Postsecondary Earnings Comparison Dashboard

Explore and Compare Graduate Earnings Across U.S. Institutions

Explore the tool to discover data-driven insights into how postsecondary education connects with real-world earnings outcomes.

Overview

The Postsecondary Earnings Comparison Dashboard is an interactive Tableau tool designed to explore the earnings outcomes of college and university graduates across the United States. The dashboard presents the 25th, 50th (median), and 75th percentile of annualized earnings for graduates by state and institution. Users can compare earnings across different institutions, programs, and graduate cohorts using a variety of filters.

Intended Audience

This dashboard is intended to serve a broad range of stakeholders, including:

- **State Higher Education Officials:** Evaluate outcomes across institutions and degree programs to inform policy and funding.
- **Institutional Employees:** Benchmark earnings outcomes and identify areas for improvement or promotion.
- **Prospective Students and Families:** Compare postsecondary earnings to make more informed decisions about where and what to study.

Key Questions This Tool Can Help Answer

- How do earnings compare for similar programs across different colleges or universities?
- What is the earnings range for graduates in a specific program of study after graduation?
- How do outcomes differ between two-year and four-year institutions in a particular state?
- Which institutions show the highest median earnings in a given program of study?
- How do earnings change over time (one, five, and 10 years) after graduation?

Data Sources

All data in this dashboard comes from the [Postsecondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO)](#) dataset, developed by the U.S. Census Bureau in collaboration with higher education institutions and the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program. The data is compiled by linking institution-provided graduate records to national employment and earnings data through the U.S. Census Bureau's infrastructure. This allows for anonymized, high-quality insights into graduate earnings across time and geography.

Important Caveats

- **Limited Institutional Participation:** Earnings data is only available for graduates from institutions participating in the PSEO Coalition. Institutions not in the PSEO Coalition are not represented.
- **Lagging but Current Data:** There is a natural lag in the availability of data, as it takes time to collect post-graduation outcomes. However, updates occur periodically throughout the year.
- **Geographic Variability:** Earnings outcomes may be influenced by the geographic distribution of graduates' employment and residence, which can vary significantly across institutions.
- **Annualized Earnings:** The figures shown are annualized, not actual reported salaries, to allow consistent comparisons across timeframes and graduates.