

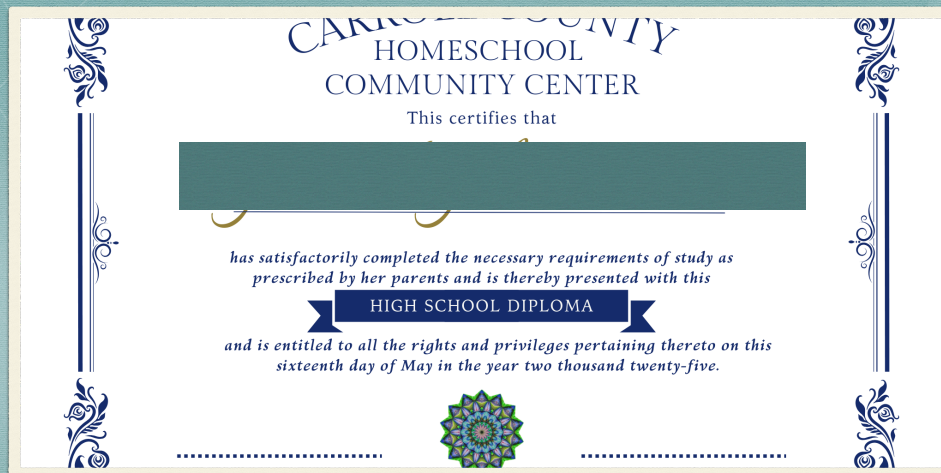
Homeschooling High School

State Graduation Requirements

- *1 Computer Science, Technology Education, or Engineering Credit
- *4 English Credits: Comprehension of literary & informational texts, writing, speaking, listening, language, and literacy
- *1 Fine Arts Credit: dance, media arts, music, theater, or visual art
- *1 Health Credit
- *4 Math Credits (must include Algebra I and Geometry)
- *1 Physical Education
- *3 Social Studies Credits: U.S., World, and Government
- *3 Science Credits: Life, Physical, and Earth/Space.
- *2 World Language or ASL Credits
- *State-Approved CTE program and/or 3-9 elective hours (minimum 25 credits needed to graduate)
- *.5 Personal Finance & 75 Service-Learning Hours

Homeschooling High School Requirements

- * Provide regular, thorough instruction in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age;
- * Include instruction in English, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health, and physical education; and
- * Take place regularly during the school year and be of sufficient duration to implement the instruction program.
- * The home instruction program may include enrollment on a part-time or full-time basis in courses offered by accredited or unaccredited colleges.



The Diploma Doesn't Matter!!!

(But we will issue one from the community center, signed by the parents, for all students who attend some classes with us in high school.

What Does Matter?

- * The transcript! We have a free [transcript filler link](#) right on our site.
- * Keeping the doors open for college, trade school, a job directly after high school, and/or life by providing thorough preparation in a variety of areas.
- * No one will ever ask to see your diploma. You have the option of testing out at 16 and getting a GED, which will give you a diploma, but your parent/guardian-issued diploma is worth just as much, and without the test.
- * A hearty transcript showing a full and interesting high school experience will likely be more valuable than an early GED.

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT

Student Information		School Information	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City:		Phone Number:	
State/Postal Code:		Email Address:	
Phone Number:			
Gender:		Parent/Guardian:	
Date of Birth:			

Grade Level 9			Grade Level 10		
Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Title	Credit	Grade

Grade Level 11			Grade Level 12		
Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Title	Credit	Grade

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT

ACADEMIC SUMMARY	LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL GRADE	GPA
Cumulative GPA:	A	90-100	4.0
Total Credits:	B	80-89	3.0
Academic School Years:	C	70-79	2.0
Diploma Earned:	D	60-69	1.0
Graduation Date:	F	0-59	0.0

I do hereby self-certify and affirm that this is the official transcript and record of (student's name) in the academic studies of (academic years).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your transcripts don't need to be boring like this one...

