

Projected Lifetime Earnings for Bachelor's Degree Holders 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 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	3,636,147	3,068,850	4,421,948
Aerospace Engineering	3,409,136	2,887,422	4,022,160
Computer Engineering	3,363,798	2,876,756	4,039,546
Finance	3,329,492	2,716,876	4,068,080
Mechanical Engineering	3,270,731	2,760,777	3,856,645
Electrical Engineering	3,236,316	2,751,287	3,845,792
Computer Science	3,211,229	2,702,380	3,824,772
Economics	3,180,257	2,542,520	3,952,561
Management and Information Science	3,112,610	2,677,387	3,675,568
Civil Engineering	3,106,452	2,647,236	3,632,488
Industrial Engineering	3,103,836	2,620,822	3,688,657
Nursing	3,045,707	2,618,580	3,619,508
Information Science	3,015,374	2,552,580	3,587,726
Mathematics and Statistics	2,986,697	2,462,110	3,625,321
Engineering (Other)	2,981,767	2,536,774	3,505,686
Accounting	2,970,200	2,405,184	3,664,223
Construction	2,951,712	2,554,026	3,428,956
Transportation Science	2,904,789	2,471,194	3,507,061
Marketing	2,845,730	2,309,566	3,528,068
International Business	2,842,055	2,341,734	3,504,649
Physics	2,787,595	2,297,031	3,447,812
Political Science	2,767,954	2,269,725	3,459,363
General Business	2,722,404	2,233,966	3,316,324
Computer and Information Systems	2,686,439	2,244,811	3,175,503
Chemistry	2,677,079	2,204,281	3,194,662
Medical Technologies	2,664,835	2,273,055	3,129,282
Management	2,647,722	2,166,612	3,206,055
Advertising/Public Relations	2,643,462	2,181,417	3,241,569
Human Resources	2,623,955	2,187,987	3,161,912
Engineering Technologies	2,587,903	2,227,351	3,010,466
Journalism	2,574,318	2,069,377	3,104,535
Public Administration	2,560,783	2,138,248	3,100,721
Architecture	2,558,795	2,111,109	3,067,495
Agricultural Economics	2,551,696	2,152,449	3,154,238
Computer Programming	2,530,112	2,098,791	3,107,392
Treatment Therapy (All)	2,506,968	2,068,027	2,984,874
Communications	2,500,822	2,067,203	2,975,964
Biological Sciences	2,426,854	2,022,101	2,964,136

Physical Sciences (not chem/physics)	2,420,755	2,051,602	2,958,974
Computer Administration Management	2,373,161	1,978,365	2,873,094
Health Services (General)	2,341,838	1,899,398	2,830,379
Computer Networking and Telecommunications	2,338,285	1,970,188	2,851,399
Area/Ethnic Studies	2,334,038	1,866,071	2,893,924
Environmental Science	2,275,093	1,876,043	2,737,512
English Language/Literature	2,254,428	1,840,654	2,776,675
History	2,244,982	1,849,241	2,806,812
Hospitality	2,243,831	1,865,360	2,739,987
Art History	2,239,736	1,813,080	2,867,971
Sociology	2,231,180	1,816,391	2,760,770
Psychology	2,202,072	1,725,003	2,746,758
Criminal Justice	2,197,074	1,858,242	2,593,644
Criminology	2,182,741	1,846,904	2,582,225
Interdisciplinary Studies	2,178,950	1,767,946	2,740,978
Foreign Languages	2,178,316	1,782,341	2,796,378
Mass Media	2,175,522	1,763,862	2,688,799
Linguistics/Comparative Language and Literature	2,172,240	1,723,405	2,772,216
Geography	2,151,039	1,781,399	2,646,589
Graphic Design	2,143,423	1,761,229	2,636,452
Agriculture	2,143,170	1,808,094	2,539,791
Social Sciences (Other)	2,135,084	1,783,760	2,650,527
Forestry	2,101,477	1,802,932	2,504,892
Natural Resources Management	2,094,643	1,769,304	2,521,804
Communication Technology	2,086,762	1,718,685	2,557,824
Animal Science	2,083,734	1,768,507	2,457,402
Liberal Arts	2,065,502	1,699,704	2,588,850
Composition and Rhetoric	2,050,044	1,683,527	2,538,609
Philosophy/Religious Studies	2,026,702	1,654,296	2,517,078
Anthropology/Archeology	2,021,428	1,642,286	2,518,243
Film/Video/Photography	2,017,762	1,650,740	2,519,409
Humanities	2,013,084	1,617,675	2,602,928
Plant Science	1,983,717	1,653,911	2,412,412
Physical Fitness/Parks and Recreation	1,939,188	1,613,039	2,398,625
Consumer Science	1,934,817	1,583,262	2,338,646
Human/Community Services	1,904,189	1,564,253	2,296,119
Fine Arts	1,894,744	1,544,925	2,355,774
Social Work	1,889,787	1,567,913	2,273,159

Cosmetology	1,847,723	1,574,953	2,241,668
Education (All)	1,821,375	1,540,762	2,256,916
Drama	1,821,149	1,461,496	2,291,082
Music	1,779,069	1,432,622	2,234,570
Studio Arts	1,717,921	1,385,208	2,179,210
Some College but no degree	1,661,726	1,389,415	2,015,829
Theology	1,482,464	1,230,785	1,787,560
High School	1,304,205	1,086,464	1,591,943

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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