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# Going To College Is A Good Idea For Many

Referring to the lack of a college education as being a disadvantage is an understatement. Especially in our current era where the economic disparity between those who have it and those who don’t is much greater. When boomers were young, college was merely one of many paths to a successful life. That said, it is a different matter for the generation of today: the millennials. Furthermore, a higher level of education such as a Bachelor’s has become the standard for living on a disposable median income. Few students who go for their Associate’s are able to enjoy the same level of income as those who go for their BA. In fact, the average income for those with a two-year degree is barely any higher than those who only have a high school education. In a way, it’s easy to see why. The job market has dramatically changed since the 70s. With automation becoming a regular part of our daily lives and new fields of work that never existed before, the ability to solve problems is in high demand. Needless to say, that is a generalization, or rather an oversimplification of a very large issue. It’s still possible to earn as much as a graduate with a Bachelor’s degree. However, such opportunities are far and few. Usually, they are in fields or industries that are highly subjective to fluctuations in the economy. A simple economic downturn can cause an entire industry to vanish. With that, many jobs as well. Such a case leaves employees with outdated skills that are no longer in demand. That said, those with a four-year degree are equipped with knowledge that enables them to get through such downturns. A college graduate can go into numerous different fields and tackle various issues. A college education provides graduates with the skills they need to solve problems.

The income disparity among millennials proves that education is one of the most secure ways to earn a livable income. In other words, it’s simply more lucrative. The gap between those with a high school degree and those with a Bachelor’s ranges from $28k-$45k. The lower-income bracket is the average high school grad and the higher is a grad with a four-year degree in college. The rate of unemployment is very low for those with a BA(3.2%) as opposed to those with a high school degree(12.2%). Furthermore, the rate of poverty among those with a high school degree is a staggering 21.8%.

“The disparity in economic outcomes between college graduates and those with a high school diploma or less formal schooling has never been greater in the modern era.(ch1, [pg.1](https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2014/02/11/the-rising-cost-of-not-going-to-college/))”

Needless to say, those without any formal training are not able to adapt to changes in the economy. Hence the high rate of poverty. Most of them would not qualify for work beyond the entry level.

Most students with at least a BA say it has paid off. Those with a different perspective or opinion are an underwhelming minority in this matter. At least 83% of those who graduated after four years of the opinion that going to college was a good move. Furthermore, according to Pew Research Center’s surveys, this opinion is across all generations. Not just the millennials, but the boomers as well.

“Regardless of their generation, adults with college degrees recognize the benefit of their undergraduate education.”(ch2, pg.3 on[**The Value of a College Degree**](https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2014/02/11/chapter-2-public-views-on-the-value-of-education/))

The rate of job satisfaction, interestingly, has varied by field as well. In addition, those without formal training or education who only had a high school education were said to have a much lower rate of job satisfaction. It’s always been something of a standard in America to get a good education and then get a good job. College graduates felt more prepared and qualified for their work. According to one of the [surveys](https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2014/02/11/the-rising-cost-of-not-going-to-college/sdt-higher-education-02-11-2014-2-03/) from Pew Research Center. As seen in the graph, the difference across the levels of education is in a stair-step fashion.

Job preparation is the biggest advantage of a college degree. However, few workers feel they’re underqualified for their job. Regardless of their education. But, the contentment of those in the upper-income bracket is higher than those in the lower.

“Those with a degree from a four-year college are more likely than those with less education to say their education was “very useful” (ch2, pg.3 on [**Job Preparation**](https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2014/02/11/the-rising-cost-of-not-going-to-college/sdt-higher-education-02-11-2014-2-13/))

The rate of high job satisfaction, or those seeing their work as being very useful among college graduates was 56% as opposed to high school grads being 44%. Contentment is the most important metric to measure career success from. That said, among those in the lower bracket, the numbers continue to dip.

Regardless of the fact that college may not always be the endgame for all, it is certainly a step in the right direction. In particular, a Bachelor’s degree equips individuals with the foundational knowledge they need to get ahead. It’s not always guaranteed since the success among majors varies. However, the numbers from the surveys conducted by Pew prove that an education yields results. That foundational knowledge will grant individuals the ability to adapt to changes in the job market. Not only do graduates feel qualified, they also feel a greater sense of satisfaction. That alone is worth a degree.

Works Cited

# Pew Research Center, [The Rising Cost of Not Going to College](https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2014/02/11/the-rising-cost-of-not-going-to-college/)

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