



# Higher Education Accountability Under Current Law



	CAN YOU AFFORD YOUR EDUCATION?		WILL YOU MAKE MORE IF YOU COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?	
	"VALUE-ADDED EARNINGS" METRIC (OB BB*)	DEBT-TO-EARNINGS RATES (GE**)	EARNINGS PREMIUM METRIC (OB BB)	EARNINGS PREMIUM METRIC (GE)
<i>Metric definition</i>	<p>Tuition/fees are less than median earnings of completers (i.e., earnings of most completers 3 years after graduation, minus 150% of the federal poverty level [FPL], adjusted for the state or metropolitan area).</p> <p>Functionally, this means the median earnings must at least exceed 150% FPL (~\$23,475 in 2025).</p>	<p>The annual loan payments for a typical graduate do not exceed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8% of the median (annual) income of completers 3 years after graduating, and</li> <li>20% of the median earnings of such completers minus 150 percent of FPL.</li> </ul> <p>This provision is regulatory and subject to change by the Administration.</p>	<p>Median earnings of completers (i.e., earnings of most completers 4 years after graduation) exceed the typical earnings of a high school-only graduate (for undergraduate programs) or the lesser of median earnings of a bachelor's degree graduate overall or in-field (for graduate programs). Earnings are generally measured in-state, except when most graduates are from out-of-state, they are measured nationally. Typical high school earnings are around \$30,000 in 2025.</p>	<p>Median earnings of completers (i.e., earnings of most completers 3 years after graduation) exceed the typical earnings of a high school-only graduate. Earnings are measured in-state, except when most graduates are from out-of-state, they are measured nationally. Typical high school earnings are around \$30,000 in 2025.</p> <p>This provision is regulatory and subject to change by the Administration.</p>
<i>Consequence of failing metric</i>	Ineligible for Pell Grants	Ineligible for federal student loans and Pell Grant	Ineligible for federal student loans	Ineligible for federal student loans and Pell Grant
Less than 15 week undergraduate certificates (all sectors)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Undergraduate certificates (15 weeks – 2 years, all sectors)	No	Yes	No	Yes
Associate's or bachelor's degrees (public or nonprofit)	No	No (transparency only)	Yes	No (transparency only)
Associate's or bachelor's degrees (for-profit)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Graduate certificate programs (up to 2 years, all sectors)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Graduate master's, doctoral, professional degrees (public or nonprofit)	No	No (transparency and attestation)	Yes	No (transparency only)
Graduate master's, doctoral, professional degrees (for-profit)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*OB BB = One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed into law July 4, 2025

\*\*GE = Gainful Employment

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