Value of a Graduate Education
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
Maseeh College of Engineering & Computer Science

Graduate education in transportation engineering allows you to explore an exciting field of civil & environmental engineering, interact with other students, a dedicated faculty, and professionals who will be your future employers and colleagues. As a nice by-product, a graduate education is also a great investment! We would love to hear from you.

According to the U.S. Census, Figure 1 shows that 28% of people aged 25 or older had earned a Bachelor’s degree or higher in 2004 (up from 20% in 1990). A total of 7% of the population had earned Master’s degrees.

As shown in Figure 2, the impact of a Master’s Degree can mean 18% more annual income ($10,000) and about $400,000 more income over a lifetime than with just a Bachelor’s Degree (all fields). A Ph.D. can mean 34% more annual income ($25,000) and $1.1 million more lifetime income than a Bachelor’s.

According to the U.S. Census and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Figure 2 shows that wages increase as educational attainment increases for full-time wage and salary workers age 25 or older. The median salary for people with a Master’s degree in all fields was $58,708 in 2005. Unemployment rates decrease with greater education (about 2% for people with Master’s degrees). In addition, incomes for people with higher educational levels increased at higher rates over time (from 1991-2005).

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