

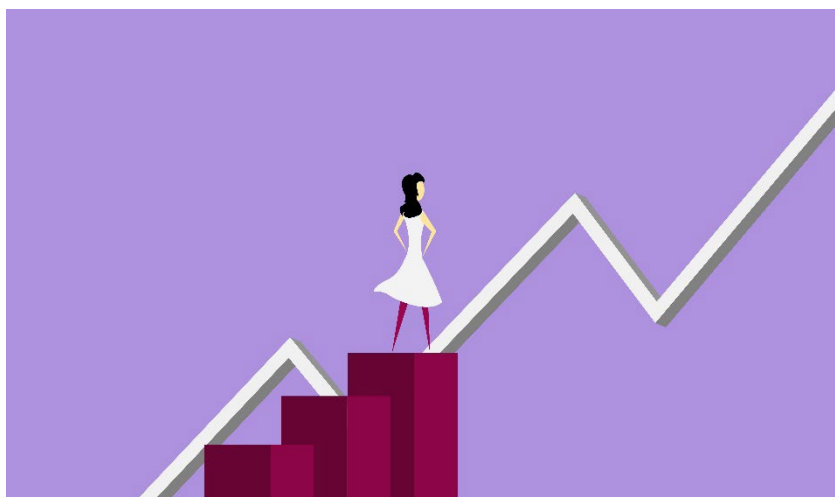
Make \$70,000+ Per Year With An Associate Degree

Create a financially rewarding career with the potential for future advancement at a fraction of what a bachelor's degree costs in both time and money.

Web Development and Nursing

The [economic outlook](#) for people without a four-year college degree has improved over the last ten years. This is partly because many community colleges offer associate degrees in higher-paying fields such as nursing and web development. Associate degrees in these fields provide wages far above the [national median salary of \\$48,060](#).

216% Increase in Salary



Assuming full-time employment while attending college, the [median income for those without a college education is \\$37,024](#). The [national median salary for registered](#)

[nurses is \\$86,070](#), while the [median wage for web developers is \\$84,960](#). Imagine having the power and potential to make that type of change in future earnings!

Since many college students do not work full-time and make less than the national median for those without a college degree the

salary increase will be even higher than 216%. There are few places, maybe none, where a person can realize this kind of financial return.

The Value of Community Colleges

Bachelor's Degrees Aren't for Everyone

Not everyone wants to dedicate four or more years of life and invest around \$50,000 (four years of in-state tuition, books, and fees) to earn a bachelor's so they can pursue a career and create financial stability. Due to personal and financial circumstances or beliefs, a student may need to get their education and learn new skills to get career-ready as soon as possible.

Inflation and Tuition

Since the 1980s, [college tuition inflation has outpaced overall inflation](#). However, our dollar-for-dollar purchasing power has remained the same over the last forty years. This means that education at a four-year university is steadily becoming further out of reach for the average person unless we take on student loan debt. [70% of students have some student loan debt](#) by the time they earn their bachelor's degree.

Lower Price

The average annual cost of in-state tuition for a public four-year university is \$10,940, while the in-state tuition for a public two-year college costs \$3,860.

This means that for about one-sixth of the price and half of the time required (two-year vs. four-year), students can create careers in

nursing and web development, where the wages are better than those of many bachelor's degrees.

Additionally, many community college students will be eligible for the Pell Grant. The Pell Grant is a needs-based award and does not need to be paid back.

Smaller Classes

Community college classes are generally much smaller than classes at a public university. This makes it easier to get individualized support from faculty and staff and create



working relationships with professors, which enhances the learning experience.

Transfer Credits

Additionally, community college credits in many states will transfer to four-year state schools should students ever want to continue their education after earning their associate degree. This means that in many instances, students can complete an associate degree and start a state university at a junior level to complete the last two years of their bachelor's degree. Many employers have job-specific tuition reimbursement. Taking advantage of this, nurses can pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN), while web developers could pursue a degree in a field such as project management, where they

can earn the credentials to lead a team of other developers and work on large projects.

A Bright Outlook

Web Development

People in this field will remain challenged throughout their careers, must be interested in continuous learning and development, and have plenty of promotional opportunities. Web developers can expect [faster-than-average](#) job growth over the next decade and can freelance as well to supplement their income. The only caveat here is to make sure there aren't any conflicts of interest between a full-time employer and a freelance client.

Web developers also have substantial variety in their work. Although generally not designers, there is potential for some crossover work in the design field if a developer works for a smaller employer or is freelancing.

Developers can also focus on the front end (essentially the “what you see” part) of websites and code primarily in HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, or they can focus on the back end (which does most of the heavy lifting) where they will build and maintain databases, build the structure for applications, and be responsible for creating and maintaining servers.

Lastly, a web developer can opt to go “full stack,” which combines the skills of a front-end and back-end developer. This opens the doors to higher salaries and requires an aptitude for versatility in learning various technologies and programming languages.

Nursing

Nurses are the backbone of the healthcare system. Nurses can enjoy a [bright outlook for career growth](#) and future potential to specialize in a niche. The salaries are even higher in specialized niches such as pediatrics, oncology, and acute care.

Earning an associate's degree in nursing (ADN) and becoming a registered nurse is a huge accomplishment. It isn't going to be easy, as the coursework and clinicals are intense. Students must take a careful self-inventory to ensure they are mentally centered and focused.

To be successful in an ADN program, students must be dedicated to the profession and passionate about nursing. The time commitment does not allow for any other approach.

What's Next?

Is a 216% increase in salary and a bright future appealing?



If so, [contact your community college](#) to see if they offer web development or nursing programs. Your community college is staffed with helpful people, from academic and financial advisors to career services. Call them to discuss your

interests and for assistance with any financial aid or cost questions.

Welcome to the possibility of a great income and stable future for a fraction of what a bachelor's degree costs. That is the power of community college.