
Is Graduate School Worth it?

Articles for the MASFAA GPCC Symposium



1. [FinAid | Student Financial Aid Policy Analysis](#)

Return to FAA/Educators Student [Financial Aid](#) Policy Analysis This page provides a compilation of selected papers, analysis, reports, presentations and testimony by Mark Kantrowitz concerning student financial aid policy. This list is organized chronologically. A separate page is organized by topic, but may not be as up-to-date as this page.

[FINAID](#)

[NYMC Financial Aid](#) Mark Kantrowitz, Partial Public Service Loan Forgiveness Loophole Will Yield Substantial Financial Benefits to Some Medical School Graduates, December 19, 2011. an hour ago



2. [For Law School Graduates, Debts if Not Job Offers](#)

Here he is, sitting one afternoon at a restaurant on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, a tall, sandy-haired, 27-year-old radiating a kind of surfer-dude serenity. His secret, if that's the right word, is to pretty much ignore all the calls and letters that he receives every day from the dozen or so creditors now hounding him for cash.

[NYTIMES.COM](#)

3. [Law Schools' Applications Fall as Costs Rise and Jobs Are Cut](#)

As of this month, there were 30,000 applicants to law schools for the fall, a 20 percent decrease from the same time last year and a 38 percent decline from 2010, according to the Law [School Admission](#) Council. Of some 200 law schools nationwide, only 4 have seen increases in applications this year.

[ETHAN BRONNER](#)

4. [Why a Business Major is No Longer the Ticket](#)

Getty Images The Great Recession has dramatically changed the way we value a college education. First came the argument that a college degree isn't worth the cost. Now we're bashing the venerable business degree. The backdrop, of course, is historic disappointment with post-graduate opportunities.

[DAN KADLEC](#)



5. [Report: Law Degrees Great For Everything But Lawyering](#)

Law books make excellent beds for when you need a place to sleep (Shutterstock / SMA) Is anyone in 2012 thinking about going to law school? Still nurturing dreams of flying to Geneva to prosecute war crimes after helping Aunt Daisy with her property dispute and shouting at an

[GOTHAMIST](#)



6. [10 Law Degrees With Most Financial Value at Graduation](#)

With tuition increasing at nearly every law school for the 2011-12 school year, incoming students may want to consider the initial value a law degree will render. A legal education can cost upwards of \$150,000, and students, on average, graduate from law school with \$93,359 in debt, according to an analysis of school-reported data to U.S.

[KATY HOPKINS](#)



7. [Law Grads Face a Brutal Job Market](#)

Members of the law-school class of 2011 had little better than a 50-50 shot of landing a job as a lawyer within nine months of receiving a degree, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of new data that provides the most detailed picture yet of the grim market for law jobs.

[WSJ](#)



8. [Law school - still a dodgy investment, analysis suggests](#)

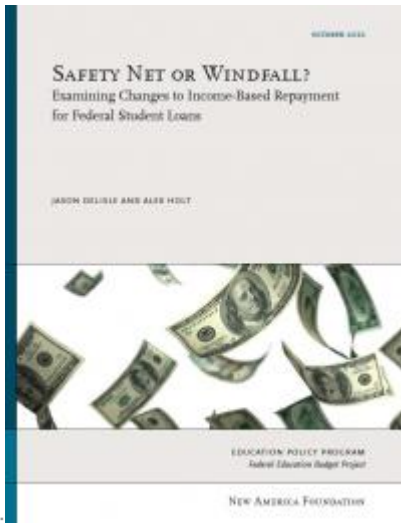
Three years ago, Vanderbilt law professor Herwig Schlunk was among the first academics to use hard salary data to calculate the economic value of a law degree - in essence, to evaluate a J.D. through the lens of an investor.

[LAW](#)

[America's Longest-Serving Law Dean Defends the Value of a Law Degree - People - The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

Rudy Hasl, the longest-serving law dean in America, is stepping down June 30 as dean and president of Thomas Jefferson School of Law, in San Diego. Mr. Hasl, who is 70, has spent 32 years overseeing law schools at Thomas Jefferson and at Saint Louis, St. John's, and Seattle Universities.

[CHRONICLE](#)



[Safety Net or Windfall? | NewAmerica.net](#)

In his 2010 State of the Union address, President Obama urged Congress to change the federal student loan program's existing Income-Based Repayment (IBR) plan, which caps borrowers' payments at 15 percent of their incomes and forgives any remaining debt after 25 years of payments.

