



**ACReS**  
Academic Career and Readiness Skills

**Degrees Open Doors  
to Success**

**Unit**

**6**



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## Education and Jobs

### Words to know:

- ✓ education
- ✓ jobs

**T**he people who began the United States valued education. They knew it led to successful people and a strong nation. From the very beginning, the United States has offered free public education to everyone.

Every school-age child (**in general, 5 – 18 years old**) lives in a school district. There are more than 14,000 school districts in America. Each one contains at least one public school. Some contain many more than that. For example, the Los Angeles Unified School District has 439 schools. It serves almost 700,000 students.

Getting a good education is extremely important to everyone's future. Educated voters stay informed. Their political decisions help keep the nation strong. Education is good for a country's economy, too.

Today's jobs require education. A high school diploma is necessary to get a good full-time job. It is also required for entry into college. Schools develop math and science skills. Those skills are needed to work with new technologies. Schools offer training in the use of the computerized equipment. That is used in modern factories. In general, **more education = better jobs and higher salaries.**

A college education offers even more training and knowledge. That translates to better jobs. College graduates earn more money than high school graduates. Look at the table below.

Amount of Education	Weekly Earnings	Rate of Unemployment
Less than a high school diploma	\$451	14.1%
High school diploma	\$638	9.4%
Some college, no degree	\$719	8.7%
Associate degree (two-year degree)	\$768	6.8%
Bachelor's degree (four-year degree)	\$1,053	4.9%
Master's degree (five-to-six-year degree)	\$1,263	3.6%
Professional degree	\$1,665	2.4%
Doctoral degree	\$1,551	2.5%

1. Refer to the Weekly Earnings column. How does education compare to weekly earnings? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The Rate of Unemployment shows the number of people who are able to work, but cannot find jobs. How does education compare with the rate of unemployment? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you have less than a high-school education, you might work as a . . .



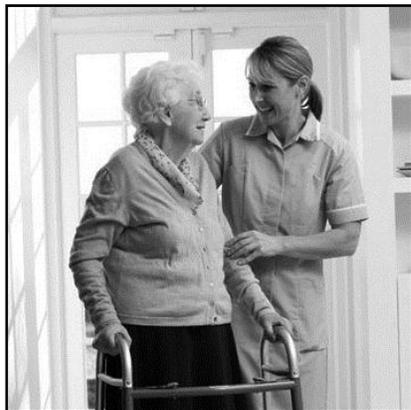
Maid or Housekeeper

Average salary =  
\$19,300/year



Food Service Worker

Average salary =  
\$17,950/year



Home Health Aide

Average salary =  
\$20,560/year



Cashier

Average salary =  
\$18,500/year

Dishwasher

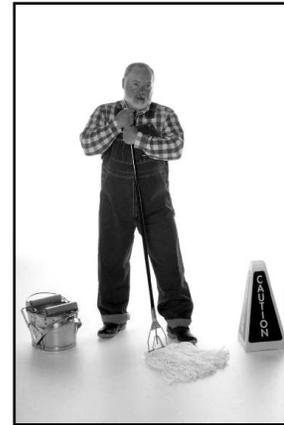
Average salary =  
\$18,150/year



Farm Worker – Average salary =  
\$18,960/year



Construction Worker  
Average salary = \$29,280/year



Janitor or Cleaner  
Average salary =  
\$22,210/year

These are just some of the jobs that do not require a high school diploma. Employees are trained for the job after they are hired. Training is usually simple and does not take long.

3. Fill in the chart based on the jobs shown.

<b>Jobs That Do Not Require a High School Diploma</b>	
<b>a.</b> For most jobs, is the yearly salary above or below \$25,000?	
<b>b.</b> Are the jobs hard work?	
<b>c.</b> Do you think you would be happy working at one of these jobs?	
<b>d.</b> Would you want to work at any of these jobs for longer than five years?	

If you have a high school diploma or GED, you might work as a . . .



Auto Mechanic

Average salary =  
\$35,790/year



Supervisor

Average salary =  
\$29,560 to \$47,460/year



Police Officer/Sheriff's Patrol Officer

Average salary = \$53,540/year



Child Care Worker

Average salary =  
\$19,300/year



Truck Driver

Average salary =  
\$37,770/year



Repairman

Average salary =  
\$34,730/year



Secretary/Administrative Assistant

Average salary =  
\$30,830/year

The jobs shown on the previous page require at least a high school diploma or GED. Most also require special training or years of experience.

4. Fill in the chart based on the jobs shown.

<b>Jobs That Require a High School Diploma or GED</b>	
<b>a.</b> For most jobs, is the yearly salary above or below \$30,000?	
<b>b.</b> Are the jobs hard work?	
<b>c.</b> Do you think you would be happy working at one of these jobs?	
<b>d.</b> Would you want to work at any of these jobs for longer than five years?	

If you take some college courses or a training program, you might be a . . .



Heating/Air Conditioning  
Mechanic/Installer  
Average salary =  
\$42,530/year



Licensed Practical Nurse  
(LPN)  
Average salary =  
\$40,380/year

Hairdresser/Hairstylist  
Average salary =  
\$22,760/year



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Court Reporter  
Average salary =  
\$47,700/year

Airline Pilot  
Average salary =  
\$67,500/year



Electric Power Station Repairman  
Average salary = \$65,230/year



Firefighter  
Average salary =  
\$45,250/year

These jobs require special training or some college courses, but not a degree.

