



**Fidelity Investments “Let it Grow” Investment Patch**

# **Investing in College Workbook**

## Exploring 5 Possible Career Paths

### Career 1: Middle School Teacher

Average Starting Salary in NC: \$40,000

Salary with some experience: \$45,000-\$55,000

Education required: Bachelor's Degree (4 years)

#### Key Responsibilities

- Plan lessons that teach students a subject, such as biology and history
- Test students to evaluate their abilities, strengths, and difficulties
- Teach lessons they have planned to an entire class or to smaller groups
- Grade students' assignments to monitor their progress
- Communicate with parents about their child's progress

#### Work Environment

Most middle school teachers work in classrooms, some of which have large numbers of students and less-than-ideal teaching tools. Teachers are held accountable for their students' performance on standardized tests, which can be stressful and frustrating. Middle school teachers generally work school hours when students are present. They may meet with parents, students, and other teachers before and after school. Educators often spend time in the evenings and on weekends grading papers and preparing lessons. Many work the traditional ten-month school year, with a two-month break during the summer, while others may also work during the summer or in year-round program settings.

What do you think you would you like about this career?

What do you think you would you dislike about this career?

Is this a career path you want to learn more about? Why?

Information Source:

[www.nccareers.org/occupationalprofiles/index.html?SOCCode=252022](http://www.nccareers.org/occupationalprofiles/index.html?SOCCode=252022)

## **Career 2: Nurse Practitioner**

Average Starting Salary in NC: \$85,000

Salary with some experience: \$100,000-\$110,000

Education required: Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree (6 years)

### Key Responsibilities

- Take and record patients' medical histories and symptoms
- Set up plans for patients' care or contribute to existing plans
- Perform physical exams
- Observe patients and diagnose various health problems
- Perform and order diagnostic tests and analyze results
- Give patients medicines and treatments
- Teach patients and families about patient care and how to stay healthy

### Work Environment

Nurse practitioners' work can be both physically and emotionally demanding. Some spend much of their day on their feet. They must follow strict guidelines to avoid diseases and other dangers like accidental needle sticks. Nurse practitioners working in doctors' offices or schools usually have normal business hours. Those working in hospitals and other healthcare facilities may work in shifts to provide round-the-clock patient care.

What do you think you would you like about this career?

What do you think you would you dislike about this career?

Is this a career path you want to learn more about? Why?

Information Source:

[www.nccareers.org/occupationalprofiles/index.html?SOCCode=291171](http://www.nccareers.org/occupationalprofiles/index.html?SOCCode=291171)

### **Career 3: Lawyer**

Average Starting Salary in NC: \$65,000

Salary with some experience: \$110,000-\$150,000

Education required: Bachelor's Degree and Juris Doctor Degree (7 years)

#### Key Responsibilities

- Advise and represent clients in courts, before government agencies, and in private legal matters
- Communicate with clients and others
- Conduct research and analysis of legal problems
- Interpret laws, rulings, and regulations for individuals and businesses
- Present facts in writing and verbally to their clients or others and argue on their clients' behalf
- Prepare and file legal documents like lawsuits, appeals, wills, contracts, and deeds
- Supervise legal assistants

#### Work Environment

Lawyers work in offices most of the time but sometimes travel to meet clients in places like homes, hospitals, and prisons. They may travel to appear before courts. Lawyers who represent clients in court may face heavy pressure during trials. The majority of lawyers work full time. Lawyers who are in private practice or those who work in large firms often work long hours, conducting research and preparing documents.

What do you think you would you like about this career?

What do you think you would you dislike about this career?

Is this a career path you want to learn more about? Why?

Information Source:

[www.nccareers.org/occupationalprofiles/index.html?SOCCode=231011](http://www.nccareers.org/occupationalprofiles/index.html?SOCCode=231011)

## Career 4: Web Developer

Average starting salary in NC: \$40,000

Salary with some experience: \$60,000-\$70,000

Education required: Associate's Degree (2 years)

### Key Responsibilities

- Meet with clients or management to discuss the website's purposes, its audience, and its desired "look"
- Create and debug applications for a website
- Write code for the site, using programming languages such as HTML or XML
- Work with team members to determine content for the site
- Work with graphics and other designers to determine the website's layout
- Integrate graphics, audio, and video into the website
- Monitor website traffic
- Evaluate code to make sure it's valid, properly structured, meets standards and is compatible with browsers, devices, or operating systems

### Work Environment

Web developers spend most of their time sitting in an office. Most use email on a daily basis. Their work must be very accurate, but they typically do not have the pressure involved in dealing with difficult people or conflict situations. Web developers must repeat tasks a lot and deal with physical repetition that may lead to joint problems. The majority of web developers work at least full time.

What do you think you would you like about this career?

What do you think you would you dislike about this career?

Is this a career path you want to learn more about? Why?

Information Source:

[www.nccareers.org/occupationalprofiles/index.html?SOCCode=151134](http://www.nccareers.org/occupationalprofiles/index.html?SOCCode=151134)

## Career 5: Dental Assistant

Average starting salary in NC: \$33,000

Salary with some experience: \$40,000-\$45,000

Education required: Diploma Program (1 year)

### Key Responsibilities

- Help patients feel comfortable and prepare them for treatments
- Sterilize dental instruments
- Prepare the work area for patient treatment by setting out instruments
- Help dentists by handing them instruments and keeping patients' mouths dry during procedures
- Instruct patients in proper dental hygiene
- Process x-rays and complete lab tasks, under the direction of a dentist
- Keep records of dental treatments
- Schedule patient appointments and work with patients on billing issues

### Work Environment

Dental assistants wear safety glasses, surgical masks, protective clothing, and gloves to protect themselves and patients from infectious diseases. They must also follow safety procedures to minimize risks associated with x-ray machines. Most dental assistants work full time. Some work evenings or weekends, depending on the office where they work.

