

Projected Lifetime Earnings for Bachelor's Degree Holders 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 individuals who do not hold any degree past a Bachelor's. 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 (No Postgraduate Degrees)

Field of Bachelor's Degree	Median Earnings	25 th Percentile Earnings	75 th Percentile Earnings
Chemical Engineering	3,826,270	3,109,047	4,851,378
Aerospace Engineering	3,437,315	2,801,608	4,132,196
Computer Engineering	3,400,258	2,768,680	4,146,906
Finance	3,319,541	2,614,675	4,224,135
Economics	3,257,061	2,544,323	4,287,472
Computer Science	3,242,657	2,590,491	4,057,186
Electrical Engineering	3,220,932	2,657,803	3,898,971
Management and Information Science	3,178,471	2,622,194	3,833,024
Industrial Engineering	3,174,086	2,534,185	3,874,961
Mechanical Engineering	3,159,400	2,634,728	3,851,061
Accounting	3,146,524	2,438,457	3,931,131
Mathematics and Statistics	3,144,119	2,508,857	4,136,149
Nursing	3,126,334	2,546,220	3,797,062
Civil Engineering	3,102,192	2,507,186	3,717,683
Information Science	3,052,305	2,501,159	3,639,127
Engineering (Other)	3,015,306	2,429,744	3,742,076
Physics	2,991,959	2,375,077	3,802,143
General Business	2,858,314	2,309,921	3,627,818
International Business	2,826,199	2,206,367	3,880,973
Political Science	2,813,086	2,104,850	3,689,382
Advertising/Public Relations	2,812,132	2,074,940	3,801,451
Marketing	2,802,912	2,228,749	3,567,319
Chemistry	2,764,984	2,173,216	3,588,977
Transportation Science	2,756,723	2,220,792	3,424,154
Medical Technologies	2,726,091	2,248,332	3,342,911
Computer and Information Systems	2,723,024	2,246,677	3,366,630
Public Administration	2,684,559	2,159,340	3,485,975
Construction	2,672,034	2,162,616	3,310,630
Agricultural Economics	2,658,345	2,061,617	3,314,951
Management	2,647,309	2,114,428	3,344,116
Communications	2,644,434	2,011,367	3,404,282
Treatment Therapy (All)	2,617,645	2,094,004	3,378,285
Human Resources	2,612,068	2,073,873	3,286,256
Engineering Technologies	2,599,812	2,132,022	3,175,950
Journalism	2,593,845	1,991,636	3,417,015
Computer Administration	2,567,637	1,986,979	3,337,826
Physical Sciences (not chem/physics)	2,547,535	2,032,275	3,229,678

Computer Programming	2,532,363	2,004,475	3,208,954
Biological Sciences	2,526,939	1,978,525	3,243,656
Architecture	2,519,836	1,997,698	3,213,025
Health Services (General)	2,507,156	1,927,550	3,210,303
Area/Ethnic Studies	2,503,879	1,875,509	3,382,750
English Language/Literature	2,413,576	1,836,965	3,243,448
Art History	2,399,108	1,775,351	3,192,227
Interdisciplinary Studies	2,363,707	1,759,348	3,069,610
History	2,329,062	1,792,151	3,096,265
Foreign Languages	2,317,588	1,763,095	3,100,130
Hospitality	2,313,026	1,831,409	2,966,191
Mass Media	2,311,610	1,765,657	3,066,090
Sociology	2,307,635	1,818,018	2,953,965
Computer Networking and Telecommunications	2,279,232	1,818,447	2,884,294
Environmental Science	2,275,369	1,836,002	2,872,528
Psychology	2,270,465	1,758,599	2,974,694
Criminal Justice	2,239,659	1,823,622	2,771,066
Graphic Design	2,239,449	1,693,365	2,974,478
Criminology	2,238,805	1,814,740	2,847,836
Composition and Rhetoric	2,228,411	1,662,933	2,931,791
Liberal Arts	2,223,008	1,718,357	2,933,933
Social Sciences (Other)	2,211,234	1,706,985	2,893,478
Linguistics/Comparative Language and Literature	2,207,827	1,725,661	2,998,089
Communication Technology	2,167,671	1,648,616	2,736,777
Geography	2,161,622	1,719,047	2,780,489
Agriculture	2,152,808	1,755,970	2,675,414
Forestry	2,142,721	1,772,982	2,616,439
Anthropology/Archeology	2,119,893	1,636,535	2,739,463
Film/Video/Photography	2,107,484	1,637,040	2,823,347
Animal Science	2,103,781	1,692,443	2,683,677
Consumer Science	2,097,195	1,588,816	2,770,462
Drama	2,066,921	1,550,827	2,712,106
Philosophy	2,065,572	1,560,564	2,751,773
Humanities	2,064,929	1,561,598	2,845,950
Plant Science	2,056,617	1,620,837	2,526,756
Natural Resources Management	2,045,077	1,644,172	2,563,370
Physical Fitness/Parks and Recreation	2,044,506	1,629,043	2,585,455
Fine Arts	1,986,983	1,499,155	2,618,350
Social Work	1,950,194	1,559,994	2,488,264
Education (All)	1,925,034	1,504,753	2,499,319

Human/Community Services	1,906,787	1,485,910	2,484,064
Cosmetology	1,885,770	1,502,358	2,418,349
Music	1,833,302	1,405,648	2,486,400
Some College but no degree	1,725,223	1,351,086	2,174,176
Studio Arts	1,692,998	1,259,195	2,201,243
Theology	1,492,906	1,200,327	1,887,314
High School	1,346,902	1,055,705	1,704,245

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.