Education and Economic Mobility

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Uneven Gains

Source: Bailey & Dynarski (2011)
BA Especially Unequal

![Graph showing fraction completing college by quartile for different birth cohorts.](image)
A low-income college student with top math scores has the same chance of graduating with a bachelor’s degree (41 percent) as a rich student with mediocre scores.

**B.A. completion rate in three socio-economic groups, ranked in four groups of math test scores.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowest quartile</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Educational Longitudinal Survey & NYT Upshot.
Education Increasingly Divides the Haves and Have-Nots
Earnings by Education Over Time

Source: College Board, *Education Pays*
Men

Source: College Board, *Education Pays*
Women