

College isn't always the way to get ahead

By Shahien Nasiripour, Bloomberg

For generations of Americans, a college degree was the best way to advance. These days, it may be a way to avoid losing ground.

That's the unfortunate reality facing millions of Americans in an era of stagnant wages and soaring higher-education costs. Encouraged by government officials to seek out further education and provided with hundreds of billions of dollars in cheap taxpayer-backed credit to finance those dreams, Americans in recent years flocked to college campuses to obtain credentials they hoped would lead to more fulfilling or better-paying jobs.

The result? Outstanding student debt has doubled since 2009 to nearly \$1.4 trillion, according to the Federal Reserve.

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