

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

May 2020

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

Dr. Jeffrey M. Humphreys ■ Alexandra P. Hill



HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORK-LIFE EARNINGS

From 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

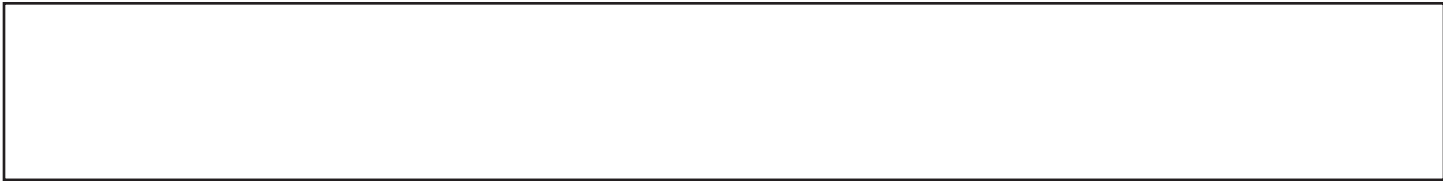


| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <u>Educational Attainment</u> | Synthetic Work- Life Earnings <u>in the US</u> | Synthetic Work- Life Earnings <u>in Georgia</u> | <u>By Step in Attainment</u> | Additional Work- Life Earnings <u>in the US</u> | Additional Work- Life Earnings <u>in Georgia</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|---|--|

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> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 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 | 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)



Degrees

Synthetic Work-

Portion Due

UD

