

**Lifetime Earnings for  
University System of Georgia  
Class of 2019**

**May 2020**

**A Study Commissioned by  
The University System of Georgia**

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## HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORK-LIFE EARNINGS

**F**rom the perspective of the students and their families, perhaps the most relevant measure of the economic “worth” of a college education is increased earnings over a working lifetime. Accordingly, on behalf of the Board of Regents, the Selig Center prepared estimates of work-life earnings by level of educational attainment for Georgia and the U.S. Of course, the increase in earnings associated with a degree will vary from one person to another, over time, geographically, and by field of study. It is possible, however, to provide a rough approximation of the aggregate benefits to the USG’s 2019 graduates, as well as benefits accruing to the average degree holder. The estimates are important because they show to what extent higher education pays off, which may motivate students, employers, workers, and policymakers to pursue and support postsecondary education.

This report presents work-life earnings estimates for the 65,978 graduates of the USG who received professional, doctoral, master’s, bachelor’s, associate degrees or certificates in FY 2019. The USG provided counts of those who earned degrees or certificates. These are not unduplicated counts, however, implying there is some double counting



Although average earnings rise considerably with educational attainment, individual earnings within each specific



<u>Educational Attainment</u>	Synthetic Work- Life Earnings <u>in the US</u>	Synthetic Work- Life Earnings <u>in Georgia</u>	<u>By Step in Attainment</u>	Additional Work- Life Earnings <u>in the US</u>	Additional Work- Life Earnings <u>in Georgia</u>
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*Current Population Reports*



\_\_\_\_\_                      Degrees                      Synthetic Work-                      Portion Due                      Synthetic Work-                      Portion Due  
   Conferred                      Life Earnings                      to Degree                      Life Earnings                      to Degree



<u>          </u>	<u>Degrees Conferred</u>	<u>Synthetic Work- Life Earnings</u>	<u>Portion Due to Degree)</u>
Associate	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Associate	0	0	0
Doctoral	323	1,262,201,635	243,850,465
Associate	0	0	0
Professional Doctoral	0 84	0 328,250,580	0 63,416,220

(continued)





<u>                    </u>	<u>Degrees Conferred</u>	<u>Synthetic Work- Life Earnings</u>	<u>Portion Due to Degree)</u>
Professional	0	0	0
Associate	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Associate	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0

(continued)



<u>                    </u>	<u>Degrees Conferred</u>	<u>Synthetic Work- Life Earnings</u>	<u>Portion Due to Degree)</u>
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0
Associate	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Associate	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0
Associate	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	30	117,232,350	22,648,650

(continued)



<u>                    </u>	<u>Degrees Conferred</u>	<u>Synthetic Work- Life Earnings</u>	<u>Portion Due to Degree)</u>
Professional Doctoral	0 0	0 0	0 0
Professional Doctoral	0 0	0 0	0 0
Professional Doctoral	0 0	0 0	0 0
Professional Doctoral	0 0	0 0	0 0
Professional Doctoral	0 0	0 0	0 0
Professional Doctoral	0 0	0 0	0 0
Associate	0	0	0

(continued)



<u>                    </u>	<u>Degrees Conferred</u>	<u>Synthetic Work- Life Earnings</u>	<u>Portion Due to Degree)</u>
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0

*Current Population Reports*



<u>          </u>	<u>Degrees</u> <u>Conferred</u>	<u>Synthetic Work-</u> <u>Life Earnings</u>	<u>Portion Due</u> <u>to Degree)</u>
Professional	342	1,240,707,600	347,867,010
Associate	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	526	1,822,766,210	338,420,510
Associate	0	0	0
Professional	200	725,560,000	203,431,000
Associate	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0

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<u>                    </u>	<u>Degrees Conferred</u>	<u>Synthetic Work- Life Earnings</u>	<u>Portion Due to Degree)</u>
Professional	0	0	0
Associate	0	0	0
Professional Doctoral	0 33	0 114,356,055	0 21,231,705
Associate	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Professional Doctoral	0 0	0 0	0 0
Professional Doctoral	0 0	0 0	0 0
Professional	0	0	0

(continued)



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Degrees  
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Synthetic Work-  
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Portion Due  
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<u>        </u>	<u>Degrees Conferred</u>	<u>Synthetic Work- Life Earnings</u>	<u>Portion Due to Degree)</u>
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0
Doctoral	0	0	0



