

# Why Go to College? (How about ... to get a good job!)

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## Can't I get a good job now?

Yes, maybe you could, but a college degree will make your chances even better. Check out the earnings and

Unemployment rate in 2010	Level of education completed	Mean (average) earnings in 2010
14.9%	Less than a high school diploma	\$28,184
10.3%	High school graduate, no college	\$39,988
9.2%	Some college, no degree	\$46,228
7.0%	Occupational program (career school)	\$46,332
7.0%	Associate degree (academic program)	\$49,764
5.4%	Bachelor's degree	\$72,020
4.0%	Master's degree	\$82,576
1.9%	Doctoral degree (e.g., Ph.D.)	\$103,844
2.4%	Professional degree (e.g., M.D., J.D.)	\$124,176

unemployment rates for people 25 years and older with different levels of education:

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, unpublished tables, 2011.*

Sometimes it's hard to stay in school if you think you need to be working to earn money. But if you get an education beyond high school, you'll have a wider variety of jobs to choose from, and you'll earn more—especially in the long run.

## But I don't know what career to go into!

If you can't decide what to do, talk to your school counselor or visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov/myfsa](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/myfsa) to fill out an interest inventory called the Career Finder. Based on your answers, the questionnaire will provide a list of careers that fit your interests. You can then use the college search tool on our site to find schools offering courses of study appropriate to your career choice.

## Doesn't college cost a lot of money?

Think of college as an investment: you spend money now so you can earn more later. And the U.S. Department of Education will help you pay for your education. Take a look at [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) for information about our federal student aid programs. The site also has a free scholarship search at [www.studentaid.ed.gov/scholarship](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/scholarship). Still have questions? Call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at **1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)**.

