

# WHY COLLEGE DEGREES MATTER FOR WOMEN

A college degree can help a woman find success in every area of her life — from the relationships she has with her family and her community to her overall job satisfaction. Despite evidence showcasing the importance of a college education for overall well-being, many women do not complete a degree.

The UVU Women's Success Center, founded in 2011, seeks to help all female students graduate by providing support and removing barriers that prevent women from finishing degrees.

## FACTS ABOUT WOMEN AT UVU

Women make up **49%** of UVU's student population and, on average outperform their male peers academically. However, women complete degrees at significantly lower rates than men and frequently drop out of school around **age 23**.



DEGREE COMPLETION RATES FOR MEN AND WOMEN

**22-24** AVERAGE AGE AT WHICH MOST WOMEN DROP OUT OF SCHOOL AT UVU

**3.01** AVERAGE UVU MALE STUDENT GPA

**3.19** AVERAGE UVU FEMALE STUDENT GPA

## FACTS ABOUT WOMEN IN UTAH

Cultural and economic factors increase the importance of a college education for young women in Utah. Utah ranks the worst state (No. 50) for women's equality for the fourth year in a row. The ranking considers inequity in many areas including education, health, and political empowerment.

Utah has the youngest median age for first marriages in the nation and the divorce rate is higher than the national average. **While some young women in Utah do not anticipate the need to work, current data does not align with this vision.**



**72%** OF WOMEN IN UTAH AGES 20-59 ARE IN THE WORKFORCE

**26%** OF WOMEN IN UTAH ARE THE PRIMARY OR SOLE EARNERS

**57%** OF MARRIED UTAH WOMEN WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME

**29%** OF WOMEN IN UTAH NEVER MARRY

**52%** OF SINGLE- AND DUAL-PARENT FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER AGE SIX HAVE ALL PARENTS WORKING

## DEGREES IMPACT MORE THAN JUST JOBS

While college degrees are instrumental in obtaining stable employment the benefit of earning a degree extends well beyond the workplace, impacting a woman's overall health and happiness, family and relationships, and involvement with the community she lives in.



### BENEFITS TO SELF

College graduates live an average of **seven years longer** than high school graduates.

**94%** of college graduates describe themselves as either happy or very happy.

College graduates are **more likely** to have jobs that provide greater security and flexibility.

College graduates are more likely to have access to better **healthcare and benefits**.



### BENEFITS TO FAMILY

Children of college graduates are **more likely** to read proficiently.

College graduates enjoy **happier and healthier** families.

College graduates have **healthier relationships** and marriages.



### BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY

College graduates are **more likely** to volunteer and donate to charitable causes.

College graduates are **more likely** to vote and have higher rates of civic engagement.

College graduates are **better community members** who hold their own opinions while respecting others.

To learn more, contact the Women's Success Center or visit our website [uvu.edu/wsc](http://uvu.edu/wsc) | (801) 863-3010 | [womenssuccesscenter@uvu.edu](mailto:womenssuccesscenter@uvu.edu)