[NEWAMERICA](#)



9.

[Is Graduate School Worth It? 6](#)

[Things To Consider Before Taking The Plunge](#)

Is it worth it? Crunch the numbers based on your financial situation and then decide whether or not it makes financial sense. This has been a gold mine of connections for me in that I was able to connect with so many people in my field to discuss their experiences in school, current [career options](#) around salaries and job prospects.

[BUSINESSINSIDER](#)



10.

[Graduate degrees: Are they worth it?](#)

"That," he says, "was not something I intended on doing." In a field that relies on technical expertise in specialties such as international economics, agriculture or democratic governance, and is dominated by those with advanced degrees, Day says his management skills took him only so far.

[WASHINGTONPOST](#)



11.

[Grad School: Still Worth the Money? - Forbes](#)

Harvard Business School Baker Library 2009 (Photo credit: Wikipedia) The recent economic downturn has sparked a media frenzy over the value of graduate school. Pundits and young professionals alike are wondering if grad school is still worth the hefty investment. Law school, in particular, has been maligned by everyone from The [...]

[SHAWN O'CONNOR](#)



12.

[Why is grad school enrollment declining? |](#)

[USA TODAY College](#)

By Jon Fortenbury, Schools.com Recent report showed a 1.7 percent decline in enrollment of first-time graduate students between fall 2010 and fall 2011. More people are applying to grad school and less people are going, according to a report by the Council of Graduate Schools. The report, released in Sept.

[USATODAYEDUCATE](#)



13.

Alamy

[Grad School Math: Which Degrees Are Worth the Debt -](#)

[DailyFinance](#)

With unemployment high and wages stagnant, now's a rough time to be entering the job market. Historically, when an unwelcoming economy awaits, graduating college students tend to run for grad school. But the monetary value of an advanced degree varies greatly depending on major, school, and how much debt you take on to get it.

[BRUCE WATSON](#)



14.

[Why You Should Go to Graduate School in Science](#)

Few people spend 11 years in college. Most stay for four or five before the urge to leave campus and earn a salary kicks in. Barring a thesis defense meltdown, I'll be one of about 50,000 graduate students across the United States and Canada to get a Ph.D. in science...

15. [Grad School Calculator LearnVest](#)

Posted One of the best ways to invest in yourself and increase your earning potential is to get another degree. On average, holders of postgraduate degrees earn 23% to 55% more than those with bachelor's degrees. However, tuition at graduate schools has been skyrocketing in recent years at the same time that funding options have been drying up.

[LEARNVEST](#)

16. [Some Say It's Time to Put a Warning Label on Graduate School - Graduate Students - The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

This isn't just the year of the massive open online course; it's also the year of two other hot topics in higher education- student debt and a barren job market for graduating students. While people in higher education are struggling to adjust realistically to the supply-and-demand changes in the labor market, students need more-transparent information about the pathways into and out of graduate school now.

[CHRONICLE](#)



17.

[School Pays Off](#)

[6 Reasons Why Graduate](#)

Despite the professional success of many who did not earn a college diploma, it is becoming clear that earning an education matters. In addition, an undergraduate degree is increasingly not enough to land the solid, well-paying jobs of the future. What's needed, experts say, is a graduate degree.

