A college education significantly increases lifetime prosperity and economic security for Texans.

Texans with a college education earn, on average, more each year and over their lifetimes than those with a high school diploma.

For every $1 a Texas student invests in out-of-pocket expenses and forgone time and money to attend a public university, they receive a cumulative $3.10 in higher future wages.

The average annual return for each student’s investment is 13.3%.

Median earnings in the past 12 months (in 2016 inflation-adjusted dollars)

- Texans with a high school education (includes equivalency): $27,534
- Texans with a bachelor’s degree: $52,134
- Texans with a graduate or professional degree: $68,165

The Economic Value of Texas Public General Academic Colleges and Universities, “Executive Summary,” January 2015


3-Year average inflation-adjusted earnings summed for ages 25 to 64 by educational attainment for those working more than 32 hours per week and 49 weeks per year.