

Is College Worth It?

(NAPSA)—While the costs associated with higher education have caused many to question the value of a bachelor's degree, according to 90 percent of recent graduates surveyed in a study commissioned by the American Council on Education, the effort is well worth it.

These survey results echo findings from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which show that workers whose highest level of education was a high school diploma brought in median weekly earnings of \$638 a week, while those with a bachelor's degree collected \$1,053 a week. What's more, research by EducationDynamics suggests that in less than 10 years, 60 percent of U.S. jobs will require postsecondary education.

With the evidence strongly supporting the value of completing your degree, the next questions that arise include where to seek your degree and what subject to pursue. Here are tips to help you with your journey:

1. Research where the jobs are. Set yourself up for success by preparing yourself to qualify for a job in a growth industry. For example, according to The Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) occupations will grow from 6.8 million to 8 million jobs by 2018.

2. Investigate available support systems. Ask the schools you're considering what kind of guidance is available. Are there people you can talk to about the degree programs to make sure you've found the right fit? Will someone walk you through the financial process?

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versity. “Our academic advisers make sure students have found the best field of study for themselves and our program directors speak directly with potential students if needed. Each student works with a financial counselor to understand available options, including scholarships, corporate tuition assistance, and military and veteran benefits. The combination of a solid academic program with a comprehensive support system gives our students the tools necessary to thrive in their education and their careers.”

3. Figure out how school will fit into your life. How much time can you reasonably devote to your studies? Will you be more successful attending school part-time or full-time? Do you want the structure of attending a class at the same time every week or the flexibility of completing your studies online? Make sure the schools you consider offer the options you need.

Choosing the right degree and the right school can put you on the path to improving your future. Learn more at www.makeithappennow.org.