

## Notes

A response to comments on LinkedIn from professionals who think that an advanced degree in anything other than the sciences is worthless...

A lot of you in the comments did not pass the vibe check, and I feel sorry for your colleagues... If your worth in a professional space is dependent on others' approval of your degree and whether they believe it was a "waste of your time" achieving that degree.... oh my.. what have come to? To use a subjective definition of "worth" to decide whether an entire community of professionals is paid a salary that honors their work, knowledge, and expertise is dangerous. Graduate degrees, regardless of the area of study, can immensely enhance the performance of any employee within any department. Institutional knowledge isn't only gained through experience, it can also be gained through rigorous research, investigation, and discussion with top scholars and professionals teaching in graduate programs throughout the globe. The potential wealth of knowledge that a team can gain, exponentially increases when bringing in someone with knowledge that can only be gained through rigorous academic enrichment. The knowledge that is being brought in by a colleague because of their academic and professional experience deserves appropriate compensation. In creating a workspace that divorces itself entirely, radically, holistically from exploitation of any kind is what is being called for here. People need to be paid a respectful living salary, especially when these positions require the holder of an advanced degree to give their knowledge generously and unconditionally to their colleagues who bank on their supposed "institutional knowledge gained through years of working within the same system of doing things within their field but have little to no critical thinking, research, people, or creative skills when it comes to problem solving, carrying out to realization and success a series of initiatives that benefit the organization/company it's stakeholders and those it intends to serve/remain relevant to". But a job is a job, and it seems that all of the jobs paying us our worth as holders of advanced degrees are given to professionals who would not be able to aptly or successfully compete when confronted with a knowledgeable, well rounded, ambitious candidate. Everyone with an advanced degree that actually worked for it would run circles around most executive members in organizations and companies given the chance. But we make ourselves smaller just to afford crumbs. Because a job is a job.