

OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS IN THE SOUTHEAST

WELL-PAYING JOBS FOR WORKERS WITHOUT A 4-YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE.

WHAT ARE OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS?

Opportunity occupations are jobs that are generally accessible to workers without a bachelor's degree and that pay more than the national median wage (\$35,540 in 2014), adjusted for local cost of living differences.

Opportunity occupations vary depending on the state, metro area, or industry a job is located in, as well as on the experience and credentials of a worker. However, they generally range from about \$32,000 to about \$66,000.

23.7%

OF JOBS IN THE SOUTHEAST ARE OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS



These are jobs for which employers request that workers have a four-year college degree in less than 50 percent of job advertisements placed within a certain area. They offer economic opportunity for middle-skill workers—those who have finished a high school degree but have not completed college. Opportunity occupations allow middle-skill workers throughout the Southeast to earn a good wage and join the middle class.

SALARIES AND EDUCATION

In the Southeast, 23.7 percent of jobs can be classified as opportunity occupations. These jobs include registered nurses, supervisors in retail stores, truck drivers, licensed practical nurses, bookkeeping and accounting clerks, and maintenance workers. Median annual salaries for

For more information on opportunity occupations, including their descriptions, educational requirements, industries, and wages, visit frbatlanta.org/opportunityoccupations

Data sources:

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Occupational Employment Statistics: state, metropolitan and nonmetropolitan area data (2011-2014)
- U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis: Regional Price Parities: states, metropolitan statistical areas, and nonmetropolitan portions (2011-2014)
- Burning Glass Technologies
- U.S. Census Bureau: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year estimates
- Steven Ruggles, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, and Matthew Sobek. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Version 6.0. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2015

ALABAMA

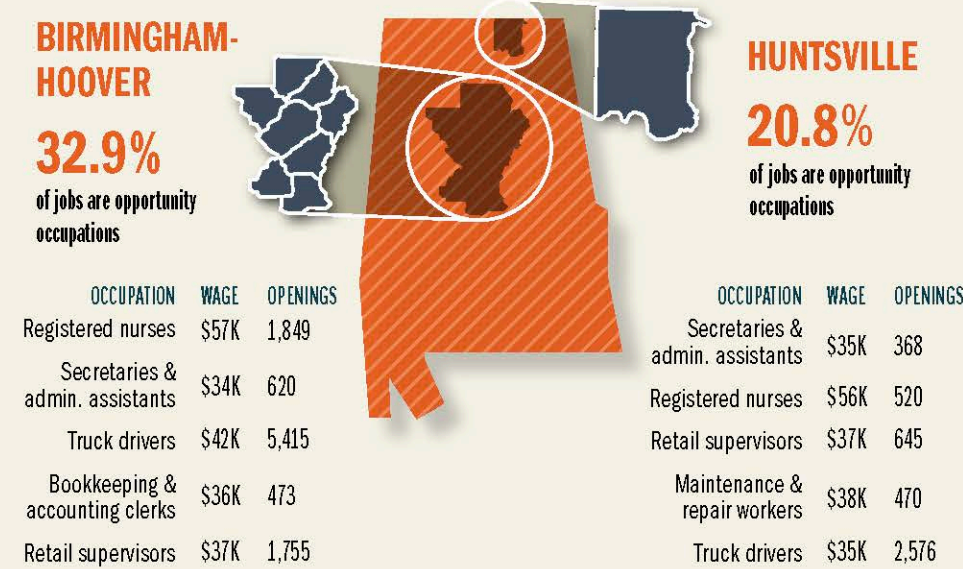
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TOP OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS
MEDIAN WAGE AND NUMBER OF JOB OPENINGS IN 2014



WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

SELECTED METROPOLITAN AREAS
OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS, WAGE, AND JOB OPENINGS IN 2014



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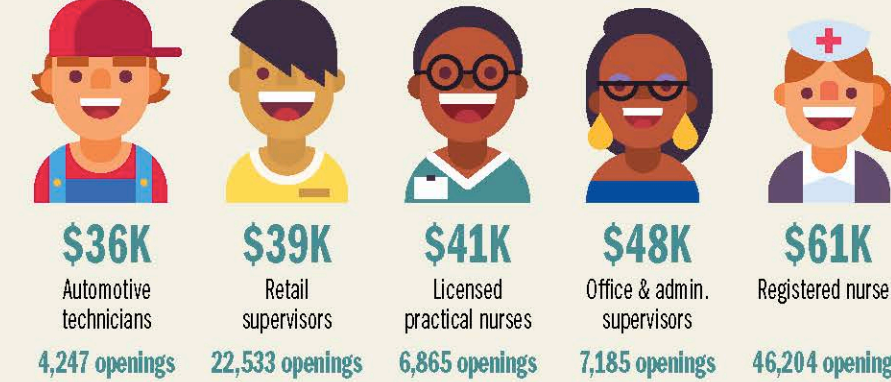
DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT BY WAGES IN 2014