5. Fill in the chart based on the jobs shown above.

<b>Jobs That Require Some College Courses or a Training Program</b>	
a. For most jobs, is the yearly salary above or below \$40,000?	
b. Are the jobs hard work?	
c. Do you think you would be happy working at one of these jobs?	
d. Would you want to work at any of these jobs for longer than five years?	

If you get a college degree you might work as a . . .

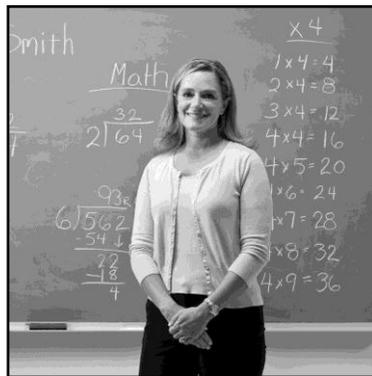


Veterinarian  
 Doctoral or professional degree  
 Average salary = \$82,040/year



Laboratory Technologist  
 Bachelor's degree  
 Average salary = \$56,130/year

Teacher, K-12  
 Bachelor's degree  
 Average salary = \$49,000 to \$54,000/year



Producer/Director  
 Bachelor's degree  
 Average salary = \$68,440/year



Lawyer  
 Doctoral or professional degree  
 Average salary = \$112,760/year

Computer Software Developer  
 Bachelor's degree  
 Average salary = \$94,180/year



Accountant  
 Bachelor's degree  
 Average salary = \$61,690/year

Academic & Career Readiness Skills

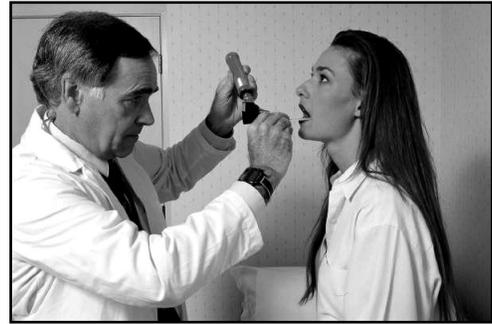
School Guidance

Counselor

Master's degree

Average salary =

\$53,380/year



Doctor/Surgeon

Doctoral or professional degree

Average salary =

more than \$166,400/year



Architect

Bachelor's degree

Average salary =

\$72,550/year



Dentist

Doctoral or professional degree + Internship/Residency

Average salary =

\$141,040/year



Pharmacist

Doctoral or professional degree

Average salary = \$111,570/year



Graphic Designer

Bachelor's degree

Average salary =

\$43,500/year

6. Fill out the chart based on the jobs on the previous page.

Jobs That Require at Least a College Degree	
<b>a.</b> For most jobs, is the yearly salary above or below \$50,000?	
<b>b.</b> Are the jobs hard work?	
<b>c.</b> Do you think you would be happy working at one of these jobs?	
<b>d.</b> Would you want to work at any of these jobs for longer than five years?	

7. Use the word **more** or the word **less** to complete each statement below. Base your answers on the information in this lesson.

- a. Lower paying jobs require \_\_\_\_\_ education and training.
- b. Higher paying jobs require \_\_\_\_\_ education and training.
- c. People with low-paying jobs are \_\_\_\_\_ likely to change jobs often.
- d. People with high-paying jobs are \_\_\_\_\_ likely to make careers of their jobs.

**Some definitions:**

Career/Technical, School-to-Work, Vocational Programs

- High school programs that offer training in such areas as
  - health care
  - farming
  - building and construction
  - auto mechanics
  - cosmetology (hair styling, skin care, makeup, nail care, etc.)
- allow students to enter the workplace after graduation

Apprenticeships, On-the-Job Training

- provide training by a skilled or experienced worker after hire
- may involve years of training

Internship

- a temporary position with a company in student's desired career or job
- can be paid or unpaid
- offers student experience and training
- can be done during high school or college
- usually worth some course credits

Community or Junior Colleges

- offer two-year college programs
- grant an associate degree to two-year graduates
- often used as a stepping stone to a four-year college degree

Colleges or Universities

- offer four-year or more college programs
- grant a bachelor's degree to four-year graduates in their major course of study
- grant graduate degrees to those students who study beyond the bachelor's level
  - master's degree = at least one more year of study in a specific field
  - doctoral degree = additional study beyond the master's level (Judges, lawyers, doctors, dentists, college professors have doctoral degrees.)

Residency

- part of training for doctors, dentists, and other medical professionals
- follows graduate work
- involves hands-on experience and training in a specific medical field
- is supervised by an experienced doctor or professional
- for doctors and surgeons, usually lasts for more than one year

Profession

- A job that requires much education and training
- Usually one's life-long work

Career

- A job that a person intends to keep and advance in, life-long
- Usually requires much education and training

GED (General Educational Development)

- Equivalent to a high school diploma
- Available to people 18 and older who did not graduate from high school
- Granted after student passes a series of five tests

**Notes:**

∞ End of Lesson 1 ∞