Date	Standardized Test	Verbal	Writing	Math	Composite

I do hereby self-certify and affirm that this is the official transcript and record of (student's name) in the academic studies of (academic years).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Family Homeschool Student Transcript					
Student Information			School Information		
Grade 9			Grade 10		
H English 9: Westward Journey Lit & Writing	Grade	Credits	H English 10: World Lit Classics & Writing	Grade	Credits
H Algebra I	1.0		H Geometry	1.0	
H Earth Science w/Lab	1.0		H Biology w/Lab	1.0	
H Environmental Science w/ Lab	1.0		Forest Lab 1: Tracking & Wilderness Skills	0.5	
H Technology Lab 1: High Tech Tools	1.0		H Technology Lab 2: Maker Space Projects	1.0	
H Health	1.0		H World History	1.0	
H American History	1.0		Speech & Debate	1.0	
Psychology	1.0		H Spanish 3	1.0	
H Spanish 2	1.0		Theater 1	1.0	
Studio Art 1	1.0		Studio Art 2	1.0	
P.E.: Hiking & Biking	0.5		P.E. Hiking & Pilates	0.5	
		Credits			Credits
		10.5			10
Grade 11			Grade 12		
H English 11: Modern Literature & Writing	Grade	Credits	H English 12: Film as Lit & Writing	Grade	Credits
DE Keyboarding	0.5		H Globetrotting Personal Finance	1.0	
H Algebra II	1.0		Pre-Calculus	1.0	
H Chemistry w/Lab	1.0		H Physics w/Lab	1.0	
Forest Lab 2: Native & Invasive Plants	0.5		Forest Lab 3: Environmental Stewardship	0.5	
H Technology Lab 3: Model Engineering	1.0		H Technology Lab 4: CAD & Robotics	1.0	
Greek History	0.5		H American Government	1.0	
College & Career Prep	0.5		H History of Africa & Asia	1.0	
H Spanish 4	1.0		H Project Management	0.5	
DE Spanish 100	1.0		H Spanish 5	1.0	
DE Spanish 102	1.0		Studio Art 4	1.0	
Studio Art 3	1.0		Intro to Architecture	1.0	
Theater 2	1.0		P.E.: Yoga & Stand-Up Paddleboarding	0.5	
P.E. Canoeing & Yoga	0.5				Credits
		Credits			11.5
Key:					
		Subjects	Credits		
1 pt added for weight:					
H = Honors		English Language Arts	Completed Credits: 43.5		
DE = Dual-Enrollment		Maths	Overall Percentage Grade		
		Science & Technology	Unweighted GPA		
		Social Sciences	Weighted GPA		
		Foreign Language			
		Arts			
		Fitness			

You can make your transcript your own. It does not need to look exactly like a public school transcript.

Course descriptions should accompany the transcript if your child applies to college or trade school. Don't overthink these!

When your child takes a class or you use a curriculum, save the syllabus and use that to guide you.

Sociology Syllabus

Eli Persing, LMSW epersing@gmail.com

Course Description

This introductory sociology course invites students to explore the scientific study of human social behavior and institutions. It encourages students to develop a "sociological imagination," allowing them to connect personal experiences to broader social forces and analyze the world around them critically. We'll delve into the concepts and theories sociologists use to understand society, examining how individuals are shaped by and contribute to social structures, groups, and cultural norms.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Define sociology & apply the sociological perspective to the study of human behavior.
- Analyze social phenomena using sociological concepts, theories, & theoretical perspectives.
- Identify methods for sociological research along with their benefits and drawbacks.
- Explore the significance of culture & its impact on socialization, behavior, & social structures
- Examine the role of social institutions in shaping social and individual behavior & action.
- Explain how systems of social inequality, including racism, sexism, & classism, affect the human experience.

Topics

Sociological theory & methods, culture, socialization, gender roles, groups, conformity, deviance, imprisonment, race, class, gender, family & other social institutions (e.g. politics, economics), education, Inequalities, & Globalization

Classroom Policies & Technology

- Cell phones are to be silenced and stored in your backpack.
- Bring your personal-best attention to each class, and fully participate in all activities.
- If you have a question, please raise your hand, as others probably need that answer, too.
- You will gain the most from this class if you also do the additional out-of-class assignments, as they enrich the in-class content.