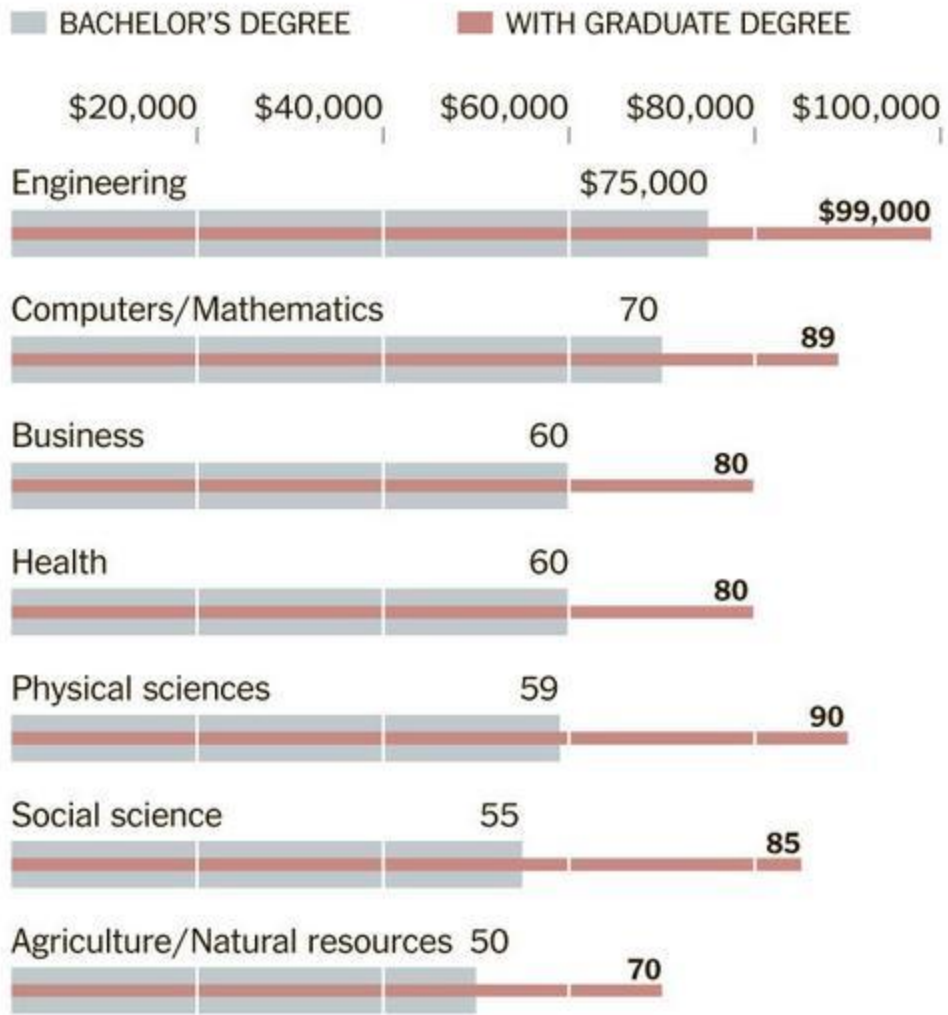
[DR. DON MARTIN](#)

18. [Is Graduate School Worth the Cost?](#)

In tough economic times, many people turn to education. Colleges and universities are seeing record enrollments. Many adults return to college to finish bachelor's degrees that they put on hold years ago to enter fulfilling careers.

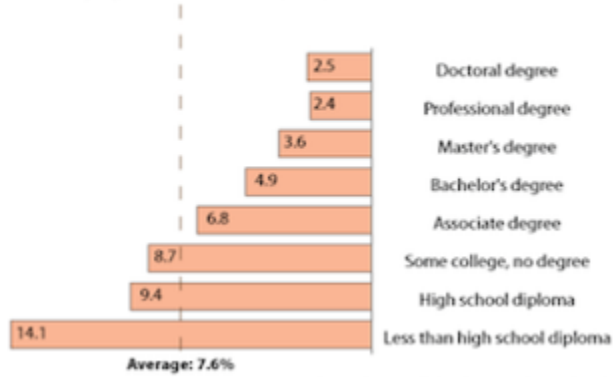
[TARA KUTHER, PH.D.](#)

MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR FULL-TIME WORKERS, 2009

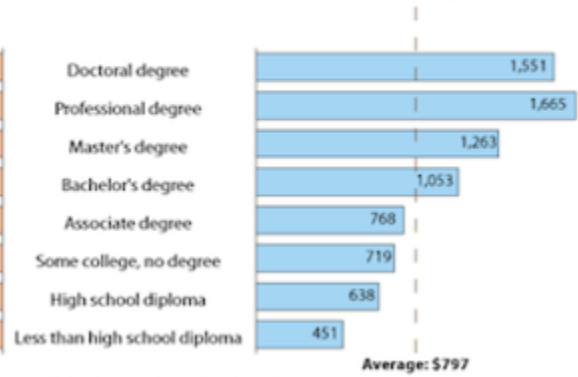


Education Pays

Unemployment rate in 2011 (in %)



Median weekly earnings in 2011 (in \$)

