## Tracking College Graduate Outcomes using U.S. Census Data

Jason Pontius Iowa Board of Regents MHEC Executive Committee Meeting, June 12, 2023

# What does a college degree provide and is it worth the investment?

- College sticker prices continue to climb
- Students and parents want evidence that the time and expense of college will provide good returns
- States worry about investing in students who might leave
- Increasing pressure on colleges to report outcomes data (e.g., Iowa House File 135)

# Existing option: Matching college graduates to state workforce data

- Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage data
- Does not include self-employed, stay at home parents, federal employees
- Industry but not occupation
- In-state only (wages and location)
- SSN required
- Lose control of data

### Existing Option: U.S. Dept of Ed's College Scorecard

- IRS wage data
- Wages 1 year after graduation (added years 2, 3, 4 recently)
- Only for recipients of Title IV Federal financial aid (54.5%)
- Includes debt of graduates
- Data reported by colleges directly to the U.S.
  Department of Education
- Does not track graduate location
- Top down approach





#### REAL GRADUATES REAL EARNINGS REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

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#### **David Troutman**

#### https://seekut.utsystem.edu/





US Census Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer (PSEO)

- National Unemployment Insurance wage data
- Wages 1, 5, & 10 years after graduation
- Does not include self-employed or less-than-full-time employed
- Adding IRS data soon
- Geographic regions where grads work
- Industries where graduates are employed
- Grassroots effort
- All matched data are public
- No cost



	Program Specificity	All Instructional Programs	Business, Management, Marketing, and Re	Social Sciences	Engineering
	🖶 General 🛗 Detailed	Communication, Journalism, and Related P	Biological and Biomedical Sciences	Psychology	Visual and Performing Arts
	Sort Program List by	English Language and Literature/Letters	Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui	Architecture and Related Services	Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies
		Natural Resources and Conservation	History	Computer and Information Sciences and S	Physical Sciences
	Clear Selected	Mathematics and Statistics	Philosophy and Religious Studies	Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group	Health Professions and Related Programs
	Filter Degrees	Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies	Parks, Recreation, Leisure, Fitness, and Ki	Education	

Some cells are not available due to suppression.

#### https://lehd.ces.census.gov/data/pseo\_experimental.html

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Program Specificity	All Other Instructional Programs	Business, Management, Marketing, and Re	Social Sciences	Engineering
General Detailed	Communication, Journalism, and Related P	Biological and Biomedical Sciences	Psychology	Visual and Performing Arts
Sort Program List by	English Language and Literature/Letters	Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui	Architecture and Related Services	History
↓ <b>‡</b> Name	Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	Natural Resources and Conservation	Computer and Information Sciences and S	Physical Sciences
Clear Selected	Mathematics and Statistics	Philosophy and Religious Studies	Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group	Health Professions and Related Programs
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Some cells are not available due to suppression.

#### Iowa Graduates with Bachelor's Degrees have Good Jobs with Good Wages by Major



Source: January 2023 update of U.S. Census Bureau matching of Unemployment Insurance Wage data for 47 U.S. States (excluding Alaska, Arkansas, and Mississippi). All wages for full-time employed graduates making at least minimum wage and adjusted to 2020 dollars. Self-employed, stay at home parents, and public officials not shown. A good job is defined by the Georgetown Center for Education and Workforce as one paying a minimum of \$35,000 for workers between the ages of 25 and 44 and at least \$45,000 for workers between the ages of 45 and 64.

#### Iowa Graduates with Associate Degrees have Good Jobs with Good Wages by Major



Source: January 2023 update of U.S. Census Bureau matching of Unemployment Insurance Wage data for 47 U.S. States (excluding Alaska, Arkansas, and Mississippi). All wages for full-time employed graduates making at least minimum wage and adjusted to 2020 dollars. Self-employed, stay at home parents, and public officials not shown. A good job is defined by the Georgetown Center for Education and Workforce as one paying a minimum of \$35,000 for workers between the ages of 25 and 44 and at least \$45,000 for workers between the ages of 45 and 64.



Median Wages for Graduates with Mechanical Engineering Degrees

for colleges participating in U.S. Census matching

Source: U.S. Census Bureau matching of Unemployment Insurance Wage data for 47 U.S. States (excluding Alaska, Arkansas, and Mississippi), January 2023 update. All wages for full-time employed graduates making at least minimum wage and adjusted to 2020 dollars. Self-employed, stay at home parents, and public officials not shown. Blank earnings indicate suppression due to small cell size.

### Role of Geography in Wages

#### **Top Mechanical Engineering Wages**

Lamar University	\$133,571
Texas A&M University	\$131,834
University of Houston	\$129,040
Louisiana State University	\$127,788
University of Texas - Austin	\$123,510
University of Louisiana at Lafayette	\$121,804
Texas A&M University - Kingsville	\$116,405
Texas Tech University	\$116,252
Louisiana Tech University	\$112,620

#### **Top Teacher Prep Wages**

New York City College of Technology, CUNY	\$117,136
CUNY York College	\$103,669
CUNY Brooklyn College	\$98,949
CUNY Queens College	\$86,404
CUNY Hunter College	\$78,383
University of Virginia	\$77,935
Colorado State University	\$70,701
State University of New York at New Paltz	\$70,345
SUNY College at Old Westbury	\$70,160
Western Connecticut State University	\$69,189

#### Where do Iowa Baccalaureate Degree Recipients Work One Year after Graduation?



#### Where do Iowa Baccalaureate Degree Recipients Work 5 Years after Graduation?



#### Where do Iowa Baccalaureate Degree Recipients Work 10 Years after Graduation?



#### Where do Iowa Associate Degree Recipients Work 10 Years after Graduation?



#### Percent of Iowa Degree Recipients Employed Full-Time in Iowa

	1 Year after Degree	5 Years after Degree	10 Years after Degree
University of Northern Iowa	76.9%	70.6%	67.8%
Iowa State University	58.1%	52.3%	51.0%
University of Iowa	50.8%	39.3%	37.7%
Des Moines Area Community College	90.1%	85.8%	82.4%
Kirkwood Community College	89.4%	81.2%	79.7%
Hawkeye Community College	88.9%	82.7%	81.4%
North Iowa Area Community College	80.2%	78.5%	76.0%
Iowa Valley Community College District	80.1%	69.3%	68.4%
Iowa Central Community College	80.0%	77.1%	76.3%
Indian Hills Community College	77.6%	75.7%	74.1%
Northeast Iowa Community College	77.6%	75.3%	73.7%
Eastern Iowa Community Colleges	76.5%	70.2%	64.8%
Southwestern Community College	73.1%	75.2%	65.4%
Southeastern Community College	72.0%	69.3%	68.9%
Western Iowa Tech Community College	68.1%	60.4%	59.8%
Northwest Iowa Community College	65.6%	66.0%	62.2%
Iowa Lakes Community College	65.0%	62.3%	64.0%
Iowa Western Community College	45.1%	41.6%	38.7%

# Where are Bachelor's degrees in Education employed 5 years after graduation?





# Where are Bachelor's degrees in Education employed 5 years after graduation?

**University of Northern Iowa** 



#### Iowa Industry Retention of Regent Graduates after 10 years

Bachelor's degrees



## **Census PSEO Recap**

- Rapidly expanding grassroots effort
- Shows graduate wages, industry, and job location over time
- Shows the percent employed in state
- Working to create dedicated funding (Strada, Federal funding)
- Shows good wages for graduates
- Relatively little difference in wages between colleges
- Data instead of anecdotes

## **Questions or Comments?**