

# THE COMMENCEMENT REPORT

By Robert Laura

This year approximately 2.5 million people will graduate from high school, 1.5 million will enroll in college, and approximately 750,000 will graduate from college. The Commencement Report puts graduation day into perspective and highlights the financial aspects of the age old question: "What are you going to be when you grow up?"

## Wealthiest Self-made People with a Degree

### Warren Buffett : \$40 Billion

University of Nebraska; Columbia MBA



### Michael Bloomberg: \$17.5 billion

Johns Hopkins University; Harvard MBA



### Sergey Brin & Larry Page: \$15.3 Billion

University of Maryland; Stanford MBA  
University of Michigan; Stanford MBA



\$72.8 Billion

## Wealthiest Self-made People without a Degree:



### William H. Gates III: \$50 Billion

Harvard University, dropout



### Larry Ellison: \$27 Billion

University of Illinois, dropout



### Michael Dell: \$14.5 Billion

University of Texas Austin, dropout

\$91.5 Billion

## 10 Highest Earning College Degree Jobs

1) Surgeon:	\$219,770
2) Anesthesiologists:	\$211,750
3) Orthodontists / Oral Surgeons:	\$206,190
4) Obstetricians & Gynecologists:	\$204,470
5) General Internists:	\$183,990

## 10 Highest Earning High School Diploma Jobs

1) Air Traffic Controller:	\$107,600
2) General Business Manager:	\$79,200
3) Industrial Production Manager:	\$75,600
4) Transportation / Dist. Manager:	\$69,100
5) Nuclear Power Reactor Operator:	\$66,200

## High Starting Salary Careers Out Of College

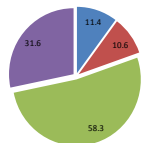
1) Investment Banking Analyst:	\$59,084	6) Nurse Practitioner (ARNP):	\$67,166
2) Business Analyst, Software:	\$50,727	7) Electrical Engineer:	\$54,401
3) Forensic Computer Analyst:	\$51,852	8) Software Engineer:	\$56,795
4) Junior Associate Lawyer:	\$52,678	9) Pharmaceutical Sales Rep:	\$51,104
5) Physical Therapist:	\$52,573	10. Veterinarian:	\$59,084



## Graduation Day Spending

Total graduation spending this year is expected to reach \$3.9 billion. On Average, gift givers will buy for two graduates, spending an average of \$89.95 on gifts. Gifts will include:

Apparel:	11.4%
Electronics	10.6%
Cash:	58.3%
Gift Cards:	31.6%



Sources: Forbes.com, Wikipedia.com, CNBC.com, HR.BLR.com, Blogs.Payscale.com, National Retail Federation: NRF.com

## A Great Graduation Gift: Read It In An Hour, Use It For A Lifetime

Available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

### The Five Most Important Financial Things They Don't Teach you In School, by Robert Laura

Robert Laura is the co-founder of [Synergos Financial Group](http://Synergos Financial Group) and [The Retirement Project](http://The Retirement Project). He is an author, speaker, and frequently quoted in major media including: [Wall Street Journal](http://Wall Street Journal), [Smart Money Magazine](http://Smart Money Magazine), [Bankrate.com](http://Bankrate.com), [Fidelity.com](http://Fidelity.com), [TheStreet.com](http://TheStreet.com) and more. He is the author of [Financial Karma](http://Financial Karma), [The Five Most Important Financial Things They Don't Teach You In School](http://The Five Most Important Financial Things They Don't Teach You In School), and [Naked Retirement](http://Naked Retirement) (out in June 2010). He can be reached at 888-267-1138 or by email at [rl@robertlaura.com](mailto:rl@robertlaura.com)

