Degrees Open Doors to Success

Unit 6
Developed by the National PASS Center with funding from the Strategies, Opportunities, and Services to Out-of-School-Youth (SOSOSY) Migrant Education Program Consortium Incentive under the leadership of the Kansas Migrant Education Program.
Education and Jobs

The people who began the United States valued education. They knew it led to successful people and a strong nation. From the very beginning, the United States has offered free public education to everyone.

Every school-age child (in general, 5 – 18 years old) lives in a school district. There are more than 14,000 school districts in America. Each one contains at least one public school. Some contain many more than that. For example, the Los Angeles Unified School District has 439 schools. It serves almost 700,000 students.

Getting a good education is extremely important to everyone’s future. Educated voters stay informed. Their political decisions help keep the nation strong. Education is good for a country’s economy, too.

Today’s jobs require education. A high school diploma is necessary to get a good full-time job. It is also required for entry into college. Schools develop math and science skills. Those skills are needed to work with new technologies. Schools offer training in the use of the computerized equipment. That is used in modern factories. In general, more education = better jobs and higher salaries.
A college education offers even more training and knowledge. That translates to better jobs. College graduates earn more money than high school graduates. Look at the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount of Education</th>
<th>Weekly Earnings</th>
<th>Rate of Unemployment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>$451</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma</td>
<td>$638</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>$719</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree (two-year degree)</td>
<td>$768</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree (four-year degree)</td>
<td>$1,053</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree (five-to-six-year degree)</td>
<td>$1,263</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>$1,665</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>$1,551</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Refer to the Weekly Earnings column. How does education compare to weekly earnings? ____________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________

2. The Rate of Unemployment shows the number of people who are able to work, but cannot find jobs. How does education compare with the rate of unemployment? ____________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________
If you have less than a high-school education, you might work as a . . .

**Maid or Housekeeper**
Average salary = $19,300/year

**Food Service Worker**
Average salary = $17,950/year

**Home Health Aide**
Average salary = $20,560/year

**Cashier**
Average salary = $18,500/year

**Dishwasher**
Average salary = $18,150/year

**Farm Worker** – Average salary = $18,960/year
These are just some of the jobs that do not require a high school diploma. Employees are trained for the job after they are hired. Training is usually simple and does not take long.

3. Fill in the chart based on the jobs shown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jobs That Do Not Require a High School Diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. For most jobs, is the yearly salary above or below $25,000?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Are the jobs hard work?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Do you think you would be happy working at one of these jobs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Would you want to work at any of these jobs for longer than five years?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Construction Worker**
  Average salary = $29,280/year

- **Janitor or Cleaner**
  Average salary = $22,210/year
If you have a high school diploma or GED, you might work as a . . .

- **Auto Mechanic**
  - Average salary = $35,790/year

- **Supervisor**
  - Average salary = $29,560 to $47,460/year

- **Police Officer/Sheriff’s Patrol Officer**
  - Average salary = $53,540/year

- **Child Care Worker**
  - Average salary = $19,300/year

- **Repairman**
  - Average salary = $34,730/year

- **Truck Driver**
  - Average salary = $37,770/year

- **Secretary/Administrative Assistant**
  - Average salary = $30,830/year
The jobs shown on the previous page require at least a high school diploma or GED. Most also require special training or years of experience.

4. Fill in the chart based on the jobs shown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jobs That Require a High School Diploma or GED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. For most jobs, is the yearly salary above or below $30,000?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Are the jobs hard work?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Do you think you would be happy working at one of these jobs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Would you want to work at any of these jobs for longer than five years?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you take some college courses or a training program, you might be a . . .

- **Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)**
  - Average salary = $40,380/year

- **Heating/Air Conditioning Mechanic/Installer**
  - Average salary = $42,530/year

- **Hairdresser/Hairstylist**
  - Average salary = $22,760/year
These jobs require special training or some college courses, but not a degree.

5. Fill in the chart based on the jobs shown above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Jobs That Require Some College Courses or a Training Program</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>a.</strong> For most jobs, is the yearly salary above or below $40,000?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>b.</strong> Are the jobs hard work?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>c.</strong> Do you think you would be happy working at one of these jobs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>d.</strong> Would you want to work at any of these jobs for longer than five years?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you get a college degree you might work as a . . .

**Veterinarian**
- Doctoral or professional degree
- Average salary = $82,040/year

**Laboratory Technologist**
- Bachelor's degree
- Average salary = $56,130/year

**Teacher, K-12**
- Bachelor's degree
- Average salary = $49,000 to $54,000/year

**Lawyer**
- Doctoral or professional degree
- Average salary = $112,760/year

**Producer/Director**
- Bachelor’s degree
- Average salary = $68,440/year

**Computer Software Developer**
- Bachelor’s degree
- Average salary = $94,180/year

**Accountant**
- Bachelor’s degree
- Average salary = $61,690/year
School Guidance Counselor
Master’s degree
Average salary = $53,380/year

Doctor/Surgeon
Doctoral or professional degree
Average salary = more than $166,400/year

Architect
Bachelor’s degree
Average salary = $72,550/year

Dentist
Doctoral or professional degree + Internship/Residency
Average salary = $141,040/year

Pharmacist
Doctoral or professional degree
Average salary = $111,570/year

Graphic Designer
Bachelor’s degree
Average salary = $43,500/year
6. Fill out the chart based on the jobs on the previous page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jobs That Require at Least a College Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. For most jobs, is the yearly salary above or below $50,000?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Are the jobs hard work?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Do you think you would be happy working at one of these jobs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Would you want to work at any of these jobs for longer than five years?</td>
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7. Use the word *more* or the word *less* to complete each statement below. Base your answers on the information in this lesson.
   a. Lower paying jobs require _________________ education and training.
   b. Higher paying jobs require _________________ education and training.
   c. People with low-paying jobs are _______________ likely to change jobs often.
   d. People with high-paying jobs are _______________ likely to make careers of their jobs.

Some definitions:
Career/Technical, School-to-Work, Vocational Programs
— High school programs that offer training in such areas as
  • health care
  • farming
  • building and construction
  • auto mechanics
  • cosmetology (hair styling, skin care, makeup, nail care, etc.)
— allow students to enter the workplace after graduation
Apprenticeships, On-the-Job Training
- provide training by a skilled or experienced worker after hire
- may involve years of training

Internship
- a temporary position with a company in student’s desired career or job
- can be paid or unpaid
- offers student experience and training
- can be done during high school or college
- usually worth some course credits

Community or Junior Colleges
- offer two-year college programs
- grant an associate degree to two-year graduates
- often used as a stepping stone to a four-year college degree

Colleges or Universities
- offer four-year or more college programs
- grant a bachelor’s degree to four-year graduates in their major course of study
- grant graduate degrees to those students who study beyond the bachelor’s level
  - master’s degree = at least one more year of study in a specific field
  - doctoral degree = additional study beyond the master’s level (Judges, lawyers, doctors, dentists, college professors have doctoral degrees.)

Residency
- part of training for doctors, dentists, and other medical professionals
- follows graduate work
- involves hands-on experience and training in a specific medical field
- is supervised by an experienced doctor or professional
- for doctors and surgeons, usually lasts for more than one year
Profession
— A job that requires much education and training
— Usually one’s life-long work

Career
— A job that a person intends to keep and advance in, life-long
— Usually requires much education and training

GED (General Educational Development)
— Equivalent to a high school diploma
— Available to people 18 and older who did not graduate from high school
— Granted after student passes a series of five tests

Notes: