

Low jobless rate for community college graduates

By David Leonhardt, New York Times

The federal government's main educational-attainment categories are fairly blunt. In particular, the "some college" category includes a wide array of people: Those who have dropped out of college without earning any degree, those who have earned a two-year degree meant to lead directly to a job (such as in nursing) and those who have earned an academic two-year degree that is often a first step toward a bachelor's degree.

If you want to understand how successful community colleges are, to take just one example, you need to know how well someone with a two-year degree fares in the job market.

Fortunately, in a series of tables that aren't on its website but are available upon request, the Bureau of Labor Statistics does distinguish among the different versions of "some college." (It would be even better if the bureau made this data easily available to the public.)

The group with the highest jobless rate, not surprisingly, is people who have attended some college classes without earning any degree. Their jobless rate is only slightly lower than that of high school graduates who have never attended college.

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