



Students' Right to Know

THE RIGHT TO KNOW...WHAT?



The **true cost** of major colleges and certifications from technical schools



The **most in-demand jobs** in the state, including starting salaries and educational requirements for those jobs



The **average student loan payments, loan default rates, and total student debt**

Despite the student debt crisis, the road to college is still sold as the *only* option to young adults. Providing additional information can help them make an *informed* decision.

WHY?

Students Are Incurring High Debt and Limited Career Pathways



Students are **not fully informed** about alternative pathways to good-paying jobs.



Students are **being pressured** into four-year degrees that do not reflect the needs of the modern economy



Total U.S. student debt totals **more than \$1.57 trillion**—the average debt per student is more than \$36,000.



Ashlee had been balancing school and full-time work as she worked towards a four-year degree while helping to support her family financially. During her third year of college, she made the tough decision to stop attending classes—but she still had \$12,000 in loans to pay back.

"I'm drowning in debt for a piece of paper I never received," she says.

Now, Ashlee is in default, owes more than she initially took out, and her debt has ruined her credit. Ashlee isn't alone. **More than half of college students enrolled in a four-year program have not graduated after six years.** Dropouts face a student loan default rate that is three times higher than those who have graduated.



Students' Right to Know

WHAT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED?

State education departments would provide the following information to in-state students, allowing them to make informed decisions about their educational and professional future.

1. The **50 most in-demand jobs** in the state, including starting salary and education level required
2. The **average cost** for all major colleges and vocational schools in the state
3. The **average monthly student loan payment** for individuals attending major colleges and vocational schools in the state, by institution
4. The **average three-year student loan default rate** for all major colleges and vocational schools in the state
5. The **average total student loan debt for graduates of major colleges**, both for four-year degrees and graduate programs
6. The **average graduation rate** for all major colleges and vocational schools in the state
7. The **completion rates** for apprenticeship programs, high school credential programs, career and technical education programs, and military first-term enlistments
8. The **share of college graduates working** in an occupation that does not require a college degree, by major
9. The **average starting salary** for individuals graduating from a major college
10. The **average starting salary** for individuals who have completed an apprenticeship program, high school credential program, or career and technical education program
11. The **base pay** for newly enlisted service members
12. The **average starting salary** for individuals graduating from a vocational school in the state

IT'S TRENDING

