

# From College Major to Career

Choosing the right college major can make a big difference in students' career prospects, in terms of employment and pay.

Here's a look at how various college majors fare in the job market, based on 2010 Census data.

Some popular majors, such as nursing and finance, do particularly well, with unemployment under 5% and high salaries during the course of their careers.

(From The Wall Street Journal, November, 2011.)

Major Field	Unemployment Percent	25th % Earnings	Median % Earnings	75 % Earnings	Popularity
ACCOUNTING	5.40%	\$41,000	\$61,000	\$94,000	3
ACTUARIAL SCIENCE	0.00%	\$52,000	\$81,000	\$116,000	150
ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS	6.10%	\$36,000	\$50,000	\$74,000	41
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING	3.60%	\$60,000	\$84,000	\$111,000	105
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS	1.30%	\$30,000	\$57,000	\$99,000	122
AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT	3.00%	\$32,000	\$48,000	\$71,000	75
ANIMAL SCIENCES	5.70%	\$26,000	\$40,000	\$60,000	67
ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHEOLOGY	6.90%	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$60,000	55
APPLIED MATHEMATICS	4.10%	\$52,000	\$71,000	\$100,000	131
ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING	5.80%	\$50,000	\$71,000	\$96,000	140
ARCHITECTURE	10.60%	\$37,000	\$60,000	\$85,000	33
AREA ETHNIC AND CIVILIZATION STUDIES	5.70%	\$34,000	\$48,000	\$76,000	66
ART AND MUSIC EDUCATION	4.20%	\$32,000	\$41,000	\$51,000	48
ART HISTORY AND CRITICISM	6.90%	\$33,000	\$45,000	\$71,000	81
ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS	0.00%	\$56,000	\$62,000	\$101,000	170
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES AND METEOROLOGY	1.60%	\$40,000	\$68,000	\$101,000	146
BIOCHEMICAL SCIENCES	7.10%	\$30,000	\$48,000	\$80,000	87
BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING	6.80%	\$39,000	\$60,000	\$94,000	126
BIOLOGY	5.60%	\$35,000	\$51,000	\$76,000	14
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING	5.90%	\$45,000	\$68,000	\$101,000	137
BOTANY	6.90%	\$26,000	\$40,000	\$55,000	147
BUSINESS ECONOMICS	5.00%	\$44,000	\$71,000	\$101,000	80
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	6.00%	\$38,000	\$56,000	\$85,000	1
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING	3.80%	\$60,000	\$86,000	\$117,000	49
CHEMISTRY	5.10%	\$39,000	\$59,000	\$85,000	36

CIVIL ENGINEERING	4.90%	\$55,000	\$76,000	\$101,000	32
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	19.50%	\$25,000	\$40,000	\$61,000	168
COGNITIVE SCIENCE AND BIOPSYCHOLOGY	4.50%	\$36,000	\$43,000	\$91,000	167
COMMERCIAL ART AND GRAPHIC DESIGN	8.10%	\$31,000	\$45,000	\$69,000	21
COMMUNICATION DISORDERS SCIENCES AND SERVICES	3.30%	\$32,000	\$41,000	\$50,000	98
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	6.70%	\$33,000	\$50,000	\$73,000	89
COMMUNICATIONS	6.30%	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$81,000	7
COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH	4.10%	\$31,000	\$46,000	\$70,000	110
COMPOSITION AND SPEECH	7.70%	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$61,000	99
COMPUTER ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY	9.50%	\$39,000	\$52,000	\$75,000	114
COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS	5.60%	\$44,000	\$62,000	\$86,000	31
COMPUTER ENGINEERING	7.00%	\$58,000	\$81,000	\$102,000	47
COMPUTER NETWORKING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS	5.20%	\$35,000	\$53,000	\$76,000	97
COMPUTER PROGRAMMING AND DATA PROCESSING	6.20%	\$39,000	\$55,000	\$84,000	121
COMPUTER SCIENCE	5.60%	\$50,000	\$77,000	\$102,000	10
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES	5.40%	\$49,000	\$65,000	\$101,000	76
COSMETOLOGY SERVICES AND CULINARY ARTS	7.30%	\$26,000	\$41,000	\$60,000	115
COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY	5.20%	\$23,000	\$34,000	\$42,000	133
COURT REPORTING	4.90%	\$36,000	\$55,000	\$81,000	151
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FIRE PROTECTION	4.70%	\$36,000	\$50,000	\$73,000	13
CRIMINOLOGY	5.20%	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$71,000	92
DRAMA AND THEATER ARTS	7.10%	\$28,000	\$40,000	\$60,000	45
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	4.10%	\$28,000	\$37,000	\$45,000	50
ECOLOGY	5.20%	\$31,000	\$43,000	\$60,000	109
ECONOMICS	6.30%	\$42,000	\$69,000	\$108,000	16
EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION	0.00%	\$41,000	\$65,000	\$89,000	171
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY	10.90%	\$28,000	\$35,000	\$51,000	156
ELECTRICAL AND MECHANIC REPAIRS AND TECHNOLOGIES	8.40%	\$30,000	\$44,000	\$68,000	134
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING	5.00%	\$60,000	\$86,000	\$111,000	17
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	5.50%	\$42,000	\$65,000	\$91,000	65
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION	3.60%	\$32,000	\$40,000	\$49,000	8
ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT	9.20%	\$50,000	\$71,000	\$98,000	127

