

Projected Lifetime Earnings by Major

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The estimates in the following table are based on the 2014-2018 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 report 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 Students)

Field of Bachelor's Degree	Median Earnings	25 th Percentile Earnings	75 th Percentile Earnings
Chemical Engineering	4,036,390	3,410,866	4,883,613
Aerospace Engineering	3,814,747	3,261,815	4,502,198
Chemistry	3,775,274	3,100,674	4,537,751
Economics	3,745,832	3,006,655	4,668,584
Biological Sciences	3,719,972	3,061,482	4,586,571
Computer Engineering	3,694,341	3,158,285	4,423,022
Electrical Engineering	3,692,322	3,128,088	4,383,217
Finance	3,641,668	2,965,330	4,456,243
Mechanical Engineering	3,610,100	3,041,025	4,251,861
Industrial Engineering	3,531,139	2,962,279	4,188,379
Computer Science	3,496,005	2,933,045	4,140,123
Physics	3,454,130	2,878,718	4,187,892
Political Science	3,415,427	2,804,015	4,285,883
Mathematics and Statistics	3,375,251	2,806,622	4,095,109
Civil Engineering	3,371,020	2,871,717	3,932,677
Engineering (Other)	3,345,805	2,854,091	3,951,769
Nursing	3,343,054	2,868,645	3,977,865
Management and Information Science	3,246,571	2,799,001	3,820,344
Accounting	3,236,451	2,620,316	3,982,689
Information Science	3,208,052	2,721,788	3,795,955
International Business	3,023,287	2,513,716	3,710,985
Public Administration	3,020,763	2,487,663	3,712,180
Construction	2,976,431	2,578,865	3,466,965
Transportation Science	2,969,866	2,516,688	3,588,596
Health Services (General)	2,963,375	2,395,372	3,609,414
Marketing	2,957,747	2,406,143	3,655,508
Area/Ethnic Studies	2,932,421	2,308,867	3,617,222
Physical Sciences (not chem/physics)	2,929,903	2,473,381	3,614,979
General Business	2,913,760	2,391,672	3,556,843
Medical Technologies	2,895,172	2,457,438	3,410,571
Computer and Information Systems	2,868,886	2,393,493	3,374,288
Human Resources	2,843,902	2,348,552	3,406,682
Treatment Therapy (All)	2,840,891	2,359,898	3,385,966
Management	2,812,553	2,295,706	3,414,294
Agricultural Economics	2,781,885	2,326,553	3,415,641
Architecture	2,750,391	2,266,890	3,304,084
Engineering Technologies	2,749,101	2,356,786	3,213,097

History	2,737,137	2,241,809	3,433,454
Advertising/Public Relations	2,734,582	2,250,921	3,335,535
Journalism	2,727,056	2,191,624	3,294,770
Psychology	2,659,537	2,088,248	3,302,541
Communications	2,624,707	2,175,002	3,118,426
Foreign Languages	2,620,322	2,154,568	3,362,371
Interdisciplinary Studies	2,616,377	2,112,828	3,289,810
Computer Programming	2,613,961	2,137,747	3,245,107
English Language/Literature	2,610,935	2,147,920	3,232,585
Computer Administration Management	2,598,816	2,150,959	3,138,039
Linguistics/Comparative Language and Literature	2,565,633	2,034,514	3,206,196
Computer Networking and Telecommunications	2,562,664	2,150,556	3,147,254
Environmental Science	2,558,715	2,121,812	3,098,550
Art History	2,552,569	2,068,440	3,254,745
Animal Science	2,520,086	2,148,454	3,007,944
Sociology	2,520,058	2,043,843	3,099,478
Anthropology/Archeology	2,507,167	2,038,334	3,142,144
Philosophy/Religious Studies	2,453,409	1,994,831	3,055,722
Criminology	2,407,576	2,028,931	2,867,389
Social Sciences (Other)	2,391,876	1,985,784	2,986,298
Geography	2,379,337	1,969,608	2,927,055
Hospitality	2,353,017	1,953,597	2,881,923
Criminal Justice	2,333,456	1,969,752	2,749,781
Humanities	2,326,808	1,875,662	2,976,605
Liberal Arts	2,303,312	1,905,605	2,888,762
Mass Media	2,292,651	1,861,641	2,829,235
Natural Resources Management	2,259,498	1,914,263	2,737,431
Agriculture	2,259,267	1,896,387	2,690,572
Forestry	2,242,178	1,921,428	2,677,260
Social Work	2,233,483	1,878,586	2,685,652
Graphic Design	2,202,815	1,809,751	2,707,622
Physical Fitness/Parks and Recreation	2,198,485	1,835,975	2,727,367
Composition and Rhetoric	2,185,699	1,784,951	2,729,970
Consumer Science	2,182,876	1,783,884	2,630,369
Education (All)	2,151,148	1,821,668	2,639,357
Plant Science	2,144,508	1,789,440	2,623,427
Communication Technology	2,143,018	1,759,404	2,632,189
Film/Video/Photography	2,092,994	1,700,243	2,610,943
Human/Community Services	2,089,081	1,730,377	2,525,158

Fine Arts	2,014,492	1,641,098	2,504,174
Music	1,990,558	1,608,122	2,485,324
Drama	1,978,359	1,598,873	2,483,275
Studio Arts	1,870,501	1,512,839	2,377,839
Cosmetology	1,852,956	1,580,080	2,248,757
Some College but no degree	1,659,604	1,387,299	2,013,738
Theology	1,591,272	1,324,887	1,907,547
High School	1,304,355	1,086,501	1,591,991

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.

Webber, Douglas A. "Are college costs worth it? How ability, major, and debt affect the returns to schooling." *Economics of Education Review* 53 (2016): 296-310.