**Write-up of Findings**

* **What’s the best university to attend for a higher starting & mid-career salary?**

We found that the best university to attend for the highest starting salary was California Institute of Technology (CIT) with the average entry-level being $75,500 and cost of being $58,755. The lowest starting salary was from Villanova with an expected entry-level salary of $55,800 and the cost of tuition being $58,736.

* **Which private & non-private universities have the highest earning potential.**

As it relates to early-career salary, the top three higher earning salaries come from:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Early Career Salary (0-5 Years)** | | | |
| **Private** | | **Non-Private** | |
| School | Average Starting Salary | School | Average Starting Salary |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) | $81,500 | Colorado School of Mines | $71,900 |
| Harvey Mudd College | $81,000 | UC Berkeley | $65,400 |
| California Institute of Technology (CIT) | $78,800 | Virginia Military Institute | $62,200 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mid-Career Salary (5+ Years)** | | | |
| **Private** | | **Non-Private** | |
| *School* | *Average Mid-Career Salary* | *School* | *Average Mid-Career Salary* |
| Harvey Mudd College | $155,800 | Colorado School of Mines | $136,100 |
| Princeton University | $147,800 | UC Berkeley | $130,100 |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) | $147,000 | UCSD | $124,900 |

* **Would it be more beneficial to attend a private vs. a non-private university to earn more down the line?**

Based on our findings related to private and non-private colleges/universities, there was no direct correlation between mid-career salary and investment (undergrad tuition/4-year degree).

A close up of a map

Description automatically generated

* **What specific field/major gives you the best long-term earning potential?**

We found that there was a significant difference between the pay scale of the top ten and bottom ten majors in 2015. The earnings for the top 10 majors were $175k-125k. The range for the bottom 10 were $40k-50k. The highest earning undergraduate degree was Petroleum Engineering ($175k). The lowest was Early Childhood Education ($40k).

* **Does a higher tuition cost guarantee a greater ROI?**

Lastly, based on our return on investment (ROI) data, we’ve come to the conclusion that even if you attend a college/university with a higher earning entry-level salary, doesn’t mean you’ll have a higher ROI in the long-run. This is also true for private and ivy-league universities.