ENGINEERING MECHANICS PHYSICS AND SCIENCE	6.50%	\$40,000	\$67,000	\$101,000	132
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES	5.30%	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$91,000	117
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE	6.70%	\$32,000	\$48,000	\$75,000	11
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING	2.20%	\$54,000	\$67,000	\$90,000	144
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	5.00%	\$40,000	\$52,000	\$76,000	60
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES	5.10%	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$58,000	29
FILM VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS	7.30%	\$30,000	\$45,000	\$71,000	54
FINANCE	4.50%	\$44,000	\$65,000	\$101,000	12
FINE ARTS	7.40%	\$28,000	\$44,000	\$65,000	22
FOOD SCIENCE	6.90%	\$34,000	\$71,000	\$101,000	129
FORESTRY	3.10%	\$38,000	\$50,000	\$73,000	104
FRENCH GERMAN LATIN AND OTHER COMMON FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES	5.90%	\$32,000	\$48,000	\$67,000	43
GENERAL AGRICULTURE	3.00%	\$28,000	\$44,000	\$68,000	71
GENERAL BUSINESS	5.30%	\$38,000	\$59,000	\$91,000	2
GENERAL EDUCATION	4.20%	\$31,000	\$41,000	\$53,000	9
GENERAL ENGINEERING	5.90%	\$47,000	\$73,000	\$101,000	24
GENERAL MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	5.80%	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$71,000	74
GENERAL SOCIAL SCIENCES	8.20%	\$34,000	\$50,000	\$74,000	68
GENETICS	7.40%	\$33,000	\$71,000	\$99,000	163
GEOGRAPHY	6.10%	\$40,000	\$54,000	\$81,000	62
GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL ENGINEERING	0.00%	\$56,000	\$73,000	\$101,000	166
GEOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCE	5.70%	\$41,000	\$60,000	\$93,000	73
GEOSCIENCES	3.20%	\$36,000	\$52,000	\$71,000	153
HEALTH AND MEDICAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	4.30%	\$36,000	\$51,000	\$76,000	63
HEALTH AND MEDICAL PREPARATORY PROGRAMS	5.20%	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$86,000	130
HISTORY	6.50%	\$34,000	\$50,000	\$81,000	18
HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT	5.80%	\$32,000	\$49,000	\$71,000	38
HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	6.60%	\$40,000	\$55,000	\$85,000	40
HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION	6.90%	\$29,000	\$38,000	\$50,000	77
HUMANITIES	8.40%	\$30,000	\$45,000	\$62,000	118
INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING	5.60%	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	59
INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY	10.40%	\$45,000	\$62,000	\$81,000	135