Grading & Credit information

Our class will have core lessons (lecture), interactive activities, videos, & optional enrichment homework which includes note-taking worksheets and quizzes. You are in charge of tracking your hours so your parent(s) can assign credit and a grade on your transcript.

- 1 year of this class is 30 total hours, which is .25 credits. Do an hour a week of the homework, and you'll have a total of 60 hours, or .5 credits.
- If you study for your CLEP Sociology Test, you will easily gain a full high school credit. If you score 50 or above on the CLEP Sociology Test, you will receive 3 transferrable college credits. We encourage you to pursue this, as it is one of the easier CLEP exams.

De-Mystify Homeschool

Homeschooling still mystifies many. Tell them:

- The type of class (with peers? Online? Live or Asynchronous)
- Who graded them or assessed to see what they knew?
- What text or curriculum was used?
- What field trips or projects were involved?
- **Start these course descriptions as soon as high school begins.**
- **Showing evidence that you were not their only teacher is good, so grades are more likely to be taken seriously.**

Sample Course Description 1

Honors Earth Science w/ Lab - Full Year - 1 credit 

- Live, online class w/ peers @ Taylor Made Science, 1x/week
- Graded by teacher: Labs, lab reports, reading, quizzes, tests, & critical thinking questions from the textbook
- Text: Earth Science: Geology, the Environment, and the Universe
- Field trips: Smithsonian Natural History Museum, Dinosaur NM, Various Bone Wars locations, pillars of ancient seabed in Kansas, Rocky Mt. NP, Fossil Butte NM, Badlands NP, Devil's Tower NM, Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour, The Field Museum, & Ringing Rocks State Park

Cobble Together a Class

- *You can combine multiple experiences into a class.
- *One thing missing on many applications is showing zest for life by participating in events, starting clubs, volunteering, etc.
- *Show your initiative for what you love. Some colleges and trade schools require portfolios. When big projects happen, take pictures of them. Often, schools will ask if the project was assigned or self-initiated.
- *Take note of the variety of experiences on the next slide.

Sample Course Description 2

Honors Technology Lab 2: Maker Space Projects - Full Year - 1 credit -



- Live classes w/ adults @ EC: trained in Arctec Scanner & Arctec Studio, advanced Fusion 360 techniques, & 3-D resin printing@ EC
- Live @ CCHCC w/ peers 1x/wk: created 1:64 train garden, 4'x8'; used Arctec scanner to create miniature 3-D resin prints of entire class; hand-built properly-scaled buildings
- Member of First Tech Robotics Team 4991 Gear Freaks; attended 2 regional qualifiers; 225+ hours designing & building the robot as a team; kept a detailed engineering notebook
- Won CCHCC's Engineering Survival Event (on a team), surviving "earthquake" and wind obstacles
- Field trips: MIT to geek out, Genesee Country Village to get architecture ideas & participate in traditional construction
- Parent-designed & graded course

How Do I Assign Credit?

- * High school credit is based on Carnegie Units: 120-150 hours is one standard credit, and 150-180 hours is an honors credit.
- * You will have the option to do a regular GPA and a weighted GPA. I recommend doing both. On a 4.0 scale, an honors class that earned an A will count as either 4.5 or 5, depending on who does the weighting. Ask the colleges or trade schools where you student is applying how they count these classes, and adjust your transcript accordingly.
- * This is not just counting seat time, but also project creation, field trips, and other immersive forms of learning.
- * **Start keeping the transcript and writing the course descriptions early, so you aren't overwhelmed when your student applies for an opportunity after graduation.**

Do I Need to Know Everything?

- * No, in high school, you can delegate almost everything.
- * Live online classes, live in-person classes, asynchronous classes, creatively-cobbled-together classes...all options are on the table
- * You are the keeper of the transcript and class descriptions; you can hire out the rest as you see fit, and your budget supports, supporting your student as needed.
- * Our website has a growing list of resources to support you.

