

GIBSON TECHNICAL CENTER

Career explorer

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Why stay in school? What's in it for you?

The top 5 reasons to stay in school:

1. High school dropouts are **four times as likely to be unemployed** as those who completed four or more years of college.
2. Graduating from high school **will determine how well you live** for the next **50** years of your life.
3. High school graduates, on the average, **earn \$7,000 more per year than high school dropouts**, according to Day and Newburger (2000). College graduates **earn \$26,500 more per year** than high school dropouts.
4. Dropouts are more likely to need and receive public assistance than graduates of high school.
5. Dropouts comprise a large percentage of the nation's prison inmates. **80% of prisoners in America are high school dropouts.**

Why do you need a diploma?

If you have considered dropping out of school, please take the time to read this article. Deciding to stay in school and graduate may be one of the most important decisions of your life. It is a decision that will affect every area of your life throughout your entire life.

In today's workplace, having a diploma is really just a starting point on the road to having a career of your choice that also pays well. Most of today's jobs require some sort of specialized education or training beyond high school.

Lifelong learning and the educational requirements that pertain to the career of your choice are wise investments for everyone. Not everyone needs a 4-year college degree. There are several other ways to obtain the training and education you need. Career and technical schools and 2-year community colleges provide specific skills training and advanced education to help prepare you for a more satisfying career.

There are only about 15 percent of today's jobs that are "unskilled" – jobs that you learn while actually on the job. Employers of these types of jobs would still prefer to hire a high school graduate instead of a dropout.

According to an article written

by Adrian H. Cline, high school dropouts earn less than those with a diploma. Each year of training/education beyond high school can increase a person's earnings by 8%.

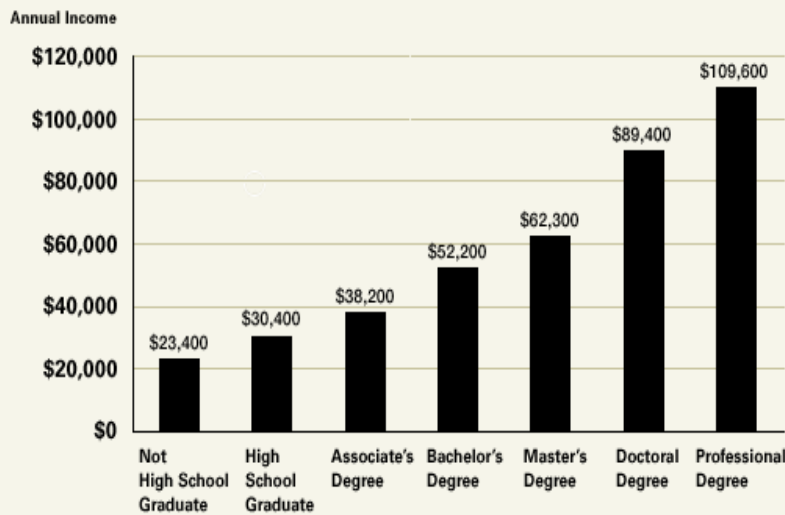
In 1993, a male with more than four years of college earned an average of 89% **more** than a male with only a high school education. This gap has nearly doubled and is even greater for those who drop out. The average high school dropout will earn \$325,000 **less** in his/her lifetime than a high school graduate.

If you are looking to join a branch of the Armed Forces you'll need that diploma. Some of the branches won't take you without a diploma. You must often also take and pass an ASVAB test. Sometimes they will accept an applicant with a GED, but he or she must have a higher qualifying score on the ASVAB test and may also have to wait on a slot to become open; this can take up to a year.

Without a high school diploma your future success may be a struggle. You may be limited in the types of jobs you can get, the amount of income you can make, where you can live, what kind of car you can afford to drive, what kinds of entertainment you can afford, and the list goes on – it affects every aspect of your life!

Earnings and Education: Average Annual Earnings

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Surveys, March 1998, 1999, and 2000.



(Earnings in 1999 dollars)

Does your education level affect your earning power?

Just take a look at the chart. It compares levels of education with yearly annual earnings data. Your education level affects not only what kind of job you can get, but how much you can earn yearly AND over your lifetime of working. It can even affect whether or not you will be more likely to be unemployed at some point.

People with less than a high school diploma have almost twice the chance of being unemployed as those with their diplomas. High school drop outs earn less yearly and over their entire lifetimes than graduates or those with higher education levels. It makes it easier to see what not having your diploma may “cost” you — and it’s not only in dollars. Less money translates into fewer choices in many areas of life.



DECEMBER WORD OF THE MONTH

Compassion

What is compassion and why do we need it?

When we see someone is in distress and feel their pain as if it were our own, and strive to eliminate or lessen their pain, then this is compassion. A person who is compassionate is ethical and genuinely concerned with the welfare of other people.

Compassion calls for looking inside others. Before you can use it, you have to know how others feel. What makes them feel sad or happy? Once you know that, you feel the same way. Don't stop there, though. It isn't compassion yet. Compassion has to go another step. Once you empathize, you DO something to help them. That action to help someone else is compassion.

- Follow the “Golden Rule”
- Give a portion of your time, talents, and money to help others
- “Pay it forward” - perform kind acts without expecting anything in return

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **December** is Human Rights Month
- **Dec. 7** — Pearl Harbor Day
- **Dec. 11-19** — HANUKKAH
- **Tues., Dec. 22**—End of second quarter/End of first semester
- **1/2 day, Tues., Dec. 22 thru Fri., Jan. 1** — NO SCHOOL — Christmas Break
- **Dec. 25**—MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- **Dec. 26-Jan. 1**—KWANZAA
- **Jan. 1**—HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- **Jan. 4, 2010**—School resumes!
- **Tues., Jan. 5, 2010** — Deadline for registration for February 6 ACT.