

# Education and Career Exploration

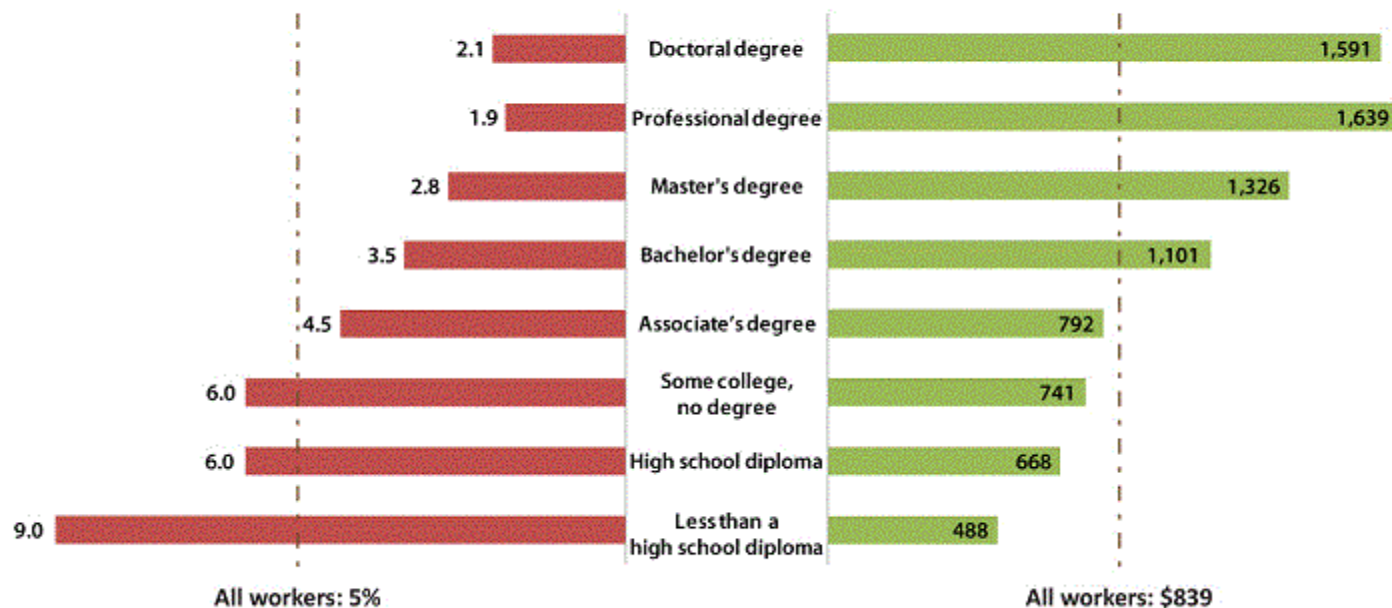
Excelsior College Career Center



## Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment

Unemployment rate in 2014 (%)

Median weekly earnings in 2014 (\$)



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.  
Source: Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor



