



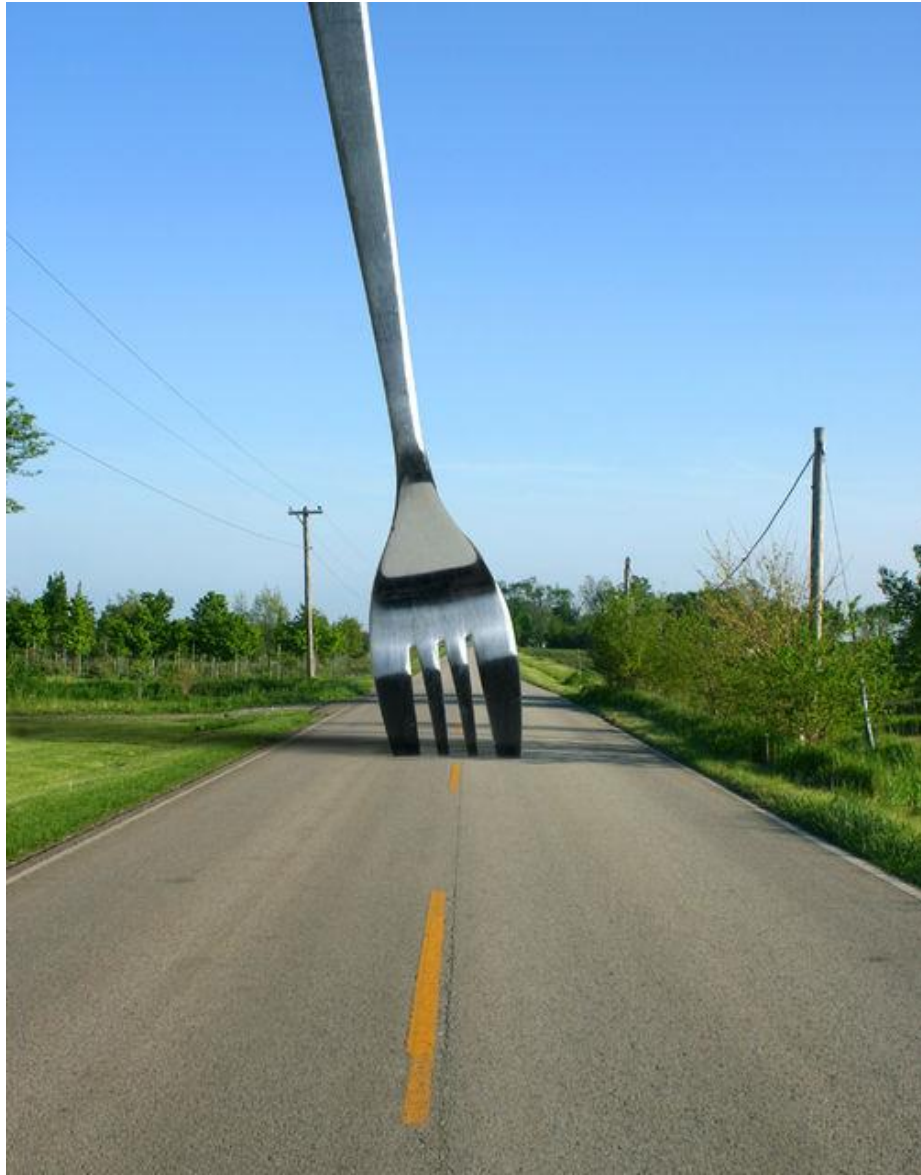
After Graduation: Concrete Strategies to be Competitive for Jobs or Graduate School

The indispensable first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: decide what you want.

Ben Stein

It is hard to imagine a more stupid or more dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decision in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong.