Begin with the Highest Requirements

- * When you think of all of your child's future moves, which one would require the most education? Prepare them for that situation while giving them enriching life experiences.
- * If you aim to meet the standards for state graduation, this gives your child room to pursue their passions, and those will fill in as their electives, while keeping all doors open.
- * Look at potential college or trade school admissions requirements and make sure your student meets minimum requirements, while shooting higher if you hope for them to win scholarships.

What if I don't finish in time?

- * It doesn't matter.
- * All admissions counselors will tell you to place the classes on your transcript by grade, even if a class took 1.5 years to finish. Just pick a grade to throw it in and be done.
- * If your kid needs an extra year of high school, please give it to them. Send them off ready to succeed, not flying by the seat of their pants.

What else should I keep track of?

- * **Class Descriptions/Syllabi** to accompany your transcript.
- * **Activities:** sports, scouts, robotics, clubs, etc. It all counts. Admissions officers are interested to see you trying new things, but also want to see that you can commit yourself as well. Take pics when you do activities to help you remember, if you forget to keep notes.
- * **Work:** If you work part-time, it looks great if you keep the same job for multiple years.
- * **Awards:** both academic and non-academic. Apply to contests when you hear about them and show admissions officers you are interested in participating.
- * **Volunteer Hours:** We are a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award. Bring proof of hours to Kim by the summer before senior year, and this award can be put on your Common App for college.

Ninth and Tenth Grade

- * What are your interests? Now is the time to take fun tests: Multiple Intelligences, Which one is your strongest?, Myers-Briggs Personality Test (learn about each type here), Match your M-B Type to Careers, Find out your tendency, and look at career resources on BLS
- * What requirements would you like to complete first?
- * What hobbies and activities do you want to have time for?
- * How do you want to help your community?
- * Investigate AP Classes and decide if that is something that would be a good fit for your student.
- * Begin or continue to save for their future with Maryland 529 or an ABLE account. See if you qualify for the state matching funds. The earlier you start, the less you need to put aside.

AP Classes

- * **AP classes** can save you money on college credits if the score is high enough on the final test. If the score is not high enough, you are still showing rigor on the transcript.
- * Yes, homeschoolers can take AP classes or simply prep at home and take AP tests locally.
- * Not all colleges take all AP classes for college credit, and the list varies by college.
- * My bias: Some people value these classes and tests highly, but I don't think they are for all students. I much prefer depth vs. a class like this, where some topics within a subject are skipped to allow time for test review and prep.

Eleventh Grade

- * The summer before Junior year, you can register for the PSAT. If you score high enough, the PSAT can unlock large scholarship offers. It is a test worth taking. Khan has free test prep for the PSAT/SAT. You will need to make an account with the College Board online, register with a local school, and your student will take the test at a local high school. Your student will need a laptop to take the test.
- * Start looking into scholarships if you plan to attend college. Keep investing in a Maryland 529.
- * Refine essay writing skills in your classes.
- * Tour the colleges your student might attend. Check their websites for their admissions requirements to ensure you aren't missing any information.
- * This is the grade I advise trying one community college class. I prefer these online at this age, as most students in these classes are adults. See how it goes, and you can add more.
- * Take the SAT in the spring. While some schools are test-optional, many scholarships are tied to these scores. You have time to do it a second time if it doesn't go well. This could be a way to strengthen applications or gain scholarships.

Twelfth Grade

- * Decide what your options are after graduation & start college applications in the summer before senior year. Look for discount codes, as some colleges have free application codes.
- * Keep putting in scholarship applications. Use your phone reminders to remind yourself when scholarship sites say they will open. It is helpful if you put the links straight in your list.
- * October: Fill out the FAFSA, as this unlocks all government aid. Talk with your parents about what you can afford. It is best practice not to borrow more than your first year's salary after graduation, and this is for all 4 years.
- * Pay attention to deadlines, as if you don't apply for early admissions, you will miss out on merit scholarships at most schools.
- * Keep your grades up. Keep investing in a 529.
- * January is when our local Maryland delegate and senatorial scholarships open up.

