

Projected Lifetime Earnings for Bachelor's Degree Holders by Major

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The estimates in the following table are based on the 2012-2016 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	3,397,680	2,861,315	4,138,457
Aerospace Engineering	3,170,057	2,723,451	3,706,972
Computer Engineering	3,109,674	2,660,702	3,724,409
Mechanical Engineering	3,029,086	2,560,198	3,574,008
Electrical Engineering	3,013,704	2,547,828	3,590,449
Finance	2,992,909	2,447,445	3,658,082
Computer Science	2,948,194	2,475,584	3,512,433
Industrial Engineering	2,891,089	2,442,825	3,434,529
Economics	2,890,757	2,329,172	3,603,798
Management and Information Science	2,866,882	2,466,296	3,358,242
Civil Engineering	2,865,890	2,433,398	3,349,948
Nursing	2,849,070	2,447,191	3,388,562
Engineering (Other)	2,769,594	2,361,754	3,247,428
Information Science	2,768,328	2,336,729	3,306,491
Mathematics and Statistics	2,766,642	2,265,636	3,351,781
Accounting	2,741,260	2,231,356	3,379,340
Construction	2,642,424	2,281,542	3,073,705
Physics	2,632,909	2,179,235	3,237,704
Marketing	2,592,308	2,104,012	3,200,048
Transportation Science	2,580,218	2,209,235	3,116,333
International Business	2,535,950	2,089,750	3,169,074
Political Science	2,519,901	2,070,210	3,170,874
Computer and Information Systems	2,507,949	2,087,035	2,964,279
General Business	2,506,765	2,053,299	3,052,849
Medical Technologies	2,479,858	2,113,977	2,905,614
Chemistry	2,454,798	2,034,802	2,949,157
Management	2,434,641	1,995,015	2,962,714
Human Resources	2,417,776	2,002,916	2,909,474
Engineering Technologies	2,392,686	2,051,623	2,794,182
Advertising/Public Relations	2,371,165	1,963,761	2,902,727
Treatment Therapy (All)	2,368,685	1,966,410	2,813,226
Journalism	2,340,338	1,893,379	2,822,079
Agricultural Economics	2,336,621	1,951,914	2,877,941
Public Administration	2,326,277	1,927,484	2,852,172
Architecture	2,276,500	1,875,594	2,753,361
Physical Sciences (not chem/physics)	2,265,764	1,914,148	2,786,808
Computer Administration Management	2,259,831	1,880,473	2,766,018
Communications	2,245,734	1,869,887	2,681,289

Computer Programming	2,238,960	1,855,439	2,763,781
Biological Sciences	2,238,787	1,868,885	2,724,191
Health Services (General)	2,199,513	1,780,880	2,666,783
Area/Ethnic Studies	2,146,706	1,699,676	2,696,442
Computer Networking and Telecommunications	2,131,553	1,785,097	2,653,336
Hospitality	2,081,792	1,718,352	2,538,420
Environmental Science	2,078,022	1,714,740	2,530,651
History	2,065,436	1,689,728	2,577,186
Criminal Justice	2,056,666	1,737,764	2,428,006
Criminology	2,054,932	1,732,004	2,463,179
Sociology	2,053,084	1,657,411	2,518,221
Art History	2,047,480	1,640,944	2,624,471
English Language/Literature	2,038,085	1,664,736	2,535,951
Mass Media	2,023,957	1,635,535	2,488,547
Interdisciplinary Studies	2,002,719	1,614,409	2,526,432
Foreign Languages	2,000,728	1,629,594	2,587,368
Psychology	2,000,720	1,570,777	2,514,151
Linguistics/Comparative Language and Literature	1,993,885	1,567,494	2,537,640
Social Sciences (Other)	1,954,937	1,627,677	2,431,315
Graphic Design	1,953,258	1,594,438	2,415,623
Geography	1,952,727	1,623,718	2,383,283
Agriculture	1,945,805	1,640,121	2,321,561
Communication Technology	1,932,371	1,584,565	2,375,472
Natural Resources Management	1,915,599	1,604,110	2,320,194
Liberal Arts	1,908,477	1,572,998	2,399,553
Forestry	1,908,466	1,627,622	2,279,623
Composition and Rhetoric	1,908,057	1,547,758	2,376,122
Animal Science	1,872,607	1,602,980	2,224,745
Philosophy/Religious Studies	1,840,132	1,508,686	2,276,005
Anthropology/Archeology	1,831,105	1,473,552	2,308,049
Plant Science	1,828,095	1,519,385	2,221,764
Film/Video/Photography	1,827,463	1,495,443	2,294,221
Humanities	1,808,383	1,451,163	2,329,813
Physical Fitness/Parks and Recreation	1,775,467	1,470,510	2,198,179
Consumer Science	1,773,931	1,457,001	2,143,086
Social Work	1,764,892	1,466,103	2,128,989
Human/Community Services	1,742,270	1,420,047	2,101,322
Fine Arts	1,735,215	1,419,918	2,168,460
Education (All)	1,685,328	1,417,545	2,099,657
Cosmetology	1,683,093	1,419,867	2,049,445

Drama	1,643,581	1,317,862	2,060,819
Music	1,641,176	1,319,858	2,054,346
Studio Arts	1,548,805	1,250,326	1,985,910
Some College but no degree	1,525,699	1,274,487	1,858,429
Theology	1,377,685	1,136,940	1,664,547
High School	1,192,004	989,333	1,454,695

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.