

DEGREE = SUCCESS



UTB/TSC marketing student Enrique Espinoza counts out money at Wells Fargo bank.

University degrees lead to more opportunities, higher pay

Junior marketing major Enrique Espinoza knows that earning a university degree is necessary to succeed in the professional world.

That's why he enrolled at The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College and why he's set to graduate with his Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing next year.

"Earning a college degree will bring job promotions, more opportunities, better pay and a full knowledge of the job and what it entails," said Espinoza, 20, who works full time at the Wells Fargo bank on Boca Chica Boulevard while attending Tuesday and Thursday classes at UTB/TSC.

Espinoza said his father has always pushed him to pursue a university degree, promising that having it would bring a better life. He said he has seen this come true firsthand in the example of his mentor, R.J. Alfaro, who has set for him by earning his degrees at UTB/TSC.

"I have seen one of my best friends and role models evolve into the perfect example of success," said Espinoza.

Alfaro is the Assistant Branch Manager at the Wells Fargo where Espinoza works. Alfaro graduated with his M.B.A. in December 2010. He said receiving his degree has improved his professional life.

"Since my graduation, I can honestly say that countless doors have opened for me in various industries," said Alfaro. "It has reached the point to where I have companies calling me offering me positions rather than me having to go out and find them."

Alfaro said he believes obtaining a university education is essential to compete in today's tough job market.

According to the United States Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, the average salary for employees with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2008 was 53 percent more than those who only earned a high school diploma before entering the workforce.

A recent survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers found that employers overwhelmingly give hiring preference those with bachelor's degrees or higher.

"Receiving my M.B.A. has had a substantial impact in my professional development and subsequent earning increases," he said. "The educational benefits are evident in my overall knowledge, and the physical degree hanging in my office serves as a visual aide that symbolizes professionalism and commitment."

Alfaro said that UTB/TSC's degree programs have contributed to his desire to pursue a career in investment

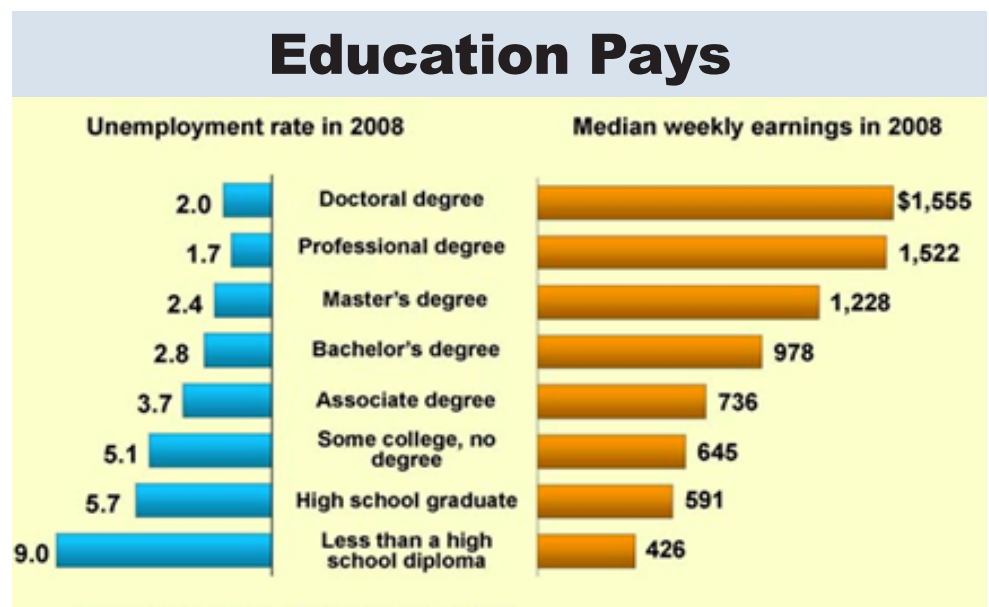
banking and relationship management. He said he strives to be an example to many of his peers who are considering a higher education.

Espinoza said that seeing how well Alfaro has done professionally since receiving his M.B.A. has given him the drive to complete his B.A. and obtain an M.B.A. as well.

"The doors to anything and everything will open with that piece of paper," said Espinoza. "Once I receive that degree, no one will be able to take it away from me."

For more information about degree programs offered at UTB/TSC, visit utb.edu and select "Degrees and Certificates."

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Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

Take these steps to become a UTB/TSC student

- Take a campus tour. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions and Recruitment at 956-882-8600.
- Complete an online admission form at utb.edu.
- Take the COMPASS, THEA or a state-approved alternate test prior to enrollment. For more information on COMPASS testing dates, call the Testing Center at 956-882-8875.
- Meet with an academic advisor to plan a course schedule and degree plan. For more information, contact the Academic Advising Center at 956-882-7362.
- Attend Scorpionation, UTB/TSC's freshman orientation experience. For more information, call the Office of the Dean of Students at 956-882-5141.

Financial Aid Checklist

1. Apply for financial aid using Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online in order to apply for federal and state grant, work-study and loan programs (fasfa.ed.gov). Parents and students should apply for a pin number at pin.ed.gov.
2. Students must apply for admission to UTB/TSC and make sure all official transcripts are sent to the Office of Admissions and Recruitment. Transfer students must request evaluation of transcripts.
3. Take the COMPASS/e-Write exam or other Texas Success Initiative (TSI) test. Check with the Testing Office at 956-882-8875.
4. Students will receive either a Student Aid Report (SAR) or a Student Aid Acknowledgement and must review the information for accuracy.
5. A financial aid advisor will review the application and may need to request additional documentation from the student. Comply with all Office of Financial Aid requests for verification of information.
6. Once the file is completed and cleared, the student will receive a letter stating his/her eligibility status and/or award offer via e-mail.
7. Register for classes before the designated deadlines as indicated in the course schedule and pay balance at Business Office before payment deadline. Six credit hours are required for most financial aid programs. E-mail your financial aid questions to financialaid@utb.edu.



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REGISTER BY AUGUST 4!

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Go to utb.edu/learn and select BECOME A STUDENT or call 956-UTB-4YOU.