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A Campus of the University of Wisconsin Colleges

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Current Issues in Economics and Finance Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Do the Benefits of College Still Outweigh the Costs?

Volume 20, Number 3: 2014

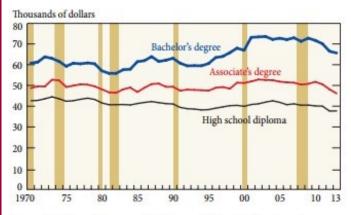
Authors: Jaison R. Abel and Richard Deitz

In recent years, students have been paying more to attend college and earning less upon graduation—trends that have led many observers to question whether a college education remains a good investment. However, an analysis of the economic returns to college since the 1970s demonstrates that the benefits of both a bachelor's degree and an associate's degree still tend to outweigh the costs, with both degrees earning a return of about 15 percent over the past decade. The return has remained high in spite of rising tuition and falling earnings because the wages of those without a college degree have also been falling, keeping the college wage premium near an all-time high while reducing the opportunity cost of going to school.

Read full report online:

http://www.newyorkfed.org/research/current issues/ci20-3.html

Average Annual Wages, by Education 1970-2013



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, March Supplement; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, consumer price index

Notes: Dollar figures are expressed in constant 2013 dollars. Wages are adjusted to control for differences in worker characteristics. The shaded areas indicate periods designated recessions by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

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scholarships!!!



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http://uwmc.uwc.edu/admissions/paying/scholarships

UWMC Scholarships with Separate Applications (also found on UWMC's scholarship webpage)

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