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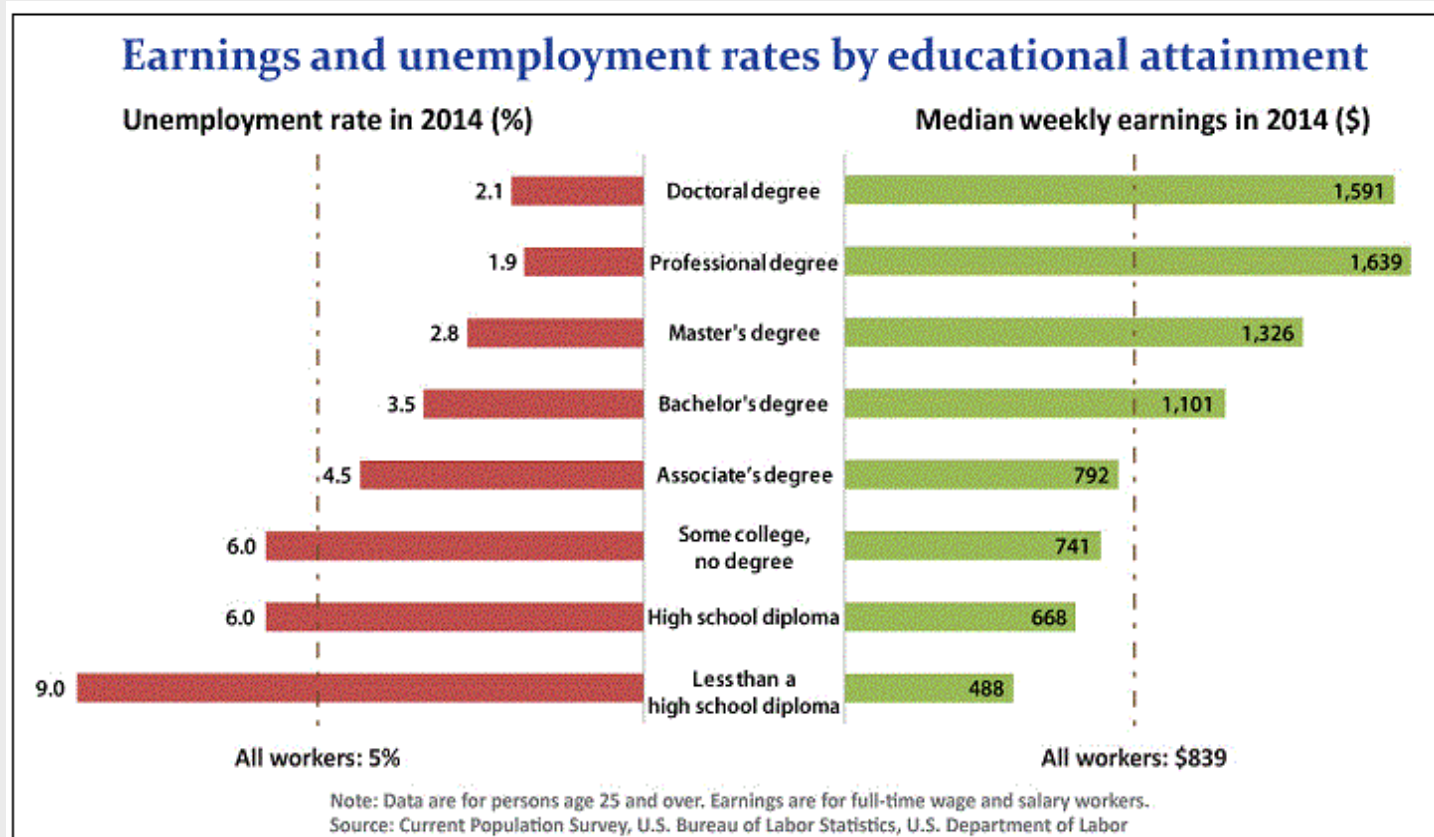
## You Have Made a Smart Choice!

- Enrolling in a degree program with Excelsior College is an important step in reaching your career goals.
- Obtaining a college degree will provide you with a competitive edge in the job market.
- Take a look at the chart on the next slide which clearly depicts the positive correlation between higher education, employment rates and increased earnings.



