Why College?

NEXT STEPS IDAHO

College can be a valuable experience and asset to your future. Here are a few reasons why you should consider a college degree.

1 Earn More Money
Those who graduate from college earn more money than those with only a high school diploma. On average, someone with a college degree can earn $1,100 a week as opposed to just $638 with a high school diploma. Whatever your dreams are, a college degree can help you get there.

2 Better Health
Studies continue to show that college graduates tend to have a healthier life, both physically and mentally.

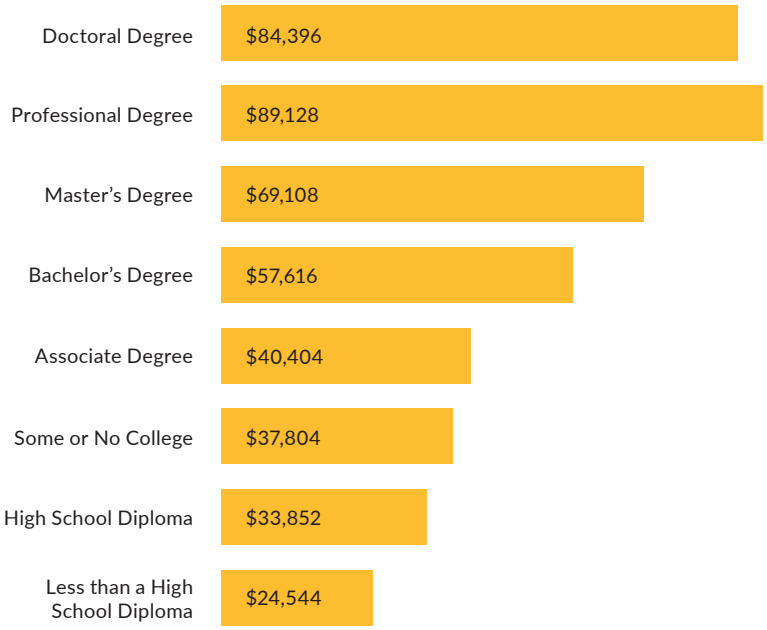
3 More Opportunity
Graduating from college increases your choices for future careers and provides you with specialized skills and training that are essential in today's workforce.

4 Build Connections
College is a great place to meet new people, make friends, and network. The friends you make in college are often friends you will have for life. You also have the opportunity to network through classmates and professors.

5 Better Future for Your Family
71% of students with at least one parent with a bachelor's degree will apply to college themselves, as opposed to 26% of those who do not. Start a tradition that will be passed to your children by setting the example and earning a bachelor's degree.

Average Salary Based on Educational Attainment

Data collected from people ages 25 and over: Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.



Source: IACRAO "Higher Education in Idaho." 2015-2016

IDAHO State Board of Education
650 West State Street, 3rd Floor | Boise, ID 83702
(208) 334-2270

Paying for College

NEXT STEPS IDAHO

You may be eligible for free financial aid—up to $5,700 of federal aid and up to $3,000 of state scholarships for college per year.

Scholarships are funds that you do NOT have to repay. To help pay for school, we encourage you to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship application. These are both accessed through **NextSteps.Idaho.gov**.

You may be eligible for more than you think! **NextSteps.Idaho.gov** has several other scholarship and financial aid resources at your fingertips. Also, please discuss with college admissions representatives additional scholarships available for students attending their college or university. Start researching financial aid options now, as there are deadlines for applying.

NextSteps.Idaho.gov

IDAHO State Board of Education
650 West State Street, 3rd Floor | Boise, ID 83702
(208) 334-2270