

### What College Majors Pay the Best?

College Major	Average wage in field	Upper 10% wage	bottom 10% wage	Ave. w/ advance degree	Advanced degree premium
Economics	\$43.15	\$78.43	\$13.90	\$50.60	17%
Electrical Engineering	\$41.61	\$63.24	\$20.10	\$46.45	12%
Mechanical Engineering	\$40.43	\$58.82	\$19.61	\$44.12	9%
Finance	\$38.21	\$65.36	\$14.71	\$42.34	11%
Mathematics	\$37.76	\$63.73	\$14.01	\$42.71	13%
Accounting	\$36.88	\$60.33	\$14.71	\$39.46	7%
Computers & IT	\$35.83	\$56.37	\$16.18	\$37.99	6%
Political Science	\$33.32	\$57.25	\$12.60	\$42.09	26%
Marketing	\$32.90	\$57.29	\$13.73	\$34.12	4%
Business Admin.	\$31.56	\$51.96	\$13.24	\$33.42	6%
Nursing	\$31.12	\$46.08	\$17.71	\$33.51	8%
History	\$29.52	\$49.02	\$11.13	\$36.12	22%
Communications	\$28.17	\$49.02	\$12.25	\$29.20	4%
Biological Science	\$27.26	\$46.08	\$10.98	\$41.27	51%
Letters	\$27.14	\$46.35	\$11.62	\$30.63	13%
Agricultural Science	\$26.51	\$45.75	\$10.46	\$29.04	10%
Art, Art Hist.	\$25.57	\$43.57	\$10.37	\$27.09	6%
Social Science	\$25.56	\$41.67	\$11.76	\$28.79	13%
Psychology	\$24.61	\$41.18	\$11.03	\$29.15	18%
Philosophy & Religion	\$23.77	\$39.22	\$9.80	\$27.52	16%
Social Work, HR	\$23.19	\$38.24	\$11.76	\$25.41	10%
Fitness & Nutrition	\$22.91	\$38.15	\$10.62	\$25.20	10%
Music & Drama	\$22.57	\$37.91	\$9.80	\$25.56	13%
Education	\$21.17	\$32.68	\$11.27	\$24.54	16%

Source: Altonji, J.G., Blom, E., & Meghir, C. (2012, April). *Heterogeneity in Human Capital Investments*. NBER Working Paper No. 17985