Your career choice can also affect your lifestyle, including when you work, where you live, your stress level and other factors. Earning post-secondary degree(s) can be a big investment of time and money, but your lifetime earning potential can also increase significantly. You’ll need to decide whether it is worth it.

Your skills will increase based on your education, personal interests, natural talents and unique experiences.

Improve your income prospects

To break into a particular industry or field, look into volunteering at industry organizations and events. This can expand your network and increase your visibility.

Improve your income prospects

If you want to learn new skills, you have to work hard to acquire them. Consider workshops and hands-on seminars to push you forward. Practice makes perfect!

\[ \begin{array}{|c|c|}
\hline
\text{Software Engineer} & \$80,778 \\
\hline
\text{Doctoral Degree} & \$84,396 \\
\hline
\text{Legal Secretary} & \$51,100 \\
\hline
\text{Master’s Degree} & \$69,732 \\
\hline
\text{Auto Mechanic} & \$44,345 \\
\hline
\text{Bachelor’s Degree} & \$59,124 \\
\hline
\text{Hairdresser} & \$30,520 \\
\hline
\text{High School Diploma} & \$35,256 \\
\hline
\end{array} \]

Your earning potential really is a balance between your career, your education, your skills, and trends in the economy. Your income potential is also linked to your skills.

**Your Skills**

- **Your income potential is also linked to your skills.**

- **Problem Solving**
- **Writing**
- **Project Management**
- **Negotiation**
- **Analytical**
- **Artistic**
- **Technical**
- **Creative**
- **Organizational**
- **Language**
- **Language**

**Your Education**

- **Your education level has a large effect on your potential income and can increase your access to opportunities within your chosen field.**

- **High School Diploma** & \$35,256
- **Bachelor’s Degree** & \$59,124
- **Master’s Degree** & \$69,732
- **Doctoral Degree** & \$84,396

**Your Career**

- **Your education level has a large effect on your potential income and can increase your access to opportunities within your chosen field.**

- **High School Diploma** & \$35,256
- **Bachelor’s Degree** & \$59,124
- **Master’s Degree** & \$69,732
- **Doctoral Degree** & \$84,396

**Economic Trends**

- The world is always changing; these changes affect the economy and therefore the job market.

- **HOT**
- **Big Data Analyst**
- **Cloud Services Specialist**
- **Software Engineer**

- **NEW CAREERS**
- **Genetic Counselor**
- **Offshore Wind Turbine Engineer**
- **Virtual Assistant**

**Sources:** Forbes.com, PayScale.com, TheUndercoverRecruiter.com, United States Department of Labor (Bureau of Labor Statistics)