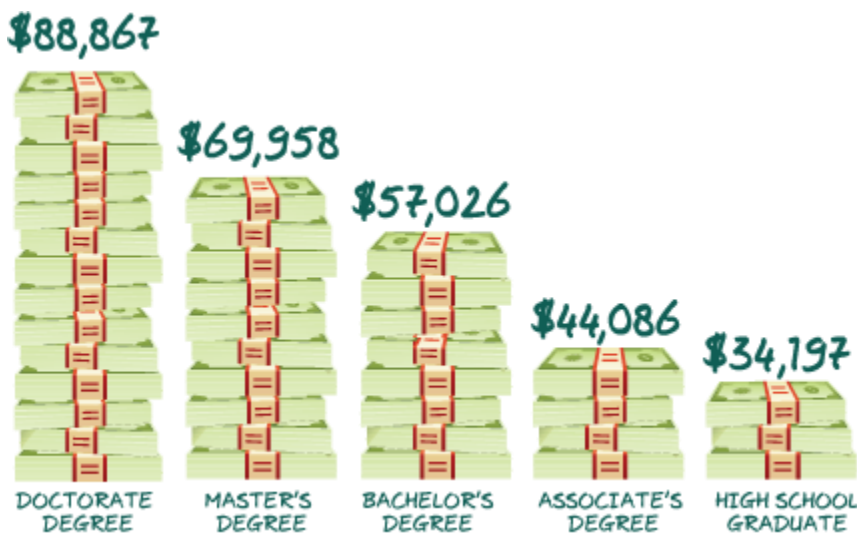




After earning a high school diploma, you're ready to enter the working world, right? Not quite! Did you know that adults who have earned a bachelor's degree earn, on average, almost \$1 million more in a lifetime than those who only graduated high school? You can make even more if you stay in school and get your master's degree or a Ph.D.! Check it out:



ANNUAL MEDIAN EARNINGS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**EMPLOYMENT RATES BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2015**

<u>Education</u>	<u>Employment Rate</u>
Less than High School	92%
High School diploma	94.6%
Associate's degree	96.2%
Bachelor's degree	97.2%
Master's degree	97.6%
Doctorate degree	98.3%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Reasons To Go To College

- Every bit of education you get increases the chances you'll earn good pay.
- The more education you get the more likely it is you will always have a job.
- Continuing education after high school is much more important for you than it was for your parents.
- Education gives you a lot of benefits, including, taking part in new opportunities to explore your interests, and experiencing success.

## Expected Lifetime Earnings\*

Master's Degree	\$2.5 Million
Bachelor's Degree	\$2.1 Million
Associate's Degree	\$1.6 Million
Some College	\$1.5 Million

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



## **FRESHMAN year To - Do List**

- Earn “As”, “Bs”, and “Cs” in all classes
- Learn why you should go to college
- Learn what it takes to go to college (A-G requirements)
- Talk with your counselor about classes, college, and anything you have questions about regarding school
- Explore career interests & colleges by creating an account on [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)
- Join clubs and/or participate in athletics
- Meet with your counselor at least once a year



## Sophomore To - Do List

- Continue to earn “A”, “B”, and “C” grades in all classes
- Meet with your counselor ***at least*** once a year
- Explore careers using the internet and your counselor
- Consider taking the PSAT in October
- Review PSAT results in December or January when scores are returned to see where you are strong and determine what area(s) you may need to study more
- Research colleges you might be interested in attending
- Consider your reasons for going to college and how they relate to your career interests
- Continue accessing/using your account on [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)
- Join/Continue participating in clubs and/or athletics



# Junior Year To – Do List

- Continue to meet with your counselor **at least** once a year
- Continue to earn “A”, “B”, and “C” grades in all of your classes (make up classes where you’ve earned lower grades)
- Access virtual college tours (Online)
- **Take the PSAT in October** (When taken Junior year, it is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship)
- Take a **MOCK SAT** and/or **ACT** to experience the test before taking the actual SAT or ACT (The ACT is not administered locally)
- Register for the SAT ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) and/or the ACT
- Talk with your parents/guardians and counselor about colleges that interest you
- Make a list of colleges you are interested in
- Prepare a list of questions to ask on campus visits  
(<http://blog.prepscholar.com/good-questions-to-ask-on-a-college-tour>)
- Visit colleges and talk with college students
- Begin writing a resume

- Begin investigating scholarship opportunities
- Volunteer for activities and clubs related to your career interests
- Get a part-time job, apprenticeship, or internship; or job shadow in a profession that interests you to show colleges that you are responsible and reliable

**What needs to  
get done my  
SENIOR year?**

Senior year is finally here, and it's full of things to do to get ready for college. Use this checklist to keep track of your progress and deadlines for testing, admissions and financial aid.

**August**

- Sign up for the SAT (if you didn't take it as a junior, or if you aren't satisfied with your score, or if you've learned a lot since you first took it.)

**August – September**

- Visit with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and/or fulfill college admission requirements

- Keep working hard all year; second semester grades **WILL** affect scholarship eligibility and college entrance
- Ask for personal references from teachers and school counselors early in the year or at least two weeks before application deadlines. Follow your school's procedure for requesting recommendations.
- Write your college essay(s) and/or personal statement

## **October-November**

- Apply for admission at the colleges you've chosen
- CSU applications begin October 1<sup>st</sup>. UC application submission begins November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please visit college websites for private or out-of-state for timelines/deadlines. (NOTE: November 30 all CSU and UC applications are DUE!)
- Get your "FSA ID" for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)
- Begin the financial aid application process
- Keep track of important financial aid and scholarship deadlines



## **January – May**

- Complete the FAFSA by March 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Watch your email for your Student Aid Report (SAR)- it should arrive 3-5 days after the FAFSA is filed if you provided a valid email address. If using regular mail, SAR will be sent out 7-10 days after filing.
- Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll
- Decide which college to attend, and notify the school of your decision – May 1
- Keep track of and observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork
- Compare financial aid packages from different schools
- Notify your college about any outside scholarships you received
- Notify BHS Counseling Center about any scholarships you received so you can be recognized at the Senior Awards Ceremony

- In May, submit a final transcript request to the appropriate entity because you will need to send an official final transcript to the college you will attend.