

9.1 The Costs and Benefits of College
Student Activity Packet

UNIT: PAYING FOR COLLEGE & STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Name:

IN THIS LESSON, YOU WILL:

- Use box plots to analyze salaries for different educational situations
- Explain the pros and cons of college
- List the different costs associated with attending college
- Analyze income differences for varying education levels



INTRO

QUESTION OF THE DAY: How much more per hour does a college grad earn compared to someone with some college?

Answer the question on the first slide in the space below. Then, compare your answer to the answer on the second slide. Finally, follow your teacher's directions on how to answer the follow-up questions on the last slide.

1. **How much more per hour does a college grad earn compared to someone with some college?**



LEARN IT

VIDEO: Work or College?

Before we can start talking about the costs of college, we have to first consider its **value** to you. Is college necessary for you? Are there better options for your desired occupation? Watch this brief video about the decision to work or go to college. Then, answer the questions.

1. **Besides money, what other factors do you need to consider when choosing to go college?**

2. **What are some of the benefits of choosing to work instead of going to college? What are the potential downsides of choosing this path?**

ARTICLE: [Is College Worth The Cost? Pros Vs. Cons](#)

As the price of college rises, a common question that arises is “Is college worth the cost?” Read the article. Then, answer the questions.

- 1. According to the article, what is the average yearly tuition for attending a four-year college?**

 - 2. Which reasons are the most important to you when deciding whether to go to college? Choose one reason college IS worth it and one reason college ISN'T worth it.**

 - 3. Give an example of a situation where going to college might not be the best option for you.**
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DATA CRUNCH: [What's the Value of a College Major?](#)

Analyze the data and answer the questions on this worksheet to complete the Data Crunch.

ARTICLE: [Quick Guide: College Costs](#)

The cost of college is more than just tuition! Read the article about other costs that you might incur. Then, answer the questions.

- 1. What are some ways that you can lower some of the costs of college beyond tuition?**
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INFOGRAPHIC: [Sticker Price vs Net Cost](#)

A lot of big numbers get thrown around when it comes to college. Three that you might hear a lot are Sticker Price, Net Price, and Value. Read the infographic to summarize these terms. Then, answer the question.

- 1. When comparing the cost of colleges, is it more important to look at sticker price or net price? Explain your reasoning.**

- 2. For each statement, circle the words that make the statement true.**
 - Assuming you have scholarships, the sticker price will be (MORE, LESS) than the net price?

- b. As college costs rise, the added value of a college degree (INCREASES, DECREASES)



MATH CONNECTION - COMPARING SALARIES USING BOX PLOTS

As you've seen, more education typically leads to higher paying jobs. In this activity, you are going to analyze salary data by education level, then research your own career interests to see how they compare to national averages.

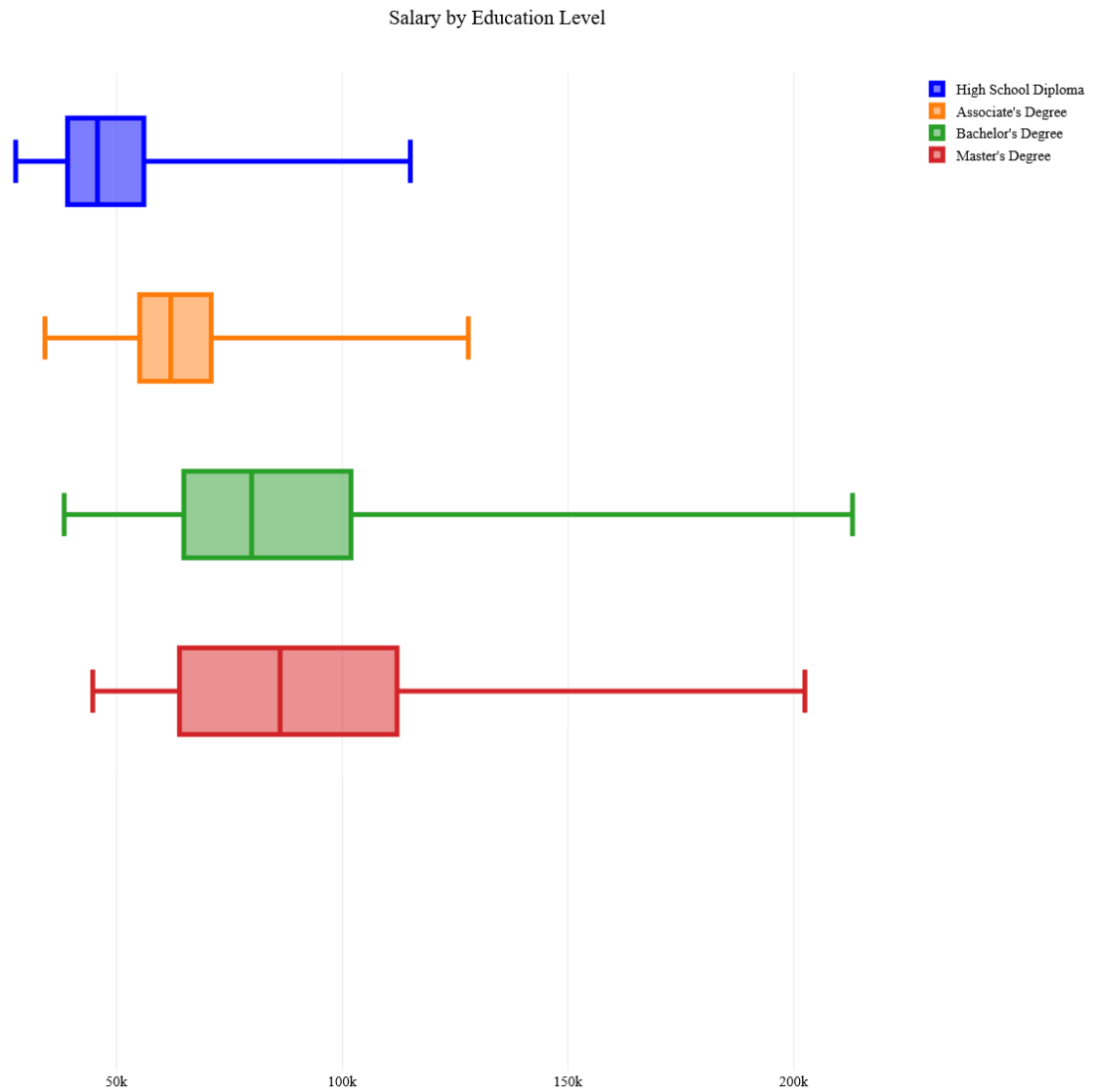
1. Visit [CareerOneStop's Occupation Lookup](#) and search for 6 careers that interest you. (Leave the Location field blank when searching)
 - a. List the median annual salary for each career in the table below. For any careers that list hourly wage, multiply by 2080 to convert to annual salary.
 - b. Find the Education and Experience section and note any college required for your career

Career	Median Annual Salary	Education

2. Find the five number summary for your selected careers.

Minimum	
First Quartile	
Median	
Third Quartile	
Maximum	

3. Create a box plot of your chosen careers data below the Master's Degree plot on the chart below



[Data Source](#)

