

BRIEF 6: UDC GRADUATE OUTCOMES

UDC graduates see strong employment outcomes, with wages rising by degree level.

About This Series

To build a clear picture of the opportunities and supports driving economic mobility, the Office of Education Through Employment Pathways (ETEP) is releasing public-facing dashboards and briefs on education and employment outcomes for DC residents who work in the District, attended DC public schools, and participated in District-funded programs. These outcomes reflect residents whose education records could be matched to employment records – meaning the data does not yet include some residents, such as those working for the federal government or outside the District. This series will help District residents, program providers, policymakers, agency leaders, and educators better understand the impact of education and workforce programs on residents' employment outcomes.

About This Brief

This analysis examines **postsecondary degree outcomes for University of the District of Columbia (UDC) graduates**, including median annual wages and industries of employment in the years following degree completion.

Key Finding 1

UDC graduates **achieve economic stability** quickly, regardless of degree type.

Median wages meet or exceed DC's living wage **within two years** of degree completion, across all degree types.

This aligns with separate findings – drawn from the PSEO dataset in "Earnings and Return on Investment of a University of the District of Columbia (UDC) Bachelor's Degree" (DME, December 2025) – that a UDC bachelor's degree meets the standard for minimum economic return as defined by the Postsecondary Value Commission, meaning the **degree pays for itself** through increased earnings over time.

UDC bachelor's degree and associate's degree holders also achieve stable employment quickly and steadily at **87% and 91%**, respectively, within the first year after postsecondary degree completion.

Key Finding 2

Wages rise substantially at each higher level of UDC postsecondary degree, and the gaps hold steady over time, showing a **clear, durable wage premium at every step** – associate's to bachelor's, and bachelor's to post-baccalaureate.

Bachelor's degree holders out-earn associate's degree holders by about **\$8,000 annually** three years after postsecondary degree completion.

That gap holds steady through **six years** after degree attainment.

Those with a post-baccalaureate degree out-earn bachelor's degree holders by about **\$25,000** one year after degree attainment – a gap that also holds through year six.

Key Finding 3

Bachelor's degree holders see the **strongest wage growth** among UDC graduates.

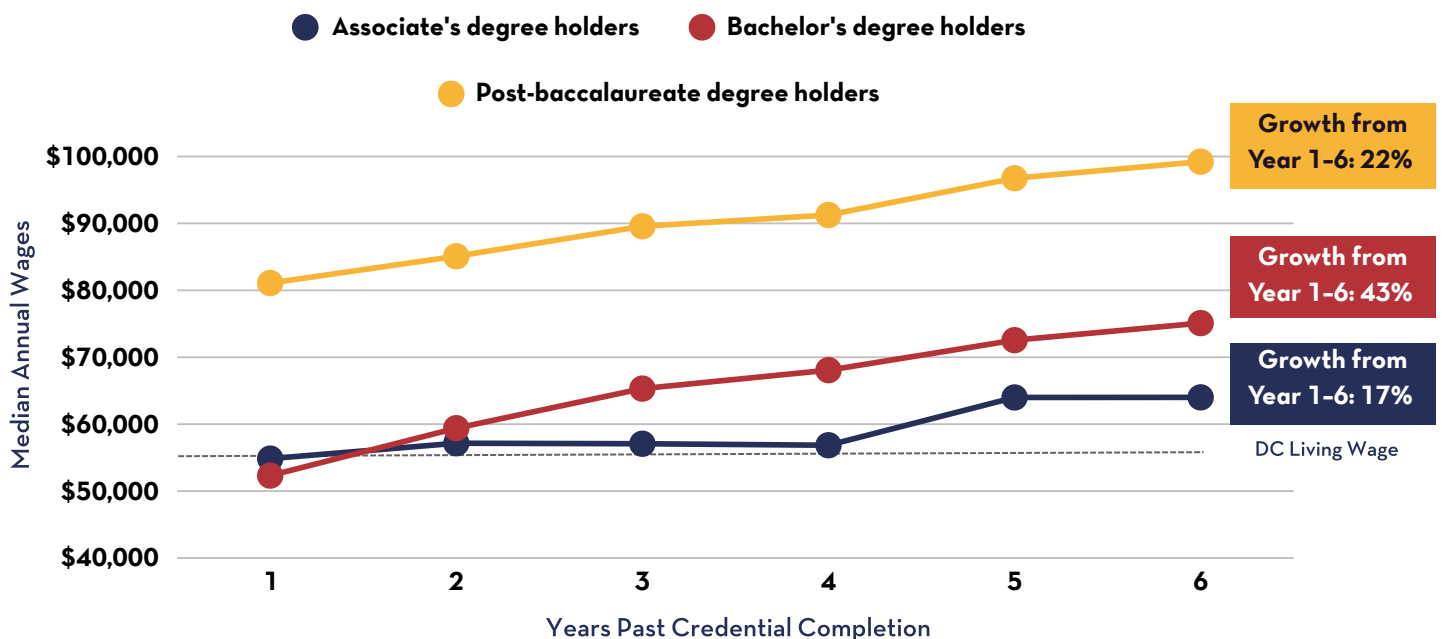
Bachelor's degree holders see **44%** wage growth over six years after degree completion.

