

After high school

Most young adults recognize the value of college to their future, but about one in three do not go on to any form of higher education, a recent survey shows.

Percentage of young adults who agree that it's easier to move up in a company with a college degree

Black	89%
Hispanic	94%
Asian American	89%
White, non-Hispanic	92%

Reasons they give for not going

I wanted to work and make money	49%
I couldn't afford it	46%
I had too many other responsibilities	46%
I had enough of school and didn't want to go anymore	28%
My grades were too low	24%
My career goals didn't require a college degree	24%

Percentage of employed young adults who say that their current job ...

Have a degree*	56%
No degree	70%
was chosen by chance	32%
is a career	15%
is a stepping-stone to a career	37%
is just a job to get by	48%

* Includes those who have completed a four- or two-year college, or vocational school program

About this survey: based on telephone interviews with a national random sample of 1,000 young adults aged 18-25 conducted between Aug. 14 and Sept. 4, 2004; margin of error is ± 3 percentage points, higher for subgroups.

SOURCE: Public Agenda

Finances create obstacle between students, college

College-age adults see value in secondary education, but lack motivation, encouragement and energy

BY BEN FELLER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Young adults value college, but many haven't enrolled because of money woes, poor preparation, low expectations at home or sheer laziness, a survey finds.

The result is that seven in 10 young workers without college degrees say they are in their jobs by chance, not by choice. Less than two in 10 view their jobs as likely careers.

Overall, most adults age 18 to 25 see college as a way to earn society's respect and ensure financial security, says the survey by Public Agenda, a nonpartisan public opinion group. The positive view of college is true regardless of race, ethnicity or family income.

"Most young people have absorbed the 'Go to college, get more education' message," said Ruth Wooden, the Public Agenda president. "Whether they're getting the nuts-and-bolts, real-life help and guidance they need to reach that goal — to actually succeed in graduating from college — is another matter."

Roughly one in three young Americans does not go on to any form of higher education, and many of those who enroll don't end up graduating, the report says, quoting Census figures.

Other recent analyses offer even lower rates of college enrollment and completion, which has helped fuel a national interest in improving the rigor of high school. Those who graduate from a four-year college tend to have lower unemployment and higher earnings.

The new findings come from random phone interviews of 1,000 young adults last year, plus oversampling to ensure representation of black, Hispanic and Asian adults. The tally includes those with college degrees, college students, college dropouts and full-time workers.

Almost half of those who never enrolled or dropped out said college wasn't for them because they wanted to work and make money. Almost as many said they couldn't afford college.

Yet by age 33, the typical college graduate has earned enough to compensate for both the cost of attending a four-year public school and for earnings passed up during the college years, said Gaston Caperton, president of the nonprofit College Board.

"We need to address disconcerting evidence that the cost of higher education is a deterrent, and in some cases a deal-breaker, for many students," Caperton said.

There are other obstacles, too.

Almost eight in 10 adults without a college degree acknowledged they could have paid more attention and worked harder in high school. More than half said their high school teachers made it easy to do just enough to get by.

And only 32 percent of young adults without a degree said parents strongly expected them to go to college — a huge gap from the 67 percent with degrees who got such encouragement.

The survey's margin of sampling error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Among other findings:

— Almost nine in 10 young adults expect their financial circumstances to improve by age 30, and most of them expect that improvement to be significant.

— Three in four young Asian American adults think they will be financially better off than their parents, and almost as many blacks and Hispanics say the same about themselves. Not as many white adults — 57 percent — are as optimistic.

— Almost nine in 10 young adults agreed "college is not for everyone."

Wyoming 'diploma mills' criticized for non-accreditation

BY MEAD GRUVER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — The campus of American Capital University has no tree-shaded quadrangle, no stately old buildings or libraries, no classrooms, no fraternity houses — not even a student curled up with a book in a quiet corner.

There's just a middle-aged man who sits at a computer in a tiny, un-decorated, windowless office in the basement of a downtown building.

But in a sense, this fellow — Bill Allen, American Capital University's chief academic officer — has lots of company: Wyoming licenses 10 other online schools that are not accredited by any mainstream organization and maintain only a token physical presence in the state.

Defenders of such schools say Wyoming is forward-thinking for accepting a relatively inexpensive way

for working adults to get degrees in their spare time through mail and Internet courses. But others say the state has become a haven for diploma mills.

"People start to giggle if you say 'Wyoming-licensed school,' if you know about accreditation," said George Gollin, a University of Illinois physics professor and crusader against diploma mills, which are schools that offer degrees for little or no academic work.

Because of loose state requirements, more online schools are popping up in Wyoming than anywhere else, according to Steven Crow, executive director of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the regional school accreditation agency.

"Most other states have enough rigor in how they determine who can operate as a college and grant degrees that it's not as easy for places to get started," he said.

Online schools flourish in Wyoming

Due to loose state requirements, more online schools are found in Wyoming than in any other state. Defenders of such schools say they are a relatively inexpensive way for working adults to get degrees in their spare time. Others say the state has become a haven for diploma mills.

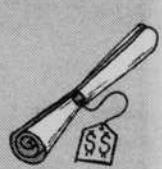
Telltale signs of a bogus school or diploma mill



School's name sounds like or looks like that of a well-known college or university or is relatively new or has changed its name.



Few or unspecified degree requirements or none at all.



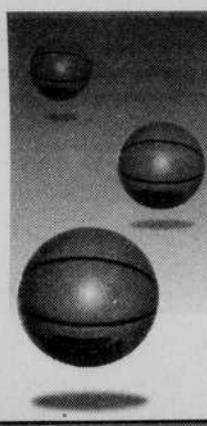
Tuition is charged by the degree, not per credit, course or semester.

Check to see if the school is accredited by a recognized legitimate agency. The U.S. Department of Education keeps a database of accredited institutions on their Web site at www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation.

SOURCE: Federal Trade Commission

AP

FULL DUCK BASKETBALL COVERAGE



every Friday in the Oregon Daily Emerald's sports section

THIS WEEK:

Washington and Washington State

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of OREGON

Women of the Philippines, Pacific Islands and of Asian Descent

The Fertility Center of Oregon seeks women of specific ancestry to assist two local infertile couples in having families. Egg donors are compensated \$2,500 for this simple procedure. Must be 21 to 31 years old. For more information call Christine at 541.302.2374.

3rd Annual RELATIONSHIP CHECK-UP

Center for Family Therapy is offering a FREE one-hour private therapy consultation.

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- Identify strengths, needs, areas for growth and change

Refreshments & Great Prizes!
Walk-ins welcome!

The Center for Family Therapy is an affordable counseling agency staffed with graduate intern counselors from the Marriage and Family Therapy program at the College of Education, University of Oregon.

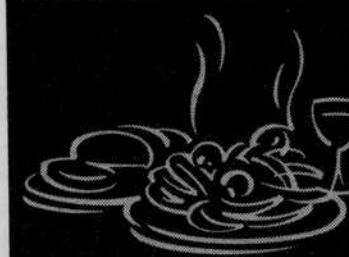


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