FLORIDA

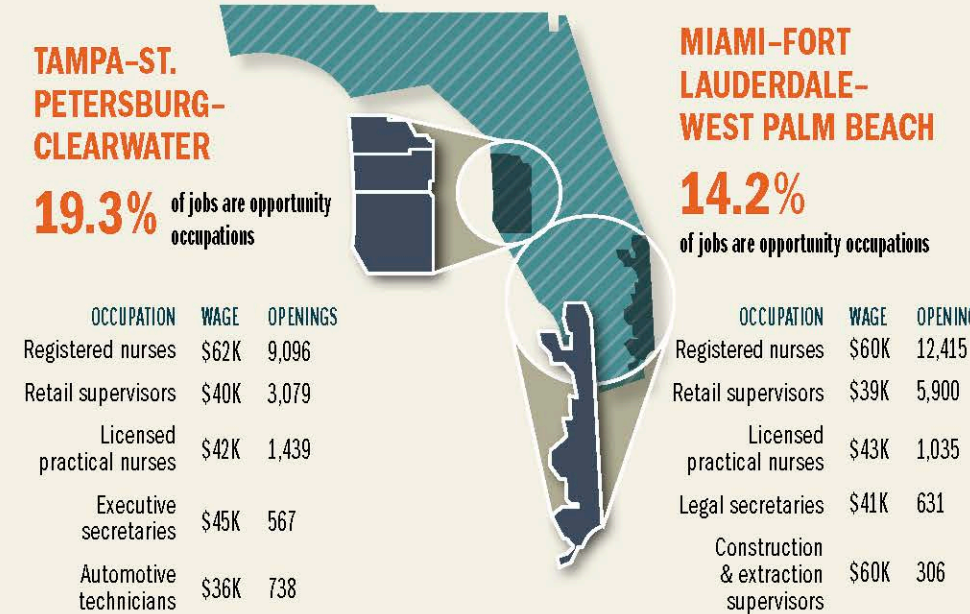
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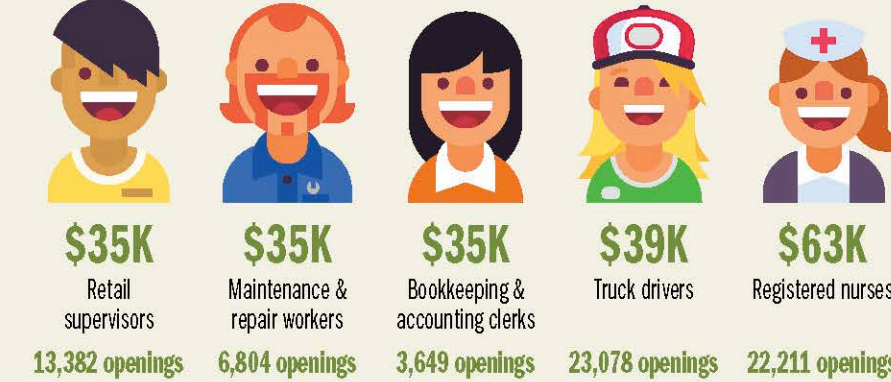
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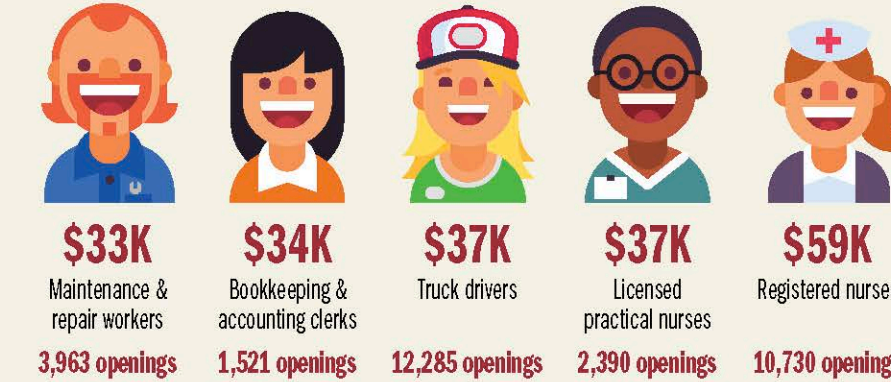
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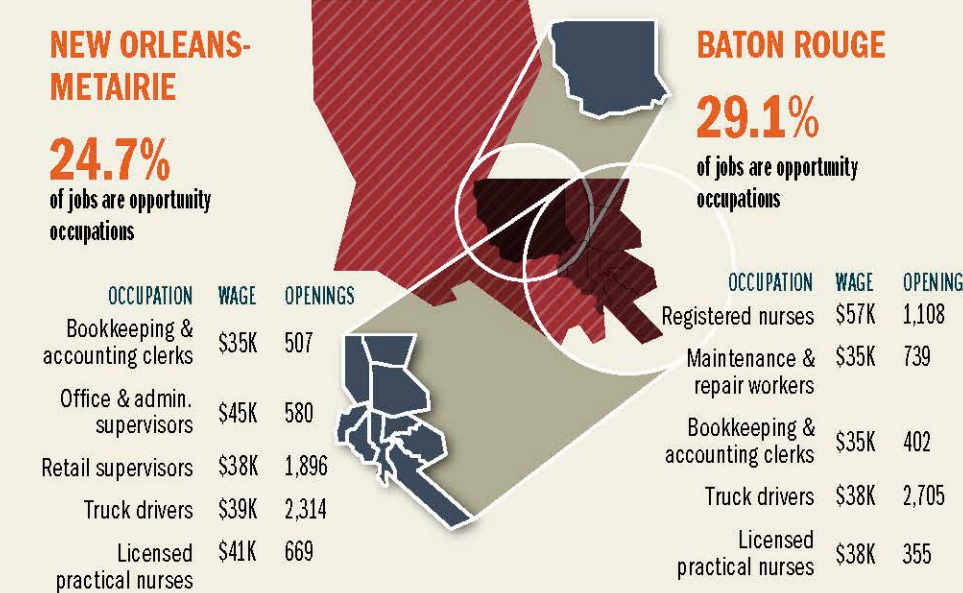
