

Commercial & Industrial Designer

Description: Develop and design manufactured products, such as cars, home appliances, and children's toys. Combine artistic talent with research on product use, marketing, and materials to create the most functional and appealing product design.

Education/Training: Bachelor's degree

Annual Median Salary: \$48,800

Fact is, the more thought-training you have, the more you'll earn. A recent U.S. Census bureau study showed that people like you will rake in more, over time, if they complete college. The census data show that:

- Those with an associate degree earn salaries 26 percent higher than those with only a high school diploma.

- Those with a bachelor's degree had salaries 57 percent higher than those with only a high school diploma.

- Those with master's degrees had salaries 90 percent higher than those with only a high school diploma.

Biomedical Engineer

Description: Apply knowledge of engineering, biology, and biomechanical principles to the design, and development of biological and health products, such as artificial organs, prostheses, instrumentation, and medical information systems.

Training/Education:
Bachelor's degree

Annual Median Salary:
\$57,500

What does it take to succeed?

But it's not as simple as just enrolling. It takes three things

Kentuckians are known for nationally on the basketball court and athletic fields – drive, ambition and out-of-the-box thinking. A recent study of college students by the Chronicle of Higher Education showed that those most likely to succeed, and earn the highest salaries after graduation, weren't those who floated through their college years. They didn't try to ride on a strong SAT or ACT score. They worked hard. They surrounded themselves with friends who were working as hard – maybe harder – than they were. And they took the time to build networks with people.

A college or university isn't merely a catalog. It's a vast collection of people – people who have been around the block. They've been doctors, lawyers, engineers,

nurses, journalists, graphic artists, poets, lobbyists, military officers,

chiefs of state. They know things that can help you get where you want to go.

Smart college and university students find people like this and take classes from them – more than that, they track them down during office hours and pick their brains with questions. They buy them coffee and wear them out with even more questions. They don't just study and get good grades. They soak up all they can.

Of course all that takes time – which is why college is worth the months and years (and the money) you set aside for it. Two years at a junior college or four years at a liberal arts institution or university is the life-space

you need to sit back and look at the career or vocational landscape.

You don't want to settle for a job you can live with. You want a vocation or profession that you love. And to find it, you have to take time to look inside yourself and find out who you are. Workplace managers don't have a lot of patience for that. But your academic adviser – or that faculty member you find who takes time to listen to you – will go beyond patience. The best of them will encourage you to dream, and dream big. They'll help you find the people and opportunities to reach those dreams.

Anesthesiologist

Description: Administer anesthetics during surgery or other medical procedures.

Educational/Training: First professional degree

Annual Median Salary: \$145,600

Athletic Trainer

Description: Evaluate, advise, and treat athletes to assist recovery from injury, avoid injury, or maintain peak physical fitness.

Educational/Training: Bachelor's degree

Annual Median Salary: \$32,100

What if I fail?

But don't college dreams fail? Some do. Be glad. Research shows that some of the most successful professionals are those who were willing to try things that could flop in a big way. In fact, such flops have been shown to be one of the best routes to really big success.

Sometimes we don't find out what we love until we see what we

hate (in many varieties). And it's better to stumble in a college exercise than in a big-budget workplace project. College is all about trying again. Workplace failures can bring fallout from which you never recover – or do so only with enormous difficulty.

The bottom line is flexibility. A college or university degree helps your earning power by making what career-counselors call a "life-long learner." That is, you know how to find out when you don't know. College helps you with that. Maybe most importantly, college preparation can develop in you the intellectual humility to know that you probably don't know as much as you think you do – which makes you more willing to check out what the real answers are. That mindset can become a hedge against uncertainty.

Nobody knows what will happen to the national economy in coming years. The career track or vocational plan you set for yourself could become out-moded before you graduate. Scary? Nah. That's the