Thomas Sowell



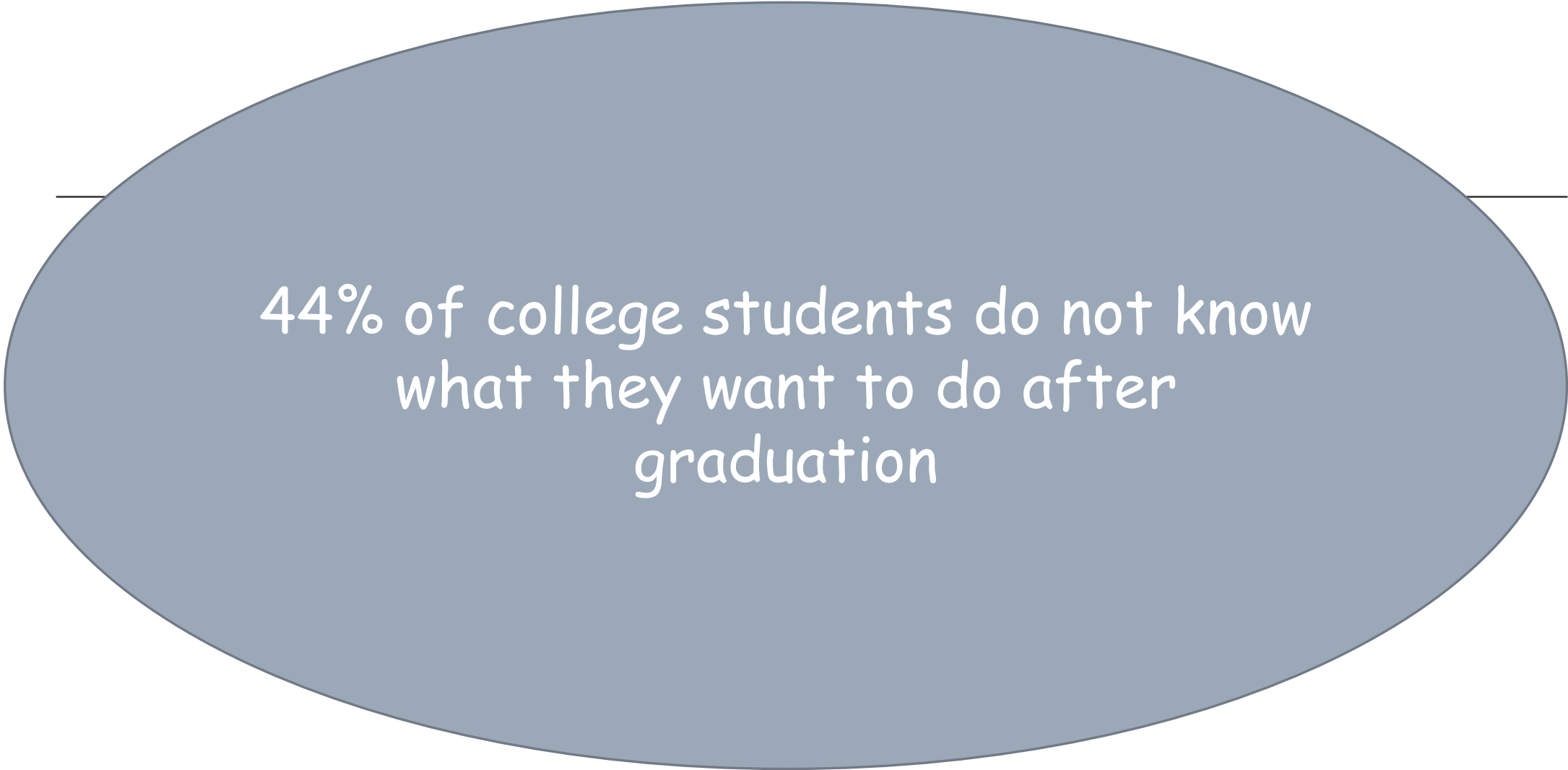
Outline

Statistics on paths after college graduation

Strategies to help you make a decision

Strategies to help you be competitive once you've made a decision