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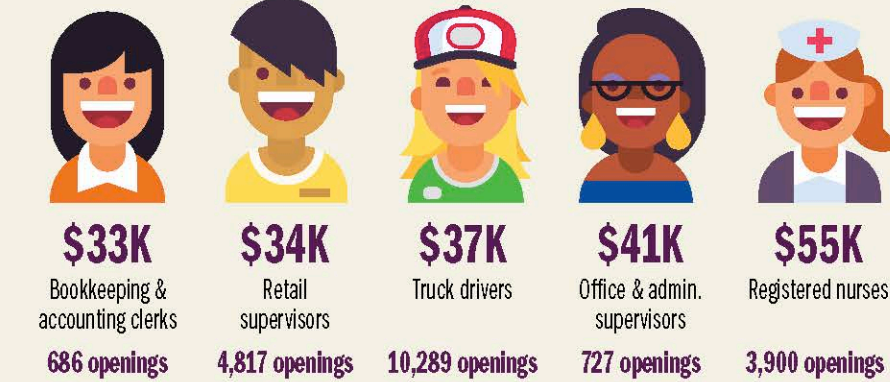
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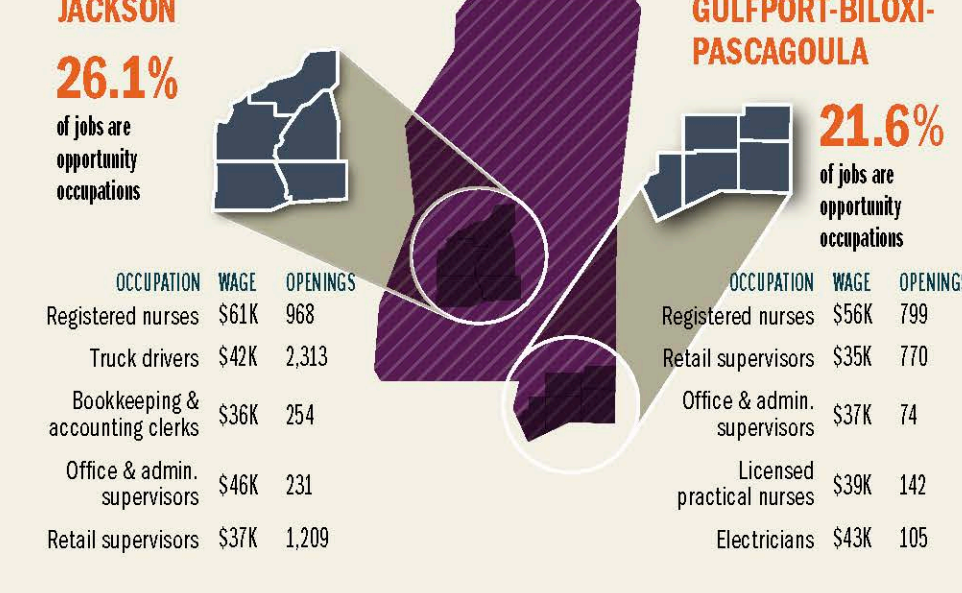
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TENNESSEE