Dual-Enrollment

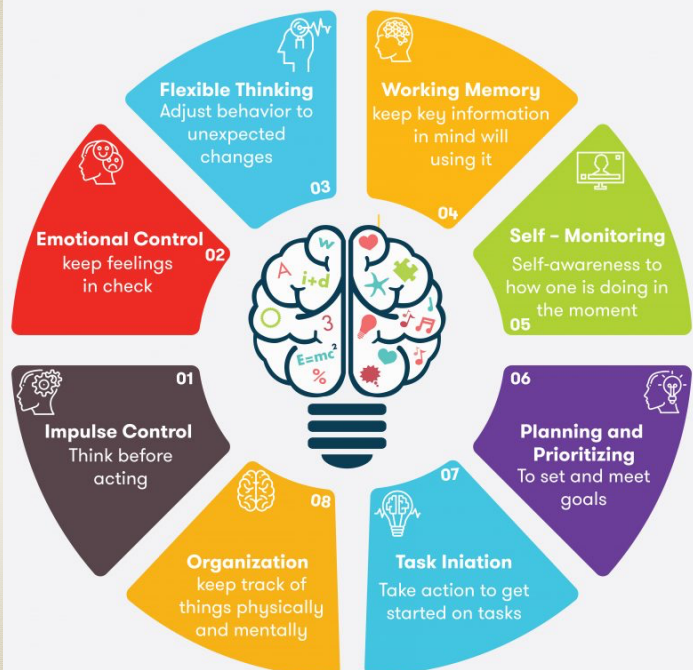
- * Your county's community college offers a discount on college classes as a homeschooler. All community college classes will transfer to any school in the Maryland consortium of colleges, but outside this group, it depends on the school.
- * All local community colleges use the Accuplacer test to gauge your readiness for math and English. Sample tests can be found online. You need to take these tests to begin taking classes.
- * If your family makes \$150k or less, I advise you to consider waiting on dual enrollment. You will qualify for the Maryland Promise Scholarship, which means your community college classes will be close to free, as you will get \$5,000 in aid for each of your 2 years at community college.

CLEP

- * Another option to consider is taking CLEP tests on any special-interest topics. Not all colleges accept the same ones. If you pass the test and your college accepts that particular CLEP test, then this is one of the cheapest ways for you to get college credit.
- * Here is a sample.
- * Sociology from this year, combined with the Crash Course videos and handouts, will prepare students for this exam. CLEP counts as college credit, but will not contribute to GPA.

Accommodations

- * PSAT, SAT, Colleges, and Trade Schools: All have accommodation options if you need extra time or a specific testing environment.
- * You need to get your request for accommodation into most places at least 2 months in advance, at the latest. Your testing must be recent, usually within the last 1-3 years.
- * Executive Function Skills are just as important as academic readiness.



