

Facts About the Income of Graduates

How much more does a college graduate earn than one with just a high school diploma?

Adults--young and old, male and female--who have a bachelor's degree or higher have twice the annual median income than someone with only a high school degree.

Looking at the median annual earnings of young adults ages 25 to 34, those who had not completed high school had lower incomes than those of their counterparts who had done so. Even though gaps still persist in median incomes by gender, in 2006, both men and women college graduates earned more than those who completed only high school or a General Education Development Certificate (GED), according to data from the [National Center for Education Statistics](#).

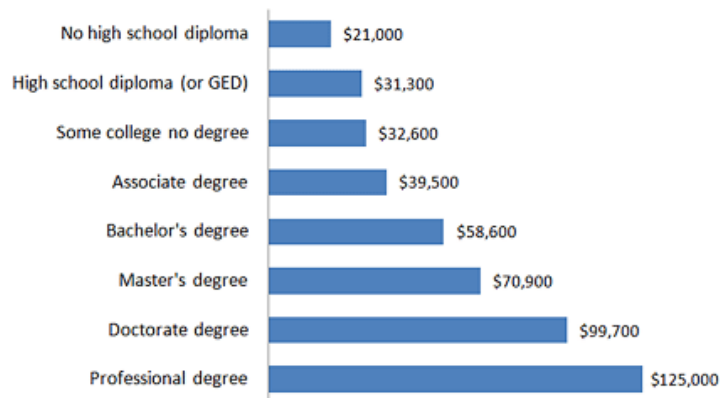
Median Income of Full-time Workers Ages 25-34, 2006

	High School Graduate or GED	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Male	\$30,000	\$50,000
Female	\$24,000	\$41,000

Source: U.S. Department of Education

Overall, the annual median income of someone with a bachelor's degree or higher has outpaced the earnings of someone with only a high school diploma or equivalent. In fact, over the past decade or two, the annual earnings of someone working full-time who only had a high school diploma declined, relative to the increased earnings of someone with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Mean Annual Earnings of Population Age 18 and Over, 2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement