MAJOR DECISIONS: WHAT GRADUATES EARN OVER THEIR LIFETIMES

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THE HAMILTON PROJECT

Appendix Table 2: Lifetime Earnings at Different Percentiles by Education Level and College Major

Education Level or Major	25th percentile ($ millions)	50th percentile ($ millions)	75th percentile ($ millions)	90th percentile ($ millions)
High School Degree or GED	0.33	0.58	0.89	1.26
Some College, No Degree	0.41	0.72	1.08	1.54
Associates Degree	0.52	0.86	1.25	1.70
Accounting and Actuarial Science	0.88	1.41	2.11	3.17
Advertising and Public Relations	0.69	1.16	1.80	2.68
Aerospace Engineering	1.46	2.06	2.61	3.46
Agricultural Economics	0.82	1.27	1.86	2.86
Animal Sciences	0.63	1.01	1.52	2.11
Anthropology and Archeology	0.53	0.93	1.47	2.09
Architecture	0.78	1.31	1.86	2.50
Area, Ethnic, and Civilization Studies	0.55	1.01	1.66	2.71
Art and Music Education	0.52	0.90	1.20	1.54
Art History and Criticism	0.49	0.92	1.50	2.26
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	0.86	1.45	1.99	2.83
Biological, Biomedical, and Environmental Engineering	0.97	1.53	2.22	3.05
Biology	0.73	1.17	1.72	2.40
Botany, Ecology, and Zoology	0.59	1.00	1.51	2.17
Business Management and Administration	0.79	1.27	1.90	2.77
Chemical Engineering	1.43	2.11	2.78	3.96
Chemistry	0.84	1.33	1.92	2.58
Civil Engineering	1.24	1.78	2.30	3.02
Commercial Art and Graphic Design	0.53	0.96	1.48	2.15
Communication Technologies	0.68	1.10	1.71	2.56
Communications	0.68	1.12	1.76	2.57
Composition and Speech	0.55	0.98	1.53	2.11
Computer Engineering	1.47	2.02	2.66	3.55
Computer Science	1.05	1.67	2.28	2.95
Construction Services	1.01	1.62	2.32	3.37

Education Level or Major	25th percentile ($ millions)	50th percentile ($ millions)	75th percentile ($ millions)	90th percentile ($ millions)
Criminology and Criminal Justice	0.78	1.17	1.68	2.27
Drama and Theater Arts	0.47	0.85	1.31	1.96
Early Childhood Education	0.43	0.77	1.03	1.31
Earth and Other Physical Sciences	0.81	1.33	1.95	2.67
Economics	0.88	1.57	2.50	4.52
Electrical Engineering	1.37	1.98	2.52	3.21
Elementary Education	0.47	0.85	1.11	1.35
Energy and Extraction Engineering	1.31	2.03	2.88	4.70
Engineering Technologies	0.96	1.47	2.02	2.65
English Language and Literature	0.55	0.99	1.55	2.34
Environment and Natural Resources	0.72	1.14	1.60	2.16
Family and Consumer Sciences	0.43	0.81	1.20	1.72
Film, Video and Photographic Arts	0.55	1.01	1.59	2.45
Finance	0.97	1.56	2.38	4.00
Fine and Studio Arts	0.44	0.83	1.32	1.94
General Agriculture	0.68	1.10	1.63	2.29
General Education	0.58	0.92	1.22	1.62
General Engineering	1.11	1.72	2.29	3.04
Geography	0.71	1.18	1.66	2.24
Health and Medical Administration	0.69	1.12	1.59	2.11
History	0.65	1.09	1.73	2.65
Hospitality Management	0.66	1.08	1.59	2.49
Human Resources and Personnel Management	0.78	1.19	1.71	2.38
Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering	1.13	1.77	2.37	3.44
International Business and Business Economics	0.57	1.31	2.02	3.17
International Relations	0.72	1.29	2.15	3.54
Journalism	0.67	1.12	1.72	2.52
Language and Drama Education	0.51	0.89	1.22	1.59
Liberal Arts	0.56	0.98	1.47	2.16
Linguistics and Foreign Languages	0.53	0.96	1.47	2.15
Marketing and Marketing Research	0.78	1.30	2.00	3.01
Mass Media	0.61	1.03	1.55	2.30
Math and Science Teacher Education	0.64	0.99	1.29	1.71
Mathematics and Statistics	0.85	1.44	2.18	3.18
Mechanical Engineering	1.39	1.93	2.45	3.22

Education Level or Major	25th percentile ($ millions)	50th percentile ($ millions)	75th percentile ($ millions)	90th percentile ($ millions)
Medical Technologies and Assistance	0.74	1.16	1.56	2.01
Microbiology, Physiology, Genetics, and Neuroscience	0.74	1.24	1.81	2.51
Multidisciplinary Science	0.75	1.19	1.77	2.46
Music	0.47	0.86	1.30	1.96
Nursing	0.95	1.36	1.75	2.16
Operations and Logistics	1.09	1.64	2.19	3.00
Philosophy and Religious Studies	0.57	0.99	1.61	2.47
Physical and Health Education Teaching	0.61	0.97	1.33	1.77
Physical Fitness, Nutrition, and Sports Studies	0.61	0.99	1.43	2.02
Physics	0.87	1.60	2.34	3.26
Political Science and Government	0.77	1.30	2.02	3.00
Production and Transportation Technologies	0.94	1.47	2.15	2.96
Psychology	0.57	0.96	1.46	2.12
Public Administration and Policy	0.64	1.05	1.56	2.25
Secondary Teacher Education	0.64	0.98	1.28	1.66
Social Science or History Teacher Education	0.59	0.95	1.33	1.89
Social Work	0.53	0.83	1.10	1.46
Sociology	0.61	1.00	1.50	2.15
Special Needs Education	0.58	0.92	1.18	1.43
Theology and Religious Vocations	0.48	0.82	1.18	1.58
Treatment Therapy Professions	0.67	1.11	1.58	2.02
ALL MAJORS	**0.72**	**1.19**	**1.82**	**2.61**

NOTES: Earnings are in millions of current dollars and represent people who worked at least one week in the preceding twelve months; the sample is **not** restricted to full-time workers. Earning by major are for individuals with exactly a bachelor's degree.
SOURCE: Authors' calculations from the American Community Survey, 2009–2012.