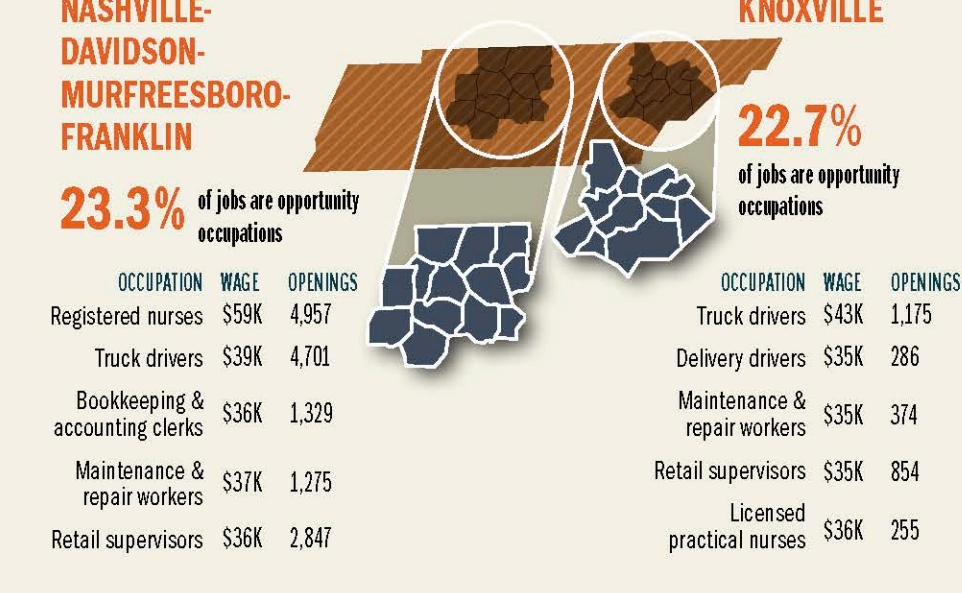
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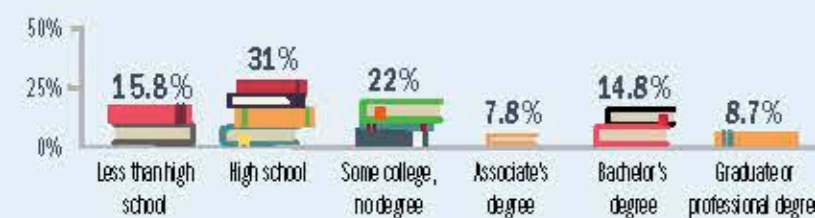
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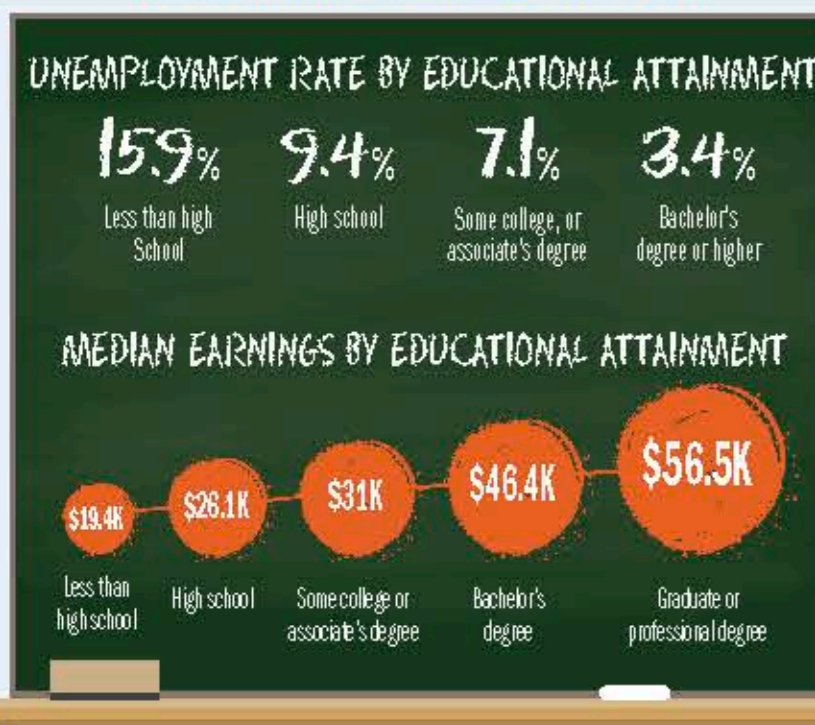