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES	3.10%	\$46,000	\$67,000	\$91,000	82
INFORMATION SCIENCES	5.90%	\$48,000	\$71,000	\$95,000	69
INTERCULTURAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	6.60%	\$32,000	\$50,000	\$71,000	100
INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL SCIENCES	6.30%	\$31,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	96
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS	8.50%	\$38,000	\$52,000	\$87,000	72
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	5.80%	\$40,000	\$57,000	\$93,000	79
JOURNALISM	7.00%	\$34,000	\$50,000	\$79,000	25
LANGUAGE AND DRAMA EDUCATION	5.00%	\$32,000	\$41,000	\$50,000	58
LIBERAL ARTS	7.60%	\$32,000	\$48,000	\$71,000	20
LIBRARY SCIENCE	15.00%	\$23,000	\$36,000	\$49,000	159
LINGUISTICS AND COMPARATIVE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE	10.20%	\$30,000	\$44,000	\$70,000	90
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND STATISTICS	4.20%	\$47,000	\$71,000	\$96,000	44
MARKETING AND MARKETING RESEARCH	5.90%	\$40,000	\$59,000	\$90,000	6
MASS MEDIA	6.90%	\$32,000	\$46,000	\$69,000	35
MATERIALS ENGINEERING AND MATERIALS SCIENCE	7.70%	\$57,000	\$84,000	\$105,000	136
MATERIALS SCIENCE	4.70%	\$65,000	\$81,000	\$106,000	161
MATHEMATICS	5.00%	\$42,000	\$63,000	\$95,000	28
MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE	3.50%	\$55,000	\$91,000	\$151,000	158
MATHEMATICS TEACHER EDUCATION	3.40%	\$34,000	\$42,000	\$56,000	108
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	3.80%	\$60,000	\$81,000	\$106,000	23
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING RELATED TECHNOLOGIES	6.60%	\$38,000	\$65,000	\$87,000	123
MEDICAL ASSISTING SERVICES	2.90%	\$34,000	\$51,000	\$71,000	95
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES TECHNICIANS	1.40%	\$44,000	\$58,000	\$74,000	51
METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING	3.90%	\$50,000	\$86,000	\$110,000	152
MICROBIOLOGY	5.20%	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$86,000	94
MILITARY TECHNOLOGIES	10.90%	\$81,000	\$86,000	\$126,000	173
MINING AND MINERAL ENGINEERING	4.30%	\$71,000	\$101,000	\$121,000	162
MISCELLANEOUS AGRICULTURE	3.70%	\$31,000	\$46,000	\$67,000	160
MISCELLANEOUS BIOLOGY	5.30%	\$31,000	\$50,000	\$69,000	125
MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS & MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION	5.30%	\$35,000	\$52,000	\$81,000	64
MISCELLANEOUS EDUCATION	3.70%	\$33,000	\$46,000	\$65,000	61
MISCELLANEOUS ENGINEERING	7.40%	\$42,000	\$71,000	\$91,000	106

