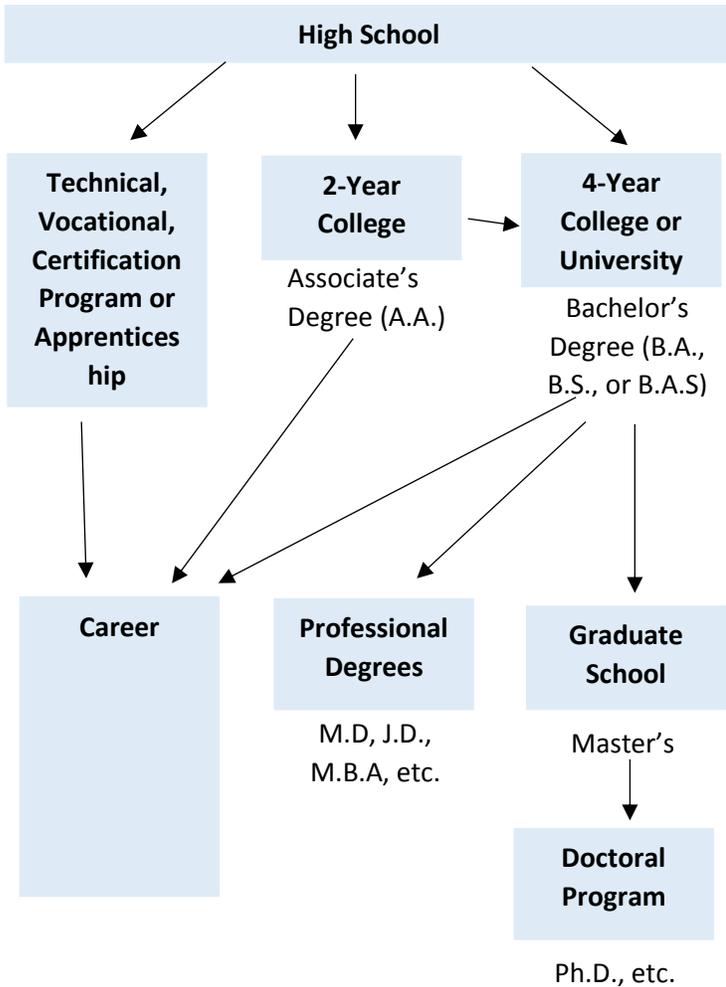


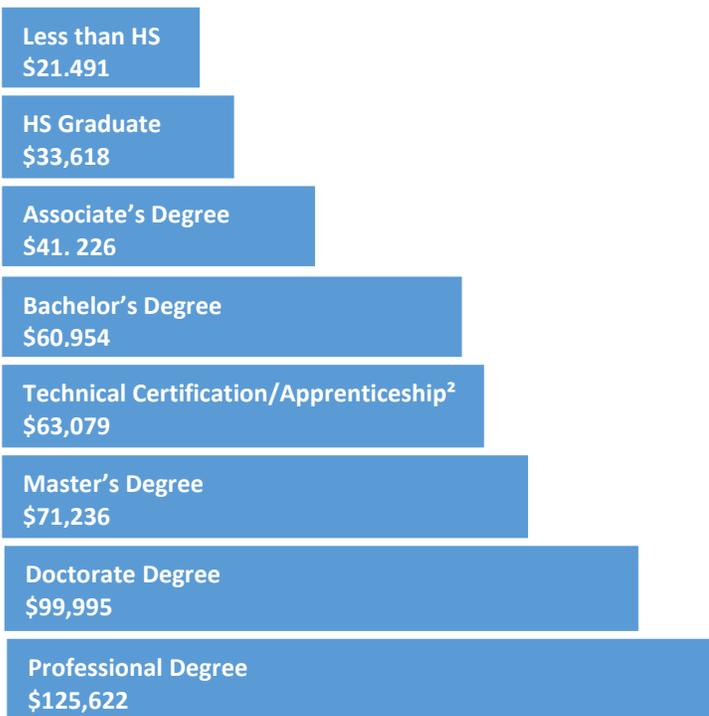
The Process of Higher Education

This chart can help you plan your path through higher education



College: The general term for all higher education
University: A four-year institution that has both undergraduate and graduate students. A university often includes many “college” or “schools” within it, such as the College of Engineering or the School of Law
Branch Campus: Some universities have a main campus and multiple branch campuses located elsewhere around the state. They typically offer a limited number of programs compared to the main campus.
Community College/Two-Year College: A two-year institution that offers only associate’s degrees, which is typically the equivalent of the first two years of a four-year degree.
Technical College (or Vocational School): A school that provides specialized training for a certain industry.
M.S.I. (minority-serving institution): Institutions with more than 25% of their students from a particular minority student population. Examples: Historically Black Colleges (HBCU) and Tribal Colleges & Universities (TCU).
Major: Primary area of study at college, such as English, International Studies, or Civil Engineering.
Double Major: When a college students has two primary areas of study. This second focus typically requires extra coursework.
Minor (or emphasis): Secondary area of study at a college. This may or may not be related to your major.
A.A. or A.S.: Associate of Arts or Associate of Science. A two-year degree from a community college. Also referred to as an Associate’s Degree.
B.A. or B.S. (or undergraduate degree): Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science. A four-year degree often referred to as a Bachelor’s degree, undergraduate degree or college degree.
B.A.S.: Bachelor of Applied Science. A four-year degree that requires a student to take a majority of their courses in the applied sciences, specializing in a specific area. These can be earned at local colleges that offer both community college programs as well as applied bachelor’s degrees.
M.D. (doctor): Medical Doctorate. A degree required to be a doctor of medicine. Three to four years of extra schooling after B.A. or B.S.
J.D. (lawyer): Juris Doctorate. A law degree required to be a lawyer. Typically three years of extra schooling after B.A. or B.S.
Master’s: Degree earned after completing graduate school. One to two years of extra schooling after B.A. or B.S.
Ph.D.: Doctor of Philosophy. Degree earned after completion of a doctoral program. Requires extra years of schooling after master’s degree.
Professional Degree: Usually the highest degree for a specific career, such as M.D., J.D, etc.

Average Income by Education Level¹



1. Annual Social and Economic (ASEC) Supplement. Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Labor and Statistics
http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/perinc/new03_001.htm
 Accessed March 17, 2010
 2. Pay Scale: Certificate Average Salary
[http://www.payscale.com/research/US/Degree=Certificate_\(Cert\)/Salary#by_State](http://www.payscale.com/research/US/Degree=Certificate_(Cert)/Salary#by_State)
 Accessed July 22, 2016