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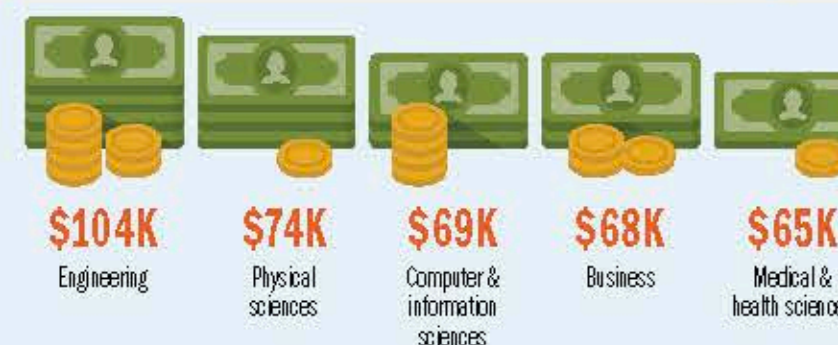
HOW MANY PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION? EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR PEOPLE OVER 25 (2011-2015)



WHAT IS THE POWER OF EDUCATION? UNEMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS (2011-2015)

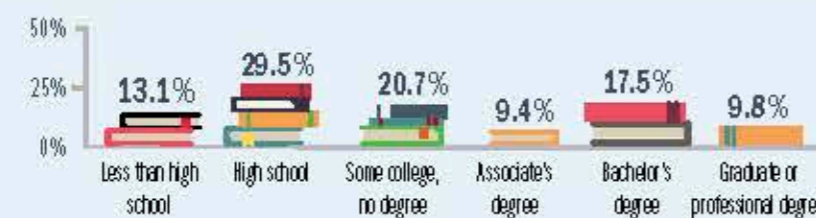


WHICH DEGREES MAKE THE MOST? MEDIAN PERSONAL EARNINGS BY DEGREE MAJOR (2015)

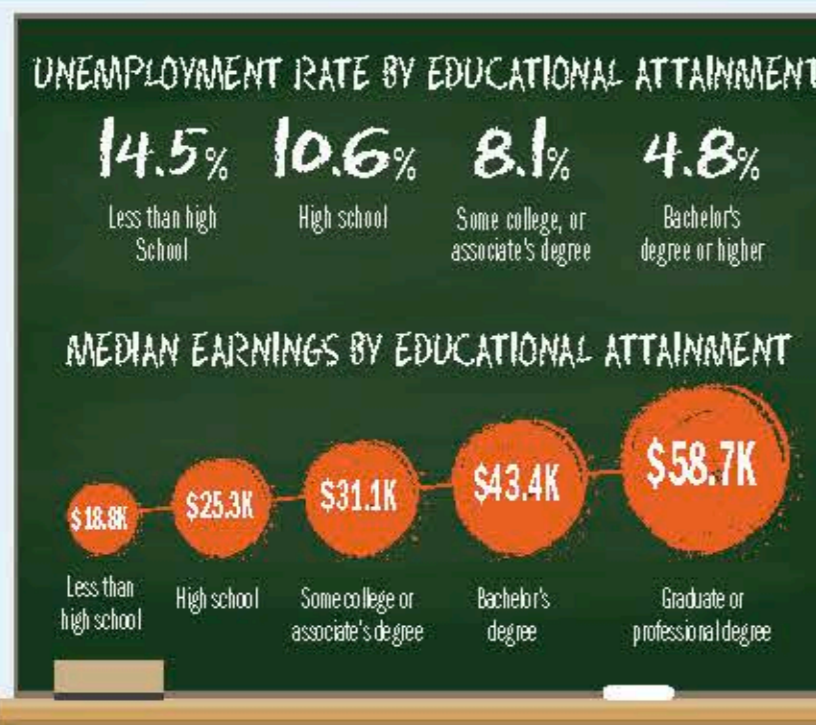


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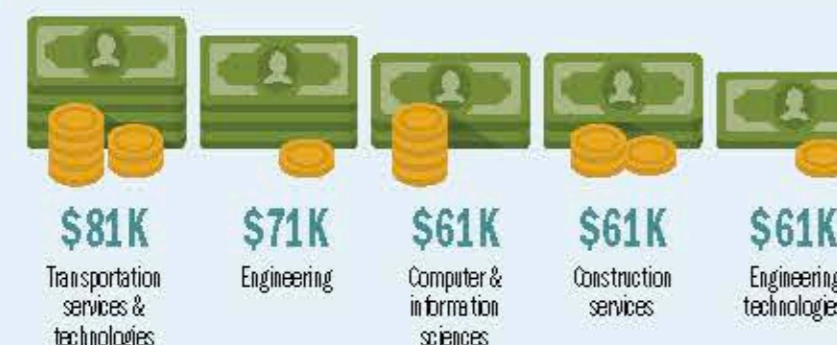
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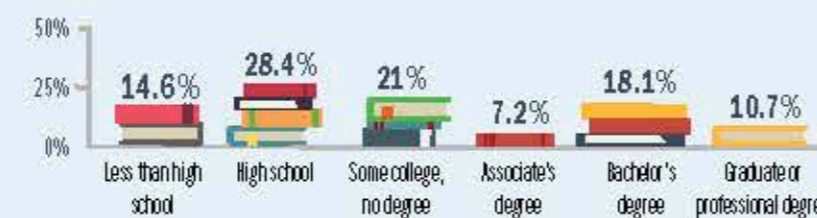


