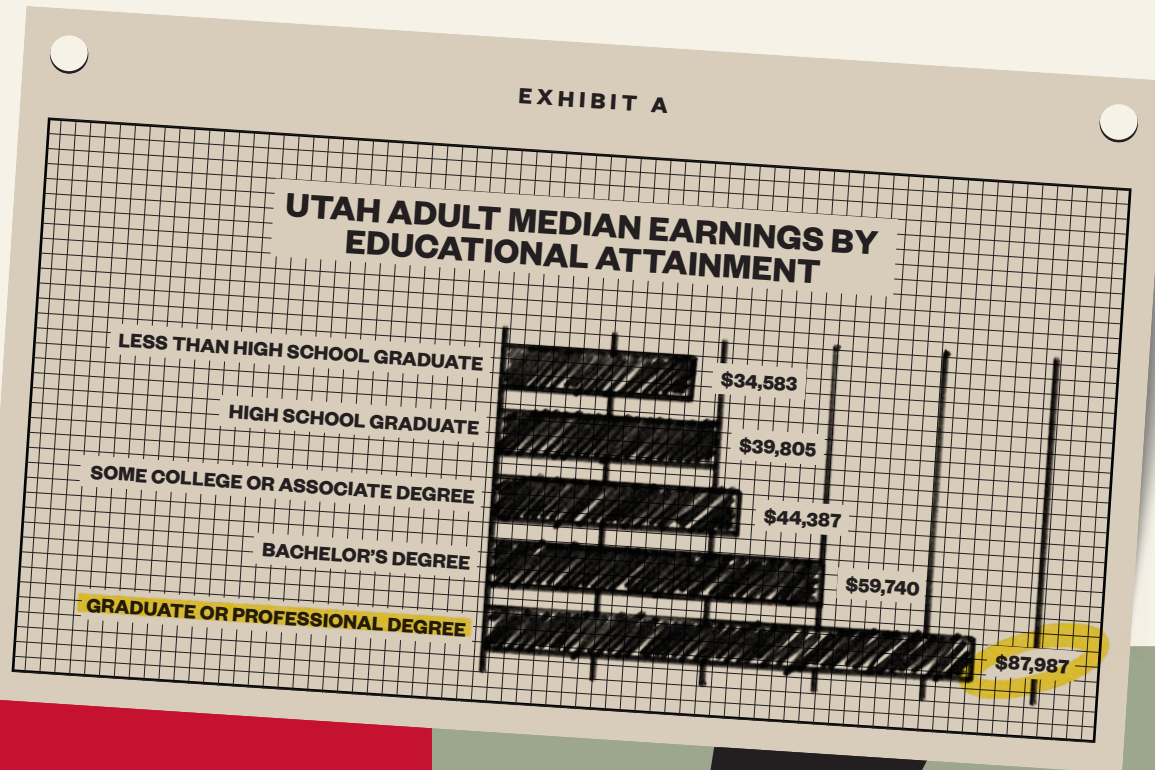


DEBUNKING **5 MYTHS** ABOUT THE VALUE OF A COLLEGE DEGREE

1.

MYTH
College isn't worth the money.

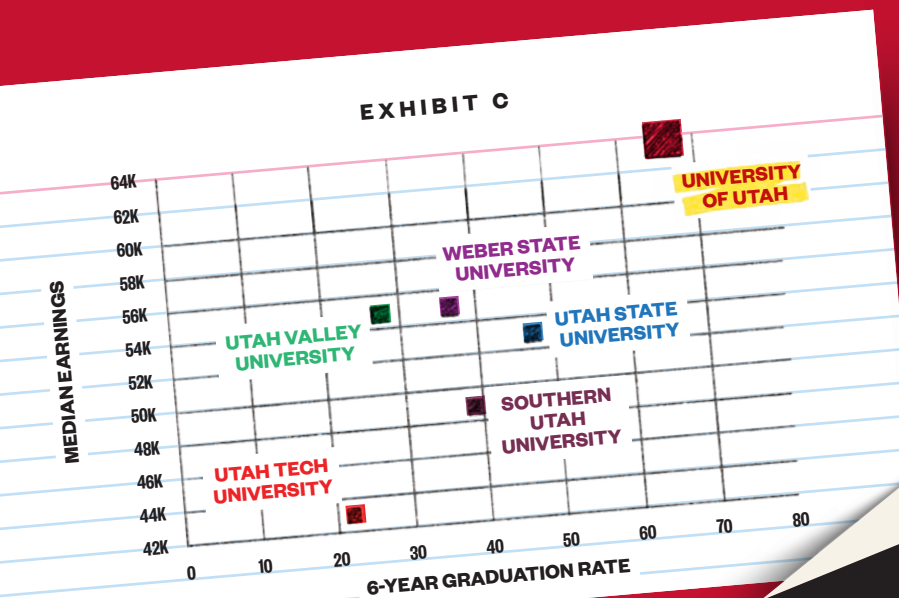
FACT
Graduates see a substantial return on investment through increased earnings. On average, Utahns with bachelor's degrees make **\$20,000** more each year than those with just a high school education.



4.

MYTH
A degree from the U isn't worth it. Other schools have better outcomes for less cost.

FACT
The U has the highest median earnings and six-year graduation rate among all public schools in Utah.



5.

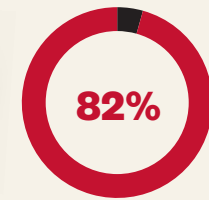
MYTH
Tuition keeps rising, and student debt is through the roof.

