

DRAFT
FACT SHEET FOR TWO-YEAR EDUCATION

Students

31.6% of students at Two-Year Colleges earn a degree within three years (ACT, 2001).

The average age of a community college student is 29 and a significant number of these attend college part-time, suggesting that these students have many competing priorities in their lives—family, jobs, debts, etc.—which may also cause them to take more time in completing a degree (ACT, 2001).

Most students preparing for future work are training for careers in health sciences and technologies (30 percent), business related fields (17 percent), or computer and information technology (15 percent) (Faces of the Future, 2000).

45 percent of single mothers who enrolled because of a major life change indicated that the cost of childcare or dependent care was a major or moderate problem while taking courses (Faces of the Future, 2000).

72 percent of students who enrolled to upgrade skills and advance their careers indicated that community college had made a major contribution to their learning skills required for their job (Faces of the Future, 2000).

76 percent who enrolled because of a major life change said the community college experience had increased their academic competence; 66 percent said it had helped them build self-confidence (Faces of the Future, 2000).

Earnings

Earnings	Two-Year Vocational Degree	Two-Year College Degree	Bachelors Degree
Avg. weekly earnings	\$708	\$733	\$949
Avg. annual earnings	\$36,833	\$38,118	\$49,344
Annual gain over earnings with no HS diploma	\$15,519	\$16,803	\$28,030
Total 40-year earnings	\$1,473,335	\$1,524,703	\$1,973,760
40-year gain over earnings with no HS diploma	\$620,758	\$672,126	\$1,121,183

Source: (Employment Policy Foundation).

Job Growth

Between 1998 and 2008, civilian employment will increase from 141 million jobs to 161million jobs, or 14 percent (BLS, 2000).

Between 1998 and 2008, jobs requiring an associate degree will increase by 31.2 percent, the largest percentage increase among all educational levels (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2000).

For the decade 1998 to 2008, nine of the top 10 fastest-growing occupations will be found in either the computer or allied health fields. Similarly, the computer technologies and allied health industries will have the largest growth through 2008 (BLS, 2000).