



Why Go To College?

Answer: How about... a good job!

Can't I get a good job now?

Yes, maybe you could, but statistics are against you. Consider these average 2000 earnings:

High school dropout—\$22,152 a year

High school graduate—\$30,680 a year

*College graduate—\$53,248 a year
(Bachelor's Degree)*

Sometimes it's hard to stay in school if you think you need to be working to earn money. But if you finish high school and go on to college, you'll have a wider variety of jobs to choose from, and you'll earn more—especially in the long run.

But I don't know what career to go into!

If you're having trouble deciding what to do, talk to your school counselor. Ask about taking an aptitude test or interest inventory. And remember, you don't have to know exactly what career you want before you start college; often a year or two of college helps a student explore different subject areas and decide on one.

Doesn't college cost a lot of money?

Think of college as an investment: you spend money now so you can earn more later. Take a look at www.ed.gov/studentaid for information about the student aid programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education. You can also call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at **1-800-4-FED-AID** (1-800-433-3243) and ask for a free copy of *Funding Your Education*—or access it at www.ed.gov/prog_info/SFA/FYE

