Why earn a college degree?

Boyd Edwards, Dean and Executive Director
Utah State University Uintah Basin
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1. Educated workers are needed.

2. College graduates have 20 advantages.

3. USU Uintah Basin can help you reach your educational goals.
Education is needed

Jobs requiring post-secondary education are growing at double the rate of jobs for high school grads and dropouts.

By 2018, 66% of jobs will require postsecondary education.

Data from Carnevale, State-Level Analysis, pp. 99, 100; Analysis by Edwards
Utah’s “Big Goal”

To meet Utah’s education and workforce needs in response to a call by Governor Gary Herbert, the Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Higher Education have set a goal: For 55% of Utah’s working adults to hold an associate’s degree or higher by the year 2020, and for 11% to hold a postsecondary certificate.

Currently, 39% of Utah’s working adults hold an associate’s degree or higher.
Outline

1. Utah needs an educated workforce.
2. College graduates have 20 advantages.
3. USU Uintah Basin can help you reach your educational goals.
College graduates

1. Participate in the labor force

- Not a High School Graduate
- High School Graduate
- Some College or Associate Degree
- Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Baum, p. 18
College graduates

2. Have more satisfying jobs

Baum, p. 19
College graduates

3. Feel their work is important

Baum, p. 19
College graduates

4. Earn more

Baum, pp. 4, 11
College graduates

4. Earn more

Estimated average lifetime earnings by education level. (in current dollars)
Source: Authors’ analysis of March CPS data, 2008

- PhD: $4,029,948
- Professional degree: $4,650,588
- Master’s degree: $3,837,239
- Bachelor’s degree: $3,380,060
- Associate’s degree: $2,254,765
- Some college: $2,239,548
- High school graduate: $1,767,025
- High school dropout: $1,198,447

Carnevale Full Report, p. 5
College graduates

5. Have good health insurance

Baum, p. 24
College graduates

6. Have good retirement plans

Baum, p. 23
College graduates

7. Are not unemployed

![Graph showing unemployment rates for different education levels from 1992 to 2009. The graph indicates a general increase in unemployment rates for those with only a high school diploma or less education, with a notable rise for those with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2009.](image-url)
College graduates

8. Avoid poverty

- Not a High School Graduate
- High School Graduate
- Some College, No Degree
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor’s Degree or Higher

Percentage in Poverty

- Female Householders with Related Children Under 18
- Married Couples with Related Children Under 18
- All Households

Baum, p. 25
College graduates

9. Need less public assistance

- Not a High School Graduate
- High School Graduate
- Some College, No Degree
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor’s Degree or Higher

Bar chart showing the percentage of individuals receiving public assistance programs based on their educational attainment.
College graduates

10. Are less likely to be in jail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Level</th>
<th>State, 1997</th>
<th>Federal, 1997</th>
<th>Local, 1996</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No High School Diploma</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School Graduate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Graduate</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from Harlow, p. 2; Analysis by Edwards
College graduates

11. Smoke less

Baum, p. 27
College graduates

12. Exercise more

Baum, p. 28
College graduates

13. Are less likely to be obese

Baum, p. 29
College graduates

14. Live longer

Educational Attainment
- Less than high-school graduate
- High-school graduate
- Some college
- College graduate

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT AGE 25

MEN
- Less than high-school graduate: 47.9
- High-school graduate: 50.6
- Some college: 52.2
- College graduate: 54.7

WOMEN
- Less than high-school graduate: 53.4
- High-school graduate: 56.4
- Some college: 57.4
- College graduate: 58.5
College graduates

15. Have happier marriages
College graduates

16. Have fit children

Baum, p. 29
College graduates

17. Have lower infant child mortality

Egerter, p. 3
College graduates

18. Prepare their children for school

Baum, p. 31
College graduates

19. Enrich their children’s lives

Baum, p. 31
College graduates

20. Raise college graduates

Parent’s Educational Attainment
- Less than high-school graduate
- High-school graduate
- Some college
- Bachelor’s degree
- Master’s degree
- First-professional or doctor’s degree

Percent of 1990 high-school sophomores who obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher by 2000

Egerter, p. 10
Summary of 20 Advantages

Americans with college degrees generally enjoy a higher standard of living, better health, and more fulfilling jobs and family lives.
Outline

1. Utah needs an educated workforce.
2. College graduates have 20 advantages.
3. USU Uintah Basin can help you reach your educational goals.
Dreams

Higher education fulfills dreams:
- to elevate one’s lifestyle
- to have stable employment
- to create new technologies
- to solve societal problems
- to understand the world
- to make a difference
Challenges

Some who contemplate entering a degree program face significant challenges, including under-preparation, the lack of financial resources, the lack of family support, and the need to care for children.
Determination

No matter what your challenges, you can fulfill your educational dreams and change your life for the better.
USU Uintah Basin

High-quality associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees
USU Uintah Basin

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USU Uintah Basin

Extensive scholarship and financial aid opportunities
USU Uintah Basin

Excellent tutoring and refresher courses
USU Uintah Basin

Dedicated faculty members selected for their ability to teach and inspire students
USU Uintah Basin

Small class sizes and close associations with faculty members
USU Uintah Basin

Field experiences and internships that lead to job opportunities
USU Uintah Basin

Student research in state-of-the-art laboratory facilities.
USU Uintah Basin

Practicums to allow students to practice their teaching skills
USU Uintah Basin

Monthly student activities
USU Uintah Basin

Personal attention from caring advisors and student support staff

Call (435) 722-2294 for an appointment
USU Uintah Basin

A great place to fulfill your educational dreams
Acknowledgments

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References


For an excellent discussion of the benefits of college, see [http://youtu.be/t_N7MAr98CI](http://youtu.be/t_N7MAr98CI).

Copies of this PowerPoint presentation and all of the articles listed above are available at [http://www.uintahbasin.usu.edu/](http://www.uintahbasin.usu.edu/).