# Education and Career Exploration

## Education Pays!



# Education and Career Exploration

## More benefits of higher education include:

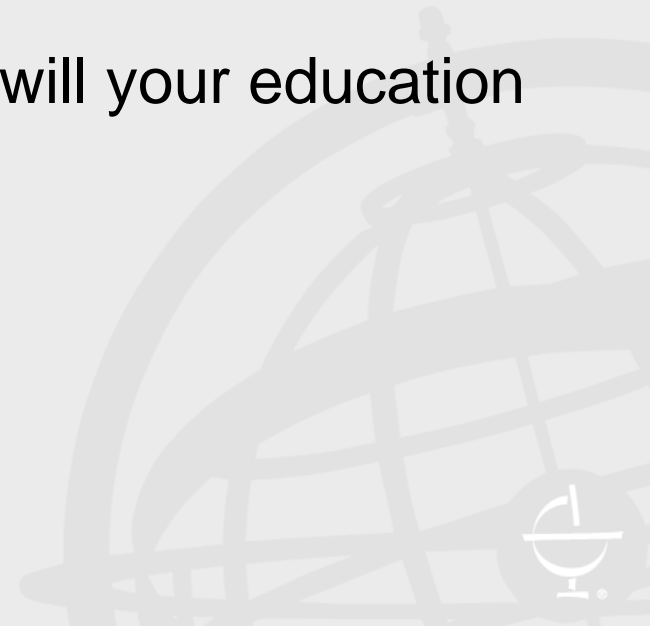
- Better social and economic opportunities
- Increased self-confidence
- Greater benefits, such as health insurance
- More self-management tools; such as time management, goal setting, embracing challenges.



# Education and Career Exploration

**Be sure to maximize your education and career potential :**

- ✓ Seek out the information you need
- ✓ Engage in you education
- ✓ Explore you career options – where will your education lead you?



# Education and Career Exploration

## ✓ **Seek Out the Information You Need**

Need more time to discern what academic plan to follow?

Maintain your momentum while you research possibilities:

- Consider taking a few required introductory general education courses such as composition, math, or information literacy.
- Enroll in survey courses in subject areas that sound interesting to you, or in disciplines that you may not have had much exposure to previously.
- Talk with your academic advisor, career counselor, and professors in targeted disciplines to glean more about your field of interest.
- Learn more about career fields through career exploration.



# Education and Career Exploration



## ✓ Engage in Your Education

- If you already have a clear direction for your education and career path, become an active participant in directing your degree plan. Work with your academic advisor to stay on track.
- Whether you are pursuing a degree in business, engineering technology, nursing, or liberal studies; expand upon your educational experiences.
- Choose coursework that will round out your skill sets and increase your marketability. For example, completing coursework in the liberal arts is a great way to hone the transferable skills that employers seek.





# Education and Career Exploration

## ✓ Explore Your Career Options

Where will your education lead you?



- Once you have narrowed your choice of degree/major, and understand how it will prepare you for your desired career path, you are ready to explore the occupations that align with your personal and academic aspirations.
- You will want to learn as much as possible about your field of interest and the occupations associated with it before you dedicate yourself to a future career.
- With the amount of time you will spend working in your lifetime, wouldn't you like to be sure you choose a career path that you will enjoy and be successful at?



# Career Exploration

## Research Your Options!

Two primary areas to research & explore:

- Occupations & careers fields
- Employment trends



# Career Exploration

## Research Your Options

Why is it so important to investigate occupations and career fields?

Consider this similar scenario:

- If you were thinking about purchasing a new car, what would you do? More than likely you would think hard about the type of car you want, and then research it to make sure it is a wise purchase.
- Perhaps you will want to talk to others who drive that same car to obtain first hand information. Maybe you will also want to test drive the car.
- ***In short, you would want to be sure you were making a smart investment.***



# Career Exploration



**What does buying a car have to do with your career?**

The same principles apply to choosing a career!

- In fact, a career is an even bigger investment in your future than purchasing a car.
- Bottom line? Good decisions require good information.
- Steer your career in the right direction — get the facts first!



# Career Exploration

## Explore Employment Trends

- Job outlook trends are another useful facet of career selection.
- In addition to researching your career of interest, you should also look at the big picture.
- Economic conditions, technological advances, and the labor supply can significantly affect employment opportunities.



# Career Exploration

## Explore Employment Trends

- Viewing future trends can help assess if your career field of interest is showing an incline or decline in growth.
- If it is declining, you may want research a related career that utilizes similar skills and knowledge, but has more promise for future growth.
- However, you should not choose your profession solely upon jobs that are currently “hot”. The job market is constantly fluctuating. A “hot” job today may not be in demand tomorrow.



# Career Exploration

Get your Career in Gear with  
Education and Career Exploration!

