

Want college to pay off? These are the 50 majors with the highest earnings.

By **Danielle Douglas-Gabriel** October 17 at 7:01 AM

Engineering and technology are among the most challenging fields of study in college, but all of that hard work apparently is paying off, as many of the top-earning entry-level jobs are tied to related majors, according to a Glassdoor [study](#) released Monday.

The job search engine analyzed more than 500,000 resumes and self-reported salaries to determine which majors pay the most during the first five years after graduation. Eight of the 10 most-bankable majors are tied to engineering or technology, such as computer science, electrical engineering and information technology. Nearly half of the majors listed are in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, though business-related majors, such as accounting and marketing, crack the top half of the 50 majors listed.

The analysis is consistent with previous studies that show employers place a premium on graduates in STEM fields. Researchers at the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce found that the top 25 percent of earners with education degrees can expect to make as much as the bottom 25 percent of people with engineering degrees, even mid-career. An advanced degree will improve an educator's prospects, but not enough to narrow the wage gap with engineers, the study said.

Having a bachelor's degree of any kind from a reputable school gives young workers a better chance in a job market that increasingly demands a college education. Four-year college graduates now comprise a larger share of the workforce than people with just a high school diploma, according to another Georgetown [study](#). Researchers at the Hamilton Project say median earnings of those who have a bachelor's degree are higher than median earnings of high school graduates, regardless of the college major.

The 50 Highest Paying College Majors

1. Computer Science

Median Base Salary: \$70,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Software Engineer, Systems Engineer, Web Developer

2. Electrical Engineering

Median Base Salary: \$68,438

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Electrical Engineer, Systems Engineer, Software Developer

3. Mechanical Engineering

Median Base Salary: \$68,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Mechanical Engineer, Design Engineer, Project Engineer

4. Chemical Engineering

Median Base Salary: \$65,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Chemical Engineer, Process Engineer Project Engineer

5. Industrial Engineering

Median Base Salary: \$64,381

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Industrial Engineer, Quality Engineer, Production Planner

6. Information Technology

Median Base Salary: \$64,008

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Programmer Analyst, Technical Support, Systems Engineer

7. Civil Engineering

Median Base Salary: \$61,500

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Civil Engineer, Structural Engineer, Field Engineer

8. Statistics

Median Base Salary: \$60,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Data Analyst, Statistician, Data Scientist

9. Nursing

Median Base Salary: \$58,928

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Registered Nurse, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Case Manager

10. Management Information Systems

Median Base Salary: \$58,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Network Administrator, Help Desk Analyst, Business Analyst

11. Finance

Median Base Salary: \$54,900

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Financial Analyst, Investment Banking Analyst, Accountant

12. Mathematics

Median Base Salary: \$54,018

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Math Teacher, Software Engineer, Data Analyst

13. Biomedical Engineering

Median Base Salary: \$52,814

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Biomedical Engineer, Service Engineer, Clinical Research Associate

14. Accounting

Median Base Salary: \$52,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Accountant, Auditor, Financial Analyst

15. Economics

Median Base Salary: \$52,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Financial Analyst, Management Analyst, Accountant

16. Physics

Median Base Salary: \$50,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Physicist, Research Fellow, Computer Programmer

17. Biotechnology

Median Base Salary: \$50,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Laboratory Technician, Quality Control Analyst, Research Associate

18. Architecture

Median Base Salary: \$50,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Architect, CAD Designer, Project Designer

19. Fashion Design

Median Base Salary: \$50,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Fashion Designer, Textile Designer, Stylist

20. Business

Median Base Salary: \$47,850

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Account Manager, Marketing Manager, Market Research Analyst

21. International Relations

Median Base Salary: \$45,880

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Marketing Associate, English Teacher, Research Assistant

22. Graphic Design

Median Base Salary: \$45,846

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Graphic Designer, Web Designer, Art Manager

23. Marketing

Median Base Salary: \$45,475

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Marketing Coordinator, Account Executive, Marketing Analyst

24. English

Median Base Salary: \$45,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: English Teacher, Editor, Copywriter

25. Political Science

Median Base Salary: \$45,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Law Clerk, Paralegal, Consultant

26. History

Median Base Salary: \$45,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Research Assistant, History Teacher, Teaching Assistant

27. Human Resources

Median Base Salary: \$45,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: HR Coordinator, Corporate Recruiter, HR Analyst

28. Journalism

Median Base Salary: \$45,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Reporter, Editor, Public Relations Coordinator

29. Advertising

Median Base Salary: \$45,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Account Executive, Marketing Analyst, Media Planner

30. Philosophy

Median Base Salary: \$45,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Teaching Assistant, Writer, Consultant

31. **Environmental Science**

Median Base Salary: \$45,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Environmental Scientist, Laboratory Technician, Safety Manager

32. **Social Science**

Median Base Salary: \$45,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: HR Assistant, Management Consultant, Visual Manager

33. **Spanish**

Median Base Salary: \$44,256

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Spanish Teacher, Translator, Project Manager

34. **Communications**

Median Base Salary: \$44,190

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Public Relations Coordinator, Journalist, Content Marketing Manager

35. **Interior Design**

Median Base Salary: \$44,098

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Interior Designer, Visual Merchandiser, Drafter

36. **Chemistry**

Median Base Salary: \$44,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Pharmacy Technician, Chemist, Laboratory Technician

37. **Music**

Median Base Salary: \$44,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Music Teacher, Audio Engineer, Media Sales Associate

38. **Film Studies**

Median Base Salary: \$44,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Production Coordinator, Video Editor, Proposal Manager

39. **Public Relations**

Median Base Salary: \$43,156

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Public Relations Coordinator, Account Executive, Event Planner

40. **Sports Management**

Median Base Salary: \$43,156

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Personal Trainer, Sales Associate, Production Assistant

41. **Education**

Median Base Salary: \$43,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Special Education Teacher, Elementary School Teacher, Language Teacher

42. **Anthropology**

Median Base Salary: \$43,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Project Coordinator, Research Assistant, Administrative Assistant

43. **Hospitality Management**

Median Base Salary: \$44,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Food and Beverage Manager, Front Desk Manager, Housekeeping Manager

44. **Biochemistry**

Median Base Salary: \$42,672

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Research Technician, Pharmacy Technician, Chemist

45. **Liberal Arts**

Median Base Salary: \$42,500

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Sales Manager, Receptionist, Teacher

46. **Psychology**

Median Base Salary: \$42,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Case Manager, Mental Health Counselor, Sales Associate

47. **Sociology**

Median Base Salary: \$42,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: HR Assistant, Account Manager, Administrative Assistant

48. **Healthcare Administration**

Median Base Salary: \$42,000

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Medical Assistant, File Clerk, Office Manager

49. **Social Work**

Median Base Salary: \$41,656

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Social Worker, Mental Health Counselor, Camp Counselor

50. **Biology**

Median Base Salary: \$41,250

Popular Entry-Level Jobs: Lab Assistant, Paramedic, Tutor