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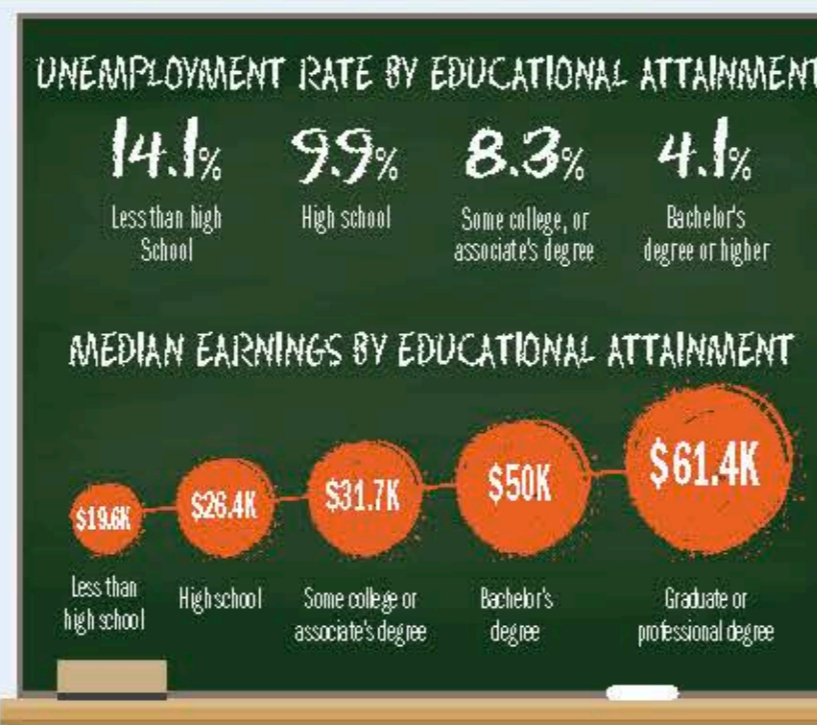


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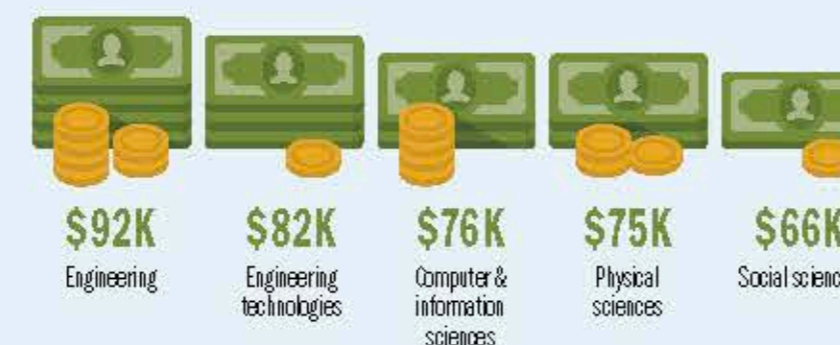
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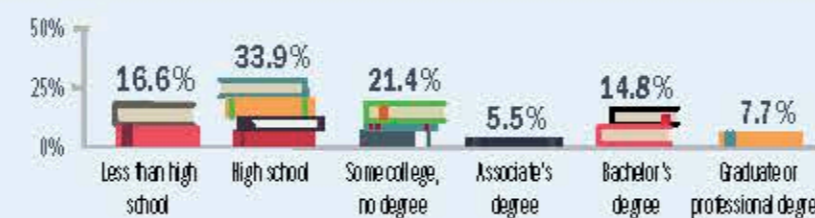


