

# **Projected Lifetime Earnings Broken Down by Major**

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The estimates in the following table are based on the 2011-2015 American Community Surveys and the baseline lifetime earnings model in [Webber \(2014\)](#) and [Webber \(2016\)](#). The estimates only apply to wage and salary earnings, and do not include other forms of compensation. Individuals who that they are out of the labor force are excluded from the sample. All numbers are presented in constant 2016 dollars. The figures in this table are based on all individuals with at least a college degree, and therefore include some students who hold advanced degrees (Master's, PhD, JD, MD, etc.). All majors for which there was sufficient sample size across age groups to reliably estimate conditional means and variances were included.

### Expected Lifetime Earnings by Field of Bachelor's Degree (All)

Field of Bachelor's Degree	Median Earnings	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Earnings	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Earnings
Chemical Engineering	4,219,118	3,425,309	5,353,609
Chemistry	3,919,792	3,065,400	5,090,978
Biological Sciences	3,903,089	3,007,665	5,078,110
Economics	3,861,114	3,002,040	5,155,885
Aerospace Engineering	3,783,872	3,124,565	4,503,739
Computer Engineering	3,746,446	3,067,381	4,602,985
Finance	3,693,743	2,896,099	4,711,888
Electrical Engineering	3,620,261	2,991,063	4,376,805
Industrial Engineering	3,588,275	2,863,492	4,416,159
Physics	3,577,309	2,912,069	4,541,091
Political Science	3,543,101	2,651,039	4,654,941
Mathematics and Statistics	3,523,578	2,824,892	4,602,967
Computer Science	3,477,249	2,783,755	4,341,360
Mechanical Engineering	3,471,648	2,893,450	4,232,237
Accounting	3,415,687	2,653,754	4,282,474
Nursing	3,411,960	2,761,738	4,151,281
Engineering (Other)	3,389,728	2,704,526	4,218,997
Civil Engineering	3,376,778	2,697,343	4,037,163
Management and Information Science	3,346,007	2,755,622	4,037,774
Information Science	3,260,280	2,661,498	3,881,916
Health Services (General)	3,212,633	2,432,374	4,072,556
Public Administration	3,195,516	2,517,710	4,179,590
Area/Ethnic Studies	3,132,223	2,346,091	4,289,779
International Business	3,113,286	2,420,277	4,239,060
Physical Sciences (not chem/physics)	3,089,811	2,451,150	3,968,810
General Business	3,074,275	2,475,729	3,916,979
Medical Technologies	2,989,759	2,436,194	3,688,276
Marketing	2,945,410	2,326,046	3,731,111
Treatment Therapy (All)	2,916,609	2,328,752	3,743,540
History	2,884,665	2,207,160	3,886,070
Computer and Information Systems	2,874,520	2,365,241	3,533,932
Transportation Science	2,872,320	2,302,858	3,567,094
Advertising/Public Relations	2,863,337	2,132,120	3,883,468
Interdisciplinary Studies	2,862,136	2,102,039	3,720,371
Human Resources	2,844,812	2,258,084	3,610,701
Agricultural Economics	2,844,232	2,207,110	3,550,660
Communications	2,827,332	2,138,775	3,628,831
Management	2,826,628	2,247,716	3,583,671

English Language/Literature	2,812,335	2,176,372	3,759,556
Computer Administration Management	2,784,391	2,115,513	3,691,708
Journalism	2,777,394	2,137,759	3,666,832
Foreign Languages	2,772,318	2,117,277	3,665,192
Computer Programming	2,772,293	2,142,841	3,601,628
Engineering Technologies	2,765,943	2,262,454	3,386,879
Construction	2,742,585	2,208,085	3,369,185
Psychology	2,724,774	2,141,427	3,585,059
Art History	2,722,751	2,029,196	3,627,348
Architecture	2,682,671	2,132,398	3,462,685
Linguistics/Comparative Language and Literature	2,654,212	2,022,833	3,531,479
Anthropology/Archeology	2,625,725	2,025,686	3,398,782
Sociology	2,604,583	2,034,406	3,319,604
Environmental Science	2,602,950	2,088,407	3,286,297
Animal Science	2,537,957	2,028,061	3,275,810
Philosophy	2,513,506	1,921,807	3,329,373
Social Sciences (Other)	2,501,103	1,923,753	3,289,440
Liberal Arts	2,498,729	1,920,936	3,295,297
Mass Media	2,446,460	1,867,018	3,232,732
Criminology	2,436,320	1,964,402	3,102,252
Geography	2,423,657	1,931,789	3,141,163
Hospitality	2,409,819	1,896,918	3,089,345
Computer Networking and Telecommunications	2,397,763	1,915,976	3,052,275
Criminal Justice	2,394,032	1,937,962	2,956,854
Humanities	2,382,555	1,810,817	3,243,240
Consumer Science	2,345,822	1,789,028	3,084,573
Composition and Rhetoric	2,314,632	1,751,462	3,067,895
Physical Fitness/Parks and Recreation	2,309,078	1,840,833	2,894,997
Graphic Design	2,296,051	1,734,381	3,037,999
Agriculture	2,287,083	1,862,182	2,865,094
Social Work	2,284,056	1,841,578	2,878,880
Forestry	2,281,874	1,888,274	2,794,617
Education (All)	2,245,066	1,788,280	2,874,340
Natural Resources Management	2,241,066	1,799,279	2,798,341
Communication Technology	2,234,820	1,676,469	2,836,583
Plant Science	2,226,330	1,766,267	2,732,262
Drama	2,216,449	1,663,751	2,905,392
Film/Video/Photography	2,187,099	1,695,610	2,961,209
Fine Arts	2,110,169	1,599,366	2,780,740

Human/Community Services	2,103,069	1,647,488	2,726,116
Music	2,029,602	1,559,546	2,770,948
Cosmetology	1,901,513	1,510,784	2,439,607
Studio Arts	1,899,581	1,414,333	2,454,012
Some College but no degree	1,723,879	1,350,027	2,171,287
Theology	1,576,132	1,278,493	1,971,764
High School	1,346,974	1,055,698	1,704,659

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## References

Webber, Douglas A. "The lifetime earnings premia of different majors: Correcting for selection based on cognitive, noncognitive, and unobserved factors." *Labour Economics* 28 (2014): 14-23.

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