

What happens to math nerds when they get older

December 01, 2011

Financial Post:

New scientific studies continue to escalate the hard work vs. raw talent debate.

One study from Vanderbilt University shifts things in favor of raw talent. Professors David Lubinski and Camilla Persson Benbow discovered that SAT scores at age 12 are a good indicator of your college major and job in the future.

These charts compare 12 year olds at the bottom end of the top quartile for math with a group at the top end of the top quartile for math; in other words, the lesser math nerds versus the super math nerds.

Compared to lesser math nerds, super math nerds were twice as likely to get a doctorate. 55% of the super math nerds earned income equal to or greater than median, versus 46% (strangely less than average) for lesser math nerds.

Super math nerds were twice as likely to earn a patent, and around seven times a likely to earn tenure at a top university.

Read the full story: [*Financial Post*](#)