required to disclose any income made from part-time jobs. Once this information is submitted and reviewed by FAFSA officials, updates will be provided regarding how much money is available for college education costs and how it should be applied, such as through grants or loan payments.

In addition to FAFSA funds, students can identify scholarships and grants that they may qualify for based on their academic achievements or extracurricular activities. There are a variety of different scholarships available from both public and private organizations that students may apply for in order to receive funding specifically designated towards post-secondary education costs. Scholarships can range from small awards that cover only partial tuition fees to larger amounts covering near full tuition fees. Depending on the scholarship criteria some may only require submission of a simple application while others have more specific requirements such as written essays or personal interviews asking about your background or goals in life.

Other Ways To Reduce The Cost Of College

The potential reduction in costs of education and student loan debt if a student completes their first two years of college at a community college before transferring to a four-year institution is considerable. By completing the first two years at a community college, students are able to take advantage of lower tuition costs and fees, as well as smaller class sizes which provide more personalized attention.

It is estimated that the average savings for two years at a community college is up to \$10,000 compared to traditional university tuition, potentially resulting in thousands of dollars less in student loan debt.

Furthermore, many universities offer transfer scholarships to those who complete their initial credits from a community college, further reducing the total cost of education. In addition to these clear financial benefits, students taking this path also often benefit from smaller class sizes with more engaged faculty members and access to specialized resources like laboratories or academic advisors. Ultimately, by taking this route prior to attending a four-year school, students can save significantly on the total cost of education while still receiving an excellent educational experience.

STANDARDS: 5.8.4a, 5.8.4b, 5.8.4c, 5.12.4a, 5.12.4b, 5.12.4c, 5.12.4d