Tips and recommendations for graduate school



44% of college students do not know
what they want to do after
graduation

83% of graduating seniors said they didn't have a job lined up as of March

This didn't vary by major, including those majoring in business or STEM fields

72% were actively looking for a job

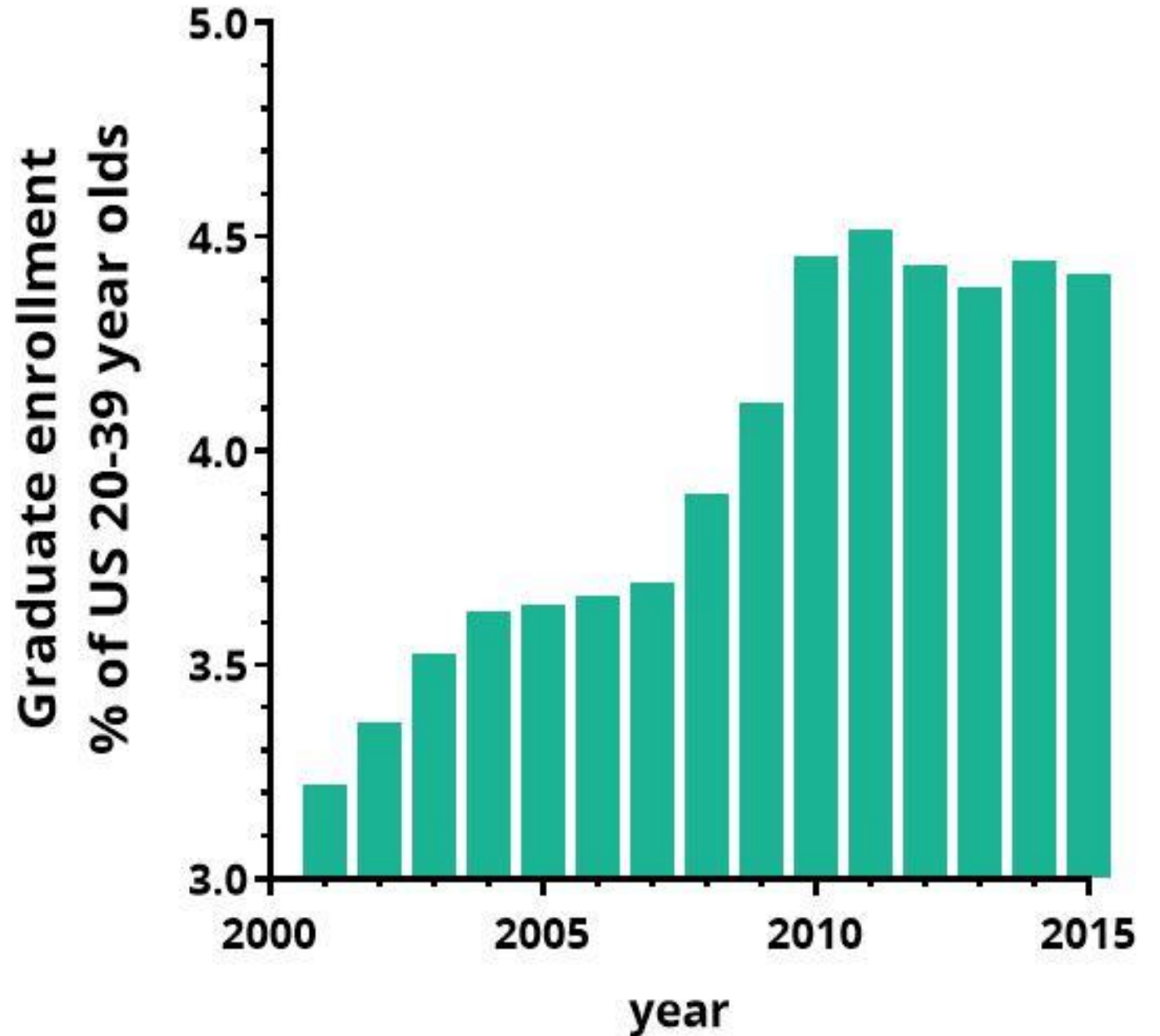


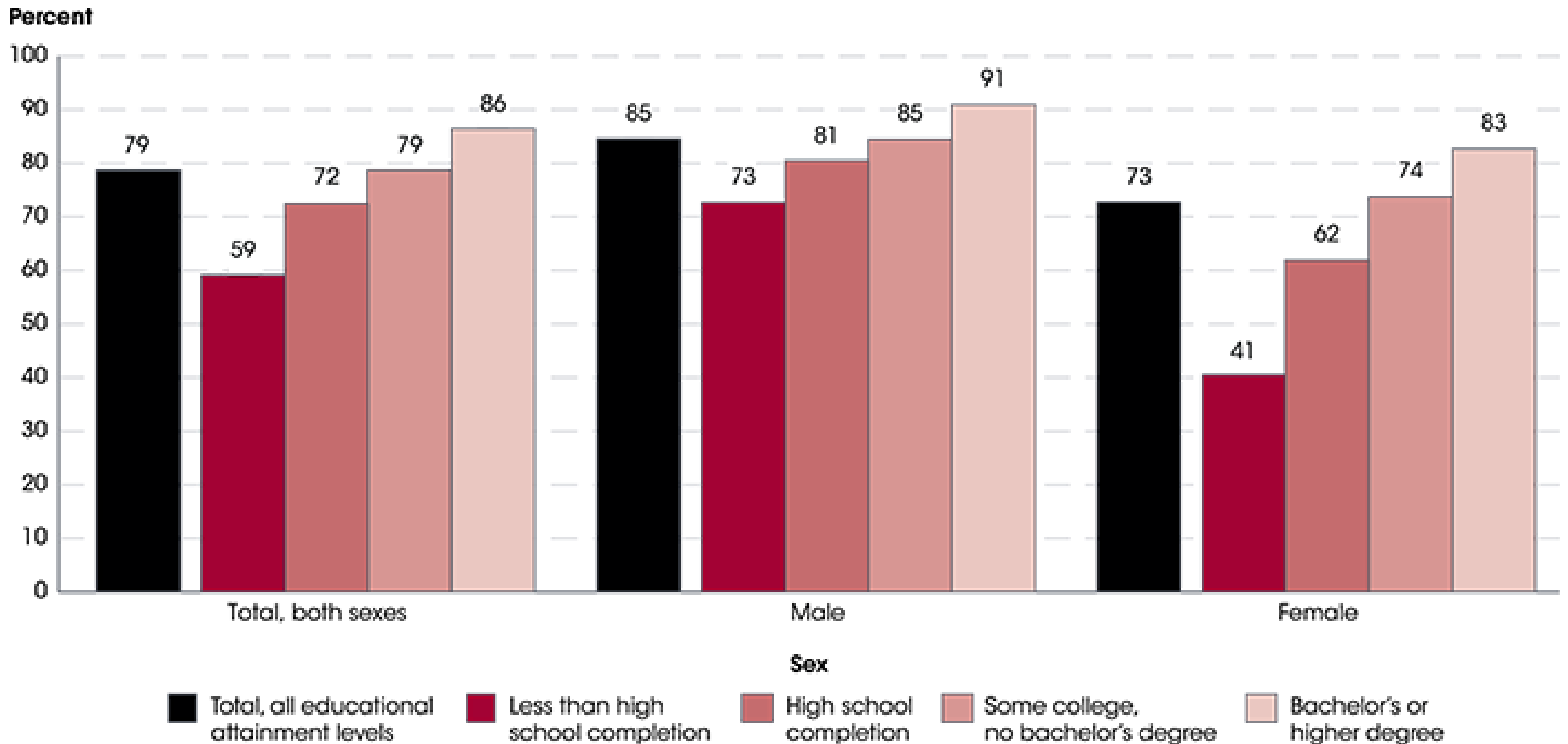
During the 2019–20 academic year, how many degrees are colleges and universities expected to award?

