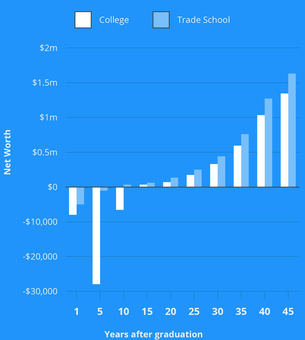
COLLEGE VS. TRADE SCHOOL

WHICH IS BETTER?

In the last 40 years, the cost of college has skyrocketed, leaving many wondering **if it's worth it**. We crunched the data to find out.

COLLEGE VS. TRADE SCHOOL WHICH HAS A BETTER ROI?



COLLEGE	TRADE SCHOOL
ROI: 15X	ROI: 22X
COST (public, 4-yr, in-state): $87,800	COST (private, 2-yr, non-profit): $31,580
STUDENT DEBT: $32,731	STUDENT DEBT: $10,000
STARTING SALARY: $51,347	STARTING SALARY: $38,005
LIFETIME EARNINGS: $3,249,029	LIFETIME EARNINGS: $2,628,404
TOTAL AMOUNT SAVED: $256,673*	TOTAL AMOUNT SAVED: $207,643*
RETIREMENT ACCOUNT BALANCE: $953,790**	RETIREMENT ACCOUNT BALANCE: $1,190,657**

*Assumes national average personal savings rate
**Assumes an average yearly return of 10% on savings

THE PRO'S AND CON'S

COLLEGE DEGREES		TRADE JOBS
HIGHER STARTING SALARY The additional education means more money every year once you graduate.	VS	**START EARNING SOONER** Trade schools are typically only 2 years, meaning you can start earning earlier.
HIGHER LIFETIME EARNINGS Higher salaries mean you earn more over your life with a bachelor's degree.	VS	**BETTER ROI** Trade school pays itself back many times more than college over a lifetime.
GREATER LIFETIME SAVINGS Because you earn more, you have more to save each year.	VS	**LARGER RETIREMENT ACCOUNT** Less debt plus starting work 2 years earlier means more time for savings to earn a return.
GREATER CAREER FLEXIBILITY Only 27% of college grads have a job related to their field of study.	VS	**"IN-FIELD" JOB LIKELY** Trades are specific skills and a job in your field is likely upon graduation.

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Sources available at:
https://www.housecallpro.com/learn/trade-school-vs-college