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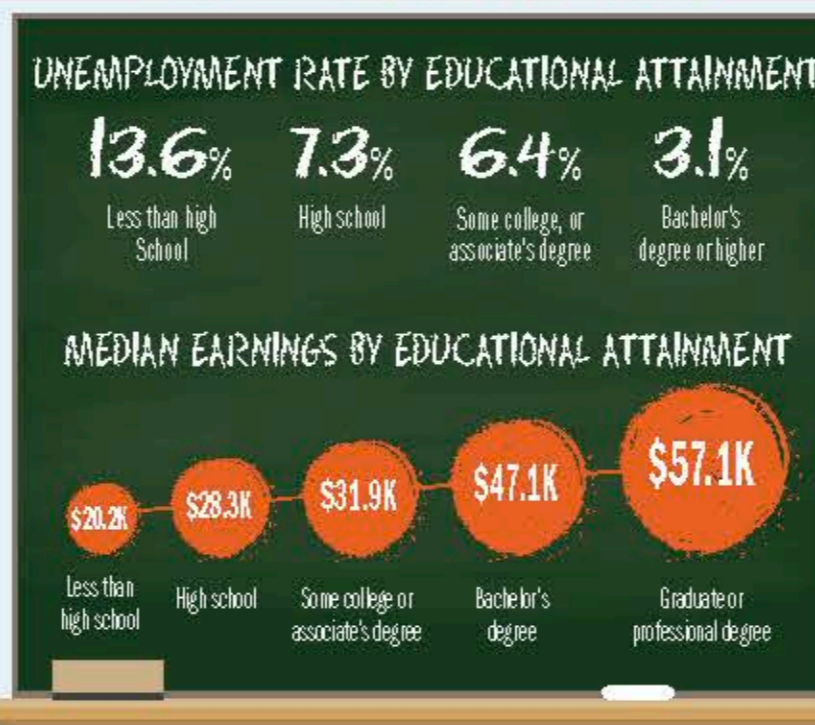


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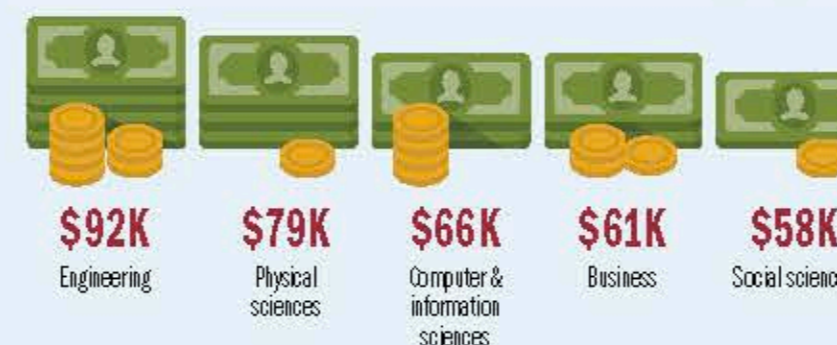
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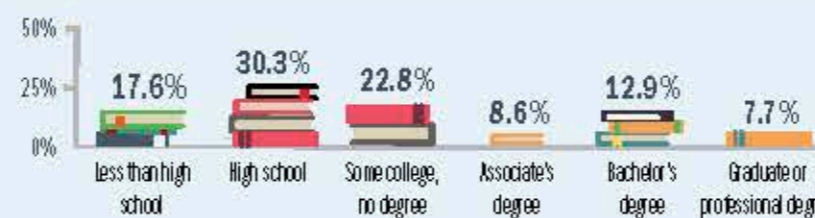


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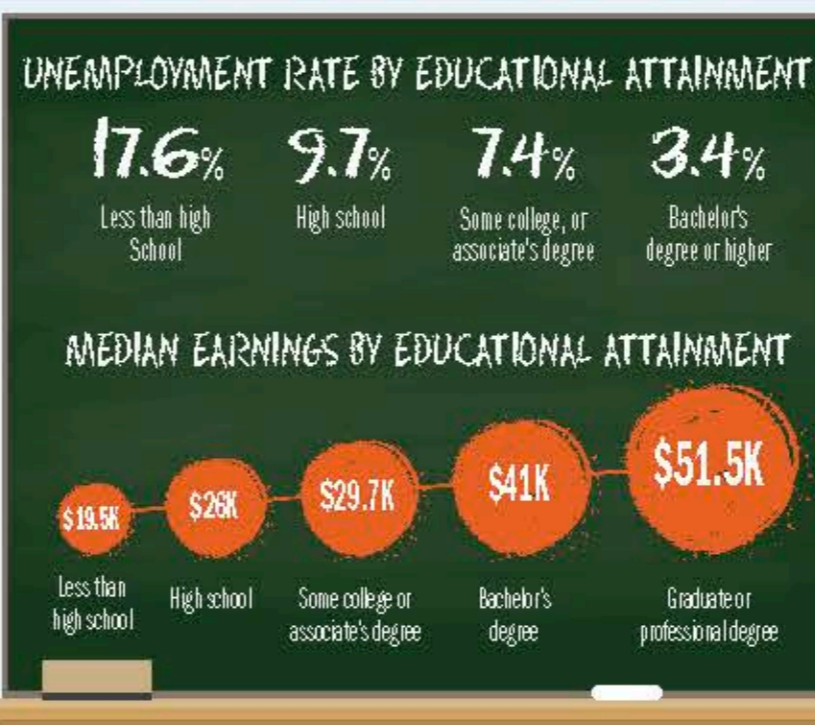