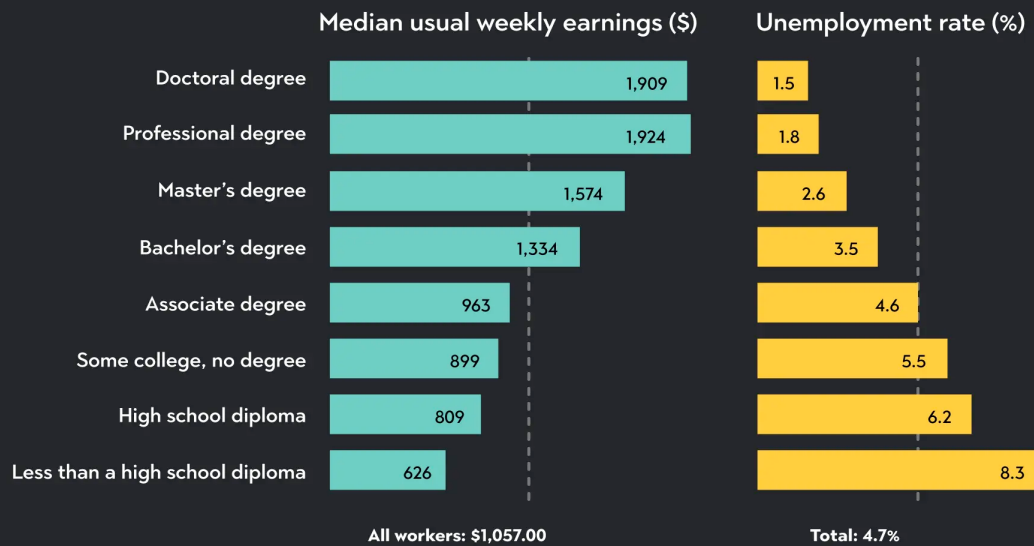
Alternatives to College or Trade School

- * Gap year (do something meaningful or this could hurt college admissions chances)
- * Working
- * Military Service
- * Americorps or MD Climate Corps
- * Traveling
- * Internships

Why do I love college?

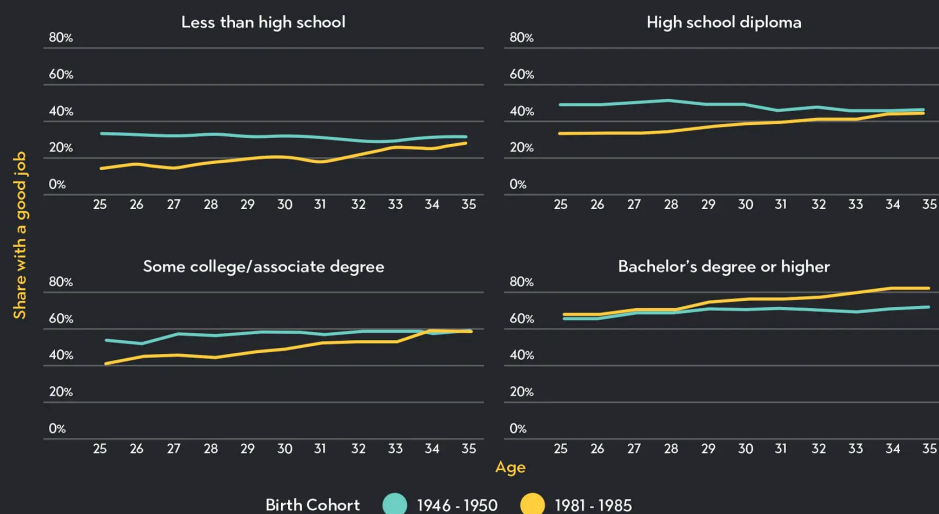
- * It grows you intellectually. You can find your niche. You gain skills and knowledge, and gain access to global opportunities.
- * It broadens your career opportunities, but also your horizons by exposing you to new people and experiences. You gain a network of people to help you stay employed or to employ.
- * It doesn't matter if you don't go into the field of what you study. Your life will be enriched by your college experience. The fastest-growing fields require a college degree, and a college degree is mandatory for 62% of employers.
- * Our state makes it financially easier than most states to go to college, as Maryland has so many incentive programs.
- * College isn't for everyone, but I encourage you to prepare your child for the option, so they don't feel the pressure to cram in preparation.

Earnings and Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment (2021)



If you want to meet the minimum standard for economic self-sufficiency, going to college increases your chances of doing that.