What do you think you would you like about this career?

What do you think you would you dislike about this career?

Is this a career path you want to learn more about? Why?

Information Source:

[www.nccareers.org/occupationalprofiles/index.html?SOCCode=319091](http://www.nccareers.org/occupationalprofiles/index.html?SOCCode=319091)

**Homework: Explore a career you are interested in by visiting**  
[www.nccareers.org/occupationalprofiles/index.html](http://www.nccareers.org/occupationalprofiles/index.html)



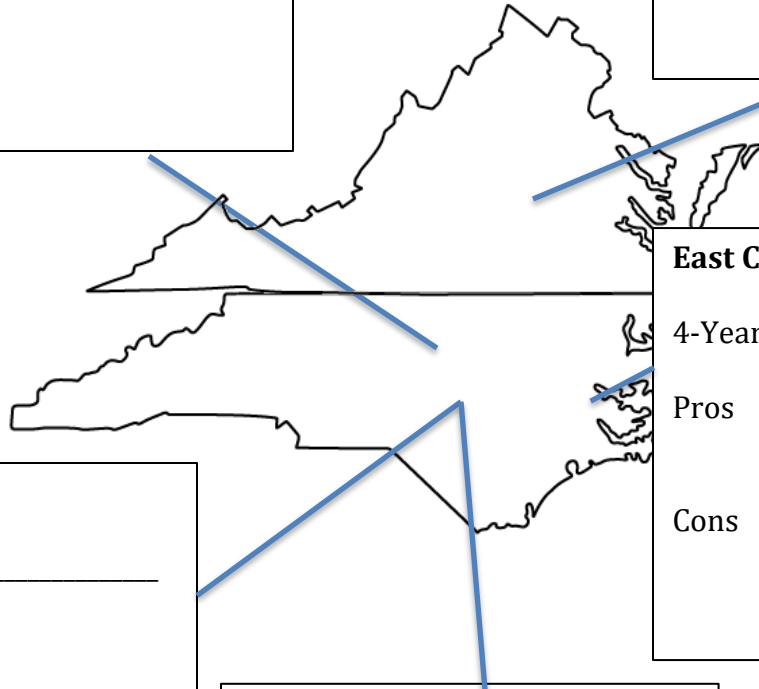
**Try This  
Next!**

## How much do these 4-year undergraduate degree programs cost?

Enter the total cost (including tuition, fees, room and board, books, and estimated supplies) for attending each school for a 4-year program. Jot down some pros and cons for each school, too.

**Duke University**  
4-Year Cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pros  
Cons

**University of Virginia**  
(as an out of state student)  
4-Year Cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pros  
Cons



**East Carolina University**  
4-Year Cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pros  
Cons

**Meredith College**  
4-Year Cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pros  
Cons

**North Carolina State University**  
4-Year Cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pros  
Cons

Data Source:  
collegecalc.org



**Homework:** Complete the same process for schools you are interested in.

### How long will it take before I'm ready to work?

How old are you right now? \_\_\_\_\_

How old will you be when you graduate from high school? \_\_\_\_\_

Now, use your age at high school graduation and count forward to see how old you would be when you could start each career.

Career Path	Years of Education Needed	Your Age When You'd Start Working
Middle School Teacher	4	
Nurse Practitioner	6	
Lawyer	7	
Web Developer	2	
Dental Assistant	1	

### What is my opportunity cost?

Note, all figures below are estimates. Cost of education includes not only the cost of tuition but also basic living expenses (housing, food). For illustrative purposes only.

Career Path	Cost of Education	Place of Education	Average Earned Working for 35 Years
Middle School Teacher	\$96,000	NCSU	\$1,700,000
Nurse Practitioner	\$145,000	UNC	\$3,700,000
Lawyer	\$168,000	UNC	\$4,500,000
Web Developer	\$30,000	Wake Tech	\$2,000,000
Dental Assistant	\$15,000	Wake Tech	\$1,400,000

**Homework:** Look at the cost of education and average lifetime income for careers you are interested in.



**Try This Next!**



## Design Your Perfect Scholarship

After looking at some available scholarships, design a scholarship that would best honor your achievements. What would the requirements be that would make sure you would be the top candidate?



## Understanding a Student Loan

Let's see what a student loan might look like for someone who borrowed \$20,000 per year for 4 years to fund their college experience.

Total Years in College	4 years
Average Amount Borrowed per Year	\$20,000
<b>Total Loan Balance</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>
Loan Interest Rate	5%
Loan Term	15 years
Monthly Loan Payment	\$632.63
Number of Payments	180
<b>Total Payments Made</b>	<b>\$113,874</b>
Total Interest Paid	\$33,874

The interest rate is essentially the fee you're being charged to borrow money from someone else. The higher the fee, the more you will have to pay back.

The loan term is how long you have to pay the loan back – in this case it's 15 years after you graduate.

To pay off this loan, you would need to pay \$632.63 every month for 15 years.

If you did that, you would end up paying back a total of \$113,874 – that is \$33,874 more than your original \$80,000 loan.

**Student loans can help you pay for college, but it's important to remember you will be responsible for paying them back later and you'll be paying back more than you borrowed.**

**Try This Next!**

**Homework: Talk with your family about what you learned today and what your goals are for continuing your education.**