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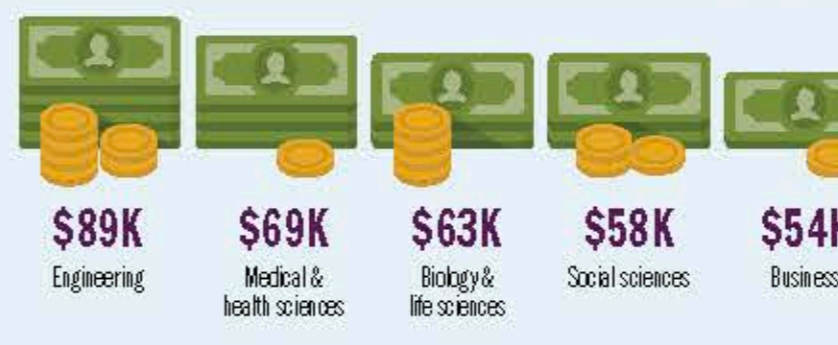
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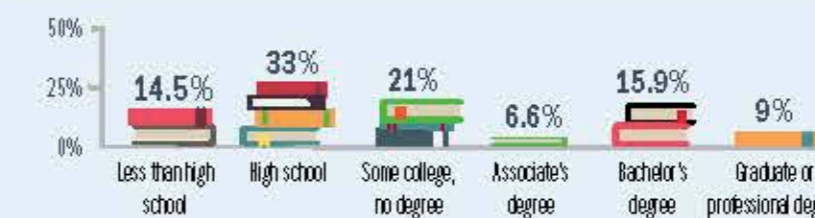


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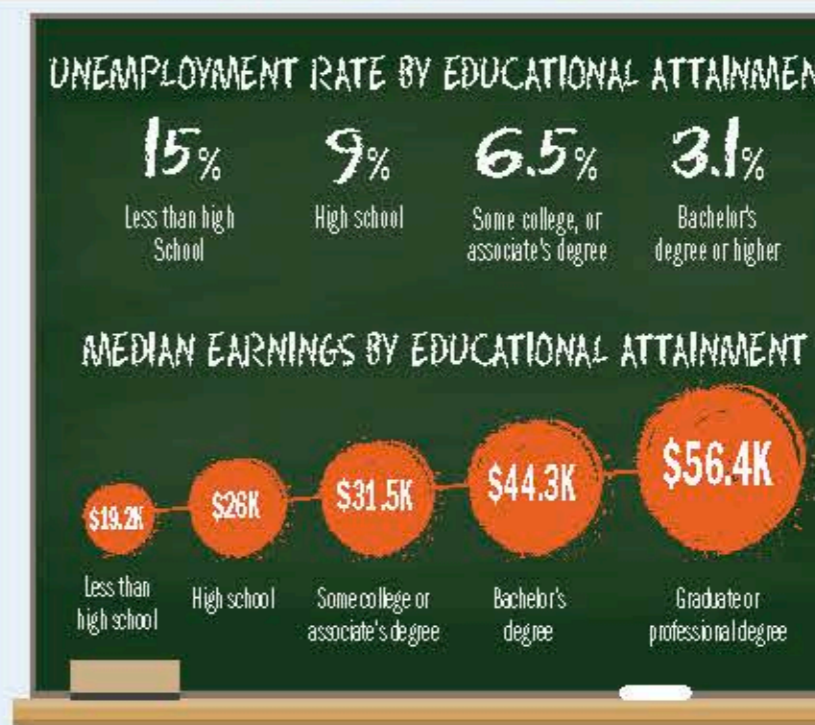


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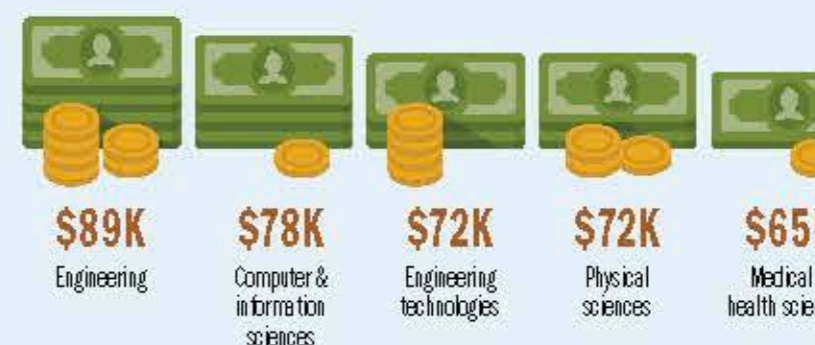
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OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS:

EXPLORING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR MIDDLE-SKILL WORKERS IN THE SOUTHEAST



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