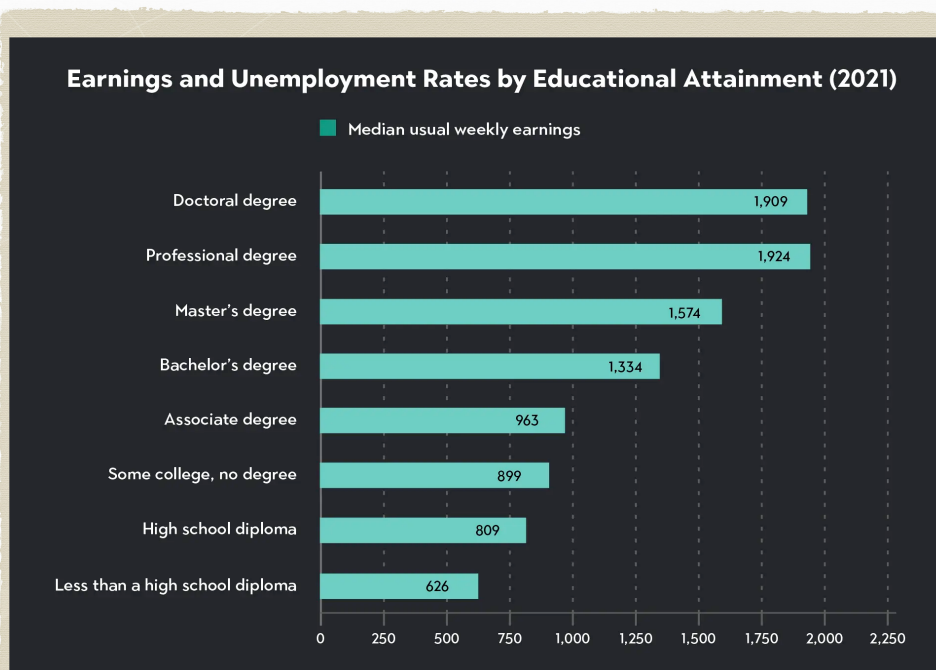
Share of Workers at Each Education Level with a Good Job



Attribute	% of Respondents
Problem-solving skills	91.2%
Ability to work in a team	86.3%
Strong work ethic	80.4%
Analytical/quantitative skills	79.4%
Communication skills (written)	77.5%
Leadership	72.5%
Communication skills (verbal)	69.6%
Initiative	69.6%
Detail-oriented	67.6%
Technical skills	65.7%
Flexibility/adaptability	62.7%

College admissions counselors are looking for these skills to exist in you, as they will work to improve them in college.

Consider how your student can showcase these skills in applications.



Financially, most people with a college degree are better off than those without.