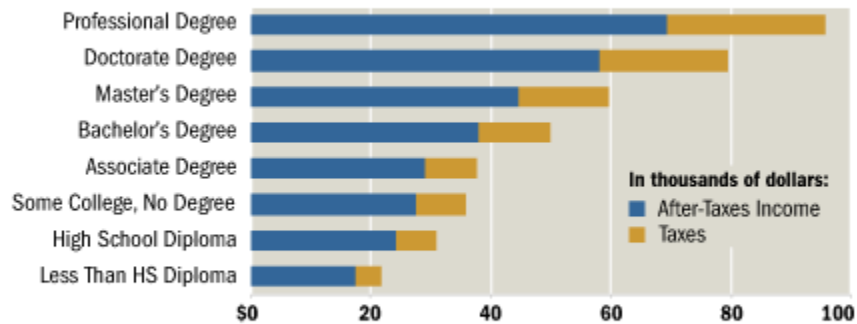


20.

GOOGLE.COM

Education and Earnings

Median Earnings and Tax Payments (in thousands of dollars) by Level of Education, 2003

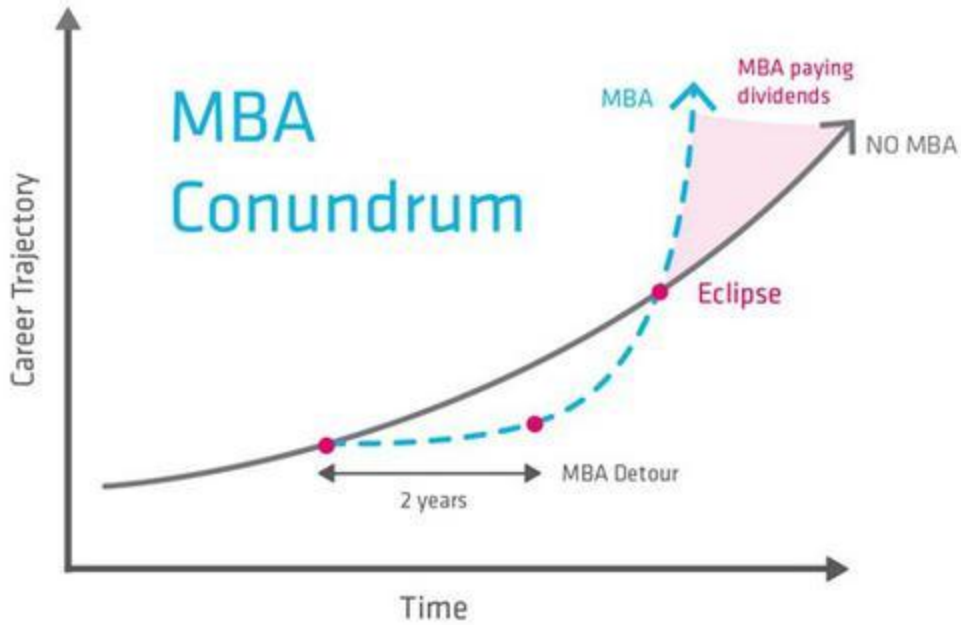


Notes: Includes full-time year-round workers age 25 and older. Tax payments are based on 2002 tax rates and do not incorporate the 2003 federal income tax reductions.

Source: The College Board

21.

GOOGLE.COM



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1.



2.

[DON'T REFORM GRADUATE EDUCATION IN A VACUUM - ADVICE - THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION](#)

IN A TYPICAL WEEK I RECEIVE ABOUT SEVEN E-MAILS FROM GRADUATE STUDENTS AND RECENT PH.D.'S ASKING FOR HELP FINDING A JOB OUTSIDE THE ACADEMY. MOST OF THEM ARE HISTORIANS WHO HAVE FOUND ME THROUGH A WEB SITE I CREATED, BEYOND ACADEME, ABOUT LEAVING HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A NONFACULTY CAREER.

[CHRONICLE](#)



3.

[WHAT ARE LOW-RANKED GRADUATE PROGRAMS GOOD FOR? - RUN YOUR CAMPUS - THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION](#)

WHEN SOCRATES CALLED ON HIS FOLLOWERS TO SEEK "WISDOM AND TRUTH AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF YOUR SOUL" OVER FAME AND PRESTIGE, HE MIGHT HAVE HAD PROFESSORS IN MIND. PROFESSORS REVEL IN REPUTATION-AND NOWHERE DOES THAT SHOW MORE CLEARLY THAN IN OUR CONCERN ABOUT EDUCATIONAL PEDIGREE.

[CHRONICLE](#)