



PRESS RELEASE

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New Salary Surfer Data Show Big Wage Gains for Students Who Earn Associate Degrees or Certificates at California Community Colleges

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – It pays to complete your degree: earning a degree or certificate from a California community college continues to deliver a remarkable return on investment, according to updated analysis on [Salary Surfer](#) data. The online tool allows students and the public to view aggregated median earnings of those who complete a certificate or degree in a specific community college discipline and then enter the workforce.

Students who complete an associate degree more than double their annual pre-degree earnings after two years in the workforce and nearly triple their pre-degree earnings after five years in the workforce. About 48 percent of students who graduated with an associate degree earned \$56,000 or more annually five years after getting their degree. That is the median wage of someone with a bachelor's degree living in California, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Students who complete a certificate nearly double their pre-degree earnings after five years in the workforce. About 44 percent of students who graduated with a certificate earned \$56,000 or more annually five years after graduating.

The new Salary Surfer data are also available on the [Here to Career](#) mobile app. The app, created by the Foundation for California Community Colleges, in collaboration with the Chancellor's Office and Young Invincibles, provides access to information about California Community College education opportunities and awareness of careers that can increase earning potential. Here to Career uses personalized career pathway matching features to expose students to diverse career options available in their area. This information helps students make informed education and career decisions that lead to greater economic opportunities and professional success.

"This proves once again that earning a degree or certificate from a California community college can lead students to a well-paying career," California Community Colleges Chancellor [Eloy Ortiz Oakley](#) said. "While potential earnings should not be the only factor in choosing a future career path, completing a degree or certificate from one of our 113 colleges pays off, for students, families and the state of California."

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Note: Please see attached infographics for more detailed analysis, including the degrees and certificates with the highest median incomes.

Salary Surfer displays median annual incomes for those who complete 179 of the most widely enrolled program areas and do not transfer to a four-year institution.

The data show the median earnings for community college graduates two years prior to earning the award, then two years and five years after earning either a certificate or degree. Salary Surfer also provides information on which of the system's colleges offer programs in a specific discipline.

Wage information comes from an agreement between the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the California Employment Development Department. For privacy purposes, all results are aggregated across campuses statewide and over five years. Additionally, all wages displayed have been indexed to current year dollar figures.

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 113 colleges serving 2.1 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>.

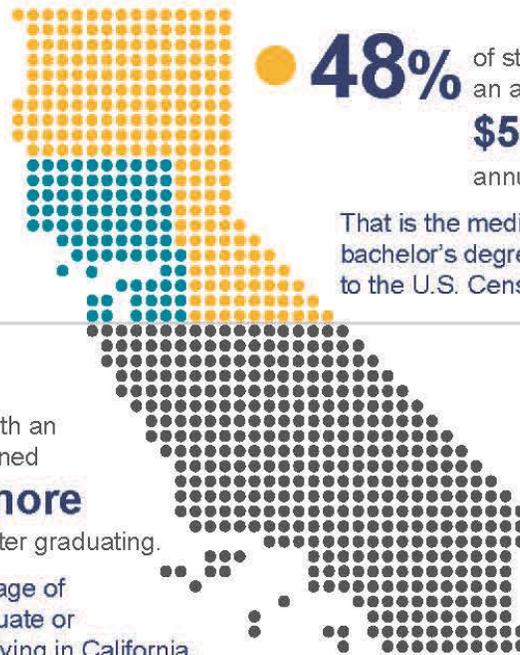
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California Community Colleges students who complete an associate degree more than **DOUBLE** their annual pre-degree earnings after two years in the workforce...



...and nearly **TRIPLE** their pre-degree earnings after five years in the workforce.



48% of students who graduated with an associate degree earned **\$56,000 or more** annually five years after graduating.

That is the median wage of someone with a bachelor's degree living in California, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

29% of those graduates with an associate degree earned **\$79,000 or more** annually five years after graduating. That is the median wage of someone with a graduate or professional degree living in California, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

\$\$\$ Median wages five years after associate degree award:

- VOCATIONAL DISCIPLINES **\$67,560**
- NON-VOCATIONAL DISCIPLINES **\$39,696**

Certificates with the **highest** median incomes five years after award include:



Physician Assistant

\$112,127



Electrical Systems and Power Transmission

\$110,829



Radiation Therapy Technician

\$98,185

Visit www.SalarySurfer.cccco.edu or download the **Here to Career** app to learn more about careers that can increase your earning potential.

SalarySurfer

It **Pays** to Complete Your Certificate!

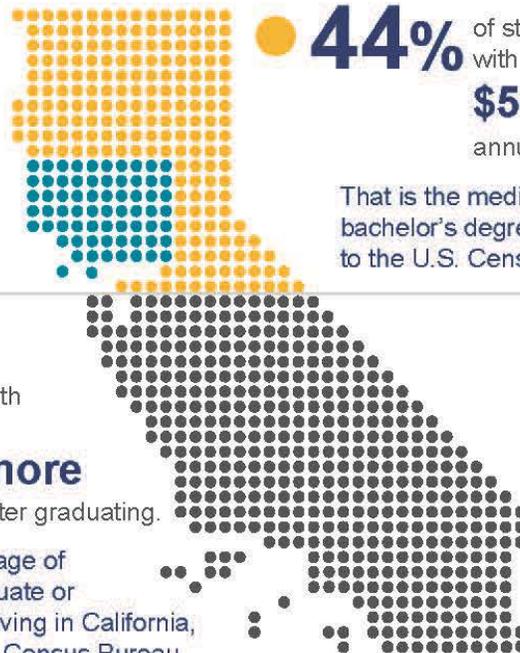


California Community Colleges

students who complete a certificate nearly

DOUBLE

their pre-degree earnings after five years in the workforce.



44% of students who graduated with a certificate earned **\$56,000 or more** annually five years after graduating.

That is the median wage of someone with a bachelor's degree living in California, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

24% of those graduates with a certificate earned **\$79,000 or more** annually five years after graduating.

That is the median wage of someone with a graduate or professional degree living in California, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Certificates with the **highest** median incomes five years after award include:



Electrical Systems and Power Transmission

\$137,526



Laser and Optical Technology

\$104,773



Physician Assistant

\$103,228

Visit www.SalarySurfer.cccco.edu or download the **Here to Career** app to learn more about careers that can increase your earning potential.



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES, CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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