MISCELLANEOUS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES	6.00%	\$45,000	\$65,000	\$91,000	88
MISCELLANEOUS FINE ARTS	16.20%	\$26,000	\$40,000	\$49,000	164
MISCELLANEOUS HEALTH MEDICAL PROFESSIONS	3.30%	\$35,000	\$45,000	\$62,000	93
MISCELLANEOUS PSYCHOLOGY	10.30%	\$30,000	\$45,000	\$71,000	120
MISCELLANEOUS SOCIAL SCIENCES	3.80%	\$38,000	\$52,000	\$85,000	143
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	5.30%	\$32,000	\$50,000	\$76,000	124
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY OR GENERAL SCIENCE	4.60%	\$36,000	\$55,000	\$81,000	26
MULTI/INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES	5.50%	\$34,000	\$42,000	\$50,000	107
MUSIC	5.20%	\$30,000	\$45,000	\$67,000	37
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	6.90%	\$36,000	\$50,000	\$71,000	78
NAVAL ARCHITECTURE AND MARINE ENGINEERING	1.70%	\$60,000	\$96,000	\$117,000	145
NEUROSCIENCE	7.20%	\$34,000	\$52,000	\$76,000	154
NUCLEAR ENGINEERING	4.10%	\$65,000	\$96,000	\$138,000	149
NUCLEAR INDUSTRIAL RADIOLOGY AND BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIES	2.20%	\$47,000	\$64,000	\$81,000	142
NURSING	2.20%	\$48,000	\$60,000	\$80,000	4
NUTRITION SCIENCES	6.40%	\$35,000	\$51,000	\$71,000	101
OCEANOGRAPHY	3.30%	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$79,000	148
OPERATIONS LOGISTICS AND E-COMMERCE	4.70%	\$45,000	\$65,000	\$97,000	102
OTHER FOREIGN LANGUAGES	6.40%	\$32,000	\$45,000	\$76,000	111
PETROLEUM ENGINEERING	4.40%	\$83,000	\$127,000	\$178,000	138
PHARMACOLOGY	0.00%	\$48,000	\$60,000	\$101,000	169
PHARMACY PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AND ADMINISTRATION	3.20%	\$78,000	\$105,000	\$121,000	53
PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES	7.20%	\$30,000	\$42,000	\$65,000	42
PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION TEACHING	4.50%	\$34,000	\$46,000	\$59,000	39
PHYSICAL FITNESS PARKS RECREATION AND LEISURE	4.80%	\$33,000	\$45,000	\$61,000	27
PHYSICAL SCIENCES	2.50%	\$36,000	\$51,000	\$68,000	157

PHYSICS	4.50%	\$39,000	\$68,000	\$101,000	70
PHYSIOLOGY	4.60%	\$30,000	\$48,000	\$68,000	113
PLANT SCIENCE AND AGRONOMY	2.70%	\$28,000	\$42,000	\$71,000	85
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND GOVERNMENT	6.00%	\$38,000	\$57,000	\$91,000	15
PRE-LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES	7.90%	\$32,000	\$45,000	\$69,000	91
PSYCHOLOGY	6.10%	\$30,000	\$43,000	\$65,000	5
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	6.90%	\$36,000	\$50,000	\$78,000	112
PUBLIC POLICY	2.20%	\$47,000	\$65,000	\$101,000	141
SCHOOL STUDENT COUNSELING	0.00%	\$18,000	\$20,000	\$42,000	172
SCIENCE AND COMPUTER TEACHER EDUCATION	5.00%	\$36,000	\$47,000	\$58,000	116
SECONDARY TEACHER EDUCATION	3.80%	\$35,000	\$43,000	\$59,000	57
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	8.80%	\$32,000	\$45,000	\$60,000	155
SOCIAL SCIENCE OR HISTORY TEACHER EDUCATION	3.00%	\$35,000	\$45,000	\$58,000	83
SOCIAL WORK	6.80%	\$30,000	\$39,000	\$51,000	30
SOCIOLOGY	7.00%	\$33,000	\$45,000	\$67,000	19
SOIL SCIENCE	4.90%	\$43,000	\$64,000	\$81,000	165
SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION	3.60%	\$34,000	\$42,000	\$50,000	52
STATISTICS AND DECISION SCIENCE	6.90%	\$50,000	\$76,000	\$108,000	128
STUDIO ARTS	8.00%	\$25,000	\$37,000	\$57,000	84
TEACHER EDUCATION: MULTIPLE LEVELS	1.10%	\$30,000	\$38,000	\$48,000	86
THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS	4.10%	\$25,000	\$38,000	\$54,000	46
TRANSPORTATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES	4.40%	\$42,000	\$68,000	\$98,000	56
TREATMENT THERAPY PROFESSIONS	2.60%	\$40,000	\$62,000	\$81,000	34
UNITED STATES HISTORY	15.10%	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$96,000	139
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS	9.20%	\$20,000	\$36,000	\$52,000	103
ZOOLOGY	6.70%	\$33,000	\$55,000	\$81,000	119

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce

Read the full report "What's It Worth? The Economic Value of College Majors" at

<http://cew.georgetown.edu/whatsitworth/>