

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>	<i>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). Functionally, this means the median earnings must at least exceed 150% FPL (~\$23,475 in 2025).</i>	<i>The annual loan payments for a typical graduate do not exceed: • 8% of the median (annual) income of completers 3 years after graduating, and • 20% of the median earnings of such completers minus 150 percent of FPL. This provision is regulatory and subject to change by the Administration.</i>	<i>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.</i>	<i>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. This provision is regulatory and subject to change by the Administration.</i>
<i>Consequence of failing metric</i>	<i>Ineligible for Pell Grants</i>	<i>Ineligible for federal student loans and Pell Grant</i>	<i>Ineligible for federal student loans</i>	<i>Ineligible for federal student loans and Pell Grant</i>
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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