

Impact of Higher Education in British Columbia

Economic

- University graduates are 37% less likely to be unemployed than high school graduates (2011 data for BC – *Statistics Canada Table 282-0004*)
- University graduates, on average, earn 68% more in annual income than high school graduates. (2004 data for Canada – *Education Indicators in Canada*, May 2012, Table E.3.5)
- University graduates are absent from work 24% fewer days than high school graduates. (2011 data for Canada – *Statistics Canada Table 279-0036*)
- Seniors with university degrees, on average, have after-tax incomes 46% to 50% higher than seniors with only high school diplomas. (2006 data for Canada – *The Chief Public Health Officer's Report on The State of Public Health in Canada 2010*, Figure 3.10)
- University graduates recovered employment losses during the 2008 economic downturn more quickly than workers with other levels of education. BC university graduates saw an 11% increase in employment between 2008 and 2011, compared to a 4.8% decrease for BC high school graduates. (2008 to 2011 data for BC, *Economic Downturn and Educational Attainment*, June 2012, Charts 5.2 & 5.4)
- University graduates are 17% less likely than high school graduates to stay in the low income category year over year (2009/10 data for Canada – *Statistics Canada Table 202-0806*)

Social

- University graduates are more likely to volunteer, to belong to a voluntary organization, to attend a public meeting and to be politically engaged than people without a university degree. (2003 data for Canada – *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin* Vol. 7, No. 1, July 2006)
- People with higher levels of education have better access to healthy physical environments and are better able to prepare their children for school than people with low levels of education. They also tend to smoke less, to be more physically active and to have access to healthier foods. (1996 data for Canada – *Toward a Healthy Future: Second Report on the Health of Canadians*, 1999, Chapter 2)
- People with higher levels of education are less likely to engage in criminal behaviour (*Education and Crime*, Lance Lochner, December 13, 2007)

Innovation

- UBC's impact on the provincial economy is estimated at \$10 billion, almost 5% of the provincial GDP. About half of that impact results from research activities (2009 data – *The Economic Impact of the University of British Columbia*, UBC, 2009)
- BC's research-intensive universities have about 10,000 funded research projects in progress annually (Estimate derived from 2009 data – *The Economic Impact of the University of British Columbia*, UBC, 2009)
- 85% of BC's doctoral program graduates and 45% of master's program graduates conduct research after graduation (Survey of 2001 and 2004 graduates – *BC University Survey of Graduates from Masters and Doctorate Programs: Report of Findings*, 2006)