Associate's degree holders see **17%** wage growth over the same period.

Post-baccalaureate degree holders see **22%** wage growth over the same period.

This is broadly consistent with separate PSEO-based findings that UDC bachelor's degree graduates see **42%** wage growth in the five years after graduation, reinforcing that UDC graduates see strong wage progression early in their careers.

Median Annual Wages by Degree Type



Key Finding 4

UDC graduates are concentrated in public-sector and high-need industries, with the specific industry mix varying by degree type.

Associate's: Six years after completion, one-third (**33%**) work in Health Care & Social Assistance, followed by Public Administration (**21%**) and Administrative & Support, Waste Management, & Remediation Services (**16%**).

Bachelor's: The top industries are Health Care & Social Assistance (**24%**), Public Administration (**23%**), and Educational Services (**16%**).

Post-baccalaureate: More than half (**56%**) work in Public Administration six years after degree completion.

Additional Context



This analysis includes all UDC graduates in the dataset, including those who did not attend DC public schools. Other analyses in this two-pager series are limited to former DC public school students.



In December 2025, [ETEP released a report](#) based on a collaborative analysis with the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), focused on earnings, return on investment, and the extent to which UDC graduates are employed in high-demand areas.



"Employment stability" is defined in this analysis as an individual having earnings across three consecutive quarters, based on data from Unemployment Insurance Records.



"Living wage" refers to the MIT Living Wage Calculator's estimate for a single adult with no dependents living in DC – approximately \$55,587 annually.



"Post-baccalaureate" refers to any degree earned beyond a bachelor's degree.



Definitions of industries in this analysis:

- Health Care & Social Assistance: Provision of health care and social assistance for individuals.
 - Examples: Hospitals, doctors' offices, nursing homes, child care services
- Public Administration: Government establishments engaged in administering, overseeing, and managing public programs. Note that ETEP's data set does not include federal employees.
 - Examples specific to DC: DC Housing Authority, DC Government Personnel Office.
- Educational Services: Instruction and training in a wide variety of subjects, provided by specialized establishments.
 - Examples: Schools, colleges, universities, training centers

Explore the Dashboard

Use the interactive dashboards to explore these findings.

Key Finding 1:

Median Annual Wages Among
UDC Graduates

[LINK](#)

Stable Employment Rates Among
UDC Graduates

[LINK](#)

Key Finding 2 and 3:

Median Annual Wages Among
UDC Graduates

[LINK](#)

Key Finding 4:

Industries of Employment for Students Served by The
University of The District of Columbia (UDC) Education
6 Years After Degree Completion

[LINK](#)