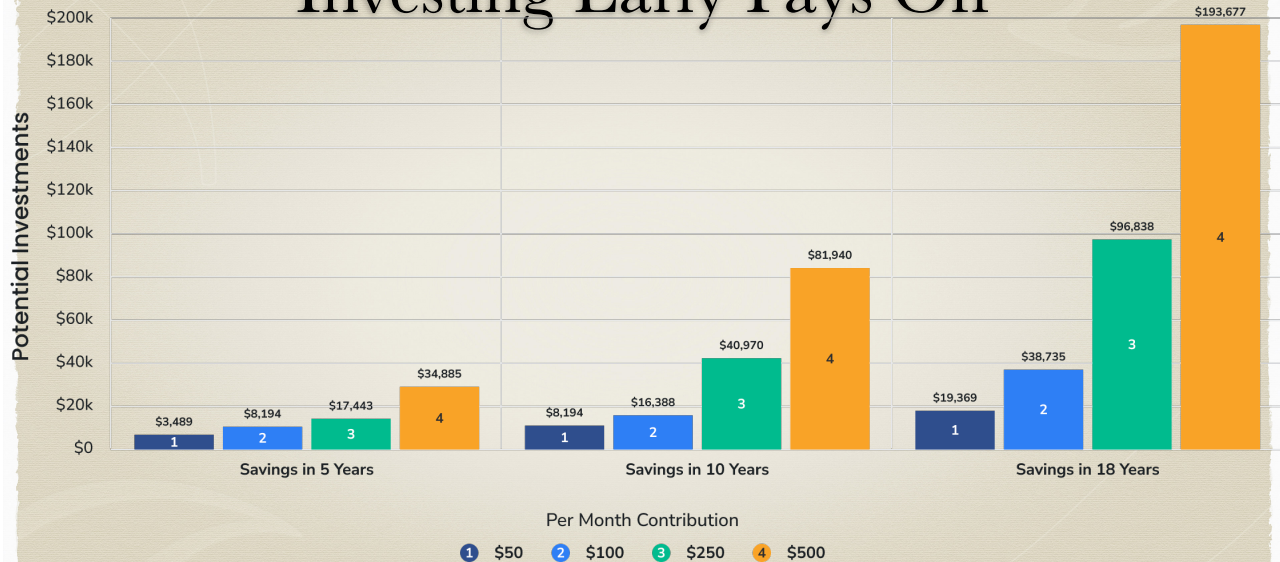
Maryland Makes it Easier

- * Dual-Enrollment Classes are discounted for homeschoolers.
- * Community College is nearly free if your family makes under \$150k a year (for 2 years) with the \$5000 **MD Promise Scholarship** each year. All community colleges also have honors programs, which have scholarships attached as well. YOU MUST GRADUATE FIRST to qualify for this.
- * **Maryland 529** contributions are eligible for a tax subtraction up to \$2500 per child, per adult (so if you file jointly, and have 2 kids, and can save that much, you could save \$10,000/year on MD State taxes). Earnings in the account are never taxed.
- * **MD 529 State Contribution:** Every single year, you can get a state contribution of \$25-500 per account, if you make under \$175k (MAGI) as a partnership and have an account for each adult, this means you could have Maryland contribute up to \$1k per student in your house.

Federal Benefits

- * Even if you don't qualify for a full Pell Grant of \$7,500 per year per student, there are other options.
- * Some students qualify for guaranteed work-study on campus.
- * Investment earnings in a 529 will never be taxed. Up to \$35,000 can be transferred to a Roth IRA if it is unused for college.
- * American Opportunity Tax Credit of up to \$2500 on your taxes: Income limits apply, \$160,000 for joint filers.
- * Each student qualifies (no matter parent income) for a \$5,500 loan each year (please do not take private student loans). Even these loans are currently 6.39%.

Investing Early Pays Off



Grants & Scholarships

- * Pell Grants are federal and can pay for up to \$7,500 of college per year. This is a need-based grant. You do not need to pay this back.
- * MD Senatorial Scholarships range from \$400-\$13,698 and are renewable for up to 4 years. Apply to your local Maryland state senator.
- * MD Delegate Scholarships range from \$400-\$13,698 and are renewable for up to 4 years. Apply to your local Maryland delegate.
- * The third Maryland scholarship: the dozens of small state scholarships. You can stack all of the MD scholarships, but you cannot accept more than \$35,508 total, as it far exceeds tuition, room, and board.

Find Your Passion, Get a Scholarship

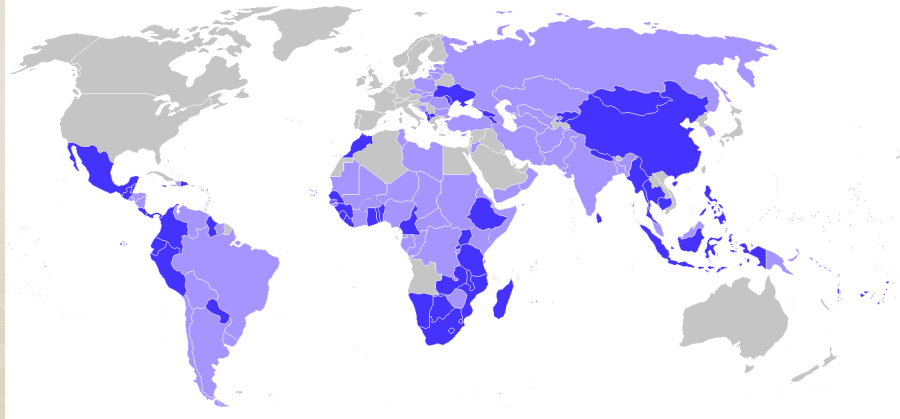
- * There are scholarships for kids who love chess, like Broadway musicals, designing model train layouts, etc.
- * Take your passion and search for scholarships related to it. That scholarship most likely exists.

Why Homeschool High School?

- * You are allowed time to grow into adulthood without the normal pressures of school.
- * You have time for your special interests.
- * You can customize just about every class.

After College

Consider serving your country by joining the Peace Corps!



What questions do you have?

Check out our website for links to the transcript creator, plus a variety of class options.

We don't have everything possible on there, so please let me know of resources you have personal positive experiences with, and make sure I write it down when you tell me about it!

There is also a form for submitting ideas on the page.