

Important Differences Among Master's, Doctoral, and Professional Degree Recipients

Master's and doctoral recipients are at different stages of their lives compared to professional degree holders. They tend to be older, married and have children. These factors may have different implications for student loan borrowing and repayment. These data, from the 2011-12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), capture some noteworthy differences among these three groups.



*Average age of individuals who earned graduate and professional degrees in 2011-12

^ Median yearly earnings in 2016