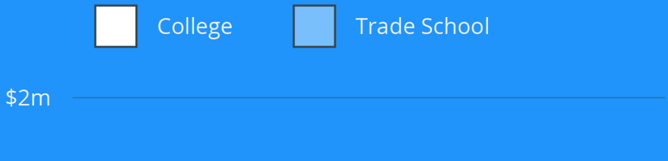
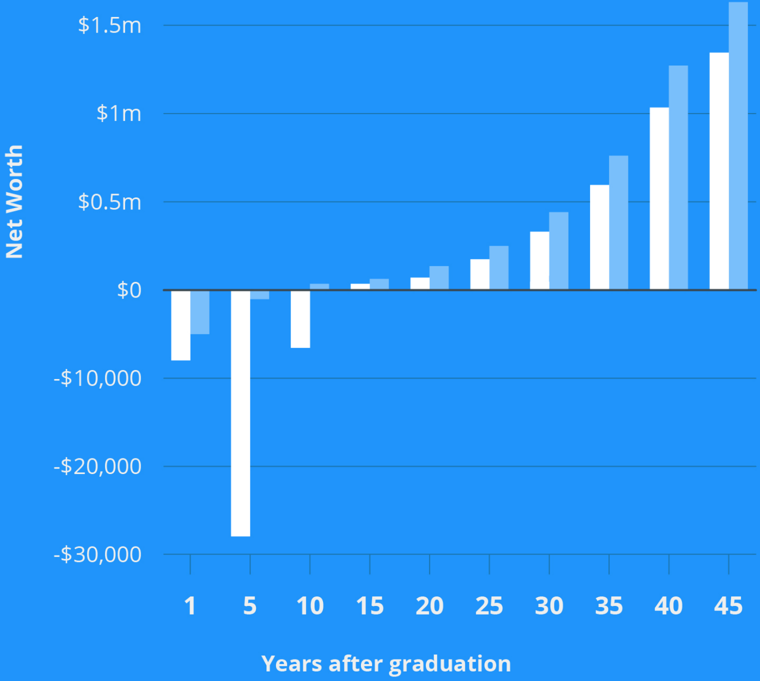
COLLEGE VS. TRADE SCHOOL

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)	**COST** (private, 2-yr, non-profit)
$87,800	$31,580
STUDENT DEBT	**STUDENT DEBT**
$32,731	$10,000
STARTING SALARY	**STARTING SALARY**
$51,347	$38,005
LIFETIME EARNINGS	**LIFETIME EARNINGS**
$3,249,029	$2,628,404
TOTAL AMOUNT SAVED	**TOTAL AMOUNT SAVED**
$256,673*	**$207,643***

RETIREMENT ACCOUNT BALANCE

$953,790**

RETIREMENT ACCOUNT BALANCE

$1,190,657**

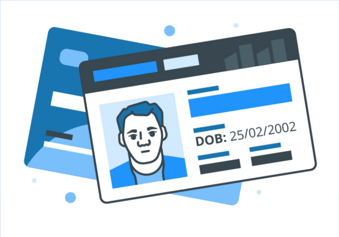
*Assumes national average personal savings rate
**Assumes an average yearly return of 10% on savings

THE PRO’S AND CON’S

COLLEGE DEGREES

TRADE JOBS

HIGHER STARTING SALARY



START EARNING SOONER

The additional education means more money every year once you graduate.

VS

Trade schools are typically only 2 years, meaning you can start earning earlier.

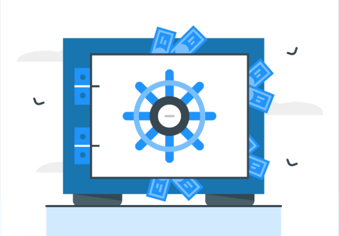
HIGHER LIFETIME EARNINGS

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.



WISH YOU WERE HERE!

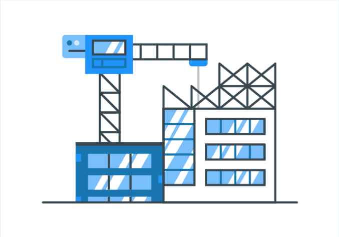
GREATER LIFETIME SAVINGS

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.

Housecall Pro

Sources available at:

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