FACT
The listed price in higher education is often very different than what's actually paid.

2.

MYTH
There are too many "degrees to nowhere" that don't result in good jobs.

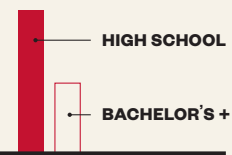
FACT
Degrees from across campus open doors to many in-demand jobs, aligning with market needs.



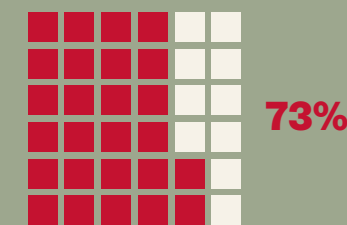
The U awards 55% of all STEM degrees from public universities in Utah.

8,856
career coaching appointments last year at the U.

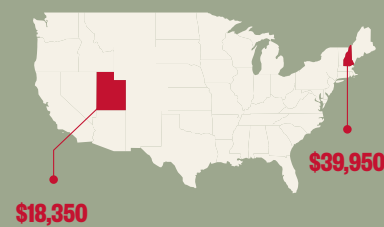
Utah's unemployment rate is nearly **twice as high** for those with only a high school education compared to individuals with bachelor's degrees or higher.



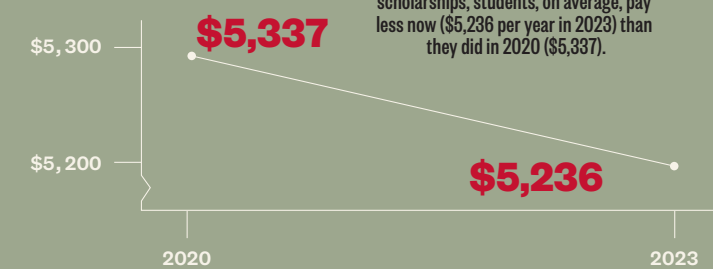
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



AVERAGE DEBT

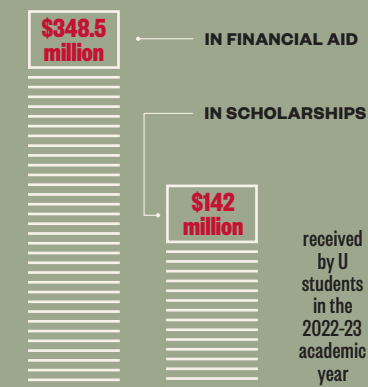


The average debt for graduating students in Utah is the lowest in the country at \$18,350 (the highest is New Hampshire at \$39,950).

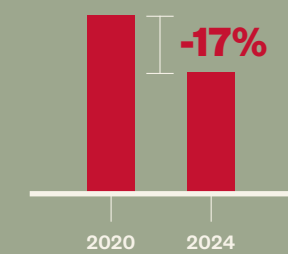


After accounting for financial aid and scholarships, students, on average, pay less now (\$5,236 per year in 2023) than they did in 2020 (\$5,337).

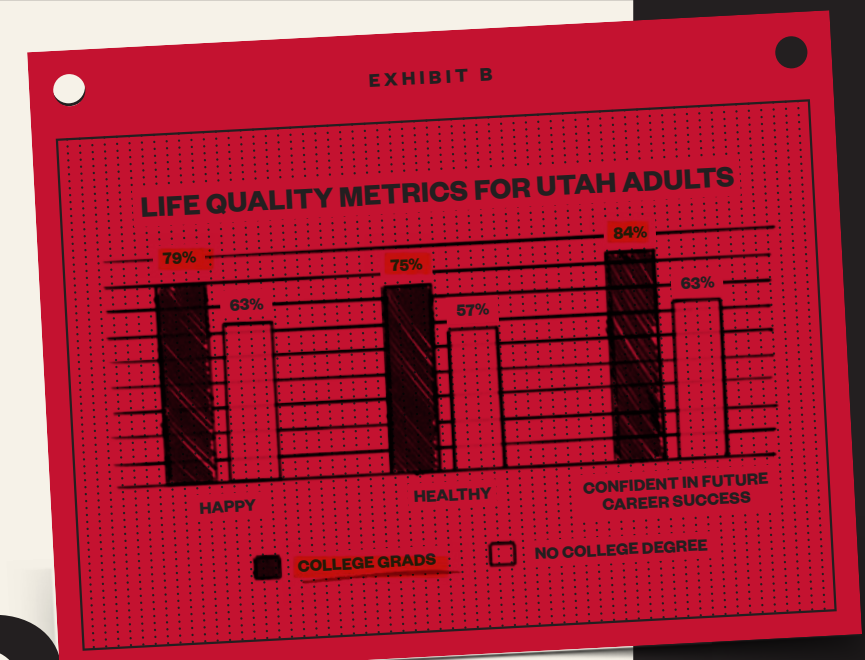
KEEPING AN EYE ON STUDENT COSTS



Tuition costs are increasing at a lower rate than inflation. Since 2020, the inflation-adjusted tuition net price has dropped 17%.



TUITION NET PRICE



3.

MYTH
A college education doesn't have a significant impact on overall quality of life.

FACT
People with college degrees are happier, healthier, and more confident in future career success.

Sources: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute February 2024 Policy Brief; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022; University of Utah Office of Budget and Institutional Analysis; Institute for College Access and Success