•**1,975,000** bachelor's degrees

•**820,000** master's degrees

•**184,000** doctor's degrees





Employment rates of 25- to 34-year-olds, by sex and educational attainment: 2018

Why does this matter?

Underemployment

- 43% of recent graduates are working in a profession that does not require a college degree
- These underemployed graduates were 5x likely to remain underemployed 5 and even 10 years out
- 87% that were employed college level jobs after graduation remained in positions that matched their education level 5 years later



How to avoid this? Make a decision!

When should you actively start making a plan for after graduation?

How can you make a decision?



Strategies to help you make a decision When and How

Start actively researching options and pathways in your sophomore year

Recommendation

- Consider more than just picking the right major/job for a future job market

Step 1

Meet with your advisor in your major

- What should you share with your advisor?
- What questions should you ask of your advisor?

Prepare for meeting with your advisor

- Tell them:
 - Discuss the reasons for your interest in your major
 - Tell them what you hope to be doing in your career
- Ask them:
 - What kinds of jobs can you do with your chosen major
 - What kinds of post college degrees do you need to do this job
 - What kinds of experiences do you need to be competitive



Step 2

Career Education & Development Center at SU

Set up interview with a trained member of the Career Education & Development Center

<https://stockton.edu/career-center/>

Register for:

Spring Career & Internship Fair

Career Fair Prep Workshops

Career Community

Step 3

Set up Interviews

Interview a few select professionals in your field

Shadow a professional in your field for a day

What kinds of questions to ask during the interview?

- What they like and dislike about their jobs?
- What do they do in a typical day?
- What did they do to get their job – internships, graduate school, certifications, etc.

Step 4

Be a scientist and do your research

What should you research now that you've found a possible career choice?

- Differences in pay and job opportunities if you have a BA versus a graduate degree
- Possible graduate schools in the geographic area of your choice
- Cost of graduate school



Earning your college degree is NOT enough
to be competitive for a job or graduate
school

Employers recommend Hard skills

Take part in outside the
classroom activities

Do a study abroad

Secure multiple internships

Take on leadership roles

Be able to think like a scientist

Experiential learning
experiences (practical)

Variety in your coursework

Get involved in service activities

Stockton University Resources

Center for Community for Engagement

Student Success

Center for Community for
Engagement

<https://stockton.edu/community-engagement/>

Student Success Services

<https://stockton.edu/student-success/>

Employers recommend Soft skills

Emotional intelligence

Resilience

Learnability

Receptive to feedback

Intellectually curious

Critical thinking skills

Taking personal responsibility

Communication

Personable

Strategies to be Competitive for your Career Choice

When should you actively be search out opportunities to be competitive for your career choice?

- Sophomore year!

Recommendation Letters

Placement tests (e.g., GRE)

Find out due dates for any and all application or internship deadlines

Build and maintain your resume or c.v.

Statement of purpose

Competitive Strategies

Join clubs or service opportunities that your major offers

- Psychology Club

Go to talks that your major sponsors

- Get noticed by the faculty!



Competitive Strategies

Get involved in research!

- How do you do this?

Apply for internships

- DCF
- Washington internship
- Summer research internships



Competitive Strategies

Senior thesis

Graduate with distinction or honors

Consider interdisciplinary minors



Best Practices Tips

Keep your resume updated at least once a semester

Keep a log/diary/journal for your off-campus activities (e.g., research, internship, community service, clubs)



Another possibility
Take a gap year?

Decision Making Time

"Courage is willingness to take the risk once you know the odds. Optimistic overconfidence means you are taking the risk because you don't know the odds. It's a big difference."

Daniel Kahneman

Decision Making Time

Money matters!

You will earn more with a graduate degree

It costs more to go to graduate school

Will still be 30 with or without a graduate degree



