

## College Degree Worth Extra \$23,000 a Year

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**WASHINGTON** — How much is a bachelor's degree worth? About \$23,000 a year, the government said in a report released Thursday. That is the average gap in earnings between adults with bachelor's degrees and those with high school diplomas, according to data from the Census Bureau.



College graduates made an average of \$51,554 in 2004, the most recent figures available, compared with \$28,645 for adults with a high school diploma. High school dropouts earned an average of \$19,169 and those with advanced (Masters and professional) college degrees made an average of \$78,093. way to boost kids' performance, morale and self-esteem, they're also being challenged by civil-rights groups.

The income gap narrowed slightly from five years earlier, when college graduates made nearly twice as much as high school graduates. But the differences remained significant for men and women of every racial and ethnic group.

Eighty-five percent of people 25 and older had at least a high school diploma or the equivalent in 2005, according to the Census Bureau's 2005 Current Population Survey. In 2000, 80 percent had a high school diploma or the equivalent, and a little more than half did in 1970.

"If you don't emerge from high school having done at least the equivalent of advanced algebra, you are not going to be ready for college math," Finn said. "You can make similar points about English."

Among the other findings in the report: Minnesota, Utah, Montana, New Hampshire and Alaska had the highest proportions of adults with at least a high school diploma — all at about 92 percent. Texas had the lowest proportion of adults with at least a high school diploma, about 78 percent. It was followed closely by Kentucky and Mississippi. Connecticut was the state with the highest proportion of adults with at least a bachelor's degree, nearly 37 percent. It was followed closely by Massachusetts, Maryland and New Jersey. Nearly 47 percent of adults in Washington, D.C., had at least a bachelor's degree. West Virginia had the lowest proportion of college graduates, at 15 percent. It was followed at the bottom by Arkansas, Kentucky and Louisiana.

1. Over the duration of a 35-year career, in accordance to the passage above, on average, approximately how much less can a high school graduate anticipate earning compared to a college graduate?
2. Neatly organize the financial data and information into a table and graph to neatly convey the 2005 Census Bureau Survey results.
3. In 2004, what was the percent of change in annual earnings amongst the following categories: a) high school and college graduates, b) high school graduates and high school dropouts, and c) advanced degrees and traditional bachelor's degrees.
4. In paragraph form, analyze and interpret the following statement, "*The differences remained significant for men and women of every racial and ethnic group.*"
5. Assuming 4,891 people never mailed their responses, 22,897 stated, "*My vote doesn't matter*", and 7,890 more blatantly refused to partake in further questioning; therefore, 163,472 people participated in the Census Bureau's 1972, 2000, and 2005 survey approximately how many more people had at least a high school diploma in 2005 compared to 2000 and 1970? Explain the impact this increase may have had upon America.
6. In your own words, thoroughly explain the similarities between the Math and English statement in the passage above in relation to the *No Child Left Behind* implementation? Explain in paragraph form.
7. Geographically speaking, what research-based results were derived from the recent survey?
8. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least five ways using the red "*Four-Step Reading*" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
9. Using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the words: emerge, equivalent, and proportion.
10. In paragraph form, explain at least five legitimate and educational purposes behind *The Daughtry Times*.

**\*\* EXTRA CREDIT \*\***

*In accordance with the 2006-07 Henry County Teacher Salary Scale approximately how far off is Mr. Daughtry's annual salary compared with the monetary figures found in the survey. Additional information: he possesses nine years experience and a Masters + 21 semester hours. Explain this disparity in a complete sentence(s).*